

# Welcome to the Benthic HABs Workgroup Webinar

January 29, 2020- 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time

**Web Meeting Address:** <https://usace.webex.com/meet/jade.l.young>

**Meeting Number:** 968 579 710

**Phone Number:** 1-888-363-4735

**Access Code:** 970 309 8

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**GUEST SPEAKER: ZACHARIAS SMITH**

**SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND METHODS FOR THE DETECTION OF PARALYTIC SHELLFISH  
TOXINS PRODUCED BY *MICROSEIRA (LYNGBYA) WOLLEI* IN NEW YORK STATE LAKES**

# ITEM I

Welcome, Introductions &  
Agenda Overview  
*Margaret Spoo-Chupka*



# AGENDA

## I Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Overview

*Margaret Spoo-Chupka*

## II Summary of CDC One Health HAB Surveillance Call

*Margaret Spoo-Chupka*

## III Presentation: Spatial Distribution and Methods for the Detection of Paralytic Shellfish Toxins Produced by *Microseira (Lyngbya) wollei* in New York State Lake

*Guest Speaker – Zacharias Smith*

## IV Follow up to Membership Survey Results – Setting up Networking Groups

*Jade L. Young*

## V Open Discussion & Meetings

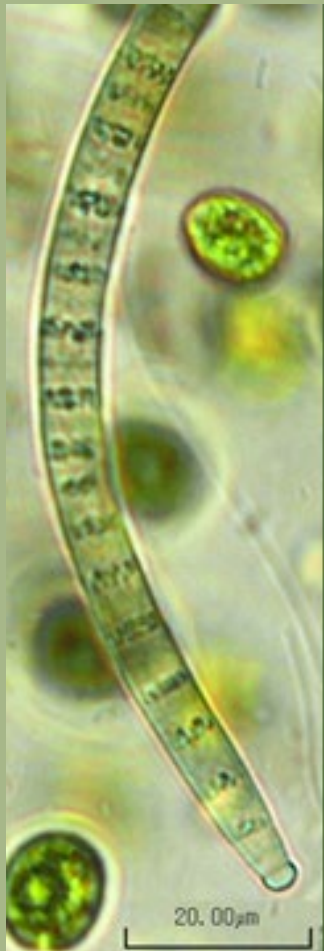
*Christine Joab*



# ITEM II

## Summary of CDC One Health HAB Surveillance Call

*Margaret Spoo-Chupka*



### Benthic CyanoHABs

#### Benthic HABs Discussion Workgroup:

**Margaret Spoo-Chupka,**  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Christine Joab,  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CA)

Jade Young,  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District (KY)



K. Bouma-Gregson



K. Bouma-Gregson



K. Bouma-Gregson



# ITEM II

## RESOURCES SHARED FROM CDC MEETING

MARGARET SPOO-CHUPKA

- California

- Visual guide: [https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/what/visualguide\\_fs.pdf](https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/what/visualguide_fs.pdf)
- Visual guide SOP: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B40pxPC5g-D0R2QtUVZhYzNIaXc/view>
- FAQs for pets, livestock, and HABs:  
[https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/resources/domestic\\_animals.html](https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/resources/domestic_animals.html)
- HAB Portal: <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/index.html>

- Wisconsin

- Illness forms: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/bg-algae/index.htm>

## ITEM III

### **GUEST PRESENTATION:**

Spatial Distribution and Methods  
for the Detection of Paralytic  
Shellfish Toxins Produced by  
*Microseira (Lyngbya) wollei*  
in New York State Lakes

*Zacharias Smith*





**Spatial Distribution and Methods for the Detection  
of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Toxins Produced by  
*Microseira (Lyngbya) wollei* in New York State Lakes**

Zacharias J. Smith, Ph.D

Applied Sciences, Ramboll  
State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
Syracuse, New York  
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# Benthic Cyanobacteria - *Phormidium*

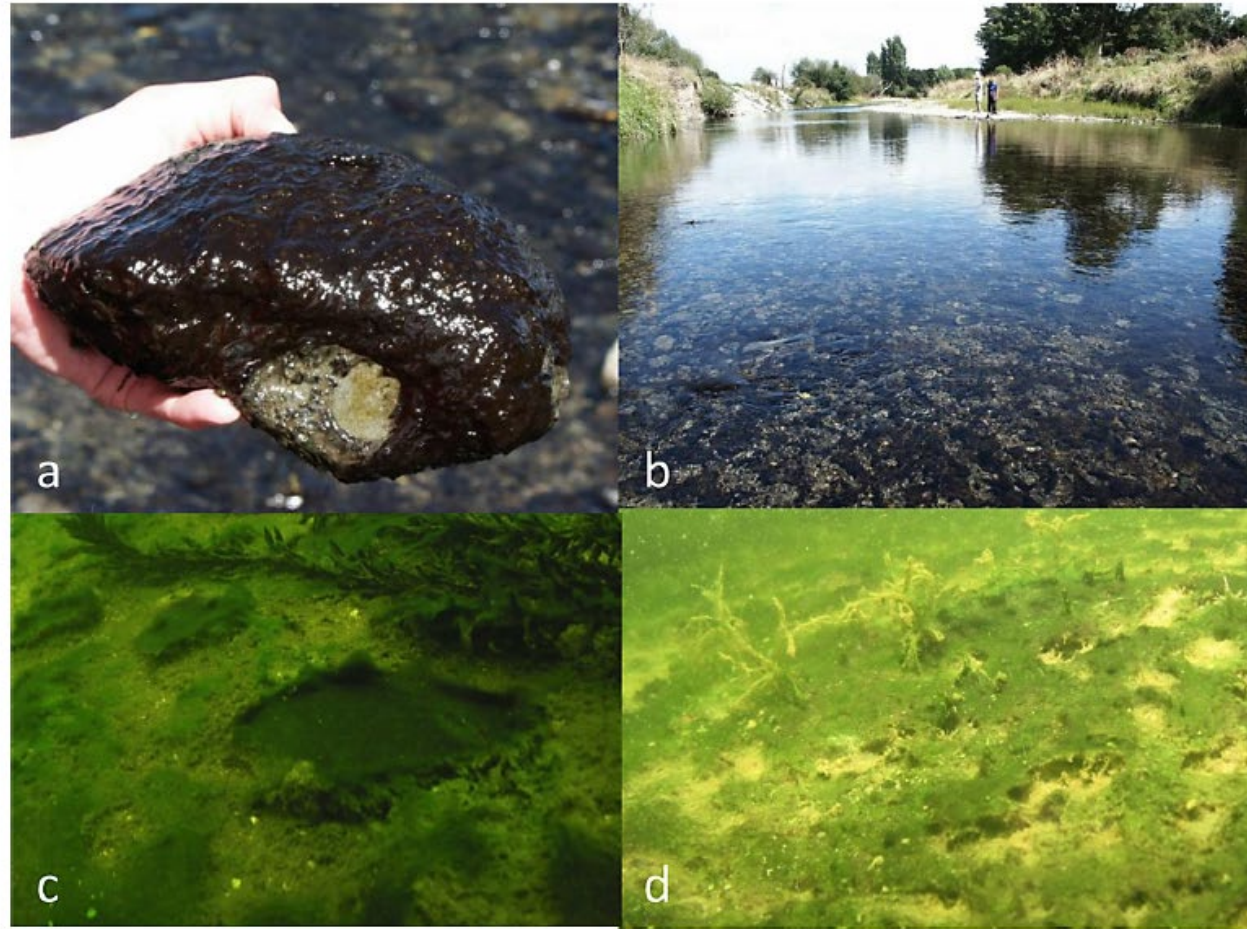
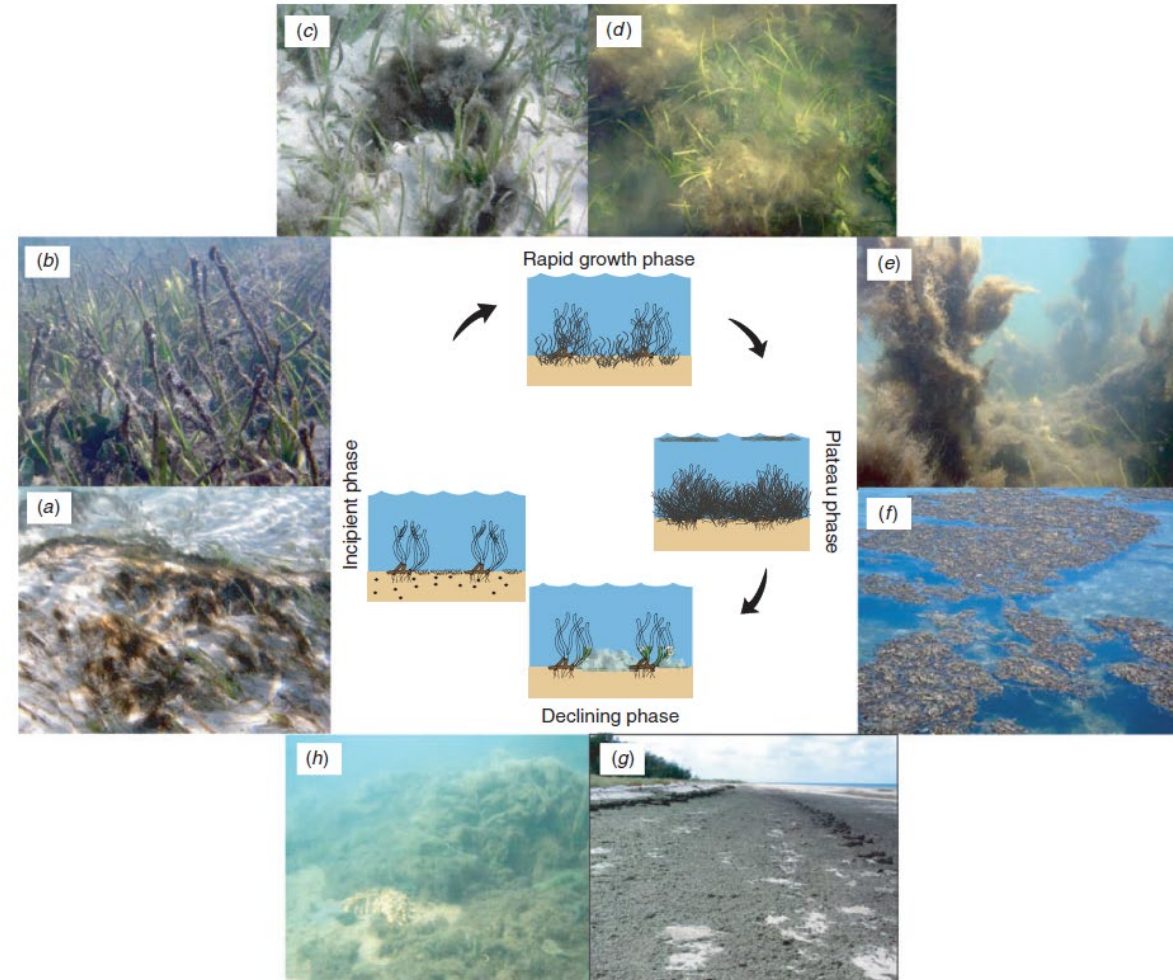
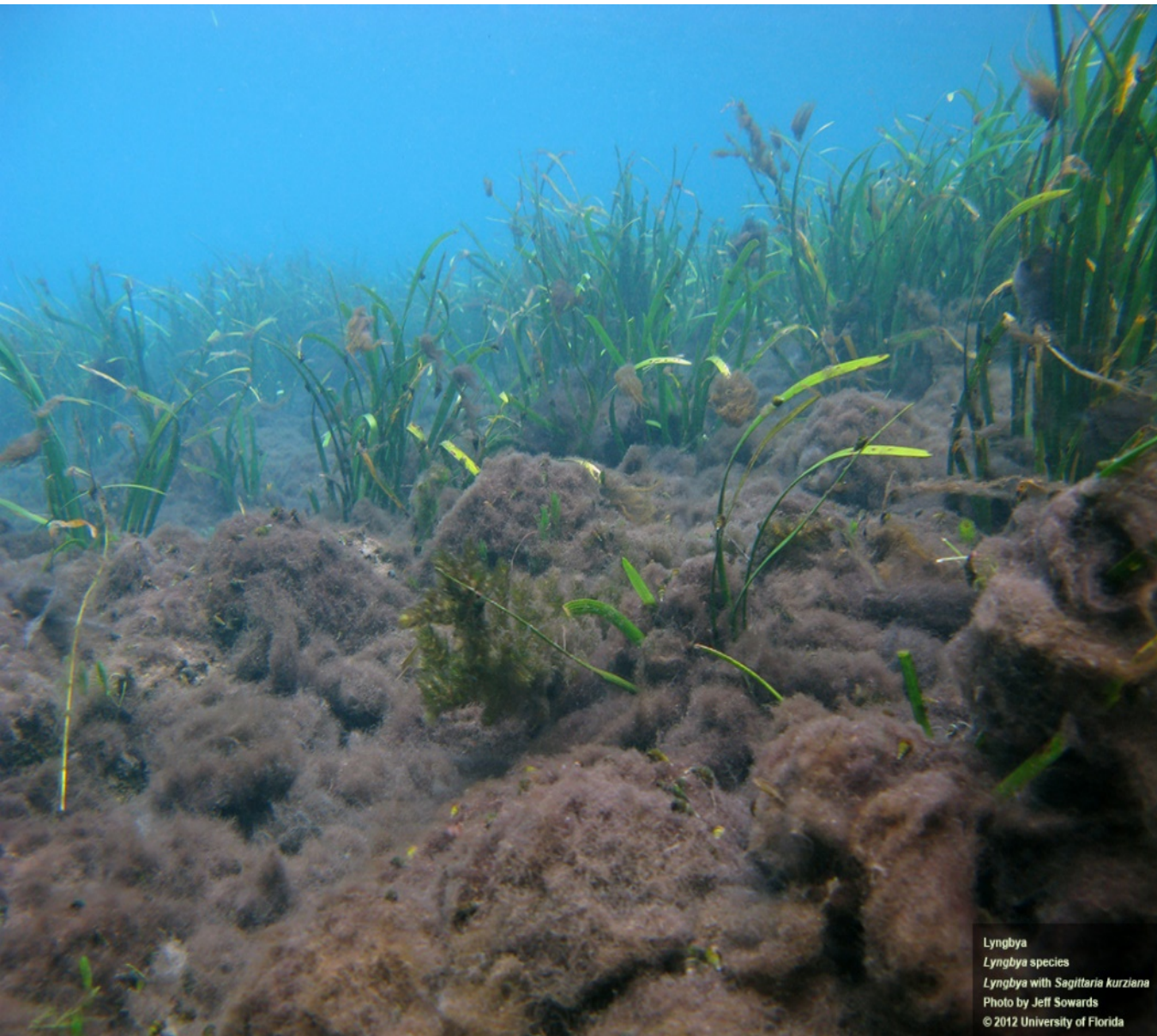


