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Sensitivity of *Calanus* spp. copepods to environmental changes in the North Sea using life-stage structured models.

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2 ABSTRACT

3 The copepods *Calanus finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus* co-exist in the North Sea,
4 but their spatial distribution and phenology are very different. Long-term changes in their
5 distributions seem to occur due to climate change resulting in a northward extension of *C.*
6 *helgolandicus* and a decline of *C. finmarchicus* in this region. The aim of this study is to use life-
7 stage structured models of the two *Calanus* species embedded in a 3D coupled hydrodynamic-
8 biogeochemical model to investigate how the biogeography of *C. finmarchicus* and *C.*
9 *helgolandicus* is modified by changes in $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ sea water temperatures, overwintering and
10 oceanic inflow in the North Sea. Life-stage structured models are validated against CPR data
11 and vertical distributions north of the Dogger Bank in the North Sea for the reference year
12 2005. The model shows that 1) $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ changes from the current level mainly influence the
13 seasonal patterns and not the relative occurrence of the two species, 2) changes due to
14 oceanic inflow mainly appeared in the northern and southern part of the North Sea connected
15 to the NE Atlantic and not in the central part and 3) the abundance of *Calanus* species were
16 very sensitive to the degree of overwintering within the North Sea because it allows them to
17 utilize the spring bloom more efficiently and independently of the timing and amount of
18 oceanic inflow. The combination of lower temperatures, higher overwintering and oceanic
19 inflow simulating the situation in the 1960s largely favoured *C. finmarchicus* and their relative
20 contribution to *Calanus* spp. increased from 40% in the reference year to 72%. The $+2^\circ\text{C}$
21 scenario suggest that in a warmer future, *C. finmarchicus* is likely to decline and *C.*
22 *helgolandicus* abundance will probably continue to increase in some areas.

23

24 Keywords: 3D ecosystem model; life-stages; *Calanus finmarchicus*; *Calanus helgolandicus*;
25 temperature; overwintering; oceanic inflow

26 Regional keywords: The North Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea

27 1. INTRODUCTION

28 The North Sea is a continental shelf system located in the North-East Atlantic Ocean
29 and sustains a large fishery (Mackinson and Daskalov, 2007). The two copepods *Calanus*
30 *finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus* are considered key species in the ecosystem because they
31 serve as prey for commercially important fish species (Gaard and Reinert, 2002; Gislason and
32 Astthorsson, 2002; Heath, 2007; Munk and Nielsen, 1994; Ringuette et al., 2002). However,
33 long-term changes in the ecosystem have been linked to global warming resulting in a
34 northward extension of *C. helgolandicus* and a decline of *C. finmarchicus* (Beaugrand et al.,
35 2003; Beaugrand and Reid, 2003; Bonnet et al., 2005; Pitois and Fox, 2006; Planque and
36 Fromentin, 1996). Since 1980, the spring phenology of temperature is advanced by 2.08 days
37 per decade in the Northern Hemisphere (Burrows et al., 2011) and sea surface temperatures in
38 the North Sea have been observed to increase about 1.5°C (Philippart et al., 2007). This is
39 believed to have implications for the geographical distribution and seasonality of zooplankton
40 (Mackas et al., 2012).

41 Morphologically, the two *Calanus* species are difficult to distinguish. Their life cycle
42 includes eggs, six naupliar stages followed by five copepodite stages until maturation to the 6th
43 copepodite stage, the adult stage. Despite these similarities, the two species differ in the
44 spatial distribution and phenology (Beaugrand et al., 2002; Bonnet et al., 2005). *C.*
45 *finmarchicus* is a subarctic species occurring at latitudes 30 to 80°N with peak abundances at
46 temperatures below 11°C (Bonnet et al., 2005; Helaouët and Beaugrand, 2007). Its lifecycle
47 includes overwintering at 400 to 1400 m depth in the deep basins of the Norwegian Sea and
48 the Norwegian Trench in the Skagerrak (Heath, 1999). Adults and the pre-adult copepodite
49 stage 5 ascend in February-March and are advected into the North Sea until they start
50 descending to diapause during summer and are practically absent from the surface waters in
51 September (Heath et al., 1999; Jónasdóttir et al., 2005). In contrast, *C. helgolandicus* is a
52 temperate species found at latitudes 15 to 65°N above the European shelf-edge with highest
53 abundances at temperatures from 10 to 17°C (Bonnet et al., 2005; Helaouët and Beaugrand,
54 2007). *C. helgolandicus* diapause takes place at 400 to 800 m depth along the Atlantic margin
55 or in deeper basins of the Mediterranean Sea (Bonnet et al., 2005; Williams and Conway,
56 1988). *C. helgolandicus* is observed from March to June in the southern part and from April to
57 September in the central part of the North Sea (Bonnet et al., 2005; Jónasdóttir et al., 2005).

58 Because *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus* have different phenology, changes in
59 timing of life-stages and dominance from one to the other may cause changes in the size
60 structure of available copepod prey for fish. Fish larvae have highly specific prey size

61 preferences (Munk, 1992; Munk, 1997) and are sensitive to match-mismatch with suitable
62 prey (Durant et al., 2005). Several studies have shown that the recruitment of sandeel, cod and
63 herring were positively associated with *Calanus* abundance (Arnott and Ruxton, 2002;
64 Beaugrand et al., 2003; Payne et al., 2009; van Deurs et al., 2009). Thus, bottom-up effects
65 through prey abundance and size distribution seems important for the recruitment and
66 development of fish. The shift from *C. finmarchicus* to *C. helgolandicus* in the North Sea has
67 been documented as early as 1996 by Planque and Fromentin (1996). However, the
68 understanding of the underlying mechanisms and their interactions is still limited (Beare et al.,
69 2002; Beare and McKenzie, 1999; Reid et al., 2003).

70 To broaden this knowledge, the present study embeds stage-structured models of
71 the two *Calanus* species in a 3D coupled hydrodynamic-biogeochemical model. The *Calanus*
72 models are validated against CPR data as well as vertical distributions north of the Dogger
73 Bank. The validated model is used to investigate the sensitivity of *Calanus finmarchicus* and *C.*
74 *helgolandicus* distributions to changes in sea water temperatures, overwintering and oceanic
75 inflow in the North Sea.

76

77 2. DATA AND MODEL DESCRIPTION

78 2.1. The North Sea

79 The North Sea (Figure 1) is a continental shelf sea with an average depth of 90 m and
80 the deepest part (~650 m) is located in the Norwegian Trench in the Skagerrak. Water depth is
81 generally higher in the northern part and gradually decreases towards the south. The northern
82 part is characterized by seasonal stratification, whereas the southern part is subject to tidal
83 mixing. The North Sea is influenced by North Atlantic Ocean inflow mainly from north along
84 the edge of the continental shelf and to a lesser extent from the south through the English
85 Channel. The inflow of *C. finmarchicus* are associated with the cold East Shetland Atlantic
86 Inflow and Norwegian Coastal waters, whereas *C. helgolandicus* are associated with the
87 warmer shelf-edge Atlantic water entering the North Sea via the Fair Isle Channel and the
88 English Channel (Beare et al., 2002). Salinity ranges from 29 in the south-eastern German Bight
89 to more than 35 in the northern part.

90 2.2. CPR data

91 Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) surveys are the best long-term data set of
92 oceanic plankton in the North Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean and most of the plankton

93 near-surface abundance data collected by the survey is available to the research community
94 (Richardson et al., 2006). The CPR is deployed from ships of opportunity and towed along the
95 routes at a depth of about 7 to 10 m (Pitois and Fox, 2006). We use CPR data from 2004 and
96 2005 (Johns, 2009) to generate model initial fields and boundary data of bulk zooplankton
97 (biomass) and the two *Calanus* species (biomass and abundance), to calibrate mortality rates
98 (2004) and to validate (2005) model results. The year 2005 is chosen because it is a typical year
99 in terms of temperature anomalies for the period 1985 to 2007 (Hjøllo et al., 2009) and
100 because the ratio of *C. finmarchicus* to *Calanus* spp. (34%) is similar to the annual mean value
101 for the period 2000 to 2008 ($33\% \pm 19\%SE$). Model abundances of the two *Calanus* species are
102 compared with CPR data corrected for under-sampling (Pitois and Fox, 2006) for each of the
103 CPR standard areas (B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2 and D3) in the North Sea (Figure 1). The size of
104 areas C1 and D3 are slightly reduced to eliminate subareas with no data coverage. Copepod
105 biomasses (*Calanus* spp. and bulk) are estimated from CPR data (ind. m^{-3}) using individual body
106 dry weights (DW) of the most important copepod species in the area, i.e. *Oithona* spp.,
107 *Corycaeus* spp., *Para-Pseudocalanus* spp., *Acartia* spp., *Pseudocalanus elongatus*,
108 *Clausocalanus* spp., *Metridia* spp., *Temora longicornis*, *Isias clavipe*, *Centropages* spp.,
109 *Candacia* spp., copepod nauplii and harpacticoids copepods. DW biomass is converted to
110 mmol-N by a series of conversions using $C/DW\text{-ratio}=0.45$ (Brey, 2001), carbon weight of 12.0
111 g mol^{-1} , molar C:N-ratio of 5.0 for bulk zooplankton (Harris et al., 2000) and molar C:N-ratio of
112 5.7 for *Calanus* spp. (Møller et al., 2012).

113 2.3. Other field data

114 Data from the Arendal Station ($58^{\circ}23N$, $8^{\circ}49E$, Figure 1) is used to force the seasonal
115 vertical migration in the Skagerrak for 2004 and 2005. The data is based on depth-integrated
116 samples from surface to 50 m with a WP2-net sampled in 2004 and 2005. Samples are
117 collected 7 times from February to May and provided by Dr. Tone Falkenhaus, Institute of
118 Marine Research in Norway ([http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/nauplius/media/time-](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/nauplius/media/time-series/site_northsea-arendal/)
119 [series/site_northsea-arendal/](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/nauplius/media/time-series/site_northsea-arendal/)). Furthermore, simulated vertical profiles of temperature, Chl *a*
120 concentrations, and *Calanus* spp. are compared with field data from Station 1 ($56^{\circ}65N$, $3^{\circ}45E$),
121 Station 3 ($56^{\circ}35N$, $3^{\circ}73E$) and Station 5 ($56^{\circ}05N$, $4^{\circ}02E$) from a field campaign north of the
122 Dogger Bank (Figure 1) from 26 July to 2 August 2005 (Jónasdóttir and Koski, 2011).

123 2.4. Model set-up

124 The integrated model system consists of a 3D circulation model coupled to a
125 biogeochemical model and life stage-structured models of *C. finmarchicus* and *C.*
126 *helgolandicus*. The model domain covers the North Sea and the Baltic Sea with a 6 nm
127 horizontal resolution, but only the North Sea part is considered in the present study (Figure 1).
128 The 3D circulation model is the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI) operational ocean
129 circulation model DMI-BSHcmod developed by BSH (Bundesamt fuer Seeschiffahrt und
130 Hydrographie) and has been running operationally at DMI since 2001 (Larsen et al., 2007; She
131 et al., 2007). The model has open lateral boundaries in the English Channel (4° W) and the
132 northern North Sea (59.25° N) and is forced by hourly meteorological forcing (wind, air
133 temperature, mean sea level pressure, surface humidity and cloud cover) based on DMI's
134 operational version of the weather model HIRLAM (High Resolution Limited Area Model) (Sass
135 et al., 2002). Lateral temperature and salinity boundary conditions for the open North Sea
136 boundaries are based on monthly climatologic fields. Sea level at the boundaries is prescribed
137 as the sum of astronomic tides and surge predictions from a storm surge model covering the
138 NE North Atlantic Ocean.

139 The Ecological ReGional Ocean Model (ERGOM) has previously been applied to the
140 Baltic Sea (Neumann, 2000; Neumann and Schernewski, 2008) and later adapted to the North
141 Sea by including sea water concentrations of silicate and microzooplankton as state variables
142 and modifying light attenuation (Maar et al., 2011). ERGOM now contains 11 pelagic and 1
143 benthic state variables describing nitrogen cycling through 3 groups of phytoplankton
144 (diatoms, flagellates and cyanobacteria), microzooplankton (protozoans and nauplii),
145 mesozooplankton and detritus and changes in sea water concentrations of nutrients (NO₃,
146 NH₄, PO₄, SiO₂), dissolved O₂ and organic matter in the sediment. The model is mass conserving
147 for nitrogen (N), whereas the dynamics of PO₄ and SiO₂ are coupled to that of nitrogen using a
148 Redfield ratio and a variable SiO₂:N-ratio, respectively (Maar et al., 2011). ERGOM considers
149 the processes of nutrient uptake, growth, grazing, mortality, pelagic- and benthic recycling,
150 respiration, denitrification, nitrification, N₂-fixation, and sedimentation. Further details of
151 model configuration and validation can be found in Maar et al. (2011).

