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Summer on a salt marsh
(Westerschelde - the Netherlands)
Stijn Temmerman

Bulletin of the Estuarine & Coastal Sciences Association

ECSA Bulletin

N°69

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Instructions to Authors

The ECSA Bulletin is issued in JANUARY and JULY. Articles, reviews, notices of forthcoming meetings, news of personal and joint research projects, etc. are invited and should be sent to the Editor. Closing dates for submission of copy (news, articles, notices, reports, etc.) for the relevant numbers are 15 November and 15 May. These dates will be strictly adhered to in order to expedite publication. Articles must be submitted at least 5 weeks before these dates in order to be edited and revised in time for the next issue of the Bulletin; otherwise they may appear in a subsequent issue. Authors are encouraged to consult an earlier issue of the Bulletin and adhere to the style of the publication.

Suggested word limits are as follows: obituaries (1500 words); articles (3000/4000 words); reports on meetings (2000 words); reports on ECSA grants (1000 words); reviews (1500 words); letters to the Editor (500 words); abstracts (500 words). Authors are requested to submit their work electronically as Word for Windows documents (no other software is to be used). Figures and photographs must be sent as separate copies in JPEG format. Articles in the series "Estuaries in Focus" should present current and planned research on a specific site which will be introduced by text and photographs. The suggested format for these articles is as follows: (1) Site characteristics, (2) current research, (3) future developments. Papers for "Introducing institutions" should be fully illustrated with (as a minimum) a photograph of the building and people at work in the field and in the lab. They should emphasise the expertise of the organisation and give full details with address, telephone number, e-mail, website, etc. Authors are strongly encouraged to submit pictures that maybe used for the front cover of the ECSA bulletin. Please mention the author of every picture.

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GENESIS AND BIRTH OF A TRANSITIONAL ASSOCIATION

Mike Elliott suggested to the two founding fathers of the Association that, before they become too long in the tooth to remember the old days, they set down their memories in the *Bulletin* of that very early period when the Association was but a twinkle in their eyes. It was all nearly 50 years ago, but insofar as we can remember …..

The ECSA was inaugurated, originally as the *Estuarine and Brackish-water Biological Association (EBBA)* but soon (at its first AGM) to be renamed the *Estuarine and Brackish-water Sciences Association (EBSA)*, at a symposium (Barnes & Green, 1972) held at the Zoological Society of London on 13 October 1971. It did not, however, spring fully formed into being like Athena Greek goddess of wisdom. It had a three year gestation period centred around the Zoology Department of the University of Bristol and in brackish coastal lagoons, principally in Cornwall.

In April 1968, three very junior academics in that Department, Drs A.E. (Andrew) Dorey, C. (Colin) Little, and R.S.K. (Richard) Barnes began a study of The Swanpool at Falmouth, an oligohaline lagoon (see Barnes et al., 1971). This originated as a small estuary dammed – like many others in that area – by a post-glacial shingle bar, through which thereafter its now purely freshwater drained by percolation (as in the current nearby Loe Pool, *An Logh* in Cornish, once the estuary of the Cober). In 1826, however, an outlet tunnel was dug to the sea to lower its water level. This, probably inadvertently, was constructed at a level below HWS, so that although water level was indeed lowered and did flow out for most of the time, seawater could now enter during high spring tides, re-creating a markedly stratified brackish system (see Little et al., 1973).

Richard left Bristol in 1969 to join the newly formed CERL Marine Biological Laboratory on Southampton Water, but remained part of the Swanpool study team and retained his links with Bristol whilst also investigating other apparently similar – but percolation-fed – isolated brackish pools in Hampshire and elsewhere. It struck him very forcefully that these brackish systems appeared to fall between two stools [rather like certain apterygote insects in the huge (7 kg & 2400 pp) and otherwise comprehensive *Synopsis and Classification of Living Organisms* (McGraw-Hill, 1982): the authors of the section on insects did not consider the Diplura, Protura or Collembola to be insects and left them to be considered with the myriapods, whilst the authors of myriapod section clearly felt that they were insects and so didn't cover them either]. Thus brackish lagoons and equivalent stretches within estuaries were apparently too fresh (and supported too many animals clearly of freshwater ancestry) to be of interest to the *Marine Biological Association of the UK* at Plymouth and were too salty (with too many essentially marine species) to fall within the remit of the *Freshwater Biological Association* at Windermere. Consequently although such habitats were widespread and intrinsically very interesting from both a physiological and ecological perspective they were largely ignored (although see the admirable Emery, 1969). The remedy was obvious: they should be championed by their own parallel scientific body, a '*Brackish-water Biological Association*'; and so Richard, Colin and Andrew formed themselves into the nucleus of a committee to establish such

