

1 **TITLE**

2 Oyster hatchery breakthrough of two HABs and potential effects on larval eastern oysters

3 (*Crassostrea virginica*)

4

5 **AUTHORS**

6 Sarah K. D. Pease^a, Kimberly S. Reece^a, Jeffrey O'Brien^a, Patrice L. M. Hobbs^a, Juliette L.

7 Smith^{a*}

8

9 ^a Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William & Mary, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA

10 23062, USA

11 skpease@vims.edu, kreece@vims.edu, jcobrien01@email.wm.edu, ptrice@vims.edu,

12 jlsmith@vims.edu

13

14 * Corresponding author

15 **ABSTRACT**

16 Harmful algal bloom (HAB) dinoflagellate species *Karlodinium veneficum* and *Prorocentrum*
17 *cordatum* (prev. *P. minimum*) are commonly found in Chesapeake Bay during the late spring and
18 early summer months, coinciding with the spawning season of the eastern oyster (*Crassostrea*
19 *virginica*). Unexplained larval oyster mortalities at regional commercial hatcheries prompted
20 screening of oyster hatchery water samples for these HAB species. Both HAB species were
21 found in treated hatchery water during the oyster spawning season, sometimes exceeding bloom
22 cell concentrations ($\geq 1,000$ cells/mL). To investigate the potential for these HAB species,
23 independently or in co-exposure, to affect larval oyster mortality and activity, 96-h laboratory
24 single and dual HAB bioassays with seven-day-old oyster larvae were performed. Treatments for
25 the single HAB bioassay included fed and unfed controls, *K. veneficum* at 1,000; 5,000; 10,000;
26 and 50,000 cells/mL, *P. cordatum* at 100; 5,000; 10,000; and 50,000 cells/mL. Subsequently, the
27 1,000 cells/mL *K. veneficum* and 50,000 cells/mL *P. cordatum* treatments were combined in a
28 co-exposure treatment for the dual HAB bioassay. At all cell concentrations tested, *K. veneficum*
29 swarmed oyster larvae and caused significant larval oyster mortality by 96 hours ($Karlo_{1,000}$: $21 \pm$
30 5% $Karlo_{5,000}$: $93 \pm 2\%$; $Karlo_{10,000}$: $85 \pm 3\%$; $Karlo_{50,000}$: $83 \pm 5\%$, SE). In contrast, there was no
31 significant difference in larval oyster mortality between the control treatments and any of the *P.*
32 *cordatum* treatments by 96 hours. By 24 hours, larval oysters were significantly less active
33 (immotile) in the presence of either HAB species as compared to control treatments (e.g.,
34 $Karlo_{1,000}$: $37.8 \pm 4.1\%$; $Proro_{100}$: $47.3 \pm 7.4\%$; Fed: $10.8 \pm 3.2\%$; Unfed: $10.1 \pm 4.9\%$, SE). In
35 the dual HAB bioassay, larval oyster mortality associated with 1,000 cells/mL *K. veneficum* (44
36 $\pm 9\%$, SE) was not changed by the addition of 50,000 cells/mL *P. cordatum* ($55 \pm 7\%$, SE),
37 demonstrating that *K. veneficum* was primarily responsible for the observed mortality. This study

38 demonstrated that even low cell concentrations of *K. veneficum* and *P. cordatum* are harmful to
39 larval oysters, and could contribute to reductions in oyster hatchery production through impacts
40 on this critical life stage.

41 **KEYWORDS**

42 Harmful algal bloom, *Karlodinium veneficum*, *Prorocentrum cordatum*, oyster larvae, hatchery,
43 Chesapeake Bay, *Crassostrea virginica*, aquaculture

44 1. INTRODUCTION

45 In the late spring to early summer months, the harmful algal bloom (HAB) species
46 *Prorocentrum cordatum* (prev. *P. minimum*, Velikova and Larsen 1999) and *Karlodinium*
47 *veneficum* are common in the Chesapeake Bay (Li et al. 2000, Glibert et al. 2007, Marshall and
48 Egerton 2009). The mixotrophic dinoflagellate *K. veneficum* (Li et al. 1999, Adolf et al. 2006a)
49 produces karlotoxins (KmTxS), a class of bioactive compounds with hemolytic, cytolytic,
50 ichthyotoxic, and allelopathic effects (Deeds et al. 2002, Kempton et al. 2002, Adolf et al. 2006b,
51 Place et al. 2012, Dorantes-Aranda et al. 2015, Yang et al. 2019). This species is perhaps best
52 known for causing finfish kills (Goshorn et al. 2004); however, it has also been shown to have
53 harmful effects on zooplankton (Adolf et al. 2007, Waggett et al. 2008, Yang et al. 2019) and
54 shellfish, including, blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*, Nielsen and Strømgren 1991, Galimany et al.
55 2008), hard clams (*Mercenaria mercenaria*, Place et al. 2008), and some life stages of oysters
56 (*Crassostrea virginica* and *C. ariakensis*, Glibert et al. 2007, Brownlee et al. 2008, Place et al.
57 2008, Stoecker et al. 2008, Lin et al. 2017). Another mixotrophic dinoflagellate known to have
58 harmful effects on a variety of aquatic organisms, including finfish, shellfish, and zooplankton, is
59 *P. cordatum* (reviewed in Heil et al. 2005). Exposure to *P. cordatum* has been shown to produce
60 highly-variable effects amongst shellfish species and life stages, including juvenile bay scallops
61 (*Argopecten irradians irradians*) and hard clams, as well as larval, juvenile, and adult oysters
62 (reviewed in Wikfors 2005). From their work on oyster embryos exposed to *P. cordatum* lysates
63 and filtrates, Wikfors and Smolowitz (1995) concluded that the harmful effects of *P. cordatum*
64 likely relied on exposure to live *P. cordatum* cells rather than a released bioactive compound.

65 Chesapeake Bay blooms of *K. veneficum* and *P. cordatum* spatially and temporally
66 overlap with the spawning season of the eastern oyster (*C. virginica*; Glibert et al. 2007, Place et

67 al. 2008). Previous research has focused on the potential effects of these HAB species on oyster
68 wild-stock recruitment, aquaculture, and restoration (Tango et al. 2005, Glibert et al. 2007, Place
69 et al. 2008, Stoecker et al. 2008). Little research has focused on the impacts of these HABs
70 within the context of oyster hatcheries (Luckenbach et al. 1993). Acute exposure to these HAB
71 species has harmful effects on many early oyster life stages (Luckenbach et al. 1993, Wikfors
72 and Smolowitz 1995, Glibert et al. 2007, Brownlee et al. 2008, Place et al. 2008, Stoecker et al.
73 2008, Lin et al. 2017). All but one of these studies (Wikfors and Smolowitz 1995) focused on
74 acute HAB exposure within 2 days post-fertilization, or after the oysters were at least 14 days
75 old. The veliger life stage, lasting 2 days post-fertilization to 14 - 16 days, requires further
76 investigation. During this time, larvae are free-swimming and typically feed on particles smaller
77 than 10 μm (Fritz et al. 1984). Oyster hatchery production relies on the health and survival of
78 this critical larval life stage.

79 Unexplained larval mortality events at regional oyster hatcheries have raised concerns
80 over the possibility of *K. veneficum* and *P. cordatum* breakthrough into hatcheries (Luckenbach
81 et al. 1993, Tango et al. 2005). “Breakthrough,” in the context of this study, is the introduction of
82 HAB cells and/or HAB-associated toxins into hatchery water (i.e., when water treatment
83 processes at the hatchery fail to remove or degrade HAB cells or HAB-associated toxins from
84 the incoming source water). Furthermore, breakthrough of live *K. veneficum* has been previously
85 reported in a finfish hatchery in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay, where it was
86 associated with finfish mortalities (Deeds et al. 2002). The first objective of the current study
87 was to screen water samples from a commercial oyster hatchery in the lower Chesapeake Bay to
88 detect and quantify any breakthrough of live *K. veneficum* and/or *P. cordatum*.

89 To better prepare hatchery managers to appropriately mitigate a breakthrough event of
90 either or both of these HAB species, a better understanding of the interactions between these
91 HAB species and larval oysters is needed. The second objective of the current study was to
92 assess the potential harmful effects of *K. veneficum* and *P. cordatum* on oyster veliger larvae.
93 Seven-day-old oysters were used in a series of 96-h larval oyster bioassays in the laboratory. The
94 bioassays were designed to measure larval oyster mortality and changes in larval oyster motility
95 during acute, static exposure to one or both of these naturally co-occurring HAB species.
96 Treatments consisted of a range of cell concentrations, representative of cell concentrations
97 documented in natural blooms of these HAB species and hatchery breakthrough events observed
98 during this study. Additionally, the potential effects of *K. veneficum* on a hatchery-relevant
99 beneficial food source, *Pavlova pinguis* were explored.