152

153 2.5. Stage - structured models

154 The applied stage-structured models of *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus* were
155 parameterized, validated and tested by Møller et al. (2012). These models were based on an
156 original model for *Pseudocalanus elongatus* (Fennel, 2001) and later updated with new

157 formulations of ingestion and stage transfer (Stegert et al., 2009). The model considers five
158 life-stages, namely i) eggs-naupliar stage N2, ii) naupliar stages N3 – N6, iii) copepodite stages
159 C1– C3, iv) copepodite stages C4-C5 and v) adults (Figure 2). The general scheme uses two sets
160 of equations; one to describe the flux of biomass (nitrogen) through the group of stages, the
161 other one to describe the flux of individuals. Nitrogen is chosen because it is more related to
162 active biomass than carbon (Møller et al., 2012). Development is described by the change in
163 mean individual weight (i.e. stage biomass divided by stage abundance) through gain
164 (ingestion) and loss (egestion, respiration, excretion, mortality) of matter and moulting that
165 depended on a critical moulting weight (Møller et al., 2012). The parameterizations of *C.*
166 *finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus* models are based on literature values and grazing
167 experiments (Møller et al., 2012). Both species have the same ingestion response (type III) to
168 food concentration, whereas the dome-shaped ingestion response to temperature differ
169 between the two species (Møller et al., 2012). The temperature optima for growth of adults
170 are 12°C and 13.5°C for *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus*, respectively (Figure 3a). Growth
171 rate of *C. finmarchicus* is higher than for *C. helgolandicus* at temperatures below 12°C and vice
172 versa. When taking mortality into account, the temperature window for growth of the
173 population is from 0 to 16°C for *C. finmarchicus* and from 8 to 18°C for *C. helgolandicus* (Figure
174 3b).

175 The stage-structured models are coupled to ERGOM through ingestion, egestion,
176 respiration and mortality except for the first stage that is non-feeding (Figure 2). Both *Calanus*
177 species are known to feed on both autotrophic and heterotrophic plankton prey (Maar et al.,
178 2004). The size difference between the two *Calanus* species is not large compared to the size
179 range of prey and they will approximately have the same prey size spectra (Hansen et al.,
180 1997). We here choose the simplest assumption i.e. *Calanus* ingest autotrophic flagellates,
181 diatoms and microzooplankton with the same prey preferences. There is no diel vertical
182 migration of copepods in the model and this will be a topic for future model improvements.

183 Mortality rates of copepods control population abundance and biomass in the model,
184 but only slightly development rates (Stegert et al., 2007). Daily mortality rates were based on
185 an annual study of mortality of *C. helgolandicus* in the English Channel (Hirst et al., 2007) who
186 supply general relationships between mortality and temperature and female *C. helgolandicus*
187 abundance. They found that mortality is highest for eggs and early naupliar stages 1-2 and
188 lower for the other naupliar stages and adults. There is no data on copepodite stages C1-C4,

189 but we use the same mortality as for adults in the model. For eggs to N2 we used the mortality
190 (M_{egg} , d^{-1}) related to the abundance of females (F_a , $ind. m^{-3}$) due to cannibalisms on eggs:

191

$$192 \quad M_{egg} = \alpha + \beta \times F_a \quad (\text{eq. 1})$$

193

194 where $\alpha=2.142 d^{-1}$ for both species and $\beta=0.32 \text{ female}^{-1}d^{-1}$ and $0.16 \text{ female}^{-1}d^{-1}$ for *C.*
195 *finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus*, respectively. The β of *C. finmarchicus* is corrected due to
196 the half-size of their eggs compared with *C. helgolandicus* eggs (Møller et al., 2012). To reduce
197 the mortality at very low numbers and thereby stabilise the model, a type II saturation
198 function for adults is applied to the temperature (T) dependent mortality (M , d^{-1}) from Hirst et
199 al. (2007) (Stegert et al., 2009):

200

$$201 \quad M = \exp(aT - b) \times \frac{C}{C + k_{zoo}} \quad (\text{eq. 2})$$

202

203 where $a=0.102$, $b=3.291$, C is the adult biomass ($mmol N m^{-3}$) and $k_{zoo}=0.003 \text{ mmol N m}^{-3}$ is the
204 half-saturation constant of adult biomass ($mmol N m^{-3}$). Hirst et al. (2007) found no significant
205 relationship between observed predators and mortality of *Calanus* adults in the beginning of
206 the year suggesting that starvation or diseases are more important at this time. In our model
207 starvation is however already described. Mean individual weight decrease when respiration
208 exceeds growth rate and an increased starvation mortality of $+0.1 d^{-1}$ is introduced when the
209 mean individual weight is less than 50% of the reference biomass. This means that total
210 mortality in the model may be overestimated when using equation 2 on top of the starvation
211 mortality. The calibration procedure (year 2004) therefore found it necessary to reduce the
212 mortality by 80% in January and February for allowing adults to survive. Calibration results can
213 be found in Table 1.

214

215 2.6. *Calanus* model settings

216 Model boundary data of bulk mesozooplankton and C4 to adults of *Calanus* spp. is
217 based on monthly averaged CPR data (see above). Vertical distributions are assumed to be
218 homogeneous at the boundary. Influx of *C. finmarchicus* adults from the North Atlantic Ocean
219 covers the whole northern model boundary, while influx is set to zero at the boundary in the
220 English Channel (Figure 4a). *C. helgolandicus* is assumed to enter the North Sea through the
221 Fair Isle Current $<0^{\circ}\text{E}$ at the northern model boundary and along the boundary in the English
222 Channel. No species specific data are available for *Calanus* spp. eggs, nauplii and C1 to C3
223 abundances and we use zero-gradient at the boundaries i.e. the abundance in the incoming
224 water is the same as inside the model domain. A small fraction of the adult population of both
225 species seems to overwinter in surface waters in some areas of the North Sea according to CPR
226 data from January (Figures 4c, d). Therefore, *C. finmarchicus* is initialised using a constant
227 vertical abundance of 1.0 ind. m^{-3} in the deeper areas with a water column depth $> 110 \text{ m}$
228 (Figure 1). *C. helgolandicus* is initialised using a function of abundance versus latitude based on
229 average January abundances from the CPR standard areas. The two *Calanus* species diapause
230 in the bottom layer of the Norwegian trench (Fransz et al., 1991). We therefore use data from
231 the Arendal Station in the Skagerrak to force the seasonal vertical migration of the two
232 *Calanus* species. *C. finmarchicus* is set to ascend from diapause in the Norwegian Trench as
233 adults in February and as C4 to C5 from February to April (Figure 5b). *C. helgolandicus* ascend
234 as C4, C5 and adults in April (Figure 5c). *C. finmarchicus* has been reported to descend for
235 diapause at stages C5 to adults in late summer (Fransz et al., 1991). This was included in the
236 model as a downward migration of 3 m d^{-1} from day 215 for stages C4 to adults based on CPR
237 data. An improved model description of seasonal vertical migration will be tested in future
238 model versions.

239 2.7. Model validation using CPR data

240 CPR data only distinguish between *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus* at the two
241 final stages (C5 to adults), whereas stages C1 to C4 are considered as *Calanus* spp. This stage
242 separation is not consistent with our model structure. We therefore chose to compare the sum
243 of the model stages 'C4 to adults' with CPR data of 'C5 to adults' for each of the two *Calanus*
244 species. Model stages 'C1 to C3' of *Calanus* spp. showed similar patterns to that of 'C4 to
245 adults' and is not shown. Bulk zooplankton is validated in another study (Maar et al.,
246 unpublished data).

247 We use correlation analysis ($p < 0.05$) of monthly means of abundances for all CPR
248 standard areas to test the model capability to reproduce the seasonal distributions. The model

249 bias (MB) is used to evaluate if the model over- or underestimated abundances in the different
250 CPR areas:

251

$$252 \quad MB = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(M_i - \overline{D}_i)}{\overline{D}} \quad (\text{eq. 3})$$

253

254 where M is monthly model abundances, D is monthly CPR abundances, N is the number of
255 monthly means in each area and \overline{D} is the average CPR abundance in the respective area. In
256 addition, the MB was estimated for the seasonal distribution using monthly averages from all
257 areas.

258

259 2.8. Scenarios

260 The validated model (2005) is referred to as the reference run (REF). Five different
261 scenarios are carried out to test the sensitivity of the two *Calanus* species to changes in
262 temperature and oceanic inflow (Table 2). The same initial conditions and forcing are used for
263 the sensitivity scenarios and REF with the exception of the following specific changes. Sea
264 surface water temperatures in the North Sea have been observed to increase about 1.5°C since
265 1980 (Philippart et al., 2007). Previous model simulations with NORWECOM for the period
266 1985 to 2007 additionally found that surface anomalies roughly varied within ±2°C in the North
267 Sea (Hjøllo et al., 2009). Projections of climate change suggest that the current warming is
268 likely to continue with additional increases of +2°C in the next 100 years (Philippart et al.,
269 2007). Therefore, in the first two sensitivity scenarios, sea water temperatures are changed
270 with either -2°C (scenario -2T) or +2°C (scenario +2T) over the whole model domain but only
271 for temperature dependent rates in the biogeochemical and *Calanus* models. The timing of
272 diapause is set to two weeks earlier (later) at 2°C higher(lower) temperatures to keep the time
273 span of feeding in the surface layer constant (Hjøllo et al., 2012). Hydrodynamics are not
274 altered by the sea water temperature changes. In scenario -INI, initial abundance of *Calanus* is
275 changed to mimic overwintering in surface waters according to CPR abundances from the
276 1960s (Figures 4c, d). This means that the initial abundance of *C. finmarchicus* is increased by
277 an average factor of 7.0 and *C. helgolandicus* is decreased by an average factor of 0.2 in
278 comparison with the reference year 2005. In addition, we test the influence of oceanic inflow

279 of *Calanus* in two scenarios by changing model boundary conditions. In these scenarios, the
280 abundance of *C. finmarchicus* is increased by a factor of 2.0 (Figure 4a) and *C. helgolandicus* is
281 decreased by a factor of 0.2 (Figure 4b) at the northern boundary and in the Norwegian Trench
282 (scenario BCAL) corresponding to the situation in 1960's. In addition, we use sea water levels
283 from 1965 at the boundaries from a 2D surge model of the North Atlantic Ocean provided by
284 DMI. The altered inflow is then combined with the settings in scenario -2T and INI (scenario -
285 2TIB) to correspond to the overall conditions in the 1960s. The effects of the scenarios are
286 assessed as the mean difference in abundance from REF during the productive period March
287 to October. We consider the model sensitivity studies as useful and simple tools that give an
288 indication of the range of effects from the tested forcing factors and the resulting outcome of
289 the distribution of the two dominant *Calanus* species in the North Sea. It is out of scope of the
290 present study to consider other climatic changes (e.g. wind, short wave radiation, etc.) on the
291 ecosystem or to provide long-term model data.

292

293 3. RESULTS

294 3.1. Overall model patterns in the reference run

295 Annual-averaged surface temperatures showed up to 5°C higher values in the
296 southern English Channel in comparison to the NW North Sea in REF (Figure 6a). Chl *a*
297 concentrations were patchily distributed but generally higher along the coast (Figure 6b).
298 Microzooplankton and mesozooplankton biomass were highest in the southern part, on
299 Dogger Bank and along the coast (Figures 6c-d). Annual-averaged *C. finmarchicus* abundance
300 was highest at the northern boundary and along the Norwegian coast and declined drastically
301 towards south (Figure 6e). Annual-averaged abundance of *C. helgolandicus* was highest at the
302 southern and north–western boundaries and along the Norwegian coast and at intermediate
303 levels in the Dogger Bank area (Figure 6f). They occurred in low numbers in the German Bight
304 and north of Dogger Bank.

