



In Class Exercises Set A

Reading Fundamentals

10 minutes

Adapted from abstract of Royal Academy of Science study, “*Hunter selection for larger and older male bobcats affects annual harvest demography*,” Allen et al 2018.

Wildlife researchers often rely on demographic data collected from harvested animals to estimate population dynamics. But demographic data from harvested animals may be non-representative if hunters/trappers have the ability and motivation to preferentially select for certain physical traits. Hunter preference is well demonstrated for ungulates, but less so for other wildlife species such as furbearers. We used data from bobcats harvested in Wisconsin (1983– 2014) to determine if harvest method and demographics (mass, male to female sex ratio and age) have changed over time, and if bobcat hunters/trappers exhibited selection. Each trait of harvested bobcats that we tested changed over time, and because these selected traits were interrelated, we inferred that harvest selection for larger size biased harvests in favor of older, male bobcats. The selection of older, male bobcats appears primarily driven by hound hunters (hereafter hunters) compared to trappers, with hunters more frequently creating taxidermy mounts from their harvested bobcats. We found an increase in the proportion of bobcats that were harvested by hunting compared to trapping over time, and this was associated with increased selectivity and substantial changes in the characteristics of harvested bobcats.

- 1) Create a blueprint that summarizes the paragraph’s main idea:

- 2) As used in line 19, “selection” most nearly means
 - A) assortment
 - B) variety
 - C) preference
 - D) precision

- 3) It can be best inferred from the data provided in the passage that
 - A) the researchers used data from bobcats harvested in Wisconsin.
 - B) scientific studies involving harvested bobcats may be compromised by the sample they receive.
 - C) hunters prefer to create taxidermy mounts from bobcats for their high resale value.
 - D) the study described in the passage is biased because it focuses on hound hunters rather than trappers.



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Adapted from “*Our Mutual Friend*,” a 1865 novel by Charles Dickens.

In these times of ours, though concerning the exact year there is no need to be precise, a boat of dirty and disreputable appearance, with two figures in it, floated on the

- 5 Thames, between Southwark bridge which is of iron, and London Bridge which is of stone, as an autumn evening was closing in. The figures in this boat were those of a strong man with ragged grizzled hair and a sun-browned face, and a dark
- 10 girl of nineteen or twenty, sufficiently like him to be recognizable as his daughter. The girl rowed, pulling a pair of sculls very easily; the man, with the rudder-lines slack in his hands, and his hands loose in his waistband, kept an eager look
- 15 out. He had no net, hook, or line, and he could not be a fisherman; his boat had no cushion for a sitter, no paint, no inscription, no appliance beyond a rusty boathook and a coil of rope, and he could not be a waterman; his boat was too
- 20 crazy and too small to take in cargo for delivery, and he could not be a lighterman or river-carrier; there was no clue to what he looked for, but he looked for something, with a most intent and searching gaze. The tide, which had turned
- 25 an hour before, was running down, and his eyes watched every little race and eddy in its broad sweep, as the boat made slight head-way against it, or drove stern foremost before it, according as he directed his daughter by a movement of his
- 30 head. She watched his face as earnestly as he watched the river. But, in the intensity of her look there was a touch of dread or horror.

- 4) Create a blueprint that summarizes the main idea of the paragraph:
- 5) The sentences on Lines 30 – 33 (“She watched . . . or horror”) serve what purpose in the paragraph?
- A) They introduce a conflict and create suspense by comparing the father’s intensity to the daughter’s fear.
 - B) They provide further detail into the occupation of the father.
 - C) They provide greater insight as to why the daughter is being made to row.
 - D) They undermine the previous claims that the father is not accustomed to taking his boat on the water.