

# Paper Submission Guidelines

*Special Issue Publication in the Sri Lanka Journal of Aquatic Sciences (SLJAS)*

The ICMSS 2026 organizing Committee is pleased to announce that selected papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication as a Special Issue in the Sri Lanka Journal of Aquatic Sciences (SLJAS), the official peer-reviewed journal of the Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (SLAFAR). All submissions to this Special Issue are subject to the full editorial policies and double-blind peer review process of SLJAS. Acceptance is not guaranteed by conference presentation alone.

## ⚠ IMPORTANT NOTICE TO AUTHORS

This Special Issue follows a rapid publication pathway. Author cooperation and strict adherence to deadlines is essential. Delays in manuscript submission or revision will jeopardize timely publication. Only papers that meet the scientific and formatting standards of SLJAS will be accepted. The ICMSS 2026 Organizing Committee and SLJAS reserve the right to decline any submission that does not meet the required standards

## 1. Eligibility for Submission

To be eligible to submit a full manuscript to this Special Issue, authors must:

- Have presented or registered to present their work at ICMSS 2026.
- Submit an original, unpublished manuscript not currently under review elsewhere.
- Ensure the manuscript falls within the scope of SLJAS

## 2. Article Types Accepted

SLJAS accepts the following article types for submission:

Article Type	Requirements
Research Papers	Must not exceed 20 manuscript pages including Tables and Figures.

### 3. Manuscript Formatting Requirements

All manuscripts must strictly adhere to the SLJAS Author Guidelines. Submissions that do not comply will be returned without review.

#### 3.1 General Formatting

1. Type on A4 paper (21 cm × 29.7 cm), one side only, with 2.5 cm margins all around. Double-space throughout, including references, Tables, and Figure legends. Use font size 11 or 12 pt (Times New Roman preferred).
2. Leave triple spacing before and after headings. Use title case — never all capitals. Avoid footnotes, addenda, or appendices where possible.
3. Give the Latin name of species at first mention (italicized). Subsequent references may use the common name.
4. Place a zero before the decimal in numbers less than 1. Spell out numbers less than 10 unless beside standard units of measure. Do not spell out numbers greater than 10 unless beginning a sentence.
5. Use metric or SI units (meter, gram, second, liter, mole, joule). Use superscripts/subscripts for compound units (e.g., 10 g m<sup>-2</sup> rather than g/m<sup>2</sup>).

#### 3.2 Tables and Figures

6. Design tables and figures for the journal's printed page size (12 cm × 20 cm). Each table must be on a separate page; figures must follow the references section.
7. Do not use vertical lines to separate columns. Number Tables and Figures consecutively, one per page.
8. Figures must be neat line drawings in black Indian ink or high-quality computer-generated graphics (laser-printed). Glossy black-and-white photographs are acceptable.
9. Lettering on figures must remain readable after reduction of up to 60%. Figure captions must be submitted on a separate page.

### 4. Required Manuscript Structure

Organize research papers logically and clearly according to the following structure:

Section	Description
<b>Title Page</b>	Contains the specific title, author name(s), and institutional affiliation(s).
<b>Abstract</b>	A summary of the study in not more than 300 words, presented on a page by itself.
<b>Introduction</b>	States the problem addressed, current knowledge, aim of the study, and hypothesis tested.
<b>Materials &amp; Methods</b>	Provides all information necessary to allow full replication of the study.
<b>Results</b>	Presents a concise summary of the data obtained.
<b>Discussion</b>	Interprets results, places the study in the broader context of aquatic sciences, and articulates the scientific contribution.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	Credits contributors of expertise and financial support.
<b>References</b>	Must substantially include peer-reviewed primary literature. Include DOIs where available.
<b>Tables, Figure Captions &amp; Figures</b>	Placed on separate pages after the References section.

## 5. Citation and Reference Style

---

Cite references in the text as Author(s) (year). For three or more authors, use First Author et al. (year). Arrange multiple references in a series by year. In the reference list, arrange papers alphabetically by the first author's family name.

### Reference Format Examples

#### Book:

Gulland, J.A. 1983. Fish Stock Assessment: A Manual of Basic Methods. Wiley-Interscience, Chichester, 223 p.

