**Effects of spatially heterogeneous lakeside development on nearshore biotic communities in a large, deep, oligotrophic lake (Lake Baikal, Siberia)**

Michael F. Meyer1\*

Ted Ozersky2

Kara H. Woo3

Kirill Shchapov2

Aaron W. E. Galloway4

Julie B. Schram4

Emma J. Rosi5

Daniel D. Snow6

Maxim A. Timofeyev7

Dmitry Yu. Karnaukhov7

Matthew R. Brousil3

Stephanie E. Hampton3

1. School of the Environment, Washington State University, Pullman, WA, USA

2. Large Lakes Observatory, University of Minnesota - Duluth, Duluth, MN, USA

3. Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach, Washington State University,

Pullman, WA, USA

4. Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, University of Oregon, Charleston, OR, USA

5. Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY, USA

6. School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE, USA

7. Biological Research Institute, Irkutsk State University, Irkutsk, Irkutsk Oblast, Russia

\*corresponding author: michael.f.meyer@wsu.edu

**Running Head:** Baikal littoral food webs

**Keywords**: sewage, PPCP, food webs, fatty acids, human disturbance

**Statement of novelty, significance, and breadth of interest of the science presented in the proposed manuscript**

We examined food web responses to heterogenous disturbance along the shoreline of oligotrophic Lake Baikal. Using sewage-specific indicators (pharmaceuticals and personal care products) we demonstrated that increased nutrients at three discrete lakeside developments (80-1,963 permanent residents) and the associated increased filamentous benthic algal abundance were consistent with sewage pollution. This is the first study to provide robust evidence that recent benthic algal blooms are caused by sewage. These changes in benthic algae altered resources and nutrition for grazing invertebrates, whose composition differed at disturbed sites. Stable isotope and fatty acid analysis of benthic algae and macroinvertebrates suggested that grazers at sewage disturbed sites compensate for changing resource nutrition through behavior or altered metabolism. This study demonstrates how patchy, low-level eutrophication of oligotrophic systems can cause food webs to respond in less visible ways.

**Statement indicating why L&O is the best outlet for the work**

This study will appeal to L&O readers interested in both basic and applied issues. From a basic ecology perspective, we investigate how bottom-up disturbances can propagate throughout a food web. From an applied perspective, we highlight how our results can inform monitoring programs. Additionally, we use a suite of interdisciplinary techniques in a manner appreciated by limnologists and oceanographers, such that L&O seems like the perfect home for this manuscript.

**Abstract**

Sewage released from lakeside development can reshape ecological communities. In particular, nearshore periphyton can rapidly assimilate sewage-associated nutrients, leading to increases of filamentous algal abundance, thus altering both food abundance and quality for grazers. In Lake Baikal, a large, ultra-oligotrophic, remote lake in Siberia, filamentous algal abundance has increased near lakeside developments, and localized sewage input is the suspected cause. These shifts are of particular interest in Lake Baikal, where endemic littoral biodiversity is high, lakeside settlements are mostly small, tourism is relatively high (~1.2 million visitors annually), and settlements are separated by large tracts of undisturbed shoreline, enabling investigation of heterogeneity and gradients of disturbance. We surveyed sites along 40 km of Baikal’s southwestern shore for sewage indicators – pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) and microplastics – as well as periphyton and macroinvertebrate abundance and indicators of food web structure (stable isotopes and fatty acids). PPCPs, including caffeine and acetaminophen/paracetamol, were spatially related to lakeside development. As predicted, lakeside development was associated with more filamentous algae and lower abundance of sewage-sensitive mollusks. Periphyton and macroinvertebrate stable isotopes and essential fatty acids suggested that food web structure otherwise remained similar across sites; yet, the invariance of amphipod fatty acid composition, relative to periphyton, suggested that grazers adjust behavior or metabolism to compensate for different periphyton assemblages. Our results demonstrate that even low levels of human disturbance can result in spatial heterogeneity of nearshore ecological responses, with potential for creating less visible effects that propagate through the food web.

**Introduction**

The release of treated and untreated wastewater into aquatic ecosystems is a common human disturbance that can introduce pollutants and reshape aquatic ecological communities (Moore et al. 2003). Nitrogen and phosphorus are among the primary pollutants in wastewater and its associated byproducts (Smith et al. 1999), yet these nutrients can also originate from disparate anthropogenic and natural environmental sources, thereby complicating their use as sewage indicators. For example, agriculture (Powers et al. 2016), watershed processes such as melting permafrost (Turetsky et al. 2000), and changes in terrestrial plant communities (Moran et al. 2012) can all increase allochthonous nutrient inputs similar to sewage. Regardless of the nutrients’ source, biological processes can further confound sewage detection. Benthic primary producers, especially those in oligotrophic systems (Rosenberger et al. 2008; Hampton et al. 2011; Ozersky et al. 2018; Oleksy et al. 2020; Atkins et al. 2021), can assimilate nutrients quickly from the water column (e.g., hours), such that elevated nutrient concentrations may not be not observed (Hadwen and Bunn 2005).

Because nutrients come from numerous non-sewage sources, indicators consistently associated with wastewater pollution, such as enhanced δ15N stable isotope signatures (Costanzo et al. 2001; Camilleri and Ozersky 2019), pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) (Rosi-Marshall and Royer 2012; Meyer et al. 2019), and microplastics (Barnes et al. 2009), have garnered increasing attention for their usefulness as sewage indicators. Stable isotopes, such as δ15N, have been frequently used to trace sewage pollution (Gartner et al. 2002), yet their potential to indicate sewage can be obfuscated by complex terrestrial (Craine et al. 2018) and aquatic (Guzzo et al. 2011) processes. In contrast to δ15N signatures, PPCPs explicitly originate from human sources (Rosi-Marshall and Royer 2012; Meyer et al. 2019) and generally are not actively removed from the water column by biota, although certain algal (Bai and Acharya 2017) and animal (Arnnok et al. 2017; Richmond et al. 2018) taxa have been shown to accumulate specific PPCPs from a broader mixture of co-contaminants. Because of PPCP’s tendency to not be actively scoured by biota, PPCP studies from continental (Kolpin et al. 2002; Focazio et al. 2008; Yang et al. 2018) to colloidal pore (Yang et al. 2016) scales, have shown that concentrations tend to be greatest closer to their source. In addition to identifying areas and periods of sewage-specific pollution, PPCPs have also demonstrated robustness in defining gradients of sewage pollution in river systems, with concentrations being directly proportional to population density and inversely proportional to distance from a densely populated area (Bendz et al. 2005). Similar to PPCPs, microplastics (plastic debris up to 5 mm in size) also have been useful to detect sewage pollution (Li et al. 2018) along gradients of increasing human population density (Klein et al. 2015), although they can sometimes originate from non-sewage sources, such as shoreline debris or fishing nets (Free et al. 2014). In contrast to δ15N signatures and PPCPs concentrations, microplastics are typically resistant to degradation (Barnes et al. 2009), providing a signal over a longer time frame than many PPCPs and nutrients in sewage. As a result of each pollutant’s consistent association with sewage, co-located δ15N, PPCP, and microplastic measurements can be used to infer the spatial extent and timing of sewage pollution in an ecosystem.

The effects of sewage pollution are frequently first seen in nearshore benthic communities where increased nutrients alter algal species composition, abundance, nutritional quality, as well as food web trophic structure. Increased filamentous algal abundance, for example, has been frequently observed in areas suspected of sewage pollution (Rosenberger et al. 2008; Hampton et al. 2011), likely due to benthic filamentous algae efficiently removing nutrients from the water column (Hadwen and Bunn 2005; Andersson and Brunberg 2006; Oleksy et al. 2020). With a changing resource base, grazing macroinvertebrate communities may likewise shift to include more detritivores or species capable of consuming filamentous algae (Rosenberger et al. 2008). In addition to some grazers’ physical difficulty consuming filamentous algae (Mazzella and Russo 1989), there also may be changes in algal nutritional quality, as filamentous algae tend to contain a different mixture of essential fatty acids (EFAs) in comparison to diatoms (Kelly and Scheibling 2012), which dominate periphyton communities in unimpacted ecosystems. In particular, the EFAs 18:3ω3 and 18:2ω6 are commonly associated with green filamentous algae (Taipale et al. 2013), whereas 20:5ω3 is more associated with diatoms (Taipale et al. 2013). All EFAs are largely synthesized by primary producers, and each related group produces strongly differentiated multivariate signatures (Taipale et al. 2013; Galloway and Winder 2015). Consumers can acquire fatty acids by grazing (Dalsgaard et al. 2003) or upgrading fatty acids at their own energetic expense (Sargent and Falk-Petersen 1988; Dalsgaard et al. 2003) and often reflect the fatty acid signatures of their diets. Thus, comparing consumer and producer fatty acid compositions can be used to infer how grazing patterns change in response to increasing sewage pollution.

To investigate lake littoral community and food web responses to sewage pollution, we surveyed 40 km of Lake Baikal’s shoreline for indicators of sewage pollution and metrics of benthic community composition and structure. Located in Siberia, Lake Baikal is the oldest, most voluminous, and deepest freshwater lake in the world (Hampton et al. 2018), with the majority of Lake Baikal’s biodiversity occurring in the littoral zone (Kozhova and Izmest’eva 1998). While Lake Baikal’s pelagic zone is generally ultra-oligotrophic (Yoshida et al. 2003; O’Donnell et al. 2017), nearshore areas abutting lakeside settlements have shown distinct signs of eutrophication (Timoshkin et al. 2016). Much of Lake Baikal’s shoreline lacks human development, and Baikal’s watershed is largely roadless and unpopulated (Moore et al. 2009). Despite low levels of development, uncharacteristic filamentous algal blooms have been occurring throughout the lake since 2010 (Kravtsova et al. 2014; Timoshkin et al. 2016; Volkova et al. 2018) and even cyanobacterial blooms in 2019 (Bondarenko et al. 2021). While increased *Ulothrix* spp. abundance historically occurs in late summer (Kozhov 1963; Kozhova and Izmest’eva 1998), recent observations of *Spirogyra* spp. abundance at unprecedented levels are thought to be associated with increased nearshore nutrient concentrations (Volkova et al. 2018; Ozersky et al. 2018). Inadequate wastewater management in lakeside settlements is likely the main driver of these nearshore algal blooms (Timoshkin et al. 2016, 2018), motivating further research to identify the extent to which sewage is altering nearshore communities

Given the growing evidence that Baikal’s nearshore periphyton communities are responding to sewage inputs, our goal was to understand how littoral benthic community composition and interactions may be changing near areas of sewage pollution. This overarching goal was divided into three specific objectives:

1. identify areas of wastewater pollution using consistent sewage indicators,
2. assess the relationship between sewage indicators and littoral periphyton and macroinvertebrate community composition, and
3. evaluate how food webs may restructure with increasing sewage pollution.

We hypothesized that (1) sewage indicators, such as PPCP concentrations, δ15N, and microplastic densities, would increase with increasing population density and proximity of lakeside development; (2) an increasing sewage signal would correlate with increased dominance of filamentous benthic algae; and (3) increasing filamentous algae abundance would result in changes in the abundance of different macroinvertebrate feeding guilds, reflected in community composition and dietary tracers such as carbon and nitrogen stable isotopes and fatty acids.

**Methods**

*Site description*

The vast majority of Lake Baikal’s 2,100-km shoreline lacks lakeside development (Moore et al. 2009; Timoshkin et al. 2016). Our study focused on a 40-km section of Baikal’s southwestern shoreline, which included three settlements of different sizes (Figure 1; Figure 2). From 19 through 23 August 2015, we sampled 14 littoral and 3 pelagic locations along our 40-km transect. Littoral locations were chosen to capture a range of sites with varying degrees of adjacent shoreline development – from “developed” (along the waterfront of human settlements) to “undeveloped” (no adjacent human settlements and complete forest cover; Figure 1; Figure 2; Table 1). Pelagic sites were located 2 to 5 km offshore from each of the developed sites in water depths of 900 to 1300 m (Figure 1; Table 1). As previous investigations of nearshore algal communities observed defined filamentous algae (Timoshkin et al. 2016, 2018; Volkova et al. 2018) and cyanobacteria (Bondarenko et al. 2021) increases in mid-to-late summer, the timing of our sampling was intended to coincide with the annual peaks of tourism and summertime community succession, such that gradients of human disturbance and biological response would likely be most distinct relative to environmental noise. All littoral sites were sampled at approximately the same depth (~1.25 m) at a distance of 8.90 to 20.75 m from shore (Table 1), which allowed us to collect samples without the need for SCUBA but precluded us from sampling deeper littoral environments that can extend to depths of 100 m (Takhteev and Didorenko 2015). At each site, air temperature was measured with a mercury thermometer, and photographs were taken of the substrate and the shoreline. Visual inspection of substrate photographs suggested that substrate was consistent among sites and generally was characterized by large, oblate rocks and gravel.

Three discrete lakeside settlements were located along our 40-km transect. The largest, Listvyanka, is primarily a tourist town of approximately 2000 permanent residents, although tourism can contribute significantly to the town’s population with approximately 1.2 million annual visitors (Interfax-Tourism 2018). The other two settlements are the villages Bolshie Koty and Bolshoe Goloustnoe, which have approximately 80 and 600 permanent residents, respectively. Bolshie Koty is home to two field research stations and several small tourist accommodations. Bolshoe Goloustnoe has several hotels and tourist camps. Although Bolshie Koty and Bolshoe Goloustnoe are built along small streams that empty into Baikal, there are no upstream developed sites, meaning that any observed sewage indicators in Baikal most likely originated either from Bolshie Koty or Bolshoe Goloustnoe.

*Inverse distance weighted (IDW) population calculation*

We recognized that sewage indicator concentrations at each sampling location may be related to a sampling location’s spatial position relative to both the size and proximity of neighboring developed sites. Therefore, we created the inverse distance weighted (IDW) population metric to compress, into a single metric, information about human population size, density, and location along the shoreline as well as distance between developed sites and sampling locations. The IDW metric reflects the idea that sewage pollution should be positively related to increasing human density and inversely related with distance from densely populated areas (sensu Bendz et al., 2005). Additionally, Timoshkin et al. (2018) noted that sewage enters Baikal’s nearshore largely through groundwater, implying that locations with more directly adjacent shoreline development should experience higher sewage concentrations in the lake. Acknowledging that nearshore PPCP concentrations were likely positively proportional to a developed location’s shoreline length, we scaled a developed site’s population density by its shoreline length. This scaling represents population density that directly interfaces with the lake, thereby capturing the idea that sewage-associated pollutants, such as PPCPs (Karnjanapiboonwong et al. 2010) and nutrients (de Vries 1972), contributed away from the shoreline can be removed via the soil matrix en route to the lake.

Our calculation of IDW population was done in five steps. First, we traced polygons and shorelines from satellite imagery for each developed site in Google Earth. Polygons were traced for the entire area of visible development (Figure 2). Similarly, shoreline traces only reflected shoreline length for which there was visible development (Figure 2). Second, polygon and line geometries were downloaded from Google Earth as a .kml file. Third, the .kml file was imported into the R statistical environment (R Core Team 2019) where, using the sf package (Pebesma, 2018), we calculated shoreline length, polygon area, and centroid location for each developed site. Fourth, we joined point locations of each sampling site with the spatial polygons to calculate the distance from each sampling location to each developed site’s centroid. Fifth, we calculated IDW population for each sampling location, using formula (1)

(1)

where *I* is the IDW population at sampling location *j*, *P* is the population at each of the three developed sites Listvyanka (LI), Bolshie Koty (BK), Bolshoe Goloustnoe (BGO), *A* is the area of a developed site in km2, *L* is the shoreline length at a developed site in km, and *D* is the distance from sampling site *j* to each developed site’s centroid in km. This formulation implies that all sampling locations are influenced by all three developed sites. Thus, the influence of an individual developed site on each sampling location is positively influenced by the size and spatial density of the population and its orientation toward the shoreline, and inversely proportional to a sampling location’s distance from each of the three developed sites.

*Water samples*

At both pelagic and littoral sites, water samples were collected for nutrient, chlorophyll, microplastic, and PPCP analysis. Samples were collected by hand from 0.75 m depth for each littoral site and with a bucket from aboard the Irkutsk State University “Kozhov” research vessel for pelagic sites. Each water sample collection procedure is described below.

*Nutrients*

Water samples for nutrient analyses were collected in 150 mL glass jars that had been washed with phosphate-free soap and rinsed three times with water from the sampling location. Samples were collected in duplicates and immediately frozen at -20°C until processing at the A.P. Vinogradov Institute of Geochemistry (Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Irkutsk). Samples were not filtered prior to freezing, meaning that nitrogen and ammonium concentrations may potentially include intracellular nitrogen and overestimate nitrogenous forms in the water column.

For each water sample, nitrate, ammonium, and total phosphorus concentrations were measured. For ammonium (2016a) and nitrate (2017) concentrations, samples were analyzed with a spectrophotometer following the addition of Nessler’s reagent and disulfuric acid respectively. Total phosphorus concentration was measured with a spectrophotometer following the addition of persulfate (2016b). Concentrations are reported in mg/L.

*Chlorophyll a*

Water samples were collected in 1.5 L plastic bottles from a depth of approximately 0.75 m. Within 12 h of collection, three subsamples (up to 150 mL each) were filtered through 25-mm diameter, 0.2 µm pore size nitrocellulose filters. Filters were then placed in a 35-mm petri dish and frozen in the dark until processing.

Chlorophyll samples were processed in a manner similar to that of Parsons and Strickland (1963) and Lorenzen (1967). Nitrocellulose filters were ground in 90% acetone, in which chlorophyll extraction was allowed to proceed overnight. Samples were then centrifuged for 15-20 minutes. After centrifugation, absorbance of the chlorophyll extract was measured in a spectrophotometer at 630, 645, 665, and 750 nm. Concentrations were calculated using the formula: ; where A is the absorbance value of a particular wavelength, V1 is the volume of the filtered water, and V2 is the volume of extract. Concentrations are reported as mg/L.

*PPCPs*

Water samples for PPCP analysis were collected in 250 mL amber glass bottles that were rinsed with either methanol or acetone and then three times with sample water prior to collections. Following collection, samples were refrigerated and kept in the dark until solid phase extraction (SPE).

