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**Prof. dr Kazimierz Demel**  
1889– 1978

## In Memoriam

### Professor Kazimierz Demel (1889–1978)

The first issue of "Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria" in 1970 was dedicated to Professor Kazimierz Demel. A pioneer of marine research in Poland, to many generations of Polish marine biologists and fishermen he was a teacher opening new horizons of knowledge and set an example of tireless work and profound dedication to science and society.

Born in the Silesia on 9 March 1889, Professor Demel studied biology in Geneva and worked as an assistant to Prof. Emil Yung. During his visits to marine biological stations in Villefranche-sur-Mer (1912) and Murmansk (1915), young Kazimierz Demel became interested in marine sciences. In 1916 he was drafted; having served at first in the Russian army, in 1917 he joined Polish troops, newly-formed in Russia. He moved to Warsaw when the war was over; however, he did not enjoy the civilian life too long as in 1919–1920, after having been drafted again, he fought at the eastern front. He also took part in the 3rd Silesian Rising (1921) as the aide-de-camp to the Commander of the Rising.

Released from the army in 1921, he returned to science and took up hydrobiological studies of the Lake Wigry Setting up a biological station there.

In 1923 he turned his attention to the sea. Having organised the Marine Laboratory at Hel, he began working there and from then on his life became bound up with the sea.

Among his various activities were the papers popularising the sea lore and courses in marine biology for students of Polish universities. In the course of time the Laboratory was transformed into the Marine Station which in 1938 was moved to a specially designed building in Gdynia. Unfortunately, the World War II interrupted the Station's work making Prof. Demel and his associates look for the means of survival outside the scientific realm and far away from their working place.

In 1945 after the war Professor Demel returned to Gdynia to start the work anew. For some time he was deputy director of the Sea Fisheries Institute, but research work occupied the principal position in his life until his very last days. He passed away on 28 September 1978 leaving his numerous students, colleagues and friends deep in bereavement: