

Evolution of a journal

Emory D. Anderson shares the history of the ICES Journal of Marine Science and the story of those who shaped it.

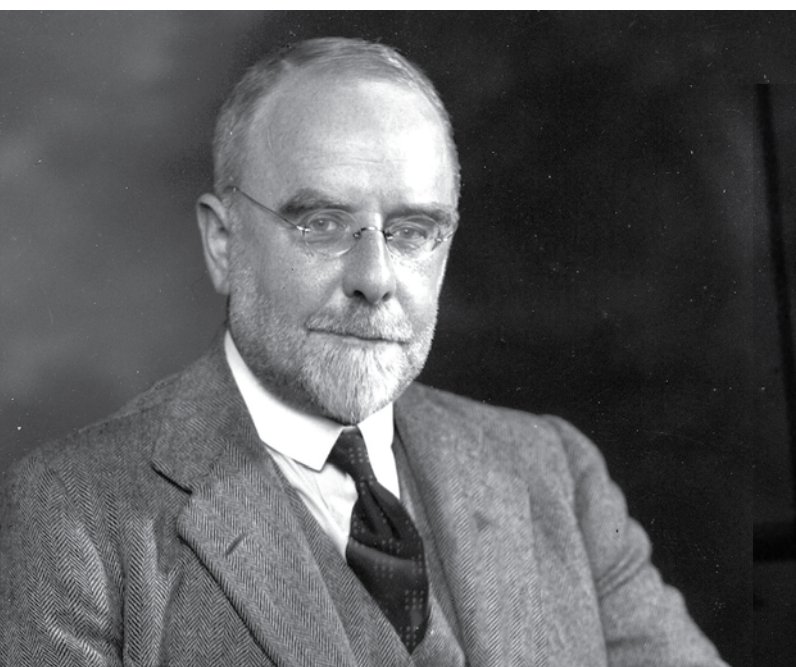
In February 1926, the first issue of Volume 1 of a new marine science journal was published in Copenhagen under the name *Journal du Conseil*. More than eighty-eight years later, we celebrate the publication of Volume 69 of that same journal, which has morphed into the *ICES Journal of Marine Science*. Over this span of time, the *Journal* has grown in size and acquired a new name, but all the while serving as the principal means of publishing the results of scientific inquiry carried out in the North Atlantic and adjacent seas under the auspices of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). In recent years, it has expanded to become a preferred publication outlet both for researchers in the ICES area and for scientists in non-ICES countries in distant parts of the world and for a broadening spectrum of marine science topics.

As pointed out by Arthur Went in his history of ICES (Went, 1972), the Council, since its establishment in 1902, has recognized the need to publish the results of scientific research carried out under its auspices. There has, subsequently, been an extensive series of ICES publications devoted to this aim, some short-lived and others continuing longer, a few even to this day. The forerunner of today's *Journal* was the *Publication de Circonstance*, a series first issued in 1903, with each issue

containing a single paper on a biological or hydrographic topic, and concluding with Issue 91 in June 1926.

In September 1925, at its 18th Annual Meeting, the Council adopted a reorganization scheme for the conduct of its work, including publications (ICES, 1925). Five categories of publication were specified, including the *Journal du Conseil*. The *Journal* would contain (i) abstracts and reviews of current publications of scientific investigations carried on by or in connection with the Council or in the area covered by the Council's work; (ii) scientific papers formerly published in *Publications de Circonstance*; and (iii) such other matter as the editor may deem suitable.

Contributions submitted to the Journal were initially acceptable if written in English, French, German, or Spanish...



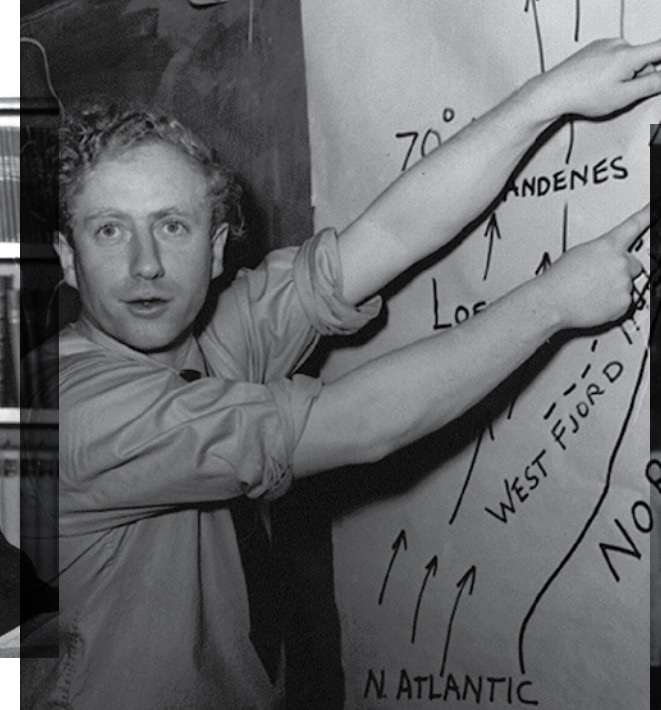
▲ Edward S. Russell (1925–1938)



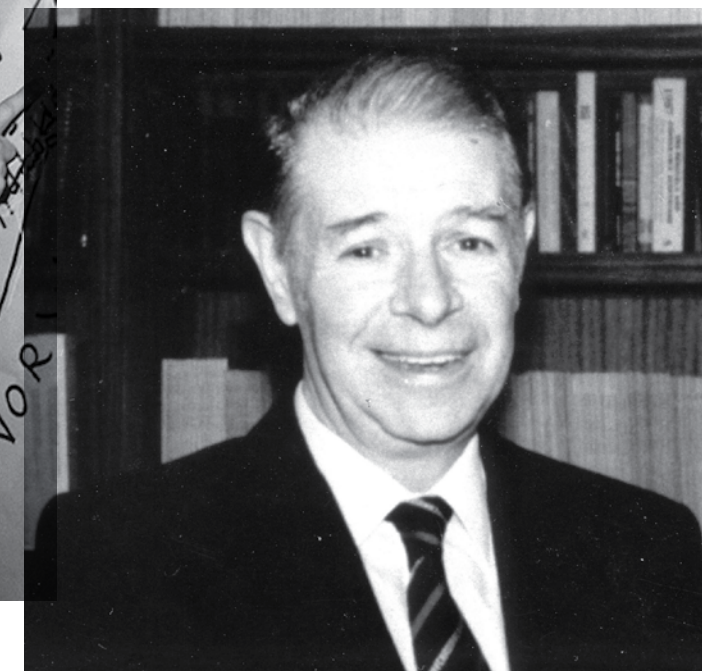
▲ John R. Lumby (1938–1957)



▲ Frederick "Roy" Harden Jones (1958–1983)



▲ Árni Friðriksson (1957–1958)



▲ Raymond J. H. Beverton (1983–1991)

Edward S. Russell (1925–1938)

Edward S. Russell from the UK was appointed the first Editor and served from 1925 to 1938. Russell was director of the Lowestoft Fisheries Laboratory from 1921 to 1946, and was the first of five *Journal* Editors with Lowestoft affiliation. In 1930, John R. Lumby, a hydrographer at the Lowestoft Laboratory, was appointed Assistant Editor and served in that capacity until 1938, when he succeeded Russell as Editor.

John R. Lumby (1938–1957)

Lumby served as Editor until 1957 and had the distinction of managing the *Journal* during the years of World War II, when publication was disrupted; no issues were published between December 1939 and July 1947.

Árni Friðriksson (1957–1958)

Árni Friðriksson from Iceland, who was the Council's General Secretary from 1954 to 1965, briefly took on the editorship of the *Journal* for part of 1957 and 1958; he was assisted during those two years by Frederick "Roy" Harden Jones, another scientist based at the Lowestoft Fisheries Laboratory.

Frederick "Roy" Harden Jones (1958–1983)

In 1958, Jones assumed the editorship and served unassisted in that capacity until 1983, at which point he had become the longest serving Editor (parts of twenty-

five years); from 1969 to 1983, Robert (Bob) R. Dickson from the Lowestoft Laboratory served as Review Editor. As stated in the obituary to Harden Jones (Arnold, 2011), Roy "was a dedicated and grammatically astute editor, and the *Journal's* reputation developed along with its size while he held its reins. Roy succeeded Árni Friðriksson and preceded Ray Beverton as editor of the *Journal*, and he was known for putting huge effort into improving the publications of authors for whom English was not their native language. Regrettably, however, he was less tolerant of those whom he expected by birth to have a better command of written scientific English, and whose submissions to the *Journal* often languished on his overcrowded office floor for long periods. Piled in haphazard heaps, they were a serious fire hazard, once nearly realized when sunlight focused by a large lens set his office carpet in Lowestoft smouldering."

From its start, the purpose of the *Journal*, as stated in a standard note on the inside of the cover of each issue for a number of years, was to publish general articles, reviews, and bibliography, and the special papers hitherto issued in the series of *Publications de Circonstance*. Notes for authors in later issues (e.g. the 1970s) indicated that the *Journal* published original papers, notes, letters to the editors, and reviews within the broad field of marine and fisheries science, with particular reference to living resources and their environment.

Contributions submitted to the *Journal* were initially acceptable if written in English, French, German, or Spanish, but articles in German or Spanish had to be accompanied by a synopsis in English or French; in addition, all figure and table captions and legends had to be in either English or French. This policy continued

until about 1973, after which papers could be submitted only in English or French, with the latter having English abstracts. Overall, though, few papers were ever published in a language other than English, although abstracts occasionally appeared in English and another language.

...the decision to change all titles to English, while retaining French subtitles, was made to adapt to changing times...

When the *Journal* was first published in 1926, the stated intent was that it would appear quarterly and that each volume would contain four issues. Volume 1 in 1926 did include four issues totalling 383 pages, but subsequent volumes from 2 through 48 (in 1991) generally contained only three issues maximum each and maintained about the same average number of pages per volume (387). Between 1947 and 1986, although the number of issues per volume remained constant at three, the number of issues per year was erratic, varying from one to three and averaging 2.2. In eight different years, only one issue was published. Because of this and also because no issues were published during World War II, there are fewer volumes of the *Journal* than the number of years in which the *Journal* was published. At his last meeting of the ICES Publications Committee in 1982 as outgoing *Journal* editor (ICES, 1983), Harden Jones noted that the main causes of delay in publishing manuscripts were due to

faulty manuscripts, and particularly to poor illustrations. Only twenty-eight manuscripts were submitted in 1983 (Ramster *et al.*, 2003), and the rejection rate at that time was 37 per cent.

Raymond J. H. Beverton (1983–1991)

Raymond J. H. Beverton from the UK (who once also worked at the Lowestoft Fisheries Laboratory) succeeded Roy Harden Jones as Editor in 1983 and set about improving the *Journal* in many respects. Beverton also asked John W. Ramster from the Lowestoft Laboratory to serve as his Assistant Editor. Although it had long been considered, at least within ICES, as the Council's prestige house journal and a well-respected publication in the world of marine science, it was acknowledged that the *Journal du Conseil* was not well known or used outside the ICES community. Beverton pointed out at the 1984 meeting of the ICES Publications Committee (ICES, 1985) that papers published in the previous ten years were heavily weighted in favour of research on fish populations or experimental research ashore, and that physical and chemical oceanography, shellfish research, and environmental quality studies were poorly represented. In short, they were unrepresentative of the total spectrum of ICES activities. Similarly, papers published then were heavily weighted with respect to country of origin, with about 50 per cent being from the UK and almost 70 per cent from the UK and USA combined. Beverton proposed that a major element of future editorial policy for the *Journal* should be to reduce these imbalances by inviting contributions on a wide range of topics relevant to ICES overall activities, and from more countries. He also advocated actively



