

# Is part-night lighting a suitable mitigation strategy to limit Artificial Light at Night effects on the biological rhythm at the behavioral and molecular scales of the oyster Crassostrea gigas?

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1	Is part-night lighting a suitable mitigation strategy to limit ALAN's effects on the
2	biological rhythm at the behavioral and molecular scales of the oyster Crassostrea gigas?
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21 Abstract

Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) is a fast-spreading threat to organisms, especially in coastal 22 environments, where night lighting is increasing due to constant anthropization. Considering 23 that ALAN affects a large diversity of coastal organisms, finding efficient solutions to limit 24 these effects is of great importance but poorly investigated. The potential benefit of one 25 strategy, in particular, should be studied since its use is growing: part-night lighting (PNL), 26 which consists in switching off the lights for a few hours during nighttime. The aim of this 27 study is to investigate the positive potential of the PNL strategy on the daily rhythm of the 28 oyster Crassostrea gigas, a key species of coastal areas of ecological and commercial interest. 29 Oysters were exposed to a control condition and three different ALAN modalities. A realistic 30 PNL condition is applied, recreating a strategy of city policy in a coastal city boarding an 31 urbanized bay (Lanton, Arcachon Bay, France). The PNL modality consists in switching off 32 ALAN direct sources (5 lx) for four hours (23-3 h) during which oysters are in darkness. 33 Then, a PNL + skyglow (PNL+S) modality reproduces the previous one mimicking a skyglow 34 (0.1 lx), an indirect ALAN source, during the direct lighting switch off, to get as close as 35 possible to realistic conditions. Finally, the third ALAN condition mimics full-night direct 36 lighting (FNL). Results revealed that PNL reduces some adverse effects of FNL on the 37 behavioral daily rhythm. But, counterintuitively, PNL+S appears more harmful than FNL for 38 some parameters of the behavioral daily rhythm. PNL+S modality is also the only one that 39 affect oysters' clock and melatonin synthesis gene expression, suggesting physiological 40 consequences. Thus, in realistic conditions, the suggested PNL mitigation strategy, in the 41 presence of skyglow, might be not beneficial, seeing worse for a coastal organism such as the 42 43 oysters.

Keywords (6/6): ALAN; oysters' behavior; valvometry; daily rhythm; skyglow; part-night
lighting

#### 46 **1. Introduction**

Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) is a widespread pollution type, which can affect zones 47 supposed to be preserved from human activities, such as marine or terrestrial protected areas 48 (Davies et al., 2016; Davies and Smyth, 2018; Gaston et al., 2015). In these areas and more 49 globally all over the world, ALAN is a threat to a wide diversity of organisms (from nocturnal 50 to diurnal and from terrestrial to aquatic species) and in a large range of intensities (from 51 below 1 lx to more than 100 lx) (Bravlev et al., 2022; Sanders et al., 2021). A multitude of 52 effects on organisms caused by a disruption of natural nocturnal lighting levels have been 53 described, such as effects on sleep, circadian rhythm, endocrinology, orientation, migration, 54 foraging, communication, or reproduction (Brayley et al., 2022; Burt et al., 2023; Sanders and 55 Gaston, 2018; Sanders et al., 2021; Svechkina et al., 2020). Moreover, this threat to 56 biodiversity is spreading fast, with a 2.2 % increase in surface area and a 1.8% increase in 57 radiance per year (Kyba et al., 2017a). Thus, according to Davies and Smyth (2018), ALAN 58 59 should be one of the main focuses of the global change research of this century. As a matter of fact, the number of studies focusing on ALAN's impacts increased in the last 20 years 60 (Davies and Smyth, 2018). However, in addition to investigating ALAN's negative effects, 61 62 finding solutions to limit them is also necessary. In this way, suggestions have been made including the protection and creation of dark areas, the reduction of the trespass of lighting in 63 areas not supposed to be lit, the choice of dimmer intensities as well as narrower spectra, and 64 the reduction of lighting duration (part-night lighting) (Gaston et al., 2012; Longcore and 65 Rich, 2016). Part-night lighting (PNL) could be considered one of the best options since it 66 involves turning off the lights during a part of the night, returning darkness to organisms 67 along with an economic interest. To ensure that this strategy is helpful to ecosystems, it is 68 necessary to test its efficiency and effects on organisms, which is currently poorly 69 70 investigated. For example, Davies et al. (2017) showed that switching off ALAN (14 lx) for 4

hours from 00 h to 04 h was more beneficial to grassland invertebrate assemblages than a full-71 night lighting (FNL). However, in some cases, PNL can be more harmful than FNL. This is 72 the case for the aphid Sitobion avenae, for which PNL induces the suppression of the colony 73 growth whereas FNL allows a recovery of aphid number over time (Heinen et al., 2023). In 74 addition, in the environment, during the supposed dark part of the night, organisms will 75 certainly still be exposed to ALAN through its indirect source, the skyglow. This skyglow is 76 created by artificial light scattered in the atmosphere leading to a brightening of the sky that 77 78 can extend to hundreds of kilometers from its source at an estimated intensity ranging from 0.007 to 0.55 lx (Gaston, 2018; Hänel et al., 2018; Luginbuhl et al., 2014). Therefore, a city 79 applying PNL strategies could still be exposed to ALAN throughout nighttime through the 80 skyglow emitted for instance by FNL of a distant large city. 81

ALAN is deeply present in coastal environments, with 1.9 million km<sup>2</sup> of the world's coastal 82 seas exposed to biologically important ALAN at a depth of 1 m (Smyth et al., 2021). Even if 83 the study of ALAN's impacts on marine environments increased these last few years, our 84 knowledge on this topic remains poor compared to terrestrial environments, especially 85 concerning the potential benefits of mitigation strategies. The oyster Crassostrea gigas is a 86 key coastal species likely exposed to ALAN since it is a sessile mollusk living in intertidal or 87 subtidal areas. This oyster of high commercial interest has been introduced in many coastal 88 environments in which it is now present as cultured and wild oysters and is a keystone species 89 (FAO, 2016; Ruesink et al., 2005). In oysters, ALAN at low and realistic intensities has been 90 91 shown to disrupt their daily rhythm at the behavioral and molecular scales, suggesting consequences on physiological processes (Botté et al., 2023). The daily rhythm of oysters' 92 valve activity has been well characterized as well as its endogenous clock (Mat et al., 2012; 93 Payton et al., 2017a; Perrigault and Tran, 2017; Tran et al., 2020). Biological rhythms are 94 95 ubiquitous and found their origin in each cell with an endogenous and autonomous clock that

coordinates physiological processes between them and with environmental timing using 96 reliable cues such as natural light cycles (Bell-Pedersen et al., 2005; Partch et al., 2014). 97 Being synchronized with natural light cycles enable physiological processes and behavior to 98 be optimized, giving adaptive advantages to organisms (Emerson et al., 2008; Golombek and 99 Rosenstein, 2010). Furthermore, biological rhythms contribute to maintain stable ecosystems 100 by organizing temporally intra and interspecific interactions (Helm et al., 2017). However, by 101 disrupting natural nocturnal light levels, ALAN can prevent clock synchronization with 102 103 environmental light cycles and therefore have consequences on organisms' physiology and behavior (Botté et al., 2023; Botté et al., Unpublished results; Sanders et al., 2021). These 104 findings highlight the importance of studying efficient mitigation strategies to limit ALAN's 105 impacts (Gaston and Bennie, 2014; Gaston et al., 2017). In C. gigas, ALAN's effects on its 106 daily rhythm can be reduced by decreasing ALAN intensities (< 0.1 lx), which is largely too 107 108 low for public lighting, and by changing its spectral composition to green wavelength (Botté et al., 2023; Botté et al., Unpublished results). However, these two strategies do not suppress 109 110 ALAN's effects, which would be possibly further reduced by using PNL strategy.

