

No. 52	Publications Overview Committee	David Hewitt
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TO: John Boreman, President
FROM: David Hewitt, Chair, Publications Overview Committee
DATE: August 11, 2013

I. Motion Report

No motions to report

II. Activity Report

(A) Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments Organized by Focus Area in Strategic Plan

A.1: Charge

Between the 2012 and 2013 Annual Meetings of the Society, you charged the Publications Overview Committee (POC) to focus our efforts on four tasks:

1. Work with AFS Publications staff to implement the recommendations we made last year for monitoring the transition of the AFS journals to Taylor & Francis from AllenPress.
2. Identify gaps in the suite of AFS publications, in terms of fisheries disciplines, and recommend to the Governing Board how they should be addressed.
3. Evaluate alternatives for increasing international visibility of the AFS journals, including potential changes to the names of the journals.
4. Consider the issues related to providing financial compensation to Editors and Associate Editors of the AFS journals, given their current workload and ongoing expectations for faster time-to-publication.

These tasks and the activities of the POC generally address a number of goals, objectives, and strategies in the AFS Strategic Plan. Specifically, they address issues relevant to maintaining a strong suite of publications, which is critical both as support for the role that AFS plays in providing leadership on global fisheries issues and as a service to the diverse AFS membership:

Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership -- AFS will be a global leader providing information and technical resources for the sustainability and conservation of fisheries resources

Objective 1.1: Promote fisheries conservation throughout North America and the world, at all levels of government and society, and among all levels of AFS by supporting sound science and networking opportunities

Strategy 6: Maintain and improve the excellence and expedience of AFS publications

Goal 3: Value of Membership -- AFS will serve its members and fisheries, aquaculture, and aquatic science constituencies to fulfill the mission of the Society

Objective 3.1: Determine and respond to the needs and opinions of AFS members

Strategy 10: Ensure AFS services and products are affordable, viable, and beneficial to members

Objective 3.3: Promote diversity within AFS and the fisheries profession

Strategy 1: Remove obstacles to full participation of under-represented groups (including women) in AFS meetings, publication activities, and governance

Objective 3.4: Develop innovative and cost effective methods to make fisheries science and management information readily available to AFS members and all levels of government entities worldwide

Strategy 1: Pursue open access formats for publications

A.2: Task 1 Report, Monitoring the Transition of AFS Journals to Taylor & Francis

Our recommendations from last year are given here along with a report on each that outlines our activity from this year, as well as the activity of Publications staff, in carrying out the recommendations. Except where noted, we did not distinguish between the five primary journals and Fisheries magazine for this task. An Appendix to this report is included that contains relevant data and Figures, which are cited as part of the report. We expect that the Appendix will be shared with Editors and Associate Editors at the Annual Meeting as part of the usual briefings by the Director of Publications (DP). We make a recommendation in Section B.1 that relates to this Task as well.

1. We recommended that AFS Journals staff *continue* to:

- A. Monitor the number and proportion of both submitted and published manuscripts that come from outside North America, the number of journal subscriptions that come from outside North America, and the web-based activity that the AFS journal pages receive from outside North America.

The DP informed the POC that the breakdown of submitted manuscripts for each of the journals by country of the submitting author is available from Taylor & Francis (T&F) and is provided to the Editors and Associate Editors at the Annual Meeting each year. We recommended that the DP also provide the fate of the manuscripts for those that have completed the review process (what proportion were ultimately accepted for publication), by country of the submitting author. The POC and the DP will review this information following the Annual Meeting.

The POC gathered information from the DP and data from T&F related to international subscriptions to the journals. The DP noted that it was not straightforward to compare subscription numbers prior to and following the transition to T&F, as the model for sales of subscriptions is fundamentally different under T&F. Taylor & Francis offers sales packages of journals from many publishers (including AFS), and also has consortia agreements with 25 other "large" customers, including Fisheries and Oceans Canada, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, USGS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA, and about 17 State agencies. Customers with access to AFS journals through the sales packages and consortia agreements are not tracked as specific subscriptions to our journals. Nonetheless, in 2010

prior to the transition to T&F in January 2011, 744 institutions worldwide had a traditional subscription to AFS journals. Currently, including the sales packages, about 2,400 institutions have access to the AFS journals, so we can safely say that we have much wider exposure through T&F than we did prior to the transition. However, traditional subscriptions to just the AFS journals have been declining since at least 2009 (Table 1 in the Appendix). The ongoing decline in subscriptions overall is a concern for the journals program, similar to the ongoing decline in membership of the Society. Similarly, for the two years where we have data from T&F, it appears that the international reach as reflected in traditional subscriptions has been flat or even declined somewhat (Table 2 in the Appendix). The primary world regions for subscriptions outside of North America have been Europe, Asia, and Australasia.

Relative to the web-based attention that the journals receive from outside North America, the POC worked with T&F to acquire some data on this. [For this element, we do not have a baseline for comparison from back when the journals were with AllenPress.] Web-based activity is reported by T&F as “article usage,” which combines PDF downloads and full-text HTML page views. A breakdown of article usage by world region for all of the journals is given in Figure 1 of the Appendix. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society (TAFS) and North American Journal of Fisheries Management (NAJFM) are the most North America-centric of the journals with regard to web-based activity, with about 85% of usage coming from that region. Fisheries magazine gets somewhat more attention from outside North America, particularly the Asia Pacific, Northern & Central Europe, and Latin America regions. North American Journal of Aquaculture (NAJA), Journal of Aquatic Animal Health (JAAH), and Marine and Coastal Fisheries (MCF) receive more web-based attention from other regions of the world.

- B. Monitor metrics of per-article influence (e.g., Impact Factor, Article Influence from Eigenfactor.org, Google Scholar) for all of the journals.

The POC gathered data on the Google Scholar h5 Index for the AFS journals and a selection of peer journals to include along with Eigenfactor data and Impact Factors. The DP provided the usual summary of Impact Factors for the AFS journals. A complete comparison of status and trends in influence metrics for the AFS journals and the selected set of peer journals is provided in Table 3 of the Appendix.