▲ John H. S. Blaxter (1991–1997)



▲ Niels Daan (1997–2003)



▲ Andrew I. L. Payne (2003–2011)



▲ Howard I. Browman (2012–present)

soliciting contributions from authors of documents submitted to ICES Annual Meetings, including theme sessions, mini-symposia, and committee meetings. The quality of manuscripts submitted during the first several years of Beverton's editorship was, however, regrettably poor, resulting in a rejection rate of more than 70 per cent in 1984, although that rate declined to 50 per cent in 1985. An improved flow of higher quality manuscripts soon led to a steady three issues per volume and year in 1987–1989. Also in 1987, a new cover design was approved, incorporating the English subtitle "The ICES journal of marine science".

In 1990, there were two major changes with the *Journal*. First, following several years of discussion about transferring the complete handling of the *Journal* to a commercial publisher, Council approved a plan whereby Academic Press would assume total financial responsibility for publication of the *Journal* in 1991 and would also assume any losses until the accumulated deficit had been recovered and the Council could begin receiving 50 per cent of the net profits (at that time, it was predicted that the *Journal* would become commercially profitable in 1994). In addition to this fundamental change in publishing strategy, the *Journal du Conseil* was renamed the *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, with "Journal du Conseil" retained as a subtitle. At that point in time, five of the Council's six publications had French titles. Therefore, the decision to change all titles to English, while retaining French subtitles, was made to adapt to changing times, to have the titles correspond better with the identity of the contents, and to enhance sales. The number of issues per volume and year increased to four in 1992 and remained at that level through 1994.

The number of pages per volume averaged 497 pages in those three years.

Ray Beverton stepped down as Editor in 1991 after having been arguably the most instrumental of all the *Journal's* Editors up to then in improving the quality and status of the publication. By 1991, the rejection rate for submitted manuscripts had dropped to 25 per cent, but with quality steadily improving. Beverton was replaced by John H. S. Blaxter from the UK, who first served one year as Assistant Editor before taking over the reins of the *Journal* late in 1991. With a new name, an improved reputation, and being published by Academic Press, the "new" *ICES Journal of Marine Science* was on its way to a brighter future.

John H. S. Blaxter (1991–1997)

In the first several years of Blaxter's tenure as Editor, the rejection rate of manuscripts dropped to about 13 per cent, with overall quality viewed as generally very good. The number of submissions had increased from just 28 in 1983, when Beverton had taken over as Editor, to 88 in 1993, a few years into Blaxter's tenure (Ramster *et al.*, 2003). Subscriptions and subscription rates increased, and by 1993, the joint financial account between ICES and Academic Press had reached the break-even point, although the large cumulative debt that had built up in the first two years under the new arrangement would not be dissipated until the beginning of 1995. Since then, and with the exception of only a couple of symposia, two to four such proceedings have been included in each *Journal* volume. There have been a few instances

when symposia proceedings have had to be published as ICES-funded supplements when insufficient *Journal* issues were available from the publisher because of prior page commitments. Approved symposia were granted 250 pages per proceedings gratis, with any page overruns paid for by the symposium organizers (the page limit is now 200). Symposia proceedings had hitherto been published in the *ICES Marine Science Symposia* series (previously the *Rapports et Procès-Verbaux des Réunions du Conseil International pour l'Exploration de la Mer* series). The number of issues per volume expanded to six in 1995–2001, each volume averaging 1273 pages.

The number of manuscript submissions almost doubled from 1993 to 2002.