a body. A much larger degree of scientific credibility was given to the committee by the addition of two more senior and now sadly deceased and much missed colleagues: Ronald Bassindale, then a Senior Lecturer in the Bristol Zoology Department who had published from the 1930s onwards a large number of seminal papers on the Tees, Mersey and Severn Estuaries and on Lough Hyne, and Jim Green, then Reader in Zoology at Westfield College London, who in 1968 had published his very influential *The Biology of Estuarine Animals* (Sidgwick & Jackson), inspired largely by his many visits to the Gwendraeth Estuary.

This small Committee then sought support from colleagues, from the two much-older pre-existing aquatic Biological Associations and from the newly established *Institute for Marine Environmental Research* at Plymouth, with, it has to be said, rather mixed success (Richard still vividly remembers some of those discussions!). Every self-respecting (and successful!) scientific society needs a 'carrot' journal to offer at a discount to its members, and once it became clear that the Association would see the light of day a vital step forward was achieved when Richard entered into discussions with Roger Farrand, then Managing Director of Academic Press in London, for the production of a journal on behalf of such an Association. It transpired that Academic Press were planning soon to launch a new journal anyway under the title of *Coastal Marine Science* and under the editorship of Nick Fleming of the then *National Institute of Oceanography* at Godalming. The Press and Nick were persuaded explicitly to incorporate estuarine and other brackish waters into its declared sphere of interest, to change its name to *Estuarine and Coastal Marine Science*, to add an editor nominated by the proposed Association, and to make it available at a discount to its members. The journal was eventually launched under that title in 1973, with, appropriately, a paper on the hydrographical regime of the Swanpool (Dorey et al., 1973) in its first volume. Thirteen years and 22 volumes later, it was still publishing papers in the series (Little, 1986).

The timing of all this was probably fortunate: the end of the 1960s and start of the 1970s was a boom time for brackish-water biology. Not only had Jim's book been published in 1968, and Kenneth Emery's in 1969, but Bent Muus's *The Fauna of Danish Estuaries and Lagoons* (Andr. Fred. Høst) appeared in 1967, the English translation of the second revised edition of Adolf Remane and Carl Schlieper's classic *Die Biologie des Brackwassers* (Wiley Interscience) in 1971, and Wim Wolff's account of Dutch estuarine faunas in 1973. It was in such a climate that the launch of the new Association successfully took place, and the rest, as they say, is history, with Richard becoming the first Secretary of the Association, Colin its first Treasurer, and with Ernie Naylor the first Association-appointed editor of what later became *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*. One of life's little ironies might be evident in the above: in 19XX, a body originally founded because of particular interests in non-estuarine (i.e. lagoonal) brackish-waters dropped 'brackish-water' from its name, retaining only 'estuarine'!

C.L. & R.S.K.B

Avidesh Seenath | Department of Geography | Durham University | United Kingdom

ECSA57: A richly rewarding experience - perspectives from a PhD student

ECSA57 Overview

The recent ECSA57 in Perth, Western Australia (September 03-06, 2018), was jointly organised by the Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association (ECSA) and Elsevier, with a focus on the diverse threats and opportunities from changing estuaries, coasts, and shelf-systems. The conference theme was based on the premise that the shifting of the structure and functioning of estuaries and seas in response to multiple drivers across different scales (local to global), can present new opportunities alongside the obvious threats. ECSA57's goal was to harness the potential opportunities through new ways of thinking, scientific developments, innovative technology, and more effective integration of science and management. As a result, ECSA57 saw a multitude of high-quality, cutting-edge research from high-profile academics, practitioners, and early career researchers across many themes including coastal morphodynamics and sediment transport, ecosystem structure and function, eco-engineering and ecosystem restoration, and policies for coastal and estuarine management. It covered almost every aspect in the coastal and estuarine sciences, enabled a research-friendly atmosphere for the interchange and debate of ideas, and provoked directions for future research.

