

# From Editor-in-Chief: Editing in the Time of Papers Hyperproduction



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Dear readers,

We are pleased to present April's Volume 15, Issue 29 of Transactions on Maritime Science (ToMS).

It is my great privilege to welcome Prof. Thaib Rizwan from Universitas Syiah Kuala, Indonesia, as our new Associate Editor. We look forward to his contribution to the journal's continued development.

This issue, comprising 31 papers, is the largest in the journal's history. This growth is not incidental. It reflects a broader transformation in scientific publishing—one marked by a rapid expansion in the production of research articles. We are operating in a system defined by hyperproduction.

Several factors have contributed to this situation. The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily accelerated scientific output, as researchers adapted to new working conditions. More recently, the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) tools has further changed the landscape of academic writing. These technologies have reduced the time required to produce manuscripts and have lowered certain technical barriers to publication. While they offer undeniable benefits, they also raise important questions about authorship, originality, and the depth of scientific contribution.

In this context, the editor's role is not diminished, but it is intensified. The central challenge is no longer simply how to publish, but what merits publication. Maintaining quality in the face of increasing quantity requires careful editorial judgment, robust peer review, and clearly defined policies.

The growth of ToMS illustrates these pressures. In its first year, the journal published 15 articles. Since then, submissions and publications have increased severalfold, with recent years showing more than a threefold rise compared to the journal's early period. In 2025, submissions reached 209 manuscripts, a number that continues to fluctuate but reflects an upward trend.

Such growth inevitably affects editorial decisions. If the journal were to maintain the publication volume of its earliest issues, rejection rates would exceed 93 %. While such figures are indicative rather than absolute, they highlight the structural challenge facing contemporary scientific journals: balancing inclusivity and selectivity, growth and rigor.

At the same time, the scope of research continues to expand. In this issue, readers will find contributions addressing emerging technologies in maritime science, including the Internet of Things (IoT), intelligent engine systems, and hybrid propulsion. Alongside these are analyses of pressing legal and regulatory topics, such as maritime boundary disputes, offshore wind farm governance, submarine cable regulation, and the Hong Kong Convention. This diversity reflects the field's multidisciplinary nature and its evolving priorities.

We are aware that the review process can be time-consuming, and we appreciate our authors' patience. Our commitment remains to provide thorough and meaningful evaluations by selecting reviewers with specific expertise relevant to each submission. In a time of accelerated production, careful review becomes more – not less – essential.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to this issue – authors, reviewers, editors, language editors, and the broader editorial team. Their collective effort sustains the journal's quality and integrity.

As we move forward, the task is not simply to publish more, but to publish responsibly. In an era of hyperproduction, discernment remains the cornerstone of scientific progress.

**Editor-in-Chief**