

EDITORIAL

MEPS continues to grow — where is the limit?

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Marine Ecology Progress Series (MEPS) is receiving ever-increasing numbers of manuscripts. And we are pleased about this. The more so, since the scientific quality of most of these manuscripts is high. For the majority of marine ecologists, MEPS is the world-wide stage for their work.

MEPS now publishes 14 volumes per year. In order to accommodate the increasing flow of high-quality manuscripts, we would have to publish 20 volumes in 1996. This may be beyond the limit acceptable to our subscribers (comments are invited). Many libraries suffer from insufficient financial support. They must make carefully considered decisions as to how many and what journals they can afford.

Quick publication has always been a major asset of MEPS, and we shall do everything possible to keep it at that. Other assets are the professional work of our copy-editors and typesetters and our restrictive price policy (the price per volume has remained unchanged since 1990).

Where then is the problem? It lies in finding the right balance between quality and speed on the one hand and annual output and costs on the other.

At Inter-Research, we have discussed this problem in depth. Our solution is this: MEPS will publish 16 volumes in 1996. This will be the limit for the foreseeable future. We will also maintain the price per volume at the 1990 level. How can we accomplish this? By further stiffening the manuscript selection process. By rejecting manuscripts which are primarily descriptive as

well as those with topics on the margin of MEPS' scope. And, last but not least, by further increasing the efficiency of our production processes.

Quality has its price, but the price has its limits.

New developments have widened the stage. Inter-Research has taken over 'Marine Microbial Food Webs', a journal with a high Citation Impact Factor (hitherto owned by the Institut Océanographique, Paris, and printed by Gauthier-Villars, Montrouge, France). We have renamed the journal 'Aquatic Microbial Ecology' (AME), enlarged its editorial staff and widened its scope. AME is being operated as a sister journal to MEPS. It is edited by 13 Subject Editors, all highly regarded experts of international reputation (Managing Editor: Dr. Fereidoun Rassoulzadegan, Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers, Université Paris VI - CNRS, Station Zoologique, BP 28, F-06230 Villefranche-sur-Mer, France)*. AME is served by the same group of copy-editors and typesetters as MEPS and it is printed by the same printing house. Microbial ecologists are invited to publish also in AME.

We hope that the scopes of MEPS and AME will complement each other. Together, these two journals can provide sufficient space to accommodate substantial numbers of high-quality manuscripts.

*See inside back cover of this issue for more details of AME. Complimentary sample copies are available from Inter-Research