

# Editorial

## 1 | PART 1: FISH AND FISHERIES—PAST, PRESENT AND TIME FOR CHANGE

Paul J B Hart

In 1991, Tony Pitcher founded *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries* with the help of Chuck Hollingworth as managing editor and facilitated by Nigel Balmforth, then a commissioning editor at Chapman and Hall. This soon became well established and attracted a good selection of synthetic papers providing an outlet that was not so common at the time. Tony invited me to join him as co-editor in 1997, and shortly after this Chapman and Hall was bought by Elsevier, which was a very different company to work with. Being much larger and more bureaucratic, it soon became evident that neither of us could work in the new environment, and we resigned as editors.

Following this take-over of Chapman and Hall, Nigel Balmforth moved to Blackwell's Publishers based in Oxford, UK. In collaboration with myself and Tony, he put forward a case to the management of Blackwell's to publish a new journal to be called *Fish and Fisheries*. The title was intended to differentiate it from *Reviews* and we set out to publish "...major synoptic papers and syntheses or meta-analyses that lay out new approaches, re-examine existing findings, methods or theory and critically discuss papers and commentaries from diverse areas." We were not interested in straight reviews, which just summarized the literature on a topic without creating new insights. Thus, in 1999, *Fish and Fisheries* came into being with the same team of editors. The first issue appeared in March 2000 and seemed to fill a niche, and we have never been short of submissions. Initially, the journal was published quarterly, but in 2017, the issues were increased to six a year. It has consistently been either first or second of the fifty or so fisheries journals as assessed by the ISI impact factor.

Although Pitcher and Hart were the only handling editors, the group behind the journal at the start also included Gary Carvalho (now Emeritus Professor, Bangor University UK), John Leatherland (University of Guelph, Canada) and Daniel Pauly (University of British Columbia, Canada). In 2008, Gary Carvalho became a handling editor, tasked initially with the aim of increasing the number of papers that dealt with genetics and evolution. Since then, Gary has dealt with the full range of papers although still with a special interest in his area of research. Chuck Hollingworth, who had been instrumental in creating much of the manuscript preparation and handling details for the journal, died suddenly at the end of 2005, and his place was taken by Sue Hart.

Another buyout, this time of Blackwell's by Wiley, was less traumatic than the previous changes. Although a bigger company than Blackwell's, it still has the same ethos of working cooperatively with academics. Following a restructuring at Wiley, Nigel Balmforth left the company, which was a great loss to those of us who publish books and papers on fish. Nigel was a great promoter of fisheries and was a regular attendee at fisheries-based conferences. Tony Pitcher and I remain extremely grateful to him for his untiring work in promoting fish biology and fisheries.

In the early days of the journal, manuscripts were still submitted on paper and by post. As electronic means of communication developed we used a manuscript handling system developed by Simon Fraser University. Eventually Blackwell's and then Wiley forced us onto ScholarOne, which admittedly turned out to be a significant improvement on the SFU system.

In 2019, Tony decided that he no longer wished to handle manuscripts and became Editor Emeritus. Robert Arlinghaus was recruited as his replacement and joined the journal in late that same year.

So much for the history—Now a look to the future.

Earlier this year, I decided that now would be a good time for me also to stop handling papers and this will come into effect on 1 January 2022. Over the past two years, the number of submissions has risen considerably and the job has become more and more onerous for each handling editor. As a result, Wiley has agreed to the appointment of two people to replace me, and we are very pleased to welcome to the current team of Gary, Robert and Sue our two new handling editors based in Australia; namely, Professor Bronwyn Gillanders of Adelaide University and Dr Ingrid van Putten of CSIRO, Tasmania. I will not relinquish my contact with the journal entirely as I will continue to run the book reviews and to filter all the submissions to identify those that fit our Aims and Objectives.

We are very pleased to have recruited these two outstanding women to the editorial group. Those readers who take note of such things will also see that last year we revised the Editorial Board and this too is 50:50 male to female. In the future, it is hoped that the editorial board will become more engaged in the development of the journal. In its early years, the board was mainly passive, and this was the fault of myself and Tony approaching them only, when we needed extra help with reviewing.

