



Editorial

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Firstly I would like to wish our colleagues and readers a Happy belated New Year. Much strength will be needed to surpass crises that thrive in our countries, such as the economic crisis in Brazil or the political-and-economic crisis in Venezuela, both of which heavily impact on research in our countries and, consequently, on our publishing productivity. Regretably, economic constraints have also caused our sister Society, Sociedad Mexicana de Mastozoología Marina SOMEMMA, to withdraw support to LAJAM as of June 2018.

Secondly, I would like to apologize: due to unforeseen problems, we are delayed in releasing our 13th volume of LAJAM, consisting of two issues (1-2). On a more positive note, I would like to tell you about exciting changes for 2019 in our journal. The editorial committee has met in person during the 18th Reunión de Trabajo de Expertos en Mamíferos Acuáticos de América del Sur (RT) in Lima in early December 2018 and has decided on reviewing and renewing the editorial committee, publishing the new submission guidelines, implementing shorter deadlines for all steps of the submission-editorial-publication process and the online-first system, and actively seeking indexation for our journal over the next few years.

So should you be interested in becoming involved and committing to help make your journal grow in the capacity of an editor, please send us a message. Keep an eye for soon-to-come announcements on the new changes to the journal. And do submit your articles, we are already accepting submissions for LAJAM 14(1) due July 2019. I especially encourage those authors who have presented during the 18 RT to send manuscripts for consideration. And for those who wish to present during the 19 RT in Praia do Forte, Bahia, Brazil as well. Now some good news for students:

YAQU PACHA, our journal's long-term sponsor, an organization that promotes aquatic mammal protection, conservation, and research in South America, has generously offered our Sociedad two full travel grants (including airfare, accommodation, and registration) to assist students attending the 2nd World Marine Mammal Science Conference/23rd

Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, to take place in Barcelona, Spain, 9-12 December 2019. To be eligible for one of the grants, an applicant must be a student or have completed studies no earlier than 1 December 2018, submit a manuscript as first author to LAJAM by 31 March 2019, and be accepted for publication in LAJAM's first issue of 2019, due in July. An independent panel of experts will deliver their results by the end of June 2019. Questions regarding these travel grants should be directed to lajam.editors@gmail.com. Good luck to all students.

In this double volume we present four notes and a short communication, all on cetaceans, large and small. In Argentina, a semi-submersible designed especially for underwater whale-watching has been tested by Sironi *et al.* as a platform of opportunity to assess health, observe behavior and derive demographic information on Southern right whales off Península Valdés. Félix and colleagues reported the case of a bottlenose dolphin repeatedly entangled in fishing gear in Ecuador, drawing attention to a major problem that small cetaceans face in coastal waters during their lifetime, which otherwise affects cetaceans, from small porpoises to large whales, throughout the world. During a short-period rehabilitation attempt of a franciscana dolphin, Bassoi and coworkers were able to experimentally evaluate gastrointestinal passage time, as well as, after the dolphin's death, assess the condition of prey hard parts after gastric digestion. Latin American researchers keep unveiling new species distribution along the region, as more effort is put into it and stranding networks become implemented, and this volume of LAJAM brings new information from two islands of the Caribbean. Bachara and collaborators reported the first stranding event of a Cuvier's beaked whale in the eastern Caribbean island of Barbuda, whereas Bachara *et al.* report the first sighting of pantropical spotted dolphin in Puerto Rican waters.

Again, I wish you a happy productive year and encourage you to become involved in LAJAM, either as an author, reviewer or editor.