

# Global Fisheries History Network



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

**Newsletter**  
**No. 1, February 2007**

## Editorial

A recent issue of *Fishing News International* reported that three Spanish trawlers were arrested in the Norwegian Svalbard Zone for illegal fishing activities. The Vigo-based pair trawler operator *Transpesca* was fined a total of €1.9 million for offences including under-reporting 650 tonnes of cod and over-reporting 150 tonnes of haddock, plaice, catfish, and other species. The same issue reported how the Cambodian-registered long-liner *Taruman* was boarded in Australian waters on suspicion of illegal fishing activities, after which she was found to be carrying 143 tonnes of illegal Patagonian toothfish.

Both cases are far from unique. A quick reading of most trade journals reveals that behaviour ranging from bending to outright breaking of the rules is a regular part of the fishing business. Perhaps the only certainties in life are death, taxes, and overfishing? What is certain is that no one has yet discovered the 'silver bullet' to permanently resolve the fisheries dilemma, excluding the inexpedient advice to stop digging a deeper hole. The good news is that people continue to look for solutions, both internationally and locally, theoretically and practically, and in doing so establish communities for exchanging ideas and experiences. Much has, and is, being achieved. Unfortunately, good news is usually no news, and we should not expect uplifting newspaper editorial any time soon.

The GFHN is a relatively new resource serving the community with a shared interest in developing historical perspectives on the exploitation and uses of fisheries resources. In doing so, it aims to embrace all varieties of historical interpretation and method (including ahistoricism), and incorporate the entire range of regions and historical periods. This newsletter offers some details of conferences and publications of interest that we hope will prove useful to members. We are, unfortunately, unable to confirm certain details of the Network's progress at present, but we look forward to being able to do so for the next newsletter in May.

As in preceding editorials, we encourage you all to share your thoughts with the GFHN, possibly by contributing information for the newsletter or reviews of "classics" for the

website, or simply thoughts on fisheries history more generally. We are always happy to hear from you and help develop the community.

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## **North Atlantic Fisheries History (NAFHA)**

### **Call for papers: Fisheries, science and regulations in the North Atlantic in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Bergen, Norway 19-21 September 2007**

(see preliminary program below)

Proposals for papers should be submitted by March 15<sup>th</sup>, and should include:

- Title of the proposed paper
- Type of paper (to what session)
- Summary (max. 500 words)
- Short CV of the author
- E-mail and postal address

The presentation of each paper is restricted to 25 min. (15 min for the young researcher). Proposals will be evaluated by the Bergen group (Museum Vest and the Department of History, University of Bergen) and representatives of the NAFHA-Steering Committee. Conference language will be English. Selected papers will be published after the conference in the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Studia Atlantica*.

For further information email:

Arstein.Svihus@hi.uib.no or Bjorn@museumvest.no

### **Preliminary program**

Tuesday September 18<sup>th</sup>

19.00 – 21:00: Opening reception at Hotel Admiral (or reception at Knut Fægri's hus, University of Bergen?)

Wednesday September 19<sup>th</sup>

09:00 – 09:30: Opening

09:30 – 12:00: Session 1: Schools of scientific marine research in the early phase

12:00 – 13:00: Lunch.

13:00 – 15:00: Session 1 continues: Scientific marine research in the post war era.

15:00 – 17:00: A visit to Institute of Marine Research

19:30: Dinner

Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup>

09:00 – 12:00: Session 2: Science and the regulation of the fisheries after 1970.

12:00 – 13:00: Lunch

13:00 – 15:00: Bus trip to Øygarden?

15:00 – 17:00: Young researcher's session

17:30 – 19:00: Boat trip back to Bergen

20:00 – NAFHA-dinner (conference dinner).

Friday September 21<sup>st</sup>

09:00 – 11:00: Session 3: Open session.

11:00 – 12:30: Bergen as a staple port in European fish trade. Combined excursion and lecture in the elder part of the city

12:30 – 14:00: Lunch at the Hanseatic assembly hall called "Schøtstuene".

