Special Issue

Age Determination of Aquatic Animals

Message from the Guest Editor

Understanding the age metrics of marine organisms is crucial in the estimation of baseline parameters such as growth rate, population age structure, mortality rate, productivity and recruitment. The age of most aquatic species can often be determined by examining the growth bands preserved in calcified structures. These structures include, for example, bones, scales and otoliths in fish, statoliths in cephalopods, ossicles in echinoids (i.e., sea urchins), ophiuroids (i.e., brittle stars) and asteroids (sea stars), and shells in bivalves. In crustaceans, the number of growth bands in gastric ossicles may be used to determine the age of this group. Before applying the age information provided by these hard structures, validation (one band indicates one year of age) must be conducted. The Journal *Fishes* invites interested scientists to submit manuscripts that are relevant to this topic. The manuscripts will be reviewed carefully in a short period of time so that all accepted papers can be published in this Special Issue.

Guest Editor

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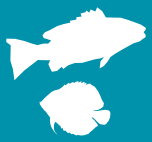

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Fishes is a multidisciplinary open access journal focusing on reports of original research and critical reviews and synthesis from the broad area of fishes and aquatic animals. The ultimate objective of *Fishes* is to facilitate the discovery of connections between research areas, advancing science and filling knowledge gaps, and providing solutions for all present and future issues encountered in the sector of fisheries and aquaculture. As Editor-in-Chief, I encourage you to consider *Fishes* for your scientific papers and would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors.

Editor-in-Chief

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