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Food web gradients: quantifying human impact on ecosystems

Food web research helps to integrate diverse information about ecosystems and provide simple and quantitative indicators on systems stability and health. Human impact, vulnerability and keystone species can be studied and predictions can be made. I present a case study where a river ecosystem has been studied at several locations (Kelian river, Borneo). The comparative analysis of this food web gradient showed human influences and indicated changes in ecosystems dynamics. The presented research can be used for other ecosystems as well, either rivers or coasts, given that data are available.

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