

# The President highlights changes in personnel and to facilities available to members

Well, as quickly as it arrived, our 50th Anniversary year has almost reached its end. I don't know about you, but 2017 seems to have flown by... but what a year it has been! At the start of the year I announced a number of major events that would be taking place during 2017, which we knew would occupy us for much of the year, but that would hopefully leave the Society in a strong position to face the next chapter in its history. Perhaps not the best time, then, to additionally manage an institutional move and significant job role change, but then is there ever an ideal time for these things? I would like to thank my fellow officers, and Council members, and particularly the Vice-President Gary Carvalho, for providing



Gary Carvalho in the midst of organising FSBI 2016

outstanding support over what has been a critically important year for the Society.

It was wonderful to meet so many of our members at the Exeter Symposium, which remains for me a real highlight of the year. Steve Simpson and his fantastic team put on a real show on behalf of the Society, and you will soon be able to read some of the papers presented at the Symposium, with the production of the Symposium volume scheduled for early 2018. The conference brought together an outstanding array of keynote speakers and delegates from across the globe, including many early career researchers. The result was an incredibly vibrant and stimulating meeting that really showcased the current state of knowledge of fish biology and fisheries science, and the role played by the Society over the past 50 years. Many of you may not know that as well as his role in organising our conference, Steve Simpson also devoted a significant amount of time over the summer to the BBC's Blue Planet 2 project, contributing in number of ways to this visually stunning series that is providing a showcase for the fascinating yet fragile marine ecosystems, and hopefully inspiring the next generation of fish scientists.

During the Exeter Symposium, at the Society's AGM, we presented proposals for some amendments to our constitution that were voted on. I was very pleased that each of the amendments were viewed positively by members, and these have now been incorporated. The amendments dealt with some important issues, conferring voting rights and full membership status on student members, giving greater flexibility to adjust the size of Council to meet the demands of the Society's work, and allowing 'virtual' attendees at Society meetings (via Skype, etc.) to be included in the quorum. These amendments position the Society well as we move forward.

Another major project this year has been to commission and drive forward the new website. Council members are now in receipt of the wireframes and design for the new website and we are excited to see it developing; we hope to have it up and running early in the New Year. During this busy year, Alan Pike has provided the driving force behind this project, and I would like to thank him for his important work behind the scenes.

Since my last President's Piece, we have also seen a change in Society Officers. John Pinnegar stood down as Secretary at the AGM, an office he has served

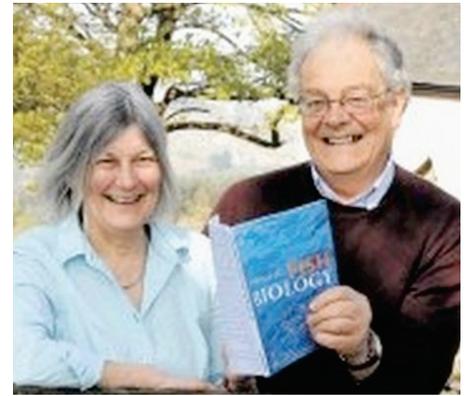


John Pinnegar

◀ with distinction for the past four years, and Ian Winfield – past President and also previously Treasurer of the Society – was voted as John’s replacement. Ian brings a wealth of experience to the Society and I am enjoying working alongside him once again. I am very grateful to John for the enormous amount of work he has undertaken on behalf of the

Society, but of course he is not yet ‘free of duties’, now being fully engaged as a convenor of the 2018 Symposium.

As the year closes we also prepare to say farewell to John Craig, who stands down from the role as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Fish Biology* after a tenure of 17 years. The financial success of the *Journal* is critically important in terms of funding the Society’s activities, and this can only be secured by maintaining the high academic standard of papers it publishes. Over John’s period as Editor in Chief, ably supported by Managing Editor Hilary Craig, the *Journal* has performed extremely well, in both the academic and financial contexts, and he leaves our flagship publication in fine fettle. In January, we welcome Tony Farrell to the helm; Tony has been job-shadowing John since September, and we have already beginning to see his influence on the journal, so we look forward to working with him over the months



John and Hilary Craig with JFB

and years ahead as the *Journal* moves into its next era. I would like to thank John personally for his enormous contribution to the *Journal* and the FSBI over these many years, and wish him well for his future endeavours, which I am sure will involve more writing, and perhaps even more JFB submissions of his own!

As ever at this time of year, I wish you every happiness for the festive season, and send best wishes for a peaceful and successful New Year.

