

A microscopic image showing numerous small, irregularly shaped droplets of oil dispersed in water. The droplets are illuminated from the side, creating bright highlights and dark shadows that emphasize their three-dimensional structure. The overall appearance is a dense field of these tiny particles.

# **Factors affecting the chemistry of oil in water**

# Factors affecting the chemistry of oil in water

Mark G. Carls, Larry Holland, Marie Larsen

**NOAA, NMFS, Auke Bay Laboratory**

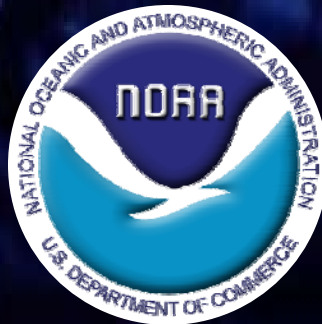


# Factors affecting the <sup>^</sup>chemistry of oil in water <sup>^</sup>*toxicity &*

*(water-accommodated fractions)*

Mark G. Carls, Larry Holland, Marie Larsen

**NOAA, NMFS, Auke Bay Laboratory**



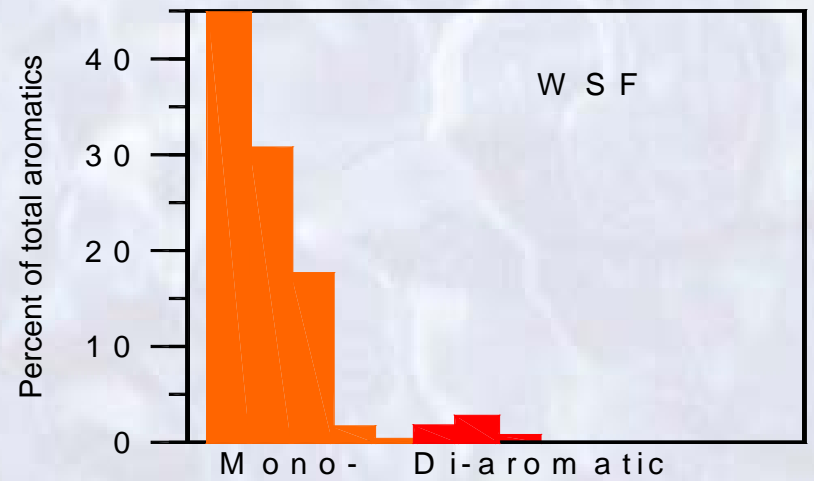
## 3 Parts:

1. Methods determine PAH composition
2. PAH composition influences toxicity
3. Match assay methods to toxicant

Part I:

**Methods determine  
PAH composition**

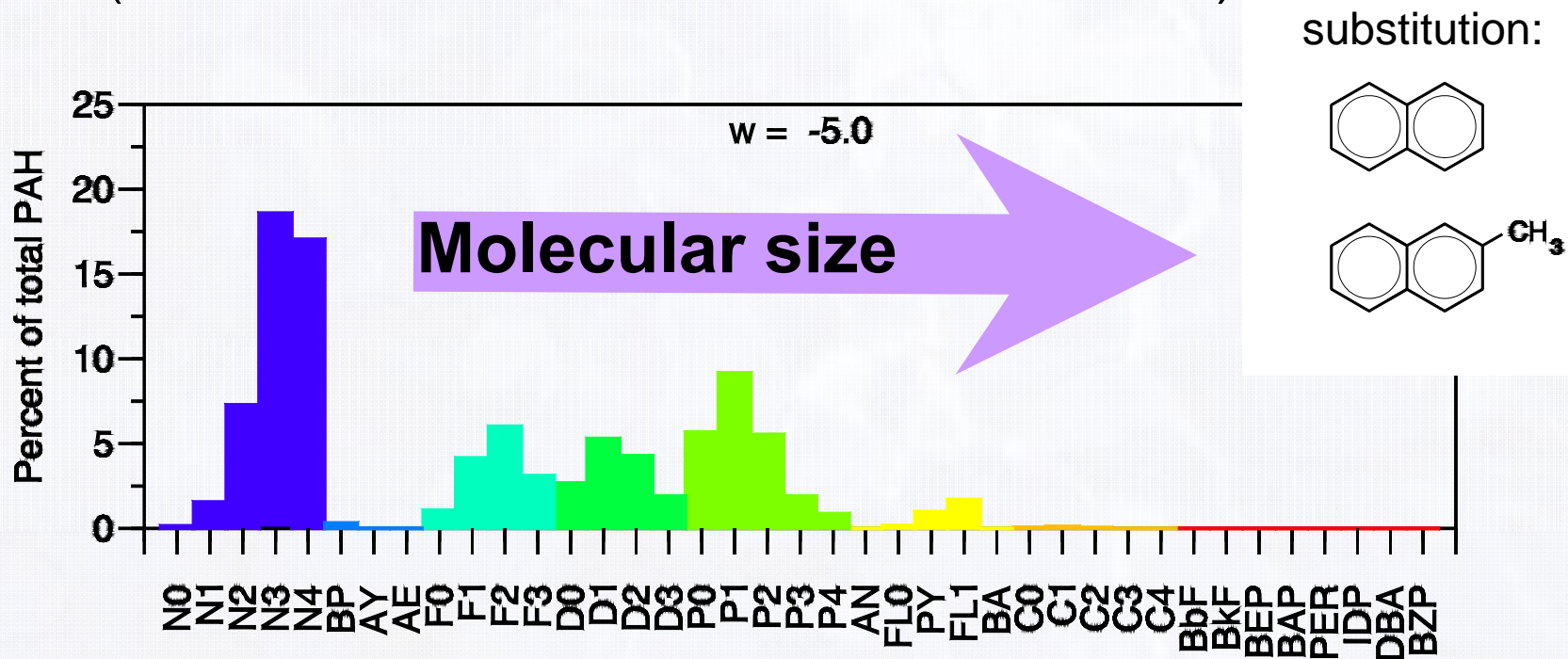
# Example: low energy mixing



(Carls 1987)

# PAH in crude oil:

(Fresh *Exxon Valdez* oil in PWS sediment)



