



EDITORIAL

The Need for Cooperative Agreements among Coastal Journals: An Example from the *Journal of Coastal Research* and *Journal of Coastal Conservation*

During the summer of 1997, the Editors-in-Chief of the *Journal of Coastal Research* (JCR) and the *Journal of Coastal Conservation* (JCC) investigated the possibility of joint publishing programs by exchange of manuscripts in certain subject areas. The proposal for cooperation between these two international journals was viewed with the intent of mutual benefits to both journals and their respective societies viz. the Coastal Education & Research Foundation (CERF, based in West Palm Beach, Florida, USA) and the European Union of Coastal Conservation (EUCC, based in Uppsala, Sweden). As the exploration of possibilities progressed, it became clear that there were indeed advantages to collaboration and cooperation. The outcome of these discussions was the development of a memorandum of understanding between the JCR and JCC. The memorandum was signed by Charles W. Finkl, representing the JCR and by Frank van der Meulen and Roland Paskoff, Editors-in-Chief of the JCC.

The agreement basically asserts levels of thematic interest between the two journals and provides a mechanism through which cooperation can be achieved. One vehicle of cooperation is the exchange of papers between the JCR and JCC. Thematic areas included in this consideration focus primarily on coastal conservation and some shoreline management issues. The concept behind the potential exchange of papers is to provide a more even flow of manuscripts in these subject areas and to provide better focus in both journals. Although transfer of manuscripts from one journal to the other initially involves the editors, the paper exchange ultimately engages authors. These re-assignments of contributions to either journal would be conducted only with the consent of authors and would be proposed to authors after the review-revision process is complete. This seemed to be the most expedient approach because it did not interrupt the vetting process established for the respective journals. One exchange has already taken place and we anticipate others will follow in due course.

Some researchers might lament the launching of a new journal (e.g., the JCC) in the coastal realm, but it seems evident that there is a niche to be filled in the area of coastal conservation. The JCR does not concentrate efforts in the direction of coastal conservation nor is that a major consideration of CERF. With the EUCC in place and supported by a strong constituency, it was logical to concentrate conserva-

tion-related research in a specialized journal format and forum.

By way of some background to the consideration of coastal research in general and partly as a justification for some partitioning of research results, it should be recalled that the coastal zone is but a small part of the Earth's surface, albeit an important and dynamically active interfacial region. The coastal zone occupies about 5×10^6 km² of the Earth's land-surface and is home to more than 1 billion people. Today, nine in ten of the world's largest cities occur in the coastal zone and of the world's 50 largest cities, 33 are coastal. Further, fully 20% of coastal zone dwellers live in a city. By some estimates, the coastal zone in 2025 AD will contain more than 3 billion people, most of which will be urbanites. Not to belabor the issue, but it is also relevant to note that the submerged part of the coastal domain (MSL -200 m) supplies 95% of the world's fish catch from less than 0.5% of the ocean volume. Also, 14% of total ocean production occurs in this zone as does 50% of global oceanic denitrification, 80% of organic matter burial, 90% of global sinks for suspended river loads, and more than 50% of global carbonate production. Coastal zones are thus clearly important places, as sites of human habitation (i.e. living space) and providers of natural resources. As coastal populations become ever larger, fragile socioeconomic infrastructures become susceptible to natural and human-induced hazards and coastal environmental issues can become only more problematic than they are today. Environmental protection and conservation of resources will become recurrent themes that will reverberate not only through academia but also through the foundations of society itself. The Editors-in-Chief of the JCR and JCC thus recognize a need for collaboration and cooperation among journals as part of their efforts to disseminate information on important coastal issues as conflicts will most certainly develop and become evermore important as undeveloped coastal space dwindles at the hands of developers, polluters, and warriors. It is my hope that this alliance between the JCR and JCC will benefit coastal researchers by helping to build personal research networks, providing more focused forums for discussion of specialized but integrated coastal conservation issues, and by forging stronger relations between professional societies and proprietary journals.

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