Niels Daan (1997–2003)

Niels Daan from the Netherlands succeeded John Blaxter as editor in 1997. From that point on, the Editor's title became "Editor-in-Chief", and the Assistant Editors became "Editors". The scope of the *Journal* continued to broaden too, and included topics in the social sciences, resource management, habitat conservation, and interdisciplinary subjects, and papers from a broader geographic coverage than just the ICES area were being accepted as long as they were of sufficient quality and relevance. Since about 1995, and in line with many other

journals, electronic versions of papers became accessible to subscribers on the Internet. Electronic (generally e-mail) submission and handling of manuscripts was introduced. Submission and publication of manuscripts steadily increased each year, requiring the appointment of additional editors.

For the first time since the establishment of the joint ICES–Academic Press financial account for the *Journal* in 1991, a profit devoid of debts carried forward was realized in 2000. The citation impact factor for the *Journal* in 2000 was the highest since 1990. In 2001, Harcourt Publishers, including Academic Press, was sold to Reed Elsevier. The number of manuscript submissions almost doubled from 88 in 1993 to 155 in 2002 (excluding symposium proceedings; Ramster *et al.*, 2003). By 2002, 21 per cent of the papers published by the *Journal* were derived from non-ICES countries and 50 per cent were from university based (as opposed to government-funded laboratories) researchers.

Andrew I. L. Payne (2003–2011)

Andrew I. L. Payne from the Lowestoft Laboratory, who had up to 2000 worked for thirty years at the South African Sea Fisheries Research Institute, was appointed to replace Niels Daan as Editor-in-Chief in 2003. Payne had served since 2000 as a *Journal* Editor. In 2004, the number of manuscripts submitted surged again to 222, with a rejection rate of about 40 per cent. In 2007, Oxford University Press took over from Elsevier as publisher of the *Journal*, after a competitive bidding process for the contract. With manuscript submissions continuing to

increase year on year (from 262 in 2008 to 313 in 2009), the fairly constant manuscript rejection rate of about 50 per cent was also forced to increase to more than 60 per cent in 2010 and 2011 to confine the number of published papers within the publisher-allotted number of pages per volume. Although web-based electronic submission and review of manuscripts had been in place in some journals for several years and had been trialled by the *Journal* while still under the Elsevier flag, an electronic manuscript-submission system (ScholarOne Manuscript Central, later referred to simply as ScholarOne) began to be used formally in 2009 by authors, Editors, and reviewers for the complete handling of manuscripts from start to finish. Initially, and while the new process was bedding in, symposium manuscripts did not use ScholarOne, but by 2011, the final symposium proceedings handled outside that system had been held, and all current and new symposia will follow that form of publication.

Payne retired as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal* at the end of 2011 at the same time as Oxford University Press signed a second five-year contract with ICES. He had by then accumulated nearly 40 years of editorial experience, editing several other journals too, and he continued the notable improvements achieved by each of his recent predecessors. His own strong trait was his insistence on improving the grammatical standard of the papers being

▼ *Editors and, since 1998, Editors-in-Chief of the Journal du Conseil/ICES Journal of Marine Science.*

Name	Years served
Edward S. Russell	1925–1938
John R. Lumby	1938–1957
Árni Friðriksson	1957–1958
Frederick R. Harden Jones	1958–1983
Raymond J. H. Beverton	1983–1991
John H. S. Blaxter	1991–1997
Niels Daan	1997–2003
Andrew I. L. Payne	2003–2011
Howard I. Browman	2012–present

published. The number of issues per volume increased to eight in 2004 and 2005, averaging 1584 pages per volume; then, from 2006 through 2011, the number of issues per volume varied between nine and ten, averaging 2000 pages per volume.

In the 1990s, when the number of manuscript submissions and subsequent editorial workload began to swell, more than one Assistant Editor was necessary.

Financially, the relationship initiated between ICES and Academic Press in 1991 and continued with Oxford University Press until today has been very successful. After the initial losses were paid off and a modest profit was first achieved in 2000, income to ICES improved markedly to about DKK 350 000 in 2006, to nearly DKK 950 000 in 2007, and about DKK 730 000 in 2009.

