1	Which author is which? Gender Authorship Position in Aquaculture Literature
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10 ABSTRACT

Examining authorship position in aquaculture facilitates an improved understanding of status of women 11 12 in the discipline, as authorship is a critical factor in professional success. In a review of more than eight 13 million papers in the JSTOR Corpus across disciplines, West et al. 2013 found that men predominate in 14 the first and last author positions and women are underrepresented in single-authored papers. Other 15 studies have assessed women authorship, and found that a gender gap in published literature persists. 16 This study applies the large sample size and methodology of West et al. 2013 to the broad discipline of 17 aquaculture, and compares these results to gender authorship in the International Aquaculture Curated 18 Database (IACD) – a compilation of 543 peer-reviewed publications supported by four international 19 aquaculture programs headquartered at Oregon State University -- and two curated databases in the 20 JSTOR in the Web of Science.

21 Results reveal that the percentage of women authors (13.8%) was similar for the JSTOR 22 aquaculture subsample and the IACD (15.7%), yet significantly lower for that of the Web of Science 23 database (3.7%). Women are not well represented any of the databases, and remain underrepresented 24 as authors in any position in aquaculture journals. To contextualize our findings, we examined the 25 number of women graduates in agricultural, biological, natural, and social sciences who earned degrees 26 in the U.S. from 1991-2015. Results from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for 27 Education Statistics and the percent of female graduates in the IACD show that the percent of women 28 graduates each year has increased with women representing more than 50% of graduates, providing 29 contextualization for the proportion of women in the discipline. Learning how authorship has changed in 30 the aquaculture discipline over the recent decades is critical for promoting gender equity for future aquaculture scholarship and the sustainability of the professional discipline. 31

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39 INTRODUCTION

40	Studies have found that women are underrepresented in science, publish less (Martin 2012;
41	Conti and Visentin 2015), and receive less grant funding than their male counterparts (Vernos 2013).
42	Other studies have assessed women's authorship in disciplines including political science and medicine,
43	and found that not only does a gender gap in published literature still remain, but women's authorship
44	has been levelling off in recent years (Breuning and Sanders 2007; Jagsi et al. 2006; and Dubey et al.
45	2016). From examining authorship of more than eight million papers across disciplines in natural
46	sciences, social sciences, and humanities, West et al. (2013) found that men dominate in the first and
47	last authorship positions and that women are underrepresented as single authors. These numbers
48	matter because authorship position, first and last typically getting the most credit, is a major component
49	of university evaluations of researcher proficiency. This criterion is applied to determine promotions,
50	assessments for tenure-track positions, attainment of research funding, and so on. Therefore,
51	authorship position can be used as a proxy for the status of gender integration and diversity in
52	academia.
53	The problem with relying too heavily on authorship position for evaluating a researcher's
54	success is that there is no straightforward process across disciplines for assigning authorship order. The
55	process of determining each author's contribution to a paper and assigning authorship position varies
56	across academic institutions, disciplines, and sub-cultures within research groups. This is partly because
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	it can be difficult to ascertain how much work each contributor has put into a paper (Laurance 2006;
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63	Subtle biases and other factors can influence how authorship is assigned. Increasingly, "gift
64	authorships" are given, i.e., an author is added for courtesy reasons because of their academic status,
65	particularly in biomedical journals. This trend further confuses the actual contribution of each author
66	listed on a publication. Because of the unclear process by which the set of authors for a paper is
67	determined, identifying the amount of work each author contributed is challenging. The culture of peer-
68	reviewed publications is also changing and this also affects how changes in gender authorship over time
69	are assessed. In particular, over the last several decades, the amount of collaborative and cross-
70	disciplinary research has grown, as has the pressure to publish. Both of these factors have led to growth
71	in the number of authors listed per paper (Wren et al. 2007). The growing number of authors per paper
72	makes it even more difficult to adequately and fairly assert authorship order.
73	While studies have revealed gender inequities in authorship in scholarly literature, no such
74	study has been completed for the aquaculture discipline. The academic discipline of aquaculture is
75	relatively new and interdisciplinary, and many aquaculture degrees are granted from fisheries
76	departments. Our analysis of the discipline, therefore, is embedded within the broader domain of
77	fisheries. In more than 50 academic institutions, a study by Arismendi and Penaluna (2016) found that
78	women and minorities are still a small portion of tenure-track faculty in the discipline of fisheries. Over
79	the past three decades, they found only a slight increase in the inclusion of women among the academic
80	community of fisheries science. This suggests a perpetuation of the "leaky pipeline" in fisheries science
81	as, in recent years, women have received more than half of the doctoral degrees in the biological
82	sciences (Miller and Wai 2015; Egna et al. 2012; Blickenstaff 2005). These trends and a study by
83	Penaluna (2005) reveal that women are less likely to be promoted than men in academia, and the
84	unlikelihood of a promotion can be linked to the status of gender authorship in peer reviewed literature.
85	Ignoring these inequities or allowing them to persist limits the development of the scholarly field of
86	aquaculture. By attempting to conduct a gender authorship analysis for aquaculture, we're helping to

