The adaptive cycle and the ecosystem services: a social-ecological analysis of Chiloé Island, southern Chile

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ABSTRACT. We used the adaptive cycle as a heuristic to conceptualize the changes in ecosystem services between its phases (growth, conservation, collapse, and reorganization) for Chiloé Island (southern Chile), analyzed as a social-ecological system. We generated hypothetical relationships between services and phases based on literature articles, testing them with secondary databases for 1826–2016 and interviews with local actors. Results show that the island is currently either in a late conservation phase or already in a collapse phase. Only provisioning ecosystem services corresponded with the proposed phases’ relationships, while regulation-maintenance and cultural services showed long-term decreasing trends. We discuss cross-scale interactions and political centralism as the main factors preventing a local adaptive scheme that may start a reorganization phase.

Key Words: adaptive cycle; Chiloé Island; collapse; ecosystem services; panarchy

INTRODUCTION
The adaptive cycle’s heuristic conceptualizes the changes of complex systems on four consecutive phases (Holling 2001): (1) growth, (2) conservation, (3) collapse or creative destruction (Ω), and (4) reorganization (α). The first two are slow, predictable, and analog to ecological succession. The last two are fast, unpredictable, and critical to determining the system’s destiny.

Three dimensions define the phases: (1) potential, or the range of accumulated resources, (2) connectedness, or the degree of connection between variables and internal controlling processes, and (3) resilience, which depends on the previous two dimensions (Holling 1986, 1987, 2001, Holling and Gunderson 2002). A resilient system should move through all four phases, or skips one (Walker et al. 2006), without being caught in one phase by obstacles or traps (Fath et al. 2015), especially in the collapse phase (Ω), where rules, value systems, and interactions between peoples and ecosystems become dysfunctional (Nayak et al. 2014).

Panarchy (Gunderson and Holling 2002) refers to the hierarchical structure of the interconnections of complex systems, explaining their dynamic as a nested set of adaptive cycles (from small and fast to large and slow scales), which determines the system’s sustainability (Holling 2001). Recognizing the suitability of the panarchy theory as a heuristic of complex systems organization, many authors have investigated the linkages between adaptive cycles in social systems and ecosystems, focusing on cycles of destruction and renewal (Carreiro and Zipperer 2011, Allen et al. 2014). According to the panarchy theory, complex adaptive systems have a cross-scale structure resulting from the positive and self-reinforced interactions between several scales (Holling and Gunderson 2002, Angeler et al. 2011). Although there may be many connections between scales, Holling (2001:397 and 398) emphasizes two of them: “revolt” (from small and fast cycles to large and slow) that occurs when the former is in a creative destruction phase and the latter in a conservation phase, and “remember” (from large and slow cycles to small and fast), which may impact the reorganization of the latter by the conservation dynamics of the former (Holling 2001, Holling and Gunderson 2002, Baral et al. 2010, Williams et al. 2019, Joseph and McGregor 2020). Scales, for this purpose, can be temporal, spatial, jurisdictional, and institutional, among others. Abel et al. (2006) propose that an excess subsidy from higher panarchy scales may increase the lower scales’ dependency, reducing their self-organizing capabilities. Therefore, exploring cross-scale interactions, such as obstacles or traps (Haider et al. 2018, Nahuelhual et al. 2019), is essential to understand the system’s dynamics.

Ecosystem services and the adaptive cycle
Ecosystem services (ES) are the benefits that people get from ecosystems: (1) provisioning, (2) regulation and maintenance, and (3) cultural (Haines-Young and Potschin 2018). They result from the functionality of the ecosystem, and changes in its structure and functions will affect them (Haines-Young and Potschin 2010). Although the ES conceptual framework can be used on any scale, it is commonly applied within regions where the local social subsystem interacts with the ecological subsystem (Binder et al. 2013). However, current globalization makes the ecological dynamics and the supply of ES vulnerable to large scale processes (Laterra et al. 2016).

Walker et al. (2002) propose a relationship between ES allocation and the system’s state. Dick et al. (2011), analyzing a diversity of conceptual frameworks through a literature review, show that published articles relate the adaptive cycle only to the natural capital. Mhango and Dick (2011), analyzing developing countries, propose that the ES concept and the panarchy framework could be useful policy tools. Other authors have shown that alternative configurations during a reorganization phase (α), or regime shifts, produce changes in the provided services (Bohensky 2008, Biggs et al. 2012, Chaffin et al. 2016). So, differences in ES provisions can also characterize the phases of the adaptive cycle (Laterra et al. 2016). Burkhard et al. (2011) and Delgado et al. (2019) propose relationships between the use of
Table 1. Hypothetical relationships between the phases of the adaptive cycle and the ecosystem services based on Delgado et al. (2019a) and Burkhard et al. (2011).

| Phases of the adaptive cycle | Delgado et al. (2019a) | Burkhard et al. (2011) |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Creative destruction or collapse (Ω) | Decrease in all type of services. | Decrease in all types of services. |
| Reorganization (α) | Unpredictable, because of the emergence of new components and relationships between the elements of the social-ecological system. Increase in the diversity of services. | Increase in regulating services. |
| Exploitation or rapid growth (r) | Increase in all ecosystem services. | Increase in ecosystem services. Some services, e.g., cultural, may behave differently. High uncertainty. |
| Conservation (K) | Maintenance of main services from the rapid growth phase. Decrease in the variety of services. | Highest values for most ecosystem services. High uncertainty. |

ES and the phases of the adaptive cycle that can guide empirical case studies on the coherence between both conceptual frameworks (Table 1).

Berkes and Folke (1998) define a social-ecological system (SES) as a bio-geo-physical unit, its social actors, and associated institutions. The dependency relationships between ES and the subsistence and quality of life of rural and ancestral communities in SESs are distinct for developing countries (Delgado and Marin 2019). For example, in the face of pollution or the local disappearance of species, people change their life strategies (Delgado et al. 2009). Thus, social-ecological resilience will depend on the social capitals, ecosystem structures, and processes, and the interaction between them analyzed through ES. Auad et al. (2018) propose that new ES will be easily incorporated during the reorganization phase (α), but they could have adverse effects if incorporated in other phases. Thus, merging the adaptive cycle and ES frameworks could improve the understanding of the SES’s dynamic changes (Table 1). Furthermore, when analyzed at several spatial and temporal scales, panarchy opens the opportunity to contribute to the understanding of the systems’ sustainability and to propose solutions for existing challenges to the system’s sustainable management or governance (Elliff and Kikuchi 2015, Laterra et al. 2016, Auad et al. 2018, Delgado et al. 2019b).

**Chiloé Island as a social-ecological system**

The Chiloé archipelago (Fig. 1) is a group of islands located in southern Chile (42°S - 44°S), Pacific coast of South America, with Chiloé Island as its main component, accommodating 170 thousand people (INE 2017). Its environment consists mainly of rural human settlements within temperate forests and prairies and an interior sea where most productive and food gathering activities occur. From a cultural perspective, the island is a mixture of global society’s components plus its traditional ethnicity (chilotes) originated from the syncretism between local Mapuche-Williche people and Spaniard colonizers that arrived during the 16th century. We analyze Chiloé Island as an SES where its historical, social, and ecological components changed during the 20th century.

Chilotes have based their historical subsistence and well-being on artisan fisheries, shore food gathering, and the use of other components from marine and terrestrial ecosystems (Mansilla Torres 2006), defining the island’s historical social-ecological components. However, since 1969 the aquaculture industry, driven by global markets and the Chilean state intervention,
moved this isolated area into modernity. This process generated employment, infrastructure development, and changes in people’s expectations and aspirations. It also forced a hybridization and commodification of chilotes culture toward tourism, pushing the island closer to the benefits and risks of globalization (Barton and Román 2016), generating ecological changes (Capriroli 2019, Paredes 2019). We used the adaptive cycle to interpret the social-ecological changes of Chiloé Island for the period 1826–2016, driven by the question: Do changes in ES agree with the proposed theoretical relationships between both conceptual frameworks (Table 1)? We also studied the interactions between adaptive cycles at different scales to analyze their effects on Chiloé SES.

