ANCORS’ work schedule is beginning to accelerate and 2018 looks like it will be a bumper year.

We have had two new post-doctoral fellows, Dr Astrid Vachette, who is joining the Pacific Pathways fisheries project, and Dr Anna Farmery, who has been appointed a Vice-Chancellor’s Post-Doctoral Fellow.

On the other side of the ledger, it is sad to be losing Professor Clive Schofield for a two year leave of absence to head to the World Maritime University in Malmö in Sweden, but Clive will still maintain his ANCORS connections and co-deliver a maritime boundaries workshop in Singapore with Robin Warner in July.

Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) – bringing the supply chain into co-management

Fisheries reform is a very challenging but commonly critical task for both fishing communities and natural ecosystems. For many fisheries, especially in Asia but also small-scale and developing country fisheries, there is abundant evidence of overfishing, problematic impacts on species and habitats of conservation significance and excess fishing capacity.

Generating support amongst stakeholders is an important part of the reform process and the concept of co-management, whereby stakeholders and fishery managers work in partnership, has gained a solid foothold in many regions.

Fishery improvement projects can add value and create incentives for the catching sector. Photo: D. Leadbitter.

Indeed, in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, co-management has been adopted as the preferred management model.

Co-management is a malleable concept commonly viewed as a spectrum of power-sharing arrangements between fishers and government ranging from simple consultation though active participation to various forms of limited self-management.

Participation in the co-management process is also variable and most commonly involves fishers and government but may also include other stakeholders such as environmental NGOs and recreational fishers.

The rise of the so-called ‘Sustainable Seafood Movement’, has created a form of co-management that additionally involves supply chain actors in management improvement deliberations. (continue next page)
Fisheries improvement projects (continued)

(continued from page 1)

For wild harvest fisheries, Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIPs), have evolved as a mechanism for both driving change and seeking market access and endorsement.

The initial driving force for the development of the FIP mechanism was the rise of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), which actively involves market forces in the drive for improvements in fisheries management.

The MSC system (and now others) links incentives such as market access, preferred supplier status and price premiums to fisheries reform via its standard for sustainability which sets out environmental performance expectations based on international norms such as the Law of the Sea Convention and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

In its early days, MSC had hoped that market benefits for certified fisheries would stimulate other fisheries to seek certification to the MSC Standard and that these benefits would drive fisheries that did not meet the benchmark for certification to independently undertake the required reforms.

However, this hope for self-motivated reform proved unworkable, despite the consumer demand for sustainable product. In part, this was because the involvement of committed supply chain actors such as processors and retailers was often contingent on sufficient supplies and a diversity of certified products. Moreover, some companies chose to show their support for sustainability via mechanisms other than sourcing certified products due to costs or commitments to other ways of implementing their Corporate Social Responsibility.

A mechanism for providing guidance and support was required, and thus the FIP concept was developed.

A FIP is a collaboration of stakeholders committed to making fishery improvements with the incentive of market recognition. Once there is agreement amongst stakeholders to create a FIP, an assessment of the fishery against a recognised standard (e.g., MSC, IFFO RS, ASIC) is undertaken in order to identify gaps in management performance.

Some standards such as MSC and IFFO RS are almost exclusively environmental in scope whereas the ASIC Fish standard (technically a protocol) covers both social and environmental components. The gap analysis forms the basis for the creation of an action plan. The action plan allocates priorities, time-bound actions and reporting arrangements.

Public reporting and independent verification of any claims of progress are seen as critical to creating confidence and trust, and helping to address any claims of ‘greenwashing.’

The overall model is similar to the Environmental Management Systems approach set out in ISO14000 and is no different to any other planning model that requires participants to identify where they are, where they want to be, create a plan to achieve the aims, review and report on progress and make changes where needed.

The popularity and intuitive appeal of FIPs has resulted in the basic model being adopted by other organisations like the International Fishmeal and Fishoil Organisation (IFFO).

While a FIP cannot achieve all requirements for fisheries reform such as allocation and capacity reduction, it can add value and put influential incentives in front of the catching sector that governments cannot.

As Director of Fish Matter, I have overseen and facilitated numerous FIPs in Asia for many years, including:

From 2009 to 2013 I ran a FIP in Thailand for longtail tuna in collaboration with Sweden-based Orkla Foods. They have been buying longtail from Thailand for 40 years and have a commitment to sustainable sourcing.

Stakeholders included fishermen, canneries and an NGO (Sustainable Fisheries Partnership). The Fishery Action Plan was based on the MSC Standard.

One major outcome was the development of a Regional Plan of Action for Neritic Tunas by SEAFDEC. I am also establishing a FIP in Timur Aceh in Sumatera that involves a small scale trammel net fishery for black tiger prawns which are used as broodstock in the prawn farming industry. The farmers have been working with the ASIC Shrimp standard and an evaluation of the broodstock fishery has been undertaken.

