Special Issue

Particle Capture, Bioenergetics, and Ecological Role of Filter-Feeding Marine Invertebrates

Message from the Guest Editors

Filter feeding animals are necessary links between suspended food particles and higher trophic levels in marine food webs. Particularly in shallow coastal waters and fjords, dense populations of filter feeders may exert a pronounced grazing impact, which may keep the water clear (but not clean) in eutrophicated areas. On the contrary, dense populations of filter-feeding jellyfish and ctenophores in such areas may exert a pronounced predation impact on grazing zooplankton, resulting in phytoplankton blooms and making the water green. In addition, blooms of open-ocean filter-feeding pelagic tunicates can control the populations of primary and secondary producers. This Special Issue focuses on several related topics: particle capture mechanisms and retention efficiency, bioenergetics and energy budgets, filter pumps and energy costs, grazing impact of mussels, ascidians, sponges, bryozoans, and other benthic filter-feeding invertebrates, predation impact of jellyfish and ctenophores, grazing impact of pelagic tunicates, and interactions between jellyfish and zooplankton.

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Editor-in-Chief

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