

1 **Effect of Louisiana Sweet Crude Oil on a Pacific Coral, *Pocillopora damicornis***

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Highlights

- Tissue regeneration of a shallow-water, branching coral was significantly reduced after a 96 h exposure to a crude oil HEWAF with $EC_{10} = 3 \mu\text{g/L}$ and $EC_{50} = 10 \mu\text{g/L tPAH50}$.
- Percent tissue regeneration was negatively correlated with exposure duration during short-term exposures followed by a week-long recovery in clean artificial seawater.
- Chlorophyll *a* fluorescence of the algal symbiont decreased following oil exposure: dark-adapted $EC_{10} = 330$ and $EC_{50} = 913 \mu\text{g/L tPAH50}$; light-adapted $EC_{10} = 176$ and $EC_{50} = 428 \mu\text{g/L tPAH50}$.
- Polyp behavior (retraction) was the driver for reduced gross health assessments in oil-exposed coral.

30 **Abstract**

31 Recent oil spill responses such as the Deepwater Horizon event have underscored the
32 need for crude oil ecotoxicological threshold data for shallow water corals to assist in
33 natural resource damage assessments. We determined the toxicity of a mechanically
34 agitated oil-seawater mixture (high-energy water-accommodated fraction, HEWAF) of a
35 sweet crude oil on a branched stony coral, *Pocillopora damicornis*. We report the
36 results of two experiments: a 96 h static renewal exposure experiment and a “pulse-
37 chase” experiment of three short-term exposure durations followed by a recovery period
38 in artificial seawater. Five endpoints were used to determine ecotoxicological values: 1)
39 algal symbiont chlorophyll fluorescence, 2) a tissue regeneration assay and a visual
40 health metric with three endpoints: 3) tissue integrity, 4) tissue color, and 5) polyp
41 behavior. The sum of 50 entrained polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons was used as a
42 proxy for oil exposure. For the 96 h exposure dose response experiment, dark-adapted
43 maximum quantum yield (Fv/Fm) of the dinoflagellate symbionts was least affected by
44 crude oil (EC₅₀ = 913 µg/L tPAH50); light-adapted effective quantum yield (EQY) was
45 more sensitive (EC₅₀ = 428 µg/L tPAH50). In the health assessment, polyp behavior
46 (EC₅₀ = 27 µg/L tPAH50) was more sensitive than tissue integrity (EC₅₀ = 806 µg/L
47 tPAH50) or tissue color (EC₅₀ = 926 µg/L tPAH50). Tissue regeneration proved to be a
48 particularly sensitive measurement for toxicity effects (EC₅₀ = 10 µg/L tPAH50). Short
49 duration (6-24 h) exposures using 62.5 mg/L nominal crude oil load resulted in negative
50 impacts to *P. damicornis* and its symbionts. Recovery of chlorophyll a fluorescence
51 levels for 6-24 h oil exposures was observed in a few hours (Fv/Fm) to several days
52 (EQY) following recovery in fresh seawater. The coral health assessments for tissue
53 integrity and tissue color were not affected following short-term oil exposure durations,
54 but the 96 h treatment duration resulted in significant decreases for both. A reduction in
55 polyp behavior (extension) was observed for all treatment durations, with recovery
56 observed for the short-term (6-24 h) exposures within 1-2 days following placement in
57 fresh seawater. Wounded and intact fragments exposed to oil treatments were
58 particularly sensitive, with significant delays observed in tissue regeneration. Estimating
59 ecotoxicological values for *P. damicornis* exposed to crude oil HEWAFs provides a
60 basis for natural resource damage assessments for oil spills in reef ecosystems. These
61 data, when combined with ecotoxicological values for other coral reef species, will
62 contribute to the development of species sensitivity models.

63 **Keywords:** coral; crude oil; high-energy water-accommodated fraction (HEWAF);
64 *Pocillopora damicornis*; pulse amplitude modulated fluorometry; tissue regeneration
65 assay

66 **Abbreviations:** artificial seawater, ASW; confidence interval, C.I.; Deepwater Horizon,
67 DWH; effective quantum yield, EQY; high-energy water-accommodated fraction,

68 HEWAF; maximum quantum yield, Fv/Fm; parts per thousand, ppt; pulse amplitude
69 modulated, PAM; photosystem II, PSII; photosynthetically active radiation, PAR;
70 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, PAH; toluidine blue O, TBO; sum of 50 polycyclic
71 aromatic hydrocarbons, tPAH50

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90 **1. Introduction**

91 Scleractinian coral species are exposed to oil from both chronic input into shallow
92 marine waters and from acute exposures (e.g., spills) (National Research Council,
93 2003). Annually, approximately 390 million gallons of petroleum products enter the
94 world's oceans, with 54 % coming from human-derived activities such as extraction,
95 transportation and consumption of oil products (National Research Council, 2003).

96 Recent studies indicate that chronic hydrocarbon exposure (e.g., natural seeps, land-
97 based runoff) may impact both the coral animal and its dinoflagellate symbionts (Downs

98 et al., 2012; Jafarabadi et al., 2018). Highly polluted areas such as the Persian Gulf
99 (Sinaei and Mashinchian, 2014) and Jakarta Bay, Indonesia (Baum, et al., 2016) have
100 chronic PAH levels between 10-385 µg/L ($\Sigma 16$ and $\Sigma 15$ PAHs, respectively). Most
101 reported levels of chronic oil input to coral reef waters have been in the ng/L (parts per
102 trillion) range, however (Cheng et al., 2010; Jafarabadi et al., 2018; Zhou et al., 2000).
103 By contrast, the sudden exposure of corals to large oil spill events such as DWH can
104 have catastrophic short-term effects, as the capacity to acclimatize quickly to the
105 petroleum hydrocarbon load is limited, and cellular metabolic processes can be
106 overwhelmed (Downs et al., 2006).

107 Evaluations of coral physiological condition in response to xenobiotics have included
108 monitoring the loss of the dinoflagellate symbionts (zooxanthellae) or 'bleaching'
109 (Brown, 2000; Douglas, 2003; Jones, 1997), physiological changes such as polyp
110 retraction (Reimer, 1975; Renegar et al., 2016; Wyers et al., 1986) and estimation of
111 percent tissue loss during disease events or exposure to stressors (Reimer, 1975;
112 Renegar et al., 2016; Thompson et al., 1980). It is estimated that stony corals acquire
113 as much as 90 % of the fixed carbon required for growth from zooxanthellae (Muscatine
114 and Porter, 1977); therefore, it is important to evaluate possible oil effects on the coral
115 symbionts. Measuring algal photosynthetic quantum yield under dark- and light-
116 adapted conditions using a pulse amplitude modulating (PAM) fluorometer provides a
117 method to evaluate chlorophyll *a* fluorescence, providing insight on carbon fixation and
118 photosystem II (PSII) damage (Ralph et al., 2005). Coral condition also has been
119 evaluated by monitoring tissue repair of experimentally induced wounds, as slower
120 regeneration rates are associated with increased exposure to stressors (Fisher et al.,

121 2007; Kramarsky-Winter and Loya, 2000; Meesters and Bak, 1993; Moses and Hallock,
122 2016; Rodriguez-Villalobos et al., 2016; Traylor-Knowles, 2016). Since coral reefs are
123 often in close proximity to sources of oil such as marinas, drilling rigs, tanker routes and
124 shoreline oil refineries, it is important to understand how petroleum spill exposures
125 impact these critical ecosystems. Oil spills are dependent upon ocean currents and
126 tides, forces that may move the slick away within a few hours, or hold the oil in place for
127 days to weeks. While decades of research have documented negative impacts of crude
128 oil exposure on stony coral species, there has been little evidence linking crude oil
129 effects using hydrocarbon chemistry measurements (Negri, et al., 2016; Turner and
130 Renegar, 2017).

131 *Pocillopora damicornis* (Linnaeus 1758), an Indo-Pacific branching stony coral species,
132 was used to determine oil exposure effects (Hoeksema et al., 2014). It is found in areas
133 with oil-related activities (e.g., shipping lanes, oil rigs) and its relatively fast growth rate
134 makes it particularly suitable for use in tissue regeneration assessments (Rodriguez-
135 Villalobos et al., 2016). Previous studies of petroleum hydrocarbon effects on *P.*
136 *damicornis* indicate that this species is relatively sensitive to exposure compared to
137 other corals (e.g., *Porites*, *Montipora*, *Fungia*), with documented effects on both the
138 coral animal and the algal symbiont (Johannes et al., 1972; Peachey and Crosby, 1995;
139 Reimer, 1975; Rougee et al., 2006; Te, 1992; Villanueva et al., 2011).

140 Recently the negative effects of measured petroleum hydrocarbons on coral larvae
141 have been demonstrated (Hartmann et al., 2015; Negri et al., 2016; Overmans et al.,
142 2018). Our study focuses on short-term effects of oil spills in coral reef environments on

143 adult *P. damicornis* fragments. We have coupled analytical chemistry measurements of
144 tPAH50 as a proxy for oil exposure with behavioral and physiological endpoints for coral
145 and associated dinoflagellate symbionts to determine ecotoxicological concentration
146 values of acute oil exposures using a 96 h static renewal dose-response experiment.
147 The effect of shorter-term (6-24 h) oil exposure scenarios was tested by varying
148 exposure duration of coral to a single high-energy water-accommodated fraction
149 (HEWAF) oil load (62.5 mg/L) over three separate short exposure durations (6, 12, and
150 24 h) and including an additional 96 h exposure for comparison. In addition, recovery
151 responses in fresh artificial seawater were evaluated by following exposed fragment
152 responses for up to 184 h post treatment. We hypothesize that acute crude oil
153 exposures will result in 1) health effects (polyp retraction, bleaching, tissue loss), 2) a
154 reduction in symbiont chlorophyll *a* fluorescence, and 3) reduced wound healing ability
155 of *P. damicornis*. We expect that recovery of the measured health parameters may be
156 delayed once the stressor is removed.

157 **2. Materials and Methods**

158 2.1 Chemicals

159 Solvents (pesticide-free acetone, isopropanol, and pesticide-free hexane), Liquinox
160 detergent, hydrochloric acid, sodium sulfate, toluidine blue O and dimethyl sulfoxide
161 were purchased from Thermo Fisher Scientific (Waltham, MA). Dichloromethane and
162 GF/F paper were acquired from VWR International (Radnor, PA). Louisiana sweet
163 crude oil (Mississippi Canyon Block 252) was a gift from the NOAA Office of Response
164 and Restoration and was stored at 4 °C until use. Internal polycyclic aromatic

165 hydrocarbon (PAH) standards used in the quantitative analysis of PAHs were
166 purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. (Tewksbury, MA).

167 2.2 Equipment Preparation

168 Precleaned glassware was used for all coral exposures and HEWAF preparation and
169 storage. Straight-sided, wide mouth glass jars (500 mL) were used for coral acclimation
170 and dosing (VWR, Radnor, PA, part #89093-982, cleaning protocol A, level PC). Amber
171 glass bottles for the analysis of semivolatiles and pesticides (group 2) were used for
172 HEWAF storage and all dilutions (I-Chem Certified, Chase Scientific Glass, Rockwood,
173 TN). All vessels were rinsed with Tropic Marin artificial seawater (ASW, Tropic Marin
174 Sea Salts, Wartenburg, Germany) prior to use. Glassware, Teflon and metal utensils
175 not previously exposed to crude oil were cleaned thoroughly according to Chapman et
176 al. (1995). Oiled glassware and Teflon-ware reused in generating HEWAFs (graduated
177 cylinders, funnels, etc.) were cleaned according to the method of Forth (2017).

178 2.3 Coral Culture

179 *Pocillopora damicornis*, colonies were purchased from Pacific East Aquaculture
180 (Mardela Springs, MD) and held under the South Carolina Department of Natural
181 Resources non-indigenous species permit #NI17-0401 at the NOAA Coral Culture
182 Facility in Charleston, SC. Eight weeks prior to experiment initiation, colonies were
183 fragmented to generate approximately 120 small (~2.0 cm height) nubbins. Coral
184 nubbins for the tissue regeneration experiment were 3.0 cm, so that when cut, they
185 would meet the target (2.0 cm) height. Each nubbin was attached with cyanoacrylate gel
186 (e.g., superglue gel) to a custom-made Teflon mounting peg (Supplement A). Mounted

187 nubbins were cultured in a glass and Teflon aquarium system (26.0 +/- 0.5 °C)
188 containing ASW (36 ppt) under a 10 h:14 h light:dark cycle. Lighting was provided by
189 two 4 X 39 W T-5 HO light fixtures, each with two AquaSun (UV Lighting Co., Avon, OH)
190 and two Blue Plus (ATI, Denver, CO) 54 W bulbs. The photosynthetically active
191 radiation (PAR) at coral depth ranged from 68–77 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. Spectral analysis (JAZ
192 spectrometer, Ocean Optics, Largo, FL) of the lighting system showed three major
193 peaks at 430-440, 540-550 and 610-620 nm. Corals were fed a mixture of Bio-Pure®
194 frozen brine shrimp nauplii, rotifers, and cyclopods (Hakari, Hayward, CA), Grow Fry
195 Starter (New Life Spectrum® , Homestead, FL) and Reef-Roids (Polyp Lab, Lenexa,
196 KS) three times per week until oil exposure initiation. Accumulated algal biofilms were
197 manually debrided from the Teflon pegs 2-3 days before starting the experimental
198 acclimation.

199 2.4 Coral Acclimation

200 *Pocillopora damicornis* fragments were acclimated in an environmentally controlled
201 room (26 °C) for 72 h prior to starting the experiment. Coral nubbins on Teflon pegs
202 were placed in custom-made Teflon jar stands (Supplement A) and Teflon stands with
203 coral were transferred to clean 500 mL jars. Each was filled with 400 mL ASW (36.0 +/-
204 0.5 ppt, 26 °C) during the acclimation period to accommodate the 3.0 cm tissue
205 regeneration nubbins. A Teflon air line (attached to house air line and vinyl tubing via a
206 quick-release valve) was placed in each jar and the bubble rate was adjusted (~1-2/s).
207 Lighting and seawater temperature were as described for coral culture conditions.
208 Water changes (100 %) were performed every 12 h. Salinity and temperature on fresh
209 and spent treatment solutions were monitored at each water change.

210 2.5 Crude oil high-energy water-accommodated fraction

211 The HEWAF was generated using Louisiana sweet crude oil (Macondo source oil
212 collected during the Mississippi Canyon 252 oil spill response) using a Waring™ CB
213 commercial blender according to the methods of Forth (2017). This method generates
214 an oil suspension containing both dissolved hydrocarbon fractions and small oil droplets
215 (Redman, 2015). Briefly, 3.75 L of ASW (36 ppt, 26.0 °C) and 3.75 g of crude oil (1 g/L)
216 were added to the blender under reduced (red) lighting and agitated on low speed for 30
217 s. The oil-seawater suspension immediately was transferred to a 2.0 L separatory
218 funnel and allowed to separate for 1 h (26 °C). The bottom layer of the unfiltered
219 HEWAF from each vessel (1.5 L total volume) was collected into a clean, rinsed (ASW)
220 4 L amber glass bottle and used immediately to make the required dilutions (two-fold
221 series, 3.9-250.0 mg/L, nominal oil concentrations). The sum of 50 individual polycyclic
222 aromatic hydrocarbons and alkylated homolog groups (tPAH50) was used as a
223 surrogate for crude oil exposure. The tPAH50 results are presented graphically as the
224 geometric mean of fresh and 12 h spent treatment concentrations (see section 2.11
225 Analytical Chemistry). We also present effect concentrations calculated from chemistry
226 analysis of the fresh (time 0) treatments.

