

# EURASLIC NEWSLETTER

## European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members

Once again, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of Euraslic and extend special thanks to the Members of the Executive Board for their continued efforts on behalf of the Association during the last six months, and to Ian McCulloch for compiling this issue of the Newsletter.

As most of you will already know, Snejina Bacheva became the Euraslic Executive Secretary in January 2003, and I would like to express my thanks to her for the way in which she has enthusiastically embarked upon this role. In addition to coordinating the regular activities of Euraslic such as Board and Business Meetings and the Euraslic Equipment Grant Applications, she will also be coordinating the collection of papers, reports etc for the Proceedings of the Kiel Conference. If you are presenting a paper or contributing a report, please be sure to send Snejina an electronic version of your contribution as soon as possible.

The Euraslic Library Equipment Grant cycle for 2003 is now complete. The Board set aside 1500 euros for this purpose, and received three applications totalling 2728 euros, once again, well in excess of the original amount set aside. On this occasion the Board awarded grants to the Scientific Library of the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas (800 euros) for the purchase of an additional PC system, and to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Institute of Oceanology, Varna Library (648 euros) for the purchase of a multifunctional flatbed system consisting of laser fax, printer, copy machine and scanner.

Best wishes,

*Joan Baron Varley,*  
Euraslic President.

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## Tenth Euraslic Conference - Short Report

The Tenth Euraslic Conference was held in Kiel, Germany, from 7th - 9th May 2003. The venue was the Institut fuer Meereskunde, a multidisciplinary Institute of Marine Research at the University of Kiel.

The Conference was attended by more than 50 participants from 14 European countries and representatives of four International Organizations, the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and FAO-ADRIAMED, the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan, and the Support unit for Fisheries and Aquatic Research (SIFAR). The local host for this Conference was the Institut fuer Meereskunde.

The conference programme included special sessions on "Cataloguing the Internet", "From Print to Electronic Media" and "Networks" as well as the regular "Country Reports" and "Virtual Poster" sessions that are a feature of all Euraslic Conferences. The keynote paper "Internet versus Information" was presented by Roland Cormier, an information systems expert from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and who is the current Coordinator of the Aquatic Food Products Initiative. The paper took a holistic approach to the impact that the Internet has had on the collection, organisation and dissemination of information. Other invited papers included: "Portals: History, Features and Typology" by Prof. Hermann Rösch, FH Köln, Germany, and "FishBase - an Internet Gateway to Information on Fish" by Dr. Rainer Froese, Institut fuer Meereskunde, Kiel, Germany.

Discussion sessions included: European Countries in Economic Transition (ECET), Chair: Maria Kalenchits, Estonian Marine Institute, Estonia; Mediterranean Special Interest Group (MedSIG), Chair: Jean Collins, Fisheries Library, FAO, Rome, Italy; Freshwater Libraries, Chair: Ian McCulloch, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Windermere, UK; Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA), Chair: Diane Hoffman, CSA; and E-Learning and Libraries, Chair: Paul Nieuwenhuysen, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium. The European Countries in Economic Transition (ECET) Group had a fruitful discussion session focussing on issues pertinent to several new members from Russia. Some members of this Group are already involved in the Black Sea Library Cooperation Project, the Scoping Study of which was funded by IAMSLIC. Plans to establish a Euraslic Mediterranean Special Interest Group were taken forward in a Discussion session chaired by Jean Collins of FAO, and which included participants representing UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan, FAO-ADRIAMED, National Centre for Marine Research (Greece), Rudjer Boskovic Institute (Croatia) and the Marine Science Institute of Andalucia (Spain). Short reports from all of these Discussion Sessions will appear in the Conference Proceedings.

