

Editorial 2014

JOURNAL STATUS

The *Croatian Journal of Fisheries* has been published since 1938 and we are pleased to say that the quality of the Journal continues to improve. We prepared a new design and guidelines for authors last year. For new manuscript submissions, authors should use our online system where we are developing a manuscript database. Also, we have included copyright release form for the authorship statement. For more visibility, we have incorporated manuscript DOI numbers and finally joined Scopus database.

REVIEWERS

The greatest responsibility of a scientific journal is to ensure that all contributions accepted for publication are rigorously but fairly reviewed. We gratefully acknowledge the valued support of all scientists who reviewed papers for the Journal in 2013. Individuals who reviewed for the Journal between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013 are listed in Appendix 1 at the end of the editorial.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

One of the most challenging aspects of editing a journal like the *Croatian Journal of Fisheries* is maintaining a wide range of topics covered by the Journal (Table 1). This was one of the reasons why we changed the Editorial Board to the Associate Editors system. Also, we needed to expand the number of associate editors for assistance with specific topics in the peer-review process. In this way papers are more rigorously reviewed and the reviewing process is much faster. Consequently, the published papers are of much better quality.

ISSUES IN 2013

We published 13 original scientific papers, 4 preliminary and 10 short communications, and 1 review paper in 2013. The manuscripts most frequently cover such topics as freshwater aquaculture and inland water. Other topics covered include: mariculture, water ecology, toxicology, biochemistry, hematology, ichthyology, parasitology, fish processing, marine fishing and population genetics (Table 1). Due to a continuous growth of the Journal and its improving quality, we received a total of 80 paper submissions in 2013, which is almost twice as much as received in 2012.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

The revision process begins after authors submit their manuscripts to our website. Their manuscripts are first being examined by the editor-in-chief and if they are acceptable, they are ready for the next step – they are sent to associate editors for a review process.

Each associate editor has his/her own particular branch of scientific knowledge and according to that specific field, manuscripts are sent to associate editors for revision. Their first obligation is the following: quick overview of the manuscript and deciding whether it is acceptable for further revision. After the first examination, in case a manuscript is acceptable, it must be sent for a review. Manuscripts are often being sent to more than just two reviewers. If the two reviewers have positive comments about a manuscript and the third reviewer has a completely negative feedback, the editor may accept the third opinion if it is more convincing than the first two. Further on, if a manuscript has positive feedback from the reviewers, the associate editor has to contact the author in order to make required corrections (if suggested by the reviewers). Until an author corrects his/her manuscript as required, the revision is not considered complete. After the corrections are made, this is considered a final version of the manuscript and it can be sent to the editor-in-chief for making a final decision together with the associate editor. As all of our (former) Editorial Board members have become associate editors, they are very helpful in deciding on the final status of a paper. Their decision is always above that of the reviewers and they discuss it with the editor-in-chief who either agrees or disagrees.

Authors are often very curious and impatient to know the status of their paper so there are many correspondence issues and this is usually because their corrections are not done as required or not done at all. Sometimes it takes half a year before we get a final version of a paper, even after all the instructions and explanations given to the author are well understood and included, and so the publication process is prolonged. Sometimes it happens that the authors give up on making further corrections for the publication of their papers without giving any explanation.

On the other hand, some authors exert pressure on the editor and want their manuscript to be published as soon as possible. Of course, this is not possible if a manuscript is not well written, which often entails substantial modifications. The Journal is not to publish superficially written papers just because the author is in a hurry. Some authors demand a full explanation of the reasons for their manuscript being rejected for publication because they do not accept or cannot understand the editor-in-chief's decision. This kind of an unfavourable decision is not unusual and many other journal editors have to deal with the questions of unsatisfied authors (Rieseberg et al., 2012). If an author is willing to give a carefully worded letter on the revision of this decision, we are also willing to offer some kind of solution. In this case, the author could resubmit the manuscript in its improved version. The editor could also suggest this if there is a recognized potential of the manuscript. The reviewers recommended by the author himself could sometimes be subjective and miss some crucial mistakes in a paper – accidentally or intentionally. For this reason, it is better to have an objective opinion from an independent reviewer who generally gives a

Table 1. Topics covered by the *Croatian Journal of Fisheries* in 2013 (Original scientific paper – OS; Preliminary communication – PC; Review article – RA; Short communication – SC)