227 2.6 HEWAF 96 h Exposure

228 Corals were exposed to HEWAF dilutions (3.9-250 mg/L oil load) in a 96-h static
229 renewal experiment. Treatments were changed every 12 h to keep salinity in check.
230 This 12 h cycle also mimics tidal ebb and flow in the marine environment, which could
231 act to move spilled oil back and forth over a reef. Following the acclimation period and
232 at the onset of the dark period, Teflon stands with coral were transferred with clean

233 Teflon-coated metal tongs to dosing jars containing 350 mL of freshly prepared
234 treatment solution (n = 4). Jars remained open for the duration of the experiment. To
235 reduce placement effects, jars were organized randomly under light fixtures in the
236 temperature-controlled dosing room. One jar with no coral at the highest nominal
237 HEWAF concentration (250 mg/L) was included in the dosing experiment to monitor
238 water quality. Temperature and salinity were measured every 12 h on fresh and spent
239 treatment solutions. Daily pH was measured on spent treatment solutions using a
240 probe connected to a Thermo Orion 5-Star multimeter. Samples (400 µL) for ammonia
241 quantification (sodium salicylate method) were removed from each vessel once daily
242 (12 h spent treatment) and stored at -20 °C until further analysis (Bower and Holm-
243 Hansen, 1980). Water changes (100 %) occurred every 12 h, with newly made HEWAF
244 in clean dosing vessels. Water samples were collected for chemistry analysis at
245 experiment initiation (T0, fresh ASW and fresh HEWAF dilutions). Spent treatment
246 solutions from pooled replicates were also analyzed for tPAH50 at 12 h and 96 h.

247 2.7 Pulse-Chase Experiment

248 A pulse-chase experiment was designed to determine effects of acute short-term
249 exposures of coral to oil and to evaluate coral recovery following varying exposure
250 durations. A single HEWAF oil load (62.5 mg/L nominal oil concentration) was selected
251 for this experiment based on effects observed during the 96 h dose-response
252 experiment and reported levels of PAHs documented following oil spills (DIVER, 2017).
253 The five treatment regimens (n = 4) included: an ASW control, 6 h, 12 h, 24 h and 96 h
254 HEWAF exposures (pulse) followed by a recovery period (chase) of 7-11 days in ASW.
255 Coral nubbins were acclimated as above (single replicate for each endpoint per dosing

256 jar), then exposed to the single oil load across treatment times. Coral fragments were
257 transferred to fresh treatment solutions in clean jars every 12 h. Fragments in the 6 h
258 and 12 h treatments received a single pulse of oil treatment, while the 24 h and 96 h
259 treatments were subjected to repeated pulses (2 and 8, respectively). Samples for
260 chemical analysis were collected: fresh control ASW (T0 and 84 h, n = 2) fresh HEWAF
261 (T0, 12 h, 24 h and 84 h, n = 8), spent ASW (6 h, 12 h, 24 h and 96 h, n = 4) and spent
262 HEWAF (6 h, 12 h, 24 h and 96 h, n = 4). Each treatment jar contained two intact 2.0
263 cm fragments (for health score and photosynthetic quantum yield endpoints) and two
264 3.0 cm nubbins for tissue regeneration. One tissue regeneration fragment per treatment
265 replicate was used to determine oil effects on wounded coral fragments (cut prior to oil
266 exposure). A second tissue regeneration fragment was exposed to oil intact, cut at the
267 beginning of the recovery period and evaluated when fragments reached the
268 approximate percent tissue regeneration of control fragments. A comparison between
269 control and exposed fragments was used to estimate approximate recovery times
270 following oil exposure. Temperature and salinity were measured on fresh and spent
271 treatment solutions every 12 h, and pH and ammonia were measured every 24 h
272 (during light cycle).

273 2.8 PAM Fluorometry

274 One coral nubbin per treatment replicate was used to determine dark-adapted
275 maximum quantum yield (F_v/F_m) and light-adapted effective quantum yield (EQY) of
276 dinoflagellate symbionts using an Imaging PAM M-series chlorophyll fluorometer (MAXI
277 version, Walz GmbH, Effeltrich, Germany). Each coral fragment was analyzed 2 h
278 before the end of the dark cycle (F_v/F_m) and 2 h before lights went off (EQY).

279 Experimental time points for the 96 h dose-response experiment were -14 h, 34 h and
280 82 h (dark adaption) and -4, 44 and 92 h (light adaption). Experimental time points for
281 the pulse-chase experiment were -14, 10, 34, 58, 82, 106, 130, 154 and 250 h (dark
282 adaption) and -4, 20, 44, 68, 92, 116, 140, 164 and 260 h (light adaption).

283 Replicate fragments were evaluated as previously reported (Ralph et al., 2005)
284 (Supplement A). Data were collected on three areas of interest placed on a flat surface
285 in the center of a given fragment and averages for each replicate fragment were
286 calculated.

287 2.9 Health Assessment

288 One 2.0 cm coral fragment in each dosing jar was visually scored daily (middle of light
289 period) for changes in any of the three parameters associated with health condition
290 (Table 1). The scoring criteria were refined to distinguish gradations of change in tissue
291 integrity, tissue color and polyp behavior (modified from De Leo et al., 2016). Care was
292 taken to avoid disturbing the coral during the assessment (e.g., bumping jars), so that
293 maximum polyp extension could be determined.

294 2.10 Tissue Regeneration Assay

295 Immediately prior to experiment initiation, 3.0 cm fragments were cropped using clean,
296 stainless steel bone cutters and leaving a flat apical surface. Corals exposed to oil
297 intact during the pulse-chase experiment were cropped immediately following oil
298 exposure (along with control fragments). Each cut fragment (~2.0 cm) was placed into
299 a dosing jar filled with ASW and a bright field image was taken of the cut surface next to
300 a Teflon centimeter rule using a MVX10 research macro zoom microscope with a 0.63x

301 objective (Olympus, Melville, NY) and equipped with a DP71 digital camera (Olympus,
302 Center Valley, PA). Since new tissue growth is translucent (lacks symbionts), coral
303 tissue was stained prior to imaging at experiment termination. Coral fragments were
304 removed from the treatment solution, rinsed in ASW and placed in a jar filled with ASW
305 approximately 1 cm below the cut surface of the coral fragment. The translucent new
306 tissue growth was dyed with a vital stain prior to imaging. Toluidine blue O (TBO, 1 %
307 in DMSO) was diluted to 0.1 % in ASW. Approximately 30 μ L of the dilute TBO was
308 placed onto the cut surface of the coral and incubated at room temperature for 3 min.
309 Stain was reapplied as needed (i.e., if it drained away from the coral surface).
310 Fragments were rinsed in ASW and imaged as previously described.

311 Image analysis was performed using Adobe Photoshop CC 2017. Pixel units were
312 calibrated to the centimeter ruler in each image. Total area of bare skeleton was
313 recorded for each fragment at time 0 and experiment termination. Percent tissue
314 regeneration was determined from the difference in skeletal area between the two
315 values.

316 2.11 Analytical Chemistry

317 The sum of 50 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon compounds were determined for fresh
318 and spent treatment solutions (as detailed above for each experiment) and used as a
319 surrogate for crude oil exposure (Supplement B). Water samples (130-1000 mL) were
320 collected in solvent rinsed, pre-acidified (0.2-1.5 mL 18 % HCl), amber bottles and
321 stored at 4°C until analysis. Samples were spiked with internal standards (18
322 deuterated polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) and extracted using a liquid/liquid

323 extraction adapted from methods detailed in Reddy and Quinn (1999). Samples were
324 passed through silica solid phase extraction (SPE) cartridges and eluted from the
325 cartridge with hexane and dichloromethane. A recovery standard, d₁₄-p-terphenyl, was
326 added prior to GC/MS analysis to measure internal standard recovery. Samples were
327 analyzed on an Agilent 6890/5973N GC/MS with split/splitless injector and a DB17ms
328 60m x 0.25 mm x 0.25 μm analytical column. All analytes had a coefficient of
329 determination (r²) greater than or equal to 0.995. Data analyses were performed using
330 MSD Chemstation software. A procedural blank and a PAH reagent spike sample were
331 included in all sample extraction batches (n = 8).

332 2.12 Statistical Analyses

333 Fresh (time 0) and the geometric mean of fresh and 12 h spent tPAH50 measurements
334 were used for statistical analyses of each endpoint. All analyses were performed using
335 SAS v9.4 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA). The response variables for the dose-
336 response experiment (health metric scores, percent tissue regeneration, and PAM
337 fluorometry measurements) met the assumptions for parametric statistics. The model
338 residuals followed the normal distribution and the residual variances were
339 homogeneous. A single factor ANOVA (PROC GLM) was performed on each variable
340 using the ASW treatment as the experimental control. A Dunnett's test for multiple
341 comparisons versus control was performed post-hoc to determine significant differences
342 between treatment groups and control. Alpha was set to 0.05 for all statistical tests. To
343 determine the effective concentration to cause a 50% effect (EC₅₀) in the
344 aforementioned response variables, a three-parameter normal probability (fitted probit)

345 equation was constructed (PROC NLIN METHOD=GAUSS) using the PROBNOORM
346 function.

347 For the pulse-chase experiment, tissue regeneration and PAM fluorometry
348 measurements were analyzed using a two-factor ANOVA with a test for interaction. The
349 two factors were pulse duration (6 h, 12 h, 24 h, and 96 h) and treatment (control or
350 dosed). The model residuals followed the normal distribution and the residual variances
351 were homogeneous. Finding no significant interaction, a test for simple effects was
352 performed at each level of pulse duration to examine if control treatments were
353 significantly different from dosed treatments. Alpha was set to 0.05 for all statistical
354 tests. The health score data from the pulse-chase experiment were analyzed using the
355 non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test followed by non-parametric multiple comparison
356 tests for treatments versus a control (Zar, 1999).

357 **3. Results**

358 3.1 Water quality

359 Temperature and salinity levels remained within normal growth parameters for the
360 course of each experiment (26.0 +/- 0.5 °C, 36 +/- 1 ppt). Total ammonia nitrogen (12 h
361 spent treatment sample) ranged from 0.00-0.05 for the initial dose response experiment
362 and 0.00-0.16 mg/L for the pulse-chase experiment. The pH values for the 96 h
363 exposure were between 8.12 and 8.42 and for the pulse-chase experiment ranged from
364 8.17-8.59.

365 3.2 Analytical chemistry

366 Crude oil high-energy WAF mixtures consisted of both dissolved PAHs and droplet oil.
367 Chemical analysis of tPAH50 concentrations in HEWAFs followed expected trends,
368 based on degree of stock dilution. Extraction of Louisiana sweet crude oil HEWAF
369 medium at time zero (T0, 250 mg/L nominal oil load) resulted in 3971 µg/L tPAH50 with
370 roughly 50% reduction in each subsequently lower treatment dilution (Supplement B.1).
371 After 12 h in the dosing jar, HEWAF tPAH50 concentrations were reduced by at least 88
372 % in all treatments. For example, the 7.8 mg/L oil loading treatment tPAH50 was
373 measured in the fresh treatment solution as 62 µg/L and decreased to 8 µg/L tPAH50
374 after 12 h under experimental conditions (Supplement B.2).

375 Chemical analysis of the pulse-chase experimental treatment also exhibited ~86 %
376 reduction of tPAH50 concentration over 12 h. Initial (fresh, load 62.5 mg/L) average
377 tPAH50 concentrations in eight HEWAF preparations was 503 µg/L (Supplement B.3;
378 percent relative standard deviation ~8 %). The 6 h spent treatment solution retained
379 131 µg/L tPAH50. Repeated spent treatment analysis after 12 h resulted in average
380 tPAH50 concentrations ranging from 64 to 79 µg/L (Supplement B.3). Spent media
381 tPAH50 concentration was reduced by approximately 74 % after 6 h vs 86 % after 12 h.
382 Individual PAH50 concentrations from the pulse-chase experiment are detailed in
383 Supplement B.4.

384 3.3 Effect of 96 h HEWAF concentrations on coral and symbionts

385 *3.3.1 HEWAF impacts to symbiont chlorophyll a fluorescence*

386 Following a static 12 h renewal exposure of *P. damicornis* fragments to dilutions of
387 HEWAF (12-945 µg/L tPAH50, geometric mean of fresh and 12 h spent treatment), oil-

388 exposed symbiont Fv/Fm and EQY were decreased significantly compared to controls
389 ($p < 0.05$, Figure 1). A reduction in dark-adapted chlorophyll a fluorescence was
390 observed with an 82 h exposure (Panel A). Decreased fluorescence was noted for EQY
391 vs Fv/Fm (Panel B). Table 2 shows the effect concentrations for the tPAH50
392 exposures. At 82 h the oil exposure resulted in an Fv/Fm EC₅₀ value of 913 µg/L
393 tPAH50 (95% C.I. = 862-968), reported as the geometric mean of T0 and 12 h spent
394 treatment. The EC₅₀ value for EQY at 92 h was 428 µg/L tPAH50 (95% C.I. = 375-488).
395 The EC₅₀ values calculated using the time zero (fresh) treatment chemistry data were
396 3804 and 1640 µg/L tPAH50 for Fv/Fm and EQY, respectively (Table 2). Response
397 curves for Fv/Fm and EQY are shown in Supplement C.1.

398 *3.3.2 General coral health effects of HEWAF concentration exposure*

399 *Pocillopora damicornis* fragments exposed to increasing concentrations of HEWAF
400 resulted in significantly decreased ($p < 0.001$) health rubric scores at 89 h (Figure 2,
401 Supplement D). Tissue loss was first observed for three fragments at 65 h (245 and
402 456 µg/L tPAH50, geometric mean). Tissue loss continued for the three highest
403 treatments until experiment termination. Tissue loss was most severe for the 945 µg/L
404 tPAH50 treatment, with three of four fragments losing 50-75 % tissue by 89 h (Figure 2,
405 Panel A). Coral fragments started bleaching by 31 h for the 22-945 µg/L tPAH50
406 treatments, but at 89 h was significant only for the 945 µg/L tPAH50 treatment (Figure 2,
407 Panel B). A decline in health was driven by polyp behavior (reduced 3-4 points within
408 the first 17 h of exposure), with treatments of 127 µg/L tPAH50 and higher significantly
409 different from the control at 89 h (Figure 2, Panel C). Some polyp recovery was noted
410 in the 12 µg/L tPAH50 treatment at 41 h post treatment initiation. The EC₅₀ values for

411 tissue integrity were 806 $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50 (geometric mean) and 3296 $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50 (fresh
412 treatment), while tissue color resulted in EC_{50} values of 926 (geometric mean) and 3280
413 (fresh treatment) $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50, respectively (Table 2). Polyp behavior was the most
414 sensitive endpoint in the visual health assessment, with EC_{50} values ranging from 27
415 (geometric mean) to 84 (fresh) $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50 (Table 2). Dose-response curves with 95
416 % confidence intervals for each health metric are presented in Supplement C.2.

417 *3.3.3 Inhibition of coral tissue regeneration by crude oil HEWAF concentrations*

418 The tissue regeneration assay was most sensitive to crude oil HEWAF exposure.
419 Tissue regeneration was inhibited in the 96 h dose response experiment at all tested
420 concentrations (Figure 3, Panel A, $p < 0.005$). Figure 4 shows representative coral
421 fragments at time zero (after initial cut) and at 96 h (with TBO tissue staining).
422 Treatments of 12-127 $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50 (geometric mean of fresh and 12 h spent
423 treatments) had little to no tissue regeneration compared to the control. Increasing
424 tissue loss was observed for fragments subjected to 245-945 $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50. The tissue
425 regeneration EC_{10} values ranged from 3 (geometric mean) to 7 (fresh) $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50 and
426 EC_{50} values were 10 (geometric mean) and 29 (fresh) $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50 (Table 2). The
427 response curve for tissue regeneration is shown in Supplement C.3.

428 3.4 Pulse-Chase Experiment: Effects of oil exposure duration

429 *3.4.1 Symbiont chlorophyll a fluorescence effects*

430 Shorter durations of a single HEWAF dose (266 $\mu\text{g/L}$ HEWAF tPAH50 concentration, 6
431 h geometric mean; 189 $\mu\text{g/L}$ HEWAF tPAH50 concentration, 12 h geometric mean)
432 significantly affected ($p < 0.05$) symbiont chlorophyll a fluorescence (F_v/F_m and EQY,

433 Figure 5). Maximum quantum yield (Fv/Fm) impacts were variable at the 10 h time
434 point with significant reduction for the 12 h and 96 h exposure durations (Figure 5,
435 Panel A). The 12 h exposure fragments fully recovered within 24 h. The Fv/Fm of the
436 96 h HEWAF exposure required 34 h to recover to the level of the controls following
437 placement in fresh ASW. The EQY for 6, 12, 24 and 96 h HEWAF exposures was
438 significantly decreased at the 20 h time point (Figure 5, Panel B). Complete EQY
439 recovery for the 6, 12 and 24 h HEWAF exposures occurred by 92 h (68-86 h) after
440 placement in fresh ASW. Recovery time for *P. damicornis* symbionts with significant
441 impacts to EQY after a 96 h HEWAF exposure was between (68-164 h post-treatment).

442 *3.4.2 Coral health score effects*

443 Decreased health effects were observed for *P. damicornis* fragments exposed to crude
444 oil HEWAF. Tissue integrity and tissue color were not affected by the short-term (6-24
445 h) oil exposures; however, immediate polyp retraction was observed in response to all
446 pulse (exposure) durations compared to the no pulse control (Figure 6). There was little
447 (<5 %) to no tissue loss for coral fragments in the 6, 12 or 24 h oil treatments and these
448 treatment durations did not result in significant effects when compared to the no
449 treatment control (Figure 6, Panels A, D). Coral fragments in the 96 h oil treatment
450 exhibited a loss of tissue integrity after 89 h of exposure and this tissue loss increased
451 with time. Coral tissue for all oil treatment durations partially bleached over time; the 96
452 h treatment duration resulted in significant differences ($p < 0.05$) from the control
453 between 65 and 185 h (Figure 6, Panels B, E). *Pocillopora damicornis* fragments in the
454 control also showed a very slight loss of color over time, especially after 185 h. Low
455 initial polyp behavior scores at -7 h (before treatment started) were due to disturbing

456 fragments during photography (Figure 6, Panel C). Control fragments returned to full
457 extension at 17 h. Polyps exhibited normal behavior (fully extended) for the 6, 12 and
458 24 h HEWAF following placement in fresh ASW; the normal response was delayed for
459 24-53 h (Figure 6, Panel C and Supplement E). Fragments exposed to oil for 96 h did
460 not fully extend polyps in the recovery period (up to 233 h). This resulted in a significant
461 difference ($p < 0.05$) for the 96 h oil exposure when compared to the no pulse control
462 after 65 h HEWAF treatment (Figure 6, Panel F).

463 *3.4.3 Impacts to tissue regeneration*

464 *Pocillopora damicornis* fragments cut prior to exposures and subjected to short-term
465 HEWAF exposures (189 $\mu\text{g/L}$, 12 h geometric mean; 266 $\mu\text{g/L}$, 6 h geometric mean
466 tPAH50) showed significantly ($p < 0.0001$) decreased tissue regeneration after 72 h, with
467 tissue loss noted for the longest exposure (Figure 7, Panel A). Following placement in
468 fresh seawater, delayed tissue regeneration times were observed for all HEWAF
469 treatments compared to the controls at 72 h (approximately 50 % tissue regeneration).
470 The 6 h oil treatment resulted in a 48 h lag in recovery, the 12 h treatment had a 72 h
471 lag and the 24 h treatment resulted in 84 h delayed recovery. The cut coral fragments
472 in the 96 h exposure did not recover to the level of the 72 h controls by the end of the
473 experiment (168 h post treatment). Significant impacts ($p < 0.0001$) to oil-exposed intact
474 coral fragments were also noted (Figure 7, Panel B). Intact fragments cut following oil
475 exposure and placed in fresh seawater resulted in significantly slowed tissue
476 regeneration 72-84 h post treatment compared to controls cut at the same time.

477 **4. Discussion**

478 Oil exploration, production and transport often intersect spatially with shallow coral reef
479 ecosystems throughout the tropics and sub-tropics, presenting numerous threats of
480 exposure through spills, groundings or wellhead blowouts, as in DWH. This is the first
481 study to demonstrate ecotoxicological effects of acute crude oil HEWAF exposures on
482 the adult life stage of the ecologically important shallow water coral species, *P.*
483 *damicornis*, using the surrogate, tPAH50. Total PAH50 has been used as a proxy for oil
484 toxicity to other marine organisms (Esbaugh et al., 2016; Incardona et al., 2014;
485 Stieglitz et al., 2016), providing a platform to compare toxicity between species and
486 contaminant type that are suitable for oil spill-related ecological risk assessments and
487 natural resource damage assessments. We emphasize that our experiments were
488 performed under laboratory light conditions (no ultraviolet light, UV). As it has been
489 demonstrated that UV light enhances toxicity of hydrocarbon compounds for marine
490 organisms (Alloy et al., 2016; Finch et al., 2017; Sweet et al., 2017), the coral toxicity
491 data we report are likely conservative values.

492 **4.1 Ecotoxicological Potential of Louisiana sweet crude oil to coral**

493 *4.1.1 Oil effects on symbiont photosynthesis*

494 We observed that symbiont Fv/Fm was impacted by crude oil exposure (EC₁₀ = 330
495 µg/L tPAH50, geometric mean) and this was further reduced to 176 µg/L tPAH50
496 following *P. damicornis* exposure to light. The reported effect concentration values for
497 *P. damicornis* symbionts were 1-2 orders of magnitude higher than for tissue
498 regeneration, indicating that PAHs are less toxic to the algal symbiont than to the coral
499 animal. Chlorophyll *a* fluorescence measurements are valuable indicators of the state
500 of PSII in plants. Exposure to light naturally damages PSII reactions centers

501 (photoinhibition) and dark adaptation provides time for photosynthetic reaction centers
502 in the chloroplast to repair damage normally resulting from exposure to sunlight.
503 Photoinhibition is exacerbated when light is combined with various other environmental
504 stressors, yielding an increase in damaged PSII reaction centers that cannot be
505 repaired during the dark cycle (Nishiyama et al., 2001; Ralph, 2000; Takahashi and
506 Murata, 2005). Since symbiotic zooxanthellae have been reported to contribute as
507 much as 90 % of the fixed carbon required for growth of scleractinian corals (Muscatine
508 and Porter, 1977), impacts to PSII also have severe impacts on coral nutrition, and in
509 turn on growth and other physiological processes (e.g., reproduction, defense, wound
510 repair, etc.).

511 Oil exposure has been shown to impact photosynthetic output in several ways. Physical
512 barriers created by the oil can block sunlight required for photosynthesis or decrease
513 gas exchange (Baker, 1970). Reductions in chlorophyll content have been observed in
514 response to oil exposure of corals (Baruah et al., 2014; Jafarabadi et al., 2018;
515 Olaranont et al., 2018). In addition, Jafarabadi et al. (2018) have shown that PAHs can
516 penetrate both coral tissues and zooxanthellae membranes. Since chlorophyll-peridinin
517 complexes of many autotrophic dinoflagellates incorporate both hydrophilic and
518 lipophilic proteins, cellular penetration of PAH compounds could act to rupture the
519 photosynthetic assembly, with pigments subsequently degraded.

520 Similar to our study, decreases in Fv/Fm from oil exposure have been reported for
521 *Acropora formosa* (Mercurio et al., 2004) and *Porites divaricata* (Guzman Martinez et
522 al., 2007) symbionts with effective concentrations of hydrocarbon in the ppb ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

523 range. However *Pocillopora verrucosa* exposure to a diesel fuel WAF (415 µg/L total
524 PAH, geometric mean, *our calculation*) resulted in no significant effect on symbiont
525 Fv/Fm in a static 84-h test (Kegler et al., 2015). Additionally, Renegar et al. (2016)
526 found no effect on Fv/Fm following a 48-h exposure of *P. divaricata* to a single PAH
527 compound, 1-methylnaphthelene in a continuous-flow system (640-25,832 µg/L). While
528 experimental design (static, continuous flow, or static renewal test), exposure duration,
529 lighting and the use of different PAH mixtures may have played a role in the contrasting
530 results, it is possible that variable rates of PSII electron transport among zooxanthellae
531 species are also a factor (Cantin, et al. 2009). Additionally, variable optical properties of
532 corals (fluorescent proteins, chromoproteins) can confound PAM-based fluorescence
533 measurements (Mayfield et al., 2014; Wangpraseurt et al., 2019). We observed
534 significant tissue color loss in the visual health score only at the highest HEWAF
535 treatment (945 µg/L tPAH50), but significant decreases in Fv/Fm at much lower
536 concentrations (to 48 µg/L tPAH50, Figure 1). While it is possible that symbionts could
537 be dead or dying within the coral tissues, it also is possible that reduction in Fv/Fm for
538 oil-exposed corals may be due to PAH effects on the photosynthetic machinery. Further
539 research to understand mechanisms of coral symbiont photosynthetic responses to
540 crude oil exposure is needed.

541 *4.1.2 Oil effects on polyp behavior and tissue integrity*

542 *Pocillopora damicornis* exhibited severe polyp retraction in response to crude oil
543 HEWAF exposure (EC₁₀ = 3 µg/L tPAH50, geometric mean). Corals can respond in a
544 limited number of ways to xenobiotic exposure. Mucocytes located in the epidermal cell
545 layer produce a lipopolysaccharide mucus layer, which acts as a buffer to the immediate

546 environment. Mucus production can be stimulated, and it can bind and remove
547 potentially harmful chemicals such as oil (Bak and Elgershuizen, 1976). Corals also
548 retract polyps in response to irritants such as crude oil (Knap, 1987; Lewis, 1971;
549 Reimer, 1975). This action closes off the gastrodermal cavity, possibly delaying or
550 limiting effects of toxic compounds on the gastrodermal cells not protected by a mucus
551 layer. Since coral species such as *P. damicornis* extend polyp tentacles as a normal
552 heterotrophic feeding behavior, sustained polyp retraction can reduce feeding activity,
553 and potentially nutrient intake. When the concentration of a contaminant reaches a
554 threshold that overcomes these natural defense mechanisms, biochemical and cellular
555 processes break down, which can result in tissue degradation.

556 We also observed that *P. damicornis* lost tissue in response to crude oil HEWAF
557 exposure ($EC_{10} = 202 \mu\text{g/L tPAH}_{50}$). Adult coral mortality is usually associated with
558 complete tissue loss from the skeleton. While corals can recover from partial tissue
559 losses (Kramarsky-Winter and Loya, 2000), even small tissue lesions can have a
560 negative impact on colony health by increasing chances of disease by opportunistic
561 microorganisms (Page and Willis, 2008). In the wild, tissue integrity changes likely
562 affect feeding activity, increase susceptibility to disease or encourage algal overgrowth,
563 and/or decrease photoprotective mechanisms due to chromoprotein or fluorescent
564 protein loss (Lamb et al., 2014; Lirman, 2001; Salih et al., 2000).

565 Results from this study and others indicate that corals elicit an innate protective
566 response to oil exposure (Bak and Elgershuizen, 1976; De Leo et al., 2016;
567 Elgershuizen and De Kruijf, 1976; Frometa et al., 2017; Lewis, 1971; Reimer, 1975;

568 Renegar et al., 2016; White et al., 2012; Wyers et al., 1986). We observed significant
569 negative gross health effects for *P. damicornis* in an acute 96 h static renewal test.
570 Renegar et al. (2016) recently reported a health score EC₅₀ value of 7442 µg/L tPAH50
571 for *P. divaricata* exposure using a single PAH analyte, 1-methylnaphthalene. We can
572 make no direct comparison with our study due to differences in health metric reporting,
573 PAH composition and exposure duration, however. *Porites divaricata* and *P.*
574 *damicornis* are both 'weedy' coral species, often found in disturbed environments or
575 when reef species complexity is low (Darling et al., 2012; Newman et al., 2015; Smith et
576 al., 2013). Increased relative sensitivity of *P. damicornis* compared to other corals has
577 been demonstrated for both natural and anthropogenic stressors, however (Reimer,
578 1975, Te et al., 1998; Stimson et al., 2002; Downs et al., 2016). Our method of static
579 renewal (vs continuous flow for the *P. divaricata* experiment) also may have contributed
580 to increased toxicity of crude oil to *P. damicornis*. As the 12 h static renewal mimics
581 tidal ebb and flow in shallow marine waters, it suggests that the action of tidal forces to
582 move oil slicks back and forth over a coral reef may increase detrimental effects of oil
583 exposure to stony corals.

584 4.1.3 Oil effect on tissue regeneration

585 Tissue regeneration in *P. damicornis* was significantly affected in a 96 h HEWAF
586 exposure at all tested doses (as low as 12 µg/L tPAH50), demonstrating that it is a
587 particularly sensitive quantitative assay for coral toxicology evaluations. Corals are
588 susceptible to wounds from a variety of natural (e.g., fish bites, storms, disease) and
589 anthropogenic (e.g., boat groundings, diver interactions, pollution) causes and
590 regeneration of tissue over bare skeleton requires significant energy input. Wound

591 healing has been used previously as a field assessment tool to gauge coral condition
592 (Dustan et al., 2008; Fisher et al., 2007; Moses and Hallock, 2016). Coral colonies that
593 cannot undergo lesion repair are susceptible to infection, infiltration by boring organisms
594 or algal overgrowth, often leading to poor reproductive output, slowed growth and death
595 (Meesters and Bak, 1993; Rinkevich and Loya, 1979). Kramarsky-Winter and Loya
596 (2000) first demonstrated how tissue repair is dependent upon intrinsic (size,
597 reproductive state) and extrinsic (season, water temperature) factors by comparing field
598 and laboratory wound healing rates. We have shown that this assay is amenable to
599 laboratory toxicology studies with fast-growing, branching corals, which are easily
600 fragmented. Slower-growing corals, such as *Orbicella*, *Dendrogyra*, or *Diploria* spp.,
601 may not be easily wounded, nor exhibit enough tissue regrowth to be utilized in shorter
602 timeframe toxicological studies using this assay, however.