100 2. MATERIAL & METHODS

101 2.1 In-hatchery HAB screening

102 During the oyster spawning season, water samples were collected from inside an oyster
103 hatchery and screened for the HAB species *K. veneficum* and *P. cordatum* to document any
104 hatchery breakthrough. Water grab samples of 100-mL were collected inside of Oyster Seed
105 Holdings, LLC, a commercial oyster hatchery in the lower Chesapeake Bay, Virginia, USA
106 (37.4937, -76.3037). Hatchery staff collected water samples at-will throughout the commercial
107 oyster spawning season (March through June). Samples were collected in 2014 and 2016, and
108 delivered to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) for detection and quantification of
109 *K. veneficum* and *P. cordatum* (see section 2.7); the hatchery did not provide samples for
110 analysis in 2015. Three types of water samples were collected from within the hatchery at
111 various stages along the water treatment process: 1) mixed-media – incoming water that was
112 filtered to contain only particles less than 20-30 μm using mixed-media mechanical filtration, 2)
113 filtered water – the mixed-media water that was further filtered to contain only particles less than
114 1-10 μm , and 3) feed algae – incoming water that was treated with mixed-media mechanical
115 filtration, with additional 1- μm filtration, and used to cultivate beneficial feed algae through
116 nutrient amendment. Mixed media or filtered water were treated for the purpose of oyster
117 culturing, while feed algae samples were taken directly from the active algal culture bags within
118 the hatchery. All water samples were collected in duplicate to run parallel analyses (see section
119 2.7). Water samples were received from the hatchery in various combinations of sample type and
120 on random dates throughout the spawning seasons; this allowed for a screening of *K. veneficum*
121 and *P. cordatum* for the specific dates and sample types collected. See section 2.7 for in-hatchery
122 HAB cell enumeration methods.

123 2.2 Experimental design of bioassays

124 A series of 96-h, static, single and dual HAB bioassays were done in the laboratory to
125 assess acute and combined effects of *K. veneficum* and *P. cordatum* on larval oysters (**Table 1**).
126 Bioassays were carried out in 24-well tissue culture plates (Falcon®, Corning Inc., Corning,
127 New York, USA), with ten replicate wells per treatment. Treatments were made by diluting algal
128 cultures with treated hatchery water (**Table 1**). Estuarine York River water was treated by the
129 ABC hatchery using a sequence of two sand filters, a 20- μ m cartridge filter, a diatomaceous
130 earth filter, a UV sterilizer, and a 1- μ m filter bag. Treated water was then sterile-filtered through
131 a 0.2- μ m Polycarp 75 TC filter (GE Whatman®, Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Missouri, USA) and
132 was pre-aerated to ensure oxygen saturation. Treated water conditions were measured once at the
133 start of each bioassay with a YSI meter equipped with pH and polarographic dissolved oxygen
134 (DO) sensors (YSI Pro Plus Multiparameter Instrument, Yellow Springs, Ohio, USA). Sensors
135 were calibrated on the first day of the single HAB bioassay, 12 days before the dual HAB
136 bioassay; pH was calibrated using a 3-point calibration with standard buffers. Initial water
137 conditions for the single HAB bioassay were 20.0 ° C, 8.34 mg/L DO, salinity 13.83, pH 7.92,
138 and for the dual HAB bioassay were 19.8 ° C, 7.71 mg/L DO, salinity 13.87, pH 7.81.

139 Each replicate well was loaded with 1 mL of treatment before approximately 10, actively
140 swimming, 7-day-old, larval oysters were added. This larval density was chosen as it was within
141 the range of typical hatchery stocking densities for oysters of this age (4-15 larvae/mL, Castagna
142 et al. 1996). During the 96-h bioassays, well plates were kept in a Percival AL36L4 incubator
143 (Percival Scientific, Perry, Iowa, USA; 19.1 ± 0.5 °C, 39 ± 7 μ mol/m²/s, 14:10 hour light-dark
144 cycle) with the lids on, except during daily observations of larval oyster motility, behavior, and
145 mortality (see section 2.4). No water changes were performed, no algal additions were made, and

146 no larval oysters were removed throughout the 96 hours. For all bioassays, 1-mL glass
147 microbeaker inserts (Electron Microscopy Sciences, Hatfield, Pennsylvania, USA) were used
148 inside of all wells to reduce chemical-surface interactions that could artificially reduce dissolved
149 bioactive compounds in the treatments, e.g., adsorption of lipophilic toxins to plastic well plates.

150 In the single HAB bioassay, treatments consisted of each HAB species at a variety of cell
151 concentrations (*K. veneficum*: 1,000; 5,000; 10,000; and 50,000 cells/mL; *P. cordatum*: 100;
152 5,000; 10,000; and 50,000 cells/mL). The lowest cell concentrations were chosen to reflect the
153 order of magnitude of 2014-2016 average cell concentrations from samples with co-occurring *K.*
154 *veneficum* and *P. cordatum* from the VIMS state HAB monitoring samples ($n = 261$, 1150 ± 317
155 cells/mL standard error [SE] and 389 ± 132 cells/mL SE, respectively). The cell concentrations
156 tested were within the range of cell concentrations observed in natural blooms of these two
157 species in the Chesapeake Bay (1,000– 100,000 cells/mL for both species, Marshall and Egerton
158 2009). Control treatments included Unfed controls, i.e., no algae present, and Fed controls.
159 Unfed controls were included to account for any changes in larval oyster behavior or mortality
160 due to malnourishment. Past studies have found that oyster larvae can tolerate days to weeks
161 without algae, and may feed off of other nutriment during these times (Kennedy 1996) such as
162 bacteria and heterotrophic flagellates (Baldwin and Newell 1991). Fed control oysters received
163 only 25,000 cells/mL of *P. pinguis*, a typical cell concentration used to feed hatchery oyster
164 larvae (see section 2.5).

165 In the dual HAB bioassay, larval oysters were co-exposed to 1,000 cells/mL *K. veneficum*
166 and 50,000 cells/mL *P. cordatum* to assess potential combined effects of these co-occurring
167 HAB species. These cell concentrations were selected based on results from the single HAB
168 bioassay to maximize the potential of detecting a combined effect on larval oyster mortality

169 within 96 hours. In the single HAB bioassay, high cell concentration treatments of *K. veneficum*
170 (>1,000 cells/mL) were determined to be too lethal for assessing combined effects over 96 hours.
171 On the other hand, larval oyster mortality was so low for *P. cordatum* treatments that the highest
172 *P. cordatum* cell concentration treatment was used in the dual HAB bioassay. To control for
173 variability between oyster spawns and changing water conditions, relevant controls and single
174 HAB bioassay treatments (Fed; Unfed; Karlo_{1,000}; Proro_{50,000}) were re-run for direct comparison
175 with the co-exposure treatment.

176 2.3 Feed algae study

177 To assess potential effects of *K. veneficum* on *P. pinguis*, *P. pinguis* cell concentration
178 data were compared between *P. pinguis* treatments (25,000 cells/mL) with or without *K.*
179 *veneficum* (1,000 cells/mL), in the absence of larval oysters, over 96 hours (**Table 1**). During the
180 dual HAB bioassay, 12 additional wells without larval oysters were made up with each of these
181 two algal treatments. Every 24 hours, the contents of three wells from each treatment were
182 transferred into separate 1.5-mL low retention microcentrifuge tubes, fixed with 10% neutral
183 buffered formalin (Pharmco-Aaper, Brookfield, Connecticut, USA), and stored at 4 °C. At the
184 start of the study, triplicate 1-mL samples of the initial algal treatments were collected and stored
185 as just described. *Pavlova pinguis* was enumerated using a hemocytometer and light microscopy
186 (Olympus CX31 or CX41, Olympus Corp., Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan).

187 2.4 Larval oyster metrics

188 During both bioassays, the well plates were removed daily from the incubator for
189 assessment of larval oyster mortality and behavioral observation of oysters by light microscopy
190 (Olympus CKX53 or IX50 inverted microscopes, Olympus Corp., Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan). To
191 capture novel behavior of interest, discovered after the start of the bioassays, still images and

192 short videos were collected using Infinity Analyze 6.5.4 (Lumenera Corp., Ottawa, Ontario,
193 Canada) or CellSens Standard 1.12 (Olympus Corp., Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan) software. Daily
194 assessment of larval oyster mortality in each well consisted of counting *dead* oyster larvae that
195 exhibited no ciliary movement, or that had intact and empty shells; these observations were made
196 at 40X magnification. After all observations and larval oyster mortality assessments were made
197 at 96 hours, 10% neutral buffered formalin (Pharmco-Aaper, Brookfield, Connecticut, USA) was
198 used to fix the wells, allowing for an exact *total* larval oyster count of each well (at the start of
199 the bioassays, wells were loaded with approximately 10 live larval oysters). Cumulative larval
200 mortality (CLM) was calculated at each timepoint for each well using the formula: $CLM = (dead$
201 $/ total) * 100$. These values were used to calculate daily average CLM for each treatment (n =
202 10), from which the daily average *% surviving* could also be calculated, as $100 - CLM$. The daily
203 average CLM for each treatment were plotted over the 96 hours for the single and dual HAB
204 bioassays.

