

# Departing thoughts of FSBI President, Ian Winfield

Although this is my seventh and final *President's Piece* before I step down from office this coming July, it feels like no time at all since I was writing my first article in this series back in August 2011. At that time, FSBI was busy preparing to host many of the world's fisheries scientists and managers at the 6th World Fisheries Congress in Edinburgh during May 2012. The event was a great success and FSBI provided a much appreciated and much acknowledged service to our community under what was then an increasingly difficult financial climate. During that week we refreshed many of our established international contacts and made many new ones, with a perceptible associated rise in FSBI's global profile and our membership subsequently increasing to a record high.

If my time in office has had an over-riding theme, it has been one of developing FSBI's relationships within the international fish and fisheries research community. Following the success of WFC 2012 and the enhanced profile that it brought to us, I have devoted a



substantial amount of my time and energy to such matters. I am particularly pleased that we have been able to continue and strengthen our long-standing

relationship with the *American Fisheries Society*, including direct involvement in the recent development of specifically international symposia



◀ within its annual meetings. We now also have formal exchange agreements in place with the *China Society of Fisheries* and the *Japanese Society of Fisheries Science*, together with firm links with the *Canadian Conference For Fisheries Research*. We have also had a period of exchanging students with the latter organisation and are now exploring ways to make the associated funds accessible on a competitive basis to all of our international student members. In addition to these specific international initiatives, throughout this period FSBI has continued to distribute a substantial component of its grant awards to many of its members resident outside the UK. We also continue to be an active member of the *World Council of Fisheries Societies* and are keenly following, and supporting where appropriate, preparations by *The Korean Society of Fisheries and Aquatic Science* to host the 7th World Fisheries Congress in Busan during May 2016. The world is

getting smaller and it is my firm belief that organisations such as FSBI must develop a strong international perspective to their activities if they are to realise their full potential to the benefit of their members and the wider community.

I think it is appropriate that I end on a substantial note (more a chord) of great thanks to the many individuals who have worked tirelessly for FSBI over my term in office, both in terms of the above initiatives but also equally importantly in terms of our long-standing activities. Of course this includes all current and former members of Council (Elected and Guest), together with a host of other individuals (too numerous to specify here) who have given their time and energy in varying ways to our benefit. I would like to give particular thanks to Editor-in-Chief John Craig and his team, together with colleagues at our publishers Wiley, for their unstinting work on the *Journal of Fish Biology*. We must never forget

that FSBI relies on our journal as its prime source of income and on which almost all of our activities are dependent. Finally, I would like to give particular thanks to my present and past fellow Officers Iain Barber, Rob Britton, Gordon Copp, Brian Eddy and John Pinnegar for their work, advice and support over the last almost 4 years. My duties over this period have certainly included their share of hard work and frequent shuffling of other tasks associated with my 'day job', but they have also been a source of great personal pleasure and honour. FSBI is a remarkable society with much to offer the world of fish and fisheries science and management. Please do your part to support my successor by spreading the word about what we are and what we offer to our increasing numbers of members!

Ian J. Winfield  
Centre for Ecology & Hydrology,  
U.K.

3rd May 2015

## Editorial

There was a time when science was done by amateurs and there was no profession of 'scientist'. It could be argued that the profession has only developed into a strong career path since the Second World War. As Ro Lowe-McConnell's life illustrates (see her obituary), the current profession's structure, whilst offering security of employment to many, also comes with constraints. Ro was able to do things in Africa and South America which today would be frowned upon as being dangerous and perhaps even foolhardy. What characterised her work in the field was its independence leaving her to decide what action was needed to solve a particular issue. Sampling problems arose, such as how to set a net without a boat, and she solved the issue on

her own and without any thoughts about breaking safety regulations or health risks. Present day institutions employing scientists are forced by rules and regulations to constrain what scientists do and make sure that they, the institution, can never be held liable for any accident. Whilst the welfare of employees is greatly improved by the safety first culture it does come at a cost to freedom of action and innovation.

The gradual fossilisation of institutions is unavoidable. The Society itself has been afflicted with this process and I am sure that our retiring President, Ian Winfield, has had to deal with far more institutional checks and balances than I ever had to when President between 1997 and 2002. Ian has done a brilliant job,

which has been done on top of fulltime employment. Undoubtedly the position of President comes with pleasurable events, such as attending the American Fisheries Society's annual conferences, but on a day-to-day basis, the position is mostly detail and as members we must thank Ian for his dedication.