For PhD students involved in coastal and estuarine studies, ECSA57 was the ideal meeting to attend. There were many opportunities for research feedback, and networking and collaborating with world leading experts. ECSA57 was attended by some of the biggest names in the field. Examples included Prof. Robert Nicholls (world renowned for his work in coastal engineering), the editors of two high rank journals, Prof. Victor de Jonge (Ocean and Coastal Management) and Prof. Mike Elliott (Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science), and Prof. Colin Woodroffe (known for his outstanding contributions to the coastal evolution literature and IPCC assessment reports). Interacting with such high-calibre academics becomes important for not only validating and refining ongoing PhD research, but gaining invaluable insight into other aspects of the PhD process. For example, from informal discussions, I learnt a great deal about how academics approach the PhD viva, including the key aspects they look for in a thesis. I now have a better understanding on how to present and structure my thesis, which will enable me to communicate my science as clear as possible. Altogether, there were many benefits from attending ECSA57 as a PhD student. I am grateful to ECSA for awarding me a Charles Boyden grant, which made it all possible.

Communicating my science

At ECSA57, I presented a poster on initial findings from my PhD. My poster was based on the effects of time-series data resolution on modelling shoreline change, which forms part of my PhD project that examines the role of hard structures on shoreline evolution at decadal timescales. The study recognised that many small island states of the Caribbean and elsewhere have limited scientific data, which present challenges for the design and implementation of effective coastal management strategies. Drawing on an extensive two-dimensional coupled wave, flow, and sediment transport modelling campaign, using the DHI MIKE 21 Coupled Model (Fig. 1), my poster illustrated the minimal data needed to effectively represent coastal processes in modelling shoreline change. Two locations with plentiful data, both managed sandy shorelines, in New York and Southern California, were considered. The outcomes of this study can guide the refinement of coastal numerical models, to improve their applicability to support coastal management in data-poor countries. As a result, my poster created a platform for insightful discussions, including two 'supervisory style' discussions with prominent professors in the field. From these interactions, I am able to confidently finalise important modelling aspects of my work, and directions of ongoing research. Without doubt, feedback from these discussions would help broaden the applicability and implications of my research findings.

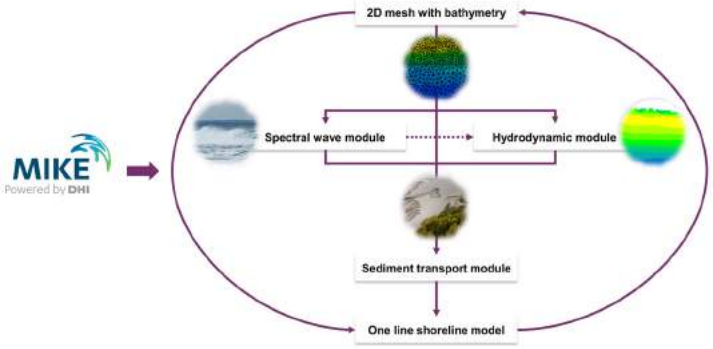

Fig. 1. Overview of the model setup

My research communication skills also improved with my poster. Given the complexity of the numerical modelling undertaken, it was a challenge to summarise the core aspects of the completed work in a non-technical manner, along with the key take home messages within an A0 sized poster. The effort required for an effective poster is often underestimated. While there are no clearly defined criteria for a good poster, it is expected that posters contain a balance between text and figures at font sizes large enough to be read from a distance, written in a language that can be easily interpreted by a wide audience (experts and non-experts). Considering this, I was forced to deconstruct my PhD to better comprehend what I did, what I found, and its significance. In turn, I was able to communicate my science as clear and brief as possible (Fig. 2). This is a skill you can acquire from a poster relative to an oral presentation, where there is more flexibility regarding the length and content of your presentation. Developing such a skill becomes important for getting your science across to policy makers for example, where its importance can be actualised. This was also noted by a government minister in attendance.

Fig. 2: My poster presentation

At the closing ceremony, I was named the recipient of the ECSA best poster presentation award (Fig. 3). This accomplishment was encouraging and showed that my PhD research was well-received by the scientific community. This award is just one of ECSA's many initiatives to promote the work of young scientists and early-career academics.

