

Report from SMHI's marine monitoring cruise with R/V Svea



Sampling of zooplankton. Photo: Mikael Hedblom, SMHI

Survey period: 2023-10-18 – 2023-10-25

Principals: Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI),
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)

Cooperation partners: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU),
Swedish Maritime Administration (SMA)

SUMMARY

During the cruise, which is part of the national marine monitoring programme of Sweden, oceanographic environmental monitoring was performed in the Skagerrak, the Kattegat, the Sound and the Baltic Proper.

The conditions in the sea areas around Sweden were largely influenced by the storm that passed over the region before and during the cruise. The strong easterly wind led to significant mixing of the surface water, resulting in a cooling effect and lower temperatures than normal were recorded. The salinity of the surface water was also higher than usual in many areas, indicating strong wind-induced mixing. Nutrient levels also showed higher concentrations than normal in large areas of the Baltic Proper. A similar situation was observed in the Skagerrak.

In the deep basins around Gotland, nutrient concentrations remained much higher than normal, reflecting the poor oxygen conditions and record-high concentrations of hydrogen sulphide in the deep areas. In the Western Gotland Basin, oxygen-free conditions were noted from a depth of 70 meters, and in the Eastern Gotland Basin, the corresponding depth was about 80 meters.

In the southeastern Baltic Proper, no hydrogen sulphide was noted at the bottom, but a weak pulse of oxygenated water ($\sim 1.5 \text{ ml/l}$) was observed at around 80 meters depth. In the Bornholm Basin and Hanö Bay, oxygen conditions near the bottom were oxygen-free, with oxygen deficiency noted from a depth of 60-70 meters.

During September, the oxygen conditions near the bottom in the Arkona Basin were very poor, with oxygen levels near zero. By October, the conditions had improved considerably, although oxygen deficiency was still noted in the eastern parts.

Technical problems during the cruise prevented the use of the regular CTD rosette throughout the entire expedition. Backup equipment had to be used, leading to the absence of certain depths and analyses in the southern Baltic Proper, as well as in the Skagerrak and Kattegat.

The next regular cruise is scheduled to start on 10th November and will start in Falkenberg and end in Kalmar.

RESULTS

The cruise was carried out with R/V Svea, starting in Kalmar on October 18th and ending in Lysekil on October 25th. The winds during the cruise were initially brisk but quickly escalated to storm force as the storm named "Babet" swept across the Baltic Sea. After the storm had passed, the winds became weak but intensified again as Svea reached Kattegat and Skagerrak. Due to the impact of the storm "Babet," stations in northern Baltic Proper; BY31, BY29, and Huvudskärsbojen were canceled. In the Kattegat, station N14 was canceled due to time constraints. The air temperature ranged from 4 to 12°C.

In addition to SMHI's regular environmental monitoring, extra sampling of phytoplankton in the Kattegat and Skagerrak was carried out for Uppsala University, along with additional water samples for eDNA analysis for the AMIME project, in collaboration with two researchers from SciLifeLab – KTH.

Representatives from the National Oceanographic Data Center at SMHI and from the Swedish Armed Forces "METOCC" also participated on the cruise to learn about SMHI's activities on board Svea.

Technical issues with the CTD-rosette in the middle of the journey meant that stations from the Arkona Basin onward could not be sampled with the CTD rosette. Instead, a smaller CTD (SBE19) and water samplers suspended on a wire were used, resulting in a slightly lower number of sampling depths. The technical problems were rectified immediately after the cruise, and SMHI now has functional CTD equipment for the upcoming November cruise.

One of Svea's ADCPs (current measurement) and the Ferrybox (continuous measurements at 4 meters depth) were operational during the cruise. The MVP (Moving Vessel Profiler) could also be used on this trip after a few months of suspension due to technical issues.

This report is based on data that has undergone an initial quality control and is compared to monthly means from the period 1991 - 2020. When additional quality control has been performed, certain values may change. Values in the report have been rounded and by that can differ a bit from values published in the data base. Data from this cruise are published as soon as possible on the data host's website, this usually takes place within a week after the cruise has ended. Some analyses are made after the cruise and are published later.

Data can be downloaded here:

<https://www.smhi.se/en/services/open-data/national-archive-for-oceanographic-data/download-data-1.153150>

The Skagerrak

The cooling of the surface water had begun, and the temperature in the surface water was now around 11-12°C down to 10-15 meters depth, which is cooler than normal. Below this, somewhat warmer water was found down to around 50-70 meters depth, where the temperature stabilized at around 8°C towards the bottom. The salinity in the surface water varied from 28 psu at the coastal station Släggö in Gullmarsfjorden to about 31 psu in the open sea. Salinity stratification was observed between 20-50 meters depth.

