

DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

As scientists, we often like to believe the science we do is objective. But we are also people. We are all subject to the same cultural and social systems that create bias, conscious and unconscious, as everyone else. These can influence our expectations of other scientists and they can seep into our research - the questions we ask, the way we view information - whether we realize it or not. At the Oceans Past V Conference in Tallinn, Estonia, in May 2015, I was inspired by a talk **Kathleen Schwerdtner Máñez** gave on her work exploring the role of women in fisheries, and how our own internal biases can impact how we view and appreciate fishing communities, and what work is valued therein. This month, we are pleased to highlight related research. We strongly encourage future contributions that expand our understanding of human communities through time by looking beyond conventional resources and perspectives.



Emily S. Klein, Southwest Fisheries Science Center & The Farallon Institute, USA

OPN Editor

OCEANS PAST SPOTLIGHT

Each issue of Oceans Past News will include a feature article to highlight research happening in our community, as either an **Oceans Past Spotlight** or as **10 Questions**, which will pose the same 10 questions to different leaders in our field. If you would like to be considered for either, or to nominate a colleague or mentee, please contact Emily Klein at emily.klein04@gmail.com.



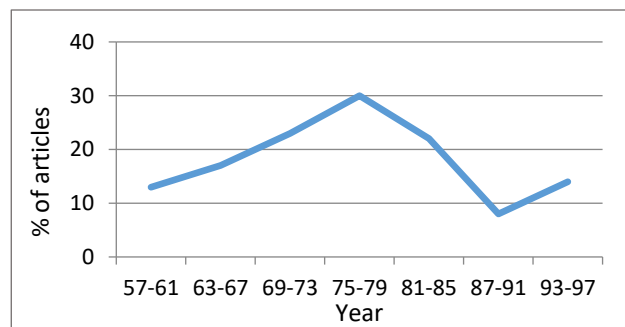
Andrea Gaynor, with Jodi Frawley and Kathleen Schwerdtner Máñez: Newspapers, gender, and recreational fishing in Australia.

Newspaper columns are a complex source of evidence for cultural dynamics. Their style and content is shaped by the columnist's background and perspective, as well as broader media trends and imperatives. Our project used cultural history techniques to examine how gendered representations of recreational fishing in a newspaper column changed over time, and what the mediated text of the column is nevertheless able to reveal about women's changing participation in recreational fishing.

We started with a fishing column from Perth, Australia's *Sunday Times*. We analyzed this column from 1957 to 2000 to determine what percentage of articles contained references to women or girls. The results were charted (see figure), and we set out to explain the trends with reference to the article content and broader historical context.

In the 1950s and '60s, the column was written with male readers in mind. When women did appear, it was to highlight the masculine characteristics of the ideal (male) recreational fisher. Despite this, our work revealed women were active recreational fishers, who fished with their families and friends, and participated in competitions.

The proportion of articles mentioning women increased in the 1970s and 80s, in part due to the greater reporting of competition results, as well as an increasing emphasis on recreational fishing as a family activity. We linked this to the newspaper’s involvement in running fishing competitions, as well as the organization of recreational fishers to form a peak body with an interest in expanding their constituency for both education purposes and political clout. In this period, we did find some representations of women fishing alone, though cooperative fishing cooperatively with husbands remained a dominant activity.



Percentage of articles mentioning female fishers, Sunday Times fishing column, Perth, 1957-1997.

The mid-1980s to late 1990s saw column content influenced by the new author of the column – a sports writer - as well as increasing restrictions on recreational fishing, and a related anti-feminist backlash. During this time, the column became very macho and women virtually disappeared. When they were mentioned, their skills and roles were portrayed as subordinate to men’s, though even these representations still show that women remained active as competitive and bread-and-butter fishers in this era.

From 1998, two tackle shop proprietors took over the column’s authorship. These men came into contact with a diverse range of fishers and had an interest in recognizing and encouraging women’s fishing as a potential market growth area. In 1999, one third of the column articles referred to women, an unprecedented proportion that approximated actual participation as revealed by a national survey conducted at the time. The column also showed women and girls participating in a wider range of fishing activities.



The newspaper column reflected, and in turn likely shaped, gendered cultures of fishing over time. Our research showed how the gendered reporting of recreational fishing was influenced by factors intrinsic to the newspaper as well as the broader social context. We also concluded that newspapers are a valuable source for exploring both gendered cultures of recreational fishing and women’s participation in fishing activities. However, they need to be interpreted with careful attention to both content and context.