Within 12 h of collection, samples were filtered directly from the amber glass bottle using an in-line Teflon filter holder with glass microfiber GMF (1.0 µm pore size, WhatmanGrad 934-AH) in tandem with a solid phase extraction (SPE) cartridge (200 mg HLB, Waters Corporation, Milford, MA) connected to a 1-liter vacuum flask. Lab personnel wore gloves and face masks to minimize contamination. Prior to filtration, SPE cartridges were primed with at least 5 mL of either methanol or acetone and then washed with at least 5 mL of sample water. Rate of extraction was maintained at approximately 1 drop per second. Extraction proceeded until water could no longer pass through the SPE cartridge or until all collected water was filtered. Cartridges were stored in Whirlpacks at -20°C until analysis for 18 PPCP residues using liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS-MS) following methods of Lee et al. (2016) and D’Alessio et al (2018). Concentrations are reported in µg/L.

*Microplastics*

At each location, samples were collected in triplicate using 1.5 L clear plastic bottles that were washed thoroughly with sample water before each collection. Samples were collected by hand for each littoral site and with a metal bucket from aboard the ship for pelagic sites.

For processing, each sample was vacuum filtered on to a 47-mm diameter GF/F filter. During filtration, aluminum foil was used to cover the filtration funnel to prevent contamination from airborne microplastic particles. After filtration, filters were dried under vacuum pressure and then stored in 50-mm petri dishes. Following filtration of all three replicates, the filtrate was collected and then re-filtered through a GF/F filter as a control for contamination from the plastic vacuum funnel or potentially airborne microplastics.

Microplastic counting involved visual inspection of the entire GF/F in a similar manner to methods described in Hanvey et al. (2017). Visual enumeration was conducted under a stereo microscope with ~100x magnification, and microplastics were classified into one of three categories: fibers, fragments, or beads. For all categories, plastics were defined as observed objects with apparent artificial colors, so as to not enumerate plastics potentially contributed from the sampling bottle itself. Fibers were defined as smooth, long plastics with consistent diameters. Fragments were defined as plastics with irregularly sharp or jagged edges. Beads were defined as spherical plastics. Although we did not measure microplastic size, this technique likely allowed us to reliably quantify microplastics as small as ~300 µm (Hanvey et al. 2017). During enumeration, GF/Fs remained covered in the petri dish to minimize potential for contamination from the air. Following enumeration of both experimental and control samples, fibers, fragments, and beads enumerated in the controls were subtracted from the experimental microplastic densities for each plastic type and from each replicate. One location (BK-1) had two control replicates, which were averaged for each plastic type and then subtracted from the experimental samples. Results are reported as the average number of microplastics/L.

*Benthic biological samples*

At each littoral site, periphyton and benthic macroinvertebrates, including amphipods, mollusks, isopods, caddisflies, leeches, and flatworms, were collected for abundance estimates and food web analysis by wading and snorkeling.

*Benthic algal collection*

At each littoral site, we haphazardly selected three rocks representative of local substrate. A plastic stencil was used to define a surface area of each rock from which we scraped a standardized 14.5 cm2 patch of periphyton. Samples were preserved with Lugol’s solution and stored in plastic scintillation vials. Additional periphyton was collected in composite from each site for fatty acid and stable isotope analysis.

Periphyton taxonomic identification and enumeration was performed by subsampling 10 μL aliquots from each preserved sample. For all 10 μL aliquots, cells, filaments, and colonies were counted, for the entire subsample, until at least 300 cells were identified for a given sampling replicate. If the first aliquot contained less than 300 cells, we counted additional subsamples until we reached at least 300 cells in total. In instances when 300 cells were counted before finishing a subsample, we still counted the entire aliquot. Taxa were classified into broad categories consistent with Baikal algal taxonomy (Izhboldina 2007), using coarse groupings to capture general patterns in relative algal abundance. As a result, algal groups consisted of diatoms, *Ulothrix*, *Spirogyra*,and the green algal Order Tetrasporales.

*Benthic invertebrate collection*

At each littoral site, three kick-net samples were collected for assessment of benthic community composition and abundance. Using a D-net, we collected macroinvertebrates by flipping over 1-3 rocks, and then sweeping five times in a left-to-right motion across approximately 1 m. After the series of sweeps, the catch was rinsed into a plastic bucket. For each replicate, bucket contents were concentrated using a 64-μm mesh and placed in glass jars with 40% ethanol (vodka; the only preservative available to us at the time) for preservation and refrigerated at 4°C aboard the research vessel. The 40% ethanol preservative was replaced with ~80% ethanol upon return to the lab within 24 to 48 hours, and samples were stored at ~4°C.

Separate collections were conducted for invertebrate fatty acid and stable isotope analyses. Invertebrates were collected using a D-net and by hand. Organisms collected by hand included amphipod species that were observed from the community composition D-net collections but not readily observed in the stable isotope and fatty acids D-net collections. Collected organisms were live-sorted, identified to species, and then frozen at -20°C at the field station. The samples were later transferred to the lab in the U.S. via a Dewar flask with dry ice.

Invertebrate taxonomic identification and enumeration were performed under a stereo microscope. All amphipods were identified to species with the exception of juveniles according to Takhteev and Didorenko (2015)) Mollusks were identified to the family level according to Sitnikova (2012).. Leeches were enumerated at the subclass level, but were likely all from the family Glossiphoniidae based on size, depth of sampling locations, and invertebrate communities sampled (Kaygorodova 2012). Like mollusks, caddisflies were also enumerated at the order level, although Baikal does contain over 14 species of caddisfly (Valuyskiy et al. 2020). Flatworms were enumerated at the phylum level. All isopods enumerated were from the family Asellidae. Aside from having limited time available to spend with Baikal taxonomists during our field campaign, our choice of taxonomic resolution ultimately was a result of relative abundance for each taxonomic group, where amphipods were most abundant taxa and flatworms were among the least abundant taxa across all sites (Figure S1). All samples contained oligochaetes and polychaetes, but due to poor preservation, these taxa were not counted. Six samples of the 42 collected were not well-preserved and were excluded from further analyses, in order to reduce errors in identification. KD-1 and LI-1 were the only sites with 1 sample counted. BK-2 and KD-2 each had two samples counted.

*Food web characterization*

To characterize littoral food webs, we analyzed periphyton and macroinvertebrate carbon and nitrogen stables isotopes as well as fatty acid profiles for periphyton and macroinvertebrates. Stable isotope and fatty acid analyses focused primarily on amphipods, the most abundant macroinvertebrate taxon in Lake Baikal (Kozhov 1963; Kozhova and Izmest’eva 1998). Due to some samples warming in transit, we only processed samples that were completely frozen upon arrival to the United States. Given the potential for fatty acids to highlight more subtle, multivariate ecological responses along our transect, we prioritized both periphyton and macroinvertebrate fatty acid analyses over stable isotope analyses. The loss of certain samples resulted in our stable isotope analyses focusing solely on amphipod taxa, whereas fatty acids included some mollusks but still largely consisted of amphipods. Prior to isotopic and fatty acid analysis, periphyton and macroinvertebrate samples were lyophilized for ~24 hours, homogenized to powder, and then weighed.

*Stable isotope analysis*

Measurements of δ15N and δ13C were performed on an elemental analyzer-isotope ratio mass spectrometer (EA-IRMS; Finnigan DELTAplus XP, Thermo Scientific) at the Large Lakes Observatory, University of Minnesota Duluth. The EA-IRMS was calibrated against certified reference materials including L-glutamic acid (NIST SRM 8574), low organic soil and sorghum flour (standards B-2153 and B-2159 from Elemental Micro-analysis Ltd., Okehampton, UK) and in-house standards (acetanilide and caffeine). Replicate analyses of external standards showed a mean standard deviation of 0.06 ‰ and 0.09 ‰, for δ13C and δ15N, respectively.

*Fatty acid analysis*

Following freeze-drying, samples were transferred to 10 mL glass centrifuge vials, and 2 mL of 100% chloroform was added to each under nitrogen gas. Samples remained in chloroform overnight at -80°C. Fatty acid extractions generally involved three phases: (1) 100% chloroform extraction, (2) chloroform-methanol extraction, and (3) fatty acid methylation. Fatty acid extraction methods were adapted from Schram et al. (2018).

After overnight chloroform extraction, samples underwent a chloroform-methanol extraction three times. To each sample, we added 1 mL cooled 100% methanol, 1 mL chloroform:methanol solution (2:1), and 0.8 mL 0.9% NaCl solution. Samples were inverted three times and sonicated on ice for 10 minutes. Next, samples were vortexed for 1 minute, and centrifuged for 5 minutes (3,000 rpm) at 4°C. Using a double pipette technique, the lower organic layer was removed and kept under nitrogen. After the third extraction, samples were evaporated under nitrogen flow, and resuspended in 1.5 mL chloroform and stored at -20°C overnight.

Once resuspended in chloroform, 1 mL of chloroform extract was transferred to a glass centrifuge tube with a glass syringe as well as an internal standard of 4 μL of 19-carbon fatty acid. Samples were then evaporated under nitrogen, and then 1 mL of toluene and 2 mL of 1% sulfuric acid-methanol was added. The vial was closed under nitrogen gas and then incubated in 50°C water bath for 16 hours. After incubation, samples were removed from the bath, allowed to reach room temperature and stored on ice. Next, we performed a potassium carbonate-hexane extraction twice. To each sample, we added 2 mL of 2% potassium bicarbonate and 5 mL of 100% hexane, inverting the capped vial so as to mix the solution. Samples were centrifuged for 3 minutes (1,500 rpm) at 4°C. The upper hexane layer was then removed and placed in a vial to evaporate under nitrogen flow. Once almost evaporated, 1 mL of 100% hexane was added and stored in a glass amber autosampler vial for GC/MS quantification. GC/MS quantification was performed with a Shimadzu QP2020 GC/MS following Schram et al. (2018).

*Inferring food web structure*

In order to assess food web structure, we compared stable isotopes and fatty acids in periphyton resources with those in amphipods. Periphyton and each amphipod species’ stable isotope signatures were each measured in composite, meaning that we could only use periphyton as a single potential resource. For fatty acids, we constructed a Bayesian mixing model to infer a potential resource’s relative abundance in amphipods’ diets (Stock et al. 2018b; a). This modelling procedure involved three data inputs:

1. Consumer Fatty Acids: These data were collected from our sampling at Lake Baikal. Because *E. verrucosus* and *E. vittatus* were most abundant along our disturbance gradient, we focused this analysis on those species’ fatty acid profiles.
2. Source Fatty Acids: Because our collected fatty acid data considered periphyton species in composite, we used published Baikalian taxon-specific fatty acid profiles to define characteristic diatom (Shishlyannikov et al. 2018) and *Ulothrix* spp. (Osipova et al. 2009) signatures. We used *Draparnaldia* spp. from our collected samples, as *Draparnaldia* spp.’s large cell sizes allowed us to isolate cells individually. We *a priori* assumed that amphipods likely did not consume filamentous algal taxa, such as *Draparnaldia* spp. or *Ulothrix* spp.; yet, we included filamentous fatty acids into our model as potential resources in the event amphipods were detritivorous on decomposing *Draparnaldia* spp. or *Ulothrix* spp. Therefore, including filamentous taxa as potential resources enabled us to account for nutrition that could be incorporated into the food web by grazers switching from herbivory to detritivory.
3. Trophic Discrimination Factors (TDFs): To the best of our knowledge, there are no published TDFs for Baikal amphipods’ fatty acids. Therefore, we used TDFs estimated for Antarctic marine amphipods (Schram et al. 2019), which were fed diets of a single algal resource, as a proxy for Baikal amphipod TDFs. To ensure TDF estimates were conservative across consumers and resources, we averaged each fatty acid’s TDF, such that a given fatty acid’s TDF was identical for each potential resource.

Each consumer, source, and TDF file was then used as an input to MixSIAR. The model building procedure used uninformed prior distributions for each resource, a chain length of 100,000 with 50,000 burn-in, thin of 50, and 3 Monte Carlo Markov Chains. Because TDFs for this analysis were based on marine taxa, we assessed posterior sensitivity to TDF variation by increasing TDF standard deviations by 5%, 10%, 25%, 50%, and 100%, and then re-running the model. Furthermore, this sensitivity analysis was designed to exceed errors that can arise from differences in mixing model methodologies and prescribed error structures (Happel et al. 2021). Each iteration of the sensitivity analysis produced a similar posterior result as the original TDFs. The accompanying R script “04\_fatty\_acid\_analysis.R” details the exact data aggregation and model construction procedures and can be accessed from the project’s Open Science Framework portal (Meyer et al. 2015).

*Statistical analyses*

Total phosphorus, nitrate, ammonium, microplastic abundance and density, and total PPCP concentration were log-transformed and regressed against log-transformed IDW population using a linear model. Analytically, log-transforming made sites comparable, as values spanned three orders of magnitude. Physically, we assumed that these sewage indicators were likely subject to exponential processes (e.g., mixing, diffusion), and log-transforming the data should linearize the relationships between predictor and response variables. In contrast, variables that we *a priori* considered to not likely be influenced by mixing processes – chlorophyll a and δ15N values in tissues – were not log-transformed but still regressed against log-transformed IDW population using a linear model. Residuals were assessed for normality and homogeneity of variance.

To increase confidence that our observed sewage indicator patterns were not a product of a limited sample size, we also performed a permutational analysis to compare how our actual results compared to a randomly permuted dataset. This process involved randomly permuting sewage indicator variables, regressing the respective sewage indicator against IDW population, and then extracting the p- and R2 values for the model. This routine was repeated 5,000 times for each sewage indicator, so as to generate a distribution of p- and R2 values that could have been possible, given our observed data. We then compared models’ p- and R2 values generated from non-permuted data to those from permuted datasets. If indeed models generated from observed data were describing a non-random process, p- and R2 values should be located at the tail end of the permuted values’ distribution. To summarize our original p- and R2 values in the context of those from models with permuted datasets, we report the percent of p-values less than and R2 values greater than those from models generated from non-permuted datasets.

To assess if benthic community composition was associated with increasing sewage indicators, periphyton and macroinvertebrate abundance data were each analyzed with a consistent multivariate workflow. First, replicates were averaged, and taxonomic groups representing less than 1% of the inter-site community were removed from analysis, in order to reduce the influence of rare species on results. Second, community compositions for both periphyton and macroinvertebrates were visualized using non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) with a Bray-Curtis similarity metric. Periphyton community compositions were calculated as relative proportions, whereas invertebrate abundances were grouped at the genus-level for amphipods and at higher taxonomic levels for other macroinvertebrates and then square-root transformed to minimize influence of more abundant taxa. Amphipods were kept at the genus level because their numerical and relative abundance markedly exceeded the abundance of other macroinvertebrates (Figure S1). Visual inspection of the NMDS plot suggested that sites generally tended to separate by increasing PPCP concentrations and IDW population (see Table 2). To test whether sites’ benthic communities significantly differed with increasing PPCP concentration and IDW population, we first used k-mediods, also known as Partitioning Around the Mediods (PAM; Kaufman and Rousseeuw 2005), clustering to identify an optimal number of groupings. For this process, we iterated through multiple numbers of clusters (i.e., 1 to 10) and calculated the within-group-sum-of-squares (wss; Figure S2) and average silhouette width (Figure S3). We identified the optimal number of groups when wss decreased most markedly and when silhouette width was greatest (i.e., the elbow method) (Johnson and Wichern 2007). To confirm the optimal number as determined by non-hierarchical PAM clustering, we also used Weighted Pair-Group Centroid Clustering (WPGMC; Figure S4) as a hierarchical approach (Sneath and Sokal 1973), which corrects for clusters that may not be strongly discriminated regardless of how many samples are assigned to a given cluster (Legendre and Legendre 2012). We then performed two permutational multivariate analyses of variance (PERMANOVA; Anderson 2001) with 999 permutations: the first where community compositions were responses to the groups identified through clustering and the second where community compositions were responses to the continuous IDW population. Unlike traditional multivariate analyses of variance (MANOVA), PERMANOVA does not require assumptions of multivariate normality (Anderson 2001). When significant differences were identified, post-hoc SIMPER analysis (Clarke 1993) was performed following the PERMANOVA to identify which taxonomic groups contributed to 85% of the cumulative variance that most influenced site separation.

To assess whether benthic food webs restructured with increasing sewage indicator concentrations, fatty acid data were analyzed in a manner similar to periphyton and macroinvertebrate abundance data. First, species’ fatty acid profiles were visualized by performing NMDS with Bray-Curtis similarity for all organisms’ relative fatty acid abundance (Figure S5). This technique broadly demonstrated that, as expected, interspecific variation in fatty acid composition was greater than intraspecific variation. The same pattern was observed for all fatty acids quantified as well as solely essential fatty acids (EFAs; Figure S6). Together, these NMDS plots suggested that periphyton fatty acids at sites differentiated based on sewage indicator concentrations, which was likely a reflection of differences in periphyton community composition (Taipale et al. 2013). Among all taxa and sites, 18:3ω3, 18:1ω9, and 20:5ω3 had the highest coefficients of variation, enabling comparisons between sites. These fatty acids tend to be associated with filamentous green algae (i.e., 18:3ω3 and 18:1ω9) and diatoms (i.e., 20:5ω3). To increase the robustness of our analysis, we expanded our approach to include major fatty acids within each taxonomic group, including 18:2ω6 (abundant in green algae); 16:1ω7 and 14:0 (abundant in diatoms); and 16:0 (abundant in both green algae and diatoms) (Taipale et al. 2013). To evaluate how relative fatty acid abundance may relate to sewage pollution, we assessed patterns among these seven fatty acids with both multivariate and univariate approaches. Within a multivariate framework, we created two NMDS plots with Bray-Curtis similarity, one just with primary producer (Figure S7) and the other with macroinvertebrate (Figure S8) fatty acid profiles. Because multivariate patterns suggested fatty acid profiles may relate to sewage pollution, we regressed a filamentous:diatom fatty acid ratio (Equation 2)

(2)

against log-transformed PPCP concentrations as well as IDW population using a linear model. Additionally, we evaluated how three essential fatty acids (18:3ω3, 18:2ω6, and 20:5ω3), lipids thought to accumulate in biological systems, may differ in abundance across the sewage gradient. Therefore, we similarly regressed the ratio of against log-transformed PPCP concentrations as well as IDW population using a linear model. As with sewage indicators, we recognized that these regression analyses and the associated interpretations may be compromised by a limited sample size. To ensure the robustness of their trends, we performed a permutational analysis similar to sewage indicators, where p- and R2 values for models generated from observed data were compared to models generated from 5,000 permutations.

All analyses were conducted in the R statistical environment (R Core Team 2019), using the tidyverse (Wickham et al. 2019), factoextra (Kassambara and Mundt 2019), cluster (Maechler et al. 2019), pvclust (Suzuki et al. 2019), ggrepel (Slowikowski 2019), viridis (Garnier 2018), fs (Hester and Wickham 2019), spdplyr (Sumner 2019), janitor (Firke 2020), sf (Pebesma 2018), ggpubr (Kassambara 2019), ggtext (Wilke 2020), OpenStreetMap (Fellows and Stotz 2019), cowplot (Wilke 2019), broom (Robinson and Hayes 2019), MixSIAR (Stock et al. 2018b), and vegan (Oksanen et al. 2019) packages. All data, including .kml files used to calculate IDW metric, are publicly available from the Environmental Data Initiative repository (Meyer et al. 2020), and all R scripts are available from the GitHub repository of this project’s Open Science Framework account (Meyer et al. 2015).

**Results**

*Water samples*

Nearshore water nitrate (R2 = 0.01, p = 0.68), ammonium (R2 = 0.17, p = 0.11), total phosphorus (R2 = 0.14, p = 0.14), and chlorophyll a (R2 = 0.11, p = 0.20) concentrations were not significantly correlated with IDW population (Figure 3). Total PPCP concentrations (R2 = 0.26, p = 0.04) and δ15N values in macroinvertebrate tissue (R2 = 0.33, p = 0.02) were significantly related with IDW population (Figure 3). In the littoral zone, PPCPs detected included caffeine, 1,7-dimethylxanthine/paraxanthine (main human metabolite of caffeine), cotinine (main human metabolite of nicotine), and acetaminophen/paracetamol (Table 3). Other PPCPs, including carbamazepine, diphenhydramine, thiabendazole, amphetamine, methamphetamine, MDA, MDMA, morphine, phenazone, sulfachloropyridazine, sulfamethazine, sulfadimethoxine, sulfamethazole, trimethoprim, and cimetidine, were not detected.

Microplastics were detected in samples from both littoral and pelagic sites. Bead microplastics were only detected near Listvyanka. Fibers (mean = 0.85 microplastics/L, std dev = 1.21 microplastics/L) and fragments (mean = 0.83 microplastics/L, std dev = 1.35 microplastics/L) were the most abundant types of microplastics across all sites, whereas beads were relatively rare (mean = 0.08 microplastics/L, std dev = 0.31 microplastics/L). Total microplastic densities were not significantly correlated with IDW population (R2 = 0.01, p = 0.65; Figure 3), although more types of microplastics were generally observed near areas with higher IDW population values, such as Listvyanka.

Permutational analyses corroborated these findings. Model estimates for total PPCP concentrations and δ15N values were both within the tail 5% of values generated from permuted data (Figure S9). Models using total phosphorus, nitrate, ammonium, chlorophyll a, and microplastics tended to have R2 and p-values similar to randomized datasets (Figure S9).

*Benthic biological samples*

*Periphyton*

Major taxonomic groupings of periphyton consisted of diatoms, *Tetrasporales* spp*.*, *Spirogyra* spp., and *Ulothrix* spp. K-mediods (Figures S2a; S3a) and WPGMC (Figure S4a) cluster analyses of periphyton abundance demonstrated two groupings capture most variance, and visual inspection of relative periphyton community abundance NMDS suggested groupings were related to IDW population values (Figure 4). PERMANOVA results demonstrated that periphyton communities were significantly different based on IDW population groupings (R2 = 0.52, p = 0.001) and the continuous IDW population (R2 = 0.43, p = 0.001). Post-hoc SIMPER results suggested that these differences were primarily associated with sites that had higher *Ulothrix* spp. and *Spirogyra* spp. relative abundance. Additionally, sites with high IDW populations had lower diatom relative abundance in comparison to sites with low and moderate IDW populations.

*Macroinvertebrates*

Taxonomic groupings included five amphipod genera: *Eulimnogammarus*, *Poekilogammarus*, *Cryptoropus*, *Brandtia* and *Pallasea*; six mollusk families: Planorbidae, Valvatidae, Baicaliidae, Benedictidae, Acroloxidae, and Maackia; flatworms; caddisflies; and leeches (summarized in Table S1). K-mediod cluster analysis of macroinvertebrate community composition suggested 2 or 3 major groupings would capture most variance (Figure S2b; S3b), whereas WPGMC analyses suggested 2 groupings would enable all sites except for one to be assigned a cluster (S4b). Because both forms of hierarchical and non-hierarchical clustering suggested two groupings as optimal, we proceeded using two groupings. Visual inspection of NMDS suggested clusters were related to IDW population (Figure 5). PERMANOVA results supported the hypothesis that macroinvertebrate communities significantly differed both among our IDW population groupings (R2 = 0.19, p = 0.02) and along our continuous gradient of increasing IDW population (R2 = 0.19, p = 0.02). Post-hoc SIMPER analyses suggested that *Poekilogammarus*, *Eulimnogammarus*, Valvatidae, Caddisflies, *Brandtia*, Baicaliidae, Planorbidae, *Cryptoropus*, and flatworms contributed the greatest differences between high and moderate/low IDW population groupings (see Table 2).

*Food web characterization: stable isotopes and fatty acids*

Among periphyton and amphipod samples, δ 13C values ranged from -19.5 to -9.5 ‰ (Figure 6). Among periphyton samples, δ15N values ranged from 0.77 to 3.76 ‰, whereas amphipod δ15N values ranged from 6.42 to 7.92 ‰.

For grazers, δ15N values significantly increased with IDW population (p = 0.01; Figure 3, Figure 6). Periphyton δ15N signatures did not significantly increase with IDW population (p = 0.27). In contrast, δ13C values were not related with IDW population for either periphyton or macroinvertebrates.

With respect to fatty acids, macroinvertebrates tended to be characterized by mono-unsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs) and long-chain (i.e. ≥ 20-Carbons) polyunsaturated fatty acids (LCPUFAs), whereas periphyton tended to be characterized by short-chain (i.e., 16- and 18-Carbons) polyunsaturated fatty acids (SCPUFAs) (Table 3). When comparing proportions within taxa across the sewage gradient, periphyton SCPUFA proportion tended to increase (Figure S10) and periphyton SAFA proportions generally decreased. In contrast, benthic macroinvertebrate fatty acid class proportions tended to remain consistent across the entire gradient (Figure S10).

With respect to food web structure, stable isotope isospaces suggested that amphipods along our transect likely consumed periphyton (Figure 6), corroborating findings from Yoshii (1999). Results from our Bayesian mixing model further implied that diatom-associated fatty acids constituted approximately 80% of amphipods’ diets, whereas *Draparnaldia* spp.and *Ulothrix* spp. fatty acid signatures constituted 12.5% and 6.4%, respectively.

When assessing how grazing patterns may change over our disturbance gradients, our analyses focused mainly on the fatty acids consistently associated with filamentous green algae (i.e., 18:3ω3, 18:1ω9, 18:2ω6, and 16:0) as well as diatoms (i.e., 20:5ω3, 16:1ω7, 14:0, and 16:0). For periphyton, the ratio of green filamentous:diatom-associated fatty acids significantly increased with an increasing PPCP concentration (R2 = 0.62; p = 0.04, Figure 7; S11-12) and to some extent with an increasing IDW population (p = 0.08; Figure S13-15). *Eulimnogammarus verrucosus* fatty acid ratios were not significantly related with either increasing IDW population (Figure S13) or increasing PPCP concentrations (Figure 7), but *Eulimnogammaurus vittatus* filamentous:diatom ratios decreased with an increasing IDW population (p = 0.01; Figure S13) but not PPCP concentrations (Figure 7). When focusing solely on the essential fatty acids 18:3ω3, 18:2ω6, and 20:5ω3, the same patterns were observed in both periphyton (R2 = 0.73; p = 0.02) and amphipods (Figure 7; S12). Permutational analyses for both regression analyses supported these trends. P- and R2 values estimated for periphyton models were within the 5% margins in comparison to models produced with a randomized dataset (Figure S11-12; S14-15). Similarly, model estimates for both *E. verrcusos* and *E. vittatus* were more reflective of those observed from randomized datasets (Figure S11-12; S14-15).

**Discussion**

Our combined results corroborate previous findings (e.g., Timoshkin et al., 2016; 2018) that sewage pollution is entering Lake Baikal’s nearshore area and likely is responsible for changes in nearshore benthic communities. Unlike previous studies, we were able to incorporate highly specific indicators of sewage pollution and food web structure to offer direct, quantitative relationships between human development and ecological responses.

*Relating human settlements to sewage indicator concentrations*

In agreement with our expectations, some sewage pollution indicators in the nearshore of Lake Baikal were associated with size of and distance from human settlements. Total PPCP, macroinvertebrate δ15N, and, to some degree, total phosphorus as well as ammonium concentrations increased with IDW population. These sewage gradients created by highly localized settlements are noteworthy considering that Baikal’s shoreline, including our study area, is largely free of lakeside development (Moore et al. 2009). Furthermore, the use of sewage-associated indicators, such as PPCPs and δ15N, proved necessary for defining sewage gradients. The use of nutrients as indicators alone would not reveal sewage pollution gradients, since nutrients were not strongly correlated with IDW population and could come from diverse sources. For example, melting permafrost in Lake Baikal’s watershed (Anisimov and Reneva 2006) and the Selenga River basin (Tornqvist et al. 2014) as well as climate-driven changes in mixing processes (Swann et al. 2020) have the potential to contribute substantial nutrient loadings to the nearshore. While nutrients also could be contributed by agriculture (Powers et al. 2016), atmospheric deposition (Galloway et al. 2004; Monteith et al. 2007; Stoddard et al. 2016), and changing terrestrial plant communities (Moran et al. 2012), these are not currently known to be major sources of elevated nutrients in the Baikal watershed, relative to sewage (Timoshkin et al., 2016, Timoshkin et al., 2018), changing mixing patterns (Swann et al. 2020), and permafrost melt (Anisimov & Reneva, 2006).

This is the first known study to detect PPCPs in Lake Baikal, a voluminous lake in a largely unpopulated watershed. We detected PPCPs nearshore but not at our three offshore sites, suggesting that sewage inputs in Baikal become diluted as pollutants move out of the nearshore area. More generally, these results are important for lake monitoring, as PPCPs are robust indicators of sewage pollution. Beyond Lake Baikal, these data are important for understanding PPCPs’ prevalence in lakes, as lakes have remained less represented in the PPCP literature in comparison to lotic and subsurface systems (Meyer et al. 2019). This literature imbalance creates opportunities to assess how PPCPs, and sewage pollution more broadly, may lead to differing ecological responses in lotic and lentic systems. As lakes tend to have longer hydraulic residence times relative to rivers and streams, pollutants may be more prone to accumulate (Yang et al. 2018; Meyer et al. 2019). In the case of our data, comparing contemporaneous littoral and pelagic PPCP concentrations revealed littoral-pelagic sewage gradients, as PPCPs were degraded, metabolized or accumulated by biota, preserved within sediments, or diluted to undetectable concentrations. In the context of the entire lake, analyses of sediments have shown how PPCPs can remain within lake systems for decades, thereby enabling researchers to reconstruct histories of wastewater pollution in a system (Czekalski et al. 2015; Yang et al. 2018).

Investigating PPCP concentrations across limnic environments could also establish how ecological communities respond differently not only to sewage but also to the PPCPs themselves. While we focus on PPCPs as indicators of sewage, previous studies have shown that PPCPs, even at concentrations we observed in Lake Baikal, can elicit biological responses from physiological (e.g., del Rey et al. 2011; Feijão et al. 2020) and behavioral (e.g., Brodin et al. 2013; Dzieweczynski et al. 2016) levels to food webs (e.g., Lagesson et al. 2016; Richmond et al. 2018) and ecosystems (e.g., Rosi-Marshall et al. 2013; Richmond et al. 2019; Robson et al. 2020). Although our study was not designed to evaluate the ecotoxicological effects of PPCPs themselves, future studies could potentially address effects of PPCPs on nearshore Baikal biota by using *in situ* sewage gradients as a guide.

In contrast to PPCP concentrations and δ15N values, microplastics were not associated with IDW population and may be poor proxies for sewage pollution in Lake Baikal. Additionally, microplastics may originate from non-sewage sources, such as agriculture (Steinmetz et al. 2016) and fish nets (Eerkes-Medrano et al. 2015). Because of their long degradation time (Brandon et al. 2016), microplastics can indicate accumulated pollution, which likely enables wider distribution from nearshore inputs to the offshore (Fischer et al. 2016; Hendrickson et al. 2018). Unlike microplastic concentrations identified in Lake Hovsgol (Free et al. 2014), Lake Superior (Hendrickson et al. 2018), or Lake Erie (Eriksen et al. 2013), microplastic concentrations in Baikal, as quantified by our methods, may be poor proxies for capturing pollution from seasonally varying human populations. It is worth noting that since the time of our field sampling, evidence has accumulated that our methods likely dramatically underestimated microplastic abundance (Wang and Wang 2018; Brandon et al. 2020), and there is potential for the microplastics themselves to cause deleterious ecological responses. While we focus here on microplastics as an indicator of sewage pollution, microplastics are increasingly shown to disrupt food web dynamics by altering grazing patterns (Green 2016) and providing carbon substrate for microbial growth (Romera-Castillo et al. 2018). Recent investigations of microplastics in Lake Baikal near Bolshie Koty (BK) used analogous methods and measured similarly low concentrations (Karnaukhov et al. 2020). When considering Lake Baikal’s large volume, Karnaukhov et al. (2020) noted that the number of plastic pieces may well exceed those observed in other lakes, such as Lake Hovsgol. Together these growing uncertainties suggest that microplastic pollution in Baikal and elsewhere deserves increased attention.

*Relating sewage indicators with benthic algal communities*

Congruent with our hypotheses, increasing sewage indicators tended to be associated with higher relative abundance of filamentous taxa in periphyton. Previous studies investigating Baikal’s periphyton composition noted that areas adjacent to human development often had increased relative abundance of filamentous algae such as *Ulothrix* spp. and *Spirogyra* spp. (Timoshkin et al. 2016, 2018). Lake Baikal’s southwestern shore historically experiences short *Ulothrix* spp. blooms in late August (Kozhov 1963), potentially confounding sewage signals with an annually occurring phenomenon. While the potential does exist for both diatoms and filamentous taxa to increase in numerical abundance with increasing sewage pollution, our data are consistent with the results of Timoshkin et al. (2016) and show that relative abundance of filamentous algae is greatest near areas of higher lakeside development.

Even as community composition shifted with increasing sewage indicator concentrations, periphyton δ15N values did not differ along our transect. Previous studies in marine (Gartner et al. 2002; Savage and Elmgren 2004; Risk et al. 2009) and freshwater (Wayland and Hobson 2001; Camilleri and Ozersky 2019) systems have highlighted how sewage-associated δ15N can increase in algal samples and even throughout the food web. Like PPCPs in our study, δ15N values are often most enriched near the source of sewage pollution and can decrease over several kilometers (Savage and Elmgren 2004), with concentrations varying based on species-specific uptake rates and mixing processes (Gartner et al. 2002). While previous studies using δ15N signatures in macroalgae and vascular macrophytes have successfully tracked sewage gradients (Cole et al. 2004), periphyton δ15N as a sewage indicator potentially can be confounded by terrestrial δ15N contributions such as through agricultural runoff (Chang et al. 2012). In our study, periphyton δ15N signatures may be explained by periphyton’s typically high cell turnover rates (e.g., days; Swamikannu and Hoagland 1989) dampening isotopic patterns, δ15N-accumulating algal taxa being grazed more readily by macroinvertebrates (Rosenberger et al. 2008), or co-limitation dynamics between ammonium and nitrate (York et al. 2007; Piñón-Gimate et al. 2009).

Fatty acid analyses suggested that changes in periphyton community composition altered the nutritional quality of periphyton across the pollution gradient. Periphyton fatty acid profiles from sites with higher sewage pollution had higher cumulative proportions of 18:3ω3, 18:1ω9, 18:2ω6, and 16:0 relative to cumulative 20:5ω3, 16:1ω7, 16:0, and 14:0 fatty acid proprtions. This pattern likely reflects the higher abundance of green algae relative to diatoms (Iverson et al. 2004; Osipova et al. 2009; Taipale et al. 2013; Galloway and Winder 2015; Shishlyannikov et al. 2018), which we observed from our periphyton community composition analysis (Figure 3). Together, our periphyton composition and fatty acid results suggest that Baikal’s nearshore periphyton communities near human lakeside developments are more dominated by filamentous green algae, and therefore, have lower nutritional content.

Among the array of fatty acids synthesized in algal communities, essential fatty acids (EFAs) are most likely to be taxonomically associated with, and influenced by, changing community composition. EFAs are a subgroup of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) that are prone to accumulating in organisms (see Kelly & Scheibling, 2012). Among the eight common EFAs (Taipale et al. 2013), 18:3ω3, 18:2ω6, and 20:5ω3 had the highest coefficients of variation between sites. Because these three EFAs demonstrated the greatest variation between sites, our analyses focused on how their relative abundances related to PPCP concentrations and IDW populations. The fatty acids 18:3ω3 and 18:2ω6 have been previously associated with filamentous algae, such as Baikalian *Ulothrix* spp. (Osipova et al. 2009) and *Draparnaldia* spp., whereas 20:5ω3 have previously been associated with Baikalian diatoms (Shishlyannikov et al. 2018). Comparing the ratio of filamentous green algae to diatoms could therefore function as proxy for each algal taxon’s relative abundance and potentially offer insights into feeding patterns for the grazers.

