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Obituary

KOSTAS KAPIRIS

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Obituary: Kostas Kapiris (1963-2019)

We were startled to learn that Kostas Kapiris, our colleague, friend, and mentor, Research Director at the Institute of Marine Biological Resources and Inland Waters (IMBRIW) of the Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR) passed away on September 8th, 2019, in Athens, Greece. With his passing the scientific community undoubtedly lost one of its great scientists, known for his devotion and ethos.

Kostas was born in Athens on August 7th 1963. He received his BSc in Biology from the Department of Biology in 1989, and his MSc in Oceanography in 1992, both from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. In 2004 he received his PhD from the same University. His PhD thesis was, on the biology and fisheries of deep-water shrimps *Aristaemorpha foliacea* (Risso, 1827) and *Aristeus antennatus* (Risso, 1816). Kostas started his career in HCMR in 1996 working as a contract researcher. In 2006 he was elected as an Assistant Researcher in IMRBIW and he was successively promoted to Research Director in 2017.

Kostas was a member of many international and national scientific unions, associations and organizations. He was the representative of HCMR in ACCO-BAMS, working with cetaceans (assigning priorities for the Greek regions in the framework of National Development Strategy 2014-2020) and responsible for the database of charismatic species strandings. He was the Secretary of the HCMR Researchers Union, a member of the Greek Researchers Union and Secretary of its Board in 2007-2009, the President of IMBRIW Scientific Advisory Board in 2016-2017, the representative of IMBRIW to the committee of the

MSc program ‘Oceanography and management of marine ecosystems’, jointly organized by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and HCMR, as well as a Visiting Professor of the Harokopio University (Greece).

Kostas was an excellent teacher with outstanding pedagogical talent, and an active member of the Educational team of HCMR. His priority was to support and help students while promoting the highest scientific and ethical standards. He supervised and co-supervised more than 18 BSc, MSc and PhD theses. He published more than 60 articles in several scientific journals, 13 book chapters, more than 70 articles in international conferences and participated in 45 European and national projects. He was an assistant/handling editor for the Mediterranean Marine Science journal, a role that he served with honesty and dignity, and had been a reviewer for many other international journals. He was a leading Greek scientist on crustaceans and among the best in his field in the Mediterranean. He was a pioneer in studying the biology, age, growth, feeding and dynamics of deep-sea shrimps in the Eastern Mediterranean, with important contribution to several scientific projects focusing on the deep-water environment, resources, shrimp bioeconomics and vulnerable species. His research interests were very wide, ranging from the biology, fisheries, assessment and management of crustaceans to marine mammals and interaction with fisheries, exotic species, recreational fisheries and environmental conservation. Kostas’s motto was ‘*detailed examination and patient observation*’.

He was a determined, hardworking visionary scien-

tist, and to paraphrase others, he rather built pyramids than towers. He was committed to research and was passionate with teaching. He was supportive, with innovative thinking and patience.

In addition, Kostas always found time for his colleagues, his friends, and his family, seizing every opportunity to appreciate a glass of good wine, fine arts and music. Although much too short, his life was well lived, enjoying

life and all that it offered. His figure, early in the morning in his office in IMBRIW will be missed but never forgotten. IMBRIW lost an important scientist, colleague, mentor, and friend. He will live forever in our hearts. He has survived by his beloved wife Marina and his twin sons Panayiotis and Vassilis (13 years old), whom he adored so much and talked so proudly about every day.

We will always remember him

His colleagues and collaborators

Aikaterini Anastasopoulou, Leila Bordbar, George Christides, Alexis Conides, Dimitris Damalas, Elias Dimitriou, Aikaterini Dogrammatzi, Marianna Giannoulaki, Eleni Kalogianni, Paraskevi K. Karachle, Stefanos Kavadas, Alexis Konidis, Eugenia Lefkadiou, Thanassis Machias, Chryssi Mytilineou, Anastasios Papadopoulos, George Petrakis, Christopher J. Smith, Stylianos Somarakis, Konstantinos Stergiou, Maria Stoumboudi, Konstantinos Tsagkarakis, George Tserpes, Erietta Tzovara, Celia Vassilopoulou, Argyro Zenetou