

JOURNAL OF SEA RESEARCH

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The Journal of Sea Research is an international and multidisciplinary periodical on marine research, with an emphasis on the functioning of marine ecosystems in coastal and shelf seas, including intertidal, estuarine and brackish environments. As several subdisciplines add to this aim, papers are being published from the fields of marine biology, marine chemistry, marine sedimentology and physical oceanography, provided they add to the understanding of ecosystem processes. In addition to its regular issues, the Journal publishes special issues which bundle articles addressing, and often reviewing, a specific scientific theme.

78 In 2005, the Journal published volumes 53 and 54, each consisting of four issues and together comprising 50 research papers. One of the special issues, viz. 53(1-2) presented the main results of the multidisciplinary EU-program Iron Resources and Oceanic Nutrients - Advancement of Global Environmental Simulations (IRON-AGES). The other special issue, viz. 54(1), published the proceedings of a workshop on worldwide phytoplankton responses to coastal nutrient enrichment (EutWork). We received 111 manuscripts for regular issues, which represents an increase of almost 25% compared to last year, and is in concordance with the positive trend in the number of submitted manuscripts that started in the late 1990s.

The article on sperm whale strandings published by Klaus Heinrich Vanselow and Klaus Ricklefs published in JSR 53 (319-327) became worldwide news this year. The authors found out that of the 97 stranding events reported around the coastal countries of the North Sea over the last 291 years, 90 per cent occurred when the sun spot cycles were below average in duration. They suggested that vari-

ations of the earth's magnetic field, due to variable energy fluxes from the sun to the earth, lead to temporary disorientation of migrating animals causing them to run aground in the North Sea. Once this article was published, its contents quickly found their way in major international news networks such as the British (BBC) and Australian (ABC) Broadcasting Cooperation.

