
This book was written by assignment. The project was specifically to determine how the harvest of sea fisheries could be substantially increased for the benefit of humanity, a goal set by the Conservation Foundation. The author is Chief of the Branch of Fishery Biology of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and therefore able to obtain materials and perspectives adequate for the assignment.

Walford fulfilled his assignment by presenting the facts about "The Marine Wilderness" and discussing "The Resources of the Sea" in very readable manner, with adequate tables of data and maps, and then presented his conclusions in a final chapter entitled "Looking Forward." Briefly he states that there is no reason to believe that very much more can be added to present harvests with present antiquated methods and philosophies of using the resources of the sea, that the full use of such resources depends on a web of knowledge, that there is no simple, direct short cut to a full understanding of the proper uses of the sea and so "If we really desire to exploit the sea fully, if it is knowledge that we need to accomplish that purpose—and that is the theme of this book—then we had better make the necessary costly investment and put full effort into the job of acquiring that knowledge."

The author states the need for scientists, suggesting the establishment of teaching and research centers in regions of critical need, with concentration of their efforts at a thorough taxonomic and quantitative survey of the biological resources of each region. This logical deduction is not exactly new!

Thomas H. Langlois