Monitoring natural shellfish recruitment for the Pumicestone Passage Shellfish Habitat Trial in Moreton Bay, QLD, Australia.

Diggles BK*, Porter R, Vardon J, Hawthorne S, MacFarlane C, Porter, R, Porter, J, Veary E, Veary A, Copeland C

OzFish Unlimited

PCC Webinar, 16-18 February 2021

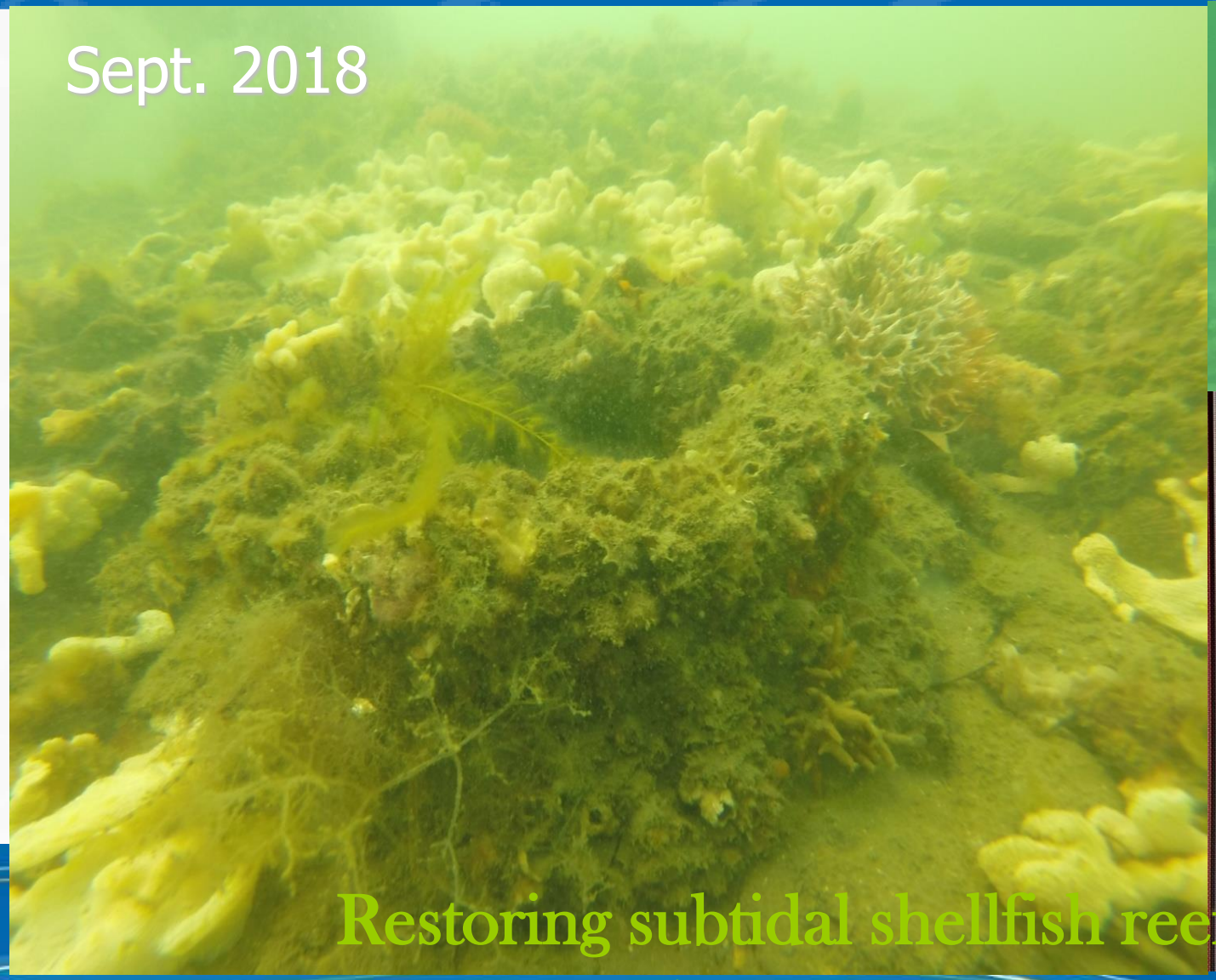
Pumicestone Passage Reef Project

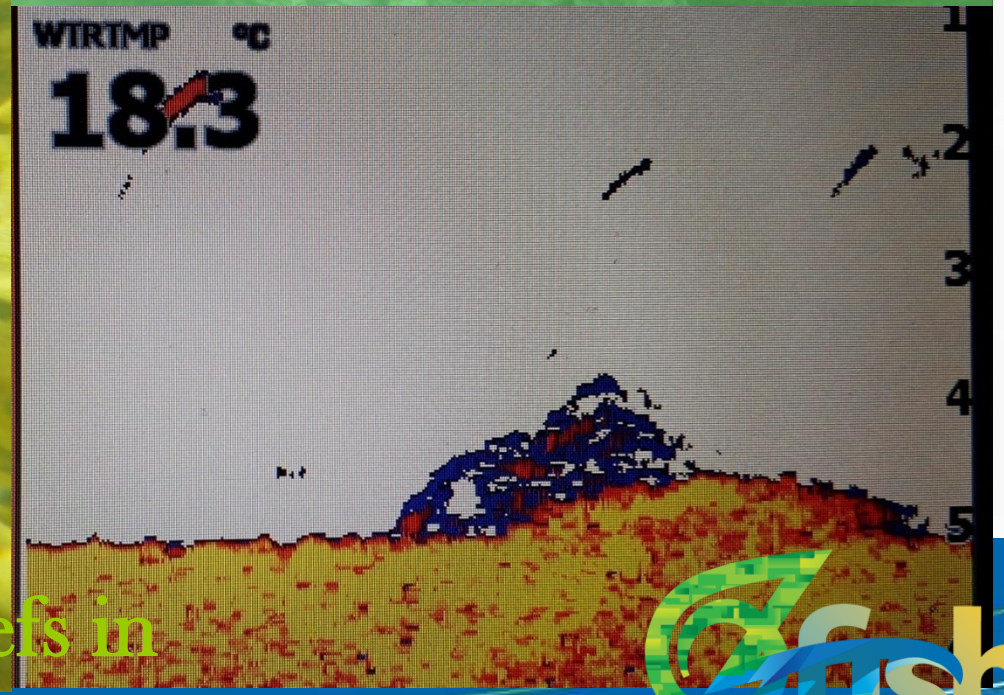
Sydney rock oysters (*Saccostrea glomerata*)

