Mortality of L. pertusa specimens exposed to different temperatures collected on R/V Ronald Brown in Florida from October to November 2010 (Lophelia OA project)

Website: https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/659092

Data Type: experimental

Version: 1

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Project

» Physiological and genetic responses of the deep-water coral, Lophelia pertusa, to ongoing ocean acidification in the Gulf of Mexico (Lophelia OA)

Program

» Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability NSF-Wide Investment (SEES): Ocean Acidification (formerly CRI-OA) (SEES-OA)

| Contributors | Affiliation | Role |
|--------------|-------------|------|
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Abstract

Mortality of L. pertusa specimens exposed to different temperatures collected on R/V Ronald Brown in Florida from October to November 2010 (Lophelia OA project)
Dataset Description

Mortality data for *Lophelia pertusa* exposed to temperature experiments. Specimens used in this experiment were collected on RB-10-07: NOAA Ship Ronald H. Brown, from October-November 2010.

Acquisition Description

All methods are fully described in:

Lunden et al. 2014 Frontiers in Marine Science “Acute survivorship of the deep-sea coral *Lophelia pertusa* from the Gulf of Mexico under acidification, warming, and deoxygenation”

From the Paper:

Forty-one nubbins of *L. pertusa* used in the experiments were collected in November 2010 on the NOAA Ship Ronald H. Brown with ROV Jason II as part of the “Lophelia II” project jointly sponsored by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM). Permits for the collection of corals were obtained from the U.S. Department of the Interior prior to any collection activities. Spatially discrete coral branches were collected with the ROV and placed in temperature-insulated bioboxes (volume = 20 l) at depth. Upon return to the surface, corals were kept alive in 20 l aquaria in the ship’s constant-temperature room. Partial water changes were made regularly while at sea. Upon return to port, corals were immediately
transported overnight to the laboratory on wet ice.

In the laboratory, corals were maintained in one of two 570 liter recirculating aquaria systems at temperature 8 degrees celsius and salinity 35 ppt (Lunden et al., 2014). Regular partial water changes (15–20%) were performed with seawater made using Instant Ocean sea salt. Submersible power heads were placed in each holding tank to ensure water movement and turbulence sufficient to cause swaying of coral polyps. Corals were fed three times weekly using a combination of MarineSnow PlanktonDiet (Two Little Fishies, Miami Gardens, FL) and freshly hatched Artemia nauplii.

Survivorship was assessed by daily observations of polyp tissue presence and behavior. Final survivorship counts were taken 3 to 4 days following the end of each treatment after transfer to the maintenance tank. Survivorship is reported as percent cumulative mortality.

Net calcification was measured using the buoyant weight technique (Davies, 1989). Coral nubbins were buoyantly weighed at the start and end of each experimental period (days eight and fifteen) using a Denver Instruments SI-64 analytical balance (d = 0.1mg, Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA). A weighing chamber was constructed using 1/2” plexiglass to prevent disturbances from air movement during weighing. Each coral nubbin was transported individually from its respective aquarium to the weighing chamber in a four-liter Pyrex beaker and suspended from the balance. The buoyant weight was recorded after the coral nubbin stabilized, typically 2 min. Each coral nubbin was weighed three times to determine measurement precision (2–3 mg). Seawater density was determined in each aquarium by buoyantly weighing a 2.5 cm^2 aluminum block with known density (2.7 g/cm^−3). Coral weight in air (i.e., dry weight) was calculated by the following equation:

\[ Wa = \frac{Ww}{(1 - (Dw/SD))} \]

Where

- \( Wa \) = coral weight in air (dry weight)
- \( Ww \) = coral weight in water (buoyant weight)
- \( Dw \) = density of seawater
- \( SD \) = coral skeletal density (= 2.82 g/cm^−3, Lunden et al., 2013).

Coral growth rate is reported as percent growth per day (%/d−1), which was calculated by the equation:

\[ Gt = 100 \times \frac{(Mt2 - Mt1)}{(Mt1(T2 - T1))} \]

Where

- \( Gt \) = growth rate as %/d^−1
- \( Mt2 \) = mass (mg, dry weight) at time 2 (end of experimental period, day 15)
- \( Mt1 \) = mass (mg, dry weight) at time 1 (start of experimental period, day 8)
T2 = time 2 (end of experimental period, day 15)
T1 = time 1 (start of experimental period, day 8)

Processing Description

Data Management Office Notes:

- Separate tabs in the original file have been served as separate datasets.
- Re-formatted column names to comply with BCO-DMO naming standards.

