

## Cost per unit impact in open access publishing

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Increasingly journals are offering open access for scientific publications – sometimes optional, sometimes not. Publishing open access makes it easier for everyone to access articles but comes with a cost to the authors through an article publishing charge (APC), which ranges widely depending on the journal (\$1K USD in FACETS to \$11.6K USD in Nature).

If one chooses to publish open access or if open access is mandated by initiatives such as the EU Plan S for publicly funded research, journal APC is a factor to consider in choosing a journal to submit to. Impact factor is usually an important consideration as many academic performance evaluation metrics utilize it.

Research funds are often a limiting factor of many aspects of the scientific endeavour and getting the most bang for your buck for impact factor per dollar may help to rank potential journals for article submission. To this end, I demonstrate the cost per unit impact for selected journals in the fields of marine ecology, fisheries, and climate change (Figure 1). Cost of publication and impact factor are not the only considerations when choosing a journal to submit to, however they are important forces in the scientific enterprise.

### Competing Interests

The author declares no competing financial or non-financial interests.

Figure 1. Cost per unit impact (USD) for selected journals with impact factor. Publishing model is also shown. Hybrid model allows open access and paywall publishing options.

