

FISH BYTES

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Fisheries and Marine Ecosystems Research Group Funded by Pew Charitable Trusts

By Tony Pitcher

...-made crisis driven by changes they have wrought in marine ecosystems. The costs of fishery collapses, measured as foregone revenue, lost jobs and depleted biodiversity, have become unacceptable. For example, up to 1998, the Atlantic cod collapse has cost at least \$Can 4.5 billion, including losses to biodiversity, lifestyle and culture. Profound changes in policy, and its implementation in fisheries management, are needed to reverse these trends, but for this to occur, research must be available that documents unequivocal large-scale fisheries impacts on marine ecosystems and shows how such impacts may be mitigated and reversed. At present, most fisheries ecosystem research is not being conducted in systematic fashion, although data are available which would enable suitable analyses.

We are pleased to announce that The Pew Charitable Trusts, based in Philadelphia, USA, are funding a 3-year, \$Can 3 million, project focussed on this problem. The project aims to develop and improve a suite of analytical tools being developed at the Fisheries Centre, in partnership with a global network of scientists providing data, evaluation and peer review. The project will highlight, in the first instance, North Atlantic ecosystems. New methods to be employed are: (1) the Ecopath/Ecosim/Ecospace suite of techniques for simulating ecosystems with their embedded fisheries, developed by Dr Villy Christensen of ICLARM, Dr Daniel Pauly and Dr Carl Walters, and the subject of a recent FAO-workshop at the Fisheries Centre (a second workshop under the leadership of Dr Kevern Cochrane from FAO, the recent Larkin Lecturer at UBC, is scheduled for February 2000); (2) the Rapfish multidisciplinary, rapid evaluation method for the status of fisheries, developed by Dr Tony Pitcher and Dave Preikshot at the Fisheries Centre and extended during Tony's recent research visit to FAO, Rome; (3) the Back to the

Future policy analysis tools, involving the model reconstruction of past ecosystems, that was pioneered for the Strait of Georgia at the Fisheries Centre last year (Fisheries Centre Research Reports 6(5): 99 pp.); and (4), a new economic methodology (Ecoval) that will provide a broad base of interested participants to evaluate the ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits of rebuilding.

Dr Daniel Pauly is the Project Leader, Dr Tony Pitcher chairs the steering committee and Nigel Haggan has been appointed as Project Coordinator. Villy Christensen from Denmark, Dr Reg Watson and Dr Jackie Alder from Perth, Australia, are among the members of the project team. Advertisements for 3-4 more postdoc posts will appear in the near future and there will be several student research assistants. A regular project newsletter will be inserted in

Fishing for Cod –

Did you know that, in early July, a commercial fishery for cod opened off Newfoundland's coast? Following recommendations from the Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, the TAC for the inshore portion of NAFO zones 2J3KL is 9,000t, the upper limit of the range recommended by the FRCC. DFO's website (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) provides no data on the cod biomass, effectively obscuring calculation of the exploitation rate. This re-established commercial fishery represents a moratorium imposed on the collapsed northern cod fishery in 1992. We only hope that it will not represent the final

Meanwhile, Richard Girling has reported ("Is Cod Fishing a Crisis in the North Sea?", *The Sunday Times Magazine*, June 20, 1999) on a crisis in the North Sea cod fishery – that R.M. Cook, A. Sinclair, and G. Stefansson warned about in 1997 in their article "The Collapse of North Sea cod stocks" (

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish...

Support unit for International Fisheries & Aquaculture (SIFAR) – funded by a range of international development donor agencies alongside the Fisheries Department at FAO, is creating an open knowledge marketplace on the internet, specifically for the fisheries research and development community. Called the oneFish Community Directory, this open directory portal will bring together, under one virtual roof, a broad cross-section of stakeholders interested in raising the profile of research in fisheries and aquatic resources and reinforcing its impact in responsible fisheries, particularly in the field of

oneFish (www.onefish.org) builds on the design philosophy of open content directories like Netscape's Open Directory Project which are rapidly proving their effectiveness in the face of growing net congestion. Like these, oneFish relies on volunteer category editors collaborating in the organisation of the site. These specialists, working either individually or organised into groups, will be responsible for the content quality of their particular portions of oneFish, culling out the obsolete and keeping only the best.

SIFAR will host a small editorial team continuously to develop and manage the top-level structure, including the creation of new sub-categories and have absolute authority to add or remove inappropriate items.