- C. Monitor the AFS journals (e.g., NAJA, JAAH, MCF) that have been underperforming relative to other AFS journals and similarly-themed scientific publications to determine whether the transition to T&F has had a positive effect on them.

The POC, the DP, and the Editors for these journals will review submissions data, influence metrics (Table 3 in the Appendix), and web-based activity (Figures 1-3 in the Appendix) following the Editors meeting at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Influence metrics indicate little change for most journals over the last 4-5 years, and small changes may simply represent “noise” in annual citation summaries (Table 3 in the Appendix). Although no comparison is possible for MCF regarding the transition to T&F, the most recent Impact Factor for that journal is encouraging and some metrics indicate that it is similar to NAJFM. Only a few data points are available for MCF at this point in time. Of the journals that we labeled “underperforming,” NAJA is consistently the lowest ranked AFS journal in terms of

citations, and JAAH looks similar to NAJA by some metrics (Google Scholar h5 Index and Eigenfactor) and more like the other journals in other metrics (Impact Factor). Web-based activity data in Figure 1 of the Appendix shows that these three journals all get more attention from outside North America than the other AFS journals, particularly from the Asia Pacific and Northern & Central Europe regions. However, in terms of overall web-based activity, these three journals are accessed less than articles in TAFS and NAJFM and the relative ranks among AFS journals have changed little over time (Figures 2-3 in the Appendix). There is some indication that web-based activity is more positive for NAJA than the influence metrics. Despite it being open access, MCF web-based activity is consistently one of the lowest of all the journals. Taylor & Francis indicates that to some extent this may happen because people access the freely available articles through routes other than the T&F web pages. We suspect that the relatively lower ranking of Fisheries magazine for web-based activity compared to influence metrics is driven by the fact that more AFS members receive Fisheries in print than for the other journals and thus do not access its articles online.

- D. Work with T&F for decreasing time-to-publication for MCF, a journal that is “marketed” with an emphasis on the expectation that it would have a relatively fast publication time.

The DP informed the POC that mechanisms for decreasing time-to-publication mostly occur in the review, decision, and copyediting stages. Papers are posted online and given a publication date once copyediting is completed and checked by the author. The POC, the DP, and the Editors for MCF will review the information on time-to-publication provided by the DP at the Editors meeting at the 2013 Annual Meeting to determine what steps might be taken to reduce time-to-publication. This evaluation is carried out for all of the journals each year as the reduction of time-to-publication has become a recurring goal, and comparisons among journals can be helpful.

- E. Work with T&F to monitor the web-based attention and downloads generated by articles in NAJA and NAJFM (i.e., journals with an applied/management theme) relative to the others (e.g., Transactions of the American Fisheries Society). Given the importance of articles in those journals to agency biologists and other resource managers, we think that such metrics provide important measures of performance in addition to the rate at which their articles generate citations in the primary literature.

The POC reviewed the web-based activity data for NAJA and NAJFM (Figures 2-3 in the Appendix). Web-based activity for articles in NAJFM was consistently ranked second behind activity for articles in TAFS, similar to their ranking in terms of influence metrics. There was some indication that web-based activity is more positive for NAJA than the influence metrics, although this only shows up in Abstract page views and not full text downloads. As noted above, we suspect that the relatively lower ranking of Fisheries magazine for web-based activity compared to influence metrics is driven by the fact that more AFS members receive Fisheries in print than for the other journals and thus do not access its articles online.

2. Further, we recommended that AFS Journals staff *implement* the following procedures:

A. If an increase in international submissions to the journals occurs, we recommend that AFS survey the Editors and Associate Editors to determine whether those manuscripts are creating or intensifying any issues during the peer review process (e.g., challenges associated with authors for which English is a second language).

The DP informed the POC that Publications was able to handle any issues arising from international submissions directly with the Editors and Associate Editors on an as-needed basis. There was some indication that manuscripts from international authors had difficulties with language and science quality, but they were being dealt with satisfactorily. The POC informed the DP that we were willing to assist if anything arose that involved policy concerns or was troublesome beyond the basic workings of the review process.

B. AFS should develop a policy for how to deal with plagiarism and associated copyright issues. Regarding plagiarism, the ScholarOne system for manuscript submission and peer review used by T&F includes iThenticate's CrossCheck software. We recommend that AFS use that software to screen a sample of manuscripts from prior to the transition and compare the results with manuscripts handled through ScholarOne following the transition. (Note: Plagiarism is an important issue that may need additional attention. It is not entirely clear to the POC whether this issue is handled primarily by AFS or T&F).

The DP informed us that it is not possible to screen manuscripts with CrossCheck from before and after the transition, as the software is only integrated into the system for submissions within ScholarOne (T&F). A related concern was that most Editors and Associate Editors might not be using the CrossCheck software on submitted manuscripts that they handle, despite its availability. The DP will encourage its use amongst the Editorial Board members, but an AFS policy could formalize this advice and potentially make it a requirement.

The DP informed the POC that Publications has dealt with several instances of suspected plagiarism in JAAH and that a policy for how to handle such cases would be welcome. Some particularly relevant concerns related to a plagiarism policy are given below and include brief summaries of discussion that occurred within the POC:

- ◆ How do we define plagiarism and how do we check for it in a consistent way?
 - Can we develop guidance on how to interpret the results of CrossCheck inquiries on manuscripts? For example, what level of reported similarity (as a percentage) is worrisome? Can we evaluate plagiarism that is brought to our attention outside of the ScholarOne system (e.g., after publication) in a way similar to how we evaluate submitted manuscripts with CrossCheck?
 - The POC generally felt that self-plagiarism or text re-use (an author using the same language in multiple publications/manuscripts, often in Methods sections) should be allowed to some extent and thus treated differently. Indeed, a large percentage of papers should be expected to have some similarity in the Methods with other papers already published. Editors or Associate Editors could suggest that the authors reword/paraphrase copied text in some cases, particularly if large portions (e.g., whole paragraphs) were copied verbatim.
 - Should we treat text copying in the Methods section different from other parts of the manuscript, since routine methodologies are similar across many

studies in some disciplines (e.g., genetics)? The POC felt that the Methods section should be treated differently in some cases, as above.

