

[Edditor Name] Title, *Science* 02-22-2020

Dear [Edditor Name]

Please find attached our manuscript titled “Marine species do not need visas: the transboundary nature of the world’s exploited marine species” submitted for publication in *Science* as a Report. This study highlights the large and under-recognized benefits of transboundary species and discusses the challenges in achieving international fisheries management goals, particularly as species redistribute under climate change.

The delineation of Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZs) under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) in the early 80s, established political boundaries across the distribution of many species, creating shared species between nations. Forty years after the formal adoption of UNCLOS, we still lack accurate estimates of the number of exploited marine species that are shared by neighboring nations and their benefits in terms of catch and revenue. In here we rely on multiple data sources of species distributions to estimate the number of transboundary species, their contribution to global, regional and local catch and fishing revenue, and their potential management status. We found that 67% of the world’s identified fished species are transboundary and were responsible for 80% of the global-EEZs catches and 78.5% of fisheries revenue in last decade underscoring the importance of transboundary species. Our study has direct implications in the management of transboundary species calling for cooperation in the management of these fisheries.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require more information. This manuscript is not being considered for publication in any other journal. All code used to analyze the data is currently available at <https://github.com/jepa/FishForVisa> and data will be available upon request if the paper is published.

Sincerely (on behalf of all authors),

Juliano Palacios Abrantes The Institute for Oceans and Fisheries The University of British Columbia