

# Limited impact on oysters in first-of-its-kind field trial of marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) strategy

Authors: Emilia Jankowska<sup>1\*</sup>, Matthew Sclafani<sup>2</sup>, Bonnie X. Chang<sup>1</sup>, Hailey Hayes<sup>1</sup>, Robert Cerrato<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas S. Fisher<sup>3</sup>, Chloe Leach<sup>1</sup>, Devon B. Cole<sup>1</sup>, Brian P. Jackson<sup>4</sup>, Christopher Gobler<sup>3</sup>, Adam V. Subhas<sup>5</sup>, Matthew G. Hayden<sup>5</sup>, M. Grace Andrews<sup>1</sup>

Affiliations:

<sup>1</sup>Hourglass Climate, NPO, Montclair, NJ, USA

<sup>2</sup>Cornell Cooperative Extension, Riverhead, NY, USA

<sup>3</sup>School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, USA

<sup>4</sup>Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA

<sup>5</sup>Department of Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA, USA

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\*Corresponding author: emilia@hourglassclimate.org

## Abstract

Carbon dioxide removal (CDR) is a necessary component of limiting global warming to 2°C by 2100. Marine enhanced rock weathering (mERW) with minerals like olivine is a CDR strategy with the potential to capture atmospheric carbon dioxide and mitigate ocean acidification, which threatens calcifying organisms including those essential for global aquaculture such as oysters. mERW could benefit these species, although olivine releases trace metals like nickel which may bioaccumulate. This study reports findings from the world's first field trial of mERW, conducted in NY, USA. After a year of exposure to olivine, Eastern oysters showed no significant difference in biomass between Olivine and Control treatments, and mean metal accumulations were below US Food and Drug Administration warning thresholds and within global natural ranges. Our findings suggest that mERW with olivine has a limited effect on oysters and olivine-derived metals did not result in oyster safety concerns for human health.

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**Keywords:** Carbon dioxide removal, marine enhanced rock weathering, ocean alkalinity enhancement, olivine, trace metals, bioaccumulation, shellfish, Eastern oyster

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## 32 Introduction

33

34 Limiting Earth's temperature increase to 2°C by 2100 requires drastic greenhouse gas emission  
35 reductions and the removal of approximately 10 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> per year by mid-century and 20 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>  
36 per year by the end of the century<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, implementing effective, safe and scalable carbon  
37 dioxide removal (CDR) strategies is imperative. One CDR strategy is ocean alkalinity enhancement  
38 (OAE), which involves increasing the concentration of seawater alkalinity and ultimately driving  
39 an influx of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere into the ocean<sup>2</sup>. Marine enhanced rock  
40 weathering (mERW) is a specific form of OAE where alkaline rocks and/or minerals are introduced  
41 into the ocean to dissolve and generate alkalinity<sup>3-6</sup>. Recent research indicates that mERW has  
42 the potential to sequester between 0.3 to 10 Gt of CO<sub>2</sub> y<sup>-1</sup> from the atmosphere<sup>7,8</sup>. One mineral  
43 commonly proposed for mERW is olivine, a naturally occurring ultramafic silicate (Mg<sub>2-x</sub>Fe<sub>x</sub>SiO<sub>4</sub>).  
44 Olivine dissolves in seawater over months to years, releasing cations (such as magnesium (Mg<sup>2+</sup>)  
45 and iron (Fe<sup>2+</sup>)) and generating alkalinity (mainly bicarbonate (HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>))<sup>5,9</sup>. As companies  
46 worldwide form to commercialize and ultimately scale mERW through an actively growing carbon  
47 market, there is an urgency to understand the potential impacts this approach has on the marine  
48 environment.

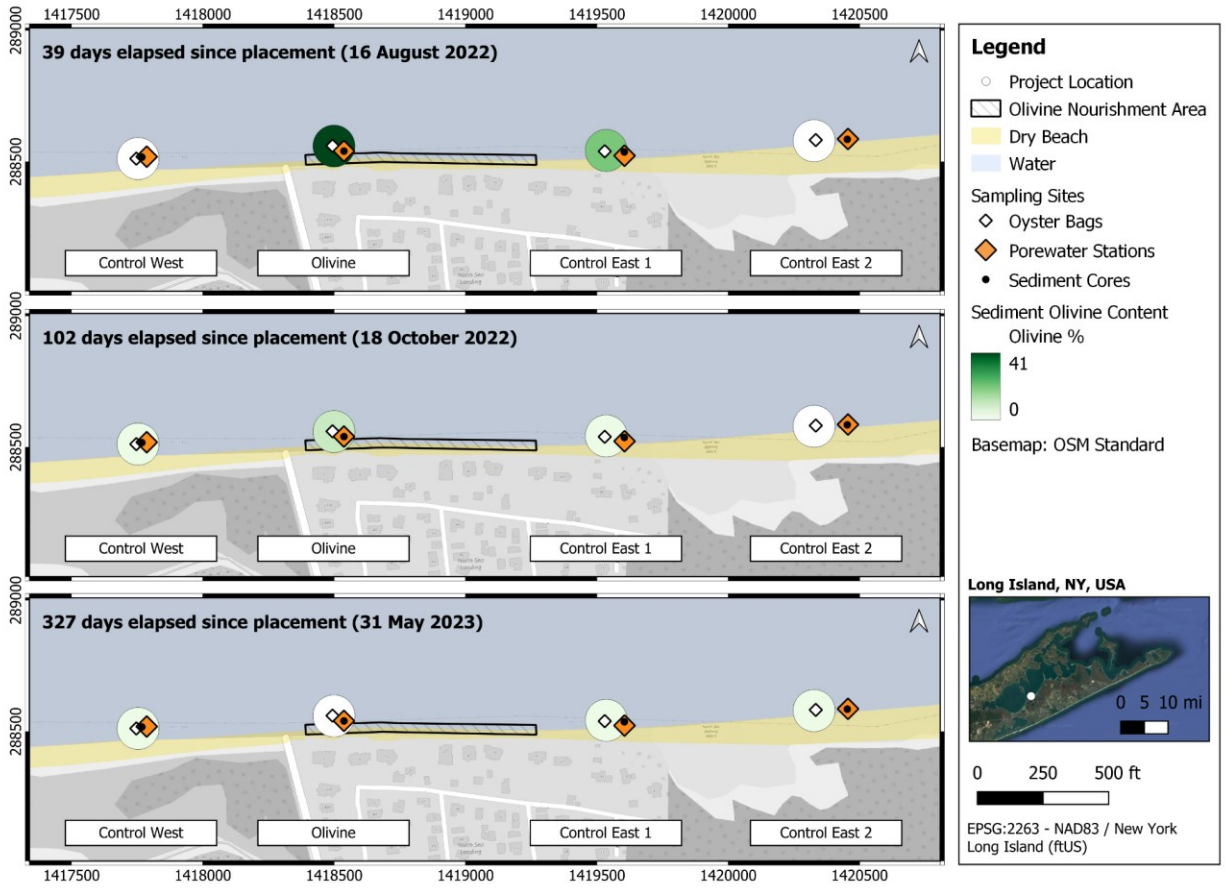
49 Through the introduction of alkalinity, OAE strategies such as mERW may offer the critical co-  
50 benefit of localized ocean acidification mitigation due to the resulting increase in carbonate and  
51 bicarbonate ions. Ocean acidification negatively affects calcifying organisms such as bivalves<sup>10,11</sup>  
52 by reducing their calcification and growth rates<sup>12</sup>. Adult bivalves have a range of physiological  
53 mechanisms to cope with ocean acidification, however, these processes can be energetically  
54 expensive and necessitate energy reallocation<sup>11,13</sup>. Oysters, in particular, are vulnerable to  
55 acidification impacts, a critical concern for the shellfish industry due to the predicted production  
56 declines of 14-28% by 2100 in certain regions if acidification trends continue<sup>14-16</sup>. This decrease  
57 poses a risk to both the global economy and food security, as the aquaculture sector—which  
58 employed over 20 million people and generated USD 281.5 billion in 2020<sup>17</sup>—relies heavily on  
59 shellfish. In North America and beyond, oysters represent a significant portion of aquaculture  
60 production, with an estimated 18 million tonnes of marine mollusks produced worldwide in  
61 2020<sup>17</sup>. As such, there is increasing interest in strategies to enhance alkalinity in oyster  
62 aquaculture environments<sup>18</sup> and mERW could locally raise alkalinity levels to create more  
63 favorable conditions for oyster growth. Regional alkalinity enhancement holds promise in  
64 supporting shellfish resilience, potentially alleviating some of the most damaging effects of  
65 acidification on this ecologically and economically essential industry.

66 Beyond ocean alkalinity enhancement, mERW with minerals such as olivine could exert ecological  
67 impacts through the release of elements found in olivine, namely silicon (Si) and trace metals,

68 particularly nickel (Ni), chromium (Cr), and cobalt (Co). These elements may serve as a source of  
69 nutrients for marine organisms, for example, Si could support the growth of silicifying algae and  
70 sponges<sup>19</sup>. On the contrary, high concentrations of trace metals may have adverse effects,  
71 including bioaccumulation in higher trophic levels and disruptions to ecosystem dynamics<sup>9,20,21</sup>.  
72 Organisms have mechanisms for trace metal detoxification, but this process can increase energy  
73 expenditure and subsequently impact growth and reproduction<sup>22,23</sup>. To date, the impact of  
74 olivine dissolution on marine organisms has mostly been studied in laboratory settings where  
75 organisms were kept in closed tanks and often exposed to higher concentrations of olivine  
76 dissolution products than what could be expected under natural conditions<sup>24,25</sup> and only one  
77 study exposed mussels to olivine in harbor conditions<sup>26</sup>. Field trials, which quantify the  
78 environmental impact of mERW under real-world conditions, are the critical next step in  
79 assessing the safety, and thereby the true potential, of mERW as a climate mitigation strategy<sup>1</sup>.

80 This study investigates the impact of mERW with olivine sand on oyster growth and trace metal  
81 bioaccumulation under natural conditions. Due to their sensitivity to alkalinity levels, their sessile  
82 and filter-feeding nature, and their ability to accumulate both essential and non-essential metals,  
83 oysters are well suited for studying the impact of mERW with olivine<sup>27,28</sup>. In July 2022, the world's  
84 first field trial of mERW was launched. Approximately 650 tonnes of olivine sand was placed along  
85 ~300 m of an intertidal beach in the Peconic Bay, Long Island, NY, USA (Fig. 1). Shortly thereafter,  
86 Eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica* Gmelin, 1791) were transplanted to the Olivine treatment  
87 site, as well as three control sites (Control West, Control East 1, and Control East 2) adjacent to  
88 the Olivine treatment site. The oysters were subsampled at three-time points over one year and  
89 analyzed for growth and soft tissue metal accumulation. In addition, a suite of sediment and  
90 sediment porewater parameters were measured to track olivine transport and dissolution  
91 through time. This is the first investigation of the impact of mERW on marine biota under real-  
92 world conditions.

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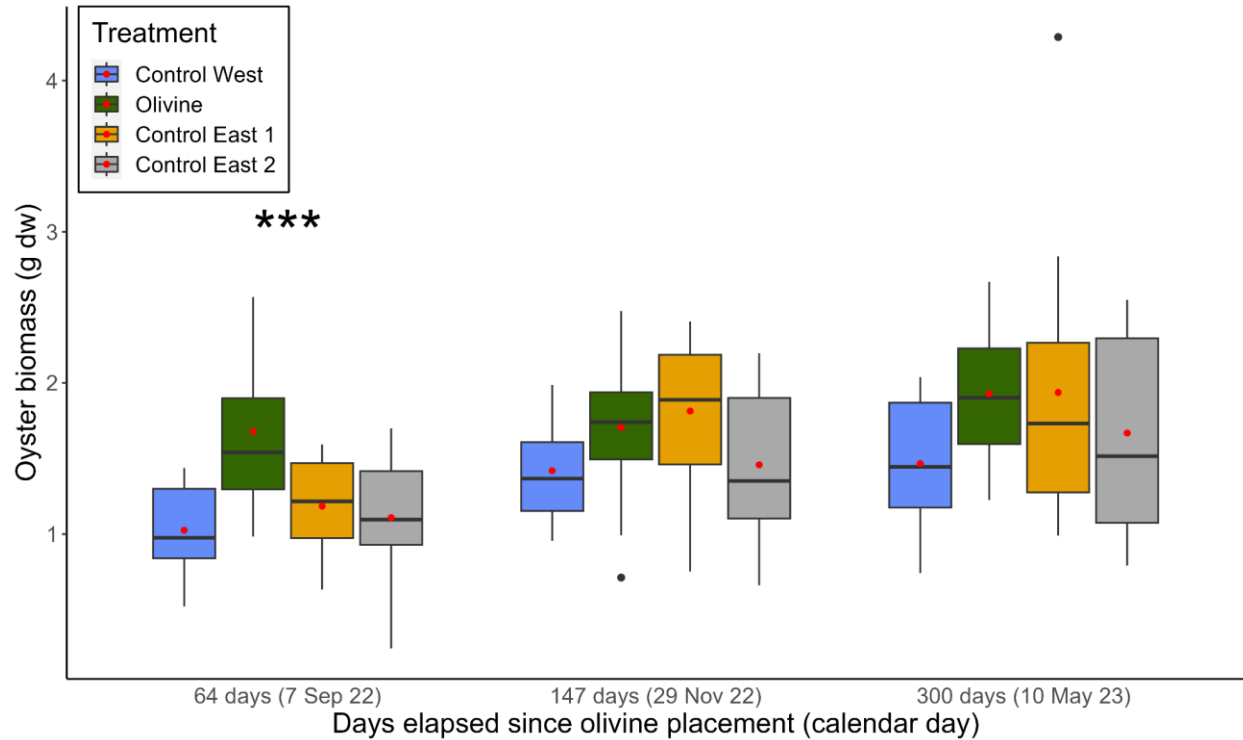
94  
 95 **Fig. 1** Study area in the Peconic Bay, Long Island, NY, USA. Bubbles represent the olivine  
 96 percentage measured by X-Ray Diffraction in the 1-3 cm sediment interval at four treatment sites  
 97 and three dates throughout the oyster experiment.

98  
 99 **Results**

100  
 101 **Oyster growth**

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 103 For all sites, oysters grew significantly through time. All sites had higher average oyster dry  
 104 weights at day 147 and day 300 than day 64 ( $p < 0.001$ , Table 1, Fig. 2). Notably, the difference in  
 105 dry weight was marginally nonsignificant ( $p = 0.051$ , Table 1) for Olivine treatment oysters  
 106 compared to Control treatment oysters at 2 months post-placement (day 64). Oysters exposed  
 107 to the Olivine treatment had dry weights of  $1.7 \pm 0.5$  g compared to those in Control treatments  
 108 (average dry weight across all Controls:  $1.1 \pm 0.3$  g dw, Fig. 2). No statistical differences between  
 109 treatments were observed at later time points.

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111  
 112 **Fig. 2** Oyster dry weight (g dw) measured at each sampling event. Mean (red dot), median  
 113 (horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentile (box), minimum and maximum value (vertical line),  
 114 and outliers (black dot) are presented. The asterisk \*\*\* indicates significant general linear mixed  
 115 model (GLMM) results for the Date factor at  $p < 0.001$ . The Treatment factor was marginally  
 116 nonsignificant at  $p = 0.051$  on September 7, 2022. Note that the percent of olivine in the sediment  
 117 at all treatment sites changed throughout the experiment (Fig. 1). The olivine content of the  
 118 sediment was most enriched at the Olivine treatment site, compared to controls, in the initial  
 119 weeks of the experiment.

