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FIELD VALIDATION OF MULTI-SPECIES LABORATORY TEST SYSTEMS FOR ESTUARINE BENTHIC COMMUNITIES

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CR 812053

Project Officer

Dr. Thomas W. Duke Office of the Director Environmental Research Laboratory Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORY OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA 32561

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ABSRTACT

The aim of this project was to evaluate the validity of using multi-species laboratory systems to assess the response of eatuarine benthic communities to an introduced stress. Over a 5 year period experiments in Apalachicola Bay, Florida, and the York River, Virginia, sought to (1) develop criteria for microcosm tests for evaluating the capacity of microcosms to model natural communities in the presence and absence of a pollution-induced stress, and (2) assess the validity of extrapolating test results from one location to another. Procedures for constructing, maintaining and sampling microcosms were tested and refined over the study period. A large number of laboratory and field tests were conducted synoptically over this period, including experiments in which microcosms and field sites were dosed with toxicants (mixed hydrocarbons in some and pentachlorophenol in others). We have investigated various methodologies for analysing and interpreting data derived from microcosm tests.

The most promising results were achieved with medium-sized

microcosms (approximately 0.1 m 2) in relatively short-term experiments (5 weeks). Individual species response patterns in the microcosms were highly variable and seldom showed good agreement with patterns in the field. Species richness in the microcosms and field showed good temporal agreement and provided a conservative indicator of community response to toxic stress. **An** ecologically-based guild approach to grouping species proved to be a powerful and reliable method of extrapolating from microcosm test results to responses of field communities. Our findings suggest that results from estuarine benthic-derived microcosm toxicity tests may be used to predict some aspects of community response to toxic stress. Further, the results indicate some generality in these predictions which should permit cautious extrapolation to other field sites.

This report was submitted in fulfillment of contract number CR 812053 by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and Florida State University under the sponsorship of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This report covers a period from October 1981 to October 1985 and work was completed as of 1 March 1987.

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INTRODUCTION

A priority of environmental toxicology is to predict the ecological effects of a toxic substance by extrapolating from
controlled laboratory experiments. Until recently such controlled laboratory experiments. experiments have generally been restricted to single-species
acute tests. Much of the rationale for this approach has been Much of the rationale for this approach has been based upon the assumption that acute tests with the most sensitive species provide conservative estimates of environmental impact, an assumption which has recently been criticized (Kimball and Levin, 1985; Cairns, 1983; 1986a). Despite the fact that arguments can still be made for the utility of single-species testing (Wies, 1985), there is growing recognition of the need for multi-species toxicity testing (Cairns, 1985).

As the use of multi-species laboratory test systems (microcosms) increases, a requisite part of the development must be field validation. We accept here the definition of validation offered by Cairns (1986b) as the testing of "the ability to predict the relationship between the response of the artificial
laboratory system and the natural system." There are several laboratory system and the natural system." There are several
components to any such evaluation. The first involves components to any such evaluation. establishig criteria for conducting microcosm tests which are specific enough to reduce undesirable laboratory artifacts and
general enough to be of utility in a range of habitats. Second, general enough to be of utility in a range of habitats. it is necessary to evaluate the capability of the laboratory system to model temporal patterns in the natural system in the
absence of toxic stress. Only after this does it become Only after this does it become appropriate to compare the response of the microcosm and field communities to a pollution-induced stress. Finally, if microcosm tests are to have applicability outside of the site-specific system in which they are conducted, it is necessary to evaluate the validity of extrapolating between systems.

Towards the end of validating an estuarine benthic microcosm test system, we initiated a 5-year program in two estuaries. Using macroinvertebrate and microbial communities from unvegetated, soft-sediment habitats in Apalachicola Bay, Florida and the York River tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia, we conducted a series of combined laboratory/field experiments to address the questions posed above. experiments have been reported earlier (Diaz et al., 1984, 1986; Livingston et al., 1985a, 1985b, 1985c, 1985d, 1986) and we will not dwell on those details here but rather summarize the overall project, its findings and draw conclusions regarding the use of benthic microcosms for predicting environmental consequences of toxic stress.

CONCLUSIONS

Variability in natural estuarine systems is high, necessitating large numbers of experimental replicates and
samples to observe even major responses. Careful attention must samples to observe even major responses. be paid to physical/chemical features of the microcosms throughout the tests to insure that conditions remain as close to those in the natural field sites as possible. Monitoring of toxicant levels and distribution within the microcosms throughout the experiment is necessary to evaluate dissipation and breakdown
of the toxicant. Concurrent with laboratory testing, samples Concurrent with laboratory testing, samples from the field sites are required to assess natural fluctuations in the benthic populations. Temporal variation in recruitment adds year to year and site to site variation in community responses in microcosm tests. To overcome this problem it is mandatory that microcosm tests be properly timed to corresepond with known stages in recruitment cycles. Furthermore it is necessary that only community components which show good agreement between laboratory systems and field sites be used to evaluate response to toxins. In this respect species richness of the community and the numerical abundances of certain guilds (listed in Table 6) appear to be the best components to use.

We advocate an approach of categorizing species into "ecological types" or guilds which has several advantages. This categorization gives a managable number groupings--enough to provide some detail but few enough to permit reasonable detection of patterns. The emphasis on species groupings reduces the dependence of the predictions upon single species which may be highly variable in their occurrence from year to year. Those guilds which are observed to behave aberrantly in the laboratory may be excluded from the analyses **a priori.** And, the use of "ecological types" facilitates comparisons among sites which have different species compositions. However, this approach requires good ecological characterization of the species comprising the benthic community used in the testing. These ecological data are often difficult to obtain.

We conclude that laboratory microcosms can provide a valuable tool for assessing natural benthic community responses to toxic stress, provided that the caveats and conditions stated in this report are heeded.

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OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this project were:

- (1) the development of criteria for conducting microcosm tests and interpreting the results;
- (2) the evaluation of the capacity of a benthic microcosm system to simulate natural field communities in the absence of a toxicant;
- (3) the comparison of response patterns of laboratory and field communities to a pollution-induced stress; and
- (4) the determination of the validity of extrapolating from microcosm tests conducted in one locale to natural communities in another.

STUDY SITES

The study sites in the Apalachicola Bay system (East Bay and St. George Sound) were located in polyhaline and oligohaline areas, and those in the York River in the meso-polyhaline portion of the estuary (see Fig. 1). All sites were shallow (1-2 m), unvegetated areas. Sediments in the oligohaline site were silty sand, and sediments in the polyhaline and meso-polyhaline sites were predominately fine sands. Each of the study sites are considered representative of extensive portions of temperate estuaries. For both the Virginia and Florida experiments, the laboratory microcosms were located near the field study sites. More details of the study sites are given in earlier reports (Diaz et al., 1984. 1986; Livingston et al., 1985, 1986).

ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATRIONS

An essential part of this program was an understanding of the ecological backdrop against which the experiments were conducted. Weekly monitoring programs for infaunal macroinvertebrates have been ongoing at the Virginia site since 1979 (Diaz, 1984) and at the Florida site since 1981. Ten replicate samples per week were collected with 5.0 cm and 7.5 cm diameter hand-held corers in the York River and Apalachicola Bay sites, respectively. These samples were processed on a 250 um and a 500 um sieve series and all macrobenthic invertebrates identified to the lowest possible taxon and enumerated. Figure 2 shows weekly mean abundances of total macrofauna from the Apalachicola Bay and York River sites from October 1981 through April 1986 and indicates the dates of the laboratory/field experiments. comparison between these sites is the timing of recruitment In Florida peak recruitment generally occurred in the fall and the greatest abundances and species richness were observed in the winter. In Virginia the pattern was temporally reversed with recruitment peaks occurring in the spring. The relationship between the timing of the experiments and seasonal patterns of recruitment is crucial to the interpretation of variability in the data.

In addition to these background data on faunal abundances we have found that an appreciation of trophic structures and physical disturbance processes at each site is necessary for interpreting our experimental results. Predation by bottomfeeding fishes and decapods appears to be an important process shaping benthic communities at each site (Virnstein, 1977; Dugan and Livingston, 1982). Physical disturbance, both periodic (waves) and aperiodic (storms) impact on these communities. During the course of this project each site was impacted by at least one major storm event which hit <u>during</u> the laboratory/field
experiments. The timing of microcosm tests in relation to The timing of microcosm tests in relation to predator utilization of the habitats and disturbance events in these sites was a crucial component of proper experimental design.

Another essential feature of our ecological characterization of the field sites was an understanding of species-specific functional roles in the community. Information on trophic, mobility and reporductive modes was a central part of our analysis effort. This is discussed in greater detail in the section on guild assignments. We emphasize at this point, however, that even with the extensive data which have been collected from each of these sites, detailed, species-specific information is much of lacking. this type of

METHODS

EXPERIMENTAL PROTOCOLS

The focus of experiments conducted during 1982 and 1983 was to establish criteria pertaining to microcosm construction, microcosm maintenance, test duration, sampling procedures and response variables. In addition treatments were employed to assess the impact of predator exclusion and inclusion in the field sites.

Microcosm communities were constructed of a series of cores collected with diver-operated box cores (10 x 20 cm; 10 cm deep). Cores were arranged contiguously on seawater tables in the same spatial arrangement as in the field. A wide range of microcosm sizes have been tested. During 1982 and 1983 experiments at both

sites were conducted in microcosms ranging from 0.8 to 1.0 m² in
size. Additional experiments in Florida in 1983 compared three Additional experiments in Florida in 1983 compared three microcosm sizes: 0.67 m^2 , 0.067 m^2 , and 0.0084 m^2 . The spring

1985 experiment in Virginia compared 1.00 m^2 and 0.11 m^2 microcosms. Our objectives here were twofold: (1) to assess whether microcosm size affected the ability of laboratory community dynamics to track those of the field, and (2) to determine whether it was preferable to use larger microcosms which could be sampled repeatedly or smaller ones which must be destructively sampled. The details of results from these experiments are given in earlier reports and are summarized as

follows. Small microcosms (0.0084 ${\tt m}^2$) contained fewer species than the field sites and showed considerable divergence in

community parameters from the field. Medium (0.08 - 0.11 $\mathrm{m}^{2})$ and

large (0.67 - 1.00 ${\tt m}^2$) microcosms contained similar numbers of species and generally showed the same degree of concordance between laboratory and field populations. Replicate large-sized microcosms were sampled repeatedly throughout the duration of experiments, while individual replicates of medium-sized microcosms were sampled at only one time period and discarded. The disturbance associated with repeated sampling of large microcosms was judged to have an impact on community and population dynamics, so we settled on the medium-sized microcosms

 $(\text{approximately } 0.1 \text{ m}^2).$ With a microcosm of this size a large number of replicates must be established at the initiation of an experiment and a portion destructively sampled at each sampling time.

The sizes of the core samplers employed at each site (5 cm Virginia; 7.5 cm Florida) were based upon our experience with the field monitoring programs and were selected to provide adequate sampling of most resident macrofauna. Throughout the experiments the same size coring devices were used to collect laboratory and field samples.

Test durations in 1982 and 1983 ranged from *5* to 9 weeks during which time laboratory and field treatments were sampled synoptically on a weekly or biweekly basis. Samples were sieved on 250 um and 500 um mesh screens, and macroinvertebrates were identified to the lowest possible taxon and enumerated. variety of community and population statistics were considered (see below) and most showed divergence between the laboratory and field *5* weeks after initiation. On this basis we adopted a *5* week duration for subsequent dosing experiments.

Containers with azoic sediments were placed in the seawater table at both sites during the 1985 experiments. These defaunated treatments were sampled and processed similarly to the microcosms and were used to monitor recruitment into the laboratory system through the seawater intakes.

Throughout the experiments physical and chemical
ements were made in the laboratory and field. Temperature, measurements were made in the laboratory and field. salinity, dissolved oxygen, sediment grain size and sediment organic content were monitored regularly. Periodic measurements of pH, sediment temperature and Eh were also made.

Field treatment locations were located haphazardly within pre-selected sites and marked with metal frame structures (2 m x 2 m bottom area x 3 m high). These frames served as a means of relocating sample sites and of holding a sample platform. The sample platform had a gridded array of sample ports which permitted individual core samples to be taken in pre-determined, random locations within the treatments. Field treatments in the various preliminary tests included (1) uncaged sites demarcated only by the open metal frames, (2) caged sites in which the frames were wrapped with screening to exclude predators, and (3) caged sites with predators included. In addition field treatments were dosed with toxin-laden sediments (see below). All field treatments were established in triplicate and each treatment replicate was sampled with 10-15 randomly located replicate cores.

A generalized protocol of these methods is given in Table 1 and a schedule of experiments is presented in Table 2. For greater details concerning the protocols for each test earlier reports (cited above) should be consulted.

DOSING PROCEDURES

Experiments in which both laboratory and field sites were dosed with toxicant-laden sediments were conducted in the fall of 1983 and the spring and fall of 1985. In 1983 "naturally" hydrocarbon contaminated sediments from the Elizabeth River, VA, were used to dose both laboratory and field treatments in the York River and Apalachicola Bay. In both the spring and fall of 1985 uncontaminated sediments were coated with pentachlorophenol (PCP) to provide controlled-dose treatments for laboratory and
field sites. Our goal here was to evaluate the response of the Our goal here was to evaluate the response of the laboratory system to the stress relative to the response of the field system (Objective 3).

During the spring 1985 experiment we tested dosing procedures in which PCP contaminated sediments were added in approximately 1 cm and 0.1 cm thick layers. No overt effects of adding uncontaminated sediments were noted and we found that the greater thickness of sediment provided more reliable dosing of treatments, thus we adopted this procedure in the fall 1985 experiments. Laboratory dosing in each experiment was conducted by spreading contaminated sediments uniformily over the microcosm surface. Field dosing procedures involved two approaches. In the fall 1983 and spring 1985 experiments in both Apalachicola Bay and York River sites dosing was carried out by wrapping the metal frames with plastic to reduce water flow, adding the sediments to the enclosed water column, and removing the plastic after sediments had settled to the bottom. This procedure was successful in Apalachicola Bay, but not in the York River where the plastic wrapping was insufficient to stop the stronger currents (see Results and Fig. 10). During the fall 1985 experiment the same procedure was used in Apalachicola Bay and a dosing box was used in the York River to apply toxin-laden
sediments. The dosing box was a large wooden box to which The dosing box was a large wooden box to which sediments were added through a door on the top, the box was then submerged and a false bottom removed to permit the sediments to
fall to the sediment-water interface. These methodologies were fall to the sediment-water interface. successful at achieving dose equivalency between the field and laboratory treatments (Fig. 11).

TOXICANT LEVELS

The hydrocarbon contaminated sediments from the Elizabeth River used in the fall 1983 experiments were applied at nominal concentrations; the wide variety of pollutants in these sediments prevented the actual levels from being monitored. Lu (1982) reported a detailed hydrocarbon analysis of the sediment at the station from which contaminated sediments were obtained. In the PCP-dosed experiments (spring and fall 1985) a high concentration (nominally 10 ppm) and a low concentration (nominally 1 ppm) were used. Actual concentrations of PCP in the laboratory and field treatments were monitored throughout the test duration. These analyses, which were carried out using methylene chloride extraction and standard gas-liquid chromatography methods with flame ionization and electron capture detection, proved to be costly and time consuming but necessary. These data were invaluable both for establishing when dose equivalency between the laboratory and field was achieved and for tracking the time course of the toxicant levels in each treatment.

GUILD ASSIGNMENTS

In the latter portion of this project we became aware of the
need for grouping species for the purpose of analysis. for grouping species for the purpose of analysis. Community-level statistics, though they provided some useful information, obscured much of the details of response within the community, and individual species population fluctuations were too numerous and variable to permit clear interpretation of community response. Grouping species according to higher taxonomic levels (e.g. polychaete families, oligochaeta, bivalvia) was attempted as a solution, but even closely related species can play different functional roles within *a* community, and the responses of species within these groups were often heterogenous. Thus we classified each species into functional groups based upon the manner in which they used resources, how they lived and moved in the sediments, and their mode of reproduction. The categories to which species were assigned are:

> Trophic Mode scavenger deposit-feeder suspension feeder interface feeder predator scraper unknown Trophic Level carnivore (>90% animal matter) herbivore (>90% plant matter) detritivore/omnivore unknown Mobility Mode burrower mobile sessile tube-builder mobile sessile epifaunal mobile sessile Reproductive Mode planktonic larvae demersal egg cases brooders asexual unknown

Assignments were made using published information (esp., Fauchald and Jumars, 1979) and personal observations. In making these assignments we took a limited view of the environment, choosing as our point of reference the spatial scales relevant to our
treatments. Therefore species which move on scales of cm's to Therefore species which move on scales of cm's to m's were classified as mobile. The intent of the reproductive mode category was to separate those species which have the capability of reproducing and recruiting from within the microcosms from those which do not. Therefore we pooled categories to create a composite classification:

> Dispersal Mode limited dispersal wide dispersal variable dispersal unknown

Here again the spatial scale is defined to reflect our interest in processes relevant to the microcosms. For instance, maldanid polychaetes (represented primarily by **Axiothella mucosa** at the Apalichcola Bay site and by **Clymenella torQuata** at the York River site) produce demersal egg cases which generally remain attached to the tops of the adult tubes until hatching. Juvenile maldanid polychaetes then crawl away and build tubes of their own. type of reproduction leads to limited dispersal in the context of the microcosm since it permits these organisms to recruit from within the microcosm. Another example of a limited disperser in our categorization is **Paranais litoralis,** an asexually reproducing oligochaete. The limited dispersal category is not intended to imply that these species in nature do not exhibit wide ranging dispersal, but merely that they clearly have the capability of recruiting from within the microcosm. By contrast, other species have obligate planktonic stages which preclude successful development within the microcosms. These species are categorized as wide dispersers to indicate their inability to
recruit from within the laboratory seawater tables. A few recruit from within the laboratory seawater tables. species are variable in their reproductive modes both between and within sites. The spionid polychaete Streblospio benedicti, for instance, exhibits variable reproductive strategies ranging from fully planktonic development to brooding (Levin, 1984). In the York River estuary S. benedicti appears to be entirely planktonic in its development and is therefore classified as a wide disperser in Virginia, while in Apalachicola Bay both types of development have been observed for <u>S</u>. <u>benedicti</u> and it is
classified as a variable disperser in those experiments. Table 3 classified as a variable disperser in those experiments. gives the functional group assignments for all species collected from the Florida and Virginia study sites. We recognize the tentative nature of some of these assignments and stress the need for more ecological data to refine this approach.

Unique combiniations of these functional groupings were used to define guilds, e.g deposit-feeding, detritivore/omnivore, mobile burrower, with wide dispersal. This approach yielded a total of 59 guilds in the two study areas, of which only 17 were composed of single species. The species compositions of dominant guilds in each site are given in Table 4. At each location the five most abundant guilds generally comprised >80% (and never

less than 40%) of the total number of individuals collected. Details of this for each test are given in Table 5.

This approach of categorizing species into guilds served two purposes. First, it permitted us to identify those guilds of organisms for which laboratory microcosm populations do not serve as good analogs of natural populations in the absence of any toxicant. These types of organisms can be excluded **a priori** from analyses to assess toxic impact. approach is that the identification of types of organisms which act as ecological units facilitates comparisons between
microcosms and field sites from different locations. For microcosms and field sites from different locations. instance, while the species composition varies between the Virginia and Florida sites, functionally similar ecological groups are found in both sites and provide a basis for comparison.

DATA ANALYSIS

Throughout the course of this project we have made use of large numbers of replicates and the robustness of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to test for specific treatment effects in the highly variable data sets. This approach has generally been a powerful one and several significant treatment effects have been identified. For instance, ANOVA can test for significant differences in total abundance between laboratory field
treatments. However, the central question we have posed is not However, the central question we have posed is so straightforwardly tested. In particular we ask, can microcosm test results be used to predict the response of natural Cairns (1986b) pointed out that the absolute response in a microcosm test need not be identical to that in the natural system. It is simply necessary that we know the **relationship** between the response in the laboratory and the field. In this regard the temporal patterns of community, guild or species response in the laboratory and field may be very similar but of different magnitude and still be of utility for
predictive purposes. Statistical procedures which test for Statistical procedures which test for differences between treatment means (such as ANOVA), but yield nothing about the similarity of pattern, would miss this similarity. Proper testing for similarity in such patterns would require a non-parametric pattern analysis capable of dealing with widely vairant data; we are not aware of such a test at present. Therefore, to answer this final question we are forced to rely upon subjective evaluations. The large number of experiments together with the persistence of many of the patterns add strength to these assessments.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data generated by this project are voluminous, and any value gained by their complete inclusion here would be offset by the drawbacks of such a massive document. Therefore complete data files from the project have been archived in computer files at FSU and VIMS and are available on request. Below we present a summary of our findings emphasizing particularly those aspects which address the primary objectives outlined above.

PHYSICAL/CHEMICAL DATA

Care was taken to maintain physical and chemical characteristics of the microcosms as close to those of the field as possible, yet some differences still arose. Eh profiles and visual inspection of sediment color indicated that depth of the oxygenated layer within the microcosm sediments decreased with This effect was generally most pronounced after week 5 in any given test and led to significant changes in the depth distribution of organisms. Similar changes were not apparent in the field over similar time courses.

Surface sediment composition in the microcosms also showed
rences from the field sites. Fine sediments (silts and differences from the field sites. clays) and organic content increased in the microcosms with time. These increases were the result of deposition of fine particles brought into the laboratory in the seawater system and were not observed in the field. In addition rapid changes in sediment composition in the field were observed in association with storm events which had no effect upon the microcosm sediment characteristics.

Water and sediment temperatures in the microcosms were slightly more variable than those in the field sites, but this degree of variation apparently was not sufficient to pose problems. Salinities in the laboratory and field treatments were similar throughout all experiments.

We refer the reader to earlier reports for more information regarding physio-chemical factors in each of the laboratory/field experiments. Here we emphasize our finding that careful attention to the parameters listed in Table l(I.A) is an important component of successfully conducting a microcosm experiment. Divergence between the laboratory and field in one or more of these parameters will lead to divergence of the communities.

SYNOPSIS OF TEST RESULTS

Spring 1982 Experiments

Florida--

The field predator inclusion treatment followed the field controls 1n terms of the response of infaunal numerical abundance. The field exclusion treatment was characterized by high numbers (primarily **Mediomastus ambiseta).** An increase in total macrofaunal numbers was also observed in the laboratory, but not in the field controls (Fig. 3); these results were interpreted as the release of specific opportunistic polychaetes
from predation pressure. Mediomastus was one of the few Mediomastus was one of the few populations that was still recruiting at the time of the Species richness was generally unaffected by treatment (Fig. 3). The proportional abundance of functional feeding groups was more conservative, showing no change in the field controls and inclusion treatment and only slight changes in the field exclusion and laboratory treatments.

Virginia--

Species specific responses to treatments were variable. For six of the 11 dominant species there were significant differences in abundance among treatments, but only five species showed significant variation with time. **Paranais littoralis** and newly set bivalves were the only two forms to show effects of both
treatment and time. Streblospio benedicti, Eteone heteropoda, Streblospio benedicti, Eteone heteropoda,
idae all increased with time. Polydora and immature Capitellidae all increased with time. **ligni** decreased and newly set bivalves increased and then
decreased with time. Variance to mean ratios for all eleven Variance to mean ratios for all eleven numerically dominant species exceeded one. Total macrofaunal abundances in the laboratory declined sharply between weeks 3 and 4, and by week 5 showed considerable divergence from the field controls (Fig. 3). Species richness in the laboratory was similar to the field treatments throughout most of the experiment, but began to diverge slightly by the fifth week (Fig. 3) •

Fall 1982 Experiment

Florida--

These experiments were conducted in the oligohaline site. Abundance increased in the laboratory by week 4 (Fig. 4), probably attributable to a release from predation. Trends in total macrofauna abundance among the various field treatments were similar, as were species richness values across all treatments. When expressed as feeding modes and trophic groups, the various field treatments showed comparable patterns through time with a predominance of below-surface, deposit-feeding detritovores/omnivores. The laboratory treatments showed gradual change to a predominance of browsing omnivores. By the fifth week of the experiment laboratory treatments showed substantial divergence from the field treatment.

Virginia--

Total macrofaunal abundance began to diverge during the first week of the test (Fig. 4). Low, but significant, levels of recruitment into the field sites by **Streblospio benedicti** and **Tubificoides** spp. contributed to this pattern. the microcosm was essentially absent. These recruitment pulses in the field however were dampened (presumably by predation) and abundance levels in the laboratory and field appeared to be converging at termination of the experiment (week 6). Species richness values were similar in the microcosm and field throughout the experiment (Fig. 4).

Spring 1983 Experiment

Florida--

Results of the spring 1983 experiment (oligohaline, station 3) indicate similar results in the various field treatments **with** reduced numerical abundance in the laboratory microcosms **(Fig.** Species richness trends were similar in all treatments. In this experiment, feeding modes and trophic group proportions were similar among all treatments in the field and laboratory. Both mean faunal abundance and species richness were representative of field conditions.

Virginia--

Macrofaunal recruitment occurred at the York River site during this test, but only two species showed dramatic increases:
Streblospio benedicti and Eteone heteropoda. Both species Streblospio benedicti and Eteone heteropoda. reached their greatest abundances in the field cage treatments and remained low in abundances in the microcosms where their recruitment was restricted. Again, we interpret the lack of major population increases in the field control site as resulting from post-recruitment mortality (probably from predation). Both total macrofauna abundance and species richness reflect recruitment events which occurred in the field but not in the microcosms (Fig. 5).

Fall 1983 Experiment

Florida--

Results of this experiment (polyhaline, station ML) indicate similar macrofaunal numbers in the field treatments whereas numbers tended to be reduced in the laboratory treatments. A comparison of macrofaunal abundance in the field and laboratory (Fig. 6) reveals that recruitment occurred into the field sites but not into the microcosm. Once again, temporal patterns of species richness were similar in the various field and laboratory treatments, although numbers of species were lower in the laboratory microcosms. Functional feeding modes and trophic organization of the invertebrate assemblages were similar in all treatments; temporal variability of these indices was low with a predominance of below-surface deposit feeders as detrital-feeding omnivores. Toxic sediments did not appear to affect the field or

laboratory numerical abundances or species richness. Once again, functional feeding groups and the trophic organization appeared similar in all treatments (laboratory and field). The toxic sediments had no overt effect on the laboratory or field microcosms when viewed as feeding or trophic entities.

Virginia--

The microcosm treatments consistently had lower abundances and species richness than their field counterparts **(Fig.** 6). Increases in total abundance and species richness in the field by week 3 are indicative of recruitment events which did not occur
in the laboratory. Individual species response in the control Individual species response in the control treatments (laboratory and field) were highly variable as some species increased and others declined over the period. addition of non-toxic York River sediments to laboratory and field treatments did not substantially change either fauna! abundance or species richness. Toxic Elizabeth River sediments caused declines in laboratory and field treatments, but the
magnitude of the response was greater in the laboratory. The magnitude of the response was greater in the laboratory. dose treatments altered total abundances, species richness and guild makeup.

Spring 1984 Experiments

Virginia--

Total macrofaunal abundances in this test were similar in the laboratory and field treatments until week 4 of the study
when recruitment peaks occurred in the field. Recruitment did when recruitment peaks occurred in the field. not occur in the microcosms at this time and result was a nearly 3-fold difference between abundances in the field and microcosm Decline in numbers of macrofauna after the field recruitment peak was rapid and within one week abundances within
the laboratory and field controls were again similar. Species the laboratory and field controls were again similar. richness was again a fairly conservative parameter and was generally similar between the laboratory and field treatments.

Spring 1985 Experiments

Florida--

Figures lOa and lOb show the concentrations of PCP in laboratory and field treatments during the time course of this experiment. Good dose-equivalency was achieved in the Florida
experiments between laboratory and field concentrations. Doseexperiments between laboratory and field concentrations. specific effects on total macrofauna and species richness are shown in Figures 12 and 13, respectively. The impact on field assemblages was less severe than on microcosm assemblages, with only slightly lowered abundances and small reductions in species richness evident. The laboratory effects included a relative increase carnivores. Laboratory controls showed increased abundance of subsurface deposit feeders relative to the field treatments. Dose related changes in functional groups did not occur in the field treatments. A real difference was evident in the vertical distribution of the infaunal populations between

laboratory controls and field populations. By the end of the experiment, high numbers were concentrated in the top two centimeters of the laboratory controls. In the laboratory, most species disappeared from the bottom-most layer (8-10 cm) by the end of the experiment. **Axiothella mucosa** contributed to most of the observed trends in vertical distribution. **Mediomastus** and **Brania** were adversely affected by both lab and field PCP treatments. This trend of relative dominance was directed by recruitment of **Axiothella** in the laboratory controls by the third week of the experiment (T3). Recruitment in the field was not affected by PCP treatment.

Virginia--

In the spring 1985 experiment, at the York River site, good dose equivalency between the laboratory and field treatments was not achieved (see Figs. 10a & 10b). PCP levels were consistently lower in the field than in the microcosm. Mean macrofaunal abundance in the laboratory declined markedly during the first week, but this decline was observed in undosed control treatments
and was thus not a response to PCP dosing (Fig. 12). A slight and was thus not a response to PCP dosing (Fig. 12). reduction in macrofaunal abundance was observed in field dosed treatments relative controls (Fig. 12). Species richness showed a clear dose-specific response in the laboratory, but was unaffected by the lower doses achieved in the field (Fig. 13).

Fall 1985 Experiments

Florida--

Dose equivalency between the laboratory and field treatments was again achieved in the fall experiments in Florida (Figs. lla & llb). Experimental results were similar to those during the spring experiment with strong, dose-specific reductions in numerical abundance and species richness in the microcosm and slight effects in the high PCP treatment in the field (Figs. 14 & 15). Recovery was rapid in the field due to high recruitment and slower in the laboratory where recruitment was minimal. Species such as **Mediomastus** were again adversely affected by the laboratory PCP treatments. Recruitment of this species from within the laboratory was low, either as a direct or indirect result of PCP treatment. In the field recruitment was apparently unaffected by PCP exposure, with the possible exception of some very short-term effects on **Mediomastus.** Functional feeding and trophic organization were unaffected by PCP treatment in the field. In the laboratory, there were proportional changes in these relationships at high PCP concentrations which included trophic simplification. The percent of primary carnivores tended to be higher in the PCP-treated microcosms.

Virginia--

Comparable levels of PCP were achieved between laboratory and field treatments during the fall 1985 experiment (Figs. lla & llb). Macrofaunal abundance in the laboratory showed slight declines in the high dose treatment but was unaffected by the

lower dose (Fig. 14) In the field treatments total macrofauna abundance did not decline in response to PCP treatment; in fact recruitment peaks were evident earlier in the high dose treatment
than elsewhere. Species richness in the laboratory declined Species richness in the laboratory declined sharply in the high dose treatment, but was unaffected in the microcosm low dose treatment (Fig. 15). A similar trend was observed in the field, with lowered species richness in the high
dose treatment. This effect in the field however was less This effect in the field however was less dramatic and recovery was fairly rapid (Fig. 15).

RECRUITMENT PATTERNS

The experiments outlined above were timed to coincide with peak recruitment seasons in both environments since this is the period during which the communities are expected to show the greatest sensitivity to toxic stress. However, recruitment of benthic invertebrates is highly variable both spatially and temporally, raising the need to distinguish between variability in the data resulting from recruitment variations and those resulting from treatment effects. Though the general timing of peak recruitment periods at each site is predictable and our experiments spanned portions of these periods (see Fig. 2), it is not possible in any given year to predict either the precise timing or magnitude of recruitment for any individual species. Differences in recruitment levels between the laboratory and the field can lead to order-of-magnitude differences in the abundances of individual species and total macrofaunal numbers.

The azoic sediment treatments in the seawater table at the Florida and Virginia sites have revealed that recruitment of
macrobenthic invertebrates through the seawater systems is macrobenthic invertebrates through the seawater systems
minimal. Recruitment events in the field during the course of Recruitment events in the field during the course of an experiment may lead therefore to substantial differences betwen laboratory and abundances. For instance, at the York River site in the spring 1982 experiment recruitment of **Streblospio benedicti, Eteone heteropoda** and immature Capitellidae resulted in large differences between laboratory and field abundances throughout the experiment. In the fall 1982 experiment at the same site low levels of recruitment in the field by Σ . **benedicti** and **Tubificoides** spp. caused only moderate divergence between laboratory and field abundances. experiment laboratory and field abundances were similar until the fourth week when a large recruitment event by S. benedicti led to three-fold differences in total abundance. Similar temporal differences in recruitment were observed at the Florida site.

While recruitment of macrofauna into microcosms through the seawater system was negligible, recruitment from within the
microcosms was occasionally substantial. Species which reproduce microcosms was occasionally substantial. asexually, have demersal eggs or brood their young have the capability to reproduce and recruit from within the microcosms. When a species recruited from within the laboratory it suffered less mortality from epibenthic and demersal predators and from sediment disturbance than in field, resulting in large

differences between laboratory and field abundances. This appears to have occurred in the spring 1983 experiments in Florida during which **Axiothella mucosa** recruited via demersal eggs and increased dramatically in the laboratory. Also, in the spring 1985 experiment in Virginia the asexually reproducing **Paranais littoralis** attained higher densities in the laboratory than in the field.

In recognition of the interpretational difficulties which arise as a result of these recruitment differences we have taken two approaches towards drawing inferences from these data. First, as outlined above, guild designations include a reproductive component; this groups together species which at least have the potential to display similar recruitment
differences between the laboratory and field. Second, the differences between the laboratory and field. emphasis we place on similarity of temporal patterns of abundance rather than absolute magnitudes of abundance reduces the problems associated with varying levels of recruitment.

RESPONSE VARIABLES

An important part of addressing our objectives was to determine which (if any) characteristics of benthic macroinvertebrate communities were modelled well in the laboratory and could therefore be used to predict responses of natural communities. The greatest detail is of course obtained by examining the population responses of individual species, and in earlier reports we have devoted considerable attention to the dynamics of at least the dominant species. Some species-specific patterns have emerged from this effort [e.g. **Streblospio benedicti** response in the laboratory and field are similar when experiments are conducted during times of no recruitment; or **Axiothella mucosa** may undergo population explosions in the laboratory during its recruitment times); these individual patterns may be pieced together in an effort to make generalized predictions. Yet the number of species is large and the variety of response patterns observed is great. No doubt many general patterns remain obscured by our inability to extract them from such variable data.

At the other extreme of response variables we have investigated the use of community-level indices to describe patterns in the field and microcosms. macrofauna, species richness, species diversity and evenness parameters have been reported for all treatments in each test in
earlier reports. Some generalizations are possible. Figures 3-8 earlier reports. Some generalizations are possible. show mean total macrofaunal abundance and species richness values in control treatments for the six concurrent experiments conducted between 1982 and 1985 in both estuaries. In both the Apalachicola Bay and York River experiments mean total abundance of macrofauna in the microcosms was consistently a poor model of field abundances. Two problems occur which lead to this lack of
concurrence. (1) Some animals recruit from within the microcosm (1) Some animals recruit from within the microcosm where in the absence of epibenthic and demersal predators they experience large population increases which are not seen in the

field. This occurred in Florida in the spring 1982 test (Fig. 3), the fall 1982 test (Fig. 4) and the fall 1985 test (Fig. 8). In Virginia this situation was observed at the beginning of the tests in spring 1983 (Fig. 5) and spring 1985 (Fig. 7). (2) In other tests recruitment into field sites by species which lack the ability to recruit from within the microcosms resulted in increases in field abundances which were not tracked by the laboratory assemblages (Florida: spring 1983, Fig. 5; fall 1983, Fig. 6; spring 1985, Fig. 7; Virginia: fall 1982, Fig. 4; fall 1983, Fig. 6; fall 1985, Fig. 8). These problems make total macrofaunal abundance a poor statistic for tracking natural communities with laboratory models and a poor indicator of response to a toxin (Figs. 12 & 14).

Species richness values in laboratory and field controls were more often similar (Figs. 3-8). In most tests species richness in the laboratory controls was not significantly different from the field controls or the **pattern** of change was Good examples of this latter phenomenon can be seen in the Apalachicola Bay data from spring 1983 to spring 1985 **(Figs.** In a few instances there were exceptions to this patterns of concurrence; in spring 1982 species richness at week 5 had diverged between the York River site and the microcosms (Fig. 3) and field recruitment during the spring and fall of 1983 in the York River led to changes in species richness which were not reflected in the laboratory. In general, however, we find species richness to be a fairly conservative community descriptor which shows few laboratory artifacts. In addition species richness showed dose-specific responses to PCP treatment (Figs. 13 & 15).

