

## Scott A. Bonar, immediate Past-President of the American Fisheries Society writes about how world aquatic scientists are speaking out on Climate Change



One year ago, world aquatic societies began a journey to summarize scientific information on effects of climate change on the world's freshwater and marine ecosystems in a statement for the public. Aquatic scientists have been discussing climate change for decades; the topic has been greeted by indifference, curiosity, interest, concern, and now anger by so many that little is being done. My thoughts on climate change were shaped by opinions and data of people with whom I worked – a large number of climate

experts at the University of Arizona including a lead of a Nobel Prize winning team; by seeing study results collected by people who were experts in the field; and by observing changes in my 30-year career as a fish biologist in the western United States, changes including glacier retreat, drying springs, and increased wildfires.

The seriousness of climate change across the globe was confirmed to me when I became President of the American Fisheries Society. I travelled North America (pre Covid) and

to other areas of the world and heard similar concerns from biologists – they were seeing changes in aquatic ecosystems over and above that due to overfishing, habitat loss and nonnative species interactions. These included increasing wildfires along stream sides, acidity of waters rising, heating causing fish to move poleward, long-term droughts in some areas, yet flooding in others, and increased storms. I read important work on climate from IPCC Reports, the 4th US Assessment on Climate Change, and a myriad of scientific and popular publications including work of Fisheries Society of the British Isles (FSBI) scientists to supplement these findings.

During this same time, many of my friends – intelligent, caring people – who work outside of conservation, said they thought climate change was a hoax. Furthermore, given the U.S. administration in power, climate change was a subject that could affect a scientist's career if they spoke too loudly. Getting in trouble for sharing science is not right – no matter the circumstances. This made me even more determined to get the word out.

I was at the meeting of Australian Society of Fisheries Biology, hearing talk after talk on effects of climate on the Great Barrier Reef and the

Southern Ocean, when the idea of a statement of aquatic science societies on effects of climate change on aquatic systems came to mind. It would be a statement to which all societies could contribute and join. I discussed the plan with the Society officers who were immediately supportive. A “yes” vote to proceed was obtained at their business meeting and I approached my own American Fisheries Society (AFS) with the idea. They too were receptive, and I drafted a rough statement, based on peer-reviewed findings in IPCC reports, the 4th U.S. Assessment and articles written in aquatic science journals. The draft was circulated among the AFS officers and the governing board for input and was then sent to the societies around the world for their contribution, which included an excellent review and contributions from FSBI scientists.

At first glance, the finished statement (see <https://climate.fisheries.org/world-climate-statement/>) may be mistaken for advocacy but it is not. It is a statement of science. It does not say that people must or should do specific things but only what they

need to do, based on the latest scientific knowledge, *if they wish to avoid certain effects of climate change on aquatic ecosystems*. It states in direct language, effects of human caused climate change on the world’s freshwater and marine ecosystems and people who depend on them. It then discusses the scientific consensus of needed actions; e.g. controlling emissions, protecting carbon-sequestering land and water cover types and adapting to a changing climate; if they wish to reduce aquatic ecosystem change. The statement is 5 pages of text supported by 22 pages of peer-reviewed scientific references. Overall, 111 societies representing over 80,000 scientists signed and authored the statement.

The statement was released at the Virtual Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society on September 14, 2020. Subsequently, societies have been circulating the statement to their nation’s presses and sharing it on social media. It is often said scientists need to share science with policy makers so they can make informed decisions. The ultimate policy makers, especially in democratic nations, are the

public. Getting science to the public, in an understandable and direct manner, helps them make decisions on lifestyles, interactions with friends, and voting.

Following the reasoning that public acceptance of science is the ultimate fisheries management goal, I will mention possible recent U.S. election effects of the climate statement. As an American scientist, I am now a bit relieved. After four years of some scientists wondering whether they would have a job if they discussed the subject too vigorously here in the U.S., we now feel a bit freer to move forward based on recent election results. In my own state of Arizona, the statement was shared by a veteran reporter in the state’s largest newspaper (also one of the U.S.’ largest newspapers) three days before the U.S. election (see <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-environment/2020/10/31/fish-scientists-climate-change-arizona/6058931002/>). Did aggressively sharing this science with the public at this particular time make any difference? We don’t know. However, in Arizona, candidates were separated by only a few thousand votes. Sharing this information certainly informed the public about climate effects on aquatic systems and may have helped some decide how to vote.

