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# AFRICAN JOURNAL OF MARINE SCIENCE

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

### Submission and editorial policy

Submissions should be made online at the *African Journal of Marine Science* ScholarOne manuscripts site (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/tams>). New users should first create an account. Once a user is logged onto the site, submissions should be made via the Author Centre. Should you have difficulty submitting material online, please notify the Editor-in-Chief, Sheldon Dudley, at [sheldond@daff.gov.za](mailto:sheldond@daff.gov.za).

In a cover letter, the author is encouraged to suggest the names and contact addresses (including e-mail addresses) of three appropriate referees who have not been associated with the research being submitted, although the Editors will not be bound by such suggestions. Furthermore, the author *must* confirm in the letter that the work is original and is not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Contributions must conform to the principles outlined in the document titled **Ethical Considerations in Research Publication** available from the Journal's **Instructions for Authors** webpage.\* Submission of a manuscript implies the transfer of the copyright for the accepted article to the publisher and all those media that the publisher considers suitable for the dissemination of the work. However, the author retains the right to disseminate his/her own work.

Maximum lengths of contributions should be 2 500 words for a Short Communication and 7 500 words for a full Research Paper, although a Review Paper of up to 12 000 words will be considered. Word counts include references but exclude tables. Short Communications are used to describe smaller pieces of completed work and should have a combined maximum of four figures and tables. Supplementary Information, such as questionnaires and ancillary data, can be included but will be published online only.

The Journal uses single-blind peer review, where the identity of the reviewers is unknown to the author(s).

### Text

1. The entire manuscript should be double-spaced—though greater spacing may be used where helpful (particularly around equations and formulas).
2. Lines should be numbered continuously.
3. All pages should be numbered with Arabic numbers.
4. Each of the following sections should be started on a new page:
  - (a) title (informative but brief), authors' names and affiliations (with city and country), and e-mail address of the corresponding author;
  - (b) abstract, followed by 5 to 8 keywords or phrases that do not appear in the title and that are obtained from the whole article;
  - (c) main text;
  - (d) references list;
  - (e) tables;
  - (f) legends for figures;
  - (g) appendices (which will appear at the end of the article); Supplementary Information (which will appear online only), should be provided as a separate document.
5. The main text should follow the order: Introduction, Materials and methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements and References. Review Papers would typically exclude the sections Materials and methods and Results, and might include Conclusions.
6. Headings and subheadings should not be numbered. Three levels of headings should be sufficient and distinguished as follows: main heading – **bold**; level 2 – **bold italics**; level 3 – *italics*.
7. New paragraphs should be clearly identified.
8. Only those words to be printed in italics should be shown as so.
9. All measurements (linear, mass, time, etc.) should be given in numerals (not words) in the metric system. When other units of measure are preferred, authors should include metric equivalents. Metric units used and their abbreviations should be those approved by ISO (International Standards Organization), e.g. 25 mm, 16 mg ml<sup>-1</sup>.
10. A document entitled **Presentation of Mathematical and Statistical Data** is available from the Journal's Instructions for Authors webpage.\*
11. Numbers in the text are to be spelled out if smaller than 10, but a series of numbers (including numbers smaller and larger than 10) should all be

listed in numerals. In a sentence overloaded with numbers it is permissible to give certain categories in numerals and others in words. Do not begin a sentence with a numeral.

12. Use of footnotes is discouraged, but if necessary they must be numbered consecutively in the text and typed under a horizontal line at the foot of the relevant page.

### Abstract

1. Each manuscript must have an abstract, the length of which should not exceed 200 words or 3% of the paper, whichever is the lesser.
2. Subdivision into paragraphs and inclusion of references to literature are not permitted.
3. The abstract should summarise the contents and conclusions of the paper, point to new information contained therein, and indicate the relevance of the work.

### Acknowledgements

This section is to be kept brief and only special help acknowledged, as well as funders of the research.

### Tables

1. Tables should be carefully constructed so that the data presented may be easily understood; do not overload a table with information.
2. In constructing tables, the size of the printed publication (210 x 275 mm) should be kept in mind.
3. Each table should be provided with a descriptive caption which, together with the column headings, makes it intelligible without reference to the text.
4. Tables should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals.
5. Use of footnotes to tables should be minimised.
6. Magnitudes known to be nil should be shown by a zero or gap, and 'no data' by an en-dash or in words.
7. Decimal fractions should be preceded by a zero, and columns of figures should align on the decimal marker. Integers are to be aligned on the least-significant digit. A space should be used to separate thousands (groups of three digits), but such spacing does not apply to years.
8. Tables and figures do not normally duplicate one another. Select the most appropriate presentation, e.g. graphs for trends.
9. Each table should be referred to in sequence in the text and described.