87 promote the development of the fastest growing food production sector in a relatively new and

- 88 interdisciplinary scholarly discipline. A better understanding of gender integration in the discipline is the
- 89 first step in understanding how to overcome barriers to the sector's growth.

90 This study evaluates the status of gender authorship in aquaculture by comparing authorships 91 across the JSTOR Corpus database archive to a subsample of JSTOR and the Web of Science with 92 aquaculture journals, and to a smaller, curated database, compiled by the Aquafish Innovation lab, of 93 aquaculture peer-reviewed publications. The International Aquaculture Curated Database (IACD), was 94 created in order to have a very rich data source of aquaculture publications from around the world that 95 have been published throughout the entirety of the existence of modern era of aquaculture for scholarly 96 analysis. The richness of an international curated database lends itself to factoring in additional variables 97 such as funding and faculty rank, along with other social metrics when assessing authorship. The present 98 paper shares findings that the percentage of women authors across the aquaculture discipline is 99 significantly lower than women's apparent presence in the discipline. Since women have received more 100 than half of the doctoral degrees in the biological sciences, it is plausible that women represent more 101 than 16% of researchers working in the discipline, while this is the rate at which women are authoring 102 papers. This number is corroborated across two completely disparate, yet valuable sources within the 103 discipline.

104 MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to build on the work of West et al. (2013) and other similar studies conducted on gender authorship in peer-reviewed literature for the aquaculture discipline, we compared multiple data sets. The first and richest dataset, the International Aquaculture Curated Database (IACD), was built by the AquaFish Innovation Lab, and consists of 543 articles written by 1706 authors in 121 journals, all of which were published between 1983-2016. The IACD draws from peer-reviewed papers whose research was supported by four separate international aquaculture programs, which were developed by Hillary

Egna including: (1) Pond Dynamics/Aquaculture Collaborative Research Special Program (CRSP) (1982-1996); (2) Aquaculture CRSP (1996-2008); (3) AquaFish CRSP (2006-2013); and (4) AquaFish Innovation Lab (2013-Present). AquaFish Innovation Lab staff reviewed both electronic and hard copies of journal articles, including full names, gender of authors, and author position, with the percentage of unknowns being less than 1%. The gender of the authors was recorded by Egna from having a personal connection to the author or by the lead authors themselves.

117 The IACD was analyzed for comparison to three other datasets: two separate JSTOR collections 118 (The Recalibrated JSTOR and the JSTOR Subsample) and a Web of Science dataset. JSTOR is an 119 expansive database of publications organized according to broad topics, and contains publications 120 dating back to 1665, and was used for the West et al. (2013) authorship study. Web of Science is a 121 similar online database, as well as Academic Search Premier, Scopus, and Microsoft Academic Graph 122 (MAG). Each database has proprietary strengths and weaknesses. JSTOR has far more time depth than 123 any of the other databases and it has full text for all their articles whereas most of the others have only 124 bibliographic data. Web of Science has decades of data. Hundreds of databases have been created, but 125 many of them are specific to certain disciplines or types of publications, whereas those listed above are 126 more comprehensive across the literature. By comparing the IACD to both JSTOR and the Web of 127 Science, more journals within the interdisciplinary discipline of aquaculture are captured in this analysis. 128 JSTOR Re-calibration was done in order to revisit the gender findings from West et al. (2013) and 129 compare the findings to authorship data in the present study. The JSTOR aquaculture subsample 130 separated the aquaculture journals from others within the broad database. It begins in 1913 as that was 131 the year one of the first aquaculture-related journals began. JSTOR journal areas include: cultural 132 studies, arts, business and economics, history, humanities, law, medicine and health, science and 133 mathematics, and the social sciences. Aquaculture journals are located within the science and 134 mathematics category. Web of Science is an online subscription-based scientific citation indexing service

produced by the Institute for Scientific Information and includes science, social science, arts, and

