

Exploring potential establishment of marine rafting species after transoceanic long-distance dispersal

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Biosketch

Christina Simkanin is a marine ecologist interested in biogeography, conservation biology, and nearshore ecosystems. The research team includes scientists from the United States and Canada who work on the ecology of non-native species and the role of marine debris in species transport.

Short running title: Modelling establishment of marine rafting species

55 **Abstract**

56 **Aim** On March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake triggered a massive tsunami that resulted in
57 the largest known rafting event in recorded history. By spring 2012, marine debris began washing
58 ashore along the Pacific Coast of the U.S. and Canada with a wide-range of Asian coastal species
59 attached. We used this unique dataset, where the source region, date of dislodgment, and landing
60 location are known, to assess the potential for species invasions by transoceanic rafting on marine
61 debris.

62 **Location** Northeast Pacific from 20 to 60°N

63 **Time period** Current

64 **Major taxa studied** Forty-eight invertebrate and algal species recorded on Japanese tsunami marine
65 debris.

66 **Methods** We developed Maximum Entropy (MaxEnt) species distribution models for 48 species
67 recorded on Japanese tsunami marine debris to predict establishment potential along the Pacific Coast
68 from 20-60°N. Models were compared within the context of historical marine introductions from Japan
69 to this region to validate the emergence of marine debris as a novel vector for species transfer.

70 **Results** Overall, 27% (13 species) landed with debris at locations with suitable environmental conditions
71 for establishment and survival, indicating that these species may be able to establish new populations or
72 introduce greater genetic diversity to already established non-native populations. A further 22 species
73 have environmental match in areas where tsunami debris likely landed, but was not extensively
74 sampled. Nearly 100 Japanese marine species previously invaded the northeastern Pacific,
75 demonstrating this region's environmental suitability for rafting Japanese biota. Historical invasions
76 from Asia are highest in California and largely known from bays and harbors.

77 **Main conclusions** Marine debris is a novel and growing vector for non-native species introduction. By
78 utilizing a unique dataset of Japanese tsunami marine debris species, our predictive models show
79 capacity for new transoceanic invasions and can focus monitoring priorities to detect successful long-
80 distance dispersal across the world's oceans.

81

82 **Keywords:** biological invasions, introduced species, Japanese tsunami, long-distance dispersal, marine
83 debris, marine rafting, MaxEnt, species distribution modelling

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85

86 **1. Introduction**

87 Accidental and episodic long-distance dispersal is considered a critical process for population
88 expansion (Darwin, 1859; Carlquist, 1981). However, the unpredictable and random nature of its
89 occurrence poses a challenge for quantifying its role in shaping species distributions (Nathan, 2006;
90 Gillespie *et al.*, 2012). In some cases, extreme or catastrophic events may trigger long-distance
91 dispersal, as was shown for the 2011 Great Japan Tsunami (Carlton *et al.*, 2017). On March 11, 2011 the
92 Great East Japan Earthquake, with a magnitude of 9.0, struck the Tōhoku region and triggered a massive
93 tsunami. Waves up to 40.5 m high inundated more than 550 km² of land, causing large-scale
94 devastation and washing immense amounts of material and debris into the ocean. While non-buoyant
95 materials sank close to shore, buoyant material created a massive, floating debris field (Goto & Shibata,
96 2015). The dominant currents in the region, the Kuroshio and Oyashio, converge off the coast of Tōhoku
97 and curve eastward to join the North Pacific Current. This predominantly eastward flow meant that by
98 spring 2012, debris associated with the tsunami had transited the Pacific Ocean and started washing
99 ashore on beaches along the United States (U.S.) and Canadian coasts (Carlton *et al.*, 2017). This debris
100 harbored hundreds of living Japanese species, having survived the journey, with potential to establish
101 populations in North America.

102 In the oceans, species have rafted long distances while attached to natural substrates, such as wood,
103 for millennia. However, most contemporary floating debris has shifted to being anthropogenic in origin
104 (Thiel & Gutow, 2005a). Since the 1950s, when reports of oceanic plastic pollution first appeared (Ryan,
105 2015), this non-biodegradable substrate has increased in prevalence throughout the world's seas
106 (Thompson *et al.*, 2004; Law, 2017). Plastic, of all shapes and sizes, is now ubiquitous in marine
107 environments and occurs as shoreline debris on all continents and islands (Barnes, 2002; Lavers & Bond,
108 2017). This debris can host and transport living marine species (Winston *et al.*, 1997; Thiel & Gutow,
109 2005b). Critically, plastic and other human-made debris persists much longer than natural materials
110 (e.g., logs), such that previously rare transoceanic dispersal events may now be more common, but little
111 is known about the likelihood or prevalence of species spread associated with this growing transport
112 mechanism.

113 Biofouling, or the accumulation of sessile assemblages and associated mobile taxa on surfaces of
114 solid substrates, is a well-known and potent vector for global species introductions (Hewitt & Campbell,
115 2010; Davidson *et al.*, 2018). Most examples of species introductions resulting from biofouling transfers
116 are associated with commercial ships, recreational boats, or as epibionts on algae or shellfish associated

117 with live bait and aquaculture shipments (Ruiz *et al.*, 2000; Cohen *et al.*, 2001; Floerl *et al.*, 2005). There
118 are far fewer documented cases of species introductions through rafting on ocean debris (but see
119 Censky *et al.*, 1998 for a documented example of a lizard introduction). The longevity of plastic and its
120 growing ubiquity in marine environments (Cozar *et al.*, 2014; Jambeck *et al.*, 2015) suggests that marine
121 debris may play an increasingly important role as a vector of potentially nuisance non-native species.
122 Ship-based surveys of debris in the open ocean have found a diversity of coastal marine invertebrates
123 including hydroids, barnacles, amphipods, bryozoans, echinoderms and bivalves (Goldstein *et al.*, 2014;
124 Gil & Pfaller, 2016), which could establish new populations on arrival to foreign coastlines.

125 Quantifying invasion risks associated with species rafting on marine debris is challenging, as items
126 are typically devoid of any identifying characteristics to determine origin or duration at sea, and the
127 frequency of species arrivals on drift material is difficult to enumerate over large scales (Rech *et al.*,
128 2016). Furthermore, surviving the dispersal event is only the first step to population establishment
129 (Blackburn *et al.*, 2011); upon arrival, species face varying abiotic and biotic conditions which can
130 preclude survival and reproduction. Predictive models to investigate the suitability of a receiving
131 environment for species persistence may help infer invasion risks. Specifically, species distribution
132 models (also commonly known as Environmental Niche Models), which utilize global occurrence records
133 and broad scale environmental data, can be used to predict species distributions in novel environments
134 and conditions (Peterson & Vieglais, 2001; Guisan *et al.*, 2014) and can provide valuable information for
135 targeted monitoring and surveillance efforts (Guisan *et al.*, 2013).