- ◆ If we suspect plagiarism, should we allow a response/rebuttal and revision of the manuscript or simply reject it?
 - The POC felt that the answer to this question would depend on extent. If the entire analysis and manuscript looked to have been plagiarized, that should be treated differently (reject outright) than instances where small chunks of text had been copied. For example, short parts of Methods sections copied by authors for whom English is a second language. In such cases we could ask the authors to revise/paraphrase. Of course, there will be cases that fall into a grey area and we will need a policy on how to handle those cases as consistently as possible.
- ◆ If a manuscript is ultimately deemed to have problems related to plagiarism that prevent it from being considered for publication, should we prohibit authors of such manuscripts from submitting manuscripts to AFS journals in the future?
 - Similar to the question above, the POC felt that this would depend on the extent of plagiarism. In most cases the POC did not feel like a ban would be appropriate, but authors that were involved could be followed to ensure that no repeat offenses occurred. Tracking of offending authors should occur at the Publications level across all journals. In the case where essentially an entire analysis and manuscript had been plagiarized, AFS might consider a complete ban on submissions from the primary author, and potentially coauthors as well depending on whether they were also responsible.
- ◆ If a manuscript is ultimately deemed to have problems related to plagiarism that prevent it from being considered for publication, should we notify all Editorial Board members and other journals about the authors (i.e., “blacklist” them)?
 - Similar to the questions above, the POC felt that this would depend on the extent of plagiarism, but there was no consensus. Some members were against any notifications to other journals. Others felt that the worst offenses (essentially the entire analysis and manuscript plagiarized) should lead to complete bans from any AFS journal and that we should notify their employing institution and other fisheries journals. We did not discuss how to develop a list of other journals to notify. In less severe cases of plagiarism, provided that the author(s) responded in a satisfactory way to inquiries, the POC felt that the author(s) should not be blacklisted and no other journals should be notified.

Guidelines for defining plagiarism and steps to deal with it are provided by two respected sources: the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE; <http://publicationethics.org/resources/>; see especially the Code of Conduct, Guidelines, and Flowcharts) and the Council of Science Editors (CSE; <http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3331>). These sources establish something of an industry standard on plagiarism. After considering the information from these sources, the POC felt that the best way to approach an AFS policy on plagiarism was to adopt the guidelines from these sources and note only exceptions and additions. Because most of the responsibility for issues associated with plagiarism lies with the Editors of the AFS journals, a complete documentation of exceptions and additions to the COPE/CSE guidelines needs to be conducted jointly with the Editorial Boards. Defining a

set of steps to take in addressing cases of plagiarism, and who within AFS would be responsible at the various steps, would be very important. The POC considers this a high priority for AFS and a formal motion should be developed with regard to a policy on plagiarism for consideration by the Governing Board.

C. We recommend that AFS revisit the language used to describe and advertise the journals to potential authors in the Aims & Scope section of each journal's web site and the Guides for Authors. We suggest that revisions of this material could make the journals more attractive to potential authors in general, but specifically to international authors. Items to consider include: increasing the scope of taxa that is emphasized, devoting less text to what we do not publish and more to what we do publish, clarification of the extent to which named "North American" journals welcome and encourage submissions from outside North America. The Aims & Scope material for each journal should be expanded, and, to the extent possible, the language in the A&S and Guides for Authors should be similar in organization and style.

The DP requested a review of the Aims and Scope for each journal from each Editor of the journals, and will work with the Editors to make updates. Some of the recommendations in this report may also lead to changes to the Aims and Scopes after consideration by the Editorial Boards. The POC will work with the DP to review any updates that are made and maintain consistency in format and language across journals to the extent possible.

D. We recommend that AFS survey authors as well as Editors and Associate Editors with regard to their satisfaction with the ScholarOne manuscript submission and tracking system. To the extent possible, responses should be acquired and summarized in a way that they can be compared to author/editor satisfaction with the AllenTrack system used prior to the transition.

The DP informed the POC that he queries all Editors and Associate Editors each year at the Annual Meeting about their experience with ScholarOne and works with T&F to implement fixes and improvements to accommodate any concerns. This interaction with the Editors and Associate Editors also occurs throughout the year on a more informal basis whenever concerns or problems are expressed (e.g., email templates for correspondence with authors).

The DP also implemented an email-based survey of all ScholarOne users (about 8,000 authors, reviewers, Editors, and Associate Editors). The POC reviewed the survey instrument (Microsoft Word document) prior to its distribution and suggested a few changes that were incorporated. We also suggested that, in the future, the survey be carried out online or in some other format than a Microsoft Word attachment in case that format prevented anyone from participating. The response rate was low. The DP has summarized the results of the survey and will discuss them with the Editors and Associate Editors at the 2013 Annual Meeting. The POC is also reviewing the survey results. As to comparing the ScholarOne system with the system used under AllenTrack, the only option to do this was to include questions in the survey that asked respondents to compare experiences between the two systems, provided that they had used both.

(B) Recommendations or Suggestions for Future Consideration

B.1: Task 1 Suggestion

Related to Task 1 (monitoring the transition of AFS journals to T&F), we suggest that the POC formally adopt the annual task of summarizing and reviewing journal metrics not already reviewed by Publications staff. This joint annual review of the journals and Fisheries magazine seems to be a healthy collaboration and reduces the workload for Publications staff. It also serves to keep the POC up to date on the status and trends of the journals relative to their peers. This annual task could be continued as long as the Publications staff and the President and Governing Board consider the elements of the review worthwhile (Section A.2 of this report and the Appendix).

B.2: Task 2 Recommendations, Gaps in AFS Publications

Discussion within the POC identified a number of discipline gaps in AFS journals, summarized below (we restricted our discussion of gaps to the journals). We recommend that the first step toward filling the gaps be to have the Editorial Boards of the five journals and Fisheries magazine, as well as the DP, review the summary of our discussion and determine whether some of the gaps can be filled by accommodation in our existing publications. Paths to consider include expanding the Aims and Scopes of the journals and organizing special issues or sections in the journals.

