**Supporting Information for:**

**Title:** Spatial dynamics of animal-mediated nutrients in temperate waters

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**A green hill with yellow dots and a black text

Description automatically generated**

**Figure S1.** Schematic of methods used to survey biological communities associated with a kelp forest, kelp forest density, and NH₄⁺ inside vs outside the forest. We first ran a 50 m Reef Life Survey transect parallel to the kelp forest (green shaded area) and counted fishes in the water column within 5 m on either side of the transect (light blue shaded areas), and cryptic fishes and macroinvertebrates within 1 m on either side of the transect (darker blue shaded area). Next, we ran four 5 m long transects into the kelp forest, 5 m apart from each other, to assess kelp density and biomass within 0.5 m on either side of the transect (four perpendicular black lines). Finally, we took NH₄⁺ samples at the beginning and end of the first three kelp transects (yellow circles) to compare NH₄⁺ inside vs outside kelp forests.

A comparison of different types of mass

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Figure S2**. Relationship between Shannon diversity and (a) kelp forest biomass and (b) animal biomass in kelp forests across 16 sites (small-scale) in Barkley Sound, British Columbia, Canada. Macro = *Macrocystis pyrifera*, Nereo = *Nereocystis luetkeana*, No kelp = no kelp control.

**A diagram of a flow rate

Description automatically generated**

**Figure S3.** Change in ammonium in containers containing zero or four California sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus californicus*) relative to initial ammonium concentration after 24 hours in mesocosms with varying flow rates. Shaded areas indicate 95% confidence intervals, and raw data are plotted as points. While NH₄⁺ concentration remained the same across flow rates in the control mesocosms, sea cucumbers enriched NH₄⁺ concentration when flow was low. This enrichment declined as flow rate increased.

**Table S1.** Rocky reef sites sampled using Reef Life Survey methods, with the associated coordinates and years each site was surveyed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Site code** | **Site name** | **Coordinates** | **Years sampled** |
| BMSC1 | Dodger Channel | 48.82894897, -125.1975708 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC2 | Kirby | 48.85039902, -125.1987686 | 2021, 2023 |
| BMSC3 | Ohiat | 48.85558319, -125.1837997 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC4 | Kii xin | 48.81511688, -125.1753311 | 2021, 2023 |
| BMSC5 | Taylor Rock | 48.82733154, -125.1966019 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC6 | Baeria Rocks South Island | 48.95023346, -125.1555481 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC7 | Baeria Rocks N Island Southside | 48.95464325, -125.1539917 | 2021 |
| BMSC8 | Baeria Rocks N Island Northside | 48.95508194, -125.1533737 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC9 | Eagle Bay | 48.83478928, -125.1470261 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC10 | Ross Islets Slug Island | 48.87051773, -125.160347 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC11 | Wizard Island South | 48.85746765, -125.1582336 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC12 | Wizard Island North | 48.858284, -125.1609192 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC13 | Effingham West | 48.8650322, -125.3137207 | 2021, 2022 |
| BMSC14 | Effingham Archipelago | 48.87908173, -125.2974014 | 2021, 2022 |
| BMSC15 | Raymond Kelp Rock | 48.88028336, -125.3128815 | 2021, 2022 |
| BMSC16 | Faber Islets | 48.89070129, -125.300499 | 2021, 2022 |
| BMSC17 | Wouwer Channel | 48.86548233, -125.3614807 | 2021, 2022 |
| BMSC18 | Eussen Rock | 48.91161728, -125.2670364 | 2021, 2022 |
| BMSC19 | Ed King SW Pyramid | 48.82860184, -125.2212982 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC20 | Ed King East | 48.83566666, -125.214798 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC21 | Dixon SW | 48.85205078, -125.1235657 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC22 | Dixon Inside | 48.85426712, -125.1170349 | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC23 | Aguilar Point | 48.837589, -125.144145 | 2022, 2023 |
| BMSC24 | Swiss Boy | 48.916073, -125.131174 | 2023 |
| BMSC25 | Goby Town | 48.838595, -125.135015 | 2023 |
| BMSC26 | Hosie South | 48.9071, -125.037017 | 2023 |
| BMSC27 | San Jose North Island | 48.901183, -125.060433 | 2023 |

