

# Crevice Corrosion in Seawater Using CFRP Composite as Part of a Novel Crevice Former

F. Presuel-Moreno\*, B. A. Hernandez-Sanchez\*\*,

\*Center for Marine Materials

Department of Ocean and Mechanical Eng.

Florida Atlantic University

101 North Beach, Dania Beach, FL

\*\* Sandia National Laboratories

Advanced Materials Laboratory

1001 University Blvd SE





# Materials Team



Marine Science Laboratory



George Bonheyo:  
Biofouling



David Miller:  
Composite Performance



Pacific Northwest  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Sandia  
National  
Laboratories

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Scott Hughes:  
Substructure  
Testing



Bernadette A. Hernandez-Sanchez: (PI)  
Materials Chemistry  
Budi Gunawan: Loads & FBG Sensors



Francisco  
Presuel-  
Moreno:  
Corrosion

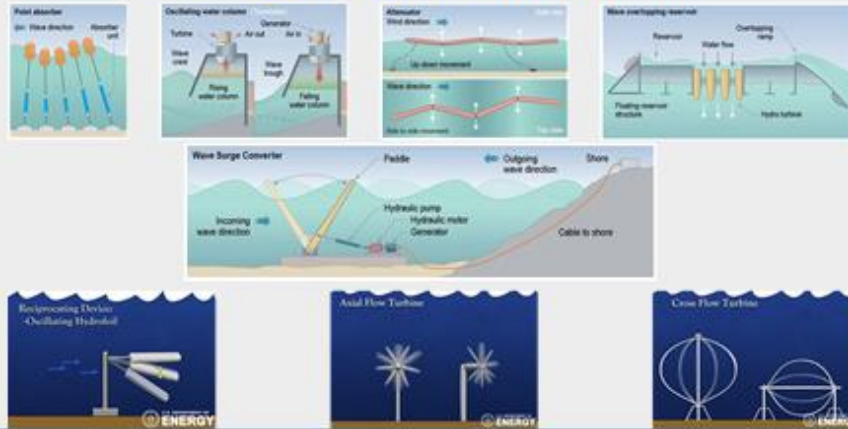




# Materials Challenges for Marine Renewables

Proper structural/component materials and coatings are critical to reducing engineering barriers, COE, and commercialization time.

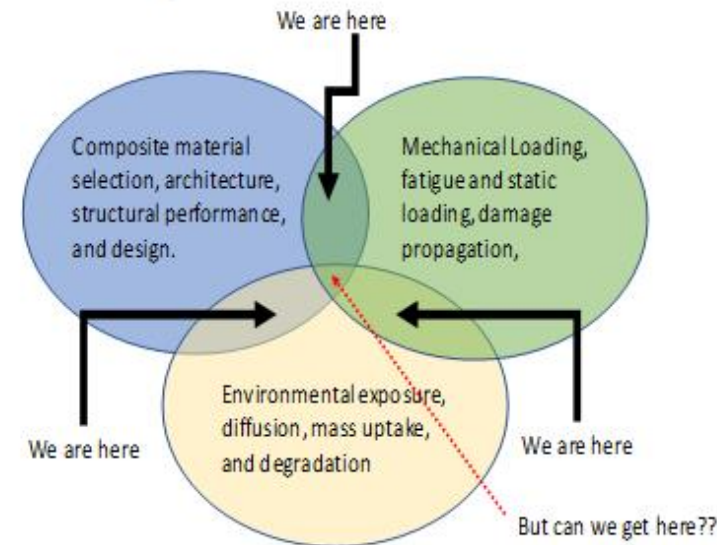
## Design Challenge: Several Design Configurations & Operational Conditions



## Significant Periodic Loading:

- Interaction with PTO & Control System
- Site Conditions
- IEC Design Standard (Fatigue/Ultimate)

## Composites Research Needed



Hernandez-Sanchez et al  
13<sup>th</sup> EWTEC  
Proceedings

## Coating & Environmental Challenges

### Corrosion



Courtesy of Resolute Marine Energy

### Biofouling



<http://www.racerocks.ca/>

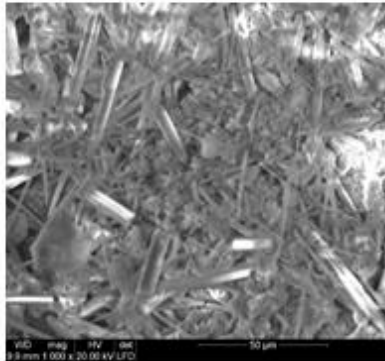
### Joined Materials



Adhesive  
joint beams

# Environmental Effects on Composites

Corrosion can occur on metals connected to carbon fiber composite materials (i.e., CF composite to metal interconnects).



## Biofouling Studies on Composites & Coatings

Calcareous deposit from  
corrosion study  
CF/VE8084 + anode

### Corrosion Studies on Connections



MRE relevant  
Velocities  
0.1 m/s and  
2.6 m/s

0-22 month  
Exposures



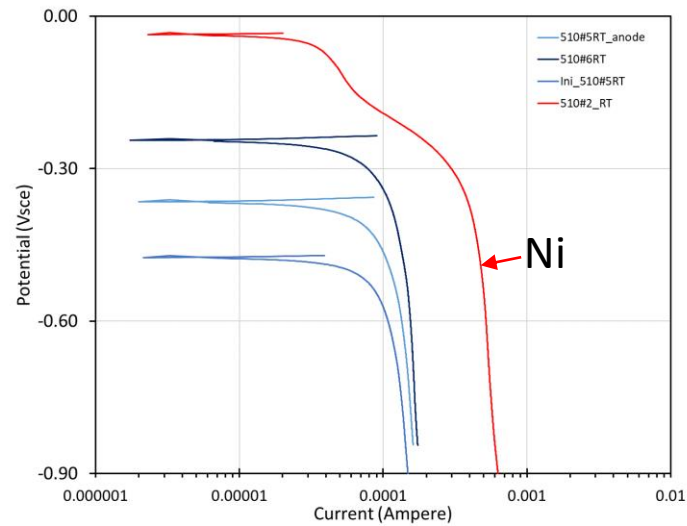


**Corrosion can occur on metals connected to carbon fiber (CF) composites. A special case is crevice corrosion for bolted CF composite immersed in seawater.**



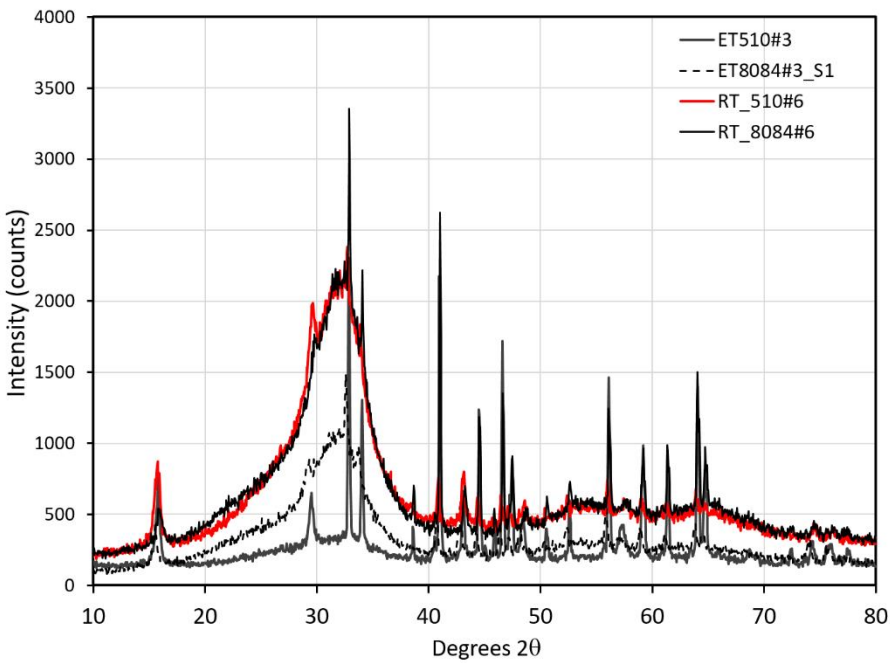
A portion of a carbon fiber composite mast is shown, with metal couplings attached to it.

Cathodic Polarization Scans on CFRP after immersion in seawater interconnected to Al anode

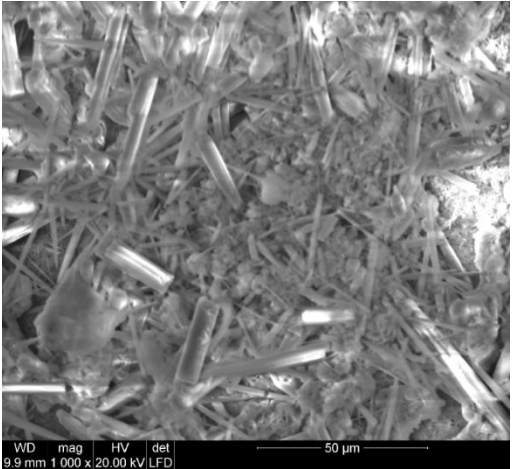


Evidence of cathodic kinetics reduced due to calcareous deposits formed on samples connected to anodes. Smaller  $i_L$

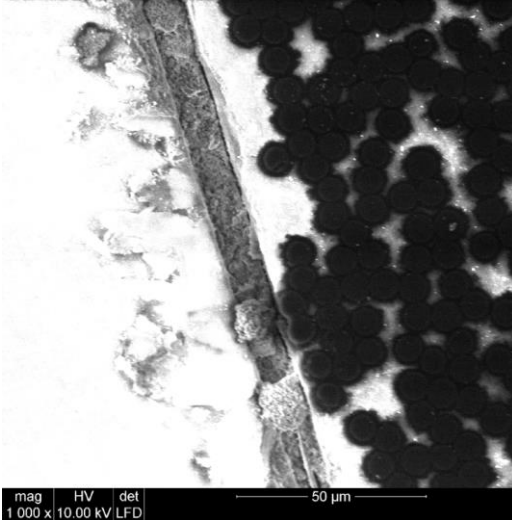
XRD on sections after exposure for 6 months



SEM Images of ET CF/VE8084 connected to sacrificial anode  
Top view



Cross section view





# Experimental

## Materials Systems

## Environmental conditions

## Metal Hardware

- \* CF/VE
- \*\* Hybrid Composite

- Sea Water /RT
- Sea Water 100°F

Stainless Steel (18% Cr)  
Monel (NiCu alloy)  
Ti alloy

CF/VE panels 1.8 mm thick (6/8 plies unidirectional)  
Hybrid (both carbon and glass fiber) 7.5 mm thick  
Immersion started November 8, 2018

Number of samples prepared indicating immersion tank

	CF/VE RT	CF/VE ET	Hybrid ET
Stainless Steel	6	6	2
Monel	6	6	1
Ti alloy	6	6	1

Number of samples dis-assembled

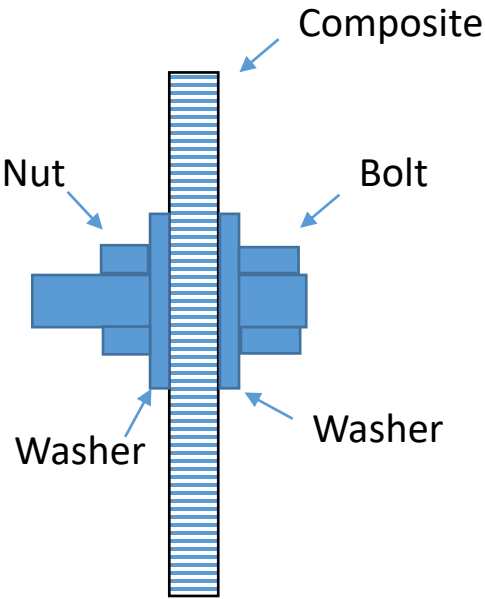
	CF/VE RT	CF/VE ET	Hybrid ET
Stainless Steel	4	4	2
Monel	4	4	1
Ti alloy	3	3	1

Number of days at which samples were removed from immersion and dis-assembled

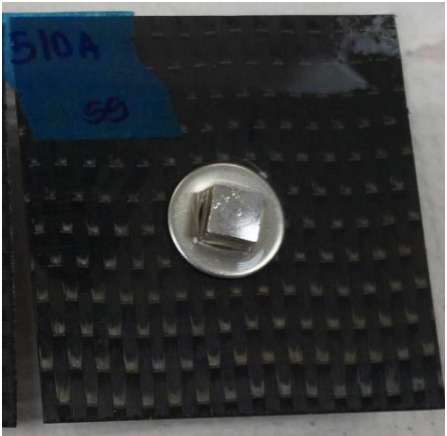
	CF/VE RT	CF/VE ET	Hybrid ET
Stainless Steel	302, 365, 799, 806	273, 323, 652, 729	316, 708
Monel	309, 365, 799, 806	288, 330, 659, 739	704
Ti alloy	330, 448, 806	316, 448, 806	713

Visual inspection at 55, 98, 197, 273, and 600+ (remaining specimens) days.

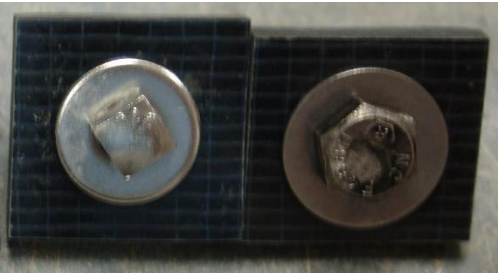
Samples removed from immersion and dis-assembled starting at day 273, last set at day 806. Stereo microscope and selected samples observed on SEM.