#### Journal Article (title in full):

Jennings, S. & N.V.C. Polunin 1996. Effect of fishing effort and catch rate upon the structure and biomass of Fijian reef fish communities. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 33: 400–412.

#### Book Chapter:

Macintosh, D.J. 1982. Fisheries and aquaculture of mangrove swamps. In: *Recent Advances in Aquaculture* (J.F. Muir & R.J. Roberts eds), pp. 3–85. Croom Helm, London.

#### Proceedings:

Moreau, J., W. Ligtvoet & M.L.D. Palomeres 1993. Trophic relationship in the fish community of Lake Victoria. In: *Trophic Models of Aquatic Ecosystems* (V. Christensen & D. Pauly eds), pp. 141–152, ICLARM Conference Proceedings 26. ICLARM, Manila.

## 6. File Naming Convention

---

Authors must rename their manuscript file according to the following convention before submission:

**File Naming Format:** icmss2026\_[Surname of first Author]

Examples: icmss2026\_Rathnayaka • icmss2026\_Perera • icmss2026\_Silva

Use the first author's surname only.

## 7. How to Submit

**Manuscript and Author declaration form** must be submitted via email to the SLJAS Editor-in-Chief. Submissions through any other channel will not be accepted for this Special Issue.

<b>Submit To (Email)</b>	Editor-in-Chief, Sri Lanka Journal of Aquatic Sciences Department of Zoology and Environmental Management University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka (Email: <a href="mailto:dileepad@wyb.ac.lk">dileepad@wyb.ac.lk</a> )
<b>CC (Mandatory)</b>	<a href="mailto:icmss@ou.ac.lk">icmss@ou.ac.lk</a>
<b>Email Subject Line</b>	ICMSS 2026 Submission – [Your Surname] – [Title]
<b>File Format</b>	Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
<b>File Name</b>	icmss2026_[Surname] (e.g., icmss2026_Rathnayaka)

**△ MANDATORY: All submission emails must be CC'd to [icmss@ou.ac.lk](mailto:icmss@ou.ac.lk)**

Submissions not CC'd to this address cannot be tracked by the ICMSS 2026 Organizing Committee. Responsibility for untracked submissions cannot be accepted.

Authors must clearly state in the body of the email that the manuscript is being submitted through the ICMSS 2026 conference for consideration in the SLJAS Special Issue.

## 8. Peer Review and Editorial Process

- All manuscripts will first undergo a desk review by the SLJAS Editorial Board. Manuscripts outside the journal's scope or below minimum standards will be desk-rejected.
- Manuscripts passing desk review will be subject to double-blind peer review by at least two independent reviewers.
- Reviewer comments will be shared with authors. Revised manuscripts must be submitted with a response matrix addressing each reviewer comment.
- Multiple rounds of review may occur. The final decision rests with the Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board.
- Page proofs will be sent to the corresponding author, who must return corrections within four days. Alterations beyond correction of layout errors may be charged to the authors.

## 9. Author Responsibilities and Ethical Requirements

- Submitted manuscripts must be original and must not have been published or submitted elsewhere.
- All listed authors must have contributed sufficiently to the work and approved the final submission.
- The corresponding author's email address and ORCID must be provided.
- Authors must declare any conflicts of interest and acknowledge all funding sources (Use Declaration form).

- Research involving human participants or animals must be accompanied by documented ethical clearance from a recognized committee.
- Plagiarism in any form will result in rejection. All manuscripts are subject to plagiarism screening.

## 10. Contact and Further Information

---

For queries related to the ICMSS 2026 paper submission process, please contact the ICMSS 2026 organizing Committee:

**Email:** [icmss@ou.ac.lk](mailto:icmss@ou.ac.lk)

For SLJAS Author Guidelines and formatting templates, visit:

<https://sljas.sljol.info/about/submissions>

**Centre for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development (CESSD), The Open University of Sri Lanka**

ICMSS 2026 | International Conference on Marine Science and Sustainability

[icmss@ou.ac.lk](mailto:icmss@ou.ac.lk) | 011 288 1423