*Relating sewage indicators with macroinvertebrate feeding guilds*

In assessing benthic consumer communities’ responses to changing periphyton, our data suggest macroinvertebrate guilds reshape with increasing sewage pollution. Our results support the general conclusion of Timoshkin et al. (2016) that Baikalian mollusk abundance tends to decrease with increasing sewage pollution. Decreased mollusk abundance may have several causes, including low tolerance for increased concentrations of PPCPs or other components of sewage (e.g., Hollingsworth et al. 2002, Timoshkin et al. 2016), inability to consume filamentous algae (Mazzella and Russo 1989), or filamentous algae not offering the proper nutrition (Lowe and Hunter 1988). In contrast to mollusks, amphipods were generally prevalent at all littoral sites, regardless of sewage indicator concentrations. *Brandtia* spp. was the only amphipod genus less abundant with sewage indicator signals. This genus tends to be associated with endemic sponges (Taakhteev & Didorenko, 2015), which may also be decreasing in abundance near areas of lakeside development (Timoshkin et al., 2016). *Eulimnogammarus* spp., one of the most speciose Baikal genera (Takhteev and Didorenko 2015), was prevalent at all sites, and δ15N values in its tissue increased slightly but significantly with increasing IDW population. Unlike periphyton, amphipods’ increasing δ15N values may relate to amphipods having longer cellular turnover rates (e.g., weeks; McIntyre and Flecker 2006) relative to periphyton. Consequently, amphipods’ enhanced δ15N values suggest that sewage-derived nutrients are being incorporated into the food web. While we did not test amphipod tissues for other sewage indicators such as PPCPs and microplastics, the potential for PPCPs to bioaccumulate and biomagnify in food webs has been recently demonstrated, with ecological ramifications remaining uncertain (Lagesson et al., 2016; Richmond et al., 2018). These combined results suggest that mollusk abundance and amphipod δ15N values may be longer-term indicators of sewage pollution in Baikal.

In contrast to variation in δ15N values, amphipod fatty acid profiles did not differ markedly between sites (Figure 7; S11-15). Amphipods from all collected sites expressed consistent 20:5ω3 signatures relative to 18:3ω3 and 18:2ω6. Consumers usually accumulate fatty acids from their food source. Yoshii's (1999) study as well as our own stable isotope data suggest that Baikal’s benthic, littoral amphipods are likely a combination of grazers and omnivores. Because fatty acid profiles in amphipods largely reflected fatty acid signatures in periphyton, our data suggest that amphipods likely continue grazing on periphyton, despite the food resource changing in community composition and nutritional content. In particular, results from our mixing model suggest that diatoms constitute a large majority of amphipods’ diets (Figure 7C), even though diatoms tended to be less abundant in periphyton communities relative to filamentous taxa along our transect. As a consequence, amphipods may be compensating for the shifting nutritional quality of periphyton through at least three potential mechanisms. First, amphipods may selectively consume diatoms as opposed to filamentous algae, meaning diatom relative abundance could decrease both from increased grazing and lesser efficiency at taking up nutrients relative to filamentous taxa. Similarly, amphipods may become detritivorous when living diatoms become less abundant. Because amphipods’ fatty acid signatures still reflect a predominately diatom-associated diet (Figure 7; S13) and detrital fatty acids tend to reflect the composite fatty acids of the periphyton community (Tenore et al. 1984; Wilson et al. 2001; Vonk et al. 2016), our results imply that even detritivorous amphipods may rely on decomposing diatoms for maintaining consistent nutrition along the disturbance gradient. Second, amphipods themselves (e.g., Desvilettes et al. 1997; Castell et al. 2004) or heterotrophic symbionts (Klein Breteler et al. 1999; Veloza et al. 2006; Hiltunen et al. 2017) may upgrade fatty acids by investing energy to convert C18 fatty acids to C20 fatty acids. Third, amphipods, especially stenothermic taxa such as *E. verrucosus* (Jakob et al. 2021), may migrate to deep littoral zones (e.g., 10-100 m), where diatoms may be more abundant, but then return to shallow littoral areas where breeding occurs (e.g., < 10 m; Takhteev and Didorenko 2015). Regardless of the exact mechanism, our data suggest that food web interactions would change with increasing sewage pollution and may imply a net energetic cost through amphipods’ differential grazing patterns.

*Conclusions*

Over the past decade, Lake Baikal has shown signs of nearshore eutrophication, despite the pelagic zone remaining ultra-oligotrophic. While Baikal receives nutrients from multiple sources, sewage-specific indicators used in this study implicate wastewater pollution as one of the sources. Our results corroborate work by Timoshkin et al. (2016, 2018), demonstrating how patchy hot spots of lakeside development at Baikal can create gradients in sewage concentrations and ecological responses. Unlike previous studies, our approach pairs community abundance data (i.e., periphyton and macroinvertebrate counts) and nuanced dietary tracers (i.e., fatty acids) to assess benthic community and food web consequences of sewage pollution. While sewage pollution may lead to changing resources for macroinvertebrate grazers, Baikal’s amphipods appear to be compensating either (1) by selectively grazing on diatoms, (2) by switching from herbivory to detritivory, or (3) by consuming less desirable food and upgrading fatty acids. In all of these cases, our results suggest shifting community interactions and may imply a net energetic cost for amphipods, as they expend energy either by foraging selectively for diatoms or by catabolizing certain essential fatty acids.

*Future trajectories: a call for increased nearshore monitoring*

Our results underscore the importance of nearshore monitoring in detecting sewage pollution in large lakes. Lake Baikal is considered ultra-oligotrophic based on pelagic sampling (Yoshida et al. 2003; O’Donnell et al. 2017), but nearshore hot spots of eutrophication are developing throughout the lake (Timoshkin et al. 2016, 2018). While pelagic samples are representative of the lake’s overall status, nearshore sampling aids managers in identifying pollution loading before the entire system is affected (Jacoby et al. 1991; Lambert et al. 2008; Hampton et al. 2011). Beyond Baikal, several large, deep, oligotrophic lakes have likewise experienced localized sewage pollution with nearshore biological responses, despite pelagic measurements suggesting oligotrophic status (e.g., Jacoby et al. 1991, Rosenberger et al. 2008; Hampton et al., 2011). Once eutrophication of the open water has occurred, mitigation can involve complex socio-economic factors (Carpenter et al. 1999), require system-specific information (Jeppesen et al. 2005), and necessitate long-term strategies (Tong et al. 2020). Because nutrients may enter systems from numerous sources, incorporating sewage specific indicators, such as PPCPs, may be necessary. PPCP sampling has the potential to not only identify sewage-associated nutrient pollution but also assess heterogeneities in sewage loading along a shoreline. When PPCP data are paired with co-located benthic community composition and food web data, managers can take system-specific actions to mitigate ecological consequences before sewage concentrations are detected throughout the lake. Across larger spatial and temporal scales, these paired PPCP-biological samples have potential to offer a synoptic view of the impacts of sewage pollution, enabling regional and local monitoring to coordinate mitigation strategies

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**Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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| Table 1: Location, depth, temperature and population information for each of the 17 sampling stations. “OS” refers to pelagic locations (i.e., “Offshore”), whereas other site abbreviations refer to littoral sampling locations. | | | | | | | |
| Site | Latitude | Longitude | Depth (m) | Distance to shore (m) | Air Temperature (°C) | Surface Temperature (°C) | Adjacent Population |
| BK-1 | 51.90316 | 105.07404 | 0.7 | 10 | 18 | 14 | 80 |
| BK-2 | 51.90365 | 105.069 | 0.9 | 17.5 | 19 | 13 | 80 |
| BK-3 | 51.90536 | 105.0957 | 0.8 | 10 | 18 | 14 | 80 |
| BGO-1 | 52.02693 | 105.40102 | 0.9 | 18 | 20 | 13 | 0 |
| BGO-2 | 52.0197 | 105.37707 | 1.1 | 14 | 19 | 14 | 600 |
| BGO-3 | 52.02649 | 105.43577 | 0.7 | 21 | 18 | 16 | 600 |
| OS-1 | 51.98559 | 105.47237 | 900 | NA | 15 | NA | NA |
| KD-1 | 51.92646 | 105.24504 | 0.8 | 20.75 | 23 | NA | 0 |
| KD-2 | 51.91807 | 105.21456 | 0.9 | 14.5 | 23 | 16 | 0 |
| MS-1 | 51.89863 | 105.15017 | 0.6 | 10.5 | 21 | 17 | 0 |
| SM-1 | 51.87152 | 104.98006 | 0.9 | 11.5 | 21 | 15 | 0 |
| LI-1 | 51.86825 | 104.83042 | 0.6 | 8.9 | 19 | 14 | 2000 |
| LI-2 | 51.84626 | 104.87356 | 0.8 | 9.4 | 21 | 15 | 2000 |
| LI-3 | 51.85407 | 104.86216 | 0.7 | 9.25 | 19.5 | 15 | 2000 |
| EM-1 | 51.86005 | 104.93999 | 0.7 | 15.5 | 24.5 | 14 | 0 |
| OS-2 | 51.8553 | 104.8148 | 1300 | NA | 21 | NA | NA |
| OS-3 | 51.859108 | 105.0769 | 1400 | 5000 | NA | 14.5 | NA |

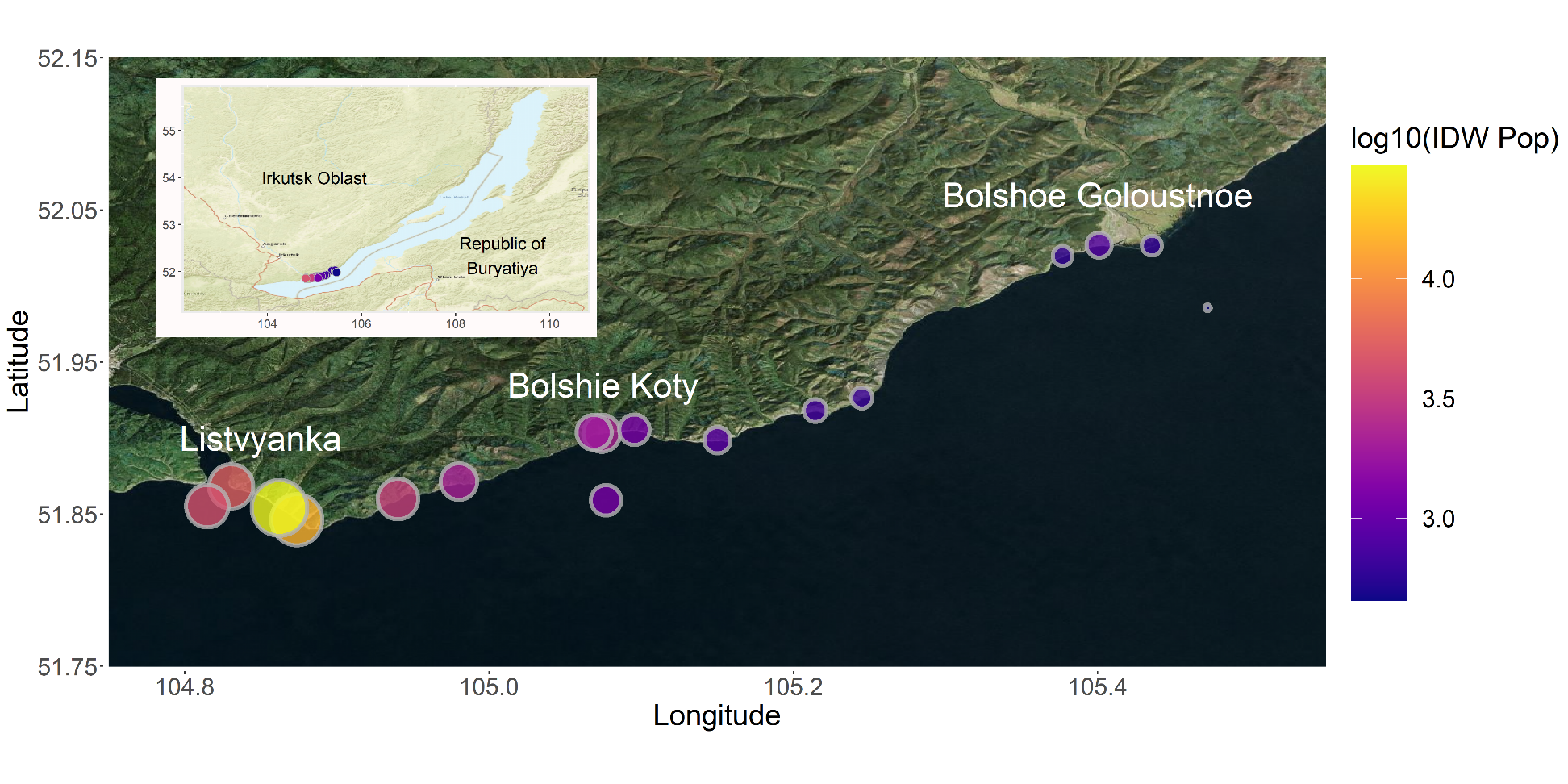


Figure 1: Map of all sampling locations with sites sized and colored by log-transformed IDW population. IDW population was log-transformed so as to make IDW populations across three orders of magnitude more comparable. The entire transect included three developed sites (i.e., Listvyanka, Bolshie Koty, Bolshoe Goloustnoe). Three offshore samples were also collected to compare pelagic sewage signals to those in the littoral. Sampling locations west of Listvyanka are located farther from Listvyanka’s centroid, and therefore have lower IDW population values than sites located closer to the centroid. This map was created using the R statistical environment (R Core Team 2019) and the tidyverse (Wickham et al. 2019), OpenStreeetMap (Fellows and Stotz 2019), ggpubr (Kassambara 2019), cowplot (Wilke 2019), and ggrepel (Slowikowski 2019) packages.



Figure 2: Photographs and Google Earth imagery of each developed area. Photographs were taken by Kara H. Woo and Michael F. Meyer.

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| Table 2: Average sewage indicator concentrations and densities per sampling location. Caffeine, acetaminophen/paracetamol, paraxanthine, and cotinine detection limits are estimated to be 0.001 µg/L based on a 500 mL sample volume. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Site | NH4+ (mg/L) | NO3- (mg/L) | Total Phosphorus (mg/L) | Caffeine (µg/L) | Acetaminophen  (µg/L) | Paraxanthine  (µg/L) | Cotinine  (µg/L) | Fragment density (MPs/L) | Fiber density (MPs/L) | Bead density (MPs/L) | IDW population | Categorical IDW population |
| BK-1 | 0.003 | 0.085 | 0.018 | 0.011 | 0.001 | 0.002 | 0 | 0 | 0.000833 | 0 | 2304.039 | High |
| BK-2 | 0.003 | 0.085 | 0.017 | 0.007 | 0.001 | 0 | 0 | 0.000952 | 0.000476 | 0 | 1891.558 | Mod/Low |
| BK-3 | 0.068 | 0.09 | 0.015 | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0 | 0 | 0.003095 | 0.00119 | 0 | 1231.234 | Mod/Low |
| BGO-1 | 0.0145 | 0.085 | 0.015 | 0 | 0.002 | 0 | 0 | 0.00119 | 0 | 0 | 838.5385 | Mod/Low |
| BGO-2 | 0.001 | 0.08 | 0.013 | 0 | 0.001 | 0 | 0 | 0.000238 | 0.001905 | 0 | 611.91 | Mod/Low |
| BGO-3 | 0.001 | 0.09 | 0.015 | 0.005 | 0.003 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 624.455 | Mod/Low |
| OS-1 | 0.001 | 0.085 | 0.020 | 0 | 0.001 | 0 | 0.001 | 0.002381 | 0 | 0 | 455.7733 | Mod/Low |
| KD-1 | 0.0035 | 0.065 | 0.012 | 0.003 | 0.001 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000476 | 0 | 662.4151 | Mod/Low |
| KD-2 | 0.001 | 0.1 | 0.015 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0 | 0 | 0.000714 | 0.001905 | 0 | 720.5484 | Mod/Low |
| MS-1 | 0.001 | 0.09 | 0.02 | 0.064 | 0.035 | 0.015 | 0 | 0 | 0.000238 | 0 | 903.6733 | Mod/Low |
| SM-1 | 0.001 | 0.085 | 0.048 | 0.042 | 0.012 | 0.005 | 0 | 0 | 0.001667 | 0 | 2146.218 | Mod/Low |
| LI-1 | 0.004 | 0.08 | 0.013 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.006 | 0.002 | 0.00381 | 0.000238 | 0.000714 | 5403.209 | High |
| LI-2 | 0.091 | 0.095 | 0.025 | 0.001 | 0.007 | 0 | 0 | 0.001429 | 0.00119 | 0 | 14792.51 | High |
| LI-3 | 0.0035 | 0.08 | 0.025 | 0.027 | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.003 | 0.000476 | 0 | 0.000714 | 29511.73 | High |
| EM-1 | 0.1125 | 0.185 | 0.030 | 0.029 | 0.014 | 0.002 | 0 | 0 | 0.000238 | 0 | 3389.949 | High |
| OS-2 | 0.001 | 0.08 | 0.025 | 0.033 | 0.001 | 0.004 | 0.003 | 0.000238 | 0.001905 | 0 | 4340 | High |
| OS-3 | 0.001 | 0.08 | 0.026 | 0.001 | 0.001 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.002143 | 0 | 1221.424 | Mod/Low |

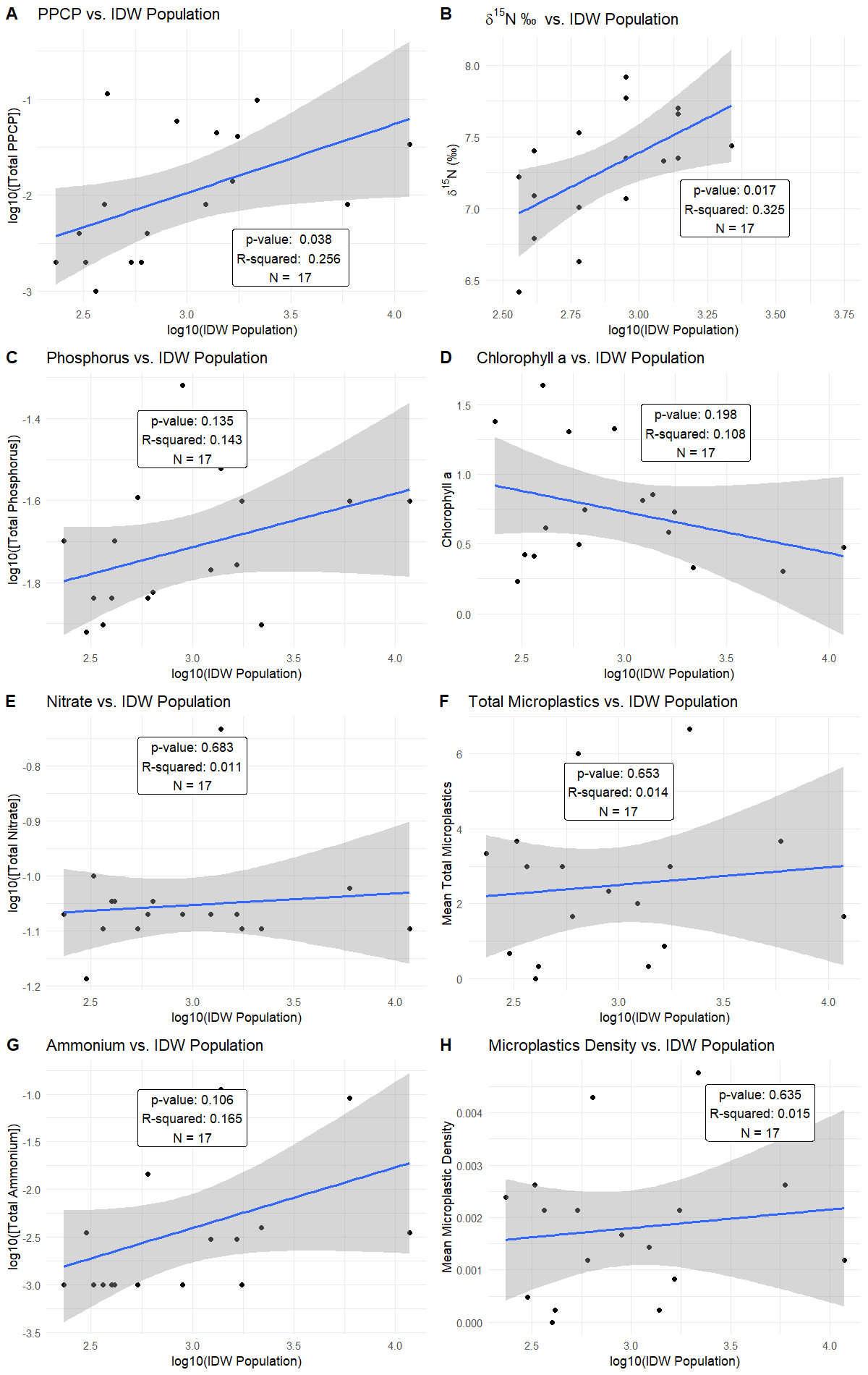


Figure 3: Linear models of total PPCP concentrations (A), macroinvertebrate δ15N (B), total phosphorus (C), chlorophyll a (D), nitrate (E), total microplastics (F), ammonium (G), and microplastic density (H) regressed against log-transformed inverse distance weighted (IDW) population. Total PPCP concentrations (A) and macroinvertebrate δ15N values (B) produced significant models. Total phosphorus (C), chlorophyll a (D), nitrate (E), total microplastics (F), ammonium (G), and microplastic density (H) did not produce significant models.

