

In Memoriam Professor Gabriele Peters

On 25 March 1992 Gabriele Peters, an extremely significant contributor to our profession and Subject Editor of DAO, died at the age of 56 due to an incurable brain tumor. She was a scientist and lecturer at the Institute for Hydrobiology and Fisheries Science at the University of Hamburg (Germany) and specialized in the area of fish health and stress. Professor Peters' interests varied widely, and the knowledge upon which she could draw was broad.

Gabriele Peters was born on March 29, 1936, in Salzwedel in the Altmark Region of Germany. She studied Natural Sciences at the University of Munich and then transferred to the University of Hamburg to study zoology, fisheries science, hydrobiology, physics, chemistry and botany. For graduate work she did a comparative study on different forms of the fish genus *Xiphophorus*. In the years that followed she tackled a broad array of problems, ranging from plankton blooms to evolution of regression of the eyes in Mexican cave fish, in addition to developing a major research program in the area of disease and stress in fish after joining the Institute for Hydrobiology and Fisheries Science in 1966.

Gabriele Peters was a prolific writer with more than 50 scholarly scientific publications to her credit. She was also well-published in the popular scientific literature, with articles on subjects ranging from blind cave fish to totem poles of Northwestern American Indians, sea otters, animal migration, stress, and whales. And she was the author of a children's book on the life history of the eel.

As an internationally recognized expert in the area of fish pathology, stress and aquaculture, Gabriele Peters' studies brought her to many different parts of the world. She visited remote parts of Mexico looking for Mexican cave fish, spent time at the Cancer Research Center at the University of British Columbia to study skin tumors of flatfish, participated in the International Sargasso Sea Expedition, visited various marine stations in Japan, made several trips to the Fish Disease laboratory in Israel, and conducted research at the School of Medicine of the University of California at Los Angeles (USA). She did all of this while success-



Professor Dr Gabriele Peters, 1936 to 1992

fully running a major laboratory dedicated to research on fish health related to aquaculture. She also supervised 15 graduate degrees and taught primarily in the area of fisheries science and fish pathology. Further, Professor Peters was involved in numerous national and international organizations, meetings, symposia and workshops, and she served as a highly efficient secretary and treasurer of the German Zoological Society and on the Awards Committee of this society. She was also the first woman officially selected to serve on the German Scientific Commission for Oceanic Research.

Gabriele Peters was involved with DAO since its inception in 1984, serving as Subject Editor for the field 'Diseases of Fishes due to Environmental Factors' until her illness made further work impossible. A scientist of such capabilities and kindness will be greatly missed.

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