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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 increase our knowledge of the food, life, conditions and habits of British fish. The work of the Association is controlled by the Council elected annually by its subscribing members.

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, sent to members in April, and to other subscribers with a later issue of the *JMBA*.

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 Fishmongers' Company and other public bodies.

The Plymouth Laboratory was opened in June 1888 and, since that date, considerable additions have been made to the buildings, including a library, resource centre, extensive laboratory accommodation and seawater facilities.

In 1988 an agreement was reached between the MBA Council and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to merge a large part of the Plymouth Laboratory with the NERC's Institute for Marine Science which had been in Plymouth since 1971. This new institute was called the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) based at both Citadel Hill and West Hoe sites. In 2001 the MBA and PML re-established separate identities funded by Grants-in-aid from NERC. The Association and the research programme are based entirely at the Citadel Hill Laboratory. The building is shared with SAHFOS (Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science). The research organizations are part of the Plymouth Partnership

which includes PML, the University of Plymouth and the NMA (National Marine Aquarium). Active collaboration and shared resources mutually enhance the marine research programmes of the participants.

The Marine Biological Association retains the lease of the building on Citadel Hill and continues as a very active scientific learned society with a large international membership. The MBA manages a research programme carried out by research fellows (partly funded by NERC) together with scientific visitors, publishes an International Journal, Annual Report, Newsletters and organizes scientific meetings.

Subscriptions can be paid by cash/cheque, direct debit from a UK bank account or credit card. *Subscriptions are reduced by £5 per annum if paying by direct debit.

Members of the Association have the following rights and privileges: they elect the Officers and Council annually; they are entitled to receive the Journal of the Association at the members' rate; they receive the biannual Newsletter; they have the option to apply to the Director for research facilities at the laboratory; and they have access to the resources in the library at Plymouth during working hours. Corporate members have significant additional rights and privileges, details of which can be supplied on request. Student members do not have voting rights. 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.

