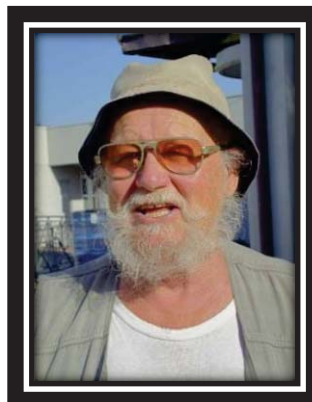


IN MEMORIAM

Mario Bussani

(1937–2013)

Mario Bussani was born in Zadar in 1937 from where he moved to Trieste with his family during the World War II. In 1951 he graduated from the business school. He was helping his father out in the newly opened family restaurant, but in 1955 his restless spirit took him to the sea. After several months of sailing and working on board a passenger ship, he decides to return to Trieste in order to devote himself to studying so as to become a sea captain. However, his previous education would not allow him to enroll in the Maritime Institute in Trieste, so that the following year he sets sail with the family sailing boat and lands in Grado where there was the nearest Maritime school. This was a difficult period for the young Mario, who lived on his boat, feeding on the fish he would catch



by himself or receive from his fishermen neighbours, but his determination to become a captain helped him to persevere in his intention. In 1956 he obtained the title which enabled him to enroll in the Maritime Institute in Trieste. During that period of education he took up various jobs that helped him provide his sustenance. Thus, he worked in a brewery, but also as a member of the Municipal Police of Trieste from 1961. He also served his army service. He graduated from the maritime Institute in 1965 and in the same year enrolled in the Institute of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at the University of Trieste where, unfortunately, he came one exam short of the graduation. Still, in 1971 he graduated from Ljubljana University – Marine Ecology Department, and the courses on Environmental Health Engineering (1971) and Physics of the Oceans and the Atmosphere (1975) both in Trieste.

His maximum dedication to every job he would take up, even as a Municipal Policeman, resulted during some 20 years of work in various and numerous official recognitions and praises. He remained famous by his consistency in punishing those who park carelessly where parking is not allowed. Appreciating his work, his superiors transferred him on several occasions to different departments, thus he also started the first aerial firefighting surveillance and illegal construction control department, taking samples of the sea water for the needs of sanitary control, by controlling the pollution of the port and the sea in general and by performing the expertise, in coordination with Trieste Local Administration Environment Protection Department.

He retired upon his personal request in 1984, but there in fact begins, as he used to say, the fourth period of his life i.e. chairing the Federation of Italian Mariculturists and intensive involvement in socio-cultural issues and the problems of environment. This he was

doing until his very last days. Due to the reduced natural resources, one of his fundamental ideas was to assist with the transformation of fishermen into the producers of healthy food in the sea in which he was wholeheartedly supported by his colleagues – mussel farmers.

During his active life he took part in many professional and scientific missions in over 20 countries the following of which stand out: Spain, Greece, Ecuador, Japan, Ghana, Djibouti, England, Iceland, Russia, Ukraine, Morocco, Malta, Yugoslavia and Montenegro. It should be mentioned that back in 1979 he got the scholarship for the professional visit to The Institute of Marine Biology in Kotor. We believe that this contributed to his accepting the Montenegrin offer to be hired as an expert consultant for the development of mariculture almost 20 years later, in 1997. After that, a series of projects followed, funded from the funds of Friuli-Venezia Giulia region (Italy). These were the projects related to international cooperation in the field of mariculture (2000–2003), applied marine biology in the internal part of Boka Kotorska Bay (2004–2005), development of oyster farms (2005–2010), placing underwater reefs beneath mussel farms (2011–2012). He used scientific achievements and the development of new technologies to improve the productivity in the field of mariculture, and the reward he established — „*Pedocio d'oro*“ (golden mussel) — served for the promotion of healthy food from the sea. However, his work and wholehearted assistance were not reduced solely to these projects and mariculture. He used every visit to Kotor to enrich the libraries of the Institute of Marine Biology, Maritime Museum or the Association of the Italians „Dante Alighieri“, as well as to assist young associates in finding proper projects for their further work and progress.

After the establishing of the Federation of Italian Mariculturists in 1981, he started the scientific magazine „Hydrores information“ dealing with the issue of fishery, mariculture and environment, until the year 2009. His intensive scientific and professional work has been documented in more than 150 publications and books and although it is inappropriate to make a selection, we will mention just a few: *Practical Instructions for Mariculture*, *Fish in Miramare Park*, *Algae in Miramare Park*, *Manual for Professional Fishermen Cox*, and many others.

As one of Mario Bussani's visionary works, it is important to mention that he is „the father“ of the first protected marine area in Italy, Miramare. In 1973 Mario took under concession that small area, with the objective of preserving it with the assistance of the WWF for the recovery of the marine ecosystem. Almost 10 years later (1982) the Italian government officially declared that area a protected marine zone.

Also, in his younger days, he was in for speleology, where particularly important are his contributions in the sense of provisions regulating security for speleology guides, which he himself became among the first in Italy.

Numerous were his activities and interests related to environment and socio-cultural topics which he tirelessly devoted himself to, in one period even intensively though his political activity. Very often called Don Quixote of our days, besides for his family (son and two daughters) he fought for the sea and those living off the same. In his work he was always recognized by his broad smile and generous heart unconditionally fighting for justice and better tomorrow. The article from the newspaper „Il Piccolo“ from 2009 testifies to that. „Mario Bussani, a man who keeps ‘lightning and thunders under control‘“. Namely, the Federation of Italian Mariculturists was entrusted with the maintenance of the meteo-station at Noghere site, and in fact it was Mario who volunteered on numerous nights to be on stand-by and to warn seafarers of the approaching bad weather in order to take shelter in safe

havens. Thanks to Mario Bussani, the signal buoy is located even near the mussel farm off Kotor Marine Biology Institute and ensures safer navigation.

Finally, you, Mario, left to take the eternal rest. Grateful for enriching our lives with your enthusiasm, your image and work will remain always in our hearts.

R. I. P.

Dr. Vesna Mačić,
Institute of Marine Biology