

FOREWORD

On 1–2 February 2001, the symposium *The History of Marine and Freshwater Research in Estonia and Neighbouring Countries*, organized by the Estonian Marine Institute (University of Tartu), the Eurouniversity, and the Baltic Marine Biologists, was held in Tallinn.

The turn of the millennium has promoted our interest in history, including in the history of marine science. I am referring to the ICES History Symposium held in August 2000 as well as to several monographs published in Estonia and probably in other countries, summarizing what has been done over centuries. The symposium in Tallinn marked 150 years of marine and freshwater research in Estonia (started by Academician K. E. von Baer), and also in our neighbouring countries, as traditionally we have been closely related and marine research has always been international.

Symposia like this are important in two respects. First, it is reasonable to learn from history in order not to repeat mistakes made earlier and not to spend time and money to rediscover things that were discovered may be a hundred years ago. Second, like every meeting of good colleagues, they promote further cooperation. I am sure that participation of scientists from several Baltic Sea countries – Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, and Sweden – and the high level of presentations have made this symposium a remarkable international event in marine science. The present issue of the *Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. Ecology. Biology*, as well as the next one, contains papers based on presentations made at the symposium.

Mr. David de G. Griffith, General Secretary of ICES, sent an address to the symposium. The text of Mr. Griffith's letter is reproduced on the following page.

Toomas SAAT
Director, Estonian Marine Institute,
University of Tartu

THE ADDRESS BY MR. DAVID DE G. GRIFFITH, GENERAL SECRETARY OF ICES

It gives me great pleasure to send greetings and congratulations from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea to the Estonian Marine Institute on the occasion of this prestigious symposium on *The History of Marine and Freshwater Research in Estonia and Neighbouring Countries*, which marks the 150th anniversary of marine research in Estonia.

Marine science in the Baltic region has indeed a distinguished history. The scope and quality of the scientific activities carried out by Estonia and her neighbours – Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Sweden – is widely known, and highly respected, among the international community of marine scientists outside the Baltic as well as within the region.

Against the background of that recognition, therefore, two events that took place during the 1990s were of great significance in the history of ICES, and in the history of Baltic marine science. Latvia re-joined the Council in 1993, having first acceded in 1936. Estonia joined as a full member in 1994, not having participated in ICES since the 1920s. ICES has certainly benefited from the consistent contribution of quality science, which has resulted from the accession of Latvia and Estonia.

We know that our colleagues in Lithuania have initiated the procedures to join ICES. Although I understand that there are still some difficulties to be resolved at the Lithuanian end of the process, I am hopeful that it will not be too long before the international community of ICES can welcome Lithuania as the 21st Member Country of the organization.

Mr. Chairman, I extend to you and your colleagues on the organizing committee, and to the Symposium participants, every good wish for the most fruitful discussions over the next two days.