Marine Technology Society
Policy 5050: Journal Commentary: Review and Acceptance
Editorial Board acceptance: February 16, 2005
Board of Directors Approval: May 1, 2005
Supercedes Policy 5030

Background: Policy 5030 states, “It is the policy of the Marine Technology Society that all materials submitted to the Editorial Board for acceptance as commentary be subject to rigorous, objective standards. Material submissions include, but are not limited to, the Dougherty Lecture Series, speeches given before Marine Technology Society groups and non-member groups, and others. No commentary submissions will receive automatic acceptance, and submissions that do not meet Journal standards will not be published.” In specific, commentary must be approved by at least one (1) Board member and the Journal Editor. This policy does not apply to the Guest Editor introduction(s); MTS endorsed testimony; bylaws changes; and other specified Marine Technology Society approved communications. However, this policy did not include specific Board criteria for rigorous objective standards.

Policy 5050 supercedes Policy 5030 by incorporating the following language: “Commentaries, by definition, reflect the views and opinions of the author. Unlike technical/scientific papers or notes, commentaries are not peer reviewed. Furthermore, they do not rely on cited sources of information and thus often include controversial or unsubstantiated statements. The Editorial Board reviews commentaries, simply to ensure that a commentary addresses subject matter of relevance to the MTS membership and does not include libelous or unnecessarily inflammatory material that would reflect negatively on the Journal or the Society. While from time to time, board members reviewing these commentaries may make suggestions for improving the clarity or readability of the commentary, authors are not required to accept these suggestions. The final decision to publish commentary rests solely with the Editor-in-Chief.”

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