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Lakes Function in Climate Change: Sentinels, Ecological Responses, and Integrators

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Message from the Guest Editors

Climate change is one of the most severe threats to global lake ecosystems, affecting the chemical and physical parameters of lakes as well as their biotic communities, with consequences for ecosystem functioning. Many studies have highlighted that lakes may be valid sentinels for current climate change. Lakes integrate responses over time and are distributed worldwide, therefore acting as sentinels in many different geographic and climatic regions. The efficacy of lakes as sentinels depends on our understanding of internal lake processes and on our ability to discriminate signal from noise. The availability of long-term datasets and the spread of technology that allows for the collection of high-frequency data in lakes helps to disentangle these processes, thus furthering our comprehension of ecosystem functions in lakes. Further studies are still needed to understand the threshold above which lake disturbance can trigger effects that may become difficult or impossible to reverse.



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Special issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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