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3 **Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement impacts: Regrowth of marine**  
4 **microalgae in alkaline mineral concentrations simulating the**  
5 **initial concentrations after ship-based dispersions**

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13 **Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement impacts: Regrowth of marine**  
14 **microalgae in alkaline mineral concentrations simulating the**  
15 **initial concentrations after ship-based dispersions**

16 **~~Biological impact of ocean alkalinity enhancement of~~**  
17 **~~magnesium hydroxide on marine microalgae using bioassays~~**  
18 **~~simulating ship-based dispersion~~**

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23 **Abstract**

24 Increasing the marine CO<sub>2</sub> absorption capacity by adding alkaline minerals into the world's oceans is a promising  
25 marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) approach to increase the ocean's CO<sub>2</sub> storage potential and mitigate  
26 ocean acidification. Still, the biological impacts of dispersion of alkaline minerals needs to be evaluated prior to  
27 its field deployment, ~~especially the impacts of the initial hot spot discharge causing local and temporary extreme~~  
28 ~~alkalinity/pH changes~~. In this study, the toxicity effect on marine microalgae of two commonly used alkaline  
29 minerals, calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>) and ~~sodium hydroxide (NaOH), was compared with~~ magnesium  
30 hydroxide (Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>), by ~~adding the same equivalent molar concentration of~~ ~~applying the same concentration of~~  
31 ~~hydroxyl radical hydroxyl ions (OH<sup>-</sup>) for each component~~. Cultures of marine green microalgae *Tetraselmis*  
32 *suecica* were exposed to NaOH, Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> or Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> in concentrations mimicking ~~the initial high concentrations~~  
33 ~~hot spot discharge upon following -a~~ dispersion scenarios from a ship, ~~A -which included~~ short-term exposure  
34 with high alkaline mineral concentration called "dispersion phase" ~~was~~ followed by a dilution ~~step and a~~  
35 "regrowth" phase over six days. There was no detectable effect of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatment on algae growth either after  
36 the dispersion phase or during the regrowth phase, compared to control treatments. The Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatment  
37 resulted in very few living algal cells after the dispersion phase, but a similar growth rate was observed during the  
38 regrowth phase as was for the Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> and control treatments. ~~The NaOH treatment resulted in no surviving~~  
39 ~~algae after the dispersion phase and during the regrowth phase~~. Standardized whole effluent toxicity (WET) tests  
40 were carried out with a range of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> concentrations using a sensitive marine diatom, *Skeletonema costatum*,  
41 which confirmed the relative low toxicity effect of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>. Similar biological effects were observed on natural  
42 microalgae assemblages from a local seawater source when applying the same Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> concentration range and

43 exposure time used in the WET tests. The results suggest that  $Mg(OH)_2$  is relatively safe compared to  $Ca(OH)_2$   
44 and  $NaOH$  with respect to marine microalgae.

45

## 46 1 Introduction

47 In average, the pH of open ocean surface decreased from 8.15 to 8.00 between 1950 and 2021 (Terhaar et al.  
48 2023); with a rate of change from -0.017 to -0.027 pH units per decade since the late 1980s (Canadell et al., 2021).  
49 Models predict that the rate of decrease in pH will continue, or even double, by the end of this century in business-  
50 as usual scenarios (Joos et al., 2011; Orr et al., 2005); reaching an unprecedented rate, never recorded in the entire  
51 geological history (Hönisch et al., 2012). The primary cause of the decrease in ocean pH, termed ocean  
52 acidification (OA), is the increase of the anthropogenic atmospheric emissions of carbon dioxide (Broecker and  
53 Takahashi, 1977; Broecker et al., 1979; Feely et al., 2004; Guinotte and Fabry, 2008; Orr et al., 2005).  
54 Approximately 25% of anthropogenic  $CO_2$  is absorbed by the ocean, which results in decreased pH and decreased  
55 concentrations of carbonate ions available for forming calcium carbonate in the marine biota (Broecker and  
56 Takahashi, 1977; Feely et al., 2004; Orr et al., 2005). Marine organisms which are dependent on carbonate ions  
57 for the formation of their shell and skeletons, such as corals, mollusks, echinoderms and foraminifera, are  
58 especially vulnerable to ocean acidification (Guinotte and Fabry, 2008). Therefore, the three main consequences  
59 are negative impacts on: 1) organisms that rely on carbonate based shells and skeletons, 2) organisms sensitive to  
60 lower pH and 3) organisms higher up the food chain that feed on these sensitive organisms. Thus, OA can have  
61 devastating socio-economic consequences, by affecting the provision of ecosystem services such as fisheries,  
62 tourism and coastal protection (Andersson et al., 2015). For example, shellfish have been shown to be negatively  
63 affected by reduced growth and survival of larvae and juveniles under OA scenarios (Dupont et al., 2013;  
64 Hettinger et al., 2013; Whiteley, 2011). In addition, the changes in seawater chemical composition due to OA  
65 might modify the abundance and toxicity of the harmful algal blooms, which would also negatively impact the  
66 shellfish production by accumulation of the algal toxins within the shellfish (Falkenberg et al., 2020). Moreover,  
67 such algal blooms can damage the gills of fish in open sea cages, resulting in large losses in the aquaculture  
68 industry (Riebesell et al., 2018).

69 It is widely recognized that reducing the carbon dioxide emissions is not sufficient to accomplish the goals of the  
70 Paris agreement of 2015, limiting global warming and ocean acidification OA (Canadell et al., 2021; Pathak et al.,  
71 2022). Accordingly, there is an urgent need for additional carbon dioxide removing approaches. Many At least  
72 seven different marine dioxide carbon removal (mCDR) approaches are currently under evaluation (GESAMP,  
73 2019), including: artificial upwelling/downwelling, nutrient fertilization, deep sea storage, electrochemical ocean  
74 carbon dioxide removal, macroalgal/microalgal cultivation, marine ecosystem restoration, and ocean alkalinity  
75 enhancement (OAE). In general, the principle of some of these approaches is based on acceleration of the natural  
76 process of absorption and long-term storage of the excess atmospheric carbon dioxide by the ocean (Siegel et al.,  
77 2021, NASEM, 2021). Among them, OAE has been put forward as one of the most promising approaches, because  
78 the acidification remediation process itself triggers the reduction of the atmospheric carbon dioxide level  
79 (Renforth and Henderson, 2017). Hence, when the aqueous carbon dioxide deficit, generated by the addition of  
80 alkaline mineral, returns to the initial equilibrium with atmospheric carbon dioxide, the final pH still remains  
81 slightly higher than the initial pH, while calcite (most stable polymorph of calcium carbonate  $CaCO_3$ ) level and

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82 aragonite (crystal structure of calcium carbonate) saturation state are elevated. The aragonite saturation state is  
83 commonly used to track ocean acidification (Qing-Jiang et al., 2015). The most studied alkaline minerals for OAE  
84 approaches are limestone ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), olivine ( $\text{Mg,Fe}_2\text{SiO}_4$ ), sodium hydroxide (NaOH) and calcium hydroxide  
85 ( $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$ ) (DOSI, 2022). While the latter mineral has been evaluated for large scale application on the  
86 Mediterranean Sea (Butenschön et al., 2021), a large-scale study involving field deployment of olivine in coastal  
87 waters off New York, USA is currently being performed (Tollefson, 2023). Magnesium hydroxide has also  
88 recently been studied (Yang et al., 2023; Hartmann et al., 2022). Its relatively low water solubility allows it to  
89 be added in a larger amount without reaching harmful pH levels (Tollefson, 2023) and might will potentially  
90 increase the durability of its the alkalization effect. Following this, in addition to raw material source scalability  
91 (Caserini et al., 2022), alkalization efficiency and solubility are important criteria of OAEs (Hartmann et al.,  
92 2022; Ilyina et al., 2013).

