



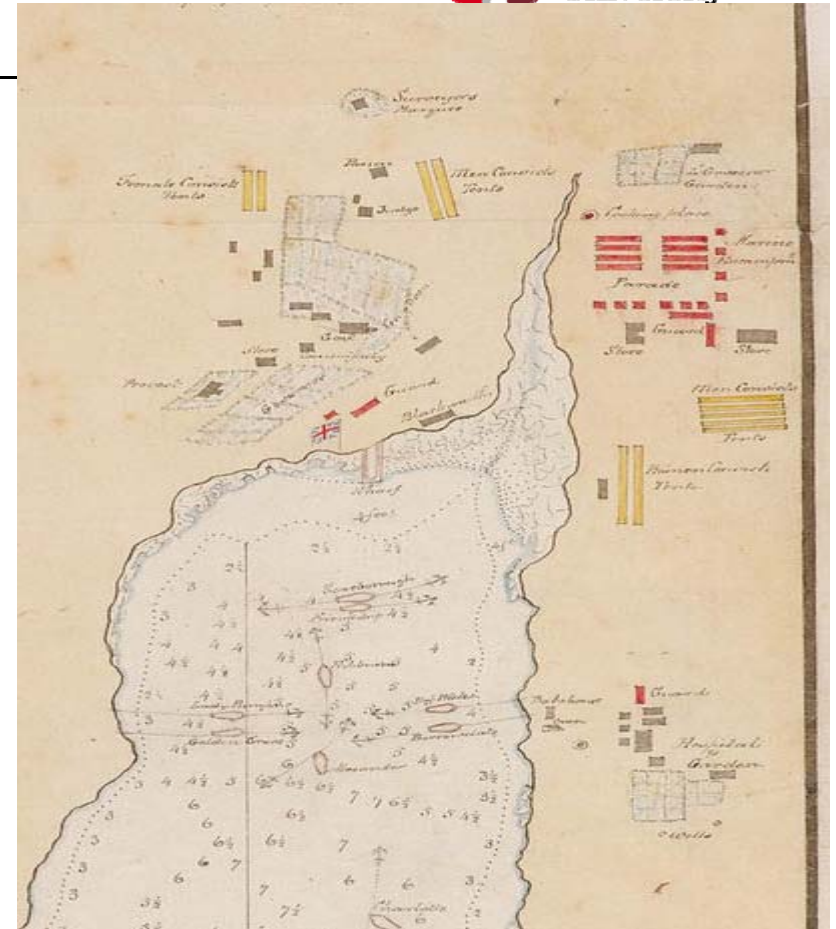
**MACQUARIE**  
University

# **Trophic structure of mangrove ecosystems in eastern Australia and the input of Anthropogenic Nitrogen**

insights from stable isotope analysis



Neil Saintilan, Debashish Mazumder

