Dunne et al. (2013) Parasites affect food web structure primarily through increased diversity and complexity. PLoS Biology.

The data provided are for seven coastal marine or estuarine food webs with detailed metazoan parasite data. Three North American Pacific coast webs were compiled by one research group [1]: Carpinteria Salt Marsh (Carp) in California, USA; Estero de Punta Banda (Punt) in Baja California, Mexico; Bahia Falsa (Fals) in Bahia San Quintín, Baja California, Mexico. Three additional costal webs in Europe and New Zealand were compiled by a second research group: Flensburg Fjord (Flens) on the Baltic Sea between Germany and Denmark [2]; Sylt Tidal Basin (Sylt) on the North Sea between Germany and Denmark [3]; Otago Harbor (Otag) in Dunedin, New Zealand [4]. A seventh food web for the Ythan Estuary (Ythan) on the North Sea near Aberdeen, Scotland [5] was also used as it has comparable resolution of free-living taxa and metazoan parasites to the other six webs.

The original seven datasets are already available [1-5] and include ontogenetic life stages of parasite species with complex life cycles as separate food web nodes. For our analysis we aggregated parasite life stages and their feeding links into a single parasite node and set of links. Thus, we make the aggregated versions of the 7 food webs available here.

The first worksheet of the associated excel workbook provides details necessary to interpret the data worksheets. The second worksheet gives the species lists for each food web, and the following seven worksheets give the link information for each of three versions of each food web.

1. Hechinger RF, Lafferty KD, McLaughlin JP, Fredensborg B, Huspeni TC, et al. (2011) Food webs including parasites, biomass, body sizes, and life-stages for three California/Baja California estuaries. Ecology 92: 791.
2. Zander CD, Josten N, Detloff KC, Poulin R, McLaughlin JP, Thieltges DW (2011) Food web including metazoan parasites for a brackish shallow water ecosystem in Germany and Denmark. Ecology 92: 2007.
3. Thieltges DW, Reise K, Mouritsen KN, McLaughlin JP, Poulin R. (2011) Food web including metazoan parasites for a tidal basin in Germany and Denmark. Ecology 92: 2005.
4. Mouritsen KN, Poulin R, McLaughlin JP, Thieltges DW. (2011) Food web including metazoan parasites for an intertidal ecosystem in New Zealand. Ecology 92: 2006.
5. Huxham M, Beany S, Raffaelli D. (1996) Do parasites reduce the chances of triangulation in a real food web? Oikos 76: 284-300.