

Dear Sport Fishing Friends,

We will all gather together in the beautiful spring month, April in Prague on the 38th Congress of the International Sport Fishing Confederation, CIPS, which will be organized by the Czech Fishing Federation. Federation with a long tradition, which already many times confirmed his engagement for the development of the sport fishing which we represent. And not only at national but at international level as well. Federation with lot of success in the sport fishing and in the organization of great international events of our federations. I would like to thank our Czech sport fishing friends for all their attention to our present Congress which, I am definitely confident, will be a further success concerning the future of the sport fishing in all over the world.

It cannot be repeated often enough that one of the most important task of all community is to clearly discuss its situation and to set out what to do. We need these two important operations for our well thought and coordinated actions. So there will be the main issues for our 3 days meeting in the beautiful capital of the Czech Republic.

I know, our task it not easy. Serious questions are raised for the sport fishing, for the angler sport in general. The sustainability of the sport fishing raises very serious questions concerning to strengthen our activity for the protection of the environment and the living world of the waters. We stay desiring to determine all reasonable limitations and all necessary sacrifices to protect the world of aquatic animals. We must prove evidently and definitely that the sport fishing is going together with the love of the nature, the protection of the nature, sustainability of the environment, the safeguarding and welfare of our partners in the game, the fishes. This would be the main messages given by our 38th CIPS Congress.

Today 135 National Federations from 70 countries and one international fishing organisation, representing altogether about 50 million members are belonging to CIPS. I think it is evidently fundamental that through our confederation the sport fishing has to be recognized as integral part of the international sport movement, on a par with all other sports – that is one of the reasons why we requested the recognition by the International Olympic Committee as Olympic sport. As much as our efforts for becoming active participants and partners in every international organization where the issues of the sport fishing are raised.

In our ever-changing and fast-moving world, where information and communication play a key role, the CIPS would be launching a new dynamism, meant to become the sport fishing hub for all our confederation members as well as those exploring our sport. Priority to promote our sport, priority to make the sport fishing more spectacular, more understandable for the media and not only for whom interesting in sport fishing but, via the media, for everybody. The vision and prestige as one of the most cultivated and most popular sport deserves.

Warm welcome in Prague to this 38th Congress and I wish you all a nice stay and very good discussions for being enable to go home with the pleasure that we did a big positive step on the way of ensuring even more successful future of our well-loved sport fishing.



Ferenc Szalay

President