



Instructions to Authors  
**Bulletin of  
Marine  
Science**

The *Bulletin of Marine Science Instructions to Authors* manual is intended for use by all persons planning to submit manuscripts coordinated and published by the *Bulletin of Marine Science*.

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# INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS



The *Bulletin* accepts monographs, reviews and articles, notes, discussions and replies, and novel research gear, instrument, device, or system with potential to advance marine research ("Research Tools in Marine Science"). Additionally, the *Bulletin* publishes informative stand-alone artwork with accompany text in its section "Portraits of Marine Science."

## **Manuscript Submission**

The *Bulletin* accepts manuscripts via an online submission and peer-review process. The submission of a manuscript will be taken to imply that the manuscript is original and has not been submitted or published elsewhere in its present or modified form. Other matters should be sent to the Editorial Office, *Bulletin of Marine Science*, Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, Florida 33149-1031 USA or emailed to [bms@rsmas.miami.edu](mailto:bms@rsmas.miami.edu).

# Formatting Requirements

## Language:

Only papers in English will be accepted. Spelling, word division, and geographical names should follow either the *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English* or *The Merriam-Webster's Dictionary*.

## Letter to the Editor:

As part of the electronic submission of manuscripts, authors are required to write a letter to the editor detailing (1) the content of the manuscript and its appropriateness for the *Bulletin of Marine Science*, (2) a list of any papers on related topics by any of the authors that have been published within the past year or that are in review or in press, and (3) a list and contact information of at least four potential reviewers, experts on the topic of the manuscript, and without any collaboration with the author(s) or any affiliation with the institution(s) of the author(s).

## Content:

Authors are strongly advised to consult a recent issue of the *Bulletin* and follow the style and general layout of articles. All manuscripts should be typed in 12-point, Times or Times New Roman font, and double-spaced.

The sequence of the material should be:

- Title Page
- Abstract
- Text
- Acknowledgments
- Literature Cited
- Tables
- Figure legends
- Figures
- Appendix or supplementary material (if included)

## Title Page:

The full title of the manuscript in 20 words or less. If applicable, the geographical location of the research should be referenced along with the full name of any particular focal species (authority credited with naming the species usually should not appear as part of the title).

A running title (eight word limit).

Authors' names directly under the title.

Full addresses should be listed below the author name(s) using numerical superscripts. Indicate corresponding author with an asterisk (\*).

Email addresses for the corresponding author should be set inside angle brackets: <bmsassistant@rsmas.miami.edu>.

## Abstract:

Single paragraph of not more than 250 words. Please include abstract for all articles and notes. “Portrait of Marine Science” submissions do not contain abstract.

Briefly states the reason for the research and summarizes the significant findings.

At first mention, a scientific (binomial) name should be written in its entirety including the authority credited with naming the species; i.e., *Palythoa caribbaeorum* (Duchassaing and Michelotti, 1861). Thereafter in the abstract, it is only necessary to abbreviate the species name (i.e., *P. caribbaeorum*) except when the species name starts a sentence in which case the genus must be spelled out in full (i.e., *Palythoa caribbaeorum*).

## Text:

Cite all tables and figures in the order in which they are numbered.

Do not abbreviate state, province, or country names.

All scientific (binomial) names written in the text of the manuscript should include the authority credited with naming the species at first mention only. Throughout the remaining text, it is only necessary to abbreviate the species name (i.e., *P. caribbaeorum*). An exception is when the species name starts a sentence in which case genus must be spelled out in full (i.e., *Palythoa caribbaeorum*).

If there are more than 15 species listed in the manuscript, an alternative is to list species authorities (and common names if applicable) in a table or appendix.

Works in progress (i.e., manuscripts in preparation or review) cannot be cited in the text, and should instead be cited as unpublished data: (J Smith, University of Miami, unpubl data). Works in press may be cited as such in the text and in the Literature Cited as (Smith in press). When referencing unpublished data or a personal communication, include the name and institution of the person being referenced (i.e., J Smith, University of Miami, pers comm).

Common abbreviations and symbols such as %, mm, m, g, ml, mg, °C, μm, d (day), hr (hour), yr (year), and so forth, should be used. Measurements are to be given in metric units only. Other equivalents may be given in parentheses if necessary, with the permission of the Editor. Abbreviate units of measure only when used with numbers (i.e., 45 cm, 14 mg, 30 d, etc.). Symbols for “male” (♂) and “female” (♀) will be inserted during typesetting upon request of the corresponding author.

**Boldfaced** type should only be used when noting a new species. Otherwise, the use of boldfaced, scripted, and underlined text is discouraged.

All first and second headings (i.e., METHODS, RESULTS, DISCUSSION) should be in small caps. All third headings should be set in *italics*.

All text should be aligned to the left. Do not double space after each sentence. Do not use tools such as “Track Changes,” and also refrain from inserting text boxes, headers, footers, and any other formatting devices.

Superscripts and subscripts should be used when necessary (i.e., cm<sup>2</sup> or CO<sub>2</sub>).

Numbers one through nine should be spelled out when not associated with units of measure. Thereafter, use number keys (10, 11, 12, etc.).

Place in-text references within parentheses, follow the last name of the author(s) by the year of publication without intervening punctuation.

(Smith 2010)

(Smith and Jones 2005)

(Smith et al. 1996)

When referencing literature within the text of the manuscript use chronological order (i.e., Jones et al. 1979, Smith 1980, Reilly 1981). If years are the same organize alphabetically (i.e., Jones et al. 1979, McManus 1980, Smith et al. 1980). Literature cited within the text must be cited in the Literature Cited section and vice versa.

### **Acknowledgments:**

Individuals should be acknowledged using their first initial and last name (i.e., J Smith).

Include a brief statement recognizing funding agencies, institutions, reviewers, permits, and any contributors to the work.

### **Literature Cited:**

The *Bulletin of Marine Science* uses the Council of Science Editors *Scientific Style and Format* (8th ed) style (name-year system) for its Literature Cited section. Legal references in text should follow the *Bluebook* style.

Please refer to a recent issue of the *Bulletin of Marine Science* (starting with volume 87, older volumes used a different style) or to the Council of Science Editors *Scientific Style and Format* (7th ed) for guidance on citing literature according to *Bulletin* standards.

All literature referenced in the text must be included in the Literature Cited section and vice versa.

Authors are responsible for the completion and accuracy of the Literature Cited.

When citing an article, the Author(s). Date. Article title. Journal title. Volume(issue, if present in the document):location. should be included; i.e., Goddard JHR, Love MS. 2010. Megabenthic invertebrates on shell mounds associated with oil and gas platforms off California. *Bull Mar Sci*. 86(3):533–554. <https://doi.org/10.5343/bms.1998.2354>

All periodical names should be abbreviated. Journal abbreviations should be according to the Council of Science Editors Style Committee's *CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*, 7th edition. *All that JAS: Journal Abbreviation Sources* may also be used.

When citing a book, the Author(s)/Editor(s). Date. Title. Edition. Place of publication: Publisher. should be included; i.e., Smith J. 1997. *Birds of Florida*. 2nd ed. New York: Murphy Publishing.

When citing a specific article or chapter within a book, the format is as follows: Author(s). Date. Article title. *In:* Editor(s)' name(s), editors. Book title. Edition. Place of publication: Publisher. Location.

McDaniel TK, Valdivia RH. 2005. New tools for virulence gene discovery. *In:* Cossart P, Boquet P, Normark S, Rappuoli R, editors. *Cellular microbiology*. 2nd ed. Washington DC: ASM Press. p. 473–488.

Literature cited should be in alphabetical order. When multiple works are cited by the same author, chronological order (in ascending order) is followed. When the first author is the same but coauthors differ, order the citations alphabetically, then alphabetically by the second authors' surname. An example is as follows:

Smith A. 1987.

Smith A. 2001.

Smith A, Jones B. 2004.

Smith A, Jones B, Carson C. 2000.

Smith A, Martin G. 2001.

In the Literature Cited, only capitalize proper nouns, and special names of countries or regions of countries, cities or sections of cities, rivers, bays, oceans, mountains, islands, and other

geographical names. Do not capitalize or italicize the titles of books, reference volumes, etc. Do not use ampersands (“&”) in citations unless it is part of a title or publishing house name.

Please keep citation of non peer-reviewed material (“gray literature”) to a minimum.

If multiple authors, spell out the first 10, then follow by “et al.” Example:

Maragos J, Miller J, Gove J, DeMartini E, Friedlander A, Godwin S, Musburger C, Timmers M, Tsuda R, Vroom P, et al. 2008.

We strongly encourage limiting the number of references to a ratio of 1:4 (about one page of citations for every four pages of text).