Crevice assembly using composite as the plate  
9.4 mm diameter drilled at the center  
Torque: 20 lb-in (2.26 N.m)



CFRP 7.5 cm × 7.5 cm

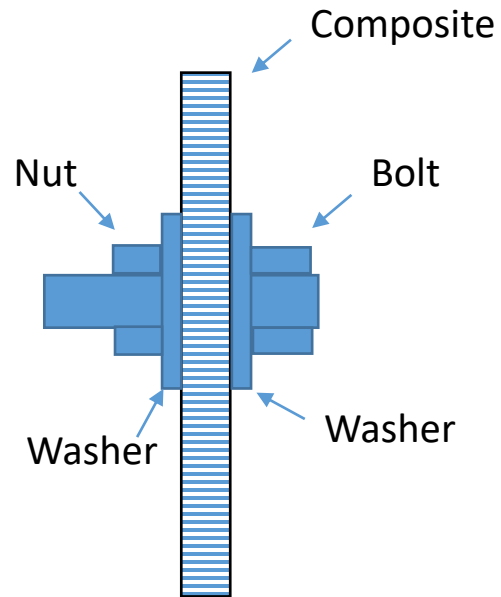


Hybrid 3.5 cm × 3.5 cm



## Location where crevice corrosion could develop

The specimen as shown in Figure can lead to the following crevice geometries:



Crevice assembly using composite as the plate

C1: Between the washer/smooth side of the carbon fiber

C2: Between the washer/rough side of the carbon fiber

C3: Between the nut and the washer

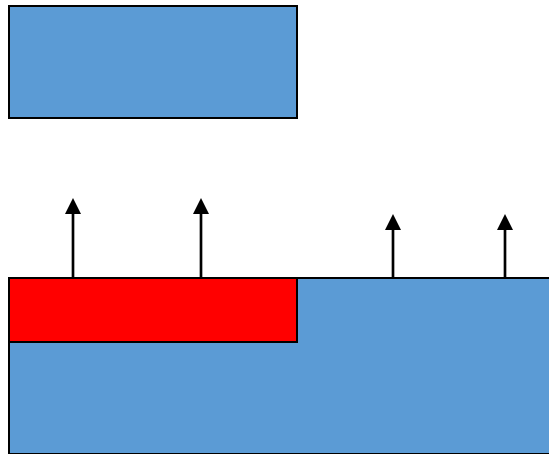
C4: Between the bolt head and the washer

C5: Between the threads of the bolt and the matching threads of the nut.

These tight occluded regions are sites prone for crevice corrosion to occur. In here the focus is on C1 and C2 geometries, as it corresponds to the composite to metal contact. However, a few examples for C3, C4 and C5 geometries are included.



# Differential aeration cell - Fundamentals



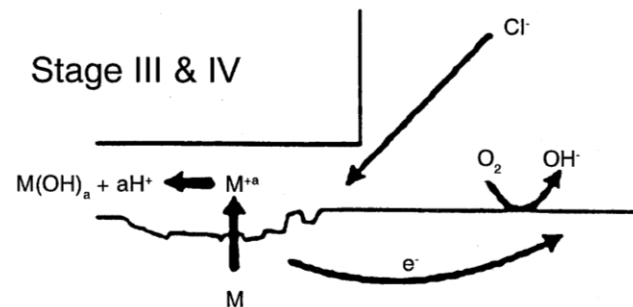
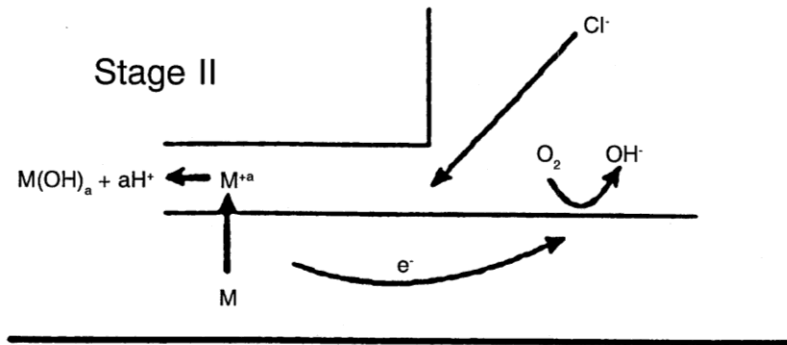
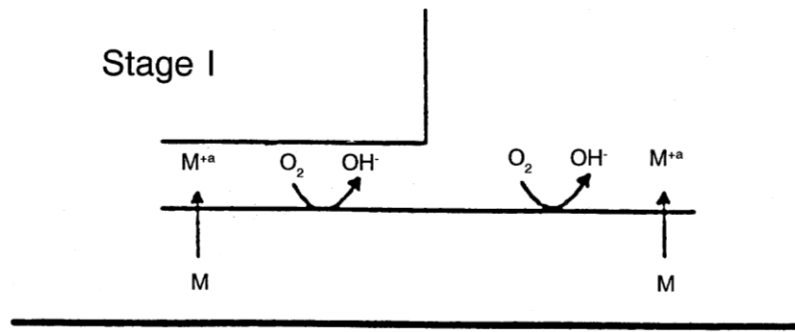
Red –indicates anode

The oxygen reduction reaction occurs at drastically different rates inside the crevice where oxygen is depleted.

- oxygen depleted inside
- ferrous ion hydrolyze
- Fe activates inside, remains passive outside.
- Corrosion rate inside becomes large with anode (inside) and cathode (oxygen reduction outside)
- *At first corrosion is actually worse on the outside because of ready supply of  $O_2$*



# Crevice Corrosion - Fundamentals

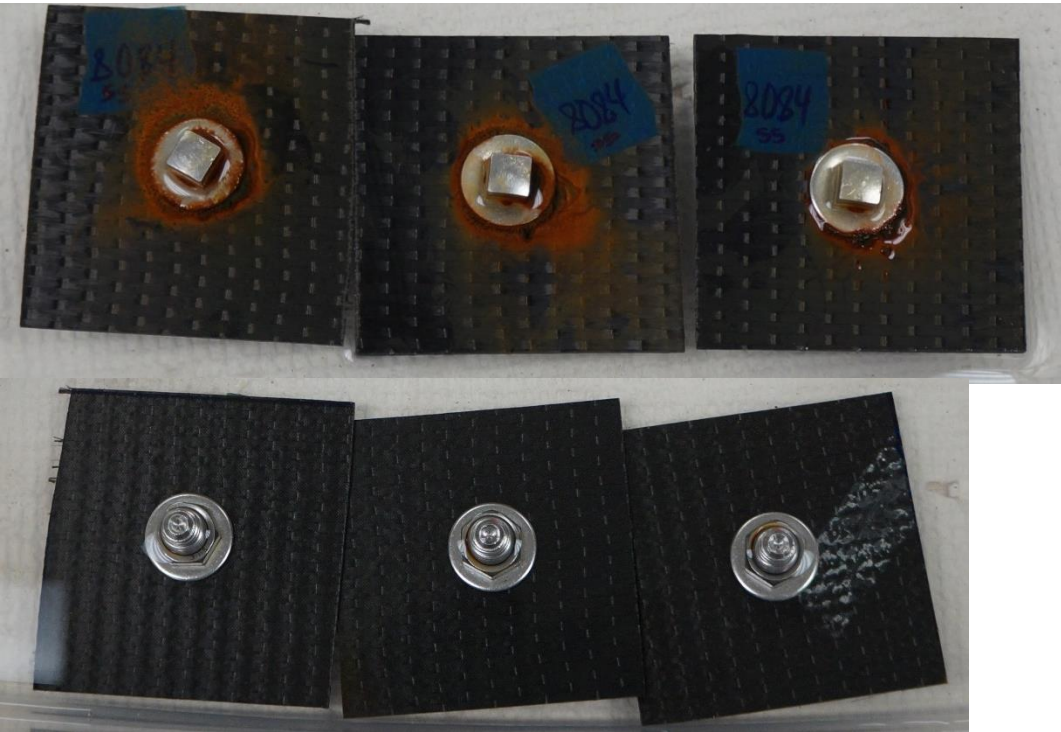


- Oxygen is readily depleted in crevice
- Anode and cathode become separated
- Metal ions hydrolyze, and chloride migrates to maintain electro-neutrality
- Severe crevice chemistry depassivates metal inside crevice, active corrosion occurs

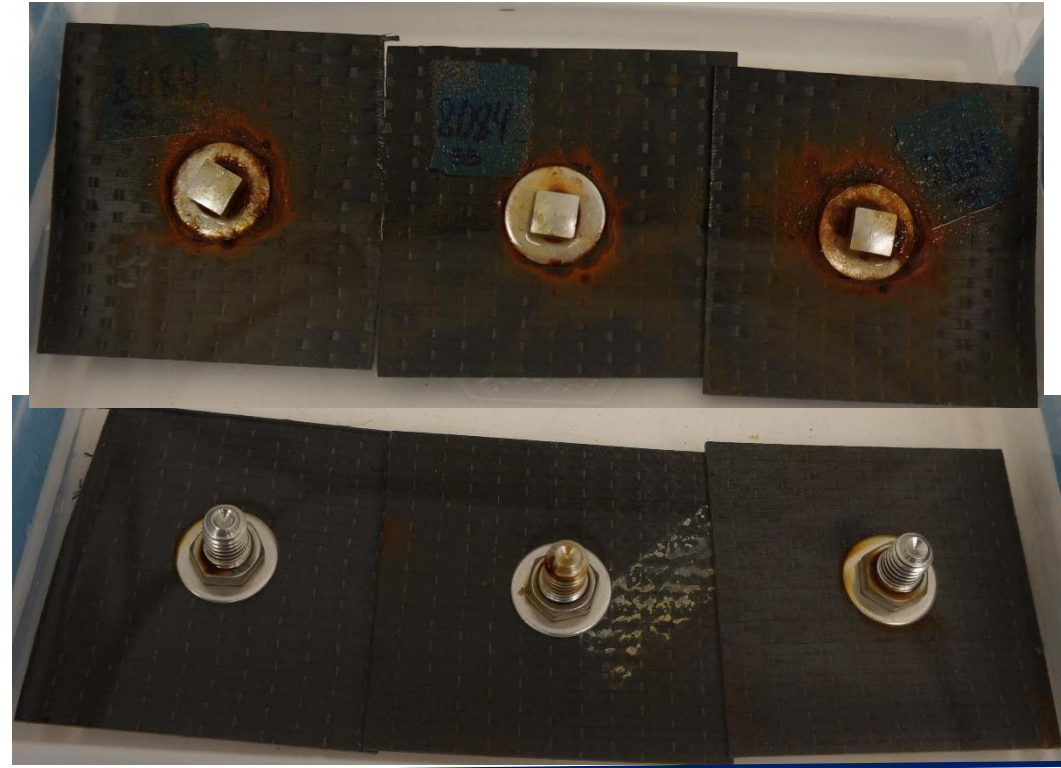
## Stainless Steel/CFRP composite fastened samples

