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LOZANO, S.J.¹, BIRKET, K.M.², SCHAROLD, J.V.³ and WATKINS, J.M.⁴, ¹DOC NOAA/GLERL, 484 South State Road, Ann Arbor, MI, 48108; ²University of Michigan/CILER, 440 Church Street, Ann Arbor MI, 48109; ³U.S. EPA/MED, 6201 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN, 55804; ⁴Cornell University, 900 Shackelton Point Road, Bridgeport, NY, 13030. **The expansion of *Dreissena* and long-term shifts in benthic macroinvertebrate community structure in Lake Ontario, 1998-2008.**

The introduction of *Dreissena* to the Great Lakes has profoundly impacted benthic ecosystems, resulting in the decline of native species and dramatic community restructuring. In Lake Ontario, long-term monitoring has yielded a wealth of detailed information regarding both the expansion of *Dreissena* and the changes it has wrought on the benthos. From 1998 to 2008, the rapid proliferation of *D. bugensis* has been accompanied by an increase in the number of deposit feeders such as oligochaetes and chironomids, as well as marked decreases in populations of *Diporeia*, sphaerid clams, and gastropods. A significant decrease in benthic species richness has also been observed. Continued monitoring is necessary in order to fully understand the long-term repercussions of *Dreissena*'s impact on native benthic fauna.

Other Information

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