Between these two extremes of species-specific and community-level responses, we have investigated a number of approaches to summarizing individual species data without obscuring much of the relevant within community response. Categorization of species into higher taxonomic groupings is the most straightforward approach and it has the advantage, if successful, of alleviating the need for detailed species-level taxonomy in impact assessment. However, we find that very often individual species within a given taxon do not show similar patterns of concurrence between the laboratory and field. For instance, the pattern of abundance of **Streblospio benedicti** (a spionid polychaete) in the fall 1982 experiments in the York River was more similar to that of **Scoloplos** spp. (an orbiniid polychaete) than it was to the confamilial **Polydora ligni**, a pattern largely set by recruitment events occurring only in the field. In later experiments P. *Ligni* has been observed to recruit into the microcosms.

A posteriori methods of grouping species have been attempted using cluster techniques (Diaz et al. 1984). These techniques can identify species groups which have similar abundances in the laboratory and field and groups which do not. Groups of the latter type can then be ignored when attempting to assess toxic impacts. A disadvantage of this approach is that it is entirely **a posteriori** and requires substantial experimentation for every

test. Moreover, we are posing questions regarding temporal patterns, not absolute abundances, so methods which group species by abundances are inappropriate. A more desirable approach would be to identify species groups which show similar patterns in the laboratory and field, and to do so a priori based upon their
ecologies. Responses to stress should than he observed only in Responses to stress should then be observed only in those groups found to be good laboratory models.

The guild approach to classifying species outlined earlier in this report is our attempt at such an **4 priori** categorization. Figure 9 shows some composite values of abundances through all tests for nine of the numerically dominant guilds in the Apalachicola Bay and York River systems. these figures are composites from all tests that they should not be taken as actual time courses of abundances, they merely serve as a convenient way to summarize a lot of data. The patterns in these figures discussed below are also evident in each of the individual tests. These plots show only abundances in field and laboratory controls and their intent is to identify those guilds for which laboratory assemblages are good models of the field.

The nine guilds represented in Figure 9 are those which comprise the five most abundant in each of the tests in Florida and Virginia (Table 5); they therefore include the majority of individuals collected. Of the nine guilds shown we interpret five of them as generally showing concurrence between laboratory
and field abundance patterns (Table 6). Mobile burrowing and field abundance patterns (Table 6). pedators/omnivores with limited dispersal (Fig. 9, P• 56) generally showed good agreement between the microcosm and field in Virginia. but were present in only very low numbers in Mobile epifauna which were detritivorous/omnivorous scavengers with limited dispersal were again more abundant in Virginia but appear to be adequately modelled by both of our laboratory systems (Fig. 9, p. 57). For this guild the absolute abundances between the laboratory and field often differed, but the patterns were similar. Mobile burrowing, detrivivorous/ omnivorous, deposit-feeders with wide dispersal were always among the dominant guilds at each site (Table 5) and generally were well modelled in the laboratory through the first *5* weeks (Fig. 9, P• 58). Detritivorous/omnivorous, mobile tube-builders which feed at the sediment-water interface and have limited dispersal also showed good general agreement between laboratory and field populations (Fig. 9, p. 59). Recruitment peaks for this guild were not always of equal intensity between the laboratory and field but similar patterns were evident. Detritivorous/ omnivorous, mobile burrowers which feed at the interface and have limited dispersal had similar abundance patterns in the laboratory and field (Fig. 9, p. 60).

Four other common guilds [(1) detritivorous/omnivorous, mobile burrowing deposit-feeders with limited dispersal, (2) detritivorous/omnivorous, mobile tube-builders which feed at the sediment-water interface and have wide dispersal, (3) mobile burrowing, herbivorous suspension-feeders with wide dispersal, and (4) mobile-burrowing predators/carnivores with wide dispersal; Fig. 9, pp. 61-64] did not show good concurrence between the laboratory and field. The general pattern among these four guilds was that the guild with limited dispersal sometimes underwent population blooms in the laboratory, while the guilds with wide dispersal had recruitment peaks in the field which were not reflected in the laboratory. These problems with these guilds did not occur in every experiment, but were present frequently enough to limit their utility as laboratory models of field populations.

We argue that only those components of macrobenthic communities which are modelled well in the laboratory should be used to assess toxic impact. consideration of response variables, species richness and the numerical abundance of the guilds listed in Table 6 appear to be the most appropriate components in our systems. In the following section we therefore emphasize these components in our discussion of predicting field impact from microcosm tests. This is a conservative approach and we note that among those guilds we have termed as inadequately modelled in the laboratory are some which responded well in some tests but not in others. For instance, in the fall 1982 test in Florida mobile-burrowing predators/ carnivores with wide dispersal showed good agreement between numbers in the laboratory and field controls throughout the experiment, but divergence between microcosm and field patterns in other tests (Fig. 9, p. 64) caused us to reject this group as a good laboratory model. In practice it may be that our procedure of identifying guilds **a priori** is best used to flag species groups which are suspect in their concordance between laboratory and field; the response of these guilds in undosed treatments could be examined **a posteriori** to make decisions concerning their utility in predicting impacts of toxic stress.

A limitation to this approach as we employ it here is the lack of truly objective criteria for assessing differences in response patterns. As we pointed out above the issue here is how well temporal patterns of abundance in the laboratory model those in the field. (e.g., As one declines does the other decline?) This question is not amenable to answering with ANOVA or clustering techniques. Both of these techniques are dependent upon actual abundances rather than temporal patterns. Specialized non-parametric pattern analysis techniques may prove useful in the future for providing objective criteria.

PREDICTING RESPONSE TO TOXIC STRESS

Based upon the arguments made above we examined the response of species richness and the numerical abundances of the guilds listed in Table 6 to address the question, can the response of natural communities to a toxic stress be predicted from the response in the laboratory? The response of species richness to PCP dosing is shown in Figs. 13 & 15. The responses of the
guilds listed in Table 6 are shown in Figs. 16 & 17. Table 7 guilds listed in Table 6 are shown in Figs. 16 & 17. summarizes the concordance between the laboratory and field
observations. Since dose equivalency between the microcosms and Since dose equivalency between the microcosms and field was not achieved in the Virginia spring 1985 experiment,

the observations from that test are omitted. From the information in Table 7 it is clear that the microcosm results provided reliable predictions of the response of the natural communities for those components listed. Moreover these results show that the response in a microcosm experiment at one location is frequently a good indicator of response at the other location. This result, however, is tempered by the fact that differences in recruitment times between locations may lead to discrepancies in responses.

The results of Table 7 are promising. In all but one case (for which sufficient numbers were present) the response to PCP treatment in the laboratory served as a good indicator of the Our approach is a conservative one; by including only those components of the community we know to be well modelled in the laboratory, we virtually assure that the responses observed are related to the PCP treatment.

The findings of this study suggest that properly conducted multi-species tests with estuarine benthos may yield valuable information regarding responses of natural communities to an iduces stress, provided that sufficient knowledge of the ecology or the orgaisms is available and incorporated into evaluating the results.