Related publication: Andrea Gaynor, Jodi Frawley & Kathleen Schwerdtner Máñez. 2016.

“Slim female records the same old story’: Newspapers, gender, and recreational fishing in Australia, 1957-2000.” Geoforum, vol.77, p.114-123. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S001671851630241X>.

FAREWELL

Peter Edward Pope. Born in Montreal on September 15, 1946, died at dawn on April 4, 2017, with his loving family by his side in St. John’s. Peter was an outstanding scholar of the history and archaeology of Newfoundland. His eminent book *Fish into Wine* (2004) is a corner stone in our understanding not just of Newfoundland and Grand Banks fisheries but of the wider social and cultural history of early-modern fisheries and fishing people. He was a director of the Newfoundland Archeological Heritage Outreach Program and member of the Royal Society of Canada. Peter conducted field studies all along maritime Canada and documented his findings in many publications and reports that will be his long-lived legacy to local communities as well as to the international research community. Peter will be remembered for his passion for knowledge, his whacky sense of humour, and his earnest love of a good story. Peter was a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Oceans Past VI conference to be held in Sesimbra in May this year. He will be sorely missed.



~ Poul Holm

RESEARCH NEWS

Long-term perspective reveals ecosystem changes in the Mediterranean: It is often difficult to ascertain system-wide changes in marine ecosystems using only recent and conventional sources of data. In the Mediterranean Sea, structured and standardized monitoring programs of marine resources are relatively recent developments, so other sources are needed to identify changes in marine communities. **Tomaso Fortibuoni and colleagues** employed seven decades (1945–2014) of landings statistics for the Northern Adriatic Sea (Mediterranean), along with a suite of ecological indicators (e.g., trophodynamic and size-based indicators) and large-scale ecosystem drivers (i.e., fishing capacity, nutrient loads and climate change) to uncover impacts on ecosystem structure due to both changing fishing practices and system productivity. Their results denote evidence of a regime shift, and imply the need for drastic interventions that go beyond fisheries management and include regulation of nutrient release for recovery. The work highlights that together landings and applied indicators can shed light on the long-term dynamics of marine communities, demonstrating the value of historical frameworks in supporting marine resource management. *Related publication:* T. Fortibuoni, O. Giovanardi, F. Pranovi, S. Raicevich, C. Solidoro & S. Libralato. 2017. **Analysis of Long-Term Changes in a Mediterranean Marine Ecosystem Based on Fishery Landings**. *Frontiers in Marine Science*: 4(33). <http://bit.ly/2p09uNs>.

Combining marine environmental history and phenology to understand extreme climate events: Global warming has increased the frequency of extreme climate events, yet responses of biological and human communities are poorly understood, particularly for aquatic ecosystems and fisheries. **Karen Alexander and co-authors** consider the 1815 eruption of the Indonesian volcano Tambora and its impact on Gulf of Maine (GoM) fisheries. Applying complex adaptive systems theory with historical methods, they analyzed fish export data and contemporary climate records to disclose human and piscine responses to Tambora's extreme weather at different spatial and temporal scales while also considering sociopolitical influences. Results identified a tipping point in GoM fisheries induced by concatenating social and biological responses to extreme weather. Critically, the resulting shift from riparian to marine fisheries persisted and expanded after temperatures moderated and species recovered. These authors conclude that contingent human adaptations to extraordinary weather permanently altered this complex system. Understanding how adaptive responses to extreme events can trigger unintended consequences may advance long-term planning for resilience in an uncertain future. *Related publication:* K. E. Alexander, W. B. Leavenworth, T. V. Willis, C. Hall, S. Mattocks, S. M. Bittner, E. S. Klein, M. Staudinger, A. Bryan, J. Rosset, B. H. Carr, A. Jordaan (2017). **Tambora and the mackerel year: Phenology and fisheries during an extreme climate event**. *Science Advances*: 3(1). <http://bit.ly/2p5Ynlu>.

