

Recollections of David Garrod by Emory Anderson

I first met David Garrod in June 1972 during a meeting of the Assessments Subcommittee of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) held in Washington, DC. It was my first ICNAF meeting after beginning as an assessment scientist at the Woods Hole Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in late November 1970. David had begun attending ICNAF meetings in 1967 when he served as rapporteur for the Assessments Subcommittee chaired then by Basil Parrish. Over the subsequent 6–7 years, his skill in capturing and condensing the essence of the important aspects of meeting discussion and decisions was recognized; consequently, he was frequently asked to serve as rapporteur for the Assessments Subcommittee as well as its parent Standing Committee on Research and Statistics. Finally, he was elected by his colleagues to chair the Assessments Subcommittee during 1973–1975, a difficult and contentious time in ICNAF as more and more catch quotas were being implemented to help reign in overharvesting, most stocks were declining in abundance, and assessments prepared or advocated by scientists from Soviet-bloc countries vs. those from the US and Canada on the important stocks differed markedly. Thanks to the skillful chairmanship of Garrod, consensus was usually reached and tensions eased.

I particularly remember a special meeting of the Assessments Subcommittee in January 1974 in Hamburg. Half of the meeting was devoted to mackerel, a stock for which I was the lead scientist for the US. Each day was long, and work sometimes extended into the evening. After one such exhausting day when most participants had wandered off in various directions for dinner, I happened to encounter David in the hotel lobby, and he suggested that we share a quiet dinner together somewhere. Since we were both “drained” mentally from the day’s meeting, he suggested that we not “talk shop”, which resulted in a relaxing time for both of us. Although that quiet dinner happened 43 years ago, I still remember how honored I was to be invited to dinner and conversation with the chairman of the ICNAF Assessments Subcommittee!

Moving the clock ahead ten years, my next encounter with David was in Copenhagen in the apartment of Kjartan Hoydal, who was ICES Statistician at the time. I had just completed chairing my first meeting of the Mackerel Working Group (28 February – 6 March 1984) and was staying on an extra day to finalize the report. Kjartan invited me to join him and some friends for dinner that evening. I arrived a bit late, but was pleasantly surprised to find John Pope, Benoit Besnil, and David Garrod among the several guests already there. They had come to Copenhagen for a meeting of the Industrial Fisheries Working Group, which John chaired. It was great fun to renew friendships with all of them who I had not seen since ICNAF days the previous decade and to enjoy frequent toasts with Danish akvavit tempered with various Faroese culinary delicacies.

A year later (1985), I applied for the post of ICES Statistician which was being vacated by Hoydal. Among several individuals whom I asked to write letters of recommendation in support of my application was David Garrod. He gladly consented and I have to assume that his letter must have helped because I was selected for the position. As Statistician (I took over in August 1985), I served as secretary to the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM), and my first meeting in that capacity was in November 1985. During the 8-day meeting, my wife and

I hosted a dinner party for ACFM at the small home we were renting (until the larger home that we had purchased would become available a month later). With space at a premium for a group of about 25, early arrivals quickly staked out prime locations close to food and drink. I still remember David Garrod and Albrecht Schumacher parking themselves at the end of a small counter in the kitchen and literally not relinquishing those seats all evening!

Not having ready access to earlier ICES Annual Reports, I can only surmise that David began fully participating in the work of ICES and its assessment working groups soon after his appointment to the staff of the Fisheries Laboratory in Lowestoft in 1961. In 1983, he served as the alternate UK member (to Alan Saville) of ACFM, but was the regular UK member in 1984–1986. When he was appointed Director of the Fisheries Laboratory in Lowestoft in 1989, he also took on the role of UK Delegate to ICES, a position he held until 1994 when he retired as Director.

As General Secretary from 1989 through 1993, I had the honor of interacting with Delegates from all Member Countries and would see them at least once a year at the annual Statutory Meetings. The same applied to David, but I always welcomed such opportunities to again see and chat with an old friend. I remember one time when had to ask for his help in a difficult situation. The occasion was the 1991 Statutory Meeting held in La Rochelle, and the Secretariat, as usual, arrived a few days prior to the start of meeting to set up. On the first evening, the staff went out to dinner together, but by the next morning, at least half of them had fallen victim to food poisoning. Knowing that we needed some appropriate medicinal assistance to control the diarrhea that most were experiencing, and also knowing that Delegates would be arriving that day or the next, I called David's office at Lowestoft and asked that he please bring an ample supply of kaopectate (or its equivalent). True to form, David arrived later that day carrying a bag of bottles of the medicine that were immediately put to use. The bottles not fully used remained in our home for a number of years, and each time I looked at them, I remembered how David saved the day for us in La Rochelle.

I clearly recall David's strong voice in meetings of the Council where he was not timid in expressing his views, all of which he conveyed based on factual information or well-considered opinions. One such instance occurred in the 1992 Council meeting when Delegates debated the proposal to restructure the Advisory Committee on Marine Pollution (ACMP) along the lines of ACFM (i.e. mainly national nominees instead of appointed experts). David was the only Delegate to oppose the change; his stated concern was that ICES needed to conduct its work in the most effective and beneficial manner possible to ensure that its scientific advice was of the highest quality. He strongly believed that the current membership structure of ACMP was the best way to achieve this.

As a Delegate, David was a member of the Finance Committee in 1990–1992, serving as its chair in 1992. I specifically recall the 1992 meeting of the Finance Committee which was at a time when Member Countries were experiencing national budgetary problems, concerns had arisen relative to continued increases in national contributions to ICES, and consideration was being given to recovering full costs incurred by the Council in providing scientific advice and services to the various client commissions. In this context, a proposal, crafted by David, recommended that the Secretariat should initiate a feasibility study to explore the desirability of establishing a

product-oriented budgeting system for the Council. This proposal, which was accepted by the Council, led to an immediate change in the Secretariat's day-to-day operations in that the work done by each staff member had to be assigned, on an hourly basis, to a specific client commission in order to collect the basic cost data needed for the feasibility study. This led to a marked change in how the Secretariat functioned, and I always think of David Garrod when I think of this change, which took place during my final year as General Secretary.

Following my retirement from NMFS in 2004 and after I became involved in an editorial capacity with ICES (2008–present), my last contact with David was in 2011 when I was writing an article about Ray Beverton and Sidney Holt for the former *ICES Insight* magazine. I was seeking entertaining stories involving either man from former colleagues or others. David was one of several people that I contacted in search of such stories, and he happily provided one involving himself and Ray in Nairobi in 1957 when both were working on the fisheries of Lake Victoria. The story in question pertained to Ray, who, according to David, was quaffing a mid-day beer with David and others on the veranda of the Royal Norfolk Hotel and was “dressed as the quintessential casual Englishman abroad in non-fitting long trousers cut off at the knees, drainpipe style, and in a smart shade of orange masquerading as khaki and standing out in any local crowd”. An American big-game hunter approached Ray and asked if he too was a hunter. According to David, having been recognized this way made Ray's day! I think David really enjoyed passing that story on to me because it was clear from his vivid description of Ray's clothing and the interaction with the American hunter that he remembered it very well. I would have enjoyed hearing David tell the story in person.

My periodic interactions with David Garrod extended from 1972 until my last contact with him in 2011, a period spanning nearly 40 years. I was greatly saddened to hear of his passing, but will continue to cherish the memories of my association with a great, kind, and fun-loving man.

Emory D. Anderson
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