Acknowledgement to referees 2015

Sven Thatje¹

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Here, I wish to thank all peers who helped in assessing scholarly works submitted to the journal in 2015. All scholarly work published in the journal has been subjected to rigorous peer review. Peer review is a tedious and often time-consuming process, but essential for maintaining and further developing scientific standards. In 2015 alone, 543 peers from 46 countries volunteered their time to support the journal and science, and many have assisted in more than one case, for which I am very grateful. Average time from submission to first decisions was 32 days in 2015, which is fast and the result of peers' commitment to the process. Peer review is not always an enjoyable process, neither for authors nor reviewers, but it does undoubtedly increase the quality of science and scientific publishing. On average, I seek the views of three independent referees, and in many cases, the journal's Associate Editors provide additional report on manuscripts. Often, referees are willing to again assess revised work, and this adds to the overall commitment to this process. Below is a list of the names of all colleagues who delivered a review in 2015. The information is derived from our online submission system; peers themselves mostly provide the information. Although this information should be correct, I would already like to apologise in case that I may have missed recognising the name of any colleague involved in last year's peer-review process. Further, I would not like to miss the opportunity to thank my board of Associate Editors for their professional support in the assessment of hundreds of manuscripts that we receive each year.

Sven Thatje
(Editor in Chief)

List of referees

(Number of reviews in brackets if more than one)

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✉ Sven Thatje
svth@soton.ac.uk

¹ Ocean and Earth Science, University of Southampton, National Oceanography Centre Southampton, Southampton, UK

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