

Terry Langford reviews a new book, the

Identification guide to the inshore fish of the British Isles

written by past Council member Peter Henderson

Many books may claim to be aimed at a variety of audiences with wide ranging levels of expertise and some actually manage it. This is one of those books. At this stage, I should declare an interest because I was a colleague of the author in the 1970s and 1980s and I worked with Pisces Conservation Ltd on a project in 2000. Despite this, I hope this review is truly objective.

The book begins with a clear, illustrated pictorial key to the main taxonomic groups and references to the relevant pages of the main text. The preface of the book notes that it is intended for everyone with an interest in fish including anglers, professional fishermen, fish merchants, naturalists and professional biologists. I would have added students from ages 15 (or even younger), to post-graduates. Some groups will use the book for initial reference to a specific taxonomic group while others will get an intriguing overall introduction to the highly diverse and complexity of near-shore fish assemblages. The book is based



on a very large number of excellent photographs of fish and selected morphological characteristics using a two-page spread format for each species. The photographs are augmented where necessary with clear line drawings, distribution maps and figures. Unfortunately I found some of the axis labelling on

the figures very small and difficult to read even with a magnifying glass. If the book is reprinted in the future I would recommend enlarging these axis labels even if fewer points are labelled as a result. Younger eyes may find less difficulty. There is an excellent glossary at the beginning

◀ of the book. Further, there is an unusual set of photographs of otoliths with examples from each major fish group and the author's colleague Mark Cox is noted as having developed a special expertise in extracting otoliths from fish over a wide range of species and sizes. In addition Rowena Henderson has contributed her expertise as a bio-archaeologist to add notes on human consumption for some species. The author also generously acknowledges the stimulation he received from earlier excellent books by Alwynne Wheeler (Wheeler, A. (1969). *The Fishes of the British Isles and North-West Europe*. London, U.K.: Macmillan and Co.) and Frances Dipper (Dipper, F. E. (2001). *British Sea Fishes*, 2nd edn. Teddington, U.K.: Underwater World Publications).

In the present book, web references are given to angling organisations and sea-fishing groups and the page layout for each species is introduced and explained in the preface. Each two-page spread begins with a description of the specific diagnostic features along with a photograph and a labelled line drawing showing these features.

Seasonality of occurrence, food and descriptions of similar species are included together with a summary of the life-history and maximum sizes. Notes on commercial fishing and angling are given where relevant and record sizes for each species given where known. As the author comments, the book is actually the result of the combined expertise of the Pisces Conservation Ltd team of ichthyologists with a range of talents, including Richard Seaby and Robin Somes plus a team of people sampling in the field and named professional fishermen. Many of the data have come from a long and extensive series of samples taken over some 35 years from the intakes of power stations in various parts of the U.K., the results of which have been published extensively in the scientific literature.

The book is dense with pictures and facts and is likely to be mostly used as a reference book rather than a prolonged read but, as such, it is probably the most comprehensive book of its kind available. However, if one has any interest in fishes at all, it is difficult to stop turning the pages once started. On the rear cover the book claims to be 'the definitive

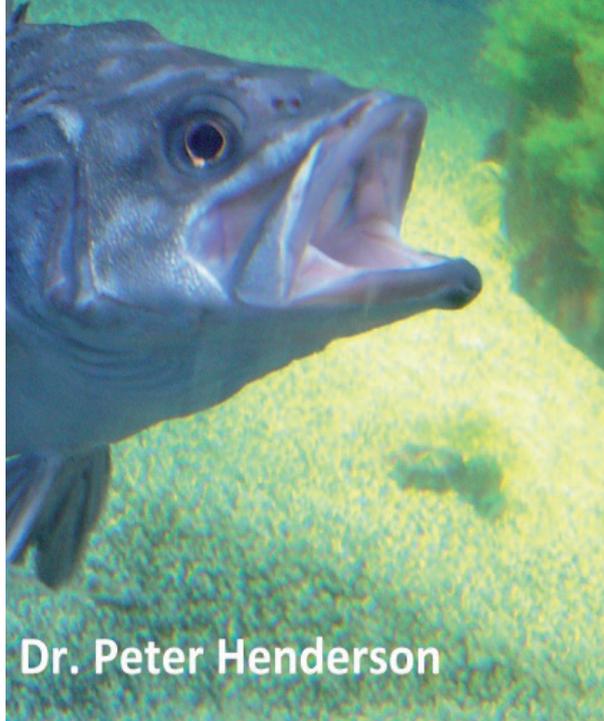
guide to British marine fish' and although a somewhat slightly immodest claim, it is probably true. The cost of the book, in contrast, is extremely modest and within a price range to suit the audience range even if it includes students. The book is obtainable directly from Pisces Conservation Ltd (IRC House, The Square, Pennington, Hampshire SO41 8GN, U.K.) and online at www.pisces-conservation.com.