The next step is to formally establish a steering committee and create a plan. Finally, I am supporting a coalition of seafood associations which have formed the Thai Sustainable Fisheries Roundtable and established a FIP to work towards the Responsible Sourcing Program of the International Fishmeal and Fishoil Organisation. This FIP has helped create a unique multispecies fishery assessment system for the largest fishery in the Gulf of Thailand.

- Duncan Leadbitter
In early May, Lecturer Ruth Davis represented ANCORS and the ACIAR/DFAT ‘Pathways Project’ at the recent National Consultation Workshop on Kiribati Coastal Fisheries Regulations in Tarawa. The workshop was held to progress the development of new coastal fisheries regulations for Kiribati. The workshop was attended by approximately 30 representatives from Ministries of Fisheries (MFMRD), Internal Affairs (MIA), Women, Youth, and Social Affairs (MWYSA), Environment and Agriculture (MELAD) and the Attorney General’s Office, local fishing associations, donor partners and a team from SPC and the Pathways project.

The workshop provided a critical opportunity for the different government Ministries to come together, to share information and experiences and to explore opportunities for future cooperation.

The Deputy Secretary of MFMRD opened the meeting and declared the workshop a key milestone in working towards the Ministry’s vision for sustainably managed coastal fisheries. Over the course of the workshop, considerable progress was made in broadening the understanding of participants about how the role and responsibilities of each of the government ministries overlapped in relation to coastal fisheries. The discussions were well documented and will be incorporated as the Coastal Fisheries Office continues to work closely with the Attorney General’s Office, supported by SPC and Pathways, in finalising the draft Coastal Fisheries regulations.

—Ruth Davis

The international focus on marine debris continues, this time in San Diego, USA. In March, Dr Karen Raubenheimer and Prof. Alistair McIlgorm presented at the 6th International Marine Debris Conference co-hosted by NOAA and UN Environment. Over 600 international attendees, including NGOs, academics and members of various governments, discussed the latest research, action plans, campaigns and policy interventions in 74 technical sessions.

Alistair gave a presentation about the economic costs of marine debris, providing practical considerations for future policy action. Karen focused on her current research with UN Environment, providing design strategies for marine litter action plans. Karen also presented on the policy challenges and potentials for regulating microplastics. The five-day conference ended with inspirational lyrics from Jack Johnson.

As a result of the conference, Karen has been invited by the South Korean government to participate in a second phase workshop titled Capacity Building for Marine Debris Prevention and Management in the APEC Region in June.

—Dr Karen Raubenheimer

ANCORS delivers Law of the Sea course in the Philippines

In April, Professor Stuart Kaye, Assoc. Prof Cameron Moore, and Senior Lecturer Dr Lowell Bautista delivered a Law of the Sea short course and evening Q&A sessions to the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila. This course was supported by the Australian Government Australia Awards program. A number of very senior officials attended the course, including Ambassadors and Assistant Secretary level officers, officials from the Office of the President, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Department of Energy, the Coastguard and the Department of Transport.

The group was particularly focused and engaged and vigorously discussed key law of the sea related issues for the Philippines.

—A/Prof. Cameron Moore

Professor Kaye engages with officials from the Philippine DFA in Manila.

The Law of the Sea course was delivered by (L to R): A/Prof. Moore, Prof. Kaye, Dr. Bautista.
Au revoir to ANCORS...for now?

Professor Clive Schofield bids farewell to ANCORS...at least until we meet again!

Clive has accepted a two-year position as Head of Research with the new Global Ocean Institute based at the UN’s World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden.

As a result he will be leaving ANCORS after nearly 14 years at the Centre:

“When I joined what was then called the Centre for Maritime Policy there was the Director, now Emeritus Professor Martin Tsamenyi, Chris Rahman who had just completed his PhD (and is now Associate Professor with the Centre) and Myree (don’t-call-me-the-mother-of-the-Centre) Mitchell.

I have been most privileged to see Centre grow into the truly thriving centre of excellence for law of the sea and oceans governance research that is today with over 20 academic staff and having graduated its 50th PhD.

ANCORS has been my scholarly (and sometimes it seemed literal!) home and I have been extremely fortunate in the colleagues and friends that I found among the ANCORS family.

While I look forward to new academic adventures ‘Up Over’, I also won’t forget and I will be back before you know it!”

All at ANCORS wish Clive and family the best of luck for his prestigious appointment in Sweden.

ANCORS to host Australia Awards Africa short course

In July and August 2018, ANCORS will host a seven-week program in “Ocean Management: Sustainable fisheries and governance” awarded under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australia Awards Africa (AAA) short course program.

Course coordinator Professor Alistair McIlgorm has confirmed that 30 fellows from 12 countries in coastal Africa (Cameroon, Comoros, Cote d’Ivore, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) will come to improve their professional skills through the program.

The course will enable participants to increase their knowledge and skills in ocean and fisheries management to a postgraduate level, while also developing leadership skills from observing approaches to fisheries management and aquaculture in Australia.

Course delivery will integrate the private sector in fisheries co-management and blue economy development. The course is of eight weeks’ duration, with five weeks in Australia and two weeks in Mauritius.—Prof. Alistair McIlgorm

Supporting regional fisheries governance in the Pacific

ANCORS Director Professor Stuart Kaye has been selected by the Commission of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation to undertake the first SPRFMO Performance Review.

Under Article 30 of the SPRFMO Convention, there is a requirement for the Commission to review the effectiveness of conservation and management measures at least every five years.

Stuart will join a team of four, selected by the State Parties, to undertake the review before the end of 2018.

SPRFMO is one of the world’s youngest regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), with a remit that extends through the high seas areas across the South Pacific from equatorial waters to the edge of Antarctic waters, from south of Western Australia to South America.—Prof. Stuart Kaye

SPRFMO’s remit extends across a significant portion of the Pacific Ocean.
ANCORS around the world

Meet the new additions to the CBFM Kiribati team! Dr Astrid Vachette recently made her first trip to Tarawa to meet with Ms Tarateiti Uriam in her new role as Community-Based Fisheries Management Coordinator at the Ministry of Fisheries and with new officers Mrs Toaiti Vanguna and Mr Rooti Tioti. They join Kiribati Project Leader Dr Aurélie Delisle and Researchers Ruth Davis and Brooke Campbell. This photo is taken outside of the Coastal Fisheries office.

A first visit to Kiribati

Last month ANCORS Research Fellow Dr Astrid Vachette put foot on the beautiful land of Kiribati for her first of many trips. She stayed only for a week, on the main island of Tarawa. However, she already started to get a sense of the particular way of living in this amazing country. She found the contrast between the beauty of the country and the kindness of the people, and the environmental issues they are facing everyday very confronting.

The ACIAR/DFAT-funded CBFM 'Pathways' project aims to empower local staff and communities to build capacity in sustainable coastal fisheries management, addressing in particular specific questions related to gender, livelihoods and nutrition. Astrid met with the Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development and a project manager of the Australian High Commission, who are both follow the project with interest. She and the local team talked about developing a board game to facilitate simulation, role play and common awareness raising on the issues and solutions of fisheries management. Astrid looks forward to her next trip in July, when she visits communities.

Catching up with Alumni abroad

In March, Professor Robin Warner had the opportunity to catch up with Dr Hazmi Rusli, her first PhD graduate and an ANCORS alumni. She was in Putrajaya, Malaysia speaking at an Ocean Governance Discussion Roundtable on the BBNJ Negotiations at the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Professor Warner with Dr Rusli in Malaysia.
ANCORS celebrated the 20th anniversary of its relationship with the Indonesian Naval Command and Staff College (SESKOAL) in March 2018.

The Maritime Strategic Studies Period (MSSP) has been held annually since its inception in 1999 in collaboration with the Royal Australian Navy, which is represented by our principal RAN partner organization, Sea Power Centre – Australia.

Along with staff course officer exchanges, the MSSP was the only Defence Cooperation activity with Indonesia that survived the initial fallout from the East Timor crisis, and has proven a resilient and successful component of Australia-Indonesia navy-to-navy engagement ever since. During the 2018 MSSP a dinner was hosted by Head of Australian Defence Staff (HADS) CDRE Bob Plath RAN for Dan Seskoal (Commandant) Laksamana Muda (RADM) TNI Sulistiyanto, S.E, M.M., Wadan Seskoal (Deputy Commandant) Laksamana Pertama (CDRE) TNI TSNB Hutabarat, an ANCORS Masters degree alumnus, and other senior staff to commemorate the anniversary.

The MSSP involves one week of intensive law of the sea training, followed by a second week focused on maritime security, strategy and regional security.

The College itself has developed significantly over that time, with greatly improved teaching facilities. The early cohorts numbered around 60 officers, growing to a peak of over 180.

Emeritus Professor Martin Tsamenyi AM, Professor Sam Bateman AM, Dr Bob Howard, Dr Chris Rahman, Professor Robin Warner and Professor Stuart Kaye have all taught on the MSSP. We look forward to continuing our relationship with SESKOAL into the years ahead.—Dr Chris Rahman
Emeritus Professor Martin Tsamenyi AM jokes with guest lecturer, Professor Hasjim Djalal, in front of Professor Robin Warner and the SESKOAL Commandant, 2008.