305 The simulated relative frequency of surface temperatures and of the two *Calanus*
306 species (nauplii to adults) at temperature intervals of 1°C ranging from 0 to 22°C from March
307 to October is shown in figure 7. Temperature showed a bimodal pattern with peaks at 6 to 7°C
308 and 14 to 17°C. Distributions of *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus* were both dome-shaped
309 within the temperature intervals from 3 to 17°C and 4 to 19°C, respectively. Peak abundances
310 were found at 11 to 15°C and 11 to 16°C for *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus*, respectively.

311 3.2. Validation of *Calanus* models

312 For the validation year 2005 (REF), the model was able to reproduce the overall
313 seasonal and spatial patterns according to CPR data within the North Sea (Figures 8 and 9). The
314 correlations between monthly means of CPR data and model data were high with $R^2 = 0.89$
315 ($p < 0.05$, $n = 12$) and $R^2 = 0.68$ ($p < 0.05$, $n = 12$) for *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus*,
316 respectively. Annual averages were underestimated by 11 and 22% for *C. finmarchicus* and *C.*
317 *helgolandicus*, respectively, in the model. CPR abundances of *C. finmarchicus* were highest in
318 areas B1, B2 and C2 and the model bias was -12 to 47% (Figure 8). In D1 and D2 areas, CPR
319 abundances were very low except for one peak in May in area D2 that was not reproduced by
320 the model. These high values were sampled on the border to area C2 and may not be
321 representative for area D2. *C. finmarchicus* were totally absent in the southern area D3
322 according to CPR data and model. For *C. helgolandicus*, model abundances were
323 underestimated with -51 and -57% in areas B1 and D2 (Figure 9). The contribution of *C.*
324 *finmarchicus* to *Calanus* spp. was 40% on average in the model and slightly higher than the
325 ratio of 33% ($\pm 19\%$ SE) based on CPR data (Figure 10).

326 North of Dogger Bank in the North Sea, the water column was stratified with a
327 thermocline and a deep Chl *a* maximum (DCM) located at 25 to 40 m depth (Figures 11a, b).
328 Temperatures were 15°C at the surface and 6°C at the bottom. The model showed overall the
329 same pattern with stratification and a DCM. It did, however, overestimate surface water
330 temperatures by 1.5°C and Chl *a* concentrations by 0.5 mg m⁻³ and DCM was located
331 approximately 5 m higher in the water column at St. 5 (Figure 11b) than observations showed.
332 The vertical distribution profiles of *C. finmarchicus* females showed a peak coinciding with the
333 DCM both in ground truth data and model (Figure 11c). The observed vertical distribution of
334 females of *C. helgolandicus* in contrast to *C. finmarchicus* showed higher values in the surface
335 mixed layer with a peak at 15 m depth (Figure 11d). The model however, gave higher
336 abundances in the surface layer <30 m depth but without a pronounced peak at 15 m depth.
337 Correlation analysis for all three stations together ($n = 15$) gave $R^2 = 0.97$, 0.48, 0.75 and 0.55 for
338 temperature, Chl *a*, *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus*, respectively, at a confidence level of
339 5%.

340 3.3. Forcing effects on seasonal distributions

341 Area-averaged Chl *a* concentrations for the North Sea showed a well-defined peak in
342 April and lower values during summer in REF (Figure 12b). Higher and lower temperatures

343 caused an earlier or later termination of the spring bloom, respectively. Area-averaged
344 abundance of *C. finmarchicus* increased from the beginning of May with a seasonal peak in
345 beginning of July in REF (Figure 12c). For *C. helgolandicus*, abundances increased from mid-
346 May with a small peak in mid-June and a larger one in mid-October in REF (Figure 12d). The
347 first seasonal increase in abundances of *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus* were accelerated
348 with app. 2 weeks at higher temperatures (+2T) and similarly delayed at lower temperatures
349 (-2T) in comparison with REF (Figures 12c, d). The peak-of-season estimated by an annual
350 'center-of-gravity' index (Mackas et al., 2012) was day 170 (18 June) and day 200 (29 July) in
351 REF for *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus*, respectively. Peak-of-season changed with +20
352 and -15 days in -2T and +2T, respectively, of *C. finmarchicus*, +6 and -21 days in -2T and +2T,
353 respectively, of *C. helgolandicus*.

354 3.4. Forcing effects on spatial distributions

355 At 2°C lower temperatures (-2T), *C. finmarchicus* increased in the north-western part
356 and decreased in the north-eastern part due to the dome-shaped temperature response
357 (Figure 13a). *C. helgolandicus* increased in abundance in the central North Sea (51 to 56°N) and
358 in the Skagerrak, but decreased in the north-western part (Figure 13b). Higher temperatures
359 (+2T) caused lower abundances of *C. finmarchicus* except for north of Dogger Bank (Figures
360 13c). *C. helgolandicus* mainly decreased in abundance in the central part, but increased in the
361 English Channel and Fair Isle Channel (Figure 13d). The change caused by temperature changes
362 was generally ± 10 ind. m^{-3} (Figures 13a-d). The scenario with altered initial conditions (INI)
363 resulted in < 15 ind. m^{-3} higher abundances of *C. finmarchicus* in the western part southwards
364 to 52°N (Figure 13e) and in a reduction of < 5 ind. m^{-3} of *C. helgolandicus* in the areas less
365 influenced by the boundaries (Figures 13f). Changes in oceanic inflow (BCAL) caused higher
366 (lower) abundances at the northern boundary from -2 to 3°E (< -2 and > 3 °E) for both *Calanus*
367 species (Figures 13g-h). Furthermore, *C. finmarchicus* increased in the Skagerrak/NE part and
368 in a patch towards the British coast with up to 15 ind. m^{-3} . In contrast, *C. helgolandicus*
369 decreased in numbers (< 15 ind m^{-3}) in the English Channel, the Norwegian Trench and in some
370 spots in the central North Sea. The combined effects of lower temperature, changes in initial
371 abundances and oceanic inflow (-2TIB) reinforced the patterns in the previous scenarios -2T,
372 INI and BCAL (Figures 13i-j). The relative abundance of *C. finmarchicus* to total *Calanus* spp.
373 abundance changed from 40% in REF to 41%, 38%, 66%, 50% and 72% in -2T, +2T, INI, BCAL
374 and -2TIB, respectively (Figure 10). The value of -2TIB (72%) was similar to the ratio of 81%
375 $\pm 29\%$ SE, respectively, based on CPR data from the 1960s.

376 3.5. Forcing effects on vertical distributions

377 The vertical distribution of both *Calanus* species north of Dogger Bank were moved 5
378 to 10 m up in the water column at 2°C lower temperatures in comparison with the reference
379 run, i.e. more *C. finmarchicus* was found in DCM and the small subsurface peak of *C.*
380 *helgolandicus* disappeared and the majority was found in the upper layers (Figure 14). At 2°C
381 higher temperatures, the model suggested that *C. finmarchicus* kept primarily in bottom
382 waters, whereas *C. helgolandicus* had its peak concentration at 30 to 40 m in the DCM rather
383 than at the surface in comparison with the reference run.

384

385 4. DISCUSSION

386 4.1. Sensitivity of *Calanus* distributions

387 A regime shift has occurred in the North Sea during the period 1982 to 1988 which
388 has resulted in marked changes in the food web (Beaugrand, 2004). Specifically in the
389 mesozooplankton community, the ecologically important copepod *C. finmarchicus* has
390 declined in abundance, whereas *C. helgolandicus* has propagated further north. The underlying
391 mechanisms have been suggested to be increasing sea water temperatures and/or changes in
392 oceanic inflows but their relative impact is unknown (Beare et al., 2002; Beare and McKenzie,
393 1999; Reid et al., 2003). The present model study is the first to combine hydrodynamic -
394 biogeochemical modeling with stage-structured models of both *Calanus* species in the North
395 Sea and to investigate the sensitivity of the populations to these specific environmental
396 changes.

397 The inflow of *C. finmarchicus* has been associated with the cold East Shetland Atlantic
398 Inflow (ESAI), whereas *C. helgolandicus* are associated with the warmer shelf-edge Atlantic
399 water (SAW) entering the North Sea via the Fair Isle Channel and the English Channel (Beare et
400 al., 2002). We found that changes in inflow patterns and higher boundary abundances (Figure
401 4a) using forcing data from 1965 (BCAL) resulted in a higher and more southward invasion of *C.*
402 *finmarchicus* in two patches along the western and eastern coastlines, respectively, with up to
403 15 ind. m⁻³ in comparison with REF (Figures 13g). The lower seeding of *C. finmarchicus* at the
404 entrance to North Sea in 2000s (Figure 4a) was probably related to a decline in the
405 overwintering stock in the deep waters of the Norwegian Sea (Heath et al., 1999). For *C.*
406 *helgolandicus*, abundance decreased with up to 15 ind. m⁻³ in both boundary areas (Figure
407 13h) because the inflow of warm SAW was weaker combined with a lower seeding compared

408 to REF (Figure 4b). However, there was an increase in the central part of the northern
409 boundary due to the higher inflow of ESAI. The seeding of warm-temperate species such as *C.*
410 *helgolandicus* has been related to changes in the European shelf-edge current that has
411 increased in strength since the 1980s (Beaugrand, 2004). The simulated changes in oceanic
412 inflow increased the ratio of *C. finmarchicus* to *Calanus* spp. abundance from 40% in REF to
413 50% in BCAL (Figure 10). Changes in oceanic flow appeared more important in modifying the
414 spatial distributions within the North Sea and less important for the relative *Calanus* species
415 contribution.

416 Superimposed on the inflow trend, there has been an increase in sea-water
417 temperatures since the 1960's and a change in the *Calanus* stock size that overwinters within
418 the North Sea. *C. finmarchicus* is generally believed not to overwinter in the North Sea because
419 it is too shallow (Beare et al., 2002; Fransz et al., 1991; Heath, 1999). Nevertheless, they were
420 observed in relatively high numbers in the surface layer during winter in the northern part in
421 the 1960's (Figure 4c). This higher overwintering expanded the spatial distribution southwards
422 to 52°N in the western part for *C. finmarchicus* and increased abundances with up to 15 ind.
423 m⁻³ according to INI (Figure 13c). It has been suggested that *C. finmarchicus* may overwinter in
424 an atelo-diapause (i.e. low intensity diapause) in shelf seas instead of true diapause (Hirche,
425 1998). On the other hand, it is well known that *C. helgolandicus* overwinter in the North Sea
426 since the 1980's probably due to warmer winters (Fransz et al., 1991). When using lower initial
427 abundances (INI) according to the colder 1960s, *C. helgolandicus* decreased with up to 5 ind.
428 m⁻³ abundance in most of the North Sea (Figure 13f). The lower temperature limit for growth is
429 around 6°C in the model (Figure 3a). The present area-averaged temperatures in March ranges
430 from 5.4 to 6.5°C (Figure 12a) and a 2°C lower temperatures is therefore detrimental for *C.*
431 *helgolandicus* winter persistence in the North Sea. The ratio of *C. finmarchicus* to *Calanus* spp.
432 abundance increased from 40% in REF to 66% in INI (Figure 10). Overwintering must be
433 considered as an advantage for *Calanus* spp. because both species would be ready to utilise
434 the spring bloom more efficiently and independently of the timing and spatial coverage of the
435 oceanic inflow.

436 Temperature also changed the seasonal pattern of both *Calanus* species (Figures 12
437 c, d). At 2°C lower or higher temperatures, the first seasonal increase and peak-of-season were
438 delayed or accelerated, respectively, two to three weeks. Lower temperatures were beneficial
439 for both species during the late summer period. The 'growth-mortality' response to
440 temperature is dome-shaped for both species but with different temperature optima (Figure
441 3b). The temperature response will therefore be either on the downhill or up-hill side of the

442 response curve in the different areas and seasons dependent on temperature. For *C.*
443 *finmarchicus*, lower temperatures caused higher abundances in the north-western part;
444 whereas the opposite trend was found for *C. helgolandicus* (Figure 13a, b). Furthermore, *C.*
445 *helgolandicus* increased in abundance in the central and north-eastern parts of the North Sea.
446 Overall, temperature (-2T and +2T) had a relatively small negative effect (1-2 percentage
447 points) on the ratio of *C. finmarchicus* to *Calanus* spp. abundance (Figure 10). The model
448 seems to suggest that the timing, and not the overall abundance, of *Calanus* spp. is particularly
449 sensitive to temperature changes of $\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$.

450 The scenario with combined effect of changes in inflow, initial abundances and lower
451 temperatures (-2TIB) showed the strongest response in abundances of *C. finmarchicus*, while
452 *C. helgolandicus* mainly decreased in the boundary areas (Figures 13i, j). This scenario resulted
453 in a ratio of *C. finmarchicus* to *Calanus* spp. of 72% that is in similar to the ratio based on CPR
454 data of 81% ($\pm 29\%$ SE) (Figure 10). The seasonal patterns ($R^2 = 0.40-0.64$) and model
455 abundances (MB= -22-40%) were also similar to CPR data from 1965 of both *Calanus* species
456 (Table1). *C. finmarchicus* was present in the whole North Sea except from the German Bight
457 and the English Channel (Figure 13k), whereas *C. helgolandicus* was found with highest
458 numbers at the Dogger Bank and the northern and southern boundaries (Figure 13l). The
459 agreement with the past patterns of population abundance and distribution gives further
460 confidence in the model estimate including predictions of probable future scenarios', which is
461 discussed in the next paragraphs.

462

463 4.2. *Calanus* in a warmer North Sea

464 In a warmer climate, the model predicts that plankton seasonality changes to an earlier
465 occurrence of both *Calanus* species and an earlier termination of the spring phytoplankton
466 bloom in the North Sea (Figure 12). Increasing temperature has previously been shown to
467 increase heterotrophic grazing pressure on the spring phytoplankton bloom with implications
468 for trophodynamics (Keller et al., 1999; Maar and Hansen, 2011; Müren et al., 2005). During
469 the summer period, there was on the other hand no significant difference in phytoplankton
470 biomass between scenarios. A previous model study also predicted small changes in summer
471 Chl *a* concentrations because the increased recycling of nutrients and primary production with
472 increasing temperature is counteracted by a higher grazing pressure (Maar and Hansen, 2011).
473 The peak-of-season of both *Calanus* species occurred two to three weeks earlier at 2°C higher
474 temperatures (Figures 12b-c). Likewise, long-term time-series from the North Sea showed

475 strong zooplankton phenology correlations with temperature where e.g. *C. finmarchicus*
476 occurred two to six weeks earlier at 2°C higher temperatures (Mackas et al., 2012). Larval fish
477 phenology responds in the same direction as zooplankton prey to higher temperatures, but the
478 changes tend to be smaller by a factor of two leading to increased mismatch in a warmer
479 ocean (Beaugrand et al., 2003; Mackas et al., 2012). Future climate change will probably also
480 change the hydrodynamics of the North Sea (Skogen et al., 2011). Model sensitivity studies
481 using predicted increases in air temperatures, short wave radiation and wind forcing resulted
482 in a stronger oceanic inflow, a smaller stratified area and a deeper mixed layer that would lead
483 to higher primary production in the North Sea (Skogen et al., 2011). However, this type of
484 scenario is constrained by the unknown changes in a future climate change situation, lack of
485 feed-back mechanisms from the ocean to the atmosphere and problems with downscaling of
486 climate forcing to regional levels (Skogen et al., 2011).

487 For the geographical distributions, populations of *C. finmarchicus* would mainly decrease
488 in a warmer North Sea (Figure 13c). In contrast, *C. helgolandicus* populations are predicted to
489 increase in the English Channel and the Fair Isle Channel and to decrease in the other areas
490 (Figure 13d). The overall contribution of *C. finmarchicus* to *Calanus* spp. abundance (39%) is
491 therefore almost the same in +2T as in REF (Figure 10). Thus, although both species peak
492 earlier (Figures 12c, d), the dome-shaped 'growth-mortality' response to temperature (Figure
493 3b) modify the summer abundances in a negative direction at temperatures >12°C and >14°C
494 of *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus*, respectively.

495 Natural mortality shows high variability and relative small changes in the
496 parameterization of the mortality can have large implications for the model output
497 (Skarohamar et al., 2011). Mortality is assumed to be dependent on temperature because in
498 warm seasons both predator activity and abundance are thought to be higher (Hirst et al.,
499 2007). For *Calanus*, stage varying mortality has been observed with the highest mortality for
500 eggs and non-feeding nauplii (Eiane and Ohman, 2004). Past and future changes in mortality
501 are difficult to estimate, because other factors like cannibalism, parasitism and changes in the
502 predator community also come into play (Eiane and Ohman, 2004; Neuheimer et al., 2009;
503 Speirs et al., 2006). The parameterization in the present model was chosen to be as simple as
504 possible and at the same time allow for changes in different scenarios, and is a combination of
505 temperature dependent mortality and intraguild predation by adult *Calanus* on eggs and non-
506 feeding nauplii. If intraguild predation is the most important part of the mortality on the
507 zooplankton (Mitra, 2009), our projections may be reliable.

508 Other uncertainties are the overwintering stock and the future inflow patterns since we
509 do not know how those will change in a future warmer climate. However, it is likely that the
510 overwintering population and oceanic inflow of *C. finmarchicus* in the North Sea would decline
511 in a warmer future based on the trend in CPR data (Figures 4c, d), but this was not included in
512 scenario +2T. Hence, the future predictions of the two *Calanus* distributions must be
513 considered with these uncertainties in mind. For *C. finmarchicus*, our predictions were
514 nevertheless supported by ecological niche and eco-physiological models that indicate that
515 populations at the southern edge of their distribution e.g. the North Sea would decline in a
516 warmer climate (Helaouët et al., 2011; Reygondeau and Beaugrand, 2011a). Our results
517 indicate that *Calanus* distributions cannot be extrapolated linearly with temperature due to
518 the dome-shaped response of growth, changes in mortality and food availability. Moreover,
519 for future modeling a better understanding of the control of the onset of and emergence from
520 hibernation is needed.

521 The vertical distribution of both *Calanus* species was shown to deepen into cooler
522 waters at higher temperatures, but still with *C. helgolandicus* located above *C. finmarchicus*
523 (Figure 14). Other studies have shown that *C. finmarchicus* decreased in abundance with
524 increasing water column stability in the North Atlantic Ocean (Beare et al., 2002; Reygondeau
525 and Beaugrand, 2011a). These authors suggested that the decline of *C. finmarchicus* was due
526 to food limitation and temperature effects. Water column stratification is expected to increase
527 with higher temperatures and suggested to displace the distribution of *C. finmarchicus* further
528 north in the North Atlantic Ocean (Reygondeau and Beaugrand, 2011b). In the North Sea, *C.*
529 *finmarchicus* not only exploits the spring bloom, but also the food availability in the summer
530 DCM in stratified areas (Jónasdóttir and Koski, 2011). Ecosystem modeling, on the other hand,
531 suggests that future higher temperatures combined with more wind would result in a smaller
532 stratified area and a deeper mixed layer in the North Sea (Skogen et al., 2011). This effect will
533 reduce the occurrences of DCM that may be detrimental for *C. finmarchicus* growth during
534 summer. Thus, future predictions are difficult to make and the found non-linear interactions of
535 *Calanus* spp. with various environmental parameters are complicated to resolve. Models, such
536 as the present, are therefore very useful tools to address this challenge.

537

538 4.3. Model validation

539 Modelled spatial and seasonal distributions of the two *Calanus* species were
540 validated against CPR data since it is the most comprehensive data set for the North Sea.

541 Abundances were compared as monthly means for the CPR standard areas in order to
542 subsume small-scale patchiness due to zooplankton behavioural responses to environmental
543 factors, local weather conditions and counting procedures (Richardson et al., 2006). The model
544 succeeded to reproduce the overall seasonal ($R^2=0.68$ to 0.89) and spatial (MB= -22 to -11%)
545 patterns of both *Calanus* species in 2005 (Figures 8 and 9). CPR data has previously been used
546 to validate bulk zooplankton biomass in the North Sea (Broekhuizen et al., 1995) and was
547 found useful to assess future model developments in order to reduce errors and improve
548 model fit. CPR data has been criticised for underestimating the abundance of certain species,
549 for not being depth-resolved and not to cover all areas and months equally (Broekhuizen et al.,
550 1995). We tried to accommodate these issues by using CPR correction factors for under-
551 sampling (Pitois and Fox, 2006) and to compare model results with another data set from
552 north of the Dogger Bank (Figures 1, 11). Model data was here compared with depth resolved
553 distributions of *Calanus* spp. in summer 2005 (Jónasdóttir and Koski, 2011). The model
554 captured the main patterns with *C. helgolandicus* located in the warm surface layer and *C.*
555 *finmarchicus* located around the thermocline at 25 to 40 m depth (Figure 11). However, the
556 observed pronounced peak at 15 m depth of *C. helgolandicus* was not reproduced by the
557 model. The peak at 15 m did not coincide with the DCM and temperatures were similar in the
558 upper mixed layer. It is therefore unknown from the current data set what caused this peak,
559 but it could be related to mortality, other prey types or small-scale horizontal or vertical
560 transport. The vertical distributions were given as relative values of total water column
561 abundance because the model values were one order of magnitude lower than observations.
562 Since the model was in agreement with CPR data, this shows that different data sets such as
563 CPR and net samples can give very different results probably because of small-scale patchiness
564 and very different sampling procedures. Nevertheless, the model reproduced the vertical
565 patterns observed during summer (Figure 11), where *C. finmarchicus* retreat to deeper and
566 cooler layers to feed on the deep Chl *a* maximum (Jónasdóttir and Koski, 2011).

567 The simulated relative frequency with temperature of the two *Calanus* species shows
568 that *Calanus* does only really appear when the temperature is above 6°C in the North Sea and
569 they both peak at app. 11 to 16°C (Figure 7). In the North Atlantic, the distribution shows a
570 similar pattern for *C. helgolandicus* with maximum presence at 13 to 17°C (Bonnet et al.,
571 2005). *C. finmarchicus* on the other hand are found in high numbers at temperatures from 0
572 to 10°C followed by a decrease until 18°C in the North Atlantic Ocean (Bonnet et al., 2005). The
573 thermal niche in the North Sea is the result of both the effect of temperature on growth and
574 mortality (Figure 3), population dynamics of *Calanus*, oceanic inflow, the seasonality of the

575 prey and the present temperatures that mainly are within 4 to 22°C (Figure 7). Thus, although
576 *C. finmarchicus* can evidently thrive at lower temperatures (Swailethorp et al., 2011) it does not
577 appear so from the relative distribution in the North Sea in contrast to studies covering a
578 larger temperature span (Bonnet et al., 2005; Helaouët and Beaugrand, 2007).

579 4.4. Zooplankton prey fields to fish larvae models

580 In order to understand how climate variability influences fish recruitment, individual-
581 based models (IBMs) have recently been applied to key fish species (Christensen et al., 2007;
582 Fiksen et al., 2007). These models can be used to examine transport dynamics, survival and
583 growth of fish larvae and to identify critical habitats (Hinrichsen et al., 2005; Kühn et al., 2008;
584 Lough et al., 2005). If vital rates of fish are to be examined, the IBMs also need information of
585 prey fields that can be obtained from measurements or ecosystem modelling. Monitoring
586 provides data on vertical and horizontal species distributions. However, extrapolation of point
587 sources vertically, horizontally and seasonally is presumably associated with an unknown error
588 and should therefore be used with caution.

589 Alternatively, ecosystem models can provide 3D zooplankton prey fields with a high
590 temporal and spatial resolution. However, they often consider bulk estimates without species-
591 or size specific resolution that are crucial for feeding of fish larvae (Munk, 1997). Copepods
592 undergo important ontogenetic change in size that reach an order of 100 through their life
593 cycle from eggs to adults (Carlotti et al., 1993). In addition, there is a huge variation in size
594 between copepod species from approximately 0.1 mm of e.g. *Oithona* spp. up to several mm
595 for adult *Calanus* spp. (Nielsen and Munk, 1998). Another solution is to model key species of
596 zooplankton as life-stages coupled to 3D hydrodynamic - biogeochemical models. This has
597 previously been applied for *C. finmarchicus* in the North Atlantic Ocean (Bryant et al., 1997;
598 Heath et al., 1997; Maps et al., 2010; Speirs et al., 2006) and *C. helgolandicus* in the northern
599 North Sea (Heath et al., 1997). The approach of using life-stage models has, however, been
600 criticized for unrealistic ingestion of phytoplankton, lack of boundary data and increase in
601 model complexity (Daewel et al., 2008). On the other hand, the advantage is that life-stage
602 models coupled to ecosystem models provide high temporal-spatial resolution prey fields of
603 size-structured key species that is directly coupled to climate forcing. The modeled spatial
604 patterns of the two *Calanus* species were quite different from that of the bulk
605 mesozooplankton (Figures 6d-f) and thus provide more detailed information of the
606 zooplankton community composition. The presented model could therefore be a useful tool in

607 providing realistic 3D life-stage specific prey fields of *Calanus* spp. in the North Sea as input to
608 fish larvae models.