Our work is not done. Please continue to share fisheries science, including the climate statement, through your social and other media sources. The consequences are simply too severe to stop. We North American scientists are exceptionally grateful and proud to have outstanding organizations such as FSBI as our partners, helping to communicate important fisheries science.





# Editorial

## What determines a career in fish biology?

Modern conditions make it difficult for young people to determine what activity will suit their interests and aptitudes. Often, early fortuitous experience can help a young person to decide how they would like their life to unfold. For me, that experience started in a small place called Ardtoe, Argyll, on the west coast of Scotland and the picture shows this small community from the hills on the south side of Kentra Bay. In the early 1960s my family had caravan holidays based in Ardtoe and whilst there I was able to accompany one of the local crofters on his trips to empty

his lobster pots. The pots would often have interesting species, either in them or clinging to them, giving me a brilliant introduction to marine life. It is sad to say that today, it might be impossible for a young person to accompany an inshore fisherman on a small boat, given our current Health and Safety rules.

My interest in marine research was reinforced by reading Alister Hardy's book *The Open Sea, Part I: the World of Plankton* and a two month visit in my gap year to the Plymouth Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association where I was at first put to work helping Alan Southward sort plankton samples. Such was life then at the MBA that after a while I and another student were left to our own devices and we decided to do some experiments to measure the oxygen consumption of shore crabs, *Carcinus maenus*. This involved titration and other procedures, and again in the

present circumstances, this unsupervised activity is now unlikely to be permissible or available to young people unless through a formal scheme.

The Society is doing now more and more to give young people the chance to have similar early influences to those I had by chance and good fortune. Our PhD studentships were the first step, but I think that the internships are in many ways more important as they provide young people with hands-on experience that can convince them that a life in research is for them. The new post-doctoral grants are also valuable in helping young people to establish themselves and build relations with other researchers. The expectation is that these will last a life time.

**Paul J B Hart**  
Leicester, November 2020  
Next deadline for copy:  
1st February 2021



# Insights from the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Fish Biology, Professor Mike Kaiser

The Journal of Fish Biology continues to be well respected in its field. This is evidenced by a steady number of submissions to the journal that hovered around 800-900 per annum. That equates to a lot of work for the editorial board. Previously, the journal functioned thanks to a relatively small team of 25 individuals. However, as we are all aware, lives seem to be busier these days, and the pressures of scientific careers mean it can be difficult to balance 'third mission' activities



with those of the day job. To that extent, one of my key drives has been to expand the editorial board. This expansion had four aims: increase the number of editors, improve the gender balance of the board, enhance our membership from under-represented parts of the globe and finally increase the scope of the journal. I have been keen that we foster a blend of 'experienced' and early career scientists so that we can provide mentoring for the future of our journal. In this and forthcoming newsletters I will introduce a selection of the new

members of the board. If members of the society are interested in contributing to the board, or would like to suggest new additions to the board, I am always open to hearing suggestions.

In order to expand the scope of the journal, we invited **Dorothy Dankel** (below) to join the board, in particular for her skills in fisheries and social-ecological systems. Fish play an important cultural role in human society, hence we are hoping to attract more papers that see fish through this lens.

Dorothy Jane Dankel (<http://dorothyjdankel.h.uib.no/>) is a research scientist at the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Bergen in Norway. Dorothy has a masters and PhD in fisheries biology and management from the University of Bergen and a liberal arts degree from Hillsdale College, USA. Dorothy's research expertise is in Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in marine science, and she currently leads projects in localizing the UN Agenda 2030 with local communities and research in topics of sustainable

fisheries and aquaculture. She has had positions and research stays at the Institute of Marine Research in Bergen, the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the School of Marine Science and Technology at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. Dorothy is currently the Vice-Chair of the Nordic Marine Think Tank. You can reach her on Twitter @dorothydankel



We invited **Yi-Kai Tea** (above) to join the board because of his dynamic C.V. (despite the fact that he is still studying for his doctorate), and his expertise in taxonomy in a part of the globe for which we lacked expertise. I thoroughly recommend checking out his website for inspiration [www.yikaitea.com](http://www.yikaitea.com).

