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Summer diatom blooms in the eastern North Pacific gyre investigated with a long-endurance autonomous surface vehicle

Emily E Anderson¹, Cara Wilson², Anthony H Knap³, Tracy A Villareal^{Corresp. 1}

¹ Dept. of Marine Science, The University of Texas at Austin, Port Aransas, Texas, United States of America

² National Marine Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Monterey, California, United States of America

³ Texas A&M University, Geochemical and Environmental Research Group, College Station, Texas, United States of America

Corresponding Author: Tracy A Villareal
Email address: tracyv@austin.utexas.edu

Satellite chlorophyll (chl) observations have repeatedly observed summertime phytoplankton blooms in the North Pacific subtropical gyre (NPSG), a region of open ocean that is far removed from any land-derived or Ekman upwelling nutrient sources. These blooms are dominated by N₂-fixing diatom-cyanobacteria associations of the diatom genera *Rhizosolenia* Brightwell and *Hemiaulus* Ehrenberg. Their nitrogen fixing endosymbiont, *Richelia intracellularis* J.A. Schmidt, is hypothesized to be critical to the development of blooms in this nitrogen limited region. However, due to the remote location and unpredictable duration of the summer blooms, prolonged *in situ* observations are rare outside of the Station ALOHA time-series off of Hawai'i. In summer, 2015, a proof-of-concept mission using the autonomous vehicle, *Honey Badger* (Wave Glider SV2), collected near-surface (<20m) observations in the NPSG using hydrographic, meteorological, optical, and imaging sensors designed to focus on phytoplankton abundance, distribution and physiology of this bloom-forming region. *Hemiaulus* and *Rhizosolenia* cell abundance was determined using digital holography for the entire June-November mission. *Honey Badger* was not able to reach the 30°N subtropical front region where most of the satellite chl blooms have been observed, but near-real time navigational control allowed it to transect two blooms near 25°N. The two taxa did not co-occur in large numbers, rather the blooms were dominated by either *Hemiaulus* or *Rhizosolenia*. The 2-4 August 2015 bloom was comprised of 96% *Hemiaulus* and the second bloom, 15-17 August 2015, was dominated by *Rhizosolenia* (75%). The holograms also imaged undisturbed, fragile *Hemiaulus* aggregates throughout the sampled area at ~10 L⁻¹. Aggregated *Hemiaulus* represented the entire observed population at times and had a widespread distribution independent of the SEP. Aggregate occurrence was not consistent with a density dependent formation mechanism and may represent a natural

growth form in undisturbed conditions. The photosynthetic potential index ($F_v:F_m$) increased from ~ 0.4 to ~ 0.6 during both blooms indicating a physiologically robust phytoplankton community in the blooms. The diel pattern of $F_v:F_m$ (nocturnal maximum; diurnal minimum) was consistent with macronutrient limitation throughout the mission with no evidence of Fe-limitation despite the presence of nitrogen fixing diatom-diazotroph assemblages. During the 5-month mission, *Honey Badger* covered ~ 5690 km (3070 nautical miles), acquired 9336 holograms, and reliably transmitted data onshore in near real-time. Software issues developed with the active fluorescence sensor that terminated measurements in early September. Although images were still useful at the end of the mission, fouling of the LISST-Holo optics was considerable, and appeared to be the most significant issue facing deployments of this duration.

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5 Emily E. Anderson¹, Cara Wilson², Anthony H. Knap³, Tracy A. Villareal¹

6
7 ¹ Department of Marine Science and Marine Science Institute, The University of Texas at Austin,
8 Port Aransas, Texas, United States of America

9 ² NOAA/NMFS, Environmental Research Division, Monterey, California, United States of
10 America

11 ³³Geochemical and Environmental Research Group, Texas A&M University, College Station,
12 Texas, United States of America

13
14 corresponding author:

15 Tracy Villareal¹

16 Email address: tracyv@austin.utexas.edu

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20 **Abstract**

21 Satellite chlorophyll (chl) observations have repeatedly observed summertime
22 phytoplankton blooms in the North Pacific subtropical gyre (NPSG), a region of open ocean that
23 is far removed from any land-derived or Ekman upwelling nutrient sources. These blooms are
24 dominated by N₂-fixing diatom-cyanobacteria associations of the diatom genera *Rhizosolenia*
25 Brightwell and *Hemiaulus* Ehrenberg. Their nitrogen fixing endosymbiont, *Richelia*
26 *intracellularis* J.A. Schmidt, is hypothesized to be critical to the development of blooms in this
27 nitrogen limited region. However, due to the remote location and unpredictable duration of the
28 summer blooms, prolonged *in situ* observations are rare outside of the Station ALOHA time-
29 series off of Hawai'i. In summer, 2015, a proof-of-concept mission using the autonomous
30 vehicle, *Honey Badger* (Wave Glider SV2), collected near-surface (<20m) observations in the
31 NPSG using hydrographic, meteorological, optical, and imaging sensors designed to focus on
32 phytoplankton abundance, distribution and physiology of this bloom-forming region. *Hemiaulus*
33 and *Rhizosolenia* cell abundance was determined using digital holography for the entire June-
34 November mission. *Honey Badger* was not able to reach the 30° N subtropical front region
35 where most of the satellite chl blooms have been observed, but near-real time navigational
36 control allowed it to transect two blooms near 25° N. The two taxa did not co-occur in large
37 numbers, rather the blooms were dominated by either *Hemiaulus* or *Rhizosolenia*. The 2-4
38 August 2015 bloom was comprised of 96% *Hemiaulus* and the second bloom, 15-17 August
39 2015, was dominated by *Rhizosolenia* (75%). The holograms also imaged undisturbed, fragile
40 *Hemiaulus* aggregates throughout the sampled area at ~10 L⁻¹. Aggregated *Hemiaulus*
41 represented the entire observed population at times and had a widespread distribution
42 independent of the SEP. Aggregate occurrence was not consistent with a density dependent
43 formation mechanism and may represent a natural growth form in undisturbed conditions. The

44 photosynthetic potential index ($F_v:F_m$) increased from ~ 0.4 to ~ 0.6 during both blooms indicating
45 a physiologically robust phytoplankton community in the blooms. The diel pattern of $F_v:F_m$
46 (nocturnal maximum; diurnal minimum) was consistent with macronutrient limitation throughout
47 the mission with no evidence of Fe-limitation despite the presence of nitrogen fixing diatom-
48 diazotroph assemblages. During the 5-month mission, *Honey Badger* covered ~ 5690 km (3070
49 nautical miles), acquired 9336 holograms, and reliably transmitted data onshore in near real-
50 time. Software issues developed with the active fluorescence sensor that terminated
51 measurements in early September. Although images were still useful at the end of the mission,
52 fouling of the LISST-Holo optics was considerable, and appeared to be the most significant issue
53 facing deployments of this duration.

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56 **Introduction**

57 Low-nutrient, low chlorophyll (LNLC) oceanic regimes with chlorophyll-a (chl)
58 concentrations $<0.07 \text{ mg m}^{-3}$ constitute approximately 60% of the world ocean (Guieu et al.
59 2014) and are home to a phytoplankton community highly adapted for survival at the ambient
60 nanomolar concentrations of inorganic NO_3^- and PO_4^{2-} . One of the important adaptations is
61 nitrogen-fixation (diazotrophy), a process by which dissolved N_2 is converted into ammonium
62 for incorporation into amino acids and proteins (Carpenter & Capone 2008). Diazotrophy
63 requires abundant iron resources (Mills et al. 2004; Ratten et al. 2015) and is reduced in iron-
64 limited regions. N_2 -fixation may also be limited by other nutrients (Kustka et al. 2002; Mills et
65 al. 2004; Ratten et al. 2015) or competition by non-diazotrophic phytoplankton (Weber &
66 Deutsch 2014). Multiple prokaryote taxa are capable of diazotrophy (Zehr & Kudela 2011);
67 photosynthetic taxa include colonial cyanobacteria such as *Trichodesmium* spp. (Capone et al.
68 1997; Goering et al. 1966), free-living coccoid forms including *Crocospaera watsonii* (Goebel
69 et al. 2008; Zehr et al. 2001), and coccoid or filamentous forms symbiotic with eukaryotes. Of
70 these latter symbioses, there are coccoid forms symbiotic with the prymnesiophyte
71 *Braarudosphaera bigelowii* (Gran and Braarud) Deflandre (Thompson et al. 2014; Thompson et
72 al. 2012), dinoflagellates (Farnelid et al. 2010; Foster et al. 2006) and filamentous or coccoid
73 cyanobacteria occurring as exo- or endosymbionts of diatoms (Foster & O'Mullan 2008;
74 Villareal 1992). This latter group, diatom-diazotroph associations (DDAs), are dominated by an
75 endosymbiosis between the filamentous cyanobacteria, *Richelia intracellularis*, and members of
76 the diatom genera *Rhizosolenia* and *Hemiaulus*. These symbioses have complex interactions with
77 their hosts (Foster & Zehr 2006; Hilton et al. 2013) and the taxonomic distinctness of the

78 symbionts even within a single host genus remains unclear. DDAs play important roles in
79 biogeochemical cycling off the Amazon (Carpenter et al. 1999; Subramaniam et al. 2008) and
80 Mekong Rivers (Bombar et al. 2011) as well as in the central North Pacific gyre (Church et al.
81 2008).

82 At the Hawai'i Ocean Time-series (HOT), episodic pulses of DDAs dominated by
83 *Hemiaulus* spp. rapidly sink to depth (Scharek et al. 1999a; Scharek et al. 1999b) and transport
84 ~20% of the annual benthic carbon flux in a limited window (15 July-15 August) termed the
85 summer export pulse (SEP) (Karl et al. 2012). Isotopic signatures of N₂ fixation suggest that
86 their diazotrophic symbiont is present and fueling the biomass flux; the rapid sinking rate
87 indicates aggregation plays a key role in the accelerated transport to depth (Scharek et al. 1999b).
88 The SEP is possibly linked to episodic surface blooms of DDAs advecting through the region in
89 the prevailing flow (Dore et al. 2008; Fong et al. 2008; White et al. 2007). Auxospore formation
90 has also been offered as an explanation (Karl et al. 2012) although direct examination of trap
91 material (Scharek et al. 1999a; Scharek et al. 1999b) reported no evidence of auxosporulation.
92 Follett et al. (2018) modelled generalized DDA dynamics, noting that the population peaked in
93 the early summer and rapidly declined during the SEP window after a transition from modelled
94 Fe to P limitation favored competitive exclusion by other taxa. The model necessarily addressed
95 generalized conditions and did not address the localized blooms noted by satellites. These
96 blooms dominate in the summer (Wilson 2003) and are often associated with the unique
97 properties of mesoscale eddy flow-fields (Calil et al. 2011; Calil & Richards 2010; Guidi et al.
98 2012). There are few long-term, high frequency direct observations on DDA abundance to
99 evaluate these hypotheses.