The thoroughly open, user-driven philosophy that oneFish adopts will be complemented by several techniques to open directory design. Aside from its single thematic focus, oneFish will offer two new ways of managing and using information:

Knowledge Objects – These are information records, in any media format, entered and cross-referenced into any category of oneFish and include:

- user-authored; grey literature repository; upload, download

Expertise in Demand!

Congratulations to Dr Tony Pitcher on his appointment to a six year term on the Scientific Board of the Institut für Limnologie in Plön, Germany. The Board meets once every two years and its role is to ensure the scientific standards for the work of the Institut. As a member of the venerable Board, Tony will join with the other members of the Board of London's Kew Gardens and the President of Oxford University.

URLs: add web links (URLs) to related internet resources

Forums: create or browse a oneFish forum or a list of online discussion forums, mailing lists, and mailing list archives

GIS: GIS maps and geo-referenced database interest to fisheries researchers

Projects: a revised, open version of FAO's Fishery Project Information System which tracked all fisheries projects funded by development donor agencies up to 1998

Items: can be added, viewed or ordered.

Contact: any organisation, individual, or company can submit their contact information here.

World Views – These are a range of categories, taxonomies or 'pyramids' that provide different, yet complementary, ways of viewing knowledge objects. World Views allow multiple navigation paths relevant to a range of research disciplines and perspectives.

World Views – ecosystem, stakeholders and species.

oneFish also offers a powerful keyword-search facility for the entire Community Directory. Additional interactive tools will include category rating and search filters.

If oneFish attracts sufficient attention, it could soon present back to the fisheries research community the largest fully integrated global collection of information on fisheries research available.

FishBase on the Web

By Daniel Pauly

FishBase, the global information system on fishes, is now available on the web (www.fishbase.org/search.cfm). Until recently, most of the information in FishBase was contained in annually-updated CD-ROMs distributed with an annually-updated book. The most recent release was FishBase 98, with 99 (in French) to be released later this year.

However, the FishBase team is now putting lots of emphasis on the Internet version of FishBase, which is expanded and updated daily. Thus, all aspects of FishBase dealing with the identity of fishes (scientific classification, common names, pictures, etc.) are now accessible on the web, as is an increasing amount of data on their biology (growth parameters, reproduction, etc.). Web access to this information is much easier than using CD-ROM, and downloading data is much easier.

Do visit the site.

Opinions Wanted!! *FishBytes* Wants to Know What YOU Think!

By now, you have probably noticed that we have included a special insert in this issue of *FishBytes*. Our newsletter typically includes a mix of in-news from the UBC Fisheries Centre, news from the world of fisheries, and announcements of publications and conferences. Recent issues have also included research-based pieces in addition to research

Well we want to know what you think about our newsletter. How is the mix of content? Is there anything we should included that has been overlooked? What about the structure and format of the newsletter itself? Is the length of the newsletter about right? And do you like receiving six issues a year? We want your guidance on how we can improve

We want to make this newsletter use while still maintaining our role as a public voice for the Fisheries Centre at the University of British Columbia. Please take a few minutes to complete our readers' survey, included in this issue. All responses must be received by October 1, 1999, either by mail or fax, and recommendations will be incorporated into the newsletter beginning in the new year/millennium/

6. Please note that the survey is quite informal and certainly unscientific – so don't expect precise results.

For more information about the survey, or indeed about *FishBytes*, should be directed to Melanie Mace, Editor, UBC Fisheries Centre, 2204 Main Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6T 1Z4, fax 604-822-8934, email melanie@fisheries.com.

The Fisheries Centre Announces the Fourth Larkin Lecture

The Fisheries Centre is pleased to announce that the Fourth Larkin Lecture will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2000, and will be presented by Dr Pamela Mace. Dr Mace is an alumnus of UBC and the (in)famous Huts, and is currently based with NMFS in Victoria. More details will follow as they become available. A report on the Third Larkin Lecture, held in March of this year, can be found in *FishBytes*, volume 5 (2).

-Archaeological Dig

History in the Huts

Back in the heydays of the 1960s, a debate roared between ecologists (headed by Dennis Chitty) and modellers (championed by Buzz Holling) in the huts at UBC. In an effort at conquest, Cas Lindsey of the ecologists' camp dubbed one of the old huts Chitty Hall in honour of their leader.

Perhaps through scheming of the modellers, Chitty Hall was demolished. All that remains is a sign inscribed with the name, a sign that was recently unearthed in Tony Pitcher's back office.

Those of us who remain in the huts are left wondering who will have the final say...

