Editorial

At the beginning of 2023, I was appointed Editor-in-Chief of *Acta Adriatica*. This appointment happened to coincide with my 25th anniversary of working at the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, and I considered both to be a privilege and a creative challenge.

Every editor brings their personal touch to a journal, whether through planned actions, research experience and networks, or simply by chance. *So what can I bring to Acta Adriatica*? My background is in bivalve ecology, but most of my research is interdisciplinary and I hope to diversify the topics published in *Acta Adriatica*. Over the years, I have gained valuable editorial experience as Managing guest editor for special issues published in high impact journals - *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* and *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, and more recently as an Associate Editor for these two journals.

Acta Adriatica has an impressive tradition, as it has been continuously published since 1932. It has proudly stood the test of time and has since published scientific papers on all aspects of marine science related to the Mediterranean Sea.

In recent years, however, *Acta Adriatica* has experienced certain technical difficulties and the time came to make a change. In 2022, *Acta Adriatica* started using the online submission system. This was a good step for the journal, but it also had its technical challenges. This year we started to optimise the system, to allow effective communication with authors and to shorten the review process. We have also made some changes to the Editorial Board, which will continue in the months and years ahead, with Associate Editors taking on a more active role in the editorial process.

You will notice that we have also changed the format of articles to make it more user-friendly, particularly with regard to in-text citations and the list of references. An important new feature is *online first* publishing, where articles are made available online shortly after they are accepted, without having to wait for the completion of a particular issue. This change is crucial to modern publishing and I hope it will be welcomed by both our contributing authors and our readers.

This issue is the result of the transition process and contains articles submitted in both 2022 and 2023. It contains several short communications dealing with fishes and changes in their occurrence and distribution, representing the kind of articles that have been, in a sense, a signature of submissions to *Acta Adriatica* in recent years. Although we will continue to publish such articles, they will no longer be the main focus of our journal, as we aim to diversify and balance the thematic content of issues in the future. This issue also contains original articles that address a variety of topics including bacterial communities, algal ecology, shark diversity, and interactions between fisheries and cetaceans. The tribute to the work of Dr. Mira Zore-Armanda, and her seminal work on Adriatic water masses, is contained in the review article on North Adriatic dense water.

We would like to invite submissions that advance our knowledge on all aspects of marine science, particularly chemical and physical oceanography, marine geology, environmental and climate change including modelling, conservation biology, and marine environmental management - topics that have been underrepresented in previous issues. Review articles that include in-depth analysis are also welcome. For more information, see our revised Author Guidelines, available online.

Acta Adriatica is an open access journal, with no publication fees. In light of current publication trends, with increasing publication coasts in open access journals, this is a real refreshment. It is important to note that *Acta Adriatica* is indexed in relevant international databases, including Web of Science and Scopus. I hope that potential authors will recognise the value of *Acta Adriatica* and I look forward to our productive collaboration.

Melita Peharda
Editor-in-Chief