All nutrients in the surface water had increased slightly, and at some stations, concentrations higher than normal were noted. The elevated nutrient levels are likely due to prolonged east winds causing upwelling along the west coast, where colder, more saline, and nutrient-rich deep water reaches the surface layer. Normal nutrient concentrations were found in the deep water.

The oxygen situation was good at all stations in the Skagerrak, with values within the normal range for the season. The lowest concentration in the bottom water was measured at Släggö: 4.2 ml/l.

Due to the regular CTD-rosette malfunctioning, there are no fluorescence measurements from this sea area.

The Kattegat and the Sound

In Kattegat, the cooling of the surface water had also begun, and was approximately 6-7 °C lower than in September. However, the surface temperature in Kattegat and Öresund was normal for the month at all stations, around 12°C. The salinity was lower than normal in the surface in the Sound, normal in the central parts, and higher than normal in the northern parts. A strong halocline was observed between 10 to 20 meters at all stations, and a weak temperature stratification (thermocline) was also noted at approximately the same depth.

Nutrient levels had started to increase and were normal except in the central parts, at Anholt E, where higher than normal concentrations were observed. In the deep water, generally normal nutrient levels for the season were noted.

The oxygen situation in the deep water of Kattegat usually improves during the fall due to mixing. A clear improvement was noted during the October cruise when oxygen levels in the bottom water had increased from around 2 ml/l (acute oxygen deficiency) to 3.4 ml/l, which is just below the threshold for oxygen deficiency at 4 ml/l.

Due to the regular CTD malfunctioning, there are no fluorescence measurements from this sea area.

The Baltic Proper

The conditions in the Baltic Proper were largely influenced by the storm “Babet” that passed over the area before and during the cruise. The strong winds led to significant mixing of the surface water, causing a cooling effect. Temperatures around 10-13 degrees were noted, which is normal or below normal for the season. The salinity in the surface water was also higher than normal in all areas, indicating strong wind-induced mixing. Nutrient levels also showed higher concentrations than normal in all areas, except from DIN that was lower than normal in the Western Gotland Sea and normal in the Arkona basin.

Stratification occurred at around 40-60 meters depth, and temperature and salinity stratification largely coincided.

Below the stratification, nutrient concentrations increased. In the deep basins around Gotland, concentrations remained much higher than normal, reflecting the very poor oxygen conditions and record-high concentrations of hydrogen sulphide in the deep areas. In the Western Gotland Basin, oxygen-free conditions were noted from a depth of 70 meters and oxygen deficiency from 60 meters. Just outside Visby, an additional station was sampled, and there, oxygen deficiency was noted from 45 meters depth, with acute oxygen deficiency from around 60 meters depth. In the Eastern Gotland Basin, the corresponding depths were about 10 meters deeper.

At the station BCSIII-10 in the southeastern Baltic Proper, no hydrogen sulphide was noted at the bottom, but a weak pulse of oxygenated water ($\sim 1.5 \text{ ml/l}$) was observed at around 80 meters depth.

In the Bornholm Basin and Hanö Bay, oxygen conditions near the bottom were oxygen-free, with oxygen deficiency noted from 60-70 meters depth.

In September, the oxygen conditions near the bottom in the Arkona Basin were very poor, with oxygen levels near zero. By October, the conditions had improved significantly, with levels above 2 ml/l at BY2 and above 4 ml/l at BY1.

Fluorescence measurements from the CTD probe indicated some plankton presence in the surface water above the thermocline at all stations, but it was generally low.

