


November 7, 2017

MEMO TO: IEM-45

F R O M: Elle Cochran, Chair   
Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee

SUBJECT: **TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENT RELATING TO  
OXYBENZONE, OCTINOXATE, AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE  
ENVIRONMENT** (IEM-45)

The attached informational document pertains to Item 45 on the Committee's agenda.

iem:misc:045file01

Attachment

# **Oxybenzone & Octinoxate Sunscreen Pollution and the Threat to Maui's Coral Reefs**

**Craig A. Downs, PhD.  
Executive Director  
Haereticus Environmental Laboratory**



# What is at risk?

- Tourism Industry
- Restaurant Industry
- Recreational Industry
- Property Values
- Tax Revenue
- Cultural History/Identity
- Reputation
- Feedback Corruption
- Legacy



# What is the Ecological Problem?



**Carysfort Reef 1975**



**Carysfort Reef 1985**



**Carysfort Reef 2004**



**Carysfort Reef 2014**



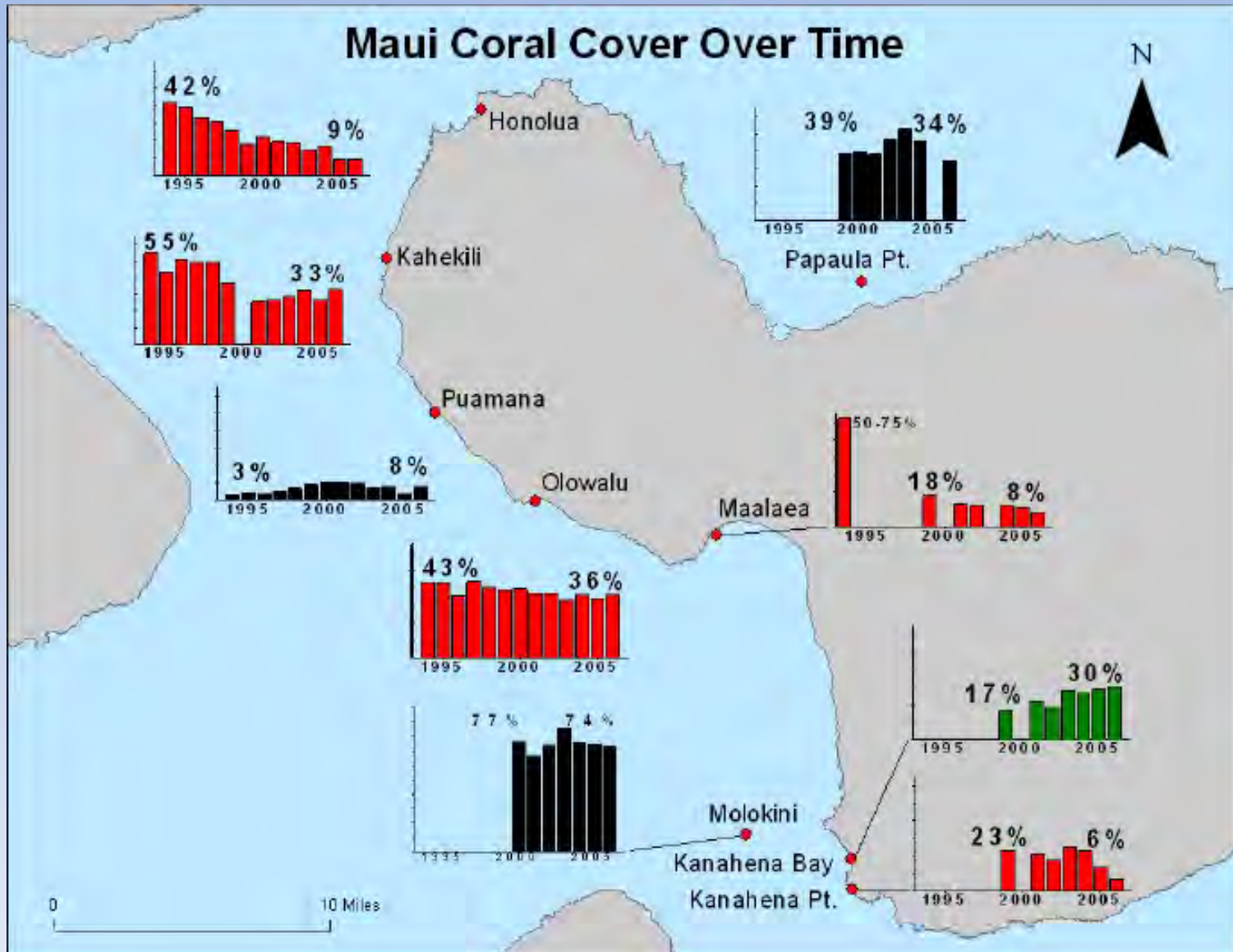


26.8°C  
80.2°F



# Disappearing Coral Reefs

*Slow, almost imperceptible decline*







**Healthy**

**Recruitment/Growth**



**Death Rate**

**Coastal Reefs near populated areas**

**Death Rate**



**Recruitment/Growth**



# 'Zombie corals' pose new threat to world's reefs

Scientists discover corals that look healthy but cannot reproduce, dashing hopes such reefs could repopulate bleached areas

**From a demographic and evolutionary perspective, populations with little to no recruitment are the 'living dead'---**

## **Coral Reef Zombies**



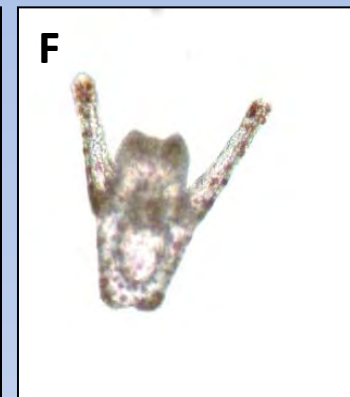
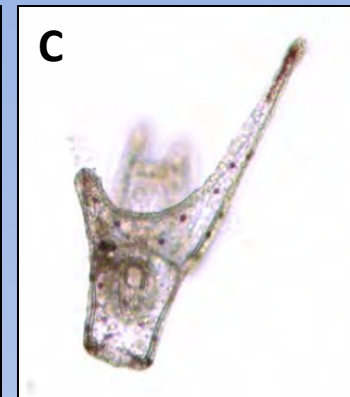
- Sea urchins
- Fish
- Shrimp/crabs
- Sea grass



# Environmental Investigation into impacts of Land-Based Sources of Pollution on Coral Health in West Maui, Hawaii

*CRCP Project 502 Interim Report*

West Maui, HI has been plagued with reports of poor water quality in the near shore coastal zone, fecal indicators exceeding EPA standards, and algal blooms for over 20 years with a corresponding steady decline in coral cover from 70% (1990s) to 27% (2006). This interim report provides baseline fecal indicator data in dry (22 sites) and rainy (14 sites) seasons and porewater toxicity data for 16 locations on Maui to help clarify the role of wastewater injection wells may play in coral decline and assist in BMP monitoring efforts. This information can help strategically focus costly management efforts on the greatest risk factors.



Cheryl M. Woodley<sup>1</sup>, Craig A. Downs<sup>2</sup>, Lisa A. May<sup>3</sup>, Erin Looney<sup>4</sup>, Darla White<sup>5</sup> and Kathy Chaston<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Haereticus Environmental Laboratory, Clifford, VA

<sup>3</sup>JHT, Inc. Contractor to NOAA National Ocean Service, Center for Coastal Environmental Health & Biomolecular Research, Charleston, SC

<sup>4</sup>NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, Coral Reef Ecosystem Division, Honolulu, HI

<sup>5</sup>Special Projects Coordinator, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources, Maui, HI

<sup>6</sup>Hawaii Coral Management Liaison and Pacific Watershed Specialist, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Pacific Services Center, Honolulu, Hawaii



Carysfort Reef 1975

Carysfort Reef 1985

The New York Times | <https://nyti.ms/2vNfSgs>

SundayReview | OPINION

# Is Your Sunscreen Poisoning the Ocean?

By PEGGY ORENSTEIN AUG. 19, 2017

Carysfort Reef

# Sunscreen Pollution



**Drug Facts**

<b>Active ingredients</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Avobenzone 3% .....	Sunscreen
Homosalate 15% .....	Sunscreen
Octisalate 5% .....	Sunscreen
Octocrylene 5% .....	Sunscreen
Oxybenzone 6% .....	Sunscreen

**Uses** • helps prevent sunburn • if used as directed with other sun protection measures (see **Directions**), decreases the risk of skin cancer and early skin aging caused by the sun

**Warnings**

**For external use only**

**Do not use** on damaged or broken skin

**When using this product** keep out of eyes. Rinse with water to remove.

**Stop use and ask a doctor** if rash occurs

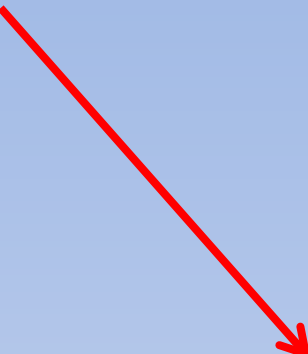
**Keep out of reach of children.** If swallowed, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center right away.

**Directions** For sunscreen use: • apply generously 15 minutes before sun exposure • reapply: • after 80 minutes of swimming or sweating • immediately after towel drying • at least every 2 hours

• **Sun Protection Measures.** Spending time in the sun increases your risk of skin cancer and early skin aging. To decrease this risk, regularly use a sunscreen with a Broad Spectrum SPF value of 15 or higher and other sun protection measures including: • limit time in the sun, especially from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. • wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, hats, and sunglasses. • children under 6 months of age: Ask a doctor

**Other information** • protect the product in this container from excessive heat and direct sun

**Inactive ingredients** water, dimethicone, isododecane, styrene/acrylates copolymer, propanediol, glycerin, silica, isononyl isononanoate, inulin lauryl carbamate, nylon-12, caprylyl methicone, synthetic wax, poly C10-30 alkyl acrylate, PEG-6 laurate, stearyl alcohol, dimethiconol, triethanolamine, isoeugenol, fragrance, vitis vinifera (grape) fruit extract, phenoxyethanol, p-anisic acid, ammonium acryloyldimethyltaurate/stearate-25 methacrylate crosspolymer, chlorphenesin, disodium EDTA, tocopherol, sucrose tristearate, xanthan gum, polymethyl methacrylate

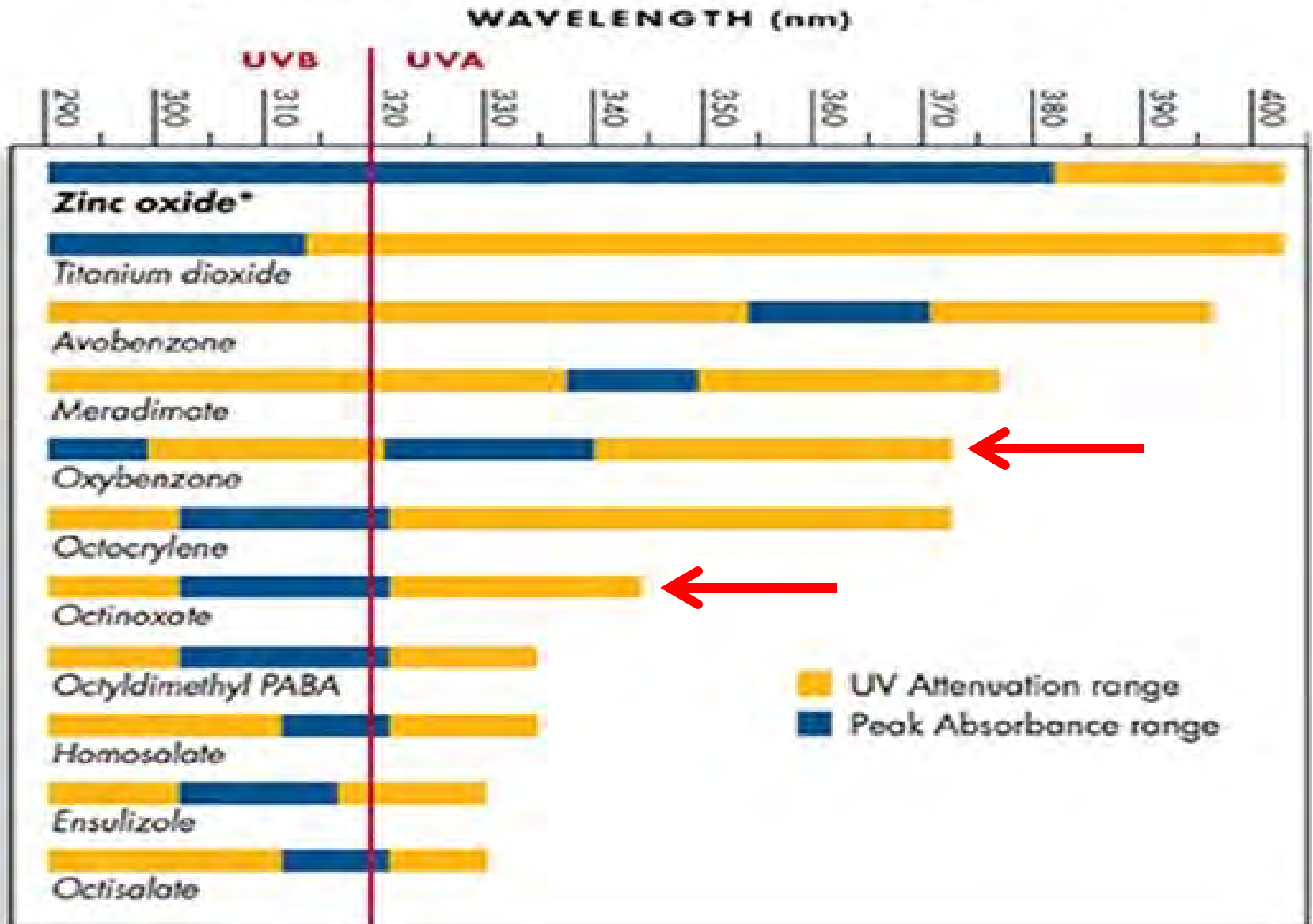


**Drug Facts**

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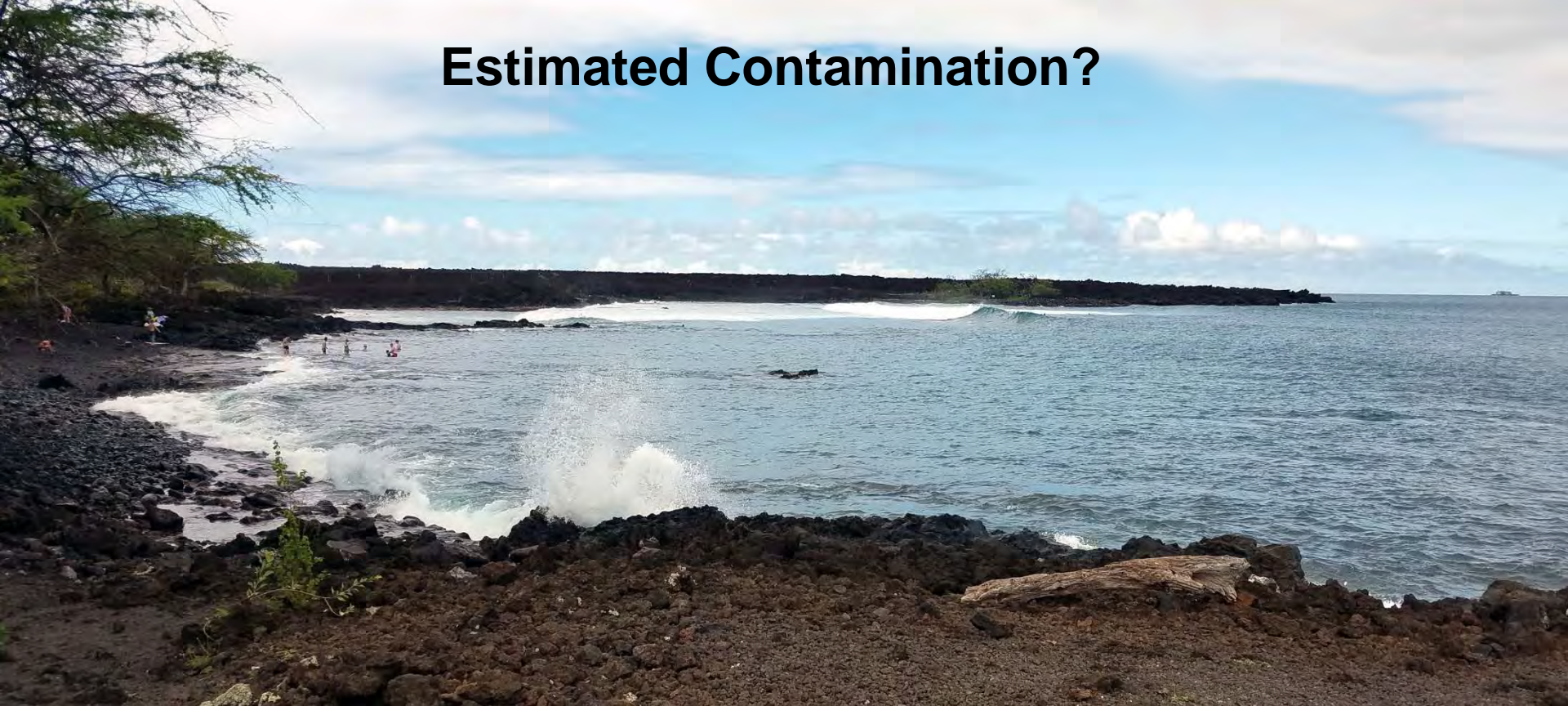
**34% of the content is UV chemical ingredient**

Comparison of how the most widely used U.S. sunscreen ingredients attenuate (reduce the intensity of) UV light



Data Provided by Proctor & Gamble Beauty & Grooming

# Estimated Contamination?



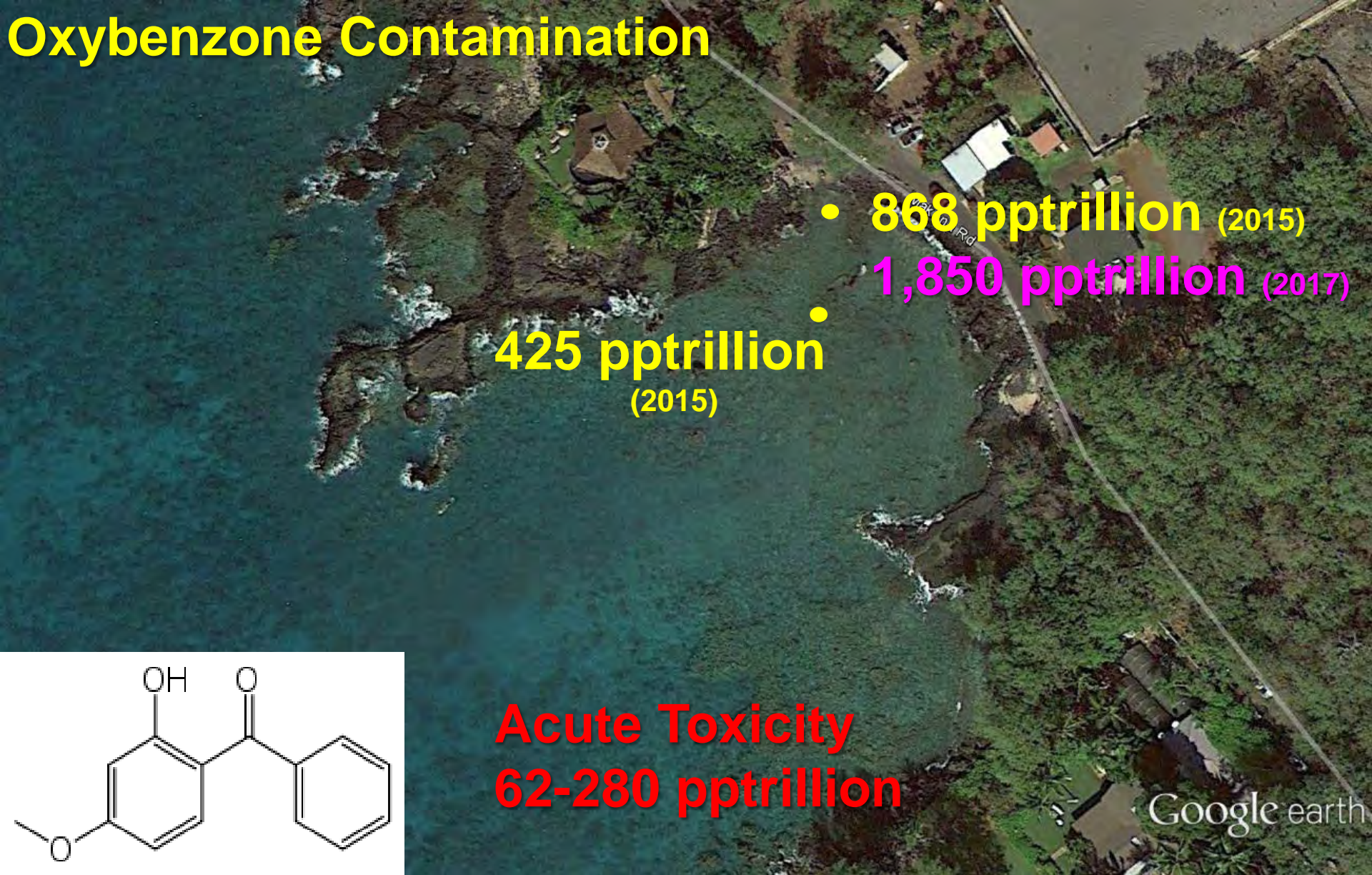
## **Ahihi Kina'u Bay (Natural Areas Reserve)**

**(2017 averaged 1,200 swimmers/day)**

- = 76.8 kilograms of sunscreen lotion a day. 64 grams per person (American Acad. Dermatol.)**
- = 2.3 kilograms of oxybenzone a day (3% oxybenzone).**
- = 69.1 kilograms of oxybenzone per month (~152 pounds per month)**
- = 829 kilograms of oxybenzone per year (1,828 pounds /year)**
- = 27,648 kilograms of sunscreen product per year (60,953 lbs/year)**



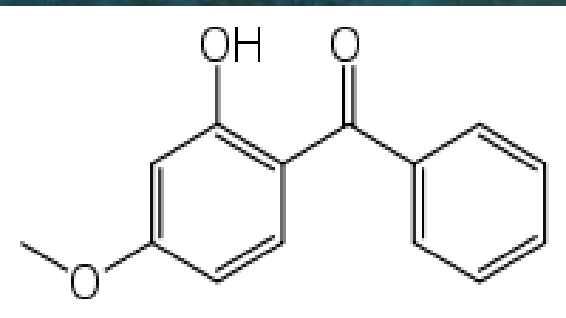
# Oxybenzone Contamination



- 868 pptrillion (2015)
- 1,850 pptrillion (2017)

425 pptrillion  
(2015)

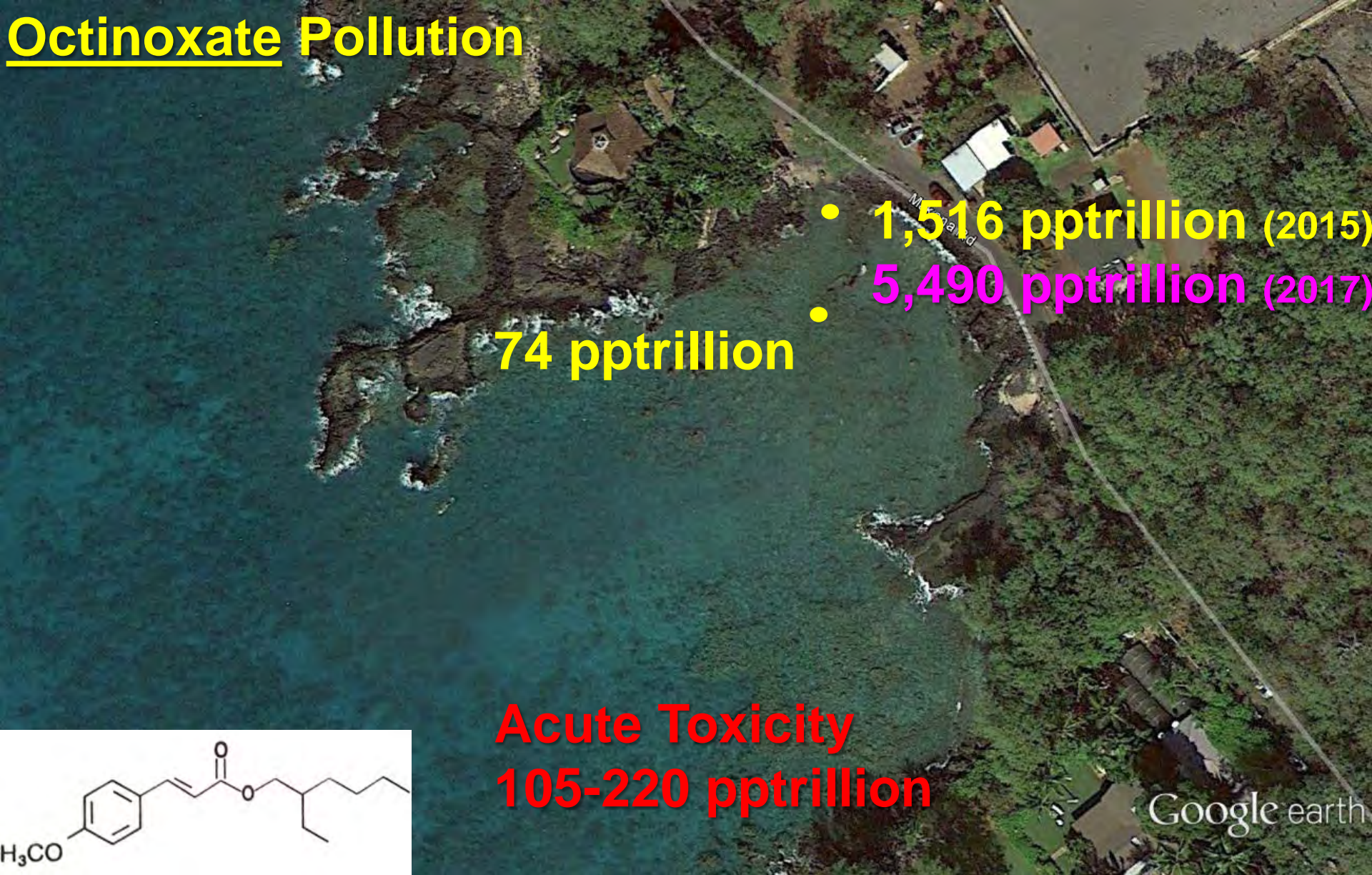
Acute Toxicity  
62-280 pptrillion



Sampled on July 27, 2015, 15:00 HST

Sampled on June 23, 2017, 17:05 HST

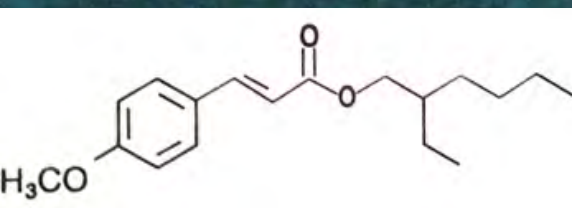
# Octinoxate Pollution



74 pptrillion

- 1,516 pptrillion (2015)
- 5,490 pptrillion (2017)

