

Title: **Ostracism and common pool resource management: Young fishers in the laboratory**

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Abstract: This paper investigates how the possibility to ostracize, which is a familiar punishment mechanism to subjects in an experiment, affects harvest in a common pool resource experiment. The experiment was framed as a fishing problem and the subjects were young fishers. We find that the introduction of the possibility to ostracize other members of a group at a cost to the remaining members of a group decreased over-fishing significantly in comparison with the situation where ostracism was not possible. The ostracism was based on a simple majority-voting rule. Moreover, the subjects demonstrated a strong desire to ostracize those who over-fished.