136 humanities disciplines. From the more than 90 million records, we extracted articles from more than

137 100 journals within the aquaculture discipline. This includes all of the journals in the IACD plus more that

are commonly publish research in aquaculture.

139 In the JSTOR and Web of Science, authorships are defined as an author-paper relationship, and 140 does not count unique authors. This requires author disambiguation for the full databases, which is an 141 ongoing challenge in the field of bibliometrics and scientometrics. Because of the large number of 142 authorships in JSTOR and Web of Science, gender was inferred by looking up the frequency of first names in the U.S. Social Security Database. For example, if "James" appears 99% of the time as a boy, we assume 143 144 that an author with the name "James" is male. For androgynous names such as "Andrea" and first names written as initials, we could not infer gender so we do not include these authors in the analysis. Therefore, 145 146 the gender labels are self-identified and determined by only looking at the names and the frequency of 147 gender for a given name. Unidentifiable names account for about 1 in every 5 authors in the Recalibrated 148 JSTOR dataset (Table 1).

The Recalibrated JSTOR Corpus and Web of Science cover all major realms of scientific publications; the aquaculture subsample of the JSTOR Corpus and the Web of Science include a large number of articles from a select few aquaculture journals; and the IACD is a substantiated aquaculturespecific database containing fewer journal articles. The IACD, JSTOR, and Web of Science comprise journals in the biotechnical domain of aquaculture more so than in the social or management domains of the discipline. Together, the four data sources allow for a stronger understanding of gender representation in journal authorship.

Lastly, we contextualized the findings from these datasets within the percentage of women graduating in aquaculture, as well as factored in how the field has grown over time. As aquaculture

degrees were not conferred widely or until recently in academia, assumptions were made to cover the

Dataset	#Journals	#Articles	#Authorship	Time	% Genders
				Period	Unknown
JSTOR	2227	1.8 million	2.8 million	1666-2011	26.7%
JSTOR Sub-	8	23,381	43,146	1913-2016	23.7%
sample					
IACD	121	543	1706	1983-2016	<1%
Web of	185	494,531	496,745	1980-2016	69%
Science					

159 wide range of academic disciplines that could relate to aquaculture.

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161 **Table 1.** Four datasets used for this study with varying journals, articles, authorships, time periods, and

162 percent of genders unknown.

163 **Figure 1.** Flow chart of methodology used for this study.

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166 **RESULTS**

Authorship	International	JSTOR –	JSTOR Corpus	Web of Science
Position of	Aquaculture Curated	Aquaculture		
women	Database (IACD)	subsample		
Any position	15.7%	13.8%	16.1%	8.5%
Single Author	≥1990: 11.1%	11.0% (All	All years: 17.0%	17.7%
		years)	<1990: 12.0%	
			≥1990: 26.0%	
First Author	14.2%	15.8%	19.2%	5.1%
Last Author	14.0%	16.5%	19.6%	3.6%

167 **Table 2.** Findings by significant authorship position across the four datasets.

168 In the entire JSTOR Corpus, comprising nearly 2 million papers, women represent 21.9% of total 169 authorships for papers published between 1665-2011 (West et al. 2013). This timeframe represents the 170 existence of JSTOR publications. For comparison, in fisheries-related fields such as Ichthyology and 171 Aquatic Ecology, women represent 21.0% and 9.0% of total authors, respectively. In the JSTOR 172 aquaculture subsample, 23,381 articles and 43,146 authorships within eight aquaculture journals (since 173 1913) were extracted and assessed for authorship gender in multiple positions to compare to the 174 Recalibrated JSTOR dataset. The JSTOR recalibration adjusted for the period in which the first 175 aquaculture journal in our subsample was initiated. The following eight journals were selected because 176 they are highly ranked in the aquaculture discipline: Ambio, Copeia, Estuaries and Coasts, Journal of 177 Coastal Conservation, Journal of the North American Benthological Society, Limnology and 178 Oceanography, and Water and Environment Research. We recognize that these journals do not