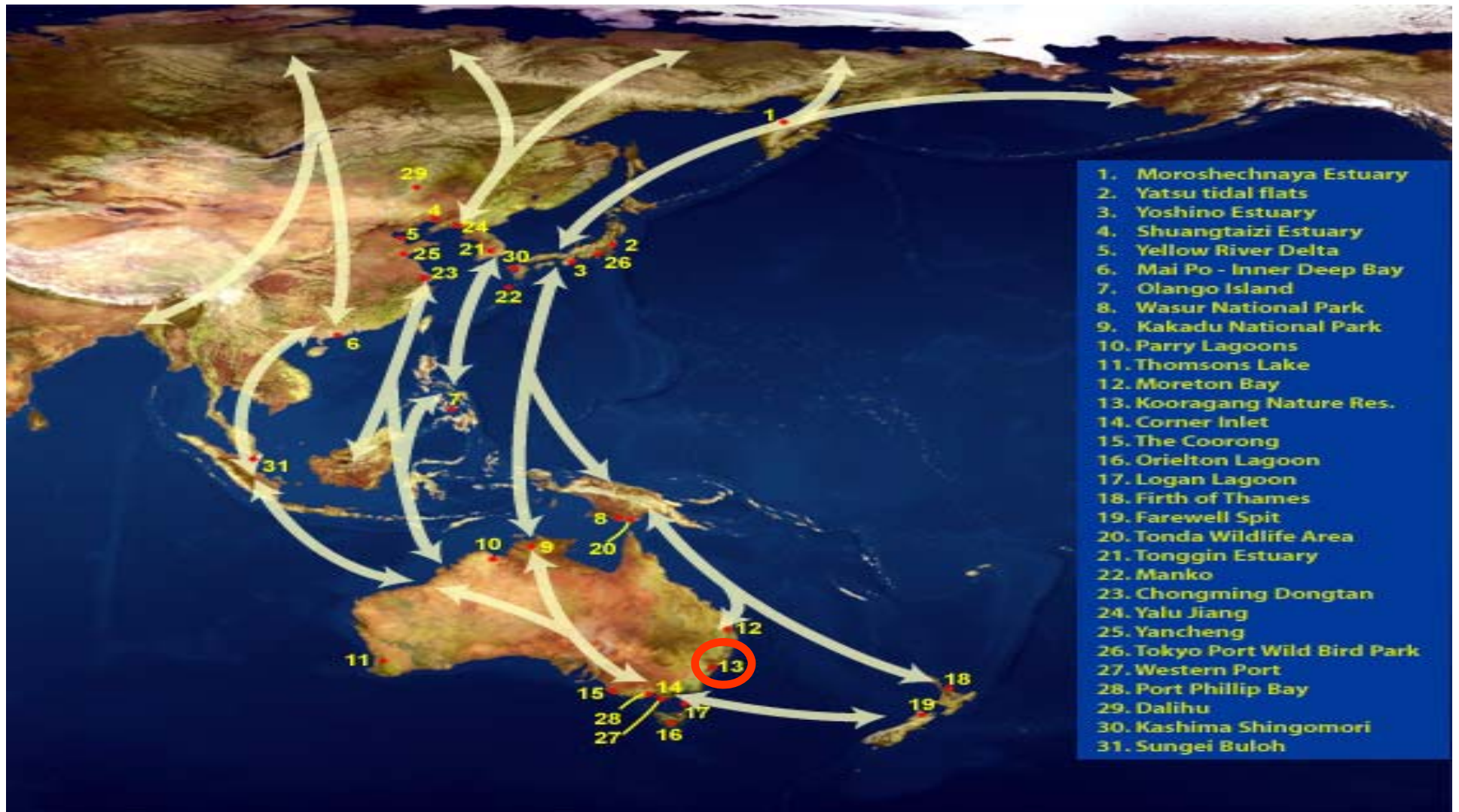








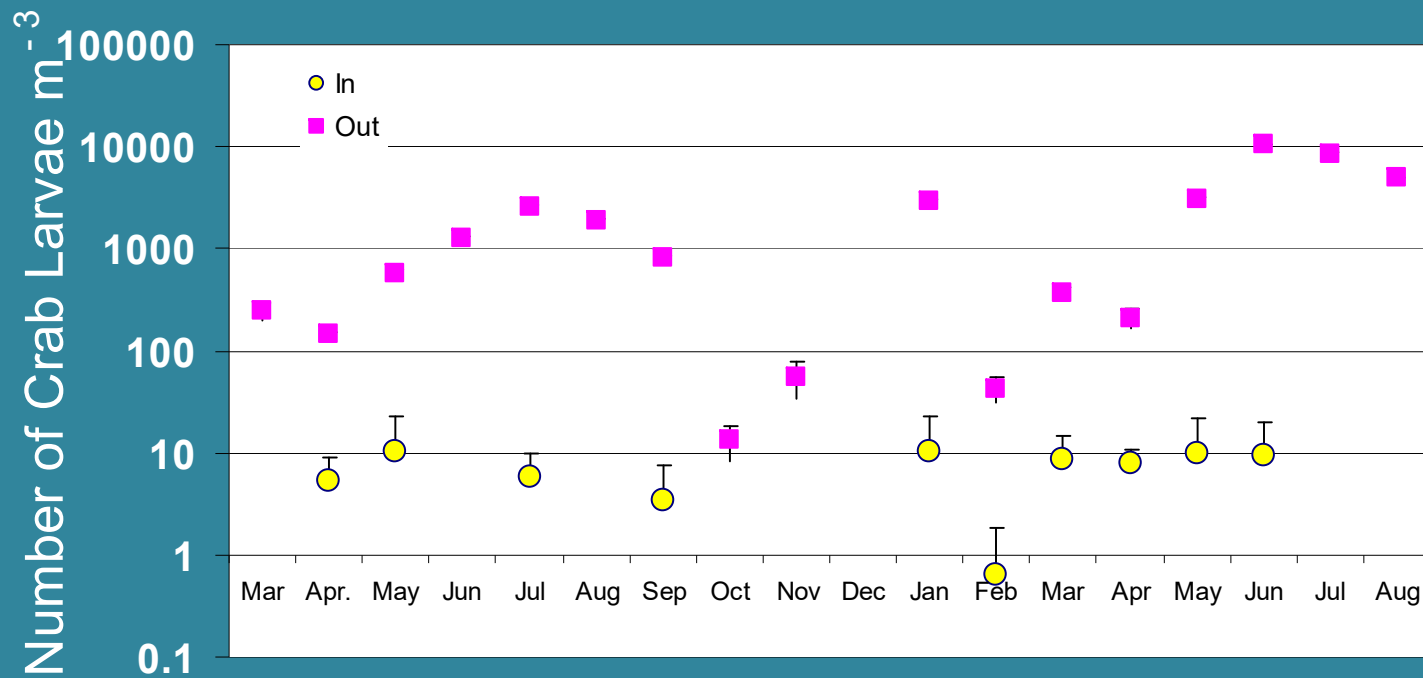
Saintilan, N., et al. (2014). Mangrove expansion and salt marsh decline at mangrove poleward limits. *Global change biology*, 20(1), 147-157.



