

**Table S1.**

Contaminant	Species	Location	Tissue Type	Mean $\pm$ SD (Range)
PCBs (total)	<i>F. virsoides</i>	Venice Lagoon, Italy	NS	$3.0 \pm 1.7$ (1.7-4.2) <sup>w</sup>
BaP	<i>F. serratus</i>	Norway	thallus except stipe & holdfast	(2-20) <sup>q</sup>
	<i>F. vesiculosus</i>	Gulf of Finland	NS	0.7 <sup>p</sup>
	<i>F. vesiculosus</i>	Norway	thallus except stipe & holdfast	(trace - 64) <sup>q</sup>
Arsenic (inorganic)	<i>F. spiralis</i>	New Hampshire, USA	NS	$0.04 \pm 0.05$ <sup>hh</sup>
	<i>F. vesiculosus</i>	Spain	commercial samples	$0.34 \pm 0.04$ <sup>a</sup>
		New Hampshire, USA	NS	$0.06 \pm 0.04$ <sup>hh</sup>
		Maine, USA	NS	< detection limit <sup>hh</sup>
Arsenic (total)	<i>Fucus sp.</i>	Greenland	NS	$26.6 \pm 6.6$ <sup>r</sup>
	<i>F. ceranoides</i>	SW England	whole thallus	18.8-77.1 <sup>jj</sup>
	<i>F. distichus</i>	Greenland	NS	$40.1 \pm 5.9$ <sup>r</sup>
	<i>F. distichus*</i>	Vancouver BC, Canada	receptacles (Jul)	$8.9 \pm 0.5$ <sup>s</sup>
		Vancouver BC, Canada	non-reproductive thallus (Jul)	$9.0 \pm 0.5$ <sup>s</sup>
		Vancouver BC, Canada	non-reproductive apices (Feb)	$17.1 \pm 0.8$ <sup>s</sup>
		Vancouver BC, Canada	non-meristematic thallus (Feb)	$16.2 \pm 0.9$ <sup>s</sup>
	<i>F. evanescens</i>	Denmark	NS	14.08 <sup>cc</sup>
	<i>F. serratus</i>	Denmark	NS	30.3-9.58 (105-961) <sup>cc</sup>
	<i>F. spiralis</i>	Denmark	NS	8.94 <sup>cc</sup>
	<i>F. vesiculosus</i>	New Hampshire, USA	NS	$16.3 \pm 1.4$ <sup>hh</sup>
		Spain	commercial samples	$50 \pm 0.03$ <sup>a</sup>
		West Greenland	NS	**35.2-35.8 <sup>c</sup>
		Italy	commercial samples	$34.3 \pm 6.9$ <sup>h</sup>
		France	commercial samples	$47 \pm 2$ <sup>l</sup>
		NW Spain	apices	(28.1-55.6) <sup>m</sup>
		Galicia, NW Spain	dichotomies	(15.9-207) <sup>n</sup>
		Greenland	NS	$33.3 \pm 7.6$ <sup>r</sup>
		West Greenland	apices	25.1-30.7 <sup>bb</sup>
		Denmark	NS	28.4-19.7 (10.4-117) <sup>cc</sup>
<i>F. virsoides</i>	<i>Fucus spp.</i>	North Sea	NS	46.5 <sup>gg</sup>
		Baltic Sea	NS	21.7 <sup>gg</sup>
		New Hampshire, USA	NS	$28.9 \pm 2.16$ <sup>hh</sup>
		Maine, USA	NS	$32.8 \pm 3.73$ <sup>hh</sup>
		Norway	commercial samples	20 <sup>ii</sup>
		Venice Lagoon, Italy	whole thallus	$40 \pm 45$ (8-73) <sup>f</sup>
Cadmium		Barents Sea	whole thallus	$1.9 \pm 0.5$ (1.3-2.7) <sup>g</sup>