Dec 2017 Deployments – Three subtidal reef types

All deployed in 3-5 meters of water in a 1 ha area of PP

9 months later – 2 meter dia. patch reefs

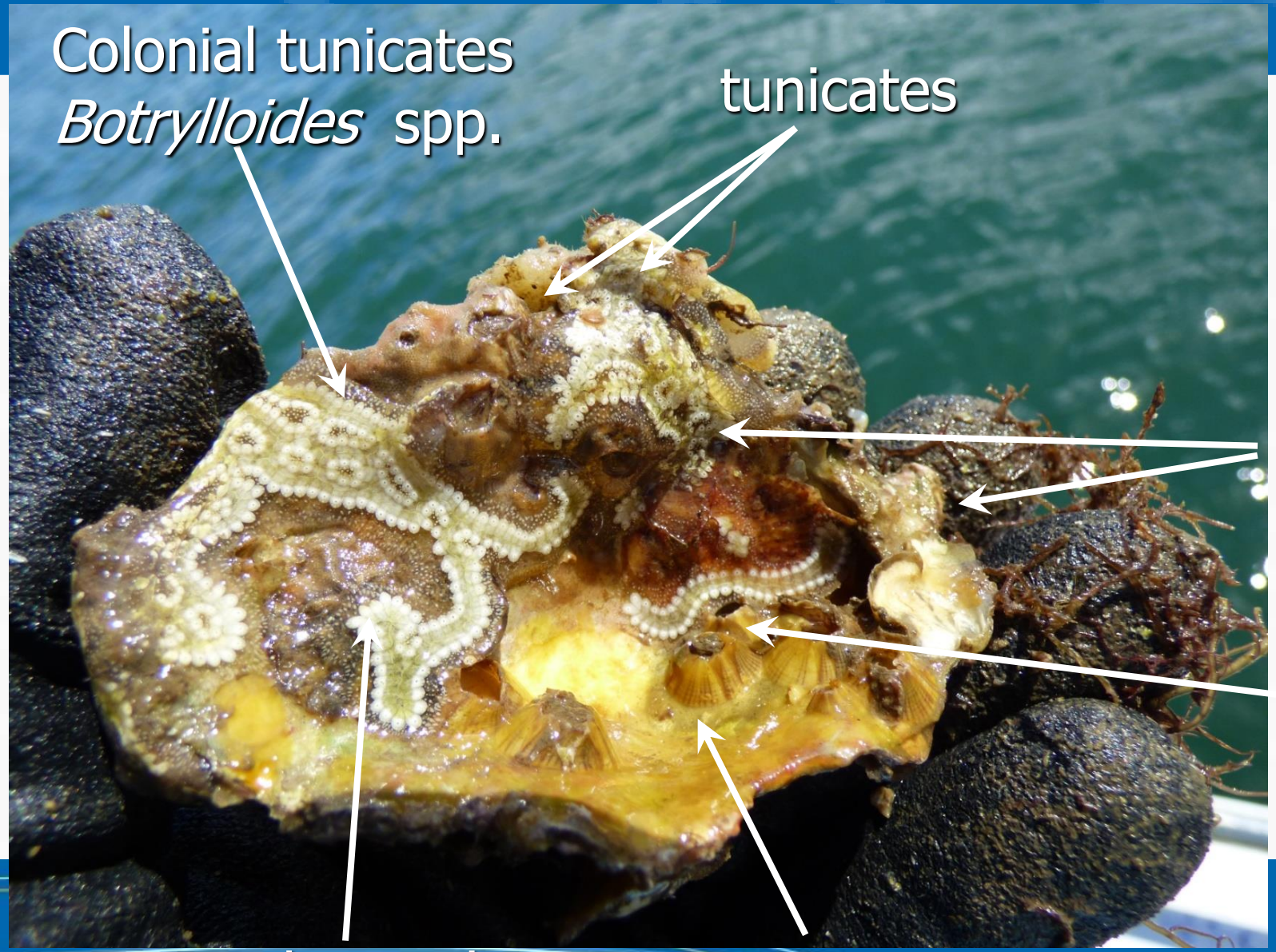




Restoring subtidal shellfish reefs in Pumicestone Passage

POWERED BY BCF

Intent: Monitor invertebrate recruitment



"Mini Reefs"

(single oyster shell 9 months after 2017 deployment).