If any member has a tale to tell about summer field work or visits to interesting places, then write an account and send it to me.

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At the last Council meeting it was suggested that the Newsletter should include a section on news of member's activities. This of course relies on members sending news of either themselves or colleagues they know and this would be very welcome. If you ►

◀ have an item for inclusion then please send it to me at [newsletter@fsbi.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@fsbi.org.uk). News could include notices of papers published in the *Journal of Fish Biology*, if you think that the paper contains findings of wide interest (we all think that don't we, but some papers are of wider interest than others!).

AND there is now an App for the *Journal of Fish Biology* that is free to download and can be obtained through following these instructions.

- The link below will take you to its page within the Apple app store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/journal-of-fish-biology/id897699132?ls=1&mt=8>
- There are log-in instructions available for Society members (the FSBI members will need to follow the second set of instructions) : [http://www.wiley.com/legacy/wileyblackwell/gmspdfs/New\\_App\\_v3.2\\_Visual\\_Instructions.pdf](http://www.wiley.com/legacy/wileyblackwell/gmspdfs/New_App_v3.2_Visual_Instructions.pdf) (This link does not work with Safari but it does with Firefox)

- Wiley also have an App video: <http://bcove.me/po7g2g00>

Paul Hart  
Leicester 2015-05-12

Next deadline: 1st August 2015.

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As the Newsletter was going to press the Society received the sad news that Phil Hickley has died suddenly. As Editor I will miss his monthly updates of fish and fisheries conferences which provided a valuable service to the fish biology community.

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# Society medalists for 2015

## Beverton Medal

**This medal is awarded to a distinguished scientist for a lifelong contribution to all aspects of the study of fish biology and/or fisheries science, with a focus on ground-breaking research.**



For 2015 this medal has been awarded to Professor Ian Cowx, Director of the International Fisheries Institute at the University of Hull. Like all good fish ecologists, Ian did his first degree at the University of Liverpool! He moved to the University of Exeter to do his PhD before taking his first job with the Severn-Trent Water Authority where he remained until 1985. In that year he moved to Hull where he has been ever since. Over the years, Ian has had

numerous research contracts, many of them in far flung parts of the world. My impression when meeting Ian was that he always seemed to be just back from somewhere in Southeast Asia or Africa. Ian has been a prolific book and journal editor and is author of around 190 peer-reviewed papers. He was awarded the Fisheries Science Prize by the World Council of Fisheries Societies at the 6th World Fisheries Congress, held in Edinburgh in 2012. In his early career, Ian was also an international standard hockey player and represented Wales 110 times. Between 1987 and 1988 he was an assistant coach to the Great Britain men's hockey team, which won Olympic Gold.

## LeCren Medal

**The LeCren Medal, named in honour of David LeCren, a former Director of the Freshwater Biological Associations, Windermere Laboratory and the second recipient of the Beverton Medal is awarded to one or more individuals who have made a lifelong contribution to all aspects of the study of fish biology and/or fisheries science, with a focus on conservation, training or public understanding of the discipline.**



For 2015, the Society has awarded this medal to Professor Gordon Reid who was until recently Director Emeritus of the North of England Zoological Society and of Chester Zoo. Gordon is the author of 240 publications, has been President of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and of the Linnean Society, two very different organizations but both with an interest in natural history and conservation. Gordon did his first degree in Zoology with Psychology at the University of Wales, Cardiff but then went on to do a PhD at the Zoology Departments of Kings, Queen Elizabeth, Chelsea and University Colleges but working mainly in the fish section of the Natural History Museum. Two famous stalwarts ➤

◀ of fish biology, Normal Marshall and Humphrey Greenwood as examiners of Gordon's thesis, were motivated to record the excellent nature of his work.

## FSBI medal

**This medal is awarded to younger scientists who are deemed to have made exceptional advances in the study of fish biology and/or fisheries science in recognition of their achievements. Nominees must be under 40 years of age on 28 February of the year in which the medal is awarded.**

This year's FSBI medal goes to Dr Kathryn Elmer, who is based at the Institute of Biodiversity Animal Health and Comparative Medicine, University of Glasgow. The nominator for Kathryn wrote that 'she uses fish models to test a range of fundamental evolutionary



theories about the origins of biodiversity, by exploring the role of adaptive change in both phenotype and genotype. Working at the boundaries of integrative genomic, transcriptomic and ecological research, she has focused her highly creative and innovative approach on to adaptive radiations within single fish lineages'.