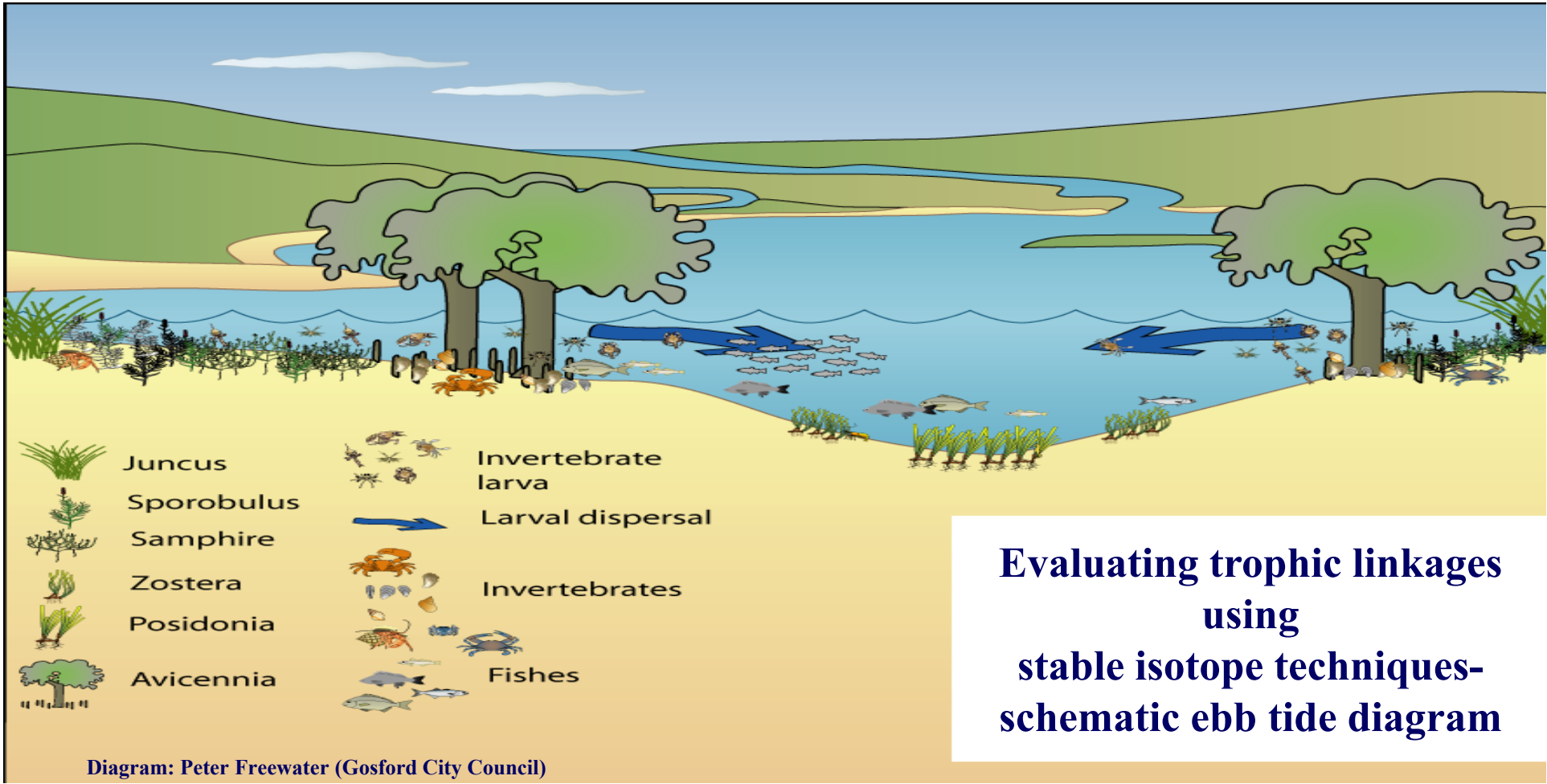




## Crab larval export from saltmarsh



Mazumder D., et al. 2006. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 57, 193-199.

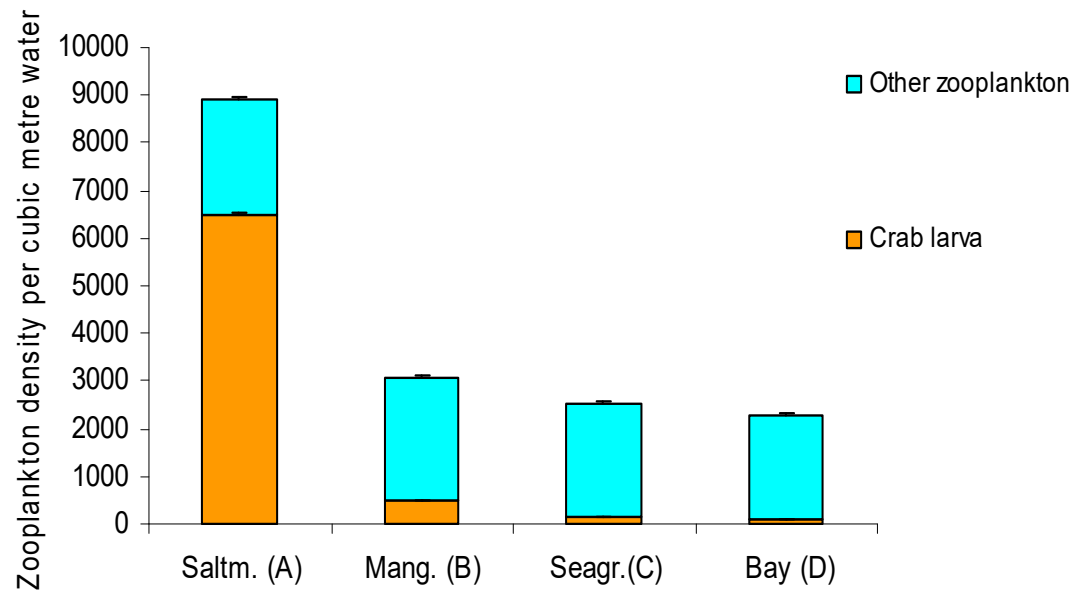


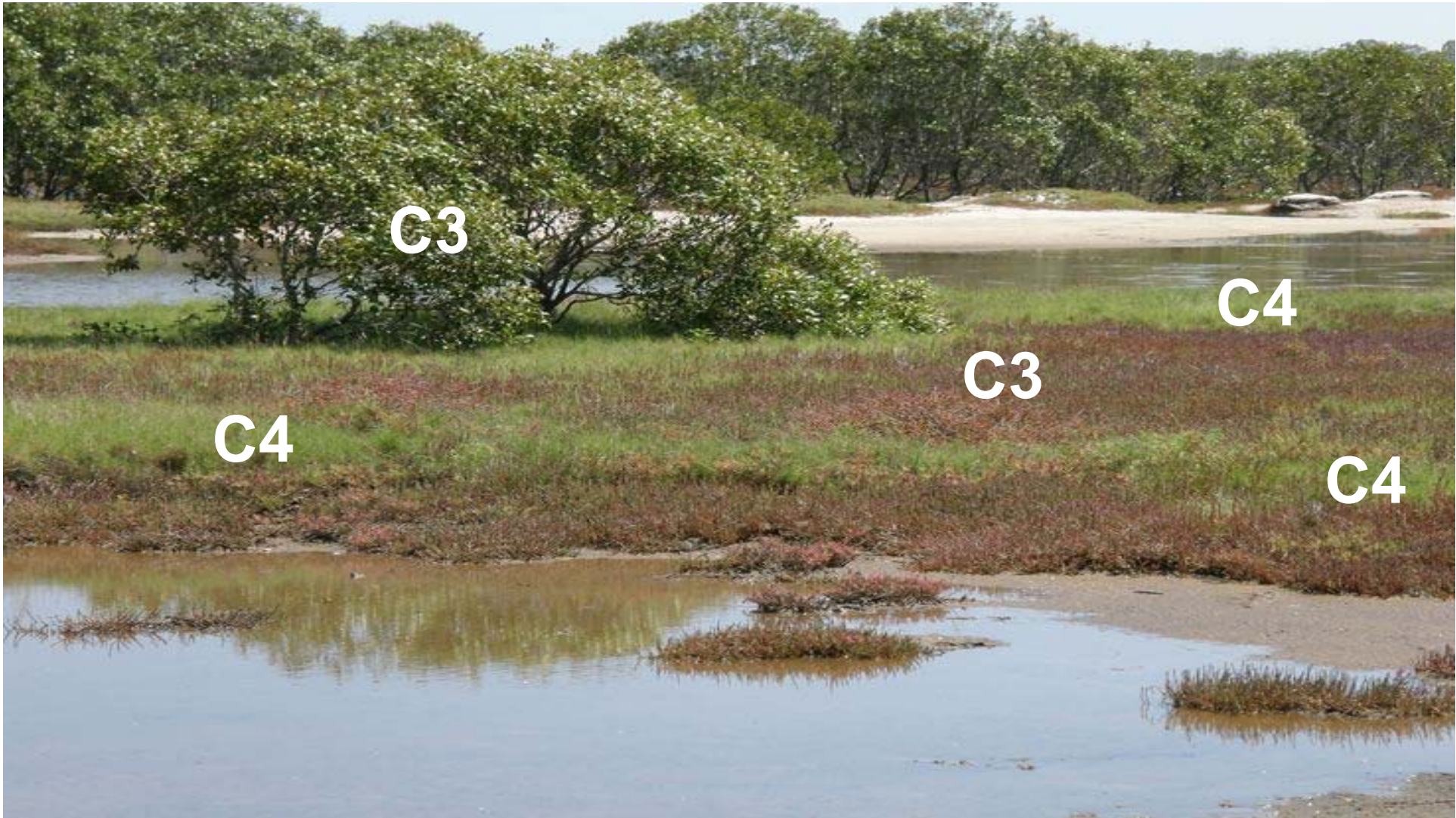


# Larval export through mangrove to estuary



## Zooplankton abundance in different locations towards the Bay





C3

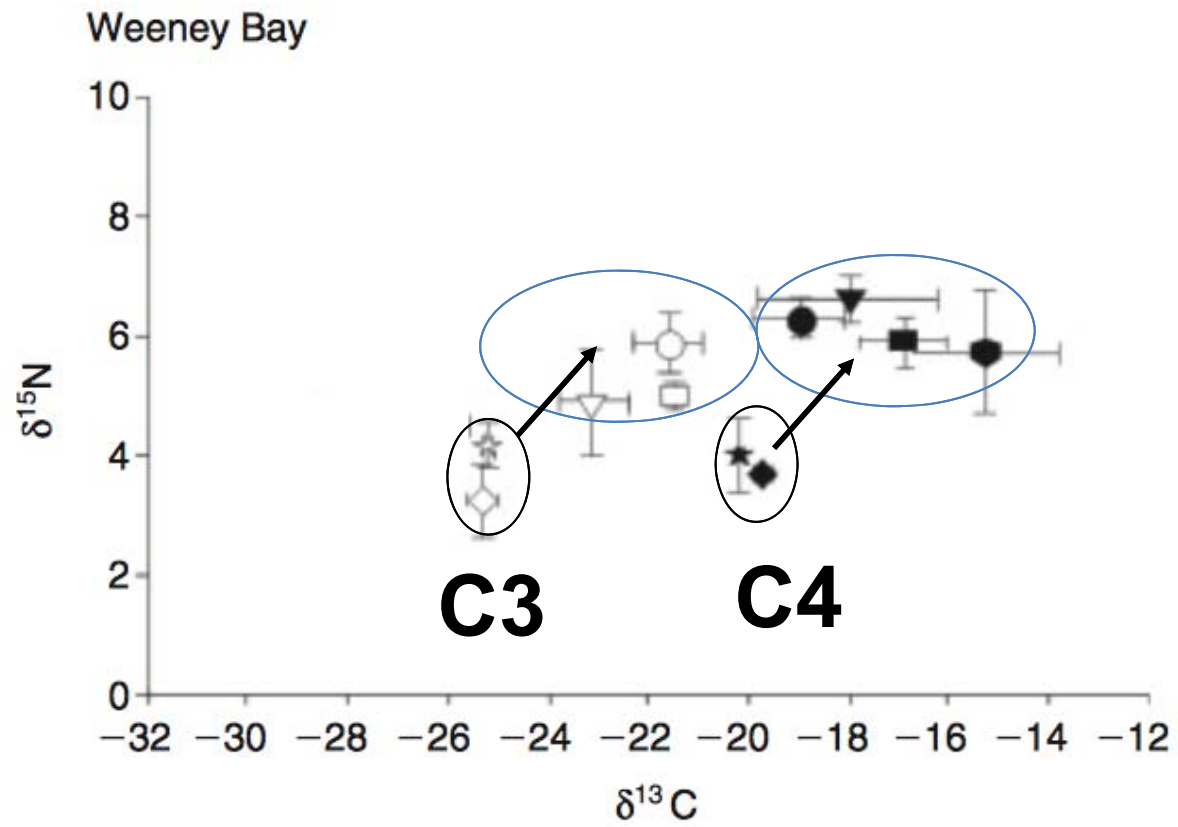
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