

Preface

This volume is the proceedings of the Eighth International Symposium on the Biology and Management of Coregonid Fishes, which was held in Rovaniemi, Finland in August 2002. The aim of the symposium was to provide an international forum for a scientific discussion on different research fields concerning the coregonid fishes. The first session addressed the special features of Arctic coregonids, their biology and fisheries. Other sessions focused on stocking, genetics and taxonomy, aquaculture, fisheries management, feeding ecology, life history and reproduction. The symposium comprised 46 oral presentations and 60 posters by scientists from 14 countries in Europe, North America and Asia. In total, there were about 140 participants. A workshop on re-oligotrophication and whitefish fisheries management was also held during the symposium, chaired by Roland Rösch and attended by 30 participants.

The first symposium on the biology and management of coregonid fishes was organised by C. Lindsey in Winnipeg, Canada (Lindsey & Woods 1970). After the next meeting in 1984 in Thonon-les-Bains, France (Dąbrowski & Champigneulle 1986), the coregonid symposia have been organised regularly every three years and developed into extensive conferences covering all aspects of coregonid research. The symposium of 1987 was held in Joensuu, Finland (Järvinen 1988), followed by Québec, Canada in 1990 (Todd & Łuczyński 1992), Olsztyn, Poland in 1993 (Łuczyński 1995), Konstanz, Germany in 1996 (Eckmann *et al.* 1998), and Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA in 1999 (Todd & Fleischer 2002). The symposium in Rovaniemi, Finland 2002 was the eighth in this series.

This symposium would not have been possible without the work of many individuals and the financial contributions of several institutions. First, we wish to thank the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute and Kemijoki Oy, which were the main organisers of the symposium and responsible for most of the financing, including the months of working time used. Special thanks are due to Tarja Zitting-Huttula, to whom the successful organisation and pleasant atmosphere at the symposium was mainly attributable, and Petri Heinimaa, who planned and convened the unforgettable excursion to the lakes and reservoirs of northernmost Finland. The Academy of Finland provided funding for those participants who otherwise could not have financed their attendance. We thank also all other institutions that kindly helped to cover the costs during the symposium. For the publication of these proceedings, the contribution by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland, was essential.

The members of the international Steering Committee, in alphabetical order, were Drew Bodaly (Canada), Daniel Gerdeaux (France), Outi Heikinheimo (Finland), Juha Karjalainen (Finland), Hannu Lehtonen (Finland), Mirosław Łuczyński (Poland), Rudolf Müller (Switzerland), Tor Næsje (Norway), Thomas Todd (USA), Jukka Vuorinen (Finland), and Tarja Zitting-Huttula (Finland). The Finnish organising committee comprised ten members: Outi Heikinheimo, Petri Heinimaa, Ari Huusko, Juha Karjalainen, Hannu Lehtonen, Jari Leskinen, Pentti Munne, Erno Salonen, Jukka Vuorinen and Tarja Zitting-Huttula. Sincere thanks are due to all of them for their efforts.

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Outi Heikinheimo, Issue Editor

Co-editors: Per-Arne Amundsen, Heikki Auvinen, Drew Bodaly, Randy Eshenroder, Ari Huusko, Ken Mills, Rudolf Müller, Thomas Todd, Ian Winfield

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