macroalgae

barnacles

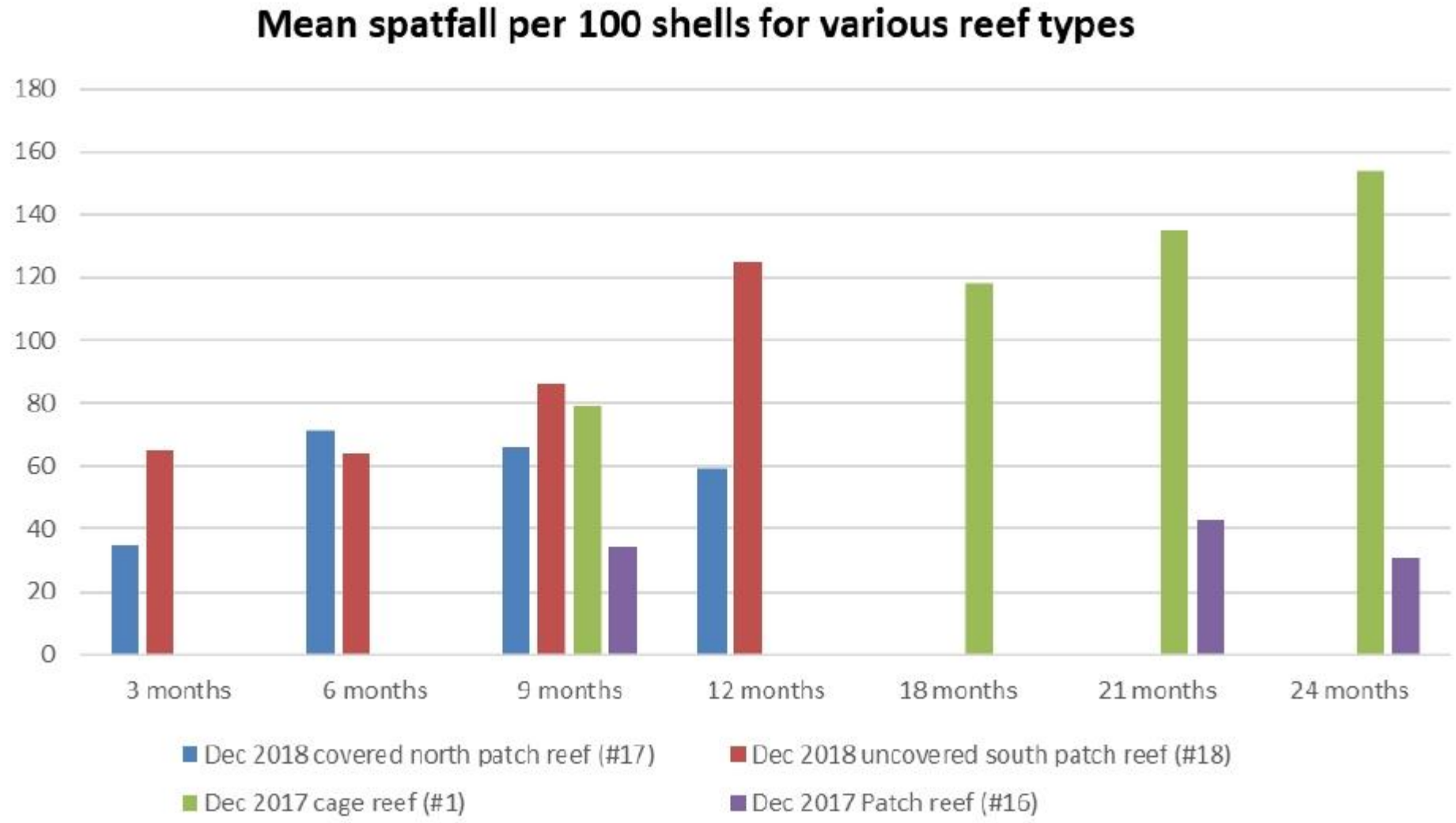
Invertebrate recruitment monitoring – Methods

- OzFish Unlimited divers collect grab samples of oyster shells (n = 100) from 2 areas from each 2018 deployment (7m) patch reef every 3 mo.
- Compare against grab samples taken from 2017 deployment patch (2m) and cage reefs (9, 21 and 24 mo.).
- Quantitate natural oyster recruitment.
- Get underwater pics and videos to allow local community to see what's going on.

Robbie Porter

OzFish Central Moreton

Pumicestone Passage – Results



- 7 m dia. patch reefs outperform 2 m dia. patch reefs.
- Multi-year recruitment in cage reefs.

Pumicestone Passage – Results

- Multi-year recruitment provides up to 10 oyster spat/shell for cage reefs. Due to less predation in cages ?

More information……

Invertebrate monitoring reports, underwater pics and videos available at:

www.restorepumicestonepassage.org

and

https://ozfish.org.au/chapters/ozfish-pumicestone-passage-chapter/

Project Partners

Thanks to: