

# Global Fisheries History Network



<http://www.fimus.dk/GFHN/gfhn.htm>

**Newsletter**

**No. 1, June 2005**

## **A Welcome from the Editors**

It has taken a year to develop the Global Fisheries History Network (GFHN) from inspiration to publication. Finally, it is a pleasure for the editors to welcome you to this, the first newsletter of the GFHN.

Establishing any network requires commitment. Time and resources are clearly essential. But a network will only flourish if demand exists. The concept of a global network focusing on fisheries history met with a positive response from the beginning. Ideas and experience refined the concept and, in the normal way of things, led to the formation of the GFHN in its present form. The technical side proved more challenging.

There has probably never been a better time to establish a fisheries network, or indeed, to be a fisheries historian. The last decade has seen a significant interest in the subject from conference organizers and publishers. More importantly, the discipline has attracted new scholars, drawn to the richness of the subject and the integrity of the scholarship. The GFHN offers a forum for all those interested in the historical evolution of the world's fisheries. At the time of writing, we have yet to undertake a major promotion of the network. Nevertheless, we are already close to 50 members dealing with different aspects of fisheries history and look forward to welcoming new members in the future.

Our short-term focus has been bringing historians together to help refine the network's aims and objectives. To this end, the *Oceans Past* Conference (see below) incorporates several papers on global fisheries. While the conference offers an important opportunity for scholarly exchange, it will allow an international group of historians to consider the purposes, uses, and direction of the network. This is necessarily only the first step in an ongoing process of dialogue and debate, and we anticipate that future conferences and meetings would offer further opportunities to engage and reflect.

In the longer term, the principle question addressed has been what role the network might play in supporting publication. The intention is to publish the papers from the Kolding conference, although the format has not been decided. The establishment of a study-series or a similar line of publications, with an emphasis on comparative studies has been suggested. Given the experience of members of the network, we would welcome any suggestions.

Ultimately, scholarly networks must reflect the interests and ambitions of their membership, not their editors. Knowing your ingenuity and resourcefulness, we expect to be very busy in the near future following up your many suggestions. We would like to encourage you all to contribute to and enjoy the network so that we may all learn from each other.

Morten Karnøe Søndergaard  
Editor  
mks@fimus.dk

Chris Reid  
Co-editor  
chris.reid@port.ac.uk

## Forthcoming Conferences

*We are happy to publicise details of any conferences, workshops, and seminars that might be of interest to subscribers. Please pass on details to the editors.*

- *People and the Sea III: New Directions in Coastal and Maritime Studies*  
7-9 July 2005, Amsterdam (Netherlands)

MARE has announced its third biannual conference: *People and the Sea III*. The conference promises pertinent and informative discussions that will interest scholars from various disciplines including: sociology; anthropology; economics; marine policy; environmental studies; and policymakers. The conference will provide a forum for information exchange and for participants to examine a wide range of perspectives on contemporary maritime issues. The major themes of the conference are: Fisheries governance; Small-scale fisheries; Integrated Coastal Zone Development; Maritime Work Worlds; Maritime Risks and Vulnerability.

For further information see:

[http://www.marecentre.nl/people\\_and\\_the\\_sea\\_3/index.html](http://www.marecentre.nl/people_and_the_sea_3/index.html)

- *Early Human Impact on Mega Molluscs (EHIM) Workshop*  
26-28 September 2005, Isla de Margarita (Venezuela)

The *Early Human Impact on Mega Molluscs* workshop aims to assess our current knowledge on the interaction between human societies, the environment, and marine mega mollusc populations during the Holocene, in different regions of the world. The focus of the workshop will be responses of mollusc populations to prehistoric exploitation and environmental changes, as well as the diverse ways in which the interaction with these organisms shaped human cultures and societies. The target countries/regions, each associated with a case study, include: Japan, Australia, New Guinea, India, South Africa, Israel, Brazil, Chile, Panama, Venezuela, Canada, USA, Denmark, and Great Britain. The *History of Marine Animal Populations* (HMAP) provides the overarching framework for the workshop.

For further information contact:

Chairman, Dr Andrzej Antczak: [maantczak@usb.ve](mailto:maantczak@usb.ve)

Or Vice-Chairman, Dr Roberto Cipriani: [rcipri@usb.ve](mailto:rcipri@usb.ve)

- *Oceans Past – Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the History of Marine Animal Populations*

24-27 October 2005, Kolding (Denmark)

Sponsored by the *History of Marine Animal Populations* (HMAP) research initiative, *Oceans Past* invites researchers from the natural sciences and humanities to discuss how and why the diversity, distribution and abundance of marine life in the world's oceans changed over the long term. Discussions will focus on the role that humanity has played in this dynamic process. The conference will add greatly to what is known, what is unknown but discoverable, and what is unknowable about ocean life in the past. The conference will hear more than 75 papers covering almost every aspect of ocean life. If this prospect were not enough, *Oceans Past* will feature more papers on global fisheries presented by GFHN committee members.

