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Comparison of Alcian blue and total carbohydrate assays for quantitation of transparent exopolymer particles (TEP) in biofouling studies

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#### **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

### Highlights

- Salinity and surrogate type greatly impact the accuracy of TEP quantification.
- Total carbohydrate more accurately quantifies TEP surrogates than Alcian blue.
- Report surrogate, salinity, recovery, and calibration factor for TEP studies.
- Xanthum gum is a better surrogate for precursor TEP than for particulate TEP.

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