Fig. 1 – (a,b) *Phormidium* mats in the Waipoua River (North Island, New Zealand). Benthic mats in (c) Lake Rotoiti, (d) Lake Okareka (North Island, New Zealand). Photographers: a,b, Susie Wood (Cawthron, New Zealand); c,d, Rohan Wells (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, New Zealand).



# *Microseira* (*Lyngbya*)

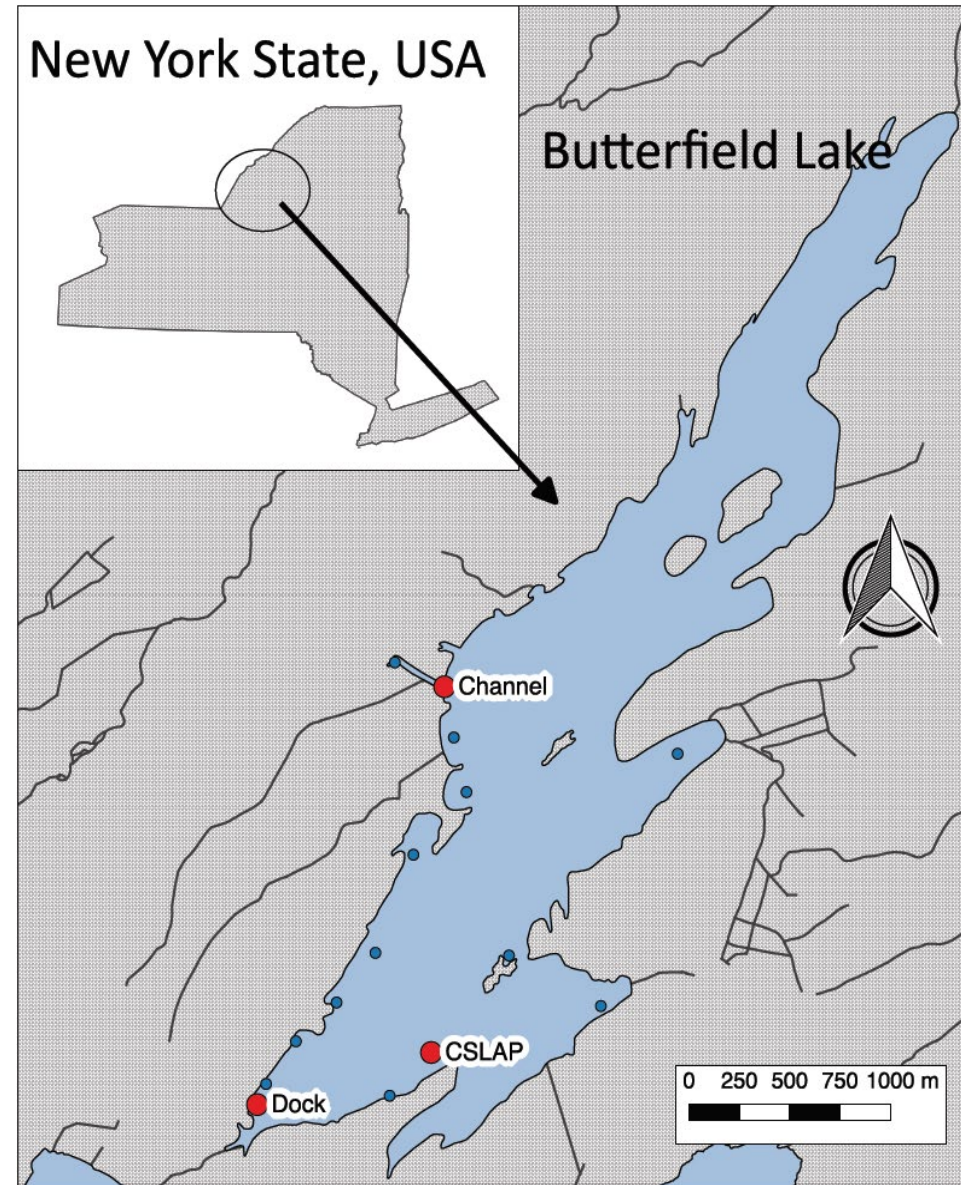


Marine *Microseira* off the coast of Queensland, Australia  
Ahern et al., Mapping the distribution of, biomass, and  
tissue nutrient levels..., 2007

