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Testing the Intermittent Upwelling Hypothesis: Upwelling, Downwelling, and Subsidies to the Intertidal Zone

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Running Head: Testing Intermittent Upwelling Hypothesis

**Abstract**

The Intermittent Upwelling Hypothesis (IUH) posits that subsidies of larvae and phytoplankton to intertidal communities should vary unimodally along a gradient of upwelling from persistent upwelling to persistent downwelling with most subsidies occurring where upwelling is of

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30 intermediate strength and intermittent. Furthermore, the hypothesis states that larvae and  
31 phytoplankton are transported far offshore by strong, persistent upwelling and fail to subsidize  
32 nearshore communities, whereas weak upwelling or downwelling reduces nutrients for  
33 phytoplankton production limiting food for larvae and nearshore communities. We review  
34 studies conducted at sea and onshore and reanalyze published data to test the IUH and evaluate  
35 alternative hypotheses. To test the hypothesis, we examine five predictions that must hold if the  
36 IUH is true. 1) *Larvae should inhabit the surface Ekman layer where they are transported*  
37 *offshore during upwelling.* Larvae of many intertidal taxa occur deeper in the water column  
38 where currents flow shoreward during upwelling. 2) *Larvae of nearshore species should occur*  
39 *farther offshore during upwelling than during relaxation or downwelling.* Larvae of many  
40 nearshore species remain within several kilometers of shore during both conditions. 3) *Larval*  
41 *settlement in intertidal communities should be lower during upwelling than relaxation or*  
42 *downwelling.* Daily larval settlement has not observed to be higher during relaxation or  
43 downwelling events; settlement has most often been seen to vary with the fortnightly tidal cycle  
44 likely due to onshore larval transport by internal tides. 4) *Larval settlement and recruitment in*  
45 *intertidal communities should be lower in areas of strong, persistent upwelling than where*  
46 *upwelling is weaker and less persistent.* Recruitment of mussels and barnacles to artificial and  
47 natural substrates did not vary with the strength of upwelling, but did vary inversely with two  
48 measures of desiccation potential, and directly with indicators of surfzone hydrodynamics; larval  
49 recruitment was higher where surf zones were more dissipative with rip currents. 5)  
50 *Phytoplankton subsidies to nearshore communities should be highest where upwelling is*  
51 *moderate and intermittent.* Like larval subsidies, phytoplankton subsidies varied spatially with  
52 surfzone hydrodynamics rather than upwelling. This reconsideration of the evidence for the IUH  
53 finds the hypothesis unsupported.

54

55

56 **Key Words:** surf zone, barnacles, settlement, subsidies, intertidal, recruitment, mussels,  
57 hydrodynamics, desiccation

58

59 **Introduction**

60 The importance of larval settlement and postsettlement mortality to the dynamics of  
61 marine populations and communities has been investigated for over a century (Morgan 2001).  
62 Along the west coast of the USA, a considerable body of research demonstrated the importance  
63 in the Pacific Northwest of postsettlement mortality in regulating rocky shore communities. In  
64 contrast, in a highly influential paper, Roughgarden et al. (1988) proposed that low larval  
65 settlement regulated intertidal communities in California. They hypothesized that larvae  
66 developing in strong, persistent upwelling off California are swept so far offshore by surface  
67 currents that few of them return to shore to settle. Consequently, populations are recruitment  
68 limited in the strong, persistent upwelling along the California coast, whereas an abundant  
69 supply of larvae in the weaker, less persistent upwelling in the Pacific Northwest results in  
70 postsettlement density-dependent regulation of populations

71 A corollary to this hypothesis was that the alongshore distribution of upwelling also  
72 affects the delivery of phytoplankton food subsidies to the intertidal zone (Menge and Menge  
73 2013). Wind-driven coastal upwelling draws nutrient rich waters from depth to the euphotic zone  
74 close to the coast leading to high phytoplankton productivity, standing stocks and subsidies to  
75 intertidal communities. However, if upwelling is strong and persistent, blooms are transported  
76 far from shore (Botsford et al. 2006), and subsidies of phytoplankton to the intertidal  
77 communities are hypothesized to be low. During relaxation of upwelling or downwelling events,  
78 the influx of nutrients is low leading to lower phytoplankton productivity, standing stocks and  
79 subsidies to intertidal communities. Thus, phytoplankton subsidies to the shore should be higher  
80 in regions of moderate intermittent upwelling than where upwelling or downwelling are strong  
81 and persistent.

82 Critical tests of the effects of upwelling on larval recruitment have been conducted at sea  
83 as well as onshore, and we review this literature to reconsider the importance of latitudinal  
84 variation in upwelling on larval settlement and recruitment and phytoplankton subsidies to rocky  
85 shore populations and communities. As well as reviewing published research, we reanalyzed  
86 some published data to evaluate new explanations for results formerly attributed to upwelling.  
87 The hypothesis originated over 30 years ago with much of the supporting evidence coming from  
88 studies conducted along the West Coast of North America, and consequently, we have focused  
89 on the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME). We address five predictions or  
90 expectations of the Intermittent Upwelling Hypothesis that must hold if the hypothesis is true.

91 We selected these five predictions because they are both key tests of the hypothesis and  
92 published data are available to actually make the tests. The first two predictions deal with the  
93 pelagic phase of larval dispersal and the last three with the delivery of subsidies (larval settlers  
94 and phytoplankton) to the shore and their subsequent recruitment. None of the predictions of the  
95 IUH was supported by the evidence.

96

97 ***Prediction 1: Larvae spend most of their time in the surface Ekman layer where wind-driven***  
98 ***upwelling currents transport them offshore.***

99 When upwelling favorable winds (from the north in the CCLME) blow parallel to shore,  
100 due to the Coriolis effect, flow in the surface Ekman layer (upper 10 to 20 m) is downwind and  
101 offshore causing a drop in sea level at the coast and, to compensate, water from below the  
102 Ekman layer flows onshore (Mann and Lazier 1991). During downwelling-favorable winds  
103 (from the south in the CCLME), the flow regime is reversed. Given this flow regime, larvae in  
104 the surface Ekman layer will be transported offshore during upwelling and back toward the shore  
105 during relaxation or downwelling, and larvae below the Ekman layer will experience transport in  
106 the opposite directions.

107 For their 1988 paper, Roughgarden et al. analyzed samples from oblique zooplankton  
108 tows collected by CalCOFI (California Cooperative Fisheries Investigation) as part of a long-  
109 term study of variations in sardine and anchovy populations in the CCLME; oblique plankton  
110 tows, however, provided no indication of the depth inhabited by larvae caught in the tows. A  
111 number of researchers have subsequently collected vertically stratified samples from throughout  
112 the water column to test this hypothesis (see for example Shanks and Shearman 2009, Morgan et  
113 al. 2009b). These studies determined that larvae of most nearshore species occur below the  
114 surface Ekman layer. For example, Shanks and Shearman (2009) found that the larvae of all  
115 intertidal barnacles and all stages of these barnacles were caught deeper than the Ekman layer;  
116 during upwelling they inhabited the deeper upwelled water that was flowing shoreward and  
117 during downwelling they were found deeper as well and may be transported offshore. Morgan et  
118 al. (2009b) showed that larvae of most of the 46 species of crustaceans collected by their  
119 sampling occurred deeper in the water column throughout the day or rose to the surface at night  
120 after strong afternoon upwelling winds subsided (Morgan and Fisher 2010). There were larvae of  
121 some species that did occupy the surface layer and they were transported farther offshore before

122 returning to the nearshore late in development. Larvae of most nearshore species of invertebrates  
123 do not spend most of their time in the surface Ekman layer, and in fact, many spend little time in  
124 the surface Ekman layer. Similar results have been found by Bartilotti et al. (2014) in the  
125 upwelling regime of the Iberian Peninsula. These results are not consistent with Prediction 1.

