**Supplementary Table S1:** Differences in physical and chemical parameters among the different sites [White Tower (WT); Aretsou Beach (AR); Music Hall coast (MH) and Harbour (HB)] as revealed by paired t-test. (d.f.: degrees of freedom. (\*: *P* < 0.05, \*\*: *P* < 0.01, \*\*\*: *P* < 0.001, ns: non-significant; for all cases *n*=12, except for the paired comparisons, which include HB samples with missing values in measured nutrients, thus *n=*11; see Table 2).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Paired Comparisons** | **d.f.** | ***t value*** | ***p value*** |
|  | **Water Temperature (oC)** | | |
| WT – AR | 11 | -0.99 | ns |
| WT – MH | 11 | -1.02 | ns |
| WT – HB | 11 | -1.07 | ns |
| AR – MH | 11 | 0.25 | ns |
| AR – HB | 11 | 0.27 | ns |
| MH – HB | 11 | 0 | ns |
|  | **Salinity** | | |
| WT – AR | 11 | -0.26 | ns |
| WT – MH | 11 | -1.37 | ns |
| WT – HB | 11 | -0.77 | ns |
| AR – MH | 11 | -1.02 | ns |
| AR – HB | 11 | -0.28 | ns |
| MH – HB | 11 | -0.55 | ns |
|  | **SiO4 (μmol L-1)** | | |
| WT – AR | 11 | 1.44 | ns |
| WT – MH | 11 | 1.79 | ns |
| WT – HB | 10 | 1.34 | ns |
| AR – MH | 11 | 0.25 | ns |
| AR – HB | 10 | -0.74 | ns |
| MH – HB | 10 | -1.25 | ns |
|  | **PO4 (μmol L-1)** | | |
| WT – AR | 11 | 1.86 | ns |
| WT – MH | 11 | 1.45 | ns |
| WT – HB | 10 | -0.45 | ns |
| AR – MH | 11 | -1.74 | ns |
| AR – HB | 10 | -1.22 | ns |
| MH – HB | 10 | -0.94 | ns |
|  | **NO2 (μmol L-1)** | | |
| WT – AR | 11 | -1.15 | ns |
| WT – MH | 11 | 1.75 | ns |
| WT – HB | 10 | -0.16 | ns |
| AR – MH | 11 | 3.11 | \*\* |
| AR – HB | 10 | 0.75 | ns |
| MH – HB | 10 | -1.34 | ns |
|  | **NO3 & NO2 (μmol L-1)** | | |
| WT – AR | 11 | 1.29 | ns |
| WT – MH | 11 | 2.49 | \* |
| WT – HB | 10 | 1.99 | ns |
| AR – MH | 11 | 3.65 | \*\* |
| AR – HB | 10 | 0.92 | ns |
| MH – HB | 10 | -2.04 | ns |

**Table (continued):**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Paired Comparisons** | **d.f.** | ***t value*** | ***p value*** |
|  | **NH4 (μmol L-1)** | | |
| WT – AR | 11 | 2.07 | ns |
| WT – MH | 11 | 1.96 | ns |
| WT – HB | 10 | -0.30 | ns |
| AR – MH | 11 | -0.58 | ns |
| AR – HB | 10 | -1.43 | ns |
| MH – HB | 10 | -1.29 | ns |
|  | **POP (μmol L-1)** | | |
| WT – AR | 11 | 1.80 | ns |
| WT – MH | 11 | 2.26 | \* |
| WT – HB | 11 | 0.67 | ns |
| AR – MH | 11 | 1.22 | ns |
| AR – HB | 11 | -1.53 | ns |
| MH – HB | 11 | -2.52 | \* |
|  | **Chl *a* (μg L-1)** | | |
| WT – AR | 11 | 1.39 | ns |
| WT – MH | 11 | 1.71 | ns |
| WT – HB | 11 | 0.47 | ns |
| AR – MH | 11 | 1.30 | ns |
| AR – HB | 11 | -0.03 | ns |
| MH – HB | 11 | -2.13 | ns |