136 A large scale survey of the organisms found attached to debris associated with the 2011 Japanese
137 tsunami identified over 289 species from 16 phyla of marine species on a variety of anthropogenic items
138 (Carlton *et al.*, 2017). Here, we use this unique dataset, where the source region and the date of
139 dislodgement into the ocean are known, to evaluate the potential for species introduction through
140 transoceanic rafting. To do this, we used two complementary methods: (1) species distribution
141 modelling to investigate the environmental suitability of the Pacific coast of the U.S. and Canada for
142 Japanese species recorded on tsunami debris – many of which are not known to be previously
143 introduced or established; and (2) an assessment of historical records of marine species introductions
144 from Japan to the western U.S. and Canada, to place the recent rafting event within the context of
145 historical anthropogenic biotic exchange between these regions. This analysis provides predictive
146 evidence for the potential spatial distribution of species introduced through rafting, an approach which
147 can inform management and monitoring efforts while providing data to assess a rarely quantified
148 biogeographical process – long-distance dispersal.

149

150 **2. Materials and Methods**

151 *2.1 Distribution modelling of species rafting on Japanese tsunami marine debris*

152 In June 2012, confirmed items of Japanese tsunami marine debris (JTMD) began washing ashore
153 along the Oregon coast (Carlton *et al.*, 2017). Shortly after, an extensive network of local, state,
154 provincial and federal agencies, private citizens, and environmental groups from California to Alaska and
155 Hawaii was established to recognize, record, and quantify tsunami debris items. To distinguish tsunami
156 objects from other types of ocean debris, multiple lines of evidence were combined, including (a) formal
157 identification through the Japanese Consulate using registration numbers or other identifying
158 characteristics from floating objects; (b) the use of oceanographic models and tracking databases to
159 predict debris fields and pulses; and (c) bioforensics using the known non-random diversity of coastal
160 marine species from shores of the Tōhoku region to indicate location of origin (see Carlton *et al.*, 2017).
161 Recorded JTMD items included vessels, plastic totes, buoys, fishing gear, floating docks, post-and-beam
162 wood, and many other human-made items associated with coastal communities. Overall, more than 630
163 pieces of confirmed JTMD objects that washed ashore on the Pacific Coast of the U.S. and Canada were
164 sampled and found to carry over 289 species (Carlton *et al.*, 2017). The majority of the sampled debris
165 was collected along the Oregon and Washington coasts, spanning from 42 to 48°N, but oceanographic
166 models show that high amounts of tsunami generated debris likely landed within a much larger region
167 spanning from Northern California to British Columbia and Alaska (Clarke Murray *et al.*, 2018).

168 We used MaxEnt (ver. 3.4.0) species distribution modelling (Phillips *et al.*, 2006) to locate areas
169 along the Pacific Coast of the U.S. and Canada that are most suitable to the establishment of species
170 identified from tsunami associated marine debris. We gathered geographically referenced global
171 occurrence records from species native and non-native distributions using the Global Biodiversity
172 Information System (GBIF.org 2016); the U.S. National Exotic Marine and Estuarine Species Information
173 System (Fofonoff *et al.*, 2016); and detailed searches of literature from Japan, Russia, Korea, and China
174 to contribute additional records from species' native ranges. Our aim was to collate data across
175 resources to reduce the presence of sampling bias in occurrence records and produce the most accurate
176 map of species current global distributions. For modeling, each species reported from tsunami debris
177 (see species list in Carlton *et al.*, 2017) had to meet a series of criteria: (1) be identified to species level;
178 (2) not be suspected to be part of a species complex; (3) be reported from at least one object that
179 landed along the Pacific Coast of the U.S. or Canada (this excluded species reported only from debris
180 landing in Hawaii); (4) have georeferenced occurrence records from Japan; and (5) have at least 20

181 global occurrence records at 5 arcminute (c. 9.2 km or 0.083°) grid cell resolution. We endeavored to
182 only use occurrence records from established populations in our modelling, therefore species records
183 from debris landings were not included in this analysis. Previous research shows that MaxEnt performs
184 relatively well for species with low numbers of occurrence records (e.g. 20-30 spatially separated points;
185 Hernandez *et al.*, 2006; Pearson *et al.*, 2007), but simpler models are necessary for species with few
186 occurrences to avoid over-fitting (Merow *et al.*, 2014). After applying these criteria, 48 species from 10
187 phyla of marine algae and invertebrates remained for modelling. A majority of species were sessile
188 invertebrates (n=30), while 16 were mobile invertebrates and two were algae. Carlton *et al.* (2017) used
189 body size as a way to infer ages of debris rafting species and excluded species which appeared to be
190 newly settled and were therefore likely to be acquired as floating debris neared the North American
191 coastline. Therefore, this subset of species can be linked directly to marine debris which transited across
192 the Pacific from Japan to the Pacific Coast of North America.

193 Over 17,000 georeferenced occurrence points for the 48 species were collated and quality assessed
194 using the software ModestR 2.0 (<http://www.ipez.es/ModestR/>) and “spThin” (Aiello-Lammens *et al.*,
195 2015) in R 3.4.2 (R Core Team, 2017). We conducted a systematic procedure to check the accuracy of
196 species occurrences, which included: removing non-contemporary (i.e. fossil) records, removing
197 duplicate points, removing coordinates with low spatial resolution (<2 decimal places), removing
198 terrestrial records, reducing the number of points to match the resolution of the environmental data
199 layers, and removing climatic outliers using jackknife resampling. This exhaustive data cleaning resulted
200 in 3,215 occurrence records remaining, ranging from 20 to 211 georeferenced points per species (Table
201 1).

202 Sixteen candidate environmental data layers at 5-arcminute resolution were selected from Bio-
203 ORACLE (Tyberghein *et al.*, 2012; Assis *et al.*, 2017) to represent the abiotic factors essential for marine
204 invertebrate and algae distributions. Collinearity amongst environmental variables can decrease model
205 performance and overall predictive accuracy (Dormann *et al.*, 2013); therefore we followed a variable
206 selection protocol, using the R packages “sdmpredictors” (Bosch, 2017) and “usdm” (Naimi *et al.*, 2014),
207 to remove correlated and multi-collinear variables. We used a pairwise Pearson-moment correlation
208 matrix to identify highly correlated ($r>0.70$) variables and selected the most ecologically relevant data
209 layers for modelling (Supporting Information TableS1 and S2). Variance inflation factors (VIFs) were also
210 quantified, using a cut-off of 5, to determine how much variance of an estimated regression coefficient
211 is increased because of multi-collinearity (Guisan *et al.*, 2017). In the end, seven suitable environmental
212 predictor variables were chosen for marine invertebrate models: annual mean calcite concentration

213 (mol/m⁻³), annual mean chlorophyll A (mg/m³), annual mean pH, mean primary productivity at minimum
214 depth (g m⁻² yr⁻¹), mean seawater salinity (psu), and annual maximum and range of sea surface
215 temperature (°C). For algal species models, six variables were selected, including: mean cloud fraction
216 (%), mean diffuse attenuation (m⁻¹), mean pH, mean seawater salinity (psu), and annual maximum and
217 range of sea surface temperature (°C).

