

Report from the SMHI monitoring cruise with R/V Aranda



Survey period: 2015-04-20 - 2015-04-27
Survey area: Skagerrak, Kattegat, the Sound and the Baltic Proper
Principal: SMHI and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

SUMMARY

The expedition was part of the Swedish regular marine monitoring programme and covered Skagerrak, Kattegat, the Sound and the Baltic Proper. Data presented in this report have been subject to preliminary quality control procedures only.

The water temperature in the surface layer was essentially normal for the season. In the Skagerrak nutrient concentrations in the surface water has risen slightly since the previous survey, while they in the Kattegat showed, for the season, typical concentrations. Phosphate and silicate were generally above normal in most parts of the Baltic proper, while the concentrations of inorganic nitrogen was below the detection limit, in almost the whole area. In the Eastern Gotland Basin, a bloom was ongoing and high fluorescence was registered. In other areas phytoplankton activity was low. The effects of inflows during December 2014 were now clearly seen in the central part of the Eastern Gotland Basin. In the Western Gotland Basin, the oxygen situation remains serious as acute hypoxia occurred from depths exceeding 70-80 meters and hydrogen sulphide from about 90 meters depth.

The next cruise is planned to start June 12, 2015.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The cruise, performed on board the Finnish research vessel Aranda, began in Helsinki on April 20 and ended in the same port on the 27th. The winds during the expedition were mainly mild to moderate. Air temperatures ranged from 4.5 to 10.5° C. The station BY15 in the Eastern Gotland Basin could not be sampled and was moved somewhat westwards into Swedish waters, due to a Russian navy exercise.

Two researchers from University of Helsinki took part in the expedition in order to study the formation of N₂O in hypoxic waters.

The Skagerrak

The salinity in the surface layer showed small variations around 30 psu. Surface water temperature was normal for the season and varied between 7.1 and 7.8° C. The halocline and thermocline were weakly developed near the coast while they were sharper further west and found at around 10-15 meters depth.

Surface nutrient concentrations had generally increased slightly compared to the previous survey in March, when all nutrients were almost consumed. Phosphate concentrations in the surface water ranged between 0.04 and 0.09 µmol/l, nitrite + nitrate varied from 0.3 to 2.1 µmol/l, while the concentrations of silicate varied between 0.7 and 1.3 µmol/l.

Fluorescence measurements together with oxygen saturation showed low biological activity, except in the outer Skagerrak, where a strong bloom was found at 15 meters depth. Turquoise waters suggest that a diatom bloom of *Emiliana Huxleyi* was ongoing.

The Kattegat and the Sound

The temperature of the surface water was normal for the season and varied from 8°C in the south to 9°C in the north. In the Kattegat surface salinity was normal, between 20.1 - 23.5 psu. In the Sound, the salinity was slightly lower than normal, about 10 psu. Halocline and thermocline was found at 5 to 15 meters deep.

Concentrations of nutrients in surface waters were normal for the season except for silicate which showed levels above normal. The spring bloom was still ongoing and high fluorescence values were measured adjacent to the halocline. Phosphate concentrations varied from 0.06 µmol/l in the north, to 0.11 µmol/l in the south, while silicate concentrations were in the range 2.9 to 4.0 µmol/l. In the Sound the corresponding values were 0.27 for phosphate and 5.8 µmol/l for silicate. Inorganic nitrogen was below the detection limit (< 0.10 µmol/l) in the southern Kattegat and the Sound, but showed a concentration of 0.39 µmol/l in the northern Kattegat. The lowest oxygen concentrations were measured at Anholt E in the Kattegat, 5.6 ml/l, and at W Landskrona in the Sound, 4.9 ml/l.

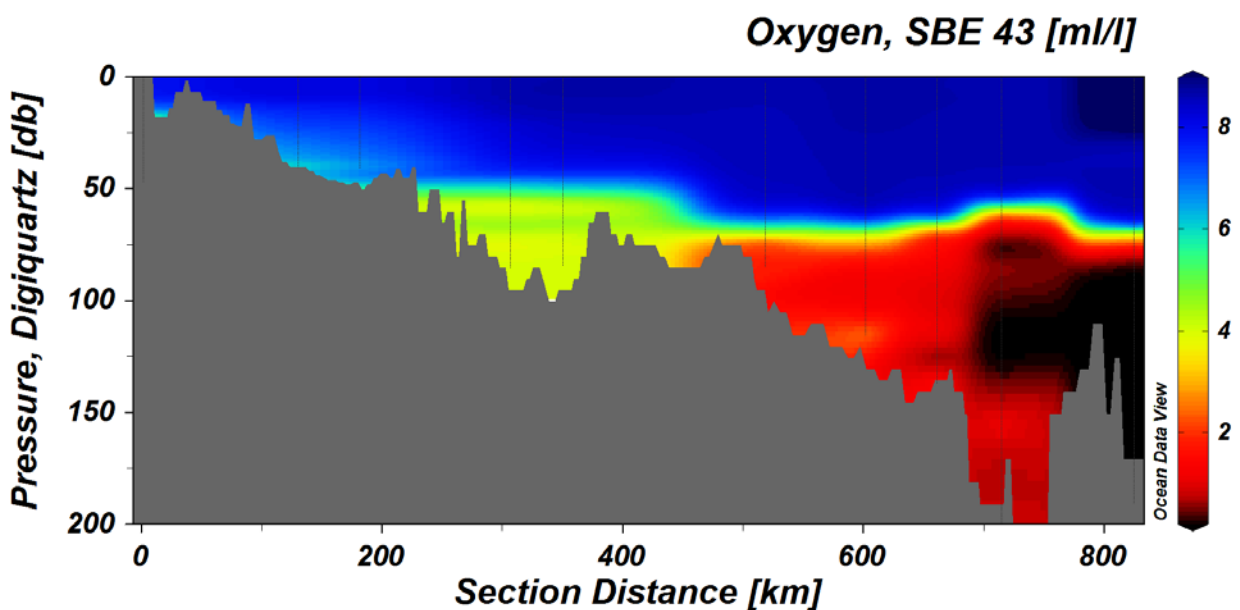
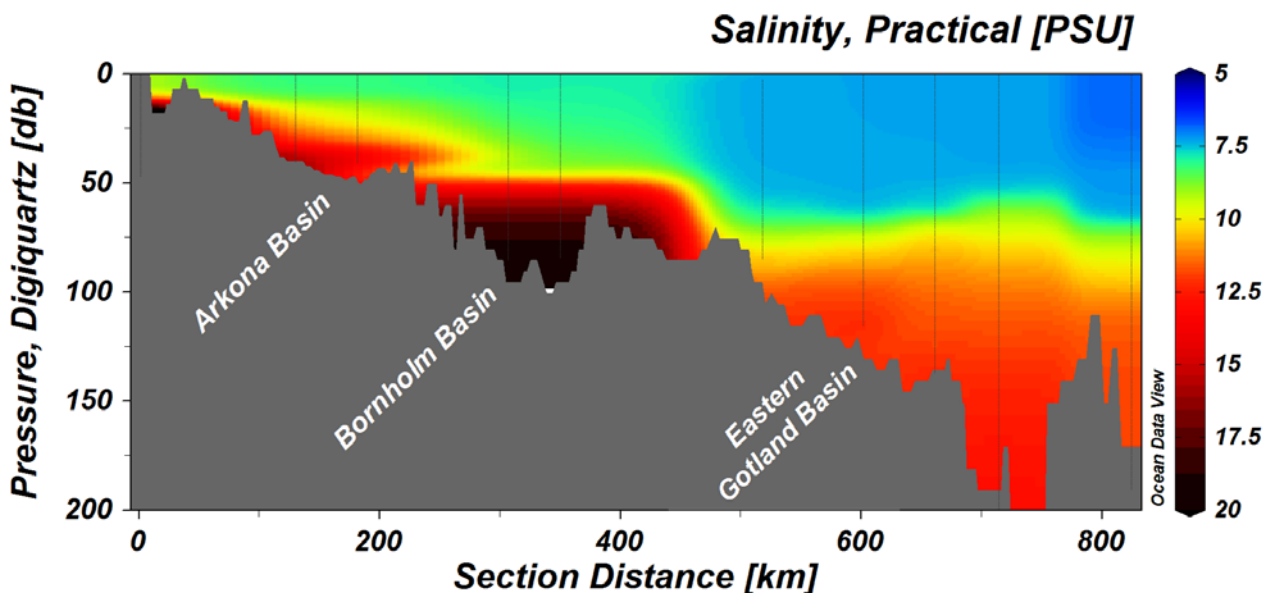
The Baltic Proper

The temperature in the surface layer was slightly above average for the season and ranged from 4.1°C in the northeast to 7.0°C in the southwest. Surface salinity was slightly above normal in the Arkona and Bornholm Basin and ranged from 6.8 psu in the northeast to 8.3 psu. The halocline was found at 60-70 m depth in the western and eastern Gotland Basins, while it was shallower in the south, at depths between 30 and 50 meters.

Phosphate and silicate concentrations were generally above normal and ranged between 0.3 - 0.7 µmol/l and 10 - 18 µmol/l respectively. The concentration of inorganic nitrogen was below the detection limit throughout the area, except in the Southeast where the levels were around 1.2 µmol/l.

The spring bloom was ongoing in the northern parts of the Eastern Gotland Basin, where high fluorescence was recorded at 5-25 meters depth. In other areas the phytoplankton activity was low.

The inflow to the Baltic Sea that occurred in December 2014 had now reached the central parts of Eastern Gotland Basin. At the Gotland Deep acute hypoxia occurred from 70 meters depth and hydrogen sulfide (oxygen-free conditions) at intermediate depths, 125-150 meters. Below this anoxic layer bottom water was oxygenated and oxygen levels had increased from about 1 ml/l to around 3 ml/l since the previous survey in March. The salinity of the bottom water had also increased with about 0.5 psu. In the northern part of the Eastern Gotland Basin no effects of the inflow were seen and hydrogen sulphide was recorded from depths exceeding 90 meters. In the Bornholm Basin, Arkona Basin and Hanö Bight there were no lack of oxygen in the bottom waters but oxygen concentrations had decreased since the previous measurement with 0.5-1 ml/l. In Western Gotland Basin, the oxygen situation remains serious. Anoxic conditions was recorded from 90 meters and acute hypoxia (<2ml/l) from about 70 meters.





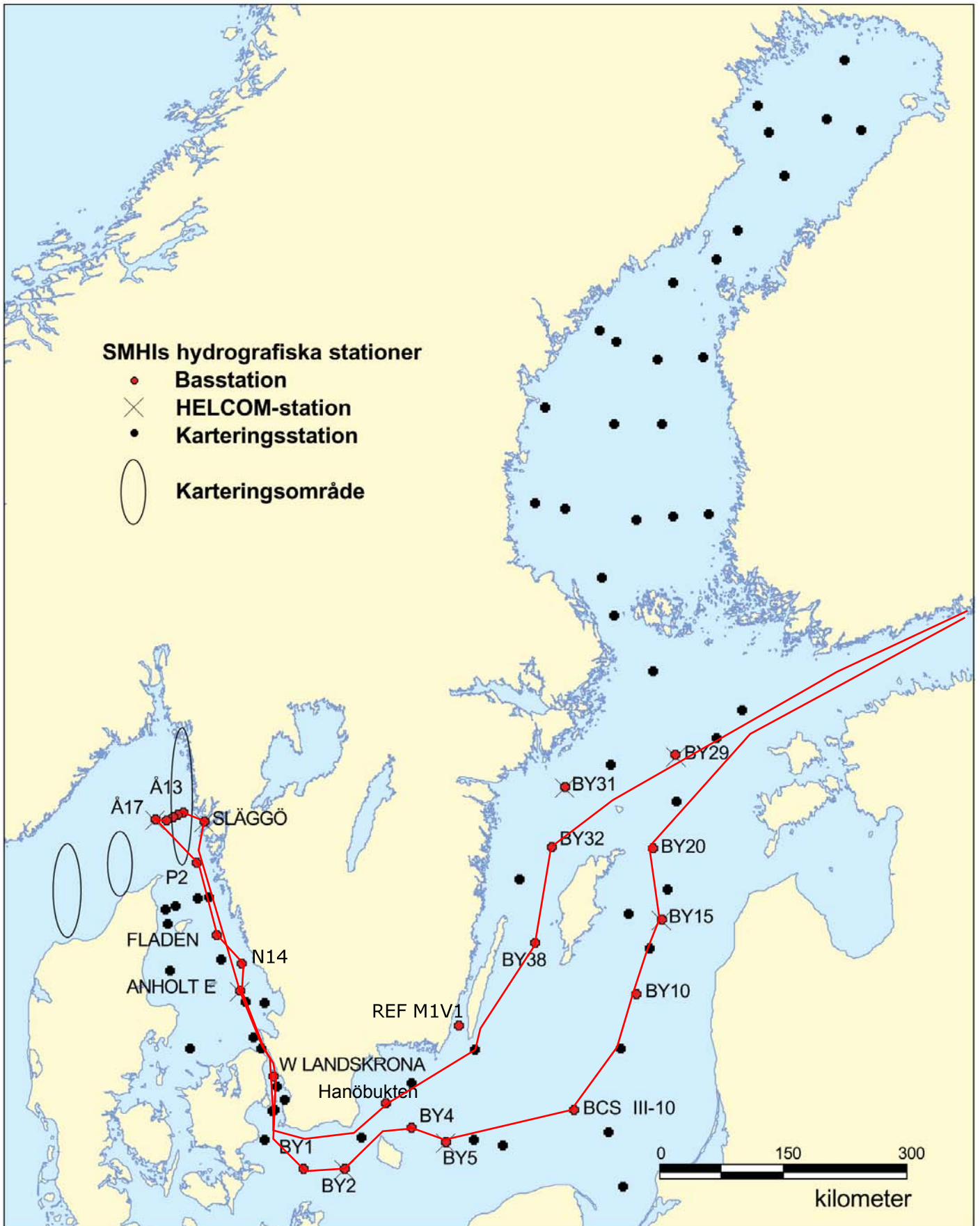
PARTICIPANTS

Name		Institute
Lars Andersson	Chief scientist	SMHI
Daniel Bergman-Sjöstrand		SMHI
Martin Hansson (Lysekil-Helsingfors)		SMHI
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Gunnar Jacobs		University of Helsinki

APPENDICES

- Track chart
- Table over stations, parameters and sampling depths
- Map showing bottom oxygen concentrations
- Monthly average surface water plots for selected stations
- Vertical profiles for selected stations

TRACKCHART
Country: Sweden
Ship: R/V ARANDA
Date: 20150420-20150427
Series: 0177-0206



SMHI
Ocean enh

***** Hydrographic series

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Year: 2015

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Time: 06:14

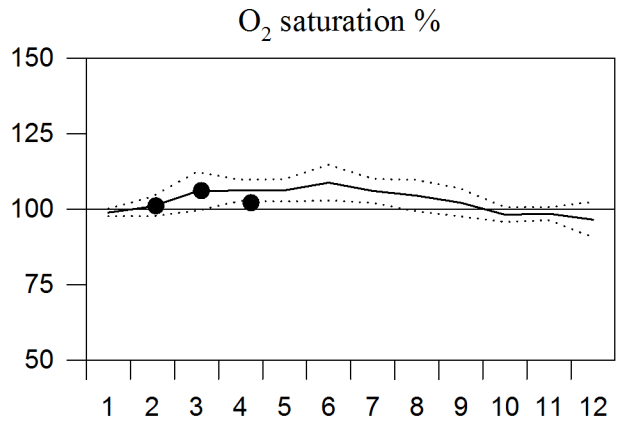
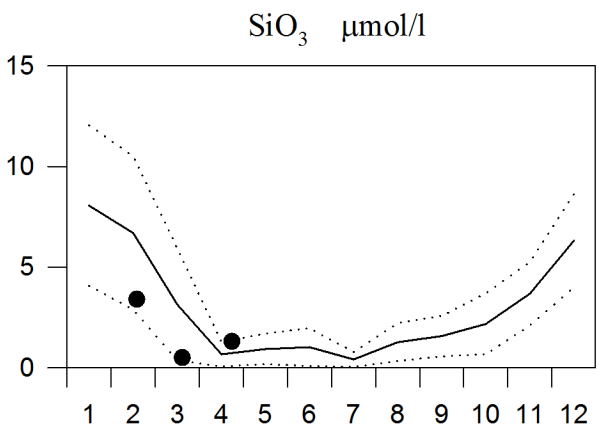
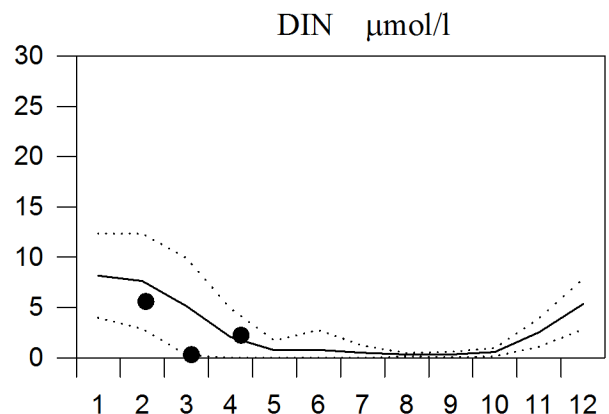
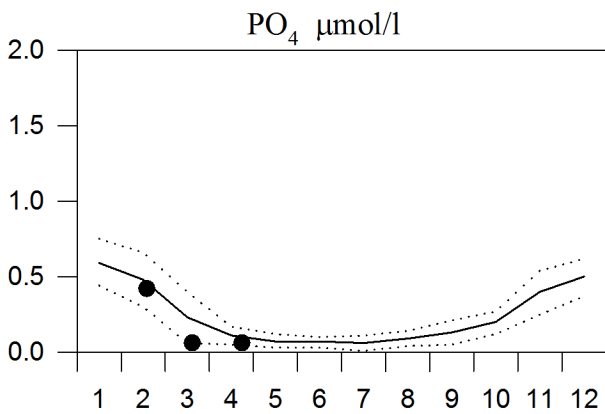
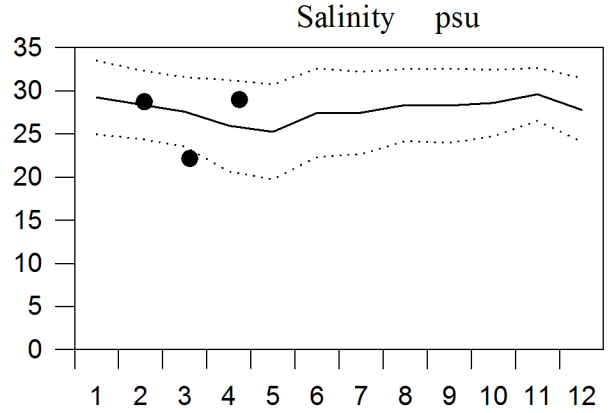
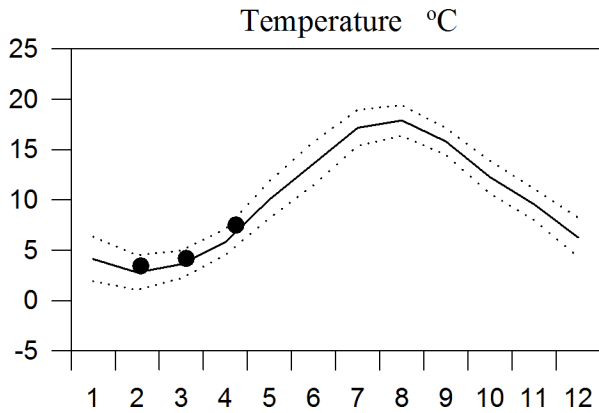
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0204	BPWX00EXT	17E	KLAPPERVALL	N5700.02	E1732.40	20150426	0055	107		21	7	6.7	1002	6990	x	-----	14	x	x	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0205	BPWX45BAS	BY38	KARLSÖDJ	N5707	E1740	20150426	0250	110		22	7	6.6	1002	9990	x	--x----	14	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x
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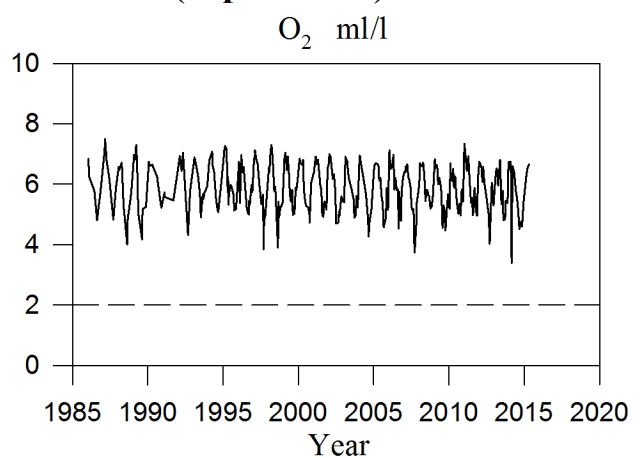
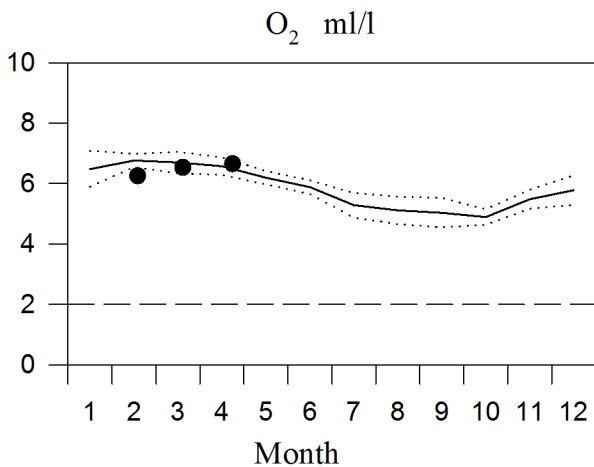
STATION P2 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

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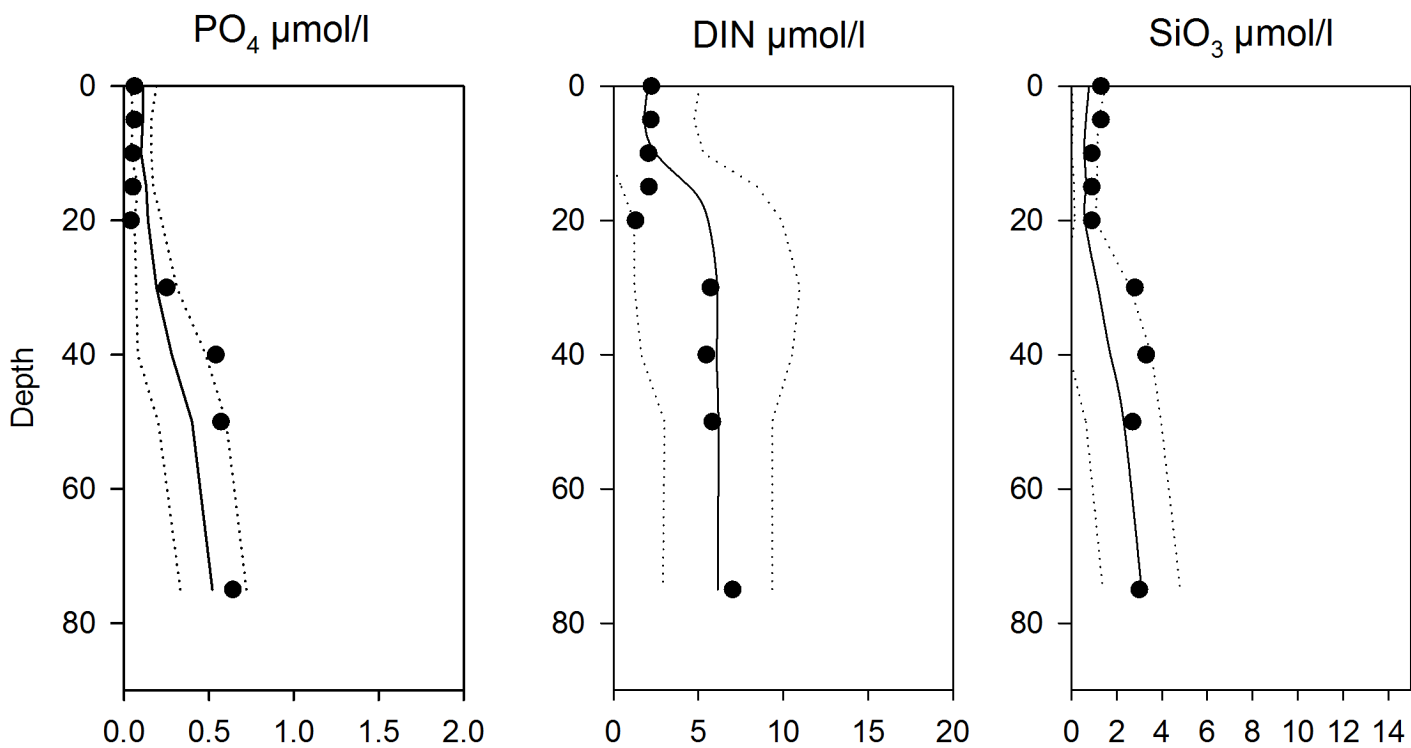
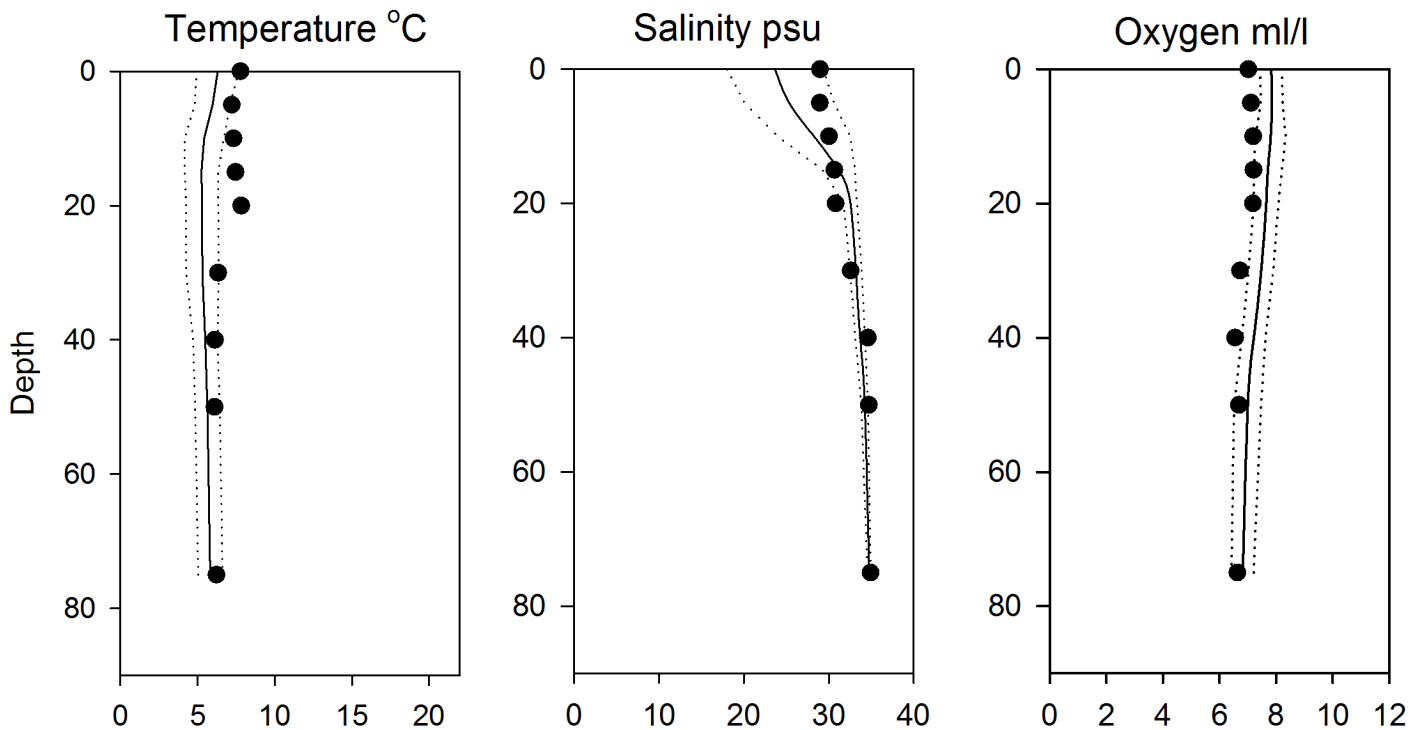


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >75m)



Vertical profiles P2 April

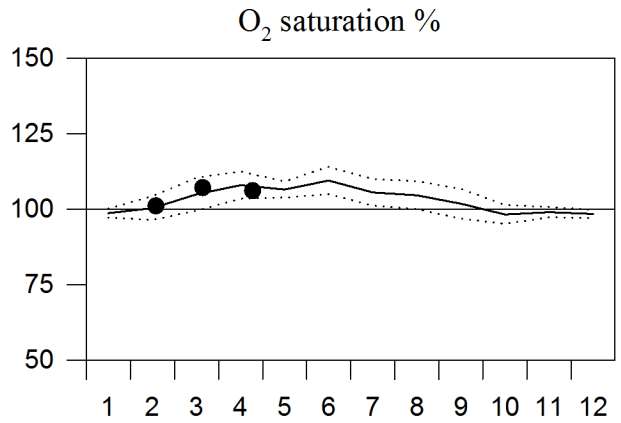
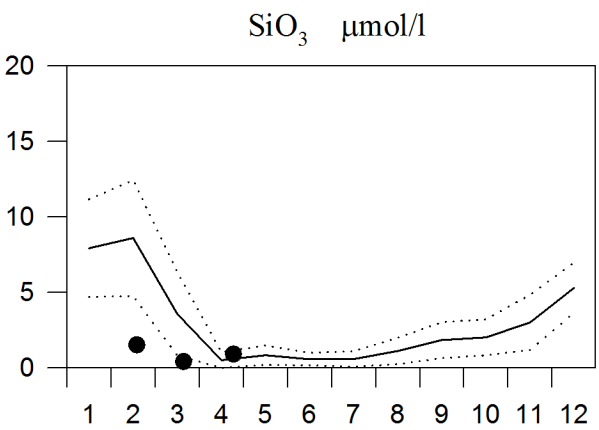
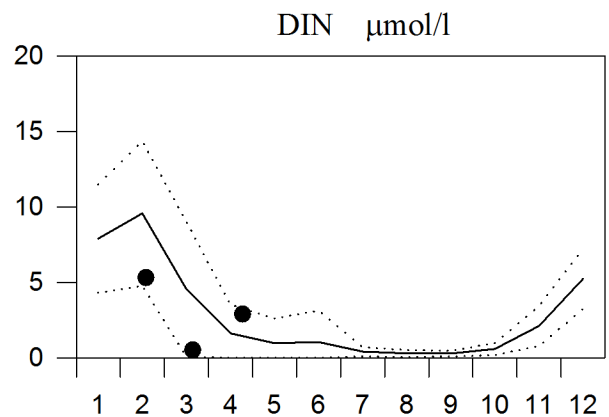
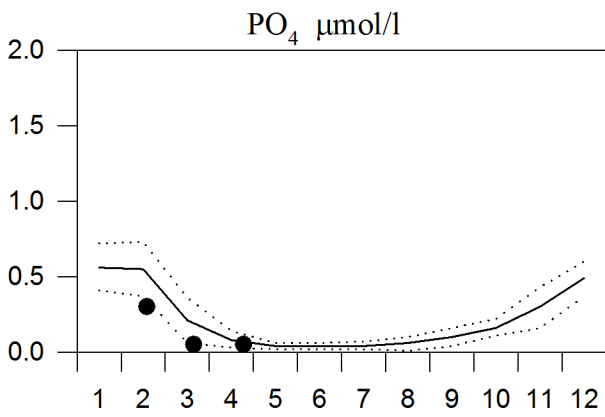
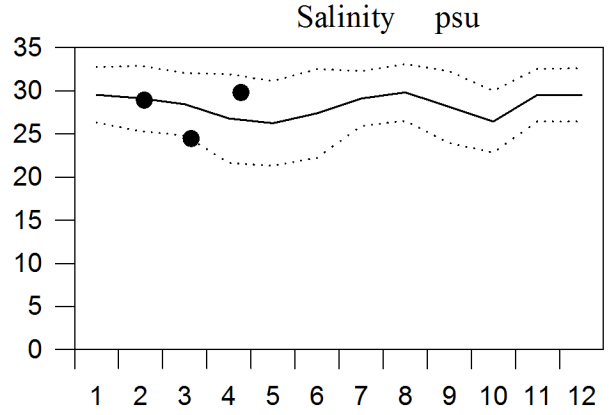
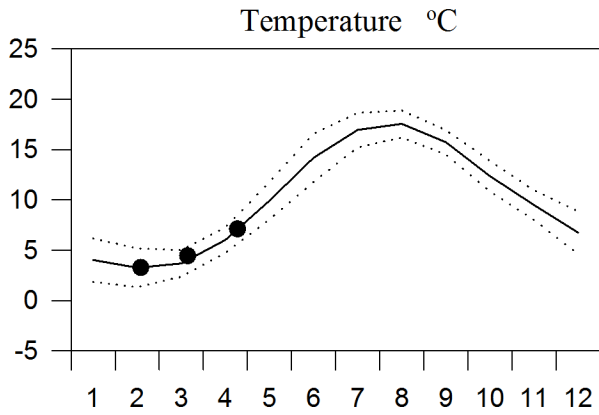
— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015



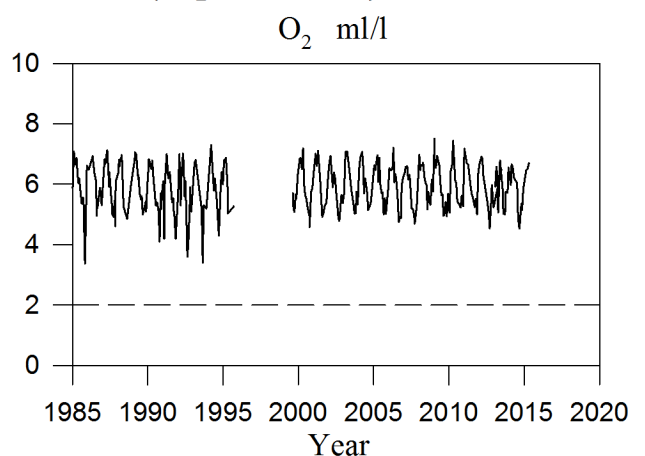
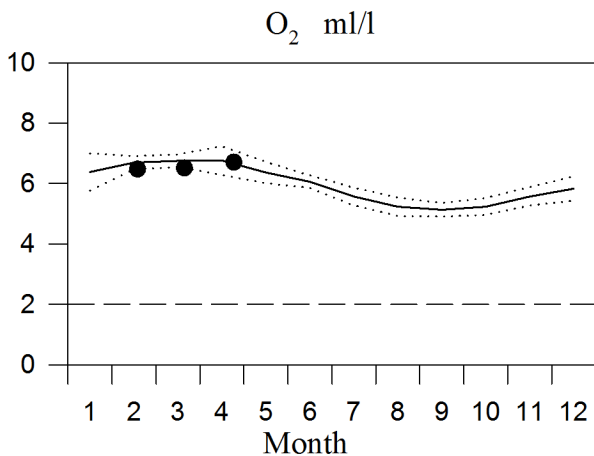
STATION Å13 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

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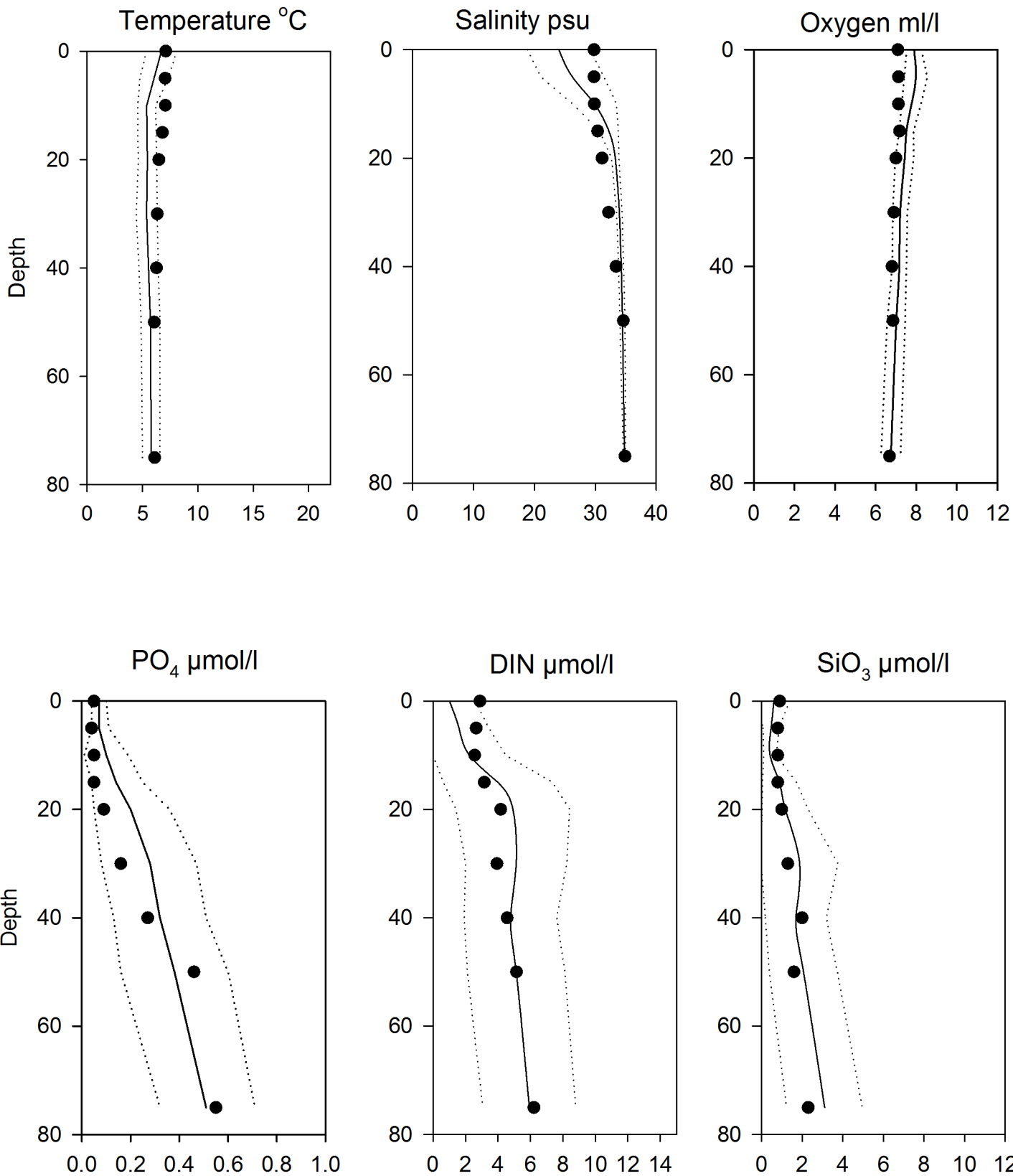


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >=75m)



Vertical profiles Å13 April

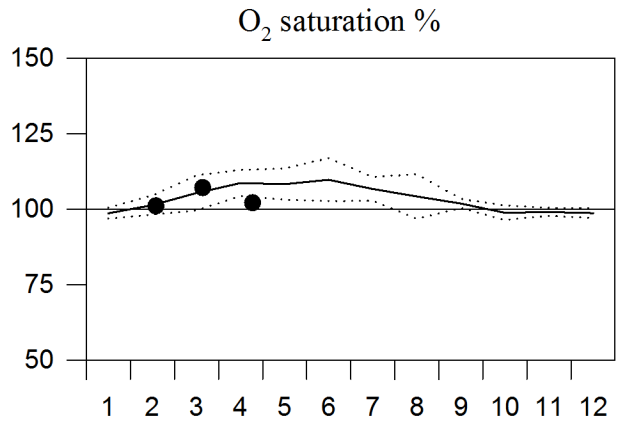
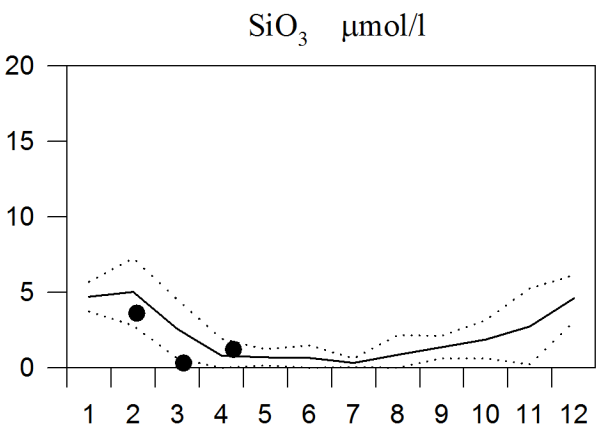
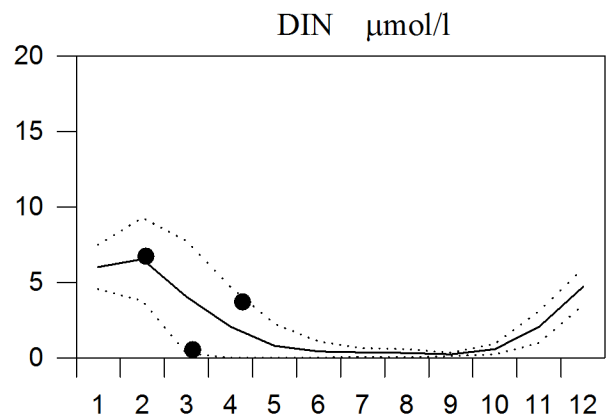
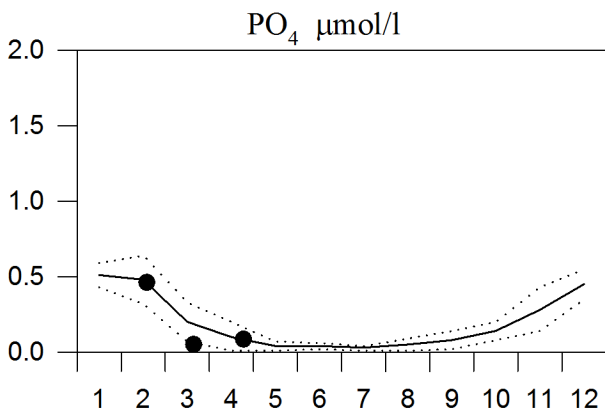
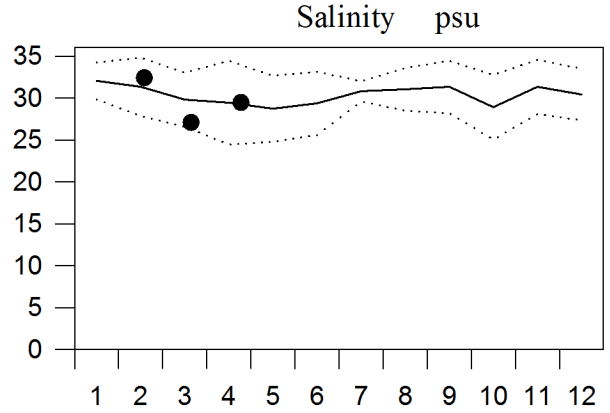
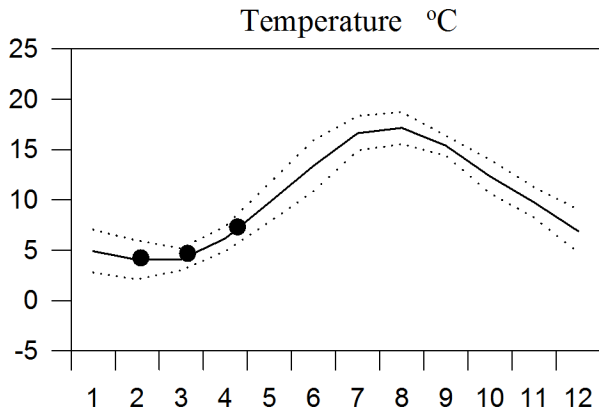
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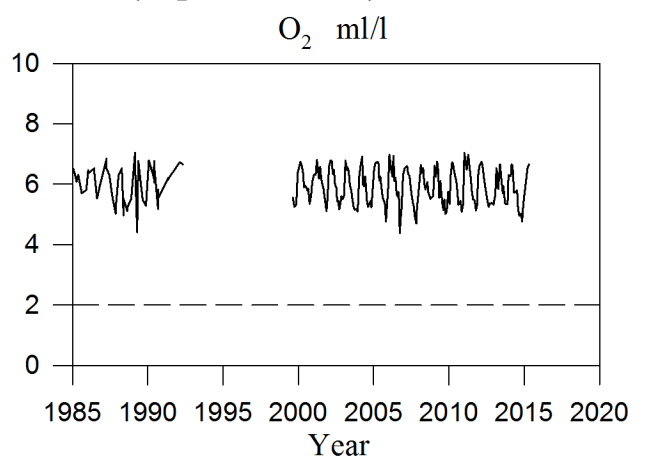
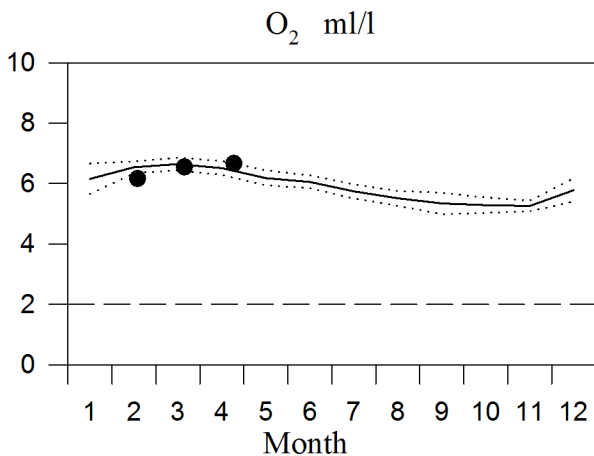
STATION Å15 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

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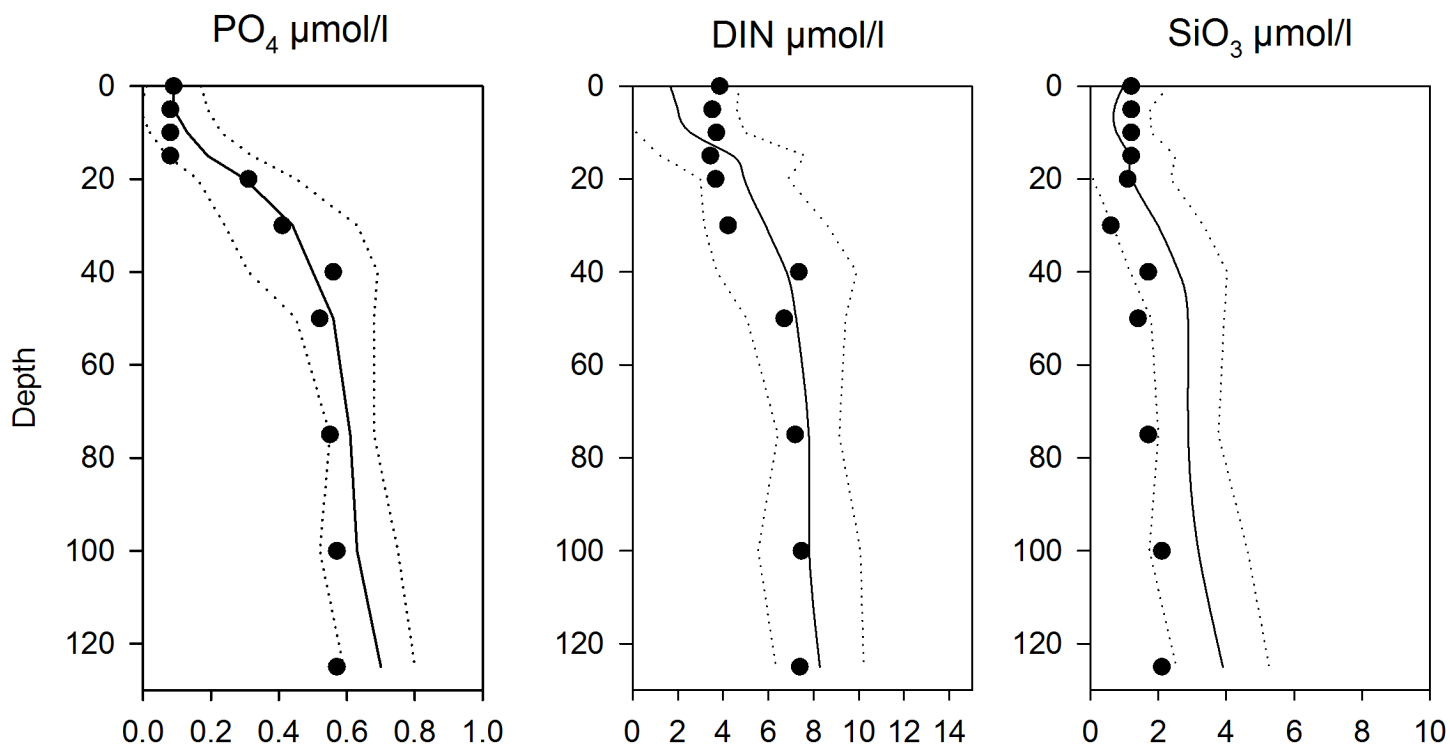
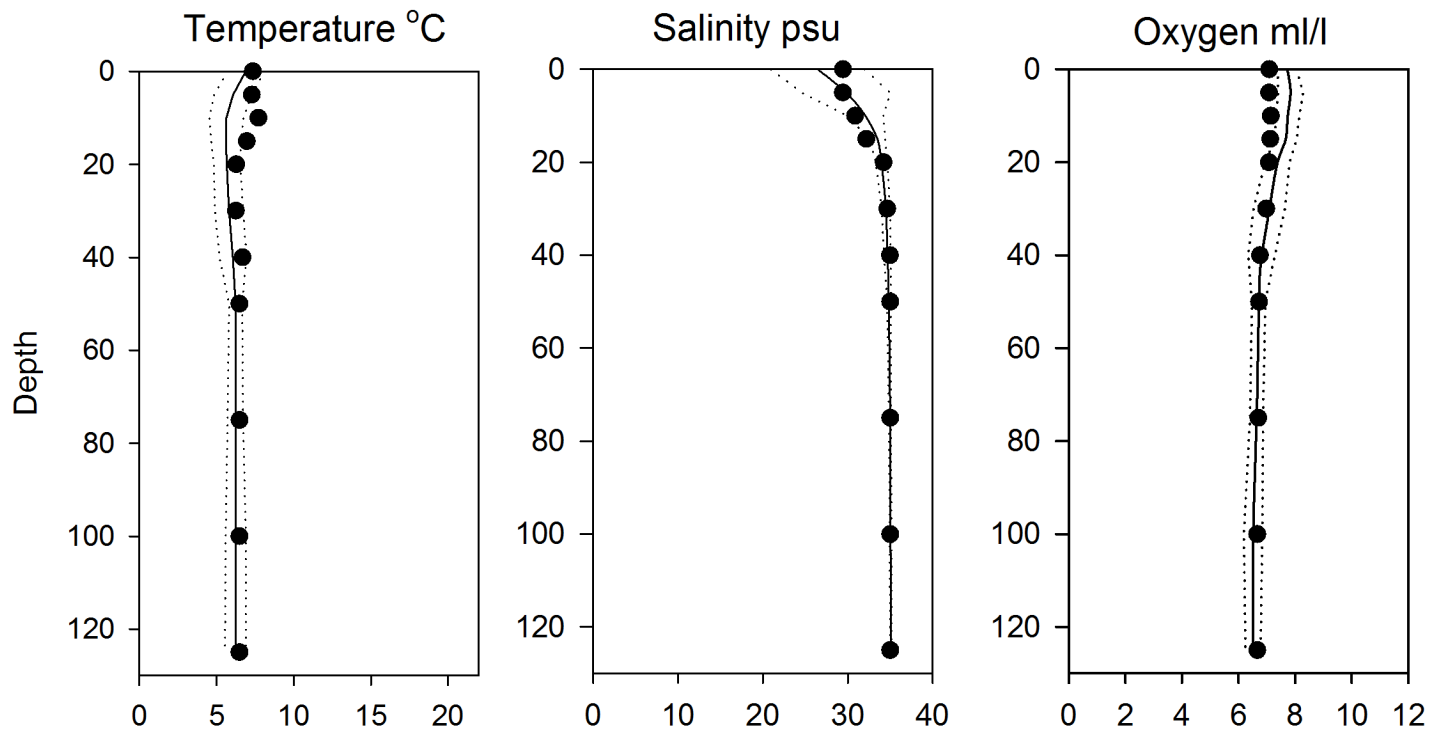


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >=125m)



Vertical profiles Å15 April

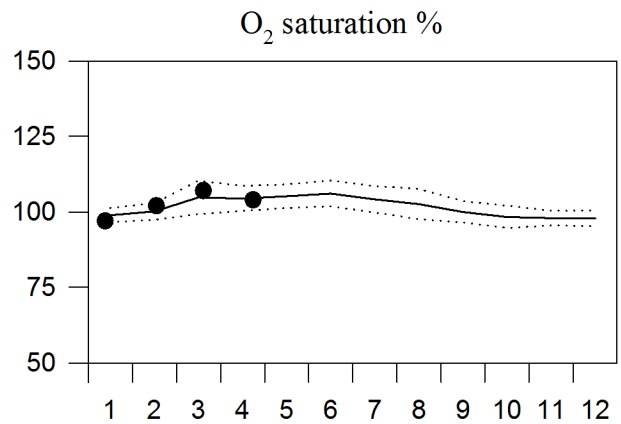
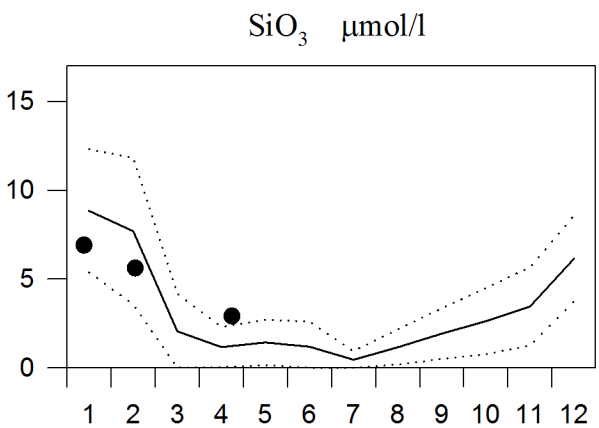
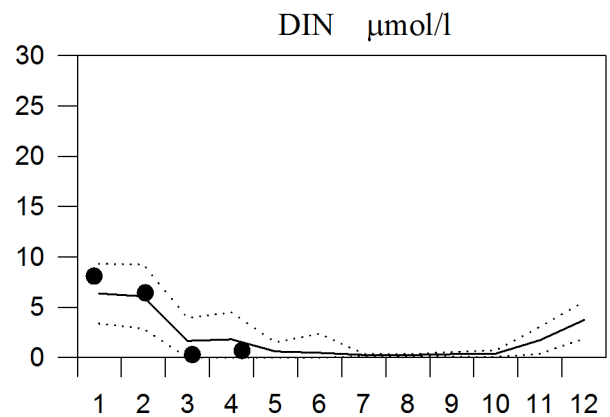
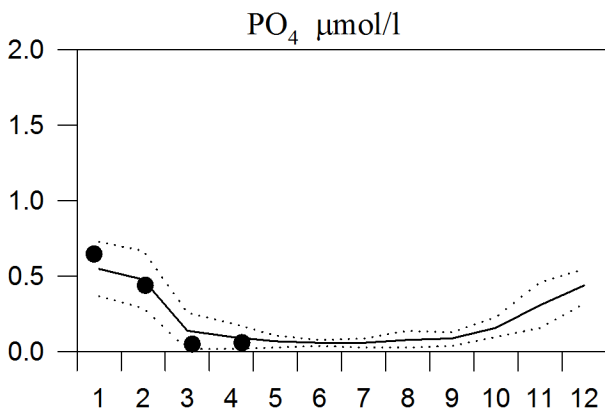
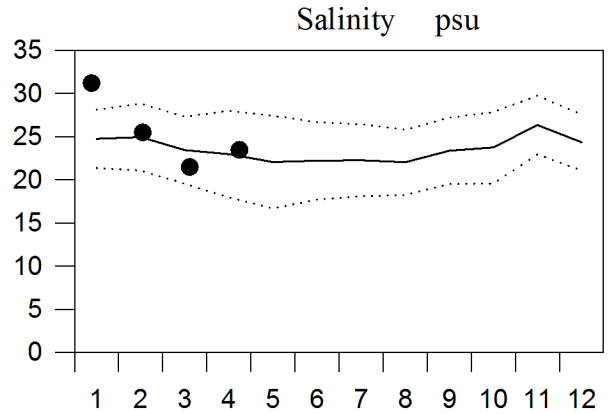
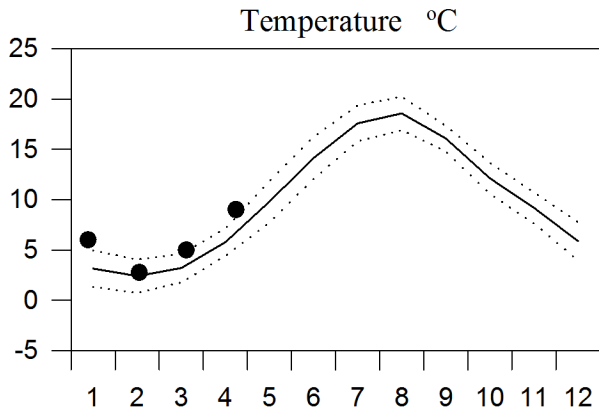
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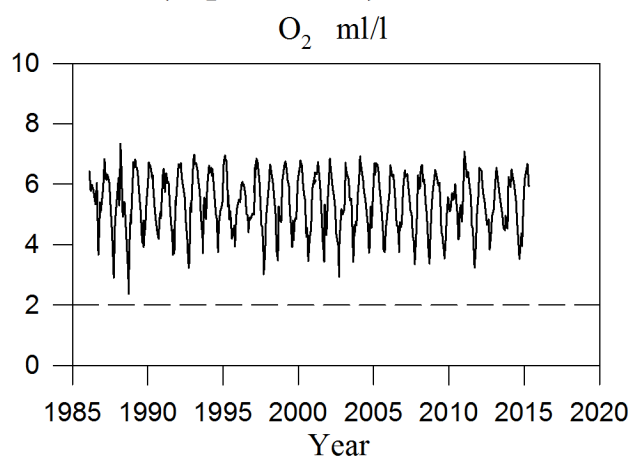
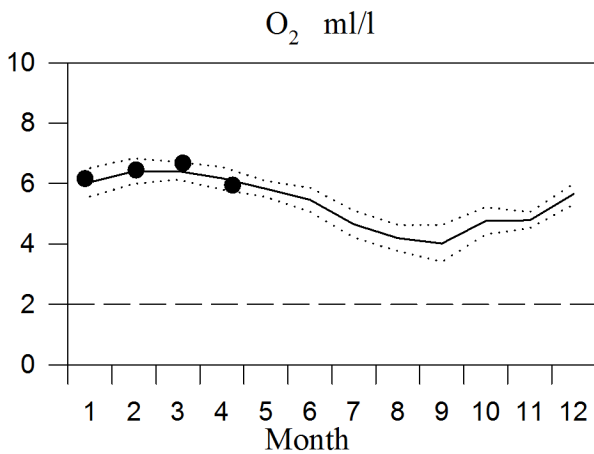
STATION FLADEN SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

