

1 Bioremediation of waste under ocean acidification: 2 reviewing the role of *Mytilus edulis*

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6 *Abbreviations*

7 AE: Absorption efficiency

8 BW: Bioremediation of waste

9 CR: Clearance rate

10 OA: Ocean acidification

11 **Abstract**

12 Waste bioremediation is a key regulating ecosystem service, removing wastes from ecosystems
13 through storage, burial and recycling. The bivalve *Mytilus edulis* is an important contributor to this
14 service, and is used in managing eutrophic waters. Studies show that they are affected by changes in
15 pH due to ocean acidification, reducing their growth. This is forecasted to lead to reductions in *M.*
16 *edulis* biomass of up to 50 % by 2100. Growth reduction will negatively affect the filtering capacity
17 of each individual, potentially leading to a decrease in bioremediation of waste. This paper critically
18 reviews the current state of knowledge of bioremediation of waste carried out by *M. edulis*, and the
19 current knowledge of the resultant effect of ocean acidification on this key service. We show that the
20 effects of ocean acidification on waste bioremediation could be a major issue and pave the way for
21 empirical studies of the topic.

22 *Keywords: Bioremediation, Mytilus edulis, ocean acidification, waste, experiments, ecosystem service*

23 **1. Introduction**

24 Ecosystem services are *ecological components directly or indirectly consumed or enjoyed to*
25 *produce human well-being* (Boyd and Banzhaf, 2007) and this concept has become key to linking
26 economic and ecological sciences in support of sustainable environmental management (Fisher et al.,
27 2008). Bioremediation of waste (BW) is an important regulating ecosystem service and can be defined
28 as removal of waste from the environment through storage, burial and recycling (Beaumont et al.,
29 2007). It results in cleaner and less turbid water, a final ecosystem service with positive effects on
30 other services too (MEA, 2005). For example, BW supports the services of food provision by creating

31 conditions for healthy fisheries and aquaculture products, and recreation and amenity through its
32 contribution to bathing water quality. Also, deeper light penetration due to clearer water allows
33 marine benthic flora to sequester carbon up to a greater depth than in turbid waters (Burkholder and
34 Shumway, 2011; Irving and Connell, 2002).

35 In the marine environment many animal taxa and guilds are involved in BW. For example,
36 marine microbes occur in all habitats, degrading organic detritus and recycling nutrients (Munn,
37 2004). Bioturbators and bioirrigators, such as burrowing shrimps or polychaetes, can draw wastes
38 deep into the sediment leading to removal of wastes by burial (Volkenborn et al., 2007; Queirós et al.,
39 2013). In addition, most living organisms can sequester wastes into their tissues (Norkko and
40 Shumway, 2011; Queirós et al., 2013). Filter feeding is an important trophic mode in many marine
41 invertebrates and a key process in BW. Filter feeders actively pump large volumes of water over a
42 filter that collects highly dilute material for feeding (Riisgard and Larsen, 1995). In this way they
43 improve water quality by removing suspended particles (seston) from the water column (Grizzle et al.,
44 2008). Filter-feeding molluscs are often found in dense populations and can profoundly influence
45 pelagic and benthic processes as well as add to benthic-pelagic coupling, the movement of nutrients
46 between the sediment and overlying water (Ward and Shumway, 2004; Layman et al., 2014). They
47 transform the filtered material into somatic and reproductive growth, and aid the deposition of
48 particulate matter to the benthos through faeces and pseudofaeces (Ward and Shumway, 2004).

49 Many filter feeding bivalves are vulnerable to changes in the marine environment particularly
50 a reduction of ocean water pH, known as ocean acidification (Kroeker et al., 2013; Parker et al.,
51 2013). Ocean acidification is caused by rising atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels due to
52 anthropogenic activities such as the burning of fossil fuel, cement production and deforestation.
53 Carbon dioxide dissolves into ocean surface waters, reducing atmospheric CO₂ concentrations but at
54 the same time decreasing the pH of ocean surface waters. Since the beginning of global
55 industrialisation the pH of the oceans has decreased by 0.1, equivalent to a 26% increase in acidity
56 (Aze et al., 2014). All Earth System Models calculated for the IPCC 5th Synthesis report project a
57 continued global decrease in ocean pH by the end of the 21st century and beyond (IPCC, 2014). A
58 reduction of pH also leads to changes in ocean carbonate chemistry, reducing the carbonate ions
59 (CO₃²⁻) and lowering the calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) saturation of seawater. This leads to reduced
60 availability of CaCO₃ for marine calcifiers (Parker et al., 2013). These changes to ocean carbonate
61 chemistry and pH have large effects on marine animals which have been the focus of sustained
62 research effort in recent years (Melzner et al., 2011; Hüning et al., 2013; Kroeker et al., 2013; Parker
63 et al., 2013; Thomsen et al., 2013; Aze et al., 2014). A meta-analysis of the effects of a pH reduction
64 by 0.5 showed negative effects on survival, calcification, growth, development and abundance for ten
65 taxonomic groups including calcifying and non-calcifying algae and animals (Kroeker et al., 2013).
66 For fauna, the meta-analysis compared phyla only. Findings for molluscs (drawn mostly from studies

67 on bivalves) indicate that they are particularly badly affected. Effects include significant reductions in
68 adult and larval survival, growth and mean reduction of calcification.

69 Calcifying species play key roles in ecosystem functions (Barry et al. 2011). They may
70 provide services to other species, for example, through the provision of habitat or by their contribution
71 to waste remediation. The role of species vulnerable to OA in these services is not yet fully explained
72 and therefore predicting the effect of OA on these services difficult (Cooley et al. 2009). If such
73 species are affected by OA, cascading changes may result in the services that they provide and this
74 even before extinction occurs (Barry et al. 2011).

75 This research focuses on the bivalve mollusc *Mytilus edulis*. They are common in the Atlantic
76 from the Arctic to the Mediterranean, with a habitat range from the upper shore to the shallow
77 subtidal (Hayward and Ryland, 1995). They can also be abundant, for example dominating sessile
78 assemblages on off-shore structures (Krone et al. 2013). *M. edulis* form an interesting case study
79 because they are such effective filter feeders that they are used to manage eutrophic waters, (Lindahl
80 et al. 2005). This shows that they can play a substantial role in the bioremediation of waste (Lindahl et
81 al. 2005). As calcifiers, using the carbonate ions from seawater to form protective shells, they are also
82 known to be vulnerable to changes in OA (Kroeker et al., 2013). Their capacity to continue
83 calcification and maintaining their shells intact under predicted low pH scenarios has been widely
84 studied and reductions in several key physiological functions of *M. edulis* under OA scenarios have
85 been shown (Kroeker et al., 2013).