Pereira et al. (2018), discussing transformations for sustainability, state that there is “a dearth of literature . . . in the diverse contexts of the Global South.” We argue that, among other reasons, it is challenging to publish on sustainability issues without knowledge of the historical changes of the structure and functions of SESs. We have written this article as a contribution to that knowledge.

METHODS
Identification of the phases of the adaptive cycle and ecosystem services through a historical analysis of social-ecological events
We analyzed the literature for drivers associated with the different phases of the adaptive cycle (Table 2). We then searched for these drivers through the Web of Science (WoS) looking for articles (1975–2018) using the syntax Title (Chiloe) AND Theme (Chiloé). We also used the Scopus database (1960–2018) using the same syntax. WoS generated 248 articles, Scopus 598 articles.

We selected articles related to ecological, social, economic, cultural, and anthropological studies, reducing to 54 articles for WoS and 97 for Scopus. Also, we analyzed local historical events in books, interviews, and thesis documents published by Chilean universities. Then, we used the information to identify the phases for Chiloé Island through a retrospective study of historical events, organizing them chronologically (1826–2016), and in three geographic scales (local, regional, and global). Finally, we defined the capitals for each phase (Appendix 1) to study the system’s connectivity and adaptive capacity (Abel et al. 2006).

We also used the scientific literature and historical documents to identify terrestrial and coastal-marine ES (provisioning, regulation-maintenance, and cultural) used in Chiloé Island (Table 3). We classified each analyzed ES in three numerical categories (i.e., qualitative evaluation): scarce (0), low (1), and high (3) for each phase of the adaptive cycle. For example, in the case of the ecosystem service “use of ancestral cultural information” (cultural services; Table 3); Alvarez et al. (2008) shows high union social capitals and traditional practices at the beginning of our study period (1826–1959), maintained until the middle of the sixties when they started decreasing (Armando Bahamondes, personal communication, Dalcahue, Chiloé). Thus, we defined the first two phases 1826–1959 and 1960–1967, with a high value (3) and the next period with a low value (1). The author (Alvarez 2011) also states that traditional practices ended in the middle of the sixties when they started decreasing (Armando Bahamondes, personal communication, Dalcahue, Chiloé). Thus, we defined the first two phases 1826–1959 and 1960–1967, with a high value (3) and the next period with a low value (1).

Table 2. Main social drivers for the four phases of the adaptive cycle.

| Phase or creative destruction (Ω) | Description | Drivers | References |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|------------|
| Reorganization (α)               | Generated mostly from a growth (r) or a collapse (Ω) phase | Unfavorable commerce for the dominant productive activity, repeated setbacks affecting productive processes, e.g., outbreaks, fires, plagues. Excessive external subsidies increase the connectivity of the social-ecological system (SES) Cataclysms generating a loss of human capital (lives) and adverse effects to the vulnerable rural population with cascading effects, e.g., housing problems, damages to the provision of ecosystem services. Natural resources depletion, lack of human capital, ecological problems and economic stratification. Decrease of the benefits that people obtain from ecosystems. Alternative productive activities increase in the social-ecological system, especially those included within the legal system. People obtain new benefits from ecosystems. New successful enterprises, replacement of native species by others with higher monetary outcome. People obtain larger benefits from ecosystems. Traditional practices are changed because of technological innovation of productive processes. Increase in social capital both union and bridge. Maintenance of SES high levels of organization. People maintain their ecosystem’s benefits. Economic and political domination from national and global scales. Political-administrative rules become more rigid. | Holling (1987, 2001), Walker et al. (2006), Abel et al. (2006) | This article |
| Growth (r)                      | Originated most likely from a previous reorganization phase (α) | Growing commercialization of a good and the stabilization of a higher production rate than in the previous phase. People obtain larger benefits from ecosystems. Traditional practices are changed because of technological innovation of productive processes. Increase in social capital both union and bridge. | Beier et al. (2009) | This article |
| Conservation (K)                | It generates after a growth phase (r) | Natural resources depletion, lack of human capital, ecological problems and economic stratification. Decrease of the benefits that people obtain from ecosystems. Alternative productive activities increase in the social-ecological system, especially those included within the legal system. People obtain new benefits from ecosystems. New successful enterprises, replacement of native species by others with higher monetary outcome. People obtain larger benefits from ecosystems. Traditional practices are changed because of technological innovation of productive processes. Increase in social capital both union and bridge. Maintenance of SES high levels of organization. People maintain their ecosystem’s benefits. Economic and political domination from national and global scales. Political-administrative rules become more rigid. | Fath et al. (2004, 2015) | This article |

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purpose, we treated the time sequence of phases (Appendix 1) as the explanatory, categorical, variable starting with 1 for the first period (1826–1959) up to 6 for the last (2007–2016). The dependent variable was the average value of each type of ES, considering all analyzed services (Table 3).

### Table 3. Ecosystem services (ES) defined for Chiloé Island.

| ES type          | Ecosystem       | Service                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Provisioning     | Coastal-marine  | Coastal species harvest, Artisanal fisheries                             |
| Services         | Terrestrial     | Extraction of wood from native forests, Bryophyte extraction             |
| Regulating and   | Coastal-marine  | Salmon farming habitat                                                   |
| Maintenance      | Terrestrial     | Mussel farming habitat                                                   |
| Services         | Both            | Use of spiritual information, Use of traditional cultural information    |
| Cultural Services|                 | (Chilote’s mythology), Use of ancestral cultural information, Cultural tourism |

### Social validation of the current (2018) phase of the adaptive cycle of Chiloé Island

We conducted face-to-face interviews with local social actors (N = 35) to analyze their perception of the current (2018) phase of Chiloé’s adaptive cycle (Appendix 2). Interviewees were academics (N = 5), mussel and salmon farmers (N = 11), tourism enterprises representatives (N = 10), culture keepers (N = 6), government employees and NGO members (N = 3). Before the interview, the interviewer (one of the three authors of this article) described each phase of the cycle (see text in Appendix 2), evaluating the method’s robustness by asking the interviewee to describe each phase. The investigator continued with the interview only when he/she was satisfied with the answers, otherwise redescribing the phases. We codified, for analytical purposes, interviewees’ identified phase with an integer: reorganization phase (α) = 1, growth or exploitation phase (r) = 2, conservation phase (K) = 3, and collapse or creative destruction phase (Ω) = 4. We then analyzed their responses and differences through a one-way ANOVA with a significance level = 0.05 (SPSS, version 26, 2019). All interviewees signed informed consent.

### Panarchy and cross-scale interactions

A panarchy comprises several adaptive cycles. We analyzed cross-scales interactions affecting Chiloé Island SES using three cycles:

- Global (economic markets): this cycle generates processes affecting the other two cycles, such as telecoupling (Hull and Liu 2018), modifying regional, national, and even local cycles (Delgado et al. 2019b). Global processes may influence local fluxes of information, energy, and matter, people (e.g., emigration and immigration), financial capitals, services, and products (Hull and Liu 2018).
- National-regional (institutional-jurisdictional): this corresponds to the cycle that generates most political and administrative instruments (e.g., laws, programs, and decrees), especially in centralized countries like Chile.
- Local (social-ecological): this is the adaptive cycle hypothesically (Table 1) related to the local use of ES (Delgado et al. 2019c). It may show sudden or long-term changes producing depletion of natural resources and even social collapses (Burkhard et al. 2011).

Using the gathered information, we identified the elements, processes, and changes of each scale and the processes from one scale potentially affecting other scales.

