

NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 28 | Apr 2024



PI

OCEANS PAST INITIATIVE

Fish are friends, food*, and maybe not very local?

At least if you're eating seafood in the United Kingdom, which many of us may well be in a couple months' time for the Oceans Past X Conference! I am very excited about our Spotlight this month (as I naturally of course am every month) as it showcases some recent and very insightful research about seafood imports and exports in the UK (very appropriate and timely pre-OPX). We also have an opinion piece authored by the Oceans Past Initiative's Steering Committee, updates on some recently concluded projects, and a plethora of recent publications and conferences to consider in the upcoming year.

*Here's to hoping at least some of you will pick up on this subtle Finding Nemo reference



Rachel M. Winter, OPN Editor

Centre de Recherche sur la Biodiversité et l'Environnement, CNRS, Université de Toulouse†

OCEANS PAST SPOTLIGHT*

Have you ever wondered where the fish you eat comes from?

Luke O. J. Harrison¹, Georg H. Engelhard^{2,3}, Ruth H. Thurstan⁴, Anna M. Sturrock¹

¹ School of Life Sciences, University of Essex

² Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)

³ School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia

⁴ Centre for Ecology and Conservation, University of Exeter

In a recently published paper, **Harrison et al. (2024)** found that there is a large and growing mismatch between the species we eat and the species we catch in the UK, with most of the seafood being consumed coming from imports and most of the seafood we catch being exported.

To better understand the history of this mismatch and the possible causes we took a look back into the past. We digitised 120 years of publicly available fisheries reports (see Fig. 1 for an example) to compile a dataset of UK seafood production, including both fisheries landings and aquaculture, imports and exports. We then used time series analyses to explore changes in the species composition and weight of seafood caught, imported and exported, with

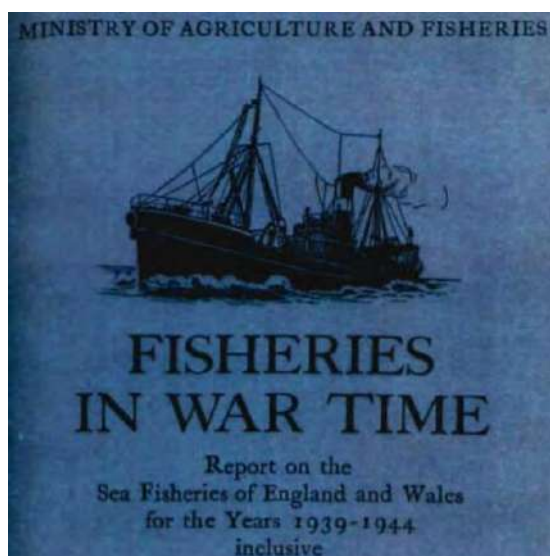


Figure 1. Report on the Sea Fisheries of England and Wales (MAF, 1946).

† Views expressed here are my own and do not necessarily reflect that of my employer

*Each issue of Oceans Past News includes a feature article, either as an **Oceans Past Spotlight** or as **10 Questions**. If you would like to be considered for either, or to nominate a colleague or mentee, please contact Rachel Winter at rachelwinter@palaome.org.

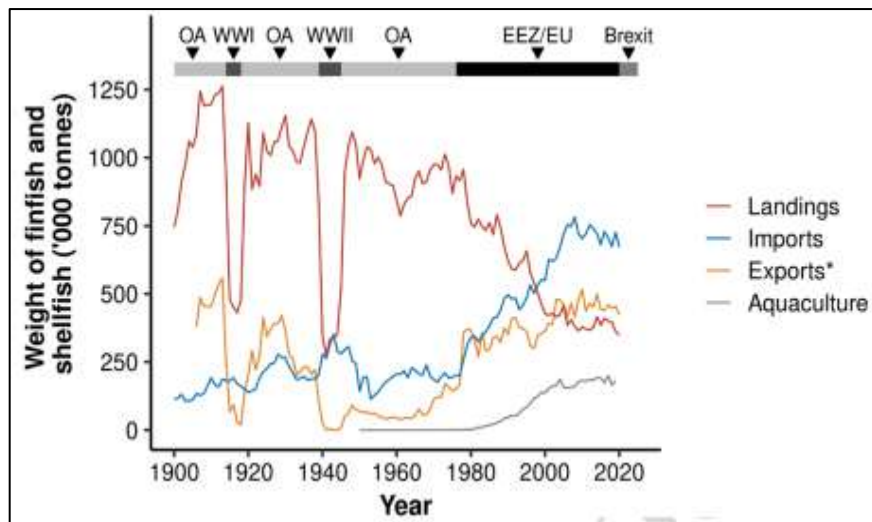


Figure 2. Changes in UK domestic landings (red), imports (blue) and exports (yellow), and aquaculture production (grey) between 1900 and 2020.

a goal to understand how policy change and consumer preference has influenced UK seafood production and consumption.

In the first half of the 20th century, the UK was largely eating the fish they were catching, with species such as cod and haddock being caught in large quantities via the UK’s thriving distant-water fisheries. However, the combination of the Cod Wars and large policy changes in the 1970s, namely the widespread adoption of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and the UK joining the EU, resulted in large declines in the UK’s distant-water fisheries (Fig. 2). This resulted in a sudden mismatch between consumer preference and domestic production, and a sharp rise in imports that has continued to grow to this day. Indeed, in

1975, UK fisheries and aquaculture accounted for 89% of seafood consumed in the UK, but only 40% in 2019, with the gap being made up of imports (Fig. 2 and 3).

Ultimately, this study highlights staunch consumer preferences for seafood species that are not locally abundant. In the early 20th century, the UK developed a taste for flaky white fish like cod and haddock with the increasing popularity of the fish and chip shop. Sudden drops in cod availability around the time of these major policy changes have been attributed to the invention of the battered sausage that remain popular today. Strong consumer preference for flaky white fish has remained till this day, alongside growing popularity of other non-local species like tuna, shrimps and prawns, resulting in the UK becoming a net-importer of seafood. Conversely, the UK catches large quantities of oily fish like mackerel and herring, but these are mainly exported abroad, suggesting low consumer preferences.

Finally, the study also highlighted potential health considerations, as the total weight of domestically produced seafood in recent years is 73% lower than the intake levels recommended by the government (Fig. 3). Even when imports are included, the UK currently consumes 31% less seafood than is recommended, and it is unclear whether these ‘lost nutrients’ are being obtained from other food sources or not.

In the face of climate change, global overfishing and potentially restrictive trade barriers, promoting locally sourced seafood and non-seafood alternatives would be prudent to help meet national food security demands, and health and environmental targets.

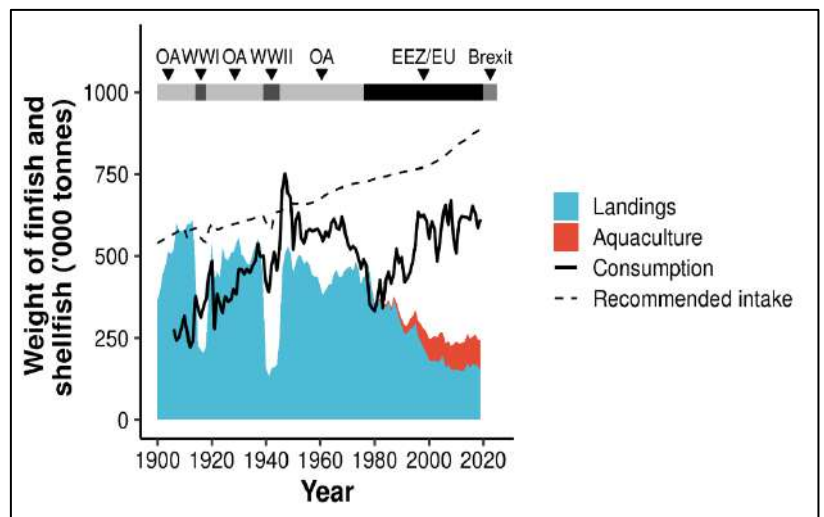


Figure 3. Changes in UK domestic landings (blue filled area) and aquaculture production (red filled area) contrasted with observed (solid line) vs. recommended (dashed line) fish intake levels by the UK public between 1900 and 2019.

Associated publication: Harrison LOJ, Engelhard GH, Thurstan RH, & Sturrock AM. (2023). **Widening mismatch between UK seafood production and consumer demand: a 120-year perspective.** *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries*, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11160-023-09776-5>

OPINION PIECE

This statement from the OPI Steering Committee was submitted to two marine science journals that welcome short communications on policy issues. Both journals rejected the statement because we did not provide enough concrete evidence of our concern. We believe the concern is well-founded, albeit based on experience rather than published evidence, and have therefore decided to publish the statement here.

Blind into the Future?

