PORT RIVER ROBS: OYSTER RECRUITMENT & BIODIVERSITY

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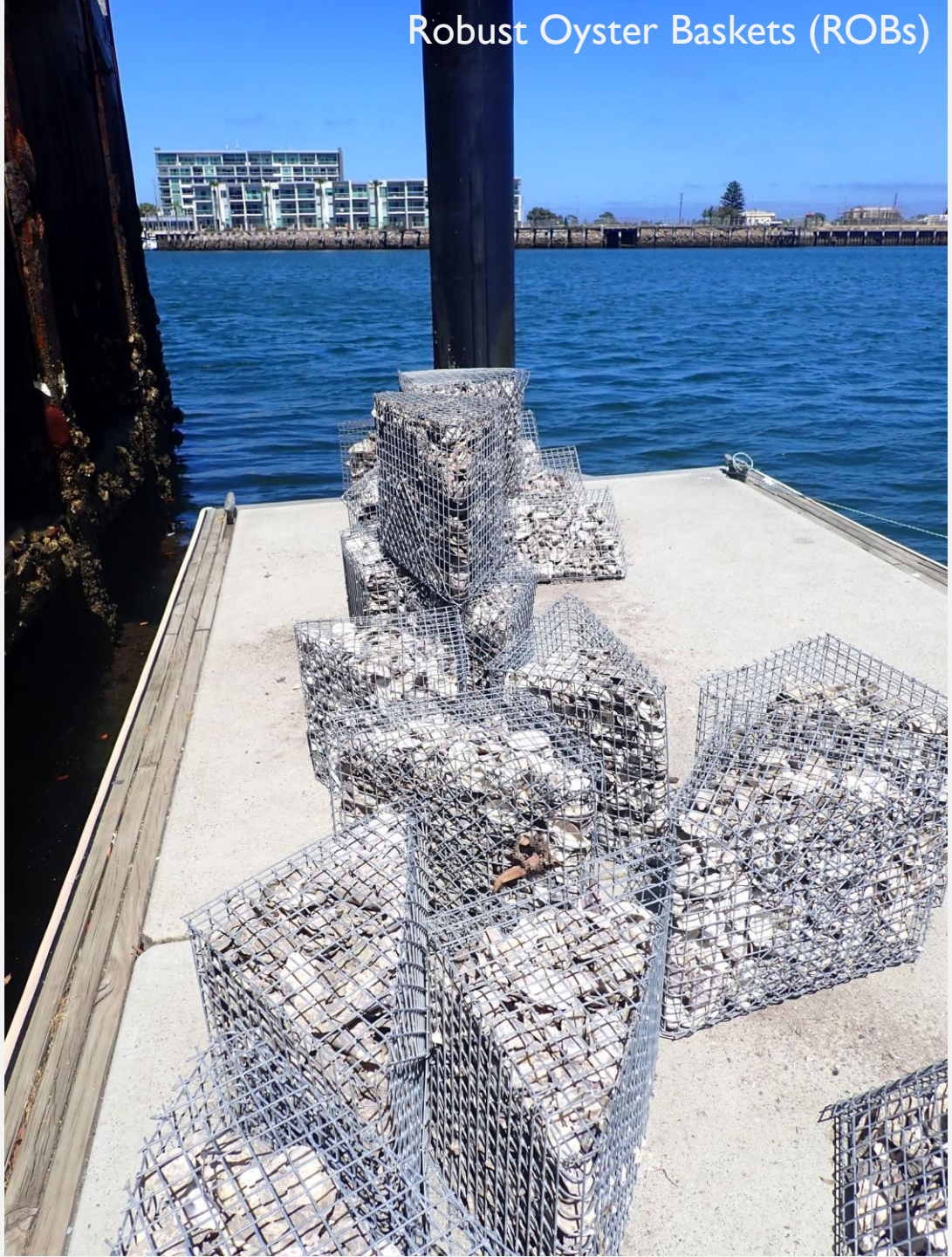
