



# CRUISE REPORT



*R/V Aranda*

Cruise 06/2021

COMBINE 2/2021

31.5.2021 – 11.6.2021

*This report is based on preliminary data and is subject to changes.*

### **Objectives of the cruise**

The COMBINE 2 cruise contributed to the HELCOM Baltic Sea integrated physical, chemical and biological monitoring programme and the Finnish national marine management plan. The objectives of the cruise were:

- 1) Long-term monitoring of hydrography, nutrient concentrations, macrozoobenthos and zooplankton.
- 2) Monitoring of radioactive substances in water and sediment (HELCOM MORS program).
- 3) Deployment of mussel cages for monitoring effects of hazardous substances on blue mussels.
- 4) Deployment and retrieval of drifting floats, as well as installation of a wave buoy.
- 5) Collect research samples for eDNA and stoichiometry analyses of sediment and benthic animals.

Table 1. The scientific crew on COMBINE 2/2021

| <b>Name</b>         | <b>On board</b>     | <b>Organization</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Nygård Henrik       | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | SYKE                |
| Haavisto Noora      | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | SYKE                |
| Lindgren Elisa      | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | IL                  |
| Lastumäki Ilkka     | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | SYKE                |
| Riikonen Jere       | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | SYKE                |
| Kovru Olga          | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | SYKE                |
| Granlund Mira       | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | SYKE                |
| Roine Tuomo         | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | IL                  |
| Lehto Anne-Mari     | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | SYKE                |
| Tasala Siru         | 31.5.2021-3.6.2021  | SYKE                |
| Katajisto Tarja     | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | SYKE                |
| Rissanen Jouko      | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | SYKE                |
| Näkki Pinja         | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | SYKE                |
| Mustonen Anna-Riina | 31.5.2021-11.6.2021 | SYKE                |

### **Cruise Route**

The cruise started in Helsinki 31.5.2021 and first headed towards the easternmost sampling stations in the Gulf of Finland. After sampling in the Gulf of Finland the cruise continued through the Archipelago Sea and north in the eastern part of Bothnian Sea and Bothnian Bay, before returning south along the western parts of the Bothnian Bay and Bothnian Sea to the Åland Sea. The stations in the Northern Baltic Proper were then sampled, before returning to Helsinki 11.6.2021. A map of the cruise route is shown in Figure 1.

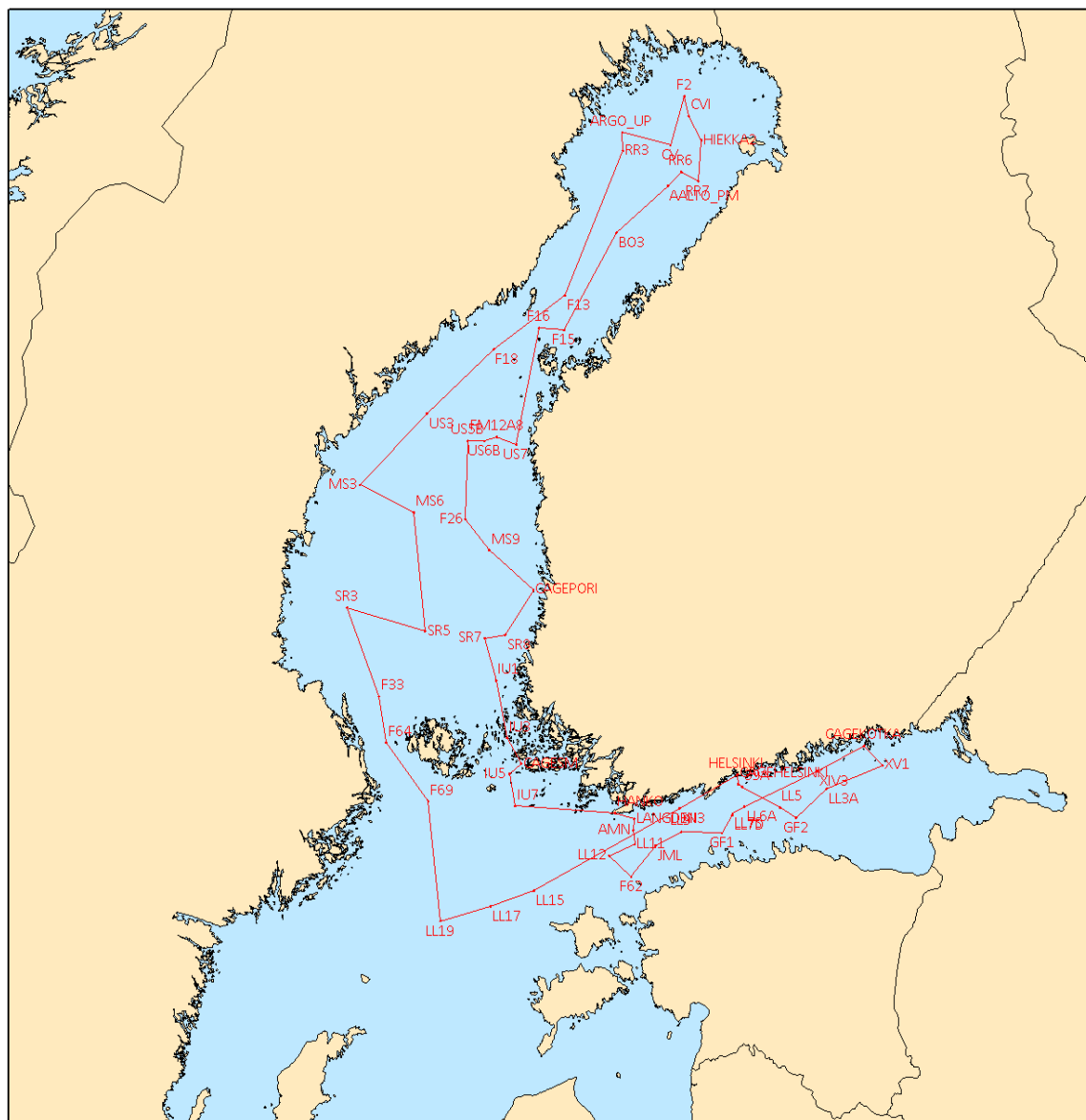


Figure 1. COMBINE 2/2021 cruise route.

### Sampling

A list of sampled stations and samples collected during the cruise is found in Annex 1. At each station a CTD profile was taken and when water samples were collected, the nutrient concentrations ( $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}_x$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{PO}_4$ ,  $\text{SiO}_4$ , Total N, Total P), chlorophyll-a,  $\text{O}_2$  and pH were measured. If anoxic conditions were observed, also  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  was measured. The standard sampling depths were 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225 and 250 m, depending on the sampling station's depth. A water sample 1 m above the sea bottom was also taken. Chlorophyll-a were analysed at 1, 5, 10, 15 and 20 m depth. Zooplankton samples were collected using a 100  $\mu\text{m}$  WP-2 net, whereas macrozoobenthos were collected with van Veen grab. Sediment samples were collected using Gemax-corer. Samples for total nitrogen, total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a, as well as the biological samples will be analysed after the cruise. Thus, no results from these are presented in this report.

## **Observations**

CTD profiles from selected stations can be found in Annex 2. Results for oxygen and nutrient parameters from the standard sampling depths can be found in Annex 3 for selected stations. In annex 3 also a comparison to the average of values measured since 2000 during the same season is made. When referred to average values in the following section, the reference period is 2000-2020, using station specific measurements done in May and June.

### *Hydrography*

The warm and calm weather during the cruise allowed the surface temperature to rise from around +8 °C in the start to more than +15 °C towards the end of the cruise. In the water column, the temperature was higher than the average in the Gulf of Finland and less pronounced also in the Northern Baltic Proper, Åland Sea and Bothnian Sea. The salinity of the water mass was close to average in whole Gulf of Finland, but in the western part the surface salinity was higher compared to the average. At most sampling stations in the Gulf of Finland there was a gradual increase in salinity through the water column without a clearly defined halocline. In the Northern Baltic Proper, the salinity was close to the average, with the halocline situated around 60-80 m depth. In the Åland Sea, the surface water was slightly fresher than the average, but deeper waters were more saline than the average. In the southern Bothnian Sea surface salinities were slightly above the average, but apart from that the salinity profiles in the Bothnian Sea were close to the average with a weak halocline around 70-100 m. In the Quark, the surface water was quite fresh with a salinity only around 3 ppm. In the Bothnian Bay, salinity conditions varied between stations, with for example fresher bottom water at BO3 than the average, but at F2 the bottom water was more saline than the average.

### *Nutrient concentrations*

Nutrient levels were close to the average in the Gulf of Finland, Northern Baltic Proper and the Åland Sea, with nitrate and nitrite nitrogen almost depleted in the surface, but excess phosphate (0.1-0.3 µmol/l) present in the surface waters. In the Bothnian Sea and the Quark, nitrate and nitrite nitrogen were depleted in the surface water, but phosphate concentrations in the surface water (0.1-0.2 µmol/l) were in general slightly above the average. In the Bothnian Bay, nitrate and nitrite nitrogen concentrations were generally lower than on average in the surface water. Phosphate concentrations were high throughout the water column at all sampling stations in the Bothnian Bay, generally twice as high as the average concentrations. It is unclear if this was a consequence of water flowing in from the Bothnian Sea, as no such indications were seen in the hydrographic profiles.

### *Oxygen conditions*

In the Gulf of Finland, oxygen concentration in the water column were slightly below the average at most stations, but only one station, F62, was anoxic at the bottom. At F62, H<sub>2</sub>S was found from the bottom (97 m) up to 70 m depth. At GF1, only 0.1 ml/l oxygen was measured in the bottom water, but no hydrogen sulphide was noted. In the Northern Baltic Proper, anoxic conditions with hydrogen sulphide occurring were generally found below 80 m. At LL12, both oxygen and hydrogen sulphide were found in the bottom water. At F69 in the Åland Sea, oxygen conditions were worse than previously seen, with only 2.2 ml/l oxygen measured in the bottom water. In the Bothnian Bay the oxygen conditions were close to the average and generally good. However, at SR5 in the southern Bothnian Sea, the oxygen saturation was only around 50%.

## **Conclusions**

The lack of a clear halocline in the Gulf of Finland indicate that there has been a mixing of the water column during the winter, although not strong enough to ventilate the bottom. Excess phosphate measured in the surface waters of Gulf of Finland, Northern Baltic Proper, Åland Sea, Bothnian Sea and the Quark make these areas prone to cyanobacterial blooms, depending on the summer weather conditions. The exceptionally high concentrations of phosphate measured in the

Bothnian Bay need further attention, as its origin remain unclear. However, the availability of inorganic nitrogen in the Bothnian Bay reduce the risk for cyanobacterial blooms. The degraded oxygen conditions in the Åland Sea is further a concern that needs to be followed up on.

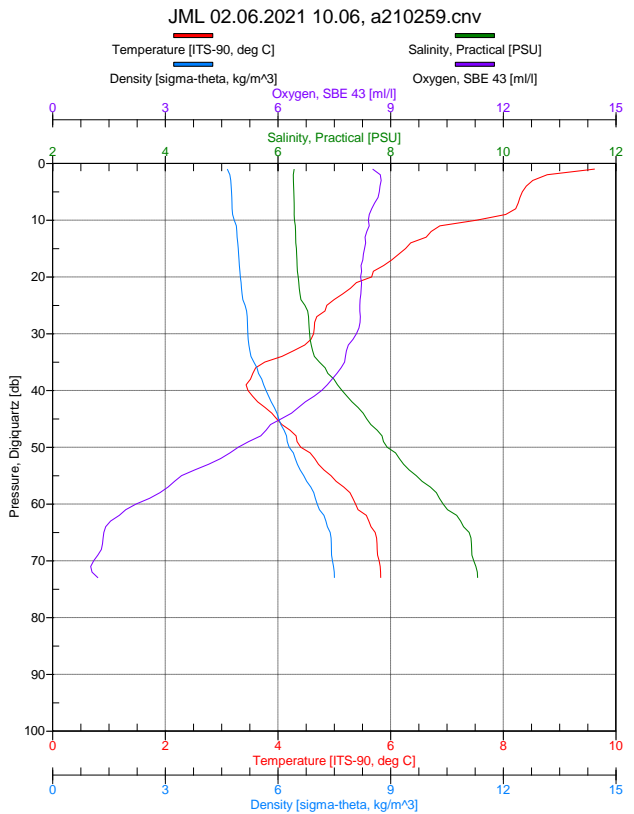
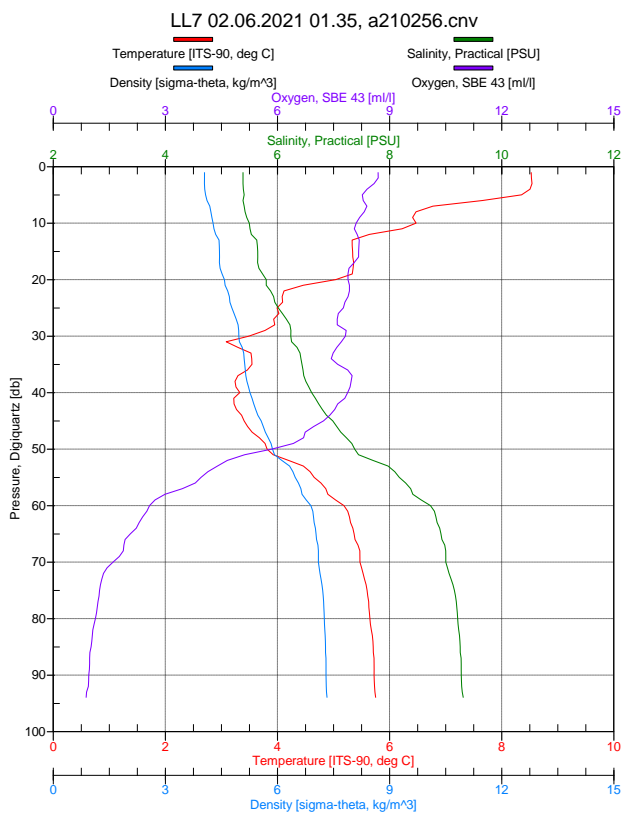
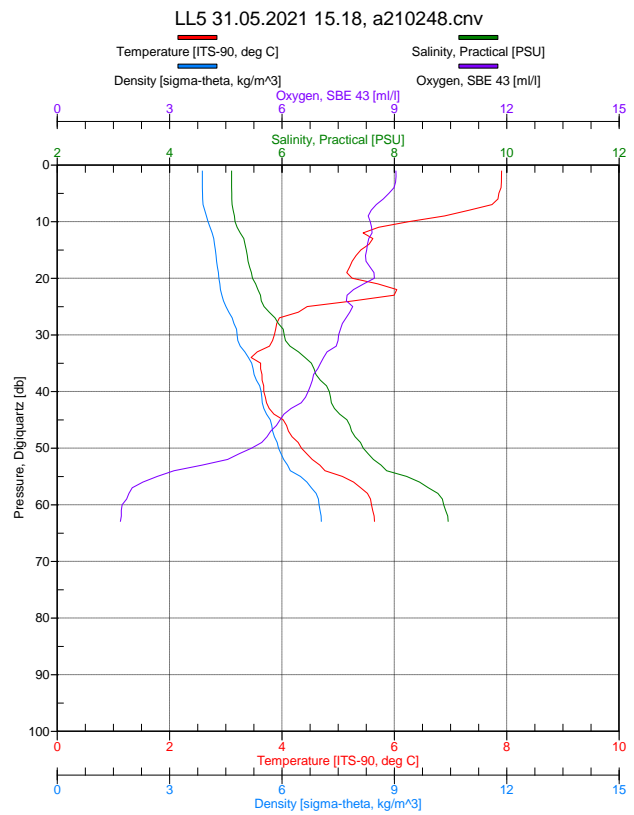
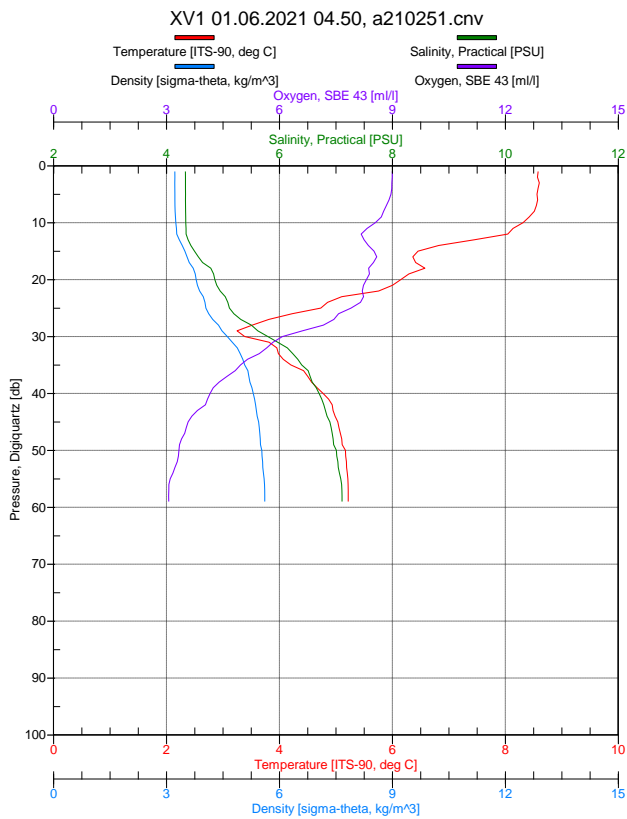
Annex 1. List of sampled stations and parameter sampled during the cruise. Time is given in UTC.