The country reports session is a regular feature of Euraslic Conferences and provides a valuable opportunity for members to report on developments in their own institutes, countries and regions. Whilst many members reported advances in their access to technology and the Internet and improved staff conditions, Denmark stood out as a very worrying case with three out of the four centres that encompass aquatic sciences suffering cutbacks in library staffing and services, and the remaining library staff being required to take on extra duties and consultancies. The current cutbacks are

attributed to the new government's lower priority of the environmental issues manifesting in reduced appropriations to the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. DHI Water and Environment has also been compelled to reduce their staff by approximately 10%, meaning the loss of one library assistant, leaving one person to serve the 300 remaining employees and DHI offices around the world. Euraslic members expressed strong concerns at these cutbacks affecting their colleagues in Denmark, and the wider impact that such policies will have on aquatic and environmental information provision in Denmark at a time when environmental issues are high on the International agenda.

Sponsorship is a very important ingredient for a successful Conference, especially when a significant number of our members come from institutes in countries with poor economies. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of Unesco is a highly valued supporter of Euraslic in this respect and provided US\$4,000 to fund Euraslic members and other nominated persons to attend. The IOC sponsorship was used to fund three participants from Russia, as well as one from Bulgaria and a fifth from the Ukraine. The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Sciences Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) kindly awarded Euraslic a Grant of US\$2,000, and this was used to fund a fourth participant from Russia to attend, as well as a member from Spain. Euraslic made available a further c.2500 euros from core funds to sponsor or partially support the attendance of members from Croatia, France and the United Kingdom. Attendance at this European Regional Conference provided them with the opportunity to establish links and make useful contacts, and they actively contributed to the conference by presenting papers, reports or posters and

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The EURASLIC Newsletter is published twice a year, in April and October. The deadline for the April issue is the 31 March, the deadline for the October issue is the 30 September.

Please send all items for inclusion to Ian McCulloch at the above address. If possible, send it as an email attachment. Most formats are acceptable, but rtf is preferred.

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taking part in the Workshop and discussion sessions.

A workshop entitled "Lost in Cyberspace: Raising Your Institute's Profile on the Internet" was Coordinated by Ian McCulloch of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Windermere, UK. The workshop explored ways to attract more visitors to an Institute's website, and in doing so, to raise the organization's profile, and hopefully the librarian's profile within the organization. The workshop started with a discussion of a few general tips, after which the participants broke into smaller groups and examined some websites. Within the groups, the strengths and the weaknesses of these sites were analysed, and then the participants came together again to discuss their findings. Finally, some guidelines, to be published in the Conference Proceedings, were drawn up.

The Conference Proceedings: *EURASLIC 10: Smooth Sailing: Crossing the Boundaries in Aquatic Sciences Information Management. The Tenth*

*Biennial Conference of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres, 7-9th May 2003, Institut fuer Meereskunde, Kiel, Germany,* will be published by the Institute of Oceanology, Varna, Bulgaria. Edited by: Snejina Bacheva, Joan Baron Varley and Barbara Schmidt.

For further information about the Conference or other Euraslic activities, please contact the Euraslic Executive Secretary, Snejina Bacheva. Email: [library@io-bas.bg](mailto:library@io-bas.bg).

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### **Black Sea Scientific Information and Knowledge Base**

[The following is the text of a EURASLIC press release dated 14th May 2003]

The Black Sea is bounded by six countries – Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and the Ukraine - each with a number of aquatic research institutes focussing on the environment of the Black Sea. The aquatic sciences libraries in each of these countries are rich in the literature of the Black Sea, which in many cases is not accessible abroad.

It is this situation that prompted the development of a project to create an online cooperative information system for the scientific literature on the Black Sea. The proposed system will unite the electronic catalogues and databases of Black Sea marine libraries into an information and knowledge exchange system, accessible through the Internet. Users of the system will retrieve records and full-text documents held in the libraries.

The project core group includes the scientific libraries of the Institute of Oceanology (Varna, Bulgaria), the Georgian Marine Ecology and Fisheries

Institute (Batumi, Georgia), the Research Institute of Azov Sea Fishery Problems (Rostov on Don, Russia), and the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas (Sevastopol, Ukraine). It is anticipated that institutes in Romania and Turkey will also participate in the Project.

A scoping study was completed in 2002 with support from the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (Iamslic), and the project is designed in five phases over a three-year period. Phase 1 - An assessment of the literature resources relating to the Black Sea held in relevant institutions in countries in the region – has been completed.