Acute Toxicity  
105-220 pptrillion



Sampled on July 27, 2015, 15:00 HST

Sampled on June 23, 2017, 17:05 HST



**10,400 pptrillion (Oxybenzone)**

**13,100 pptrillion (Octinoxate)** •

Google Earth

**Oxybenzone & Octinoxate Contamination  
Sampled on June 23, 2017, 16:19 HST**

©2017 Haereticus

# Oxybenzone Contamination

Summer 2015

881 ppt  
607 ppt  
125 ppt  
1,904 ppt, Honolulu Bay

344 ppt  
996 ppt  
4,252 ppt

136 ppt (Baby Beach)

Acute Toxicity  
62-280 pptrillion

0 ppt

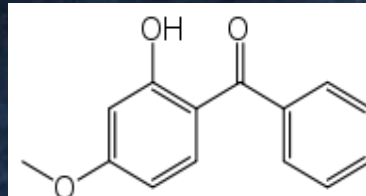
Hana

1,096 ppt  
340 ppt  
868 ppt  
0 ppt

La Perouse Bay

13.38 mi

Data MBARI  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat  
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA



# Octinoxate Contamination

Summer 2015

967 ppt  
597 ppt  
133 ppt

293 ppt, Honolulu Bay

166 ppt  
69 ppt  
289 ppt

165 ppt (Baby Beach)

Acute Toxicity  
105-220 pptrillion

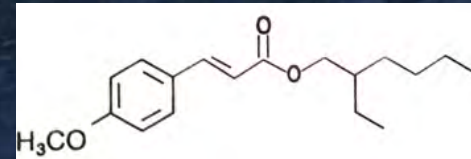
0 ppt  
Hana

80 ppt  
33 ppt  
1,516 ppt  
6.9 ppt

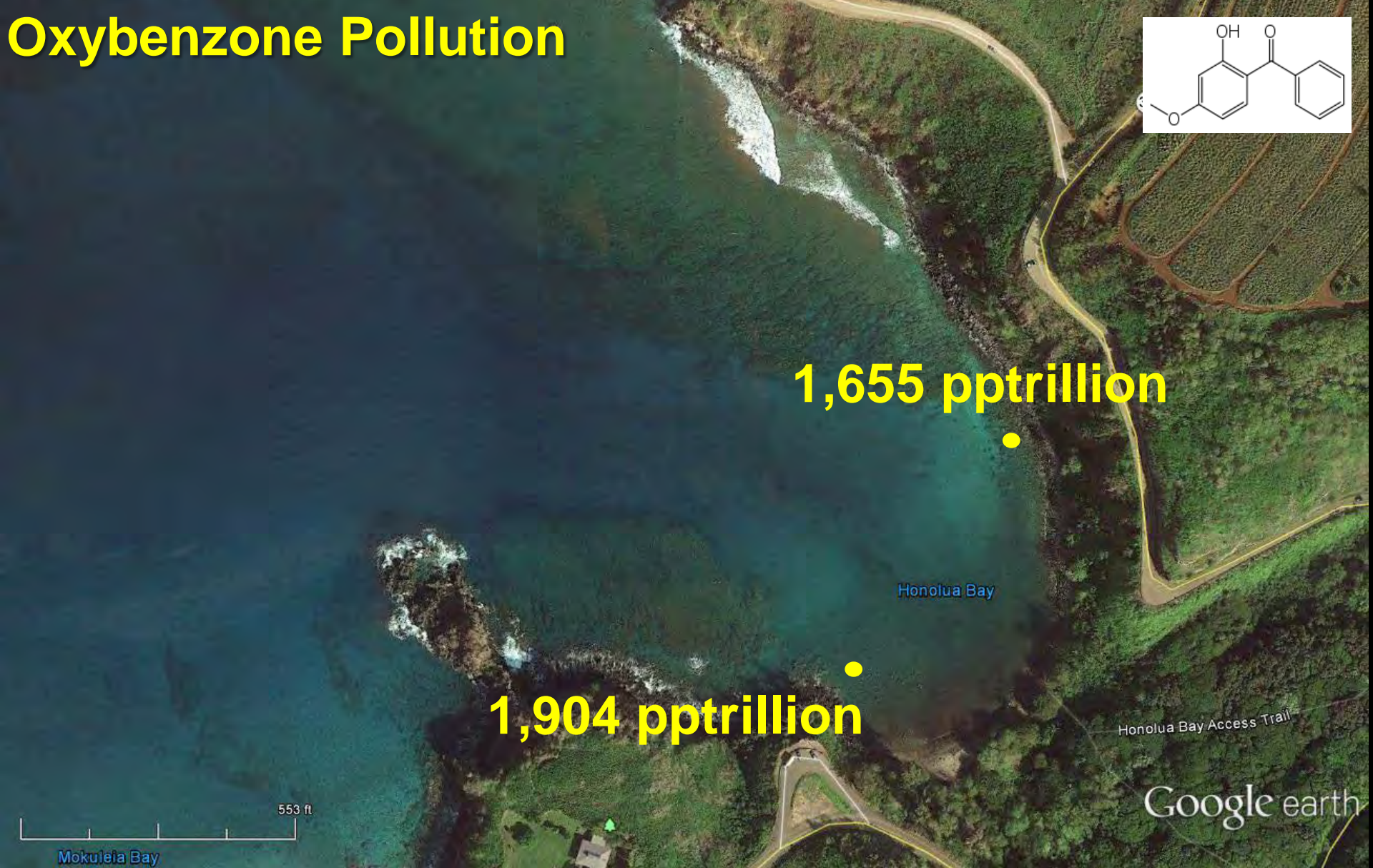
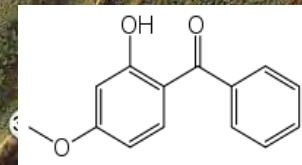
La Perouse Bay

13.38 mi

Data MBARI  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat  
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA

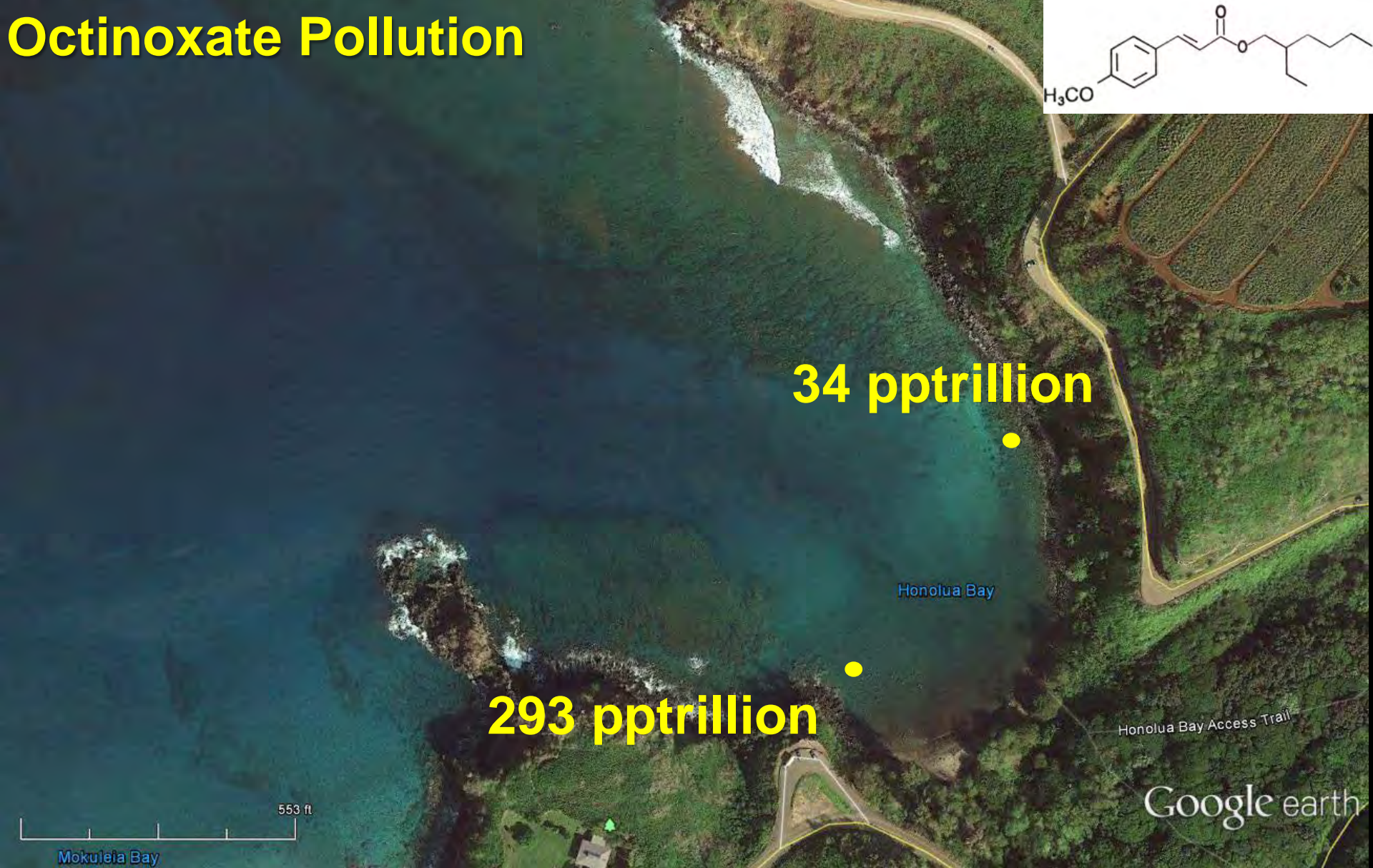
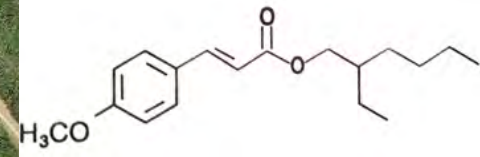