This study investigates the potential of PNL mitigation strategy to reduce ALAN's impact on 111 the oysters' daily rhythm. Thus, we evaluate the effects of several ALAN modalities on the 112 valve behavior at the group and individual scales as well as on the expression of clock, light 113 perception, and clock-associated genes of oysters. The first ALAN modality mimics PNL 114 with total darkness when the nocturnal lighting is switched off. To approximate real 115 116 environmental conditions, lighting off times reproduce PNL strategy applied in Lanton (Arcachon Bay, France), a city boarding a very anthropized bay, with an important oyster 117 farm activity. Moreover, the intensity used to imitate ALAN direct sources (5 lx) was 118 previously measured underwater, directly on the field, in the same bay. The second ALAN 119 120 modality also reproduces PNL strategy with in addition the presence of a skyglow light

intensity (0.1 lx) throughout nighttime, to be as close as possible to realistic conditions.

122 Finally, the third ALAN condition mimics FNL that is still largely applied in the cities policy

strategy. We hypothesized that ALAN would affect oysters' daily rhythm at the behavioral

and molecular levels no matter its modality. A priori, we suggested that the use of PNL

strategy would reduce these ALAN's negative effects on the oysters' daily rhythm, although

we expected that the dispensed advantages by PNL strategies would be reduced in presence of

127 skyglow throughout nighttime.

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#### 2. Materials and methods

#### 130 *2.1.Experimental protocol*

The experiments were conducted in the Marine Station of Arcachon from May to August 131 2022 on 130 oysters ( $83.3 \pm 1.3$  mm shell length;  $38.7 \pm 0.6$  mm shell width; mean  $\pm$  SE) 132 coming from an oyster's farm source of the Arcachon bay (France). The experiments were 133 realized using four tanks (L x W x H: 74.8 x 54.8 x 40.8 mm) placed in an isolated room and 134 135 equipped with an antivibration bench to reduce disturbances to oysters' behavior. Each tank was continuously supplied with natural, oxygenized, and filtered (< 1µm) seawater of stable 136 composition (temperature =  $20.3 \pm 0.1$  °C, pH =  $8.0 \pm 0.1$ , salinity =  $34.9 \pm 0.1$  ‰) pumped 137 138 from the Arcachon bay. For each experimental condition, 32 oysters were used. The valve behavior of 16 of them was continuously recorded and 24 oysters (including 8 of them studied 139 for valve behavior) were used for molecular analyses. Oysters were not fed during the 140 experiments and were acclimated for 7 - 10 days before the experiment to an L:D 14:10 cycle 141 with daytime from 5 to 19 h (all times noted in Universal Time Coordinated, UTC) (Fig. S1). 142 Daylight intensity varied gradually with a maximum intensity of  $1388.47 \pm 260.89$  lx (mean 143  $\pm$  SE) (Fig. S2) between 11:30 to 12:30 h to mimic the daily cycle of light using 144 programmable white (391–720 nm, peak at 553 nm; Fig. S3A) LED light bars (MH3SP3 145

DSunY). Following acclimation, 4 conditions were tested, including a control condition and 146 three ALAN exposure modalities (Fig. S1) during 10 days, using white (411-687 nm, peak at 147 563 nm; Fig. S3B-C) LED strips (MiBoxer Mi-Light WL5): part-night lighting (PNL), part-148 night lighting + skyglow (PNL+S), and full-night lighting (FNL). For each experimental 149 condition, underwater illuminances were measured at five positions in the tank, at oysters' 150 level (Fig. S2A) using a handheld spectroradiometer (Blue-Wave UVN-100, StellarNet Inc.). 151 The control group was in complete darkness at night, with a light intensity below the 152 153 detection limit of the spectroradiometer (< 0.05 lx). PNL condition involves an ALAN exposure from 19 to 23 h, and from 3 to 5 h at an intensity of 5 lx. The choice of the ALAN 154 intensity of 5 lx (Fig. S2B) was motivated by measures made at 19:15 h in May (civil 155 twilight) underwater at the lighting Eyrac Pier in Arcachon Bay, France (44.64902, -156 1.163639) at a depth of 1.5 m. Thus, this intensity best mimics ALAN direct sources. During 157 158 the 4 h interruption of ALAN, the oysters were in complete darkness (< 0.05 lx) (Fig. S1). PNL+S group was subject to the same ALAN exposure modality as the previous condition, 159 160 except during the 4 h interruption of ALAN direct source, where oysters were exposed to the 161 indirect source of ALAN from 23 to 3 h with an intensity of 0.1 lx (Fig. S1; Fig. S2B) to mimic the presence of the skyglow. Finally, FNL condition is characterized by an exposure to 162 direct ALAN sources (5 lx) throughout nighttime from 19 to 5 h (Fig. S1). For each 163 experimental condition, the valve behavior of 16 ovsters was continuously recorded using the 164 High Frequency-Non Invasive (HFNI) valvometer technology (Andrade et al., 2016). On the 165 10<sup>th</sup> day of each experiment, gill tissues of 8 oysters were sampled at three sampling times. 166 The first sampling time occurs at 12 h when the daylight intensity is at its maximum. The two 167 remaining sampling times occur during nighttime at 22 h when oysters are exposed to ALAN 168 169 direct sources in all conditions, and at 1 h when ALAN's intensity varies across experimental

conditions. Gills tissues were stored in RNAlater (Invitrogen) at -80 °C for further molecular
analysis.

