

Bioaccumulation of fluorotelomer sulfonates and perfluoroalkyl acids in marine organisms living in aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) impacted waters

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ABSTRACT

The use of aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) has resulted in hot spots polluted with poly- and perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS). The phase out of long chained perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAA) from AFFF resulted in the necessity for alternatives, and short chained PFAA and fluorotelomer based surfactants have been used. Here, the distribution of PFAS contamination in the marine environment surrounding a military site in Norway was investigated. Up to 30 PFAS were analysed in storm, leachate and fjord water, marine sediments, marine invertebrates (snails, green shore crab, great spider crab, and edible crab) and teleost fish (Atlantic cod, European plaice, and Lemon sole). Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) was the most abundantly detected PFAS. Differences in PFAS accumulation levels were observed between species, likely reflecting different exposure routes between trophic levels and different capabilities for depuration and/or enzymatic degradation. In agreement with previous literature, almost no 6:2 fluorotelomer sulfonate (6:2 FTS) was detected in teleost fish. However, this study is one of the first to report considerable concentrations of 6:2 FTS in marine invertebrates, suggesting bioaccumulation. Biota monitoring and risk assessments of sites contaminated with fluorotelomer sulfonates (FTS) and related compounds, should not be limited to fish, but also include invertebrates.

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Keywords:

PFAS, PFOS, 6:2 FTS, Biota, Biotic monitoring, Accumulation, Invertebrates, Crab, Fish, Point source, Passive sampling, Airport, Military base, Norway,

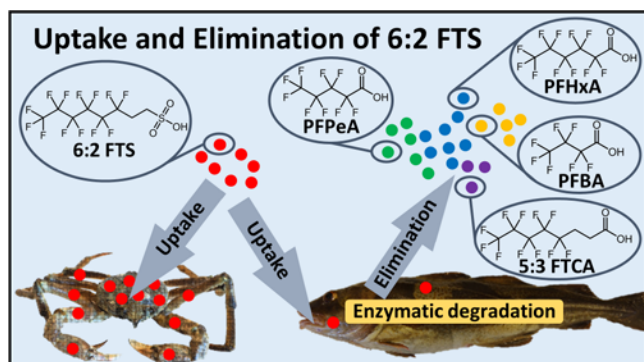
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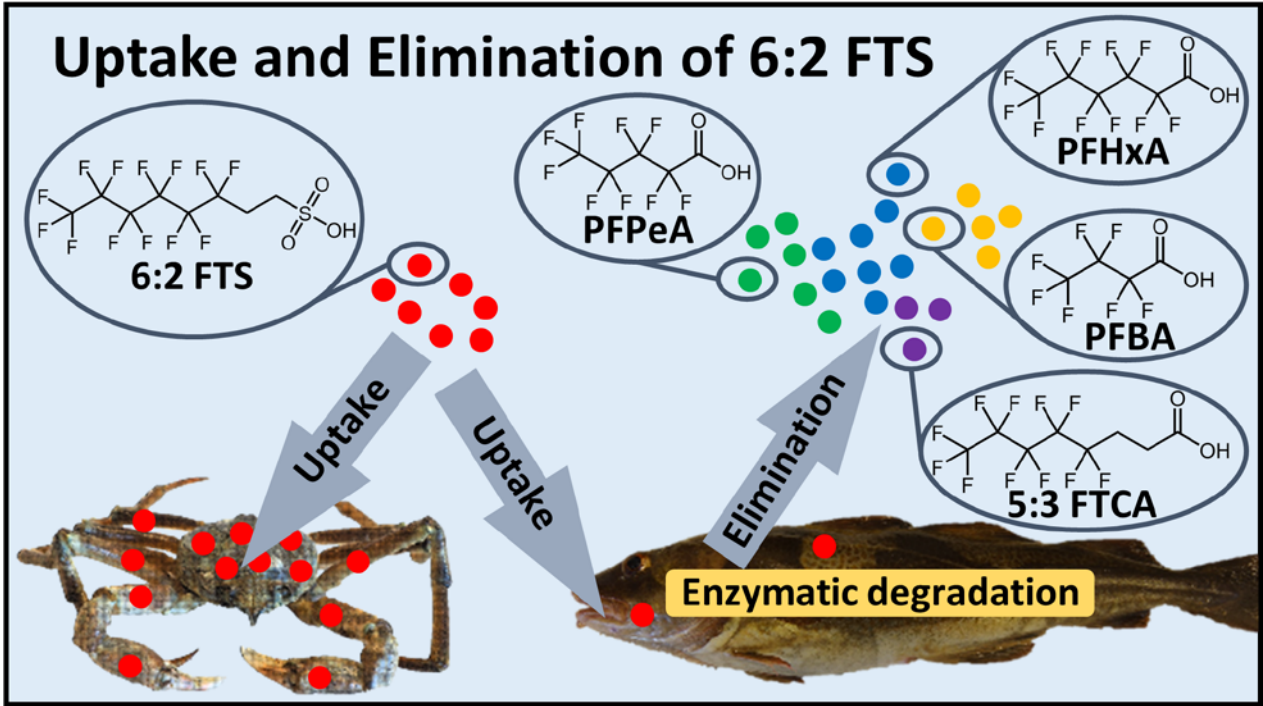
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38 Graphic abstract. Large version

39 INTRODUCTION

40 The use of AFFF at firefighting training areas, airports, military sites and fire stations has resulted in
41 hot spots of PFAS polluted soil, sediment and water.¹⁻³ PFAS have been shown to exert toxic effects on
42 ecosystems and human health,^{4,5} and since the early 2000s, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and
43 related long chained perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAA) (defined here as perfluoroalkyl carboxylic acids [PFCA]
44 with number of carbon atoms [C] ≥ 8 , and perfluoroalkyl sulfonic acids [PFSA] with C ≥ 6), have been
45 phased out in AFFF. This has resulted in the need for alternatives, and short chained PFAA and
46 fluorotelomer based surfactants (6:2 fluorotelomer sulfonate [6:2 FTS], and fluorinated telomer
47 products with 6:2 configuration) have been used as replacements in AFFF.⁶⁻¹⁰

