1   **Running head: Beach eDNA complements human observation**
2
3   **Title:**
4   **Beach environmental DNA fills gaps in photographic biomonitoring to track spatiotemporal**
5   **community turnover across 82 phyla**
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8   **Authors**: Rachel S. Meyer[1]*, Teia M. Schweizer[1]†*, Wai-Yin Kwan[1], Emily Curd[1], Adam Wall[2], Dean
9   Pentcheff2[3], Regina Wetzer[2], Eric Beraut[1], Alison Young[3], Rebecca Johnson[3], Robert K. Wayne[1]
10 * Co-first author
11
1. UCLA Dept of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Los Angeles CA 90095
2. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles Marine Biodiversity Center, Los Angeles CA 90007
3. California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco CA 94118
† Present address: Colorado State Univ Dept of Biology, Fort Collins CO 80523
RS Meyer and TM Schweizer should be considered joint first author
* Corresponding author: 001-206-351-7997; rsmeyer@g.ucla.edu
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35 contributed DNA reference data and analyzed taxonomic results. RSM, EB and WK managed the data. All
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37
38

Abstract:

Environmental DNA (eDNA) metabarcoding is emerging as a biomonitoring tool available to the citizen

science community that promises to augment or replace photographic observation. However, eDNA

results and photographic observations have rarely been compared to document their individual or

combined power. Here, we use eDNA multilocus metabarcoding, a method deployed by the CALeDNA

Program, to inventory and evaluate biodiversity variation along the Pillar Point headland near Half Moon

Bay, California. We describe variation in presence of 13,000 taxa spanning 82 phyla, analyzed

spatiotemporal patterns of beta diversity, and identified metacommunities. Inventory and measures of

turnover across space and time from eDNA analysis were compared to the same measures based on in

the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), which contains information largely contributed by

iNaturalist. We find eDNA depicted local signals with high seasonal turnover, especially in prokaryotes.

We find a diverse community dense with pathogens and parasites in the embayment, and a State

Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) with lower species richness than the rest of the beach peninsula, but

with beta diversity signals showing resemblance to adjacent unprotected tidepools. The SMCA differs in

observation density, with higher density of protozoans, and animals in Ascidiacea, Echinoidea, and

Polycladida. Local contributions to beta diversity are elevated in a section of East-facing beach. GBIF

observations were mostly from outside the SMCA, limiting some spatial comparisons. However, our

findings suggest eDNA samples can link the SMCA sites to sites with better GBIF inventory, which may

provide hypotheses for whether observations can be imputed for one site given observations from

another. Results additionally supported >3800 largely novel biological interactions that no GBIF data had

shown. This research, and accompanying interactive website supports eDNA as a gap-filling tool to

measure biodiversity that is available to community and citizen scientists.

1. Introduction:

The 6th mass extinction now underway is projected to affect a million species (Diaz et al., 2019), and

consequently, scientists and the public need to catalyze the development of next-generation

biodiversity monitoring strategies for a comprehensive inventory of biodiversity (National Research

Council, 2001). Our interest is in a strategy that activates a public constituency with access to the latest

digital and molecular tools and an understanding of the data and results so they can innovate solutions

together with the scientific community. Volunteers for citizen and community science outnumber

professional scientists 18 to 1 (Groom et al., 2017), and have contributed a substantial amount of

observational data points that are now used to track biodiversity variation over space and time (Bird et

al., 2014). One major source of observations is the iNaturalist community science platform [Cal Academy

of Sciences (CAS) and National Geographic Society], which has exceeded 12 million 'research grade', or

photographed and validated, records. For certain species and localities, these observations comprise the

bulk of data points over other occurrence data, such as museum and voucher specimens. iNaturalist and

other volunteer-collected species occurrence records (such as eBird) help populate the Global

Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF; Robertson et al., 2014), which also includes collection and

observation data curated by thousands of institutions (n=1332 'publishers' as of January 11, 2019).

Citizen and community scientists are eager to be data contributors and deepen their involvement in

knowledge assessment and possible conservation actions, (Hecker et al., 2018). Everyone is impacted by

the challenges of biodiversity loss.

Environmental DNA (eDNA) presents an attractive method for obtaining alternative biodiversity data.

The method is considered non-invasive as small amounts of soil, sediment, or water are sufficient for

DNA extraction, which can be easily collected by volunteers or passively collected with unmanned

devices. eDNA can be subjected to multilocus metabarcoding and next-generation sequencing,

producing snapshots that span all kingdoms of life. However, because we don't have sufficient DNA

barcodes for all species, sometimes there are insufficient data to resolve taxonomy or avoid

mismatches. DNA research in the environment is also limited by the non-even distribution of DNA from

taxa (especially inshore and terrestrial environments; O'Donnell et al. 2017), where small bodied and

more evenly distributed species have better detectability over large mobile organisms (Zinger et al.

2019a). Therefore, eDNA-based biodiversity inventories may benefit from complementation with other

evidence-based observations such as photos or specimens. Nonetheless, the sheer data-richness of

eDNA may elucidate robust metacommunities with dynamics that inform ecosystem management (e.g.

Peters et al., 2019) and that may even allow imputation about the presence of larger organisms from

their associated smaller taxa comprising their holobiomes (i.e. the total genomes in and on a eukaryotic

organism, possibly functioning together as evolutionary units; Guerrero et al., 2013). However, as a

nascent field, this topic has hardly been explored.

Photographic observations present challenges that systematic collection of eDNA may help resolve.

Diversity estimates are limited to where people choose to go, to what people decide to photograph or

sample, or to where camera traps are installed. Further, by the nature of photographs, it is mainly

relatively large or morphologically apparent, diurnal organisms. How can eDNA surveys augment or

predict taxa in observational databases? If eDNA provides a next-generation biodiversity assessment

tool, how can it be integrated into biomonitoring by the public and scientists? By using eDNA samples to

fill information gaps and stimulate broader human observation, can we mitigate taxon (e.g. plant

blindness; Allen, 2003) and visitation bias?

This study presents an analysis of eDNA metabarcoding collected through community science effort of

the CALeDNA program (www.ucedna.com; Meyer et al., 2019). Our analysis focuses on an inventory of

biotic communities on the Pillar Point headland California beach that has been previously been

intensively surveyed by the California Academy of Sciences (CAS) Citizen Science team

(https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/intertidal-biodiversity-survey-at-pillar-point). The beach has a

marshland and harbor graded C-F for water quality on the Heal the Bay Beach Report Card (2016;

healthebay.org), signaling it is polluted and potentially under threat. It also has a State Marine

Conservation Area (SMCA) with restricted fishing, that is difficult to access by land, which received

grades A-C. It remains unclear how biologically different these areas are. We compare eDNA results to

human observation records (GBIF; largely including iNaturalist research grade observations) to

determine their complementarity and the value of each to fill gaps where data are limited across space

and time. We find eDNA and photographs have little overlap, with eDNA covering lower trophic.

Systematic collection of eDNA can describe differences spatial and temporal biodiversity variation of the

beach, and provides a rich view of the community ecological network, including holobiomes. Even

though this is only a single case study, our results suggest that eDNA may be useful to find surrogate

sites where GBIF data is readily collected, which may be useful proxies for diversity in sites that are

difficult for the volunteer community to monitor with photographs. With community empowerment as

the goal, results in this paper are paired with interactive web pages for the public, who are potential

eDNA adopters, to explore (https://data.ucedna.com/research_projects/pillar-point?).

2. Materials and Methods:

Detailed methods including commands for running programs are in the Supplemental Methods.

2.1. Sample collection for eDNA

Samples of soil, sand and sediment for eDNA analysis were collected at Pillar Point by a total of fifteen

community scientists and three UCLA researchers during low-tide windows of three days: February 8,

2017, April 29, 2017 and April 30, 2017. Our definition of community scientist is a volunteer participating

in a science project, which could be designed and empowered by non-professional scientists or

organized by professional scientists [see Meyer and Drill (2019) for further discussion]. The February

sampling date coincided with the monthly Pillar Point survey organized by CAS Citizen Science Academy

staff, which selects seasonally low tides for observation. In February, most eDNA samples were only

collected near or above the mean high water line (aka mean high tide mark; MHT) because of permit

restrictions. Most sites below the MHT line were sampled in April, as were all SMCA samples. Collections

were made under permit MBNMS-2017-019 issued by the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

Sample metadata are provided in Table S1.

For the eDNA collection, sample collectors were organized into groups to cover different areas of the

Pillar Point headland. Sample collectors then spread out and selected sites that looked like a typical

representation of the local environment. Surface soil, sand, or submerged sediment were collected

following the CALeDNA community science program instructions, which required fresh gloves to be

worn at each sampling site, three 'biological replicates' of 2 mL cryotubes to be filled with substrate

approximately 30 cm apart from each other. Sampling was limited to the exposed (top 3 cm layer)

surface or submerged sediment no deeper than could be reached at arm's length. Collectors used a

Kobo Toolbox phone webform (https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/#Y1sl) to record sampling time,

geolocation, photographs of the sampling site, and other metadata. Metadata for each sample are

available through data.ucedna.com. Photographs were later used to confirm environmental metadata

(Table S1) for the sites. All collection instructions, data and photographs are published online in the

CALeDNA database at www.ucedna.com.

2.2. Assembling observation records

GBIF records from all contributors were downloaded September 4, 2018 from GBIF using drawn

polygons on a map of Pillar Point (coordinates and download DOI in Appendix 1). eBird observations

were removed because they were concentrated only in the embankment. A total of 13,924 occurrence

records were retained. The polygons correspond to the headland embayment, unprotected reef area,

and SMCA protected area (data in Table S2).

2.3. eDNA metabarcoding library preparation and sequencing

Subsamples of equal mass of all three biological replicates were pooled and homogenized. A ~0.25g

amount of the subsample was extracted with the Qiagen DNeasy PowerSoil Kit according to

manufacturer's instructions (Qiagen, Valencia, CA, USA). Kit details provided by the manufacturer

demonstrate retrieval of amplifiable DNA from bacteria, fungi, algae, and animals. A blank PowerBead

tube was extracted alongside each batch of ~10 samples as a negative extraction control. Eight DNA

extraction controls were pooled into a single sample used in all PCR amplifications.

Sample DNA was amplified for targeted taxa using four primer sets based on the following universal

primers with a Nextera adaptor modification: MiFish *12S* (Universal Teleost; Miya et al. 2015), *16S* (515D

and 806R; Caporaso et al., 2012), *18S* (V8-V9; Amaral-Zettler et al., 2009; Bradley et al., 2016), and the

partial sequence of *Cytochrome Oxidase Subunit 1* (*CO1*; mlCOIintF and jgHCO2198; Leray et al., 2013).

Primer sequences are included in Supplemental Methods. Three PCR replicates were run per amplicon

per sample, and these were pooled and converted to Nextera libraries (details in Supplemental

Methods), and sequenced using a MiSeq Illumina Next Generation Sequencer with Reagent Kit V3 (2 x

300 bp) at a goal depth of 25,000 reads in each direction per marker per sample. The original run

produced reverse reads with lower than standard quality, and so the run was repeated. Both runs were

analyzed separately and resulting tables were merged.

2.4. eDNA classification

Demultiplexed library Fastq files were processed with the *Anacapa Toolkit* (archived version

(doi:10.5281/zenodo.3064152)(github.com/limey-bean/Anacapa; Curd et al., 2019) using default

parameters. In brief, reads were processed first by *cutadapt* (Martin, 2011) to remove adapters and any

3' primer reverse complement. Reads were quality trimmed with the *FastX-Toolkit*

(http://hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx_toolkit/) and only reads with a minimum length over 100 bp were

retained. *Cutadapt* was used to sort reads by primer and then used to remove primers. Read bins were

denoised, dereplicated and merged or retained as paired unmerged, forward-only or reverse-only reads

using *dada2* (Callahan et al., 2016). Chimeras were additionally removed using *dada2*. This produced

amplicon sequence variants (ASVs) that were then processed using *Bowtie 2* (Langmead and Salzberg,

2012) to query custom reference databases (described in the following paragraph) and determine up to

100 reference matches with a minimum percent coverage of the sample read set to 70% for *CO1*, 80%

for all others and a minimum percent identity of 70% for *CO1*, and 90% for all others. Details on how

these settings were chosen are in Supplemental Methods and Table S3. Reads per taxon were compiled

for each marker using a minimum bootstrap classifier confidence (BCC) = 60 for *16S*, *12S*, and *18S*, and a

minimum BCC = 70 for *CO1*.

Reference databases for *16S*, *18S*, *CO1*, and *12S* were generated with the *CRUX* step of the *Anacapa*

Toolkit (Curd et al., 2019 ;DOI: https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.mf0126f) that queried NCBI nr/nt

databases. The *CO1* database was subsequently modified by appending all BOLD *CO1-5P* sequences,

accessed via the BOLD API on September 24, 2018 and comprising 5.08 million sequences, and also

appending 847 recently generated invertebrate *CO1-5P* barcode sequences from the LACM DISCO

program (subsequently published in BOLD with the same identifiers). The CO1-5P region is the most

commonly used CO1 locus, described first by Folmer et al (1994) and it includes our amplified region.

These reference databases are permanently archived [*in DRYAD – link pending*].

BOLD and NCBI use different classifications systems for higher taxonomy (order to superkingdom).

Results tables originally had taxon strings that could be a mixture of classifications. We united them

using the higher classification by Ruggiero et al. (2015; online version) for all results tables and merged

rows with identical names by summing column read counts. This procedure was only used for

decontaminated results.

For *16S*, *18S*, and *12S* markers, we statistically removed reads and taxa considered contaminants using

the program *Decontam* version 1.1.2 (Davis et al., 2018) with prevalence method and the threshold

setting of 0.1. Taxa with only a single total read were subsequently removed in the final results (Tables

S4-S7).

For *CO1*, because there were few taxa that overlapped between real samples and extraction or PCR

negative controls, results tables were decontaminated simply by removing any taxon that was present in

one or more reads in controls. The extraction and PCR negative controls contained a total of three taxa,

two being single reads in either control or real sample, and one that did occur as 9 reads in a control and

in more reads in four real samples, which was *Nutricola tantilla* Gould, a very small clam. We did not

include this taxon in results, and note it was not in GBIF Pillar Point data but is known from California

(GBIF.org). Singletons were also subsequently removed.

Using the *CO1* results, we further examined possible contaminants by heeding Zinger et al., (2019b) who

describe the various contamination issues, specifically, the risk of index hopping among samples in the

same MiSeq run. We looked for cross-contamination between the Pillar Point samples, which were the

~54% of the identified reads on the MiSeq run, and California Vernal Pool samples which were largely

the remainder of the run, and found only 43 taxa overlapped, 15 of which were singletons in the Pillar

Point samples, and 34 of which were soil-dwelling Ascomycota or amoeba that could theoretically occur

in both habitats (Table S6). Not one read of known vernal pool-specific animals, which each had >2500

reads in the vernal pool samples, were recovered in Pillar Point samples (e.g., *Gammarus* cf. *fossarum*,

or *Alona*, which are usually found in ephemeral freshwaters and known from vernal pools; Keeley and

Zedler, 1998; Hupalo et al., 2018). We also counted the amount of PhiX in sample libraries using BBDuk

(BBMap – Bushnell B. – sourceforge.net/projects/bbmap/), and found it was (<8e-05) in each library. We

found these low occurrences of contamination from extraction or index-hopping suggested further

decontamination steps were unnecessary. The *Anacapa* output results including the non-Pillar Point

samples, and files detailing sequences themselves and other details of taxonomy assignment

confidence, are provided for *CO1* in Table S6.

Alpha diversity analyses used a stricter filter of a minimum of five reads to reduce some inflation effects

from ASVs. All analyses requiring rarefaction used settings retaining 2000 reads for *18S* or *CO1*, and

4000 reads for *16S*, aiming for a cutoff above the linear growth zone of the curve. Rarefaction curves

used to inform the sequence number for rarefaction are shown in Figure S1.

2.5. Global biotic interactions (GloBI)

We downloaded all of the open access GloBI species interactions database (Poelen et al., 2014;

http://globalbioticinteractions.org) on September 2, 2018, totaling 3,293,470 records. These data were

used in two tests. First, we retrieved all the species that had 10 or more observations from the Intertidal

Biodiversity Survey at Pillar Point in iNaturalist (https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/intertidal-

[biodiversity-survey-at-pillar-point?tab=species](#)), and searched for all GloBI records of interactions

involving these frequently observed species (*[Biotic Interactions](#)*). We screened the list of interacting taxa

for overlap with GBIF species and eDNA species and reported these. Second, we summarized all GloBI

interactions to family level, and recorded the interaction type. We used the major categories of "eats"

or "interacts_with" to tally the frequency with which the families detected in eDNA or GBIF are on

source or sink for these interactions, and used these sums in Chi-Square tests in *R* (version 3.5.0) to test

for overrepresentation of interaction source or sinks in eDNA and GBIF results.