Room Temperature

Observations after 55 days of immersion



Observations after 273 days of immersion



Elevated Temperature  
after 55 days of immersion



after 273 days of immersion





Elevated Temperature

Monel, immersed for 55 days



Monel or Ti /CFRP composite fastened samples

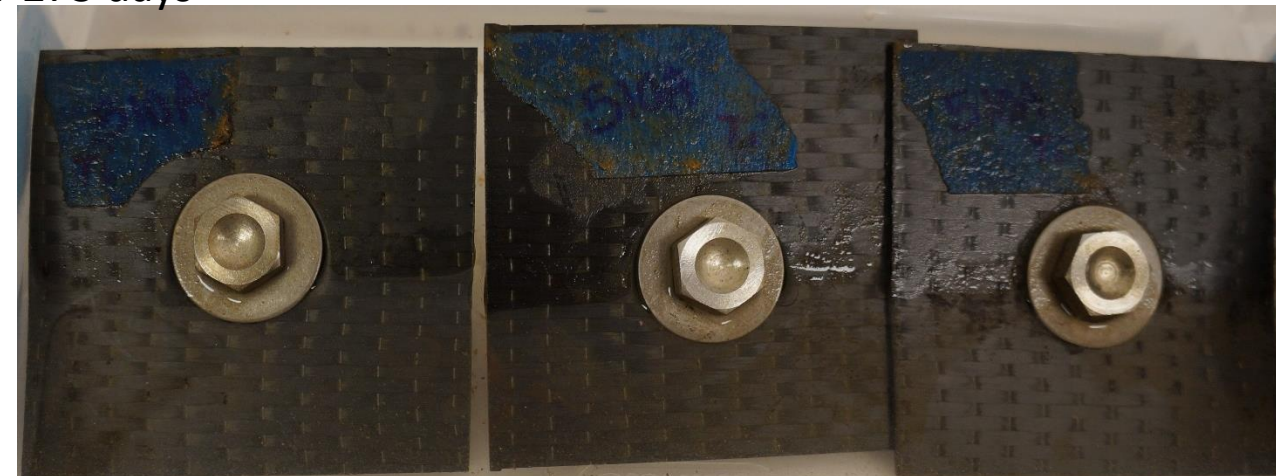
Ti, immersed for 55 days



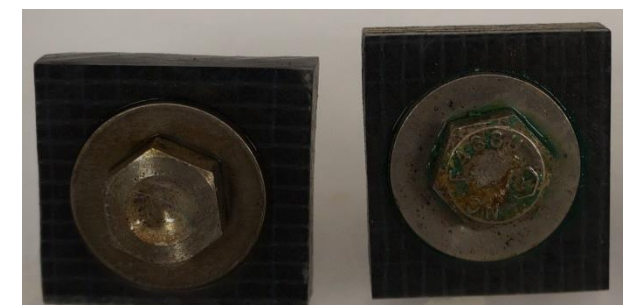
Monel

immersed for 273 days

Ti



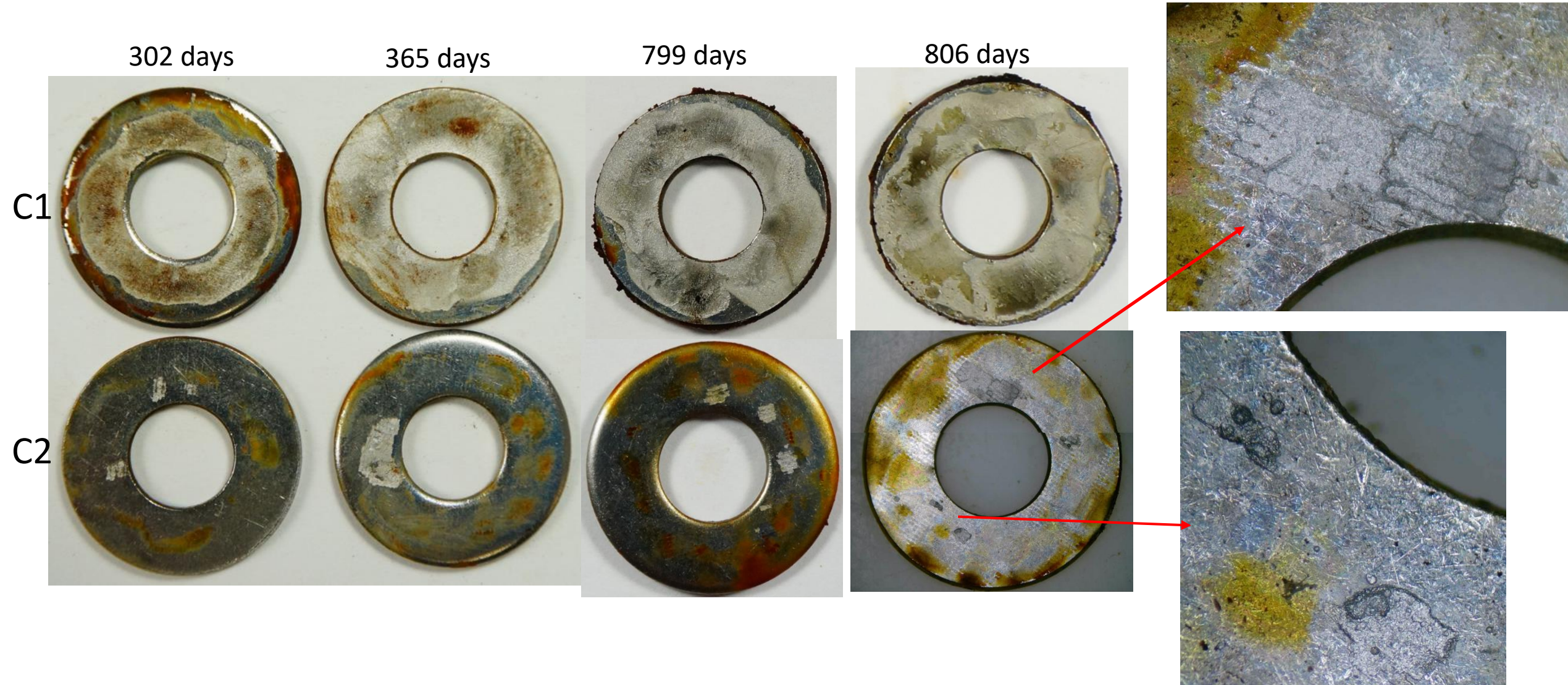
Left  
Hybrid- Monel  
Right  
Hybrid - Ti



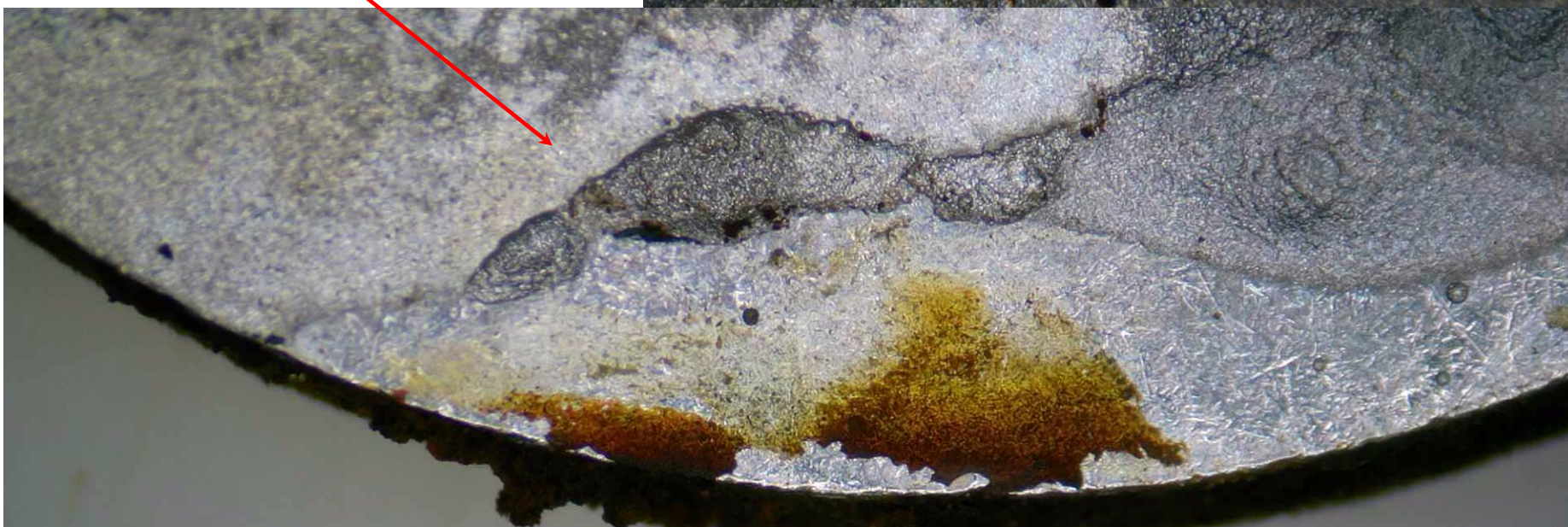


## ***Room temperature immersed in Seawater***

Stainless Steel Washers in contact with the CFRP composite, top row smooth side, bottom row rough side







806 days  
Washer in contact with  
smooth composite





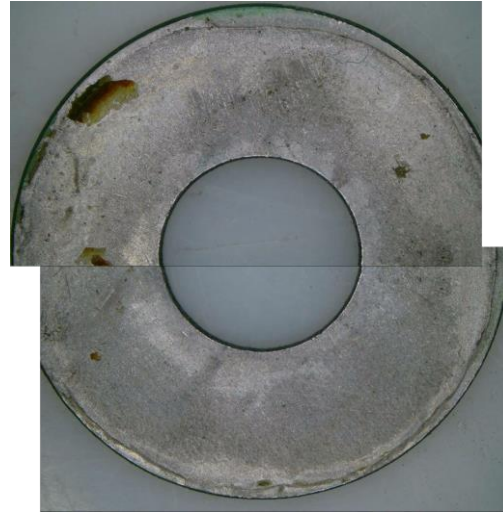
## ***Room temperature immersed in Seawater***

Monel washer surfaces in contact with the CFRP composite, top row smooth side, bottom row rough side

365 days



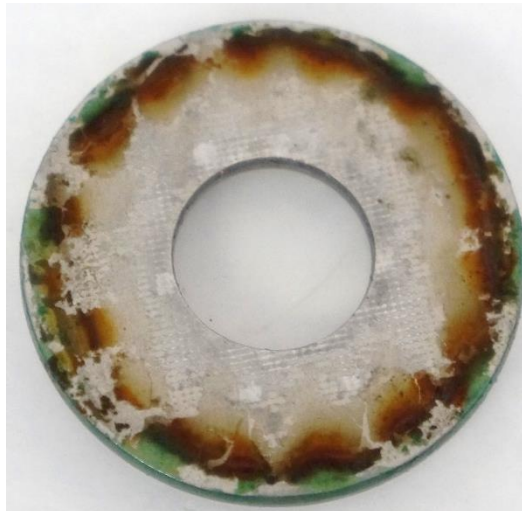
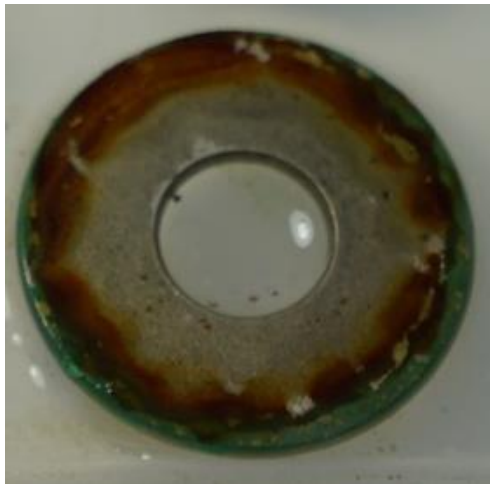
309 days



