

<p><i>In memoriam</i> ILEANA CAUȚIȘ</p> <p><i>Alexandru Ș. Bologa</i></p>	<p>“Cercetări Marine“</p> <p>Issue no. 50</p> <p>Pages 198 – 204</p>	<p>2020</p>
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***In memoriam* ILEANA CAUȚIȘ**
(11.03.1921-13.12.2020)



Dr. Eng. Ileana Cautiș, Doctor of fishery engineering and distinguished senior scientific researcher, author for over two decades of investigating the ichthyofauna of the Romanian Black Sea coast and the north-western African coast of the Atlantic Ocean, left us, at a respectable age.

From the handwritten document handed to the signer some time ago, with the notification *Also, for the obituary, choose what is representative of a person who worked with great passion, being able to say that I made a true pioneer in knowing the fish of the Black Sea. Thanks. Ileana Cautiș, her biographical data* can be resumed as follows: she was born in Lupeni, Hunedoara county in 1921, she attended elementary and girls school in Focșani between 1927-1931 and 1931-1939, respectively, the Faculty of Agronomy in Bucharest between 1940-1943 and the Institute of Fishing and Fisheries Constanța between 1949-1951, becoming a fishery engineer.

Regarding her *professional evolution* she became Assistant to the Chair of Fisheries of the Institute of Fishing and Pisciculture (IFP) Constanța and to the Chair of mathematics of the labor department of IFP (1951-1952), senior scientific researcher at the Marine Research Station “Grigore Antipa” in Constanța (1953-1970), member of the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Sea Mediterranean (1967), and later on Head of

the Ichthyology laboratory at the Romanian Institute of Marine Research (RMRI) Constanța (1970-1976).

Her main *research concerns* aimed at:

- ichthyological research applied to important species in the Black Sea, in particular: sprat, horse makrel, clupeids in general,

- initiator of the study of populations of species of economic importance, especially sprat,

- initiator of the application of statistical variations and mathematical methods in the study of fish populations,

Between 1958 and 1976 she published valuable scientific contributions, in Romanian and French, in specialized periodicals in Romania and abroad. Ileana Cautiș promoted her doctorate in fish farming at the Polytechnic Institute of Galați with the thesis "Dynamics of sprat populations (*Sprattus sprattus* L.) on the Romanian coast of the Black Sea", in 1970.

Her prolific *international activities* included several most relevant achievements:

- in 1967 (for 2 months) research at the Museum of Natural History in Genoa - Italy, in collaboration with Professor Enrico Tortonese, publishing the results of their joint work in the *Annals* of the institution, as follows:

- Ricerche morfologiche e comparative alla popolazione di *Sprattus sprattus* vivente nel Mar Ligure,

- Révision des poissons de la famille des Sparidées vivants près des côtes de la Roumanie,

- Les Zeus de la mer Noire (Poissons Zeoformes),

- Les Esturgeons de la mer Noire.

- between 1970 and 1976 she became permanent ichthyologist expert at the annual meetings in Rome in the frame of the Commission Générale des Pêches pour la Méditerranée (CGPM) - FAO,

- between 1971-1976 she attended, as expert ichthyologist the annual meetings in the participating countries, on the annual fishing forecasts in the Atlantic Ocean, within the Fisheries Agreement (Mutual Economic Assistance Council),

- in 1975 she took part in an exchange visit of specialists in the USA organized by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at Providence, Boston, Miami, San Diego and Woods Hole.

Other concerns consecrated her as:

- initiator, in collaboration, for applying the method of artificial reproductio of carp, in order to populate the nurseries of intensive growth of this species, (1963),

- initiator, in collaboration, in the drafting of *an Atlantic Ocean Fish Guide, North-west area*,

- initiator, in collaboration, of the *Fish on the West African Coast*, I. - 1-229 pp, II - 230-399 pp, III - 400-654 pp, and

- specialized article in *TOMIS* magazine from Constanța

Ileana Cautiș has retired in 1976, after completing a remarkable scientific activity.

A complete data on the list of works and photos are given in the volume *History Romanian Ichthyology* by George Vasiliu and Gheorghe Manea.

I met Ileana Cautiș on the occasion of the establishment of the Romanian Institute of Marine Research, the current National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", in Constanța, in 1970, feeling from the early beginning a lasting affinity for her personality. She was one of the most distinguished persons in the institute, of a remarkable education, constant intellectual availability and special permanent kindness. Noticed by illustrious teachers, she has dedicated herself to ichthyological field and laboratory research and thorough scientific documentation, thus being appreciated at national level and abroad.

The perseverance proved continuously in her field of work also targeted the concern for the practical finality of the undertaken research. Thus, she was praised for the value of the results obtained, holding public dignities in scientific bodies of international notoriety. She perfected her professional skills in various study trips and exchanges of experience in Bulgaria (1957), U.S.S.R. (1959), Italy (1967), Libya (1974) and the USA (1975).