48

49 The physiochemical properties of PFAS suggests that water, and water-living organisms, are important
50 environmental compartments for PFAS partitioning.¹¹ Different toxicokinetics have been reported for
51 different organisms and PFAS groups, and elimination rates for PFAA show large species and gender
52 dependent variations.¹² As an example, the serum half-life of PFOS was 1 to 2 months in rodents, but
53 several years in humans.¹² Long chained PFAA have been reported to accumulate in a wide range of
54 fish species, however half-lives are generally shorter (days)¹³ than those for rodents and humans. PFSA
55 have been shown to have longer half-lives than PFCA of the same chain length.^{11,13,14} Half-lives of 4.5
56 days for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and 12 days for PFOS have been reported in blood of rainbow
57 trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).¹³ 6:2 FTS has been shown to be effectively eliminated in teleost fish,¹⁵ and
58 has, based on fish bioaccumulation data, been considered as unlikely to bioaccumulate in aquatic
59 systems.⁹

60

61 The environmental quality standard for PFOS in the European Water Framework Directive (9.1 $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$)
62 refers to fish,¹⁶ and biota monitoring at PFAS hot spots has thus focused on fish.¹⁷⁻²⁰ Less is known
63 about PFAS in invertebrates. PFAA have been detected in insect larvae, bivalves, zooplankton, and
64 larger crustaceans such as prawns and crabs.²¹⁻²⁸ Depuration of long chained PFAA are reported for

65 some crustaceans. The half-lives of PFOS and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) in school prawn
66 (*Metapenaeus macleayi*) were 159 hours and 6 hours, respectively,²⁹ demonstrating the effect of chain
67 length. Half-lives in mud crab (*Scylla serrata*) in the same study were considerably longer at 998 hours
68 for PFOS and 190 hours for PFHxS,²⁹ illustrating species dependent depuration rates. Therefore, with
69 the exception of a few species, PFAS behaviour in invertebrates is largely unexplored. A wider
70 understanding related to PFAS accumulation, elimination, and toxicity in aquatic invertebrates is
71 needed to identify possible implications for risk assessments of PFAS contamination in aquatic
72 ecosystems.

73

74 In the present study, the accumulation of PFAS (arising from the use of AFFF) in the marine food chain
75 was investigated. The objective was to evaluate potential species-specific differences in PFAS
76 accumulation. The military site at Bodø Airport, Bodø Air Station, was chosen as the case study site.
77 PFAS profiles and concentrations in invertebrates (marine snails and crabs), representing less mobile
78 organisms living close to point sources of AFFF polluted storm water, were compared to mobile teleost
79 fish. PFAS profiles and concentrations in storm water, leachate water, fjord water (sea water), and
80 marine sediments were used to evaluate PFAS distribution in the abiotic environment. To the best of
81 our knowledge this is the first study to evaluate the accumulation of long chained PFAA and
82 replacement products in invertebrates living close to an AFFF pollution hot spot.

83

84 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

85 **Case study site**

86 Bodø Air Station (67.26° N, 14.36° E) is a military airbase located on a peninsula in the Norwegian
87 Arctic. It experiences strong winds and tidal currents resulting in strong water circulation and thus,
88 dilution of contaminants. In the period 2013-2017 (the time frame of this study and the two preceding
89 years), the average wind speed was 6.5 m s⁻¹,³⁰ and the average tidal range was 1.9 m.³¹ The Air Station
90 shares facilities with the civil airport in Bodø (Bodø Airport). Little is known about the first use of AFFF

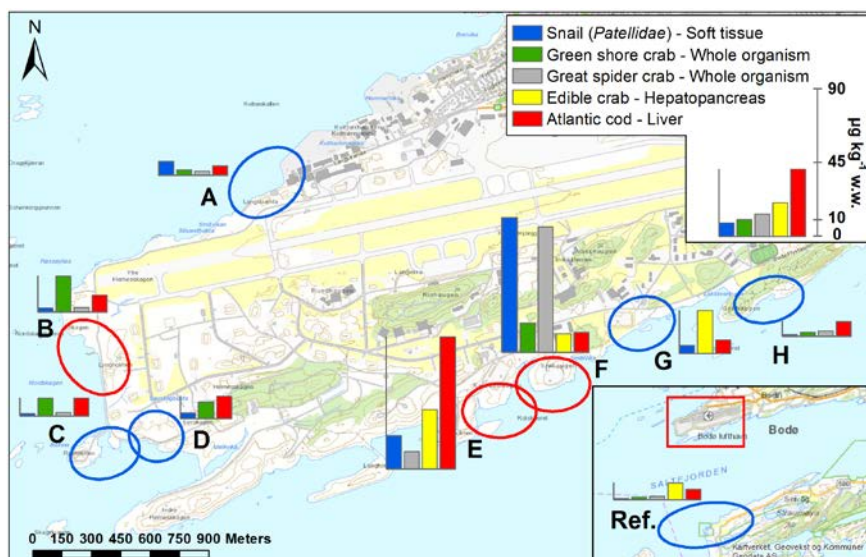
91 at the site, but it has probably been used since the mid-1960s. The use of PFOS based AFFF was phased
92 out in Norway in 2007 (as an early adoption of EU regulations).³² As a result, firefighting foam
93 containing fluorotelomer based surfactants (6:2 FTS and/or related products) was used at the Air
94 Station from 2007. According to the Norwegian Defence Estates Agency (personal communication, C.E.
95 Amundsen, June 2016), the process of phasing out PFAS based foam started in 2012 and was
96 completed at airport firefighting training areas in 2015.

97

98 Eight sampling stations around the Air Station were selected to capture the main outlets of PFAS in
99 storm water and soil leachate (Figure 1). A reference station was located on the other side of the fjord,
100 about 5 kilometres (km) from the Air Station. Stations A, C, D, G, and H are located near discharge
101 points for storm water not associated with any particular PFAS source. These areas were assumed to
102 represent nominal levels of PFAS discharge from the Air Station. Station B is close to the outlet of PFAS
103 contaminated storm water from a fire station. Sampling stations E and F are situated in an area
104 extensively used for firefighting training. Station E is at an outlet of storm water assumed to have high
105 concentrations of AFFF related PFAS compounds. Station F is an area where AFFF contaminated water
106 leaches from the soil at the firefighting training area. There are no known sources of PFAS
107 contamination in proximity to the reference station.