Oxygen, SBE 43 [ml/l], WS = 2

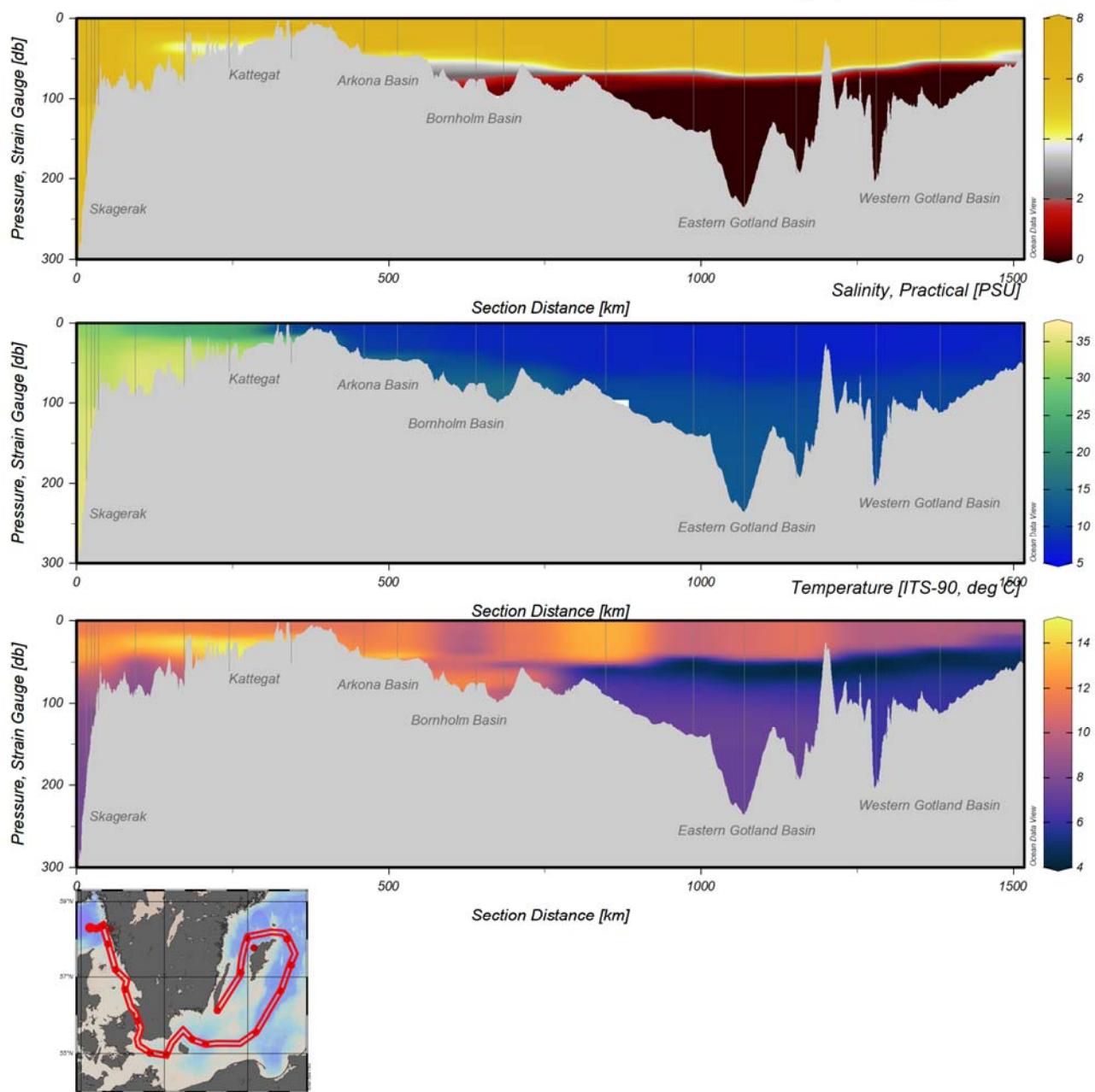


Figure 1. Transect showing CTD measurements of dissolved oxygen concentration, salinity and temperature from the Skagerrak, through the Kattegat and Öresund, further into the Baltic Proper, also shown in the map (bottom).

