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Philip Micklin N.V. Aladin Igor Plotnikov *Editors* 

# The Aral Sea

The Devastation and Partial Rehabilitation of a Great Lake





Philip Micklin (Chief Editor) •N.V. Aladin (Associate Editor) •Igor Plotnikov (Associate Editor)

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### Acknowledgements

#### **Philip Micklin, Chief Editor**

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## Chapter 13 An Expedition to the Northern Part of the Small Aral Sea (August 29 to September 16, 2011)

Philip Micklin, Nikolay V. Aladin, and Igor S. Plotnikov

**Abstract** This chapter is a report about an international expedition to the northern part of the Aral Sea that took place from August 29 to September 16, 2011. The expedition was organized by the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg Russia and received logistical support from the Barsakelmes Nature Preserve (Zapovednik) headquartered in the Kazakhstan City of Aralsk and the Aralsk Branch of the Kazakhstan Fisheries Institute. The major focus of the expedition was to investigate the biological and hydrological improvements to the Small Aral Sea that had occurred as a result of raising its level by 2 m in 2005–2006 as well as what might be done to further improve the ecology and economic value of this water body in the future. The expedition also visited the channel that connects the Western and Eastern basins of the Large Aral Sea as well as the former Barsakelmes Island, now a desolate plateau on the dried bottom of the Aral Sea.

**Keywords** Small Aral Sea • Barsakelmes Island • Aralsk • Ak-basty • Karateren • Connecting channel • Ak-Lak • Kyzyl-Orda • Tastubek • Kok-Aral

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