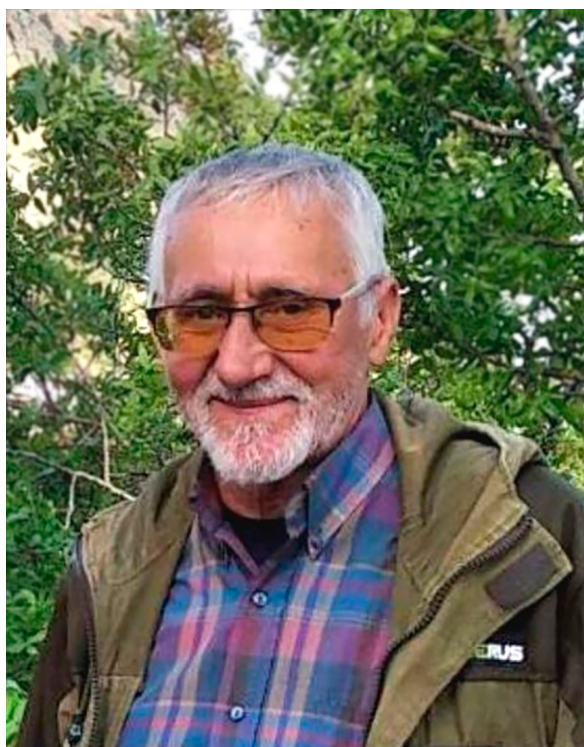


## IN MEMORIAM: NIKOLAY BOBKO (19.08.1951 – 11.03.2025)



On 11 March, 2025, Nikolay Bobko suddenly passed away – junior researcher at the IBSS department of aquaculture and marine pharmacology, highly qualified hydrochemist and talented mentor.

He was born on 19 August, 1951, in the city of Lutsk, Volyn Oblast, Ukrainian SSR. Like all Soviet children, he went to school, was involved in sports, participated in all school events, and helped his parents about the house. Even then, teachers noticed his sharp mind and thirst for knowledge in physics and chemistry. It was this combination – physics and chemistry – that shaped his future.

In 1968, he entered Taras Shevchenko State University of Kyiv, faculty of chemistry. The competition for admission was very high, and the committee asked questions far beyond the school curriculum. Applicant N. Bobko impressed the committee with the depth of his knowledge of high explosives and received the highest admission score unanimously.

After graduating from the university in 1973, he was assigned to the Sevastopol branch of the N. N. Zubov State Oceanographic Institute. At that time, the USSR increased its activity in exploration of seas and oceans. As the number of research vessels was rising, the country was in dire need of qualified chemists. At this Institute, a young specialist Nikolay Bobko designed various methods of hydrochemical analysis which are still in use.

At the end of 1975, the Special Experimental Design Bureau for Underwater Research was established in Sevastopol (a base “Hydronaut”). As a very passionate person inspired by the sea expeditions of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, N. Bobko decided to try his hand at research at this base. As a result, he was involved in the study of benthos: he dived to a depth of more than 300 m on a famous manned submersible “Benthos-300.”

Since Nikolay Bobko was a highly qualified young specialist, various scientific institutions in Sevastopol were interested in collaborating with him. In 1982, he chose the A. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas and worked there for 42 years introducing advanced methods of analytical chemistry. He designed modern methods for analyzing almost all elements in hydrobionts. N. Bobko completed scientific internships in Leningrad, Kyiv, and Tartu. He co-authored more than 50 scientific papers,

including 2 monographs and 6 patent. For his inventions, he was awarded a diploma and a gold medal named after Nikola Tesla at the International Fair of Technics and Technical Achievements in Bosnia and Herzegovina in April 2024. Also, he was awarded a gold medal of the XX International Salon of Inventions and New Technologies “New Time.”

Nikolay Bobko was one of the best and broad-minded experts in physical and chemical analysis not only in Sevastopol, but also in the entire Southern Federal District. Valuing his skill versatility, various organizations involved in analytical research constantly invited him to work. He managed the flow of tasks in three institutions simultaneously: IBSS, the Sevastopol Regional Center for Standardization, Metrology, and Testing, and “SGS Vostok Limited” providing the analysis of petroleum products. The first two institutions use his technique for sample preparation for elemental analysis.

N. Bobko had extensive experience in marine expeditions. He participated in research cruises to the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans and to the Black Sea and other seas as a head of the scientific team, deputy head of the expedition, and its head. He studied coral reefs and carried out experiments in hydrochemistry involving deep-sea vehicles. He was always interested in something new and unknown. He could not stand routine; so, he automated all measurements. N. Bobko designed methods using a modern flow analyzer, and this allowed a single researcher to do the work of an entire department of hydrochemists.

He was an unrivaled fisherman: he knew habits of many fish species and always took the first place in fishing tournaments in marine expeditions. In addition to scientific achievements, he demonstrated sport ones winning table tennis matches.

Nikolay Bobko actively participated in the design of new technologies for obtaining bioactive compounds from mariculture objects to create medicines and raw materials for the pharmacological industry. Moreover, he was involved in the development of biotechnology for cultivating microalgae used both as food for molluscs and their larvae and as a source of bioactive compounds.

N. Bobko creatively solved assigned tasks and was a hardworking and proactive researcher. Lately, he was concerned with one of the pressing problems related to the reproduction of marine bioresources and shared his experience gained from long-term studies in the shelf zone of the Black Sea. He investigated hydrochemical factors driving the processes of melioration of the marine environment both in areas of the functioning of farms and in areas chosen for their establishment.



He was an exceptionally conscientious and responsible researcher. He was sociable, responsive, and selfless, maintained good relations with colleagues, and enjoyed well-deserved respect. We are sincerely grateful for everything he taught us.

On 19 August, 2025, Nikolay Bobko would have turned only 74 years old. The memory of a wonderful person, teacher, and friend will forever remain in our hearts.

*Students, colleagues, and friends*

**ПАМЯТИ НИКОЛАЯ ИВАНОВИЧА БОБКО (19.08.1951 – 11.03.2025)**

11 марта 2025 г. ушёл из жизни наш коллега — м. н. с. отдела аквакультуры и морской фармакологии ФИЦ ИнБЮМ Николай Иванович Бобко. Он был высококвалифицированным гидрохимиком, наладившим в Институте методы анализа практически всех элементов в гидробионтах. Н. И. Бобко стал соавтором более чем 50 научных работ, среди которых 2 монографии и 6 патентов.