218 MaxEnt is a machine learning algorithm that uses presence only data, a random subset of 10,000
219 pseudo-absence background points, and a group of environmental data layers to determine the optimal
220 probability distribution of a species in alternate space or time (Phillips *et al.*, 2006). There is increasing
221 evidence that use of MaxEnt's default parameters does not always generate the best possible model
222 output (Anderson & Gonzalez, 2011; Morales *et al.*, 2017). Therefore we used the R package "ENMeval"
223 (Muscarella *et al.*, 2014) to reduce unnecessary model complexity and carry out model tuning for each
224 species. ENMeval runs automated analyses to determine the most optimal feature class and
225 regularization parameters using AICc scores, a version of the Akaike Information Criterion optimized for
226 smaller sample sizes. Background points were generated by using the bathymetry layer from MARSPEC
227 (Sbrocco & Barber, 2013) to create a global raster clipped to depths of 0-200m along the coastline. This
228 'depth raster' was randomly sampled for 10,000 points to be used as pseudo-absences in the model.
229 This depth raster was also used as a mask in our raster stack of environmental layers to limit model
230 predictions to nearshore (<200 m) water depth. Data partitioning for testing and training was carried out
231 using jackknife cross-validation for species with >25 occurrence records, whereas block structured cross-
232 validation was used for species with 25 or more records (Muscarella *et al.*, 2014). Block cross-validation
233 is known to be most suitable for models including species transfers across space and time, such as native
234 versus non-native regions (Wenger & Olden, 2012). The feature classes and regularization multiplier
235 parameters selected to represent the simplest MaxEnt model with best fit for each of the 48 tsunami
236 debris species are shown in Supporting Information Table S3. For MaxEnt runs using the R package
237 'dismo' (Hijmans *et al.*, 2017), parameters leading to the simplest model and best fit were set for each
238 species individually, and global occurrence data were split into two parts – 70% of data were used for
239 model training and 30% were used for model testing. Jackknife resampling was used to test the
240 importance of each environmental variable, alone and relative to the other variables, to species
241 distributions. Modeling output used complementary log-log (cloglog) (Phillips *et al.*, 2017) to produce an
242 estimate of occurrence probability for each species for the Pacific Coast of the U.S. and Canada
243 (Supporting Information Figures S1-48). The 48 suitability maps were transformed using MaxSST or the
244 'maximum test sensitivity plus specificity cloglog threshold' (Liu *et al.*, 2013) from the MaxEnt modelling

245 output and combined into a single binary heat map reflecting the risk of invasion of 1-48 tsunami debris
246 species. To determine which species landed attached to debris in areas of high predicted environmental
247 suitability for survival and growth, we obtained the predicted cloglog probability score for each species
248 within each 5 arcmin grid cell along the Pacific coast. MaxEnt modelling outputs are shown in Supporting
249 Information Table S4 and debris landing locations for each species were garnered from the
250 Supplementary Information in Carlton *et al.* (2017).

251 *2.2 Prior anthropogenic biotic exchange from Japan to the Pacific coast of the U.S. and Canada*

252 To understand earlier episodes of anthropogenic biotic exchange across the Pacific, we documented
253 the number of marine invertebrates and algae (i.e. excluding vascular plants and vertebrates) that are
254 native to Japan and have non-native populations on the Pacific Coast of the U.S. and Canada. This list
255 was compiled using records from published literature, museum collections, and field-based surveys
256 (Fofonoff *et al.*, 2016; G.M. Ruiz unpublished data). We restricted our analyses to species with
257 established non-native populations, which we considered to exist if: (1) there were multiple occurrence
258 records over multiple years for a given location; (2) local populations were reported to be numerous and
259 successfully reproducing; or (3) the species was reported as established. Thus, we excluded some non-
260 native species that were not known to be established or were considered to have diminished or failed
261 populations. We measured latitudinal extent of species non-native ranges on the Pacific coast of North
262 America by determining the most northerly and most southerly record of species established occurrence
263 and assessed whether currently known non-native populations are centered in bays, harbors and
264 estuaries, and/or open coastal locations.

265

266 **3. Results**

267 *3.1 Distribution modelling of species rafting on Japanese tsunami marine debris*

268 The hotspot of environmental suitability for the marine debris species modelled was centered on
269 warm waters surrounding Baja California, Mexico, with an additional peak in San Francisco Bay (Figure
270 1). As most of the sampling for debris objects occurred in Oregon and Washington (Figure 1 inset), most
271 species were recorded from debris that washed ashore in areas without suitable abiotic conditions for
272 survival and growth. Still, of the 48 species, 13 have high (>0.50) occurrence probability rates in
273 locations where tsunami debris was actively retrieved and sampled (Figure 2), indicating that these
274 species may be able to establish new populations or introduce greater genetic diversity to already
275 established non-native populations. Two of these species are not currently introduced or established on
276 the Pacific Coast of the U.S. or Canada – the bryozoan *Exochella tricuspis*, and the worm *Hydroides*

277 *ezoensis*; two species are already established in areas along this coast, but are not currently introduced
278 in Oregon or Washington where marine debris was sampled – the gastropod *Crepidula onyx* (which is
279 native to California) and the algae *Undaria pinnatifida* (which is introduced in California); and the other
280 nine species are introduced and established near debris landing locations already – the amphipods
281 *Ampithoe valida* and *Caprella mutica*, the oyster *Crassostrea gigas*, the bryozoan *Cryptosula pallasiana*,
282 the sea anemone *Diadumene lineata*, the sea-squirt *Didemnum vexillum*, the isopod *Ianiropsis*
283 *serricaudis*, the mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, and the bryozoan *Schizoporella japonica*. Interestingly,
284 an additional 22 species have high occurrence probability (>0.50) for some areas of British Columbia and
285 Alaska (Figure 2 and Supporting Information Figures S1-48) where tsunami debris likely arrived (Clarke
286 Murray *et al.*, 2018), but was not able to be retrieved and sampled. Nineteen of these species are not
287 currently known to be introduced and established anywhere on the Pacific Coast of the U.S. or Canada –
288 including the barnacles *Chthamalus challengerii*, *Megabalanus rosa* and *Tetraclita japonica*; the bivalve
289 mollusks *Arca boucardi*, *Bankia carinata*, *Hiatella orientalis*, *Mizuhopecten yessoensis*, *Modiolus*
290 *nipponicus*, *Mytilisepta virgata*, and *Mytilus coruscus*; the crab *Hemigrapsus sanguineus*; the gastropods
291 *Lottia dorsuosa*, *Lottia kogamogai*, *Reishia bronni*, *Siphonaria japonica*, and *Siphonaria sirius*; the
292 parasitic hydroid *Eutima japonica*, and the sea stars *Aphelasterias japonica* and *Patiria pectinifera*.

