Robert (Bob) Royds Dickson has had a long and distinguished career marked by unlimited energy and high productivity. Bob joined the Lowestoft Laboratory (now CEFAS) in 1964 and completed his PhD at the University of East Anglia in 1967. Since his early days, he has contributed to the available stock of direct current measurements to better understand the sense and variability of the deep ocean circulation. One example, has been his continuous effort to obtain direct long-term measurements of the cold, dense Denmark Strait Overflow, which won him the honor of the Albatross Laureate of the American Miscellaneous Society in 1998 for attempting to stem the flow through the Denmark Strait with a weir of current meters. He has also studied the processes that drive variations in the hydrography and surface circulation patterns of the North Atlantic, including responses to shifts in the North Atlantic Oscillation and his work on the Great Salinity Anomaly. More recently, he has chaired, cajoled, coordinated and contributed to the Arctic-Subarctic Ocean Flux Study (ASOF), a major international research effort aimed at understanding the role of the high latitude ocean in Global Change. Bob has had a long time interest in the effects of physical oceanography on marine ecology: He teamed up with leading biologists such as David Cushing to investigate the role of ocean circulation and climate at interannual to decadal time scales on Atlantic ecosystems from plankton to commercial fish stocks.

Bob has played a major role in ICES being a member, and often chair, of working groups and committees, workshops and theme sessions. Of special note is that he helped organize the ICES decadal symposium for the 1980s and led the one for the 1990s held in Edinburgh. It was Bob's idea to honor those scientists that maintained and analyzed long time-series. His career-long contribution to science led to appointment as CBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List in January 2007, just one of many awards and honors he has won over the years. Outside of science he writes children's books and plays, and has a passion for antiquarian books, mostly 17th Century, maintaining a collection of the early folios of Ben Jonson that is in some ways is unique – rather like Bob himself.