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Comparative analysis on flocculation performance in unbaffled square 1 stirred tanks with different height-to-width ratios: Experimental and 2 **CFD** investigations 3 Weipeng He a,*, Lianpeng Xue a, Beata Gorczyca b, Jun Nan c, Zhou Shi a 4 ^a College of Civil Engineering, Hunan University, Changsha 410082, China 5 ^b Department of Civil Engineering, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg R3T 5V6, Canada 6 ^c School of Municipal and Environmental Engineering, Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin 7 150090, China 8 9 10 * Corresponding author. Tel.: +86 731 8882 1491; Fax: +86 731 8882 1441. 11 Postal address: Department of Water Engineering and Science, College of Civil Engineering, 12 Hunan University, 2 Lushan South Road, Changsha 410082, China (Weipeng He) 13 E-mail address: heweipengwater@163.com (W. He). 14 15 16 Abstract: 17 The effect of liquid-level height (H) on floc growth during flocculation has been 18 investigated in unbaffled square stirred tanks with a fixed bottom width (D). Firstly, flocculation 19 tests were performed by using an in-situ recognition system for floc morphology to evaluate 20 flocculation performance within each tank at three typical shear rates of $G_{ave} = 10$, 30 and 70 s⁻¹. 21 Then, turbulent flow fields generated under all flocculation-test conditions were predicted by 22

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) simulations, followed by a detailed discussion based on

23

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