603 While the precise mechanism of oil toxicity is not well understood, we know that corals
604 can bioaccumulate hydrocarbons (Burns and Knap, 1989; Jafarabadi et al., 2018; Ko et
605 al., 2014; Peters et al., 1981; Sabourin et al., 2013) and uptake of these hydrophobic
606 compounds can result in disruption of cellular biochemical and physiological processes.
607 Exposure to oil is linked with a decrease in lipid biosynthesis (Cook and Knap, 1983)
608 and disruption of cellular protein production (Rougee et al., 2006), thus inhibiting cell
609 membrane biosynthesis. Peters et al. (1981) observed that crude oil exposure impaired
610 development of reproductive tissues and resulted in atrophied muscle bundles, further
611 evidence that hydrocarbon exposure negatively impacts coral tissue growth. Combined
612 with a possible reduction in fixed carbon availability or energy reserves from
613 photosynthetic processes, we would expect oil-exposed corals to have greatly

614 decreased capacity for tissue regeneration compared to unexposed corals.
615 Furthermore, our study did not incorporate natural sunlight (with UV), thus we again
616 emphasize that our reported toxicity threshold for this assay may represent a
617 conservative value.

618 **4.2 Time-dependent toxicity of Louisiana sweet crude oil to coral**

619 To examine the effect of exposure duration, coral fragments were challenged with a
620 single concentration HEWAF load over three short time periods (6-24 h), representing
621 possible scenarios during an oil spill. We also included one longer exposure of 96 h for
622 comparison to the 96 h dose-response experiment. Corals in the 6 h treatment duration
623 were exposed in total darkness, representing the most conservative estimate of oil
624 effects. We selected a median oil load (62.5 mg/L) from the 96 h dose-response
625 experiment, resulting in environmentally relevant tPAH50 concentrations. PAH loss is
626 relatively rapid due to volatilization or degradation, thus at 6 h, the tPAH50 geometric
627 mean of fresh and spent treatment solutions was higher than at 12 h. For example, our
628 calculated tPAH50 dose for the 6 h crude oil exposure was 266 µg/L, while the 12 h
629 duration resulted in an exposure of 189 µg/L tPAH50. Treatments longer than 12 h
630 were dosed repeatedly (static renewal) at 189 µg/L tPAH50.

631 We found that 12 h and 96 h durations of HEWAF exposure significantly affected
632 photosynthetic quantum yield in *P. damicornis* symbionts. We did not observe any
633 significant effect to chlorophyll fluorescence with either the 6 h or 24 h oil exposure.
634 Variable numbers of symbionts in each coral fragment or varying amounts of chlorophyll
635 *a* in each algal cell may explain these results, especially if 189 µg/L tPAH50 is at the

636 lower limit for chlorophyll fluorescence effects. Additionally, the timing of the 6 h oil
637 exposure may have resulted in symbiont recovery prior to the PAM fluorometry
638 evaluation, particularly since this treatment was not exposed to light and oil,
639 concurrently.

640 Recovery of chlorophyll *a* fluorescence was observed within 24 h after placement in
641 fresh ASW for the fragments exposed to oil for 12 h and coral fragments in the 96 h
642 exposure recovered after 34 h in ASW, demonstrating resilience of *P. damicornis* algal
643 symbionts to shorter-term oil exposures. Similar quick recoveries of photosynthetic
644 effects have been observed with placement in fresh seawater following short-term (8-48
645 h) hydrocarbon exposures (Cook and Knap, 1983; Jones et al., 2003). Cook and Knap
646 (1983) postulated that had damage occurred to cellular membranes, it would take much
647 longer to recover and proposed that the most likely explanation of the decrease in
648 photosynthetic output was due to interference with enzymatic processes. They did not
649 measure chlorophyll or chlorophyll fluorescence, however, and admitted that the loss
650 and resynthesis of chlorophyll *a* could be another likely explanation. Jones et al. (2003)
651 observed reduced chlorophyll fluorescence (F_v/F_m) from freshly-isolated symbionts ($1 \times$
652 10^7 cells/mL) exposed to metal- and hydrocarbon-contaminated water and gradual
653 recovery was observed for the algal cells following placement in fresh seawater. The
654 results from our experiments and these works support a theory of oil destruction of
655 photosynthetic pigments. Further studies should incorporate chlorophyll measurements
656 and enumeration of algal symbionts to provide a more definitive answer to this question.

657 *Pocillopora damicornis* tissue integrity and tissue color were not significantly affected by
658 6-24 h oil treatments. Timing of the health data collection (2:00 pm daily, mid-light

659 cycle) did not coincide with HEWAF exposures for the 6, 12 and 24 h treatments, which
660 may have resulted in underreported effects. Additionally, reduction in tissue color
661 scores for all *P. damicornis* fragments over time may have resulted in the observed
662 'recovery' of the 96 h treatment duration after 209 h (Figure 6, Panels B, E).

663 Polyp behavior was significantly affected by oil exposure for all treatment durations and
664 was the principal driver of decreased health scores. This was not unexpected, since
665 polyp retraction has been reported following coral exposure to various types of
666 hydrocarbons (DeLeo, et al., 2016; Reimer, 1975; Renegar et al., 2016; Ruis-Ramos et
667 al., 2017). Recovery for the 6-24 h treatments was within 53 h (Figure 6, Panel C).
668 Coral fragments subjected to the 96 h HEWAF exposure exhibited severe polyp
669 retraction at 89 h, mirroring effects noted in the 96 h dose-response experiment, and
670 polyp retraction continued throughout the recovery period. As mentioned above,
671 bioaccumulation of hydrocarbons has been reported for oil-exposed corals (Burns and
672 Knap, 1989; Jafarabadi et al., 2018; Ko et al., 2014, Peters et al., 1981; Sabourin et al.,
673 2013) and hydrocarbons can remain in coral tissues weeks after placement in clean
674 seawater (Peters et al., 1981). The continued polyp retraction for the longest oil
675 exposure duration may result from PAH accumulation in the lipophilic coral polyp
676 tissues. Polyp behavior provided a key visual clue to decreasing coral health and this
677 health metric took days to recover to the level of the controls once the stressor was
678 removed.

679 The ability to regenerate tissue over wounded areas was inhibited following 6 h of crude
680 oil exposure (266 µg/L tPAH50) to pre-wounded *P. damicornis* fragments,

681 demonstrating that significant health impacts do occur with short-term oil exposures.
682 The lower tPAH50 dose (189 µg/L tPAH50) represented in the 12-24 h crude oil
683 exposures also impeded coral tissue regeneration. Recoveries for all short-term
684 exposures were delayed for 48-84 h after transferring fragments to fresh ASW.
685 Complete recovery did not occur following 7 days in fresh ASW for the fragments
686 treated with crude oil HEWAF for 96 h. This result is not unprecedented: Johannes et
687 al. (1972) observed complete tissue breakdown for several coral species exposed
688 directly to crude oil for 1.5 h, with no signs of regeneration on the oil-affected parts up to
689 4 weeks later. It is not clear if a longer recovery time would result in total recovery for
690 these fragments, or if eventual death would occur. While there has been a recent report
691 of polyp rejuvenescence in presumably totally 'dead' corals following a bleaching event
692 (Kersting and Linares, 2019), significant coral tissue loss from oil exposure may be
693 more difficult to repair, since bioaccumulated oil may continue to alter normal cellular
694 processes long after the environmental exposure has ended.

695 Significantly decreased tissue regeneration was observed for intact fragments exposed
696 to moderate tPAH50 levels and wounded in the recovery phase, indicating that oil is not
697 simply affecting abraded tissue. This is further evidence that crude oil has effects at the
698 cellular or subcellular level as detailed in section 4.1.3. The implications of oil damage
699 to corals are lowered resistance to disease or predation and possible colony death, with
700 increased negative impacts predicted for corals with lesions prior to exposure.

701 **4.3 Conclusion**

702 Following the DWH oil spill, measured tPAH50 concentrations in the 0-10 m depth
703 (shallow water coral habitat) ranged from undetectable to over 100 µg/L, with the
704 highest concentration observed in surface waters (0-1 m), 10-20 miles northwest of the
705 wellhead (Boehm et al., 2016). Crude oil was released from the site for nearly three
706 months, significantly damaging natural resources across many species extending
707 hundreds of kilometers from the release site. Total PAH50 concentrations in our study
708 were between 12 and 945 µg/L, with coral and zooxanthellae effects well within reported
709 environmental levels for this event. The toxic responses of *P. damicornis* to the 96 h oil
710 exposure are in the same range (low ppb) found for other marine organisms such as
711 fish, shrimp and echinoderms (Esbaugh et al., 2016; Hemmer et al., 2011; Incardona et
712 al., 2014; Neff et al., 2000; Stieglitz et al., 2016). We emphasize that care should be
713 taken when comparing studies, however, since the varying analyte composition in
714 different oil types may result in altered toxicity profiles. This is important especially
715 when using the data in risk assessments. We note that our study results likely
716 underestimate oil effects due to the omission of UV and the nature of the HEWAF
717 (containing small droplets, which may not be bioavailable). Our work shows that short
718 exposure times with moderate tPAH50 levels can negatively affect *P. damicornis* and its
719 symbionts, providing evidence that both acute and longer-term (chronic) PAH
720 exposures in the ppb range can impair coral health. Finally, we demonstrated that coral
721 tissue regeneration is a very sensitive indicator of petroleum hydrocarbon exposure.
722 With appropriate controls, wound healing could be implemented as part of a field
723 assessment to determine impacts of oil exposure to corals.

724 We have limited our initial investigation to a single species and life stage and have used
725 standardized laboratory settings (e.g., artificial light without UV, artificial seawater, etc).
726 Photo-enhanced oil toxicity has been reported for several species of marine organisms
727 (Alloy et al., 2016; Alloy et al., 2015; Boese et al., 1998; Newsted and Giesy, 1987; Oris
728 and Giesy Jr, 1987; Sweet et al., 2017) and coral larvae (Negri et al., 2016; Nordborg et
729 al., 2018), however. We would expect that under field conditions (e.g., UV light) that oil
730 toxicity thresholds for *P. damicornis* would be even lower than those reported in this
731 work. Further studies should include additional species representing other distinctive
732 morphologies, environmentally relevant levels of UV, as well as gametes or larvae, as
733 early life stages often exhibit higher sensitivity to xenobiotic stressors.

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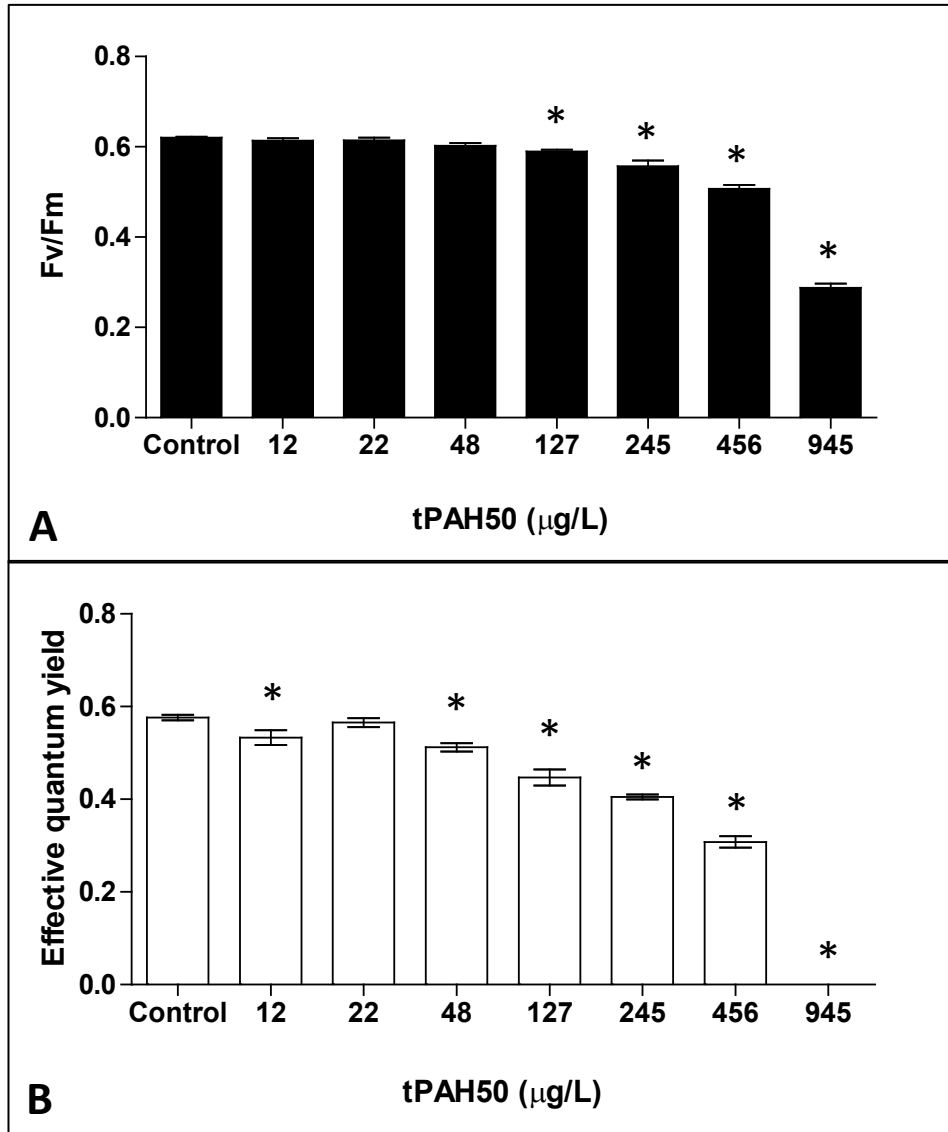


Figure 1. *Pocillipora damicornis* symbiont chlorophyll *a* fluorescence measurements following crude oil exposure. Panel A: dark-adapted maximum quantum yield after 82 h; Panel B: light-adapted effective quantum yield after 92 h. Total PAH50 (tPAH50) is reported as the sum of 50 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Maximum quantum yield (Fv/Fm, panel A) was reduced significantly (indicated by *) for treatments of 127 μg/L tPAH50 and higher after 82 h of exposure ($p < 0.05$). Effective quantum yield (EQY, panel B) was significantly lower ($p < 0.05$) following exposure with 12 μg/L tPAH50 for 92 h. Effective quantum yield was zero for the 945 μg/L tPAH50 treatment. Total PAH50 values are reported as the geometric mean of fresh and spent treatment solution (refreshed every 12 h).