100 In the N. Pacific, the DDA host genus *Hemiaulus* is a characteristic upper euphotic zone
101 species typically found across the central North Pacific gyre at levels of 10^2 cells L^{-1} (Venrick
102 1988; Venrick 1999). Near-surface blooms of both *Rhizosolenia* and *Hemiaulus* DDAs at 10^4+
103 cells L^{-1} (Venrick 1974) extend well north of Hawai'i at abundance up to $10^4 L^{-1}$ (Brzezinski et
104 al. 1998; Krause et al. 2012; Villareal et al. 2011) and are frequently associated with summer chl
105 blooms observed in satellite ocean color sensors (Villareal et al. 2011). These chl blooms
106 (operationally defined as > 0.15 mg chl m^{-3}) north of 25.5° N cover a much greater range of
107 temperatures and surface area than the blooms at HOT ($\sim 22.5^\circ$ N) and extend at least as far north
108 as 35.5° N (Villareal et al. 2012). While the data suggest that these satellite-observed blooms are
109 probably associated with DDA events, it has remained difficult to sample these more northerly
110 blooms due to the remote location, episodic timing and extensive geographic range. The
111 applicability of the SEP to these areas is unclear, as is the general role of aggregation in
112 *Hemiaulus* spp. biology. *In situ* diver observations suggest aggregation commonly occurs in
113 *Hemiaulus* (Villareal et al. 2011), providing a means for rapid sinking as the bloom senesces. It
114 is unclear whether *Hemiaulus* aggregation occurs as a density dependent process as noted in
115 coastal diatom blooms (Burd & Jackson 2009; Jackson 2005), is a natural growth form of the
116 genus similar to *Rhizosolenia* mats, is uniquely localized to the summer export window, or is a
117 more generalized feature throughout the year. With recent observations of the ubiquitous
118 presence of living diatom cells in the 2,000-4,000 depth strata, the role of aggregation in oceanic
119 diatom biology has assumed new importance (Agusti et al. 2015).

120 Sampling these blooms outside of HOT is a challenge due to both the distance to blooms,
121 unpredictable occurrence, long planning lead time, and cost involved in multiple week research

122 cruises. Even at HOT, shipboard sampling is at approximately monthly intervals and insufficient
123 to resolve episodic events in annual cycles. To address this, we used an SV2 Wave Glider
124 (*Honey Badger*), a long-range autonomous vehicle utilizing wave power for propulsion and solar
125 panel arrays on a surface float to provide power for a variety of sampling instruments (Daniel et
126 al. 2011). While many types of autonomous vehicles are used in the marine environment (Dickey
127 et al. 2008; Lee et al. 2017), the Wave Glider is particularly capable of multiple-month missions
128 carrying extensive payloads, is under near-real time control, and has successfully transited from
129 Hawai'i to Australia while returning oceanographic data (Villareal & Wilson 2014). They have
130 been successfully deployed for sediment transport studies (Van Lancker & Baeye 2015),
131 wind/current assessments of typhoons (Van Lancker & Baeye 2015), buoy validation exercises
132 (Fitzpatrick et al. 2015), examination of air-sea coupling in the Southern Ocean (Thomson &
133 Girton 2017), and processes controlling North Atlantic and Eastern Pacific Ocean salinity
134 variability (Lindstrom et al. 2017).

135 In our study, we equipped the Wave Glider *Honey Badger* with a novel array of imaging
136 and physiological sensors specifically targeting phytoplankton dynamics. We present data
137 gathered during a 5-month mission in 2015 which sampled two diatom blooms. The mission
138 objectives were to return the glider safely, determine if a holographic imaging system could
139 quantify diatom events, relate the abundance to satellite observed chl blooms, examine the data
140 for *Hemiaulus* aggregations, and acquire physiological data using active fluorescence.

141

142 **Materials and Methods**

143 The mission area for the *Honey Badger* was the eastern North Pacific subtropical gyre
144 (NPSG) spanning 19-30° N and 144-157° W in the open waters northeast of the Hawaiian

145 Islands (Fig. 1) where chl blooms regularly occur between July and October (Wilson 2003).
146 Waypoints were chosen based on Aqua-MODIS 8-day composite chl concentration satellite
147 images from the Environmental Research Division's ERDDAP
148 (<https://coastwatch.pfeg.noaa.gov/erddap/griddap/erdMBchl8day.html>). After a preliminary
149 deployment in the test area off Kawaihae, Hawai'i, the *Honey Badger* headed north on 1 June
150 2015. It was recovered on 3 November 2015 and returned to the test facility for evaluation and
151 data download.

152 The Wave Glider® SV2 (Liquid Robotics, a Boeing company, Sunnyvale, CA) is an
153 autonomous surface vehicle capable of extended operations offshore. It has a surface float (2.1 m
154 x 0.6 m) connected by a 7 m umbilical to a subsurface glider (0.4 m x 1.9 m) with articulating
155 wings (1.1 m wide) that uses vertical motion from waves to provide forward movement. Within
156 the surface float, equipment bays provide space for computers, communications equipment and
157 battery arrays powered by solar panels. Iridium satellite communication with the Wave Glider
158 *Honey Badger* used in this mission was in near-real time and provided a near immediate ability
159 to course correct and respond to environmental conditions.

160 The *Honey Badger* was equipped with sensors on the float, the sub-body, and on a towed
161 body (Fig. 2; Table 1) The float contained 2 Turner Designs C3 fluorometers (Sunnyvale, CA)
162 rimmed with anti-fouling copper, a Seabird Electronics gpCTD (Bellevue, WA) for water
163 temperature and salinity with an inline antifouling tablet, a Canon G10 camera (Canon, USA Inc,
164 Melville, NY) looking down through the float, a Datawell MOSE weather sensor (Datawell BV,
165 Haarlem, The Netherlands), Airmar WX and WS weather sensors+light bar (Airmar Technology
166 Corporation, Milford, NH), an AIS (automatic identification system) transponder and a radar
167 reflector. The sub-body located 7 m below the float had an externally mounted Turner Designs

168 PhytoFlash (Sunnyvale, CA) utilizing the data and power connections through the umbilical. The
169 PhytoFlash sensor was shielded by a dark cap painted inside and out with anti-fouling paint. A
170 Sequoia Scientific, Inc. (Bellevue, WA) Laser *In Situ* Scattering and Transmissometry
171 Holographic System (LISST-Holo, termed Holo) was deployed in a neutrally buoyant towed
172 body behind the *Honey Badger* on a 10 m tether equipped with scoops to passively direct water
173 into the sample field. The tow fish varied from 6.3-15.5 m deep based on the Holo's internal
174 depth sensor. The Holo drew power from the umbilical with the data stored in the Holo's
175 onboard internal memory module. Bandwidth limitations did not permit transmission to shore via
176 Iridium satellite. The Holo sample chamber was painted with antifouling paint and lined with
177 copper tape on other surfaces to minimize fouling. Power consumption and available solar
178 charging dictated sampling frequency and varied with the sensors (Table 1). The vehicle reported
179 location and condition telemetry every 30 seconds. Sensors were integrated into the onboard
180 processing and communications equipment by Liquid Robotics with the exception of the
181 PhytoFlash. Software integration for the PhytoFlash and tow body construction was provided by
182 the Geophysical Engineering Research Group (GERG) at Texas A&M University.

183 The Turner C3 fluorometers were equipped with filters for chl, phycoerythrin and colored
184 dissolved organic material (CDOM) with values reported in fluorescence units. The C3 sensors
185 were deployed on either side of the centerline with a port and starboard sensor. The port C3
186 sensor and optical port for the look-down camera were coated with a ~30 µm layer of
187 ClearSignal antifouling compound (Severn Marine Technologies, Annapolis, MD) in spring,
188 2014. Due to technical difficulties, the mission was delayed a year with unknown effects on the
189 viability of the coating. The look-down camera began recording on 1 July 2015 and imaged

190 vertically below the float for examining the umbilical and glider as needed but also captured
191 images of fish and biofouling over the course of the mission.

192 The Holo uses collimated laser light to create refraction patterns from particles that are
193 then recorded by camera to create a hologram (Davies et al. 2015). Software provided by
194 Sequoia Scientific Inc. (Holo_Batch v. 3.1) reconstructed multiple holograms into greyscale
195 images. Particle biovolume was calculated based on a cross-section area projected into a sphere.
196 Holo_Detail (v. 3.1) was used to process each hologram in greater detail to identify *Hemiaulus*
197 and *Rhizosolenia* spp. Isolated hologram areas could be imaged individually as 0.1-1 mm thick
198 sections allowing detailed images layer by layer. The sampling rate of 15 holographic images (30
199 s between images) every 6 hours was set prior to launch based on worst case power consumption
200 calculations and could not be modified once underway. The 15-image bursts taken every 6 hours
201 were combined to form one record yielding 4 records (bursts) d^{-1} . The Holo sampling volume
202 was 1.86 ml per image with the 15-image burst sampling a total of 27.9 ml. Dye studies prior to
203 the mission indicated the 30 second between images was sufficient for full chamber volume
204 replacement.

205 The large file size (~2 MB) of each raw Holo hologram precluded satellite transmission
206 and were only available for analysis after the *Honey Badger*'s recovery in November 2015. Upon
207 recovery of the drive, 9336 holographic images were analyzed with the Holo_Batch and
208 Holo_Detail at the University of Texas at Austin's Marine Science Institute. Comparison of
209 Holo_Batch processing and individual Holo_Detail processing of the same images indicated
210 progressive loss of recognizable diatoms over the mission due to biofouling (examples given in
211 Fig. S1). Therefore, *Hemiaulus* and *Rhizosolenia* cells were quantified using the Holo_Detail
212 software on every hologram with distinctive diffraction patterns indicating when particles were

213 present. While using the Holo_Detail to enumerate diatoms was more time-intensive than using
214 the montages of in-focus particles produced by the Holo_Batch, it was necessary as the montages
215 often failed to show *Hemiaulus* or *Rhizosolenia* cells when they were clearly identifiable in
216 Holo_Detail. The small size of individual *Hemiaulus* cells (~15 μm) and light silicification also
217 contributed to difficulties in using the batch analysis mode as biofouling interference increased.

218 The Holo's sampling capability allowed counting cells with a minimum concentration of
219 36 cells L^{-1} . Individual *Hemiaulus* cells were at the size threshold of the Holo and hard to
220 differentiate from other small cells unless they were in recognizable chains. In addition,
221 *Hemiaulus* cells occurred as both individual chains and aggregations of various size. Chains were
222 defined as 3 or more *Hemiaulus* cells which formed a curve with clear ends which did not cross
223 itself or others more than once. Aggregates were defined as *Hemiaulus* cells in a chain or
224 multiple chains with multiple ends or no discernable ends which crossed itself, other chains, or
225 other particles multiple times.

226 Hologram processing also returned calculated biovolume for all detected particles after
227 calculating their equivalent spherical diameter. The biovolume was automatically separated into
228 bins based on equivalent spherical diameter from 2.5 μm – 9847 μm (50 bins with the upper size
229 limit of each bin being 1.18 times the lower limit). The diatoms of interest in this study have an
230 equivalent spherical diameter between 13-60 μm so a subset of bins (13.1-58.1 μm) were chosen
231 to focus the analysis. Holograms with schlieren (optical anomalies in transparent mediums),
232 microbubbles or blank images were manually removed from the analyses.