799 days



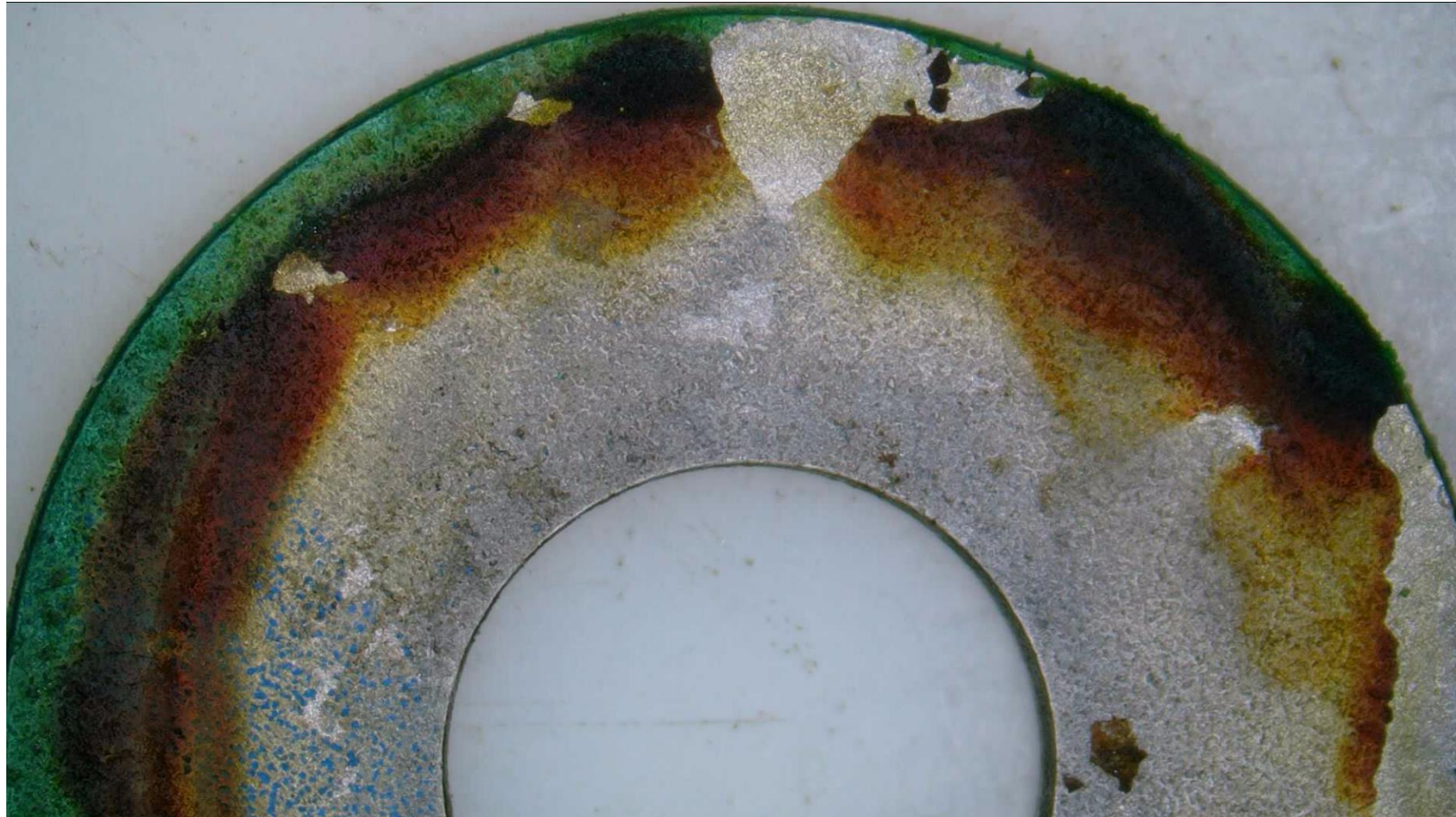
806 days





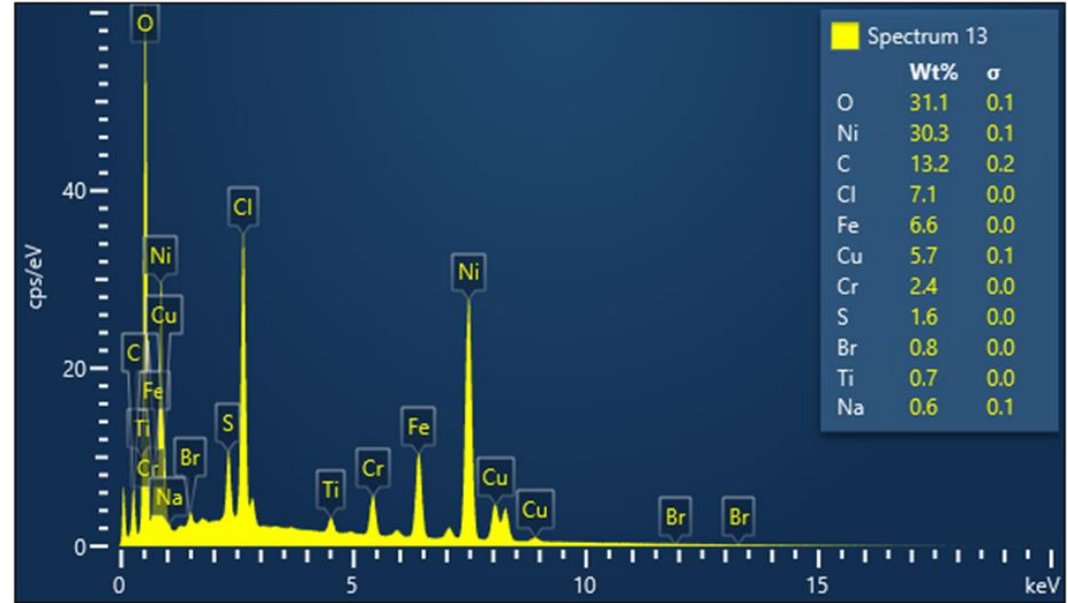
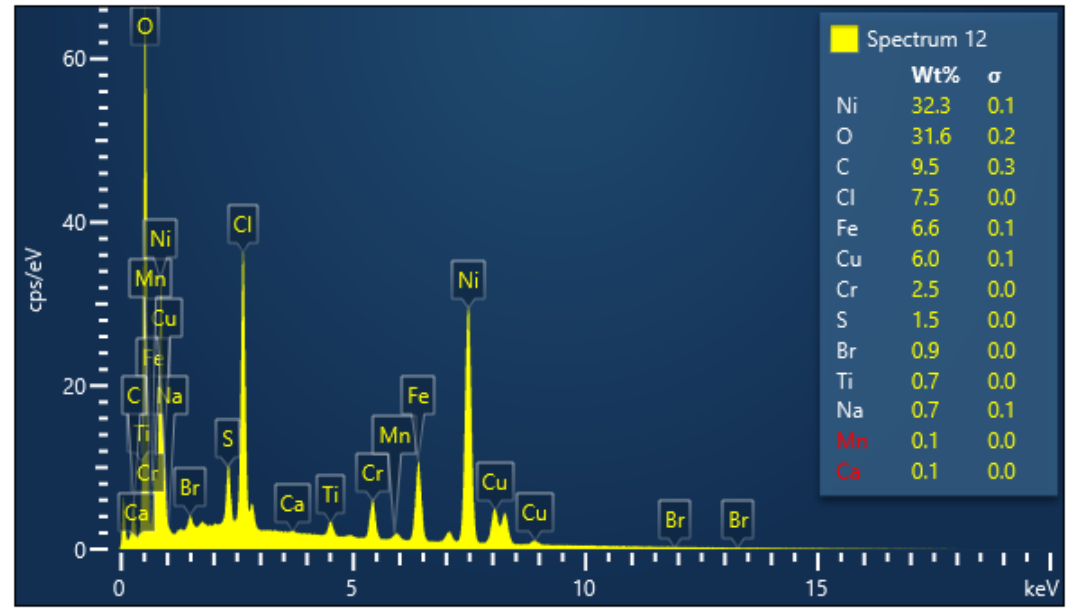
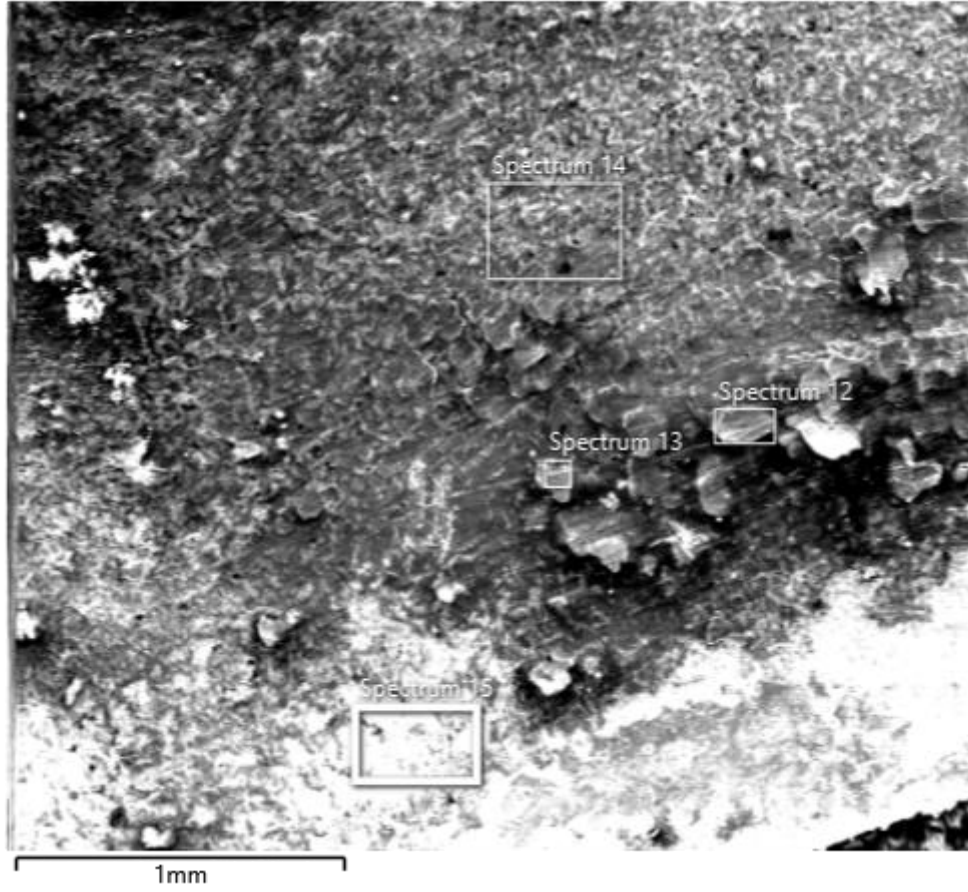


799 days, on the left in contact with smooth CFRP composite,  
below in contact with rougher CFRP composite surface





Electron Image 5





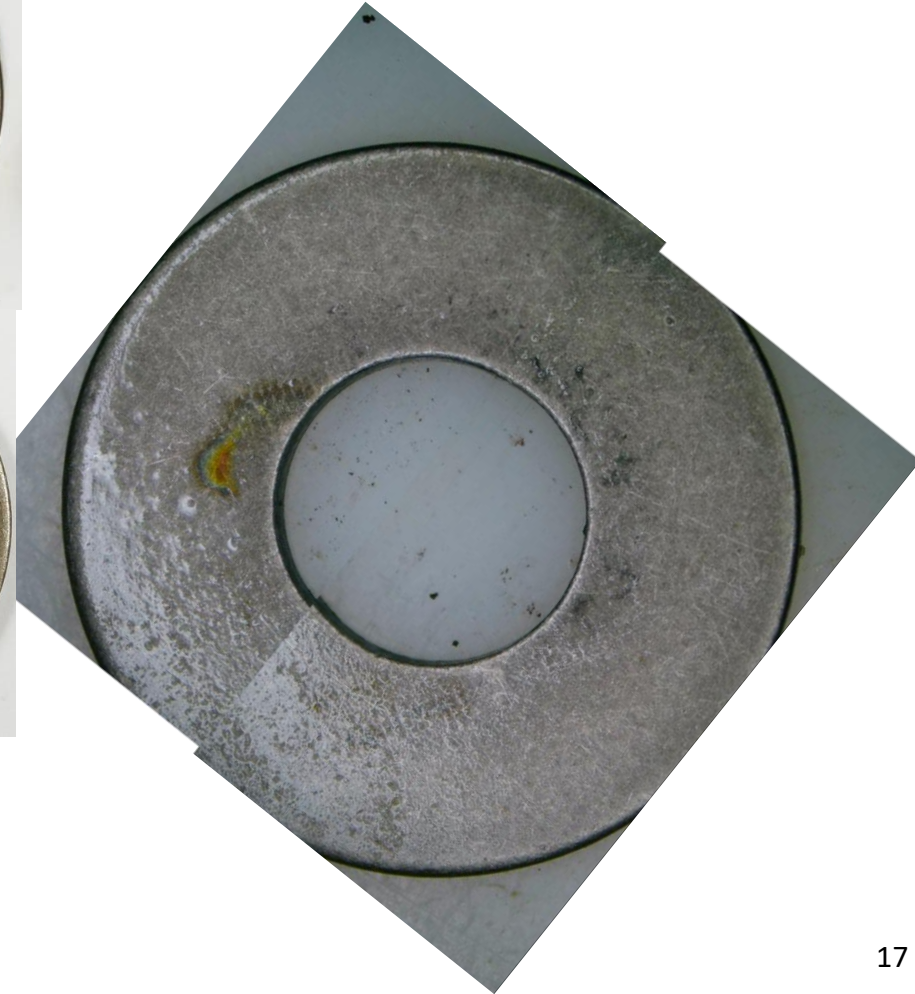
## ***Room temperature immersed in Seawater***

Ti washer surfaces in contact with the CFRP composite, top row smooth side, bottom row rough side

330 days

448 days

806 days



# Elevated Temperature – Stainless Steel

Stainless Steel Washers in contact with the CFRP composite, top row smooth side, bottom row rough side

273 days



8084-2019

323 days



510-2019

729 days



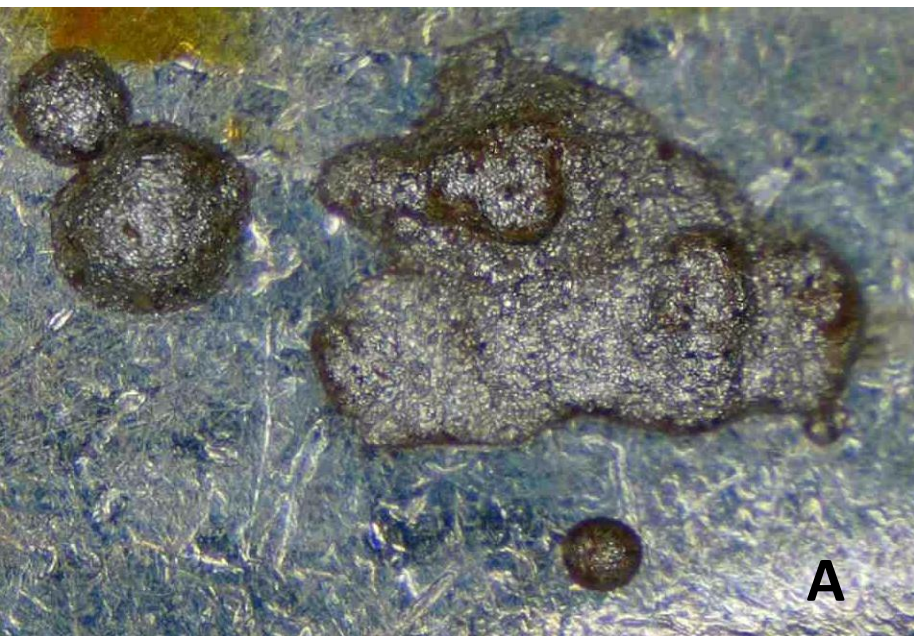
8084-2020

652 days

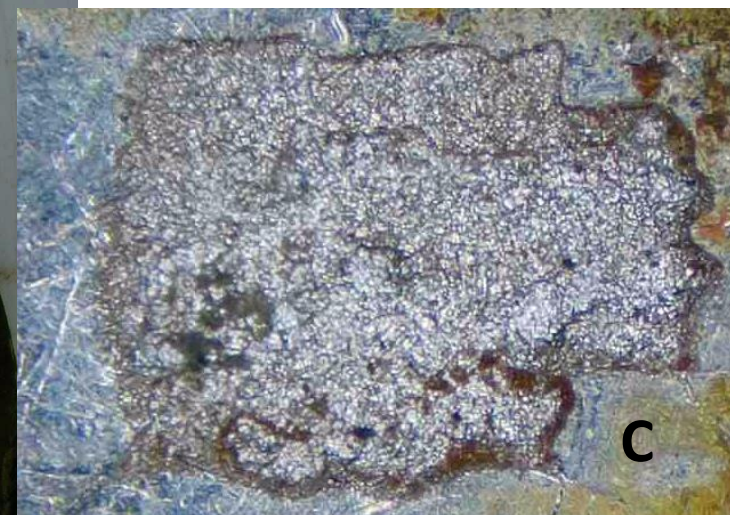
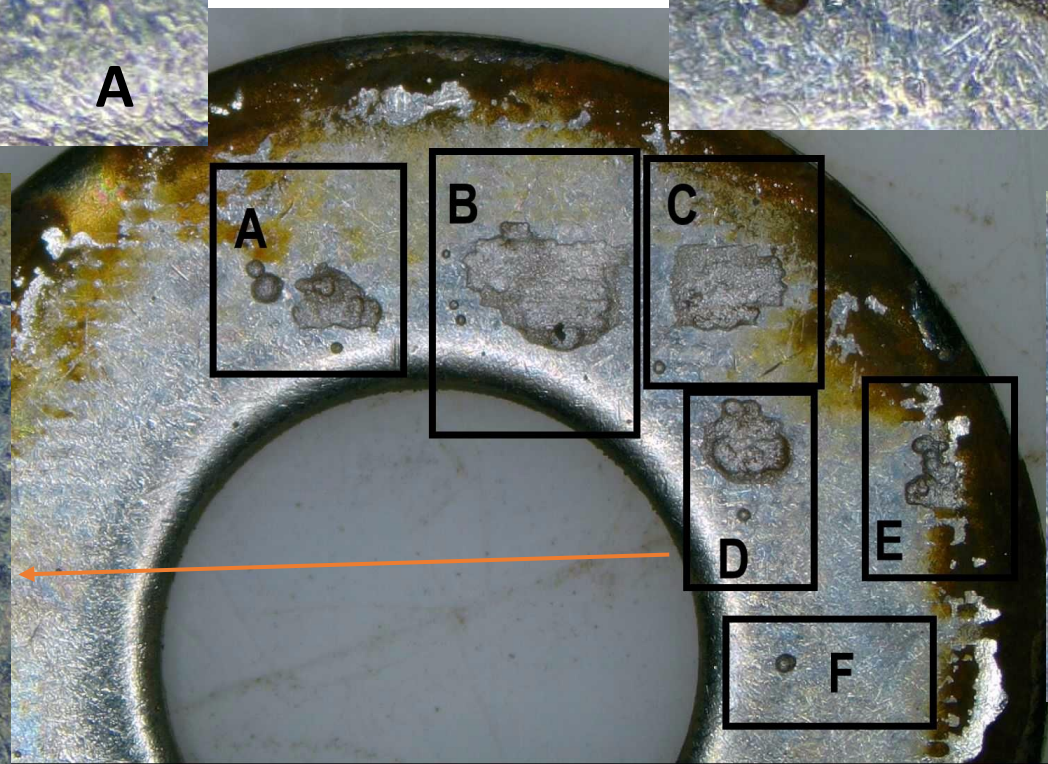
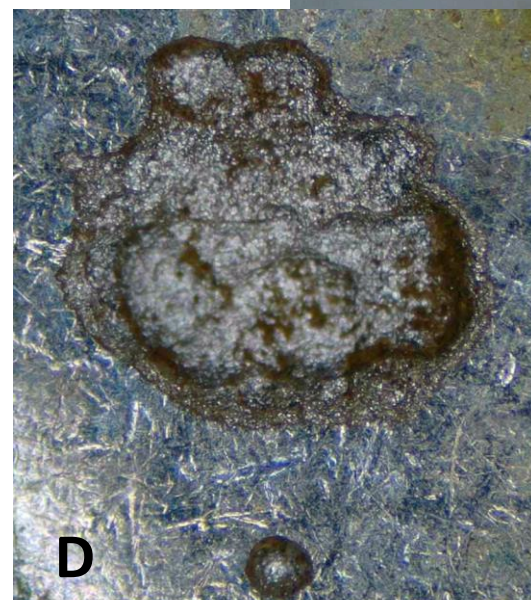
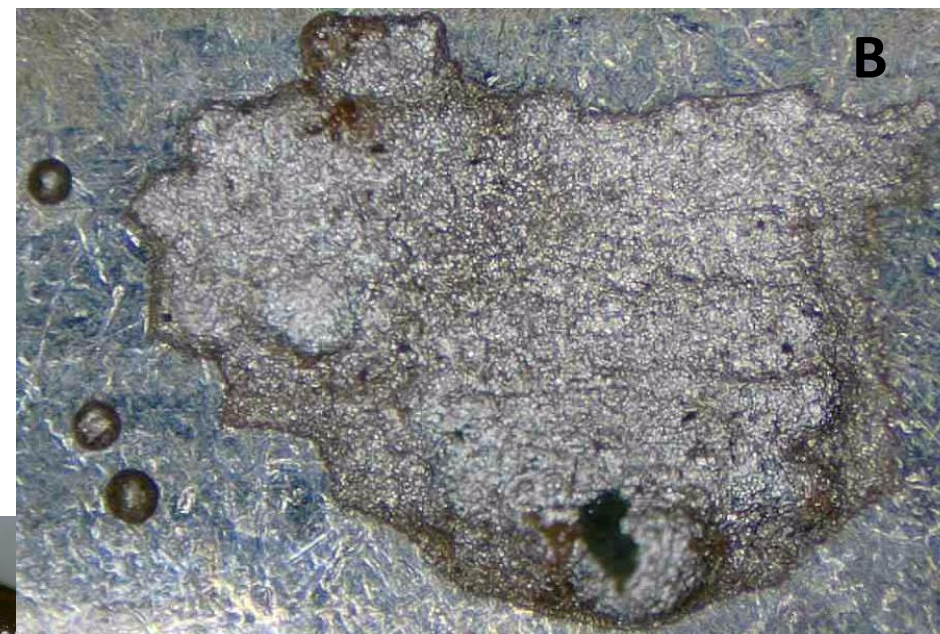