comprise a representative sample of all aquaculture journals, and are skewed towards biotechnical
domains of aquaculture. However, these journals are consistent with the journals available in JSTOR. In
the Web of Science, comprising almost 500,000 articles in the subsample extracted for this study,
women represent 8.5% of the total authorships for papers published between 1980-2016. This
timeframe is in line with the IACD for comparison. This analysis includes articles from 185 journals that
are considered relevant to the aquaculture discipline.

185 Table 2 outlines our findings by significant authorship position across the four main datasets of 186 peer-reviewed aquaculture literature. Across the board, women represent between 9-15% of significant 187 authorship positions in these four datasets. Due to the methodology of assigning genders to author 188 names within the JSTOR alongside the U.S. Social Security Database, there are higher percentages of 189 unknown genders for the JSTOR and Web of Science datasets than for the IACD. Results show that 190 women occur in low percentages as authors in any position in aquaculture journals, reinforcing results 191 found by West et al. (2013) more generally in science. Women represent 16.1% of authorship in all 192 positions in the Recalibrated JSTOR Corpus and only 8.5% in the Web of Science, after correcting for 193 unknowns. The percentage of women authors was comparable for the JSTOR aquaculture subsample 194 (13.8%) and the journals in the IACD (15.7%), but much less so for the Web of Science (Table 2). For 195 single-authored papers, the JSTOR Corpus shows an overall decline over time. However, there has been 196 an increase in sole authorship by women. Before 1990, only 12% of single authored papers were written 197 by women. After 1990, that number increased to 26%. In the JSTOR aquaculture subsample, women 198 represent 11.0% of single-authored papers since 1913, and 17.7% in the Web of Science, respectively. In 199 the IACD, women represent 11.1% of all single authored papers since 1990.

200 Percentages of women in last authorship positions were comparable for the publications in the 201 JSTOR Aquaculture subsample and the IACD at 15.8% and 14.4%, but were much less for the Web of 202 Science at 3.6%. A similar trend is seen with first authorship positions where the JSTOR Aquaculture

subsample are comparable at 15.8% and 14.2%, while the Web of Science is only a mere 5.1%. First and
last author results from the overall JSTOR Corpus for all fields were slightly higher than for the field of
aquaculture at 19.2% for first authorship and 19.6% for last.

206 As well as recent changes in the publication process for peer-reviewed literature, the history of 207 aquaculture was considered for this analysis. To understand the evolution of gender in the aquaculture 208 discipline, it is important to first recognize that the discipline of aquaculture has changed substantially 209 over the past 30 years (FAO 2016). Global aquaculture production took off in the early 1980s, and rapidly 210 expanded through the 1990s to present to accommodate a growing global population with its changing 211 diets and preferences. Development was especially expansive in the 1980s, with pond culture 212 predominating total aquaculture production. The fisheries discipline has also grown in both scope and 213 geographic range. There has been a global scale expansion of marine fisheries from the North Atlantic and 214 West Pacific to the Southern Hemisphere. The southward expansion of intense industrial fisheries 215 exploitation occurred at a rate of almost one degree latitude per year with the greatest expansion 216 occurring in the mid-1980s and early 1990s (Swartz et al 2010).

217 Growth of the aquaculture discipline and industry have, not surprisingly, mirrored each other. 218 Preliminary data from over 300 aquaculture-related publications shows the rapid inception of new 219 journals from the late 1980s to the 2000s. Overall, the number of journals and publications has grown in 220 all disciplines. In the Recalibrated JSTOR set, we find that roughly half of all peer-reviewed publications 221 were published after 1990. We think that this is consistent across other large scholarly article corpora. 222 Scientific publishing, like many other industries, has faced many changes with the onset of the internet. 223 Journal articles today are accessed online with increasing frequency, and retrieved in digital formats 224 rather than through printed sources (Laakso et al. 2011). The way that journal articles are accessed online 225 has also changed in recent years, particularly with the growth of Open Access publishing between 1993-226 2009. Since 2000, the annual growth rate for Open Access journals has been 18%, and 30% for the total