For further info see the conference homepage:

<http://www.hmapcoml.org/Default.asp?ID=248>

- *Behaviour in Social Dilemmas: Toward Sustainable Fishery Systems – An Historical Perspective, 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the North Atlantic Fisheries History Association (NAFHA),*

5-8 December 2005, Lisbon (Portugal)

The conference will seek to provide historical perspectives on key issues arising from changing and declining fisheries and fishery industries in many countries of the North Atlantic. *NAFHA* welcomes papers that recognize the challenges of reconciling commercial exploitation of the seas and the sustainability of marine biodiversity. Other possible topics include:

1. Fisheries science (origins, nature, structure and practitioners)
2. Indices of sustainability (ecological, socio-economic and institutional)
3. Fishery conflicts and the co-management approach (use rights and management rights)
4. Consumer preference and the impact of developmental and management policies

*Proposals for paper or sessions of approximately five hundred words in length should be sent by e-mail to the organising team of Inês Amorim and Álvaro Garrido at rdd39453@mail.telepac.pt.*

- *2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on Whaling and History*  
*September 8th-10th, 2005 (Norway)*

The Whaling Museum in Sandefjord, Norway is host to the Second Symposium on Whaling and History in September this year. Eighteen speakers from seven countries will speak on the subject. The speakers represent a wide variety of fields and in many instances will present new material and analyses. The Whaling Museum in Sandefjord aims at being one of the major institutions presenting material connected to the history of whaling in a broad perspective. This has lead us to organize the conference around the following four themes:

1. People: The Whaling Man and his Family
2. The Economic Aspects of Whaling
3. The Environment: Ecology and Resource Management
4. Opposition to Whaling

Jan Erik Ringstad, curator at the museum is coordinator and responsible for the conference.

E-mail: [jan.erik.ringstad@sandefjord.kommune.no](mailto:jan.erik.ringstad@sandefjord.kommune.no)

Phone: (+47) 33 48 46 51

- *IIFET 2006*

*11-14 July 2006, Portsmouth (UK)*

The biannual conference of the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET) will be held at the University of Portsmouth in 2006. The first call for papers will be issued late July 2005. The conference website is located at:

<http://oregonstate.edu/Dept/IIFET/iifet2006update.html>

### **Ongoing networks, etc.**

- *The North Atlantic Fisheries History Association (NAFHA)*

Inaugurated in 1995, *NAFHA* promotes research into the exploitation of the living marine resources of the North Atlantic from the Middle Ages to the present day, and the assessment of their significance to the countries bordering these seas. In pursuing this aim, *NAFHA* fosters international and interdisciplinary research by facilitating the exchange of researchers between participating institutions, and by organizing regular seminars and conferences, meeting next in Lisbon in December 2005. The results of these enquiries are published in various forms, but foremost in the *Studia Atlantica* series. The current president of *NAFHA* is Jón Th. Thor at the Icelandic Centre for Fisheries History Research.

### *Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning (MarBEF)*

*MarBEF* is a network of excellence funded by the European Union and consisting of 56 European marine institutes. It functions as a platform to integrate and disseminate expertise and knowledge on marine biodiversity, with links to researchers, industry, stakeholders, and the general public. *MarBEF's* scientific objectives are:

- to understand how marine biodiversity varies across spatial and temporal scales, and between levels of biological organization, in order to develop methods to detect significant change;

- to generate theory, models and tests of the relationship between marine biodiversity (assessed at different levels of organization: genetic, traditional species, and functional groups) and ecosystem function through the integration of theoretical and modelling exercises, comparative analyses, and carefully-designed experimental tests;
- to understand the economic, social and cultural value of marine biodiversity and hence develop the research base required to support the sustainable management of marine biodiversity including, for example, the monitoring of the health of marine ecosystems, the management of aquaculture, the conservation of marine biodiversity, the history of marine resource exploitation, and the leisure use of marine ecosystems.

More info on the network can be found at: [www.marbef.org](http://www.marbef.org)

- *Centre for Maritime Research (MARE)*

*MARE* is in an interdisciplinary social-science institute studying the use and management of marine resources. The Universiteit van Amsterdam (Amsterdam Institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies and the Amsterdam School for Social Science Research) and *SISWO* (Netherlands Institute for Social Science Research) established *MARE* in 2000. In 2001 Wageningen University also became a partner. *MARE* organizes international courses, conferences, and seminars on specific maritime topics (see details of *People and the Sea III* above). Besides pursuing its own research objectives, it carries out projects for other parties. *MARE* also publishes a specialized social-science journal called *Maritime Studies (MAST)*, which is the successor to *Maritime Anthropological Studies*.