205 In the single HAB bioassay, larval oyster motility in each well was assessed every 24
206 hours using a protocol designed to measure activity/inactivity of larval shellfish species (Yan et
207 al. 2001, Basti et al. 2015). Briefly, when the well plates were removed from the incubator, the
208 plates were gently swirled to cause larvae to stop swimming and sink to the bottom of the wells.
209 After five minutes, the number of non-swimming, *immotile* larvae in each well was recorded.
210 *Immotile* larval oysters were easily distinguished from *dead* larval oysters by ciliary action,
211 visible by light microscopy at 40X magnification. To calculate the percentage of *immotile* larvae
212 in each well at each timepoint, while excluding *dead* larvae, the following equation was used, $\%$
213 $immotile = [(immotile - dead) / (total - dead)] * 100$. These values were used to calculate the
214 average *% immotile* for each treatment at 24 and 96 hours; wells with 0 *% surviving* were

215 excluded from these calculations. Sample size for average % *immotile* was 10 wells per
216 treatment, except at 96 hours for average % *immotile* values for Karlo_{5,000} (n = 6), Karlo_{10,000} (n =
217 9), and Karlo_{50,000} (n = 8). These lower sample sizes were due to the exclusion of wells with 0 %
218 *surviving*.

219 2.5 Larval oyster culturing for bioassays

220 Oyster larvae (*C. virginica*) were acquired from the Aquaculture Genetics and Breeding
221 Technology Center (ABC) oyster hatchery at VIMS. Oysters were spawned separately for the
222 single and dual HAB bioassays, 12 days apart. The single HAB bioassay spawn had 12 parents
223 and the dual HAB bioassay spawn had 8 parents. For both spawns, ABC used 3-yr-old, diploid,
224 DEBY oysters. The DEBY line of oysters is widely used at oyster hatcheries along the eastern
225 coast of the USA (Dr. Jessica Moss Small, ABC, pers. comm.). Adult oysters were strip-
226 spawned, all eggs were pooled and then split into a number of batches equaling the number of
227 male oysters used in that spawn. Each male's sperm was used to fertilize one batch of eggs and
228 the fertilized embryos were then re-pooled, resulting in a spawn with all possible crosses
229 between parents. The resulting larvae were raised with aeration in 60- or 200-L barrels at 24-28
230 °C in the hatchery and were fed a daily diet of *P. pinguis* at 20,000-35,000 cells/mL. Full water
231 changes were performed on day 2, and day 4 or 5, after the spawn. On day 7, oyster larvae were
232 collected on a 63- μ m sieve, transferred to new, treated hatchery water, and transported to the
233 laboratory for the bioassays.

234 2.6 Algal culturing for bioassays and feed algae study

235 The ABC facility cultured *P. pinguis* using f/2 medium (Fritz Aquatics, Mesquite, Texas,
236 USA, Guillard and Ryther 1962, Guillard 1975) using treated hatchery water. Large batch

237 cultures were held at 20 °C under constant light. The average salinity of treated hatchery water
238 during the month of the bioassays was 13.6 (Dr. Jessica Moss Small, ABC, pers. comm.).

239 In the laboratory, single-cell isolate, clonal cultures of the HAB species, *K. veneficum*
240 (CCMP 1974, Stoecker et al. 2008), and *P. cordatum* (JA 98-01, Rosetta and McManus 2003),
241 were grown in f/2-Si medium (Guillard and Ryther 1962, Guillard 1975) made with autoclaved,
242 0.22 µm-filtered York River seawater. The salinity of both cultures was approximately 20, as
243 measured with a refractometer. Batch cultures were grown at 19.1 ± 0.5 °C (SD) under 39 ± 7
244 µmol/m²/s (SD) light irradiance and a 14:10 hour light-dark cycle (see section 2.2). For the
245 single HAB bioassay, the *K. veneficum* culture used to begin the bioassay was in the stationary
246 phase (the growth phase in which the cell population has stabilized), while the *P. cordatum*
247 culture was in stationary phase leading up to the bioassay but was diluted with new medium the
248 day before the bioassay. For the dual HAB bioassay, both HAB cultures were in the stationary
249 phase at the start of the bioassay.

250 2.7 In-hatchery HAB cell enumeration

251 In 2014, *P. cordatum* was quantified in samples preserved with Lugol's solution
252 (Carolina Biological Supply Company, Burlington, North Carolina, USA), using a 1-mL
253 Sedgewick-Rafter slide and light microscopy (100X magnification, Olympus 1X51 with
254 Olympus DP73 digital camera, Center Valley, Pennsylvania, USA). All quantification of *K.*
255 *veneficum* in 2014 and 2016, as well as *P. cordatum* in 2016, was completed using quantitative
256 real-time PCR (qPCR).

257 In preparation for qPCR, samples were filtered through 3-µm Isopore™ membrane filters
258 (Millipore Corp., Darmstadt, Germany) for DNA extraction and qPCR analysis. Filters were
259 placed in 5-mL centrifuge tubes, frozen at -20 °C until DNA was extracted using the QIAamp ®

260 Fast Stool Mini Kit (QIAGEN[®], Germantown, Maryland, USA) according to the manufacturer's
261 protocol with the following modifications. Instead of using only 200 µL of the lysate, the entire
262 sample was carried through the extraction protocol. The reagent volumes were increased in
263 subsequent steps to maintain the proper ratio of sample to reagents. A "blank" extraction
264 (reagents only) was included with each set of samples to ensure there was no contamination.
265 Extracted DNA samples were stored at -20 °C until they could be quantified using qPCR.

266 A previously published TaqMan[®] qPCR assay was used to target *P. cordatum* (Handy et
267 al. 2008). To target *K. veneficum*, the current study used a qPCR TaqMan[®] assay originally
268 developed and optimized at VIMS around 2008-2009 (VA DEQ 2014). This *K. veneficum* assay
269 was chosen because it was, and remains, routinely used in Virginia for official state monitoring
270 of this HAB species. The *K. veneficum* primers were KvITS_242F (5'-
271 TTCGTTGTGTAGTTGTTGACTCG-3') and KvITS_328R (5'-
272 TGCTGACCTAACTTCATGTCTTG -3'), and the probe was Kv_266PR (5' FAM -
273 AGCCTGCTCCAGCTCACGACTCCT-3' TAMRA). These *K. veneficum* primers were tested
274 for cross-reactivity against all phytoplankton species listed in Table 2 of the VA DEQ (2014)
275 report, species all found in lower Chesapeake Bay waters. Control stocks of *K. veneficum* and *P.*
276 *cordatum* were maintained in culture at VIMS. Cell counts for the control stock cultures were
277 determined by light microscopy. DNA was extracted from a known number of cells to use as
278 positive control material and for generating standard curves through serial dilution of the DNA to
279 achieve a range of cell number equivalents. Samples from the hatchery were run against these
280 standard curves to quantify the cells in the sample. qPCR assays were performed on 7500 Fast,
281 QuantStudio 6, or QuantStudio 3 Real-Time PCR systems (Applied Biosystems[™],
282 ThermoFisher, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) using the following cycling parameters: an initial

283 denaturation step at 95 °C for 20 s followed by 40 cycles of 95 °C for 3 s to denature and 60 °C
284 for 30 s to anneal and extend. All reactions were performed in duplicate with reagent
285 concentrations for each reaction of 0.9 μM for each primer, 0.1 μM for the probe and 1X
286 concentration of the TaqMan® Fast Advanced Master Mix (Applied Biosystems™,
287 ThermoFisher, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) in a 10 μL final volume. A subset of qPCR
288 results was cross verified by light microscopy counts (100X magnification, Olympus 1X51 with
289 Olympus DP73 digital camera, Center Valley, Pennsylvania, USA) of Lugol's-preserved
290 (Carolina Biological Supply Company, Burlington, North Carolina, USA) duplicate samples.

291 2.8 Data analysis and statistics

292 Differences in larval oyster motility (*% immotile*) between treatments were assessed at 24
293 and at 96 hours in the single HAB bioassay using Kruskal-Wallis tests followed by post hoc
294 analysis using Dunn tests with the Benjamini and Hochberg (1995) p-adjustment method for
295 multiple comparisons.

