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## Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture and Sites Suitability Assessment

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Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**closed (20 June 2022)**

### Message from the Guest Editor

Aquaculture, the farming of aquatic organisms, is a sustainable strategic sector for land and coastal communities. It significantly contributes to food security and enhancement of economic development by providing employment opportunities in rural and coastal areas. Aquaculture can also contribute to healthy environments providing important ecosystem and cultural services. In 2018, aquaculture reached the all-time highest production of 114.5 million tonnes in live weight with a total farm gate sale value of USD 263.6 billion. This makes aquaculture a key player within the Blue Growth concept and a strong contributor to some of its key Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). However, despite various technological innovations and improvements in production techniques, this sector is still associated with misperceptions and negative opinions hampering its implementation and a wider consumption of its products. The integrated multitrophic aquaculture (IMTA) concept was developed as a way to increase the sustainability of intensive aquaculture systems, using an ecosystem-based approach.



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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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