

EFFECTS OF THE AGAT, AGANA, AND NORTHERN DISTRICT
WASTEWATER EFFLUENTS
ON
RECEIVING WATER QUALITY
(CHEMISTRY and BACTERIOLOGY)
AND
THE EFFECTS OF THE AGAT EFFLUENT ON
SUCCESS OF SEA URCHIN EGG FERTILIZATION

BY
ERNEST A. MATSON
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCES
AND
MARINE LABORATORY
THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

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DISCLAIMER

The conclusions and opinions expressed here are solely those of the author and do not represent any official position of The Government of Guam, The University of Guam, its Marine Laboratory, or the Public Utilities Agency of Guam or the Government of Guam EPA. Methods and procedures described herein were used in accordance with U.S. E. P. A. regulations, or by prior agreement with them and PUAG. Names of products used do not constitute endorsement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ABSTRACT

The three largest wastewater effluents on Guam were analyzed for fecal coliform bacteria (monthly at shoreline stations only) and quarterly at both shoreline and offshore sites for selected water quality parameters (including pH, salinity, temperature, oxygen, turbidity, nitrates and phosphates, and fecal coliforms). Also, the Agat effluent was tested quarterly for its affect on the success of sea urchin egg fertilization. In addition, the nitrogen content of algae and the feces of bottom feeders was analyzed to detect a change due to proximity to the effluents at Agat and the Northern District.

The effluents have little if any detectable affect on water quality except in the immediate vicinity of the boil (where the effluent appears on the water surface, degasses and disperses). Of all water quality parameters measured, only fecal coliform bacteria and reactive phosphate are detectable in the receiving waters once the effluent has been diluted to full-strength seawater. Of these, fecal bacteria persist detectably farther away and for longer periods than phosphate. The actual distance towards shore at which they can be detected is difficult to estimate due to possible additional contribution of these bacteria from runoff.

The Agat effluent inhibits sea urchin egg fertilization at a concentration equal to or greater than 12.5 % effluent in artificial seawater. Below this percentage, effects are indistinguishable from normal variation. At concentrations greater than 50 %, the effluent generally inhibits fertilization completely.

The effluents at Agat and Northern District have no detectable affect on the organic N content of two algae or the feces of the holothurian (sea cucumber) Holothuria atra.

The lack of chlorination of the three effluents studied serves to (1) allow fecal coliforms to survive for extended periods away from the point of discharge, (2) provide a good mechanism to track the effluent, and (3) probably contaminate some shoreline waters during the ebb or during uncommon surface wind conditions. It is recommended that PUAG establish and maintain primary sewage treatment only (the treatment level here on Guam does not matter), add effective chlorinators, and discharge the effluents in at least 200 feet of water.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Disclaimer.....	ii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
Abstract.....	iv
List of Tables and Figures.....	vi
Introduction.....	1
Materials and Methods.....	2
The Study Sites.....	2
Sampling.....	2
Water Quality Monitoring.....	3
Bacteriology.....	3
Toxicology.....	3
Organic Nitrogen in Algae and Feces.....	3
Results and Discussion.....	5
Calculated Impact Zones.....	5
Water Quality Monitoring.....	6
Bacteriology.....	11
Toxicology..(with A. S. Quenga).....	11
Organic Nitrogen in Algae and Feces.....	
(with A. S. Quenga).....	14
Conclusions.....	17
Comment on the Lack of Chlorination.....	18
Literature Cited.....	19
Appendices.....	20
Appendix I....Water Quality Data.....	20
Appendix II...Fecal Coliforms and Salinity.....	24
Appendix III..Effects of the Agat Effluent on Sea Urchin Egg Fertilization.....	28

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1. Calculated impact zones, dissipation areas, and distances (diameter) for complete dilution of maximum allowable daily flow.....	6
Table 2. Summary of linear regression results between paired average water quality data.....	9
Table 3. Cumulative two, five, and ten day rainfall recorded at Naval Air Station, Agana, prior to each sampling of the Agat effluent for toxicity studies.....	14
Figure 1. The Agat, Agana, and Northern District Study Sites.....	3
Figure 2. pH, Phosphate, and Nitrate <u>vs.</u> Oxygen at Agat (left), Agana (center) and the Northern District (right).....	7
Figure 3. pH, Phosphate, and Nitrate (mg/L bottom) <u>vs.</u> Salinity at Agat (left), Agana (center) and the Northern District (right).....	8
Figure 4. Phosphate <u>vs.</u> pH.....	10
Figure 5. Phosphate <u>vs.</u> Salinity.....	10
Figure 6. Fecal coliforms (\log_{10}) <u>vs.</u> Salinity (a), pH (b), and Phosphates (c).....	12
Figure 7. Individual toxicity assay results (a, left) and averages and standard deviations (b, right)...	13
Figure 8. TON (left) and TOC (right) contents of <u>Galaxaura marginata</u> on transects 75 and 100 m from the effluent at Agat.....	14
Figure 9. TON content of <u>Halimeda opuntia</u> on transects 5, 20, and 50 m from the line of diffusers at the Northern District effluent.....	15
Figure 10. TON content of freshly deposited feces of the sea cucumber <u>Holothuria atra</u> on a depth transect away from the Northern District diffusers.....	16

INTRODUCTION

Several wastewater effluents are discharged in the leeward coastal zone of Guam either in or near the borders of the fringing reef (Figure 1). The Agat effluent is discharged ca. 2 to 3 m from shore on Gaan Point, the Agana effluent in ca. 28 m and the Northern District effluent in ca. 20 m.

Regardless of the relative volumes of the discharge and of the receiving waters, an effluent will have some impact on the receiving waters. The impact may be relatively harmless or harmful, but will be measurable at some level of resolution. It was our initial task to determine the detection level at stations that were determined and assigned by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Therefore, several initial studies were performed in November and December 1988 and January 1989 to determine the distribution of the effluents within the coastal waters, their content, residence time, and dilution rate. Studies were performed using fluorescein (recorded on videotape with SCUBA) and ammonium analysis (perhaps the most concentrated and persistent of the contents of the effluents). The results of these studies are not reported here, but are available on request in writing at the University of Guam Marine Laboratory. The results were used to determine relative volumes necessary and precision levels required for chemical and microbiological analysis.

The stations and the water quality and bacteriological parameters measured were determined and required by the USEPA and Guam E.P.A. (GEPA). Biological occurrences at these sites, regardless of the presence of an effluent, are directly or indirectly affected by time of day, i.e., the sun's elevation. Fecal coliform bacteria are known to be killed or inactivated by high levels of UV light, although photoreactivation is also common. Nutrient levels, such as nitrate and phosphate are affected by photosynthesis, which simultaneously increases both the pH and O₂ content of the waters. Therefore, all samples were taken from all stations between 11 and 13:30 local time, regardless of tide, sea state or cloud cover. Periods of heavy surf often precluded boat trips (especially for about 7 weeks in the Fall of 1989). Also, trips were postponed if heavy rain occurred within 3 days of scheduled sampling trips. Sampling commenced February 1989 and continued for one year.

Additional work is also reported here, including studies of the organic N content of algae in the vicinity of both the Agat and Northern District effluents and in the feces of sea cucumbers at the Northern District. These studies were performed because evidence of N enrichment would indicate a real and potentially harmful effect of the effluent that would be otherwise undetectable by the required analyses.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Study Sites

The three sewage treatment plants (STPs) studied are situated on Guam's west coast. The Agat STP in southern Guam originally discharged treated sewage 140 m from shore in 5.5 m of water. Presently however, sewage is discharged immediately offshore (ca. 3 m) in less than 2 m of water because the outfall pipe is broken.

Unlike the Agat STP outfall, the outfalls of both the Agana (recently repaired) and Northern District STP in Harmon, Guam are currently intact. Aerobically treated primary sewage at Agana is pumped offshore to a depth of about 26 m. Primarily treated sewage from the Northern District STP in Harmon is piped offshore north of NCS Beach and discharged through numerous diffusers at ca. 18 m. The sewage plumes immediately rise to the surface in rather intact plumes that diffuse horizontally in the top ca. 0.5 m of surface water. Degassing creates apparently turbid water and reduces visibility significantly. Often, the exact location of the surface plume at the Northern District is undetectable from a boat and only becomes obvious when a diver enters the water and observes the reduced visibility. Prevailing winds (from ENE) and currents at both sites usually direct the plume offshore and to the west of southwest.

Sampling

Quarterly water quality monitoring was performed at all sites listed in Figure 1, including mid- and bottom-water samples at offshore stations. Offshore station F at both Agat and Agana and stations E at Northern District were in water greater than 10 m deep, but the 10 m samples here are defined as bottom water. Also, the effluent is discharged in 28 m at Agana. Mid and bottom water sample depths (5 and 10 m) were chosen at the suggestion of the Guam EPA which uses those depths in other routine coastal water quality monitoring. Monthly shoreline samples were taken for fecal coliform analysis in ca. 0.5 m of water.

All water samples were taken in initially acid-cleaned 500 ml PPE bottles. The same bottle was used for the same site during all work, and the bottles were autoclaved after analyses were performed. Water samples for Cl⁻, pH, nitrate, and phosphate from mid and bottom waters were obtained with a Van Dorn sampler, proceeding from the cleanest to the most impacted station. The sampler was flushed with surface water between stations. All surface water samples were taken directly with the PPE bottles. All samples were immediately stored in the shade at ambient temperature.

