Lake Michigan under siege: Dreissenid mussels flexing their muscles (the rest of the story)

In this presentation I document recent changes and the current state of the lower food web of southern Lake Michigan after the establishment of large dreissenid populations. Dramatic and significant changes in the lower food web, such as the loss of the spring diatom bloom, large declines in phytoplankton productivity, and a decline of *Mysis* populations, were directly or indirectly attributed to the expansion of *Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*. Total phosphorus concentrations and loadings also have decreased in the last 20 years and Secchi disk transparencies have more than doubled in the last 5 years. Changes in the Lake Michigan ecosystem induced by *D. r. bugensis* have produced conditions (e.g., chlorophyll, production, transparency, nutrient depletion, etc.) in the offshore pelagic region that are similar to oligotrophic Lake Superior.