



Revealing the Biodiversity of Hidden Marine Habitats

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The marine environment is extraordinarily diverse and made up of a large number of different marine habitats identified by physical structures or specific environmental conditions.

Many of these habitats are poorly studied, with less data than the ocean depths, restricted by inadequate research methods or characterized by habitat complexity. The biodiversity of rocky reefs in tropical, temperate, and cold waters, marine caves and small cryptic habitats at the bottom is still relatively unexplored, hidden primarily due to obscurity of locations of the habitats and inadequate research methods. Potential impacts of these stressors on hidden habitats are difficult to assess because of the lack of baseline data and incomplete sampling.

Thus, this research topic is being focused on the description of the biodiversity of these hidden habitats on all trophic levels and on the identification of environmental drivers of associated species, as well as on habitat functional role not only on its own biodiversity but also of surrounding coastal ecosystems. Accordingly, the new research techniques used for sampling of those habitats should be given importance.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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