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**AB THEME SECTION 3**

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## Directions in bivalve feeding



Editor: Peter G. Beninger

*Mytilus* sp. feeding at Houat Island, France.

Photo: Jean-Pierre Beurier

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*THEME SECTIONS* of *Aquatic Biology (AB)* present integrated multi-author syntheses initiated and coordinated by acknowledged experts. They highlight cutting-edge research areas or problems and/or bring together cogent bodies of literature on all aspects of the biology of organisms in freshwater and marine habitats.

*AB Theme Section 3* focuses on bivalve feeding. On hard or soft substrates, in natural environments or farmed by man, various bivalve species may form vast assemblages comprising millions of individuals, thus conspicuously dominating many coastal habitats. Most bivalve species are filter-feeders and show complex particle processing, a major motor of pelago-benthic coupling. Merely by their number, and by their sophisti-

cated feeding process, bivalves impact their environment in many ways.

The Theme Section presents 10 selected papers which were submitted to the journal over the course of 2008. Each paper deals with a certain aspect of bivalve particle processing, either indicating current directions or highlighting some of the 'hot' topics and topical approaches in the research on bivalve suspension feeding.

As for all current AB articles, we are pleased to make the online version of AB Theme Section 3 available with Open Access.

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