

# FISHERIES SOCIETY OF THE BRITISH ISLES

## Minutes of the 85th Council Meeting

Siemens Room, British Institute of Radiology, 26 Portland Place, London, W18 2AT

Thursday 19th April 2007 at 1100

1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING.** The President, John Thorpe (JT), took the chair and opened the meeting at 1100. The following were also present: Felicity Huntingford (FH) (Vice-President), G.H. Copp (GC) (Treasurer), F.B. Eddy (FBE) (Secretary), R. Gozlan (RG), D. Quigley (DQ), I. Barber (IB), M. Kaiser (MK), R. Britton (RB), P. Jurajda (PJ), J. Craig (JC) (Editor JFB), N. Maclean (NM) (Supplement Editor JFB), Paul Hart (PH), (Newsletter Editor). Silvana Marciano (SM) (Blackwells) was present for part of the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies were received from Katherine Sloman (KS), Victoria Braithwaite (VB), Toby Carter (TC) (website) and Nigel Balmforth (NB) (Blackwells).
3. **MINUTES OF THE 84th COUNCIL MEETING.** The minutes were approved and signed by the President. (CM85.3).
4. **MATTERS ARISING.** 7, World Council of Fisheries Societies. The President reported on progress of the 2008 conference, see item 5.
5. **WORLD COUNCIL OF FISHERIES SOCIETIES.** The President reported on progress of plans for the 2008 World Fisheries Congress in Yokohama, Japan. An introductory brochure and posters are now available and the web site has opened. The World Council is encouraging collaboration among constituent societies and to this end joint meetings are planned. The American Fisheries Society (AFS) and the Japanese Society for Fisheries Science (JSFS) are holding a joint symposium during the AFS annual meeting in San Francisco in September 2007. A joint symposium on "Fish Diversity" is planned for Tennessee in 2009, and the FSBI is invited to collaborate with this. The President proposed that the AFS and the JSFS should be invited to join with the FSBI in running a symposium on "Climate Change and Fish" a topic proposed by Chris Harrod. Chris has offered to organise this meeting, to be held at Queen's University Belfast in 2010. This would be the FSBI's annual meeting for that year. The Council agreed to these proposals and the President will send invitations to the AFS and the JSFS and inform Chris Harrod accordingly. The appointment of a committee and an editor are in advanced progress (CM85.5)
6. **COLLABORATION WITH THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY.** The AFS coordinator, Glen Contreras was contacted and asked to nominate an exchange student to attend the Exeter Symposium but nominations had not been received. Nominations for membership exchange for FSBI students had not been received by Glen Contreras, (action FBE, IAB, Granta). (CM85.6).
7. **CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP.** This item is addressed in the Treasurers Report.

8. FINANCE, TREASURER'S REPORT. The investment strategy is well within the guidelines indicated by the Charities Commission and the Society is in a healthy financial state. Responses to questionnaires from about 230 members (about 1/3<sup>rd</sup>) revealed that about 70% are in full or fixed-contract employment, about 25% are students and about 4% are retired. Also, a majority (about 70%) expressed a preference for receiving free on-line access to the journal with hard copy available on request. The Treasurer recommended, and Council agreed, that as of 1 January 2008 the 'Associate' category will be expanded to include both students and retired members. The current membership rates (effective 1 January 2007) are £30 for full members and £15 for Associate members. The question of journal delivery (printed and/or electronic) to members is to be considered in the next meeting of Council, following discussions with Blackwell Publishing (CM85.8).
9. NEWS LETTER EDITOR'S REPORT. The scope for more advertisements in the Newsletter and appropriate rates will be investigated and reported to Council. A request from the Smithsonian Institute for the earliest copies of the Newsletter is receiving attention (JT). Councillors are asked to direct items directly to Paul Hart (CM.85.9).
10. FSBI WEB PAGE. Continued Interest in the web site was detailed in Toby Carter's report. The site, as it is at present, serves the basic needs of the Society. Some Councillors felt that it could be made more attractive and informative with links to other Societies, meetings etc. An updated web page is nearing delivery and GC mentioned that further developments would require a more sophisticated and substantial input to the system. GC to report to the next Council Meeting. (CM85.10).
11. FSBI BRIEFING PAPERS. A final draft of "How climate change affects fish" by Chris Harrod is with FH and received approval. A summary is to appear in the Newsletter and the article should also be submitted to the journal as a review (FH, PH, MK, and JC). "Impact of non-native species on biodiversity of fresh water ecosystems" was suggested as a topic by RG. Several Councillors suggested that Briefing Papers should have a higher profile achievable through more attractive presentation and with promotion by publishers (GC, MK). Calls for Briefing Papers should appear on the website and in the Newsletter mentioning that they should be on topics of public interest related to fish biology and fisheries science (FH). (CM85.11).
12. SYMPOSIUM REPORTS.
  - a. Exeter 2007. Progress is satisfactory and the programme nears completion for the Symposium on "Integrated Biology of the Establishment Success & Dispersal of Non-Native Fishes", 23 - 27 July 2007 (AB). The AGM is arranged for 12.40 before lunch on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>. The President suggested that the FSBI medal be presented at the BBQ and the Beverton medal at the banquet. CM85.12a.
  - b. Cardiff 2008. Progress is satisfactory and arrangement of the programme is in hand for the Symposium on "Consequences of parasitism for the behaviour, ecology and evolution of fishes". Publicity for the meeting is being directed to many related Societies including the British Society for Parasitology (IAB). (CM85.12b).
  - c. Leicester 2009. The organising committee and bookings are in place for the symposium "4<sup>th</sup> International Stickleback Symposium", in recognition of the life-time contributions to this subject by Bob Wootton (PH). (CM85.12c).

