

Letters from the Editors

Dear Readers & Supporters!

Happy anniversary to the *Aquatic Mammals* journal, and happy anniversary to the European Association for Aquatic Mammals!

The *Aquatic Mammals* journal was born at roughly the same time that the European Association for Aquatic Mammals (EAAM) was first organized. Dr. Willem Dudok van Heel shares the story of EAAM's and the journal's births in his Historical Perspectives essay (Dudok van Heel, 2009). Indeed, Dr. Dudok van Heel served as the journal's first editor and solidified a place for archiving the details we learn about marine mammals for current and future generations. I am honored to be fifth in the line of editors with Dr. Victor Manton, Dr. Paul Nachtigall, and Dr. Jeanette Thomas following after Dr. Dudok van Heel. I am pleased to include letters from Manton, Nachtigall, and Thomas as the introduction to this first issue in our 40th volume.

My time with *Aquatic Mammals* began a few years after I finished my doctorate when I became the Book Review Editor in 1999. In 2006, I shifted my book review responsibilities to Dr. Justin Gregg and assumed a role as co-editor with Dr. Thomas. I had a few years to learn the process under her thoughtful, detailed tutelage before I'd assume the role as Managing Editor. I learn something new regularly as I oversee the business end of keeping an international scientific journal afloat. I learn even more about the science and care-giving of all aquatic mammals with the manuscripts we receive for consideration. My background and training is dolphin communication, behavior, and acoustics. And, if you had told me at the turn of the century that I'd become familiar with marine mammal immunology, physiology, genetics, and more, I'd have been skeptical. Both Jeanette and I could see the journal was growing, which is why she recruited me as a co-editor. I followed her lead and pulled in first one, then two, and now four co-editors: we have expertise on our team that covers behavior, acoustics, physiology, immunology, and more. We have a diverse team and can readily respond to the increased number of submissions in a more timely fashion. (I must admit that the one factor I cannot control is reviewer response time! So, here is my heartfelt plea for reviewers to let us know you will do a review and then try to get it in on time! Thanks!)

Many authors, and maybe even subscribers/readers, might not know this detail: all editors

(managing and co-, founding and current) have always been volunteers. That is, we manage the journal and the review process for free as a labor of love. I am pleased to have seen the number of submissions outside of the European and North American continents increase. I am pleased to see that *Aquatic Mammals* is truly a global science periodical, not simply international.

The *Aquatic Mammals* journal is the longest running published journal to present material on all aquatic mammals (captive, wild, scientific, husbandry, medical, all aquatic animal species, etc.). I am delighted to see the journal on solid ground—indeed, growing slowly but steadily—and look forward to continuing to share results from our colleagues from around the globe with our readers.

One last note—at my first Annual General Meeting at the EAAM meeting in 2010 as the journal's managing editor, the EAAM president (Birgitta Mercera) asked me if I'd follow in the footsteps of the previous editors with respect to their tenures (~7 to 10 years each). I chuckled because my position and role were new and I could not predict the future (a scientist's reply, sort of!). Still, I must say these last four years have flown by, and I look forward to seeing how our field and the journal evolve. I look forward to continuing to learn about the various aquatic mammals through the intriguing and thought-provoking manuscripts submitted for consideration. Indeed, in gaining a better understanding of other animals, I feel we learn more about ourselves.

Happy reading!
Cheers!

—Kathleen Dudzinski, Ph.D.
Editor of *Aquatic Mammals*
Old Mystic, Connecticut

Editing *Aquatic Mammals* (1999-2009): The Times; They Were a Changing

It was my pleasure to serve as Managing Editor of *Aquatic Mammals* from Volume 25 (1999) to Volume 35 (2009). At the beginning of my tenure, all manuscripts were handled as hard copies. This required careful filing of manuscripts, reviews, and correspondence. The process was time-consuming and costly. I could not have handled the workload as Managing Editor if not for the assistance of three

WIU biology graduate students: Emily (Mollman) Walter, Sara (Crowell) Therrien, and Heather Arras. They participated in all steps of organization, review of manuscripts, and proofing galleys. They created the first website for *Aquatic Mammals* and database for potential reviewers by discipline. WIU supported them by contributing a tuition waiver while they worked on the journal.

