Abstract

This review provides an overview of the importance of beach accumulations of macrophytes which consists mainly of large brown algae, commonly referred to as kelps, seagrasses and other organic beach-cast material on the ecology of sandy beach ecosystems. It describes the composition of these allochthonous subsidies and their abundance on the 5 beaches around the city of Cape Town in relation to cleared and non – cleared sites. The paper then analyses the significant difference in POM content between the cleared and the no-cleared sites using different statistical analysis in R which then answers the question of POM content being higher in uncleaned areas than in cleared areas. The results acquired in this paper can be used to open new discussion platforms in relation to rationales and conflicts surrounding kelp removal from beaches along the Cape Peninsula by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (DAFF) and the Cape Town Municipality.

Keywords: Macrophytes. Kelp wrack. Sandy beach ecosystem. POM. Decomposers. Beach clean-up,