EDITORIAL

All members of the Fish Remains Working Group are asked to contribute to the Newsletter. That could be a short scientific contribution, a report like that of William Belcher in this issue, a discussion of problems, a book review or something else.

A prosaic problem is the cost of producing and dispatching the Newsletter. Therefore a small voluntary contribution of US $ 2.-- is again welcome. It should also be mentioned that some persons have already paid for this issue and partly even for some future ones.

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MEETINGS

I.C.A.Z. Seventh International Congress

The 7th International Congress of the International Council for Archaeozoology was held in Konstanz, Germany, from September 26th, to 2nd October, 1994. The sponsors were the Monuments Protection Service and Archaeological State Museum of Baden-Württemberg. Prof. Dr. M. Kokabi, Dr. J. Wahl, T. Uldin, and J. Rehmet formed the organizing committee. Participants who arrived early had the good luck to experience the „new wine“ festival in this picturesque and prosperous town.

Some regular „Fish Remains Working Group“ attendants abandoned scaly animals for feathered ones! This may be one reason why relatively few papers and posters specifi-
cally addressed fish, e.g., P. Ajithprasad (Mesolithic otoliths from Gujarat, India), J.H. Barrett (stockfish in Scandinavian Scotland), A. Cardell (a ≈ 3000 BP midden from Sweden), R. Greenspan and R. Wigen (hake remains from Oregon sites: human or seal diets?), S. Perdikaris (medieval Arctic Norway and the development of the commercial fisheries), E. Reitz (marine fish distribution and environmental change in coastal Peru), W. Van Neer (plaice processing in mediaeval Belgium), and I. Zohar (triggerfish dominance at a submerged prehistoric site in Israel). Other discussants included fishing in more general surveys of subsistence strategies, e.g., A. Bridault - late Paleolithic and Mesolithic North-west France, C. Lefèvre - early Holocene Aleutian islands, and J. Desse - Harappa. Actualistic research into fish bone distributions (always welcome at such meetings) was exemplified by K. Stewart, D. Gifford-González, and N. Rybczynski's study of modern fishing camps near Lake Turkana, Kenya. They identified three types of sites with different kinds of fishbone assemblages: base camps, fish processing camps, and fish waste discard sites.

In spite of the rather low visibility of fish, several discussions considered archaeoichthyo-
logical problems. A particularly protracted and entertaining exchange followed B.S. Shaffer
and K.M. Gardner's survey of Mimbres pottery iconography, which included representa-
tions of fishing with weirs, nets and lines. Perhaps the next meetings will invite multidisci-
plinary approaches that will lay to rest some of the arguments that hyperosteoisis still
stimulates. Several new faces attended the end-of-congress meeting of the „Fish Remains
Working Group“. A special welcome was extended to researchers from Estonia and
Japan. It was announced that the 8th meeting will take place at Cantoblanco, Spain, from
4th-7th October, 1995. Information can be obtained from: Prof. Dr. A. Morales, Departa-
mento de Biología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, E-28049,
Spain. The 9th meeting - originally planned for 1998 - will be held at the Smithsonian
Tropical Research Institute in Panama, in late March, 1997. Participants should contact:
R. Cooke, STRI, APO AA 34002-0948, United States (fax: Panama, 28-05-16, e-mail:
STRI01.naos.cooker@si.edu). Some financial assistance may be available for resear-
chers from developing countries and/or graduate students.

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A Brief Report on the Fish Remains Working Group Meeting at the Seventh International Congress in Konstanz

On completion of the I.C.A.Z. lecture programme, the fish remains working group met to discuss forthcoming meetings. Arturo Morales Muniz explained that preparations for the 1995 conference in Madrid were well underway, with 4th-7th October set as dates. The fee is to be $50 (American) or $75 including the Proceedings volume. This should be paid by 30th April, 1995 along with a deposit 30% of the accommodation fee (of 6.500 ptas single or 6.000 double per day including three meals) for those seeking to stay at the Hotel Escuela. He informed us with regret that we will have to fund our own participation.

A tentative limit of 15 minutes was set on papers to prevent the need for parallel sessions. There was some (perhaps inevitable) suggestion that this allotment was too short. Nevertheless, Arturo’s decision to wait until the number of participants was known before changing plans was generally well received. Participants were also encouraged to take full advantage of the opportunity to display posters.

A discussion regarding session themes ended on a somewhat indecisive note. The idea of producing an Archaeoichthyology manual has been shelved as unworkable, but papers on methodological issues were encouraged. There was, I believe, an implicit decision to accept whatever directions develop. It was stressed by several participants, however, that abstracts accompanying paper offers should be precise and detailed to facilitate the construction of a coherent programme.

Further details regarding the Madrid conference are available from:

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E-28049 Madrid, Spain
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Fax 34-1-3978344

Following discussion of next year’s meeting, Richard Cooke outlined plans for the following conference in Panama. A date of March 1997 was tentatively agreed, rather than September 1997 or March 1998 as previously suggested. Richard is still enthused about the possibility of producing a monograph based on regional reviews. The consensus was
that co-authored papers would be the best way to achieve this goal. He also asked that
participants requiring supplementary funding, specifically workers from Latin-America and
young professionals (those still engaged in education), contact him as soon as possible
(address see above).

The meeting subsequently dissolved, with sad faces and anticipation.

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I.C.A.Z. Fish Remains Working Group. Eight Meeting, Cantoblanco, Madrid, 4-7th October
1995

James Barrett has given important information concerning the meeting in Madrid, next year. Here are some complementary comments: Arturo Morales and Eufrasio Rosello
gave in their first circular a deadline of January 15th 1995 for those people who wished to
receive further information. Nevertheless potential attendant who did not receive the first
circular should contact Eufrasio Rosello, (address see above) informally. That is also
possible after January 1995.

