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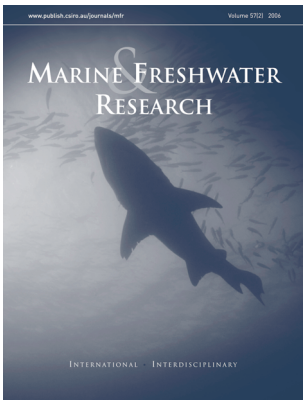
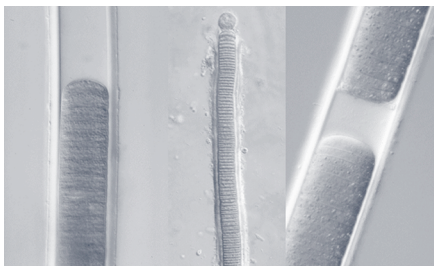


Cover

Shark nets have been set off the beaches of South Africa for more than 50 years to reduce the risk of shark attack, but they also act as fisheries-independent monitoring devices. In their article, Dudley and Simpfendorfer (p. 225) present catch information collected over 26 years from coastal KwaZulu–Natal, South Africa, and reveal evidence for declines in catch rates and mean length in some of the 14 commonly caught shark species. The potential effect of the nets varies with factors such as the life history traits of the species and the importance of other sources of shark catches.



Toxic blooms of the cyanobacterium *Lyngbya majuscula* have been occurring more frequently and with greater severity around the world. *Lyngbya* blooms cause oxygen depletion in the underlying sediments, affecting the abundance and distribution of meiofauna. Occurrence of the blooms has been linked to increased inputs of dissolved nutrients, particularly iron, and organic carbon from land-based sources. See articles by Garcia and Johnstone (p. 155) and Ahern *et al*. (p. 167 and p. 177).

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