A number of suggestions were also made regarding alternative types of papers to appear in the journals. These suggestions do not identify discipline gaps in our publications but they are listed below for completeness. The possibility of adding a new journal focusing on applied science or methodology (e.g., gear modifications, direct and indirect effects on fisheries from pollution and habitat modifications) was also mentioned, but recent discussion with the DP indicated that addition of a new journal without hiring a Journals Manager would be a serious burden on the small Publications staff. Given the potential financial implications, the addition of new journals should be considered together with Editorial Boards for journals that might have overlap with the subject matter to ensure that a new journal has broad support.

The POC membership was asked to respond to three questions, with attention to the current Aims and Scopes of the five journals:

Question 1: For each of the journals, are there any disciplines that are not represented in the Aims and Scopes but that you feel should be?

Question 2: From browsing recent issues of the journals, have you noticed that particular disciplines or sub-disciplines appear to be under-represented for a given journal (or all journals as a whole)?

Question 3: If you notice gaps in our publications, how might they be addressed?

Gap 1: Social sciences and human dimensions of fisheries

Human dimensions and socioeconomics are mentioned in the Aims and Scope for MCF, but the social sciences sub-disciplines are not outlined specifically and do not seem to be well represented within the AFS journals as a whole. The integration of fisheries and social sciences is emerging as its own discipline and is increasingly represented in other fisheries journals. For example, there were a number of recent examples in each of Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

(CJFAS), Fish and Fisheries, and Reviews in Fisheries Science, and this topic was recently the focus of a special issue in Fisheries Management and Ecology (April 2013).

Gap 2: Toxicology

Toxicology is not well-represented in the scopes of our journals, although articles on this topic do appear in JAAH. CJFAS is often considered to be similar to TAFS, but CJFAS publishes quite a bit on toxicology research related to fisheries and few such articles appear in TAFS. It would probably be beneficial for authors to know that TAFS encourages submissions related to toxicology and fisheries.

Gap 3: Advice or perspective on fisheries management and policy from senior fisheries managers (in contrast to researchers)

Gap 4: Aquatic ecology and global change

Many members of AFS are aquatic biologists that conduct studies of fish-related impacts associated with pollution, land use, and changes in water quality. There is not really a vehicle for publication of environmental impact or indicator type papers within AFS journals. Such papers seem particularly appropriate for TAFS or Fisheries magazine. We are missing opportunities to provide leadership on understanding a changing biosphere by supporting many of the areas that EPA and other environmental regulators need for supporting policy and decision making. For example, basic descriptions of the early life history of fishes were previously published in TAFS but fewer such articles are being published now. As a result, taxonomic resolution of fish development has slowed or even stalled. This has implications for Clean Water Act 316 demonstrations, which require understanding the impacts of once-through cooling on fish assemblages. While MCF mentions climate change in their scope, some authors may seek to publish in specialized global change journals, like Global Change Biology, which attracts some fisheries-related articles. The term climate change may be somewhat limited in scope, and global change may be a more appropriate, encompassing term.

Suggestions for alternative types of papers to appear in the journals included:

Review Papers

AFS publications should try to attract more review articles for our journals and Fisheries magazine, as these are important contributions to the literature and there are a limited number of “good” outlets for such work -- Fish and Fisheries mostly. Review articles are not what they used to be in terms of length, but even concise and synthetic reviews seem like they should have a home in any of our journals. Fisheries magazine could consider carrying review articles as Features. A list of current hot topics in fisheries, as well as potential authors on the identified topics, could be solicited from Editors, Associate Editors, and POC members.

Rapid Communications

A type of paper that is under-represented in the journals is something similar to the Rapid Communication in CJFAS. Fisheries magazine is certainly one venue for such papers, but TAFS or other journals could establish a fast track for essays or commentaries on hot topics, or studies with results that justify rapid publication. Such papers tend to be influential and AFS journals are

currently not a good outlet for them. A related but little used category of publication in TAFS is the "Forum" category.

B.3: Task 3 Recommendations, Increasing International Visibility of AFS Journals

Discussion within the POC identified a number of potential approaches for increasing the international visibility of the AFS journals, but we also discussed the desirability of internationalizing the journals. This was a lengthy and somewhat contentious discussion, and this topic appears to be particularly worthy of further consideration. As with Task 2, we recommend that ideas and concerns brought forward from our discussion, summarized below, first be examined by the Editorial Boards of the five journals (and probably also Fisheries magazine) to gauge their potential impact, support, and practical utility.

All of the journals and Fisheries magazine are considered by AFS to be international in scope and encourage submissions from authors worldwide. [As of late March 2013, the Aims and Scope on the web site for NAJA indicated a focus on North America specifically, but this was no longer accurate and the DP worked with T&F to correct the language on the web site.] Expansion of the international audience for our journals should increase the diversity of submissions as well as increase the readership of the journals. Many POC members saw this as essential to maintain the competitiveness of the journals in the marketplace of peer-reviewed publications. Furthermore, the Strategic Plan focuses on globalization of AFS efforts, and the Executive Director and Governing Board have noted that international subscriptions to the journals represent an important income growth opportunity for AFS. Nonetheless, some POC members worried about potential conflicting objectives for the journals in terms of quality of science, service to the membership, and diversity. Efforts to internationalize the journals in terms of submissions and readership might not improve our ability to publish the best science in the world. Regarding membership service, POC members worried that internationalization might dilute the core strength of the journals related to North American fisheries. Journal submissions at least partly reflect the science that is done by Society members. As such, if the membership of the Society were more international, more international submissions to the journals would follow (perhaps not vice versa). It depends on perspective -- whether our journals are viewed as a tool for increasing international involvement in the Society or rather follow a Society trend of increased international involvement.