93 Therefore, for the selection of the suitable alkaline minerals for OAE, both raw material source scalability  
94 (Caserini et al., 2022), alkalization efficiency and durability will depend on the specific characteristics of each  
95 alkaline mineral and are important criteria to evaluate for the selection of the suitable alkaline minerals  
96 for OAE (Hartmann et al., 2022; Ilyina et al., 2013), in addition to raw material source scalability (Caserini et al.,  
97 2022). However, moreover, the effects on the aquatic environment need to be considered, including the biological  
98 impact of the initial discharge of high alkaline mineral concentrations as well as upon ship-based dispersion  
99 techniques scenario at global scale, causing local and temporary extreme alkalinity/pH changes.  
100 Accordingly, Bach et al., (2019) and Burns and Corbett (2020) pointed out that before approval of the alkaline  
101 mineral dispersion at global scale, a risk assessment of the toxicity effect of the alkaline minerals on marine  
102 organisms must be performed. For this toxicity assessment, thus, it is crucial to consider not only the toxicity  
103 effect, if any, of the final low alkaline mineral concentration after expected final dilution into ocean, but also the  
104 potential initial toxicity effect of the initial hot spot discharge of the alkaline mineral on local organisms. These  
105 hot spot discharges upon ship-based dispersion might be local and temporary, but it is important to consider that  
106 they would be applied at a global scale. These local and temporary effects will potentially include

107 Potentially, there will be considerable local/regional effects of dispersion of alkaline minerals. Increased cation  
108 levels ( $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ), increased bicarbonate and carbonate ions, temporary local pH increase or temporary local  
109 decrease of dissolved carbon dioxide, might cause perturbation. Perturbations that potentially form impact  
110 hotspots, affecting phytoplankton species composition and growth, resulting in impacts higher up in the food chain  
111 (Bach et al., 2019). Biological impacts will strongly depend on the spatial and temporal scale of alkaline mineral  
112 dispersion, and studies must therefore use realistic alkaline mineral dispersion scenarios.

113 In this study, the biological impacts of initial and temporary hot spot discharge of  $\text{Mg(OH)}_2$  concentrations  
114 expected from dispersion from a moving ship was compared to  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$  and NaOH on marine microalga. This  
115 was done by exposing cultured *Tetraselmis suecica* to the above alkaline minerals. The toxicity of  $\text{Mg(OH)}_2$  was  
116 then further investigated by using a sensitive microalgal species, in a recognized and standardized whole effluent  
117 toxicity (WET) test with cultured diatom *Skeletonoma costatum*. Additional experiments were performed for  
118 further toxicity assessment of  $\text{Mg(OH)}_2$  on a natural microalgal assemblage from local seawater.

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120 **2 Methods**

121 The study was performed in three steps. In the first step, the toxicity effect was studied by exposing marine alga  
122 to alkaline minerals in successive concentrations mimicking dispersion from a moving ship. These experiments  
123 were carried out with *Tetraselmis suecica*, a standard test organism in toxicity studies (Ebenezer et al., 2017; Li  
124 et al., 2017; Seoane et al., 2014; Vagi et al., 2005). In the second step, toxicity effects of the alkaline minerals  
125 were verified by a standardized WET ecotoxicology assay with *Skeletonoma costatum*, a more sensitive marine  
126 algal species (Petersen et al., 2014, Wee et al., 2016), by using the recognized 72 hours growth inhibition test  
127 (ISO 10253:2016). In the third step, the toxicity effect was studied by exposing a natural assemblage of marine  
128 algal species from the Oslofjord, Drøbak, Norway to similar Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> concentrations used in the WET tests. All  
129 experiments were carried out in non-airtight containers to allow ambient CO<sub>2</sub> to re-equilibrate with seawater used  
130 for the experiments.

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131  
132 **2.1 Exposure of *Tetraselmis suecica* to simulated dispersion of alkaline minerals from a moving ship**

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133 The expected distribution of a slurry of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> during its dispersion from the ship's discharge point on the  
134 surface of the oceans was determined utilizing computational fluid dynamic (CFD) models (FORCE Technology  
135 Inc., Denmark) and the Bottom RedOx Model (BROM) (Yakushev et al., 2017). In those models, both the forced  
136 and natural mixing effects of the Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> by the ship's propeller and- physical oceanic processes (as waves,  
137 convection, currents, etc.), respectively, in the ship's wake were simulated with different scenarios, including  
138 propeller motion, velocity of tangential ocean currents, Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> slurry discharge rate/dissolution rate/settling  
139 rate, ship size and ship speed. Dilution was observed with an immediate minimum dilution ratefactor of 1/1000  
140 within 2 minutes after injection, followed by an additional minimum dilution ratefactor of 1/7000<sup>7</sup> during the next  
141 5 hours and a final minimum dilution faetor-rate of 1/154000<sup>22</sup> during the following next 5 hours. Moreover, the  
142 tonnage capacity and operating costs of a ship were also considered together with a final magnesium hydroxide  
143 Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> concentration target of < 1 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. Taken together, this suggested that the dispersion rate of 500 kg s<sup>-1</sup>  
144 would be the most realistic applicable scenario. From this dispersion rate, it was concluded that marine organisms  
145 would be exposed to < 100 g L<sup>-1</sup> approximately for less than one hour followed by a dilution to <10 mg L<sup>-1</sup> over  
146 a period of 10 hours. A simplified formula for dilution factor based on volume discharge rate, vessel speed, water  
147 line depth, and time after disposal was adopted in 1975 by the the-former International Maritime Consultative  
148 Organization (now the International Maritime Organization). Subsequent studies found that the formula  
149 underestimated dilution factor (e.g., Byrne et al., 1988). A modeling study similar to the CFD model reported  
150 here found that 100 kg s<sup>-1</sup> and 10 kg s<sup>-1</sup> Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> addition resulted in 1/166 and 1/52 dilution, respectively, over a  
151 ~30 second period in the near field of the wake zone (Caserini et al., 2021). Despite different ship dimensions and  
152 other model inputs including dispersion rate, the dilution ratefactor of 1/1000 over a 2 minute--period (this study)  
153 was similar for the near field of the wake. Another study from the Cefas Burnham Laboratory, in which maximum  
154 (but safe levels of) discharge of industrial waste from ships was sought after, calculated ship discharge dilutions  
155 rates of 1/10,000 within 5 minutes was possible (C.Vivian, pers.comm.), however maximum dispersal (discharge)  
156 is not the sole criteria for ocean alkalinity enhancement, but rather an intermediate between a high dispersal rate  
157 for maximum input and a low dispersal rate to to-promote maximum dissolution for the alkaline material of  
158 choice.:

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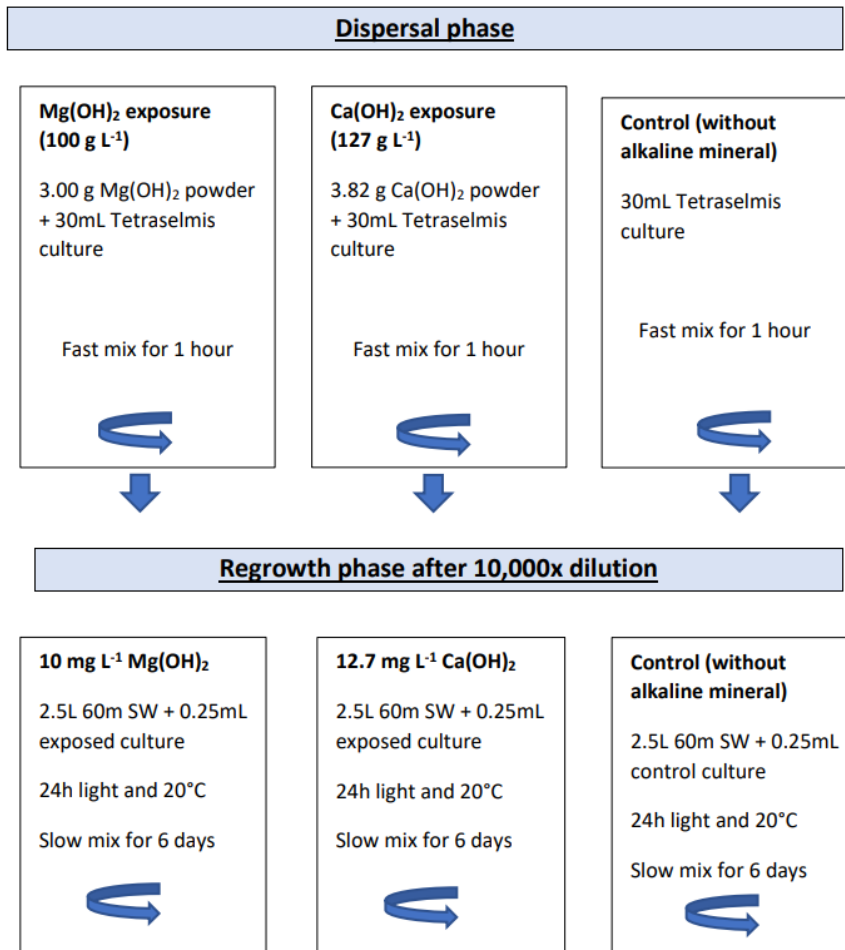
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159 To investigate biological impact of  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$  and compare it with  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ -~~or NaOH~~, cultures of *Tetraselmis*  
160 *suecica* were exposed to these three alkaline minerals during a simulated dispersion phase (as described above)  
161 followed by a regrowth phase (Fig 1). In the dispersion phase, 30 mL of *Tetraselmis suecica* cultures (see further  
162 down), in exponential growth with a cell density range within  $2.6 \times 10^5$  -  $1.4 \times 10^6$  cells  $\text{mL}^{-1}$ , were exposed to the  
163 alkaline minerals in 50 mL glass beakers with continuous mixing at approximately 300 rpm with a magnetic stirrer  
164 (VELP Scientifica) for 1 hour. To achieve similar concentrations of hydroxide ions in the different alkaline  
165 mineral treatments, algae were exposed to either 100 g  $\text{L}^{-1}$  (or 1.7 M) of  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ ; ~~or~~ 127 g  $\text{L}^{-1}$  (or 1.7 M) of  
166  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  ~~or 141 g  $\text{L}^{-1}$  (or 3.4 M) of NaOH~~ (Fig. 1).

167 In the regrowth phase, a subsample from each exposure media was diluted by 10,000 in local seawater and algal  
168 cell density was monitored for 6 days. The dilution was performed by mixing 0.25 mL subsample to 2.5 L ambient  
169 60 m deep seawater from the Oslofjord (Fig.1). The diluted subsamples were incubated in 3 L glass beakers in a  
170 20°C temperature-controlled climate room with 24h light (2x 21W Philips Pentura Mini) and continuous mixing  
171 with a magnetic stirrer (VELP Scientifica; 100 rpm approximately). The measured light intensity was within 20-  
172 60  $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . As the beakers were left uncovered, evaporated water volume was replaced every 24h  
173 (except for week-end period) by an equivalent volume of ultrapure water. Effects of each alkaline mineral were  
174 investigated in triplicates, including both the exposure and regrowth phases; resulting in total of nine bioassays  
175 which were conducted in NIVA's laboratory in Oslo between November 2021 and January 2022. Each bioassay  
176 study was conducted with one or two alkaline minerals in parallel and were repeated three times for each alkaline  
177 mineral with new cultures of *Tetraselmis suecica*, except for two of the NaOH studies which were started on the  
178 same day from the same algal culture. In addition, control bioassays excluding the addition of alkaline minerals  
179 were performed in parallel to each alkaline mineral exposure including a dispersal phase followed by a regrowth  
180 phase.

181 The ambient Oslofjord seawater was unfiltered and unsterilized water collected from 60 m depth just outside of  
182 NIVA's marine research station located at Drøbak, 40 km south of Oslo. The water quality of this seawater is  
183 stable year-round with a temperature of approximately 7°C. This water is representative of ocean regions; i.e. rich  
184 in oxygen but poor in inorganic and organic contents, with 0.7 mg C  $\text{L}^{-1}$  of particulate carbon (POC), 1.1 mg C  $\text{L}^{-1}$   
185 of dissolved organic carbon (DOC), 6 mg  $\text{L}^{-1}$  of total suspended solids (TSS) and very low biological load with  
186  $< 1$  cell  $\text{mL}^{-1}$  of algae and less than 500 CFU  $\text{mL}^{-1}$  of heterotrophic bacteria.

187



188

189 **Figure 1. Schematic illustration of the experimental set-up including the dispersion phase in 50 mL glass beakers**  
 190 **followed by the dilution step and the regrowth phase of the exposed algal cells in 3 L glass beakers.**

191

192 Before exposure, the algae were collected from 1 L laboratory cultures of *Tetraelmis suecica* (NIVA-3/10;  
 193 Norwegian Institute for Water Research, Oslo, Norway). At first, a 50 mL algal culture was prepared by semi-  
 194 static cultivation in a 100 mL glass flask with 50 mL of autoclaved 20% Z8 culture medium with addition of  
 195 vitamins (Kotai, 1972). The medium culture was inoculated with 5-10 mL of the *T. suecica* culture from NIVA's  
 196 algal culture collection. The culture was incubated for ~1 week with fluorescent light tubes giving 20-60  $\mu\text{mol}$   
 197 photons  $\text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ , provided by cool-white fluorescence lamps (TLD 36W/950, Philips, London, UK), on an Infors  
 198 Multicrom 2 incubator shaker (Infors AG, Bottmingen, Switzerland) at  $20 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ , with orbital shaking at 90 rpm.  
 199 After incubation, the culture was used for the inoculation of the 1L culture, except for ~10 mL which was held

200 back to start a new 50 mL culture by adding 40 mL of freshly prepared Z8 medium in same culture conditions as  
201 described above. The 1 L culture was prepared by static cultivation with 1 L autoclaved 20 % Z8 medium with  
202 addition of 1 mL L<sup>-1</sup> vitamins in 2-liter glass culture bottles. Approximately 40 mL of the 50 mL stock culture  
203 was added to 1 L of medium. The culture was exposed to fluorescent light tubes of 20-60 μM m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> and placed  
204 in a 20°C temperature-controlled room for approximately one week.

205 The culture medium was prepared at least 24 h before usage to allow the equilibrium of media components. The  
206 20% Z8 culture medium was made by mixing 0.2 L of Z8 medium into 0.8 L seawater, and shortly aired with CO<sub>2</sub>  
207 (< 1 min) to avoid precipitation of salts during autoclaving. The seawater was pasteurized seawater collected from  
208 60 m depth in the Oslofjord. The medium was autoclaved for 15 minutes at 121°C. 1 mL L<sup>-1</sup> of vitamins stock  
209 solution was added to the 20% Z8 medium (Kotai, 1972).

210 The studied alkaline minerals were magnesium hydroxide (CAS number: 1309-42-8), calcium hydroxide (CAS  
211 number: 1305-62-0) and sodium hydroxide (CAS number: 1310-73-2); all with ≥97.0% purity. Magnesium  
212 hydroxide (Batch No. 18417-01A) was provided by Negative Emission Materials, Inc. via a factory in Canada  
213 producing the mineral by hydrometallurgy process and purification from natural magnesium silicate. The two  
214 other alkaline minerals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (United Kingdom).

215 Density of living *Tetraselmis suecica* was determined by using the double staining method with Fluorescein  
216 Diacetate (FDA) and 5-chloromethylfluorescein diacetate (CMFDA) (NSF, 2010).-For each analysis, a 4 mL  
217 subsample was collected and added 4 μl of 10% HCl. ~~bringing the pH back to approximately 8 prior to staining.~~  
218 The sample was then stained by adding ~~4 μl of 5 mM FDA and 2.5 mM CMFDA~~ double-stains, as final  
219 concentration, and incubated during 10 minutes in the dark. The stained *Tetraselmis suecica* cells were counted  
220 in triplicate (3x 1 mL) in a Sedgwick Rafter counting chamber using fluorescence microscope (Leitz Aristoplan,  
221 CoolLED pE-300 lite) with 485-530 nm excitation-emission filter combination and 100x magnification. The  
222 untreated algal samples without alkaline mineral were used as positive controls. Both *T. suecica* and local diatoms  
223 are nearly 100% stainable with these stains according to our 15 years of experience with this method in our local  
224 seawater. Samples treated with sodium hydroxide (NaOH) to increase the pH to approximately 14 were used as  
225 negative controls. No fluorescence could be observed in the negative controls, indicating an instant kill effect of  
226 the algal cells. This study was focusing on the regrowth capability of the algal cells over several days indicated  
227 by increasing density of fluorescent cells over time, compared to the control samples. This double staining method  
228 FDA/CMFDA is based on the validation work of US Navy Research Laboratory to distinguish between living and  
229 dead cells after disinfection by a ballast water treatment (Steinberg et al., 2011). This viability method is the only  
230 one recognized by both International Maritime Organization (IMO) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) for  
231 approval of ballast water discharge from 70,000 commercial ships at global scale (USCG, 2012, IMO, 2018).

232 Temperature, salinity and pH in the bioassays were measured in-situ by using a calibrated handheld WTW  
233 Multimeter (WTW Multi 3620 IDS/3420 IDS displayer) with a conductivity probe (TetraCon 925 Xylem) and a  
234 pH-electrode (SenTix 945P). The three-point calibration method with Hamilton pH-buffer solutions (4, 7 and 10)  
235 was used for the calibration of the pH electrode, according to WTW instructions. The temperature in the test  
236 waters varied within a range of 18-23°C for all experiments during the 6 days of regrowth phase as all experiments  
237 were conducted at room temperature. The same temperature was registered in the alkaline test waters compared

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238 to the corresponding control waters. The salinity of the test waters, with or without alkaline mineral, was around  
239 32-33 PSU at the start of the 6 days regrowth phase for all experiments. The salinity stayed relatively stable for  
240 most of the regrowth phase, except for the last day with an increase up to 35-36 PSU in average. This increase  
241 was due to the evaporation of the test water at room temperature during the week-end period included at the end  
242 of the 6 days of experimentation.

243

## 244 **2.2 Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) test**

245 The WET test consisted of a marine algal growth inhibition test of 72 hours performed by NIVA's ecotoxicity  
246 laboratory according to NIVA's standard procedure which is based on International Standard ISO 10253: Water  
247 Quality – Marine algal growth inhibition test with *Skeletonema costatum* and *Phaeodactylum tricoratum*. In this  
248 study, the diatom *S. costatum* (NIVA-strain BAC 1) was used as test organism.

249 A 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> sample was diluted by using a modified ISO 10253 media, except that no Fe-EDTA stock  
250 solution was added, as the tested compound Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> showed to be affected by the presence of EDTA causing  
251 precipitation of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>. A preliminary study was made to verify the microalgal growth in this modified media.  
252 Although less growth was observed when compared to normal ISO 10253 media, the specific daily growth rate  
253 was still greater than 0.9 d<sup>-1</sup>, which was considered as valid. A total of six concentrations of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> was tested  
254 (1, 10, 25, 50, 75 and 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup>). The test was performed with 15 mL samples in covered 30 mL glass vials.  
255 Each concentration was tested in triplicate with 6 replicates for each control (one control set with normal ISO  
256 10253 and another control set with modified ISO 10253); same number of replicates for analysis of blank samples  
257 but without microalgae added.

258 All samples were inoculated with 5 x 10<sup>6</sup> cells L<sup>-1</sup> of *S. costatum* from an exponentially growing laboratory culture  
259 and incubated on a shaking table at 20±1°C under continuous illumination of 63 μM m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> of photosynthetic  
260 active radiation (PAR).

261 The cell density was determined by ~~fluorescence~~fluorescence with SpectraMax iD3 microplate after approximately  
262 24, 48 and 72 hours (±2h). The fluorescence measurements were directly correlated to the algal density as a  
263 correlation factor (r<sup>2</sup>) of 1 between the measured fluorescence and the cell density was calculated. The  
264 fluorescence values of the exposed samples without algae (blanks) were measured to investigate potential biases  
265 caused by effect of the tested substance on the fluorescence readings. As no such effects were detected, no further  
266 transformation of data was necessary.

267 The temperature, pH and salinity were measured in-situ at the beginning and at the end of each WET test. The  
268 temperature varied from 19.9 to 20.3°C for both WET tests. The pH at the start of the experiment varied from  
269 8.089 to 9.376 in all vials for both tests, with increasing pH for increasing Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> concentrations as expected.  
270 The pH at the end of the experiment varied from 8.270 to 8.540 in all vials for both tests. The salinity was stable  
271 with 32-35 PSU in all vials during the entire experiment for both tests.

## 272 **2.3 Natural assemblage of ambient marine algal test**

273 For the preparation of the ambient algal culture, either a 25 L grab-sample from the surface water of Oslofjord  
274 was directly used for the test or a 2 L subsample was mixed to 2 L of 60 m deep seawater from Oslofjord for

275 further algal growth. For growth, the culture was incubated in a 5 L glass beaker in a climate-room at 20°C and  
276 with constant light from fluorescent light tubes of 20-60  $\mu\text{M m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  for four days. The total density of algal cells  
277 in the culture after incubation was approximately 1000 cell  $\text{mL}^{-1}$ . 500 mL of the culture was then mixed, in a 2 L  
278 glass beaker with a magnetic stirrer at approximately 90 rpm, added to 1500 mL of a prepared  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$   
279 suspension resulting in  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$  concentrations of 1, 10, 25, 50, 75 and 100  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$  and initial algal density of  
280 approximately 125-250 cell  $\text{mL}^{-1}$ . The  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$  suspensions were prepared by mixing 2.7 mg, 27 mg, 66 mg,  
281 133 mg, 200 mg or 270 mg of  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$  in 1.5 L of unfiltered 60 m seawater from Oslofjord, with a magnetic  
282 stirrer (300 rpm) over the night prior test start. The final solutions were slowly mixed continuously with a magnetic  
283 stirrer at approximately 90 rpm, in a climate room at 20°C and with constant light from fluorescent light tubes of  
284 20-60  $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  for 72 hours. The water quality and algal density was monitored daily in each beaker,  
285 using the same methods described in Chapter 2.1. For the control treatments, 500 mL of the ambient algal culture  
286 was mixed with 1.5 L of unfiltered 60m deep seawater from Oslofjord, without  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ , and incubated as  
287 described above. Those tests were carried out on different weeks. Therefore, different control treatments applied  
288 for 1-10  $\text{mg/L Mg}(\text{OH})_2$  treatments, 50-75  $\text{mg/L Mg}(\text{OH})_2$  treatments and 100  $\text{mg/L Mg}(\text{OH})_2$  treatment (see  
289 Appendix C). Aliquots from the 100  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$  treatment were collected from the initial timepoint and final timepoint  
290 (t=3 d) for microscopy-based assessment of community composition by taxa.

#### 291 2.4 Data analysis

292 Effects on *T. suecica* cell survival with  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ ,  ~~$\text{NaOH}$~~  and  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$  in simulated dispersions from a moving  
293 ship were analyzed with a ~~Kruskal-Wallis analyses of variance (ANOVA) with Student's t-test~~ typewith type  
294 of alkaline mineral as independent grouping variable and % survival compared to control treatments after the  
295 regrowth phase as the dependent variable.

297 In the WET test, the growth rate of *S. costatum* in each  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$  sample was calculated from the logarithmic  
298 increase of cell density from start to 72 hours, and expressed as percentage of the growth rate of control samples.  
299 The concentrations causing 50% growth inhibition ( $\text{EC}_{50}$ ) were calculated using a non-linear regression analysis  
300 of the growth rate versus log cell concentration of control water (Hill, 1910; Vindimian et al. 1983). The non-  
301 observed effect concentration (NOEC) and the lowest observed effect concentration (LOEC) were calculated  
302 using Dunnett's test/ t-test for non-homogenous variance and Williams Multiple Sequential t-test for homogenous  
303 variance.

