**Supplementary table S1.** Rates and extent to which phenanthrene was degraded during incubation of the Gulf oil spill microbial community on increasing concentrations of EPS from *Halomonas* sp. strain TG39.

 Incubations using Gulf oil-spill water

 EPS Lag Rate at Rate at Extent degraded

 (mg/ml) (days) 2-5 days 5-8 days after 12 days

 (mg/l/day)a (mg/l/day)a (%)b

 0.0 2 210.6 ± 18.1 475.9 ± 30.7 100.0 ± 0.0

 0.1 2 288.6 ± 22.9 528.1 ± 37.7 100.0 ± 0.0

 0.2 2 281.0 ± 75.9 536.9 ± 74.6 100.0 ± 0.0

 0.4 2 309.9 ± 39.3 526.2 ± 56.6 100.0 ± 0.0

a Values are the slopes of a linear fit ± 95% confidence interval.

b Percentage degraded of total initial phenanthrene.