# Oxybenzone Pollution



**Honolua Bay, Maui, Hawaii  
July 2015**

# Octinoxate Pollution



**Honolua Bay, Maui, Hawaii**  
**July 2015**

# Black Rock Beach Maui, Hawaii

4,252 ppt Oxybenzone  
289 ppt Octinoxate





**Waimea Bay**  
**4,780 ppTrillion**

**Oxybenzone Concentrations**  
**Oahu, Hawaii, U.S.A.**  
**Summer 2015**

**Ko Olina Cove**  
**568 ppTrillion**

**Ala Moana**  
**230 ppTrillion**

**Waikiki (Kuhio Park)**  
**11,300 ppTrillion**

11.35 mi

Image USGS  
Data USGS  
Data SOEST/UHM

Google earth

©2016 Haereticus



# Sewage

- 30min after application, detect in urine
- Residue on skin, wash off in shower



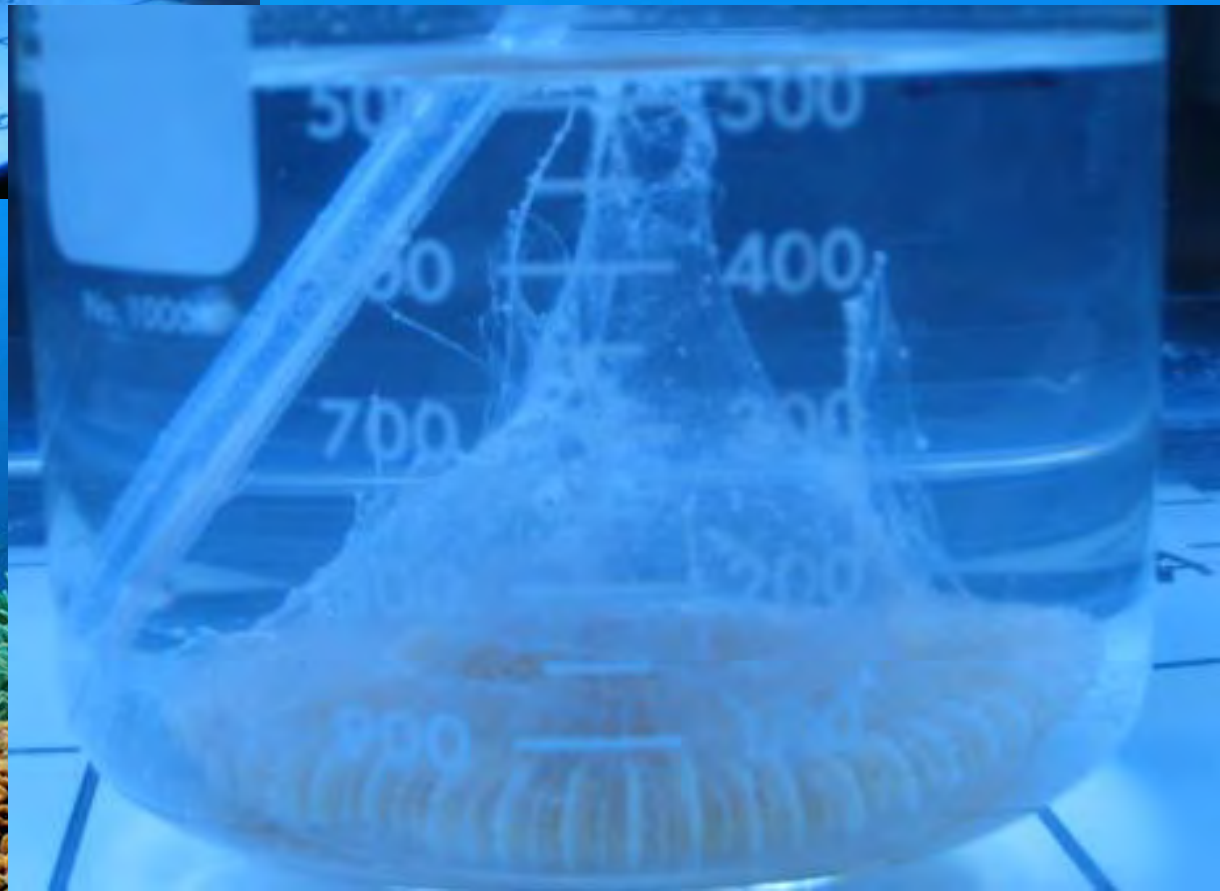
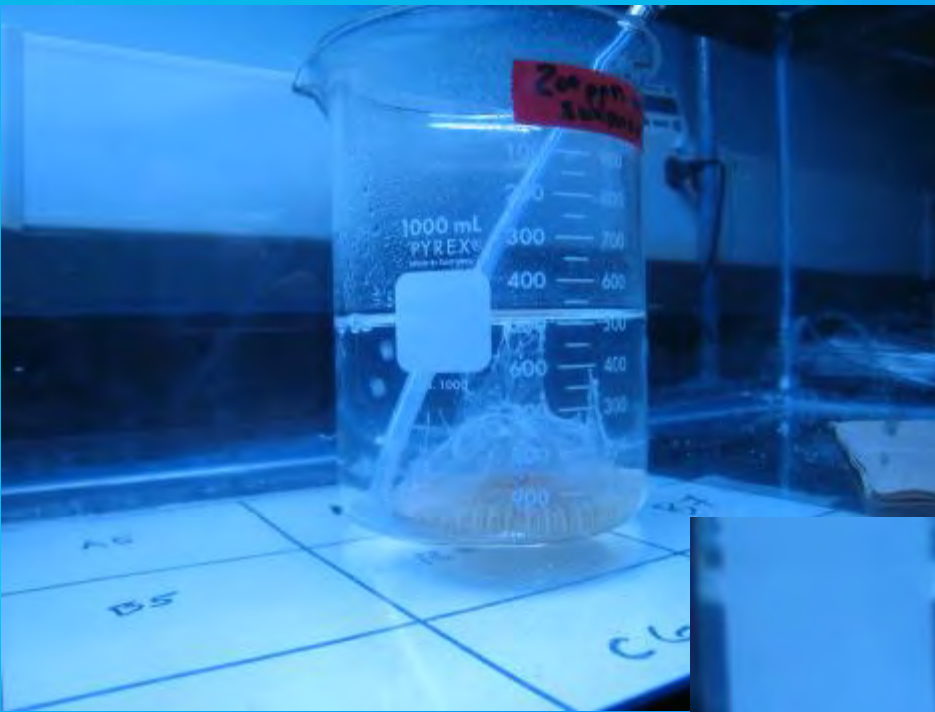
# Oxybenzone contaminates:



Coral  
Fish  
Marine Mammals  
Bird Eggs  
Sea Turtle Eggs



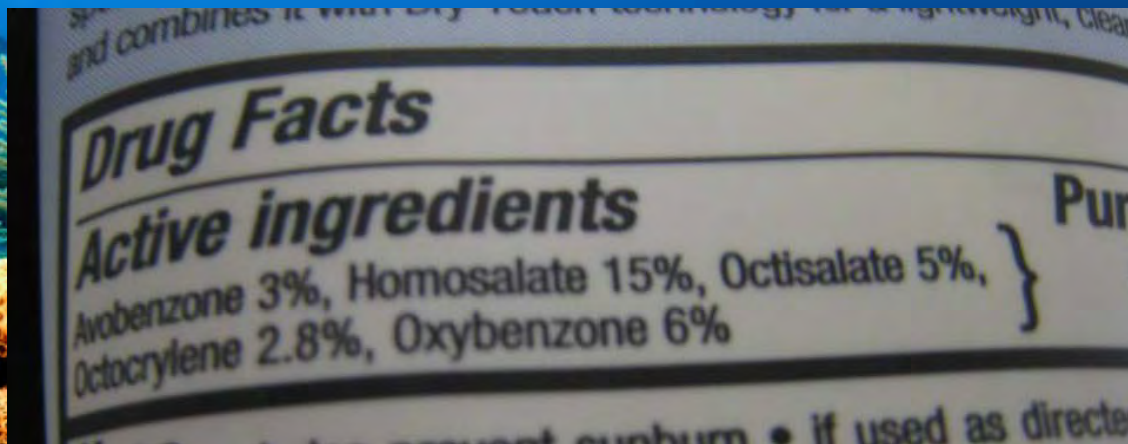
23 hour incubation after  
placing in Sunscreen  
WAF 200 ppm



# WAF-Sunscreen Lotion Exposure 48 hours

<u>Oxybenzone</u>	<u>Benzophenone-1</u>	<u>Benzophenone-2</u>	<u>4,4DHbenzophenone</u>
220.70	0.2	0	10.4
	<u>Avobenzone</u>	<u>Octocrylene</u>	
	10.2	0?	

Extraction from one *Fungia* polyp 60 mm in diameter  
All concentrations in parts per trillion



Article

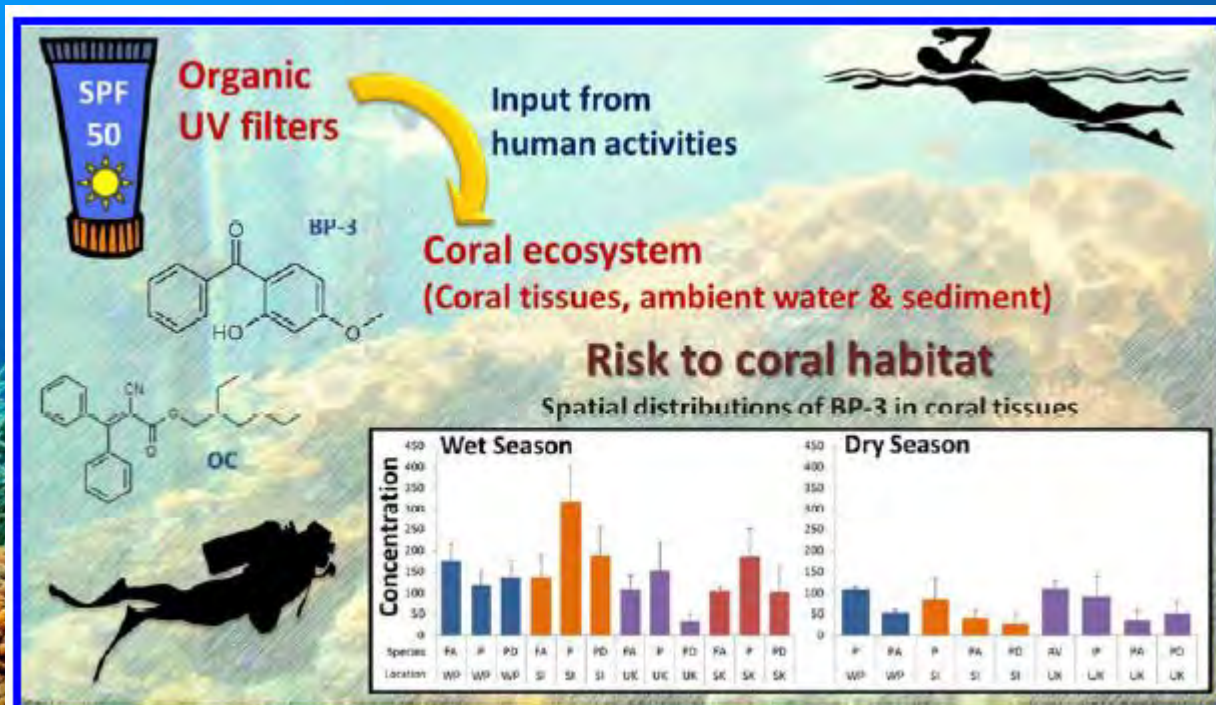
**Occurrence, distribution and fate of organic UV filters in coral communities**

Mirabelle M.P. Tsui, James C.W. Lam, Tsz Yan Ng, Put O. Ang, Margaret B. Murphy, and Paul Kwan-Sing Lam

*Environ. Sci. Technol.*, **Just Accepted Manuscript** • DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.6b05211 • Publication Date (Web): 29 Mar 2017

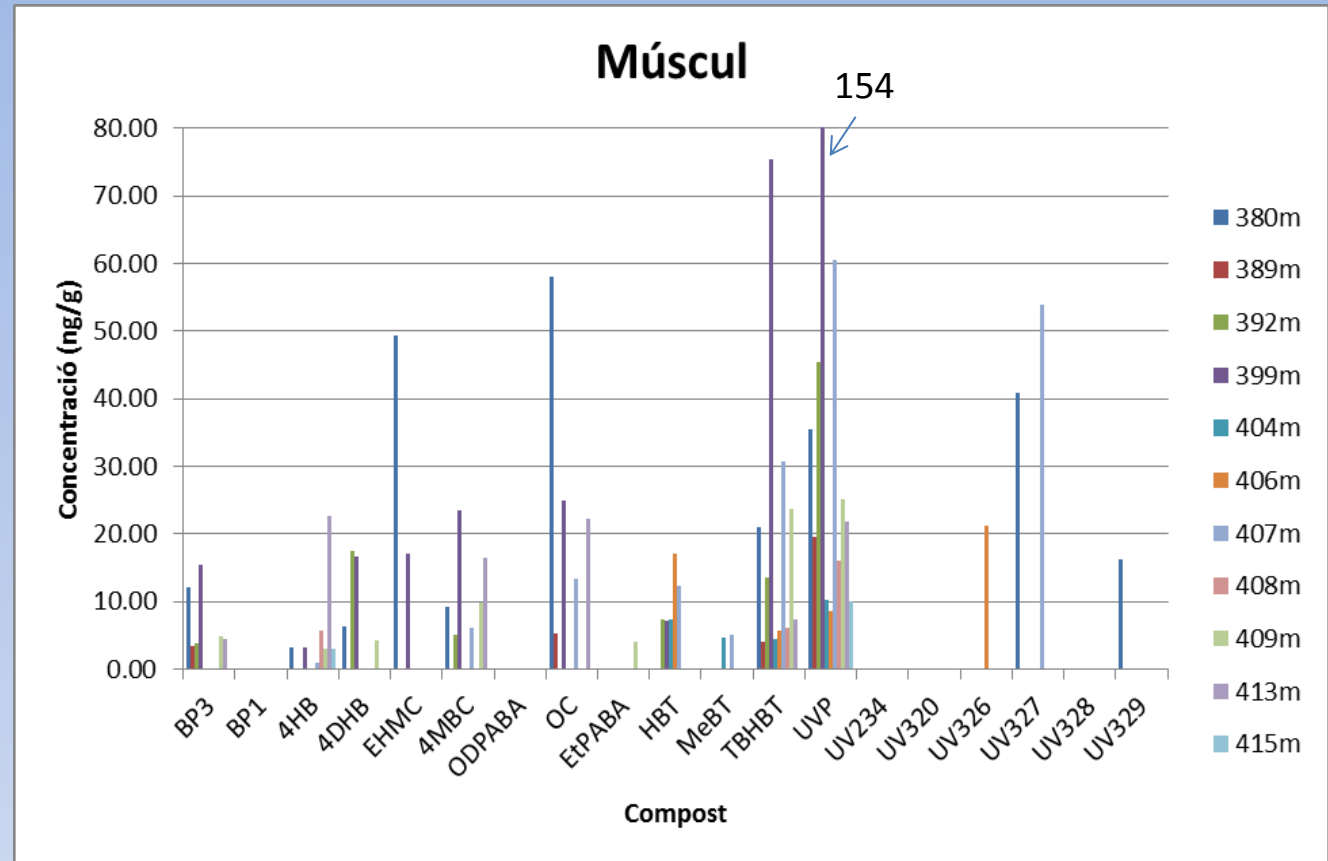
Downloaded from <http://pubs.acs.org> on April 4, 2017

“The results of a preliminary risk assessment indicated that over 20% of coral samples from the study sites contained OXYBENZONE concentrations exceeding the threshold values for causing larval deformities and mortality... Higher probabilities of negative impacts of OXYBENZONE on coral communities are predicted to occur in wet season.”



# Bioaccumulation of UV filters in fish

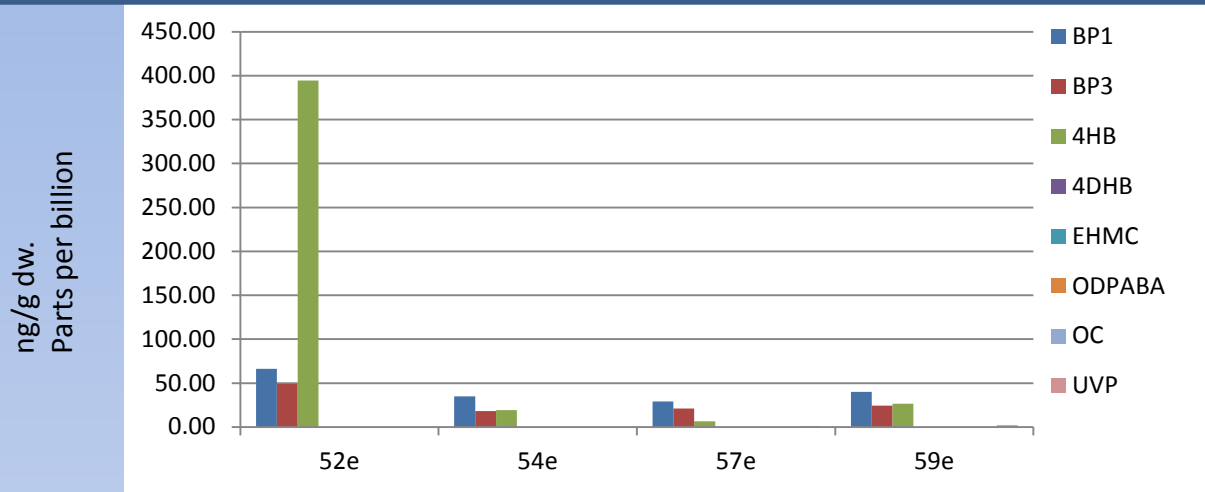
## Muscle analysis



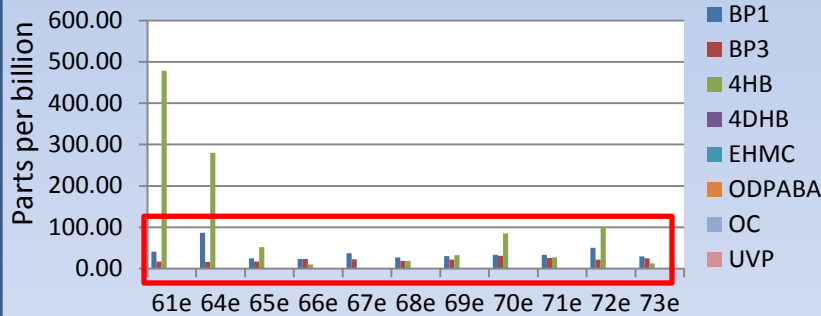
- BP3 = oxybenzone. BP1, 4HB, & 4DHB are metabolites of oxybenzone. OC = octocrylene; EHMC = methoxycinnamate  
→ This is the edible part of the fish



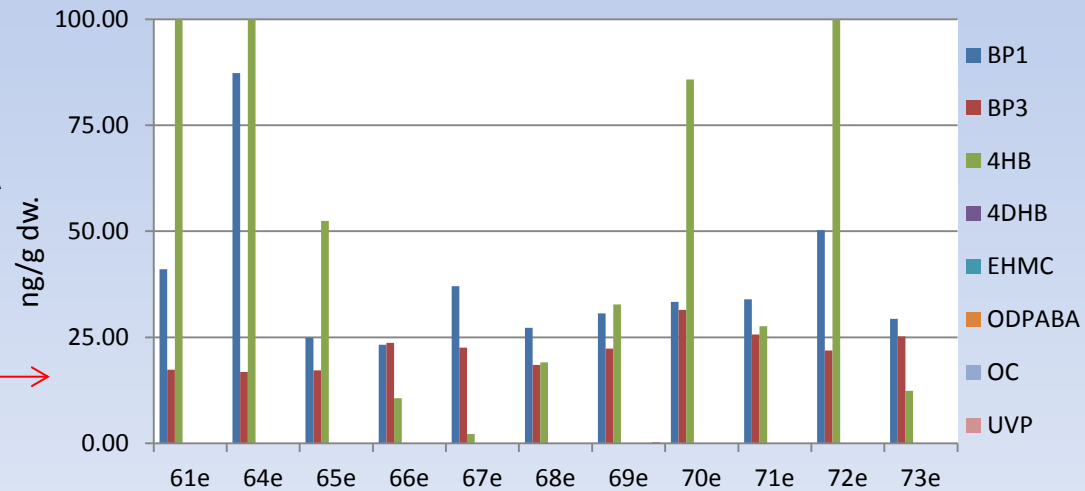
# UV Filters in eggs of birds from a preserved natural area



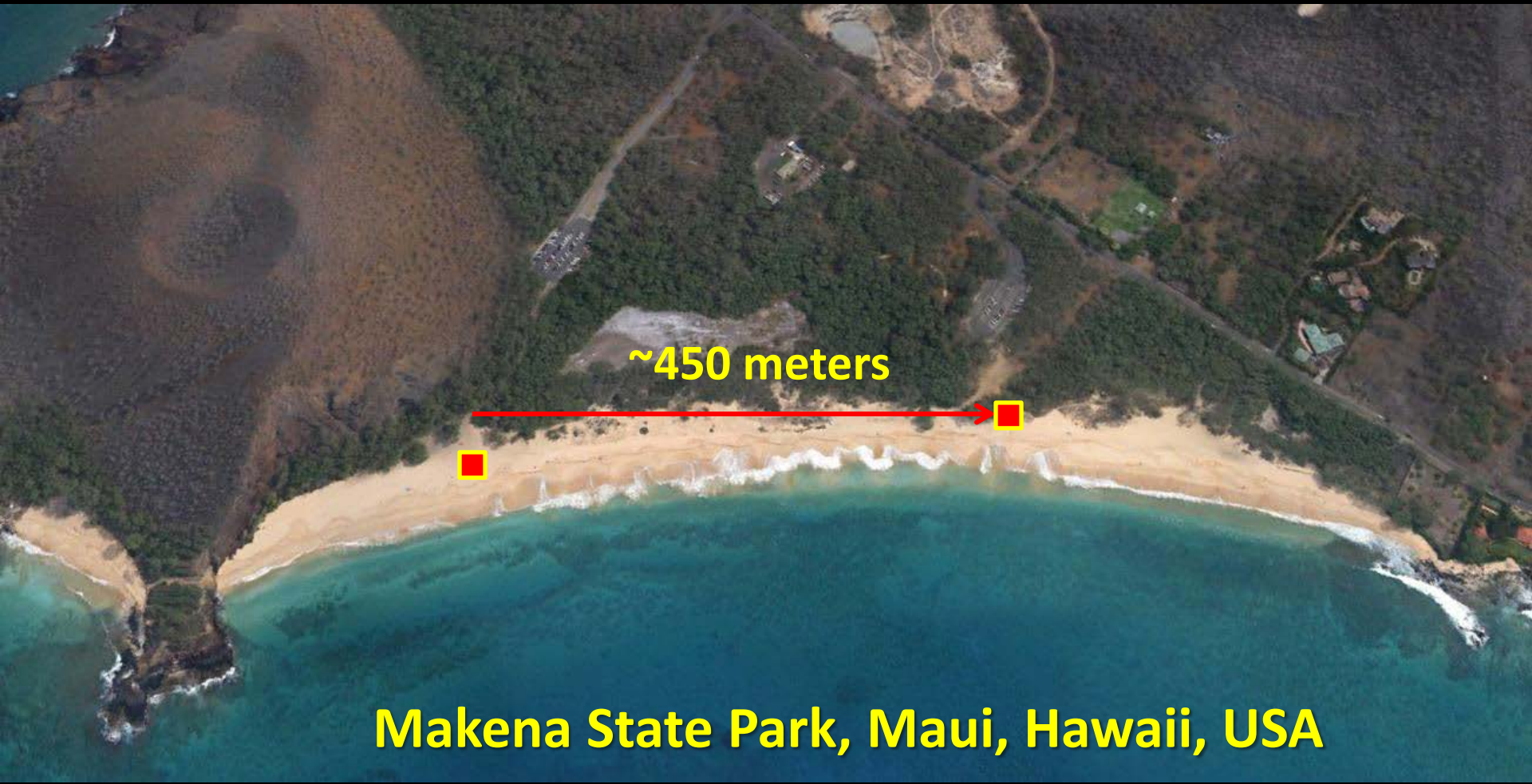
*Gelochelidon nilotica*



*Anas strepera*



# How far does aerosol sunscreen mist carry?



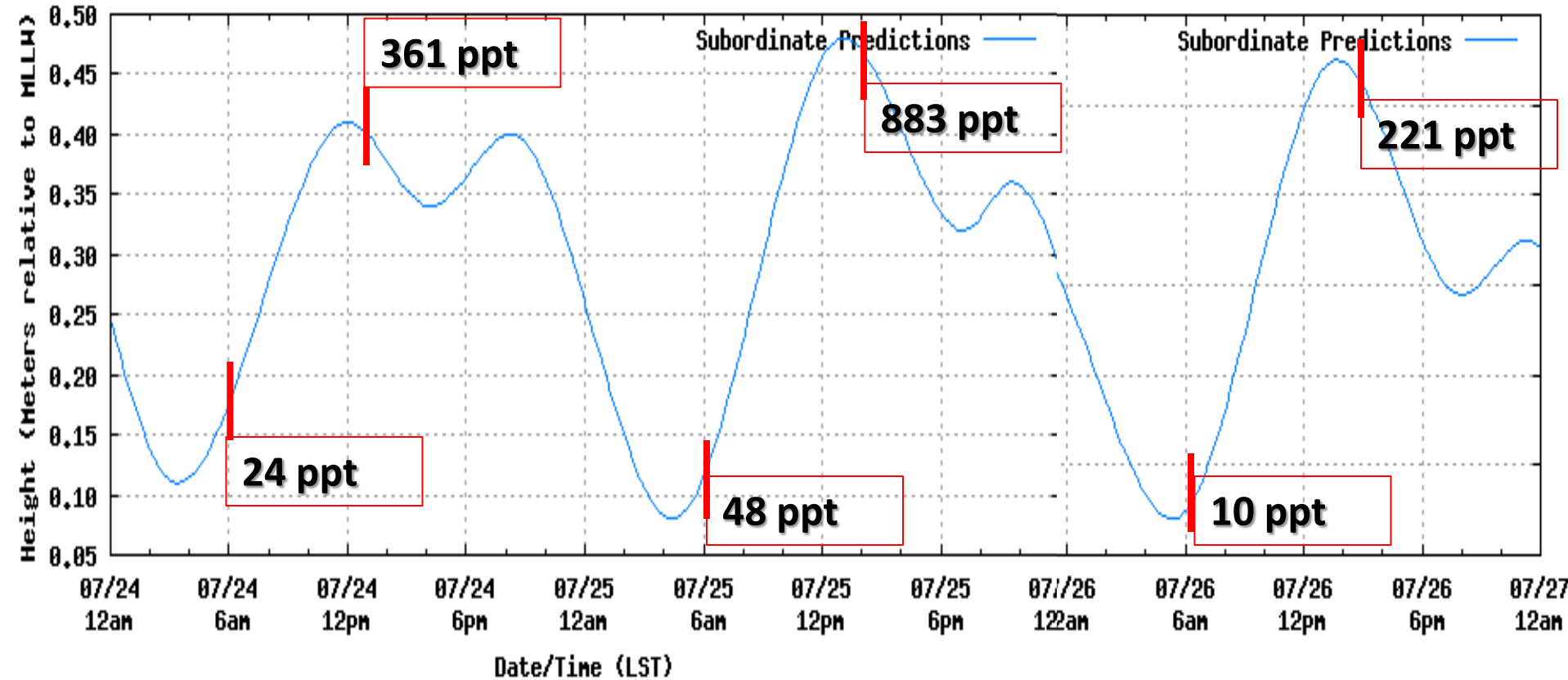
Makena State Park, Maui, Hawaii, USA

# Kapalua Bay



# Kapalua Bay

(Maui, Hawaii)



## Tidal fluctuations of Oxybenzone Concentration

Correlation = 0.7698,  $p = 0.0034$

# Is Oxybenzone Found in Beach Sand?

**Yes!**

**Napili Bay = 478 ng/kg Oxybenzone**

**Kapalua Bay = 1,004 ng/kg Oxybenzone**

# Sea Turtle Nests?



# Is OXYBENZONE & OCTINOXATE TOXIC to Coral Reefs?



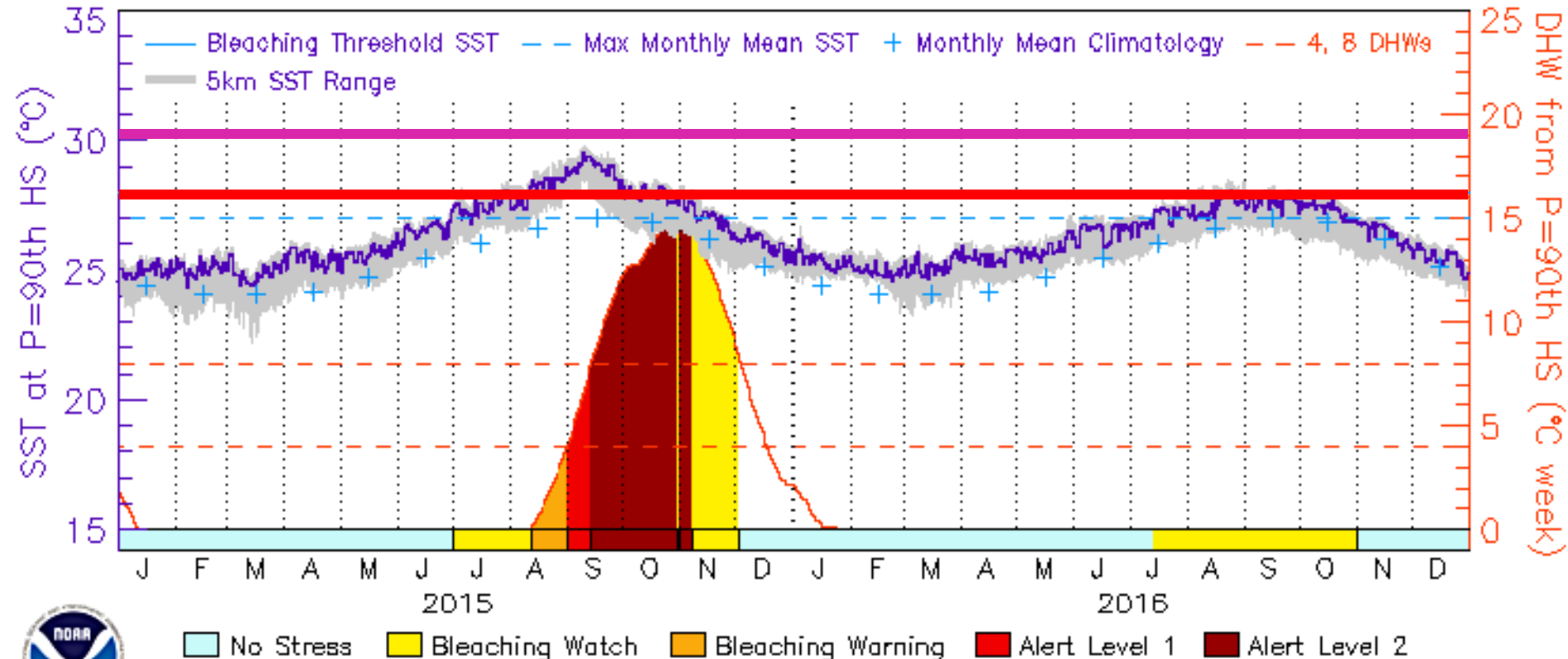
# NOAA Bleaching Alert

NOAA's Definition of Bleaching Threshold:

When corals start to become stressed when the SST is 1°C warmer than the highest monthly mean temperature

Glynn & D'Croz, 1990. Experimental evidence for high temperature stress as the cause of El Niño coincident coral mortality. *Coral Reefs*, 8, 181-191.

## Main Hawaiian Islands







## **Coral bleaching has been attributed to a variety of disturbances:**

- high and low temperature,
- subaerial exposure,
- calm sea conditions,
- freshwater dilution,
- High and low turbidity,
- sedimentation,
- high and low light levels & UV radiation,
- parasite infections, and
- **pollutants**

(Brown 1987; Ogden and Wicklund 1988; Williams and Bunkley-Williams 1988; Coffroth et al., in press).

# Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve

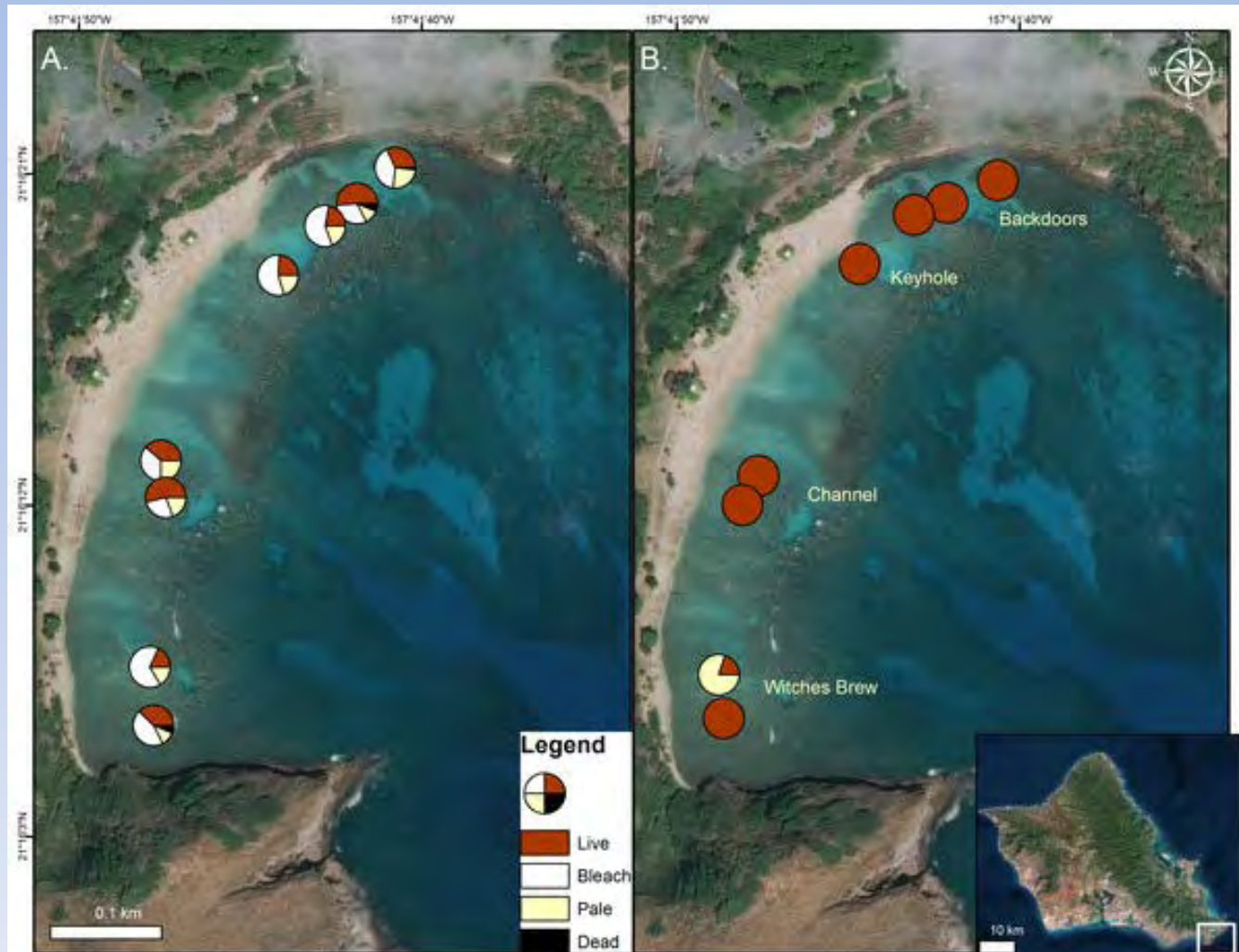


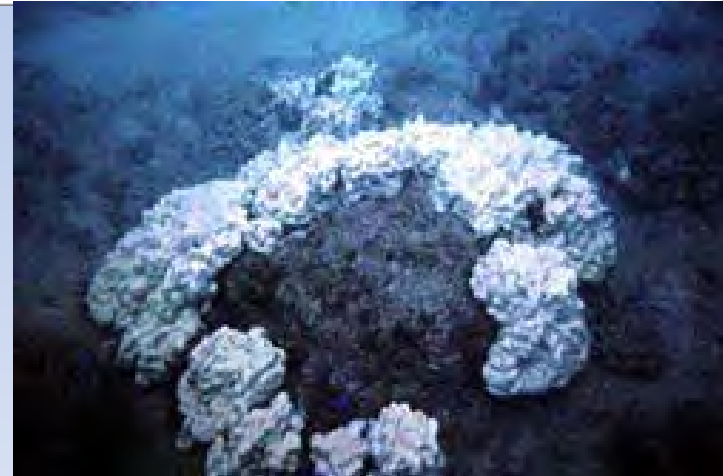
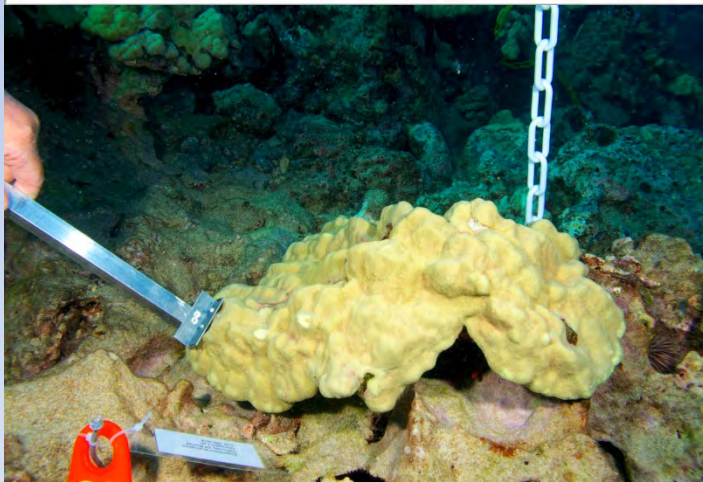
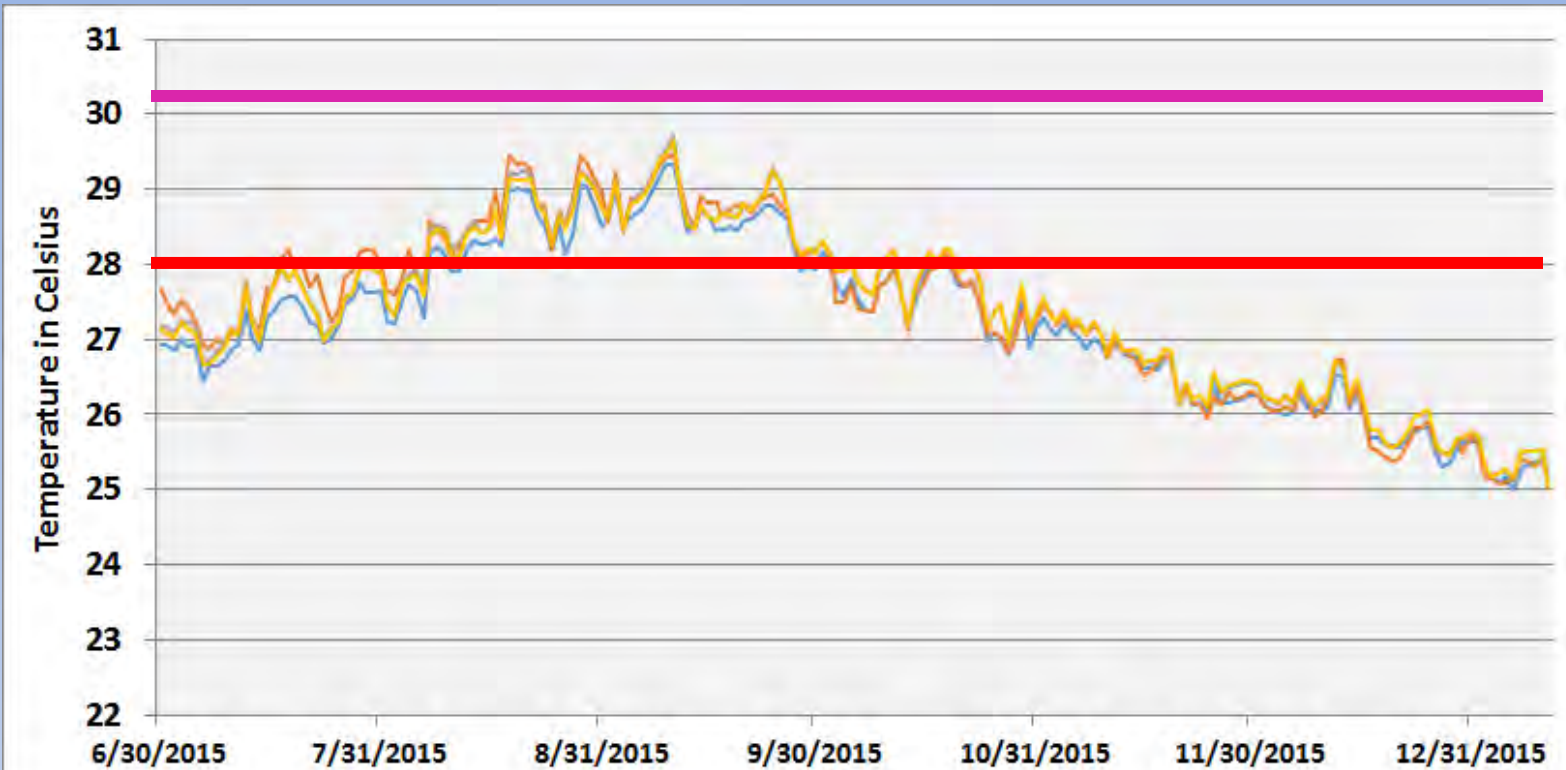
# Factors that reduce coral homeostasis (resiliency) to heat stress events (e.g., El Niño event)