126  
127 ***Prediction 2. Larvae of nearshore species should occur farther offshore during upwelling than***  
128 ***during relaxation or downwelling.***

129 As support for their hypothesis, Roughgarden et al. (1988), using the CalCOFI samples,  
130 correlated the most seaward extent of barnacle larvae from shore with the strength of upwelling  
131 and found that larvae tended to occur farthest offshore during strong upwelling. Anchovies and  
132 sardines in the CCLME tend to spawn well offshore, and the CalCOFI samples analyzed by  
133 Roughgarden et al. were designed to capture these larvae. As a consequence, the most nearshore  
134 station sampled by CalCOFI tended to be 5 nm (9 km) offshore (Roughgarden et al. 1988).  
135 Intertidal barnacle larvae are released nearshore in the coastal boundary layer, where cross-shore  
136 currents are generally slow due to friction with the bottom and shore (Nickols et al. 2012,  
137 Nickols et al. 2013); given current speeds in the coastal boundary layer, it should take days for  
138 larvae to be transported far enough offshore to be caught during CalCOFI sampling. Perhaps the  
139 CalCOFI samples were collected so far offshore that they actually missed the bulk of the  
140 barnacle larvae. Because the cross-shelf distribution and abundance of barnacle larvae was not  
141 determined, their samples may represent the few unfortunate individuals that were larval  
142 wastage.

143 Subsequent studies filled this gap by sampling at stations from several hundred meters to  
144 70 km offshore in the CCLME (Morgan et al. 2009a, Morgan et al. 2009b, Shanks and Shearman  
145 2009, Morgan 2014), other upwelling regimes (Poulin et al. 2002, Bartilotti et al. 2014, Morgan  
146 2014) and elsewhere (Shanks et al. 2002, Shanks et al. 2003, Shanks and Brink 2005). These  
147 studies determined that the larvae of barnacles and many other nearshore species of invertebrates  
148 remain close to shore rather than being transported offshore by strong upwelling currents. For  
149 example, Shanks and Shearman (2009) found that all larval stages of all the intertidal barnacles  
150 were found close to shore, within several km of shore, and that their average distance offshore  
151 (generally < 2 km) did not vary with upwelling or downwelling. Similar results were obtained for  
152 barnacles as well as many other species of nearshore crustaceans in other studies (Morgan et al.

153 2009a, Morgan et al. 2009b, Fisher et al. 2014). Moreover, these latter studies found that larvae  
154 of species developing over the mid or outer continental shelf did not occur farther offshore  
155 during strong upwelling conditions either.

156 The conclusion from these studies is that upwelling does not sweep larvae of many,  
157 perhaps most, intertidal species far offshore. By avoiding the surface Ekman layer, larvae of  
158 most species are not carried offshore by upwelling but, instead, remain within several kilometers  
159 of shore throughout their pelagic development. These results are not consistent with Prediction 2.

160 The dispersal of those larvae of intertidal and shallow subtidal species that remain within  
161 several kilometers of shore is under the influence of nearshore hydrodynamics and this leads to a  
162 number of consequences. 1) During upwelling, the warm, lower density surface layer of the  
163 ocean is pushed offshore and is replaced by cold, denser upwelled water. These two water  
164 masses meet forming an upwelling front between the cold upwelled water onshore and the warm  
165 surface water transported offshore around 10 to 15 km from shore (Mann and Lazier 1991). As  
166 the upwelling season progresses in the CCLME, large eddies, known as jets and squirts, develop  
167 in the California Current, which transport continental shelf water far seaward (Korso and Huyer  
168 1986, Strub et al. 1991, Strub and James 2000). Current drifters set seaward of the upwelling  
169 front tend to be entrained in these jets and squirts and are carried far from shore (Barth and Smith  
170 1998, Barth et al. 2000), as would larvae of many rockfish species that develop beyond the  
171 upwelling front (Fiedler 1986, Haury et al. 1986). In contrast, drifters set landward of the  
172 upwelling front tend to be carried back toward shore where they often run aground (Barth and  
173 Smith 1998, Barth et al. 2000). Because larvae of most nearshore taxa complete development  
174 well landward of the upwelling front, they should seldom encounter jets and squirts and instead  
175 be transported onshore like the drifters set landward of the upwelling front (Austin and Barth  
176 2002). 2) During upwelling, the most rapid alongshore current is within the upwelling jet  
177 associated with the upwelling front, but the jet does not affect the rate of alongshore larval  
178 transport for the many intertidal species that complete their pelagic development in waters  
179 kilometers landward of the jet (Kosro et al. 1997). 3) Larvae of intertidal and nearshore species  
180 are released in the coastal boundary layer, retarding seaward and alongshore dispersal (Morgan  
181 et al. 2009a, Nickols et al. 2013, Hameed et al. 2016). 4) During the upwelling season, roughly  
182 every week or two winds shift from upwelling to downwelling favorable (Mann and Lazier  
183 1991). During upwelling favorable winds in the CCLME, nearshore currents flow to the south,

184 and during downwelling, they reverse and flow north (in the Southern Hemisphere wind driven  
185 upwelling systems currents are reversed). Larvae of most intertidal fishes and benthic  
186 invertebrates that spawn during the upwelling season are likely transported alongshore both north  
187 and south as wind reversals occur during their four to six week planktonic phase (average 45  
188 days) (Shanks and Eckert 2005). By capturing this variation in current direction, larvae may  
189 tend to remain closer to their point of release (Largier 2003).

190 How do slowly swimming larvae remaining below the surface Ekman layer stay roughly  
191 the same distance offshore rather than being transported shoreward during upwelling and  
192 seaward during downwelling? As water shoals close to shore, the baroclinic currents generated  
193 by Ekman transport are suppressed (Austin and Lentz 2002) limiting cross-shelf transport of  
194 larvae. Water within the coastal boundary layer is, however, exchanged during wind reversals  
195 (Csanady 1974), which should transport larvae embedded in the water mass along with it if  
196 larvae behaved as passive particles. Larvae do not remain attached to a water mass indicating  
197 that they are far from passive. Shanks and Brink (2005) repeatedly sampled a transect  
198 perpendicular to shore for over a week while winds shifted from upwelling to downwelling and  
199 back to upwelling. The water mass adjacent to shore was exchanged with each wind shift,  
200 whereas, slowly swimming bivalve larvae of nearshore taxa remained roughly the same distance  
201 offshore rather than tracking water masses as they were exchanged. Although these observations  
202 were made on the east coast of North America, which is not a predominantly wind-driven  
203 upwelling system, the horizontal baroclinic cross-shelf currents generated by upwelling were still  
204 at least an order of magnitude faster than larval swimming speeds (Shanks and Brink 2005). The  
205 authors hypothesized that by swimming vertically in the much slower downwelling (upwelling)  
206 currents converging (diverging) against the shore, larvae may have been able to maintain their  
207 position close to shore despite the exchange of water masses. A similar mechanism may be  
208 occurring in wind-driven upwelling systems associated with eastern boundary currents like the  
209 California Current.