## Member distinctions

### Professor Jeffrey Hutchings

has been awarded the 2017 Huntsman Medal. This is awarded each year to ‘honour marine scientists of any nationality who have had and continue to have a significant influence on the course of marine scientific thought. The award is named in honour of Archibald Gownlock Huntsman (1883-1973), a pioneer Canadian oceanographer and fishery biologist’. Jeff is Professor of Biology at Dalhousie University where he holds the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Chair in Fish, Fisheries and Oceans. He has done extensive work on the life history and evolution of fishes, such as Atlantic salmon,



Atlantic cod, and brook trout. He has studied factors causing their depletion and affecting their recovery, and he has worked towards the conservation of fish and management of fisheries. Jeff has also been an advisor to the Canadian government on many aspects of conservation and fishery management. In addition to his work in Canada, Jeff is a visiting Professor at the Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis at the University of Oslo. Jeff has contributed on several occasions to FSBI summer symposia and the paper he gave at the Leicester 2001 conference on conservation has been cited 56 times (ISI), 86 times (Google Scholar).

### Dr Steve Simpson.

Expanding on a comment by Iain Barber – members who live in the UK and have been watching *Blue Planet II*, will have seen, if they were very quick, that Steve Simpson, one of the main organisers of the 50th Anniversary Symposium, was acknowledged as one of the main advisors at the end of the third programme which dealt with coral reefs. I say ‘if you are very quick’ because the credits whizz by so fast it is hard to catch the names. Steve was also interviewed on Monday 13th November on the BBC Five Live radio programme about the coral reef edition of *Blue Planet II*.



# Editorial

That a small number of people run charitable organisations is a well known phenomenon. People join an organisation because they offer benefits but when it comes to persuading members to volunteer for work running the society, it is often just a few who step forward. The Society's new secretary is such a person. Ian Winfield (a big Bruce Springsteen fan by the way) is I think the first member of the Society who has filled all three of the major officer positions; President, Secretary and Treasurer. Some might argue that having the society run by a small group of people who rotate through the jobs is somewhat incestuous and not very healthy. The trouble is that without such people the Society would collapse and we as members should be very pleased that there are people like Ian who volunteer to devote their spare time to the Society.

The 50th Anniversary year is, as Iain Barber says, nearly over. We have been very lucky to have had Sally Horrocks and Tom Lean explore and write up the history of the Society. Sally is senior academic advisor to the



Ian Winfield is on the left

Oral History of British Science, a National Life Stories project in partnership with the British Library and this means that all the interviews that Tom Lean carried out will be stored by the Library and will be available for future researchers. In 50 years time, when it is the 100th anniversary of the Society, it will be possible to return to this archive to hear people who were around at the beginnings of the FSBI, talk of its origins.

Recently I have had cause to investigate the life of an interesting and eccentric Victorian character, Frank Buckland. He lived a short but hectic life, being born in 1826 and dying at only 54 in 1880. His father was the distinguished geologist William Buckland, who was a Fellow of the Royal Society, an acquaintance of Darwin and Dean of Westminster; a strange mixture by modern standards. His son Frank never achieved the same standing in the scientific establishment. He trained as a surgeon and for a while practiced his profession as a surgeon in the Life Guards. His passion was for dissection and he

liked to eat every animal he dissected. He was a prolific writer of popular articles on natural history and these articles were published in magazines such as *The Field*. He gathered these together to be republished in book form so that the articles and the books gave Buckland an income.

Buckland set up a Museum of Economic Fish Culture which he left to the nation but was not curated well and eventually fell into disrepair. A few remnants of it are kept at the Scottish

Fisheries Museum in Anstruther where the headquarters of the Buckland Foundation are situated. The Foundation was set up to administer the annual Buckland Professorship.



Buckland with salmon in the year before he died

Although Buckland had a wide interest in all of zoology, his focus on fish increased as he aged. He was inspector for salmon fisheries for England and Wales and conducted the work on several Royal Commissions on sea fisheries. His last, published in 1879, highlighted the need for better fishery statistics and improved knowledge about the biology of commercial fish. He was ahead of his time in that in the 1879 report he recommended that fishers should be encouraged to collect data whilst at sea on both the physical and biological environment. To stimulate interest in this proposal, Buckland instigated a prize for the best fisher report. We are only just coming round to this approach today although our knowledge of fish biology and the availability of fishery statistics has improved.