## Hanauma Bay, Oahu, Hawaii

Coral Condition in October 2015

Coral Condition in January 2016





Rodgers KS, Bahr KD, Jokiel PL, Richards Donà A. (2017) Patterns of bleaching and mortality following widespread warming events in 2014 and 2015 at the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, Hawai'i. PeerJ 5:e3355 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.3355>

**Honour Booth survey - > 1,500 pp trillion Oxybenzone**



## **Hanauma Bay**

**(2015 averaged 2,600 swimmers/day)**

- = 187 kilograms of sunscreen lotion a day. 78 grams per person**
- = 5.61 kilograms of oxybenzone a day (3% oxybenzone).**
- = 168 kilograms of oxybenzone per month (~370 pounds per month)**
- = 68,255 kilograms of sunscreen product per year (150,476 lbs/year)**
- = 2,048 kilograms of oxybenzone per year (4,515 pounds /year)**

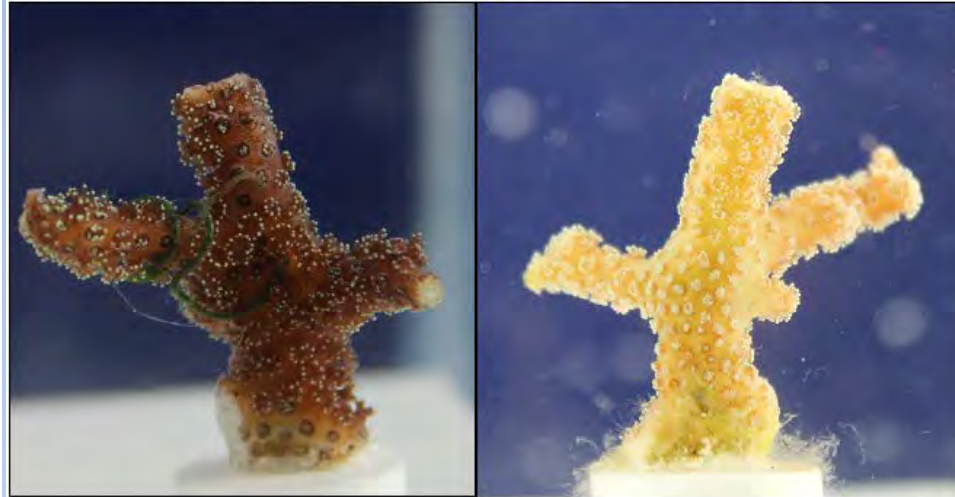
### Octinoxate Induces Coral Bleaching



**Control**

**1 part per billion  
Octinoxate  
14 days**

### Octinoxate Induces Coral Bleaching



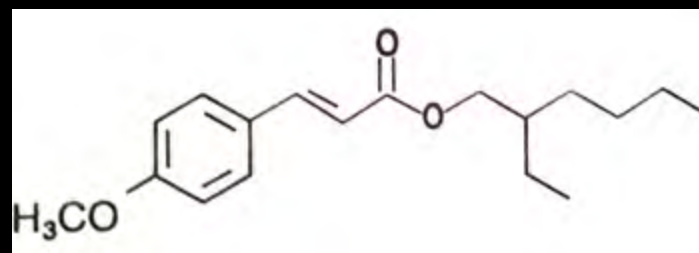
**Time 0**

**500 parts per trillion  
Octinoxate  
14 days**

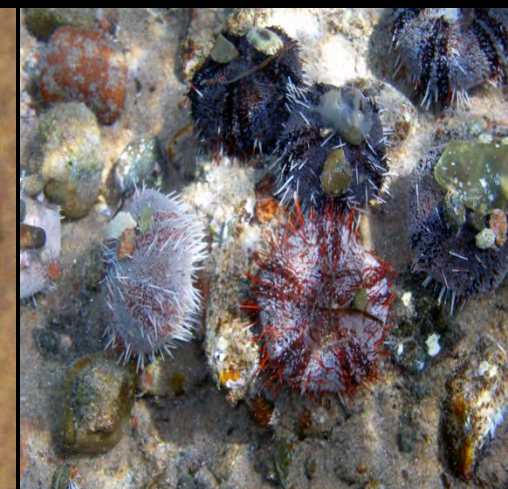
# Octyl methoxycinnamate (octinoxate)

- **Endocrine Disruptor**
  - Reduced sperm count
  - Reduced gonad tissue
  - Reduced thyroid function
  - Reduced neurological function

**Sunscreen chemical  
in sunscreen lotions**



- **Developmental Disruptor**
- **Sea urchin Embryo EC<sub>20</sub> = 900-49,000 ppTrillion**
- **Clown Fish Embryo EC<sub>20</sub> = 223 ppTrillion**





**Time 0**



**500 ppt  
Oxybenzone  
14 days**



# L'Oreal & Monaco Marine Science Center Tested whether Oxybenzone induced Coral Bleaching

## PREDICTIVE LABORATORY METHODOLOGY TO ASSESS CORAL BLEACHING / APPLICATION TO UV FILTERS

Jean-Pierre-Fel<sup>1</sup>, Éric Béraud<sup>2</sup>, Alaa Bensetra<sup>1</sup>,  
Catherine Lacherez<sup>1</sup>, Sakina Mezzache<sup>1</sup>, Marc Léonar  
Denis Allemand<sup>2</sup>, Christine Ferrier-Pages<sup>2</sup>.

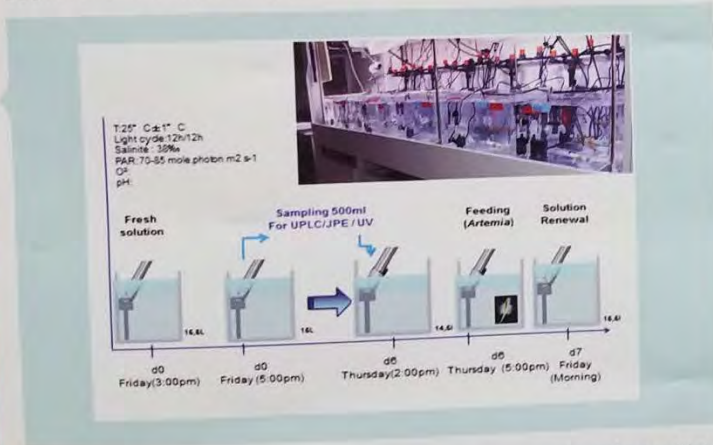
<sup>1</sup>L'Oréal Research & Innovation, Aulnay-sous-Bois, France

<sup>2</sup>Centre Scientifique de Monaco, Marine Biology Department, Principauté de Mo

Contact: jpfel@rd.loreal.com Phone number: +33 1 48 68 89 20

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

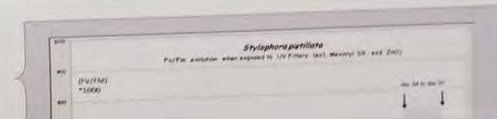
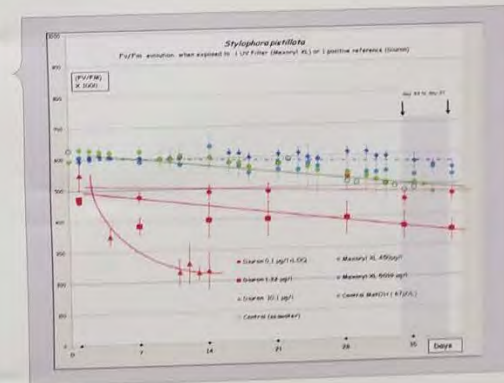
Coral nubbins of *Stylophora pistillata* were exposed for 5 weeks at low concentrations of UV filters and herbicides in 15 liters aquaria, using closed-circuit system with weekly seawater renewal. PSII photosynthetic efficiency of the symbiotic micro-algae was monitored using PAM (Pulse Amplitude Modulation), to predict sublethal endpoint of coral bleaching. A specific analytical methodology was developed, combining automated solid phase extraction with UPLC-UV detection, to monitor the UV filter concentrations in seawater and analyze large number of samples



### MEASURE OF THE PHOTOSYNTHETIC EFFICIENCY

Monitoring PAM

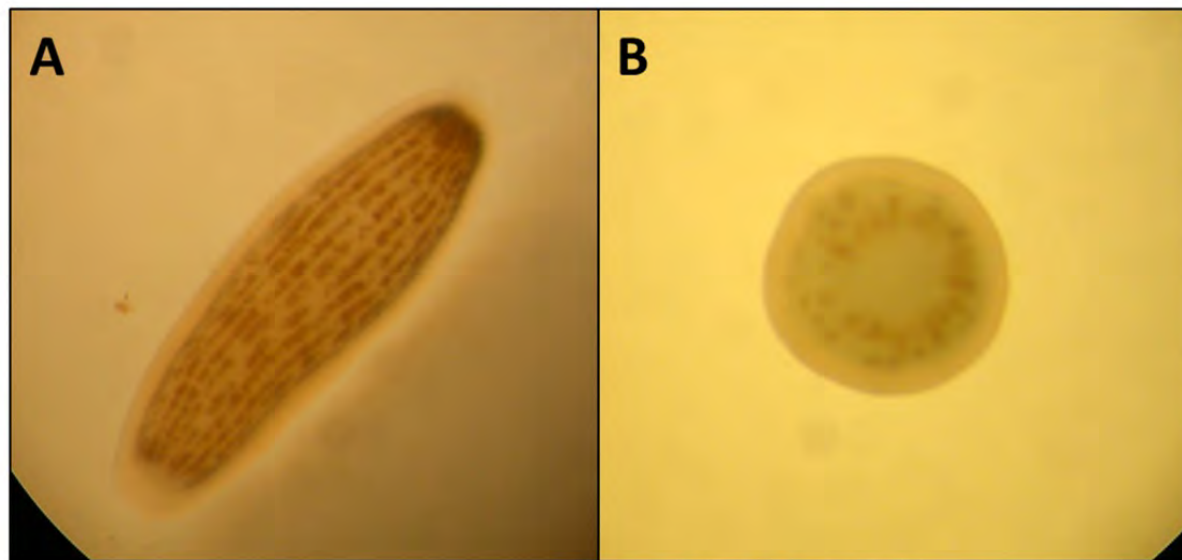
Bionef



Light absorbed during the process of photosynthesis is transformed into

# Yes, OXYBENZONE induced Coral Bleaching

# Coral Reef Ecotoxicology of Oxybenzone



Panel A is a normal, healthy juvenile coral (also called a planula). It is about 5 mm in length. Panel B is a coral exposed to oxybenzone for 8 hours. *Used with permission from Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology.*

- DNA Damage 8h  $EC_{20}$  = 129 ppTrillion
- Bleaching 8h  $EC_{20}$  = 695 ppTrillion
- Skeletal Endocrine Disruption