296 Differences in mortality (CLM, see section 2.4) between treatments for the single and
297 dual HAB bioassays were analyzed using separate, linear mixed effects models (LMMs). To
298 account for differences between wells, wells were coded as a random (intercept) factor, nested
299 within treatment. Time, treatment, and the interaction between time and treatment, were coded as
300 fixed factors. LMMs allowed for a time decaying correlation structure in the data, i.e.,
301 correlations between data collected in time from the same subject declined as the sampling
302 timepoints got further apart (Liu et al. 2010). The first order autoregressive structure was applied
303 to these models. CLM was arcsine transformed to improve homogeneity of variance of the
304 proportional data (Lin and Xu 2020), which was assessed through residual plots. Models were
305 fitted using a restricted maximum likelihood (REML) approach in R using the “nlme” package

306 (Pinheiro et al. 2020). Least-squares means (LSM) of arcsine-transformed CLM were calculated
307 from the LMM for each treatment within each level of time using the “emmeans” package in R
308 (Lenth et al. 2020). Significant differences between LSM of treatments within each level of time
309 were determined by using the Tukey-Bonferroni method for multiple comparisons (Liu et al.
310 2010). Briefly, Tukey’s pairwise comparisons of treatments within each level of time were
311 calculated, and the significance level (α) was adjusted by dividing by the number of levels of
312 time that comparisons were made for, e.g., $n = 4$, therefore $\alpha = 0.05/4 = 0.0125$.

313 In the feed algae study, *P. pinguis* cell concentration was modeled using a multiple linear
314 regression (MLR) to assess potential effects of *K. veneficum* on *P. pinguis*. The model variables
315 included time (days) and presence/absence of *K. veneficum* (0 = absence, 1 = presence).
316 Scatterplots and correlation tests were used to examine relationships between these model
317 variables and the response, *P. pinguis* cell concentration. Cell concentration (cells/mL) was ln-
318 transformed to normalize the residuals (Shapiro-Wilk’s: $W=0.99$, $p=0.95$). Collinearity of model
319 variables, and homogeneity of variance of model residuals, were assessed to ensure assumptions
320 of the model were met.

321 Statistical tests were performed in R Studio (2019) using R version 3.6.1. Tests used a
322 significance level (α) of 0.05, unless otherwise noted.

323 3. RESULTS

324 3.1 In-hatchery HAB screening

325 During the 2014 and 2016 oyster spawning seasons, both *K. veneficum* and *P. cordatum*
326 were identified and enumerated in water samples collected from within a commercial oyster
327 hatchery (**Table 2**). Both HAB species were found in all three types of treated water in 2014, i.e.,
328 mixed-media, filtered water, and feed algae, and exceeded “bloom” cell concentrations (> 1,000
329 cells/mL) in the former two types. Water treated for feed algae, however, contained lower cell
330 concentrations of both HAB species, rising above 100 cells/mL in May 2014. In 2016,
331 measurable cell concentrations of both HAB species were again present in filtered water, but
332 remained below “bloom” cell concentrations, ranging from 19 – 937 cells/mL *K. veneficum* and
333 3 – 9 cells/mL *P. cordatum*.

334 3.2 Single and dual HAB bioassays

335 3.2.1 *Karlodinium veneficum* swarming behavior

336 In both the single and dual HAB bioassays, *K. veneficum* was observed swarming live
337 and dead oyster larvae (**Fig. 1**), a behavior in stark contrast to the uniform distribution of *P.*
338 *cordatum* (**Fig. 2, Supp. Fig. 1**) and *P. pinguis* (**Videos 1 and 2**) swimming cells. This was a
339 novel behavior of interest (see section 2.4) that was captured in photos and videos as well as in
340 the following qualitative observations. Swarming behavior of *K. veneficum* was observed during
341 every observation timepoint in both bioassays, with more larvae swarmed with time. Swarming
342 behavior was observed in all wells with *K. veneficum* and oyster larvae, but not all larvae within
343 each well were swarmed, or were swarmed at the same time. Less *K. veneficum* were associated
344 with highly active larvae (**Videos 1 and 2**), while immotile larvae (see section 3.2.2) were
345 generally swarmed. Some live oyster larvae that were actively being swarmed, exhibited

346 hindered swimming capabilities (**Video 1**). Live *K. veneficum* were frequently observed inside of
347 the shells of living and dead oyster larvae (**Fig. 1B, Video 2**). Swarms of *K. veneficum* appeared
348 to persist around larvae until the larvae died, and the larval shells were emptied of all tissue, at
349 which point in time the empty shells were generally abandoned within 24 hours.

350 3.2.2 Larval oyster immotility

351 Immotility and survival of larval oysters was quantified at 24 and 96 hours in the single
352 HAB bioassay (**Table 3**). Larvae were significantly less motile after 24 hours of exposure to *K.*
353 *veneficum* or *P. cordatum* when compared to controls (Kruskal-Wallis, $\chi^2 = 77$, $df = 9$, $p <$
354 0.0001). More specifically, all *K. veneficum* treatments (Karlo_{1,000}: $37.8 \pm 4.1\%$; Karlo_{5,000}: 70.0
355 $\pm 3.6\%$; Karlo_{10,000}: $79.3 \pm 3.7\%$; Karlo_{50,000}: $94.0 \pm 5.0\%$ SE), as well as the lowest *P. cordatum*
356 treatment (Proro₁₀₀: $47.3 \pm 7.4\%$ SE), exhibited significantly higher percentages of immotile
357 larvae than the Fed or Unfed controls at 24 hours (Fed: $10.8 \pm 3.2\%$; Unfed: $10.1 \pm 4.9\%$ SE;
358 Dunn, all $p < 0.05$). At 96 hours, there was also a significant difference in the percentage of
359 immotile larval oysters between treatments (Kruskal-Wallis, $\chi^2 = 68$, $df = 9$, $p < 0.0001$). All *K.*
360 *veneficum* treatments (Karlo_{1,000}: $42.0 \pm 6.0\%$; Karlo_{5,000}: 100% ; Karlo_{10,000}: 100% ; Karlo_{50,000}:
361 $79.2 \pm 11.5\%$ SE), as well as the highest *P. cordatum* treatment (Proro_{50,000}: $55.3 \pm 6.4\%$ SE),
362 exhibited significantly higher percentages of immotile larvae than the Fed or Unfed controls at
363 96 hours (Fed: $10.8 \pm 4.0\%$; Unfed: $5.7 \pm 2.5\%$ SE; Dunn, all $p < 0.05$).

364 3.2.3 Larval oyster mortality

365 In the single HAB bioassay, Fed and Unfed controls exhibited low mortality by 96 hours
366 (Fed: $1 \pm 1\%$ standard error [SE]; Unfed: 0% ; $n = 10$ wells per treatment). The Karlo_{1,000}
367 treatment exhibited moderate mortality by 96 hours (Karlo_{1,000}: $21 \pm 5\%$ SE), and the higher cell
368 concentration *K. veneficum* treatments exhibited high mortality by 96 hours (Karlo_{5,000}: $93 \pm 2\%$;

369 Karlo_{10,000}: $85 \pm 3\%$; Karlo_{50,000}: $83 \pm 5\%$ SE; **Fig. 3A**). Conversely, oyster larvae exposed to all
370 *P. cordatum* treatments exhibited low mortality throughout the single HAB bioassay (**Fig. 3B**).

371 Within each timepoint (24, 48, 72, 96 hours) in the single HAB bioassay, Fed and Unfed
372 controls and all *P. cordatum* treatments showed no significant difference in mortality (Tukey-
373 Bonferroni: all $p > 0.0125$, **Table 4**). At 24 hours, Karlo_{10,000} and Karlo_{50,000} treatments had
374 significantly higher mortality than all other treatments (Tukey-Bonferroni: all $p < 0.0125$). At 48,
375 72, and 96 hours, the three highest *K. veneficum* treatments (Karlo_{5,000}, Karlo_{10,000}, and
376 Karlo_{50,000}) had significantly higher mortality than all other treatments (Tukey-Bonferroni: all $p <$
377 0.0125). At 96 hours, Karlo_{1,000} had significantly higher mortality than the Fed and Unfed
378 controls and *P. cordatum* treatments (Tukey-Bonferroni: all $p < 0.0125$). Well nested in
379 treatment was a significant predictor of mortality ($\lambda_{LR} = 91$, $p < 0.0001$), explaining 0.02% of the
380 difference in mortality after accounting for the effects of time and treatment. The interaction
381 between time and treatment was significant in the model (LMM: $F_{27, 270} = 17$, $p < 0.0001$). Time
382 (LMM: $F_{3, 270} = 115$, $p < 0.0001$) and treatment (LMM: $F_{9, 90} = 103$, $p < 0.0001$) were significant
383 predictors of mortality.