Howard I. Browman (2012–present)

Howard I. Browman assumed the position of Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal* in January 2012. A Canadian working at the Institute of Marine Research in Norway since 1998, Browman brings to the table extensive previous experience with journal editing and administration. In the few months since he has taken over the reins of the *Journal*, numerous changes have been implemented, including faster handling time for manuscripts so as to improve the *Journal's* competitiveness, and a stated goal of offering authors an industry-leading standard of turnaround times, presentation, and accessibility (Browman, 2012). Browman (2012) stated that “the *Journal* holds a strong position with its core community (the ‘ICES’ part of the title). That strength must be maintained and nurtured while also leveraging it to expand the *Journal's* horizons (the ‘Marine Science’ part of the title). Therefore, while continuing the traditional focus on how the actions of humans impact the marine environment, the *Journal* will more fully embrace content on topics such as biophysical coupling; ecosystem modelling; studies of the controllers of population dynamics (including density-dependence and competition); foodwebs and

foodweb theory; evolutionary theory as it applies to marine ecology and fisheries; predator–prey interactions; effect of multiple stressors (e.g. temperature, ocean acidification, envirottoxins) on marine organisms and ecosystems; innovations in observation methodology; and/or data analysis that advance marine science. The Editorial Board will be expanded at a pace and in a manner that is consistent with, and reflective of, this strategy.”

The commentary above has focused almost totally on the Editors and Editors-in-Chief of the *Journal*, and only brief mention has been given to some of the thirty-four individuals who have served as Assistant Editor, Review Editor, or who, since 1998, have had the title of “Editor”. In addition, there has been no mention of key individuals in the ICES Secretariat or in the publishing firms who have also been instrumental in the growth and evolution of the *Journal*. Four individuals served as Assistant Editor (John Lumby, Roy Harden Jones, and John Blaxter) or Editor (Andy Payne) before taking over as Editor or Editor-in-Chief. The late John Ramster, who was brought in as Assistant Editor to Ray Beverton, had the distinction of serving longest in this capacity, 1983–2011, for a total of twenty-nine years. In the 1990s, when the number of manuscript submissions and subsequent editorial workload began to swell, more than one Assistant Editor was necessary. Both Ramster and Stephen Smith assisted John Blaxter during his editorship, and Michael Chadwick, John Hislop, Andy Payne, Bernard Megrey, Pierre Pepin, and Chris Frid served as Editors under Niels Daan. While Andy Payne was Editor-in-Chief, ten different Editors provided professional support (see table). Shortly after his appointment as Editor-in-Chief,

▼ *Assistant Editors or Editors (since 1998) of the Journal du Conseil/ICES Journal of Marine Science.*

Name	Years served
John R. Lumby	1930–1938
Frederick R. Harden Jones	1957–1958
Robert R. Dickson*	1969–1983
John W. Ramster	1983–2011
John H. S. Blaxter	1990–1991
Stephen J. Smith	1991–1996
E. Michael P. Chadwick	1997–2000
John R. G. Hislop	1997–2000
Andrew I. L. Payne	2000–2003
Bernard A. Megrey	2001–2008
Pierre Pepin	2001–2011
Chris L. J. Frid	2002–2004
Verena M. Trenkel	2003–2012
Audrey J. Geffen	2005–present
Panayiota Apostolaki	2006–2009
Emory D. Anderson	2008–present
Sarah B. M. Kraak	2008–present
Rochelle A. Seitz	2009–present
William R. Turrell	2009–2012
Anthony T. Charles	2012–present
David A. Demer	2012–present
Mikko P. Heino	2012–present
Francis Juanes	2012–present
Jason S. Link	2012–present
Claire B. Paris	2012–present
Stéphane Plourde	2012–present
David H. Secor	2012–present
Marta Coll Monton	2012–present
Fanny Douvere	2012–present
Carmel Finley	2012–present
Mark Gibbs	2012–present
Michel Kaiser	2012–present
Mitsutaku Makino	2012–present
Shijie Zhou	2012–present