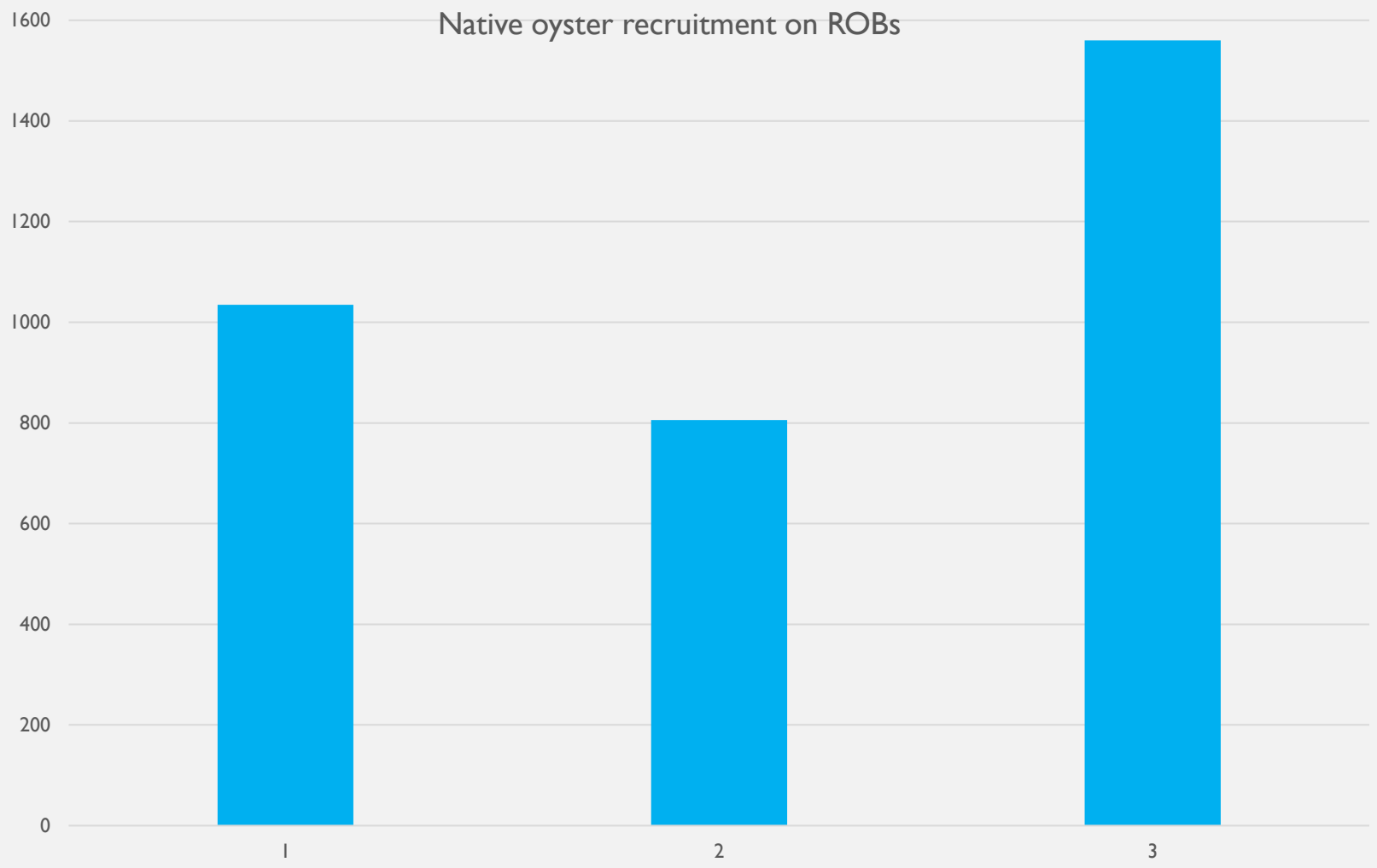
STUDY
OYSTER RECRUITMENT & BIODIVERSITY IN 3 ROBUST OYSTER BASKETS, SOME MINI OYSTER BASKETS AND SETTLEMENT PLATES



RESEARCH SITES:
OYSTER REEF TRIALS SITE & SECOND PORT RIVER SITE

ROBS: SUCCESSFUL NATIVE OYSTER RECRUITMENT



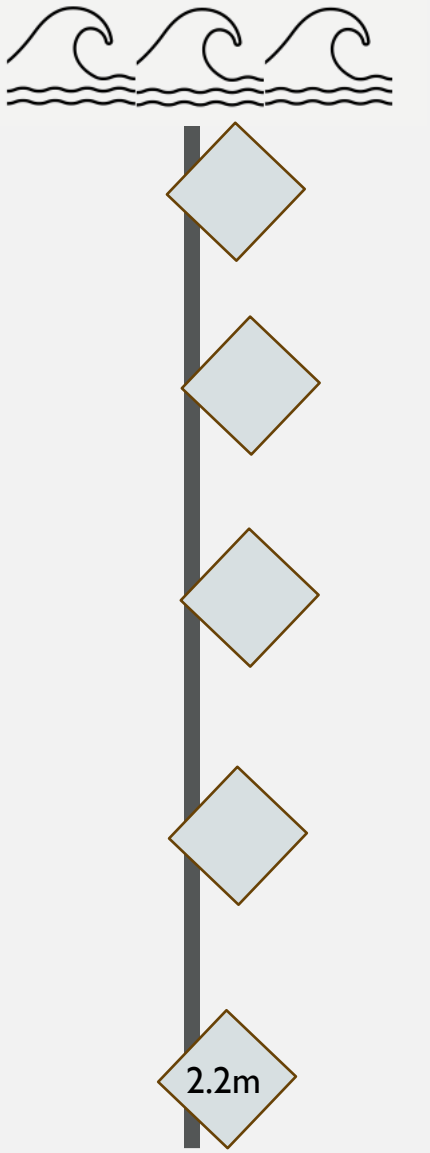
DOES DEPTH AFFECT OYSTER RECRUITMENT? YES!