Data of the past are all we have to understand accelerated marine ecosystem change

Poul Holm*¹ (holmp@tcd.ie), Cristina Brito², Ben Fitzhugh³, Alison MacDiarmid⁴, Ilse Martinez⁵, Carolina Chong-Montenegro¹, Ruth Thurstan⁶, Youri van den Hurk⁷, Rachel Winter⁸

¹ Trinity College Dublin, 2 College Green, Dublin, Ireland

² CHAM Centro de Humanidades, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

³ University of Washington, Department of Anthropology, 314 Denny Hall, Box 353100, Seattle, WA, United States

⁴ National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, 301 Evans Bay Parade, Wellington, New Zealand

⁵ University of Victoria, School of Environmental Studies, 3800 Finnerty Rd. Victoria, BC V8P 5C2, Canada

⁶ University of Exeter Cornwall Campus: Penryn, Cornwall, United Kingdom

⁷ Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, UMR 7209 (CNRS-MNHN) AASPE, CP 56 - 43 rue Buffon, 75005 Paris, France

⁸ Centre de Recherche sur la Biodiversité et l'Environnement, CNRS, University of Toulouse, Avenue de l'Agrobiopole, 31326 Castanet Tolosan Cedex, France

*Corresponding author

We write to raise concern about a disturbing rejection of historical evidence in addressing contemporary climate driven ecosystem change and policy planning. This letter is inspired by a recent call for papers on Arctic marine ecosystem change that we perceive as representative of a broader set of opinions in policy-linked scientific forums that we believe is dangerous and needs to be countered. Change, especially in the Arctic, happens at such rapidity that it is now claimed that "*In the Arctic, [...] future environmental conditions are increasingly uncertain, rendering data on past conditions are [sic!] questionable as guides to future dynamics*" (call for participation in the Arctic Council sponsored Third International Conference on Ecosystem Approach to Management in the Arctic Large Marine Ecosystem <https://pame.is/projects-new/ecosystem-approach-to-management/ea-conferences/433-third-ea-international-conference-2024>). It is exceptional to have such a statement made publicly, presumably with the knowledge and authority of a science-informed international body such as the Arctic Council. In a word, the statement is fundamentally futuristic – anything we know will be upended and the future is unpredictable as we cannot extrapolate from the past.

The statement feeds off the alarming rate of change that we observe in global and especially Arctic ecosystems today. But by negating the validity of the past to inform the future, the statement fundamentally renders us blind. All we have are data of the past, the future cannot be sampled. What is often implicit in such statements is that only very *recent, high spatial and temporal resolution, instrumental* evidence is of sufficient quality to make informed decisions for policy and management (e.g., to set catch limits for the next season... or later in this one)... and even that is becoming unreliable. The problem is framed as one of a 'no-analog' future (Williams and Jackson, 2007), and the threats are real. But with an understanding of current trends (derived from historical evidence, it must be said) and with the ability to look deeper into the past with documentary, archaeological, and paleoecological evidence to times when ecosystems and human communities faced similarly scaled changes, it is possible to anticipate realistic threats and build scenarios of future states we can plan from, built on the *best available* evidence. The alternative is science fiction and empirically untethered fantasy, and nothing is more dangerous than building plans and policies on unsubstantiated speculation.

It is not the first time we have witnessed this line of argument against the usefulness of historical information. In recent years, the authors have heard similar statements at conferences and indeed have had funding bids rejected with arguments predicated on the presumed lack of utility of historical evidence for informing modern day problems. The objections witnessed have been used to discredit or weaken arguments for incorporating long-term perspectives across multiple topics, including food security, habitat and species conservation, and fisheries management. Notwithstanding their often informal nature, objections to the value of past data for future models form a substantial

barrier to overcome and carry considerable weight because they control or shape what the research community and institutions deem as acceptable research questions to ask, frequently before they get to the funding proposal stage.

These objections are rarely made in public and in print; rather they tend to be voiced in conversation in private or in un-minuted research planning meetings and other informal settings. A notable exception is Pershing et al. (2019) who argue against "the expectation that past conditions provide insights to future conditions. We are rapidly moving into a world where this assumption will no longer apply." However, they concede that all forward-looking strategies must build on past data by adjusting the "strategy to maximize discounted returns over the next 30 y[ears] under the assumption that the trend continues." They conclude: "For the human system, the lesson is clear: Historical experience is becoming less relevant. To be successful, human institutions including businesses, communities, management agencies, and governments will need to adopt strategies that look forward rather than backward. For example, when the Gulf of Maine experienced a rapid increase in temperature, the backward-facing fishery management process was not able to act quickly enough to reduce fishing on cod and avoid a collapse of the fishery." In response, we argue that there is no way of assessing the scale of change unless we have a historical baseline and no way of understanding a trajectory unless by understanding the force of drivers through time. A slow response to accelerating changes of the present is the fault of unresponsive management, not an argument against historical evidence.

