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Trophic Chain Transfer of Contaminants in Aquatic Environments during the Global Change

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Message from the Guest Editors

Presence of contaminants in water environments is increasingly being reported all over the world. While contamination by “old” classes of substances and trace elements is relatively under control in most areas of the world, new generation compounds in non-negligible numbers are fastly released into aquatic environments of industrialized countries, even when regulations for their characterization and discharge (such as REACH in Europe) exist. This poses severe control problems also in terms of legislation processes aimed at controlling their use and spread. Once released into the environment, contaminants are seized through the food web; level of contamination of the different components varies depending on physiology and on ecological role of organisms. Liphophilic compounds tend to accumulate at the higher levels of the trophic web, and in larger-sized organisms, such as fish, therefore proving to be potentially harmful also for human consumption and human health.

[...]

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