86 In 2013 the global production of *M. edulis* was 197 831 tons with a value of US\$ 434,305
87 (FAO, 2015). While the economic impacts of ocean acidification are not well studied, reduced growth
88 in *Mytilus edulis* as a consequence of OA can be assumed to have socio-economic impacts. For
89 example, in a review of the potential impacts of OA on Mediterranean countries, Hilmi et al. (2014)
90 noted a strong impact of ocean acidification on *Mytilus* species (*edulis* and *galloprovincialis*) and
91 suggested that this may particularly affect artisanal fishermen and aquaculture farmers. For impacts
92 on mollusc aquaculture, Narita et al. (2012), estimate global annual losses of US\$6 billion under
93 constant demand and US\$100 billion if demand increases in line with future income increase.
94 Similarly, Cooley and Doney (2009) estimate an annual loss to the US of US\$75-187 million of direct
95 revenue from decreasing mollusc harvests between 2007 and 2060 (according to the future CO₂
96 regime used and the discount rate applied). This would be in addition to the impacts felt from
97 temperature changes. For example, in the summer of 2003 a heatwave in French waters led to massive
98 *M. edulis* spat die-off (FAO, 2015). Such events, coupled with low ocean pH may lead to reduced *M.*
99 *edulis* production. This in turn will reduce their capacity to act for bioremediation with further
100 impacts on ecological functioning and wider ecosystem service delivery.

101 While both the filtration capacity of filter feeding bivalves, and the effect of OA on calcifying
102 organisms such as *M. edulis* have been extensively studied (e. g. Melzner et al., 2011; Thomsen et al.,
103 2013; Aze et al., 2014), little work focuses on the effect of OA on the filtration capacity of bivalves.
104 To our knowledge, there are no studies on the effect that OA may have on the ecosystem service of
105 BW. Hence, this review was timely.

106 This study aims to answer the following research questions:

- 107 1. How do filter feeding bivalves *M. edulis* contribute to BW?
- 108 2. What are the key effects of OA on *M. edulis*?
- 109 3. How does OA affect BW of *M. edulis*?

110 The paper is structured around these three research questions. Section 2 defines how *M. edulis* filter
111 feed, followed by examples of wastes and how they are bioremediated by *M. edulis*. Section 3
112 summarises research into effects of OA on *M. edulis* which are likely to reduce their ability to
113 bioremediate waste. The effects of OA on their primary food source, phytoplankton, are also briefly
114 discussed. Section 4 addresses the third research question using examples of modelling studies carried
115 out on *M. edulis*. In the Discussion (Section 5), changes to management options as well as human
116 health implications of eating *M. edulis* under OA are summarised.

117 **2. How do filter feeding bivalves *M. edulis* contribute to BW?**

118

119 Mussels of the genus *Mytilus* occur worldwide on many coasts. They dominate hard
120 substratum communities and have a well-developed and efficient filtering system (Brzozowska et al.,
121 2012). They often dominate fouling communities in the shallow subtidal as well, and provide
122 important secondary habitat on hard substrata. For example, measurements of *M. edulis* biomass on
123 offshore wind energy structures showed that they can cover the structures with up to 3.4 kg of
124 biomass m⁻² (Krone et al. 2013). They can lead to ecosystem changes because of their filtration
125 capacity (Krone et al. 2013), removing large quantities of phytoplankton and therefore nutrients,
126 reducing effects of eutrophication as well as sediment, harmful bacteria and contaminants (Birkbeck
127 and McHenry, 1982; Krone et al., 2013). Bivalves, particularly mussels, are often used for
128 contaminant monitoring due to their filtration rates, sessile lifestyle and because they can dominate
129 hard substrata both in terms of weight and abundance compared to other sessile species (Widdows et
130 al., 1995). For example, they have been used to study the fate of persistent organic pollutants
131 (McEneff et al., 2014) and metal pollution (Chase et al., 2001).

132 **2.1 Defining and assessing filter feeding in *M. edulis***

133

134 To understand the role that *M. edulis* plays in the delivery of bioremediation of waste it is first
135 necessary to understand how filtration is documented in the literature. The literature provides a range
136 of measures for bivalve filtration but they are not clearly defined or consistently used. While this
137 diversity of filtration parameters in *M. edulis* is beneficial to understanding their capacity for BW, it
138 also makes it difficult to compare measurements from different studies. Table 1 lists definitions used
139 by different authors as well as units of measurements and it highlights the inconsistencies as concerns
140 definitions and units.

141 The most basic parameter to describe filtration physiology in *M. edulis*, particularly for application in
142 coastal management measures, is filtration or pumping capacity (from now on filtration capacity).
143 This measures the amount of water going through a filter feeder or through an assemblage of filter
144 feeders in a set amount of time (Lindahl et al., 2005). One way to measure filtration capacity is to
145 measure the size of the exhalant siphon as this is controlled by the size of the animal and *M. edulis*
146 can also adjust it by closing their valves when necessary (Møhlenberg and Riisgård, 1978;
147 MacDonald et al., 2011; Riisgård et al., 2011). They reduce the size of the gape when phytoplankton
148 cell concentrations are too high or too low for their optimal feeding ratio (Riisgård et al., 2011). This
149 measure does not incorporate recirculation of water that has already been taken up by other
150 individuals or themselves. However, it is important to know the volume of water that has been
151 recirculated as it reduces the efficiency of *M. edulis* to filter large volumes of unfiltered water.

152 Clearance rate, filtration rate, and assimilation efficiency (sometimes called absorption efficiency,
153 from now on assimilation efficiency) are also used to describe filter feeding efficiency and are
154 measured depending on the question addressed in a particular study. Clearance rate (CR) is a common
155 indicator of *M. edulis* feeding activity and measures the amount of seston removed from the water. In
156 experiments, this is done by subtracting seston mass remaining in the outflow of a treatment chamber
157 containing an individual of a *M. edulis*, from the seston mass measured in the outflow of a control
158 chamber that contains no animal (MacDonald et al., 2011). Rather than measuring the mass of seston
159 lost per time (for example by weighing filtered seston from the control chamber) it is often calculated
160 as volume per time without indication of how much seston that volume of water contained. Still, CR
161 is more informative than filtration capacity with regard to bioremediation of waste as it gives the
162 volume of water (or time spent clearing water) that is cleaned of seston after going through an
163 individual per unit time rather than just the total amount of water passing through the individual.