Restoring Respect: Aboriginal Selective Fishing in British Columbia

In early July, the British Columbia Aboriginal Fisheries Commission (BCAFC) held a premiere screening of a video portraying the return to traditional selective methods in Aboriginal salmon fisheries. The video documents how First Nations are taking a lead role in providing better care for our salmon resources. The film uses archival photos to document traditional selective fishing practices of aboriginal fishermen. First Nations' fishermen from the Skeena, Nass, Fraser and Vancouver Island rivers also tell about their successes in re-establishing selective salmon fisheries, including weirs, traps, dipnets,

The video looks at the cultural and biological significance of traditional (selective) fishing and some of the challenges still ahead. It was sponsored by DFO and produced by Pro Plan and Omni under the direction of the BCAFC selective fishing project. The BC premiere of the film was attended by a number of people from the Fisheries Centre, who found it encouraging and informative.

To obtain a copy of the video, contact the BCAFC at (604) 622-6225 or media@bcafc.org. The video costs \$15, and all proceeds go towards the BCAFC Fisheries Scholarships.

(With information from an article by Craig Orr, *BCAFC Selective Fishing Advisor*, in the *Aboriginal Fisheries Journal*, volume 5 (2).

News and Notes

Conference Calls

International Conference on Satellite Technology in Fisheries: Creating Profitable Sustainable

- Cairns, Australia, August 15-18, 1999. Contact the Conference Manager, PO Box 164, Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006 Australia, phone 07 3854 1611, fax 07 3854 1507, email ozacom@eis.net.au.

Pandalid Shrimp Fisheries: Science and Management at the Millennium - be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, September 8-10, 1999. Contact P. Koeller (902) 426-5379; koellerp@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca or visit the symposium web site at <http://www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/shrimp/>

Fourth International Symposium on Flatfish Ecology - -23, 1999, in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, USA. Contact Susan Marchalk, Flatfish Symposium, NC State University Zoology Department, Box 7617, Raleigh, NC 27695-7617, USA, phone (919) 515-2741, fax (919) 515- flatfish@ncsu.edu.

Future Canada '99, "Aquaculture: A Future in Fisheries" - The annual meeting of the Aquaculture Association of Canada, to be held in Victoria, British Columbia, October 26-29, 1999. Contact Linda Townsend, Malaspina University College, Fisheries Culture Department, 900-5th St., Nanaimo BC, V9R 5S5, phone (250) 741-8708, fax (250) 755-8749, email townsd@mal.bc.ca.

Wakefield Symposia

Anchorage, Alaska, USA. For both, contact Brenda Baxter, Coordinator, Alaska Sea Grant College Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks, PO Box 755040, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA, 99775-6701, fax (907) 474-

www.uaf.edu/seagrant/Conferences/symposia.html.

17th Symposium: Spatial Processes and Management of Fish Popul

-30, 1999. Topics will include the use of marine reserves to achieve fishery management objectives; spatial management to protect bycatch species or to protect critical habitats; spatial management of sessile organisms particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

The **18th Symposium: Herring 2000 - An International Symposium on expectations for a** will be held February 23-

The goal of the symposium is to bring together scientists who manage herring, study herring biology and ecology, and study the social and economic aspects of herring fisheries to share information, to synthesise recent developments, and to plan for further work to help conserve the fishery resource.

Publications

Several new items are available from the Alaska Sea Grant College Program. For all, contact the University of Alaska Sea Grant, PO Box 755040, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99775-5040, phone (907) 474-6707, fax (907) 474-

The report of the 1997 Lo Fisheries Symposium, **Fishery Stock Assessment Models for the 21st Century**, is now available. Containing 55 peer-reviewed papers, the book is the 15th proceedings published in the Lowell Wakefield Symposium series. Publication number AK-SG-98-01.

- Safety for the Recreational

, from the University of Alaska Sea Grant and the US Marine Safety Association, provides information on safe boating practices, what to do if someone falls overboard, how to read the weather, and fire fighting. ISBN 1- -058-6

A laminated poster featuring . Included on the poster are illustrations and facts about 33 fish and invertebrate species important to Alaska's commercial fisheries. Publication number SG-ED-31.

When Seconds Count: Care and Use of Immersion Suits, explains what to look for when purchasing an immersion suit, on, how to use it, and how to take care of it.

FishBytes is the newsletter of the Fisheries Centre at the University of British Columbia. Contributions and queries should be sent to the Fisheries Centre, 2204 Main Mall, UBC, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6T 1Z4, or by email to melanie@fisheries.com.

Be sure to visit the Fisheries Centre's website, www.fisheries.com, and follow the links to www.fisheries.com, where you'll also find details on Fisheries Centre projects, publications,