Yi-Kai Tea is a systematic ichthyologist at the University of Sydney. He is also a postgraduate research fellow at the Australian Museum. He completed his honors with first class at the University of Sydney on the historical biogeography and systematics of the anti-tropical microcanthid



fish, *Microcanthus strigatus*. He is currently completing his PhD on the evolution and systematics of labrid fishes, in particular the pseudocheilines. His research

interests focus on integrative systematic techniques to answer evolutionary questions of coral reef fish, by using morphology and next generation sequencing. He is

also an active taxonomist, and has described sixteen species of coral reef fishes since commencement of his undergraduate studies in 2016 (see the 'new species' collage).



The current FSBI President, Professor Gary Carvalho, recently decided to take early retirement from the University of Bangor. This means that he is now Emeritus Professor which gives him access to university facilities and the chance to continue supervising his remaining PhD students. This event, does not mean that Gary is withdrawing from the scientific life as Lorenz Hauser expressed in what follows:



Professor Gary Carvalho has announced his retirement from Bangor University with the end of

## Lorenz Hauser, University of Washington, USA, writes on 'A great scientist, mentor, and leader has left the building (but not the profession)'

October. While he will no doubt continue his work for the Fisheries Society, review panels and journal editorships, this departure from academia represents a landmark that should be appropriately commemorated.

Gary has an impressive record of pushing the boundaries of

science throughout his career. Since his early days, he has been at the forefront in studying the demography and population structure of wild fish populations by applying molecular genetic approaches. Using carefully selected biological systems, he demonstrated not only the

power of molecular markers in fish biology, but also in applied fisheries science. Some of his studies are now classical papers in the fishery literature, dispelling then held firm beliefs on large, unstructured marine fish populations that are slow to react to environmental pressures and exploitation. For example, his work on European anchovies, Atlantic cod and Atlantic herring showed fine scale population structure, that have immediate and important application for the management of the species. Projects on New Zealand snapper, guppies and cod revealed rapid genetic changes in exploited populations and remain the most cited articles demonstrating rapid evolution in overexploited stocks.

Gary always aimed to use these new insights to improve management and so sought to engage with fishery manager, policy makers and agencies, thus ensuring immediate applicability of his research. This integration of molecular genetic research with applied problems in management is now a common aim, but Gary was one of the first scientists to spearhead this development. This cutting-edge work quickly allowed him to establish a leadership role in European fisheries genetics that he has occupied from the early days of his career. His skills in bringing together groups of very disparate scientists allowed him to use a highly interdisciplinary approach in his projects, which is particularly apparent in his coordination of large EU funded projects; for example, a recent project specifically addressed the traceability of fish products to their population of origin (FISHPOPTRACE). This highly successful project is used worldwide as an example of an interdisciplinary team addressing a very applied problem through innovative genetic technology, in this case using genomic variation in marine fish to identify the origin of illegal catches. Gary is always at the forefront of technical development of molecular genetics,

but always keeps in mind the academic questions and the potential application to fish biology and management. His combination of fundamental and applied research has resulted in work that has not only influenced molecular genetics, but has also had important impacts on management and conservation. His influence on science therefore goes way beyond the over 200 papers and several monographs that bear his name.

Over the years, Gary's leadership was recognized in awards and positions in the UK, the EU and the world, including a Fellowship of the Linnean Society, a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Biology, and recently the Beverton medal of the FSBI. He has served on numerous panels for the NERC, DEFRA, ICES, the Marine Stewardship Council, the EU, Scandinavia and others. He serves as an editor of several journals that are leading in the field, including the Proceedings of the Royal Society and Fish and Fisheries. His latest efforts as President of the FSBI pay tribute to his ongoing efforts to make scientific communities as welcoming and efficient as they can be.