2.6. Statistical analyses for diversity and enrichment

The *16S*, *18S*, and *CO1* results (Tables S4-S7) were used to generate separate alpha diversity and beta

diversity plots, and used to calculate statistics including Local Contributions to Beta Diversity (LCBD) and

Analysis of Similarity (ANOSIM). To prepare results for these tests and plots, decontaminated Anacapa

results tables and metadata were converted to *Phyloseq* objects (McMurdie and Holmes, 2013) using

the convert_anacapa_to_phyloseq function in the *Ranacapa* version 0.1.0 (Kandlikar et al., 2018) *R*

package in *R* version 3.5.0. *Phyloseq* and *microbiomeSeq R* package version 0.1

(https://github.com/umerijaz/microbiomeSeq.git) were used to calculate richness, Simpson, and

Shannon alpha diversity and test for significant differences among groups with ANOVA set to P=0.05.

Plots were made using *ggplot2* (Wickham 2009). Full scripts are provided in Supplemental Methods.

Beta diversity as relative abundance barplots and LCBD statistics were generated in *R* using the addition

of the adespatial (multivariate multiscale spatial analysis) package version 0.3.2 function selecting the

Hellinger dissimilarity coefficients method (Dray et al., 2016). ANOSIM beta diversity statistics and

distance plots were computed using both Jaccard and Raup-Crick dissimilarity indices (Raup and Crick,

1979). Both treat the data as presence/absence but Raup-Crick considers underlying alpha diversity, as

calculated in the Vegan vegdist method (Chase et al., 2011; Oksanen et al. 2018) in *Phyloseq*. Principal

Coordinate Ordinations were made using the Jaccard method.

We performed density enrichment tests in *R* using the following approach. Taxon results tables were

summarized by class and converted to sample presence/absence tables. Kruskal-Wallis rank sum tests

(Hollander, et al., 2013) were performed to identify classes with significant differences among zone

groups. Then, significant classes were subjected to the post-hoc Dunn test (Dunn, 1964) using the

Benjamini-Hochberg (Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995) correction for multiple testing.

2.7. Community ecological network analyses

Network analysis was performed using the *SpiecEasi* version 1.0.2 package (Kurtz et al., 2015; Tipton et

al., 2018) in *R* with the *18S*, *16S*, and *CO1* results tables summarized to the highest resolution

classification of family. We did not include *12S* because the taxon list was short. Family-level results

tables were filtered to retain only taxa minimally present in 15% of the sites. Results from each marker

were processed separately, and then *16S* was co-analyzed with each of the dominantly eukaryotic

markers *18S* and *CO1*. Settings and commands are in Supplemental Methods, as are commands for

plotting networks using *Phyloseq* and *iGraph* (Csardi and Nepusz, 2006). Networks were additionally

plotted as interactive figures using Flourish Studio (https://app.flourish.studio; London, UK), given a

stable DOI, and were hosted on our Pillar Point project website

(https://data.ucedna.com/research_projects/pillar-point?). Interactions were also deposited in GloBI (

https://github.com/beraute/Pillar_Point_16S_18S, https://github.com/beraute/Pillar_Point_CO1_16S).

306 We asked what proportion of observed eDNA network interactions were previously published, and

307 tested this by comparing *18S* network taxa with 10 or more edges (highly networked) to interactions

308 published in the GloBI database (Section 2.5). Lists were assembled and compared in Microsoft Excel.

310 *2.8*. Reduction of holobiome effects

311 For the *18S* results, we tested the influence of DNA swamping from organisms and their associated

312 community (holobiome) on local contribution to beta diversity (LCBD) scores. We screened the *18S*

313 rarified DNA results for taxa with >50% proportion of the read abundance. Community ecological

314 networks (Section 2.7) were mined for these organisms and their linked taxa, and all these taxa were

315 filtered out to produce new results tables. These holobiome-filtered tables were used in LCBD

316 calculations as described in Section 2.6.

318 *2.9*. GBIF and eDNA comparisons

319 GBIF and eDNA results use different classification systems. The classification at each hierarchical level

320 was converted to a common NCBI-style taxonomy using the Global Names tool

321 (http://globalnames.org). This tool has been shown to increase the success of cross-mapping taxon

322 names to up to 90% across diverse databases (Patterson et al., 2016); in accordance with this number,

323 under 10% of taxa had to be dropped because they could not be converted. This slightly reduced set of

324 converted names is presented on the web platform.

326 *2.10. Development of the web interface and comparative summary statistics*

327 A web platform was created linking Squarespace, Amazon Web Services, and Heroku. Numerous data

328 visualization tools such as leaflet were used to create the user interface, and images were scraped from

Encyclopedia of Life (eol.org), GBIF (gbif.org) iNaturalist and Wikipedia. All scripts to generate the pages

are open source and available on Github at https://github.com/UCcongenomics/caledna.

Results

3.0. Orientation

Pillar Point headland contains a 1 km East-facing stretch that spans a small protected marsh with

agricultural runoff feeding into an embayment that contains a harbor with primarily fishing and

recreational crafts (Figure 1). The marsh supports a diversity of seabirds and shorebirds. The entire area

is bounded by a stone embankment (breakwater). A 0.4 km stretch of South-facing 'outer' beach has an

extended 0.3 km tidepool accessible during very low tides that receives heavy recreational traffic and

visits from school groups as well as commercial and recreational collection of mollusks and fish. North of

the tidepools on the West 'outer' beach (Figure 1) is a 0.8 km stretch that includes the Pillar Point State

Marine Conservation Area (SMCA). The SMCA places limits on recreational and commercial fishing, but

not access for recreational users (Marine Life Protection Act of 1999).

We examined the inventory of taxonomic biodiversity at Pillar Point beach from eDNA results and GBIF

records, grouping data in several ways. The beach areas were divided into three polygons drawn on a

map: 1) unprotected "embayment"; 2) "unprotected" exposed beach and tidal pools; and 3) "protected"

exposed beach of the SMCA (Figure 1A, 1B). We also divided the beach into five zones: 1) area exposed

to marsh runoff; 2) unprotected inner beach; 3) unprotected outer beach; 4) unprotected tidepools; and

5) protected outer beach (SMCA). The total taxa observed (Figure 1D) were used to compare

biodiversity among the polygons. We added metadata for each sampling site that included the month

collected, the position relative to the mean-high-tide (MHT) line, and the substrate.

Comparative analyses of eDNA (Tables S4-S7) and GBIF results (Appendix 1; Table S2) assessed species in

common, differences in estimates of taxon distribution, richness, beta-diversity within and among areas

of the beach (Figure 1C-F). We also evaluated the kinds of biotic interactions between taxa in both types

of inventory. As a community science project, we presented interactive results to engage non-scientists

and scientists alike. Those resources are available in this web platform:

https://data.ucedna.com/research_projects/pillar-point and are permanently archived in Dryad and

Zenodo [PENDING MANUSCRIPT ACCEPTANCE]. In the Results, we highlight the website features

intended for self-driven evaluation of eDNA and GBIF biomonitoring. The web platform explorable

features are described in Table 1.

3.1. eDNA taxonomic inventory and richness

Multilocus metabarcoding for four gene loci targeted Bacteria and Archaea (*16S*), animals and algae

(*CO1*), eukaryotes (*18S*), and fish (*12S*). *CO1* and *18S* partially overlap with regard to organisms

sequenced. Libraries for 88 sites and negative controls were sequenced in two runs: 3.34 Gb of fastq

data were generated in the first run (170818_300PE_MS1) and 12.25 Gb were generated in the second

run (171006_300PE_MS1)(NCBI SRA *PENDING ACCEPTANCE*). Results were output from the Anacapa

Toolkit (Curd et al., 2019) summarized to the Least Common Ancestor, and then taxa were removed that

were found in negative controls as well as taxa with only one read across all samples, yielding 1468 total

taxa for *CO1*, 2689 for *18S*, 2593 for *16S*, and 43 for *12S* (Tables S4-S7). The total unique taxa assigned to

kingdoms across all eDNA results were 1132 Animalia, 27 Archaea, 2,533 Bacteria, 1,588 Chromista, 516

Fungi, 433 Plantae, and 154 Protozoa, with 3 unassigned to a kingdom.

Alpha diversity, defined by Whittaker (1972), is a measure of species richness of a place. DNA

metabarcoding data has been routinely used to estimate alpha diversity for a decade (Fonseca et al.,

2010), and can be used for measuring genetic diversity as well as taxonomic diversity. We focus our

biodiversity analyses on taxonomic diversity, presenting alpha diversity analyses and its interpretation in

Appendix 2, but include an assessment of how genetic and taxonomic diversity are related (Table S8). In

taxonomic alpha diversity analyses, we found seasonal and spatial differences in both prokaryotes and

eukaryotes (Appendix 2; Figure S2).

We asked how much sampling month (February or April) changed the families detected. Across the total

1,388 families detected by the four markers, the average frequency a family was found was 18% (16 out

of the 88 sites). The Pearson correlation (ρ) between the normalized frequencies of these 1388 families

observed in February with April was 0.81, but in repeating the test using a simple tally of whether

families were observed at all in February or April, the correlation was $\rho=0.27$. These results, taken

together with the significant spatial and temporal differences found in alpha diversity analyses

(Appendix 2) support eDNA signals are spatially local and temporally restricted.

3.2. eDNA-based beta diversity

Analysis of Similarities (ANOSIM) beta diversity tests were performed to evaluate differences in the

groupings of polygon, month, position in relation to the MHT line, and zone. Raup-Crick dissimilarity

(Raup and Crick, 1979) detected fewer significant groupings than the Jaccard method (Table S9). Raup-

Crick dissimilarity results showed that month was significant for all markers and had a large effect size:

18S (R2=0.76), *16S* (R2=1), and *CO1* (R2=0.53). The position relative to the MHT line was significant for

16S and *18S*, but effect size was small (R2<0.08). Polygon was significant for *18S* and the effect size was

R2=0.35.

Jaccard dissimilarity spatial ordination analyses showed month varied predominantly along the first axis

for *18S* and *16S* but not *CO1* (Figure 2). Jaccard analysis grouped by zone showed the SMCA protected

polygon, only sampled in April, clustered with other April samples from the unprotected tidepools

(Figure 2). We also observed that for *16S* results, inner beach samples clustered with other zones, falling

either with marsh runoff samples, or as a group surrounding a dense cluster of unprotected outer beach

samples. This suggests the inner beach is a zone that is heterogeneous in bacteria and archaea

communities, experiencing some influence from adjacent areas as evidenced by their clustering.

3.3. Interpreting and correcting Local Contributions to Beta Diversity

Beta diversity estimates describe the community composition and stability across localities sampled.

Barplots coloring the 21 taxa with highest relative abundance show structured community composition

by month, polygon, and placement relative to the MHT line (Figure 3; Figure S3).

High relative abundance of DNA from some taxa may produce a 'swamping effect' that shrouds signal

from other taxa (see discussion in Weber et al., 2017). In the *18S* barplot, 13 samples were severely

swamped with DNA (>50% of the bar; Figure 3, Figure S3), from one of several taxa, belonging to

anemone, worm, ciliate, diatom, and others. Samples exhibiting DNA swamping had higher Local

Contributions to Beta Diversity (LCBD) than the rest (Table S10), a measure of the uniqueness of one

sample compared to the rest of its group (Legendre and Caceres, 2013). LCBD has been increasingly

valued for conservation applications where researchers recommend protecting sites with extreme low

and high LCBD (da Silva et al., 2018). In the *18S* results of eukaryotes, there were 20 sites with significant

higher or lower LCBD compared to their neighbors, 7 of which met our criteria as swamped.

We hypothesized the stability of LCBD scores was sensitive to swamping from the most abundant taxa

and their associated holobiome communities, and tested this with the *18S* results (Appendix 3). DNA

signals from the swamping taxon were removed from results along with all of their associated taxa

linked with that organism in downstream community ecological networks (Section 3.6), and then LCBD

scores were recalculated. Holobiome reduction did produce lower LCBD scores for 19 samples, and only

1 of the 13 originally swamped samples remained significantly different from the rest of its group (Table

S10; Figure S4). The total number of significantly different samples was reduced from 20 to 9, and all

had higher LCBD than others in their group.

Eight of these nine high LCBD samples were from the cluster of the inner beach, south of the marsh. This

result suggests this East-facing beach, a rarity in California, may harbor distinct communities. This inner

beach is more protected from storms than outer beaches, though may be protected from marsh runoff

by the breakwater. We did additional LCBD analyses to explore the similarity of values across markers

(Appendix 3).

3.4. Enrichment tests reveal density patterns that characterize each zone

To understand biological variation at the level of spatial density, which is relevant to natural areas

management, we examined which classes of taxa across kingdoms differed in their density of detection

among the Pillar Point beach zones (Figure 4; Table S11). We tallied the samples within zones with DNA

signal from a class, and used Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn post-hoc tests to test for enrichment in the

density a class was detected. Because these results have management implications, we scrutinized our

taxonomic assignments to class using phylogenetic analysis and BLAST queries to vet our trust in the

correct class assignment (data not shown). We found two classes that could not be clearly delimited

from other classes in their respective phyla: the class Crinoidea, which typically occurs in deeper marine

environments could not be delimited from other Echinoderms. This may be due to size variation in *CO1*

sequences for this clade, and sequence variation shared with other organisms outside of the phylum.

We also could not clearly delimit Scyphozoa from Hydrozoa, but Hydrozoa were found in all eDNA

samples, and therefore have no difference in density. We therefore considered the enrichment test for

putative Scyphozoa.

The SMCA was significantly more dense than all other zones in Echinoidea (sea urchins) and

Ignavibacteria (a chemoheteroptrophic bacteria) and sparser in Perkinsea (parasitic Chromista causing

diseases in shellfish and amphibians)(Figure 4; Table S11). The SMCA and tidepools versus other zones

were significantly denser in Nitriliruptoria (often obligate halophilic bacteria), denser in

Compsopogonophyceae (a red algae), sparser in Bacilli (bacteria including anthrax), sparser in

Spirochaetia (ecologically diverse bacteria that includes taxa causing syphilis and Lyme disease) and

sparser in Calditrichae (bacteria with few functional attributes known). The SMCA and other beaches

harbored higher density of many Animalia including tunicates in Ascidiacea (sea squirts) and

Appendicularia, Polyplacophora (chitons), most Protozoa and several algae (e.g. Ulvophyceae,

Rhodellophyceae) compared to the marsh area. The marsh was denser in Chromadorea (roundworms),

Trematoda (flukes, parasites of mollusks and vertebrates), and Gastropoda (snails and slugs). The

richness of complex lifecycle parasites in the marsh suggest high presence of mobile species and

genotypic diversity, such is exemplified by high trematode density where snails and migrating birds are

present (Hechinger and Lafferty, 2005; Auld and Tinsley, 2015). The marsh area has rich migrating bird

diversity, tracked through eBIRD (GBIF.org; see original polygon DOI download for the embayment). The

unprotected inner beach, which we note had sites with elevated LCBD scores (Section 3.3), was uniquely

dense in Spartobacteria, a class of both soil-dwelling and aquatic bacteria implicated in degrading algal

polysaccharides (Herlemann et al., 2013)(Figure 4).

3.6. eDNA networks reveal previously undescribed relationships

SpIEC-EASI (SParse InversE Covariance estimation for Ecological ASsociation Inference) was used to

generate community networks within each marker. We analyzed results tables summarized to family

that were filtered for a minimum presence of 15% across the 88 sites, which left 201 *18S*, 178 *16S*, and

88 *CO1* families. Single marker networks were produced as well as dual marker networks to link *16S* with

18S and with *CO1*, and these were made into interactive figures for users to explore online (e.g. Figure

S5, *Networks* tab). Results produced over 3800 links between families. Two prominent families found to

be most integrated in the network were Erythrotrichiaceae (red algae) and Mytilidae (mussels) (Figures

S4, Table S12). We queried in the Global Biotic Interactions (GloBI) database, which aggregates

published interaction findings, using these two families and 25 others that all had ten or more degrees

in the *18S* dataset. We asked how many had published biotic interactions, and if so, how many

interactions were consistent. Eleven of those families had no reported interactions in GloBI (Table S13).

Six of those families had at least one interaction that was detected in our *18S* network (Table S12). This

result supports the notion that eDNA ecological networks can advance inventories of biotic interactions.

Figure 5 depicts an example of how the interaction networks can be used. The anemone family

(Actiniidae) multi-SpIEC-EASI network, determined by *18S* and *16S,* detected interactions with 13

families. The GloBI query of Actiniidae retrieved 34 interacting families as either sources or targets, but

only one family was also found in our results: Symbiodiniaceae. This symbiotic dinoflagellate has been

reported elsewhere as part of the anemone holobiome (León-Palmero et al., 2018; Muller et al., 2018).

Our networks also revealed a three-way link among Actiniidae, Symbiodiniaceae, and the bacteria

Rubritaleaceae. Weber et al. (2017) published the interactions between Rubritaleaceae and

Symbiodiniaceae as part of the coral microbiome. These results demonstrate networks depict candidate

holobiomes and microbiomes for larger taxa that can further understanding of ecological functions.

