

Symposium 12

Planktonic and benthic Harmful Algal Blooms: a threat for human health and resources

Conveners

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Key-note speakers

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Symposium description

Algal blooms are a natural part of the seasonal cycle of photosynthetic organisms in the aquatic ecosystems. However, some blooms can cause harm to humans and other organisms with direct impacts on human health and negative influences on human wellbeing (fisheries, tourism and recreation) and environments. These so called, harmful algal blooms (HABs) are natural phenomena, but can be favoured by anthropogenic pressures in coastal areas and lakes and likely by, global warming. At the beginning of the XXIst century, with expanding human populations, there is an urgent need to prevent and mitigate HABs impacts on human health and wellbeing.

This session is focused on planktonic and benthic HABs (algae and cyanobacteria) specially occurring in aquatic (freshwater, estuarine and marine) ecosystems in Europe and associated to diverse health disorders including food-borne or drinking water poisonings, cutaneous or respiratory irritations. Communications can cover ecology, ecotoxicology, taxonomy, and impacts on human health and resources caused by HABs and how to prevent or mitigate HABs impacts.

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