# Butterfield Lake



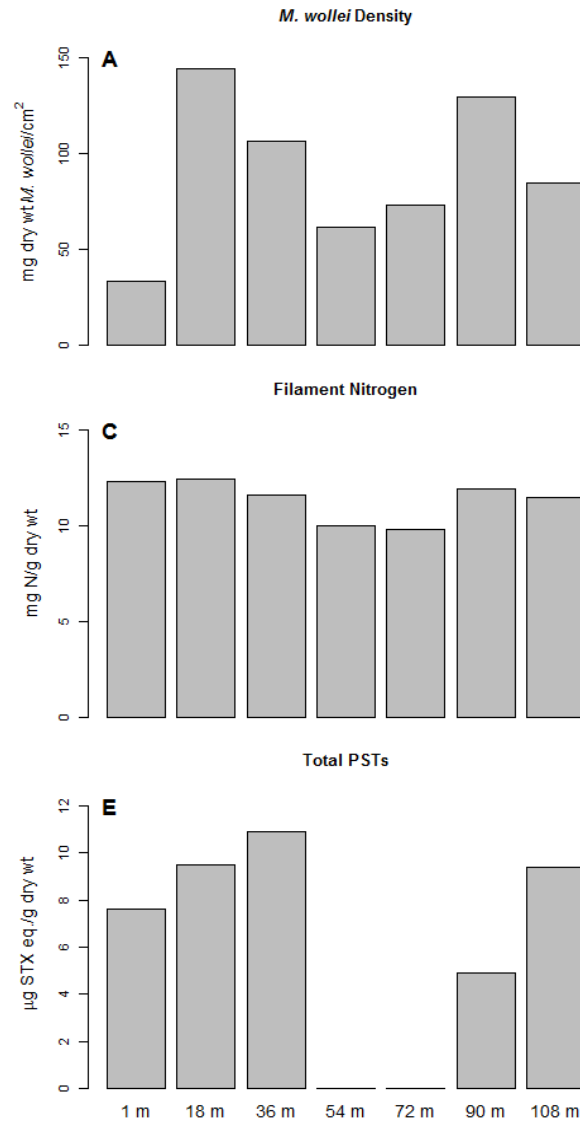
# Sampling Sites in Butterfield Lake



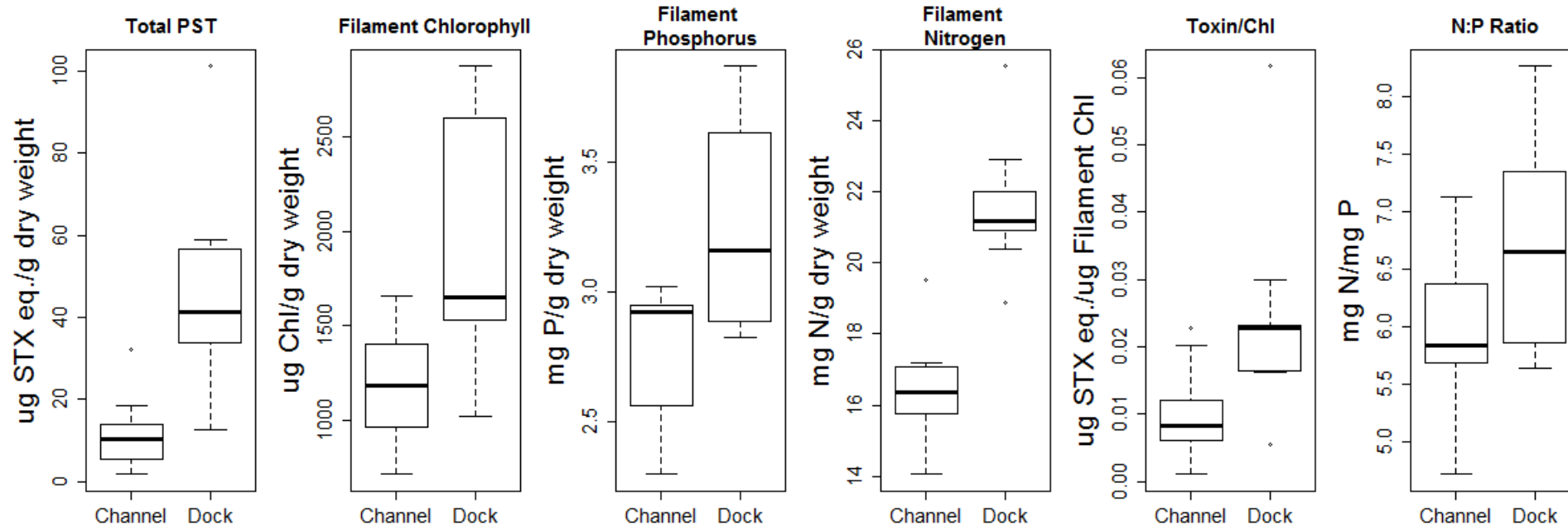
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# Variability of *Microseira* Along the Channel



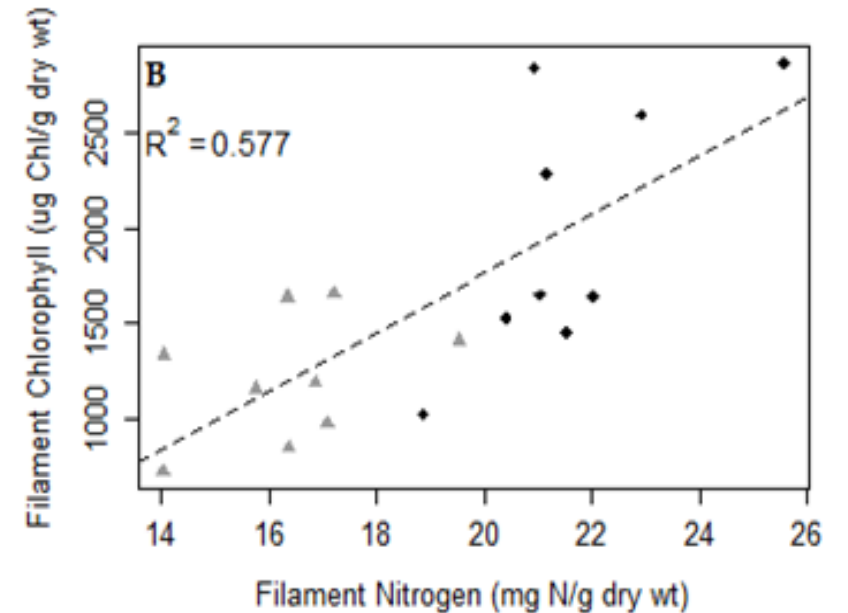
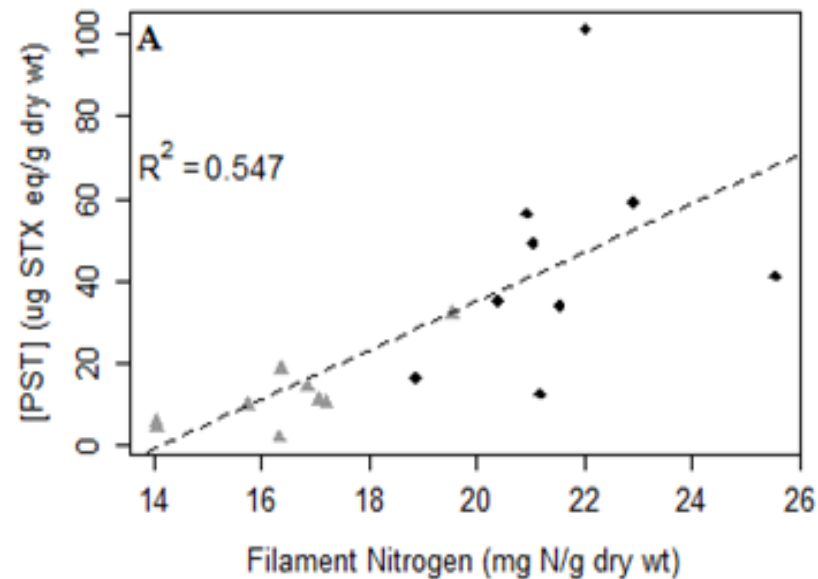
# *M. wollei* at the Channel & Dock



Six parameters measured in *Microseira wollei* filaments collected biweekly at the Channel and Dock sites in 2017.

# Chl & PSTs Relationships Varied between Sites

- Some relationships were simple, such as those between filament nitrogen and either chlorophyll or PST content



