

DR PHILLIP SLUCZANOWSKI 1951–1994

South Australia lost its leading fisheries scientist with the death on May 23 1994 of Dr Phillip Sluczanowski, who died at home as a result of cancer. Dr Sluczanowski was 42 years of age and is survived by his wife, Sharon, and 3 sons Luke, Micah, and Aaron.

Phillip was born and graduated in South Africa, immigrated to Australia in 1975 and completed his doctor of philosophy on optimum control theory at the prestigious Imperial College of London in 1981.

Phillip had extensive work experience in Britain, South Africa, Fiji and the Philippines and was fluent in four languages.

He was a member of a large number of professional organisations including Australian Marine Science Association, Australian Society for Fish Biology, American Fisheries Society and International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade.

Phillip was recognised as one of Australia's brightest and most innovative fisheries scientists, and was acknowledged as a leader in the application of the principles of sound resource management to achieve ecologically sustainable fisheries.

His work was in the area of optimum control theory, which is a high level of mathematical modelling. He used these skills to generate models of fisheries.

In particular, he pioneered the development of interactive graphic packages that enabled non-scientists, fishers and managers to readily understand the complexities of fisheries management. These packages have been commercialised in at least 20 countries.

Phillip's modelling of the Southern Shark Fishery won the 1991 Taronga Zoo Conservation Award at the International Shark Symposium and was highly commended in the 1991 IBM Conservation Awards. This work was widely credited with saving the fishery from collapse.

The Australian Society for Fish Biology gratefully acknowledges the important contributions made over the years to its various activities by Phillip Sluczanowski, in particular to the annual scientific workshops, conferences and discussion sessions. The paper he presented so recently to the August 1993 Workshop in Perth is contained in this volume, and will be a reminder to those who enjoyed and respected Phillip Sluczanowski. He will be sadly missed.

Phillip Sluczanowski's challenge to scientists that "their work has no value until it is understood" will be a lasting legacy and will result in scientists committed to better communication of their work.