384 In the dual HAB bioassay, Fed and Unfed controls and the Proro_{50,000} treatment all
385 exhibited low mortality by 96 hours (Fed: $3 \pm 2\%$; Unfed: 0% ; Proro_{50,000}: $5 \pm 2\%$ SE; $n = 10$
386 wells per treatment), while the Karlo_{1,000} treatment and the Karlo_{1,000} X Proro_{50,000} treatment both
387 exhibited moderate mortality by 96 hours (Karlo_{1,000}: $44 \pm 9\%$; Karlo_{1,000} X Proro_{50,000}: $55 \pm 7\%$
388 SE; **Fig. 4**).

389 At 24 hours in the dual HAB bioassay, there was no significant difference in mortality
390 between any of the treatments (Tukey-Bonferroni: all $p > 0.0125$, **Table 5**). At 48, 72, and 96
391 hours, the Karlo_{1,000} and Karlo_{1,000} X Proro_{50,000} treatments had significantly higher mortality

392 than all other treatments (Tukey-Bonferroni: all $p < 0.0125$) with no significant difference in
393 mortality between these two treatments (Tukey-Bonferroni: all $p > 0.0125$). Well nested in
394 treatment was a significant predictor of mortality ($\lambda_{LR} = 123$, $p < 0.0001$), explaining 46.8% of
395 the difference in mortality after accounting for the effects of time and treatment. The interaction
396 between time and treatment was significant in the model (LMM: $F_{12, 135} = 12$, $p < 0.0001$). Time
397 (LMM: $F_{3, 135} = 45$, $p < 0.0001$) and treatment (LMM: $F_{4, 45} = 24$, $p < 0.0001$) were significant
398 predictors of mortality.

399 3.3 Feed algae study

400 There was a small, but significant negative effect of *K. veneficum* presence on *P. pinguis*
401 cell concentration (MLR: $F_{1,26} = 4.8$, $p = 0.038$). Cell concentration over time of *P. pinguis*, with
402 and without *K. veneficum*, was modeled by the equation: $Y_{Pav} = 10 - 0.08 (Karlo) + 0.4 (Time)$,
403 where Y_{Pav} was the ln-transformed cell concentration (cells/mL) of *P. pinguis*, *Karlo* was the
404 presence/absence of *K. veneficum* (0 = absence, 1 = presence), and *Time* was measured in days
405 (MLR: $F_{2,26} = 308$, $p < 0.0001$, $R^2 = 0.96$). Time was also a significant predictor of *P. pinguis*
406 cell concentration in the model (MLR: $F_{1,26} = 612$, $p < 0.0001$).

407 4. DISCUSSION

408 4.1 *Karlodinium veneficum* and oyster larvae

409 4.1.1 Swarming behavior of *K. veneficum*

410 This study provided novel documentation of larval oyster mortality resulting from
411 predation by *K. veneficum*, and the swarming behavior of *K. veneficum* that preceded this
412 mortality (**Figs. 1 and 2, Videos 1 and 2**). These observations support recent documentation of
413 aggregations of *K. veneficum* cells around single-celled and metazoan prey items (Yang et al.
414 2020). The authors of that study proposed this behavior was part of a potential feeding mode,
415 i.e., micropredation, for this mixotrophic HAB species. Swarming of metazoan organisms by
416 dinoflagellates has been previously documented (Spero and Morée 1981, Delgado and Alcaraz
417 1999, Springer et al. 2002, Berge et al. 2012, Yang et al. 2020), including during laboratory
418 exposures of larval oysters to *Pfiesteria* spp. (Springer et al. 2002, Shumway et al. 2006).
419 Swarming behavior has also been reported in another *Karlodinium* species (Berge et al. 2008,
420 2012), *K. armiger*, where it was associated with the immobilization, predation, and ultimate
421 death, of copepods (Berge et al. 2012). In the same study, a polychaete trochophore was
422 swarmed and almost entirely consumed within 24 hours. *Karlodinium armiger* can feed on its
423 prey using a peduncle for tube feeding, or through phagotrophy (Berge et al. 2008), similar to *K.*
424 *veneficum* (Yang et al. 2020). Chemotaxis towards prey items has been reported in *K. armiger*
425 (Poulsen et al. 2011, Berge et al. 2012). Observations from the current study suggest that there
426 was some form of chemosensory attraction of *K. veneficum* to the oyster larvae that may have
427 facilitated the observed swarming.

428 While KmTxS were not quantified in this study due to limited cell biomass and the lack
429 of a commercially-available standard, their probable involvement deserves some discussion. The

430 strain of *K. veneficum* used in the current study (CCMP 1974) produces KmTx 1 and KmTx 3
431 (Brownlee et al. 2008, Stoecker et al. 2008, Adolf et al. 2009, Bachvaroff et al. 2009). Exposure
432 to the same strain of toxin-producing *K. veneficum* caused immotility in 2-week-old oyster larvae
433 (Glibert et al. 2007) and mortality in just-hatched larvae, while a non-toxin-producing strain of
434 *K. veneficum* had no effect on mortality (Stoecker et al. 2008). KmTxs have also been shown to
435 be involved in *K. veneficum* prey-capture by reducing swimming speeds and immobilizing
436 single-celled prey (Sheng et al. 2010). Similarly, KmTxs are thought to have played a role in the
437 observed larval oyster immotility and mortality in the current study. KmTxs are poorly-soluble,
438 leading to the hypothesis that they must be administered within close proximity to the target
439 (Sheng et al. 2010). This would indicate that *K. veneficum* swarming likely preceded any
440 involvement of KmTxs in the current study, and that once swarmed, larval oysters were more
441 likely to experience immobilization or other effects of KmTxs. The precise role of KmTxs in the
442 interaction between larval oysters and *K. veneficum* deserves further study.

443 The current study demonstrated interactions between *K. veneficum* swarming behavior
444 and larval motility. Larval swimming has been hypothesized to create microscale turbulence
445 capable of preventing or reducing the risk of a dinoflagellate coming into close proximity with
446 an active oyster larva (Springer et al. 2002). This small-scale turbulence surrounding swimming
447 larvae could have interfered with *K. veneficum* swarming behavior and may help explain why
448 some oyster larvae survived. Furthermore, *K. veneficum* was found to preferentially feed on
449 immotile prey (Yang et al. 2020). In the current study, immotile larvae were almost always
450 observed with physically-associated *K. veneficum*. Once *K. veneficum* are physically-associated
451 with a larva, in addition to the potential effects of KmTxs mentioned previously, the associated
452 cells may increase physical drag during swimming attempts by the larva, or the cells may

453 directly interfere with the larval swimming mechanism. Any of these outcomes further enhance
454 the likelihood of larval immotility and the risk of being swarmed by additional *K. veneficum*
455 cells. As the *K. veneficum* exposure duration or dose (cell concentration) increases, larval oysters
456 experience more close encounters with individual *K. veneficum* cells. When considered in
457 conjunction with previous studies, the current study suggests that without sustained, close
458 proximity between *K. veneficum* and the larval oysters, the effect of *K. veneficum* on the oysters
459 may be minimized. The authors propose that larval immotility ultimately enhances the
460 opportunity for *K. veneficum* to initiate, or advance, an attack on the larvae, initiating a positive
461 feedback loop that facilitates swarming and increases the harmful impact of this HAB species on
462 larval oysters.

463 4.1.2 *Karlodinium veneficum* and larval oyster mortality

464 Exposure to *K. veneficum* caused significant larval oyster mortality at all cell
465 concentrations tested, representing cell concentrations observed in hatchery breakthrough (1,000
466 cells/mL treatment; **Table 2**) and Chesapeake Bay bloom events (5,000 – 50,000 cells/mL
467 treatments; Marshall and Egerton 2009). This supports previous research that has shown other
468 early life stages of the eastern oyster (*C. virginica*) to be vulnerable to harmful effects of *K.*
469 *veneficum*. Past studies have found that oyster larvae exposed to *K. veneficum* during the first
470 two days of life exhibited deformities (Glibert et al. 2007) and elevated mortality compared to
471 control larvae (Glibert et al. 2007, Stoecker et al. 2008, Lin et al. 2017). Additionally, Glibert
472 and colleagues (2007) found that 14-day-old oyster larvae (pediveligers) stopped swimming after
473 72 hours of exposure to *K. veneficum*, an effect they hypothesized would lead to larval oyster
474 mortality. The current study provided new information on the effects of *K. veneficum* exposure
475 between these two previously-studied oyster developmental stages, using 7-day-old oyster larvae

476 (veligers). Together, these findings suggest that hatchery breakthrough of *K. veneficum* can lead
477 to significant larval oyster mortality inside of an oyster hatchery. In addition, the mortality
478 associated with the higher *K. veneficum* cell concentrations tested in the current study (5,000 –
479 50,000 cells/mL), is considered ecologically significant and demonstrates severe consequences
480 from acute exposure of oyster larvae to this HAB species (**Fig. 3**).