510-2020

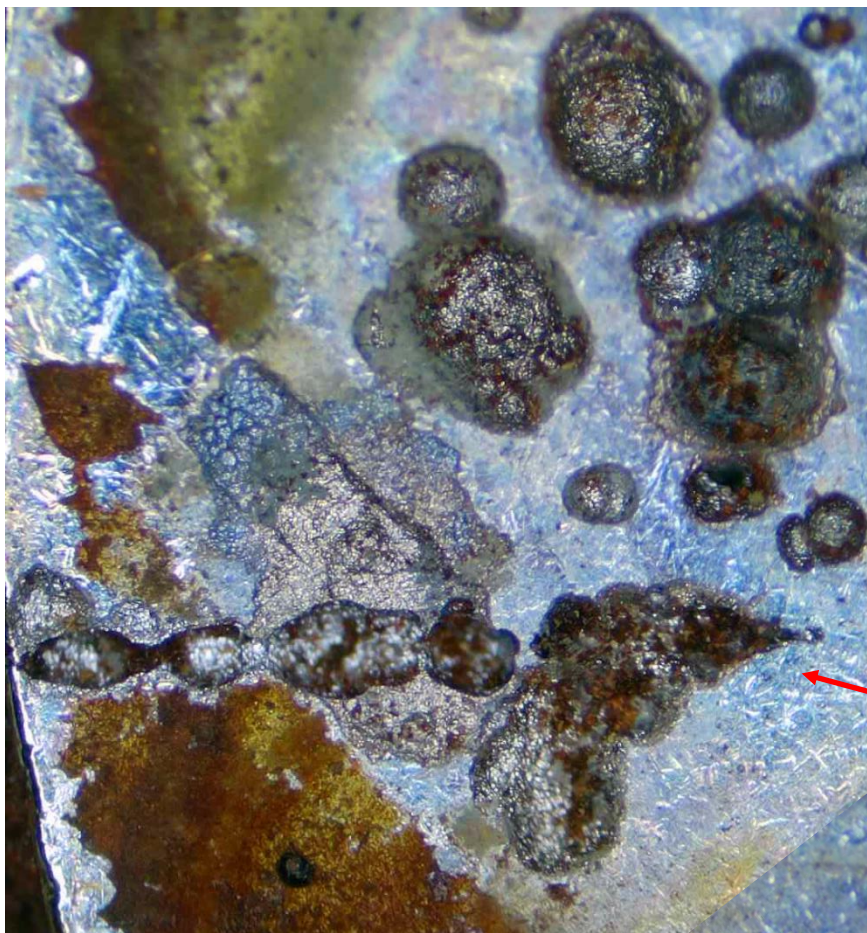




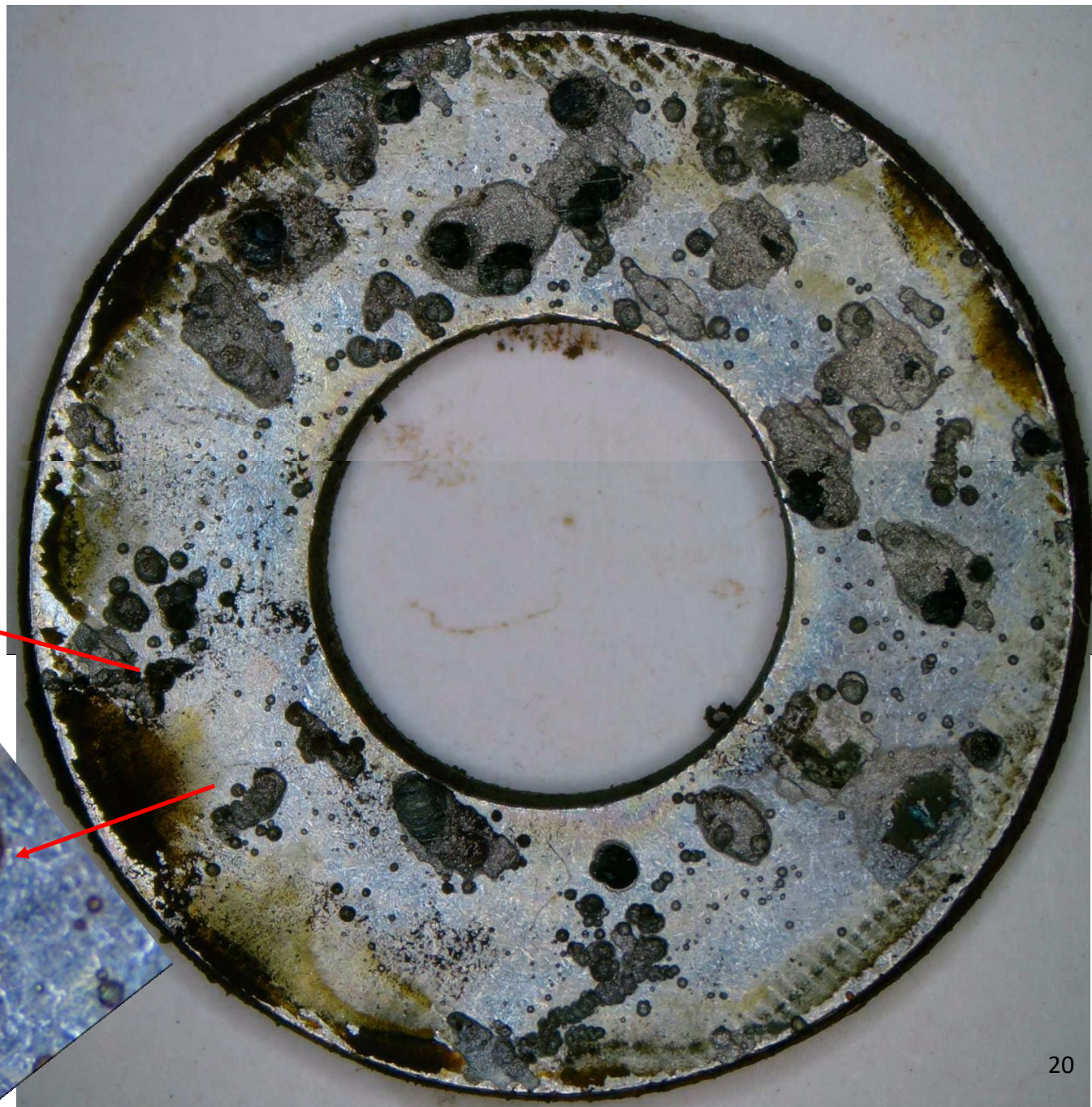
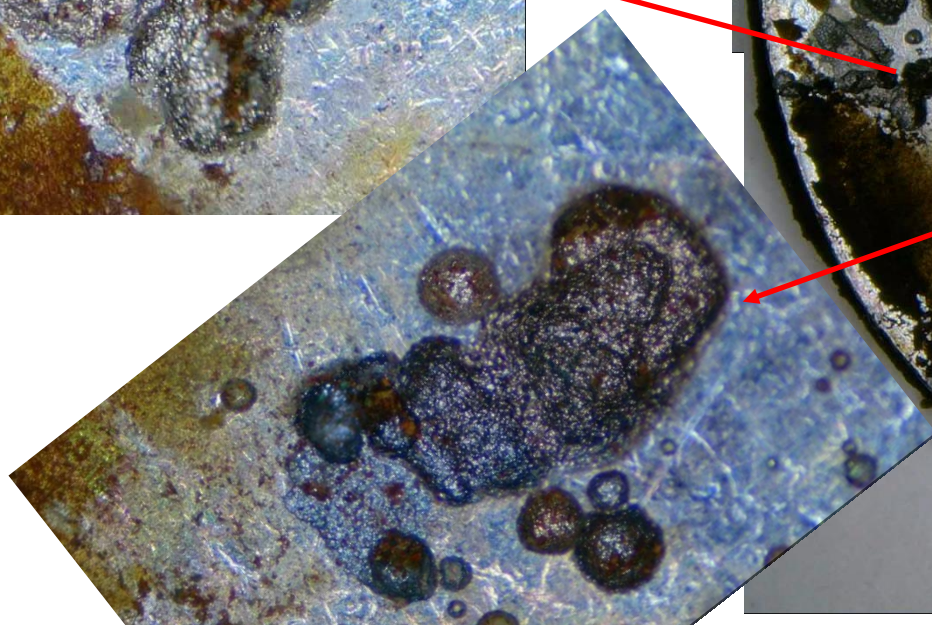
323 days







652 days





# Elevated Temperature

Monel Washers in contact with the CFRP composite, top row smooth side, bottom row rough side

288 days



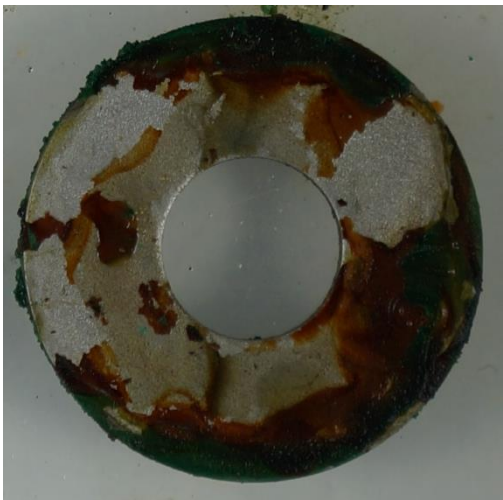
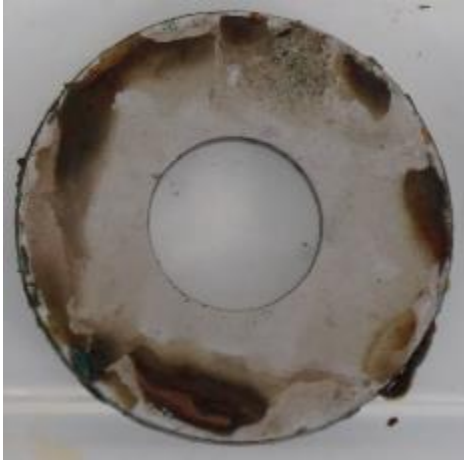
330 days



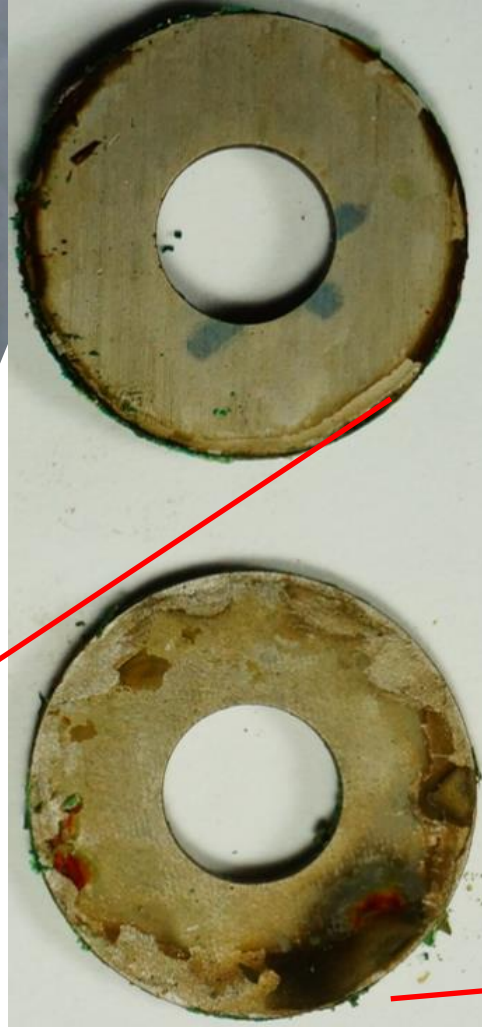
659 days



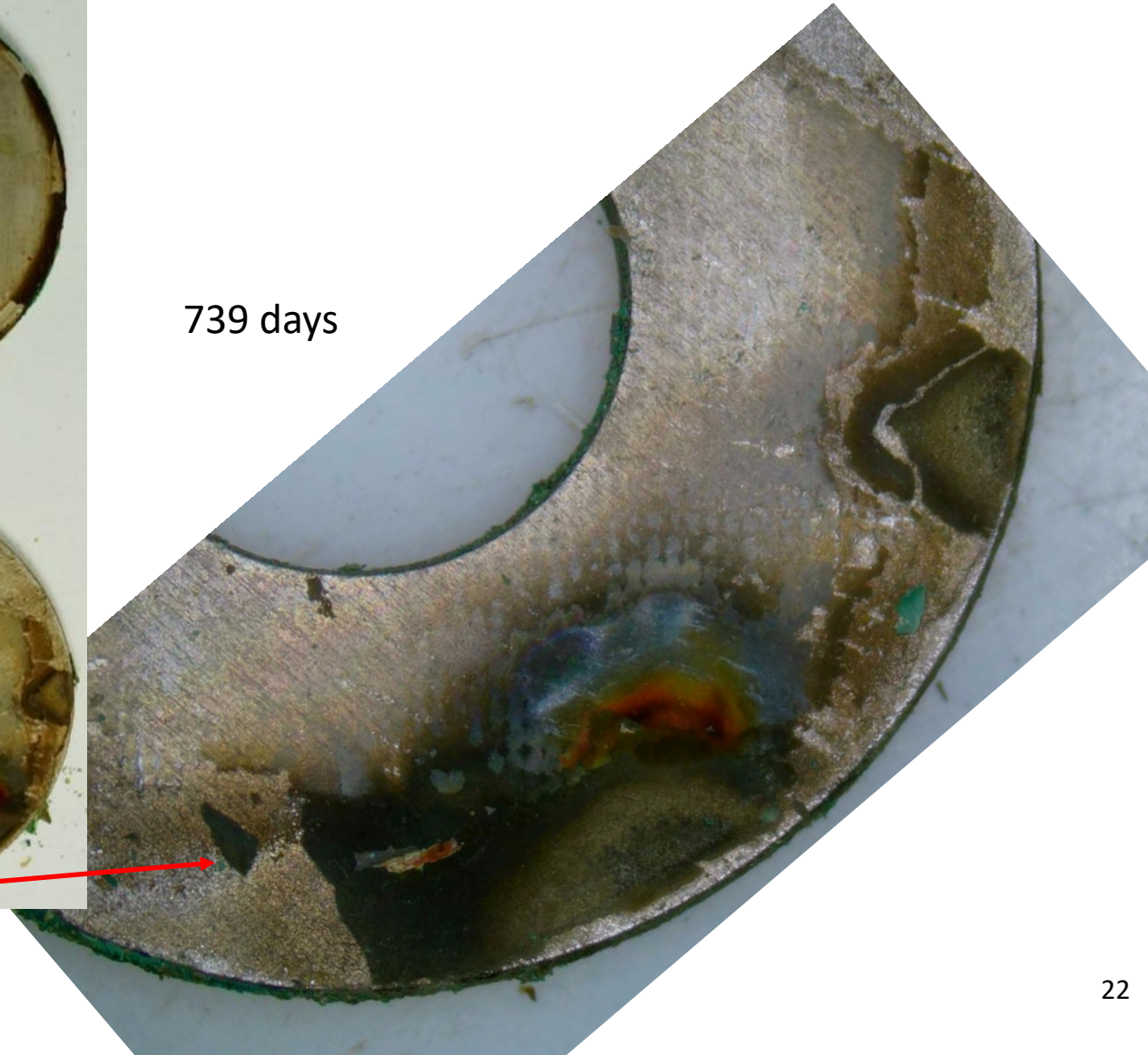
739 days







739 days

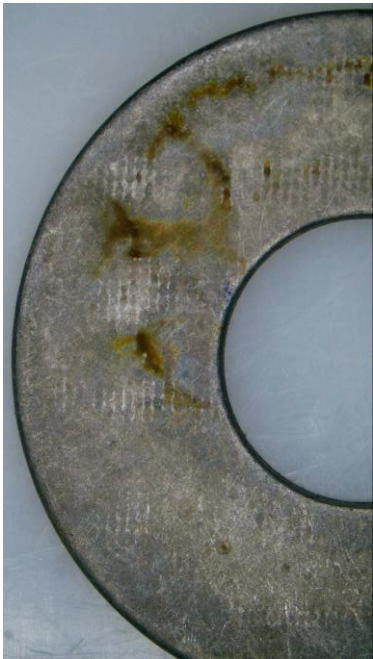




# Elevated Temperature

Titanium washers in contact with the CFRP composite, top row - smooth side, bottom row - rough side

316 days



448 days



806 days



# Elevated Temperature

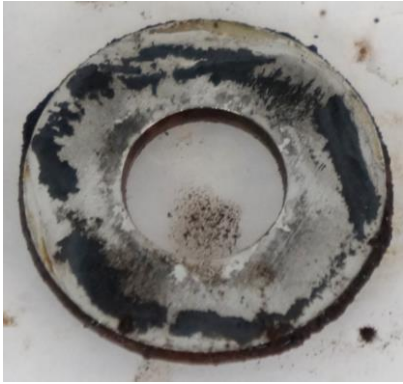
Washers in contact with the Hybrid composite, top row - smooth side, bottom row - rough side

316 days

708 days

704 days

713 days



Stainless Steel

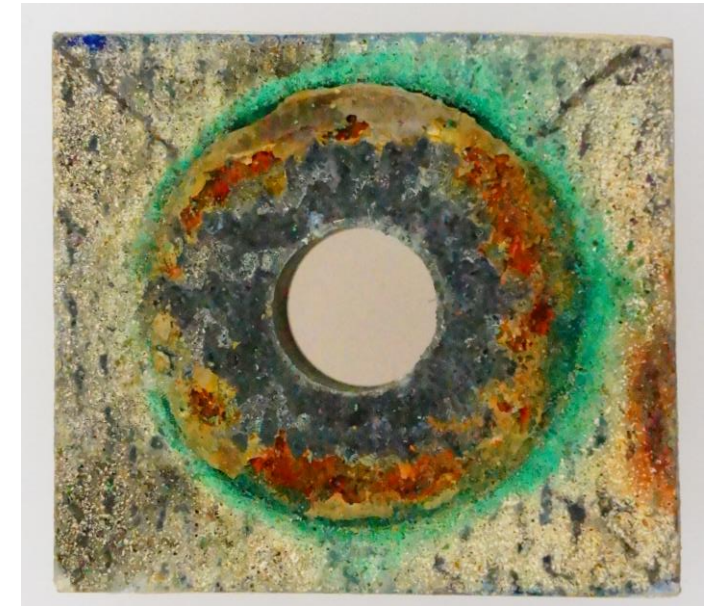
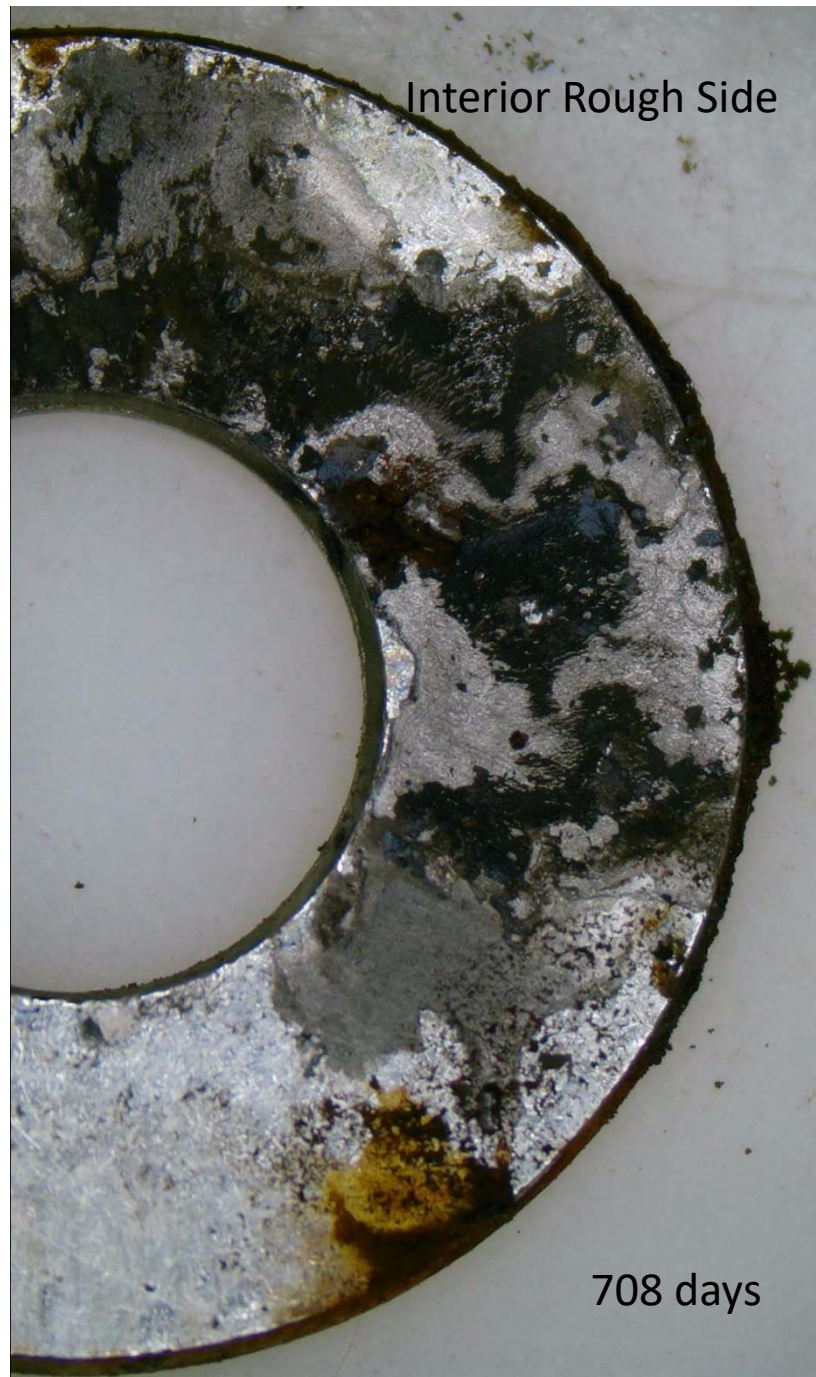
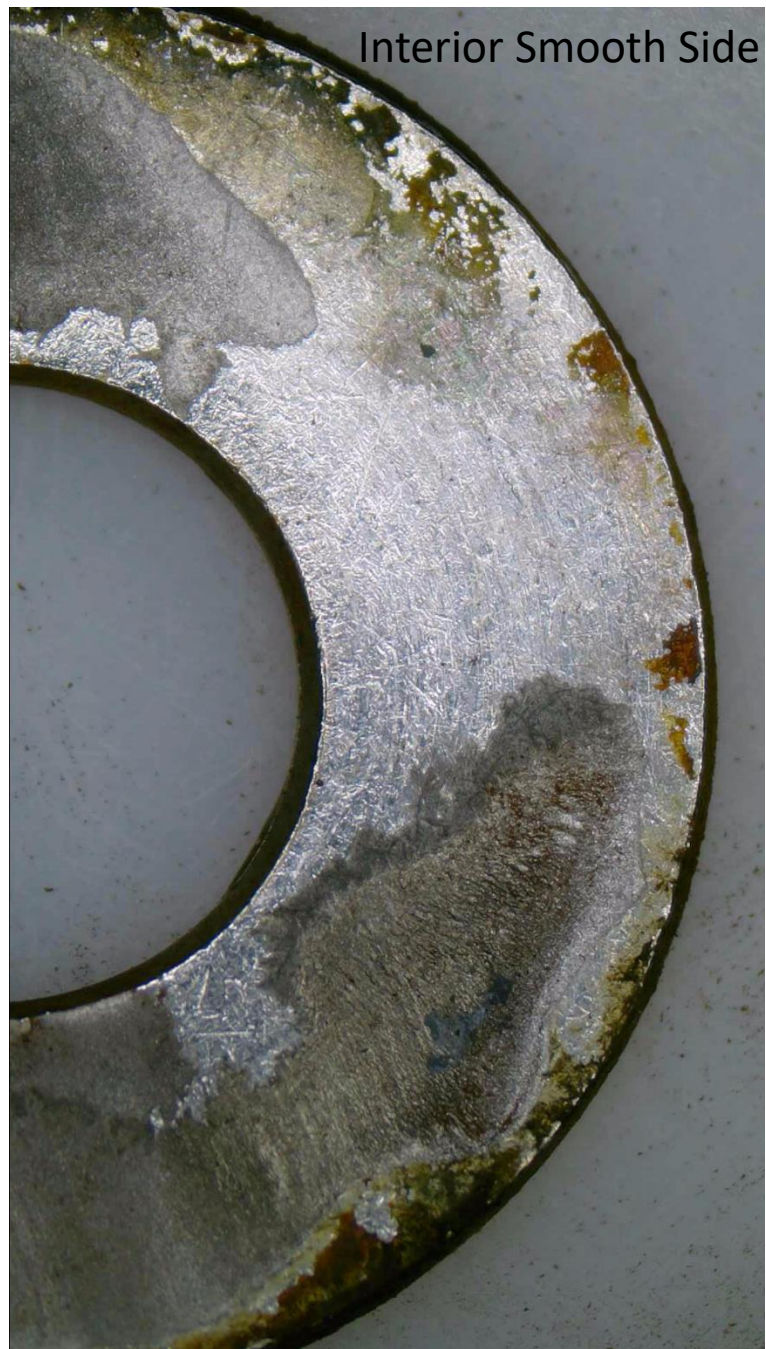