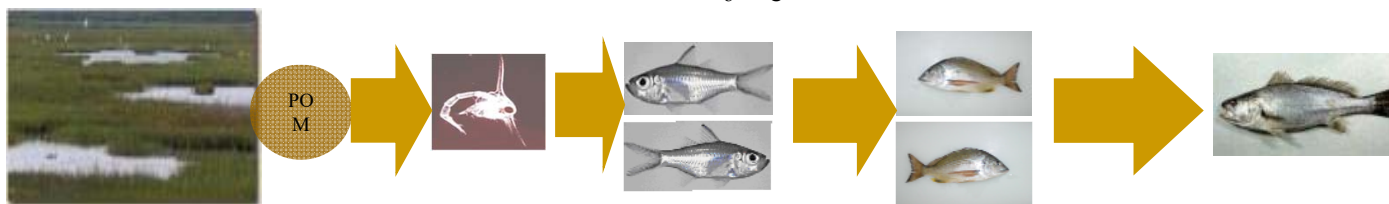
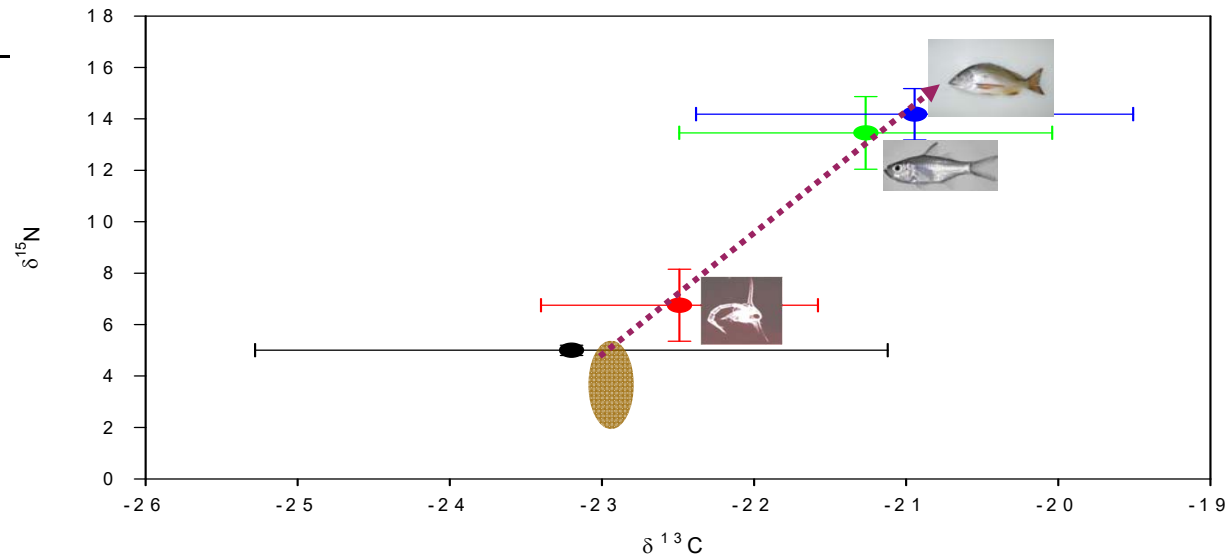
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C4