14:00 – 1600: Closing session.

### **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*

### **MARE conference People and the Sea IV: Who Owns the Coast**

**Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

**5 – 7 July 2007**

The Centre for Maritime Research (MARE) announces People and the Sea IV: Who Owns the Coast? As coastal populations and economies expand and the use of marine and coastal resources intensifies, governance has become an issue of key concern.

In the past decades, international gatherings have recognized space (such as the Law of the Sea) set new policy agendas (such as for integrated coastal zone management) and acted to protect key resources (such as by establishing marine parks and Ramsar sites). This has altered the ownership and the distribution of rights to resources at local and national levels. Who wins and loses as regimes of resources allocation shift? How can competing claims and objectives be recognized and balanced in governance? Such questions are addressed in four conference themes: 1. Governance 2. Space & Ownership 3. Culture & Work Worlds 4. Innovation in Research Approaches

Keynote addresses will be delivered by:

- Daniel W. Bromley, Anderson-Bascom Professor of Applied Economics of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Bonnie J. McCay, Professor in the Department of Human Ecology, Rutgers University.
- Yoshiaki Matsuda, Professor in the Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University.

Full program can be seen at:

<http://www.marecentre.nl/>

## **General News**

- In Denmark, the *Galathea 3* project (See earlier GFHN Newsletters) has now made it's way more than halfway around the world. The expedition is currently sailing off the coast of South America heading for Galapagos. Several "breaking news" findings have already been made by the expedition. One of the latest being the discovery of a new fish species in the arctic deep sea. Details on the project, research findings and latest news can be found at: <http://www.galathea3.dk/uk>
- International summer school 2007. *The Mediterranean Sea, Archaeology Naval and Maritime History; Ancient Times, Middle Ages and Modern Times (XVI-XIX centuries); the Emilia Romagna region (Comune di Cattolica).*

The aim of the course is to focus on the cultural interaction and the technological exchanges among the different Mediterranean areas. Some lessons will specifically touch on shipbuilding, profiled under the title of the historical evolution of naval construction systems, navigation techniques and shipping types in the Mediterranean from its origins to the XIX century, with an in-depth study regarding research methodology, the study of their origins, the safeguarding aspect at international level. Particular attention will be given to the smaller ships used for coastal navigation and fishing (XVI-XIX centuries) comparing the pilot-experience of lagoon seafaring in the areas of: Provence, Catalonia, the Padano and Venetian areas and the Greek islands. Fee 200 Euro.

Further information: Lecturer in charge: prof. Maria Lucia De Nicolò Facoltà di Conservazione dei Beni Culturali, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna (sede di Ravenna), Dipartimento di Storie e metodi per la conservazione dei BB. CC., via Ariani 1, 48100 Ravenna, Tel. 39 0544 936766, e-mail: [luciunibo@libero.it](mailto:luciunibo@libero.it)

### **Research Degree Awards**

- In early 2007, Henry Chen, successfully defended his doctoral thesis: *Taiwanese Offshore (Distant Water) Fisheries in Southeast Asia, 1937-1977* at Murdoch University. The following is a brief description of the thesis:

The development of fisheries and the culture of fishers have never been regarded as important research topics in historical circles in Taiwan. With a view to addressing the significant lack of studies in this area, my research aims to trace the development of Taiwanese fisheries in Southeast Asia during the twentieth century. The study considers three main issues. First, it attempts to describe and analyse the development of Japanese colonial and post-war Taiwanese fishing policies, and to examine the positive initiatives and policies as well as certain negative ones, which the fishing authorities created. Second, it focuses upon the daily life of the fishers, and describes and analyses their individual and communal responses to major changes occurring in the offshore fishing industry in Southeast Asia. Finally, it examines the politics of the implementation of the 200-mile EEZ and its impact on the Taiwanese

fisheries in Southeast Asia. This is a social history that not only highlights Taiwanese fisheries development in Southeast Asia, but also attempt to recreate and understand the daily life and culture of Taiwanese fishers, a major occupational group that has been neglected by historians of Asia.

