

# NEWSLETTER

## European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres

2021, N° 50 (December)

ISSN 1560-5299

### WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear EURASLIC members,

We have put behind another pandemic year that prevented us to meet in person, but we have managed to be together virtually. As a novelty, last year, EURASLIC started Short Catch-up Meetings. So far, three meetings were held and we are looking forward to meeting you virtually in 2022.


EURALIC representatives also participated virtually in 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the IODE Committee that was held 20-23 April, 2021. The future of ODINs, development of AquaDocs repository and strategic plan (2022-2025) for data and information management were of special interest to EURASLIC. Full report of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the IODE Committee is available at IODE website

[https://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=634&Itemid=100407](https://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=634&Itemid=100407).

A great achievement was the launch of AquaDocs repository which is a joint accomplishment of UNESCO/IOC International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) and the International Marine and Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) with support from the FAO Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts. AquaDocs is an open access repository covering the natural marine, estuarine/brackish and freshwater environments that was developed in 2021 by merging content from two former repositories, OceanDocs and Aquatic Commons. The plans for the ODINECET Group is to focus on the joint project relating to the AquaDocs Repository. The ECET group representative Ekatariana Kulakova was actively involved in the process of creation of the repository as a member of IODE Steering Group, while the other ECET group members participated by depositing records into the repository. The repository is at disposal to whole EURASLIC community to join and deposit their scientific output, or to enable harvesting from their own repositories. Interoperability is provided between AquaDocs and OpenASFA, one of the ASFA new features, also launched in 2021.

This year the **first EURASLIC online meeting** was held in October 12-14, 2021. It was joint 47<sup>th</sup> IAMSLIC/19<sup>th</sup> EURASLIC Conference and was hosted by the Marine Institute, Galway, Ireland. Although we were all hoping to visit Ireland in person, due to the pandemic an online conference was the only alternative. Despite that, the conference gathered 138 participants, including 19 EURASLIC members, and was a great success thanks to magnificent organization, interesting presenters, and especially thanks to enormous effort and exceptional moderating skills of Stephanie Ronan who managed to bring us a taste of Ireland virtually.

Before the conference, EURASLIC elections were held. EURASLIC Nominating Committee consisted of the following members: Aleksei Baiandin (chair), Barbara Schmidt and Natalja Kondratjeva. Sofija Konjević was re-elected as a president, Stephanie Ronan as a Vice President, Ingrid Čatić and Snežina Bacheva as Member representatives. Many thanks to Kristen LaBonte for setting up the ballots. I would like to thank Olga Kopytova for serving in the previous Board, hoping to see her engaged in some other EURASLIC activities.



The warmest thanks to all members of the EURASLIC Executive Board and EURASLIC members that participate in the IAMSLIC committees and activities for their commitment and also to the editors and contributors to this Newsletter.

I would like to welcome the new members to the EURASLIC community: Clara Bruns, Andreas Walker, Dorota Jesionek, Tamsin Vicary and Carol Giles.

Marie Pascale Baligand is leaving EURASLIC due to retirement. She was an active EURASLIC/IAMSLIC member and she performed various duties within the community, including those of EURASLIC Vice-President and Chair of IAMSLIC Membership Committee. Unforgettable EURASLIC conference held in Lyon in 2011 was organized by Marie Pascale and her team from Irstea (now INRAE). Her presentations at the conferences were always innovative, very interesting and entertaining. IAMSLIC conference held in Zanzibar provided a great opportunity for her adventurous spirit, and she successfully arrived at the top of Kilimanjaro. Thank you, Marie Pascale for your long-term commitment to EURASLIC and heartfelt wishes to enjoy your retirement with family and friends.

The next EURASLIC conference is planned for 2023, hopefully in person. We are looking forward for proposals for hosting the Conference.

In the meantime, some of you may decide to participate in the next IAMSLIC conference and visit Montevideo in 2022.

Join us for another year or longer by renewing your membership and feel free to attract new members to EURASLIC.

Thank you all.

Wish you all happy and successful New Year!

Sofija Konjević  
EURASLIC President

## Table of Contents

World from the president .....	1
Table of Contents .....	3
Libraries Supporting Our Ocean.....	4
How and why you should participate in ASFA’s goal to share aquatic science research .....	8
Two years with Covid-19 and without real ASFA international communication : Time to crawl out of the shell and reboot face-to-face meetings.....	10
The "Open Access Publication Funding" .....	13
The 130 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Centre for Marine Research in Rovinj.....	14
IBSS scientific information department in the year of the 150 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the institute .....	17
Library of the Fish Resources Research Department of the Institute “BIOR” in Riga, Latvia in new premises.....	20
A book that librarians should read.....	22
EURASLIC new members for 2021 .....	24
Participation of EURASLIC Members in IAMSLIC committees and activities .....	25

Editor:  
 Snežina BACHEVA  
 library@io-bas.bg

Co-Editors  
 Marina MAYER  
 mmayer@irb.hr  
 Sofija KONJEVIĆ  
 sofija@irb.hr

## Libraries Supporting Our Ocean

Stephanie Ronan

Marine Institute, Galway, Ireland



*Libraries Supporting Our Ocean – a three-day packed extravaganza of library insights and learnings, attended by 138 participants from around the planet.*

This year from 12-14 October, the first ever virtual EURASLIC conference, in conjunction with 47<sup>th</sup> Annual IAMS LIC conference, took place live from the Marine Institute, Galway, Ireland.

EURASLIC can be very proud of our achievement in hosting this conference. We responded and adapted quickly to the ongoing global pandemic, making the decision in April to host the conference virtually rather than our traditional in-person conference. It was hoped that our members could travel to Ireland, but during a EURASLIC members meeting a consensus was reached to hold the meeting virtually and the date was set for October.

The theme for this year’s joint conference was [Libraries Supporting Our Ocean: Sustaining and preserving our shared ocean for our shared future](#). 2021 marks the start of the UN



Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. EURASLIC and IAMS LIC are on the frontline supporting our scientists to achieve this aim. Our organisations represent libraries from across the globe, all sharing our one ocean for our one future. Through our conference, we shared our library knowledge, our institutional missions, and our sustainability messages to further our personal understanding. We hope that each participant returns their learnings to their institutions, showing how our libraries can help respond and adapt to changes in our ocean and climate, through our support services.