Apart from his obvious scientific achievements, Gary's career is notable for his tireless efforts to provide a welcoming and productive environment for others. When the new Environment Wales Building at the University of Bangor was designed, he gave PowerPoint presentations to convince the 'powers that be' to include an espresso stand on the ground floor of the building. He was convinced that an informal place, where people could meet and discuss issues in a relaxed atmosphere, was central to the interdisciplinary ambitions that this building embodies. This success in securing everybody's morning cappuccino indeed provided many years of stimulating discussion and formed a central group building facility. Gary's leadership is thus not only characterized by his scientific insights, big picture ideas, thorough knowledge of the

discipline and an eager embrace of new techniques, but also by his supportive, welcoming and friendly nature that is respected by his own mentees as well as the wider community of collaborators, colleagues and peers in the UK and elsewhere.

Especially for graduate students, Gary's warm welcome into his group and to the wider scientific community greatly facilitates their entrance into the wider field. Even decades after my departure from the UK, I still remember the core groups that Gary formed at large conferences (around swimming pools, if available), allowing students to explore the unknown from the safety of an inclusive and supportive group. His contagious enthusiasm for tackling difficult concepts, synthesizing available knowledge and presenting science in an understandable way has paved the way for many of his mentees. That these mentoring efforts did not go unrewarded is clear from his track record. Of the over 40 PhD students and 20 postdocs he supervised, over 20 have moved on to successful careers in academia and other science professions at universities in all continents of the world, apart from Antarctica. Maybe more importantly, he has remained a valued mentor, colleague, and friend to most of them, and thus continues to support a worldwide Carvalho diaspora.

I have no doubt that Gary may have retired but that we will continue to benefit from his council and service. His efforts and achievements will continue in his retirement, likely at an unchanged rate. He will continue to provide the much needed 'science cappuccino' (as symbolic as it may be in the current COVID crisis) to his large crowd of students, collaborators, and friends worldwide. I certainly hope to continue my collaboration and friendship for many years to come – it has been too long since the last Carvalho & Hauser paper, garnished with a Vodka & Orange.



# Herman Wanningen, who is the 2020 LeCren medallist answers some questions about the World Fish Migration Foundation and its work



## Why are you promoting dam removal?

I went to US in 2013, where I saw a 60m dam was being removed in the Elwha river near Seattle. This action was to open up the river for salmon and to restore the river in its natural state. This inspired me to examine what was happening in Europe. Why was nothing being done? This began a discussion amongst river biologist and in 2015 I initiated the Dam Removal Europe coalition in an attempt to start a conversation on the issue. WWF supported this initiative financially and with staff. From that moment more and more organisations joined or supported the coalition. For a full list of partners and

the latest dam removal showcases I refer to [www.damremoval.eu](http://www.damremoval.eu).



Part of the problem in Europe was that the hydroelectric power companies were too powerful and tended to determine the agenda when it came to any discussion of the effects of dams on rivers and river restoration. Through discussions, national and international seminars and conferences it soon became clear that quite a few groups were working on dam removal in different areas, but there was no communication between them. 2500 people in Europe are now involved and we organise seminars, provide tools to practitioners, influence policies and create funding for dam removals through crowd funding campaigns with WWF. A big step forward was achieved in March 2020 when the EU agreed that 25000 km of free-flowing rivers, as part of its Biodiversity Strategy 2030, should be a target for work in this area. This new policy will change the way dam removal is seen and we hope that from now on dam removal is seen as a

viable measure to restore rivers in Europe.

## How is the hydropower industry responding?

Many dams that need refurbishing are now being reassessed. For example, 2 big dams on the Selune river in France are being removed because it was too expensive to refurbish them (see pictures). The same process is happening in Sweden where potentially over 1600 dams might be removed. At the same time there is still pressure though from the hydropower industry in Europe and the rest of the world to build dams.

## Is there a role for bypasses?

Bypasses are an alternative and they can work but all the research indicates that dam removal is the best option if the river is to be restored and made a good habitat for all species.

