

Title

Author 1 (last, first)¹, author 2 (first, last)²
Address Author 11, address Author 22

Abstract: [Short (150 to 250 words) summary of the paper. Abstract is sometimes the only part of a paper that is searchable. Therefore, it should contain enough information to pique the interest of the reader. Emphasis should be on information taken from the discussion. Avoid generalities (e.g., “*Results are discussed.*”) Write this section last.]

Introduction

[Brief statement of area of research, including an introduction to past work, and leading to why the present study was done (hypothesis). Usually includes citations.]

Material and Methods

[Statement of how study was done so that someone in the future can replicate exactly what you did to confirm your findings. May include references to the methods of others. Should describe method of analyses.]

Results

[Description of the results of just your study. Usually contains no citations. Use of Figures and Tables important way to summarize data and facilitate your writing. A picture is worth a thousand words. Normally does not include citations.]

Discussion

[Most difficult section to write. Discusses results of research as it relates to the findings of others and/or your own logical conclusions. For instance, “*results show...which is in accordance with the findings of ref. (date).*” Majority of cites occur here. Ending paragraph may briefly indicate opportunities for further study.]

Acknowledgements

[Brief unemotional acknowledgement of those who helped with study (review, guidance) and funding sources. Avoid thanking your dog.]

Literature Cited

[Contains a list of papers/sources actually cited in the paper. Format is: Author(s). Date. Article Title. Journal/Book, Volume: Pages.]. Example:

Chao, L.N. and J.A. Musick. 1977. Life history, feeding habits and functional morphology of juvenile sciaenid fishes in the York River estuary, Virginia. Fish. Bull. 75:657-702.

Style Requirements

Tables:

- Two dimensional lists.
- Caption always goes at the top.
- Caption and information in the Table, should be self explanatory. Table should stand on its own.
- No vertical lines in a table.
- Numbered separately from Figures.
- Should not exceed the size of a single page.
- Numbers and lettering should be legible...not too small!
- Cited in text within text within parentheses: "*Spotted bass eat over 30 species of prey (Table 2).*"

Figures:

- Graphs, drawings, photos.
- Caption always goes at the bottom.
- Caption and information in Figure should be self explanatory. Figure should stand on its own.
- Numbered separately from Tables.
- Numbers and lettering should be legible...not too small!
- Cited in text within parentheses: "*Half of the prey of sand bass is invertebrates (Figure 1).*"

Literature Citations in Text:

Author(s)/Date placed in text as shown below:

- There are 18 genera of sea bass in the central, eastern Pacific (Gerking 1994).
- Gerking (1994) lists 18 genera of sea bass in the central, eastern Pacific.
- The spotted sand bass, *Paralabrax maculatofasciatus*, is found from San Francisco Bay, to Guerrero, Mexico (Miller and Lea 1972; Gerking 1994).
- The spotted sand bass is known to feed on amphipods (Ferry et al. 1997). [Use et al. when there are more than two authors.]

Literature Cited Section:

Listed in alphabetical order. If not cited in the text, it should not be listed. Some Examples:

- Ferry, L. A., S. L. Clark, and G. M. Cailliet. 1997. Food habits of spotted sand bass (*Paralabrax maculatofasciatus*, Serranidae) from Bahia de Los Angeles, Baja California. Bull. So. Calif. Acad. Sci., 96(1):1-21.
- Gerking, D. 1994. Feeding ecology of fish. Academic Press, New York. 416pp.
- Miller, J.D., and R. N. Lea. 1972 Guide to the coastal marine fishes of California. Calif. Dep. Fish and Game, Fish Gull., 157, 159 pp.