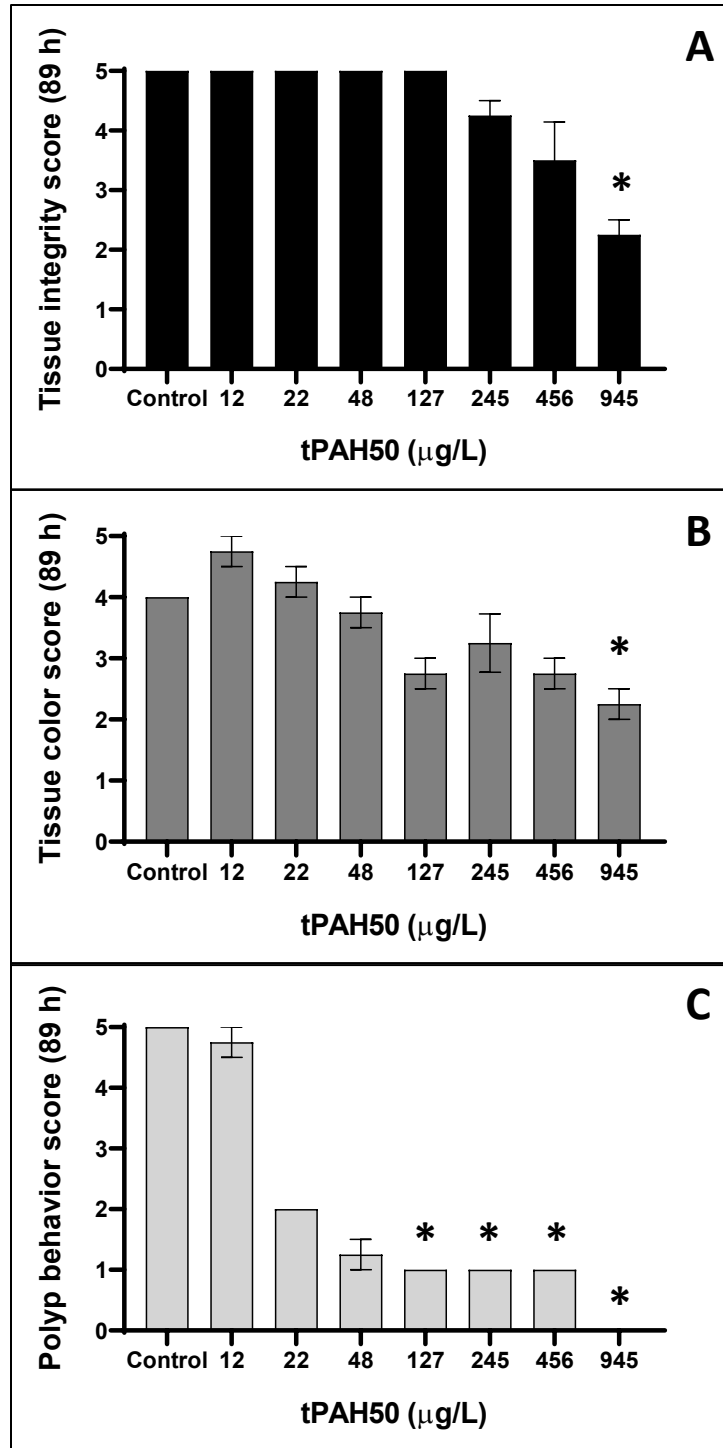


Figure 2. *Pocillopora damicornis* health status effects after 96 h HEWAF exposure. Oil treatments are reported as the sum of 50 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (tPAH50). Panel A: tissue integrity metric, Panel B: tissue color metric and Panel C: polyp behavior metric. Treatments marked with an asterisk (*) were significantly different from the

artificial seawater control at $p < 0.001$. Concentrations of tPAH50 are reported as the geometric mean of fresh and spent HEWAF treatment, which was refreshed every 12 h.

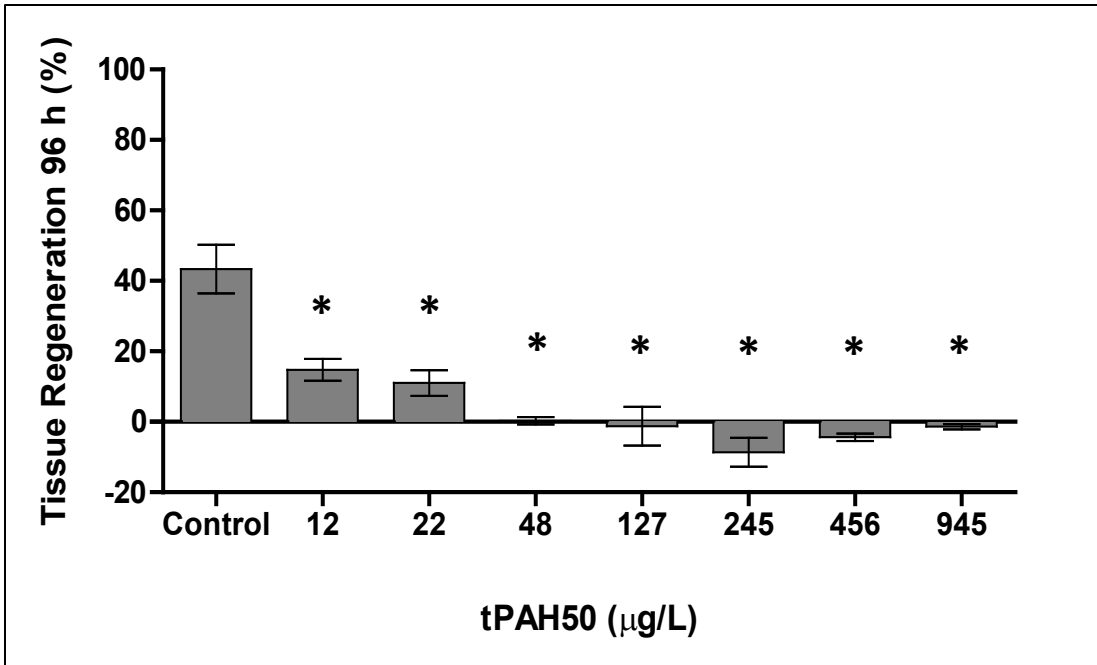


Figure 3. Percent tissue regeneration for *Pocillopora damicornis* following 96 h HEWAF exposure. Oil dose is reported as the sum of 50 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (tPAH50). Treatments designated with an asterisk (*) were significantly different from the control ($p < 0.005$). Total PAH50 values are reported the geometric mean of fresh and spent treatment solution (refreshed every 12 h).

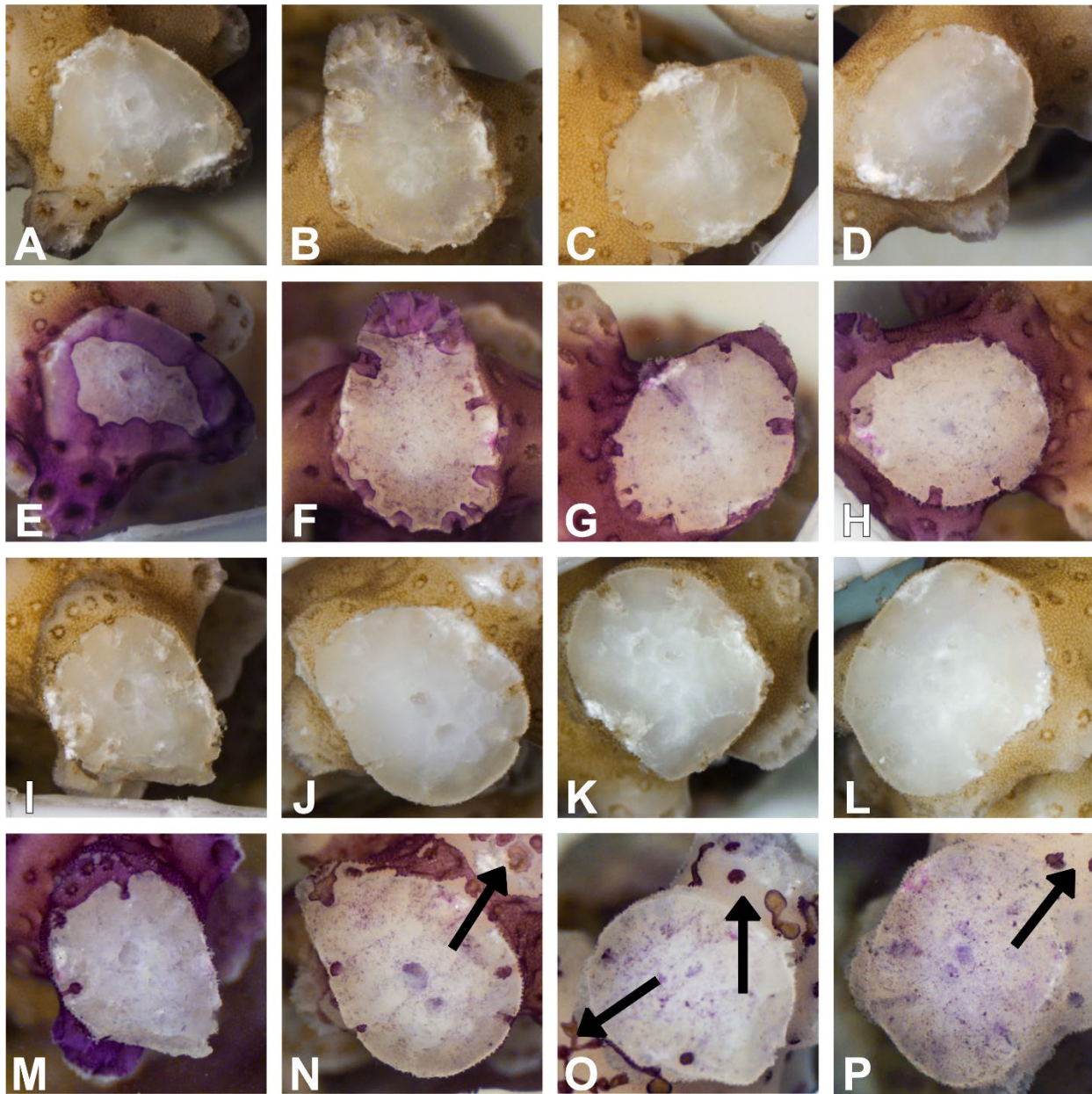


Figure 4. *Pocillopora damicornis* tissue regeneration images. Images are shown at time 0 following initial cut (Panels A-D and I-L) and after 96 h treatment, stained with toluidine blue O (Panels E-H and M-P). Panels A and E = ASW control, panels B and F = 12 µg/L tPAH50, panels C and G = 22 µg/L tPAH50, panels D and H = 48 µg/L tPAH50, panels I and M = 127 µg/L tPAH50, panels J and N = 245 µg/L tPAH50, panels K and O = 456 µg/L tPAH50 and panels L and P = 945 µg/L tPAH50. Areas of tissue loss for treatments at and above 245 µg/L tPAH50 are indicated by arrows in panels N, O and P. Total PAH50 values are reported as the geometric mean of fresh and spent treatment solution (refreshed every 12 h).

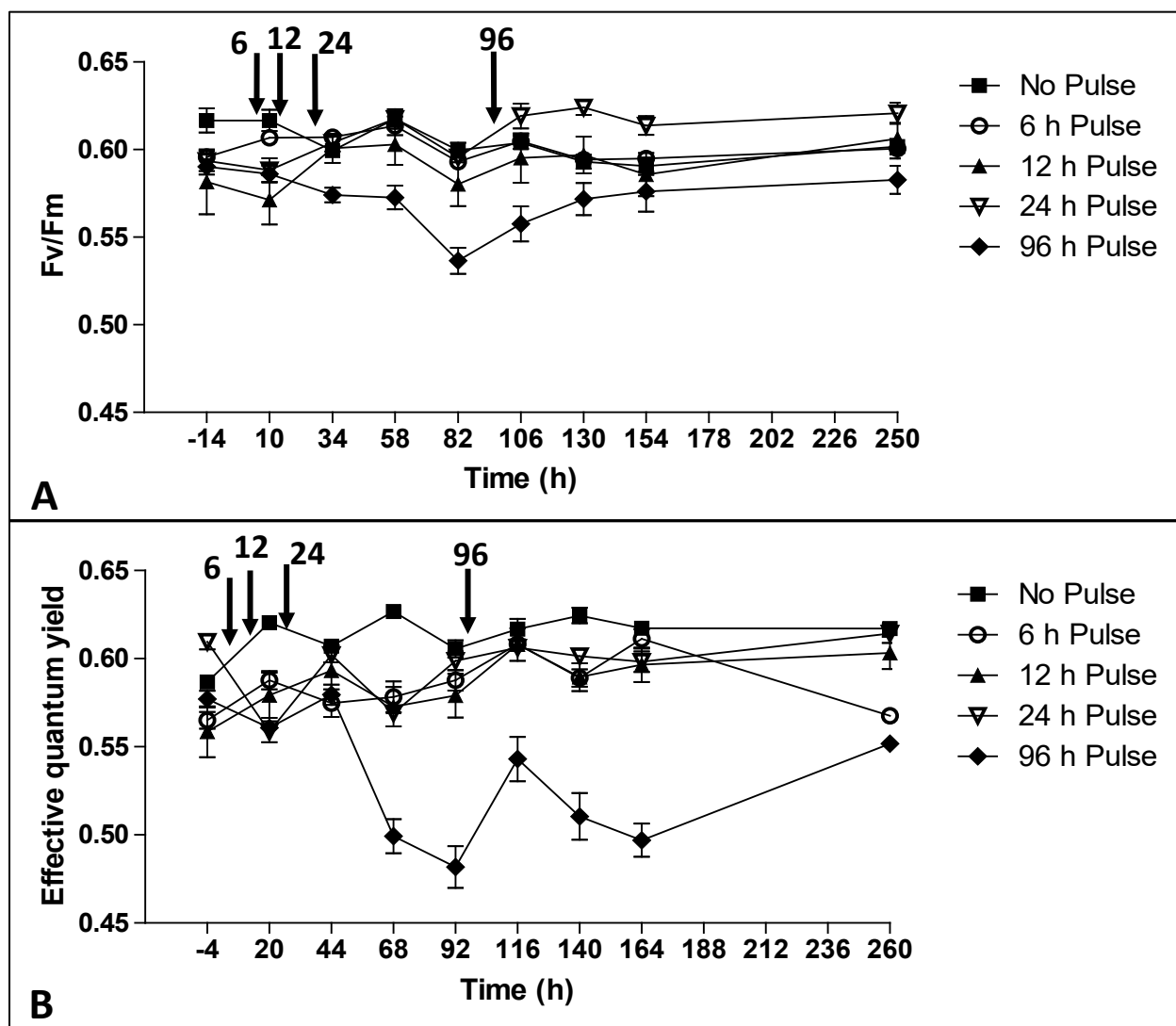


Figure 5. Chlorophyll a fluorescence measurements of *Pocillopora damicornis* algal symbionts following short-term crude oil exposure. The HEWAF exposure durations of 6, 12, 24 and 96 h (indicated by arrows) contained 266 $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50 (6 h duration) or 189 $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50 (12, 24 or 96 h duration) (geometric mean of fresh and spent HEWAF treatment). Maximum quantum yield (Fv/Fm, evaluated two hours before the light cycle began) was reduced significantly ($p < 0.05$) for the 12 h and 96 h pulse durations at the 10-h time point (Panel A). No significance was observed for Fv/Fm in the 6 h and 24 h pulse durations. Fragments exposed to a 12 h pulse recovered Fv/Fm within 24 h after treatment ended and fragments exposed for 96 h recovered to the level of the controls within 34 h post treatment (130 h time point). Effective quantum yield (EQY, measured two hours before light cycle ended) for all oil pulse durations was impacted significantly compared to controls at the 20 h time point (Panel B, $p < 0.05$). The EQY for 6, 12 and 24 h pulse exposures recovered to the level of the controls by 92 h. The 96 h pulse

duration was significantly different from the control up to 68 h post treatment and recovered by the end of the experiment (260 h).