**Table S2.** Kelp forest site names, coordinates, survey dates and dominant kelp forest species. Macro = giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*), Nereo = bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*), None = no kelp control.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Site code** | **Site name** | **Coordinates** | **Date** | **Kelp** |
| KCCA1 | Ross Islet Slug Island | 48.87039, -125.1599 | 2022-07-04 | Macro |
| KCCA2 | Between Scott & Brady | 48.83287, -125.1493 | 2022-07-05 | Macro |
| KCCA3 | Dodger Channel 1 | 48.83072, -125.19439 | 2022-07-06 | Macro |
| KCCA4 | Flemming 112 | 48.87868, -125.1434 | 2022-07-07 | Macro |
| KCCA6 | Less Dangerous Bay | 48.87535, -125.0915 | 2022-07-24 | None |
| KCCA7 | Ed King East Inside | 48.83608, -125.2131 | 2022-07-25 | Macro |
| KCCA9 | Wizard Islet South | 48.85728, -125.1595 | 2022-07-27 | Macro |
| KCCA12 | North Helby Rock | 48.85831, -125.1649 | 2022-08-03 | Macro |
| KCCA14 | Danvers Danger Rock | 48.877, -125.0923 | 2022-08-06 | Macro |
| KCCA15 | Cable Beach | 48.82484, -125.16067 | 2022-08-07 | Nereo |
| KCCA16 | Tzartus 116 | 48.90084, -125.0811 | 2022-08-18 | Macro |
| KCCA17 | Turf Island 2 | 48.884864, -125.146937 | 2022-08-20 | Macro |
| KCCA18 | Second Beach | 48.815969, -125.174 | 2022-08-21 | Nereo |
| KCCA19 | Wizard Islet North | 48.85916, -125.15908 | 2022-08-22 | None |
| KCCA21 | Bordelais Island | 48.81822, -125.2294516 | 2022-09-01 | Nereo |
| KCCA22 | Taylor Rock | 48.82721, -125.19717 | 2022-09-05 | Macro |