### RESULTS

#### An adaptive cycle model of Chiloé Island SES

We identified six main society-nature events (drivers) affecting Chiloé Island SES during the last 190 years (1826–2016; Fig. 2). The first event was the signing of the Tantatutu Treaty in 1826 that incorporated Chiloé Island to Chile. During this growth period, the main component was potatoes production, which made Chiloé Island the largest producer in Chile. The 9.5 Mw Chilean 1960 earthquake, with Chiloé as one of its epicenters (second driver), generated a collapse phase (Ω), given the destruction it generated on local capitals (Appendix 1). In 1967 a reorganization phase (α) started with mussel farming in wooden rafts on Chiloé’s coastal zone and the subsequent diversification of economic activities (third driver). The fourth driver was the onset of Chile’s neoliberal economy in 1974, generating a growth phase (r) lasting 22 years. A conservation phase (K) began when Chile became the world’s first salmon exporter in 1996. The massive installation of the salmon industry in Chiloé inland sea generated a system’s rigidity trap because of increasing economic dependencies on two commodities (mussels and salmons). In 2007 the system entered into a collapse or creative destruction phase (Ω), triggered by the beginning of a salmon industry crisis related to an outbreak of infectious salmon anemia (ISA). The disease made salmon unmarketable, generating the closure of infected coastal farms and processing plants on land. The societal effect was a high local unemployment rate, especially between 2008 and 2010. Since then, the collapse phase has worsened because of numerous socioeconomic and social-ecological crises. Chiloé’s coastal zone has experienced several harmful algal blooms during this phase (2007, 2009, 2016, and 2019; León-Muñoz et al. 2018), generating the closure of mussel farms, preventing people from obtaining shore resources, and forcing the government to increase auditing of the aquaculture industry. These events and processes produced a whole island social protest in May 2016, called “chilote’s May” (Mayo chilote; Vargas 2016). The protest made evident the close relationship between the services of the coastal marine ecosystems and chilote’s well-being, generating a response from the government of subsidies and bonds to reduce temporarily people’s income problems.

#### Phases and ecosystem services

The historical analysis of ecosystem services showed that only provisioning services agreed with the hypothetical phases’ relationships (Table 1) of the local (social-ecological) adaptive cycle of Chiloé Island (Fig. 3A). On average, provisioning services increased during the reorganization (α) and growth (r) phases, but they did not increase during the conservation phase (K) and
Fig. 2. Chronology of the main drivers within the phases of Chiloé Island’s adaptive cycle for the period 1826–2016.

**Incorporation of Chiloé to Chile:** The signing of the Tantauco Treaty, between the Chilean and the Spanish governments, annexed the Chiloé archipelago to Chilean national territory. However, historical documents show that the State left the island abandoned.

1850  Chiñotes emigrate to Patagonia because of the emergence of industrial activities in southern areas (e.g., sea wolf hunting and woodcutting).

1900  Decrease of lumber activities in Patagonia triggered the return of chilotes to the island, where they worked on potatoes agriculture. This process transformed Chiloé into one of the largest potatoes producers until 1950.

**9.5 Mw earthquake in Chile, with epicenter at Chiloé:** it generated an increase in coastal wetlands after the subsidence of coastal zones. It also generated a near-extinction of mussels (*Choromytilus chorus*) and other mollusks and an increase in human emigration.

1950  Problems with the culturing of potatoes (*Solanum tubersum*) because of the potato blight disease until 1964.

1960s  Beginning of Highway 5 construction, which will cover the island from north (Ancud) to south (Quellón). People started building houses close to the new roads instead of only in the coastal zone (former maritime connection) and started to use land transport.

**Mussel culturing starts in Chiloé coastal zone:** mussel culturing, with the economic help of the Chilean government, starts with seed collection of mussels (*Aulacomya atra*), increasing the diversity of economic activities and the use of ecosystem services. There is an increase of social responses including the generation of mutual cooperation networks, cooperatives, and new extraction activities both in the coastal zone and inland.

1962  Agrarian reform Law (N° 16.640/1967) in Chile until 1973.

1969  Foundation of the dairy cooperative (CHILOLAC), currently known as “Sociedad de Agrolácteos de Chiloé S.A.”

**Establishment of the neoliberal economy in Chile impacting on Chiloé development:** there is a decrease in the self-sufficiency of the human population because of the changes produced by emergent production industries (mussel exporting and salmon farming). It ends the free access to the coastal zone and several traditional ancestral activities such as the fishing pen from Huilliches disappear.

1980s  There is an increase in forestry exploitation, mostly by matchwood industries. Chile becomes the third main worldwide exporter of matchwood, coming mostly from native trees.

1989  A nonregulated diversification on land use starts, with the support of the Chilean government (Institute for the Development of Agriculture and Cattle Farming, INDAP). Forestry plantations increase 48.7% between 1989/1990 and 1997/1998.

**Globalization of salmon production:** Chiloé becomes the main salmon production zone worldwide.

1997  Accusations made against Chilean farm companies, because of disloyal competition, by the Chamber of Commerce of the United State of America.

1998  First pieces of evidence of changes in terrestrial ecosystems due to the modification of Chilean silviculture law (D.L. 701/1974). Massive exploitation of moss (*Sphagnum sp.*) and peat from peatland ecosystems in Chiloé.

2000  Chiloé starts receiving an increased number of tourists because of the declaration of its churches as World Patrimony Sites from UNESCO.

**Outbreak of Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus (ISAV) in Chiloé:** a severe sanitary crisis affects the salmon industry, heavily influencing its economy, which triggers a socioeconomic crisis due to the sudden increase in unemployment. Simultaneously, the local milk industry (CHILOLAC) goes bankrupt.

2007  Harmful algal blooms (HAB) become more permanent in Chiloé coastal ecosystems, highlighting the 2009 and 2016 events.

2012  FAO declares Chiloé as world importance agricultural patrimony (SIPAM), and in 2015, it expresses concern about the low recruitment of mussels on Chiloé’s natural banks.

2013  Chile becomes the second worldwide mussel producer.

2016  Social protests, known as Chiloé’s May, develop after strong HABs and the death of mussels on Chiloé’s beaches. The Chilean government decides to generate an economic bonus to help the local population.
decreased in both collapse phases (Ω). Changes to the other two types of services showed linear decreases in time, unrelated to the adaptive phases. Regression for regulation and maintenance services was significant at $p = 0.1$ while for cultural services, $p = 0.02$. Cultural services analysis showed that starting in the second growth phase (r²; Fig. 3C), cultural tourism replaced myths and cultural and ancestral traditions.

Local validation of the current phase of Chiloé Island social-ecological adaptive cycle

Interviews results showed that 51.4% of the interviewees perceive that Chiloé Island is currently in a collapse phase (Ω), and 42.9% defined it in a conservation phase (K). Still, 80% of the latter described it as a late-stage, that is, with the SES near its collapse. None of the interviewees perceived the system in a growth phase (r), and only 5.7% perceived it in a reorganization phase (α). We did not find significant differences in the perception among groups of interviewees ($p = 0.74$).

Interviewees defining the current phase as a late-stage conservation phase (K) mentioned arguments such as the following:

- “Governmental inspection started only when the crisis developed.”
- “We are at the limit of cultural collapse.”
- “Laws have not helped to maintain the environment.”
- “Collapse could occur soon, especially because of garbage.”

Cross-scales interactions leading to the current collapse phase

We developed a panarchy model for Chiloé Island based on interactions among the three cycles described above (Fig. 4). We propose that the local social-ecological cycle is currently in a collapse phase (Ω) with a decrease in ES. We did not define the chronology of the next cycle (regional-national scale for the Chilean institutional-jurisdictional coupling). Nevertheless, based on the literature review, documents, and the analysis conducted by Delgado et al. (2019c), it is currently in a late conservation phase (K) because of rigid political structures. These structures facilitated the introduction and industrialization of salmon farming in the Chiloé coastal zone in 1991 (Chilean Fisheries and Aquaculture Law Nº 18.892), followed by a clustering process with the salmon industry, generating a production chain between providers and the enterprises within the region. The industry then offered economic subsidies and loans to all those interested in participating in the production/export process, making other ways of life (agriculture, wood harvest) almost nonviable (Bustos and Román 2019). For the third and higher cycle (global scale of economic markets), we suggest that the adaptive cycle is crossing what Holling and Gunderson (2002:1057 [Kindle edition]) call a “front loop” stage. That is, “the slow, incremental phase of growth and accumulation” from a growth phase (r) to a conservation phase (K; e.g., UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2020).