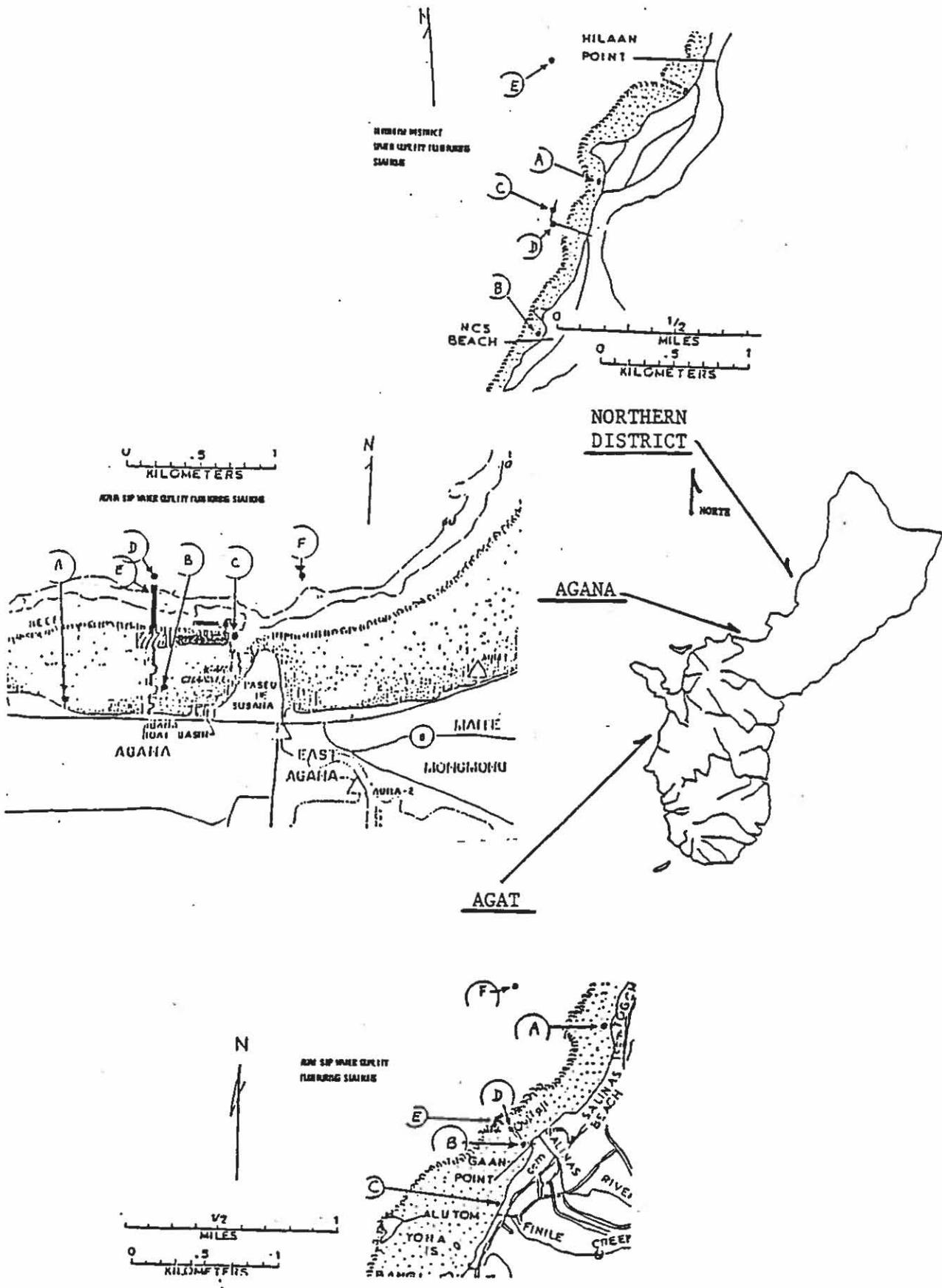


Figure 1. The Agat, Agana, and Northern District Study Sites. All maps are the same scale, except the location map.

Water Quality Monitoring

Salinity, oxygen, and temperature were measured directly in the field with Yellow Springs Instrument Co. Meters. Salinity was also computed from Cl⁻ measured on a Haake-Buchler Chloridometer (+/- 0.9% relative precision). All salinity data (o/oo) reported here were calculated from $\text{Salinity} = [\text{Cl}^-/550]*35$, where Cl⁻ is measured in mmol kg⁻¹. Oxygen meters were calibrated at the lab with oxygen saturated freshwater and checked in the field in air with a wet probe. pH meters were calibrated each time with standard buffers (pH 6.9 and 9.08). Nitrate was analyzed by cadmium reduction (Jones, 1984) and phosphate by molybdate (Parsons et al., 1984). No samples were filtered for nutrient analysis because of the strong chance of contamination of these nutrient poor waters by the filters. Samples for Cl⁻, nitrate, and phosphate were refrigerated and performed within 48 hours. Secchi depth was recorded vertically and horizontally underwater with a 0.5 m diameter disc. Later, in the fourth quarter, NTU was measured with a Hach Turbidimeter.

Bacteriology

Fecal coliform bacteria were quantified in duplicate according to APHA et al. (1985) on Difco Bacto mFc broth. Fecal coliforms and pH were always measured immediately upon return to the laboratory and analyses were completed by 18:00 that day.

Toxicology

The potential toxicity of the Agat effluent was measured by incremental serial dilution of raw, freshly collected effluent made up to full strength seawater using aquarium salts. Sea urchins were collected from the Piti reef flat behind the USO and kept at the Marine Laboratory in a flow-through sea water system. Sperm and eggs were freshly collected using injections of MgCl₂, kept on icewater, diluted and counted according to the protocol of Horning et al., 1987 (EPA-600/4-87/028). Appropriate dilutions were then suspended in serially halved concentrations of Agat effluent. Two controls were used, both unfiltered Marine Laboratory seawater (MLSW) from the flow-through system and artificial seawater (ASW) made with commercially obtained aquarium salts. The fertilized eggs were counted in a home-made Petrov-Houser cell on a Optiphot phase contrast microscope.

Organic Nitrogen in Algae and Feces

The N content of algae and feces was performed as follows. At Agat, samples of the red alga, Galaxaura marginata, were collected along two transects parallel to

shore ca. 75 and 100 m offshore in ca. 3 and 6 m of water, respectively. At the Northern District, samples of the calcareous green alga, Halimeda opuntia, were collected along transects parallel to the diffusers at depths of ca. 14 m, 10 m, and 6 m and at distances of ca. 5, 20, and 50 m respectively from the diffusers. All algal samples were collected from clumps attached to the substratum and placed in Whirl-Pak bags. Additionally, at the Northern District STP outfall, sea cucumber (Holothuria atra) feces were collected along a transect perpendicular to the diffuser pipe at decreasing depth (toward shore). Samples of freshly deposited fecal pellets were gathered from directly behind the animals and placed in Whirl-Pak bags. All samples were collected during June 1989 using SCUBA.

All samples were then dried to constant weight, homogenized in a pestle, and stored for subsequent N and C analysis. Water content of algal samples was determined by weighing subsamples before and after drying at 50 C. Total organic nitrogen (TON) content was determined with a Carlo Erba Model 1500 NCS elemental analyzer. Total organic carbon (TOC) content of the Agat G. marginata samples was also measured.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Calculated Impact Zones

Table 1 contains the calculated impact and dilution zones as well as the diameter of a circle required to dilute the effluent to levels undetectable with salinity measurements. This is done for each of the three effluents based on their maximum allowable daily flows, not their actual flows. It should be noted that both the Agat and Agana STPs frequently meet these limits (1.5 and 12 MGD, respectively) especially during heavy rain, while the Northern District STP at present discharges about a third of the 6 MGD allowed.

First, the immediate impact area (ha) is the area of water occupied by only the effluent that is 1 m deep after 1 day of effluent discharge. This depth is approximately that observed in the field when the subsurface effluent boils to the surface and dissipates. The effluent water is both lighter and contains (now) supersaturated gases, especially O₂ and CO₂ (at pH ca. 7.4), in the salt water in which it dissipates. Parcels of effluent float within these surface waters until thorough mixing occurs and the effluent is no longer distinguishable using Cl⁻ content. This is the second statistic, and is defined at that area (ha) of water 1 m deep that is required to dilute the effluent to full strength seawater. The calculation is based on an assumed effluent salinity of 0.32 o/oo (5 mM Cl⁻). The diameter of this dilution zone is given as though the zone were a perfect

Table 1. Calculated impact zones, dissipation areas, and distances (diameter) for complete dilution of maximum allowable daily flow. See text for explanations.

Site	<u>cubic m/d</u>	<u>hectares/d</u>		<u>m/d</u>
	Discharge	Impact	Dilution	Diameter
Agat	5.7 x 10 ³	0.57	63	900
Agana	45 x 10 ³	4.5	495	2510
N. Dist.	23 x 10 ³	2.3	253	1790

circle, although in reality the effluent dissipates with the surface currents. For the three effluents, which discharge at the upwind tangent of a circle, the distances (diameters) to complete mixing with seawater are on the orders of a few thousand meters. For the Agana and Northern District effluents, this is usually in an obliquely offshore direction. At Agat, this may occur offshore or onshore depending upon tides.

Water Quality Monitoring

Because individual site reports and data are included in the quarterly reports, the individual data will be neither presented nor discussed here. Summaries and relationships among the variables are given in Fig. 2 (vs. oxygen) and Fig. 3 (vs. salinity). Also, a summary of linear regression coefficients of variation (R^2) is given in Table 2.