Paul Hart  
Leicester, November 2017

Next deadline: 1st February 2018

# Jane Sullivan, pictured here with Iain Barber (FSBI President, left) and Doug Austen (AFS Executive Secretary) gives her view on how the Exeter 50th Anniversary Symposium impressed her



Each year two of the world's largest professional fisheries organizations, the FSBI and the American Fisheries Society (AFS), exchange early career professionals at their annual meetings in order to promote sharing of ideas, research, and for relationship-building between the two societies.

I travelled to the 50th Anniversary Symposium of the FSBI on July 3-7, 2017 as the 2017 Fellow of the International Fisheries Section of AFS. I hail from Juneau, Alaska, where I'm currently finishing a fellowship with Alaska Sea Grant as a fishery analyst for the NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Office.

I wanted to share some highlights from my travels and the conference:

- I travelled over 23,000 km to attend FSBI, yet I was struck at how small the global fisheries community actually is. I met several delegates (Georgina Hunt, Olaf Weyl, and John Piccolo) who have professional and personal ties to Alaskan fisheries. These encounters highlighted the

importance of creating and maintaining friendships with scientists from around the world.

- The warm welcome I received from Drs. Steve Simpson and Iain Barber. I truly appreciated their hospitality, hard work in organizing the conference and interest in fostering relationships between the FSBI and AFS.
- The afternoon high teas! This was my first encounter with clotted cream, and I've been going through withdrawals ever since.
- Morning runs through the grounds of the University of Exeter campus. The weather July 3-7 was particularly lovely in Exeter, and I enjoyed a dose of cool air in the morning before the sun came out.
- The international delegates from 26 countries. It was amazing interacting with such a diverse group of scientists from around the world.
- The afternoon session celebrating 50 years of the FSBI. In particular, I enjoyed hearing snippets of interviews

with FSBI founders during historian Sally Horrocks' presentation.

- The views of rolling, sheep-spotted hills from Holland Hall. For those of you who met me during the conference, you will probably remember how enamoured I was with the sheep - we don't have any in Alaska!
- The Festival Banquet in the Great Hall. In addition to great food, good company, and an engaging (and at times controversial!) talk by Charles Clover, the highlight for me was the announcement of Professor Sydney Holt as the recipient of the Beverton Medal. I was moved by the detailed account of his life's work and achievements, as well as his sustained passion for our world's marine resources.

I'm extremely grateful to the FSBI community and conference organizers for allowing me to attend and present at this conference. I strongly believe in the benefits of building and maintaining strong relationships in the global fisheries community and hope to see you again at future events!

Jane Sullivan

# Travel grant report



**Robert Lennox, PhD student Carleton University, Ontario, Canada, whose thesis title is *Effects of catch-and-release angling on Atlantic salmon survival and migration behaviour in Norwegian rivers* attended the *International Biologging Symposium* in Konstanz, Germany which took place 25-29th September 2017.** This is an exciting conference at the forefront of what is going on in animal tracking at the moment. Topics included biologging, biotelemetry and other animal tracking technologies.

The focus of the conference was very much in the terrestrial realm, where much of the leading edge of biologging and biotelemetry sciences is situated. The aquatic environment certainly has considerable limitations that do not exist on land, therefore a lot of the innovation is occurring in this habitat. Still, there were some excellent marine talks including one by Camrin Braun, a PhD student at Wood's Hole, who is developing Hidden Markov

Models for light-based geolocation tags. This will be open source and available in the R package HMMocean (<https://cran.rproject.org/web/packages/HMMocean/index.html>). His presentation illustrated the difficulties associated with tracking animals in water and really contrasted with a lot of the terrestrial talks where they are able to gather very high-quality data rapidly from many species. Ocean Tracking Network familiars Kim Holland and Robert Harcourt were at the conference and both gave presentations that were excellent. Kim's brought attention to the use of motes, which are land-based receivers that are able to log data transmitted from GPS tagged fish swimming around coastal Hawaii, where satellite coverage is quite limited. The poster session at the conference, which I participated in, was quite extensive. I didn't count the total number but there were certainly more than 100, with four poster sessions after lunch each day. The sessions were well attended and the posters in general were very impressive. I was happy to receive some interest and good feedback on my own poster and did not resist the temptation to wander and check out others during breaks. The conference was extremely enriching and I return from it with great new research ideas on how to apply many of the emerging methods in animal tracking science to my own fisheries research.