| INDEX      | STATION       | latitude | longitude | depth | DATE       | time  | ctd | pH | ox | nu | zo | be | chl | secchi |
|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|--------|
|            | HELSINKI      | 60.16178 | 24.90158  |       | 2021-05-31 | 06:27 |     |    |    |    |    |    |     |        |
| 2021010246 | *CAGEHELSINKI | 60.08677 | 24.91307  | 23    | 2021-05-31 | 10:01 | x   |    |    |    |    |    |     | x      |
| 2021010247 | 39A           | 60.06685 | 24.98022  | 42    | 2021-05-31 | 11:45 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    |    | x   | x      |
| 2021010248 | LL5           | 59.91682 | 25.59698  | 69    | 2021-05-31 | 15:25 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010249 | GF2           | 59.83853 | 25.85682  | 85    | 2021-05-31 | 18:56 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010250 | LL3A          | 60.06712 | 26.34670  | 68    | 2021-05-31 | 22:21 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   |        |
| 2021010251 | XV1           | 60.25002 | 27.24697  | 66    | 2021-06-01 | 04:50 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010252 | *CAGEKOTKA    | 60.40098 | 26.95423  | 21    | 2021-06-01 | 08:15 | x   |    |    |    |    |    |     | x      |
| 2021010253 | XIV3          | 60.20318 | 26.19302  | 79    | 2021-06-01 | 13:56 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    |    | x   | x      |
| 2021010254 | LL6A          | 59.91682 | 25.02998  | 73    | 2021-06-01 | 20:03 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010255 | LL7S          | 59.85853 | 24.83823  | 77    | 2021-06-01 | 22:22 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   |        |
| 2021010256 | LL7D          | 59.84647 | 24.83775  | 102   | 2021-06-02 | 01:34 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    |    |     |        |
| 2021010257 | GF1           | 59.70502 | 24.68220  | 84    | 2021-06-02 | 03:18 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   |        |
| 2021010258 | LL9           | 59.70012 | 24.02995  | 66    | 2021-06-02 | 07:00 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010259 | JML           | 59.58185 | 23.62675  | 80    | 2021-06-02 | 10:06 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010260 | F62           | 59.33347 | 23.26343  | 97    | 2021-06-02 | 15:00 | x   | x  |    | x  |    |    | x   | x      |
| 2021010261 | LL12          | 59.48350 | 22.89682  | 83    | 2021-06-02 | 18:26 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010262 | LL11          | 59.58352 | 23.29678  | 67    | 2021-06-02 | 21:10 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   |        |
| 2021010263 | AMN           | 59.69047 | 23.25717  | 55    | 2021-06-03 | 00:03 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   |        |
| 2021010264 | LANGDEN       | 59.77675 | 23.26272  | 57    | 2021-06-03 | 02:53 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   |        |
|            | HANKO         | 59.81390 | 22.95133  |       | 2021-06-03 | 06:09 |     |    |    |    |    |    |     |        |
| 2021010265 | IU7           | 59.81515 | 21.33655  | 92    | 2021-06-03 | 11:54 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  |    | x   | x      |
| 2021010266 | IU5           | 60.05818 | 21.19835  | 89    | 2021-06-03 | 15:46 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010267 | *CAGESM       | 60.14475 | 21.37973  | 27    | 2021-06-03 | 17:57 | x   |    |    |    |    |    |     | x      |
| 2021010268 | IU3           | 60.33332 | 21.11332  | 51    | 2021-06-03 | 20:58 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   |        |
| 2021010269 | IU1           | 60.76683 | 20.84660  | 34    | 2021-06-04 | 01:06 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    |    | x   |        |
| 2021010270 | SR7           | 61.08352 | 20.59645  | 78    | 2021-06-04 | 04:09 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010271 | SR8           | 61.12645 | 20.92998  | 48    | 2021-06-04 | 06:28 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    |    | x   | x      |
| 2021010272 | *CAGEPORI     | 61.49797 | 21.34363  | 23    | 2021-06-04 | 10:12 | x   |    |    |    |    |    |     | x      |
| 2021010273 | MS9           | 61.76682 | 20.53055  | 101   | 2021-06-04 | 14:28 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010274 | F26           | 61.98352 | 20.06307  | 138   | 2021-06-04 | 17:41 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010275 | US5B          | 62.58620 | 19.96898  | 222   | 2021-06-04 | 23:01 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   |        |
| 2021010276 | US6B          | 62.60012 | 20.26297  | 82    | 2021-06-05 | 04:53 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010277 | FM12A8        | 62.64313 | 20.47263  | 38    | 2021-06-05 | 07:03 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010278 | US7           | 62.60022 | 20.82972  | 28    | 2021-06-05 | 09:12 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    |    | x   | x      |
| 2021010279 | F16           | 63.51677 | 21.06298  | 48    | 2021-06-05 | 17:12 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010280 | F15           | 63.51687 | 21.51303  | 48    | 2021-06-05 | 20:02 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010281 | BO3           | 64.30202 | 22.34325  | 110   | 2021-06-06 | 01:58 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010282 | **AALTO_PM    | 64.68462 | 23.23987  | 80    | 2021-06-06 | 08:19 |     |    |    |    |    |    |     |        |
| 2021010283 | RR6           | 64.80033 | 23.47947  | 86    | 2021-06-06 | 09:55 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010284 | RR7           | 64.73365 | 23.81282  | 39    | 2021-06-06 | 12:28 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    |    | x   | x      |
| 2021010285 | HIEKKA2       | 65.04998 | 23.83322  | 22    | 2021-06-06 | 15:23 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010286 | CVI           | 65.23365 | 23.56280  | 69    | 2021-06-06 | 17:43 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010287 | F2            | 65.38363 | 23.46272  | 83    | 2021-06-06 | 20:48 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  |    | x   |        |
| 2021010288 | CV            | 65.00035 | 23.24613  | 86    | 2021-06-07 | 00:42 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010289 | ***ARGO_UP    | 65.07497 | 22.30915  | 43    | 2021-06-07 | 05:20 |     |    |    |    |    |    |     | x      |
| 2021010290 | RR3           | 64.93370 | 22.34597  | 93    | 2021-06-07 | 06:31 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010291 | F13           | 63.78348 | 21.47950  | 64    | 2021-06-07 | 14:58 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    |    | x   | x      |
| 2021010292 | F18           | 63.31438 | 20.27270  | 103   | 2021-06-07 | 20:25 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   |        |
| 2021010293 | US3           | 62.75883 | 19.19577  | 177   | 2021-06-08 | 02:43 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010294 | MS3           | 62.13453 | 18.16297  | 84    | 2021-06-08 | 09:05 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010295 | MS6           | 61.98363 | 19.16345  | 72    | 2021-06-08 | 13:43 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010296 | SR5           | 61.08333 | 19.57967  | 125   | 2021-06-08 | 20:51 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  |     |        |
| 2021010297 | SR3           | 61.18330 | 18.23007  | 73    | 2021-06-09 | 04:24 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010298 | F33           | 60.53320 | 18.93763  | 135   | 2021-06-09 | 10:34 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    |    | x   | x      |
| 2021010299 | F64           | 60.18895 | 19.14253  | 286   | 2021-06-09 | 15:01 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010300 | F69           | 59.78337 | 19.93008  | 192   | 2021-06-09 | 22:33 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   |        |
| 2021010301 | LL19          | 58.88068 | 20.31082  | 166   | 2021-06-10 | 07:40 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010302 | LL17          | 59.03335 | 21.07957  | 172   | 2021-06-10 | 11:58 | x   | x  | x  | x  | x  | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010303 | LL15          | 59.18337 | 21.74677  | 131   | 2021-06-10 | 17:42 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    | x  | x   | x      |
| 2021010304 | XII3          | 59.88083 | 23.98563  | 35    | 2021-06-11 | 03:26 | x   | x  | x  | x  |    |    | x   | x      |
|            | HELSINKI      | 60.16182 | 24.90158  |       | 2021-06-11 | 09:12 |     |    |    |    |    |    |     |        |

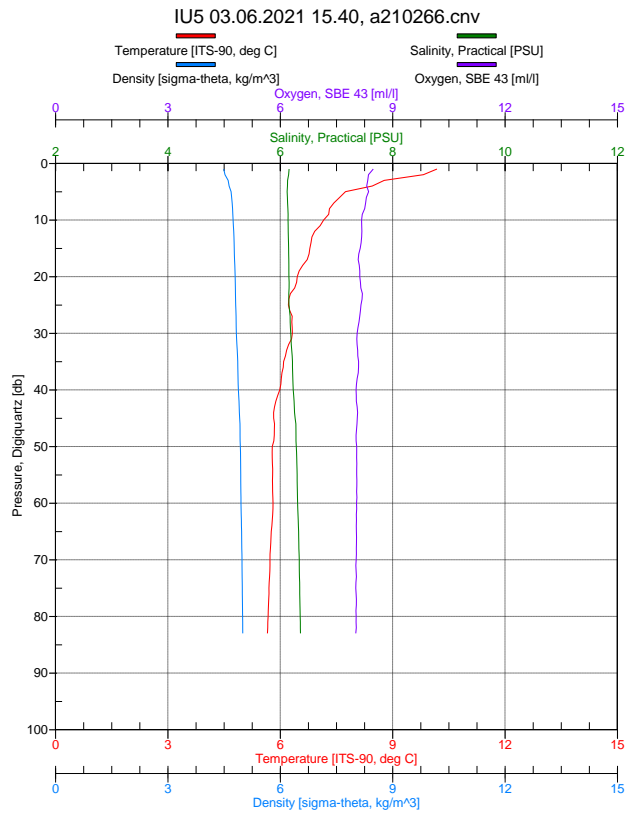
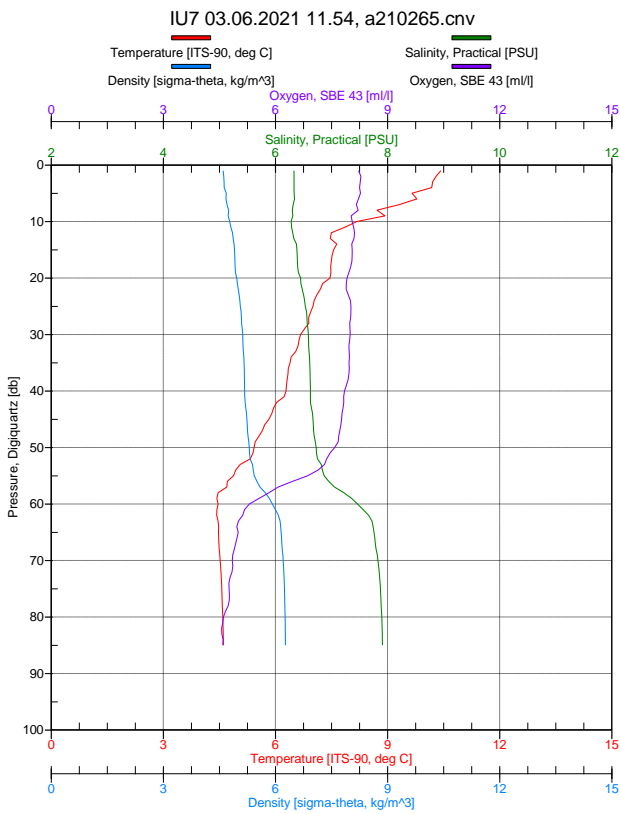
Parameters: ox = oxygen, nu = nutrients, zo = zooplankton, be = benthos, chl = chlorophyll a. \* = mussel cage deployment, \*\* = wave buoy installation, \*\*\* = retrieval of drifting float

## Annex 2. CTD profiles, including oxygen profiles, from selected stations.

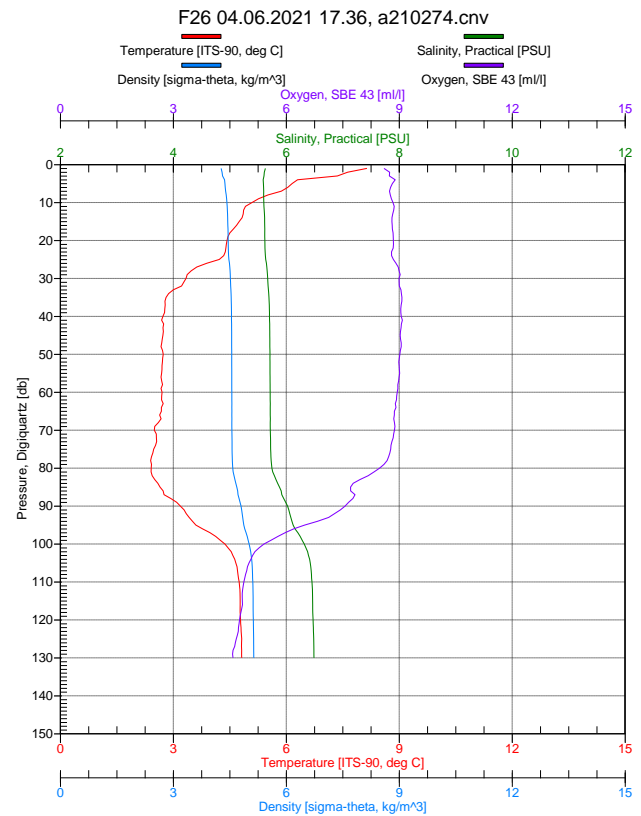
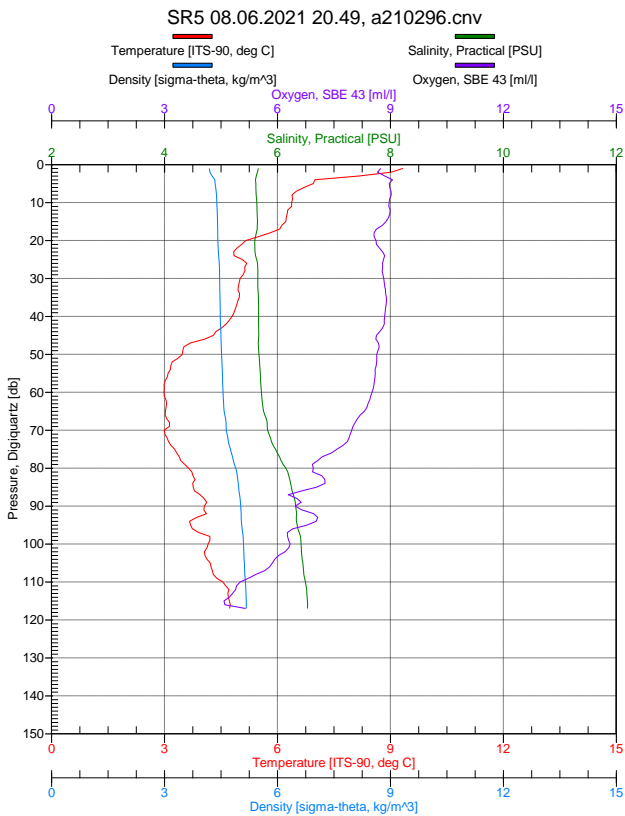
### Gulf of Finland (stations XVI, LL5, LL7D and JML)