d. Belfast 2010. Chris Harrod is the chief organiser of a meeting on “Climate Change and Fish” involving the FSBI, AFS and JFS. The appointment of a committee and an editor are in advanced progress.

### 13. JOURNAL OF FISH BIOLOGY.

#### a) Editor’s Report.

The number of submitted mss remains steady and the transition from Blackwells to Wiley-Blackwells proceeds smoothly. A number of editorial and format changes are in progress including “Molecular Sciences Supplement” becoming “Molecular and Cell Science” in 2008. There was discussion on an award for the best student paper(JC and others to report to Council).. A proposal that the journal format should change to a subA4 style was rejected. From funds already budgeted a proof-reader has been contracted to help the Editor. (CM85.13a).

#### b) i, ii. Reports from Blackwells.

The main points of Publisher’s report were delivered by SM. Important indicators such as readership, down loads and income against budget continued to increase. Blackwell’s records show a smaller membership compared to the FSBI data-base, to be resolved (GC, SM). A members’ site on the FSBI web pages is to be investigated by TC and SM. (CM85.13bi).

The original model for the FSBI/Blackwells encyclopaedia, that is paper volumes directed mainly at libraries is being revised by NB. He is considering delivery on line with the possibility of updating when necessary. NB will report at a future meeting. (CM84.13bii).

#### c) Open Access Publishing.

If this proceeded to a major extent there is a strong possibility that the Society’s income stream from the Journal would be severely diminished so curtailing many activities including the long term commitment of funding of the studentships. The time scale for the introduction of OAP is unknown but if it was relatively swift then the financial stability of the Society could be threatened. A cautious approach was suggested by the President, that one or both studentships planned for the next academic year be suspended. The resulting accumulation of funds may not be viewed favourably by the Charities Commissioners. Council agreed that legal advice on these matters be sought (FH, GC). A meeting on OAP between a representative from Blackwells and Council officers was proposed for early June (SM, Councillors).

14. STUDENTSHIP COMMITTEE. There were 15 applicants for the 2006-7 competition and two good quality appointments were made. The performance of current students remains good although there is some concern about the progress of one three year plus student (Leanne Llewellyn). It was proposed that the award of a studentship should be conditional on administrative requirements such as licences already being in place. (IAB to adapt studentship form). New students should receive pastoral advice from a nominated member of Council and should be encouraged to attend at least one Symposium, for at least part of the time (Studentship committee to report). (CM85.14).

15. TRAVEL GRANT. The four funding rounds in 2006 attracted 53 applications of which 17 were funded. Most applications are in the Spring and this tends to force unevenness in the intensity of competition over the year (PJ). (CM85.15).

16. RESEARCH GRANTS. There have been 10 applications in the first round for 2007 and 3 were awarded. (reported by RG). (CM85.16).

17. MACROPHYSIOLOGY WORKSHOP. This item was transferred to AOB.
18. VSO. Projects considered suitable for sponsorship by both VSO and the Society will be posted in the Newsletter and on the web. No projects have been submitted since the last Council meeting. Administration is by the Grants Committee (TC, VB, PH). (CM8.17).
19. BEVERTON and FSBI MEDALS for 2006. Three nominations for each of the medals were received and the majority of votes for the Beverton medal were received by Richard HK Mann and for the FSBI medal by David W Sims. (CM95.19).
20. PREPARATIONS for AGM (new councillors). Nominations for Officers at the 2007 AGM are President, Professor Felicity Huntingford and Vice-President, Professor Michel Kaiser. At least 4 Councillors offered suggestions for new members of council and they were requested to contact those persons and ask if they are willing to serve and acquaint them with the possible duties. The Secretary should then be informed so that the formalities can be completed. The AGM will be at the Exeter Symposium in July 2007. (action FBE, Councillors).
21. AOB. A proposal asking for support for a workshop at Plymouth on Macrophysiology was considered. A relatively small part of the workshop is on fish and a grant of £500 was approved. (FBE to write). (changed to CM85.21a, see agenda). A proposal from Dr V Panov for support for a new journal on Aquatic Invasions was discussed but Council considered support for another journal was inappropriate when our own journal was under threat. (CM85.21b).
22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Wednesday 5th December 2007.

CM86.3