

MORNING'S COLD LIGHT

By David A. Brooks, Editor

YOU HOLD THE FIFTH ISSUE of *Oceanography*, the first of the new decade. The inaugural issue, published in July 1988, promised that the magazine would "promote, advance and chronicle all aspects of ocean science and its applications." We set out on this ambitious voyage with the notion that an international magazine could help unite the diverse disciplines of oceanography and provide a coherent voice for ocean science. We opted at the outset for a high quality magazine, with quarterly publication anticipated in two years. We can now look back with some amusement at our audacity (some would say naiveté) and recognize many of the pitfalls predicted by the nay-sayers.

In a more positive mood, we could argue that the growing number and breadth of submitted articles bodes well for the future. Biology in particular has received recently expanded coverage. Geology-geophysics has not fared as well but will receive renewed attention this year. Chemistry and technology have been adequately represented, and physical oceanography has not stolen the show, as some predicted it would. Student interest and activity has gradually increased, and it is gratifying to see in this issue a fresh call for a national graduate student organization with a voice in the affairs of the Society.

The present issue also contains several thoughtful letters from readers. I am encouraged to note an upturn in spirited correspondence, for it reflects the growing health and vitality of our society. Certainly we face questions worthy of vigorous debate. Could the U.S. system of peer-reviewed funding be more efficient or effective? How can we encourage greater

participation in science by women and minorities? What can we do to help improve math and science curricula in public schools? Do you think an undergraduate degree in oceanography serves a useful purpose? We could avoid such sticky subjects and just publish good science, but the magazine affords greater opportunities and challenges than that.

On other fronts, we hope to stimulate greater student interest, perhaps by publishing selected dissertation abstracts or précis. Occasionally we will feature an award-winning student article, as in the present issue. The idea is to encourage and reward good research, and to provide students a strong incentive to participate in the activities of the Society.

We hope to publish three issues in 1991 and four per year thereafter, but the magazine's rate of growth is limited by personnel and budget. Society efforts are underway to recruit new members, especially outside the US, but a grass-roots campaign may be the most effective way to increase our ranks and capabilities. If you like what you've seen so far, why not invite your colleague to put his or her oar in the water too?

Finally, I invite you to fill out and return the questionnaire on the back page of the cover-wrap. Some of the requested information is for marketing purposes, but there is also the opportunity to indicate what you like or dislike about the magazine. We sincerely solicit your frank opinion, critical or not. I promise we'll listen. Keep in mind the famous axiom, slightly modified, "Ask, and ye might receive"; and don't overlook its critical corollary, "Don't, and ye shan't." □

MARINE AGGREGATE DYNAMICS

THE OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH (ONR) announces an upcoming Accelerated Research Initiative (ARI) sponsored by the Oceanic Biology, Ocean Chemistry, Ocean Optics, Molecular Biology, and Small-Scale Physical Oceanography Programs: *Marine Aggregate Dynamics*. This new ARI will provide funding in the fiscal year 1991-1995 time frame for an innovative meld of studies to identify and quantify mechanisms that determine the distribution, abundance and size spectrum of aggregated particulate matter in the ocean.

The critical focus of the ARI is the measurement and modeling of the dynamics of the processes (biological, physical, chemical and molecular) that affect coagulation and drive aggregation. Utilization and modification of sophisticated instrumentation for *in situ* observation and experiment on aggregate dynamics is essential. Biological and physical models will provide a theoretical basis.

A white paper discussing critical issues in Marine Aggregate Dynamics and suggesting scientific approaches for the ARI is available. To receive a copy, send your name, mailing address and telephone number with your request to: Program Manager; Oceanic Biology Program (Code 1123B); ONR; 800 N. Quincy Street; Arlington, VA 22217-5000.

Interested investigators are encouraged to contact the appropriate ONR program manager for specific information. Planning letters for Marine Aggregate Dynamics research were requested in January 1990. Funding will become available beginning October 1, 1990. ONR points of contact are: Ann Bucklin (Oceanic Biology Program; 202-696-4590), Curt Mobley (Ocean Optics Program; 202-696-4732), Ed Green (Ocean Chemistry Program; 202-696-4591), Alan Brandt (Small-Scale Physical Oceanography Program; 202-696-4100), and Randy Alberte (Molecular Biology Program; 202-696-4039).