

# Editorial

Dear readers,

In this special issue of our journal *Naše more*, entitled "Recent Changes in Adriatic Ecosystems: Causes, Threats and Consequences", we present the results of recent scientific research in the Eastern Adriatic and adjacent seas. The main focus is on changes in local ecosystems caused by the appearance of alien and invasive species, as well as changes in the distribution of native species. While the articles published in this special issue of *Naše more* do not directly address the climate changes and recent warming that everyone is talking about today, they do provide new facts about several invasive marine species and native fish species whose distributions are changing along the Eastern Adriatic coast, such as the invasive Atlantic blue crab or native grouper and trout species, and response of native species to the changes we expect in the coming decades. These results also provide some clues for future research on threats to local marine ecosystems, fisheries, and aquaculture from these new players. We hope to present the results of this future research in our upcoming issues.

This special issue of *Naše more*, dedicated exclusively to marine ecology, fishery and mariculture, is the second after the special issue published in 2004, which was dedicated to the famous local flat oyster and its traditional farming in Malostonski Bay. I hope that this approach of special issues dedicated to specific marine life and biotechnology aspects will be more frequent in our future activities.

This special issue of *Naše more* is dedicated to Prof. Adam Benović, the famous Croatian marine scientist, because several authors had a lifetime opportunity to work with Adam and get to know his ideas and opinions, usually dealing with such topics, even if they are not as popular as today. Adam usually evaluates these issues as normal and continuous changes in marine ecosystems that occur throughout history. Prof. Benović was the conceptual founder of the Department of Applied Ecology (formerly the Department of Aquaculture) and the Research and Development Centre for Mariculture in Bistrina, near the city of Ston, which laid the foundation for the development of new marine studies and research on marine ecosystems in the Southern-Eastern Adriatic Coast at the newly established University of Dubrovnik, as well as the scientific and academic careers of numerous scientist.

Since the best ideas from working with Adam came after casual whiskey and wine sessions, I would like to take this opportunity to salute him and hope that his research is fruitful in the heavenly seas as it has been here.



Prof Adam Benović

Prof Branko Glamuzina  
Guest editor