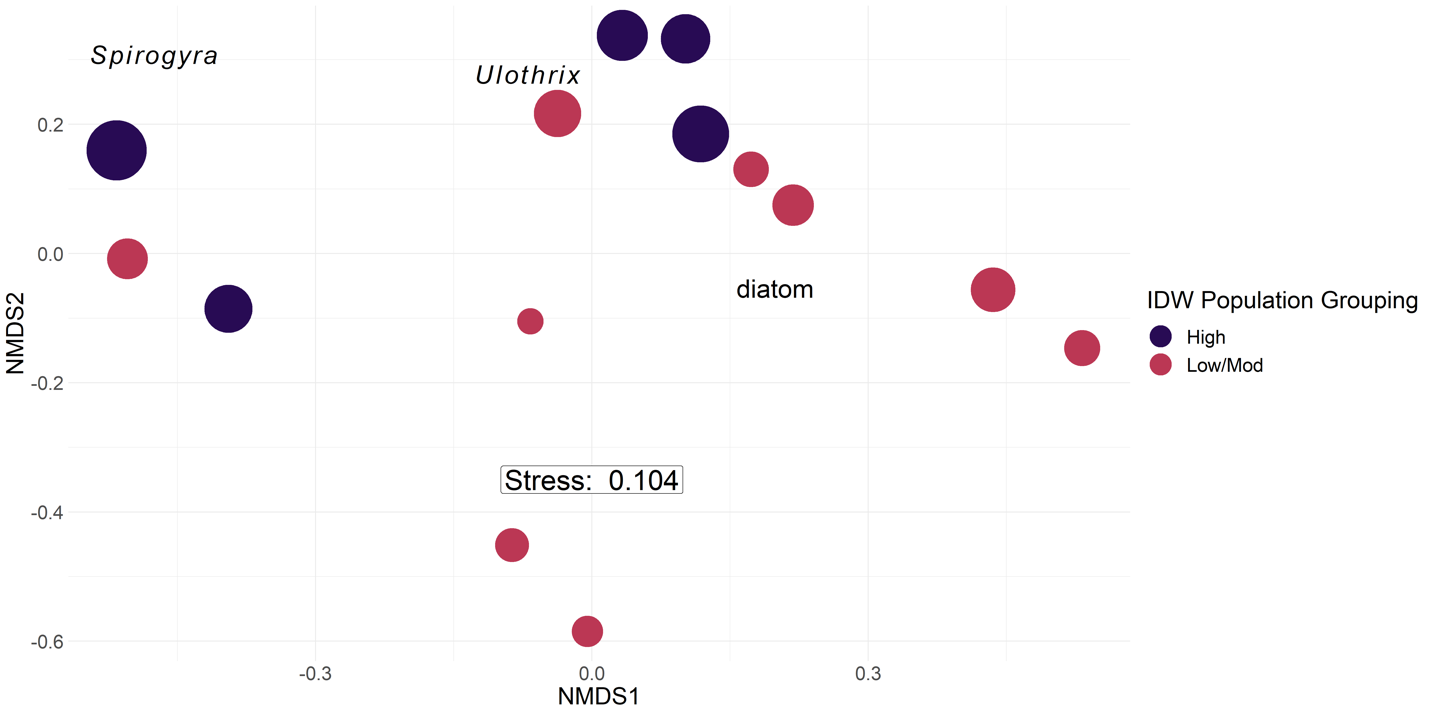


Figure 4: Periphyton abundance NMDS with Bray-Curtis dissimilarity. Points are sized by log10 IDW population and colored by grouped IDW population values. Taxonomic labels represent species scores, which are weighted averages of species contributions from site scores. For periphyton, PERMANOVA (p = 0.001) and post-hoc SIMPER results suggested sites with a higher IDW population value tended to be more associated with filamentous algal groupings and separate from sites with moderate and low IDW population values, which were more associated with diatom abundance.

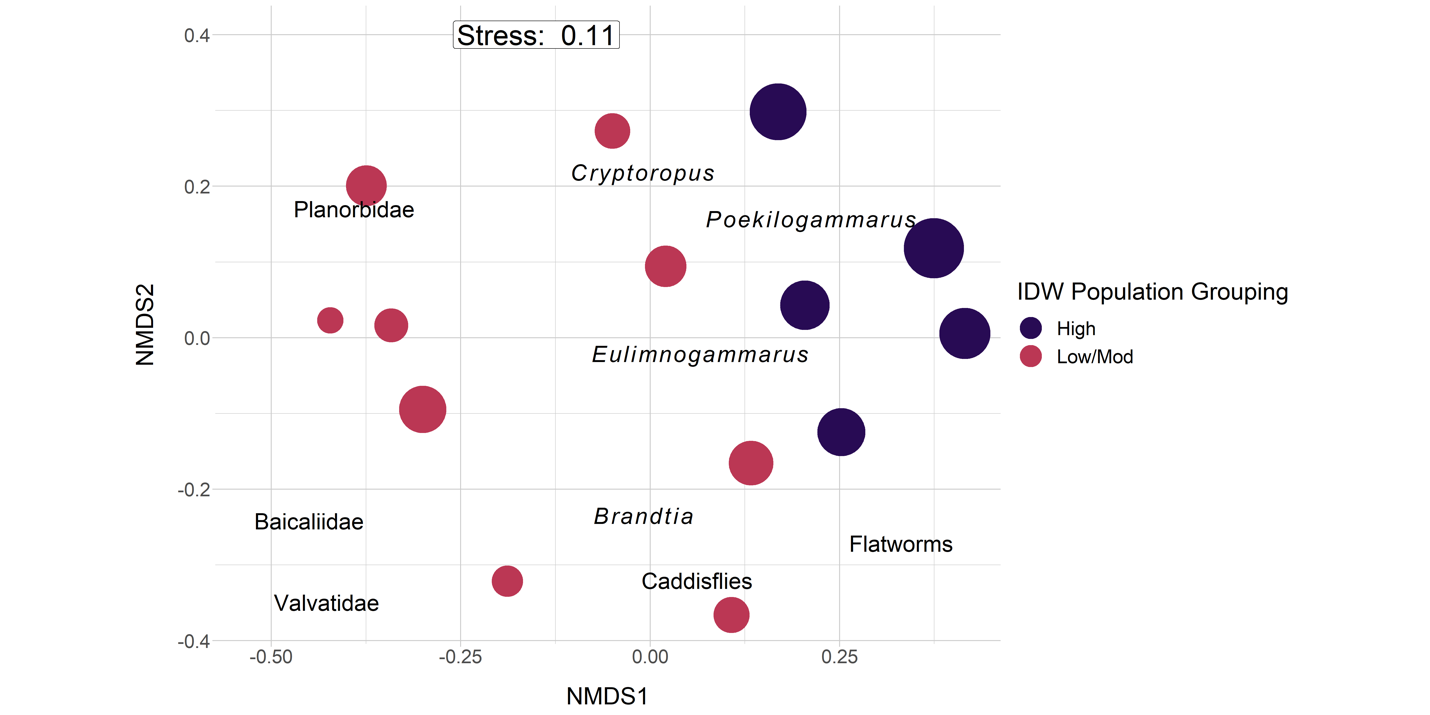


Figure 5: Macroinvertebrate abundance NMDS with Bray-Curtis dissimilarity. Points are sized by log10 IDW population and colored by grouped IDW population values. Taxonomic labels represent species scores, which are weighted averages of species contributions from site scores. For macroinvertebrates, PERMANOVA (p = 0.02) and post-hoc SIMPER results suggested sites with a higher IDW population values tended to be associated with amphipod taxa (see Table S1), whereas sites with lower and moderate IDW population values were more associated with increased mollusk abundance (see Table S1).

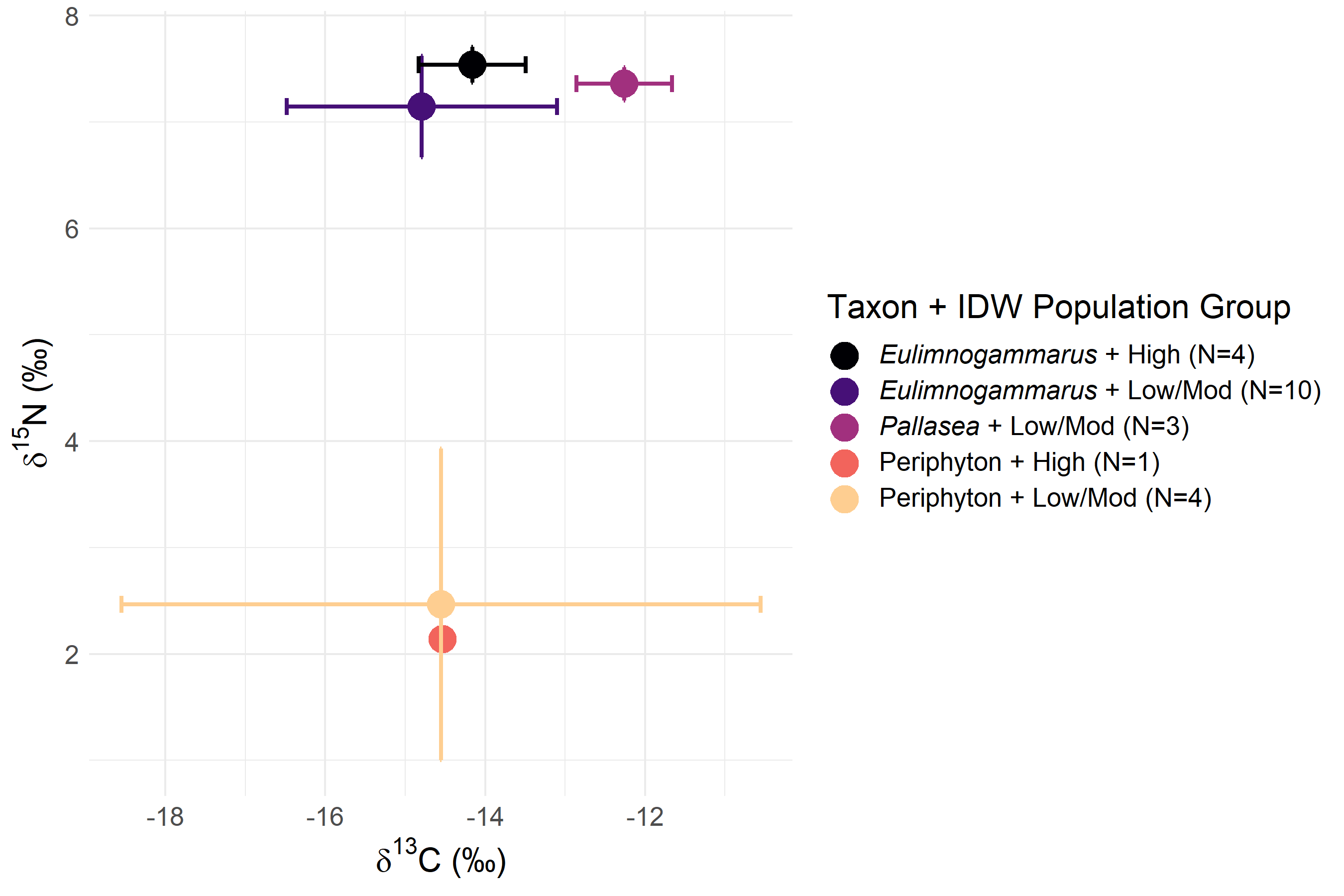


Figure 6: Biplot of mean and standard deviation δ13C and δ15N stable isotope values for littoral amphipods and periphyton, grouped by categorical IDW population (Table 3). In general, periphyton did not differ in δ13C or δ15N signatures with increasing IDW population, whereas *Eulimnogammarus* amphipods increased in δ15N signatures with increasing IDW population. *Pallasea* signatures differed from *Eulimnogammarus* most likely because *Pallasea* tends to remain in the nearshore area, whereas *Eulimnogammarus* will regularly migrate to deeper zones (Takhteev & Didorenko, 2015).

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| Table 3: Mean inter-site fatty acid proportion of each taxon and fatty acid grouping (as defined in table S2). | | | | | | |
| **Taxon** | **Number of sites** | **Branched** | **LCPUFA** | **MUFA** | **SAFA** | **SCPUFA** |
| *Draparnaldia* spp*.* | 4 | 0.000 | 0.012 | 0.088 | 0.189 | 0.710 |
| *Eulimnogammarus cyaneus* | 2 | 0.002 | 0.259 | 0.309 | 0.248 | 0.182 |
| *Eulimnogammarus verrucosus* | 6 | 0.000 | 0.188 | 0.385 | 0.240 | 0.187 |
| *Eulimnogammarus vittatus* | 6 | 0.001 | 0.171 | 0.371 | 0.241 | 0.216 |
| *Pallasea cancellus* | 3 | 0.001 | 0.282 | 0.359 | 0.187 | 0.171 |
| Periphyton | 7 | 0.000 | 0.073 | 0.092 | 0.284 | 0.550 |
| Snail | 3 | 0.002 | 0.470 | 0.123 | 0.194 | 0.211 |

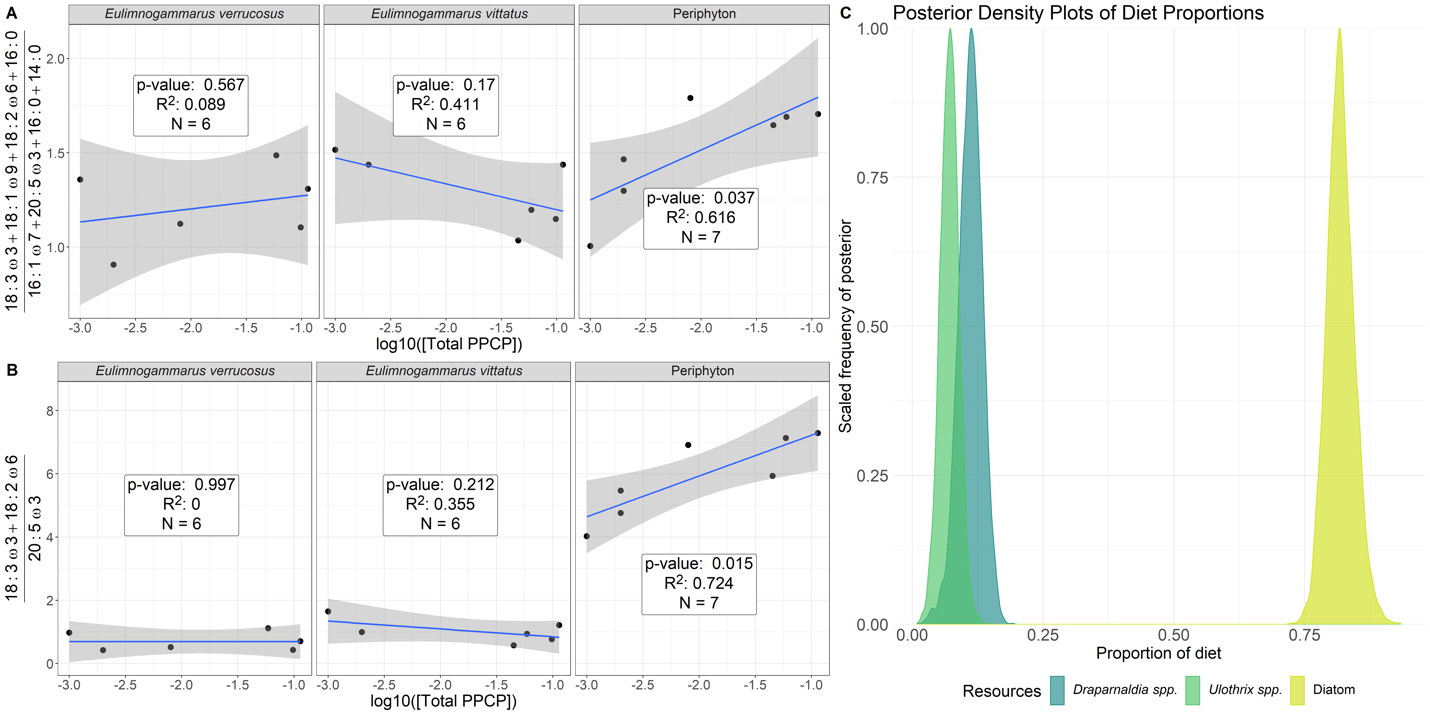


Figure 7: Ratio of filamentous:diatom-associated fatty acids (A) and essential fatty acids (B) across our PPCP gradient as well as diet proportions for *E. verrucosus* and *E. vittatus* (C). Our first analysis (A) focused solely on green filamentous algal fatty acids (i.e., 18:3ω3, 18:1ω9, 18:2ω6, and 16:0 relative to diatom fatty acids (i.e., 20:5ω3, 16:1ω7, 16:0, 14:0) in relation to increasing PPCP concentrations. This first analysis suggested periphyton reflected an increasing green, filamentous signature relative to diatoms, which corroborates analyses showing community compositional shifts (Figure 4). While periphyton fatty acids changed significantly across our sewage gradient, macroinvertebrate signatures remained consistent. Our second analysis (B) focused solely on the essential fatty acids, which further highlights the trends observed in periphyton and macroinvertebrate grazers. These same patterns were also observed in the Bayesian mixing model (C), which suggested that diatoms constitute more than 80% of amphipods’ diets.