Fig. 3: Receiving my award (left) and my certificate (right)

ECSA57: my impressions summarised

Ultimately, there were many benefits from attending and participating in ECSA57, which culminated in a richly rewarding experience. Some of these benefits included:

1. Engaging in meaningful discussions with leading academics in my field, which will improve the overall quality of my doctoral thesis.
2. Being able to deconstruct complex aspects of my PhD as clearly and briefly as possible, which is an important skill for communicating science to policy makers.
3. Learning about key elements of the PhD process, in particular the examination aspects, which will help me better structure my thesis.
4. Elevating the overall quality of my CV, with long-term benefits (e.g. future job prospects).
5. Networking with key people in the coastal and estuarine sciences, which is a stepping stone for building collaborative relationships towards engaging in new and innovative research.

Given the positive impact ECSA57 had on my personal growth and development as a researcher, I look forward to attending ECSA58 in Hull in 2020. I reckon this will be another fruitful experience.

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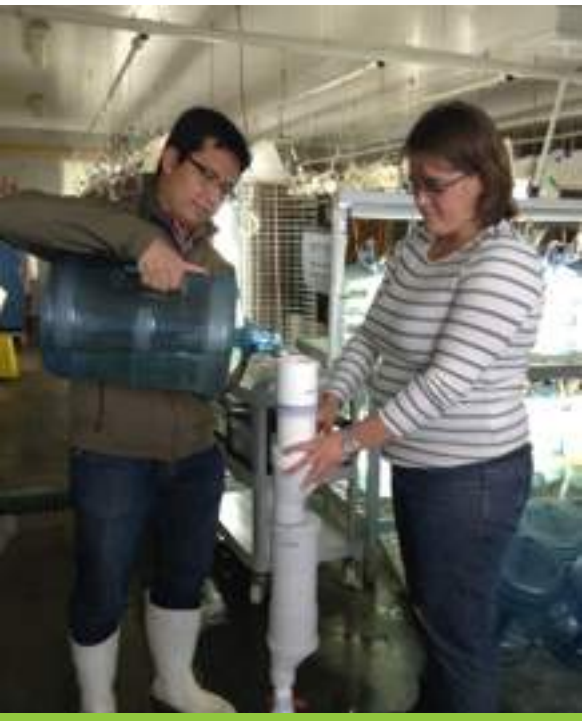
Rendy Ruvindy | University of Technology Sydney | Australia

THE DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF RAPID MOLECULAR DETECTION TOOL FOR PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING-ASSOCIATED MICROALGAE



Sereena (on the right) from SpringBay Seafoods and I filtered seawater collected from their lease using our sampler.

Sereena and I ran the qPCR reaction using MygoMini qPCR thermocyler (blue instrument on the bottom left).

I am a final year PhD student from the Seafood Safety: Marine Algal Biotoxins group, Climate Change Cluster, The University of Technology, Sydney, Australia. My research project is on the development and validation of qPCR (quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction) pipeline for the detection of toxic *Alexandrium* species in seawater column. Several species of *Alexandrium* can produce a group of neurotoxins called saxitoxins. This group of marine biotoxin can accumulate in shellfish and cause an acute syndrome in humans called Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) upon consumption.

Toxic *Alexandrium* bloom is a persistent issue in the aquaculture intensive area in the east coast of Tasmania island, Australia, costing the shellfish aquaculture industry and raising a public health concern. Over the past five years, there has been a trend of increasing intensity and unpredictability of this bloom. A reliable early warning system such as a phytoplankton monitoring system is crucial for the farmers to better manage the impact of the bloom. However, we have observed the presence of morphologically identical toxic and non-toxic species of *Alexandrium* In the east coast of Tasmania, and we have evidenced co-occurring blooms of these species. As morphological identification using light microscopy cannot discriminate the toxic and non-toxic species, the detection of toxin genes using molecular methods can be a better indicator for the presence of toxic species in the seawater column.

We have implemented the quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR)-based method on a mussel farm on the East Coast of Tasmania since early 2016. This platform has been specifically designed to be used on farm. It consisted of a standardised sampling device involving a gravity-based filter tube, a simple cell lysis, and a commercially available sxtA-based qPCR assay (DinoDtec by Diagnostic Technology, Australia). In 2016 and 2017, this method was used to make a management decision, which led to an early voluntary closure and the switching of production to another site. We presented these data along with the spatial bloom profiling that we carried out during the peak of the bloom period in 2016 in the International Conference on Harmful Algae in Nantes, France. I would like to thank ECSA for the funding, so that I could attend and present our data.