#### 172 2.2. Crassostrea gigas behavior measurements and chronobiological analyses

Measurement of oyster's valve activity is performed using a HFNI valvometer technology 173 (see details in Andrade et al. (2016)), for which lightweight's electromagnets are glued on the 174 ovsters' valve. An electromagnetic current is generated between these two electromagnets, 175 linked to a valvometer device by flexible wires, and allows to continuously measure oyster 176 valve activity. For each oyster, the signal is recorded every 4.8 s and data were processed 177 using Labview 8.0 (National Instrument, Austin, TX, USA). Here we focused on the oysters' 178 179 hourly Valve Opening Duration (VOD) meaning that we established for each individual and 180 each hour the percentage of time spent with valves open. For example, an individual having its valves closed during a whole hour corresponds to a VOD of 0 % while an oyster with its 181 valves open during one hour corresponds to a VOD of 100 %. From the hourly VOD data, 182 chronobiological analyses were performed at the group and individual scales using the 183 software Time Series Analysis Serie Cosinor 8.0 (Expert Soft Technologies). The first step is 184 to evaluate the data quality using the autocorrelation diagram to control the absence of 185 random repartition of data and to determine the absence of stationary character using the 186 Partial Autocorrelation Function (PACF) calculation (Gouthière and Mauvieux, 2003). The 187 second step involves the Lomb and Scargle periodogram used to search for periodicities in the 188 dataset, which are considered significant for p > 0.95 (Scargle, 1982). Then, the two main 189 190 rhythmicities of the dataset were modeled using the Cosinor model. This model uses a cosine function calculated by regression (Bingham et al., 1982), and for a given period, the model 191 is written as:  $Y(t) = Acos\left(\frac{2\pi t}{\tau} + \phi\right) + M + \varepsilon(t)$  where A is the amplitude (difference 192 between the average level and the highest value of the rhythm),  $\tau$  the given period (interval 193 between two identical events),  $\phi$  the acrophase (the highest value of the rhythm), M the mesor 194

195 (average level of the rhythm), and  $\varepsilon$ (t) the relative error. This model gives a chronobiometric 196 parameter, the percent rhythm (PR), which is the percentage of cyclic behavior explained by 197 the model, that represents the strength of the rhythm. Two tests validated the calculated model 198 and the existence of rhythmicity: the ellipse test must be rejected, and the probability for the 199 null amplitude hypothesis must be lower than 0.05.

#### 200 2.3.Total RNA extraction and cDNA synthesis

From gill tissues, the total RNA was extracted using an SV Total RNA Isolation System kit
 (Promega). The quantity and quality of the total RNA were evaluated by spectrophotometry
 (OD230, OD260, OD280). Then a RNA reverse transcription was realized using Goscript<sup>TM</sup>
 Reverse Transcription System kits (Promega).

#### 205 *2.4.Real-Time PCR analyses*

206 Real-Time qPCR was performed using GoTaq® qPCR Master Mix kit (Promega) and primers

sets of clock (*CgClock*, *CgBmal*, *CgCry*, *CgPer*, *CgTim1*, *CgCry1*, *CgRev-erb*, *CgRor*), light

208 perception (*CgRhodopsin-like 1*), clock-associated genes (*CgHiomt-like*, *CgOct\beta2*), and

housekeeping genes (*CgEf1*, *Cg28S*, *CgGadph*) (Tab. S1). The expression level of clock and

210 clock-associated genes were evaluated using the comparative Ct method  $2^{-\Delta Ct}$  (Livak and

211 Schmittgen, 2001), where  $\Delta Ct = Ct_{(target gene)} - Ct_{(housekeeping gene)}$ . Based on stability values,

212 gene's expression was normalized with the geometric mean of the two housekeeping genes

213 CgGadph and CgEfl (Xie et al., 2012).

#### 214 *2.5.Statistical analyses*

215 The SigmaPlot software (version 13.0; Systat Software, USA) was used to perform the

216 statistical analyses. T-tests were used to realize two groups multiple comparisons after

217 checking assumptions (normality of data and equal variance). When these assumptions

218 weren't validated, the non-parametric Mann Whitney rank sum was performed. For multiple

219comparisons, one-way ANOVA were performed after checking assumptions (normality of220data and equal variance) followed by the Student-Newman-Keuls test for all pairwise multiple221comparisons in case of significant differences. If the assumptions weren't checked, the222Kruskal-Wallis One-Way ANOVA on ranks test was performed. For all test results, a223difference was considered significant when p < 0.05.

224

#### **3. Results**

226 Figure 1 shows the overall oysters' behavioral mean daily pattern for the control condition and the three ALAN conditions (PNL, PNL+S, FNL) with a black arrow indicating the 227 maximal activity during the day. The ovsters in the control condition show a strong diurnal 228 pattern with a daily VOD peak at 7-8 h. When oysters are exposed to the three tested ALAN 229 modalities, their diurnal activity pattern is disrupted with a 13 h shift of the ovsters' activity 230 peak delayed (peak at 20–21 h) from daytime to nighttime in FNL. The daily VOD peak 231 during PNL and PNL+S is still present during daytime although the mean hourly VOD 232 increases during nighttime and decreases during daytime. Then, statistical analyses were 233 234 performed first at the group level (Fig. 2 and 3). Figure 2A shows significant daytime / nighttime differences of the mean VOD for control oysters with an increased VOD during 235 daytime, revealing a diurnal behavior (p < 0.001). This significant difference tends to 236 decrease for PNL and PNL+S conditions, caused by a decrease in the mean VOD during 237 daytime as well as an increase during nighttime, which is significantly higher for the PNL+S 238 239 condition. Finally, this daytime / nighttime difference disappears during FNL, characterized by a significantly more important decrease of the mean VOD during daytime compared to 240 PNL and PNL+S conditions. Figure 2B focus on the mean VOD difference between 241 conditions during different parts of the night. From 19 to 23 h, in all of the tested ALAN 242 modalities oysters are exposed to a direct source of ALAN (5 lx) and for all of the conditions 243

their mean VOD increases significantly compared to control oysters (p < 0.001). From 23 to 3 244 h ALAN intensity varies between condition with a null intensity (< 0.05 lx) for PNL, a 245 skyglow intensity (0.1 lx) for PNL+S and an ALAN direct source intensity (5 lx) in FNL. 246 During this period, ovsters mean VOD remains significantly higher for all ALAN modalities 247 compared to the control (p < 0.001) but with weaker effects with PNL, intermediate with FNL 248 and the most important increase for PNL+S. Finally, from 3 to 5 h, the oysters are once more 249 exposed to ALAN direct source (5 lx) in all ALAN conditions, inducing a significant increase 250 251 of their mean VOD in all ALAN modalities compared to control oysters with the least important increase for PNL and FNL and the most important for PNL+S. 252 253 Figure 3A shows Lomb and Scargle periodograms at the group level revealing that in each experimental condition oysters' mean VOD express two significant and distinct periodicities 254  $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$  of 12 h and 24 h, revealing two rhythms, validated by the Cosinor model (p < 0.001), 255 more or less pronounced according to the condition. In the control condition, oysters' 256 behavior expresses a first significant period ( $\tau_1$ ) of 24.00 ± 0.02 h (mean ± SD) and a less 257 pronounced period ( $\tau_2$ ) of 12.00 ± 0.08 h. In the PNL+S condition, VOD data also express a 258 first significant period ( $\tau_1$ ) of 23.80 ± 0.05 h and a less pronounced period ( $\tau_2$ ) of 12.00 ± 0.16 259 h, but with a reduced difference between the 24 h and 12 h period compared to the control 260 condition. On the contrary, the PNL and FNL conditions show a more pronounced 12 h period 261  $(\tau_1)$  (12.00 ± 0.12 h and 12.00 ± 0.05 h respectively) compared to the 24 h one  $(\tau_2)$  (23.80 ± 262 0.03 h and 23.80  $\pm$  0.08 h respectively), with a difference more pronounced between the two 263 significant periods for FNL. The figure 3B shows the results of the analyses of 264 chronobiological parameters (percent rhythm (PR), mesor, amplitude, acrophase) for each of 265 the two main significant periodicities (12 h and 24 h) to reveal ALAN effects according to its 266 modality on these two rhythms at the group level (results are detailed in Table S2). 267 Concerning the 12h-rhythm, the tested ALAN modalities have no significant effect on the 268

