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Abstract

The history of the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas as a research institution dates back to 1871. It was the first endeavour of this sort in Russia, the third in Europe, and the fifth in the world. At present IBSS is a complex structure that encompasses a large number of scientific and supporting departments and a scientific library. The library of IBSS is the oldest among libraries of the institutes of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. The main goal of the library is to collect publications on hydrobiology of the Black and Azov Seas, the Southern seas and oceans. The total book stock numbers 150,000: 75,900 of these were published abroad. The Scientific Library is now destined to unite marine libraries of Ukraine into a well-co-ordinated system.

The Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas (IBSS) is of interest and significance both in point of research tradition and architectural design. The building of IBSS is among the essential sights shown to those who visit Sevastopol, be they tourists, businessmen or officials. The history of IBSS as a research institution dates back to 1871 when Sevastopol Biological Station was founded. It was the first endeavour of this sort in Russia, the third in Europe, and the fifth in the world. About a hundred years later, in 1963, Sevastopol Biological Station was reorganized into the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, and since then it has been within the network of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. At present IBSS has a complex structure which encompasses a large number of scientific and supporting departments and a scientific library. The institute has two branches, one in Odessa and the other in Kara-Dag. The research fleet has two research vessels, *Professor Vodyanitsky* and *Academician Kovalevsky*, which perform a variety of work in the Black and Mediterranean Seas and sometimes in more distant waters. Research cruises make the exposition of the Institute's Aquarium more fascinating and complete. The diversity of the research work conducted at IBSS has been generously contributed to by many glorious investigators among which are N.N.Miklukho-Maklai, who was the actual founder of Sevastopol Biological Station, and many others.

We distinguish seven periods in the history of IBSS. The first period, 1871-1905, is remarkable for the achievements in floristic and faunistic studies, comparative anatomy, embryology, evolutionary embryology and physiology. The second, 1905-1914, was marked by considerable progress in investigations of benthic biocenoses of the Black Sea. During the third period, 1922-1941, research interests focused on hydrobiology and patterns of distribution of commercial marine organisms, primarily fish. It was in the 1920s that the depth of the occurrence of the hydrogen sulphide zone was revealed at different locations of the Black Sea. The fourth period, 1945-1958, was the time of the post-war restoration of Sevastopol Biological Station. New research trends were developed, and much attention was paid to the primary production and trophic status of the Black Sea. V.S.Ivlev greatly contributed to experimental ecology by launching a series of researches in physiology of plankters, covering such aspects as nutrition, migration, and metabolism. Yu.G.Aleyev established the principles of functional and ecological morphology of nekton. For the first time a hydrologo-synoptic survey employing a large number of ships was made that studied the relationships between the distribution of plankton and fish stocks. The span from 1958-1980 was remarkable for intensive studies of the structure and function of plankton and benthic ecosystems in the Mediterranean Sea, the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Among research tasks were the assessment of primary production and energy flux in

food chains, better understanding of the taxonomy of algae, invertebrates and fish, and the biology and migrations of squids in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. Special emphasis was laid on applied ecology and radioecology. The sixth period covers the 1980s. It was then that the increasing eutrophication and pollution of the Black Sea with heavy metals, persistent organic substances, oil, and Chernobyl radionuclides brought about the necessity for expanded environmental studies. The present period shows the vital importance of international cooperation. The concept of sustainable development gave rise to comprehensive researches in the Black Sea and adjacent water areas, and there is a great demand for assessment of various impacts on the drainage and coastal areas.

IBSS has been a participant in many international projects and programmes. At present the most important ones appear to be NATO TU-BLACK SEA and BIODIVERSITY programmes, GODAR, ACOPS and JGOFS associated activities, and some other projects related to coastal zone ecological survey, monitoring and conservation. Our scholars can be found in many countries of the world, working under contract with research institutes and centres. Their papers regularly appear in reputable scientific journals abroad, in the journal *Ekologiya morya* (Ecology of Sea) and in series of anthologies and monographs which are published by the institute.

The Scientific Library of IBSS

The Library of the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas was created in 1871 and is the oldest among libraries of institutes of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. In the rich library resources one can find many rare and valuable books, those published in 1766-1800 among them. The main goal of the library is collecting publications on hydrobiology of the Black and Azov Seas, the Southern Seas and oceans. The comprehensive stock includes valuable books from private collections of many Russian scholars, and the German zoologist M.Hartmann. Recently, the library received a collection of books as a bequest made by T.S.Petipa, Corresponding Fellow of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. The subject catalogue embraces hydrobiology, hydrochemistry, ecology, oceanology, botany, ichthyology, microbiology, general zoology, parasitology, physiology, and biochemistry of water organisms. The library is a regular subscriber to scientific journals published in Russia and Ukraine and abroad. The total book stock numbers 150,000, 75,900 published abroad. Based on the bibliography collected concerning hydrobiology and ecology of the Black and Azov Seas, a bibliographic index has been compiled and published in steps in the years 1917 to 1988. The issues were entitled as *The Biology of the Black and Azov Seas*; *Anthropogenic Eutrophication of the Black Sea and its Effects*; *Hydrogen Sulphide of the Black Sea*, and a number of others. The staff of the library are seven qualified librarians having experience in German, French and English.

Since 1994 the Library of IBSS employs the advanced methods such as CDS/ISIS adjusted to conform to the experience that has been already gained at marine libraries of Europe. Practical experience that one of us (O.Akimova) gained through a training course taken at the Library of Plymouth Marine Laboratory allowed the successful creation of five databases at IBSS. To make these databases understandable and accessible to users abroad, the titles were translated into English. One of these days the on-line Internet services will also be launched. Another item of good news is that in 1996 the staff of the Scientific Library of IBSS joined the Ukrainian ASFA Input Working Group. The Scientific Library is now going to unite the marine libraries of Ukraine into a well-coordinated system. A recent project outlines the range of works and services to be provided by marine libraries to institutes of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. The most urgent goals to be achieved are general use of computers and computer-based techniques and development of home on-line networks.

This autumn the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas will celebrate its 125th anniversary. We hope that the guests will find Sevastopol and Crimea worthy to come to and the hosts worthy to stay with. It would be fine to see all of you again on that festive occasion.

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