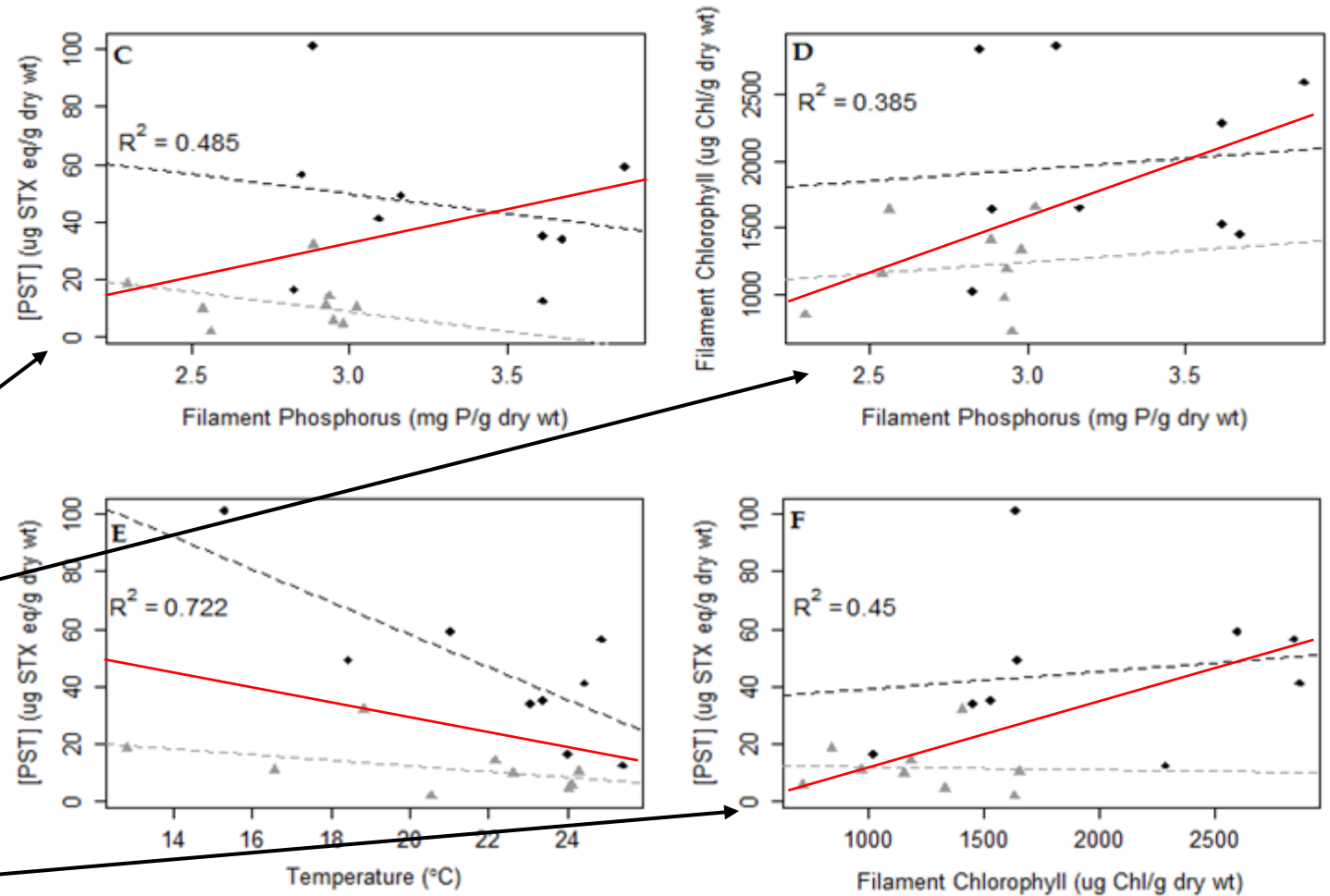
# Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) or Dummy Variable Regression

- ANCOVA tests whether the slopes and intercepts between two lines are significantly different

- Site was important for both PSTs and Chl

- But it was not the same in all cases

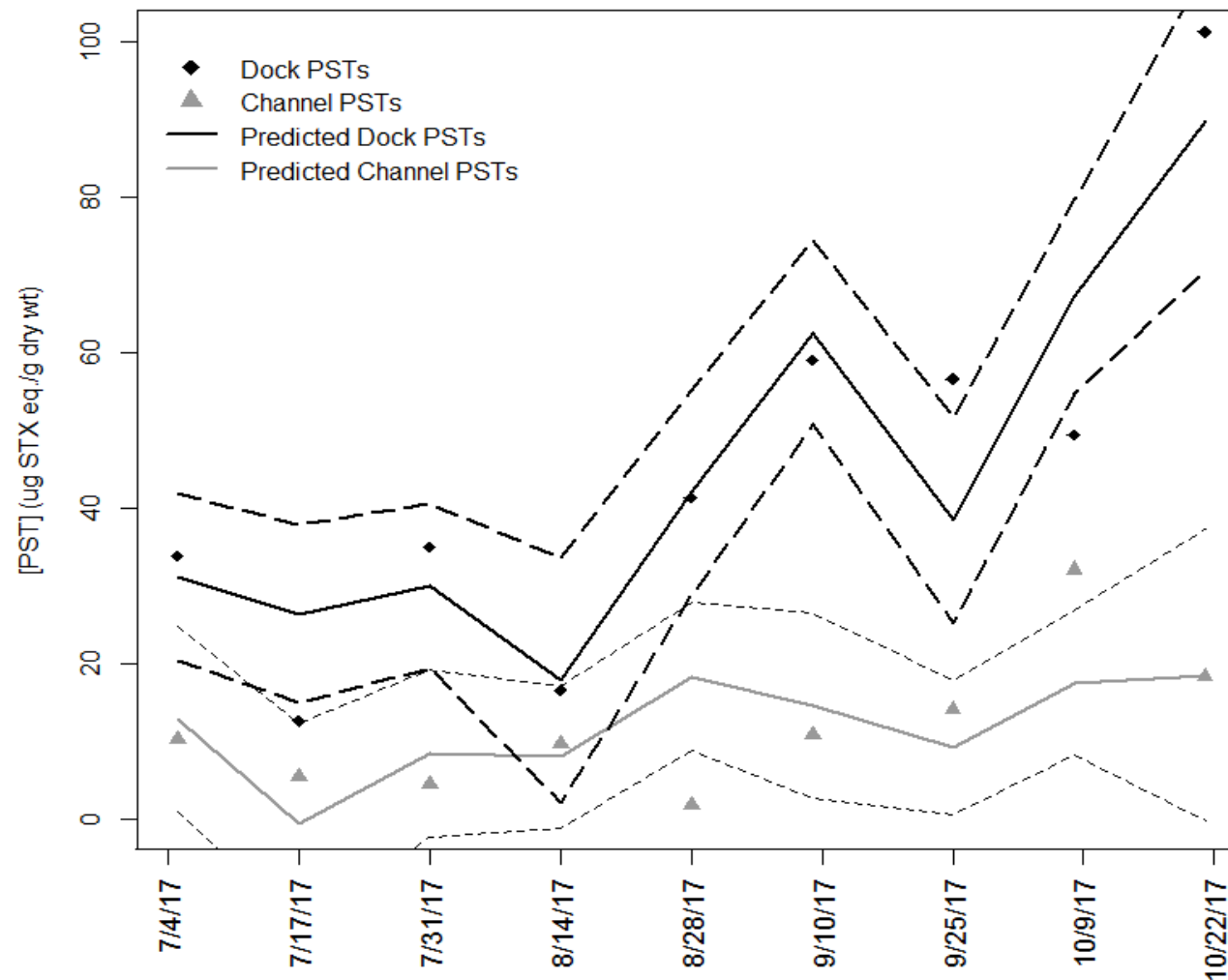
- Regression without evaluating site as a predictor could produce misleading conclusions





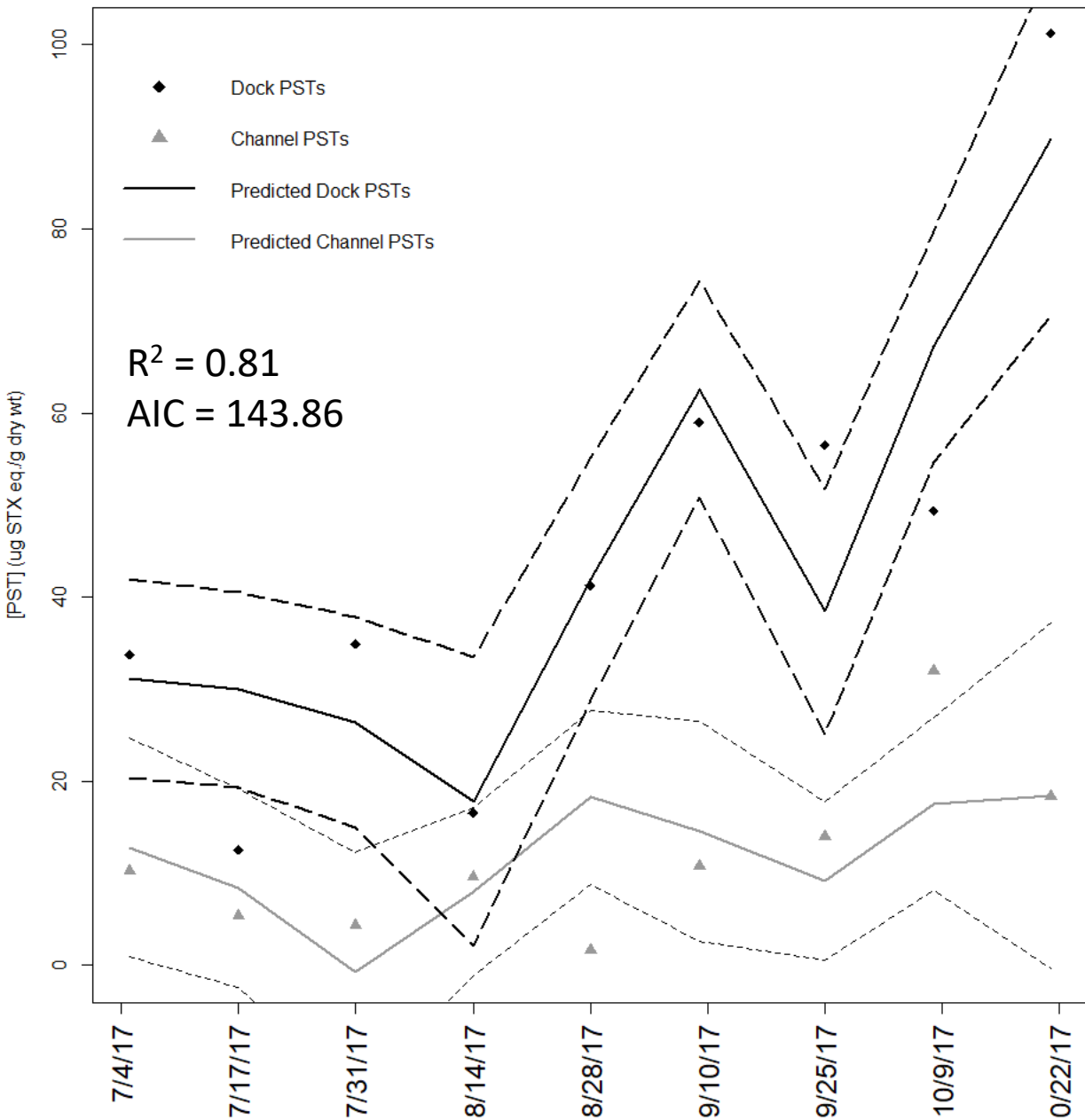
# Multiple Regression for PSTs

- Temperature was crucial in explaining the differences in toxin between the sites
- Nutrient terms were not included in the model
- Some points fell outside the 95% CI, did not measure all parameters (PAR)

