# DESCRIPTION

*Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* is an international multidisciplinary journal devoted to the analysis of **saline water** phenomena ranging from the outer edge of the **continental shelf** to the upper limits of the **tidal zone**. The journal provides a unique forum, unifying the multidisciplinary approaches to the study of the oceanography of **estuaries**, **coastal zones**, and **continental shelf seas**. It features original research papers, review papers and short communications treating such disciplines as zoology, botany, geology, sedimentology, physical oceanography. Data reports of mainly local interest are discouraged.

Research areas include:

- Numerical modelling of estuarine and coastal marine ecosystems
- Species distribution in relation to varying environments
- Effects of waste disposal
- Groundwater runoff and Chemical processes
- Estuarine and fjord circulation patterns
- Meteorological and oceanic forcing of semi-enclosed and continental shelf water masses
- Sea-surface and sea-bed processes
- Estuarine and coastal sedimentary processes and geochemistry
- Brackish water and lagoon phenomena
- Transitional waters

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AUDIENCE

Marine biologists and ecologists, physical, chemical and biological oceanographers, marine sedimentologists, geologists and geochemists.

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M.M. Baskaran, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, United States
U-Th series radionuclides as tracer in aqueous system; scavenging of particle-reactive radionuclides and species in marine environment; dating of marine sediments using short-lived radionuclides (Pb-210, Cs-137, Pu); sediment focusing/erosion using radionuclides; Atmospheric studies using progeny of radon

A. Borges, University of Liege, Liege, Belgium
carbon and carbonate cycling across aquatic systems including freshwater ecosystems (lakes and rivers), coastal ecosystems (estuaries, seagrass beds, mangroves and continental margins), and open ocean with particular emphasis on the exchange of CO2 with the atmosphere and on the coupling between inorganic carbon dynamics and biological processes

J. Bowen, Northeastern University Marine Science Center, Nahant, Massachusetts, United States
Estuarine microbial ecology; estuarine nitrogen cycling; salt marsh ecology

D. Bowers, Bangor University School of Ocean Sciences, Menai Bridge, United Kingdom
Marine optics; Remote sensing of suspended sediments and CDOM; Physical oceanography of estuaries and shelf seas; Suspended sediments and marine turbulence

L. Chicharo, University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal
Estuarine fisheries; Food web; Salt marsh; Integrated river basin management; Ecohydrology

F. De Serio, Politecnico University of Bari, Bari, Italy
Hydrodynamics of coastal areas; Breaking turbulence and sediment transport; Data analysis and numerical models in lagoons and estuaries; Turbulence transport and dispersion in vegetated channels

Q. Fang, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China
Strategic environmental assessment; Regional environmental planning; Marine environmental policy

R. Feagin, Texas A&M University College Station, College Station, Texas, United States
Spatial analysis of the erosion in wetlands; Dunes; Beaches (This includes the use of GIS)

A. Franco, University of Hull
Fish ecology; Community structure and functioning; Estuaries, lagoons and coastal waters; Numerical/quantitative ecology and statistics

J French, University College London, London, United Kingdom

T. G. Gerwing, University of Victoria Department of Biology, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

D. I. Greenfield, CUNY Advanced Science Research Center, New York, New York, United States
Estuarine ecology, Phytoplankton, Nutrient biogeochemistry, Molecular ecology, Planktonic food webs, In situ sensors, Observing technologies

C.K. Harris, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Virginia, United States
Sediment transport; Numerical models; Estuaries; Continental shelves

S. von der Heyden, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Marine; Genetics; Genomics; Conservation; Estuaries; Fisheries; Environmental DNA; Biodiversity

W. Huang, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, United States
Coastal hazards; Coastal hydrodynamics and ecosystems; Computational fluid dynamics and turbulence modeling

E. Jackson, Central Queensland University Science Environment and Agriculture, Gladstone, Australia
seagrass ecosystems, marine landscape and spatial ecology, marine plant sediment interactions, marine protected area networks, coastal ecology, estuaries

L. Karczmarski, University of Hong Kong, Pok Fu Lam
category: Cetacea, behavioural ecology and conservation

J. Lambrechts, Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
Estuarine and shelf oceanographic modelling; Cohesive fine sediment modelling; Modeling the dispersion of waterborne particles with/without a special behavior (e.g. swimming for fish larvae and turtle hatchlings, additional wind drift for floating debris)

A. Manning, HR Wallingford Ltd, Wallingford, United Kingdom
Cohesive sediment transport; Flocculation process; Mixed sediment dynamics; Nearshore physical oceanography

R.N. Mead, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, North Carolina, United States
P. Meire, University of Antwerp, Wilrijk-Antwerp, Belgium
Estuarine dynamics; Nutrient cycling; Restoration techniques; Birds; Ecosystem services; Dredging; Ecology