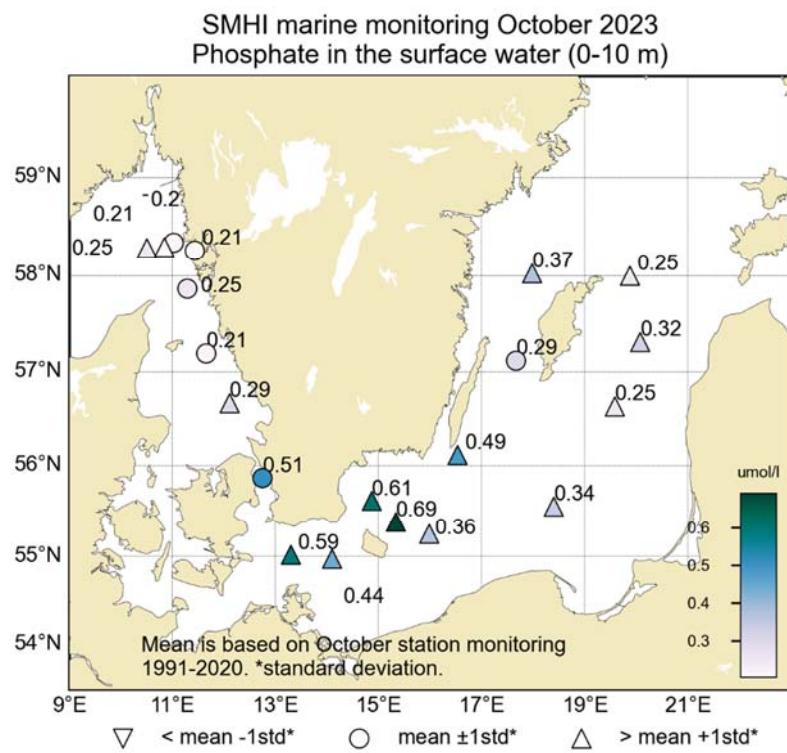


Figure 2. Concentration ($\mu\text{mol/l}$) of phosphate in the surface water (0-10m). Mean is based on data from the month within each basin during the years 1991 – 2020.

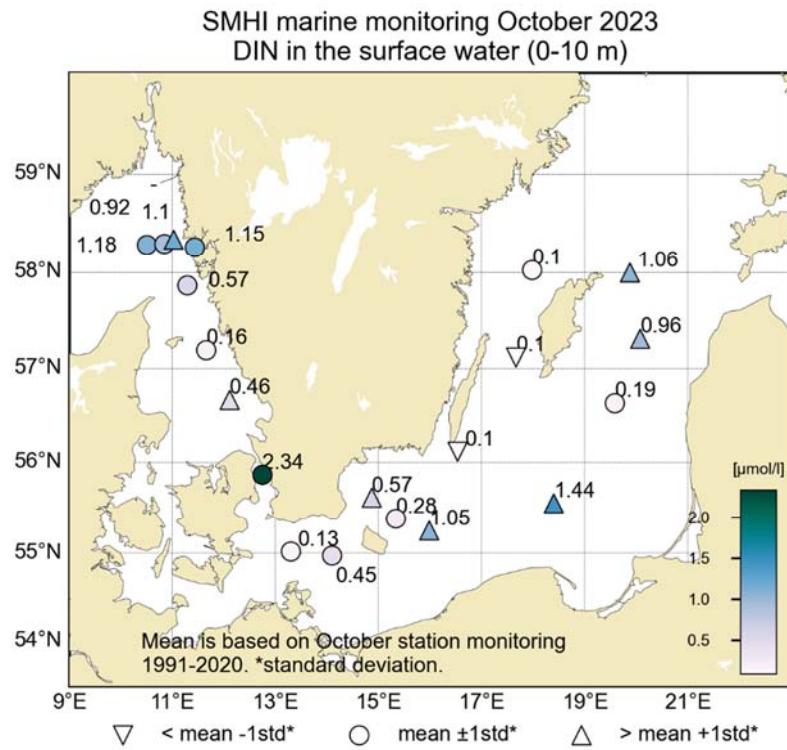


Figure 3. Concentration ($\mu\text{mol/l}$) of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) in the surface water (0-10m). Mean is based on data from the month within each basin during the years 1991 – 2020.

SMHI marine monitoring October 2023
Silicate in the surface water (0-10 m)

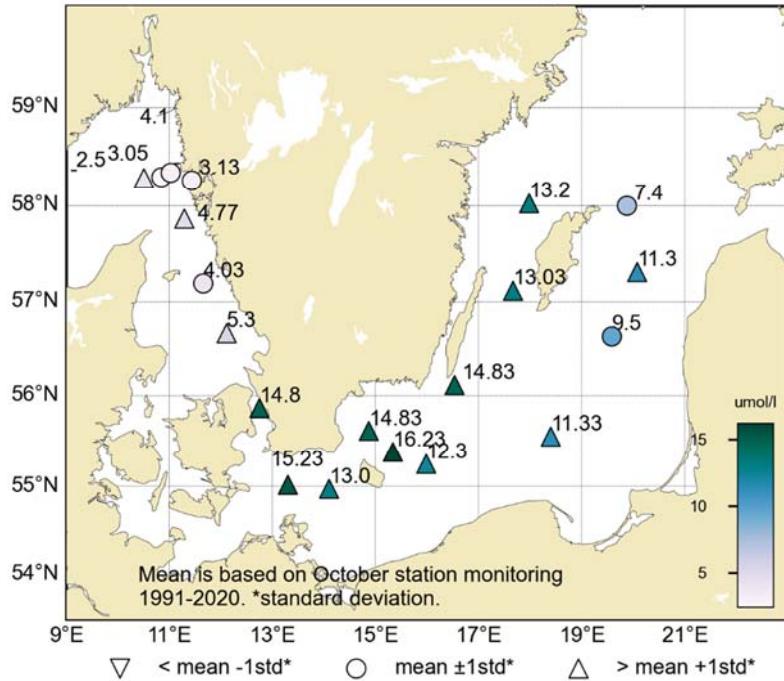


Figure 4. Concentration ($\mu\text{mol/l}$) of silicate in the surface water (0-10m). Mean is based on data from the month within each basin during the years 1991 – 2020.

