

Special Issue

Trajectory Tracking and Control of Surface Vessels: From Theory to Autonomous Navigation

Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue aims to gather cutting-edge research that bridges theoretical advances with practical implementation in surface vessel trajectory tracking and control. We invite original contributions addressing the full spectrum of challenges—from robust controller design under environmental disturbances to intelligent decision-making for collision avoidance in multi-vessel encounters. Particular interest is given to studies that integrate control theory with situational awareness, machine learning, and real-time optimization to enable reliable autonomous navigation in safety-critical maritime scenarios. We especially encourage submissions featuring experimental validation (simulation, practical testing, or full-scale sea trials) that demonstrate practical feasibility and performance improvements over existing approaches.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Jinfen Zhang

State Key Laboratory of Maritime Technology and Safety, Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan, China

Deadline for manuscript submissions

25 August 2026



Journal of Marine Science and Engineering

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.8
CiteScore 5.0



mdpi.com/si/271328

Journal of Marine Science and Engineering
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
jmse@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/

jmse





Journal of Marine Science and Engineering

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.8
CiteScore 5.0



[mdpi.com/journal/
jmse](https://mdpi.com/journal/jmse)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Marine Science and Engineering (JMSE, ISSN: 2077-1312) focuses on research in the fields of Ocean Engineering, Coastal Engineering, Physical Oceanography, Geological Oceanography, Marine Biology, and Marine Environmental Science. It publishes reviews, regular research papers, and short communications, as well as Special Issues on particular subjects. Our aim is to encourage scientists to publish their experimental and theoretical results in as much detail as possible. There is no restriction on the maximum length of the papers.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Charitha Pattiaratchi

School of Engineering, The UWA Oceans Institute, The University of Western Australia, Perth, WA 6009, Australia

Author Benefits

High Visibility:

indexed with Scopus, SCIE (Web of Science), Ei Compendex, GeoRef, Inspec, AGRIS, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Engineering, Marine) / CiteScore - Q2 (Ocean Engineering)

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 16.5 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 2.5 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the second half of 2025).