

JOURNAL OF AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

Guide for Authors

Editorial Policy

The *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health* serves the North American and international communities of scientists concerned with the health of aquatic organisms. We encourage the submission of papers dealing with the causes, effects, treatments, and prevention of diseases of marine and freshwater organisms, particularly fish and shellfish. We also welcome manuscripts describing biochemical and physiological investigations into fish health that relate to assessing the impacts of both environmental and pathogenic factors.

Manuscripts may be submitted to any of the following categories. (1) *Articles* are reports of substantial, controlled research that will be judged on their scientific merits. Critical reviews of timely topics will also be considered in this category. Articles should normally not exceed 5,000 words excluding references and tables (about 20 double-spaced manuscript pages), but longer manuscripts will be considered. (2) *Communications* are shorter papers based on more restricted study objectives, sometimes without extensive statistical data, but with sound biological observations; on promising work that may lead to additional in-depth studies; on thorough testing of a technique; or on case histories. Such papers will be evaluated as much for their practical utility as for their scientific quality. Communications generally should not exceed 3,000 words (about 12 double-spaced manuscript pages). (3) *Comments* are critiques of data and interpretations previously published in this journal (responses to which will be invited from the original authors); brief presentations of experiences or additional data related to previously published papers; or short discussions of technical issues pertinent to the aquatic animal health community. We also publish corrections (errata) of papers previously published in this journal.

Authors should not republish their original data without full attribution and explicit permission; see “Dual Publication of Scientific Information,” in the *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 110:573–574, 1981.

Authors are responsible for the statistical validity of their experiments; both the experimental design and the analyses of the results should receive critical review by

a statistician *before* the paper is submitted to the journal.

Computer enhanced images should be identified as such in the figure captions.

Authors who describe hybridomas or cell lines should state that they are willing to share their material with interested investigators.

Manuscript Submission and Review

Submit new manuscripts and associated correspondence at the journal’s online manuscript submission and peer review site: jaah.allentrack.net. You may also access the manuscript submission site through the Publications pages on the American Fisheries Society’s Web site (www.fisheries.org). On your visit to the journal site, you will need to register for an account. If you have completed the expert database form on the Society’s Web site, you may already have an account. In that case, your login name and password will be sent to you by e-mail during the registration process. Your login name and password can be used on all of the Society’s journal submission sites; there is no need to register again for each journal. You will be able to submit text, tables, and figures online. More detailed instructions, including acceptable file formats, are available on the site.

Publication charges are US\$75 per printed page and will be billed when the paper is in proof. Partial or full subsidy of page charges may be granted to members of the American Fisheries Society (only) who certify that grant or agency funds are unavailable. Manuscript reviews are unaffected by a need for subsidy, but at least one author must be or must become a member of the Society *before* a subsidized paper can be published. Every paper published in the *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health* is subject to a \$30 fee to offset handling costs associated with proof. Authors may purchase reprints of their paper from the printer when they receive their proofs.

Manuscripts will be reviewed by at least two referees and evaluated for publication by the journal editors. However, manuscripts may be returned without review if they are of low quality or inappropriate for this journal. Reviewers and authors have the option of anonymity. Authors who wish to exercise this option should structure their manuscripts accordingly.

Manuscript review relies on volunteers and is

occasionally a lengthy process; however, we strive to get evaluations of well-written papers back to authors within 8–12 weeks of submission. Authors should revise papers promptly, ideally within 3 months of the editor's evaluation. Papers that have not been returned within 6 months of that evaluation will be considered withdrawn. A "revision" completed after that time should be treated as a new submission.

Manuscript Preparation

Format.—Manuscripts must use line spacing of at least 1.5 throughout. Use a standard 12-point print font. Use boldface type only to indicate first-level heads and vectors. Use an italic font and not underlining to indicate italics.

Conventions.—Avoid solid capital letters except for acronyms, which, along with abbreviations and symbols (including numerals), should never begin a sentence. Use an italic font only for scientific binomials (other Latin words and phrases are *not* italic), second- and third-level subheadings, single-letter variables and constants in mathematics and statistics, and for *occasional* emphasis.

Spell out single-digit numbers unless they are used with units of measure or are directly compared with a larger number: four trials; 5 cm, 3 years; 8 infected and 16 noninfected fish. Use numerals for decimal fractions and numbers of two or more digits: 0.4 times; 17 tanks; 326 samples. Spell out any number that begins a sentence. Use commas in numbers of 1,000 or greater; use 0 before decimal fractions (0.05).

Use the 24-hour clock for diel time (and spell out "hours"): 1435 hours, not 2:35 p.m. Calendar dates can follow either of two formats: day month year (17 July 1993) or month day, year (July 17, 1993); select one style and use it consistently throughout the paper, including tables and figures. "Julian Day" should not be used to indicate day of the year.

