

BOOK REVIEW

FISHERIES TECHNIQUES, 3rd edn. Edited by A. V. Zale, D. L. Parrish & T. M. Sutton. 1009 pp. Published by American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, MD, U.S.A., 2012. Price \$104.00. ISBN-13: 978-1-934874-29-5.

I am not sure that there is much point in me writing anything about this book other than that you should stop reading this review and go and buy a copy. Now. Under the guidance of a new editorial team, this fantastic work has successfully evolved from its previous edition (Murphy, B. R. & Willis, D. W. (Eds) (1996). *Fisheries Techniques*, 2nd edn. Bethesda, MD, U.S.A.: American Fisheries Society), which I am sure will have been well thumbed by many readers, and now breaks the one thousand pages mark.

Basically, this book presents authoritative treatments of every fisheries technique that you can think of and probably a few that you did not know existed. I tried to catch it out with a few very specialised or esoteric queries, but I was unsuccessful. Its 21 chapters cover everything from safety issues (sure many people complain or joke about such matters, but it is better to be safe than even just once sorry), through everything you can possibly do involving a fish other than eating it, taking into account various aspects of their habitats, and into the human dimension through angler surveys, sampling commercial fisheries and finally measuring the human dimension of recreational fisheries. Each chapter is supported by its own reference list which provide excellent pathways into the specialized primary literature, but there are common lists of symbols and abbreviations, an excellent glossary and a comprehensive index. As one might expect given its publisher, all but one of this book's 67 contributors have a North American affiliation and the vast majority of these are from the U.S.A. The sole exception is the U.K.'s Martyn Lucas, who unsurprisingly co-authored an excellent chapter on biotelemetry and biologging. However, this geographical bias does not significantly impede or constrain this definitive treatment of modern fisheries techniques.

As the editors note in their preface, this work was written to accomplish the two goals of serving as an instructional volume on fisheries sampling and analysis techniques for advanced undergraduate and graduate classes, and serving as a reference volume for practising fisheries professionals. It meets and excels in both of these areas and deserves and will surely receive worldwide sales wherever anyone, anywhere conducts any kind of fisheries (and many fish biology) education or investigation. I cannot praise it highly enough.

IAN J. WINFIELD

Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Lancaster, U.K.