

Estuaries and Coasts

Guidance for Proposed Special and Theme Issue Proposals

The Co-Editors-in-Chief (Co-EICs) of *Estuaries and Coasts* invite proposals for collections of related articles to be considered for publication as either a special issue of the journal (15-20 articles, one issue per year) or as a theme section of a regular issue (<15 articles). *Estuaries and Coasts* and the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) are particularly interested in proposals that link to special sessions at CERF's biennial conference, leveraging two important venues for communicating CERF science. No specified template is required for submission of a special/theme issue proposal. However, the proposal should contain: (1) a statement of purpose of and opportunity for the special/theme issue; (2) a statement about how the overall issue and the component contributions would fit the scope of *Estuaries and Coasts* and how each submission would cohere to an integrated, hypothesis-based theme; (3) the name(s) and biosketches of the guest editor(s) that would assemble authors and manuscripts; (4) a list of the proposed submission titles and authors; and, (5) although not required, accompanying draft abstracts, including a central hypothesis or question, are advised for each potential submission. Proposals should be submitted to the Co-EICs.

A separate review article is not required if either an introductory or summary overview is included. However, if the topic and findings are sufficiently unique or there has not been a comparable review in the literature in recent past, a review article is strongly encouraged. The review article would be handled by the *Estuaries and Coasts* Reviews Editor.

All manuscripts are managed through the normal *Estuaries and Coasts* peer-review process. One of the Co-EICs will coordinate the review through our Associate Editors (AE). The guest editor(s) are responsible for assembling the authors and their manuscripts, and ensuring that the manuscripts are within the scope of *Estuaries and Coasts*. They will provide background material (brief description and listing of the proposed special/theme issue manuscripts to be attached to each submission to *Estuaries and Coasts*) and keep the authors' submissions and revisions on schedule. The number of guest editors may vary, depending on how they partition those responsibilities and how many submissions are proposed.

Special and theme issues will be reviewed in the same manner as independent submissions. The submissions to the *Estuaries and Coasts* Managing Editor will originate from the authors, not the guest editor(s), and all subsequent review decisions and other exchanges from *Estuaries and Coasts* will be to the authors, as per the usual process for independent submissions. An invitation to submit a paper to a special or theme issue does not imply automatic acceptance for publication. Some submissions

will likely be rejected via the usual peer-review process. Final editorial decisions will be made by the lead Co-EIC.

The typical timeline between special issue proposal submission and publication varies, depending on the number of submissions, the response of the AEs and peer reviewers and, perhaps most relevant, the number and extent of revisions required. The guest editors can reduce that timeline by keeping track of the authors' progress to ensure that submissions and revisions occur in a timely manner. Accepted manuscripts will be posted on the Springer *Estuaries and Coasts* webpage under Online First until all the acceptable special/theme manuscripts are produced. At that point, they will be queued for the next paper publication of the journal or, if sufficiently large, designated for a dedicated special issue of the journal. Springer allows CERF one special issue a year; otherwise, funding is required to cover the cost of a special published issue to ensure prompt publication.



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