

ments. There are some laboratory simulations and several papers illustrate the possibilities of remote sensing techniques for identifying coastal and shelf currents. Overall in keeping with its "workshop" origin, this is a book for the specialist oceanographer rather than the general reader.

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The Geological Evolution of the River Nile, Rushdi Said, 1981. Springer-Verlag, New York, 151p. US\$ 59.00.

Since the days of Herodotus (484-425 B.C.), the Nile delta has been recognized as the principal site of sedimentation for the silts and clays carried downstream by the annual monsoonal flood. But this annual siltation came to an end with the completion of the Aswan High Dam ("Sudd al Ali"), and serious coast erosion is now in progress around the delta littoral. This volume does not deal with the latter question but presents the geological, archeological, and historical record of the Nile in Egypt which is essential to understanding the present-day situation. Natural, climatogenetic fluctuations of great magnitude are recognized since the establishment of its present course to in late Miocene. The author attributes the principal valley incision to the Messinian fall of sea level in the Mediterranean (although the uplift paralleling Red Sea rifting must have been important, but is not mentioned). Since then, the main stages are called: Eonile, Paleonile, Protonile, Prenile, and Neonile. The role of neotectonics is mentioned for some areas, but the lower course is essentially thalassostatic, *i.e.* controlled by the fluctuations of sea level. The shape of the delta shore and the loci of the distributaries is nicely illustrated in four maps (Figure 52), dating from Herodotus (c. 450 B.C.), Strabo (64 B.C.), Serapion (350 A.D.), and El-Idrisi (1154 A.D.).

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Fisheries Ecology, by T.J. Pitcher and P.J.B. Hart, 1982. Croom Helm Limited, 414p. US\$ 34.50.

This book is designed for senior undergraduates. This ambitious target is certainly achieved, as it brings together and discusses the important litera-

ture in fisheries management up to 1980. The subject was already treated by WEATHERLY's (1972) textbook and a new book in this field was urgently required.

My first doubt is about the title of a book on applied ecology where only 22 pages are devoted to the environment the fish live in. As ecology is a "partie de la biologie qui étudie les organismes animaux . . . en fonction de milieu naturel où ils vivent," (MANUILA, 1971), references to the habitat should be extended. This is probably why some citation classics (MANN, 1965) are not included in the book. Another study, which I believe will become a classic (LEGGETT and CARSCADDEN, 1978), demonstrating environmental impact throughout the zoogeographical distribution of the species on the plasticity of the interparity or semelparity advantages, deserves to be mentioned.

Although the authors excused themselves for not treating "the impact of fish behaviour on fisheries" (from preface) due to "lack of space," they should consequently realize that this will limit the readership among fishery biologists. It is a common problem of every text book to sacrifice depth or detail of the treated topic, but a stronger choice should have been made in several cases in this volume.

The first section deals with fish morphology and examples of fish communities are given. Although the 6 pages of broad description of changes during fish storage do not constitute the missing "fish behaviour" section, this part adds little to the section of World Fisheries. The real book starts when the authors deal with fish population structure and population growth parameters, which are the subjects familiar to their own research activities.

Genetic progress is a function of heritage selection intensity and phenotypic variance of the organism, so short sections of "heritability in fish" under the subheading, "Evolutionary Effects of Mortality," is a rather general casually treated overview.

The three chapters on recruitment, prediction of fishery yields, and models in fishery management are excellent, up to date, and perceptive.

The chapter on fish farming is a little removed from the main stream of the book, although several areas of intensive aquaculture could profit from more knowledge of fish ecology.

Two sections, namely "Fisheries Economy", and "Fisheries and Ecology of Man" present specific author's efforts to integrate overall fishery activity in the modern world and are worth reading.

There are some erroneous interpretations which