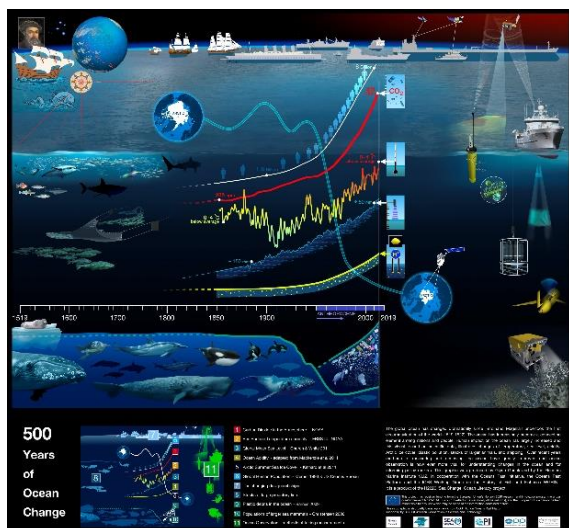


"Weir Stretching from Shore", Poppy Balse: www.poppybalse.com

Historical connections between early marine science research and dissemination: the case study of aquarium Vasco Da Gama (Portugal): In the late 19th century, there was a bloom of public aquariums throughout Europe. Some of them were built for entertainment purposes, whereas others were connected to marine science stations. **Bruno Pinto** explored the origins and development of the aquarium/marine research station Vasco da Gama (Portugal) as an example of this duality. Created in 1898 by the Portuguese Society of Geography in a political context of national affirmation, the aquarium was at first a deficient establishment. The Navy took it over in the early 1900s, eventually delivering its management to the Portuguese Society of Natural Sciences. After improvements and modifications, it became one of the first marine biological stations in 1919, which was critical for the development of national marine science research at a time when resources were scarce. Despite a symbiotic relationship between

research and education for many years, the aquarium and marine station split in 1950. This research also engages further themes, including connections to national and international institutions. *Related publication: Bruno Pinto (2017). Historical connections between early marine science research and dissemination: the case study of aquarium Vasco Da Gama (Portugal) from late 19th century to mid-20th century.* ICES Journal of Marine Science. <http://bit.ly/2nLxC5i>

COLLABORATIONS



500 years of Ocean Change: The global ocean has changed dramatically since Ferdinand Magellan first circumnavigated the world (1519-1522). Increasingly, it has become a connecting element among nations and people. As human impacts have intensified, ocean observation is now an important tool in managing its waters. Artist **Glynn Gorick** and the **Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)**, in cooperation with the **Oceans Past Initiative**, have developed a visual (at left), based on scientific data, that shows how the ocean has evolved in terms of temperature, acidity, sea-level, ice-cover, plastic pollution, shipping, stocks of larger animals, etc., over the past 500 years. It also displays some of the efforts in ocean observation, and is a product of the H2020 ‘Sea Change’ project. See and download the graphic at <http://seachangeproject.eu/ocean500yr>.

International network to raise awareness of cultural ocean heritage: Launched in 2016, the UNESCO Chair, “**The Ocean’s Cultural Heritage**” at the University of Lisbon, is supported by a transatlantic network from Europe to Africa and America, including Cabo Verde University and the Institute of Heritage and Culture (Cape Verde), Cadiz University (Spain), Campinas University (Brazil), University del Norte (Colombia), Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), Cascais and Angra do Heroísmo Municipalities (Portugal), Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO (Portugal), General Directorate of Cultural Heritage (Portugal), the Maritime Sciences Association and the Azores Ocean Observatory (Portugal). The network is led by **João Paulo Oliveira e Costa** from the **Portuguese Centre for Global History (CHAM)**. Striving to raise institutional, academic and public awareness of ocean heritage, research developed by this network focuses on oceanic history, cultures, societies, and management. www.cham.fcsh.unl.pt/ext/catedra.

RESOURCES & UPCOMING EVENTS

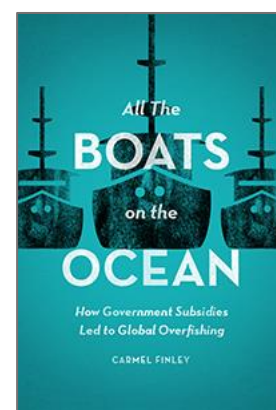
A network of global resources: The **Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS)**, part of UNESCO, aims to partner with scientific communities to build a global network that facilitates free and open access to biogeographic data. Those using and exploring historical and long-term resources are strongly encouraged to engage with OBIS, which provides a unique opportunity. If resources are used and cited, OBIS provides automatic citations (<http://www.iobis.org/library/>), and anyone looking to share data or use the free data available through OBIS is entitled to become a “partner”, and may add the OBIS logo to their work. OBIS also offers training to project groups, institutions or other research groups about how to develop datasets, data tools and related materials. For queries about the opportunities available via OBIS, or about using OBIS data or tools, please contact John Nicholls, OBIS (UNESCO) Steering Group, at Johnnicholls1963@gmail.com via the OBIS website (<http://www.iobis.org/contact/>). For long-term data specifically, contact John or Cristina Brito, also on the website under “Historical Research”.

