

Letter from the new Editor-in-Chief

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It is a pleasure and honor to introduce myself as the new Editor-in-Chief of *Coral Reefs*. Professor Rolf Bak has stepped down from the position after 5 years of extraordinary growth for the journal. Professor Bak, Assistant to the Editor Dr. Betsy Gladfelter, and the hard working Topic Editors who have worked with Rolf deserve a heartfelt thank you. Fortunately, much of that editorial team will continue on in their positions.



Understanding the processes at work on coral reefs at both ecological and geological scales is central to the mission of *Coral Reefs*. The nature of reef organisms and communities and the biotic and abiotic processes within reef ecosystems will continue to be at the core of our focus. However, as you, our readers, are all too aware, coral reef

ecosystems have been under relentless and increasing pressures. While the causes are often complex and subject to honest debate, there is no doubt that most coral reefs of the twenty-first century are dramatically different from those of only a few decades ago. Articles in *Coral Reefs* have documented many of those changes. An understanding of the pressures on reefs and how they respond is an important aspect of twenty-first century coral reef research, and publishing studies that rigorously address those subjects will continue to be an important component of the journal's mission.

In general, *Coral Reefs* will continue to follow the traditions that have led to 32 years of success. One change that you will see starting in this issue is the reintroduction of a highlighted Report which will be available Free Access to all readers. That, along with our annual Best Paper Award, gives us the opportunity to highlight the contributions of at least some of our excellent authors.

The success of all scientific journals is based on the quality of the contributed papers, and with that in mind, I invite all of our readers to continue to contribute the results of their research to *Coral Reefs*.

Sincerely,

Howard R. Lasker

Editor-in-Chief

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