

Bacterial Housing Crisis

How does decreasing ocean pH break apart microgels?



What's the issue?

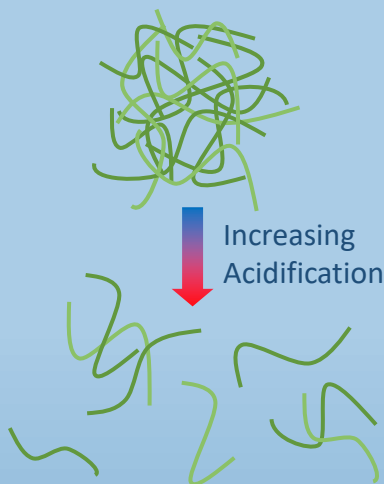
Increasing acidity in the ocean causes microgels to break apart, meaning less protection and food for marine bacteria

What is a microgel?

Microgels are gels made up of dissolved carbon molecules. They double as a food source and a protective housing for marine bacteria. Without microgels, bacterial productivity decreases

Why are bacteria important?

Bacteria are major players in ocean nutrient cycling



CO₂ experiment

My research aims to test how much microgels break apart as ocean acidification increases.

I will be using carbon dioxide to increase the pH to a predicted level, then measuring the sizes of the gels



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