New website provides historical maps of the sea and coastline: Along with partners, the **Flanders Marine Institute** (VLIZ) has launched a new website that allows users to search, explore, download, and work with historical maps of the North Sea and its coastline. The resource can be used to develop digital output, which is freely available along with related metadata, and also includes images time-lapse movies, and explores the history of place names. It looks to engage scientists from a range of disciplines, as well as historical societies, heritage organizations, museums, coastal municipalities, educators, public administrators. For more: <http://www.vliz.be/hisgiskust/en>.

Oceans Past VI gears up for May: The sixth iteration of the Oceans Past conference, which takes place every two years, is slated for 15-19 May, 2017, in Sesimbra, Portugal. Under the theme “**Historical Perspectives on the Elements and Dynamics of Marine Socio-Ecological Systems**”, OPVI will include eleven sessions and three keynote talks from Simone Libralato & Tomaso Fortibuoni (*Ignore historical data and miss the boat: role of past information on quantitative analysis of marine resources*), Malcolm Tull (*Fighting for fish: an historical perspective on fish wars*) and Amélia Polónia (*Nurture” and the “Anthropocene”: new perceptions of the Oceans’ Past dynamics*). In addition, Alison MacDiarmid will lead a pre-conference training school, “Trans-disciplinary marine historical and ecological research – getting to grips with the big story of human interactions with the marine environment”. More information at <http://www.escolademar.pt/oceanspastvi/>.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

All the Boats on the Ocean: How government subsidies led to global overfishing. *Carmel Finley, Oregon State University.* In this transnational, interdisciplinary history, Carmel Finley explores how government subsidies propelled the expansion of fishing from a coastal, in-shore activity into a global industry. Looking across politics, economics, and biology, *All the Boats on the Ocean* casts a wide net to reveal how the subsidy-driven expansion of fisheries in the Pacific during the Cold War led to the growth of fisheries science and the creation of international fisheries management. Nevertheless, the seas are far from calm: in a world where this technologically advanced industry has enabled nations to colonize the oceans, fish literally have no place left to hide, and the future of the seas and their fish stocks is uncertain. <http://bit.ly/2oJSYRJ>.



Alexander, K. E., & W. B. Leavenworth, T. V. Willis, C. Hall, S. Mattocks, S. M. Bittner, E. S. Klein, M. Staudinger, A. Bryan, J. Rosset, B. H. Carr, & A. Jordaan (2017). **Tambora and the mackerel year: Phenology and fisheries during an extreme climate event.** *Science Advances*. doi: [10.1126/sciadv.1601635](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.1601635).

Fortibuoni, T., & O. Giovanardi, F. Pranovi, S. Raicevich, C. Solidoro, & S. Libralato (2017). **Analysis of long-term changes in a Mediterranean marine ecosystem based on fishery landings.** *Frontiers in Marine Science*. doi:[10.3389/fmars.2017.00033](https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2017.00033).

Jaziri, S., & F. Costantini, L. Rugiu, M. Abbiati, & O. Jarboui (2017). **Does historical harvesting affect colony size distribution and genetic diversity in *Corallium rubrum*? Evidences from the Southern Mediterranean commercial banks.** *Hydrobiologia* doi:[10.1007/s10750-016-2875-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10750-016-2875-7).

Meyer, K. S., & S. D. Brooke, A. K. Sweetman, M. Wolf, & C. M. Young (2017). **Invertebrate communities on historical shipwrecks in the western Atlantic: Relation to islands.** *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. doi: [10.3354/meps12058](https://doi.org/10.3354/meps12058).

Pinto, B. (2017). **Historical connections between early marine science research and dissemination: the case study of aquarium Vasco Da Gama (Portugal) from late 19th century to mid-20th century.** <http://bit.ly/2nLxC5i>.