She was also concerned with the organization of the marine research vessels "Albatros II" and "Belgorak", the aquaria in Woods Hole, Boston, Miami and the Californian Oceanarium.

She has participated in numerous national and international scientific sessions, symposia, always with valuable personal communications.

As head of laboratory and responsible for scientific topics, although usually with relatively limited funds, she supported and encouraged novel professional aspirations that she coordinated and endorsed.

Long after her retirement, during extremely pleasant visits, she was constantly interested in scientific news, in the state of the institute where she had worked with devotion, and in the condition of her former younger colleagues. She greatly appreciated the maintenance of the institute at national performances and the progress made and accumulated over time, including jubilee actions on round anniversaries, as well as cooperation with and appreciation of marine research institutions around the Pontic basin and beyond. She sincerely regretted that the physical shortcomings of her age prevented her from participating in the life and activities of the institute; thus, in the letter dated October 2010, regarding the invitation to participate in the celebration of 40 years since the establishment of the RMRI, Ileana Cautiș mentioned, among others: *The invitation to such an important moment honors*

me deeply, but I am more impressed by the kind offer to accompany me, ... My regret for not being able to respond properly is therefore all the greater and I can only express my heartfelt thanks and the conviction that I will be fully understood. ... For a long time, due to my advanced age and the loss of most of my relatives, friends and colleagues, I isolated myself in a way, breaking off relationships with those who remained. The favorable impression about my physical and intellectual condition, on the occasion of the last visit, is only apparent, keeping the same reserve in relations with people in general, especially at an event with large number of participants from the country and abroad, for sure. ... With the hope of a full understanding, I want to assure you with all sincerity, apart from thanks, for all my admiration and esteem always.
Ileana Cautiș

Indeed, life was harsh with this Lady of Romanian marine ichthyological research, not sparing her from a family drama and other major difficulties.

During one of these visits, she confessed, with her usual modesty, the satisfaction she still felt, after so many years, of being the first researcher to use the mathematical apparatus in ichthyological research in Romania, in her doctoral thesis.

At times, she relived emotional memories of remarkable personalities he had known and temporarily collaborated with.

From her travels and impressions of traveling abroad, she had written in the article 'Scientific itinerary in Italy', published in the monthly magazine *TOMIS* of the Committee for culture and art of Constanța county, among others: *Characteristic for the Italian Riviera is the rugged coastline, with small coves and sharp promontories, with hills slightly sloping towards the sea, on which are located towns and villages, with brightly colored houses, against the silver background of the olive trees and the dark green of the maritime pines and cypresses. ... what attracts, especially, in the area of the Portofino promontory, is the wonderful world of underwater plants and animals. ... The sea is quite deep here - 50 m, only 50 m from the shore - and the walls of the promontory, caves and collapsed rocks are populated with a rich fauna. It's what we call a "coral habitat" ... here are the multitude of species that make the passion for diving and underwater photography develop in this region more and more. ... The entire fauna of the Gulf of Genoa and especially the ichthyofauna was a vast field of research for Italian researchers, among which we mention the team of the Municipal Museum of Natural History "Giacomo Doria" from Genoa (1867) ... and taking into account the tourist side of Italy, which is entirely a museum, the period spent in this country [29.IX-29.XI] was particularly instructive and enjoyable, due to its exceptional organization and excellent reception from fellow hosts.*

Ileana Cautiș was and remains an exemplary model of dedication and professional fulfillment in the field of Romanian marine research and with a wide openness to the international scientific community.

We will keep Dr. Eng. Ileana Cautiș alive in our memory, with all appreciation, esteem and gratitude.

Requiescat in pace.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

A. Published papers

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14. Cautiș I., Iliescu M., 1962 - Caracteristicile cârdurilor de șprot, hamsie și stavrid și comportarea lor în condițiile excepționale ale anului 1961 de la coasta românească a Mării Negre. *Bul. Inst. Cerc. Pesc.*, 21, 3, 46-58.
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21. Tortonese E., Cautiș I., 1967b - Les Zeus de la mer Noire (Poissons Zeiformes). *Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova*, suppl., 4, 176, 1-9.
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B. Publications intended for professional communities

29. Cautiș I. și colab., 1970 - *Ghid al peștilor din Oceanul Atlantic - coasta nord-vestică a Africii*. Doc. inform., I.R.C.M., 1, 89 pp.
30. Cautiș I. și colab., 1971 - *Ghid al peștilor din Oceanul Atlantic - zona de nord-vest*. Doc. inform., I.R.C.M., 4, 202 pp.
31. Cautiș I. și colab., 1973 - *Peștii de la coasta vest-africană*. I.R.C.M. Constanța, vol. I: pp. 1-229, vol. II: pp. 230-399, vol. III: pp. 400-654.

C. Magazine

- Cautiș I., 1969 - Itinerare științifice în Italia. Revista *TOMIS*, Constanța, p. 23.