

## IN MEMORIAM

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This volume is dedicated to our colleague Dr. BRANKA GRBEC who was devoted to research in physical oceanography, climatology and meteorology.



DR. BRANKA GRBEC

1957-2025

(photo by Dr. Jasna Maršić Lučić)

Our colleague and friend, senior scientific adviser at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries in Split, Dr. Branka Grbec passed away in Zagreb on 22 January 2025 at the age of 67. The passing of such an esteemed and outstanding scientist as Dr. Grbec is a great loss for the small Croatian community of physical oceanographers, but also for Croatian marine science.

Dr. Branka Grbec was born on 6 April 1957 in Split, where she completed her primary and secondary education. At the Faculty of Science in Zagreb, she obtained a bachelor's degree in geophysics and meteorology defending the thesis in seismology, her master's degree in meteorology in 1989 and in 1996 she defended doctoral thesis "Climate changes and their influence on the oceanographic properties of the Adriatic Sea". From 1985 to 1989, Dr. Grbec was employed in Marine Meteorological Center in Split as an expert associate in the field of meteorology. From 1989 until her retirement, she worked in the Laboratory of Physical Oceanography at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries;

from 2018 to 2022 as head of the Laboratory. At the beginning of her scientific career, Dr. Grbec expanded her knowledge through courses such as "Extratropical Weather Systems", organized by European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts in September 1987 in Reading, UK and two courses organized by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste: "Ocean Waves and Tides" in October 1988 and "Oceanography of Semi-enclosed Seas" in April 1991.

During her productive career, Dr. Branka Grbec has published over 100 scientific and professional papers in the fields of physical oceanography, climatology and meteorology. In many interdisciplinary studies, she used sophisticated statistical analyses to estimate the relationships between physical processes in the atmosphere and the sea and the observed chemical and biological responses. Her research was also focused on the relations between atmospheric processes at global and hemispheric scales with the dynamics and properties of the Adriatic Sea. Together with Dr. Frano Matić, she published the

book 'Clouds', on cloud physics, their generation and appearances. She authored two book chapters, the first on climate change and sea level rise in the Mediterranean and the second on the physical processes important for the picoplankton distribution in the southern Adriatic.

Dr. Branka Grbec participated in a number of national and international scientific and professional projects and environmental studies, contributing with her expertise on Adriatic thermohaline properties and atmospheric conditions and processes. She was a member of the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), the Croatian Meteorological Society, the Croatian Commission for Geodesy and Geophysics of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and a national delegate in the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS).

For many years, Dr. Grbec taught courses in statistics, climatology and meteorology at the University

Department of Marine Studies in Split, promoting these disciplines among the young generation and educating future scientists and professionals. At the Institute, she selflessly shared her knowledge and scientific experience with colleagues, which resulted in a number of scientific papers, especially interdisciplinary ones.

Apart from her valuable scientific contribution, Dr. Grbec will be remembered by her colleagues as a tolerant, emphatic and open-minded person with diverse interests and great knowledge. The memory of Dr. Branka Grbec will forever remain in our hearts, in the hearts of her friends, colleagues and all scientists who were fortunate to work with her and to know her.

Dr. Gordana Beg Paklar,  
Head of the Laboratory of Physical Oceanography

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