

## **Foreword**

We are very pleased to present this volume, edited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the scientific journal published by the *Institut de Ciències del Mar* of the Spanish research council (CSIC). Back in 1955 the first volume of *Investigación Pesquera* was published by the then named *Instituto de Investigaciones Pesqueras* (CSIC). Along its 50 years of life, this journal has been published uninterruptedly. A change of name to *Scientia Marina* took place in 1989 to more fully accommodate the actual contents of the published articles to a more widespread view of the marine sciences. This change took also place concomitantly with the institute's change of name from *Instituto de Investigaciones Pesqueras* to *Instituto de Ciencias del Mar*.

When approaching the date of this peculiar anniversary, we could not think of a better way to celebrate it than with the edition of a special volume. When planning the edition of this volume, we thought of several alternatives and finally decided to proceed with the edition of a series of invited contributions dealing with several of the most relevant topics in today's marine sciences. We first thought of the possible subjects and agreed on the view that most of the large subjects and topics fully alive on today's marine sciences should be present, also in a way that could be a reflection of *Scientia Marina / Investigación Pesquera* subjects throughout its life. The principal aim was to obtain free visions of different fields within marine sciences, written by respected scientists within their own fields, to envisage where marine sciences are and where they are going, but, very importantly, taking into account the recent past, the last fifty years. We then looked for appropriate possible authors and invited them to present a contribution to this especial volume. This was not an easy task. We looked for relevant researchers within each of the wide fields we identified and tried at the same time to avoid present scientific editors of the journal as contributors of this volume in order to open the journal to some fields which representation has not been traditionally very important in our journal contributions. Unfortunately, an excess of workload, fully characteristic of today's scientific activity within marine sciences, has not made possible to finally count on the contributions of some of the identified possible authors. This is an understandable situation that reflects the health, production and activity of marine sciences. Fifty years ago the number of marine researchers was at least one order of magnitude lower than today. This is good news, but certainly requires the adaptation of scientists and research to new technologies and approaches. Within our particular field of edition and publication of scientific papers, today's process is really very different than that taking place two or more decades ago, and we clearly believe that there is still a place for journals such as *Scientia Marina*. We are slowly adapting to the new changing world of marine sciences and we hope to be able to evolve and survive for many years. In fifty years time, publication of improved additions to marine sciences knowledge will certainly be very different from today's, but, who knows, we hope to be still alive.

In this respect, *Scientia Marina / Investigación Pesquera* has undoubtedly contributed since its very beginning to improve the knowledge on the biology, ecology, fisheries, physics, chemistry and geology of the seas. Even though modest, its contribution has allowed researchers from most seas of the globe to publish their results. Throughout its life, the focus of the research has centred on the Mediterranean Sea and adjacent Atlantic Ocean, but contributions from most of the oceans of the world have been published in our journal, as well as many contributions with-

out an evident geographical component, such as modelling, experimental work, physiology, etc. In this way, we are proud of our past. Survival of an institutional journal is not an easy task and needs time and effort from many different sides: authors, editors, reviewers, technical editors, etc. Many different people have been involved in the running and production of *Scientia Marina / Investigación Pesquera* since the early days. The success of achieving its fiftieth anniversary is therefore the product of a real collective work.

We hope that the collection of articles edited in this volume contributes to improve the understanding of our seas and may help researchers to focus their approaches and provide new insights into the centre of our research, the oceans.

THE EDITORS