269	strength of the rhythm (PR) ( $p = 0.102$ ), while the mesor significantly increases for PNL and
270	PNL+S but not for FNL compared to the control ( $p = 0.004$ ). The 12h-rhythm amplitude is
271	significantly lower for PNL+S and FNL only compared to the control ( $p < 0.001$ ). Finally, the
272	12h-rhythm acrophase is significantly delayed ( $p = 0.046$ ) for PNL and PNL+S but not for
273	FNL even if an increasing trend is noticeable. ALAN conditions also disrupt the 24h-rhythm
274	parameters. All ALAN modalities induce a significant decrease of the strength of the rhythm
275	with a significantly more important decrease in the FNL condition. The mesor of the 24h-
276	rhythm significantly increases during PNL and PNL+S only ( $p = 0.003$ ) and its amplitude
277	significantly decreases for all of the ALAN conditions compared to the control, with a
278	significantly more important decrease for FNL ( $p < 0.001$ ). Finally, the 24h-rhythm shows a
279	significantly delayed acrophase ( $p < 0.001$ ) for PNL and FNL but nor for PNL+S.
280	Then, statistical analyses were conducted at the individual level on oysters keeping a
281	significant daily rhythm (Fig. 4 and 5). The analyses on the daytime / nighttime difference of
282	their mean daily VOD reveals that in all conditions a diurnal pattern is expressed ( $p < 0.001$ ;
283	Fig. 4A). However, this difference is reduced for all ALAN modalities, due on one hand to a
284	decrease of the mean VOD during daytime with a more important decrease for FNL. On the
285	other hand, oysters' activity shows a significant increase for all ALAN modalities during
286	nighttime compared to the control, but significantly higher for PNL+S and FNL. Then, Fig.
287	4B shows mean VOD of rhythmic oysters during different parts of the night. From 19 h to 23
288	h, when oysters in all ALAN condition are exposed to a direct ALAN source (5 lx), their
289	mean VOD significantly increases compared to the control condition ( $p < 0.001$ ). From 23 to
290	3 h ALAN intensity varies between conditions with a null intensity ( $< 0.05 \text{ lx}$ ) for PNL, a
291	skyglow intensity (0.1 lx) for PNL+S and an ALAN direct source intensity (5 lx) for FNL.
292	Results show that the oysters mean VOD significantly increases in presence of ALAN no
293	matter its intensity, but with a significantly more important increase for PNL+S and FNL

compared to PNL (p < 0.001). Finally, for the last part of the nighttime (from 3 h to 5 h), oysters were once again exposed to a direct ALAN source (5 lx) in each ALAN condition. On the contrary to the first part of the night, there were no significant difference of the mean VOD between the control and PNL conditions. However, the mean VOD significantly increases during PNL+S and FNL, with a significantly more important increase for PNL+S (p<0.001).

Figure 5A reveals that the percentage of oysters maintaining a daily rhythm is reduced in all 300 ALAN conditions. This percentage decreases from 87.5% in the control condition to 56.3% 301 for PNL and FNL and to 31.3% for PNL+S, which corresponds respectively to a loss of 35.7 302 303 % and 64.2 % of individuals having a daily rhythm compared to the control. Therefore, PNL+S is the ALAN modality causing the most important loss of oysters having a daily 304 rhythm. Then, chronobiological analyses were performed on these oysters that kept a 305 significant daily behavioral rhythm (results are detailed in Table S3). First, ALAN modalities 306 do not affect the mesor of their behavioral rhythm (p = 0.817; Fig. 5B). However, the other 307 parameters are affected by ALAN such as the strength of the rhythms (PR), which 308 significantly decreases for FNL but not for PNL and PNL+S even if a decreasing trend is 309 observed (p = 0.012; Fig. 5C). Moreover, the rhythm's amplitude is significantly lower in 310 PNL and FNL compared to the control, with a decreasing trend for PNL+S (p = 0.008; Fig. 311 5D). Finally, ALAN conditions do not significantly affect the acrophase (p = 0.427; Fig. 5E). 312 Finally, Figure 6 shows the effects of ALAN modalities on the expression of clock, light 313 perception and clock-associated genes at three sampling times: one during daytime (12 h, left 314 column), and two during nighttime (22 h and 1 h, middle and right column respectively). 315 During daytime, ALAN shows a significant effect only on the expression of the clock gene 316 CgTim1 with a significant decrease for PNL+S only (p = 0.015). Furthermore, at 12 h the 317 expression of the light perception gene CgRhodopsin-like1 tends to decrease along the ALAN 318

modalities tested (p = 0.077). The first sampling time during nighttime (22 h) corresponds to 319 an intensity of 5 lx for all of the ALAN modalities. At this time, the results show a significant 320 decrease in the expression of the clock-associated gene CgHiomt-like for PNL+S only (p =321 0.026). The expression of the other studied genes is not significantly affected at this sampling 322 time. The last sampling time occurs at 1 h, when the ALAN intensity varies among the 323 experimental conditions: no ALAN (< 0.05 lx) for the control and PNL, a skyglow intensity 324 (0.1 lx) for PNL+S, and a direct source of ALAN intensity (5 lx) for FNL. At this time, the 325 expression of three clock genes (CgBmal, CgCry2, CgRev-erb) and one clock-associated gene 326 (CgHiomt-like) significantly decreases during PNL+S only. Finally, the table 1 shows the 327 results of a Three-Way ANOVA, testing the effects of the experimental conditions (control, 328 PNL, PNL+S, and FNL), sampling times (12, 22 and 1 h), and different gene expression on 329 the overall relative mRNA levels of the eleven genes studied. This analyses reveals a 330 331 significant effect of ALAN conditions on the overall gene expression (p < 0.001). More precisely, the expression is significantly different between PNL+S and all of the other 332 333 conditions, including the control. The Three-Way ANOVA also show a significant difference 334 between the sampling times for PNL+S only (p = 0.001).

335

#### **4. Discussion**

The objective of this study is to investigate the potential benefits of using PNL as an ALAN mitigation strategy on the daily rhythm of the oyster *C. gigas*. Results show that all of the tested ALAN modalities (PNL, PNL+S and FNL) affect oysters' behavioral daily rhythm but with reduced effects with PNL, intermediate effects with FNL, and the most important effects with PNL+S. PNL+S is also the only ALAN modality to affect the expression of genes involved in the circadian clock machinery and in the melatonin synthesis.