We had 20 diverse presentations, a panel discussion, a poster, break out discussion, board meetings, regional meetings, movies and a quiz packed into three days, offering a wealth of content for participants to enjoy. Registration was free for our members, due to generous sponsorship from the Marine Institute. The conference was hosted via Microsoft Teams and moderated by Stephanie Ronan, onsite in the Marine

Institute. Although the conference ran on Irish Standard Time, every effort was made to accommodate participants and presenters across the globe, with regional meetings held at local times and no presenter was asked to speak at an unreasonable hour!

The conference was opened by the Interim CEO of the Marine Institute, Michael Gillooly, who delivered his message of support to the conference and to libraries in general. He also introduced participants to the wonderful facilities at the Marine Institute, as well as the newly launched RV *Tom Crean*.

The keynote address was presented by [Dr Lynn Silipigni Connaway](#) from OCLC, who spoke on Libraries Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): Maximizing impact for our shared future. A lively Q&A followed this address, with members really grasping the benefit of libraries aligning to the UN's (SDG). SDG 14: Life below water is particularly relevant to our organisation.

Another speaker of particular note, and a highlight for our EURASLIC audience was Barbara Lison, President-elect of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and Director of Bremen Public Library, Germany. She provided a special pre-recorded presentation to us on IFLA's New Approach to Support the Global Library Field.

Following our conference opening and keynote, we heard from Geoffrey Timms in South Carolina who highlighted the case of microplastic pollution in his library and how he deals with and disposes of these. Many participants revealed they had similar issues and offered their solutions via the chat and the Q&A session.

Incidentally, Geoffrey is the IAMS LIC treasurer and helped with the drive to raise money for the 2021 IAMS LIC Annual Conference Guin Fund. This year our community answered generously, with many kind donations in support of new IAMS LIC memberships in low income countries. Each donation goes a long way to connect library professionals around the world to our wonderful organisation and to each other. We

raised an amazing total of **\$1,765** to encourage and support new IAMS LIC colleagues with these new memberships. Greatly surpassing our target of \$1,500. Thanks to our charitable donors for helping grow our organisation and the people within it.

Jen Walton and Pauline Simpson provided an update on the IODE, and asked IAMS LIC members to support the upcoming [International Ocean Data Conference 2022 – The Data We Need for the Ocean We Want](#) in Sopot, Poland, which will be held between 14-16 February 2022.

Something new for the virtual audience this year, was the inclusion of an online movie night. Participants were treated to Part 1 and 2 of [Ireland's Deep Atlantic](#) over the course of two evenings. In this documentary, underwater cameraman Ken O'Sullivan embarks on a series of voyages out into the open North Atlantic in search of large whales, sharks and cold water coral reefs 3,000 metres down on Ireland's deep sea bed. Ken documents many of these creatures' behaviour for the first time in any TV programme and investigates the health of Ireland's deep Atlantic waters.

From Irish waters to the Philippines, our conference was enriched by three presentations led by our colleagues Stephen B. Alayon and Daryl L. Superio. We heard about academic journals in the Philippines and their characteristics, quality, impact, and coverage by international databases, as well as an update on the SEAFDEC/AQD Institutional Repository.



Another important institutional repository showcased at our conference was our very own AquaDocs. This is a new joint open access repository of the UNESCO/IOC International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) and IAMSLIC with support

from the FAO Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA). AquaDocs has been created by merging content from OceanDocs (IODE) and Aquatic Commons (IAMSLIC), two existing repositories with similar foci and overlapping user communities. By combining efforts to fund and operate one repository, AquaDocs offers a more streamlined and sustainable solution. Many of our EURASLIC members are involved in the AquaDocs project.

Additionally, from EURASLIC we heard from Sofija Konjević and Marina Mayer, on the repository and information infrastructure projects at the Centre for Scientific Information of Ruđer Bošković Institute in Croatia. Olivia Karin Diehr from the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Library presented on the German Projekt DEAL and its effect on buying structure of academic journals. Tamsin Vicary and Maria Kalentsits led a panel presentation, giving an overview of ASFA activities with emphasis on the CECAF-PESCAO project. EURASLIC as a group was presented by a poster entitled [EURASLIC: Connecting Libraries Through Time and Distance](#) which can be viewed on the conference website.

Staying in Europe, we heard a great talk from Mirjam Cuper, a data scientist with the KB, the National Library of the Netherlands. Mirjam's talk sparked an involved discussion around data-driven approaches in preservation and digitisation of heritage collections. Our final European contributions to the conference came from our host the Marine Institute, providing us with a diverse range of speakers. We heard about the excellent Explorers Education programme funded by the Marine Institute, as well as the Data Management Quality Management Framework embedded throughout the organisation. We explored the Atlantic through the INFOMAR seabed mapping project and we also heard about the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for Integrated Ocean Management – learning a new word along the way 'horrendogram'!

AFRIAMSLIC was represented by Coffi Ferdinando Rock GBEDO who spoke to us about 'Online information systems as key sources of reliable scientific resources: case of Benin fishery and aquatic scientists'. It was apparent from this talk and many others that the pandemic has hit our libraries in similar ways and we share common difficulties, no matter where we are located.

Shedding more light on this, was a talk by OCLC's Dr Brian Lavoie, on a New Model Library: Pandemic Effects & Library Directions. We realise that it is in organisations like EURASLIC and IAMSLIC that librarians turn to for help and inspiration in providing their expertise to their wider communities. Staying stateside, Michelle Leonard presented on Community engagement, citizen science and the promotion of water in library exhibits.

The winner of the Trivia fun quiz was Geoffrey Timms, followed closely by runner up Sally Taylor.

During the conference EURASLIC Board and Business meetings were held. The new EURASLIC Board was appointed during the EURASLIC Business meeting. Sofija Konjević will remain as the president, with Stephanie Ronan elected as vice-president and Marina Mayer will continue as secretary.

Before the conference wrapped up with the final IAMSLIC business meeting, Aida Sogaray announced that the next IAMSLIC conference will be in Montevideo, Uruguay. Aida hopes to host the conference in-person from DINARA (Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos).



The full conference programme can be viewed [here](#), and all video recordings from the conference will be available to log in by members of IAMSLIC.