233 Biofouling interference was removed using the manufacturer's recommended procedure
234 to average the biovolume over large groups of images. This procedure generated a constant
235 signal that represented a consistent particle presence assumed to be biofouling. We arbitrarily

236 averaged groups of 510 holograms representing an 8.5-day window for a total of 14 background
237 signatures. This signature was subtracted from each hologram in the specified window to
238 generate a biofouling-corrected biovolume. Details of this correction and effects on the result are
239 included as Supplemental Text and Fig. S1-S2.

240 Pulse Amplitude Modulation fluorometry (Schreiber 2004) determination of $F_v:F_m$
241 (PhytoFlash sample frequency=6 samples hr^{-1}) was used to evaluate phytoplankton physiological
242 health. The PhytoFlash sampled at 10 minute intervals but was accelerated to 1 minute intervals
243 from 27-28 July to test the system's resiliency to increased sampling rates. The port C3 sensor
244 was on a fixed 10 min sampling interval with 10 samples averaged to generate a single value.
245 The starboard sensor was reprogrammable via remote communications and was varied in
246 sampling timing and averaging at various points in the mission. Changes from multi-point
247 averaging to single point reporting resulted in systematic and predictable baseline shifts. The
248 reasons for these changes are unknown. Iron stress was evaluated using the variable fluorescence
249 criteria of Behrenfeld and Milligan (2013) simplified for the lower sampling rate of the
250 PhytoFlash. In a macronutrient limited environment with sufficient iron, the nocturnal $F_v:F_m$ is
251 greater than the diurnal $F_v:F_m$. In an iron limited environment, the reverse is true. Time averaging
252 (nighttime average of 36 data points; 0800-1359 UTC and daytime average of 54 data points;
253 1800-0259 UTC) was required to obtain a stable signal and timed to avoid the observed
254 crepuscular $F_v:F_m$ excursions. The PhytoFlash shutdown and missed samples at an increasing
255 frequency during the mission and eventually failed completely in early September (traced to
256 software issues). To ensure a comparable day/night sampling, only periods with 75% or more of
257 the expected number of samples were included in the iron-limitation analysis and both periods
258 for a date were required to meet the above standard. These criteria resulted in the removal of 33

259 of the 94 days of data collected over the mission. The entire $F_v:F_m$ dataset was plotted versus
260 time for a visual inspection of the data as well.

261 Aqua MODIS satellite's 8-day composite of daily chl was used to produce an animation
262 showing the development of the blooms in the NPSG during the 2015 bloom season (June-
263 November) and the position of the *Honey Badger*'s track (Video S1 at
264 https://figshare.com/articles/S1_movie_mp4/5993644). The raw data from the C3s, gpCTD, AIS,
265 MOSE, PhytoFlash, and weather station are archived at both the NOAA ERDDAP site
266 ([http://coastwatch.pfeg.noaa.gov/erddap/search/index.html?page=1&itemsPerPage=1000&search](http://coastwatch.pfeg.noaa.gov/erddap/search/index.html?page=1&itemsPerPage=1000&searchFor=liquidr)
267 [hFor=liquidr](http://coastwatch.pfeg.noaa.gov/erddap/search/index.html?page=1&itemsPerPage=1000&searchFor=liquidr)) and BCO-DMO (<http://www.bco-dmo.org/project/505589>). The BCO-DMO site
268 also contains the raw holograms, the biovolume data, as well as the *Hemiaulus* and *Rhizosolenia*
269 abundance data.

270

271 Results

272 Extensive biofouling on several of the optical windows occurred during the mission. A
273 time series of images from the look down camera illustrates the development over time of
274 barnacles and associated organisms (Fig. S3). A metal incompatibility with internal screw in the
275 LISST-Holo camera system mount resulted in significant corrosion (Fig. S4); however, it did not
276 encroach into the sample plan and no data was lost. *Honey Badger* collected 5 months of salinity,
277 surface water temperature, diatom abundance, photosynthetic activity, and biovolume data from
278 the NPSG. A nine-point running average (Fig. 3, grey line) and daily average were used to
279 remove changes due to rain events or sensor errors in the gpCTD. The daily averaged water
280 salinity and temperature data (Fig. 3, color-coded by latitude) ranged from 22.8 to 27.8°C, and
281 34.6 to 35.6 salinity. The lower salinity water near Hawai'i is evident at the beginning and

282 ending of the mission. The *Honey Badger* did not cross the sub-tropical front, which is
283 characterized by salinity ~ 34.5 found at $\sim 30^\circ$ N (Wilson et al. 2013). The pronounced
284 temperature-salinity gradient from the center of the gyre to Hawai'i is evident in the continuous
285 decrease in salinity and increase in temperature along the straight line transect from the farthest
286 north point (29.245° N 152.40° W) on 12 Sept. 2015 to just north of Hawai'i on 23 Oct. 2015
287 (20.67° N 155.47° W).

288 The study area underwent a general chl increase over the course of the mission that was
289 evident visually as a shift from deep blue to light green in mid-July ([Video S1](#)). This increase
290 was quantitatively expressed as the average of chl values from all pixels in the study area (Fig.
291 4). Following a period of uniformly low chl concentration throughout the study area in June-July
292 2015 (Fig. 4), in mid-July chl levels throughout the study area increased concurrent with
293 increased chl variability (increased standard deviation around the mean) due to chl blooms
294 ([Video S1](#)). This period of elevated bloom activity extended from 1 Aug to 15 Sept. During this
295 period, there were multiple blooms evident where the satellite chl exceeded 0.2 mg m^{-3} . The
296 brief decrease in late September was followed by an increase in average chl through the end of
297 the mission.

298 The two float-mounted Turner C3 fluorometers produced erratic signals and random
299 shifts in baseline values (Fig. 5). The sensors did not parallel each other except for a general
300 increase in the cyanobacteria pigment phycoerythrin from ~ 21 Sept. 2015 to the end of the
301 mission, nor did the satellite chlorophyll values at *Honey Badgers* location note similar
302 fluctuations. The C3 data sets were excluded from further analysis due to a lack of an
303 independent diagnostic test to determine which data points were reflective of the water properties
304 and which were noise or errors introduced by the sensor.

305 *Hemiaulus* and *Rhizosolenia* cells were readily identifiable in the processed holograms
306 both as chains and aggregates (Fig. 6). *Hemiaulus* cells were identifiable as either curved or
307 spiral chains (Fig. 6a) as well as aggregates of varying degrees of complexity (Fig. 6b, c). With
308 three cells required to define identify a *Hemiaulus*, the minimum reported concentration is 108
309 cells L⁻¹. In *Rhizosolenia*, the symbiont of *Richelia intracellularis* was visible as well (Fig. 6d
310 arrows). Mean *Hemiaulus* abundance over the entire mission was 303 cells L⁻¹ (s.d. = 1.0×10^3
311 cells L⁻¹, n = 610) and mean *Rhizosolenia* abundance was 63 cells L⁻¹ (s.d. = 2.7×10^2 cells L⁻¹,
312 n = 610) over all the samples. However, of the 610 samples, only 208 contained *Hemiaulus* cells
313 and 207 contained *Rhizosolenia* cells. When present, the average *Hemiaulus* abundance was 8.9
314 $\times 10^2$ L⁻¹ (s.d. = 1.6×10^3 cells L⁻¹, n = 208). Of the samples containing *Rhizosolenia* cells, the
315 average abundance was 1.8×10^2 cells L⁻¹ (s.d. = 4.5×10^2 cells L⁻¹, n = 207). *Hemiaulus*
316 maximum abundance in the averaged 15 image burst was 1.4×10^4 cells L⁻¹ on 2 August 2015
317 and the *Rhizosolenia* maximum abundance was 2.8×10^3 cells L⁻¹ on 16 August 2015 (Fig. 7).
318 Blooms were defined operationally as occurring when the abundance value was two s.d. above
319 the mean present values, resulting in a threshold of 4×10^3 cells L⁻¹ for *Hemiaulus* and 1×10^3
320 cells L⁻¹ for *Rhizosolenia*.

321 Surface chlorophyll (satellite derived) at *Honey Badger's* position underwent a ~2 fold
322 variation over the mission (Fig. 7a) with a sharp increase on 2 Aug. 2015, followed by
323 considerable day to day patchiness evident throughout the rest of the mission. A similar pattern
324 was seen in the Phytoflash F_m data from sub body at ~7 m (Fig. 7b) until the data collection
325 failed on 1 Sept 2015. Two blooms were sampled, a *Hemiaulus* bloom on 2-4 August 2015 and a

326 *Rhizosolenia* bloom on 15-17 August 2015. Diatom abundance (Fig. 7c, d) was patchy with two
327 order of magnitude changes occurring within between adjacent Holo bursts in the blooms, a
328 distance of approximately 10 km. The *Hemiaulus* bloom was dominated by *Hemiaulus* (96% of
329 total diatoms; Fig. 7c) while the *Rhizosolenia* bloom was dominated by *Rhizosolenia* (75% of
330 total diatoms; Fig. 7d). However, neither bloom reached the 0.15 mg m^{-3} chlorophyll threshold
331 used to identify a satellite chlorophyll bloom. The two blooms were separated in space and in
332 time (Fig. 7, 8) and both had increases in biovolume (Fig. 7e). The larger *Rhizosolenia* cells
333 contributed nearly 2/3 more biovolume on 15-17 August 2015 despite the cell numbers being
334 only 1/3 that of the *Hemiaulus* bloom. The satellite chl signature was still faint when *Honey*
335 *Badger* sampled the *Hemiaulus* bloom from 2-4 August 2015 (compare 8a and 8b) but continued
336 to develop after the *Honey Badger* left the area ([Video S1](#)). The *Rhizosolenia* bloom sampled by
337 the *Honey Badger* from 15-17 Aug 2015 did not have a well-defined satellite chl signal (Fig.
338 7a,c; 8b). However, the PhytoFlash F_m (Fig. 7f) was approximately 33% higher in the
339 *Rhizosolenia* bloom than the *Hemiaulus* bloom.

340 Two declining blooms evident in the chl animation were sampled (8/23-25/2015 and
341 9/14-16/2015; [Video S1](#)). In both cases, no aggregates were seen in the Holo and the maximum
342 local abundance $\sim 300 \text{ cells L}^{-1}$ was reached in only one burst in each area. The rest of the bursts
343 were devoid of *Hemiaulus*. However, the lookdown camera imaged what appeared to be a mass
344 occurrence of small white flocs (Fig. S3b). Their identity could not be confirmed, but the size
345 and shape are consistent with either marine aggregates or possibly colonial radiolarians.

346 Maximum $F_v:F_m$ values (~ 0.6) were associated with the *Hemiaulus* and the *Rhizosolenia*
347 peak abundance values (Fig. 7e) although the data loss on 2 Aug. may have missed higher $F_v:F_m$

348 values. During the period of the two blooms (2-17 Aug), the $F_v:F_m$ values underwent day to day
349 changes in magnitude that were visibly distinct from the period before and after.

