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2 Subarctic Domain in Late Winter

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8 **Running title:** Bering Sea eukaryotic microbial diversity

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15

16 **Abstract:** The Bering Sea has some of the highest concentrations of inorganic nutrients of any marine
17 system. In the Bering Sea, eukaryotic microbes interface inorganic nutrient sequestration and cycling
18 processes that drive one of the most productive ecosystems globally. Historical surveys of eukaryotic
19 diversity in the Bering Sea have relied on microscopy and culturing-dependent analyses to assess
20 microbial diversity patterns. In this study, we used high-throughput sequencing (Illumina MiSeq) of the
21 18S rRNA gene to explore general patterns of eukaryotic diversity from six regions in the Bering Sea and
22 surrounding Subarctic Pacific. The greatest richness was found in the Shelikof Strait and at the marginal
23 ice zone. The lowest richness was found in the deep water basin south of the Aleutian Islands.
24 Ordination analysis of our sequences revealed nearly identical community structures between our
25 Shelikof Strait and the deep water basin sites. Operational taxonomic unit analysis revealed that water
26 samples from the Bering Sea sites shared more OTUs with the Shelikof Strait site than with the sea ice
27 sample, despite the existence of sea ice in the Bering Sea, reflecting known circulation patterns out of the
28 Gulf of Alaska. Richness increased with increasing latitude and decreasing temperature, suggesting that
29 the base of food webs is susceptible to temperature perturbations.

30 Keywords: 18S rRNA, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, chlorophyll maximum, Phosphate, Silicate

31 **Introduction:** Microbes are the foundation of all marine food webs and catalyze essential
32 biogeochemical cycling throughout the world's oceans. Microbes comprise 90% of all living oceanic
33 biomass (Suttle 2007), yet are proportionally understudied in the Arctic and Subarctic (Gradinger et al.
34 2010). As high-latitude seas continue to warm, the metabolic activity and structure of microbial
35 communities are likely to change, favoring organisms genetically capable of coping with elevated
36 temperatures (Steele 2008), fluxes within the nutrient regime (Doney et al. 2012), and biological
37 competition due to range extensions of boreal taxa, as established for several trophic levels within
38 Subarctic and Arctic seas (Fossheim et al. 2015; Meuter and Litzow 2008). As microbes differentially
39 respond to environmental perturbations (Comeau et al. 2011), future community equilibriums remain
40 uncertain, owed in part to the lack of contemporary species inventories and the understudied nature of
41 abiotic drivers involved in shaping large-scale microbial diversity patterns.

42 In general, organismal diversity gradients within high-latitude seas are known to differ along longitudinal
43 (Piepenburg et al. 2011) and latitudinal axes (Yasuhara et al. 2012), driven by a combination of
44 evolutionary history (Galand et al. 2009) and seasonal physical forcing (Carmack et al. 2006). Physical
45 forcing in the Subarctic and Arctic is particularly strong on diversity patterns, governed by the extreme
46 seasonality of light (Gradinger 2009), and temporally and spatially changing nutrient concentrations
47 (Holmes et al. 2012) that regulate the phenology of photosynthetic primary production of ice algae and
48 phytoplankton (Leu et al. 2015). Additionally, the seasonally-increasing marine primary productivity in
49 Polar Regions stimulates and regulates microbial community diversity patterns (Hodges et al. 2005; Roy
50 et al. 1998).

51 The Bering Sea is a semi-enclosed high-latitude sea, consisting of a deep central basin with surrounding
52 continental shelves. Circulation patterns in the Bering Sea are driven by the Alaskan Coastal Current and
53 the eastward flowing Aleutian North Slope current that moves northwestwardly (as the Bering Slope
54 current) and finally southwardly (as the Kamchatka Current) near Russia. This anticyclonic flow of
55 water forms part of the North Pacific Subarctic Gyre (Stabeno et al. 1999). High production on the
56 northern Bering Sea shelf is supported by the continuous advection of nutrient-rich waters, while the
57 southeastern shelf depends on cross-shelf exchanges (Aydin and Meuter 2007). The continental shelf of
58 the eastern Bering Sea is one of the most productive marine ecosystems in the world (Mueter and Litzow
59 2008) that is experiencing significant warming (Stabeno et al. 2001). Increased warming on continental
60 shelves should lead to a northward migration of the Arctic-Subarctic ecotone (Mueter and Litzow 2008).

61 The rapid growth rate of microorganisms (relative to zooplankton or larger metazoans) allows microbial
62 communities to rapidly shift into different equilibrium states, serving as useful indicator organisms for
63 environmental change (Comeau et al. 2011). Historically, culturing-based studies (e.g. Hassett et al.,
64 2015) and microscopy (e.g. Szymanski and Gradinger 2016) were used to assess eukaryotic microbial
65 diversity in the Bering Sea. In this study, we applied high-throughput sequencing (HTS) techniques to
66 explore general patterns of eukaryotic diversity from the Bering Sea region and the relationship of these
67 patterns with the physical environment. We hypothesized that the eukaryotic microbial community
68 structure would differ with hydrography, possibly indicating temperature-induced changes in the
69 microbial population. We also hypothesized that the nutrient-rich waters of the Bering Sea would be a
70 significant driver of microbial community structure, favoring the growth of specific microbial clades.

71 **Materials and Methods**

72 **Study stations.** In late winter/early spring of 2015 (14 March to 25 March) seawater sampling was
73 conducted onboard the R/V *Sikuliaq* across the Gulf of Alaska into the Bering Sea (Figure 1). Sampling
74 was designed to target eukaryotic microbial communities in the water column along a northern transect
75 from open ocean conditions in the North Pacific into the ice-covered areas of the Bering Sea (Table 1).
76 Sea ice sampling was conducted at one station to further assess diversity difference and serve as a
77 standard reference for interpreting non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) spatial plotting distance.

78 **Sampling and sample processing.** Three biological replicate samples were collected at five water
79 stations and at a single sea ice station. A single replicate corresponded to a single Niskin bottle or a
80 single 10-cm bottom ice core section. Water samples were collected using a CTD/Rosette sampler
81 holding 24 10-liter Niskin bottles from the chlorophyll *a* maximum. The chlorophyll *a* maximum depth
82 was identified with *in situ* readings of a CTD-mounted fluorometer (Seapoint) and targeted to reduce taxa
83 abundance variability introduced with depth and algal biomass (e.g. Yasuhara et al. 2012; Nelson et al.
84 2014). All replicates at a sampling site were collected from a single CTD cast. For all water samples,
85 corresponding triplicate nutrient samples (100 mL) were acquired for PO₄, Si(OH)₄, NO₃, NO₂, and NH₃
86 analysis.

87 One liter of water was collected per replicate immediately following CTD retrieval for sequencing
88 analysis. Samples were separately filtered onto 0.6- μ m DTFP filters (Millipore) using a vacuum filter
89 onboard the R/V *Sikuliaq*. Samples were stored in sterile polypropylene tubes at -80°C onboard the R/V
90 *Sikuliaq* and then at the University of Alaska Fairbanks until DNA extraction. At the Sea Ice station,
91 three ice cores were extracted using a 9-cm diameter KOVACs ice corer. The bottom 10-cm of each core

92 was sectioned using an ethanol-sterilized handsaw. Ice core sections were melted at room temperature
93 into 1000 mL of 0.22- μ m-filtered seawater. After complete melt of the ice cores, samples were vacuum-
94 filtered onto 0.6- μ m DTFP filters (Millipore) and were stored in sterile polypropylene tubes at -80°C
95 onboard the R/V *Sikuliaq* and then at the University of Alaska Fairbanks until DNA extraction.

96 DNA extractions were conducted at the University of Alaska Fairbanks by bead beating for 1 minute in
97 phosphate buffer, followed by phenol-chloroform extraction. Biological replicates were pooled before
98 PCR. Target amplicons were generated using the Earth Microbiome Project primers: Euk_1391f: (5'-
99 GTACACACCGCCCGTC-3') and EukBr_1510r: (5'- TGATCCTTCTGCAGGTTACCTAC-3 ')
100 (Stoeck et al. 2010) to generate ~170 base pair reads from the V9 region of the 18S rRNA subunit.
101 Sequencing libraries were prepared using the TruSeq DNA Library Preparation Kit LT at Michigan State
102 University following the manufacturer's protocol. HTS was conducted on an Illumina MiSeq v2 flow
103 cell using paired-end reads. Samples were split according to location and multiplexed in a single MiSeq
104 run. Base calling was performed by Illumina Real Time Analysis v1.18.54 and was demultiplexed and
105 converted to FastQ files with Illumina Bcl2fastq v1.8.4.

106 Sequence analysis and processing was conducted using Mothur v1.33.3 (Kozich et al. 2013; Schloss et al.
107 2009). Sequences were aligned using the SILVA (Quast et al. 2013) reference database (Release 119),
108 screened for chimeras (Edgar et al. 2011) and classified with SILVA (Release 119), using the K-nearest
109 neighbor algorithm (bootstrap cutoff value of 80% following 1,000 iterations). Bacteria, Archaea and
110 metazoans were removed from all data sets. Sequences were then clustered into operational taxonomic
111 units (OTUs) at 97% similarity using the Average Neighbor distance. Datasets were normalized in
112 Mothur (sub.sample) to the lowest number of sequences (62,588) for all downstream analyses.

113 Rarefaction curves were generated in Mothur (subsampling frequency of 500). To assess the OTU
114 sampling coverage of normalized datasets, Good's non-parametric estimate of richness was used to assess
115 success of sampling coverage using the 97% OTU definition. Richness, diversity, and evenness values
116 were generated using the summary.single command. Taxonomic graphs representing eukaryotic
117 supergroups were generated using the SILVA 119 classification and manually grouped to reflect recent
118 eukaryotic taxonomy (Burki 2014). Based on this classification, the Cryptophyta, Picozoa,
119 Kathablepharidae, Centrohelida, Haptophyta, and Telonema were grouped as *Incertae Sedis*. Ordination
120 was conducted in R with the Vegan package using normalized OTU tables. For NMDS plots, Bray-Curtis
121 distance was used to assess community dissimilarities (β -diversity) in two dimensions with minimal
122 stress.

123 **Results**

124 Following sequence vetting and processing, 1,146,437 high-quality unique DNA sequence reads from the
125 six stations were clustered into 14,874 OTUs that were used in downstream analysis. After data
126 normalization in Mothur, 375,528 high quality sequences, corresponding to 14,510 unique OTUs, were
127 used for comparative analysis. There was a sum total of 19,319 OTU observations in our normalized
128 databases, including singleton OTUs and shared OTUs (i.e. repeat OTU observations between different
129 sites) (Table 2). Sequencing depth from a single MiSeq run was sufficient to obtain >96% sample
130 coverage across all sites (Table 2). This sequencing depth resulted in near-saturation of rarefaction curves
131 (Online Resource 1).

132 In all water samples, the alveolates had the highest relative abundance among the eukaryotic supergroups,
133 followed by stramenopiles and opisthokonts. In sea ice, the relative abundance of supergroup taxa was
134 markedly different and was comprised of mostly the stramenopiles, followed by alveolates and rhizarians
135 (Figure 2). Sites sampled in southwestern Alaska (Shelikof Strait and Deep Water Basin) had similar
136 community relative abundance, despite substantial geographic distance (~800 km). While these sites had
137 analogous community structure, Shelikof Strait had an additional 3,928 taxa. Chao1 estimates of species
138 richness across all sites revealed that microbes within Shelikof Strait had the second highest estimated
139 richness (6,840) and that the Deep Water Basin had the lowest (2,912). The low estimate of richness in
140 the Deep Water Basin corresponded to the lowest number of observed OTUs (1,863). North of the
141 Aleutian Islands, eukaryotic community structure varied with increasing latitude, even across short
142 geographical distances (e.g. ~160 km between Pribilof Islands/Bering Sea Shelf sites). In the Bering Sea,
143 Chao1 species richness increased with decreasing temperature, with the marginal ice zone (MIZ) (-1.7°C)
144 having the highest estimated OTU richness of all sites. Multidimensional scaling of samples illustrated
145 the dissimilarity of community structure (Figure 3). β -diversity showed grouping between the two
146 locations in southwestern Alaska (Deep Water Basin/Shelikof Strait). A second grouping consisted of the
147 MIZ and Bering Shelf location, while the sea ice sample and Pribilof Island site were separate (Figure
148 3A).

149 We detected all major taxonomic supergroups (Online Resource 2), with a high diversity of
150 dinoflagellates, diatoms, and ciliates. Functionally, there was a strong prevalence of fish and invertebrate
151 symbionts (e.g. *Paramoeba branchiphila*, *P. eilhardi*, *Debaryomyces hansenii*, *Thalassomyces fagei*,
152 *Pseudocollinia oregonensis*, and *Blastodinium navicula*), diatom parasites (e.g. chytrids and *Pirsonia* sp.)
153 and toxin-producing phototrophs (e.g. *Alexandrium* sp., *Pseudo-nitzschia australis* and *Aureococcus*

154 *anophagefferens*) that have been reported from the Bering Sea and Arctic (e.g. Lewitus et al. 2012;
155 Hassett and Gradinger 2016). A number of terrestrial organisms were detected at sampling stations,
156 including Agaricomycetes and *Udeniomyces pannonicus*. Additionally, a number of cryptic clades were
157 detected across our sample sites, including: nine Marine Stramenopile (MAST) clades, Novel
158 Apicomplexa Class 2, DH147-EKD23 ciliate clade, SL163A10 Antarctic clade, SCM28C5, the NOR26,
159 TAGIRI-17, D-52, FV36-2G-8, E222 and a number of clone-detected species (Online Resource 2).

160 Often, the greatest number of observed OTUs did not correspond to the highest richness estimate for a
161 location (e.g. the Sea Ice station), largely explainable, as Chao1 is a non-parametric estimator of the
162 minimal number of OTUs in a sample that is sensitive to singleton abundance. To this end, samples with
163 a higher abundance of singletons have higher Chao1 estimates/extrapolations of species richness (Table
164 2). In order to supplement Chao1 estimates, the Simpson index was used to assess diversity. The
165 Simpson index is the probability of the same taxon being chosen at random and increases as diversity
166 decreases. The Simpson index is affected by the evenness of taxa in a sample; consequently, the Deep
167 Water Basin had the lowest Simpson diversity (0.06) and the greatest evenness (0.008), while the Pribilof
168 Islands with the highest Simpson diversity (0.21) was also the least even (0.0014).

169 To explore the relationship between inorganic nutrients and water masses in helping shape pelagic
170 eukaryotic microbial community structure, NMDS ordination was employed to assess community
171 dissimilarity and fitted with vectored nutrient data and water temperature (Figure 3B). R^2 values revealed
172 that the majority of dimensional variability was explained by phosphate ($R^2=0.93$), silicate ($R^2=0.99$) and
173 temperature ($R^2=0.97$) with a stress value of 7.71×10^{-5} , indicating a quality relationship for NMDS in
174 two dimensions. The inorganic chemical signatures of structurally similar communities were analogous
175 (Table 3) between grouped sites, with the exception of silicate. Silicate concentrations were lowest
176 within the Bering Sea Shelf site and highest at the Pribilof Islands site. Silicate (NMDS, $p=0.09$) and
177 phosphate (NMDS, $p=0.12$) values were not significant drivers of community structure. Decreasing water
178 temperature across the south-north transect was a significant driver of microbial community structures
179 (NMDS, $p=0.03$).

180 Comparative analysis of terminal sites (i.e. Shelikof Strait and the Sea Ice station) versus all other sites
181 revealed a decreasing number of shared OTUs with increasing distance from terminal sites (Figure 4,
182 Table 3). Water samples from the Bering Sea sites shared more OTUs with the Shelikof Strait site than
183 with the sea ice sample, despite the existence of sea ice in the Bering Sea.

184 **Discussion**

185 The objective of this research was to explore general diversity patterns across the Alaskan Subarctic
186 marine system and to assess the effects of nutrients and geography in shaping eukaryotic microbial
187 communities in late winter. We detected a diverse eukaryotic microbial community across the shelf
188 ecosystem with Chao1 richness exceeding the estimated microbial richness of deserts (An et al. 2013),
189 coral reefs systems (Barott et al. 2011) and fungal diversity in rainforests (Paulus et al. 2006). Similarly,
190 these Bering Sea richness estimates exceed archaeal diversity in the coastal Arctic Ocean (Galand et al.
191 2006) and microbial communities in Arctic lakes (Galand et al. 2008).

192 We detected a diverse community of diatoms (~50% of established morphological inventories; Szymanski
193 and Gradinger 2016), dinoflagellates, and ciliates that are commonly found in the Bering Sea (e.g.
194 Howell-Kübler et al. 1996; Sorokin et al. 1996). We detected a number of common terrestrial organisms,
195 such as fungi that are common taxa found in permafrost (Gittel et al. 2014). The eastern Bering Sea, like
196 other shelf regions, receives a large amount of freshwater runoff from rivers, such as the Yukon River
197 (Mathis et al. 2011); consequently, we hypothesize that these organisms were sourced into the Bering Sea
198 from river runoff or eolian transport (Serno et al. 2014).

199 Assessing the true species richness of eukaryotes using HTS techniques is confounded by the application
200 of multiple species concepts across different eukaryotic clades (Grattepanche et al. 2014) and sequencing
201 errors (e.g. Bachy et al. 2013). For instance, diatom taxonomy employs a morphospecies concept that
202 does not correspond with the phylogenetic species concept (Moniz et al. 2010). We therefore suggest that
203 our species number estimate is likely incomplete for organisms defined by morphology. Additionally,
204 divergent paralogous evolution of 18S rRNA genes (Kondrashov et al. 2002; Alverson and Kolnick 2005)
205 can lead to overestimation of diversity. In some diatom species, intragenomic variation of 18S rRNA can
206 approach 2% divergence (Alverson and Kolnick 2005). To address these issues, we employed stringent
207 quality filtering of sequence reads and 3% similarity clustering to reduce overestimations of diversity.

208 When assessing community structure, we phylogenetically classified our sequences using an 80%
209 bootstrap cutoff and conservatively illustrated community structure by binning these classified sequences
210 into taxonomic supergroups (Figure 1) within a contemporary taxonomy paradigm. To assess similarities
211 of community composition more stringently, we conducted NMDS ordination using our normalized OTU
212 tables. Together these data depict the nearly-identical community structure of the Deep Water
213 Basin/Shelikof Strait and MIZ/Bering Sea Shelf stations (Figure 3A). In the southerly Deep Water
214 Basin/Shelikof Strait sites, ordinated grouping of sequence reads can be explained by the oceanographic
215 coupling between these two sites. Specifically, strong advection from the Alaska Coastal Current and the
216 Alaska Stream will produce similar water masses with related temperatures and salinity in regions south

217 of the Aleutian Islands. These similarities are heightened by reduced vertical mixing with increasing
218 depth. The Shelikof Strait and the Deep Water Basin sites had similar temperatures that were the highest
219 among all sites sampled (Table 1). Conversely, the MIZ and the Bering Sea Shelf stations had the coldest
220 temperatures from any water column sites. We hypothesize that water mass similarities, as assessed by
221 temperature and inorganic nutrient concentrations, resulted in structurally similar microbial communities,
222 likely under comparable environmental selection pressures. The Pribilof Islands site was spatially
223 ordinated between shallow northern cold water sites and deeper southern warm water sites. The Pribilof
224 Islands receive a mixture of northerly advected Alaskan Coastal Current water and Aleutian North Slope
225 Current (Aydin and Mueter 2007). We sampled in proximity to the transition zone between the middle
226 and outer shelf domain; consequently, the Pribilof Island eukaryotic microbial community structure likely
227 represents an intermediate wintertime community comprised largely of southerly taxa and some northerly
228 taxa (Table 3).

229 Despite similar community structure, eukaryotic microbial community richness was markedly lower in
230 the Deep Water Basin, relative to Shelikof Strait (Table 2). The richness differences between the southern
231 Alaskan sites were largely driven by the abundance of singleton taxa. Analogous community structure,
232 maintained by fewer individual taxa suggests diminished ecological redundancy in the Deep Water Basin,
233 underscoring the susceptibility of microbial communities to climate change. Additional research
234 exploring functional gene repertoires would help assess redundancy, gauge susceptibility of equilibrated
235 communities, and monitor alternative stable-states of these communities.

236 Originally, we hypothesized that the eukaryotic microbial community structure would differ with
237 hydrography. Within the wintertime Bering Sea, we found evidence that hydrography shapes large scale
238 spatial diversity patterns of eukaryotic communities resulting in spatially-ordinated Bering Sea
239 communities in sequential order of increasing latitude and estimated richness. This positive relationship
240 between latitude and richness resulted in the MIZ having the highest estimated richness in the Bering Sea.
241 The MIZ is a unique community composed of true pelagic organisms and those sourced from the sea ice
242 (Moran et al. 2012). A number of taxa were only detected within both sea ice and the MIZ:
243 *Eugregarinorida*, *Strombidinopsis* sp., *Euplotes charon*, *Maullinia ectocarp*i, *Guinardia delicatula*,
244 *Rhizosolenia imbricate*, and the FV36-2G-8 clade. Consequently, we hypothesize that dual contributions
245 from the pelagic and sea ice realm resulted in the highest Chao1 richness within the MIZ. By extension,
246 the decreasing richness at the Bering Sea Shelf station and Pribilof Islands was likely influenced by ice
247 cover and organisms seeded from the sea ice environment. Strong northerly winds can advect sea ice into
248 the southeastern Bering Sea, ephemerally covering the Bering Sea Shelf station, as it did in 2015. We

249 hypothesize that this advection resulted in a mixture of taxa found only in sea ice, the MIZ and the Bering
250 Sea Shelf site (e.g. SCM28C5 clade, *Eutintinnus* sp., *Paulinella chromatophora*, Globothalamea,
251 Rotaliida, D52 clade); however, the shared number of OTUs between sea ice and other sites was minimal,
252 relative to the Shelikof Strait site (Table 3). Consequently, we surmise that northward flowing warmer
253 water mainly structures eukaryotic microbial communities in the Bering Sea in late winter. These
254 communities can be marginally supplemented with taxa sourced from migrating sea ice. Furthermore,
255 during this mixing of sea ice and Gulf of Alaska taxa, temperature helps select for species composition,
256 supporting previous observations made in the Arctic Ocean (Lovejoy et al. 2006). Ultimately, our data
257 suggest that temperature is a better indicator of eukaryotic microbial community structure than proximity
258 to Bering Sea sea ice.

259 We hypothesized that the high concentrations of nitrate, silicate, and phosphate (among the highest in any
260 marine system globally) within the Bering Sea (Whitledge and Luchin 1999) would be a driver for
261 microbial community structure in wintertime. Analysis of nutrient data were within the historical ranges
262 previously reported for nitrate (Sherr et al. 2013) and silicate (Tsunogai et al. 1979). Overall, we did not
263 find evidence for the significant effects of nutrients on structuring microbial communities in wintertime,
264 even by focusing our analysis on the chlorophyll maximum that is often dominated by photosynthetic
265 diatoms that require inorganic silicate. Further research is needed to evaluate the synergism of nutrients
266 (such as phosphate), temperature and seasonality in structuring microbial communities.

267
268 We believe that our data begin to delineate the Arctic-Subarctic ecotone region (Figure 4) of eukaryotic
269 microbial communities in wintertime. This ecotone is defined by the spatial-temporal distribution of sea
270 ice coverage that creates a gradient of cold water across the southeastern Bering Sea shelf. As solar
271 irradiance increases in spring and stimulates the phytoplankton bloom, other factors such as light regime,
272 stratification, and biological interactions will largely shape the eukaryotic community; however, in
273 wintertime with overall low or non-existing new primary productivity, large scale diversity patterns
274 appear to be driven by temperatures, irrespective of the unique chemical signatures across large
275 geographical distances. Ultimately, our observations reinforce the coupled nature between physical
276 oceanography and microbial diversity patterns and underscore the diversity responses of microbial
277 communities to temperature. We suggest that an increase in microbial diversity studies would greatly
278 benefit the understanding of biological responses to climate change by focusing on the base of food webs
279 and the organisms that are likely to respond the quickest to abiotic perturbations.

280 The findings of this research are interesting and suggestive of important biological processes at the base
281 of food webs. Our study targeted six unique geographical areas along a northwesterly transect that was
282 focused on the chlorophyll maximum; consequently, these data offer preliminary evidence into the
283 structure, richness, diversity, and distribution of eukaryotic microbes across the Bering Sea in wintertime.
284 The findings from this work can inform more vigorous studies of Bering Sea microbial diversity and offer
285 insights into the coupling of microbial diversity and ocean circulation patterns that should guide future
286 research exploring functional redundancy and longitudinal diversity gradients.

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294 **Conflict of Interest.**

295 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

296

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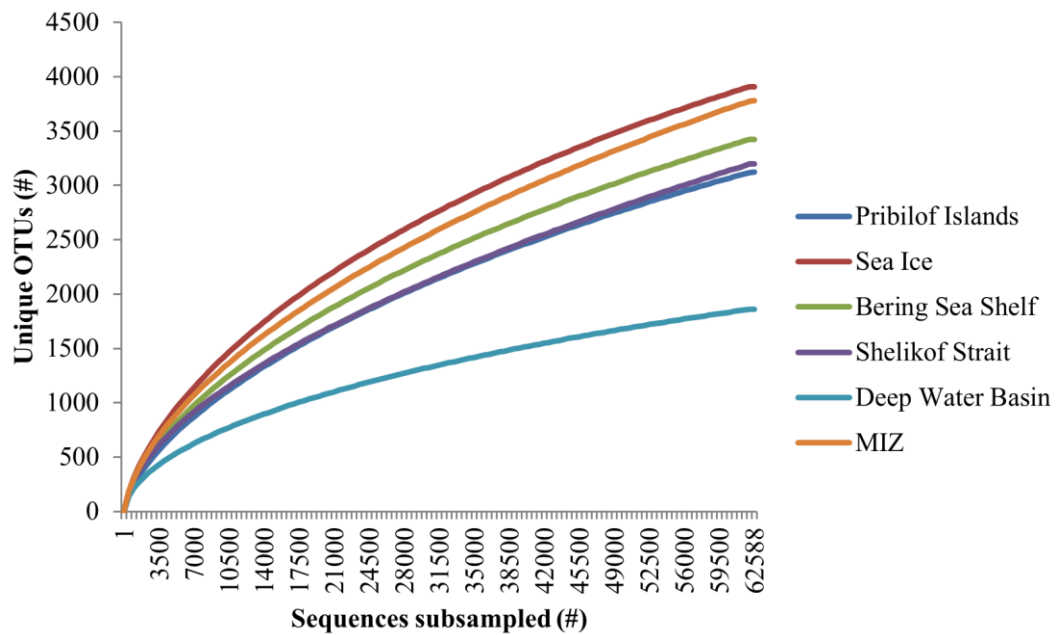
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416

417

418 **Supplemental Materials**



419

420 Online Resource 1. Sampling rarefaction curves. Curves were generated after sequence vetting,
421 subsampling (62,588) and clustering at 97% similarity, generated per site displaying the unique number
422 of OTUs per sampling effort.

423

Station Name	PO₄	+/- s.d.	Si(OH)₄	+/- s.d.	NO₃	+/- s.d.	NO₂	+/- s.d.	NH₄	+/- s.d.
Shelikof Strait	1.40	0.31	19.89	4.70	11.81	3.36	0.12	0.05	1.13	1.96
Deep Water										
Basin	1.31	0.16	20.88	4.25	12.18	2.82	0.09	0.02	0.008	0.02
Pribilof Islands	1.77	0.35	29.77	7.43	15.08	4.72	0.14	0.07	1.85	3.21
Bering Sea Shelf	1.23	0.04	18.57	0.79	9.43	0.43	0.10	0.003	4.0x10 ⁻⁵	3.2x10 ⁻⁸
MIZ	1.67	0.17	29.69	3.61	11.76	1.68	0.08	0.02	0.70	1.2

Table 3. Inorganic nutrient data (μM). Data was acquired from all water sites. Standard deviations (s.d.) are the result of three independent replicates.

426 Online Resource 2. Condensed taxonomy of detected organisms in the Bering Sea and surrounding
 427 areas. Organisms classified to minimally the taxonomic genus level are represented below. Select
 428 taxonomic clades in the Phaeophytes and fungi were represented by only sequences classifiable to
 429 Order and were included in this table. The majority of our sequences did not classify to the genus
 430 level and were not represented in this table. For example, the Prasinophytes were detected at every
 431 station, but *Prasinoderma sp.* is represented at only three stations.

	Shelikof Strait	Deep Water Basin	Pribilof Islands	Bering Sea Shelf	MIZ	Sea Ice
Amoebozoa						
Dactylopodids						
<i>Paramoeba sp.</i>	+	+	-	-	+	+
<i>Paramoeba branchiphila</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Paramoeba eilhardi</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-
Tubulinds						
<i>Vermamoeba sp.</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vermamoeba vermiformis</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Paraflabellula hogueae</i>	-	-	-	+	-	+
Excavata						
Diplonemids						
<i>Diplonema sp.</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-
Euglenids						
<i>Petalomonas cantuscygni</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Neobodo sp.</i>	-	-	-	+	+	-
<i>Ichthyobodo sp.</i>	-	-	-	+	+	-
Archaeplastida						
Prasinophytes						
<i>Prasinoderma sp.</i>	-	-	-	+	+	+
Opisthokonta						
Choanoflagellates						
Stephanoecidae	+	+	-	+	+	+
<i>Diaphanoeca grandis</i>	+	-	-	-	+	+
Mesomycetozoea						
<i>Pseudoperkinsus tapetis</i>	-	-	+	+	+	+
Fungi						
Chytrids						
Rhizophlyctidales	-	-	-	+	+	-
Ascomycota						
Capnodiales	-	-	-	-	+	-
Dothideales	+	-	-	-	-	-

Pleosporales	+	-	-	+	+	+
STable 4.1 continued.....						
<i>Penicillium sp.</i>	+	-	+	-	-	-
Helotiales	+	+	+	+	+	-
Xylariales	-	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Debaryomyces hansenii</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-
Basidiomycota						
Agaricomycetes	-	+	+	-	-	-
<i>Udeniomyces pannonicus</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-
SAR						
Alveolates						
Apicomplexa						
<i>Filipodium sp.</i>	-	-	-	+	-	+
<i>Gregarinidae sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+
Novel Apicomplexa Class 2	-	-	-	-	-	+
Ciliates						
DH147-EKD23	+	+	-	+	+	-
<i>Pseudocollinia oregonensis</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Peritrichia sp.</i>	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>Scuticociliatia sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Mesanoophrys carcini</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Parauronema longum</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Acineta sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Ephelota sp.</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cryptocaryon sp.</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-
<i>Loxophyllum sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-
<i>Myrionecta</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Eutintinnus sp.</i>	-	-	-	+	+	+
<i>Favella arcuata</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Pelagostrobilidium sp.</i>	+	+	+	-	+	-
<i>Stenosemella sp.</i>	+	+	-	+	+	+
<i>Strombidinopsis sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+
<i>Tintinnidium sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Tintinnidium mucicola</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Tintinnopsis sp.</i>	+	-	-	+	-	+
<i>Tintinnopsis lohmanni</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Tintinnopsis sp. JG-2-11a</i>	+	-	-	+	-	+
<i>Rimostrombidium veniliae</i>	+	-	+	-	+	+
<i>Discocephalus ehrenbergi</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Euplotes sp.</i>	+	-	-	-	+	+
<i>Euplotes charon</i>	+	-	-	-	+	+
<i>Hypotrichia sp.</i>	+	-	+	+	+	+

<i>Hypotrachia sp. I-99</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Holosticha sp.</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-
STable 4.1 continued....						
Oligotrichia	+	-	+	+	+	+
<i>Laboea sp.</i>	+	-	+	+	+	-
<i>Pseudotontonia sp.</i>	-	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Strombidium sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
Dinoflagellates						
<i>Amphidinium sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Gymnodinium sp. CCMP422</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>Chytriodinium sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Lepidodinium sp.</i>	+	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Nematodinium sp.</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-
<i>Polykrikos sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Gyrodinium sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Azadinium sp.</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Karlodinium veneficum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Pelagodinium beii</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Symbiodinium sp.</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-
<i>Halostylodinium sp.</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Alexandrium fundyense</i>	+	+	+	+	-	+
<i>Alexandrium ostenfeldii</i>	+	-	+	+	-	+
<i>Alexandrium tamarense</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Ceratium tenue</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Protoperidinium sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Protoceratium reticulatum</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Scrippsiella sp.</i>	-	-	-	+	-	+
<i>Tintinnophagus acutus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Prorocentrum donghaiense</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-
<i>Prorocentrum minimum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
SL163A10 (Antarctic)	+	+	+	-	+	-
<i>Blastodinium navicula</i>	+	-	-	+	-	-
<i>Haplozoon sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Scrippsiella sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Paulsenella vonstoschii</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
SCM28C5	-	-	-	+	+	+
<i>Thalassomyces fagei</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-
<i>Euduboscquella crenulata</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Takayama pulchellum</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-
Syndiniales						
<i>Amoebophrya sp.</i>	+	-	+	+	+	+

Syndiniales Group I	-	+	+	+	+	+
Syndiniales Group II	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Syndinium</i> sp.	-	+	-	-	-	-

STable 4.1 continued....