108

109



110
 111 *Figure 1. Geographical location of the sampling stations around the Air Station (stations A-H) and the reference*
 112 *station (Ref.) on the other side of the fjord. Stations A, C, D, G, and H are located near discharge points for storm*
 113 *water not associated with any particular PFAS source (blue circles). Stations B, E, and F are point sources for PFAS*
 114 *contaminated leachate and storm water (red circles). Bar charts show the average concentrations of Σ_{22} PFAS in*
 115 *biotic tissue at each sampling station. The numerical values are given in Table S7. Not all species were caught at*
 116 *all sampling stations.*
 117

118 Leachate and storm water

119 Storm water was sampled in several campaigns during 2015-2016. At station F, which has been used
 120 for firefighting training, soil leachate water entering the fjord was sampled at the same time as storm
 121 water. No soil leachate water was observed at other stations. Sampling was performed for storm water
 122 (3 to 5 times), and soil leachate water (twice) to capture concentration spikes (see details in Table S1
 123 in the supplementary information (SI)). Unfiltered samples were collected by submerging a 0.5 L high
 124 density polyethylene bottle in the water source. Samples were kept cool and dark and sent for chemical
 125 analysis within 48 hours of sampling. Water flow rates ($L s^{-1}$) were estimated at the time of sampling
 126 (March and May) by measuring the cross section and velocity of the water. The water amount from
 127 each station per year ($L year^{-1}$) was calculated as described in equation I. The average PFAS
 128 concentrations ($ng L^{-1}$) were multiplied by the amount of water from each station per year ($L year^{-1}$) to
 129 estimate the amount of PFAS released to the sea ($g year^{-1}$), equation II.

130
 131
 132

133 Amount of water per year:

134 I. $Q_a = v \times t$

135 Where Q_a is the annual discharge volume ($L \text{ year}^{-1}$), v is the flow rate ($L \text{ s}^{-1}$) and t is the time ($s \text{ year}^{-1}$).

136

137 Amount of PFAS released per year:

138 II. $m_{PFAS} = Q_a \times C_{PFAS}$

139 Where m_{PFAS} is the amount of PFAS released to the sea per year ($g \text{ year}^{-1}$), Q_a is the annual discharge
140 volume ($L \text{ year}^{-1}$), and C_{PFAS} is the PFAS concentration ($ng \text{ L}^{-1}$).

141

142 **Marine abiotic environment**

143 Sediments were sampled in May 2017 at all stations, except for station G where the sea floor consisted

144 of rocks. Water depths varied between 1-5 m depending on station (details provided in the SI). A mixed

145 sample of fine grained sediments was collected from a radius of 20 m from the emission point.

146 Sediments were collected by pushing a plexiglas tube (7.5 cm diameter) into the sea floor to a depth

147 of approximately 10 cm.

148

149 Passive samplers (deployed at the same time as sediment sampling) were used to measure

150 concentrations in the fjord water (sea water) at all stations. The passive sampler, the SorbiCell

151 (described elsewhere³³), is a flow through sampler, based on sorption and sampler volume, with an

152 entrance filter, two zones with adsorbent material, and a tracer salt for the calculation of the water

153 volume that has passed the sorbent (details are provided in the SI). Passive samplers were deployed in

154 the fjord, as close as possible to the emission point, 0.5 meters below the water surface. Passive

155 samplers were collected 3 weeks after deployment, the cartridges were kept cool and dark until

156 analysis.

157

158 **Marine biota**

159 Biota were sampled at the same time as sediments and the deployment of passive samplers. Marine

160 invertebrates: snails (*Patellidae*); two species of small crabs: green shore crab (*Carcinus maenas*) and

161 great spider crab (*Hyas araneus*); and the larger edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*), and teleost fish: Atlantic
162 cod (*Gadus morhua*); and two species of flatfish: European plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) and Lemon
163 sole (*Microstomus kitt*) were sampled. Species available for sampling varied between stations (Table
164 S2).

165
166 Snails were collected by hand from rocks in the intertidal zone as close to the emission source as
167 possible. At the reference station, snails were collected over a length of approximately 100 m along
168 the shore in the intertidal zone. Small crabs were collected by hand from a radius of 20 m from the
169 emission point at water depths between 1 and 5 m depending on station (details in the SI), using
170 waders in the intertidal zone and in shallow water, and by divers in deeper water. Edible crab and fish
171 were sampled using commercial fish traps placed on the sea floor, approximately 200 m from shore at
172 water depths between 5 and 30 m depending on the station (as it was not possible to catch fish within
173 20 m from the emission points, details in the SI). Raw shrimps and mackerel were used as bait (in a
174 closed bait-bag). Fish were killed with a blow to the head and crabs were killed by spiking the crab from
175 the underside. The weight (g) and length (cm) of the fish (fork-length) and edible crabs (carapace
176 width), and sex of all three crab species were recorded (Table S3). For safety reasons and in order to
177 avoid cross contamination, clean nitrile coated gloves were used during sampling of large crabs and
178 fish. Clean nitrile gloves were used during sampling of other matrixes and during handling of all
179 samples. Equipment was washed and dried, and nitrile gloves were changed between samples. Crabs
180 and fish were wrapped in clean aluminium foil (whole organisms to avoid risk of contamination). All
181 biotic samples were frozen at -20 °C before they were sent for dissection and chemical analysis.

182

183 **Sample preparation and analysis**

184 Analyses were performed by Eurofins Environment Testing Norway AS according to DIN EN ISO/IEC
185 17025:2005. A total of 30 PFAS compounds were analysed, however the number of analysed
186 compounds varied between the different sampled media (see Table S4).

187

188 PFAS concentrations in sediments were quantified using method DIN 38414-S14. Total organic carbon
189 (TOC) in sediments was calculated using a loss on ignition method. Water was analysed for PFAS
190 following method DIN 38407-F42. The SorbiCell sorbent material was extracted using methanol.
191 Extraction of biotic tissue was performed by freeze drying the sample, adding internal standards before
192 extraction with methanol in an ultrasonic bath and solvent clean-up. Extracts were analysed using high
193 performance liquid chromatography and mass spectrometric detection (HPLC/MS-MS). Clean sand was
194 used as a blank sample for biota and sediments. Distilled water was used as a blank sample for water
195 samples. Sediment, biota, and water blank concentrations were acceptable according to the accredited
196 lab procedures. For passive samplers, sorbent material from the same batch as used in the samplers
197 was used as blank. Extractions were carried out for both adsorbent zones to check whether the
198 sorption capacity had been exceeded. To validate the actual volume the Sorbicell samples, the
199 depletion of the tracer salt in the sampler and the field volume (water which has passed through the
200 sampler during deployment) was monitored. PFAS was not detected in passive sampler blanks.
201 However, PFBA was detected in both adsorbent zones for all samplers, which may indicate that the
202 sorption capacity was exceeded for this compound. Thus, although peaks were seen for PFBA they
203 were not quantified. Samples from the reference site were used as a control as they had close to
204 background PFAS concentrations. See SI for details about extraction, analysis, and limits of
205 quantification (LOQ).