Full details: IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO THE INSHORE FISH OF THE BRITISH ISLES, written by past Council member Peter Henderson. (321 pp. Published by Pisces Conservation Ltd, Pennington, U.K., 2014. Price £25.00. ISBN: 978-1-904690-63-4.

Terry E. L. Langford
Centre for Environmental Science,
Faculty of Engineering and
the Environment, University of
Southampton, Southampton, U.K.



Identification Guide to the Inshore Fish of the British Isles



Dr. Peter Henderson

Identification Guide to the Inshore Fish of the British Isles, *by Dr Peter Henderson.*

ISBN: 978-1-904690-63-4

- 178 British species of fish described in detail
- High-quality images and line drawings
- Important distinguishing features highlighted
- How to tell similar species apart
- Geographical range & habitats
- Seasonal occurrence
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Pisces Conservation Ltd

IRC House, The Square

Pennington, Hants, SO41 8GN

Phone: 01590 674000

Email: pisces@pisces-conservation.com



Editorial

This is a thin month for news items for the Newsletter. The deadlines for medal nominations and for the submission of abstracts to the summer symposium have either gone, or will have by the time this appears. There is still time though for people to nominate candidates for Council, something that rarely happens. It is a strange aspect of human institutions that a small subset of members of the organisation are actively involved whilst the majority are passive as far as governance is concerned. So long as the passive majority has no objection to the way the society is run, its lack of involvement is not a problem. The trouble starts when members do not like the way the institution is managed but are not motivated to get involved to improve things. This situation can lead to grumblings in the wings

that cannot be resolved unless those doing the grumbling get involved. I am not suggesting that the FSBI is in this situation and my observations are just general. However, if you feel motivated to be involved then you would be welcomed.

The lack of news items means that this issue is dominated by book reviews. The new book on fish identification by Peter Henderson looks to be a very useful tool for the fish biologist based in Europe. It is also remarkably priced. So many publishers of academic books charge very high prices for their products and are reluctant to change their business model. I have had conversations with publishers about book pricing that never get far. The argument is that the market is limited so the

publisher has to charge the high price to cover their costs. From my perspective this is a self-fulfilling prediction. High prices mean that only libraries and those especially interested in the topic will buy the book, so limiting the market. If the price had been lower surely the number of buyers would increase? This type of limited thinking reminds me of another example although not relating to books. In the 1970s I and my family lived for three years in Sweden. At that time it was common there to be able to buy low fat skimmed milk. When we returned to the UK my wife asked the milkman, a British phenomenon but one fast dying out, why there was no skimmed milk available and the reply was that there was no market for it. I guess it takes a business person prepared to see an opportunity

and take the risk of taking advantage of it. In the book trade the advent of electronic publishing is of course forcing changes to pricing and availability but many books are still too expensive.

Some publishing companies have a business model that is not driven purely by considerations of profit and Chicago University Press is one of those. Another is Princeton University Press. These presses, closely associated with a University produce books that are relatively cheap and I suspect that this is largely due to the way the company is run to serve the academic community rather than just the shareholder. The second book reviewed in this edition, *Billion dollar fish: the untold story of Alaska Pollock* has a very low price. I guess that it cannot be compared to a more academically oriented book as it is aimed at a general audience and would never sell if priced at £80. However, even books with a more select readership are sold at attractive prices by these academic publishing houses. Of course another consideration is that both

companies are serving mainly the US market, which is so much bigger than that in the UK.