350 The Holo captured 31 *Hemiaulus* aggregates in 23 sampling bursts (Table 2 and 8c,d) out
351 of 610 total bursts over the mission (3.8%) or 11% of samples when any *Hemiaulus* were
352 present. Aggregates shared common characteristics of curled chains of various sizes tangled
353 together to create a characteristic shape (Fig. 6) and were easily identified when compared to
354 diver-collected aggregates (Fig. S5). When present, $72 \pm 25\%$ (std. dev.) of the total *Hemiaulus*
355 cells were present in aggregated form (Fig. 8c, Table 2). They were not limited to regions where
356 non-aggregated *Hemiaulus* cells were abundant (Fig. 8c, d) and were observed from 27 June
357 2015 and 25 October 2015 with 13 of the 24 locations outside the time window of the SEP
358 (green shading in 8d). Within the holograms containing *Hemiaulus* aggregates, the average
359 number of identifiable aggregated cells was 47 (s.d. = 42, n = 31) with a minimum of 7 (two
360 small crossed chains) and a maximum of 220. Due to the complex 3-dimensional structures of
361 some of the aggregates, it is likely that cell counts for aggregates are underestimates.

362 A single aggregate in a 15 image burst represents, on average, 36 aggregates L^{-1} .
363 Maximum abundance was present during the *Hemiaulus* bloom (2-4 Aug. 2015) where
364 normalized abundance was 108 aggregates L^{-1} . The highest sustained aggregate abundance was
365 during the early August bloom when aggregates were observed in 6 of 9 successive days (Table
366 2). However, there was no significant relationship between aggregated and non-aggregated cell
367 abundance ($r^2=0.12$, $p=0.5$;) overall in the data set. On 3 of the 23 bursts where aggregates were
368 observed, they were the only form of *Hemiaulus* present.

369 The $F_v:F_m$ values underwent diel excursions typical of high-light populations
370 experiencing solar-induced photoinhibition and down-regulation of photosynthetic activity where

371 yields were greatest in the dark period and lower during the daytime (Fig. 9a). Crepuscular
372 excursions were evident in many, but not all diel rhythms. From visual inspection of the entire
373 mission dataset, there was no reversal of the diel rhythm suggestive of Fe-stress. The quantitative
374 diurnal: nocturnal $F_v:F_m$ ratio remained positive indicative of a macro-nutrient limited
375 environment (Fig. 9b) although there was a long-term downward slope. The near zero values
376 after 1 September 2015 were the result of compromised PhytoFlash data as the F_o and F_m values
377 simultaneously drifted upwards resulting in loss of $F_v:F_m$ (details in Fig. S6). 31 Aug. 2015 was
378 the last date with uncompromised data before the PhytoFlash completely shutdown on 9
379 September 2015.

380

381 **Discussion**

382 ***Honey Badger* as a sampling platform**

383 *Honey Badger* successfully returned from a 5 month mission with all sensors undamaged.
384 All sensors reported data, although at varying frequency and reliability, throughout the mission
385 with the exception of the PhytoFlash. As a prototype mission, it was successful at deploying and
386 recovering optical and imaging sensors specific to phytoplankton research questions. Individual
387 sensors suffered from degradation associated with either platform computer software issues
388 (PhytoFlash) or environmental biofouling (C3s and the LISST-Holo).

389 Post-mission inspection by Turner Designs indicated the PhytoFlash operated properly
390 when removed from the glider, suggesting the system interface with the *Honey Badger* had
391 failed. The SV2 was the first production model of Wave Gliders. The customized software used
392 to power and communicate with the PhytoFlash was not part of the original system's dedicated
393 software and gradually created insurmountable conflicts that led eventually to a complete failure.

394 The newer generation (SV3) has a more robust on-board computer interface more amenable to
395 customization and this is not likely to be a future issue.

396 One of the goals of the mission was to sample regions with chl concentrations >0.15 mg
397 m^{-3} . The waypoints for *Honey Badger* were partially chosen based on the Aqua MODIS's chl
398 data. Daily images were often incomplete due to cloud cover as well as being outside the daily
399 imaging path. The 8-day composite of the Aqua MODIS satellite data provided a more complete
400 image of the regional chl concentrations, However, the 8 day images used for daily decision
401 making on the glider's movements were based on data that may have been up to 4 days old. This
402 delay resulted in a few missed sampling opportunities ([Video S1](#)) since chl maps of the region
403 the data were incomplete as waypoints were determined. This was particularly evident in the
404 August *Hemiaulus* bloom. The magnitude of the bloom was not evident in the satellite imagery
405 until the *Honey Badger* was a week past it and nearly halfway to a developing bloom to the west.

406

407 **Biological observations**

408 During the June to November timeframe of this mission, *Hemiaulus* and *Rhizosolenia*
409 were the dominant diatom genera observed by the Holo in the NPSG chlorophyll blooms,
410 reaffirming Guillard and Kilham's (1977) characterization of these taxa as persistent diatom
411 representatives of the oligotrophic open ocean flora. The Holo's resolution limit (~ 15 μm) could
412 not image the smaller pennate diatoms such as *Mastogloia* that frequently co-dominate in these
413 blooms. The *Hemiaulus* abundance (10^4 cells L^{-1}) noted in the 2-4 August 2015 bloom is
414 consistent with previous reports of open Pacific Ocean blooms where *Mastogloia* is a co-
415 dominant (Brzezinski et al. 1998; Scharek et al. 1999a; Venrick 1974; Villareal et al. 2012).

416 Thus, it is probable that additional diatoms were present and contributing to the satellite chl
417 signature.

418 The patchiness in the abundance of both the *Hemiaulus* and *Rhizosolenia* DDA was
419 unexpected. Approximately 2/3 of the bursts contained neither of these taxa. In some cases, the
420 next sampling burst (6 hours later, or approximately 10 km) would observe $\sim 10^3$ - 10^4 cells L⁻¹.
421 Such variation has been noted before from discrete ship sampling stations (Fong et al. 2008;
422 Venrick 1974; Villareal et al. 2012) but with little ability to sustain 6 hour sampling intervals for
423 months. The most extreme gradients were associated with developing blooms suggesting that the
424 factors driving blooms are highly localized and not represented by the average nutrient or
425 hydrographic characteristics. Calil (2011) reported satellite chl features in this gyre developed
426 rapidly at frontal interfaces between mesoscale features as the result of sub-mesoscale
427 ageostrophic flows resulting in transient up and downwelling. This spatial development scale is
428 consistent with the abundance increase noted in the two observed diatom blooms and warrants
429 further investigation into the role that mesoscale frontal features play in the DDA dynamics.
430 However, there are no mechanisms suggested to address the variability in the background
431 concentrations (10^1 - 10^2 cell L⁻¹) of these taxa presumably adapted to uniformly oligotrophic
432 conditions.

433 Unlike previous studies using settled water samples or nets, we were able to record and
434 partition *Hemiaulus* into aggregated or unaggregated abundance. *Hemiaulus* aggregates
435 (Villareal et al. 2011) occurred throughout the mission, even in regions of low non-aggregated
436 *Hemiaulus* abundance (Fig. 7, 9). The presence of 1 or more aggregates usually dominated the
437 total abundance (Table 2) and on 3 occasions represented the entire *Hemiaulus* biomass seen.
438 Maximum abundance (108 aggregates L⁻¹) and highest sustained aggregate abundance were both

439 present during the *Hemiaulus* bloom (2-4 Aug. 2015) where aggregated *Hemiaulus* represented
440 29-56% of the total *Hemiaulus* present in the bursts.

441 With an aggregate occurrence in 11% of the samples containing *Hemiaulus*, we examine
442 what principles of diatom aggregation are relevant in this environment. Jackson's general
443 coagulation model for diatom aggregates (Jackson 1990a; Jackson 1990b) suggest senescence,
444 elevated concentrations, and enhanced stickiness play a key role in aggregation formation. In our
445 data, aggregate density was highest in the August bloom, consistent with this model. However,
446 the long chains and elevated $F_v:F_m$ suggests a rapidly growing *Hemiaulus* population and the
447 continued increase in the bloom area chlorophyll after *Honey Badger* departed ([Video S1](#))
448 suggests that this bloom was sampled early in its development. The aggregated form dominated
449 total abundance when present, and aggregates appeared largely monospecific, at least within the
450 resolution limits of the Holo. In contrast, diatom aggregates in coastal waters scavenge other
451 particles and can sweep the water clear as they sink (Alldredge & Gotschalk 1989; Alldredge &
452 Gotschalk 1990; Alldredge & Silver 1988). We suggest that aggregated forms of *Hemiaulus* are
453 not solely the result of high rates of collision and sticking between *Hemiaulus* cell. Much like
454 *Rhizosolenia* mats (Villareal & Carpenter 1989), they may be a natural growth form of
455 *Hemiaulus* that results from curled chains twisting back on themselves. Further collisions may
456 play a role but appear unlikely in the low density conditions that generally prevailed in this
457 study.

458 Combined diver and net collections in 2003 (Villareal et al. 2011) found high *Hemiaulus*
459 abundance was coupled to an aggregation snowstorm (Fig. S5) and allows us to examine whether
460 the Holo's aggregate abundance data is credible. Using net-collected abundance data from the
461 2003 bloom (maximum abundance: 2,500 cells L^{-3}) and our average cells per aggregates in this

462 study (47), we calculate a potential for ~ 50 aggregates L^{-1} for the 2003 *Hemiaulus* snowstorm.
463 The aggregates visible to divers (cm-sized) are substantially larger than the aggregates observed
464 by the Holo (mm-sized), so this is likely an overestimate of abundance in the 2003 snowstorm.
465 However, the value is similar to the detection limit represented by 1 aggregate per 15 image
466 Holo burst (36 aggregates L^{-1}) and suggests the Holo data are the correct order of magnitude.
467 Combined with the high proportion of samples containing aggregates (11%), our limited sample
468 volume (~ 28 ml), the broad aggregate distribution, and the lack of a satellite signature from the
469 2003 snowstorm (Villareal et al. 2011), we conclude that dense *Hemiaulus* aggregation events
470 are more common than reported. Pilskaln et al (2005) reported marine snow aggregates on the
471 order of 1-10 L^{-1} at 28-30° N along a transect from HI to CA suggesting that *Hemiaulus*
472 aggregates are part of rich collection of macroscopic particles rarely sampled. The incidental
473 observation from the lookdown camera in a fading bloom of what appeared to be large
474 aggregates in a fading bloom were at too low a density to be sampled by the Holo, but
475 sufficiently large to be visible to the camera (Fig. S3b). Multiple imaging technologies on the
476 vehicle are clearly needed to further detail this type of event.

477 Regularly occurring *Hemiaulus* aggregates could be an important food source to
478 organisms in the open ocean due to their high concentration of carbon and nitrogen. They could
479 also play an important role in the global carbon cycle since aggregated forms, when
480 physiologically stressed, tend to sink much faster than non-aggregated particles (Stemmann &
481 Boss 2012) and can scavenge other suspended particles as they sink to depth (Alldredge & Silver
482 1988). Station ALOHA sediment trap data indicated that during the 13 year record, the SEP
483 sinking flux resulted in $\sim 20\%$ of the annual carbon export to the benthos at $>5,000$ m (Karl et al.
484 2012) with high sinking rates (10^2 $m d^{-1}$) requiring aggregates as a dominant mode of transport

485 (Scharek et al. 1999a; Scharek et al. 1999b). Our data show that *Hemiaulus* aggregates extend
486 deep into the N. Pacific gyre and support the idea that the role of the SEP may be much wider
487 than Sta. ALOHA waters near Hawai'i. However, there is no evidence that aggregate formation,
488 per se, is linked to the hypothesized annual rhythm driving the SEP. They occur independently of
489 the SEP.

