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2

3 **TITLE:** Air temperature and winter mortality: implications for the persistence of the  
4 invasive mussel, *Perna viridis* in the intertidal zone of the south-eastern United States

5

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24 climate, weather, cold thermal stress, invasion success, biotic homogenisation

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32 **Abstract**

33 Global climate change and invasive species represent two of the biggest threats to the  
34 environment. Biological communities are responding to global climate change through  
35 poleward shifts in distribution, and changes in abundance and phenology of both native  
36 and non-native species. An increase in the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather  
37 events is predicted with global climate change. Much is known about mortality events of  
38 marine organisms in relation to warm thermal stress with relatively little known about  
39 cold thermal stress, particularly in the tropics. Intertidal species are particularly  
40 susceptible to fluctuations in aerial conditions and many are considered indicators of  
41 climate change. *Perna viridis* is a recent invader to the United States where it fouls hard  
42 substrates and soft sediment habitats. During winter 2007-2008, a mortality event was  
43 observed for *P. viridis* across Tampa Bay, Florida. This mortality event coincided with  
44 extreme weather conditions when air temperatures dropped below 2°C for a period of 6  
45 hours during low water. The minimum air temperature recorded was 0.53°C. During this  
46 period water temperature remained relatively constant (~20°C). We provide strong  
47 evidence supporting the hypothesis that thermal stress relating to exposure to cold air  
48 temperatures during emersion was the primary factor underpinning the mortality event.  
49 Similar mortality events occurred in 2009 and 2010, also coinciding with prolonged  
50 exposure to low air temperatures.

51

52 In the short term, weather may be responsible for the temporary trimming back of  
53 populations at the edge of their geographic but in the longer-term, it is expected that  
54 climate warming will trigger the poleward movement of both native and non-native  
55 species potentially facilitating biotic homogenisation of marine communities. The  
56 challenge now is to devise adaptive management strategies in order to mitigate any  
57 potential negative impacts to native biodiversity.

58

59 **1. Introduction**

60 Global climate change and invasive non-native species represent two of the most serious  
61 global threats to biodiversity and the environment (Stachowicz et al., 2002; Ward and  
62 Masters 2007). Biological communities are responding to global climate change through  
63 poleward shifts in distribution, and changes in abundance and phenology (Sims et al.,  
64 2004; Mieszkowska et al., 2005; Hiddink and ter Hofstede, 2008; Moore et al., 2010;  
65 Aprahamian et al., 2010; Wethey et al., 2011). Changes in distribution and associated  
66 species interactions have the potential to greatly affect the structure and functioning of  
67 communities (Moore et al., 2007; Firth et al., 2009). Climate change not only facilitates a  
68 shift in the distribution of indigenous species but also the establishment and extension in  
69 range of non-indigenous species (Stachowicz et al., 2002; Sorte et al., 2010a, b).

70

71 Furthermore, global climate change is expected to lead to an increase in the frequency  
72 and magnitude of extreme weather events (IPCC, 2007). Fluctuation in temperature is  
73 well documented as a driver of mortality in many marine species at temperate and  
74 subpolar latitudes (Orton, 1933; Harley et al., 2006; Coma et al., 2009; Firth and  
75 Williams, 2009; Sorte et al., 2011) and disease outbreak is often associated with  
76 increased temperatures (Harvell et al., 1999; Bruno et al., 2007). Conversely, mortality  
77 events driven by cold thermal stress have received less attention, particularly at  
78 subtropical and tropical latitudes; with the majority of studies describing effects on coral  
79 reefs in tropical waters (e.g. Laboy-Nieves et al., 2001; Saxby et al., 2003).

80

81 The record-breaking cold temperatures experienced in the Northern Hemisphere during  
82 winter 2009/2010 were a result of extremely negative values of the North Atlantic  
83 Oscillation (NAO) index (Wang et al., 2010). If the trend of increased frequency of  
84 NAO-negative years continues, it is predicted that more frequent cold outbreaks are  
85 likely in the future (Wang et al., 2010).

86

87 Prolonged cold outbreaks can have a severe detrimental effect on marine organisms,  
88 particularly those occurring in the intertidal zone (Crisp 1964; Wethey et al., 2011).

89 Organisms living in the intertidal zone are of marine origin but experience terrestrial

90 conditions daily during low tide. The upper distributional limits of intertidal organisms  
91 are set by physical factors such as thermal and desiccation stress (Connell, 1972; Somero,  
92 2002; Harley et al., 2006; Hawkins et al., 2008, 2009). This vulnerability to terrestrial  
93 conditions infers that variations in climatic conditions are likely to elicit strong responses  
94 in intertidal organisms and result in changes in distribution and community structure and  
95 functioning (Fields et al., 1993; Lubchenco et al., 1993; Helmuth et al., 2006). The  
96 responses of intertidal organisms to environmental conditions has allowed for them to  
97 serve as proxies for changes occurring offshore (Mieszkowska et al., 2005).

98  
99 The Asian green mussel, *Perna viridis*, is native to the tropical Indo-Pacific region,  
100 primarily distributed along the Indian and southeast Asian coasts (Siddall, 1980; Vakily,  
101 1989; Rajagopal et al., 2006). This species was first recorded in North America in 1999,  
102 where it was found to be fouling the intake tunnels of a power station in Tampa Bay,  
103 Florida (Benson et al., 2001), and is thought to have been introduced through ballast  
104 water exchange (Power et al., 2004). The mussel has since spread to both the Gulf and  
105 Atlantic coasts of Florida (Ingrao et al., 2001; Baker et al., 2007) occurring as far  
106 eastwards as Panama City on the Florida Panhandle and north towards Georgia (Power et  
107 al., 2004). A recent survey indicated that individuals have extended as far north as South  
108 Carolina (Benson, 2010). The mussel is found attached to the many forms of hard  
109 structure introduced by man (pilings, docks, bridge supports) as the natural coastline is  
110 characterized by soft sediments. It occurs on these hard substrates both in the intertidal  
111 and in the subtidal zones, where it is also known to occur on soft sediments and among  
112 sea grass beds (Bell, pers. obs). Little is known about the impact of this species on native  
113 biodiversity but as its range expands, new interactions with indigenous species are likely  
114 to occur. For example, one observation suggests that *P. viridis* may out-compete the  
115 commercially important native eastern oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*. During a survey of  
116 *P. viridis* in Tampa Bay, Baker et al., (2007) observed a layer of dead *C. virginica* shells  
117 covered by *P. viridis*. Where living *C. virginica* was found, individuals were limited to  
118 the upper few centimetres of the intertidal, above *P. viridis*. Subsequent to a *P. viridis*  
119 winter die-off in January 2003, Baker et al., (2007) were unable to find any living *C.*  
120 *virginica* in the area previously occupied by *P. viridis*. It is well documented that

121 mussels provide refuge and habitat for a wide variety of associated organisms (Seed,  
122 1996) and that this function can vary with size of mussels (O'Connor and Crowe, 2007).  
123 Little is known about the biodiversity associated with *P. viridis* patches, but due to  
124 differences in size of individuals and patch complexity between oysters and mussels, it is  
125 likely that expansion of the green mussel will have potentially long-term effects on  
126 diversity of epibiota and mobile fauna.

127

128 While ecological information on the green mussel is quite limited after its spread to  
129 Tampa Bay, field observations at a small number of locations suggested that cold winter  
130 temperatures might be responsible for an observed temporary disappearance of *P. viridis*  
131 populations from the intertidal zone in Tampa Bay (Baker et al., 2007). Here, we examine  
132 data from a bay-wide survey of mussels to evaluate whether patterns of mussel  
133 distribution and abundance are suggestive of a large-scale mortality event. Likewise, by  
134 following mussels over a smaller number of sites for a 2-year period, we determine  
135 whether mortality events can potentially happen whenever acute cold weather events  
136 occur in Tampa Bay.

137

138

## 139 **2. Materials & methods**

### 140 *2.1 Study sites*

141 Tampa Bay, Florida exhibits an increasing salinity gradient from north to south (Barber et  
142 al., 2005). Nine survey locations were selected across a wide area of Tampa Bay, for  
143 which salinity data were available for the 12 months prior to December 2007, and  
144 comprised hard substrata (bridge pilings, pier pilings or pontoons) for attachment of  
145 mussels. Locations (Figure 1) that were surveyed were Safety Harbor Pier; McKay Bay  
146 Bridge; Ballast Point Pier; Gandy Bridge; Davis Islands Slipway; Fantasy Island Pier;  
147 Picnic Island Pier; Sunshine Skyway Bridge and Fort De Soto Slipway.

148

149 At each location, 12 quadrats (20 × 20 cm) were placed 1 m below the mean high water  
150 mark on all orientations of pilings or just below the water mark on pontoons. All mussels  
151 within quadrats were destructively sampled and measured (anterior to posterior) to the

152 nearest 1 mm in the laboratory. The survey was initially carried out between 10-14<sup>th</sup>  
153 December 2007 in order to establish baseline information on the distribution and  
154 abundance of *P. viridis* in Tampa Bay. On a subsequent visit to Davis Islands in January  
155 2008, it was observed that all of the mussels at the study site and surrounding area were  
156 dead. Following this, a complete resurvey of all locations was carried out from 18-20<sup>th</sup>  
157 February 2008 when it was suspected that a mortality event had occurred across Tampa  
158 Bay. All locations were again resurveyed from 5-6<sup>th</sup> May 2008. Individual mussels were  
159 categorised into size classes based on their antero-postero length: small (<49 mm);  
160 medium (50-99 mm); and large (>50 mm). In addition, the presence/absence of mussels  
161 was noted in the intertidal zone in summer and winter months at three sites: Courtney  
162 Campbell Causeway (near Safety Harbor), Gandy Bridge and Sunshine Skyway Bridge  
163 from 2008-2010.

164

165

## 166 2.2 *Physico-chemical parameters*

167 The Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County collected monthly  
168 salinity (ppt) measurements by placing a probe just below the surface of the water at all  
169 sampling locations across Tampa Bay between January-December 2007. Additionally,  
170 data on air and water temperature on a 6 hour basis was obtained from a meteorological  
171 station near St. Petersburg Florida and supplied by TB-PORTS (Tampa Bay Physical  
172 Oceanographic Real-Time System) for all dates from 2007-2010 (Table 1).

173

## 174 2.3 *Analyses*

175 Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to test the *a posteriori* hypothesis that a  
176 mortality event occurred in Tampa Bay using density of mussels as the dependent  
177 variable. Two-factor ANOVA was performed using the factors: survey (3 levels, random,  
178 orthogonal); and location (9 levels, random, orthogonal) with 12 replicates. GMAV®  
179 version 5 for Windows was used for computations (Underwood and Chapman, 1998).  
180 Cochran's test was used to test for heterogeneity of variances and Student-Newman-  
181 Keuls (SNK) procedure was used to make *post hoc* comparisons among levels of

182 significant terms. Variances were heterogeneous, but it was not possible to transform the  
183 data.

184

185 One-factor ANOVA was used to test differences in salinity between sites using data from  
186 each month as a replicate (January-December 2007, n = 12). The relationship between  
187 mussel abundance and salinity was tested using least squares linear regression analysis  
188 (Sokal and Rohlf 2003).

189

### 190 **3. Results**

#### 191 *3.1 Mussel survey*

192 324 quadrats were sampled comprising a total of 1452 mussels. Total mussel abundance  
193 (across 3 surveys) was highest at Safety Harbor (376) and lowest at Sunshine Skyway  
194 Bridge (23). Mean density per quadrat during the first sampling period (10-14<sup>th</sup>  
195 December 2007) was also highest at Safety Harbor (31.3), then Ballast Point (24.6) and  
196 lowest at Sunshine Skyway (1.91) and Fort De Soto (1.0) with other locations  
197 characterised by populations of intermediate density (Figure 2).

198

199 A bay-wide mortality event of *Perna viridis* occurred between December 2007 and May  
200 2008 (Figure 2). On the second sampling period in February 2008, live mussels were only  
201 recorded at Gandy Bridge, Picnic Island and Fort De Soto (Table 2, Figure 2). At  
202 locations where no live mussels were observed within the quadrats, a broad visual search  
203 was done of the sampling site for any live mussels but none were recorded. Dead mussel  
204 shells were observed attached to the substrate or on the sea-bottom at many of the  
205 locations, indicating recent mortality. On the third sampling period (May 2008),  
206 populations at both Gandy Bridge and Picnic Island had also decreased to zero with Fort  
207 De Soto being the only location where any live mussels were recorded (Figure 2).

208

209 Surveys in 2009-2010 also indicated the disappearance of mussels after unusually cold  
210 temperatures. While mussels were present in October 2008 and 2009, none were found  
211 in January 2009 or 2010 on structures in the intertidal zone at the study sites.

212

213 *3.2 Temperature data*

214 The mean daily variation in air and water temperature for St. Petersburg, located within  
215 the middle reaches of Tampa Bay was recorded for the period between 11/12/2007 and  
216 19/02/2008 (Figure 3). Water temperature was relatively constant, remaining above 20°C  
217 (20-25) for the majority of the period. Water temperature twice dipped slightly below  
218 20°C (17-19) between 4-11<sup>th</sup> January and again between 16<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

219

220 Air temperature was generally a few degrees cooler than water temperature (Figure 3),  
221 but a major drop in air temperature occurred between 2-4 January 2008 when  
222 temperatures remained below 15°C for 64 hours. During this 3-day period, the  
223 temperature dropped again and mussels were exposed to severely cold air temperatures  
224 (<2°C) for 6 hours when a minimum temperature of 0.53°C was recorded at 12:00 during  
225 low water (Figure 4).

226

227 Winter temperatures from 2009-2010 again showed a series of dates when air  
228 temperatures were less than 15°C. As in January 2008, air temperatures declined to near  
229 0°C once and remained lower than 15°C for at least 3 days (Table 1).

230

231 *3.3 Mussel abundance in relation to salinity*

232 To characterise the relationship between mussel abundance and salinity, mussel  
233 abundance data collected during the 1<sup>st</sup> survey in December 2007 were considered in  
234 relation to the salinity data collected over the preceding 12 months between January-  
235 December 2007.

236

237 ANOVA revealed significant differences between locations for salinity (Table 3). Post-  
238 hoc SNK procedures revealed three distinct groupings: Safety Harbor was grouped on its  
239 own with the lowest salinity; in contrast, Fort De Soto and Sunshine Skyway clustered  
240 together with the highest salinity. The rest of the locations formed a group representing  
241 intermediate salinity (Table 3).

242



243 There was a strong negative relationship between mussel abundance and salinity (Figure  
244 5). The greatest densities were found at the location with lowest salinity (Safety Harbor)  
245 and the lowest densities were found at the locations with the highest salinities (Fort De  
246 Soto and Sunshine Skyway) (Figure 5).

247

248 Population structure showed greater heterogeneity (i.e., characterised by mussels of  
249 different sizes), at locations of intermediate salinity compared to sites of highest/lowest  
250 salinity (Figure 6). Moreover, at locations characterised by extreme salinities (i.e. Safety  
251 Harbor, Sunshine Skyway and Fort De Soto), no individuals in the larger size class were  
252 found during the first survey in December 2007.

253

254

#### 255 **4. Discussion**

256 We provide strong evidence supporting the hypothesis that thermal stress related to  
257 exposure to cold air temperatures during emersion was the primary factor underpinning  
258 the mortality event for mussels occupying intertidal substrata across sites in Tampa Bay  
259 in 2008. Our observations indicate that mussels recruit back to the intertidal in early  
260 summer. Importantly, in the two years subsequent to our initial bay-wide survey, we  
261 found that the winter die-off was repeated at three sites where mussels were abundant in  
262 the 2007 survey and extreme cold air temperatures were reported during the winters of  
263 2008/2009 and 2009/2010. These events do not appear to be unique as a similar mortality  
264 event occurred in the mussel populations on the northeast coast of Florida in 2007/2008  
265 (M. Gilg, pers. comm.). *Perna viridis* is also known to experience winter die-offs in  
266 Japan (Umemori and Horikoshi, 1991; Kazuhiro and Sekiguchi, 2000; Zvyagintsev,  
267 2003) where it is also considered an invasive species.

268

269 During 2007/2008 an extreme weather event occurred in Tampa Bay when air  
270 temperatures dropped to near freezing for a period of 6 hours during low water.  
271 Subsequent to this cold snap, water temperatures dipped slightly but it is unlikely that this  
272 slight drop in water temperature led to the bay-wide mortality event observed in *P.*  
273 *viridis*. A similar pattern was true for air and water temperatures from 2008-2010. It is

274 extremely likely that the prolonged exposure to low air temperatures caused the mortality  
275 events for *P. viridis* across Tampa Bay. Although not tested experimentally during the  
276 present study, previous investigations have found that cold water temperature causes  
277 mortality of *P. viridis* (Sivalingam, 1977; Urian et al., 2010). Little work has been carried  
278 out on the effects of cold air temperatures on *P. viridis*, but a recent laboratory study  
279 found that the mortality was significantly higher in mussels exposed to cold air  
280 temperatures  $\leq 14^{\circ}\text{C}$  and that smaller individuals were less tolerant of changes in air  
281 temperature than larger ones (Urian et al., 2010).

282

283 Thermal stress is widely cited as the dominant physical stress in intertidal habitats  
284 (Garrity, 1984; Helmuth and Hofmann, 2001) and is reported to cause mortality events on  
285 both temperate (Orton, 1933; Lewis, 1954; Harley et al., 2006) and tropical shores  
286 (Williams and Morritt, 1995; Chan et al., 2006; Firth and Williams, 2009). Many studies  
287 focus on the effects of warm thermal stress on the physiological and behavioural  
288 responses of organisms (Somero, 2002; Jones et al., 2009; Denny et al., 2011; Sorte et al.,  
289 2011) while the effects of cold thermal stress are often neglected, particularly at lower  
290 latitudes (but see Urian et al., 2010). Furthermore, despite many intertidal organisms  
291 being exposed to aerial conditions during low water, less attention has been directed at  
292 assessing the effects of extreme air temperatures in comparison to extreme water  
293 temperatures. This focus is perhaps surprising as larger fluctuations in temperature are  
294 more likely to occur in aerial environments than aquatic environments due to the  
295 buffering capacity of water (Marshall and Plumb, 2008). In a subtropical setting such as  
296 described here, low aerial temperatures may be an important mechanism by which  
297 mussels are prevented from excluding other fouling organisms, such as oysters and  
298 barnacles.

299

300 Two of the predictions accompanying discussions of global climate change are (1) a rise  
301 in the mean sea surface temperature globally and (2) an increase in the occurrence,  
302 intensity and magnitude of extreme weather events (IPCC, 2007). Stachowicz et al.,  
303 (2002) proposed that changing maximum and minimum temperatures rather than shifts in  
304 annual means could account for the greatest impacts of climate change on marine

305 communities. Our findings on the green mussel provide support for this proposal. Future  
306 studies on changes in community assemblages that follow assemblages across years both  
307 with and without extreme weather events are necessary.

308

309 It is well documented that climate warming on the scale of decades can alter the  
310 composition of marine communities by facilitating the poleward spread of warm-adapted  
311 species (Southward et al., 1995; Sagarin et al., 1999; Stachowicz et al., 2002;  
312 Mieszkowska et al., 2005). Climate is typically defined as the mean of weather over a  
313 large temporal scale (>30 years) (Helmuth et al., 2006). Specifically, Stenseth et al.,  
314 (2003) defined weather as the fluctuation in short-term localised atmospheric conditions  
315 which encompass air temperature, solar radiation, cloud cover, precipitation, and wind.  
316 Recently, there has been a surge of interest on the effects of multiple environmental  
317 stressors (Atalah and Crowe, 2010; Crain, 2008; Firth and Williams, 2009; Fitch and  
318 Crowe, 2011) and extreme weather events (Harley et al., 2006; Hughes et al., 2009; Sorte  
319 et al., 2010a,b; Wethey et al., 2011) on marine communities and increasingly, results  
320 from field studies appear to justify such an emphasis.

321

322 For example in the United Kingdom, the extremely cold winter of 1962/1963 lasted from  
323 late December 1962 through to early March 1963. During this time the mean air  
324 temperatures ranged between -3.2°C and 0.2°C (Crisp, 1964). As a result of the  
325 prolonged cold temperatures, a contraction of the northern range edge of many southern  
326 warm-adapted species was recorded, particularly around North Wales (Crisp, 1964). With  
327 the continuing trend in climate warming, some of these species (e.g. *Sabellaria alveolata*,  
328 *Osilinus lineatus*) are now beginning to recolonise locations where they previously  
329 occurred (Mieszkowska et al., 2005, 2007; Hawkins pers. comm.). These recolonisations  
330 have implications for community structure and functioning particularly when the species  
331 involved are keystone species or provide habitat for other species (e.g. mussels, oysters:  
332 see Hawkins et al., 2009).

333

334 The results of the present study suggest that physiological stress driven by extreme  
335 weather may be responsible for limiting the invasion success of the green mussel in a

336 subtropical area. The blue mussel, *Mytilus galloprovincialis* is an invasive species on the  
337 California coast. Lockwood and Somero (2011) discuss how physical factors, such as  
338 temperature, could be limiting its northward spread in California, while simultaneously  
339 facilitating its competitive ability.

340

341 The unusually cold weather experienced in south Florida in January 2010 also resulted in  
342 the mortality of the invasive Burmese Python (*Python molurus bivattus*) in Everglades  
343 National Park (Mazzotti et al., 2010). Similarly, the cold winter in 2009-2010 had a  
344 significant impact on intertidal marine fauna in northern Europe. Wetthey et al., (2011)  
345 found that southern warm-adapted (native) barnacle species (*Chthamalus*) suffered  
346 recruitment failure, but no adult mortality in France.

347

348 In the short term, weather may be responsible for the temporary retreat of a population's  
349 distribution at the edge of its geographic range (Crisp, 1964; Baker et al., 2007; Urian et  
350 al., 2010). In the longer-term, it is expected that climate warming will facilitate both the  
351 poleward movement of native species (Mieszkowska et al., 2005; Hiddink and ter  
352 Hofstede, 2008) and the spread of non-indigenous species to new locations (Stachowicz  
353 et al., 2002; Sorte et al., 2010a; Sorte et al., 2010b). This interaction between global  
354 climate change and human-induced biological invasions may ultimately lead to biotic  
355 homogenisation - the process of gradual replacement of native communities by locally  
356 expanding non-native species (Olden et al., 2004). The challenge now is to forecast when  
357 and where these changes are likely to occur and devise adaptive management strategies in  
358 order to mitigate any potential negative impacts to native biodiversity.

359

360

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366

367

368 **TABLES**

369 Table 1. Summary of minimum air and corresponding water temperatures (°C) from  
 370 PORTS for St Petersburg, Florida on dates for which lowest temperatures of the month  
 371 are recorded or for those dates when air temperature was <15°C. Duration (hours) when  
 372 air temperature subsequent to date reported was continuously less than 15°C is also noted.  
 373

Date	Low air temperature (°C)	Low water temperature (°C)	Duration (hours)
17/12/2007	6	21	18
04/01/2008	1	18	64
15/02/2008	7	21	6
28/11/2008	7	20	6
20/01/2009	4	18	36
04/02/2009	3	17	18
05/12/2009	9	21	6
09/12/2009	9	20	24
28/12/2009	9	19	12
10/01/2010	0	12	120
14/02/2010	8	17	6

374  
 375  
 376

377 Table 2. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) to assess differences in *P. viridis* density at 9  
 378 locations in Tampa Bay in December 2007, February 2008 and May 2008, (\*\*\*) =  
 379 P<0.001).

Source	df	MS	F
Survey	2	5450.73	13.34***
Location	8	387.78	0.95
Survey × Location	16	408.51	8.29***
RES	297	49.28	

380  
 381  
 382  
 383  
 384

385 Table 3. Analyses of variance (ANOVA) to test the differences in sea surface temperature  
 386 (°C) and salinity (ppt) between locations. (\*\*=P<0.01; \*\*\* = P<0.001).

387

		<b>Salinity</b>	
<b>Source</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>MS</b>	<b>F</b>
Location	8	79.43	27.72****
Total	99		
Cochrans <i>C</i>		P<0.05	
Transformation		None	
SNK tests	SH< MB=BP=GB=DI=FI=PI=SS<<FS		

388

389

390

391 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

392

393 Figure 1. Map of survey locations in Tampa Bay. SH = Safety Harbor; MB = McKay  
394 Bay; BP = Ballast Point; GB = Gandy Bridge; DI = Davis Islands; FI = Fantasy Island; PI  
395 = Picnic Island; SS = Sunshine Skyway; FS = Fort De Soto.

396

397 Figure 2. Mean abundance of *Perna viridis* in quadrats (0.04m<sup>2</sup>) at each location: Safety  
398 Harbor; McKay Bay; Ballast Point; Gandy Bridge; Davis Islands; Fantasy Island; Picnic  
399 Island; Sunshine Skyway; Fort De Soto

400

401 Figure 3. Mean daily air and water temperature (°C) measured at St. Petersburg, Florida  
402 during the period of the study (11/12/2007 to 19/02/2008). Data obtained from  
403 <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov>

404

405 Figure 4. Hourly air and water temperatures (°C) and water height (m) relative to MLW  
406 measured at St. Petersburg, Florida during the period of cold weather between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
407 February 2008. Arrow indicates low water (4.13 m below MTL) coinciding with  
408 extremely cold air temperature (0.5°C). Data obtained from

409 <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov>

410

411 Figure 5. The relationship between mean abundance of *P. viridis* per quadrat and salinity  
412 (ppt). Only data from December 2007 survey is used here. (F = 44.46, P<0.001).

413

414 Figure 6. Size-frequency distributions of *P. viridis* across locations in Tampa Bay.  
415 Locations are grouped in order of increasing salinity from left to right. SH = Safety  
416 Harbor; MB=McKay Bay; BP = Ballast Point; Gandy Bridge; DI = Davis Islands; FI =  
417 Fantasy Island; PI = Picnic Island; SS = Sunshine Skyway; FS = Fort De Soto.

418

419

420 **LITERATURE CITED:**

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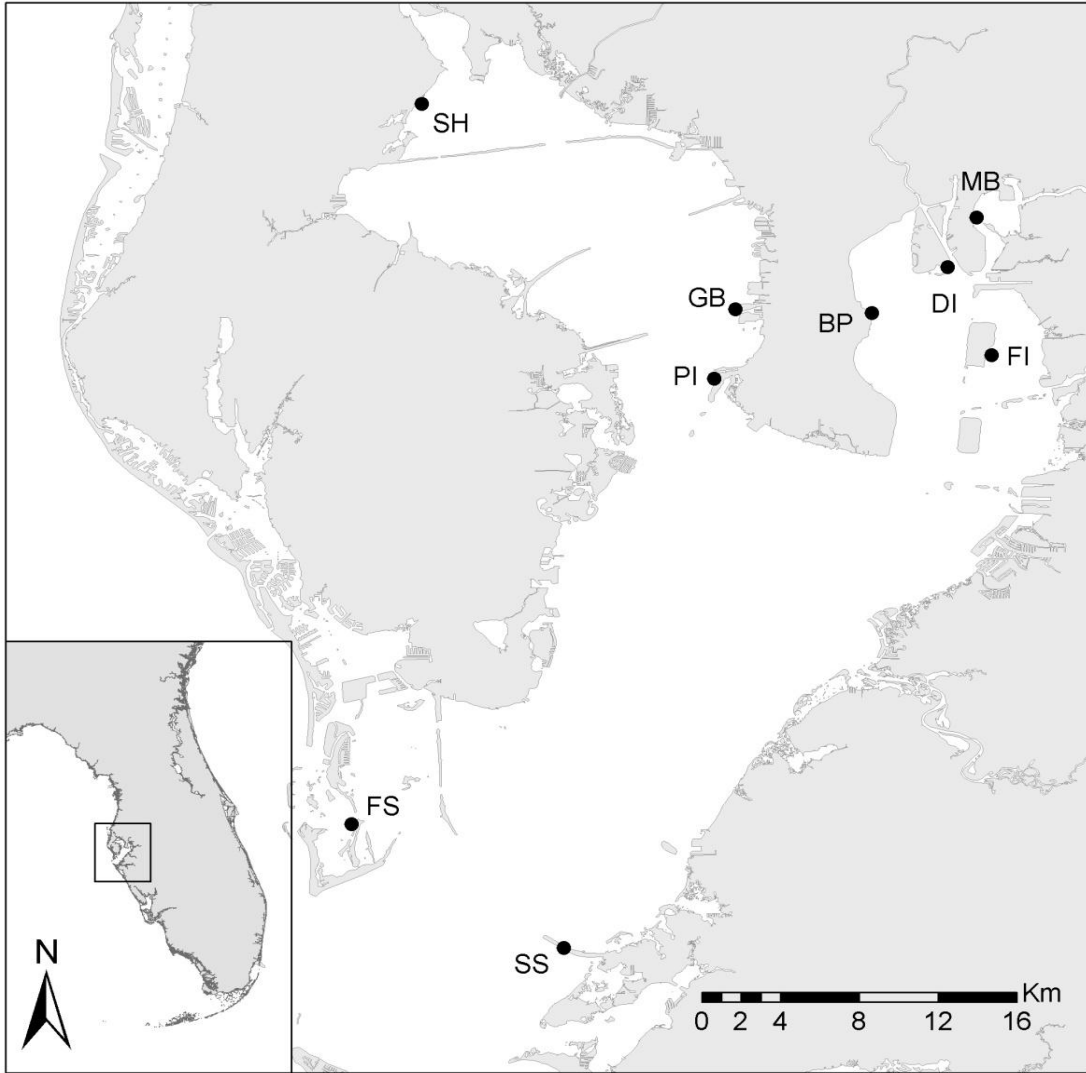
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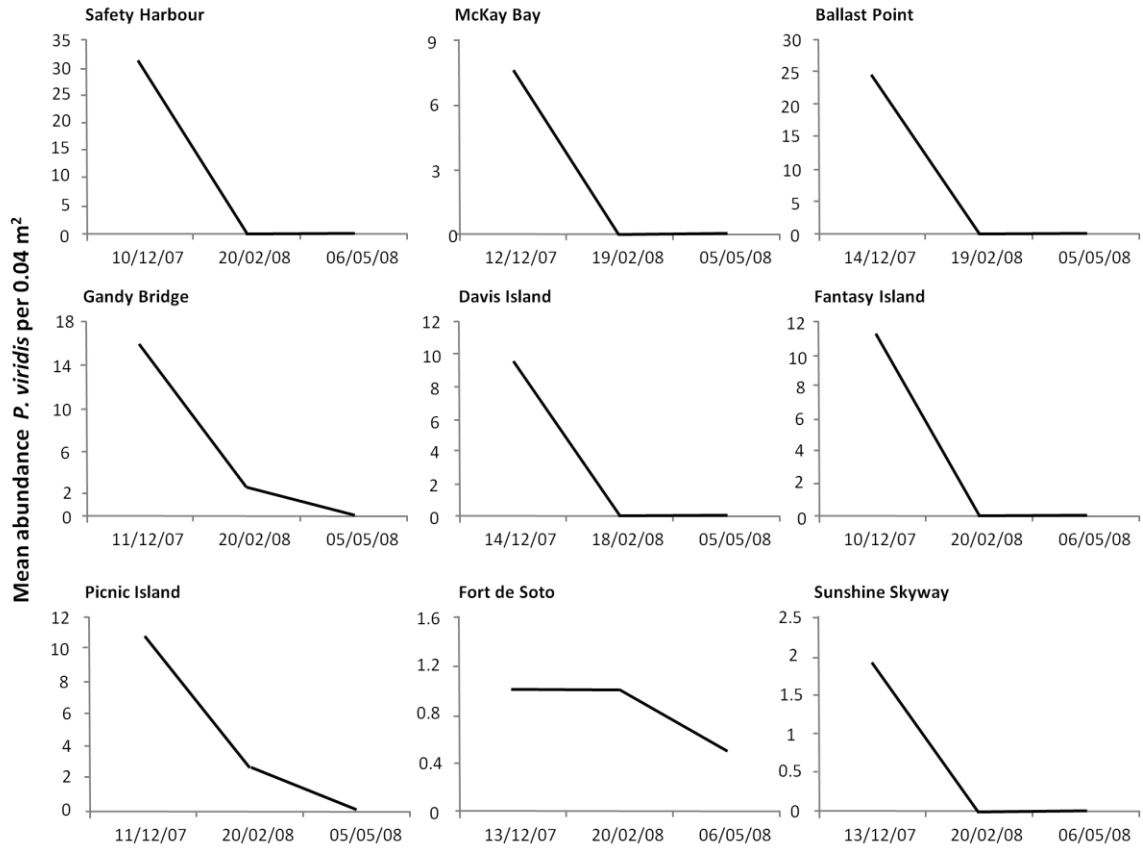
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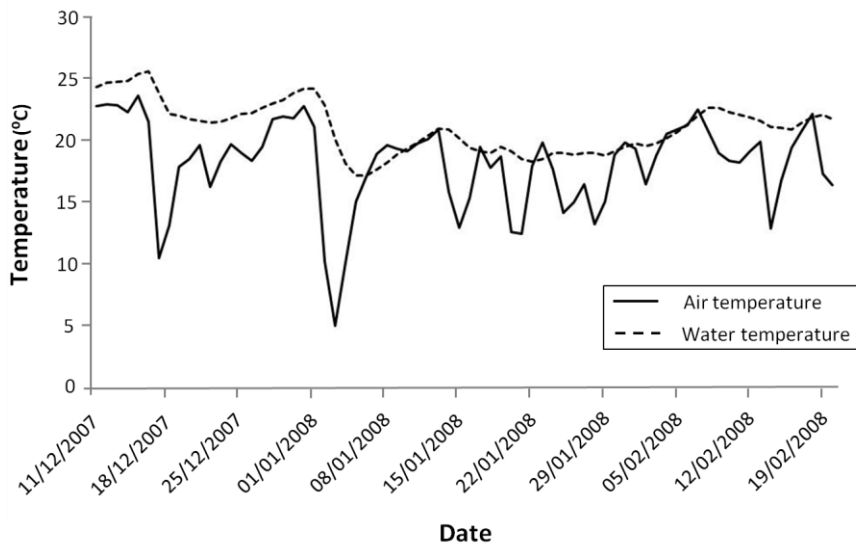




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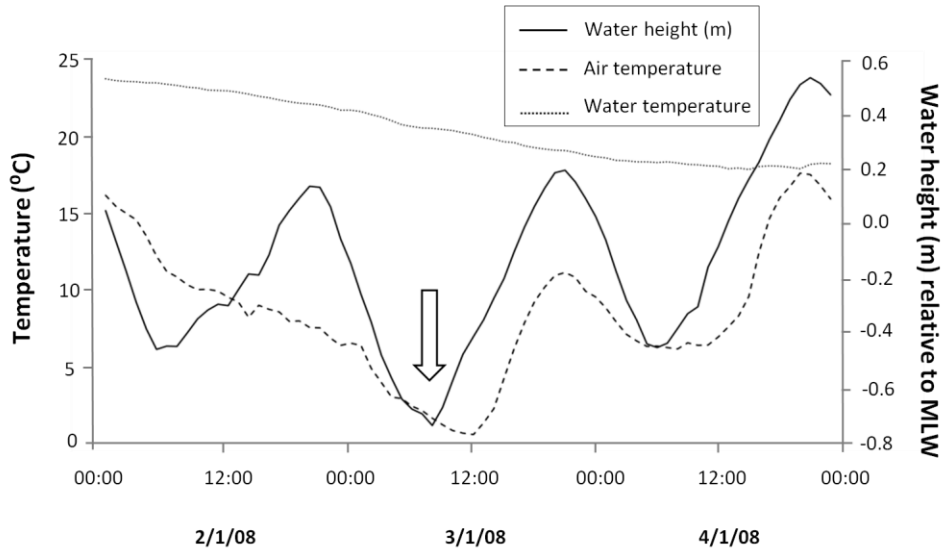
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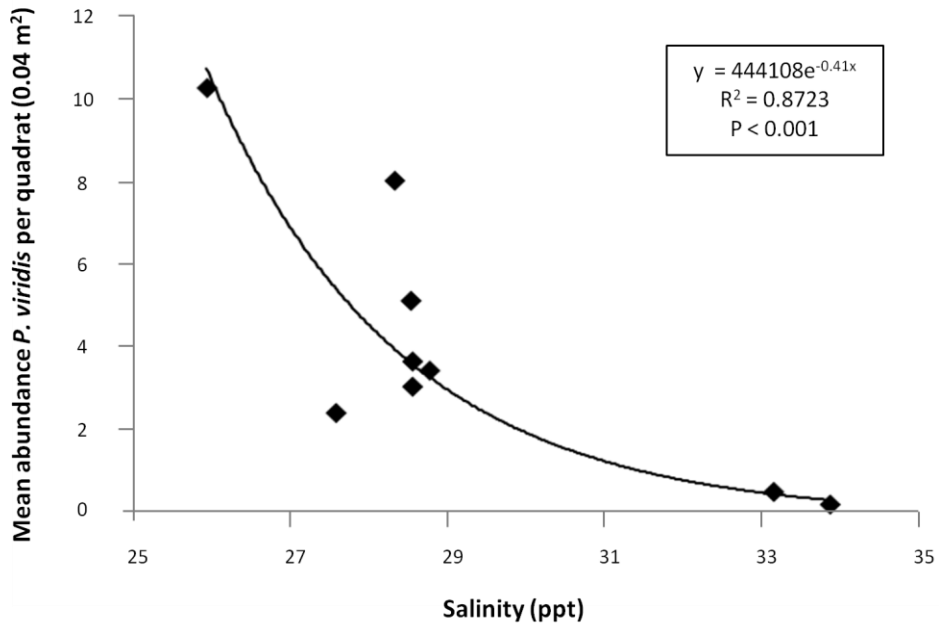