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TABLE 1. GENERALIZED PROTOCOL FOR LABORATORY MICROCOSM/FIELD VALIDATION STUDIES

- I. Laboratory microcosms $(0.1-1.0 \text{ m}^2)$
	- A. Physical/chemical data
		- 1. temperature (C)
		- 2. salinity(%)
		- 3. dissolved oxygen (ppm)
		- 4. pH
		- 5. sediment % organics
		- 6. sediment grain size
		- 7. sediment temperature, salinity, Eh
	- B. Infaunal macroinvertebrates (500- and 250- sieves)
		- 1. repetitive cores (3 replicates, 1-3 treatments)
			- 2. vertical distribution (2-cm intervals)
			- 3. azoic sediment samples (500- and 250- sieves)
	- C. Microbes 1. repetitive cores (3 replicates, 1-3 treatments) (Florida only)
- II. Field
	- A. Treatments (3 replicates)
		- 1. unscreened platforms
		- 2. screened platforms (exclusion cages)
		- 3. screened platforms (predator-inclusion cages)
		- 4. weekly core samples (no platform)
		- 5. additional treatments (specific for individual experiments)
	- B. Physical/chemical data (same as I.A.)
	- C. Infauna! macroinvertebrates (same as I.B.)
	- D. Microbes (same as I.C.)

III. Variables analyzed

A. Infauna! macroinvertebrates, epibenthic organisms

- 1. numerical abundance (total and dominant species)
	- 2. ash-free dry weight biomass (total and dominant species)
	- 3. species richness
	- 4. species diversity and evenness indices
	- 5. functional group associations
	- 6. numerical response of guilds
- B. Microbes
	- 1. total biomass
	- 2. bacteria
	- 3. photosynthetic microbes
	- 4. microeukaryotes
	- 5. bacterial ecotype