The scales of Figures 2 and 3 were chosen so as to include all data on common scales. In some ways, this is misleading, mostly due to only a few "outliers" among the data set. For relationships with oxygen, these outliers are (1) one low value of pH (7.4) at Agat and two at Northern District due to random sampling directly within a small concentrated area of the surface plume, (2) high levels of phosphate at Agat and the Northern District, and (3), high values of nitrate at Agat and the Northern District due to (a) combined storm flow or septic tank contamination at Agat and (b) natural discharge of nitrate-rich aquifer waters along the shoreline at low tide at Northern District. Otherwise, the data field is well clustered at or above saturation values for oxygen at ambient temperature and salinity. Oxygen content was never observed to be below saturation at any sites, although reporting requirements for units of mg/l are both meaningless and useless (this also applies to N and P contents). Biochemical data should be reported in units of mol per liter or kilogram, and oxygen should be reported in percent saturation. Regardless, oxygen contents were frequently well above saturation, especially at shoreline stations where active benthic

AGAT

AGANA

NORTHERN DISTRICT

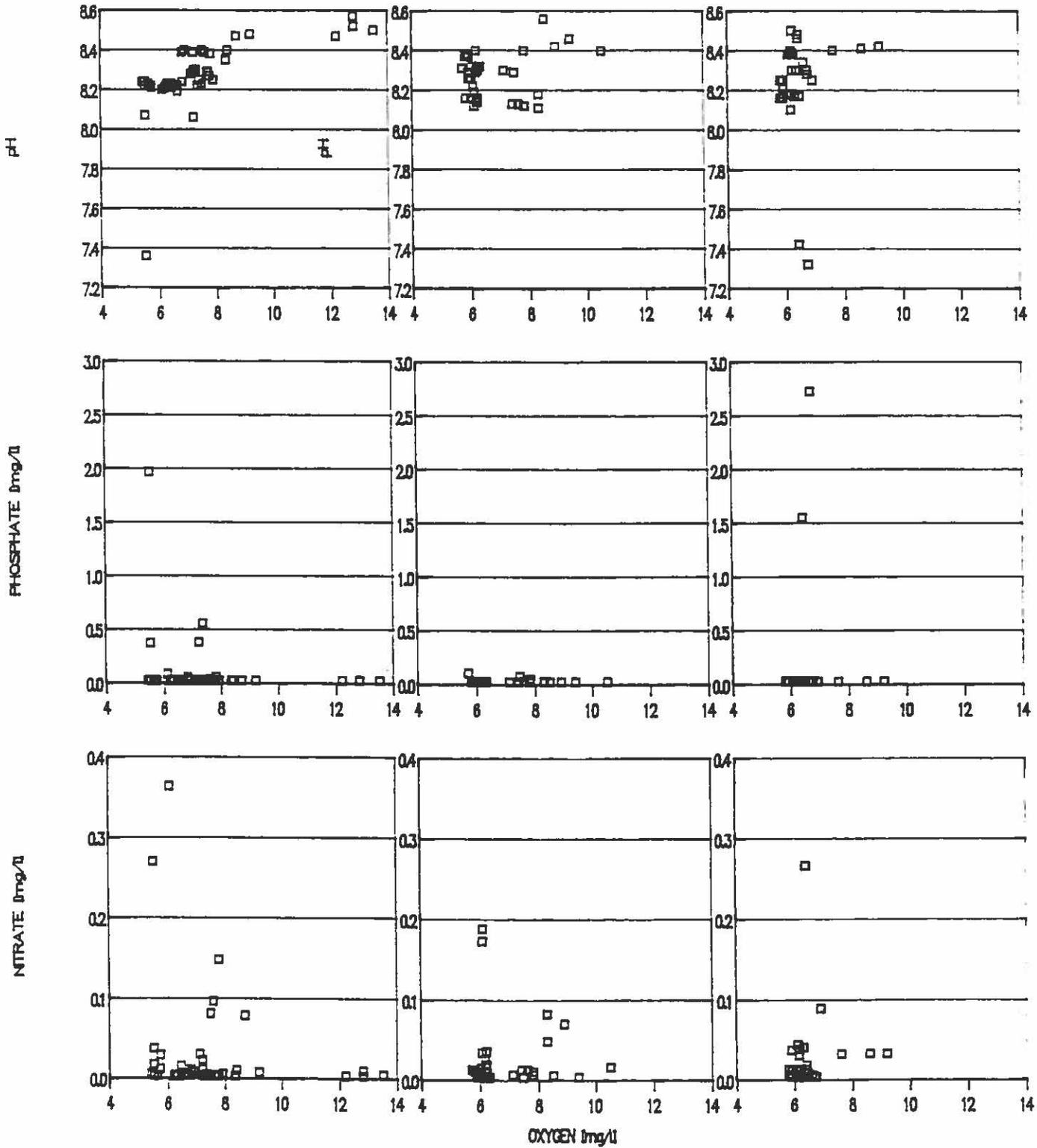


Figure 2. pH, Phosphate, and Nitrate vs. Oxygen at Agat (left), Agana (center) and the Northern District (right).

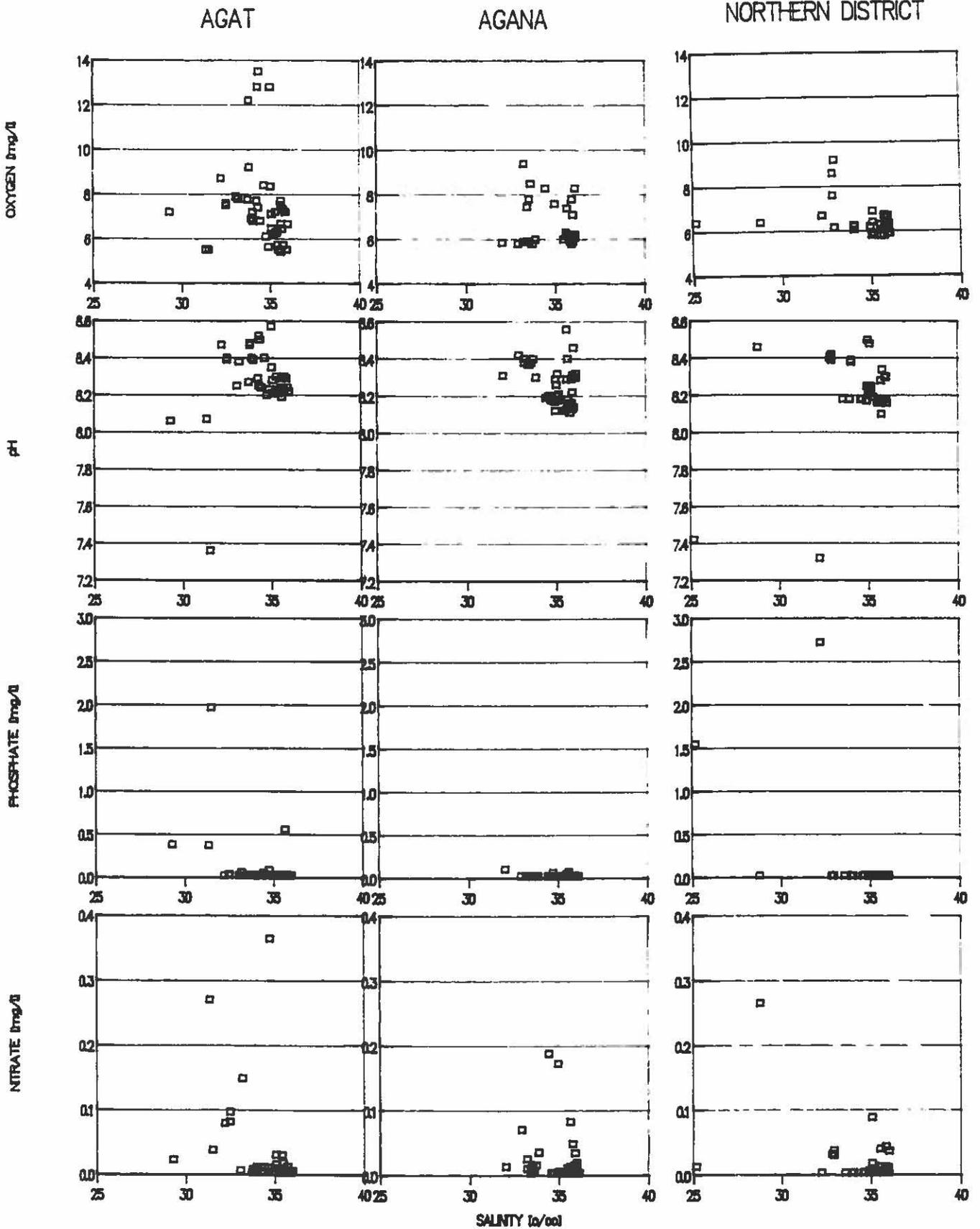


Figure 3. pH, Phosphate, and Nitrate (mg/L bottom) vs. Salinity at Agat (left), Agana (center) and the Northern District (right).

Table 2. Summary of linear regression results between paired average water quality data ^a.