164 There are several definitions in the literature causing filtration rate (FR) to be an unclear term.
165 Widdows (1978) defined FR as the volume of water cleared of particles per unit time and this
166 definition is similar to the definition of CR given by MacDonald et al. (2011) or the filtration capacity
167 defined by Lindahl et al. (2005). Riisgård and Møhlenberg (1979) clarify that when there is no
168 recirculation of water within *M. edulis* or in a laboratory aquarium, FR is equal to CR. They (Riisgård

169 and Møhlenberg, 1979) measure FR as a volume per unit time and Melzner et al. (2011) follow suit.
170 Hawkins et al. (1998) and MacDonald et al. (2011) measure FR as the amount of seston removed and
171 display it as a weight per hour. This makes it difficult to compare measurements from different areas
172 and studies (Table 1).

173 Another variable in filter feeding is the assimilation efficiency (AE). For this measure, the definitions
174 are most similar across publications. AE is the percentage of organic matter taken up from the water
175 column and is measured by comparing organic matter in the faeces to the organic matter in the diet
176 (MacDonald et al. 2011). The majority of studies carried out on filtration in *M. edulis* have been
177 undertaken in laboratories, often using single species of algal cells as food. Therefore they may not be
178 very meaningful in the field, and disagreements between laboratory and field measurements have
179 been found (Hawkins et al., 1996).

180 **2.2 Primary influences on filter feeding rates of *M. edulis***

181 Filtration in *M. edulis* is influenced by water temperature and water viscosity, the type and the
182 availability of food in the water column, the metabolic rate and the size of the individual mussels
183 (Riisgård et al., 2011). While temperature affects metabolic rates (Widdows, 1978), reduced
184 temperature also increases viscosity of the seawater which reduces the rate of ciliary action (Larsen
185 and Riisgård, 2009). Ciliary activity is the movement of specialised cell organs within gills that create
186 a water current allowing bivalves to feed. Larsen and Riisgård (2009) suggest after careful evaluation
187 of the literature that increased viscosity due to lower temperature is solely responsible for reduced
188 ciliary activity in *M. edulis*, rather than further underlying biological reasons such as reduced
189 metabolic rates. For *M. edulis* from the Baltic Sea this decline of ciliary activity due to low
190 temperatures led to a reduction in feeding rates of 35 % (temperature difference approximately 8°C)
191 (Melzner et al., 2011). Contaminants may also influence the filter feeding rates of *M. edulis*. For
192 example, toxic hydrocarbons act on them as narcotics leading to a depressed clearance rate and
193 diminished scope for growth through loss of feeding opportunity (Widdows et al., 1995).

194 **2.3. The role of *M. edulis* in BW**

195 Once seston have been filtered from the water by *M. edulis*, they assimilate the particles, as described
196 in section 2.1 and 2.2, and hence participate in BW, through three mechanisms (Table 2): firstly
197 through cycling/detoxification. They use metabolic processes that change wastes into harmless or less
198 toxic compounds. This reduces the damaging effects of such wastes on themselves and other species.
199 For example, they can take up toxic wastes from incomplete combustion of fossil fuels such as
200 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and metabolise them to a less toxic form (example below)
201 (Baumard et al.1999). Secondly, *M. edulis* participate in BW through sequestration and subsequent
202 storage. They use processes that sequester waste in such a way that it is no longer biologically

203 available in the water column and does not exhibit toxicity, for example by storing toxins from
204 phytoplankton in their tissues. However, in this case, toxicity does occur when *M. edulis* are
205 consumed by other species including humans (Mebs, 1998). Thirdly, by aiding export through all the
206 processes that transport wastes out of a system, this includes atmospheric, benthic and lateral export.
207 They produce two solid filtration products: faeces and pseudofaeces which are important in benthic-
208 pelagic cycling and burial. Faeces are materials that have passed through the digestive system from
209 where nutrition has been extracted. These materials are stuck together by mucus during the passage
210 through the digestive system. Pseudofaeces are made up of a collection of materials that are either
211 selected because they are not food or because there is too much food in the water column (Riisgård et
212 al., 2011). Above a certain threshold of food (cells ml⁻¹) both types of faeces can be produced
213 simultaneously. *M. edulis* also use mucus to bind pseudofaeces together (Riisgård et al., 2011). Both
214 types of faeces have a higher mass of particles than small particles of seston. This can change the way
215 organic matter is then transported through the water column. If it is dense it may sink faster but if it is
216 less dense it may remain in the water column and be available to other species for longer periods of
217 time (Newell, 2004). Once *M. edulis* die or are ripped off their support by strong wind and wave
218 action, they fall to the seafloor and, due to hydrodynamic processes, get buried in sediments. This
219 way, contaminants stored in their tissues are also moved to the seafloor and buried. Additionally, they
220 excrete nitrogen in form of NH₄⁺ (70%), urea (13%) and 5-21% ammino-N via urine. This excreted
221 nitrogen is bioavailable and can lead to renewed phytoplankton and microphytobenthos production
222 (Burkholder and Shumway, 2011; Newell, 2004).

223 **2.4 Types of waste that *M. edulis* bioremediate**

224 Waste can be defined as “materials for which there is no immediate use and that may be discharged
225 into the environment” (Hinga et al., 2015). *M. edulis* can take up wastes via two pathways: direct
226 absorption of the compound in the water phase through the gills or indirectly through the digestive
227 system when the compounds are solid (Baumard et al., 1999). The role of *M. edulis* in the
228 bioremediation of each waste varies depending on the type of waste; hence representative examples of
229 wastes and how *M. edulis* bioremediates these at current CO₂ levels are discussed in turn here. The
230 processes and how *M. edulis* deal with each of the waste types are also summarised in Table 2.