The scientific publishing field is changing rapidly. Early editions of the journal were published on paper, whereas now it is largely electronic, and in the early years, social media had not developed to the degree it has now. Over the next few years, the new editorial

team will need to make greater use of social media to communicate more effectively with its readers and contributors. There is also the issue of open access, which is developing fast. This is already an option for the authors publishing in *Fish and Fisheries*, but it won't be long before most contributors will be required by their research funders to make their papers freely available to all. The benefit of a revamped editorial team with a younger average age should ensure that the new approaches to scientific publishing are developed vigorously.

We look forward now to the next 21 years, although there is a good chance that neither Tony nor I will be around then!

## 2 | PART 2: BEYOND THE HISTORY OF THE JOURNAL—IN RECOGNITION OF CO-EDITOR, PROFESSOR PAUL J B HART

Gary Carvalho and Robert Arlinghaus

In addition to the milestone described by Paul Hart in Part 1: “*Fish and Fisheries—Past, Present and Time for a Change*,” we—the fellow co-editors of *Fish and Fisheries*—could not miss the opportunity to acknowledge the considerable contributions made by Paul Hart across the years in the world of science, publishing and beyond, including of course for the journal *Fish and Fisheries*.

It is rare for a scientist to receive accolade both for their scholarly contributions, and for services to the wider community, especially via editorial leadership. As shown by the FSBI, Beverton medal in 2008 for ground-breaking research and lifelong contribution to the study of fish and fisheries science, Paul was an international leader, most notably in recognition for work on the foraging behaviour of fish and in management of marine commercial fisheries. Moreover, he has been a trustee of numerous bodies, including the Sir Alistair Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science, the Marine Biological Association (UK), and a member of the Advisory Board of Marine Scotland and was President of the Fisheries Society of the British Isles, all contributory factors in establishing a global network of scientists and policy advisers, a perfect baseline for attracting diverse Journal submissions.

Paul's long-term collaborations with Tony Pitcher were driven by a complementarity of interests and passion for science and for publishing that not only resulted in the classic textbook, *Fisheries Ecology* (Pitcher & Hart, 1982) but also led to co-founding of the two leading international review and synthesis journals in the field of fisheries of the last 20 years, *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries*, and *Fish and Fisheries*. It is no accident that both journals have led the way. They were characterized by state-of-the-art advances, clear editorial strategies and successful attraction of leaders with an interdisciplinary interest, thereby securing a quality and sustainable supply of authors and referees. It is indeed *Fish and Fisheries* that stands out with its distinctive features of synoptic overviews offering a conceptual, geographical and taxonomical breadth, beyond descriptive reviews, and Paul was instrumental in co-founding and directing the journal to its present-day status.

Such foresight was ahead of its time, with the increased focus in recent years, on generating a strong evidence base in fish and fisheries, derived from robust syntheses, meta-analyses and systematic reviews.

Of course, any successful journal depends heavily upon novel input and an engaged readership, both of which have been facilitated by the high international standing and profile of the initial duo, Tony Pitcher and Paul Hart. Paul has helped to shape the direction of advances and understanding in the field, not only through his leadership as Handling Editor but also through numerous multiple contributions such as the *Handbook of Fish Biology and Fisheries volume 1 and volume 2* (Hart & Reynolds, 2002a, 2002b). This is yet the another example on Paul's devotion for synthesis, to further advance the field of fish and fisheries science.

On a more personal level as authors and later as co-Editors of *Fish and Fisheries*, we have also witnessed first-hand the rigour that Paul has brought to the editorial business. With a sharp eye for brevity, he has more than one time helped our own papers to raise their standards, and of course we have also been rejected, more than once and rightly so. In addition, Paul has helped the younger co-editors in raising their standards during peer-review and as such has been a strong role model for many, including us. Paul's stewardship of *Fish and Fisheries* will facilitate an ongoing prominence in the years ahead, and we are reassured that he will continue his contribution through the initial sifting of submitted manuscripts. We look forward to continued interactions, the benefits of his wisdom and undoubted wider contributions, as well as welcoming new members to the Editorial team, Professor Bronwyn Gillanders of Adelaide University, Australia and Dr Ingrid van Putten of CSIRO, Tasmania, again Australia.

Thank you, Paul, for all you have done for our profession and for co-founding and directing *Fish and Fisheries*. We and many others continue to be inspired by you. We wish you all the best for the next productive phase of your life and be assured we will ask for your assistance still from time to time.

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