The global cycle’s main event was the Chile-Japan agreement that introduced Pacific salmon to Chiloé in 1969 (Amtmann and Blanco 2001). This event reinforced the local reorganization phase (α), introducing aquaculture activities based on existing capital (cultural and natural) from the Chiloé Island SES that were disarticulated by the 1960 cataclysm. Barton et al. (2013) propose that salmon farming relates to global processes (e.g., investments, technology, and sales), but only weakly to the local environment, exploiting resources and human capital, leaving all local development responsibilities to public authorities. Also, in 1969 Chile did not have legislation, regulation, and planning for its development. We propose that this cross-scale process is a “remember” connection that enables the reorganization by the
accumulated potential of the global scale cycle (Holling 2001). This cross-scale connection was established from the global to the local cycle, without connections with the regional-national cycle.

The Chilean fisheries/aquaculture law (Law Nº 18.892, September 1991) was then generated within the institutional-jurisdictional cycle, facilitating economic activities and foreign capitals’ entry, following the neoliberal logic in 1973. This economic model maintained the local adaptive cycle’s growth phase (r; Fig. 2). However, mussel and salmon farming clusters outcompeted local, traditional, economies recruiting labor and leaving the local economy under the umbrella of few enterprises, generating an economic dependency of chilotes. Under these conditions, some authors have described the Chilean state’s role as permissive (Cabello et al. 2018). Nevertheless, local traditions started getting lost in later years (2008–2010) when the government increased coastal regulations requiring fishing permits and assigning quotas even for traditional activities such as macroalgae and seafood harvest (Pavez 2015, Bustos and Román 2019).

The 2007 ISA virus crisis in Chiloé’s coastal zone was one of the events that showed the strong dependency of local, traditional chilotes, and the aquaculture industry on coastal ecosystems. The ISA virus is not endemic of the Chilean coast, so its presence in Chilean waters resulted from cross-scale interactions (Barrionuevo 2011). Less than a decade after the ISA virus crisis, people from Chiloé Island participated in massive protests, triggered by the dumping of 4600 tonnes of rotten salmon into the ocean, with the Chilean government’s consent. This event could, in theory, have produced a “revolt” cross-scale effect in the institutional-jurisdictional cycle, which could have generated a collapse phase (Ω). However, toward the end of the protests, the Chilean government declared Chiloé as a “zone of catastrophe,” offering a one-time economic bonus of US$150 to each affected family (Mascareño et al. 2018). Such a subsidy worked as a rigidity trap, maintaining the institutional-jurisdictional cycle in the conservative phase (K) and avoiding it from entering into a collapse phase (Ω). On 25 October 2020, Chileans will vote to decide if they want a new constitution, to decrease, among other things, the current centralism, which could disentangle the rigidity trap[1]. Also, we propose another rigidity trap, inside what Steneck et al. (2011) defined as “gilded traps” (Fig. 4). They are social traps where collective actions, resulting from attractive economic opportunities, outweigh the concerns about social and environmental risks. In the case of Chiloé, the aquaculture industry would act as a gilded trap because its goal is to increase the economic value of natural resources, i.e., mussels and salmon, requiring a simplified ecosystem, free of predators.
DISCUSSION

The adaptive cycle and the ecosystem services

We have described a social-ecological adaptive cycle conceptual model for Chiloé Island (southern Chile), defining its phases through a qualitative interpretation of historical documents, scientific articles, face-to-face interviews (Appendices 1 and 2), and based on the drivers that other authors have associated with each phase (Table 2). We have also used the information to analyze ecosystem services (ES) in each phase and their changes through time (Table 3 and Fig. 3) with the goal of testing if they agree with the relationships proposed in the literature (Table 1). Results show that Chiloé Island’s adaptive cycle has gone through two collapse phases (Ω), the first between 1960 and 1966 and the second, validated by interviews with local social actors, between 2007 and, at least, 2016 (Fig. 2). Folke (2006:260), discussing the definition of resilience for social-ecological systems (SES), states that one of its meanings is “the degree to which the system can build and increase the capacity for learning and adaptation.” However, Fath et al. (2015) emphasize the system’s capacity to move through all the adaptive cycle phases. The information gathered shows that Chiloé went through the first collapse phase, moving into a reorganization phase (α; Fig. 2), with profound changes in its social-ecological conditions. It is still too early to know the result of the second, current, collapse phase. Therefore, our historical analysis suggests that Chiloé’s social-ecological system is resilient and that a new reorganization phase could rise in the following years. However, chilotes have paid the price, losing their identity, as shown in the decreasing trend of cultural ecosystem services (Fig. 3B). Alternatively, the Chiloé Island SES may be inside the rigidity trap generated by the upper (Chilean national-regional) adaptive cycle. In this case, the system could become maladaptive, losing its adaptive capabilities (Holling 2001).

Sheppard (1995) and Humphries and Winemiller (2009) mention that, when developing regional policies and programs, it is frequent to make mistakes if the adaptive history of complex systems, such as Chiloé Island, is unknown. Each generation accepts as a baseline for ecosystems and societies the conditions they knew at the beginning of their life, using them to assess changes. Soga and Gaston (2018) state that human perception is limited, and as a result, the lack of experiences, memory, or knowledge of local people about past conditions (known as “environmental generational amnesia”) may generate unsustainable objectives for socioeconomic development. Delgado et al. (2009) also propose that under uncertain conditions, a sense of “environmental nostalgia” in tune with the Spanish expression *todo tiempo pasado fue mejor* (the good old days) may prevail. Even considered a heuristic (e.g., Thanh et al. 2020), the adaptive cycle is a robust conceptual framework that depicts long-term changes in a SES becoming a system’s environmental memory. Resulting models can then be used, along with other shorter time frameworks such as the Drivers-Pressures-State-Impact (DPSIR; Pintér et al. 2008), to improve the knowledge of the relationships between social and ecological subsystems at different time scales.

The ES analysis showed that only provisioning services agree (Fig. 3A) with the proposed hypothetical relationships with the adaptive cycle phases. This method forces researchers to gather vast amounts of information, but it allowed us to understand the long-term changes (in this case, 190 years: 1826–2016) of an SES. This long-term perspective showed that some large-scale socioeconomic processes, such as the globalization and neoliberal economy, imprinted on Chiloé social-ecological system after 1969 (Fig. 4), may have disentangled the local relationships between adaptive cycles phases and ecosystem services, as proposed (Table 1), especially for cultural ecosystem services that depend on preserving traditions (Quiñones 2020). However, Burkhard et al. (2011) state that two phases (exploitation [r] and conservation [K]) may have high uncertainties on ecosystem services, and Delgado et al. (2019a) propose ES are unpredictable in the reorganization phase (α). Schmitz (2010:258), discussing ecosystem complexity, proposes that we should always consider the issue of contingency, which “arises when the nature and strength of ecosystem functioning in different locations are different realizations of the same underlying process.” Therefore, there are two possible explanations for our phases/services results: (1) long-term processes, i.e., cross-scale interactions, change the expected local relationships; or (2) the relationships are contingent to the type of service and the structure and functions of each ecosystem, without a general rule. We leave these two ideas as working hypotheses that should be analyzed with a broader set of empirical phases/services studies.

Obstacles and traps: the potential effects of cross-scale interactions

Cross-scale process analyses allowed us to identify the system’s connections that have modified its social-ecological behavior (Fig. 4). Human well-being depends on a social-ecological systems’ resilience, making the analysis of adaptive cycles and their cross-scale connections necessary (McGinnis and Ostrom 2014, Fath et al. 2015). Cross-scale interactions that jump one cycle of the panarchy may be especially important to analyze, e.g., the remember connection between the global and local scale cycles (Fig. 4).