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132 **Table 1** Results of the GLMM for oyster biomass and select trace metal body burden tested  
 133 among four treatments and three dates. Pr values provided, with significant tests marked with  
 134 bold font and asterisk \* showing significance at  $p < 0.05$ , \*\* significance at  $p < 0.01$ , and \*\*\*  
 135 significance at  $p < 0.001$ . Only significant results for pair-wise tests are provided. For pair-wise  
 136 results: September stands for September 7th, 2022; November for November 29th, 2022; May  
 137 for May 10th, 2023.  
 138

	df	Oyster biomass		Ni body burden		Cr body burden		Co body burden	
		Chisq	Pr (>Chisq)	Chisq	Pr (>Chisq)	Chisq	Pr (>Chisq)	Chisq	Pr (>Chisq)
Treatment	3	7.765	0.051	0.608	0.895	6.769	0.081	3.645	0.302
Date	2	20.547	<b>3.452e-05***</b>	7.407	<b>0.025*</b>	10.656	<b>0.005**</b>	13.257	<b>0.001**</b>
Treatment X Date	6	7.940	0.242	20.753	<b>0.002**</b>	18.829	<b>0.004**</b>	17.245	<b>0.008**</b>
Pair-wise		For factor Date: September ≠ November, May		For factor Date: September ≠ November, May  For factor Treatment:Date: Control West September ≠ Olivine all dates, Control East 1 all dates, Control East 2 all dates		For factor Date: September ≠ November, May  For factor Treatment:Date: Control East 1 November ≠ Olivine November; Control East 2 November ≠ Control West September; Control West September ≠ Control West November; Control West September ≠ Olivine November		For factor Date: September ≠ November, May  For factor Treatment:Date: Control East 1 September ≠ Olivine May;  Control West September ≠ Control East 2 all dates, Control East 1 all dates, Olivine November, May	

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141 **Oyster tissue metal bioaccumulation**

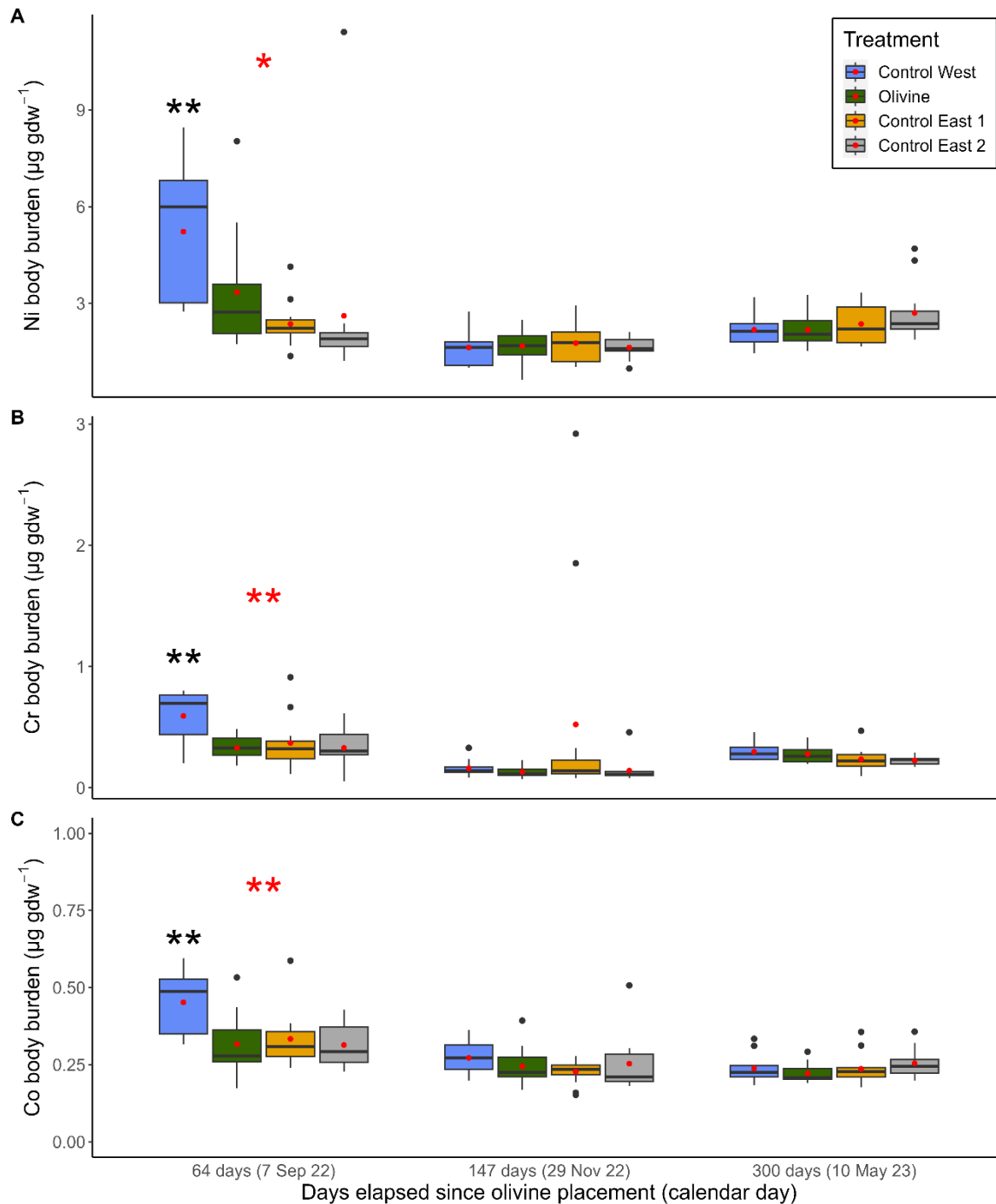
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143 Approximately 2 months (64 days) after olivine placement the average Ni concentration in  
144 oysters at the Olivine treatment site was  $3.35 \pm 1.89 \mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ . Although this concentration was  
145 higher than that observed in Control East 1 and 2 oysters ( $2.37 \pm 0.71$  and  $2.62 \pm 2.79 \mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ,  
146 respectively), the differences were not significant ( $p > 0.05$ , Table 1). However, the Ni  
147 concentration in Olivine treatment oysters (as well as Control East 1 & 2) was significantly lower  
148 than Control West oysters ( $5.23 \pm 2.06 \mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ , Fig. 3A,  $p < 0.05$ , Table 1). The average Ni body  
149 burden of Control West oysters declined over time. Approximately 5 months (147 days) after  
150 placement, the average Ni body burden of Control West oysters ( $1.64 \pm 0.60 \mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ) was  
151 indistinguishable from Olivine and Control East treatment oysters ( $1.64 \pm 1.77 \mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ) ( $p > 0.05$ ,  
152 Table 1). Ni concentrations remained low in all treatments ~10 months (300 days) after  
153 placement, with treatment averages between  $2.18 \pm 2.71 \mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ . The body burden of other  
154 metals associated with olivine (i.e., Co, Cr) presented a pattern similar to Ni (Table 1) and were  
155 low ( $< 1 \mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ) throughout the experiment (Fig. 3B, C). We find that the accumulation of Ni,  
156 Cr, and Co directly resulted from olivine because other sources of contamination, such as septic  
157 tank discharge or groundwater, would likely have resulted in increased accumulation of non-  
158 olivine metals (e.g., aluminum (Al), cadmium (Cd), copper (Cu), lead (Pb), zinc (Zn)), but this was  
159 not observed (Fig. S2.1 - S2.6).

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165 **Fig. 3** Oyster tissue trace metal body burden ( $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ) during the experiment: A) Ni, B) Cr, and  
 166 C) Co. Mean (red dot), median (horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentile (box), minimum and  
 167 maximum value (vertical line), and outliers (black dot) are presented. 'Sep' stands for September,  
 168 'Nov' for November. The top, red asterisk indicates significant GLMM model results for the Date  
 169 factor, while the bottom, black asterisk is for interaction Date:Treatment. \* showing significance  
 170 at  $p < 0.05$ , \*\* showing significance at  $p < 0.01$ .



171 **Olivine distribution and its effect on sediment porewater composition**

172

173 Sediment transport plays an essential role in understanding the exposure of oysters and other  
174 marine life to olivine sand following placement in the coastal environment. Hydrodynamics can  
175 redistribute the olivine through time, and in turn, the resultant olivine dissolution products (e.g.,  
176 alkalinity and trace metals). Temporal and spatial changes in sediment olivine content and  
177 porewater metal concentrations are essential for contextualizing spatiotemporal trends in oyster  
178 growth and trace metal body burden.

179

180 Approximately 1 month (39 days/August) after placement, the Olivine treatment site was  
181 comprised of 40.5% olivine sand, a substantial amount of olivine had moved to Control East 1  
182 (20.6%), while Control West and Control East 2 had no olivine (0%) (Fig. 1). By ~3 months post-  
183 placement (102 days), the concentration of olivine in sediment was still highest at the Olivine  
184 treatment site (13.5%) but had decreased substantially since August. Furthermore, the olivine  
185 sand had dispersed along more of the coastline, comprising 5.7% of sediment at Control West  
186 and 5.1% of sediment at Control East 1. By ~11 months post-placement (327 days) all sites had <  
187 10% olivine in the sediment, with the highest percentage of olivine at Control East 1 (7.1%) and  
188 the lowest percentage of olivine sand at the Olivine treatment site (0%). Overall, hydrodynamics  
189 increased the overall coastal area with a component of olivine in the sediment through time,  
190 while decreasing the amount of olivine at the original placement site. We note that these results  
191 represent only the 1-3 cm sediment layer, thus olivine may have been present in deeper sediment  
192 layers.

193

194 As olivine dissolves in the sediment, the concentration of dissolved species such as total alkalinity  
195 (TA), Ni, Cr, and Co in sediment porewater varies substantially over short timescales (minutes to  
196 days) due to changes in the concentration of olivine in the sediment, the olivine dissolution rate,  
197 natural biogeochemical cycling in the sediment, and physical processes such as advection and  
198 bioirrigation which dilute porewater with bottom water. Due to these complex controls,  
199 porewater composition mainly serves to establish the presence or absence of olivine dissolution  
200 products, and as a qualitative tracer for the relative magnitude of dissolution products between  
201 sites.

202

203 We observed that the highest concentrations of TA and olivine-derived trace metals (Ni, Cr, Co)  
204 were measured in the Olivine treatment porewaters within the first few months of the field trial  
205 (Fig. 4, Fig. S1.1), consistent with the high concentration of olivine in the sediment at that point  
206 (Fig. 1). More specifically, the highest TA concentrations observed during the experiment were  
207 in Olivine treatment porewater on days 14 and 77 of the experiment; they were ~30% - 37%  
208 higher than bottom water or Control East 1 and 2 porewater TA concentrations (Fig. 4A). Control

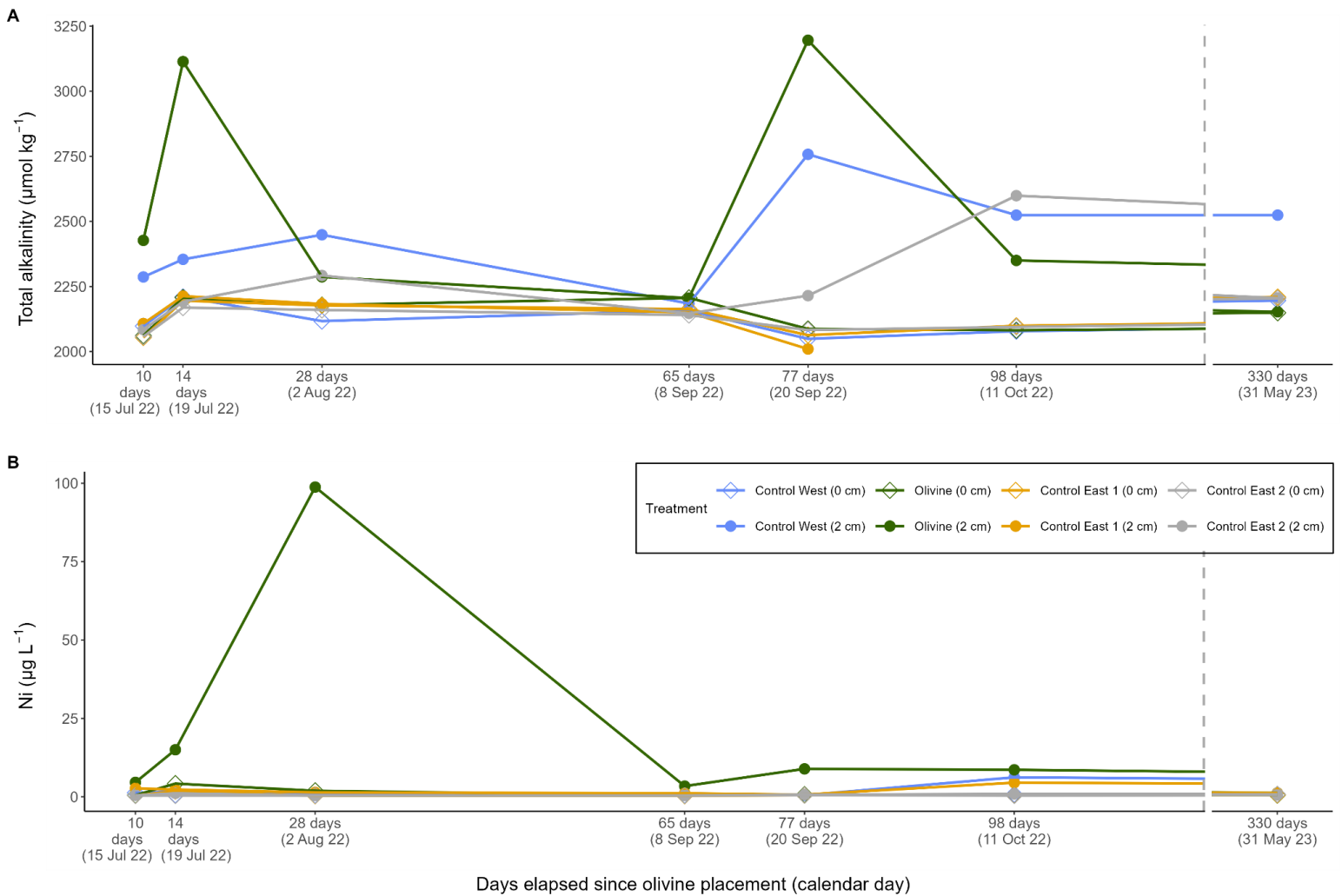
209 West TA porewater concentrations were also higher than those at Control East 1 and 2 by ~7%  
210 on day 14 and ~20% - 27% on day 77 of the experiment. The highest porewater Ni concentration  
211 ( $98.8 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) was observed at the Olivine treatment site ~1 month (28 days) after olivine  
212 placement while Ni concentrations were low at all Control sites ( $0.4$  to  $1.4 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , Fig. 4B). By day  
213 65 post olivine placement, the porewater Ni concentration at the Olivine treatment site had  
214 declined to  $3.4 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . From that time point forward, the porewater Ni concentrations remained  
215 low at all treatment sites. Similar trends were observed for the other olivine-derived metals, with  
216 higher concentrations of Cr and Co in Olivine treatment porewaters than at Control sites during  
217 the first month following olivine placement (Fig. S1.1 A, B).

218

219 Overall, significantly elevated TA and trace metal (Ni, Cr, Co) concentrations were only observed  
220 in porewater, and not in bottom water (0 cm depth), suggesting significant dilution of olivine  
221 dissolution products by the water column. Notably, bottom water Ni and Cr concentrations never  
222 exceeded the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) National Recommended Water  
223 Quality Criteria acute or chronic concentrations for seawater ( $74$  and  $8.2 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  for Ni,  $1100$  and  
224  $50 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  for Cr (VI), respectively). There are no US EPA Recommended Water Quality Criteria for  
225 Co in seawater, however, Saili et al. 2021<sup>29</sup> established a chronic Co surface water concentration  
226 of  $7 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . All bottom water Co concentrations were far below this threshold as well. No water  
227 quality recommendations exist for porewaters.

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229



231 **Fig. 4** Olivine dissolution parameters measured during the experiment in bottom water (0 cm)  
 232 and porewater (2 cm) A) TA ( $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ ) and B) Ni concentration ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ). Colors represent four  
 233 treatments, shapes represent bottom vs. porewater samples. 'Jul' stands for July, 'Aug' for  
 234 August, 'Sep' for September, 'Oct' for October, 'Nov' for November. Analytical error bars (SD) for  
 235 TA are  $\pm 4.4 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$  (2022) and  $\pm 7.34 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$  (2023), while Ni are  $0.11 - 0.18 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and are  
 236 too small to resolve on the plots.

