Dear Editor,

Ocean acidification is a very recent field of research but it has gained in importance over the past 10 years. For example, more than 560 papers were published just in 2013. The carbonate system of seawater is far from simple, and may be confusing for many newcomers in the field and associate editors of non-specialist journals. Data are often reported in a manner that is inadequate for further analyses, such as synthesis and meta-analysis.

In the framework of the data management activity of the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency (OA-ICC; www.iaea.org/ocean-acidification), we have been tasked with recommending guidelines for reporting of ocean acidification data to the editors-in-chief of the main journals publishing ocean acidification research.

You will find our recommendations in the attached file. We would be most grateful if you could forward this document to the associate editors of your journal, and hope that it will be considered as potential guidelines for contributing authors. Please do not hesitate to get back to us if you or your associate editors have any questions.

Best regards,

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Guidelines for reporting ocean acidification data in scientific journals

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This document was prepared in the framework of the data management activity of the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency (OA-ICC; www.iaea.org/ocean-acidification). Please contact the first author (gattuso@obs-vlfr.fr) in case of any error or omission. It is primarily based on Dickson *et al.* (2007), Dickson (2010), Nisumaa *et al.* (2010), Pesant *et al.* (2010), Pörtner *et al.* (2010) and Orr *et al.* (2015).

To ensure reproducibility, it is critical to report at least two variables of the carbonate system of seawater as well as salinity, temperature, and the hydrostatic pressure (if the measurements were not performed at atmospheric pressure). In addition, authors should report concentrations of total dissolved inorganic phosphorus as well as total dissolved inorganic silicon (in µmol kg^{-1}) whenever possible. Furthermore,

- Authors should carefully report how the parameters were measured and, if applicable, which protocol they followed.
- The use of Certified Reference Materials, source, and batch numbers must be mentioned
- At least two of the following carbonate system parameters should be measured and reported (note the preferred acronyms and units):
    - Dissolved inorganic carbon (C_T; µmol kg^{-1})
    - Total alkalinity (A_T; µmol kg^{-1})
    - pH (it is critical to mention its scale; see below)
    - Partial pressure of carbon dioxide (pCO_2; µmol)
    - Fugacity of carbon dioxide (pCO_2; µmol)
    - Carbonate ion concentration (CO_3^{2-}; µmol kg^{-1})
- The pH scale (NBS, free, total, or seawater) must be mentioned prominently in the manuscript.
- If more than one pH scale is used in a given manuscript, the pH should always be given with the associated scale as a subscript:
    - on the National Bureau of Standards scale (pH_{NBS})
    - on the seawater scale (pH_{SWS})
    - on the free scale (pH_F)
    - on the total scale (pH_T)
- The temperature at the time of sampling and at the time of measurement should both be mentioned, if they differ.
- Salinity is needed (note that it is unitless)
- The formulations used to calculate the following variables should be mentioned:
    - Concentrations of total boron
    - CO_2 solubility (K_0)
    - Dissociation constants of carbonic acid (K_1 and K_2), boric acid (K_b), water (K_w), phosphoric acid (K_{p1}, K_{p2}, K_{p3}), silicic acid (K_{si}), hydrogen fluoride (K_f), and bisulfate (Ks)
    - Solubility products of calcite (K_{spc}) and aragonite (K_{spa})
- The software package used to calculate the carbonate chemistry, along with its version number, and any associated options must all be mentioned.
- Average reproducibility of the performed measurements (with number of measurements) should be mentioned.
- Finally, it is strongly recommended that the chemistry and biological data are either archived in an on-line database (preferred) or provided along with the paper as supplementary information.

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