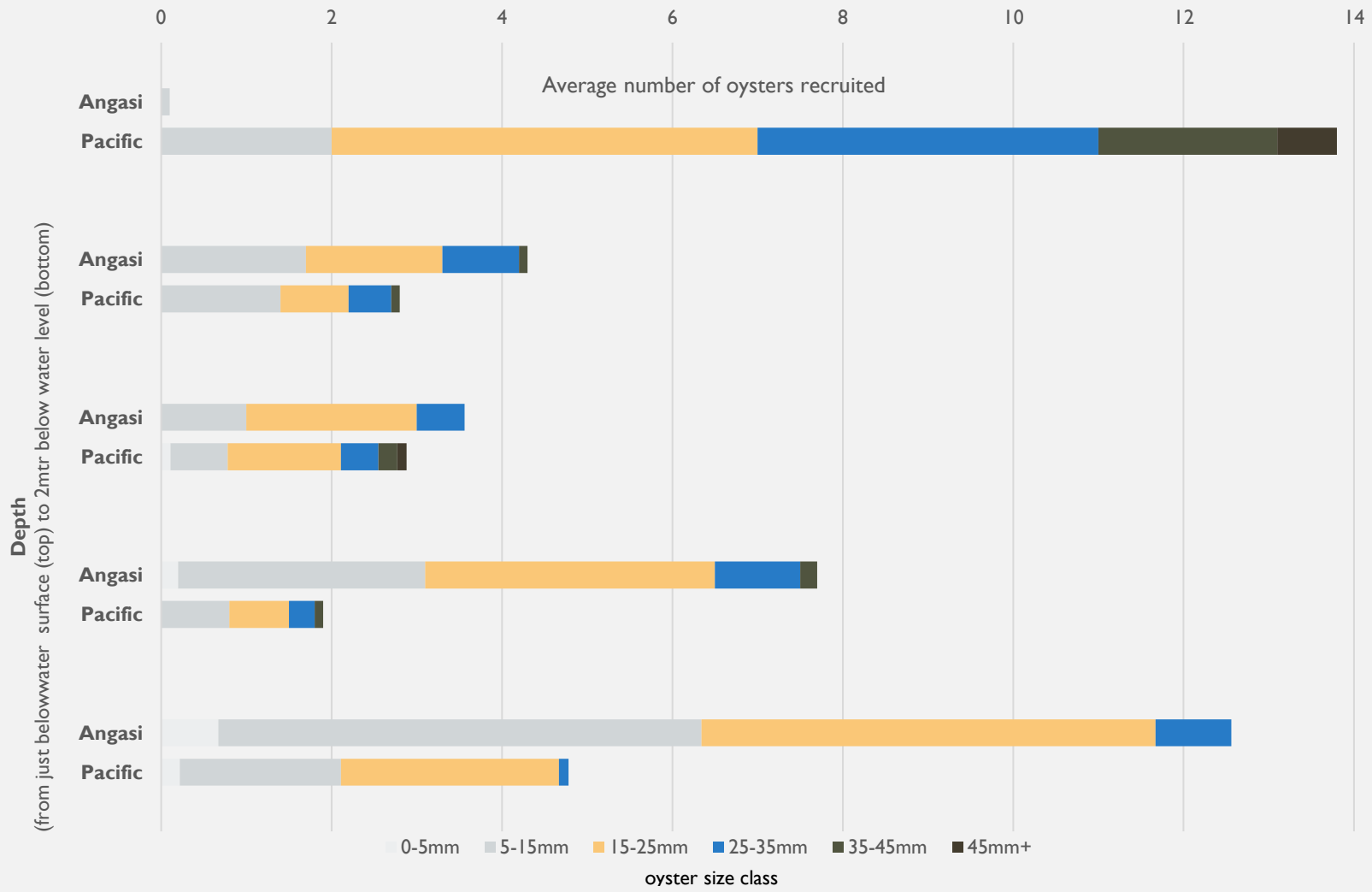
VS

Pacific Oysters

Native Oysters

HOW DEPTH AFFECTS OYSTER RECRUITMENT





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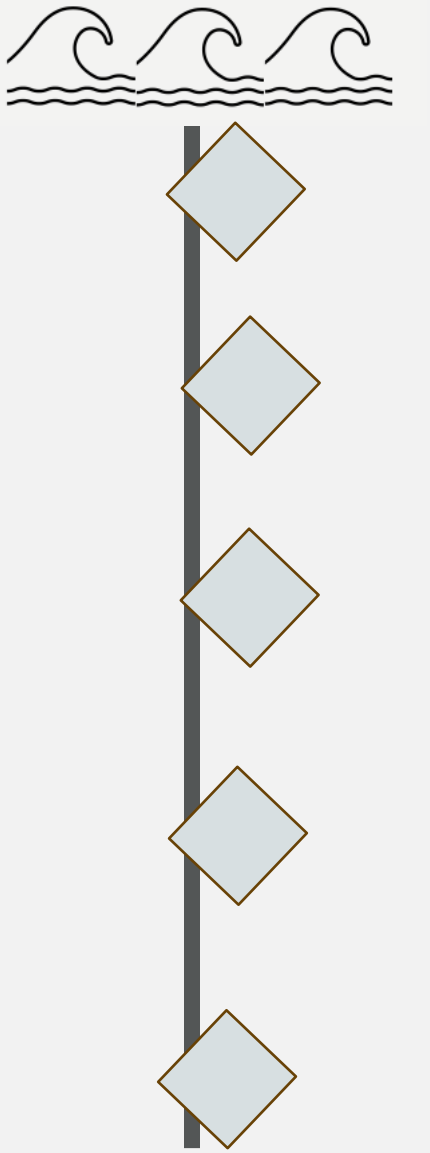


High Pacific oyster recruitment just below water surface, some as large as 45mm+
Few Native oysters recruited

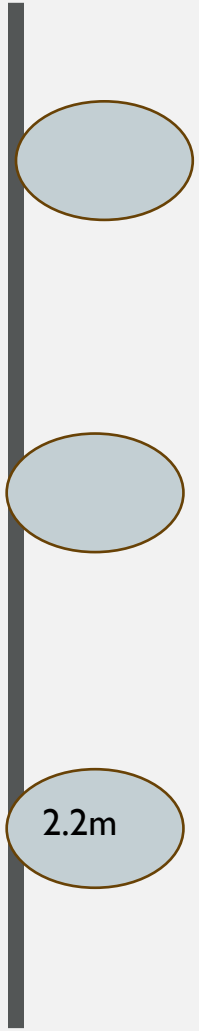
Both Pacific and Native (*Angasi*) oysters recruited