231 *2.4.1 Nutrients, phytoplankton and organic matter*

232 Phytoplankton and organic matter are primary food sources of *M. edulis* which they then convert into
233 biomass (Riisgård et al., 2011). Excess nutrient loading (eutrophication) due to an imbalance in the
234 nitrogen cycle caused by, river run-off from agricultural activities leads to increased growth of
235 phytoplankton and greening of the water column (Riebesell, 1989; Heip, 1995; Diaz, 2001, Diaz and
236 Rosenberg, 2008). Coastal eutrophication is one of the biggest threats to marine ecosystems and their
237 functioning, leading to hypoxic zones particularly in shallow bays and enclosed seas (Diaz and

238 Rosenberg, 2008). Globally, it is likely to increase further due to sustained human population growth
239 and resource intensification (Rabalais et al., 2010). This accumulation of organic matter in the form of
240 living and dead phytoplankton has far reaching ecosystem, and ecosystem service, consequences. The
241 abundance of phytoplankton in surface waters leads to a reduction of light penetration and hence
242 photosynthesis in deeper waters. Dying and dead phytoplankton is digested by microbes reducing
243 dissolved oxygen in the water column which can lead to hypoxic and anoxic zones (Diaz and
244 Rosenberg, 2008; Gooday et al., 2009; Rabalais et al., 2010; Broszeit et al., 2013). Therefore, *M.*
245 *edulis* are important in reducing phytoplankton biomass and organic matter and thereby the negative
246 effects of eutrophication on the marine environment.

247 2.4.2 Toxic products of phytoplankton

248 *M. edulis* can readily accumulate lipophilic organic compounds, for example toxins produced by
249 phytoplankton. They are capable of accumulating substantial amounts of some of these toxins because
250 they are not affected by them (Moroño et al., 2001). They also transform these compounds into less
251 harmful products which they then egest (O'Driscoll et al., 2011).

252 2.4.3 Examples of derivatives of burnt fossil fuel

253 Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are products of fossil fuel and organic matter combustion.
254 They are highly toxic, carcinogenic and mutagenic to marine and terrestrial animals and humans
255 (Samanta et al., 2002). In the water column, they are available for filter feeders such as *M. edulis*. A
256 study carried out on concentrations of PAHs in *M. edulis* in the Baltic Sea revealed that *M. edulis* can
257 biotransform some PAHs, for example the carcinogenic benzo[a]pyrene (B[a]P) into the less
258 dangerous benzo[e]pyrene (B[e]P) which was shown in the ratio of B[a]P to B[e]P within the tissues
259 of *M. edulis* (Baumard et al., 1999). However, primarily *M. edulis* accumulate PAHs in their tissues
260 and this can reduce their filter capacity as well as their reproductive success (Eertman et al., 1995),
261 effectively reducing their contribution to BW.

262 2.4.4 Metals

263 In a short experiment (24 hours), Brzozowska et al. (2012) measured the uptake of heavy metals (zinc,
264 lead, nickel and chromium) in two size classes of *Mytilus* sp.. Their results indicated that they can
265 selectively remove heavy metals from seawater, meaning they found less of a reduction of chromium
266 than the other three metals tested. They also showed that smaller individuals are less capable of
267 selectively absorbing metals than larger ones. This indicates that mussels develop the ability to select
268 metals they can take up as an important mechanism to ensure enough trace metals are taken in for
269 their metabolism (Brzozowska et al., 2012).

270 2.4.5 Microplastics

271 Microplastics (< 1mm) are ubiquitous in the marine environment occurring in the pelagic zone as well
272 as in sediments and marine organisms (Thompson et al., 2004; Cole et al., 2014). Their impacts on
273 marine ecosystems are still poorly understood but it has been demonstrated that marine invertebrates,
274 including *M. edulis* can take them up via feeding (Thompson et al., 2004). In *M. edulis*, after
275 digestion, these particles are either egested in faeces or remain within the individual. Depending on
276 size, they can cross into the hemolymph, or be stored in the digestive tubules and gut cavity. These
277 authors also showed that exposure to microplastics also increased energy consumption by 25% when
278 compared to those not exposed to microplastic. Microplastics may also transport contaminants into
279 exposed organisms as these accumulate onto the particles (Mato et al., 2001). Such contaminants can
280 then be moved through the food chain to higher trophic levels (Van Cauwenberghe et al., 2015). This
281 means that *M. edulis* can either remove plastics from the environment or if they egest them, that they
282 will be contained within faeces and therefore more likely to sink to the seafloor where they may be
283 stored long-term.

284 2.4.6 Nanoparticles

285 Nanoparticles are particles of size <100 nm and due to their small size they end up in waterways and
286 ultimately in the marine environment. A study by Tedesco et al. (2010) showed that gold
287 nanoparticles fed to *M. edulis* accumulated in the digestive gland, a smaller portion in the gills and
288 none in the mantle tissue. This means that *M. edulis* remove nanoparticles from the system by
289 accumulation. Yet, little is known about the effects of nanoparticles on the environment or their
290 bioavailability and uptake, digestion and effects on organisms. Studies so far show that nanoparticles
291 can cross and damage biological membranes and cause oxidative stress in metazoan cells.
292 Nanoparticles are increasingly developed and used for a number of purposes such as medicine,
293 cosmetics and technical equipment, leading to their increased abundance in the marine environment.

294 2.4.7 Drugs

295 Pharmaceuticals and their metabolites occur in coastal waters, one study carried out in Ireland found
296 80 pharmaceuticals and their metabolites in municipal sewage effluent (McEneff et al., 2014). They
297 are bioavailable and can be taken up by *M. edulis*, and then either accumulate in their tissues or
298 become metabolised (Celiz et al., 2009).

299 2.5. Use of *M. edulis* in the management of water quality

300 A number of studies have investigated the role of *M. edulis* in reducing excessive nutrient loads in
301 coastal waters and to test the feasibility of using *M. edulis* in the management of this pollution. *M.*
302 *edulis* do not feed on nutrients directly but on the phytoplankton biomass that can grow because of the
303 nutrients in the water column. For example, Lindahl et al. (2005) tested the feasibility of using *M.*

304 *edulis* aquaculture as a way of reducing nitrogen waste (N) in the Eastern Skagerrak, Sweden and
305 demonstrated improved water quality. This work was also coupled with market valuation for bivalves
306 and evaluation of a N market as is being implemented in Sweden and Norway, following a model by
307 the US (Lindahl et al., 2005). Reid et al. (2010) measured the assimilation efficiency of *M. edulis* in
308 faeces plumes of salmon cages and found that if they are placed in the actual plume they are capable
309 of using the organic carbon of the salmon faeces as well as excess feed coming from the cages. Gren
310 et al. (2009) calculated the cost-effectiveness of using *M. edulis* farms to abate nutrients in the Baltic
311 Sea. Their results indicate that this aquaculture, particularly if *M. edulis* can be sold for human
312 consumption, can have positive effects on nutrient levels and be economically feasible too.

313 Models to assess carrying capacity of coastal ecosystems for *M. edulis* and other types of fish and
314 shellfish aquaculture are well developed and widely used. For example, they can show how physical,
315 hydrodynamic and biological parameters can differ within bays and how these differences are
316 reflected in *M. edulis* tissue growth in aquaculture farms (Waite et al., 2005; Grant et al., 2008;
317 Filgueira et al., 2012). Areas within a bay with low seston concentrations due to reduced water
318 exchange produce less growth in *M. edulis* (Waite et al., 2005). Overstocking of *M. edulis* can also
319 lead to reduced growth, as they will compete with each other for food. Additionally, their own input
320 of nutrients in form of faeces and urine may lead to negative effects on enclosed systems such as bays
321 (Reid et al., 2010). Negative effects are often localised to the aquaculture farm and can include low
322 biological diversity with a prevalence of opportunistic species such as polychaetes *Capitellidae* sp.
323 below the farms, build-up of faecal matter which then leads to anoxia and build-up of toxic hydrogen
324 sulphide (Burkholder and Shumway, 2011). The models used to assess carrying capacity of coastal
325 ecosystems for aquaculture can also be useful in assessing the effectiveness of *M. edulis* in abatement
326 of pollution (Lindahl et al., 2005; Gren et al., 2009).

327 **3. What are the key effects of OA on *M. edulis*?**

328

329 The effects of OA on marine organisms can be studied either by laboratory or field experiments. Due
330 to the variety of ways of expressing pH changes and CO₂ concentration within the studies, different
331 units are cited in this section. The CO₂ concentration in experimental tanks can be measured and
332 displayed in several ways, for example as parts per million (ppm) or measured gas pressure
333 (atm/ μ atm). Laboratory experiments may both under- and overestimate reactions of species to OA,
334 because of their relatively short duration compared to the longevity of the species studied. They often
335 do not take adaptation and evolutionary mechanisms into account nor biological or other interactions
336 (Harvey et al., 2014; Hilmi et al., 2013). Field experiments might provide more realistic scenarios
337 than laboratory experiments but are technically difficult to carry out. Therefore there are only few
338 experiments of OA effects on *M. edulis* in the field (for example, Thompsen et al. 2010; Melzner et al.

2011). Natural CO₂ vents in shallow marine areas can aid research into future high CO₂ environments, by providing areas of long-term streams of CO₂ and in that they are open to naturally occurring assemblages. However, they only affect small areas allowing species sensitive to high CO₂ concentrations to avoid such areas (Hilmi et al., 2013). For example, the bivalve *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, a species closely related to *M. edulis*, is not found near natural vent systems of the Italian island Ischia (Hall-Spencer et al., 2008; Hilmi et al., 2013). No experiments, however, have been carried out looking at the effect of OA on bioremediation of waste.

3.1. Evidence of effects of OA on physiological processes related to filtration in *M. edulis*

As stated in Section 2.2 of this article, the filtration capacity of *M. edulis* is influenced by the following physiological factors: metabolic rate and size of the individual. This section therefore concentrates on effects of OA on these physiological traits.

Only few studies measured metabolic rate under OA in *M. edulis*. Thomsen and Melzner (2010) demonstrate that metabolic rate under OA conditions first increased at a pH of 7.7, and then decreased at higher pH levels (while remaining above the metabolic rate in the control animals). It has been shown experimentally that *Mytilus edulis trossulus* from the southern Baltic Sea have a local adaptation to low pH values. Jakubowska and Normant (2015) exposed individuals of this species to gradually reducing pH of 8.1, 7.5 and 7.0 over 36 hours (12 hours at each pH level). No significant changes in resting metabolic rates were found in this study. Other studies have worked with closely related species. Navarro et al. (2013) exposed juvenile *M. chilensis* for 70 days to 380, 700 and 1200 ppm of pCO₂ with results showing a significant reduction in oxygen uptake indicating a metabolic depression. *M. coruscus* showed a significant reduction of respiration rate under OA conditions with pH of 7.7 and 7.3 as opposed to 8.1 in the control (Wang et al. 2015). Garilli et al. (2015) measured metabolic rates of two Mediterranean gastropod species (*Nassarius corniculus* and *Cyclope neritea*) near CO₂ vents in Italy. They found that high CO₂ conditions increased metabolic rates and suggested that the gastropods increase their metabolic rate to maintain internal pH. On the other hand, Gazeau et al. (2014) exposed *M. galloprovincialis* to pH changes of 7.7 for a period of 10 months and they found no significant reduction in respiration rates unless temperature was increased for the same amount of time.

Shell length correlates significantly with pumping rate of *M. edulis* (Jones et al. 1992) and size of individual organisms depends on their growth rate. Slower growth will therefore lower the capacity to filter feed by reducing biomass at any given point in time. For the purpose of this review we concentrate on two ways in which *M. edulis* grow: somatic growth which leads to an increase in soft tissue while shell growth is necessary to protect the soft tissues. To allow shell growth, animals must be able to calcify and this is metabolically costly under OA (Garilli et al. 2015). Previous OA events due to volcanic activity, for example in the Late Permian Extinction, led to smaller body sizes

374 of many molluscan calcifiers, termed the 'Lilliput effect' (Garilli et al. 2015). Shell growth and
375 calcification are not interchangeable because shell growth occurs when several layers of shell are
376 produced of which some are calcified (Furuhashi et al. 2009). Several parameters for shell growth can
377 be measured such as changes in length, mass, shell thickness or it was split into organic and inorganic
378 growth as well as aragonite and calcite growth. Other parameters that are measured in OA
379 experiments, such as calcification, excretion of NH_4 , immune responses or internal pH were excluded
380 from this review as it can be argued that they are not directly related to filtering capacity.

381 In a comprehensive meta-analysis, Kroeker et al. (2013) showed that molluscs (the study summarised
382 results at phylum level) are negatively affected by a reduction in ocean pH of 0.5. They found a mean
383 17% reduction in growth in all mollusc studies they assessed.

384 All studies that measured parameters affected by OA relevant to BW in *M. edulis* were carried out in
385 the laboratory. They lasted from 20 days to six months (Table 3). Most studies measured several
386 parameters, but only those relevant to BW are listed in Table 3. The shortest experiment lasted 20
387 days and the authors used scenarios ranging from pH 8.14 to 7.5 (O'Donnell et al., 2013). They found
388 no significant differences in shell volume growth among the nine treatment levels they used, possibly
389 due to the short time-frame of the experiment. However, byssus thread attachment significantly
390 deteriorated under high OA scenarios. Only one experiment looked at survival, using a pH range from
391 8.1 to 6.7. It lasted for 44 days and found reduced survival at pH 7.1 and reduced shell growth at pH
392 7.6 (Berge et al., 2006).

393 Melzner, Thomsen and colleagues carried out several experiments lasting between five weeks and two
394 months (Thomsen et al., 2010; Thomsen and Melzner, 2010; Melzner et al., 2011; Thomsen et al.,
395 2013). They found that shell growth can remain stable if sufficient food is available (Melzner et al.,
396 2011) and that somatic growth is unaffected by low pH (Thomsen et al., 2010; Thomsen and Melzner,
397 2010). They also found that shell growth is suppressed from pH 7.14 (4000 μatm). In an experiment
398 lasting 35 days using pH range of 8.01 to 7.19 Thomsen et al. (2013) found no differences in shell
399 growth. However, they found a significant decrease of inorganic shell growth at a pH of 7.7 (1021
400 μatm). Keppel et al. (2015) compared growth under current pH conditions (pH 8.10) to growth in pH
401 7.94. After a 10 week exposure there was no effect on somatic growth while all shell growth
402 parameters increased under lower pH. This could be due to the smaller decrease in pH treatment
403 compared to other studies, but also because the animals were fed at higher than natural rates which
404 may help them invest in shell growth.

405 The longest study on OA effects in *M. edulis* lasted six months with *M. edulis* exposed to four levels
406 of $p\text{CO}_2$ (380, 550, 750 and 1000 μatm) (Fitzer et al. 2014). Growth was reduced in animals exposed
407 to 750 μatm and above 1000 μatm . This growth was compensated for by increased protein
408 metabolism (Fitzer et al., 2014).

409 In general, the studies are widely conclusive that OA leading to low pH scenarios will have negative
410 effect on *M. edulis* in terms of growth and survival. Evidence on the impact of OA on metabolic rate
411 is more scarce.

412 **3.2 Effect of OA on phytoplankton**

413

414 To understand the impact of OA on *M. edulis*, it is also important to understand how OA will affect
415 their primary food source: phytoplankton. Phytoplankton form the base of the marine food web and
416 are crucial for biogeochemical cycling. Their enormous diversity makes it impossible to study the
417 effects of OA on all species. Yet, their responses to climate change, particularly OA can lead to
418 bottom-up control of the ecosystem (Harvey et al., 2014). *M. edulis* feed most effectively on any
419 particles with sizes > 6µm with a filtering capacity of 90%, while the capacity to filter particles < 1µm
420 is reduced to 15% (Canesi et al., 2012). For example, Bricelj and Kuenstner (1989) found that in a
421 brown tide of the small phytoplankton species *Aureococcus anophagefferens* (2-3 µm) the CR and FR
422 of *M. edulis* were reduced due to the small size of the alga. Therefore it is important to understand
423 how phytoplankton communities will change under OA. Some models suggest that OA may lead to a
424 size reduction in phytoplankton, for example during some seasons in the North East Atlantic (Artioli
425 et al., 2014). Additionally, pH changes the character of nutrients in the sea, for example iron, which is
426 expected to lead to changes in phytoplankton species abundances and distribution (Shi et al., 2010).
427 This change in phytoplankton species abundance and distribution will affect *M. edulis* and ultimately
428 the remediation of nutrients. This may subsequently lead to an increased likelihood of hypoxic zones
429 (Tagliabue et al., 2011; Turley and Gattuso, 2012).

430 **4. How does OA affect BW of *M. edulis*?**

431

432 As shown in Section 2, *M. edulis* contribute to BW in several ways. With their filtration efficiency,
433 they aid removal of pollution and eutrophication to such an extent that *M. edulis* aquaculture is used
434 as a management tool to clean up bays and coastal areas, and around fish aquaculture (Lindahl et al.,
435 2005; Reid et al., 2010; MacDonald et al., 2011). Studies discussed in Section 3 show that *M. edulis*
436 are negatively impacted by OA, because, for example, they show reduced growth under OA scenarios.
437 Size is one crucial factor in the ability of *M. edulis* to filter feed (Jones et al. 1992), because a larger
438 individual can filter more water. Reduced growth was also found for *M. galloprovincialis* under a 0.3
439 pH unit decrease for 10 months. Animals under decreased pH showed reduced shell weight and fresh
440 weight growth (Gazeau et al. 2014). Research into the effect of OA on feeding physiology of mytilids
441 is scarce. However, Wang et al. (2015) measured several metabolic indicators under OA and
442 increased temperatures in *M. coruscus*. While growth was not affected by reduced pH alone, increased
443 temperature led to a reduction in growth. Navarro et al. (2013) exposed the closely related species

444 *Mytilus chilensis* for 70 days to three levels of $p\text{CO}_2$ (380, 750 and 1200 ppm). They measured
445 clearance rate (CR) and assimilation efficiency (AE) weekly on *M. chilensis* and found that with time,
446 in the highest $p\text{CO}_2$ treatment, they showed a significant decline in CR. Additionally, AE was
447 significantly higher in the control than the higher CO_2 pressures. In the same study of *Mytilus*
448 *chilensis*, Navarro et al. (2013) also calculated production under OA scenarios. In 750 ppm and 1200
449 ppm scenarios a typical Chilean aquaculture farm with 10 000 ropes will produce 13% and 28%
450 less *M. chilensis* biomass respectively than under current conditions. They also measured that in the
451 1200 ppm treatment, AE was reduced by 18%. Adding these values together for *M. chilensis*, a
452 reduction in filtration capacity of 46% (28% reduction in biomass and 18% reduction in absorption
453 efficiency) under the 1200 ppm scenario may occur. Though this is a rather crude method of
454 estimating this reduction (as it does not account for non-linear changes to these estimates) there are no
455 other estimates available in the literature.