**Catherine Gutmann Roberts, PhD student at Bournemouth University, working on invasive species, used a travel grant to attend and present a paper at the *International Council for Exploration of the Sea Annual Science Conference* in Fort Lauderdale, USA. I also attended a workshop after the conference on applications of quantitative methods in fisheries management including Management Strategy Evaluation.**

I presented part of my PhD research to a broad audience in the session 'From iconic to overlooked species: How (electronic) tags improve our understanding of marine ecosystems and their inhabitants'. As a PhD student investigating invasive ecology, I was an invader myself, managing to sneak some freshwater fish research into the session, which the conference organisers thought might help facilitate wider discussion. The research was well received and I had fruitful discussions about methods and future uses of electronic tags with other participants. A support manager of VEMCO approached me at the end of the session and agreed to assist me with interrogating my data to facilitate my analysis, which I will include in my thesis and hopefully publish. I learnt so much from attending other sessions and I particularly enjoyed a session on 'Assessing and promoting





**Catie Gutmann Robert**  
@CatieGR

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It was a pleasure to present some of my PhD research at #ICESASC17 on Tuesday in the electronic tag session (D) #fishsci



the survival or released catches and the implications of modified survival rates on aquatic systems'. It was fantastic to hear from a range of international speakers and to hear about so much research happening in the USA, long may it continue! After the conference I attended a daylong workshop on quantitative methods in fisheries management which focussed on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE). This was co-run by several researchers who each demonstrated a case study of how they were using MSE in their fields of research. I was particularly interested in the use of MSE by Dr Brice Semmens in determining the optimal number of Nassau Grouper to tag from the Cayman Islands to effectively monitor their populations.

**Bruno Gallo, PhD student, Imperial College, London, who is working on a project entitled *Developing novel molecular tools for characterising food web responses to climate change*, attended the combined conferences, *3rd Symposium on Ecological Networks and the 3rd Symposium on Molecular Analysis of Trophic Interactions in Uppsala, Sweden.***



The molecular trophic interaction meeting was a great experience and opportunity for me to get to know senior scientists in my field. I have learned a lot in a week particularly with respect to the new tools available for sequencing gut contents. I have received advice from several researchers of things to do and avoid doing whilst carrying out my molecular protocol. This area of science is undergoing a huge revolution and methods are still being optimised. Moreover, the key message highlighted during the whole conference is that scientists need to know very well the system they are working on before carrying out any molecular

analysis. The main reason is due to the fact that there is no universal protocol that can be adopted in any system. Differences arise from the nature of the sample that can be more or less clean and contain more or less consumer DNA which can have several implications for downstream analysis. In addition to this, I found the workshop very interesting as it was an opportunity for early career scientists like me to ask questions and learn tips from more experienced researchers. Finally, as I mentioned in my travel grant application, I personally met Dr Tomas Roslin from the University of Helsinki. As a result of this meeting we are planning to carry out some collaborative work in our Arctic systems where Tomas is also currently involved. In order to strengthen this collaboration I have invited Tomas to visit us at Imperial College London in the Silwood Park Campus to join one of our seminar series and give a talk in March 2018. For all these reasons I would finally like to thank the FSBI for the award of this travel grant and for this unique opportunity.

# Notices

## **The Fisheries Society of the British Isles (FSBI) call for PhD Studentship applications 2018**

The *Fisheries Society of the British Isles (FSBI)* offers up to two competitively awarded MPhil/PhD studentships annually. FSBI Studentship awards are based on PhDs funded by the Natural Environment Research Council ([www.nerc.ac.uk](http://www.nerc.ac.uk)) and cover the costs of the stipend (NERC rates plus £1000, London weighting of £2000) and of the annual registration fees (at EU citizen rates), with a small annual contribution (£2,500) towards project expenses. Research projects are proposed by the candidate and may be in any field of study relevant to fish biology and the aims of the Fisheries Society, as stated at: <https://www.fsbi.org.uk>. This includes projects in which fish are the study species as well as those that examine the influence of non-fish taxa on fish biology, e.g. the effects of infectious agents on fish health, of fish-eating birds on fish populations, of invasive crayfish on fish behaviour. However, the focus of the research must be fish biology, and the FSBI reserves the right to decide on the suitability of proposed research topics for its awards.

Applicants should hold a Bachelor's degree, with first or upper second class Honours, in a subject relevant to fish biology, normally in the biological sciences. An alternative combination of qualifications and experience that clearly demonstrates equivalent knowledge and ability may be considered at the discretion of the FSBI Studentship Committee. Applicants will be expected to be members of the FSBI and the



successful appointees will be expected to remain as FSBI student members for the duration of their funding.