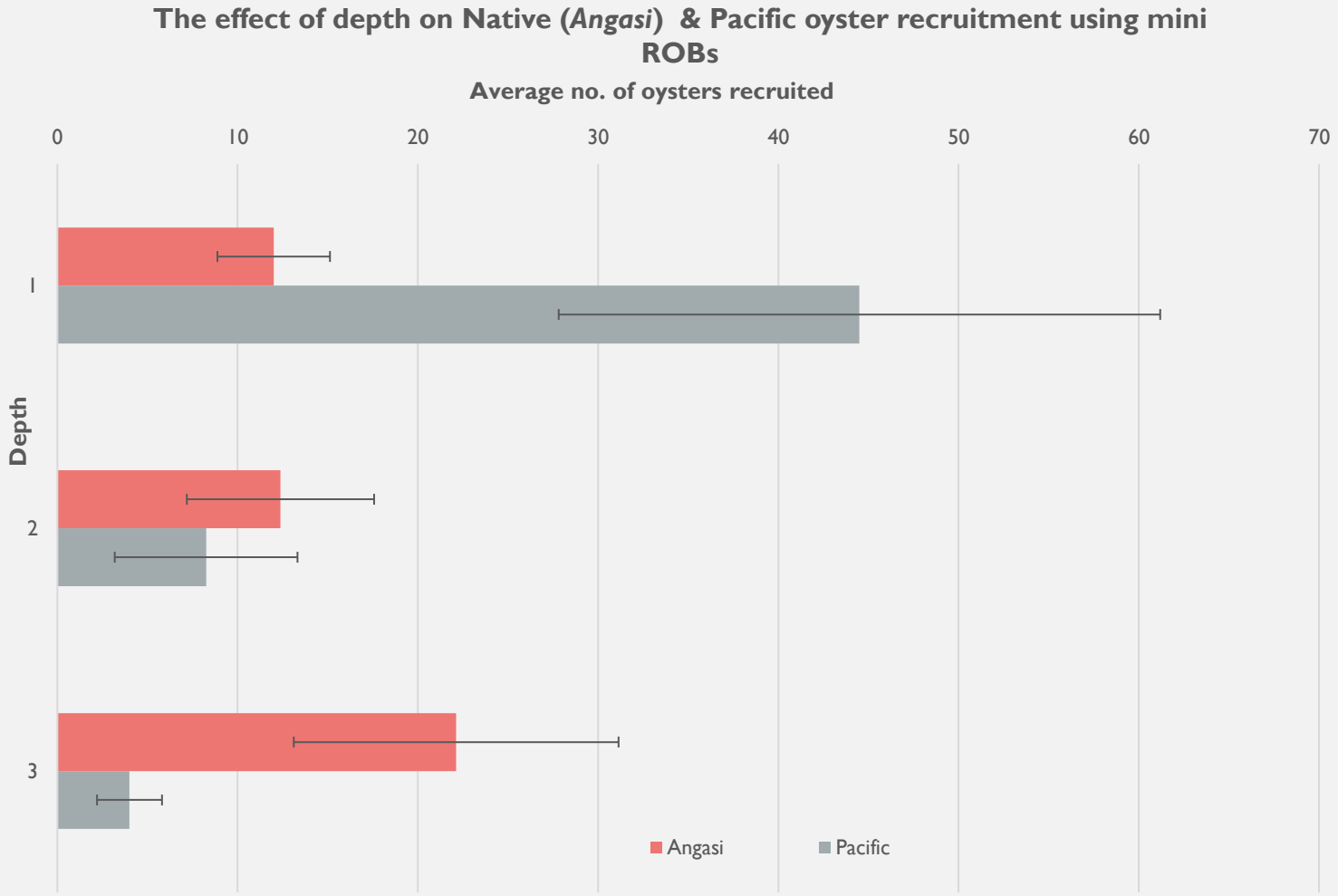
Both Pacific and Native (*Angasi*) oysters recruited

More Native (*Angasi*) oysters recruited than Pacific oysters (about 4 times as many)