Underlying such historical scepticism is often a bias against the lower resolution, and more fragmentary nature of historical and paleo records. Those of us who work in these archives (oral historical, documentary, archaeological, paleoecological, and similar) work with the limitations of our chosen datasets daily. We recognize that as we extend further back in time, we lose resolution in both time and space. But what we lose in resolution, we gain in perspective as longer time scales traverse larger amplitude variations, making it possible to track stable or resilient vs non-resilient states and practices and those that triggered fundamental reorganisation. True, these data are different from the near real-time biological estimates, physical sensors, satellite and aerial surveys that meteorologists, biologists, economists and others conduct in service of ecosystem management actions on an annual scale. We use deep historical data differently to make sense of longer term cycles, larger scale (often nonlinear) dynamics, and their lasting socio-ecological outcomes. It is just such evidence from long temporal scales that is needed to anticipate a near future that is forecast to be different from recent experience – thanks in fact to climate models *built on* and *tuned to* historical trends, including proxy data going back thousands of years. Examples are plentiful but a couple of impactful examples are Mann et al. (1998) and Loader et al. (2007).

Language which is dismissive of studying the past also contradicts claims of valuing traditional ecological knowledge and imposes short-term and technologically-driven 'Western' ways of knowing. Ignoring the value of traditional ecological knowledge serves once again to erase the millennia-old relationships of Indigenous peoples with their lands. This direction of only considering the present and future does a massive disservice to the communities most affected by climate change and severely undervalues local knowledge and heritage, which are critical to identifying local solutions promoting adaptation to future changes (Pearce et al. 2015; Wyllie de Echeverria and Thornton 2019).

The statement by the Arctic Council, and related disparagements, begs the question about what the future will be built upon. It will take the present, which has been fully shaped by the dynamical interaction of past human actions with the "natural" world, on some future trajectory influenced strongly no doubt by climate change. But the legacy of the past will linger into the future. Take for instance the continuing impacts of the global whaling industry of the past millennium on the ability of the still depressed and structurally altered populations of most whale species to adapt to the modern threat of climate change and increased anthropogenic influence. To understand the present and future status of whale populations we need to be informed about how, why, and to what extent their populations have been altered over time (e.g. Whitehead and Shin 2022). Whales are iconic animals and keystone species in their ecosystems, and their struggle for survival symbolises an ever-growing trend of negative human impact on our surroundings.

By studying the events of the past, reconstructing patterns which characterise the system, and by identifying the central processes that led to them today, regularities in the course of history can be detected that are of relevance to deepening our understanding of the current state of the marine system as well as to provide guidance for future scenarios. The epistemological challenge is to recognise the merits of both ends, the positivist as well as the

constructivist mind maps, which are both required to imagine and predict future marine systems under climate change conditions and inform future policy directions.

While studies have shown how the oceans looked before humans began to affect marine environments (e.g., Lyle et al 2008; Moran et al. 2006), the vast majority of present marine systems have been shaped by both natural and anthropogenic influences (Smith, 2000; Thurstan, 2022). Understanding the changes that these marine systems have undergone requires untangling the underlying multiple interacting anthropogenic and natural drivers. This helps not only to identify natural patterns and trends, but also to quantify human exploitation of marine living resources, whilst improving our understanding of the significance and value to societies of living marine resource extraction and production (Schwerdtner Manez et al., 2014; Holm et al. 2022).

Despite the scepticism that we have identified, political bodies increasingly require us to explicitly acknowledge past conditions (Engelhardt et al., 2016). For example, historical perspectives are fundamental to the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and the value of past perspectives are made clear in the EU Nature Restoration Law, while Indigenous and local ecological knowledge is an increasingly incorporated component and perspective (as it should be) in developing land and sea management strategies.