490 We found no evidence of iron limitation during our sampling with the caveat that the
491 PhytoFlash measures a bulk water property, not a DDA specific stress. However, even during the
492 *Hemiaulus* and *Rhizosolenia* blooms observed on 3 August 2015 and 16 August 2015, the Fe
493 index did not suggest iron limitation or iron stress. From 1 June 2015 to 31 Aug. 2015, the dark-
494 averaged $F_v:F_m$ stayed above the light-averaged values, agreeing with the 2006 study by
495 Behrenfeld et al. (2006) which classified this area as having a type I regime with low
496 macronutrients but sufficient iron supplies.

497

498 **Conclusions**

499 The *Honey Badger* offered a unique look into the remote oligotrophic North Pacific
500 subtropical gyre during its 5 month, 5690 km mission. While some of the sensors failed during
501 the mission (PhytoFlash) or produced uninterpretable data (C3s), the mission was a success in
502 that other sensors (LISST-Holo) recorded novel data over an extensive period of time (5-months)
503 and wide geographic extent, and the glider returned intact. *The Honey Badger* and its sensors
504 allowed for a persistent presence in the NPSG during the late summer/early fall bloom season.

505 The long-term deployment of both imaging and physiological sensors on a mobile
506 sampling platform provided novel information on the composition and physiology of remote
507 diatom blooms. The region showed no evidence of iron limitation despite the presence of DDAs

508 at 10^4 concentrations. *Hemiaulus* aggregates were widespread and observed outside the 15 July –
509 15 August SEP (Karl et al. 2012) window suggesting that the predictable timing of the SEP
510 cannot be uniquely attributed to a rhythm in aggregate formation. If aggregates are consistent
511 vectors for vertical transport at some stage, then the potential for a basin-wide SEP is enhanced.
512 When present, *Hemiaulus* aggregates are abundant ($10+ L^{-1}$) and dominate the total *Hemiaulus*
513 present. Their general characteristics are distinct from coastal diatom aggregates and more
514 similar to *Rhizosolenia* mats (Alldredge & Silver 1982; Carpenter et al. 1977; Villareal et al.
515 2014), suggesting *Hemiaulus* aggregates are a natural growth form. Their broad and persistent
516 occurrence suggests they do not have consistently high sinking rates. The PhytoFlash and the
517 Holo data are generally uncoupled from the satellite chl concentrations which illustrates the
518 added value of *in situ* sampling to understand the community structure and physiological needs
519 of these blooms in remote open ocean habitats.

520

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530

531

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Figure 1

Mission track of the SV2 Wave Glider *Honey Badger*.

Mid-day positions points are color-coded by month. The asterisk north of Oahu is Station ALOHA of the Hawai'i Ocean Time-Series (HOT).

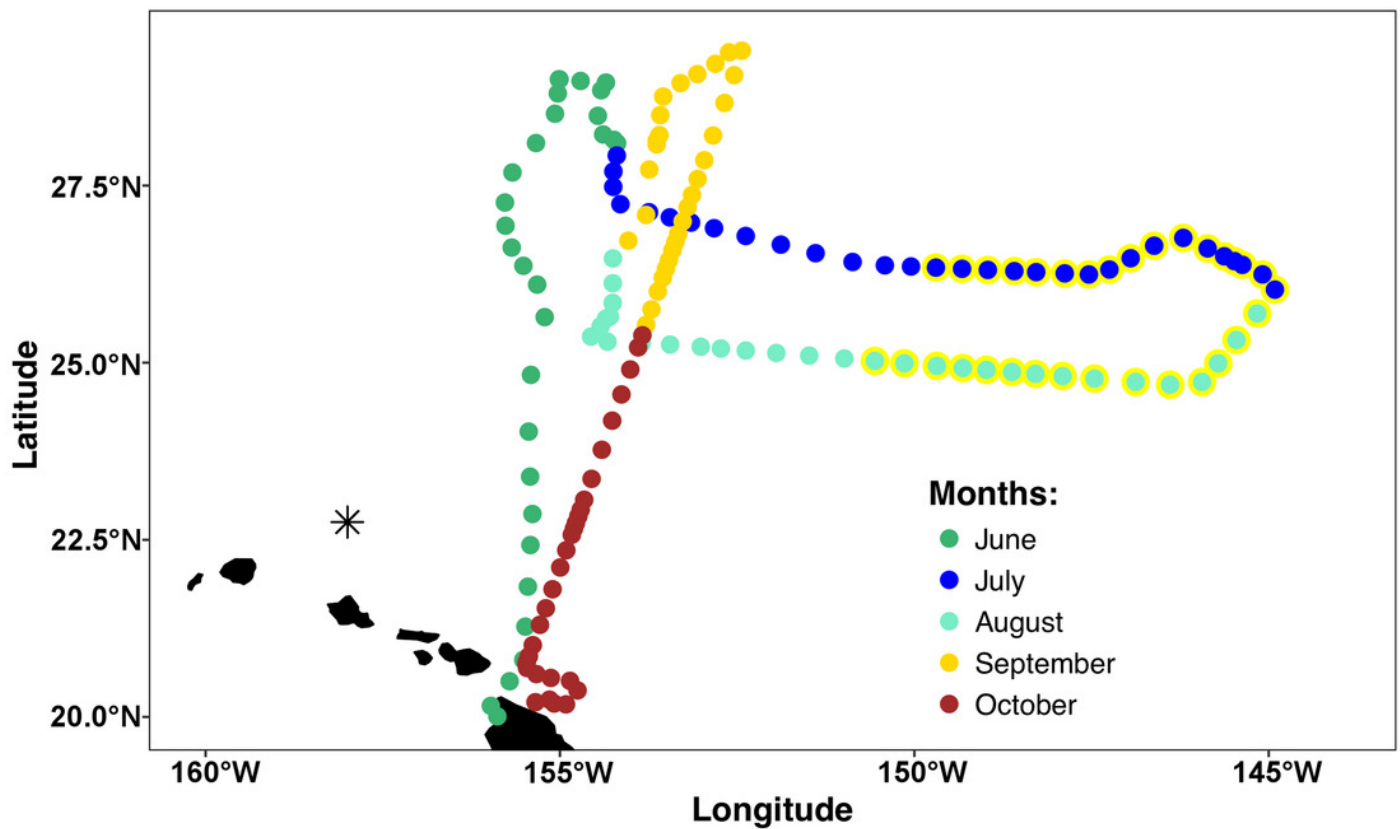


Figure 2

Honey Badger diagram and sensor locations.

Schematic provided courtesy of Liquid Robotics, a Boeing Company.

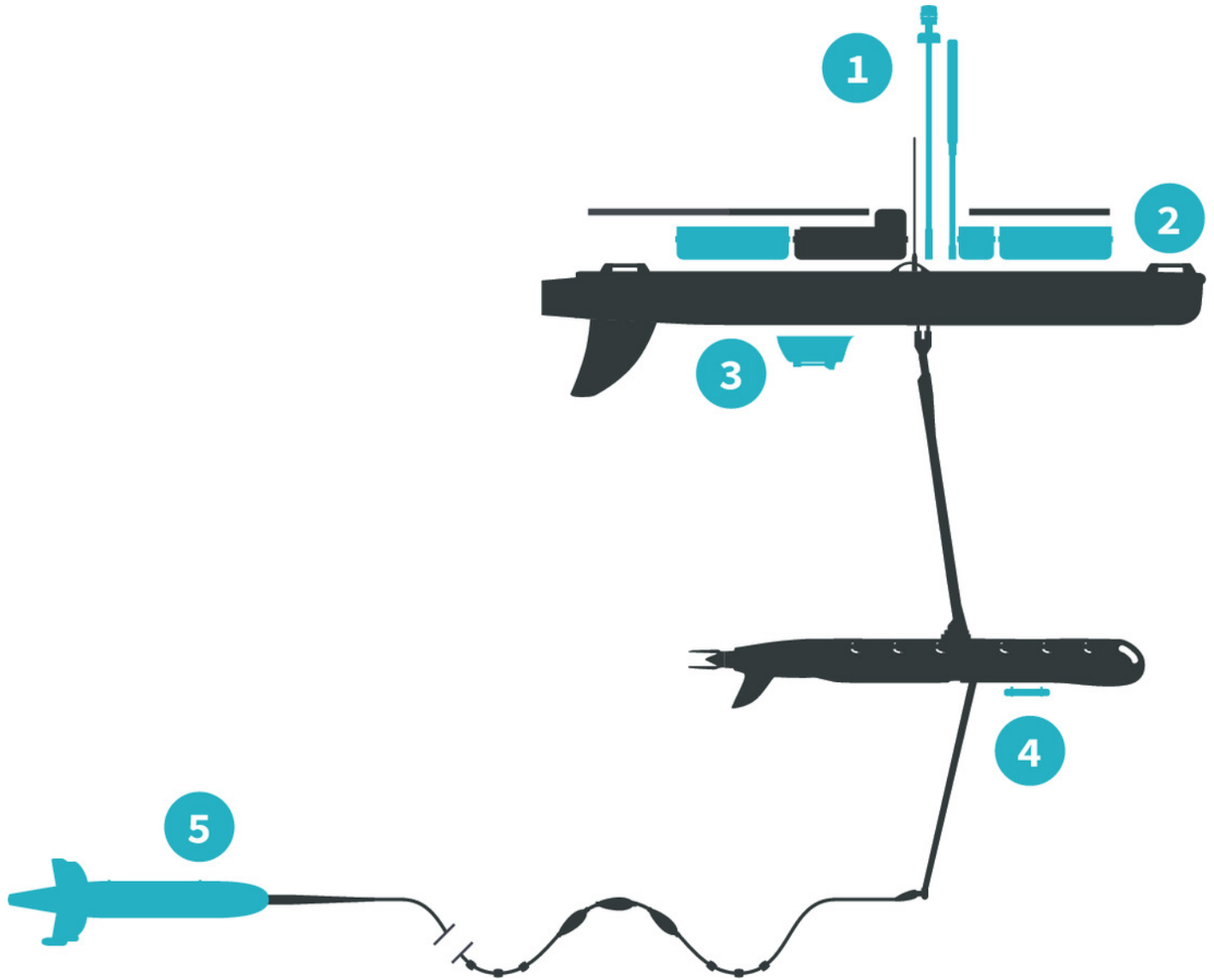


Figure 3

Time series of the hydrographic properties from the *Honey Badger's* gpCTD sensor.

(A) Salinity (PSU). (B) Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$). The grey lines are the data with a 9-point smoothing, the color-coded dots are daily average values.

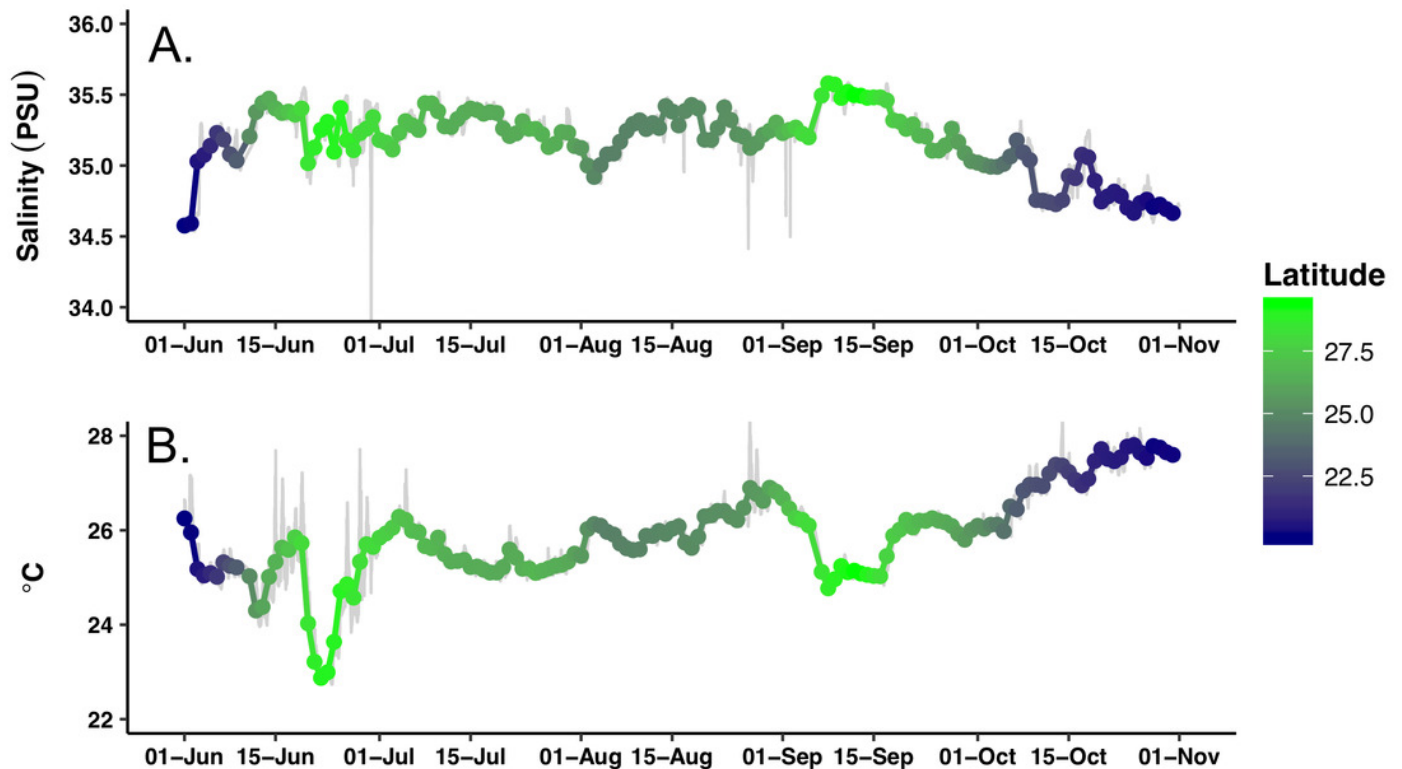


Figure 4

Average chl concentration of the study area over time.

All chlorophyll per pixel values from Aqua MODIS 8-day composite data within the study area (bounded by 19 to 30°N and 157-144°W) were averaged to generate a single daily value for the study area. Solid line = average chl concentration for the study area. Dashed lines = average chl concentration \pm 1 standard deviation.

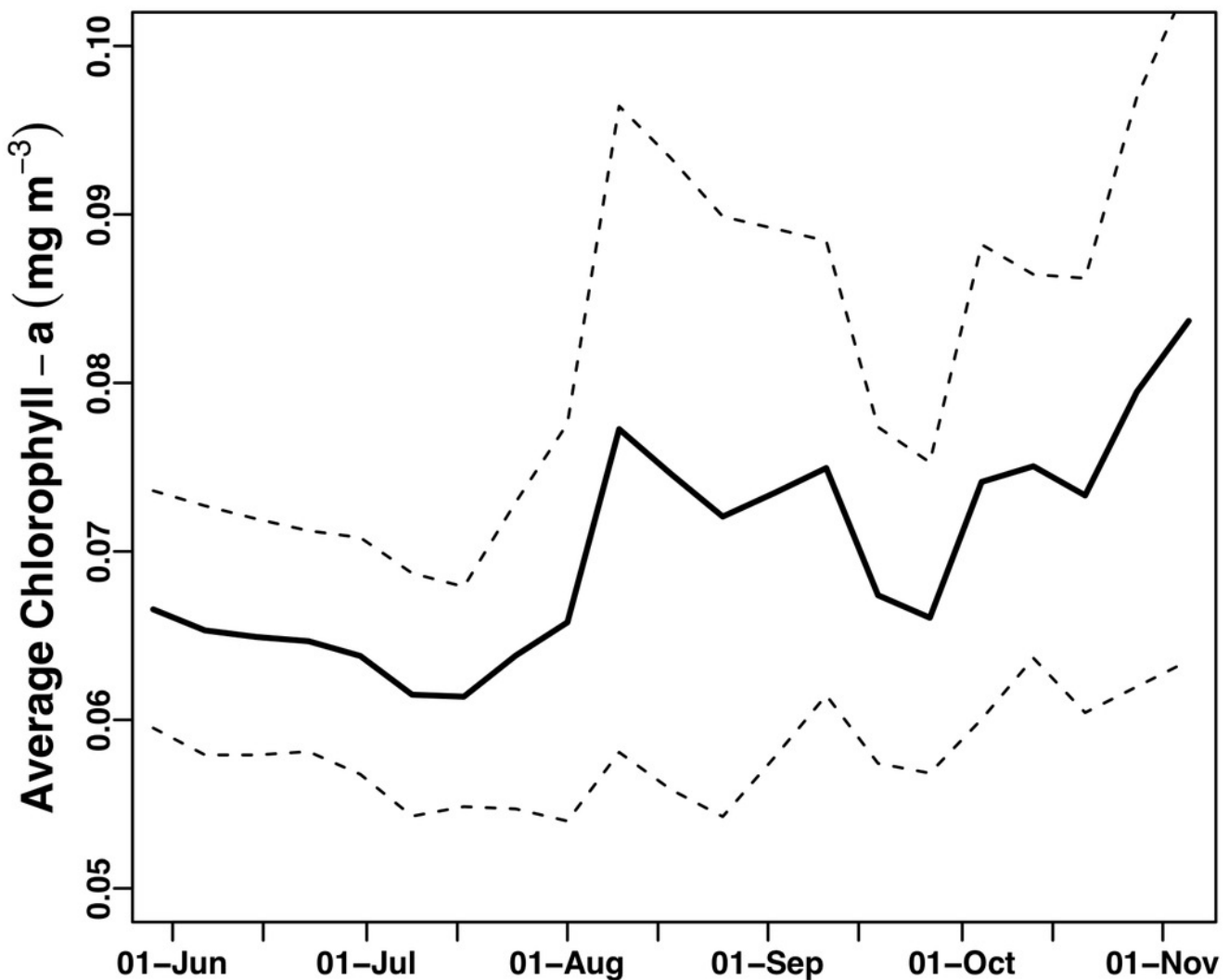


Figure 5

C3 fluorometer data from the *Honey Badger*.

Note scale shifts between plots. (A-C) Sensor coated with antifouling compound. (A) Chl. (B) CDOM. (C) Phycoerythrin. (D-F) uncoated sensor. (D) Chl. (E) CDOM. (F) Phycoerythrin. RFU = relative fluorescence units.

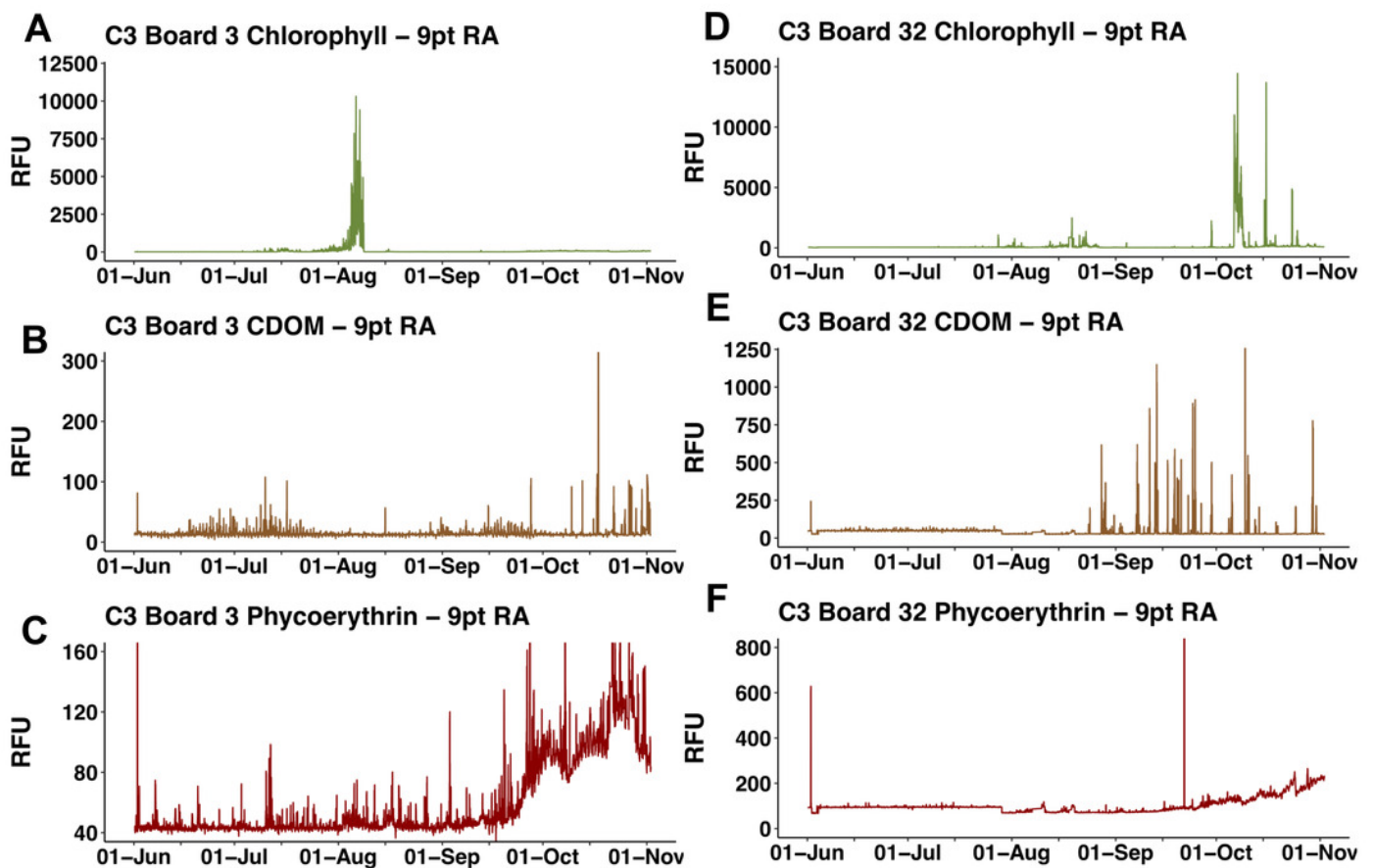


Figure 6

Processed holographic images of *Hemiaulus* and *Rhizosolenia* cells and aggregates.

(A) Curved chain of *Hemiaulus hauckii*. Each dark dot is the cell mass separated from adjacent cells by siliceous structures. Images have been contrast enhanced for clarity. (B) *Hemiaulus* aggregate. (C) *Hemiaulus* aggregate. (D) Two complete *Rhizosolenia* cells and half of the next cell with their symbionts *Richelia* (arrows) located at the apex of the cells.

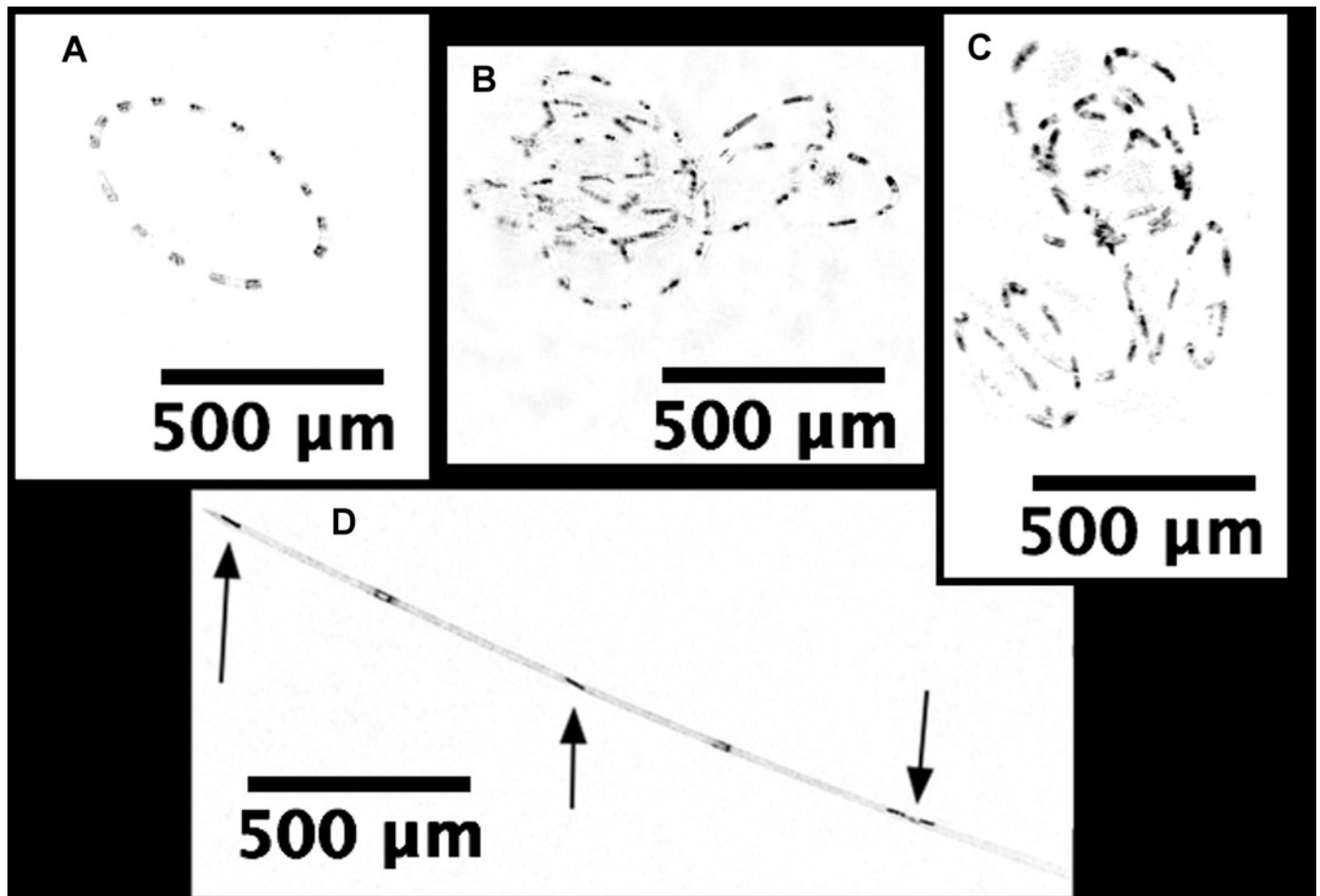


Figure 7

Time series comparisons between the Aqua MODIS chl data and the *in situ* data collected by the *Honey Badger's* sensors.

(A) 8-day composite data from Aqua MODIS showing surface chl concentrations (mg m^{-3}) near *Honey Badger's* location. (B) *Hemiaulus* abundance (cells L^{-1}). (C) *Rhizosolenia* abundance (cells L^{-1}). (D) Biovolume from 11-58 μm bins. (E) Average $F_v:F_m$ between 0800-1359 UTC (dark-adapted value). Blue and yellow shaded area indicate the *Hemiaulus* and *Rhizosolenia* bloom, respectively.

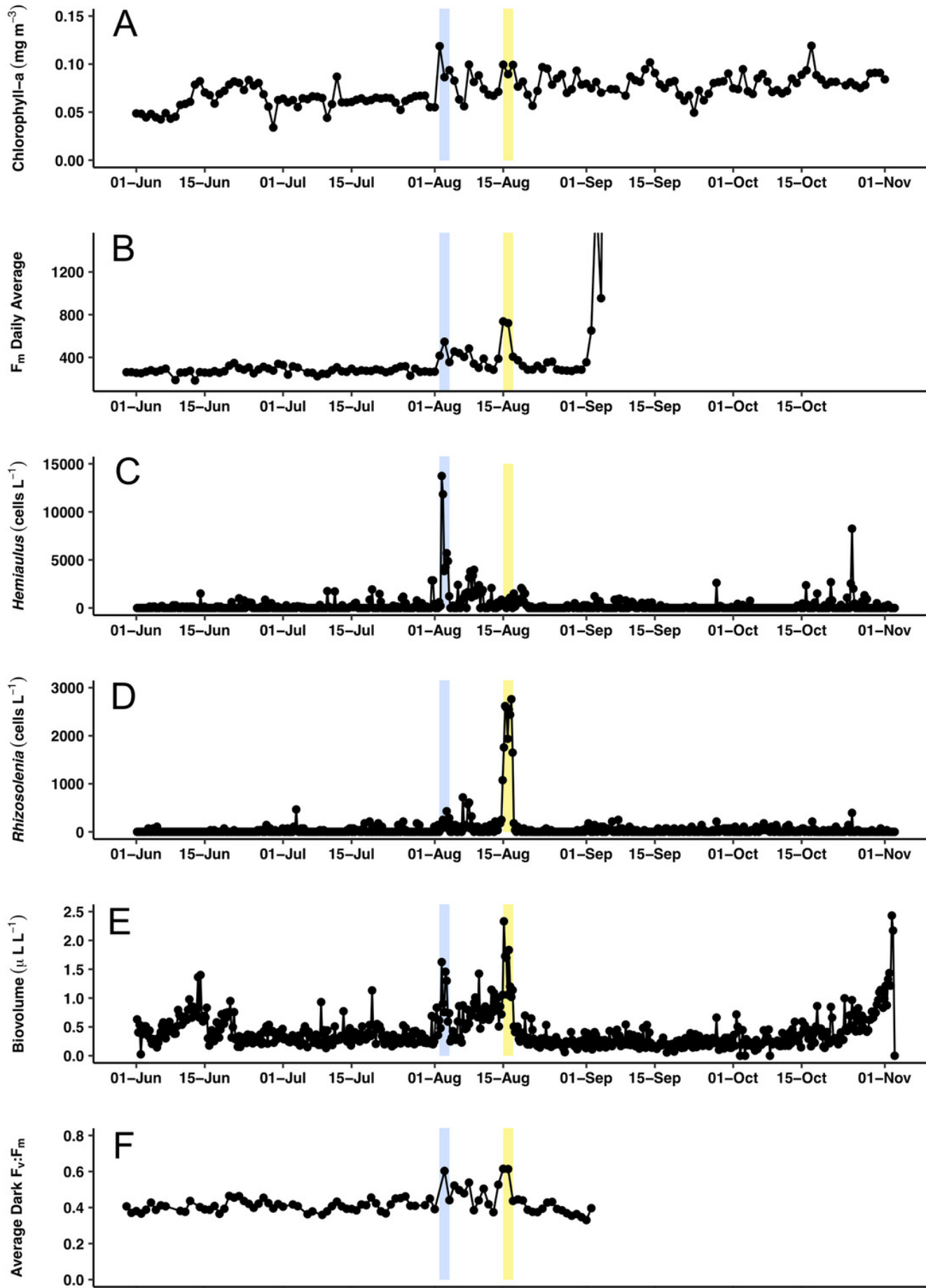


Figure 8

Hemiaulus aggregated and free-living form distribution.

(A-B) Aqua MODIS chl surface concentration and *Honey Badger*'s position. Black dot= mission track position, red-white-black crosshair = *Honey Badger*'s position on day of satellite image. (A) 3 August 2015; *Hemiaulus* bloom B) 16 August 2015; *Rhizosolenia* bloom. (C) Time-series plot of *Hemiaulus* abundance in the free-living or aggregated form. (D) Locations of non-aggregated *Hemiaulus* cells and locations of aggregates. Red triangle = aggregate. Circles = non-aggregated *Hemiaulus* cells (L^{-1}), size is proportional to abundance. The green area indicates where *Honey Badger* sampled during the SEP time window (15 July- 15 August).

