

Clam outplant experiments conducted in Seadrift and Bolinas Lagoon for 2015

Website: <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/701701>

Data Type: Other Field Results

Version: 1

Version Date: 2017-06-15

Project

» [RAPID: A rare opportunity to examine overcompensation resulting from intensive harvest of an introduced predator](#) (Invasive_predator_harvest)

Contributors	Affiliation	Role
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Abstract

Clam outplants in Seadrift and Bolinas Lagoons (Central California coast, shallow subtidal (<2 m depth)) for 2015.

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Coverage

Spatial Extent: N:37.926639 E:-122.653096 S:37.906503 W:-122.681003

Temporal Extent: 2014-09-11 - 2015-08-20

Dataset Description

Clam outplants in Seadrift and Bolinas Lagoons (Central California coast, shallow subtidal (<2 m depth)) for 2015.

Methods & Sampling

We conducted experiments in which groups of clams were outplanted in Seadrift and adjacent Bolinas Lagoon, CA. Sites were accessed by foot via shore entry. At each of three sites within each bay, we placed a small section of plastic mesh to which 15 small clams (generally <10 mm) had been attached. Arrays were placed just below the sediment surface in shallow subtidal areas (<2 m) and retrieved 24 hours later. Clams were scored for presence/absence and any damage or remaining shell fragments.

See Turner et al. (2016) *Biological Invasions* 18: 533-548 for additional methodological details:

Turner, B.C., de Rivera, C.E., Grosholz, E.D., & Ruiz, G.M. 2016. Assessing population increase as a possible outcome to management of invasive species. *Biological Invasions*, 18(2), pp 533–548. doi:[10.1007/s10530-015-1026-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-015-1026-9)

Data Processing Description

Data were entered and checked in MS Excel spreadsheets. Statistical analyses were run with either (R Development Core Team) or SAS (Statistical Analysis Systems).

Note that all Seadrift sites are very close together and thus one lat/lon pair are used to represent all sites within Seadrift.

BCO-DMO Processing:

- re-formatted date to yyyy-mm-dd;
- modified parameter names to conform with BCO-DMO naming conventions (removed units, changed to lowercase from mixed case);
- created lat and lon columns and added values from metadata page;
- created column for full species names and added names corresponding to each code from metadata page; changed 'species' column provided to 'species_code';
- changed 'outcome' column provided to 'outcome_code'; created column for full text of outcome and added text corresponding to each code from metadata page;
- replaced commas with semi-colons (e.g. in "Alive, unharmed");
- replaced spaces with underscores;
- replaced blanks (missing data) with 'nd';
- sorted by lagoon, site, then date.

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Data Files

File
clam_outplants.csv (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 16.99 KB) MD5:c4c0a1e9fe5c4c7b85cca56c2d1e9a53
Primary data file for dataset ID 701701

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Related Publications

Turner, B. C., de Rivera, C. E., Grosholz, E. D., & Ruiz, G. M. (2015). Assessing population increase as a possible outcome to management of invasive species. *Biological Invasions*, 18(2), 533–548.

doi:[10.1007/s10530-015-1026-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-015-1026-9)

Methods

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Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
lagoon	Name of the lagoon	unitless
site	Site within the lagoon	unitless
lat	Latitude of the site	decimal degrees
lon	Longitude of the site	decimal degrees
date	Calendar date (yyyy-mm-dd) that tethered crabs were outplanted. Duration of all outplants was 24 hours.	unitless
species_code	Species identifier/code	unitless
species	Species or taxon	unitless
size	Carapace width of tethered crab in millimeters	millimeters (mm)
outcome_code	Outcome identifier/code	unitless
outcome	Outcome description	unitless

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Deployments

Grosholz

Website	https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/704849
Platform	Central_CA_Coast
Start Date	2009-07-07
End Date	2019-08-08
Description	Central California lagoon and bay sampling for the project, "RAPID: A rare opportunity to examine overcompensation resulting from intensive harvest of an introduced predator".

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Project Information

RAPID: A rare opportunity to examine overcompensation resulting from intensive harvest of an introduced predator (Invasive_predator_harvest)

Coverage: Europe

The usual expectation is that when populations of plants and animals experience repeated losses to predators or human harvest, they would decline over time. If instead these populations rebound to numbers exceeding their initial levels, this would seem counter-intuitive or even paradoxical. However, for several decades mathematical models of population processes have shown that this unexpected response, formally known as overcompensation, is not only possible, but even expected under some circumstances. In what may be the first example of overcompensation in a marine system, a dramatic increase in a population of the non-native European green crab was recently observed following an intensive removal program. This RAPID project will use field surveys and laboratory experiments to verify that this population explosion results from overcompensation. Data will be fed into population models to understand to what degree populations processes such as cannibalism by adult crabs on juvenile crabs and changes in maturity rate of reproductive females are contributing to or modifying overcompensation. The work will provide important insights into the fundamental population dynamics that can produce overcompensation in both natural and managed populations. Broader Impacts include mentoring graduate trainees and undergraduate interns in the design and execution of field experiments as well as in laboratory culture and feeding experiments. The project will also involve a network of citizen scientists who are involved with restoration activities in this region and results will be posted on the European Green Crab Project website.

This project aims to establish the first example of overcompensation in marine systems. Overcompensation refers to the paradoxical process where reduction of a population due to natural or human causes results in a greater equilibrium population than before the reduction. A population explosion of green crabs has been recently documented in a coastal lagoon and there are strong indications that this may be the result of overcompensation. Accelerated maturation of females, which can accompany and modify the expression of overcompensation has been observed. This RAPID project will collect field data from this unusual recruitment class and conduct targeted mesocosm experiments. These will include population surveys and mark-recapture studies to measure demographic rates across study sites. Laboratory mesocosm studies using this recruitment class will determine size specific mortality. Outcomes will be used in population dynamics models to determine to what degree overcompensation has created this dramatic population increase. The project will seek answers to the following questions: 1) what are the rates of cannibalism by adult green crabs and large juveniles on different sizes of juvenile green crabs, 2) what are the consequences of smaller size at first reproduction for population dynamics and for overcompensation and 3) how quickly will the green crab population return to the levels observed prior to the eradication program five years earlier?

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Funding

Funding Source	Award
NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)	OCE-1514893

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