

Policy on conflicts of interest

1. Scope

This policy applies to all parties involved in the publication process of Pomorstvo. It covers:

- potential conflicts of interest (COIs) at the time of pre- and post-publication,
- disclosure of any interests (financial, non-financial, professional, personal, institutional) that could influence the objectivity or integrity of the work or editorial decision-making,
- processes for managing COIs, including situations in which undisclosed COIs are discovered after publication.

2. Definition of COI

A conflict of interest (also referred to as a competing interest) is any situation in which a person's judgments regarding a primary interest (such as the integrity of research, the peer-review process, or editorial decision-making) may be influenced by a secondary interest. These secondary interests may be direct or indirect and may include, but are not limited to, financial interests, non-financial interests, and/or institutional conflicts.

3. Disclosure Requirements

Authors

At submission, authors must state a COI disclosure indicating all relevant interests that might reasonably be seen to influence their work or its evaluation. Disclosures should relate to the period during which the research was conducted and the manuscript prepared (typically the past five years), and any ongoing interests that could reasonably still influence interpretation or outcome. Disclosures should be included in the published article in a dedicated section, after acknowledgments.

Reviewers

When invited to review, reviewers must declare any COIs that might impede an unbiased review. If a significant COI is declared or becomes apparent, the reviewer should decline the invitation, or the Editor may assign another reviewer.

Editors and Editorial Board Members

Editors (including the Editor-in-Chief) and editorial board members must publicly declare all relevant COIs, and recuse themselves from handling manuscripts in which their judgement could reasonably be seen as compromised. For manuscripts submitted by an editor, board member, or close collaborator, the journal must ensure that the peer review and decision-making are handled by another editor without COI, and a provenance statement may be published.

4. Management of Conflicts

The journal editorial office will review COI disclosures and determine whether a declared interest requires additional steps. When an undisclosed COI is identified after publication, Pomorstvo will follow the COPE flowchart for “Handling suspected undisclosed conflicts of interest”. The outcome may include publication of a correction or addendum to the article, or other appropriate editorial action. The notice will be linked to the original article.

5. Transparency & publication of COIs

All COI disclosures of authors will be published as part of the article (or in an explicit statement). For transparency, the journal will publish on its website any significant COIs of editors or editorial board members that might influence the journal’s operation.

6. Breach of Policy & Undisclosed COIs

If evidence arises that an author, reviewer, editor or board member failed to disclose a relevant COI, the Editor will assess the matter. For authors, this may involve notifying the institution, publishing a correction, expression of concern, or retraction as warranted. For reviewers/editors, this may involve removal from the review/board role and notification of the publisher. The journal reserves the right to reject submissions or withdraw papers if undisclosed COIs raise concerns about the integrity or impartiality of the research or review process.