

FOREWORD

International Moose Symposiums have been held every 5-10 years since the first in Québec City, Québec, Canada in 1973. Subsequent meetings occurred in Uppsala, Sweden in 1984, Syktyvkar, Russia in 1990, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA in 1997, and Hafjell, Norway in 2002. Russia became the first country to repeat as host when the 6th International Moose Symposium was held in Yakutsk, Russia where moose biologists from throughout the world gathered on 13-23 August 2008.

Although each volume of *ALCES* is typically international in content, an International Symposium provides an opportunity to focus a substantial portion of a volume on the biology and management of moose in the host country. Thus, Volume 45 of *ALCES* features 8 papers that provide regional and national perspectives on the history and status of moose and moose management in Russia and the former Soviet Union. Both contemporary and well known Russian moose biologists contributed to this volume, and they have provided a unique collection of papers concerning regional histories and management of moose.

The publication of Soviet Union-authored papers from the 3rd International Moose Symposium at Syktyvkar 18 years ago was fraught with translation difficulties that reflected, in part, political circumstances that prevented adequate communication among scientists. Despite this, *ALCES* editors Arthur Rodgers and Kris Hundertmark strove to ensure that the work of such authors would be published in *ALCES*, and eventually Supplement No. 2 contained 30 related papers. The relative ease of submitting, translating, editing, and publishing the current set of Russian-authored papers not only demonstrates improved global communication among moose biologists and researchers, it reaffirms the critical importance and advantages of our international cooperation.

Dr. Vince Crichton was instrumental in establishing communication with many authors and served as the initial “clearinghouse” for many papers submitted for Volume 45. Although I was unable to contact each author individually (some papers were submitted by colleagues), each paper was reviewed by a Russian author to approve the final edited version. Certain papers underwent the standard review process by peer scientists, but I handled singly most papers that focused on descriptive history and status of moose. I particularly want to thank Dr. Leonid Baskin and Dr. Taras Sipko for their help in contacting other authors and checking the accuracy of my translations during the editing process.

Volume 45 is organized such that the first 8 papers are history-status-review papers about Eurasian moose from authors of Russia and Ukraine. The remaining papers were authored by international researchers who traveled and participated in the 6th International Moose Symposium. The editorial staff believes that Volume 45 truly reflects *ALCES* as a premier international scientific journal dedicated to the research and management of moose.

Peter J. Pekins, Chief Editor