304 Effects of  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$  on the natural marine algal assemblage was investigated by dividing the different exposure  
305 concentrations (1, 10, 25, 50, 75 and 100  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ) within two groups based on the LOEC (25  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ) from the  
306 WET test. This resulted in one low concentration group (1, 10 and 25  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ) and one high concentration group  
307 (50, 75 and 100  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ). ~~The The~~ difference in % survival compared to control treatment between the high and  
308 low concentration groups was investigated by a Student's t-test. This approach, with three replicates in each group,  
309 allowed us to investigate effects of increased  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$  concentrations.

### 310 3 Results

#### 311 3.1 Exposure of *Tetraselmis suecica* to simulated dispersion of alkaline minerals from a moving ship

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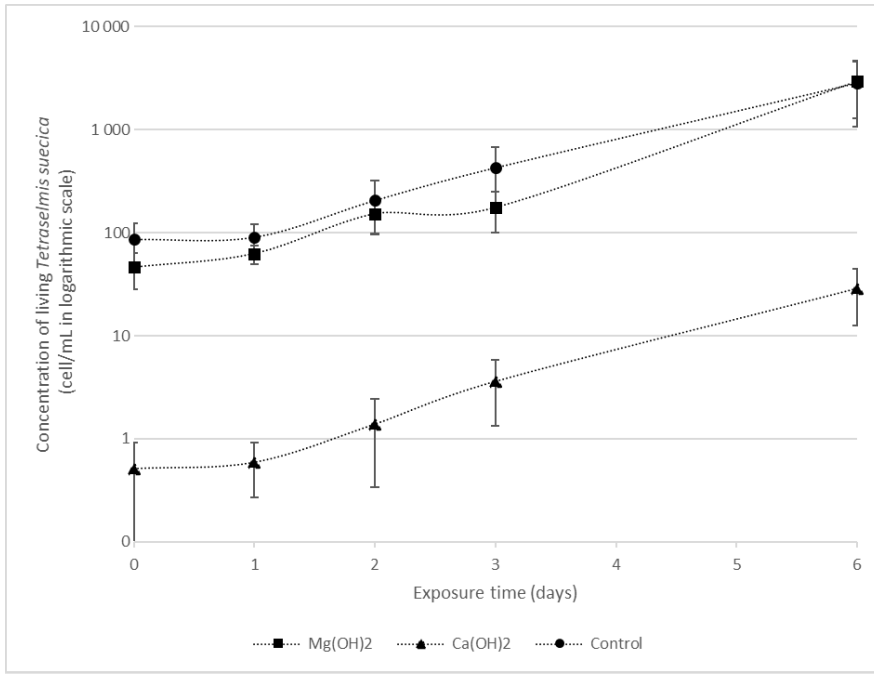
312 There were significant differences in living cells of *Tetraselmis suecica* (% survival compared to control  
 313 treatments; Table 1) between the alkaline minerals in the end of the regrowth phase (~~Student's t-test~~  
 314 ~~Wallis ANOVA~~;  $\chi^2=6.329$ ,  $P<0.05$ ), which were reflected in both the dispersion and the regrowth phases. At  
 315 the start of the regrowth phase, the surviving cell densities in the Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatments were similar to the ones  
 316 observed in control treatment, while only one living cell was observed in one of the Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatments ~~and no~~  
 317 ~~survival algae could be observed in the NaOH treatments~~ (Day 0; Table 1). In the Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> and Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>  
 318 treatments, algal cell densities increased during the regrowth phase (Day 1-6; Table 1). ~~No living cells were~~  
 319 ~~observed in the NaOH treatments (Fig. 2)~~. At the end of the regrowth phase, the algal cell densities in the Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>  
 320 treatments were similar as in control treatments, while the algal cell densities in Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatments showed lower  
 321 values than in control treatments (Fig. 2). ~~Still, no living algal cell could be observed in the NaOH treatments on~~  
 322 ~~Day 6 (Day 6; Table 1)~~.

323 **Table 1. Densities of living *Tetraselmis suecica* (cell mL<sup>-1</sup>) and their relation to control treatment (% Contr.) during the**  
 324 **regrowth phase of a bioassay mimicking dispersion of the alkaline minerals Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>, or Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> or NaOH from a**  
 325 **ship. Before the regrowth phase, algae were exposed to either 100 g L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>, or 127 g L<sup>-1</sup> Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> or 141 g L<sup>-1</sup>**  
 326 **NaOH (achieving similar amount of hydroxide in the different alkaline mineral suspensions) for 1h. After this,**  
 327 **subsamples from each treatment were diluted 10 000 times and algae growth were studied during a 6-day regrowth**  
 328 **phase. Each alkaline mineral was assayed in triplicates. Values at day zero corresponds to 1h after dilution and effects**  
 329 **of each alkaline mineral was investigated in triplicates.**

Day	Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub>						Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub>					
	Replicate 1		Replicate 2		Replicate 3		Replicate 1		Replicate 2		Replicate 3	
	Cells ml <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.	Cells ml <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.	Cells ml <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.	Cells ml <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.	Cells ml <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.	Cells ml <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.
0	27	84	30	97	82	53	0	0	0	0	1	2.9
1	40	62	64	145	84	53	1	0.66	0	0	1	2.5
2	72	63	129	168	256	64	-	-	0	0	3	3.5
3	101	72	249	199	-	-	6	0.60	0	0	4	3.6
6	1040	84	1533	263	6217	128	56	0.68	1	0.11	29	2.3

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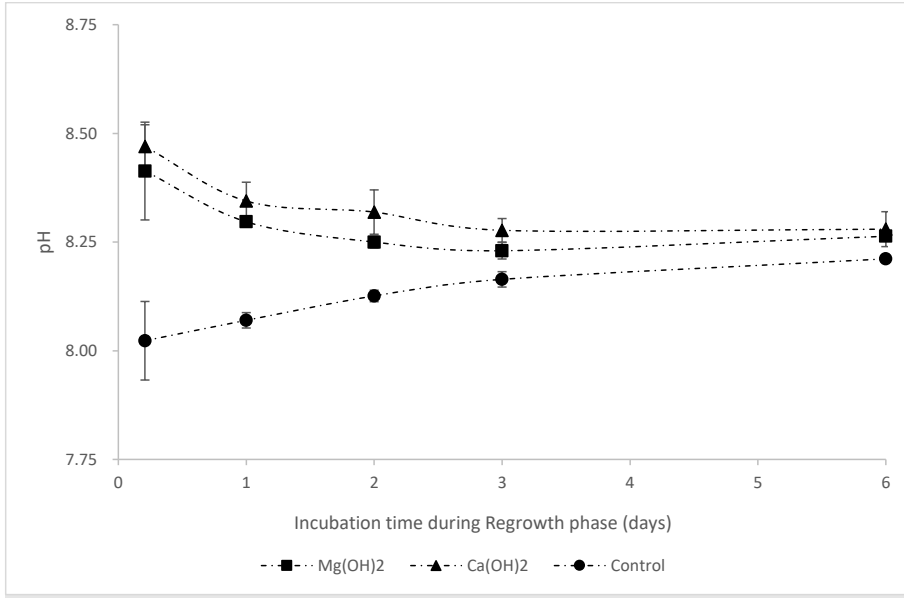
332 Figure 2. Densities of living *Tetraselmis suecica* (cell mL<sup>-1</sup>) during the regrowth phase of a bioassay mimicking  
 333 dispersion of the alkaline minerals Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> or Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> or NaOH from a ship. Before the regrowth phase, algae were  
 334 exposed to either 100 g L<sup>-1</sup>, Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> or 127 g L<sup>-1</sup> Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> or 141 g L<sup>-1</sup> NaOH (achieving similar concentrations of  
 335 hydroxide ions in the different solutions) for 1h. After this, subsamples from each treatment were diluted 10 000 times  
 336 and algae growth were studied during the 6 days regrowth phase.

