## From the President

Dear EURASLIC friends and colleagues,

It's a real honour to write to you again as President, especially now that we have entered a new term and with such an excellent, supportive board in place. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in this year's elections, and to our Nominating Committee - Bart Goossens, Claire Walker, and Marina Mayer - for their work behind the scenes. I'm delighted to be joined by Olga Kopytova (Vice-President), Ingrid Čatić and Bart Goossens (Member Representatives), Sofija Konjević (Executive Secretary & Past President), and Małgorzata Grabowska-Popow (Archivist). I look forward to working with this talented team as we continue to support and grow our community.

This year, our 21st Biennial Conference in Pisa was a real highlight. For the first time, EURASLIC joined forces with ASFA and GreyNet International, bringing together a wonderful mix of expertise and perspectives. The conference theme "How Scientific Communication Practices are Evolving" sparked lively discussions about the future of grey literature, open science, and the vital role our libraries play in supporting research. I was especially pleased to see so many members, both in person and online, taking part in the sessions, panels, and workshops. The energy and engagement were truly inspiring. A special mention must go to ASFA for their generous sponsorship, which enabled so many to attend both the OpenASFA retreat and the full conference. It's partnerships like these that make our network stronger and more inclusive.

Our members continue to make us proud on the international stage. Huge congratulations to Tamsin Vicary, who has just become the new IAMSLIC President - an achievement that reflects her dedication and leadership within EURASLIC, ASFA and the wider aquatic sciences library community. I know Tamsin will do a fantastic job representing us on the global stage.

We also note Tamsin along with Maria Kalentsit's ongoing commitment to FAO-IAMSLIC joint activities, and to the AquaDocs steering group, as well as Sofija Konjević's participation in the 3rd International Ocean Data Conference and her work on the IAMSLIC Conference Format Task Force. Bart Goossens continues to contribute to the Conference Site Selection Committee, and many others are representing us in various IAMSLIC committees and initiatives. As Christine Carrau retired in 2025 we wish her best at the new stage in the life. Warm welcome to new members Carla Rebelo (IPMA I.P., Portugal) and Ann Talk (AWI, Germany).

As we look ahead, there's plenty to be excited about. Our next biennial conference is planned for 2027, and we'll continue to build on the momentum from Pisa - exploring new ways to collaborate, share knowledge, and support each other. Membership remains steady at 38, but we know there's more work to do in recruitment and outreach, so please do spread the word about EURASLIC in your networks.

We appreciate your continued dedication, creativity, and collaboration. On behalf of the Executive Board, we extend our best wishes for a pleasant and peaceful Christmas. We hope the New Year brings you good health, satisfaction, and ongoing achievement in all your professional pursuits.

With best wishes,
**Stephanie Ronan, EURASLIC President**

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**Editor: Snejina BACHEVA**
library@io-bas.bg

**Co-Editor: Sofija KONJEVIĆ**
sofija@irb.hr

# PISA 2025: Evolving Scientific Communication in the Heart of Tuscany
## 7–9 May 2025, Pisa, Italy

**Stephanie Ronan**
**Marine Institute, Galway, Ireland**

## What Happened

The joint PISA2025 conference marked our 21st EURASLIC Biennial Conference in Pisa on May7- 9 2025. We collaborated with ASFA-FAO (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts from the Food and Agriculture Organisation), and GreyNet International, hosted by D4Science-CNR (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche/Italian Research Council).

We came together for three days of ideas, networking, and plenty of Italian hospitality. The theme "How Scientific Communication Practices are Evolving" set the tone for sessions that looked beyond traditional publishing to embrace datasets, software, and other grey resources as vital parts of the research ecosystem.

## The ASFA Retreat

The conference kicked off with the OpenASFA retreat facilitated by Tamsin Vicary and Maria Kalentsits. It wasn't just a technical meeting - it was a chance to shape the future of the OpenASFA platform. Participants brainstormed improvements, shared feedback on workflows, and explored how ASFA can better support open science.

A huge thank you to ASFA for generously sponsoring participants to attend both the retreat and the full PISA 2025 conference. That support made a big difference in ensuring broad representation and lively discussion.