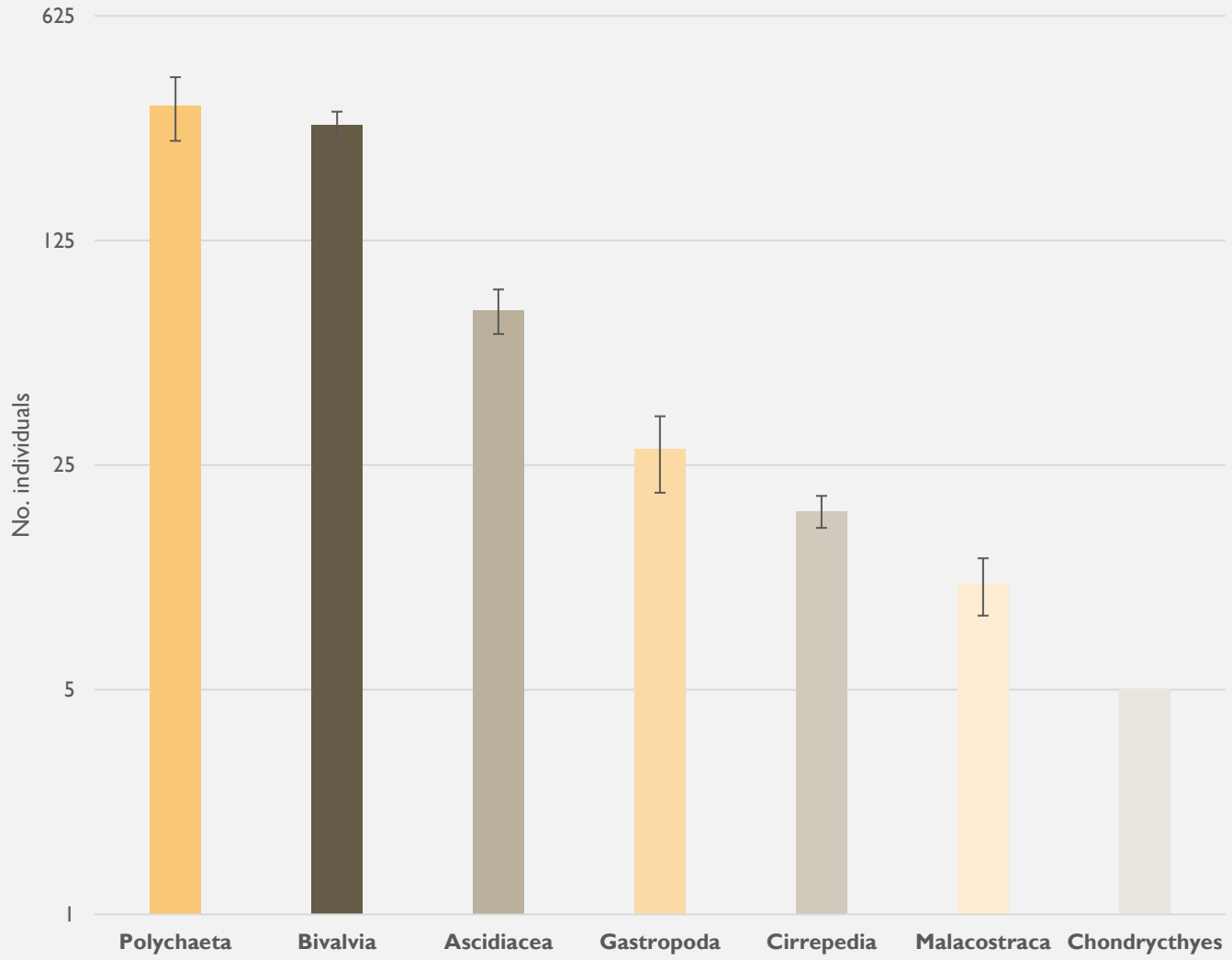
More Native (*Angasi*) oysters recruited than Pacific oysters (about 3 times) at 2m depth
Smaller Pacific oysters found at this depth