	SALINITY	pH	O ₂	RP	NO _x	NTU
TEMP	0.28	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
SALINITY	**	0.20	NS	-0.38	NS	0.42
pH		**	0.24	-0.60	NS	NS
O ₂			**	NS	NS	NS
RP				**	NS	0.37
NO _x					**	NS

^a NS means not significant at 0.05. N ranges from 36 (NTU) and 115 (O₂) to 133 (all others).

photosynthesis occurs. With respect to salinity, essentially all of the data are well clustered around 35 o/oo, with few exceptions. Low salinities occurred only directly in the effluent boils and were, except for the nitrate "outlier" at Northern District (discussed above) not attributable to either aquifer or surface water discharge. High oxygen values (> 10 mg/L) were always at shoreline stations, and lower ones were always above saturation in the effluent boils and receiving waters. pH was always above 8 except in the effluents. High phosphates associated with the Agat and Northern District sites skew that scale upward. Almost universally, nitrate and phosphate concentrations were within the range normally observed in Guam's coastal waters.

Table 2 summarizes these data, and reveals that the strongest relationship among effluent-associated variables was reactive phosphate (RP), which averages above 100 uM (3.1 mg/L) in the treatment plant effluents (data not shown). Phosphate is strongly and inversely associated with variation in salinity and pH, both of which are lower in the effluent than in seawater.

The relation of RP to these two variables is given for all data in Figs. 4 and 5. Conversion of pH from log values would probably have strengthened the relationship. The relationship with salinity is essentially linear and implies (1) no uptake within the boil during dilution, and (2) high levels of RP in full strength seawater. In fact, the slope of the line describing RP as a function of salinity (Figure 5) :

$$RP = -2.74 * SAL[o/oo] + 96.6$$

predicts a final RP content of 0.7 mg/L or several orders of magnitude higher than ambient seawater. These levels are rarely observed and implies that rapid P removal occurs.

The results of the water quality monitoring surveys

indicate that the effluents have little, if any impact on the receiving waters once full dilution to full-strength seawater occurs (*i.e.*, 1 to 2 km; Table 1). Complete dilution occurs within the top ca. 1 meter of water at all sites, and occurs over a horizontal distance that is a function of the effluent volume at each discharge site. Thus, the effluent at Agana dissipates over a much broader area than at Agat. At Agana, this area is about 2500 m downwind (to the southwest) and is several hundred meters offshore. At Agat, the dissipation zone (900 m) is onshore and the impacted area may be the reef or the moat depending upon the tide. At the Northern District, the dissipation zone (diameter) is about 1800 m.

Inclusion of ammonium in the suite of nutrient analyses would substantially improve the detection of the effluent in full strength seawater. Nitrate analysis is rather useless due to the very low levels that commonly occur in effluents. Of those parameters required to be measured, only phosphate and fecal coliforms were of use in the detection of the effluent. Because the bacteria are rapidly "inactivated" by high levels of UV light in surface waters, they are undetectable prior to the dilution of ammonium. Also, due to rapid uptake or chemical removal of phosphate from solution, this compound also disappears quite rapidly. Ammonium displays conservative mixing and persists much longer in seawater because of its very high concentration (up to 2 mM, data not shown).

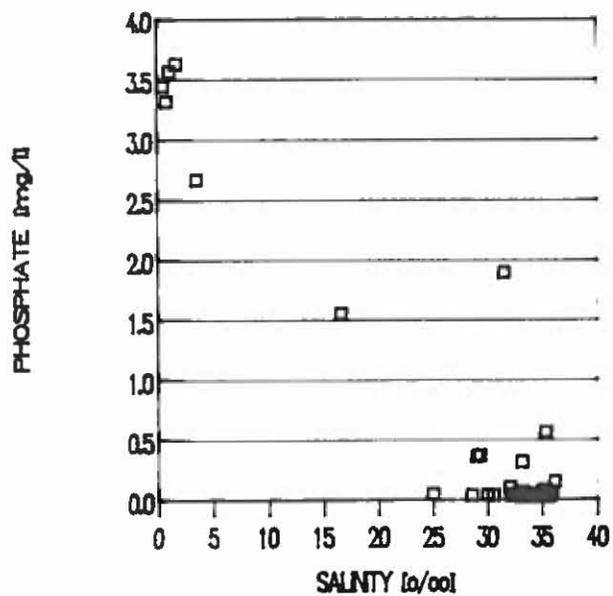
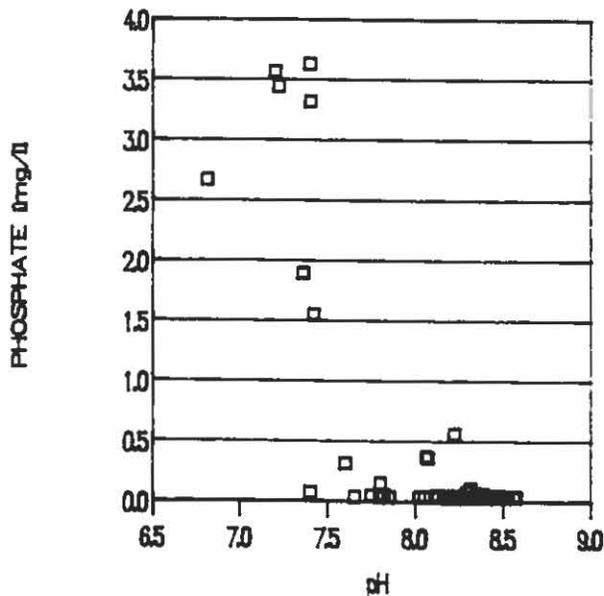


Figure 4. Phosphate vs. pH. Figure 5. Phosphate vs. Salinity

Oxygen contents were always at or near (+/- 5 %) of saturation in all control station waters. Nearer to shore, oxygen was almost always supersaturated, regardless of the presence of the effluent. This is due to high rates of photosynthesis in shallow water and to the degassing of oxygen from turbulently mixed effluent waters of low salinity that have higher absolute oxygen levels at saturation: freshwater holds more oxygen. pH rapidly increases to ambient levels upon immediate contact of the effluent with seawater. This is probably due to the combination of rapid dilution and to the carbonate induced shift of carbon dioxide gas (at high levels in a freshwater effluent) to bicarbonate in seawater. The effluents are not known to contain acids or organic matter that would sufficiently and persistently reduce the pH. Although CO₂ degassing occurs at pH 7.4.

Bacteriology

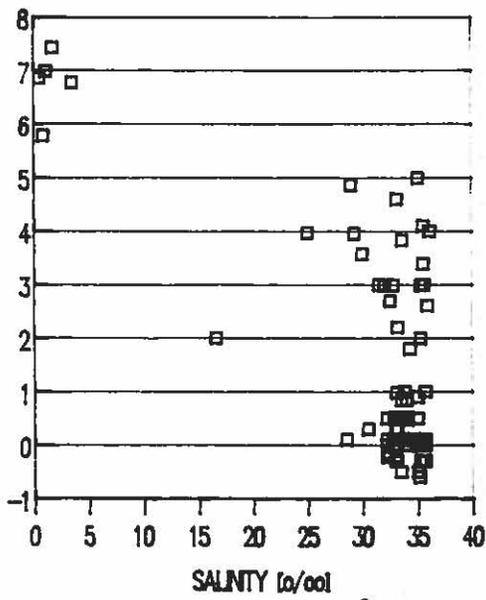
The relationship between the numbers CFU ("colony-forming-units") of fecal coliforms (log₁₀) and salinity, pH, and RP is shown in Figures 6, 7, and 8, respectively. At normal seawater salinities, numbers of FC were observed to range from less than 1 to as high as 100,000 per 100 mL (Figure 6). In the effluents directly, FCs were often on the order of 10⁶ to 10⁸ per 100 mL (data not shown). The relationship with pH (Figure 7) appears more linear due the log-log plot of the data, and clearly shows association with the lower pH waters of the effluents. In Figure 8, it appears that RP increases dramatically when FCs rise above about 10⁵ per 100 mL, although direct sampling of the Agat effluent (the linear series of three data points rising to the right) reveals a linear relationship when samples are obtained directly within an effluent boil. Such direct sampling is difficult at Agana and the Northern District because substantial degassing at Agana masks the precise location of the effluent and the plume is difficult to detect at the Northern District.

A large number of the occurrences of FC densities greater than 100 per 100 mL was in waters near the salinity of normal seawater. This implies that dilution to seawater salinity does not provide adequate protection against exposure to indicators or pathogens. The longevity of these organisms in these surface waters remains to be an unresolved question.