Clear evidence links human practices of recent centuries to ongoing climate and ecosystem change that threatens the world as we know it. Even so – or perhaps especially because the overwhelming scientific consensus shows this to be true – science is challenged daily by those who stand to lose the most by policies that could effectively address the climate crisis head on. Without historical evidence and contextualization – at all available time scales – the argument of a no-analog past feeds scientific scepticism and plays into the hands of those who prefer “alternative facts” that support ‘business as usual.’ Real solutions require the most robust consideration of all available evidence, at all available spatial resolutions and time-scales. When we cannot see what lies ahead beyond our windshield, the most reliable way to anticipate the path ahead is to look in the rear-view-mirror, taking in as much of the trail we have covered as possible in order to understand what happened and why. Only when we lose the lessons of the past are we truly lost. The future is and always has been uncertain. We have always been most resilient when we have had the hindsight to build scenarios to anticipate the most likely futures.

References

- Engelhard GH, Thurstan RH, MacKenzie BR, Alleway HK, Bannister RCA, Cardinale M, Clarke MW, Currie JC, Fortibuoni T, Holm P, Holt SJ, Mazzoldi C, Pinnegar JK, Raicevich S, Volckaert FAM, Klein ES, Lescauwaet AK (2016). ICES meets marine historical ecology: placing the history of fish and fisheries in current policy context. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 73, 138.
- Loader, N. J., McCarrroll, D., Gagen, M., Robertson, I., & Jalkanen, R. (2007). Extracting climatic information from stable isotopes in tree rings. *Terrestrial Ecology*, 1, 25-48.;
- Mann, M. E., Bradley, R. S., & Hughes, M. K. (1998). Global-scale temperature patterns and climate forcing over the past six centuries. *Nature*, 392(6678), 779-787.
- Lyle, Mitchell, et al. (2008). Pacific Ocean and Cenozoic evolution of climate. *Reviews of Geophysics* 46.2 (2008).
- Moran, Kathryn, et al. (2006). The Cenozoic palaeoenvironment of the arctic ocean. *Nature* 441.7093: 601-605.
- Pearce, T., Ford, J., Willox, A. C., & Smit, B. (2015). Inuit traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), subsistence hunting and adaptation to climate change in the Canadian Arctic. *Arctic*, 233-245.
- Pershing, AJ, Record NR, Franklin BS, Kennedy BT, McClenachan L, Mills KE, Scott JD, Thomas AC, and Wolff NH. (2019). Challenges to natural and human communities from surprising ocean temperatures. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116: 18378–18383.
- Schwerdtner Manez, Kathleen, and Bo Poulsen, eds. (2016). *Perspectives on Ocean Past: A Handbook of Marine Environmental History*. Germany: Springer.
- Smith, H-D. (2000). The Industrialization of the World Ocean. *Ocean & Coastal Management* 43:11-28.
- Thurstan, Ruth H. (2022). The Potential of Historical Ecology to Aid Understanding of Human-Ocean Interactions Throughout the Anthropocene. *Journal of Fish Biology* <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfb.15000>.
- Whitehead, H., Shin, M. (2022). Current global population size, post-whaling trend and historical trajectory of sperm whales. *Sci Rep* 12, 19468. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-24107-7>
- Williams, John W., and Stephen T. Jackson (2007). Novel Climates, No-Analog Communities, and Ecological Surprises. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 5:9: 475-82.
- Wyllie de Echeverria, V. R., & Thornton, T. F. (2019). Using traditional ecological knowledge to understand and adapt to climate and biodiversity change on the Pacific coast of North America. *Ambio*, 48(12), 1447-1469

RESEARCH & OTHER NEWS

[Notice of the upcoming OPI General Meeting and a Call for Nominations for Governing Board membership](#)

The **General Meeting (GM)** will be held on the **27th of June 2024** at **14.00 BST (British Summer Time)**, in Peter Lanyon Building Lecture Theatre 5, at the University of Exeter's Cornwall campus. Please email info@oceanspast.org if you require directions. To enable virtual participation, a **Zoom link will be issued 24 hours before the meeting** and emailed to the membership.

Proposed agenda items:

1. Achievements of OPI 2022-24
2. Membership summary
3. Financial report
4. Summary of business undertaken on behalf of members e.g. organisation of conference, OPN editorship, social media accounts
5. Vote on constitutional changes
6. Final call for nominations and overview of election process
7. If the proposed constitution changes are rejected by vote of the members in attendance (agenda item 5), then Election of the next Governing Board
8. Venue for next conference

Please contact the secretary at info@oceanspast.org with requests to include additional agenda items. No less than seven days notice should be given of any other business for the Agenda.