293 3.2 Prior anthropogenic biotic exchange from Japan to the Pacific coast of the U.S. and Canada

294 There are 319 known marine and estuarine invertebrate and algal species introduced and
295 established on the Pacific Coast of the U.S. and Canada, and 99 (or 31%) of these are native to Japan.
296 This represents 19 algae and 80 marine invertebrates, spanning 13 marine phyla (Supporting
297 Information Table S5). Although this number is a comprehensive assessment based on current
298 knowledge, it is also likely a conservative estimate, as the taxonomic and biogeographic history of many
299 marine species is still unknown or developing. The hotspot of invasion for non-native species originally
300 from Japan (Figure 3) is centered on San Francisco Bay and central California, extending from 36 to 38°N.
301 Many of these species have introduced ranges which extend further south into southern California,
302 while far fewer species of Japanese origin have ranges known to extend north into Oregon, Washington,
303 British Columbia and Alaska. A majority of these species have non-native populations in bays, harbors
304 and estuaries (n=96), while fewer (n=24) have known non-native populations on more open and
305 exposed coastlines (Supporting Information Table S5).

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307
308

309 4. Discussion

310 The role of long-distance dispersal in population expansion is historically difficult to enumerate, but
311 evidence from the Japanese tsunami of 2011 shows that a wide variety of marine organisms are able to
312 survive for years adrift on debris across more than 7,000 km of ocean (Carlton *et al.*, 2017). As the
313 amount of oceanic debris continues to increase (Eriksen *et al.*, 2014; Lebreton *et al.*, 2018), this dispersal
314 mechanism is likely to grow in prevalence and may lead to increased likelihood of species invasions.
315 Dispersal is a critical first step to population establishment, but on arrival, individuals surviving oceanic
316 transport on debris face several barriers to population growth (Carlquist, 1966; Blackburn *et al.*, 2011).
317 The first such barrier is suitable abiotic conditions for survival and reproduction. Our species distribution
318 models show that 13 of the 48 marine debris species have abiotic tolerances which match the
319 environmental conditions in areas where they were sampled from tsunami debris, and a further 22 have
320 some environmental match to conditions in portions of British Columbia and Alaska where large
321 amounts of tsunami debris may have landed, but was not sampled. Twenty one of the species we
322 modelled are known to be introduced to other locations around the globe (Table 1). Past invasion
323 history is often considered a predictor of future invasion success (Kolar & Lodge, 2001) indicating that a
324 species is capable of establishing populations under novel environmental conditions in other non-native
325 ecosystems. New research, however, has highlighted the increasing proportion of non-native species
326 that have no prior invasion history and this is driven by links between new regions and species pools
327 (Seebens *et al.*, 2018), for which, the emergence of anthropogenic floating debris as a vector for species
328 dispersal is a good example. These novel and emerging species and vectors pose a particular challenge
329 for introduced species management, but species distribution models (when possible) can provide early
330 predictions to aid targeted monitoring and quick responses to new invaders.

331 The 48 species modelled here are a small subset of the total species pool rafting on ocean debris.
332 For Japanese tsunami debris alone, at least 289 species (Carlton *et al.*, 2017) have been recorded and
333 rarefaction curves show that this number is only a portion of the total taxa that arrived (Carlton *et al.*,
334 2017). Furthermore, a large amount of debris likely washed up along the coastline without detection or
335 without identifying characteristics to connect it to the 2011 Japanese tsunami event and this debris may
336 have carried varied species richness. Ongoing field surveys show that tsunami debris from this event is
337 still washing ashore, although the frequency has decreased steadily since summer 2015 (Carlton *et al.*,
338 2018). A greater number of species likely pose invasion risks for the Pacific coast of North America, but
339 without more knowledge of their arrival, along with the limited availability of global georeferenced

340 distribution records for most species, our ability to provide an assessment of the invasion risks posed by
341 species rafting on marine debris is hindered. Our data show, however, that 27% of species modeled
342 here have high environmental match with known debris landing locations. Further, most (n=45) of the
343 48 species have a planktonic life phase ranging from 130 days in the case of the sea star *Asterias*
344 *amurensis* to the minutes to hours of most of the ascidian and bryozoan species, highlighting that
345 natural dispersal across the Pacific Ocean is not possible (Table 1).

346 Nine of the marine debris species with high environmental suitability in the region of tsunami debris
347 landings are already established with large introduced ranges (from California to Alaska) on the Pacific
348 Coast of the U.S. and Canada. These species are clearly capable of survival, growth and reproduction in
349 this introduced range and the arrival of new propagules may increase genetic diversity of currently
350 established populations (Hanyuda *et al.*, 2018). The Japanese tsunami debris dataset highlights the
351 ability of these species to raft across large swaths of ocean, and although these long-distance dispersal
352 events are historically rare, they may play a crucial role in the maintenance of genetic connectivity
353 within meta-populations (Trakhtenbrot *et al.*, 2005). Increased levels of genetic diversity and mixing can
354 enhance spread and persistence of non-native populations by increasing the likelihood of local
355 adaptation, increasing fitness levels through greater mixing of genotypes, and producing novel hybrids
356 that are able to exploit new environments and habitats (Roman & Darling, 2007). In time, genetic tools,
357 used in combination with data from species sampling campaigns, could be used to determine genetic
358 differentiation between populations and estimate historical genetic admixture and linkages, providing
359 evidence for the role of long-distance dispersal in population connectivity.

360 A total of 99 invertebrates and algae from Japan have previously established populations on the
361 Pacific Coast of the U.S. and Canada, further supporting the environmental suitability between these
362 regions. The area of highest prevalence is centered on San Francisco Bay and the north-central part of
363 California. This region has historically been connected to Japan through varied human-mediated vectors,
364 including commercial shipping and Japanese oyster aquaculture (Carlton, 1979; Andrews, 1980). Most
365 debris from the Japanese tsunami is thought to have landed further north along the coastline, from
366 Northern California through Alaska (Clarke Murray *et al.*, 2018). Marine debris represents a novel vector
367 for non-native species spread, in that it differs from other contemporary transport mechanisms, like
368 commercial shipping and aquaculture shipments, by connecting locations that are not typically linked
369 (i.e. outside ports and harbors). Furthermore, the origin and endpoint locations of marine debris are
370 difficult to predict and generally spatially haphazard. Debris, therefore, may act as a species transport

371 mechanism to areas rarely associated with traditional vector hubs (shipping terminals, marinas, and
372 aquaculture facilities) such as outer coastlines, which contemporary data show are currently less
373 impacted by introduced species (Zabin *et al.*, 2018). Also, human-made debris dislodged during extreme
374 events often originates from populated and modified coastal ecosystems, with high amounts of coastal
375 infrastructure, which are hubs for non-native species (Ruiz *et al.*, 2009). Landing locations, on the other
376 hand, are wide-ranging and random, and can include pristine, protected and remote areas of low human
377 density – which are typically less impacted by non-native species (Ardura *et al.*, 2016; Gallardo *et al.*,
378 2017). Of the 99 species previously introduced, only 24 are known to have established non-native
379 populations in locations beyond bays and harbors; although this pattern could also be driven by
380 sampling bias as a majority of surveys for non-native species are conducted in bays and harbors,
381 whereas the distribution of non-native species in open coastal sites is far less known (Ruiz *et al.* 2009).

