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Persistence of Dermo (*Perkinsus marinus*) in Sun-Cured Eastern Oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*)

**Methods**

- Oysters were collected from Confederate Reef in West Bay, Galveston Bay, TX on October 6, 2022.
- Oysters (n = 80) were deployed at four experimental plots at the Galveston Bay Foundation’s (GBF) Red Bluff Sun-Curing Site (Fig. 1). Plots A and C were fenced to prevent access from large wildlife. Plots B and D were left unfenced.

**Oyster Tissue Condition**

- Nearly all of the oyster tissue deployed at the top of the unfenced piles were consumed/removed by wild hogs (represented as “N/A” in Fig. 4) (Fig. 5).
- Oysters placed in the interior of the pile had less remaining tissue and faster decomposition.
- Tissue condition seemed to stabilize around week 5 when most of the tissue had reached the desiccated condition category.
- Temperature and Relative Humidity were more consistent in the interior of the piles compared to the top of the piles. (Fig. 6 & Fig. 7)

**Results**

**Dermo Intensity**

- Dermo intensity and prevalence drastically decreased after the first week of deployment and continued to reduce in intensity and prevalence (Fig. 4).
- No Dermo has been detected in the interior of the piles since week 6.
- As of week 27, a total of 6 of the 40 dermo oysters still had tissue remaining, and 4 of those had low levels (0.33) of Dermo present.

**Oyster Tissue Condition**

- Categorical tissue condition ranging from plump, like the oyster you want to see on your plate in a restaurant, to the point at which no discernable tissue remains.

**Literature Cited**