Consideration of price aside, it is a wonder these days that any books in biology get written. If one is an historian, at least in the UK, books are the main currency by which one's academic worth is judged. In the recent UK Research Excellent Framework, which ranked all academics by the quality of their publications, books do not count. This means that books are rendered worthless to the career prospects of a British academic biologist. It is a wonder that any books get written at all, given that scientists in Universities are so pressed on all sides to complete a number of tasks all at the same time; teach, supervise PhD students, administer aspects of the University's activities, write research grants, write papers and sometimes actually do some research themselves. When is there time to write books, and if they do, they don't get any career benefits from the publication. Yet, without the synthetic aspect of book writing, how will the various

disciplines develop coherence and wider relevance? It is a reflection of the human spirit that there are still people prepared to propose and write new books showing that there are people out there who care about the development of their discipline.

This editorial is beginning to sound like the grumblings of a man past his sell-by date - the grumpy old man syndrome made so much of by comedians! Let me finish on a more positive note and say that despite all the barriers that are created, there are many young people entering the field of fish biology bringing fresh views as to how the science should develop. The travel grant reports we publish are usually a sign of this with many young people expressing gratitude for help in attending conferences that stimulate them to further efforts.

Paul Hart
Leicester, February 2015.

Next deadline: 1st May 2015.

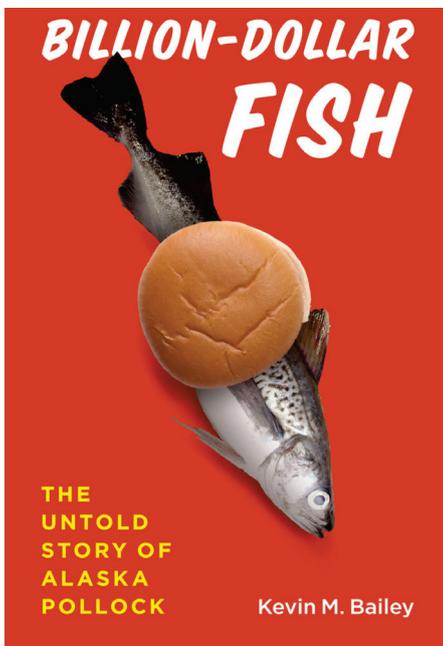
Billion-Dollar Fish: The untold story of Alaska Pollock

By K. M. Bailey. 271 pp. Published by The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, U.S.A., 2013. Price £17.50. ISBN: 978-0-226-02234-5.

Alaska pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) may be the lead actor, but the supporting cast of personalities and complex themes extend well beyond the world of fisheries management to deliver in a big way within Bailey's recent work. Dr. Kevin M. Bailey has logged nearly 35 years studying the biology and ecology of Alaska pollock and shares his intimate knowledge of not only how the

fishery developed, but more importantly why. Billion-Dollar Fish introduces the world to the fish that it has been eating for so long, perhaps without even knowing it, and to the fishery that so quickly exploded to become one of the largest and most productive food-bearing fisheries on the planet. In considering the current state of global fisheries it is important to understand

where our conflicts and institutions came from, as they often define current conditions, and in the present book we get a captivating exposition of the story of Alaska pollock. The text addresses various themes of contemporary importance, including: management under conditions of scientific uncertainty, the economics of global fisheries, the role of politics in resource ➤



management, the unintended consequences of management, and the influence of advocacy in shaping fisheries policy.

The book opens with a concise history of thought from Grotius and Huxley on the freedom of the seas and the 'inexhaustible' nature of fisheries productivity. This helps the reader understand the origin of many present-day resource-development conflicts. The post-WWII rebuilding of the Japanese fishing industry gave rise to the Alaska pollock fishery, and the humanitarian drive to utilize protein from the sea promulgated global fisheries investment. The application of post-war technologies to fishing, coupled with optimistic outlooks on ocean productivity, led to rapid industrialisation of the Alaska pollock fishery. However, political tensions rose when Soviet factory processing ships began to show up along the Pacific coast of the United States at the height of the Cold War in the 1960s. After two decades of unfettered foreign fishing, American law makers instituted a 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone in 1976, setting the stage for the 'Americanization' of the fishery. With access to American stocks curtailed, the foreign fleets set off in search of new stocks, settling on the

unregulated 'Donut Hole' stock of pollock in the Central Bering Sea. Fishing on this international stock outpaced science and management by leaps and bounds, resulting in one of the greatest fisheries collapses the modern world has experienced. By the 1980s, international investment money poured into the fishery, and creative means of retrofitting domestically produced hulls allowed for new boats to enter the fishery, all chasing the 'white gold rush'. Bailey shares personal stories of the great wealth made and lost and he sheds light on the humble beginnings of certain global fishery magnates.