C. Osburn, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, United States
Dissolved and particulate organic matter; Photochemistry; Absorbance; Fluorescence; Stable isotopes; Biomarkers

J.L. Pinckney, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, United States
Marine Ecology; Phytoplankton; Microphytobenthos; Ecosystem processes

V. Quintino, University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal
Benthic ecology (mainly Atlantic, intertidal sandy and rocky shores and subtidal estuarine and coastal shelf areas); Bioassessement or biomonitoring (namely sediment ecotoxicology, including integrated approaches such as the sediment quality triad, biotic indicators and indices); Community level responses to natural and anthropogenic factors

**I. Santos**, Southern Cross University National Marine Science Centre, Coffs Harbour, New South Wales, Australia

Biogeochemistry; Coastal carbon cycle; Submarine groundwater discharge; Isotopic tracers; Land-ocean interactions.

**A.M. Shiller**, University of Southern Mississippi Marine Science, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, United States

Trace element chemistry; Biogeochemical cycling; Methane; Carbon cycling

**S.A. Skrabal**, University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Trace metal speciation and behavior; Sediment-water intereactions; Effects of sunlight on inorganic and organic components in sediments

**I. Telesh**, Zoological Institute RAS Laboratory of Freshwater and Experimental Hydrobiology, St. Peterburg, Russian Federation

Plankton ecology; Biodiversity; Biological invasions; Trophic interactions in plankton; Triggers and drivers of plankton dynamics; Environmental gradients; Response of aquatic biota to salinity stress

**M.A. Teodósio**, University of Algarve, Faro, Portugal

Planktonic ecology; Jellyfish blooms ecology; Fish larvae and recruitment; Estuarine and coastal trophic ecology; Ocean acidification; Indicators and ecophysiological indices

**S. Vizzini**, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy

C and N stable isotopes; Food webs; Seagrasses; Blue carbon; Contaminant trophic transfer; Aquaculture; Ocean acidification

**X.H. Wang**, University of New South Wales Sino Australian Research Centre for Coastal Management, Canberra, New South Wales, Australia

Coastal oceanography; Numerical modelling; Sediment transport dynamics

**A. Whitfield**, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, Grahamstown, South Africa

Biology and ecology of fishes in estuaries

**J.G. Wilson**, University of Dublin Trinity College Department of Zoology, Dublin, Ireland

Bioindicators and coastal management; Aquatic systems analysis; Estuarine pollution; heavy metals and nutrients; Biota/sediment/water interactions; Ecophysiology and energetics

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River plume and estuary dynamics; Ecological, biogeochemistry and larval transport process; TMDL modeling; Nearshore wave-current dynamics and sediment transport process; River watershed modeling

**K. Xu**, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, United States

Geological oceanography; Coastal morphodynamics; Observation and numerical modeling of sediment transport; Sediment dynamics of bottom boundary layer; Sedimentary geology; Coastal processes

**A. Zaiko**, Cawthron Institute, Nelson, New Zealand

Marine ecology and biosecurity; Ecology and impacts of; Invasive species; Ecosystem functionning; Environmental health assessment; Environmental DNA barcoding and biomonitoring; High throughput sequencing; Ecology of benthic communities; Ballast water and shipping introduction pathways

**C. Zhang**, Florida Atlantic University Department of Biological Sciences, Boca Raton, Florida, United States

Coastal Environment Remote Sensing: coastal vulnerability to sea level rise and storms, wetland mapping, biomass quantification, water quality modeling

**W. Zhang**, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China

Heavy metal pollution; Sediment tracing using magnetic and geochemical methods; Coastal environmental changes

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Estuarine ecology; Salt marsh ecology; Coastal policy

**W.R. Boynton**, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Solomons, Maryland, United States

estuarine ecology, eutrophication/water quality; nutrient cycling; nutrient mass balances

**O. Defeo**, University of the Republic Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay

small-scale fisheries: assessment, management

**M. Devlin**, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland, Australia

eutrophication, water quality, phytoplankton, remote sensing, Great Barrier Reef, Water Framework Directive

**Q. Dortch**, Ecology and Oceanography of HABs, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States

phytoplankton ecology, Harmful Algal Blooms, and eutrophication

**J. Gomes Ferreira**, New University of Lisbon Department of Engineering and Environmental Sciences, Caparica, Portugal

Coastal Environment Remote Sensing: coastal vulnerability to sea level rise and storms, wetland mapping, biomass quantification, water quality modeling
Ecological modelling of estuarine and coastal systems, particularly in the fields of aquaculture and eutrophication

**R. Gowen**, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Belfast, United Kingdom
Phytoplankton and zooplankton ecology; Marine eutrophication; Harmful algal blooms; Marine ecosystem structure and functioning

**F.L. Hellweger**, Technical University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany
Surface water quality; Microbial ecology; Mathematical modeling

**O. Iribarne**, National University of Mar del Plata, Mar del Plata, Argentina
Estuarine and coastal ecology; Community ecology; Food webs; Coastal fisheries

**E. Jaramillo**, University of Southern Chile, Valdivia, Chile
**D.S. McLusky**, University of Stirling, Stirling, United Kingdom
Definition of estuaries and transitional waters; Effects of salinity on estuarine invertebrates; Estuarine ecosystems, and the impact of pollution on them

**A.J. Mehta**, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, United States
coastal Hydraulics; cohesive sediment transport

**G. Millward**, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, United Kingdom
Etuarine and marine biogeochemistry, specifically reaction kinetics in aquatic systems, involving particle-water interactions; Behaviour and transport of radionuclides in estuaries.