Also, looking for rigidity traps is essential to scrutinize phase changes and resilience. In our case, rigidity appeared as gilded traps (Fig. 4). Although from an economic perspective, aquaculture is attractive, it also generates risks that have been associated with gilded traps, such as a propensity to diseases (Murray and Peeler 2005), in our case, the ISA virus triggering the 2007 collapse phase (Ω; Fig. 2 and Appendix 1).

Currently, there are no local adaptive management schemes for Chiloé Island. Therefore, it is difficult to respond to global processes, e.g., the Chile-Japan agreement. Our results suggest that Chiloé Island is either in a collapse phase (Ω) or a late-stage conservation phase (K). If the phase is the latter, we propose that the system is within a rigidity trap due to several governmental economic subsidies, or “perverse subsidies” (Bagstad et al. 2007). Vang Rasmussen and Reenberg (2012) propose that excessive subsidies may move a system into a rigidity trap because connectivity is increased through political interventions. In consequence, this type of governmental help becomes a long-term enemy of local sustainability.

Maintaining a conservation phase (K) may be a good thing for social-ecological systems, but not through rigidity traps (Fath et al. 2015). If the Chiloé adaptive cycle is in a late-stage conservation phase (K), it will need economic diversification, a return to traditional practices, local regulations and inspections, and
participative governance to avoid entering into a new collapse phase (Ω). However, from the perspective of public policies, Chile and other Latin American nations are centralized countries lacking the required regional-local contextualized instruments and with low social participation (Delgado et al. 2019c).

In summary, Chiloé Island’s social-ecological system seems to be crossing a critical moment. It is either in a late-stage conservation phase (K) or already in collapse (Ω). Its traditional culture has been disintegrated by external, global pressures. Two out of three ecosystem services show a long-term deterioration, independent of the phase of the cycle. Although some authors propose that it could also be an opportunity to reinvent its cultural identity (Mansilla Torres 2006), such a proposal will require an institutional-jurisdictional openness to start a bottom-up reorganization phase (α).

CONCLUSIONS
Based on the developed adaptive cycle model, we propose that Chiloé Island, studied as a social-ecological system, is currently going through a local collapse phase (Ω), with a socioeconomic and ecological breakdown resulting from the productive activities developed in the coastal zone, a lack of local control, and perverse subsidies. The national cycle (institutional-jurisdictional) is confined in a rigidity trap. Finally, the historical analysis of ecosystem services shows that phases/services relationships may be contextual to each service type, depending on long-term social-ecological trends and cross-scale interactions.

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## Appendix 1

### Capitals of the historical phases of Chiloé local (social-ecological) adaptive cycle. References are cited at the end of this appendix

### Capitals of Phase r (1): (1826 – 1959)

| Ecological Subsystem | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Natural capital** | The western coast of the archipelago, and on the coasts of the inland sea, was filled with wetlands, peatlands, native forests, lakes, rivers, and reach marine ecosystems. Coastal marine ecosystems provided macroalgae, crustaceans, mollusks, and fishes. Those marine resources, mixed with potatoes, were the basic food for Chilotes. Other crops (wheat, oats, some legumes) and livestock were complementary. | Cárdenas and Villagrán (2005) | |
| | Island forests were already suffering anthropogenic pressures due mostly to wood extraction (mostly larches) both for building and as firewood, vegetation fibers, and herbs for medical purposes. There also was the change from forests to prairies for agronomic purposes. Use of natural fertilizers, marine algae, for potatoes cultures. The use of birds guano started in 1940. | Muñoz Carreño (2016), San Carlos et al. (2018), Cárdenas and Villagrán (2005), Andrade (2017) | |
| | There were two varieties of potatoes, both susceptible to a fungus known as “tizón” (*Phytophthora infestans*), a disease that it is believed it arrived from Argentina, unnoticed until 1949. New colonists introduced new potatoes varieties more resistant to fungi during 1895 and by 1950 they replaced native potatoes. Large bivalves’ extraction between 1930 and 1940. | Cárdenas and Villagrán (2005), Andrade (2017) | |
| **Social Subsystem** | | | |
| **Bridge social capital** | Chiloé becomes isolated from its former markets after its incorporation to Chile in 1826, due to a decrease in maritime transport and isolation from the rest of the country. The Chilean state becomes the owner of 70% of the island, including areas that formerly belonged to indigenous communities. During 1950, the Chilean government imposed an emigration process off the island due to its alleged misery. The poverty moved Chilotes away from agriculture toward the harvest of coastal marine species. | San Carlos et al. (2018), Marino (1985), Montenegro (2016) | |
| **Cultural capital and identity** | Chilotes’ culture was built before this phase through the syncretism of indigenous peoples and Spaniard colonists. The isolation is an important factor that explains the maintenance of Chilote’s identity and culture. Two mythological entities, one of the forests (El Trauco) and one of the coasts (La Pincoya), were particularly important as resources regulators. Thus, “Chilotes extracted only what was necessary for their life” Efficient rural self-subsistence economy. Productive activities oriented to self-consumption along with sales or exchanges to benefit the family and social activities. | Cárdenas and Villagrán (2005), Personal communication (Interviewee from Dalcahue) Gajardo et al. (2017), Montenegro (2016), Daughters (2016) | |
| **Economic capital** | Emigration due to the lack of working opportunities due to excessive land division, general poverty, and low expectations from men. During 1850 many men migrate to work on sea wolf and/or forest exploitations abandoning agriculture and leaving women and elderslies in charge of them. This process reverts at the beginning of the XX century due to a decrease in forest exploitation with Chilotes returning to potatoes harvest until the middle of the century when fungi start creating problems. | Yáñez Aguilar (2011); Montenegro, (2016); Saldívar Aréllano (2017), Cárdenas and Villagrán (2005); Saavedra Gallo (2013) | |
| **Human capital** | High family and community cohesion. Families share agricultural grounds. This custom is disturbed due to the land division generated by the Chilean government. | Marino (1985) | |


| Union social capital | Community activities occur mostly on beaches and fishing pens, a Huilliche tradition that was maintained until the first half of the XX century. | Urbina (1996) |
|---|---|---|

**Capitals of Phase Ω (1): (1960 – 1966)**

### Ecological Subsystem

| Natural capital | “The earthquake of May 22nd, 1960 lasted three minutes, it was 9.5 Mw. That is, it was a cataclysm. We lost everything here, we lost all coastal zones, the tsunami was very strong people said goodbye in between the three big waves. It was terrible, we saw gases coming from the earth, we could not eat fishes and seafood, all of them were contaminated. Chiloé then opened to the world, roads were opened, motorboats arrived, and it was the end of sailing boats. The positive issue was the existence of outside help, that, given the magnitude of the disaster, it was very important.” | Personal communication (Interviewee from Dalcahue) |
|---|---|---|
| After the earthquake, there was a closure of seafood fishing. Also, the falling of smut affected potatoes cultures until 1961, further reappearing during 1964. As a result, agricultures switch to culturing beet. During that period cattle were affected by diverse pathogens. | Urbina (1996) |
| Ground-level subsidence with land flooding and the growth of wetlands made forest regeneration difficult. | Quintanilla (2004) |
| Regional depletion of natural banks of “chorito” (*Mytilus edulis*) and “cholga” (*Aulacomya ater*). “Choro zapato” (*Choromytilus chorus*) was to the border of extinction and there was a collapse of natural banks of Chilean oysters (*Ostrea chilensis*) due to the null extraction up to 1961 and under 100 tones between 1962 and 1966. | Steir (2005) |
| Replacement begins of traditional, chilote, fertilizers (based on marine algae and plant leaves) by the chemical super triple phosphate. | Cárdenas and Villagrán (2005) |

