

EIS Newsletter

European Ichthyological Society

Webpage: <http://www.nrm.se/ve/pisces/eis/eiscurr.shtml>

N°1

January 23, 2002



The **European Ichthyological Society** is an international non-governmental organisation of scientists interested in ichthyology (the study of fishes) aiming to promote original research and the exchange and dissemination of information and experience.

Welcome to the January 2002 Newsletter from ESI. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. We, like you, are looking forward to an exciting and prosperous new year. If you have not heard of us before please visit our web site at <http://www.nrm.se/ve/pisces/eis/>

EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues,

This is the first issue of the new (electronic) newsletter of the EIS. It aims to be a link between the members of the society.

Its objectives are simple: to promote activities between the meetings, to exchange information, to facilitate contacts and collaborations, to advertise courses, positions and to disseminate official news of the Society, including, of course, information on forthcoming congresses.

To achieve these goals, the editorial board plans to publish 3 or 4 letters a year. These will be distributed in an electronic format (e-mails), but you are encouraged to print and send it to non-connected colleagues.

Members (and non members) are encouraged to submit texts on their activities, problems, or needs.

This newsletter will also accept opinion texts.

Patrick Berrebi

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was a pleasure, and a relief, to discover last September in Prague that so many of you were concerned by the future of our society and our congresses, and that many were willing to invest time for the society. We also all realised that communication is absolutely necessary to keep a society alive and this is why it was decided to establish this newsletter. In fact the society already had a newsletter earlier, which appeared irregularly and was abandoned in 1995. I am pleased to thank Patrick Berrebi, Maria Joao Collares-Pereira and Maria Stoumboudi for bringing this electronic newsletter to life.

The evolution in communication technologies now allows a more dynamic, faster and cheaper production of the newsletter. It also makes it easier for all of you to participate in the newsletter and in the life of the society.

Besides, you are all invited to participate and contribute to the life of the society. Among our projects, we now have a committee investigating the possibilities and opportunities for scientific publications, especially electronic publications. Also, the SEI is interested in co-sponsoring specialised meetings on topics of general interest for European ichthyology and ichthyologists and the Board is waiting for your proposals or suggestions.

I hope that you will take advantage of these possibilities.

Maurice Kottelat

Press release of September 2001

European Ichthyology is alive and well! 284 ichthyologists from 41 countries attended the 10th European Ichthyological Congress (ECI 10) organised by Petr Ráb from 3 to 7 September 2001 in Prague (Czech Republic). ECIs are the tri-annual meetings of the European Ichthyological Society (EIS) which also had its business meeting during the congress. There have been numerous formal and informal discussions regarding the future of the congresses and of the society and the members unanimously supported their continuation. The structures of EIS were renovated a few years ago and during ECI 10 several members have volunteered to work in various committees. The EIS now counts around 150 members.

The General Assembly of the EIS met on 6 September 2001. It elected a new Board with Maurice Kottelat (president), Menachem Goren (vice-president), Maria João Collares-Pereira (secretary), Maria Th. Stoumboudi (treasurer), Sven O. Kullander (information technologies) and Petr Ráb (congress issues), and adopted a budget. The next congress will be held in 2004 at a site to be decided soon; the Board is presently evaluating three proposals.

Between congresses, EIS also will be involved in co-sponsoring other activities (meetings, workshops, courses) of interest to European ichthyologists. EIS will work on a list of common names of European fishes. The board welcomes other proposals by members. Membership fees for the period 2001-2004 for ordinary members are 20 Euro per year; students under 35 years pay a single 10 Euro entrance fee (no annual fee); ordinary members from eastern Europe pay 10 Euro per year (case by case, lower fees can be decided by the Board for members under unfavourable social or economic conditions).

Historically, EIS was first established to promote international co-operation between scientists of the western and eastern blocks and to co-ordinate scientific collaboration. With the change in the European political landscape, its emphasis has now shifted to become a forum for the exchange and dissemination of information and experience, the promotion of original research and intra- and extra-European collaboration; it will also have to relate ichthyological research to European Union policies. These aims are presently achieved by organising or supporting international scientific meetings and promoting publications. Students are most welcome and EIS is working at making ECIs more attractive for them. Students are expected to have an important role to play in the society and, obviously, in the future of ichthyology.

There has been a continuing misperception that EIS is a federation of national ichthyological societies and that being member of a national society that was a member of EIS automatically implied membership of the EIS. This may have been true in some countries in the early history of the society, but it is no longer the case as EIS membership is now made only of individual members.

For membership applications, visit EIS website:

<http://www.nrm.se/ve/pisces/eis/>

or contact the treasurer Maria Stoumboudi (mstoum@ncmr.gr). For other information, contact the secretary Maria João Collares-Pereira (mcolares@fc.ul.pt) or other board members.

