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## The Impact of Climate Change on Freshwater Plankton Communities

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Freshwater plankton, play fundamental role in the Energy flow in aquatic systems generating primary production (phytoplankton) and transferring energy to higher trophic levels (zooplankton). Therefore, the already observed and expected climate driven changes in plankton communities will dramatically influence the functioning of aquatic ecosystems.

Climate can directly affect physiology, behaviour and phenology of aquatic organisms (metabolic rate, oxygen uptake, food demands, mobility, life cycles, diapause) or act indirectly, altering physical properties of freshwater habitats (thermal stratification, including steepness of metalimnetic gradients, annual mixing regime, temperature-dependent solubility of O<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and others). Under these changing conditions, the character of biotic interactions (both intra- and intrespecific) will be rearranged. These effects may be enhanced by accompanying invasions of tropical species to temperate biota and possible extinctions of domestic species.

Encouraged are contributions related to these and other aspects of climate change effect on freshwater plankton, from individual, through population and community to ecosystem level.



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**Special** issue



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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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