When a digital object identifier (DOI) name is displayed in a reference, it should be preceded with the URL form “https://doi.org/”. For example, the DOI name 10.5343/bms.1998.2354 would appear as https://doi.org/10.5343/bms.1998.2354. Note that there is no period at the end of the DOI in a citation. The DOI name should always be the last element in the citation. The *Bulletin* is a member of CrossRef, therefore, we require the use of DOIs in citations.

Users of EndNote® please download the output style “CSE Style Manual, 7th ed. (Name-Year)” from the EndNote website.

### **Electronic and Internet sources:**

For a complete list of all types of electronic citations please refer to the *Citing Medicine: The NLM Style Guide for Authors, Editors, and Publishers [Internet]. 2nd edition (2007)* available online at [www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/formats/internet.pdf](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/formats/internet.pdf).

### **Electronic-journal articles:**

Last Name and Initial(s) of Author, [followed by last names and initials of other authors]. Year of Publication. Title of article. Abbreviated Journal Title [medium]; Volume: Inclusive Page Numbers [if available]. Availability Information. Date of Access.

Dahlgren C, Marr J. 2004. Back reef systems: important but overlooked components of tropical marine systems. *Bull Mar Sci.* [serial online] 75(2):145–152. Available from: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/umrsmas/bullmar/2004/00000075/00000002/art00002> via the Internet. Accessed 14 March, 2005.

### **Electronic books or monographs:**

Last Name and Initial(s) of Author, [followed by last names and initials of other authors]. Year of Publication. Title of monograph [monograph online]. Place of Publication: Publisher; [Update Information, if applicable]. Availability Information. Date of Access.

### **Databases:**

Last Name and Initial(s) of Author, [followed by last names and initials of other authors, if any]. Title of Database. Version. Place of Publication: Publisher. Date of Publication [Date of Update/Revision; Date of Citation].

### **Entire web pages:**

Last Name and Initial(s) of Author; Title of Webpage [Internet]. Place of Publication: Publisher; Date of Publication [Date of Update/Revision, Date of Copyright, Date of Citation]. Available from: (Insert URL)

Bulletin of Marine Science [Internet]. Miami, FL: Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science, University of Miami; c2005, 14 March, 2005. Available from: <http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/bms> (or [rsmas.miami.edu/bms](http://rsmas.miami.edu/bms))

### **Discussion lists:**

Author of Message. Title of Message. *In:* Title of List. [Place of Publication: Publisher]; Date of Publication; [cited (insert citation date)]. Numeration of Message. Available from: Insert URL

### **Blogs:**

Author of Blog. Title of Blog. Type of Medium [Internet]. Place of Publication: Publisher; Date of Publication - [cited (insert citation date)]. Available from: Insert URL

### **Table and Figure Formatting (for final version submission to BMS after acceptance)**

Figures and tables, with their legends and headings, should be self-explanatory and should not require reference to the text. Species names should not be abbreviated in either figure or table legends.

Figures should be clear and legible, with 1-inch margins. The dimensions and the thickness of the individual lines, spaces, and letters may also be reduced proportionally.

Each table and figure should start on a separate page. Consistency in headings and format is desirable. Vertical rules or horizontal gridlines should be avoided.

### **Tables:**

Only Excel® spreadsheets and Word® tables are accepted. When using Word, insert a table by using the “Table” menu. Do not use tabs or spaces to separate columns. Do not submit tables as image files. Do not add extra spaces in rows within or between table columns. Spaces prevent proper column alignment and require reformatting during typesetting. Do not break up tables as continuation pages (i.e., Table 1 continued).

If a table is large, and consists of numerous pages, the number of columns must be the same for all rows even if cells are blank.

There should be no shading, boldfacing, underlining, or box-line formatting in tables.

Brief table legends should be included immediately above each table.

### **Figures:**

*Bulletin of Marine Science* accepts EPS, TIFF, and high resolution PDF images only (consider using the predefined “Press Quality” Adobe PDF preset in Acrobat’s “File” menu. This preset contains flattener settings appropriate for complex figures intended for high-resolution output). Refrain from submitting electronic images in Word or any other word processing application.

Please make sure each figure is properly labeled before submission (Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.).

The resolution must be 360 dpi for color, grayscale, or continuous tone images and 1200 dpi for bitmap or line art strictly composed of black and white.