481 The Fed and Unfed controls showed no significant larval oyster mortality over 96 hours,
482 demonstrating the habitable conditions of this bioassay design. The static nature of these
483 bioassays, however, may have led to declining water quality and subsequent larval stress. Water
484 quality, therefore, cannot be ruled out as a possible confounding, and unmeasured, factor in the
485 mortality metric. These mortality results, however, are highly applicable to static hatchery
486 conditions where larvae are kept in tanks without water flow, moribund or dead larvae are not
487 removed, and the water is changed out every few days. Water quality issues may exacerbate
488 effects of *K. veneficum* exposure, although more research into combined effects of co-stressors in
489 a hatchery setting is needed.

490 This is the first study to test the combined effects of these naturally co-occurring HAB
491 species. During the dual HAB bioassay, there was no change in larval oyster mortality when *K.*
492 *veneficum* was alone or with *P. cordatum*, signifying that *K. veneficum* drove the observed larval
493 oyster mortality in the co-exposure (**Fig. 4**). The results of the dual HAB bioassay also
494 demonstrated that larval oyster mortalities were not explained by high cell biomass or particulate
495 concentrations, i.e., the *K. veneficum* with *P. cordatum* treatment had the highest cell biomass
496 and particulate concentration of all treatments tested.

497 4.2 *Prorocentrum cordatum* and oyster larvae

498 Exposure to *P. cordatum* was occasionally associated with larval immotility (**Table 3**),
499 indicating that interactions with *P. cordatum* are disruptive to larval oyster behavior. Significant
500 immotility compared to larval oyster controls was observed in the exposures as early as 24 hours,
501 even with *P. cordatum* cell concentrations as low as 100 cells/mL. Reduced motility during
502 exposure to *P. cordatum* has previously been reported in juvenile bay scallops (Li et al. 2012)
503 and in pediveliger Suminoe oysters, *C. ariakensis* (Glibert et al. 2007). The latter study also
504 reported reduced swimming speeds in pediveliger eastern oysters, *C. virginica*, exposed to *P.*
505 *cordatum*. Reduction in motility of larval oysters may result in reduced grazing, which could in
506 turn reduce larval growth, and ultimately, survival.

507 While some previous studies have shown *P. cordatum* to cause mortality in early life
508 stages of oysters (Luckenbach et al. 1993, Wikfors and Smolowitz 1995, Glibert et al. 2007), the
509 current study, and a similar study with just-hatched larvae (Stoecker et al. 2008) found no
510 significant effect of *P. cordatum* on larval oyster mortality. The lack of mortality in these studies
511 may be due to insufficient *P. cordatum* exposure duration or dose. Moreover, it could be related
512 to the physiological states of *P. cordatum* culture used (Li et al. 2012). *Prorocentrum cordatum*
513 cultures in decline have been found to produce more harmful effects than culture in other growth
514 phases (Grzebyk et al. 1997, Li et al. 2012), such as stationary phase, as was used in the current
515 study. Regardless, the observed larval immotility indicated a low-level, harmful effect of *P.*
516 *cordatum* exposure that would have been missed if bioassay metrics had been limited to larval
517 oyster mortality.

518 4.3 Implications for oyster hatcheries

519 This is the first documentation of breakthrough of live cells of *K. veneficum* and *P.*
520 *cordatum* into an oyster hatchery (**Table 2**). Breakthrough occurred during oyster spawning

521 season, a time of year when these two HAB species co-occur in the Chesapeake Bay (Glibert et
522 al. 2007). Cells of *K. veneficum* (length 9-18 μm , Ballantine 1956) and *P. cordatum* (length 20
523 μm , Faust 1974) survived mechanical filtration with nominal pore sizes of 1-30 μm ,
524 demonstrating that filtration of incoming water, even down to 1 μm , may not be sufficient to
525 keep these HAB species out of hatcheries. HAB cell concentrations inside the hatchery
526 occasionally reached low-bloom cell concentrations ($\geq 1,000$ cells/mL). In laboratory bioassays,
527 treatments of similar cell concentrations caused significant larval oyster immotility (by *P.*
528 *cordatum* and *K. veneficum*) and significant larval oyster mortality (by *K. veneficum*). The
529 bioassays in this study used the popular DEBY oysters and future research should explore
530 whether different genetic lines of eastern oyster (*C. virginica*) respond differently to *K.*
531 *veneficum* or *P. cordatum*.

532 The current study demonstrated that proximal, acute exposure to *K. veneficum* is a major
533 concern for larval oyster health. Larval oyster mortality was preceded by *K. veneficum* actively
534 swarming the larval oysters. Close proximity may be avoided or minimized when oyster larvae
535 are healthy and actively swimming, when water conditions are turbulent, or, in the case of oyster
536 hatcheries, when frequent full-water changes are performed. Based on the results from the single
537 and dual HAB bioassays, daily full water changes would be advised to minimize the risk of
538 larval oyster mortality due to static exposure to *K. veneficum* during a breakthrough event. At a
539 fish hatchery, potassium permanganate was successfully used to mitigate an incidence of *K.*
540 *veneficum* breakthrough without any ill effects (Deeds et al. 2002). Testing would be needed to
541 determine the appropriateness of this approach for an oyster hatchery.

542 Furthermore, both *K. veneficum* and *P. cordatum* were found in feed algae cultured at the
543 hatchery, making feed algae an additional potential source of HABs to hatchery oysters. This

544 study also showed that *K. veneficum* could negatively impact the cell concentration of a common
545 hatchery feed alga (*P. pinguis*). A reduction in hatchery feed algae during a *K. veneficum*
546 breakthrough event could represent another stressor on hatchery oysters, and poses additional
547 challenges for hatchery aquaculturists.

548 This study documented HAB cell breakthrough into an oyster hatchery, harmful effects
549 of two common Chesapeake Bay HAB species on the vulnerable veliger life stage of the eastern
550 oyster (*C. virginica*), as well as potential negative effects of *K. veneficum* on hatchery feed algae.
551 Evidence of oyster hatchery HAB breakthrough of low-bloom cell concentrations, and damage to
552 larval oysters exposed to these HAB species, validate regional concerns and suggest that these
553 HAB species could have contributed to past unexplained larval oyster mortalities at regional
554 hatcheries. The authors recommend that hatcheries continue to monitor treated water and feed
555 algae for HAB breakthrough, especially when water will be used with early oyster life stages.
556 The harmful effects of these two HAB species on larval oysters can likely be mitigated through a
557 combination of monitoring and frequent full water changes.

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Table 1

Response variables and treatments for the single and dual HAB bioassays, and the feed algae study.

Experiment	Response variables	Treatments ^a	Algal Species	Cell Concentration (cells/mL)
Single HAB Bioassay	Larval oyster mortality	Fed (Pav) ^b	<i>Pavlova pinguis</i>	25,000
		Unfed ^b	None	0
	Behavioral observations	Karlo 1,000	<i>Karlodinium veneficum</i>	1,000
		Karlo 5,000		5,000
	Larval oyster immotility	Karlo 10,000	10,000	
		Karlo 50,000	50,000	
		Proro 100	<i>Prorocentrum cordatum</i>	100
		Proro 5,000		5,000
		Proro 10,000		10,000
		Proro 50,000		50,000
Dual HAB Bioassay	Larval oyster mortality	Fed (Pav) ^b	<i>Pavlova pinguis</i>	25,000
		Unfed ^b	None	0
	Behavioral observations	Karlo 1,000 ^b	<i>Karlodinium veneficum</i>	1,000
		Proro 50,000 ^b	<i>Prorocentrum cordatum</i>	50,000
		Karlo 1,000 X Proro 50,000	<i>Karlodinium veneficum</i> & <i>Prorocentrum cordatum</i>	1,000 50,000
Feed Algae Study	<i>P. pinguis</i> cell concentration	Fed (Pav) ^b	<i>Pavlova pinguis</i>	25,000
		Karlo 1,000 X Fed (Pav)	<i>Karlodinium veneficum</i>	1,000
			& <i>Pavlova pinguis</i>	25,000

^a Pav = *Pavlova pinguis*, Karlo = *Karlodinium veneficum*, Proro = *Prorocentrum cordatum*, numbers represent cell concentrations in cells/mL

^b Control treatments within each experiment

Table 2

Karlodinium veneficum and *Prorocentrum cordatum* detected in samples from a commercial oyster hatchery in the lower Chesapeake Bay, Virginia, USA.

