



Distribution and Metabolic Activities of Marine Microbes in Response to Natural and Anthropogenic Stressors

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Message from the Guest Editors

Marine ecosystems experience constant anthropogenic stress through eutrophication, acidification, warming, and pollution (e.g., plastics, oil spills). Microbial communities act as sentinels for environmental changes. However, microbial responses to environmental changes often remain unpredictable as microbes operate on the microscale, which complicates extrapolation of microbial structure and function to larger scale processes. For instance, millimeter-sized organic aggregates known as marine snow harbor distinct microbial communities compared to ambient waters, making them hotspots for microbially mediated elemental cycling. New observations and experiments, together with analytical advances, may allow us to gain detailed insights into how microorganisms (free-living or particle-attached) respond to stressors, thus contributing to predictions of future scenarios and guiding decision makers. We welcome submissions of laboratory and field studies on microbial responses to natural and anthropogenic changes, and on spatial scales ranging from ocean basins to microenvironments such as marine snow.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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