## Opening and Keynotes

Day 2 opened formally with welcome remarks from Pasquale Pagano (ISTI (Institute of Information Science and Technologies) ‑ CNR), followed by a keynote from Donatella Castelli (ISTI‑CNR) and an address by Olaf Siegert (ZBW - Leibniz Information Centre for Economic /Leibniz-Informationszentrum Wirtschaft).

We followed this with an opportunity for each organisation to introduce ourselves and discuss the relevance and impact of this joint collaboration on our communities and on our scientific communication practices. The discussion featured Donatella Castelli, Tamsin Vicary (ASFA), Stephanie Ronan (Marine Institute/EURASLIC), and Dominic Farace (GreyNet).



The conference progressed with engaging panels and posters exploring everything from diamond open-access models to practical workflows for repository integration. The atmosphere was collaborative and forward-looking - exactly what you'd hope for from a joint meeting of three networks.



## Poster Prize

The conference featured a poster prize, which is an annual event for the GreyNet conferences, and a tradition we might want to keep going with for our own EURASLIC biennial conferences. The Pisa 2025 poster prize went to **Francesco D'Antoni** from Sapienza Università di Roma for his poster titled *"Beyond the Tip of the Iceberg: Grey Literature ..."* - a fantastic example of innovative content and graphic design, chosen by a jury from ISTI‑CNR.

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## What We Learned

Some highlights from the presentations and the sessions that followed revealed some clear themes:

- **Metadata matters** – Bravi et al. showed how richer metadata for grey resources improves visibility and reuse, while Danssen et al. focused on practical workflows for repositories.
- **Repositories under pressure** – Farace et al. explored how to adapt institutional repositories to handle datasets and software alongside traditional publications.
- **Collaboration is key** – Farace et al. and Plank et al. reminded us that partnerships between libraries, researchers, and tech providers are essential for sustainable open infrastructures.

The full proceedings will be published very soon—watch this space. The full programme is still available on the Pisa 2025 conference website: IAMSLIC - Pisa 2025 Programme

## Why It Matters

Scientific communication is changing fast. Libraries aren't just adapting—they're leading. By embracing grey resources and open platforms, we're helping research communities share knowledge more widely and more effectively. That's good for science, and good for society.



## The Social Side

D4Science‑CNR didn't just host us - they spoiled us! From arranging delicious coffee and lunch breaks to a fabulous social dinner featuring Tuscan delights, we were well fed and well cared for. The walking tour of Pisa was another highlight—history, architecture, and plenty of time for informal chats (and Leaning Tower selfies!).

## Personal Reflection

For me, PISA 2025 was a reminder of why these gatherings matter. It's not just about presentations - it's about the energy in the room, the shared commitment to open science, and the sense that libraries are shaping the future of research communication. Add the warmth of our hosts and the beauty of Pisa, and it's hard not to come away inspired.

# IAMSLIC 2025 Conference: Full Circle – A Virtual Perspective

**Stephanie Ronan**
**Marine Institute, Galway, Ireland**
**Sofija Konjević**
**Ruđer Bošković Institute, Centre for Scientific Information, Zagreb, Croatia**

The 51st Annual IAMSLIC Conference took place from 5–10 October 2025, hosted in the picturesque setting of Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and offered a truly hybrid experience—both in-person and online. The theme, 'Full Circle,' celebrated IAMSLIC's rich 50-year history while embracing the future of global collaboration in marine science librarianship.

## A Stunning Location and Warm Hospitality

For those fortunate enough to attend in person, Woods Hole provided an idyllic backdrop: a vibrant marine research hub surrounded by salt marshes, research vessels, and historic laboratories. Reports from attendees praised the banquet's local seafood delights and the field trip's coastal beauty and scientific insights—perfect complements to the conference's intellectual feast.

Special thanks go to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) for their generous sponsorship and hosting. Their support ensured a seamless hybrid format that welcomed participants from across the globe.

## Reflections from the Screen

As an online attendee, the experience was engaging and inclusive. Interactive features -live Q&A, breakout rooms, and chat forums—fostered networking and lively discussion, proving that distance need not diminish connection. The careful scheduling of asynchronous content allowed for comfortable viewing without time-zone overload, broadening participation and enriching dialogue.