Links and resources highlighted during the conference in the chat function:

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Study 2021. Findings from the 2020 OCLC Global Council Survey. By OCLC <https://www.oclc.org/research/publications/2021/sustainable-development-goals-study-2021.html>

To search for conference social media updates on Twitter, along with lots of photos and content from the three days, check out our official handle @IAMSLICOrg and search by #IAMSLICGalwayMission-Aransas NERR, Stewardship > <https://sites.cns.utexas.edu/manerr/stewardship/cleanup-recycling> Cleanup & Recycling Citizen Science for data collecting. <https://sites.cns.utexas.edu/manerr/microplastics-science-team>

- <https://www.facebook.com/168453786538965/videos/268951784871410> Science Café – Hurdles with Nurdles featuring Dr. Jace Tunnell in Zoom with Joyce Shaw
- Phase boxes <https://archival-boxes.com/products/phase-boxes/>
- <https://www.oceandecade.org/>
- Ireland’s Deep Atlantic by Ken O’Sullivan/SeaFever Productions : <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/deepeatlantic>
- <https://marinesanctuary.org/blog/bubble-net-feeding-what-is-it/>
- Latest issue of ASFA magazine available here, with update on cecaf-pescao:

<https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB6868EN/>

- ASFA thesaurus available to browse and connect to here: <https://agrovoc.fao.org/skosmosAsfa/asfa/en/>
- You can help support SDG5 - Gender equality by completing this survey on the impact of gender on aquatic science info professional career outcomes (ASFA):

<https://forms.office.com/r/7RjativQF5>

- Adam Leadbetter (Marine Institute): The resources slide from my presentation-
  - Flynn et al. (2020) Lessons from a Marine Spatial Planning data management process for Ireland. doi:10.1080/17538947.2020.1808720
  - Leadbetter et al. (2020) A modular approach to cataloguing marine science data. doi: 10.1007/s12145-020-00445-w
  - Leadbetter et al. (2020) Implementation of a Data Management Quality Management Framework at the Marine Institute, Ireland. doi: 10.1007/s12145-019-00432-w
  - [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=marine+institute+ireland+data+management+quality+management](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=marine+institute+ireland+data+management+quality+management)
- Jacob's Well (Texas) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob%27s\\_Well\\_\(Texas\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob%27s_Well_(Texas))
- Explorers Education Programme, Wild About Wildlife on the Seashore- <https://vimeo.com/475831007>
- Interactive horrendograms from Debbi Pedreschi: [https://debbipedreschi.shinyapps.io/MACSIR/?\\_ga=2.24057918.567607332.1634209420-147833041.1631623186](https://debbipedreschi.shinyapps.io/MACSIR/?_ga=2.24057918.567607332.1634209420-147833041.1631623186)

and [https://debbipedreschi.shinyapps.io/MACSapp/?\\_ga=2.203233745.1338894632.1621860149-862725824.1621251597](https://debbipedreschi.shinyapps.io/MACSapp/?_ga=2.203233745.1338894632.1621860149-862725824.1621251597)

- Mirjam Cuper link to the demo site: [https://kbresearch.nl/delpher\\_demo/](https://kbresearch.nl/delpher_demo/)
- 



## How and why you should participate in ASFA's goal to share aquatic science research

Tamsin Vicary and Maria Kalentsits  
FAO, ASFA Secretariat

The ASFA Information system has been rejuvenated thanks to new software (OpenASFA) and an updated partnership model. The new software enables records to be shared with other systems and webpages. We are very pleased to announce that for the first time in ASFA's 50-



year history, ASFA Partner records are freely searchable. You can view these records on the FAO Fisheries website [here](#).

In addition to the new software, ASFA continues to expand its partnership. Recently, ASFA has launched regional networks to help foster engagement and target specific areas. For example, a number of European institutions left the ASFA partnership in recent years, so ASFA regional network will target recruitment of new institutions. This article provides a summary of ways to get involved in ASFA and how it could benefit your institution.

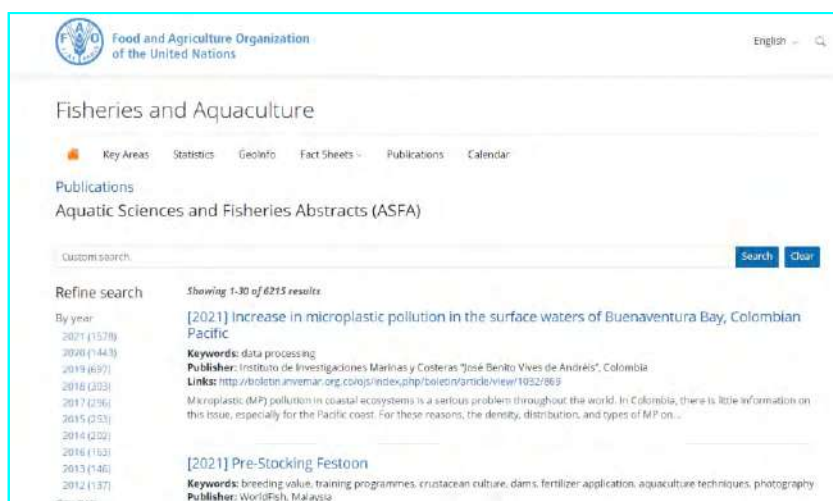
One way to get involved is to join ASFA as an Associate. The Associates Scheme provides free access to the ASFA database on the ProQuest platform for those institutions that cannot afford subscription (both in developing and developed countries), in return for providing feedback and exploring ways to contribute to ASFA's goals. Full details are provided on the [ASFA webpage](#).

We are pleased to announce that this year, two institutions in Europe have joined the scheme: Murmansk State Technical University (MSTU), Russia and Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR), Latvia, bringing a total number of ASFA associated institutions in Europe to 12:

- Institute TECHINFORMI, Georgia
- Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR), Latvia
- Branch for the Freshwater Fisheries of VNIRO (VNIIPRKH), Russia
- Altai Branch of VNIRO (AltaiNIRO), Russia
- Atlantic Branch of VNIRO (AtlantNIRO), Russia
- Baikal Branch of VNIRO (BaikalNIRO), Russia
- Krasnoyarsk Branch of VNIRO (NIIERV), Russia
- Tyumen Branch of VNIRO (Gosrybcenter), Russia
- Kerch State Maritime Technological University, Russia
- Sakhalin Branch of VNIRO (SakhNIRO), Russia
- Murmansk State Technological University (MSTU), Russia
- Institute of Marine Biology of the NAS of Ukraine, Ukraine

If you are interested in joining this growing list of ASFA Associates, please contact: [tamsin.vicary@fao.org](mailto:tamsin.vicary@fao.org).