First, our study show that ALAN causes harmful effects on oysters' behavioral daily rhythm 343 at the group and individual levels no matter its modality. The valve behavior of control 344 oysters follows a daily rhythm, characterized by a main period of 24 h, and also show a weak 345 but significant period of 12 h. When exposed to ALAN, this 12h-rhythm is more pronounced 346 for PNL + S and even becomes the dominant rhythm for PNL and FNL, while the 24h-rhythm 347 is still present but less pronounced. The presence of these behavioral 12h-rhythm could 348 suggest that the oysters' behavior follows a more or less marked bimodal pattern 349 350 characterized by one peak activity during daytime and another during nighttime spaced about 12 h apart. This bimodal pattern has been already shown and discussed in C. gigas (Mat et al., 351 2014; Mat et al., 2016; Tran et al., 2011; Tran et al., 2020) suggesting a real circadian bimodal 352 rhythm or a unimodal circadian rhythm coupled to a circatidal rhythm in free-running. Then, 353 whether we analyze the oysters' 12h- or 24h-rhythms, ALAN affects chronobiological 354 parameters of both, whatever its modality, as it has been observed on their 24h-rhythm at 355 several ALAN intensities (from 0.1 to 25 lx) and wavelengths (white, blue, green, and red 356 357 lights) (Botté et al., 2023; Botté et al., Unpublished results).

Biological rhythms such as daily rhythm enable the synchronization of multiple physiological 358 processes with the environment, such as foraging or reproduction, etc, giving adaptive 359 advantages to organisms (Bradshaw and Holzapfel, 2010; Golombek and Rosenstein, 2010; 360 Kaniewska et al., 2015). The diurnal behavior of C. gigas during spring and summer, as in 361 this study, enables oysters to feed during daytime when the phytoplankton is the most 362 abundant, answering the high energy needs especially due to growth and gametogenesis 363 (Enríquez-Díaz et al., 2008; Mat et al., 2012; Payton et al., 2017b). The disruption during 364 PNL and PNL+S or loss during FNL of this diurnal behavior can induce a less efficient 365 feeding, which might not answer the oysters' energy needs, and therefore induce potential 366 367 physiological consequences, reducing its fitness. For instance, a reduced growth has been

observed in the juvenile toad Anaxyrus americanus at an intensity of 15 lx as well as in the 368 grammarids Gammarus jazdzewskii and Dikerogammarus villosus at an intensity of 2 lx 369 (Czarnecka et al., 2021; Dananay and Benard, 2018). Other oysters' biological rhythms might 370 be disrupted by ALAN. ALAN intensity, ranging from 0.007 (skyglow) to more than 100 lx 371 (direct ALAN source), very often exceeds that of moonlight, which has a maximum of 0.1 -372 0.3 lx in full moon (Gaston, 2018; Hänel et al., 2018; Kyba et al., 2017b). Masking the 373 moonlight cycle could alter its perception by oysters and thus disrupt their behavioral lunar 374 375 rhythm (Payton and Tran, 2019). ALAN masking effects on the natural lunar cycle have been investigated in the corals Acropora millepora and Acropora digitifera for which ALAN 376 induces a delay in corals' gametogenesis, having for consequence the desynchronization of 377 their spawning (Ayalon et al., 2021). ALAN is also susceptible to alter oysters' reproduction 378 success since their spawning synchronization mainly depends on daily, lunar, and annual 379 380 cycles, as many parameters that ALAN can disrupt by altering their perception by oysters (Bernard et al., 2016; Payton et al., 2017b). Thus, the disruption of oysters' behavioral 381 382 rhythms by ALAN is likely to have harmful consequences on their physiology and fitness as 383 well as the ecosystems functioning since C. gigas provide important ecosystems services (van der Schatte Olivier et al., 2018). 384

385 Given the potential physiological and ecological consequences of ALAN exposure, limiting its effects is necessary to preserve ecosystems and can be done by testing and applying 386 suggested mitigation strategies (dark protected areas, dim lighting, narrower spectrum, limit 387 lighting duration...) (Gaston et al., 2012). Previous studies showed that dimming ALAN 388 intensity up to 0.1 lx or restricting its spectrum to green wavelengths could reduce, but not 389 suppress, ALAN's effects on oysters daily rhythm (Botté et al., 2023; Botté et al., 390 Unpublished results). This study brings new knowledge on the potential benefits of another 391 392 mitigation strategy on oysters, which consist in changing ALAN timing and duration.

Potential ecological advantages of PNL have been rarely studied and mainly on bats, which 393 make this study one of the first to investigate PNL effects on coastal organisms and especially 394 the first to investigate them on a bivalve to our knowledge. Our results reveal that ALAN 395 effects on ovsters' daily rhythm vary according to its modality. PNL induces the least 396 important effects on the oysters' daily rhythm, while FNL shows intermediate effects and 397 surprisingly, PNL+S induces the most important effects. Thus, PNL mitigation strategy 398 applied here limits ALAN effects on the oysters' daily rhythm (nighttime VOD increase, 399 daytime VOD decrease, the strength and amplitude of the rhythm at the group level) but only 400 when skyglow is not present throughout nighttime. PNL strategy advantages have already 401 been showed in some of the few studies investigating the ecological interest of this mitigation 402 strategy. For instance, Bauer et al. (2022) showed that the shift of feeding activity from 403 daytime to nighttime in the sea urchins Paracentrotus lividus was reduced when a PNL 404 405 strategy (ALAN switched off from 0 to 5 h) was applied.

However, Bauer et al. (2022), as in our PNL condition, does not take into account the 406 skyglow that could be present throughout the nighttime. In PNL, oysters were in total 407 darkness between 23 h and 3 h, when the direct ALAN source was switched off, which rarely 408 occurs in anthropized environments. Indeed, the skyglow has a weaker intensity (estimated 409 inferior to 0.55 lx) than direct ALAN sources but spreads further, until hundreds of km from 410 its source (Gaston et al., 2017; Gaston, 2018; Hänel et al., 2018). Despite its weak intensity, 411 the skyglow is not negligible since it can affect several biological processes, such as the 412 diurnal locomotor activity of the fish *Lepomis macrochirus* (skyglow intensity of 0.5 lx) 413 (Latchem et al., 2021). The skyglow (intensity of 0.2 lx) can also disrupt in situ the nocturnal 414 migration of the amphipod *Talitrus saltator* guided by the moon by reducing the probability 415 that the amphipod undertook them and by altering its orientation (Torres et al., 2020). In 416 417 oysters, it is established that a 0.1 lx skyglow intensity affects their behavioral daily rhythm as