2017 MSSP: centre: Komandan (Commandant) Seskoal Laksamana Muda (RADM) TNI Arusukmono Indra Sucahyo, Flanked by CAPT Mike McArthur RAN, DSPC-A, Dr Chris Rahman, and RAN Instructor at SESKOAL, CMDR Rod Griffiths RAN.

ANCORS Director Professor Stuart Kaye teaching in the MSSP in 2018.
In Profile: Anna Farmery

Dr Anna Farmery joined ANCORS this month as a Vice Chancellors Post-Doctoral Research Fellow. She was based previously at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) at the University of Tasmania (UTAS).

Anna has a Bachelor of Science with Honours from UTAS and a background in agriculture and natural resource management. She spent time working as a Lecturer in agricultural and environmental science in the rural province of Prey Veng in Cambodia. The campus was potentially better suited to aquatic studies given that it was flooded by several meters of water each year.

Anna has also worked in Switzerland with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP) on a project to establish an East African regional standard for trade in organic agricultural products. This project built on the work of the vibrant organic organisations already operating in the region and was successful in facilitating access to European markets for counties that adopted the East African Organic Products Standard.

After moving back to Tasmania to have a baby, Anna began considering the role of fish in food systems and the fact that seafood was under-researched, in terms of its environmental performance and its contribution to global food supply and sustainable diets. She commenced a PhD with IMAS examining the environmental impacts of seafood products using life cycle assessment, in particular southern rock lobsters in Tasmania, prawns from the Northern prawn fishery and mixed species from the Commonwealth trawl fishery.

During her candidacy she also worked with the CSIRO on managing seafood supply chains in a changing climate. Following completion of her PhD in 2016, she became involved in an FRDC project with IMAS looking at policy coherency in Australian fisheries management.

Through her fellowship with ANCORS she will continue her research on the role of seafood in sustainable diets. Her focus will be on environmental considerations, as well as the nutritional value of seafood products as they travel along supply chains. She will also examine how fisheries governance influences food and nutrition security, and the interplay between different fisheries management objectives.

Anna is looking forward to working with the ANCORS team in this exiting research field and to further exploring the Illawarra region.
SAVE THE DATE

CIL-ANCORS Workshop on Negotiating Maritime Boundaries
3–5 July 2018
Following the success of the 2017 Workshop on Maritime Boundaries, the Centre for International Law (CIL) of the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) of the University of Wollongong will be organising the 2018 CIL-ANCORS Workshop on Negotiating Maritime Boundaries.

The 2018 workshop will be held from 3 July (Tuesday) to 5 July 2018 (Thursday) at the NUS Faculty of Law at the Bukit Timah Campus.

The workshop will focus on the practical issues faced by government officials when negotiating maritime boundary agreements. The workshop will consist of a combination of interactive lectures and supervised practical exercises in which participants will obtain hands-on experience working in teams to negotiate a maritime boundary between two fictitious states.

For further information, including about workshop fees and registration, go to: https://ancors.uow.edu.au/index.html.

INTERNATIONAL PHD SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

ANCORS offers an exciting opportunity for outstanding Pacific Island Country and Territory candidates to pursue a PhD and contribute to food security of the Pacific region.

Access the following PDF for further details: https://www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@raid/documents/doc/uow247463.pdf.

NEW SHORT COURSE

A new professional short course, Maritime Security, is being run from 10–14 December 2018.

The course addresses the criminal and terrorist threat environments for international shipping and the measures established to counter those threats. It also addresses other regulatory, cooperative and security measures established by organizations, states and maritime industry.

To enquire further about this and other ANCORS short courses, please contact us at ancors@uow.edu.au.

UPCOMING SHORT COURSES

Law of the Sea:
18–22 June 2018

Maritime Regulation and Enforcement:
25–29 June 2018

Recent publications


It has been a busy time for new PhD students at ANCORS, with 3 thesis proposal defenses recently taking place. Congratulations to Ms Yulu Liu, Mr Indra Alverdian, and Mr Hakam Junus for successfully defending your proposals!

Welcome to new Vice Chancellor’s Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr Anna Farmery, who recently joined ANCORS. She is mentored by A/Prof Quentin Hanich. For more about her work, see the In Profile section (p 8).

Welcome also to Dr Owen Li, who joins ANCORS as the new Communications Officer for the second Phase of the ACIAR/DFAT CBFM project. Owen will be a familiar face to many; he was previously an ANCORS Honorary Fellow and has already been collaborating in research with a range of ANCORS staff and students.

Welcome to new PhD student Ms Evelyn Ogbeta, who will be looking at the impacts of IUU fishing in West Africa. She is supervised by Prof. Alistair McIlgorm and Prof. Robin Warner.

ANCORS welcomes the new arrivals!