Peer-Review Report

Peer Review of “The Loch Ness Monster: If It’s Real, Could It Be an Eel?”

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Related Articles:
Preprint: https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/49063
Authors' Response to Peer-Review Reports: https://bio.jmirx.org/2023/1/e50618/
Published Article: https://bio.jmirx.org/2023/1/e49063/
(JMIRx Bio 2023;1:e50621) doi: 10.2196/50621

KEYWORDS
European eel; Anguilla anguilla; probability distribution; Loch Ness; folk zoology; unknown animals; cryptozoology

This is a peer-review report submitted for the paper “The Loch Ness Monster: If It’s Real, Could It Be an Eel?”

Round 1 Review

General Assessment
This paper [1] is an interesting assessment that verifies the obvious—that any monster of ~6 m cannot be an eel (Anguilla anguilla), although there is a reasonable likelihood that eels of ~1 m could account for some of the “sightings” of elongate animals in the loch. However, even though the outcome is unsurprising, the author approaches the subject in a rigorous and systematic way. As such, the manuscript is of value in eliminating eels as possible candidate species for the mythical monster.

The manuscript is well-written and referenced.

Essential Revisions That Are Required to Verify the Manuscript
Nil.

Other Suggestions to Improve the Manuscript
Nil.

Decision
Verified: The content is academically sound, only minor amendments (if any) are suggested.

Conflicts of Interest
None declared.

Editorial Notice
This paper was peer-reviewed by the Plan P Hashtag Community partner #PeerRef.

Reference
1. Foxon F. The Loch Ness monster: if it's real, could it be an eel? JMIRx Bio 2023:e49063 [doi: 10.2196/49063]

Edited by G Eysenbach; this is a non–peer-reviewed article. Submitted 06.07.23; accepted 06.07.23; published 21.07.23.

Please cite as:
Jellyman D
Peer Review of “The Loch Ness Monster: If It’s Real, Could It Be an Eel?”
JMIRx Bio 2023;1:e50621
URL: https://bio.jmirx.org/2023/1/e50621
doi: 10.2196/50621
PMID:

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