382 The survival of species attached to debris washing ashore on the U.S. and Canadian Pacific coasts
383 shows that some coastal species can withstand oceanic conditions for years. These data challenge the
384 idea that coastal organisms experience low survival in open ocean conditions because of decreased food
385 availability in oligotrophic conditions (Polovina *et al.*, 2008) and long-term exposure to harmful UV-B
386 (Smith & Baker, 1979). Not only did these species survive the long-distance ocean transit, but some are
387 known to have either undergone gametogenesis during the crossing, such as the mussel *Mytilus*
388 *galloprovincialis* (Miller *et al.*, 2018a), or produced multiple filial populations, such as amphipods,
389 isopods, and marine insects. The reported debris species therefore represent a unique subset of
390 organisms which are hardy enough to withstand varying environmental conditions during transit.
391 Previous analyses indicate that some traits, like smaller adult size, a sessile lifestyle, and the ability to
392 reproduce both sexually and asexually may enhance survival of rafting species (Thiel & Gutow, 2005b).
393 An investigation of the traits associated with tsunami debris species more specifically, indicates that
394 having a greater occurrence on artificial substrates amongst biofouling communities and greater salinity
395 tolerance are consistent across species which have prior global invasion histories and are therefore
396 considered the most likely to establish in the U.S. and Canada (Miller *et al.*, 2018b).

397 There are limitations to how accurate species distribution models can be for detecting newly
398 established species. For instance, despite having suitable environmental conditions at debris landing
399 sites, species must overcome a number of additional barriers for successful population growth and
400 establishment. These barriers include Allee effects, or the tendency for small populations to experience
401 limited growth due to low genetic diversity, inbreeding, and difficulty finding mates; the potentially

402 limited availability of suitable habitat in the receiving environment; and biotic interactions such as
403 predation and competition that can limit establishment success. The lack of consideration for these
404 additional factors is a more general criticism of species distribution models, and efforts are being made
405 to incorporate habitat mosaics, dispersal, and biotic information into mechanistic models to increase
406 predictive accuracy (e.g. Mellin *et al.*, 2016). Habitat filtering, specifically, is likely to limit colonization
407 and establishment for debris species. For instance, species that need hard substrates for attachment
408 and growth are not likely to survive for long durations on sandy beaches, where a majority of the
409 tsunami debris was detected (Carlton *et al.* 2017). This detection could be an artifact of search effort,
410 however, as rocky shores, especially along high energy open coastlines such as the those in the
411 northeastern Pacific, are less likely to be visited by coastal resource rangers, beach walkers, and
412 beachcombers. Similarly, tsunami debris items washing into bays and estuaries were rarely detected
413 (per Carlton *et al.* 2017), but these areas have mostly inaccessible shorelines and are closer to urbanized
414 areas increasing the incidence of floating debris overall, making detection of tsunami related items more
415 challenging.

416 Furthermore, choices made during the modelling process itself, specifically in addressing sampling
417 biases in presence and pseudo-absence background points can have large effects on predicted species
418 distributions (Merow *et al.*, 2013; Yuckulic *et al.*, 2013). We attempted to reduce spatial bias in our
419 models by carrying out a randomized selection process for coastal pseudo-absence points, incorporating
420 data from a range of sources (e.g. online global repositories and detailed searches of the research
421 literature) for presence points, and running detailed quality analysis of known occurrence records
422 (described in the methods). We considered using a target list (as suggested by Phillips *et al.* 2009 and
423 Yuckulic *et al.*, 2013), but this could introduce spatial bias in another way by assuming that researchers
424 investigating nearshore marine invertebrates have broad search images and data collection protocols
425 for the full suite of species modelled here, which is unlikely. This issue of spatial bias is an important
426 one, and greater knowledge of a species true presence and absence in a given location would certainly
427 improve predictive accuracy. Lastly, the occurrence probability estimates shown for each species are
428 not representative of predicted species density or habitat suitability in any way (Elith *et al.* 2011). The
429 density of an organism is likely to vary greatly, and this is especially true for newly establishing species
430 which are often at low-densities and therefore challenging to detect (Crooks, 2005).

431 Humans are notoriously successful dispersal agents and have been transporting species around the
432 globe, intentionally and unintentionally, for centuries. In modern times, these transits are often

433 recorded and can be enumerated over large scales (e.g. Verling *et al.*, 2005; Seebens *et al.*, 2013). The
434 global increase in floating human-made debris, however, changes this association, as these dispersal
435 events often go unnoticed or unaccounted for. The Japanese tsunami provided a unique case in which to
436 understand long-distance dispersal through rafting in the modern era (Carlton *et al.*, 2017; Chown,
437 2017). It is clear that large numbers of coastal marine organisms can withstand varying durations of
438 open ocean transport attached to marine debris, although species-specific variability in growth,
439 reproduction, and survival while attached to oceanic debris is still unknown. The predictive maps and
440 models developed here can be used to set priorities for monitoring for establishment of tsunami debris
441 species, increasing the likelihood of early detection and successful eradication, and providing testable
442 hypotheses for investigating the frequency of successful long-distance dispersal across the world's
443 oceans.

444

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651 **Data Accessibility Statement**

652 The species distribution data used in this study are available through the Dryad Digital Repository:
653 <http://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.b6np614>. These occurrence data were collected from GBIF.org (2016),
654 Fofonoff et al. (2016), and published articles or reports garnered from the scientific literature, and were
655 quality assessed and cleaned for accuracy prior to use.
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659 **Table 1:** List of the 48 Japanese tsunami debris species used in species distribution models. Table
660 includes information on the species population status in Japan (i.e. native, introduced or cryptogenic –
661 meaning origin unknown), whether the species is currently known to be established on the Pacific coast
662 of North America, the total number of global occurrence records used in modelling, the total number of
663 debris items the species was record on, and the predominate planktonic phase of the species. *Species
664 in bold have a known invasion history somewhere in the world.

