Olle Ljungberg, in memoriam

Olle Ljungberg, the former head of the Fish section at the National Veterinary Institute (SVA) in Uppsala, Sweden passed away on 1 May, 2012 after a chronic illness. Olle was one of the pioneers of the work with fish disease in Sweden.

Olle was born in 1932 in Värmland, a scenic region of Sweden. He studied at the Royal Veterinary College in Stockholm and graduated there in 1958. Olle initiated his fish disease work at the Swedish Board of Fisheries 1959-60. In 1961 he gained a position, as a specialist in fish diseases, at the Swedish Salmon Research Institute, where he realized the first fish health control programme in the farms for rearing of salmon and brown trout, in the national programme for conservation of these species. This work used prevention and robust containment measures which interrupted the spread of furunculosis in Sweden.

In 1965, Olle was appointed to a new position as expert in fish diseases, which was initiated at the National Veterinary Institute (SVA). Olle built up the laboratory resources for our present Fish pathology laboratory and contributed to the organization of the national health control in aquaculture, the base for the good fish health status in Sweden today. In 1994, Olle moved to the Department of Pathology at the Swedish Agricultural University, with responsibility for education in fish pathology, where he remained until retirement. Olle was an active Member of the EAFP and served as Vice President for 1985-1987.

We remember Olle as a wise man with a broad and deep knowledge in fish pathology. Olle was one of the first scientists to observe the occurrence of lymphosarcoma in northern pike in the Baltic Sea. His pioneer work in this area had however high concurrence with the more practical and urgent request for his expertise in fish pathology when Swedish aquaculture was increasing.

Besides his professional life, Olle enjoyed nature, skiing, skating and sailing, together with his beloved wife Louise and his friends. Olle and Louise had many foreign guests in their home where they were generously looked after. We, his colleagues, were on several occasions invited to their summer-house on Rävsön, the small Island in the archipelago of Stockholm.

Olle is sadly missed by his wife Louise, their three children with families, relatives, many friends and former colleagues in Sweden and world-wide.

*From the former and present personnel of the Fish and shellfish section at the National Veterinary Institute (SVA) in Uppsala; through Eva Jansson*