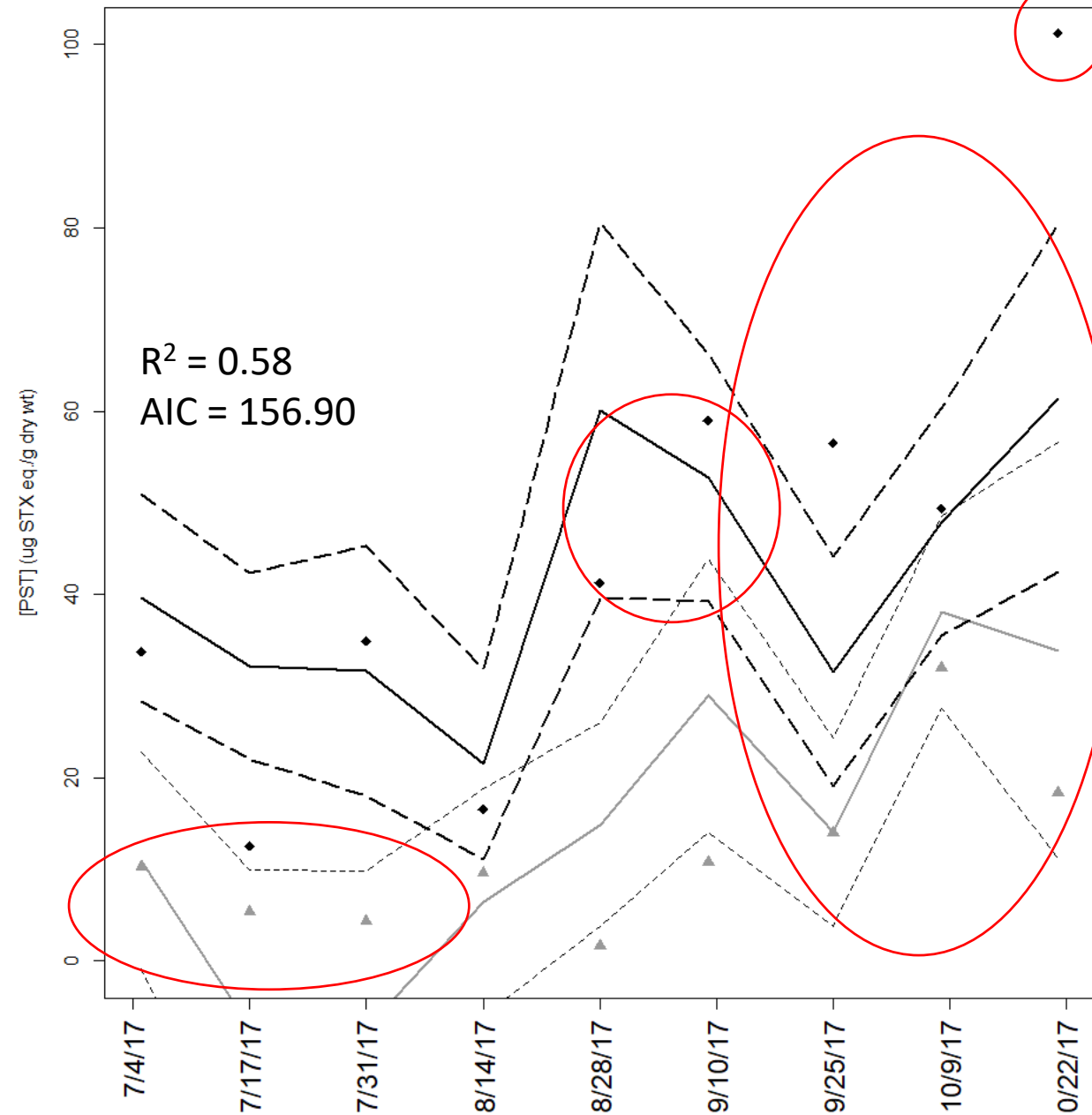


$$\text{Model: [PSTs]} = [\text{chlorophyll}] + (\text{temperature} * \text{site})$$

### Original Model (with Temperate/Site Interaction)



### Example Model (No Site or Site Interaction) Model: PSTs = Temperature + Nitrogen Content



# Benthic PSTs in Butterfield Lake

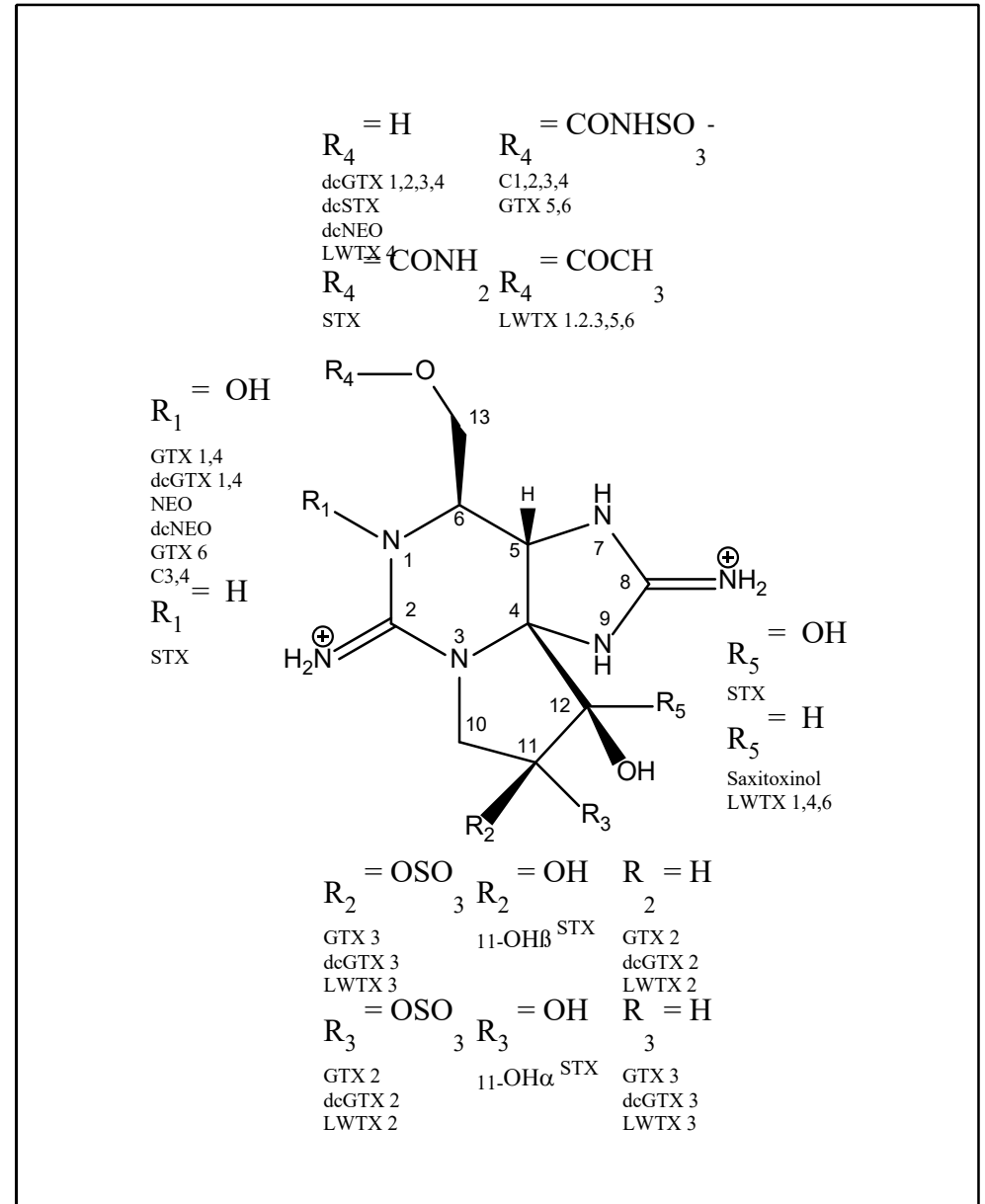
- *M. wollei* were not distributed evenly, where mats were found at 2/15 sites, nor were the cyanobacteria mats distributed evenly at the two sites
  - Presence may have been related to competition with plants
  - Identifying sites containing *Microseira* in lakes with low water clarity is a significant challenge
- PST abundance was site specific and changed over time
- Temperature was not necessarily a driver, as it may correlate with other parameters (e.g. PAR)
- *M. wollei* were N deficient (N:P ~ 6-7) in a heavily P deficient lake (N:P ~ 40)
  - Likely source of P was from sediments

# Paralytic Shellfish Toxins (PSTs)

- >60 different variants
- Wide range in toxicity
  - Saxitoxin LD-50  
10 ug/kg (i.p.)
  - C-toxins and LWTXs  
~10-10,000x less toxic