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| Table S1: Macroinvertebrate taxonomic groupings for abundance estimates. Amphipod taxa were defined as in Takhteev & Didorenko, 2015; mollusk taxa were defined as in Sitnikova, 2012. | | |
| **Amphipoda** | **Mollusca** | **Other** |
| *Brandtia latissima intermida* (Dorogostaiskii 1930) | Acroloxidae | Asellidae |
| *Brandtia latissima lata* (Dybowsky 1874) | Baicaliidae | Caddisflies |
| *Brandtia latissima latior* (Dybowsky 1874) | Benedictidate | Hirudinea |
| *Brandtia latissima latissima* (Gerstfeldt 1858) | Maackia | Planaria |
| *Brandtia parasitica parasitica* (Dybowsky 1874) | Planorbidae |  |
| *Cryptoropus inflatus* (Dybowsky 1874) | Valvatidae |  |
| *Cryptoropus pachytus* (Dybowsky 1874) |  |  |
| *Cryptoropus rugosus* (Dybowsky 1874) |  |  |
| *Eulimnogammarus capreolus* (Dybowsky 1874) |  |  |
| *Eulimnogammarus cruentes* (Dorogostaiskii 1930) |  |  |
| *Eulimnogammarus cyaneus* (Dybowsky 1874) |  |  |
| *Eulimnogammarus grandimanus* (Bazikalova 1945) |  |  |
| *Eulimnogammarus maacki* (Gerstfeldt 1858) |  |  |
| *Eulimnogammarus marituji* (Bazikalova 1945) |  |  |
| *Eulimnogammarus verucossus* (Gerstfeldt 1858) |  |  |
| *Eulimnogammarus viridis viridis* (Dybowsky 1874) |  |  |
| *Eulimnogammarus vittatus* (Dybowsky 1874) |  |  |
| *Pallasea brandtia brandita* (Dybowsky 1874) |  |  |
| *Pallasea brandtii tenera* (Sovinskii 1930) |  |  |
| *Pallasea cancelloides* (Gerstfeldt 1858) |  |  |
| *Pallasea cancellus* (Pallas 1776) |  |  |
| *Pallasea viridis* (Garjajev 1901) |  |  |
| *Poekilogammarus crassimus* (Sovinskii 1915) |  |  |
| *Poekilogammarus ephippiatus* (Dybowsky 1874) |  |  |
| *Poekilogammarus megonychus perpolitus* (Takhteev 2002) |  |  |
| *Poekilogammarus pictus* (Dybowsky 1874) |  |  |

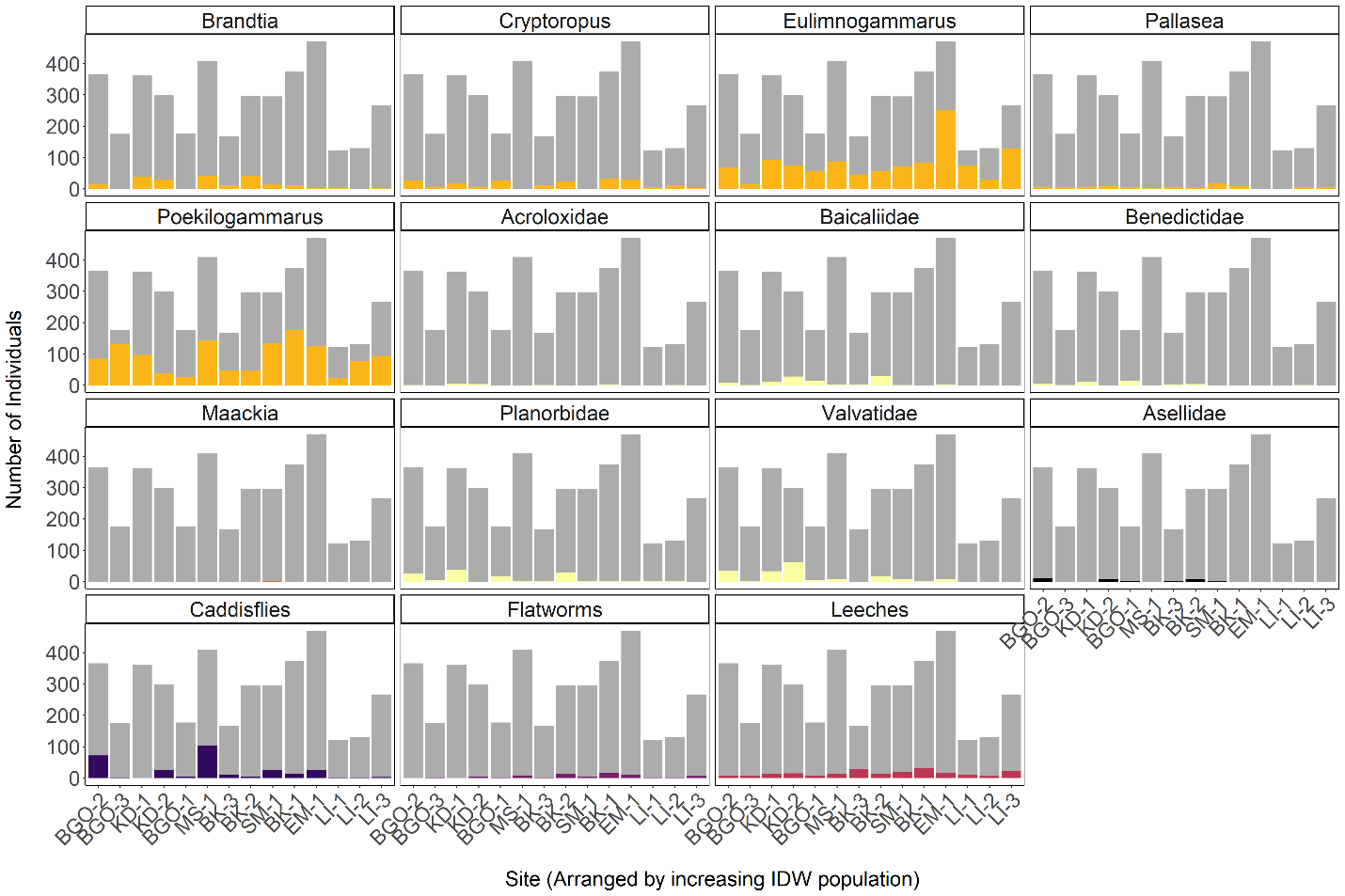


Figure S1: Abundance of taxonomic group across sampling transect. Sites are ordered left-to-right by increasing inverse distance weighted population. Colored-bars represent the number of individuals counted of a particular taxon, whereas grey bars represent the total number of macroinvertebrates counted at a sampling site. Each distinct color represents a broad taxon (‘Orange’ = Amphipoda; ‘Yellow’ = Molluska; ‘Black’ = Aseillidae; ‘Dark Purple’ = Caddisflies; ‘Magenta’ = Flatworms; ‘Dark Pink’ = Leeches).



Figure S2: With-group-sum-of-squares (wss) for increasing number of k-mediod clusters for periphyton (A) and invertebrate (B) community data. In the case of periphyton data, wss decreases most markedly with three clusters, whereas invertebrate community abundance is best described by potential two or three clusters.



Figure S3: Average silhouette width for increasing number of k-mediod clusters for periphyton (A) and invertebrate (B) community data. In the case of periphyton data, average silhouette width decreases most markedly with three clusters, whereas invertebrate community abundance is best described by two or three clusters as the average silhouette width for both two and three clusters was highest before beginning to decrease.



Figure S4: Weighted Pair-Group Centroid Clustering (WPGMC) for periphyton (A) and macroinvertebrate (B) community compositions. Approximately unbiased (au) p-values are computed by multiscale bootstrap resampling, and displayed in red on the left side of each node. Bootstrapped probabilities (bp) are displayed in green on the right side of each node. Unlike k-mediods, WPGMC uses a hierarchical approach to assign clusters, which are bootstrapped in order to generated a probability of group membership. This technique suggested that both periphyton and macroinvertebrates could be grouped in two clusters. Grouping macroinvertebrates into three clusters was possible; however, three clusters resulted in 8 of the 14 sampling locations being assigned to a group. In contrast, two groups enabled 13 of the 14 sampling locations to be assigned to a cluster.

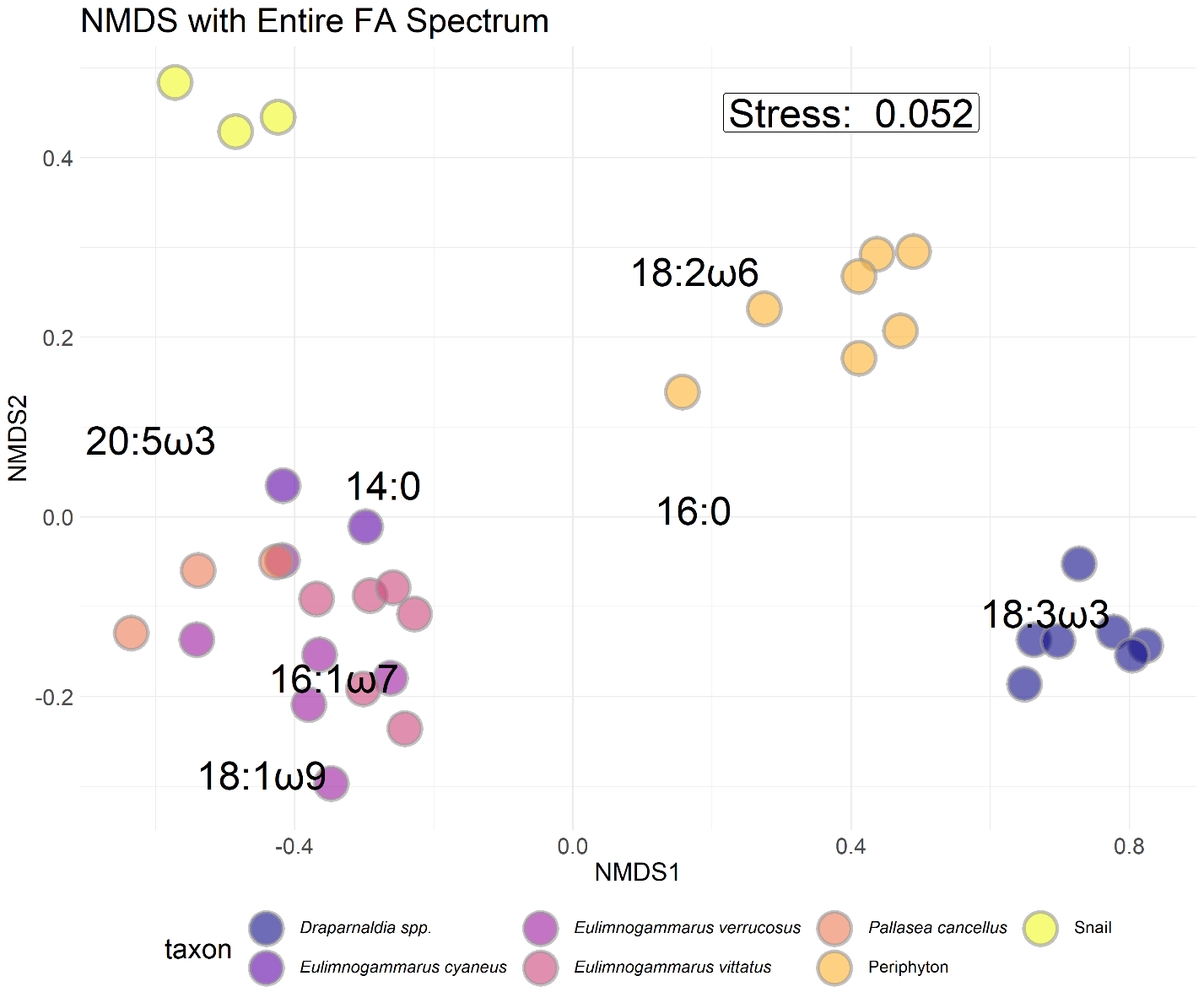


Figure S5: NMDS with Bray-Curtis dissimilarity of proportional fatty acid compositions for each macroinvertebrate and primary producer collected. *Eulimnogammarus* and *Pallasea* are endemic amphipod genera. *Draparnaldia* spp. are endemic filamentous algae that are large and form very dense mats easily collected where it occurs. *Draparnaldia* spp.occurred in large, visible colonies, allowing us to sample and analyze just the *Draparnaldia* spp. fatty acids. Because *Draparnaldia* spp.fatty acids were dominated by 18:3ω3 more so than periphyton, they formed their own cluster. Snails were not identified to species prior to fatty acid analysis. Interspecific variation in fatty acid composition tended to be larger than intraspecific variation, implying that fatty acid signatures were largely species-specific and not environmentally driven.

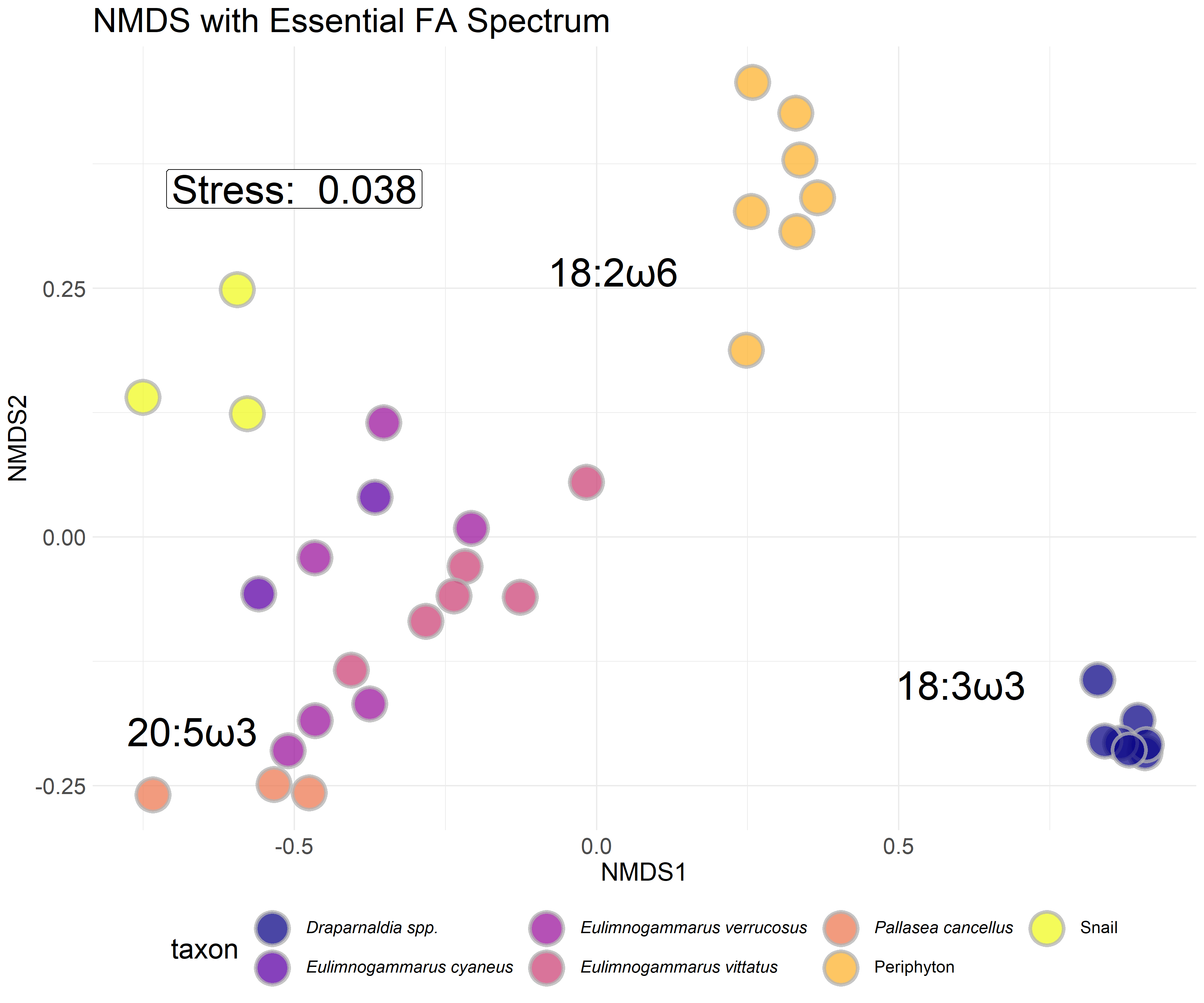


Figure S6: NMDS with Bray-Curtis dissimilarity of proportional biologically essential fatty acid compositions for each macroinvertebrate and primary producer collected. *Eulimnogammarus* and *Pallasea* are endemic amphipod genera. *Draparnaldia* spp. are endemic filamentous algae that are large and form very dense mats easily collected where it occurs. *Draparnaldia* spp. occurred in large, visible colonies, allowing us to sample and analyze just the *Draparnaldia* spp. fatty acids. Because *Draparnaldia* spp. fatty acids were dominated by 18:3ω3 more so than periphyton, they formed their own cluster. Snails were not identified to species prior to fatty acid analysis. Interspecific variation in fatty acid composition tended to be larger than intraspecific variation, implying that fatty acid signatures were largely species-specific and not environmentally driven.

