

## FOREWORD

*The IBP/PM-UNESCO Symposium on the Eastern Mediterranean Sea was held in Malta, 11—15 September 1973. Thirty participants from 13 countries presented a total of 30 scientific papers; three additional submitted papers were read. The papers presented fell into the following broad categories: biology (10), physical oceanography (7), pollution (9), geology (4), Suez Canal migration (2), Black Sea-Eastern Mediterranean exchange (1). Of the 33 papers presented or read, 23 are included in this volume.*

*Many of the papers, especially those in biology and physical oceanography provided much new information on the effects of the Aswan High Dam on the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. Papers on pollution revealed the magnitude of the problem which, in many respects, had been underestimated.*

*The complexity of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea in terms of natural phenomena and the effects of human activity was a prevailing theme throughout the Symposium. Thus one of the significant results of the Symposium was a unanimously agreed-upon action plan for the Eastern Mediterranean ecosystem entitled 'A Model to Evaluate the Impact of Human Activity and Technological Development of the Marine Environment' (see pages 9 through 12) The orientation of the action plan is a total ecosystem model involving long-term, multidisciplinary basic and applied investigations of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. In addition, the action plan emphasizes the need for training, exchange of scientists and information and strengthening the infrastructure of existing national marine programs. The action plan also calls for regular consultation among marine scientists and marine scientist/administrators in the region in cooperation with governmental, non-governmental and scientific institutions and organizations with an active interest in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea to identify scientific interests and resources.*

*I am indebted to many persons and organizations for invaluable assistance and cooperation in organizing and convening the Symposium. They include Dr. Max Dunbar, Convener of the Marine Productivity Section of IBP and, very specially, Dr. Neil Hulings, who organized the Symposium on behalf of Unesco and the International Biological Programme, and whose dedication in editing and reviewing most of the papers is deeply appreciated. The Symposium was hosted by the International Ocean Institute of the Royal University*

*of Malta and appreciation is expressed to Dr. E. J. Borg Costanzi, Rector of the Royal University of Malta, and to Dr. Sidney Holt, Director of the International Ocean Institute. Financial support for the Symposium and the publication of this volume was provided by UNESCO. The assistance of the personnel of the UNESCO Division of Marine Sciences and of ACTA ADRIATICA is gratefully acknowledged. And lastly, appreciation is expressed to reviewers and authors of the papers in this volume for their assistance and cooperation.*

*Whereas the International Biological Programme came to its formal ending in 1974 after a decade of work, a Publications Committee continues to undertake follow-up activities, to which this volume is a notable contribution.*

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