Use SI (Système International d'Unités) units throughout; convert cc to mL, ppt to g/L, ppm to mg/L, etc. Use a solidus when one unit appears in the denominator (6.3 mg/L); use negative exponents and product dots for compound denominators ($40\text{g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1} \cdot \text{h}^{-1}$). A list of symbols and abbreviations that may be used in the journal without definition is provided at the end of this guide; all others must be defined at first use.

Our standard for word definition and spelling is *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*, as updated by the latest edition of *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. *Writing for Fishery Journals*, edited by John Hunter (1990, American Fisheries Society), contains an excellent chapter on graphic and

tabular display of data; other chapters provide advice about statistics and word usage.

For taxonomic and vernacular names of North American fish species, we follow the American Fisheries Society's most recent edition of *Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States and Canada*. For other fish and invertebrate species, we encourage authors to follow the Society's companion publications: *World Fishes Important to North Americans*, and *Common and Scientific Names of Aquatic Invertebrates from the United States and Canada*, (*Mollusks*, 2nd edition, *Decapod Crustaceans*, and *Cnidaria and Ctenophora* currently are available in the latter series.) Names of parasitic diseases should follow the "Standardized Nomenclature of Animal Parasitic Diseases (SNOAPAD)" by Kassai et al. (*Veterinary Parasitology* 29:299–326, 1988). Our standards for chemical names are the current editions of the *Merck Index* (Merck & Co., Rahway, New Jersey) and *Enzyme Nomenclature* (Academic Press, San Diego, California). Geneticists should use the "Gene Nomenclature for Protein-Coding Loci in Fish" by J. B. Shaklee et al. (*Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 119:2–15, 1990).

Title, abstract, text.—Manuscripts normally should be assembled in this order: title, authors, and addresses (on one page); abstract (on the second page); introduction, methods, results, discussion, acknowledgments (run-in on successive pages); references; all text footnotes (including address changes); appendixes; tables; figure captions; figures. Some variations of this list can be adapted to particular papers. Number every page (including title page) in sequence.

Titles of papers should be clear and concise. Authors of articles (only) may suggest a short title or running head not exceeding 45 characters and spaces. All articles and communications require abstracts. The abstract should be a single paragraph of 200–300 words (75–200 words for communications) that concisely states why you did your study, what you did, what you found, and what your results mean. Literature citations and footnotes are not allowed in abstracts, and abbreviations should be used sparingly.

The text should be clear and concise and should summarize information given in tables and figures, not list the details presented in them.

References.—The name-and-year system is used for literature citations in the text; arrange multiple citations chronologically (oldest first) in a sentence, for example: (Glynn and D'Croz 1984, 1994; APHA et al. 1992; Moles 1997; Plumb et al. 1999a, 1999b; Grizzle., in press). Both authors are cited if there are only two, but the first author plus "et al." is cited if

there are three or more. In the references, entries are listed alphabetically by author(s) first, then chronologically for two or more papers by the same author(s). Multiple listings for the same author(s) in the same year are distinguished by lowercase letters after the year: Jones (1986a, 1986b). Substitute “in press” for the year if a paper has been accepted for publication but page numbers are not yet available. Spell out all elements of each entry, *including journal titles*. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of their references. Examples of common citation formats for journals and books follow.

- AOAC (Association of Official Analytical Chemists). 1984. Official methods of analysis, 14th edition. AOAC, Arlington, Virginia.
- Groman, D. B. 1982. Histology of the striped bass. American Fisheries Society, Monograph 3, Bethesda, Maryland.
- Krieg, N. R., and J. G. Holt, editors. 1984. Bergey’s manual of systematic bacteriology, volume 1. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Manning, M. J., and M. S. Mughal. 1985. Factors affecting the immune responses of immature fish. Pages 27–40 *in* A. E. Ellis, editor. Fish and shellfish pathology. Academic Press, London.
- Mitchell, A., and A. Goodwin. 2004. Centrocestiasis (gill trematode disease). *In* AFS-FHS (American Fisheries Society-Fish Health Section). FHS blue book: suggested procedures for the detection and identification of certain finfish and shellfish pathogens, 2004 edition. AFS-FHS, Bethesda, Maryland.
- Moore, A. A., M. E. Eimers, and M. A. Cardella. 1990. Attempts to control *Flexibacter columnaris* epizootics in pond-reared channel catfish by vaccination. *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health* 2:109–111.

We do not allow reference to progress reports, newsletters, and unpublished papers; to abstracts of papers given at conferences, even when they are published; or to manuscripts in preparation or under review—except to acknowledge (in the acknowledgments section) intellectual debt. References to unpublished data and personal communications should be done parenthetically in the text, giving the initials, surname, and affiliation (not address) of the source; for

example, (E. C. Jones, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, personal communication). Obtain written permission from the appropriate people to cite unpublished data and personal communications, and be prepared to show such letters to the editor.

