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We have an Impact Factor!

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WE HAVE AN IMPACT FACTOR!

Gulf and Caribbean Research (GCR) is pleased to announce several new and exciting developments. In May 2019 we were indexed in the SCOPUS database, and the annual Citescore's have increased from 0.7 (2021) to 1.4 (2022), with the estimated score for 2023 being 1.5. Additionally, in February 2019 we were listed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) of the Web of Science (WoS) Core Collection of Clarivate Analytics, entering a "probationary period" prior to receiving an Impact Factor. In June 2023 we completed our probationary period, and the Journal Citation Reports (JCR; see <https://aquila.usm.edu/gcr/>) has assigned our first Impact Factor of 1.1. This impact factor is based on two years of data, and although released in June 2023 is considered the 2022 Impact Factor. We anticipate our Impact Factor will continue to grow in years to come.

The addition of Citescore's and an Impact Factor provide more exposure for GCR, resulting in continued increases in citations of GCR publications. Currently, GCR papers are viewed worldwide, with more than 171,541 (as of 5 July 2023) total downloads since the journal went on-line in April 2015. Additionally, the acquisition of a long sought-after Impact Factor will encourage authors from around the region to submit their manuscripts to GCR.

Gulf and Caribbean Research continues to partner with Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) and the University of South Alabama to promote scholarly development of young marine and estuarine scientists through the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program at DISL. Each summer since 2020, REU students have been encouraged to submit the results of their research to GCR as a short communication for peer review. Accepted manuscripts are published as Open Access as part of this program. To date, GCR has published 14 papers from the REU program, which have garnered 3,184 downloads/views through June 2023.

We also have continued our partnership with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), which we initiated in 2017. This Partnership allows GCFI members the opportunity to submit manuscripts based on presentations at GCFI conferences for peer review in GCR, with Open Access fees funded by GCFI as part of the Partnership. To date, GCFI members have published 17 papers in GCR as part of this Partnership, which have garnered a total of 7,081 downloads/views through June 2023.

The continued, and recently enhanced, visibility of GCR on the World Wide Web ensures that all authors receive maximum exposure of their work. Each year, GCR receives more submissions than in the previous year, and our average time between first submission and publication remains at about 6 months. This admirable record is due in large part to diligent Associate Editors and reviewers; their volunteer work for GCR have helped the journal to receive its first ever Impact Factor.

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