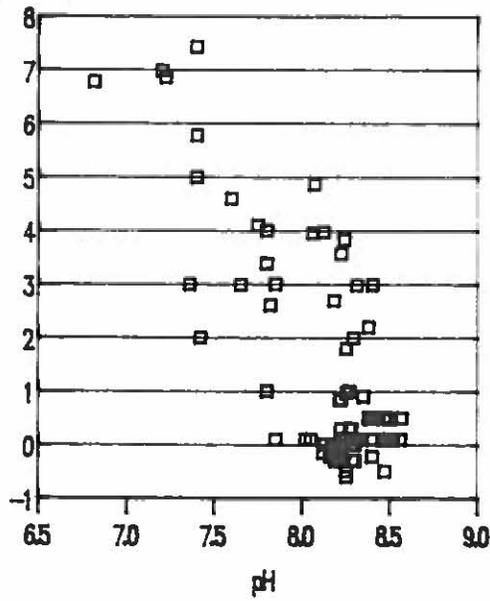
Toxicology

The reduction in the success of urchin egg fertilization in laboratory assays of the Agat effluent was consistent and reproducible in three of four quarters (Figure 7a). Except for September, the effluent dramatically reduced fertilization to about 50 and 10 percent of the controls at dilutions of 25 and 50 %, respectively. Average success in controls was routinely about 89% (linear regression in Figure

LOG 10 FECAL COLIFORMS PER 100 mL



LOG 10 FECAL COLIFORMS PER 100 mL



LOG 10 FECAL COLIFORMS PER 100 mL

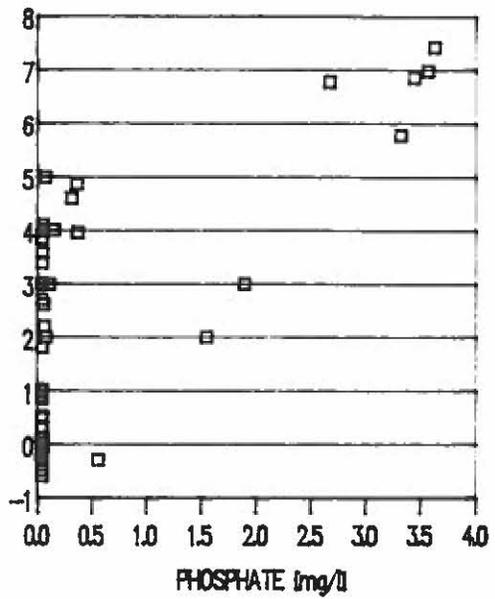


Figure 6. Fecal coliforms (\log_{10}) vs. Salinity (top), pH (middle), and Phosphate (bottom)

caption), regardless of the use of either Marine Lab flow-through seawater (pumped from the reef of Pago Bay) or commercially available sea salt (Figure 7b). The High rate of success in September contributed substantially to the variance among the 50 % effluent data, and the reason for that success is possibly due to dilution of the concentration of the effluent by runoff (see below).

The consistency of this inhibitory effect indicates that some commonly occurring component(s) of the effluent is responsible for fertilization failure. The different result in September could then be due to absence of that component, or dilution of it by increased rainfall runoff in the effluent. Early September 1989 was particularly wet, with measurable rainfall on each day from the first to the eleventh. Specifically, 136, 65, and 33 mm of rain were recorded on the 9th, 10th and 11th at the weather station at Naval Air Station, Agana. Total 11 day rainfall (1 to 11 September) was 332 mm. Thus, due to the relative lack of runoff prior to the previous sampling dates (Table 3), it is tempting to conclude that the effluent was relatively dilute in comparison with the other three samples. Nonetheless, treatment plant flow and characteristics should be investigated for that particular day (11 September 1989) in an attempt to identify any peculiar occurrences or lack thereof. Further, the addition of pumped septic tank wastes to the influent of the Agat plant possibly adds materials not usually found in normal sewage. According to the plant manager, several septic trucks per day empty their tanks into the sewers at the Agat facility. However, it is likely that the ordinarily high contents of normally occurring organic matter, ammonium, or detergents may be responsible for the observed reduction in urchin egg fertilization.

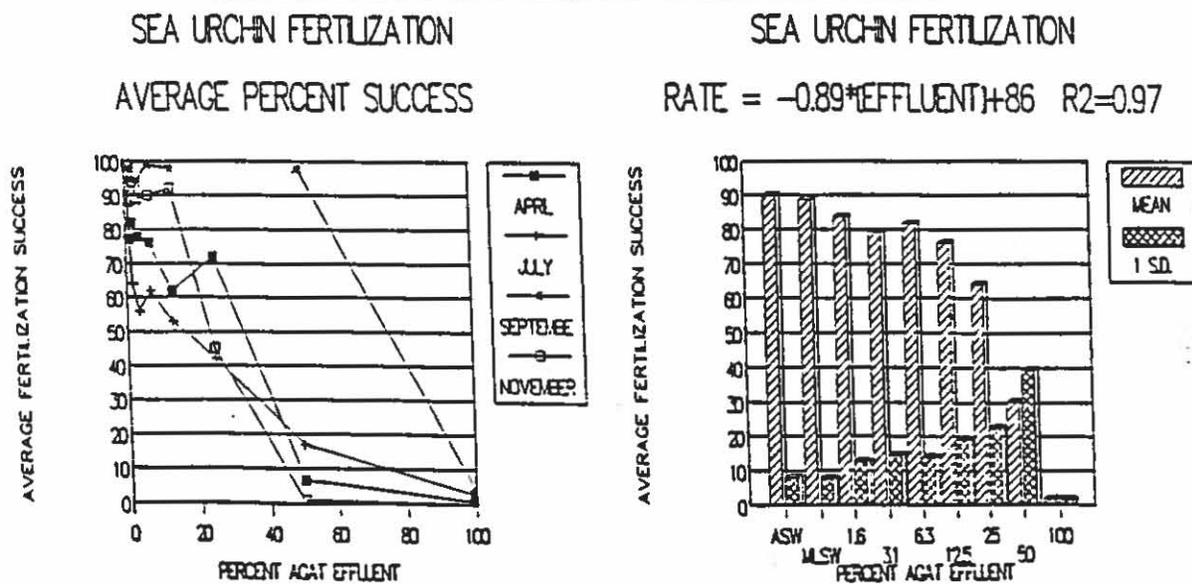


Figure 7. Individual toxicity assay results (left) and averages and standard deviations (right).

Table 3. Cumulative two, five, and ten day rainfall recorded at Naval Air Station, Agana, prior to each sampling of the Agat effluent for toxicity studies.

Date	Cumulative rainfall (mm)		
	2 d	5 d	10 d
19 April	10	18	25
25 July	3.8	58	102
11 September	201	232	299
9 November	1.5	2.3	5.8

Organic Nitrogen Content of Algae and Feces

Figure 8 displays the total organic N and C content in the common red alga Galaxaura marginata on transects 75 (3 m deep) and 100 m (6 m deep) from the Agat effluent perpendicular to shore. The two sets of samples, taken along a ca. 25 m long transect, are significantly different ($P > 0.05$). The organic C content of these algae is not significantly different. The increased N closer to the effluent does not necessarily imply nutrient enrichment, because this could occur merely due to greater photosynthetic efficiency in the shallower water closer to the effluent. Further, this alga occurs commonly throughout Guam's inshore waters, especially where the water is turbulent.

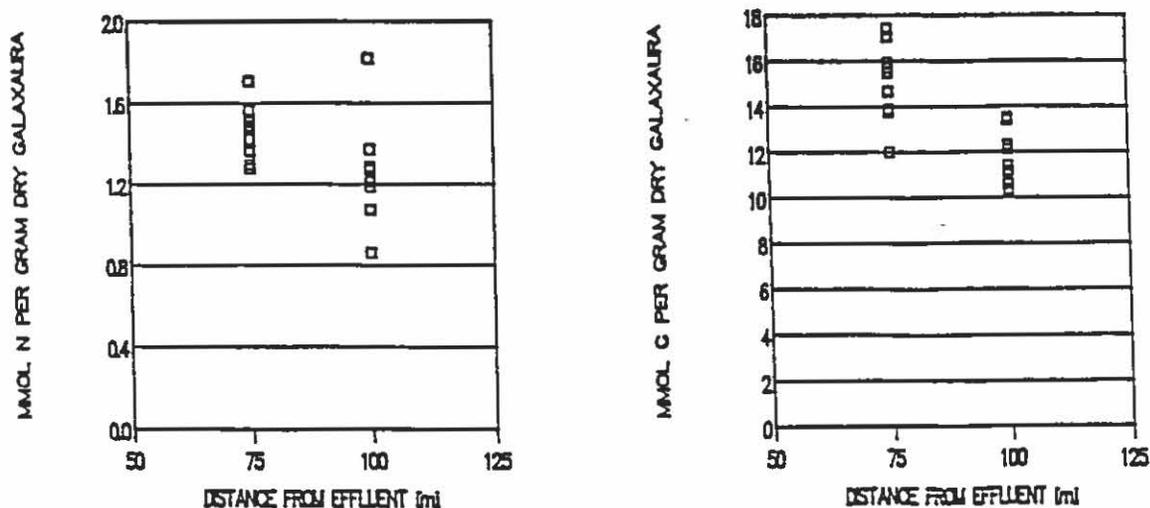


Figure 8. TON (left) and TOC (right) contents of Galaxaura marginata on transects 75 and 100 m from the effluent at Agat.

At the Northern District, there was no significant difference among the average TON contents of Halimeda opuntia along ca. 30 m transects parallel to the diffusers (Figure 9). The 5, 20, and 50 m transects were between the first and last diffuser in depths of 14, 10, and 6 m, respectively, upslope towards shore. Thus, in this case, there was no apparent change in N content due to decreasing depth and consequential increase in photosynthetic efficiency, as could be the case for Agat. In spite of this, the N increase in Agat algae still cannot be attributed to nutrients from the effluent because these are two different genera of algae.