Size your images: 29 picas (12.28 cm, 4.833 inches) maximum for portrait images, 42 picas (17.78 cm, 7 inches) maximum for landscape images.

All lines must be at least 0.5 point. Avoid the use of very small print, fine lines (hairlines) or very light stippling — these fade or disappear during final printing, or in the case of text, become unreadable.

Remove gridlines from all figures.

Color graphics are not published unless the author agrees in advance to pay US\$600 for each color plate (first plate only). Additional plates will be charged at a discounted rate, depending on the number of color plates submitted. Please contact the Editorial Office for an estimate of color charges.

If a color image is going to appear in the print version of the journal, it should be saved as CMYK color (and not RGB color).

If a figure has shading or texture, it should be saved as a TIFF file to insure the patterns and shading are maintained.

If a figure is divided into parts, and these parts are denoted with letters (A, B, C, etc.), please write or draw these letters in capital case. All tables and figures pertaining to a manuscript published in the *Bulletin* appear in text with capital letters as Fig. 1A, Figure 2C, etc. (not Fig. 1a, Fig. 2c) irrespective of how they appear in the illustration itself. For a match, make sure all figures use capital letters.

Choose fonts for their readability (Helvetica, Times, Arial are good examples). Font size should not be less than 8 point in the final layout size.

Figures with errors will either be returned or printed with the errors. The *Bulletin* does not redraw or modify figures. Please proof carefully.

Figure legends must not be included on the figure. All figure legends should be included separately, in the text following the Literature Cited and tables.

### **Important! Avoid these common errors when submitting your figures:**

- 1. Format:** *Bulletin of Marine Science* accepts EPS, TIFF, and high resolution PDF images only (consider using the predefined “Press Quality” Adobe PDF preset. This preset contains flattener settings appropriate for complex figures intended for high-resolution output). Refrain from submitting electronic images in Word or any other word processing application.
- 2. Resolution and size:** The resolution must be **360 dpi** for color, grayscale, or continuous tone images and **1200 dpi** for bitmap or line art strictly composed of black and white. At this resolution (360 or 1200 dpi depending on format) all figures must be sized to fit within the printed page dimensions of 19.4 × 12.5 cm.
- 3. Use of fine lines and/or small print:** All lines must be at least 0.5 point. Avoid the use of very small print, fine lines (hairlines) or very light stippling — these fade or disappear during final printing, or in the case of text, become unreadable.

### **Proofs**

Following online submission of the final manuscript, the manuscript will be copy-edited and typeset for publication and a PDF galley proof returned to the author via email for final proof reading. Please check your proofs carefully. The author will be responsible for any errors that appear in the final printed version.

### **“FastTrack” Publication**

The *Bulletin of Marine Science* will publish all articles and notes in its online FastTrack section following the return of the galley proof to BMS. In most cases, the paper will be “live” within 72 hours after the galley proof is received. This enables your research to be available to the scientific community as soon as possible, and reduces the risk of delay that may be caused by the print process. FastTrack articles will contain citations and DOIs. Authors will be notified by email that their paper is available in FastTrack.

### **Formatting questions?**

Contact the Managing Editor, Rafael J Araújo, at <raraujo@rsmas.miami.edu>.

## Author publication fees

The following base publication fees apply to all published manuscripts: US\$76 per page (2 manuscript pages is roughly equal to 1 printed page) and US\$600 per color page (first page only). Additional color pages will be charged at a discounted rate, depending on the number of color pages submitted. Portraits of Marine Science are a flat fee of US\$650. Payment must be received or arranged prior to the publication of your article. Your publication fees include a free PDF of your article, and the right to host your publication on a personal or institutional repository.

## Open Access

The *Bulletin of Marine Science* is a hybrid open access journal, offering two open access options: Green Open Access and Gold Open Access. Gold Open Access articles are immediately available online for everyone to freely download and share. Green Open Access articles are freely available after a five year embargo period (before which they are available to journal subscribers). At the galley proof stage, authors of accepted articles will be given the choice between selecting Green Open Access or Gold Open Access.

	Green Open Access	Gold Open Access
<b>Author PDF</b>	Included	Included
<b>Online hosting</b>	Free to host article on personal/institutional repository	Free to host article on personal/institutional repository
<b>Open access</b>	Available to <i>Bulletin</i> subscribers (article becomes open access five years following publication)	Article becomes open access upon publication
<b>Fee</b>	Included in the base publication fee	\$1,000 in addition to the base publication fee

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