## Conference Themes & Highlights

Talks from Geoff Timms, Alejandro Paz, and Amanda Whitmire focused on Technology and Innovation, exploring strategies for integrating generative AI into marine science education, running Carpentries workshops for computational literacy, and transforming historical field station collections into actionable climate data.

Sessions on Information Access and Literacy included work by Femi Lawrence Ibikunle and colleagues on grey literature and information literacy for fisheries research, and Frank Ugwu on student information-seeking behaviours. Elijah Omariba Mokaya examined open access resources in marine research libraries, while Leah Amoding presented a community-driven library model supporting inclusion and empowerment.

Kate Boylan, Sara Pike, and Raymond Stein addressed sustaining high-value, low-use collections, and Samantha Porter demonstrated how bibliometric tools (VOSviewer, CiteSpace etc.). can add institutional value. Open Access and repository services were explored by Matthew Person and Sally Taylor & Ekaterina Kulakova, highlighting cost-neutral OA agreements and AquaDocs innovations. How can students better understand climate changes through art activities and "Learn by Doing" philosophy was presented by Jeannine Scarmozzino. What amount of effort is needed to recover fully from disaster was presented by Joyce Shaw on Gunter Library example on Hurricane Katrina 20 Year Anniversary. Freedom of expression as topic was also mentioned at the conference.

European contributions were a highlight: Tamsin Vicary reflected on ASFA's evolution and future directions, reinforcing its role in global aquatic science information. Cultural and historical perspectives came through in David Irvin's celebration of Guin Library's 35 years and Ashley Jester's digitisation of rare whale recordings.

At the IAMSLIC Business Meeting besides the reports, results of election were presented and new officers were acknowledged. Tamsin Vicary, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and EURASLIC member steps up as a president for the 2025-2026.

Virtual participants were deprived from a very interesting field trip to Martha's Vineyard but there was a Happy Hour with Dave.

The 2025 conference truly lived up to its theme: honouring the past while embracing the future. From my screen, it felt vibrant, purposeful, and deeply connected—a testament to IAMSLIC's commitment to inclusivity and innovation. Looking forward to continuing this spirit of collaboration at future EURASLIC and IAMSLIC events!

# 3rd International Ocean Data Conference (IODC III)

**Sofija Konjević**
**Ruđer Bošković Institute, Centre for Scientific Information, Zagreb, Croatia**

[The third International Ocean Data Conference](#) was held from 10-11 March 2025 in Santa Marta, Colombia as a hybrid event. The conference was organised by UNESCO and IODE and held at INVEMAR (Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras José Benito Vives de Andreis).



The theme of the conference was organised in four sessions:

1. Ocean Biodiversity ((and how we can collectively contribute to the needs of BBNJ and GBF)
2. Capacity development facilitating data, information, and knowledge exchange
3. Working towards a federated Global Ocean Data Ecosystem ongoing initiatives, partnerships and ambitions towards the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 outcomes
4. Application of Ocean data for sustainable Ocean Planning and Management

The Ocean biodiversity session opened the conference bringing presentations on topics: Biodiversity data management, AI and biodiversity, monitoring, Ocean data collection and importance of citizen science, emphasizing the importance of integration of FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) into global ocean data framework.

The second day of the conference was dedicated to federated global ocean data ecosystem, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) presenting ongoing initiatives and available tools (ReMAP Data Tools, The NavySafe tool). European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) was presented through several presentations and posters.

Arturo Rey da Silva gave an interesting presentation on underwater cultural heritage (UCH) data. According to Unesco definition "Underwater Cultural Heritage" are "all traces of human existence having a cultural, historical or archaeological character which have been partially or totally underwater, periodically or continuously, for at least 100 years such as: i) sites, structures, buildings, artefacts and human remains, together with their archaeological and natural context; ii) vessels, aircraft, other vehicles or any part thereof, their cargo or other contents,

together with their archaeological and natural context; and iii) objects of prehistoric character".[1] Those data are of great importance to marine ecosystems therefore should be integrated into ocean data.