POC members were provided with some data on international submissions to the journals (for the period Aug 2011 to Aug 2012) as background for the discussion:

- ◆ TAFS: 81% from U.S., 11.5% from Canada, 2% from Japan, 5.5% from 10 other countries
- ◆ NAJFM: 78% from U.S., 11% from Canada, 11% from 16 other countries
- ◆ JAAH: 41% from U.S., 16% from China, 9% from India, 7% from Canada, 27% from 9 other countries
- ◆ NAJA: 65% from U.S., 5% from Canada, 5% from China, 5% from Iran, 20% from 12 other countries
- ◆ MCF: 85% from U.S., 10% from Canada, 2.6% (1 manuscript) from each Australia and India

The members were asked to respond to some specific questions for which the responses are summarized here:

Question 1: Do you think we should increase the international visibility of AFS journals?

Yes = 10, No = 2

- ♦ Particularly noted TAFS, JAAH, and MCF as needing internationalization.

Question 2: Do you think we should encourage more editors from outside North America?

Yes = 9, No = 3

- ♦ Some strong negative reaction to this idea, particularly from the Editorial Board representative to the POC. Related to perspectives about whether the journals were tools for or products of increased international involvement in the Society. Regarding editorial involvement, it is essentially a top-down versus bottom-up approach. For example, if international submissions rise and international reviewers are sought for such articles, then more international editorial involvement could be recruited through that process. In contrast, it was mentioned that it should be helpful to prospective international authors and subscribers to have someone on an Editorial Board to contact who understands their perspective.

Question 3: Do you think we should encourage more reviewers from outside North America?

Yes = 9, No = 3

Question 4: Do you think we should remove “North American” from the title of NAJFM and NAJA?

Yes = 1, No = 10

- ♦ One member noted that these journals are not suffering, relative to other journals, from a lack of international submissions. In contrast, based on submissions MCF appears to be the most North America-centric and is not titled as “North American.”

Question 5: Do you think we should have special sections or issues dedicated to global fisheries issues?

Yes = 9, No = 3

- ♦ Could consider seeking out contributions from international authors. TAFS, NAJFM, and NAJA were mentioned specifically here. For NAJFM, one suggestion was a section/issue concerning international perspectives on fisheries management with an eye toward unifying concepts.

Additional approaches that were suggested for increasing international visibility of the journals:

1. Editorial solicitation of papers with international content.
2. Publish article Abstracts and Titles in more languages.
3. Facilitate translation and editing of articles for international authors desiring to publish in our journals. In discussion, some members were concerned about whether the current editorial system could handle this additional burden, or how it would be carried out efficiently.
4. Publish an essay in Fisheries magazine as a way of jump-starting this discussion among the membership.

B.4: Task 4 Recommendations, Financial Compensation for Editors and Associate Editors of AFS Journals

The POC recognizes a number of concerns that make discussion of financial compensation for Editorial Board members worthwhile: (1) the AFS journals are continuing to put pressure on Editors, Associate Editors, and authors to reduce time-to-publication; (2) the time available for volunteer service is dwindling generally, and especially among folks that make high quality members of Editorial Boards; and (3) other peer journals, particularly for-profit ones, provide substantial compensation to Editorial Board members. We recognize that incentives are important for recruiting and retaining good Editors and Associate Editors, that such good Editors and Associate Editors are key to the success of the journals, and that the success of the journals is critically important to the finances of the Society.

The POC discussion of this topic ranged more widely than just financial compensation for Editorial Board members. We also discussed other incentives and the potential for providing rewards or incentives to reviewers of manuscripts. As with Tasks 2 and 3, we recommend that ideas and concerns brought forward from our discussion, summarized below, first be examined by the Editorial Boards of the five journals (and probably also Fisheries magazine). Especially for this task, the input of the Editorial Boards is critical because many POC members have not served as Associate Editors or Editors for major journals and may not be aware of some of the concerns that are driving interest in compensation. A joint discussion is warranted prior to any formal action.

There was no support among the POC members that responded to this issue for financial compensation to Editorial Board members. Most members felt that serving on an Editorial Board of an AFS journal was a privilege and not a chore, such that financial compensation was not an appropriate reward. The recognition that goes along with holding such a position was considered by most members to be reward enough. Other comments noted that the amount of compensation we could provide would not likely be enough to change behavior, that the real factor in decision-making for most people is time and not money, and that in fact most journals do not offer financial compensation to Editors. One POC member wondered what the evidence was that the AFS journals as a whole are in fact having trouble recruiting and retaining Editors or Associate Editors.

Another issue that was raised was that federal government scientists in many agencies (e.g., USGS) cannot accept compensation ("reward") for professional services except under fairly specific restrictions (if at all; depends on the nature and value of the reward). Furthermore, at least within USGS, incentives are provided for such professional service through annual performance reviews. Because many federal scientists that are involved in the AFS Editorial Boards would not be able to accept compensation, any such plan would create inequity across the Editorial Boards. The POC did not examine whether such restrictions might apply to scientists in other agencies or institutions.

In contrast to the overwhelming opinion regarding financial compensation to Editorial Board members, POC members were positive about the idea of compensating reviewers for their volunteer service to the journals. Obviously good reviewers are critical to the review process and members felt that rewarding them might make it easier to obtain reviewers for manuscripts, given the general problem of "reviewer fatigue." However, one member felt that, in contrast to a reward or incentive, authors that publish in the journals should be expected to review at least one manuscript for the journals in exchange for each submitted manuscript. [As an aside, the POC did a quick summary of data for TAFS related to reviews of original submitted manuscripts for the period from December 2010 to March 2013. We found that about 10% of reviews that were agreed to were not eventually returned, which was worrisome to some members. We also found that, on average, about 4.5 invitations were sent by the Associate Editor to obtain 2.25 sufficient reviews for a manuscript. One member noted that

this was about average across top fisheries journals.] One member mentioned the potential to host Continuing Education courses (for credit) at AFS meetings in order to recruit/train interested reviewers, especially graduate students and young professionals. With regard to compensating reviewers, a number of ideas for incentives/rewards were mentioned, and members noted that some of the ideas could be applied to Associate Editors as well (list below). The POC did not discuss where the funding might come from to support the rewards or incentives.