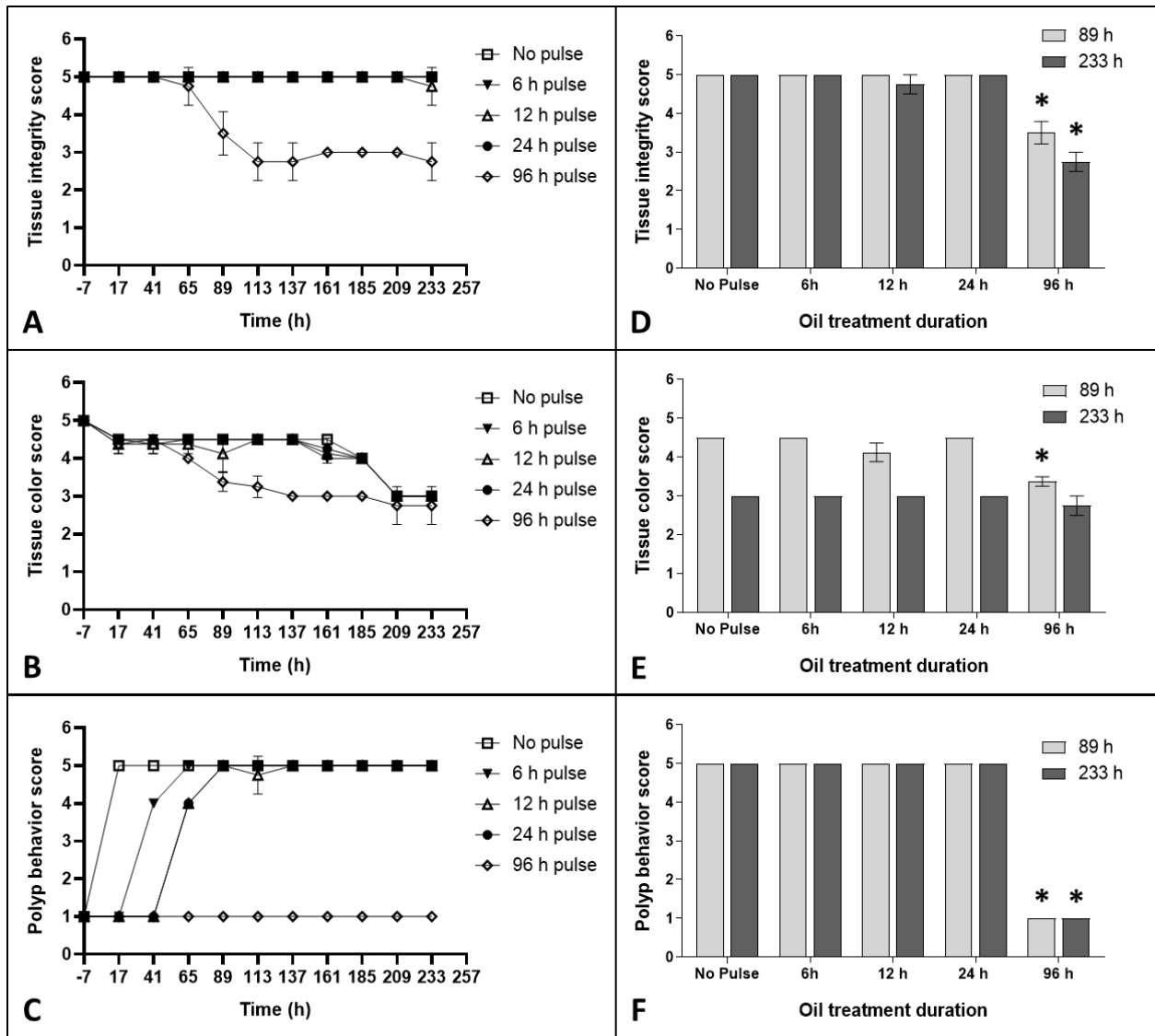


Figure 6. *Pocillopora damicornis* health status scores following short-term HEWAF pulse durations (189-266 $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50, refreshed every 12 h). Coral fragments were evaluated at 2 pm daily. Initial evaluation at -7 h included polyp retraction for all treatments following image analysis. Tissue integrity (Panels A and D) and tissue color (Panels B and E) were not affected by short-term (6-24 h) oil exposures. Coral fragments exposed to HEWAF for 96 h lost tissue and did not recover to the level of the controls after one week in fresh artificial seawater (Panel D, * = significant at $p < 0.05$). Tissue color for the 96 h treatment duration was significantly reduced (indicated by *, $p < 0.05$) from 65 to 185 h (Panel E). All treatments (including controls) had reduced tissue color scores after 185 h. Polyp behavior was significantly affected by all treatment durations (Panels C and F). Recovery for the 6 h (266 $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50), 12 h and 24 h (189 $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50) exposures occurred within 53 h after treatment ceased (Panel C). The 96 h pulse (189 $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50) exposure had significantly reduced

(indicated by *, $p < 0.05$) polyp behavior at 89 h and at 137 h post treatment (233 h) time point (Panel F). Total PAH50 is the geometric mean of fresh and spent (6 or 12 h) HEWAF solutions.

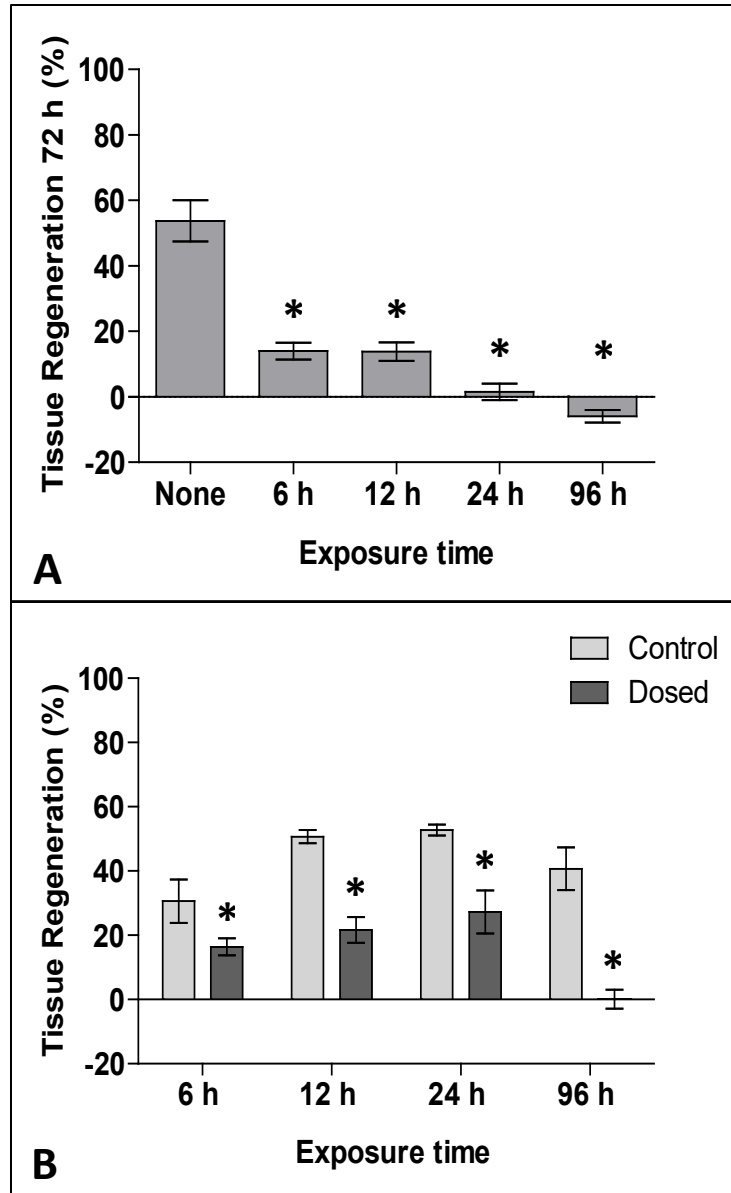


Figure 7. Percent tissue regeneration for *Pocillopora damicornis* fragments after short-term HEWAF exposures (189-266 $\mu\text{g/L}$ tPAH50, refreshed every 12 h). Panel A: tissue regeneration for cut fragments exposed to HEWAF. At 72 h, all treatments had significantly reduced (*) tissue regeneration when compared to the artificial seawater control ($p < 0.0001$). Fragments exposed for 96 h did not recover to the level of the controls by experiment termination (168 h post treatment). Panel B: Results of intact fragments exposed to HEWAF (cut and placed in fresh artificial seawater). Dosed and control treatments for each exposure time were imaged when controls for each treatment duration reached 30-50 % tissue regeneration (72-84 h post exposure). All dosed fragments exhibited significantly reduced ($p < 0.05$) tissue regeneration when compared to the controls (indicated by *)

Table 1. Coral health score rubric. Maximum cumulative score for a healthy coral is 15: five points for color, five points for tissue integrity and five points for polyp extension.

Score	Polyp Behavior	Color	Tissue loss (%)
5	All fully extended	Normal, 100% color	0
4	Fully extended, few withdrawn	25% color loss	1-25
3	Polyps extended 50%	Pale, 50% color loss	26-50
2	Polyps extended 10%	75% color loss	51-75
1	No polyps extended	Bleached, with pale areas	76-99
0	Polyp bailout	Totally bleached	100

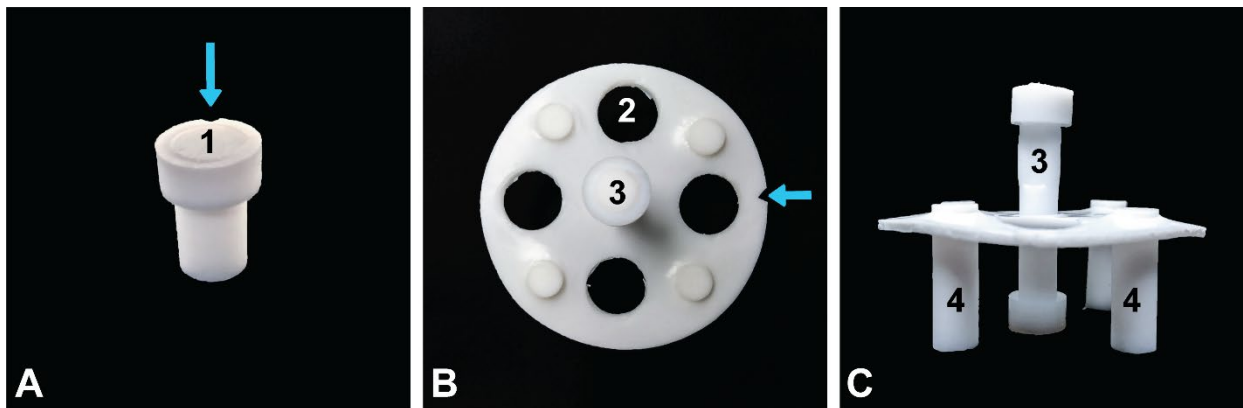
Table 2. Reported effect concentrations for the 96 h HEWAF dose-response exposure using fresh (time 0) treatments or the geometric mean (Geomean) of fresh and 12 h spent treatment solutions (units = µg/L tPAH50). C. I. = 95 % confidence interval, Fv/Fm = maximum quantum yield, EQY = effective quantum yield, Tissue reg. = tissue regeneration, Tissue integ. = tissue integrity, Polyp retract. = polyp retraction.

Endpoint	Fresh EC₁₀ (C. I.)	Fresh EC₅₀ (C. I.)	Geomean EC₁₀ (C. I.)	Geomean EC₅₀ (C. I.)
Fv/Fm (82 h)	1193 (1051-1355)	3804 (3575-4049)	330 (292-372)	913 (862-968)
EQY (92 h)	632 (472-847)	1640 (1429-1882)	176 (13-234)	428 (375-488)
Tissue reg. (96 h)	7 (1-52)	29 (15-57)	3 (0.4-16)	10 (6-19)
Tissue integ. (89 h)	711 (431-1174)	3296 (2595-4187)	202 (128-319)	806 (649-1000)
Tissue color (89 h)	111 (15-853)	3820 (1741-8385)	36 (5-234)	926 (450-1907)
Polyp retract. (89 h)	8 (2-23)	84 (50-139)	3 (1-9)	27 (17-43)

1037 **Supplement A.** Detailed design for the construction of custom Teflon coral mounting
1038 pegs and coral fragment support stands.

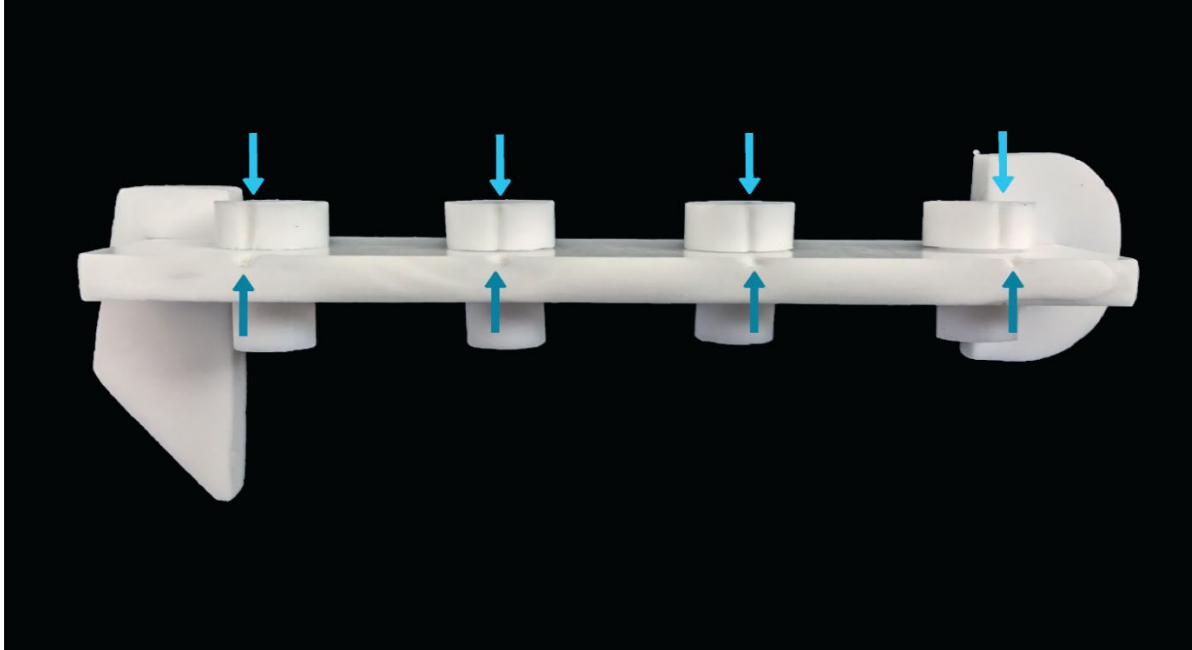
1039 A Teflon® coral mounting peg was fabricated from a 9.5 mm Teflon rod with a 4.6 mm
1040 section of Teflon tubing (ID=9.5 mm, OD=12.7 mm, wall=1.6 mm) capping one end
1041 (Figure A.1.1, panel A).