Monel



Titanium





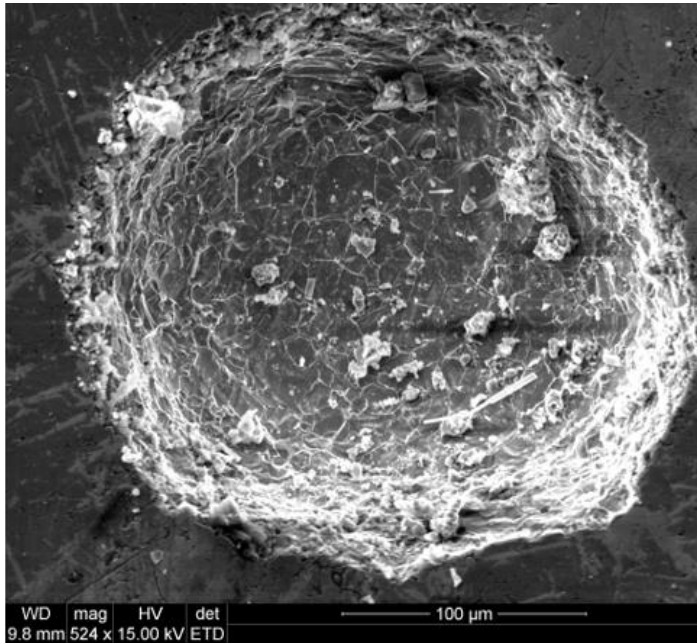
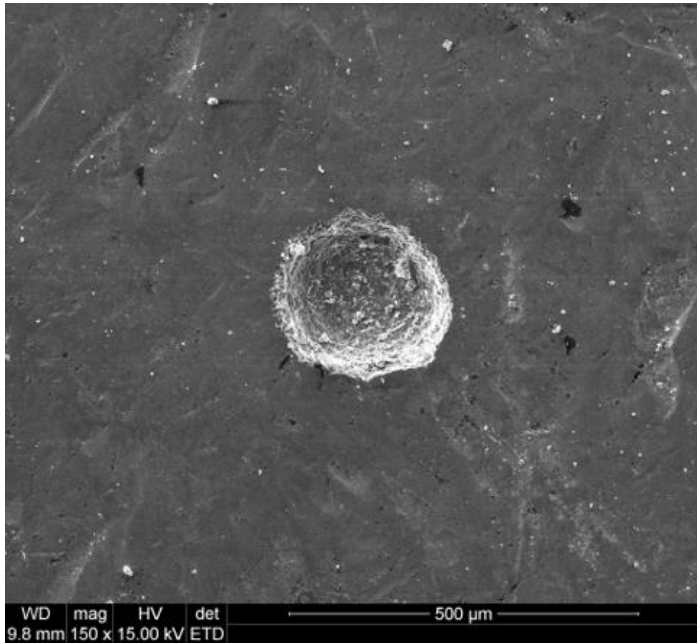
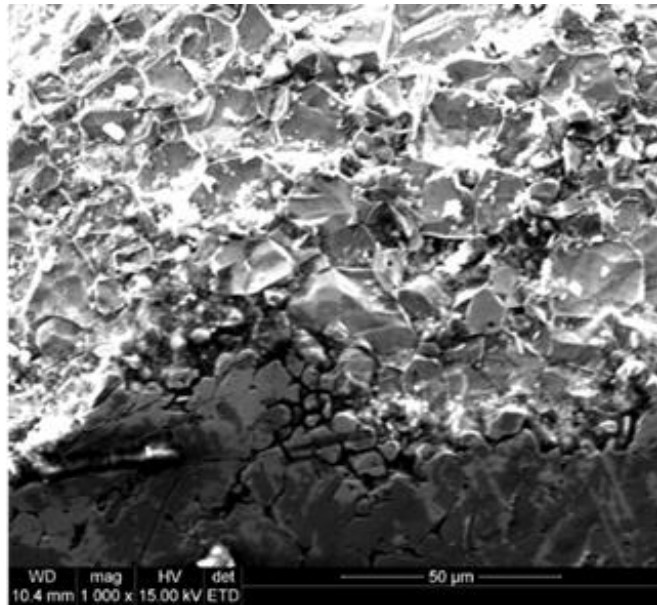
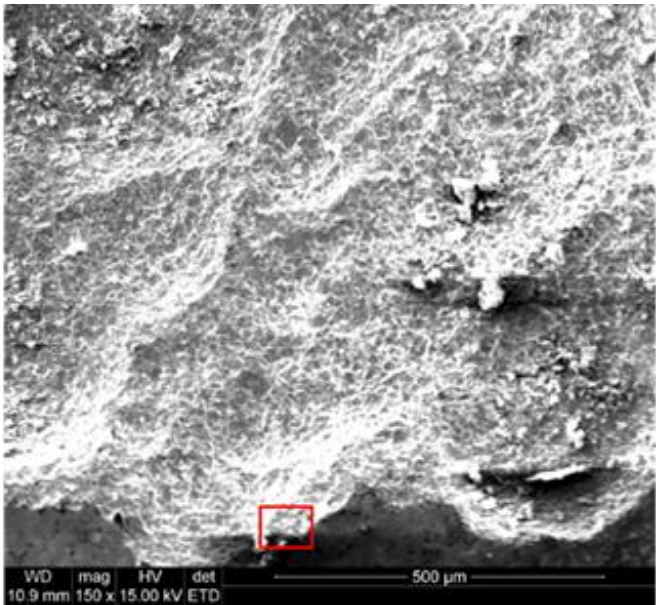
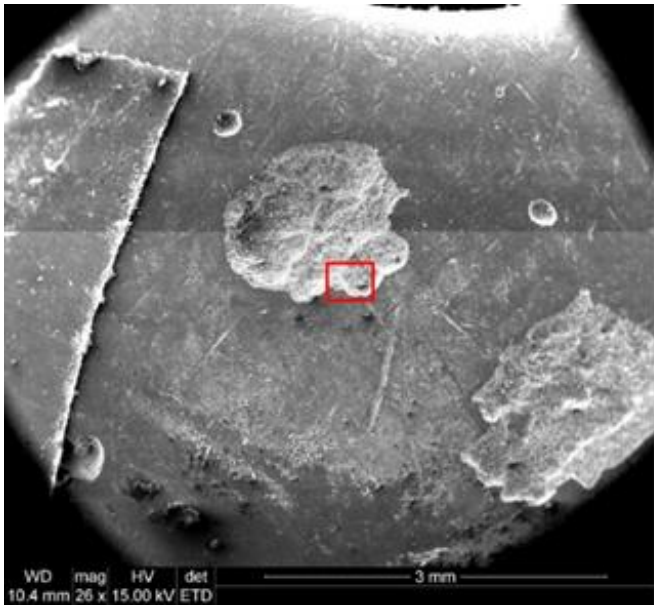
Composite corresponds to  
samples fastened with Monel



SEM observations

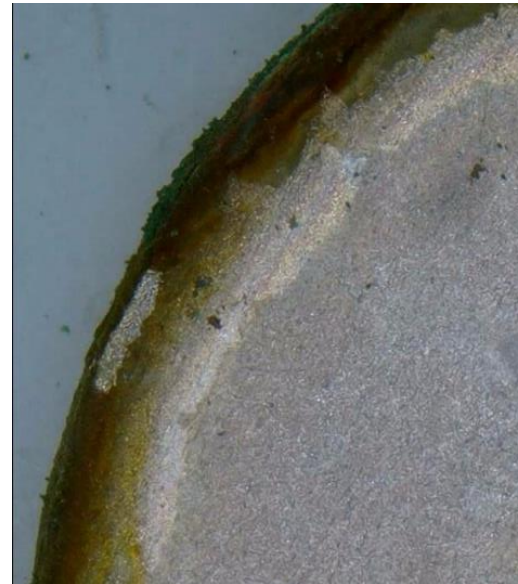
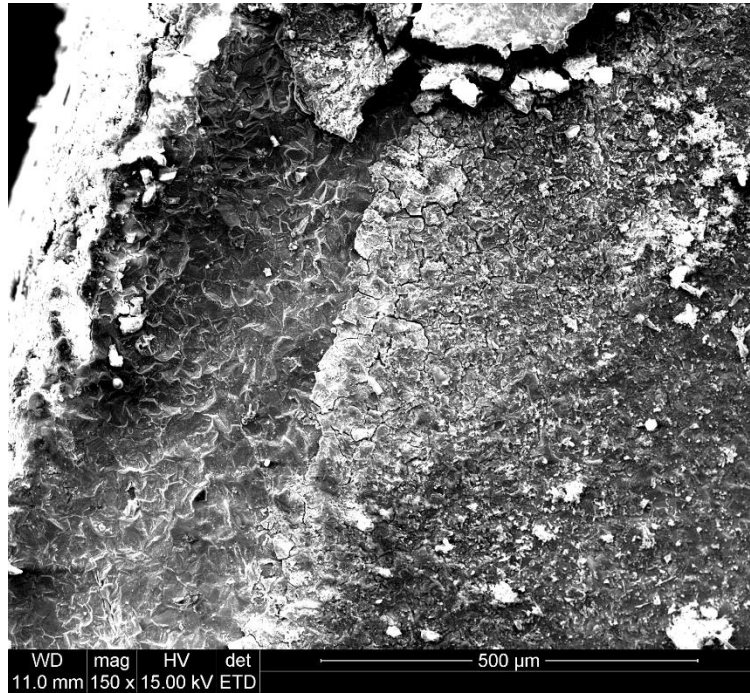
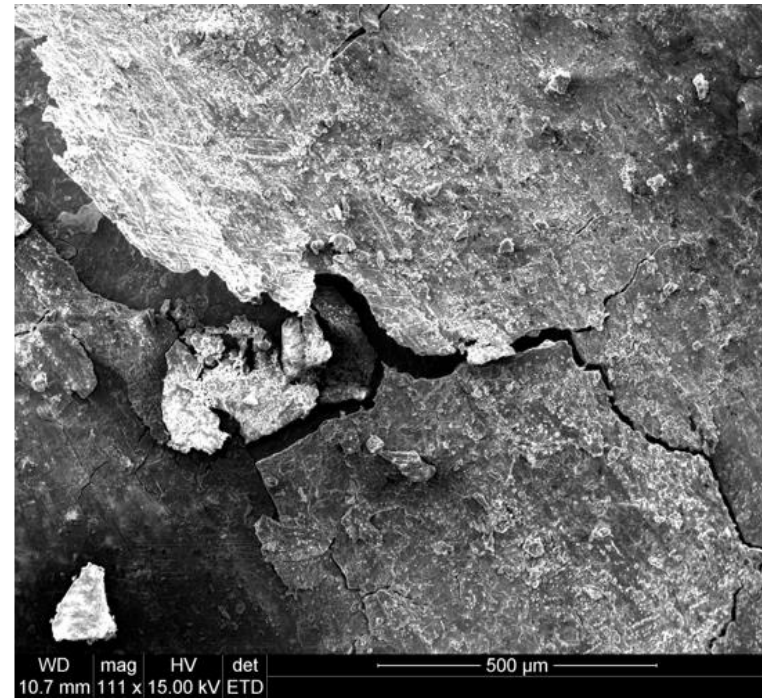
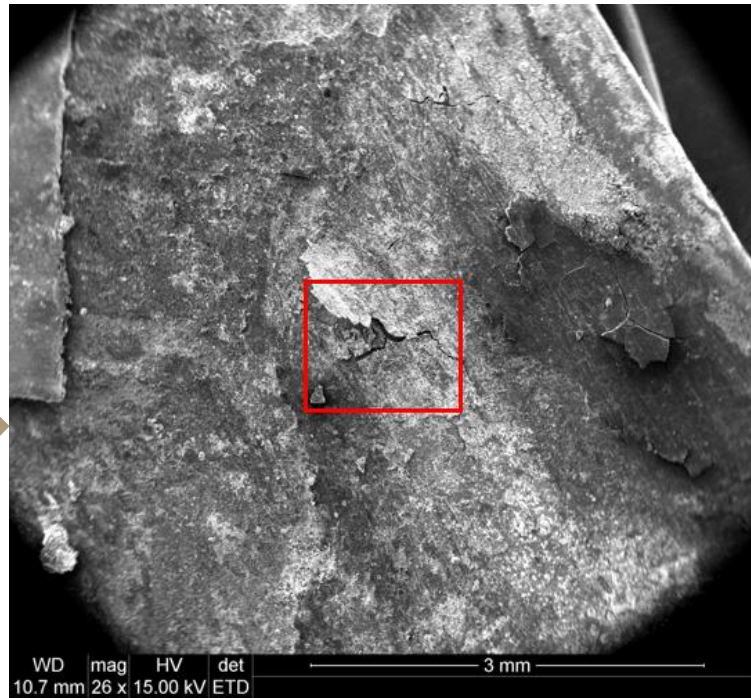


