

CHRONICLE AND INFORMATION

IN MEMORIAM: SERGEY MASLENNIKOV
(25.08.1963 – 17.11.2025)



We are the pioneers when it comes to working
with juvenile red king crabs and hairy crabs.

S. Maslennikov

On 17 November, 2025, PhD Sergey Maslennikov died suddenly during his work trip to Yantai (China). He was only 63 years old. S. Maslennikov worked as senior researcher at the Laboratory for Marine Ecosystem Dynamics and headed the Center for Aquaculture and Coastal Bioresources at NSCMB FEB RAS.

Born on 25 August, 1963, in Barnaul, he graduated from the Faculty of Biology and Soil Science of the Far Eastern State University in 1986. Since 1991, he worked at the Institute of Marine Biology, since 2016 known as A. V. Zhirmunsky National Scientific Center of Marine Biology, FEB RAS. Here, Sergey Maslennikov paved his way from graduate student to senior researcher at the Laboratory for Marine Ecosystem Dynamics. In 1999, he created and headed the Center for Aquaculture and Coastal Bioresources at NSCMB FEB RAS. In 2007, he became Associate Professor in hydrobiology.

His academic interests were focused on identifying patterns in the functioning of fouling communities at mariculture facilities and the associated effects. S. Maslennikov authored and co-authored many papers in the field of high scientific and practical value; also, he received several patents for inventions related to the cultivation of hydrobionts. The total number of his scientific publications is 212; it includes 50 articles in journals indexed in the international databases Web of Science and Scopus.

He led successful experiments in aquaculture of molluscs and crabs at mariculture facilities in the open waters of the Peter the Great Bay (the Sea of Japan). His passion for hydrobionts and the development of technology for growing crab juveniles earned him an informal and unofficial nickname of Crab Dad in many Far Eastern and Russian media. Sergey Maslennikov made an invaluable contribution to the development of this field.

At the Center, his colleagues and he developed technologies for culturing various microalgae and crustaceans, in particular, a technology for industrial-scale production of viable juvenile crabs *Paralithodes camtschaticus*, *Eriocheir japonica*, and *E. sinensis*, which are in high demand on the global food market. These species have unstable natural reproduction and require certain efforts in artificial breeding. Based on the fundamental technology developed at the Center, it is possible to completely restore

commercial stocks of coastal true crabs and stone crabs within the territorial waters and in the special economic zone of the Far Eastern seas of the Russian Federation. For approbation of new technologies, at the “Zapad” marine biological station of NSCMB FEB RAS, a scientific and experimental mariculture site for culturing invertebrates and microalgae was created. Pilot industrial regulations were developed for the management and mass production of live food, maintenance of breeding stock, stimulation of sexual behavior in breeders, larvae cultivation, and rearing to the settlement phase. The Center is cooperating with leading marine biology institutions and universities of the provinces Shandong and Liaoning (China) for more than 20 years.

One of the most famous marine biologists in the Far East and a Professor at the Far Eastern Federal University, S. Maslennikov was an open person, friendly conversationalist, and active participant of public discussions and scientific forums. His collaboration with the “Living Taiga” school of environmental journalism was particularly vibrant. In 2024, he opened the first Marine Festival on Popov Island with a lecture; a year later, he gave journalists a tour of the littoral zone and presented the project “Marine lessons for kids and adults: 8th-graders recommend.”

The authors call Sergey Maslennikov the “soul of the project” and a visionary who could give a captivating yet simple explanation of complex processes in the marine ecosystem.

He was a person gifted with the ability to get along with people of all ages and backgrounds, a supportive friend, and a talented researcher. His hard work and extensive field experience were combined with a resourcefulness in problem-solving. His energy, open-mindedness, and ability to make original scientific ideas easy to understand earned S. Maslennikov wide renown in Russia. He was awarded certificates and prizes for his services. On the day of the ceremonial meeting of the FEB RAS Presidium dedicated to the 55th anniversary of NSCMB FEB RAS (13 November, 2025), Sergey Maslennikov received a letter of acknowledgment from the Governor of Primorsky Krai for many years of dedicated work, high professional achievements, and personal contribution to the development of science.

The news of his death caused profound sorrow in all who knew him and worked with him. This is a great loss to the scientific community of Vladivostok and Primorye.

The staff of the Center for Aquaculture and Coastal Bioresources at NSCMB FEB RAS will always hold dear the memory of S. Maslennikov and will continue his work.



D. Sc. A. Zvyagintsev, students, colleagues, and friends

ПАМЯТИ СЕРГЕЯ ИВАНОВИЧА МАСЛЕННИКОВА (25.08.1963 – 17.11.2025)

17 ноября 2025 г. научное сообщество Приморья понесло невосполнимую утрату: ушёл из жизни к. б. н. Сергей Иванович Масленников — руководитель Центра аквакультуры и прибрежных биоресурсов ННЦМБ ДВО РАН, автор более чем 200 публикаций и один из разработчиков технологии получения в промышленных масштабах жизнестойкой молоди крабов.