Kathryn did her PhD at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, a good place to start for someone who has ended up in Glasgow (Queen's has strong Scottish overtones and is a great place to start a research career). From Canada, Kathryn moved to Constanz, Germany where she worked as postdoc, Centre manager, NSERC postdoctoral fellow and Assistant professor.

Congratulations to all three. They will receive their medals at the FSBI Symposium in Plymouth, 27th – 31st July.

# Reaching the parts that others can't – who looks at the *Journal of Fish Biology*?

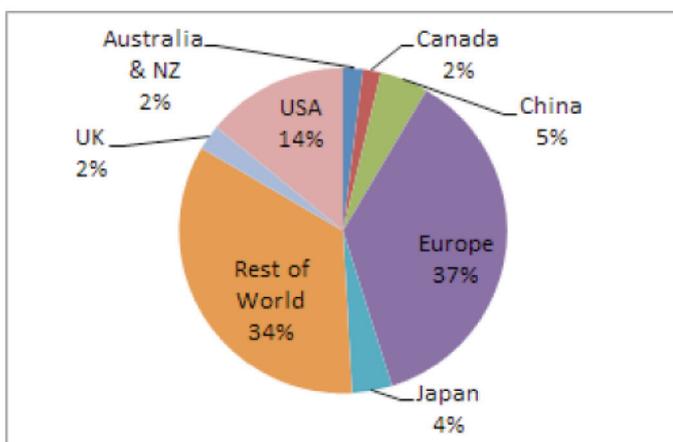
At the last Council meeting in April, Rosie Trice from Wiley presented her usual comprehensive report on the welfare of the *Journal of Fish Biology*. The long report included a

number of graphical presentations which are reproduced here. These show where the journal is read, how many papers are downloaded and how often people visit the

website. The pie charts show that the journal reaches a truly international audience.

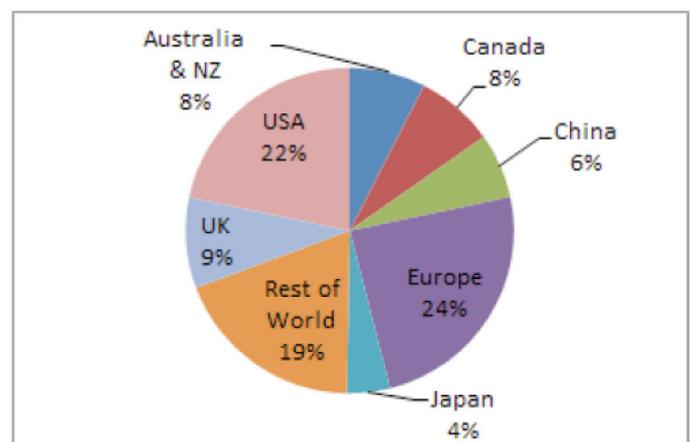
## Journal of Fish Biology

### 1. Global Reach: Institutional Sales by Region



In 2014, 4,521 institutions purchased access to the latest content in *Journal of Fish Biology* via either a traditional (title-by-title) subscription or a Wiley License. Our philanthropic initiatives extended low-cost or free access to 2,833 developing world institutions.

### 2. Global Readership: Article Downloads by Region



The global reach of *Journal of Fish Biology* is reflected in its readership, as evidenced by this chart showing the origin of full text downloads of your articles on Wiley Online Library in 2014.

# Rosemary Lowe-McConnell

24th June 1921 – 22nd December 2014



In 1998 the Society's summer symposium was focused on tropical fish biology and one of the stars of the meeting was Rosemary Lowe-McConnell. This was the first time I had met Rosemary and I remember that at the conference dinner at the end of the meal, instead of toasting Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth out of deference to all the non-British delegates, we drank a toast to our own Queen of the conference, none other than Rosemary. She took this in good part but by doing this I think that all those present and who worked on tropical fish biology recognised Rosemary as one of the pioneers of their discipline. The conference in Southampton was organised by George Turner and his wife Rosanna Robinson, who have been at the forefront of research on the Cichlids of Lake Malawi, Rosemary's first site for her African research.

