

From Editor-in-Chief:

Open Science and Finances in the Time of AI

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Dear readers,

We hereby present you with Volume 14, No. 1 of Transactions on Maritime Science (ToMS). I have a duty to inform you about some organisational changes and to share them with you. The editorial board of ToMS seems to have become a personnel 'nursery'. Firstly, our executive editor Joško Šoda has been appointed the vice-dean for science. We also have, since the last issue, a new executive editor, Tina Perić, who has meanwhile also become a vice-dean. Due to her new obligations, she could not perform the executive editor role, which is why we have yet another executive editor in the past half year: Associate Professor Hrvoje Dodig, our former vice-dean for science.

From this issue we have also introduced [AI policy](#). Nowadays it is regarded as a necessity. Although many journals already implement such a policy, I took this problem seriously, particularly when I discovered that one student wrote a diploma thesis with generative AI. I caught him in time. However, this will probably present a problem in the not-so-distant future. AI can be used to write papers. This is the reason why journals need high quality reviewers, who will recognise such attempts. We have also devised new [reviewer guidelines](#).

As regards the journal performance, it is interesting to note how the OJS calculates it. Firstly, the percentage for the selected date range is calculated for papers that were submitted during this date range and have received a final decision. For example, ToMS journal system, for the time span covered by 2024-10-21 - 2025-04-12 reports, 58 papers were received, with 33 submissions being declined, the **rejection rate amounting to 95%**. This means that, out of the 58 papers received, 95% which got the final decision were rejected, older submissions not having been taken into account.

As of this year, a new way of financing science in Croatia comes into effect. Of course, we have conflicting demands. On the one hand, open science is required, which would mean that science should be free for both readers and authors, as we have been doing all these years. On the other hand, the publishing component is part of the basic funding, which will be reduced by 25%. On the one hand, the editorial board is under pressure to reduce costs, i.e. the need to charge for part of it, and, additionally, the editors' association (www.znak.hr, linked to <https://ease.org.uk/>) is demanding a diamond approach. In simpler terms, in order to maintain high quality and create room for progress, we must have articles with high-quality language, i.e. professional text editing. So far, we have had funding from the University and the Ministry, which allowed us to pay for proofreaders. On the other hand, reduced funding means that not every article can be proofread. And here we enter a vicious circle. Conversely, in theory at least, such costs can be reduced by using artificial intelligence applications. However, they have a specific writing style that can be recognised and could also lead to an increase in the Similarity index. Of course, such services have to be paid for. This again leads us to the question of what actions are allowed in science, especially with regard to artificial intelligence, because then it turns out that the generative AI writes the article as it 'thinks' the authors might want, without communicating with them, and potentially violating their authors' rights. Furthermore, AI only gives the user options, and the user (editor) should be proficient in the language to be able to choose the correct phrasing. In such cases, the editor should be an English professor or a native speaker.

After these serious concerns, there are a few words about this issue. We have 24 papers and one interesting book review. The authors are from Croatia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malesia, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

Finally, consistent with our practice, we present a poem by Tonko Božanić Pepe Kalafot, a poet from Komiža on the Island of Vis, whose work we have already published. The poem has been selected and translated by Željka Zanchi, our former colleague and long-standing collaborator, and recorded by the author himself.

In the end, I would like to extend my gratitude to all those involved in any contribution to this issue, including authors, reviewers, editors, language editors, and others.

Editor-in-Chief