

Editorial

Evaluation of the bioaccumulation of marine toxins in the marine food web is important for evaluating potential impacts of harmful algal blooms on the ecosystem and human health. Although toxins are regularly monitored in bivalve molluscs, which are prohibited for human consumption if their toxicity exceeds certain levels, less is known regarding accumulation of these toxins in fish. The featured article in this issue of *Scientia Marina* is: "Paralytic shellfish toxins in the Atlantic horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) over a bloom of *Gymnodinium catenatum*: the prevalence of decarbamoyl-saxitoxin in the marine food web" by Sandra Lage and Pedro Reis Costa. This paper illustrates the potential transfer of paralytic shellfish toxins (potent neurotoxins produced by microalgae) through the marine food web, specifically in the Atlantic horse mackerel. This fish species has a central position in the marine food web, being an important predator of zooplankton and at the same time an important diet item of top predators. We think the article will benefit our community by opening the discussion on the extensiveness of biotoxins in the marine ecosystem. We are increasingly aware that the bioaccumulation of marine toxins in the marine food web will require a complete risk evaluation of the potential impacts of toxic blooms on food web components, routes of exposure, species susceptibility and depuration rates.

This issue of *Scientia Marina* also offers you a wide range of scientific articles ranging from biological and ecological to physical oceanographic studies. In addition, you will find the biography of Dr. Enrique Macpherson by M.P. Olivar and P. Abelló. Dr. Macpherson was the director of the Institute of Marine Science (ICM) of the Spanish National Council for Scientific Research from 1991-1994. Finally, this publication includes the obituary of Dr. Carlo Heip, director of the Netherlands Institute of Sea Research (NIOZ) at Texel from 2006 to his retirement in 2011. Dr. Heip was Scientific Editor of *Scientia Marina* from 1993 to 2010.

Esther Garcés, Scientific Editor of the featured article
Dolors Vaqué. Editor in Chief