Unraveling the linkages between coastal habitats and food webs in Botany Bay



**Movement of energy from habitats to deeper part of the estuary: Trophic Relay**

Mazumder, D., et al. (2011). *Marine and Freshwater Research*, 62(1), 11-19.

## Paleoreconstruction of estuarine sediments reveal human-induced weakening of coastal carbon sinks

PETER I. MACREADIE\*, KATIE ALLEN\*, BRENDAN P. KELAHER†, PETER J. RALPH\*‡ and CHARLES G. SKILBECK\*

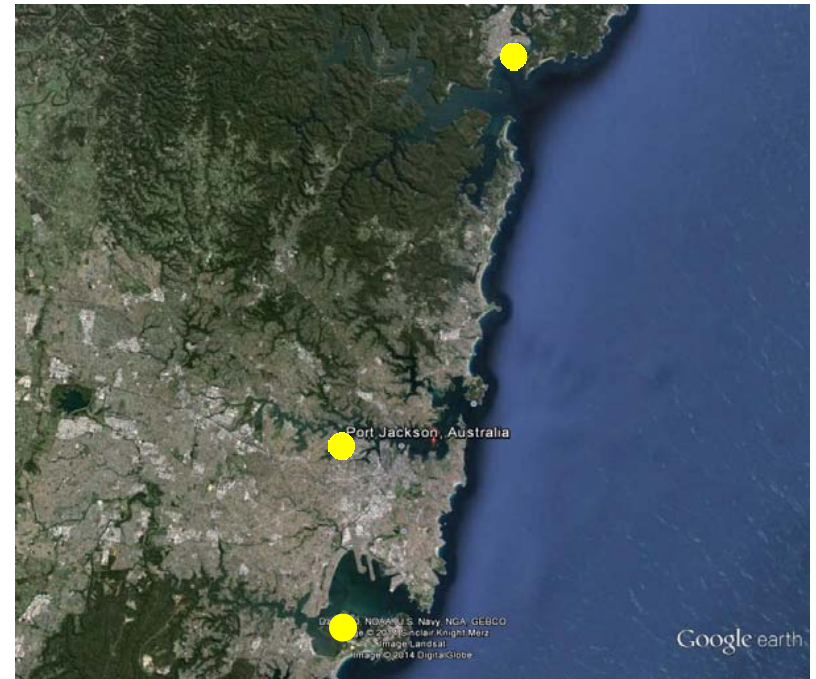
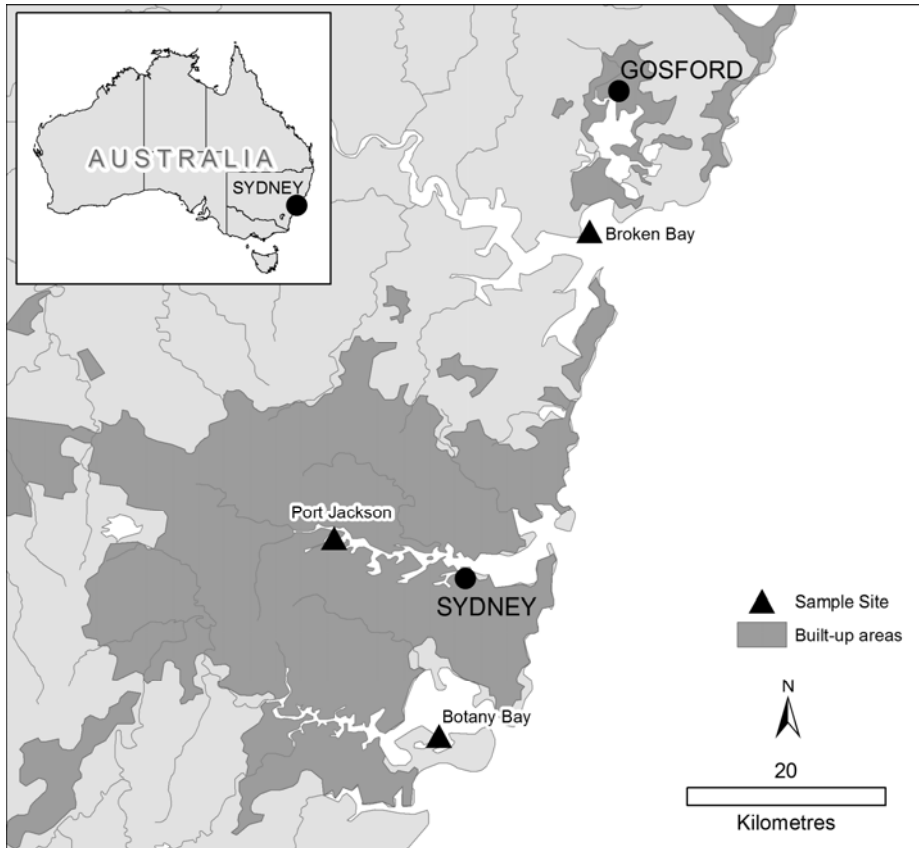
*\*School of the Environment, University of Technology, Sydney, PO Box 123, Broadway, NSW 2007, Australia, †Batemans Marine Park, PO Box 341, Narooma, NSW 2315, Australia, ‡Plant Functional Biology and Climate Change Cluster, University of Technology, Sydney, PO Box 123, Broadway, NSW 2007, Australia*

