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

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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 proofof-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 cooccur 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 $\sim 10 L^{-1}$. 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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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 diatomdiazotroph assemblages. During the 5-month mission, Honey Badger covered ~5690 km (3070 48 nautical miles), acquired 9336 holograms, and reliably transmitted data onshore in near real-49 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 N2 is converted into ammonium
62	for incorporation into amino acids and proteins (Carpenter & Capone 2008). Dizaotrophy
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 Crocosphaera 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

symbionts even within a single host genus remains unclear. DDAs play important roles in
biogeochemical cycling off the Amazon (Carpenter et al. 1999; Subramaniam et al. 2008) and
Mekong Rivers (Bombar et al. 2011) as well as in the central North Pacific gyre (Church et al.
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 $\sim 20\%$ 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 N_2 fixation suggest that 86 their diazotrophic symbiont is present and fueling the biomass flux; the rapid sinking rate indicates aggregation plays a key role in the accelerated transport to depth (Scharek et al. 1999b). 87 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. 2012). There are few long-term, high frequency direct observations on DDA abundance to 98 99 evaluate these hypotheses.

100 In the N. Pacific, the DDA host genus *Hemiaulus* is a characteristic upper euphotic zone species typically found across the central North Pacific gyre at levels of 10^2 cells L⁻¹ (Venrick 101 1988; Venrick 1999). Near-surface blooms of both *Rhizosolenia* and *Hemiaulus* DDAs at 10^4 + 102 cells L^{-1} (Venrick 1974) extend well north of Hawai'i at abundance up to $10^4 L^{-1}$ (Brzezinski et 103 al. 1998; Krause et al. 2012; Villareal et al. 2011) and are frequently associated with summer chl 104 105 blooms observed in satellite ocean color sensors (Villareal et al. 2011). These chl blooms (operationally defined as > 0.15 mg chl m⁻³) north of 25.5° N cover a much greater range of 106 107 temperatures and surface area than the blooms at HOT (~22.5° 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

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.

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142 Materials and Methods

143The mission area for the *Honey Badger* was the eastern North Pacific subtropical gyre144(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/erdMBchla8day.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 onboard internal memory module. Bandwidth limitations did not permit transmission to shore via 175 176 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

vertically below the float for examining the umbilical and glider as needed but also capturedimages 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 were combined to form one record yielding 4 records (bursts) d^{-1} . The Holo sampling volume 201 202 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 36 cells L⁻¹. Individual *Hemiaulus* cells were at the size threshold of the Holo and hard to 219 220 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.

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

Biofouling interference was removed using the manufacturer's recommended procedure to average the biovolume over large groups of images. This procedure generated a constant 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 generate a biofouling-corrected biovolume. Details of this correction and effects on the result are 238 239 included as Supplemental Text and Fig. S1-S2. Pulse Amplitude Modulation fluorometry (Schreiber 2004) determination of F_v:F_m 240 (PhytoFlash sample frequency=6 samples hr^{-1}) was used to evaluate phytoplankton physiological 241 242 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

- of the 94 days of data collected over the mission. The entire F_v : F_m dataset was plotted versus
- 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
- 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 <u>https://figshare.com/articles/S1_movie_mp4/5993644</u>). 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&searc
- 267 <u>hFor=liquidr</u>) and BCO-DMO (<u>http://www.bco-dmo.org/project/505589</u>). The BCO-DMO site
- also contains the raw holograms, the biovolume data, as well as the *Hemiaulus* and *Rhizosolenia*abundance data.
- 270

271 Results

272 Extensive biofouling on several of the optical windows occurred during the mission. A time series of images from the look down camera illustrates the development over time of 273 274 barnacles and associated organisms (Fig. S3). A metal incompatibility with internal screw in the LISST-Holo camera system mount resulted in significant corrosion (Fig. S4); however, it did not 275 276 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 the NPSG. A nine-point running average (Fig. 3, grey line) and daily average were used to 278 279 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

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ending of the mission. The *Honey Badger* did not cross the sub-tropical front, which is
characterized by salinity ~34.5 found at ~30° N (Wilson et al. 2013). The pronounced
temperature-salinity gradient from the center of the gyre to Hawai'i is evident in the continuous
decrease in salinity and increase in temperature along the straight line transect from the farthest
north point (29.245° N 152.40° W) on 12 Sept. 2015 to just north of Hawai'i on 23 Oct. 2015
(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 period, there were multiple blooms evident where the satellite chl exceeded 0.2 mg m^{-3} . The 295 296 brief decrease in late September was followed by an increase in average chl through the end of 297 the mission.

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

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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 cells L⁻¹. In *Rhizosolenia*, the symbiont of *Richelia intracelluaris* was visible as well (Fig. 6d 309 arrows). Mean *Hemiaulus* abundance over the entire mission was 303 cells L^{-1} (s.d. = 1.0×10^3 310 cells L⁻¹, n = 610) and mean *Rhizosolenia* abundance was 63 cells L⁻¹ (s.d. = 2.7×10^2 cells L⁻¹, 311 312 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 $\times 10^{2}$ L⁻¹ (s.d. = 1.6 $\times 10^{3}$ cells L⁻¹, n = 208). Of the samples containing *Rhizosolenia* cells, the 314 average abundance was 1.8×10^2 cells L⁻¹ (s.d. = 4.5×10^2 cells L⁻¹, n = 207). *Hemiaulus* 315 maximum abundance in the averaged 15 image burst was 1.4×10^4 cells L⁻¹ on 2 August 2015 316 and the *Rhizosolenia* maximum abundance was 2.8×10^3 cells L⁻¹ on 16 August 2015 (Fig. 7). 317 Blooms were defined operationally as occurring when the abundance value was two s.d. above 318 the mean present values, resulting in a threshold of 4×10^3 cells L⁻¹ for *Hemiaulus* and 1×10^3 319 cells L^{-1} for *Rhizosolenia*. 320

Surface chlorophyll (satellite derived) at *Honey Badger's* position underwent a ~2 fold variation over the mission (Fig. 7a) with a sharp increase on 2 Aug. 2015, followed by considerable day to day patchiness evident throughout the rest of the mission. A similar pattern was seen in the Phytoflash F_m data from sub body at ~7 m (Fig. 7b) until the data collection 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 total diatoms; Fig. 7d). However, neither bloom reached the 0.15 mg m⁻³ chlorophyll threshold 330 331 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 local abundance ~ 300 cells L⁻¹ was reached in only one burst in each area. The rest of the bursts 342 343 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. Maximum F_v:F_m values (~0.6) were associated with the Hemiaulus and the Rhizosolenia 346 peak abundance values (Fig. 7e) although the data loss on 2 Aug. may have missed higher F_v:F_m 347

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±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 number of identifiable aggregated cells was 47 (s.d. = 42, n = 31) with a minimum of 7 (two 359 360 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. A single aggregate in a 15 image burst represents, on average, 36 aggregates L^{-1} . 362 Maximum abundance was present during the Hemiaulus bloom (2-4 Aug. 2015) where 363 normalized abundance was 108 aggregates L^{-1} . The highest sustained aggregate abundance was 364 365 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 abundance $(r^2=0.12, p=0.5;)$ overall in the data set. On 3 of the 23 bursts where aggregates were 367 368 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 mission dataset, there was no reversal of the diel rhythm suggestive of Fe-stress. The quantitative 373 374 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 after 1 September 2015 were the result of compromised PhytoFlash data as the F_o and F_m values 376 377 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

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

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.

The newer generation (SV3) has a more robust on-board computer interface more amenable tocustomization 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 m⁻³. The waypoints for *Honey Badger* were partially chosen based on the Aqua MODIS's chl 397 398 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 reaffiming 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 not image the smaller pennate diatoms such as *Mastogloia* that frequently co-dominate in these 412 blooms. The *Hemiaulus* abundance $(10^4 \text{ cells L}^{-1})$ noted in the 2-4 August 2015 bloom is 413 414 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).

Thus, it is probable that additional diatoms were present and contributing to the satellite chlsignature.

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 next sampling burst (6 hours later, or approximately 10 km) would observe $\sim 10^3 - 10^4$ cells L⁻¹. 420 421 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 concentrations $(10^{1}-10^{2} \text{ cell L}^{-1})$ of these taxa presumably adapted to uniformly oligotrophic 431 432 conditions.

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

present during the *Hemiaulus* bloom (2-4 Aug. 2015) where aggregated *Hemiaulus* represented
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, the long chains and elevated F_v:F_m suggests a rapidly growing *Hemiaulus* population and the 446 447 continued increase in the bloom area chlorophyll after *Honey Badger* departed (Video S1) suggests that this bloom was sampled early in its development. The aggregated form dominated 448 449 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

study (47), we calculate a potential for ~50 aggregates L^{-1} for the 2003 *Hemiaulus* snowstorm. 462 463 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. However, the value is similar to the detection limit represented by 1 aggregate per 15 image 465 Holo burst (36 aggregates L^{-1}) and suggests the Holo data are the correct order of magnitude. 466 467 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 order of 1-10 L⁻¹ at 28-30° N along a transect from HI to CA suggesting that *Hemiaulus* 471 472 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 sufficiently large to be visible to the camera (Fig. S3b). Multiple imaging technologies on the 475 476 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. 2012) with high sinking rates (10^2 m d^{-1}) requiring aggregates as a dominant mode of transport 484

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

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

at 10⁴ concentrations. *Hemiaulus* aggregates were widespread and observed outside the 15 July – 508 509 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. When present, *Hemiaulus* aggregates are abundant $(10 + L^{-1})$ and dominate the total *Hemiaulus* 512 513 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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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).



Honey Badger diagram and sensor locations.

Schematic provided courtesy of Liquid Robotics, a Boeing Company.



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

(A) Salinity (PSU). (B) Temperature (°C). The grey lines are the data with a 9-point smoothing, the color-coded dots are daily average values.



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.v



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.



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.



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 μ m bins. (E) Average F_v:F_mbetween 0800-1359 UTC (dark-adapted value). Blue and yellow shaded area indicate the *Hemiaulus* and *Rhizosolenia* bloom. respectively.



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).

NOT PEER-REVIEWED



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)			
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)	awell BV's MOSE (2) Significant wave height (m) and Direction (degrees true)		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		Location		% Hemiaulus in	Date		Location		% Hemiaulus in
(UTC)	n	°N	°N	Aggregates (Total cells L ⁻¹)	(UTC)	n	°N	°W	Aggregates (Total cells L ⁻¹)
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