Rosemary became the first female winner of the Beverton Medal in 2000 and perversely the topic of the summer symposium where the medal was presented to her was polar biology! This was in Cambridge and I remember that together with my wife and son we

drove Rosemary out one evening to a nearby village so that she could visit some friends.

As I said in the short piece about Ian Cowx, this year's Beverton Medallist, all good fish biologists did their first degree at the University of Liverpool and Rosemary was no exception. She was born in Liverpool but went to Howell's School in Denbigh, North Wales. This was an all-girls private school, which closed in 2013 as a result of financial problems. There is still a sister school, also called Howell's, that is located at Llandaff, Cardiff. After graduating from Liverpool, Rosemary worked for three years (1942-1945) at the Freshwater Biological Association. Once the Second World War ended Rosemary travelled out to what was then Nyasaland to work on Lake Nyasa, now Lake Malawi. She was funded by the UK Development and Welfare Fund and worked on the Cichlids of the lake. This was the first assignment in what became a long career working first on fish in African lakes and subsequently on the freshwater and marine fish of Guyana, South America.

As described by Bruton (1994), and also recounted in Rosemary's own autobiographical book *Land of Waters. Explorations in the Natural History of Guyana* (2000) Rosemary worked in Africa and in South America in conditions that most developed world ecologists would find both scary and unacceptable. For example she would set nets by swimming, she sampled lakes in Africa at night when the insects are murderous and the hippos (in Africa at least) are never far away and very dangerous. Ro also had to suffer the indignity afforded to all women in the 1950s of losing her job when she married the geologist

Richard McConnell. At that time, women employed by the British Civil Service were not allowed to be married and had to resign once they were. Despite this, Ro continued to work and produced a great range of work on the ecology of both freshwater and marine fish. Amongst other books she published *Ecological studies in tropical fish communities* in 1987, which is still in print and continues to be a valuable resource for those working on the topic.

The lives of most of us are very humdrum compared with the life led by Ro. She was adventurous, fearless, independent and a highly skilled researcher who contributed to fish biology of the tropics in a way, which has laid the foundations for a very great range of present day research. She will be missed.

Paul J B Hart  
Leicester  
12th May 2015

Reference.

Bruton, N. N. (1994) The life and work of Rosemary Lowe-McConnell: pioneer in tropical fish ecology. *Environmental Biology of Fishes*, 41, 67 – 80.



## European Workshop for PhD and Post-Doctoral fellows on *Salmo salar* & *Salmo trutta* Research

# 7th–10th April 2015, Galway, Ireland

The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway ([www.theardilaunhotel.ie](http://www.theardilaunhotel.ie))

## Report for financial partners

### The NoWPaS network

NoWPaS stands for International – formerly known as Nordic – workshop of PhD and post-doctoral researchers working on anadromous salmonids. The annual workshops aim to build and maintain an international network of young scientists working on migratory salmonids, such as Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). The workshops have helped facilitate the sharing and dissemination of salmonid science. They have also been instrumental in initiating new international collaborations, as well as in identifying novel and timely research topics for the coming years.

The first NoWPaS workshop was held in 2005 in Norway, and was followed by others in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, England, Scotland, France and Wales. Although it started out as an initiative for Nordic researchers, it quickly expanded to cover all of Europe and has now become

a global meeting, with Canadian and US early stage researchers regularly attending.

### The 2015 NoWPaS workshop

For the first time since its creation, we were excited to bring the 11th NoWPaS workshop to Ireland. The workshop was hosted by the National University of Ireland, Galway. The workshop was also based in Galway, located on the west coast of Ireland by the shores of Lough Corrib, known for its brown trout and salmon angling fishery. There is a long tradition of salmon fishing in Ireland, and salmon have a significant role in Irish culture and mythology. The decline of salmonids in Ireland and across their range has resulted in a significant amount of scientific research on these species in order to develop effective conservation strategies. Ireland is committed to continuing this research and developing relationships within

the scientific community.

This 2015 NoWPaS workshop comprised 18 PhD students/post-doctoral researchers and 4 invited speakers. The invited speakers were Ian Fleming (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Paul Kemp (University of Southampton), Dorte Bekkevold (Technical University of Denmark) and Philip McGinnity (University College Cork).

