

Dear Colleagues,

Most of the surface of our planet is covered by oceans and seas, and the majority of the human population lives relatively close to the coastline and depend on marine resources. The marine space of each coastal country (territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zones) and its ecosystems, are, therefore of paramount importance to many countries. Yet, these fragile ecosystems are threatened in the recent years by anthropogenic impacts such as global warming, coastal development and urbanization, sedimentation, chemical, noise and light pollutions, marine debris, oil and natural gas exploration, utilization and transport, increase marine traffic, ports constructions, fishing and mariculture, introduction of alien species, and more. How can we settle the conflicts between economic activities and the need to protect unique ecosystems in the coastal zone? These subjects will be addressed, during the *Coastal Zone 2019*, by marine scientists and administrators from various areas and marine habitats around the world, in an attempt to suggest the proper management tools to unravel these conflicts.

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