## In conclusion

There are about 100,000 dams in Europe that are now obsolete, and ready to be removed. Meanwhile a discussion must take place as to how the demand for energy, supplied by hydropower can be balanced against the need to restore rivers and their fish populations to sustainable levels.



Removal of the Vezin dam in France (Selune River). The dam was 35 meters high and 200 meters wide. The removal was completed in November 2020. Pictures from European Rivers Network, one of the Dam Removal Europe partners.

# Claudia Junge reports on the research activities of the Deepwater and Cartilaginous Fish (DypBrusk) research group at the Institute of Marine Research (IMR), Norway



The Institute of Marine Research (IMR) is one of the biggest marine research institutes in Europe, with about 1,000 employees. Our main activities are research, advisory work and monitoring.

Our fantastic research group “Deepwater and Cartilaginous Fish (DypBrusk)” consists of currently 16 people (and 3 MSc students) and is based at the IMR department in Tromsø, which is situated in northern Norway above the polar circle. We focus on harvestable deepwater species and ecosystems of the outer continental shelf and deep sea, as well as on cartilaginous fishes (sharks, rays, skates, chimaera) in all areas and depths.

## Our Key Tasks are:

- Monitoring and assessments of deepwater resources and cartilaginous fishes in Norwegian waters and

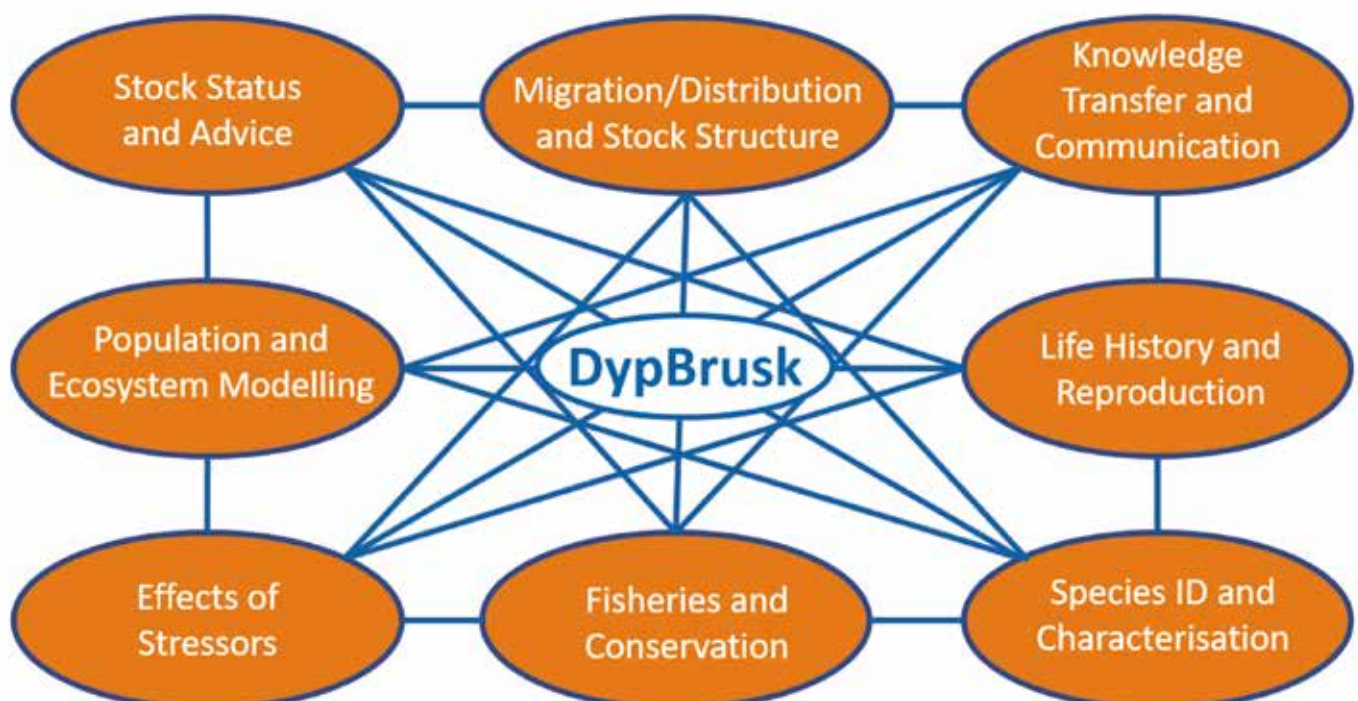
internationally, including evaluation of impacts of deepwater fisheries on non-target species and vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs).