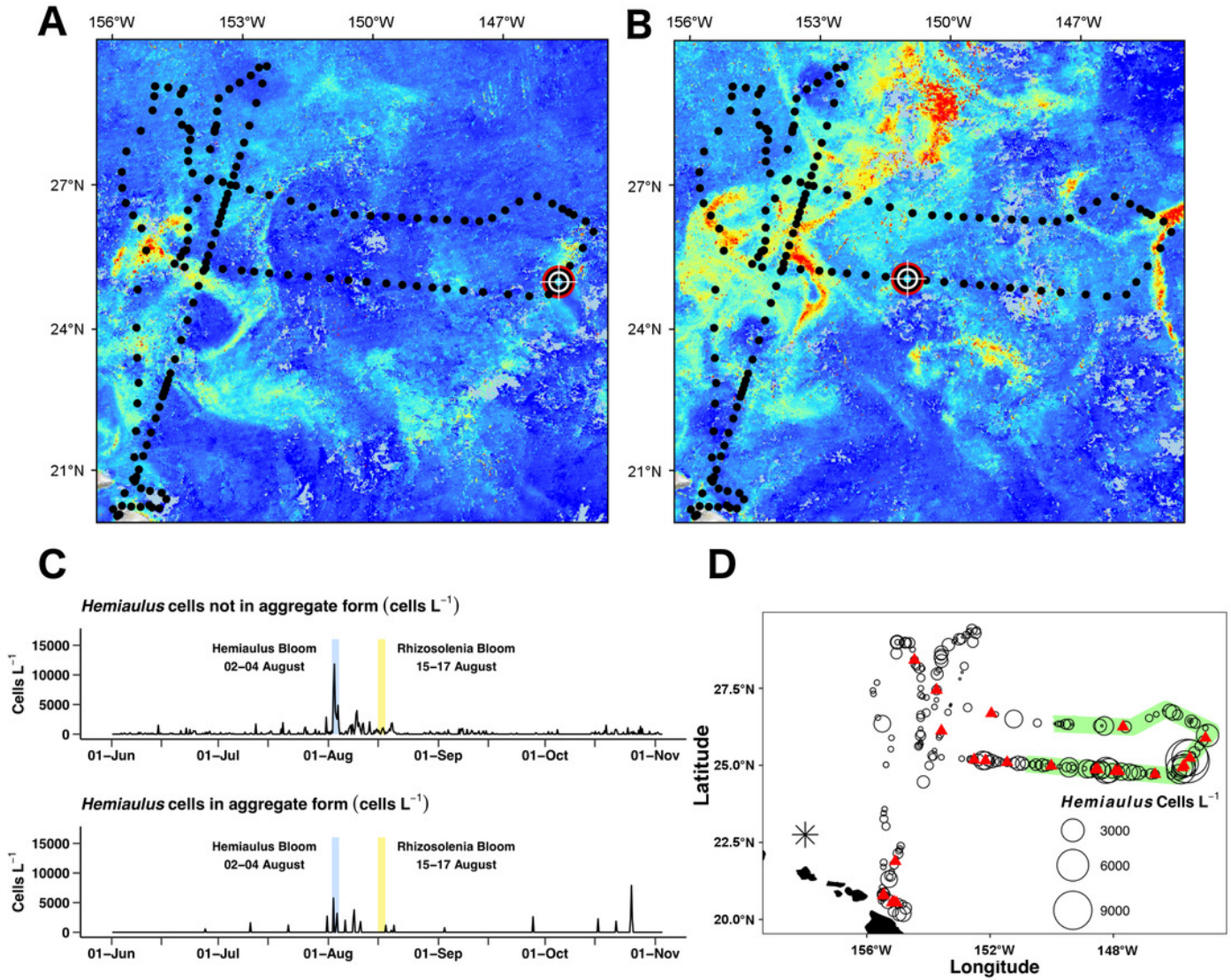


Figure 9

PhytoFlash $F_v:F_m$ diel rhythm sample and iron limitation index.

(A) Sample of the typical diel rhythm observed in the PhytoFlash $F_v:F_m$ measurements. The signal is down-regulated during the daytime and returns to the maximum value during the dark period while macro-nutrient limited. Dark bars = 08:00-13:59 UTC (nocturnal period used in the calculation). Light bars = 18:00-02:59 UTC (diurnal period used in the calculation). (B) Time-series of the dark-averaged $F_v:F_m$ minus the light-averaged $F_v:F_m$. Red points indicate where the sample number did not meet the threshold for calculation (see Methods). Asterisks are points where the data was compromised (see text).

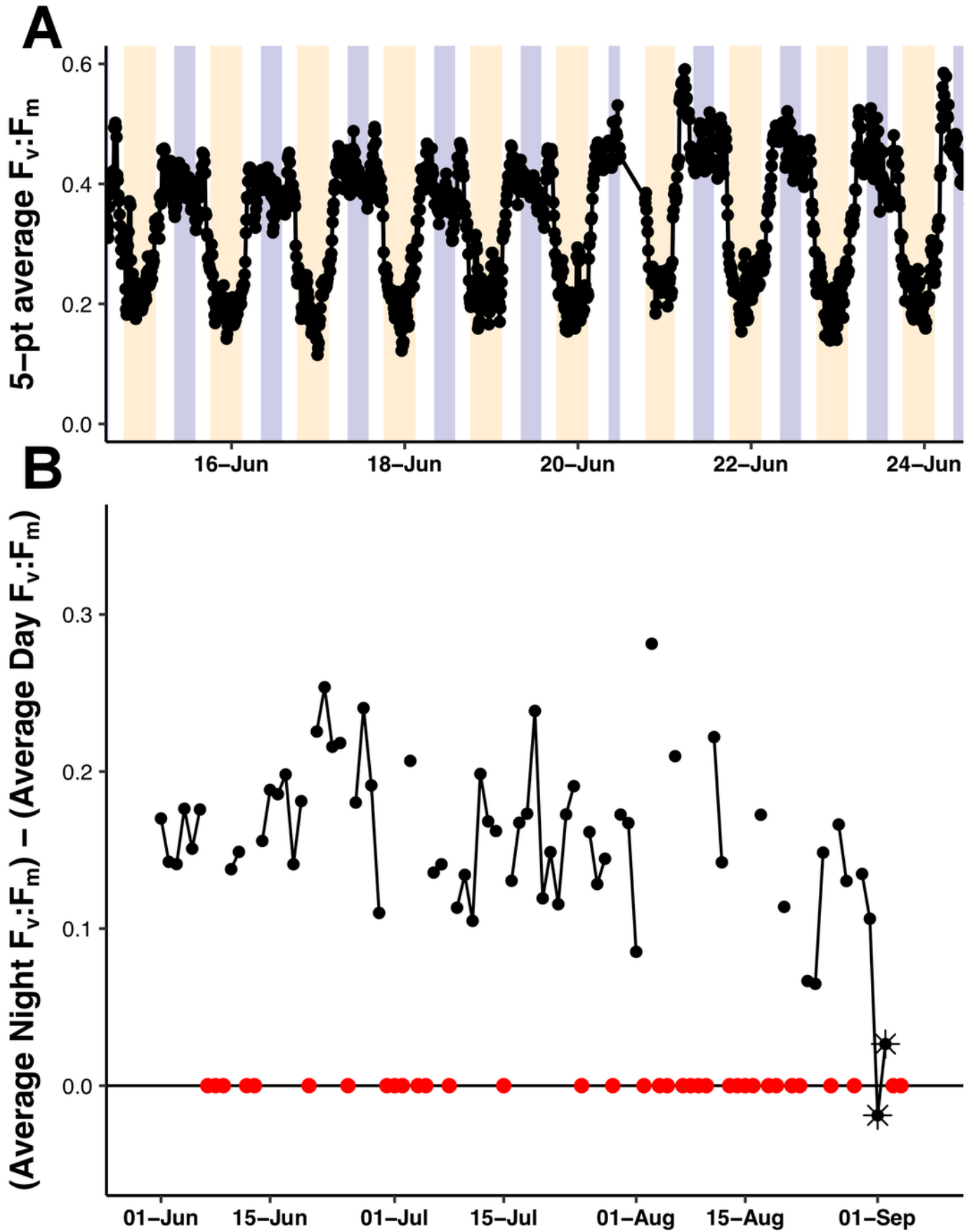


Table 1 (on next page)

List of the instruments onboard the *Honey Badger* with their locations on the Wave Glider (Fig. 2) and their programmed sample frequency.

1

Sensor (location)	Variables (units)	Interval	Available in Near Real Time?
Sea-Bird Scientific's gpCTD (2)	Water Temperature (°C), Salinity (PSU), Density (dBar)	48 hr ⁻¹	Yes
Turner Designs' C3™ Submersible Fluorometer with Antifouling Coating (2)	Colored Dissolved Organic Mater (CDOM) (RFU), Chlorophyll-a (RFU), and Phycoerythrin Fluorescence (RFU)	6 hr ⁻¹	Yes
Turner Designs' C3™ Submersible Fluorometer without Antifouling Coating (2)	Colored Dissolved Organic Mater (CDOM) (RFU), Chlorophyll-a (RFU), and Phycoerythrin Fluorescence (RFU)	6 hr ⁻¹	Yes
AirMar Technology's WX Series Ultrasonic WeatherStation® (1)	Air Temperature (°C), Pressure (mBar), Average Wind Speed (knots) and Direction (degrees true)	6 hr ⁻¹	Yes
Datawell BV's MOSE (2)	Significant wave height (m) and Direction (degrees true)	2 hr ⁻¹	Yes
Cannon G10 Camera (2)	Downward facing camera for imaging the sub-body	6 hr ⁻¹	No
Turner Designs' PhytoFlash (4)	F _o , F _m , F _v , Yield (F _v :F _m)	6 hr ⁻¹	Yes
Sequoia Scientific LISST-Holo (5)	Holographic microscopic images of the water	1 burst of 15 images every 6 hr	No

2

Table 2 (on next page)

Hemiaulus aggregate locations and contribution to total *Hemiaulus* abundance.

The *Hemiaulus* aggregate events outside (left) and within (right) the 15 July - 15 August SEP.

N = number of aggregates in each 15 image burst at that location. The *Hemiaulus* bloom event is in bold, italicized text.

1

Aggregate events outside the SEP					Aggregate Events within the SEP				
Date (UTC)	n	Location		% <i>Hemiaulus</i> in Aggregates (Total cells L ⁻¹)	Date (UTC)	n	Location		% <i>Hemiaulus</i> in Aggregates (Total cells L ⁻¹)
		°N	°N				°N	°W	
6/27/15 8:07	1	28.41	154.45	66.6 (861)	7/20/15 17:14	1	26.25	147.68	82.9 (1471)
7/10/15 1:06	1	26.69	151.96	91.8 (1757)	7/31/15 15:31	1	25.80	145.01	95.0 (2869)
8/17/15 4:01	1	25.10	151.45	78.6 (1506)	8/02/15 10:09	3	25.24	145.52	42.0 (13737)
8/18/15 16:37	1	25.15	152.15	15.5 (2080)	8/03/15 4:29	1	25.00	145.71	29.7 (4232)
8/19/15 10:55	1	25.18	152.51	78.6 (1506)	8/03/15 10:38	3	24.93	145.76	56.0 (5702)
9/2/15 16:29	1	27.44	153.74	64.7 (1219)	8/05/15 17:34	2	24.71	146.65	85.1 (2403)
9/27/15 14:14	1	26.12	153.58	100.0 (2618)	8/08/15 0:22	1	24.81	147.83	80.7 (3156)
10/15/15 21:22	1	21.80	155.08	95.5 (2367)	8/08/15 6:31	2	24.81	147.93	100.0 (3802)
10/20/15 23:22	2	20.81	155.46	69.3 (2690)	8/09/15 19:10	1	24.86	148.50	39.0 (2116)
10/21/15 5:28	1	20.77	155.47	31.8 (789)	8/10/15 1:10	1	24.87	148.57	75.8 (2367)
10/25/15 0:58	2	20.54	155.18	90.1 (2546)					
10/25/15 7:04	1	20.56	155.11	95.7 (8249)					
10/25/15 13:10	1	20.54	155.04	100.0 (2009)					

2

3