WRITING CONCLUSIONS

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Conclusions

Do

• Keep it short (1 or 2 short paragraphs)
• Make it interesting and memorable for the reader

Don’t

• Summarize points already made
• Overstate the significance of findings

- Respond to the purpose statement in the introduction
- Identify most important outcome
- Draw generalizations or abstractions that go beyond the immediate case or observations
- Explicitly state the significance of the findings
- (Suggest next steps)
The purpose of this paper is to analyse how fish farmers manage climate-related risks and explore possible ways to strengthen risk management under current and future climate conditions.

They use a combination of adjustments to rearing practices, cropping calendars and financial and social measures to manage those risks...

Underlining... for strengthening risk management....
A key finding of this study is that individual risks are often addressed through multiple practices and strategies and that a particular practice can have a bearing on several different risks.

Social relations and information play critical roles in managing these complex combinations of risks.

• Can you find where?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weak</th>
<th>Missing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Not much beyond summarizing findings</td>
<td>• Risk management in inland aquaculture....</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Some indirect examples...</td>
<td>• Farm level vs. watershed level management...</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

... *potential importance* of collective action, best practices and decision support tools ...

... *More broadly,* the findings of this study imply that adaptation ...
For adaptation to climate change...

More broadly, the findings of this study imply that adaptation will often need to consider multiple spatial and temporal scales as well as the fact that farmers do not manage individual climate-related risk in isolation from other risks.
While there have been many previous studies documenting..... Important gender differences in the use and management of water were identified in this study, and many varied with eco-cultural context..... Men, however, dominated decision-making roles in.... underlying the complexity of factors influencing gender relations in water governance.
Getting started on the conclusions

- Opening take-home message (0-1)
- Respond to the purpose statement (2-3)
- Identify most important outcome (1-2)
- Key generalizations or abstractions (1-2)
- Significance of the findings (1-2)
- Suggest next steps (1)
- Ending take-home message (0-1)

Make it up if you have to...

DO IT NOW!

- Write an outline of your conclusion using short dot points
- You have 5 minutes
Improving your own writing

• Review drafts of your colleagues
• When you read published papers critique their ‘organization’ and ‘argument’
• Allocate time to revise your own work
• Seek feedback from others

Everyone needs an editor.

A good