206

207 Snails (soft tissue) were analysed as one pooled and thoroughly mixed sample ($n > 30$) from each
208 sampling station. One pooled and mixed sample of whole organisms ($1 \leq n \leq 11$) was made for each of
209 the two species of small crabs per station. Hepatopancreas in edible crab was analysed individually.
210 Fish liver were weighed and analysed individually (Table S3). Stomach contents of the fish were
211 removed before the remaining tissue was homogenized and analysed individually.

212

213 **Data handling and statistical analysis**

214 Statistical analyses were carried out using R version 3.4.2³⁴ (packages: vegan³⁵, agricolae³⁶,
215 factoextra³⁷, and FactoMineR³⁸). Concentrations in biota are given on wet weight basis (w.w.). Errors
216 (\pm) in the present work are reported as standard error of the mean (SEM). Concentrations below the
217 LOQ were assigned values of half the LOQ. Details about the statistical analysis are given in SI.

218
219 Concentrations in whole fish ($\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$) were calculated using whole fish weight (kg), liver weight (kg),
220 and concentrations in liver and remaining tissue ($\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$). In Atlantic cod, the ratio between PFOS
221 concentrations in liver and in remaining tissue was estimated, and possible relationships between
222 Fulton's condition factor (weight to length ratio, K) or liver somatic index (LSI), and PFAS burdens in
223 liver (sum $[\Sigma]_{22}$ PFAS) were investigated (equations are given in the SI).

224

225 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

226 **Leachate and storm water**

227 Overall, the most dominant compounds in storm water were 6:2 FTS, perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA),
228 perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), PFHxS, and PFOS detected at maximum concentrations of 921, 738,
229 194, 142, and 1010 ng L^{-1} , respectively. The calculated amount of Σ_{19} PFAS released to the fjord at each
230 station (g year^{-1}) and the site specific levels of dominating compounds, given as percentages (%) of the
231 Σ_{19} PFAS, are listed in Table 1 (See Figure S1 for PFAS amounts in storm water and concentrations in
232 biota at the different stations). As stations E and F are in close proximity to each other (approx. 150
233 m), and as it was not possible to distinguish between PFAS loads, they were treated as one station.
234 PFAS profiles in storm water were similar at all stations, however PFAS concentrations and loads
235 varied. The highest loads were estimated at the stations associated with PFAS sources: stations B and
236 E/F (182 g and 1552 g Σ_{19} PFAS year^{-1} , respectively). PFOS was generally detected in the highest
237 proportions of total PFAS (10-100%), followed by PFPeA (13-45%). PFHxS and PFHxA were detected at
238 approximately comparable concentrations (0-25% and 0-20%, respectively). The level of 6:2 FTS (0-

239 38%) showed large variability between the stations. 6:2 FTS constituted a relatively large proportion
 240 of the total PFAS at stations B (0-36%), E/F (7-27%), G (0-38%), and H (9-16%), while it was not detected
 241 at stations A, C, and D.

242

243 *Table 1. Calculated amount of PFAS (g year⁻¹) following storm water, in each sampling station (at the Air Station).*

Station	A	B	C	D	E/F ¹	G	H
PFAS loads released to the sea per year (g year⁻¹)	66	182	0	94	1552 ²	16	161
Relative frequency of dominant PFAS compounds (%)³	PFPeA 28-35	6:2 FTS 0-36	PFPeA 29-40	PFPeA 13-26	6:2 FTS 7-27	6:2 FTS 0-38	6:2 FTS 9-16
	PFHxA 0-14	PFPeA 22-45	PFHxA 13-14	PFHxA 6-13	PFPeA 17-25	PFPeA 36-45	PFPeA 27-41
	PFHxS 0-24	PFHxA 10-12	PFHxS 0-16	PFHxS 9-15	PFHxA 5-11	PFHxA 0-20	PFHxA 10-16
	PFOS 48-55	PFHxS 5-25	PFOS 24-60	PFOS 33-57	PFHxS 3-10	PFOS 26-35	PFHxS 5-16
		PFOS 15-100			PFOS 35-48		PFOS 10-23

244 ¹ Stations E/F are in close proximity to each other and were treated as one station

245 ² In addition to runoff with storm water, leachate from PFAS contaminated soil is expected to result in an
 246 additional 340 g of 6:2 FTS and 128 g of PFOS being released to the fjord from station E/F.

247 ³ Sampling was performed in several rounds, thus the PFAS profiles are given as ranges

248

249 Soil leachate water was only sampled at station F. The leachate water was dominated by 6:2 FTS and
 250 PFOS (average of 89 µg L⁻¹ 6:2 FTS and 33 µg L⁻¹ PFOS), and the yearly contributions to the fjord were
 251 estimated to be 340 g and 128 g, respectively. Station F has been extensively used for firefighting
 252 training, thus PFAS loads from soil leachate at all other sites are expected to be smaller. However, the
 253 nominal level of PFAS contamination observed all over the Air Station suggests some runoff from PFAS
 254 contaminated soil at all locations.

255

256 The reported levels herein are similar to levels reported in the groundwater at another Norwegian
 257 airport.³⁹ Previous studies have reported highly variable concentrations of PFAS in water from areas
 258 where AFFF has been used. At a closed down military airfield in Sweden (used from 1946 to 1994)
 259 PFHxS and PFOS dominated surface water samples (lakes and ponds) (highest concentrations were 25
 260 ng L⁻¹ and 45 ng L⁻¹), while PFHxA and PFOA were detected in significantly lower concentrations (max
 261 4 and 9 ng L⁻¹).¹⁷ Analysis of PFPeA and fluorotelomers were not included in that study. Surface water