Helen Brooks PhD | Department of Geography | Pembroke college | University of Cambridge

Helen Brooks has been nominated by the Charlie Boyden Award to attend the European Geosciences Conference in Vienna

Here you will find the report

My name is Helen Brooks and I am a third year PhD student at the University of Cambridge, UK. My research focuses on UK salt marshes and aims to characterise substrate properties and how these might be related to the rate of marsh erosion. These properties include organic content, particle size, plasticity, shear strength, sediment erosion threshold and consolidation. By understanding the natural variation in these properties, we can better understand the natural resistance of salt marshes to potential increases in hydrodynamic forcing, which may occur with future scenarios of sea-level rise and changes in storminess.

My grant from ECSA allowed me to attend the 2019 European Geosciences Union conference. Whilst there, I gave an oral presentation comparing methods for measuring substrate shear strength on salt marshes, which will be the subject of my first paper. The presentation included a comparison of sediment erosion threshold (using a cohesive strength meter) and undrained shear strength (using a shear vane and torvane) at two sedimentologically-different but hydrodynamically-similar field sites in the UK. This has important implications for understanding how and why salt marshes erode, and thus how the ecosystem services provided by these landforms might change in the future. I also co-convened a "coastal wetlands" session at EGU. The session ran smoothly and included 7 oral and 17 poster presentations. Co-convening the session helped me to understand the criteria behind selecting abstracts, which will ultimately improve my abstract writing and thus how I communicate my research. EGU was an ideal opportunity to meet some of the leading researchers in my field, helping me to further contextualise my own research and hopefully to inspire future collaborative projects. Thank you very much to ECSA for providing me with £350 to attend EGU!

Helen Brooks at work in the saltmarshes

Dr. Salom Gnana Thanga Vincent

Department of Environmental Sciences | University of Kerala | India

Report of ECSA Focus Meeting: Environmental Status of Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystems in India, ECEI-2019 during 14th and 15th March, 2019

The long coastline of India with a thick coastal population is prone to natural and anthropogenic hazards. This meeting was proposed to bring together scientists and researchers working on various aspects of coastal systems in India to share their experience and knowledge in a common platform. The major themes of the meeting include: Biogeochemistry of coastal ecosystems and greenhouse gas production; Monitoring of coastal ecosystems; Anthropogenic stress in estuarine and coastal systems; Ecosystem evaluation and services of coastal systems. A total of 160 delegates from 25 institutions of India participated in the meeting. The event started with a brief inaugural session represented by the officials of University of Kerala during which the book of extended abstracts of ECEI-2019 was released. Key note address was by Prof. Eric Wolanski, Adjunct Professor, JCU, Australia on the topic "The UNESCO estuarine ecohydrology model: applications to the Guadiana Estuary, Portugal, Darwin Harbour, Australia, Chilika lagoon, India, Wami Estuary, Tanzania, Laizhou Bay, China, The Great Barrier Reef, Australia.' In addition to 5 Invited talks, there were 31 oral presentations and 20 poster presentations. 4 student awards were sponsored by ECSA; 2 each for best oral and poster presentations. The meeting was also supported by financial assistance from Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (DoE&CC), Government of Kerala, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) and University of Kerala. The major outcome of the meeting was a decision to have a special issue on "Coastal wetlands of India: problems and solutions" in Wetlands Ecology and Management (Springer). For more details, please log on to

https://www.springer.com/life+sciences/ecology/journal/11273

Inauguration & Release of book of abstracts

Standing from left: Dr. Sabu Joseph - Prof. Eric Wolanski - Prof. P. P. Ajayakumar (Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala) - Dr. Salom Gnana Thanga Vincent - Dr. Jaya D. S)

Introducing ECSA by Ambassador-India

Poster presentation

Dr. Clare Scanlan | Head of Marine Science School | University of Plymouth

Scotland's International Marine Conference 20th/21st February 2019, Glasgow

The Scottish Government organised Scotland's first International Marine Conference, which took place in Glasgow on the 20th and 21st February 2019. The programme can be seen here: https://www.marineconference2019.scot. The first day focussed on the wider marine environment and the second on marine litter and what we can do about it. The organisers deliberately set out to attract a wide audience which included scientists, politicians, policy makers, NGOs, local volunteers, schoolchildren, and contributors from different countries, which provided a welcome mix of views and experience. Attendance by a wide range of individuals was helped considerably by there being no fee for attending the conference, something which definitely restricts attendance at many meetings. Several members of ECSA Council attended all or part of the event.