MAIN SUBJECT CATEGORY	Keywords	PEER REVIEW	REFERENCES	Type of article
Sport fishing	Common carp, aminoacids, gustatory	Yes	Wood and Arce Azócar, 2013	OS
Freshwater Aquaculture	Crayfish, protein source, growth indices, biochemical parameters	Yes	Banaee et al., 2013	OS
	Fermentation, mango seed, nutrient digestibility, Nile tilapia, anti-nutritional factors	Yes	Obasa et al., 2013	OS
	Probiotics, shrimp health, <i>Penaeus monodon</i> , Seed production	Yes	Uddin et al., 2013	OS
	Fecundity, silver catfish, biometric parameters, ovary weight	Yes	Eyo et al., 2013	OS
	Pikeperch, social learning, weaning, dry feed	Yes	Horvath et al., 2013	OS
Mariculture	Breeding parameters, African catfish	Yes	Ataguba et al., 2013	PC
	Saddled bream, <i>Oblada melanura</i> , LHRHa, artificial fertilization	Yes	Antolović et al., 2013	SC
Fish processing	<i>Arca noae</i> , length, sex ratio, experimental farming	Yes	Župan et al., 2013	SC
	Moringa, marinade, smoke dried fish, brine	Yes	Adeyemi et al., 2013	OS
Water Ecology	Nutritional value, omega-3 sea farmed trout, cold smoked fish	Yes	Jančić et al., 2013	OS
	Macrozoobenthos, fish, diversity, river pollution, river regulation, Danube	Yes	Adámek et al., 2013.	OS
Toxicology	Blue green algae, pond bottom, bioturbation, water blooms	Yes	Salazar Torres and Adamek, 2013	RA
Biochemistry	Dichlorvos, toxicity, <i>Clarias gariepinus</i> , LC ₅₀ , LT ₅₀	Yes	Omoniyi et al., 2013	OS
Hematology	Hibrid catfish, liver, kidney, biochemical profile	Yes	Adamu et al., 2013	PC
Ichthyology	Erythrocyte profile, Prussian carp, temperature	Yes	Dekić et al., 2013	PC
Parasitology	Otolith, mass asymmetry, <i>Carangoides caeruleo-pinnatus</i>	Yes	Jawad, 2013	SC
Population genetics	Cobitidae, parasite	Yes	Mousavi Sabet and Sattari, 2013	OS
Marine fishing	Cross species amplification, <i>Labeo calbasu</i> , endangered species, microsatellite DNA markers	Yes	Hasan et al., 2013	OS
	Landing, blacktip sea catfish, frasergunje fishing harbour	Yes	Dutta and Hazra, 2013	SC
	First record, <i>Alburnus atropatena</i>	Yes	Khataminejad et al., 2013	SC
	Threatened species, <i>Chondrostoma kinzelbachi</i>	Yes	Özcan, 2013	SC
	Threatened species, <i>Paracobitis rhadinaeus</i>	Yes	Mousavi-Sabet et al., 2013	SC
Inland water	Threatened species <i>Iberochondrostoma almaçai</i>	Yes	Robalo et al., 2013	SC
	Threatened species, <i>Aphanius farsicus</i>	Yes	Keivany and Esmaili, 2013	SC
	Maximum sustainable yield, fishing quota, fishery management	Yes	Jelkić et al., 2013	PC
	Fish production, catch assessment, fishermen, fish landings, fish yield	Yes	Adeyemi, 2013	SC
Supplement to fishing profession	Cobitis, morphometric differentiation, meristic, distribution pattern	Yes	Habibi et al., 2013	OS
	Congress note	No	Treer, 2013	
	Fisheries Note	No	Mishra, 2013	
		No	Tomljanović, 2013	

much more detailed and a more accurate evaluation of a paper. Also, this opinion is often negative and is decisive when rejecting the manuscript. We keep all our reviewers completely anonymous so the authors cannot judge anyone for any reason. We would like also to point out here the following information: the number of rejected papers in 2013 is the same as the number of those which were accepted.

The reason for immediate rejection could be the following: poor writing, non-scientific approach in writing, already a well-covered topic in many other sources, methods that were cutting-edge years ago and the like. Authors often do not follow the instructions for authors so plenty of corrections need to be made before a manuscript can be sent to the reviewers. This is why sometimes it takes a lot of time to prepare manuscripts before they are ready for the review process.

Associate professor, Marina Piria, PhD
Marina Pranjić, Master of education in Croatian language and literature
(mag. educ. philol. croat.)

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Appendix 1. List of reviewers for the *Croatian Journal of Fisheries* between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013

Asghar Abdoli Shahid	Ivan Jakovlić	Roman Safner
Zdenek Adamek	Dušan Jelić	Toni Safner
Jaroslav Andreji	Gorana Jelić Mrčelić	Masoud Sattari
Ivica Aničić	Dinko Jelkić	Roberta Sauerborn Klobučar
Mara Antolović	Josip Juračak	Predrag Simonović
Josip Barišić	Pavel Jurajda	Merica Slišković
Renata Bažok	Damir Kapetanović	Gustavo Daniel Speranza Gastaldi
Ivana Buj	Danijel Karoly	Stojmir Stojanovski
Hancz Csaba	Goran Klobučar	Ivančica Strunjak Perović
Željka Cvrtila-Fleck	Antonin Kouba	Yuhua Sun
Vanja Čikeš Keč	Duje Lisičić	Tanja Šegvić Bubić
Slavica Čolak	Dragana Ljubojević	Maria Špoljar
Marko Čaleta	Daniel Matulić	Nikica Šprem
Jakov Dulčić	Ewen McLean	Douglas Tave
Bitu Ejigu	Julian Metcalfe	Ivana Teodorović
Maria Teresa Ferreira	Ornella Mikuš	Emin Teskeredžić
Zexia Gao	Ivana Miletić	Marija Tomec
Richa Gaur	Milorad Mrakovčić	Tea Tomljanović
Ana Gavrilović	Andrew O. Agbon	Tomislav Treer
Emil Gjurčević	Eunice Oluwayemisi Adeparusi	Pero Tutman
Branko Glamuzina	Tunde Omoniyi	Mayra Valdez
Piotr Gomułka	Marketa Ondračková	Damir Valić
Danijel Gospić	Andelko Opačak	Irena Vardić Smrzlić
Leon Grubišić	Marijana Pečarević	Marc Verdegem
Elizabeta Has-Schön	Melita Peharda	Sanja Vidaček
Liu Hong	Marina Piria	Brian W. Coad
Md. Ariful Islam	Meta Povž	Chunfang Wang