Table SI. Oligonucleotide sequences of primers used in this study

Primer pair	Target gene	Sequence 5′-3′	Reference	Amplicon size (bp)
SYN172F [(a)] OXY1313R [(a)]	*16S rRNA*	AATACCCCATATGCCGMGAG CTTCACGTAGGCGAGTTGCAGC	[28]	1128
1F [(b)] 4R [(b)]	*ntcA*	AT(CAT)TT(TC)TT(TC)CC(GATC)GG(GATC)GA(TC)CC(GATC)GC AT(GATC)GC(TC)TC(GATC)GC(AGT)AT(GATC)GC(TC)TG(AG)T	[29]	449
358fGC [(c)] 907r [(c)]	*16S rRNA*	CGCCCGCCGCGCCCCGCGCCCGTCCCGCCGCCCCCGCCCGCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG CCGTCAATTCCTTTGAGTTT	[30]	604
358f 907r	*16S rRNA*	CCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG CCGTCAATTCCTTTGAGTTT	[30]	564

[(a)] Primer pair that amplifies all sequences from *Synechococcus* sub-clusters 5.1 (clades I–X), some of sub-cluster 5.2, all of LL *Prochlorococcus*, some of HLI *Prochlorococcus*, but does not amplify sequences from freshwater *Synechococcus* and from HLII *Prochlorococcus* strains [8, 28].

[(b)] Primer pair used for amplifying conserved regions of *ntcA* genes, typical from cyanobacteria

[(c)] Universal primers for bacteria used in DGGE experiments for nested-PCR.