262 from a military airport in France was dominated by 6:2 fluorotelomer sulfonamide alkylbetaine (6:2
263 FTAB) (max 426 ng L⁻¹) with lower levels of PFHxA (max 19 ng L⁻¹) and other PFCA, while PFSA
264 concentrations were below the LOQ.⁴⁰ At two fire training areas at U.S. military bases in operation
265 from 1942 to 1990 and 1950 to 1993 respectively, both fluorotelomers, PFCA, and PFSA were detected
266 in high concentrations in groundwater. 6:2 FTS was detected at maximum concentrations of 220,000
267 and 37,000 ng L⁻¹, and maximum concentrations of PFPeA were 120,000 and 35,000 ng L⁻¹.
268 Concentrations of PFHxA (max 350,000 and 99,000 ng L⁻¹) and PFHxS (max 360,000 and 170,000 ng L⁻¹)
269 ¹) were comparable to, or higher than, PFOS concentrations (max 78,000 and 65,000 ng L⁻¹).⁴¹
270 Concentrations in the latter study are much higher than concentrations found in our study, however
271 several of the most dominant compounds are also the ones that dominate in our study. The large
272 differences in PFAS composition between locations could be due to differences in the historical use of
273 AFFF. For example, PFCA were not detected in AFFF formulations used by the US military from 1988 to
274 2001.⁷ However, PFCA were used worldwide in AFFF formulations from approximately 1965 to 1975.⁴²
275 In addition, the use of fluorotelomer based AFFF has been linked to significant *in situ* production of
276 PFCA² and 6:2 FTS is known to degrade to PFCA (≤ 7 C),⁴³⁻⁴⁵ with PFHxA being one of the major
277 degradation products.⁴³ Thus, the relatively high levels of PFHxA reported in our study (up to 20% of
278 the total PFAS, and a max concentration of 194 ng L⁻¹) may indicate that older AFFF formulations (based
279 on PFCA) have been used at Bodø Air Station. However, PFHxA levels at the Air Station may also be
280 due to degradation of newer, fluorotelomer based AFFF (fluorinated telomer products with 6:2
281 configuration such as 6:2 FTS and/or 6:2 FTAB).

282

283 **Marine abiotic environment**

284 PFBA was detected in all passive samplers, but not quantified as discussed above. No other PFAS were
285 detected in the samplers. Thus, total fjord water PFAS concentrations were considered below the limit
286 of detection (0.5-3 ng L⁻¹) at all sites. A previous study at Oslo Airport (OSL) demonstrated the SorbiCell
287 to be suitable for monitoring PFAS in ground and surface water (reported concentrations of Σ_{16} PFAS

288 between 113 ng L⁻¹ and 6744 ng L⁻¹) (manuscript in preparation). All PFAS concentrations in sediments
289 were close to, or below the LOQ. Only sediments from sites B and D contained concentrations of PFAS
290 above the LOQ (0.10 - 0.20 µg kg⁻¹). PFPeA (0.26 µg kg⁻¹) and PFOS (0.32 µg kg⁻¹) were detected at
291 sampling station B, and PFOS (0.29 µg kg⁻¹) was detected at station D. The TOC content in sediments
292 was low and in the range of 0.4 to 1.6%. PFAS concentrations in soil and sediments have previously
293 been shown to be correlated with organic carbon content, however in cases where significantly higher
294 carbon contents have been reported than in the present study.^{46,47} The low PFAS concentrations in sea
295 water indicate that dissolved PFAS released to the fjord system are relatively efficiently diluted and
296 removed from water surrounding the airport. Based on Endo et al.,⁴⁸ we do not consider salting out to
297 have an important influence on neutral PFAS partitioning, however for anionic PFAS (i.e. the
298 compounds analysed here) sorption to cationic salts and suspended solids can play a role in overall
299 sorption processes.⁴⁹ In addition, sorption of PFAA onto clay has previously been shown to increase
300 with salinity.⁵⁰ Therefore, due to the higher salt-content in sea water compared to leachate and storm
301 water, distribution coefficients (K_d) for the analysed PFAS are expected to be higher in the marine
302 environment compared to leachate and storm water. The amount of, and PFAS sorption to, suspended
303 solids was not investigated in the present study. However, a fraction of the suspended solids are
304 deposited on the sea floor with time, thus sediment concentrations are expected to be affected by
305 sorption to suspended solids. The low PFAS concentrations in sediments observed here indicate that
306 salting out and sorption to suspended solids are not the main mechanisms for PFAS removal from the
307 water surrounding the airport. It is possible that PFAS accumulation at the marine boundary layer for
308 sea spray aerosol formation contributes to losses from the sea water to the atmosphere.⁵¹ Thus, the
309 low concentrations of PFAS in the marine abiotic environment at the Air Station are likely due to the
310 local geographical characteristics which, due to strong winds and currents, favour sea spray formation,
311 water circulation and dilution of contaminants.

312

313 **Marine biota**

314 Normalization for dry weight, lipid or protein content was not carried out, thus potential differences
315 in PFAS concentrations caused by differences in affinity between tissues could not be evaluated.
316 Nevertheless, the dominant PFAS in all samples, both at the Air Station and the reference station, was
317 PFOS. This is in agreement with the reported concentrations in leachate and storm water herein, with
318 previous studies that have shown PFOS to dominate soil samples from Norwegian airports,^{52,53} and
319 studies that have shown PFOS and other long chained PFAA to have high bioaccumulation potential in
320 aquatic organisms.^{13–15,21,29,54,55} PFAS concentrations were higher at the airport compared to the
321 reference station, and concentrations were generally highest at the source areas (station B, E and F),
322 shown in figure 1. PFAS concentrations in biotic samples are given in Table S7.

323

324 *Fish PFAS burdens and biological parameters*

325 A (weak) negative relationship was found between the liver somatic index (LSI) and Σ_{22} PFAS in Atlantic
326 cod liver ($p < 0.01$, figure S2). This is in agreement with previously reported negative correlations for
327 Atlantic cod in Norwegian fjords and harbours,⁵⁶ and for the freshwater and diadromous species
328 fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*) and rainbow trout exposed to PFOS.⁵⁷ Nevertheless, liver
329 enlargement is reported in the freshwater species blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*) and common
330 shiner (*Luxilus cornutus*) living in an AFFF contaminated area.²⁰ The relationship between PFAS
331 exposure and LSI in fish should be investigated in future studies, including potential differences
332 between fresh water and marine species. No relationships were found between length, weight, or
333 Fulton's condition factor K, and PFAS levels ($p > 0.05$). This is in accordance with previous studies
334 reporting no relationships between PFAS levels and length, weight or age in Lake Ontario Lake Trout,⁵⁸
335 or in perch from Swedish lakes.⁵⁹ Nevertheless, a positive relationship was reported for PFOS
336 concentrations and fork-length (but not body weight) of polar cod in the Barents Sea.⁶⁰

337

338 *Invertebrate PFAS burdens and biological parameters*

339 A relationship between size and PFAS levels in hepatopancreas in edible crabs was not found ($p>0.05$).
340 There is a general lack of studies investigating the relationship between invertebrate size or sex, and
341 PFAS levels. However, the lack of relationships reported herein is in accordance with a study
342 investigating mud crabs,²⁹ where no relationships between size and PFAS levels were observed (nor
343 any differences between sex). Potential relationships should be investigated further in future studies.