- ◆ Discount applied to membership fees
- ◆ Discount or defrayment of costs associated with attending AFS meetings (e.g., registration)
- ◆ Extra drink tickets for socials at the Annual Meeting
- ◆ Discount on books or other publications from AFS
- ◆ Waiver of publication fees for manuscripts
- ◆ Short-term access to journals (this is done by other publishers in exchange for reviews)
- ◆ Develop a system of reward points to reviewers, with points scaled according to the quality and timeliness of reviews as recorded in ScholarOne, where points are redeemable for rewards of some kind
- ◆ Provide recognition in the form of a note in Fisheries magazine or as part of the Annual Meeting program (maybe a ribbon to attach to their name tag or a plaque or other reward)
- ◆ Create a special AFS polo shirt that people can only get by completing three timely and high quality reviews in a year
- ◆ Enter a reviewer's name into a raffle at the Annual Meeting once for each timely and high quality review they complete

B.5: Suggestions of Issues for Future Consideration by the POC

1. The Chief Science Editor for Fisheries magazine has invited the POC to participate in a forward-looking analysis of how to keep the magazine interesting and relevant. A major issue is determining the appropriate balance of magazine content (e.g., news) and peer-reviewed science content. We would welcome the task of working with the Editor and Fisheries magazine staff in this analysis.
2. Associate Editors for the AFS journals have in recent years made up a substantial part of the membership of the POC. Over 40% of the membership in this past year was made up of either Associate Editors for journals or Science Editors for Fisheries magazine. Some discussion with you and the DP indicated that some reasonable upper limit might need to be set on the proportion of POC members that serve in those roles, to avoid the POC simply becoming something of an extension of the Editorial Boards. The POC could work with the incoming President and the DP to make a formal motion to amend the Procedures Manual to this effect.
3. The POC in the past year had three members serving in appointed roles from various units within AFS. One was appointed from the Editorial Boards of the journals (an Editor from NAJFM), one was appointed from the Editorial Board of Fisheries magazine (a Science Editor), and the other was appointed from the Book Editorial Advisory Board. These appointments were apparently made at the discretion of the POC Chair and are not formally listed in the Procedures Manual. We have treated the appointed members as non-voting, subject to annual renewal, and

have not considered them as part of the minimum 9 persons that make up the committee. The POC could work with the incoming President and the DP to make a formal motion to amend the Procedures Manual with regard to these appointed members of the POC (authority to appoint, duration of term, voting status).

4. A strong movement is occurring toward open access, in various flavors, for the peer-reviewed scientific literature. The POC could work with the DP to review the access options available to authors in AFS journals through Taylor & Francis, and potentially recommend changes to the offerings. Such changes would have to be negotiated with T&F.

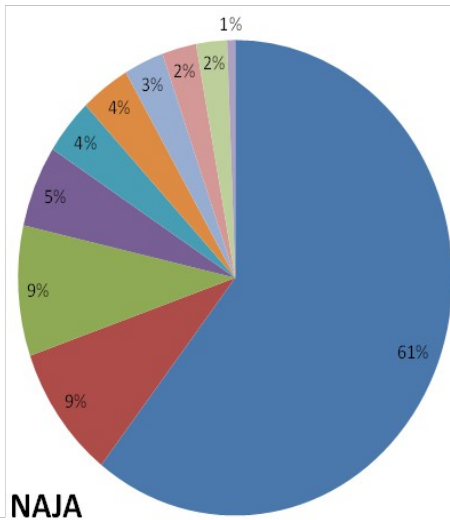
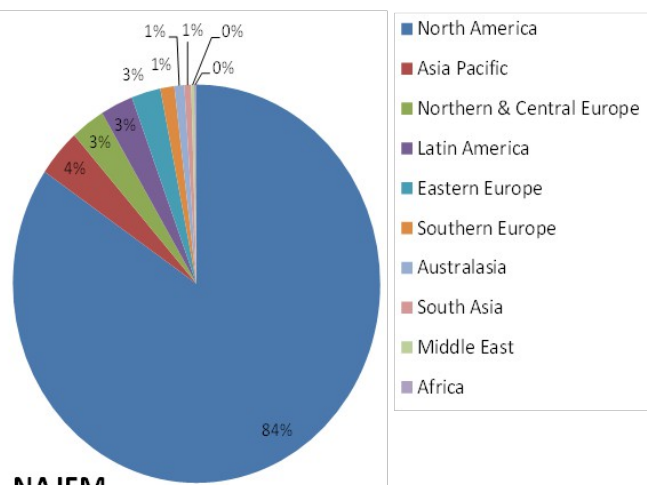
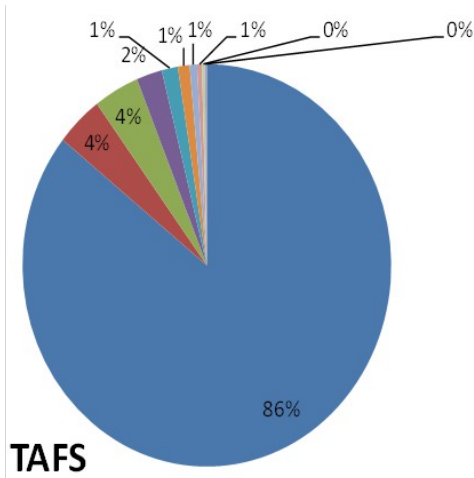
5. Publication of symposia proceedings currently happens outside of the journals through a separate process. The POC could work with the DP to determine whether the current process is working well and evaluate alternative models for the publication of symposia proceedings (e.g., special sections or issues of the journals). Other issues that could be addressed include the appointment and authority of Guest Editors for such proceedings and online availability of the resulting publications.

APPENDIX

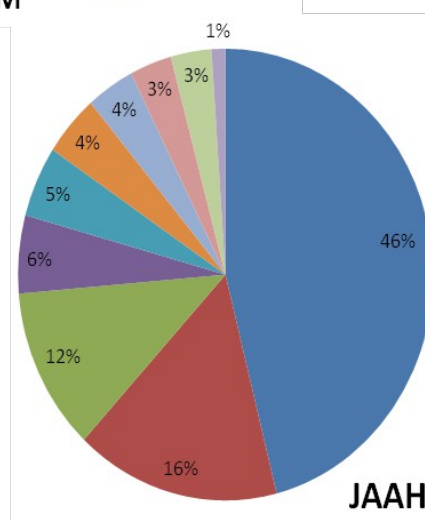
Table 1. Counts of traditional subscriptions to the AFS journals, 2009-2012. NAJFM and TAFS are only sold to institutions and libraries as part of the AFS journal package and are not tracked separately, whereas JAAH and NAJA may be purchased individually. Data provided by the Director of Publications.

