

types of book projects ASLO should consider (what makes a book an ASLO book?); developing criteria for rejecting books; and developing positive criteria to assist authors in their writing. Please send expressions of interest to Paul Kemp (webeditor@aslo.org) by **15 May 2009**.

## L&O FEATURED ARTICLE

Everett Fee, *Limnology & Oceanography* Editorial Office,  
343 Lady MacDonald Crescent, Canmore, AB T1W 1H5,  
Canada; lo-editor@aslo.org

Beginning with the May 1999 issue of *Limnology and Oceanography*, selected articles have been made freely available for reading or download on the L&O Web site a few weeks in advance of when the printed issue is mailed. Featured Articles receive no special attention in the printed issue. A paper may be featured for different reasons (e.g., to draw attention to an exceptional piece of research or to promote an area of research that the Associate Editor feels L&O readers should be more aware of). Each Featured Article is announced in the *Bulletin*, as well as to the LO-Feature Mailing List, and is accompanied by an introduction to the article by the Associate Editor who handled the paper discussing its significance.

The Featured Article for the January 2009 issue of L&O is:

**Local-scale autochthonous nutrient inputs in an upwelling ecosystem facilitate seaweed growth on wave-exposed rocky shores, by Kristin M. Aquilino, Matthew E. S. Bracken, Melinda N. Faubel, and John J. Stachowicz. *Limnol. Oceanogr.* 54(1): 309-317.**

This article can be read online at:  
[http://www.aslo.org/lo/toc/vol\\_54/issue\\_1/0309.pdf](http://www.aslo.org/lo/toc/vol_54/issue_1/0309.pdf)

*Introductory Comments by Josef D. Ackerman (L&O Associate Editor)*

Most visitors to the rocky intertidal zone on leading edge coasts, such as those on the west coast of North America, will be impressed by the magnitude and impact of waves and other physical forces on communities of intertidal organisms. Indeed many of these organisms, which are small in physical stature perhaps as a consequence of these forces, contribute considerably to the productivity of coastal ecosystems. As dwellers at the interface of land and ocean these ecosystems obtain many of their nutrients from external (allochthonous) sources including those provided by wind-driven upwelling systems. Rocky intertidal ecosystems involving suspension feeders have also figured prominently in our understanding of ecological processes involving stress, competition, and predation, as well as providing an incubator for ecological ideas ranging from zonation and ecotypic variation, to keystone species. It is, therefore, quite interesting to learn of a novel ecological relationship that might be widespread in distribution.

The featured L&O article by Aquilino, Bracken, Faubel, and Stachowicz presents compelling evidence that there is a coupling between California mussels (*Mytilus californianus*) and a relatively common fleshy red seaweed (*Porphyr*

*porphyra nori* familiar to eaters of sushi). The coupling, which involves ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) released by mussels and taken up by the seaweed (i.e., autochthonous input), is somewhat counter intuitive given the 2–4 m s<sup>-1</sup> water velocities predicted for the 1 m significant wave heights measured during the sampling period. In other words, one would have expected that any nutrients released by the mussels to be rapidly diluted and advected away from the site. Indeed this type of coupling has been observed in the relatively quiescent environments of tide pools during low tides but never before in the energetic and exposed coasts dominated by *M. californianus*. However, Aquilino et al. found significantly higher concentrations of NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> in the water above mussel beds than over bare rock. These data are consistent with the higher growth rates, higher tissue nitrogen (N) content and lower carbon to nitrogen ratios (C:N) found in *P. perforata* individuals growing on mussels compared to bare rock. The authors were thoughtful in their approach by using mussel mimics and herbivore exclusion to ensure that such differences were not due to other factors.

This research is important because it demonstrates a heretofore unrecognized process that is important locally – i.e., providing ~1/3 of the N required by *P. perforata* – and potentially globally given the ubiquity of mussel and other invertebrate dominated rocky intertidal ecosystems. It also provides us with some motivation to explore mass transport phenomena in more detail rather than through simple characterization. It is humbling to realize that despite a century of investigation we still have much to learn about the physical ecology of rocky intertidal zones and aquatic ecosystems in general.

## OUTSTANDING L&O REVIEWERS

Everett Fee, *Limnology & Oceanography* Editorial Office,  
343 Lady MacDonald Crescent, Canmore, AB T1W 1H5,  
Canada; lo-editor@aslo.org

Peer review is a crucial component of modern science. The fact that L&O is able to utilize the services of the best scientists as reviewers allows it to be a leading journal in the aquatic sciences. However, these individuals seldom get the recognition they deserve for this selfless work. Therefore, each issue of the *Bulletin* will cite outstanding reviewers that Everett Fee, L&O Editor, feels deserve special recognition for their overall reviewing efforts. The ASLO membership extends its sincerest appreciation and thanks these two outstanding scientists.



### KRISTINA SUNDBÄCK

Kristina Sundbäck is a professor in the Department of Marine Ecology, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. She has a PhD from the University of Lund, but comes originally from Finland. Her research interest is marine benthic ecology, focusing on the role of microbenthic communities in the carbon and nutrient (mainly nitrogen) cycling in illuminated sediments of