

Special Issue

Microplastics in Freshwater Ecosystems

Message from the Guest Editor

Freshwater ecosystems, including lakes, rivers, reservoirs, ponds, and wetlands, play a fundamental role in sustaining biodiversity, providing drinking water, supporting fisheries, and ensuring a wide range of ecosystem services essential for human well-being. However, increasing amounts of plastic debris have entered these systems, both in the water column and sediments, where they undergo fragmentation processes leading to the formation of microplastics.

Compared to marine environments, freshwater ecosystems frequently function both as transport pathways and as sinks for microplastics before they reach the oceans. Nevertheless, research on microplastics in lakes, rivers, and other freshwater bodies remains less advanced, which results in significant knowledge gaps concerning their sources, transport dynamics, environmental fate, and ecological impacts. Moreover, standardized methodologies for sampling, identification, and quantification are still under development, which limits comparability across studies and provides a robust scientific basis for effective management strategies, regulatory frameworks, and policy development.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 August 2026



Microplastics

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 5.1
CiteScore 6.8



mdpi.com/si/253021

Microplastics
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