

Spatial distribution of amphipod assemblages in Marine Protected Areas of the German Bight (North Sea)

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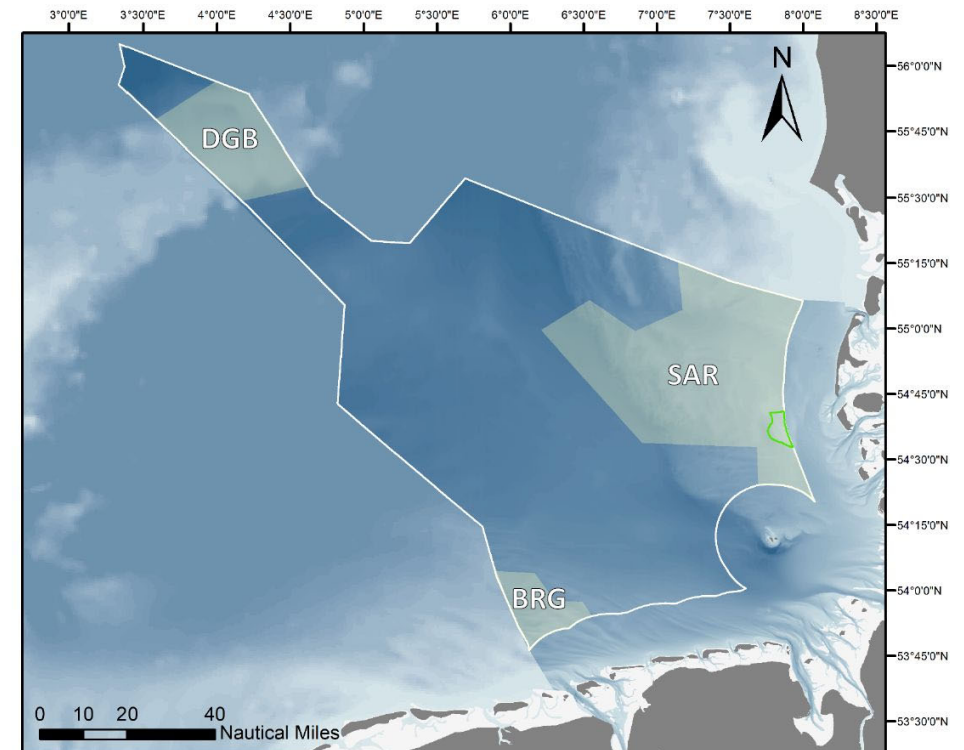
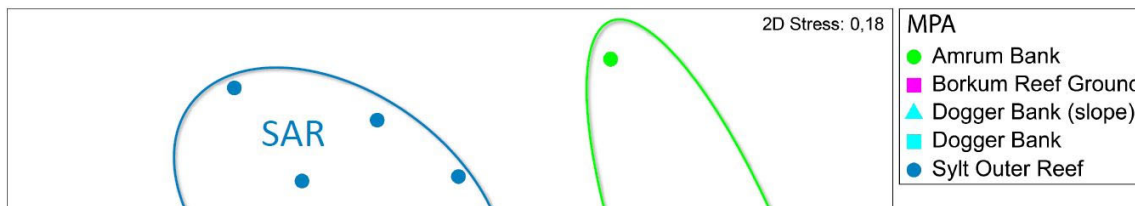
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Background

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are a major tool for nature conservation management. Their continuous monitoring is necessary in order to assess the status of marine communities and, if applicable, the success of management measures such as fisheries exclusion. Three MPAs have been designated in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the North Sea: the Dogger Bank, the Borkum Reef Ground and the Sylt Outer Reef. All of them are subject of a long-term monitoring of benthic communities that was initiated in 2011. The collected data allow for valuable insights into spatio-temporal dynamics of benthic crustaceans in the southern North Sea.



Spatial distribution of MPAs in the German EEZ of the North Sea: Dogger Bank (DGB), Borkum Reef Ground (BRG) and the Sylt Outer Reef (SAR) including the Amrum Bank (AMR; green lines).

Assemblage structure