



Remote Sensing in Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring

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Message from the Guest Editors

Aquatic plants or macrophytes are primary producers that grow in water. Macrophytes provide habitat for fish and aquatic invertebrates, produce oxygen, and act as food for fish and wildlife. Macrophytes are sessile, react on changes in the environment and are therefore indicators for changing environmental conditions. The growth of macrophytes is influenced by global change effects. These phenomena affect population composition, growth dynamics and promote endemic or alien invasive species. Ship-, air- and spaceborne remote sensing (RS) approaches can support inventory and monitoring of macrophytes. At present mainly optical systems are in use to analyse spatial, spectral or temporal changes and deliver information on bathymetry. Sonar and Green Lidar techniques complement the spectral information based approaches of optical systems by bathymetric information and, to some extent, height information of macrophyte populations, expected to improve biomass estimation in contribution to methane emissions by lakes and rivers.





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