A Directory of relevant institutions and their libraries and information centres has been compiled, and the literature survey indicated that over 8,000 books, periodicals, serial publications, reports and reprints relating to the Black Sea are held, with over 35,500 card catalogue entries and about 8,000 records in electronic form. An analysis of the records in the international database Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) showed that 4491 records relating to the Black Sea appeared in ASFA between 1978 and 2002. Comparisons between the records appearing in ASFA and the literature resources available in the Black Sea marine institutes clearly demonstrated that the libraries hold substantially higher numbers of relevant publications.

The goal of the project therefore, is to ensure access to as many as possible of the national literature resources relating to the Black Sea, and funding is being sought for Phases 2-5. These will provide suitable hardware and software; digitise individual library catalogues and make them accessible via the Internet; implement linkages between the participating libraries and associated document delivery mechanisms, and develop a plan of action

for the long term sustainability of the cooperative system.

*(Summary of the paper presented by Olga A. Akimova (Sevastopol, Ukraine), Project Coordinator, at the Tenth Biennial Conference of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres (Euraslic), 7-9 May 2003, Institut fuer Meereskunde, Kiel, Germany.)*

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## Get Ready for the New ISBN!

The International Standard Book Number (ISO 2108), the most important standard underlying the business of the book industry, is being revised. The standard has been in place for over thirty years and is a standards success story: It is used today in 160 countries and one estimate suggests that globally over 100 million items are identified with an ISBN.

A first draft of the new ISBN standard was balloted and approved in May 2003.

The length of the ISBN is being expanded to 13-digits. The plan is to complete the standard by January 1, 2005.

Implementation of the 13-digit ISBN, however, will not be mandatory until January 1, 2007. On January 1, 2007 all ISBN agencies worldwide will distribute only 13-digit ISBNs.

Information on the progress of this revision is available at

<http://www.niso.org/standards/resources/I>

[SBN.html](#) and there is an ISBN FAQ at <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/iso/tc46sc9/isbn.htm>.

## On the Web

### *EnviroLink Network*

<http://www.envirolink.org/>

The EnviroLink Network is a non-profit organization founded in 1991. EnviroLink maintains a database of thousands of environmental resources and provides internet services to non-profit organizations.

### *Seafeeds*

<http://www.seafeeds.net/>

Sustainable environmental aquaculture feeds. EC Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources (Key Action 5.1.2 under the 5th Framework) programme.

### *Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)*

<http://www.feap.org>

An international organisation that is composed of the National Aquaculture Associations of European countries. The basic aims of the Federation are: to develop and establish a common policy on questions relating to the production and the commercialisation of aquaculture species are reared professionally; and to make known to the appropriate authorities the common policies envisaged above.

### *International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)*

<http://www.ifoam.org/>

The worldwide umbrella organisation of the organic agriculture movement, with about 750 member organisations and institutions in about 100 countries all over the world.

### *EMECS - Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas*

<http://www.emecs.or.jp/>

First established in 1990, EMECS has evolved into an international network of

persons involved in issues related to the management, preservation, and protection of the world's enclosed coastal seas.

*MEDCOAST*

<http://www.medcoast.org.tr/>

MEDCOAST aims to contribute to coastal and marine conservation in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, through improved coastal management practices. This goal is pursued by enhancing scientific and professional collaboration among individuals and institutes (networking) in the Mediterranean & Black Sea countries, or elsewhere...

*European Community: International Scientific Cooperation Policy*

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/iscp/index_en.html)

This website is dedicated to the international S/T cooperation activities of the Community which are carried out by the Directorate General for Research.

*FAOLEX Database*

<http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm>

This is a comprehensive and up-to-date computerized legislative database, the world's largest electronic collection of national laws and regulations, as well as treaties, on food, agriculture and renewable natural resources.

*International Year of Freshwater 2003*

<http://www.wateryear2003.org>

The official site of the International Year of Freshwater 2003. Jump in! Get your feet wet! Make a splash! Together we can make a difference.