237

## 238 Discussion

239 mERW with olivine can increase the levels of olivine dissolution products (e.g., alkalinity and trace  
 240 metals) in sediment porewater and in turn, impact benthic species. Local changes to alkalinity  
 241 related to mERW may benefit shellfish growth through greater availability of carbonate and  
 242 bicarbonate ions, enabling shellfish to more readily form calcium carbonate<sup>12</sup>. Notably,  
 243 porewater TA was highest at the Olivine treatment site at the start of the experiment (Fig. 4A).  
 244 As such, the slightly higher biomass of oysters at the Olivine treatment site, compared to Control

245 treatments, 64 days post-placement could be due to these favorable environmental conditions.  
246 Alternatively, oyster growth can be impacted by food availability. Recent research has found that  
247 OAE-induced changes in seawater composition might influence primary producers and thus  
248 available food sources. Hutchins et al. 2023<sup>30</sup> showed that two diatom species utilized Si and Fe  
249 from a synthetic olivine leachate to achieve near-maximum growth rates. However, probably  
250 because of nitrogen (N) limitation at the study site, Guo et al. 2024<sup>31</sup> found no positive effects of  
251 olivine dissolution on the growth of diatoms and other phytoplankton. When testing only  
252 alkalinity enhancement effects on phytoplankton, no effects were observed on communities<sup>32</sup> or  
253 species viability and growth rate<sup>33</sup> and when testing both Si and calcium (Ca)-based OAE, a limited  
254 effect was reported for diatom silicification<sup>34</sup>. We did not observe increased food levels resulting  
255 from olivine, as surface sediment total organic carbon (TOC) concentrations and water column  
256 chlorophyll *a* levels remained consistent across all treatments in the first two months after olivine  
257 placement (Fig. S3.4 - S3.5). The lack of effect was likely because there was no measurable  
258 increase in bottom water concentrations of olivine dissolution products. Taken together, it is  
259 unlikely that the higher oyster biomass at the Olivine treatment site was a result of increased  
260 food availability.

261 Furthermore, given that Olivine treatment oysters had the highest biomass following the period  
262 with the highest porewater trace metal concentrations, it does not appear that the porewater  
263 metals negatively affected oyster growth, or at least that any negative effect was counteracted  
264 by the positive effect of simultaneously increased porewater alkalinity concentrations. This  
265 finding is supported by bioconcentration factor (BCF) estimates (see Methods). Oysters from the  
266 Olivine treatment demonstrated consistently lower Ni BCF values across all dates (e.g.,  $131 \pm 91$   
267 SD on day 64, as compared to  $>1000$  for all other treatments, Table S1), indicative of an overall  
268 lower susceptibility to Ni accumulation.

269 With regards to trace metal bioaccumulation, one unexpected finding of this study is that Control  
270 West oysters had the highest Ni, Cr, and Co body burden after 64 days of exposure (Fig. 3) even  
271 though the Olivine treatment site had the highest Ni, Cr and Co porewater concentrations during  
272 this period (Fig. 4, S1.1). Moreover, on the same date, the Control West oysters exhibited the  
273 highest BCF for Ni ( $5625 \pm 1935$ ) of any treatment during the experiment (Table S1).  
274 Bioaccumulation of metals in marine bivalves occurs when they accumulate metals at rates  
275 greater than the loss rates, and these are a function of assimilation efficiencies of ingested  
276 metals, absorption of dissolved metals, and depuration processes that are dependent on  
277 metabolic processes<sup>35,36</sup>. At the beginning of the experiment, Control West porewaters had lower  
278 salinity (Fig. S3.1) and higher concentrations of sulfide than other treatments (Fig. S3.2). Oysters  
279 are susceptible to sulfide exposure, which can increase their vulnerability to environmental  
280 stressors by affecting detoxification mechanisms<sup>37,38</sup>. Furthermore, low salinity conditions can  
281 increase bioavailability and accumulation of some trace metals due to changes in free ion

282 activity<sup>39,40</sup>. Therefore, unfavorable environmental conditions may have impacted Control West  
283 oyster bioaccumulation and detoxification processes and contributed to their relatively high Ni  
284 body burden. Additionally, oysters can accumulate dissolved metals through their gills<sup>41</sup>, and  
285 through branchial filtration by assimilating ingested particulate organic matter and  
286 phytoplankton<sup>42,43</sup>. Here, analyses of sediment grain size indicate net movement of fine-grained  
287 material from the east to the west, from the Olivine treatment towards the Control West  
288 treatment (Fig. S3.3). Thus, Control West oysters may have had relatively high metal assimilation  
289 compared to other treatments due to higher exposure to, and filtration of, very fine grained  
290 olivine particles which then dissolved in the digestive system. Ultimately, a few mechanisms  
291 could account for the increased metal accumulation of Control West oysters, as compared to  
292 other sites, despite Control West porewaters having lower concentrations of olivine-derived  
293 dissolved metals in the first few months of the experiment.

294 Importantly, despite the comparatively high concentration of metals in Control West oysters at  
295 the beginning of the experiment, these concentrations decreased through time while the  
296 biomass of Control West oysters increased, as did the oyster biomass at all treatments.  
297 Therefore, the early accumulation of trace metals at Control West did not cause a long-term  
298 negative physiological impact, as oyster biomass was not statistically different from other  
299 treatments 147 and 300 days after olivine placement. In addition, the bioconcentration factor for  
300 Ni, Cr, and Co decreased with time suggesting a decline in metal assimilation or efficient  
301 detoxification of metals (Table S1, e.g., Ni BCF on September 7, 2022 was  $5625 \pm 1935$  SD vs.  $1735$   
302  $\pm 393$  on May 10, 2023). An experimental study on *Crassostrea hongkongensis* (Lam & B. Morton,  
303 2003) noted a high turnover rate for Ni in oysters, where Ni in oyster tissue reached a steady  
304 state after one week of exposure and maintained low concentrations, likely due to regulation  
305 mechanisms such as sequestration by metallothionein-like proteins<sup>41</sup>. More than 90% of Ni  
306 accumulated in oysters during a 4-week exposure under laboratory conditions, as well as in  
307 oysters from a contaminated estuary, were eliminated within a few weeks of depuration<sup>41,44</sup>. In  
308 the present study, we suggest that natural olivine transport and redistribution decreased the  
309 overall pool of olivine grains and dissolved metals throughout the project area and allowed for  
310 depuration/detoxification to occur. In addition, assimilation efficiencies of diverse metals,  
311 including Co, from ingested phytoplankton and subsequent efflux rates in *C. virginica* were  
312 generally comparable to those in the clams *Macoma balthica* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Mercenaria*  
313 *mercenaria* (Linnaeus, 1758) and in the blue mussel *Mytilus edulis* (Linnaeus, 1758)<sup>43</sup>, suggesting  
314 that other bivalves would likely respond similarly to olivine as oysters.

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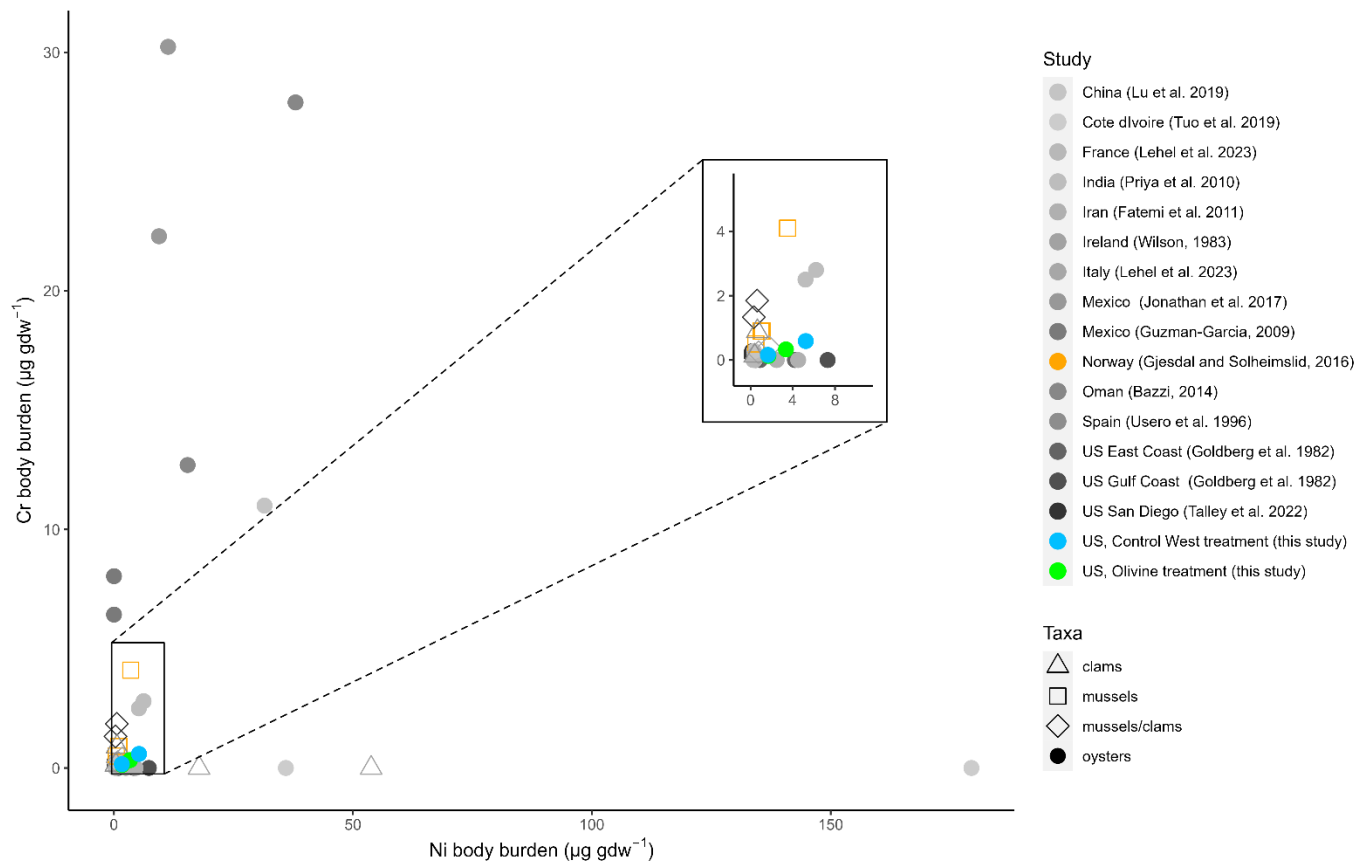
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318 **Global Context**

319 While the current study is the first marine application of olivine for the purpose of carbon  
320 removal, olivine was previously applied as a 30 cm layer to a small section of Kirkebukten port,  
321 Bergen, Norway, to assess its potential for pollution adsorption. In that project, mussels were  
322 placed in bags and exposed to olivine for 12 weeks. The mussels ultimately accumulated between  
323 0.5 and 1.0  $\mu\text{g Ni g dw}^{-1}$ <sup>45</sup>, while naturally occurring mussels collected from the site 4 years after  
324 olivine placement accumulated between 1.3 and 3.5  $\mu\text{g Ni g dw}^{-1}$ <sup>26</sup>. These accumulation levels  
325 are comparable to the current study (Fig. 5), where only oysters from the Control West  
326 treatment, 64 days post-olivine placement, exhibited higher Ni accumulation (maximum 5.2  $\mu\text{g Ni g dw}^{-1}$ ).  
327 Additionally, mussels from the Norwegian experiment accumulated similar to higher  
328 amounts of Cr (0.5 to 4.1  $\mu\text{g Cr g dw}^{-1}$ ) compared to oysters in the current study (0.1 to 0.6  $\mu\text{g Cr g dw}^{-1}$ ).  
329 Thus, the magnitude of metal bioaccumulation measured in this study appears to be  
330 representative of bivalves under field olivine exposure. Bivalves have also been exposed to  
331 olivine in a laboratory setting. Bent-nosed clams (*Macoma nasuta*, Conrad, 1837) accumulated  
332 6.8  $\mu\text{g Ni g dw}^{-1}$  and 0.09  $\mu\text{g Cr g dw}^{-1}$ , with no Co accumulation<sup>24</sup> (wet weight to dry weight  
333 conversion based on a 0.489 ratio for bivalves<sup>46</sup>) over 28 days of exposure in tanks. Thus, Ni  
334 accumulation in clams under laboratory conditions reached slightly higher levels than oysters  
335 from the current study over 64 days of field exposure. These findings suggest that species with  
336 different feeding types and behaviors may respond differently to olivine exposure, and that  
337 laboratory experiments may overestimate effects, potentially due to limited water exchange and  
338 dilution, as compared to field conditions.

339 In general, researchers and regulators have extensively studied oysters due to their commercial  
340 importance in aquaculture and food production. The maximum acceptable Ni concentration in  
341 shellfish published by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, US Food and Drug  
342 Administration, is 80  $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ <sup>47</sup>. According to the Norwegian classification of environmental  
343 contamination level based on metal body burden in mussels, Ni concentrations  $< 5 \mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$  are  
344 regarded as the lowest condition class contamination level<sup>48</sup>. The oyster Ni accumulation  
345 measured in the current study is at or below established warning thresholds. The Ni and Cr body  
346 burden concentrations are also well within the range of values published for bivalves from natural  
347 settings (Fig. 5). Therefore, mERW with olivine sand had a limited effect on trace metals  
348 bioaccumulation in oysters and does not appear to be problematic for human consumption and  
349 the shellfish industry.



351 **Fig. 5** Comparison of mean Ni and Cr body burden ( $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ) in oysters and other bivalves  
 352 measured in the current study and other studies worldwide (underlying data presented in Table  
 353 S2). Norway data points represent results for mussels exposed to olivine in Kirkebukten port,  
 354 Bergen, Norway.

### 355 **Future Work**

356 The results of this study suggest that oyster growth is positively affected by olivine exposure,  
 357 potentially related to increased alkalinity concentrations resulting from olivine dissolution,  
 358 however, this effect was not strong and was only observed in the first 64 days after olivine  
 359 placement, and thus requires further testing. The results of this study also indicate limited impact  
 360 of olivine-derived metals on juvenile and adult oysters, but future work should include testing of  
 361 different life stages (e.g. oyster larvae) which may be more sensitive. Further field tests should  
 362 also encompass other benthic species with varied functional traits, including those that inhabit  
 363 sediment, burrow, and act as deposit feeders. These organisms would be directly exposed to  
 364 olivine sand and its dissolution products in porewaters. Crucially, future research should also  
 365 prioritize field experiments across diverse environmental conditions, as numerous factors  
 366 influence the speciation and bioavailability of metals. Special attention might be given to

367 bioaccumulation effects under low salinity, low oxygen and high sulfide conditions. These field  
368 studies should be accompanied by controlled lab experiments to help disentangle competing  
369 biogeochemical processes. Furthermore, this study deployed olivine sand within the Peconic Bay,  
370 NY, a partially enclosed, low-energy system. Testing high-energy, open-ocean coastal areas will  
371 likely reveal additional insights, such as the impact of high porewater advection and dilution  
372 rates, as well as rapid sediment redistribution. Such insights will be instrumental in determining  
373 if, how and when mERW projects can be implemented safely, paving the way for effective and  
374 responsible climate intervention strategies in marine ecosystems.

375

## 376 **Materials and methods**

### 377 **Experiment design and field site**

378 The field trial was located at a beach adjacent to the North Sea Beach Colony along the southern  
379 shore of Little Peconic Bay in Southampton, New York, USA (40.947886°, -72.427809°  
380 (ESPG:4326)). The bay forms part of the larger Peconic Bay tidal estuary system, situated between  
381 the north and south forks of eastern Long Island. The system is fed by the Peconic River in the  
382 west, and is separated from the Atlantic Ocean to the east by a series of islands, sounds and tidal  
383 channels. The site is tidally dominated, having a tidal range of 0.87 m<sup>49</sup> and strong localized tidal  
384 currents that run through the channels between landmasses. The strongest currents flow at rates  
385 of up to 1.2 m/s through the channel between Cow Neck and Robins Island, which separates Little  
386 Peconic Bay from Great Peconic Bay<sup>50</sup>. The islands to the east of the bay, including Shelter Island  
387 and Gardiners Island, provide protection from incoming waves and swells that originate in the  
388 Atlantic Ocean. Internally generated waves are fetch-limited, forming short-period, small-  
389 amplitude wind-waves; these types of waves can be short and steep and have erosive power  
390 along beaches. The water temperature is seasonally variable, peaking at an average of 25°C in  
391 July and dropping to 3.9°C in January as recorded at the Shelter Island USGS Station (01304650)<sup>51</sup>.  
392 Generally, the Peconic Bay estuary has benthic fauna typical for sandy sediments of the  
393 temperate zone<sup>52</sup>, and specifically in the project area there are no natural oyster beds observed,  
394 although oyster aquaculture operates nearby.