Naph

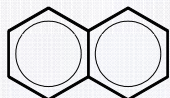
Flu

Dib

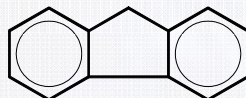
Phen

Chry

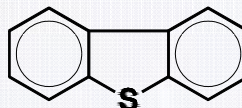
Naphthalene



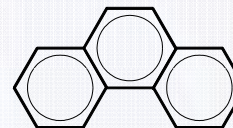
Fluorene



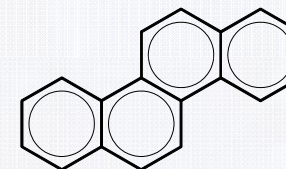
Dibenzothiophene



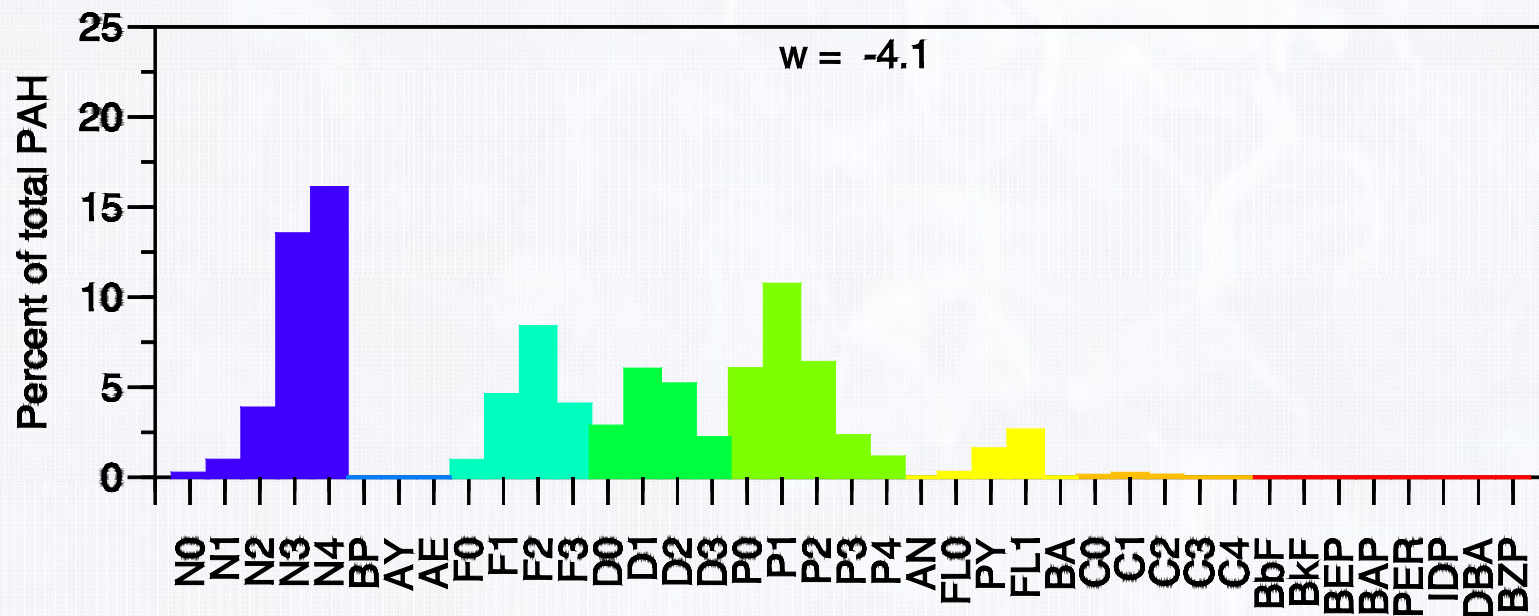
Phenanthrene



Chrysene

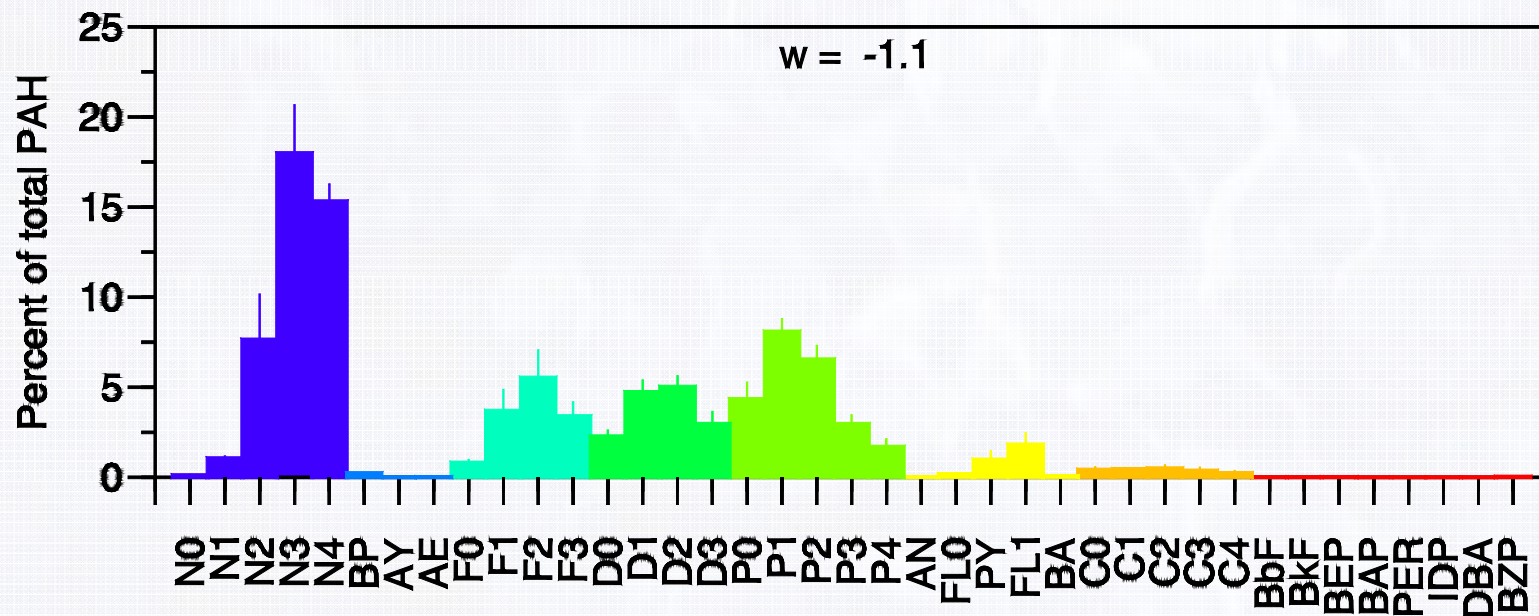


# PAH in crude oil:

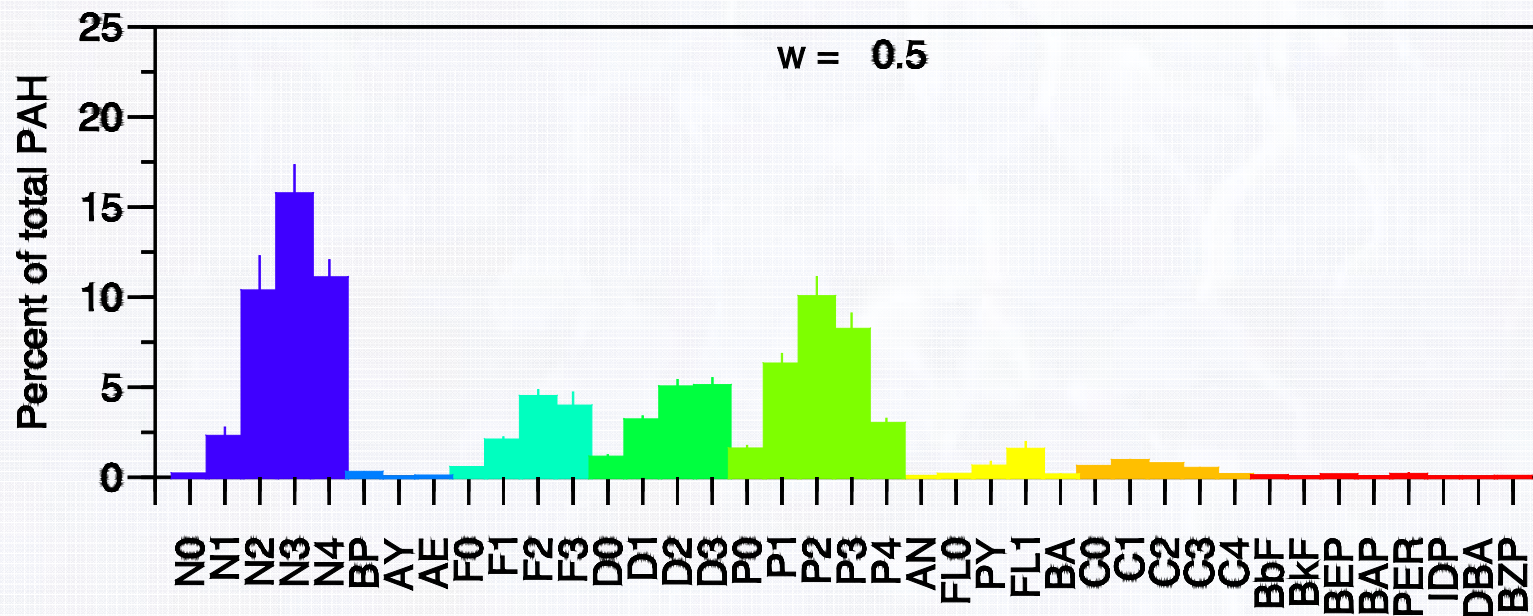




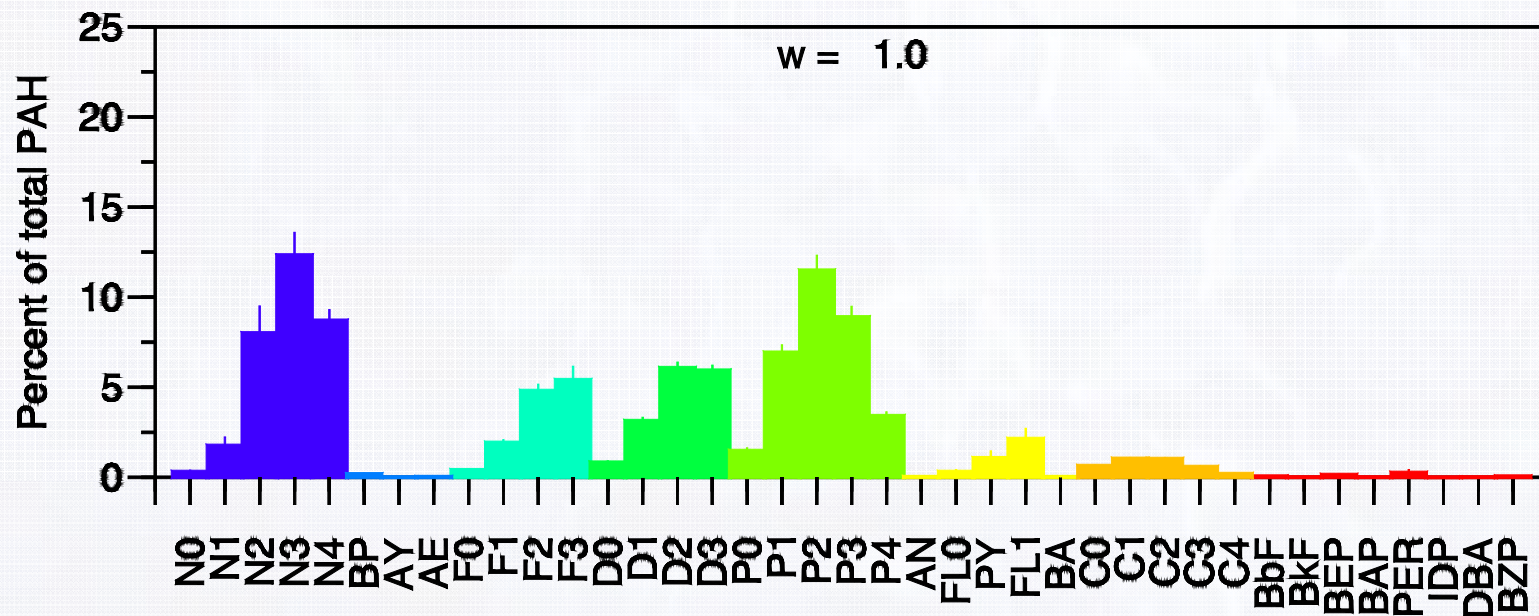
# PAH in crude oil:



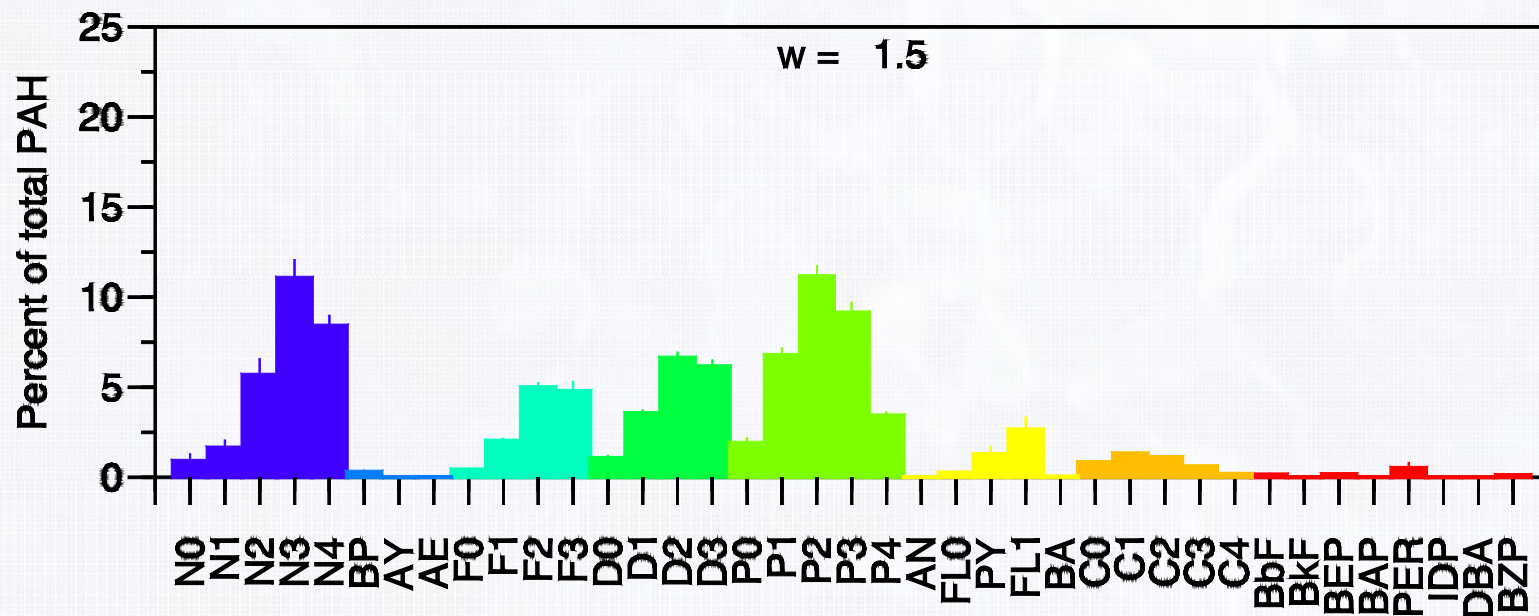
# PAH in crude oil:



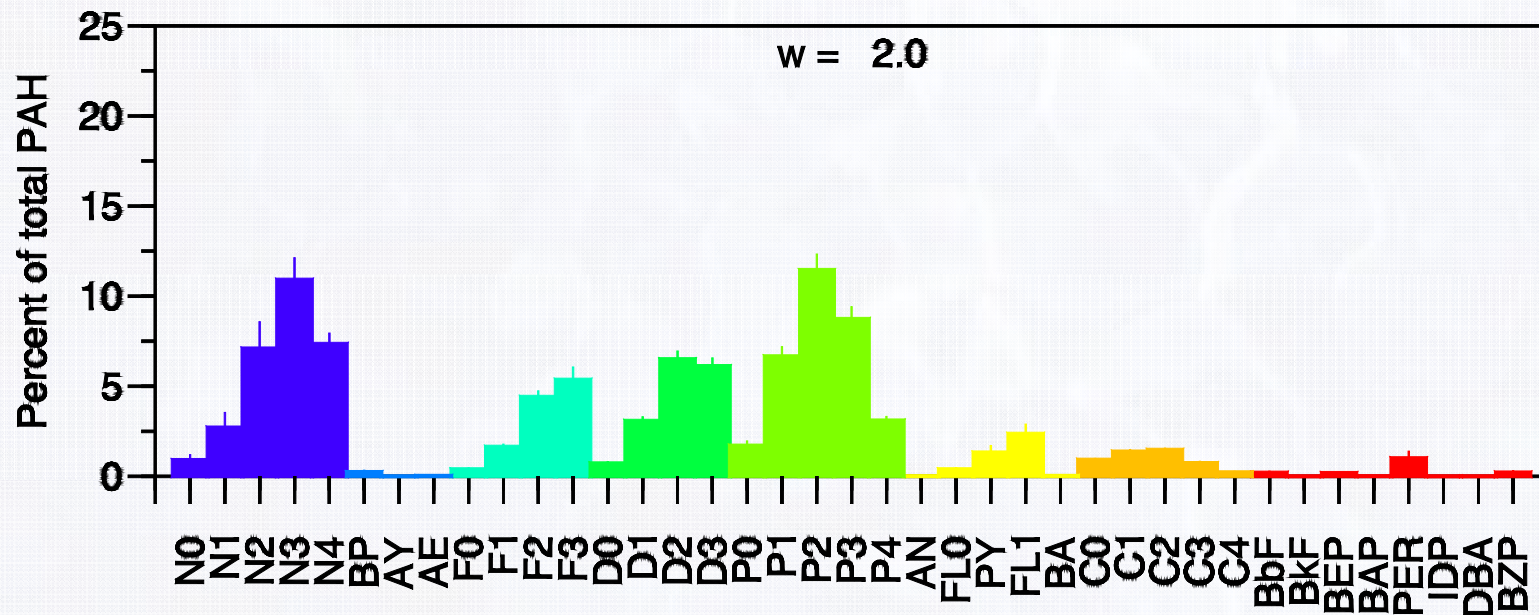
# PAH in crude oil:



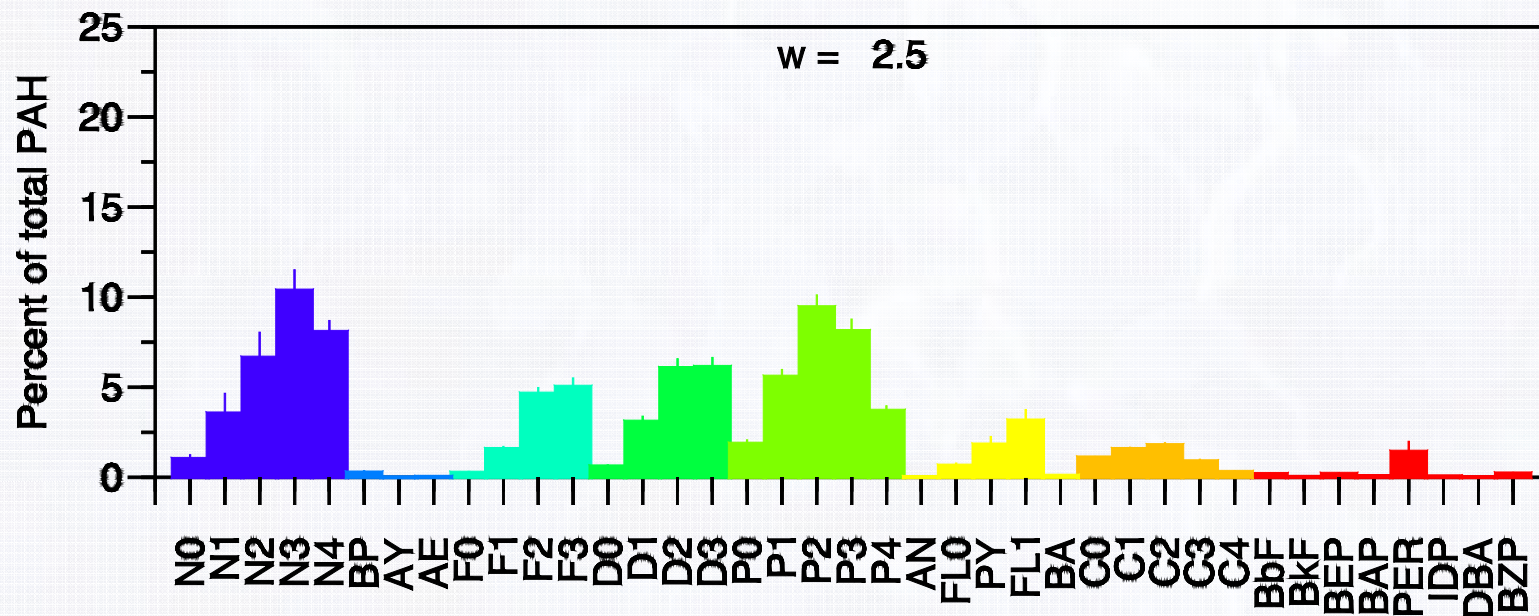
# PAH in crude oil:



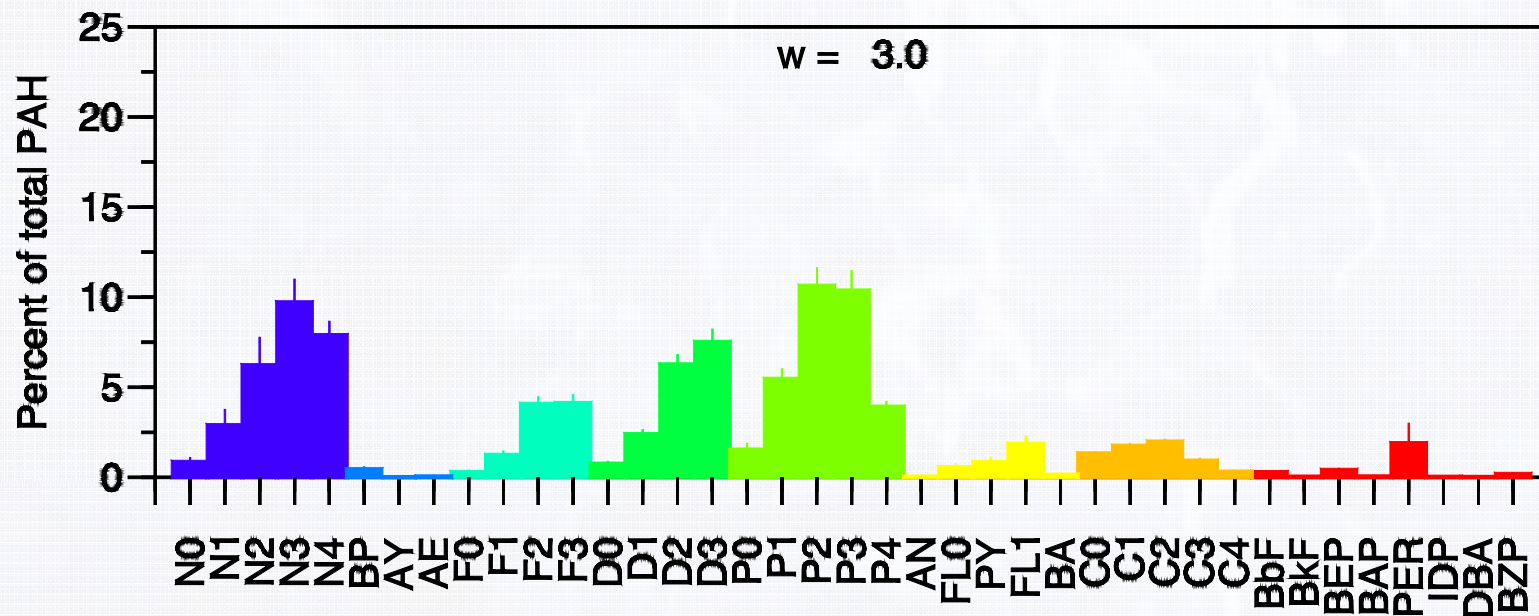
# PAH in crude oil:



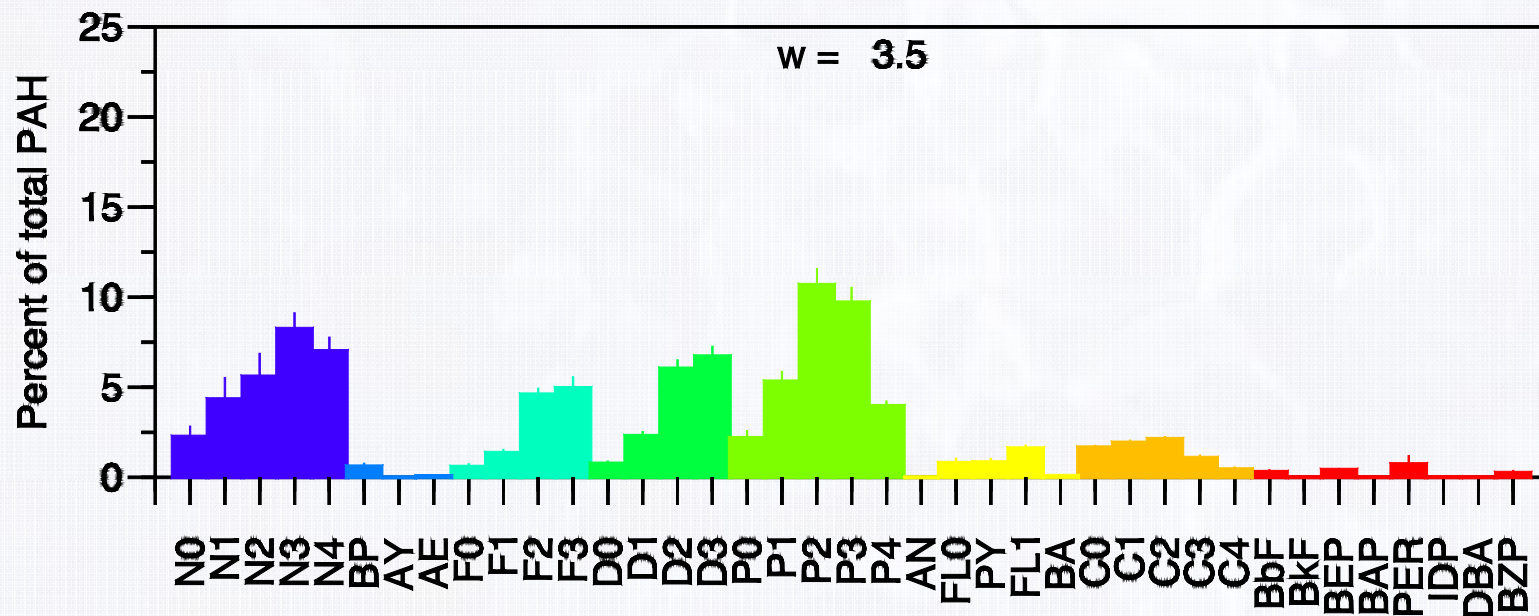
# PAH in crude oil:



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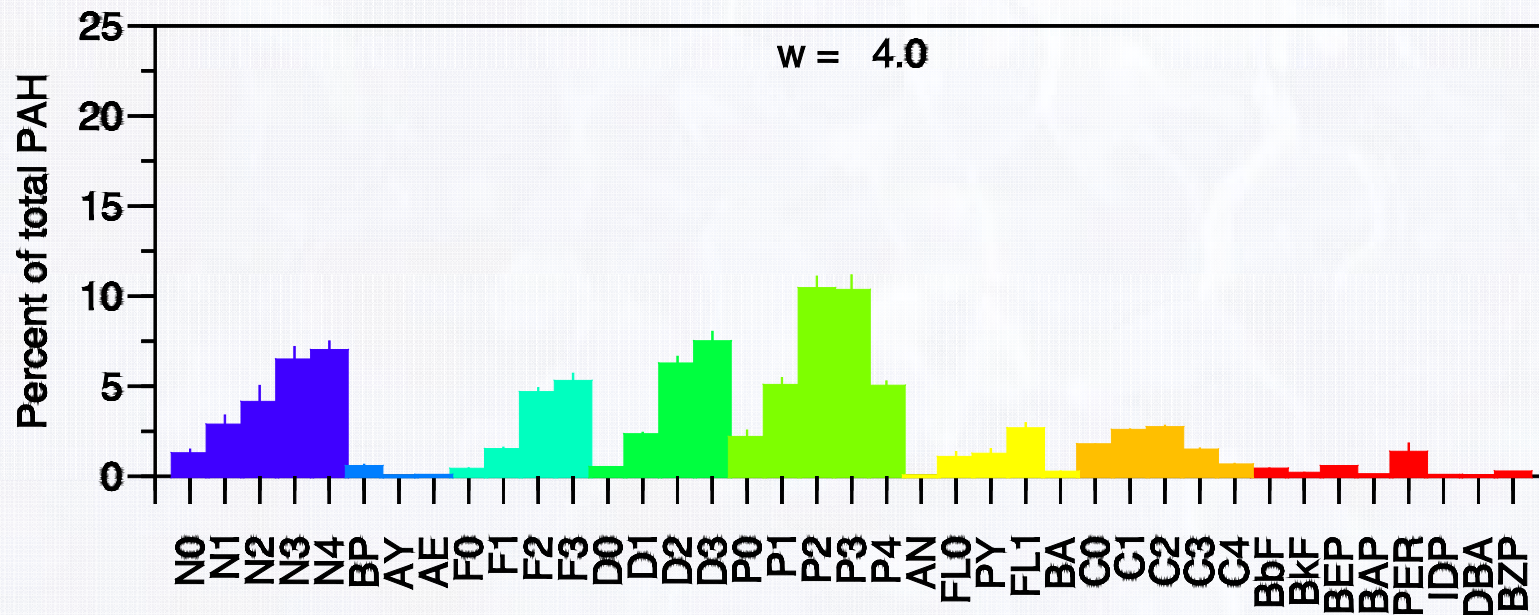


# PAH in crude oil:

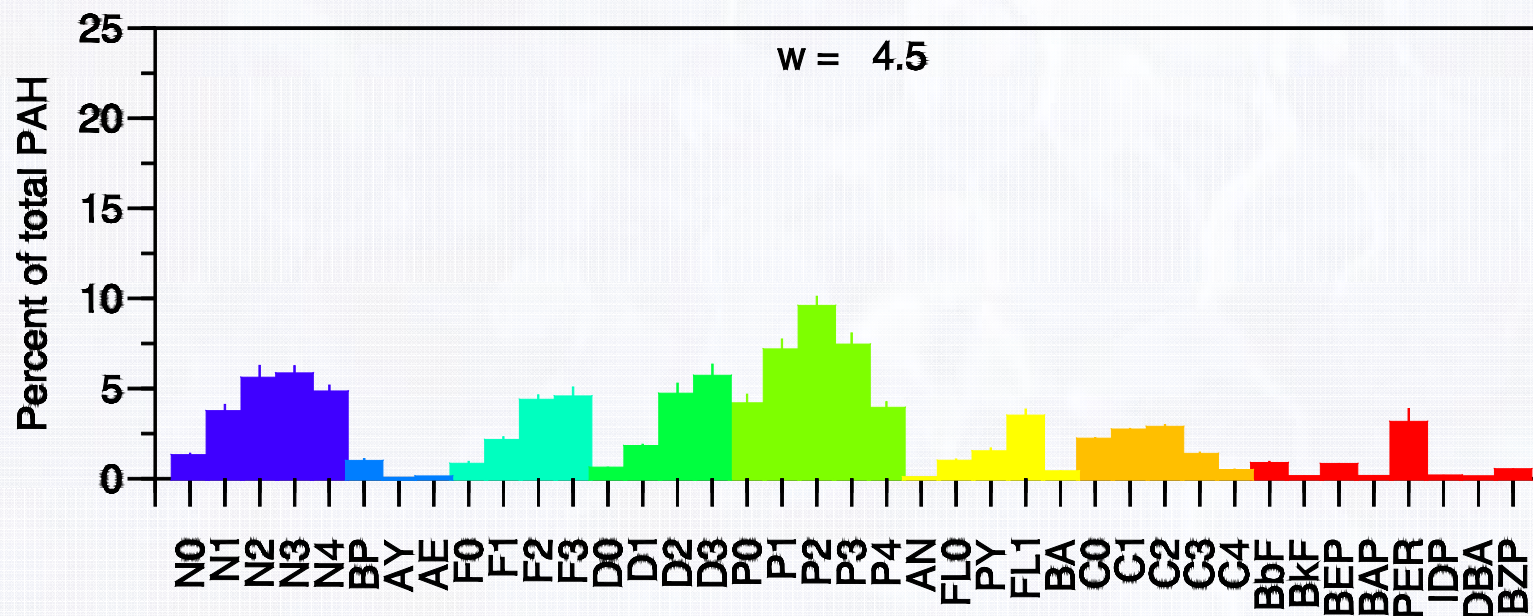




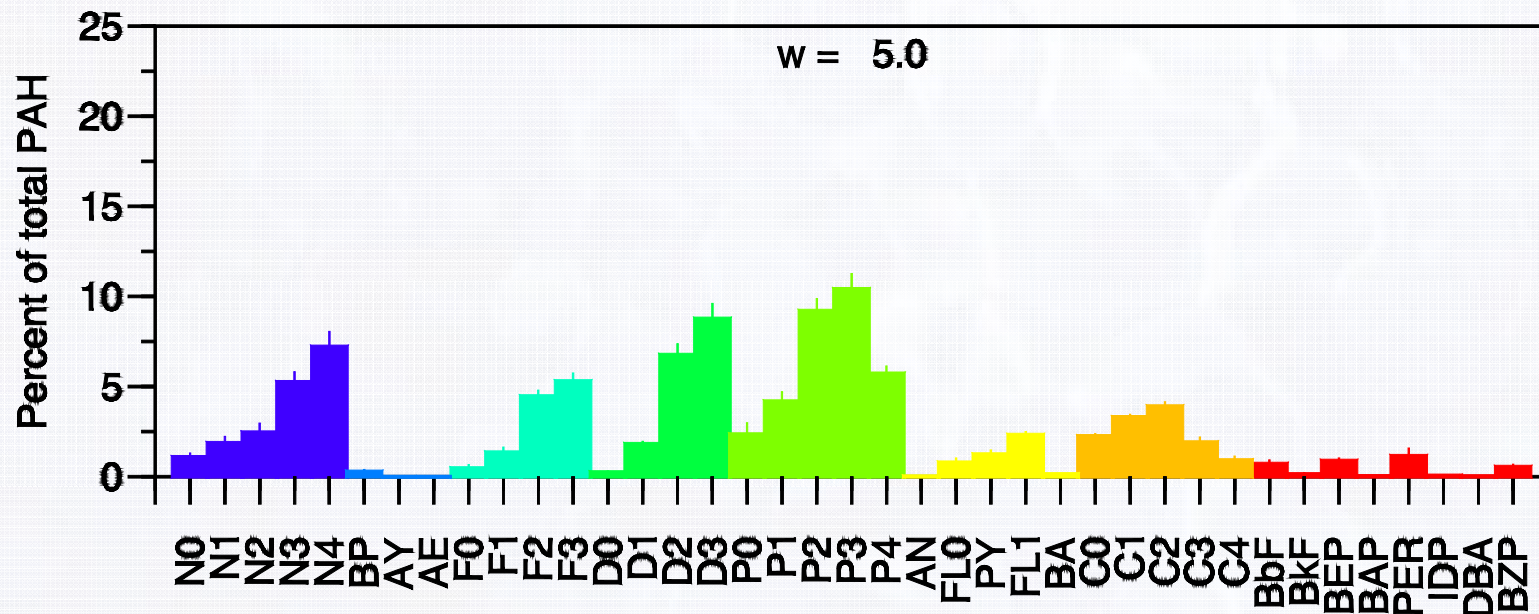
# PAH in crude oil:



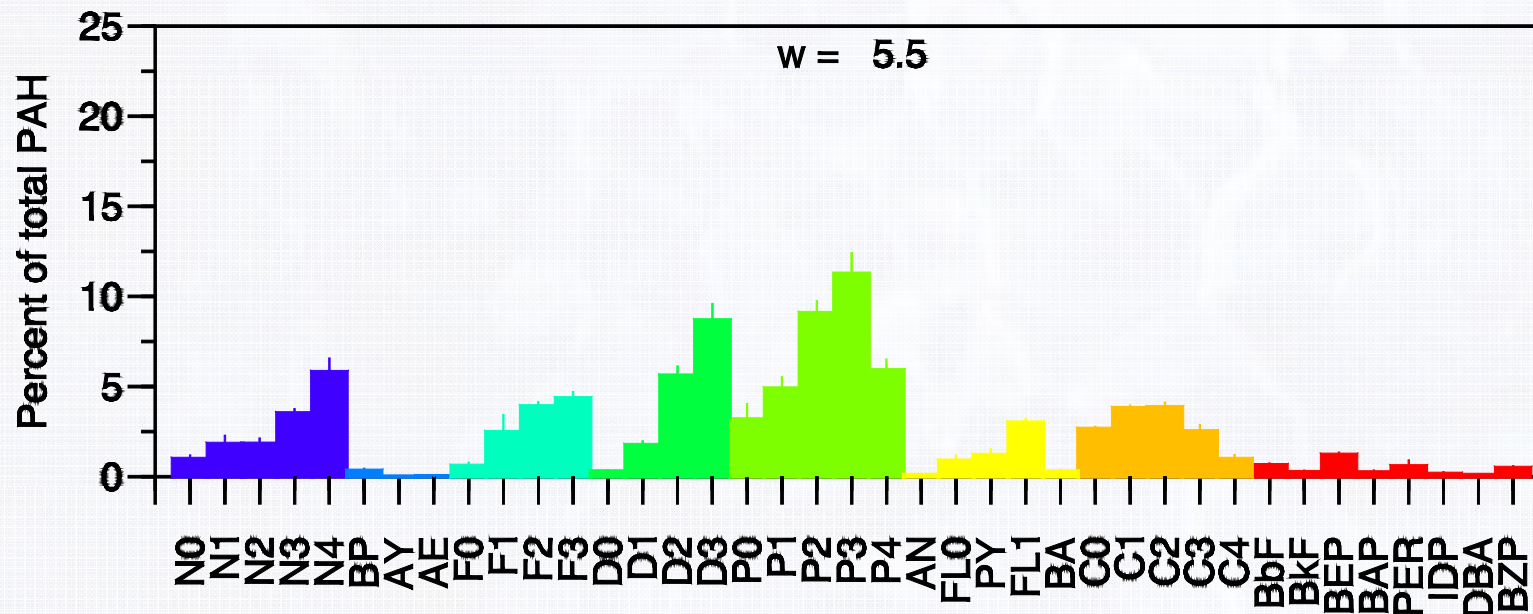
# PAH in crude oil:



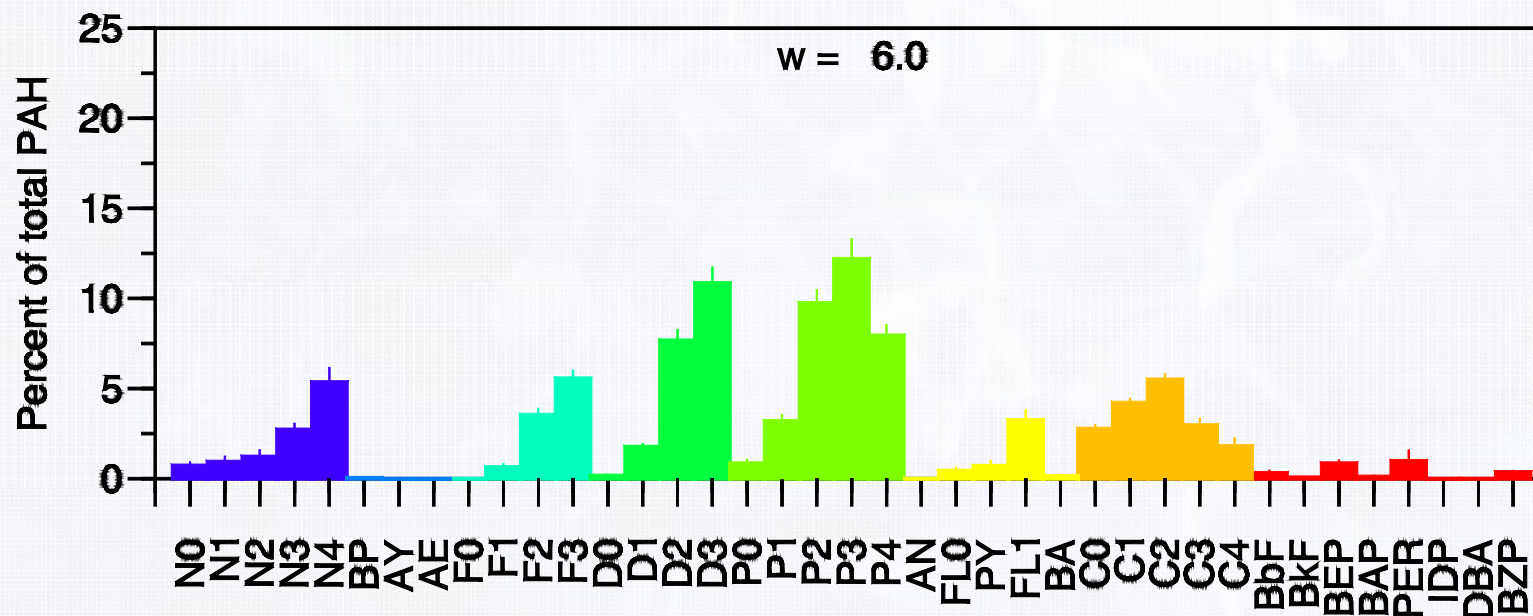
# PAH in crude oil:



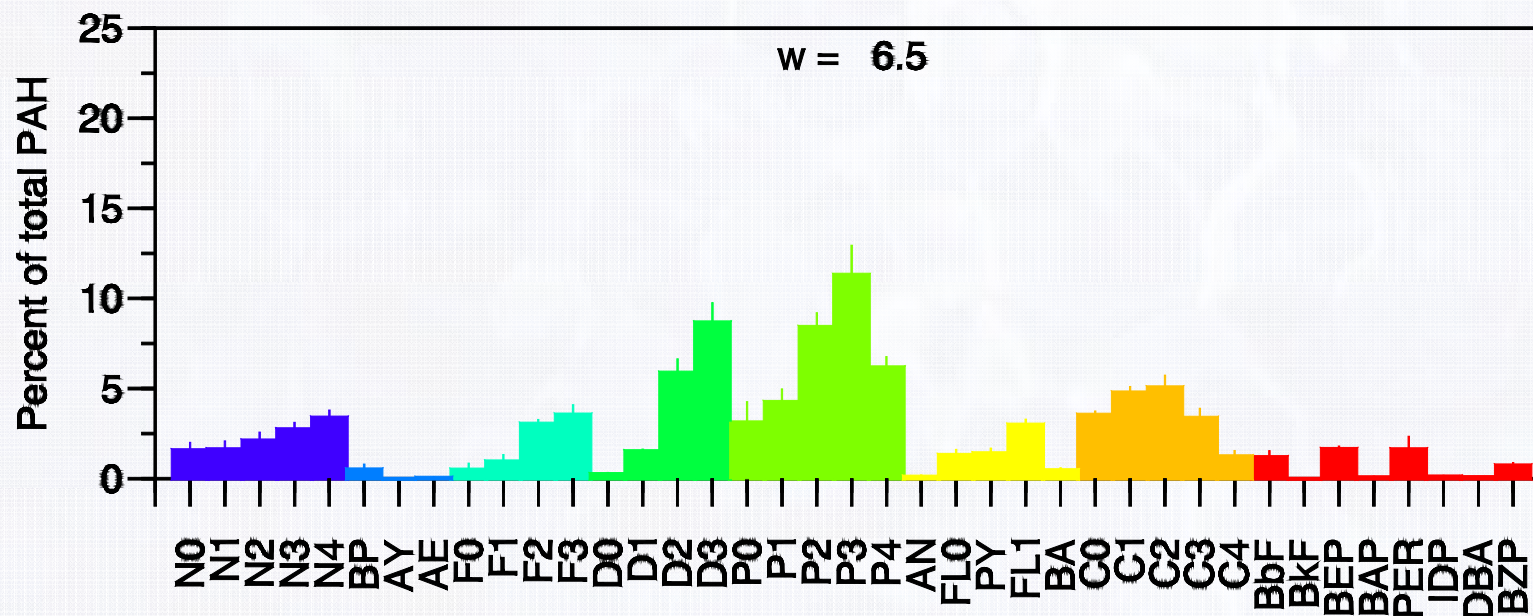
# PAH in crude oil:



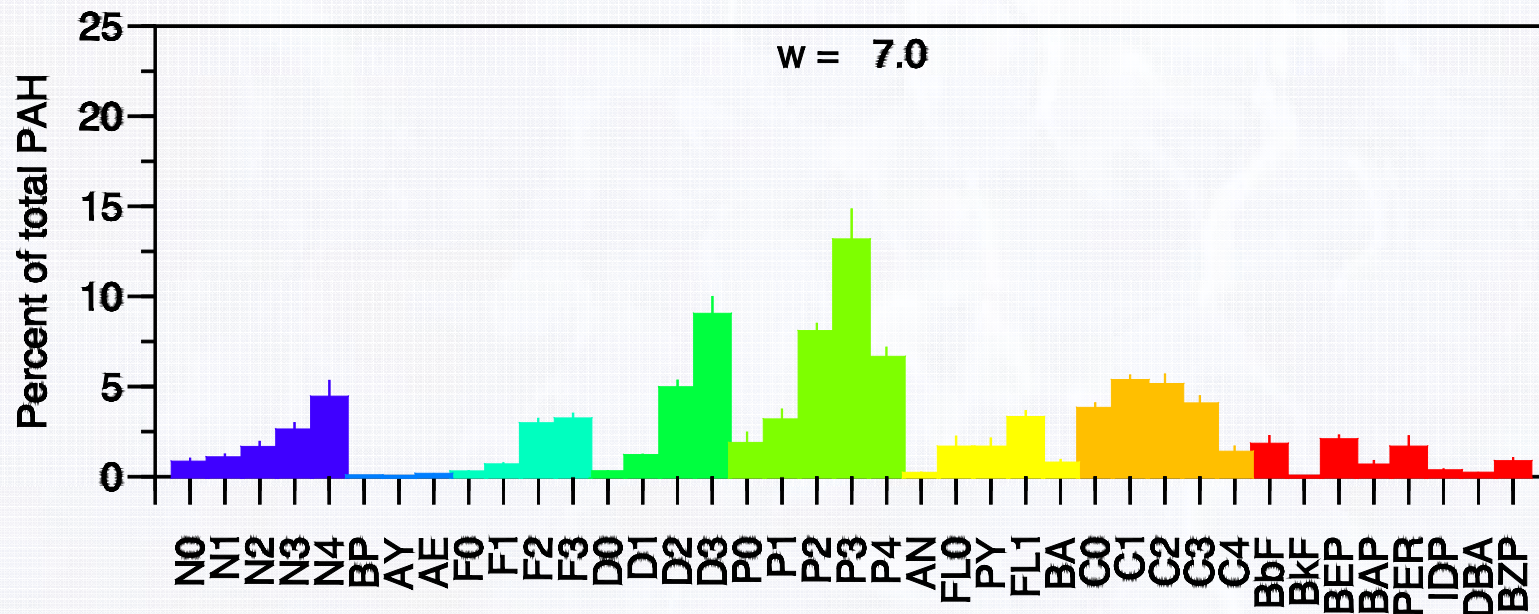
# PAH in crude oil:



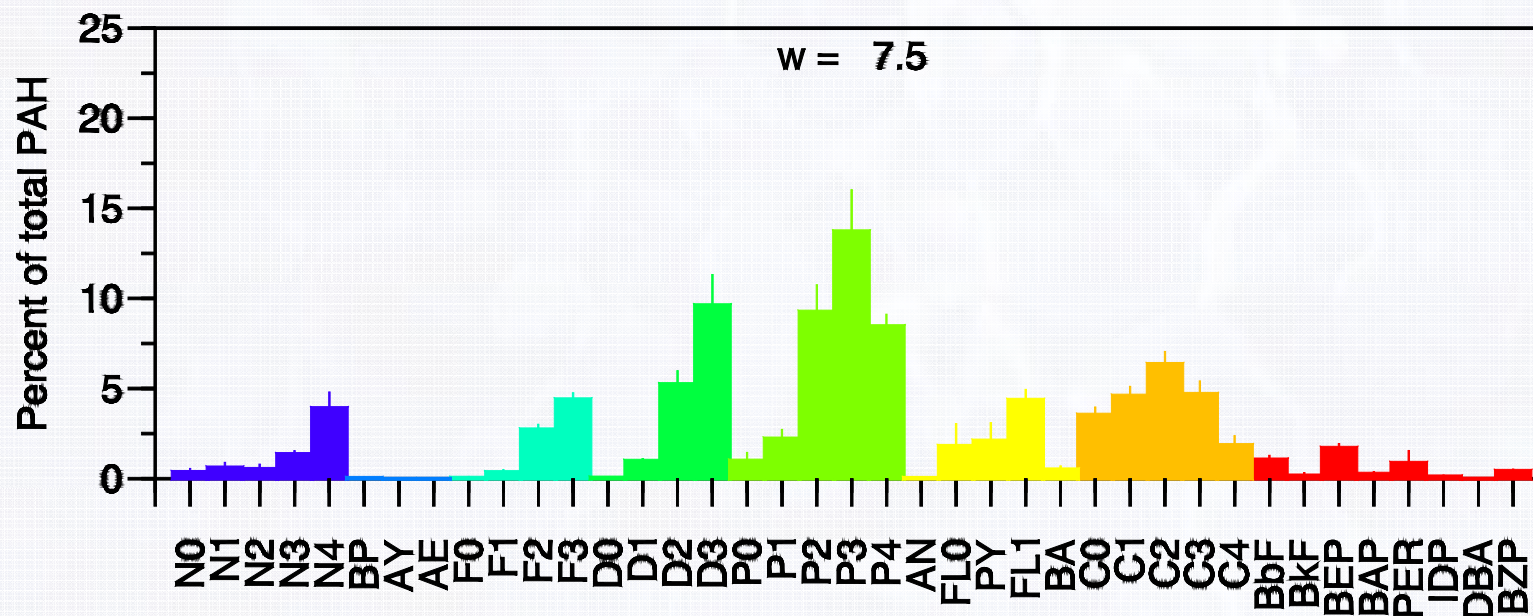
# PAH in crude oil:



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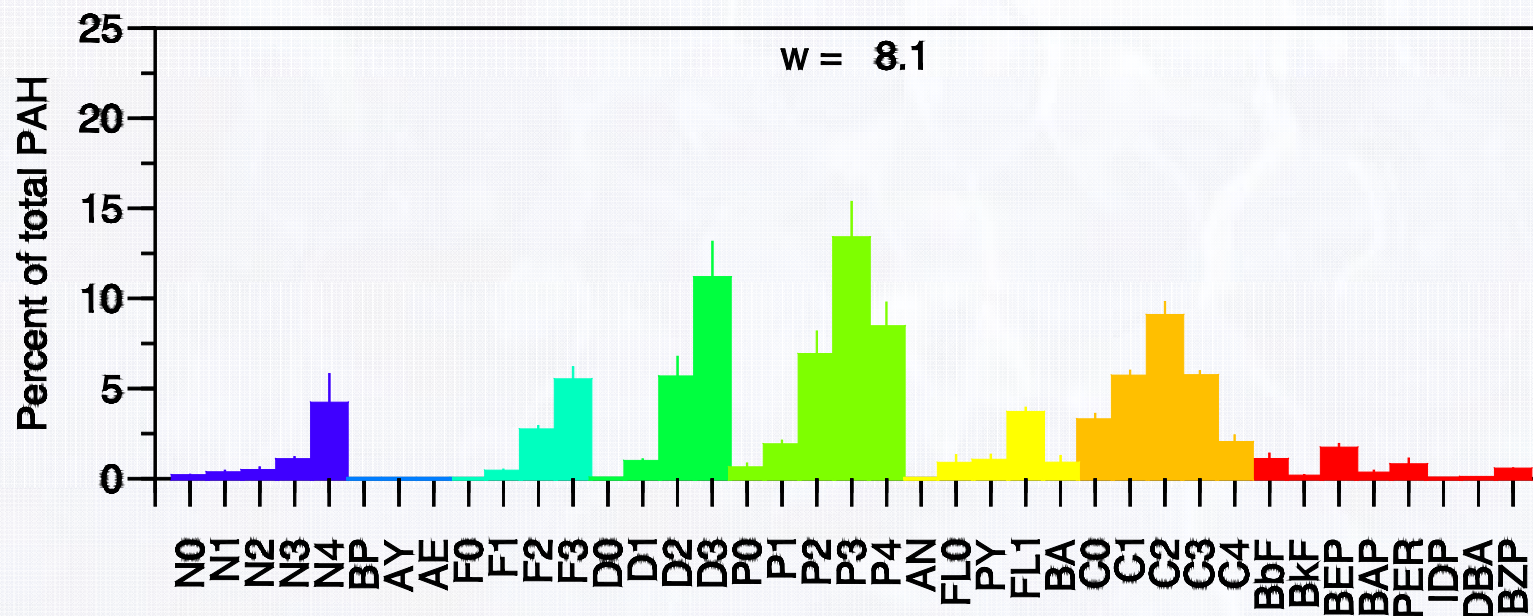