- Multiple Detection Methods

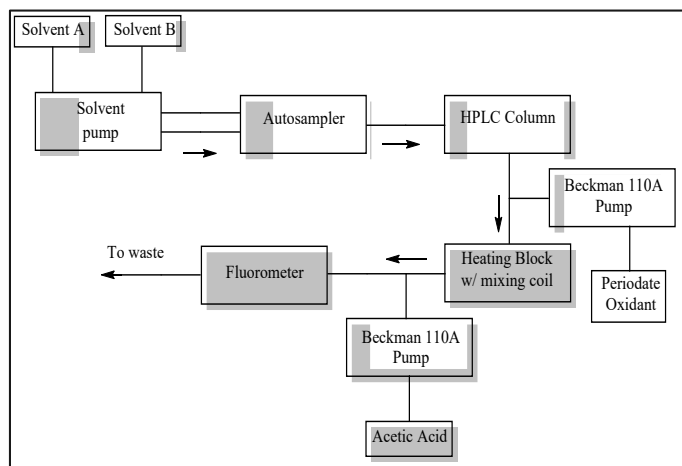
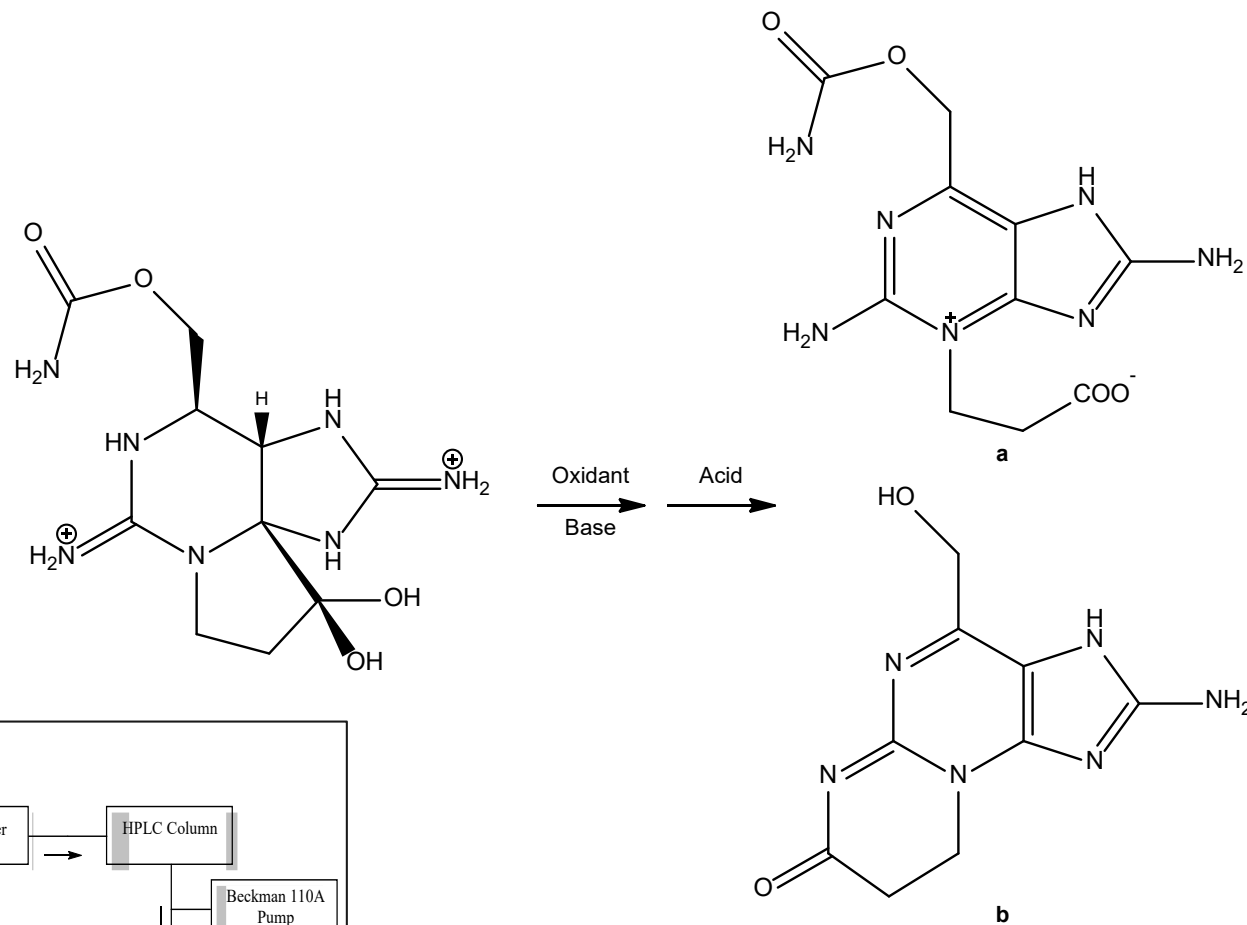
- Receptor Binding Assay
  - ELISA
  - Fluorescence
  - Mass Spectrometry
- } “Untargeted”
- } “Targeted”



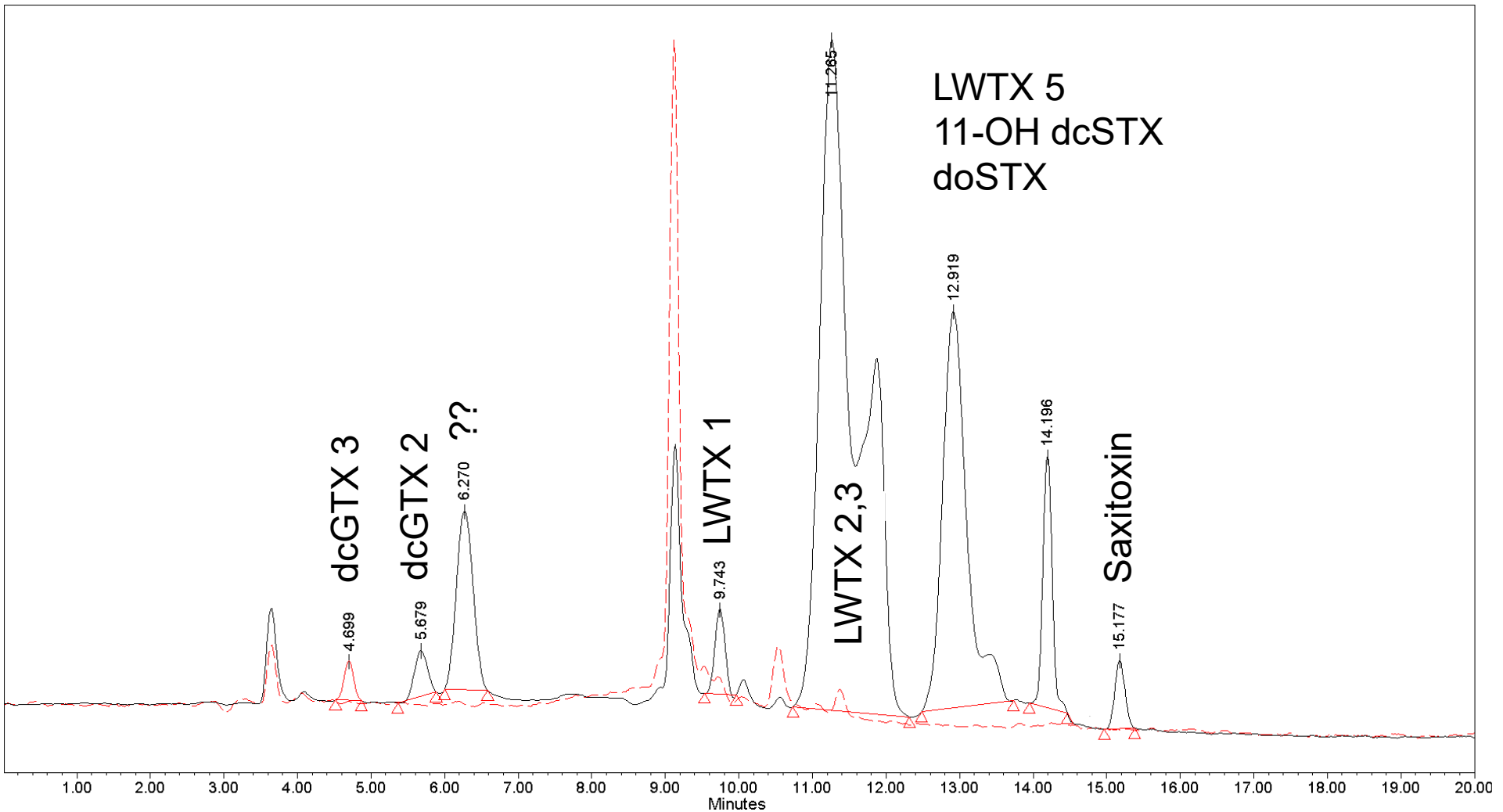
# Relative Response to Saxitoxin for Different PST Methods

| Toxin  | PCOX<br>Response<br>Relative to STX | Mouse<br>Bioassay<br>Relative<br>Toxicity [73] | Abraxis STX-<br>ELISA Cross-<br>reactivity <sup>a</sup><br>[65] | Receptor<br>Binding Assay<br>Cross-<br>reactivity [91] |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| STX    | 1                                   | 1  | 1   | 1  |
| NEO    | 0.41                                | 0.5-1.2  | 0.013   | 0.73   |
| GTX1   | 0.10                                | 0.8-1  | <0.02*  | 1.04**   |
| GTX2   | 4.66                                | 0.4  | 0.23*   | 0.34**   |
| GTX3   | 3.52                                | 0.6-1.1  | 0.23*   | 0.34**   |
| GTX4   | 0.08                                | 0.3-0.7  | <0.02*  | 1.04**   |
| GTX5   | 0.71                                | 0.1-0.2  | 0.23  | 0.033  |
| GTX6   | 0.44                                | 0.1  | -   | -  |
| dcSTX  | 1.13                                | 0.4-1.02                                       | 0.29  | 0.10   |
| dcNEO  | 0.30                                | 0.02-0.4                                       | 0.06  | -  |
| dcGTX1 | -                                   | 0.5  | -   | -  |
| dcGTX2 | 2.71                                | 0.2-0.3  | 0.014*  | -  |
| dcGTX3 | 2.46                                | 0.2-0.5  | 0.014*  | -  |
| dcGTX4 | -                                   | 0.5  | -   | -  |
| LWTX1  | 0.09                                | 0 [29]   | 0.13*   | -  |
| LWTX2  | -                                   | 0.11 [29]                                      | 0.13*   | -  |
| LWTX3  | -                                   | 0.06 [29]                                      | 0.13*   | -  |
| LWTX4  | -                                   | 0 [29]   | 0.13*   | -  |
| LWTX5  | -                                   | 0.14 [29]                                      | 0.13*   | -  |
| LWTX6  | -                                   | 0 [29]   | 0.13*   | -  |
| C1+C2  | 1.20                                | 0-0.2  | -   | -  |

