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## Preface

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### Mauro Mecozzi

Central Institute for Marine Research,  
via di Casalotti 300, 00166 Rome, Italy  
E-mail: mecoma@rdn.it

**Biographical notes:** Mauro Mecozzi is a Senior Researcher Scientist at the Central Institute for Marine Research in Rome. His main field of activity is the development of environmental analytical methods in spectroscopy and chromatography with the related application to the monitoring of the marine environment and the application of univariate and multivariate statistical methods for the elaboration of environmental data. He is the author of more than 60 papers in the field of environmental studies.

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Nowadays, monitoring has been confirmed to be a unique tool for the study and the comprehension of the complexity of aquatic and terrestrial environments and of their related processes. A general definition of marine monitoring could be “the combination of chemical, biological, physical and geological studies of the marine environment allowing a real comprehension of the dynamic processes involved in the area to be examined”. This is only one of the possible definitions of marine monitoring, but in any case it underlines how dynamic processes, such as the cycling of living organisms, the transport and fate of pollutants, the hydrological characteristics of seawater with the related spatial and temporal trends, require new and updated approaches and techniques, which are often based on multidisciplinary approaches.

When I accepted the invitation of Prof. Conti to be the guest editor of a special issue of the *Int. J. Environment and Health* concerning my specific field of activity, I tried to get the goal of a special issue describing new and updated studies and techniques connected to marine monitoring. With this purpose I performed the selection of the invited scientists.

Obviously, I do not know if I achieved my primary goal but I am sure that I have obtained one goal at least, that of joining papers related to some new techniques for specific studies of marine environment. In fact, this special issue includes papers describing innovative approaches related to oceanographic data elaboration, image analysis and environmental modelling applications, spectroscopic and chromatographic methods for biological and geological studies, and hydrodynamic studies of lagoon areas. Last but not the least, two updated reviews concerning studies on emerging environmental problems such as algal toxins and antifouling paints are also present.

At the end of this work I do hope that this special issue will be a contribution to the exchange of information among scientists involved in common studies, so supporting future cooperations and in addition, I hope that this issue could be a diffusion tool for our young journal.

I wish to thank all the scientists who accepted my invitation to submit their research efforts, Prof. Conti to encourage me in this project and the kind scientists who gave me

their skilled knowledge as reviewers for the submitted manuscripts; their names are listed below.

*List of reviewers to this special issue*

**Prof. Francesco Botrè,**  
Facoltà Economia e Commercio,  
Università La Sapienza, Rome, Italy

**Dr. Maria Celia Magno,**  
Central Institute for Marine Research,  
Rome, Italy

**Prof. Marcelo E. Conti,**  
Facoltà Economia e Commercio,  
Università La Sapienza, Rome, Italy

**Dr. Rachel Einav,**  
Blue Ecosystem, Environmental Consulting,  
Zichron Yaakov, Israel

**Dr. Brooks Ellwood,**  
Department of Geology and Geophysics,  
Louisiana State University,  
Baton Rouge, LA, USA

**Dr. Marco Pietroletti,**  
Central Institute for Marine Research,  
Rome, Italy

**Dr. Paolo Tomassetti,**  
Central Institute for Marine Research,  
Rome, Italy

**Dr. Andrea Tornambè,**  
Central Institute for Marine Research,  
Rome, Italy

**Dr. Igor V. Shugan,**  
Department of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering,  
Chosun University, South Korea