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Figure 3.





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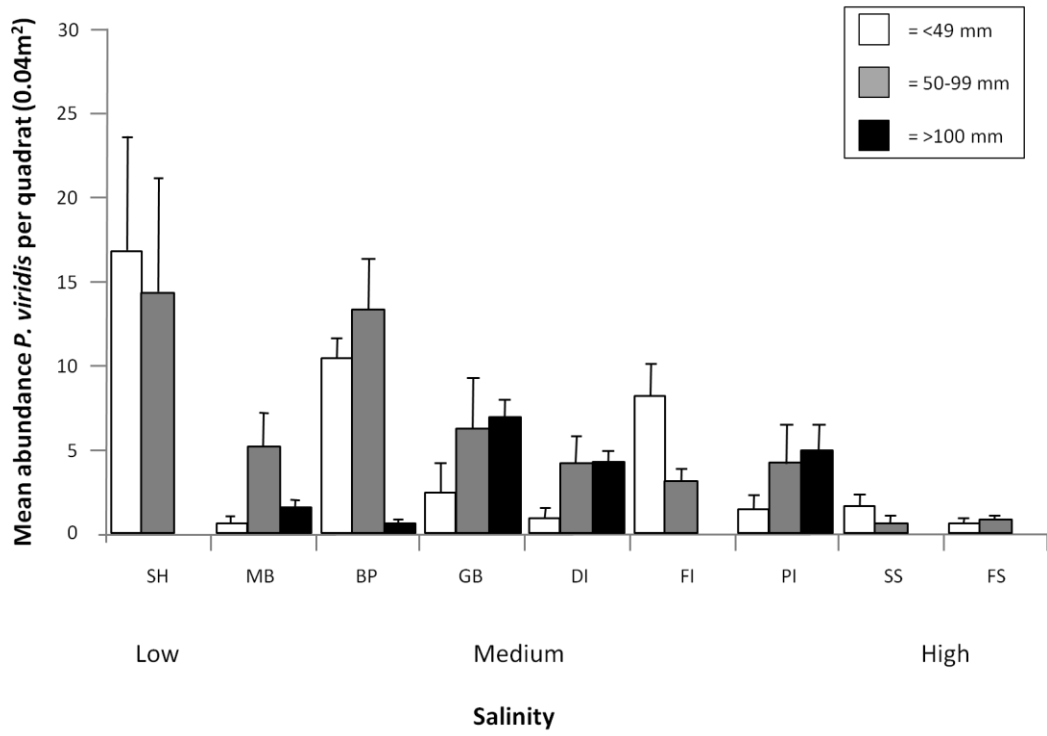
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713 Figure 6.