A great part of the second day was dedicated to Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS), an independent data system coordinated by the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) of IOC-UNESCO. ODIS is a data federations system that takes data from different sources, enabling sharing and exchange of ocean data. ODIS- presented by Pier Luigi Buttigieg brought a background overview, introduced ODIS Architecture and stressed the benefits of sharing data with ODIS. Three regions shared their experience of participation in ODIS: Latin America and Caribbean, Africa and PSIDS (Pacific Small Island Developing States). The presentations were followed by ODIS WORKSHOP and discussion groups.

There were about 40 presentations, four topical working groups and around 28 posters that were presented online (https://oceandataconference.org/postersession-iodc3/ ), also divided in four thematic sessions. Highlights and summaries for each day are available at the conference page while video recordings of presentations are available at the programme page: https://oceandataconference.org/iodc-iii-programme/

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UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage
ttps://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000126065

# AquaDocs in the new Environment

**Co-Project Managers: Sally Taylor, Ekaterina Kulakova**

Based on AquaDocs Annual Report 2024-2025, submitted to IAMSLIC on October 8, 2025

## Background

AquaDocs is the joint open access repository of the UNESCO/IOC InternationaI Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) and the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) with support from the FAO Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA). AquaDocs provides open access to publications covering the natural marine, coastal, estuarine/brackish and freshwater environments, and was created in August 2021 by merging content from two earlier repositories (OceanDocs and Aquatic Commons).

Project goals are as follows:

- Make aquatic and marine science information FAIR for all;
- Make grey literature more easily and equitably available;
- Offer a repository platform to organizations and individuals without the infrastructure to support their own;
- Offer repository trainings and support.

## Growth and usage

As of October 6, 2025, AquaDocs had 37,170 deposits, an increase of 137 records since last year's report and the launch of the new platform in January 2025. Since the launch nine months ago, there were 682,909 record views, and 137,718 PDF downloads.

AquaDocs serves as a repository for 130+ organizations and projects. No new communities were added this year but there was renewed activity from existing communities waiting to deposit into the new platform, and a substantial project to provide training and guidance to several groups associated with the University of Panamá.

## Highlights 2024/25

**Repository Migration.** DSquare Technologies (D2T) was awarded the hosting contract for AquaDocs in August 2024. A sub-group worked with D2T to migrate AquaDocs from Atmire's Open Repository platform to D2T's Knowledge Hub. The new platform, also based on DSpace, was launched in January 2025. Since the launch, we continued to meet regularly with D2T to resolve a number of outstanding issues and to develop additional functionality.

New features include:

- Multilingual interface in English, Arabic, French, Russian, Spanish. D2T used machine learning to translate over 3,000 elements later verified by IAMSLIC members Saida Messaoudi, Assia Boukrouh (Arabic), Arame Keita (French), Ekaterina Kulakova (Russian), and Leticia Lizondo (Spanish). Members also translated labels and help text for the submission form. Work is underway to add Portuguese and Chinese.
- Integration with ORCiD to provide a unique persistent identifier for authors and disambiguate between individuals with the same name.
- Integration with AGROVOC (a multilingual vocabulary from FAO incl. ASFA terms).
- Integration with GeoNames, a database of 11 million place names incl. water bodies.

- Bulk upload functionality that has been tested.
- More detailed usage statistics (views and downloads) for an item, collection, sub-community or community, and by desired time period (e.g. week, month, year, etc.).

**Repository Operations.** Project managers and Editorial Team continue to onboard new communities, and facilitate contributions from new and existing organizations. They respond to queries from depositors and review metadata for quality assurance.

**AquaDocs Training.** Drafted user guides for depositors, editors, collections administrators are uploaded on the platform. Training to individuals and groups in Panamá is provided (Oct 2, 2025). A training workshop at IAMSLIC Conference was presented on October 7, 2025.

**Funding and Hosting.** At the 28th Session of the IOC Committee on the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE-28) in March 2025, funding for AquaDocs (hosting and participation in the Management Group meeting) was included in the IODE Programme workplan and budget. The contract with DSquare Technologies was renewed for a second year in September 2025.

**Steering Group and Editorial Team.** The AquaDocs Steering Group and Editorial Team are planning to meet in November or December 2025. At the meeting, we are going to agree on our priorities for 2026 incl. any steps needed to assess the feasibility and suitability of a merger with OpenASFA.