As an Associate you will be eligible to attend training sessions, participate in ASFA working groups and create records on OpenASFA. A number of ASFA Associates have already indicated their interest to contribute to the ASFA database by creating records for their institutional publications using the new OpenASFA software. In addition to the ASFA Database on the ProQuest platform, all the OpenASFA records created by partners are now searchable on the [FAO website](#), thus contributing to the discoverability of the nationally published grey literature. Next year, ASFA will provide space for the institutional profiles to be created on the ASFA website, including access to the records created by a particular institution, and highlighting other relevant information and news.



Based on the training needs, ASFA Secretariat will run a series of training workshops and individually tailored sessions, both on creating OpenASFA records and on searching the ASFA database. The training program for next year will be announced in early 2022. All ASFA Associates and other interested professionals are welcome to join these workshops.

**Two years with Covid-19 and without real ASFA international communication:**

**Time to crawl out of the shell and reboot face-to-face meetings**

**Ekaterina Kulakova**

Head of the Russian ASFA Center

Russian Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO, Moscow)

On the way home from Kuala-Terengganu, Malaysia in September 2019, no one of the ASFA Board Meeting participants guessed that it would have been the last face-to-face international meeting so far. In the last two years, ASFA family, following its leaders (Marc Taconet, Tamsin Vicary, Maria Kalentsits, and Milos Vojar), have learned the new rules of the game: how to get together using online video software, when to discuss things in case all of you are in different time zones, and which way to choose for celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASFA database. In other words, we have been adapting to the new reality, like millions of people on the globe. And like millions of people on the globe we have been tired of it, fed up with staring at the screen instead of looking straight into the eyes, annoyed by the fact that each time when we need to be in Italy, Ireland or Poland, we are still there, on our home chair at the desk!

However, the year of 2021 has presented us a nice opportunity to feel a little bit free due to the vaccination campaign, which has been introduced to the most part of the world population since early this year.

In the Russian Federation, vaccination with Sputnik-V and other new vaccines has allowed to hope for, if not global traveling, domestic trips all over the country. This is why some positive changes within the Russian ASFA Network have been marked, which leaves room for more hope for the ASFA Collaborating Centers' team building and broader cooperation.

In the period of August-December 2021, a number of seminars and online meetings have been held in the frame of enhancing ASFA impact within the fishery organizations in Russia. The greatest joy, though, is the fact that two of the venues were successfully conducted in the real face-to-face format!

The so called “Southern ASFA Meeting” fell on the Crimean Indian summer (4-8 October 2021) and was hosted by the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas (IBSS RAS, Sevastopol, Russia). IBSS has been a long-term and reliable ASFA Collaborating Center. Together with another collaborating institution – Marine Hydrophysical Institute (MHI RAS), it has been submitting ASFA records for many years so far.

The invited guests from the organizations with a great potential for ASFA recruiting were representatives of the Sevastopol State University (SevSU, Sevastopol) and Karadag Scientific Station named after T.I. Vyazemsky (Natural Reserve RAS, Kurortnoye Settlement, Eastern Crimea).



Training on working in the Open-ASFA environment  
(left to right: E. Sinkovskaya, SevSU; M. Fedorenko, Karadag Scientific Station;  
E. Kulakova, VNIRO; I. Funtikova, E. Utkina, O. Akimova, IBSS;  
E. Dyachkina, A. Makaev, MHI)  
Photo copyright of IBSS

As a result of this seminar, new staff members participated in the training sessions on submitting records into the OpenASFA and uploading full texts of their papers onto the AquaDocs Repository in case the institution has no possibility to provide a link to the article. Besides, several action items were agreed upon and later completed with the assistance of ASFA Secretariat and ProQuest Team:

1. New inputters have been registered in the OpenASFA and included into the Russian Team;
2. New journals have been added to the Russian MonLis;
3. Karadag Scientific Station has been provided with free access to the ASFA Database and is now a new Associate Member of the Russian ASFA Network.

From 22 to 24 November 2021, the next ASFA seminar (“Northern ASFA Meeting”) was held in Murmansk, Russia: Murmansk State Technical University (MSTU) and Polar Branch of

VNIRO (PINRO). Some of the research institutions could join the seminar sessions virtually (for instance, Murmansk Marine Biological Institution (MMBI KSC RAS), Kola Science Center RAS in Apatity, etc.).

In spite of the freezing temperatures (-10/-12°C) and almost complete polar night (three hours of daytime allowed to feel like it is not dark 24/7!), the atmosphere of this “northern” venue was very warm and the results turned out to be fruitful.



The first session on introducing ASFA to potential participants  
(Presenter E. Kulakova, MSTU, Murmansk, Russia)  
Photo copyright of MSTU

The hosting body within the MSTU (a new ASFA Associate Member since August 2021) was the Department of the Scientific and Publishing Activities Organization with Margarita Inyukina as the Head. In PINRO (a long lasting Collaborating Center within the Russian ASFA Network) the training took place in the Scientific and Technical Library, functioning under the Head of Library (and a EURASLIC member) Irina Inyaeva. The venue was carried out in a hybrid format, which was trialed by the ASFA Center for the first time. Maria Kalentsits, the ASFA Consultant (ASFA Secretariat, FAO), greeted the seminar participants on the first day of the meeting and, later in the afternoon, presented a workshop on “Search Basics in the ASFA Database on the ProQuest Platform”.

Training sessions were attended both face-to-face and online by different groups of stakeholders: professors and students, researchers and information managers. Of a particular interest among the audience was the session devoted to a possibility of uploading research publications onto the AquaDocs Repository (IODE/IOC, UNESCO). Both for individual papers and for journals/books/monographs collections, this archiving resource was described by users as helpful for long-term preservation purposes, and some of the seminar participants asked for registration right after the training course.

One of the presentations was aimed at familiarizing the MSTU librarians with IAMSILIC and the services it can provide in case the MSTU Library would express their wish to join this international community. The discussion covered a lot more librarianship issues than it had been expected and showed that all libraries of the world had much in common. The MSTU

Library Head was willing to know more about the offered services and, hopefully, soon the EURASLIC family would grow in membership!

Out of many outcomes of this meeting, the principal one is that the MSTU administration has mentioned their intention to sign the Collaboration Agreement with VNIRO and become the ASFA Collaborating Center, which would have the right to submit both journal papers and grey literature into the ASFA Database. We appreciate all the hard work accomplished by the Murmansk State Technological University staff in providing smooth functioning of the seminar and are confident they will become a great ASFA partner!

I would like to conclude this brief report with a Latin proverb, which was on display in the MSTU lecture hall and can be a good motto for the current situation in the world: *In case there is no favorable wind, take the sails!*

Our new reality does not provide us with former freedom of attending international meetings, exchanging opinions and making new acquaintances; however, we need to use all the other resources on stock and continue building up strong bonds within the information management sphere.

## The "Open Access Publication Funding"

**Barbara Schmidt**

GEOMAR Library, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Ozeanforschung  
Kiel, Germany

The German Research Foundation called out a funding programme "The Open Access Publication Funding". The programme is designed to grant a fixed allowance for the publication of research results via open access. Only research institutions, not individuals, may apply for this allowance.

This programme highlights that open access plays a pivotal role in improving scientific communication and that its costs should be seen in relation to this aim. The aim of this funding programme is to create structural adjustment in financial flows, thus enabling the transformation of open access and improving transparency regarding the costs for open access publication of research results.

The funding of open access publication costs is firstly directed towards those research institutions that require it due to the transformation towards publication-based accounting. The provision of funds should secondly result in the formation and development of adequate structures at the institutions receiving funding, to enable them as far as possible to identify the costs of publications in an automated and standardised manner. Therefore, the programme aims to support institutions with the introduction and development of such structures by subsidising researchers' fees for open access publications. These allowances must be managed in a central department at the institution, generally the library" (source: DFG). The project runs for 3 years and was advertised throughout Germany.

The GEOMAR library is pleased to announce that the DFG application for Open Access publication costs has been approved. GEOMAR will get 700 Euros per open access article published by a GEOMAR scientist (corresponding author). The funding is limited to 103 articles each year. Now GEOMAR will be able to work out how to make the publication costs more transparent and find new structures how to cope with the increasing costs of publishing Open Access articles. The funding programme covers the period 2022-2024.

## The 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Centre for Marine Research in Rovinj

**Virna Brumnić**

Centre for Scientific information, Ruđer Bošković Institute,  
Rovinj, Croatia

The Centre for Marine Research (CMR) in Rovinj is celebrating 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. During the thirteen decades of continuous research of the coastal sea, CMR became an interdisciplinary centre with 55 employees, 21 of which are scientists, 13 doctoral and postdoctoral students and 11 expert staff in four laboratories, who are responsible for a portfolio of five domestic projects (financed by the Croatian Science Foundation) and eight international currently active projects (three financed under the INTERREG cross-border cooperation programme, three financed under the European Structural and Investment Funds and two projects financed under the EU Research and Innovation PROGRAMME Horizon 2020).

### **A little bit about history**

The Institute in Rovinj was established in 1891 as a zoological station of the Berlin Aquarium (Zoologische Station des Berliner Aquariums, Rovigno d' Istria). The location in Rovinj was chosen because of its exceptional cleanliness of the sea, great diversity of plant and animal life and benthic communities in a relatively small area of shallow sea, as well as very good railway connections between Rovinj and Trieste, Berlin and other European capitals. From the very beginning, the goal was that the Institute must have permanently employed scientific staff to explore the northern Adriatic. Very soon after the establishment the zoological station gained scientific importance and many eminent scientists from all over Europe visited Rovinj taking advantage of the good scientific equipment and research vessels *Hermes* (motor ship purchased in 1891) and *Rudolf Virchow* (steamship purchased in 1893).



In 1918 CMR became Stazione Zoologica di Rovigno d'Istria, and then Institute Italo-Germanico di Biologia Marina di Rovigno d'Istria. First continuous data on marine research dates back to that period and is still very valuable today, such as sea temperature, salinity and oxygen, which are crucial for determining man's influence on the sea.

The First and Second World Wars also left a trace on the work of the Institute, resulting in the Institute being shut down in 1945, and reopened three years later under the name of the Institute of Marine Biology, and was administratively subordinate to the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries based in Split. In 1951 the Institute passed under the jurisdiction of the Yugoslav Academy of Arts and Sciences and changed its name to Marine Institute of Biology. In the early 1960's, the Rovinj Institute merged with the Radiology Laboratory of the Ruđer Bošković Institute, with a new name – Centre for Marine Research (CMR) and laboratories in Rovinj and Zagreb.

There is also a library within the Centre. It was founded before the World War I and formed as a part of the zoological station of the Berlin Aquarium. Today it is a part of the Ruđer Bošković Institute. The library consists of the serial publications collection, a collection of reports from various expeditions (Challenger, Plankton expedition, Campagnes scientifiques Monaco...) and books of a great scientific value. In the period from 1956 to 1991 the Centre published its own scientific journal "Thalassia Jugoslavica".

### **Tradition over the centuries**

CMR has a long tradition of scientific research in the coastal sea areas. Croatian scientific program for monitoring the northern Adriatic, which started about fifty years ago and evolved into the „Project Adriatic“, ranked Croatia among the first in Europe in systematic monitoring of the marine ecosystem. At that time, systematic measurement of numerous parameters began throughout the water column and sea floor, which enabled scientists to follow long-term changes in the sea, functions and stability of the marine ecosystem. All these years scientists from the Centre and the international scientific community investigated the sea with ships *Villa Velebit*, *Burin* and *Triton*.

Today samples are collected at about 150 stations from Piran Bay to the island of Pag, in various sea layers. Scientists mostly follow the western coast of Istria and the route from Rovinj to the delta of river Po, which participates with large inflow of inorganic nutrient salts, nitrogen and phosphates into the Adriatic Sea. The collected data on chemical, physical and biological parameters are stored and organised in a unique and multidisciplinary database that currently covers more than 40 years of monitoring of the northern Adriatic, and some parameters go back to 100 years.

An additional confirmation of the long tradition and quality of the CMR scientists is the recent inclusion of CMR in the European Union's (EU) programme for development of systematic monitoring and research of the coastal Sea – JERICO (the United European Scientific infrastructure for the Monitoring of the Coastal Sea). CMR became a partner of the the most famous European institutes. International systematic research and monitoring of the marine ecosystem of the northern Adriatic have been conducted for over 30 years in CIM and today its approach has become a model for the regional organization of European systematic monitoring of the coastal seas.



