

Special Issue

Effects of Human Disturbances and Climate Forcing on Marine Vegetation

Message from the Guest Editor

Marine vegetated ecosystems, such as seagrass meadows, saltmarshes, macroalgae communities, and mangrove forests are hot spots of coastal productivity and biodiversity and play important functional roles in the coastal ocean. While these ecosystems only cover a narrow belt around the global coastline, their role in the ocean carbon budget is disproportionately large, as they, like terrestrial forests, contribute markedly to carbon sequestration. In addition to this role in climate change mitigation, they also contribute to climate change adaption by, e.g., constituting natural coastal protection units attenuating wave energy and raising the sea floor. However, these marine forests are experiencing global declines due to the high level of human pressure on the coastlines and, to some extent, interacting effects of climate forcing. With this Special Issue, we provide a platform to advance the understanding of the combined effect of human disturbances and climate forcing on marine vegetated ecosystems and possible managerial strategies to maintain healthy marine vegetated ecosystems in a changing climate.

Guest Editor

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