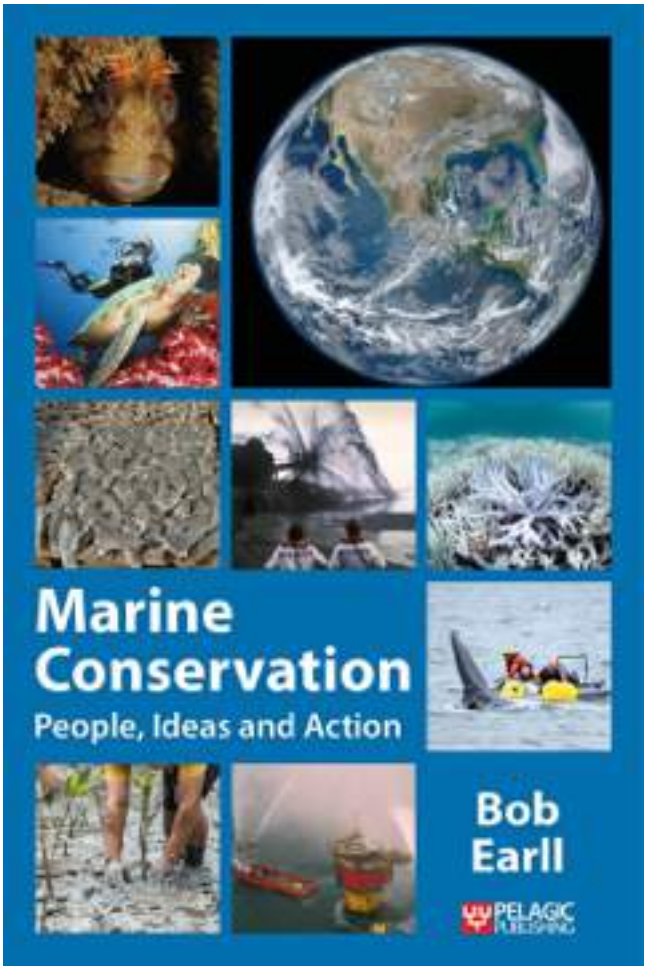
The meeting was chaired by Prof. Colin Moffat, Chief Scientific Advisor of Marine Scotland, and was addressed first by the Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. She was followed by the E.U. Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella, by video-link. Next came an inspirational talk by the environmental campaigner and swimmer Lewis Pugh. His talk centred on his 2007 swim of 1km across the North Pole to demonstrate the impact of climate change on the Arctic, but the point was that we can do something to address the harms we have caused to our environment. To add to the political conviction on delivering actions to reduce Scotland's impact on the environment, the meeting was addressed on day two by Scotland's Cabinet Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham.

Multiple sessions comprised talks from a formidable and varied array of presenters, followed by question and answer sessions, and possible suggestions for action. Day two concentrated on plastics and what we can do about them; it was both encouraging and frustrating, the former in terms of political intent on reducing the amount of non-essential single-use plastics and the extent of current researches, and the latter in terms of the difficulties of doing this as quickly as most people would like. Nevertheless there is significant progress and the will to tackle this issue. For example, Scotland will ban plastic-stemmed cotton buds from this summer, and is looking at developing a plastic bottle return scheme, as well as promoting re-usable sanitary items. It was interesting that the ten most common items of plastic litter form by far the highest proportion of plastic litter. It was highlighted how truly international a problem marine litter is, now reaching even the deep seas. The day focussed mainly on macro-plastics, the more visible plastic pollution, though we know that micro-plastics are also a significant issue.

More difficult to address are the wider concerns of fisheries, climate change impacts, ocean acidification, etc. These need to be tackled at multi-state level, although individually each nation can make its own important contribution. Overall it was clear that in Scotland there is political awareness of the issues, and a willingness to engage with these. However, it must be noted that the statutory agencies are suffering yet further budget cuts, which reduce their ability to carry out as much monitoring as they and the scientific community might wish or consider necessary.

2020 will be the Scottish 'Year of Coasts & Waters', emphasising how important the coast is to a country with >10,000 km of coastline. It will be interesting to see how this is celebrated, and what actions to address the issues raised at this meeting will be taken. The proceedings can be accessed at https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/litter/marineconference2019.

