

Preface: Changing climate and northern aquatic ecosystems

Recent global and regional climate scenarios suggest that in the northern regions air temperature and precipitation may markedly change during the next 50–100 years. As many physical, chemical and biological characteristics of aquatic ecosystems are driven by the local weather and the regional climate with high sensitivity to forcing changes, this could lead to changes in the structure and functioning of the northern aquatic ecosystems.

This issue of BER is the special of the International Workshop on Changing Climate and Northern Aquatic Ecosystems which was held at Lammi Biological Station of the University of Helsinki, Finland, on 25–27 September 2003 as a part of the EU 5th framework project CLIME (EVK1-CT-2002-00121) and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the station. The objective of the workshop was to serve as a presentation platform of recent findings for researchers with different backgrounds, interest areas and experience in northern inland and coastal water ecosystems. Altogether 57 researchers from Finland, Sweden, Estonia, Russia, Austria, United Kingdom and USA attended the symposium and in total 26 oral and 14 poster presentations were given.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all authors and participants of the workshop for their contribution and acknowledge the University of Helsinki and the Academy of Finland for their financial support, and the editorial board of Boreal Environment Research for publishing the key results of the symposium.

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