

## In Memoriam Don Alderdice

The news that Dr. Don Alderdice died on March 19, 2010 was a great shock. Don was a scientist in the best sense of this word. He was widely known for his unflinching correctness, honesty and integrity as well as for his solid knowledge and performance in the field of fisheries biology. His contributions to our knowledge of fish larvae will remain beacons for a long time to come.

I met Don on several occasions and I had the pleasure of closely cooperating with him in my capacities as Founder and Editor of the book series 'Marine Ecology. A Comprehensive, Integrated Treatise on Life in Oceans and Coastal Waters'. For this opus magnum he authored the Chapter 'Factor Combinations'. It brought him wide international admiration and the 'American Life Science Award for the best scientific publication of the year'.

For Don Alderdice his principles and own scientific findings meant more than the opinions and wishes of his administrative and political superiors 'whom he tried to serve, but was unable to because they wanted him to lie' (Ben Meisner).

Both Don and I worked on several aspects of the combined effects of temperature and salinity—he on fishes, I on gammarids and hydroids. Since I used laboratory-raised offspring of genetically close (in the case of



Don F. Alderdice (1924–2010)

A pioneer of research on the early life history of fishes

hydroids even identical) material, my work delivered less varied data.

I could always fully rely on Don as a friend and as a scientist. Unfortunately, later in my life, I made the mistake of relying on persons who turned out not to deserve my trust.

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