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839 **Figure captions**

840

841 Figure 1. The NE Atlantic Ocean showing the location of the North Sea and below a detailed
842 map of the North Sea with water depths >110 m indicated with light grey. The sampling
843 stations 1, 3 and 5 north of Dogger Bank and Arendal St. in the Skagerrak are shown as black
844 circles. CPR data points show where *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus* are present within
845 the CPR standard areas B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2 and D3 in 2005. Area C1 was reduced in the
846 northern part and D3 in the eastern part to eliminate subareas with no data coverage.

847

848 Figure 2. Diagram of the stage - structured model adapted to *Calanus* spp. describing the
849 development of 5 stages from 'eggs-NII' up to 'adults' (black boxes). Adult females lay eggs and
850 the first stage ('eggs-N2') is non-feeding and hatching into nauplii stage 'N3-N6' depends on
851 temperature. The stages are coupled to ERGOM through ingestion of phytoplankton and
852 microzooplankton, egestion, respiration, excretion and predation mortality (grey boxes). Eggs-
853 N2 can also be ingested by adults.

854

855 Figure 3. Temperature response of A) growth, mortality and B) 'growth-mortality' of adult *C.*
856 *finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus* in units per day of the population biomass.

857

858 Figure 4. Annual average (\pm SE) of CPR abundances at the model boundaries in areas B1, B2 and
859 D3 from five periods of A) *C. finmarchicus* and B) *C. helgolandicus* and January values in the
860 CPR standard areas of C) *C. finmarchicus* and D) *C. helgolandicus* from two time periods.

861

862 Figure 5. Model and monitoring data from the Arendal Station of A) *C. finmarchicus* C5 and
863 adults and B) *C. helgolandicus* C5 and adults in 2005. Note the different scales on y-axis.

864

865 Figure 6. Annual average of A) temperature ($^{\circ}$ C), B) Chl *a* concentrations (mg m^{-3}), C)
866 microzooplankton biomass (mg DW m^{-3}), D) bulk zooplankton biomass (mg DW m^{-3}), E) *C.*
867 *finmarchicus* C4 to adult abundance (ind. m^{-3}) on log-scale and F) *C. helgolandicus* C4 to adult
868 abundance (ind. m^{-3}) on log-scale at 10 m depth in REF.

869

870 Figure 7. The relative frequency of surface temperatures and abundances of *C. finmarchicus*
871 and *C. helgolandicus* nauplii to adults from March to October.

872

873 Figure 8. Model comparison of abundances of copepodite stages 'C5 to adults' with CPR data
874 of 'C4 to adults' of *C. finmarchicus* (ind. m^{-3}) for the seven standard areas in the North Sea in
875 2005. Percentage model bias (%MB) is shown for each area. The MB of the seasonal
876 distributions using monthly means and the seasonal correlation using 'log+1' transformed
877 monthly means between model and CPR data are shown in the last figure.

878

879 Figure 9. Model comparison of abundances of copepodite stages 'C5 to adults' with CPR data of
880 'C4 to adults' of *C. helgolandicus* abundance (ind. m^{-3}) for the seven standard areas in the
881 North Sea in 2005. Percentage model bias (%MB) is shown for each area. The MB of the
882 seasonal distributions using monthly means and the seasonal correlation using 'log+1'
883 transformed monthly means between model and CPR data are shown in the last figure.

884 Figure 10. Annual ratio (%) of *C. finmarchicus* to *Calanus* spp. abundance (10 m depth) in the
885 North Sea for the different model scenarios and of CPR data for REF and -2TIB.

886

887 Figure 11. Comparison of vertical profiles from field data (symbols) and model data (lines) of A)
888 temperature, B) Chl *a* concentrations, and relative adult abundance to total water column
889 abundance of C) *C. finmarchicus* and D) *C. helgolandicus* north of Dogger Bank averaged over
890 the period 27 July-2 August 2005. Data was redrawn from Jónasdóttir and Koski (2011).

891

892 Figure 12. Area-averaged A) Surface temperatures for REF, B) Chl *a* concentrations, C) *C.*
893 *finmarchicus* abundance and D) *C. helgolandicus* abundance for REF, -2T and +2T scenarios
894 from March to October.

895

896 Figure 13. A-J) Difference in abundance of C4 to adults of *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus*
897 between the scenarios (-2T, +2T, INI, BCAL and -2TIB) and REF and K-L) abundance of C4 to
898 adults of *C. finmarchicus* and *C. helgolandicus* in scenario -2TIB from March to October.

899

900 Figure 14. Vertical profiles of adults of A) *C. finmarchicus* and B) *C. helgolandicus* in REF, -2T
901 and +2T scenarios north of Dogger Bank (St. 5) from 27 July to 2 August.

902

Table 1. Statistics of the model correlation (monthly means, $p < 0.05$) and model bias (annual means) between 1) model calibration and CPR data from 2004 and 2) model scenario -2TIB and CPR data from 1965, where n is the number of data pairs in the analysis. CPR data of *C. finmarchicus* in area D3 was ignored due to their absence.

Statistics	Species	Calibration values	-2TIB values	n
<i>MB</i>	<i>C. finmarchicus</i>	57	-22	6
	<i>C. helgolandicus</i>	-5	40	7
<i>R</i> ²	<i>C. finmarchicus</i>	0.64	0.40	12
	<i>C. helgolandicus</i>	0.40	0.64	12

Table 2. Description of model scenarios where ‘-’ is no change and ‘+’ is a change in comparison with REF. T = temperature, INI = initial abundance, BCAL = boundary condition of *Calanus*.

#	abbreviation	Temperature	Initial values	Oceanic inflow	Description
1	REF	-	-	-	Reference year 2005
2	-2T	- 2°C	-	-	Cold year
3	+2T	+2°C	-	-	Warm year
4	INI	-	+	-	Initial abundance according to 1960's
5	BCAL	-	-	+	Inflow 1965
6	-2TIB	- 2°C	+	+	Cold year + initial + inflow 1965

Figure 1

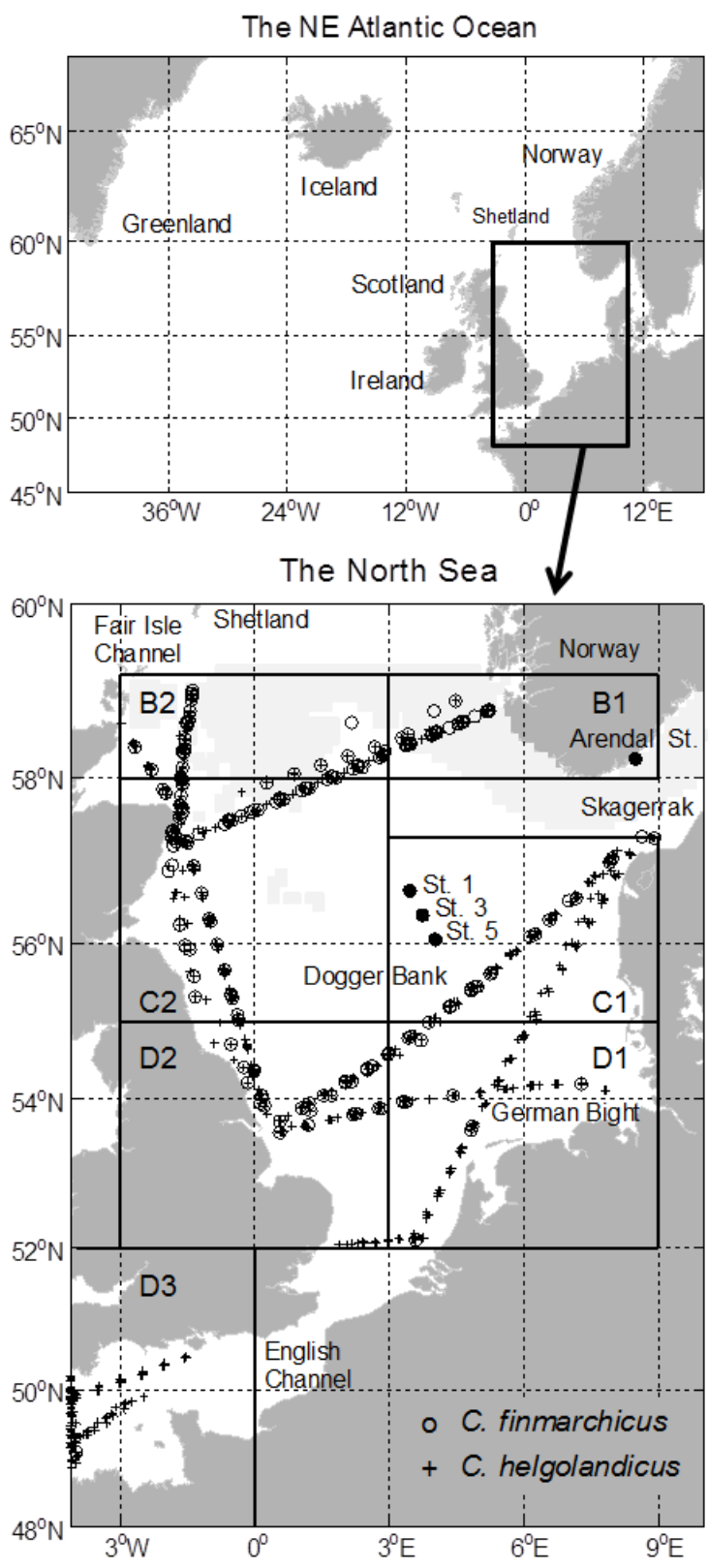


Figure 2.

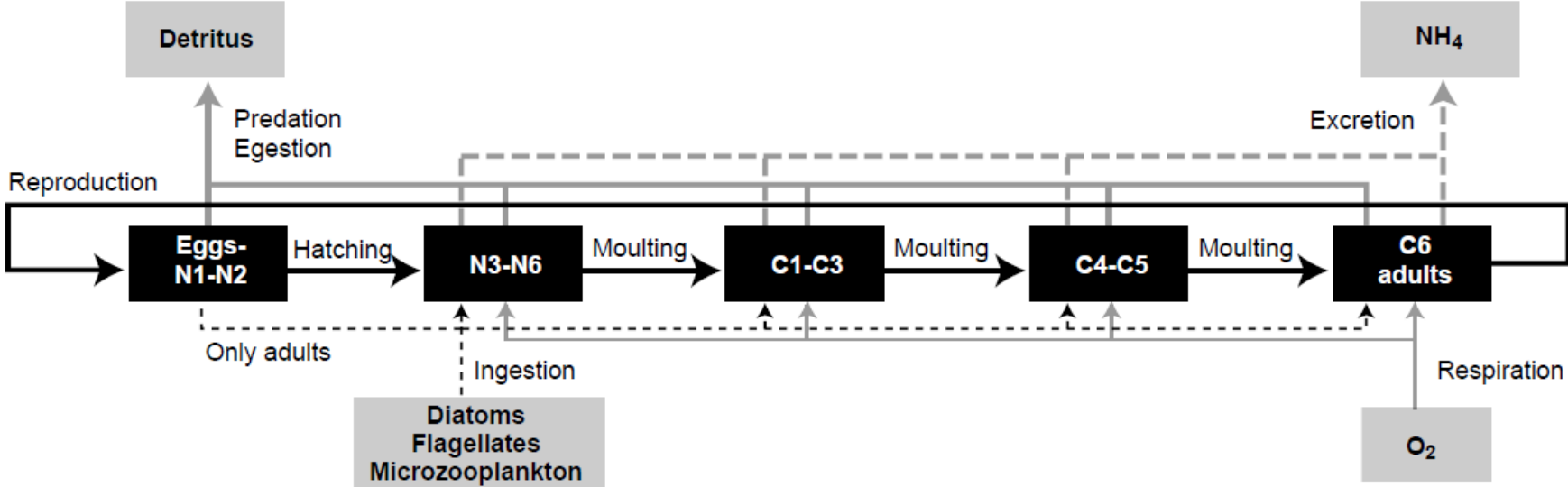


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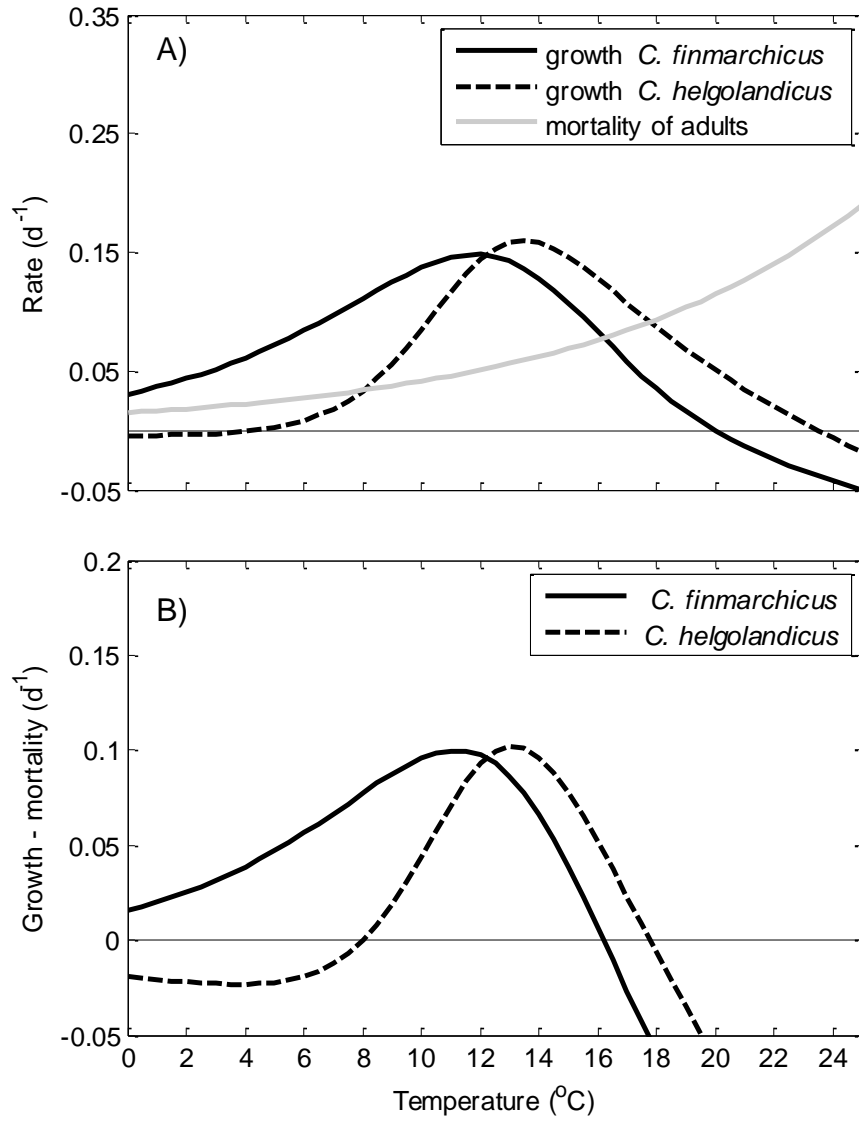


Figure 4.

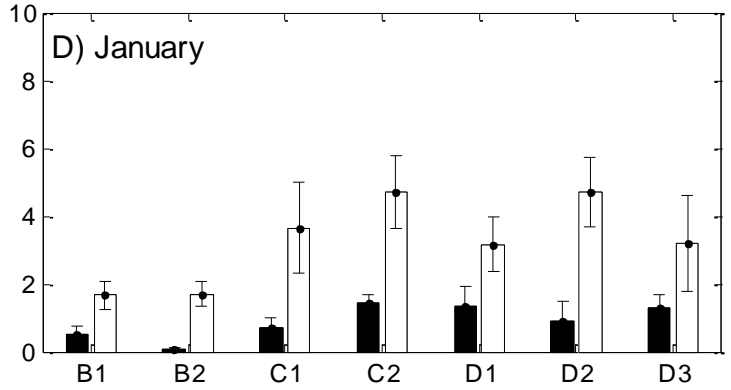
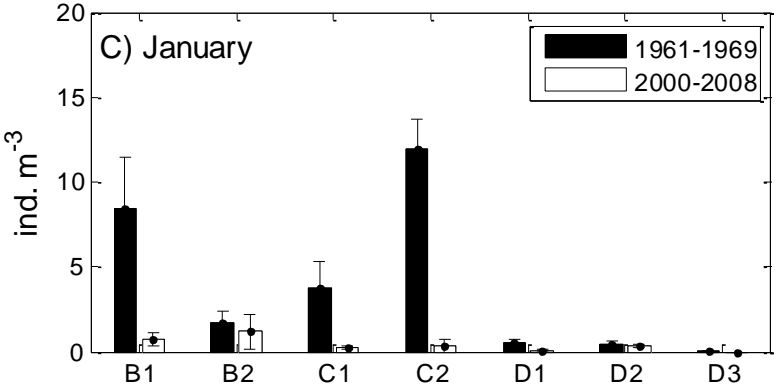
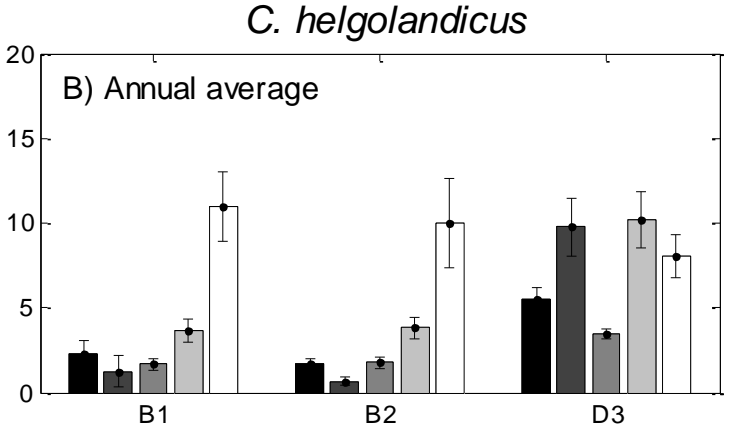
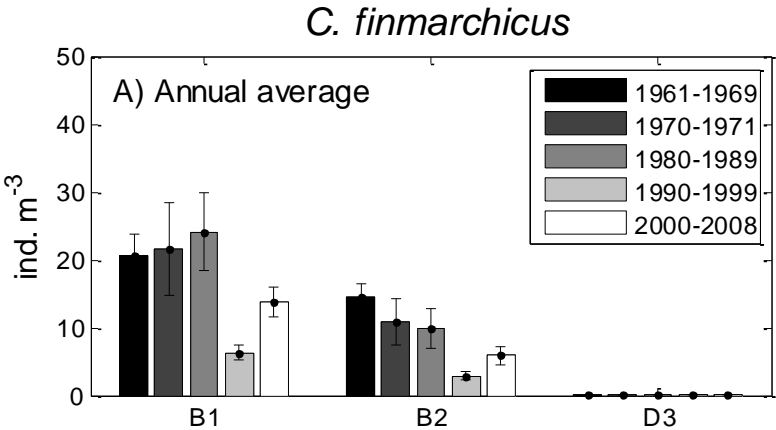


Figure 5.

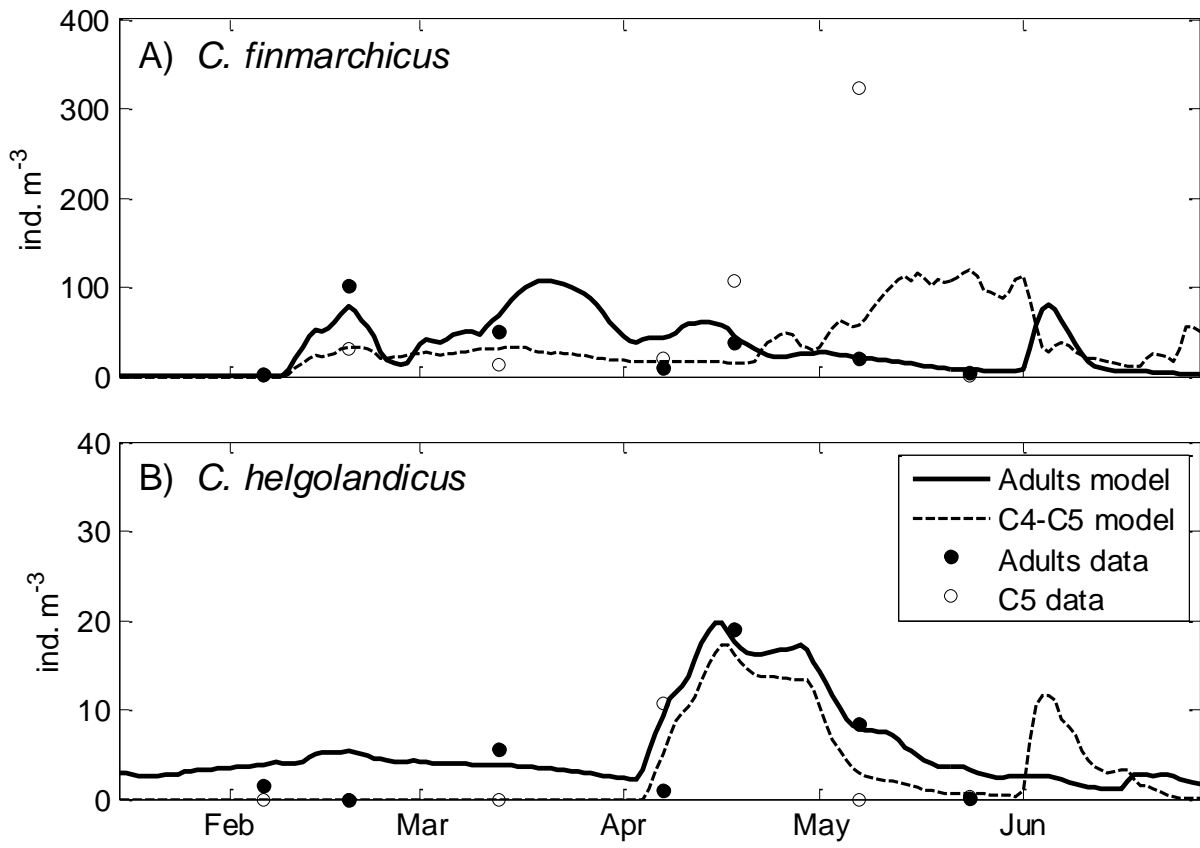


Figure 6.

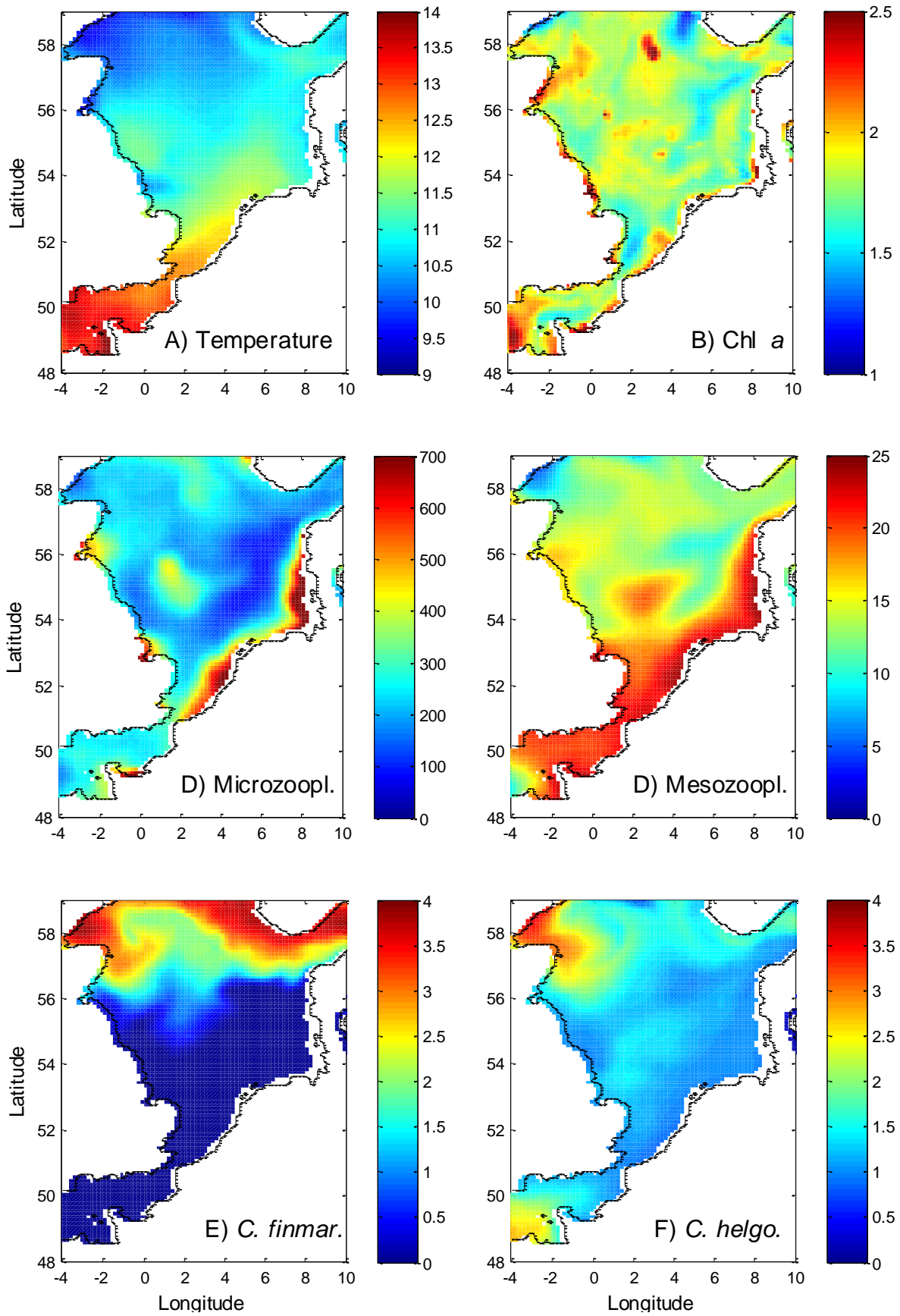


Figure 7.