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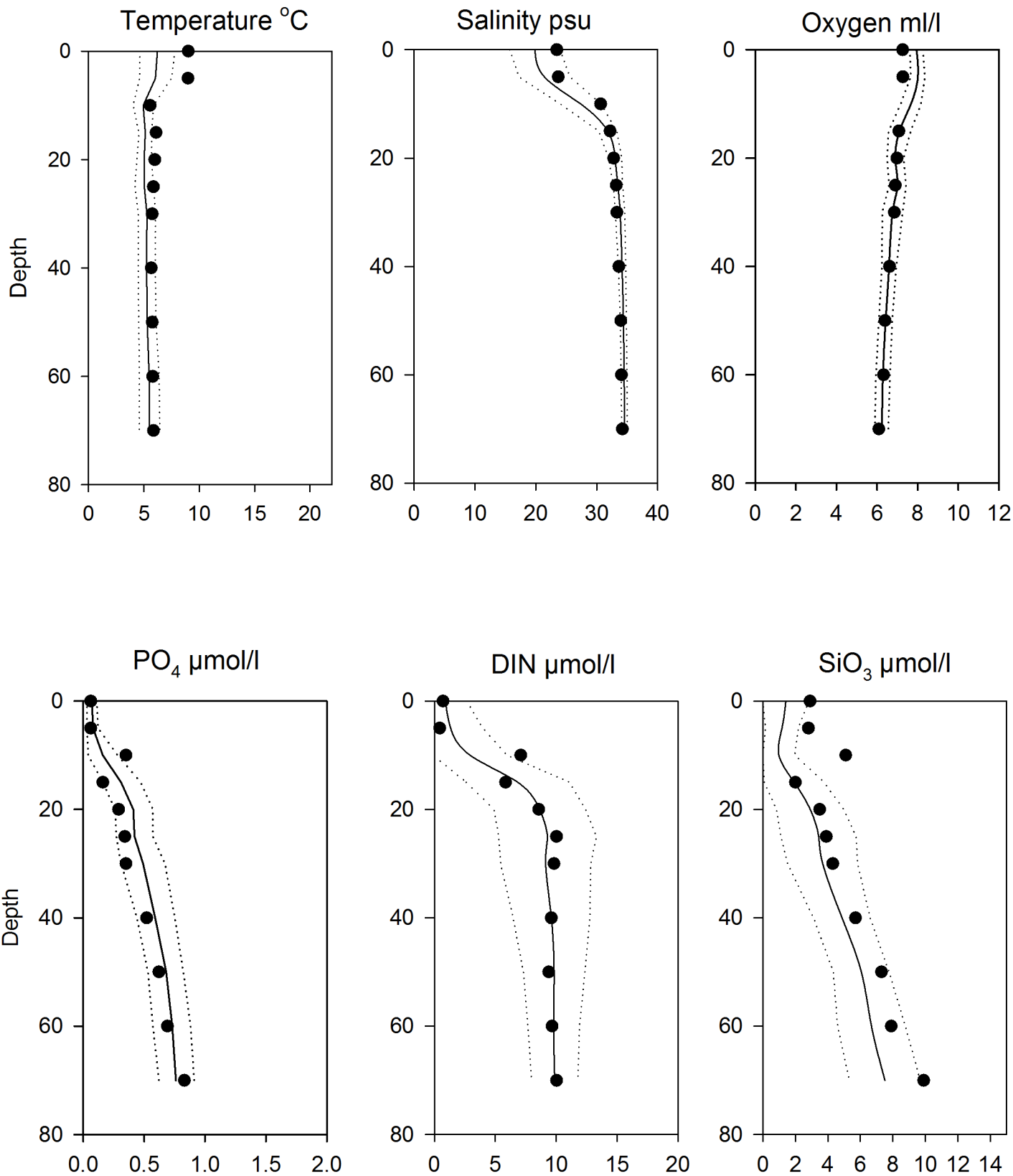


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth > 70m)



Vertical profiles Fladen April

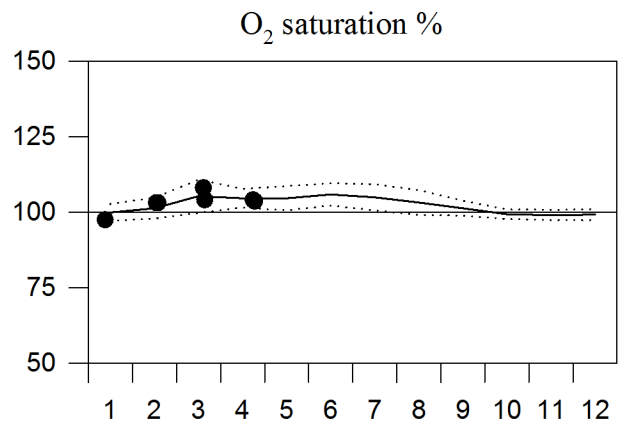
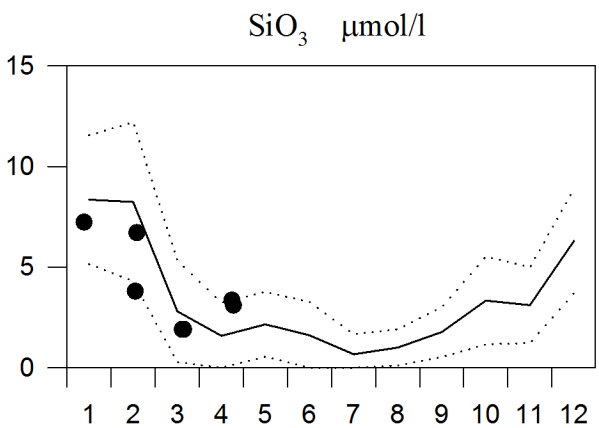
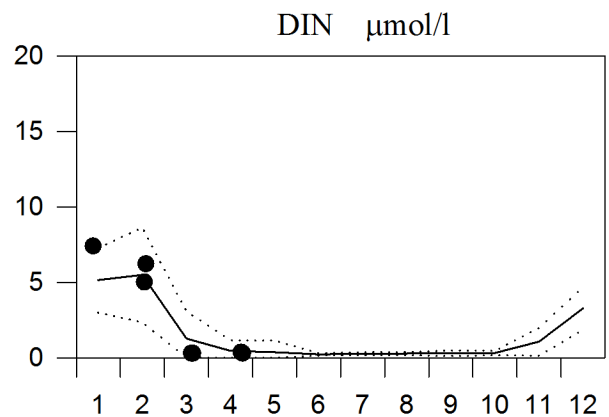
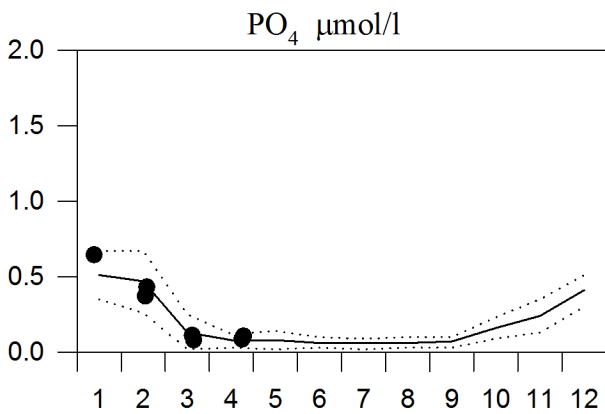
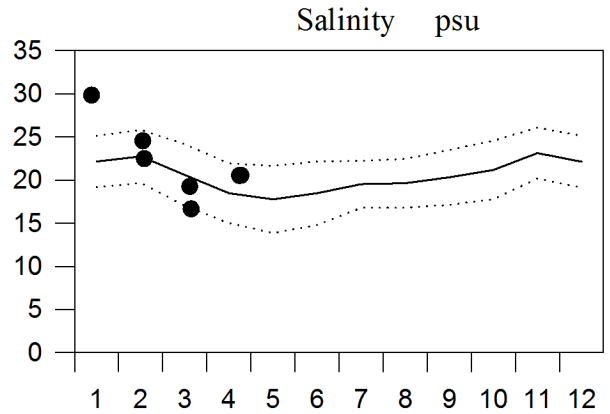
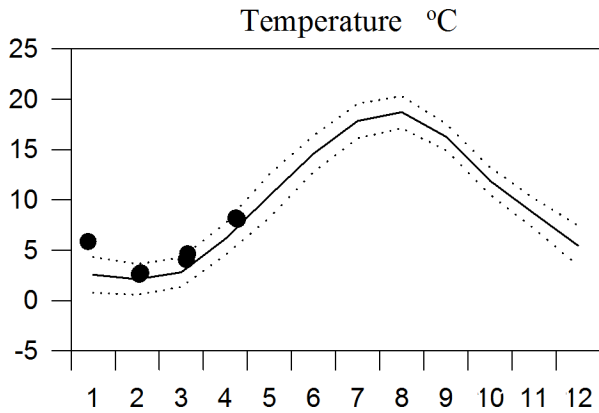
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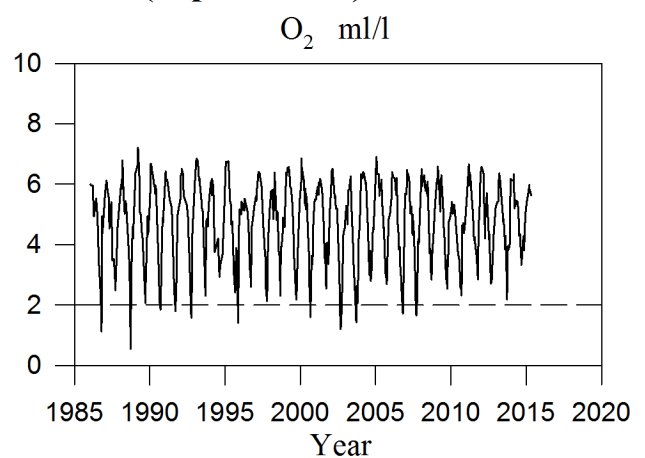
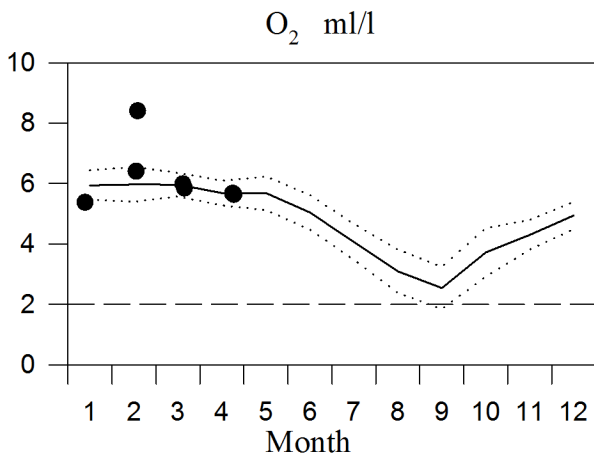
STATION ANHOLT E SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

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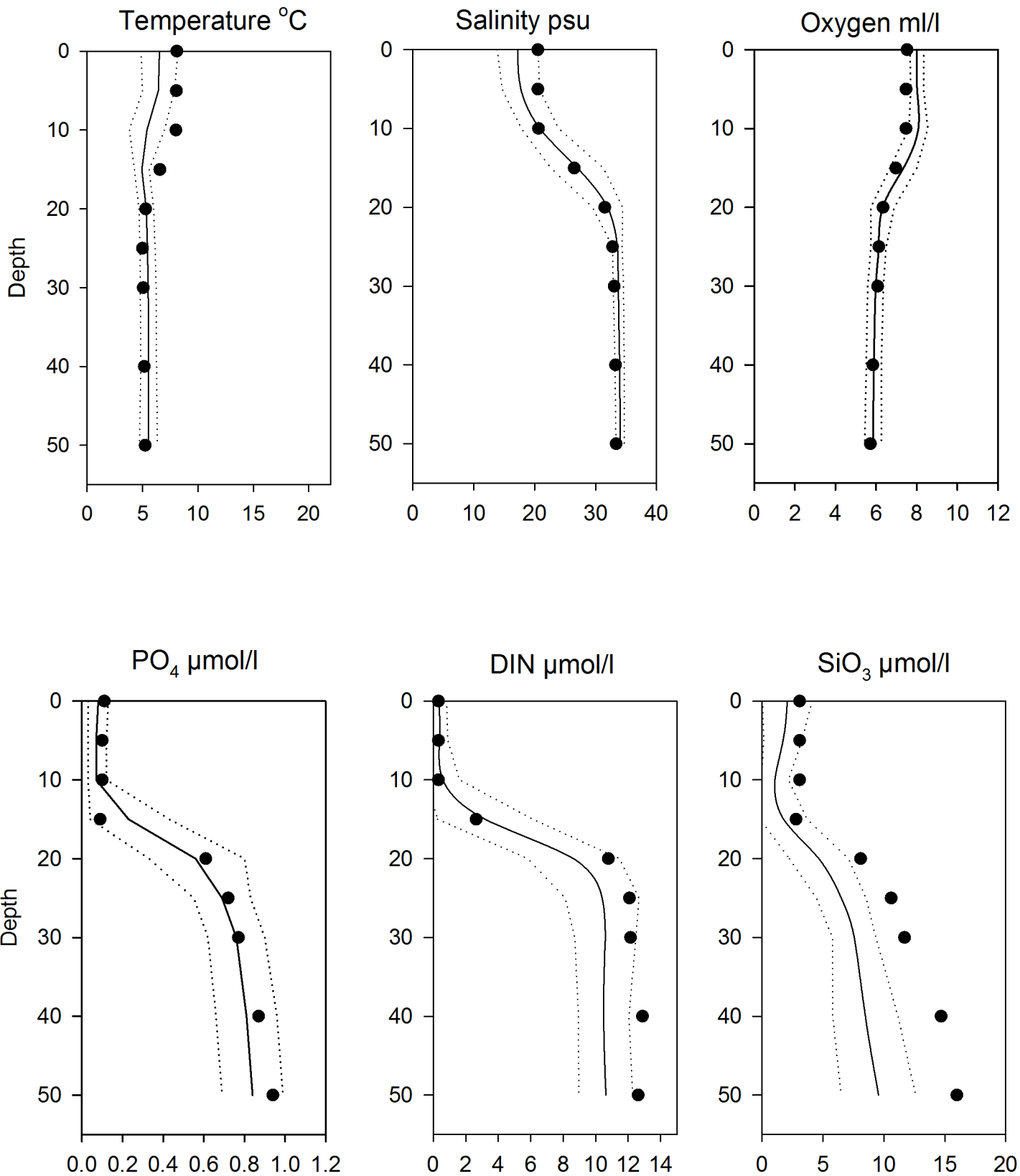


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth > 50m)



Vertical profiles Anholt E April

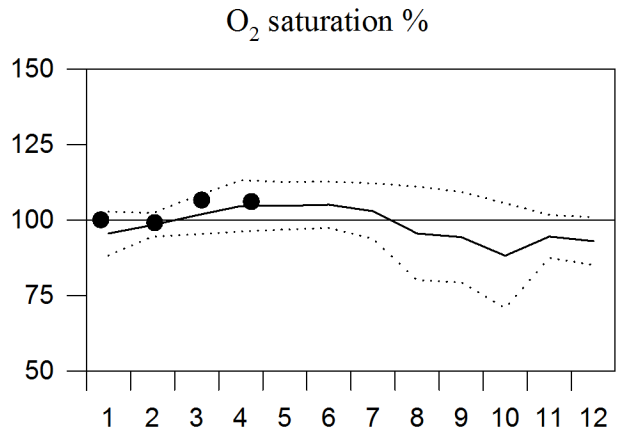
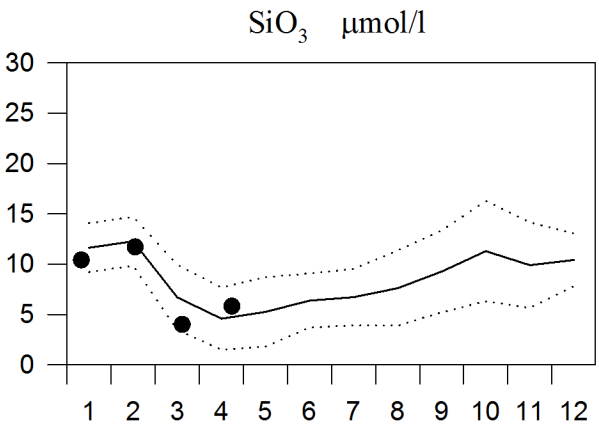
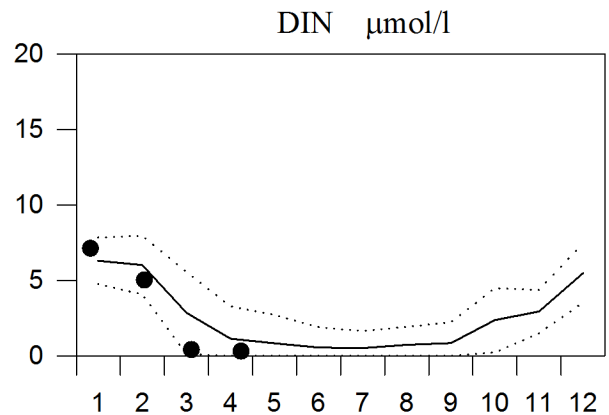
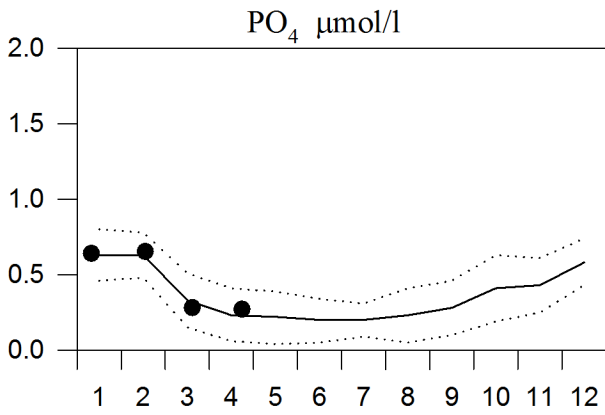
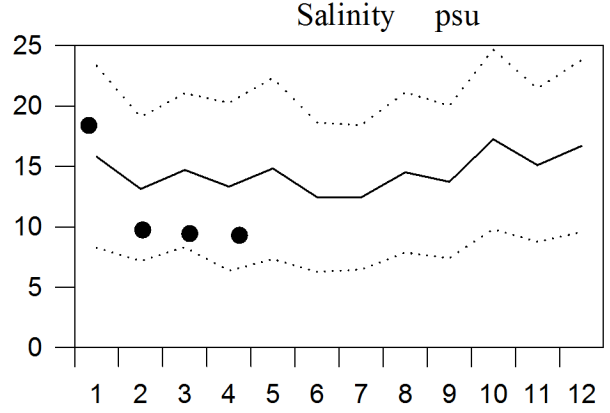
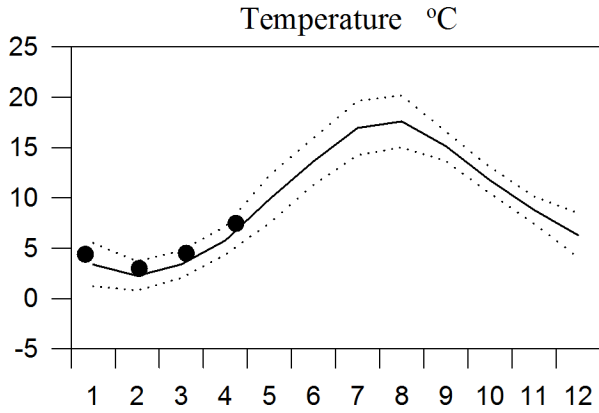
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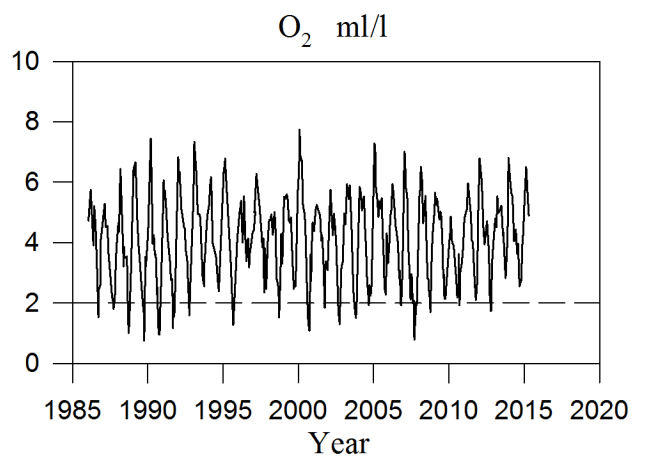
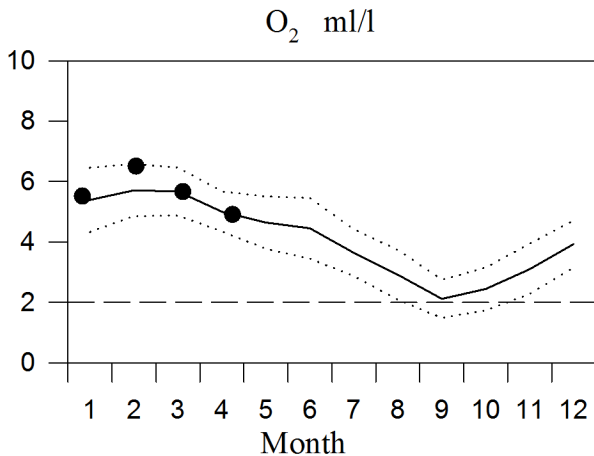
STATION W LANDSKRONA SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

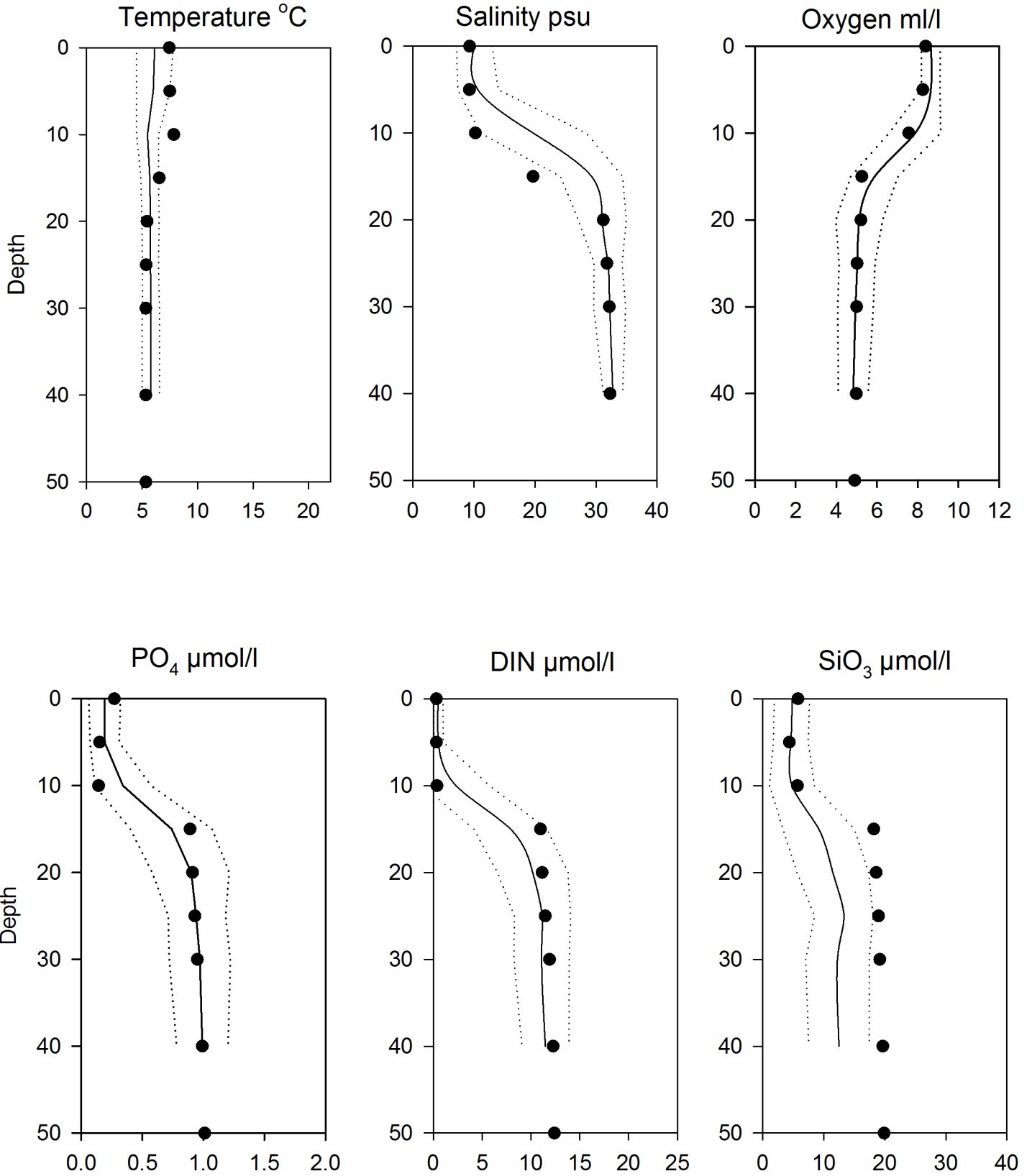


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >40m)



