

Welcome to *Freshwater Systems*, A Domain of *TheScientificWorld*

With an ever-increasing human population size, increasing human impacts on the natural environment, and a growing scarcity of freshwater resources, the study of freshwater systems has become one of the most critical areas of focus for environmental scientists. Never before has there been such a need for an integrated understanding of lakes, wetlands, and flowing waters. This understanding must cross the boundaries of traditional disciplines, reach a wide international audience, and strongly facilitate the linkage between scientific discovery and its real-world application.

Freshwater Systems is an innovative publishing venue for accomplishing these goals. Disciplinary boundaries are crossed by the fact that *Freshwater Systems* is a domain in a large, seamless interdisciplinary science publishing network, *TheScientificWorld*. When authors publish in *Freshwater Systems*, news of their work will rapidly be sent to authors and readers in other domains of the network with similar research interests, whether they are physiologists, ecologists, limnologists, biogeochemists, or environmental scientists. The Editorial Board of *Freshwater Systems* (listed below) was established in order to provide expertise across a wide range of subdisciplines related to freshwaters, and to include strong international representation.

In addition to the publication of research articles that address general subjects, we encourage submission of papers with a more regional focus, the prime consideration

being that they represent rigorous science. The journal especially encourages the submittal of review articles, and in the early issues will host a series of invited reviews from leading experts covering the breadth of the discipline. Shorter commentary papers also are welcome, particularly when they provide important new insight into unresolved or controversial subjects. Where strong controversy exists, the Editors will periodically invite representative scientists to write “point-counterpoint” commentaries that can be followed by letters from readers.

One of the most important goals of *Freshwater Systems* is to provide a venue for both pure research articles and those addressing major environmental issues. The Editors encourage submittal of articles that demonstrate strong linkages between science and the practical application of scientific findings. We are dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of scientific peer-review, a rapid review and publication process, a highly flexible publishing platform that will allow for many features not possible with standard journals, and rapid communication of information to a global audience. In summary, *Freshwater Systems* is an opportunity for creative ideas, cross-disciplinary integration, and scientific understanding and application. We look forward to the exciting developments in freshwater science that will occur in this new publication.

This article should be referenced as follows:

Havens, K. (2001) Welcome to Freshwater Systems. *TheScientificWorld* 1, 117-118.

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January 2001

Published: April 4, 2001

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FRESHWATER SYSTEMS
A Domain of TheScientificWorld**

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