**Table S3**. Wet weight estimates for each invertebrate species used to calculate total biomass for Reef Life Survey data. We used shell-free wet weight for species with large shells (e.g., hermit crabs, snails). When weight information was unavailable for a species, we used estimates from the closest relative or most similarly sized species available. For the three species we sized in situ (*Pycnopodia helianthoides*, *Crassadoma gigantea*, and *Haliotis kamtschatkana*), we used published length-weight relationships to calculate wet weight from size.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **Weight (g)** | **Source, proxy species if applicable** |
| *Cancer productus* | 200 | E.G. Lim, unpubl. |
| *Glebocarcinus oregonensis* | 3 | Hines 1982, small crabs |
| *Romaleon antennarium* | 3 | Hines 1982, small crabs |
| *Chorilia longipes* | 1.235 | Hines 1982, *Pugettia richii* |
| *Pugettia foliata* | 1.235 | Hines 1982, *Pugettia richii* |
| *Pugettia gracilis* | 1.235 | Hines 1982, *Pugettia richii* |
| *Pugettia producta* | 46 | Hines 1982 |
| *Pugettia richii* | 1.235 | Hines 1982 |
| *Scyra acutifrons* | 2 | Hines 1982 |
| *Scyra* spp*.* | 1.235 | Hines 1982 |
| *Cryptolithodes sitchensis* | 3 | Hines 1982, small crabs |
| *Cryptolithodes typicus* | 3 | Hines 1982, small crabs |
| *Hapalogaster mertensii* | 65 | Stewart et al. 2015, *Phyllolithodes papillosus* |
| *Lopholithodes mandtii* | 65 | Stewart et al. 2015, *Phyllolithodes papillosus* |
| *Phyllolithodes papillosus* | 65 | Stewart et al. 2015 |
| *Oregonia gracilis* | 3 | Hines 1982, small crabs |
| *Paguroidea* spp*.* | 0.43 | McKinney et al. 2004, Paguroidea |
| *Pagurus beringanus* | 0.43 | McKinney et al. 2004, Paguroidea |
| *Pagurus hemphilli* | 0.43 | McKinney et al. 2004, Paguroidea |
| *Pandalus danae* | 0.11 | McKinney et al. 2004, *Palaemonetes pugio* |
| *Pandalus gurneyi* | 0.11 | McKinney et al. 2004, *Palaemonetes pugio* |
| *Pandalus* spp*.* | 0.11 | McKinney et al. 2004, *Palaemonetes pugio* |
| *Pandulus spp.* | 0.11 | McKinney et al. 2004, *Palaemonetes pugio* |
| *Lophopanopeus bellus* | 3 | Hines 1982, small crabs |
| *Pachycheles pubescens* | 4.25 | Stillman and Somero 1996, *Petrolisthes* spp*.* |
| *Petrolisthes eriomerus* | 4.25 | Stillman and Somero 1996, *Petrolisthes* spp*.* |
| *Heptacarpus stylus* | 0.11 | McKinney et al. 2004, *Palaemonetes pugio* |
| Brachyura spp. | 3 | Hines 1982, small crabs |
| Unidentified shrimp | 0.11 | McKinney et al. 2004, *Palaemonetes pugio* |
| *Polyorchis penicillatus* | 0.01 | Båmstedt and Martinussen 2015, *Bolinopsis infundibulum* |
| *Mitrocoma cellularia* | 0.01 | Båmstedt and Martinussen 2015, *Bolinopsis infundibulum* |
| *Pleurobrachia bachei* | 0.01 | Båmstedt and Martinussen 2015, *Bolinopsis infundibulum* |
| *Bolinopsis infundibulum* | 0.01 | Båmstedt and Martinussen 2015 |
| *Evasterias troschelii* | 66.5 | O’Clair and Rice 1985 |
| *Leptasterias hexactis* | 5.5 | Menge 1975, *Leptasterias* spp*.* |
| *Leptasterias* spp*.* | 5.5 | Menge 1975, *Leptasterias* spp*.* |
| *Orthasterias koehleri* | 66.5 | O’Clair and Rice 1985, *Evasterias troschelii* |
| *Pisaster brevispinus* | 146.18 | Peters et al. 2019, *Pisaster giganteus* |
| *Pisaster ochraceus* | 128 | Sanford 2002 |
| *Pycnopodia helianthoides* | 0.018\*size^3.13 | Lee et al. 2016 |
| *Stylasterias forreri* | 66.5 | O’Clair and Rice 1985, *Evasterias troschelii* |
| *Patiria miniata* | 26.97 | Peters et al. 2019 |
| *Henricia pumila* | 10 | Menge 1975, *Henricia* spp. |
| *Henricia* spp*.* | 10 | Menge 1975 |
| *Dermasterias imbricata* | 92 | Montgomery 2014 |
| *Mediaster aequalis* | 10 | Menge 1975, *Henricia spp*. |
| *Solaster dawsoni* | 486 | Montgomery 2014, *Solaster stimpsoni* |
| *Solaster stimpsoni* | 486 | Montgomery 2014 |
| *Pteraster tesselatus* | 10 | Menge 1975, *Henricia* spp*.* |
| *Mesocentrotus franciscanus* | 29.51 | Schuster and Bates 2023 |
| *Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis* | 20 | Stewart et al. 2015, *Strongylocentrotus polyacanthus* |
| *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus* | 20 | Stewart et al. 2015, *Strongylocentrotus polyacanthus* |
| *Apostichopus californicus* | 319.31 | Peters et al. 2019, *Apostichopus parvimensis* |
| *Chlamys hastata* | 2.5 | MacDonald et al. 1991, *Chlamys* spp*.* |
| *Crassadoma gigantea* | 0.038\*size^2.39 | MacDonald et al. 1991 |
| *Enteroctopus dofleini* | 137.5 | Osborn 1995, *Octopus rubescens* |
| *Octopus rubescens* | 80 | Osborn 1995 |
| *Opalia wroblewskyi* | 0.91 | Palmer 1982, *Nucella* spp*.* |
| *Diodora aspera* | 0.91 | Palmer 1982, *Nucella* spp*.* |
| *Megathura crenulata* | 0.91 | Palmer 1982, *Nucella* spp*.* |
| *Haliotis kamtschatkana* | 0.00058\*size^3.2 | Zhang et al. 2007 |
| *Neverita lewisii* | 0.91 | Palmer 1982, *Nucella* spp*.* |
| *Ceratostoma foliatum* | 0.91 | Palmer 1982, *Nucella* spp*.* |
| *Nucella lamellosa* | 0.91 | Palmer 1982, *Nucella* spp*.* |
| *Armina californica* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Cadlina luteomarginata* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Cadlina modesta* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Cadlina sylviaearleae* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Coryphella verrucosa* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Dendronotus iris* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Dirona albolineata* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Dirona pellucida* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Diaulula odonoghuei* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Diaulula sandiegensis* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Peltodoris nobilis* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Doris montereyensis* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Doris odhneri* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Antiopella fusca* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Hermissenda crassicornis* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Acanthodoris hudsoni* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Acanthodoris nanaimoensis* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Onchidoris bilamellata* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Limacia cockerelli* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Polycera tricolor* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Triopha catalinae* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Triopha modesta* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Triopha* spp*.* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Melibe leonina* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Tritonia festiva* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |
| *Acmaea mitra* | 0.91 | Palmer 1982, *Nucella* spp*.* |
| *Lottia scutum* | 0.91 | Palmer 1982, *Nucella* spp*.* |
| *Berthella chacei* | 0.91 | Palmer 1982, *Nucella* spp*.* |
| *Calliostoma ligatum* | 0.91 | Palmer 1982, *Nucella* spp*.* |
| *Tegula funebralis* | 0.91 | Palmer 1982, *Nucella* spp*.* |
| *Pomaulax gibberosus* | 31 | Schuster and Bates 2023 |
| *Eurylepta leoparda* | 0.54 | McKinney et al. 2004, gastropods |

**Table S4**. Akaike’s Information Criterion (AIC) values calculated for each model of ammonium concentration in relation to animal abundance/m2 (AA) or animal biomass/m2 (AB), Shannon diversity (SHD) or Simpson diversity (SID), tidal exchange rate (T), depth (D), and an interaction term. RE = random effect of both site and year. k is the number of parameters in the model. The model with the lowest AIC score is the “best” model; ΔAIC is the difference in AIC score between a given model and the “best” model; AIC weight represents the probability that a model is the best model, given the data and the set of candidate models.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Predictors** | **k** | **AIC** | **ΔAIC** | **AIC weight** |
| AA + SHD + T + D + AA:T + RE | 9 | 45.60 | 0.00 | 0.50 |
| AA + SID + T + D + AA:T + RE | 9 | 46.09 | 0.50 | 0.39 |
| AB + SHD + T + D + AB:T + RE | 9 | 49.70 | 4.10 | 0.06 |
| AB + SID + T + D + AB:T + RE | 9 | 49.98 | 4.38 | 0.06 |

**Table S5**. Akaike’s Information Criterion (AIC) values calculated for each model of delta ammonium concentration in vs outside kelp forests in relation to animal abundance/m2 (AA) or animal biomass/m2 (AB), Shannon diversity (SHD) or Simpson diversity (SID), kelp species (KS), kelp biomass (KB), tidal exchange rate (T), depth (D), and three interaction terms. RE = random effect of site. k is the number of parameters in the model. The model with the lowest AIC score is the “best” model; ΔAIC is the difference in AIC score between a given model and the “best” model; AIC weight represents the probability that a model is the best model, given the data and the set of candidate models.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Predictors** | **k** | **AIC** | **ΔAIC** | **AIC weight** |
| AB + SHD + KS + KB + T + D + AB :T + AB :KB + KB:T + RE | 13 | -33.16 | 0.00 | 0.30 |
| AA + SHD + KS + KB + T + D + AA:T + AA:KB + KB:T + RE | 13 | -32.89 | 0.27 | 0.26 |
| AA + SID + KS + KB + T + D + AA:T + AA:KB + KB:T + RE | 13 | -32.80 | 0.36 | 0.25 |
| AB + SID + KS + KB + T + D + AB:T + AB:KB + KB:T + RE | 13 | -32.38 | 0.78 | 0.20 |

