

Fishery Bulletin

Guidelines for authors

Contributions published in *Fishery Bulletin* describe original research in marine fishery science, fishery engineering and economics, and marine environmental and ecological sciences (including modeling). Preference will be given to manuscripts that examine processes and underlying patterns. Descriptive reports, surveys, and observational papers may occasionally be published but should appeal to an audience outside the locale in which the study was conducted.

Although all contributions are subject to peer review, responsibility for the contents of papers rests upon the authors and not on the editor or publisher. *Submission of an article implies that the article is original and is not being considered for publication elsewhere.*

All submissions are subject to a double-blind review to remove the identity of author and reviewer during the review process.

Plagiarism and double publication are considered serious breaches of publication ethics. To verify the originality of the research in papers and to identify possible previous publication, manuscripts may be screened with plagiarism-detection software.

Manuscripts must be written in English; authors whose native language is not English are strongly advised to have their manuscripts checked by English-speaking colleagues before submission.

Artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, or similar algorithmic tools should not be used to write or generate scientific content, including text, tables, and figures, for manuscripts submitted to *Fishery Bulletin*. Although some authors may use such tools to improve the readability or syntax of their manuscript, it must be done with extreme caution, and authors must review and edit the result. If such a tool is used, authors must declare the name of the tool, where it was used, and the purpose for which it was used in an “Artificial intelligence declaration” section after the “Acknowledgments” section. Authors remain accountable for all elements of their manuscript and should state that they take full responsibility for the content of their manuscript in the AI declaration.

Once a paper has been accepted for publication, online publication takes approximately 2 weeks.

There is no cost for publication in *Fishery Bulletin*.

Types of manuscripts accepted by the journal

Articles generally range from 20 to 30 double-spaced typed pages (12-point font) and describe an original contribution to fisheries science, engineering, or economics. Tables and figures are not included in this page count, but the number of figures should not exceed 1 figure for every 4 pages of text. Articles contain the following divisions: abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, and conclusions.

Notes are generally less than 10 double-spaced typed pages (12-point font), including the Literature cited section. Like articles, notes describe an original contribution to fisheries science. They follow a format similar to that for articles: abstract, introduction, methods, results, and discussion, but the results and discussion sections may be combined and a conclusions section should not be included. They should include no more than 2 figures or tables (2 of each would be too many). They are distinguished from full articles in that they report a noteworthy new observation or discovery—such as the first report of a new species, a unique finding, condition, or event that expands our knowledge of fisheries science, engineering, or economics—and do not require a lengthy discussion. Manuscripts on range extensions will not be considered.

Companion articles should be submitted together and are published together as a scientific contribution. Both articles should address a closely related topic and may be articles that result from a workshop or conference.

Review articles published under the banner “A Marine Fisheries Review” are papers of exceptional quality that continue the traditions of our sister journal *Marine Fisheries Review* inside the pages of *Fishery Bulletin* (*Marine Fisheries Review* has suspended publication). Review articles should address a timely topic that is relevant to aspects of fisheries science and marine biology. They should include an abstract, but the format of an article, per se, will be up to its author. Please contact the scientific editor to discuss your ideas regarding a potential review article before embarking on such a project.

Perspective essays generally are less than 5 double-spaced typed pages (12-point font) and provide clarification of misused terms or misunderstood topics in fisheries science. Essays are accepted at the discretion of the scientific editor. Opinion pieces on policy will not be considered. They should include an abstract and a list of the literature cited, but no other sections should divide the article. Please contact the scientific editor to discuss your idea before making a submission.

Preparation of manuscript

Title page should include authors’ full names, affiliations, mailing addresses, and the senior author’s email address.

Abstract should be limited to 200 words (one-half typed page), state the main scope of the research, and emphasize the authors’ conclusions and relevant findings. Do not review the methods of the study or list the contents of the paper. Because abstracts are circulated by abstracting agencies, it is important that they represent the research clearly and concisely.

General text must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font throughout. A brief introduction should convey the

broad significance of the paper; the remainder of the paper should be divided into the following sections: Materials and methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, and Acknowledgments. Headings within each section must be short, reflect a logical sequence, and follow the rules of subdivision (i.e., there can be no subdivision without at least 2 subheadings). The entire text should be intelligible to interdisciplinary readers; therefore, all acronyms, abbreviations, and technical terms should be written out in full and defined the first time they are mentioned. Abbreviations should be used sparingly because they are not carried over to indexing databases and slow readability for those readers outside a discipline. They should never be used for the main subject (e.g., species or method) of a paper.

For general style, follow the U.S. Government Publishing Office *Style Manual* (2016, available at [website](#)) and *The CSE Manual: Scientific Style and Format for Authors, Editors, and Publishers* (2024, 9th ed.) published by the Council of Science Editors. For scientific nomenclature, use the current edition of the American Fisheries Society's (AFS) *Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico* and its companion volumes (*Crustaceans, Mollusks, Cnidaria and Ctenophora*, and *World Fishes Important to North Americans*). For species not found in the previously mentioned AFS publications and for more recent changes in nomenclature, use the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS, available at [website](#)), or, secondarily, the California Academy of Sciences *Catalog of Fishes* (available at [website](#)) for species names not included in ITIS. Common (vernacular) names of species should be lowercase. Citations must be given for the identification of specimens. For example, "Fish species were identified according to Collette and Klein-MacPhee (2002); sponges were identified according to Stone et al. (2011)."