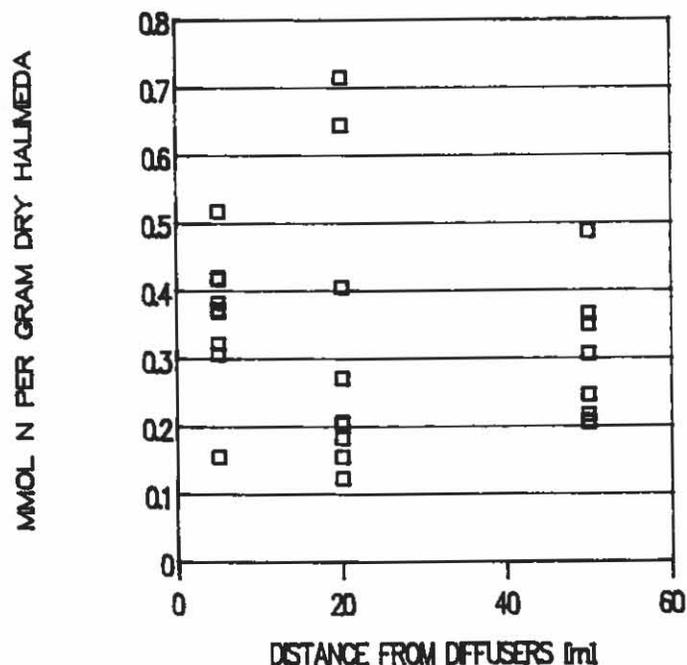


Figure 9. TON content of Halimeda opuntia on transects 5, 20, and 50 m from the line of diffusers at the Northern District effluent.

Because only one pooled sample from an individual animal was collected at each depth, tests of significance cannot be performed. The feces of this benthic browser reflects the time integrated (up to 2 days) N contents of the carbonate sediments within an area of only a few tens of square centimeters. Presumably, if deposition of nutrient-rich particles from the effluent had increased the sedimentary N content, then this would be reflected in the feces of this animal. It is possible, however, that the organisms had assimilated the extra N if it indeed were present. However, if the N content of the alga Halimeda had increased due to local nutrient enrichment, this would be reflected in the sediments, which contain substantial amounts of Halimeda segments, and upon which the animals feed.

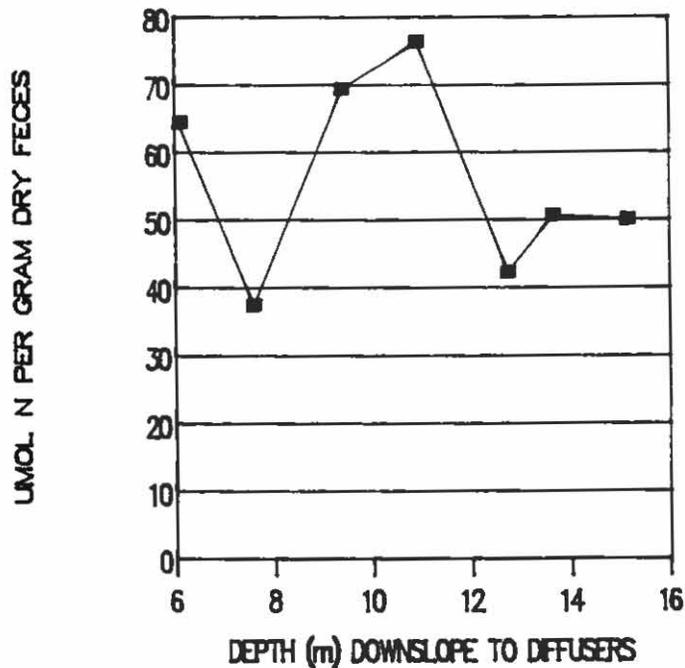


Figure 10. TON content of freshly deposited feces of the sea cucumber Holothuria atra on a depth transect away from the Northern District diffusers.

Benthic algae commonly dominate these types of shallow, nearshore, turbulent-water communities, but also become dominant with proximity to the point of discharge of an effluent, especially at Agat (personal observation, see also Tsuda and Grosenbaugh, 1977). Adjacent areas north and south of the point of discharge at Agat are dominated by coral growth. This difference at Agat may be reasonably attributed to the fact that the effluent at this site is discharged into 2 to 3 m of water, which produces much greater nutrient enrichment (especially in ammonium and phosphate) than at the two other outfalls, both of which are in at least 20 m of water. In contrast, algae at the Northern District outfall, although generally less abundant, appear more uniformly distributed with distance from the diffusers, based upon qualitative visual observations. At Agana, in the immediate vicinity of the pipe and for about 25 m to either side, the bottom is biologically sparse. In fact, it is often difficult to find any algae except for small tufted forms that are frequently eroded or grazed. This is probably due to construction of both the sewer island itself and dredging and burial of the effluent pipe.

From these studies of N and C in biological materials, no obvious change can be attributed to the presence of sewage

effluents. Except for Agat, perhaps the most long-lasting and significant effects on the communities at these sites was the construction and installation of the effluent pipes, especially those that were buried in dredged channels. At Agat, the abundance of relic pipes provides a large surface area upon which organisms can grow.

CONCLUSIONS

Either the effluents studied have little impact on the receiving waters or the parameters measured were of little value in the detection of any impact. At Agat, the biggest problem with the effluent is that it is discharged onshore in very shallow water and tends to remain there. Otherwise, fecal coliform bacteria and reactive phosphate were the only parameters that could provide evidence of the existence of effluent in waters distant from the surface plumes. If the effluents had been routinely chlorinated, the occurrence of effluent-impacted water would have been more difficult to detect, except with very precise and accurate measurements of reactive phosphate or ammonium.

Visual inspection, TON analyses, and common sense require that one conclude that these effluents have very localized impacts. The water seaward of the reef crests of Guam increase in depth rapidly over the 45 to 55 degree slope of the bottom. On Guam, for the existing high-quality effluents (very little chemical, metal, or other toxic wastes), dilution is the solution to this "pollution".

The treatment plants are unnecessary for the existing volumes of sewage, if and only if raw sewage can be discharged further from shore to avoid raising the fecal coliform density above 1 per mL. Otherwise, only large chlorinators are needed for regulated discharge in 60 feet of water. Tripling the volume of sewage and appropriately using present technology (primary treatment) would not likely cause a significant impact on the environment, providing that effective, well-maintained chlorinators are installed and used properly. Only a few studies have been reported in the literature on the effects and value of upgrading sewage plants. In at least one case, it was a waste of money (Matson et al., 1979).

COMMENTS ON THE LACK OF CHLORINATION

None of the effluents studied was chlorinated during the study period. Therefore, no scientifically valid comparison can presently be made between effluents with and without chlorination. However, effective use of well-maintained chlorinators would definitely prevent recreational water users from exposure to chlorine-susceptible organisms within the hundreds of meters (or so) that these organisms persist in the environment. The Agana influent is often chlorinated, (1) when there are funds, and (2) to attempt to eliminate foul odors from the business neighborhood. (The site of the Agana STP makes no sense whatsoever).

Specifically, because the Agat effluent is discharged on shore, chlorination should be a priority at this site. Chlorination should still be used when the effluent pipe is eventually fixed and the effluent is actually discharged offshore in 60 feet of water. Presently however, the effluent frequently moves towards shore and contaminates waters at least at site B.

At Agana, it continues to be difficult to identify the effluent as a contributing factor in the occurrence of FCs at the shoreline stations A, B, and C. Numerous storm culverts, direct street runoff, polluted rivers, and leaky pipes in this densely populated area may contribute FCs to these sites, regardless of the dispersion of the effluent. Further studies of non-point sources of these organisms is planned for June 1990 to June 1991 with funding from the University of Guam Water and Energy Research Institute.

At the Northern District, the effluent rarely appears nearshore and there are no other known sources of FC contamination in that area. However, FCs sometimes do occur at shoreline stations and this can be considered an unnecessary risk to recreational users. Should the effluent then be chlorinated full-time just to avoid those infrequent exposures ?

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Appendix I. Water Quality Data. (ND is Northern District, AG is Agana, GT is Agat; s, m, and b are surface, middle (5 m) and bottom (10 m), respectively.

STATION	TEMP	o/oo SALINITY	pH	mg/L OXYGEN	METERS TURBIDITY	mg/L NOx-N	mg/L FRP-P
25 APRIL 1989							
NDA	27.2	32.9	8.42		>10	0.0324	0.0042
NDB	27.0	32.8	8.41		>10	0.0324	0.0090
NDCs	27.5	32.8	8.40		3	0.0319	0.0129
NDCm							
NDCb							
NDDs	26.8	32.9	8.40		>10	0.0380	0.0080
NDDm							
NDDb	26.8	32.9	8.39		>10	0.0304	0.0076
NDEs	26.8	34.0	8.38		>10	0.0015	0.0066
NDEm	27.0	34.0	8.39		>10	0.0011	0.0097
NDEb	27.0	34.0	8.38		>10	0.0023	0.0035
AGA	31.0	32.9	8.42		>10	0.0706	0.0042
AGB	27.8	33.7	8.40		9	0.0161	0.0055
AGCs	27.4	33.2	8.40		3	0.0256	0.0080
AGCm							
AGCb							
AGDs	27.0	32.0	8.31		2	0.0131	0.1065
AGDm							
AGDb							
AGEs	27.2	33.5	8.38		>10	0.0128	0.0049
AGEm	27.1	33.4	8.37		>10	0.0116	0.0084
AGEb	27.1	33.2	8.38		>10	0.0101	0.0070
AGFs	27.0	33.6	8.38		>10	0.0064	0.0061
AGFm	27.0	33.5	8.37		>10	0.0053	0.0097
AGFb	26.9	33.4	8.37		>10	0.0011	0.0271
GTA	32.2	35.0	8.57	12.80	>10	0.0098	0.0129
GTB	32.8	32.2	8.47	8.70	>10	0.0793	0.0132
GTC	35.0	33.8	8.48	9.20	>10	0.0079	0.0049
GTDs	29.0	31.5	7.36	5.50	1.5	0.0380	1.9677
GTDm			8.35		3	0.0586	0.0094
GTDb			8.37		>10	0.0771	0.0156
GTEs	28.0	33.2	8.38	7.80	>10	0.1486	0.0606
GTEm	27.5	32.5	8.39	7.60	>10	0.0964	0.0387
GTEb	27.5	32.5	8.40	7.50	>10	0.0814	0.0309
GTFs	28.2	34.0	8.39	7.20	>10	0.0116	0.0066
GTFm	28.0	34.0	8.39	6.80	>10	0.0041	0.0052
GTFb	27.2	33.9	8.40	6.90	>10	0.0079	0.0055

Appendix I. Water Quality Data, continued.

STATION	TEMP	o/oo SALINITY	pH	mg/L OXYGEN	METERS TURBIDITY	mg/L NOx-N	mg/L FRP-P
13 JUNE 1989							
NDA	29.8	34.9	8.50	9.20	>10	0.0063	0.0003
NDB	28.8	28.8	8.46	8.60	>10	0.2660	0.0017
NDCs	28.0	35.1	8.48	7.60	>10	0.0181	0.0003
NDCm	27.2	35.7	8.28	6.15	>10	0.0029	0.0304
NDCb	27.2	16.7	7.42	6.15	>10 ³	0.0129	1.5500
NDDs	27.7	35.8	8.34	6.25	>10	0.0058	0.0074
NDDm	27.3	36.0	8.30	6.20	>10	0.0035	0.0003
NDDb	27.2	36.0	8.30	6.05	>10	0.0024	0.0003
NDEs	27.7	35.9	8.30	6.20	>10	0.0021	0.0003
NDEm	27.4	36.0	8.30	6.40	>10	0.0015	0.0003
NDEb	27.4	35.7	8.10	6.40	>10	0.0012	0.0003
AGA	30.5	36.0	8.46	8.90	>10	0.0037	0.0003
AGB	30.0	35.6	8.56	10.50	>10	0.0061	0.0013
AGCs	28.5	35.6	8.40	6.15	>10	0.0068	0.0020
AGCm							
AGCb							
AGDs	27.5	35.6	8.29	5.70	>10	0.0019	0.0763
AGDm							
AGDb							
AGEs	27.6	36.0	8.30	5.80	>10	0.0066	0.0017
AGEm	27.5	36.1	8.32	5.80	>10	0.0020	0.0010
AGEb	27.5	35.9	8.31	5.90	>10	0.0026	0.0003
AGFs	27.8	35.8	8.29	5.85	>10	0.0051	0.0003
AGFm	27.3	36.1	8.30	5.90	>10	0.0011	0.0003
AGFb	27.3	36.1	8.30	5.90	>10	0.0014	0.0118
15 JUNE 1989							
GTA	36.0	33.8	8.47	12.20	>10	0.0021	0.0007
GTB	34.6	34.4	8.50	13.50	>10	0.0049	0.0003
GTC	34.9	34.3	8.52	12.80	>10	0.0023	0.0034
GTDs	27.1	35.6	8.22	7.35	>10 ⁴	0.0054	0.5580
GTDm	27.9	36.0	8.22	6.65	>10	0.0054	0.0081
GTDb	27.8	35.6	8.19	6.65	>10	0.0058	0.0118
GTEs	28.0	35.6	8.23	7.50	>10	0.0008	0.0030
GTEm	27.8	35.7	8.30	7.30	>10	0.0023	0.0034
GTEb	27.7	35.3	8.30	7.20	>10	0.0021	0.0034
GTFs	28.1	35.6	8.29	7.70	>10	0.0008	0.0010
GTFm	27.8	35.8	8.29	7.20	>10	0.0015	0.0020
GTFb	27.8	34.2	8.29	7.70	>10	0.0030	0.0020

Appendix I. Water Quality Data, continued.

STATION	TEMP	o/oo SALINITY	pH	mg/L OXYGEN	METERS TURBIDITY	mg/L NOx-N	mg/L FRP-P
21 SEPTEMBER 1989							
NDA	29.5	35.8	8.18	6.72	>10	0.0122	0.0070
NDB	29.2	35.6	8.18	6.40	>10	0.0128	0.0032
NDCs	29.1	35.8	8.18	6.60	>10	0.0439	0.0116
NDCm	29.0	35.8	8.17	6.35	>10	0.0082	0.0084
NDCb	28.9	2.2	7.32	6.35		0.0000	2.7267
NDDs	29.9	35.1	8.25	6.70	>10	0.0888	0.0091
NDDm	29.0	36.0	8.18	6.21	>10	0.0112	0.0102
NDDb	28.9	36.0	8.16	6.15	>10	0.0367	0.0028
NDEs	29.0	35.5	8.17	6.20	>10	0.0403	0.0011
NDEm	29.0	35.5	8.16	6.05	>10	0.0128	0.0011
NDEb	28.8	35.7	8.16	6.10	>10	0.0056	0.0011
AGA	30.8	34.4	8.19	9.40	>10	0.1883	0.0018
AGB	30.0	35.9	8.22	8.50	>10	0.0342	0.0032
AGCs	30.2	34.9	8.12	7.80	>10	0.1730	0.0028
AGCm	30.2	35.6	8.18	7.45	>10	0.0827	0.0035
AGCb	30.0	35.8	8.11	7.10	>10	0.0485	0.0042
AGDs	29.5	35.4	8.12	6.30	>10	0.0107	0.0487
AGDm	meter failure		8.14	6.00	>10	0.0066	0.0028
AGDb	29.5	35.9	8.13	6.20		0.0133	0.0284
AGES	29.6	35.6	8.13	6.15	>10	0.0128	0.0088
AGEm	29.8	35.7	8.15	6.20	>10	0.0092	0.0021
AGEb	29.8	35.8	8.16	6.20	>10	0.0153	0.0028
AGFs	29.2	35.8	8.16	6.09	>10	0.0107	0.0011
AGFm	29.1	36.0	8.14	6.05	>10	0.0194	0.0035
AGFb	29.0	35.8	8.16	6.09	>10	0.0097	0.0067
23 SEPTEMBER 1989							
GTA	34.0	33.7	8.27	7.76	>10	0.0036	0.0007
GTB	32.0	35.1	8.28	7.10	>10	0.0306	0.0053
GTC	34.0	34.6	8.40	8.40	>10	0.0107	0.0018
GTDs	31.5	31.3	8.07	5.50		0.2704	0.3744
GTDm					3.5		
GTDb	29.5	34.7	8.20	6.10	>10	0.3643	0.0880
GTEs	29.5	35.4	8.21	5.72	>10	0.0296	0.0032
GTEm	29.8	35.4	8.22	5.50	>10	0.0179	0.0032
GTEb	29.5	35.6	8.24	5.40	>10	0.0061	0.0039
GTFs	29.5	35.7	8.22	5.72	>10	0.0122	0.0025
GTFm	29.5	34.9	8.23	5.62	>10	0.0000	0.0018
GTFb	29.9	35.9	8.24	5.50	>10	0.0005	0.0032

Appendix I. Water Quality Data, continued.

STATION	TEMP	o/oo SALINITY	pH	mg/L OXYGEN	NTU TURBIDITY	mg/L NO _x -N	mg/L FRP-P
12 DECEMBER 1989							
NDA	30.5	35.0	8.25	6.45	0.6	0.0059	0.0042
NDB	30.8	35.1	8.25	6.70	0.5	0.0047	0.0049
NDCs	30.4	35.1	8.21	6.90	0.35	0.0033	0.0248
NDCm	30.4	34.9	8.20	5.90	0.35	0.0025	0.0085
NDCb	30.4	35.3	8.19	5.90	0.38	0.0009	0.0111
NDDs	30.8	34.9	8.25	6.30	0.55	0.0068	0.0085
NDDm	30.2	34.6	8.18	5.80	0.28	0.0008	0.0046
NDDb	30.2	33.5	8.18	5.80	0.25	0.0012	0.0046
NDEs	29.5	34.9	8.17	5.80	0.25	0.0009	0.0052
NDEm	29.5	34.6	8.18	5.90	0.2	0.0002	0.0026
NDEb	29.5	33.9	8.18	5.90	0.15	0.0004	0.0036
AGA	34.0	33.9	8.30	8.30	1.5	0.0357	0.0062
AGB	32.0	35.1	8.32	8.30	2.1	0.0037	0.0085
AGCs	32.0	34.9	8.29	7.80	1.2	0.0052	0.0078
AGCm	32.0	35.0	8.26	7.60	0.45	0.0043	0.0069
AGCb	32.0	35.0	8.26	7.40	0.7	0.0055	0.0052
AGDs	31.0	34.7	8.18	6.20	1.8	0.0010	0.0685
AGDm	31.0	35.1	8.21	6.00	0.8	0.0003	0.0082
AGDb	31.0	35.0	8.20	5.80	0.6	0.0004	0.0196
AGEs	31.0	35.1	8.18	6.20	0.5	0.0042	0.0072
AGEm	31.0	34.9	8.17	6.20	0.48	0.0031	0.0215
AGEb	31.0	35.1	8.18	6.20	0.45	0.0025	0.0193
AGFs	30.5	34.9	8.17	6.00	0.35	0.0010	0.0052
AGFm	30.7	34.7	8.18	5.90	0.35	0.0006	0.0033
AGFb	30.4	34.6	8.20	5.90	0.4	0.0000	0.0078
5 DECEMBER 1989							
GTA	34.0	35.0	8.35	8.35	0.80	0.0010	0.0084
GTB	33.0	33.1	8.25	7.90	2.20	0.0062	0.0143
GTC	33.5	34.3	8.25	7.40	4.20	0.0025	0.0090
GTDs	31.0	29.3	8.06	7.20	4.10	0.0230	0.3823
GTDm							
GTDb	29.5	34.4	8.24	6.80	0.90	0.0110	0.0537
GTEs	29.8	35.1	8.21	6.45	0.40	0.0160	0.0126
GTEm	29.9	35.3	8.22	6.25	0.45	0.0046	0.0103
GTEb	30.1	35.2	8.21	6.20	0.38	0.0032	0.0107
GTFs	30.1	35.6	8.23	6.45	0.37	0.0018	0.0077
GTFm	30.1	35.4	8.22	6.32	0.38	0.0003	0.0045
GTFb	30.2	35.3	8.23	6.28	0.35	0.0008	0.0107

Appendix II. Fecal Coliforms and Salinity, continued.

	LOG 10 FC/100 mL	o/oo SALINITY
<u>25 APRIL 1989</u>		
NDA	<1	32.9
NDB	<1	32.8
NDC	<3	32.8
NDD	<1	32.9
NDE	<1	34.0
AGA	<1	32.9
AGB	<1	33.7
AGC	<1	33.2
AGD	<3	32.0
AGE	<1	33.5
AGF	<1	33.6
<u>26 APRIL 1989</u>		
GTA	<1	35.0
GTB	<1	32.2
GTC	<1	33.8
GTD	<3	31.5
GTE	2.20	33.2
GTF	<1	34.0
<u>25 MAY 1989</u>		
GTA	<1	
GTB	0.48	
GTC	<1	
AGA	<1	
AGB	<1	
AGC	<1	
NDA	<1	
NDB	<1	
<u>15 JUNE 1989</u>		
GTA	<1	33.5
GTB	0.48	34.0
GTC	<1	34.0
GTD	<1	35.3
GTE	<1	35.3
GTF	<1	35.3

Appendix II. Fecal Coliforms and Salinity, continued.

	LOG 10 FC/100 mL	o/oo SALINITY
<u>26 JULY 1989</u>		
GTA	1.27	
GTB	1.59	
GTC	2.74	
AGA	1.71	
AGB	0.00	
AGC	-0.30	
NDA	1.00	
NDB	0.00	
<u>21 AUGUST 1989</u>		
GTA	0.00	
GTB	2.05	
GTC	2.61	
AGA	1.32	
AGB	0.00	
AGC	0.00	
NDA	0.00	
NDB	0.00	
<u>21 SEPTEMBER 1989</u>		
NDA	0.00	33.1
NDB	0.00	32.9
NDC	<3	32.5
NDD	0.00	32.8
NDE	0.00	33.0
AGA	-0.30	33.1
AGB	0.30	33.1
AGC	0.00	32.2
AGD	3.98	25.0
AGE	0.00	32.2
AGF	0.00	32.3
<u>23 SEPTEMBER 1989</u>		
GTA	0.30	30.5
GTB	0.30	33.0
GTC	0.00	32.2
GTD	4.87	29.0
GTE	0.00	33.0
GTF	0.00	33.0

Appendix II. Fecal Coliforms and Salinity, continued.

	LOG 10 FC/100 mL	o/oo SALINITY
<u>30 OCTOBER 1989</u>		
NDA	0.00	
NDB	0.00	
AGA	1.96	
AGB	0.00	
AGC	0.70	
GTA	1.51	
GTB	2.57	
GTC	1.70	
<u>5 DECEMBER 1989</u>		
GTA	1.20	35.0
GTB	1.00	33.1
GTC	1.80	34.3
GTD	3.96	29.3
GTE	0.00	35.1
GTF	0.00	35.6
<u>12 DECEMBER 1989</u>		
NDA	0.00	35.0
NDB	0.00	35.1
NDC	3.96	35.1
NDD	0.70	34.9
NDE	0.00	34.9
AGA	0.48	33.9
AGB	0.00	35.1
AGC	-0.30	34.9
AGD	4.49	34.7
AGE	0.00	35.1
AGF	0.00	34.9

Appendix III. Effects of the Agat Effluent on Sea Urchin Egg Fertilization.

APRIL 1989 DATA

PERCENT EFFLUENT	NUMBERS		PERCENT			TOTAL COUNT
	FERTILE	NOT	FERTILE	AVERAGE	± 1 S.D.	
100	0	52	0.0			52
100	0	44	0.0			44
100	1	51	1.9	0.6	0.9	52
50	7	60	10.4			67
50	5	44	10.2			49
50	0	40	0.0	6.9	4.9	40
25	37	12	75.5			49
25	30	14	68.2			44
25	39	14	73.6	72.4	3.1	53
12.5	35	19	64.8			54
12.5	31	21	59.6			52
12.5	37	22	62.7	62.4	2.1	59
6.25	31	9	77.5			40
6.25	42	11	79.2			53
6.25	42	16	72.4	76.4	2.9	58
3.125	40	9	81.6			49
3.125	36	9	80.0			45
3.125	37	15	71.2	77.6	4.6	52
1.563	37	9	80.4			46
1.563	36	9	80.0			45
1.563	25	4	86.2	82.2	2.8	29
ASW 0	30	13	69.8			43
ASW 0	25	9	73.5			34
ASW 0	40	6	87.0	76.8	7.4	46
MLSW 0	36	9	80.0			45
MLSW 0	29	10	74.4			39

Appendix III. Effects of the Agat Effluent on Sea Urchin Egg Fertilization, continued.

JULY 1989

PERCENT EFFLUENT	NUMBERS		PERCENT			TOTAL COUNT
	FERTILE	NOT	FERTILE	AVERAGE	± 1 S.D.	
100	3	50	5.7			53
100	1	45	2.2			46
100	0	48	0.0	2.6	2.3	48
50	6	33	15.4			39
50	7	33	17.5			40
50	8	36	18.2	17.0	1.2	44
25	21	24	46.7			45
25	14	28	33.3			42
25	17	21	44.7	41.6	5.9	38
12.5	21	24	46.7			45
12.5	20	26	43.5			46
12.5	29	14	67.4	52.5	10.6	43
6.25	32	10	76.2			42
6.25	28	25	52.8			53
6.25	20	15	57.1	62.1	10.1	35
3.125	28	34	45.2			62
3.125	20	19	51.3			39
3.125	26	11	70.3	55.6	10.7	37
1.563	39	29	57.4			68
1.563	39	22	63.9			61
1.563	36	15	70.6	64.0	5.4	51
ASW 0	29	3	90.6			32
ASW 0	56	6	90.3			62
ASW 0	30	7	81.1	87.3	4.4	37
MLSW 0	39	3	92.9			42
MLSW 0	32	4	88.9			36
MLSW 0	27	4	87.1	89.6	2.4	31

Appendix III. Effects of the Agat Effluent on Sea Urchin Egg Fertilization, continued.

18 SEPTEMBER 1989

PERCENT EFFLUENT	NUMBERS		PERCENT			TOTAL COUNT
	FERTILE	NOT	FERTILE	AVERAGE	±1 S.D.	
100	4	98	3.9			
100	6	111	5.1			
100	3	110	2.7	3.9	1.0	332
50	102	6	94.4			
50	109	0	100.0			
50	97	1	99.0	97.8	2.4	315
25	NO DATA					
12.5	75	4	94.9			
12.5	102	0	100.0			
12.5	118	1	99.2	98.0	2.2	300
6.25	108	2	98.2			
6.25	111	0	100.0			
6.25	100	1	99.0	99.1	0.7	322
3.125	98	5	95.1			
3.125	106	0	100.0			
3.125	116	17	87.2	94.1	5.3	342
1.563	128	1	99.2			
1.563	95	3	96.9			
1.563	99	2	98.0	98.1	0.9	328
ASW 0	108	1	99.1			
ASW 0	89	15	85.6			
ASW 0	102	0	100.0	94.9	6.6	315
MLSW 0	92	7	92.9			
MLSW 0	86	9	90.5			
MLSW 0	100	2	98.0	93.8	3.1	296

Appendix III. Effects of the Agat Effluent on Sea Urchin Egg Fertilization, continued.

17 NOVEMBER 1989

PERCENT EFFLUENT	NUMBERS		PERCENT			TOTAL COUNT
	FERTILE	NOT	FERTILE	AVERAGE	± 1 S.D.	
100	0	118	0.0			118
100	0	101	0.0			101
100	0	104	0.0	0.0	0.0	104
50	0	120	0.0			120
50	0	100	0.0			100
50	0	102	0.0	0.0	0.0	102
25	32	72	30.8			104
25	50	77	39.4			127
25	87	46	65.4	45.2	14.7	133
12.5	106	8	93.0			114
12.5	131	11	92.3			142
12.5	112	11	91.1	92.1	0.8	123
6.25	102	6	94.4			108
6.25	96	15	86.5	90.5	4.0	111
3.125	103	8	92.8			111
3.125	97	21	82.2			118
3.125	122	10	92.4	89.1	4.9	132
1.563	108	5	95.6			113
1.563	97	12	89.0			109
1.563	90	11	89.1	91.2	3.1	101
ASW 0	101	0	100.0			101
ASW 0	97	10	90.7			107
ASW 0	111	2	98.2	96.3	4.1	113
MLSW 0	107	0	100.0			107
MLSW 0	101	0	100.0			101
MLSW 0	122	2	98.4	99.5	0.8	124