Announcement of Proposed By-Laws Change: At the **General Meeting** this year, members in attendance will discuss and vote on **proposed changes** to the **OPI Constitution**, which pertain to the composition of the Governing Board, term lengths for elected Board members, and the formal authorization for OPI members to vote on OPI business online rather than during in-person at the General Meetings. Please review the proposed changes in advance of the meeting at this link [[Board Proposed Constitutional Changes](#)]. If you do not expect to attend the General Meeting at OPX and wish to submit input on these changes, send your feedback to OPI Secretary Ruth Thurstan (info@oceanspast.org) and Board Member Ben Fitzhugh (fitzhugh@uw.edu) by no later than **June 24th**. Your input will be registered and shared with those in attendance prior to the vote. Because the existing by-laws require proposed constitutional changes be discussed and voted on at the General Meeting, these proposed revisions will be one of the first items on the agenda. If the proposed changes pass the vote, elections for Board positions will be conducted online following the meeting as specified in the updated constitution. If they do not pass, the Board nominations will be but to a vote before the conclusion of the OPX General Meeting.

Notice of Election of Governing Board Members at/after the OPX General Meeting: The OPI Governing Board includes the offices of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and several un-titled Board seats. The Board manages the business of the association, including planning the bi-annual OPI congresses, maintaining the OPI Website, Overseeing the Oceans Past Newsletter, and promoting the vision and mission of the organization more broadly. The OPI Board meets approximately monthly over video link, and Board members serve approximately two-year terms. Board members are reelected or replaced at/after each General Meeting, and officer positions are determined by agreement of the newly constituted Board with a preference for experienced members promoted for those roles. **The next Board election will be held at or shortly following the OPX General Business Meeting** (see above for description of constitutional changes on timing and mode of election). Any dues-paying member of OPI current at the time of the General Meeting is eligible to sit for election and to vote.

Call for nominations for membership of OPI Governing Board: Nominations for Governing Board seats are invited from the OPI membership. Self-nominations are accepted, and if you nominate another member, they must confirm their willingness to stand for election within 2 weeks of being notified of their nomination, and/or before the ballot is circulated.

If you wish to nominate or self-nominate for a Governing Board position, please provide the Secretary (info@oceanspast.org) with the following information: job title/profession, highest degree, date of degree, disciplinary focus and a short statement not exceeding 100 words summarizing relevant autobiographical information and what they would bring as a Board member.

Nominations will close immediately prior to the start of the General Meeting, and elections will either be held in-person during the General Meeting or online in the weeks following the close of the GM (depending on the outcome of the vote on the proposed changes to the constitution).

H-WHALE - a chronology of change: an heritage network of historical whaling in Europe (2021-2023).

The project's main objective was to explore the possibility of a European network for the study of the history of whales and the cultural heritage and memory of historical whaling. Drawing upon the **Blue Humanities**, the **H-WHALE initiative** (supported by the **EEA grants Portugal** and **CHAM - Center for the Humanities of NOVA FCSH, Lisbon**) targeted to encourage interdisciplinary research among various institutions and fields. It aimed at a new bilateral collaboration between Portugal and Iceland, involving two museums dedicated to the heritage of whales and whaling, alongside academia. Their shared objective was to research and disseminate the history and culture of oceans and their inhabitants.

By concluding the initiative, we were able to advance the significance of this heritage, both tangible and intangible, and bring together international researchers through an inaugural gathering titled "Islands, Whales and People".

Currently, and even after the initiative is completed, we are working in a network dedicated to whaling history and heritage. This network brings together museums, research units, collections, and exhibitions through QR codes that showcase selected pieces and their connection to a shared heritage and history. This has paved the way for a prospective Atlantic network. In an effort to bring together countries with varying histories but where historical whaling has had or still has a significant influence, we extend an invitation to other institutions, museums, and researchers to join us in securing the future of our common whaling heritage, both tangible and intangible. ~ *Joana Baço, Cristina Brito, Nina Vieira (CHAM - Centro de Humanidades — NOVA FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa)*



First International Meeting Islands, Whales and People, 5th-7th September, Horta, Faial Island, Portugal.



Recording São Francisco wrecksite (Santiago Island-Cape Verde). © José Bettencourt / Universidade NOVA de Lisboa.

CONCHA - The construction of early modern global Cities and oceanic networks in the Atlantic: An approach via Ocean's Cultural Heritage (EU-H2020-MSCA-RISE GA 777998; 2018-2023; <https://cham.fcsh.unl.pt/CONCHA/index.html>).

