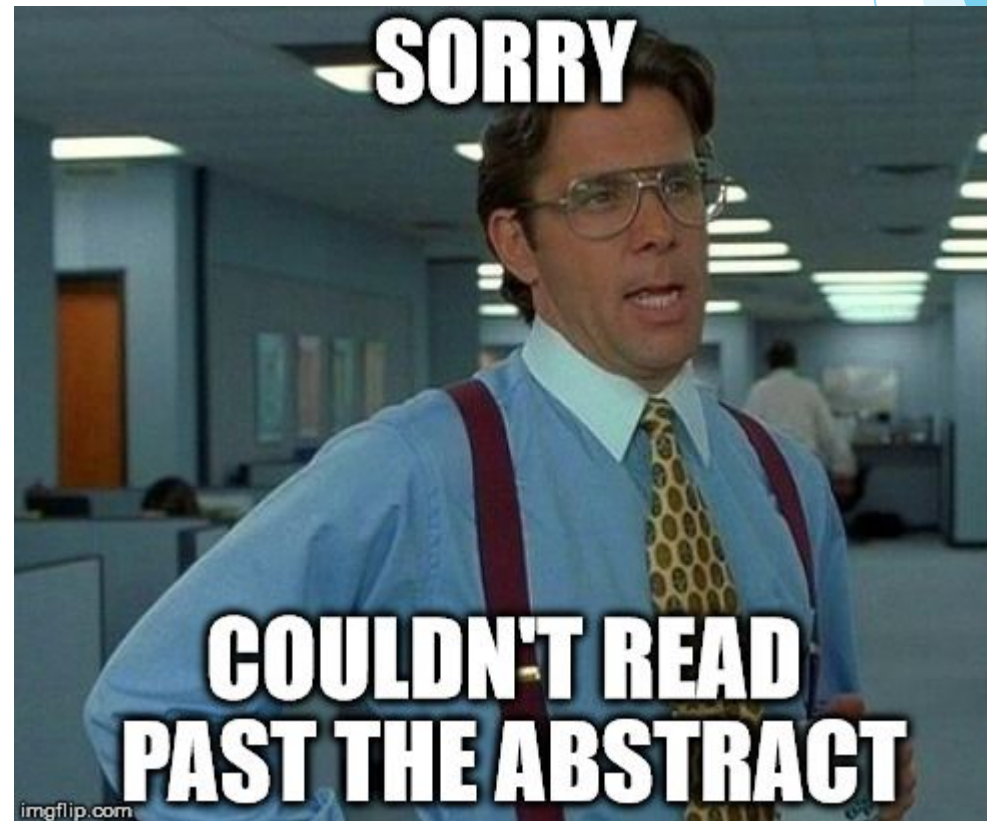


How to be a good reviewer

EPSCoR All-Hands Meeting February 2022

Before you accept to review:

- ▶ Read the abstract: Do you feel qualified to review this



Before you accept to review:

- ▶ Read the abstract: Do you feel qualified to review this
- ▶ Look at the authors: Are they collaborators?
 - ▶ In the last 5 years, have you...
 - ▶ Worked on a project with any of them
 - ▶ Published a paper or submitted a proposal with and of them
- ▶ Look at the due date: Is the deadline realistic?

If you say YES!



Check journal guidelines

- ▶ Check what format the journal prefers
 - ▶ Some journals have structured review criteria
 - ▶ Others ask for general and specific comments.
- ▶ Knowing this in advance helps save time later.

- ▶ Is this the best journal for this paper?



Marine Biology

International Journal on Life in Oceans and Coastal Waters

[Journal home](#) > [Journal updates](#) > [Guidelines for Reviewers](#)

Guidelines for Reviewers

The Editors of Marine Biology greatly appreciate your effort in evaluating this manuscript. A good review helps the editor to decide whether a manuscript is suitable for publication

Read critically but constructively

- ▶ Don't start your review when you are not in a good mood.
- ▶ Be responsible and do it in time.
- ▶ Be constructive...
 - ▶ Give suggestions for improvement.
 - ▶ Point out positive attributes.
 - ▶ What do you like about the paper.
- ▶ Treat others how you want to be treated.



As you read....

- ▶ Work with the electronic version.
- ▶ Read the paper sequentially, from start to finish.
- ▶ Keep a file of “larger comments” to put into your overall impression/recommendation
- ▶ Make smaller comments on the PDF as you go along

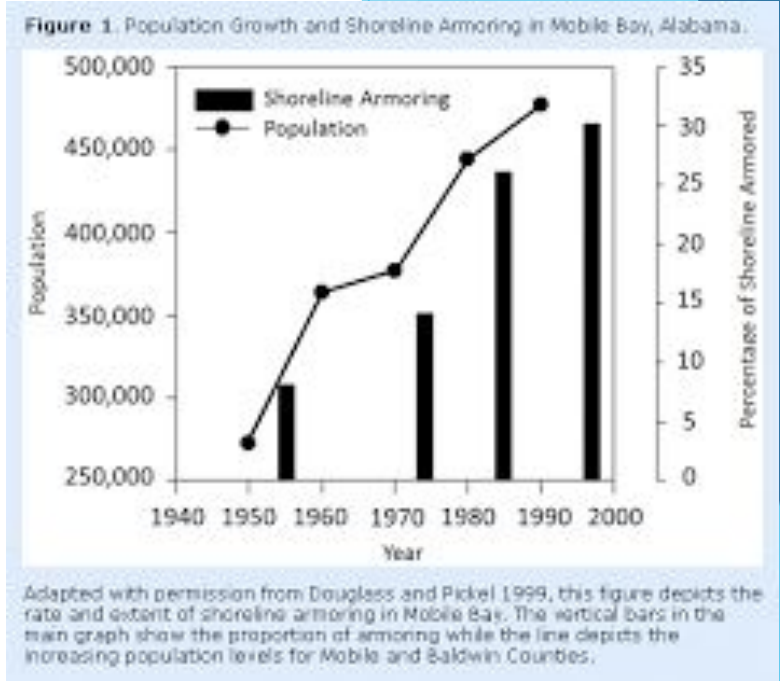


Ask yourself...

- ▶ Is there a clearly articulated question/objective?
- ▶ Does the author tell you why you should care?
 - ▶ “Little is known” is not a good reason for investigating something
- ▶ Is the background material appropriate?
 - ▶ Does it introduce the question?
- ▶ Are the methods well described?
 - ▶ Could you duplicate them?
- ▶ Are the methods appropriate?

Ask yourself...

- ▶ Are the results clear?
- ▶ Are the Tables/Figures appropriate?
 - ▶ Are they all needed?
 - ▶ Are they clear and understandable?
 - ▶ Would a different format be better?
 - ▶ Figure versus Table
- ▶ Does the Discussion put results in a larger context?
- ▶ Are the broader implications/conclusions clear?



Review critically but constructively

- ▶ Try to write in a simple and clear English.
 - ▶ Do not make the authors read between the lines.
- ▶ Be open to new ideas, methods, and analyses.
- ▶ Complicated papers are not necessarily of good quality.
- ▶ Is there any “extra” information that could be deleted?
- ▶ Do not try to inflict your writing style on others.
- ▶ Think about how you would like your paper reviewed....

Think about your proposal/thesis drafts

- ▶ What do you like about reviews you've gotten?
- ▶ Think about your wording...
 - ▶ be nice
 - ▶ be helpful
 - ▶ be truthful



Questions?