Tables.—Organize tables to convey the greatest amount of coherent information with the least amount of wasted space. We split wide tables across facing pages. We do not print tables broadside (landscape) in the journal. Horizontal rules should not be used in the body of a table; vertical lines are never allowed. Please delete them.

Use table captions or footnotes (indicated by lowercase superscript letters, beginning with “a”) to identify nonstandard symbols and abbreviations. Use a zero in front of decimal numbers smaller than one; pay attention to significant digits. To indicate statistical differences, use lowercase letters, set on line, beginning with “z” and working forward.

Figures.—The *x*- and *y*-axes on figures should be labeled clearly; labels should be placed close to the axes, and the label on the *y*-axis should be placed sideways so it runs from the bottom to the top of the graph. Avoid black borders and 3-dimensional charts. Keep outliers (e.g., keys and scale bars) inside the borders of the figure, and keep white space between panels to a minimum. Remember that most figures will be reduced to fit on the journal page, and reduction can cause symbols and shading to look alike, dashed lines to look solid, and dotted lines to disappear. Use the same font type for all figures and keep font sizes similar with no more than 2–4 points difference in size from smallest to largest; avoid bold lettering which tends to fill in on reduction.

Add scale bars to photomicrographs, and place any bars, labels, or symbols at least 4 mm inside the outer edge of the photograph. Color figures will be printed in black and white unless the author has made prior arrangements with the Journals Manager to cover the additional cost of color printing.

Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, as well as others approved for the *Système International d'Unités* (SI), are used in *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health* without definition. All others must be defined at first mention.

<i>Prefixes</i>		not significant	NS	newton	N
giga (10 ⁹)	G	percent	%	normal	N
mega (10 ⁶)	M	probability	<i>P</i>	ohm	Ω
kilo (10 ³)	k	probability of type I	<i>P</i> _α or α	ortho	<i>o</i>
milli (10 ⁻³)	m	error (false rejection		para	<i>p</i>
micro (10 ⁻⁶)	μ	of null hypothesis)		pascal	Pa
nano (10 ⁻⁹)	n	probability of type II	β	per mille (per thousand)	‰
pico (10 ⁻¹²)	p	error (false acceptance		siemens (=mho, Ω ⁻¹)	S
		of null hypothesis)		tesla	T
<i>Time and Temperature</i>		radian	rad	tris(hydroxymethyl)-	tris
day	d	sample size	<i>N</i>	aminomethane	
degrees Celsius	°C	second (angular)	"	volt	V
hour	h	standard deviation	SD	watt	W
(spell out for diel time)		standard error	SE	weber	Wb
kelvin	K	steradian	sr		
minute	min	variance			
second	s	population	<i>V</i> or <i>Var</i>	<i>General (Some Are Restricted)</i>	
Spell out year, month, week.		sample	var	compass directions (maps and coordinates):	
				east	E
<i>Weights and Measures</i>		<i>Physics and Chemistry</i>		north	N
centimeter	cm	all atomic symbols		south	S
deciliter	dL	alternating current	AC	west	W
gram	g	ampere	A	corporate suffixes:	
hectare	ha	becquerel	Bq	Company	Co.
kilogram	kg	calorie (joule is preferred)	cal	Corporation	Corp.
kilometer	km	candela	cd	Incorporated	Inc.
liter	L	chemical acronyms listed		Limited	Ltd.
meter	m	in Webster's dictionaries		District of Columbia	D.C.
Spell out metric ton.		(DDT, EDTA, etc.)		et alii	et al.
		coulomb	C	et cetera	etc.
<i>Mathematics and Statistics</i>		dextro configuration	D	filial generation	F
all standard mathematical		dextrorotatory	<i>d</i>	for example	e.g.,
signs, symbols, and		direct current	DC	international unit	IU
abbreviations		electron volt	eV	months (in tables, figures):	
base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>	equivalent	eq	first three letters	
common test statistics		farad	F	(e.g., Feb, Jun, Sep)	
(<i>F</i> , <i>t</i> , etc.)		gray	Gy	ploidy	<i>n</i>
correlation or regression	<i>R</i>	hertz	Hz	sex (tables, figures, hybrid	
coefficient (multiple)		hydrogen ion activity	pH	crosses):	
correlation or regression	<i>r</i>	(negative log of)		female	♀
coefficient (simple)		joule	J	male	♂
covariance	cov	levo configuration	L	that is	i.e.,
degree (angular)	°	levorotatory	<i>l</i>	United Kingdom	UK
degrees of freedom	df	lumen	lm	United States (adjective)	U.S.
expected value	<i>E</i>	lux	lx	United States of	USA
logarithm (specify base)	log	molar	M	America (noun)	
minute (angular)	'	mole	mol		

A complete "Guide for Authors" is published in the first issue of each volume.