

<i>In memoriam</i> CONSTANTIN MAXIM (Viorel Dumitrescu)	“Cercetări Marine” Issue no. 52 Pages 180-183	2022
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***In memoriam* – CONSTANTIN MAXIM**
(16.04.1943 - 02.03.2022)



Dr.Eng. Constantin Maxim, Doctor of fishery engineering and distinguished senior scientific researcher, who has completely dedicated his life investigating the marine research, passed away on March 2, 2022. He was born in Galati in 1943, attended the high school in 1962, and Pedagogical Institute in Galati, teaching mathematics between 1965-1966 at two general schools in Galati. Between 1966-1971, he attends the Faculty of Food Industry and Fishing Technique in Galati, becoming fishery engineer.

In 1971 he was assigned as engineer at the Romanian Marine Research Institute from Constanta (RMRI), actually the National Institute for Marine Research „Grigore Antipa” (NIMRD) where he will dedicate himself to the marine research activity that he will approach, at the beginning, through ichthyological research at the Black Sea.

In the period 1971-1997 within the Laboratory of exploitable marine resources, the researches will be carried out in close connection with the fishing activity of the Romanian vessels, having as main purpose the evaluation of the size of the exploitable stocks and the forecast of the

admissible catches. In order to meet the ever-increasing demands, integrating a young and ambitious team that was formed within the RMRI.

Constantin Maxim devoted himself to the knowledge of the North Atlantic area ended in 1980, when the last Romanian fishing vessels were removed from this region due to the worsened legal conditions in the overseas, fishing following the extension of the national waters up to Nm and to the harder conditions imposed by the coastal countries and regional fishery organization. Its presence in this area on board fishing vessels covered a large area, from the north of Labrador up to the central part of the United States shelf, in the west of the North Atlantic, and from the Iceland-Norway Sea up to the South of England, in the North- East Atlantic. They aimed at a complex knowledge of those two ocean areas, studying the seasonal environmental factors dynamic, and from one year to another, at completing the knowledge on topography and the nature of bottom, modifications in the structure of the ichthyologic fauna and gregarious fish populations under the impact of the intensive and long-term fishery.

At the same time, Constantin Maxim was part of the research team dedicated to the knowledge and assessment of exploitable fish resources in the Southwest Atlantic Ocean, a scientific expedition that brought together specialists from Russia, Germany and Bulgaria. The research area covered the wide area of Argentina to the south near the Falkland Islands. Another particularly important objective was to investigate fish and invertebrate species, as well as, biological peculiarities of fish species in the area of South Georgia island.

Constantin Maxim has devoted himself to the knowledge and application of specific exploitation modules depending on the balance between the power of restocking, by increasing and supplementing and the losses due to natural mortality and those caused by fishing.

The interventions of the scientific researcher Constantin Maxim, of the solutions proposed and supported in the numerous meetings with specialists, representatives of the research institutes from the countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean as well as of the specialists of the International bodies North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and those of the Warsaw Pact member states.

In 1983 he publicly defended his Ph.D thesis and obtained the title of Ph.D in fishing within the doctoral thesis “The main biological characteristics and the evaluation of the Atlantic mackerel stock (*Scomber scombrus*, Linnaeus, 1758) from the North-West Atlantic area”.

The research' results materialized through 79 scientific papers as author and co-author, published in the periodical "Cercetari Marine/ Recherches Marines" and selected articles in specialized books (published in Spain and Italy), as well as, six determinants for the identification of fish and invertebrate species from the main fishing areas of the Atlantic Ocean,

atlases, fishing guides published in "Halieutica" Bulletin printed by RMRI/NIMRD.

Constantin Maxim performed didactic activities in some higher education institutions - the Naval Academy and the Institute of Civil Navy from Constanta, coordinating the students' diploma (1978-1995) and being associate professor of marine ecology and bioeconomic analysis course during 1990-1994.

In the period 1997-2001, Constantin Maxim, as inspector Sp.IA, works together with colleagues from the office of fisheries and fish farming within the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries elaborated the Chapter 8 - Fisheries, responding to the requirements imposed by the European Commission for Romania's accession as Member State. In 2001, the chapter was successfully concluded, representing an important step for Romania in the period of preparation for accession to the European Union. Constantin Maxim has been retired in 2006, after completing a remarkable scientific activity. This was his last professional achievement, before his retirement in 2006.

Chosen character and generous soul, respected by all colleagues and friends, Constantin Maxim will always remain in the consciousness of those who knew him. We will keep a warm and respectful memory! God rest him in peace!

Relevant scientific papers:

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2. **Maxim, C.**, 1982. Structure by species of Sparid catches in the coastal zone of Mauritania (Cap Timiris sector) during the period May-June 1982, Cercetari Marine, V.15: 169-174 (*in French*).
3. **Maxim, C.**, Maxim Cornelia. 1988. Assessment of the Senegalese-Mauritanian round sardinella (*Sardinella aurita* Valenciennes, 1847) stock, Cercetari Marine, V.20/21: 313-344 (*in French*).
4. **Maxim, C.**, Lazu D., 1980. Remarks on the age and growth of the squid *Illex illecebrosus* (Le Suer, 1821), Cercetari Marine, V.13 : 173-180.
5. **Maxim C.**, Staicu I., 1976. Observations on the biology and dynamics of the false scad stock (*Caranx rhonchus* Geof.St.Hil.) in the East-Central Atlantic. Cercetari Marine, V.9: 215-226 (*in French*).
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7. **Maxim, C.**, Staicu, I., Panait, I., 1983. Stock assessment and catch forecast for Spanish mackerel in CECAF division 34.3.3, Cercetari Marine, V.16: 169-182 (*in French*).

8. **Maxim, C.**, Dumitrescu, V., 1979. Remarks of the silver hake (*Merluccius hubbsi* Marini, 1933) from the area to the north and east of Falkland Islands, Cercetari Marine, V.12: 211-224.
9. Maxim, Cornelia, **Maxim, C.**, 1983. Population dynamics of *Plectorhynchus mediterraneus* (Guichenot, 1850) off the northern coasts of I.R.Mauritania, Cercetari Marine, V.16: 153-168 (*in French*).
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12. **Maxim, C.**, 1995. Horse mackerel and false scad stock assessment and catch projections CECAF Divisions 34.1.3 and 34.3.1; 611-627; International Symposium on middle-sized pelagic fish, edited by Carles Bas, Jose Juan Castro and Jose Maria Lorenzo. Marine Science, Sci. Mar. 59(3-4): 611-627.