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The Relationship between Phytoplankton Ecology and Marine Pollution

Guest Editor:

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:

closed (9 September 2023)

Message from the Guest Editor

Pollution caused by human activities has changed the marine environment in a variety of ways that have impacted marine phytoplankton, and those impacts are likely to be even greater in the future. In coastal waters, discharges of nutrient-laden wastewaters have shifted phytoplankton growth rate limitations from nutrients toward light and favored species that have less tendency to sink or that are able to regulate their position in the water column (e.g., dinoflagellates). In coastal embayments such as the Baltic Sea and Chesapeake Bay, dense blooms of phytoplankton have dramatically reduced the amount of light reaching the bottom. The result has been the loss of benthic algae and the habitat that they provide for many estuarine species. CO₂ emissions are causing temperatures to rise, and these increases have been the greatest at high latitudes and during the winter months. The Arctic Ocean is projected to be ice-free by the end of the summer of roughly 2050.

[...]

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ZY82PNYH04



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