



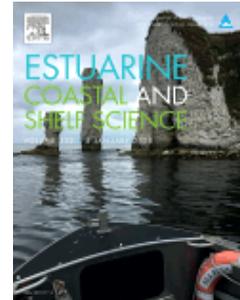
ESTUARINE, COASTAL AND SHELF SCIENCE

In association with the [Estuarine Coastal Sciences Association \(ECSA\)](#)

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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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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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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- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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Green, A., 1991. Deformations in *Acanthaster planci* from the Coral Sea, observed during UEA Special Project 7, July 1978. Journal of Pollution Research 14 (7) suppl., CD-ROM, photographic images, 240 MB.

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