Today CMR staff conduct their research in four laboratories: Laboratory for Evolutionary Ecology, Laboratory for Marine Ecotoxicology and Bioremediation, Laboratory for Marine microbial ecology and Laboratories for Marine Nanotechnology and Biotechnology. The focus is on the research of the northern Adriatic, development of new methods in environmental research and monitoring the condition of the sea, marine biology and microbiology, microbiology of marine flower habitats, ecology of coastal macroalgae habitats, biotechnological value of marine organisms, biodiversity of the coastal zone, seabed and open sea, resilience and reactions of the Adriatic to climate changes and anthropogenic pressures, invasive species, ecology and biology of marine plankton, genetic diversity in the Adriatic Sea and biodiversity. CMR marked its anniversary in Rovinj, with numerous activities and events from 8<sup>th</sup> of November to 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2021. The programme began with the opening of the exhibition „130 YEARS OF SEA CARING". Through the exhibition, the interested public can be more closely introduced into the history of the Centre, from its beginnings, through turbulent changes influenced by socio-historical circumstances, through the activities of significant individuals who left their mark on the expansion of activities and scientific and research programs of the Centre, and through the presentation of numerous projects implemented or active in the Center.

The exhibition presents a historical review and other highlights of CMR through various materials. The central location of the exhibition is the location of the laboratory, where visitors can visit the laboratory instruments and get acquainted with the functioning, content and transformations of the CMR's laboratories over time. Around 1500 visitors saw the exhibition. Besides exhibition, the anniversary was enriched by interactive activities designed for general public, for children from kindergarten to high school. Those activities encompassed a series of 28 lectures and 33 workshops conducted by many renowned scientists and CIM associates in Rovinj.





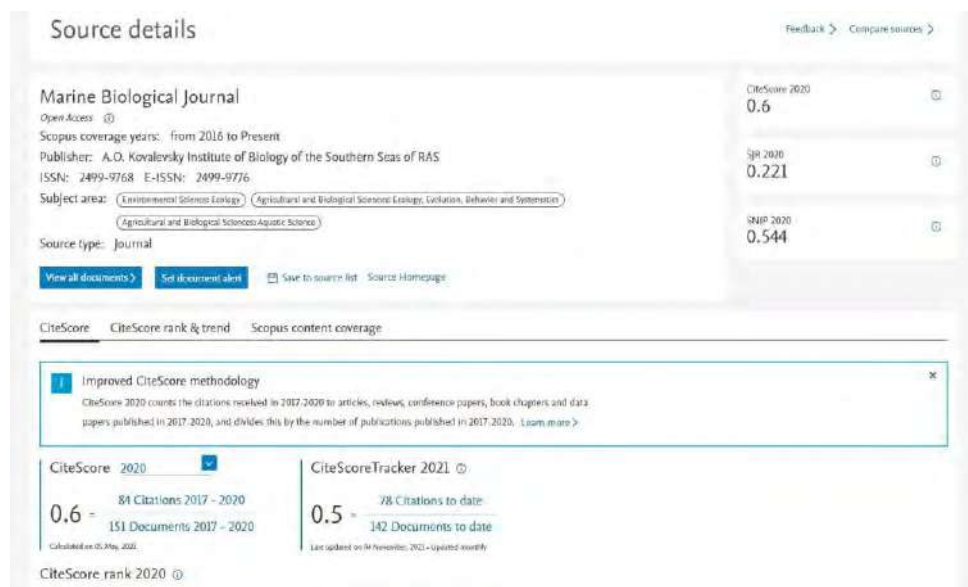
**IBSS scientific information department  
in the year of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the institute**

**Olga Kopytova, Aleksei Baiandin, Olga Akimova**

A. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas of RAS, Sevastopol, Crimea

The Collins word of the year 2021 is NFT, the abbreviation of “non-fungible token” [<https://twitter.com/CollinsDict/status/1463297577114345473>], and our department literally has nothing to do with it. This year, our activity was partially related with preparations for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of A. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, but we did not forget about our main tasks. So, what good things happened in 2021:

1. Marine Biological Journal (still <https://mbj.marine-research.org/>, but we plan to move to a new domain in a few months) is now fully indexed in Scopus database.



2. For this year, MBJ was ranked as Q4 in Aquatic Sciences.

If your colleagues are looking for a scientific journal to publish in, you can tell them about Marine Biological Journal.

They are always welcome!



3. The number of IBSS publications uploaded to the Open Access Repository (<https://repository.marine-research.org/>) is now more than 10 000.

Communities in DSpace

Choose a community to browse its collections:

Bibliographic indexes / Библиографические указатели Aquatic and marine sciences bibliographic indexes	30
Deposit manuscripts / Депонированные рукописи Non-published research manuscripts stored in the Scientific Library	374
Dissertations and dissertation abstracts / Авторефераты и Диссертации	342
IBSS history publications / Публикации по истории СБС — ИнБИОМ Публикации из разных коллекций репозитория по истории СБС — ИнБИОМ	294
Monographs, Proceedings & Conference Materials / Монографии, сборники научных трудов и материалы конференций Collections of Monographs, Scientific Articles and Conference Materials authored by staff of the institute	4248
Online materials / Электронные публикации	1
Preprints / Препринты Preprints published or authored by staff of the Institute and other scientific organizations	27
Presentations, media files, maps, etc. / Презентации, медиафайлы, карты и др.	10
Selected articles & overprints / Избранные статьи и отпечатки Collection of selected digital articles and overprints from different sources	1021
Serials / Журналы, продолжающиеся издания Serials and continuing resources published by institute	4001
Staff biobibliography / Биобиблиография сотрудников Biography and materials published or authored by staff of the institute	75
Thematic collections / Тематические коллекции	54

4. In September, we had an international conference “Study of Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecosystems: History and Contemporary State” dedicated to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sevastopol Biological Station and to the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our R/V *Professor Vodyanitsky*.



[Photo source: <https://media.marine-research.org/items/show/497>]

More than 370 researchers participated in the conference, representing 95 scientific institutions, educational organizations, and departments. In total, 220 oral, 70 virtual, and

70 poster reports were presented. The book of abstracts was uploaded to the Repository <https://doi.org/10.21072/978-5-6044865-5-9>

5. “Pontus Euxinus” was held as well, timed to coincide with the institute anniversary. The book of abstracts was uploaded to the Repository <https://doi.org/10.21072/978-5-6044865-8-0>.



