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The MBA is also a registered charity with its key aims being to promote scientific research into all aspects of life in the sea, including the environment on which it depends, and to disseminate to the public the knowledge gained. The Patron of the Association is His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, who is also an Honorary Fellow. The other Honorary Fellows are His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco, Dr Sylvia Earle, Sir Tim Hunt and Professor James Lovelock.

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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).

Since its foundation the Association has been supported by grants from Research Councils and by subscriptions and donations

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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RP, United Kingdom

This journal issue has been printed on FSC-certified paper and cover board. FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. Please see [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) for information.

Printed by Bell and Bain Limited, Glasgow

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Journals Fulfillment Department, UPH, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
1 Liberty Plaza, Floor 20, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
C/ Orense, 4, planta 13, 28020, Madrid, Spain  
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

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