Vertical profiles W Landskrona April

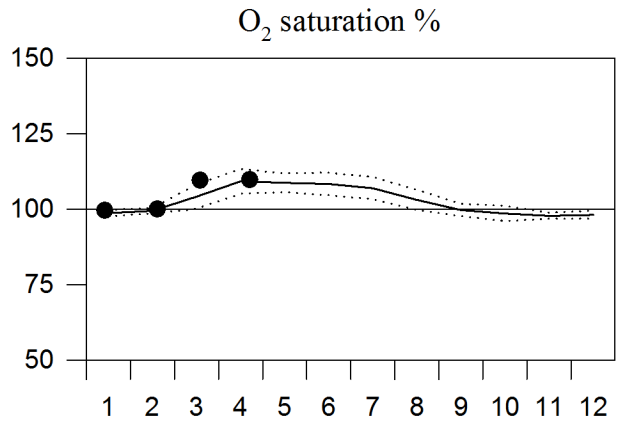
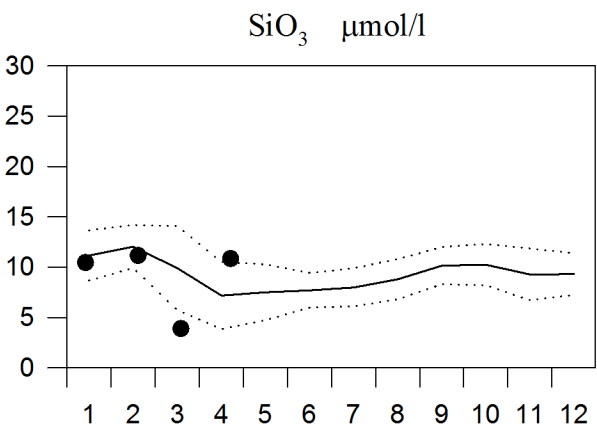
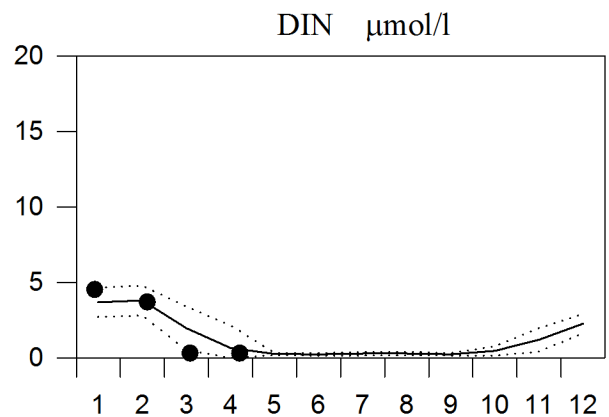
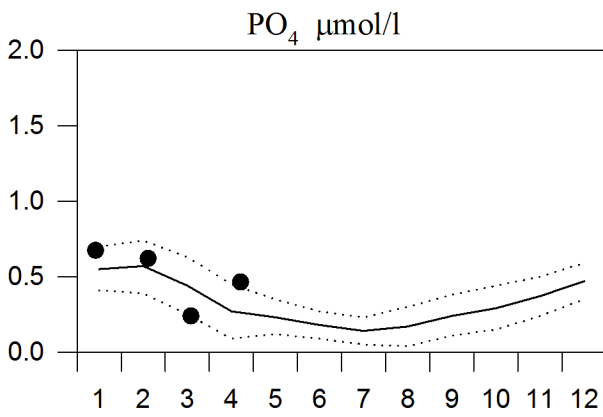
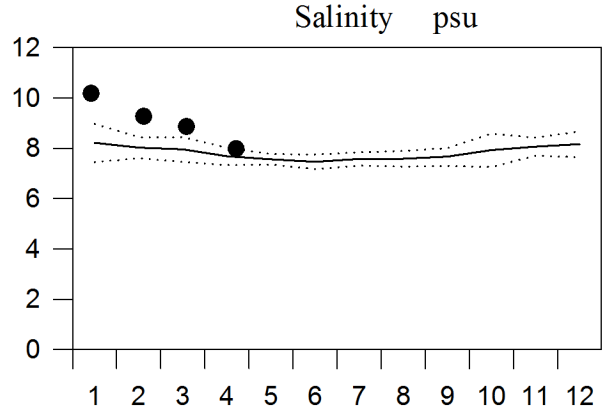
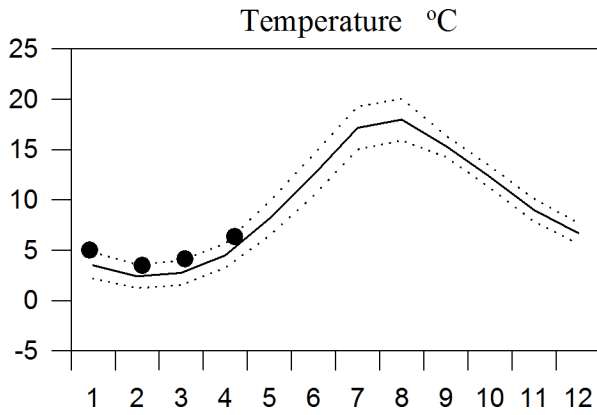
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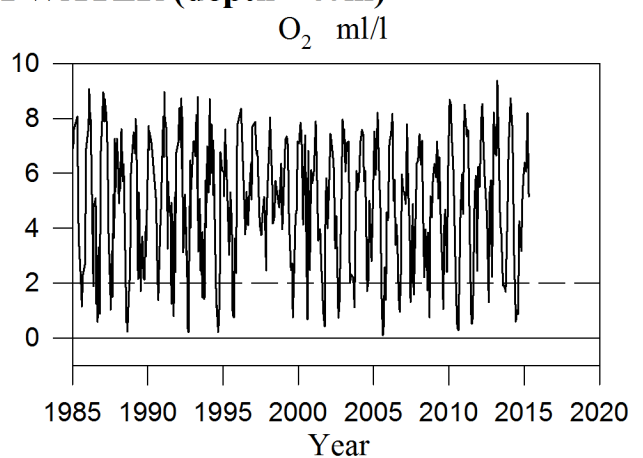
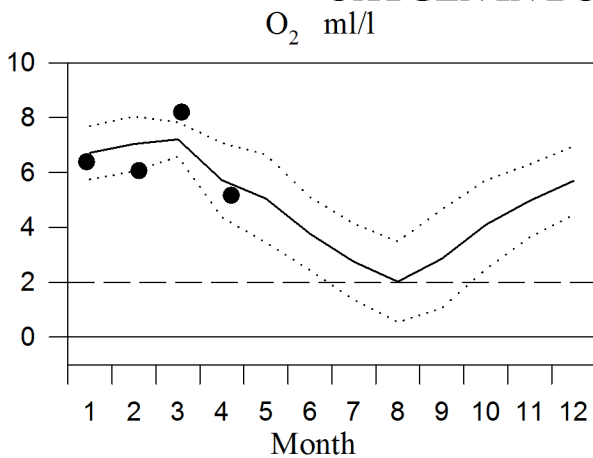
STATION BY1 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

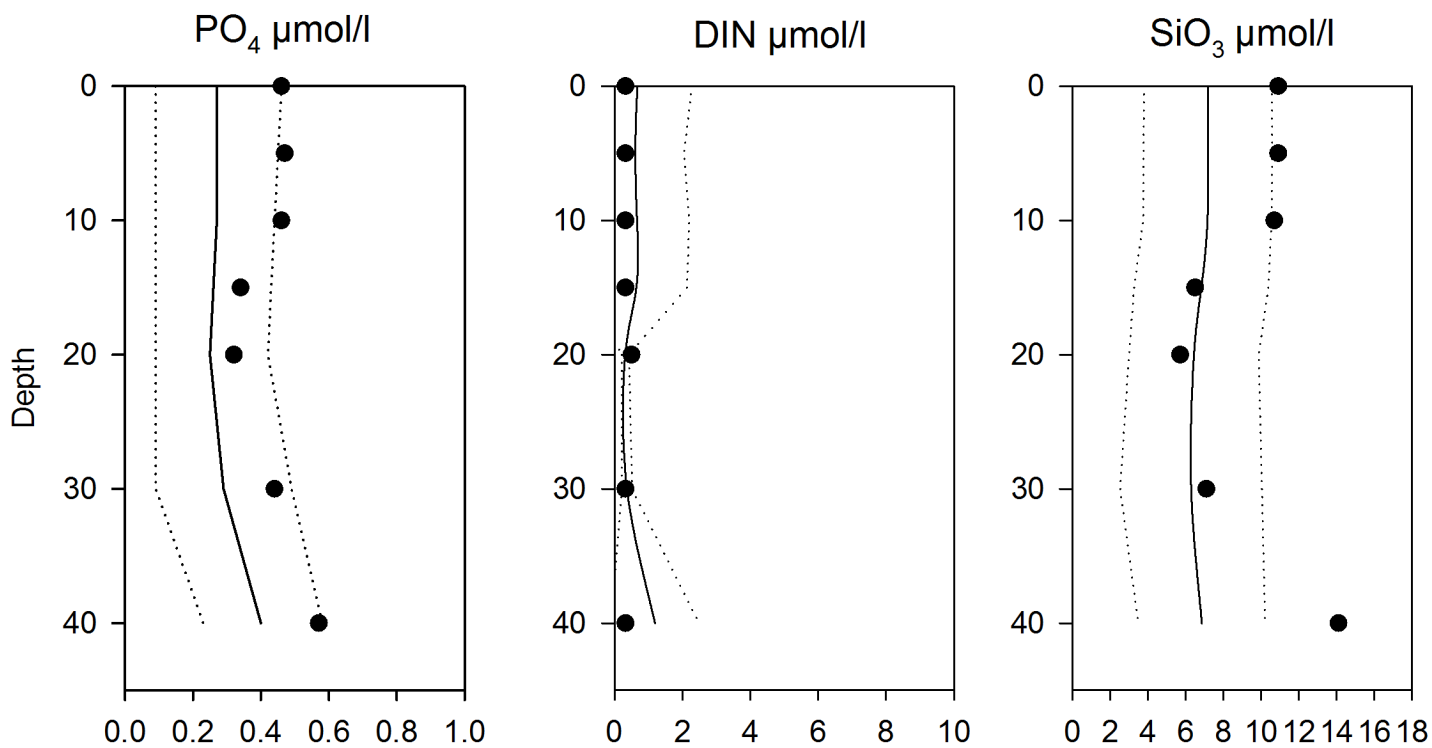
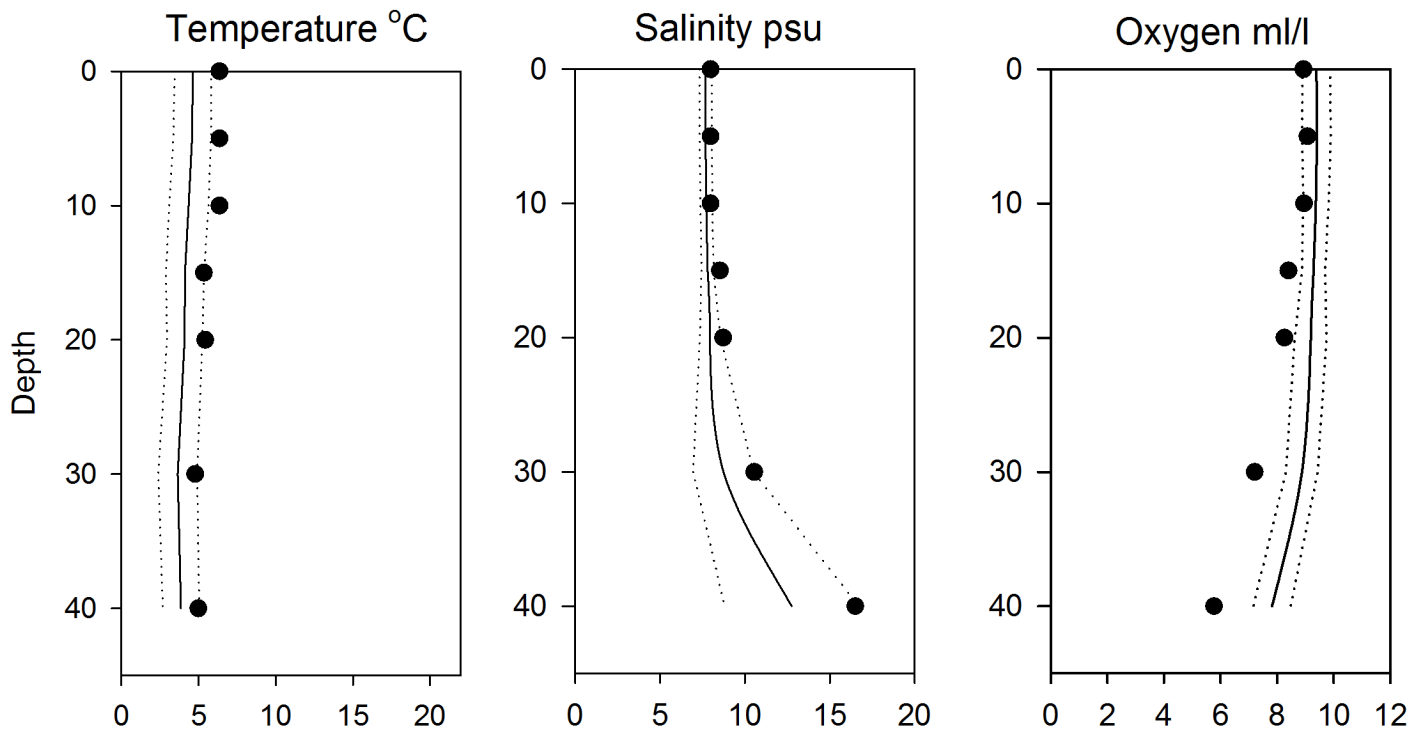


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >40m)



Vertical profiles BY1 April

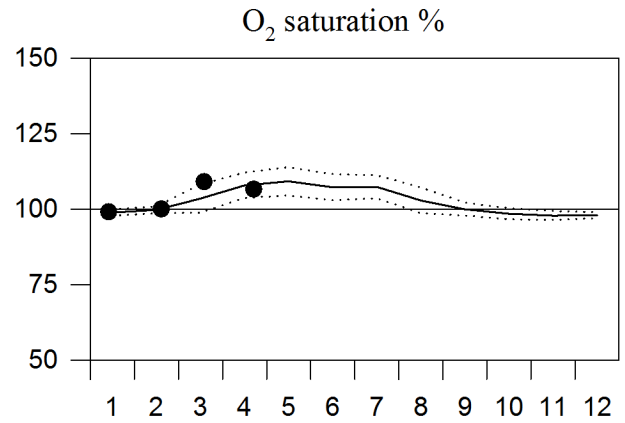
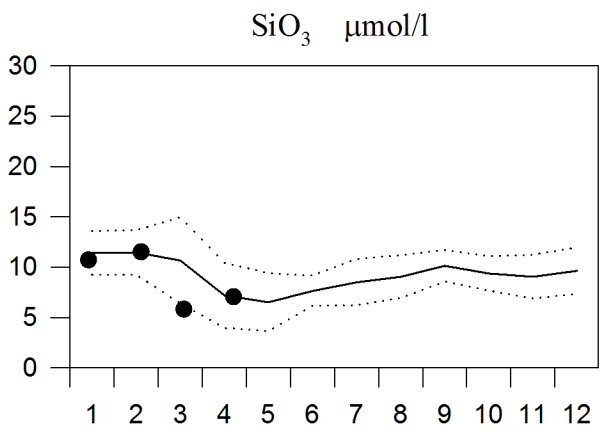
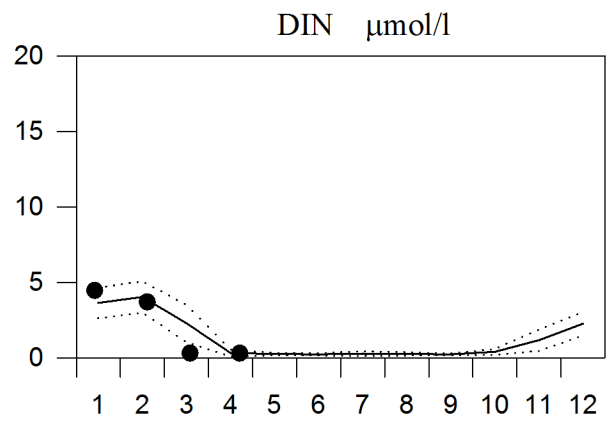
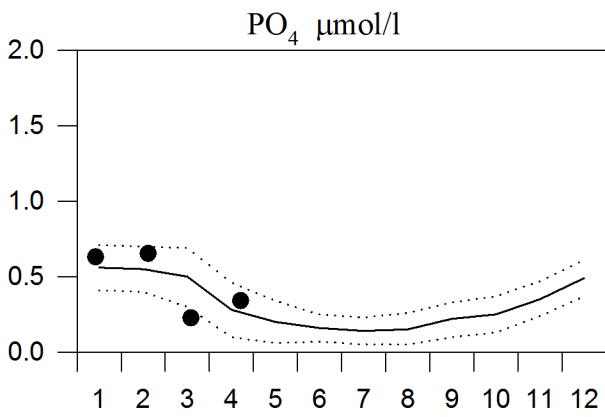
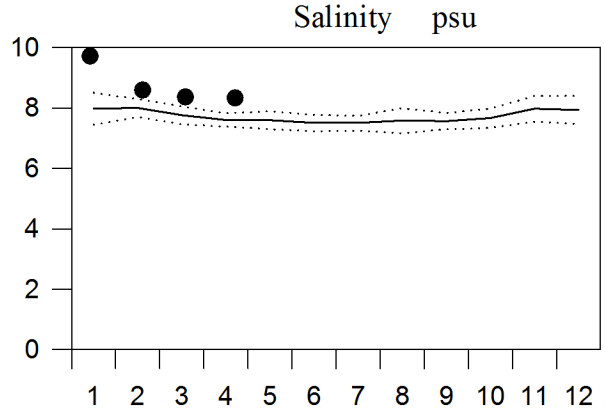
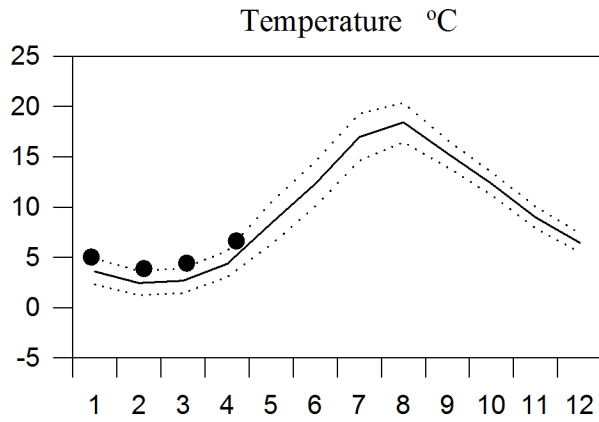
— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015



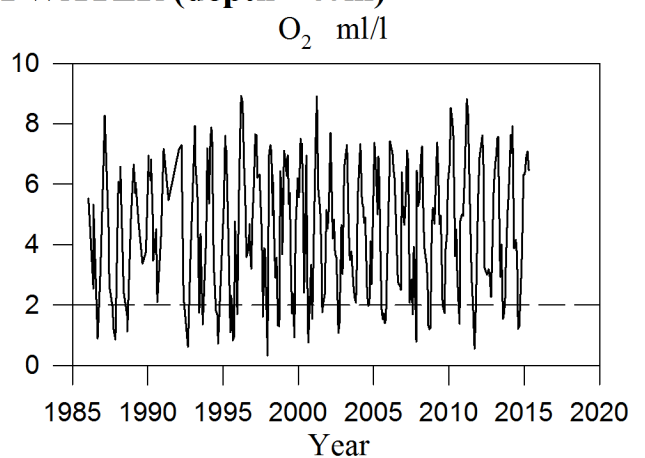
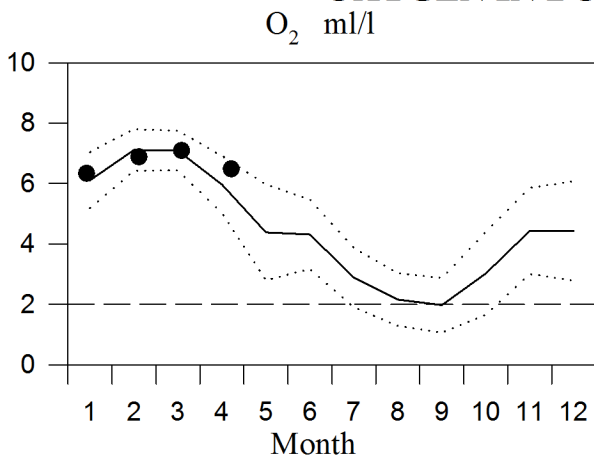
STATION BY2 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

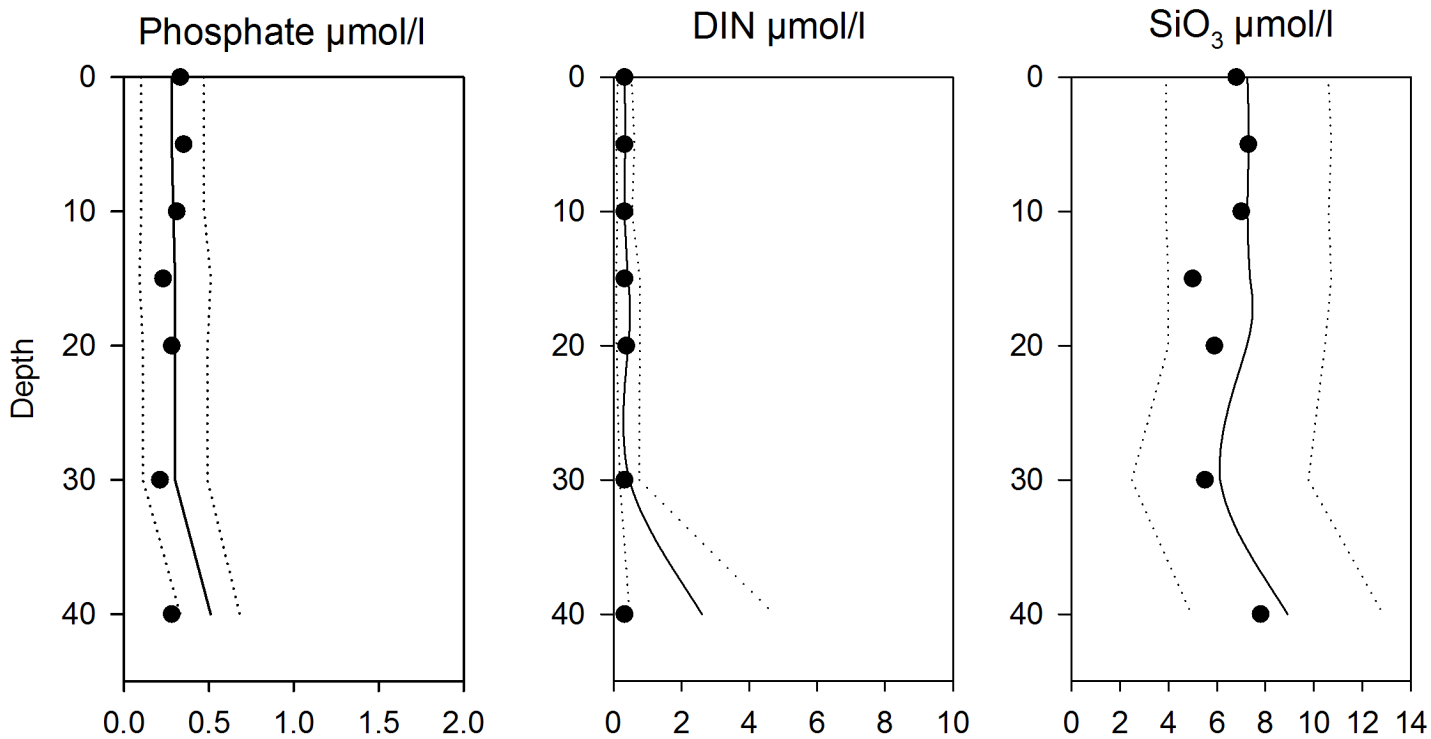
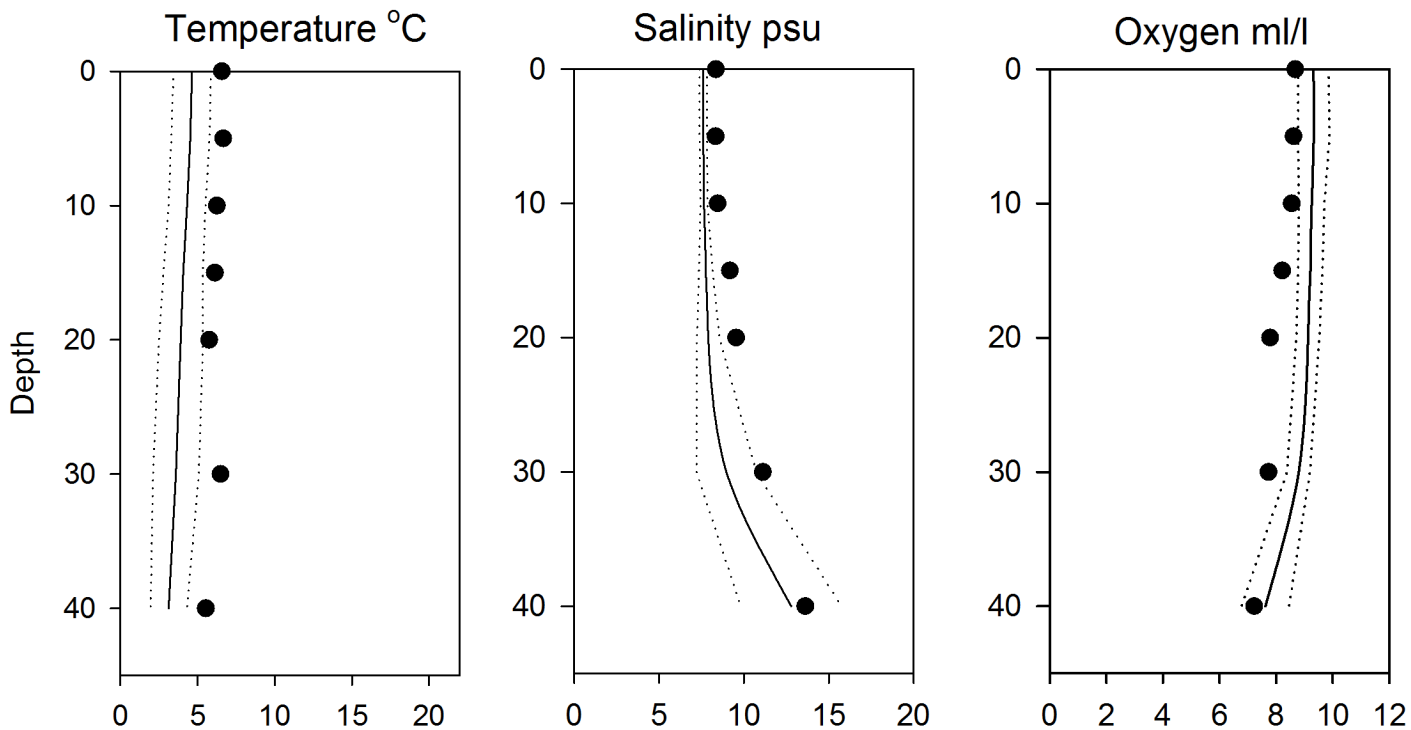


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >40m)



Vertical profiles BY2 April

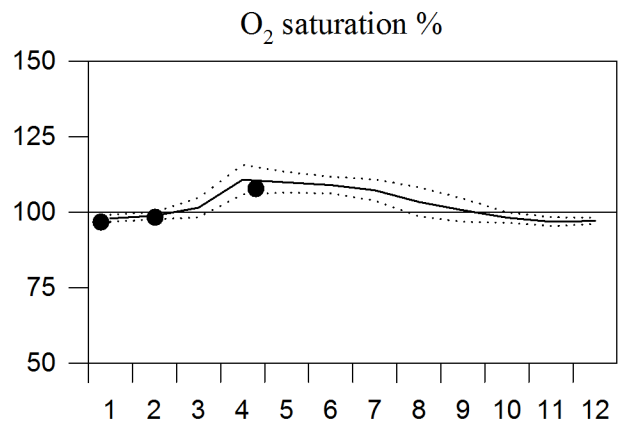
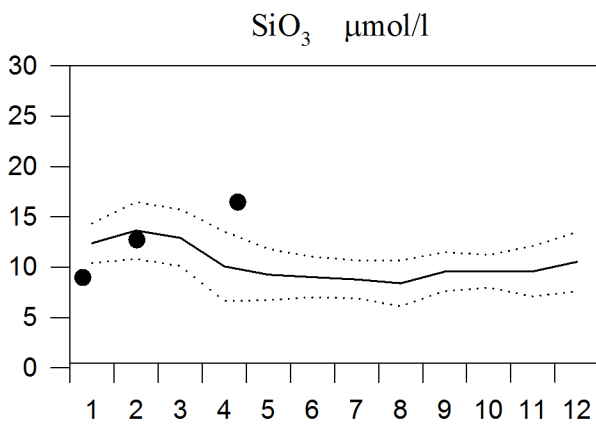
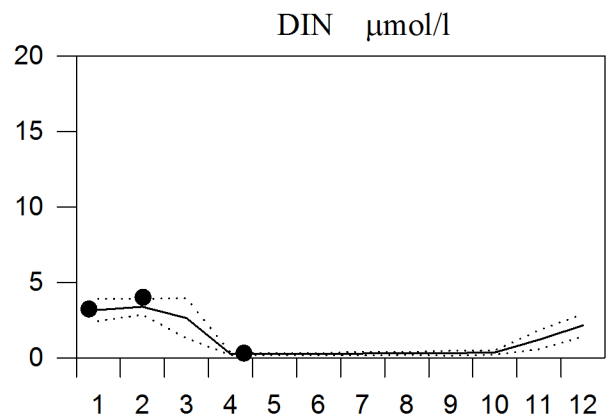
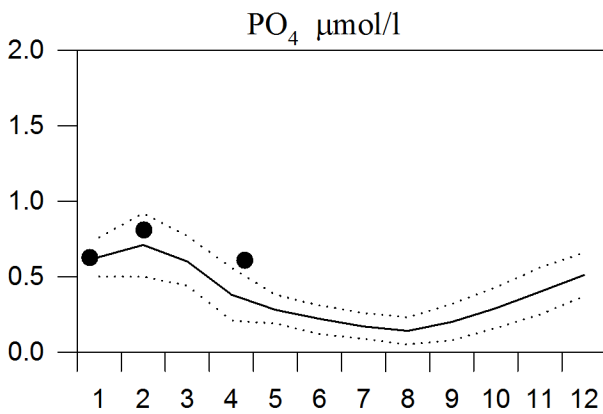
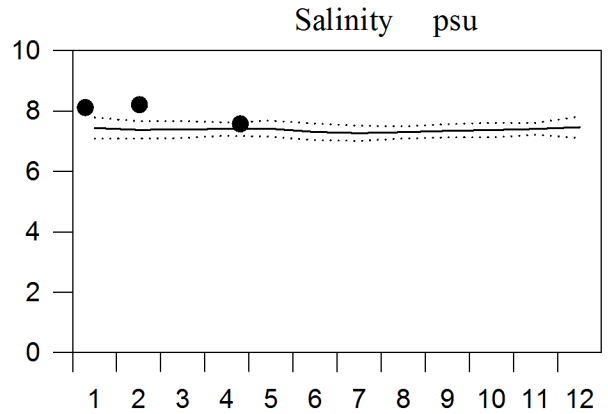
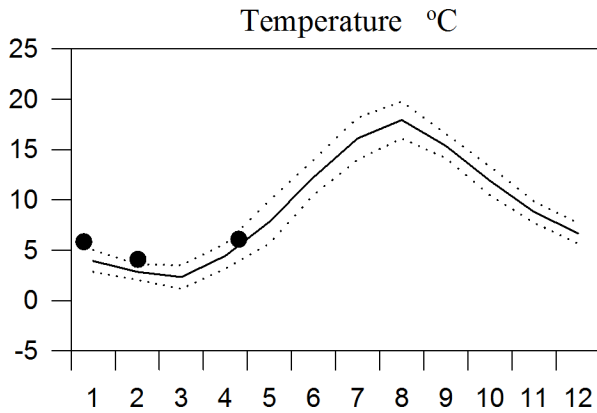
— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015



