Ulf-Peter Wichardt, in memoriam

Ulf-Peter Wichardt, the Director of the Swedish Fish Health Control Programme, passed away in July 2012. He had just visited a fish farm for a follow-up visit in connection with a new vaccination programme for Flavobacterium, when he suffered heart failure. Ulf-Peter dedicated his professional life to the development and support of aquaculture in Sweden.

Ulf-Peter was born in 1951 in Småland in Sweden. He studied biology at Uppsala University and focused early on his interest for fish diseases during studies at the National Fish Health Research Laboratory in Leetown, United States. He got grants for research at the Swedish Salmon Research Institute (LFI) from 1976, focused on fish diseases in the development of the rearing of salmonids, mainly salmon and brown trout, in the national programme for conservation of species. Infections with Aeromonas salmonicida was at that time a main threat to the success of this programme and Ulf-Peter studied especially the atypical strains of A. salmonicida subsp. achromogenes. Ulf-Peter was responsible for the fish health control at the compensatory fish farms and took in 1990, as executive chief, the responsibility for the new organization of the fish health control in Sweden, the Fish Health Control Programme (FHAB). A work in which he put down all his time and energy to improve conditions not only for the farmed fish, but also for support for the fish companies. This work included information, advice and training for associated fish farming companies with focus on preventive efforts, vaccination, training for restrictive use of antibiotics and chemicals and fish welfare. Ulf-Peters broad experience and extensive expertise was highly demanded in all kinds of aquaculture issues in Sweden and abroad. Ulf-Peter has during his long carrier participated and organized several kinds of national and international meetings in fish diseases. He participated in his last international conference, the Flavobacterium Conference in Turku June 2012, just one month before his death and met there many of his colleagues and friends. Ulf-Peter has since the 1980’s been the EAFP Branch Officer for Sweden. His too early death has left a great void behind him.

The church in Älvkarleby, was filled with beautiful flowers, family, many colleagues and friends a warm summer day in July for a last goodbye. The air was also filled with the sound of trumpet music, Ulf-Peter’s preferred instrument, and his favorites “I did it my way” of Frank Sinatra and “What a wonderful world” by Louis Armstrong.

Ulf-Peter is sadly missed by family, friends and many colleagues in Sweden and world-wide.

Colleagues from the National Veterinary Institute; through Eva Jansson