well as the expression of clock, clock-associated, and light perception genes (Botté et al., 418 2023). The town of Lanton (Arcachon bay), used here as a model to mimic PNL strategies, is 419 only about 40 km from Bordeaux city, a community of nearly 820 000 inhabitants, which 420 owns a multitude of direct ALAN sources generating skyglow. Furthermore, Lanton is 421 surrounded by other towns in Arcachon bay that do not all apply PNL strategies. Therefore, to 422 best recreate in the laboratory realistic conditions of the PNL strategy applied in Lanton, 423 simulating skyglow when direct ALAN sources are switched off is necessary. This was the 424 425 aim of PNL+S condition in which oysters were exposed to an intensity of 0.1 lx when direct ALAN sources (5 lx) were switched off. Results show that adding skyglow to PNL condition 426 annihilates the benefits acquired by PNL for some studied parameters (mean nighttime VOD 427 and 12h-rhythm's amplitude at the group level, mean VOD from 23 to 3 h at the individual 428 scale). Furthermore, contrary to our a priori hypothesis, PNL+S also worsens some behavioral 429 430 effects caused by FNL. The most striking result is a loss of 44.4 % of PNL+S oysters that kept a daily rhythm compared to FNL and PNL. Furthermore, at the group level, the mean VOD 431 432 from 23 to 3 h is significantly higher for PNL+S compared to FNL, although ALAN intensity 433 during this period is higher for FNL. Moreover, the mean VOD of oysters in PNL+S is still significantly the highest from 3 to 5 h, while the intensity is the same in the three ALAN 434 conditions. Even more surprising, PNL+S is the only tested ALAN modality to show 435 molecular effects. In PNL+S condition, the overall expression of the eleven genes studied is 436 significantly different from all of the other conditions (control, PNL, and FNL). Furthermore, 437 the overall expression is significantly different according to the sampling time only in this 438 condition. In particular, PNL+S significantly decreases the expression of clock genes during 439 daytime (*CgTim1*) or nighttime at 1 h (*CgBmal*, *CgCry2*, *CgRev-erb*). Thus, the stronger 440 behavioral effects caused by PNL+S might be explained by the fact that this ALAN modality 441 could induce a clearer disruption of oysters' molecular clockwork contrary to the others. 442

PNL+S also caused a significant decrease of the expression of the clock-associated gene 443 CgHiomt-like, a homolog of the mammalian gene Hiomt, coding for an enzyme involved in 444 the synthesis of melatonin (Pevet et al., 1980). Melatonin is a hormone believed to be 445 produced exclusively during nighttime and known to be involved in diverse physiological 446 functions (homeostasis, reproduction, immunity, antioxidant system ...) and especially to be a 447 signal of darkness (Jones et al., 2015; Tan et al., 2010). In oysters, results suggest that PNL+S 448 decreases melatonin synthesis during nighttime (22 h and 1 h) whatever ALAN intensity (0.1 449 or 5 lx), suggesting potential physiological consequences. The decrease of melatonin 450 production by ALAN has been already observed in the fish Rutilus rutilus at 1 lx, but also at 451 the lower intensities of 0.1–0.3 lx for Salvelinus alpinus and of 0.01 lx for Perca fluviatilis 452 (Bruning et al., 2018; Kupprat et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2019). Two previous studies showed 453 that ALAN affects the oyster's molecular clock, as well as light perception and clock-454 455 associated genes (especially the gene CgHiomt-like) no matter its intensity (from 0.1 lx to 25 lx) or its wavelength (blue, green, red or white lights) (Botté et al., 2023; Botté et al., 456 457 Unpublished results). Here, ALAN molecular effects have not been observed for the studied light perception genes. Moreover, ALAN affects clock and clock-associated genes expression 458 in PNL+S only and not in FNL, which is the modality approaching most the ALAN 459 conditions used in previous studies. One explanation can be the sampling times, which might 460 not occur at the most appropriate hours to detect significant differences between conditions. 461 Nevertheless, behavioral and molecular results, in particular the loss of oysters having a daily 462 rhythm, might suggest that PNL mitigation strategies would be harmful to oysters in the 463 current environmental context, partly because of the skyglow. However, studies are needed to 464 confirm or disconfirm this hypothesis in focusing on specific physiological consequences 465 466 such as the growth rate, the microbiote, etc.

A few in situ studies have investigated the effects of PNL mostly on bats. Hooker et al. (2022) 467 tested the impacts of FNL and two PNL strategies, where ALAN, starting from the sunset, 468 was switched off after 2 or 4 h, on the feeding activity of bats in situ. Results show that FNL 469 induced a significant decrease of the feeding activity of the bats *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and 470 Myotis spp.. Both PNL strategies abolished FNL effects on the feeding activity of Pipistrellus 471 pygmaeus, while it is the case only for the 2h-PNL strategy for Myotis spp.. In the third 472 studied bat species *Pipistrellus*, the 2h-PNL strategy is the only condition to affect 473 significantly its feeding activity (Hooker et al., 2022). Thus, these results highlight the 474 species-dependent positive or negative effects of PNL strategy. Azam et al. (2015) also shows 475 the species-dependent effects of PNL strategies on the activity of bats in situ. In *Plecotus* sp., 476 PNL strategy had a more harmful effect on its activity than FNL, while in *Pipistrellus* 477 pipistrellus PNL annihilated FNL effects. Finally, in most of the studied species (Pipistrellus 478 479 kuhlii, Pipistrellus nathusius, Nyctalus leislerii, Myotis spp) PNL affected their activity as did FNL. Bats are nocturnal organisms but with species specific activity ranges, coinciding or not 480 481 with the dark part of PNL, which might explain the difference in responses to PNL between species (Azam et al., 2015). Day et al. (2015) also highlighted the importance of timing in the 482 implementation of PNL strategies. They tested the effect of 8 scenarios of PNL on the activity 483 of the bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* by shifting the switch-off hours by one hourfrom 22 to 484 5 h. They found that the sooner the lights are switched off, the less ALAN disrupts bat 485 activity. Although PNL strategies usually implemented allow hours of darkness at night, the 486 lighting switches off after midnight, which limits their benefits for this bat species (Day et al., 487 2015). More globally, current PNL schemes do not usually coincide with periods of high 488 nocturnal biological activity, which are mostly around dusk and dawn (Gaston et al., 2012). In 489 490 oysters, the masking of dusk and dawn by ALAN could disrupt their perception of the day length as well as the photoperiod increase or decrease, which can be used by oysters to 491

492 synchronize their valve behavior at an annual scale (Payton et al., 2017b). Therefore,

493 implementing a PNL strategy should require studying the benefits of the chosen duration and

timing of lighting shutdowns in local communities.

495

#### 496 **5.** Conclusion

With the fast increase of ALAN extent in coastal environments, the studies on this thematic 497 are increasing, mainly focusing on the characterization on its effects on coastal organisms, but 498 499 mostly forgetting to investigate the potential benefits of mitigation strategies, such as PNL. This study contributes to fill this gap by investigating the effects of PNL strategy on the 500 501 oyster daily rhythm at the behavioral and molecular scales by recreating a realistic context in the laboratory. Results show that the use of PNL strategies could in theory reduce the oysters' 502 daily rhythm disruption by ALAN. However, when adding the skyglow throughout nighttime 503 mimicking real conditions in anthropized environments (PNL+S), many PNL strategy 504 benefits are annihilating and can even be worsened compared to FNL effects on the oyster 505 506 behavioral daily rhythm and on the molecular clock functioning. Molecular results also 507 suggest a disruption of the melatonin synthesis in PNL+S, which might result in physiological consequences. Thus, in realistic conditions, the use of PNL as a mitigation strategy might be 508 not suitable to limit ALAN's effects on ovsters' daily rhythm and can even be more harmful 509 510 than FNL. However, other studies are needed to confirm these effects in situ on oysters and to evaluate PNL effects at a community level. 511

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- 515 **Ethics:** All experiments complied with the laws in effect in France and they conformed to
- 516 international ethical standards.
- 517 **Data accessibility:** The data underlying this study are available on Supplementary data.