### Social Subsystem

| Bridge social capital | After the earthquake, the island’s human population gets temporally isolated, with few help networks and without immediate communication with the continent. | Manns (1972) |
|---|---|---|
| Cultural capital and identity | The construction of the Castro-Ancud route begins after the earthquake, making land transportation possible and negatively affecting the traditional maritime transport. | Mancilla and Mardones (2010) |
| Economic capital | Exports are profoundly affected due to the destruction of the train and docks. Employment starts depending on the generation of public structures, producing serious unemployment. | Urbina (1996) |
| Seafood and macroalgae increase their value in Chile; the beginning of the current scenario of economic transformations. | Montenegro (2016) |
| The earthquake generated the emigration of impoverished rural families from the island toward Argentina and Magallanes looking for better life conditions. | Saldivar Arellano (2017) |
| The earthquake, and the following tsunami, buried the veins of gold making small scale gold-digging impossible | Gajardo et al. (2017) |
| “The earthquake produced many changes. Here a customs benefit law is enacted (no taxes as an economic incentive), that persisted between 1960 and 1970. This “free port” allows the beginning of tourism, with outsiders starting to visit the island”. | Personal communication (Interviewee from Castro) |

| Union social capital | “The earthquake generates a reorganization of Chiloé’s community. The country asks the catholic church to send a leader that may generate hope after the catastrophe. They sent an important priest, and everybody would go to Ancud to hear his prayers. This generated peace but people were still fighting for the food arriving from the continent. There also were connectivity changes, road building, and suddenly houses stop looking at the sea. | Personal communication (Interviewee from Dalcahue) |

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**Note:** The text above provides a detailed account of the effects of the 1960 Chile earthquake on various subsystems, including natural, ecological, and social aspects. It highlights changes in community activities, the impact on agricultural and economic systems, and cultural and social adaptations to the disaster. The text draws on multiple sources for a comprehensive understanding of the disaster's aftermath and its long-term effects.
(Chiloé’s tradition) and start looking at the road. Fishing pens also disappear due to the modification of the coastline.”

| Capitals of Phase α: (1967 – 1973) |
|-------------------------------------|
| **Ecological Subsystem**            |
| Natural capital                     |
| There is indiscriminate cutting of native forests for the export of raw materials to Asia. | Sepúlveda and Geisse (1995) |
| The export of chips from industrial waste pulp for cellulose begins. Also, the high demand for short fiber chips leads to the use of the best native wood for chips. | Hormazábal Henríquez (2006) |
| Development of mussel farming on rafts with governmental funds (1967). Seed collection of “cholga” (*Aulacomya ater*) starts. | GESAM (2006) |
| “Up until 1970, you could still have natural banks of seafood. Chilotes would extract from nature only that necessary for its maintenance, not for sale. Fishing pens are one example of this.” | Personal communication (Interviewee from Dalcahue) |
| **Social Subsystem**                |
| Bridge social capital               |
| The almost disappearance of mussel’s banks after the earthquake motivated the Chilean state to start a research program to develop cultures. So, culture centers were established in several locations. At the end of the 70’s decade, they are transferred to other institutions and universities and later to private enterprises. | Sfeir (2005) |
| The Chilean state, in 1967, encourages the economic development, mostly of mussels farming. | "El gran auge de los choritos en Chiloé" (2007) |
| The agriculture reform law (Nº 16.640) enters into force in 1967. Its main goal is to modern social relations through land redistributions, generation of cooperatives and peasant’s unions. | Altieri and Rojas (1999) |
| Beginning of the introduction of Pacific salmon (Chile-Japan agreement, 1969). | Amtmann and Blanco (2001) |
| **Economic capital**                |
| The local ancestral practice of the collective fishing pens is intrinsically attached to the local belief system and allows the maintenance of community access to marine spaces and extraction of species in low-scale capture. | Alvarez et al. (2008) |
| Diversification of economic activities and system’s reorganization. Gold veins reappear in 1965, and dairy product’s cooperatives (CHILOLAC) start in 1969. | Salières et al. (2005), Gajardo et al. (2017) |
| Handicraft’s market growth to sustain the beginning of tourism in the island. | Cárdenas and Villagrán (2005) |
| There is a diversification of the economy matrix, influencing social and economic relationships in the archipelago. | Mansilla Torres (2006) |
| The National Mining Company (ENAMI) encourages gold mining. | Gajardo et al. (2017) |
| **Human capital**                   |
| Poverty relates to poor soil’s condition, erosion, illiteracy, lack of health systems and of state presence. | Grenier (1984) |
| **Union social capital**            |
| New associativity: cooperatives and peasant unions. | Altieri and Rojas (1999) |
| The aquaculture industry changes barter and reciprocity in monetary relationships. The idea of mutual obligation among neighbors decreases and traditional practices. | Salières et al. (2005), Daughters (2009) |
## Ecological Subsystem

| Natural capital | In 1974 salmon production begins with eggs imported from USA. In 1979 a Japanese-Chilean enterprise starts culturing pacific salmon in the region. Later in 1984 the Pacific oyster is introduced in Chiloé coastal zone for culturing. | Claude et al. (2000), Aros and Marchant (2018) |
| In 1980, free access to resources, guided by the neoliberal model, generates overexploitation, with negative social, economic, and ecological impacts. It also changed traditional fishing practices. | Gajardo and Ther (2011) |
| In 1981, the salmon aquaculture industry gets affected by Pacific salmon syndrome. In 1998 there is massive fish mortality due to the bloom of the microalgae *Heterosigma akashiwo* and in 1989 a bacterial disease kills many fishes. Later, in 1993, a parasite isopod appears in Chiloé salmons. | Fryer et al. (1990), Carvajal and González (1990), Sievers et al. (1996) |
| Increase in the harvest of coastal marine algal prairies during the ‘80s. | Sfeir (2005) |
| The National Fisheries and Aquaculture law is enforced in 1989, modified in 1991 and 1997. In 1994 appears the national policy on the use of coastal zones. | Marin and Gelich (2012), Alvarez et al. (2008) |
| The salmon industry in Chile uses antibiotics, fungicides and algicides and encourages the fisheries of *Merluccius australis* (southern hake). | López and Buschmann (1991); GESAM (2006), Coq-Huelva et al. (2018) |
| Four million salmons escape from their cages between 1994 and 1996, and later are used as artisan fisheries resource. | Soto et al. (2001) |
| Mussel farming was a secondary activity during the ‘80s, but it grows in the ‘90s when it is considered one of the most important Chilean productive revolutions. | "El gran auge de los choritos en Chiloé" (2007) |
| The industrial economy starts using native forest wood both for building purposes, firewood, and splinters. During the ‘80s forest exploitation for splinters is intensified mostly from native forests. | Cárdenas and Villagrán (2005), Hormazábal Henriquez (2006) |
| There is a diversification in land use with governmental support, but without regulation. Forestry plantations increase 48.7% between 1989/90 and 1997/98. | Amtmann and Blanco (2001) |