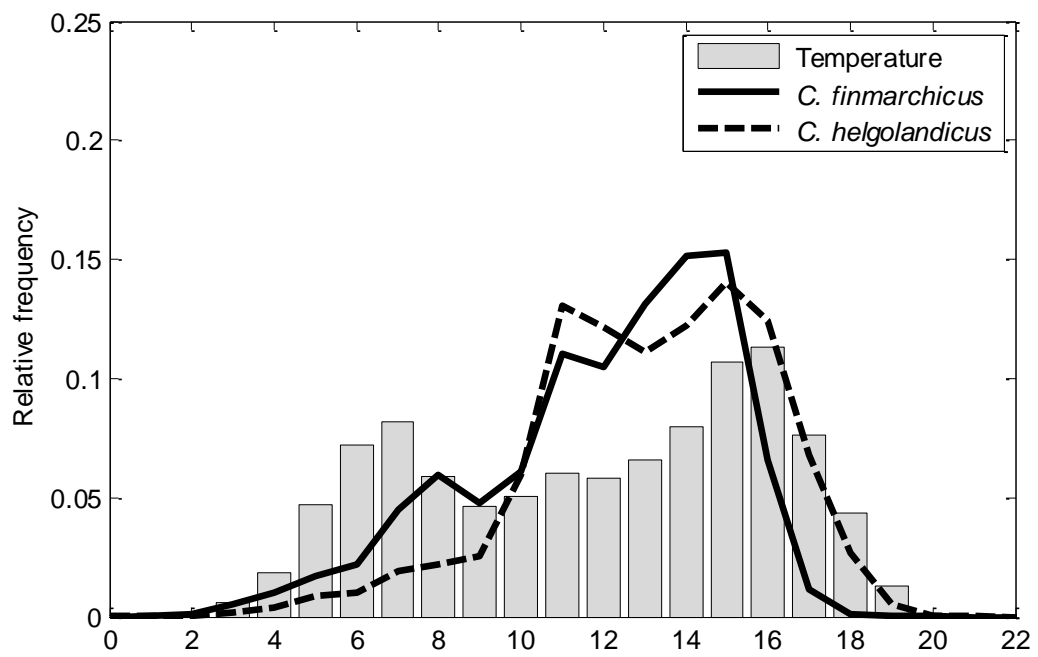


Fig. 8.

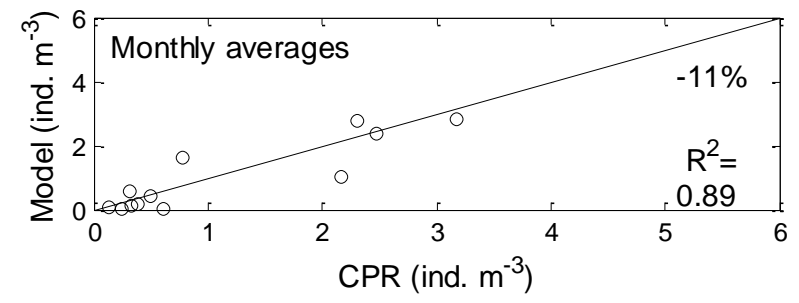
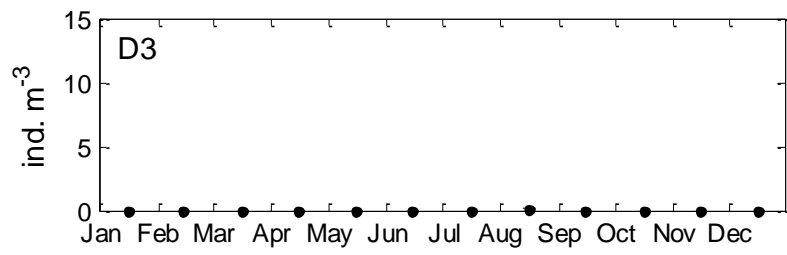
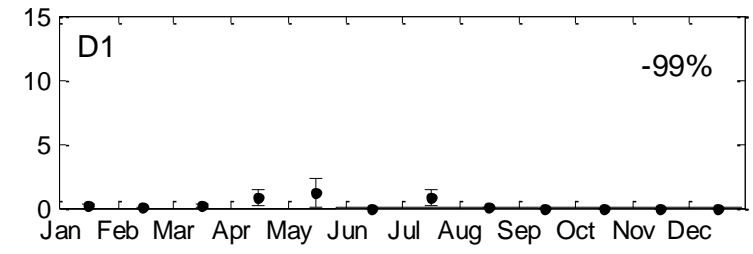
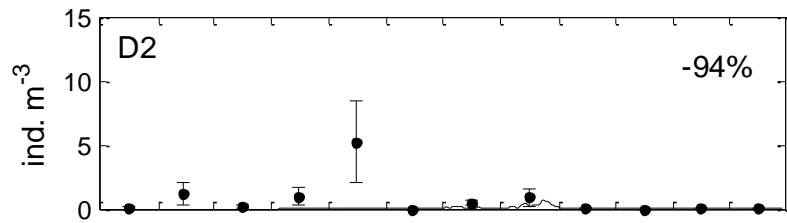
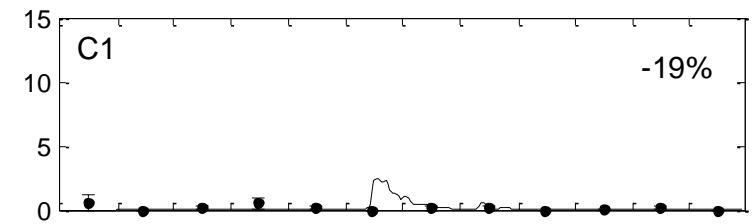
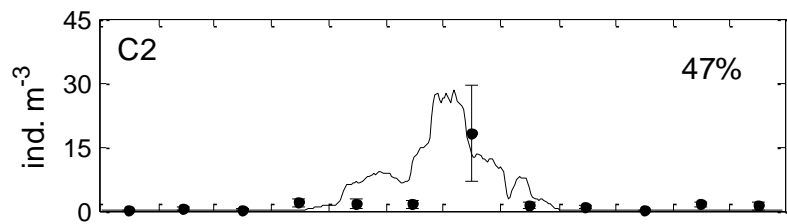
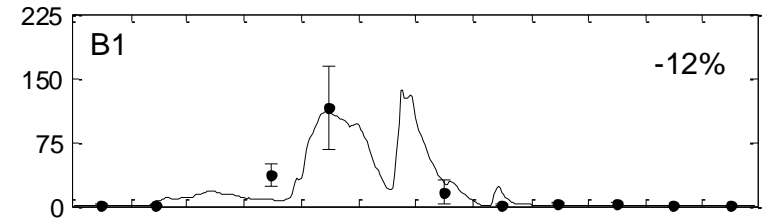
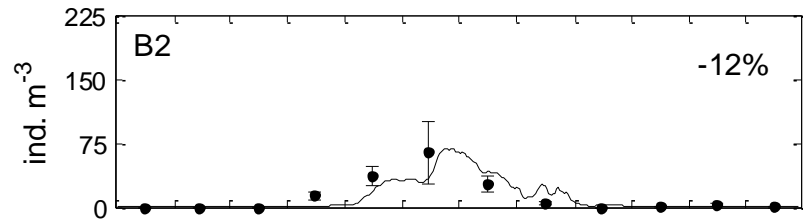


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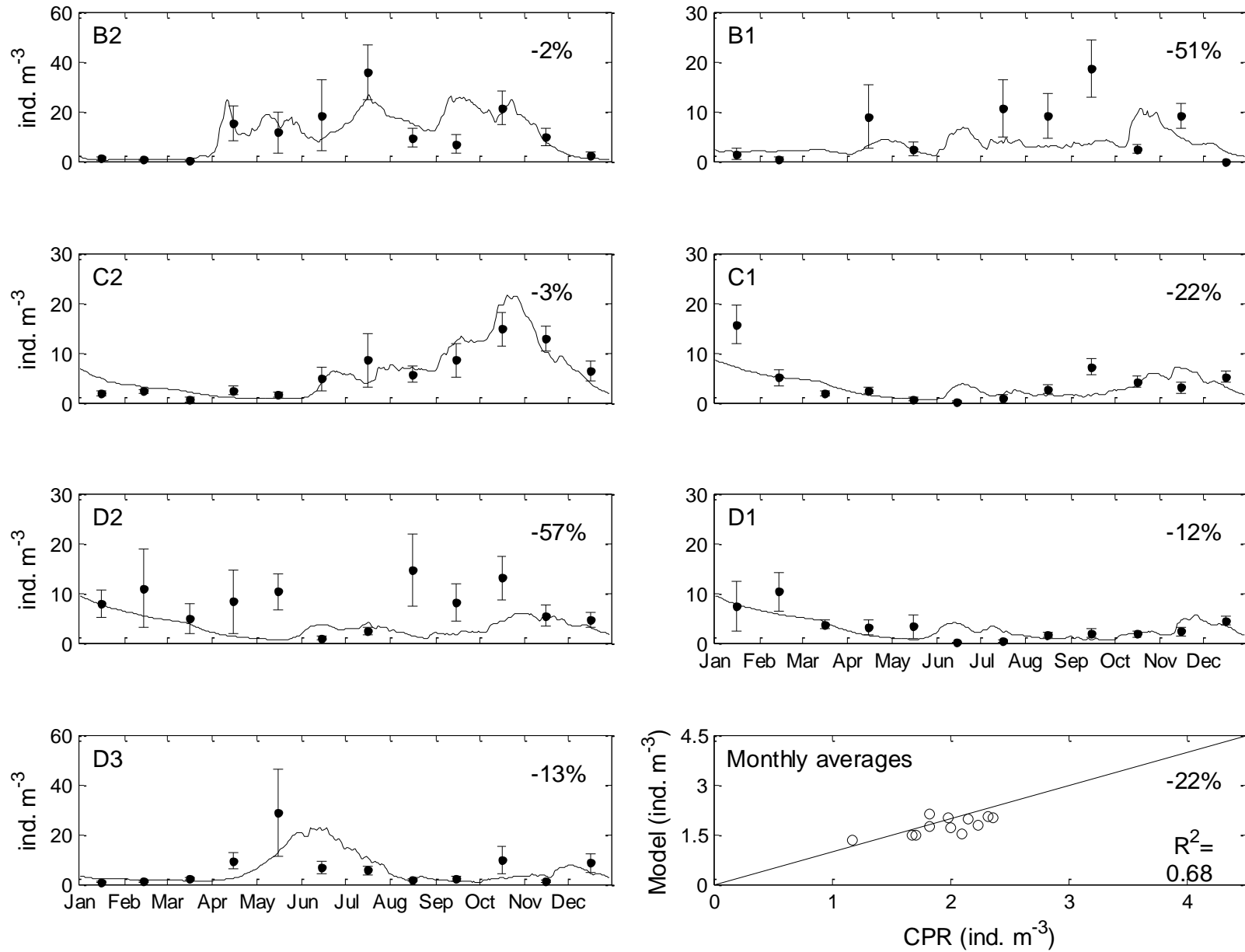


Figure 10.