210 ***Prediction 3. Daily settlement of larvae in the intertidal zone should be lower during upwelling***  
211 ***and higher during downwelling conditions.***

212 Upwelling surface currents were hypothesized to cause enough offshore transport for  
213 larvae to be lost to coastal populations resulting in low settlement at the shore, whereas the  
214 reverse is hypothesized to occur during relaxation from upwelling or downwelling conditions

215 (Farrell et al. 1991, Roughgarden et al. 1991). There are two mechanisms that may transport  
216 larvae shoreward during a downwelling or upwelling relaxation event. As described above, a  
217 front is formed offshore separating the cold upwelled water from the warm surface water that has  
218 been pushed offshore. Following an upwelling event (e.g., onset of downwelling or upwelling  
219 relaxation), the cool upwelled water sinks back to a stable vertical distribution and the warm  
220 water beyond the upwelling front flows back toward shore as a density current (Shanks et al.  
221 2000). If prior to the commencement of new upwelling, larvae are released into the warm surface  
222 water and remain there, they will be transported offshore during subsequent upwelling and they  
223 will occur in the lens of warm water on the seaward side of the upwelling front. With relaxation  
224 of upwelling-favorable winds, they will be transported back toward shore by the density current.  
225 When this lens of warm water contacts shore and remains in contact with the shore, settlement in  
226 intertidal communities should be higher. The warm water flowing back toward shore takes the  
227 form of a moving convergent front with surface flow toward the front from both the warm and  
228 cool water sides of the front (Shanks et al. 2000). Larvae carried into the convergent front can be  
229 transported shoreward by the moving convergence (Shanks et al. 2000). This will also lead to  
230 higher settlement at the shore during downwelling events, but the settlement should appear as a  
231 brief pulse as the front arrives onshore.

232 A number of studies have measured barnacle settlement and the abundance of crab  
233 megalopae at the shore daily or every two days and results are not consistent with Prediction 3  
234 (Shanks 1983, Shanks 1986, Farrell et al. 1991, Pineda 1991, 1994, Shanks 1998, Shanks 2006,  
235 Roegner et al. 2007, Shanks 2009a, b, Shanks et al. 2014). These studies consistently found that  
236 the delivery of settlers tends to occur in brief pulses of one to several days, and the pulses are  
237 cross-correlated with the tidal amplitude cycle of spring to neap tides. The fortnightly periodicity  
238 in settlement is most likely due to onshore transport by the internal tides either by moving  
239 convergences over these internal waves or by internal bores generated by breaking internal  
240 waves (Shanks 1983, Pineda 1991). Contrary to expectations, larval settlement was not related to  
241 relaxation events; it was actually higher during upwelling, but the positive effect of upwelling  
242 winds on settlement was only apparent after the much stronger fortnightly tidal effect had been  
243 removed from the time series (Shanks 2009a). For the purpose of this review of the IUH, the  
244 important point is not that onshore transport of larvae often appears to be due to tidally generated  
245 internal waves, rather it is that when settlement and larval abundance have been measured daily,



246 there is no evidence for the hypothesized higher settlement during downwelling and relaxation  
247 events.

248 An apparent exception to these observations was a paper by Farrell et al. (1991) in which  
249 they interpreted their data to indicate that barnacle settlement was higher following a  
250 downwelling event, although they did not statistically test this effect. Subsequent time-series  
251 analysis revealed that there was a clear fortnightly effect of the spring-neap tidal amplitude cycle  
252 in this data set as well and no effect of upwelling and downwelling (Shanks 2009a).

253 At a coastal site near Duck, North Carolina, Shanks et al. (2000) sampled an upwelling  
254 front propagating toward shore during an upwelling relaxation event. The front formed a moving  
255 convergence zone that transported blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) megalopae toward shore as  
256 predicted by the IUH. Daily abundance of blue crab megalopae sampled during the same period  
257 and at the same sample site, however, varied with the fortnightly tidal cycle (Shanks 1998)  
258 suggesting the megalopae were regularly transported shoreward by the internal tides. Indeed,  
259 observations off Beaufort, North Carolina demonstrated that moving convergences generated by  
260 internal waves transported blue crab megalopae as well as a number of other larval types  
261 shoreward (Shanks 1988). We conclude from these studies that moving convergences generated  
262 by any mechanism can transport larvae (Shanks et al. 2000). However, over the continental shelf,  
263 moving convergences are more frequently generated by the internal tides than relaxation events,  
264 and this mode of onshore transport shows up in time series of daily settlement and abundance of  
265 larvae as a fortnightly signal.

266 Although the IUH suggests that peaks in the abundance of settlers at the shore should  
267 occur during downwelling and relaxation events, researchers have consistently found that  
268 abundance varies with a fortnightly periodicity related to the tidal amplitude cycle. Abundance  
269 peaks related to downwelling or upwelling relaxation events were not observed. Thus, Prediction  
270 3 is not supported.

271 ***Prediction 4. Where upwelling is strong and persistent, settlement and recruitment in the***  
272 ***intertidal zone should be lower than where upwelling is less persistent.***

273 The rationale behind this prediction is that where upwelling is strong and persistent, larvae  
274 of intertidal organisms are pushed out to sea and lost to the population; but where upwelling is  
275 weaker and less persistent, larvae are transported shoreward and settle during more frequent  
276 relaxation conditions (Roughgarden et al. 1988). The strength and persistence of upwelling

277 changes with latitude (Checkley and Barth 2009), and therefore, so might larval recruitment to  
278 adult populations (Roughgarden et al. 1988). Where or when larval supply is high, recruitment to  
279 adult populations will be high (Menge and Menge 2013). Alongshore variation in the apparent  
280 recruitment of barnacles and mussels, which appears to be related to alongshore variation in  
281 upwelling, has been presented as amongst the strongest evidence supporting the IUH (reviewed  
282 in Menge and Menge 2013). Several papers have compared latitudinal variation in the  
283 recruitment of barnacles or mussels to the distribution of upwelling within the CCLME  
284 (Connolly et al. 2001, Menge et al. 2004, Broitman et al. 2008) as well as along the coast of  
285 Chile (Navarrete et al. 2005). The consensus is that where upwelling is strong and persistent  
286 recruitment is lower than in areas of weak upwelling.

287         Although the recruitment data do appear to support the IUH, there are problems both with  
288 the data and with the interpretation of the data that warrant reconsideration. As described above,  
289 the vertical and cross-shelf distribution of larvae do not match the predictions of the IUH. Larvae  
290 were not in the surface Ekman layer and upwelling did not transport them offshore; instead most  
291 larvae were found below the surface Ekman layer and remained within several kilometers of  
292 shore. In addition, when settlement was measured daily, higher settlement rates did not occur  
293 during downwelling events, but rather settlement rate followed a fortnightly pattern suggestive of  
294 transport to shore by the internal tides. Hence, the underlying rationale used to explain the  
295 potential effect of upwelling intensity on alongshore variation in recruitment is not supported by  
296 empirical data collected at sea and onshore.

297         Much of the data on recruitment of barnacles has been collected using Safety-Walk  
298 plates, Plexiglas plates covered with non-skid Safety-Walk® tape (reviewed in Menge and  
299 Menge 2013). The rough surface of the tape appears to be an ideal settlement surface for cyprids  
300 that prefer rugose substrates, but unfortunately, the tape heats up rapidly in the sun reaching  
301 surface temperatures (e.g., 40 to 50 °C) lethal to settled cyprids in tens of minutes (Shanks  
302 2009b). Despite this potential artifact, Broitman et al. (2008) found significant correlations  
303 between recruitment and cyprid settlers on recovered Safety-Walk plates. Although the heating  
304 problem may have been over emphasized (Shanks 2009b), recruitment data using Safety-Walk  
305 plates should be interpreted cautiously because solar energy varies with latitude as does the  
306 typical coastal weather at a site, including fog often associated with upwelling.