Taxa	Species	Status in Japan	Currently established US/Canada West Coast?	Global occurrence records	Number of tsunami debris items	Planktonic phase
Amphipod	<i>Ampithoe valida</i>	Cryptogenic	Yes	82	2	direct developer
Sea Star	<i>Aphelasterias japonica</i>	Native	No	20	1	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Arca boucardi</i>	Native	No	29	6	planktotrophic
Sea Star	<i>Asterias amurensis</i>	Native	No	191	1	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Bankia carinata</i>	Native	No	38	33	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Barbatia virescens</i>	Native	No	40	2	planktotrophic
Amphipod	<i>Caprella mutica</i>	Native	Yes	144	7	direct developer
Bivalve	<i>Chama dunkeri</i>	Native	No	22	1	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Chama japonica</i>	Native	No	20	2	planktotrophic
Barnacle	<i>Chthamalus challengeri</i>	Native	No	26	7	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>	Native	Yes	211	54	planktotrophic
Gastropod	<i>Crepidula onyx</i>	Introduced	Yes	90	1	planktotrophic
Bryozoan	<i>Cryptosula pallasiana</i>	Cryptogenic	Yes	117	10	lecithotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Dendostrea folium</i>	Native	No	91	2	planktotrophic
Anemone	<i>Diadumene lineata</i>	Native	Yes	102	3	lecithotrophic
Ascidian	<i>Didemnum vexillum</i>	Native	Yes	88	3	lecithotrophic
Hydrozoan	<i>Eutima japonica</i>	Native	No	20	6	lecithotrophic
Bryozoan	<i>Exochella tricuspis</i>	Native	No	21	5	lecithotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Glorichlamys quadrilirata</i>	Native	No	41	1	planktotrophic non-flagellated spores
Algae	<i>Grateloupia turuturu</i>	Native	Yes	75	3	planktotrophic
Crab	<i>Hemigrapsus sanguineus</i>	Native	No	139	1	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Hiatella orientalis</i>	Native	No	25	38	planktotrophic
Serpulid	<i>Hydroides ezoensis</i>	Native	No	38	48	planktotrophic
Isopod	<i>Ianiropsis serricaudis</i>	Native	Yes	24	36	direct developer
Bivalve	<i>Isognomon legumen</i>	Native	No	44	3	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Laevichlamys cuneata</i>	Native	No	129	3	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Laevichlamys squamosa</i>	Native	No	121	2	planktotrophic
Gastropod	<i>Lottia dorsuosa</i>	Native	No	20	5	lecithotrophic
Gastropod	<i>Lottia kogamogai</i>	Native	No	34	2	lecithotrophic
Barnacle	<i>Megabalanus rosa</i>	Native	No	44	96	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Mizuhopecten yessoensis</i>	Native	No	34	1	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Modiolus nipponicus</i>	Native	No	24	7	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Mytilisepta virgata</i>	Native	No	26	6	planktotrophic

Bivalve	<i>Mytilus coruscus</i>	Native	No	17	2	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i>	Introduced	Yes	199	224	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Paschinnites coruscans</i>	Native	No	77	1	planktotrophic
Sea Star	<i>Patiria pectinifera</i>	Native	No	39	2	planktotrophic
Sipunculid	<i>Phascolosoma scolops</i>	Native	No	44	1	planktotrophic
Coral	<i>Pocillopora damicornis</i>	Native	No	150	18	lecithotrophic
Gastropod	<i>Reishia bronni</i>	Native	No	34	1	planktotrophic
Bryozoan	<i>Schizoporella japonica</i>	Native	Yes	44	2	lecithotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Septifer bilocularis</i>	Native	No	179	2	planktotrophic
Gastropod	<i>Siphonaria japonica</i>	Native	No	23	1	planktotrophic
Gastropod	<i>Siphonaria sirius</i>	Native	No	20	2	planktotrophic
Crab	<i>Sphaerozium nitidus</i>	Native	No	20	1	planktotrophic
Bivalve	<i>Spondylus squamosus</i>	Native	No	83	1	planktotrophic
Barnacle	<i>Tetraclita japonica</i>	Native	No	20	1	planktotrophic
Algae	<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>	Native	Yes	96	1	planktotrophic flagellated spores

665

666 **Figure Legends**

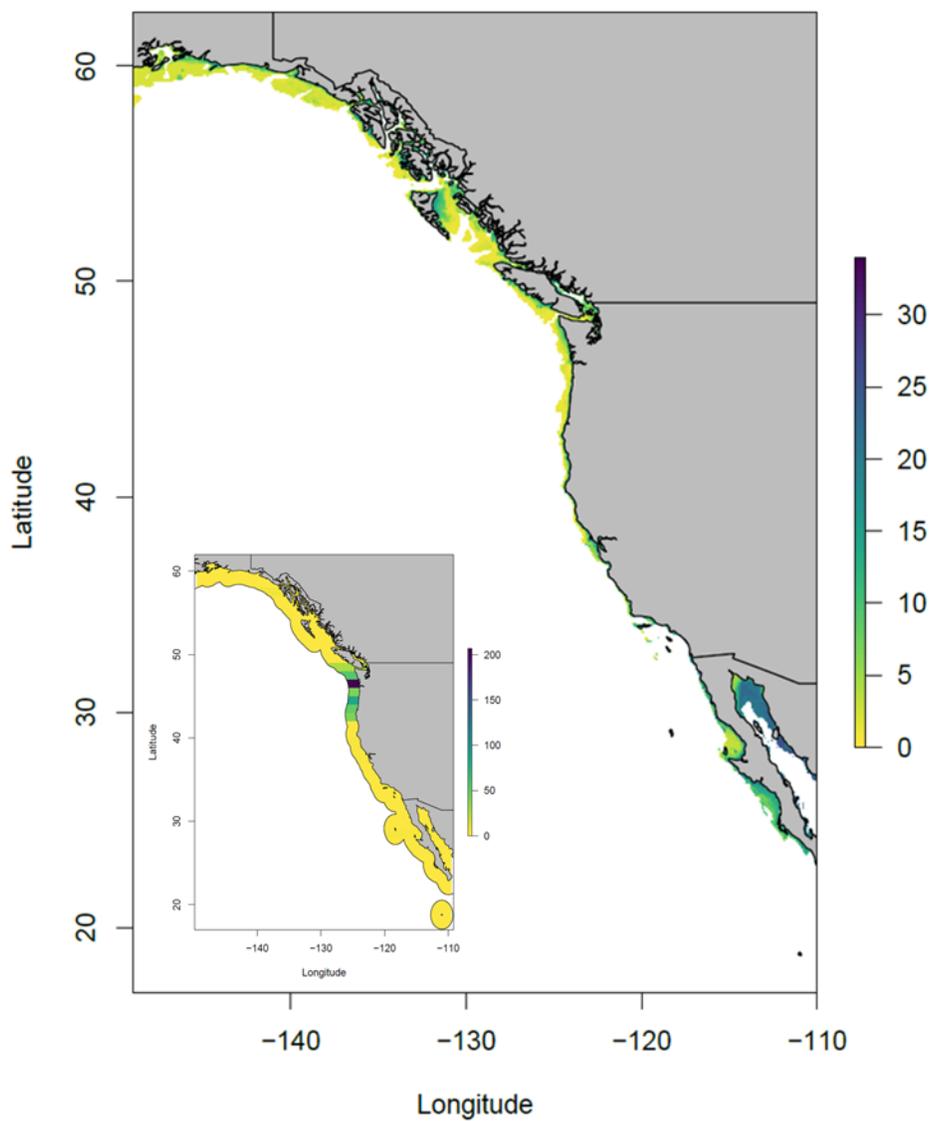
667 **Figure 1:** Heat map showing the cumulative predicted presence of the 48 species recorded on marine
668 debris associated with the 2011 Japanese tsunami. Separate maps for each species can be found in the
669 Supporting Information Figures S1-S48. Inset shows the cumulative number of Japanese tsunami debris
670 items found and sampled along the US and Canadian Pacific coast.