Related Publications

Lunden, J. J., McNicholl, C. G., Sears, C. R., Morrison, C. L., & Cordes, E. E. (2014). Acute survivorship of the deep-sea coral Lophelia pertusa from the Gulf of Mexico under acidification, warming, and deoxygenation. Frontiers in Marine Science, 1. doi:10.3389/fmars.2014.00078

Lunden, J. J., Turner, J. M., McNicholl, C. G., Glynn, C. K., & Cordes, E. E. (2014). Design, development, and implementation of recirculating aquaria for maintenance and experimentation of deep-sea corals and associated fauna. Limnology and Oceanography: Methods, 12(6), 363–372. doi:10.4319/lom.2014.12.363

Parameters
| Parameter          | Description                                           | Units  |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| temp_treatment     | Warming experiment temperature treatment levels      | celsius|
| individual         | Individual ID number                                  | unitless|
| temperature        | Water temperature                                     | celsius|
| salinity           | Salinity of water                                     | PPT    |
| livePolypsNum_start| Number of live polyps at the start of experiment      | count  |
| livePolypsNum_end  | Number of live polyps at the end of experiment        | count  |
| percent_survivorship| Percent survivorship of polyps                        | percent|

## Instruments

| Dataset-specific Instrument Name | Description                                           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Temperature sensor               | Indicates water temperature                           |

| Generic Instrument Name          | General term for an instrument that measures the temperature of the water with which it is in contact (thermometer). |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dataset-specific Instrument Name | Salinity sensor |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Generic Instrument Name          | Salinity Sensor|
| Dataset-specific Description     | Indicates salinity of water |
| Generic Instrument Description   | Category of instrument that simultaneously measures electrical conductivity and temperature in the water column to provide temperature and salinity data. |

| Dataset-specific Instrument Name | Aquarium |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Generic Instrument Name          | Aquarium |
| Dataset-specific Description     | 20 L aquaria were used on the ship and 570 L recirculating aquaria systems were used in the lab |
| Generic Instrument Description   | Aquarium - a vivarium consisting of at least one transparent side in which water-dwelling plants or animals are kept |

| Dataset-specific Instrument Name | Denver Instruments SI-64 Analytical Balance |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Generic Instrument Name          | Scale                                      |
| Deployment Description           | Used for buoyant weights; d = 0.1mg, Fisher Scientific |
| Generic Instrument Description   | An instrument used to measure weight or mass. |

### RB1007

| Website          | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/659009 |
|------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Platform         | NOAA Ship Ronald H. Brown |
| Start Date       | 2010-10-14 |
| End Date         | 2010-11-04 |
Project Information

Physiological and genetic responses of the deep-water coral, Lophelia pertusa, to ongoing ocean acidification in the Gulf of Mexico (Lophelia OA)