OYSTER RECRUITMENT: MINI ROBS & DEPTH

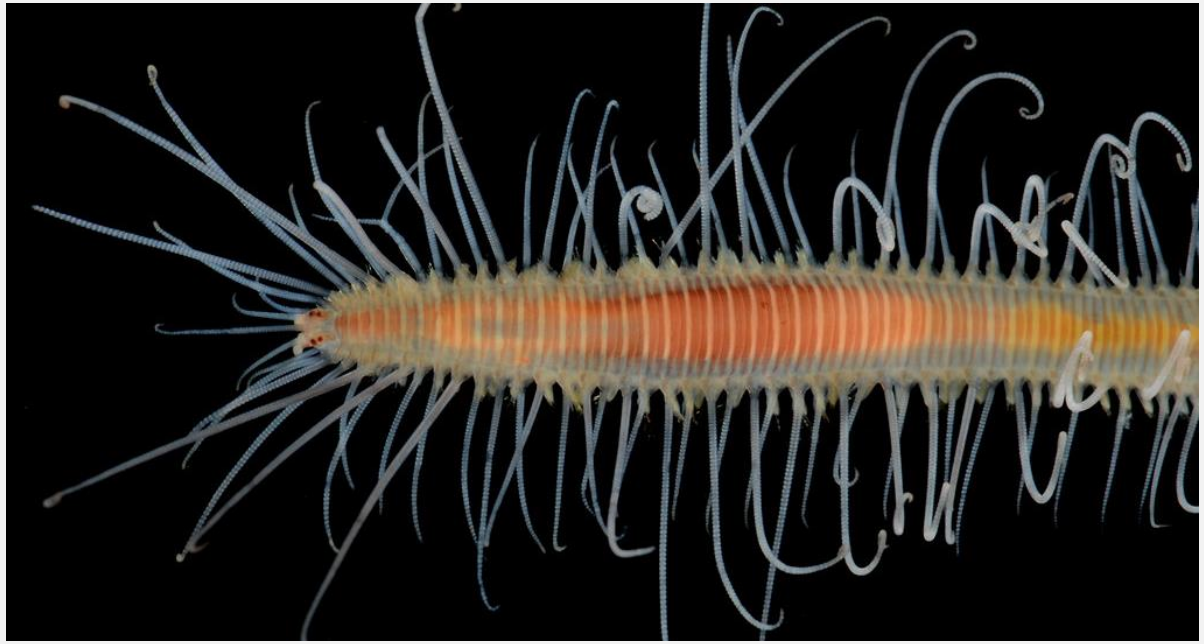




ON/IN ROBS – DIVERSITY FOUND



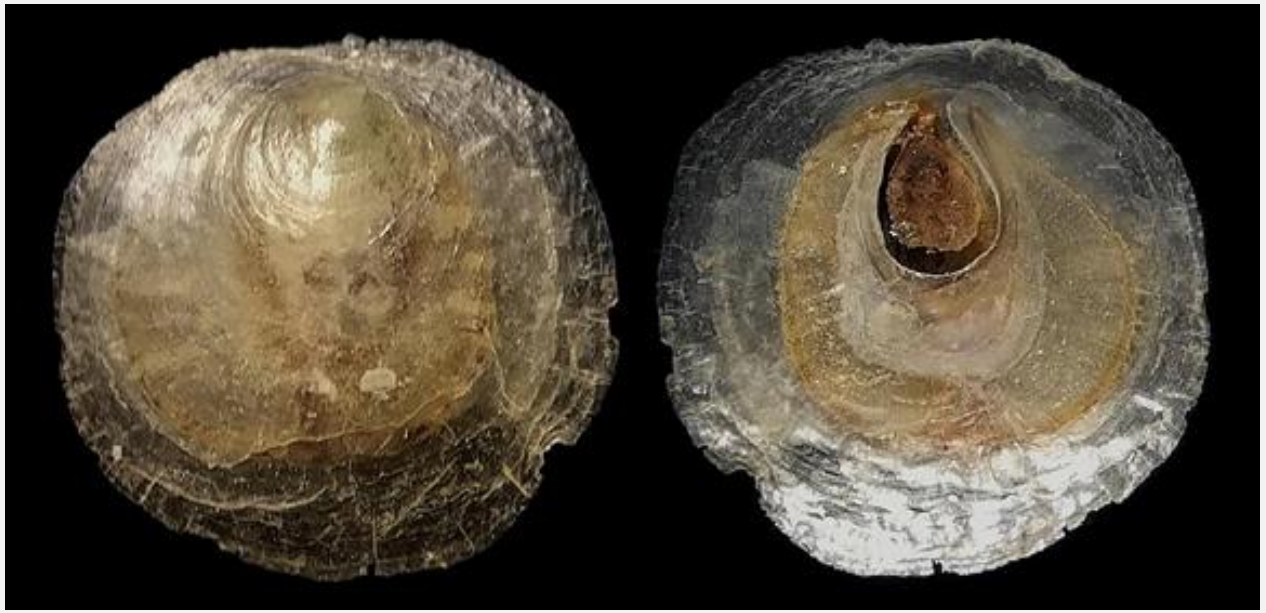
ON/IN ROBS: POLYCHAETES (SEGMENTED WORMS)



Native species

European Fan Worm (invasive)

ON/IN ROBS: BIVALVES



ON/IN ROBS: ASCIDIANS

ON/IN ROBS: MOLLUSCS, SHRIMPS ETC

MINI ROBS ATTRACTED NATIVE OYSTERS & OTHER LIFE

CONCLUSIONS

Native oysters were successfully recruited on/in Robust Oyster Baskets (between 800 and 1500 per ROB)

Native oysters were successfully recruited to mini ROBs

While Pacific oysters thrive at or just below the water surface, Native oysters can out compete them at deeper levels (e.g. 2m or so)

A diversity of life – worms, shellfish, shrimps etc – were found within the ROBs