**Figure 1** Composition of benthic metazoan eDNA metabarcoding reads at each sampled salmon farm. The 'Others' category includes unclassified reads and those with a relative abundance <0.5%. BI, BS, MI, MR, PP and VP represent the six farm sites, as follows: Baxter Islet, Bedwell Sound, Midsummer Island, Mussel Rock, Plover Point, and Venture Point.

**Figure 2** Alpha diversity (richness) parameters for each sampling station at each salmon farm using macrofaunal Polychaeta (a and b) and eDNA data (c and d). The x-axis shows distance (m) from cage edge. For eDNA data, alpha diversity parameters were calculated using the benthic metazoan OTU table and samples from each station were averaged. Error bars show standard deviation; one station at BS (60m) did not have benthic metazoan reads after rarefaction thus alpha diversity parameters were not available. BI, BS, MI, MR, PP and VP represent the six farm sites, as follows: Baxter Islet, Bedwell Sound, Midsummer Island, Mussel Rock, Plover Point, and Venture Point.

**Figure 3** Correlations between alpha diversity (richness) and pore-water sulphide concentration using macrofauna data (a and b) and eDNA data (c and d). Samples are coloured by organic content categories as shown. For eDNA data, samples from each sediment grab were averaged.

**Figure 4** Correlations between pore-water sulphide concentration and the following eDNA data: Nematoda OTU richness (a); relative abundance of Nematoda (b); Polychaeta OTU richness (c); relative abundance of Polychaeta (d); and relative abundance of *Capitella capitata* (e). Samples from each sediment grab were averaged. Samples are coloured by organic content categories as shown.

**Figure 5** The proportion of the genus *Capitella* within total Polychaeta for eDNA data (lower panel) and macrofauna data (upper panel) at each sampled station at six salmon farms, as follows: the proportion of *Capitella* individuals in macrofaunal Polychaeta data (a); and the average proportion of *Capitella* reads in Polychaeta reads, with standard deviations shown (b).