There were 6 delegate sessions: Habitat and Environment, Genetics and Molecular Biology, Behaviour and Physiology (two sessions) and Migration and Movement (also two sessions). Many of the presentations were related to the mitigation of anthropogenic migration barriers, highlighting this as a research area of current great importance. Once again, the workshop provided a platform for networking at an international level, not only with fellow early stage researchers, but also with world renowned keynotes.

The NoWPaS AGM was also held in Galway. It was decided ➤

◀ that the 2016 meeting would be held in Canada, hosted by the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Quebec. This is the first time the workshop will be held outside Europe; further confirmation that the network is now truly global.

The total budget for the 2015 workshop was £9,657.00.

## Acknowledgments

One of the main principles of this workshop is that it is free to attend for all participants (keynote speakers included). Transport costs are covered for the invited scientists and greatly subsidised for the majority of delegates. To our knowledge, no early stage researcher has ever been unable to attend a NoWPaS workshop due to financial constraints. This is something we are extremely proud of and this principle would not be possible without the generous support of all our sponsors,

shown below. NoWPaS 2015 has been made a possibility largely in thanks to the dedication of the organising committee who have contributed their time and efforts to ensuring the continuation and success of the workshop. However, the workshop would not be possible without the contributions of the delegates whose presence and support is the lifeblood of the network. Further thanks go to keynote speakers for their oral presentations and for giving up their time to participate and interact with the network.



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An International Society  
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Biologists**

Upcoming news on the website:  
<http://nowpas.eu/> and on [facebook](#)  
/NoWPaS

## Notices



**1st Call for Session Proposals  
Due 15th June 2015**

## 7th World Fisheries Congress

**Busan, South Korea  
23rd–27th May 2016**



With only 13 months until the 7th World Fisheries Congress takes place in Busan, South Korea, now is the time to submit Session abstract proposals. We are interested in a broad range of topics to appeal to a global

audience. Potential topics for Sessions include, but are not limited to:

### **Potential Sessions**

*(Instructions on submitting session abstracts will be available shortly.)*

### ◀ Session 1 Fisheries and Fish Biology

- 1a. New technologies in fisheries survey
- 1b. Early life history and recruitment dynamics
- 1c. Stock assessment methods: status and recent innovations
- 1d. Bycatch issue
- 1e. The biology, sustainability and ecosystem impacts of deepwater fisheries: challenges for management
- 1f. Unobserved fishing mortality
- 1g. Understanding and mitigating the impact of fishing on ecosystem functioning through coordinated ecosystem/food web modelling

### Session 2 Aquaculture

- With requested topics

### Session 3 Biotechnology

- 3a. Genetic mapping, manipulation and breeding of aquatic species
- 3b. Biotechnology of aquatic invertebrates
- 3c. Molecular interaction between fish pathogens and host aquatic animals
- 3d. Environmental adaptation and acclimation

- 3e. The science and use of genetic improvement programs in aquaculture

### Session 4 Post Harvest Science and Technology (Food sciences)

- 4a. Utilization, preservation and processing
- 4b. Human health and seafood
- 4c. Food safety, standards and traceability

### Session 5 Biodiversity and Management

- 5a. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable fisheries management
- 5b. Species/genetic diversity and conservation for fisheries
- 5c. Assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- 5d. Ecosystem and habitat assessment and management

### Session 6. Climate Hotspots

- 6a. Physical change & biological evidence from climate hotspots – fisheries and biodiversity
- 6b. Impacts on human activities in hotspots (fishing, aquaculture)
- 6c. Progress towards addressing adaptation challenges in hotspot regions

### Instructions on submitting session abstracts will be available shortly.

Session proposals should include:

1. Abstract of session topic.
2. Session organizers and moderators.
3. Proposed list of presentations and speakers.

We encourage session organizers to include a diverse group of presenters from around the globe, unless the topic is geographically limited. Diversity should include gender, ethnicity, age, etc.

Please send any questions regarding the 7th WFC Scientific Program to: Donna L. Parrish, Program Chair, [wfc2016program@wfc2016.or.kr](mailto:wfc2016program@wfc2016.or.kr)

## 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)

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

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