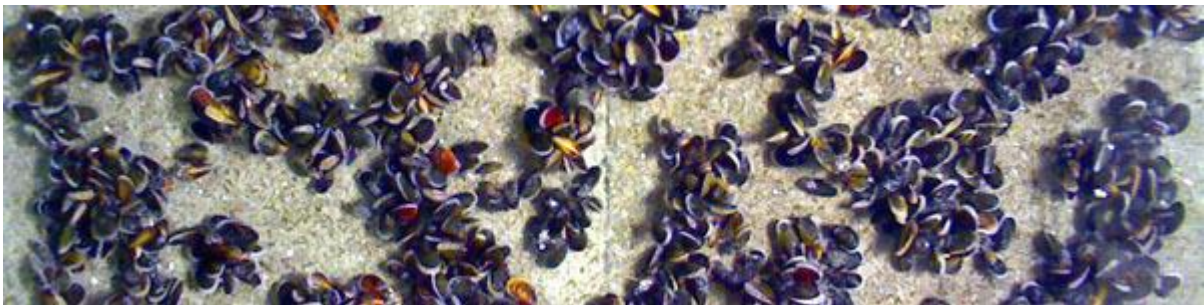


SEMINAR:

Self-organisation in coastal systems



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Ghent University, Campus Ledeganck, Wednesday October 30th, 14.00-15.00

Location: lecture room 11th floor

Abstract: Early ideas about the spatial organization of estuarine communities emphasized the depth gradient as the main driver of the spatial distribution of species. But how to explain these striking spatial patterns, as seen in mussel beds, mudflats and salt marshes? The organisms make it themselves! That is, a close interaction between the organisms and the physical world can cause spatial patterning in many estuarine ecosystems, in a process called self-organisation. Self-organized patterns make the ecosystem more productive, resilient, and can buffer against disturbances. I'll outline the theoretical background of such self-organisation and provide examples from coastal ecosystems.