Table 2. Counts of traditional subscriptions to the AFS journals, by world region, since the transition to Taylor & Francis in January 2011. NAJFM and TAFS are only sold to institutions and libraries as part of the AFS journal package and are not tracked separately, whereas JAAH and NAJA may be purchased individually. Data provided by the Director of Publications.

Figure 1. Full text downloads (PDF downloads and full text HTML page views) for articles in the AFS journals since January 2012, by world region. Data provided by Taylor & Francis.

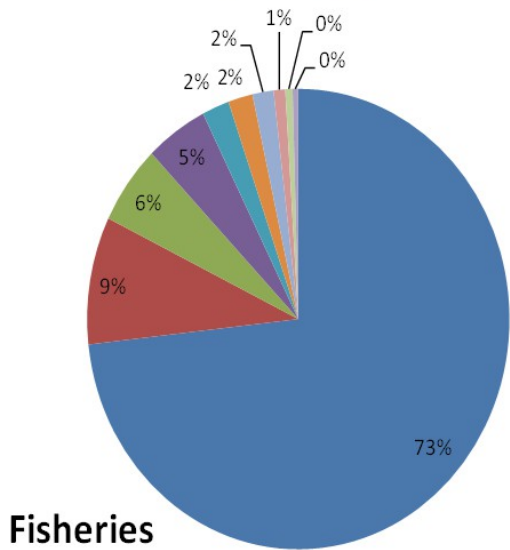


NAJFM

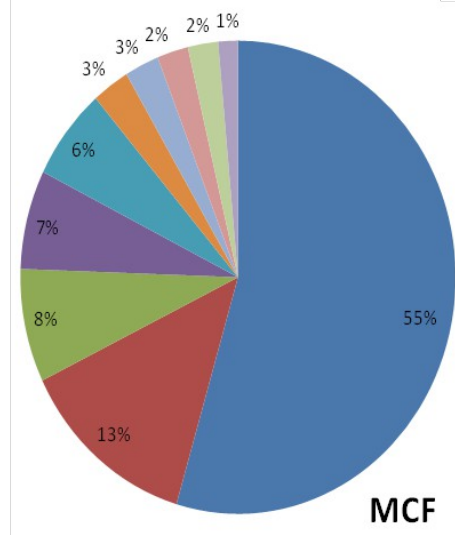


NAJA

JAAH



Fisheries



MCF

Figure 2. Trends in full text downloads (PDF downloads and full text HTML page views) for articles in the AFS journals since the transition to Taylor and Francis in January 2011. Data provided by Taylor & Francis. There is an obvious period at the beginning for 4-6 months where data are transitional, and T&F gives statistics back to the end of June 2011 on the journal web pages.

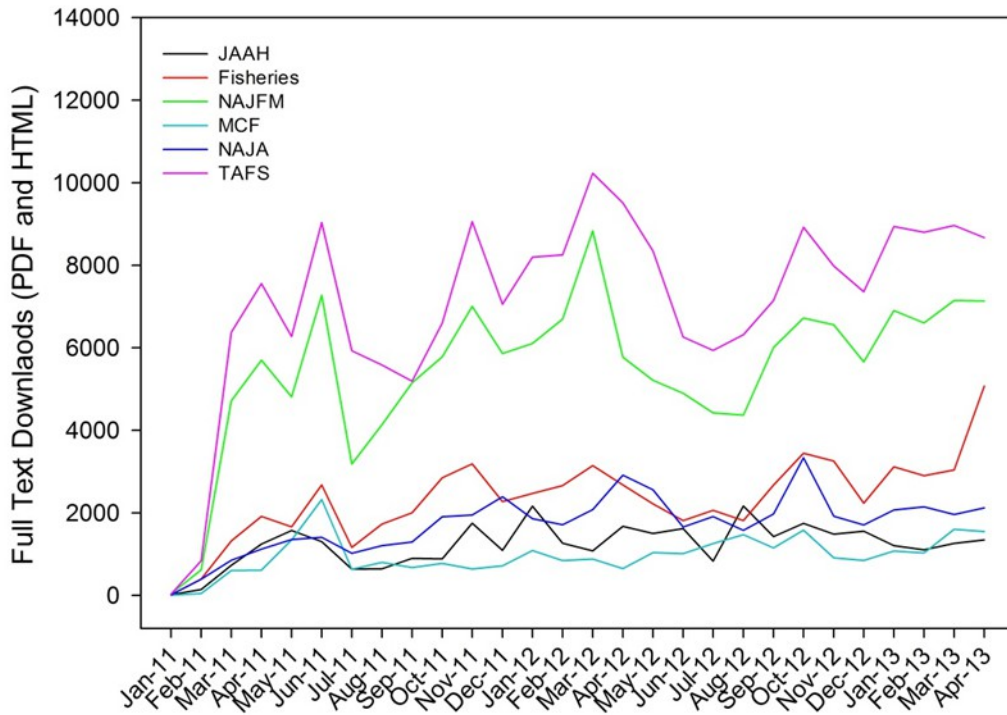


Figure 3. Online page views for the Abstract pages of articles in the AFS journals for 2012 and the first quarter of 2013. The transition of journals to Taylor & Francis occurred in January 2011. Data provided by Taylor & Francis.