### Figures

1. All illustrations, whether black and white drawings, graphs, photographs (colour or monochrome) or charts, are to be designated as figures. Colour will be used only when essential.
2. Figures must be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals and mentioned by number in sequence in the text.
3. A legend and key (if required) should be provided for each figure, which, together with the illustration, should make the whole intelligible without reference to the text.
4. Small illustrations may be grouped together on a page, with the parts then identified by small letters, e.g. Figure 1a, 1b. The legend should be written to correspond to these.
5. Figures are to be prepared to fit a maximum width of either 84 mm (single column) or 176 mm (double column) on the printed page. The size, line thickness and spacing of the lettering, lines and data points should take into account the final size of the illustration. For graphs and diagrams, lines should be 0.5 point with lettering in 9-point Arial.
6. Illustrations where the size of the object shown is important should have a metric bar-scale drawn on them, or else the actual size may be mentioned in the legend.
7. Care should be taken so that figures are not overcrowded with information. Alternately, information that can easily be depicted in a single figure should not be given in several.
8. Graphs, histograms, charts and similar matter should be boxed (i.e. enclosed on all four sides). Data points, regression formulae, sample sizes, confidence limits, adequate graduations, etc. may be included wherever needed.

## Graphics and illustrations

1. Authors must ensure that their figures conform to the style of the Journal. Pay particular attention to line thickness, fonts and figure proportions, taking into account the Journal's printed page size (210 x 275 mm). Costs of redrawing figures may be charged. Please refer to the document titled **Figure Guidelines for Authors**.\*
2. For digital photographs or scanned images the resolution should be at least 300 dpi for colour or greyscale artwork, and a minimum of 600 dpi for black line drawings. These can be saved (in order of preference) in PSD, JPEG, PDF or EPS format.
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First use of a species name in the title, abstract, and main text should include the common name (where available) and scientific name, but not the describing authority or date of authorship. Upon first mention in the text, the describing authority may also be included for works with taxonomic relevance, and a comma should separate the authority from the date. The author's citation should follow the rules of either the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature or the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants, as appropriate. For zoological species, note the correct use of parentheses when citing the naming authority and date: without parentheses when the current accepted genus and species name is as given by the original naming author, e.g. *Dotilla fenestrata* Hilgendorf, 1869; or, within parentheses when the current accepted scientific name differs from that originally given, e.g. *Scylla serrata* (Forsskål, 1775). For botanical species, where there is a new combination of genus and specific name, both the author(s) of the original genus placement and those of the new combination are given, with the former in parentheses. In the remainder of the manuscript, just one name (scientific or common) should be used, but preferably the scientific name. A genus name can be abbreviated to a single letter (e.g. *P. rupestris*) other than (a) at the beginning of a sentence, where the full name should be used, or (b) where there are multiple genera with the same first letter, in which case the first two letters may be used.

## References

1. Reference to literature cited in text could be as follows: 'Griffiths (2000) showed that...' or '...intense plankton production (Carr 2002)'. Other examples: Crawford (2001, 2003); (Crawford 1981a, 1981b; Hampton 1987).
2. An unpublished book or article that has been accepted for publication can be listed in the references followed by the notation 'in press'. However, only those manuscripts that are in page-proof stage or for which there is an acceptance letter can be considered in press. As much information as possible is to be given about the intended manner of publication, e.g. name of journal and issue no. If an article is in preparation, or submitted but yet not accepted, state the name and affiliation of the author of the material followed by the notation 'unpublished data' in the text and do not include it in the references list. Reference to 'pers. comm.' is allowed.
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4. A direct quotation from a reference should list the page quoted and be enclosed in quotation marks. Spelling, punctuation and wording must match the original; a mistake in the original may be pointed out by inserting [sic].
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7. The list of references at the end should be provided in alphabetical order of the first authors. Within a group of publications with the same first author, the sequence is as follows: (i) single-author publications, listed chronologically; (ii) two-author publications, listed alphabetically on the second author and then chronologically; and (iii) publications with two or more co-authors, listed chronologically only.
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Christensen V, Walters CJ. In press. Trade-offs in ecosystem-scale optimization of fisheries management policies. *Bulletin of Marine Science*.  
FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). 2002. *The state of world fisheries and aquaculture*. Rome: FAO Fisheries Department.  
Griffiths MH. 2000a. Long-term trends in catch and effort of commercial linefish off South Africa's Cape Province: snapshots of the 20th century. *South African Journal of Marine Science* 22: 81–110.  
Griffiths MH. 2000b. *Atractoscion aequidens*. In: Mann BQ (ed.), *Southern African marine linefish status reports. Special Publication No. 7*. Durban, South Africa: Oceanographic Research Institute. pp 83–84.  
Hall S (ed.). 1999. *The effects of fishing on marine ecosystems and ecology*. Oxford: Blackwell.  
Payne AIL. 1995. Cape hakes. In: Payne AIL, Crawford RJM (eds), *Oceans of life off southern Africa* (2nd edn). Cape Town, South Africa: Vlaeberg. pp 136–147.  
Whittington PA. 2002. Survival and movements of African penguins, especially after oiling. PhD thesis, University of Cape Town, South Africa.  
Winker H, Kerwath SE, Attwood CG. 2012. Report on stock assessments of important South African linefish resources. Linefish Scientific Working Group Report LSWG/Feb2012#3. Cape Town, South Africa: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

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