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

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AUDIENCE

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

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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; Ecosytem ecology

**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, Spatial ecology, Population processes and demography, Range use and habitat selection, Conservation biology.

**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
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); 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, 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. 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**, 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

**X.H. Wang**, UNSW Australia, Canberra, New South Wales, Australia
Coastal oceanography; Numerical modelling; Sediment transport dynamics

**A. Whitfield**, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB), Grahamstown, South Africa
Biology and ecology of fishes in estuaries

**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, biogeochemical 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
Ecology of sandy shores; Small-scale fisheries

**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
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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!"

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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.

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