Luckily, the ability to e-mail manuscripts to the editor, authors, reviewers, and publisher soon made the process of publishing in *Aquatic Mammals* much faster. Eventually, manuscripts, reviews, and correspondence were handled online using *Fast Track*.

Each new manuscript I received was like getting a surprise present. It was very exciting to read about new research and correspond with authors actively involved in research. Being an editor is a great way to keep up with the current literature.

In addition to handling the review and publication of manuscripts, as the Managing Editor, I was responsible for the finances of the journal. At one time, I handled the billing, receipt of payments, balancing the budget, and filing taxes. This was considerably time-consuming and stressful. I did learn a great deal about the procedures of libraries, subscription agencies, universities, and government agencies for purchasing a journal subscription. However, I felt responsible for keeping the journal financially afloat and planning for a secure financial future. The European Association of Aquatic Mammals (EAAM) had been, and continues to be, the primary organization that supports the journal. However, there was a need for additional institutional support, and I secured additional affiliations with the International Marine Animal Trainers' Association (IMATA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA). Board members for the journal were appointed from each organization. The current Managing Editor, Kathleen Dudzinski, ensured the journal's financial security further by establishing a nonprofit tax status for the journal.

One major change I organized was the movement of publication from Henry Ling Ltd of the Dorset Press in Dorchester, Dorset, England to Document and Publication Services (DPS) at my university, Western Illinois University. Henry Ling, Ltd had always done an exceptional job at publishing but given that the majority of subscribers were in the United States, the imbalanced currency exchange rate and increasing mailing costs were becoming cost-prohibitive for publication of the journal. DPS published several professional journals, and this allowed me the advantage of onsite visits and discussions about publication of articles. DPS still plays a huge role in the publication of *Aquatic Mammals*; their staff sets the layout, copyedits each manuscript, prints each issue, mails

the journal, and bills and receives subscription payments. Sandy Larimer, Laura Caldwell, Gina Colley, and Tammy Carson of DPS have provided invaluable support and produce a very professionally printed journal. *Aquatic Mammals* continues to be produced and printed by DPS.

Publication of scientific journals experienced many changes and challenges during my tenure as Managing Editor. The DOI (or discrete object identifier) was established, and *Aquatic Mammals* was an early adopter of this trend. The ability to make publications viewable to handicapped individuals was emerging, and *Aquatic Mammals* quickly made articles ADA accessible to this audience. *Aquatic Mammals* began to be indexed by *CrossRef* and *Ingenta*. Many agencies and universities faced decreasing funds for their libraries. Mailing and paper costs continued to increase. The journal responded by establishing an online only subscription and a CD subscription at lower subscription rates.

During my time as Managing Editor, I attended several conferences and symposia that provided current research on selected topics. I realized that many of these papers would not be published, least of all in the same place or as a whole. So, *Aquatic Mammals* established the Special Issue feature, which dedicated an entire issue to a specific topic. Some examples of Special Issues include the Biology and Conservation of Humpback Dolphins (*Sousa* spp.), Survey of Cetaceans in Captive Care, Comparative Cognition: Insights and Innovation, Electrophysiological Measurements of Hearing in Marine Mammals, Marine Mammal Noise Exposure Criteria: Initial Scientific Recommendations, and Cetacean Stock Assessments in Relation to Exploration and Production Activity and Other Human Pressures: Review and Data Needs.

Historical Perspectives (HP) was a new feature of *Aquatic Mammals* during my tenure, which included interviews of the "founders" of marine mammal science on a DVD and an accompanying essay published in the journal. This feature was established with the recognition of the importance of documenting the history of the study of marine mammals. Our first HP was written by Victor Scheffer. The journal was lucky to have the talents of John Anderson of Terramar Productions who has traveled great distances to videotape, edit, and produce this DVD series. The HP series continues to be part of the journal.

Many experts have served as members of the Editorial Board. The current members are listed on the inside front cover of the journal (see Paul Nachtigall's letter for the history of the Editorial Board). I greatly appreciate their attendance at Board Meetings, helpful input, and supportive comments about the journal.

Securing reviewers for an article is not an easy task, and there are some reviewers that I could "always count on" to provide a thorough and timely review. I

established one important policy that all manuscripts would have at least one woman reviewer. I thank all the reviewers of manuscripts for *Aquatic Mammals* during my tenure as Managing Editor.

Clearly, the best decision I made was to ask Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski of the Dolphin Communication Project to be an Assistant Editor. When I stepped-down, Kathleen was fully involved in all aspects of the journal and could “hit the ground running” and provided a seamless transition of the journal.

–Jeanette Thomas, Ph.D.
 Editor Emeritus of *Aquatic Mammals*
 and Professor in the
 Department of Biological Sciences,
 Western Illinois University–Quad Cities,
 Moline, IL USA

Editing *Aquatic Mammals* 1992 to 2000 (Volumes 18 through 25)

Editing *Aquatic Mammals* was a learning experience. The first thing that I learned was that being the editor of *Aquatic Mammals* really meant that I was the editor, publisher, accountant, secretary, bill collector, and person totally responsible for all aspects of the journal in the same way that Victor Manton had been before me. I was very fortunate to have the support first of Ms. Winnie Chrismer and then Linda Choy as my assistants first at the Navy Laboratory and then at the Marine Mammal Research Program at the University of Hawaii or I never could have produced the journal. I was amazed to learn that I could, with the small machine provided by the Bank of America, enter credit card numbers and charge the cost of the journal to people’s credit card accounts. The printing of the journal was completed by a wonderful group of people in southern England at Henry Ling Ltd at the Dorset Press, Dorchester, Dorset. I recall the first time I visited their printing establishment. I rented a car at the Heathrow Airport, drove (for me) on the wrong side of the road all the way down past Stonehenge to a town near Bath in the rain. I stayed in a delightful small hotel in town not far from the printers. I met them and discussed all the details of how to continue to print a journal in Great Britain that was edited and put together in Hawaii. They insisted on being paid in English pounds, and the process for converting dollars to pounds and sending a check in pounds took half a day and visits to two banks for each volume. They had wonderful copy editors, and I could fully prepare each volume, ship it to them, and they would ship back the completed copies to me for distribution to subscribers.

The first thing I did when taking over the journal was to create an editorial board. Victor Manton agreed to be on it along with John R. Baker, Ronald A. Kastelein, Margaret Klinowska, and Bernhard Neurohr. All of them were European and the journal was exclusively the journal of the European Association for Aquatic Mammals. I had always assumed that the EAAM would assist in the expenses or support for the journal, but unfortunately, they did not have that same assumption. The journal had to support itself and stand on its own financially. There were no funds to begin with other than the subscriptions that Victor Manton collected and forwarded to me at first, and it took some time for subscribers to begin to pay. Other societies typically include the editor of the journal as a part of the board. Such was not the case for *Aquatic Mammals*. This created a great deal of independence for the journal editor. The content and journal policies were totally up to the editor. I was convinced that the journal needed to establish and upgrade its academic standing. So, the second thing that I did was to require peer-review of all articles. In the second volume that I edited (18.2), I wrote an editorial that began with “It is the editorial policy of this journal to require at least two reviews of each paper by qualified peers.” The new editorial policy and perhaps the new editor far away from the home base caused the journal to shrink some that first year. The volumes themselves were not very thick as the new policy took effect. It was a time to begin growth into a much stronger peer-reviewed academically sound journal. There was plenty of room for growth.

The role of editor provided me with the opportunity to interact with many people and create many new friendships. Victor Manton was a wonderfully friendly person, and he mentored me in the particular workings of *Aquatic Mammals*. He told me a little of its history. Perhaps the most enthusiastic contributor of articles in the early days was Ron Kastelein. He really liked to publish in *Aquatic Mammals*. I became concerned that, for his own professional good, he should expand his horizons and actually suggested that he not contribute quite so much to a single journal. He has obviously done that. Cees Kamminga, a bit later on, became a very valuable friend and resource. He had kept an extra copy of all of the volumes from the beginning of its printing and he generously gave them to me. The archives that are now posted on the *Aquatic Mammals* website from the time before my tenure are a gift from the late Cees Kamminga. When I left the editorship, I passed the PDFs along. Cees had many stories to tell of the journal and its beginnings with Willem Dudok van Heel, who was associated with the early Dolphinarium Harderwijk.

After editing the journal for some years, I began to search for another willing soul to share the fulfillment of being an editor. Jeanette Thomas was more than willing to take over. She was filled with excitement at the possibility of becoming the new editor. So, fittingly, with the turn of the century at the beginning of the year 2000, I passed the editorship on. I was very proud that the journal had been self-sustaining, had grown in its academic reputation through peer-review, and even had enough in its bank account to forward over a good start-up fund for Dr. Thomas. Her obvious success was immediate with the new layout, the new editorial board, and peer-reviewed articles published after that date.

—Paul E. Nachtigall, Ph.D.
Marine Mammal Research Program
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii

Thoughts and Memories from the Second Editor

My interest in dolphins, and the relevant organisations, began in 1972 when Dr. Willem Dudok van Heel organised a very well-attended meeting, from 9th to 12th February, at Harderwijk, for anyone interested. Following this meeting, he started the publication *Aquatic Mammals*. The transfer of the production and copyright of the journal to the Netherlands Foundation for Aquatic Mammal Research took place in 1978. That organisation, like the Dolphinarium Harderwijk before it, was able to assist in the funding and running of the journal. Following the publication of Volume 10, number 3 (dated December 1983 but not distributed until September 1984), the Foundation could no longer find the finances to support the running of the journal. Fearing its demise, the European Association for Aquatic Mammals (EAAM)—through its President and myself—met the Board of the Foundation and agreed to take over the responsibility and running of the journal. That resulted in the publication of the “new” journal, carrying the logo of the Association. This replaced the old format consisting of pictures of the mammals most concerned under the title *Aquatic Mammals*. This was first published in Spring 1985, numbered Volume 11, issue 1, with myself as Managing Editor.

To those of you fluent in mathematics, I should explain that Volume 1 covered both 1972 and 1973, Volume 8 covered both 1980 and 1981, and that no issues were published in 1984, hence, the discrepancy in numbering from the start of the journal in 1972. It was hoped that thereafter three issues would be published regularly each year and that was indeed the case—with the exception of 1990 when, thanks to a generous grant from the dolphinarium,

a special issue was published to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Dolphinarium Harderwijk.

Apart from the special issue in 1990, the financing of the journal—as far as I was concerned—was entirely supported from sales of the journal itself—a somewhat nebulous arrangement since the support itself depended on the content of the journal and, therefore, the papers submitted and approved for publication! To encourage the latter, I introduced summaries of the proceedings, the inclusion of papers given at the annual meetings of EAAM, and short summaries of interesting papers published in other journals. For the first time in the winter issue of 1985, a correspondence column was instituted but did not, unfortunately, meet with great enthusiasm and only intermittent response. Book reviews were also introduced in 1988 with somewhat better results. In the Spring 1990 issue, after a long period of research, I included an index of both authors and papers published between Volumes 1 and 15 inclusive. The index also included the numbers and dates of all volumes previously published.

Volume 16, Number 2, published in summer 1990, gave an opportunity to congratulate Zoo Duisburg, Germany, on their 25th anniversary of the keeping of Cetacea and to publish an article by the director, Dr. Wolfgang Gewalt, on his unique experiences in keeping Commerson’s dolphins (*Cephalorhynchus commersonii*).

After seven years hard graft, and, from March 1989 with no secretarial or other assistance, I gave due notice of my intention to cease the responsibility of running the journal; my last would be the third issue of Volume 17 (1991). Numbers 2 and 3 were then produced—the last unfortunately containing a number of errors, which emphasised the need to change editors! Fortunately, the EAAM was lucky to find a responsible replacement, Dr. Paul Nachtigall, who was able to carry on the good work started by the founder of both the journal and the Association—Dr. Willem Dudok van Heel, then of Dolphinarium Harderwijk in the Netherlands.

—Victor Manton, MRCVS, FSB, MBE
Veterinary Surgeon, now retired
but previously Curator,
The Zoological Society of London,
Whipsnade Park, England

Willem Dudok van Heel of the Dolphinarium Harderwijk was the founder and first editor of *Aquatic Mammals*. For more on his life, see his Historical Perspectives essay published in Volume 35, Number 3, pp. 399-411.