

This volume is dedicated to our college **Dr. ŠIME ŽUPANOVIĆ** who was devoted to conduction of research on pelagic and demersal resources and history of Croatian fisheries.



Dr. ŠIME ŽUPANOVIĆ
1920 – 2008

Dr. Šime Županović was born on 5 May 1920 in Šibenik. He finished university for agriculture-forestry in 1949. That same year he started to work in the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries in Split where, until 1967, he conducted research on the demersal ichthyo-settlements in the channels and open sea of the eastern Adriatic. Following this, as a recognized expert in the area of fishery biology and fisheries and after achieving the title of scientific advisor, he left the Institute and joined the FAO UN and subsequently UNESCO. He became active in international organizations (UN, FAO-GFCM, MAMBO) from 1995, especially at professional meetings and bodies, as a representative for the former Yugoslavia, as well as President of the first GFCM committee for Mediterranean production, first Vice President of GFCM and Vice President of the GFCM committee for economics and statistics. Under the sponsorship of the Mediterranean Association for Marine Biology and Oceanography (MAMBO) in 1965, with other eminent oceanographers in the American University in Beirut, he lectured postgraduates on the university course "On the Dynamics of Exploited Fish Populations." As an FAO expert, Županović lectured on marine biology in the Universities in Karachi, Havana, Aden, Conakry and Tripoli. In many countries on whose seas he was carrying out research, he founded and developed marine research centers.

In joining the FAO UN, he began to research biological resources and opportunities for their exploitation in the poorly researched coastal, as well as the open, seas of the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Indian Ocean. Sponsored by the UN, he led extensive scientific expeditions in the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Mexico (Banco di Campeche), along the West African coast from Senegal to the Republic of South Africa and along the Mediterranean North African coast.

The topics with which Dr. Županović busied himself with were various. He mainly conducted research on demersal (trawl) resources, biology and ecology of commercially important demersal fish such as hake, sea bream, red mullet and some cartilaginous fish, while of pelagic fish he carried out research on the sardine. Periodically, and successfully, he touched on other oceanographic areas, including the bionomy of the Adriatic Sea,

the history of our marine fisheries from ancient times to the present day and fisheries etymology. After the "Hvar" expedition (1948-1949) he started intense long-term research of trawl fishery settlements at the same stations on the open sea of the central (especially the Jabuka Pit) and south Adriatic, though also in the area of the channels of central Dalmatia. Much of his research in the Adriatic has been considered pioneering. For the first time he researched the production potential of the Adriatic Sea and gave an estimation of the quantity of fish present. He also, for the first time, highlighted practical examples where the importance of knowing the quantity of fish available for fishing and the exploitation intensity were the key factors. He researched, for the first time, the influence of the main ecological factors in the sea with the behavior, distribution and fluctuation of fish. He was the first to discover, and additionally to research, the deep scattering layer (DSL) in the Adriatic and was also the first to prove for the Adriatic Sea the cause-consequence connection with global and cosmic influences on the fluctuation of local sardine.

Based on the issues he was dealing with, he published approximately 300 scientific and professional works, books, and monographs, and was without doubt one of the most productive Croatian scientists in the area of biological oceanography. The results of his work have been published in many local and foreign journals, proceedings and reports. He has published 7 extensive books and monographs: "Fauna i flora Jadrana – Jabučka kotlina" (Fauna and flora of the Adriatic – Jabuka Pit) (2 vol., 1989), "Starodrevna baština šibenskog kraja" (Antique heritage in Šibenik area) (1991), "Ribarstvo Dalmacije u 18. stoljeću" (Fishery in Dalmatia in 18th century) (1993) and the particularly valuable monograph "Hrvati i more" (Croatians and the sea) (4 vol., 1995), which is dedicated to a thousand years of fisheries in Croatia (1995 – 1995).

For his work he received a UN award, he received the Annual Award "Slobodne Dalmacije" for his scientific work (1990) and the City of Split Award for scientific work (1993) and lifetime achievement (1995).

Dr. Šime Županović passed away at the age of 88 in Split on 3 March 2008.

Prof. Ivan JARDAS

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