

Call for papers

Dear colleague,

The ICES Journal of Marine Science (ICES JMS) strives to advance marine science by making judicious use of [themed article sets](#) (TSs). TSs are series of coordinated contributions – introduced by a synthetic overview – on a selected topic. Both individually and collectively, TSs are instrumental in focusing attention, triggering opinions and stimulating ideas, discussion and activity in specific research fields.

We invite you to participate in a TS entitled **Ethical and practical dimensions of engaging fishing communities in research practices**.

Fisheries worldwide are facing a growing number of social, economic and ecological challenges. To address these, fisheries science and management is increasingly drawing on the social sciences, co-production approaches and transdisciplinary methods to introduce and incorporate the voices and knowledge of fisheries communities. While this research is valuable, and much overdue, we seek to reflect by asking: does the increase in such projects with fishing communities come at a cost? Over-engagement, (perceived) lack of feedback, and limited perceptible benefits to the communities that researchers work with can lead to fatigue and in some cases resentment and hostility. This can harm future collaborations in research, policy, and management. Whilst a total lack of engagement (e.g. parachute research) is recognised as unethical, should the ethical dimensions of any engagement, and its implications, also be considered?

Starting from the premise that engagement with fishing communities is necessary, as a research community we must develop better practices and ethics around that engagement. This includes considering what duty of care we have for the communities we work with, taking into consideration previous or ongoing research efforts, and asking if the engagement is ethical and necessary.

We welcome contributions to this TS that address, among other things, the following:

- Perspective pieces (Food for thought; Stories from the front lines) that reflect researchers' experiences with engagement, including ethical and moral considerations (e.g. deciding to engage or not, different ways of engaging, defining and navigating duties of care etc.).
- Meta-analysis, traditional, and systematic reviews that characterise the scale of the challenge (e.g. identifying hotspots and/or groups of over- and under-engagement, different typologies of engagement etc.).

- Empirically based case studies that adopt different ontological, epistemological or methodological approaches towards engagement (e.g. feminism, ethics of care, indigenous ontologies etc.).
- Empirically based case studies of successful or unsuccessful engagement with fishing communities in different processes including science, policy or management.
- Future looks and solution-oriented work (e.g. roadmap for future engagement, lessons learnt from other forms of community engagement, engagement with groups that are increasingly at risk (e.g. women, youth, indigenous) etc.)
- 'In conversation with' style pieces - in select cases the initiators of the TS, and the Journal's editors, would work with individuals to develop a paper that has an interview style to highlight particular experiences or views. We offer this as an option so that those who might not traditionally express their views in academic papers can contribute to this TS. [See here for an example.](#)

We welcome contributions from, but not limited to, ecologists, social scientists, fisheries scientists, anthropologists, economists, artists, geographers and political scientists working anywhere in the world. We also invite representatives of fishing communities, policymakers, managers, NGOs and other fisheries stakeholders to share their views and experiences. In recognising the disparity in research capacity globally, we also encourage discussion on the proposed topics, including from researchers, communities, policy makers, managers etc. who have not experienced issues with over-engagement.

Manuscripts should be prepared following the technical guidelines that can be found on the ICES JMS website and should be submitted following the standard procedure. Please state in your cover letter that the article is intended for inclusion in this TS. Manuscripts will be subjected to the standard ICES JMS review process.

Publication of TSs occurs on a "build as it goes" basis; articles will normally appear online within 2-4 weeks of their acceptance in final form. That means that publication of the first article accepted will not be delayed by the last article accepted, and articles will not be held back until the TS is complete.

The deadline for submissions is 1st March 2024. You can also submit at any time before the deadline. We would appreciate receiving an indication of your interest in contributing at your earliest convenience (by email to Anna Woodhead). We hope that you will accept this invitation and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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