

USE OF CAGED MUSSELS TO DETECT ENVIRONMENTAL
EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS

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ABSTRACT

In the marine environment, ecologically important organisms such as sessile invertebrates are often at great risk as they are unable to avoid changed environmental conditions. However, our knowledge about effects of pollutants in this group is restricted to a few widely used species. Among these, bivalves are of major ecological importance. In the present paper, different established methods but also new promising methods are described where caged mussels are used to assess bioavailability and associated bioeffects of contaminants. Suggestions are given for investigations directed towards general as well as more specific impacts of pollution. The described methods cover effects from the cellular up to the population level of organization.