## Social Subsystem

| Bridge social capital | In 1974 a splinter production society is generated in Chiloé, to cut 125 thousand hectares of native forest. The response is the creation of a foundation (FUNDECHI) that starts reporting the consequences of the splinter project. As a result, Chiloé National Park is created in 1983 and in 1995 the park is returned to the Huilliche people. | Barros (1980), Oltremari and Guerrero (2003), Alcalde Silva (2014) |
| In 1976 the Undersecretariat for Fisheries is created and in 1978 the National Fisheries Service. Also, in 1976 Chile Foundation (Fundación Chile) starts its operation based on state and international participation. Later the foundation starts salmon farming operations in Chiloé through linked enterprises. | Claude et al. (2000), Fløysand and Román (2008) |
| Salmon farming ends the free access to the coastal border. The law then grants rights for the use of marine resources that become tradable rights. | Ramírez et al. (2009) |
| An association of salmon producers (SALMONCHILE) is created in 1985 and a similar one for mussel farmers (AMICHILE) is created in 1991. Both with the idea of supporting export processes. | Barton and Fløysand (2010) |
| | | |
| Cultural capital and identity | The government modifies the fisheries and aquaculture law in 1991. The main change is the limitation for artisan fishermen to work only in its region, stopping the traditional custom of Chilotes fishing in other regions. | Arenas et al. (2001), Coque-Huelva et al. (2018) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| “The introduction of a new political and economic system, neoliberal, generates a series of changes, where materialism is everything and the spiritual side is weak. Here in Chiloé, there is a destruction of natural and cultural patrimony. (...)In this model the only thing important is money, my neighbor is not important nor my cooperation history”. | Marin and Gelcich (2012) |
| Fishing pens ends in the 1980’s decade. | Alvarex Abel (2016) |
| Economic capital | In 1984 there are nine enterprises producing salmon, initiated mostly with Chilean capitals. They increase employment in Chiloé, but it is precarious and with high personal risks (e.g. injuries). | Montero (2004), Salgado Reyes (2005), Aguayo and Barriga (2016) |
| The Los Lagos Region from 1985 until the end of this phase change from being a forestry-agriculture region to an aquaculture zone. Agriculture, hunting, and fishing labor force decreased by 9.8%, while manufacture decreased by 18.1%. | Antmann and Blanco (2001) |
| High increase in salmon exports (250% in 1987) reaching 30 countries around the world. In 1994 Chile becomes the second world salmon producer. | Montero (2004), Bravo Sánchez (2004), Fleysand and Román (2008), Ceballos et al. (2018) |
| In the year 1980, the selling of rural residential properties starts to be used for tourism. | Cereceda and Dahse (1980) |
| Human capital | In the ‘80s salmon aquaculture industries install big hatcheries, generating a demand for labor generating the proletarianization of the Chiloé’s peasants. | Mansilla Torres (2006) |
| The emigration of Chilotes to Patagonia decreases, due to the new employment opportunities. This generates a decrease in the labor force of rural communities. | Barton and Román (2016), Daughters (2016) |
| Immigrants from other zones of Chile start appearing in Chiloé. There is also an increase in education. | Zanlungo et al. (2015) |
| Union social capital | “A financial system for farmers starts, along with the arrival of enterprises. Individualism is born! Chilotes have to work in the enterprises, with bad salaries and abuses. Self-maintenance is no longer possible, everything is more expensive.” | Personal communication (Interviewee from Dalcahue) |
| “There is a decrease in the trust after the military coup, decreasing traditional cooperative activities. There is also a decrease in self-maintenance capabilities. Young people go to work for industries.” | Personal communication (Interviewee from Dalcahue) |
### Capitals of Phase K: (1996 – 2006)

#### Ecological Subsystem

| Natural capital | During 1997 salmon production grows eight times, and regional fishmeal becomes the largest in the country. However, there is an increase in salmon diseases, infecting a local species. | Claude et al. (2000) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| There is an inverse relationship between salmon aquaculture and the population of sea wolf, *Otaria flavescens*. One of the causes would be intentional catches to avoid sea wolf’s attacks on salmon cages. | Buschmann et al. (2002) |
| There is an increase in the frequency and spatial coverage of harmful algal blooms, reaching Chiloé in 2002. | Molinet et al. (2003) |
| There is an increase (by a factor of 7.5) in sardine and anchovy catches in the period 1999-2009. | Coq-Huelva et al. (2018) |
| The National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) approves subsidies to forest in fragile soils (“ñadis”). | Gatica (2012) |
| During the period 1998-2013, there is a loss of native forest of 10268 hectares, while forestry increases from 623 to 5443 hectares. | Frêne et al. (2014) |
| *Pinus spp.* and *Eucalyptus spp.* are a potentially accelerated decrease in water reserves due to young forestry plantations. | Oyarzún and Huber (1999) |
| In 1998 the export of mosses (*Sphagnum spp.*) and peat starts, making this an important source of income during the next decade, influencing regional hydric balance. | Díaz et al. (2005), Zegers et al. (2006) |

#### Social Subsystem

| Bridge social capital | The National policy on aquaculture is approved during 2003. | Bermúdez (2010) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The government authorizes Chilotas to fish in the Aysén Region. | Marin and Gelcich (2012) |
| The government creates a buffer zone between Chiloé National Park and human settlements. | Oltemari and Guerrero (2003) |
| Hacia el final de esta fase, en 2004 ocurre el anuncio público de intensificar los planes para construir un puente que conectaría Chiloé por tierra mediante un megaproyecto de puente y posteriormente se propone el plan Chiloé del MOP. | Delamanza et al. (2012) |

| Cultural capital and identity | In 2003 the Ministry of culture (Government of Chile) was created, an important milestone, since Chiloé becomes a powerful pole of tourist attraction. This from the exploitation and construction of a performative and stereotypical image of a natural, magical and mythological place, anchored in a rurality that in many respects seems to be pre-modern, and which, judging by the increasing tourist flow, would be meeting the needs of exoticism of a visitor of urban origin who seeks difference and cultural and natural 'authenticity'. | Mansilla Torres (2006), Ulloa and Del Valle (2014) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| In 2000, UNESCO designated several historic churches in Chiloé (built entirely of wood from native forests) as World Heritage Sites. These unique churches were built in the late 1700s and during the 1800s. | Ortiz et al. (2014) |

| Economic capital | The Ministry of Agriculture since the beginning of this phase (1996) accentuates international exports. Chile joins Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). However, regional industries start showing economic crises. | Torres (2000), Antmann and Blanco (2001) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| During 1997 the US Chamber of Commerce accuses Chilean producers of dumping, occurring in parallel to the Asian crisis affecting salmon prices. However, despite this, there is no noticeable effect on the industry, but rather its consolidation with the start of the process of company acquisitions and mergers, together with an aggressive | Antmann and Bianco (2001), Barton and Fløysand (2010) |
transnational expansion in the industry in 1999. The agricultural census (1997) shows that family forest exploitation is only 1% of total forestry production.

| Event                                                                 | Source                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| In the first years of the 2000-decade salmon farming starts emigrating from Chiloé. | Estay and Chávez (2015)                     |
| People increase their purchasing power as a result of the development of the salmon industry. | Barrett et al. (2002)                       |
| Salmon farming modifies the traditional potatoes market, resulting in a relocation of this activity outside Chiloé. | Cárdenas and Villagrán (2005)               |

| Human capital | The automation of processes in the salmon industry at the end of the ‘90s generates a 40% decrease in employment. | Claude et al. (2000) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Union social capital | Near the end of the 2000-decade NGOs encourage the creation of labor unions (TERRAM, Ecoocéanos, among others.), reaching 50% of all island workers. | Ramírez et al. (2010), Oseland et al. (2012) |
| In 2002, the salmon sector signed the Clean Production Agreement of the National Council for Clean Production, dependent on the Ministry of economy (Government of Chile), and in 2003, a "Code of Good Practice" was developed by SALMONCHILE. | Muñoz (2006) |
## Capitals of Phase Ω (2): (2007 – 2016)

### Ecological Subsystem

| Natural capital | 
| --- | --- |
| The beginning of this phase (2007) is marked by the ISA virus crisis, making salmons unmarketable. | Bustos (2015) |
| Increase in harmful algal blooms. | Sandoval et al. (2018) |
| During 2013 Chile becomes the second world producer of mussels, exporting 240 thousand tones, and obtaining 99% from natural produced larvae. So, natural mussel banks show low recruitment. | Avendaño et al. (2011), FAO (2015), Molinet et al. (2017) |
| During February 2016 a massive algal bloom of *Pseudochatonella verruculosa*, produced a large salmon mortality in the region. Later that year a harmful algal bloom develops, leaving Chiloé archipelago as a disaster zone. | Buschmann et al. (2016) |
| There is a controversy between forestry subsidies (USD 1.9 millions) and subsidies to manage and conserve the native forests (USD 84 thousand). So, *Eucalyptus spp.* forests start replacing natural forests. | Frêne et al. (2014) |
| Authors describe this period as experiencing fast changes in the use of land and sea, extraction of algae and mosses (*Sphagnum spp.*), generation of industrial wind parks and unprecedented environmental changes such as harmful algal blooms and droughts. | Elwell et al. (2018) |
| During 2007 concern starts over peatland exploitation, which is generating increasing summer water crises. Furthermore, wind parks have generated the destruction of peatlands. | SERNAGEOMIN (2008), Mondaca (2017) |

