

Studying the Effects of Benthic Fauna on Sediment-Water Nitrogen Cycling in the Swan River Estuary

Too Much Nitrogen (N) = Algal Blooms

Denitrification is a bacterial process whereby soluble N is converted to gaseous N, i.e. free to bubble out of the water – a nitrogen sink!

Benthic fauna affect the abundance and distribution of denitrifying bacteria.

Different species (and habits) of benthic fauna can increase or decrease microbial denitrification rates.

Benthic ecology is very important to overlying water quality!

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