#### 518 **CRediT authorship contribution statement**

- 519 Audrey Botté: Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing -
- 520 Original Draft, Writing Review & Editing, Visualization. Laura Payton: Conceptualization,
- 521 Methodology, Investigation, Writing Review & Editing, Visualization. Elisa Lefeuvre:
- 522 Formal analysis, Investigation. **Damien Tran**: Conceptualization, Methodology,
- 523 Investigation, Writing Review & Editing, Visualization, Funding acquisition.
- All authors contributed critically to the drafts, and gave final approval for publication.

#### 525 **Competing interests**

526 We have no competing interests.

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731 Figures & legends

**Figure 1.** Behavioral daily valve activity of oysters in the control condition and exposed to

- different ALAN modalities (n = 16 oysters / condition): part-night lighting (PNL: ALAN
- direct source (5 lx) switched off from 19 h to 23 h), part-night lighting + skyglow (PNL+S:
- skyglow throughout nighttime added to PNL), and full-night lighting (FNL: ALAN direct
- source (5 lx) throughout nighttime). Mean hourly Valve Opening Duration (VOD, %) data are
- ranker expressed as mean  $\pm$  SE (n = 10 days). White backgrounds indicate daytime while grey and
- yellow backgrounds indicate nighttime (grey: < 0.05 lx, dark yellow: 5 lx, pale yellow: 0.1
- 139 lx). Arrows show the peak of maximal hourly VOD.
- **Figure 2.** Effect of ALAN modalities (PNL, PNL+S, FNL) at the group level on (A) the mean

VOD during daytime and nighttime, (B) the mean VOD during three period of nighttime:

from 19 h to 21 h, when oysters are exposed to 5 lx in all ALAN conditions, from 21 h to 3 h,

when oysters are exposed to darkness during PNL, to 0.1 lx during PNL+S, and to 5 lx during

FNL, and from 3 h to 5 h, when oysters are exposed to 5 lx in all ALAN conditions. Data are

expressed in mean  $\pm$  SE (n = 10 days). Different letters indicate significant differences

746 between conditions (p < 0.05).

**Figure 3.** Chronobiological analysis of the oysters' mean valve behavior at the group level.

748 (A) Effects of ALAN modalities (PNL, PNL+S, FNL) on significant periodicities detected

with the Lomb and Scargle periodograms (above the dotted line (p > 0.95)) and validated by

the cosinor model (p < 0.05). (B) Effect of ALAN modalities (PNL, PNL+S, FNL) on

chronobiological parameters of oysters' 12h (left column) and 24h (right column) -rhythms:

the percent rhythm (PR), the mesor, the amplitude, and the acrophase of the rhythm. Data are

expressed in mean  $\pm$  SE with the SE showing the daily variability of the group's significant

rhythm parameters (n = 10 days). Different letters show significant differences between

755 conditions (p < 0.05).



- that maintain a significant daily rhythm on (A) the mean VOD during daytime and nighttime,
- (B) the mean VOD during three period of nighttime: from 19 h to 21 h, when oysters are
- exposed to 5 lx in all ALAN conditions, from 21 h to 3 h, when oysters are exposed to < 0.05
- 160 lx (PNL), 0.1 lx (PNL+S) or 5 lx (FNL), and from 3 h to 5 h, when oysters are exposed to 5 lx
- in all ALAN conditions. Data are expressed in mean  $\pm$  SE (n = 5 14 rhythmic oysters /
- condition). Different letters indicate significant differences (p < 0.05).

763 Figure 5. Effect of ALAN modalities (PNL, PNL+S, FNL) on the chronobiological

parameters of oysters' daily rhythm at the individual level: (A) the percentage of oysters

having a daily rhythm (in the period range of 20–28 h), (B) the mesor, (C) the percent rhythm

766 (PR), (D) the amplitude, and (E) the acrophase. The chronobiological parameters studied (B-

E) are expressed only for oysters that maintain a significant daily rhythm. Data are expressed

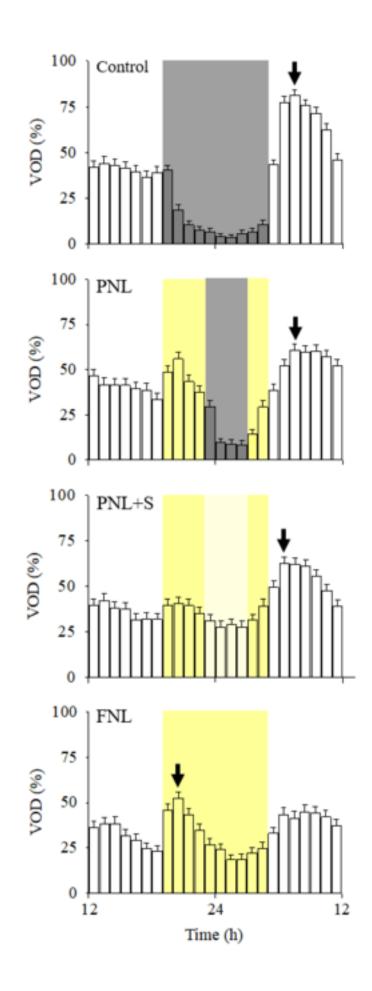
in mean  $\pm$  SE (n = 5 – 14 rhythmic oysters / condition). Different letters show significant

769 differences (p < 0.05).

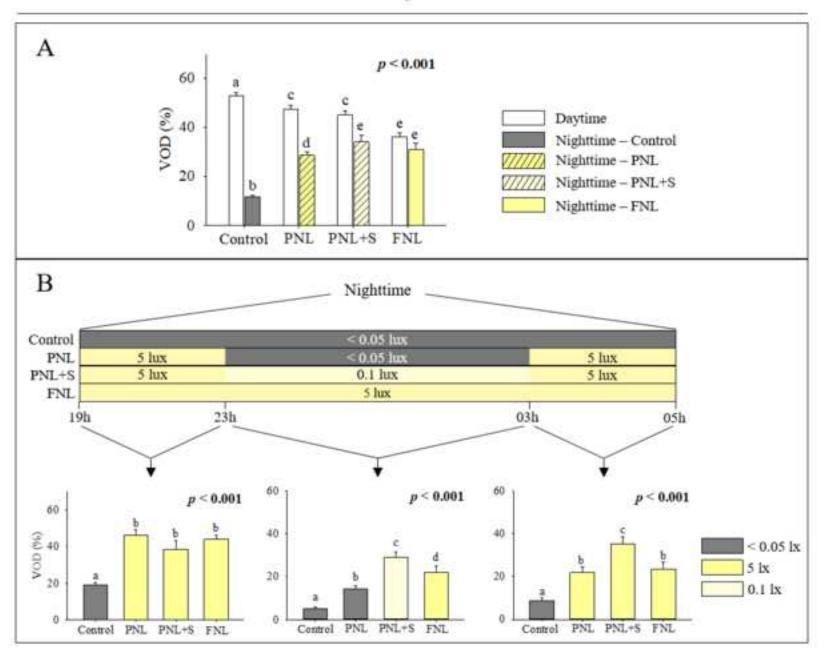
770 Figure 6. Effect of ALAN modalities (PNL, PNL+S, FNL) on the difference in relative 771 mRNA level of eleven clock, light perception and clock-associated genes in oyster gills tissues between conditions during daytime at 12 h (left column), when oysters are exposed to 772 773 daylight (1400 lx), during nighttime at 22 h (middle column), when ALAN intensity is of 5 lux for all conditions, and at 1 h (right column), when oysters are exposed to darkness during 774 PNL and to ALAN at an intensity of 0.1 lx during PNL+S and of 5 lx during FNL. White bars 775 indicate the gene level during daytime and, colored bars during nighttime. Data are expressed 776 in mean  $\pm$  SE (n = 8 gills / condition). Different letters indicate differences between 777 conditions (p < 0.05). 778