### Social Subsystem

| Bridge social capital | 
| --- | --- |
| Salmon farming is an economic development concentrated on few enterprises, with weak connections with the local economy, generating dependency among local citizens. The role of the Chilean state is described as permissive, abandoning the community. | Cabello et al. (2018) |
| In 2008 the law on coastal marine spaces for native people (ECMPO) enters into force, given the problems between exploitation areas and indigenous communities. | Saavedra Gallo (2013) |
| During the 2016 harmful algal bloom, the Chilean government provides financial compensations, which are interpreted as the “typical” governmental response. | Thomas (2018) |

| Cultural capital and identity | 
| --- | --- |
| Since the first ISA virus crisis, regional economic paradigms change, diversifying the economy toward non-extractive activities such as tourism. | Barton and Fløysand (2010) |
| FAO declares Chiloé as Globally Important System of the world agricultural patrimony (GIAHS). | "Agricultores de Chiloé llaman a resguardar el patrimonio agrícola local” (2015) |
| Patrimonial tourism is proposed as a way to maintain the socioeconomic characteristics of communities in need of support. | Sánchez et al. (2016) |
| During 2009, Chiloé occupies the third place of tourism destinies worldwide (*Lonely Planet*). | Ulloa and Del Valle (2014) |
| Scientists propose that tourists have a negative perception of aquaculture. | Outeiro et al. (2018) |
| Economic capital | During 2012, the patrimonial school of crafts is founded. | During 2007, the ISA virus crisis generates a salmon production crisis with socioeconomic consequences. | During 2007, the ISA virus crisis generates a salmon production crisis with socioeconomic consequences. Gillet and Olate (2010) |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | “Al rescate del patrimonio cultural intangible. La escuela patrimonial de artesanías y oficios de lingue, Chiloé” (2020) | *Economic capital* During 2007, the ISA virus crisis generates a salmon production crisis with socioeconomic consequences. Gillet and Olate (2010) | During 2007, the ISA virus crisis generates a salmon production crisis with socioeconomic consequences. Gillet and Olate (2010) |
|                  | In June 2008, 64 million USD are lost reducing 1000 employments. Banks state that they will reconsider the requirements to loan money to salmon farmers. | In June 2008, 64 million USD are lost reducing 1000 employments. Banks state that they will reconsider the requirements to loan money to salmon farmers. Gillet and Olate (2010) | In June 2008, 64 million USD are lost reducing 1000 employments. Banks state that they will reconsider the requirements to loan money to salmon farmers. Gillet and Olate (2010) |
|                  | The traditional community work is transformed into individual wage work. After enterprises closed, in 2007, people migrated from rural to urban areas increasing unemployment and/or accepting precarious jobs. | The traditional community work is transformed into individual wage work. After enterprises closed, in 2007, people migrated from rural to urban areas increasing unemployment and/or accepting precarious jobs. Gillet and Olate (2010) | The traditional community work is transformed into individual wage work. After enterprises closed, in 2007, people migrated from rural to urban areas increasing unemployment and/or accepting precarious jobs. Gillet and Olate (2010) |
|                  | In 2007 the milk products enterprise CHILOLAC enters into bankruptcy. | In 2007 the milk products enterprise CHILOLAC enters into bankruptcy. Gillet and Olate (2010) | In 2007 the milk products enterprise CHILOLAC enters into bankruptcy. Gillet and Olate (2010) |
|                  | In 2012, some authors propose that Chilote’s dependency of the aquaculture sector has reduced their adaptation capacity. | In 2012, some authors propose that Chilote’s dependency of the aquaculture sector has reduced their adaptation capacity. Barton et al. (2012) | In 2012, some authors propose that Chilote’s dependency of the aquaculture sector has reduced their adaptation capacity. Barton et al. (2012) |
| Human capital    | The ISA virus crisis had a profound effect on human capital. People returned to their original regions due to unemployment, generating a perception of instability and distrust. | The ISA virus crisis had a profound effect on human capital. People returned to their original regions due to unemployment, generating a perception of instability and distrust. Zanlungo et al. (2015) | The ISA virus crisis had a profound effect on human capital. People returned to their original regions due to unemployment, generating a perception of instability and distrust. Zanlungo et al. (2015) |
| Union social capital | During 2008, The New York Times ™ published an article criticizing the practices conducting to the ISA virus crisis. At this point, the crisis turned global. | During 2008, The New York Times ™ published an article criticizing the practices conducting to the ISA virus crisis. At this point, the crisis turned global. Barton and Fløysand (2010) | During 2008, The New York Times ™ published an article criticizing the practices conducting to the ISA virus crisis. At this point, the crisis turned global. Barton and Fløysand (2010) |
|                  | In 2013, two people die in Quellón, due to the precarious health conditions of the island. Social protests end after negotiations with the central government and local authorities. | In 2013, two people die in Quellón, due to the precarious health conditions of the island. Social protests end after negotiations with the central government and local authorities. Arriagada (2016) | In 2013, two people die in Quellón, due to the precarious health conditions of the island. Social protests end after negotiations with the central government and local authorities. Arriagada (2016) |
|                  | During 2015, artisan fishermen were deeply affected by salmon farming, also feeling that the Chilean state did not guarantee their activities. This condition generated Chilote’s May during 2016. | During 2015, artisan fishermen were deeply affected by salmon farming, also feeling that the Chilean state did not guarantee their activities. This condition generated Chilote’s May during 2016. Barton and Román (2016), Valdebenito Allendes (2018) | During 2015, artisan fishermen were deeply affected by salmon farming, also feeling that the Chilean state did not guarantee their activities. This condition generated Chilote’s May during 2016. Barton and Román (2016), Valdebenito Allendes (2018) |
|                  | The closure of fishing and aquaculture areas during May 2016, due to red tide events generates the social-environmental crisis “Mayo Chilote”. The government ends this crisis by offering monetary subsidies to fishermen. | The closure of fishing and aquaculture areas during May 2016, due to red tide events generates the social-environmental crisis “Mayo Chilote”. The government ends this crisis by offering monetary subsidies to fishermen. Cabello et al. (2018) | The closure of fishing and aquaculture areas during May 2016, due to red tide events generates the social-environmental crisis “Mayo Chilote”. The government ends this crisis by offering monetary subsidies to fishermen. Cabello et al. (2018) |

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Appendix 2

Social-ecological interview:
Purpose: Perception of the current phase of the adaptive cycle in Chiloé Island

Name: __________________ Place of birth: __________________
Age: ________________ Years living in Chiloé: ________________
Locality where you live: ____________________________________
Activity you develop: _______________________________________

The following questions relate to the four phases of the adaptive cycle theoretical model:

- **Growth phase (r):** the ecosystem (e.g. coastal zones) provides benefits (diversity of algae, seafood, fishes, and favorable conditions for mussel and salmon farming). People use them for subsistence and commerce (increasing their income). There is a change from traditional to industrial practices, the creation of cooperatives, and relationships between institutions and society.

- **Conservation phase (K):** the ecosystem remains without major changes and without modification of its uses. There are no new industries. There is a monopoly and rigid association rules. There are political and economic pressures from the global-national scale.

- **Collapse phase (Ω):** the ecosystem, due to internal and/or external perturbations, changes its structure. There is a disarticulation between social and ecological systems. The perturbations generate social and/or ecological crises, with economic consequences, emigration, and changes in productive activities.

- **Reorganization phase (α):** the system, after a perturbation, starts a new cycle. The ecosystem is different, and people adapt to it (e.g. new industries, the culture of new species).

Questions:

1. What is the current phase of the Chiloé Island social-ecological system?
2. What year did the phase start?
3. When did it end? or Does it continue?
4. Has the stated phase occurred before?
5. If the answer is yes, what was its approximate date?