395 From July 5th to July 8th, 2022, approximately 650 tonnes of mERW olivine sand was placed as a  
396 layer in the intertidal area of the North Sea Beach by Vesta, PBC. The sand was tailored to match  
397 the native grain size of the site, with a median grain size of 0.49 mm ( $D_{50}$ ) and a fines content of  
398 0.5% (<0.0625 mm). The sand used for this experiment was dunite rock, with a mineralogical  
399 composition consisting of 85 wt% forsteritic olivine, 6.7 wt% orthopyroxene, 5.2% chlorite, and  
400 minor fractions of serpentine and talc. However, throughout the text we refer to this sand simply



401 by its primary mineral component, olivine. Mineralogical analyses of the sand were conducted at  
402 QMineral (Leuven, Belgium) using x-ray diffraction (XRD) on a Bruker D8 Advance with XE-T  
403 detector and Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation. Spectra were interpreted using in-house software.

404 Four stations representing four treatment areas (Control West, Olivine, Control East 1, Control  
405 East 2) were chosen for the oyster experiment and to monitor porewater composition and  
406 sediment characteristics. The porewater sampling locations were within 40 m of the oyster plots  
407 in all treatment areas and remained fully submerged at mean low water by approximately ~ 0.5  
408 m. The oyster bags at the olivine treatment site were located within the original footprint of the  
409 olivine deployment although wave and tidal energy reworked, and redistributed, the olivine over  
410 a larger area through time (Fig. 1).

#### 411 **Oyster field and laboratory methods**

412 Eastern oysters (*C. virginica*) were purchased from a local commercial oyster farmer in Mastic  
413 Beach, NY. 80 juvenile oysters (of size 3-4 cm) were placed in marine grade plastic oyster bags  
414 (100 cm x, 50 cm with 14 mm mesh size), which were then secured sub-tidally with screw anchors.  
415 Four oyster bags were placed within each of the respective control and treatment areas (n=16)  
416 on July 14, 2022. Oyster bags were marked with buoys to discourage poaching and prevent injury  
417 to swimmers. Oyster maintenance occurred 1-2 times per week, and involved flipping each bag  
418 over to rotate the side facing the substrate, shaking and breaking apart attached oysters, and  
419 removing any fouling or debris attached to the mesh. Three (3) oysters were collected from each  
420 bag on September 7th, 2022 (64 days after olivine nourishment), November 29th, 2022 (105 days  
421 after olivine nourishment), and May 10th, 2023 (300 days after olivine nourishment). In each  
422 case, samples were transported back to the laboratory, and depurated in a holding tank with  
423 filtered seawater (salinity= 30 psu, temp= 20°C) for 24 hours. Soft tissue was dissected (using  
424 non-metallic scalpels) from shells, wet weights were recorded, and tissue was placed in a drying  
425 oven (60°C) for 2 days. Dry weights were then taken and the dried tissue was pulverized using a  
426 ceramic mortar and pestle, placed into falcon tubes and shipped to Dartmouth College, NH Trace  
427 element Analysis Core for trace metals analysis. Oyster tissue was sub-sampled (ca. 250 mg  
428 sample) into 50 ml polypropylene tubes and 5 ml of 9:1 HNO<sub>3</sub>:HCl was added and the samples  
429 were left to 'cold digest' overnight. Samples were then digested in a MARS 6 (CEM, Matthews,  
430 NC) at 105°C with a 15-minute ramp and 45-minute hold. After cooling, 100  $\mu$ l of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was added  
431 to each sample and the samples were heated again. Finally, samples were diluted to 50 ml. The  
432 digestion included blanks and standard reference materials (NIST 2976, mussel tissue and 1566b  
433 Oyster tissue) at a frequency of one each per 20 samples. All measurement steps were recorded  
434 gravimetrically. The sample digestates were analyzed by triple quadrupole ICP-MS (Agilent 8900,  
435 Wilmington, DE). The analyte suite included Al, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, As, Se, Sr, Mo, Ag,  
436 Cd, Sn, Sb, Hg, Tl, Pb, U. All analytes were analyzed in He gas mode and Cr, V, As, Se, Cd were

437 also analyzed in O<sub>2</sub> gas mode. The ICP-MS was calibrated with NIST-traceable standards  
438 (Inorganic Ventures, Christiansberg, VA) and second source standards used to create the  
439 calibration verification were run after every calibration and every 10 samples; recoveries were  
440 ca 100% +/- 5%. Average SRM recoveries for Cr, Co, Ni were: 87 +/- 7% (n=2 2976b only), 97 +/-  
441 10% (n=6), 111 +/- 24% (n=6) respectively. Recoveries for Ni in 2976, where only a reference  
442 value is given, were biased high being 138 and 145% recovery of the reference value of 0.93 +/-  
443 0.12; recoveries of Ni in 1566b (n=4), where its value is certified were 96 +/- 6%.

#### 444 **Sediment field and laboratory methods**

445 Three sediment core surveys were conducted on August 16th, 2022, October 18th, 2022, and  
446 May 31st, 2023. Sediment cores were collected near oyster bag locations (Fig. 1) to a minimum  
447 depth of 20 cm and sub-sampled at depth horizons of 0-1, 1-3, 3-5, and 5-10 cm using an  
448 incremental sediment core extruder. Only the 1-3 cm sediment layer was analyzed for this study,  
449 based on the assumption that it was the most representative of the oyster environment as oyster  
450 bags were placed on the sediment surface. Sediment samples were stored in Whirlpak bags and  
451 dried at 60°C. The mineralogical composition of the samples was determined by XRD by QMineral  
452 as described above. Samples were homogenized with a mortar and pestle and dried to avoid a  
453 preferred orientation. In-house software was used for interpretation. Weight percent total  
454 organic carbon (TOC) from 1 - 3 cm was measured by the Arizona State University's Metals,  
455 Environmental and Terrestrial Analytical Laboratory (only for August and October 2022). Samples  
456 were sieved to remove particles >2 mm and milled to a fine powder. An aliquot of the milled  
457 sediment was then weighed into a silver capsule, fumigated with hydrochloric acid to remove  
458 carbonates, and dried at 60°C. Samples were analyzed on a Perkin Elmer Series II CHNS/O  
459 analyzer, calibrated using an acetanilide standard and Certified Reference Materials, TOC  
460 standard B2293 and NIST #2711. The precision of this method was approximately 0.03% TOC.

461 Additional sediment grab surveys were conducted in May, June, August, September, and October  
462 2022, as well as June, August, and October 2023 to determine spatial and temporal variation in  
463 grain size distribution. Samples were collected with a 0.04 m<sup>-2</sup> van Veen grab during each survey  
464 at seven transects throughout the study area, two stations per transect (Fig. S3.8). Following the  
465 methodology of Folk, 1974<sup>53</sup>, samples were partitioned into three size-fractions by adding 50 ml  
466 of a 1% Calgon solution, mixing to disaggregate the particles in the sample, and wet sieving with  
467 distilled water through a combination of 2 mm and 63 μm sieves. The >2 mm and 2 mm-63 μm  
468 fractions were placed in a drying oven at 60°C for at least 48 hours to obtain dry weights. Water  
469 containing the <63 μm fraction (mud) was brought up to 1000 ml total volume in a graduated  
470 cylinder, mixed thoroughly, and subsampled with a 20 ml pipette at a depth of 20 cm, 20 seconds  
471 after mixing. Pipette samples were placed in a drying oven at 60°C for at least 48 hours to obtain

472 dry weight estimates of the mud fraction. Mud weight estimates included a correction for the  
473 amount of Calgon added to the samples.

#### 474 **Sediment porewater and water column field and laboratory methods**

475 Chlorophyll *a* was measured by sensor (In Situ Aqua TROLL 500) approximately 0.5 m above the  
476 seafloor concurrent with porewater surveys. Precision of the chlorophyll *a* sensor was 0.94  
477 Relative Fluorescence Units (RFU). Seven porewater surveys were conducted throughout the  
478 experiment. Discrete porewater samples were collected via carbon fiber PushPoints (M. H. E.  
479 Products, East Tawas, MI) at 0 cm (i.e., water column, just above the sediment-water interface)  
480 and 2 cm. Approximately 40 mL of porewater was collected with a polycarbonate syringe, then  
481 filtered to 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  with a 13 mm diameter polyethersulfone syringe filter, and subsampled  
482 immediately on the beach. All protocols followed the best oceanographic sampling practices  
483 (Dickson et al., 2007). Porewater sub-samples were immediately taken back to the laboratory  
484 and either analyzed in-house or sent for external analyses. Conductivity was measured in-house  
485 using a Mettler Toledo Inlab Conductivity Probe. Salinity was calculated from conductivity using  
486 the algorithm of the Practical Salinity Scale of 1978<sup>54,55</sup>. The precision of this method was  
487 approximately 0.07 PSU. Nitrate+nitrite and ammonia were analyzed in the Gobler Laboratory at  
488 Stony Brook University using a Lachat Quikchem 8500 flow injection analyzer<sup>56</sup>. The precisions of  
489 these methods were approximately 0.14 and 0.16  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ , respectively. Sulfide was measured  
490 following the Cline, 1969<sup>57</sup> method. The precision of this method was approximately 2.2  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ .  
491 Trace metals were analyzed at the University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Trace  
492 Analysis. Trace metal samples were diluted 30-fold in ultrapure 0.16 M nitric acid (Fisher Optima)  
493 which contained approximately 17 nM indium as an internal standard. Diluted samples were  
494 measured by sector-field inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ThermoFisher Element  
495 XR) using a Peltier spray chamber (PC3, Elemental Scientific) and low flow perfluoroalkoxy alkane  
496 nebulizer (Elemental Scientific). Cd and Pb were used for quantification in low resolution, with  
497 Mo monitored for correction of molybdenum monoxide interference on Cd. The other elements  
498 (Ni, Cr, Co, Al, Cu, and Zn) were determined in medium resolution to eliminate common isobaric  
499 interferences. Quantification utilized standard curves which contained 30-fold diluted, cleanly  
500 collected seawater, to eliminate matrix effects. To check accuracy, SLEW-4, an estuarine water  
501 Certified Reference Material (National Research Council Canada) was analyzed. However,  
502 because many of the certified values of SLEW-4 are lower than the concentration range of the  
503 samples, a laboratory-fortified aliquot of SLEW-4 was prepared. For Co, Cu, and Ni, the recovery  
504 of SLEW-4 was typically within 10% of the certified values. For all elements, the recovery of the  
505 fortified SLEW-4 was typically within 10% of the fortified analyte addition. The precision of this  
506 method were approximately 0.14  $\mu\text{g Ni L}^{-1}$ , 0.016  $\mu\text{g Cr L}^{-1}$ , 0.004  $\mu\text{g Co L}^{-1}$ , 7.8  $\mu\text{g Al L}^{-1}$ , 0.015  $\mu\text{g}$   
507  $\text{Cd L}^{-1}$ , 0.6  $\mu\text{g Cu L}^{-1}$ , 0.05  $\mu\text{g Pb L}^{-1}$ , 2.9  $\mu\text{g Zn L}^{-1}$ . Total alkalinity for the 2022 samples was analyzed  
508 by the Subhas Lab at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. Total alkalinity was determined using

509 an open-system Gran titration on weighed 2.5 mL single samples, using a Metrohm 805 Dosimat  
510 and 855 robotic Titrosampler, calibrated twice daily against in-house seawater standard that was  
511 intercalibrated against Certified CO<sub>2</sub> in Dickson Seawater Reference Material (Scripps Institution  
512 of Oceanography). The precision of this method was approximately 4.4 μmol kg<sup>-1</sup>. Total alkalinity  
513 for the one timepoint in 2023 was determined in-house using a Metrohm 855 Robotic  
514 Titrosampler and 805 Dosimat system following the procedures detailed in Dickson et al. (2003)  
515 with modifications for small volume samples. These included a salinity adjusted (0.7M sodium  
516 chloride) ~0.01N hydrochloric acid solution dispensed at 5 μL intervals into a ~3 mL seawater  
517 sample. Certified CO<sub>2</sub> in the Dickson Seawater Reference Material (Scripps Institution of  
518 Oceanography) was titrated in triplicate before and after every 15 samples and a linear Gran  
519 function was applied to estimate the equivalence point in both sample and standards. The  
520 precision of this method was approximately 7.3 μmol kg<sup>-1</sup>.

### 521 **Statistical analysis of oyster data**

522 Differences in the selected trace metals (Ni, Cr, Co) concentration in the oyster tissue, as well as  
523 oyster dry weights among treatments and dates, were tested using a generalized linear mixed  
524 model (GLMM) based on a normal distribution. The model included 2 fixed factors (Treatment,  
525 Date), their interaction, and a random factor that represented the bag in which oysters were  
526 kept. The best model was selected according to Akaike's Information Criterion and diagnostic  
527 tests such as dispersion, residuals, and Levene tests for heteroscedasticity following DHARMA R  
528 package (version 0.4.6). When significant effects were detected by the main test, Tukey pairwise  
529 tests were applied at a family error rate of 0.05. All analyses were performed in R<sup>58</sup> using the  
530 'glmmTMB' package, version 4.2.2.

531 Bioconcentration factor (BCF) which represents the degree of metal concentration in an organism  
532 was calculated for Ni, Cr, and Co using the formula:

$$533 \quad BCF = \frac{C_m}{C_w}$$

534 Where C<sub>m</sub> is the metal concentration in an organism's tissue expressed as μg g<sup>-1</sup> dry weight, and  
535 C<sub>w</sub> is the metal concentration in water expressed as μg mL<sup>-1</sup>. To account for oysters exposure to  
536 a range of metal concentrations with time, BCF for oyster samples collected on September 7,  
537 2022, was calculated using the average metal concentration in the bottom water and porewater  
538 measured between July 15 and August 2, 2022; for oysters collected on November 29 2022 using  
539 the average metal concentration in the porewater measured between July 15 and October 10  
540 2022; while for oysters collected in and May 10, 2023, using the average metal concentration in  
541 the porewater measured between July 15, 2022, and May 31, 2023.

542

543

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545

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555

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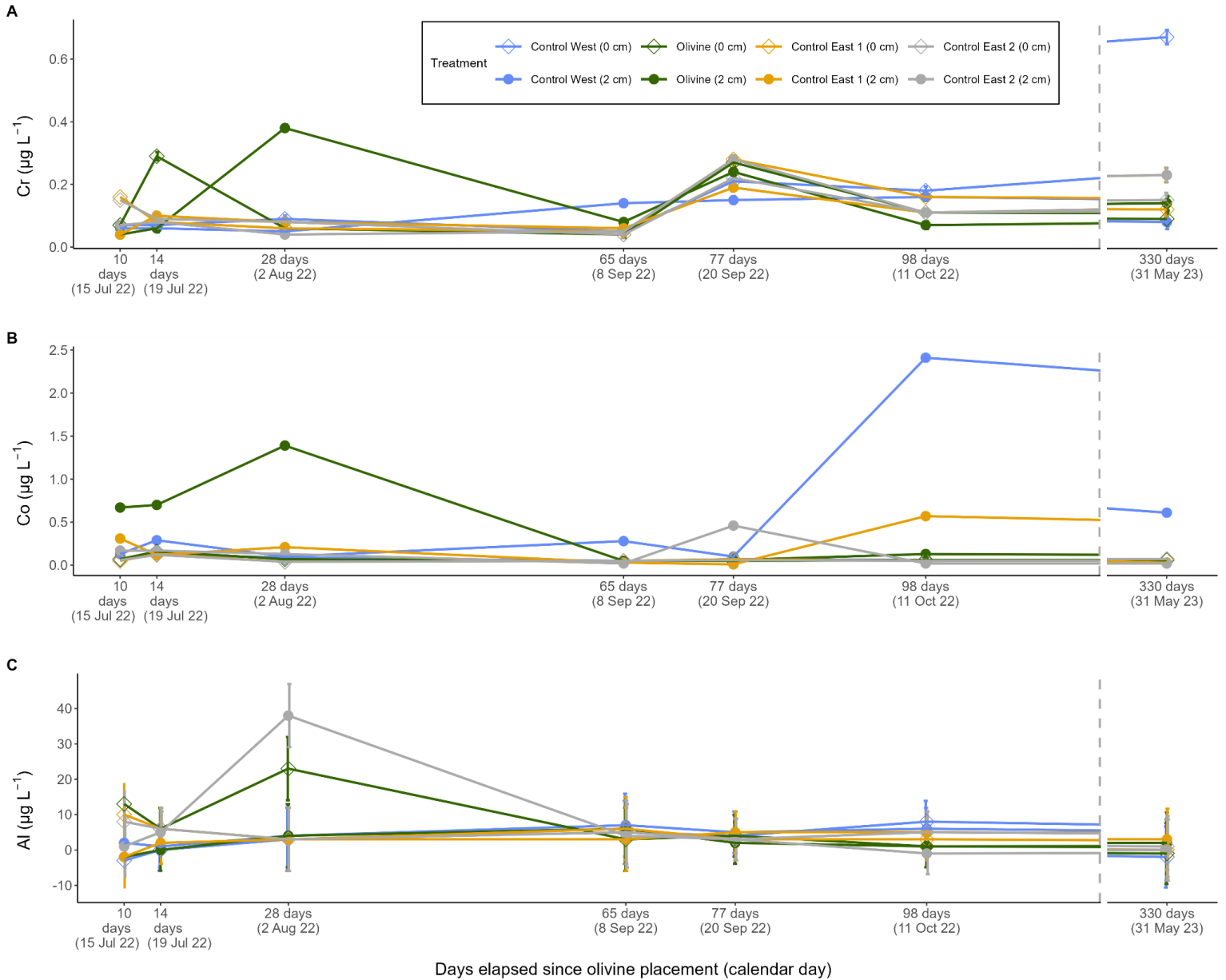
700 **Supplementary Information**

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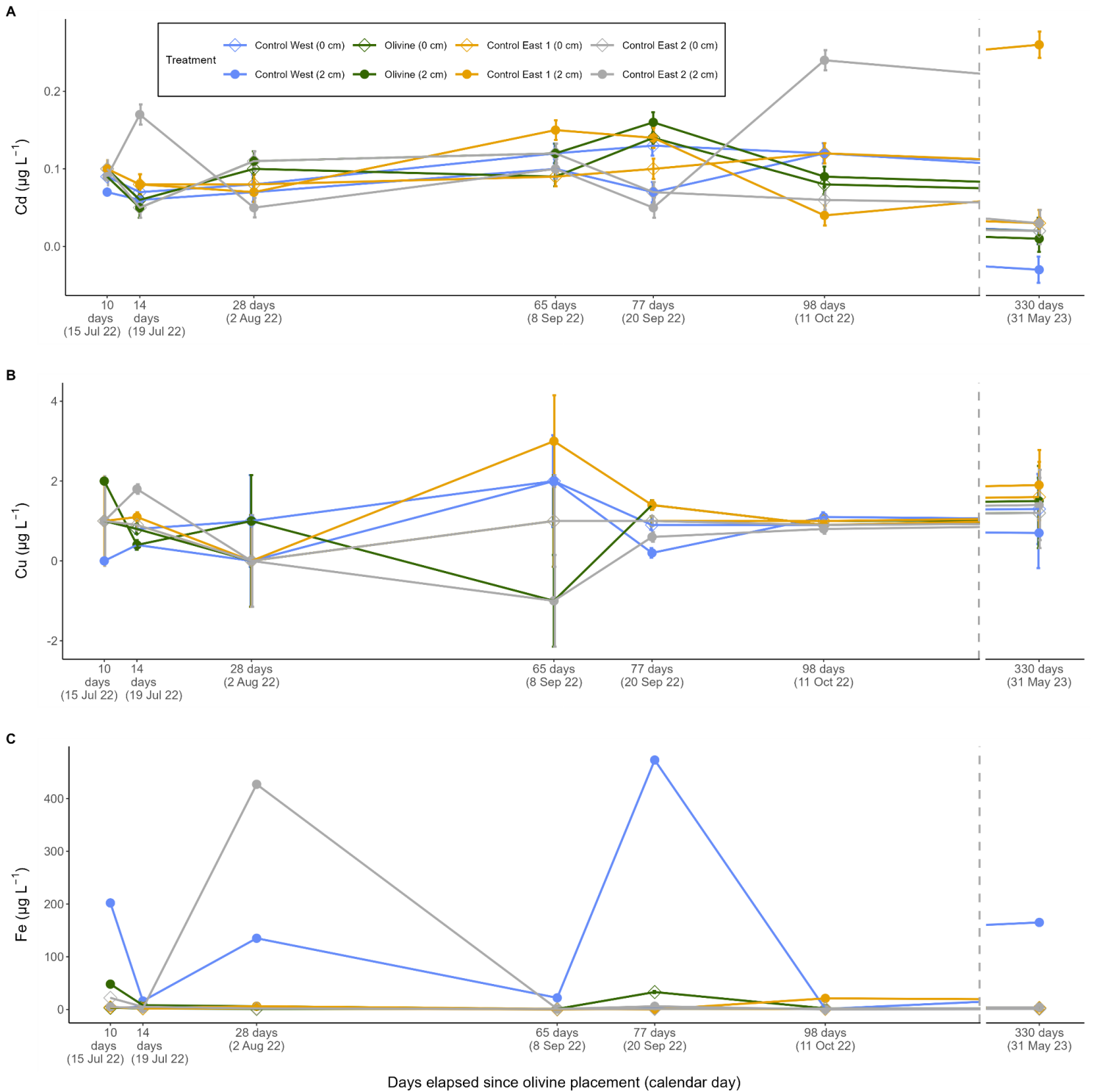
703 **S1 Bottom water and porewater results for remaining trace metals**

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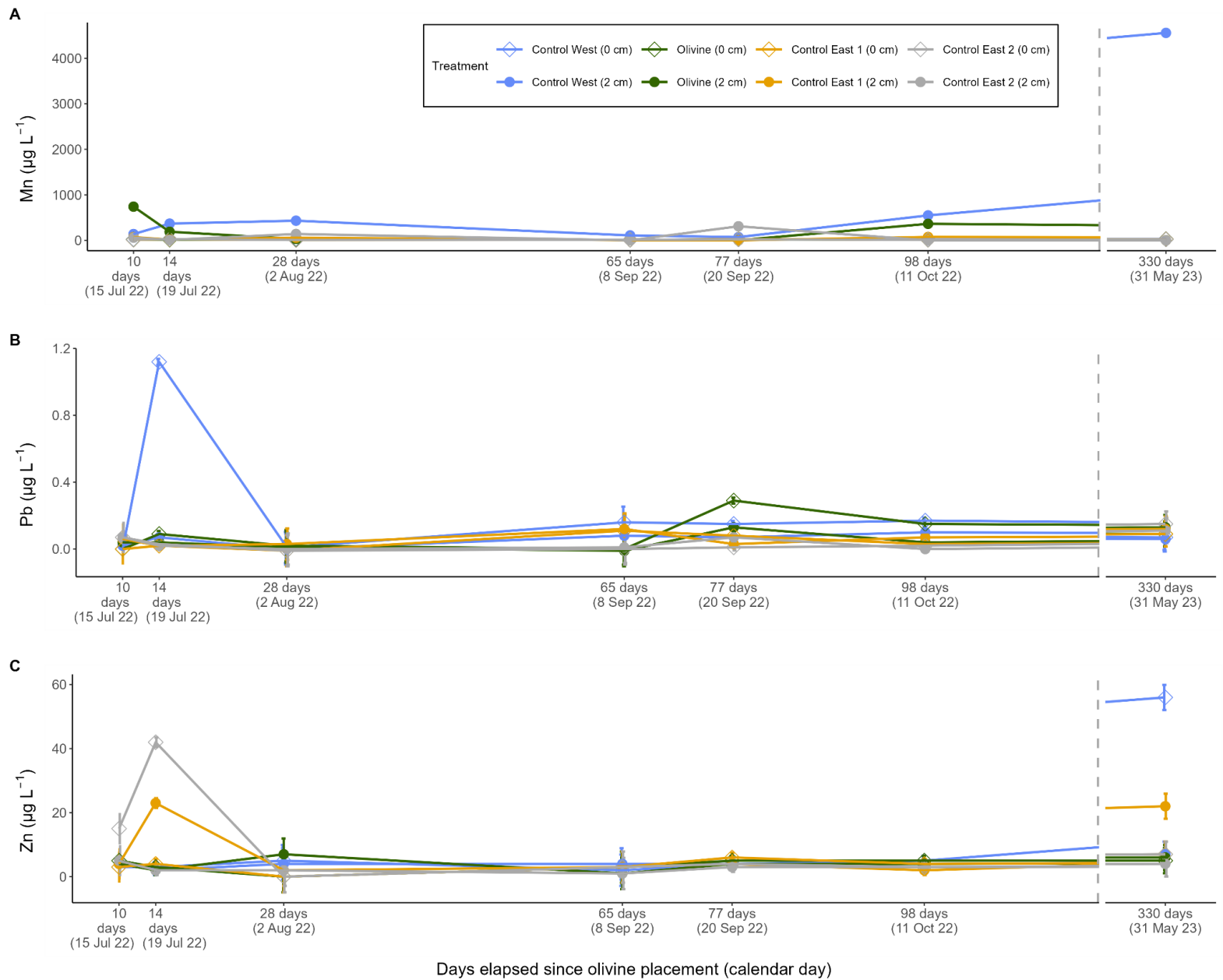
706 **Fig. S1.1** A) Cr, B) Co, and C) Al concentration ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) measured during the experiment in bottom  
 707 water (0 cm) and porewater at 2 cm sediment depth. Colors represent four treatments, shapes  
 708 represent bottom vs. porewater samples. 'Jul' stands for July, 'Aug' for August, 'Sep' for  
 709 September, 'Oct' for October, 'Nov' for November. Analytical error bars for Co amounts 0.003 -  
 710 0.009  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and are too small to resolve in the graphs.

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713 **Fig. S1.2** A) Cd, B) Cu, and C) Fe concentration ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) measured during the experiment in bottom  
 714 water (0 cm) and porewater at 2 cm sediment depth. Colors represent four treatments, shapes  
 715 represent bottom vs. porewater samples. 'Jul' stands for July, 'Aug' for August, 'Sep' for  
 716 September, 'Oct' for October, 'Nov' for November. Analytical error bars for Fe amounts 1.2 - 1.9  
 717  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and are too small to resolve in the graphs.

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720 **Fig. S1.3** A) Mn, B) Pb, and C) Zn concentration ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) measured during the experiment in bottom  
 721 water (0cm) and porewater at 2 cm sediment depth. Colors represent four treatments, shapes  
 722 represent bottom vs. porewater samples. 'Jul' stands for July, 'Aug' for August, 'Sep' for  
 723 September, 'Oct' for October, 'Nov' for November. Analytical error bars for Mn amounts 0.08 -  
 724 0.52  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and are too small to resolve in the graphs.

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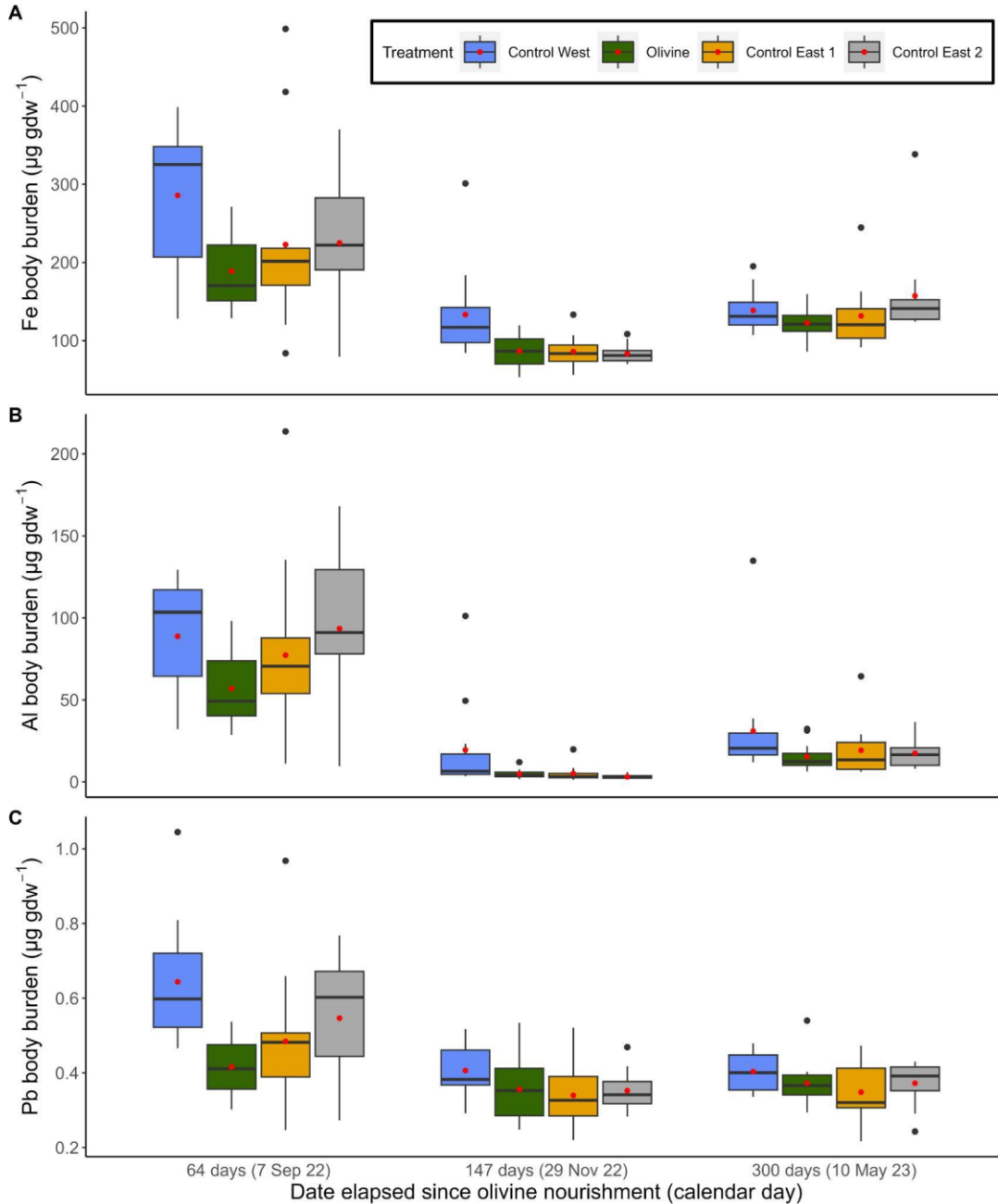
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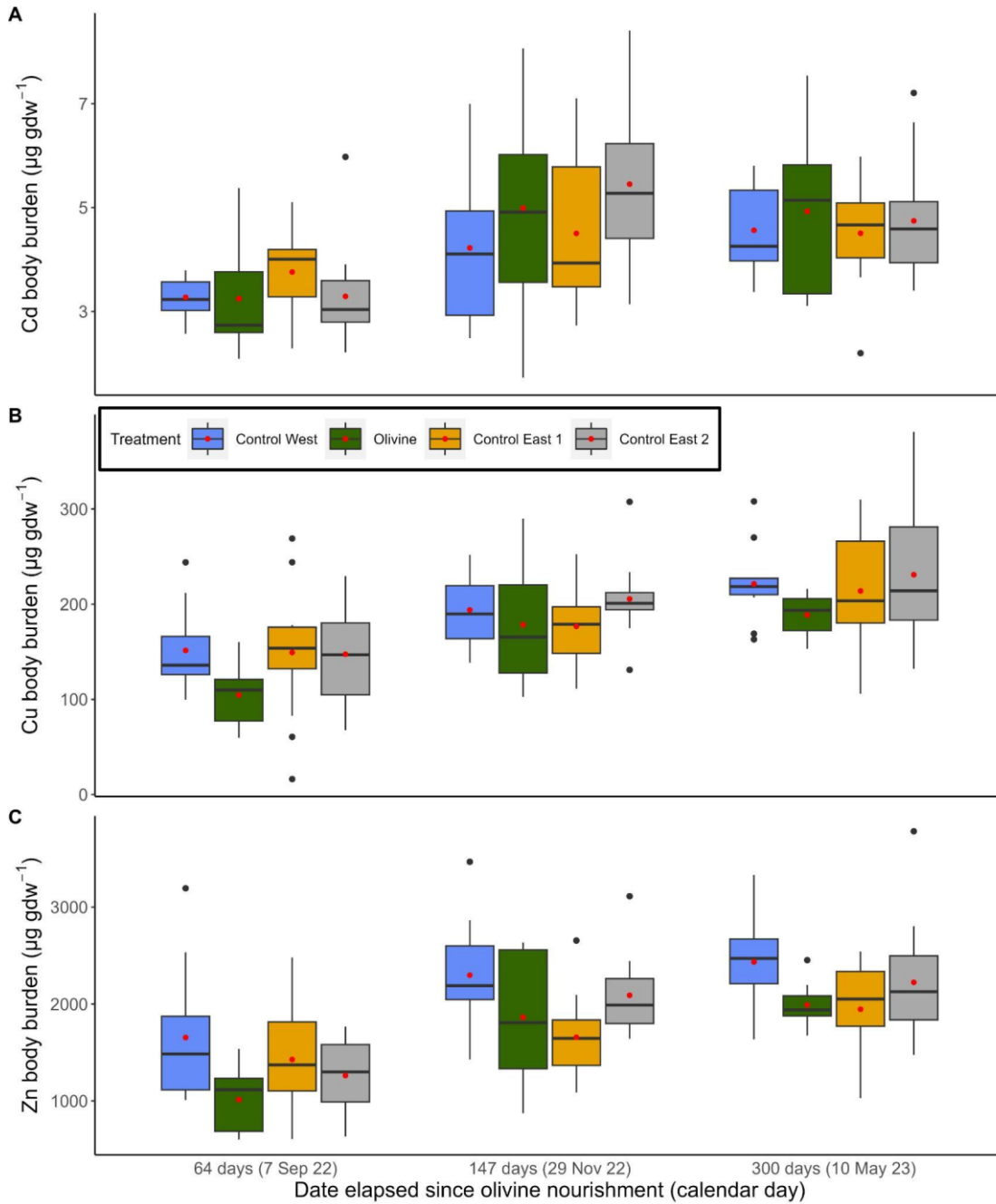
## S2 Oyster tissue body burden for remaining metals



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**Fig. S2.1** Selected trace metals (A) Fe, B) Al, C) Pb oyster tissue body burden ( $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ) at four treatments and three sampling dates. Colors represent four treatments. Mean (red dot), median (horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentile (box), minimum and maximum value (vertical line), and outliers (black dot) are presented. 'Sep' stands for September, 'Nov' for November.

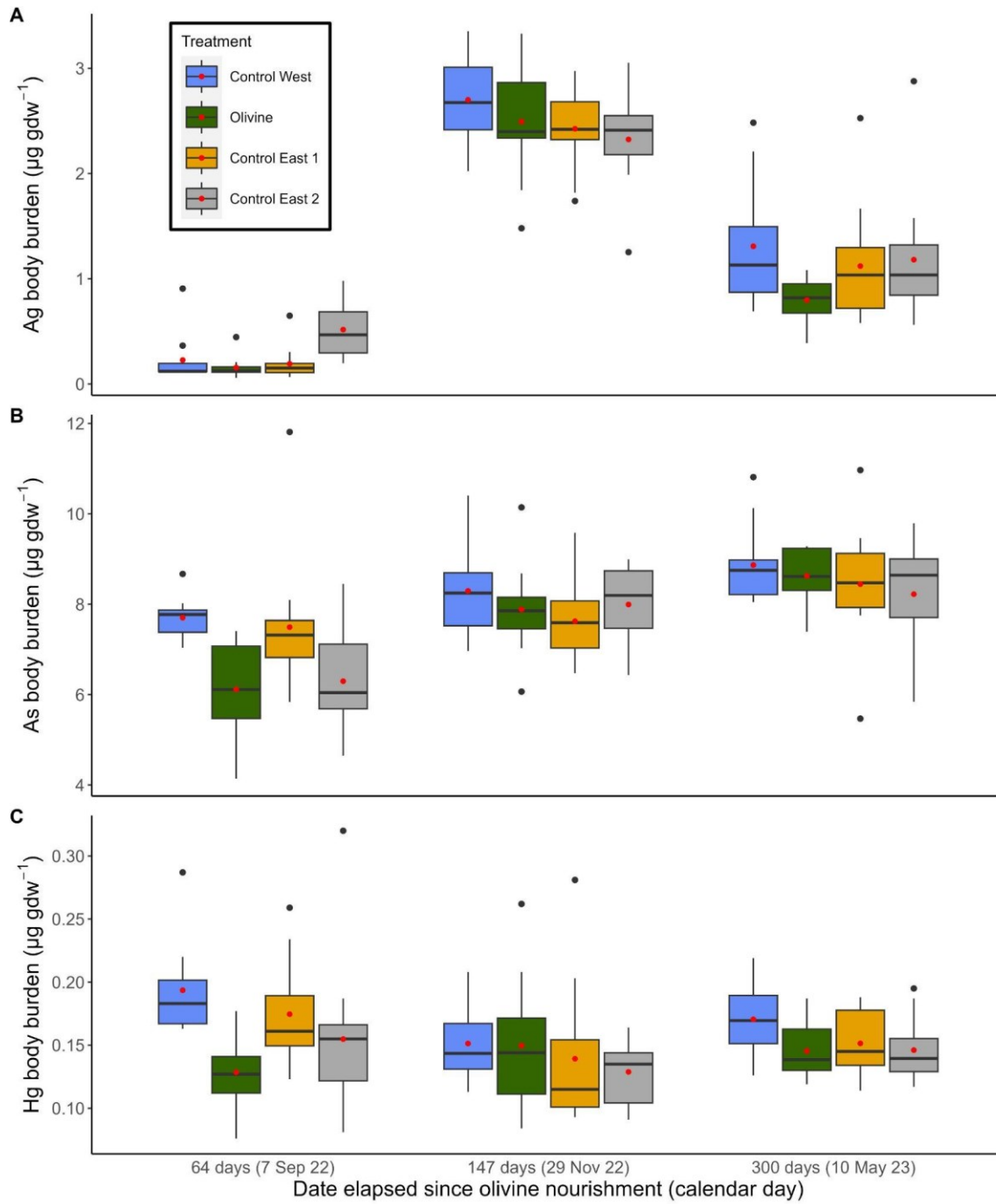
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**Fig. S2.2** Selected trace metals (A) Cd, B) Cu, C) Zn oyster tissue body burden ( $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ) at four treatments and three sampling dates. Colors represent four treatments. Mean (red dot), median (horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentile (box), minimum and maximum value (vertical line), and outliers (black dot) are presented. 'Sep' stands for September, 'Nov' for November.





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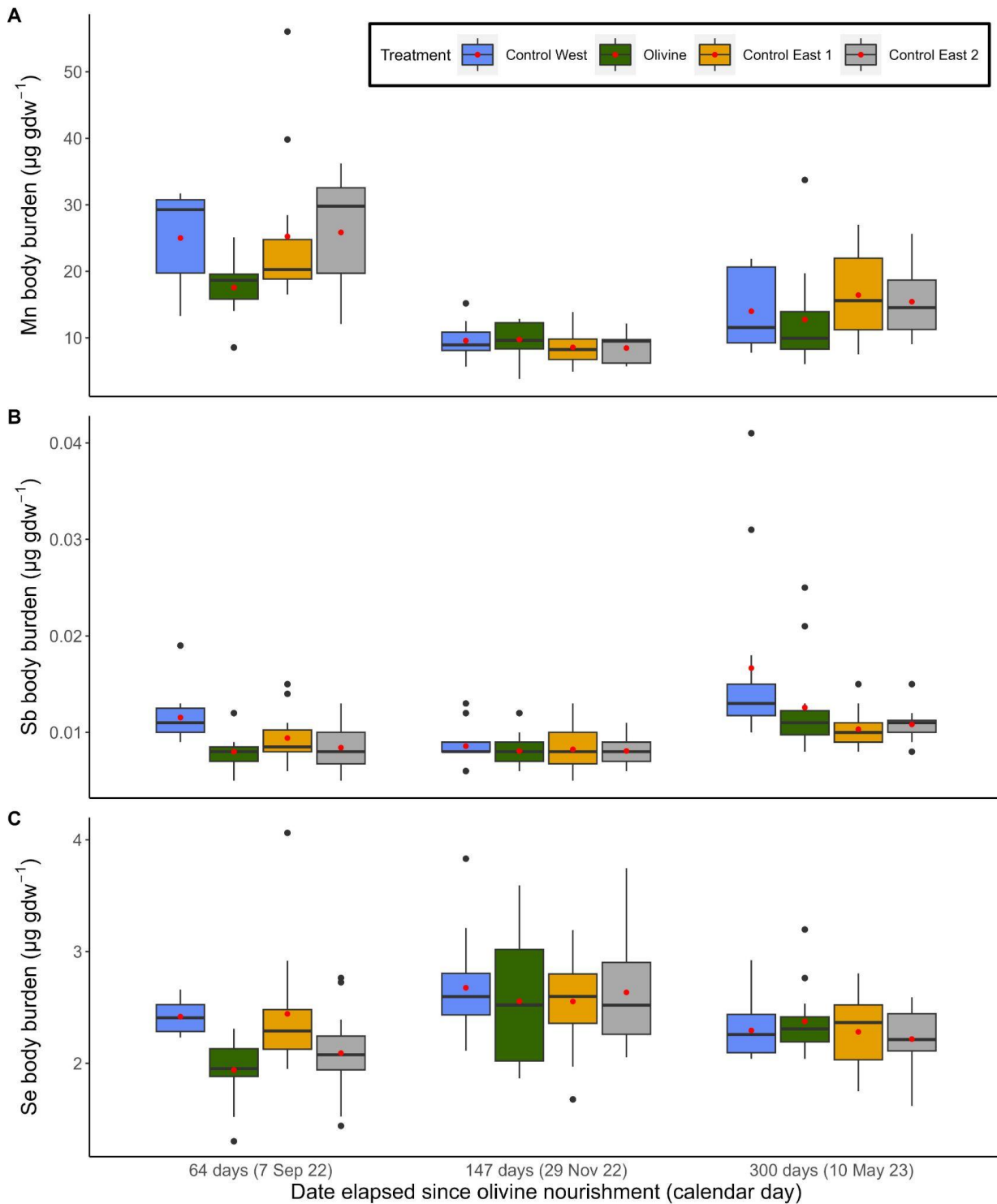
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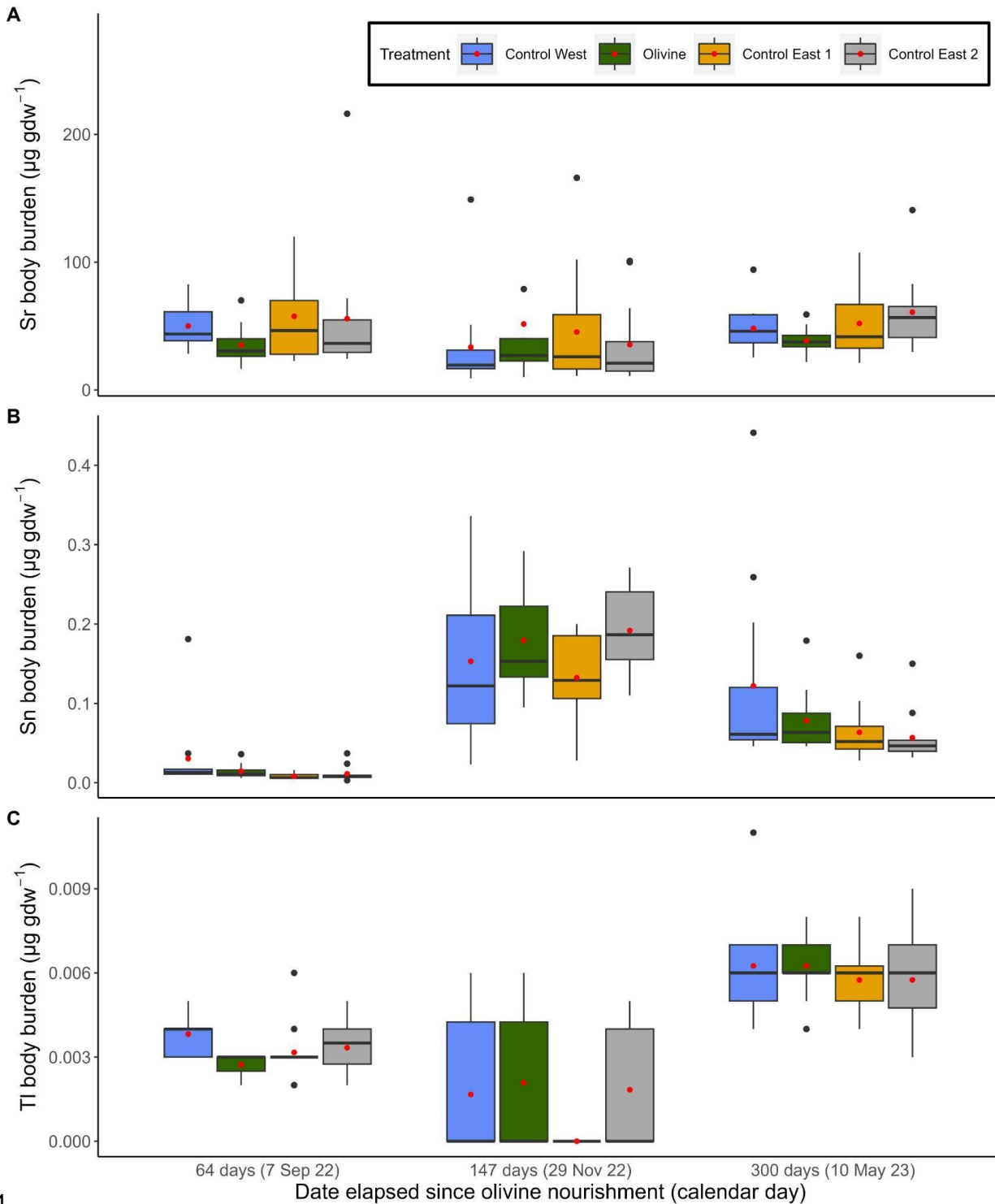
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**Fig. S2.3** Selected trace metals (A) Ag, B) As, C) Hg oyster tissue body burden ( $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ) at four treatments and three sampling dates. Colors represent four treatments. Mean (red dot), median (horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentile (box), minimum and maximum value (vertical line), and outliers (black dot) are presented. ‘Sep’ stands for September, ‘Nov’ for November.