MARINE CONSERVATION
People, Ideas and Action



Marine Conservation
People, Ideas and Action
Bob Earll
Pelagic Publishing, Exeter
pp314, October 2018,
Pbk 978-1-78427-176-3
£25.00

This interesting and eminently readable book explores marine conservation over the past 5 decades through the eyes of notable figures whose life-works have shaped the ideas and direction of the topic. Bob Earll has created an unusual and unique approach which is as much about 'marine conservationists' as it is about 'marine conservation' even though the term means something different to different people - even some of the interviewees wouldn't define the term.

It is a gentle read, not really a text book or literature review, and with a sparse use of references which may limit its use as a course text. However, it would be an excellent source of material for tutorial and seminar discussions with final year undergraduate and Masters students especially as it includes many homilies to guide aspiring marine conservation scientists. As expected, there is an emphasis on the natural rather than the human aspects and perhaps it could have emphasised that environmental management is better regarded mostly just people management.

The book has the first 4 chapters on general themes and chapters 24 and 25 on Actions and Conclusions. The intervening 19 chapters are devoted to named interviewees who were each given the same questions. Most of those interviewed discuss their mentors and seminal reports and they were especially involved in producing grey literature rather than peer-reviewed scientific journal articles. Unfortunately, some of the grey literature from the early decades cannot be sourced and so is probably lost (thereby ensuring that the new generation may be 're-inventing the wheel' and not learning from the past!).

This is a slightly idiosyncratic selection of interviewees, mostly as personal acquaintances of Dr Earll, and it is UK-centric with individual respondents from the US, Australia and New Zealand. Some of the respondents have 'retired' but are still working but a few have gone on to other careers. Some have produced their own books on marine conservation and perhaps these need to be read together. Its breadth could be regarded as the definitive record but the same approach by any other marine conservationist elsewhere in the world would have used a different set of interviewees. Despite that, it is very likely that the messages would be the same.

By describing 19 careers, it gives a guide for aspiring marine scientists although it is probably best not to look for rigorously planned careers. Like most scientists, the careers described are serendipitous – the combination of happy accidents, the need to urgently get a job after graduating, just being in the right place at the right time or even just knowing the right person!

There is a valuable presentation of time-lines and it is interesting to see that some developments were responses to accidents, some were accidents themselves and some (a few) were planned. It would be interesting to analyse these to see which ones were due to public pressure. It shows the start of the move towards systems thinking although it is surprising that so many bodies are only just coming to this way of thinking (despite the second half of the word ecosystem!).

Of course there are some niggles – the small inner margins giving the book a cramped style, and using italics for verbatim quotes would have emphasised the point. It would have been good to explore the debate on 'conservation' versus 'preservation' and the role of people as ecosystem engineers. The synthesis chapters use quotes from the interviewees but again it would have been good to see if the author agrees or disagrees with these thereby including a more systematic, quantitative interrogation of the messages. As an alternative, the book could have been arranged by the questions posed to each interviewee. Despite this, this reviewer had to keep remembering that it is about 'marine conservation' not 'marine management'.

It is interesting how many issues raised over the decades are still pressing, for example perhaps there are different types of pollution, fisheries are still a concern as are alien species but pollution, fisheries and alien species are still of concern. Several respondents talk of successes and failure, for example the slow progress towards designated marine areas. Some interviewees lament the increasing focus on economics and Blue Growth whereas a minority emphasis their importance and role in decision-making – any other group (including this reviewer) might argue that managing the marine environment is all about economics and human uses. The book focusses on species and site-based conservation, and the importance of 'iconic species and charismatic megafauna' and so there is still the need to emphasise the importance of understanding ecosystem functioning not just structure (the 'stamp collecting' view of understanding nature?).

Several respondents rightly refer to the value of evidence and recording but this is often more described as surveillance rather than true monitoring. Some comment that we cannot 'wildlife garden' but that is exactly what we are doing in many places where the restored or rehabilitated areas are relatively small (i.e. 'actions which are good for the ecologists rather than the ecology'!).

There is much on the excellent roles of Non-Governmental Organisations and some statutory conservation bodies but it would be good to have more input from those in ministries and industries engaged in conservation or actual marine management – this would have enhanced debate within the analysis. Indeed, there appears to be few, perhaps only one, of the interviewees who acknowledges that development is acceptable in the seas, a view perhaps endorsed by society at large.