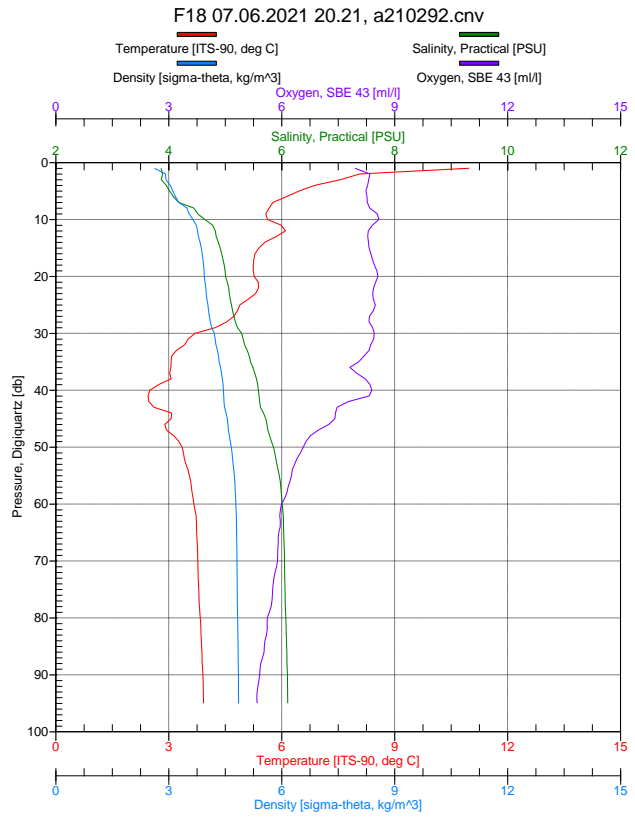
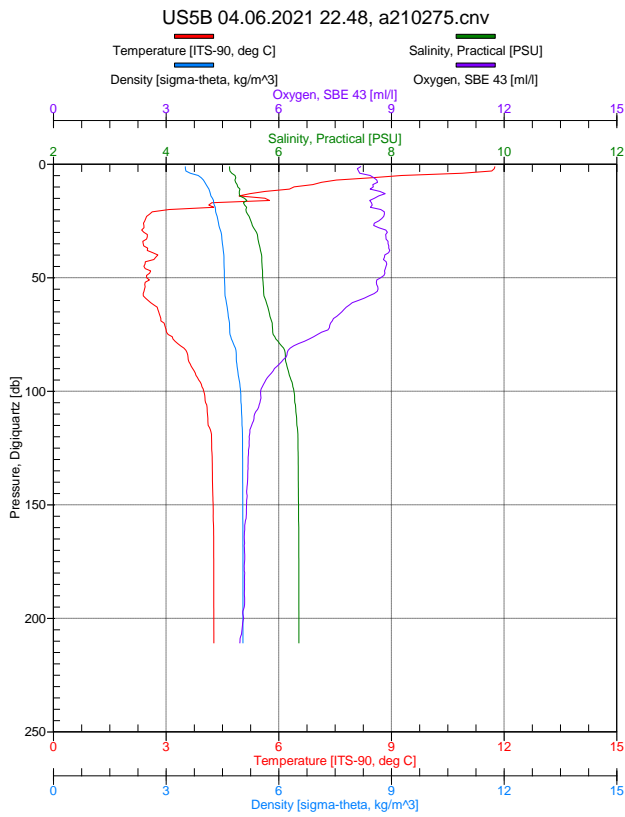
## Archipelago Sea (stations IU7 and IU5)



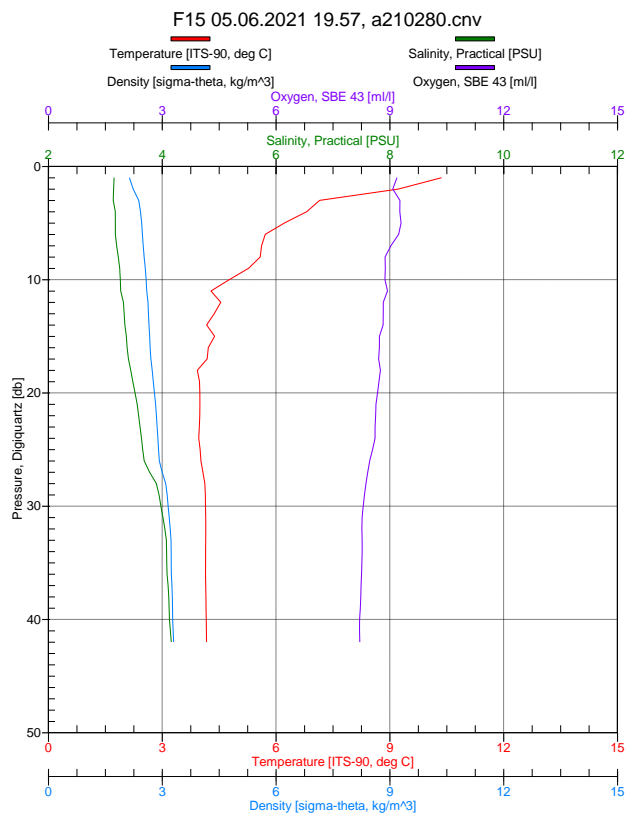
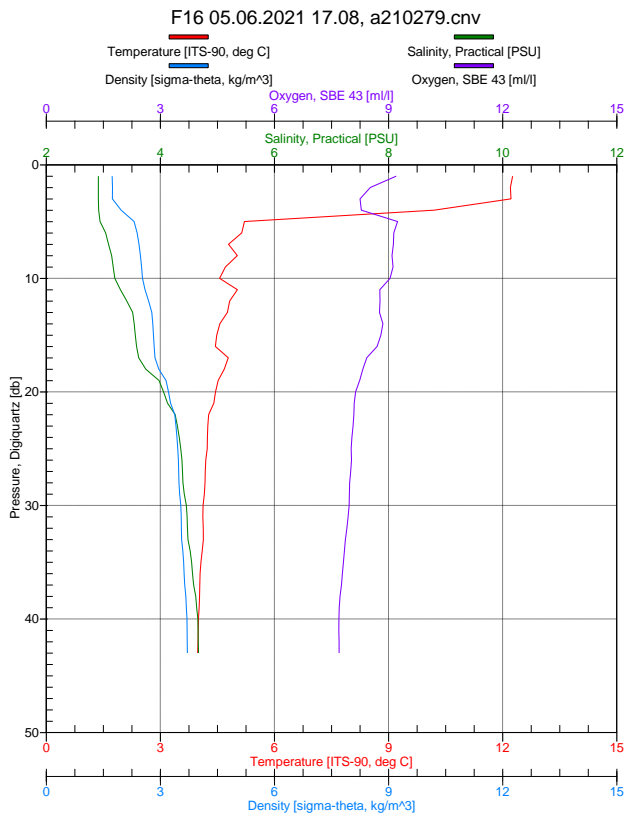
## Bothnian Sea (stations SR5, F26, US5B and F18)





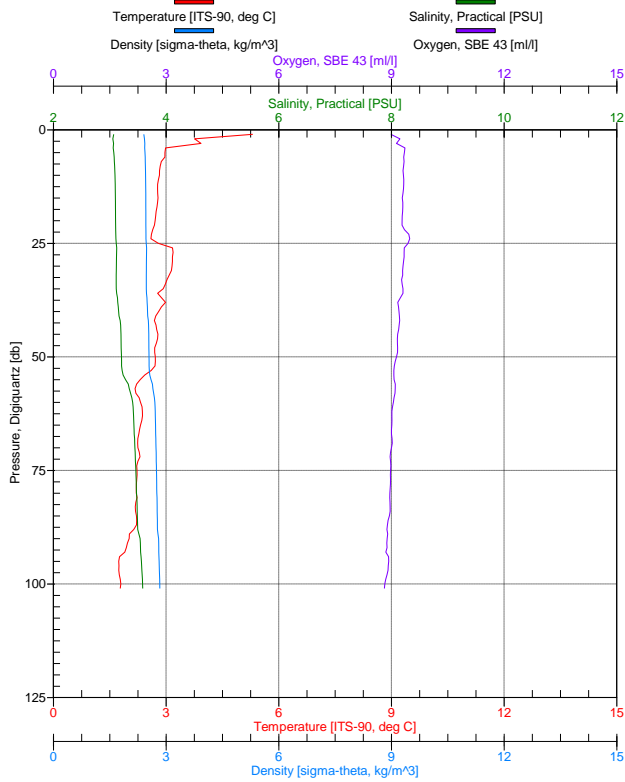


### The Quark (stations F16 and F15)

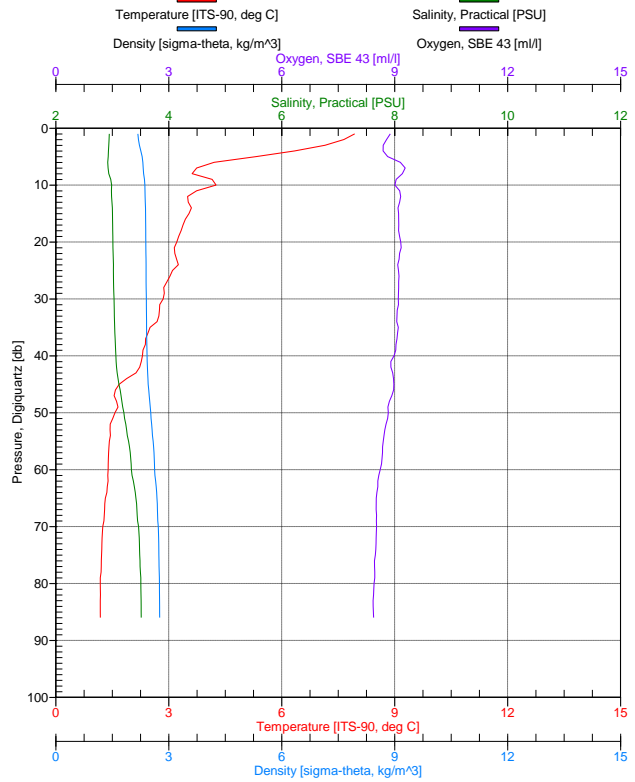


# Bothnian Bay (BO3, RR3, RR6 and CV)

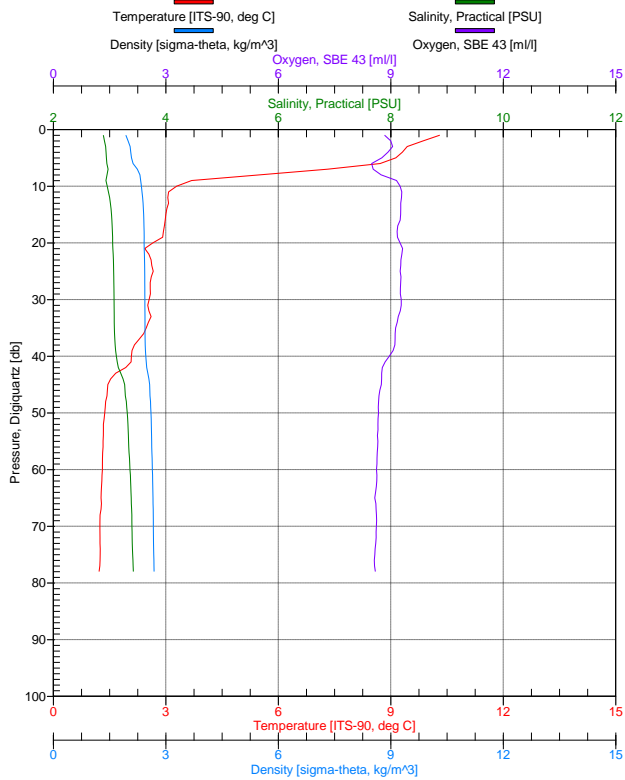
BO3 06.06.2021 01.58, a210281.cnv



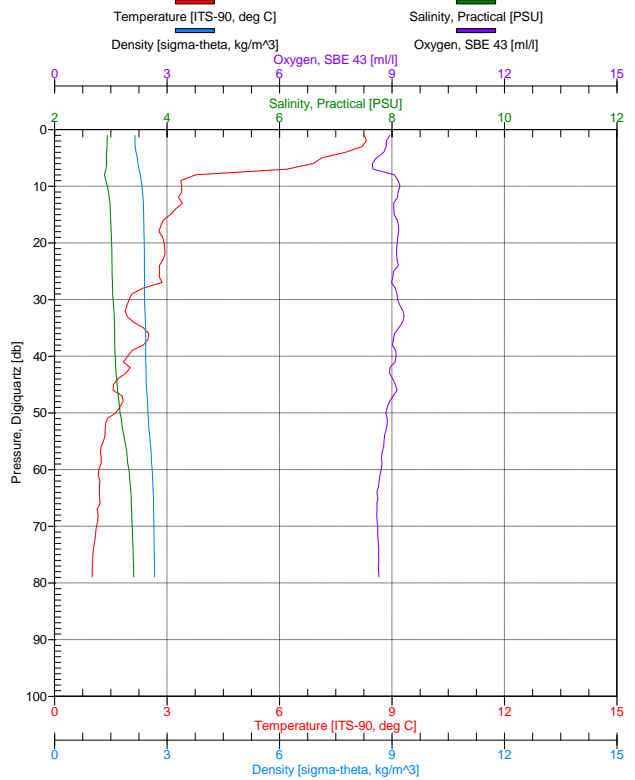
RR3 07.06.2021 06.32, a210290.cnv



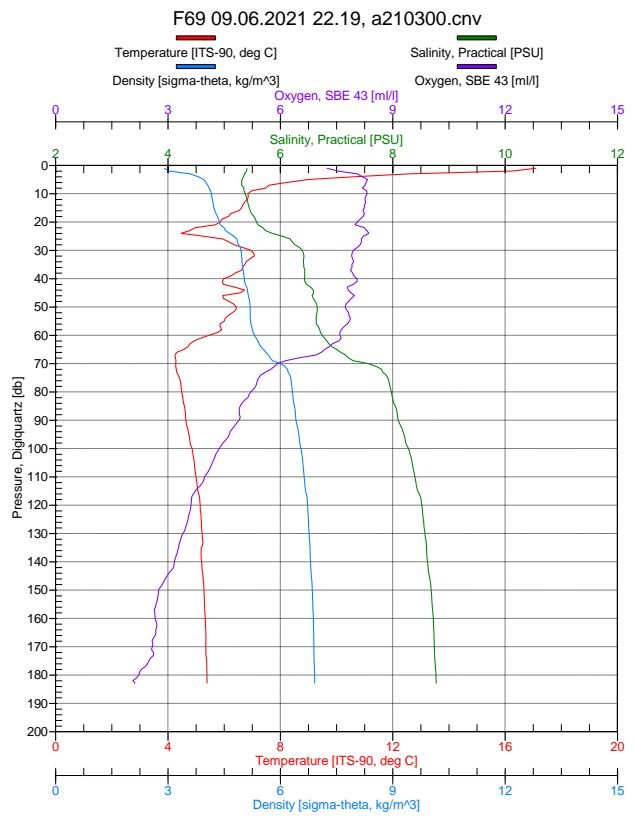
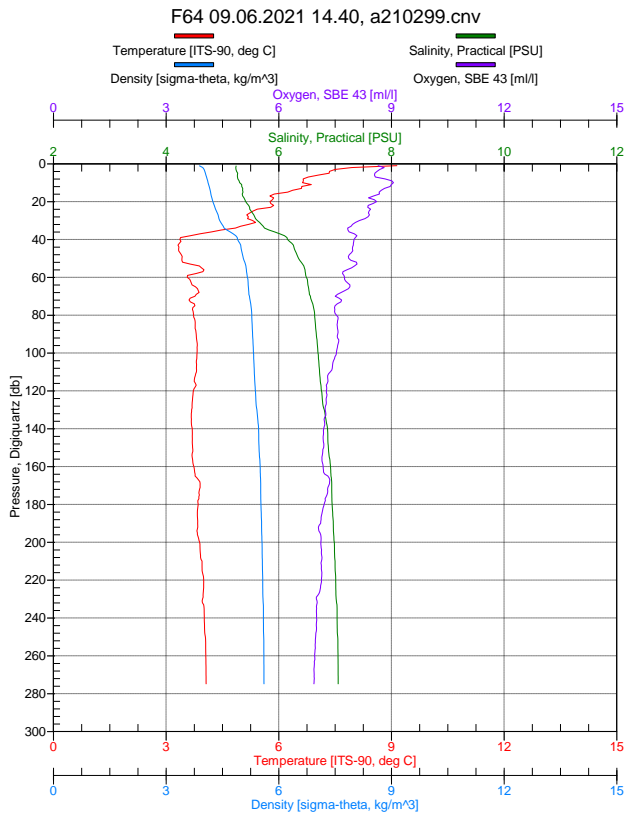
RR6 06.06.2021 09.55, a210283.cnv



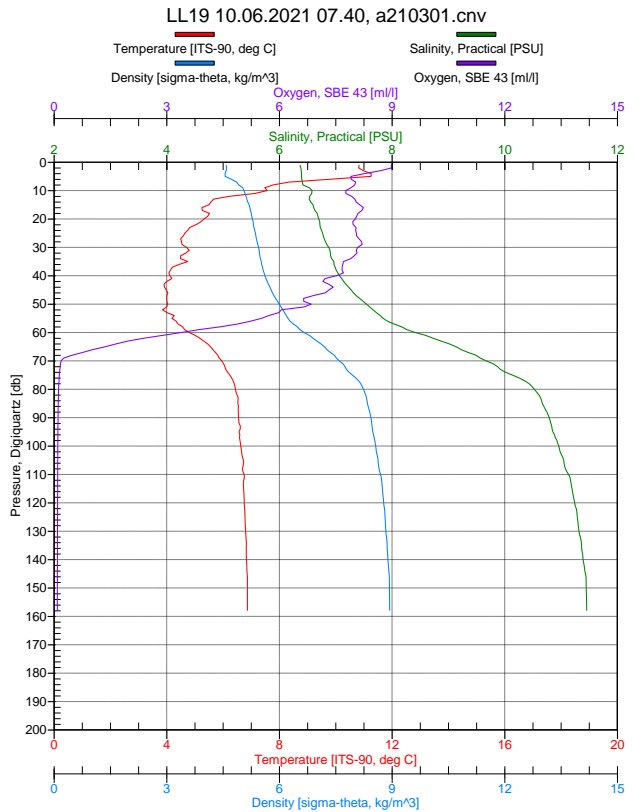
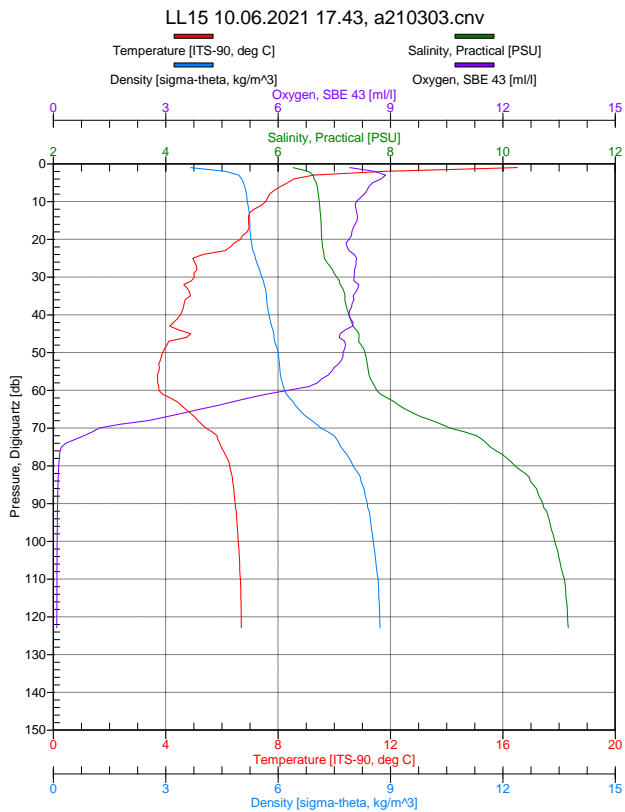
CV 07.06.2021 00.37, a210288.cnv



## Åland Sea (stations F64 and F69)

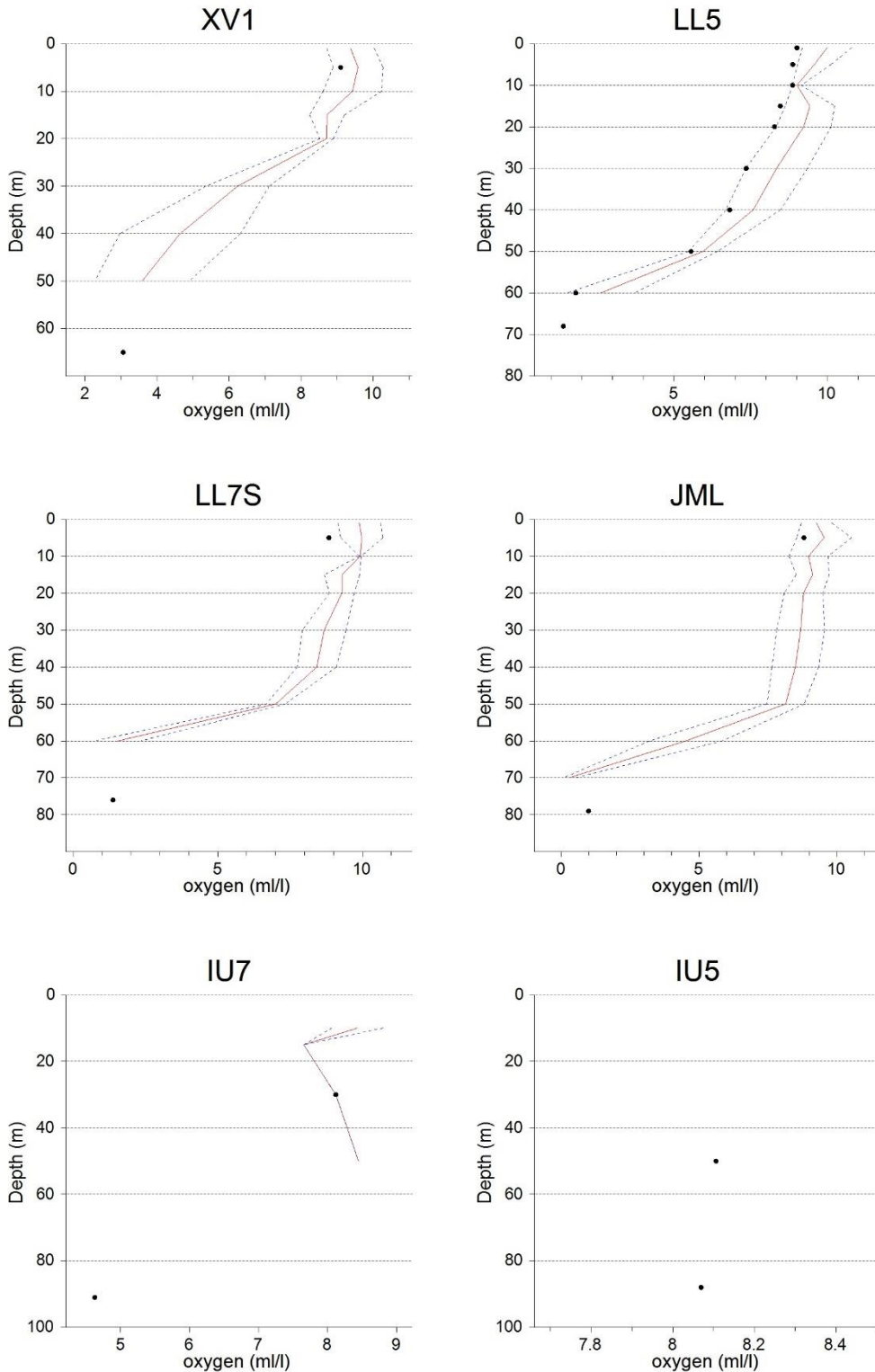


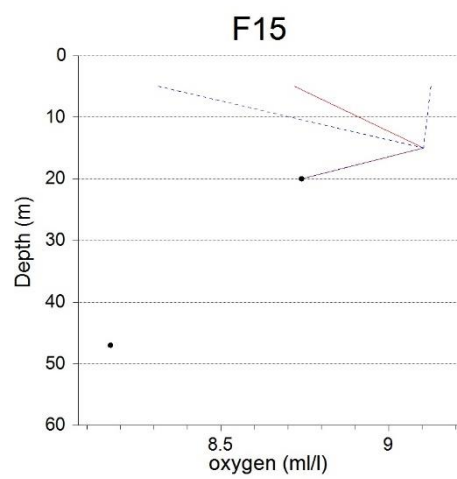
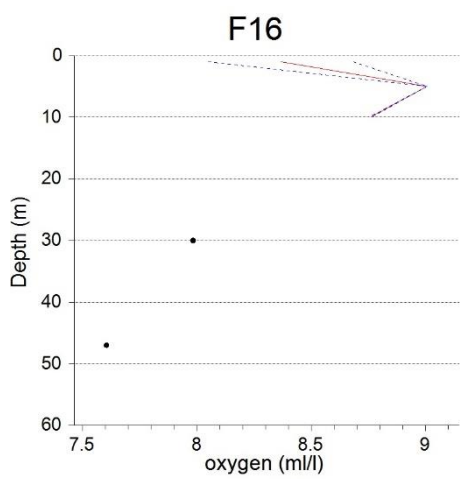
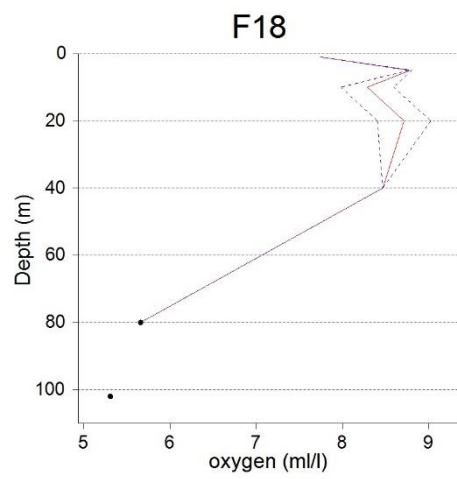
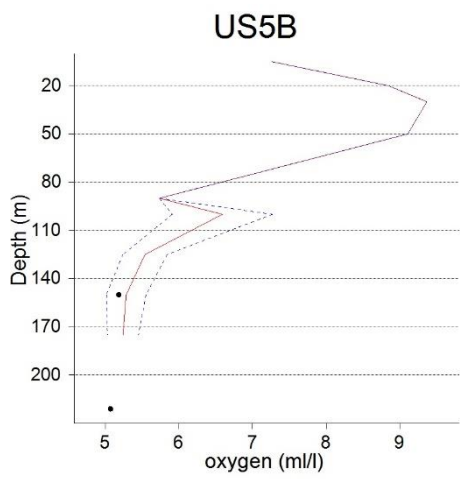
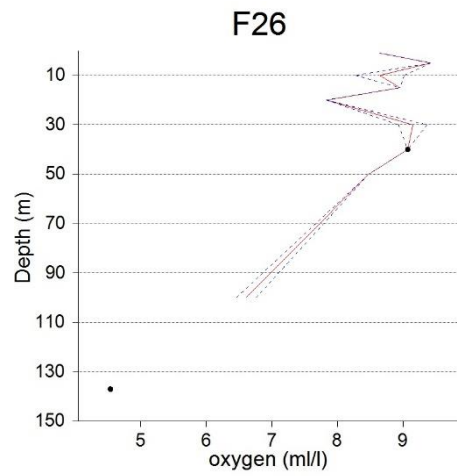
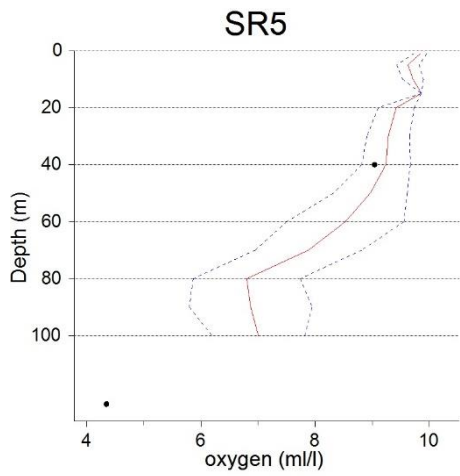
## Northern Baltic Proper (stations LL15 and LL19)



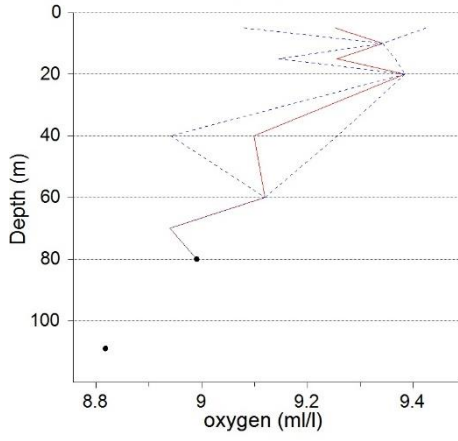
Annex 3. Selected variables at the stations XV1, LL5, LL7S, JML, IU7, IU5, SR5, F26, US5B, F18, F16, F15, BO3, RR3, RR6, CV, F64, F69, LL15 and LL19 measured at the standard sampling depths (black dots). Mean (red solid line) and standard deviation (blue dotted lines) represent the data collected at the same time of season (May-June) since the year 2000.

Oxygen:

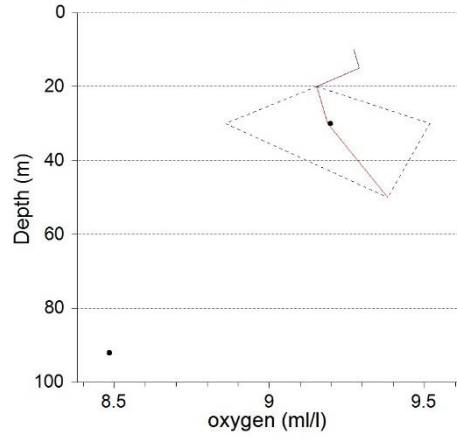




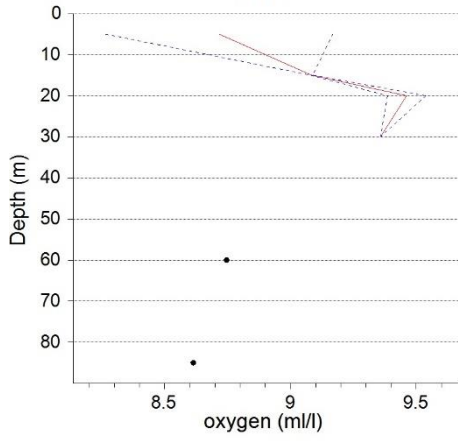
**BO3**



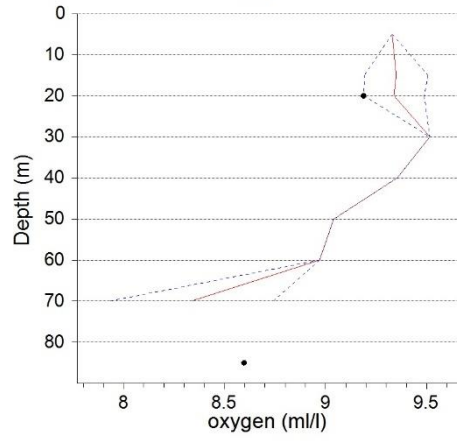
**RR3**



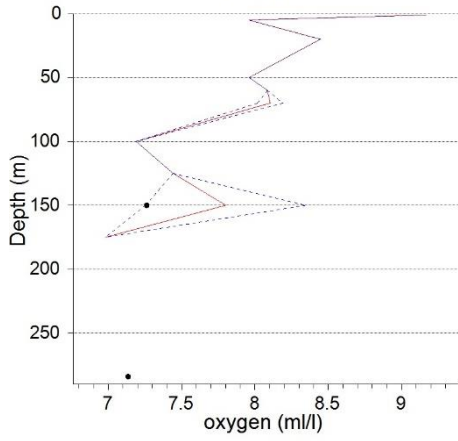
**RR6**



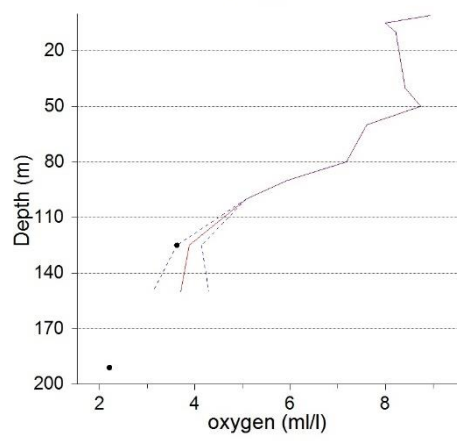
**CV**

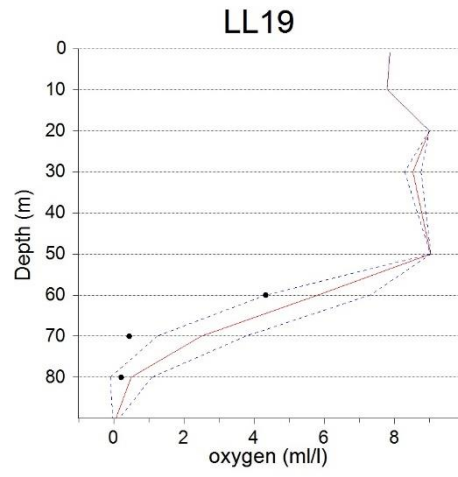
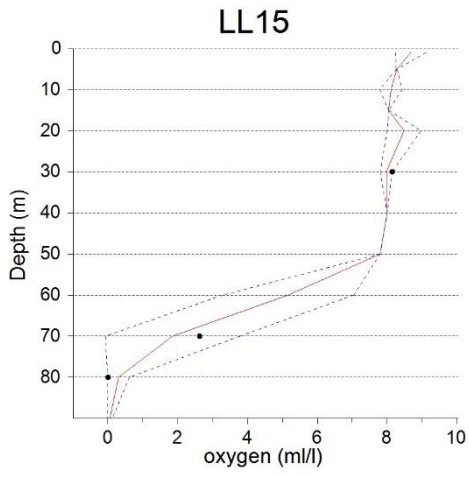


**F64**

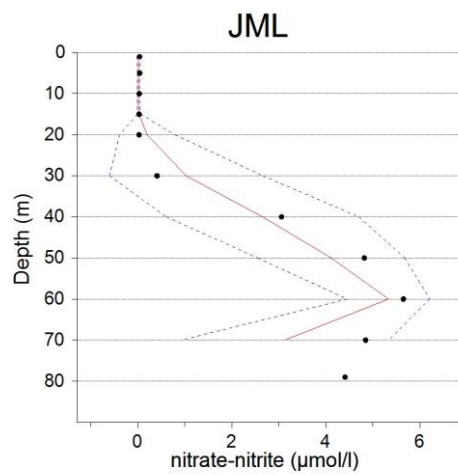
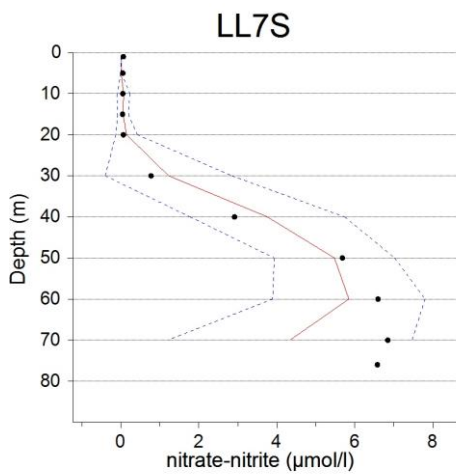
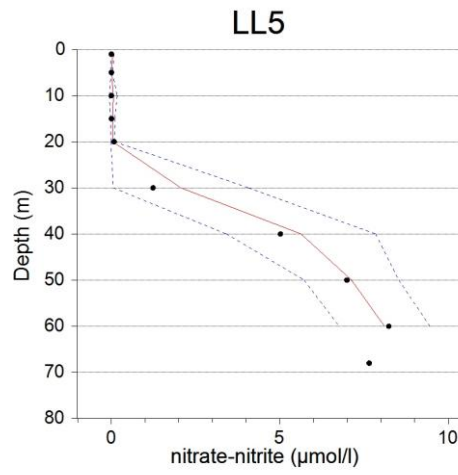
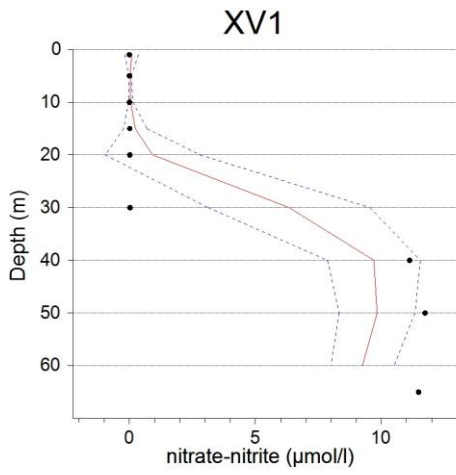


**F69**

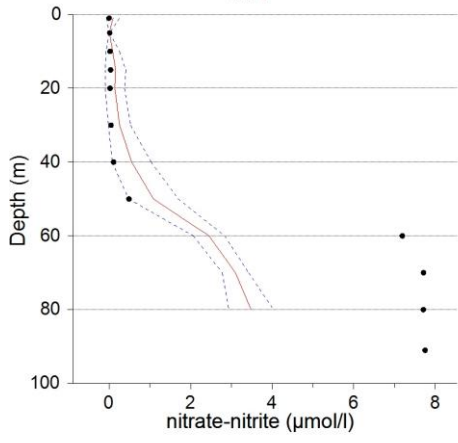




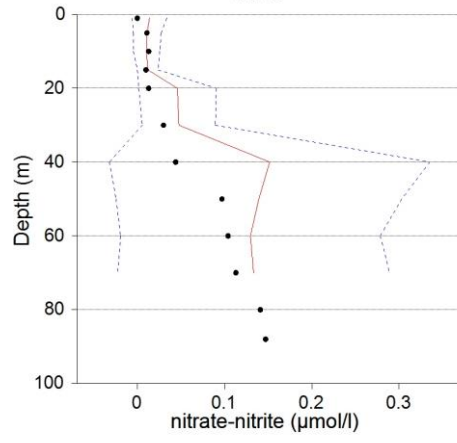
## Nitrate-nitrite:



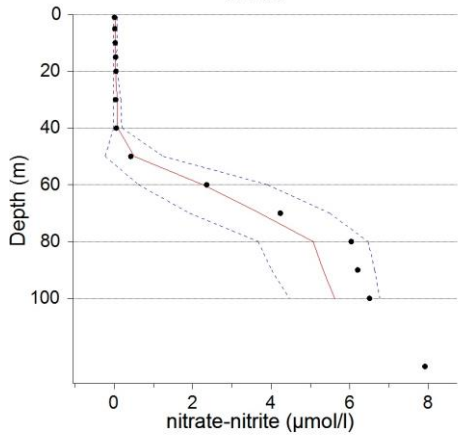
IU7



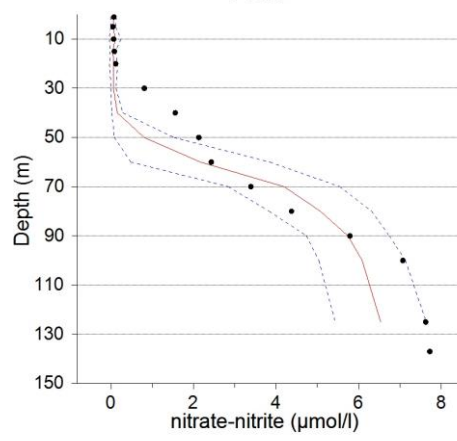
IU5



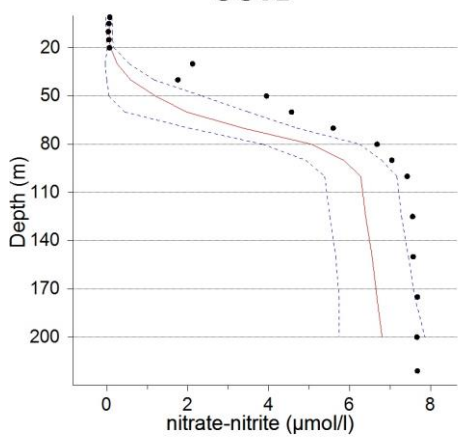
SR5



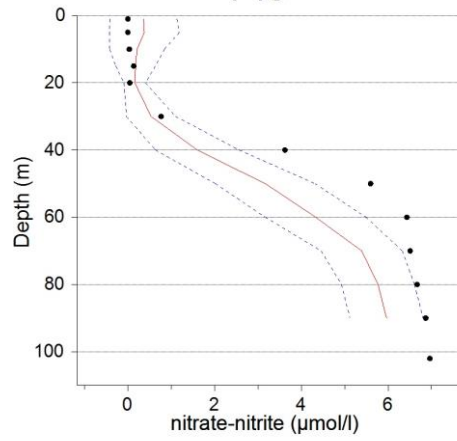
F26



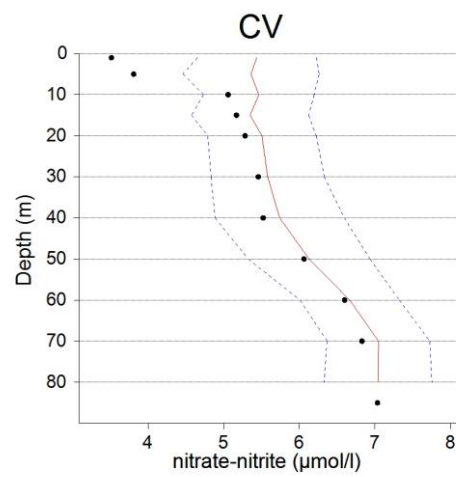
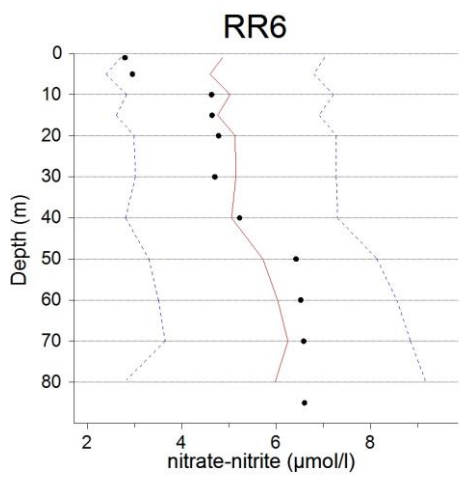
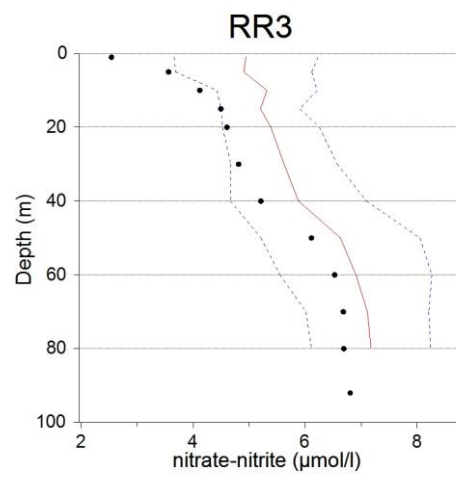
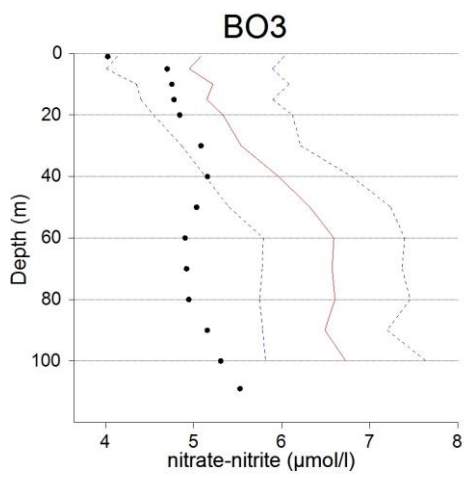
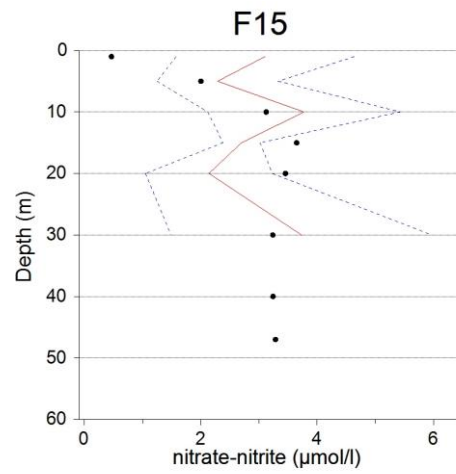
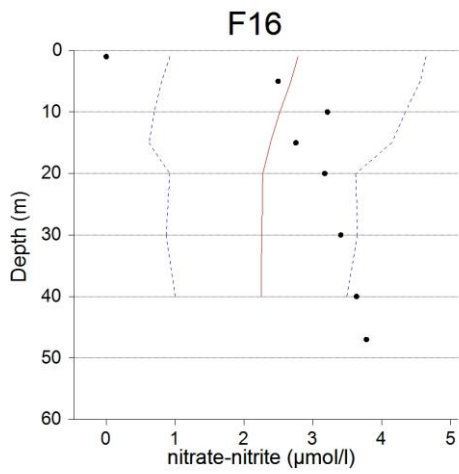
US5B

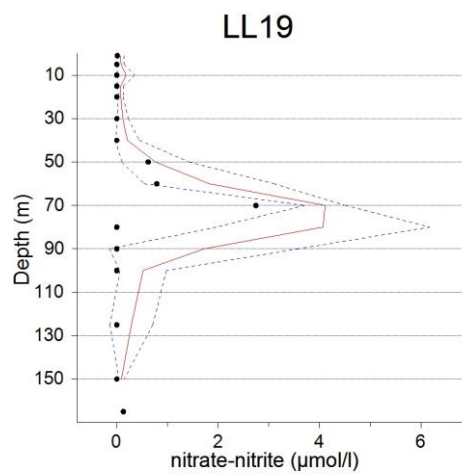
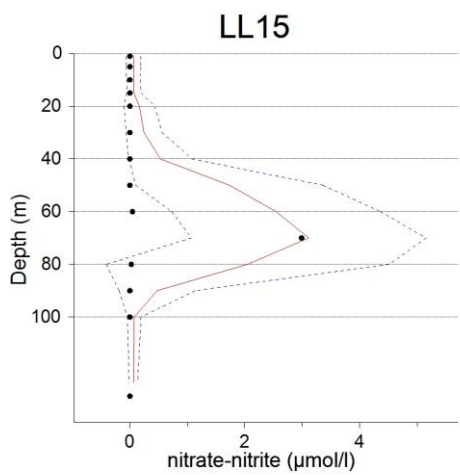
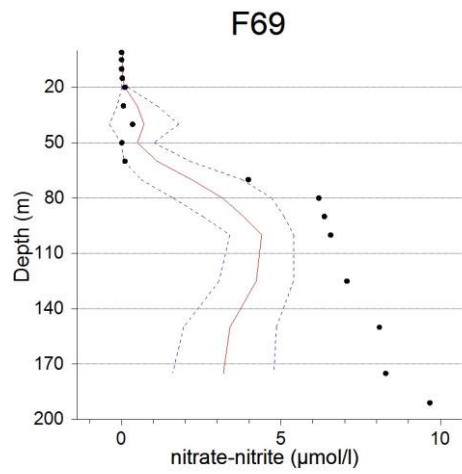
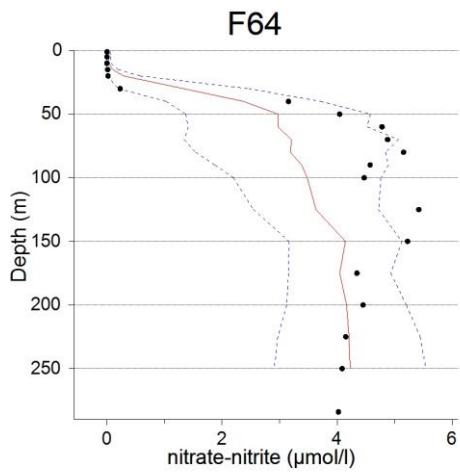


F18

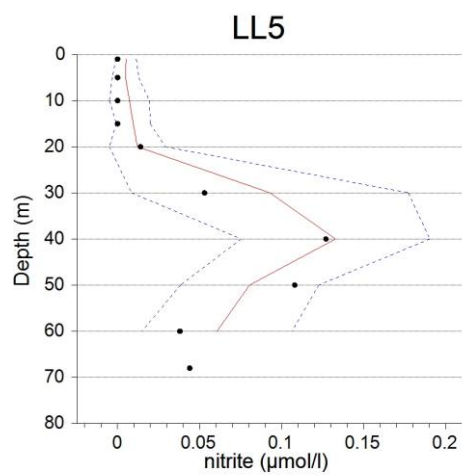
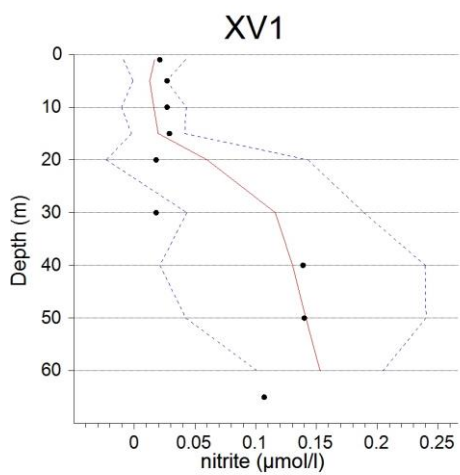




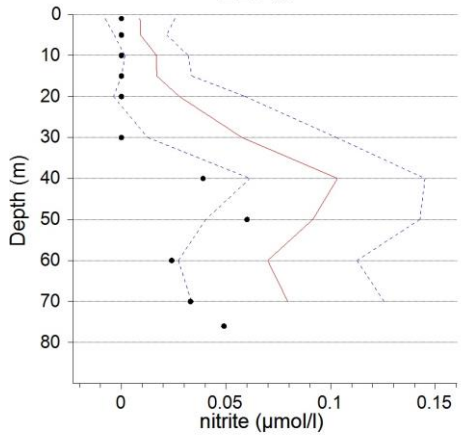




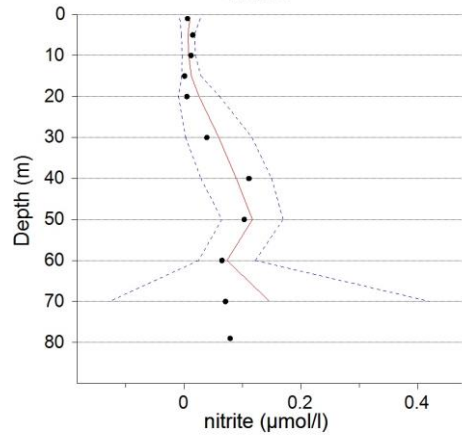
## Nitrite:



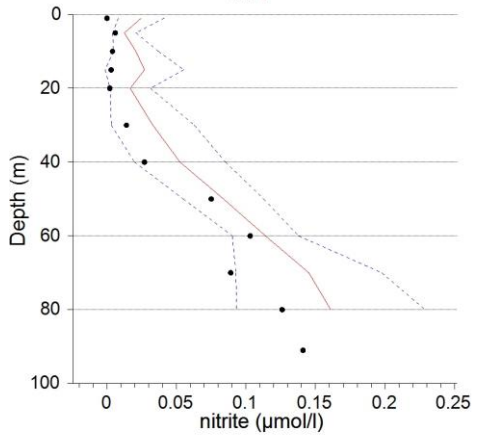
LL7S



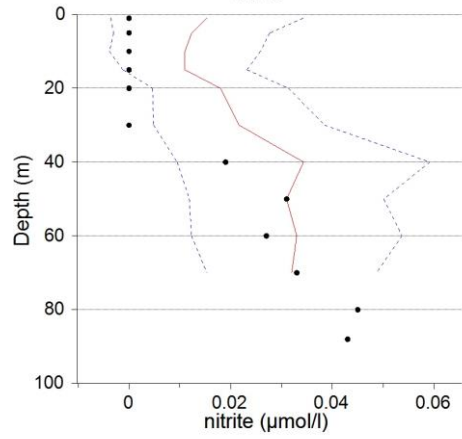
JML



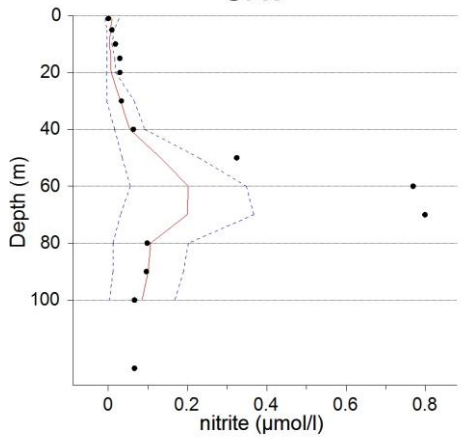
IU7



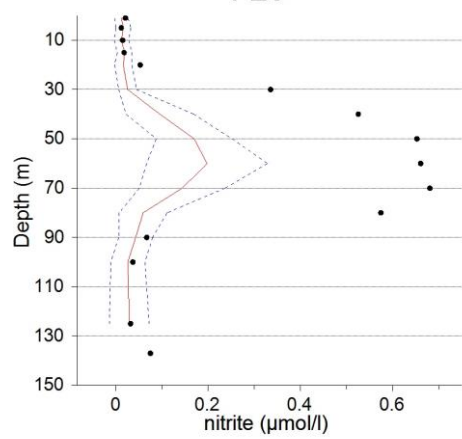
IU5



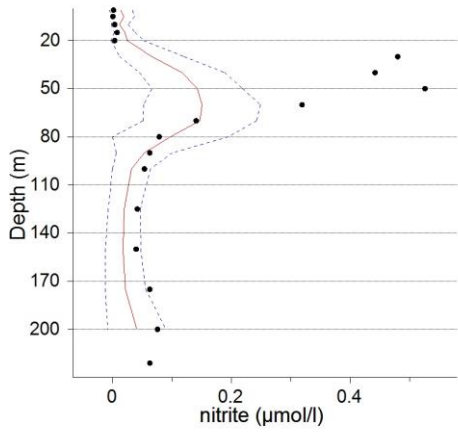
SR5



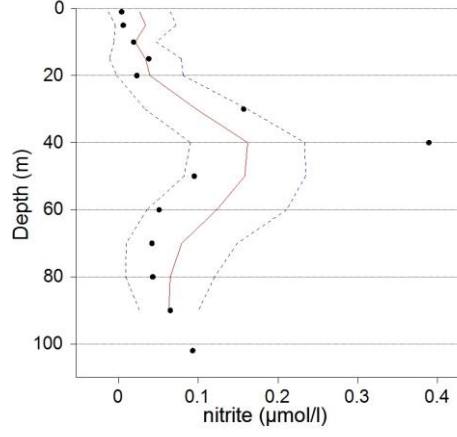
F26



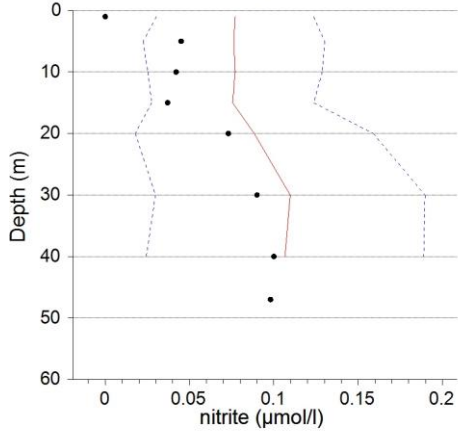
US5B



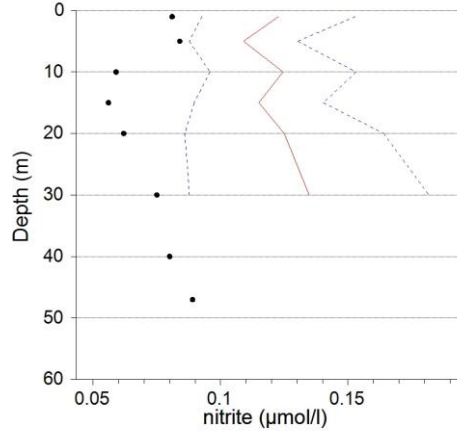
F18



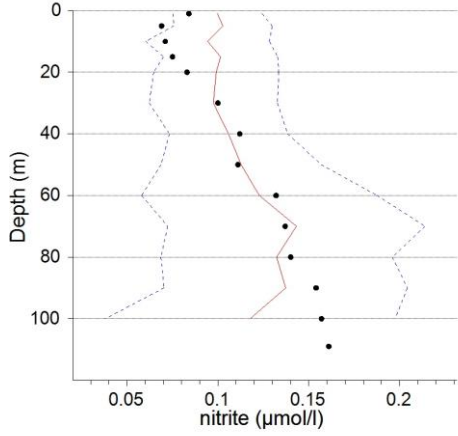
F16



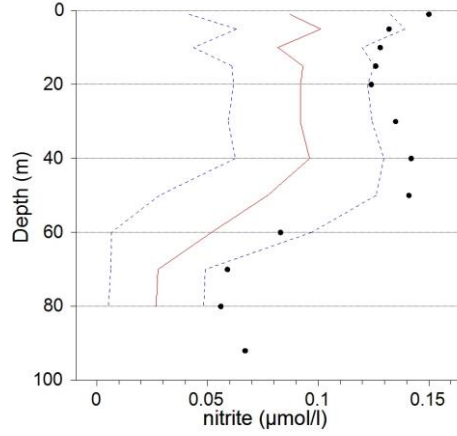
F15

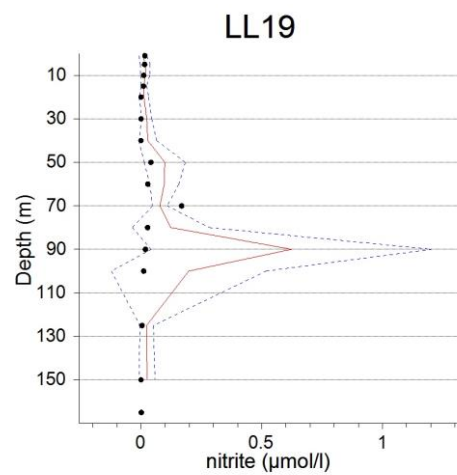
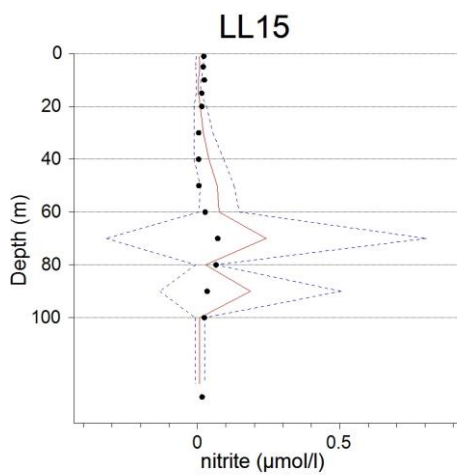
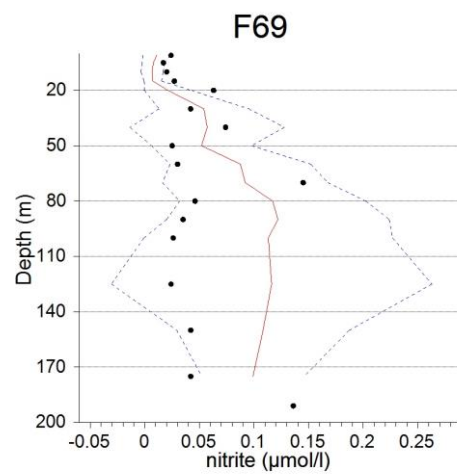
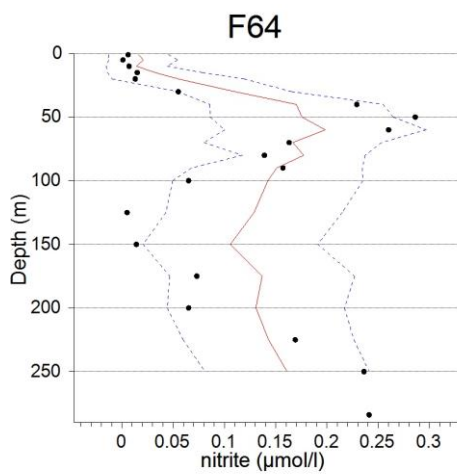
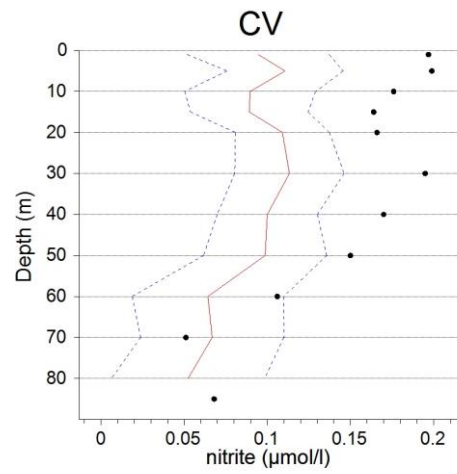
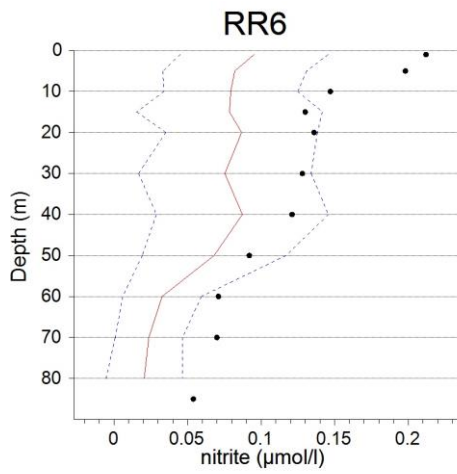


BO3

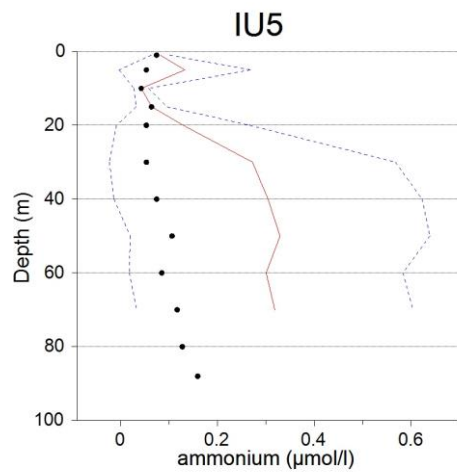
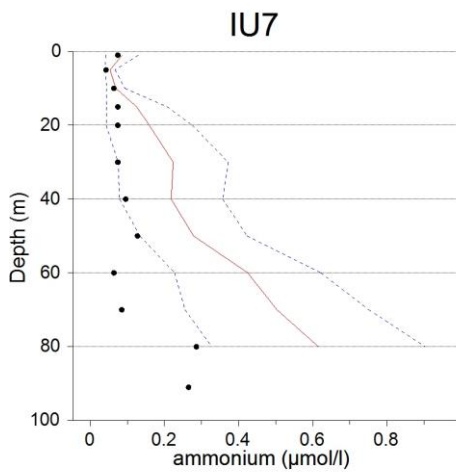
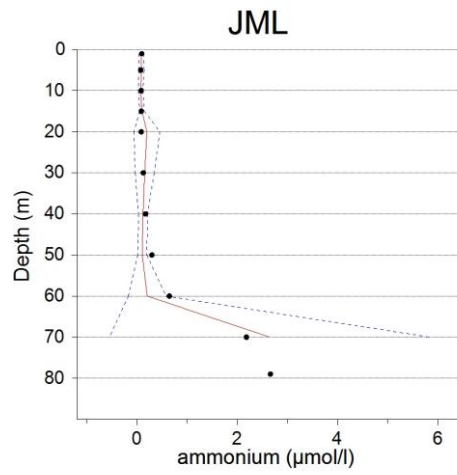
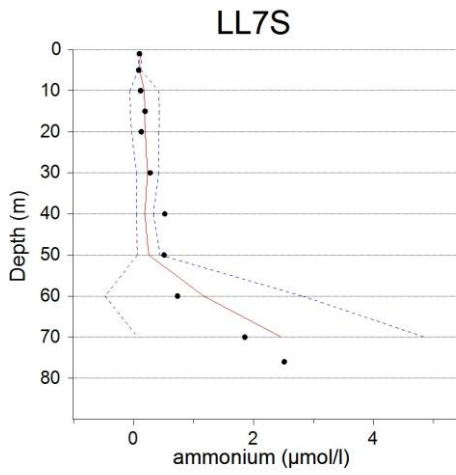
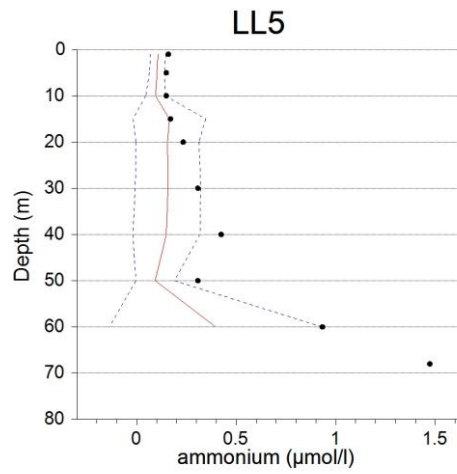
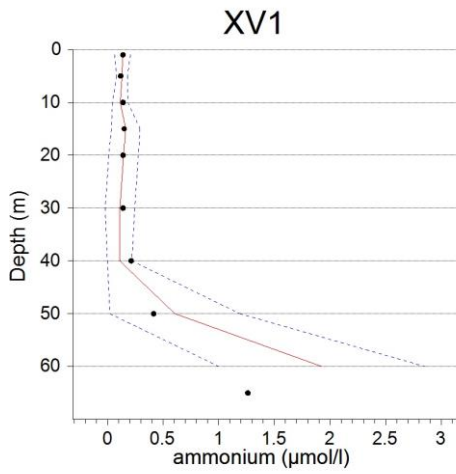


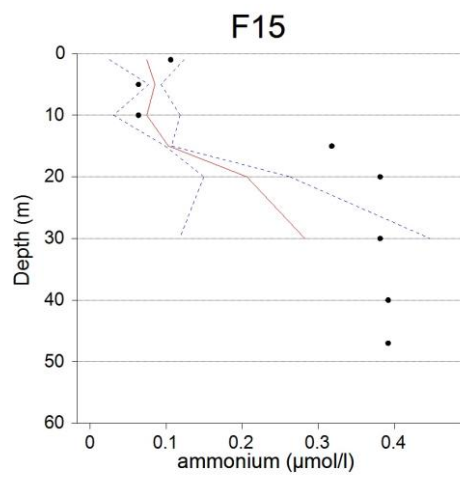
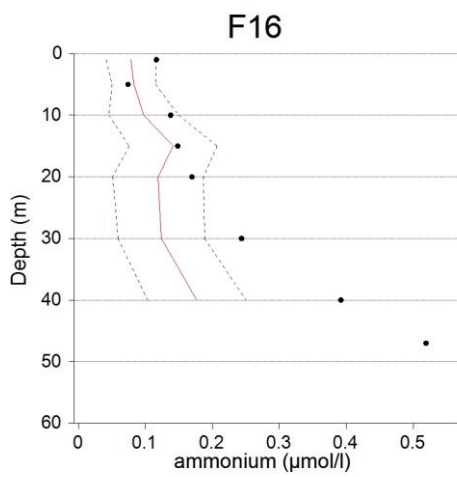
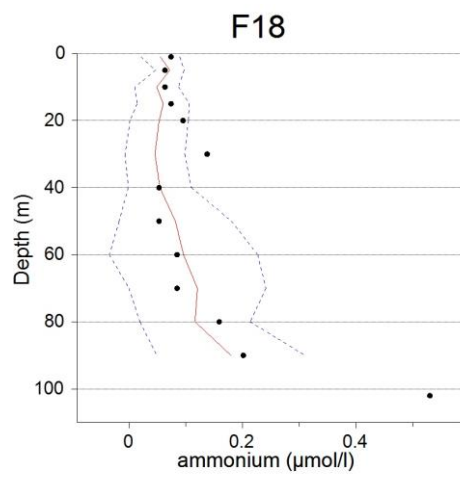
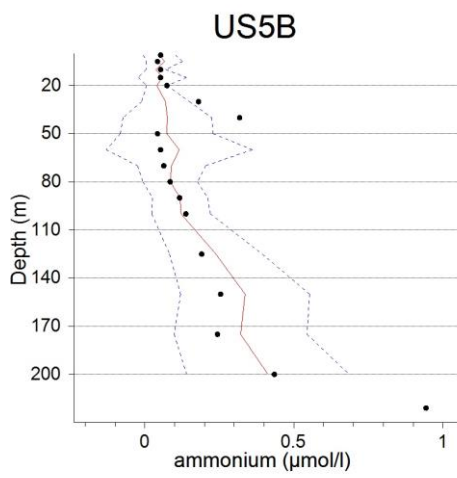
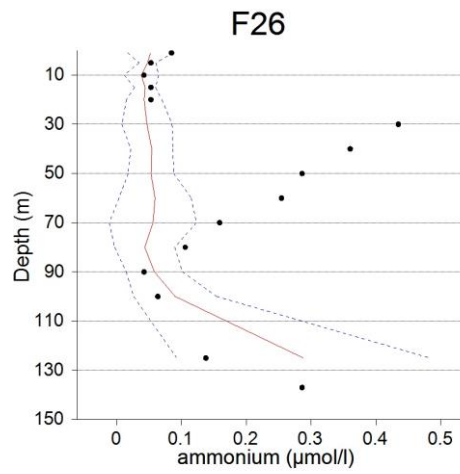
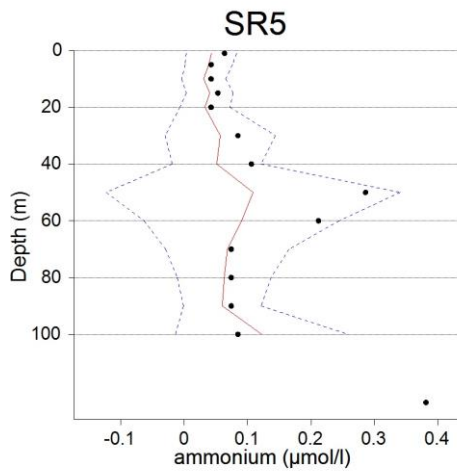
RR3

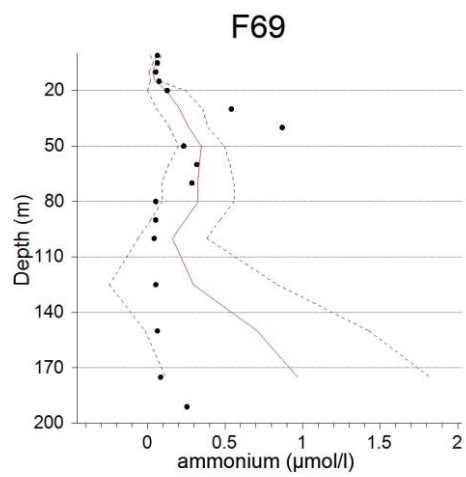
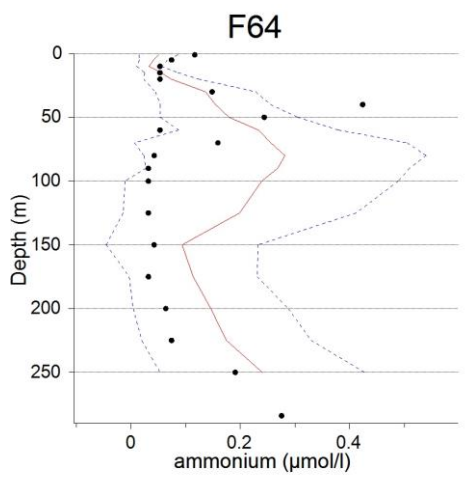
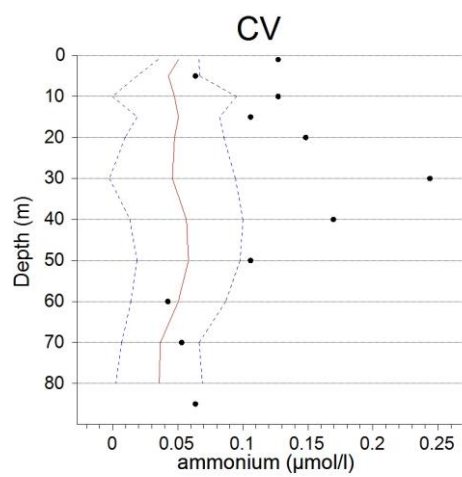
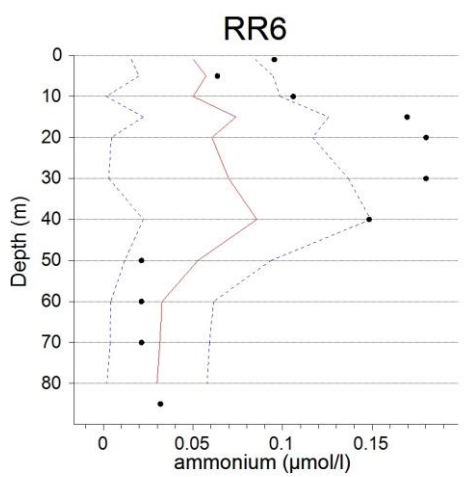
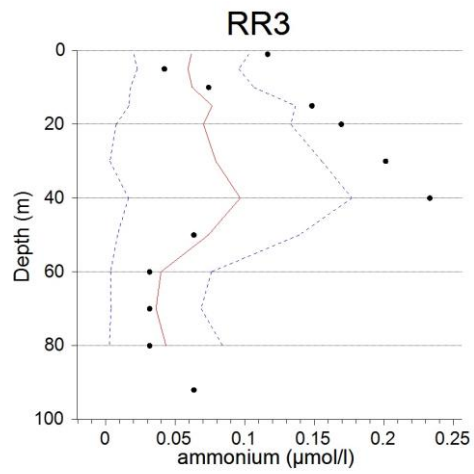
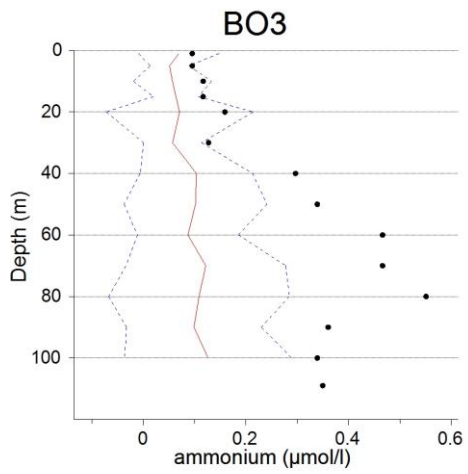




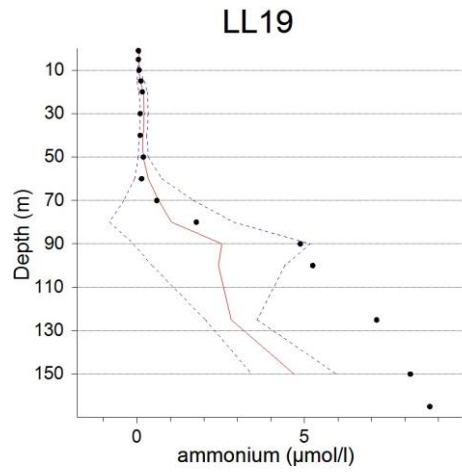
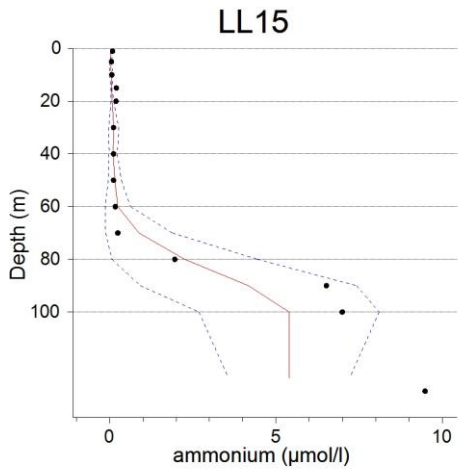
Ammonium:



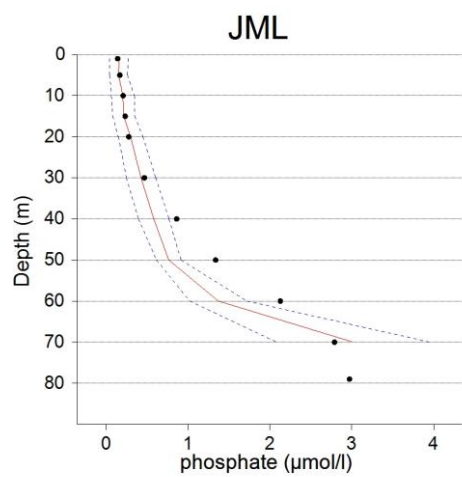
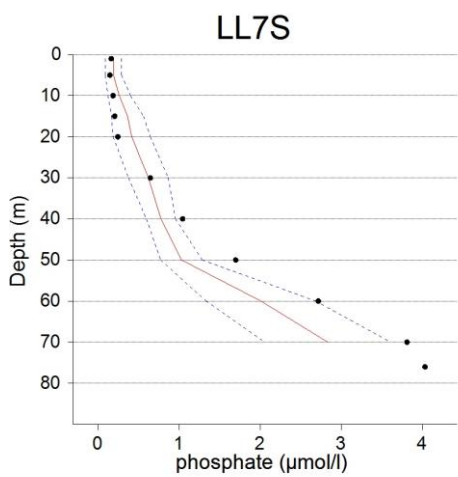
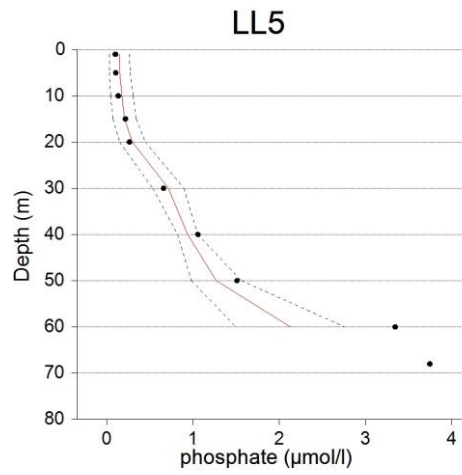
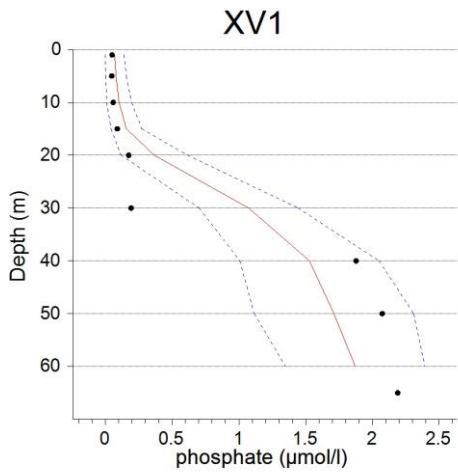


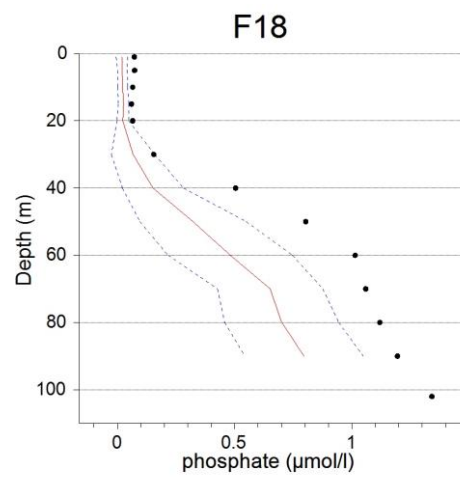
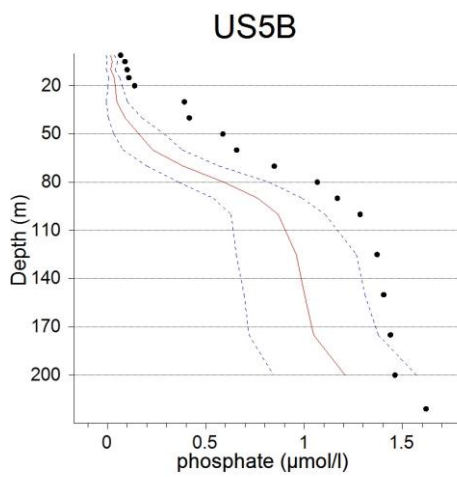
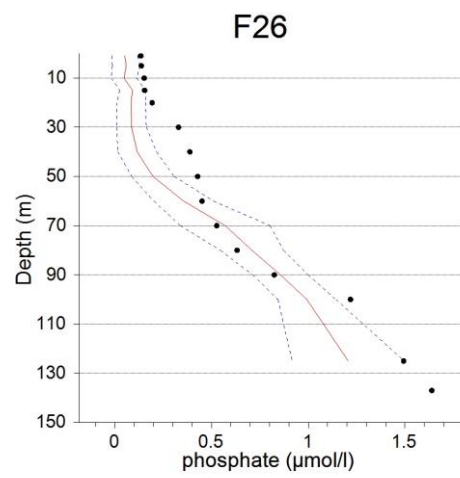
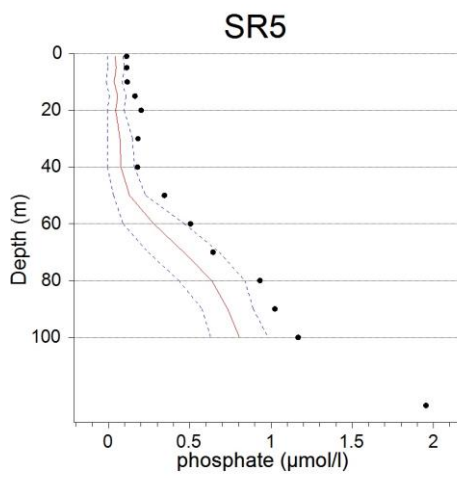
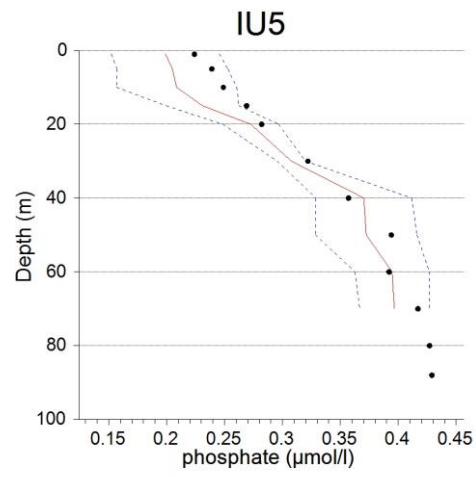
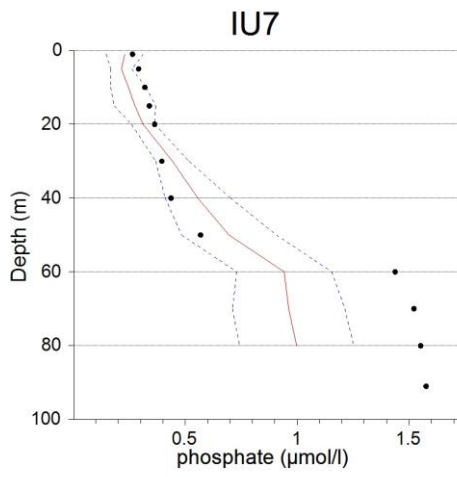