307           Investigators recently have begun to examine the potential effects of surfzone  
308 hydrodynamics on the delivery of larvae and phytoplankton subsidies to shore (Rilov et al. 2008,  
309 Shanks et al. 2010, Morgan et al. 2016, Shanks et al. 2016, Morgan et al. 2017a, Shanks et al.  
310 2017b, Shanks et al. 2017c). Surf zones vary from reflective (steeply angled shores with narrow  
311 surf zones) to more dissipative (gently sloping shores with wide surf zones). Surfzone  
312 hydrodynamics can both limit the onshore migration of larvae from the coastal ocean with the  
313 surf zone as a barrier, or not hinder shoreward migration (Shanks et al. 2010, Shanks et al.  
314 2017a, Morgan et al. 2016, Morgan et al. 2017a). Most rocky shores are steep and, hence,  
315 reflective, and hydrodynamics coupled with larval behavior tend to hinder the delivery of larvae,  
316 including cyprids and mussels, to the shore. In contrast, more dissipative shores, including rock  
317 platforms associated with wide dissipative surf zones, often contained bathymetric rip currents  
318 that concentrate larvae in eddies (Fujimura et al. 2014, Morgan et al. 2016, Morgan et al. 2017b).  
319 Barnacle larval settlement, recruits and population densities were significantly higher at more  
320 dissipative than reflective surf zones (Shanks et al. 2017a).

321           Several studies used variations in recruitment at sites from central California (about 35 °N  
322 latitude) northward into Oregon to support the IUH (reviewed in Menge and Menge 2013). The  
323 intensity of upwelling and its persistence decreased along this latitudinal transect; it was higher  
324 in central and northern California and decreased northward with, the papers suggest, a sharp drop  
325 occurring north of Cape Blanco, Oregon (Figure 1). Recruitment tended to be higher north of  
326 Cape Blanco, consistent with the IUH. However, daily solar radiation (Shanks et al. 2017a) and  
327 maximum intertidal temperatures as measured with Robomussels (Helmuth 1998, Helmuth et al.  
328 2000, Helmuth 2016) also decreases along this latitudinal gradient of stations (Figure 1). In  
329 addition, either due to chance or latitudinal variation in coastal geomorphology, many of the  
330 stations surveyed north of Cape Blanco are rock platforms within wide more dissipative surf  
331 zones (Figure 1), where settlement was high due to surfzone hydrodynamics (Shanks et al.  
332 2017a). Lastly, runoff of nutrients from high precipitation may fuel phytoplankton production  
333 that is several times greater in the waters over the Oregon and Washington continental shelf  
334 (Hickey and Banas 2008), providing more food for adults and larvae thereby increasing  
335 reproductive output or larval survival (Morgan 2001). Thus along this latitudinal transect of  
336 stations, there are consistent trends in four variables all of which have the potential to increase  
337 recruitment to the north.

338 At least two studies conducted along a longer latitudinal transect sampled sites with  
339 enough variation in these variables that it might be possible to untangle their effects. 1) Broitman  
340 et al. (2008) sampled mussel (*Mytilus*) and barnacle (*Balanus*) recruitment to Tuffy scrub pads  
341 and Safety-Walk plates, respectively, at stations distributed from south of Pt. Conception and  
342 within the Southern California Bight to northern Oregon. Note this study occurred before it was  
343 discovered that Safety-Walk plates heat up rapidly in the sun (Shanks 2009) and that surfzone  
344 hydrodynamics affect intertidal populations and the delivery of larvae to the shore (Rilov et al.  
345 2008, Shanks et al. 2010). 2) Recently, Shanks et al. (2017a) surveyed the structure of barnacle  
346 populations, density of adult *Balanus* and recruit density (individuals < 1.5 mm dia.) from San  
347 Diego to northern Washington.

348 These studies sampled sites within the Southern California Bight where the  
349 hydrodynamics are quite different from the coast to the north of Pt. Conception or seaward of the  
350 Channel Islands. Within the Bight, flow along the coast is from the south, winds are weaker and  
351 more variable, and upwelling is much weaker and less frequent, downwelling conditions are  
352 more common (Checkley and Barth 2009). Along the coast northward from Pt. Conception,  
353 upwelling-favorable winds during spring and summer increase in magnitude to around 38°N near  
354 Bodega Bay and then decrease northward (Figure 1).

355 Along this latitudinal transect, solar energy (average daily solar radiation was obtained  
356 from the National Solar Radiation Data Base; [http://rredc.nrel.gov/solar/old\\_data/nsrdb/](http://rredc.nrel.gov/solar/old_data/nsrdb/))  
357 decreases monotonically from south to north (Figure 1), although the actual exposure of  
358 intertidal organisms to solar energy is likely more complex depending in part on the timing of  
359 daytime low tides (higher exposure occurs when low spring tides occur during the hottest time of  
360 the day) (Helmuth et al. 2000). To capture this effect, we analyzed temperature data collected  
361 using Robomussels (mussel models with an embedded thermistor) (Helmuth 2016) at a number  
362 of study sites. Using these data, we calculated the average maximum low tide temperature  
363 (Figure 1). To make this calculation, we first determined the average and standard deviation of  
364 temperature over the entire time series at each site, added twice the standard deviation to the  
365 average temperature, and calculated the average of all the temperatures higher than this  
366 temperature, which we have defined as the average maximum low tide temperature.

367 We measured surfzone width as a proxy for surfzone hydrodynamics, wider surf zones  
368 are more dissipative and narrow more reflective. Detailed description of the methods used to

369 measure surfzone width and reliability of the data are presented in Shanks et al. (2017a, c).  
370 Briefly, we used images from Google Earth during spring and summer to determine the average  
371 width of the surf zone immediately seaward of the sample sites. Width was from the most  
372 seaward breaking wave to the swash line. The number of useable Google Earth images varied  
373 from 3 to 14 and were taken between 2007 and 2014. The distribution of surfzone widths at the  
374 study sites is likely a reflection of the distribution of coastal geomorphology (Figure 1). For  
375 example, the geomorphology of the Big Sur coast (roughly Pt. Piedras Blancas, 35.7°N to Pt.  
376 Lobos, 36.5°N) is very steep with few sandy beaches or more dissipative surf zones. North of  
377 Cape Mendocino (40.35°N) dissipative surf zones are more common and a number of sites north  
378 of Cape Blanco frequently sampled by intertidal ecologists are rock platforms associated with  
379 wide more dissipative surf zones (e.g., Cape Meares, Yachats, Strawberry Hill, and Tokakee  
380 Klootchana).