# PAH in crude oil:

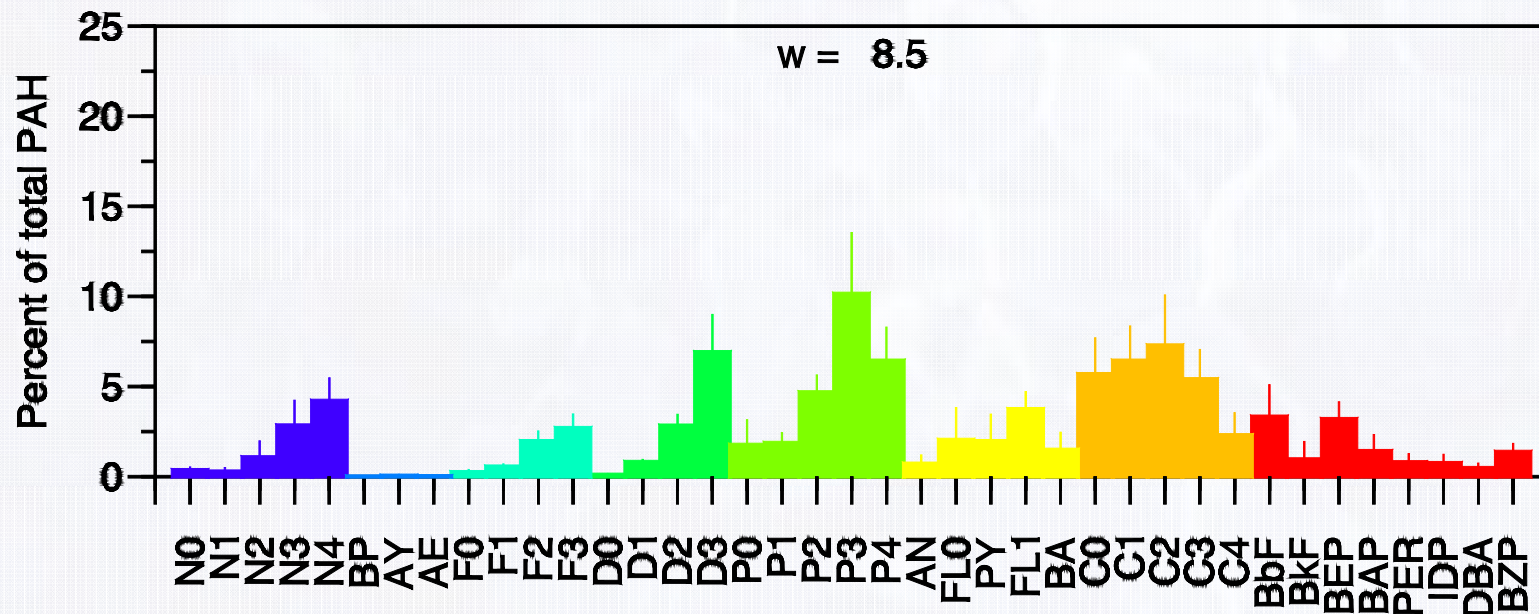




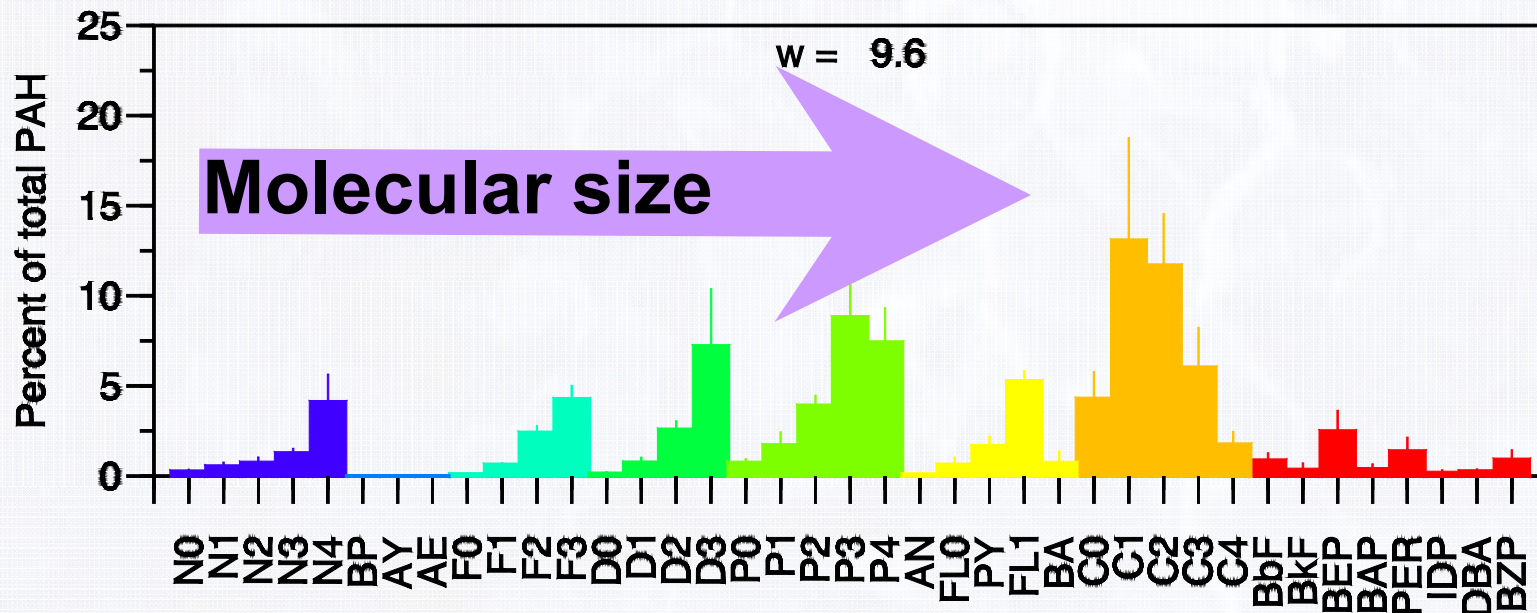
# PAH in crude oil:



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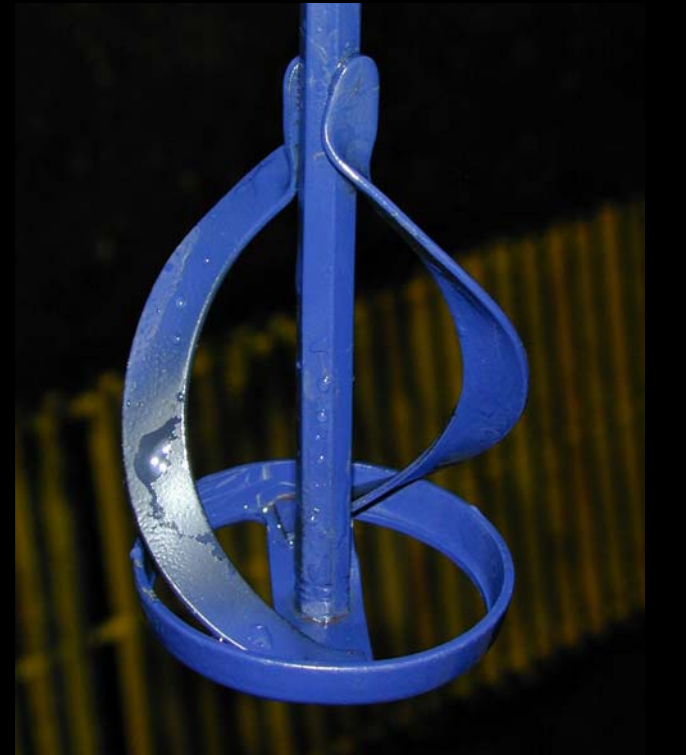
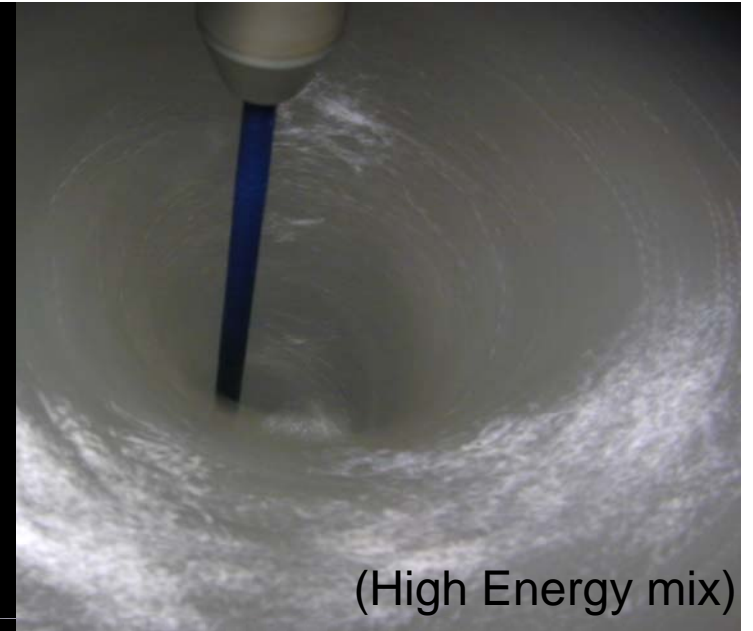
**Environmental persistence**

The point:

- **Know what you wish to emulate**

# Methods

- **Oiled rock columns**
- **Water-accommodated fractions of oil**





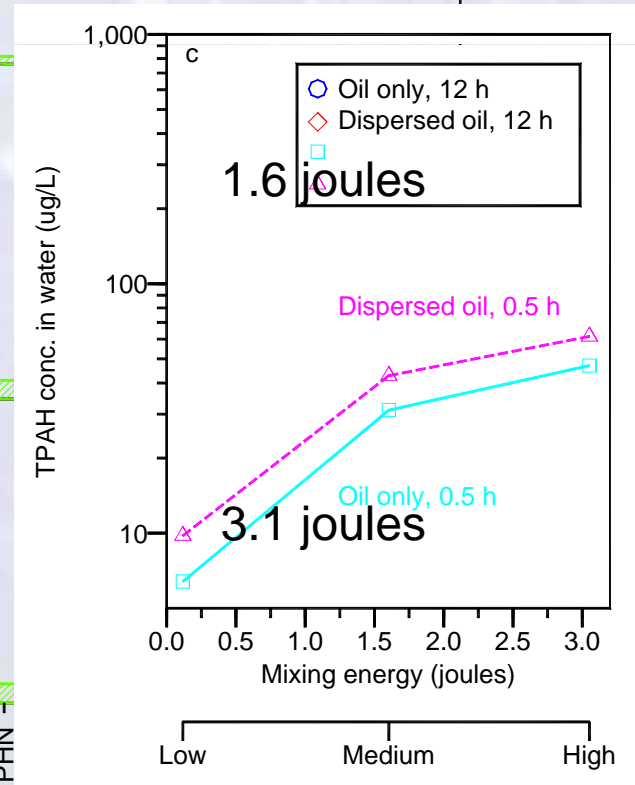
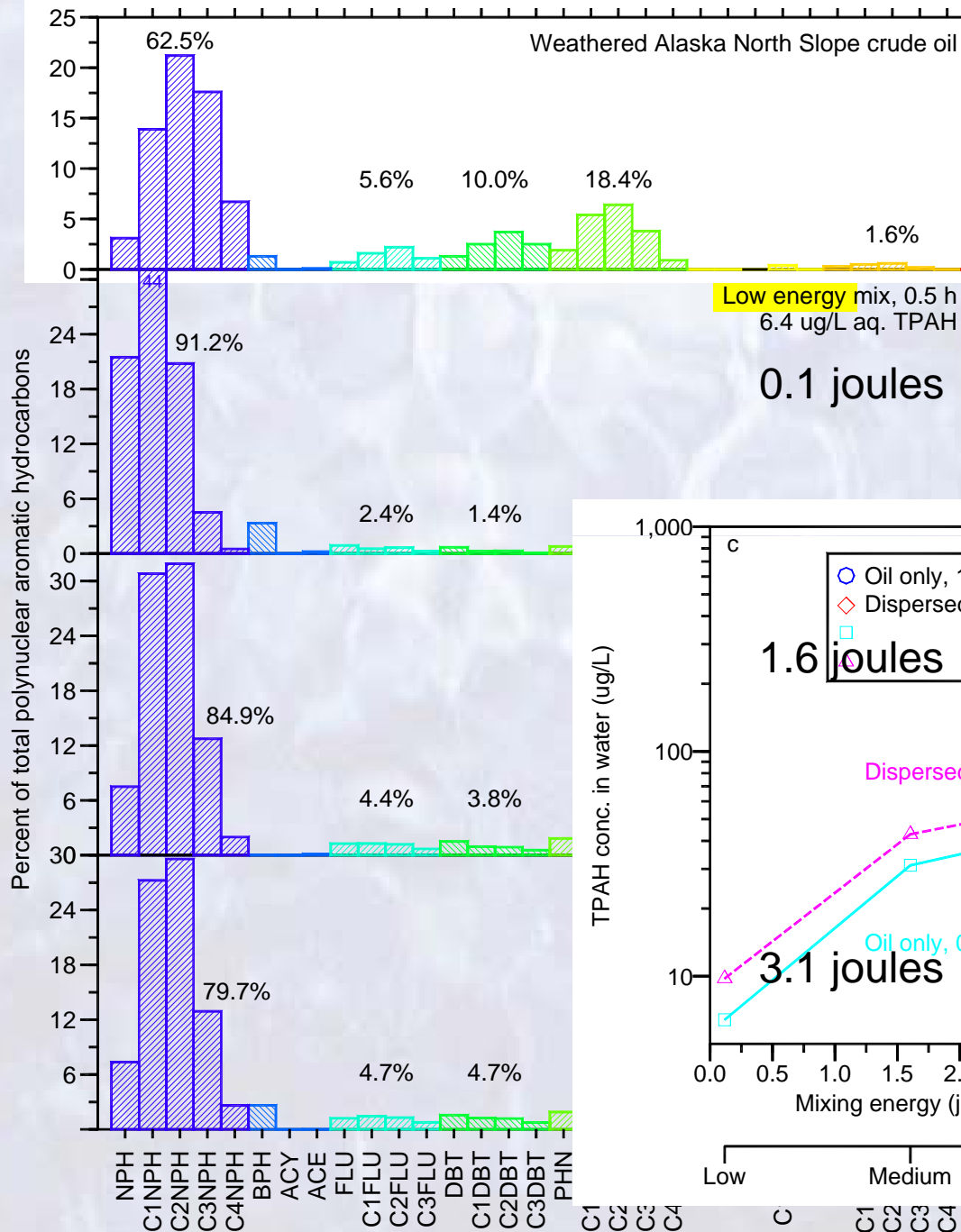
**Results:**

# Oil Only

Energy



↑ Energy:  
↑ weathering



Open system

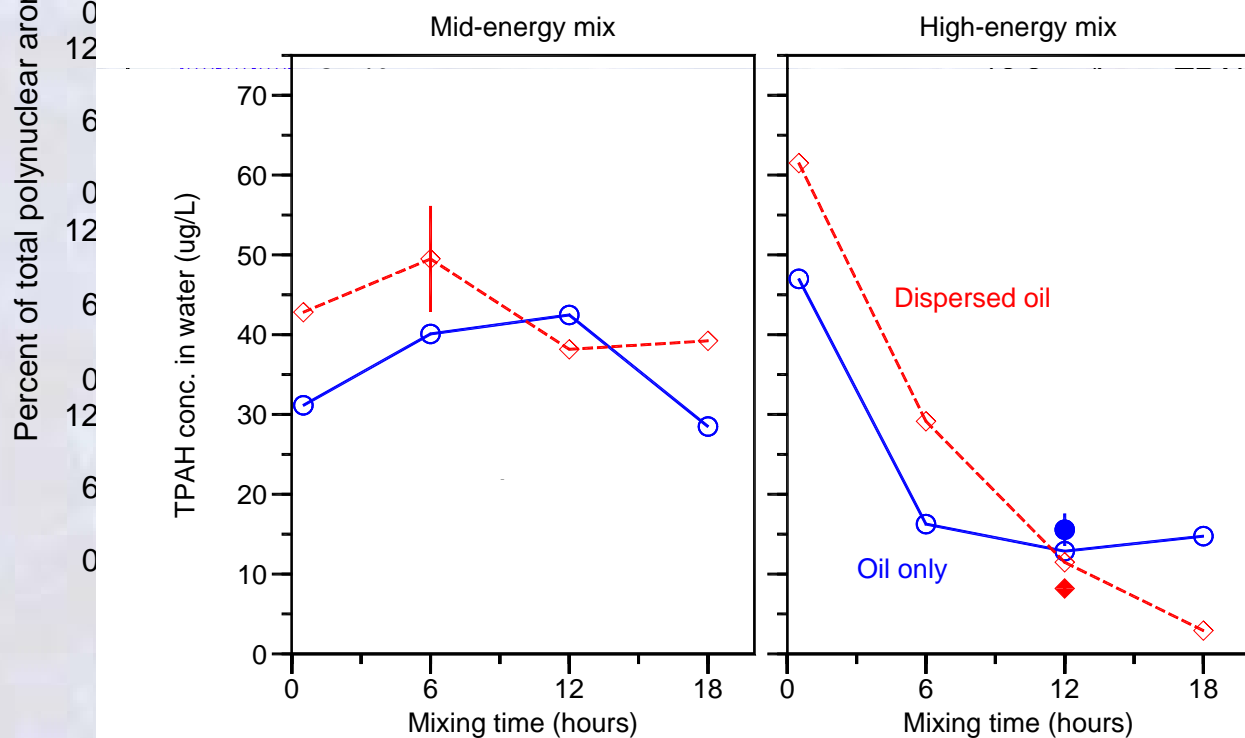
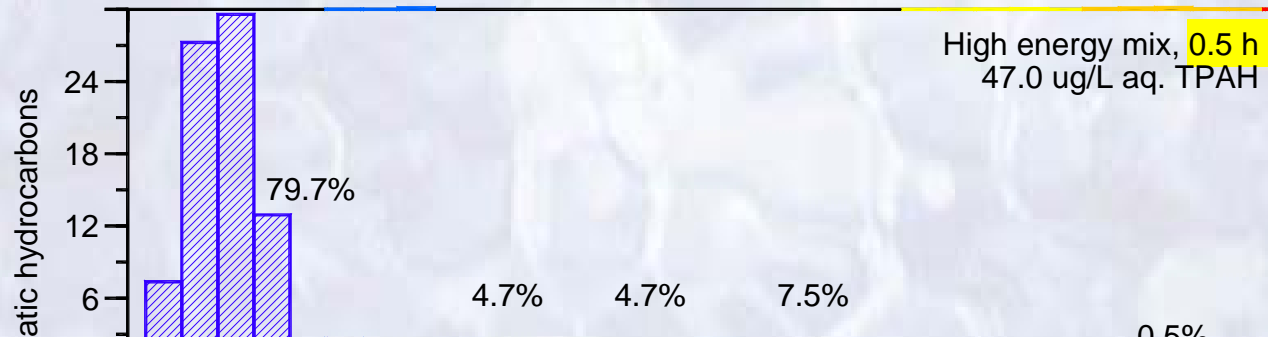