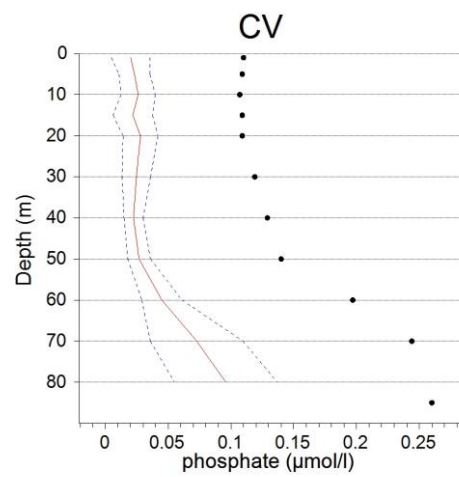
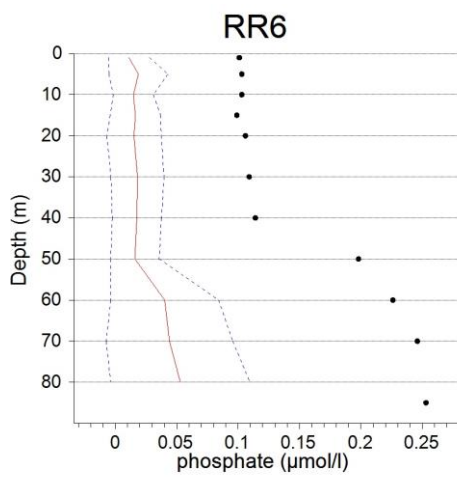
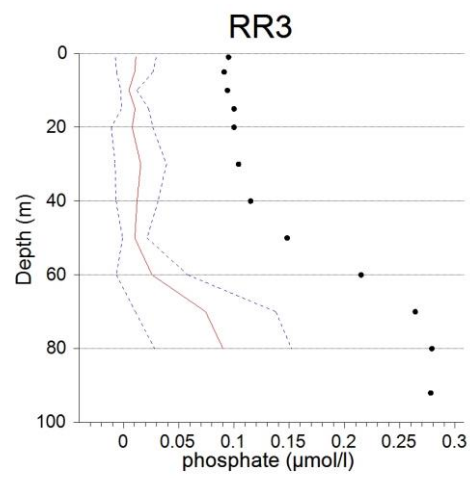
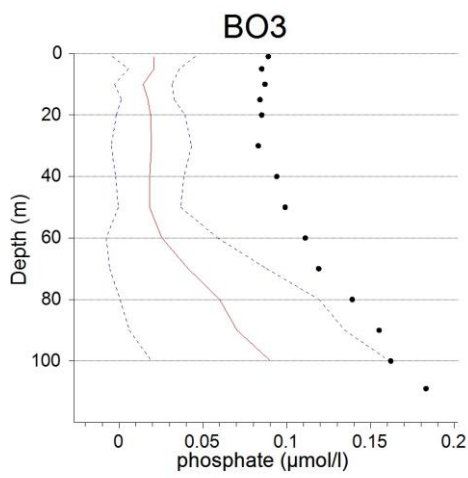
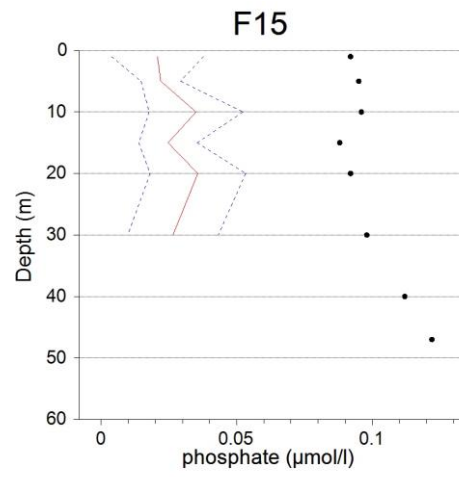
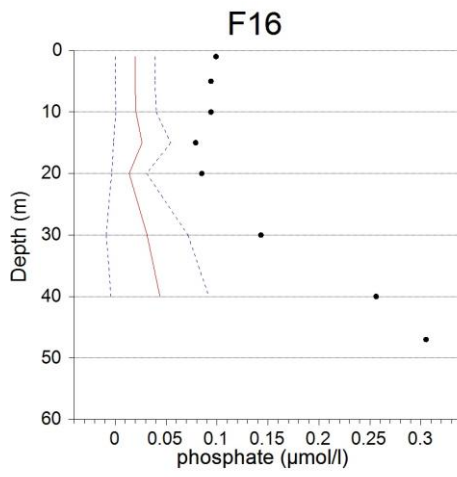


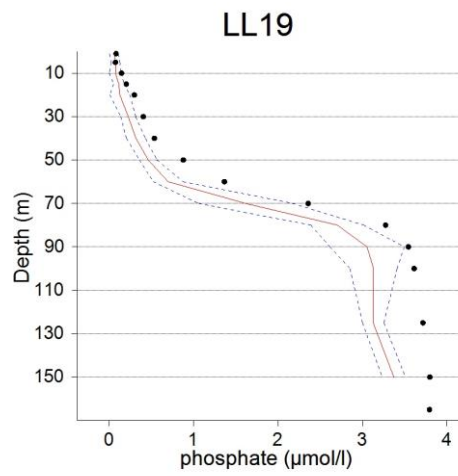
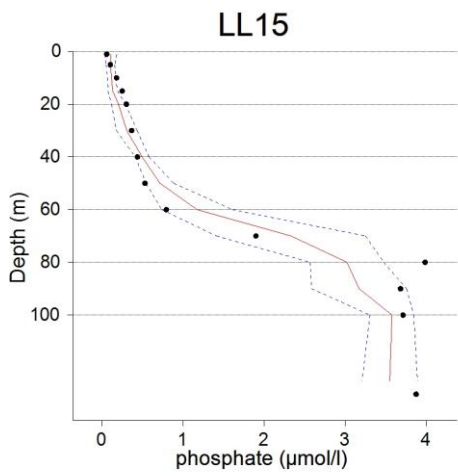
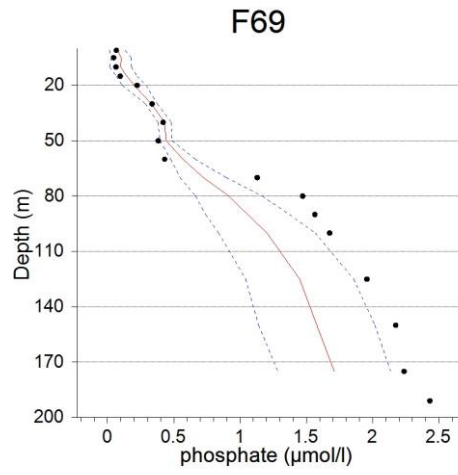
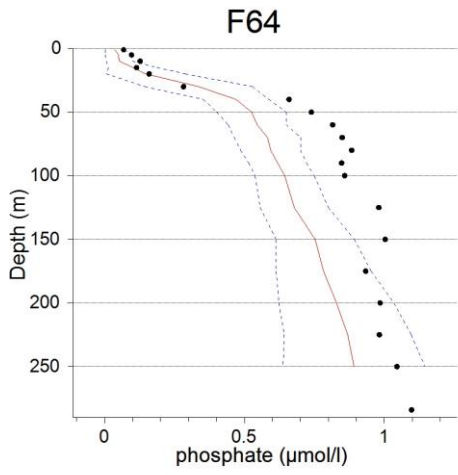


Phosphate:

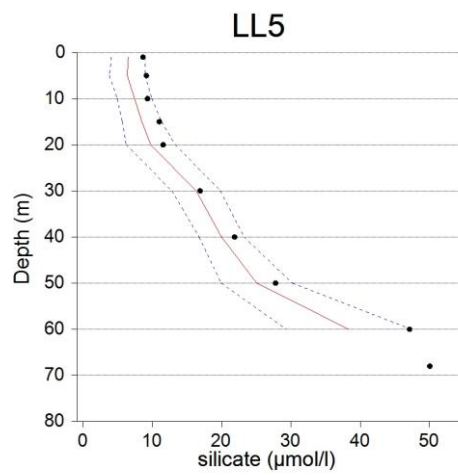
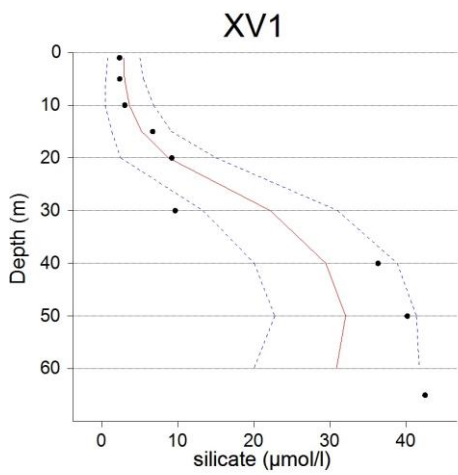


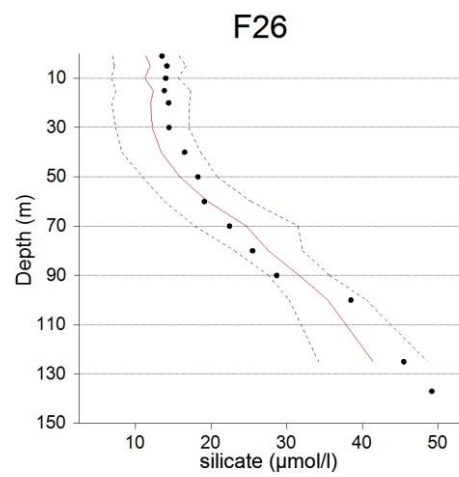
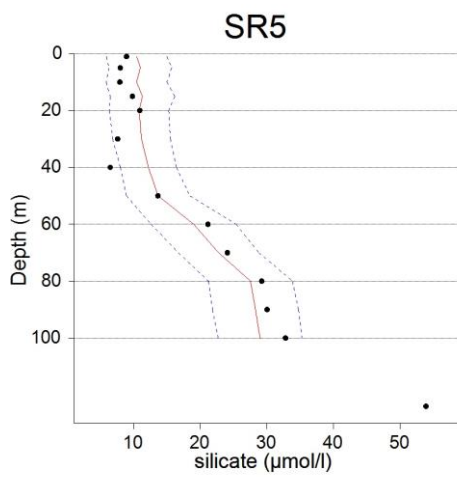
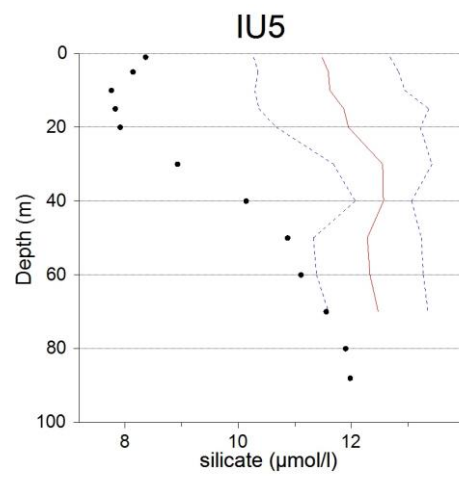
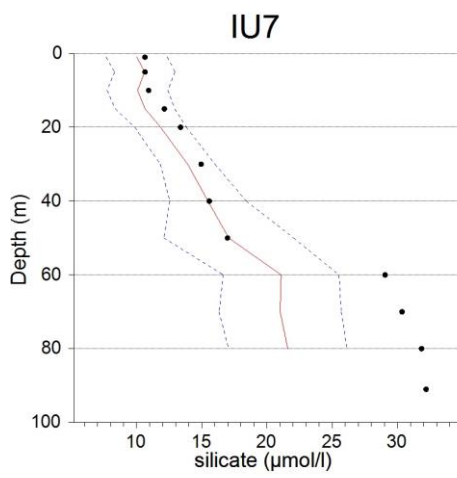
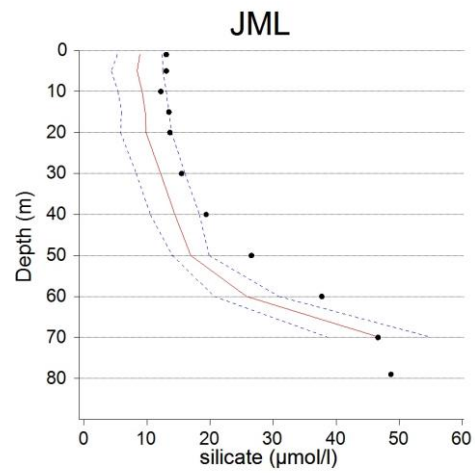
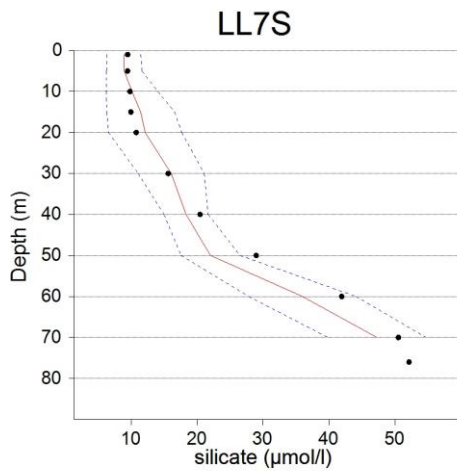




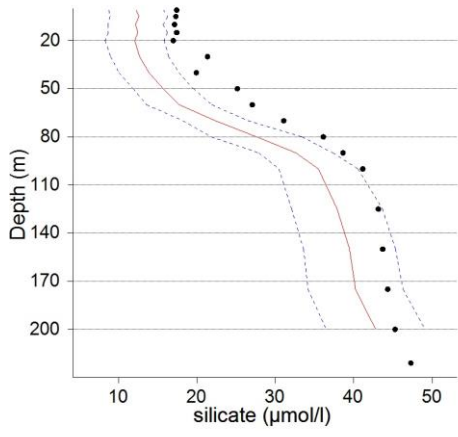


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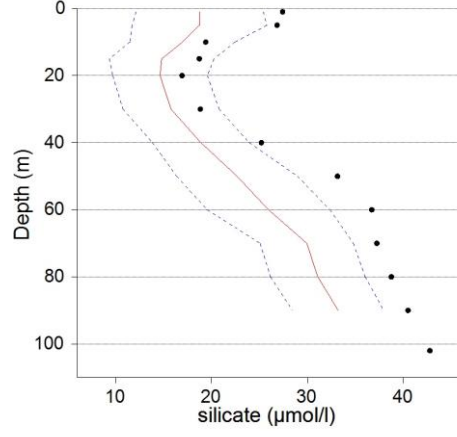




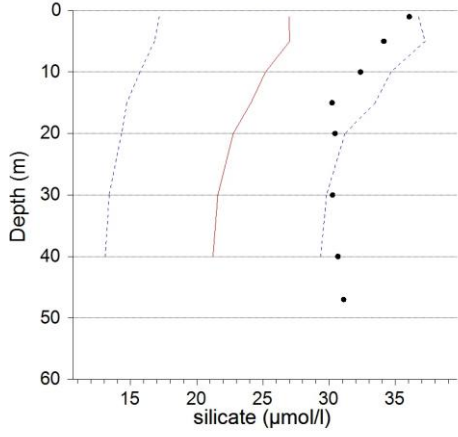
US5B



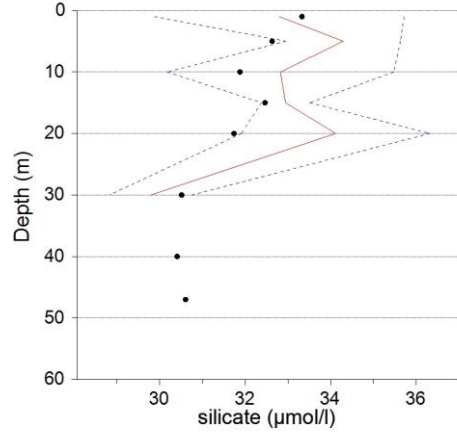
F18



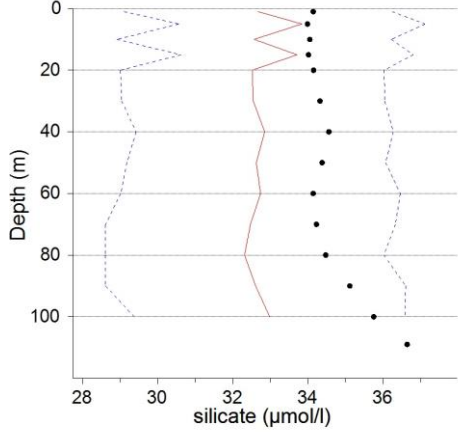
F16



F15



BO3



RR3