Rhizaria						
Cercomonads						
<i>Minchinia</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	+	-
<i>Cercozoa</i> sp. CC-2--9d	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>Minorisa</i> sp.	-	+	-	+	+	+
NOR26	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Pseudopirsonia</i> sp.	-	-	-	+	-	+
<i>Nudifila</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Paulinella</i> sp.	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Paulinella chromatophora</i>	-	-	-	+	+	+
<i>Cryothecomonas</i> sp.	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Protaspa</i> sp.	-	-	+	+	+	+
<i>Ebria</i> sp.	+	+	+	+	+	+
Thaumatomonads						
<i>Thaumatomastix</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	+
Phytomyxea						
<i>Maulinia ectocarp</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+
<i>Spongospora</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	+
Paradinium						
<i>Paradinium poucheti</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-
Acantharia						
<i>Acanthometra</i> sp.	-	+	-	-	-	-
Uncultured marine acantharean DH147-EKD17	-	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Chaunocanthida</i> sp.	+	+	-	-	-	-
Foraminifera						
Globothalamea	-	-	-	+	+	+
Rotaliida	-	-	-	+	+	+
Polycystinea						
<i>Lithomelissa setosa</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-
Stramenopiles						
Incertae Sedis						
<i>Pirsonia</i> sp.	+	-	+	+	+	+
<i>Pirsonia guinardiae</i>	+	-	+	-	-	+
Labyrinthulids						
D52	-	-	-	+	+	+
TAGIRI-17	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Aplanochytrium</i> sp.	-	-	-	+	-	+

MAST-1	-	+	-	+	+	+
MAST-2	+	+	+	+	+	+
MAST-3	+	+	+	+	+	+
MAST-4	+	+	+	+	+	-

STable 4.1 continued....

MAST-6	+	+	+	-	+	+
MAST-7	+	+	+	+	+	-
MAST-8	+	+	+	+	+	-
MAST-9	+	+	+	+	+	-
MAST-12	+	+	+	+	+	-

Chrysophytes

<i>Spumella sp.</i>	+	-	-	-	-	+
E222	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Ochromonas sp.</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Chrysophyceae sp.</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-

Diatoms

<i>Asterionellopsis glacialis</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Asteroplanus karianus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Fragilariopsis sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Navicula sp.</i>	-	-	+	-	-	+
<i>Nitzschia sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Pleurosigma sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Pseudo-nitzschia australis</i>	+	+	+	-	+	-
<i>Attheya longicornis</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Brockmanniella brockmannii</i>	-	-	-	+	+	-
<i>Chaetoceros sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Chaetoceros rostratus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Chaetoceros sp. CCAP 1-1-/16</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>Chaetoceros sp. p442</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-
<i>Cyclotella choctawhatcheeana</i>	-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Cymatosira belgica</i>	-	-	-	+	-	+
<i>Ditylum brightwellii</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Hyalosira sp. CCMP469</i>	+	-	+	-	-	+
<i>Minutocellus sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Porosira sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Skeletonema sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Thalassiosira sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Thalassiosira concaviuscula</i>	+	-	+	+	+	-
<i>Thalassiosira guillardii</i>	+	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Thalassiosira nordenskiöldii</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Thalassiosira oceanica</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>Thalassiosira punctigera</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-

<i>Actinocyclus curvatus</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Corethron criophilum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Coscinodiscus radiates</i>	+	+	+	-	+	-
<i>Coscinodiscus sp. GGM-2—4</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Melosira sp.</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-
STable 4.1 continued...						
<i>Stephanopyxis nipponica</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-
<i>Leptocylindrus minimus</i>	+	-	+	+	+	-
<i>Proboscia alata</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Guinardia delicatula</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+
<i>Rhizosolenia imbricate</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+
Diphytytes						
<i>Dictyocha speculum</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Florenciella sp.</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-
<i>Pseudochattonella verruculosa</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Apedinella radians</i>	+	-	+	-	-	-
FV36-2G-8	-	-	-	-	+	+
<i>Pseudopedinella elastica</i>	+	-	+	+	-	-
<i>Pteridomonas sp.</i>	+	-	-	+	-	+
Pelagophytes						
<i>Aureococcus anophagefferens</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Pelagococcus subviridis</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-
<i>Pelagomonas calceolata</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
Phaeophytes						
Ectocarpales	-	-	-	-	-	+
Laminariales	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Costaria costata</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
Peronosporomycetes						
Halocrusticida	-	-	-	-	-	+
Bolidomonas						
<i>Bolidomonas pacifica</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
Incertae Sedis						
Cryptophytes						
<i>Rhodomonas sp.</i>	-	-	+	+	+	+
<i>Teleaulax sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kathablepharidae						
<i>Katablepharis sp.</i>	-	-	+	+	+	+
<i>Leucocryptos sp.</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-
Picozoa						
<i>Picomonas sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
Centrohelida						
<i>Chlamydaster sterna</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-

Haptophyta

<i>Emiliana huxleyi</i>	+	+	-	-	+	-
<i>Isochrysis galbana</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Phaeocystis antarctica</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Phaeocystis cordata</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Chrysochromulina sp.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	-

STable 4.1 continued

<i>Chrysochromulina campanulifera</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-
<i>Chrysochromulina parva</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-

Haptophytes

<i>Haptolina sp.</i>	+	-	+	+	+	-
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Telonema

<i>Telonema antarcticum</i>	+	-	+	+	+	-
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432