NEWS FROM THE LABORATORIES

The Lagoon Ecosystems Laboratory, Functional and Evolutive Ecology of Fish Laboratory, University Montpellier 2, Montpellier, FRANCE.

A new field research: the adaptation of gobies to the lagoon environment

Our laboratory is currently being restructured and new fields of research are being organized. Among them, the project on gobies is starting.

By analysing simultaneously the environmental ecology (biotic and abiotic characteristics of the lagoon, the day of capture), the molecular genetics (allozymes and microsatellites) and the life history of the same fish sample (fecundity and growth mainly), we plan to analyse the way of adaptation of at least two gobies: *Pomatochistus minutes?* and *P. microps*. Mediterranean lagoon systems of southern France are characterized by a very high instability correlated with the volume of water: the smaller the lagoon, the more unstable it is. This instability is a result of climatic events (wind, high temperatures, rain) and changing contacts with the sea. In summer, dystrophic events can kill all the fish.

According to ecological and genetic characteristics of these gobies, we will analyse the strategy of survival and recolonisation of these more or less sedentary species.

At the same time, we are preparing a project to analyse the migration of pelagic eggs and larvae by microsatellites and assignment tests.

This project is just beginning, nevertheless, if European colleagues are ready to collaborate, we will be very happy to discuss this.

P. Berrebi, berrebi@crit.univ-montp2.fr

This is an example of the announcements you are encouraged to submit to the Newsletter to inform the community.

11th European Congress of Ichthyology

Earlier, congress sites were selected (by vote) during the general assembly of the society. This was not without problems. The main problems were that the choice could not be made on objective criteria, a comparison of the proposals was not possible, and the vote procedure was not very satisfactory for both the voters and the candidates. In recent years, this situation became worse and we have seen two cases where we had a single proposal, thus no choice. This is a situation which the Society should try not to experience again and this is why the Board has tried to set up a committee to search for congress sites and opportunities, and to handle the call for proposals and a pre-selection. This could not be enforced for the 2001 congress and we are now following an interim procedure (more on this below).

The idea for the future is that this Congress Committee (CC) should find individuals or institutions willing to organise future congresses and that at each congress the site of the next one should already be known. The Board has written Terms of Reference (TOR) and a manual for prospective congress organisers. These have been partly enforced for the Prague congress; because of

the circumstances which left the organiser with very little time and choice, it was not possible to enforce the whole TOR.

Members willing to participate in the work of this committee should contact the Board. The work of the CC will be to approach potential organisers, to help them to write proposals, to ensure that proposals agree with the TOR and to submit a commented shortlist to the Board (later to the Council, once we have reached the minimum number of members necessary to form the Council according to the society's bylaws). The Board (or the Council) will then select the congress site.

For the time being, the interim procedure is as follow:

- a call for candidate congress organisers was made during ECI 10 in early September 2001;
- interested individuals or institutions had until 30 September 2001 to formally submit their candidature;
- candidates have received the TOR and a list of requirements to satisfy; they had to submit a formal proposal before 30 November 2001;
- the Board will select the organiser of CEI 11 before 15 January 2002.

The Board received formal proposals from (in chronological order of candidature announcement):

- [Tel Aviv University, Israel \(proposed by Menachem Goren\)](#);
- [Estonian Marine Institute, Estonia \(proposed by Toomas Saat\)](#);
- [University of Algarve, Portugal \(proposed by Jorge Palma\)](#).

REPORTS ON WORKING GROUPS

If you wish to make a notice about the working groups you are involved with, please use this space to inform all the colleagues about and share your proposals, because you may find useful and stimulating collaborations among EIS members.

NOTE FOR STUDENTS

As stated by Maurice Kottelat in the above Press Release, "Students are expected to have an important role to play in the society and, obviously, in the future of ichthyology". Therefore, we greatly welcome students' comments, suggestions, project news and call for collaborations in the next issues.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EIFAC SYMPOSIUM ON INLAND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

Windermere, UK, 12-14 June 2002

Email contact: heiner.naeve@fao.org

XI CONGRESO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE LIMNOLOGIA Y III CONGRESSO IBÉRICO DE LIMNOLOGIA

Madrid, Spain, 17-21 June 2002

Email contact: congresoAEL2002@cedex.es

ESTUARINE AND LAGOON FISH AND FISHERIES

University of Hull, UK, 8-12 July 2002

Email contact: iecs@hull.ac.uk

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

You are free to send any text to one of the e-mail addresses given just below in the Editorial Board Committee information

Editorial Board Committee information

The committee is now in formation. Its work is only to organize all the information YOU will send to it. So, please, don't hesitate to inform your colleagues of your latest project, your last discovery, the next national meeting...

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