Piroddi, C., M. Coll, C Liqueste, D. Macias, K. Greer, J. Buszowski, J. Steenbeek, R. Danovaro, & V. Christensen (2017). **Historical changes of the Mediterranean Sea ecosystem: modelling the role and impact of primary productivity and fisheries changes over time.** *Scientific Reports*. doi:10.1038/srep44491.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: EMPLOYMENT & ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Two PhD opportunities on the biological, economic and social values of fishing in Western Australia: Murdoch University is looking for two motivated PhD candidates to join a team working on a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project entitled “Golden Fish; evaluating and optimising the biological, social and economic returns of small-scale fisheries”. The project will investigate the social and economic values generated by recreational and commercial fishing for participants and local communities based on case-studies of two iconic estuarine fisheries in Western Australia, i.e. Blue Swimmer Crabs and Black Bream. We are seeking one candidate with training in fishery economics or fishery socio-economics and a second candidate with relevant background in biological/environmental/social science. Interested applicants should send their CV, along with a brief (max. 1 page) summary of their relevant qualifications and interest in the project, stating which area of the project they are interested in, and contact details of two academic referees, to Dr. James Tweedley (j.tweedley@murdoch.edu.au) ASAP (preferably by Friday 28th April 2017). The project will start in May 2017.

Summer Graduate Courses in Maritime History At Mystic Seaport, Munson Institute (USA), June 26 to August 4, 2017: The largest maritime museum in the US is offering a summer course on Maritime History, lectured by award winning scholars. The Munson Institute is a leading center for teaching maritime history in the United States, and its faculty includes top maritime historians. Students will be learning varied themes including sea life, ships, whaling, diplomacy, marine sciences, underwater archaeology and environment. Financial support is available. More information at www.mysticseaport.org/munson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: CONFERENCES

Call for posters (due 5 May 2017): The Bountiful Sea – Fish processing & consumption in Mediterranean antiquity. Ioannou Centre, University of Oxford, UK. 6-8 September 2017. Send proposals to Dimitra Mylona at dmylona@hotmail.com. <http://oxrep.classics.ox.ac.uk/pages/thebountifulsea/>

European Society for Oceanists 2017 Conference: **Experiencing Pacific Environments.** Munich, Germany. 29 June – 2 July 2017. <https://www.pacific-studies.net/conferences/public.php?confID=2>

III CHAM International Conference: **Oceans and Shores: People, Heritage and Environments.** Lisbon, Portugal, July 2017. http://www.cham.fcsh.unl.pt/ac_actividade.aspx?ActId=456.

The Bountiful Sea: Fish processing and consumption in Mediterranean antiquity. The Ioannou Centre, University of Oxford, 6-8 September 2017. <http://oxrep.classics.ox.ac.uk/pages/thebountifulsea/>

XIIth North Sea History Conference, Museum aan de Stroom (MAS), Antwerp. 6-8 September 2017. <http://www.mas.be/en/page/xiith-north-sea-history-conference>

Science delivery for sustainable use of the Baltic Sea living resources. Tallinn, Estonia. 17-19 October 2017. <http://www.bonus-inspire.org/symposium>.

Sustaining the Seas: Fish, Oceanic Space and the Politics of Caring. University of Sydney, Australia. 11-13 December 2017. *Conveners are particularly interested on historical perspectives; marine historical ecologists and environmental historians encouraged to send in abstracts.* Please send a 250-300 word abstract and affiliation details to kate.johnston@sydney.edu.au by 14 July 2017. <http://www.sustainablefishlab.org/sustaining-the-seas-conference/>

Call for **Expressions of Interest to Host the ESEH 2019 Conference:** <http://bit.ly/292kNhU>.

[CONTACT]

Oceans Past News is a quarterly newsletter that aspires to both unite and inform the worldwide community interested in historical perspectives of marine social-ecological systems by providing insight into the wide-ranging and excellent work being done and the resources available. If you would like to propose work for OPN in the future, please contact our editors, **Emily Klein** (emily.klein04@gmail.com) or **Cristina Brito** (escolademar@gmail.com).

The next Oceans Past News will be mid-July 2017. We warmly welcome submissions through June, 2017.

RESOURCES

The Oceans Past News Archive is now online at: <http://www.tcd.ie/history/opi/news.php>
Oceans Past Initiative: <http://www.tcd.ie/history/opi/>