



Marine Biology in the 21st Century: Achievements and Development Prospects (on the 100th Anniversary of Birth of the Academician Alexei V. Zhirmunsky)



ALEXEI ZHIRMUNSKY'S IDEA TO CREATE A RESERVE IN THE VOSTOK BAY CAME TO LIFE

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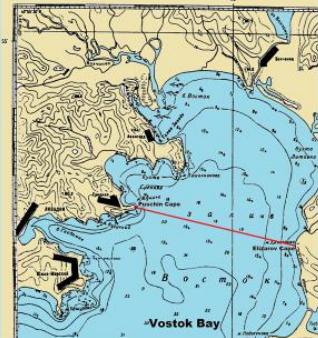
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The Vostok Biological Station by the Institute of Marine Biology FEB RAS



In the photo: Experimental shellfish culture facility "Zvezda" in Vostok Bay



Director of the Institute of Marine Biology, Academician Alexei Zhirmunsky came up with the idea of creating a protective area in the Vostok Bay almost simultaneously with the creation of Vostok Biological Station by the Institute of Marine Biology, then the Far East Science Center, of the USSR Academy of Sciences on the shore of the bay in 1970. The location for the Biostation was chosen very well. The Biostation is located on a flat cape and fenced with a hill from the south, and from the north, east and west it is surrounded by the waters of Vostok Bay. Intensive studies in the field of genetics, embryology, physiology, ecology, ethology and other aspects of marine biology research had been carried out here both by FEB RAS scientists and specialists from other Russian and foreign institutes. Those studies provided the background for growth of the Institute's scientific research in the field of mariculture biological foundations. So, the Vostok Bay was a ground for scientific research by the FEB RAS Institute of Sea Biology, on the one hand, and a promising area for industrial shellfish farming, on the other hand. To ensure suitable conditions for farming of marine invertebrates, it was decided to introduce a protective status in the Vostok Bay. The author of the presented paper, under the guidance and with the direct support of Academician A.V. Zhirmunsky, started to establish a reserve in the Vostok Bay in August 1987. As a result of almost two years of efforts, in April 1989 the long-awaited Decision of the Executive Committee of the Primorsky Regional Council of People's Deputies "On Establishment of Vostok Bay Comprehensive Marine Reserve in Peter the Great Bay, Sea of Japan from 20.04.1989" was adopted under No. 131, whereunder the reserve included 1.82 thousand hectares of the Bay aquatic area, in the south limited with the line connecting Cape Puschin and Elizarov. The establishment of the reserve was reported the same year at National Scientific and Engineering Problems of Sea Farming conference which was held at TINRO, Vladivostok (Alexey Zhirmunsky, Larissa Gayko. Establishment of the mariculture reserve in Vostok Bay // National Scientific and Engineering Problems of Sea Farming: abstract. Vladivostok: TINRO, 1989. P. 13-14). It should also be noted that during the water area preparation for future reserve (1987-1989), Alexey supported the author's idea to conduct an expedition to the Vostok Bay in order to study the bay hydrometeorological condition before introducing the reserve status. The expedition findings serve as a reference for further monitoring of the bay hydrological condition variability.

In conclusion, I would like to add that the cherished dream of Alexei Zhirmunsky had been realized. Vostok Bay Reserve has existed for more than three decades and successfully fulfills its main task - to support the existing natural state of the bay waters and preserve its natural biodiversity.



In the photo: on the left - academician A.V. Zhirmunsky, the Director of IMB FEB RAS, on the right - Tour Heyerdahl, Norwegian archaeologist, traveler and writer, on Vostok MBS



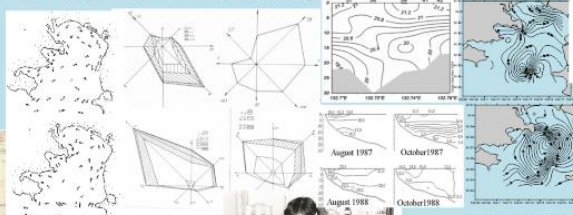
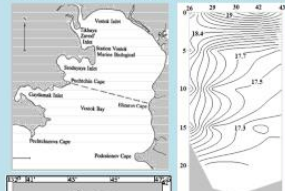
In the photo: on the left - Doctor N.S. Sheludko, on the right - Professor, Doctor G.P. Pinaev, at the Vostok MBS



In the photo: a group of French scientists led by Jean-Marie Perez, a marine biologist and oceanologist, together with researchers at IMB FEB RAS at the Vostok Marine Biological Station



The aquarium building on the Vostok MBS



The hydrometeorological study of the Vostok Bay



Photo by Alexander Omelyanenko