**Coral Planula LOEC = 62 parts per trillion**

# Clownfish (*Amphiprion ocellaris*)

## Fish Embryo Acute Toxicity Test



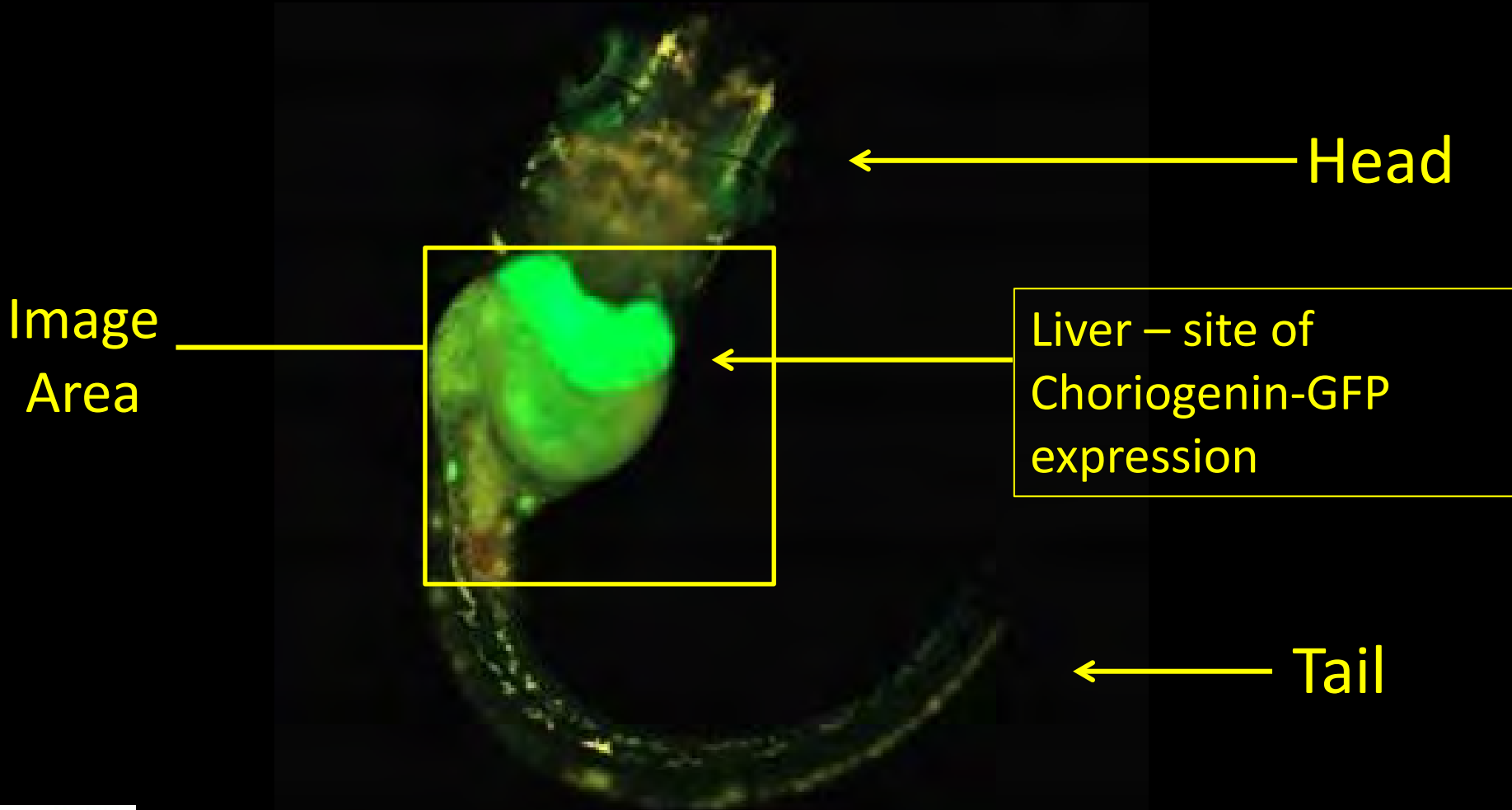
**Control**  
**48-hr exposure**

**1 ppbillion oxybenzone**  
**48-hr exposure**

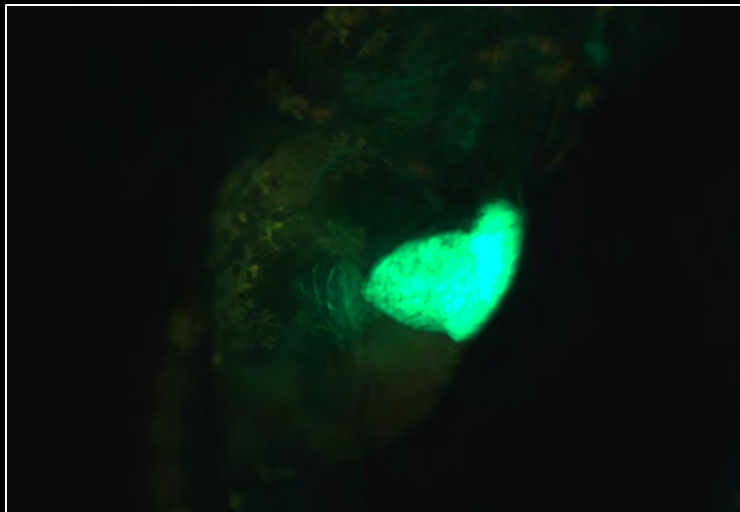
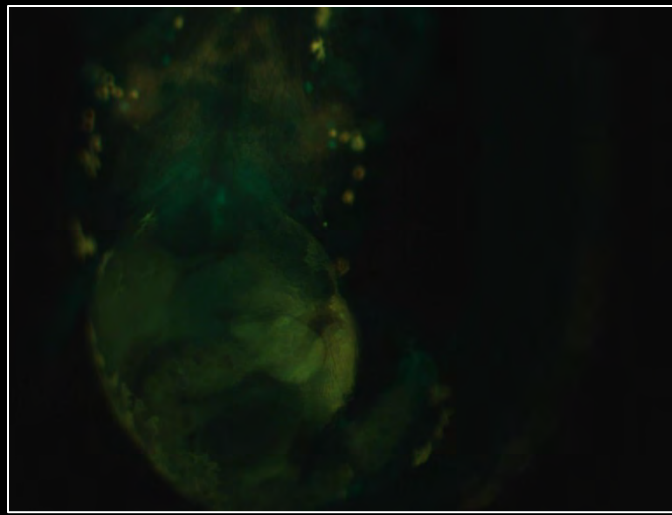
# Genetically Modified Medaka

## Estrogen Endocrine Axis Disruption

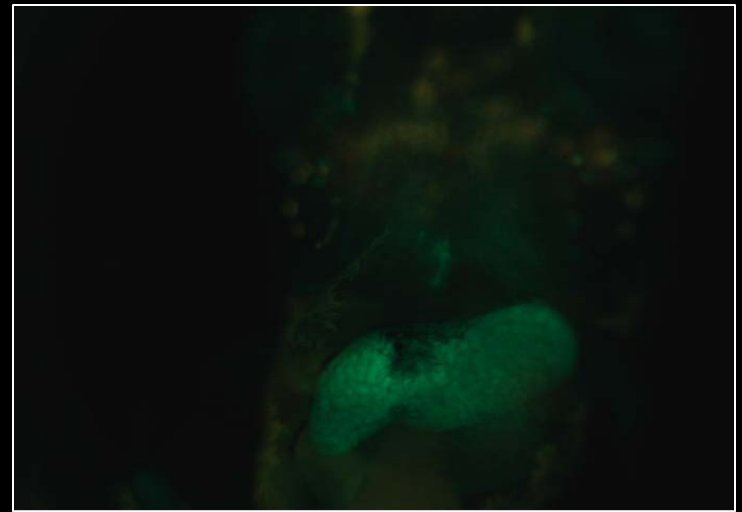
Inappropriate induction of choriogenin (egg protein)



**Control →**



**Benzophenone - 1**



**Oxybenzone  
(Benzophenone-3)**

# UV-filter benzophenone-3 inhibits agonistic behavior in male Siamese fighting fish (*Betta splendens*)

Te-Hao Chen<sup>1,2</sup> · Yea-Ting Wu<sup>2</sup> · Wang-Hsien Ding<sup>3</sup>

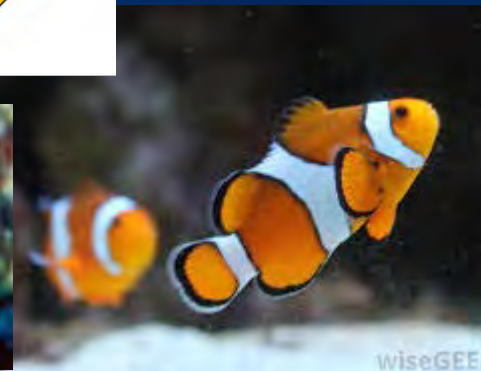
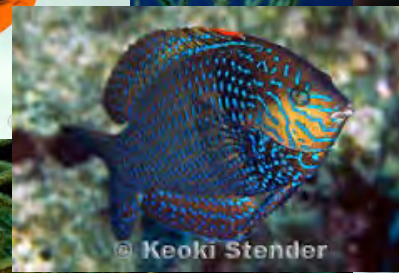


2,500 ppttrillion  
Oxybenzone

Equivalent to  
estrogen

# Sequential Hermaphroditism

- Males turn into Females
- No Males
- Clown Fish
- Wrasses
- Moray Eels
- Gobies
- Parrot Fish



PRIMARY RESEARCH PAPER

# Direct and indirect effects of sunscreen exposure for reef biota

Shaun M. McCoshum  · Alicia M. Schlarb ·  
Kristen A. Baum



**Reduces Polyp Formation**



**Suppresses population growth**



# Oxybenzone & Octinoxate are toxic to Shrimp/Crab, Bivalves and Sea Urchin Embryos!

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN Sunscreen products impair the early developmental stages of the sea urchin *Paracentrotus lividus*

Cinzia Corinaldesi<sup>1</sup>, Elisabetta Damiani<sup>2</sup>, Francesca Marcellini<sup>2,3</sup>, Carla Falugi<sup>2</sup>, Luca Tiano<sup>2</sup>, Francesca Brugè<sup>4</sup> & Roberto Danovaro<sup>2,5</sup>

6 March 2017  
6 July 2017



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Chemosphere

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/chemosphere](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/chemosphere)



Ecotoxicological evaluation of four UV filters using marine organisms from different trophic levels *Isochrysis galbana*, *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, *Paracentrotus lividus*, and *Siriella armata*



## Sunscreen Threatens Sea Urchins!



**Danger to Coral Reefs & other Marine Habitats!**

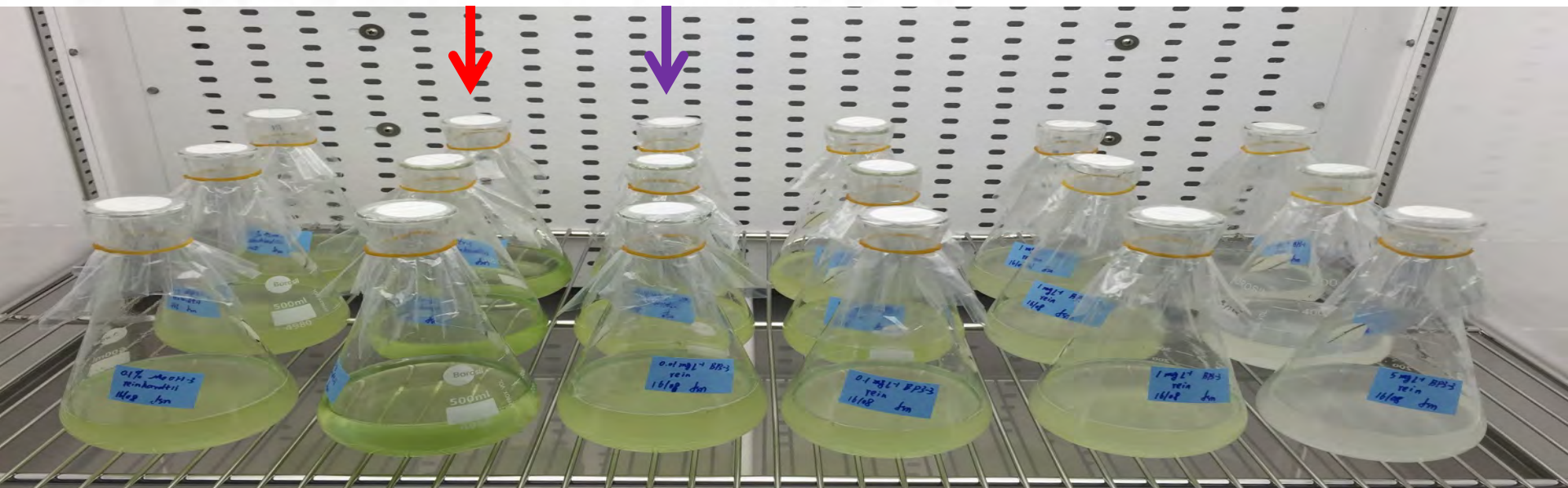


© Javier Santiago

## Effects of benzophenone-3 on the green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* and the cyanobacterium *Microcystis aeruginosa*



Feijian Mao<sup>a</sup>, Yiliang He<sup>b</sup>, Ariel Kushmaro<sup>c</sup>, Karina Yew-Hoong Gin<sup>a,d,\*</sup>



**Control    0.01    0.1    100    1000    5000**  
**parts per billion Oxybenzone**

# **“Sunscreen Footprints of Death”**

**Koko Kai Beach Park  
Honolulu, Hawaii**

*Courtesy of Malina Fagan*

# IS THIS POLLUTION A THREAT?

## Old U.S. EPA Method

- Oxybenzone in AHIHI

HQ = 28, YES

- Honolulu Bay in Hawaii

HQ = 0.1, NO

## Ecological Risk Assessment

- Oxybenzone in AHIHI

RA = 114, Yes

- Honolulu Bay in Hawaii

RA = 21, YES

Used EC<sub>50</sub> 24-h deformity at 20% PAR  
17 ppbillion

# Oxybenzone and Octinoxate pose a significant threat to the sustainability of Maui's Coral Reefs

There **MUST** be a **REDUCTION** in Pollution

- **Legislative County-Wide restriction-of-sales of products**
- **Legislative restriction-of-use in County Recreation areas**
- **Public Education, Multi-Industry Engagement**

