



Distribution and Metabolic Activities of Marine Microbes in Response to Natural and Anthropogenic Stressors

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Gabriella Caruso

National Research Council,
Institute of Polar Sciences (CNR-
ISP), Spianata S. Raineri 86,
98122 Messina, Italy

Dr. Kai Ziervogel

Ocean Process Analysis
Laboratory, University of New
Hampshire Durham, Durham, NC,
USA

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Message from the Guest Editors

Marine ecosystems experience constant anthropogenic stress through eutrophication, acidification, warming, and pollution (e.g., plastics, oil spills). Microbial communities act as sentinels for environmental changes. However, microbial responses to environmental changes often remain unpredictable as microbes operate on the microscale, which complicates extrapolation of microbial structure and function to larger scale processes. For instance, millimeter-sized organic aggregates known as marine snow harbor distinct microbial communities compared to ambient waters, making them hotspots for microbially mediated elemental cycling. New observations and experiments, together with analytical advances, may allow us to gain detailed insights into how microorganisms (free-living or particle-attached) respond to stressors, thus contributing to predictions of future scenarios and guiding decision makers. We welcome submissions of laboratory and field studies on microbial responses to natural and anthropogenic changes, and on spatial scales ranging from ocean basins to microenvironments such as marine snow.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Charitha Pattiaratchi
Oceans Graduate School and The
UWA Oceans Institute, The
University of Western Australia,
Perth, WA 6009, Australia

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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*Journal of Marine Science and
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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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