



Oceans and Health

Pathogens in the Marine Environment

Edited by Shimshon Belkin and Rita R. Colwell

In a world in which infectious disease has become a constantly moving target, the world oceans serve as sinks, depositories, and reservoirs of pathogenic microorganisms. The importance of studying these microorganisms—both natural occupants of the marine environment and imported there by anthropogenic activity—is now more apparent than ever. Consequently, from both human health and economic perspectives, there is an increasing need to understand the factors that control their survival and dictate their deleterious effects.

In a direct response to this need, leading experts have joined forces in this interdisciplinary book to describe in detail the sources, physiology, molecular biology, dispersion, survival—and impact of diverse groups of viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and algae. The effects these microorganisms exert on humans and land animals—as well as fish, crustaceans, and corals—are discussed from basic and applied viewpoints, addressing both global and specific aspects of the topic.

Unique Features of this volume:

- A timely response to the increasing public awareness of the reciprocal effects of humans and marine ecosystems
- The only book to date that compiles information on pathogenic viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and algae in the marine environment
- A detailed discussion of both basic and applied aspects of seawater-borne pathogens
- General reviews of the global issues accompanied by detailed description of specific microorganisms

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