Coverage: Northern Gulf of Mexico

The Gulf of Mexico deep water ecosystems are threatened by the persistent threat of ocean acidification. Deep-water corals will be among the first to feel the effects of this process, in particular the deep-water scleractinians that form their skeleton from aragonite. The continued shoaling of the aragonite saturation horizon (the depth below which aragonite is undersaturated) will place many of the known, and as yet undiscovered, deep-water corals at risk in the very near future. The most common deep-water framework-forming scleractinian in the world’s oceans is Lophelia pertusa. This coral is most abundant in the North Atlantic, where aragonite saturation states are relatively high, but it also creates extensive reef structures between 300 and 600 m depth in the Gulf of Mexico where aragonite saturation states were previously unknown. Preliminary data indicate that pH at this depth range is between 7.85 and 8.03, and the aragonite saturation state is typically between 1.28 and 1.69. These are the first measurements of aragonite saturation state for the deep Gulf of Mexico, and are among the lowest Aragonite saturation state yet recorded for framework-forming corals in any body of water, at any depth. This project will examine the effects of ocean acidification on L. pertusa, combining laboratory experiments, rigorous oceanographic measurements, the latest genome and transcriptome sequencing platforms, and quantitative PCR and enzyme assays to examine changes in coral gene expression and enzyme activity related to differences in carbonate chemistry. Short-term and long-term laboratory experiments will be performed at Aragonite saturation state of 1.45 and 0.75 and the organismal (e.g., survivorship and calcification rate) and genetic (e.g., transcript abundance) responses of the coral will be monitored. Genomic DNA and RNA will be extracted, total mRNA purified, and comprehensive and quantitative profiles of the transcriptome generated using a combination of 454 and Illumina sequencing technologies. Key genes in the calcification pathways as well as other differentially expressed genes will be targeted for specific qPCR assays to verify the Illumina sequencing results. On a research cruise, L. pertusa will be sampled (preserved at depth) along a natural gradient in carbonate chemistry, and included in the Illumina sequencing and qPCR assays. Water samples will be obtained by submersible-deployed niskin bottles adjacent to the coral collections as well as CTD casts of the water column overlying the sites. Water samples will be analyzed for pH, alkalinity, nitrates and soluble
reactive phosphorus. These will be used in combination with historical data in a model to hindcast Aragonite saturation state. This project will provide new physiological and genetic data on an ecologically-significant and anthropogenically-threatened deepwater coral in the Gulf of Mexico. An experimental system, already developed by the PIs, offers controlled conditions to test the effect of Aragonite saturation state on calcification rates in scleractinians and, subsequently, to identify candidate genes and pathways involved in the response to reduced pH and Aragonite saturation state. Both long-term and population sampling experiments will provide additional transcriptomic data and specifically investigate the expression of the candidate genes. These results will contribute to our understanding of the means by which scleractinians may acclimate and acclimatize to low pH, alkalinity, and Aragonite saturation state. Furthermore, the investigators will continue a time series of oceanographic measurements of the carbonate system in the Gulf of Mexico, which will allow the inclusion of this significant body of water in models of past and future ocean acidification scenarios.
2010-FY2011 NSF 12-500, FY 2012 NSF 12-600, FY 2013 NSF 13-586, FY 2014 NSF 13-586 was the final solicitation that will be released for this program. PI Meetings: 1st U.S. Ocean Acidification PI Meeting (March 22-24, 2011, Woods Hole, MA) 2nd U.S. Ocean Acidification PI Meeting (Sept. 18-20, 2013, Washington, DC) 3rd U.S. Ocean Acidification PI Meeting (June 9-11, 2015, Woods Hole, MA – Tentative)

NSF media releases for the Ocean Acidification Program:
- Press Release 10-186 NSF Awards Grants to Study Effects of Ocean Acidification Discovery Blue Mussels "Hang On" Along Rocky Shores: For How Long? Discovery
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Discoveries - Trouble in Paradise: Ocean Acidification This Way Comes - US National Science Foundation (NSF) Press Release 12-179
- National Science Foundation (NSF) News - Ocean Acidification: Finding New Answers Through National Science Foundation Research Grants - US National Science Foundation (NSF) Press Release 13-102
- World Oceans Month Brings Mixed News for Oysters Press Release 13-108
- National Science Foundation (NSF) News - Natural Underwater Springs Show How Coral Reefs Respond to Ocean Acidification - US National Science Foundation (NSF) Press Release 13-148
- Ocean acidification: Making new discoveries through National Science Foundation research grants Press Release 13-148 - Video
- NSF Ocean Sciences Division Director David Conover answers questions about ocean acidification. - US National Science Foundation (NSF) Press Release 14-010
- NSF Ocean Sciences Division Director David Conover answers questions about ocean acidification. - US National Science Foundation (NSF) News - Palau's coral reefs surprisingly resistant to ocean acidification - US National Science Foundation (NSF) Press Release 14-116
- National Science Foundation (NSF) News - Ocean Acidification: NSF awards $11.4 million in new grants to study effects on marine ecosystems - US National Science Foundation (NSF)

[ table of contents | back to top ]

### Funding

| Funding Source | Award       |
|----------------|-------------|
| NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE) | OCE-1220478 |

[ table of contents | back to top ]