

EDITORIAL

CIOH: 50 years of science and service to the sea
*CIOH: 50 años de ciencia y servicio al mar*DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26640/22159045.2025.659>Alexis Grattz Bonilla¹**CITE AS FOLLOWS:****Grattz Bonilla, A. (2025).** CIOH: 50 years of science and service to the sea. *CIOH Scientific Bulletin*, 44(1), 3-4. <https://doi.org/10.26640/22159045.2025.659>

The commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Center for Oceanographic and Hydrographic Research of the Caribbean (CIOH) represents a milestone of huge significance for the country's maritime community. Since its creation in 1975 as a division of the General Maritime Directorate (Dimar), the CIOH has consolidated itself as an entity dedicated to generating knowledge on topics belonging to disciplines such as oceanography, hydrography, marine protection and the integrated management of coastal zones.

Five decades of uninterrupted work have allowed the CIOH to position itself as a national and international reference point for scientific research applied to the sea, making decisive contributions to maritime safety, the protection of human life at sea, and the preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems. Its contributions go beyond merely academic endeavours: they constitute a strategic pillar for how the Colombian Maritime Authority carries out its functions, showcasing the nation on the world stage.

The CIOH's track record is marked by both excellence and innovation. Over the years, its highly qualified human talent, with the support of scientific research platforms, has developed products and services that have had far-reaching impacts, such as the marine weather forecasts and the nautical cartography of Colombian territorial waters, both in the Caribbean and the Pacific. These contributions not only strengthen navigation safety, but also support decision making in strategic, economic and environmental settings.

In addition, I wish to highlight the role of the *CIOH Scientific Bulletin* as a tool for scientific dissemination since 1977. Its evolution as a unified journal shines a spotlight on the production of Dimar's research centers, located on the Caribbean and Pacific coasts. This issue of the Bulletin is a demonstration of how this publication contributes to preserving and promoting the scientific output of the CIOH.

The recognition of the scientific community and international bodies like the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reflects the robustness of our contributions. Furthermore, the endorsement of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MinCiencias) in designating us as a recognised research center reaffirms the validity and relevance of our work, spurring us on to continue contributing knowledge that is both useful and applicable to the country.

Today the CIOH not only looks back with pride, but also maps out its future with renewed commitment. In a global context in which maritime safety, climate change and sustainable management of marine resources demand increasingly more comprehensive responses, the CIOH presents itself as an institution that is prepared for the challenges of the 21st century. Its capacity to integrate science, technology and public policy makes it a key player in ensuring a balance between development and sustainability in Colombia's maritime and coastal zones.

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Celebrating these 50 years means recognizing the value of those who have made this journey possible: the researchers, technicians and staff that have offered their knowledge and dedication to serve their country. It also means reaffirming our commitment to the coming generations, who will find the CIOH to be a strategic ally as they continue exploring, understanding and protecting marine heritage.

Our fiftieth anniversary is not the end of our journey, but rather a time to set sail again.

It is an opportunity to renew the scientific spirit, strengthen international cooperation and continue innovating for the benefit of the maritime and academic communities, and the whole of Colombian society. With a half century of experience and a forward-looking vision, the CIOH stands as a living testimony of what science can achieve when you combine a dedication to service and institutional commitment.