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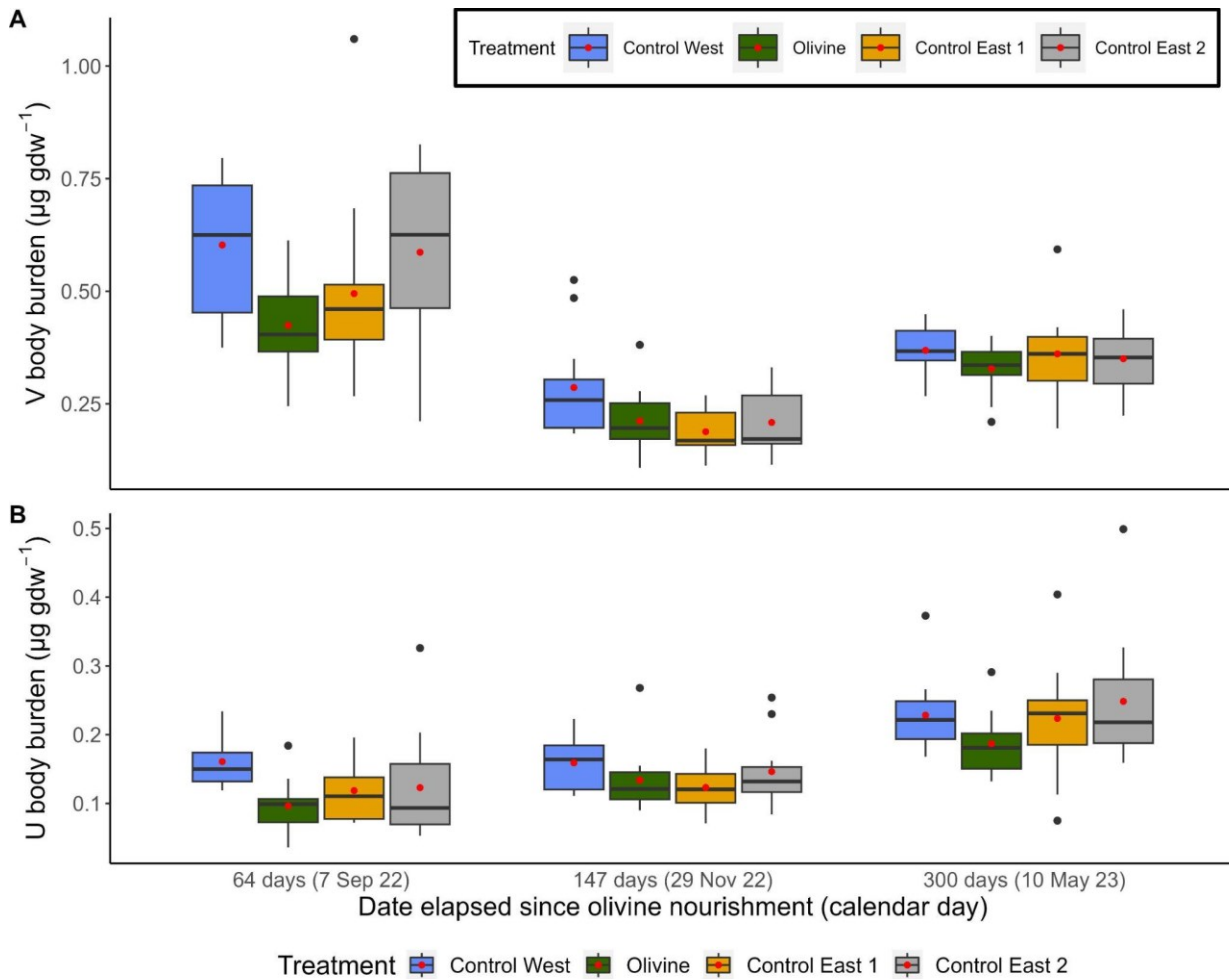
**Fig. S2.4** Selected trace metals (A) Mn, B) Sb, C) Se oyster tissue body burden ( $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ) at four treatments and three sampling dates. Colors represent four treatments. Mean (red dot), median (horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentile (box), minimum and maximum value (vertical line), and outliers (black dot) are presented. ‘Sep’ stands for September, ‘Nov’ for November.



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765 **Fig. S2.5** Selected trace metals (A) Sr, B) Sn, C) Tl oyster tissue body burden ( $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ) at four  
 766 treatments and three sampling dates. Colors represent four treatments. Mean (red dot), median  
 767 (horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentile (box), minimum and maximum value (vertical line),  
 768 and outliers (black dot) are presented. 'Sep' stands for September, 'Nov' for November.

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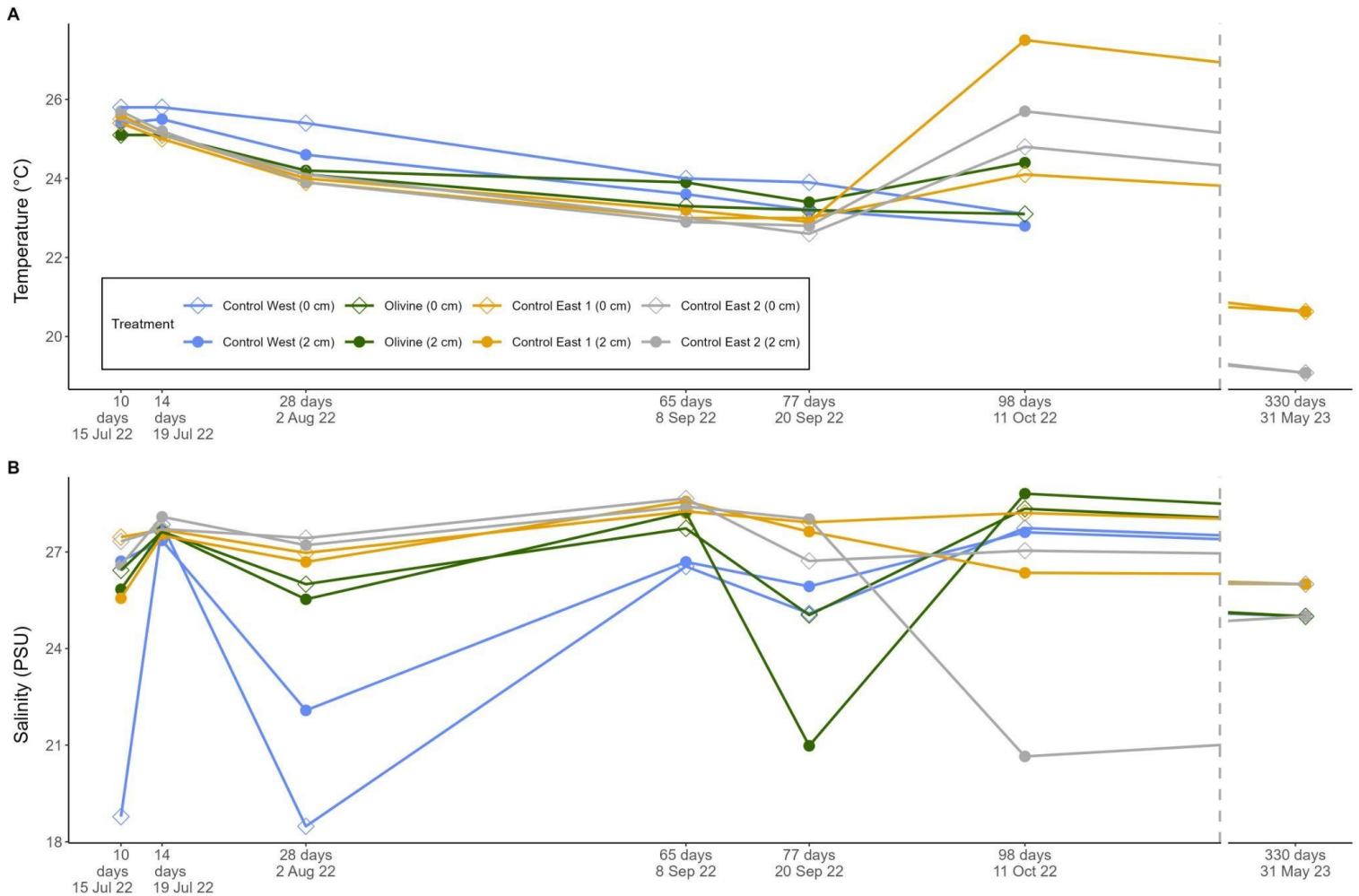


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**Fig. S2.6** Selected trace metals (A) V, (B) U oyster tissue body burden ( $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ) at four treatments and three sampling dates. Colors represent four treatments. Mean (red dot), median (horizontal line), 25th and 75th percentile (box), minimum and maximum value (vertical line), and outliers (black dot) are presented. 'Sep' stands for September, 'Nov' for November.

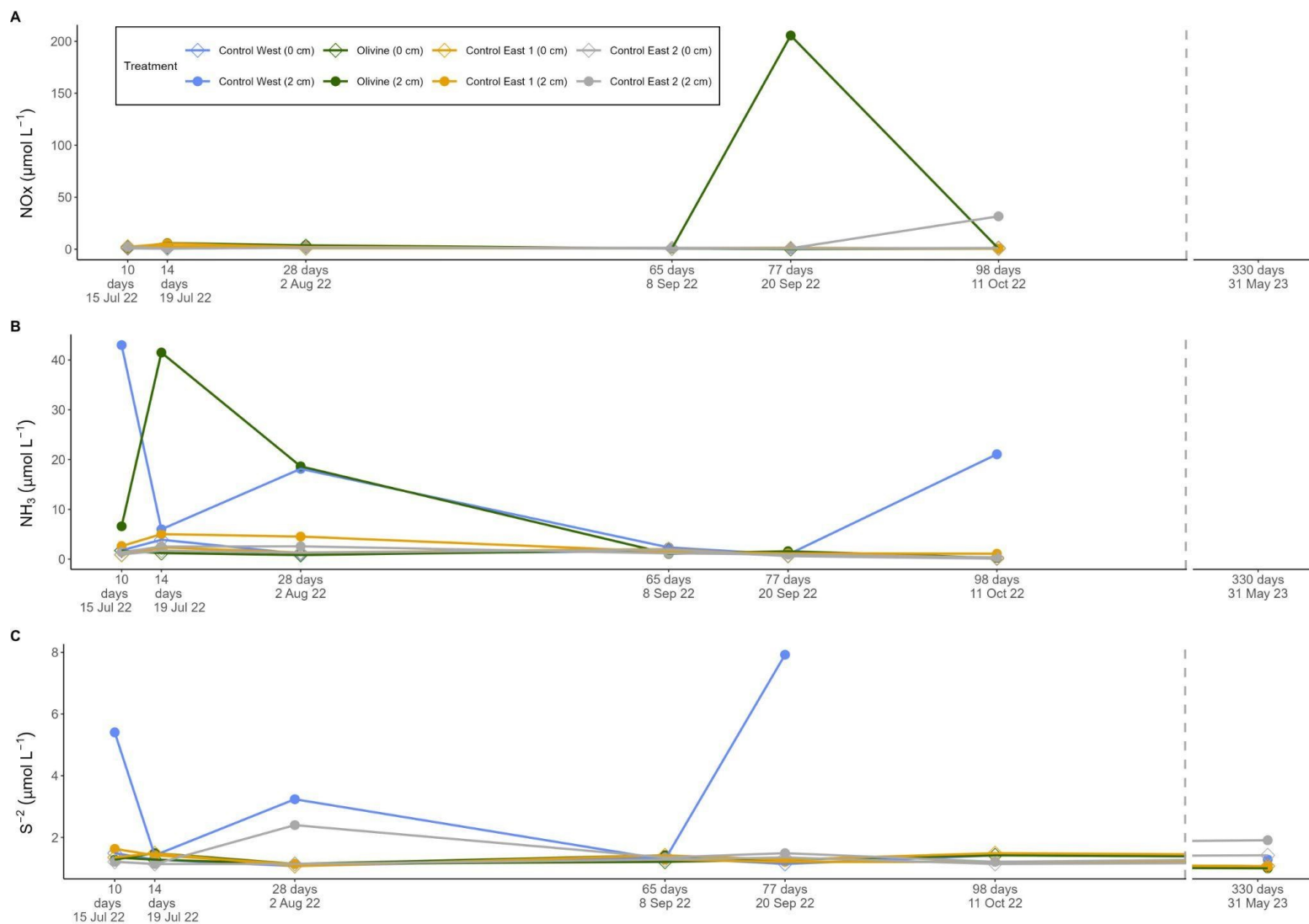
786 **S3** Background environmental parameters measured during the experiment

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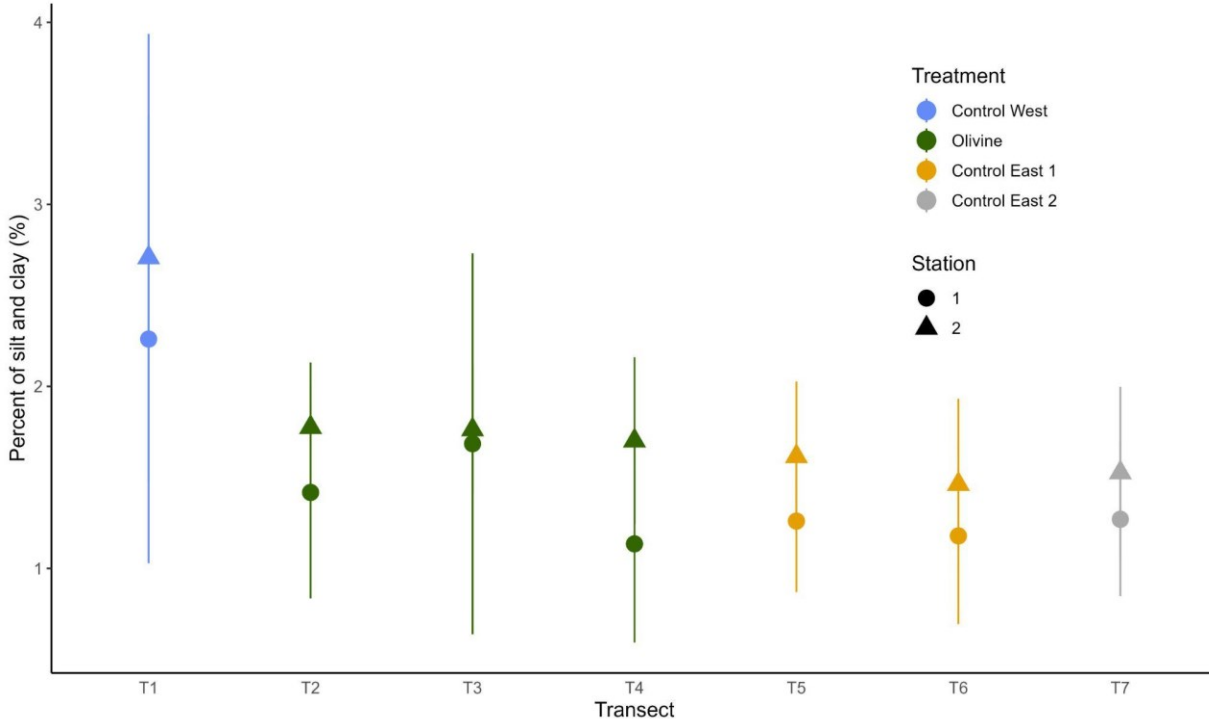
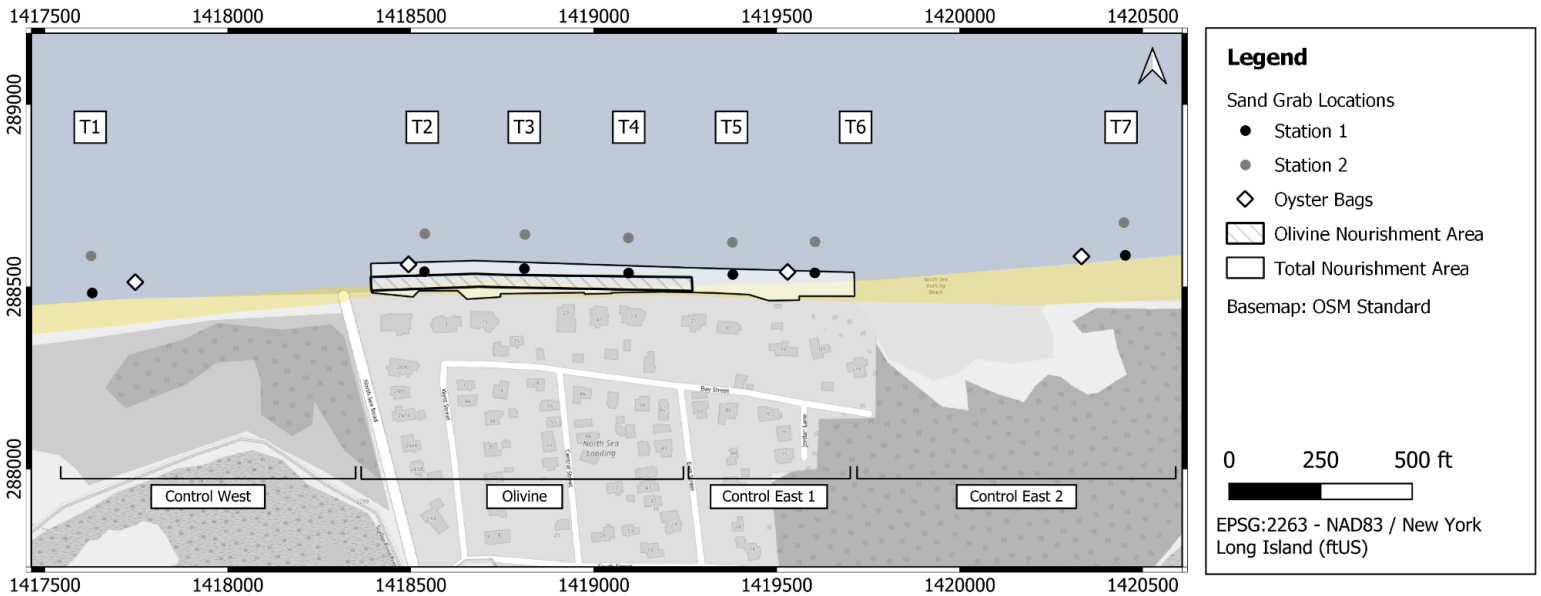
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790 **Fig. S3.1** A) Temperature (°C) and B) salinity (PSU) measured during the experiment in bottom  
 791 water (0 cm) and porewater at 2 cm sediment depth. Colors represent four treatments, shapes  
 792 represent bottom vs. porewater samples. 'Jul' stands for July, 'Aug' for August, 'Sep' for  
 793 September, 'Oct' for October, 'Nov' for November. The precision of salinity measurement was  
 794 approximately 0.07 PSU.



