

Special Issue

Eco-Physiology of Shallow Benthic Communities

Message from the Guest Editor

Marine benthic communities are the structural and functional basis of ecosystems as they participate in nutrient cycles and provide refuge and nourishment for a high diversity of species that contribute to the overall health of marine ecosystems. Their composition as bottom-dwelling organisms can vary from invertebrates to algae, as well as abiotic components such as sand, rocks, and coral matrix. In particular, shallow marine benthic communities such as coral reefs, seagrasses, rocky reefs, and sandy soft bottoms support fisheries, coastal protection, and carbon sequestration and may also act as boundaries and nursery sites. As any marine ecosystem, they are directly influenced by global and local factors such as light, depth, disturbance, grazing, and nutrients, which, in addition to the effects of climate change and anthropogenic stressors such as nutrient runoff, plastic debris, contaminants, overfishing, detrimental touristic activities, and urbanization, may compromise their maintenance and conservation. We welcome your submissions to the special issue.

Guest Editor

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