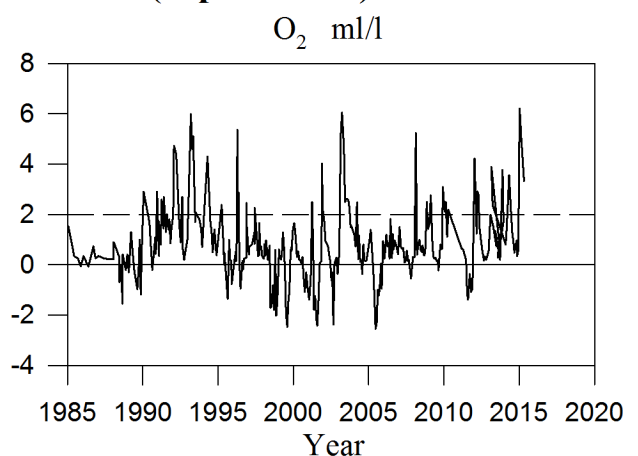
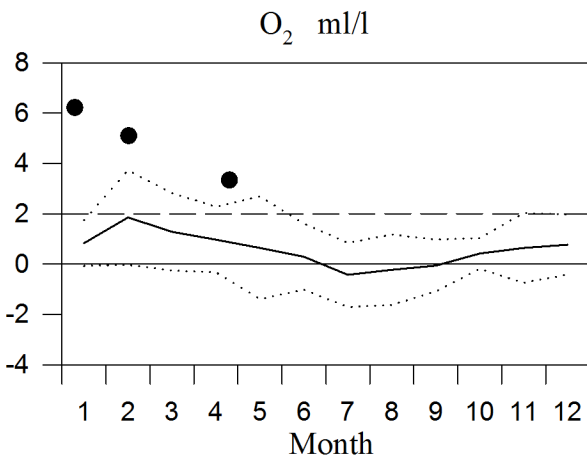
STATION HANÖBUKTEN SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

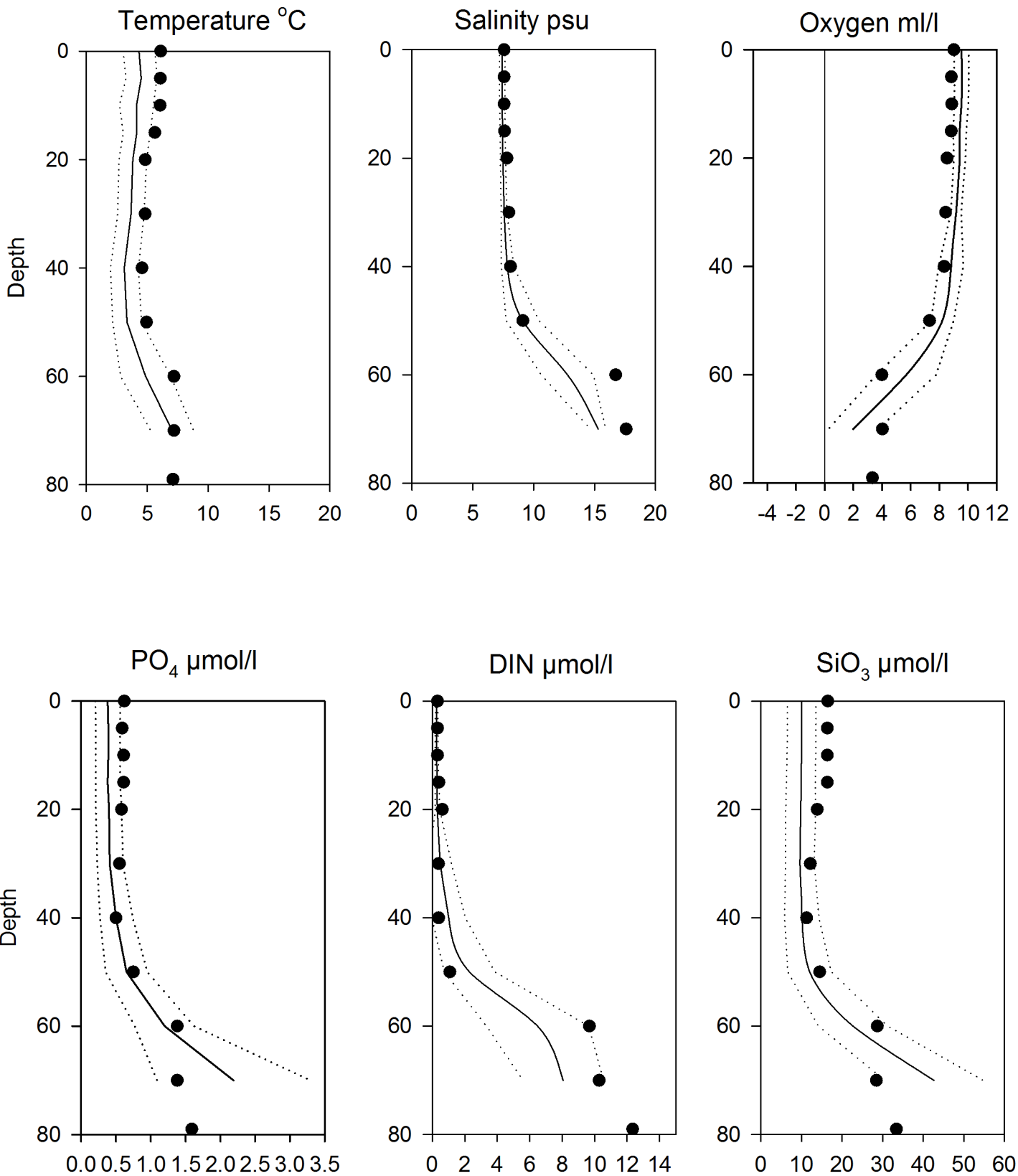


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth > 70m)



Vertical profiles Hanöbukten April

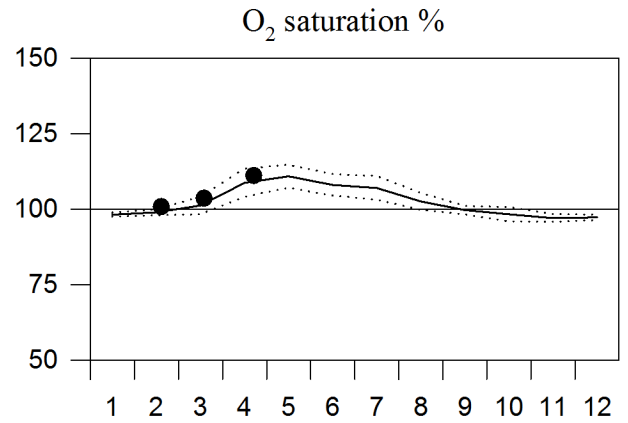
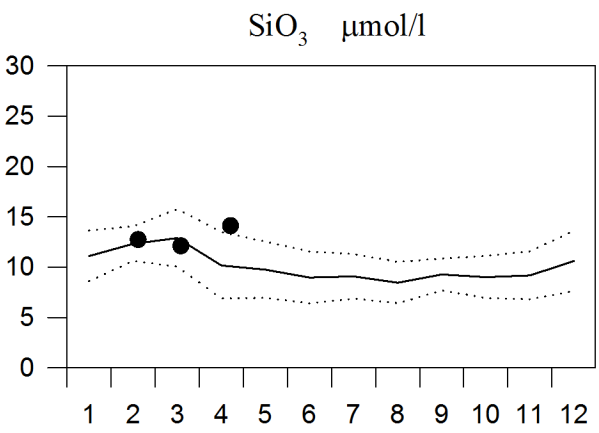
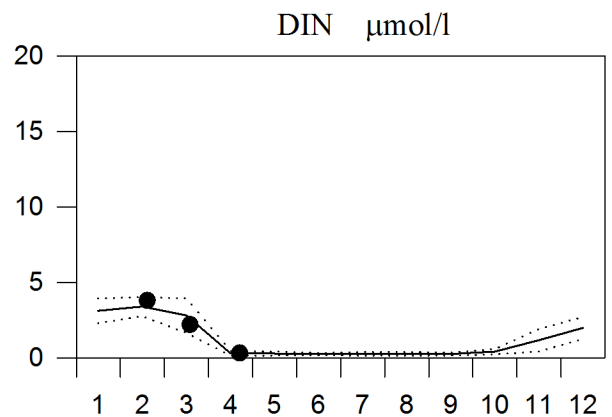
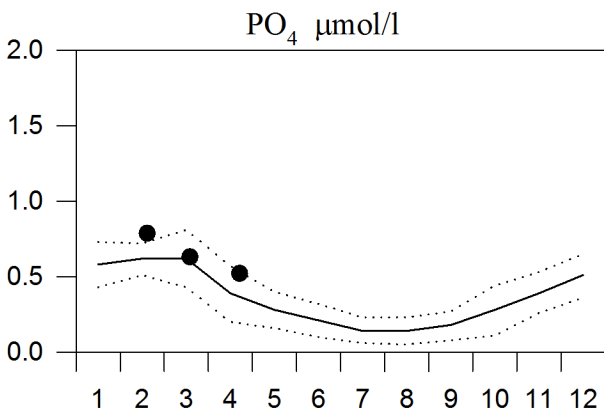
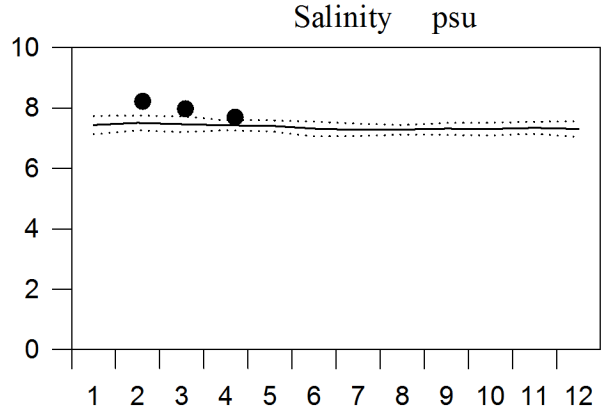
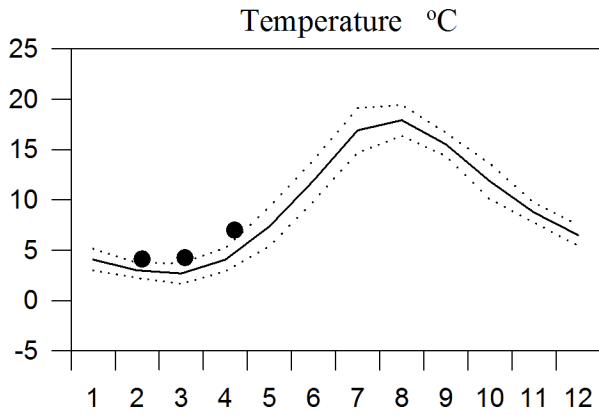
— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015



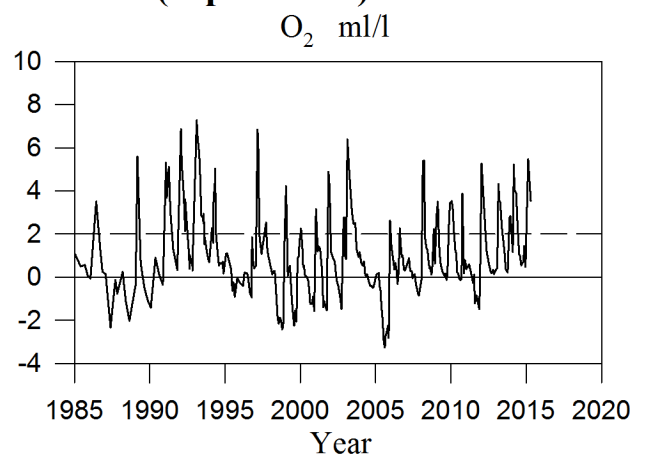
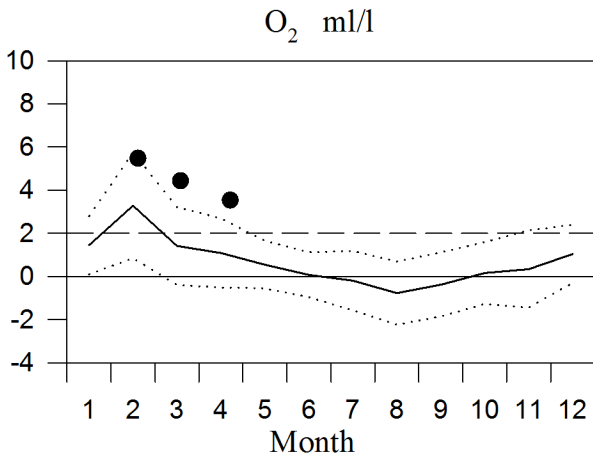
STATION BY4 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

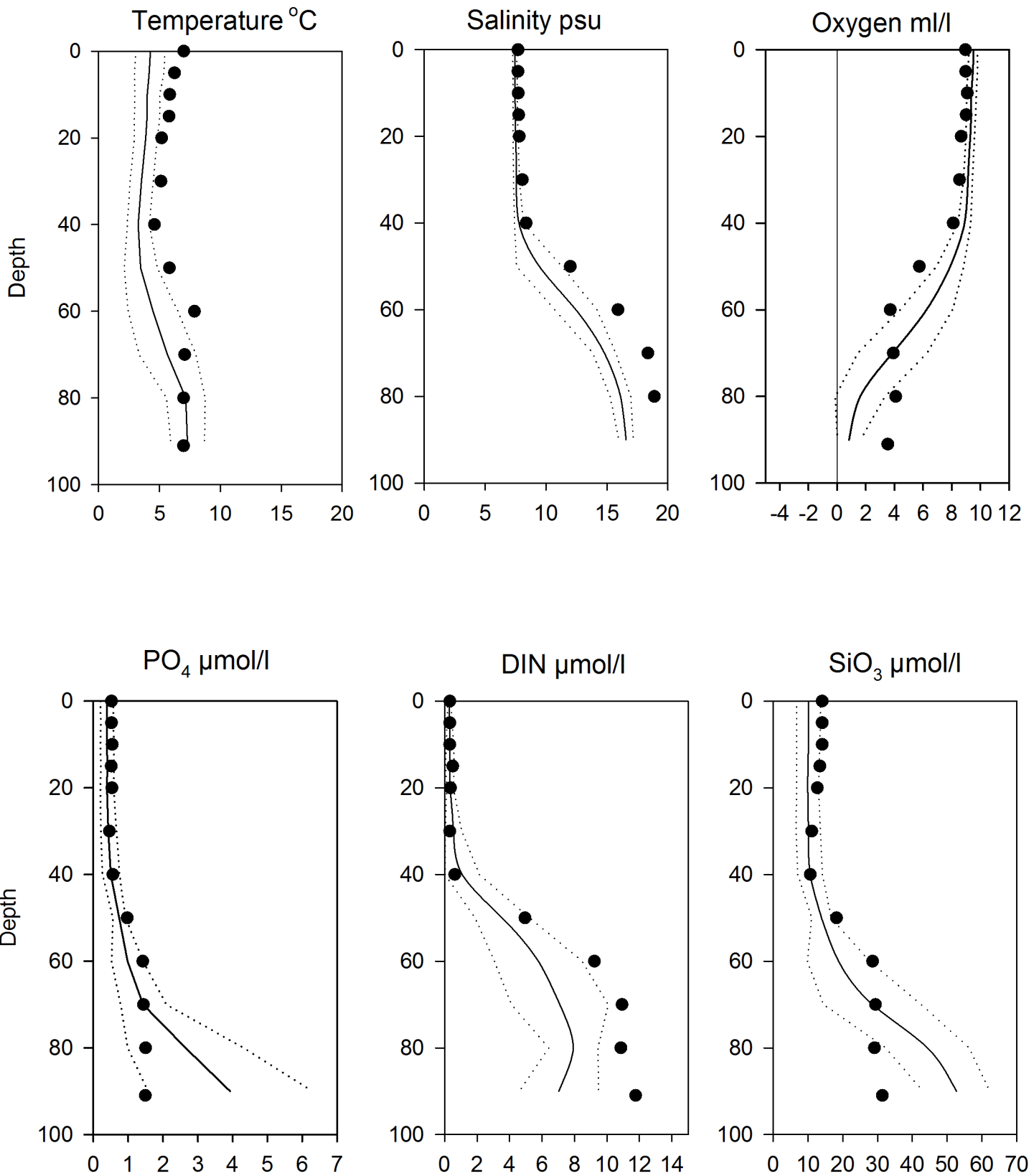


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >80m)



Vertical profiles BY4 April

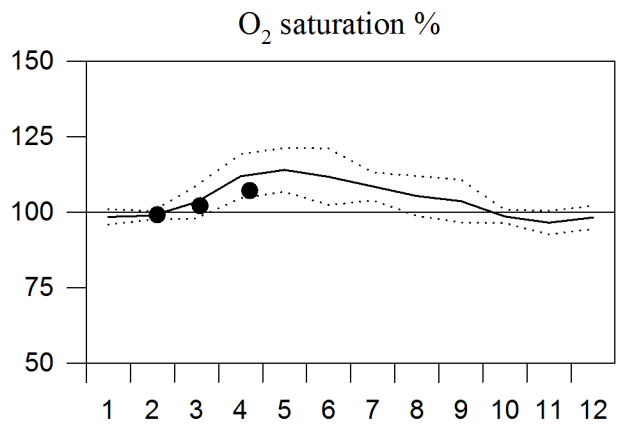
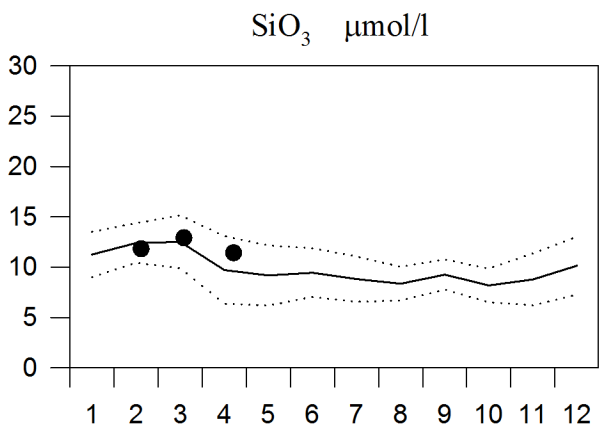
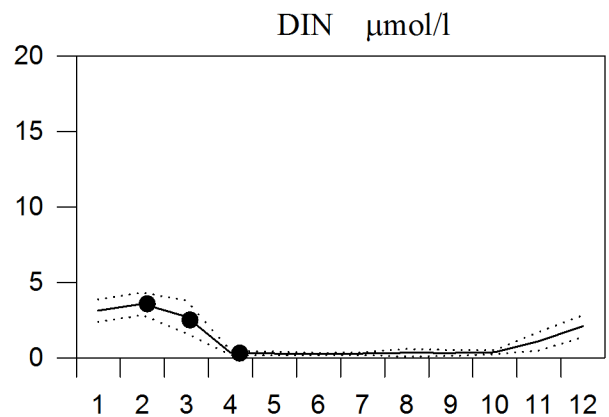
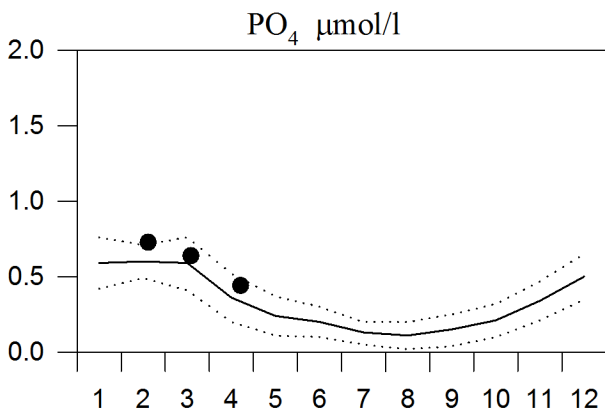
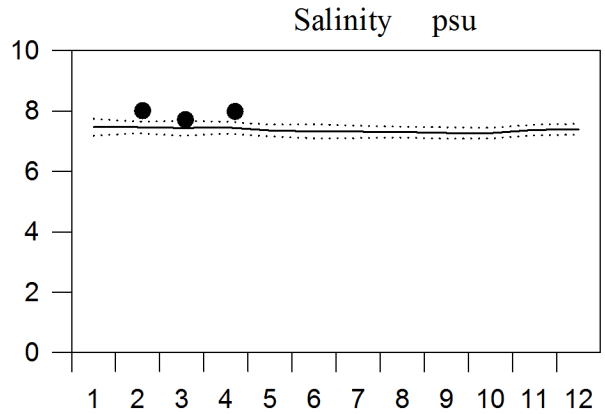
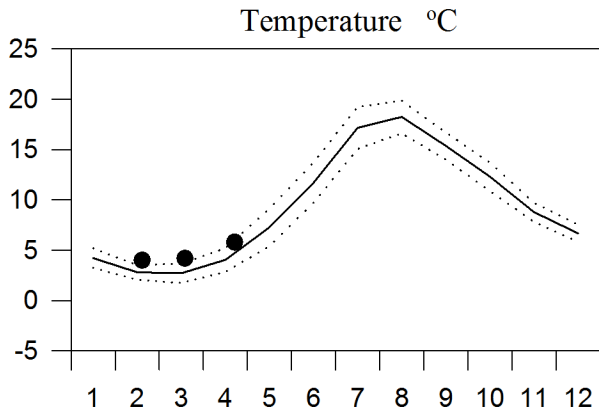
— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015



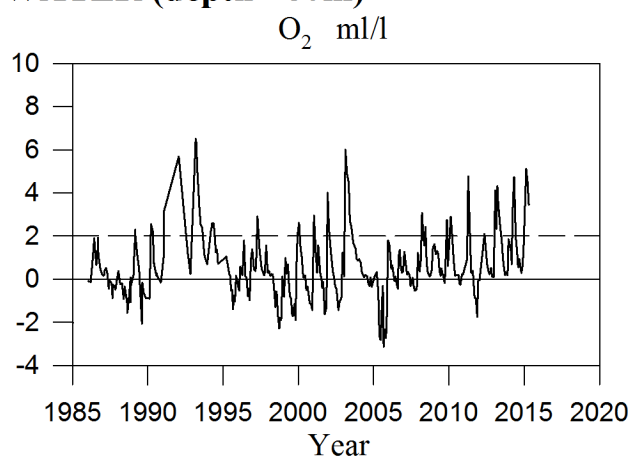
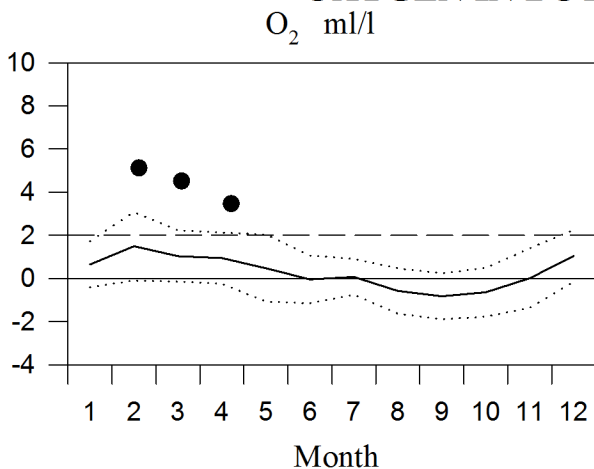
STATION BY5 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015

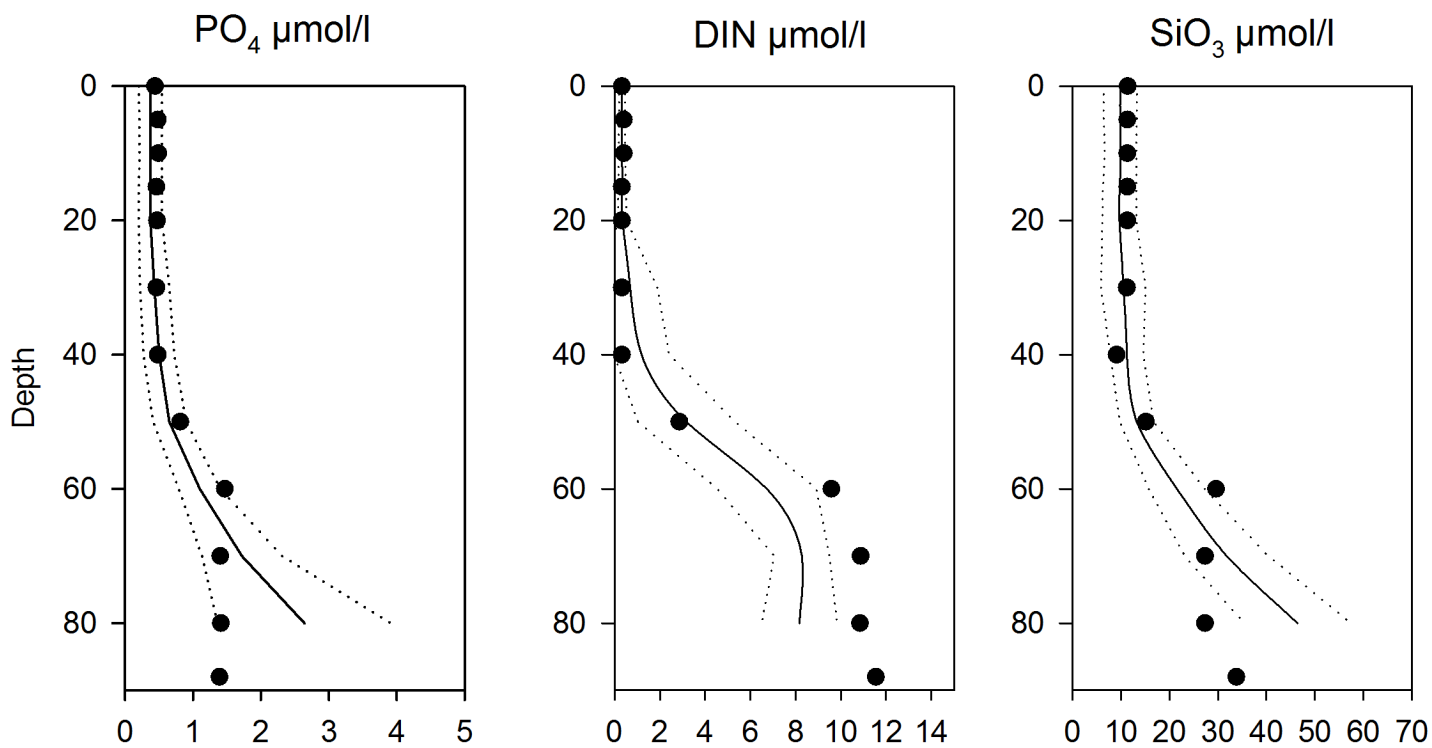
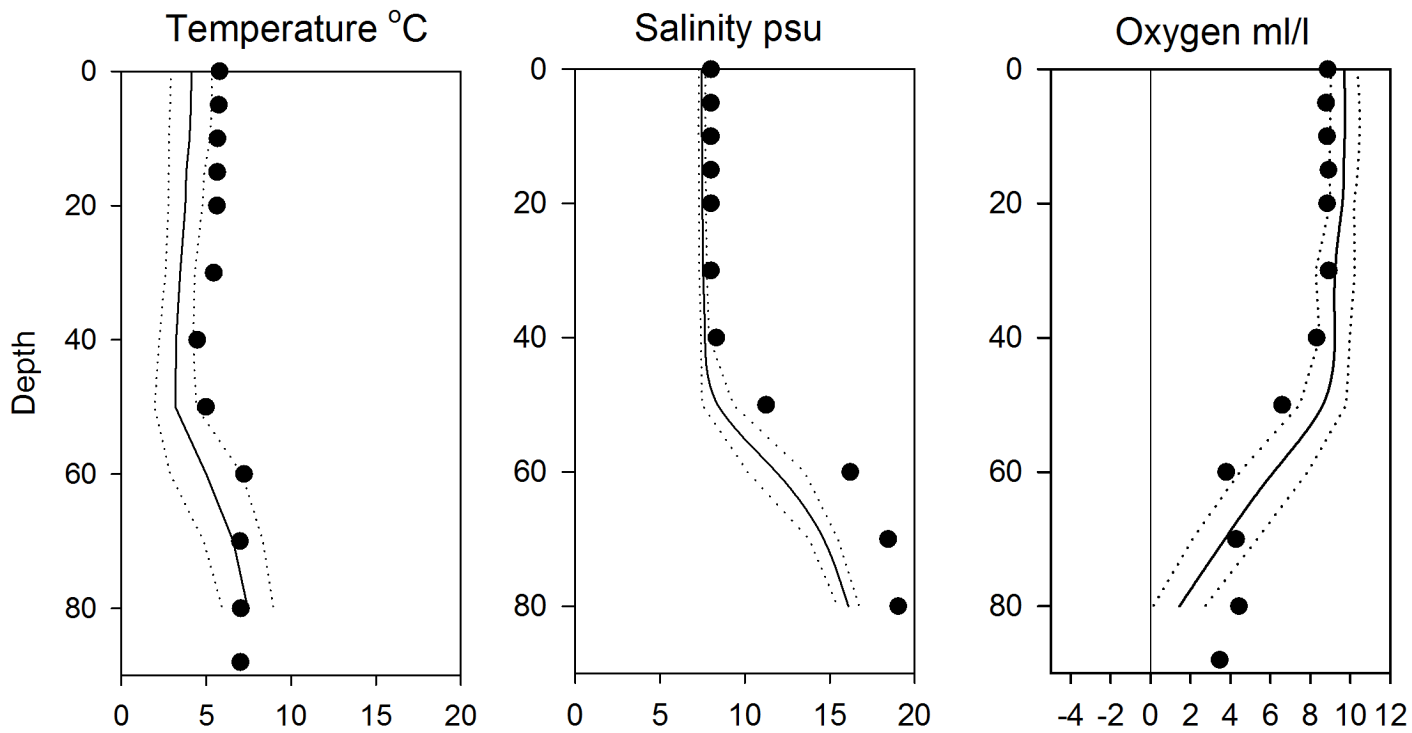