- 227 number of published articles (Laakso et al 2011). The evolving mechanisms for publishing peer-reviewed
- 228 literature have consequences for researchers in the field, and their authorship track records.
- 229 Figure 2 shows the years that major aquaculture journals began (n=166). There was significant growth in
- aquaculture journals in the early 1970s through the 1990s. For example, JWAS began in 1970. While this
- is not a comprehensive list of all of the journals that ever publish aquaculture articles, it represents most
- of the major journals in the discipline that had initiation years available online. Figure 2 follows a similar
- 233 curve to that of the global aquaculture production, which started to increase in the early 1980s, and
- began rapidly expanding in the 1990s to the present to accommodate a growing global population. The
- discipline has growth both in scope as well as geographic range.
- **Figure 2.** History of aquaculture and journal initiation over time.
- Figure 3. Women authorship by position over time in IACD.
- Figure 3 shows the percent of each position in the IACD for each year between 1990-2016. Men first and
- 239 last authorships dominate the journal articles published each year, with women single authors being the
- 240 lowest. However, the gap between men and women authors does seem to decrease over time, which
- leads us to believe that women's status in the field is improving.
- 242 Figure 4. Percent women graduates in Agricultural, Biological, Natural and Social Science. Source: U.S.
- 243 Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

244 To contextualize our findings with the percentage of women graduating in the field, we

- examined several sources to better understand the numbers of women graduates in aquaculture.
- 246 Because of the relatively nascent, and interdisciplinary nature of aquaculture, we applied sources from
- 247 within the U.S. and international as well as across disciplines including fisheries, biological, agricultural,
- and social sciences. According to Elsevier, approximately 28% of researchers around the globe are
- women, yet only 13% of highly cited authors in 2014 were women (Elsevier 2015). In the U.S., we used
- 250 the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics to quantify the number of

251 female graduates in agricultural, biological, natural, and social sciences who earned Bachelor's Master's 252 and PhD's in the U.S. from 1991-2015. Figure 4 shows the percent of female graduates each year at each 253 degree level. The proportion of women graduating in the field has increased over time, with the most 254 obvious increase being that of PhD graduates, representing roughly 30% of graduates in 1991 to more 255 than 50% of graduates in 2015. Additionally, Arismendi and Penaluna's 2016 study on women 256 publishing in fisheries, found that women and minorities are still a small portion of tenure-track faculty 257 in the discipline of fisheries. Lastly, we evaluated the percent of women AquaFish graduates per year, 258 and found a slight increase over time, with no significant upward trend. 259 This analysis is very useful as many students publish their research chapters soon after they 260 graduate, despite whether or not they continue to work in academia and publish. While these 261 graduates do not represent all of the women science graduates internationally, since the data is U.S.-262 based, it is a still a useful comparison for a general understanding of how many women are graduating 263 in the agricultural, biological, natural, and social sciences, all of which feed into aquaculture scholarly 264 literature. 265 Figure 5. AquaFish graduates as percent women by year. Figure 6. Percent women graduates in science alongside percent first and last authorship positions in 266 267 the IACD and Web of Science datasets. 268 Since the IACD percentages reflect that of the JSTOR sub-sample and Corpus, it is a proxy for the 269 women authors in the discipline as compared to women graduates in science in the U.S. Figure 4 shows 270 percent women graduates with Master's and Phd's in agricultural, biological, natural, and social sciences 271 from 1991-2015, in black, alongside the percent of significant authorship positions women held each 272 year for the IACD. These numbers are from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for 273 Education Statistics. There is a slight increase in women authorship positions as a percentage of the 274 total publications for each year, over time.

275 **DISCUSSION**

It appears that the gap in women authorship is closing, however women authorship remains low
considering the increasing proportion of women graduates in aquaculture sciences. However, the U.S.
data does not represent the proportion of women that are actively publishing in aquaculture as an
academic discipline. Moving forward, it is important to encourage organizations and individuals to
consider how structures that propagate gender bias can be overturned to promote better outcomes in
authorship, hiring, and promotions.