671 **Figure 2:** The MaxEnt complementary log-log probability scores garnered from each 5-arcmin pixel along
672 the Pacific coastline of North America (represented as grey dots) for each of the 48 tsunami marine
673 debris species. Landing locations are shown as black dots. Larger versions of these graphs can be found
674 in the Supporting Information Figures S1-S48. NB: Images are meant to represent broad species groups
675 and are not diagnostic of the species themselves.

676 **Figure 3:** Heat-map showing the cumulative distributions of the 99 marine invertebrate and algal species
677 which are native to Japan and introduced and established along the Pacific Coast of North America.

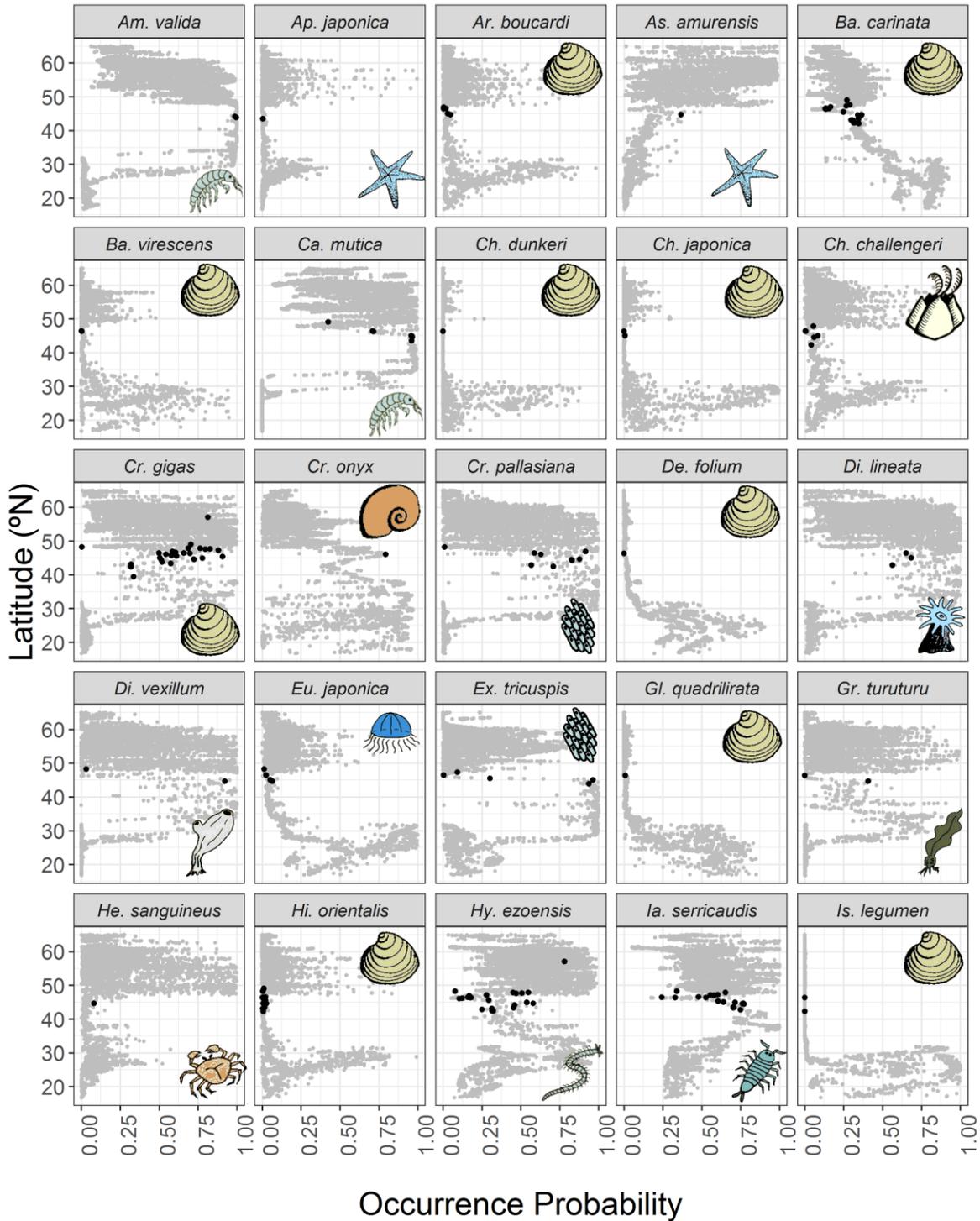
678

679 **Figure 1:** Heat map showing the cumulative predicted presence of the 48 species recorded on marine
680 debris associated with the 2011 Japanese tsunami. Separate maps for each species can be found in the
681 Supporting Information Figures S1-S48. Inset shows the cumulative number of Japanese tsunami debris
682 items found and sampled along the US and Canadian Pacific coast.