## Priorities for 2025/26

**Technical Improvements.** Continue to work with D2T to resolve outstanding issues, and add Portuguese and Chinese interfaces. Work with OpenASFA to implement regular harvesting of metadata from the new platform. We continue discussions with OpenASFA colleagues about ongoing collaboration and the potential of a merger.

**Funding and Hosting.** Advocate with IODE for ongoing funding and investigate a more streamlined approach for annual renewal of hosting agreement.

| AquaDocs Steering Group | AquaDocs Editorial Team |
|---|---|
| Chair: Angela Clark-Hughes<br>Project co-Managers: Ekaterina Kulakova and Sally Taylor<br>IODE IT Advisor: Arno Lambert<br>FAO ASFA: Tamsin Vicary, Maria Kalentsits<br>IAMSLIC Executive Board: Hannah Russell, Daryl Superio<br>Invited Experts from IODE and IAMSLIC communities: Stephen Alayon, Angela Clark-Hughes, Leticia Lizondo, Saida Messaoudi, Pauline Simpson, Jennifer Walton, Amanda Whitmire | Africa - Arame Keita, Saida Messaoudi<br>Americas<br>&bull; South and Central America - Andrea Cristiani, Leticia Lizondo<br>&bull; Caribbean (including Cuba) - Pauline Simpson<br>&bull; North America - Sally Taylor, Amanda Whitmire<br>&bull; Asia - Daryl Superio<br>Europe - Ekaterina Kulakova<br>International - Pauline Simpson, Sally Taylor<br>Oceania - Pauline Simpson, Sally Taylor |

# GreyNet's Journey into the Field of Grey Literature

**Dominic Farace**
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2561-3631

https://ror.org/01pxfxj80

GreyNet International, the Grey Literature Network Service, was founded in 1992. Over the past thirty plus years, GreyNet serves subject based communities producing, processing, distributing, preserving, and bringing awareness to the value of grey literature for science and society.

Grey literature a field in information science, shares many definitions much like other fields of science. It is published on all levels of (non)government, academics, business and industry in textual and non-textual formats not controlled by commercial publishers, that is where publishing is not the sole activity of the producing body. Early on, GreyNet moved from a demand-side perspective on grey literature to a supply-demand side perspective. This in itself broadened the range of stakeholders from librarians and documentalists to include the authors and researchers along with their publishing organizations. It is in this way, that grey literature could distance itself from ephemera and vanity press.

Owing to the support of its associate members and established partnerships with leading organizations, GreyNet has been able to enhance the status of grey literature publications by including their associated research data and audio-visual counterparts. GreyNet adhered early on to the implementation of the FAIR principles: Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability by assigning rich metadata and digital persistent identifiers such as the DOI, ORCiD, and ROR-ID to its publications. GreyNet International became a DOI minter via DataCite in 2018 and has since instructed and encouraged its author-researcher base to apply for their ORCiD and ROR IDs.

## Coming to Terms with a Dated Mindset

GreyNet holds that once these and other developments in information science are incorporated in the field of grey literature, the legacy of a dated mindset is duly confronted and resolved.

First of all, the term grey Literature is a compound noun not an adjectival phrase. Grey literature does not belong to the field of literature but to the field of information. It is embedded in the social sciences and not the humanities. Other misnomers associated with grey literature hold that it is not published, it is not peer reviewed, it is non-conventional, and it is difficult to access.

However, when a document in textual and/or non-textual format carries an ISBN, ISSN, DOI, ORCiD, ROR ID, and/or Funder-ID accompanied by rich metadata; and, when it is housed in an open access repository, data archive, or portal why then is it not considered published?

Given that the review process undergone by commercial publishers is not one that fits all; and, given that an organization in grey literature has been assigned a ROR-ID and their authors and researchers each have an ORCiD, has their work not undergone a review process?

Likewise, if by conventional, one implies prevailing, prevalent, current, ubiquitous, and widespread – then is grey literature not more deserving the term conventional? It is multiple times more abundant than commercial publications, timelier in production, and openly accessible.

One may rightly conclude that without due consideration of the studies that have been carried out in the field of grey literature over the past three decades and without implementation of the technological developments that have impacted this field of information, then misconceptions will be reiterated UN**FAIR**LY.

**The Strength of Research and Publication**

Over the past three decades GreyNet has launched and organized a series of international conferences, seminars, and workshops in order to confront and resolve the problems and issues dealing with grey literature. Their results and outcomes have appeared published in print and digital formats via multiple document types now housed in repositories, data archives, portals, and on GreyNet's website.

GreyNet's current **Open Data Project** has identified twenty grey literature document types that it has published over the years. These include:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Biographical Notes** | **Conference Posters** |
| **Conference Papers** | **Newsletters** |
| **Datasets** | **Conference Memoranda** |
| **Video Presentations** | **Workshops** |
| **Journal** | **Program Books** |
| **Databases** | **Business Reports** |
| **Conference Proceedings** | **Project Slides** |
| **Data Papers** | **Directories** |
| **Conference Abstracts** | **Registries** |
| **Conference Slides** | **Seminars** |

Another ongoing project that originated in 2023 resulted in the 1$^{st}$ edition of PUBGREY, a Registry of Publishers in Grey Literature. Here, GreyNet set out to identify those organizations among its community of practice that consider themselves publishers. In 2024, the 2$^{nd}$ edition of PUBGREY sought to further emphasize that organizations producing and publishing grey literature should openly acknowledge their role as publishers. In 2026 and in collaboration with the Global Forum for Publishers in Grey Literature, the 3$^{rd}$ edition of the PUBGREY Registry will appear. Please consider entering a record of your organization in this special edition https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X8TKLX2.

**PubForum'26 – Global Forum for Publishers in Grey Literature**
GreyNet International is pleased to formally announce that the Global Forum for Publishers in Grey Literature will be held at TIB - Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology in Hannover, Germany on June 8-9, 2026.
PubForum'26 will provide a joint platform for stakeholders in grey literature. Publishers in grey literature from various sectors and levels of (non)government, academics, and business are invited to participate. The list of document types they produce and publish both in digital and non-digital formats is ever increasing, much like their diverse coverage of topics concerning science and society. Publishers in grey literature are in the forefront of information and scholarly communication. They are not only responsible for the review process but also for rich metadata and persistent identifiers unique to their publications, authors, organizations, and funders. For ongoing developments in the program and planning, visit https://www.greynet.org/pubforum26.html .

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*Join GreyNet International on its journey into the field of grey literature*

# EURASLIC Executive Board
## 2025 –2027

**EURASLIC PRESIDENT**
**Stephanie RONAN**
Marine Institute
Rinville, Oranmore,
Co. Galway.
H91 R673
IRELAND
Tel: 353 91387526
Email: Stephanie.Ronan@Marine.ie

**EURASLIC VICE-PRESIDENT**
**Olga KOPYTOVA**
A. O. Kovalevsky Institute
of Biology of the Southern Seas of RAS
Nakimova av. 2
299011 Sevastopol
CRIMEA
Tel: +7 (8692) 54-55-50
Email: kopytova.o.yu@gmail.com

**EURASLIC MEMBERS
REPRESENTATIVE 1**
**Bart GOOSSENS**
Research Institute for Nature and Forest
Gaverstraat 4
B-9500 Geraardsbergen
BELGIUM
Tel:+32 477580029
Email: bart.goossens@inbo.be

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**
**Snejina BACHEVA**
Library & Information Services
Institute of Oceanology
9000 VARNA
BULGARIA
Tel:359 52 37 04 84
Email: library@io-bas.bg

**EURASLIC PAST PRESIDENT,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY and WEBSITE
EDITOR**
**Sofija KONJEVIĆ**
Ruđer Bošković Institute
Bijenička cesta 54
10000 ZAGREB
CROATIA
Tel: +385 1 4680 086
E-mail: sofija@irb.hr

**EURASLIC ARCHIVIST**
**Malgorzata GRABOWSKA- POPOW**
National Marine Fisheries Research Institute
1, Kollataja str.
81-332 GDYNIA
POLAND
Tel: +48 58 7356279
Fax: +48 58 7356110
E-mail: mpopow@mir.gdynia.pl

**EURASLIC MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE 2**
**Ingrid ČATIĆ**
Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
Setaliste I. Mestrovica 63
21000 Split
CROATIA
Email: catic@izor.hr

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!