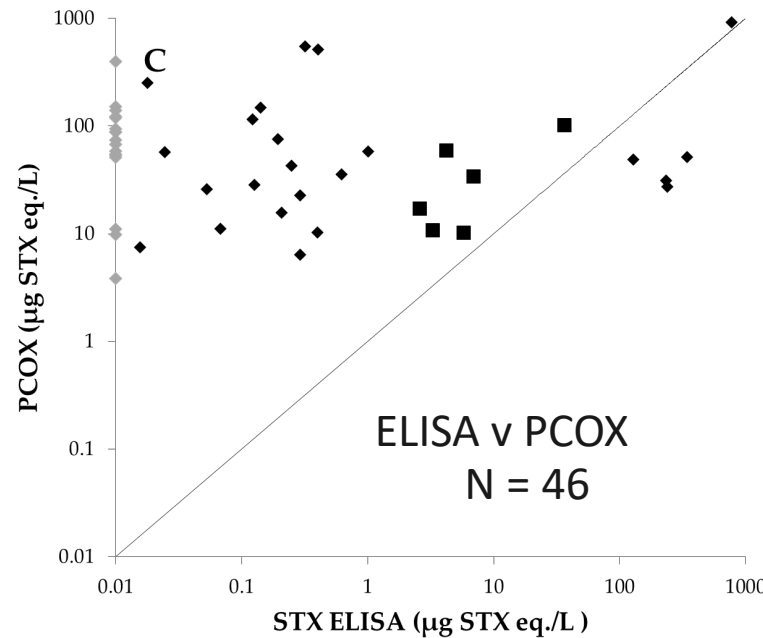
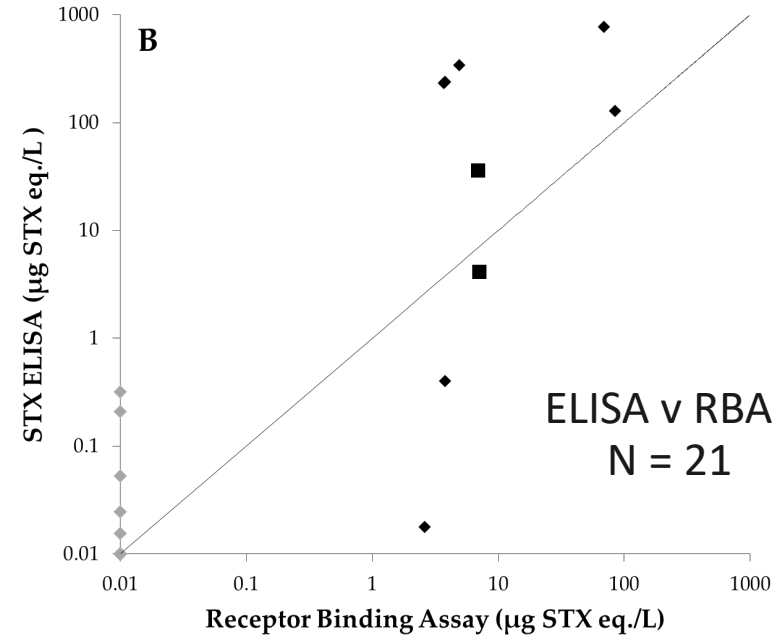
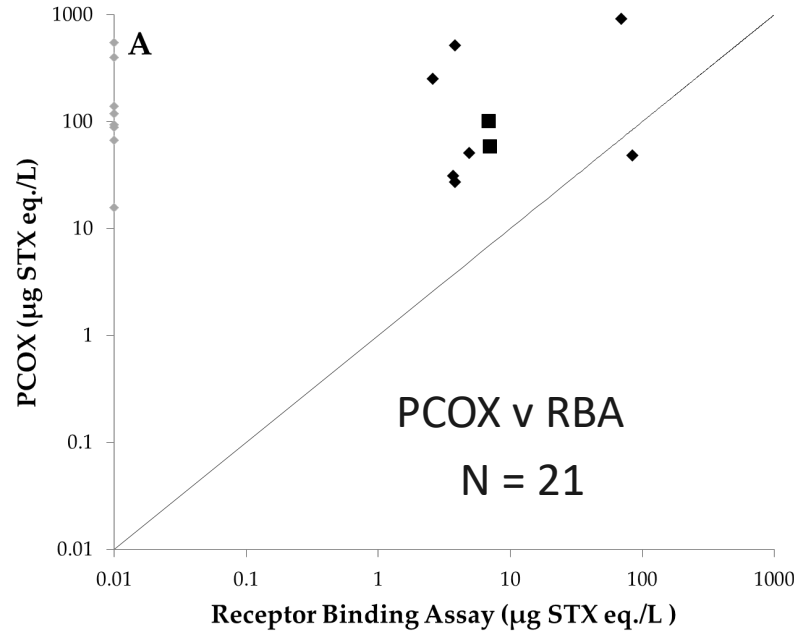
# Analytical Methods for Benthic PSTs



# Paralytic Shellfish Toxins in *Microseira*



# ELISA vs PCOX vs RBA



All toxic by PCOX  
 Top Right: 13/21 non-toxic  
 Top Left: 12/21 non-toxic  
 Bottom: 16/46 non-toxic

■ : Lyngbya (µg/g)  
 ◆ : Water Samples (µg/L)  
 ◆ : Non-toxic by RBA or ELISA



# Are These Toxin Concentrations Dangerous?

**Table 1.** Paralytic shellfish poisoning toxin (PST) concentrations measured in six samples by three different analytical methods.

| Sample<br>Date | Dock                 |                    |                       | Channel              |                    |                       |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
|                | HPLC-FL <sup>1</sup> | ELISA <sup>1</sup> | LC-MS/MS <sup>2</sup> | HPLC-FL <sup>1</sup> | ELISA <sup>1</sup> | LC-MS/MS <sup>2</sup> |
| 7/4/2017       | 33.77                | 6.94               | 22.33                 | 10.23                | 5.75               | 3.63                  |
| 9/10/2017      | 58.98                | 4.18               | 20.12                 | 10.81                | 3.27               | 4.85                  |
| 10/22/2017     | 101.25               | 36.24              | 37.95                 | 16.00                | 2.58               | 9.56                  |

<sup>1</sup> Total PSTs calculated in µg saxitoxin (STX) eq./g dry wt. <sup>2</sup> LC-MS/MS PSTs were quantified using 12 common marine PST standards. Standards were not available for the lyngbyatoxins (LTXs) so the contributions of these toxins to the total PST pool as measured by LC-MS/MS were not included.

|                 | HPLC-FL   | ELISA     | Receptor Binding Assay |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|
| 9/10/2017       | 58.9 ug/g | 4.2 ug/g  | 7.0 ug/g               |
| 10/22/2017      | 101 ug/g  | 36.2 ug/g | 6.9 ug/g               |
| Indian Lake, NY | 923 ug/g  | 51.4 ug/g | 69 ug/g                |

Possibly, but it depends on the method used for detection

# Are the PSTs a Danger to Humans? Dogs?

- Using an estimated no-observed-adverse-effect-level (NOAEL) of 0.5 ug STX eq./kg bodyweight
- 7 ug STX eq./g dry weight Butterfield Lake *Microseira*
- Highest dry weight percent *Microseira* of 15%
- Estimated with a 65 kg human
  
- Estimated dose for a lethal dose in humans – 300-800 ug

## Low-level Exposure

$$\frac{0.5 \mu\text{g STX eq.} \times 65 \text{ kg}}{\text{kg bodyweight}} \times 65 \text{ kg human}$$

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$$\text{Microseira PST Concentration} * 15\% \text{ dry weight}$$
$$= \sim 31 \text{ g wet weight Microseira}$$

## Potentially Lethal Dose

$$\frac{300 - 800 \mu\text{g STX eq.}}{\text{Human}}$$

---

$$\text{Microseira PST Concentration} * 15\% \text{ dry weight}$$
$$= \sim 285 - 761 \text{ g wet weight Microseira}$$

*Assuming the same toxicity in dogs, Microseira mass needed to cause illness may be much lower*

# Analysis of PSTs Produced by *Microseira* and Potential Health Risks

- *M. wollei* produce high concentrations of total PSTs
  - Many variants are much less toxic than saxitoxin
  - Therefore potential toxicity as measured by the receptor binding assay may be lower than is suggested by some methods
- Humans are unlikely to consume the mass of material needed to cause illness, as the *Microseira* are not highly toxic
  - Acute die-off of cyanobacteria and release of toxins into the water column could cause illness
  - Animals with lower body weight, including dogs, are at higher risk than humans.
- Different analytical methods give different results for PSTs.
  - The lack of available standards for the majority of known PSTs (less than a third of known variants) further increases the difficulty of analysis relative to most other cyanobacterial toxins.