	Sea of Okhotsk	whole thallus	$3.3 \pm 1.9$ (1-9) <sup>g</sup>
	Sea of Japan	whole thallus	$2.5 \pm 1.9$ (1-7.8) <sup>g</sup>
	White Sea	whole thallus	0.48 (0.1-1.2) <sup>g</sup>
	Greenland	NS	$36.7 \pm 4.1$ <sup>r</sup>
	UK & Ireland	whole thallus	**1.1-2.5 (0.05-21) <sup>y</sup>
	SW Spain & Portugal	NS	1.7-3.2 <sup>ff</sup>
	SW England	whole thallus	0.20-1.01 <sup>jj</sup>
	NW Spain	apices	0.19-1.74 <sup>kk</sup>
	Greenland	NS	$0.95 \pm 0.37$ <sup>r</sup>
	Murmansk Coast, Russia	whole thallus	0.25-0.88 <sup>v</sup>
	Denmark	NS	0.52 <sup>cc</sup>
	Severn Estuary, UK	mature thallus	10.6-35.9 <sup>u</sup>
	Murmansk Coast, Russia	whole thallus	0.31-1.27 <sup>v</sup>
	Denmark	NS	1.04-0.34 (0.63-1.56) <sup>cc</sup>
	Canary Islands	whole thallus	$0.62 \pm 0.18$ <sup>t</sup>
	NW Portugal	soft tissues	0.07-3.58 (0.4-20.8) <sup>z</sup>
	Denmark	NS	0.46 <sup>cc</sup>
	Azores	NS	0.86-1.46 <sup>mm</sup>
	Spain	commercial samples	$0.55 \pm 0.01$ <sup>a</sup>
	Humber Estuary, England	fronds	5.0-5.2 (1.6-10.5) <sup>b</sup>
	Italy	commercial samples	$1.1 \pm 0.2$ <sup>h</sup>
	NE England	NS	**1.1 (0.5-2.7) <sup>i</sup>
	Stockholm Archipelago	older tissues	4.2-14.7 <sup>j</sup>
	Stockholm Archipelago	apices	6.8-13.3 <sup>j</sup>
	Bristol Channel, England	fronds	3.82-25.6 <sup>k</sup>
	NW Spain	apices	0.47-0.82 <sup>m</sup>
	Galicia, NW Spain	dichotomies	142-5107 <sup>n</sup>
	NE England	top 8-10 cm of thallus	0.02-10.03 <sup>m</sup>
	Greenland	NS	$1.42 \pm 1.01$ <sup>r</sup>
	Öresund Sound, Sweden/Denmark	apices	1.9-3.9 <sup>x</sup>
	Murmansk Coast, Russia	whole thallus	0.30-0.72 <sup>v</sup>
	West Greenland	apices	**3.30 (2.25-4.81) <sup>aa</sup>
	Denmark	NS	0.78-0.37 (0.30-1.97) <sup>cc</sup>
	Bothnian & Baltic Seas, Sweden	older tissues	4.1-17.2 <sup>ee</sup>
	Bothnian & Baltic Seas, Sweden	apices	4.4-12.9 <sup>ee</sup>
	North Sea	NS	0.56 <sup>gg</sup>
	Bothnian & Baltic Seas, Sweden	apices	4.4-12.9 <sup>ee</sup>
	Bothnian & Baltic Seas, Sweden	old thallus	4.1-17.2 <sup>m</sup>
	Norway	commercial samples	0.34 <sup>ii</sup>
	NW Spain	apices	0.59-1.20 <sup>ff</sup>

	<i>F. virsoides</i>	Venice Lagoon, Italy	whole thallus	0.6 ± 0.3 (0.4-0.8) <sup>f</sup>
Lead	<i>Fucus</i> spp.	Greenland	NS	1.59 ± 2.18 <sup>r</sup>
		SW Spain & Portugal	NS	5-13 <sup>ff</sup>
	<i>F. ceranoides</i>	SW England	whole thallus	2.93-14.3 <sup>jj</sup>
		NW Spain	apices	0.38-7.45 <sup>kk</sup>
		Galicia, Spain	whole thallus	4.40 <sup>ll</sup>
	<i>F. distichus</i>	Greenland	NS	0.24 ± 0.07 <sup>r</sup>
		Murmansk Coast, Russia	whole thallus	0.31-0.97 <sup>v</sup>
	<i>F. evanescens</i>	Denmark	NS	0.51 <sup>cc</sup>
	<i>F. gardneri</i>	Raritan Bay, NJ, USA	NS	0.22-230 <sup>d</sup>
	<i>F. serratus</i>	Severn Estuary, UK	mature thallus	6.4-7.9 <sup>u</sup>
		Murmansk Coast, Russia	whole thallus	0.13-1.05 <sup>v</sup>
		Denmark	NS	0.47-0.18 (0.24-0.87) <sup>cc</sup>
	<i>F. spiralis</i>	Canary Islands	whole thallus	4.96 ± 2.44 <sup>t</sup>
		Denmark	NS	0.96 <sup>cc</sup>
		Galicia, Spain	whole thallus	5.71 <sup>ll</sup>
		Azores	NS	0.16-0.38 <sup>mm</sup>
	<i>F. vesiculosus</i>	Spain	commercial samples	0.51 ± 0.04 <sup>a</sup>
		Humber Estuary, England	fronds	5-8.1 (2.7-21.5) <sup>b</sup>
		Italy	commercial samples	4 ± 0.3 <sup>h</sup>
		NE England	NS	**4.5 (3.1-10) <sup>i</sup>
		Stockholm Archipelago	older tissues	0.9-6.9 <sup>j</sup>
		Stockholm Archipelago	apices	1.7-6.6 <sup>j</sup>
		NW Spain	apices	0.25-1.62 <sup>m</sup>
		Galicia, NW Spain	dichotomies	0.18-1.68 <sup>n</sup>
		NE England	upper 8-10 cm of fronds	0.1-12.1 <sup>o</sup>
		Greenland	NS	0.10 ± 0.06 <sup>r</sup>
		Öresund Sound, Sweden/Denmark	apices	14.0-27.4 <sup>x</sup>
		Ireland & UK	whole thallus	2.1-4.0 (0.5-9.0) <sup>y</sup>
		West Greenland	apices	**0.25 (0.047-0.70) <sup>aa</sup>
		Murmansk Coast, Russia	whole thallus	0.12-0.77 <sup>v</sup>
		Raritan Bay, New York, USA	NS	(1.3-2.4) <sup>dd</sup>
		Bothnian & Baltic Seas, Sweden	older tissues	2.1-7.2 <sup>ee</sup>
		Bothnian & Baltic Seas, Sweden	apices	2.0-11.7 <sup>ee</sup>
		North Sea	NS	1.86 <sup>gg</sup>
		Baltic Sea	NS	1.04 <sup>gg</sup>
		Denmark	NS	0.90-1.73 (0.19-9.60) <sup>cc</sup>
		Norway	commercial samples	0.38 <sup>ii</sup>
		NW Spain	apices	0.35-3.56 <sup>kk</sup>
	<i>F. virsoides</i>	Venice Lagoon, Italy	whole thallus	1.6 ± 0.6 (1.2-2.0) <sup>f</sup>

