

## Introduction

In the fall of 2022, we publish the 15<sup>th</sup> volume of *Surtsey Research* which includes nine papers in the fields of terrestrial biology, marine biology, and geology. The papers are written by about 30 authors taking part in research on Surtsey or other related Icelandic environments in the last few years.

Research activity and monitoring on Surtsey has continued annually from the time the island rose from the sea in 1963. A unique record of geological and biological data has been accumulated making Surtsey one of the best monitored volcanoes in the world. The research activity and interest in the island was naturally greatest during the years following the eruption, as well as funding for establishing new research and facilities on the island.

The Surtsey Research Society, with the support of several research institutions and universities in Iceland, has through the years ensured that the research activities on the island have continued. In recent years it has anything but declined. Young and enthusiastic scientists, the third generation, have taken over and broadened the research taking place on the island. The results of some of their works can be seen in the current and latest volumes of *Surtsey Research*.

We acknowledge the work of Bjarni D. Sigurðsson, the current editor in chief of *Surtsey Research* and his team of co-editors, Karl Gunnarsson, Kristján Jónasson Lilja Gunnarsdóttir, Lovísa G. Ásbjörnsdóttir, Olga K. Vilmundardóttir and Tobias Björn Weisenberger. The continuous research expeditions to Surtsey through the years have not the least been made possible by the persistent assistance from the Icelandic Coast Guard, both on sea and in the air.

In 2023 sixty years will have passed from the beginning of the Surtsey eruption. It is of importance to continue research on the island and maintain its conservation and status as a World Heritage Site. Only the first chapters in the Surtsey story have yet been written.

On behalf of the Surtsey Research Society

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vice-chairman 2009 - 2022