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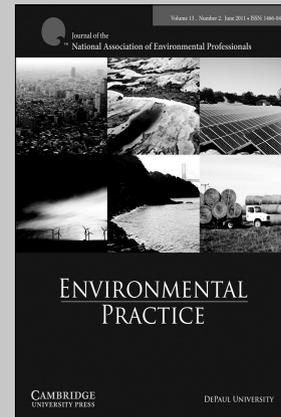
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Published for the National Association of Environmental Professionals

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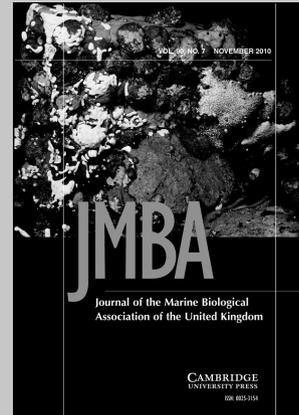
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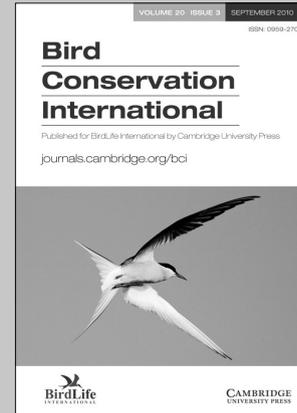
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Call for Papers

Environmental Conservation Themed Issue on

Politics, science and policy of reference points for resource management

Exceptional effort has been put into developing sound science around biological reference points, quantities that can be measured, monitored, and reported to make sustainable resource management decisions. Demand for reference points has soared among western environmental science and management institutions due to sweeping ecosystem-based legislation and consumer-based certification programmes, yet there is growing concern that many of the reference points being established may have little impact on sustainability.

This themed issue asks what is the current state of reference points for sustainable resource management? Where and under what circumstances have reference points been established and what is their scientific basis and merit? Have political actors unduly influenced the establishment process and have consumer-based certification programmes been more or less effective than government regulation? While the theory behind reference points is well developed, how effectively these quantities are put into practice has gone largely unexplored. Papers of interest may relate to particular stocks, regions, and ecosystems, or might focus on specific resources (e.g. forestry, invertebrate fisheries), albeit always with an eye to understanding generic issues across different resource management areas with the following sorts of questions:

Science and methodologies

- How do single and multispecies resource reference points differ and what are their characteristics?
- Which are the criteria used to evaluate the appropriateness of proposed reference points?
- Can social-ecological information help inform biological reference points?
- How do reference points for new and recovering resources differ?

Institutions and management policy

- Where have reference points been successfully implemented into policy and how did it happen?
- How can users be integrated in reference point development and what contributions can they provide?
- How effective has the review process been for biological reference points?
- What are economic costs and benefits of reference points?

Motives and political setting

- What has prompted the development of reference points and how general are such motivations?
- How do government-established reference points differ from consumer-based schemes?
- How have scientific, political, and commercial actors and agencies affected the establishment process?
- Do motives and funding affect the kinds of reference points adopted?

Managing Editor: Dr Aaron MacNeil (Australian Institute of Marine Science, Australia; a.macneil@aims.gov.au)

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Important Dates

Manuscript submission deadline: 31st September 2012,
Publication of themed issue: June 2013 (to be confirmed)

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- Research Papers (<8000 words including legends and references)
- Reports (<4000 words including legends and references)
- Comments (<1500 words including legends and references)

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