Data Article

Dataset on the imprint of the Agia Zoni II tanker oil spill on the marine ecosystem of Saronikos Gulf

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 12 September 2019
Received in revised form 25 September 2019
Accepted 4 October 2019
Available online 16 October 2019

Keywords:
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
Heavy fuel oil
Group IFO 380
Oil pollution

ABSTRACT

These data relate to the research article entitled “Imprint and short-term fate of the Agia Zoni II tanker oil spill on the marine ecosystem of Saronikos Gulf” by Parinos et al., 2019 [1]. The dataset includes the concentrations of 32 individual compounds/groups of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) determined in 235 seawater samples and 55 sediment samples analyzed during the monitoring survey conducted by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (H.C.M.R.) following the September 2017 Agia Zoni II heavy fuel oil (HFO) spill incident in Saronikos Gulf, Greece. The survey effort included 69 seawater sampling sites and 55 sediment sampling sites across the inner Saronikos Gulf, aiming to assess the spatial and temporal imprint of the spilled oil during the first six months from the incident. The data were acquired by means of gas chromatography - mass spectrometry, following proper pre-treatment of the collected samples. This dataset is, to the best of our knowledge, the very first PAHs record related to the Agia Zoni II oil spill incident, that should be of interest for future scientific research on this and HFO spills in general.

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2019.104664
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The data from the determination of the considered PAH compounds in the analyzed seawater samples collected from the coastal zone and open sea sites of Saronikos Gulf are provided in the Supplementary Excel Worksheet 1 (Table 1) and the Supplementary Excel Worksheet 2 (Table 2) respectively. The data from the determination of the considered PAH compounds in the analyzed sediment samples collected from open sea sites of Saronikos Gulf are provided in the Supplementary Excel Worksheet 3 (Table 3).

2. Experimental design, materials, and methods

Seawater samplings at various sites of the coastal zone of Saronikos Gulf were conducted over 10 sampling campaigns from September 18th 2017 to March 21st 2018 (55 sampling sites; 167 seawater samples in total, see Table 1). The water samples (2.5 L volume) were collected by means of a sampling device consisting of a weighted bottle holder with a clean amber-glass bottle and Teflon-lined cap [2]. Moreover, seawater samplings were undertaken on September 21–22nd 2017 and November 13–14th 2017 in open sea sites of Saronikos Gulf from the sea surface and various water depths of the water column (14 sampling sites; 68 seawater samples in total, see Table 2). In this case seawater samples were collected with 10 L Niskin bottles mounted on a rosette sampler and subsequently 2.5 L of seawater were immediately transferred to clean amber-glass bottles with Teflon-lined caps. All collected seawater samples were not filtrated, each one of them was preserved with 50 mL of Suprasolv.
n-hexane and were immediately transferred back to the laboratory where they were analyzed within two to three days of collection. Sediment samplings in open sea sites of Saronikos Gulf were conducted on September 21–22nd 2017, November 13–14th 2017 and January 23–24th 2018 (22 sampling sites; 55 sediment samples in total, see Table 3). All sediments (top 1-cm) were collected using a stainless steel Box Corer with a surface area of 40 × 40cm and were wrapped in pre-combusted aluminum foil and immediately stored at −20 °C till further analysis.

In the collected seawater and sediment samples 32 individual compounds/groups of PAHs were determined, including the parent compounds with molecular weights ranging from 128 to 278, and the methylated derivatives of naphthalene, dibenzothiophene, phenanthrene, pyrene and chrysene. The data were acquired by means of gas chromatography - mass spectrometry on an Agilent 7890 GC, equipped with an HP-5MS capillary column (30 m × 0.25 mm i.d. × 0.25 μm phase film), coupled to an Agilent 5975C MSD, following proper pre-treatment of the collected samples as described elsewhere [1,3–6].

The accuracy of PAHs determination in seawater samples, evaluated in terms of repeatability of the experimental results (n = 7; in spiked seawater samples) and expressed in terms of relative standard deviation ranged from 1.8 to 5.1% for individual PAHs. Detection limit was 20 pg L−1 for all compounds and the % expanded uncertainty (95%, k = 2) for individual PAHs ranged between 7.2 and 13.7%. The accuracy of PAHs determination in sediment samples was evaluated by analyzing the National Institute of Standards reference sediment SRM 1941b - NIST USA (organics in marine sediment). The determined values ranged between 92.4 and 108.3% of the certified values. The precision in the analysis of the samples, evaluated in terms of repeatability of the experimental results (n = 7) and expressed in terms of relative standard deviation, ranged from 1.4 to 5.9% for individual PAHs. Detection limit ranged from 0.05 to 0.26 ng g−1 for individual PAHs and the % expanded uncertainty (95%, k = 2) between 15.1 and 37%. The organic chemistry laboratory of H.C.M.R. is accredited by ISO/IEC 17025 for the analysis of PAHs in marine waters and sediments.

Acknowledgments

This dataset has been produced as part of the monitoring survey performed by the Institute of Oceanography of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (H.C.M.R.) after a formal request made by the Hellenic Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy, considering the provisions of paragraphs 3.5.13 and 3.15.1 of the National Emergency Plan on oil pollution incidents (Presidential Decree 11/2002, Government Gazette Issue 6 A’/2002), in order to assess the possible short- and medium-term environmental consequences of the Agia Zoni II tanker oil spill incident on the marine ecosystem of Saronikos Gulf. The cost of the monitoring survey was paid for by the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds). We sincerely thank the officers and crew of the R/V Aegean (H.C.M.R.) for their precious assistance during cruises, and Vassilis Mpampas and Constantine Fostiropoulos for their patience and help during the conducted coastal samplings.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2019.104664.

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