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CONTENTS

	FOREWORD	
ELLIS, J.R. & MORRISSEY, J.F.	A tribute to Kazunari Yano (1956–2006)	1145
	BIOLOGY OF ELASMOBRANCH FISHES	
PEREZ, C.R., CAILLIET, G.M. & EBERT, D.A.	Age and growth of the sandpaper skate, <i>Bathyraja kincaidii</i> , using vertebral centra, with an investigation of caudal thorns	1149
KYNE, P.M., COURTNEY, A.J. & BENNETT, M.B.	Observations on the reproductive biology of three catsharks (Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae: <i>Asymbolus</i> and <i>Figaro</i>) from the continental shelf of southern Queensland, Australia	1157
PERIER, R., ESTALLES, M., COLLER, M. & DI GIACOMO, E.E.	Reproductive biology of the endemic skate <i>Psammobatis lentiginosa</i> in the San Matias Gulf (south-western Atlantic)	1165
BARBINI, S.A. & LUCIFORA, L.O.	Feeding habits of the Rio skate, <i>Rioraja agassizi</i> (Chondrichthyes: Rajidae), from off Uruguay and north Argentina	1175
ELLIS, J.R., MOREL, G., BURT, G. & BOSSY, S.	Preliminary observations on the life history and movements of skates (Rajidae) around the Island of Jersey, western English Channel	1185
SANTANDER-NETO, J., SHINOZAKI-MENDES, R.A., SILVEIRA, L.M., JUCÁ-QUEIROZ, B., FURTADO-NETO, M.A.A. & FARIA, V.V.	Population structure of nurse sharks, <i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i> (Orectolobiformes), caught off Ceará State, Brazil, south-western Equatorial Atlantic	1193
	FEEDING ECOLOGY	
CONTENTE, R.F., STEFANONI, M.F. & SPACH, H.L.	Feeding ecology of the Brazilian silverside <i>Atherinella brasiliensis</i> (Atherinopsidae) in a sub-tropical estuarine ecosystem	1197
YAÑEZ-RUBIO, A., LLANOS-RIVERA, A., CASTRO, L.R., CLARAMUNT, G. & HERRERA, L.	Variations in type, width, volume and carbon content of anchoveta <i>Engraulis ringens</i> food items during the early larval stages	1207
DE RAEDENAECKER, F., KEATING, J., BROPHY, D., O'CONNOR, I. & Mc GRATH, D.	Spatial variability in diet, condition and growth of juvenile plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) at sandy beach nursery grounds on the south-west coast of Ireland	1215
AMEZCUA, F., PORTILLO, A. & AMEZCUA-LINARES, F.	Feeding habits of the toothed flounder <i>Cyclopsetta querna</i> (Paralichthyidae) of the south-east Gulf of California	1225
	FISH BIOLOGY	
MATALLANAS, J.	Description of <i>Santelmoa elvirae</i> sp. nov. (Teleostei: Zoarcidae) from the Southern Ocean	1231
NEVES, A., SEQUEIRA, V., FARIAS, I., VIEIRA, A.R., PAIVA, R. & GORDO, L.S.	Discriminating bluemouth, <i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i> (Pisces: Sebastidae), stocks in Portuguese waters by means of otolith shape analysis	1237
VELASCO, E.M., JIMÉNEZ-TENORIO, N., DEL ARBOL, J., BRUZÓN, M.A., BARO, J. & SOBRINO, L.	Age, growth and reproduction of the axillary seabream, <i>Pagellus acarne</i> , in the Atlantic and Mediterranean waters off southern Spain	1243
AKYOL, O. & GAMSIZ, K.	Age and growth of adult gilthead seabream (<i>Sparus aurata</i> L.) in the Aegean Sea	1255
HAMMAMI, I., BAHRI-SFAR, L. & BEN HASSINE, O.K.	Morphological variations of striped seabream, <i>Lithognathus mormyrus</i> , populations along the Tunisian coast	1261
BOULCOIT, P. & WRIGHT, P.J.	Variation in fecundity in the lesser sandeel: implications for regional management	1273
ALONSO-FERNÁNDEZ, A., VERGARA, A.R. & SABORIDO-REY, F.	Embryonic development and spawning pattern of <i>Trisopterus luscus</i> (Teleostei: Gadidae) under controlled conditions	1281
SANNA, D., MERELLA, P., LAI, T., FARJALLAH, S., FRANCALACCI, P., CURINI-GALLETTI, M., PAIS, A. & CASU, M.	Combined analysis of four mitochondrial regions allowed the detection of several matrilineal lineages of the lessepsian fish <i>Fistularia commersonii</i> in the Mediterranean Sea	1289
	FISH ASSEMBLAGES	
ZALMON, I.R., MCCREA, M. & LOVE, M.S.	Abundance, size and habitat relation of reef fish on biogenic structures (structure-forming invertebrates) at Anacapa Island, southern California	1295
KESKIN, C., ORDINES, F., GUIJARRO, B. & MASSUTI, E.	Comparison of fish assemblages between the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean Sea (north-eastern Mediterranean)	1307
ELLIS, J.R., MAXWELL, T., SCHRATZBERGER, M. & ROGERS, S.I.	The benthos and fish of offshore sandbank habitats in the southern North Sea	1319
VASCONCELLOS, R.M., ARAÚJO, F.G., SANTOS, J.N.D.S. & SILVA, M.D.A.	Diel seasonality in fish biodiversity in a sandy beach in south-eastern Brazil	1337
HACKRADT, C.W., FÉLIX-HACKRADT, F.C., PICHLER, H.A., SPACH, H.L. & SANTOS, L.D.O.E.	Factors influencing spatial patterns of the ichthyofauna of low energy estuarine beaches in southern Brazil	1345
KRAJEWSKI, J.P., FLOETER, S.R., JONES, G.P. & LEITE, F.P.P.	Patterns of variation in behaviour within and among reef fish species on an isolated tropical island: influence of exposure and substratum	1359
MIETHE, T., PITCHFORD, J.W. & DYTAM, C.	Modelling the evolutionary effects of a coastal marine reserve on different ecological guilds of fish	1369
BÁEZ, J.C., REAL, R., BELLIDO, J., MACIAS, D., DE LA SERNA, J.M. & CAMIÑAS, J.A.	Validating an ecological model with fisheries management applications: the relationship between loggerhead by-catch and distance to the coast	1381