456 One study tested if metal pollution on *M. edulis* under different OA scenarios changed their survival
457 and other health parameters (Han et al., 2014). Curiously, the experiment was carried out in tap water
458 mixed with calcium carbonate rather than seawater.

459 While the effect of OA on filtration parameters has not been studied directly in *M. edulis*, filter
460 feeding depends not only on external factors such as temperature and food availability but also on the
461 size of the individual *M. edulis*. Therefore, if *M. edulis* show reduced growth and higher mortality
462 under OA, this will lead to a reduction of BW capacity of *M. edulis*. Additionally, if OA leads to a
463 decrease biomass of *M. edulis* (around 40-50%) as modelled by Fernandes et al. (unpublished), this
464 will have detrimental effects on their ability to contribute to BW locally.

465 **5. Discussion and conclusion**

466

467 The service of bioremediation of waste is supported by many different ecosystem processes, with *M.*
468 *edulis* making an important contribution to these processes. This service is also dependent on the
469 quantity and type of wastes that are present in the marine ecosystem in a particular place. It is not
470 currently feasible to quantify the contribution that *M. edulis* makes to this service. However, this
471 study shows that they participate in the bioremediation of many different types of organic and
472 inorganic wastes. This study indicates that their capacity to do so may change under a scenario of
473 increased OA. OA is predicted to cause negative changes to *M. edulis* in terms of their physiology,
474 biomass and their ability to filter feed.

475 Increasing levels of OA have the potential to reduce the bioremediation capacity of *M. edulis*, which,
476 combined with similar impacts on other filter feeding bivalves (e.g. other mytilid species), could
477 result in increased occurrence of harmful algal blooms, fish kills, hypoxic zones and shellfishery and

478 beach closures. Such a reduction in water quality will have knock-on negative effects on other
479 ecosystem processes and services such as food provision and recreation and tourism. Coastal
480 ecosystems and embayments will be particularly affected because their hydrodynamic forces are
481 reduced, leading to longer residence times of polluted water in such areas (Kemp et al., 2009;
482 Filgueira et al., 2012). This is of particular importance to human populations because coastal
483 ecosystems provide the majority of marine ecosystem services (Worm et al., 2006).

484 The potential reduction of BW due to negative effects of OA on *M. edulis* will also have negative
485 impacts on their use in coastal management. Their effectiveness at removing excess nutrients and feed
486 from aquaculture sites could be considerably diminished. By implication, this could mean that
487 aquaculture farms may need to be kept at smaller scales, particularly where water exchange is reduced
488 such as in coastal bays. There is also a trade-off between the services of food provision and BW
489 which may be aggravated by OA. A reduction in *M. edulis* biomass could result in less harvestable
490 biomass of *M. edulis* for human food consumption, coupled with a reduction in the service of BW. It
491 may be necessary to carefully regulate harvest and seeding for human consumption to preserve the
492 service of BW. Consequently, it is not only important to cut down CO₂ emissions to avoid a reduction
493 in BW through *M. edulis* (and other filter feeders) but also to lower the amount of wastes entering the
494 marine system, particularly those resulting in eutrophication.

495 **OA and other stressors**

496 OA is not an isolated pressure on the marine environment but works in concert with other stressors
497 particularly increased sea and air temperature, eutrophication and hypoxia (Hendriks et al., 2010;
498 IPCC, 2014). Increased temperature reduces the thermal tolerance of marine species including *M.*
499 *edulis* and may also reduce their filtration rate (Widdows, 1978). Extreme warming events, such as
500 occurred in Europe in 2003, can have negative effects on *M. edulis* abundance such as the example of
501 *M. edulis* die-off during a heatwave in France in 2003 mentioned above. Several studies discussed in
502 this manuscript used the combined stressors of temperature and OA and their results indicate that pH
503 is a more detrimental stressor if combined with warming waters than on its own. For example, Gazeau
504 et al. (2014) exposed *M. galloprovincialis* to OA and increasing temperatures and showed that
505 temperature alone or temperature and pH led to 100% mortality in experimental animals. In addition,
506 if sea water temperatures warm as predicted, then low oxygen situations occur (Diaz and Rosenberg,
507 2008). This will affect *M. edulis* as they prefer high oxygen concentrations (Joschko et al., 2008).
508 Several studies have also found reduced resistance to pathogens and diseases under OA in *M. edulis*
509 (e.g. , Bibby et al. 2008; Ellis et al. 2015) and other bivalve species (Ivanina et al. 2014). Bibby et al.
510 (2008) exposed *M. edulis* to four levels of pH and showed that after 32 days there was a significant
511 reduction of phagocytic activity in the lower pH treatments. *M. edulis* hemolymph also showed
512 reduced antibacterial action after 90 days of exposure to OA treatments. In this study, however, the

513 authors found that upon exposure to the pathogenic bacterium *Vibrio tubiashii*, the antibacterial
514 functions of *M. edulis* hemolymph were restored. This may indicate a physiological trade-off between
515 low pH and bacterial exposure. As such, *M. edulis* will be vulnerable to multiple stressors in the
516 future, many with the potential to reduce the bioremediation capacity of this key species.

517 **Conclusions**

518 This study has shown that *M. edulis* are important contributors to BW due to their capacity to take up
519 different types of wastes. OA is expected to impact the contribution that *M. edulis* have to the service
520 of BW by depressing the capacity of *M. edulis* for growth and filtration. This will have knock-on
521 effects for other ecosystem services, such as food provision.. Further research aiming to quantify the
522 BW carried out by *M. edulis* would be invaluable if the ecosystem service of BW is to be better
523 understood. Additional studies into the effects of OA on the filtering capacity of *M. edulis* would also
524 facilitate the making of quantitative predictions of the effect of OA on BW. Finally, reducing CO₂
525 emissions and thereby slowing OA and the negative effects on *M. edulis* are crucial, if society is to
526 continue to rely on *M. edulis* to contribute to BW. A reduction in CO₂ would not only lead to a
527 reduction in the negative effects of OA but also help to slow the rise of global temperatures and the
528 increasing spread of hypoxia, two additional stressors that are also negatively affecting the provision
529 of marine ecosystem services.

