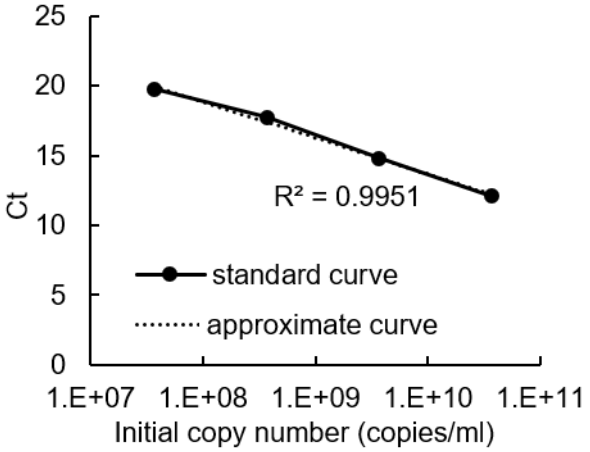

Fig. S1 The standard curve used in the qPCR

To show the accurate cell number of free-living cells and aggregates, we conducted qPCR experiments based on *glnA* gene. The *glnA* gene is existed as one copy in *N. mobilis* Ms1 genome. Therefore, the cell number matched the copy number of the *glnA* gene in the extracted DNA. The qPCR data was highly credible (R^2 value > 0.99)

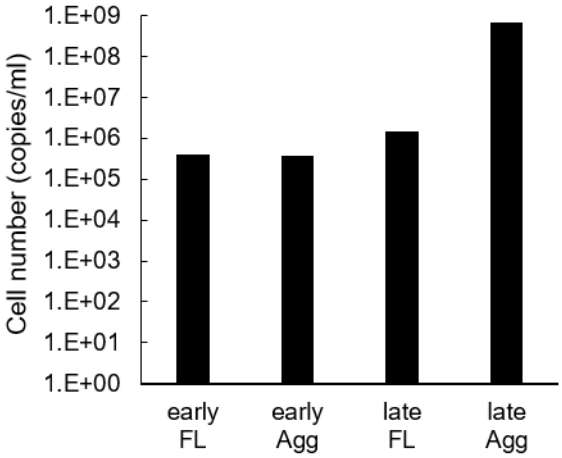

Fig. S2 The cell densities in each sample

As a result of the qPCR, early FL and early Agg were present in almost the same ratio. In contrast, late Agg were present approximately 100 times more than late FL.