



# NEWSLETTER

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The membership fee of the I.A.A. for the current period 1978 - 1981 is 25 Swiss Francs (100 Swiss Francs for institutions). Please make your check in Swiss Francs (not in dollars or any other currency) and send it to Dr. P. Laurent, Secretary-Treasurer. It is for the reason of banking regulations that Dr. Laurent can accept only Swiss Francs.

Please make sure to submit your membership fee as soon as possible. Because of the high cost of mailing etc. we may have to terminate correspondence, after this very issue of the Newsletter, with those members whose fee is not received by Dr. Laurent. We beg your understanding in this matter...

The officers of the I.A.A. (Drs. Lindqvist, Karlsson and Laurent) met at Lund and Simontorp, Sweden, on June 27-28, 1979, to discuss current matters. In this meeting it was decided that the institutional membership fee be 100 Swiss Francs. The fee does not entitle the institution to receive the proceedings free of charge.

Mr. Andres Salvador Habsburgo Lorena reports of the crayfish situation in Spain:

Pacifastacus leniusculus: Three introductions have been made until now in Spain. The first one was made in the private trout farm, and the results are not known to me. The second introduction was made in a government-owned fishfarm and two successful ecclussions have been obtained. This introduction was made in 1976, the first ecclussion took place in 1978 and the second one in March 1979. The third implantation of juveniles from Simontorp was made in 1978. Half of them were introduced into a little stream, the other half into a different government-owned fishfarm. No results are known of the latest introductions. It can be expected that further stockings will take place.

The Department for the Conservation of Nature, an institution linked with the Ministry of Agriculture is at last interested in stocking *Pacifastacus* in cold waters in Spain.

Procambarus: The results of the introductions of *Procambarus* species into warm Spanish continental waters is obvious. A production of 50,000 - 80,000 kg will be reached this year. The price obtained by the fishermen is \$8 per kilogram. Fifty families are making their living on the crayfish, and a lot of other people are obtaining benefits out of this introduction. The Ministry of Agriculture is now thinking of elaborating a new plan for the utilization of the waters, which means, in other words, that there will be soon some regulation of the aquaculture. It is interesting to hear that the capture of eels this year is so much greater in numbers and in size, which might be due to the existence of food, which is the crayfish.

Here are news from the U.S. as reported by Dr. James W. Avault, Jr. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana):

The United States is now preparing a "National Aquaculture Plan". The purpose is to give national direction for enhancing aquaculture. A major part of the Plan involves individual species plans. Major species, such as crawfish, will also have plans. The species plan for crawfish will summarize the actions required to further aquaculture of crawfish in the U.S. As background data the status and potential of crawfish farming will be assessed along with major constraints. The U.S. Government will provide funds to enhance expansion of crawfish aquaculture.

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Dr. C.J. Grubb (Livingstone, Zambia) has sent us the following letter:

"I am your only member in Zambia. I have recently introduced *Procambarus clarkii* from Lake Naivasha, Kenya to my specially made fish pool at Livingstone. Of course all this has been done by permission of the Zambian Fisheries Department under very strict control. I have started with 300 adults and my first experimental pool is 100 by 50 metres. I have already had a hatch of crayfish in my aquarium so we can now say crayfish have been hatched in Zambia. Many of the adults in my pool had eggs so I am sure there are plenty hatched. I would like the Newsletter to comment on the kind co-operation of Dr. Huner of Baton Rouge, University of Louisiana, U.S.A. He has supplied me with all the literature I require and given me great inspiration and faith in my project. I should have given Dr. Huner's name in full: Dr. Jay V. Huner. All the best and good luck to I.A.A. Yours faithfully, C.J.G."

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#### Recent crayfish literature

Jay V. Huner: Exploitation of freshwater crayfishes in North America. *Fisheries* 3(6):2-5, 1978.

James F. Payne: Aspects of the life histories of selected species of North American crayfishes. *Fisheries* 3(6):5-8, 1978.

James G. Lorman & John J. Magnuson: The role of crayfishes in aquatic ecosystems. *Fisheries* 3(6):9-10, 1978.

Raymond W. Bouchard: Taxonomy, distribution, and general ecology of the genera of North American crayfishes. Fisheries 3(6):11-16, 1978.

In addition, these excellent reviews contain a common, extensive list of literature pertaining to crayfish, on pp. 16-19 of the same issue of Fisheries.

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Some excerpts from the address given by Dr. Ossi V. Lindqvist at the I.A.A. Business Meeting in France, August 31, 1978:

The Bylaws of the I.A.A. state that the purpose of the Association is "scientific study of crayfishes for the benefit of all mankind". We can all agree on this. But a translation of this noble purpose into specific actions and research plans may be highly problematic. How can we best promote the aims of the I.A.A.?

First of all, the problems related to fisheries (including crayfish) management in different parts of the world are so different - thus an overall policy or "solution" may be good in theory but in practice it may work nowhere. Especially the social conditions, the nature of fisheries, etc. vary greatly from country to country and even within each country - the problems related to the social and management aspects of fisheries appear quite often "soft" or even non-scientific because of this very variability. Conversely, it also appears that it is easier to conduct a "scientific" discussion on mitochondria and such (because they can be understood better by scientists from different parts of the world).

Thus it is important that people disagree, use different kinds of languages, but, at the same time, use good arguments! This can be a very efficient way of advancing the solutions to our problems.

There was a time, especially in the 1960's, when research workers used to propose shortcut solutions for the elimination of hunger from the world. Few if any of these "solutions" have been realized. One very popular (from ancient times!) solution has been transplantation of "proper" species into new lands or even continents. These actions may carry a success or they may be utter failures. Even FAO has been directing attention to the dangers of improper transplantations and to the importance of the formulation of proper policies when such actions are planned. All planning involves some cost-benefit analyzing: who is to benefit, who pays the costs? There may be no absolute good, nor any absolute bad, but everything is related to time and place. It is unfortunate how little effort has been given to the formulation of risk analyses in fisheries (in contrast to the repeated attempts to build the best possible management plan - the best possible world - which are doomed to failure because such a world does not exist). Then, who carries the responsibility of management failures in case of utter damage to fisheries? Too often the scientist (or promoter) has the escape of being financially relatively immune to failures (he still wants and receives his monthly pay!), and the local fisheries and fishermen carry the whole burden.

It is important to note that each lake and river works as a system, and the crayfish, if present, is only one component of it. In a fisheries management planning the attention is too often directed at individual species as if they existed each in isolation. They are neither in isolation from the fisherman. The food habits of people are a very conservative feature of their culture, and new tastes can and cannot be imposed on people. However, the very nature of crayfish often makes it a cash crop with very little local consumption. In many parts of the world crayfish are trapped solely for export, and this requires again a well-developed marketing system. Thus we need more integration of crayfish fisheries with other fisheries (to say nothing of local social systems!), and there may be occasions where the best policy is not to promote the crayfish at all! (The crayfish produces only some 20 % meat of its weight, while fishes have more than 50 %.) We should be careful and think how much in the name of scientific "objectivity" we actually promote the upper middle-class tastes and ideology to the rest of the world - this may carry the burden of some sort of cultural imperialism.

Thus we need more hard thinking and we need to attack hard questions. What is a proper amount of success - too great a success may be detrimental to the very cause we are promoting. There are no miracles and we all need hard work, hard thinking and a humble attitude - maybe this way we can have a little better world tomorrow.

I hope that this discussion keeps on among the membership of the Association.