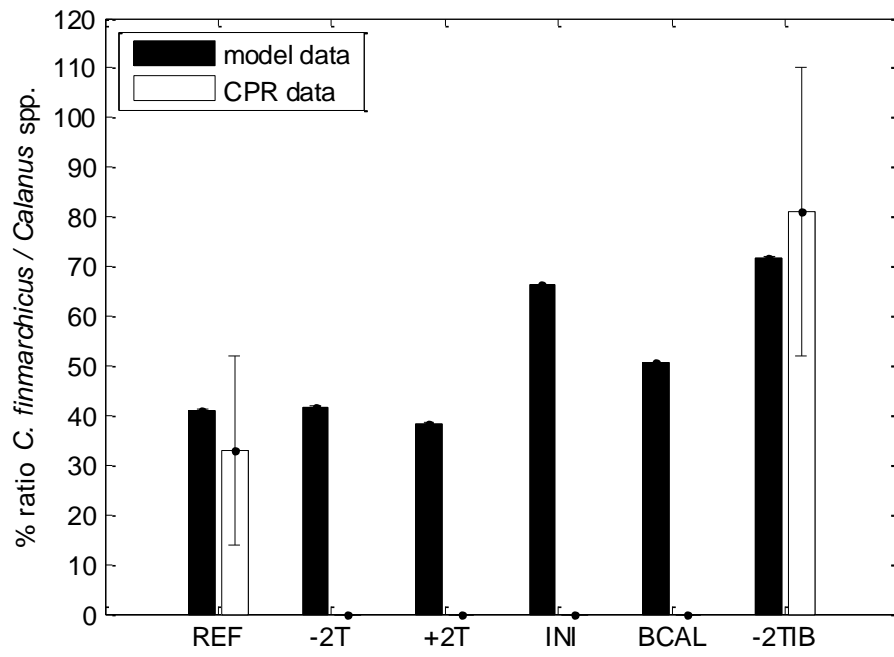


Figure 11.

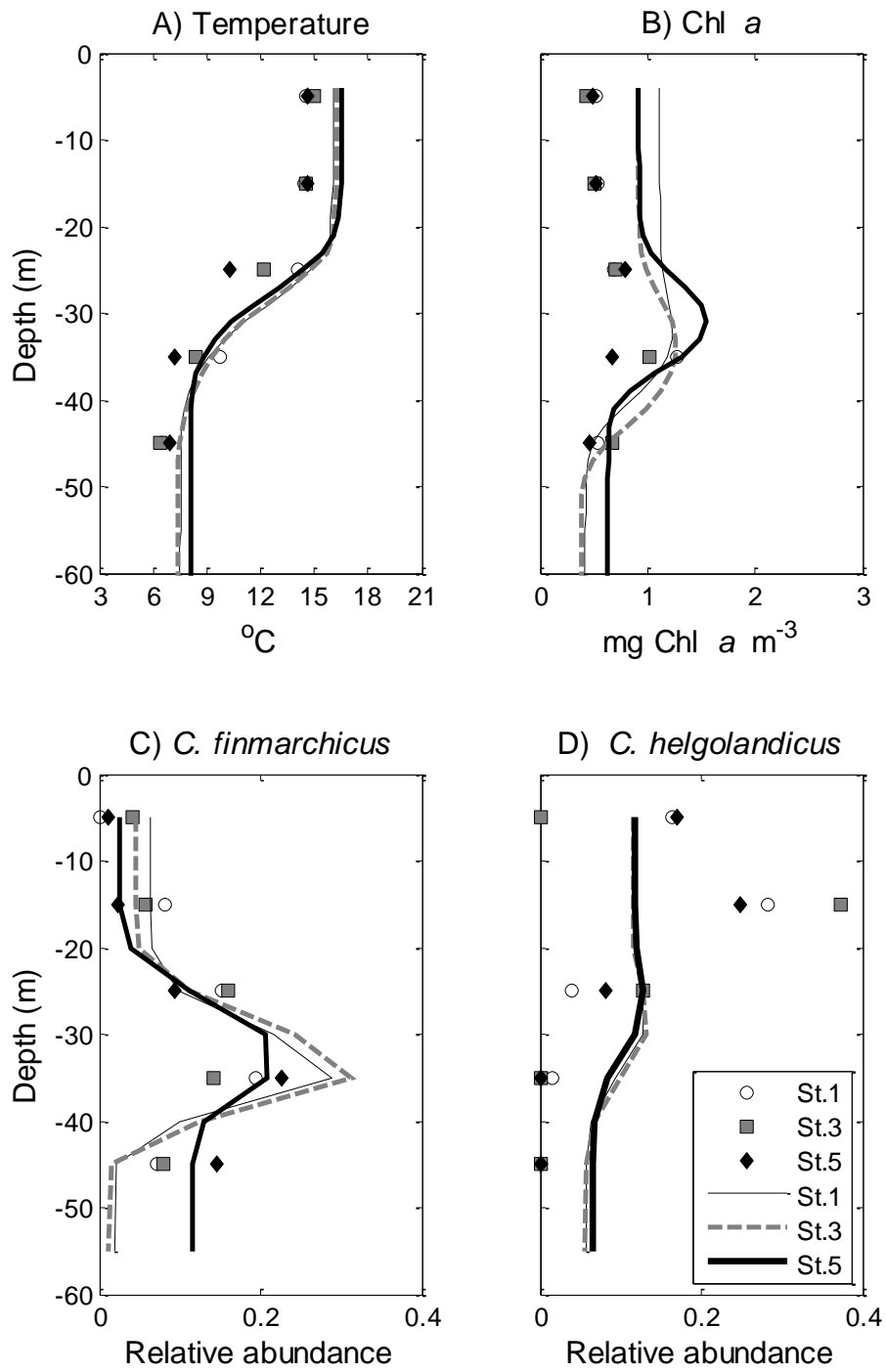


Figure 12.

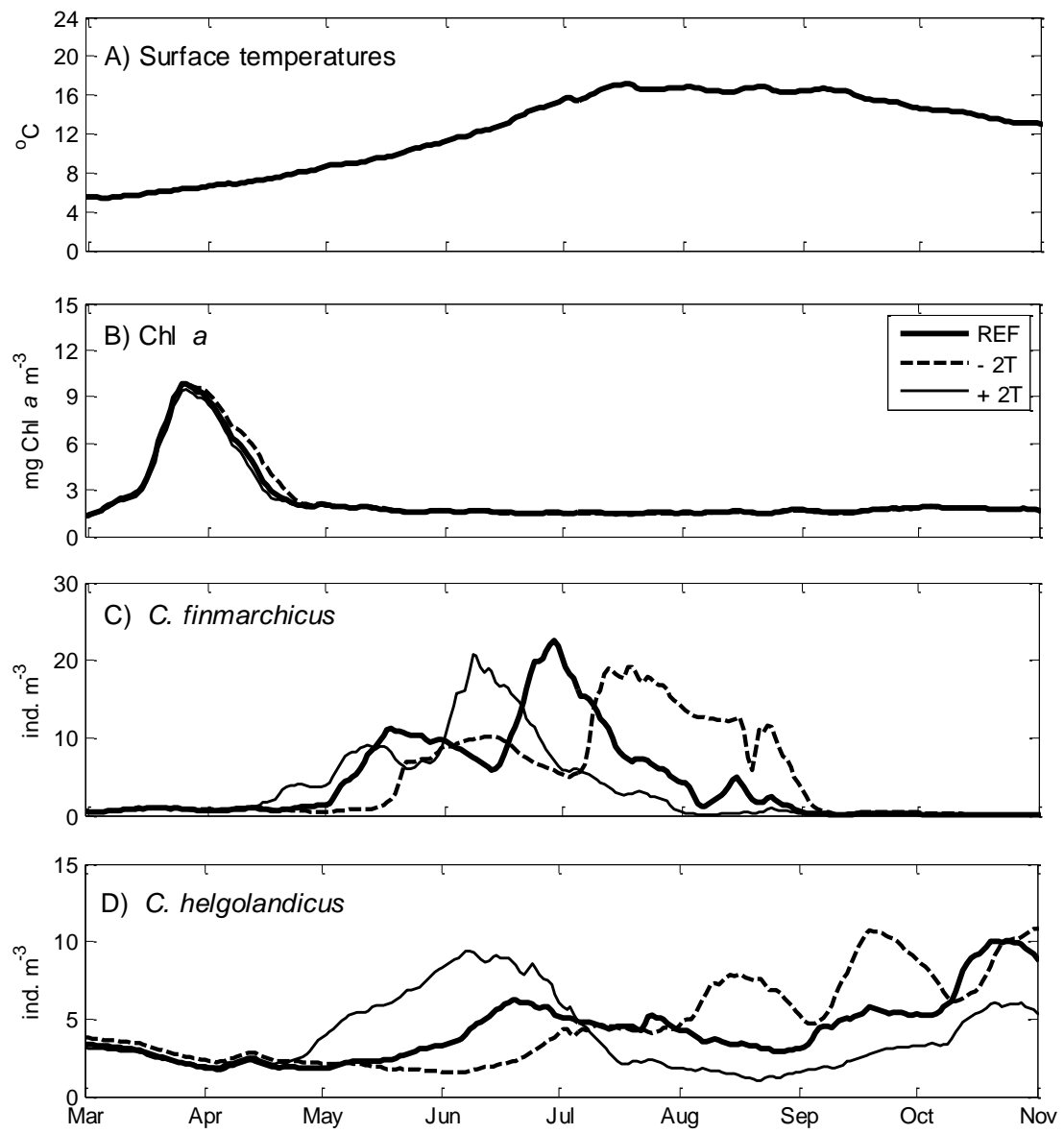


Figure 13.

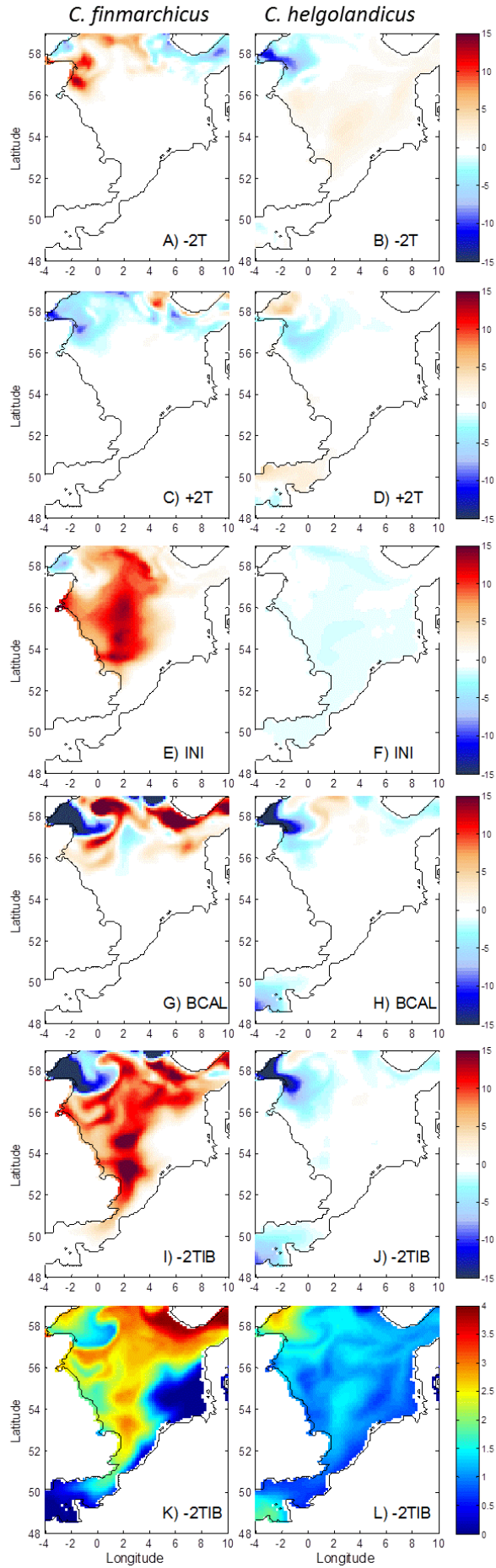


Figure 14.