530 **Table 1:** Different types of filtration measurements taken from the literature. TPM = total particulate matter, OC = organic carbon, OCI = organic carbon
 531 ingested, a, b, c in the calculation of FR in Hawkins et al. 1998 are coefficients no further explained in the original manuscript.

532

Measure of filtration	Definition (as given in the paper)	Calculation given	Unit used	Result	Setting	Reference
Filtration capacity	Amount of water filtered in a given time	Not given	mL min ⁻¹	33-50	Field	Lindahl et al. (2005)
Exhalant siphon area	Size of open exhalant siphon	Not given	mm ²	16-49	Field	MacDonald et al. (2011)
Clearance rate	Not defined	Not given	mL min ⁻¹	33	Lab	MacDonald et al. (2011)
Clearance rate	Volume of water filtered completely free of particles per unit time	Not given	Lh ⁻¹ g ⁻¹	2-12, depending on cell abundance	Lab	Bricelj and Kuenstner (1989)
Filtration rate (FR)	Volume of water cleared of particles per unit time	Not given	Lh ⁻¹	FR dependent on food concentration, size of animal and temperature	Lab	Widdows (1978)
Filtration rate (FR)	Not defined	Not given	mg h ⁻¹	2.5-6	Lab	MacDonald et al. (2011)
Filtration rate (FR)	Amount of water transported through the gills = pumping rate	Not given	mL min ⁻¹	33.1-41	Lab	Riisgård and Møhlenberg (1979)
Filtration rate (FR)	Not defined	Not given	mL min ⁻¹	9.6	Lab	Melzner et al. (2011)
Filtration rate (FR)	Not defined	FR=a*TPM ^b *OC ^c	mg h ⁻¹	4.13*(±9.28)*TPM* 1.91(±0.34)*OC2.26 *(±1.43)	Field	Hawkins et al. (1998)
Assimilation efficiency	Percentage of organic matter taken up from the water column	Not given	%	91.64-92.36	Lab	Bricelj and Kuenstner (1989)
Assimilation efficiency	Not defined	Not given	%	24-38	Lab	MacDonald et al. (2011)

Measure of filtration	Definition (as given in the paper)	Calculation given	Unit used	Result	Setting	Reference
Assimilation efficiency	Percentage of total ingested dietary organic matter that is absorbed during passage through the digestive system	Not given	%	54	Field	Reid et al. (2010)
Assimilation efficiency	Percentage of total ingested dietary organic matter that is absorbed during passage through the digestive system	Not given	%	81-90	Lab	Reid et al. (2010)
Assimilation efficiency	Percentage of total ingested dietary organic matter that is absorbed during passage through the digestive system	Not given	%	1.15*(±0.03)- [0.149(±0.004) 3(1/OCD)]	Field	Hawkins et al. (1998)

533 **Table 2:** *M. edulis* contribute to BW in several ways, varying by waste and process.

Process	Process number (Figure 1)	Mechanism in mussel	Nutrients, phytoplankton and organic matter	Toxic phytoplankton	Derivatives of burnt fossil fuels	Metals	Microplastics	Nanoparticles	Drugs
Cycling	1	Growth	✓						
Cycling	1	Detoxification		Not always	✓				
Sequestration	2	Bioaccumulation		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Export	3	Excretion through faeces, pseudo-faeces	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Export	3	Excretion through urine	✓	?		✓			

534 Not always: during metabolisation, some toxins become more toxic rather than being detoxified.

535 **Table 3:** Effect of OA on *M. edulis* as demonstrated in experimental studies. Parts of the table are reproduced from Parker et al. (2013). Units of CO₂ and pH
 536 measurements are taken from each paper but cannot be standardised as insufficient information was provided to carry out conversion. Therefore they are not
 537 consistent within the table. Arrows up: a positive effect, arrows down: a negative effect, sideways arrows: no significant effect.

538

Experimental duration	Experimental treatment: CO ₂ /pH	Parameter measured	Impact	CO ₂ /pH level that first caused significant change	Author(s)
20 days	300, 500, 600, 800, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1500 μ atm / 8.14-7.50	Shell volume growth	↔		O'Donnell et al. (2013)
35 days	472, 1021, 2114, 3350 μ atm / 8.01, 7.7, 7.4, 7.19 and high or low food	Shell length growth	↔		Thomsen et al. (2013)
		Inorganic shell growth	↓	1021 μ atm	
		Organic shell growth	↔		
44 days	NA / 8.1, 7.6, 7.4, 7.1, 6.7	Survival	↓	7.1	Berge et al. (2006)
		Shell growth	↓	7.6	
2 months	385, 1400, 4000 ppmv / 8.05, 7.56, 7.08	Shell growth	↓	4000 ppmv	Thomsen et al. (2010)
		Somatic growth	↔		
2 months	385, 1120, 2400, 4000 μ atm / 8.03, 7.7, 7.38, 7.14	Shell growth	↓	4000 μ atm	Thomsen and Melzner (2010)
		Somatic growth	↔		
		Metabolic rate (oxygen consumption)	first ↑, then ↓	1120 μ atm	
10 weeks	400, 760 ppm/ 8.10, 7.94 , also ambient temperature, plus 4 °C	Shell length growth	↑	760 ppm/7.94	Keppel et al. (2015)
		Whole animal wet	↑	760 ppm/7.94	

Experimental duration	Experimental treatment: CO ₂ /pH	Parameter measured	Impact	CO ₂ /pH level that first caused significant change	Author(s)
		mass			
		Total dry mass	↑	760 ppm/7.94	
		Calcified mass	↑	760 ppm/7.94	
		Soft tissue dry mass	↔		
		Calcified mass/soft tissue dry mass	↑	760 ppm/7.94 (in higher temperature)	
7 weeks	39, 142, 240, 405 Pa/NA, high or low food	Shell growth low food	↓	405 Pa	Melzner et al. (2011)
		Shell growth high food	↔		
6 months	380, 550, 750, 1000 μatm/NA and control temperatures or 2°C temperature increase	Shell growth	↓	550 and 750, but not at 1000 μatm	Fitzer et al. (2014)
		Calcite growth	↑	1000 μatm	
		Aragonite growth	↓	550 μatm	

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548

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