337

338 3.2 pH

339 The pH in the control treatments were around 8.0-8.2 during the regrowth phase (Fig. 3). While alkaline mineral  
 340 treatments resulted in elevated pH (~ 8.5) at day one after dilution step. Where upon, pH decreased and reached  
 341 similar values as control treatments in day 3 for all alkaline mineral treatments (Fig. 3).

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342  
343 Figure 3. pH during the regrowth phase in a bioassay mimicking dispersion of the alkaline minerals Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> or  
344 Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> or NaOH from a ship. Before the regrowth phase, algae were exposed to either 100 g L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> or 127 g L<sup>-1</sup>  
345 Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> or 141 g L<sup>-1</sup> NaOH (achieving similar concentrations of hydroxide ions in the different alkaline mineral  
346 solutions) for 1h. After this, subsamples from each treatment were diluted 10 000 times to achieve the following  
347 concentrations during the regrowth phase; 10 mg L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> or 12.7 mg L<sup>-1</sup> Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> or 14.1 mg L<sup>-1</sup> NaOH.

348  
349 **3.3 WET tests**

350 The results of the lowest observed effect concentration (LOEC) and the non-observed effect concentration  
351 (NOEC) of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> were similar in both WET tests; with 50 mg L<sup>-1</sup> and 25 mg L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>, respectively. The  
352 Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> concentration causing 50% algal growth inhibition was close to 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> in both tests; within a range  
353 of 82-111 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (Table 2 Table 2).

354 Table 2. Results of the duplicate Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) tests (WET tests 1 and 2) for three endpoints (EC<sub>50</sub>,  
355 LOEC and NOEC) after 72 hours exposure of the marine microalgae *Skeletonema costatum* with freshly prepared 1  
356 L suspension of 100 g L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> in ambient 60m deep seawater from Oslo fjord. A total of six different  
357 concentrations of magnesium hydroxide (1, 10, 25, 50, 75 and 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup>). Those concentrations were prepared by  
358 diluting an initial Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> solution in the algal culture medium, prior to algal inoculation. The initial solution was a  
359 freshly prepared 1 L suspension of 100 g L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> in ambient 60m deep seawater from Oslo fjord, were tested by  
360 diluting the suspension in culture medium. EC<sub>50</sub>: concentration causing 50% algal growth inhibition. LOEC: lowest  
361 observed effect concentration. NOEC: non-observed effect concentration (NOEC).

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Endpoint	WET tests, Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	
	1	2
EC <sub>50</sub>	111	82
LOEC	50	50
NOEC	25	25

362  
363

364 **3.4 Natural assemblage of ambient marine algal species**

365 There was a significant difference in algal survival between the low concentrations group (1, 10 and 25 mg L<sup>-1</sup>  
366 Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>) and the high concentrations group (50, 75 and 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>) after three days of exposure (t<sub>(4)</sub>=  
367 5.8, P<0.01; Table 3). The analysis of the algal biodiversity composition in the 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> suspension  
368 showed that the dominant surviving species were diatoms, including *Skeletonoma spp.*, with 80% and 94% of the  
369 total on Day 0 and Day 3, respectively. The biodiversity composition of the natural algal assemblage in beginning  
370 and at the end of the experiment for the 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatment is given in Table 4.

371 **Table 3. Densities of living ambient algal cells (cell mL<sup>-1</sup>), and their survival in percentage compared to corresponding  
372 control water without Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> (% Contr.), during 3 days of exposure to six different concentrations of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> (1,  
373 10, 25, 50, 75 and 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup>) when incubated in 20°C temperature-controlled room with constant light. Low and high  
374 concentration groups refer to the groups used in the Student's t-test, see 2.4 statistics for more information.**

Day	Low Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> concentrations						High Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> concentrations					
	1 mg L <sup>-1</sup>		10 mg L <sup>-1</sup>		25 mg L <sup>-1</sup>		50 mg L <sup>-1</sup>		75 mg L <sup>-1</sup>		100 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	
	Cells mL <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.	Cells mL <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.	Cells mL <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.	Cells mL <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.	Cells mL <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.	Cells mL <sup>-1</sup>	% Contr.
0	412	96	446	104	246	97	252	99	237	93	231	94
1	907	101	858	96	712	99	438	61	305	42	271	43
2	1107	91	1110	92	1530	122	495	40	328	26	313	11
3	1180	91	1210	94	2140	109	531	27	580	30	388	7

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376 **Table 4. Algal biodiversity composition (in % of the total algae) in 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatment at the initial (Day 0)  
377 and last (Day 3) timepoint of the 3 day natural assemblage experiment with local ambient seawater from Oslofjord.**

Group	Organism	% of total biodiversity	
		Day 0	Day 3
Diatoms	<i>Chaetoceros spp.</i>	39	5
	<i>Skeletonema spp.</i>	29	50
	Other diatoms	16	35
Dinoflagellate	Dinoflagellate	6	1
Unspecified	Monad	6	10
	Flagellate	4	0

378

379 **4 Discussion**

380 **4.1 Regrowth of *Tetraselmis suecica***

381 Similar algal densities were observed in both control and Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatments at the beginning of the regrowth  
382 phase (Day 0, Table 1). This could be related to the short exposure time or to the low solubility of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>; 0.012  
383 g L<sup>-1</sup> in pure water and around 0.008 g L<sup>-1</sup> in seawater (Yang et al., 2023). For comparison, the solubility of

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384 Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> and NaOH is 1.73 g L<sup>-1</sup> and 1000 g L<sup>-1</sup> at 20-25°C, respectively. Accordingly, pH increased during the  
385 dispersion phase from approximately 8.0 to 9.5 in the Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatment which was lower compared to the  
386 expected pH of 12 in Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> and pH of 14 in NaOH treatments (Hartmann et al., 2022). However, pH was  
387 similar at the beginning of the regrowth period for all three both alkaline mineral treatments at ~8.3-8.6 (Fig. 3),  
388 giving similar potential regrowth conditions. The similar growth rates observed in controls, Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>-added and  
389 Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>-added treatments (Fig. 2) suggests that the algae previously exposed to 100 g L<sup>-1</sup> Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> were able to  
390 recover during this phase, at least when the algae were incubated in optimal culture conditions which might not  
391 be the case in natural oceanic conditions. Taken together, our data indicated high algal mortality in Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> and  
392 NaOH at the high concentrations of 127 and 141 g L<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, during the first hour after the alkaline mineral  
393 discharge from a moving ship, while no such toxic effect was observed when algae were exposed to Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>.  
394 This emphasizes that the local and temporary biological impact of alkaline mineral hot spot discharge upon  
395 the initial phase of the dispersion, in addition to alkalinity increase capability, needs to be considered when  
396 evaluating mCDR strategies. Following this, it is important to keep in mind that in this study the toxicity  
397 comparison was based on the criteria that each alkaline mineral should have the same hydroxide content, not  
398 taking in account difference in alkalinity enhancement between the alkaline minerals. Yang et al. (2023) showed  
399 that 12 mg L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> resulted in a stable and efficient alkalinity enhancement in seawater and Hartmann et al.  
400 (2022) demonstrated that Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> was 2.4 times more effective in alkalinity enhancement of seawater compared  
401 to Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>. This supports Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> as a relatively safe and effective alkaline mineral.

#### 402 **4.2 Growth inhibition test with *Skeletonoma costatum***

403 The results from the WET tests indicate that no growth inhibition of *S. costatum* was observed for Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>  
404 concentrations equal or below to 25 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (NOEC). This is somewhat in accordance with the simulated dispersion  
405 test, showing no growth inhibition of *T. suecica* during the 6 days of regrowth phase in 10 mg L<sup>-1</sup> magnesium  
406 hydroxide. The results from dispersion phase indicate no or low effect of 1 h of exposure with 100 g L<sup>-1</sup>  
407 magnesium hydroxide on *T. suecica*. The WET tests indicated a 50% growth inhibition effect of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>  
408 concentrations (EC<sub>50</sub>) between 82 and 111 mg L<sup>-1</sup> after 72 h of exposure. This toxicity effect might be explained  
409 by the temporary local CO<sub>2</sub> limitation impact, limiting the algal growth, due to increasing pH at these high alkaline  
410 mineral concentrations. These EC<sub>50</sub> values were much higher than Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> solubility of ~ 12.2 mg L<sup>-1</sup> in pure  
411 water (Yang et al., 2023). This raises questions regarding the cause of growth inhibition in the current study. It  
412 has been suggested that trace metals, such as Cr, Mo, Ni, Pb in industrial and natural mineral products used as  
413 alkaline minerals may impair organism growth (Bach et al., 2019; Hartmann et al., 2022). However, this might  
414 not be the case here as the Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> powder used in this study was 97-98% ultrapure with <0.01% Ni or Cr.  
415 Further studies are needed to verify and investigate the underlying mechanism for the growth inhibition of *S.*  
416 *costatum* observed in the current WET tests.