Dates should be written as follows: 11 January 2025. Measurements should be expressed in metric units, for example, "58 metric tons (t);" if other units of measurement are used, please make this fact explicit to the reader. Use numerals, not words, to express whole and decimal numbers in the general text, tables, and figure captions (except at the beginning of a sentence). For example, "We considered 3 hypotheses. We collected 7 samples in this location." Use American spelling. Refrain from using the shorthand slash (/), an ambiguous symbol, in the general text.

Cite all software, special equipment, and chemical solutions used in the study within parentheses in the general text, including the version number, company name, and the city and state (or nation) of the company headquarters, for example, "SAS, vers. 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC)."

Word usage and grammar that may be useful are the following:

- *Aging*
For our journal, the word *aging* is used to mean both age determination and the aging process (senescence). Authors should make clear which meaning is intended where ambiguity may arise.

- *Fish and fishes*

The plural of the word *fish* (a collective noun that implies individuals without regard to species) is *fish*.

Example: The *fish* were collected by trawl net.

Example: The numbers of *fish* collected that season were less than the numbers from previous years.

The plural for *fish species* is *fishes* (a contrived plural used by taxonomists to mean several or more *fish species*) or one can use *fish species* (which is preferred in this journal for clarity across disciplines).

Example: The *fishes* of Puget Sound [biodiversity is implied] or

Example: The *fish species* of Puget Sound [preferred plural for clarity across disciplines].

- *Crab and crabs, squid and squids, etc.*

The plural of the word *crab* (i.e., many individuals without regard to species) is *crab*.

Example: The *crab* were sorted by weight.

Example: Many red king *crab* were dying [Many individuals of one species of crab.]

The plural of *crab species* is *crabs* (a word used by taxonomists) or *crab species* (the latter is preferred in this journal for clarity).

Example: These *crabs* were selected for treatment. [Different crab species are implied.]

Example: These *crab species* were selected for treatment. [Preferred word choice for clarity.]

Example: Snow *crabs* are found throughout the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea. [There are 2 species of snow crab; therefore the word *crabs* can be used here.]

Example: Two species of snow *crab* are found throughout the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea. [Preferred usage for clarity.]

Example: Three *crabs* were selected for treatment. [3 species of crab are implied.]

Example: Three crab species were selected for treatment. [Preferred word choice for clarity.]

- We use *fisherman* and *fishermen*, not *fisher* and *fishers*, in this journal. One can always use crew member, vessel operator, and angler (the latter for recreational fishing).

- *The definite article with common names of species*

When the singular common name of a species represents the entire class or group to which it belongs, use the definite article.

Example: Only one species of the genus *Salmo* is found in the Atlantic Ocean—the Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*).

Example: The sonic emissions of the bottlenose dolphin are complex.

For plural common names, this rule does not apply.

Example: Chinook salmon are found throughout the Pacific Ocean.

Example: Bottlenose dolphins are found in temperate and tropical waters.

- *Sex*
For the meaning of male and female, use the word *sex*, not *gender*. Do not write, “fish were sexed.” Write, “sex was determined.”
- *Participles*
As adjectives, participles must modify a specific noun or pronoun.
Example: Using mark-recapture methods, these scientists determined the size of the population. [Correct. The participle *using* modifies the word *scientists*.]
Example: These scientists, based on the collected data, concluded that the mortality rate of these fish had increased. [Incorrect. The scientists were not based on the collected data.]
Example: These scientists concluded, on the basis of collected data, that the mortality rate of these fish had increased. [Correct. The offending participle has been eliminated and an adverbial phrase modifies the verb *concluded*.]

Equations and mathematical symbols should be set from a standard mathematical program (MathType or Equation Editor). Equations formatted in LaTeX are not acceptable. For mathematical symbols in the general text (α , χ^2 , π , \pm , etc.), use the symbols provided by the MS Word program and italicize all variables, except those variables represented by Greek letters and the superscript and subscript parts of variables and expressions. Do not use photo mode when creating these symbols in the general text, and do not cut and paste equations, letters, or symbols from a different software program.

Number equations (if there are more than one) for future reference by scientists; place the number within parentheses at the end of the first line of the equation.

Literature cited section comprises published works and those accepted for publication (in press) in peer-reviewed journals. Follow the name and year system for citation format in this section (i.e., citations should be listed alphabetically by the authors' last names, and then by year if there is more than one citation by the same author. A list of abbreviations for citing journal titles can be found on our [website](#).

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Acknowledgments should be no more than 6 lines of text. Only those who have contributed in an outstanding way should be acknowledged by name. For recognition of other persons or groups, use a general term, such as *crew*, *observers*, or *research coordinators*, and do not include names with these terms.

