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## Soft-bottom intertidal ecosystems shaped by ecosystem engineers

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*Document Version*

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

*Publication date:*

2014

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

van der Zee, E. M. (2014). *Soft-bottom intertidal ecosystems shaped by ecosystem engineers: Consequences for trophic structure*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. s.n.

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Propositions belonging to this thesis:

Soft-bottom intertidal ecosystems shaped by ecosystem engineers

Consequences for trophic structure

Els van der Zee

1. Ecosystem engineers can affect multiple trophic levels at large spatial and long temporal scales.  
This thesis
2. Structure-providing and sediment-stabilizing ecosystem engineers form the foundation for a trophic diverse intertidal ecosystem.  
This thesis
3. The loss of top-down processes strongly determines the trophic structure and dynamics of coastal systems.  
This thesis
4. Food web assembly is largely dependent on non-trophic interactions.  
This thesis
5. The interplay of multiple interaction types such as predation, competition and ecosystem engineering is highly important in structuring ecological communities.  
This thesis
6. Banning insults from the Wadden Sea has a more positive effect on its nature values than restoration attempts do.
7. Non-trophic interactions such as altruism and parental investment, increase the stability of family networks.
8. Travelling the globe is a good fuel to endure a PhD.
9. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring - it was peace.  
Milan Kunder
10. The oceans are the planet's last great living wilderness, man's only remaining frontier on Earth, and perhaps his last chance to prove himself a rational species.  
John L. Culliney