* *Book review editor*

Subscription rates

The annual subscription price for the *Journal* has changed markedly over the years. In 1926, it was set at DKK 15, dropped the following year to DKK 12, but then increased steadily to DKK 300 in 1990 before prices changed again when publication of the *Journal* was taken over by Academic Press, and separate rates began to be charged for institutional and personal subscriptions. Today, rates differ according to the type of subscription.



▲ Different cover designs over the years of the Journal du Conseil and the ICES Journal of Marine Science.

Howard Browman selected eight additional Editors, and in August 2012 appointed seven more Editors to provide greater expertise in specific marine science disciplines and subject areas. William Turrell, appointed as Editor in 2009, found it necessary to step down in summer 2012, and Verena M. Trenkel, appointed in 2003, will step down at the end of 2012. Currently, therefore, the number of active Editors of the *Journal*, including the Editor-in-Chief, is twenty-one.

In the ICES Secretariat, this writer's recollection of staff members assisting with the work of the *Journal* only goes back as far as Judith Rosenmeier, who served in that capacity for twenty-seven years (1977–2004). Rosenmeier, as Senior Technical Editor, had oversight for a range of publications, but focused most of her attention on the *Journal*, for which she handled some copy-editing, designed new covers and the ICES logo. She can be credited with coining the new name for the *Journal* ("ICES Journal of Marine Science"), and played an important role in the initial transition of the *Journal* to Academic Press. Succeeding Rosenmeier in the Secretariat was William (Bill) A. Anthony, who held the title of ICES Executive Editor and ably handled all formal, administrative interactions between ICES and the publisher, but who left the Secretariat in summer 2012. Katie Rice Eriksen joined the Secretariat in August 2012 as Editor in Charge of Publications. Søren Lund, ICES Technical Editor and a long-time Secretariat staff member, took on the task of handling the manuscript processing system in 2002 and steered it through the initial ScholarOne years (up to 2011), and now carries the title of ICES Technical Editor.

On the publishing side, many people have, of course, assisted in bringing issues of the *Journal* to readers for over twenty years. With Academic Press and, subsequently, Elsevier, Andrew Richford served effectively as Executive Editor, assisted by numerous Publishing and Production Editors, such as Debbie Barrett, Els Bosma, and Christiane Barranguet. More recently with Oxford University Press, Cathy Kennedy initially and Ian Sherman since 2009 have handled the *Journal* as Senior/Publishing Editors, together with Production Editors Kay McArdle, Hannah Proctor (2009–June 2012), and Kate Puttrick (since June 2012). Lulu Stader joined the *Journal's* editorial office at Oxford University Press at the start of 2012 and successfully handles day-to-day interactions with Editors, reviewers, and authors. Stader, plus Colleen Cusworth and Simone Larche at Oxford, are responsible for overseeing and providing advice on the use of the ScholarOne site.

The ICES Journal of Marine Science enjoys a rich heritage and owes its present high stature in the world of marine science to many individuals.

The *ICES Journal of Marine Science* enjoys a rich heritage and owes its present high stature in the world of marine science to many individuals, be they authors, reviewers,

Editors, publishers, or ICES staff. All can claim a share of the credit for the manifold jobs well done. No one can foretell the future and see what lies in store for the *Journal*, but ICES, Oxford University Press, and those recently and currently involved in publishing it are confident that it will continue to serve the Council well in formally publishing or otherwise disseminating the results of research and investigations carried out under its auspices.

Emory Anderson was ICES Statistician during 1985–1989 and General Secretary from 1989 through 1993. In 2008, he became an editor of ICES Journal of Marine Science as well as editor of ICES Cooperative Research Report series and consulting editor of ICES Insight magazine.

Acknowledgements

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