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >80m)



Vertical profiles BY5 April

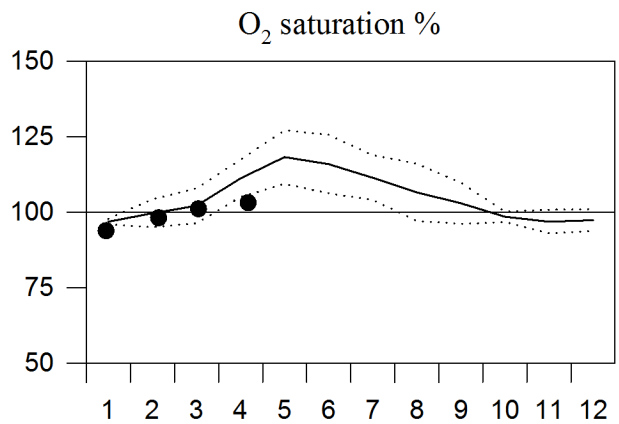
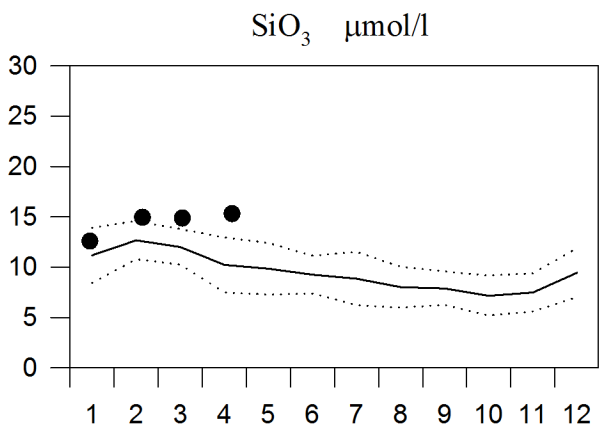
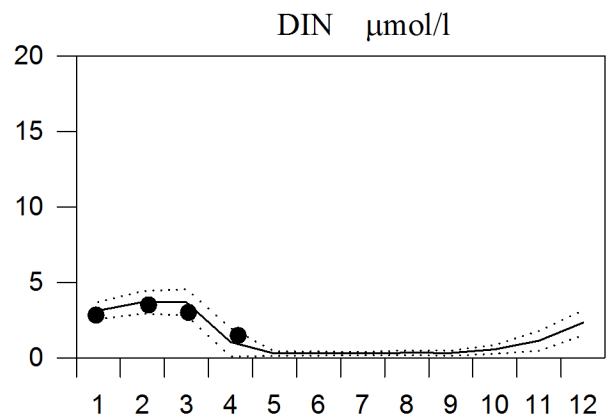
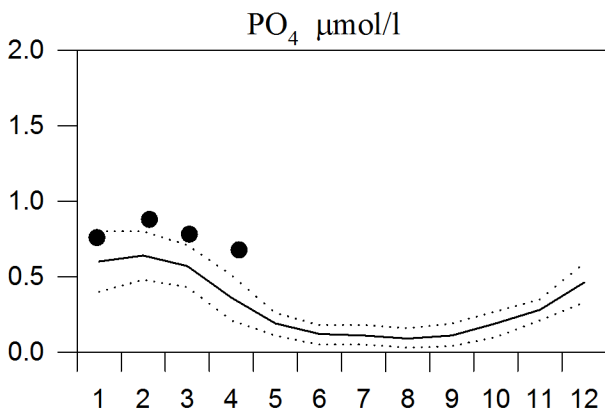
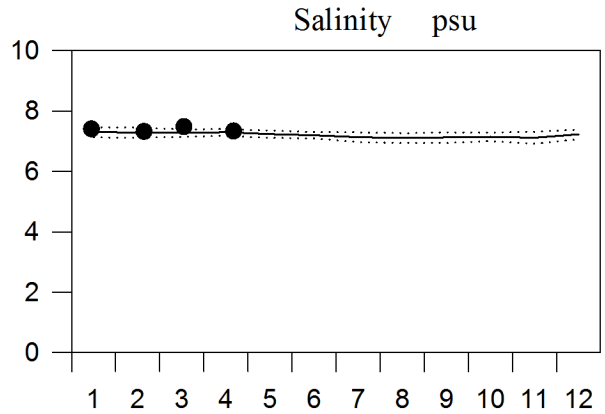
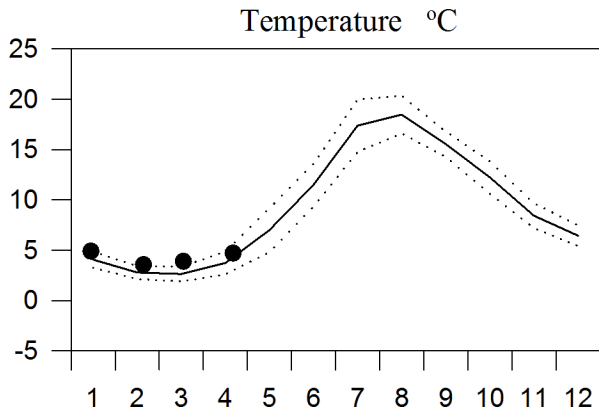
— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015



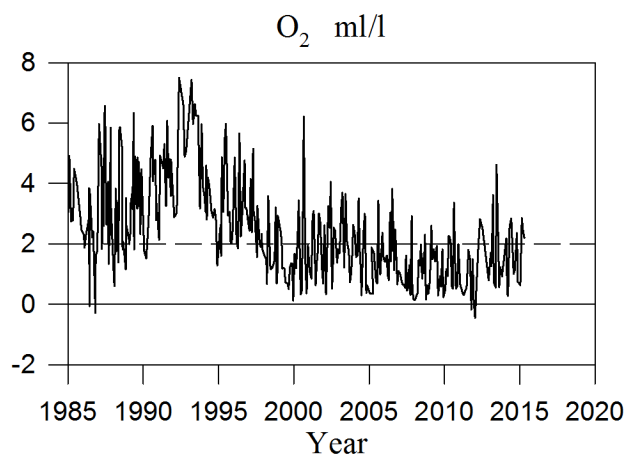
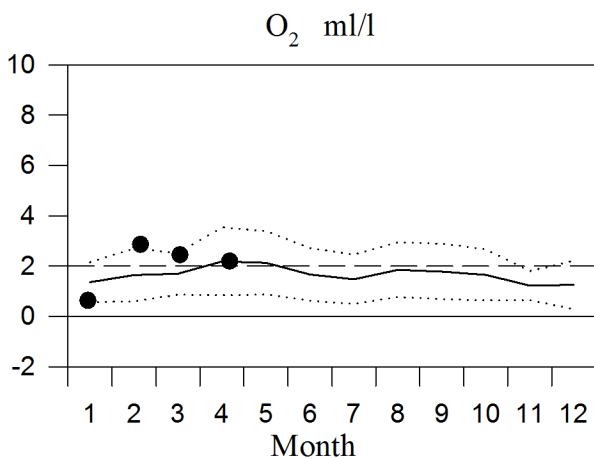
STATION BCS III-10 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

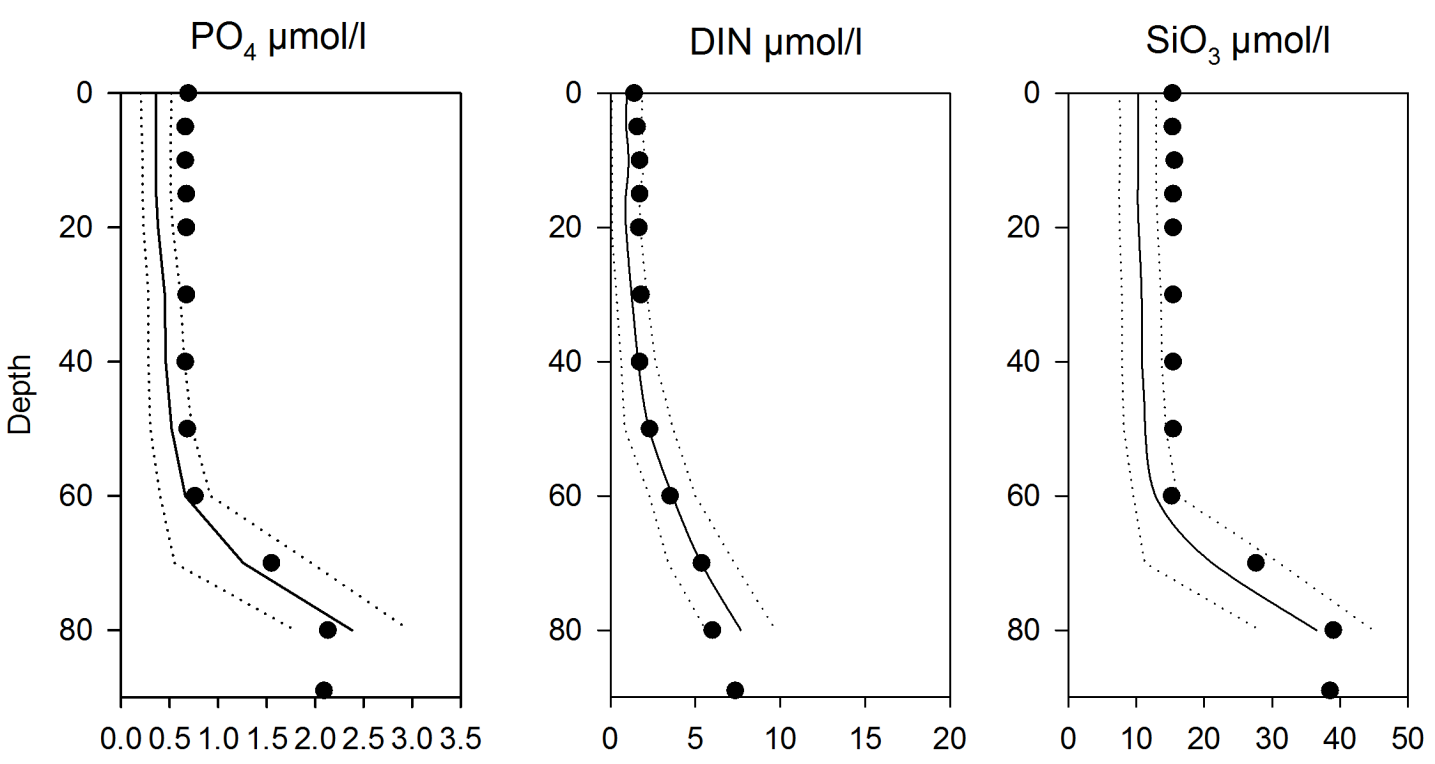
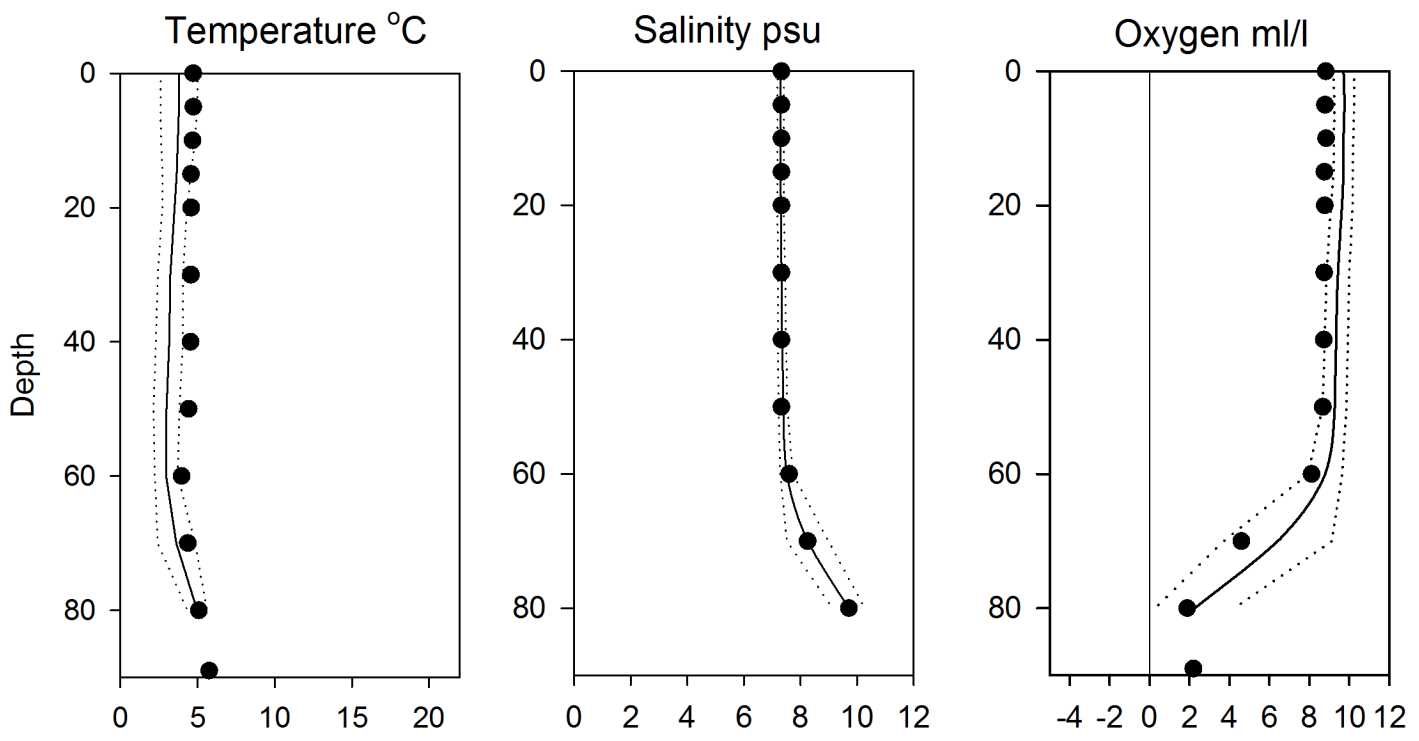


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth > 80m)



Vertical profiles BCS III-10 April

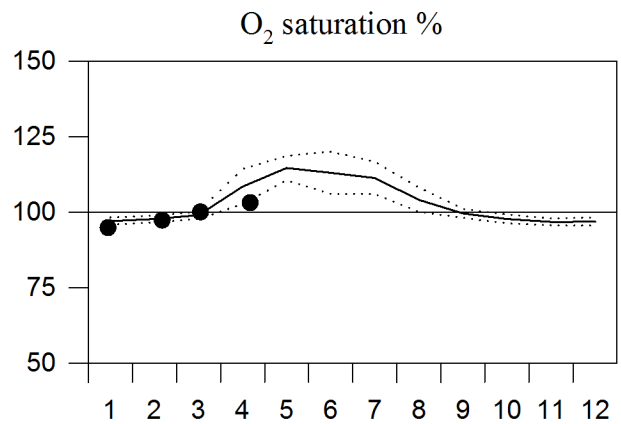
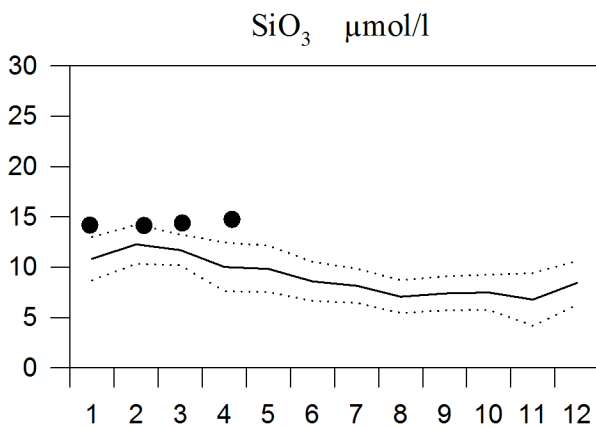
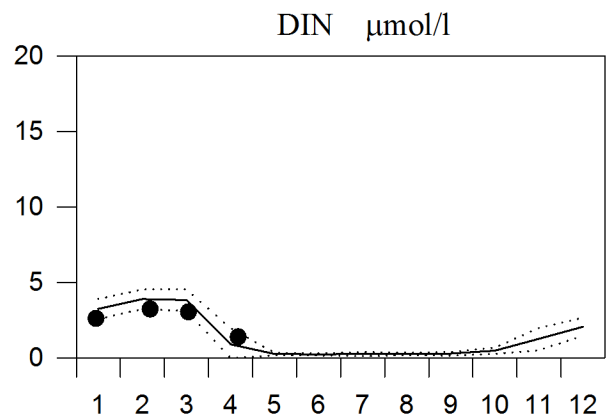
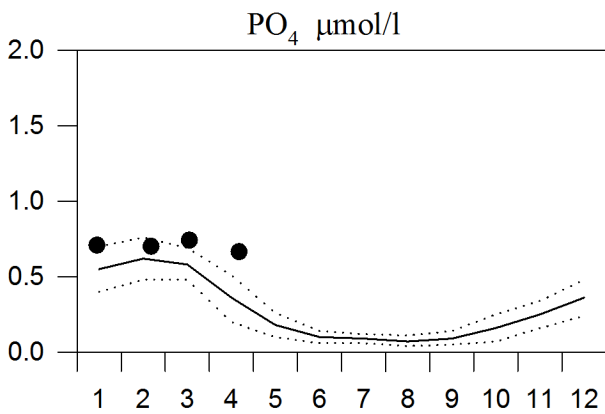
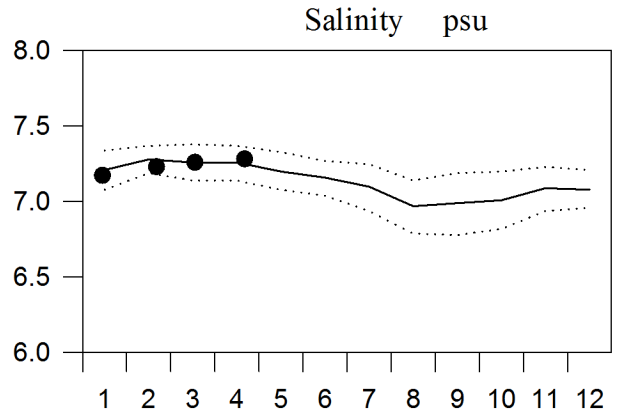
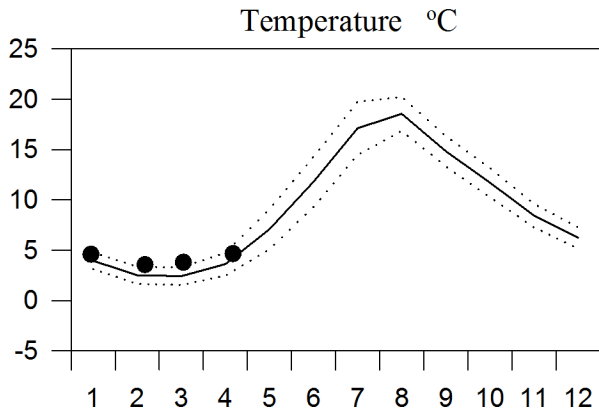
— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015



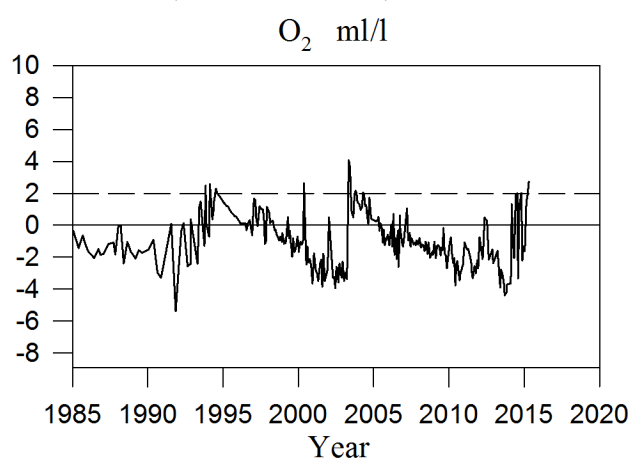
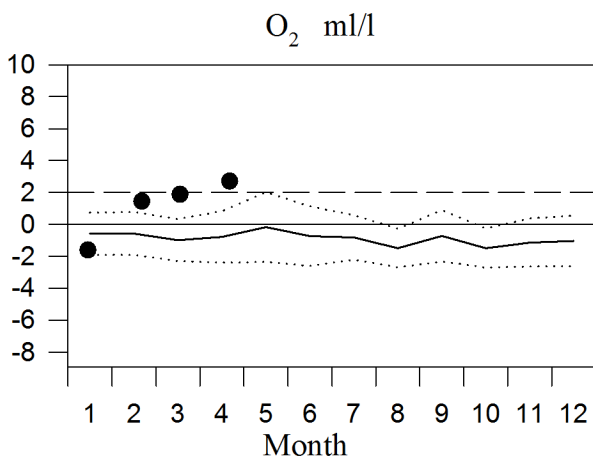
STATION BY10 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

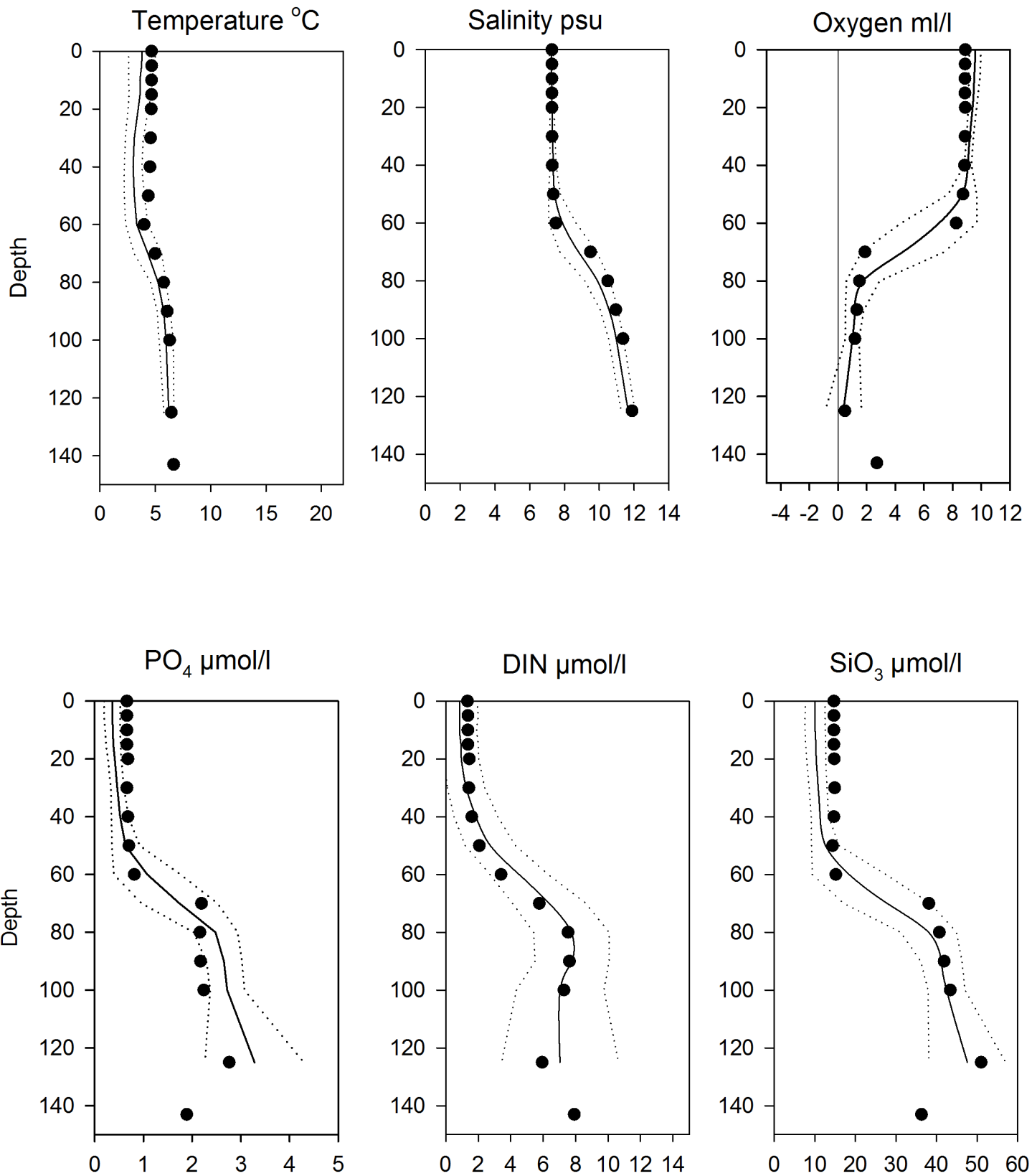


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >125m)