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TABLE 2. SAMPLING SCHEDULES FOR THE COMBINED (FSU-VIMS) 
           EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM (1981-1985) 
   I. Weekly samples 
       A. FSU 
            1. oligohaline stations (ll/24/81-11/17/83) 
            2. polyhaline station (ll/25/81-3/15/84) 
       B. VIMS 
            1. polyhaline marine lab station (10/13/79-12/18/83) 
  II. Microbiological data<br>A. FSU
          A. FSU 
            1. oligohaline stations (fall 1982; spring 1983) 
            2. polyhaline stations (spring 1982) 
       B. VIMS 
            1. marine lab station (spring 1982) 
 III. Combined (field-laboratory) experiments<br>A. Spring 1982
           Spring 1982
           1. Florida 
           2. Virginia 
       B. Fall 1982 
           1. Florida 
           2. Virginia 
       C. Spring 1983 
           1. Florida 
           2. Virginia 
       D. Fall 1983 
           1. Florida 
           2. Virginia 
           3. Treatments included: 
               a. Field controls 
               b. Field predator exclusion 
cages 
               C • Field predator inclusion 
cages 
               d. Microcosm controls 
               e. Field and lab treatments 
dosed with PCP 
       E. Spring 1984 
           1. Virginia only 
       F. Spring 1985 
           1. Florida (station ML) 
           2. Virginia 
           3. Treatments included: 
               a. field controls 
              b. microcosm controls 
              c. replicate lab and field treatments dosed with PCP 
              d. azoic sediments 
       G. Fall 1985 
           1. Florida (station ML) 
           2. Virginia 
           3. Treatments as in F.3.
```
Table 3a - Functional Group Assignments for Taxa Collected in Florida

----------------------------------------------------------- TAXON TROPHIC MODE/ LEVEL DISPERSAL MOBILITY MODE MODE --------------------------------------------------------------

Table 3a (cont'd)

Table 3a $\text{cont}(d)$

TAXON

TROPHIC MODE/

LEVEL

TROPHIC MODE/

Table 3a (contid)

Table 3b - Functional Group Assignments for Taxa Collected in
Virginia

Table 3b (cont'd)

Table 3b (cont'd)

Table $3b$ (cont'd)

TABLE 4. SPECIES COMPOSITION OF DOMINANT GUILDS

Interface feeders, detriv/omniv. mobile tube builders, **wide** dispersal Virginia Dispio uncinata Loimia medusa Paraprionospio pinnata Pista palmata Polydora ligni Scolecolepides viridis Scolelepis (2 sp.) Spio setosa Spiophanes bombyx Streblospio benedicti Florida Apoprionospio pygmaea Loimia medusa Magelona pettiboneae Minuspio perkinsi Paraprionospio pinnata Poecilochaetus johnstoni Prionospio heterobranchia Scolelepis (2 sp.) Spiophanes bombyx Deposit feeders, detriv/omniv, mobile burrowers, limited dispersal Virginia Elasmopus levis Gammarus mucronatus Melita nitida Orbinia ornata Orb ini idae Paranais littoralis Scoloplos (3 sp.) Tubific idae Tubific iodes sp. Florida Adelodrilus sp. Arenicola cristata Arie idea (7 sp.) Ctenodrilus serratus Dasybranc hus sp. Enchytraeus (2 sp.) Haemonais waldvogeli Haploscoloplos (3 sp.) Immature tubificid w/o cap setae Limnodriloides (2 sp.) Monoculoides sp. Monopylephorus (3 sp,) Naineris setosa Nais (2 sp,) Oligochaeta Orbinia riseri Paranais littoralis Paraonis fulgens Phallodrilus $(3 sp.)$ Scoloplos rubra Smithsondrilus marinus Stylaria lacustris Tubifex littoralis Tubificiodes (6 sp.)

TABLE 4 (cont'd) Deposit feeders, detriv/omniv, mobile burrower, wide dispersal Virginia Cistena gouldii Heteromastus filiformis Mediomastus ambiseta Notomastus hemipodus Paraonis sp. Sternaspidae Florida Armandia agilis Cossura soyeri Holothuroidea Mediomastus ambiseta Notomastus (2 sp.) Paranaitis speciosa Siphuncula Interface feeder, detriv/omniv, mobile burrower, limited dispersal Virginia Cirratulus sp. Tharyx (2 sp.) Florida Chaetozone sp. Cirratulidae Tharyx sp. Predator, carnivore, mobile burrower, wide dispersal Virginia Amphiduros sp. Arabellidae Eteone (3 sp.) Eulalia sanguinea Eumida sanguinea Glycera (2 sp.) Glycinde solitaria Gyptis (2 sp.) Microphthalamus sczelkowii Nephtys picta Nephtyi idae Parahesione luteola Paranaitis speciosa Phyllodoce arenae Pseudeurythoe paucibranchiata Sigambra tentaculata Florida Aglaophamus verrilli Ancistrsyllis (2 sp.) Cab ira incerta Eteone (2 sp.) Eumida sanguinea Glycera americana Glycinde solitaria Goniadidae Gyptis (2 sp.) Nephtys (3 sp.) Parahesione luteola Parandalia americana Phyllodocidae (3 sp.) Sigambra (2 sp.)

TABLE 4 (cont'd) Interface feeder, detriv/omniv, mobile tube builder, limited dispersal Virginia Ampilesca (3 sp.) Cerapus tubularis Corophium (2 sp.) Erichthonius (2 sp.) Unciola serrata Florida Ampilesca (2 sp.) Ampharet idae Carazziella hobsonae Corophium (2 sp.) Erichthonius brasiliensis Hobsonia florida Mellina maculata Predator, carnivore, mobile burrower, limited dispersal Virginia Amphiporus bioculatus Carinomidae Cerebratulus (2 sp.) Micrura (3 sp.) Polycladia sp. Rhyncocoela sp. Tetrastemma vermiculus Tubulanus pellucidus Turbellaria Florida Arabella sp. Autolytus sp. Dorvillea sp. Ehlersia sp. Lumberneris latreilli Marphysa sanguinea Microphthalamus sp. Ophiodromus abscura Pettibonea sp. Pseudosyllides curacoensis Schistomeringos rudolphi Syllis cornuta Scavenger, detriv/omniv, mobile epifaunal, limited dispersal Virginia Aeginina longicornis Caprella penantis Caprellidae Cyathura burbanki Cymadusa compta Edotea triloba Erichsonella Idotea baltica Florida Edotea sp. Elasmopus levis Grandidierella bonnieroides Lembos sp. Leucothoe spinicarpa Lysianopsis alba Melita (3 sp.) Microdeutopus (2 sp.) Nassarius vibex

TABLE 5 - PERCENT OF TOTAL INDIVIDUALS IN THE TOP 5 GUILDS IN EACH TEST

SPRING 1982

% of Total

Vir~inia

Guild

Guild

Table 5. (cont'd)

FALL 1982

Florida

Vir~inia

SPRING 1983

Florida

Vir~inia

Table 5. (cont'd)

FALL 1983

Florida

Virginia

SPRING 1985

Florida

Vir~inia

Table 5. $(cont_d)$

FALL 1985

Florida

Guild

% of Total

Deposit feeder, detriv/omniv, mobile burrower, limited disp Deposit feeder, detriv/omniv, mobile burrower, wide dispersal Interface feeder, detriv/omniv, mobl tube bldr, wide dipersal Scavenger, detriv/omniv, mobile burrower, limited dispersal Interface feeder, detriv/omniv, mobl tube bldr, limited disper 43.8 21.8 9.6 9.2 4.4

Vir~inia

Guild Deposit feeder, detriv/omniv, mobile burrower, limited disp Interface feeder, detriv/omniv, mobl tube bldr, wide diaper Deposit feeder, detriv/omniv, mobile burrower, wide dispersal Predator, carnivore, mobile burrower, limited dispersal Predator, carnivore, mobile burrower, wide dispersal % of Total 36.6 31.0 10.3 4.4 3.4

Table 6. Guilds which showed good agreement between temporal trends in the lab and field.

Interface-feeder, detritivore/ omnivore, mobile burrower, limited dispersal.

Interface-feeder, detritivore/onmivore, mobile tube-builder, limited dispersal.

Deposit-feeder, detritivore/omnivore, mobile burrower, wide dispersal.

Predator, carnivore, mobile burrower, limited dispersal.

Scavenger, detritivore/omnivore, mobile epifauna, limited dispersal.

¹ Interface-feeder, detritivore/omnivore, mobile burrower, limited dispersal.

² Interface-feeder, detritivore/omnivore, mobile tube-builder, limited dispersal.

3Deposit-feeder, detritivore/omnivore, mobile burrower, **wide** dispersal.

"Predator, carnivore, mobile burrower, limited dispersal.

⁵ Scavenger, detritivore/omnivore, mobile epifauna, limited dispersal.

FIGURE 1-a Apalachicola Bay, Florida Study Site

FIGURE 1-b York River, Virginia Study Site

 $4\,8$

FIGURE 2 - MEAN ABUNDANCE IN WEEKLY SAMPLES FROM 1981 - 1986. Vertical lines indicate test dates.

MEAN ABUNDANCE PER 100 CM SQ

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 $\sim 10^{11}$

49

FIGURE 3 - TOTAL MACROFAUNA AND SPECIES RICHNESS
SPRING 1982

LAB AND FIELD CONTROLS

FIELD LAB

FIGURE 4 - TOTAL MACROFAUNA AND SPECIES RICHNESS
FALL 1982

LAB AND FIELD CONTROLS

FIELD LAB

FIGURE 5 - TOTAL MACROFAUNA AND SPECIES RICHNESS
SPRING 1983

LAB AND FIELD CONTROLS

APALACHICOLA BAY, FL

YORK RIVER, VA

FIGURE 6 - TOTAL MACROFAUNA AND SPECIES RICHNESS
FALL 1983

LAB AND FIELD CONTROLS

FIELD LAB

FIGURE 7 - TOTAL MACROFAUNA AND SPECIES RICHNESS
SPRING 1985 .

LAB AND FJELD CONTROLS

FIGURE 8 - TOTAL MACROFAUNA AND SPECIES RICHNESS
FALL 1985

LAB AND FIELD CONTROLS

FIGURE 9

LAB-FIELD CONTROL COMPARISONS TESTS 1 -7

GUILD: PREDATOR, CARVIVORE, MOBILE BORROWER, LIMITED DISPERSAL

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LAB

GUILD: SCAVENGER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE EPIFAUNA, LIMITED DISPERSAL

FIELD LAB

GUILD:DEPOSIT-FEEDER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE BURROWER, WIDE DISPERSAL

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FIELD LAB

GUILD: INTERFACE-FEEDER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE TUBE-BLD, LIMITED DISPERS

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FIELD LAB

GUILD: INTERFACE FEEDER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE BURROWER, LIMITED DISPERS

GUILD: SUSPENSION-FEEDER, HERBIVORE, MOBILE BURROWER, WIDE DISPERSAL

 $\frac{1}{2}$

LAB

FIELD

GUILD: DEPOSIT-FEEDER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE BURROWER, LIMITED DISPERS

GUILD: INTERFACE FEEDER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE TUBE-BLD, WIDE DISPERSAL

GUILD: PREDATOR, CARNIVORE, MOBILE BURROWER, WIDE DISPERSAL

LAB
FIGURE 1 OA LOW DOSE LAB AND FIELD PCP LEVELS

SPRING 1 985

FIGURE 10B - LAB AND FIELD PCP LEVELS
HIGH DOSE

SPRING 1985

FIGURE 11A - LAB AND FIELD PCP LEVELS
LOW DOSE

FALL 1985

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FIGURE 11B - LAB AND FIELD PCP LEVELS
HIGH DOSE

FALL 1985

 $\overset{\circ}{\alpha}$

FIELD LAB

FIGURE 12 - RESPONSE TO PCP
TOTAL MACROFAUNA[.]

SPRING 1985

FIGURE 13 - RESPONSE TO PCP
SPECIES RICHNESS

SPRING 1985

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FIGURE 14 - RESPONSE TO PCP
TOTAL MACROFAUNA

FALL 1985

CONTROL LOW DOSE HIGH DOSE

FIGURE 15 - RESPONSE TO PCP
SPECIES RICHNESS

FALL 1985

FIGURE SPRING 16 - RESPONSE TO PCP 1985

GUILD: PREDATOR, CARNIVORE, MOBILE BURROWER, LIMITED DISPERSAL

GUILD: SCAVENGER, DETRITIV/OMNIV, MOBILE EPIFAUNA, LIMITED DISPERSAL

GUILD: DEPOSIT-FEEDER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE BURROWER, WIDE DISPERS

GUILD: INTERFACE-FEEDER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE TUBE-BLD, LIMITED DISPERS

GUILD: INTERFACE-FEEDER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE BURROWER, LIMITED DISPERS

FIGURE 1 7 FALL 1985 RESPONSE TO PCP

GUILD: DEPOSIT-FEEDER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE BURROWER, WIDE DISPERS

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FIGURE 17 - RESPONSE TO PCP **FALL 1985**

GUILD: INTERFACE-FEEDER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE BURROWER, LIMITED DISPERS

FIGURE 17 - RESPONSE TO PCP **FALL 1985**

GUILD: PREDATOR, CARNIVORE, MOBILE BURROWER, LIMITED DISPERSAL

FIGURE 17 - RESPONSE TO PCP
FALL 1985

GUILD: INTERFACE-FEEDER, DETRIV/OMNIV, MOBILE TUBE-BLD, LIMITED DISPERS