381 We reanalyzed data from Broitman et al. (2008) and Shanks et al. (2017a) to examine the  
382 effect of solar radiation, average maximum low tide temperature, surfzone hydrodynamics as  
383 indicated by surfzone width, and the strength of upwelling as indicated by alongshore wind stress  
384 (see Shanks et al. 2017a for discussion of alongshore wind stress vs. the Bakon index as proxies  
385 for upwelling) on recruitment of *Balanus* and mussels along the West Coast. Data for 1) average  
386 solar radiation and surfzone width was available for each study site (see Shanks et al. 2017a, for  
387 methods), 2) average alongshore wind stress during the spring and summer was calculated using  
388 data from 15 NOAA weather buoys (see Shanks et al. 2017a for methods) and 3) Robomussel  
389 temperature data are from 11 sites (Table 1). To assign values of alongshore wind stress and  
390 average maximum low tide temperature to each study site from Broitman et al. (2008) and  
391 Shanks et al. (2017a), we calculated regressions between latitude (independent variable) and the  
392 physical variables of average maximum low tide temperature and alongshore wind stress  
393 (dependent variables) and then used these regression equations to calculate the values of the  
394 physical variables at each site (see Shanks et al. 2017a for methods) (Table 2). We calculated the  
395 alongshore wind stress and average maximum low tide temperature for each of the three years of  
396 data (2001-2003) that we analyzed from Broitman et al. (2008), calculated the average of these  
397 values and used these averages in the regression analysis.

398 Broitman et al. (2008) surveyed the latitudinal and seasonal variation in *Mytilus* and  
399 *Balanus* recruitment from 1997 through 2004, but all 26 sites were only sampled from 2001 to

400 2003. The following analysis is limited to these years. Data were presented as heat maps of the  
401 log of the monthly recruitment rates (Broitman et al. 2008), so we estimated the recruitment rates  
402 by comparing the heat map color scale to the color for the month with highest annual  
403 recruitment. We calculated linear regressions between the log of recruitment of *Mytilus* and  
404 *Balanus* in the Broitman et al. and Shanks et al. data sets (dependent variables) and the averages  
405 of daily solar radiation, maximum low tide temperature, alongshore wind stress, and log surfzone  
406 width (independent variables).

407 In the Broitman et al. (2008) data, recruitment of *Mytilus* and *Balanus* were negatively  
408 related to average daily solar radiation and average maximum low tide temperature with >60 to  
409 almost 70% of the variation in recruitment explained by these variables (Figure 2). Given the  
410 heating of Safety-Walk plates when in the sun, the strong relationship between daily solar  
411 radiation and average maximum low tide temperature and *Balanus* recruitment was expected.  
412 What was not expected was that the recruitment of *Mytilus* to scrub pads responded similarly.  
413 The open structure of scrub pads may not retain much moisture; perhaps exposing the mussel  
414 recruits to desiccation stress. In contrast, the abundance of barnacle recruits (individuals <1.5  
415 mm) surveyed on natural rock substrate by Shanks et al. (2017a) varied weakly with daily solar  
416 radiation (~20% of the variation explained) and the average maximum low tide temperature  
417 (12% of the variation explained). There were no significant regressions between alongshore wind  
418 stress and any of the recruitment data (Figure 2). All three measures of recruitment, however,  
419 varied significantly with surfzone width, although relationships to recruitment were weaker in  
420 the Broitman et al. (2008) study (30 and 22% of the variation explained for mussels and  
421 barnacles, respectively) than the Shanks et al. data on barnacle recruits (66% of the variation  
422 explained). This difference might be related to the much stronger effects of daily solar radiation  
423 and average maximum low tide temperature on recruitment to artificial substrates in the  
424 Broitman et al. (2008) study than to the natural recruitment measured by Shanks et al. (2017a).

425 Broitman et al. (2008) found that the density of cyprid settlers on the recruitment plates  
426 correlated with recruitment to the plates. Our reanalysis of their data found that recruitment  
427 varied with surfzone width, hence, by logical extension, settlement likely also correlates with  
428 surfzone width. This matches the findings by Shanks et al. (2017a); the density of recruits on  
429 natural rock substrates and the weekly recruitment and daily settlement of barnacles to cleared  
430 rock quadrates all varied with surfzone width, an indicator of surfzone hydrodynamics.

431 In an attempt to control for the effect of variation in coastal hydrodynamics (i.e.,  
432 upwelling and downwelling) on barnacle recruitment and settlement, Shanks et al. (2017a)  
433 surveyed closely spaced pairs of stations (several km to 100s of meters apart) with different  
434 types of surf zones. At some station pairs, they also measured weekly recruitment and daily  
435 settlement to natural rock surfaces. Surfzone widths at some of the pairs of stations were  
436 similarly narrow while in other cases one station had a wide surf zone (more dissipative) and the  
437 other narrow (more reflective). If barnacle larval settlement and recruitment depends on coastal  
438 hydrodynamics (e.g., upwelling strength and persistence) then, given the close spacing of the  
439 stations, these measures of barnacle recruitment and settlement should have been the same at  
440 each station pair. If instead these measures vary with surfzone hydrodynamics, then these  
441 measures should be similar at station pairs with narrow surf zones but different at station pairs  
442 with wide and narrow surf zones (higher settlement and recruitment at the wide surf zone) and  
443 this is exactly what was observed (Shanks et al. 2017a). This comparative experiment clearly  
444 illustrated the importance of surfzone hydrodynamics on barnacle larval settlement and  
445 recruitment in the intertidal zone.

446 In this reanalysis of recruitment data from Broitman et al. (2008) and Shanks et al.  
447 (2017a), we found no support for an effect of upwelling strength as measured by alongshore  
448 wind stress on recruitment, a strong effect of two measures of potential desiccation stress on  
449 recruitment to artificial surfaces (Tuffy scrub pads and Safety-Walk plates), a weak effect of  
450 potential desiccation stress on natural barnacle recruitment, a strong effect of surfzone  
451 hydrodynamics as indicated by surfzone width on natural barnacle recruitment and a weaker  
452 significant effect on recruitment to artificial surfaces. These results are not consistent with  
453 Prediction 4, but are consistent with surfzone hydrodynamics regulating barnacle larval delivery  
454 to the intertidal zone along the west coast of the USA.

455  
456 **Prediction 5. Where offshore phytoplankton concentrations are higher due to currents or**  
457 **upwelling, subsidies of phytoplankton to the intertidal zone will be higher.**

458 Resources from the coastal ocean subsidize communities and populations in the intertidal  
459 zone (Polis et al. 1997, Krenz et al. 2011). The waters of the coastal ocean are sources of food  
460 (plankton and detritus) and settling larvae that can sustain populations. Temporal and especially  
461 spatial variation in these bottom-up subsidies have profound effects on the form and function of

462 intertidal populations (Menge 2000). Researchers have attributed variations in subsidies to the  
463 shore to alongshore variations in the hydrodynamics over the continental shelf (Bustamante et al.  
464 1995, Menge et al. 1999, Connolly et al. 2001, Menge et al. 2003, Broitman et al. 2008, Menge  
465 and Menge 2013). Where phytoplankton populations are larger due to the hydrodynamics of  
466 offshore waters, subsidies to the intertidal zone are hypothesized to be higher (Menge and Menge  
467 2013). When or where phytoplankton subsidies are higher, the growth rate of filter-feeding  
468 foundation species are higher and their reproductive output is larger (Leslie et al. 2005, Bracken  
469 et al. 2012).

470 Above, we have discussed subsidies of larvae to the shore and related variation in these  
471 subsidies to alongshore variation in surfzone hydrodynamics. Subsidies of phytoplankton to the  
472 shore may also vary with surfzone hydrodynamics. In two month-long intensive studies of a  
473 reflective and more dissipative surf zone around the Monterey Peninsula, California,  
474 concentrations of coastal phytoplankton in the surf zone (subsidies) at a reflective shore were  
475 generally 10 times lower than in the waters just seaward of the surf zone, whereas at a more  
476 dissipative surf zone the reverse was true (Shanks et al. 2016, Shanks et al. 2017b).

