

Cover letter

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March 10th, 2021

Dear Editors,

We wish to submit an original research article entitled “Assessment of stream environmental condition using fish-based metrics in a protected area and its disturbed buffer zone, Northeastern Atlantic Rainforest” to be considered for publication in the *Oecologia Australis* journal.

All authors have seen and approved this manuscript. We confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere, nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. We agree that the article will only be published upon payment of the cost of the manuscript.

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in the production of this work nor in its disclosure.

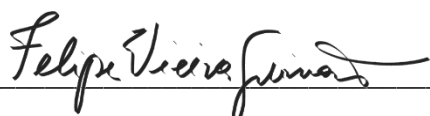
Here we provide the names and contact information of five independent referees for your consideration:

- Dr. Ana Cristina Petry – Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) – petryanacristina@gmail.com
- Dr. Carla Polaz – ICMBio – Centro de Pesquisa e Gestão de Recursos Pesqueiros Continentais (CEPTA) – carlapolaz@gmail.com
- Dr. Lilian Casatti – Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho (UNESP) – licasatti@gmail.com
- Dr. Erica Caramaschi – Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) – erica.caramaschi@gmail.com
- Dr. Rosana Souza-Lima – Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ) – rosanasl@yahoo.com.br

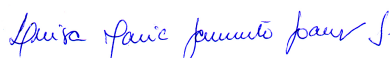
Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

The authors.



Felipe Vieira Guimarães



Luisa Maria Sarmento-Soares



Ronaldo Fernando Martins-Pinheiro



Luiz Fernando Duboc