#### 417 **4.3 Regrowth test with assemblage of ambient algal species**

418 The same toxicity effect of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> was observed in the tests performed with local marine algal species; i.e. no  
419 significant toxicity effect of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> concentrations below 25 mg L<sup>-1</sup> but significant toxicity effect for  
420 concentrations above 50 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. *Skeletonoma spp.* was represented in the natural assemblage, as one of the  
421 dominant species, while *Skeletonoma costatum* was used in the WET tests. This suggests that the results from the  
422 WET tests using laboratory monoculture are still representative and applicable to similar species growing in

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423 natural marine environment. The biological biodiversity (Table 4) of the local source water included both  
424 algal species with hard cell wall made of silicate (diatoms as *Chaetoceros spp.* and *Skeletonoma spp.*),  
425 dinoflagellates, monads, and unspecified flagellates. Thus, the results from the natural seawater test demonstrated  
426 that toxicity effects observed with Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> on laboratory cultures might be applicable to a wider range of marine  
427 algal species.

428 Thus, both the simulated dispersion scenario, the WET tests and ambient algal tests results suggest that Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>  
429 is a suitable alkaline enhancement mineral with respect to minimizing biological impacts on marine microalgae  
430 during temporary and local extreme alkaline mineral discharge upon initial phase of the dispersion. While our  
431 studies focused on marine microalgae, while most other studies focused on the impact of OAE on organisms with  
432 calcium carbonate containing parts on biological impacts of alkaline minerals were using species being dependent  
433 on carbonate for their development and therefore sensitive to seawater acidification (Cripps et al., 2013, Fakhræe  
434 et al., 2023, Gomes et al., 2016, Renforth and Henderson, 2017). Microalgae play an important role as primary  
435 producers and impacts may be reflected in the entire marine ecosystem by affecting higher trophic-level  
436 organisms, such as zooplankton and fish (Pauly and Christensen, 1995; Chassot et al., 2010). Accordingly,  
437 microalgae are considered a useful and crucial indicator to evaluate the deterioration of environmental quality  
438 (Lee et al., 2023). Thus, the current study applying microalgae assays to investigate the effects of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>  
439 suggests a low negative biological impact of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>. However, it is important to keep in mind that these  
440 laboratory assays, in addition to proximate the biological impact, are employed because they are generally are  
441 considered as simple, relatively fast and cost-effective. Thus, and further studies on other functional groups and  
442 species are required for ensuring a low impact of the OAE.

## 444 5 Conclusion

445 The bioassays based on initial local and temporary hot spot discharge simulation from scenario of alkaline mineral  
446 dispersion from ship demonstrated that Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> resulted in lower biological impacts on marine microalgae when  
447 compared to Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> and Na(OH). Further laboratory studies must be completed to include a wider range of  
448 biological biodiversity from different trophic levels and on a larger scale, such as in mesocosm studies, prior to  
449 field deployment. The observed low negative biological impact of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> was confirmed by the standardized  
450 toxicity test using a more sensitive marine algae species, but also by the tests with a wider range of local ambient  
451 marine algal species. Additionally, there are potentially positive biological impacts of OAE, including remediation  
452 of ocean acidification conditions by reducing pH and increasing saturation state of calcium carbonate, which were  
453 not addressed in this study. Overall, these results indicate that Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> is a suitable mineral for OAE application.  
454 Still, it is important to consider that Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> needs to maintain in suspension right below the ocean's surface to  
455 be an effective OAE. Thus, in addition to further toxicity assessment of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> on aquatic environment,  
456 techniques for optimization of its dissolution, including injection and distribution methods, in seawater needs to  
457 be performed.

459 These preliminary low toxicity results indicate that Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> might therefore be the a good mineral of choice for  
460 OAE application. While this might be explained by the low solubility of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> into seawater, this low

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461 ~~solubility can also be a drawback regarding to alkalinity enhancement performance if the Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> is not~~  
462 ~~dispersed in the right form by the right method to maintain the Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> into suspension right below the ocean's~~  
463 ~~surface. Otherwise, it would then only sinks quickly to the seafloor. Therefore, in addition to those studies for~~  
464 ~~further toxicity assessment of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> on aquatic environment, further studies should be conducted for~~  
465 ~~optimization of dissolution of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> into seawater, including injection and distribution method and their effect~~  
466 ~~on alkalinity enhancement performance of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>. This will be necessary prior to select Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> as mineral~~  
467 ~~of choice for OAE application rather than other alkaline minerals with better solubility.~~

468

#### 469 **6 Data availability**

470 ~~Data will be made available upon request~~The raw data are presented in [Appendix A for the Tetraselmis test](#), in  
471 [Appendix B for the WET tests](#) and in [Appendix C for the natural algal assemblage test](#).

472

#### 473 **7 Author contribution**

474 SD established the study plan, collected all data for data analyses and drafted the first version of this manuscript.  
475 EH was involved in statistical analyzes and writing up the manuscript in collaboration with all authors. TN  
476 performed the laboratory experiments (both dispersion and regrowth phases) and recorded the biological and  
477 chemical analyses results. AK was involved in the quality assurance of the final manuscript.

#### 478 **8 Competing interests**

479 NIVA received funding from Negative Emissions Material Inc. (Claymont, USA) to perform the study and from  
480 Windward Fund (Washington, USA) for the writing of this publication after results disclosure agreement with  
481 Negative Emissions Material Inc. The Windward Fund was founded in response to donors who expressed a desire  
482 to be more connected to their peers' work, and to partner with experts in conservation nonprofit management to  
483 execute bold initiatives. More info here: <https://www.windwardfund.org/about-the-fund/>. The authors declare that  
484 they have no conflict of interest.

#### 485 **9 Acknowledgments**

486 We would like to thank Dr. Evgeniy Yakushev (NIVA) for the development of the BROM model for magnesium  
487 hydroxide specific application, Dr. August Tobiesen (NIVA) and Dr. Ana Catarina Almeida (NIVA) for their  
488 expertise contribution during test plan and/or experiments execution of bioassays and/or WET tests. This material  
489 is based upon work supported by funding from Negative Emissions Material Inc. (Claymont, USA) to perform  
490 both the bioassays and the WET tests. NIVA has received funding from Windward Fund (Washington, USA) for  
491 the writing of this publication under the Master Services Agreement No. Windward-NOR16-MSA-2023.

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697 Appendix A – Raw data for the *Tetraselmis* bioassay studies

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698  
699 The Table 1 of the manuscript was generated from the raw data presented in Table A1.