# Acknowledgements

- Thank you to Dr. Gregory Boyer for his guidance during this and other projects
- Thank you to Juliette Smith, Pearse McCarron, Andrew Turner, Greg Doucette, Tod Leighfield, Dan Beach, and Marta Sanderson for all of their assistance with the multi-method comparisons
- Thank you to my new colleagues at Ramboll who provided valuable comments for the presentation




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recherches Canada



Article

# Spatial and Temporal Variation in Paralytic Shellfish Toxin Production by Benthic *Microseira (Lyngbya) wollei* in a Freshwater New York Lake

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**Abstract:** Butterfield Lake is a mesotrophic lake in New York State where residents and pets have experienced unexplained health issues. *Microseira wollei* (basionym *Lyngbya wollei*) was found at two of 15 sites in Butterfield Lake and analyzed for microcystins, anatoxins, cylindrospermopsins, and paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins (PSTs). Only PSTs and trace levels of anatoxin-a were detected in these samples. This is the first published report of PSTs within a New York State lake. To evaluate the environmental and temporal drivers leading to the observed toxicity, PST content at the two sites

# Ultrahigh-Performance Hydrophilic Interaction Liquid Chromatography with Tandem Mass Spectrometry Method for the Determination of Paralytic Shellfish Toxins and Tetrodotoxin in Mussels, Oysters, Clams, Cockles, and Scallops: Collaborative Study

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**Background:** An ultrahigh-performance LC (UHPLC)–tandem MS (MS/MS) method for determination of paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins and tetrodotoxin (TTX) in bivalve molluscs was developed. To be used for regulatory testing, it needed to be validated through collaborative study. **Objective:** The aim was to conduct a collaborative study with 21 laboratories, using results to assess method performance. **Methods:** Study materials incorporated shellfish species mussels, oysters, cockles, scallops, and clams and were assessed to demonstrate stability and homogeneity. Mean concentrations determined by participants for blind duplicate samples were used to assess reproducibility, repeatability, and trueness. **Results:** Method performance characteristics were excellent following statistical assessment of participant

method accuracy against expected values. No significant difference was found in the trueness results determined by different chromatographic column types. Acceptability of the between-laboratory reproducibility for individual analytes was evidenced by >99% of valid Horwitz ratio values being less than the 2.0 limit of acceptability. With excellent linearity and sensitivity fit-for-purpose over a range of mass spectrometer instruments, the UHPLC-MS/MS method compared well against other detection methods. It includes additional paralytic shellfish toxin (PST) analogues as well as TTX, which, to date, have not been incorporated into any other hydrophilic marine toxin official method of analysis. **Conclusions:** The results from this study demonstrate that the method is suitable for the analysis of PST analogues and TTX in shellfish



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## Investigation of extraction and analysis techniques for *Lyngbya wollei* derived Paralytic Shellfish Toxins

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Saxitoxin

Paralytic Shellfish Toxins (PSTs)

LC/MS

HPLC/fluorescence

### ABSTRACT

Paralytic Shellfish Toxins (PSTs) are highly toxic metabolic by-products of cyanobacteria and dinoflagellates. The filamentous cyanobacterium *Lyngbya wollei* produces a unique set of PSTs, including *L. wollei* toxins (LWT) 1–6. The accurate identification and quantification of PSTs from *Lyngbya* filaments is challenging, but critical for understanding toxin production and associated risk, as well as for providing baseline information regarding the potential for trophic transfer. This study evaluated several approaches for the extraction and analysis of PSTs from field-collected *L. wollei* dominated algal mats. Extraction of PSTs from lyophilized *Lyngbya* biomass was assessed utilizing hydrochloric acid and acetic acid at concentrations of 0.001–0.1 M. Toxin profiles were then compared utilizing two analysis techniques: pre-column oxidation (peroxide and periodate) High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) with Fluorescence (FL) detection and LC coupled with Mass Spectrometry (MS). While both acid approaches efficiently extracted PSTs, hydrochloric acid was found to convert the less toxic LWT into the more toxic decarbamoylgonyautoxins 2&3 (dcGTx2&3) and decarbamoylsaxitoxin (dcSTX). In comparison, extraction with 0.1 M acetic acid preserved the original toxin profile and limited the presence of interfering co-extractants. Although pre-chromatographic oxidation with HPLC/FL was relatively easy to setup and utilize, the method did not resolve the individual constituents of the *L. wollei* derived PST profile. The LC/MS method allowed characterization of the PSTs derived from *L. wollei*, but without commercially available LWT 1–6

## ITEM IV

# Follow up to Membership Survey Results – Setting up Networking Groups

*Jade L. Young*





# Setting up networking subgroups

Presented for the Benthic HABs Discussion Group on 29 JAN 2020 by co-facilitator Jade Young  
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# MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of this international collaborative is to accelerate mutual understanding of benthic HABs in rivers and lake systems, by sharing data and monitoring protocols, experiences and lessons learned.”

# Facilitators

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# Summary of previous affiliations and topics

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Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA

North Coast Regional WQ Control Board, CA

Southern CA Coastal Water Research Program

CA State University, San Marcos

University of CA, Davis

Northern KY University

US Army Corps of Engineers

- Temporal and spatial distribution
- SPATT samplers
- Toxic species
- Challenges
- Ecology & toxins
- Monitoring and management
- Research
- Monitoring tools
- Laboratory methods
- Taxonomic information
- Management techniques
- Results
- Downstream dispersal
- Toxin synergy
- Culturing methods
- Toxin measurement methods
- Invertebrate toxicity

# 2019 Membership Re-survey

# Summary of Responses

- 40 responses collected
- 17 new members
- New agencies represented



Anabaena sp. mat in the Russian River by Rich Fadness.

# As a member of the Benthic HABs Discussion Group, which role is of most interest to you?



- Rotating facilitator / coordinator
- Active participant (share updates on methods, data collection, etc.)
- Passive participant (receive information)
- Networking (subgroup participation specific to areas of interest)





# Subgroup obligations

- Notify co-facilitators for tracking
- Periodically check-in / report to the larger group

# Future directions

This is a member driven group.

Jade will be tracking subgroup information.

## ITEM V

# Open Discussion & Upcoming Meetings

*Christine Joab*



# ▶ UPCOMING HAB MEETINGS

- ▶ APRIL 21-23, 2020 TORONTO, ONTARIO  
4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERDISCIPLINARY FRESHWATER HABS WORKSHOP
- ▶ MAY 3-7, 2020 DUBLIN, IRELAND  
SETAC EUROPE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING
  - ▶ Session under Environmental Policy, Risk Management, and Science Communication on Marine and Freshwater Pelagic and Benthic Harmful Algal Blooms: Toxin Production, Detection, Fate, Effects, monitoring and management by Triantafyllos Kaloudis and James Lazorchak
- ▶ MAY 18-21, 2020 GLASGOW, UK  
MODELING AND PREDICTION OF HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS
- ▶ JUNE 3-5, 2020 WOODS HOLE, MA  
NOAA'S SOCIOECONOMICS WORKSHOP
- ▶ OCTOBER 11-16, 2020 LA PAZ, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR (MEXICO 2020)  
19<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HARMFUL ALGAE
- ▶ ANY OTHERS TO SHARE?

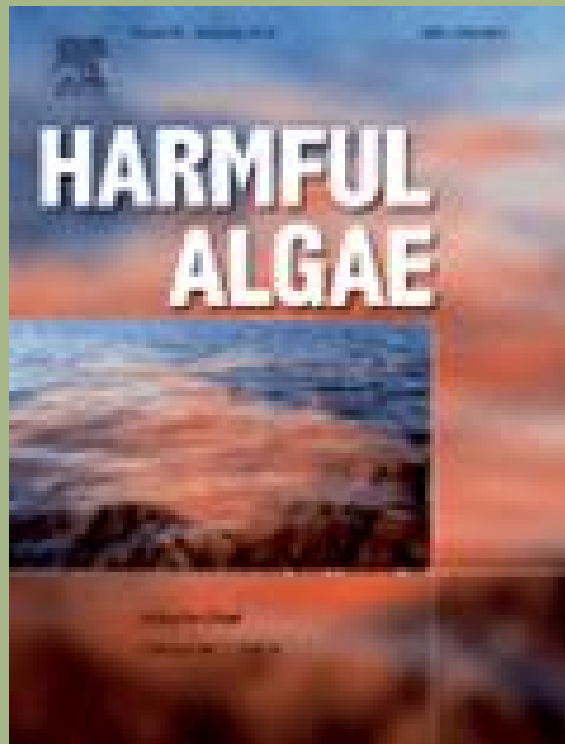


## ► RECENT JOURNAL ARTICLE

Guanitoxin, re-naming a cyanobacterial organophosphate toxin

*Harmful Algae*, Volume 92, February 2020

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1568988319302124>



Harmful Algae  
Volume 92, February 2020, 101737



### Guanitoxin, re-naming a cyanobacterial organophosphate toxin

Marli Fátima Fiore <sup>a</sup>, Stella Thomaz de Lima <sup>a</sup>, Wayne W. Carmichael <sup>b</sup>, Shaun M.K. McKinnie <sup>c</sup>, Jonathan R. Chekan <sup>d</sup>, Bradley S. Moore <sup>d, e</sup>

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hal.2019.101737>

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**ITEM V**  
Wrap Up  
*Facilitators*



# WRAP UP

- ▶ PRESENTATION MATERIAL POSTED TO BENTHIC HABS WORKGROUP WEBPAGE [HTTPS://WWW.EPA.GOV/CYANOHABS/EPA-NEWSLETTER-AND-COLLABORATION-AND-OUTREACH-HABS#BENTHIC](https://www.epa.gov/cyanohabs/epa-newsletter-and-collaboration-and-outreach-habs#benthic)
- ▶ SEND ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON PRESENTATION TO [Zach.Smith@ramboll.com](mailto:Zach.Smith@ramboll.com)
- ▶ IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE BENTHIC HAB WORKGROUP DISTRIBUTION LIST, SEND AN EMAIL TO THE BENTHIC HAB FACILITATORS.
- ▶ WANT TO BE A PRESENTER OR A FACILITATOR? CONTACT US!
- ▶ **BENTHIC HAB FACILITATORS:**
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  - Margaret Spoo-Chupka [Mspoo-Chupka@mwdh2o.com](mailto:Mspoo-Chupka@mwdh2o.com)
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  - Dr. Lesley D'Anglada [Danglada.Lesley@epa.gov](mailto:Danglada.Lesley@epa.gov)

