**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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AU迪ENCE

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

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ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

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Estuarine sediment transport; dynamics of turbidity maxima in estuaries; civil engineering hydraulics; coastal morphodynamics

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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, 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

**D.R. Cahoon**, United States Geological Survey (USGS), Beltsville, Maryland, USA

wetland vertical development processes; wetland restoration and management

**R. Carmichael**, Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory, Dauphin Island, Alabama, USA

population and trophic ecology; nutrient enrichment and wastewater sources to coastal waters - covering invertebrates from bivalve shellfish and horseshoe crabs to cetaceans and manatees

**L. Chicharo**, Universidade do Algarve, Faro, Portugal

Estuarine fisheries; food web; salt marsh

**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

**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**, Hull, UK

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

**E. Jackson**, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton, Queensland, Queensland, Australia

seagrass ecosystems, marine landscape and spatial ecology, marine plant sediment interactions, marine protected area networks, coastal ecology, estuaries

**L. Karczmarski**, Swire Institute of Marine Science, School of Biological Sciences, University of Hong Kong and Cetacea Research Institute, Hong Kong

Coastal cetaceans: Behaviour and behavioural ecology, Socio-spatial ecology, Population processes and demography, Range and movement, Habitat use, Conservation ecology.

**J. Lambrechts**, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

Estuarine and shelf oceanographic modeling, cohesive fine sediment modeling, 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**, Plymouth University, Plymouth, Devon, UK

Cohesive sediment transport; Flocculation process; Mixed sediment processes; Nearshore physical oceanography

**J. McClelland**, University of Texas at Austin, Port Aransas, Texas, USA

fluvial export; coastal ecosystem dynamics; biogeochemistry

**R.N. Mead**, University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW), Wilmington, North Carolina, USA

Organic geochemistry, molecular markers, contaminate fate, natural organic matter fate and transport in estuarine and coastal environments

**P. Meire**, Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium

Estuarine dynamics, nutrient cycling, restoration techniques, birds, ecosystem services, dredging and ecology

**P.A. Noble**, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA

DNA sequencing, DNA microarrays, and modelling

**S Olenin**, Klaipeda University, Klaipėda, Lithuania

biological invasions in marine realm, benthic ecology, environmental impact assessment

**C. Osburn**, Raleigh, USA
dissolved and particulate organic matter; photochemistry; absorbance; fluorescence; stable isotopes and 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); bioassesment or biomonitoring (namely sediment ecoxicology, 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**, Stennis Space Center, USA

Trace element chemistry; biogeochemical cycling; methane; carbon cycling

**S.A. Skrabal**, Wilmington, USA

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

**I. Telesh**, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

Plankton ecology and biodiversity; ecosystem effects of invasive species; Impact of salinity gradient on aquatic communities

**M.A. Teodósio**, Faro, Portugal

Estuarine and coastal ecology, plankton, fish larvae, aquatic macroinvertebrates, climate change, marine acidification

**S. Vizzini**, Università degli Studi di Palermo, Palermo, Italy

C and N stable isotopes; food webs; seagrasses; contaminant trophic transfer; 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; Bioterometric methods of water quality evaluation; 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**, Baton Rouge, USA

Geological oceanography; coastal morphodynamics; observation and numerical modeling of sediment transport; sediment dynamics of bottom boundary layer; sedimentary geology; coastal processes

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**N.C. Flemming**

E. Naylor, University of Wales, Menai Bridge, UK

**Editorial Board**

**M. Alber**, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA

Estuarine ecology; salt marsh ecology; and 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**, University of Lisbon, 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**, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
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
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. He also works on the behaviour and transport of radionuclides in estuaries.

G. M. E. Perillo, Instituto Argentino de Oceanografía, Bahia Blanca, Argentina
Geomorphology and Dynamics of Estuaries and Coastal Wetlands - Dynamics of sediment transport - Physical-Biological interactions

D. Prandle, Hertfordshire, UK
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, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
Seagrass biology and ecology, benthic community ecology

Y. Saito, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Tsukuba, Japan
Sedimentary process, sequence stratigraphy, all siliciclastic shallow marine sediments

S.D. Sulkin, Western Washington University, Anacortes, Washington, USA
Heavy metal pollution; sediment tracing using magnetic and geochemical methods; coastal environmental changes

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