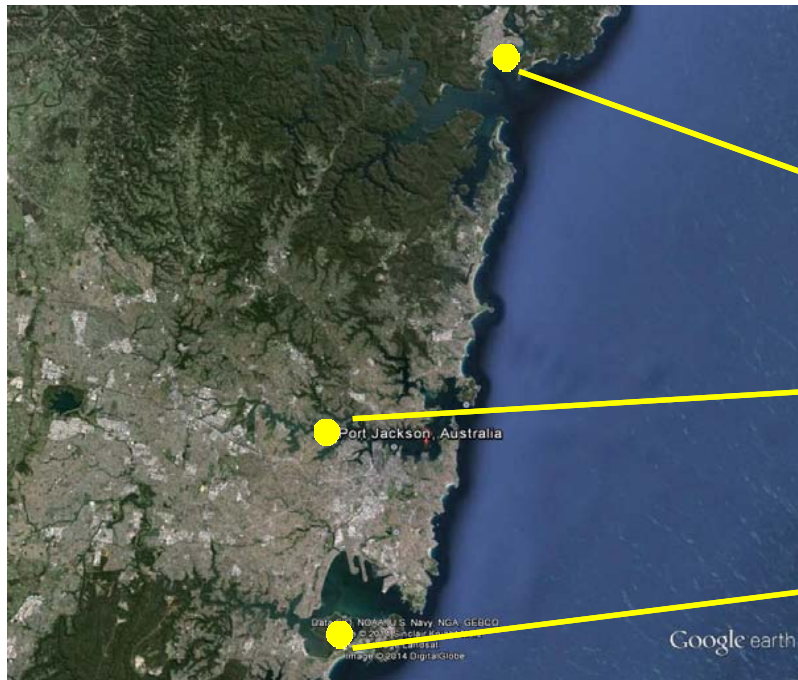
### Abstract

Human activities in coastal areas frequently cause loss of benthic macrophytes (e.g. seagrasses) and concomitant increases in microalgal production through eutrophication. Whether such changes translate into shifts in the composition of sediment detritus is largely unknown, yet such changes could impact the role these ecosystems play in sequestering CO<sub>2</sub>. We reconstructed the sedimentary records of cores taken from two sites within Botany Bay, Sydney – the site of European settlement of Australia – to look for human-induced changes in dominant sources of detritus in this

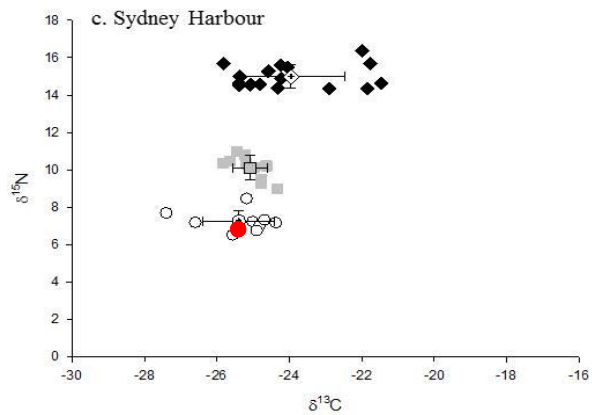
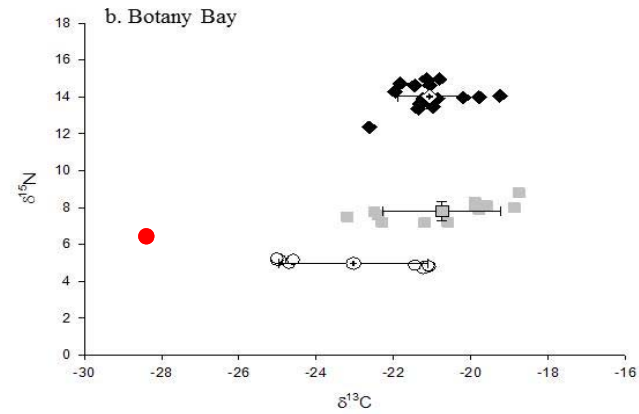
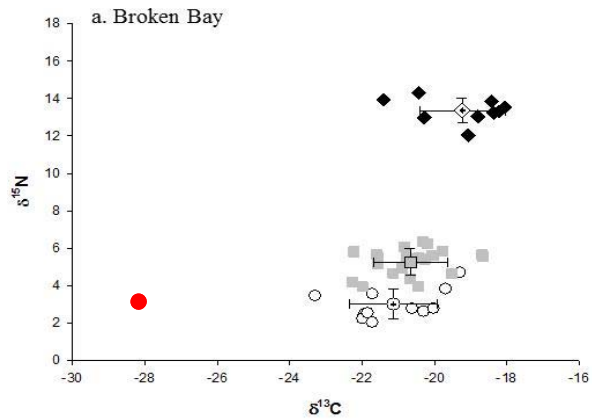
© 2011 The Authors. Journal compilation © 2011 British Ecological Society, *Journal of Ecology*, 99, 210–219



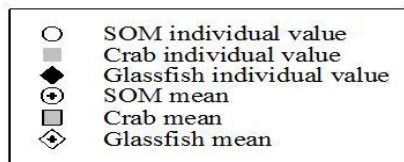




	Population (000)	Population Density	Total TN input (000 T/yr)	Increase in TN input (%)
Brisbane Water	101	644	39	188
Parramatta River	652	2460	68	397
Georges River/ Botany Bay	962	1010	470	824



● *Avicennia marina* (leaf)





# Findings

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Trophic linkages (SOM-Herbivore-Zooplanktivore) are consistent between estuaries

Benthic organic matter is the consistent basal carbon source

Food chain length higher in less disturbed estuary

# Conclusions

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No evidence that elevated N has altered basal carbon source

Less impacted estuary has a more complex trophic structure



**Questions?**