Fast-forward a decade, to the late 1990s, and the political tide has shifted the theme from abundance to scarcity, with stories of fisheries being overcapitalised and overexploited. Greenpeace activists rappel from the Aurora Bridge in Seattle and suspend themselves for two days to protest the pollock fleet's industrial fishing practices. Faced with too many boats, reduced quotas, and a growing 'race to fish', politics again stepped in, this time to transfer the public resource into private hands. Bailey excels in his ability to present a cogent discussion of the economic and social implications of this paradigm shift in management regime. Nearly the last quarter of the book is dedicated to 'rationalization' of the fishery, addressing both the intended and unintended consequences that arose from this institutional change, and the many unanswered equity concerns that exist to this day.

Bailey presents a refreshingly measured tone throughout the book, avoiding alarmist language that can often show up in popular press fisheries literature. The reading is brisk, engaging, and interlaced with interviews and personal anecdotes which make for a satisfying experience that a

general audience can appreciate. Bailey strikes a fine balance between history, science, policy, and storytelling. This book is well suited for students in marine resource management programs but would also be appropriate for any course that touches on pressing environmental and natural resource issues. While the text is a cohesive work, nearly every chapter could very well stand on its own as a lesson in contemporary natural resource management. The themes presented in this work would allow for a considerable breadth of discussion at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. I have no doubt that even active fisheries researchers would find something to colour debates with their colleagues. Dr. Bailey has contributed a seminal and accessible piece to the fisheries literature, with lessons of value for the effective management of Alaska's pollock fishery and other industrial-scale fisheries around the globe.

Justin Hospital
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science
Center, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration,
Honolulu, U.S.A.

Disclaimer: The results, conclusions, views, and opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Commerce, NOAA, or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

FSBI Travel Grant Report

DIEM THU NGUYEN, a PhD student at the University of Tasmania, attended and made a presentation at the 7th International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health in Portland, Oregon, USA, August 31 - September 4, 2014, after which he visited Professor Kenneth Cain's research laboratory at the University of Idaho, Moscow, USA.

I am a PhD candidate at the University of Tasmania, Australia. I would like to thank the Fisheries Society of the British Isles for awarding me a Travel Grant. I was able to attend the 7th International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health (ISAAH-7) in Portland, Oregon, USA. ISAAH-7 was a large international conference and it attracted approximately 300 attendees, including representatives from 26 countries. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing talks in the Vaccines section, Immunology section, Bacteria and Immunostimulants section that are all related to, and can be applied to my study area. I have had an invaluable opportunity to present my work to an international audience in the Vaccine section of this conference and I received a great deal of feedback and ideas from the audience. The conference also provided me with an excellent opportunity to meet other young scientists, PhD students and professionals in my field that I hope to keep in contact with so establishing a professional network in the fish immunology and fish vaccine areas.

After ISAAH-7, my visit to Professor Kenneth Cain's laboratory at the Aquaculture Research Institute of the University of Idaho in Moscow, ID, USA was extremely productive. I enjoyed seeing the fish research laboratory with the variety of equipment and the wet laboratory that currently supports studying

vaccines in Rainbow trout against the bacterial cold-water disease, Flavobacteriosis. Both attending the ISAAH-7 and the visit to Cain's laboratory gave me an excellent experience, providing me with ideas and directions for my study and potential projects in the future. I would like to thank the FSBI committee again for awarding me the Travel Grant for supporting this trip.

Michael Gwilliam, a PhD student at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, Aberystwyth University, writes about his attendance at the 20th European Meeting of PhD Students in Evolutionary Biology (EMPSEB20).

In September 2014 I attended the 20th European Meeting of PhD students in Evolutionary Biology (EMPSEB20) held in La Roche-en-Ardenne, Belgium. EMPSEB20 was hosted and organised by PhD students from several Belgian universities. The conference composed of PhD students presenting 15 minute talks alongside several senior keynote speakers. Presenting at EMPSEB20 was an excellent opportunity to distil the main results of my research, an invaluable exercise whilst entering the final stages of my PhD. My research utilises genetic markers to test the role of the Benguela Current System (BCS) off the southwest coast of Africa as a dispersal barrier to coastal Sea Breams (Sparidae). Results so far find that the BCS acts as a dispersal barrier for all four study species, and depending on species life history traits a range of patterns is found from relatively shallow yet complex genetic population structuring to probable cryptic speciation. EMPSEB20 was an excellent opportunity to discuss and liaise

with fellow PhD researchers and academics about my own work and general evolutionary biology. Discussion of life history strategies, stress tolerance, marine population structuring in the Mediterranean, the issues of subspecies and genetic methods of detecting 'escapees' from Sea Bream aquaculture were a few of the fruitful discussions. The conference committee laid on several excursions including a brewery visit (La Chouffe), exploring the Caves of Han and a day spent in multicultural Brussels. Overall the conference was an excellent opportunity to forge new academic connections and invigorate myself for the final analyses and write up of my PhD. I would like to thank the FSBI for its generous support allowing my attendance.

Notices



The Biology, Ecology and Conservation of Elasmobranchs: Recent Advances and New Frontiers

Fisheries Society of the British Isles Symposium 27th– 31st July 2015, Plymouth, UK

Deadline for abstracts was 15th Feb 2015

but to Register

<http://www.fsbi.org.uk/conference-2015/symposium-theme-3/>

If you have submitted an abstract and had it accepted then manuscript submission is OPEN

15th March 2015 – Deadline for manuscripts to be submitted online Submit online via **Editorial Manager** . For Article type select Symposium Paper **28th June 2015** – Deadline for submission of final revised manuscripts to facilitate rapid publication for the Special Issue

Other fish related conferences as collated by Phil Hickley – phil.hickley@googlemail.com

UK & IRELAND

21-22 April 2015
IFM Specialist Conference: Forestry and Fisheries – Where next?
Rhedged Centre, Penrith, England, UK
Website: <http://www.ifm.org.uk/node/272>

20-22 October 2015
2nd International Sea Trout Symposium

Dundalk, Ireland
Website: <http://seatroutsymposium.org/>

18-22 July 2016
Annual Symposium of the Fisheries Society of the British Isles: Fish, Genes and Genomes – Contributions to Evolution and Management

Bangor University, North Wales, UK
Website: <http://www.fsbi.org.uk/events/symposia>

EUROPE

20-24 April 2015
PERCIS IV – Percid biology, management and aquaculture

Tartu, Estonia
Contact: Prof. Toomas Saat - toomas.saat@ut.ee

25-29 May 2015
Advances in the Population Ecology of Stream Salmonids – IV

Girona, Spain
Website: <http://salmonidsymposium.com/>

15-17 June 2015
EIFAAC International Symposium on Recreational Fisheries: Managing freshwater recreational fisheries in an era of change

Lillehammer, Norway
Website: <http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/no/Nyheter/Arrangementer/EIFAAC-Symposium-on-Recreational-fisheries/>

15-19 June 2015
EIFAAC Symposium and Session

Norway
Website: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/eifaac/en>

20-21 June 2015
Fish passage professional short courses in association with Fish Passage 2015 (see below)

Groningen, The Netherlands
Website: <http://fishpassage.umass.edu/?q=content/short-courses-0>

22-24 June 2015
Fish Passage 2015 – Engineering and Ecohydrology for Fish Passage

Groningen, The Netherlands
Website: <http://www.fishpassageconference.com>
Contact: herman@wanningenwaterconsult.nl or olle.calles@kau.se

30 June – 2 July 2015
REFORM (Restoring rivers FOR effective catchment Management) Final Conference

Wageningen, The Netherlands
Website: <http://www.reformrivers.eu/events/final-conference>

5-10 July 2015
Fish Movements in River Networks – Special Session at 9th Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences

Geneva, Switzerland
Website: <http://www.sefs9.ch>

12-17 July 2015
39th Annual Larval Fish Conference

Vienna, Austria
Website: http://www.larvalfishcon.org/Conf_home.asp?ConferenceCode=39th

23-26 August 2015
Aquaculture 2015: Cutting Edge Science in Aquaculture

Le Corum, Montpellier, France
Website: <http://www.aquaculture-conference.com/>

24-28 August 2015
4th European large Lakes Symposium (ELLS2015)

Joensuu, Finland
Website: <http://www.uef.fi/en/ells2015>

7-11 September 2015
XV European Congress of Ichthyology

Porto, Portugal
Website: <http://www.ciimar.up.pt/ecixv>

20-23 October 2015
Aquaculture 2015: Aquaculture, Nature and Society

Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Website: <http://easonline.org/component/content/article/39-uncategorised/320-ae2015>

REST OF WORLD

1-6 February 2015

XXI Encontro Brasileiro de Ictologia

Recife, Brazil

Website: <http://www.ebi2015.com.br>

19-22 February 2015

Aquaculture America 2015

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Website: <https://www.was.org/meetings/Default.aspx>

24-26 February 2015

2nd International Conference on Fisheries Aquaculture and Environment in the Indian Ocean

Muscat, Oman

Website: <http://www.fishconference.om>

11-14 March 2015

33rd Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference

Santa Rosa, California, USA

Website: <http://www.calsalmon.org/salmonid-restoration-conference/33rd-annual-salmonid-restoration-conference>

16-18 March 2015

AquaME: The leading aquaculture event in the Middle East

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Website: <http://www.aqua-middleeast.com>

17-19 March 2015

International Conference on Marine Science and Aquaculture

Kota Kinibalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Website: <http://www.ums.edu.my/impb/icomsa/index.html>

23-27 March 2015

3rd PICES/ICES/IOC Symposium on Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans

Santos City, Brazil

Website: http://pices.int/meetings/all_events_default.aspx

23-27 March 2015

Tenure and Fishing Rights

2015: A global forum on rights-based approaches for fisheries ("UserRights 2015")

Siem Reap, Cambodia

Contact: Rebecca.Metzner@fao.org

24-26 March 2015

GLOW 8 (Eighth Great Lakes of the World Conference) - Advancing the Ecosystem Health Approach: Good Governance for Adaptation and Rehabilitation

Mangochi, Malawi

Website: <http://conferences.aehms.org/glow8/>

5-6 April 2015

Middle East Aquaculture Forum: Towards sustainable aquaculture in the Middle East

World Trade Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Website: <http://meaf.ae>

26-30 May 2015

World Aquaculture 2015

Jeju Island, South Korea

Website: <http://www.was.org/meetings/default.aspx?code=WA2015>

16-20 August 2015

145th American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting

Portland, Oregon, USA

Website: <http://2015.fisheries.org/>

7-10 October 2015

Aquatic Biodiversity International Conference

Sibiu, Transylvania, Romania

Website: http://stiinte.ulbsibiu.ro/aquatic_biodiversity_conference/

11-14 October 2015

5th International Symposium on Stock Enhancement and Sea Ranching

Sydney, Australia

Website: <http://www.searanching.org>

6-8 November 2015

4th Annual World Congress of Aquaculture and Fisheries (WCAF-2015)

Quingdao, China

Website: <http://www.bitcongress.com/wcaf2015/>

6-11 June 2016

7th World Fisheries Congress: Challenge to Sustainable Fisheries and Safe Seafoods

Busan, Korea

Website: http://www.wfc2016.or.kr/english/main/index_en.asp

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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

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Fax: 0151 227 3185

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Secretary: Dr John Pinnegar

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Lowestoft Laboratory, Pakefield Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0HT

Tel. +44 (0)1502 524229 Fax. +44 (0)1502 513865 Mob. +44 (0)7747 606287

E-mail: Secretary@fsbi.org.uk

www.fsbi.org.uk