282 These findings can be applied to the greater context of women in academia. In 2015, Elsevier 283 published a study of research performance through a gender lens across 20 years, 12 geographies, and 284 27 subject areas to share insights and guidance on gender research and equity policy with governments, 285 funders, and institutions worldwide. They found that approximately 28% of researchers around the 286 globe are women, with only 13% of highly cited authors in 2014 were women. However, there is a drop 287 off in degrees, starting at the PhD level. Further, health and life science have the highest representation 288 of women among researchers. Studies like Elsevier's are continuing to explore why the leaky pipeline 289 occurs, and why women are dropping out of academia in their PhD. 290 Given this study and others, we recommend a number of steps to combat gender inequity in 291 aquaculture scholarly literature and other academic disciplines. First, it is important to continue to track 292 authorship to measures success or weaknesses in progress towards integration. Standardized practices

293 for assigning authorship position would be mainstreamed and made transparent. Faculty and mentors

should encourage women scientists to remain in academia through mentoring, opportunities for

promotion, and opportunities to review and edit other publications. While we do not yet have details on

296 non-unique identifiers for prolific authors and people with multiple degrees, this could be an important

297 next step to better understanding trends in authorship position by gender.

298 CONCLUSION

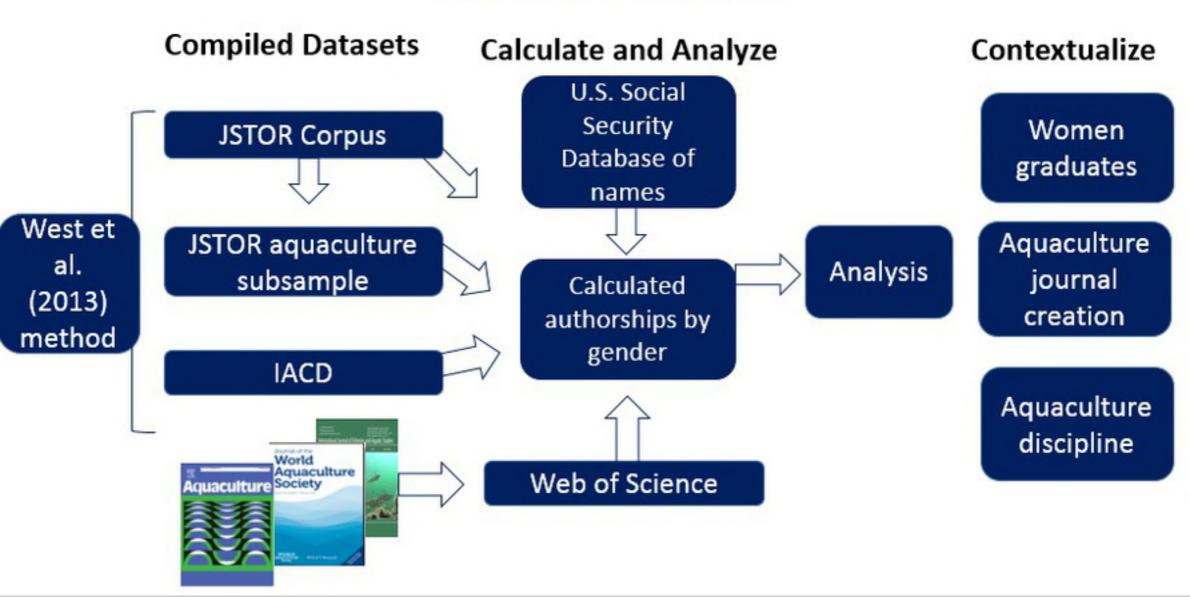
299	Comparing the percentage of women authors across all four databases reveals a low percentage
300	of women authors between 8.5%16.1% of all authorships. The four data sets represent a wide range
301	of aquaculture journals that are well regarded within the discipline. These results for aquaculture echo
302	the findings of West et al. (2013) for women in many fields of science, as well as (Arismendi and
303	Penaluna 2016) on the status of women publishing in the broader discipline of fisheries.
304	While there are many factors that may explain why women hold a low percentage of
305	authorships across all fields of peer-reviewed literature and in aquaculture, in particular, these results
