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The Association is a registered charity and was founded in 1884 to promote accurate researches leading to the advancement of zoological and botanical science and to increase our knowledge of the food, life, conditions and habits of British fish. The work of the Association is controlled by the Council elected annually by its subscribing members.

The Marine Biological Association, under the direction of its Council, has undertaken research in all branches of marine science and many of the results have been published in this Journal. An account of the history of the first hundred years of the Association and Journal may be found in Volume 67 (pp. 463 and 465). Summaries of the activities and research of the Association are given annually in the Report of the Council, sent to members in April, and to other subscribers with a later issue of the *JMBA*.

Since its foundation the Association has been supported by grants from Research Councils and by subscriptions and donations from private members, universities, learned societies, the Fishmongers' Company and other public bodies.

The Plymouth Laboratory was opened in June 1888 and, since that date, considerable additions have been made to the buildings, including a library, resource centre, extensive laboratory accommodation and seawater facilities.

In 1988 an agreement was reached between the MBA Council and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to merge a large part of the Plymouth Laboratory with the NERC's Institute for Marine Science which had been in Plymouth since 1971. This new institute was called the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) based at both Citadel Hill and West Hoe sites. In 2001 the MBA and PML re-established separate identities funded by Grants-in-aid from NERC. The Association and the research programme are

based entirely at the Citadel Hill Laboratory. The building is shared with SAHFOS (Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science).

The Marine Biological Association retains the lease of the building on Citadel Hill and continues as a very active scientific learned society with a large international membership. The MBA manages a research programme carried out by research fellows (partly funded by NERC) together with scientific visitors, publishes an International Journal, Annual Report, Newsletters and organizes scientific meetings.

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