Young scientists from the cities of Russia and the Republic of Abkhazia highlighted the concern of our colleagues about the environment. Specifically, there were no ballpoint pens and plastic bags, instead, metal pencils and canvas eco-bags were presented to the participants. The main trick was the cup sharing with not a single cup returned.



[A. Kovalevsky and N. Miklouho-Maclay; 150 years of the evolution of knowledge about the World Ocean]

6. Within the framework of the anniversary conference, our department organized and conducted a roundtable discussion “Ways of coordinating the activities of libraries of Russian marine research centers”. The aims were as follows: 1) to discuss the prospects of the Association of Scientific Libraries and Information Centers in the field of marine and aquatic sciences in Russia; 2) to outline the first steps of joint activities; 3) to consider the proposed plans and projects for joint work. The meeting was attended by 10 librarians and information specialists from 5 organizations and was held both in person and online.

Dear community, thanks for the opportunity to contribute to the jubilee issue of EURASLIC Newsletter! Happy holidays! Hope to see you all in person!

## **Library of the Fish Resources Research Department of the Institute “BIOR” in Riga, Latvia in new premises**

**Natalja Kondratjeva**

Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR"  
Riga, Latvia

2020 and 2021 will be remembered as extremely exciting years for our library.

At the end of October 2020, the library moved to new premises, as a new building was built for the Fish Resources Research Department, close to the central part of the Institute “BIOR”.

Librarians who have experienced the process of moving an entire library stock know what that means – a huge routine work, consisting of many stages: emptying the shelves, cleaning books, boxing of special collections and finally packing all materials for transportation. To prepare the library for the move, a work plan was drawn up in accordance with the expected deadline for completion of the building.

But... the year 2020 brought the coronavirus pandemic, and that changed significantly the implementation of the plan.

The library was closed for users in March 2020. Furthermore, as most of the Department’s employees began to work remotely, it was not possible to involve them (as well as the other volunteers) as assistants in preparing the library stock for the move. After three months, since the emergency situation in the country ended, and during the summer, it became possible to periodically use some help from the department’s researchers who were not busy with their main work on collecting biological materials. In the end of October 2020 the library stock was moved to a beautifully designed room with glass walls located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the new Fish Resources Research Department building. Since the movable bookshelves were transported from the old place, it was primarily necessary to transport the books in boxes and arrange them in the vacant rooms for a while. Most of the Department’s researchers took part in the transportation of the books.



Since November 2020, when the pandemic intensified, the Department's staff has been working mostly remotely again. Thus, unpacking and shelving was done mainly by the only librarian working on site two or three days a week.

Unfortunately, 2021 brought new waves of coronavirus pandemic. State emergency was declared twice in Latvia: from March 13 to May 12, 2021 and currently from October 11 to January 11, 2022.

The strict four-week lockdown ended in the middle of November, and I returned to the library, continuing the work on site with print documents in order to include them into an electronic database. Like other special and research libraries that were not associated with universities and the Academy of Sciences of Latvia, the library didn't have an opportunity to join the online resource system until now. At the moment we are creating our own electronic catalogue that will replace the card catalogue. Currently new books, periodicals, serials and scientific reports are maintained locally as Excel database.

In 2020 and 2021, the main library services consisted of sending electronic scientific articles to researchers, including digitized ones, keeping thematic bibliographies. The library did not loan books and other paper documents for most of the year.

According to the new Library Development Policy, that was written and approved in 2018, a significant restructuring of the main stock is planned with goal to create a narrower collection profile: aquatic sciences (with emphasis on the Baltic Sea and Latvian inland water environment), ichthyology and fisheries. In 2020 and 2021 many books (old books in physics, chemistry, social sciences and others) have been withdrawn. Evaluation of library material is continuing and consist of selection of those that are irrelevant or damaged and intended to be withdrawn.

The Covid-19 pandemic is not the only shock that the Fish Resources Research Department's Library has faced in the recent two years. First, just before the transfer of the library, it suddenly became known that due to an error in the implementation of the renovation project, the library space would be smaller than expected. Thus, out of seven mobile bookshelves, only six could be accommodated in it.

At the new location, the library consists of one room instead of two rooms in the old premises. Apart from mobile bookshelves, there is no other place for various unpublished documents that make up a significant part of the library's collection in a variety of types.

In the summer of 2021, I was very surprised by the completely new interpretation by the institute's management, which is now trying to confirm that this place is not a library, but a reading room! Librarian's desk with a computer was moved to another room, and a round table for visitors was placed instead.





Our library has a status of a special library and should have an appropriate organization and environment in order to perform all the library functions. Recently I have presented a plan on how to divide the space into three zones: for the collections, the librarian's desk and the visitors, and what furniture is needed for the library, but there is no answer yet, still no decision...

To conclude, I would like to highlight two positive events that took place in our library during these two exceptional years:

- In January 2020 the poster "Fisheries and Aquatic Research in Latvia: The Value of a Special Library" was presented at the International Scientific Symposium to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR";
- In September 2021 the Institute "BIOR" joined the ASFA Associated Scheme and now the Department's researchers have a great opportunity to access the ASFA Database!

### **A book that librarians should read**

**Malgorzata Grabowska-Popow**

National Marine Fisheries Research Institute  
Gdynia, Poland

I would like to tell you about an unusual book.

It is ***Syria's Secret Library*** which was written by the well-known British BBC correspondent Mike Thomson. The book is an account of a library created by a young Muslims in the Syrian town of Daraya, almost completely ruined during the civil war.

Daraya, located in Damascus province, was one of Syria's fastest-growing scientific and industrial centers and was among the cities that first rebelled against the regime. As a result of fierce fighting, government troops entered Daraya on 24 August, 2012. The civilian population was killed in the so-called Daraya Massacre. The civil war continued, and in the meantime the city's population suffered from the government's retaliatory actions - everything was in short supply, including food, and humanitarian convoys were not allowed to help Daraya. In September 2016, both sides of the conflict signed an agreement as a result of which all the city inhabitants left Daraya forever.

And it was during these cruel years of civil war that the young residents of Daraya, mostly former students, organized a beautiful library in the basement of a destroyed building, visited daily by numerous eager visitors, since its existence had become a common secret. The young initiators assumed that the war would not last forever and that on returning to normal life they would need to possess knowledge, so it was worth creating a place where

culture would triumph over war, where, in addition to reading, there would be time for lectures and discussions.

