

The effect of the dispersant Corexit 9527 on blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*)

Oil dispersants are often used to treat oil spills, but many questions still remain about the potential risks of these dispersants on intertidal communities. Without this knowledge of the risks dispersants have on intertidal communities, oil spill cleanup teams could be adding extra stress to organisms in our attempts to clean oil spills. In the present study *Mytilus edulis* were exposed to varying concentrations of Corexit 9527 to determine whether an effect was measured on mortality rates or metabolic rates. No significant decrease in metabolic rate was seen (Kruskal-Wallis Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)), however mortality rates were seen to increase with increasing concentrations. This study points to the effects of increasing concentrations of dispersants on organisms, but demonstrates the need for further study of dispersants to determine the effect they may have on intertidal ecosystems.