CONCHA aimed to discuss the concept and characterization of coastal cities around the Atlantic rim from the 15th through the 18th centuries. It did so through the study of the conditions and expectations of such settlements and shore communities, with special attention to European settlement strategies in different regions as well as to local ecological, social, and cultural features and constraints. It examined maritime trade and commercial activities, and the building of social communities, and material culture. It also analysed urban development and scientific discovery and technological development. Finally, it studied the exploitation of marine resources, their

uses, trading, and impact in coastal settlements, their importance in natural history, material culture, and the consumption of luxury goods.

Joint initiatives allowed, in Cape Verde, to identify, map and record different contexts and materials, documenting the intense passage of ships, and revealing a strong connection with the African diaspora connected with the slave trade. In Cartagena de Indias, material studies were made to determine consumption patterns and address societal changes resulting from the contacts between America, Europe and Africa. Surveys were also made in São Tomé and Bahia and Alagoas regions, aiming to record maritime cultural landscapes, including the exploitation of marine resources. A strong focus was given to early modern whaling history, in different Atlantic spaces, including both continental and insular regions. Fishing and hunting practices of other marine species, namely manatees, were also conducted increasing knowledge about human impact on marine extractions and animal agency. Intangible heritage was addressed through recording of different cultural, symbolic and religious manifestations. Recording of seascapes and ways of living the sea was made, prioritising the visual study on the memory and identity of maritime landscapes and marine ecosystems.

In short, the project allowed the construction of a "sea story" in which the ocean is a fundamental part of history, heritage and memory in an integrated and cross-cultural manner, contributing for ocean literacy and to reinforce the importance of blue humanities for the study of the oceans' past. ~ *Patrícia Carvalho, Joana Baço, Cristina Brito, Catarina Garcia, Nina Vieira (CHAM - Centro de Humanidades — NOVA FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa)*

RESOURCES

Upcoming palaeoproteomics courses. As can be seen with our spotlight in this issue and one of the recent publications, palaeoproteomics is proving to be an invaluable tool for marine historical ecology. **Alberto John Taurozzi** and **Enrico Cappellini** of the **Globe Institute at the University of Copenhagen** have two upcoming courses that may be of interest to those of you keen to learn more!

The **Practical Palaeoproteomics Summer School** remains the flagship and this year has been extended by one day and is now worth **6 ECTS**. The course starts with a series of lectures and is followed by laboratory work (wet) and then data analysis. The first 3 days can be attended either in person or remotely. **Enrollment deadline** is the **4th April 2024** and runs from **14-23 August 2024**. Additional details can be found here: <https://phdcourses.ku.dk/DetailKursus.aspx?id=111424&sitepath=SUND>

A new course, **Lectures on Ancient Proteins**, is as the name implies a lecture series on the palaeoproteomics field, principles, technology and applications. This course is aimed at being an introduction and consists of 3 days of lectures (2.1 ECTS) which can be attended either in person or remotely. **Enrollment deadline** is the **15th of July 2024** and the course runs **14-16 August 2024**. A more detailed description and the sign up can be found here: <https://phdcourses.ku.dk/DetailKursus.aspx?id=111416&sitepath=SUND>

Function of Oceans Past News (OPN) emailing list. From the responses received it appears unanimously from the 6 individuals that responded that folks are indeed open to receiving additional content from us about relevant news (e.g., conferences, job adverts, abstract deadlines, etc.). Thus, going forward if you have time sensitive material that you would like sent out, please be in touch with me (rachelwinter@palaeome.org) for wider dissemination through our community! Additionally, if you would like to have a say in the function of our mailing list and haven't the link the **short survey (2 questions)** remains open, anonymous, and can be accessed here: <https://forms.gle/S5CNYNhBzJCoeaRC7>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Albano PG, Schultz L, Wessely J, Taviani M, Dullinger S, & Danise S. (2024). ***The dawn of the tropical Atlantic invasion into the Mediterranean Sea***. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121(15), e2320687121. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2320687121>

Castello L, Martins EG, Sorice M, Smith E, Almeida M, Bastos GCC, Cardoso LG, Clauzet M, Dopona AP, Ferreira B, Haimovici M, Jorge M, Mendonça J, Ávila-da-Silva AO, Roman APO, Ramires M, de Miranda LV, & Lopes PFM. (2024). ***Local knowledge reconstructs historical resource use***. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2726>