Applicants should develop the proposal in consultation with the proposed supervisor(s), one of which must hold an academic position at any institution of higher education in the British Isles (including the Republic of Ireland). However, the application form and project proposal MUST be written and completed by the APPLICANT, not by the proposed supervisor(s). Applicants may hold any nationality, but FSBI Studentships are fixed at rates applicable to UK/EU citizens, and any registration fees above the base rate (currently about £3,750 per annum) must be justified in the application. The Society will be responsible for the payment of institutional fees, including the costs of tuition and registration for a higher degree. The Society will pay annual university fees up to the level required for EU nationals. Applications cannot be considered from non-EU students who would be subject to foreign student fees.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 12th January 2018**. Selected applicants will be

interviewed at the end of February or beginning of March 2018.

For further details and a downloadable application form, please refer to the FSBI studentship webpage <https://www.fsbi.org.uk/grants/phd-studentships/>. Please note that applications are limited to one per applicant. Informal queries about the application submission process may be addressed to Shirley Robinson ([admin@fsbi.org.uk](mailto:admin@fsbi.org.uk)) with subject-related queries directed to the Committee Chair, Dr Martin Taylor ([studentships@fsbi.org.uk](mailto:studentships@fsbi.org.uk)).

## **FSBI Medals**

It is time to think about nominations for the Society's three medals; the Beverton, LeCren and FSBI. Nominations will not be required until 11th February but time is required to construct a nomination.

### **Nominations for the Beverton medal**

The nominator should submit a summary of the nominee's contribution to fish biology and/or fisheries science (one A4 side) and a full CV with a list of publications, including those in Press. Other information submitted will not be considered.

### **Nominations for the Le Cren medal**

The nominator should submit a summary of the nominee's contribution to fish biology and/or fisheries science (one A4 side) and a full CV with a list of publications, including those in Press. Other information submitted will not be considered.

### **Nominations for the FSBI medal**

Nominations for the FSBI medal should be accompanied by a summary of the importance of the nominee's research (one A4 side), a full CV and a list of publications, including those in Press. Other information submitted will not be considered.

# FSBI Symposium at the University of East Anglia, 9-13th July 2018



**Theme:** "The Sustainable Use and Exploitation of Fishes"

The Symposium will encompass a broad range of scientific topics all of which fall under the umbrella of sustainable use of fishes. We encourage participation of both freshwater and marine researchers, and those working across the full range of topics from

sustainable fishing techniques, population genetics, population dynamics, conservation targets and indicators, fish welfare and stress, international trade, ecosystem effects, innovative aquaculture technologies, traceability etc.

The symposium will be divided into four sub-themes:

1. Commercial fisheries.
2. Recreational fisheries.
3. Ornamental and aquarium fisheries.
4. Fin-fish aquaculture.

We would consider what 'sustainable use and exploitation' might mean for each of these types of system. We encourage contributions that examine basic fish biology, ecology, novel methods of data collection (including citizen science), experimental studies, modelling, genetics and genomics, and behavioural research.

## Call For Abstracts

A call for abstracts will open in December 2017 (with a closing

date in March 2018). Registration, via the FSBI and UEA websites, will open in January, with an 'early-bird' discount until 30th April and a closing date in May 2018.

## ABSTRACT LAYOUT

The Layout must be as follows:

- **TITLE OF PRESENTATION** (bold upper case letters)
- Author(s) names (last name followed by first name and initials). Presenting author's name underlined
- Full address(es) (no academic titles or official positions)
- E-mail address of presenting author
- Text of the abstract (250 word limit)
- Oral Paper/Speed Talk/Poster (Please indicate your preference, and also which formats may be considered).

Please indicate conference themes and subthemes to which your abstract relates.

**See the Society's website for more details of abstract layout.**

## Information Desk

For all membership enquires (except subscription payments), including grant application submissions, please contact the FSBI office at:

FSBI, c/o Charity & Social Enterprise Department, Brabners, Horton House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3YL, UK

Contact: Shirley Robinson

Phone: +44 (0) 151 600 3362

Email Enquiries: [grants@fsbi.org.uk](mailto:grants@fsbi.org.uk)

In the UK and Europe subscription enquiries should be addressed to:

[admin@fsbi.org.uk](mailto:admin@fsbi.org.uk) Charities and Social Enterprise Department, Brabners, Chaffe Street, Horton House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3YL

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See <http://www.fsbi.org.uk/membership/joining-the-fsbi/> for further information.

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