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Elasmobranch Biodiversity, Conservation and Management

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Message from the Guest Editors

Elasmobranchs appeared more than 400 million years ago and developed a large variety of morphological and functional solutions that have allowed them to colonize all seas around the world. Currently, there are about 600 species of sharks and 800 species of skates and rays, with each species adapted to different aquatic environments. Many elasmobranchs are top predators and keep food webs in balance by controlling the abundance of marine organisms of lower levels of the trophic web. Overall, elasmobranchs are characterized by special life-history traits (low fecundity, delayed sexual maturity, long lifespan, low growth rates), making them vulnerable to the impact of fishing pressure. However, due to growing fishing efforts and the additional impact of habitat degradation and climate change, populations of elasmobranchs are declining in many areas of the world. Due to the relevance of their conservation issues, this Special Issue aims to deepen various aspects of biology and ecology, stock assessment and the fishery management of sharks, rays and skates in order to support more sustainable fishing strategies while considering the global change affecting oceans.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Fishes is a multidisciplinary open access journal focusing on reports of original research and critical reviews and synthesis from the broad area of fishes and aquatic animals. The ultimate objective of *Fishes* is to facilitate the discovery of connections between research areas, advancing science and filling knowledge gaps, and providing solutions for all present and future issues encountered in the sector of fisheries and aquaculture. As Editor-in-Chief, I encourage you to consider *Fishes* for your scientific papers and would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors.

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