Chong-Montenegro C, Thurstan RH, & Pandolfi JM. (2024). ***Diving into archival data: The hidden decline of the giant grouper (Epinephelus lanceolatus) in Queensland, Australia***. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*, 34(2), e4094. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.4094>

Fossile T, McGrath K, Presslee S, Fogarty G, Pavei DD, Alves MC, Ferreira J, Montes TA, Bandeira DdaR, Borba FM, & Colonese AC (2023). ***Long-Term Perspective on Fishing and Mammal Defaunation in the Atlantic Forest Coast of Brazil Using Archaeological Faunal Remains***. *Tropical Conservation Science*, 16. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19400829231218419>

Hayes, PW. (2023). ***Ireland's Sea Fisheries, 1400-1600: Economics, Environment and Ecology***. In *Ireland's Sea Fisheries, 1400-1600*. Boydell and Brewer.

Holm P, Hayes PW, and Nicholls J. ***Historical Marine Footprint for Atlantic Europe, 1500-2019***. *Ambio*. 53 (2024): 624–36. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-023-01939-9> (Associated online resource for publication: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.22236730.v2>).

Scherer C, Ludlow F, Matthews A, Hayes P, Klais R, & Holm P. (2024). ***A Historical Plankton Index: Zooplankton abundance in the North Sea since 800 CE***. *The Holocene*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09596836241236332>

Svoboda A, Vales DG. 2024. ***Historical ecology of pinnipeds of the northern coast of the San Jorge Gulf since the Late Holocene***. *The Holocene*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09596836241231436>

Vales DG. 2024. ***A reconstruction of the marine mammal harvest by the Real Compañía Marítima through the analysis of historical sources (AD 1790-1804)***. *The Holocene*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09596836241231444>

ANNOUNCEMENTS: CONFERENCES and WORKSHOPS

Conference registration is open! This also serves as another reminder to save the date for **Oceans Past X: Historical perspectives on human-ocean interactions: Deep understandings for informing ocean futures** if you haven't already. This conference will take place between **25-28 June 2024** and be hosted by the **University of Exeter** on their Penryn campus in **Cornwall, United Kingdom**. Abstract decisions were sent out in mid-March and conference registration has opened! There is a lot of useful information on the [conference website](#) and early bird registration rates will be available until **May 8th**!



Upcoming conference. **Congreso Internacional de Lengua, Literatura e Historia del mar y la navegación. Europa, América y Filipinas** will take place between 07th – 10th of May 2024 at the Casa de América in Madrid, Spain. [Conference website.](#)

Upcoming conference. **2024 Ecosystem Studies of Subarctic and Arctic Seas (ESSAS) Annual Science Meeting** will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada between 18th – 21st of June 2024. The conference theme is "Exploring the dynamic interface of human and marine life in high-latitude coastal zones" and additional details can be found on the [conference website](#).

Call for papers and **upcoming conference.** The 2024 **International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ) Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG) Conference** Organizing Committee invites abstract submissions for paper and poster presentations at the upcoming conference, deadline of midnight (EST) on 15 April 2024. This will be the **22nd FRWG meeting** and it will take place between the 12th and 18th of August in Toronto, Canada. [Conference website.](#)

Upcoming conference. **9th International Maritime History Association International Congress of Maritime History** will be held in Busan, Korea between 19th – 24th of August 2024. The main theme will be "Oceans: Local Mobility, Global Connectivity", and the aim is to investigate the many aspects of the relationship between humans and the oceans. [Conference website.](#)

Upcoming workshop. COST Action MAF-WORLD has provided funding for a training school on '**Detecting, describing and disentangling pre-industrial climate and human impacts on marine ecosystems**' in collaboration with PAGES Q-MARE group. This will take place 02-06 September 2024, on Crete, Greece. Applications will open on the COST website soon. Additional details [here](#).

Upcoming conference. International conference '**Commodities and Environments in Early Modern Global Asia, 1400–1800**', organised in the framework of the ERC-funded project CAPASIA The Asian Origins of Global Capitalism and hosted by the European University Institute in Florence from the 13th – 15th November 2024. [Conference website.](#)



[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 **Rachel Winter** (rachelwinter@palaeome.org).

*The next Oceans Past News will be out in July 2024. We **warmly welcome submissions** through June 2024.*

RESOURCES

The Oceans Past News Archive is available online: <https://oceanspast.org/newsletter.php>

More on the Oceans Past Initiative: <http://oceanspast.org>

OPI on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/122288493384/> and Twitter: [@oceans_past](https://twitter.com/oceans_past)