

EDITORIAL

There have been a number of changes at the *Journal of Physical Oceanography* during the past year. First, the editorial staff has changed, with Nelson Hogg replacing Eli Katz in January and Peter Müller replacing Greg Holloway in August. (Both Eli and Greg continue to serve *JPO* in an advisory capacity, and their assistance is greatly appreciated.) Second, the mission statement of the journal has been modified somewhat. This statement outlines the scope of the journal, and it appears in each *JPO* issue on the inside front cover. Briefly, it states that *JPO* seeks all scientific papers that in some way contribute to the understanding of ocean physics. There are always a few papers that treat subjects that reside on the boundaries of this mission. Authors who are unsure if their paper is appropriate for *JPO* should consult one of our editors.

Finally, as part of a concerted AMS effort to reduce the production time of submitted articles, we instituted several new editorial policies at *JPO* designed to shorten the review time. Specifically,

- 1) we now contact all potential reviewers in advance to ensure that they have the interest, and the available time, to review a manuscript;
- 2) if a review has not been sent to our office within 40 days from the time it was mailed to a reviewer (i.e., 30 days plus 10 days transit time), we remind the reviewer that the review is due at the editorial office;
- 3) if a review is not received within 2 weeks after the reminder, we obtain an additional review from a reviewer who agrees to provide it within 2 weeks of receipt.

According to these policies, the time taken for an initial review to be returned to our office should not be more than 60 days. If an author has not received an editorial response shortly after this time, he/she should feel free to contact the editor to find out the reason for the delay. Our initial statistics do indicate that these policy changes have indeed shortened the *JPO* review time significantly, and we expect further improvement during the coming year.

Julian P. McCreary
Chief Editor