796 **Fig. S3.2** A) Nitrate+nitrite - NO<sub>x</sub><sup>-</sup> (μmol L<sup>-1</sup>), B) ammonia - NH<sub>3</sub> (μmol L<sup>-1</sup>) and C) sulfide - S<sup>2-</sup> (μmol  
 797 L<sup>-1</sup>) measured during the experiment in bottom water (0 cm) and porewater at 2 cm sediment  
 798 depth. Colors represent four treatments, shapes represent bottom vs. porewater samples. 'Jul'  
 799 stands for July, 'Aug' for August, 'Sep' for September, 'Oct' for October, 'Nov' for November. The  
 800 precision of NO<sub>x</sub><sup>-</sup> was approximately 0.14 μmol L<sup>-1</sup>, NH<sub>3</sub> was approximately 0.16 μmol L<sup>-1</sup> while of  
 801 S<sup>2-</sup> 2.2 μmol L<sup>-1</sup>.

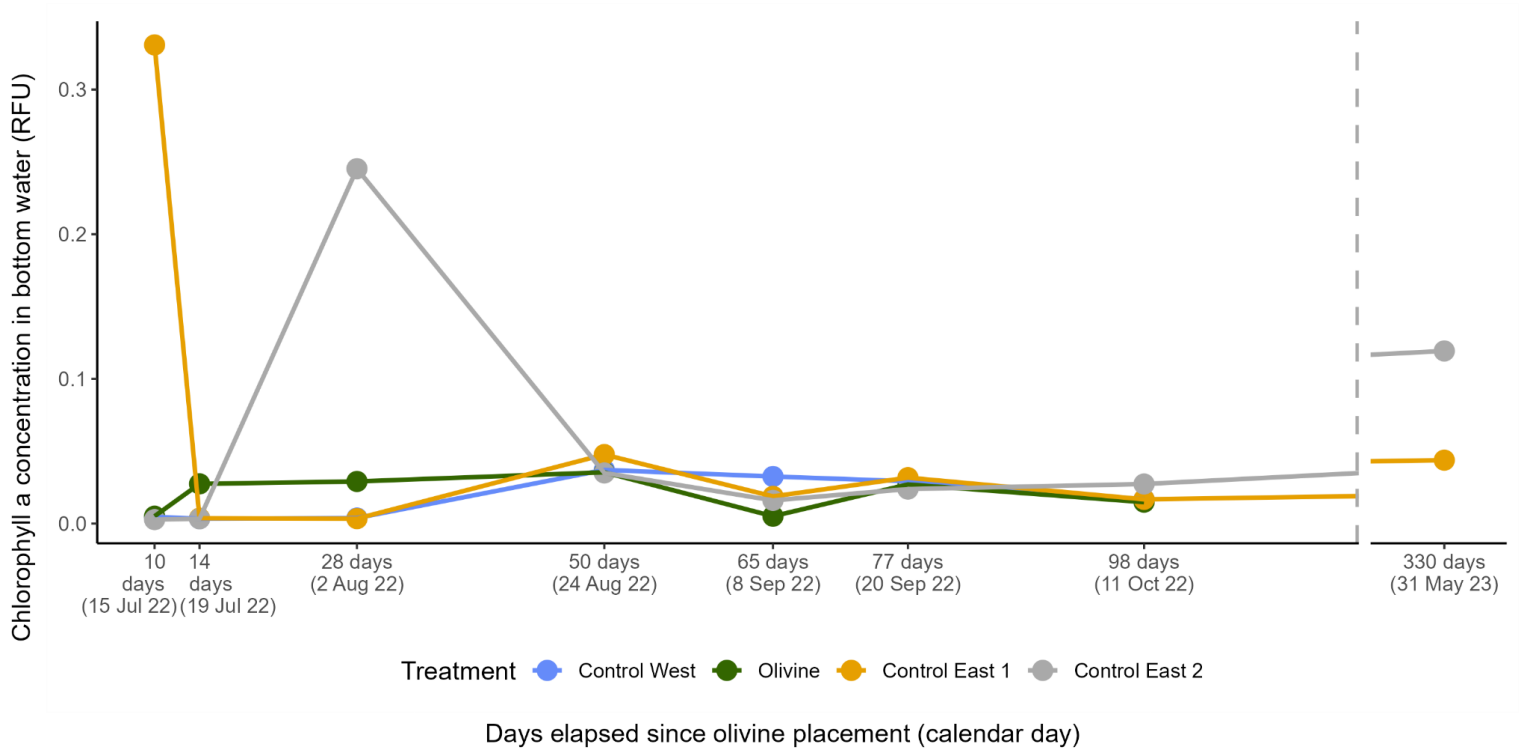
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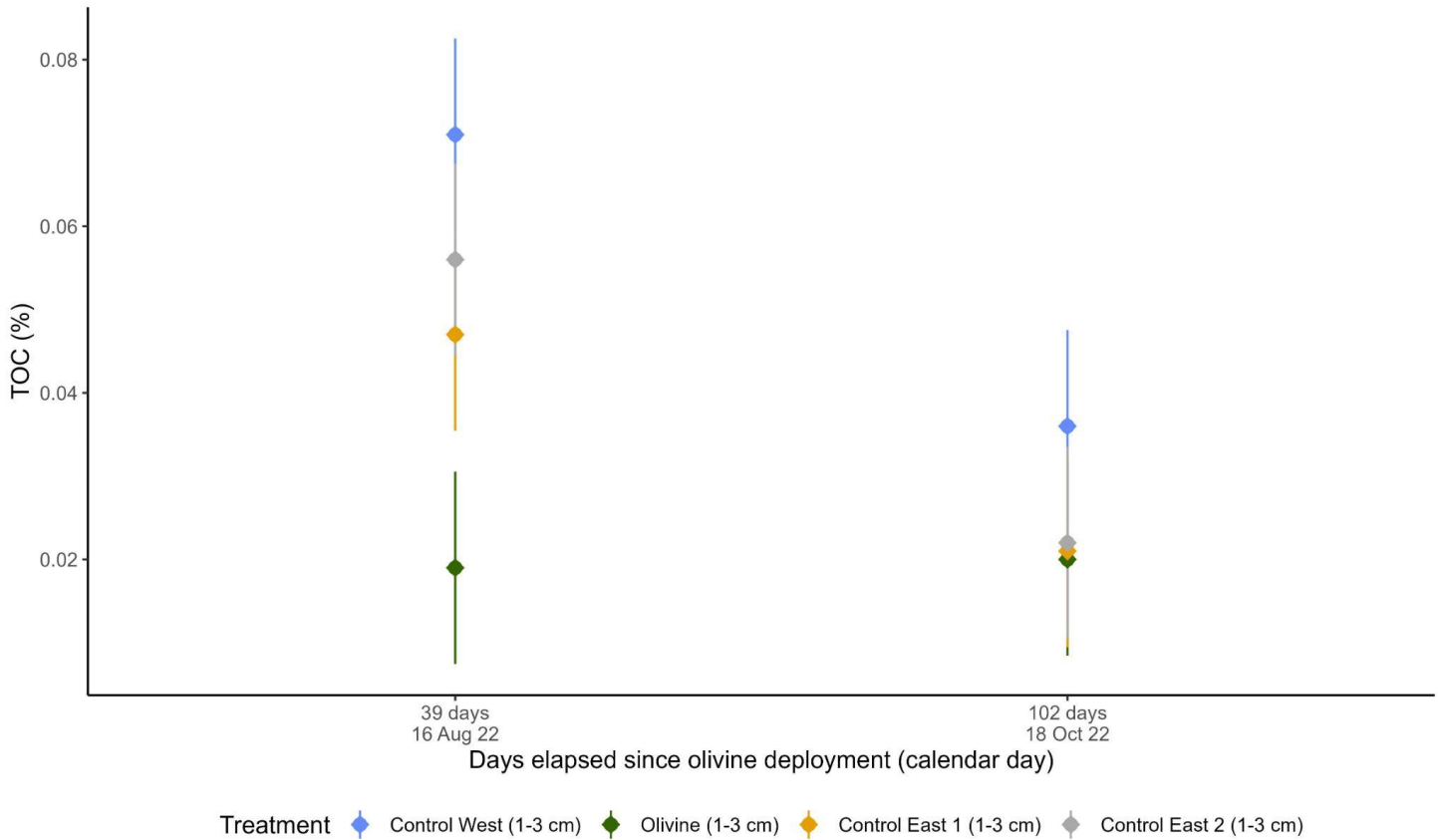
813 **Fig. S3.3** Mean percent silt and clay content calculated from sediment samples collected from  
 814 seven transects throughout the project area, and two stations per transect, over the course of  
 815 the experiment (mean  $\pm$  SD of samples from May, June, August, September, and October 2022,  
 816 as well as June, August, and October 2023).

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819 **Fig. S3.4** Chlorophyll a concentrations (RFU) measured using an AquaTROLL 500 right above the  
 820 seafloor throughout the experiment. The instrument measurement error was 0.94 RFU.  
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823 **Fig. S3.5** Total organic carbon (TOC %) measured in the top sediment layers (1-3 cm) 39 and 102  
 824 days after olivine placement at four treatments. The bars represent measurement error.

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842 **Tables**

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844 **Table S1** Bioconcentration factor measured in oyster tissue at four treatments and three  
 845 sampling dates. Mean ± SD measured from 12 data points presented.

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		BCF Ni		BCF Cr		BCF Co		BCF Fe		BCF Cd	
		mean	stdev	mean	stdev	mean	stdev	mean	stdev	mean	stdev
7 September 2022	Control West	5625	1934	10455	3127	3653	793	5376	1462	44073	5404
64 days elapsed since	Olivine	131	91	2187	671	545	198	2816	854	37323	14553
olivine deployment	Control East 1	1504	477	3721	2556	2156	647	3330	1976	54614	11296
	Control East 2	3583	5233	3582	1882	2543	611	3671	1502	41420	13544
29 November 2022	Control West	1219	447	1293	620	867	173	1933	1002	41405	14977
147 days elapsed since	Olivine	137	990	811	2829	780	1209	1432	2052	49543	14807
olivine deployment	Control East 1	1016	337	1135	7367	2513	436	1381	336	39650	14805
	Control East 2	2960	599	1014	929	1871	813	1336	202	53193	15114
5 May 2023	Control West	1735	393	1815	468	806	158	2115	447	52248	10498
300 days elapsed since	Olivine	178	43	1800	521	822	125	15272	2471	57585	15928
olivine deployment	Control East 1	1358	378	1688	741	2611	579	14402	5086	45051	9702
	Control East 2	4207	1594	1906	294	2382	458	4123	1730	50989	13134
		BCF Pb		BCF Al		BCF Mn		BCF Cu		BCF Zn	
		mean	stdev	mean	stdev	mean	stdev	mean	stdev	mean	stdev
7 September 2022	Control West	2941	850	88680	29592	172	41	254833	81934	404953	189116
64 days elapsed since	Olivine	2021	406	42165	19408	110	25	205976	63722	304358	86589
olivine deployment	Control East 1	2370	941	60448	46683	119	68	288400	132471	374275	145560
	Control East 2	2963	850	78109	42456	175	51	275339	104444	354324	102854
29 November 2022	Control West	5738	1000	1278	5681	74	22	239728	46995	610930	152737
147 days elapsed since	Olivine	5288	946	801	48114	80	78	208913	113526	504400	108960
olivine deployment	Control East 1	4898	1227	650	993	68	21	226026	52632	459257	124048
	Control East 2	5123	785	556	243	79	18	253844	51557	555280	114343
5 May 2023	Control West	2608	345	7168	11778	86	44	238984	42497	311658	62785
300 days elapsed since	Olivine	4880	841	2889	2024	94	74	216720	23804	502833	53293
olivine deployment	Control East 1	7605	1781	2185	2649	749	312	202057	60165	448766	106476
	Control East 2	9965	1558	2852	1587	315	114	282642	100381	316862	94345

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859 **Table S2** Comparison of mean Ni, Cr and Co body burden in oysters and other bivalves

860 measured in the current study and other studies worldwide presented in Fig. 5 in the main text.

Study	Species	Ni [ $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ]	Cr [ $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ]	Co [ $\mu\text{g g dw}^{-1}$ ]	Reference
<b>OYSTERS</b>					
US, Olivine treatment, Control West treatment (this study)	<i>C. virginica</i>	1.69 – 3.35 1.64 – 5.23	0.13 – 0.33 0.16 – 0.59	0.22 – 0.32 0.24 – 0.45	This study
US East Coast	<i>C. virginica</i> ,	0.9 - 4.2	-	-	Goldberg et al. 1982 (US Mussel Watch)
US Gulf Coast	<i>C. virginica</i> , <i>O. equestris</i>	0.5 - 7.3	-	-	Goldberg et al. 1982 (US Mussel Watch)
San Diego Bay, US	<i>C. gigas</i>	0.10 to 0.13	0.13 to 0.27	-	Talley et al. 2022
Gulf of California, Mexico	<i>C. gigas</i>	9.41 ± 11.33	22.29 ± 30.23	-	Jonathan et al. 2017
France	Different species	0.34 ± 0.07	0.07 ± 0.00	0.05 ± 0.00	Lehel et al. 2023
Queshm Islands, Iran	<i>Saccostrea cucullata</i> (Born, 1778)	2.47 – 4.51	-	-	Fatemi et al. 2011
Pulicat coastal lake, India	<i>Crassostrea madrasensis</i> (Preston, 1996)	5.2 – 6.2	2.5 – 2.8	-	Priya et al. 2010
Gulf of Chabahar, Oman	<i>S. cucullata</i>	15.4 – 38.0	12.7 – 27.9	-	Bazzi, 2014
Milliardaires Bay, Cote d'Ivoire	<i>Crassostrea gasar</i> (Dautzenberg, 1891)	35.97 - 179.45	-	-	Tuo et al. 2019

Mandinga Lagoon, Mexico	<i>C. virginica</i>	-	6.43 ± 8.04	-	Guzman-Garcia 2009
China	Different species	0.33-31.5	0.28-11.0	-	Lu et al. 2019
<b>MUSSELS OR CLAMS</b>					
Norway – Kirkebukten 4 years of natural olivine exposure	Different species	1.1 – 3.5	0.9 – 4.1	-	Gjesdal and Solheimslid, 2016
Norway – Kirkebukten 12 weeks of controlled olivine exposure	<i>Mytilus edulis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	0.5 – 1.0	0.5 – 0.9	-	Bojum and Gjesdal, 2020
San Diego Bay, US	Different species	0.31 – 0.61	1.33 – 1.85	-	Talley et al. 2022
Bull Island, Dublin Bay	<i>Cerastoderma edule</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	17.8 - 53.82	-	-	Wilson 1983
Italy	Different species	0.76 ± 0.97	0.24 ± 0.16	0.11 ± 0.14	Lehel et al. 2023
Southern Spain	<i>Chamelea gallina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	0.39 – 0.64	0.13 - 0.89	-	Usero et al. 1996

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