306	do not reveal the cause. The data reflect an end-result that is influenced by a number of factors that are
307	not easily studied and have not yet been addressed in the project. One of the main factors is the
308	proportion of women trained and actively working in the aquaculture discipline. Also, recognizing that
309	gender is a social construction, our preliminary work was simplified by binary designations (man-
310	woman; male-female); additional deeper analyses may reveal nuances for other underrepresented
311	groups.
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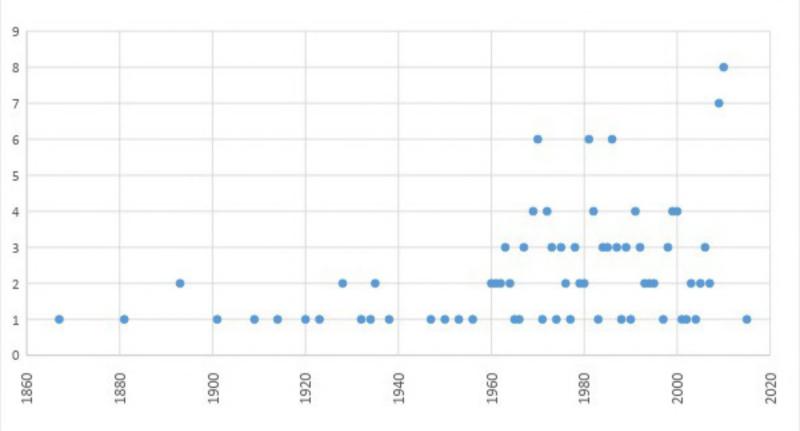
323	JSTOR corpus is 22%. The IACD may prove a useful tool for social network analyses including
324	assessments of unique very highly networked authors, and of subsequent generations of authorships.
325	The richness of an international curated database lends itself to factoring in variables such as funding
326	and faculty rank, along with other social metrics. The information in these data sets can be used by
327	other studies to assess the major influences on gender equity in the field of aquaculture. Increasing
328	awareness of the equitable treatment of scientists in aquaculture remains essential for the sustainable
329	growth of the discipline.
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331	
332	All listed authors contributed a significant amount to the paper. Dr. Hillary Egna had the original
333	intellectual contribution to the work and a strong vision for the paper. She also contributed to data
334	collection, analysis, writing and editing. Morgan Chow collected the IACD information, analyzed results
335	with the JSTOR databases, and wrote the backbone of the paper. Dr. Jevin West conducted data analysis
336	for the recalibrated and subsample of JSTOR, while providing substantial information for the methods.
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341	authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the AquaFish Innovation Lab or USAID.
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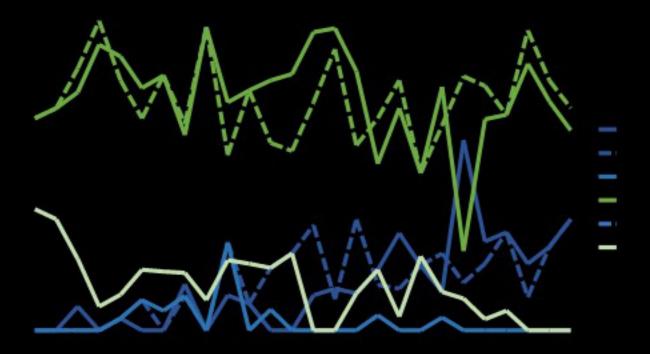
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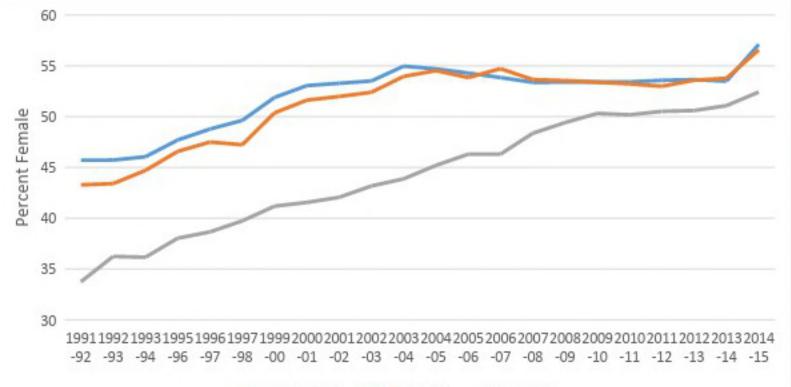
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- Bachelor's - Master's - Doctor's

AquaFish Students, % Women by Year

