



### **Fisheries Society of the British Isles: Beverton Medal 2018**

Each year, the FSBI awards the \***Beverton Medal** to a distinguished scientist for a lifelong contribution to all aspects of the study of fish biology and/or fisheries science, with a focus on ground-breaking research. It has been announced recently that Gary R Carvalho, who coordinates *the Molecular Ecology & Fisheries Genetics Laboratory*, at Bangor University, UK, has been awarded the FSBI Beverton medal for 2018. The award is the most senior award of the FSBI and highest honour.

Professor Carvalho has been at the forefront in studying the demography and population structure of wild fish populations by applying molecular genetic approaches. Using carefully selected biological systems, he demonstrated not only the power of molecular markers in fish biology, but also in applied fisheries science. Some of his studies are now classical papers in the fishery literature, dispelling hitherto long-held beliefs on large, unstructured marine fish populations that are slow to react to environmental pressures and exploitation. For example, his work on European anchovies, Atlantic cod and Atlantic herring showed fine scale population structure, that have immediate and important application for the management of the species. Projects on New Zealand snapper, guppies and cod revealed rapid genetic changes in exploited populations and remain the most cited articles demonstrating rapid evolution in overexploited stocks. More details to follow the award ceremony in July.

The Beverton Medal will be presented at a banquet during the Annual Symposium of the FSBI (*The Sustainable Use and Exploitation of Fishes*) to be held at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK (9-13 July 2018). Professor Carvalho will also present a brief overview of aspects of his work during the main scientific programme, on Tuesday 10 July.

\***Raymond (Ray) John Heaphy Beverton**, CBE, FRS (29 August 1922 – 23 July 1995) was an important founder of fisheries science. He is best known for the book *On the Dynamics of Exploited Fish Populations* (1957) which he wrote with Sidney Holt. The book is a cornerstone of modern fisheries science and remains much used today. Beverton was also one of the first to acknowledge the variation of life histories that exists in fish, and the importance of this in fisheries management.