Code of Ethics for the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation

This Code provides guiding principles of conduct for all members of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation ("CERF"). Recognition of professional status by the public depends not only on skill and dedication but also on adherence to a code of professional conduct.

1. CERF members shall act at all times with integrity.
   - Will offer professional advice only on those subjects in which they are informed and qualified through training and experience.
   - Will avoid and discourage the dissemination of false, erroneous, biased, unwarranted or exaggerated statements.
   - Shall clearly differentiate opinions, theories, hypotheses and ideas.
   - Will support and promote equal opportunities in all professional activities.
   - Will not engage in any activity that might result in a conflict of interest (and will be conscious of the appearance of a conflict of interest).
   - Will not discriminate against others on the basis of gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, nationality, geographic origins, color, religion or religious beliefs, political affinity, physical ability, physical appearance, socioeconomic background, age, veteran status, marital status, or any other personal characteristics.
   - Will not practice or condone verbal, nonverbal, or physical harassment in any form, including sexual harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

2. CERF members should strive to increase their competence and the competence and prestige of the profession.
   - In any communication will give full and proper credit to and will avoid misrepresentation of the work and ideas of others.
   - Shall exercise utmost care in laboratory and field research.
   - Within reasonable limits of time and finance will volunteer their special knowledge, skill and training to the public.
   - Will keep informed of advances in their fields of expertise, including methodologies of data acquisition and analysis.
   - Will fulfill acknowledged commitments in a timely manner.

3. CERF members will accept responsibility for their work and maintain records of research in ways that allow verification, analysis, and replication by others.
   - Shall report accurately, truthfully and clearly the information pertinent to a given project and will convey findings objectively.
   - As an author, should have made a substantial contribution to the manuscript in at least two of the following ways:
     - Conceiving the ideas and design of the experiment
     - Participating in the active execution of the study
     - Analyzing and interpreting the data
     - Writing the manuscript
   - The principal investigator(s) of a research project should establish a clear understanding with everyone working on the project as to the right of any person to publish a paper using data collected in that project.

- An author should not submit a manuscript to a journal while it is already under review by another journal.
- Original records of research methods, conditions, equipment, personnel, results, analyses, and statistical tests should be retained for several years after publication of results.
- Where possible and applicable, an author should deposit the data and associated metadata in support of research findings in a public repository.
- Shall follow all laws and regulations applicable to their research activities.

Notes:
This Code of Ethics was created in 1991. The Governing Board approved this version of the Code of Ethics in 1995. It was edited in January 2010 to reflect the name change from ERF to CERF, and was updated in 2018 to include responsibilities surrounding discrimination and harassment, research regulations, and public access to scientific data.

This Code of Ethics is in no way intended to limit or restrict the ability of CERF to discipline or sanction members, including, without limitation, the suspension, termination, or expulsion of membership or any membership right, as set forth in the articles of incorporation, bylaws, code of conduct, or any other governing document or policy of CERF.