



REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Second Argentine Limnological Meeting (RAL'91)

The Second Argentine Limnological Meeting (RAL'91) was held in La Plata city (Buenos Aires, Argentina) from 4–8 November 1991. The meeting was organized by Asociación Argentina de Limnología (AAL) and Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo de La Plata, and it was sponsored by the following institutions, among others: MAB/UNESCO, Freshwater Biological Association, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Consejo Federal de Inversiones (CIF), Comisión de Investigaciones Científicas de la Pcia. de Bs. As. (CIC) and Red Latinoamericana de Botánica (RLB).

There were more than 300 participants from Argentine and international scientific centers. Among them were Dr. J. Vallentyne (Canada), Dr. J.G. Jones (Great Britain), Dr. J. Tundisi (Brasil), Dr. O. Parra (Chile) and Dr. Shoji Hori (Japan).

The programme of activities included oral and poster presentations, conferences and symposia; the latter, held on the subjects paleolimnology, biogeography, lacustrine, estuarine and fluvial systems. A special symposium on "Environmental Policy" was also organized. One of the most im-

portant goals of the meeting was gathering biologists, hydrogeologists, chemists, as well as government and industry delegates, thus yielding the accomplishment of a systematic view of the freshwater topics.

The notes presented have been published as: "Notas de la Segunda Reunión Argentina de Limnología—Parte I y II", in *Biología Acuática* N° 15, tomos 1 y 2. In addition, a volume including the whole text of conferences and symposia and a second one with the results of the symposium on "Environmental Policy," are being edited.

Information requests about these publications should be sent to: Dr. Hugo L. López, Inst. de Limnología "Dr. Raúl A. Ringuelet", Casilla de Correo 712, 1900 La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Nestor W. Lanfredi
Facultad de Ciencias Naturales
Universidad Nacional de la Plata
La Plata, Bosque 1900
Argentina

Report on the IGU-CCE Morocco Meeting, April 26–May 2, 1992

A field symposium was held by the Commission on the Coastal Environment of the International Geographical Union in Morocco from April 26 to May 2, 1992. The local organizing body was the Moroccan National Committee of Geography with the sponsorship of the universities of Rabat and Tetuan, and the environmental association Ribat el Fath. Unesco through its Division of Marine Sciences also supported the meeting.

The two leaders, Professors Abdallah Laouina and Mohamed Berriane, arranged an exceptionally informative excursion from Tetuan on the Mediterranean coast to Casablanca on the Atlantic coast. Thirty-four participants, many of them

young scientists, from six countries attended the symposium which actually was a field workshop. Physical, human, and institutional issues were presented and discussed at each stop by geographers, geologists, biologists, and engineers. The main topics were related with linear urbanization of the shoreline, disturbances of littoral drift by harbour installations, drawbacks of hard defensive structures, and pollution of coastal waters.

Two half-day paper sessions (one in Tetuan and the other in Rabat) were devoted to the presentation of eighteen reports focused on coastal evolution and management in developing countries. It was recommended that these countries should

pass laws to maintain undeveloped coastal areas; establish setback lines on eroding shorelines; limit seashore stabilization through seawalls, groynes, and breakwaters; and to urgently address the problem of polluted coastal waters.

Professors Abdallah Laouina and Mohamed Berriane are to be acknowledged for an especially instructive and convivial field trip in an hospitable country which will be recorded as a milestone in the already long chain of IGU-CCE meetings all around the world.

Since my term in office as chairman of the IGU-CCE is coming to its end, I would like to take

advantage of this report to express my thankfulness to the many people who kindly and efficiently helped me handle the commission activities. Running the IGU-CCE for eight years has been a wonderful and stimulating experience.

1992 will be the year of the official launching of the successor commission to the CCE christened CCS, Commission on Coastal Systems, under the chairmanship of Norbert P. Psuty. Best wishes!