323 days





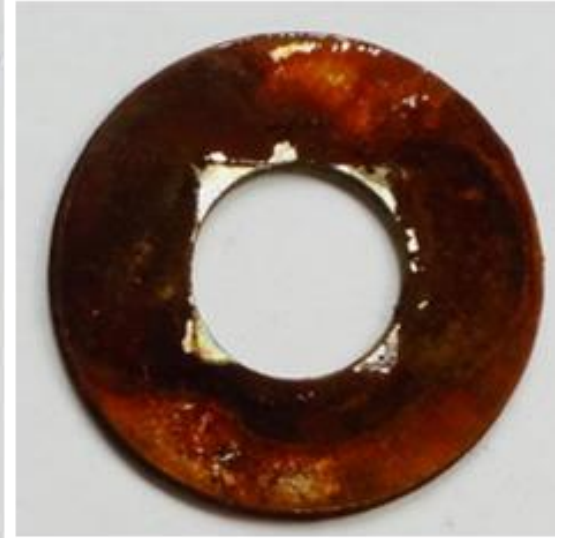
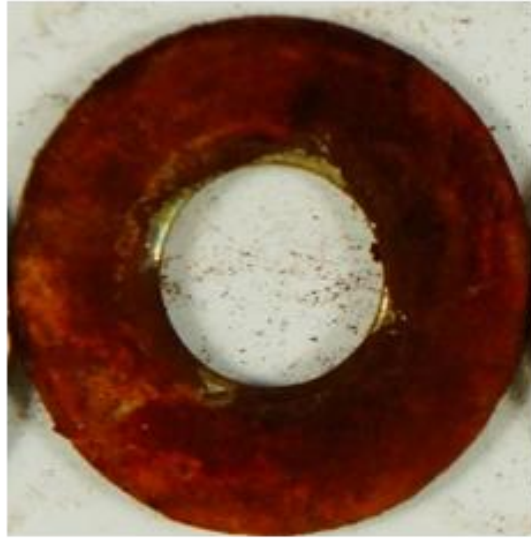
Monel





# Elevated Temperature – Stainless Steel

Stainless Steel Washers in contact seawater, top row bolt side, bottom row nut side





# Elevated Temperature – Monel

Stainless Steel Washers in contact seawater, top row bolt, bottom row nut side





# Elevated Temperature

Washers in contact with the Hybrid composite, top row – bolt side, bottom row – nut side

316 days

708 days



Stainless Steel

704 days



Monel

713 days



Titanium





Example of a C3 site (crevice corrosion between nut and washer surfaces)

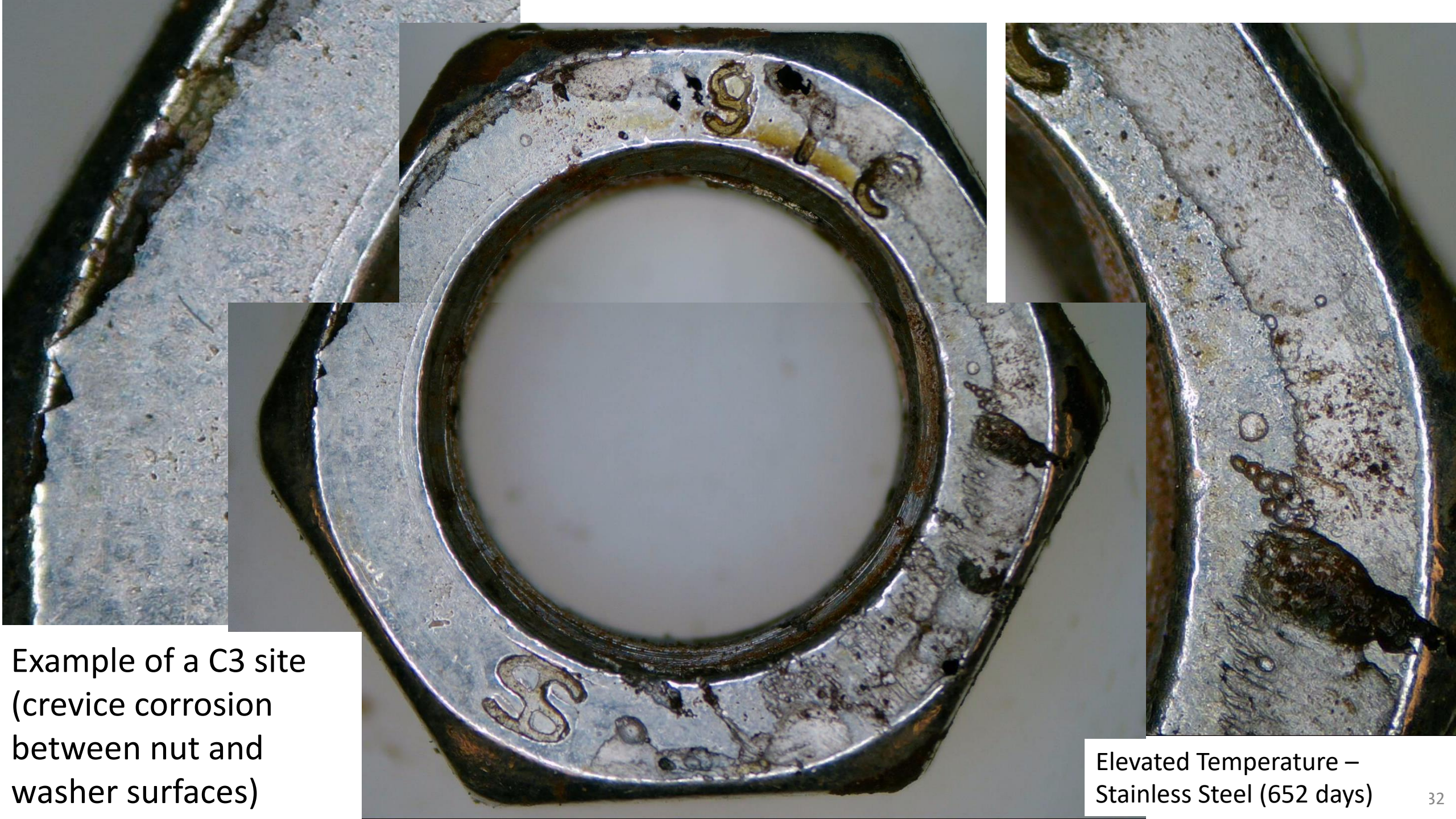


Nut side in contact with washer



Washer in contact with nut





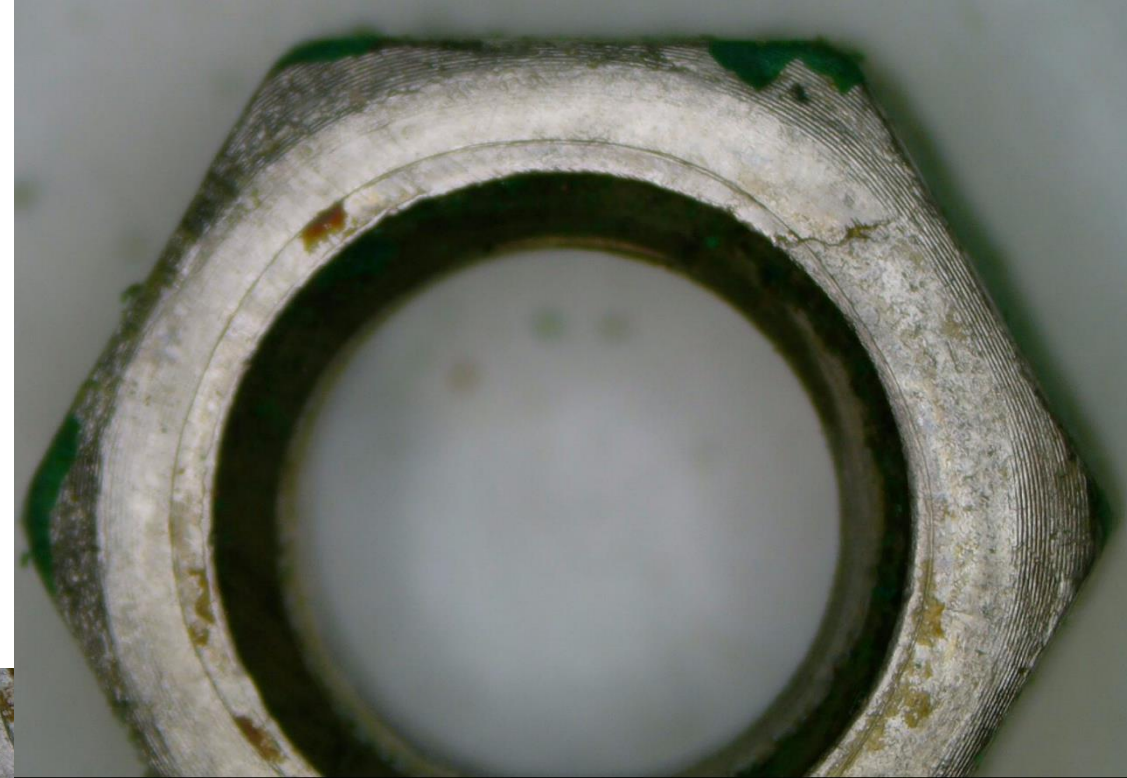
Example of a C3 site  
(crevice corrosion  
between nut and  
washer surfaces)

Elevated Temperature –  
Stainless Steel (652 days)



Example of a C3 site (crevice corrosion between nut and washer surfaces)

659 days





Example of a C4 site (crevice corrosion between bolt and washer surfaces)

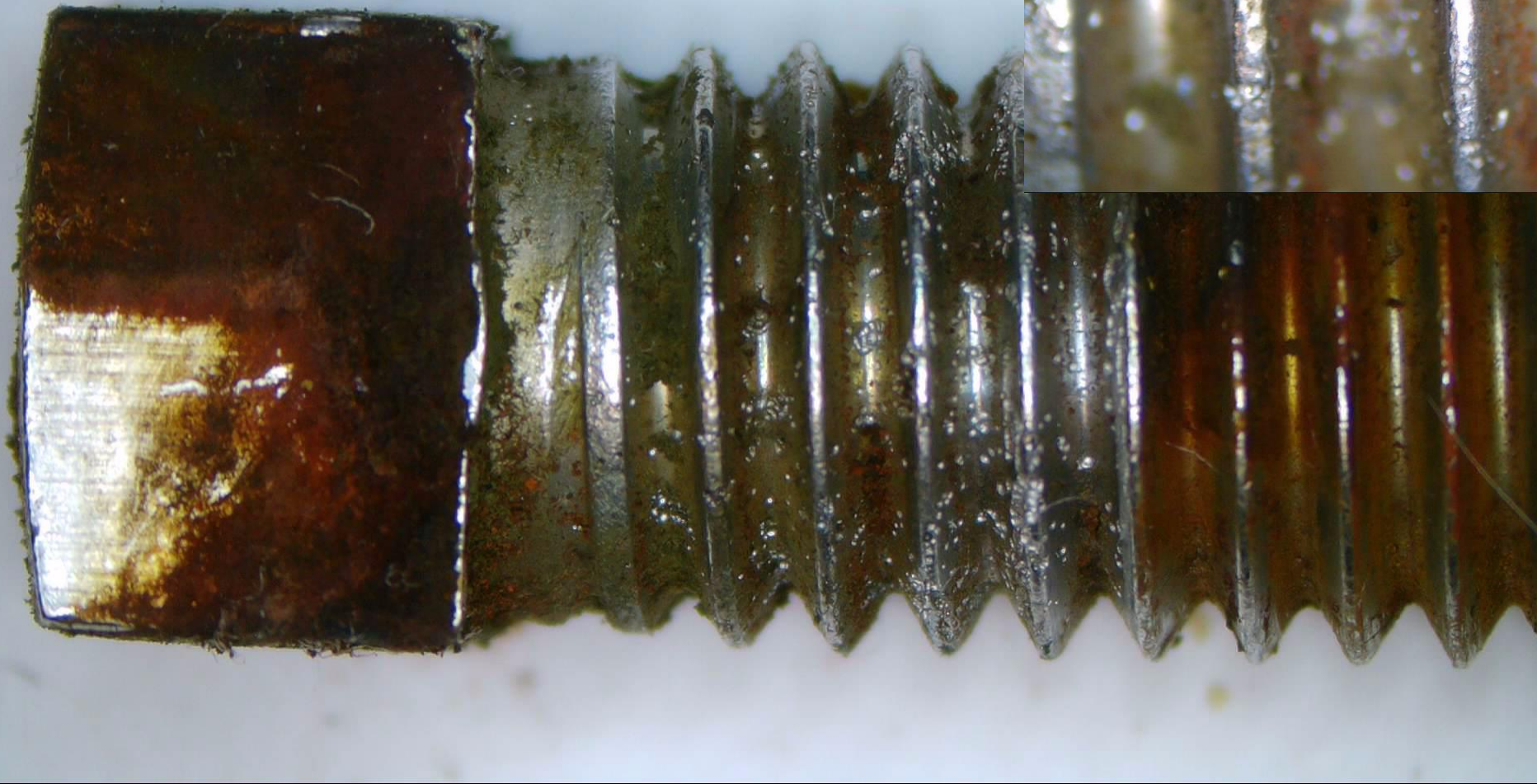
739 days





Example of a C5 site (crevice corrosion  
between threads of bolt and nut)

Elevated Temperature – Stainless Steel (652 days)



Pitting Corrosion



## Conclusions

Crevice Corrosion of type C1 and C2 were observed on Monel and Stainless steel washers.

Crevice corrosion appears to be more pronounced on samples exposed in the elevated temperature seawater

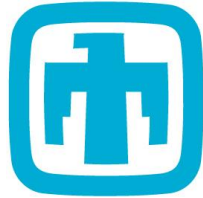
C1 corrosion occurred with large surface coverage on stainless steel, and most corrosion products leached out.

C2 corrosion occurred as different sizes of pits on stainless steel and as brown corrosion products that flaked easily on Monel washers.

No corrosion took place on the Titanium washers within the time monitored



**Thank You,  
Questions?**



**Sandia  
National  
Laboratories**



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