- Baseline studies of the biology and ecology of target species, populations, and ecosystems in support of the group’s monitoring and assessment efforts.
- Provision of science-based advice to national and international management through participation in relevant assessment working groups in The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and other international science fora.

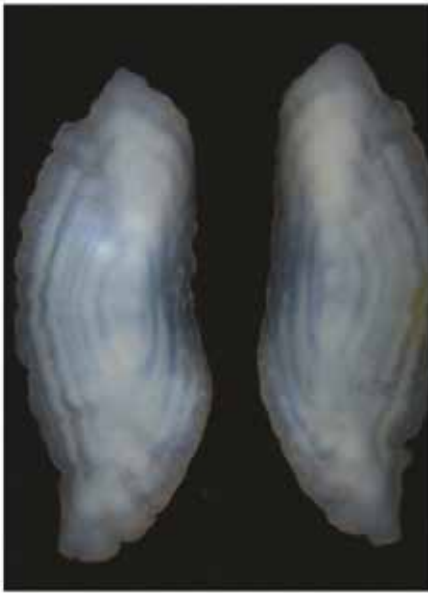
Our group works on a large variety of over 30 species. Some examples are: Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*), beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*), greater silver smelt

(*Argentina silus*), roundnose grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*), ling (*Molva molva*), spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*), rabbitfish (*Chimaera monstrosa*), starry ray (*Amblyraja radiata*).

Our group is very much involved in stock assessment work requiring survey time series, life history and catch data. We are responsible for two important deepwater surveys, one along the slope of the Norwegian shelf and one in the deep pelagic Norwegian Sea. Critical life history parameters for fish stocks like growth, fecundity, as well as gender and age composition are essential for the reliable management of these natural resources. The age composition of a stock e.g. can be indicative of its “status”, as a broad range of ages are expected in a healthy population. A sign of overexploitation of the stock would be for example, a lack of older







Otoliths of ling (left) and Greenland halibut (middle), and second dorsal spine of spurdog (right). Photos: DypBrusk/IMR.

fish, whereby a lack of young fish may indicate a recruitment failure, and it is important to detect such deviations from a normal age composition of a stock. Our group uses calcified structures that grow throughout the life of the fish like otoliths (ear stones) for bony fishes and dorsal spines for sharks to determine an individual's age by examining their increments, or "rings".

**Some research tapas:**

Some exciting recent work on spurdog includes a satellite tagging study of pregnant females (in prep, see photos) and comprehensive life history investigations on the recovering Norwegian population. Our research shows that younger age groups are currently dominating the spawning stock, due to an increase in recruitment of "young

adults" which are those sharks not fully recruited to the stock until after the ban on the direct fishery. In addition, our analysis indicated a much steeper increase in year-class strength for this series of year classes in Norway than estimated in the current ICES assessments, and, therefore, the potential for a much swifter recovery of the spurdog stock. Further reading: Albert OT, Junge ➤



Group members (left; for names see group website, link below) and group activities (right). Photos: group website/IMR (left) and DypBrusk/IMR (right).

