



The Coastal Zone in the Anthropocene: Understanding and Reducing the Risks for the Ocean

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Message from the Guest Editors

The human presence in the coastal is increasing rapidly, accompanied by an equally rapid growth in the built environment and consumer goods in the coastal zone. An increasing fraction of the urban population is in megacities that are located in the coastal zone or in the flood plains of major rivers. The coastal zone is exposed to a changing spectrum of natural hazards originating in the atmosphere–ocean–terrestrial systems. This risk could be reduced through new designs of the urban coasts that ensure the built environment is adapted to the changing spectrum of hazards and through international rules for the abandonment of urban coasts that can no longer be defended against sea encroachment. This would reduce threats to marine biosphere and future generations. We invite papers that address all aspects of the threats the urban coast might pose to the ocean, including the development of the urban coast, coastal hazard spectrum, the risk of marine debris originating in the urban coast and the impacts might have on the marine biosphere, alternatives for the design of the urban coast that would reduce this risk, and ethical challenges in governing risks to future generations.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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