The one common characteristic of the interviewees are that they are all enthusiasts and their mentors, colleagues and influences are well-known to (mature?) marine scientists. However, there is some selective memory, some of the views need challenging and, for balance, alternative views could be presented. For example, the case-study of the Brent Spar is mentioned several times – this was an oil storage buoy whose disposal by Shell (which more correctly should have been labelled as Shell-Esso) became a cause célèbre in the mid 1990s. The prevention of its disposal at sea is presented here as a success story for the green movement, especially Greenpeace, when in reality they made mistakes the same as all the other protagonists in the case!

The penultimate chapter, on Action, gives some attention to failings of marine conservationists and other organisations but this could have been developed further. Perhaps a common theme throughout the book is that marine conservation has been achieved on a shoestring budget! The lack of funding is of great concern, especially what we have called 'the paradox of environmental assessment' – that there are more requirements for information about the seas but less money for them (pace the recent Trump-led budget cuts which will obliterate marine monitoring programmes by NOAA!).

I highly recommend this book for all involved in the history and evolution of marine conservation and I am sure that it will be acquired by the libraries of marine institutes. Even those outside the geographical areas covered will find many lessons of relevance and interest and perhaps the 'homilies' will be pinned on their walls!

Mike Elliott, Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies,
University of Hull, UK

Dr Neville Jones

It is with deep sadness to report that Dr Neville Jones passed away aged 82 on Tuesday 6th November after contracting an infection. Nev retired in 2003, some 38 years after he started at the University as a junior lecturer in 1965 after both qualifying as a teacher and also a spell in what is now the British Antarctic Survey working as an meteorologist and ornithologist. After giving his whole academic career to the University, Nev rose to become Senior Lecturer together with various terms as Head of the Department of Applied Biology following the merger of the Departments of Zoology, Botany & Genetics and Biochemistry. He followed this by becoming Dean of the then School of Life Sciences (now the Faculty of Science and Engineering) and at one time, after stepping in because of illness to the Head of the Department, he was both Head of Department and Dean at the same time! He had several terms serving on Senate and was on Council of the University. In 7 years as the Warden at Lambert Hall at The Lawns, Nev and his wife Brenda gave an extremely friendly welcome to hundreds of first year undergraduates and helped them to settle in at the university.

Nev gained Senate approval to set up the Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies (IECS) in 1982 and was the first Director of IECS; he was also instrumental in bringing the Humberside International Fisheries Institute (now HIFI, the Hull International Fisheries Institute) to the University from over the fence (now the West Campus!) from Humberside College in the late 1980s. That both IECS and HIFI still exist after all these years is testament to Nev's drive, approach and vision. He was also instrumental in setting up the Centre for Environmental and Marine Sciences (CEMS) at the Scarborough campus after being involved with the previous incarnation as University College Scarborough. All of this has put Hull firmly at the centre of research, advice and teaching in aquatic biology. Shortly before retiring, Nev helped to train and mentor new teaching staff at the university and so pass on his huge experience.

Nev published many papers and several books on freshwater and estuarine ecology and especially the Humber Estuary and he was responsible for many PhD students working on aspects of estuarine and freshwater ecology, especially ornithology and trace metal impacts. Nev continued to take an active role in the management of the Humber Estuary even after retiring and several years ago, after stepping down as Chairman of the Humber Management Scheme Advisory Board, was presented by the Scheme their the Annual Award for his contribution to the science and management of the Humber. Further afield, Nev was a leading figure in the international Estuarine & Coastal Sciences Association (ECSA) and was its Bulletin Editor, Honorary Secretary, President and Trustee at various times since the 1970s.

Coastal Ecology Workshop | University of Antwerp

November 11th until 15th - 2019

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Dear all,

We are happy to announce that this year's Coastal Ecology Workshop will be organized by the Ecosystem Management research group of the University of Antwerp, Belgium. This workshop will take place near Antwerp from the 11th until the 15th of November 2019. The workshop will especially focus on presentations by early career researchers on estuarine and coastal ecology, and includes invited keynote lectures, engaging discussions, networking opportunities for (early career) researchers, excellent oral and poster presentations and an informative fieldtrip along the beautiful Scheldt estuary in Belgium.
There are still a few places left, so don't hesitate to register!

Registration link: https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/research-groups/ecobe/news-and-activities/activities/coastal-ecology-workshop/

On behalf of the organizing committee
Dorian Bas, Ken Schoutens, Niels Van Putte, Dante Horemans, Stijn Temmerman, Patrick Meire