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A flight of cormorants skirts the Cape of Good Hope while pounding waves surge up the cliff face of one of the most dramatic seascapes on the coast. Wave action is a two-edged sword for life living attached to rocks. Its mighty forces detach marine life and hinder feeding of mobile creatures, but for filter feeders like mussels it is a boon, introducing fine particles of food that boost their growth rate; and the space that it clears when it dislodges animals and plants is soon colonised by fresh life, thus increasing diversity.

Photo and text: George Branch Email: mbranch@mweb.co.za

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