# Oil Only

Time



↑ Time:  
↑ weathering



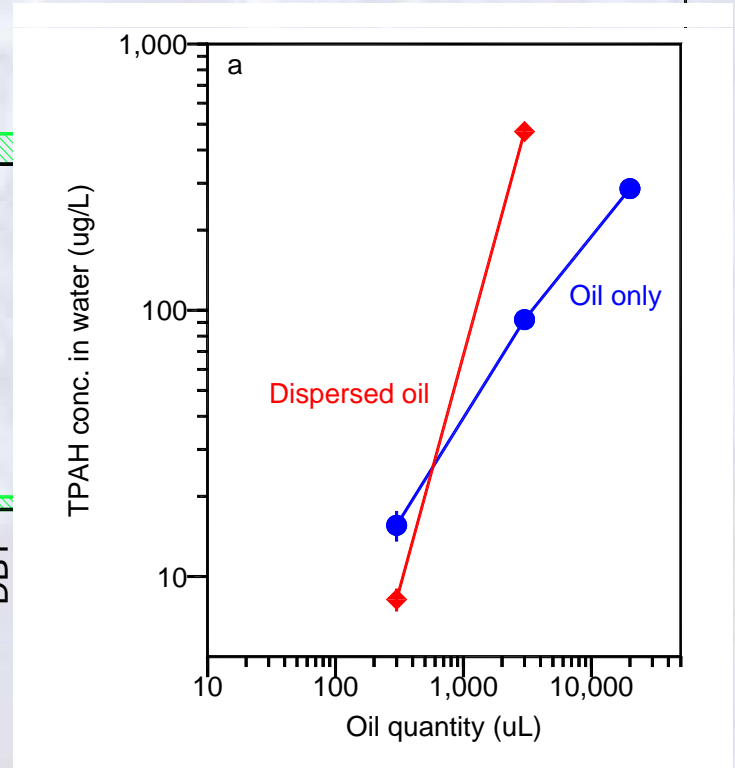
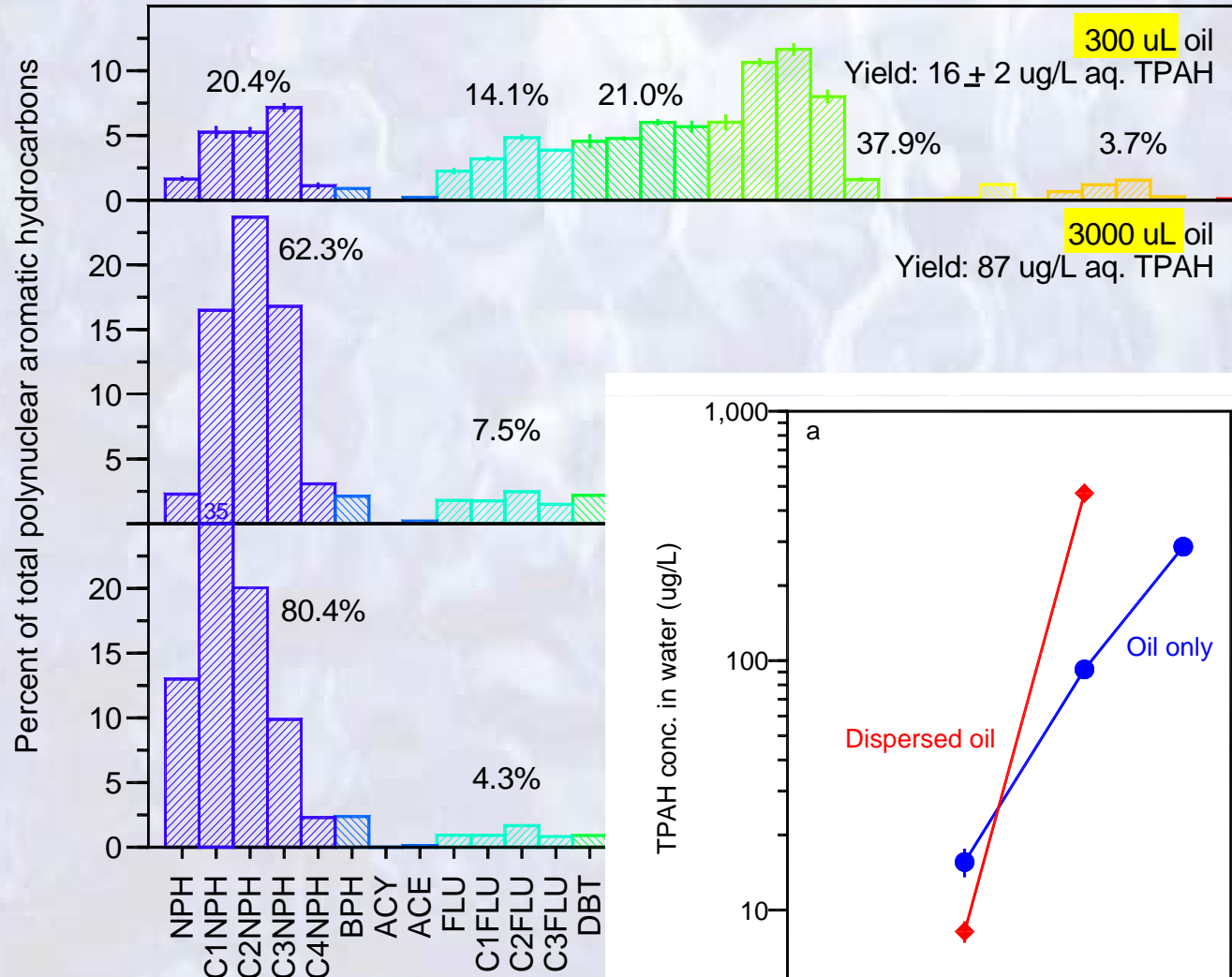
Open system, high energy

# Oil Only

Volume



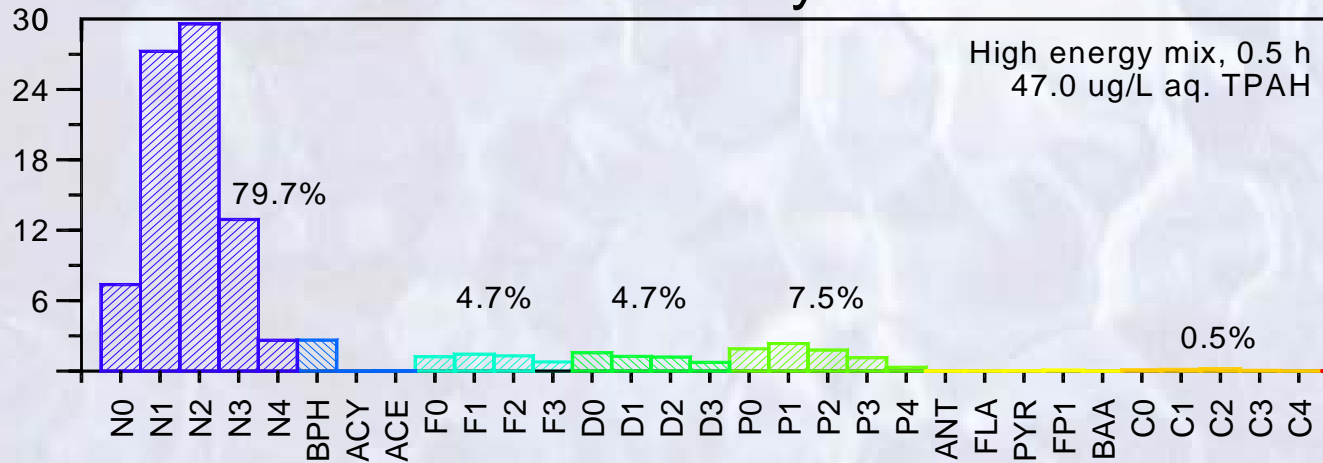
↑ Volume:  
↓ weathering



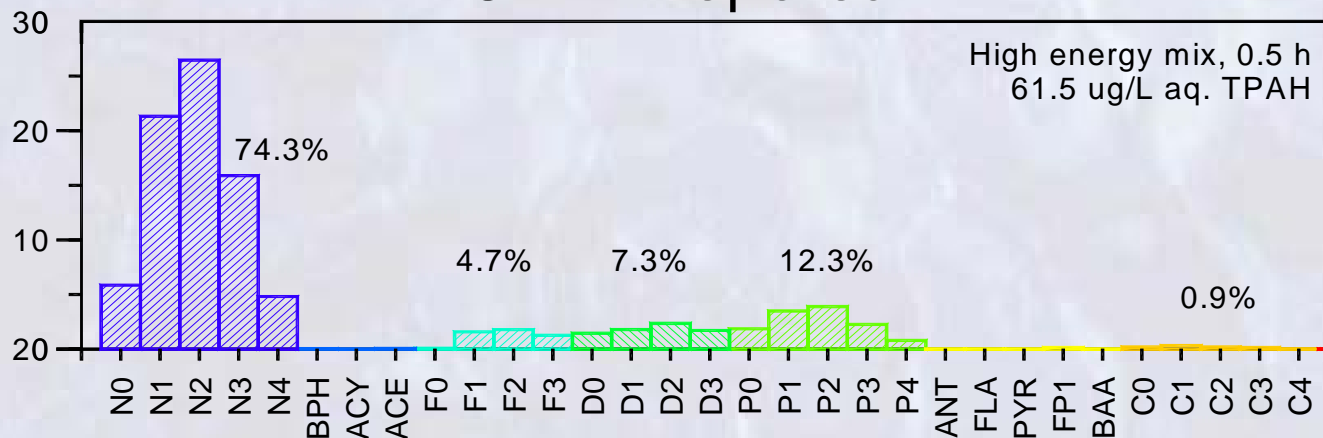
Open system, high energy

# In the short term (0.5 h), dispersant increased weathering

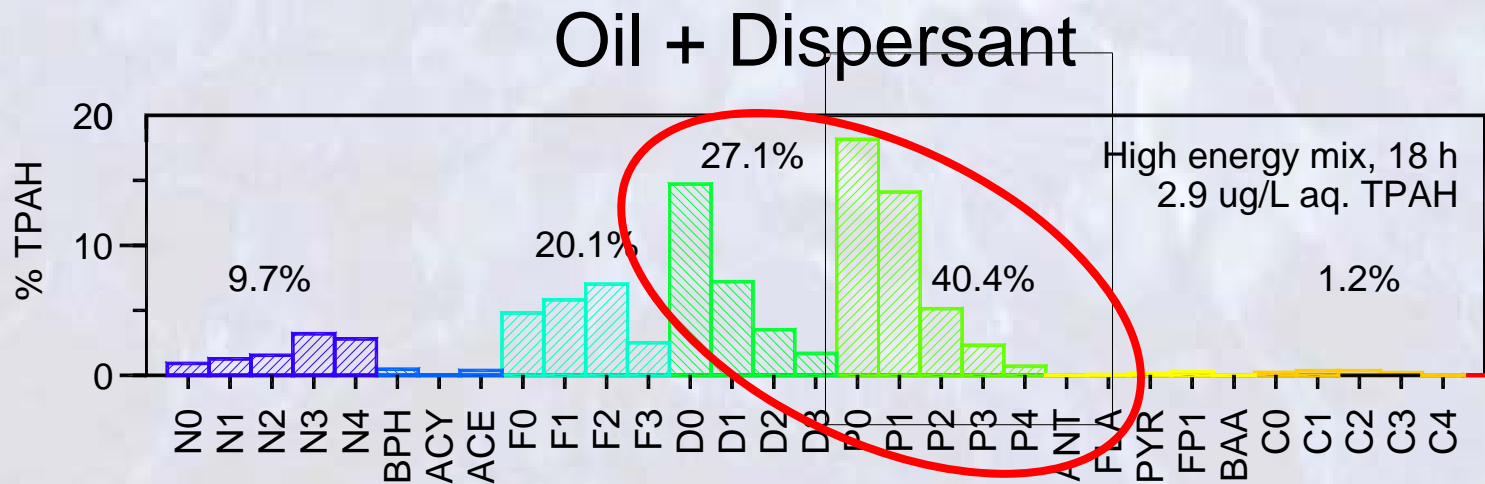
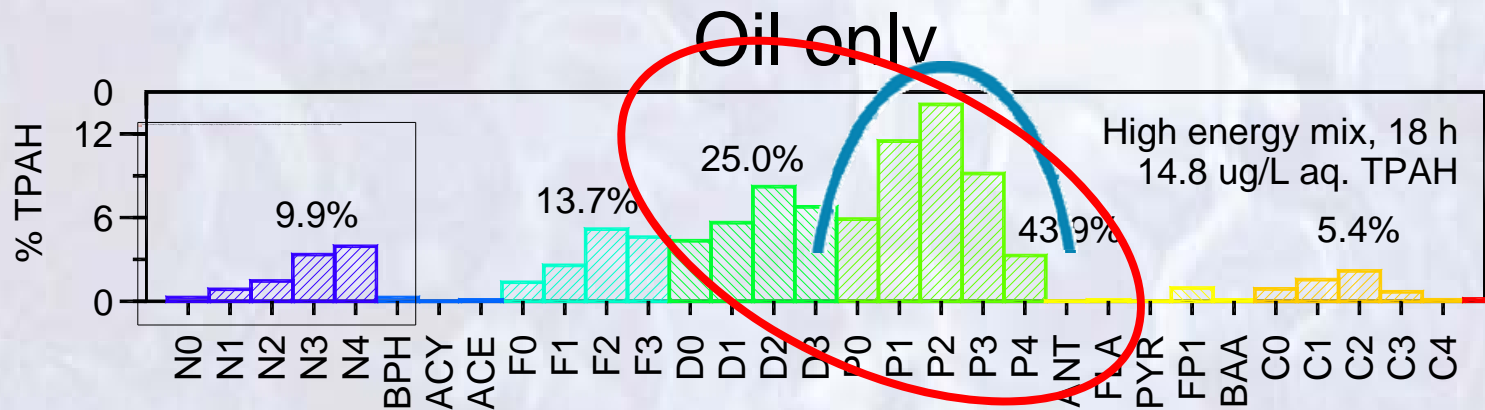
## Oil only



## Oil + Dispersant



# In the longer term, dispersant decreased weathering



Composition changes



**Open system**

**Closed system**

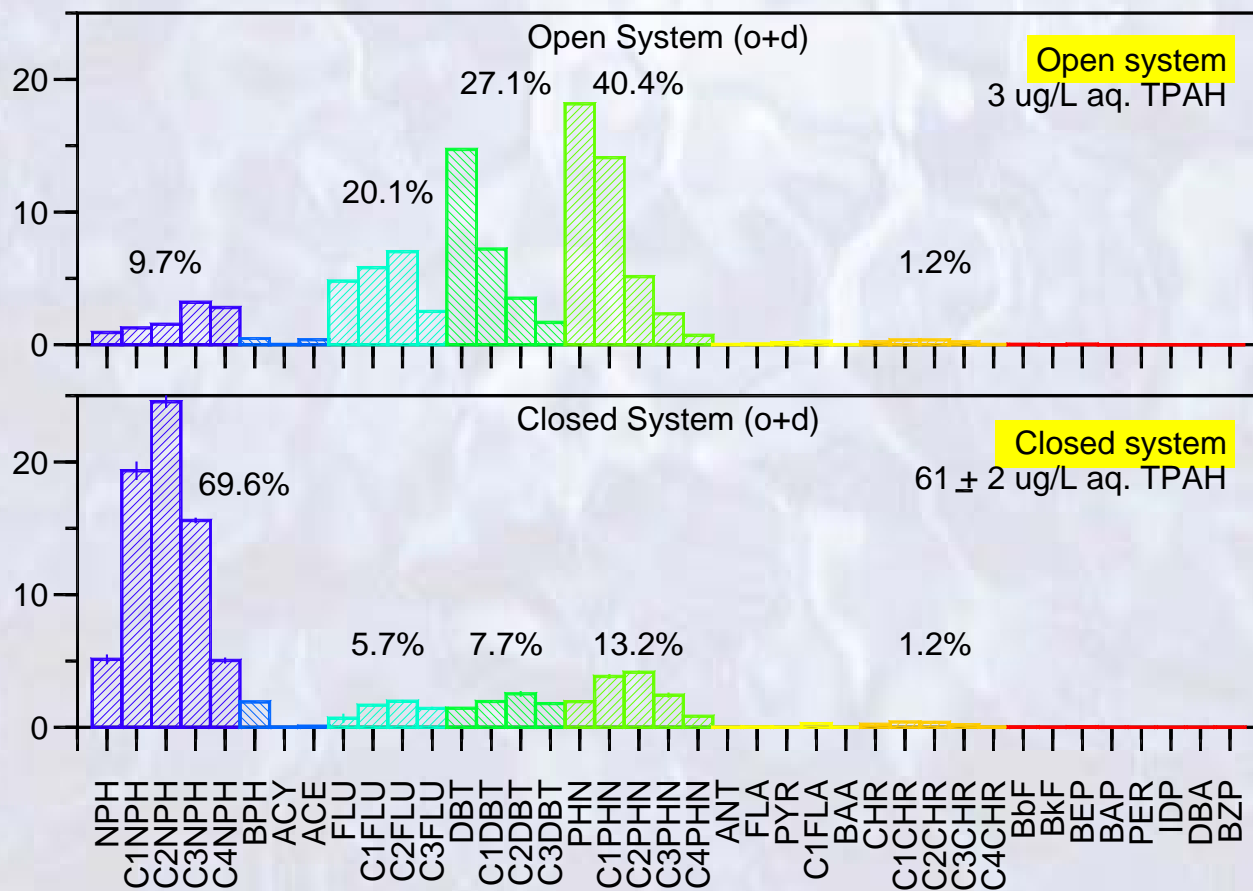


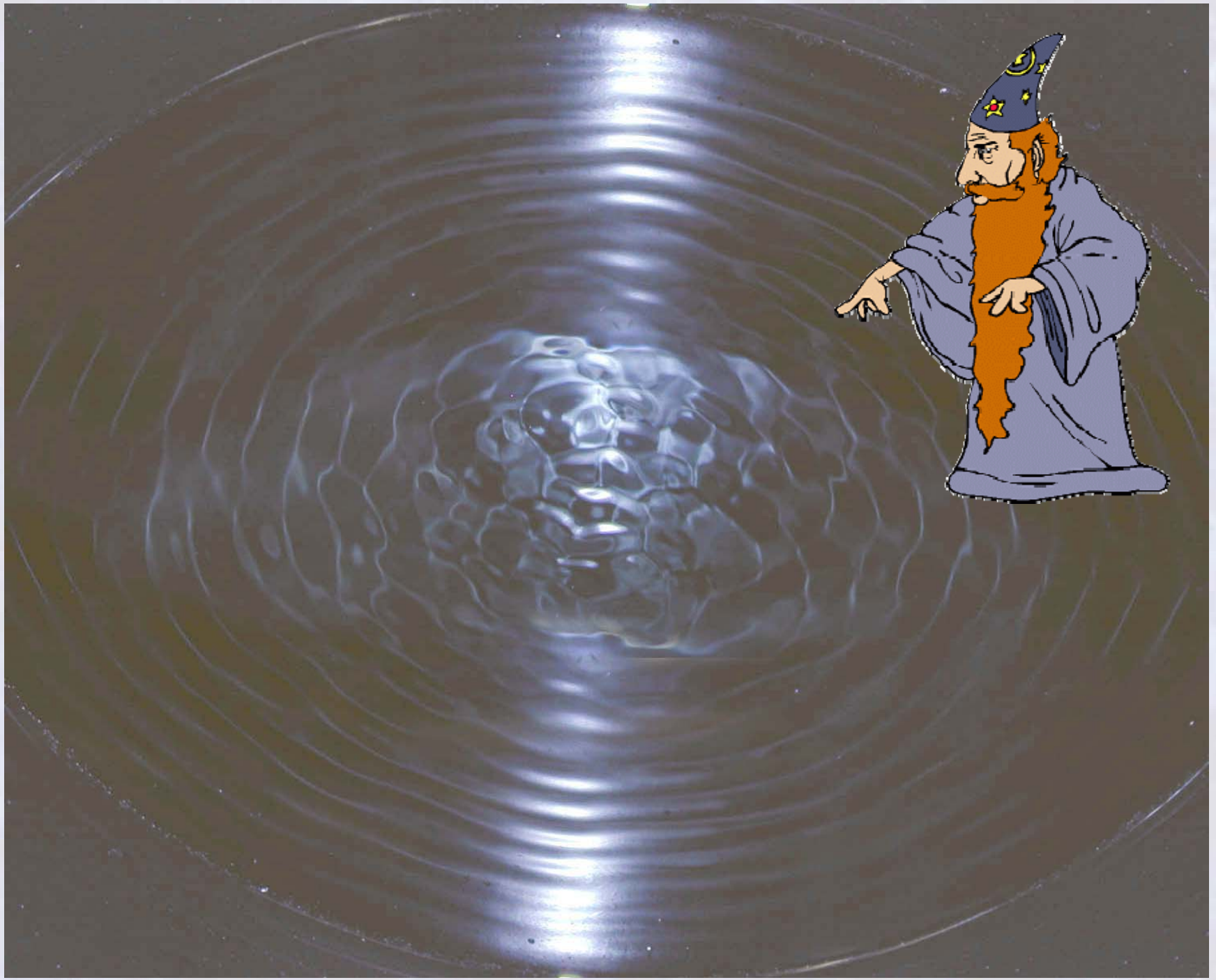
# Oil Only

Open/closed



**Closed:  
No weathering**





# **Conclusion (Part I)**

**Methods are important!**

**Weathering can be controlled by:**

**Energy**

**Time**

**Volume**

**Dispersants**

**Other system/environmental attributes**

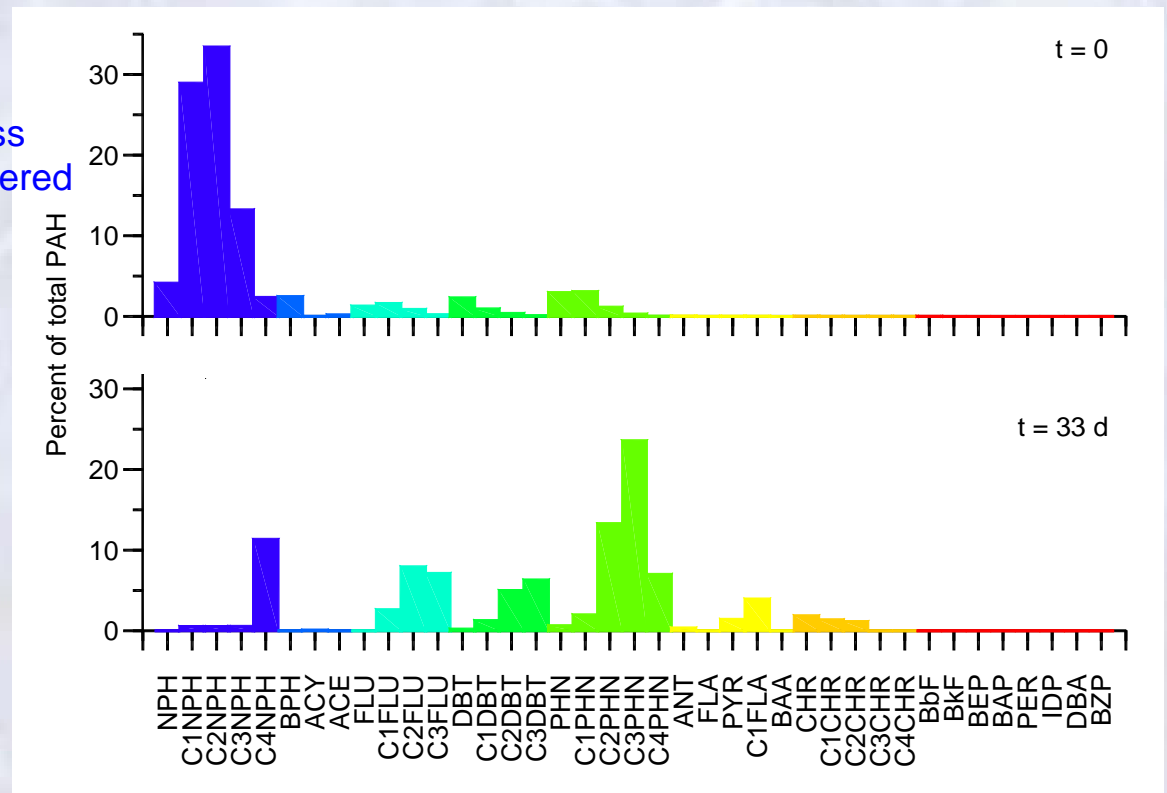
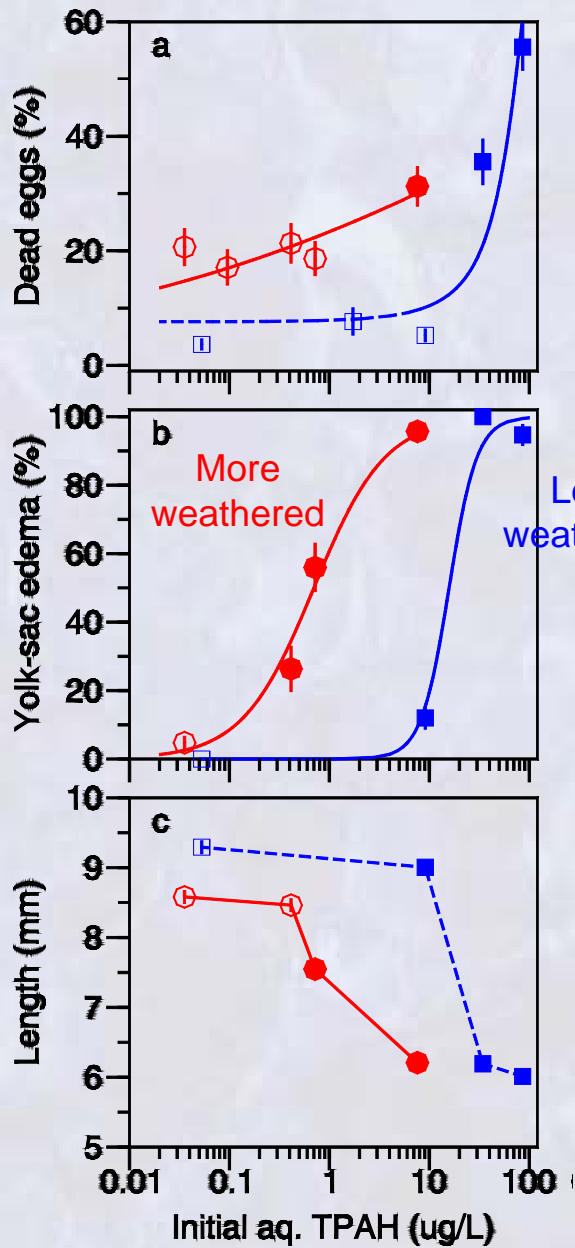


Part II:

**PAH composition  
influences toxicity**

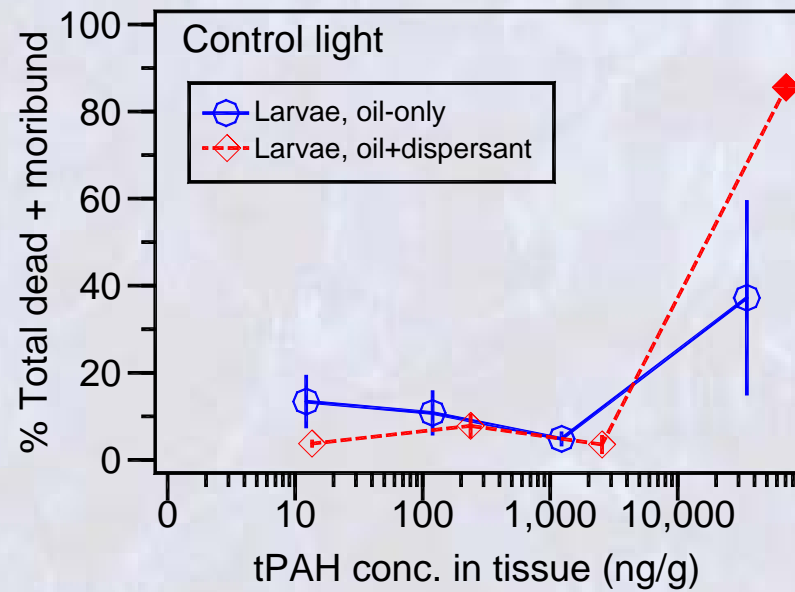
**2 examples**

# PAH influences toxicity



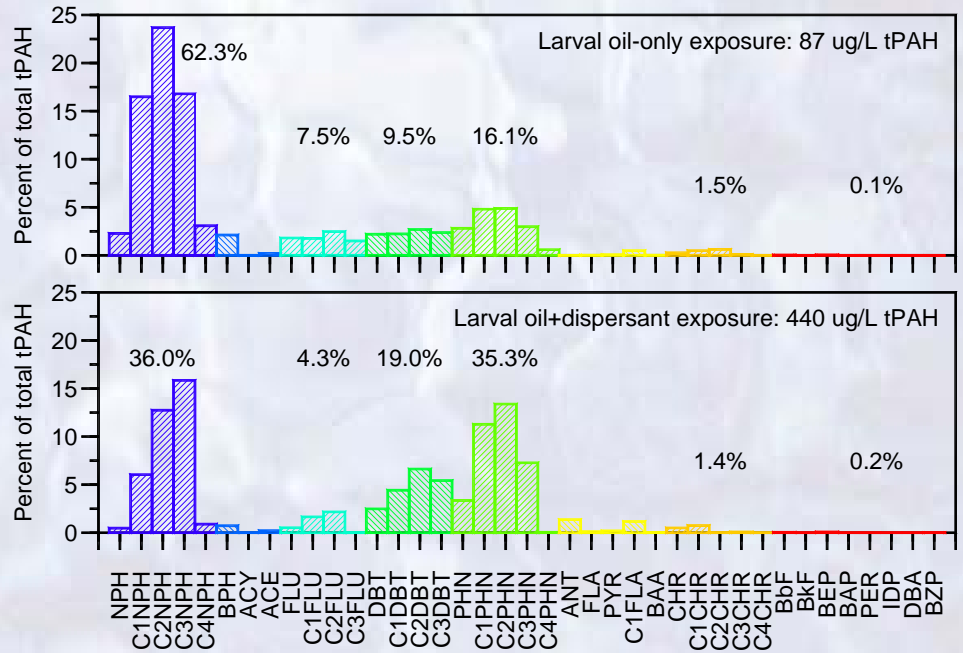
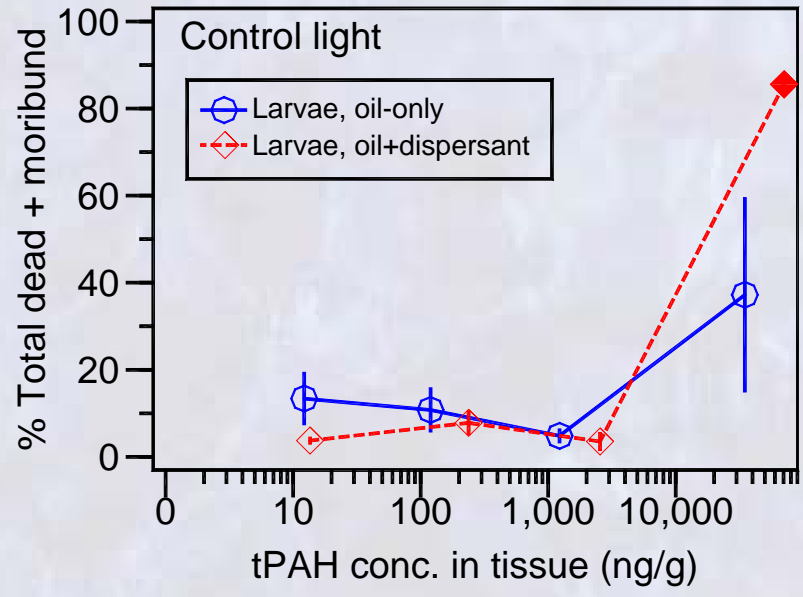
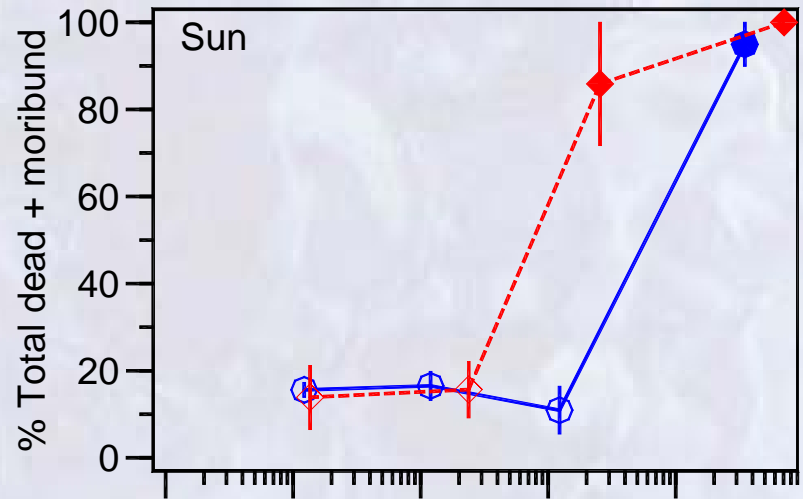
Pacific herring  
Oil only

# PAH influences toxicity

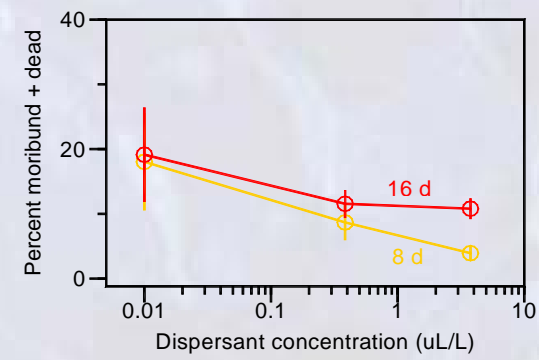


(Barron et al. 2003)

# PAH influences toxicity



## Dispersant (alone) was not toxic



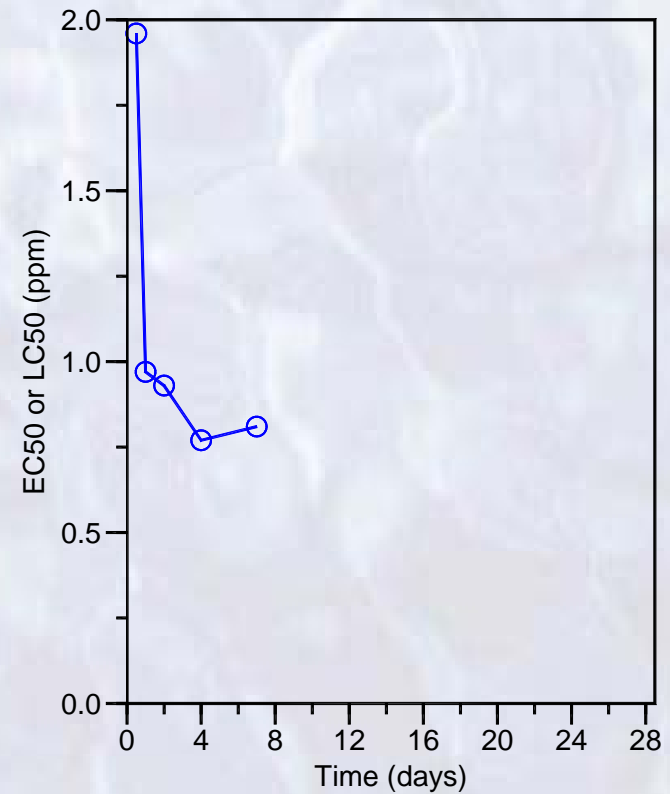
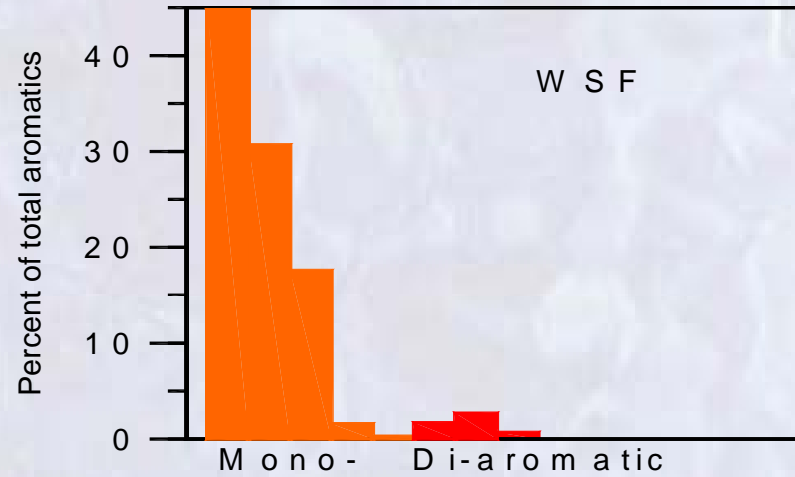
Part III:

# **Match assay methods to toxicant**

**Short assays for rapid toxins**

**Long assays for slow toxins  
& longer observation times**

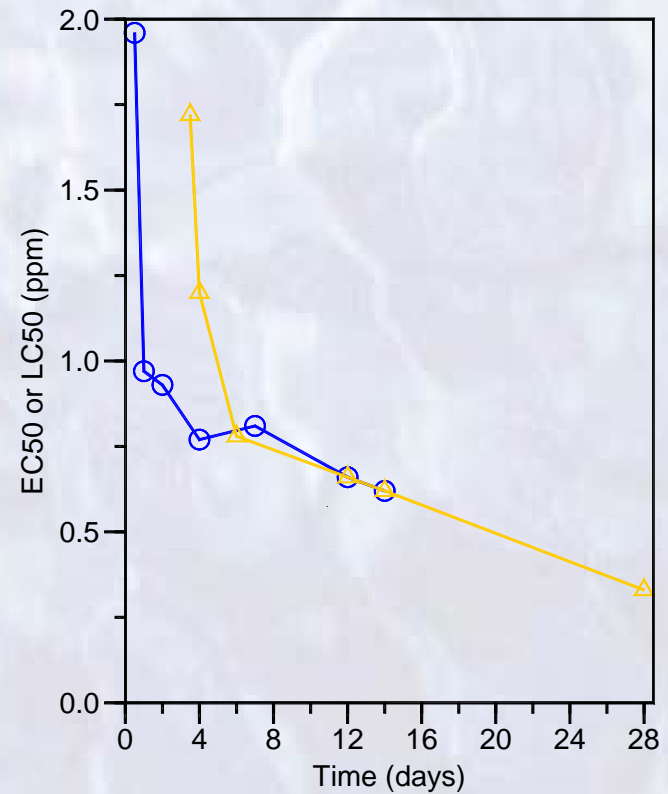
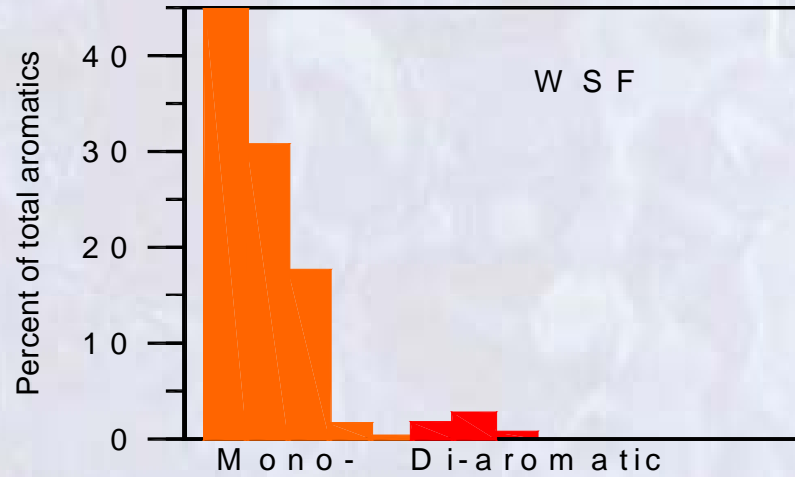
## Short assays for rapid toxins (or high conc.)



Feeding rate (herring larvae)

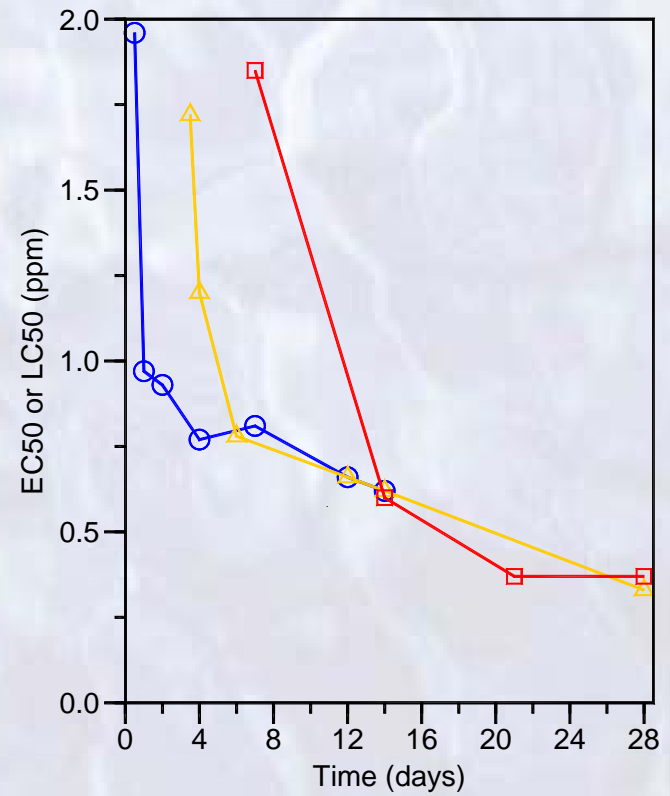
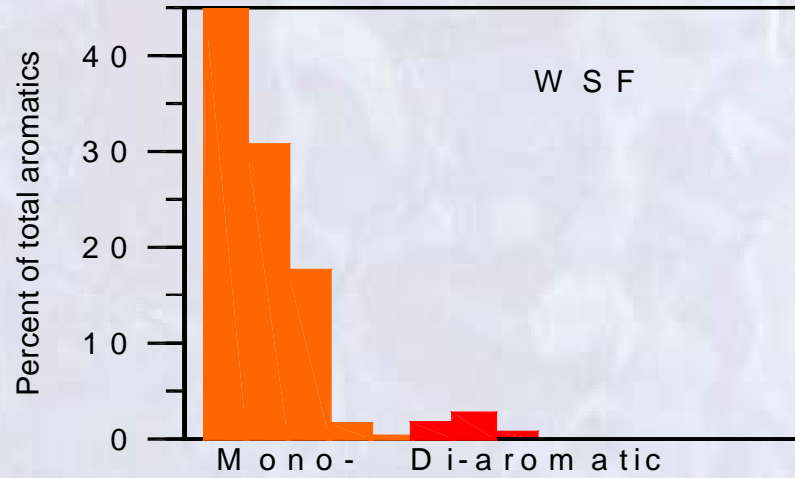
(Carls 1987)

## Short assays for rapid toxins (or high conc.)



Swimming inhibition

## Short assays for rapid toxins (or high conc.)

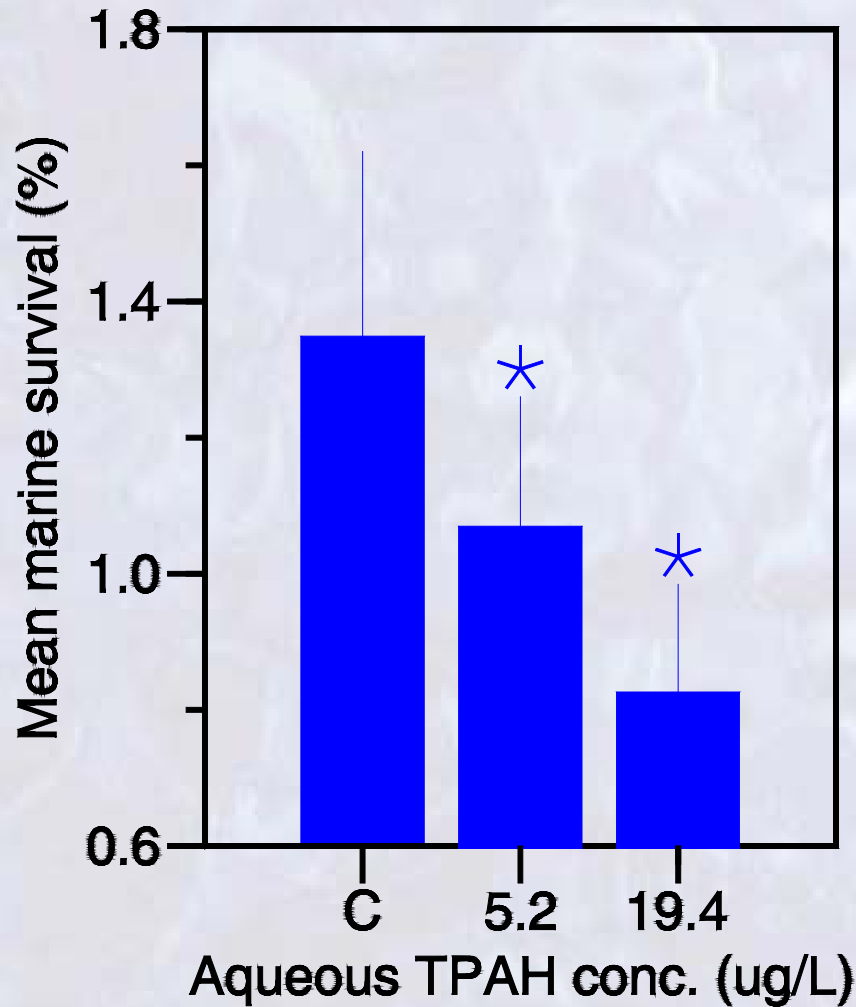


Death



# Long-term consequences:

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Pink salmon:

Marine survival  
decreased with dose

**LOEC = 5.2  $\mu$ g/L aq. TPAH**

## **Conclusions:**

1. Methods determine PAH composition
2. PAH composition influences toxicity
3. Match assay methods to toxicant



Thank you!