SNAME
Policy
Knowledge Management

Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in SNAME Publications	
Purpose:	To establish policy for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the preparation of content submitted to or published by SNAME.

1.0 General

1.1 **Applies to** all content submitted to, or published by, the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME): journal articles, conference papers, presentation abstracts, technical notes, recorded discussions and closures, together with their figures, code, data and supplementary material. The policy binds authors, reviewers, editors and editorial staff.

2.0 Purpose and Principles

2.1 General

SNAME permits the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the preparation of submitted work, subject to the conditions set out below. SNAME encourages thoughtful and ethical use of AI that strengthens the rigor, clarity, reach, and speed of work in naval architecture, marine engineering, shipbuilding, operations and maintenance. The policy is built on three principles.

2.2 Accountability

A named human author is responsible for every part of the work and for every statement it contains, irrespective of how that part was produced.

2.3 Transparency

SNAME recognizes that use of AI in preparing publications is becoming routine and aids creation and documentation. Declaration of AI usage in publications shall follow disclosure as per Section 6.1, that readers, reviewers, and editors should be aware of, to judge the work on a complete record.

2.4 Reproducibility and verifiability

.1 A reader must be able to reproduce the reported results from the description given in the paper to a degree sufficient to verify the conclusions drawn from them.

.2 Where a SNAME publication is produced with a co-publishing partner, the stricter of this policy and the partner's policy applies.

2.5 Intellectual Responsibility

AI may assist at any stage of the work and, where required, must be disclosed as per Section 6.1. Problem framing, engineering judgment, interpretation, and conclusions are the authors' own, and the authors are responsible to explain and defend any part of the work, including in reviews or in discussions when it is presented.

3.0 Definitions

3.1 Generative AI

Denotes any tool that produces text, images, audio, video, 2D and 3D geometry, drawings and CAD models, code, data, or analysis in response to a prompt or any other input, including large language models (LLMs), multimodal models, voice, image and video generators, code assistants, and AI agents that carry out multi-step tasks.

3.2 Assistive language tools

Denotes the use of tools, including generative AI, to draft, revise, rephrase, condense, restructure, format or translate text or voice that expresses the author’s own ideas, analysis and results, without adding or altering the meaning or technical content of the publication.

3.3 Analytical AI

Denotes any tool that extracts, detects, classifies, measures, or transcribes information from text, images, video, drawings, CAD models, documents, audio, or sensor records, including vision and multimodal models used for these purposes. This policy applies to generative and analytical AI alike, whatever the underlying technology.

4.0 Authorship

.1 An AI tool shall not be listed as an author or co-author, and shall not be credited as a contributor. Authorship carries obligations that a tool cannot discharge: it cannot take responsibility for the work, approve the final version, declare

conflicts of interest, hold or transfer copyright, or respond to questions after publication.

.2 AI-generated output shall not be cited as an authoritative scholarly source. Where the behavior of a tool or its output is itself the object of study, it is shall be described in the Methods and sufficient information about the tool, prompts, and outputs is reported or deposited as supplementary material to permit evaluation and reproducibility.

5.0 Responsibility of Authors

.1 The authors are accountable for the entire work. Use of an AI tool is neither a defense nor a mitigating factor in any question of accuracy, originality, or ethics. Before submission, the authors shall have satisfied themselves that:

a) every factual statement, numerical value, equation, and derivation has been verified to be correct;
b) every reference has been verified to exist and to support the statement for which it is cited;
c) the text is original, and does not reproduce third-party material without attribution and permission;
d) the reported results do not depend on undisclosed AI-generated content as described in Section 6.1;
e) no confidential, proprietary, or personal data has been entered into a tool whose terms, security arrangements, or data-processing practices do not adequately protect that information;
f) export-controlled technical data has not been entered into any AI tool, irrespective of the provider's security arrangements, since such use may itself constitute an unauthorized export.

.2 At submission, every author confirms the statements in Sections 2.5 and 5.1, using the confirmation in Appendix A. This confirmation is the basis on which SNAME relies, and it replaces item-by-item declaration of routine assistance.

6.0 Disclosure

What must be declared

.1 Declaration is required where AI has been used to:

a) generate, translate, extract, analyze, refactor or alter information, data, computations, or code
    a. this shall include data extracted from written documents, images, 2D or 3D CAD drawings, models or other analysis tools, audio and video recordings;
b) where such data and tools are used to select or tune models or to produce or interpret reported results from them;
c) generate research questions, designs, hypotheses, or conclusions;
d) screen, select, synthesize, or summarize literature where that process forms part of the method of the work which the publication relies upon.

6.2 What need not be declared

Writing assistance as defined in Section 3.2 requires no declaration, nor does coding assistance, provided such code is verified as required by Section 8.1. AI search and summary tools that the authors use to develop their own understanding, reference managers, citation formatters, plagiarism checkers, spelling and grammar checkers, and accessibility tools are likewise exempt.

6.3 Where and how to declare

.1 AI use affecting the research method, data, analysis, or results shall be described in the Methods. Any other declared use shall be reported in a short subsection headed “Use of AI Tools”, immediately before the Acknowledgements. Where a submission has no Methods section, both are reported in that subsection. The declaration states the name and version of the tool, what AI was used for, the parts of the work affected, and that the authors verified and take responsibility for the output. The following wording may be used:

a) During the preparation of this work, the authors used [tool, version] to [purpose] in [sections or elements affected]. The authors subsequently reviewed, verified and edited the output, and take full responsibility for the content of the publication.

Where it deems necessary to properly review a publication SNAME reserves the right to ask for further disclosure regarding any specific AI tool and how it was used.

.2 A declaration is a statement of transparency and not an admission of weakness. Declared use of AI shall not weigh against a submission in any editorial or review decision; submissions are judged on their accuracy, originality, and scientific or engineering merit. SNAME encourages authors who do not write in English as a first language to use AI language translation and editing tools.

7.0 Figures, Images, and Data Visualization

.1 Generative AI may be used to produce schematics, general-arrangement sketches, 2D and 3D models and drawings, conceptual illustrations, diagrams, and graphical abstracts. Such figures shall carry a caption note of the form "Figure produced with [tool, version]", and the authors remain responsible for their technical correctness and for any third-party rights. Generated renderings, animations and video are likewise labelled as illustrative, and shall not be presented as, or be capable of being mistaken for, model-test, trial, operational footage, photographs of real vessels or damage, or as-built designs.

.2 Authors may use AI to write, complete, or debug the code that produces a data figure, including plots of experimental, numerical, and operational results. The plotted values are then computed from the data by the plotting routine and not by the AI tool, so the figure remains a faithful record of the data. Such use is declared as code under §5 and §7, and no caption note is required. The procedure shall generate the plotted scientific values directly from the archived data and be reproducible to a degree sufficient to verify the figure and the conclusions drawn from it.

.3 A data figure shall not be synthesized by a generative image model. A generative image model does not compute the plotted positions from the data. It produces an image resembling a plot of the shape described in the prompt, in which no point corresponds to a measured or computed value. Publishing such an image as a record of results is fabrication of data, whatever the intent of the authors, and is treated as such under §9. The governing test for any data figure is whether it can be reproduced from the archived data to a degree sufficient to verify the figure and the conclusions drawn from it.

.4 Generative AI shall not be used to fabricate data or to create, interpolate, extrapolate, or otherwise infer values that are reported as measured, observed, or computed results, except as a method described and validated under Sections 8.3 to 8.5. Imagery presented as evidence of a measured or observed result, including photographs, micrographs, sensor records, survey and inspection imagery, and model-test recordings, shall not be processed using generative enhancement methods that may introduce or infer image detail not present in the original measurement. The prohibition does not extend to work in which such processing is itself the subject of study, for example where a super-resolution or denoising method is the contribution of the paper. There, the processing is described in the Methods under Section 8.3, and the unprocessed imagery is presented alongside the processed result.

.5 The underlying data and the script for any published figure shall be made available to the editor on request.

.6 Generated or AI-altered images, video, audio or animation that depict, or could reasonably be taken to depict, a real vessel, structure, test, trial, event, or person are labelled as synthetic and shall not be presented as a record of a test, trial, inspection, or event. Presentations are given by a named author who answers questions on the work, and an AI-generated voice, video or likeness of a presenter requires that person's consent and disclosure to the session chair and the audience.

8.0 Code, Data, and Reproducibility

.1 AI-assisted generation of code is permitted and needs no declaration. The authors are responsible for verification and validation of that code to the same standard as any code they write themselves.

.2 The description in the paper must allow the reported procedure and results to be independently evaluated and reproduced to a degree sufficient to verify the conclusions drawn from them. A result that cannot be independently verified from the reported method, mesh, boundary conditions, solver settings, model parameters, and data is not admissible, regardless of whether or not AI was used. Where an output depends materially on a prompt, the prompt, the tool version and the relevant settings must be reported in the paper or in supplementary material.

.3 Where a machine-learning or AI model forms part of the method, for example a surrogate model, a data-driven closure, or a condition-monitoring classifier, it is described in the Methods with the detail expected of any other method: model class and architecture, provenance, and preparation of the training data, hyperparameters, training, and validation procedure, performance metrics, and the range of conditions over which the model has been validated.

.4 Where analytical AI is used to extract, detect, classify, measure, or transcribe information from images, video, drawings, documents, audio or sensor records, and the output is reported as data, the tool is part of the measurement chain. The Methods identify the tool, the source material and the procedure, and report the error of the extracted values against an independent reference and its contribution to the uncertainty of the results, in proportion to the weight the conclusions place on those values. Examples include digitizing legacy lines plans or offsets, tracking wave elevation or motions in model-test video, and classifying defects in inspection imagery. The source material is retained and made available to the editor on request.

.5 Synthetic data, including generated or rendered images, signals, sea states and geometries, may be used to train, augment, or test a model, provided its use is declared, its method of generation and its share of each dataset are reported, and its fidelity to the physical case is demonstrated. Synthetic data shall not be presented as observation, and reported model performance is established on measured or otherwise independent data, or stated explicitly to be performance on synthetic data only.

9.0 Peer Review and Editorial Assessment

.1 Manuscripts, reviewer reports, and editorial correspondence are confidential. Entering any part of them into a tool that retains, logs, discloses, or trains on its input is a breach of confidentiality, of the authors' intellectual property, and potentially of data-protection law.

.2 Reviewers and editors may use AI tools only where confidentiality is technically and contractually guaranteed, for example a locally hosted model, or an institutional or enterprise deployment under a written agreement of no retention, no human review, and no training on submitted content. Consumer or public

tools shall not be used. Where the reviewer or editor is not certain that these conditions are met, AI shall not be used.

.3 Even within a permitted environment, the following apply. The reviewer forms the assessment and the recommendation; AI may assist with language, structure, or checking, but shall not generate the evaluation. The reviewer is accountable for every statement in the report, including every reference it cites. The reviewer declares any use of AI to the editor at submission of the report. Editorial decisions are taken by a human editor, and an AI output shall never be the sole basis for rejection. Reviewers assess the substance of the work and do not speculate about whether AI was used.

10.0 Compliance and Enforcement

.1 SNAME enforces this policy through what can be verified in the work itself. Concerns are handled under the SNAME publication ethics procedures. Depending on severity, outcomes range from a request for clarification and an added declaration, through rejection, to correction or retraction of a published paper and referral to the SNAME Ethics Committee.

.2 The output of AI-detection software shall not, by itself, constitute evidence of misconduct or justify an adverse editorial action , and scores are not shared with authors or recorded as findings. Any third-party service used to screen submissions, including AI detection and similarity checking, must meet the confidentiality conditions of §9.2. Concerns are pursued by requesting the evidence that any author should hold: drafts, data, code, calculation records and, where relevant, prompt logs.

.3 SNAME may screen submissions and final papers for references that cannot be found and for hidden text. A flagged item is confirmed by a person before any action is taken, recognizing that standards, classification rules, reports, and other technical literature may be poorly indexed.

11.0 Review of This Policy

The capabilities of AI tools and the norms surrounding them are changing quickly. This policy is reviewed by the SNAME Publications Committee each year where

practicable, and at intervals never exceeding two years. It is versioned and dated so that authors can identify the version in force at the time of submission.

SNAME will review the declaration categories and format in §6 against the Global Reporting Standard for AI Disclosure in Research, being developed by COPE, STM, the International Science Council and the Global Young Academy, once it is published.

Appendix A — Author Declaration Template

A declaration is required only where AI has been used beyond the exemptions in §6.2. No statement is needed otherwise.

Use of AI tools. During the preparation of this work, the authors used [tool, version] to [purpose] in [sections, figures or code affected]. The authors subsequently reviewed, verified and edited the output, and take full responsibility for the content of the publication.

Appendix B — Reviewer Declaration Template

A declaration is required only where an AI tool has been used. No statement is needed otherwise.

In preparing this review I used [tool, version] for [purpose], within an environment that guarantees confidentiality of the manuscript, namely [locally hosted model / named enterprise deployment under a no-retention agreement]. The assessment and recommendation are my own, and I take full responsibility for every statement in this report.

Note on the Preparation of This Document

This policy was drafted by Prof. Ignazio Maria Viola, VP Alt. Knowledge Management. A large language model, Claude Opus 5, was used in its preparation. The author reviewed, verified and edited the output. The author and SNAME take full responsibility for the content.

Craig Tulk, Functional Vice President Knowledge Management and Frederick H. (Rick) Ashcroft, SNAME Technology and Research Director, contributed to the final original version (Rev.0) without the use of AI.

SNAME
Policy
Knowledge Management

Revision History				
Version	Date	Change	Author(s)	Approved By
Rev.0	12 Oct 2026	Original	I.M. Viola, C. Tulk, F.H. Ashcroft	Craig Tulk FVP Knowledge Management
Rev.#				