Preface

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This issue contains selected papers presented at the international workshop “Diversification in Inland Finfish Aquaculture” (DIFA) held in Písek (Czech Republic) on May 16–18, 2011. The workshop was organized by the Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice as the first event of commencing series of DIFA workshops with the aim to discuss and promote diversification in current inland finfish aquaculture mainly in Europe.

Generally, inland finfish aquaculture in Europe is largely dominated by two species (rainbow trout—*Oncorhynchus mykiss* and common carp—*Cyprinus carpio*, FEAP 2012) that provide most of the current production both in terms of volume and value. European aquaculture production was increased by approximately 3–4 % per year during last decade compared to global aquaculture production which has been rapidly increasing by 9 % during the same time period. Thus, the global aquaculture is considerably young agricultural sector with enormous developing rate while European aquaculture with lower developing progress may lose its competitiveness and sustainability in the world. Current European fish market is undersupplied in most of the European countries and fish market supply is dependent on the import of marketable fish mainly from Asia-Pacific region.

This unflattering situation within European aquaculture requires new and rapid developmental support in terms of diversification of fish species, aquaculture products, and markets. This requirement should be solved by applied research and innovation with the implementation of new fish species into aquaculture industry, their domestication process, optimization of husbandry practices, and innovation of farming technologies.

All these aspects of inland finfish aquaculture have been discussed by 117 participants from 26 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Macedonia, the

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Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Sweden, Ukraine, and USA) during the first DIFA workshop.

The workshop program was composed of 50 oral presentations and 44 posters and organized in eight sessions:

1. Fish domestication, new practice, and species within inland aquaculture (chaired by Pascal Fontaine and Tomáš Polícar).
2. Pond aquaculture and management (chaired by Zdeněk Adámek and Denés Gál).
3. Percid culture and biology (chaired by Damien Toner and Vlastimil Stejskal).
4. Sturgeon culture and biology (chaired by Harald Rosenthal and Martin Kocour).
5. Nutrition and juvenile aspects of finfish culture (chaired by Jacek Wolnicki and Martin Bláha).
6. Reproductive performance in finfish (chaired by Zvi Yaron and Mirosława Sokolowska-Mikołajczyk).
7. Genetic and molecular approach in finfish aquaculture (chaired by Katsutoshi Arai and Martin Flajšhans).
8. Meat quality in farmed fish (chaired by Jana Pickova and Jan Mráz).

Along with the scientific workshop program, the executive director of European Aquaculture Society (EAS) Alistair Lane presented EAS activities with special focus on Central and Eastern European countries and forthcoming WAS and EAS conference AQUA 2012 in Prague. The program of DIFA workshop was closed by Marcin Walczak who gave a speech about food products for aquaculture from the Aller Aqua food company—the official sponsor of DIFA workshop.

Besides the official workshop program, the DIFA workshop participants were involved at the opening ceremony of South Bohemian Research Center of Aquaculture and Biodiversity of Hydrocenoses (CENAKVA) and 90th anniversary ceremony of the foundation of the Research Institute of Fish Culture and Hydrobiology (RIFCH) in Vodňany on the national cultural monument—the castle of Hluboká. In this special issue, a selection of 19 papers is presented after a peer-review process. We would like to thank all those who reviewed the submitted manuscripts: Zdeněk Adámek, Hadi Alavi, Martin Bláha, Alicja Boron, Dominique Bouchet, Paolo Bronzi, Elszbieta Brzuska, Bořek Drozd, Pascal Fontaine, Gert Füllner, Francesco Gai, Denes Gál, Jörn Gessner, Pavel Hartman, Maté Havasi, Bjorn Hermelink, Tomasz Hesse, Martin Hulák, Zsigmond Jeney, Martin Kocour, Klaus Kohlmann, Radovan Kopp, Dariusz Kucharczyk, Mirjana Lenhardt, Zoran Markovic, Tomasz Mikołajczyk, Jiří Musil, Leszek Myszkowski, Teresa Ostaszewska, Libor Pechar, Jiří Peterka, Miloslav Petrůl, Peter Podhorec, Vesna Poleksic, Tomáš Polícar, Jan Potužák, Tomáš Randák, András Ronyai, Carole Rougeot, Ondřej Slavík, Mirosława Sokolowska-Mikołajczyk, Vlastimil Stejskal, Irena Šetlíková, Fabrice Teletchea, Konrad Turkowski, Jan Vymazal, Helmut Wedekind, Roman Wójcik, Jacek Wolnicki, and Ivo Zoccarato. Their support and help is highly appreciated.

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