Risking their lives, under sniper fire, the young people searched among the rubble for forgotten books, which were then transported, mostly by hand, to the designated place. At first, all the books they found were included in the book collection, but only after a considerable number of books had been found did they begin to select them more carefully. The collections were ordered and catalogued. The books were placed on shelves, which were constructed by the people themselves or transferred from their former flats. The library was also equipped with desks and reading areas.

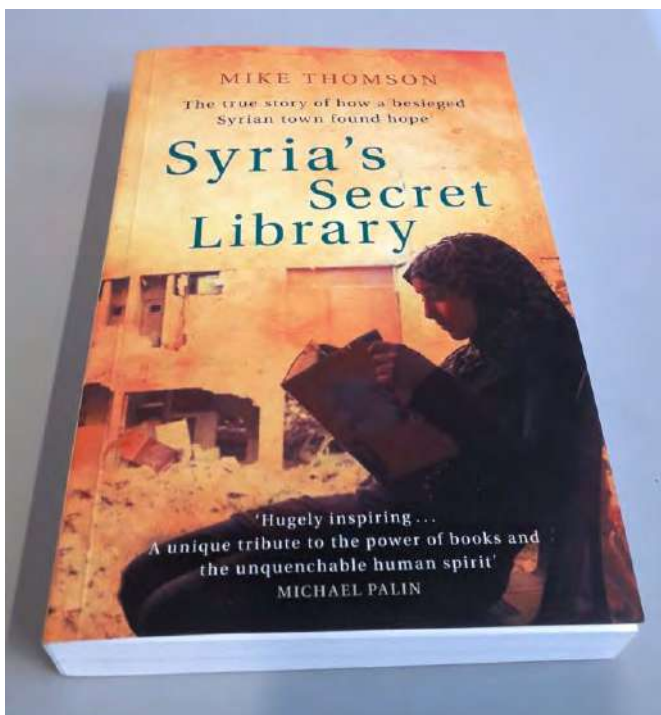
The library thus created became a substitute for normality in the war zone and an oasis for the tired inhabitants. Until the very end, information about its existence did not reach the ears of the enemy.

After the signing of the agreement and the expulsion of the inhabitants, government troops began combing the destroyed city. In October 2016, the secret library was discovered and ransacked.

Reading *Syria's Secret Library* is harrowing, but also enlightening. It gives hope that despite everything, books and libraries will survive, and that there will always be passionate people prepared to risk their lives to save their beauty and timeless meaning.

Thomson M. *Syria's secret library*, London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2019, 305 p. ISBN-13: 9781474605908

[The photo of the book cover by Maggie Grabowska-Popow.](#)



## EURASLIC new members for 2021

**Clara Bruns,**

Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)  
Bremen, Germany

**Carol Giles**

Marine Biological Association  
Plymouth, UK

**Dorota Jesionek**

Institute of Oceanology PAS Library  
Sopot, Poland

**Tamsin Vicary**

FAO / ASFA Secretariat  
Rome, Italy

**Andreas Walker**

Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Library  
Bremerhaven, Germany



## Participation of EURASLIC Members in IAMS LIC committees and activities

- Maria Kalentsits: FAO-IAMS LIC joint activities
- Sofija Konjević: Regional Representative in the IAMS LIC Exec Board (2019-2021), Conference Committee
- Bart Goossens: Conference Site Selection Committee (2021-2023)
- Kateryna Kulakova: Member of IAMS LIC Membership Committee (2020-2022, 2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Olga Kopytova, Member of IAMS LIC Membership Committee (2019-2021)
- Stephanie Ronan: Member of the IAMS LIC Website and Communicatons Committee (2018-2020, second term), Conference Committee
- Heike Lust: member of the Joint IODE/IAMS LIC GE-MIM

EURASLIC Executive Board  
2021 -2023

**President, website editor**

**Sofija KONJEVIĆ**

Ruđer Bošković Institute (RBI)  
Bijenička cesta 54  
10000 Zagreb  
CROATIA  
Email: [sofija@irb.hr](mailto:sofija@irb.hr)

**Vice-President,**

**Stephanie RONAN**

Marine Institute  
Rinville, Oranmore,  
Co. Galway.  
H91 R673  
IRELAND  
Email: [Stephanie.Ronan@Marine.ie](mailto:Stephanie.Ronan@Marine.ie)

**Executive secretary**

**Marina MAYER**

Ruđer Bošković Institute (RBI)  
Bijenička cesta 54  
10000 Zagreb  
CROATIA  
Email: [mmayer@irb.hr](mailto:mmayer@irb.hr)

**Member representative 1**

**Ingrid ČATIĆ**

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries  
Setaliste  
I. Mestrovica 63  
21000 Split  
Croatia  
Email: [catic@izor.hr](mailto:catic@izor.hr)

**Member representative 2, Newsletter editor**

**Snejina BACHEVA**

Institute of Oceanology  
P.O. Box 152  
9000 Varna  
BULGARIA  
Email: [library@io-bas.bg](mailto:library@io-bas.bg)

**Past President**

**Bart GOOSSENS**

Research Institute for Nature and Forest  
Gaverstraat 4  
B-9500 Geraardsbergen  
BELGIUM  
Email: [bart.goossens@inbo.be](mailto:bart.goossens@inbo.be)

**Environment Librarians' Representative**

**Anne-Laure ACHARD**

National Research Institute  
of Science and Technology for Environment  
and Agriculture (IRSTEA)  
FRANCE  
Email: [anne-laure.achard@irstea.fr](mailto:anne-laure.achard@irstea.fr)

**Euraslic Archivist**

**Malgorzata GRABOWSKA-POPOW**

National Marine Fisheries Research Institute  
ul. Kołłątaja 1  
81-332 Gdynia  
POLAND  
Email: [mpopow@mir.gdynia.pl](mailto:mpopow@mir.gdynia.pl)

**ECET Representative**

**(European Countries in Economic Transition)**

**Kateryna KULAKOVA**

Russian Research Institute of Fisheries and  
Oceanography (VNIRO)  
2 Sverdlov Street  
8300 Kerch  
CRIMEA  
Email: [katia\\_faust@mail.ru](mailto:katia_faust@mail.ru)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editorial staff of the News Letter expresses its gratitude to all contributors to this issue. There is nothing more authentic and exciting than the information presented firsthand. We would like this to encourage everyone to not hesitate sharing the events being involved and personal professional experience, because sharing is a source of knowledge and maintains the integrity of the community.

Happy New Year!