

Dr John Gulland belonged to the Scientific Committee of "Aquatic Living Resources" journal and he was one of the most active member. He was interested in this review and especially in the combination of biological and economic factors relating to living resources. His feeling was it would be useful to look for contributions - that discuss how markets affect the utilization of marine (aquatic) resources and, on the other hand, - about pollution as regards direct effects on living resources.

Thanks to Dr John Beddington, from the Renewable Resources Assessment Group, Imperial College, London, we reproduce here a part of the MAFF-Directorate of Fisheries Research Newsletter, Lowestoft.

"John Gulland was one of the most distinguished scientists to work in the field of fisheries science. He started his career as a mathematician but decided early on to apply his skills to fisheries, joining in 1951 the Fisheries Laboratory, Lowestoft, that time the acknowledged centre of excellence in the field.

J. Gulland started his work on whaling when he was asked, in 1963, to join a group of four scientists to examine its scientific assessment. The Group of Four, as they came to be known, made comprehensive recommendations for a massive cutback in the level of whaling in order to preserve the stocks. These recommendations were unpopular at the time and only decades later were they seen, if anything, to have been optimistic.

In the mid-sixties J. Gulland moved to the Fisheries Department of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations in Rome, where he occupied various posts until his retirement in 1984 as Chief of the Marine Resources Service. During the 18 years he spent at FAO, he became as familiar and much loved figure in the international fisheries scene serving tirelessly on fishery commissions throughout the world. On these commissions it was J. Gulland - almost invariably - who was requested to write the "report" and produce coherence from incoherence and compromise from bitterly opposing views. During much of this period, he was instrumental in encouraging young scientists from the developing world to collect data and analyse it in a way that would be of practical assistance to fisheries of their countries.

The recognition of Gulland's work, which came with election to the Royal Society in 1984, was the spur for him to leave the FAO and to take early retirement. However, "retirement" involved joining Imperial College and continuing work on a variety of issues involving marine resources. Controversy was not far away when he served as a member of the Canadian Royal Commission on Seals and Sealing in 1984-86 which followed the introduction of the ban on trading by the EEC on seals products from Canada. J. Gulland and the Commission argued that the harp seal population was not endangered by the current level of culling.

J. Gulland's involvement with Marine Resources was worldwide. He served in a variety of capacities as adviser of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. He felt that the summit of his career came when, in recognition of his Antarctic work, he was invited to visit the South Pole in January 1985, and while there he took part in a cricket match on the Beardmore Glacier, the most southerly match ever played.

John Gulland was given the Award of Excellence by the American Fisheries Society earlier this year. John Gulland's illness was cruel and extremely painful and he bore the difficult period before his death, with great courage. Until the final days, in June 1990, he was working on his last book, "Problems in the Management of Marine Fisheries".