1042 Round Teflon coral jar stands (Figure A.1, panels B, C) were constructed from a 50.8
1043 mm dia PTFE disk (cut from a 1.6 mm thick sheet, Industrial Plastic Supply (Anaheim,
1044 CA) with alternating 9.5 mm (4) and 4.8 mm (4) holes around the edge equidistant from
1045 one another. A center 7.6 mm hole was used to insert a 6.4 mm diameter Teflon rod
1046 (38.1 mm long), used as a grip. Teflon tubing sections (OD=9.5 mm, ID=6.4 mm,
1047 wall=1.6 mm, length=4.6 mm) on each end of the center rod were added to hold the grip
1048 in place. Four 6.4 mm dia x 19.1 mm long rods were grooved with a lathe,
1049 approximately 3.2 mm from one end, then snapped into the 4.8 mm holes as support
1050 legs. A notch was cut into the support disk next to one 9.5 mm hole as an orientation
1051 reference.



1052 **Figure A.1.** Teflon coral mounting peg (panel A) and Teflon coral fragment stand
1053 (panel B, top view; panel C, side view) custom-constructed for coral toxicology
1054 experiments. 1=coral mounting surface, 2=hole for coral peg, 3=grip, 4=support legs,
1055 blue arrow=orientation notch.
1056

1057 A rectangular Teflon stand was constructed for PAM fluorometry (Figure A.2). The stand
1058 measured 120 x 28 x 5.5 mm and four 9.5 mm dia holes were cut in the top to fit four
1059 Teflon pegs with coral. On the side of the stand and in the center of each hole, an
1060 orientation notch was cut for aligning with the notch on the Teflon coral peg during
1061 imaging (blue arrows). Two 30 x 20 mm pieces with notches were cut from the same
1062 Teflon sheet and inserted over the stand to keep the stand from tilting when filled with
1063 coral.



1064

1065 **Figure A.2.** Teflon PAM fluorometry stand. Teflon pegs (with coral) were placed in the
1066 stand so that orientation notches on both peg and stand were aligned. The stand was
1067 placed on its side in a crystallizing dish, so that side-view measurements of the coral
1068 could be collected. Data was collected from the same surface of each fragment during
1069 repeated measurements.

1070

1071 PAM fluorometry detailed methods:

1072 Instrument settings were optimized for *P. damicornis*: measuring light intensity = 1,
1073 frequency = 1, gain = 1, damping = 2, saturation pulse intensity = 10 and absorptivity,
1074 red gain = 10, red intensity = 2 and NIR intensity = 9. The PAM imaging system was
1075 white-balanced and a standard fluorescence color card was used to calibrate the
1076 instrument before each use. Teflon-mounted coral nubbins from each treatment (n = 4)
1077 were set in a rectangular Teflon fluorometry stand (Supplement A.2), aligned using
1078 notches, and placed horizontally in a glass crystallizing dish (150 x 75 mm) filled with
1079 500 mL ASW (-14 h and -4 h), or the respective treatment solution (all other time
1080 points).

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1085 **Supplement B.** Analytical chemistry data.

1086 **Table B.1.** Fresh (Time 0) tPAH50 results from dose-response experiment. Total
 1087 PAH50 concentrations in µg/L. ('-' represents individual PAHs below the limit of
 1088 detection)

PAH Analyte	HEWAF nominal Oil Concentrations (Time 0h)							
	250 mg/L	125 mg/L	62.5 mg/L	31.3 mg/L	15.6 mg/L	7.8 mg/L	3.9 mg/L	0 mg/L
Naphthalene	76.1	39.1	22.2	13.7	5.81	2.26	1.23	-
C1-Naphthalenes	468	156	89.6	50.8	19.4	7.41	3.98	-
C2-Naphthalenes	918	350	194	100	37.4	12.44	7.46	-
C3-Naphthalenes	1064	468	221	97.5	32.6	12.71	7.45	-
C4-Naphthalenes	88.1	38.5	20.8	10.6	3.62	1.22	0.61	-
Biphenyl	24.9	9.81	5.93	3.29	1.28	0.43	0.27	-
Acenaphthene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acenaphthylene	11.9	4.32	2.34	1.29	0.41	0.16	0.07	-
Fluorene	24.5	9.27	5.02	2.63	0.99	0.35	0.19	-
C1-Fluorenes	151	73.9	45.2	12.4	8.05	2.76	1.38	-
C2-Fluorenes	105	52.2	25.5	13.3	4.61	1.24	0.73	-
C3-Fluorenes	83.4	37.6	19.5	10.0	3.99	1.01	0.54	-
Dibenzofuran	4.79	1.88	1.04	0.56	0.21	0.06	0.05	-
Dibenzothiophene	5.87	2.42	1.45	0.71	0.26	0.10	0.05	-
C1-Dibenzothiophenes	37.2	16.9	10.6	5.33	1.90	0.72	0.37	-
C2-Dibenzothiophenes	31.1	16.2	9.54	4.82	1.82	0.67	0.34	-
C3-Dibenzothiophenes	19.8	10.2	5.77	3.19	1.27	0.42	0.21	-
C4-Dibenzothiophenes	8.66	5.04	3.03	1.65	0.58	0.22	0.11	-
Phenanthrene	50.3	19.6	11.2	5.63	2.06	0.76	0.40	-
Anthracene	2.28	1.17	0.57	0.27	0.09	0.06	0.02	-
C1-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	187	95.9	56.1	27.8	10.3	3.75	1.84	-
C2-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	366	201	82.4	34.4	11.6	7.20	3.61	-
C3-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	76.8	37.4	22.7	11.7	4.50	1.74	0.87	-
C4-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	41.2	19.6	13.3	6.50	2.64	1.11	0.49	-
Fluoranthene	1.93	0.80	0.47	0.24	0.09	0.03	0.02	-
Pyrene	1.92	0.80	0.47	0.23	0.09	0.03	0.02	-
C1-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	6.82	2.83	2.12	0.91	0.35	0.13	0.06	-
C2-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	24.8	10.5	8.54	4.15	1.63	0.65	0.31	-
C3-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	19.5	10.0	7.58	3.66	1.37	0.67	0.29	-
C4-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	9.80	4.84	3.90	1.97	0.79	0.42	0.17	-
Benzo(a)anthracene	1.55	0.63	0.38	0.18	0.07	0.02	0.01	-
Chrysene+Triphenylene	8.88	3.49	2.06	1.00	0.37	0.13	0.07	-
C1-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	8.90	3.65	2.34	1.16	0.42	0.11	0.08	-
C2-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	7.46	2.94	2.03	1.02	0.37	0.11	0.08	-
C3-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	3.83	1.57	1.17	0.58	0.22	0.07	0.06	-
C4-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	1.16	0.45	0.34	0.18	0.06	0.02	0.02	-
Benzo[b]naphtho[2,1-d]thiophene	3.03	1.19	0.66	0.32	0.12	0.03	0.02	-
C1-Naphthobenzothiophenes	8.79	3.57	2.24	1.10	0.39	0.13	0.08	-
C2-Naphthobenzothiophenes	8.81	3.64	2.49	1.24	0.44	0.12	0.09	-
C3-Naphthobenzothiophenes	2.94	1.19	0.84	0.45	0.16	0.05	0.04	-
C4-Naphthobenzothiophenes	1.37	0.61	0.39	0.21	0.07	0.02	0.02	-
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	0.87	0.34	0.19	0.10	0.04	0.01	0.01	-
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzo(j)fluoranthene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzo(a)fluoranthene	0.21	0.10	0.06	0.02	0.01	-	-	-
Benzo(e)pyrene	1.98	0.78	0.44	0.21	0.08	0.03	0.01	-
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.25	0.14	0.08	0.04	0.01	-	-	-
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	-	0.05	0.03	-	-	-	-	-
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	0.31	0.12	0.07	0.03	0.01	-	-	-
TPAH50	3971	1721	907	438	163	61.6	33.7	0.00

1089

1090 **Table B.2.** Spent (12 h) HEWAF tPAH50 concentrations (µg/L) from dose-response
 1091 experiment. ('-' represents individual PAHs that were below the limit of detection)

PAH Analyte	HEWAF nominal Oil Concentrations (Time 0h)							
	250 mg/L	125 mg/L	62.5 mg/L	31.3 mg/L	15.6 mg/L	7.8 mg/L	3.9 mg/L	0 mg/L
Naphthalene	13.2	6.5	3.5	1.7	0.63	0.32	-	-
C1-Naphthalenes	34	19	10.4	5.4	2.0	1.12	0.46	-
C2-Naphthalenes	48	27	15	8	3.2	1.75	0.76	-
C3-Naphthalenes	37	19	11	5.6	2.0	1.20	0.65	-
C4-Naphthalenes	3.2	1.5	1.6	0.4	0.14	0.07	0.04	-
Biphenyl	2.4	1.40	0.79	0.43	0.17	0.08	0.04	-
Acenaphthene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acenaphthylene	0.3	0.18	0.10	0.05	0.03	0.01	-	-
Fluorene	1.8	1.07	0.62	0.37	0.13	0.08	0.04	0.01
C1-Fluorenes	10	5.3	2.7	1.6	0.61	0.30	0.17	0.01
C2-Fluorenes	5	2.6	1.4	0.7	0.28	0.15	0.09	-
C3-Fluorenes	4.7	2.0	1.0	0.5	0.18	0.08	0.05	-
Dibenzofuran	0.39	0.23	0.13	0.07	0.03	0.02	0.01	-
Dibenzothiophene	0.51	0.31	0.19	0.11	0.04	0.03	0.01	-
C1-Dibenzothiophenes	2.6	1.4	0.8	0.45	0.17	0.09	0.05	-
C2-Dibenzothiophenes	2.3	1.2	0.59	0.37	0.11	0.06	0.04	0.01
C3-Dibenzothiophenes	1.5	0.8	0.34	0.25	0.07	0.03	0.02	-
C4-Dibenzothiophenes	0.77	0.39	0.15	0.11	0.03	0.02	0.01	-
Phenanthrene	3.7	2.2	1.3	0.87	0.33	0.19	0.10	0.01
Anthracene	0.14	0.10	-	-	-	-	-	-
C1-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	13	7.4	4.1	2.5	0.9	0.49	0.26	0.04
C2-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	23	12	6.6	4.6	1.4	0.70	0.36	0.05
C3-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	5.2	3.0	1.5	1.1	0.36	0.23	0.07	-
C4-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	3.1	1.6	0.8	0.64	0.24	0.13	0.10	-
Fluoranthene	0.10	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.01	-	-	-
Pyrene	0.11	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.01	-	-
C1-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	0.44	0.24	0.11	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.01	-
C2-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	1.8	0.9	0.43	0.26	0.12	0.07	0.04	-
C3-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	1.8	0.8	0.35	0.30	0.13	0.07	0.05	-
C4-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	0.96	0.51	0.27	0.17	0.08	0.04	0.02	-
Benzo(a)anthracene	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.01	-	-	-	-
Chrysene+Triphenylene	0.41	0.22	0.12	0.09	0.03	0.02	0.01	-
C1-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	0.51	0.27	0.14	0.10	0.03	0.02	0.01	-
C2-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	0.58	0.34	0.24	0.15	0.06	0.05	0.02	-
C3-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	0.33	0.17	0.09	0.07	0.02	0.01	0.01	-
C4-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	0.10	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.01	-	-
Benzo[b]naphtho[2,1-d]thiophene	0.13	0.07	0.03	0.03	0.01	-	-	-
C1-Naphthobenzothiophenes	0.47	0.24	0.14	0.10	0.03	0.02	0.01	-
C2-Naphthobenzothiophenes	0.60	0.32	0.20	0.12	0.04	0.03	0.02	-
C3-Naphthobenzothiophenes	0.25	0.13	0.07	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.01	-
C4-Naphthobenzothiophenes	0.12	0.07	0.03	0.02	0.01	-	-	-
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.01	-	-	-	-
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzo(j)fluoranthene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzo(a)fluoranthene	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzo(e)pyrene	0.09	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.01	-	-	-
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.02	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	0.02	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-
TPAH50	225	121	66	37	14	7.5	3.5	0.13

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1093 **Table B.3.** Total PAH50 from selected time points in the pulse-chase experiment (62.5
 1094 mg/L nominal oil HEWAF).

Total PAH50 (µg/L)			
Test Duration	Time 0 (Fresh)	Time 6 h	Time 12h
0 h	504		64.5
0 h	555		
0 h	569		
6 h		131	
12 h	506		
12 h	461		
24 h	465		71.2
24 h	485		
84 h	479		
96 h			78.6
Average	503	131	71.5
Standard Deviation	40.0		7.06

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Table B.4. Average PAH concentrations from the 62.5 mg/L oil HEWAF measured in the pulse-chase experiment (concentrations in µg/L).

PAH Analyte	62.5 mg/L HEWAF Chemistry						Control Water Chemistry				
	Fresh HEWAF (t=0hr)		Spent HEWAF (t=6hr)	Spent HEWAF (t=12hr)		Control water (t=0hr)		Spent Control (t=6hr)	Spent Control (t=12hr)		
	Average conc. µg/L (n=8)	Standard Deviation	conc. µg/L (n=1)	Average conc. µg/L (n=3)	Standard Deviation	Average conc. µg/L (n=2)	Standard Deviation	conc. µg/L (n=1)	Average conc. µg/L (n=3)	Standard Deviation	
Naphthalene	21.2	0.71	5.36	2.97	0.61	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C1-Naphthalenes	58.7	2.60	15.4	8.94	1.31	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.00	
C2-Naphthalenes	102	8.06	21.4	15.0	2.30	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.02	
C3-Naphthalenes	117	13.3	22.8	13.6	1.82	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.01	
C4-Naphthalenes	18.1	4.74	3.91	1.62	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Biphenyl	3.92	0.30	1.00	0.66	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Acenaphthene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Acenaphthylene	0.90	0.12	0.13	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Fluorene	3.10	0.31	0.96	0.63	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C1-Fluorenes	20.4	2.27	5.00	2.89	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	
C2-Fluorenes	13.1	1.30	3.51	1.68	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C3-Fluorenes	9.63	1.20	3.06	1.36	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Dibenzofuran	0.68	0.09	0.18	0.12	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Dibenzothiophene	0.94	0.07	0.29	0.20	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C1-Dibenzothiophenes	6.26	0.37	1.73	0.98	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C2-Dibenzothiophenes	4.95	0.34	1.50	0.71	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C3-Dibenzothiophenes	3.02	0.20	0.99	0.46	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C4-Dibenzothiophenes	1.55	0.14	0.26	0.24	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Phenanthrene	6.97	0.43	2.20	1.55	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	
Anthracene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C1-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	29.5	1.87	8.56	4.93	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	
C2-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	40.3	4.07	17.9	6.78	1.13	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.01	
C3-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	13.7	1.26	4.60	1.93	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C4-Phenanthrenes/Anthracenes	5.74	0.99	2.56	0.88	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Fluoranthene	0.23	0.02	0.07	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Pyrene	0.29	0.02	0.09	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C1-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	0.91	0.10	0.30	0.15	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C2-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	3.65	0.29	1.09	0.54	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C3-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	3.77	0.27	1.28	0.58	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C4-Fluoranthenes/Pyrenes	2.19	0.17	0.83	0.32	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Benzo(a)anthracene	0.20	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Chrysene+Triphenylene	1.19	0.07	0.37	0.19	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C1-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	1.39	0.08	0.46	0.22	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C2-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	1.37	0.11	0.50	0.22	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C3-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	0.85	0.05	0.36	0.13	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C4-Chrysenes/Benzanthracenes	0.30	0.03	0.15	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Benzo[b]naphtho[2,1-d]thiophene	0.37	0.03	0.11	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C1-Naphthobenzothiophenes	1.36	0.07	0.46	0.22	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C2-Naphthobenzothiophenes	1.61	0.07	0.59	0.28	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C3-Naphthobenzothiophenes	0.47	0.05	0.21	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C4-Naphthobenzothiophenes	0.30	0.04	0.12	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	0.11	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Benzo(j)fluoranthene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Benzo[a]fluoranthene	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Benzo(e)pyrene	0.24	0.02	0.08	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TPAH50	503		131	71.5		0.14		0.16	0.06		