700 **Table A1. Daily averages (n=3) of density of living *Tetraselmis suecica* (cell mL<sup>-1</sup>) during the regrowth phase (Day 0 –**  
 701 **Day 6) of the triplicate tests mimicking dispersion of the alkaline minerals Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> or Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> from a ship. Before**  
 702 **the regrowth phase, algae were exposed to either 100 g L<sup>-1</sup> Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> or 127 g L<sup>-1</sup> Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> (resulting in similar molar**  
 703 **concentration of hydroxide in the two alkaline mineral suspensions) for 1 hour. After this, subsamples from each**  
 704 **treatment were diluted 10 000 times and algae growth were studied during a 6-day regrowth phase. Each alkaline**  
 705 **mineral treatment and corresponding control treatment was assayed in triplicates. Values at day zero corresponds to**  
 706 **1h after dilution and effects of each alkaline mineral was investigated in triplicates.**

Day/Replicate #	Density averages (n=3) of living <i>Tetraselmis suecica</i> (cell.mL <sup>-1</sup> )											
	Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub>						Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub>					
	Treated			Control			Control					
Day 0	27	30	82	32	31	156	0	0	1	116	152	34
Day 1	40	64	84	65	44	159	1	0	1	152	89	39
Day 2	72	129	256	115	77	399	-	0	3	-	361	86
Day 3	101	249	-	141	125	-	6	0	4	1012	766	110
Day 6	1040	1533	6217	1245	583	4844	56	1	29	8275	930	1230

707  
708  
709 **Table A2. Daily water quality measurements (pH, temperature and salinity) in the treated and control test waters**  
 710 **during the 6-day regrowth phase of the triplicate tests (Test 1, Test 2, Test 3) when mimicking dispersion of the alkaline**  
 711 **minerals Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> or Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> from a ship.**

Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> - Treated water										Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> - Control water									
days	pH			Temp.(°C)			Salinity (PSU)			days	pH			Temp.(°C)			Salinity (PSU)		
	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3		Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3
0	8.23	8.70	8.31	19.9	20.6	19.6	31.7	31.8	33.6	0	7.93	8.38	7.92	18.7	19.8	18.8	31.8	31.8	-
1	8.29	8.33	8.27	21.6	21.7	21.9	32.8	32.7	33.7	1	8.05	8.07	8.00	21.1	21.6	22.4	32.3	32.8	33.7
2	8.25	8.28	8.22	21.9	21.2	22.2	33.7	32.4	34.1	2	8.12	8.13	8.08	21.3	21.3	21.8	33.3	32.7	34.0
3	8.30	8.26	-	21.4	21.1	-	35.4	32.1	-	3	8.13	8.15	-	21.2	21.1	-	34.9	32.4	-
6	8.26	8.25	8.28	21.2	21.0	22.5	41.6	32.8	34.5	6	8.24	8.21	8.21	21.0	21.2	22.5	40.4	33.4	34.0

Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub> - Treated water										Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub> - Control water									
days	pH			Temp.(°C)			Salinity (PSU)			days	pH			Temp.(°C)			Salinity (PSU)		
	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3		Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3
0	8.57	8.42	8.42	18.2	19.1	18.7	33.7	33.9	33.3	0	7.90	-	7.99	19.1	-	18.6	33.9	-	33.5
1	8.43	8.29	8.31	21.3	23.7	22.1	33.6	35.4	33.4	1	8.08	8.13	8.09	23.3	21.0	21.4	35.5	33.6	33.7
2	8.37	-	8.27	21.3	-	22.1	33.5	-	33.4	2	-	8.16	8.14	-	21.0	21.4	-	33.5	33.7
3	8.33	8.26	8.24	21.5	25.2	22	33.5	33.9	32.8	3	8.23	8.17	8.14	25.1	21.0	21.4	33.7	33.5	32.7
6	8.24	8.36	8.24	21.4	25.4	22.1	34.5	37.3	33.9	6	8.22	8.19	8.20	25.2	21.2	21.7	37.6	34.5	34.0



715 Appendix B – Raw data for the WET tests

716  
717 The Table 3 of the manuscript was generated from the raw data presented in Table B1 and Table B2. The  
718 complete laboratory analysis reports can be provided upon request.

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719  
720 Table B1. Calibration data for WET Test 1 and for WET Test 2 to correlate the fluorescens measurements to the cell  
721 density of *Skeletonoma costatum*. The cell density was determined by fluorescence with SpectraMax iD3 microplate  
722 after approximately 72 hours (±2h). The fluorescence measurements were directly correlated to the algal density as a  
723 correlation factor (r<sup>2</sup>) of 1 between the measured fluorescence and the cell density was calculated.

<u>WET test 1- calibration data</u>		<u>WET test 2- calibration data</u>	
<u>Cell counts</u>	<u>Fluorescence</u>	<u>Cell counts</u>	<u>Fluorescence</u>
<u>9767</u>	<u>21129</u>	<u>7722</u>	<u>20909</u>
<u>34407</u>	<u>91377</u>	<u>28320</u>	<u>60447</u>
<u>105747</u>	<u>194737</u>	<u>169517</u>	<u>267903</u>
<u>581800</u>	<u>1533120</u>	<u>543317</u>	<u>623790</u>

724  
725 Table B2. Fluorescens measurements of the control and Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatments for WET Test 1 and WET Test 2 after  
726 72 hours exposure according to ISO 10253:2016. A total of six concentrations of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> was tested (1, 10, 25, 50, 75  
727 and 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup>). Each concentration was tested in triplicate, with 6 replicates for each control (one control set with  
728 normal ISO 10253 and another control set with modified ISO 10253).

Fluorescence results for WET Test 1-72h								
Replicate #	Controls		Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> concentration in mg.L <sup>-1</sup>					
	Normal control	Modified control	1	10	25	50	75	100
1	1741942	492151	581669	854536	752064	316455	227769	114436
2	1629608	582180	593910	775861	780683	334224	198120	111869
3	1720051	332864	542791	816187	705611	329265	234354	113917
4	1885773	514530						
5	2048400	398823						
6	1973322	481943						

Fluorescence results for WET Test 2-72h								
Replicate #	Controls		Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> concentration in mg.L <sup>-1</sup>					
	Normal control	Modified control	1	10	25	50	75	100
1	2124534	640947	775797	1044538	1184687	514139	168631	59714
2	2188199	671593	713625	920976	1196415	441565	212443	50273
3	2203985	679313	713790	988564	1274252	453043	170141	53626
4	2344184	634189						
5	2194617	445427						
6	2209858	671270						

732 Appendix C – Raw data for the natural algal assemblage tests

733  
734 Table 3 of the manuscript was generated from the raw data presented in Table C1 below.

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736 Table C1. Daily triplicate enumeration of density of living ambient algal cells (cell mL<sup>-1</sup>) with FDA/CMFDA method in  
 737 Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> treated and control treatments during 3 days of exposure to six different concentrations of Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> (1, 10,  
 738 25, 50, 75 and 100 mg L<sup>-1</sup>) when incubated in 20°C temperature-controlled room with constant light. Some of those  
 739 tests were conducted separately with therefore different control waters. Those tests were carried out on different weeks.  
 740 Therefore, different control treatments were applied with one control for 1-10 mg/L Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatments, one control  
 741 for 50-75 mg/L Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatments and one control for 100 mg/L Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub> treatment.

Replicate #	Densities of living ambient algae (cell.mL <sup>-1</sup> )									
	Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> Treated (cell.mL <sup>-1</sup> )						Control (cell.mL <sup>-1</sup> )			
	Low concentrations			High concentrations			for the corresponding treatments with			
	1 mg.L <sup>-1</sup>	10 mg.L <sup>-1</sup>	25 mg.L <sup>-1</sup>	50 mg.L <sup>-1</sup>	75 mg.L <sup>-1</sup>	100 mg.L <sup>-1</sup>	1-10 mg.L <sup>-1</sup>	25-75 mg.L <sup>-1</sup>	100 mg.L <sup>-1</sup>	
Day 0	1	420	443	220	278	192	212	407	264	240
	2	447	470	254	210	252	250	480	238	276
	3	370	423	264	268	266	230	403	258	222
Day 1	1	955	860	745	400	303	250	875	785	550
	2	895	825	700	450	275	280	910	715	666
	3	870	890	690	463	338	282	910	655	662
Day 2	1	1040	1110	1630	550	338	300	1340	1380	2733
	2	1120	1190	1570	450	330	308	1000	1130	3183
	3	1160	1030	1390	485	315	333	1290	1240	2950
Day 3	1	1200	1240	2000	580	560	377	1220	1860	5925
	2	1160	1180	2280	483	600	400	1360	2050	5425
	3	1140	1170	2070	590	530	410	1240	2080	4750