ESTUARINE, COASTAL AND SHELF SCIENCE
In association with the Estuarine Coastal Sciences Association (ECSA)

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

TABLE OF CONTENTS
- Description p.1
- Audience p.2
- Impact Factor p.2
- Abstracting and Indexing p.2
- Editorial Board p.2
- Guide for Authors p.6

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

Reviewer recognition
To download a certificate of your review, please go to your Reviewer Recognition Profile (RRP). You can access this with the email address you used for your review here: reviewerrecognition.elsevier.com.

Benefits to authors
We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click here for more information on our author services.

Please see our Guide for Authors for information on article submission. If you require any further information or help, please visit our Support Center.
AUDIENCE

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

IMPACT FACTOR

2017: 2.413 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2018

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Scopus
BIODBASE
CAB International
Chemical Abstracts
Current Awareness in Biological Sciences
Current Contents ASCA/Engineering Technology & Applied Science/Science Citation Index/SCISEARCH Data
Current Contents/Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences
Current Contents/Physics, Chemical, & Earth Sciences
Engineering Index
Environmental Periodicals Bibliography
Geo Bib & Index
INSPEC Data/Cam Sci Abstr
Marine Literature Review
Oceanbase
Research Alert
SciSearch
Meteorological and Geoastophysical Abstracts
Oceanographic Literature Review
BIOSIS databases/Zoological Records

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editors
D. Baird, University of Stellenbosch, Matieland, South Africa
Estuarine and coastal ecosystem theory, dynamics and modelling; Ecological Network Analysis; Nutrient dynamics and cycling in estuarine and marine ecosystems; Water quality assessments; Coastal fisheries
D.J. Burdige, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia, USA
Chemical oceanography; Biogeochemistry of marine and estuarine sediments, including sediment contaminants; Global change
M. Elliott, University of Hull, Hull, UK
Life Sciences (ecology, biology, ecosystems); Biota-Chemistry links; Human impacts; Ecosystem Management; Natural science - social science links
T. Jennerjahn, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, Bremen, Germany
Biogeochemical cycling in rivers/estuaries; Mangroves; Seagrasses and coastal seas; Organic matter diagenesis; Tropical coastal ecosystems; Eutrophication; Paleoreconstruction; Nutrient cycling; Carbon cycling
S. Mitchell, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, UK
Estuarine sediment transport; Dynamics of turbidity maxima in estuaries; Civil engineering hydraulics; Coastal morphodynamics

Honorary Editor
E. Wolanski

Associate Editors
R. Asmus, Alfred-Wegener Institut - Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung, Bremerhaven, Germany
Coastal ecology; Food web analysis; Primary production of seagrasses; Microphytobenthos and phytoplankton; Nutrient dynamics; Benthic - pelagic coupling

M.M. Baskaran, Wayne State University (WSU), Detroit, Michigan, USA

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, Université de Liège, Liège, 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 (NU), Nahant, MA, USA
Estuarine microbial ecology; estuarine nitrogen cycling; salt marsh ecology

D. Bowers, Bangor University, Menai Bridge, Wales, UK
Marine optics; Remote sensing of suspended sediments and CDOM; Physical oceanography of estuaries and shelf seas; Suspended sediments and marine turbulence

L. Chicharo, Universidade do Algarve (UAlg), Faro, Portugal
Estuarine fisheries; Food web; Salt marsh; Integrated river basin management; Ecohydrology

F. De Serio, Politecnico di 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, Texas, USA
Spatial analysis of the erosion in wetlands; Dunes; Beaches (This includes the use of GIS)

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

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

L. Harris, University of Maryland, Solomons, Maryland, USA
systems ecology; estuarine biogeochemistry, ecological modeling (ecosystem, biological-physical models, individual-based models); primary producers from phytoplankton to macrophytes; lagoon ecology; mass balance nutrient budgets; time series analysis

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

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

L. Karczmarski, School of Biological Sciences, University of Hong Kong and Cetacea Research Institute, Hong Kong
Marine megafauna - Behaviour and behavioural ecology; Marine mammals - Cetaceans, Socio-spatial ecology, Population processes and demography, Range use and habitat selection, Conservation ecology.