More info on the network can be found at: <http://www.marecentre.nl/>

- *The History of Marine Animal Populations (HMAP)*

*HMAP* is an interdisciplinary (prehistoric archaeology, history, ecology, and paleoecology) research program that uses historical and environmental archives to

examine the changes in marine communities over the past centuries. The goals of *HMAP* are:

- to examine the ecological impacts of large-scale harvesting, long-term changes in stock abundance
- to examine the role of marine resources in the development of human societies.

*HMAP* forms the historical component of the *Census of Marine Life* program. It aims to enhance knowledge and understanding of how and why the diversity, distribution and abundance of marine life in the world's oceans change over the long term. To achieve this aim, *HMAP* engages in the following three forms of activity.

1. Institutional Development: to co-ordinate the project, *HMAP* is developing institutional bases at the universities of Southern Denmark, Hull and New Hampshire.
2. Discipline Building: to further the sub-discipline of marine environmental history, *HMAP* organizes graduate summer schools and workshops.
3. Research: *HMAP* sponsors teams of historians, archaeologists, marine ecologists, biologists and fisheries scientists to analyse historical and environmental data relating to the exploitation by humans of marine animal populations over the last 2000 years. This research effort is currently focused on the following regional projects: North East Atlantic; World Whaling; Caribbean Sea; White and Barents Seas; South East Australian Shelf and Slope; Newfoundland & Grand Banks; Gulf of Maine; South West African Shelf.

More info on the network can be found at: <http://www.hmapcoml.org/>

- *Centre for Maritime and Regional Studies (CMRS)*

*CMRS* was established in 1994. It is a partnership of the University of Southern Denmark and the Fisheries and Maritime Museum, Esbjerg. *CMRS* studies the interaction of humans and the sea through time. *CMRS* staff are historians, archaeologists, ethnologists, and social anthropologists and the Centre supports research and graduate studies. The centre mainly focuses on European

studies but work with partners all over the globe to develop a comparative framework for research. The main fields of research are:

- maritime studies: human utilization of the sea as a resource and highway of transportation;
- regional development: social and economic activity in a geographic space;
- marine environment: the interaction of human society and marine environment;
- tourism and Cultural Heritage: the conservation and utilization of coastal and marine resources.

More info on *CMRS* can be found at: [www.cmrs.dk](http://www.cmrs.dk)

### **General news**

- On 3 December 2004, Jon Thor, President of NAFHA, signed an agreement with Lars U. Scholl, Director of the German Maritime Museum, by which the museum agreed to publish Volume One of the history of the north Atlantic fisheries as a volume in the museum's German Maritime Studies series. This volume of the history will deal only with traditional fisheries; a companion volume on industrial fisheries will follow at a later date.
- The most recent NAFHA conference took place in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada between 1-3 September 2004, Selected papers from the conference, which addressed the theme of *Production and Consumption of Fish and Marine Products since the Twelfth Century* will be published in the NAFHA journal *Studia Atlantica*, with publication scheduled for the end of 2005.
- In the beginning of May 2005 an international conference entitled "The Governance of High Seas Fisheries and the UN Fish Agreement - Moving from Words to Action" was held in St. John's. For the text of the conference report, see:

[http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/focus/index\\_e.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/focus/index_e.htm)

## Publishing News

*The editors would welcome any news on forthcoming books, journal articles, reports, and other information that would be of interest to fisheries historians.*

- The Maritime Museum of Ilhavo, Portugal, has recently published a Portuguese version of Alan Villiers's maritime classic *The Quest of the Schooner Argus*, describing a voyage of one of the finest schooners in the Portuguese cod-fishing fleet. *A Campanha do Argus Uma Viagem na Pesca do Bacalhau* has been edited by Álvaro Garrido, director of the Maritime Museum of Ilhavo, and further details can be obtained from the museums website:

[www.museumaritimo-cm-ilhavo.pt](http://www.museumaritimo-cm-ilhavo.pt)

- *Bridging Troubled Waters Conflict and Co-operation in the North Sea Region since 1550*, edited by David J. Starkey and Morten Hahn-Pedersen, presents papers from the Seventh North Sea History Conference, held in Dunkirk during 2002. In common with earlier proceedings of this Conference, this volume features several papers dealing with aspects of the North Sea Fisheries. Published by the Fisheries and Maritime Museum in Esbjerg, Denmark, in May 2005, further information on the volume may be obtained from:

<http://www.fimus.dk/books.html>

- In 2004 the German Maritime Museum published Ingo Heidbrink's book on the German high seas fisheries, *Deutschlands Einzige Kolonie Ist Das Meer*. Written in German with an extensive English summary, the book focuses on the German fisheries and offers a considered reflection on many of their present day problems. More information can be found at the German Maritime Museums homepage:

<http://www.dsm.de/2pubs.htm>