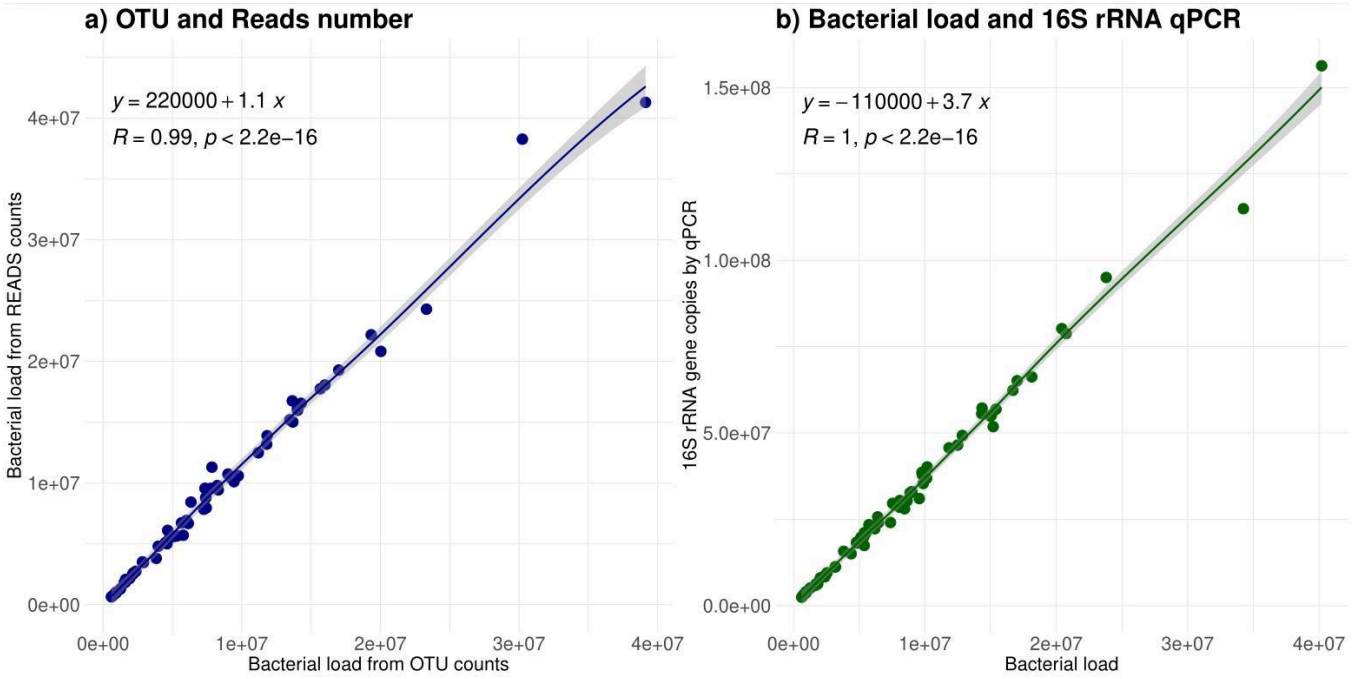



**Figure S1. Correlation between total bacterial load estimations**

a) Linear correlation between total bacterial load estimated by combining 16S rRNA qPCR quantification with relative genus abundance derived from OTU analysis (x-axis) and read counts (y-axis). b) Linear correlation between the final bacterial load estimation and 16S rRNA qPCR quantification. In both the plots regression line equation, p value and R parameters are reported.

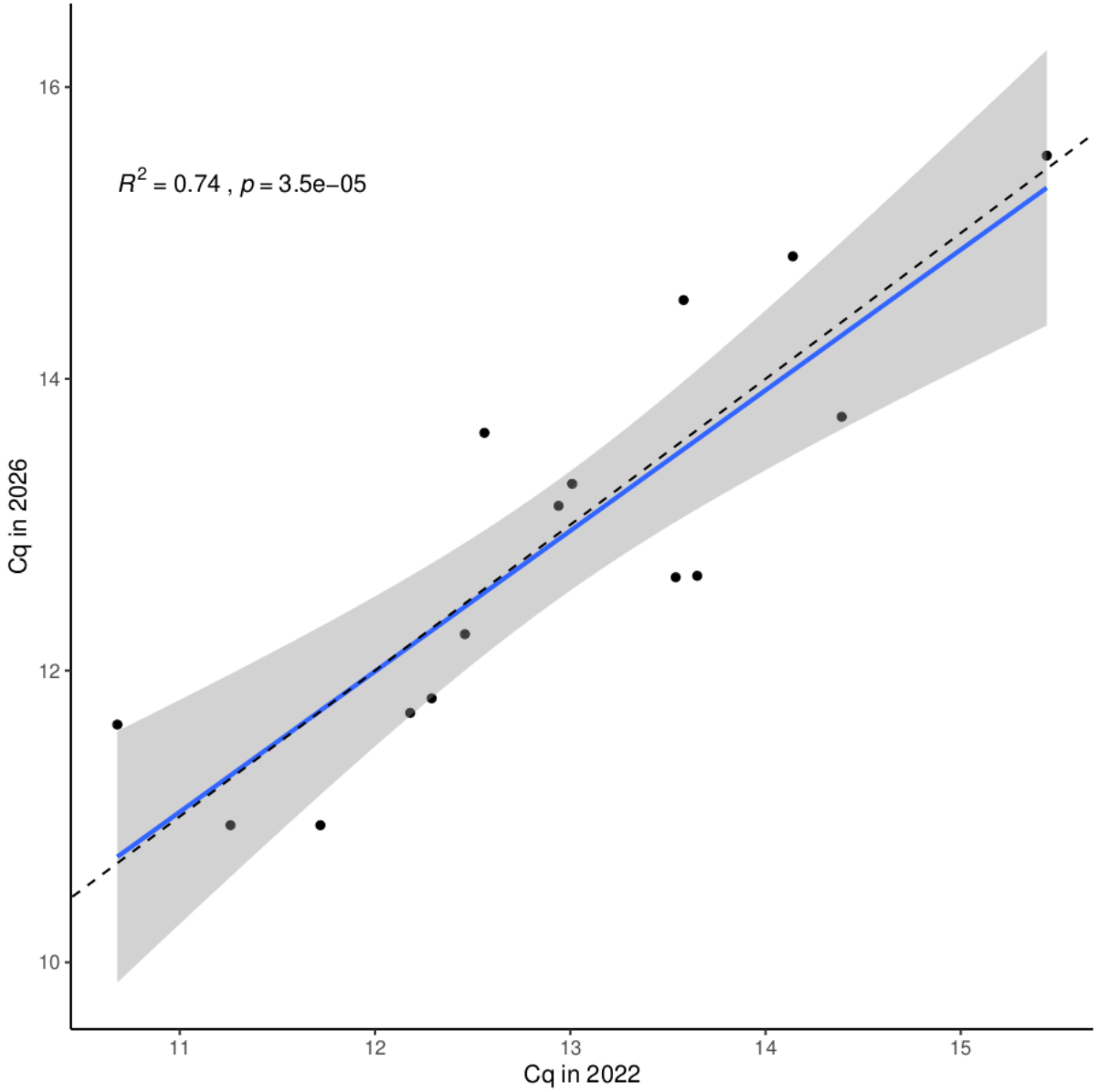



**Figure S2. Pearson correlation between qPCR Cq values obtained in 2022 and 2026**
The plot shows the correlation between qPCR Cq values obtained in 2022 and 2026. The 15 samples used for the analysis are represented by points. The blue line represents the linear trend line while the dashed black line represents the bisectrice. R2 and p-value values are reported on the plot.