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#### *Short History*

In April 1961, the greatly expanding activities of the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) induced the Netherlands Zoological Society to issue a new periodical, the Netherlands Journal of Sea Research (NJSR). In 1996, the journal's name was changed into the Journal of Sea Research to reflect the broadening of the geographical origin of the authors. Since 1997, the journal is published by Elsevier Science, whereas scientific responsibilities stayed within NIOZ. From 2002 onwards, ScienceDirect® offers full electronic access to the Journal, listing back to volume one, issue one.

#### *Editorial Office*

During its entire history, the Editorial Office of the Journal has been situated at the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research. For a long period (1985-1999) the Journal was guided by benthic ecologist Jan Beukema. Birthe Bak-Gade became the assistant editor of the Journal in 1989. They were joined by NIOZ-colleagues Gerhard Cadée in 1990 (phytoplankton dynamics), Katja Philippart (benthic ecology) in 1996 and Wim van Raaphorst (marine chemistry) in 1999. In 2000, C.J.M. Philippart was made responsible for the Journal. Tragically, Wim van Raaphorst died in a car accident in November 2002, and is still sorely missed by all. Eric Epping (Department of Marine Chemistry and Geology) joined as an editor in 2003. He will be mainly responsible for manuscripts relating to pelagic and benthic microbiology and chemistry.

#### *Publications in 2003*

In 2003, the Journal published volumes 49 and 50, each consisting of four issues and together comprising 50 research papers and 5 short communications. Part II of the Proceedings of the international scientific symposium on "Structuring Factors of Shallow Marine Coastal Ecosystems" was published as the first Special Issue of this year, viz. 49(2). The second Special Issue, viz. 49(4), was dedicated to the Proceedings of the 22nd Conference of the Baltic Oceanographers, held in Stockholm in November 2001. The third Special Issue, viz. 50 (2-3) comprised Part I of the Proceedings of the Fifth International Symposium on Flatfish Ecology, which was held in November 2002 on the Isle of Man.

#### *Historical and Future Scope*

Over the past 40 years, the scope of the journal has remained largely unaltered, covering multi-disciplinary marine research in seas and oceans. During the past decade, we have observed a gradual shift towards a preponderance of papers dealing with benthic ecology of shallow marine coastal waters. From the first volume of 2004 onwards, the scope of the Journal of Sea Research will emphasize the functioning of marine ecosystems in coastal and shelf seas, including intertidal, estuarine and brackish environments. As several subdisciplines add to this aim, the JSR will publish papers from the fields of marine biology, marine chemistry, marine sedimentology and physical oceanography, provided they add to the understanding of marine ecosystem processes.

#### *Co-editorial Board*

From 1985 onwards, the journal has benefited from the help of an outstanding board of co-editors. In principle, every manuscript that is sent out for in-depth peer review is refereed by at least one of the co-editors. The efforts of the co-editors over the years are keenly appreciated. With regard to the trends and plans in scientific scope, the JSR recently updated the expertise within their Editorial Board. With the help of its continuing and new co-editors, JSR hopes to serve readers and authors in communicating on the structuring factors of shallow marine coastal ecosystems in the years to come.