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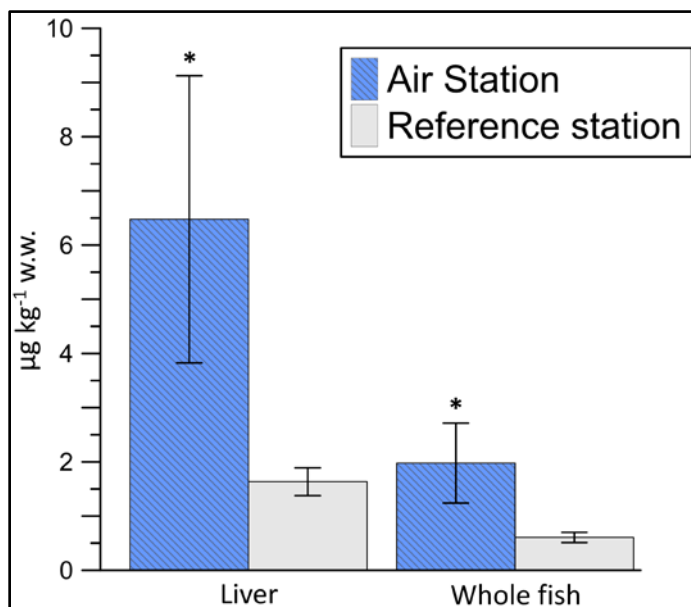
345 *Biota PFOS concentrations*

346 At the Air Station, no significant differences in fish liver PFOS concentrations were observed between
347 sampling stations (A to H) ($p>0.05$). A previous study investigating the spatial PFOS distribution in fish
348 and invertebrate species from source areas (approx. 5 km between sampling stations) found a clear
349 relationship with distance for one site, while the opposite was shown for another,²³ possibly reflecting
350 fish migration.

351

352 Tracking and re-capturing experiments with coastal Atlantic cod have shown that average core areas
353 for populations are about 8 km²⁶¹ (movement between a few hundred meters to a few km were
354 reported for study periods up to 20 months^{62,63}). The distance between stations A and H is 6 km, and
355 the average distance between stations is 750 m. Thus, in the present study, some migration between
356 sampling stations was expected. PFOS concentrations in Atlantic cod caught at the Air Station (stations
357 A-H), both liver and whole fish (including liver), were significantly higher than in individuals from the
358 reference station on the other side of the fjord, about 5 km from the Air Station ($p_{\text{liver}}=0.01$,
359 $p_{\text{whole}}=0.03$), as shown in Figure 2. PFOS concentrations in Atlantic cod liver were $6.48 \pm 2.6 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ at
360 the Air Station and $1.63 \pm 0.26 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ at the reference station. PFOS concentrations in whole fish were
361 $1.98 \pm 0.74 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ at the Air Station and $0.60 \pm 0.09 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ at the reference station. In comparison, an
362 average PFOS liver concentration of $3.1 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ were reported for Atlantic cod in the northern parts of
363 Norway.⁵⁶ Thus, even though some migration can be expected, cod caught near the Air Station showed

364 higher concentrations compared to cod from the reference station, as well as cod from other parts of
365 northern Norway.
366



367
368 *Figure 2. PFOS concentrations in Atlantic cod (µg kg⁻¹ in liver, and in whole fish including the liver) caught near*
369 *the Air Station (stations A-H, n_{liver} = 26, n_{whole fish} = 24) and at the reference station (n=6), respectively.*
370 *Concentrations are given as average ± standard error of mean (SEM). Asterisk (*) denotes concentrations*
371 *significantly different from reference station (Unpaired Wilcoxon Test, p<0.05).*
372

373 The average ratio between PFOS concentrations in liver and in whole fish (including liver) for Atlantic
374 cod was 3.5 ± 0.4 and did not differ significantly between the Air station and the reference station
375 (Figure S3, p>0.05) (ratios for all PFAS compounds detected in both liver and in remaining fish are
376 shown in Table S5). PFOS ratios were relatively consistent and no trends with size or contamination
377 level in Atlantic cod were observed. However, some individuals caught in stations not associated with
378 any particular PFAS source (A, C, and D) had much higher ratios (>5). Based on tissue specific
379 elimination rates, ratios between liver and other tissues (e.g. muscle, carcass, or remaining whole fish
380 homogenates) might be an expression of the exposure history of individual fish. The validity of this
381 observation should be explored in future studies. Falk et al.⁵⁵ reported that the ratio between
382 concentrations in different tissues of rainbow trout was relatively constant when the fish were exposed
383 to contaminated water. Following exposure, the ratio of liver versus other tissues (especially muscle
384 and carcass) increased owing to the longer half-life of PFAS in liver. PFOS was estimated to have a half-

385 life of 8.4 days in muscle while the half-life in liver was estimated to be 20.4 days. Therefore, in cases
386 where high ratios were observed, it may indicate that the particular individuals were previously
387 exposed in one more contaminated location, before moving to the less contaminated location.

388

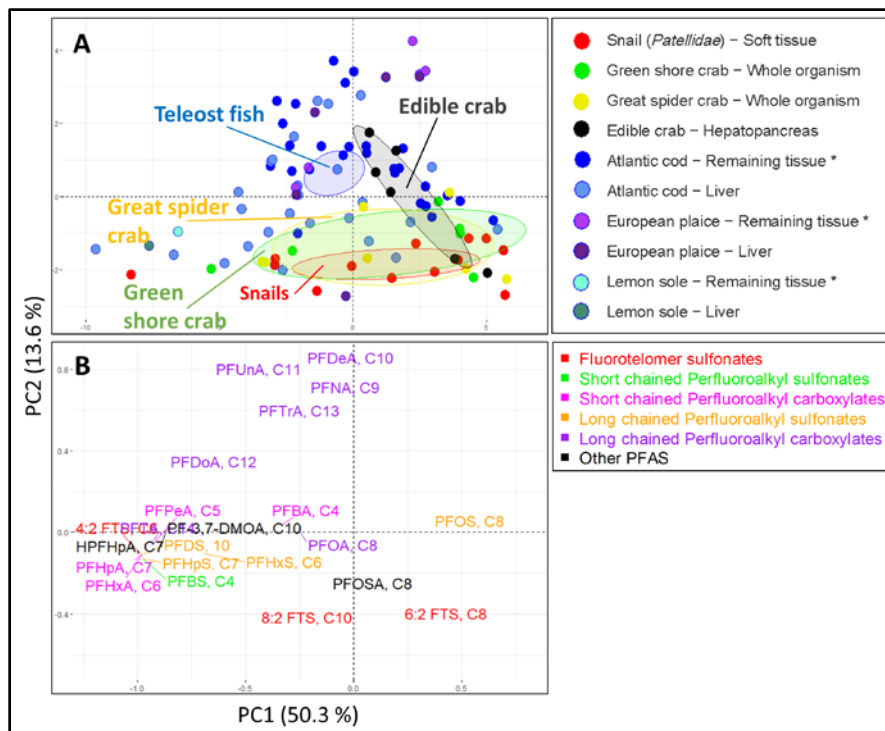
389 PFOS concentrations in snails from the Air Station were $3.86 \pm 0.36 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ and the highest detected
390 concentration was $14.30 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ (station E). For the small crab species, green shore crab and great
391 spider crab, PFOS concentrations were $5.50 \pm 0.80 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ and $3.92 \pm 0.79 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ respectively. The
392 highest detected concentrations were $13.60 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ (station B) and $16.20 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ (station F),
393 respectively. Concentrations in hepatopancreas of edible crab were $6.15 \pm 0.90 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ and the highest
394 detected concentration was $17.00 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ (station G). PFOS concentrations in snails, green shore crab,
395 and great spider crab at the reference station were $0.08 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$, $0.40 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ and $0.34 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$,
396 respectively. Hepatopancreas in the two individuals of edible crab from the reference station
397 contained PFOS concentrations of $4.38 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ and $5.91 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$. Stations that had the largest PFAS loads
398 from storm and leachate water (B, E and F) also had the highest concentrations in invertebrates. In
399 school prawn (meat) and mud crab (claw meat) living in PFAS contaminated source areas, PFOS
400 concentrations of $5.60\text{-}15.00 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ and $3.70\text{-}39.00 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ respectively, have been observed
401 depending on location.²⁹ PFOS concentrations of $38\text{-}82 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ dry weight were observed in swimming
402 crab from an industrial area in China.²⁶ Although these organisms and tissues are different to those in
403 our study, they represent invertebrate species in source areas showing comparable levels to those at
404 the Air Station (sampling station A-H). PFOS levels in invertebrate organisms (bivalve, lugworm, crab),
405 including hepatopancreas in a small crab species, from the coast of Japan (no known local PFAS
406 sources) were not reported above the LOQ ($0.3 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$).⁶⁴ This is consistent with the low levels reported
407 in small crabs from the reference station in our study.

408

409 *Biota PFAS distribution*

410 Principal component analysis (PCA) was carried out using relative PFAS concentrations (expressed as
411 % of the Σ_{22} PFAS in biota from the Air Station) in order to determine how PFAS profiles varied (Figure
412 3). Average PFAS profiles in biota are shown in a stacked bar chart in Figure 4, and listed in Table S6.
413 The score plot (Figure 3A) shows individual biotic samples plotted according to their PFAS profile. Biotic
414 samples did not group according to sampling stations (and as such this is not shown in the manuscript),
415 indicating that PFAS profiles in biota were similar between the different stations. The loading plot
416 (Figure 3B) shows PFAS compounds plotted according to their distribution in biota. Principal
417 component 1 (PC1, X-axis) explained 50% of the variance in the dataset and is dominated by 6:2 FTS
418 and PFOS on the right. PC2 (Y-axis) explained 14% of the variance. The most important compounds in
419 PC2 are long chained PFCA in the upper part of the plot and fluorotelomer sulfonates (FTS) in the lower
420 part of the plot. Profiles in fish consisted of a higher proportion of long chained PFCA and almost no
421 FTS, and grouped in the upper part of the plot. The Σ of long chained PFCA (PFOA, perfluorononanoic
422 acid [PFNA], perfluorodecanoic acid [PFDeA], perfluoroundecanoic acid [PFUnA], perfluorododecanoic
423 acid [PFDoA], perfluorotridecanoic acid [PFTrA], and perfluorotetradecanoic acid [PFTA]) were on
424 average 24.6 and 29.1% of Σ_{22} PFAS in fish liver and remaining tissue. Snails and small crabs (green
425 shore crab and great spider crab) grouped in the lower part of the plot, dominated by FTS. On average
426 the Σ of long chained PFCA made up 8.4% of the total detected PFAS in whole body snails and small
427 crabs. Hepatopancreas in edible crab is seen in both parts of the plot, reflecting that the tissue contains
428 significant portions of both FTS and long chained PFCA (also shown in Figure 4). The latter made up
429 25.8% of Σ_{22} PFAS. The multivariate PERMANOVA analysis followed by Bonferroni correction showed
430 significant differences in PFAS profiles ($p < 0.05$) among Atlantic cod, both liver and remaining tissue,
431 and the invertebrate organisms (snail, green shore crab, great spider crab, and hepatopancreas in
432 edible crab). No other significant differences were found. The observed higher proportion of long
433 chained PFCA in fish is likely due to their higher potential for biomagnification as reported in studies
434 showing concentrations of PFCA with 8-14 C increasing with trophic level.^{28,65,66} The same reasoning

435 likely applies to the higher proportion of long chained PFCA in hepatopancreas in the large crab species
 436 (edible crab), compared to smaller crabs (green shore crab and great spider crab) and snails.
 437

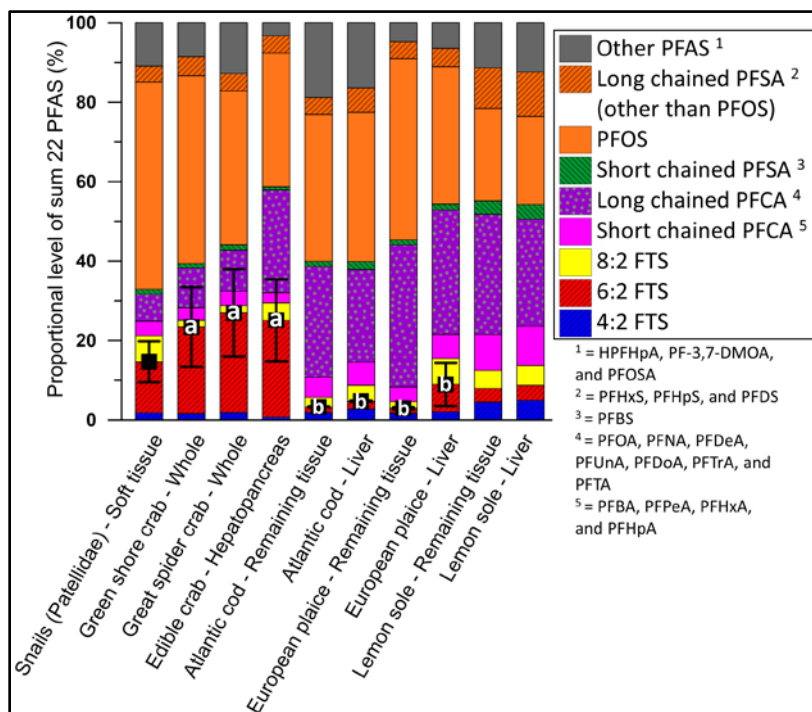


438
 439 *Figure 3. Principal Components Analysis (PCA) based on proportional levels (% Σ_{22} PFAS) in samples of biotic tissue.*
 440 *PC1 and PC2 explain 63.9% of the variance. Figure 3A (score plot): Biotic samples are plotted according to their*
 441 *PFAS profile. *Analysis on fish remaining tissue is performed on homogenized whole fish after removal of liver and*
 442 *gut content. Figure 3B (loading plot): PFAS compounds are plotted according to their distribution in biotic*
 443 *samples. Ellipses show 99% confidence intervals for the respective groups. Concentrations below the detection*
 444 *limit (LOQ) are treated as half the LOQ*
 445

446 6:2 FTS accumulation

447 The most noticeable difference between PFAS profiles in fish and invertebrate species was the
 448 proportion of 6:2 FTS. Figure 4 shows the proportion 6:2 FTS (as a percentage) of Σ_{22} PFAS. Statistically
 449 significant lower percentage 6:2 FTS were observed in Atlantic cod and European plaice (both liver and
 450 remaining tissue), compared to all three crab species ($p < 0.05$). The highest concentrations of 6:2 FTS
 451 in invertebrates were: $56.3 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ in snails, $12.3 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ in green shore crab, and $56.8 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ in great
 452 spider crab caught at sampling station F, and $26.4 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ in hepatopancreas of edible crab caught at
 453 sampling station E (the two stations in the area used for used for firefighting). In contrast 6:2 FTS was
 454 only detected in 3 of 39 fish and the highest level was $3.25 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ in the liver of a European plaice

455 caught at station A. These results indicate significant differences in PFAS accumulation in marine
 456 invertebrates compared to teleost fish and this is one of the first studies to show this.
 457



458
 459 *Figure 4. PFAS profiles in different biota tissues (station A-H). Profiles are given as relative concentrations (of Σ_{22}*
 460 *PFAS). Error bars show \pm standard error of mean (SEM) for 6:2 FTS (not shown for Lemon sole where n=1).*
 461 *Different letters denote significant differences in 6:2 FTS proportion (Kruskal-Wallis and Bonferroni correction,*
 462 *p<0.05). Concentrations below the LOQ are treated as half the LOQ*
 463

464 Biotransformation of fluorotelomer-based compounds has been reviewed by Butt et al.,⁶⁷ and shows
 465 that few biotransformation studies have included fish. Studies on rainbow trout have found that tissue
 466 concentrations of 6:2 FTS increases at the beginning of an exposure period (first days or few weeks).
 467 However, it appears that elimination rates increase in response to exposure, and tissue concentrations
 468 rapidly decrease to a low level.^{9,15} 6:2 FTS has been shown to be biotransformed to shorter more water
 469 soluble PFAS (5:3 fluorotelomer carboxylic acid [5:3 FTCA], perfluorobutanoic acid [PFBA], PFPeA, and
 470 PFHxA).⁴⁵ This has been suggested as the main mechanism behind the rapid elimination,¹⁵ because
 471 these compounds show little accumulation in fish.^{9,13,14} It is possible that fish exposed to a 6:2 FTS point
 472 source acquire the enzymatic ability to eliminate 6:2 FTS at a fast rate. An increased enzyme activity
 473 could possibly be used as a biomarker of exposure to 6:2 FTS.

474

475 6:2 FTS has previously been found in invertebrates.^{21,60} However, this study is one of the first to report
476 6:2 FTS bioaccumulation to such an extent. High levels have previously been found in earthworms (max
477 14,834 $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$) and in marine snails ($>100 \mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$) in the vicinity of firefighting training areas in
478 Norway.⁶⁸ Invertebrates have different detoxification pathways and enzymes than fish and mammals,
479 e.g. different expression of cytochrome P450 (CYP) enzymes.^{69,70} Different accumulation potentials for
480 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) between invertebrates and vertebrates have previously been
481 suggested to be partly due to these differential biotransformation capacities.⁷¹ Although PAH and PFAS
482 are two distinct chemical classes of contaminants with different toxicokinetics and dynamics, this
483 explanation cannot be ruled out.

484

485 **Environmental implications**

486 The results of this study suggest that 6:2 FTS has the potential to bioaccumulate in marine
487 invertebrates. Marine invertebrates are food sources to higher trophic organisms like fish, birds and
488 mammalian species. Marine invertebrates are also used as food sources for humans. Possible effects
489 of 6:2 FTS accumulation in invertebrates and subsequent effects of a repeated dietary exposure should
490 be investigated further.

491

492 The observed different accumulation pattern between teleost fish and invertebrates suggests that
493 future biota monitoring and risk assessment of AFFF contaminated areas, and other sites possibly
494 contaminated with FTS and related compounds, should include invertebrates. Data on accumulation
495 in aquatic invertebrates and possible effects of species differences and parameters such as sex, size,
496 and moulting stage, will provide vital contributions to future PFAS monitoring.

497

498 **ASSOCIATED CONTENT**

499 **Supporting Information**

500 The Supporting Information is available online.

501 Raw data, statistical and analytical methods, and other materials in figures and tables.

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507 **Notes**

508 The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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