**G. M. E. Perillo**, Argentine Institute of Oceanography, Bahia Blanca, Argentina
Geomorphology and Dynamics of Estuaries and Coastal Wetlands - Dynamics of sediment transport - Physical-Biological interactions

**D. Prandle**
Observational, modelling and theoretical studies of: Tide and storm surge propagation; Tidal energy extraction; Circulation and mixing; Temperatures; Sedimentation and water quality in shelf seas and their coastal margins

**J. Romero Martinengo**, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
Seagrass biology and ecology; Benthic community ecology

**Y. Saito**, Shimane University, Matsue, Japan
Delta, Coast, Sedimentation, Asia
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Types of paper

Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science is an international multidisciplinary journal devoted to the analysis of saline water phenomena ranging from the outer edge of the continental shelf to the upper limits of the tidal zone. The journal provides a unique forum, unifying the multidisciplinary approaches to the study of the oceanography of estuaries, coastal zones, and continental shelf seas. It features original research papers, review papers and short communications treating such disciplines as zoology, botany, geology, sedimentology, physical oceanography. Data reports of mainly local interest are discouraged. An original research paper should not contain more than 8000 words, and no more than 8 figures and 3 tables. A research note/short communication should not contain more than 4,000 words and no more than 3 figures and 1 table. The Journal also welcomes suggestions from leading and internationally renowned scientists for in-depth Reviews and Invited Feature Articles on wide-ranging and contemporary topics. These Reviews can be approx. 12,000 words but the suggestions should be discussed with one of the Editors-in-Chief in the first instance.

Research areas include: Numerical modelling of estuarine and coastal marine ecosystems; Species distribution in relation to varying environments; Effects of waste disposal; Groundwater runoff and Chemical processes; Estuarine and fjord circulation patterns; Meteorological and oceanic forcing of semi-enclosed and continental shelf water masses; Sea-surface and sea-bed processes; Estuarine and coastal sedimentary processes and geochemistry; Brackish water and lagoon phenomena; Transitional waters.

Up-front rejections of papers submitted to Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science

ECSS handles about 1000 papers per year and over 3000 reviewers are involved in assisting the journal each year.

As editors we follow the declared guidelines for the journal and we also receive advice and comments from the publishers, and members of the editorial board as well as reviewers. The consistent advice that we have received from everyone is that the editors should reject papers which are likely to be rejected at the beginning of the process rather than sending them out for review, knowing what the answer is likely to be. Over 25% of papers are now rejected at the editorial submission phase.

The papers are subject to an initial technical pre-screening process by the publisher. This process checks on submission format and examines matters such as the provision of suitable keywords and legible figures. It also tries to check up on the standard of English, as it is totally inappropriate to expect a reviewer to undertake linguistic revision.

The pre-screening process however makes no judgement on the suitability of the paper for ECSS. This judgement is made by one of the editors who will up-front reject a paper judged unsuitable without going to review. These up-front rejections are due to three principal reasons:

Firstly, we receive several papers each year that have been submitted to the "wrong journal". We have received, for example, papers on inland freshwater lakes or palaeontology, and other topics which are clearly beyond the scope of the journal. As a simple guide, if there is no mention of any previous ECSS paper in the reference list, it strongly suggests that the paper has been submitted to the wrong journal.

Secondly, papers that are "data reports" or "reports of local interest" will be rejected up-front. Papers in this category may describe a particular estuary in great detail, but fail to advance estuarine, coastal and shelf science. The overwhelming feeling when reading such a paper is "so-what!"
Thirdly, other reasons for up-front rejection can be a lack of a valid Discussion which integrates the study with the peer-reviewed literature or else relies on excessive self-citation, or a lack of appropriate statistical analysis, or purely statistical analyses without considering processes.

We at ECSS seek that all papers are based on hypothesis testing and that the hypotheses should be of general and international interest. We are interested in contributions that add to general knowledge, and move the field forward.

By up-front rejection we hope to give the authors a chance to quickly submit to a more appropriate journal. We do accept that we will sometimes make mistakes in this process, but we do this to protect the reviewers by offering them only relevant papers that are potentially publishable in ECSS. Up-front rejected papers will not be reconsidered for publication and we have a similar policy for papers rejected after review.

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