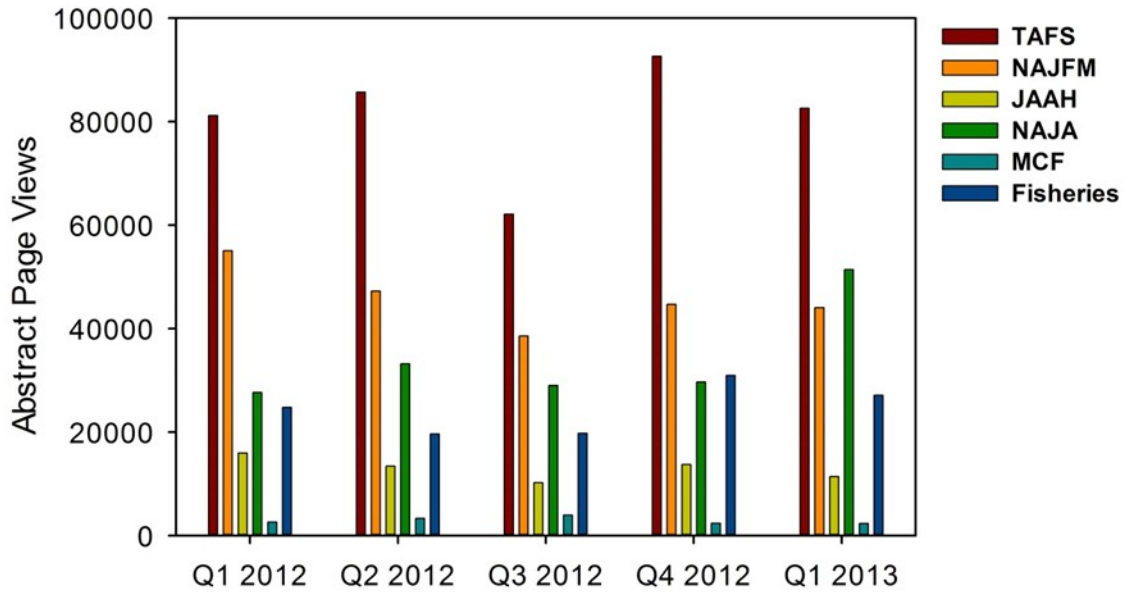


Table 3. Current status and trends in a number of influence metrics for the AFS journals and a select set of peer journals. The AFS journals are highlighted in light green. The peer journals that are included are taken mostly from Hewitt et al. (2009, Maintaining the competitiveness of the American Fisheries Society journals: an assessment based on influence and cost-effectiveness, Fisheries 34(12): 598-606). The Google values are the Google Scholar h5 Index, which is the largest number 'h' such that at least 'h' articles in the journal were cited at least 'h' times each, calculated across a 5-yr window in which citations can occur. For example, a journal with five articles with 17, 9, 6, 3, and 2 citations, has an h5 index of 3. Google Scholar data through 15 Nov 2012.

Journal	Impact Factor (2-yr window)							Eigenfactor*100 (5-yr window)							Impact Factor (5-yr window)						Google 2012	
	2005-2007 Avg	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2010-2012 Avg	2004-2006 Avg	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2010-2012 Avg	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		2010-2012 Avg
Fisheries	1.8	1.7	2.8	3.1	2.4	2.9	2.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.1	2.9	21
Fisheries Oceanography	2.1	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.1	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.6	25
CJFAS	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	3.2	2.9	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.7	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	32
ICES J of Mar Sci	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.1	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	32
Ecology of FW Fish	1.3	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.9	19
Marine and FW Research	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	24
Fisheries Research	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	30
TAFS	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.8	26
J of Fish Biology	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.8	1.6	2.2	2.4	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.7	32
Fisheries Mgmt & Ecology	1.1	1.4	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.6	20
Fishery Bulletin	1.5	1.2	1.3	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	19
Env Biology of Fishes	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	25
NAJFM	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	24
Copeia	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.3	0.9	1.0	20
MCF				1.1	1.8		1.4						0.1	0.1	0.1				1.1	1.6	1.3	NA
J of Applied Ichthyology	0.7	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	19
Marine Ecology Prog Series	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.6	7.2	7.1	6.7	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.1	5.4	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.1	46
J Exp Marine Biology & Ecology	1.8	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.4	37
Estuaries & Coasts	1.5		1.6	1.9	2.1	2.6	2.2	1.0			0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7		1.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.2	27
Bulletin of Marine Science	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.6	20
Dis Aquat Organisms	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.2	26
J of Fish Diseases	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.6	2.0	1.6	1.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.0	24
JAAH	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.8	1.6	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.4	12
Fish & Shellfish Immunology		3.2	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.1	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.2	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.5	41
Aquaculture	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.8	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.2	2.6	2.9	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	48
J of the World Aquaculture Soc	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	15
NAJA	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.8	11
Reviews in Aquaculture	NA	NA	NA	3.5	4.0	2.3	3.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	NA	NA	3.5	4.0	4.6	4.0	NA
Fish & Fisheries	4.3	3.2	4.5	6.4	5.8	5.9	6.0	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	6.0	6.2	6.9	6.6	7.3	6.9	34
Rev Fish Biol & Fisheries	1.6	1.8	2.2	3.6	2.5	2.3	2.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	3.1	3.5	3.9	3.1	3.1	3.4	21
Rev Fish Sci	2.0	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	3.7	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	21
Ecology Letters	7.0	9.4	10.3	15.3	17.6	17.9	16.9	4.3	7.0	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.9	6.8	9.3	11.3	14.3	15.4	18.5	16.0	85
Ecology	4.7	4.9	4.4	5.1	4.9	5.2	5.0	10.4	11.2	9.6	8.4	8.3	8.2	7.3	7.9	6.1	5.8	6.2	6.0	6.4	6.2	71
Frontiers in Ecology & Env	4.6	5.1	6.9	8.8	9.1	7.6	8.5	0.5	1.1	1.6	1.7	1.6	2.0	2.0	1.9	5.9	6.5	7.9	9.0	10.1	9.0	56
Journal of Applied Ecology	4.5	4.6	4.2	5.0	5.1	4.7	4.9	2.1	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.7	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.7	57
Conservation Biology	3.9	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.6	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.5	2.9	3.3	5.4	5.3	6.0	5.9	5.5	5.8	64
Oikos	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.3	5.2	5.4	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.1	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.9	3.8	43