



Pentti Mäkki spent many years as a hydrologist with the Finnish Hydrological Office and as a physical oceanographer with the Finnish Institute of Marine Research (FIMR). He joined FIMR in 1968 and by 1973 was head of its Physics Department. Pentti's early work focused on the hydrology, hydrography, and circulation patterns of the Baltic Sea. Later, while still maintaining his interest and work in the Baltic, he also became involved in physical oceanographic studies in the NE Atlantic, especially Denmark Strait, the Greenland Sea, and the subarctic seas, where he led several expeditions. During this time he was a long time member of ICES Working Group on Oceanic Hydrography. When the decision was taken by ICES to create Decadal Symposia to review environmental conditions as a means of replacing *Annales Biologique*, Pentti took on the task of organizing the first Symposium on the decade of the 1980s, which was held in June 1991 in Mariehamn the capital of Åland, which is administered by Finland. It was at this meeting that the first honourees were selected for their efforts to assemble and protect long time series and fostering the idea that changes in the ecology were linked to variability in the physical environment.

Like all of the honorees, Dr. Mäkki has had a long and distinguished career and has accomplished much more than what is being honored for. In 1990, he became the Director General of FIMR, a position he held until 2005 when he retired from the Finnish government service. He also was busy in the international oceanographic arena holding positions in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Nordic Council for Physical Oceanography, the Arctic Ocean Sciences Board (AOSB), and the Executive Committee on the Protection of the Gulf of Bothnia. He most was strongly involved in the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), and besides his work in the Hydrographic Working Group, he was a long time Finnish Delegate, Vice President from 1997 to 2000, and then as ICES President from 2000 to 2003. It was during his presidency that the successful 100th anniversary celebrations of ICES were held. Pentti has also taken a great interest in the history of oceanographic research and has written a number of articles in this field. Indeed, he has written the history of the decadal symposia, which began within ICNAF (International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries) and is now carried on by both ICES and the follow-on body to ICNAF, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). His article is included in this special issue.