J. Lambrechts, Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), 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, Oxfordshire, England, UK
Cohesive sediment transport; Flocculation process; Mixed sediment dynamics; Nearshore physical oceanography

R.N. Mead, University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), Wilmington, North Carolina, USA
Estuarine dynamics; Nutrient cycling; Restoration techniques; Birds; Ecosystem services; Dredging; Ecology

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

J.L. Pinckney, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, USA
Marine Ecology; Phytoplankton; Microphytobenthos; Ecosystem processes
V. Quintino, Universidade de Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal
Benthic ecology (mainly Atlantic, intertidal sandy and rocky shores and subtidal estuarine and coastal shelf areas); Bioassemme on 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, 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, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, USA
Trace element chemistry; Biogeochemical cycling; Methane; Carbon cycling

S.A. Skrabal
Trace metal speciation and behavior; Sediment-water interactions; Effects of sunlight on inorganic and organic components in sediments

I. Telesh, Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, 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, Universidade do Algarve (UAlg), Faro, Portugal
Planktonic ecology; Jellyfish blooms ecology; Fish larvae and recruitment; Estuarine and coastal trophic ecology; Ocean acidification; Indicators and ecophysiological indices

S. Vizzini, Università degli Studi di Palermo, Palermo, Italy
C and N stable isotopes; Food webs; Seagrasses; Blue carbon; Contaminant trophic transfer; Aquaculture; Ocean acidification

S. von der Heyden, University of Stellenbosch, Matieland, South Africa
Biogeochemistry; Coastal carbon cycle; Submarine groundwater discharge; Isotopic tracers; Land-ocean interactions.

J.G. Wilson, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland
Bioindicators and coastal management; Aquatic systems analysis; Estuarine pollution; heavy metals and nutrients; Biota/sediment/water interactions; Ecophysiology and energetics

M. Xia, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, Maryland, USA
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, USA
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 functioning; Environmental health assessment; Environmental DNA barcoding and biomonitoring; High throughput sequencing; Ecology of benthic communities; Ballast water and shipping introduction pathways

W. Zhang, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China
Heavy metal pollution; Sediment tracing using magnetic and geochemical methods; Coastal environmental changes

Editorial Board

M. Alber, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA
Estuarine ecology; Salt marsh ecology; Coastal policy

W.R. Boynton, University of Maryland, Solomons, Maryland, USA
estuarine ecology, eutrophication/water quality; nutrient cycling; nutrient mass balances

O. Defeo, UNDECIMAR, 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, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA
phytoplankton ecology, Harmful Algal Blooms, and eutrophication

J. Gomes Ferreira, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Monte de Caparica, Portugal
Ecological modelling of estuarine and coastal systems, particularly in the fields of aquaculture and eutrophication

R. Gowen, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK
Phytoplankton and zooplankton ecology; Marine eutrophication; Harmful algal blooms; Marine ecosystem structure and functioning

**F.L. Hellweger**, Technische Universität Berlin (TUB), Berlin, Germany
Surface water quality; Microbial ecology; Mathematical modeling

**O. Iribarne**, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Mar del Plata, Argentina
Estuarine and coastal ecology; Community ecology; Food webs; Coastal fisheries

**E. Jaramillo**, Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia, Chile

**D.S. McLusky**, University of Stirling, Stirling, UK (retired)
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, USA
coastal Hydraulics; cohesive sediment transport

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

**G. M. E. Perillo**, Instituto Argentino de Oceanografia, 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**, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
Seagrass biology and ecology; Benthic community ecology

**Y. Saito**, Shimane University, Matsue, Japan
Sedimentary process; Deltas; Estuaries; Holocene; Human impacts; Coastal geology; Coastal sedimentation
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Your Paper Your Way
We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. You may choose to submit your manuscript as a single Word or PDF file to be used in the refereeing process. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a 'correct format' for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article. To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.

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.

**Submission checklist**
You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

**Ensure that the following items are present:**

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

**Manuscript:**
- Include keywords
- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

**Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files** (where applicable)

**Supplemental files** (where applicable)

Further considerations
- Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
- A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
- Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, visit our Support Center.

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

**Ethics in publishing**
Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

**Declaration of interest**
All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double-blind) or the manuscript file (if single-blind). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. This summary statement will be ultimately published if the article is accepted. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. More information.
Submission declaration
Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in
the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent
publication' for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that
its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where
the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in
English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-
holder.

