

My Busy Summer By Daniel Pauly

Some, upon my return in early September, asked me if I had a happy vacation in the Philippines. Here is what I did since April:

1) Participated in New Orleans at a workshop modelling of the Gulf of Mexico (April 2-4); then chapter to a book on the topic, following arrival in Manila, Philippines. This paper, co-authored by Laura Vidal and others explains our strategy, and that of her MS thesis, for constructing an integrated metamodel of the Gulf (she should be asked for further info);

2) Spent 3 mid-April days in Hong Kong with Tony Pitcher and Tony Courtney reporting to the Agriculture and Fisheries Department on our progress evaluating Hong Kong's fisheries resources. Then spent the rest of April developing new graphic and analytic routines for FishBase 97, to be issued in October (contact Rainer Froese, r.froese@cgnnet.com for details); notably

3) Came up with this idea of combining the time series of FAO fisheries catches included in FishBase with 220 estimates of trophic levels (from 50 Ecopath models) to estimate the mean trophic level of fisheries catches from 1950 to 1994. These exhibit a clear, steadily declining trend, showing that we are truly fishing down marine food webs. A paper on this, co-authored by the Danish brigade (Villy Christensen, Johanne Dalsgaard) and others, is presently under review;

4) In May I finished work on the blueprint of *Biology, fisheries and culture of Tropical Groupers and Snappers* edited by Francisco Arreguin-Sanchez, John Munro, Miriam Balgos and yours truly

(write to iclarm@cgnnet.com for further info); also Geronimo Silvestre and I completed the editing of another ICLARM book, on the status of coastal fisheries resources in tropical Asia;

5) In June, I completed with Rainer Froese the volume documenting FishBase 97. Also, I wrote and submitted a paper on the *Tropicalization of Beverton and Holt*, co-authored a review of the impacts of tilapia introductions throughout the world, and completed a paper on the growth and mortality of basking and whale sharks, presented on my behalf at a meeting on sharks in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia (which Ramon Bonfil also attended: ask him for a report); Ramon is presently doing an anonymous review of that paper. Also, I prepared my part of the draft of a joint paper with Stuart Pimm, on modelling Prince William Sound, Alaska, to be presented in Anchorage, in early October;

6) Then came July, a beautiful month to be in France, e.g., in Montpellier, where I worked on another book, to be published by ORSTOM, NOAA and ICLARM, and presenting the results on a project we ran in the last 4 years, devoted to comparing the responses of resources in upwelling systems to local and global changes. While in Montpellier, I received 10 author's copies of another book, titled *Méthodes pour l'évaluation des ressources halieutiques Cépépades* Editions, Toulouse, 288 p.;

7) To relax, I visited my mother in a little village for a few days (one paper), one of my sisters living in Paris (no paper), and a friend working in Brussels for the European Commission: two brief articles (on FishBase and Ecopath, respectively), for the EC Fisheries Cooperation Bulletin, which she edits;

8) Then on to Hirtshals, Den-

mark, to finish, with Villy Christensen, the paper mentioned in item (3), and to re-visit the Museum in Skagen (Danish impressionists), then back to Paris and Manila. End of July;

9) August: this is the last month, hence no time to waste: one little paper is written for Naga, The ICLARM Quarterly, documenting a small GIS software on the marine resources of Brunei Darussalam. Also, I helped Dr. K. Ruddle design the modules which, in FishBase 98, will accommodate his databases on fermented fish, and on traditional fisheries management. Then it is time to prepare for a two-day meeting on managing the fisheries of Indonesia, organized by the Singapore-based Canada-ASEAN Centre. However, 2 days before the flight to Jakarta, I busted the big toe on my left foot. On August 13, I was thus wheeled into the meeting (at the same time, internal gossip at the Fisheries Centre had me in an intensive care unit). The meeting was a surprise: I heard for the first time ever Indonesian fisheries scientists question their political master as to the wisdom of expanding the industrial fishing fleets!

10) Upon my return, got three shipping companies to bid for the shipment of my books to Vancouver, as I was vacating my office at ICLARM. This was sad, and I arranged for the packing itself to be done after I left, which I did on August 29;

11) But not for Vancouver. Rather I participated at a Cephalopod Workshop in Cape Town, to which I was asked to contribute a fish perspective. As cephalopodists tend to believe that none of what we know applies to their group, this made for interesting debates.

Now I am back in Vancouver, and people ask me if I had a good vacation. Some vacation!

News and Notes:

Steveston Tour

Several Fisheries Centre members participated in a tour of the Steveston Fish Docks on September 25, hosted by Duncan Stacey and John Kapp. The tour served as an introduction to BC fishing gear and vessels, and involved tours of net lifts, a boat tour of Cannery Channel, and a salmon barbecue. More to follow in the next issue, along with photos!

Fisheries Centre Party

On Sunday, September 14, Fisheries Centre members shared down impending rains and gathered together at the Centre for a welcome party hosted by Tony and Val Pitcher. Appropriately enough, the entrée of choice was barbequed chinook salmon (caught by Tony), along with many other choice goodies. Through bits of rain, members enjoyed boozie outside the Centre. And although a social event, conversations inevitably turned to aspects of members' world.

Internship Opportunity

Research Cooperation Programme between Canada and Latin America - Internships for Canadian Graduate Students. Address for further information: Mr. Patrick Hyndman, International Relations Division, AUCC, 600 - 350 Albert Street, Ottawa, K1R 1B1. Further information is also available on the following WWW site address <http://www.aucc.ca/english/international/program/indexe.htm>