



AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
MICROBIOLOGY

Applied and Environmental
Microbiology®

CONTENTS • MARCH 2018 • VOLUME 84, NO. 5

COVER IMAGE



Cover photograph: This image of a humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) displaying its fluke while diving was taken within the remote waters of the western Antarctic Peninsula during the summer feeding season, where hundreds of whales regularly gather and feed on krill. Small skin biopsy specimens are regularly taken from humpback whales in this region to examine their population membership and are now being used to study their skin microbiome. Humpback whales harbor a consistent assemblage of skin-associated microorganisms, whose composition fluctuates with temporal and geography-related features. With unprecedented rates of climate change and anthropogenic impacts on ocean ecosystems, examining the humpback whale's skin microbiome may soon be part of an integrative health assessment approach to understand how they respond to ocean change. (Photo by David W. Johnston. This

photo was collected under NOAA permit 808-735 and ACA permit 2009-14 as part of the NSF Palmer Long Term Ecological Research program [NSF OPP award ANT-07-39483].) (See related article at e02574-17.) (Copyright © 2018 Bierlich et al. CC-BY 4.0.)

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†This article was published on 14 February 2018 with Steffen Porwollik's surname misspelled as “Porwollik” in the byline. The byline was updated in the current version, posted on 24 April 2018.

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