

Potential Hydrocarbon Degraders Present in Oil from WWII Wrecks in the Pacific

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Abstract : World War II (WWII) shipwrecks harbour up to 20 million tonnes of oil. More than 3000 wrecks are in the Pacific Ocean; 300 are oil tankers. Compared to other oil removal methods, bioremediation is environmentally friendly and cost-effective. Oil's microbial community and hydrocarbon properties from the Pacific WWII wrecks were identified. Dominant phyla are Proteobacteria, Actinobacteria, and Firmicutes. Native marine bacteria oil-degraders were isolated for bioremediation. Petroleum degradation data from the bacterial consortium will be analyzed over the next three months.

Keywords : oil bioremediation, marine bacteria, WWII shipwrecks, pacific

Conference Title : ICPWMR 2022 : International Conference on Petroleum Waste Management and Remediation

Conference Location : Sydney, Australia

Conference Dates : December 02-03, 2022