

Editorial Note

In 1868 the Norddeutsche Seewarte was founded in Hamburg in order to enhance the security of ocean traffic on shorter sea-routes. Clearly, these main goals could be accomplished but through a multidisciplinary effort. An increasing world trade and strong commercial interests fostered the development of marine science. Oceanographic, meteorological, and nautical research were carried out in close co-operation between scientists and navigators and thus resulted in great mutual benefit. The "Annalen der Hydrographie und Meteorologie", precursor to the "Deutsche Hydrographische Zeitschrift", was published for and read by scientists as well as navigators. Although the strong interaction between marine science and nautical practice thrived for a long time, it has grown weaker over the past 20 to 30 years. At least, the editors of the DHZ cannot escape this impression in the face of the reduced number of submitted papers on overlapping issues of oceanography and nautics.

Technical innovations of the past several years again make imperative a more intense co-operation between shipping, technical developers, and providers of maritime services. Improved meteorological forecasts together with online-information on waveheights, ocean currents, sea surface temperatures, sea ice, and sea level can greatly aid navigators in tactical routing for maximum safety at sea and reduced costs.

With four papers on new technologies this issue may help reestablish the traditional objectives of this journal.

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Editors