Vertical profiles BY10 April

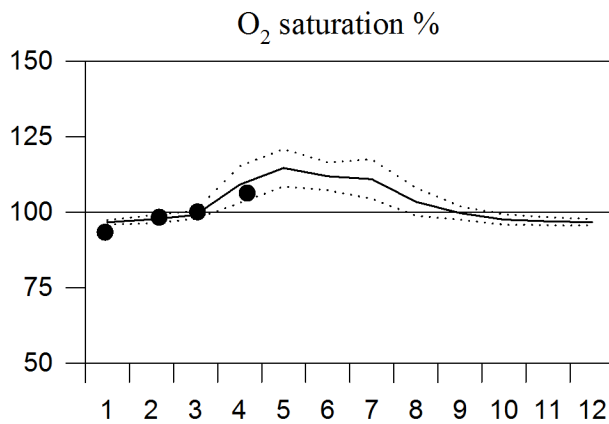
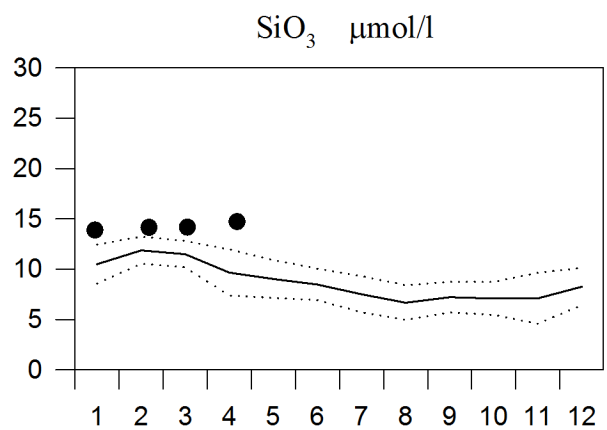
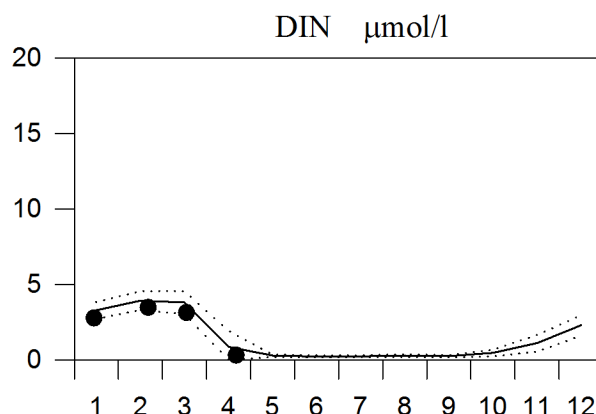
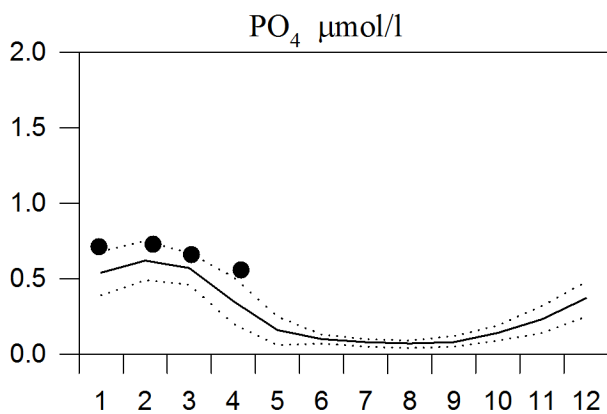
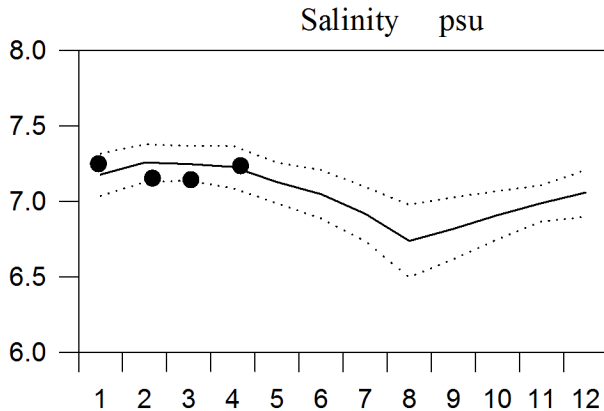
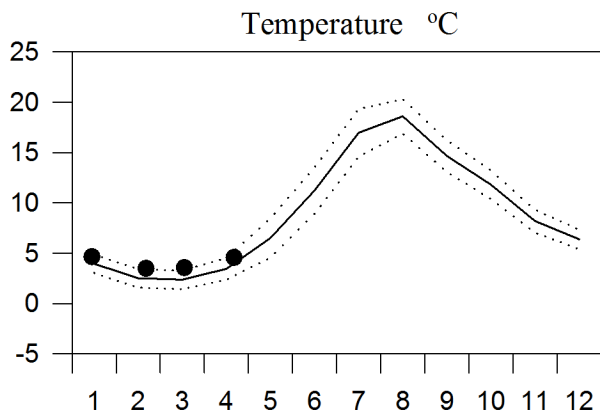
— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015



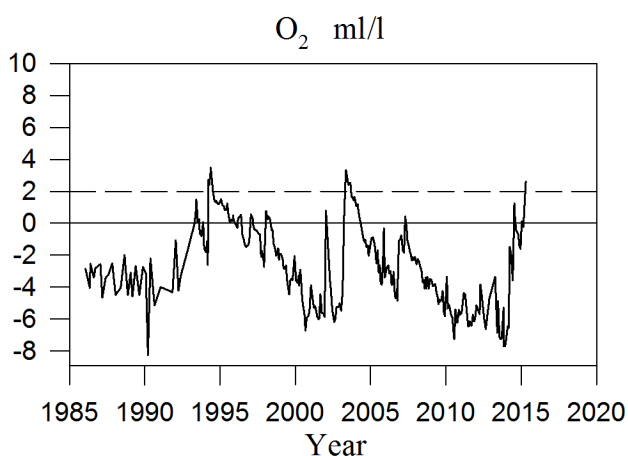
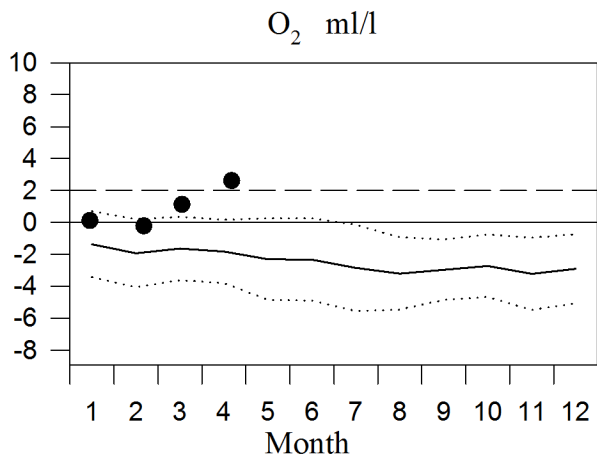
STATION BY15 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

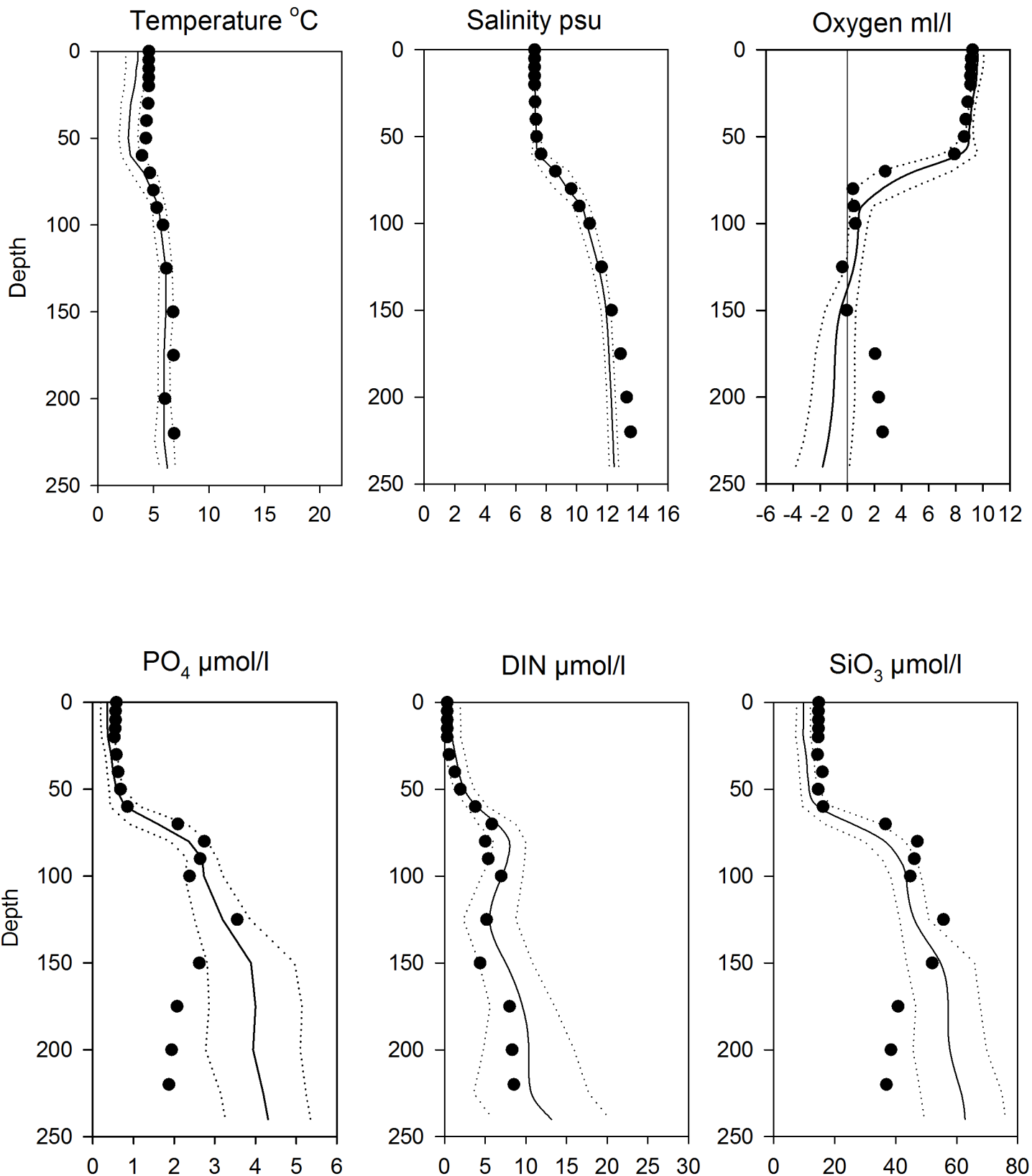


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >225m)



Vertical profiles BY15 April

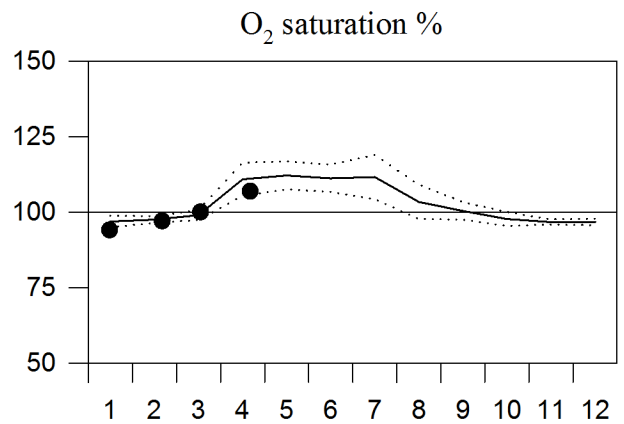
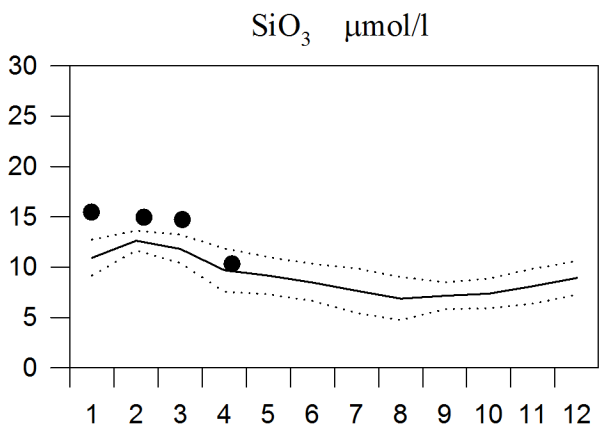
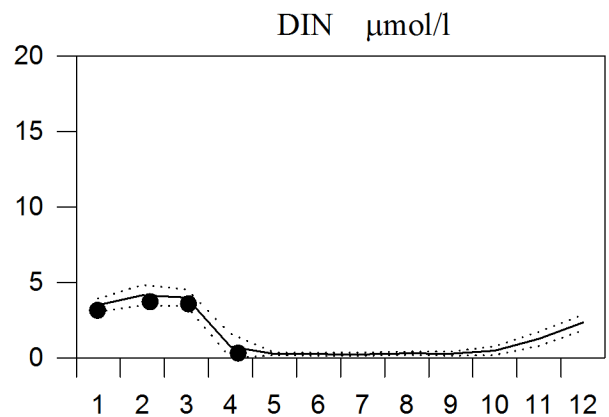
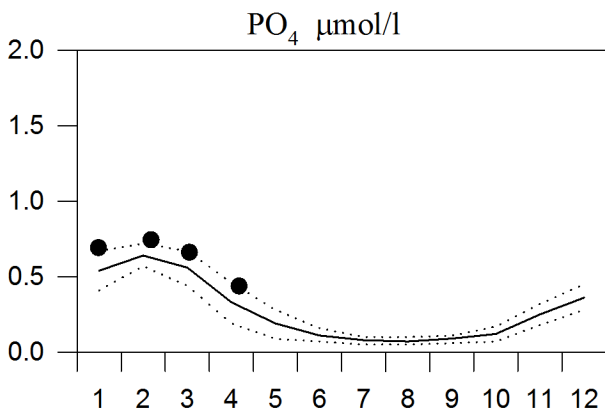
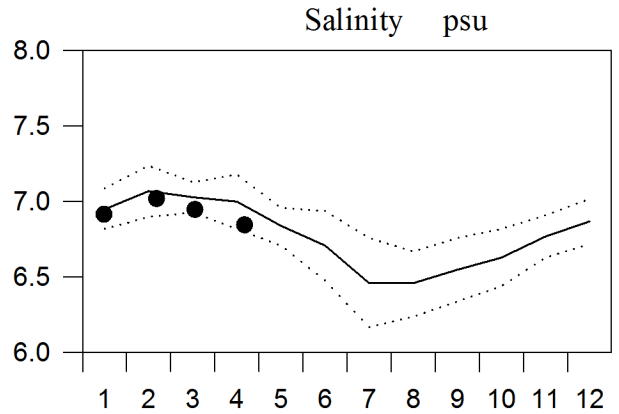
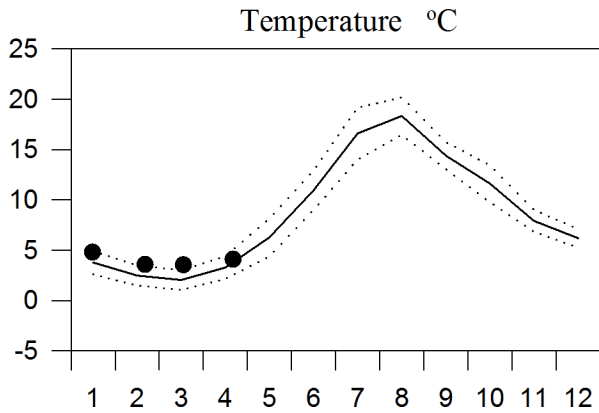
— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015



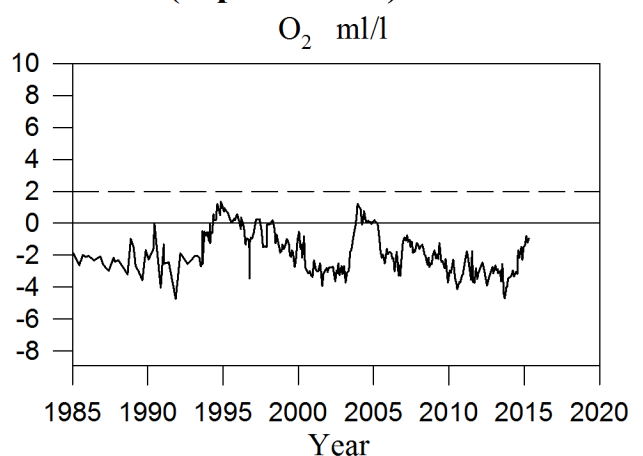
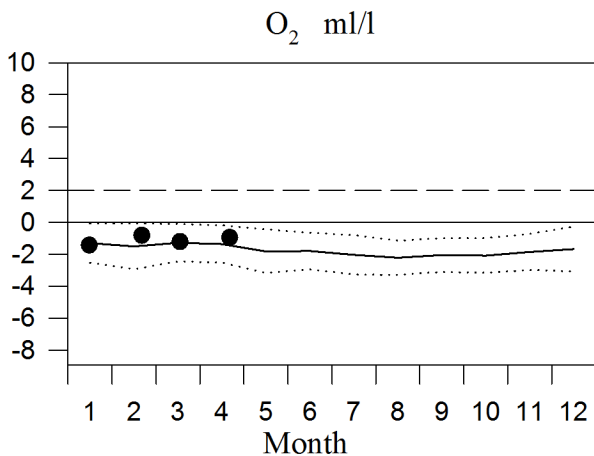
STATION BY20 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

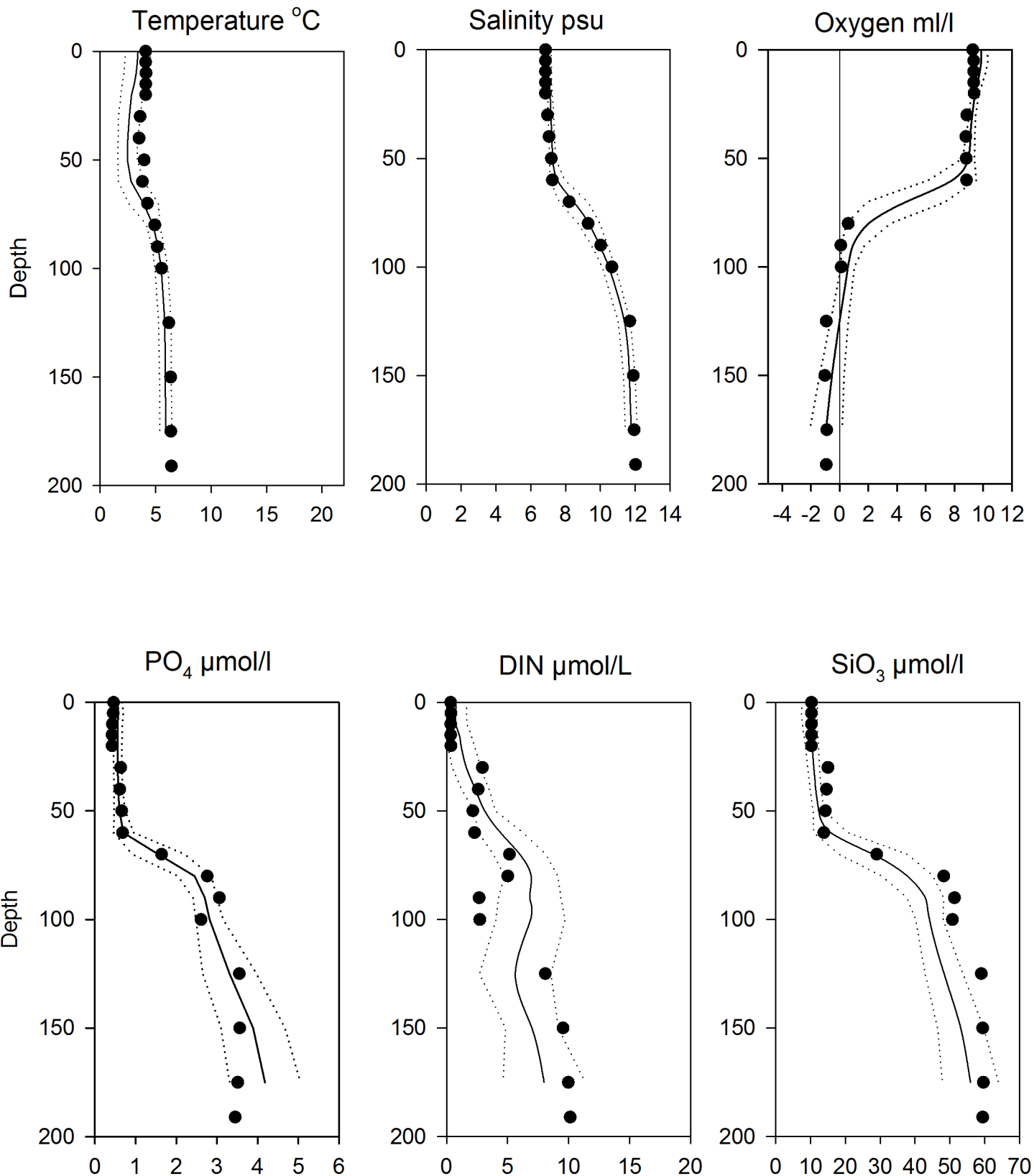


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >175m)



Vertical profiles BY20 April

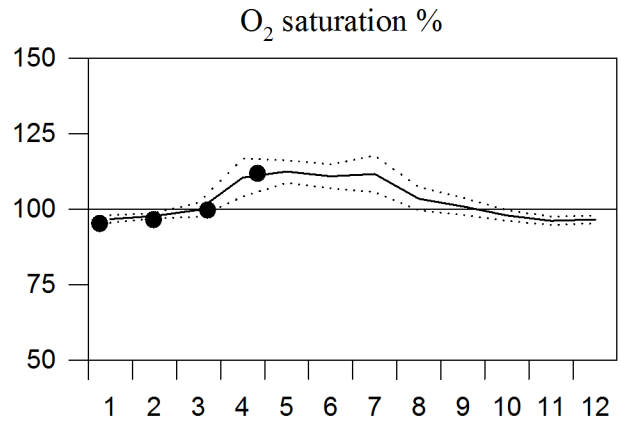
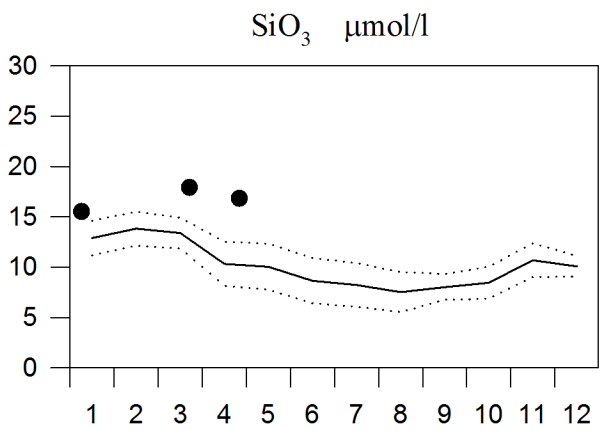
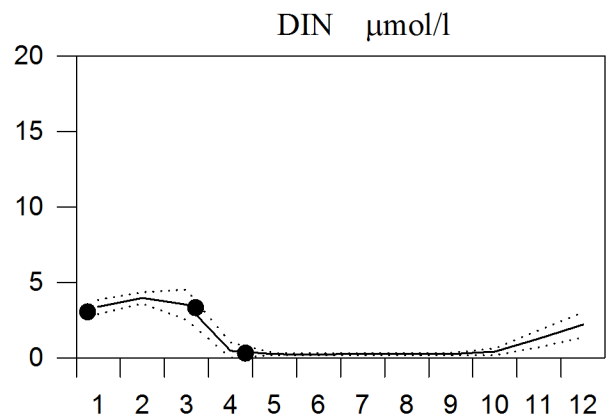
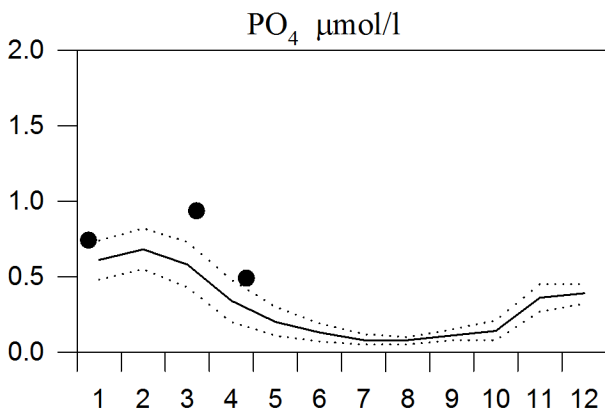
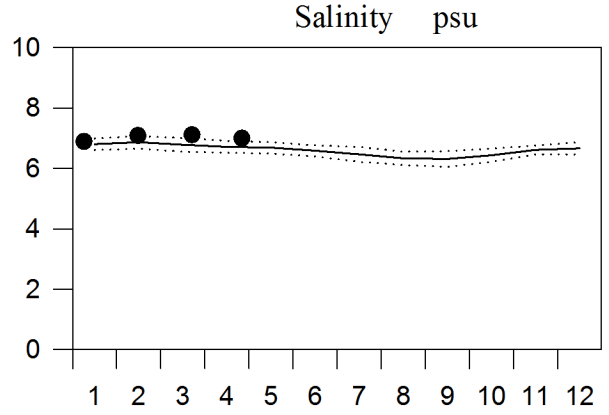
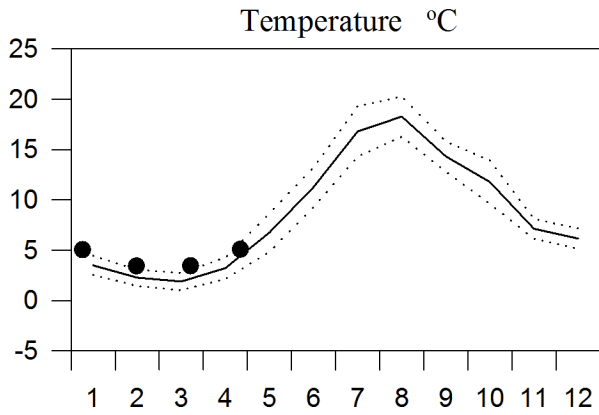
— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015



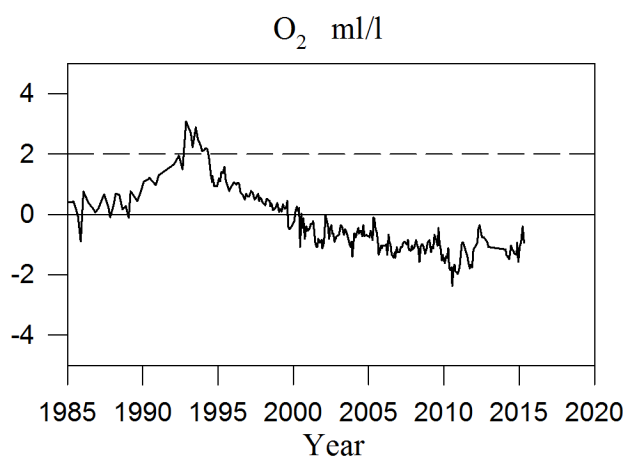
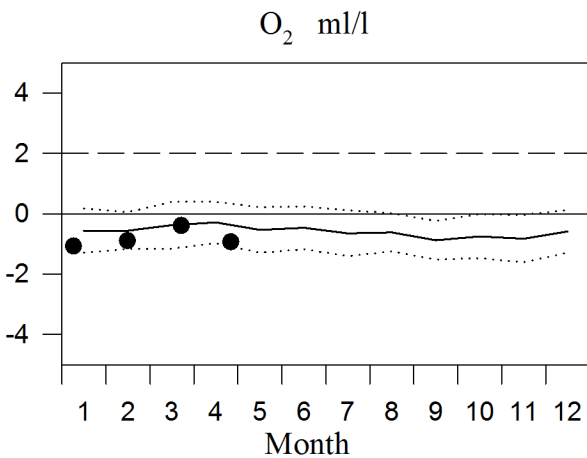
STATION BY32 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015

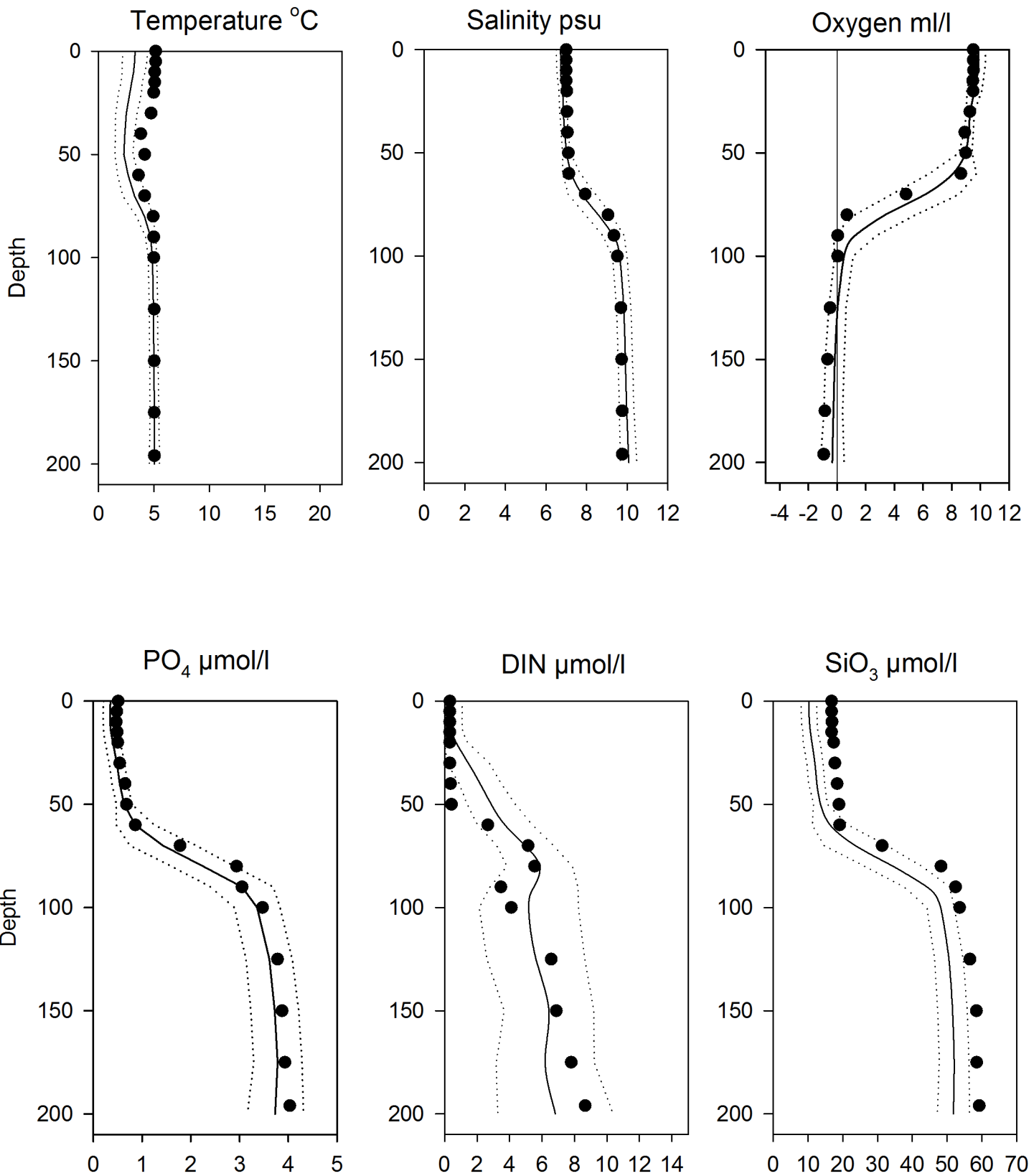


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth > 175m)