Date	Sample Type	Cell Concentration (cells/mL)		
		<i>Karlodinium veneficum</i> ^a	<i>Prorocentrum cordatum</i> ^b	
2014	May 12	Mixed-media	506	579
		10 µm-filtered water	30	< 1
		Feed algae	< 1	< 1
	May 19	Mixed-media	60	3,630 *
		10 µm-filtered water	67	2,940 *
	May 20	10 µm-filtered water	144	192
		Feed algae	167	716
	May 28	Feed algae	< 1	< 1
	June 4	Mixed-media	15	11
		10 µm-filtered water	9	8
		Feed algae	< 1	< 1
	June 13	Mixed-media	1,094 *	767
Feed algae		0	0	
2016	March 11	10 µm-filtered water	19	7
	March 24	10 µm-filtered water	185	3
	April 11	1 µm-filtered water	937	9
	April 18	1 µm-filtered water	163	6

^a All samples were quantified using quantitative real-time PCR

^b 2014 samples were quantified using cell counts by light microscopy, 2016 samples were quantified using quantitative real-time PCR

* bloom cell concentration (> 1,000 cells/mL)

Table 3

Immotility and survival of larval oysters in the single HAB bioassay.

Treatments ^a	24 hours		96 hours	
	Average <i>% surviving</i>	Average <i>% immotile</i> ^b	Average <i>% surviving</i>	Average <i>% immotile</i> ^b
Fed (Pav)	100.0 (0.0)	10.8 (3.2)	99.1 (0.9)	10.8 (4.0)
Unfed	100.0 (0.0)	10.1 (4.9)	100.0 (0.0)	5.7 (2.5)
Karlo 1,000	98.1 (1.3)	37.8 (4.1) *	79.0 (4.8)	42.0 (6.0) *
Karlo 5,000	90.9 (2.8)	70.0 (3.6) *	6.6 (1.9)	100.0 (0.0) *
Karlo 10,000	85.0 (3.6)	79.3 (3.7) *	15.5 (2.8)	100.0 (0.0) *
Karlo 50,000	78.0 (4.6)	94.0 (5.0) *	16.9 (4.6)	79.2 (12.9) *
Proro 100	100.0 (0.0)	47.3 (7.4) *	96.3 (2.7)	14.2 (4.3)
Proro 5,000	99.0 (1.0)	33.2 (5.6)	96.1 (2.2)	13.6 (4.8)
Proro 10,000	100.0 (0.0)	17.9 (4.7)	99.0 (1.0)	8.9 (2.4)
Proro 50,000	100.0 (0.0)	18.1 (2.6)	92.9 (3.0)	55.3 (6.4) *

Values indicate the treatment average with standard error given in parentheses.

Sample size was n = 10 wells per treatment, except for average *% immotile* values at 96 hours for Karlo_{5,000} (n = 6), Karlo_{10,000} (n = 9), and Karlo_{50,000} (n = 8), due to the exclusion of wells with 0 *% surviving*.

^a Pav = *Pavlova pinguis*, Karlo = *Karlodinium veneficum*, Proro = *Prorocentrum cordatum*, numbers represent cell concentrations (cells/mL)

^b Percentage of surviving larval oysters that were immotile

*Value significantly different from the Fed and Unfed control *% immotile* values (Dunn, $\alpha = 0.05$)

Table 4

Least-squares means of arcsine-transformed cumulative larval mortality in the single HAB bioassay.

Treatments*	24 hours	48 hours	72 hours	96 hours
Fed (Pav)	0.00 a	0.00 c	0.00 e	0.03 h
Unfed	0.00 a	0.00 c	0.00 e	0.00 h
Karlo 1,000	0.06 a	0.08 c	0.22 e	0.44 i
Karlo 5,000	0.24 a b	0.49 d	0.74 f	1.37 j
Karlo 10,000	0.35 b	0.53 d	0.99 g	1.19 j
Karlo 50,000	0.46 b	0.66 d	0.83 f g	1.20 j
Proro 100	0.00 a	0.04 c	0.07 e	0.09 h
Proro 5,000	0.03 a	0.06 c	0.08 e	0.11 h
Proro 10,000	0.00 a	0.00 c	0.03 e	0.03 h
Proro 50,000	0.00 a	0.03 c	0.06 e	0.19 h

Standard error = 0.047 for all reported least-squares means values.

Letters denote groups of treatments that were or were not significantly different from one another based on Tukey's post hoc pairwise comparisons calculated within each level of time (Tukey-Bonferroni adjusted $\alpha = 0.0125$).

* Pav = *Pavlova pinguis*, Karlo = *Karlodinium veneticum*, Proro = *Prorocentrum cordatum*, numbers represent cell concentrations (cells/mL)

Table 5

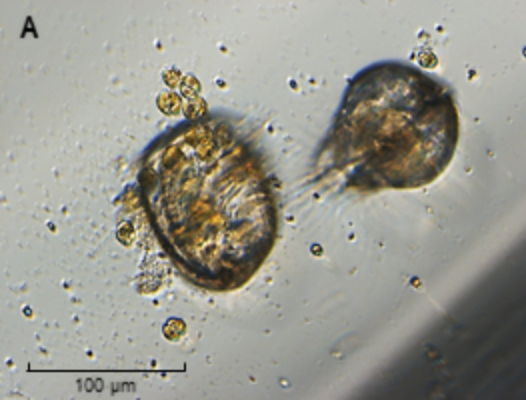
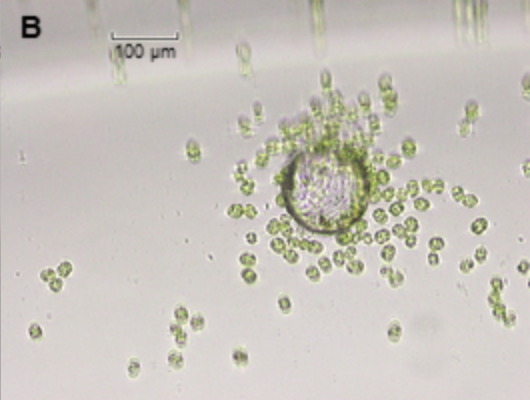
Least-squares means of arcsine-transformed cumulative larval mortality in the dual HAB bioassay.

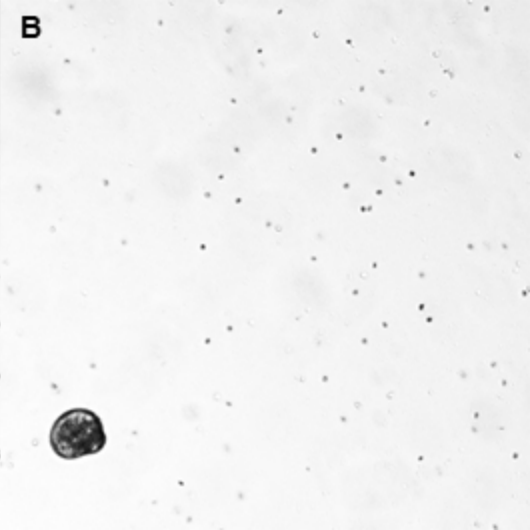
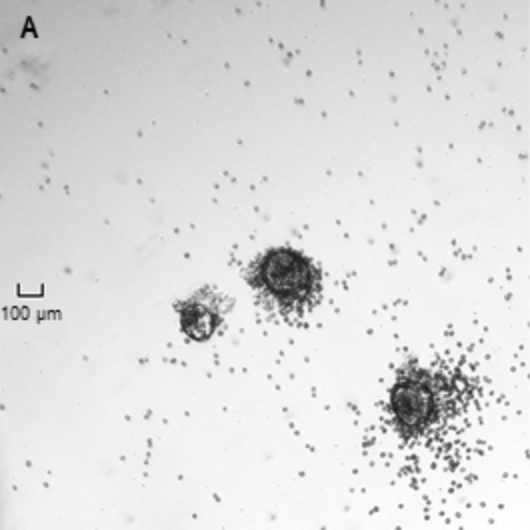
Treatments*	24 hours	48 hours	72 hours	96 hours
Fed (Pav)	0.00 a	0.00 b	0.00 d	0.08 f
Unfed	0.00 a	0.00 b	0.00 d	0.00 f
Karlo 1,000	0.18 a	0.44 c	0.56 e	0.67 g
Proro 50,000	0.03 a	0.03 b	0.03 d	0.14 f
Karlo 1,000 X Proro 50,000	0.16 a	0.38 c	0.60 e	0.83 g

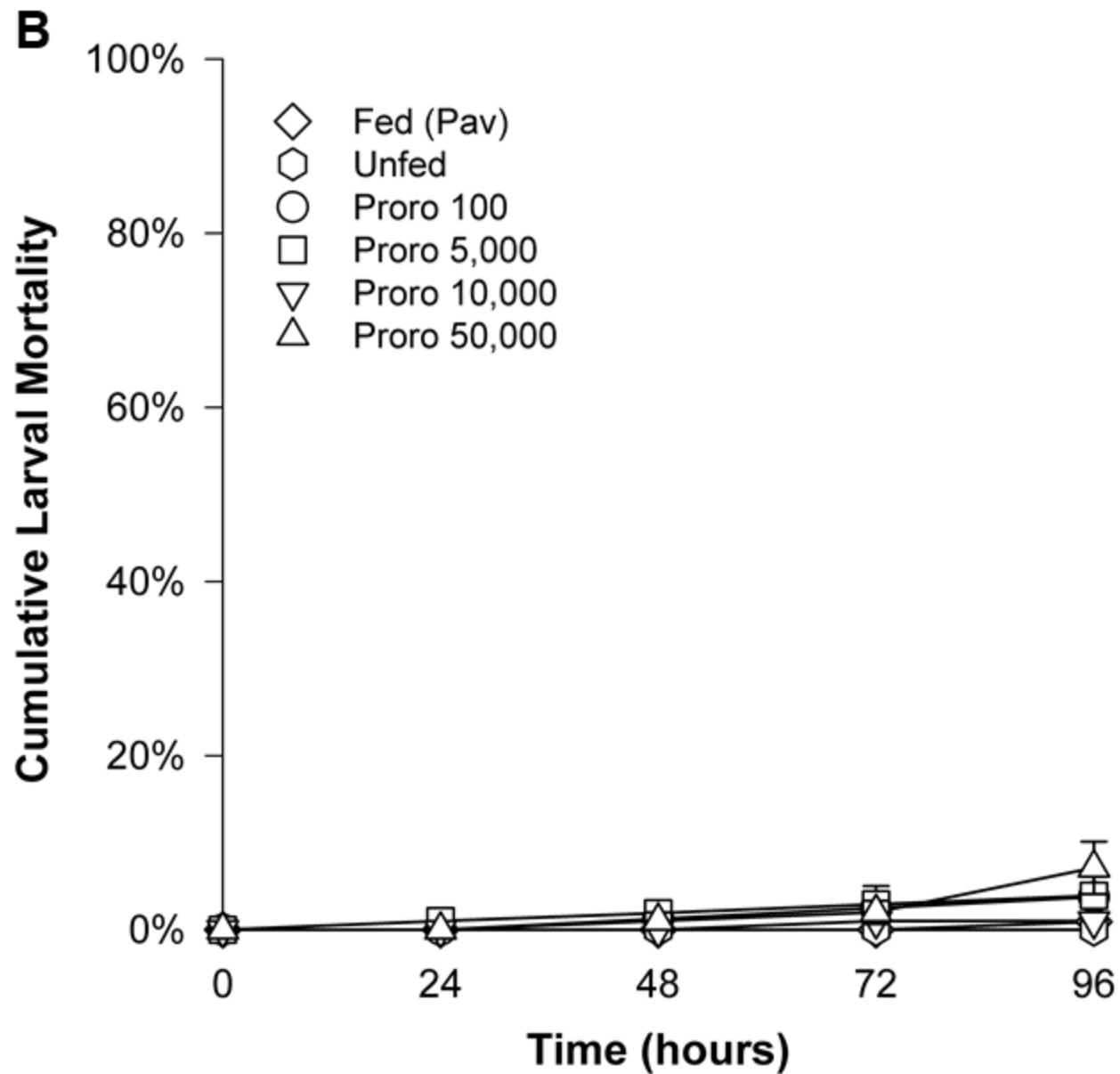
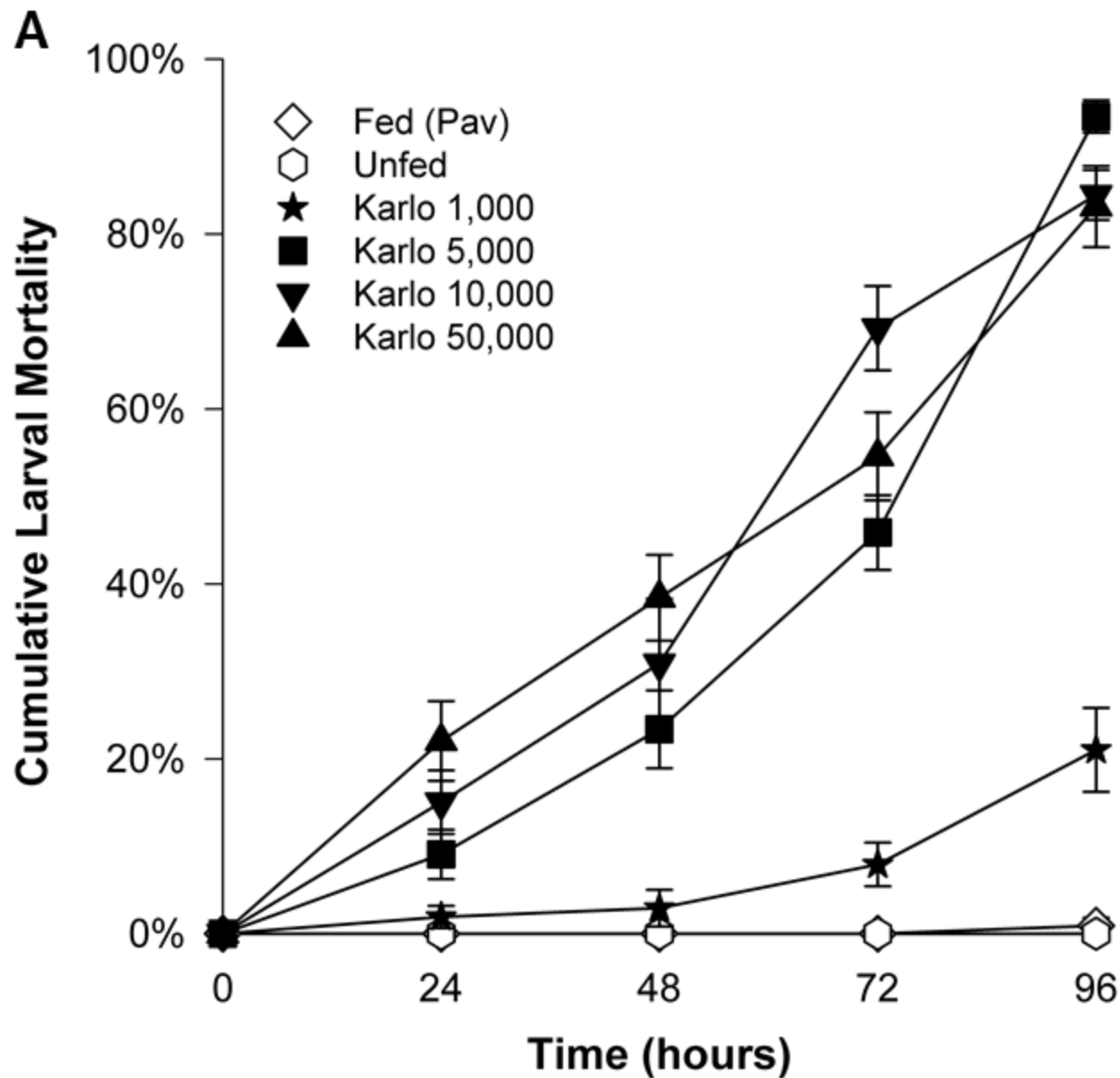
Standard error = 0.056 for all reported least-squares means values.

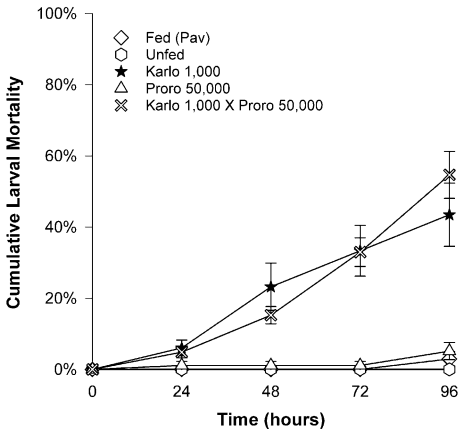
Letters denote groups of treatments that were or were not significantly different from one another based on Tukey's post hoc pairwise comparisons calculated within each level of time (Tukey-Bonferroni adjusted $\alpha = 0.0125$).

* Pav = *Pavlova pinguis*, Karlo = *Karlodinium veneficum*, Proro = *Prorocentrum cordatum*, numbers represent cell concentrations (cells/mL)

A**B**







5,000 cells/mL
Karlodinium veneficum

100 μ m

**Larval
oysters**

**Cumulative Larval
Oyster Mortality**