477 To experimentally test if phytoplankton subsidies to the intertidal zone are set by  
478 surfzone hydrodynamics, we attempted to control for phytoplankton concentrations in the coastal  
479 ocean (Shanks et al. 2017c) by comparing closely spaced stations (median separation 1 km,  
480 minimum 30 m) around Cape Arago, Oregon where surfzone width varied from a few meters to  
481 more than 200 m (i.e., reflective to more dissipative surf zones). Station spacing was close  
482 enough that the concentration of phytoplankton in the coastal waters was likely quite similar (see  
483 Shanks et al. 2017c for a discussion of this assumption). Hence, if subsidies were set by  
484 concentrations on the inner shelf, then concentrations at the study sites should have been similar,  
485 but if they were set by surfzone hydrodynamics, the concentrations should vary with surfzone  
486 width. We found that 65 to 90% of the variation in the concentration of coastal phytoplankton  
487 taxa (*Pseudo-nitzschia*, *Chaetoceros*, and dinoflagellates) in the surf zone was explained by  
488 surfzone width.

489 We reanalyzed data from Bracken et al. (2012), who sampled the concentration of  
490 Chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) in surf zones adjacent to rocky shores in Oregon. We found that >85% of  
491 the variation in Chl *a* concentration was explained by surfzone width (Shanks et al. 2017c). In  
492 addition, Bracken et al. (2012) found that mussel growth varied directly with Chl *a*



493 concentration; hence, mussel growth must also have varied with surfzone width. C. Salant  
494 (Unpublished Data) measured reproductive output of mussels and barnacles at the same sites  
495 sampled by Shanks et al. (2017c), and found that reproductive output varied with phytoplankton  
496 subsidies, which in turn varied with surfzone width, as in Shanks et al. (2017c). She also found  
497 that the concentration of coastal phytoplankton species in reflective surf zones was significantly  
498 lower than seaward on the inner shelf and the reverse was true at more dissipative surf zones, as  
499 did Shanks et al. (2016, 2017b).

500 Harmful algal bloom taxa (HABs) are coastal phytoplankton, and their concentration at  
501 the shore varies with surfzone hydrodynamics (Shanks et al. 2016). Most exposure of humans to  
502 HAB toxins occurs when people consume shellfish, mostly intertidal shellfish, which have  
503 consumed HAB species. Thus, the contamination of shellfish by HABs likely varies with  
504 surfzone hydrodynamics (Shanks et al. 2016).

505 At least over fairly short geographic distances (e.g., Monterey Peninsula, central Oregon,  
506 and Cape Arago), surfzone phytoplankton concentrations have varied directly with surfzone  
507 hydrodynamics: phytoplankton subsidies were much lower at more reflective than dissipative  
508 surf zones irrespective of the concentration in the coastal ocean. Perhaps when tested over longer  
509 distances where concentrations of phytoplankton in the coastal ocean are indeed different, while  
510 controlling for surfzone hydrodynamics, the effect of coastal phytoplankton concentrations on  
511 subsidies to the intertidal zone will become apparent. To more rigorously test the effect of  
512 surfzone hydrodynamics on the concentration of phytoplankton in surf zones, sampling still  
513 needs to be conducted both within surf zones of different types and seaward in the coastal ocean  
514 along a gradient of offshore phytoplankton concentration.

515 Perhaps the closest dataset to this ideal is that presented in Menge and Menge (2013).  
516 There are no measurements of offshore phytoplankton concentration, but the stations sampled  
517 extend from northern California to northern Oregon and include stations from either side of the  
518 South Island of New Zealand. These sites cover a range of upwelling conditions from sites with  
519 weak upwelling to downwelling (New Zealand stations), strong persistent upwelling (California  
520 stations) and intermittent upwelling (Oregon stations). To test for the effect of surfzone  
521 hydrodynamics on phytoplankton subsidies, we digitized data in Figure 4 from Menge and  
522 Menge (2013) using ImageJ and determined average surfzone widths from Google Earth images  
523 of the study sites (See Shanks et al. 2017a, c for methods).

524 Menge and Menge (2013) found that surfzone concentrations of Chl *a* were related to  
525 both the Bakun upwelling index and an index they created that measures the intermittency of  
526 upwelling, the Intermittency index. The relationships were complex with lower Chl *a*  
527 concentrations at low and high values of both the Bakun upwelling and Intermittency Indices  
528 (Figure 3A,B redrawn from Menge and Menge (2013)). At stations in central Oregon with  
529 similar or identical values of the Bakun upwelling and Intermittency Indices, however, the Chl *a*  
530 concentration varied by a factor of 5 from 5 to 25  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (Figure 3). This pattern of Chl *a*  
531 concentration might be due to the chance distribution of wide and narrow surf zones among the  
532 study sites. In Figure 3C and D, we plotted surfzone width with the Bakun upwelling and  
533 Intermittency Indices; at low and high values of the indices, surf zones coincidentally tended to  
534 be narrow while at intermediate values of the indices surfzone width ranged from narrow to quite  
535 wide ( $> 150$  m). When the surfzone Chl *a* concentration (dependent variable) was regressed with  
536 surfzone width (independent variable), almost 65% of the variability in Chl *a* was explained by  
537 surfzone width (Figure 4A); narrow more reflective surf zones contained lower concentrations of  
538 Chl *a* than wider more dissipative surf zones.

539 Perhaps the effect of offshore coastal hydrodynamics would become apparent if we  
540 scaled Chl *a* concentrations by the effect of surfzone hydrodynamics. We calculated the residuals  
541 from the regression between surfzone width (independent variable) and Chl *a* concentration  
542 (dependent variable) and then calculated regressions between these residuals (dependent  
543 variable) and the Bakun upwelling index and the Intermittency index (independent variables);  
544 these regressions were not significant (Figure 4 B, C). Thus, Prediction 5 is not supported, and  
545 instead, as with subsidies of larvae to the shore, phytoplankton subsidies to the shore vary with  
546 surfzone hydrodynamics.

#### 547 **Conclusion**

548 Our reconsideration of the evidence for the IUH finds that the hypothesis is not  
549 supported. 1) Larvae of many intertidal taxa are not found in the surface Ekman layer where  
550 larvae would have to occur if upwelling were to transport them offshore and 2) larvae of  
551 intertidal invertebrate species do not occur farther offshore during upwelling and closer to shore  
552 during downwelling as proposed. 3) Daily settlement of barnacle cyprids and the abundance of  
553 crab megalopae at the shore are not higher during downwelling and lower during upwelling, but,  
554 instead vary with a fortnightly periodicity likely due to onshore transport by tidally generated

555 internal waves. 4) Recruitment of mussels and barnacles to artificial settlement substrates varied  
556 inversely with two measures of desiccation potential, did not vary with the strength of upwelling  
557 and downwelling, but did vary directly with surfzone width, an indicator of surfzone  
558 hydrodynamics; larval subsidies were significantly higher where surf zones were more  
559 dissipative. 5) Like larval subsidies, phytoplankton subsidies to the shore varied with surfzone  
560 hydrodynamics. Shelf hydrodynamics clearly affect phytoplankton abundance, but in the data  
561 currently available, this variation in abundance is overshadowed by the effect of surfzone  
562 hydrodynamics on the delivery of subsidies to the shore. The IUH has persisted for three decades  
563 even though critical tests of transport processes were not, until fairly recently, conducted at sea,  
564 alternative hypotheses were not seriously evaluated including studies indicating that behavior is  
565 effective at regulating cross-shelf transport of larvae (Shanks 1995, Queiroga and Blanton 2004,  
566 Morgan 2014, Morgan et al. 2017b) and other zooplankton (Peterson et al. 1979, Peterson 1998).