Vertical profiles BY32 April

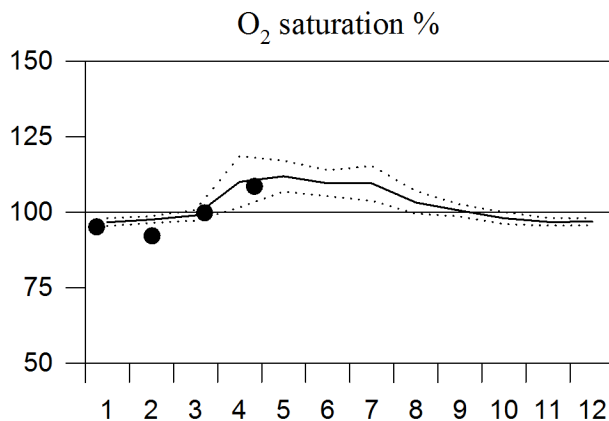
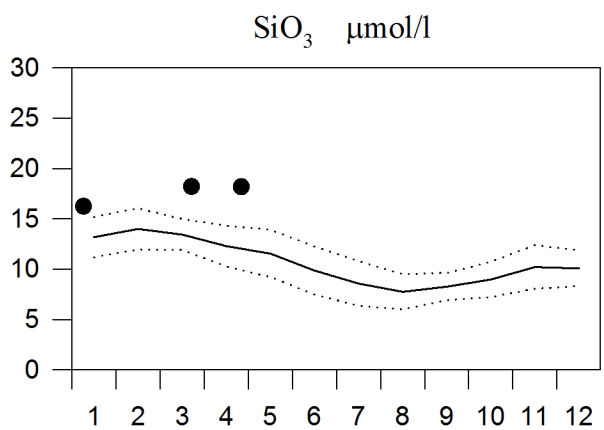
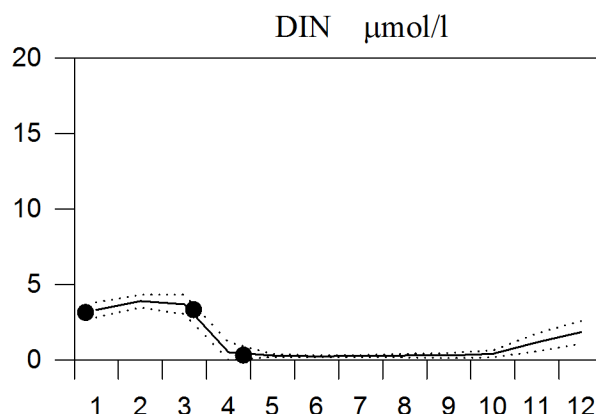
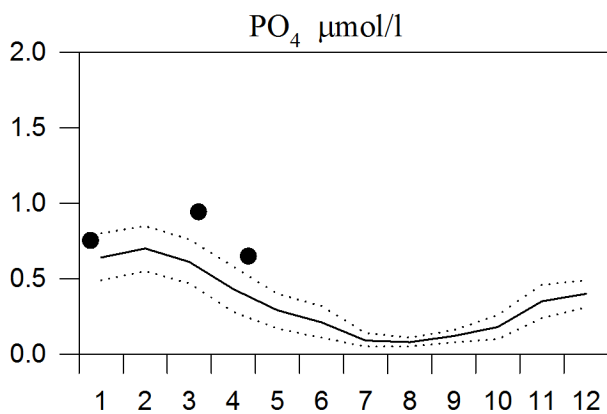
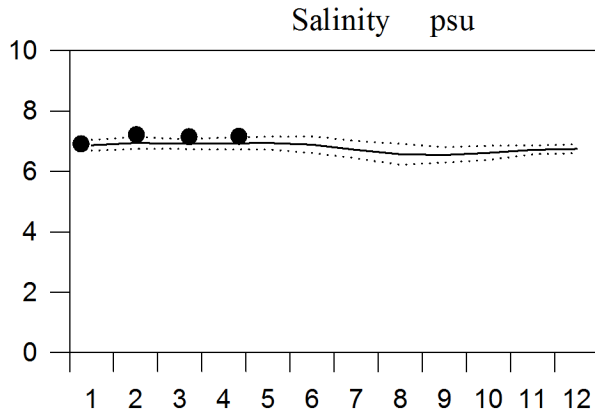
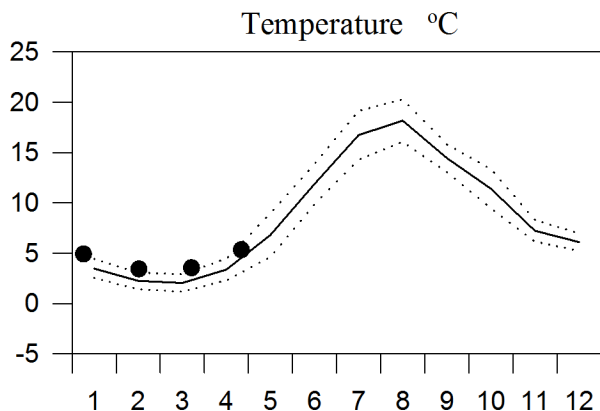
— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015



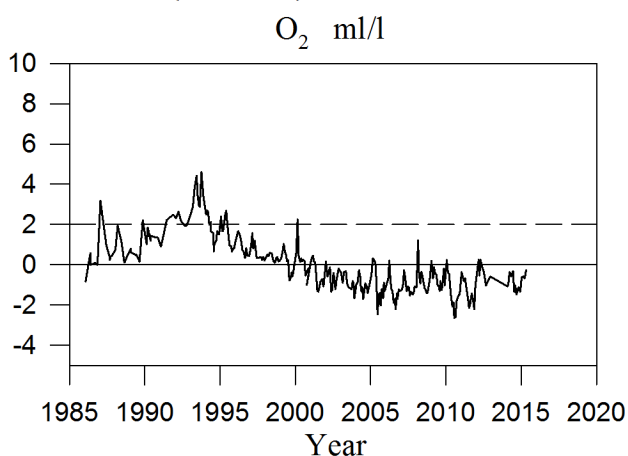
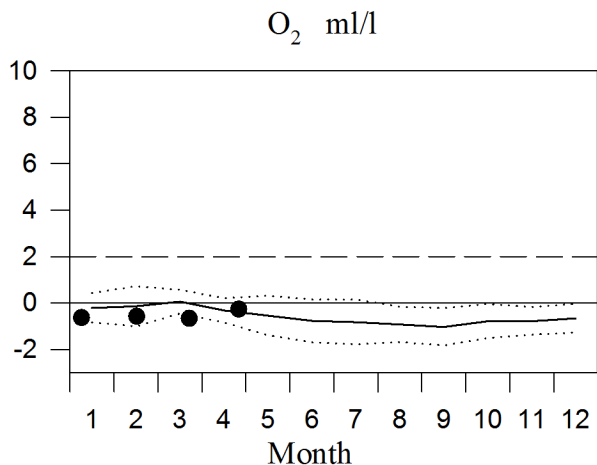
STATION BY38 SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

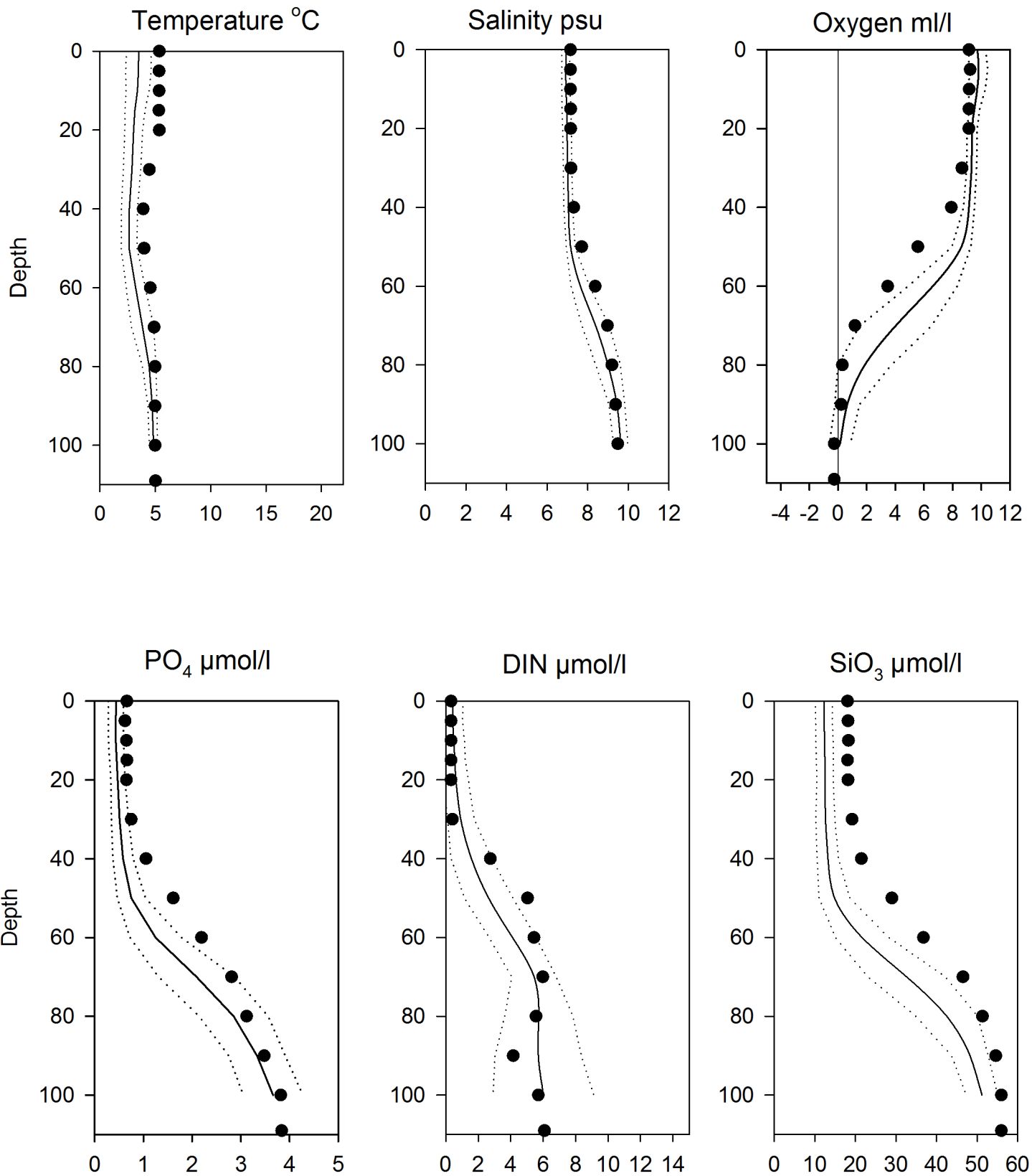


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (> 100m)



Vertical profiles BY38 April

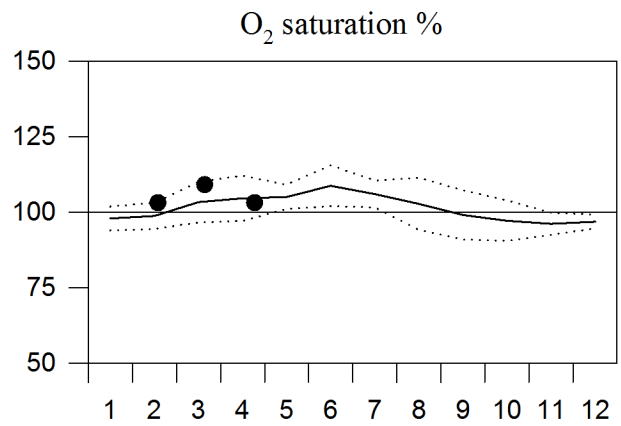
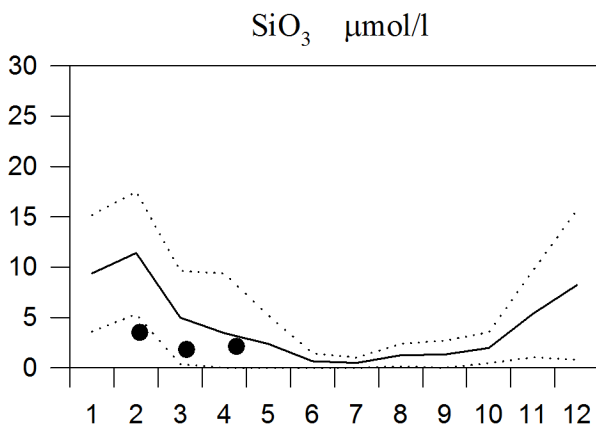
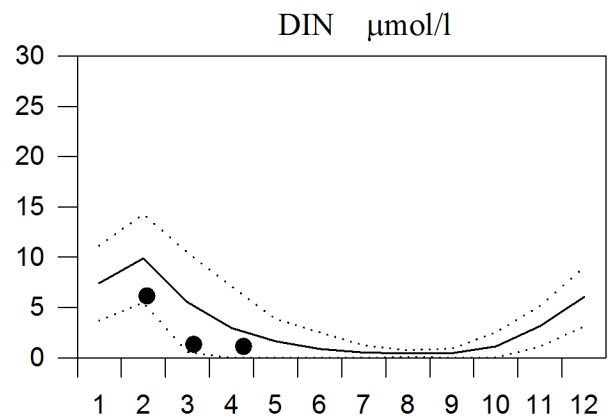
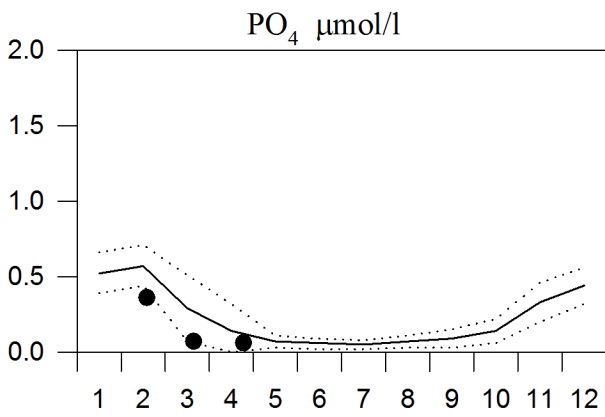
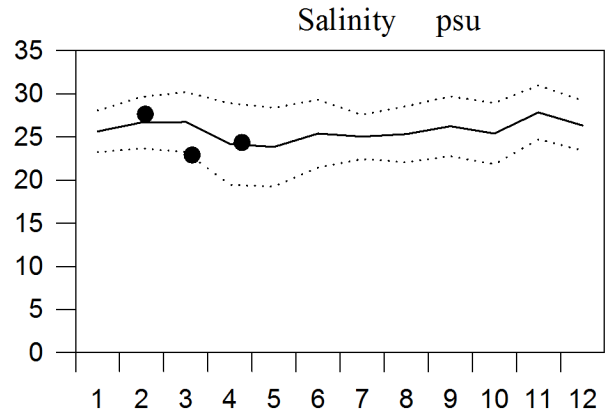
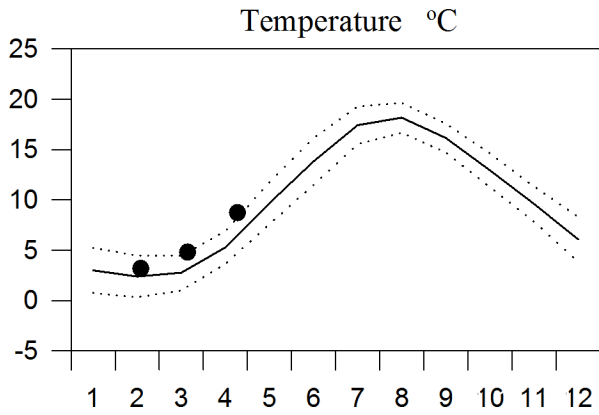
— Mean 1996-2010 ····· St.Dev. ● 2015



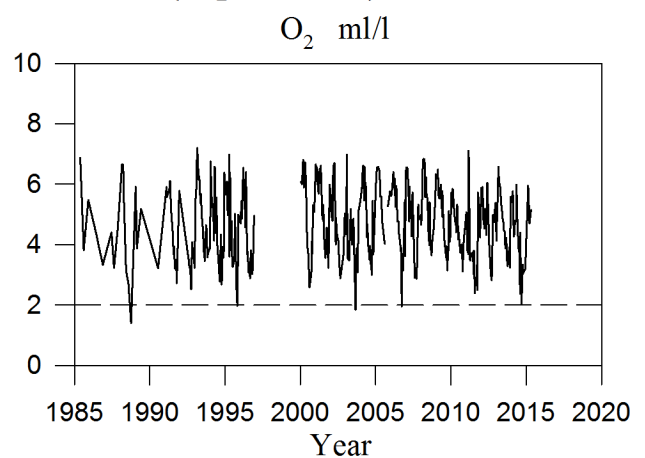
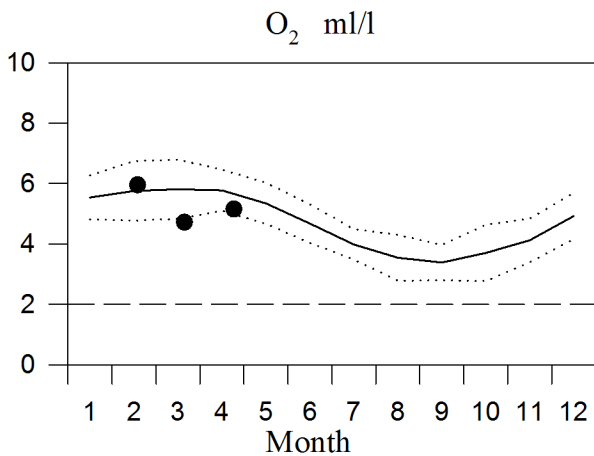
STATION SLÄGGÖ SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

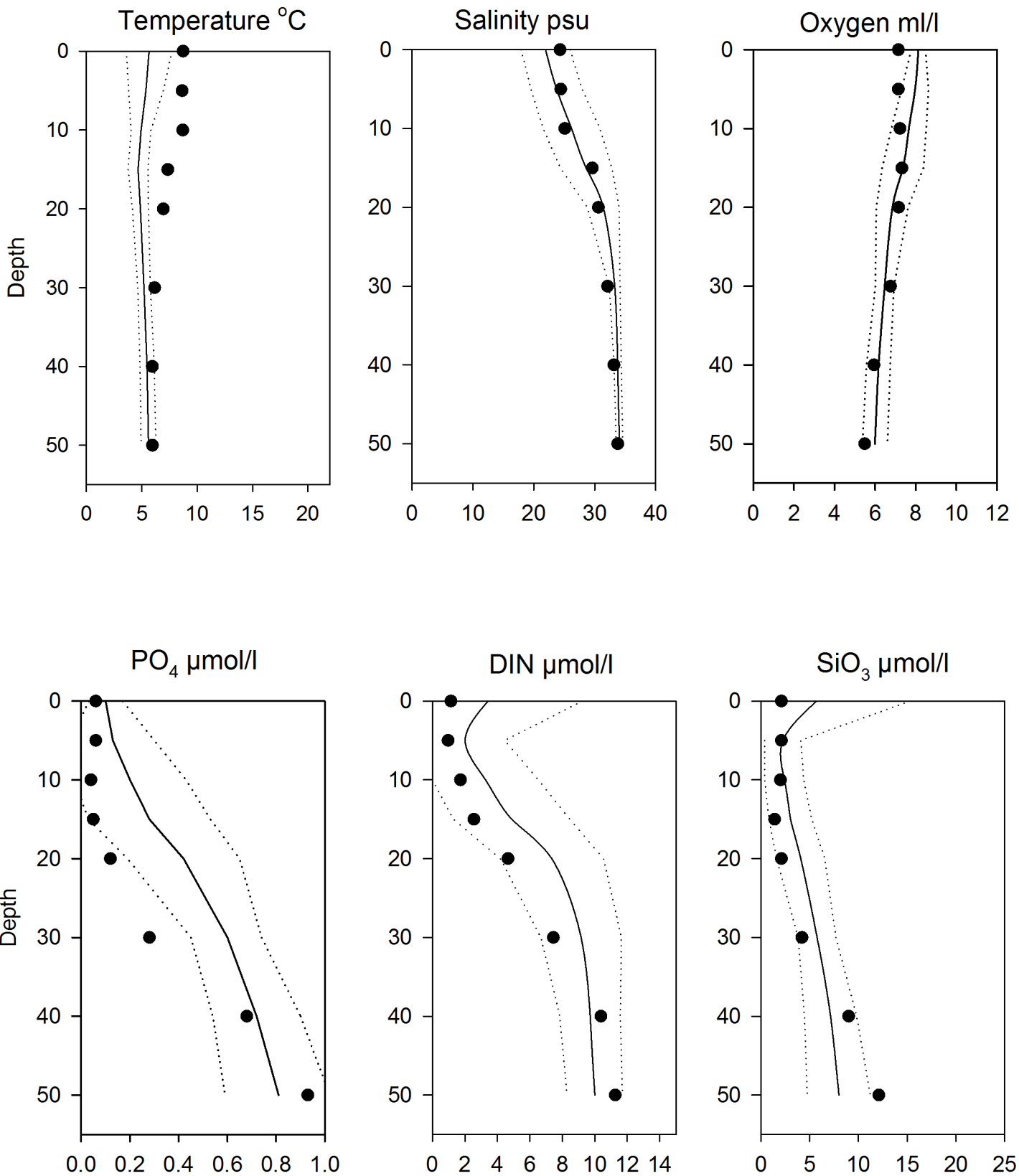


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >50m)



Vertical profiles Släggö April

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015



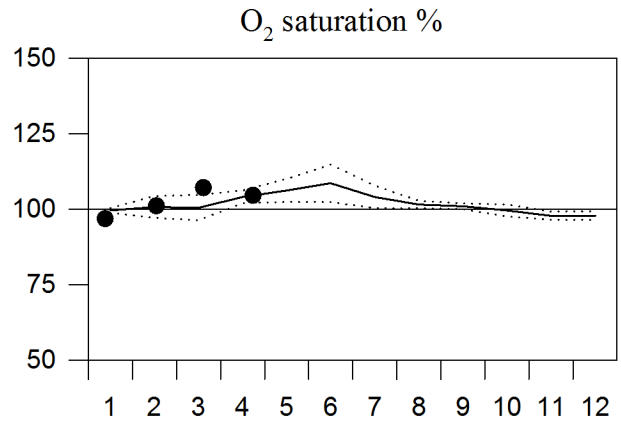
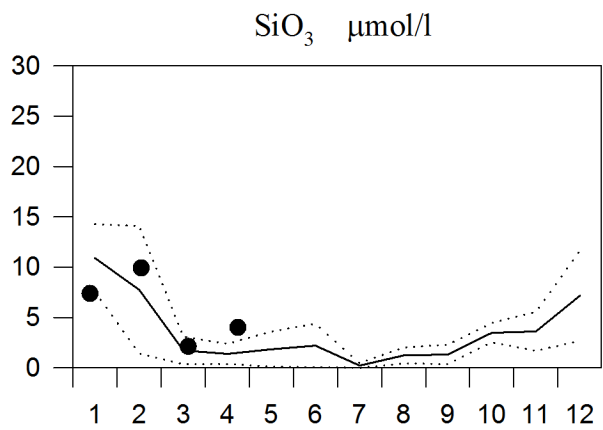
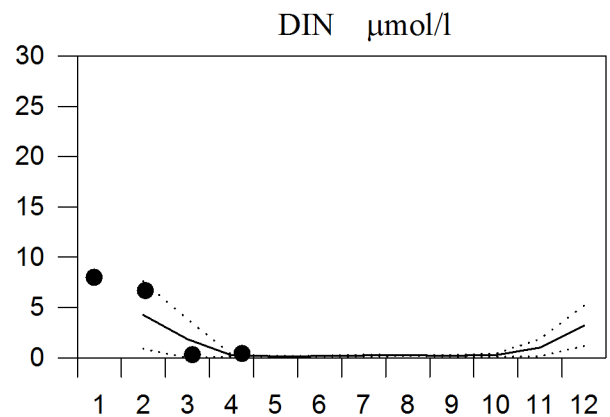
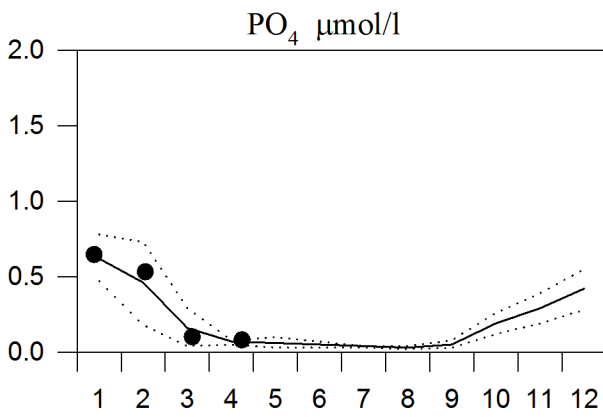
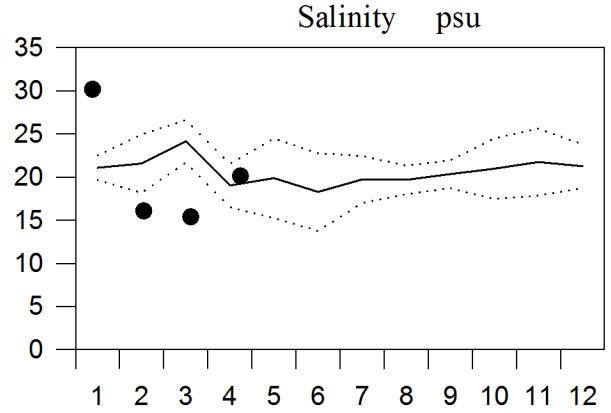
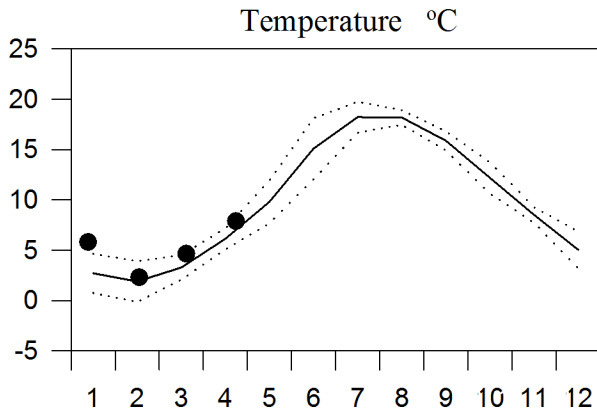
STATION N14 Falkenberg SURFACE WATER

Annual Cycles

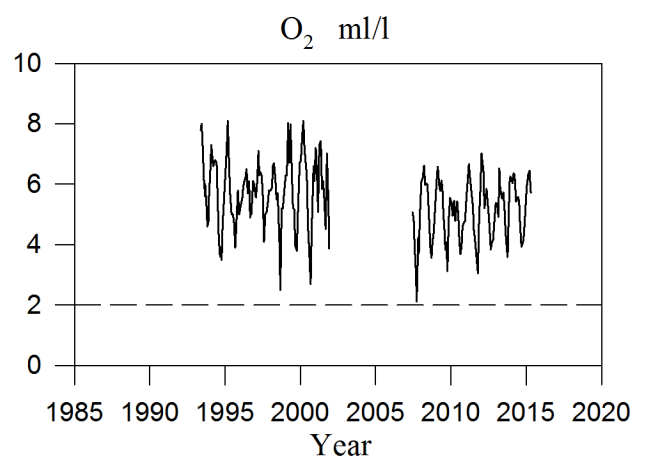
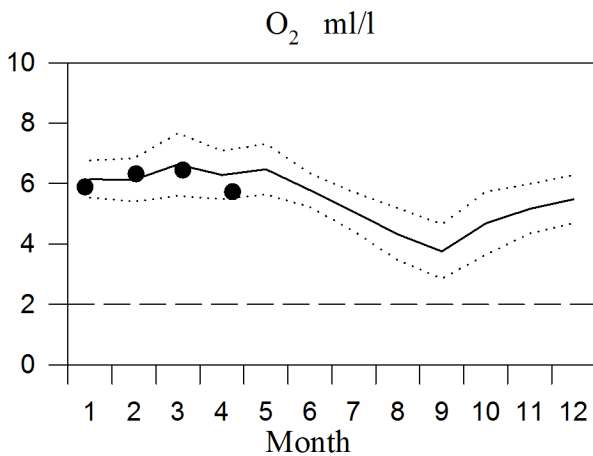
— Mean 2007-2010

..... St.Dev.

● 2015



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth > 25m)



Vertical profiles N14 Falkenberg April

— Mean 1996-2010 St.Dev. ● 2015