<https://www.hi.no/en/hi/forskning/research-groups-1/deep-water-species-and-cartilaginous-fish> or shortened: <https://bit.ly/2UGLJel> <https://www.hi.no/en/hi/forskning/research-groups-1/deep-water-species-and-cartilaginous-fish/cartilaginous-fishes-chondrichthyans> or shortened: <https://bit.ly/3nEZ5Ep>

C, Myrland MK. 2019. ICES J Mar Sci 76, p. 2193-2204; and <https://framsenteret.no/forum/2020/a-feisty-shark-in-norwegian-waters-the-tale-of-the-spurdog>

Basking sharks are rare in Norway and we need to use a variety of creative sources to get data on their occurrences. We therefore launched a public observation campaign in 2019 making use of the “Dugnad for Havet” online platform that actively contributes to citizen science on marine life (<https://dugnadforhavet.no>). “Dugnad” is a Norwegian term for voluntary work done together with other people and it is a very core concept for Norwegians. We hope in the future to collaborate with other public databases on basking shark observations, e.g. in the UK, and together with the addition of movement data (published and future) get a fuller picture of the spatial and temporal habits of this species in especially in the northern parts of its distribution range.

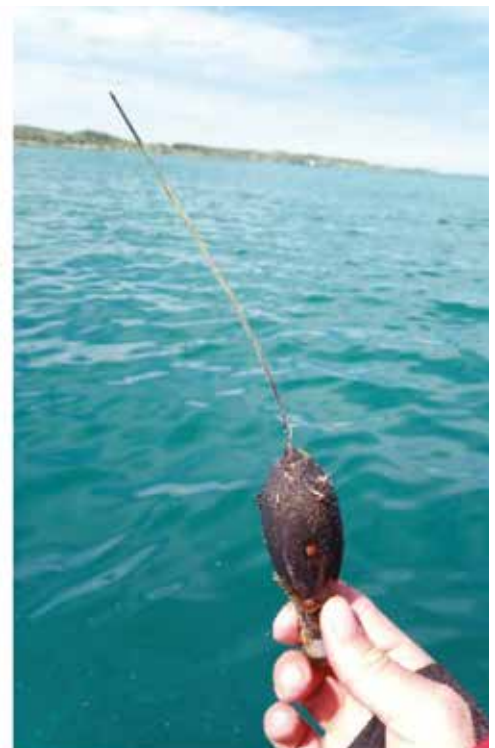
Like many other deepwater species, redfish are long-lived (over 50 years) and late maturing



Feeding basking shark off the Norwegian coast. Photo: Asbjørn Johansen.

(around 12 years), whilst their reproduction is a complicated affair, including internal fertilization, sperm storage inside the female’s body and live birth. The beaked redfish and golden redfish (*Sebastes norvegicus*) are commercially important but have very different stock status, the former is in very good shape, whilst the latter is on the Norwegian red list and shows only early signs of recovery. This

difference in stock status, together with the difficulty to distinguish the two species by morphology alone puts the threatened species at risk to fade away as unidentified bycatch. This is not helped by the potential existence of a cryptic species in Norwegian waters that exhibits characteristics of both species (similar to a cryptic species in Greenland waters, see Saha *et al.* 2017. ICES J Mar Sci 74, 2148-2158). One of our current



Spurdog tagging in November 2019 (left) and happy last tag retrieval in June 2020 (right). Photos: Victor González Triginer/IMR (left), and Keno Ferter/IMR (right).

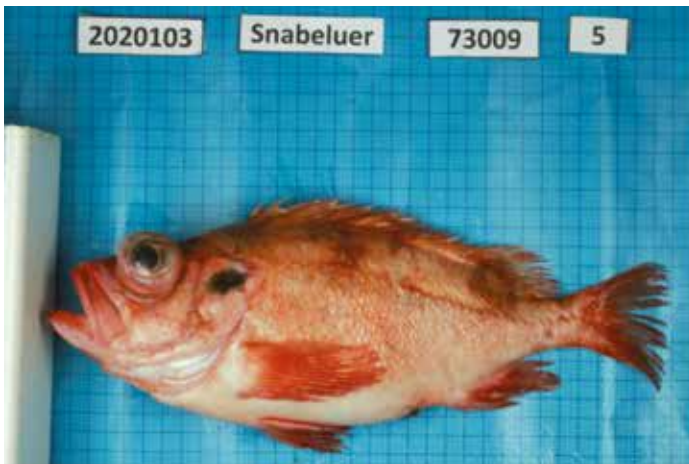


research projects is investigating new and simpler ways to distinguish the redfish species in Norwegian waters, both by traditional morphological as well as genetic methods, and whether

there is in fact a yet unrecognized species.