The thesis was supervised by Professor Jim Warren and Associate Professor Malcolm Tull.

### **Publishing news**

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

- In Canada a fairly a fairly recent article that describes the impact of American capitalism on the Nova Scotian fisheries in the early nineteenth century has been published. The reference is:

Brian Payne, "Fishing the North Atlantic Border Seas: American Capital in a New Environment, 1818-1854," *Acadiensis*, Vol. 35, No. 1 (Autumn 2005), pp. 113-131.

There has also been a relatively new book on Canada's Atlantic seal hunt. It is essential reading for an understanding of the seal hunt protest movement. The reference is:

Donald Barry, *Icy Battleground: Canada, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and the Seal Hunt* (St. John's: Breakwater, 2005).

- In Portugal Álvaro Garrido from the University of Coimbra has recently published a book on the Portuguese Fisheries, entitled: *Economy and Politics of the Portuguese Fisheries. Science, Law and Diplomacy on the cod fisheries (1945-1974)* the following is an abstract of the book:

This book sets out to examine the impact of the changes in Portugal's fisheries in the second half of the 20th century, with particular reference to the Northwest Atlantic cod fisheries between 1945 and 1974, respectively the creation of the ICNAF and the Portuguese Democratic Revolution. Science, Law and Diplomacy are the three prongs of this work. Focusing on the Portuguese angle, and making use of a huge range of sources, this article is about the rise and fall of the Portuguese cod fishing industry in an international context.

The analysis is multidisciplinary in perspective: economic and social history, "diplomatic history" and the history of science are its foundations. Political and trading relations with Canada and Denmark play an important part in identifying the Portuguese Government's adaptation strategies and the fishing entrepreneurs involved in the main external changes in the '50s and '60s: the first signs of scarcity of resources, the First and Second United Nations Conferences on the Law of the Sea, the issue of extending the limits of territorial waters and the setting up of multilateral bodies for managing the Northwest Atlantic fisheries (ICNAF, 1948). The way in which the Corporate Organization for Portuguese Fishing - the institutional framework established by the Salazar dictatorship in the 1930s - received the external discussions on the problem of overfishing and dealt with the threats, embarking on unheard of initiatives in external cooperation vis-à-vis intergovernmental organizations for the management of fisheries, are questions that are fundamental to this work.

In this, as in other domains of post-war Salazarist foreign policy, involvement in supranational organizations was a "necessary evil" that ended up by creating isolated areas of cooperation and openness to the advances of marine science. The most surprising conclusion of this article is probably this: even under a dictatorship, and one that favoured a "historicist diplomacy", Portugal succumbed to the principles and practices of multilateralism in order to defend its interests in the deep-sea cod fisheries of Newfoundland, Labrador and Greenland.

More information: Contact author Álvaro Garrido at: [agarrido@fe.uc.pt](mailto:agarrido@fe.uc.pt)

- The most recent edition of the International Journal of Maritime History (18(2), December 2006) has several articles that will interest GFHN members:

Ana I. Sinde Cantorna and Isabel Diéguez Castrillón, 'Cooperation vs. vertical integration in Galicia's distant-water fishing industry, 1900-1950'

Adam Wolfe, 'Australian whaling ambitions and Antarctica'.

Sally R. May, 'Australia's Antarctic (Southern Ocean) fisheries: a case study of the development of trans-national capitalism'.

This issue also contains several excellent reviews of recent monographs and collections, including: Brian Fagen's *Fish on Friday*; Ian B. Hart's *Whaling in the Falklands Islands Dependencies 1904-1931*; and David J. Starkey and James E. Candow (eds.) *The North Atlantic Fisheries: Supply, Marketing and Consumption, 1560-1990*.