Digital object identifier (doi) code ensures that a publication has a permanent location online. A doi link (which may include a doi code) should be included at the end of citations of published literature. Authors are responsible for submitting accurate doi links. Faulty links will be deleted at the page-proof stage.

Footnotes are used for all documents that have not been formally peer reviewed and for observations and personal communications, but these types of references should be cited sparingly in manuscripts submitted to the journal.

All reference documents, administrative reports, internal reports, progress reports, project reports, contract reports, personal observations, personal communications, unpublished data, manuscripts in review, and council meeting notes are footnoted in 10-point font and placed at the bottom of the page on which they are first cited. Footnote format is the same as that for formal literature citations. A link to the online source (e.g., [Available from <http://www...>, accessed July 2024.]), or the mailing address of the agency or organization holding the document, should be provided so that readers may obtain a copy of the document.

Tables are often overused in scientific papers; it is seldom necessary to present all the data associated with a study. Tables should not be excessive in size and must be cited in numerical order in the text. Headings should be short but ample enough to allow the table to be intelligible on its own.

All abbreviations and unusual symbols must be explained in the table legend. Other incidental comments may be footnoted with numeral footnote markers. Use asterisks only to indicate significance in statistical data. Do not put a table legend on a page separate from the table; place the legend above the table. *Do not submit tables in photo mode.*

- Note probability with a capital, italic *P*.
- Provide a zero before all decimal points for values less than one (e.g., 0.07).
- Round all values to 2 decimal points.
- Use a comma in numbers of 5 digits or more (e.g., 13,000 but 3000).

Figures must be cited in numerical order in the text. Graphics should aid in the comprehension of the text, but they should be limited to presenting patterns rather than raw data. The number of figures should not exceed 1 figure for every 4 pages of text.

Figure legends should explain all symbols and abbreviations seen in the figure and should be double spaced on a separate page at the end of the manuscript.

Line art and halftone figures should be saved at resolutions >600 dots per inch (dpi) and >300 dpi, respectively. Color is allowed in figures to show morphological differences among species (for species identification), to show stain reactions, to show gradations (such as those of temperature and salinity within maps), and to distinguish between numerous lines and symbols in graphs. Figures approved for color should be saved in CMYK format.

All figures must be submitted as PDF, TIFF, or EPS files.

- Capitalize only the first letter of the first word and proper nouns in all labels within figures.
- Do not use overly large font sizes for labels in maps and for axis labels in graphs.
- Use the same point size for all labels, except for panel labels (e.g., **A**), which should be slightly larger than other labels (e.g., 11 point versus 8 point).
- Use a sans serif font for all labels. Panel labels (e.g., **A**), however, should be in Times New Roman font.
- Do not use bold fonts or bold lines in figures. Do not use italic fonts. Exceptions include use of italic fonts for labels of bodies of water in maps and a bold font for panel labels (e.g., **A**).
- Do not place outline rules around graphs.
- Do not include vertical and horizontal lines in the background of graphs. Ticks for values on the *x*-axis and *y*-axis will suffice.
- Place a north arrow and label degrees latitude and longitude (e.g., 170°E) in all maps. If scale of map requires more than degrees, use degrees minutes, not decimal degrees.
- Place panel labels (e.g., **A**, **B**, and **C**) within the upper-left area of each graph or photo in a multi-panel figure, from left to right, then top to bottom. If the letter is not visible against a dark background, put a white box behind it. Do not use white labels.
- Avoid placing labels vertically or diagonally. *Y*-axis labels can be vertical. Words in horizontal labels can be stacked vertically to fit.
- Use symbols, shading, or patterns (not clip art) in maps and graphs.
- For scale bars in maps, use kilometers. Use the label *km* or *kilometers* (lowercased).

Supplementary materials that are considered essential, but are too large or impractical for inclusion in a paper (e.g., metadata, figures, tables, videos, and websites), may

be provided with an article. These materials are subject to the editorial standards of the journal. A URL to the supplementary material and a brief explanation for including such material should be sent at the time of initial submission of the paper to the journal.

- **Metadata, figures, and tables** should be submitted in standard digital format (MS Word or PDF file) and should be cited in the general text, for example, as "... was determined (Suppl. Table 3, Suppl. Fig. 1)."
- **Websites** should be cited with a URL in the general text.
- **Videos** must not be larger than 30 MB to allow a swift technical response for viewing the video. Authors should consider whether a short video uniquely captures what text alone cannot capture for the understanding of a process or behavior under examination in the article. Supply an online link to the location of the video.

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Submission of manuscript

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cara.mayo@noaa.gov.

When requested, the text and tables should be submitted in MS Word format. Each figure should be sent as a separate PDF, TIFF, or EPS file. Send a copy of a figure in the original software if conversion to any of these formats yields a degraded version of the figure.

Questions? If you have questions regarding these guidelines, please contact the managing editor, Kathryn Dennis, at

kathryn.dennis@noaa.gov.

Questions regarding manuscripts under review should be addressed to Associate Editor Cara Mayo.