567 To test the IUH, we have focused on the CCLME where the preponderance of studies  
568 have been conducted, the hypothesis was originated by researchers on the West Coast and the  
569 authors of this paper conduct their research there. Given that the hydrodynamics of wind-driven  
570 coastal upwelling/downwelling is essentially the same at each of the eastern boundary current  
571 systems, we suspect that what is true for the CCLME likely applies to these other systems as  
572 well, although this assumption needs testing. Of particular interest is what happens in systems,  
573 such as those off South Africa and Peru/Chile where the oxygen minimum layer is frequently  
574 present below the mixed layer across the continental shelf; does this layer of low oxygen water  
575 prevent larvae from swimming downward to avoid the surface Ekman layer? If larvae are unable  
576 to avoid the surface Ekman layer, then they may, as predicted by the IUH, be transported  
577 seaward during upwelling events.

578 The effect of surfzone hydrodynamics on the delivery of subsidies (phytoplankton and  
579 larvae) to the shore should be similar everywhere. The effects are primarily due to the physics of  
580 surf zones and physical processes are conservative. Researchers influenced by the IUH have  
581 viewed alongshore changes in intertidal community structure as gradients or clines driven by the  
582 gradual changes in the strength and persistence of upwelling along a coast. In our work on the  
583 effects of surfzone hydrodynamics on subsidies to the shore, we have not seen gradients and  
584 instead find the variation in the structure of intertidal communities along a coastline to be a  
585 mosaic driven apparently largely by the form of the surf zone adjacent to the shore. The form

586 that a surf zone takes, dissipative to reflective, is largely driven by the slope of the bottom  
587 beneath the surf zone. Coastal geomorphology can be consistent over long distances. For  
588 example, the entire Big Sur coast of California is steep and nearly all of the surf zones at beaches  
589 and rocky shores are narrow and more reflective. In other areas, the geomorphology can change  
590 over short distances. This appears to be the case from roughly Cape Mendocino, California  
591 through Oregon. Here we have found rocky shorelines with reflective surf zones adjacent to rock  
592 platforms imbedded in more dissipative surf zones (e.g., Strawberry Hill vs. Boilers Bay). In  
593 these situations, over surprisingly short distances (10s of m), we have seen order of magnitude  
594 changes in the delivery of subsidies (larval settlers and phytoplankton food) to the shore (Shanks  
595 et al. 2017a, Shanks et al. 2017c). What our studies suggest is that shores with more dissipative  
596 surf zones and higher subsidies tend to have intertidal communities dominated by filter feeders  
597 (particularly barnacles) while shores with more reflective surf zones tend to have communities  
598 with far fewer filter feeders and denser populations of benthic macrophytes (Shanks et al. 2010,  
599 E. Conser Unpublished Data). Our research on surf zones has forced us to see the world of  
600 intertidal ecology from a very different perspective, one where benthic pelagic coupling and  
601 intertidal community structure is largely controlled by very nearshore hydrodynamics, which in  
602 turn is controlled by geomorphology.

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817 Current system. *Journal of Geophysical Research* **96**:14,693-614,706.
- 818
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- 820
- 821
- 822 Table 1. Average maximum low tide temperature as measured by Robomussels at stations  
823 sampled by Helmuth et al. (2016) along the west coast of North America. See text for the  
824 methods.
- 825

| Station Name | Latitude, N | Longitude, W | Ave Max Low Tide Temperature, °C |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
|              |             |              |                                  |

|                |         |          |      |
|----------------|---------|----------|------|
| Coal Oil Point | 34.4067 | 119.8783 | 36.2 |
| Jalama         | 34.4952 | 120.4969 | 33.7 |
| Piedras        | 35.6658 | 121.2867 | 41.7 |
| Hopkins        | 36.6219 | 121.9053 | 41.4 |
| Bodega Reserve | 38.3185 | 123.0740 | 42   |
| Cape Mendocino | 40.348  | 124.3650 | 33.3 |
| Trinidad       | 41.0621 | 124.1493 | 31.7 |
| Cape Arago     | 43.3066 | 124.4024 | 36   |
| Strawberry     | 44.2499 | 124.1136 | 37   |
| Boilers Bay    | 44.8306 | 124.0601 | 31.6 |
| Landing Beach  | 48.3938 | 124.7355 | 28.3 |

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830 Table 2. Regression equations used to calculate alongshore wind stress and average maximum

831 low tide temperature at stations sampled in Broitman et al. (2008) and Shanks et al. (2017a).

| Regression   | n  | R <sup>2</sup> | P        | Regression Equation  |
|--|----|----------------|----------|--|
| Alongshore<br>Wind Stress,<br>Broitman et al.<br>(2008) analysis | 11 | 0.848          | <0.0004  | $y = 0.003028 x^3 + (-0.3857 x^2) + (16.217 x) - 224.479$  |
| Alongshore<br>Wind Stress,<br>Shanks et al.<br>(2017a) analysis  | 15 | 0.634          | <0.00006 | $y = 0.00224 x^3 + (-0.2865 x^2) + (12.0948 x) - 168.1436$ |
| Ave. Maximum<br>Low Tide<br>Temperature                          | 11 | 0.362          | =0.05    | $Y = -0.587 x + 59.83$                                     |

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835 **Figure Captions**

836 Figure 1. Regressions of three environmental variables at study sites along the west coast of the  
 837 USA. Samples stations are those from Broitman et al. (2008) (open circles) and Shanks et al.  
 838 (Shanks et al. 2017a) (filled triangles). A) Alongshore wind stress during three years of the data  
 839 (2001-2003) from Broitman et al. (2008) reanalyzed here and from the study by Shanks et al.  
 840 (2017a). The dotted and dashed lines are the results of regressions (see Table 2 for regression  
 841 equations) between the alongshore wind stress data and latitude for the Broitman et al. and  
 842 Shanks et al. data, respectively. Wind stress values are from wind data collected by NOAA  
 843 weather buoys. B) Average daily solar radiation (KWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day) at each station sampled by  
 844 Broitman et al. and Shanks et al. with the results of a regression between latitude and solar  
 845 radiation (dotted line). Open diamonds are the average maximum low tide Robomussel  
 846 temperatures (°C, see text for methods) with the results of a regression between latitude and the  
 847 average maximum low tide Robomussel temperatures (dashed line, see Table 2 for regression  
 848 equation). C) Average surfzone width as determined from Google Earth images. Note the  
 849 increase in the frequency of stations with wide ( $\geq 100$  m) more dissipative surf zones north of  
 850 Cape Mendocino. The dotted and dashed lines are the results of regressions between surfzone  
 851 width and latitude for the Broitman et al. and Shanks et al. data, respectively. A description of  
 852 the techniques used to measure surfzone width and the reliability of the data are presented in  
 853 Shanks et al. (2017a) and Shanks et al. (2017c). The vertical dotted lines indicate the locations  
 854 of prominent capes (PC, Point Conception; CM, Cape Mendocino; CB, Cape Blanco.)

