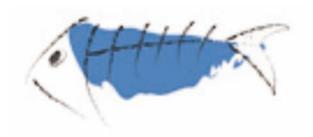
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Fish and Fishing

Archaeological, Anthropological, Taphonomical and Ecological perspectives

Proceedings from the I.C.A.Z. Fish Remains Working Group, Jerusalem, October 22nd-30th, 2011

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Attendants to the 16th Fish Remains Working Group Meeting at Massada (Photo: Daniella Bar-Yosef)





Fish and Fishing: Archaeological, Anthropological, Taphonomical and Ecological Perspectives

EDITORS' NOTE

The 16th biennial meeting of the Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG) was the first archaeozoological conference ever held in Israel and met from October 23-30, 2011. This FRWG was a joint research conference of the Institute for Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and the Israel Science Foundation (ISF). It was part of an ongoing grant awarded by the ISF (Grant No. 300/06) to the Center of Excellence, under the project entitled: "The Effect of Climate Change on the Environment and Hominins of the Upper Jordan Valley between ca. 800Ka and 700Ka ago as a Basis for Prediction of Future Scenarios".

Surrounded by diverse aquatic ecosystems (Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Sea of Galilee, and Jordan River) and coastal and inland archaeological sites, some dating to as early as the Lower Palaeolithic, Israel presented an ideal place for a thorough discussion on the role of fish and aquatic habitats in human evolution and in fish-based economies of past human populations. For these reasons, the meeting was held here with activities scheduled at several venues in Jerusalem, Haifa, and Eilat.

The meeting drew together a diverse group of 64 scholars from 24 countries, with training in such disciplines as archaeology, zoology, paleontology, geology, history, and anthropology. Scholarly communications included 40 oral presentations and a session in which 12 posters were presented. All displayed expertise in recent advances in the study of fish remains in different parts of the Old and New World. Conference sessions were organized according to the following themes:

- Fish dispersal routes: In and out of Africa
- The role of fish and fishing during the "Agricultural Revolution"
- Fish consumption methods
- Fishing activity in Europe
- Fishing cultures of the world
- Taxonomy and nanotechnology

A special session was dedicated to the memory of Professor Oscar Polaco, a renowned archaeozoologist in México, who had passed away in October 2009. This session started with a brief but touching presentation by Dr. Ana Fabiola Guzmán, followed by seven lectures illustrating recent advances in neotropical zooarchaeology.

The topic of fish exploitation, fishing, and seafaring along the Mediterranean Sea included a visit to Mount Carmel caves and an ichthyological workshop conducted by Dr. Dani Golani, Curator of Fishes at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Edmond J. Safra Campus, Givat Ram. Following his presentation, conference participants were allowed to collect fish for their reference collections. The Red Sea ichthyofauna was explored by a visit to the Dolphin Reef and the Underwater Marine Park in Eilat.

Furthermore, an online manual for freshwater fish otoliths was produced for this meeting (http://www.nature-conservation.org.il/BuildaGate5/general2/data_card.php?dc=725026172~119~~~conserve~Card4).

The goals for this meeting were achieved as we encouraged rich and productive, formal and informal, dialogues among participants and across disciplines. We exposed students to new advances in the study of



fish remains. We discussed the accuracy of research methods used. Above all, our interactions were lively, engaging, and productive.

Conferences like this that include both formal and informal interactions are the ones that we most treasure and remember. Such conferences leave an imprint that generates messages and ideas that form and transform our views of the past, promote future research, and encourage new collaborations. The exciting collection of papers published in this special volume of ARCHAEOFAUNA summarizes some of the topics discussed during the FRWG conference and illuminate broad, important questions in the study of fish remains.

The success of the 16th meeting of the FRWG is in no small part due to the financial help received from the Israel Science Foundation (ISF), the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Edmond J. Safra Campus, Givat Ram), and the Wenner-Gren Foundation.



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Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG) 16th Meeting: 23-30 October 2011, Israel List of Participants

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