Submission Declaration and Verification
Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously
(except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an
electronic preprint, see https://www.elsevier.com/postingpolicy), that it is not under consideration
for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the
responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published
elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without
the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the
originality detection service CrossCheck https://www.elsevier.com/editors/plagdetect.
The cover letter must include a declaration that all authors agree to the submission

Preprints
Please note that preprints can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's sharing policy.
Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see 'Multiple,
redundant or concurrent publication' for more information).

Use of inclusive language
Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences,
and promotes equal opportunities. Articles should make no assumptions about the beliefs or
commitments of any reader, should contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior
to another on the grounds of race, sex, culture or any other characteristic, and should use inclusive
language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, for instance by using 'he
or she', 'his/her' instead of 'he' or 'his', and by making use of job titles that are free of stereotyping
(e.g. 'chairperson' instead of 'chairman' and 'flight attendant' instead of 'stewardess').

Contributors
Each author is required to declare his or her individual contribution to the article: all authors must have
materially participated in the research and/or article preparation, so roles for all authors should be
described. The statement that all authors have approved the final article should be true and included
in the disclosure.

Changes to authorship
Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their
manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any
addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only
before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such
a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason
for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they
agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors,
this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed.
Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of
authors after the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication
of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue,
any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

Article transfer service
This journal is part of our Article Transfer Service. This means that if the Editor feels your article is
more suitable in one of our other participating journals, then you may be asked to consider transferring
the article to one of those. If you agree, your article will be transferred automatically on your behalf
with no need to reformat. Please note that your article will be reviewed again by the new journal.
More information.
Copyright
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see more information on this). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. Permission of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has preprinted forms for use by authors in these cases.

For gold open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' (more information). Permitted third party reuse of gold open access articles is determined by the author's choice of user license.

Author rights
As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. More information.

Elsevier supports responsible sharing
Find out how you can share your research published in Elsevier journals.

Role of the funding source
You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

Funding body agreements and policies
Elsevier has established a number of agreements with funding bodies which allow authors to comply with their funder's open access policies. Some funding bodies will reimburse the author for the gold open access publication fee. Details of existing agreements are available online.

Open access
This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research:

Subscription
• Articles are made available to subscribers as well as developing countries and patient groups through our universal access programs.
• No open access publication fee payable by authors.
• The Author is entitled to post the accepted manuscript in their institution's repository and make this public after an embargo period (known as green Open Access). The published journal article cannot be shared publicly, for example on ResearchGate or Academia.edu, to ensure the sustainability of peer-reviewed research in journal publications. The embargo period for this journal can be found below.

Gold open access
• Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse.
• A gold open access publication fee is payable by authors or on their behalf, e.g. by their research funder or institution.

Regardless of how you choose to publish your article, the journal will apply the same peer review criteria and acceptance standards.

For gold open access articles, permitted third party (re)use is defined by the following Creative Commons user licenses:
Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY)
Lets others distribute and copy the article, create extracts, abstracts, and other revised versions, adaptations or derivative works of or from an article (such as a translation), include in a collective work (such as an anthology), text or data mine the article, even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit the author(s), do not represent the author as endorsing their adaptation of the article, and do not modify the article in such a way as to damage the author's honor or reputation.

Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)
For non-commercial purposes, lets others distribute and copy the article, and to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), as long as they credit the author(s) and provided they do not alter or modify the article.

The gold open access publication fee for this journal is **USD 3250**, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: [https://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing](https://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing).

Green open access
Authors can share their research in a variety of different ways and Elsevier has a number of green open access options available. We recommend authors see our open access page for further information. Authors can also self-archive their manuscripts immediately and enable public access from their institution's repository after an embargo period. This is the version that has been accepted for publication and which typically includes author-incorporated changes suggested during submission, peer review and in editor-author communications. Embargo period: For subscription articles, an appropriate amount of time is needed for journals to deliver value to subscribing customers before an article becomes freely available to the public. This is the embargo period and it begins from the date the article is formally published online in its final and fully citable form. Find out more.

This journal has an embargo period of 24 months.

Elsevier Researcher Academy
Researcher Academy is a free e-learning platform designed to support early and mid-career researchers throughout their research journey. The "Learn" environment at Researcher Academy offers several interactive modules, webinars, downloadable guides and resources to guide you through the process of writing for research and going through peer review. Feel free to use these free resources to improve your submission and navigate the publication process with ease.