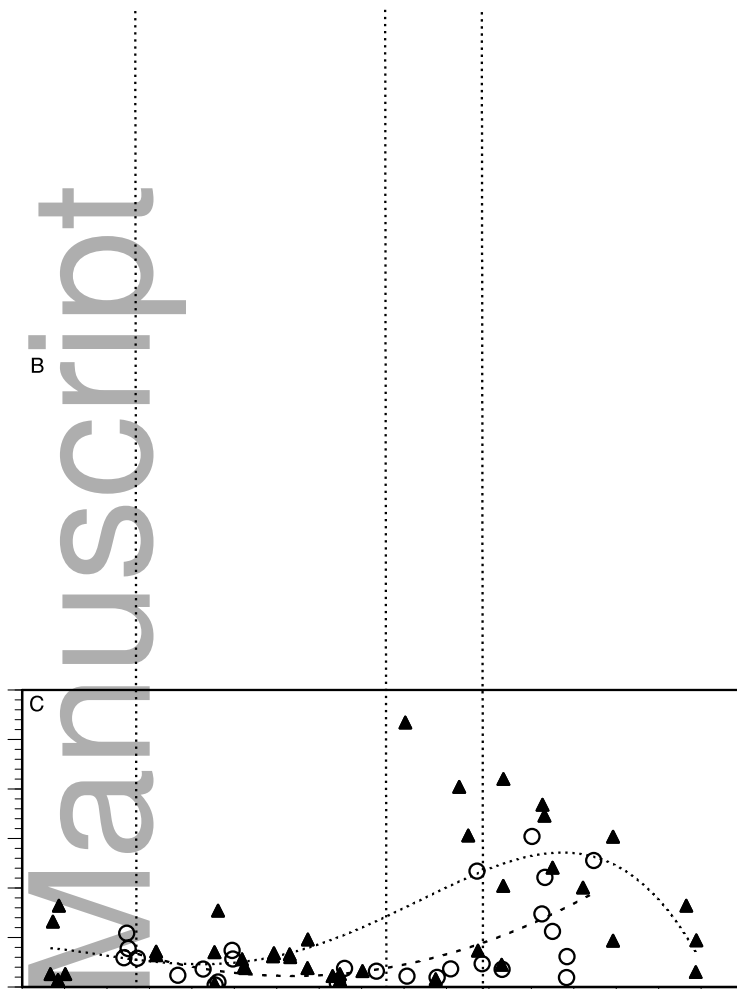
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856 Figure 2. Variation in the density of *Mytilus* and *Balanus* recruits ((A, D, G, J and B, E, H, K,  
 857 respectively, data from Broitman, 2008) and barnacle recruits (C, F, I, and L, data from Shanks  
 858 et al. 2017a) with four physical variables from the west coast of the USA. A-C) Average daily  
 859 solar radiation ((KWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day). D-F) Average maximum low tide temperature from Robomussels  
 860 (see text for details). G-I) Average alongshore wind stress in dynes. Positive (negative) values  
 861 are upwelling (downwelling) favorable. J-L) Surfzone width as determined from Google Earth  
 862 images (see Shanks et al. 2017a, c for methods). Note that if a Bonferroni correction was applied  
 863 to the set of four regressions calculated for each data set then the regression in F would not be  
 864 significant (corrected alpha = 0.0125).

865  
866 Figure 3. Variation in Chl *a* concentration and surfzone width relative to two upwelling indices,  
867 (A) the Bakun Upwelling index and (B) the Intermittency index (redrawn from Menge and  
868 Menge (2013)). The dotted lines are the results of a regression analysis. See Menge and Menge  
869 (2013) for a description of methods and statistical analysis. The Bakun Upwelling index is a  
870 measure of the strength of upwelling while the Intermittency index was developed by Menge and  
871 Menge (2003) as a measure of the frequency of upwelling. Triangles are data from the South  
872 Island of New Zealand, diamonds are from Oregon stations, and circles from northern California  
873 stations. In C and D, the Bakun Upwelling and Intermittency indices, respectively, are plotted  
874 with average surfzone width at the sampled stations as determined from Google Earth images  
875 (see Shanks et al. 2017a, c for methods).

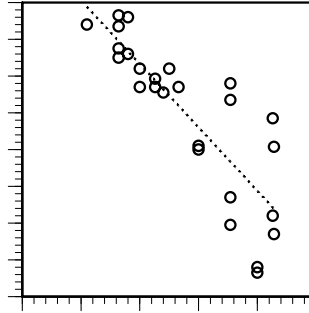
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877 Figure 4. Variation in Chl *a* concentration (data from Menge and Menge 2013) relative to three  
878 environmental variables. A) Average surfzone width as determined from Google Earth images of  
879 the stations sampled by Menge and Menge (2013). See Shanks et al. (2017a, c) for methods of  
880 determining surfzone width from Google Earth images. Using the regression equation from (A),  
881 we calculated residuals and then regressed these (dependent variable) against (B) the Bakun  
882 Upwelling index and (C) the Intermittency index (independent variable, data from Menge and  
883 Menge 2013). Neither regression was significant.

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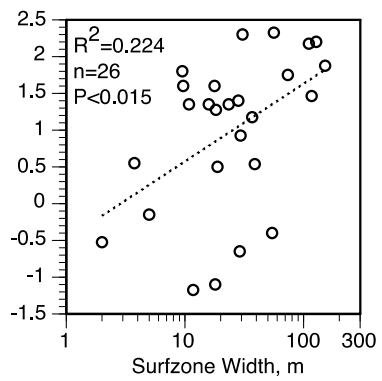


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888 Figure 1



$R^2=0.119$   
 $n=39$   
 $P<0.0315$

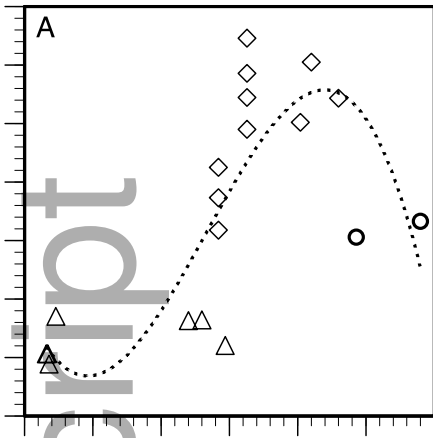


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891 Figure 2





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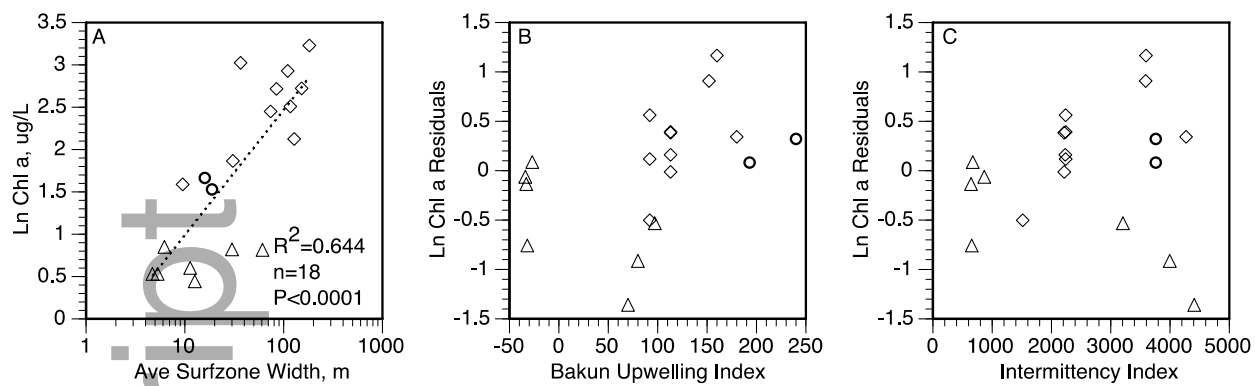
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Intermittency Index 5000

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Figure 3

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Figure 4

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