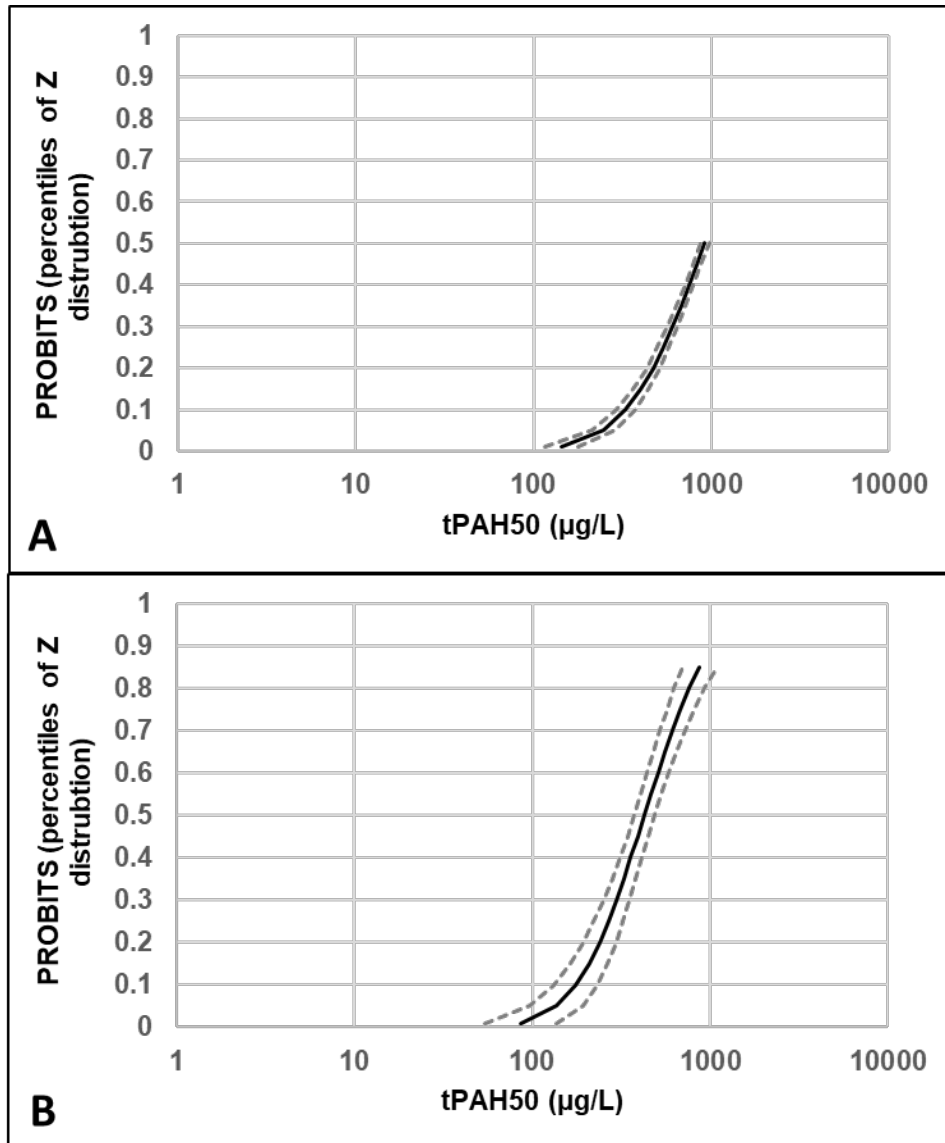
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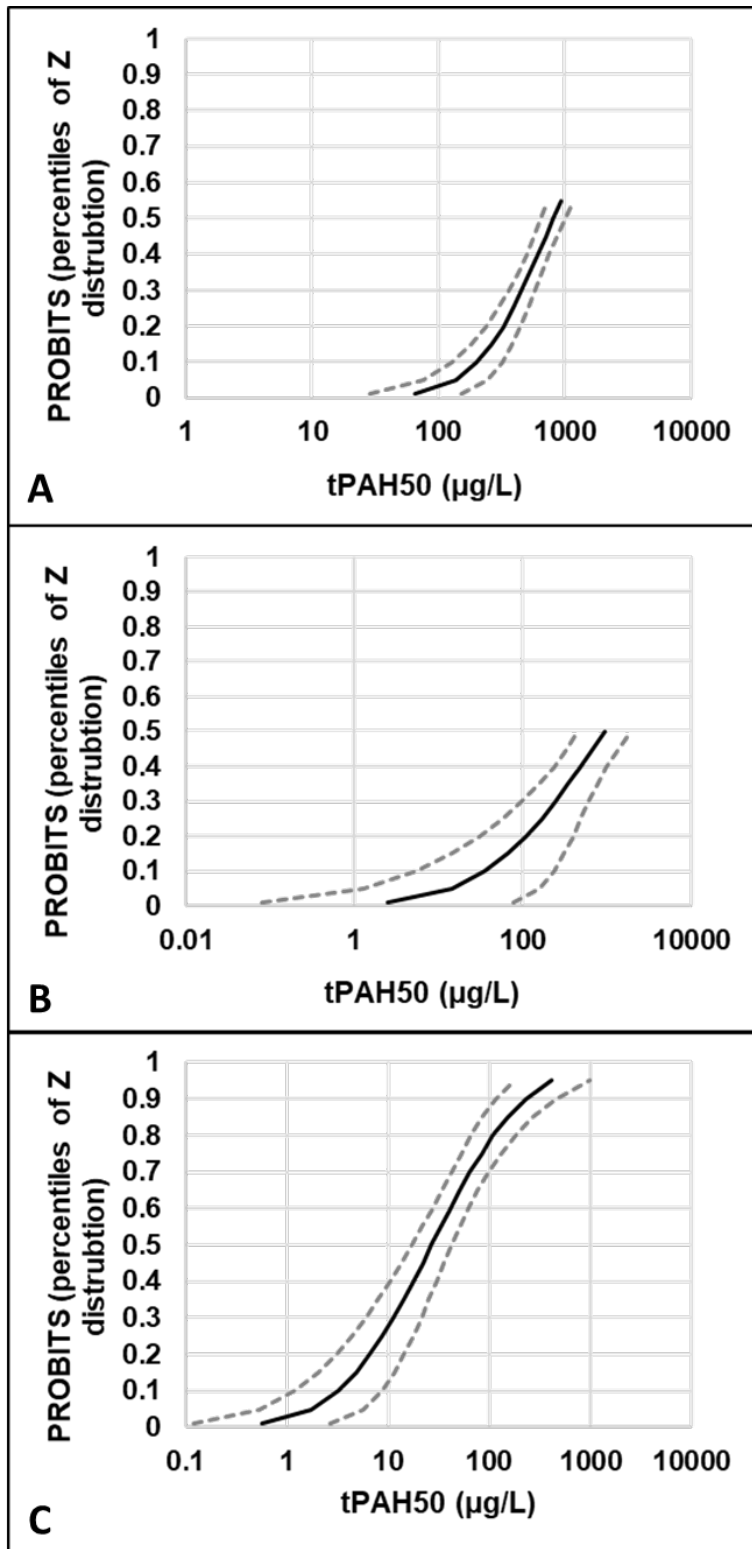
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1103 Supplement C. Response curves.



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Figure C.1. Results of the probit analyses for chlorophyll *a* fluorescence. Panel A: dark-adapted maximum quantum yield (F_v/F_m) at 82 h; Panel B: light-adapted effective quantum yield at 92 h. Response curves (black lines) are shown with 95 % confidence intervals (gray, dashed lines).



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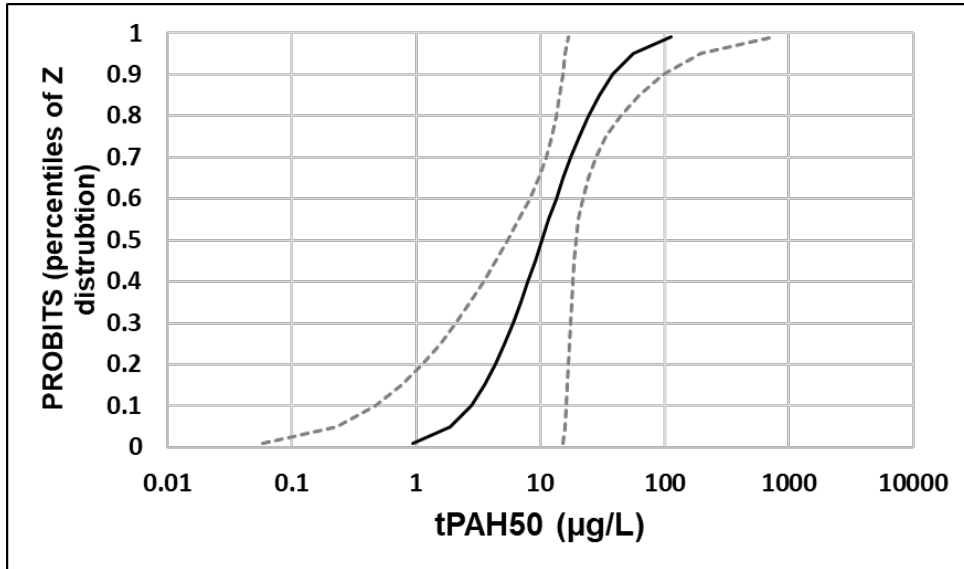
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Figure C.2. Results of the probit analyses for the health assessments. Panel A: tissue integrity metric; Panel B: tissue

1113 color metric; Panel C: polyp behavior metric. Response curves
1114 (black lines) are shown with 95 % confidence intervals (gray,
1115 dashed lines).

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1119 **Figure C.3.** Results of the probit analysis for tissue regeneration.
1120 Response curves (black lines) are shown with 95 % confidence
1121 intervals (gray, dashed lines).

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1136 **Supplement D.** HEWAF 96 h exposure health score data. Scores ranged from zero
 1137 (poor condition) to five (excellent condition) in three categories: tissue integrity, tissue
 1138 color and polyp extension.

tPAH50		Condition	- 7 h	17 h	41 h	65 h	89 h	tPAH50		Condition	- 7 h	17 h	41 h	65 h	89 h
Treatment	Replicate							Treatment	Replicate						
ASW	1	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5	127 µg/L	1	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5
		Color	5	5	5	4	4			Color	5	5	4	4	3
		Polyp	5	5	5	5	5			Polyp	5	1	1	1	1
	2	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		2	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5
		Color	5	5	5	4	4			Color	5	5	5	5	3
		Polyp	5	5	5	5	5			Polyp	5	1	1	1	1
	3	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		3	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5
		Color	5	5	4	4	4			Color	5	5	4	4	3
		Polyp	5	5	4	5	5			Polyp	5	2	1	1	1
	4	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		4	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5
		Color	5	5	5	4	4			Color	5	5	4	3	2
		Polyp	5	5	5	5	5			Polyp	5	2	1	2	1
12 µg/L	1	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5	245 µg/L	1	Tissue	5	5	5	4	4
		Color	5	5	5	5	5			Color	5	5	4	4	4
		Polyp	5	1	3	4	4			Polyp	5	1	1	1	1
	2	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		2	Tissue	5	5	5	5	4
		Color	5	5	5	5	5			Color	5	5	4	4	4
		Polyp	5	1	3	5	5			Polyp	5	2	1	1	1
	3	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		3	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5
		Color	5	5	5	5	4			Color	5	5	4	4	3
		Polyp	5	2	4	5	5			Polyp	5	1	1	1	1
	4	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		4	Tissue	5	5	5	5	4
		Color	5	5	5	5	5			Color	5	5	4	3	2
		Polyp	5	1	4	4	5			Polyp	5	2	1	1	1
22 µg/L	1	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5	456 µg/L	1	Tissue	5	5	5	5	4
		Color	5	5	4	4	4			Color	5	5	4	4	3
		Polyp	5	2	1	1	2			Polyp	5	1	1	1	1
	2	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		2	Tissue	5	5	5	5	3
		Color	5	5	5	5	5			Color	5	5	4	4	3
		Polyp	5	2	2	2	2			Polyp	5	1	1	1	1
	3	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		3	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5
		Color	5	5	4	4	4			Color	5	5	4	4	3
		Polyp	5	1	1	1	2			Polyp	5	1	1	1	1
	4	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		4	Tissue	5	5	5	4	2
		Color	5	5	4	4	4			Color	5	5	4	3	2
		Polyp	5	3	1	2	2			Polyp	5	2	1	1	1
48 µg/L	1	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5	945 µg/L	1	Tissue	5	5	5	5	2
		Color	5	5	4	4	4			Color	5	5	4	4	2
		Polyp	5	2	2	1	1			Polyp	5	1	1	1	0
	2	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		2	Tissue	5	5	5	5	2
		Color	5	5	4	4	4			Color	5	5	4	3	3
		Polyp	5	1	1	1	2			Polyp	5	1	1	1	0
	3	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		3	Tissue	5	5	5	5	3
		Color	5	5	5	5	4			Color	5	5	4	3	2
		Polyp	5	1	1	1	1			Polyp	5	2	1	1	0
	4	Tissue	5	5	5	5	5		4	Tissue	5	5	5	5	2
		Color	5	5	4	4	3			Color	5	5	4	4	2
		Polyp	5	2	1	1	1			Polyp	5	1	1	1	0

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1142 **Supplement E.** Pulse-chase experiment health score raw data. *A score of 3.5 or 4.5
 1143 for color indicates that the polyp tentacles are dark, but the surrounding tissue is
 1144 increasingly pale.

Treatment	Rep	Condition	17h	41h	65h	89h	113 h	137 h	161 h	185 h	209 h	233h
			21-Mar	22-Mar	23-Mar	24-Mar	25-Mar	26-Mar	27-Mar	28-Mar	29-Mar	30-Mar
No Pulse control	A	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5*	4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	B	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	C	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	D	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6h pulse	A	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	4	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	B	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	C	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	D	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
12h pulse	A	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4	4	4	4	4.5	4.5	4	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	B	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	C	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	4	5	4	5	5	5	5	5
	D	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	3.5	4.5	4.5	4	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
24h pulse	A	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	B	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	C	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	D	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
96h pulse	A	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	2
		Color (0-5)	4	4.5	4	3.5	3	3	3	3	2	2
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	B	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4	3.5	3.5	3	3	3	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	C	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	3
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4	3.5	3.5	3	3	3	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	D	Tissue (0-5)	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
		Color (0-5)	4.5	4.5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
		Polyp ext (0-5)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

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