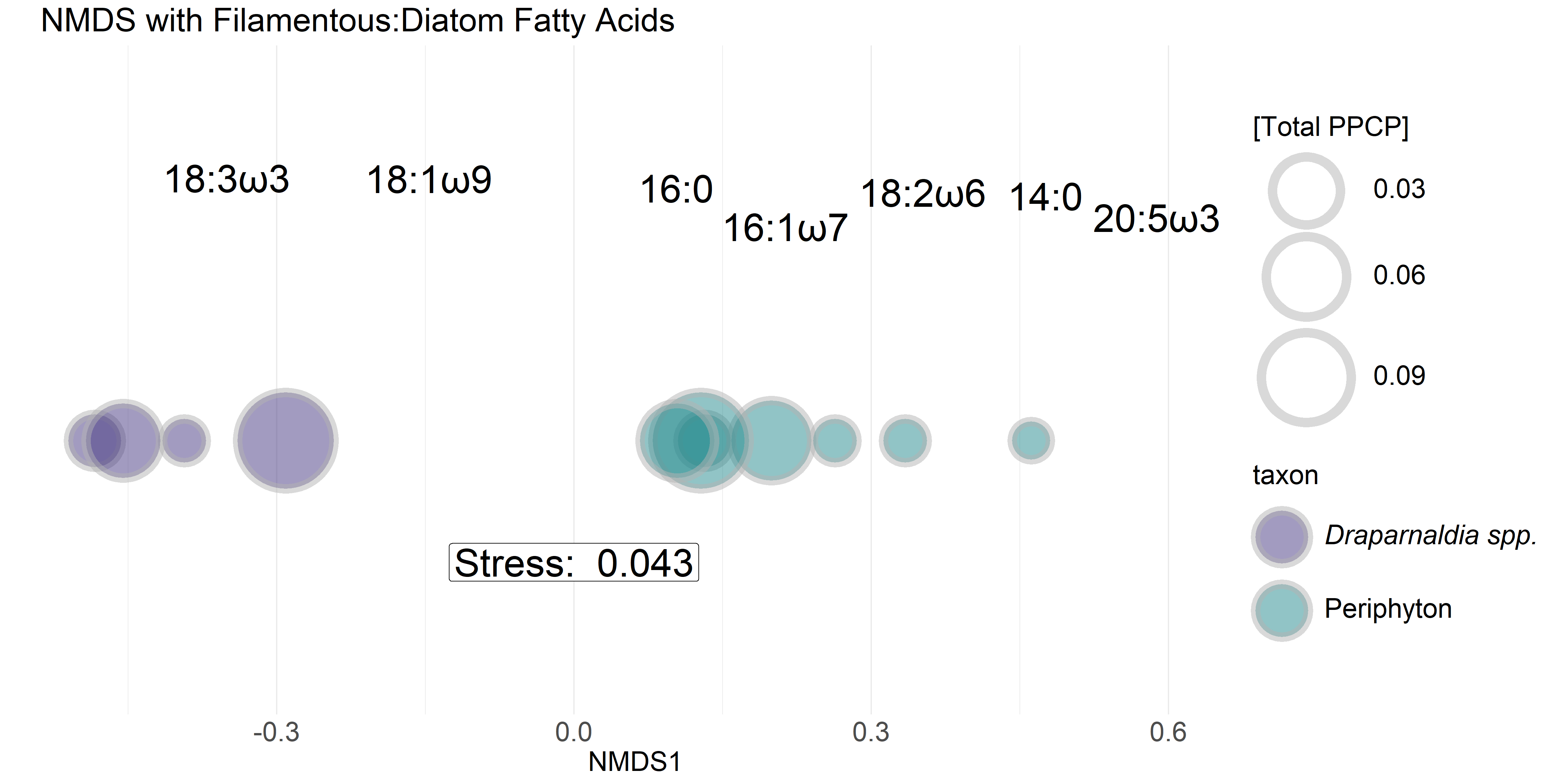


Figure S7: One-dimensional NMDS with Bray-Curtis similarity of seven targeted fatty acids of interest for primary producers. Fatty acid scores are placed above shapes. Shapes are sized by total PPCP concentration. Periphyton (blue-green) tend to increase in size from right-to-left, suggesting that periphyton tend to include more 18:3ω3 and 18:1ω9 (indicators of green algal taxa) with an increasing sewage signal. In contrast, *Draparnaldia* spp. (purple) fatty acids tend to remain consistent across the sewage gradient.

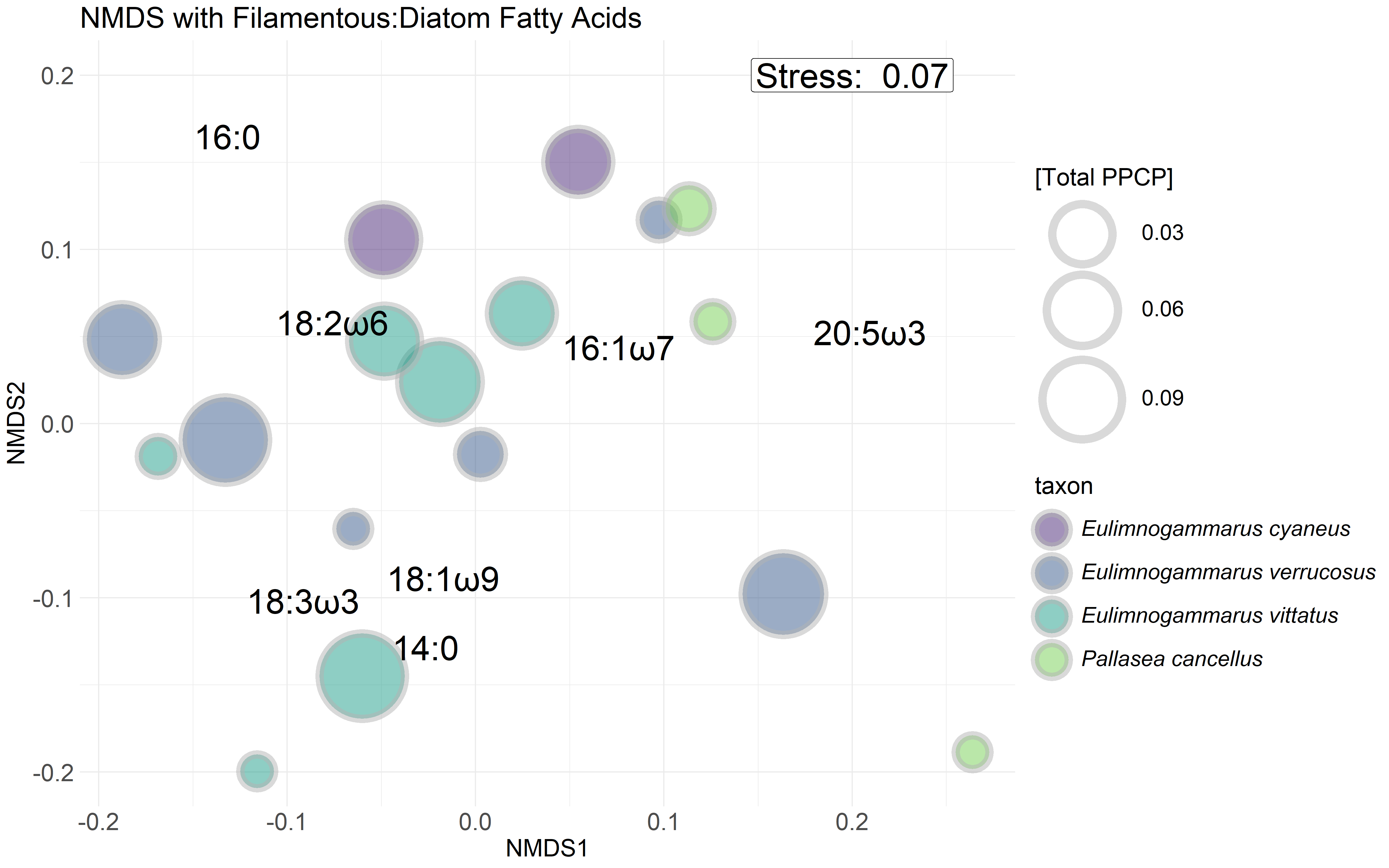
Figure S8: NMDS with Bray-Curtis similarity of seven targeted fatty acids of interest for primary producers. Points are sized by total PPCP concentration. Visually, there appears to be no distinct separation among or within taxa unlike was observed with periphyton (Figure S7).



Figure S9: Distributions of p- and R­2 values for sewage indicator values in response to IDW population. Models were generated from 5,000 data permutations. Histograms represent p- and R2 values estimated from linear models fit with permuted sewage indicator data. The vertical dashed line in each plot represents the p- and R2 value obtained from the linear model fit with non-permuted data. The percent of p- and R2 values occuring respectively below and above values estimated from the non-permuted values are listed in the title of each plot. In the case when a model fit is non-random, the dashed green line should be in the lower 5% tail end for p-values and in the upper 5% for R2 values.

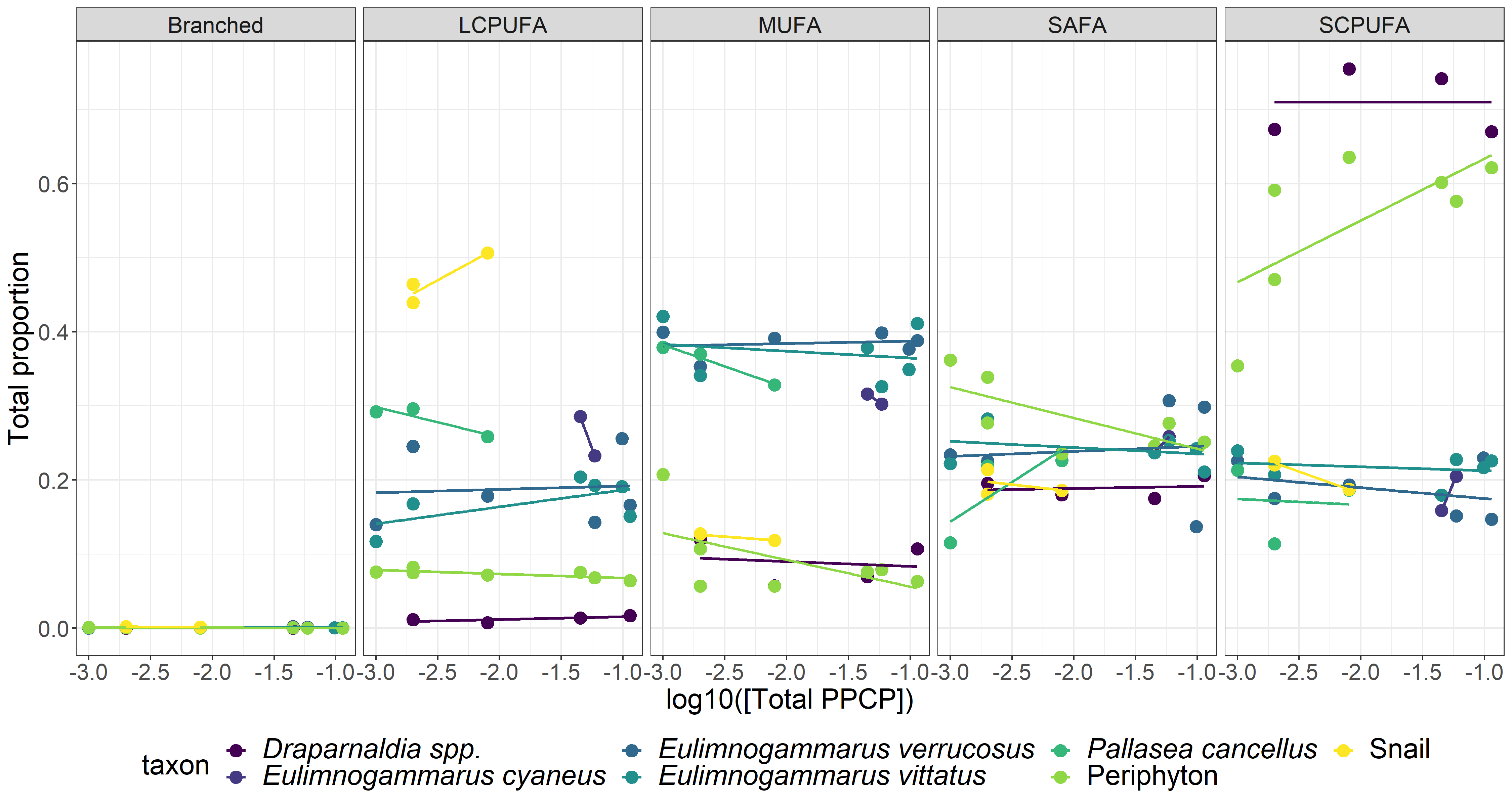


Figure S10: Proportions of major fatty aid groups (as defined in Table S2) across the sewage gradient. Primary producers (*Draparnaldia* spp. and periphyton) were largely characterized by SCPUFAs, amphipods were largely associated with high MUFA abundance, and snails were generally characterized with high LCPUFA abundance. Across the sewage gradient, periphyton SCPUFA tended to increase, which lead to more targeted analyses on which specific fatty acids were increasing. In contrast to periphyton, all other taxa remained consistent with respect to fatty acid proportions across the sewage gradient.

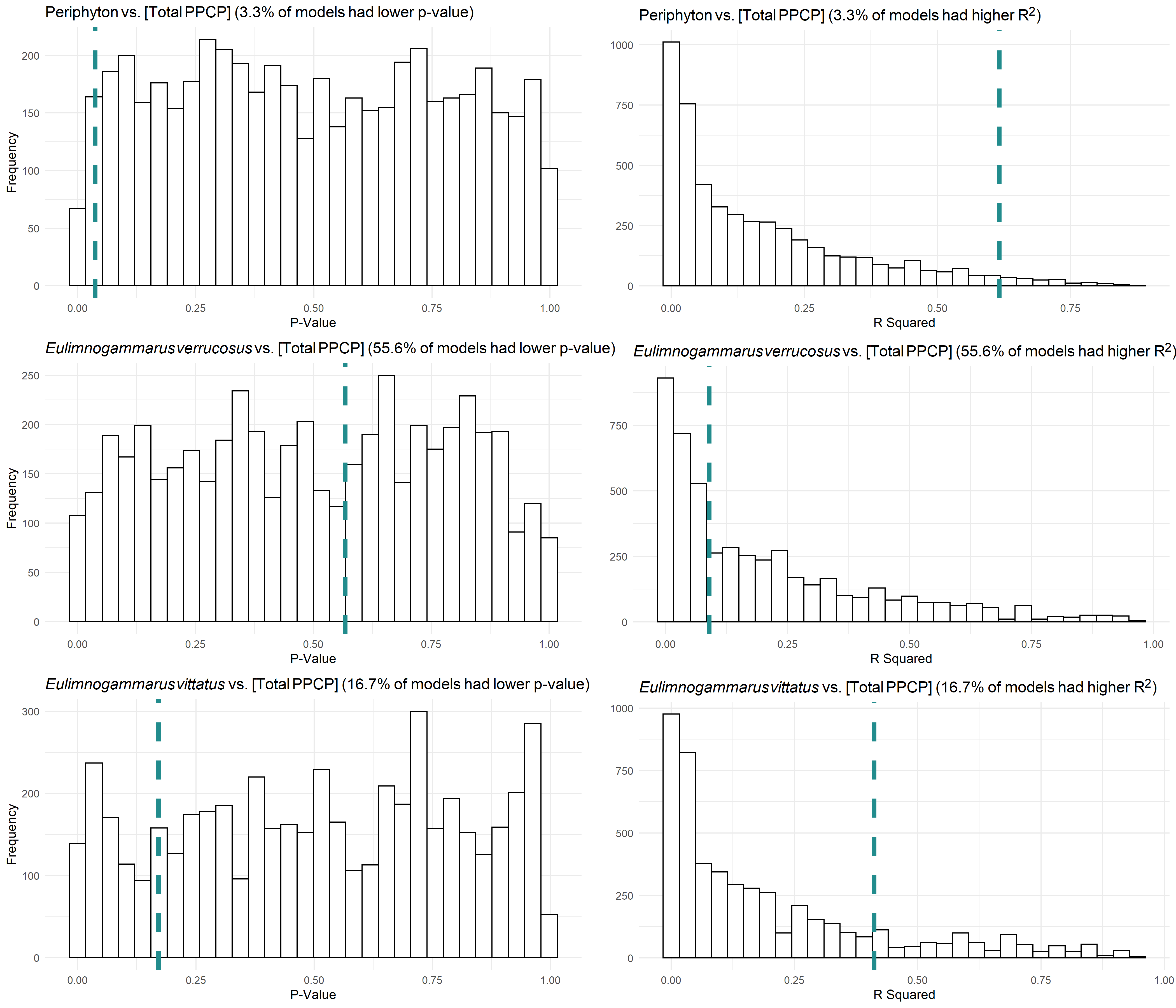


Figure S11: Distributions of p- and R­2 values for filamentous:diatom fatty acid ratios in response to total PPCP concentrations for permuted data. Models were generated from 5,000 data permutations. Histograms represent p- and R2 values estimated from linear models fit with permuted sewage indicator data. The vertical dashed line in each plot represents the p- and R2 value obtained from the linear model fit with non-permuted data. The percent of p- and R2 values occuring respectively below and above values estimated from the non-permuted values are listed in the title of each plot. In the case when a model fit is non-random, the dashed green line should be in the lower 5% tail end for p-values and in the upper 5% for R2 values.

