



## Biofouling and Antifouling: Interactions between Microbes and Larvae of Invertebrates

Guest Editor:

**Prof. Dr. Sergey Dobretsov**

Department of Marine Science  
and Fisheries, Sultan Qaboos  
University, Al Khoud 123, P.O. Box  
34, Muscat, Oman

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Biofouling refers to the undesirable accumulation and deposition of living organisms on submerged hard surfaces. The initial stages of biofouling are represented by biofilms, which are composed of assemblages of different microorganisms—such as bacteria, fungi, diatoms, and protozoa—incorporated into exopolymeric substances and attached to each other and to substrata. The bioactive compounds produced by the microbes in biofilms can induce or inhibit the larval recruitment of invertebrates. Biofilms are highly dynamic systems. Environmental changes cause substantial changes in the community structure and composition of biofilms, which in turn affect the settlement of macrofouling species and their health. The molecular interactions between the biofilm community composition and settlement of invertebrate larvae remain poorly understood. This Special Issue targets research results focusing on microbe–larva interactions. Special emphasis will be placed on the novel “omics” approaches, such as metagenomics, metatranscriptomics, and metabolomics.

Dr. Sergey Dobretsov  
*Guest Editor*





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### Prof. Dr. Maurizio Battino

Department of  
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delle Marche, Via Ranieri 65,  
60100 Ancona, Italy

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