Another project takes advantage of the longevity of the golden redfish, which is around 60 years, to reconstruct long-term

growth conditions in the Barents Sea by studying the otoliths, and to determine the main drivers of growth in this species and potentially its congeners.



Glam shot of beaked redfish on background for image recognition (left) and view of the trawl deck on the G.O. Sars during the 2020 survey in northern Norway (right). Photos: DypBrusk/IMR.

## Colin Adams, Hon Vice-President of the FSBI, writes about the FSBI Briefing Paper Series

Many of you may know that the FSBI runs an initiative called the Briefing Papers series but you may not know how it operates. Briefing Papers are intended as an authoritative synthesis of what we know, and as important, what we do not know, on a topic relevant to the aims and objectives of the FSBI. The goal of the series is to inform and to promote discussion and debate on a topic that may be topical, controversial or poorly understood (or any combination of these three) in fish biology in its broadest sense. They are written by those with some specialist knowledge of the topic but arguably the very best examples have come from collaborative authorships comprising pooled, contrasting but complimentary, expertise to create something that exceeds the sum of its component parts. Briefing Papers need to reference the primary literature from which factual

information is drawn to support lines of argument, inferences and conclusions presented. They also need to be written in clear and exact language that assumes no specialist knowledge of the topic, thus making it accessible to the intelligent non-specialist. The expectation is that Briefing Papers, with perhaps some minor tweeting, will also form the backbone of a Review Paper for submission to *Journal of Fish Biology*.

The FSBI offers funding of up to £5000 to help support the development of Briefing Papers. This may be used to bring potential authors together in a workshop to discuss the ideas and content of a Briefing Paper, to provide some technical support, to cover costs for access to papers or any other costs that will promote development of the briefing paper. Briefing Papers submitted as a Review to *Journal of Fish Biology* are subjected to the

full peer review process that all JFB submissions are put through, but if accepted for publication, they will be made Open Access without charge to the authors. Such papers tend to accrue a high citation rate.

Previous Briefing Papers have covered a wide range of topics of contemporary importance: non-native invasives, climate change, fishing and diversity, anthropogenic noise, marine protected areas, nanotechnology in fisheries and fish welfare amongst others.

There remains a large number of topics out there that would benefit from a review of the literature and a synthesis of the state of current understanding. If you have an idea that might be suitable for a Briefing Paper and would like to take advantage of the FSBI scheme you can find out more about this on the FSBI website: <https://www.fsbi.org.uk/publications/fsbi-briefing-papers/>

# Notices

## The FSBI is now on YouTube!



The FSBI is now on YouTube! Find us by searching 'The FSBI' in the YouTube search bar and be sure to subscribe to get updates about the Society and its members. We have some exciting new videos coming up which will showcase the work conducted by FSBI PhD students, FSBI members, as well as FSBI funded projects. Stay tuned! It's QR code is:



## 2021 Annual General Meeting

It may seem a long time to the next AGM but just to help you plan, the next AGM will be on Wednesday 7th July 2021. This coincides with the FSBI Summer Symposium which is due to take place in Leuven, Belgium. In all probability it will be an on-line conference as will the AGM.

## Why not propose new officers or council members?

Four of the current members will come to the end of their time on council in July. Any member can either put themselves forward for election at the AGM or propose other members. It is rare that members propose anyone so that it is left to Council members to suggest names. Why not break the mould and propose either yourself or a colleague who you think might be appropriate?

In addition, Rob Briton will be retiring as Treasurer and needs to be replaced. This is a critical post in the Society for obvious reasons and anyone who might like to be considered should forward their expressions of interest to the Secretary, Ian Winfield.

Further, Colin Adams, the current Vice President will take over as President from Gary Carvalho at the July AGM. Any suggestions for the replacement of Colin as VP would be welcome.

# 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:

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

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