



Preface

Freshwater whitefish, coregonids (order Salmoniformes, family Salmonidae, subfamily Coregoninae), inhabit lakes, streams and brackish waters in Eurasia, Siberia and North America (Smith 1957). For over 50 years, scientists, fisheries managers and aquaculturists have met in the triennial International Symposium on the Biology and Management of Coregonid Fishes (ISBMF) to share their latest scientific information as well as best management and cultivation practices of coregonids. These fishes are exploited commercially but many populations are also endangered and need immediate conservation actions. Coregonids are very plastic in their ecology and morphology and many ecotypes are found in the different parts of their distribution area. Diversity in phenotypes has also been a challenge for taxonomists and geneticists, and interest for evolutionary ecologists.

First ISBMC meeting took place in Winnipeg in 1969 (Lindsey & Woods 1970). The 14th ISBMC was originally aimed to be held in

Jyväskylä, Finland, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic the symposium was reorganized and held virtually as WebCoregonid2020 symposium on 22–26 June 2020. Simo Kemppainen and Lassi Paavola were responsible for the technical implementation of the webinar. Altogether, 157 coregonid enthusiasts from 10 countries participated the webinar to enjoy 32 pre-recorded oral presentations and 26 poster presentations. The presentations had on the average 68 views (range 29–165) and especially the keynote presentations by Louis Bernatchez, Claus Wedekind, Jan Baer and Anna Kuparinen received over 100 views. Many presentations stimulated lively discussion in congress chat.

This special issue of *Annales Zoologici Fennici* is based on the presentations on the following four subjects: ‘Biology, ecology and population dynamics’, ‘Stock assessment, fisheries management and conservation’, ‘Aquaculture and physiology’, and ‘Genetics, evolutionary ecology and management’. Altogether 22 manuscripts were submitted to the journal and 13 of them are included in this issue.

The WebCoregonid2020 was financially supported by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies and University of Jyväskylä. The organizers of 13th ISBMC (Bayfield 2017) covered fully the publication costs of this special issue: great thanks go to Jared Myers for the financial support. Special thanks also go to the journal’s managing editor Dr. Krzysztof Raciborski for his instructions and guidance during the publishing process, and top-quality editing and layout of the manuscripts.

Juha Karjalainen, Lead Editor

Co-editors: Petri Heinimaa, Timo J. Marjomäki,

Jouni Taskinen, and Silva Uusi-Heikkilä

References

- Lindsey, C. C. & Woods, C. E. (eds.) 1970: *Biology of coregonid fishes*. — University of Manitoba Press. Winnipeg.
Smith, S. H. 1957: Evolution and distribution of the Coregonids. — *Journal of the Fisheries Board of Canada* 14: 599–604.