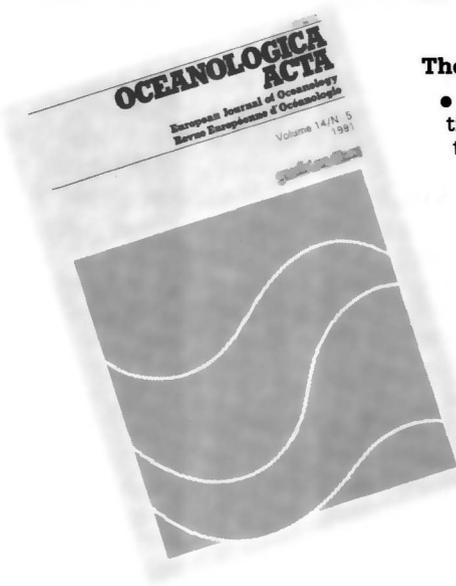


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THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Association is a registered charity and was founded in 1884 to promote accurate researches leading to the advancement of zoological and botanical science and to an increase in our knowledge of the food, life, conditions and habits of British fishes. The work of the Association is controlled by a Council elected annually by its subscribing members.

The Plymouth Laboratory was opened in June 1888, and, since that date, considerable additions have been made to the buildings, including a library, lecture-hall, and extensive laboratory accommodation with up-to-date equipment. Additional sea-water reservoirs have also been built, and an aquarium which is open to the public.

The Marine Biological Association, under the direction of its Council, has undertaken research in all branches of marine science and many of the results have been published in this Journal. An account of the history of the first hundred years of the Association and Journal may be found in Volume 67 (pp. 463 and 465). Summaries of the activities and research of the Association are given annually in the Report of the Council in the November issue of the Journal.

Since its foundation the Association has been supported by grants from Research Councils and by subscriptions and donations from private members, universities, learned societies, the Fish-mongers' Company and other public bodies. The main financial support for the work of the Plymouth Laboratory is grant-aided through the Natural Environment Research Council.

In 1988 an agreement was reached between the MBA Council and the Natural Environment Research Council to merge a large part of the Plymouth Laboratory with the NERC's Institute for Marine Environmental Research, which had been in Plymouth since 1971. The new laboratory is known as the Plymouth Marine Laboratory and consists of the staff of the two laboratories housed in both buildings.

The Marine Biological Association retains the lease of the building on Citadel Hill and continues as a very active scientific society with a large international membership. The MBA manages a research programme carried out by research fellows and scientific visitors, publishes an International Journal, runs a public Aquarium, and organizes scientific meetings.

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Members of the Association have the following rights and privileges: they elect annually the Officers and Council; they are entitled to receive the Journal of the Association at the Members' rate; they are admitted to view the laboratory at Plymouth; they have the first claim to rent a place in the laboratory for research, with use of tanks, boats, etc.; they have the opportunity of occupying a table for one week in each year free of charge; and they have access to the books in the library at Plymouth during working hours.

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue have approved the Association for the purposes of Section 16, Finance Act, 1958, and that the whole of the annual subscriptions paid by a member who qualifies for relief under the section will be allowable as a deduction from his emoluments assessable to income tax under Schedule E.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Director, Marine Biological Association, The Laboratory, Citadel Hill, Plymouth, PL1 2PB, UK (Telephone: 0752 222772).

Cover: The photograph on the outside of the cover was taken by David Nicholson at Pedney Beach, Cornwall.

Inside front cover: The MBA's medium-sized research vessels. Upper: the 60-foot trawler RV 'Sula' in use between 1958 and 1973. Lower: RV 'Squilla', also 60' long, replaced 'Sula' in 1973, and has been operated by the Plymouth Marine Laboratory since 1988.

Inside back cover. The MBA's smaller research boats. Top: the 34-foot RL 'Gammarus', which gave sterling service from 1922 until 1970. Centre: the new RL 'Gammarus' which replaced the original in 1970 and was sold in 1988. Bottom: RL 'Sepia', a 40-foot fast launch joined the MBA fleet in 1968, and has been operated by the Plymouth Marine Laboratory since 1988.

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