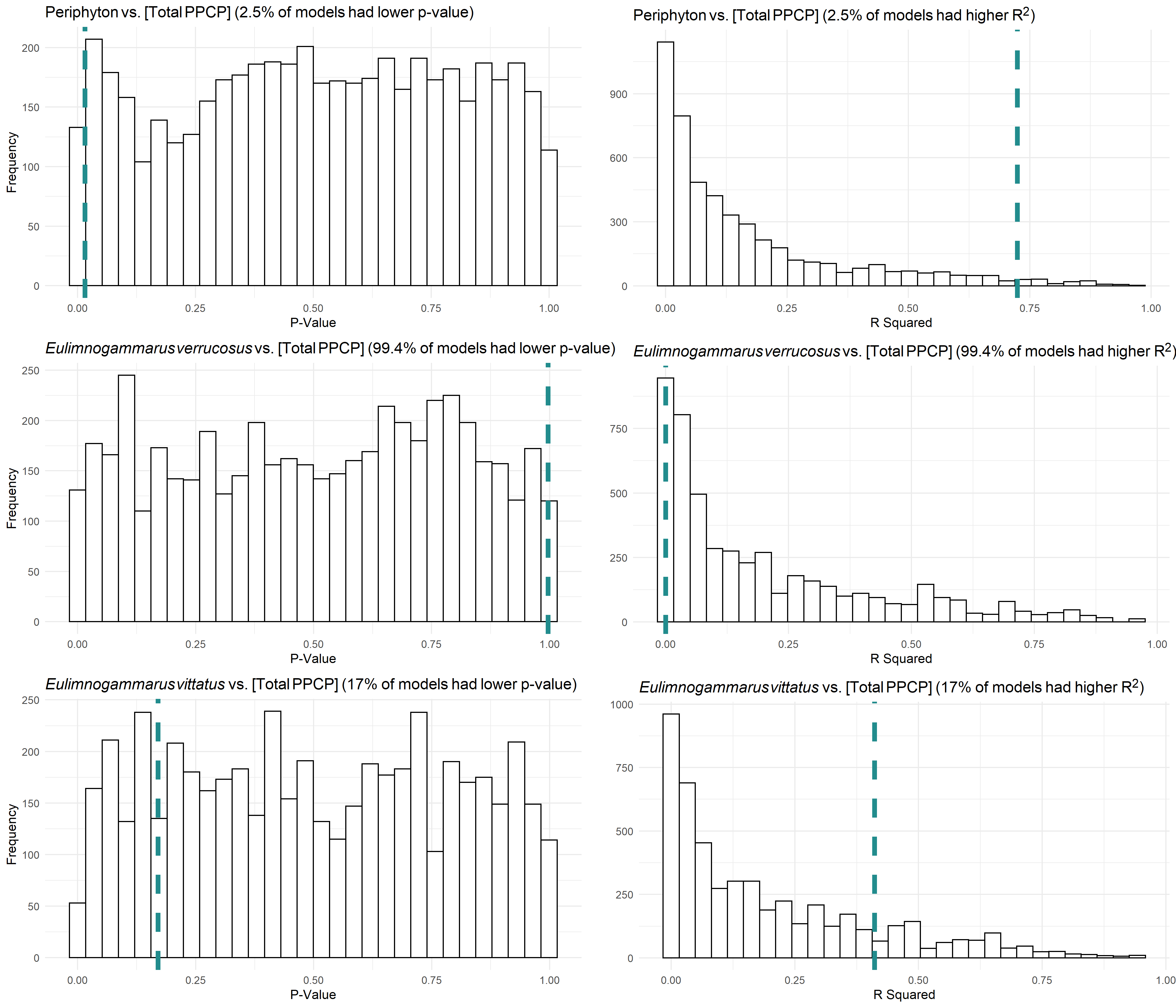


Figure S12: Distributions of p- and R­2 values for filamentous:diatom essential fatty acid ratios in response to total PPCP concentrations for permuted data. Models were generated from 5,000 data permutations. Histograms represent p- and R2 values estimated from linear models fit with permuted sewage indicator data. The vertical dashed line in each plot represents the p- and R2 value obtained from the linear model fit with non-permuted data. The percent of p- and R2 values occuring respectively below and above values estimated from the non-permuted values are listed in the title of each plot. In the case when a model fit is non-random, the dashed green line should be in the lower 5% tail end for p-values and in the upper 5% for R2 values.

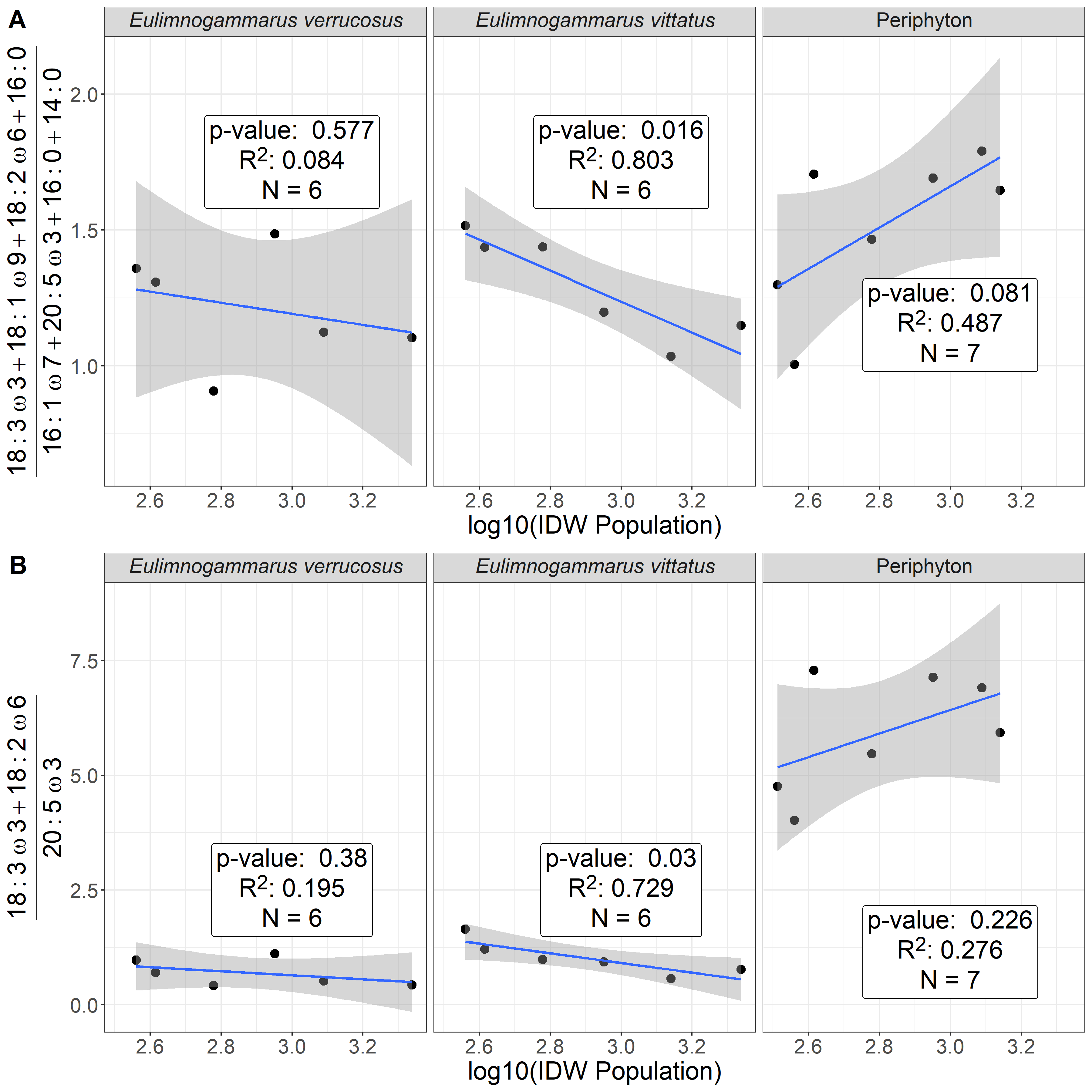


Figure S13: Ratio of filamentous:diatom-associated fatty acids (A) and essential fatty acids (B) across our IDW Population gradient. Our first analysis (A) focused solely on green filamentous algal fatty acids (i.e., 18:3ω3, 18:1ω9, 18:2ω6, and 16:0 relative to diatom fatty acids (i.e., 20:5ω3, 16:1ω7, 16:0, 14:0) in relation to increasing PPCP concentrations. This first analysis suggested periphyton, to some degree, tended to reflect an increasing green, filamentous signature relative to diatoms, which corroborates analyses showing community compositional shifts (Figure 4). Macroinvertebrate signatures generally remained consistent, although *E. vittatus*’s generally to increase in relative diatom signatures over the gradient. Our second analysis (B) focused solely on the essential fatty acids. These same general patterns were also observed when using PPCP concentrations in place of IDW population (Figure 7).

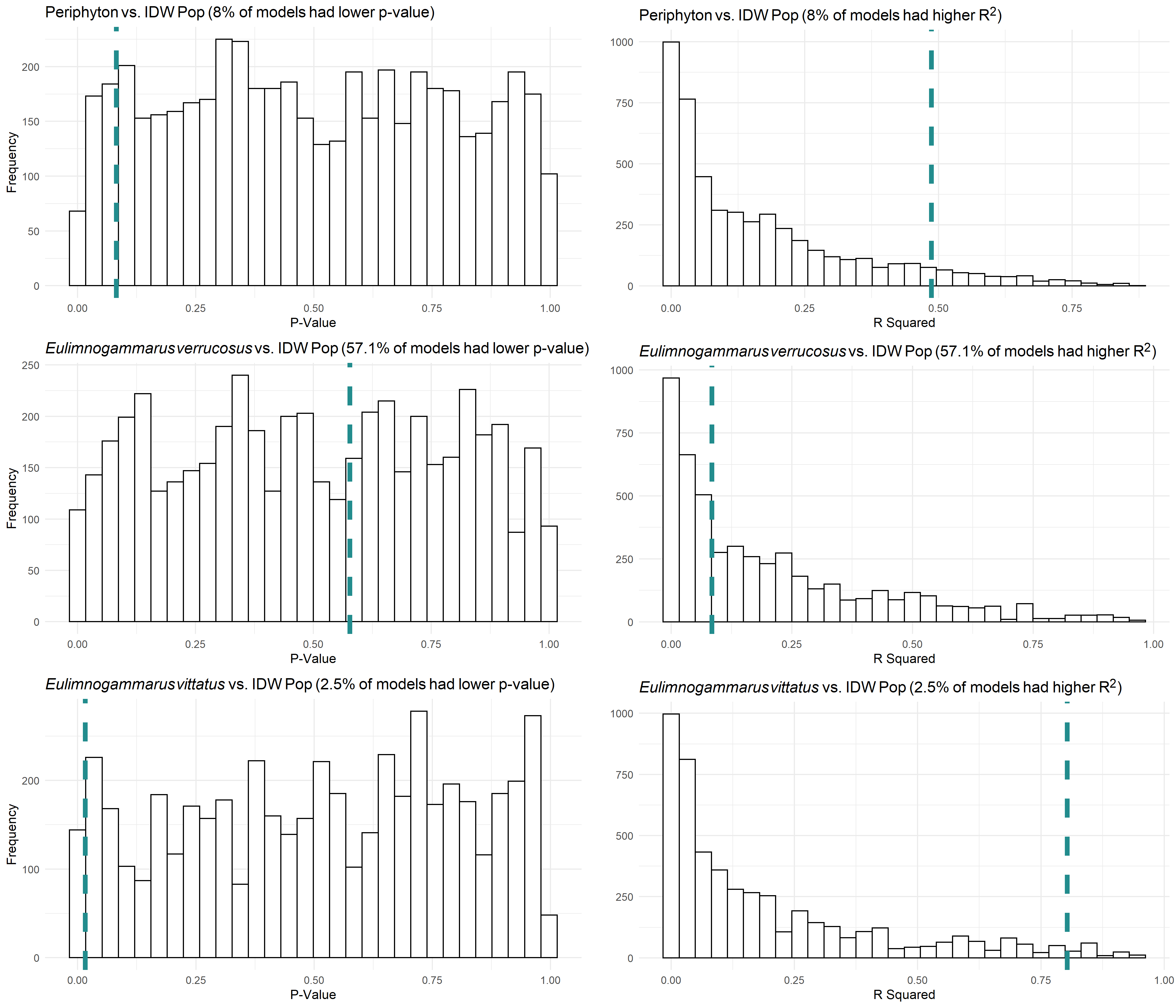


Figure S14: Distributions of p- and R­2 values for filamentous:diatom fatty acid ratios in response to IDW population for permuted data. Models were generated from 5,000 data permutations. Histograms represent p- and R2 values estimated from linear models fit with permuted sewage indicator data. The vertical dashed line in each plot represents the p- and R2 value obtained from the linear model fit with non-permuted data. The percent of p- and R2 values occuring respectively below and above values estimated from the non-permuted values are listed in the title of each plot. In the case when a model fit is non-random, the dashed green line should be in the lower 5% tail end for p-values and in the upper 5% for R2 values.

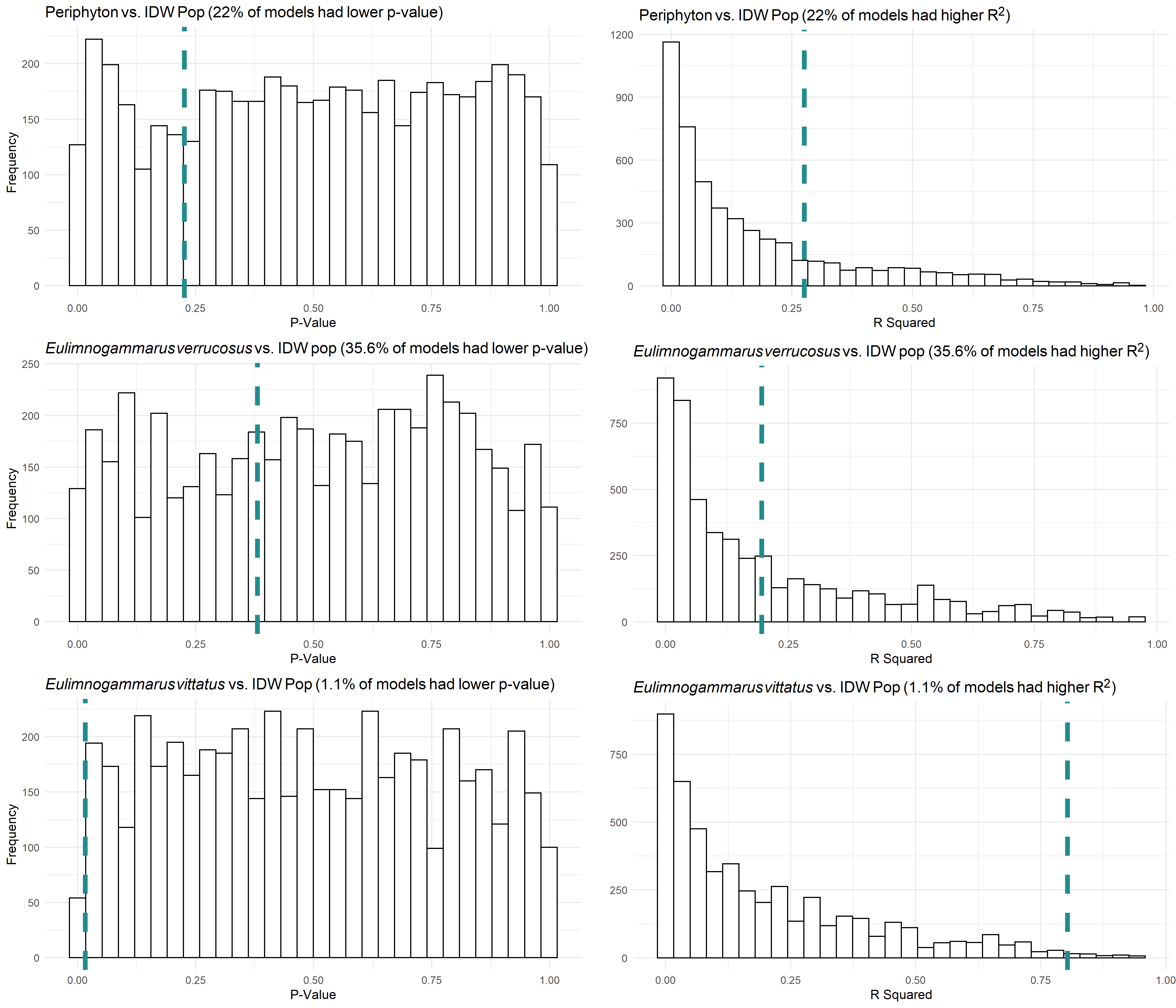


Figure S15: Distributions of p- and R­2 values for filamentous:diatom essential fatty acid ratios in response to IDW population for permuted data. Models were generated from 5,000 data permutations. Histograms represent p- and R2 values estimated from linear models fit with permuted sewage indicator data. The vertical dashed line in each plot represents the p- and R2 value obtained from the linear model fit with non-permuted data. The percent of p- and R2 values occuring respectively below and above values estimated from the non-permuted values are listed in the title of each plot. In the case when a model fit is non-random, the dashed green line should be in the lower 5% tail end for p-values and in the upper 5% for R2 values.

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| Table S2: Fatty acid groupings used in this analysis | |
| Fatty Acid Group | Fatty acids considered |
| Branched | a-15:0, i-15:0, a-17:0, i-17:0 |
| SAFA | 12:0, 14:0, 15:0, 16:0, 17:0, 18:0, 20:0, 22:0, 24:0 |
| MUFA | 14:1ω5, 15:1ω7, 17:1n7, 16:1ω5, 16:1ω6, 16:1ω7, 16:1ω8, 16:1ω9, 18:1ω7, 18:1ω9, 20:1ω7, 20:1ω9, 22:1ω7, 22:1ω9 |
| SCPUFA | 16:2ω4, 16:2ω6, 16:2ω7, 16:3ω3, 16:3ω4, 16:3ω6, 16:4ω1, 16:4ω3, 18:2ω6, 18:2ω6t, 18:3ω3, 18:3ω6, 18:4ω3, 18:4ω4, 18:5ω3 |
| LCPUFA | 20:2ω5(11), 20:2ω5(13), 20:2ω6, 20:3ω3, 20:3ω6, 20:4ω3, 20:4ω6, 20:5ω3, 22:2ω6, 22:3ω3, 22:4ω3, 22:4ω6, 22:5ω3, 22:5ω6, 22:6ω3 |