Mercury	<i>Fucus</i> spp.	NW Portugal	receptacles	(0.012-0.061) <sup>e</sup>
		Greenland	NS	<0.023 <sup>r</sup>
	<i>F. distichus</i>	Greenland	NS	<0.023 <sup>r</sup>
	<i>F. evanescens</i>	Denmark	NS	0.008 <sup>cc</sup>
	<i>F. gardneri</i>	Raritan Bay, NJ, USA	NA	0.0068 <sup>d</sup>
	<i>F. ceranoides</i>	NW Spain	apices	0.020-0.027 <sup>kk</sup>
	<i>F. serratus</i>	Denmark	NS	0.009-0.003 (0.005-0.015) <sup>cc</sup>
	<i>F. spiralis</i>	Denmark	NS	0.019 <sup>cc</sup>
	<i>F. vesiculosus</i>	NW Spain	commercial samples	0.036 ± 0.006 <sup>a</sup>
		NW Spain	apices	0.015-0.056 <sup>m</sup>
		Galicia, NW Spain	dichotomies	0.004-0.060 <sup>n</sup>
		Greenland	NS	<0.023 <sup>r</sup>
		North Sea	NS	0.010 <sup>gg</sup>
		Baltic Sea	NS	0.0018 <sup>gg</sup>
		Denmark	NS	0.012-0.007 (0.003-0.042) <sup>cc</sup>
		Norway	commercial samples	1.08 <sup>ii</sup>
		NW Spain	apices	0.020 – 0.031 <sup>kk</sup>

\*Reported as *F. gardneri*

\*\* Reported as a geometric mean

<sup>a</sup>[1]; <sup>b</sup>[2]; <sup>c</sup>[3]; <sup>d</sup>[4]; <sup>e</sup>[5]; <sup>f</sup>[6]; <sup>g</sup>[7]; <sup>h</sup>[8]; <sup>i</sup>[9]; <sup>j</sup>[10]; <sup>k</sup>[11]; <sup>l</sup>[12]; <sup>m</sup>[13]; <sup>n</sup>[14]; <sup>o</sup>[15]; <sup>p</sup>[16]; <sup>q</sup>[17]; <sup>r</sup>[18]; <sup>s</sup>[19]; <sup>t</sup>[20]; <sup>u</sup>[21]; <sup>v</sup>[22]; <sup>w</sup>[23]; <sup>x</sup>[24]; <sup>y</sup>[25]; <sup>z</sup>[26]; <sup>aa</sup>[27]; <sup>bb</sup>[28]; <sup>cc</sup>[29]; <sup>dd</sup>[30]; <sup>ee</sup>[31]; <sup>ff</sup>[32]; <sup>gg</sup>[33]; <sup>hh</sup>[34]; <sup>ii</sup>[35]; <sup>jj</sup>[36]; <sup>kk</sup>[37]; <sup>ll</sup>[38]; <sup>mm</sup>[39]