**Table S6.** Excretion rate model to determine log transformed NH₄⁺ excretion rate (uM/hour/L) for California sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus californicus*) based on size index: sqrt(length\*girth). Adjusted R-squared for this model is 0.39.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Estimate** | **Std. error** | **t value** | **p value** |
| Intercept | 1.40 | 0.22 | 6.23 | < 0.001 |
| Size index | 0.05 | 0.009 | 5.52 | < 0.001 |

**Table S7.** Excretion rate model to determine log transformed NH₄⁺ excretion rate (uM/hour/L) for red rock crabs (*Cancer productus*) based on carapace width (mm). Adjusted R-squared for this model is 0.82.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Estimate** | **Std. error** | **t value** | **p value** |
| Intercept | 1.22 | 0.32 | 3.76 | 0.002 |
| Carapace | 0.02 | 0.003 | 8.73 | < 0.001 |

**Table S8.** Meso-scale linear mixed-effect model describing drivers of among-site variability in ammonium concentration. The model was constructed with a gamma distribution (link = ‘log’), so coefficients are presented in log space. Continuous predictors were centred and scaled to compare effect sizes between predictors with varying units.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Estimate** | **Std. error** | **z value** | **p value** |
| Intercept | -0.61 | 0.25 | -2.48 | 0.01 |
| Abundance | -0.07 | 0.12 | -0.55 | 0.58 |
| Tidal exchange | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| Diversity | -0.10 | 0.12 | -0.80 | 0.42 |
| Depth | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.51 | 0.61 |
| Abundance:tide | -0.25 | 0.10 | -2.54 | 0.01 |

**Table S9**. Small-scale linear mixed effect model describing drivers of ammonium concentration inside – outside kelp forests. Continuous predictors were centred and scaled. Kelp species is a categorical predictor with three levels: macro = *Macrocystis pyrifera* (intercept level), nereo = *Nereocystis luetkeana*, none = no kelp control.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Estimate** | **Std. error** | **z value** | **p value** |
| Intercept | 0.16 | 0.03 | 5.91 | < 0.001 |
| Kelp nereo | 0.24 | 0.07 | 3.64 | < 0.001 |
| Kelp none | -0.40 | 0.10 | -4.13 | < 0.001 |
| Kelp biomass | 0.29 | 0.05 | 5.95 | < 0.001 |
| Tidal exchange | 0.06 | 0.02 | 2.25 | 0.02 |
| Animal biomass | 0.05 | 0.03 | 1.64 | 0.10 |
| Diversity | -0.03 | 0.02 | -1.20 | 0.23 |
| Depth | 0.04 | 0.03 | 1.31 | 0.19 |
| Kelp:tide | 0.29 | 0.08 | 3.85 | < 0.001 |
| Kelp:animals | -0.05 | 0.02 | -2.08 | 0.04 |
| Tide:animals | -0.13 | 0.04 | -3.19 | 0.001 |

**Table S10**. Fine-scale linear model describing ammonium variation between cages with zero (intercept level), one, or two California sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus californicus)*.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Estimate** | **Std. error** | **z value** | **p value** |
| Intercept | 0.91 | 0.07 | 12.43 | < 0.001 |
| Cukes - one | 0.03 | 0.10 | 0.31 | 0.76 |
| Cukes - two | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.99 |
| Depth | 0.38 | 0.05 | 8.07 | < 0.001 |

**Table S11.** Fine-scale model describing ammonium variation between cages with zero (intercept level), medium, or large red rock crabs (*Cancer productus*). The model was constructed with a gamma distribution (link = ‘log’), so coefficients are presented in log space.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Estimate** | **Std. error** | **z value** | **p value** |
| Intercept | -1.78 | 0.25 | -7.25 | < 0.001 |
| Crabs - medium | 2.20 | 0.26 | 8.48 | < 0.001 |
| Crabs - large | 2.61 | 0.27 | 9.83 | < 0.001 |

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