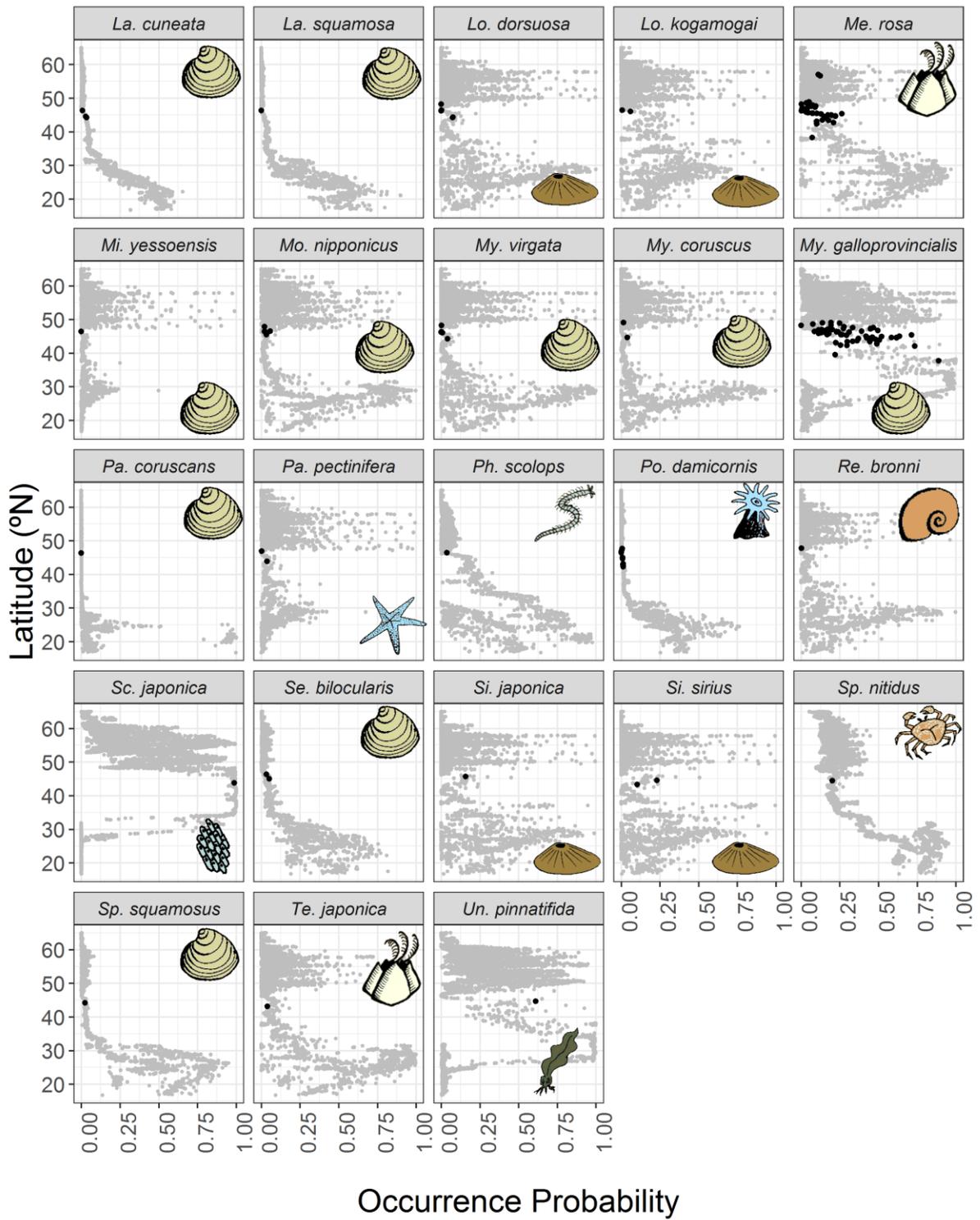
683

684 **Figure 2:** The MaxEnt complementary log-log probability scores garnered from each 5-arcmin pixel along the Pacific coastline of North America (represented as grey dots) for each of the 48 tsunami marine
 685 debris species. Landing locations are shown as black dots. Larger versions of these graphs can be found
 686 in the Supporting Information Figures S1-S48. NB: Images are meant to represent broad species groups
 687 and are not diagnostic of the species themselves.
 688



690 Figure 2 cont.

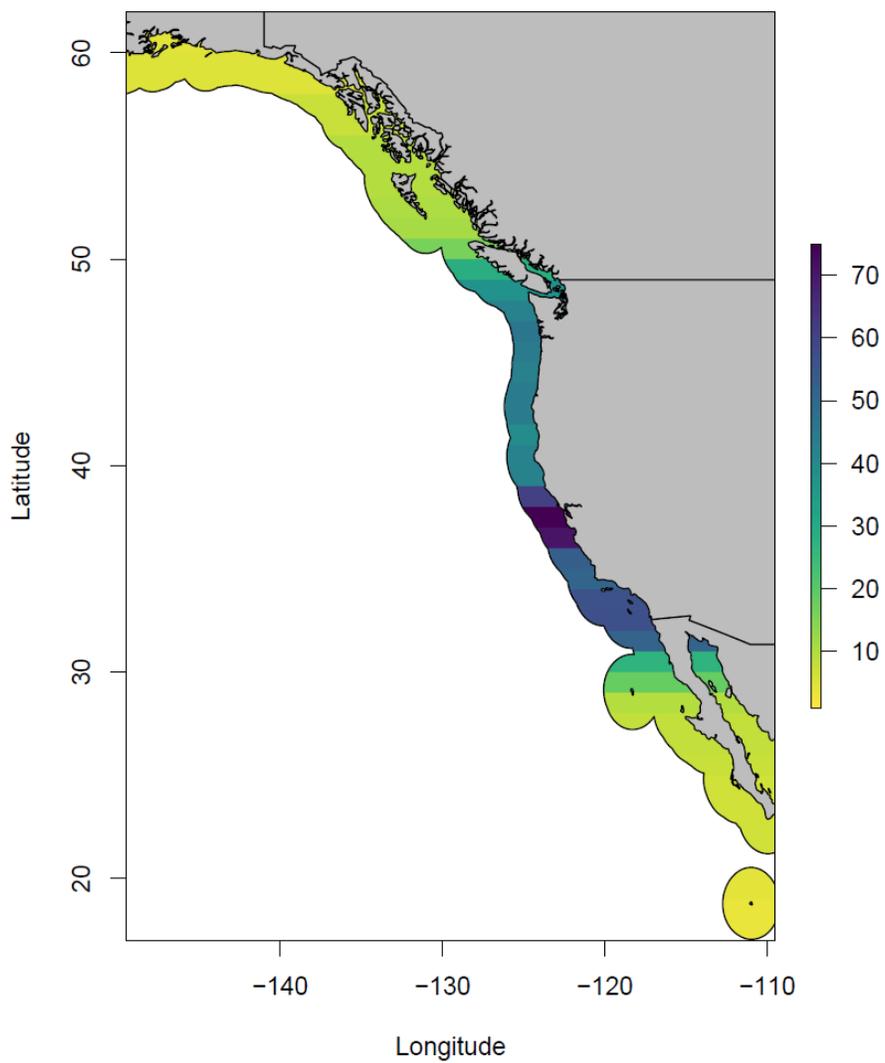
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693

694 **Figure 3:** Heat map showing the cumulative distributions of the 99 marine invertebrate and algal species
695 which are native to Japan and introduced and established along the Pacific Coast of North America.



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700 **The supporting files include:**

701 **Table S1:** Correlation matrix of candidate Bio-ORACLE marine environmental layers for modelling marine
702 invertebrate species.

703 **Table S2:** Correlation matrix of candidate Bio-ORACLE marine environmental layers for modelling algal
704 species.

705 **Table S3:** The feature classes and regularization multiplier parameters selected to represent the
706 simplest MaxEnt model for each species.

707 **Table S4:** Statistics from MaxEnt species distribution models.

708 **Table S5:** Marine invertebrates and algae of Japanese origin that are currently introduced and
709 established on the Pacific coast of the United States and Canada.

710 **Figures S1 to S48:** Individual species maps showing occurrence probability along the Pacific coast of
711 North America.

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713