Language and language services
Manuscripts should be written in English. Authors who are unsure of correct English usage should have their manuscript checked by someone proficient in the language. Manuscripts in which the English is difficult to understand may be returned to the author for revision before scientific review. Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who require information about language editing and copyediting services pre- and post-submission please visit [https://www.elsevier.com/languagepolishing](https://www.elsevier.com/languagepolishing) or our customer support site at service.elsevier.com for more information. Please note Elsevier neither endorses nor takes responsibility for any products, goods or services offered by outside vendors through our services or in any advertising. For more information please refer to our Terms & Conditions: [https://www.elsevier.com/termsandconditions](https://www.elsevier.com/termsandconditions).

Submission
Submission to this journal proceeds totally online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts source files to a single PDF file of the article, which is used in the peer-review process. Please note that even though manuscript source files are converted to PDF files at submission for the review process, these source files are needed for further processing after acceptance. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, takes place by e-mail removing the need for a paper trail.

In the case of Special Issues, authors should ensure that they submit manuscripts and meet any additional requirements in line with deadlines set by the Guest Editor(s) to ensure that the entire Special Issue can be published in a timely fashion.

The above represents a very brief outline of this type submission. It can be advantageous to print this "Guide for Authors" section from the site for reference in the subsequent stages of article preparation.
Note: electronic articles submitted for the review process may need to be edited after acceptance to follow journal standards. For this an "editable" file format is necessary. See the section on "Electronic format requirements for accepted articles" and the further general instructions on how to prepare your article below.

Please submit, with the manuscript, the names and addresses of 4 potential Referees. You may also mention persons who you would prefer not to review your paper.

After peer review, authors will have a 60 days period for submitting their revised manuscript.

Submit your article
Please submit your article via http://ees.elsevier.com/ecss/

When submitting a manuscript, the author must carefully select the type of paper because several options are possible including normal research papers, short contributions, invited feature papers, review papers, invited editorials, and Special Issues. In the case of Special Issues, several Special issues may be in preparation at the same time and therefore authors must be very careful to select the correct Special Issue.

Referees
Please submit, with the manuscript, the names, addresses and current email addresses of four experts on the topic of the manuscript. To fit the broad scope of the journal, possible reviewers should include experts from a range of regional and international locations. You may also mention, with a brief reason, persons whom you would prefer not to review your paper.

PREPARATION

NEW SUBMISSIONS
Submission to this journal proceeds totally online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts your files to a single PDF file, which is used in the peer-review process.
As part of the Your Paper Your Way service, you may choose to submit your manuscript as a single file to be used in the refereeing process. This can be a PDF file or a Word document, in any format or layout that can be used by referees to evaluate your manuscript. It should contain high enough quality figures for refereeing. If you prefer to do so, you may still provide all or some of the source files at the initial submission. Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be uploaded separately.

REFERENCES_YPYW
There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct.


Formatting requirements
There are no strict formatting requirements but all manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to convey your manuscript, for example Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusions, Artwork and Tables with Captions.
If your article includes any Videos and/or other Supplementary material, this should be included in your initial submission for peer review purposes.
Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

Please ensure the text of your paper is double-spaced and includes page numbers this is an essential peer review requirement.
Figures and tables embedded in text
Please ensure the figures and the tables included in the single file are placed next to the relevant text in the manuscript, rather than at the bottom or the top of the file. The corresponding caption should be placed directly below the figure or table.

Peer review
This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor’s decision is final. More information on types of peer review.

REVISED SUBMISSIONS
Use of word processing software
Regardless of the file format of the original submission, at revision you must provide us with an editable file of the entire article. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). See also the section on Electronic artwork.
To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

Article structure
Subdivision - numbered sections
Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2 …), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to "the text". Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

Introduction
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

Material and methods
Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

Theory/calculation
A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis.

Results
Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion
This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature. However, if the paper reads better with a combined section and this prevents an undue amount of repetition then we allow a joint section.

Conclusions
A short Conclusions section can be presented at the end of the Discussion.

Place Acknowledgements, including information on grants received, before the references in a separate section, and not as a footnote on the title page. Figure captions, tables, figures and schemes should be presented in this order at the end of the article. They are described in more detail below.

Glossary
Please supply, as a separate list, the definitions of field-specific terms used in your article if applicable.
Appendices
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

Paper length
The paper should not contain more than 8000 words, and not more than 8 figures and 3 tables.

Essential title page information
• Title. Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
• Author names and affiliations. Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
• Corresponding author. Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.
• Present/permanent address. If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

Highlights
Highlights are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point). You can view example Highlights on our information site.

Abstract
A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

Graphical abstract
A graphical abstract is mandatory for this journal. It should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership online. Authors must provide images that clearly represent the work described in the article. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view Example Graphical Abstracts on our information site. Authors can make use of Elsevier's Illustration Services to ensure the best presentation of their images also in accordance with all technical requirements.

Keywords
Authors must provide 4 to 6 keywords plus regional index terms. At least four of the subject keywords should be selected from the Aquatic Science & Fisheries Thesaurus. An electronic version of the Thesaurus can be found at http://www.csa.com/csa/support/demo.shtml. You may also find a paper version in your library. The Regional Terms should be provided as a hierarchical string (e.g.: USA, California, Monterey Bay). Authors are also encouraged to submit geographic bounding coordinates at the end of the keyword string. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.
**Abbreviations**

Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article if applicable.

**Acknowledgements**

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

**Reporting of Salinity Measurements**

In articles in ECSS, salinity should be reported using the Practical Salinity Scale. In the Practical Salinity Scale salinity is defined as a pure ratio, and has no dimensions or units. By decision of the Joint Panel of Oceanographic Tables and Standards it does not have any numerical symbol to indicate parts per thousand. Salinity should be reported as a number with no symbol or indicator of proportion after it. In particular, it is not correct to add the letters PSU, implying Practical Salinity Units, after the number.

An example of correct phrasing is as follows: 'The salinity of the water was 34.2'. It is reasonable to state at some point early in the paper that salinity was measured using the Practical Salinity Scale.

**Formatting of funding sources**

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

**Nomenclature and units**

Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other quantities are mentioned, give their equivalent in SI. You are urged to consult IUPAC: Nomenclature of Organic Chemistry for further information.

**Math formulae**

Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

**Footnotes**

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Should this not be the case, indicate the position of footnotes in the text and present the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article.

**Artwork**

**Electronic artwork**

**General points**

- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Preferred fonts: Arial (or Helvetica), Times New Roman (or Times), Symbol, Courier.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
• Indicate per figure if it is a single, 1.5 or 2-column fitting image.
• For Word submissions only, you may still provide figures and their captions, and tables within a single file at the revision stage.
• Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be provided in separate source files.
A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available.

**You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.**

**Formats**
Regardless of the application used, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):

EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings. Embed the font or save the text as 'graphics'.
TIFF (or JPG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.
TIFF (or JPG): Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi.
TIFF (or JPG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale): a minimum of 500 dpi is required.

**Please do not:**
• Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); the resolution is too low.
• Supply files that are too low in resolution.
• Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

**Color artwork**
Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF, EPS or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge that these figures will appear in color on the Web (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. **For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article.** Please indicate your preference for color in print or on the Web only. For further information on the preparation of electronic artwork, please see [https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions](https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions).

Please note: Because of technical complications which can arise by converting color figures to "gray scale" (for the printed version should you not opt for color in print) please submit in addition usable black and white versions of all the color illustrations.

**Figure captions**
Ensure that each illustration has a caption. A caption should comprise a brief title (**not** on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

**Tables**
Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

**References**

**Citation in text**
Responsibility for the accuracy of bibliographic citations lies entirely with the Author(s). Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text as "unpublished results" or "personal communication". Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication. Papers which have been submitted are not valid as references until accepted.

**Web references**
As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.
Data references
This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

References in a special issue
Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

Reference management software
Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link:
http://open.mendeley.com/use-citation-style/estuarine-coastal-and-shelf-science
When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.

Reference formatting
There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the article number or pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct. If you do wish to format the references yourself they should be arranged according to the following examples:

Reference style
All citations in the text should refer to: 1. Single Author's name (without initials) and year of publication. 2. Two Authors' names and the year of publication. 3. Three or more Authors; first Author's name followed by "et al." and the year of publication. In the list of references names of authors and all co-authors must be given in full.

References in the text should be arranged chronologically.

References in the Reference List should be arranged first alphabetically, and then further sorted chronologically if necessary. More than one reference from the same Author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters "a", "b", "c", etc., placed after the year of publication.

Examples:
References to a journal publication:
Names and initials of all authors, year. Title of paper. Journal name (given in full), volume number: first and last page numbers of the paper.

References to a book:
Names and initials of all authors, year. Title of the book. Publisher, location of publisher, total number of pages.

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:
Names and initials of all authors, year. Title of paper. Names and initials of the volume editors, title of the edited volume. Publisher, location of publisher, first and last page numbers of the paper.

Conference proceedings papers:
Names and initials of all authors, year. Title of paper. Name of the conference. Publisher, location of publisher, first and last page numbers of the paper.

Unpublished theses, reports, etc.: Use of unpublished theses and reports is strongly discouraged. If they are essential and the editors agree, you must supply:
Names and initials of all authors, year. Title of item. All other relevant information needed to identify the item (e.g., technical report, Ph.D. thesis, institute, current status i.e. in press/unpublished etc.). Moustakas, N., 1990. Relationships of Morphological and Physiochemical Properties of Vertisols under Greek Climate Conditions. Ph.D. Thesis, Agricultural Univ. Athens, Greece, unpublished.

In the case of publications in any language other than English, the original title is to be retained. Titles of publications in non-Latin alphabets should be transliterated, and a note such as '(in Russian)' or '(in Japanese, with English Abstract)' should be added at the end of the reference.

The following provide examples of appropriate citation formats for non-text and electronic-only information. However, it is requested that a Web site address or list server message is given as a reference ONLY where the information is unavailable in a more permanent form. If such sources are given, then please give as complete information as possible.

Video
Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect. Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our video instruction pages. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

Data visualization
Include interactive data visualizations in your publication and let your readers interact and engage more closely with your research. Follow the instructions here to find out about available data visualization options and how to include them with your article.

Supplementary material
Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to
supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

**Research data**

This journal encourages and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings. To facilitate reproducibility and data reuse, this journal also encourages you to share your software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. If you are sharing data in one of these ways, you are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the research data page.

**Data linking**

If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the database linking page.

For supported data repositories a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.

In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

**Mendeley Data**

This journal supports Mendeley Data, enabling you to deposit any research data (including raw and processed data, video, code, software, algorithms, protocols, and methods) associated with your manuscript in a free-to-use, open access repository. During the submission process, after uploading your manuscript, you will have the opportunity to upload your relevant datasets directly to Mendeley Data. The datasets will be listed and directly accessible to readers next to your published article online.

For more information, visit the Mendeley Data for journals page.

**Data in Brief**

You have the option of converting any or all parts of your supplementary or additional raw data into one or multiple data articles, a new kind of article that houses and describes your data. Data articles ensure that your data is actively reviewed, curated, formatted, indexed, given a DOI and publicly available to all upon publication. You are encouraged to submit your article for Data in Brief as an additional item directly alongside the revised version of your manuscript. If your research article is accepted, your data article will automatically be transferred over to Data in Brief where it will be editorially reviewed and published in the open access data journal, Data in Brief. Please note an open access fee of 500 USD is payable for publication in Data in Brief. Full details can be found on the Data in Brief website. Please use this template to write your Data in Brief.

**MethodsX**

You have the option of converting relevant protocols and methods into one or multiple MethodsX articles, a new kind of article that describes the details of customized research methods. Many researchers spend a significant amount of time on developing methods to fit their specific needs or setting, but often without getting credit for this part of their work. MethodsX, an open access journal, now publishes this information in order to make it searchable, peer reviewed, citable and reproducible. Authors are encouraged to submit their MethodsX article as an additional item directly alongside the revised version of their manuscript. If your research article is accepted, your methods article will
automatically be transferred over to MethodsX where it will be editorially reviewed. Please note an open access fee is payable for publication in MethodsX. Full details can be found on the MethodsX website. Please use this template to prepare your MethodsX article.

Data statement
To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Online proof correction
Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors. If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.

We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

Offprints
The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized Share Link providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's Webshop. Corresponding authors who have published their article gold open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

Author's Discount
Contributors to Elsevier journals are entitled to a 30% discount on most Elsevier books, if ordered directly from Elsevier.

Author Inquiries
For inquiries relating to the submission of articles (including electronic submission where available) please visit this journal's homepage. You can track accepted articles at https://www.elsevier.com/trackarticle and set up e-mail alerts to inform you of when an article's status has changed. Also accessible from here is information on copyright, frequently asked questions and more. Contact details for questions arising after acceptance of an article, especially those relating to proofs, will be provided by the publisher.

Please contact the Journal Manager for any queries on manuscript, offprints and special issues. For technical help, please visit our Support Center.

© Copyright 2018 Elsevier | https://www.elsevier.com