Dirk Heinrich

PUBLICATIONS

Proceedings of the 5th to 7th Meetings of the Fish Remains Working Group

Proceedings of the 5th meeting in Stora Kornö cannot be prepared as planned by Leif
Jonsson. Meanwhile Arturo Morales has published some of the papers of that meeting in
the Journal „Archaeofauna, Vol. 3“, as he offered at the meeting of the Fish Remains
Working Group in Leuven in 1993. He will also accept the papers of the other contributors
if they are interested in having their papers published. Those who are interested should
send the updated manuscripts in WordPerfect 5.0/5.1 and a new set of original figures to
Arturo Morales or Eufrasia Rosello, Departamento de Biología, Laboratorio de Arqueozioloxía, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Cantoblanco, 28049 Madrid, not later than April 30th 1995.


Proceedings of the 7th meeting in Leuven are already published:

Dirk Heinrich

Book Review


This book about the exploitation of wild animals is the outcome of a conference held at Antibes/France in October 1992, which was organized by L'Homme et l'Animal, an interdisciplinary scientific society, as well as the municipal council and the Centre de Recherches Archéologiques du CNRS. Scientists of 14 countries came together whose scope of research included not only archaeozoological but also ethnological, historical, veterinary and further topics. The topics reached chronologically from the Palaeolithic period to modern times. The papers treat a wide range of space, environment, and ecological conditions, and a wide spectrum of the manner of exploitation: e.g. choice of species, degree of specialisation, utilisation of primary or secondary animal products, and practices of exploitation.

Species groups which are dealt with in the 42 contributions of the volume include not only mammals and birds but also amphibians and fishes. This last mentioned vertebrate group of our special interest is specifically addressed in six papers. These are entitled: „Pêche et surpêche en Méditerranée: le témoignage des os" (J. Desse, N. Desse-Berset); „Contenus d’amphores et surpêche: l’exemple de Sud-Perduto" (N. Desse-Berset); „Aperçu de la pêche sur le littoral méditerranéen français durant la Protohistoire, d’après les données
ichthyofauniques" (M. Sternberg); "La pêche dans la société agro-pastorale de la Grande Canarie (Archipel canarien, Espagne)" (C. Rodríguez Santana); "L’apport des accroissements journaliers dans les otolithes de tilapia à l’établissement de la saison de pêche" (W. Van Neer, S. Augustynen, T. Linkowski); "L’abbesse et les poissons: un aspect de la zoologie de Hildegarde de Bingen" (L. Moulinier). Some further papers also deal with fish together with other vertebrates.

The book is well edited. A "résumé" and an abstract are attached to most of the papers - but why not to all? - as well as the important parts of the discussion. This book which elucidates a lot of different aspects of the exploitation of animals in time and space is a very useful contribution to archaeozoology.

Dirk Heinrich

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Ethnoarchaeological Research of the Traditional Fisheries of Pakistan**

Between October 1993 and August 1994, I conducted ethnoarchaeological research among several Baluch villages along the western Sindh/eastern Baluchistan coast of Pakistan. This research was conducted in order to aid in understanding the fish remains from several archaeological sites of the Indus Valley Tradition (ca. 2.600-1.700 B.C.). The goals of the project generally were to record traditional procurement and butchery / processing techniques currently in use by these Baluchi fisherfolk. More specifically the goals included: (1) continued collection of reference specimens with an emphasis on the families Mugilidae and Clupeidae; (2) recording catch data from the various procurement techniques and fishing grounds in the area; (3) collection of otoliths from Haemulidae and Sciaenidae and the pectoral spines of Siluridae and Ariidae; (4) study of fish butchery in the household, village and commercial levels; and, (5) collection of fish remains/debris from several households.

The statistics on catches suggest that there exist substantial movement of particular fish species throughout the year. These inshore/offshore movements are associated with specific fishing grounds and fishing gear preferences by the local fishermen. Archaeologically, these statistics will assist in understanding the seasonal abundance of certain fish
species. The collection of otoliths and pectoral spines will enable me to create a baseline by which the archaeological specimens under examination can be compared. This will enable the seasonality of particular species to be reconstructed in more detail than with catch statistics.

The study of the traditional fishing practices will provide correlations between specific fish species and fishing techniques. This will allow me to reconstruct the marine habitat exploitation patterns present during the Indus Valley Tradition. Most importantly, I believe, are the studies of various styles of butchery and processing and discard of various fish remains. Several different levels of butchery were noted: commercial, village-based and household. Each of these creates particular patterns of discard that are represented by skeletal element and cutmark distributions that can be recorded in various contexts. This research was funded by a Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation and a Student Fulbright Grant. Currently, the ethnographic and archaeological materials are under analysis and will be reported in a dissertation scheduled to be finished August 1995 (Insh'allah).

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LIST OF ADDRESSES

This list of addresses of the members of the I.C.A.Z. Fish Remains Working Group and of interested persons is the update of the list given in Newsletter No. 9. In the last issue of the Newsletter I had enclosed a reply form which I have asked to send back if there is interest to receive further issues. Alas, I have got only some 50 responses, although there are far more than 100 persons on the mailing list up to now. In principle all the people who did not answer my inquiry should be cancelled, but I know from a lot of them that they are really active members of our group. These persons shall remain on the mailing list. Nevertheless the number of members of the Fish Remains Working Group and of interested
people has been reduced fundamentally in this way. Corrections and notices referring to further updates are welcome as well as reinstatements of cancelled names.

Dirk Heinrich

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The next issue of the Newsletter is scheduled for publication in 1996.

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