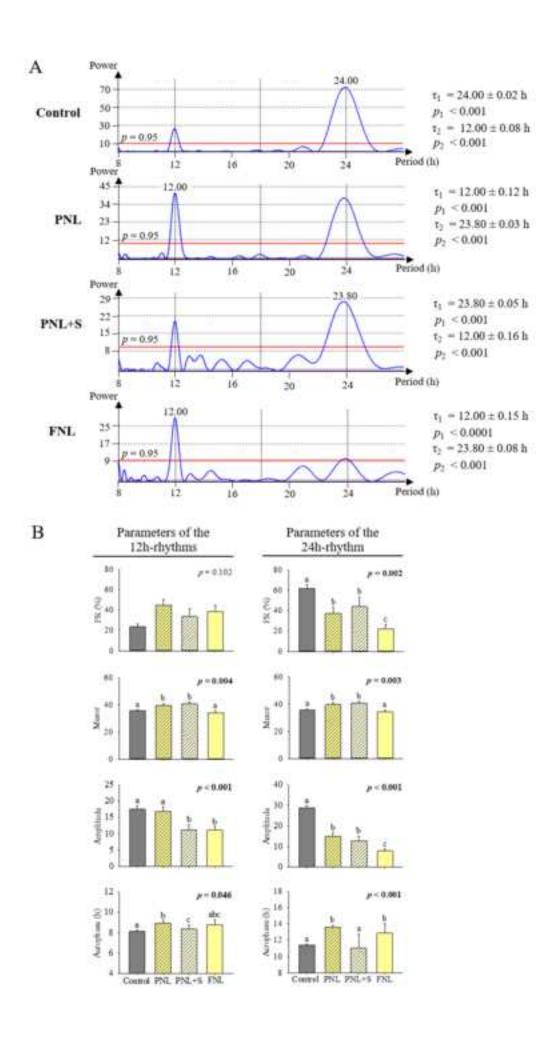
- **Table 1.** Three-Way Analysis of Variance testing the effect of the ALAN condition (control,
- 781 PNL, PNL+S, FNL), sampling time, and the genes, on the relative mRNA level on gill tissues
- of eleven clock, light perception and clock-associated genes. In bolt, significant *p*-values (p < p)
- 783 0.05).

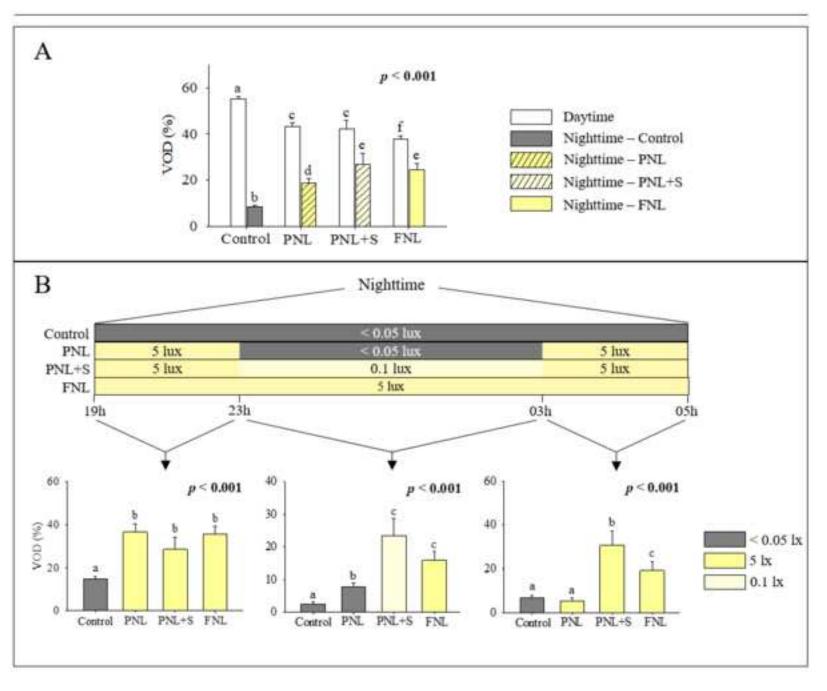
Sources of variation	<i>p</i> -value
Genes	< 0.001
Sampling time	0.237
Conditions	< 0.001
Control vs PNL	0.174
Control vs PNL+S	< 0.001
Control vs FNL	0.333
PNL vs PNL+S	< 0.001
PNL vs FNL	0.424
PNL+S vs FNL	< 0.001
Sampling time x Conditions	0.024
Sampling time within Control	0.449
Sampling time within PNL	0.781
Sampling time within PNL+S	0.001
Sampling time within FNL	0.419

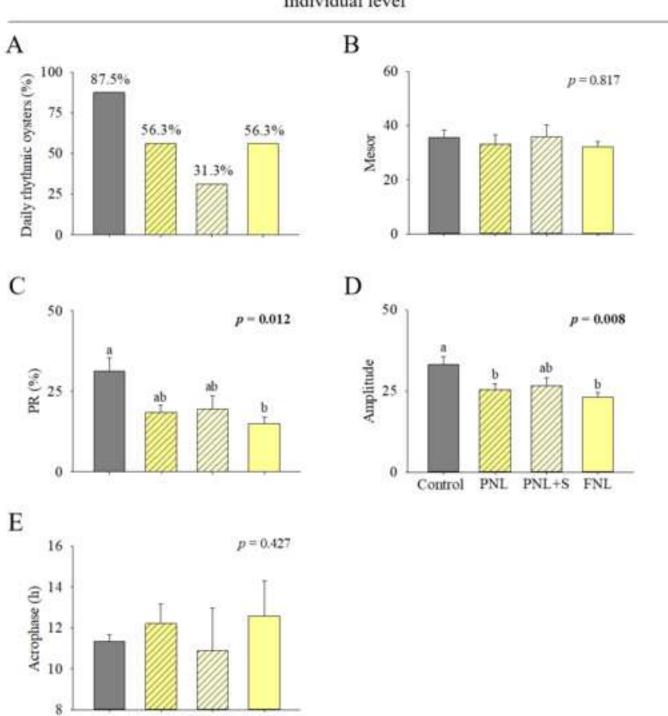


Group level









PNL PNL+S FNL

Control

## Individual level