Roland P. Paskoff
Chairman IGU-CCE (1984–1992)

Report of the 4th Latin American Congress on Marine Sciences (IV COLACMAR), Coquimbo, Chile, 1991

The Fourth Latin American Congress on Marine Sciences (IV COLACMAR) was held at the Universidad Católica del Norte (Northern Catholic University), in Coquimbo, Chile, on September 30 to October 4, 1991. Organized by the Latin American Association of Marine Sciences Researchers (Asociación Latinoamericana de Investigadores en Ciencias del Mar, ALICMAR), which was founded seventeen years ago, the COLACMARs are interdisciplinary forums that every two years gather numerous researchers of the marine sciences that come from all over Latin America and also from other countries. This COLACMAR was sponsored by the Fisheries Subsecretary of Chile, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the CONICYT-Chile. The three previous congresses were held in Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela in 1985, 1987, and 1989, respectively. Widening their scope and areas of interest, the COLACMARs substitute the Latin American Symposia on Biological Oceanography that, since 1974, were held annually and subsequently biennially.

Corroborating its international vocation, the IV COLACMAR brought together four hundred researchers from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Costa Rica, England, Japan, México, Panamá, Perú, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, USA, and Venezuela. Some of the non-Latin American institutions represented were Scripps Institution of Oceanography, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Boston University Marine Program, Oregon State Uni-

versity, University of Wisconsin, University of Maine, NMFS Honolulu Laboratory, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, National Research Institute of Aquaculture, Kochi University, Tohoku University, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, University of Glasgow, Oceanographic Spanish Institute, Marine Sciences Institute (Spain), Universidad de las Palmas, Fisheries Technology Center (Spain), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Canada), Environment Canada, Fisheries Research Institute (Australia), and the Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar und Meeresforschung (Germany).

There were four poster sessions, twelve oral presentation sessions, ten symposia, and four invited conferences, for a total of four hundred expositions. Although the emphasis of the IV COLACMAR was set on the more pragmatic aspects of the marine sciences, such as aquaculture, preservation and management of the marine environment, and management of species under exploitation, other disciplines, such as geology, physical and chemical oceanography, pharmacology, taxonomy, physiology, and morphology, were not forgotten, as indicated by the titles of the sessions. A variety of topics was considered in the symposia: fisheries oceanography and ichthyoplankton, ecology and management of macroalgae communities, genetics of marine organisms, management of benthic resources, biology and cultivation of algae, pollution, molecular basis of fecundation and development of marine invertebrates, carcinology, microbiology of marine or-

ganisms, and cultivation of pectinids. The four invited conferences were given by Bernabé Santelices (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), 'Strain Selection and Vegetative Propagation of Commercial Seaweeds'; Gerald Schatten (University of Wisconsin), 'Imaging Reproduction and Development in Marine Organisms in Three and Four Dimensions'; Robert Steneck (University of Maine), 'Ontogenetic Niche Shifts: A Marine Example Using the American Lobster, *Homarus americanus*'; and John Widdows (Plymouth Marine Laboratory), 'Role of Physiological Energetics in Ecotoxicology and Environmental Pollution Monitoring.'

Due to the extent and diversity of the program, this was an excellent opportunity to catch up with state-of-the-art knowledge in marine research. The congenial atmosphere of the congress enabled Latin American researchers and students of the marine sciences to interact intensively through numerous sessions and conferences, and some informal gatherings. It was also an appropriate occasion to envision the progress of marine sciences in several of the Latin American countries. It was clear that marine sciences are undergoing a brisk and noteworthy growth in several of these countries, and are becoming more tuned to their people's needs. All things considered, besides showcasing the importance that the marine sciences

are earning in Latin America, the IV COLACMAR also demonstrated that the Latin American researchers are fulfilling the demands for practical knowledge with the same professionalism and promptitude than their peers from the so-called developed countries.

The 5th COLACMAR will be held at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, in La Paz, Baja California Sur, México, by the end of 1993. We hope that the attendance of colleagues from overseas and beyond the Río Grande will be substantially increased. This will be a unique opportunity for getting to know each other and exchanging information about shared seas and oceans. An additional attraction of Baja California is represented by the picturesque places immortalized by John Steinbeck in "The Logbook from the Sea of Cortez," places that will be remarkably engaging for marine biologists and other sea lovers.

Jesús Eloy Conde
Member of the Board of ALICMAR (1991–1993)
Centro de Ecología
Instituto Venezolano de
Investigaciones Científicas
Apartado 21827, Caracas 1020A
Venezuela