

**Table S1.** Results from LME fitting for filamentous algae cover. SE = standard error; DF = degrees of freedom; ns = non-significant.

	Estimate	SE	DF	t-value	p
Intercept	−0.96	0.07	310	−13.01	<0.001
Open	−1.13	0.1	310	−11.89	<0.001
Partial	−0.6	0.1	310	−6.3	<0.001
Time	0.75	0.07	310	10.68	<0.001
SST	−0.01	0.07	310	−0.14	ns
Open:Time	−0.91	0.1	310	−9.16	<0.001
Partial:Time	−0.76	0.1	310	−7.63	<0.001
Open:SST	−0.22	0.1	310	−2.21	<0.05
Partial:SST	−0.31	0.1	310	−3.1	<0.01

**Table S2.** Results from LME fitting for articulated coralline algae cover. SE = standard error; DF = degrees of freedom; ns = non-significant.

	Estimate	SE	DF	t-value	p
Intercept	−0.36	0.15	311	−2.36	<0.05
Open	0.54	0.1	311	5.37	<0.001
Partial	0.07	0.1	311	0.71	ns
Time	−0.05	0.08	311	−0.62	ns
POC	0.19	0.06	311	3.41	<0.01
SST	0.07	0.04	311	1.66	ns
Open:Time	0.42	0.1	311	4.16	<0.001
Partial:Time	0.45	0.1	311	4.48	<0.001

**Table S3.** Results from LME fitting for foliose algae cover. SE = standard error; DF = degrees of freedom; ns = non-significant.

	Estimate	SE	DF	t-value	p
Intercept	−1.76	0.13	312	−13.22	<0.001
Open	0.71	0.12	312	6.13	<0.001
Partial	0.69	0.12	312	6	<0.001
Time	−0.67	0.08	312	−8.15	<0.001
SST	0.07	0.05	312	1.48	ns
Open:Time	0.54	0.12	312	4.66	<0.001
Partial:Time	0.58	0.12	312	5.01	<0.001

**Table S4.** Results from LME fitting for coarsely branched algae cover. SE = standard error; DF = degrees of freedom; ns = non-significant.

	Estimate	SE	DF	t-value	p
Intercept	-0.96	0.08	312	-12.74	<0.001
Open	-1.13	0.1	312	-11.42	<0.001
Partial	-0.6	0.1	312	-6.05	<0.001
Time	0.68	0.08	312	8.54	<0.001
POC	-0.1	0.06	312	-1.81	ns
Open:Time	-0.97	0.1	312	-9.75	<0.001
Partial:Time	-0.84	0.1	312	-8.46	<0.001

**Table S5.** Results from LME fitting for crustose coralline algae cover. SE = standard error; DF = degrees of freedom; ns = non-significant.

	Estimate	SE	DF	t-value	p
Intercept	-3.32	0.05	310	-69.35	<0.001
Open	-0.18	0.05	310	-3.39	<0.01
Partial	0.04	0.05	310	0.81	ns
Time	0.02	0.04	310	0.46	ns
SST	-0.05	0.04	310	-1.19	ns
Open:Time	-0.11	0.06	310	-2.05	<0.05
Partial:Time	-0.17	0.06	310	-3.09	<0.01
Open:SST	0.09	0.06	310	1.66	ns
Partial:SST	-0.11	0.06	310	-2	<0.05

**Table S6.** Results from LME fitting for coral cover. SE = standard error; DF = degrees of freedom; ns = non-significant.

	Estimate	SE	DF	t-value	p
Intercept	-3.65	0.02	313	-170.47	<0.001
Open	0.07	0.03	313	2.72	<0.01
Partial	0.07	0.03	313	2.46	<0.05
Time	-0.02	0.02	313	-0.92	ns
Open:Time	-0.04	0.03	313	-1.61	ns
Partial:Time	-0.05	0.03	313	-1.79	ns

**Table S7.** Results from PERMANOVA analysis of benthic succession. Pairwise comparisons are shown in the right. DF = degrees of freedom; SS = sum of squares; MS = mean squares.; ns = non-significant.

	DF	SS	MS	R <sup>2</sup>	Pseudo-F	p	Comparison	p
Treatment	2	5120.67	2560.33	0.64	13.57	<0.01	<b>Cage x Open</b>	<0.01
Residuals	15	2830.38	188.69	0.36			<b>Cage x Partial</b>	<0.01
Total	17	7951.05		1			<b>Partial x Open</b>	ns