3.7. GBIF biodiversity inventories are a different lens of biodiversity

The "Intertidal Biodiversity Survey at Pillar Point" project run by CAS Citizen Science is a focused effort to

specifically inventory the low-tide observable biodiversity of the unprotected area tidepools, placing

emphasis on tracking certain species such as nudibranchs, and sea stars exposed to sea star wasting

disease. Observations in the SMCA or embayment were opportunistic. The survey was sometimes

limited when low tide occurred at night. However, the longstanding regularity of citizen science

monitoring of Pillar Point (since 2012) has made this beach one of the most iNaturalist observation-rich

areas in California. The Survey had 15,539 observations of 596 species on its iNaturalist page when GBIF

data were obtained (as of July 5, 2018). Of these observations 12,044 observations were of 457 species

and were research grade. We used these data in comparisons with eDNA to understand the differences,

parallels, and complementary of the two methods for inventorying and characterizing biodiversity.

The GBIF observations from the sum of the three polygon downloads were largely iNaturalist in origin,

comprising 200 of the 226 'protected' (SMCA) polygon records, 1,697 of the 1,799 'embayment' polygon

records, and 11,799 of the 11,900 'unprotected' polygon records (Figure 1; Table S2; 13925 records

total). Within the GBIF records, we found 689 species were inventoried with iNaturalist, and 140 species

were inventoried by other sources. iNaturalist taxa were mostly members of the kingdom Animalia

(78%), but also included Chromista (22%), Fungi (1%), and Plantae (17%). The taxonomic lineages

identified in GBIF records totaled 598 Animalia, 23 Chromista, 7 Fungi, 147 Plantae, and a single

Protozoan, identified as Mycosphaerellaceae (Choanozoa), that was contributed as a natural history

museum collection (Tables S2; Figure 1F). Overall, these results highlight the strength of GBIF data to

track the animal kingdom (*GBIF Sources*).

We compared fish in the eDNA *12S* and GBIF results because *12S* targeted vertebrates. The *12S*

sequencing results produced a small list, but showed complementarity with GBIF. eDNA *12S* results

contained 43 taxa, of which 33 were Teleosti and the remainder were other vertebrates (leopard shark,

sea otter, sea lion). Of the fish, 23 were resolved to species, with the remainder resolved to genus or

family (Table S7). Silversides (Atherinopsidae) were identified in eDNA but sequences were matched to

a genus not known in California, *Odontesthes*. We checked the *12S* reference DNA database, and

noticed it only contained four Atherinopsidae genera, and the California grunion genus *Leuresthes* was

missing. As of the date of submission of this manuscript, a *12S* sequence for this genus has yet to be

published in NCBI (April 2019). The grunion genera recorded in GBIF were all missing from the reference

eDNA database, suggesting that gaps in sequencing cause erroneous identification, but GBIF information

helped elucidate this problem. In a few cases, eDNA could only identify a taxon to genus, such as

Xiphister, but of the 71 fish species recorded from Pillar Point in GBIF, there was only a single species in

this genus inventoried, the black prickleback *Xiphister atropurpureus*, providing a candidate source

species for the DNA signal. Of the species-level eDNA identifications, twelve species were in GBIF with

observations from within the Pillar Point area polygons, and eleven species were in GBIF and observed

in California but not observed at Pillar Point (Table S14), suggesting that because intertidal observations

are limited to low tides and sight range, GBIF fish observations may represent a more narrow

spatiotemporal window than eDNA, and eDNA may fill in gaps of which species visit the reef at periods

of inundation.

The most common GBIF observations were families Polyceridae (Mollusca) for Animalia, Laminariaceae

(Ochrophyta) for Chromista, Ramalinaceae (Ascomycota) for Fungi, Asteraceae (Thacheophyta) for

Plantae. These were not the same as the most frequently observed taxa in eDNA results in those

kingdoms: Campanulariidae (Cnidaria) for Animalia, Thraustochytriaceae (Pseudofungi) for Chromista,

Glomeraceae (Glomeromycota) for Fungi, and Gigartinaceae (Rhodophyta) for Plantae. These

differences in dominant taxa suggest eDNA and GBIF are very different lenses to explore biodiversity.

We note that for both datasets, most commonly observed does not equal most common: for

photographs, it means more photographs of these taxa have been shared, and for eDNA, it means more

samples had DNA from those taxa, and release of DNA into the environment may vary among taxa. The

Common Taxa tab shows which taxa are shared between datasets. We were surprised that the

Campanulariidae were never identified in GBIF data from the bay, despite their frequency in iNaturalist

observations in other parts of California (GBIF.org; not shown). GBIF records did show observations for a

taxon in the same order (Leptothecata), but were all for *Aglaophenia latirostris*. This gap in observations

suggests there is capacity to observe broader biodiversity with more overlap with eDNA, but this may

require restructuring survey events to generate interest and capacity to notice species.

GBIF and eDNA analyses detected different aspects of biodiversity, with eDNA detecting 82 phyla and

GBIF detecting 19 phyla (Figure 1D). The *Taxonomy Comparison* tab allows users to explore the extent of

common taxa at the different phylogenetic levels using Venn diagrams (Figure 1E; Figure S6). With

increased taxonomic resolution, the concordance between eDNA and GBIF is diminished (Figure 1D).

The family level provided the greatest overlap. Only 48 species-level assignments were common to both

eDNA and GBIF. Nonetheless, much could be learned from overlapping taxa (see below).

For example, by comparing frequencies of observation and using the GBIF website (GBIF.org), we were

able to develop hypotheses for why the Bay Ghost Shrimp (genus *Neotrypaea*) was observed more by

photographs than with eDNA (Figure 1C). Specifically, we hypothesized that the Bay Ghost Shrimp was

more populous or widespread at other times of the year when we did not sample for eDNA (i.e. outside

of February and April 2017). GBIF records showed the bulk of observations are in May (n=1701) and June

(n=918) while fewer than 25 observations were in each of the other calendar months (Figure S7). This

suggests that it may be possible that the early year collections of our eDNA sampling was why we did

not observe widespread signals. The shrimp may move to deeper sediments in the winter, or recruit

each year. We also observed the inverse pattern for the Star Barnacles (family Chthamalidae; Figure 1C).

We detected eDNA signals in all zones, but GBIF data only showed them in the unprotected tidepool

zone This may be simply explained by limitations to photograph the adults in the rocky sublittoral zone,

or alternatively, that during their larval dispersal phase their planktonic microscopic cyprid larvae are

wide spread but are impossible to see in the absence of a plankton tow. Barnacles may also be so

common that they are not charismatic to photograph, and this is evidence of human preference. We

note that barnacles were not species intentionally surveyed by the volunteers coordinated by CAS.

3.8. eDNA fills a gap in GBIF-based biodiversity surveys

GBIF data were too sparse in the SMCA to fairly assess alpha and beta diversity (e.g. Figure 1E). Based on

eDNA, we expected that the taxon richness should at least mirror the unprotected polygon. The Area

Diversity Table form shows only 103 unique taxa were in the protected SMCA according to GBIF,

compared to 520 in the adjacent unprotected tidepools, which is where iNaturalist CAS citizen science

activities were concentrated. In contrast, eDNA results limited to the main kingdoms inventoried in GBIF

(Animalia, Chromista, and Plantae) had similar taxon richness for adjacent regions: 1210 taxa in the

SMCA and 1546 in the unprotected tidepools (see *Area Diversity* tab).

We then ask if eDNA may help link compositionally similar sites, and chose to examine sites that

clustered within the SMCA samples in eDNA beta diversity ordination plots (Figure 2; Figure S8). The site

that consistently clustered tightly and with SMCA samples regardless of marker was PP184-B1 (syn

K0184-LB-S1; https://data.ucedna.com/samples/792). This single site had ~100 animal taxa, including

cabezon, cormorant, mussels, and ostracods. While it was beyond our capacity to follow replicate GBIF

work in the SMCA site and test if these sites are similar using other biodiversity metrics, we propose

multi-locus compositional similarity as an eDNA approach to find accessible 'surrogate sites' for difficult

to access areas.

3.9. GBIF taxa and eDNA have numerous singletons

Diminishing overlap with higher taxonomic resolution may be partially explained by misidentifications or

rare taxa. Misidentifications can be due to misdiagnosed traits (morphological or DNA sequence). For

both eDNA and GBIF, we plotted site frequencies for taxa found, and found datasets were similar across

the classification levels for Animalia, the only kingdom with sufficient GBIF data to be fairly comparable

(Figure 2). In the eDNA data, 322/742 of species-level taxa were found in only one of the 88 sites (43%

singleton species). For GBIF data, 148/566 of species observations were single occurrences (26%

singleton species). Although eDNA has significantly more singletons (z-test, z-score -3.6195; p =

0.00015), singletons occur in over a quarter of species-level inventories in the GBIF dataset. This is a

substantial proportion that may indicate the same resolution limitations as eDNA. For example,

reference databases may be incomplete for both eDNA and GBIF datasets. We also found the large

proportion of singletons in the eDNA results were only apparent for Animalia, Chromista, and Plantae,

suggesting that in other kingdoms, the eDNA classification bias is not as large. The online *Taxonomic*

Frequency tab gives users the capacity to study which taxa are rare or common in results.

3.10. eDNA detects lower trophic levels than photographic observations

We used the GloBI database to explore biotic of interactions of families detected by GBIF and eDNA

observations (Table S13). We compared enrichment in a non-directional GloBI category, 'interacts_with',

which served as a control, to a directional category, 'eats', which served as the test variable. Chi-Square

tests (Table 2) showed the eDNA results contained significantly more taxa that are eaten (X-squared =

139.72, df = 1, p-value < 2.2e-16) suggesting that eDNA detects lower trophic levels. No differences were

found between eDNA and GBIF results for the "interacts_with" term (*p*-value >0.8).

Discussion

We demonstrate that environmental DNA metabarcoding, an emergent citizen and community science

tool, adds rich data on ecology that can also be used in biodiversity assessment. However, eDNA analysis

is not likely to infer the same communities as human observation or biological collection surveys. eDNA

studies such as ours are likely to capture lower trophic levels than photographic observations (Section

3.10), and depending on the local environment, may capture different spatiotemporal scales (Section

3.1). eDNA may reveal genetic diversity that is as yet unclassifiable and underexplored (Tables S4-S7),

and may reveal many novel potential biotic interactions.

Environmental DNA multilocus metabarcoding can also potentially be used to rapidly characterize the

spatiotemporal turnover of a system. However, as a recently developed tool, there are important

considerations about sensitivity. Relying on eDNA-based estimates of local beta diversity to identify

candidate priority conservation areas (da Silva et al., 2018), for instance, is subject to spurious high

scores (Section 3.3). Biotic activities, such as growth, spawning, dispersal, burrowing, or recruitment,

may lead to misestimation of the spatial ranges of taxa (Section 3.7). Information sourced from GBIF,

scientific literature, or taxonomists, along with sufficient DNA barcoding or genome sequencing, is

needed to track misidentification in eDNA datasets (Section 3.4).

The metabarcoding approach, which amplifies and sequences barcode loci from a mixed sample

(Taberlet et al., 2012; 2018), seeks to match DNA reads to reference sequences from voucher specimens

to receive a taxonomic assignment (see Cristescu, 2014 for discussion). DNA barcode reference

databases still have large gaps across phylogenies (see Curd et al., 2019) that limit discovery of their true

taxonomic membership. Moreover, many barcodes lack diagnostic sequence variants for lower

taxonomic assignment (Wolfe et al., 1987). These insufficiencies remain despite decades of generating

DNA barcodes (beginning in 1982; Nanney, 1982; CBOL et al., 2009), and the formation of consortia

designating specific barcodes (Hebert et al., 2003; Hebert and Gregory, 2005; Yao et al., 2010; Schoch et

al., 2012) that have given rise to millions of publicly available sequences (~6.7 millions sequences in the

Barcode of Life Database (BOLD) as of January 11, 2019; boldsystems.org). As natural areas managers

rely on species lists and concrete evidence for inventories, we need to close the data gaps while

broadening our strategies for effective monitoring from the taxon to the system community where

eDNA can be most valuable as tool for ecological research, monitoring and conservation.

Raw observational data from GBIF provide a rich but patchy view of biodiversity in space and time,

because observations are not made systematically and they are subject to human bias and the

technology they use. We are limited by where people can go and by their observational choices and

capacities to take photographs or make collections (Section 3.8). The CAS team is currently developing

tools to manage these biases. Haphazard sampling for eDNA can have the same bias, but with little

effort, systematic sampling events can be organized and executed by volunteers. Accurate identification

is also a potential challenge for iNaturalist as it is for eDNA. For photographic observations, machine

learning algorithms assist the community in identifications, but the computer vision model is limited to

10,000 species currently (https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/computer_vision_demo). Community

experts affirm and revise these identifications, but over half of the species identified in iNaturalist have

fewer than 20 total observations, as a result, there is little comparative data available to corroborate

taxonomic assignments. We found elevated single occurrences of taxa in both eDNA and GBIF datasets,

which may partially be explained by misidentification (Section 3.9; Figure 6). The addition of more data

will be necessary to distinguish rare from misidentified species, as will integration of different kinds of

biodiversity inventories in community platforms such as GBIF. Because of the accessibility of various

data sources on the GBIF platform, we were able to show 11 fish species found with eDNA are first

reports at the beach, as were 76 phyla that had no record in GBIF, which showcases eDNA as a feasible

method to both fill inventory gaps and to include the more challenging branches of the tree of life

(Ruppert et al., 2019).

The pace of change in the science of environmental DNA sequencing and analysis is rapid, which makes

the value of environmental sample collections all the more important. Curatorial resources such as the

Global Genome Biodiversity Network, the NHMLA Diversity Initiative for the Southern California Ocean

(DISCO), and the Genomic Observatories Metadatabase (GeOMe), are helping samples and their

associated metadata remain accessible for future research. As techniques for sequencing and analyzing

eDNA improve, we may soon readily track intraspecific change or genetic diversity that relates to

ecological functions. Projects such as for the Earth BioGenome Project (Lewin et al., 2018) may also use

environmental samples for species discovery critical to fill in the tree of life and enhance reference

databases. Our brief investigation into Ostracoda genetic variants suggests surveying the unprotected

tidepools of Pillar Point are the most likely to have uncataloged species (Appendix 2; Table S8). The

value of eDNA-based ecological community networks (Section 3.6; Figure S5), such as the candidate

holobiomes (Figure 5) they reveal, may also increase as technology and theory improve.

The Pillar Point marsh and inner beach had been graded C-F in the most recent Heal the Bay report card

(2016). While eDNA did show high density of harmful pathogens (Figure 4), we also find a complex,

connected, and extremely diverse environment in both the marsh (highest alpha diversity; dense with

complex life cycle parasites) and inner beach (highest LCBD). Our demonstration of eDNA to catalog the

rich and dynamic biodiversity of this beach provides exciting evidence that there are many 'low hanging

fruit' findings pertinent to both management and to basic research in biodiversity that can be gleaned

from a few days of fieldwork and <\$4000 USD in DNA library preparation and sequencing costs.

One of the major conservation questions arising from this case study unique about concerned defining

and monitoring the unique characteristics of the SMCA. With eDNA, the SMCA was found to harbor high

density of unmonitored groups such as urochordates (Ascidiacea; with known invasive species), marine

flatworms (Polycladida), and a unique assemblage of microbial eukaryotes. However, a dearth of

photographic data contributions meant many priority taxa were not tracked. Although enhancing the

observational data for the SMCA may be possible, our results at least provide a framework for

monitoring the system for perturbation without relying on human observation. We suggest that by using

surrogate sites identified by low eDNA beta diversity (Section 3.8), responses to environmental stress or

change can be measured in heavily surveyed sites, and these can be used to predict the processes

occurring in the SMCA.

The CALeDNA Program is growing its online inventory of California's biodiversity and participants in the

program are encouraged to pair their eDNA sampling with iNaturalist observations. Future directions

will include more case studies that compare both tools with additional biodiversity correlates such as

those from remote sensing data. We will also work toward better understanding the significance of

spatiotemporal trends. It is imperative that CALeDNA and various public and professional biomonitoring

programs work together to cross-inform each other so we can make strategic efforts to promote healthy

biodiversity.

Data Availability

All raw sequence data are available in the NCBI SRA under project *PENDING ACCEPTANCE*. Software

necessary to repeat the analyses are available in DRYAD (https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.mf0126f), which

also contains DNA reference databases for *18S, 12S,* and *16S* markers. The CO1-BOLD reference

database is archived in Zenodo (*PENDING*). All other data needed to replicate the results are included in

supplemental materials.

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Legends for Figures, Supplementary Figures, Supplementary Tables

Figure 1. A-C. Map of the Pillar Point beach with highlighted polygons designating embayment (orange),

unprotected (blue), and protected (red) areas used to group sites. A. The 88 eDNA sites are color coded

by zones. From top right, marsh runoff (blue), unprotected inner beach (grey), unprotected outer beach

(green), unprotected tidepools (red), and protected outer beach (SMCA; pink). B. The 13,942 GBIF

observations, color coded by kingdom, with Animalia (blue), Plantae (green), Fungi (pink), and Chromista

(red). C. Examples of website functions for taxa contained in both eDNA and GBIF datasets. eDNA sites

where a taxon was found are drop pins and GBIF sites where a taxon was found are dots. Bay ghost

shrimp are commonly photographed but eDNA only detected them once. Star barnacles were only

rarely documented in the unprotected tidepools with photographs, but they are found all over the area

by eDNA. D. The total number of unique taxonomic lineages in eDNA, GBIF, or in common. The common

taxa are also included in the plotted totals of each separate database. E. Venn diagrams of overlapping

and unique taxa found in eDNA and GBIF datasets for the total data (All), for the February 2017

collection for eDNA and the month of all February GBIF observations made over all years for which data

was available, and for the April 2017 eDNA collection and April GBIF observations made over all years

data was available. Colors for polygons are consistent with A and scaled to the relative number of taxa

out of the total taxa included in that particular diagram. F. Pie charts of the proportion of unique taxa

inventoried by each method. Photo credits: Monterey Bay Aquarium and Wild Kratts Wiki.

Figure 2. Jaccard distance principal coordinate analysis of eDNA results from the markers *16S, CO1, and*

18S, color coded by zone. Results show seasonal change along Axis 1 in *18S* and *16S*, and similar

clustering of zones across all three markers.

Figure 3. Relative abundance barplots coloring the most frequently observed 21 species. Grey bars

represent the sums of all other taxa. Feb versus April indicate February and April 2017 collection dates.

LCBD = Local Contributions to Beta Diversity. MHT = Mean High Tide line, Low or High indicate whether

the collection was made below or above the MHT.

Figure 4. Heatmap of the eDNA-based taxonomic density within classes found in each zone, normalized

to the total number of sites observed in each zone. Darker shades indicate higher density. Letters

indicate significantly different groupings based on the Dunn post-hoc test, where cells with the same

letter are not significantly different from each other, based on corrected p-values. Only classes with

significant differences from Kruskal-Wallace test results were plotted. We note Crinoidea were removed

because sequences could not be affirmatively identified to be from the class.

Figure 5. Example network of Actiniidae from the *18S* and *16S* joint co-occurrence network (background)

generated with multiSpiecEasi. a = link previously reported in Muller et al. (2018) and GloBI. b = link

previously reported in Weber et al. (2017).

Figure 6 Log$_{10}$ transformed plot of taxon frequency observed in eDNA or GBIF datasets. All taxa were

used if they had been classified minimally to the classification level designated (y-axis). The x-axis is the

number of sites where a taxon was observed. Most observations in GBIF are Animalia. Single

observations are high for both eDNA and GBIF at the levels of families through species, most

pronounced in Animalia.

1002

1003   **Figure S1.** Taxon accumulation curves as increasing reads are retained in rarified datasets. Curves were

1004   used to choose rarefaction settings.

1005

1006   **Figure S2.** Alpha diversity plots calculated using species richness, Simpson's index, and the Shannon

1007   index (H') in a. Only Shannon index is shown in b.

1008

1009   **Figure S3.** Relative abundance barplots coloring the top 21 species. Grouping definitions are in Table S1

1010   and Figure S2.

1011

Figure S4. Plots to interpret skewness of LCBD scores if holobiomes of DNA swamping taxa are left in or

removed from *18S* results. The dependent variables are binary for either swamping or significantly

different LCBD scores from the rest of their groups. The dependent variables are different

representations of the LCBD score range. A. Plot showing the samples with significant LCBD P-values in

original results experienced either an increase in LCBD or a decrease in LCBD when holobiome-reduced

results were used to recalculate LCBD scores. B. Plot showing the majority of 'swamped' samples

experienced a reduction in LCBD when holobiome-reduced results were used to recalculate LCBD. C.

Plot showing the samples that were originally 'swamped' now fall into the distribution range of the bulk

of the samples in the holobiome-reduced LCBD results. D. Plot showing the samples that were originally

'swamped' were distributed above the LCBD of the bulk of the samples in the original LCBD results.

Comparing plots D and C demonstrates reduction of the candidate holobiomes of high abundance taxa

helped the samples that experienced swamping look typical.

1024

1025 **Figure S5.** SpiecEasi network analysis results of families detected by eDNA. Top left is a density plot of

1026 the number of degrees taxa have in each network type. SpiecEasi networks are shown with numbers

1027 corresponding to a family with the key in Table S12. Interactive figures of the networks are available on

1028 the Pillar Point website.

1029

1030 **Figure S6.** Degree of overlapping taxa among polygons. Circle sizes are scaled to the number of taxa.

1031

1032 **Figure S7.** Excerpt from the GBIF website of observation frequency over months of the year.

1033

1034 **Figure S8.** Ordination plots as in Figure 2 but with sample names as labels. PP184-B1 is the unprotected

1035 tidepool sample that is closest to the SMCA samples in both *16S* and *18S* datasets.

1036

1037   **Table 1.** Features of the project website, https://data.ucedna.com/research_projects/pillar-point

Website Tab	Function
Intro	Introduces the CALeDNA and GBIF data, and shows the location of the data points on a map of Pillar Point
Occurrence Comparison	Shows the distribution of total presence counts of a taxon in eDNA results or in GBIF observations.
GBIF Sources	Depicts data distribution from iNaturalist vs other contributions
GBIF Taxonomy	Shows the GBIF taxa, whether they are in the NCBI database, and whether they have an eDNA result that matches
Common Taxa	Lists taxa at each classification level that overlap, showing datapoints on the Pillar Point map
Area Diversity	Presents filterable comparisons of unique and common taxa found among the three polygons for eDNA and GBIF dataset
Taxonomy Comparison	Displays Venn diagrams of filterable unique and common taxa between eDNA and GBIF results
Detection Frequency	Presents a filterable sorted list of frequency of occurrences for all taxa in a classification level
Networks	Displays interactive co-occurrence networks at the family level
Biotic Interactions	Presents species frequently observed at Pillar Point with iNaturalist, the known biotic interactions and whether interacting taxa were in GBIF or eDNA datasets

1038

1039

1040   **Table 2.** Number of observations of taxa within GBIF and eDNA datasets included in the Global Biotic

1041   Interactions database, that were used in Chi-Square tests (see main text).

Dataset	Source Eats	Target of Eats	Source Interacts	Target Interacts
GBIF (n=375)	5368 (179 unique)	4690 (262 unique)	3906 (223 unique)	4102 (245 unique)
eDNA (n=1371)	5030 (294 unique)	6091 (444 unique)	4523 (381 unique)	4514 (442 unique)

1042

1043   **Table S1.** eDNA sample metadata

1044

1045   **Table S2.** GBIF data for the three polygons

1046

1047   **Table S3.** Comparison of CO1 settings

1048

1049   **Table S4.** eDNA decontaminated results for *16S* marker

1050

1051   **Table S5.** eDNA decontaminated results for the *18S* marker

1052

1053   **Table S6.** Raw Anacapa output from MiSeq runs and eDNA decontaminated results for the *CO1* marker

1054

1055   **Table S7.** eDNA decontaminated results for the *12S* marker

1056

1057   **Table S8.** Genetic diversity analysis of eDNA results for Ostracods

1058

1059   **Table S9.** ANOSIM results from Raup and Jaccard beta diversity analyses

1060

1061   **Table S10.** Local Contribution to Beta Diversity scores

1062

1063   **Table S11.** Density enrichment test results and statistics

1064

1065   **Table S12.** Family co-occurrence networks

1066

1067   **Table S13.** Global Biotic Interactions data and results

1068

1069

D. Taxa reported at Pillar Point by eDNA and GBIF data

Overlap · GBIF · eDNA

Taxa	Overlap	GBIF	eDNA
Species	48	726	4631
Genera	93	563	2684
Families	127	357	1388
Orders	103	156	648
Classes	40	43	235
Phyla	19	19	82

C. Genus *Neotrypaea*: Bay Ghost Shrimp

Family Chthamalidae: Star Barnacles

E. eDNA: All, Feb, April

GBIF:

F. eDNA   GBIF

Animalia · Archaea · Bacteria · Chromista · Fungi · Plantae · Protozoa

MONTH	FEB	FEB	APRIL	APRIL	FEB	APRIL	APRIL	APRIL	APRIL
POLYGON	EMB	EMB	EMB	EMB	UNP	UNP	UNP	PROT	PROT
MHT	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW

18S

16S

LCBD
- 0.01
- 0.02
- 0.03
- 0.04

18S

LCBD
- 0.01
- 0.02
- 0.03
- 0.04
- 0.05

16S

Taxa
- Eukaryota.Miozoa.Dinophyceae.Gymnodiniales.Gymnodiniaceae.Amphidinium.Amphidinium.corpulentum
- Eukaryota.Ochrophyta.Bacillariophyceae.Naviculales.Naviculaceae.Navicula.
- Eukaryota.Nematoda.Enoplea.Enoplida.Oncholaimidae.Pontonema.Pontonema.vulgare
- Eukaryota.Ochrophyta.Bacillariophyceae.Bacillariales.Bacillariaceae..
- Eukaryota.Cnidaria.Anthozoa.Actiniaria.Actiniidae..
- Eukaryota.Bacillariophyta.Coscinodiscophyceae.Thalassiosirales.Thalassiosiraceae.Thalassiosira.
- Eukaryota.Bacillariophyta.Coscinodiscophyceae.Thalassiosirales.Thalassiosiraceae.Minidiscus.
- Eukaryota.Annelida.Polychaeta.Spionida.Spionidae.Rhynchospio.Rhynchospio.glutaea
- Eukaryota.Ochrophyta.Bacillariophyceae....
- Eukaryota.Cercozoa.Thecofilosea.Cryomonadida.Rhogostomidae.Rhogostoma.Rhogostoma.schuessleri
- Eukaryota.Ochrophyta.Bacillariophyceae.Naviculales...
- Eukaryota.Ciliophora.Phyllopharyngea.Chlamydodontida.Chlamydodontidae.Chlamydodon.
- Eukaryota.Miozoa.Dinophyceae....
- Eukaryota.Cercozoa.Imbricatea.Euglyphida.Ovulinatidae.Ovulinata.Ovulinata.parva
- Eukaryota.Rhodophyta.Florideophyceae.Corallinales.Corallinaceae..
- Eukaryota.Miozoa.Dinophyceae.Gymnodiniales.Gymnodiniaceae..
- Eukaryota.Ochrophyta.Oomycetes.Lagenidiales.Lagenidiaceae.Lagenidium.Lagenidium.giganteum
- Eukaryota.Ciliophora.Nassophorea.Synhymeniida.Orthodonellidae.Zosterodasys.Zosterodasys.agamalievi
- Eukaryota.Ciliophora.Nassophorea.Synhymeniida.Orthodonellidae..
- Eukaryota.Platyhelminthes.Trematoda.Plagiorchiida.Monorchiidae.Monorchis.
- Eukaryota.Rhodophyta.Florideophyceae.Palmariales.Palmariaceae.Palmaria.Palmaria.palmata
- Others

Taxa
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Gammaproteobacteria....
- Archaea.Thaumarchaeota..Nitrosopumilales.Nitrosopumilaceae.Nitrosopumilus.
- Bacteria.Bacteroidetes.Flavobacteriia.Flavobacteriales.Flavobacteriaceae..
- Bacteria.Bacteroidetes.Flavobacteriia.Flavobacteriales.Flavobacteriaceae.Maribacter.Maribacter.polysiphoniae
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Alphaproteobacteria.Rhodobacterales.Rhodobacteraceae..
- Bacteria.Bacteroidetes.Flavobacteriia.Flavobacteriales.Flavobacteriaceae..Flavobacteriaceae.bacterium.L.1.11
- Bacteria.Bacteroidetes.Flavobacteriia.Flavobacteriales.Flavobacteriaceae.Lutimonas.
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Gammaproteobacteria.Vibrionales.Vibrionaceae.Vibrio.
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Alphaproteobacteria.Rhodobacterales.Hyphomonadaceae..
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Gammaproteobacteria....gamma.proteobacterium.alk8
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Gammaproteobacteria....Olavius.algarvensis.Gamma.3.endosymbiont
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Deltaproteobacteria.Desulfobacterales.Desulfobulbaceae..
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Gammaproteobacteria.Thiotrichales.Thiotrichaceae.Cocleimonas.Cocleimonas.flava
- Eukaryota.Bacillariophyta.....
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Deltaproteobacteria....
- Bacteria.Planctomycetes.Planctomycetia.Planctomycetales.Planctomycetaceae..
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Gammaproteobacteria.Chromatiales...
- Bacteria.Bacteroidetes.Saprospiria.Saprospirales...
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Gammaproteobacteria.Chromatiales.Granulosicoccaceae.Granulosicoccus.
- Bacteria.Actinobacteria.Acidimicrobiia....Acidimicrobidae.bacterium.YM18.244
- Bacteria.Proteobacteria.Gammaproteobacteria.Thiotrichales.Thiotrichaceae..
- Others

Class	Marsh runoff	Protected outer beach	Unprotected inner beach	Unprotected outer beach	Unprotected tidepool	
Polycladida	a	b	a	a	a	Animalia
Ascidiacea	a	b	a	ab	a	
Appendicularia	a	b	a	a	b	
Polyplacophora	a	b	a	a	b	
Mammalia	a	ab	a	ab	a	
Echinoidea	ab	c	a	a	a	
Trematoda	a	b	ab	a	a	
Anthozoa	a	b	b	b	b	
Demospongiae	ab	ab	a	ab	a	
Ostracoda	ab	ab	a	a	ab	
Neoophora	a	ab	ab	a	b	
Scyphozoa	ab	ab	b	b	b	
Chromadorea	a	b	a	a	ab	
Gastropoda	a	ab	b	ab	b	
Thermoplasmata	a	b	a	ab	b	Archaea
Nitrososphaeria	ab	a	b	ab	b	
Fusobacteria	a	b	a	a	a	
Nitriliruptoria	ab	c	a	a	bc	Bacteria
Halobacteria	a	b	ab	a	a	
Ignavibacteria	a	b	a	a	a	
Sphingobacteria	ab	a	ab	a	a	
Zetaproteobacteria	a	a	ab	a	a	
Rhodothermia	a	ab	a	a	b	
Bacilli	a	b	a	a	b	
Spirochaetia	a	b	a	ab	a	
Bacteroidia	a	a	b	a	a	
Spartobacteria	a	a	b	a	b	
Caldilineae	a	b	a	a	a	
Clostridia	a	b	b	a	a	
Caldithrichae	ab	b	a	a	bc	
Deferribacteres	a	cd	a	c	bd	
Bicoecea	a	b	c	abc	bc	Chromista
Centrohelea	a	b	b	a	ab	
Phaeophyceae	a	b	b	a	a	
Polycystinea	a	b	ab	a	a	
Mediophyceae	a	a	a	b	a	
Globothalamea	a	a	a	b	a	
Pavlovophyceae	a	ab	b	a	a	
Oligohymenophorea	a	ab	b	a	a	
Perkinsea	a	a	b	a	a	
Pelagophyceae	a	a	b	a	a	
Heterotrichea	a	a	b	a	a	
Phyllopharyngea	a	a	a	a	a	
Telonemea	a	b	b	a	a	
Gregarinasina	a	b	bc	ac	b	
Plagiopylea	a	a	b	ab	a	
Cryptophyceae	a	b	a	b	b	
Labyrinthulea	a	b	ac	b	bc	
Basidiobolomycetes	ab	a	b	a	a	Fungi
Tremellomycetes	a	b	a	a	a	
Pyramimonadophyceae	a	bc	b	ac	abc	Plantae
Compsopogonophyceae	a	b	a	b	b	
Ulvophyceae	a	b	b	a	a	
Rhodellophyceae	a	b	b	a	a	
Bangiophyceae	a	ab	b	a	a	
Trebouxiophyceae	a	b	b	a	a	
Zygnemophyceae	a	ac	b	ac	c	
Chlorodendrophyceae	a	a	b	b	b	
Lobosa	a	b	a	ab	b	Protozoa
Thecomonadea	a	b	b	a	b	
Choanoflagellata	a	b	b	a	b	
Ichthyosporea	a	b	b	a	b	
Tubulinea	a	b	b	a	b	

Clostridiales

Ulvellaceae

Lagenidiaceae

Ignavibacteriaceae

Oithonidae

Actiniidae

Peronosporaceae

18S 16S

Chlorodendraceae

Erythrotrichiaceae

Palmariaceae

Paracalanidae

a

Chordariaceae

Rubritaleaceae

b

Symbiodiniaceae

Frequency in Pillar Point samples