Special Issue

Anthropogenic Impacts on Benthic Marine Ecosystems

Message from the Guest Editors

In the Anthropocene, the human impact on marine ecosystems is equally as important as that of natural processes. Anthropogenic pressures extensively act on benthic communities, especially in coastal environments, such that almost a total absence of pristine areas has been hypothesized for some seas. These threats may lead to degradation and a reduction in the assemblages' heterogeneity. Moreover, marine litter, in addition to the plastics entangling or being ingested by marine organisms, may introduce xenobiotic compounds into food webs, causing several ecotoxicological effects with potentially harmful implications for human health. Human-mediated climate change represents another source of pressure that marine environments must now contend with. The aim of this Special Issue is to evaluate the state of benthic assemblages with a characterization of less explored habitats, assessing the type, intensity, and impacts of anthropogenic stressors and thus providing valuable information for the implementation of management plans for more sensitive communities.

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In the context of global changes, the sustainable management of water cycles, going from global and regional water cycles to urban, industrial and agricultural water cycles, plays a very important role on the water resources and on their relationships with food, energy, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and human health. *Water* invites authors to provide innovative original full articles, critical reviews and timely short communications and to propose special issues devoted to new technological and scientific domains and to interdisciplinary approaches of the water cycles. We ensure a critical review process and a quick turnaround between submission and final decision.

Editor-in-Chief

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