SMHI marine monitoring October 2023
Temperature (CTD) in the surface water (0-10 m)

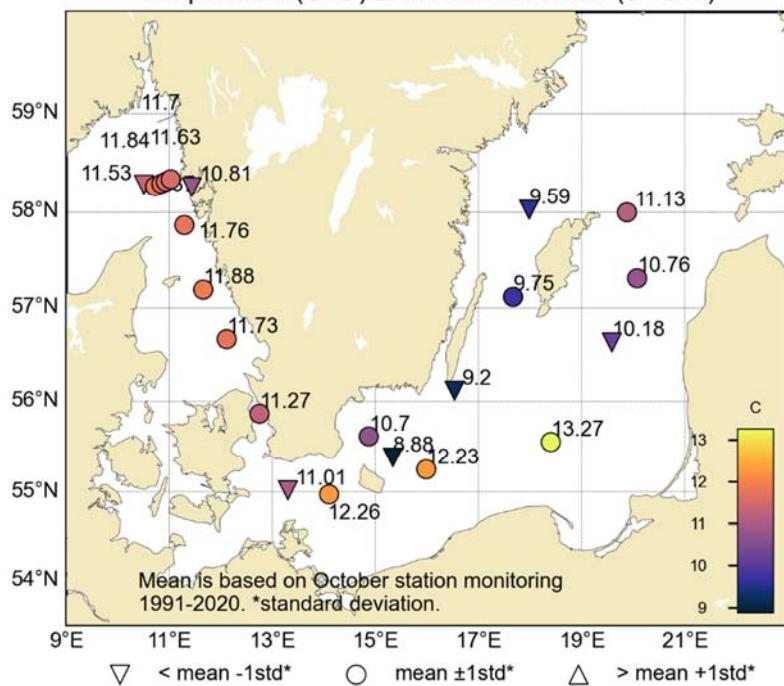


Figure 5. Temperature in the surface water (0-10m). Mean is based on data from the month within each basin during the years 1991 – 2020.

SMHI marine monitoring October 2023
Salinity (CTD) in the surface water (0-10 m)

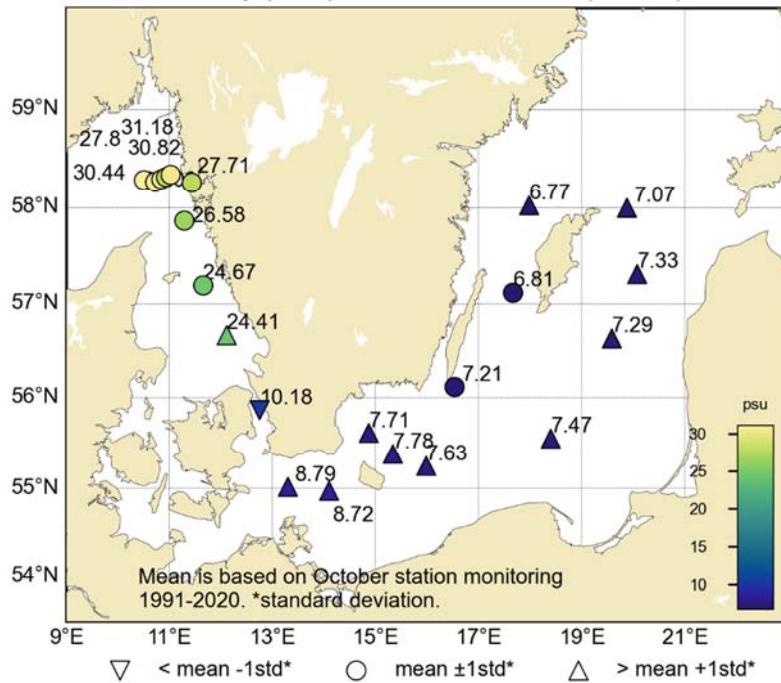


Figure 6. Salinity in the surface water (0-10m). Mean is based on data from the month within each basin during the years 1991 – 2020.

Oxygen (bottle) (Bottom)

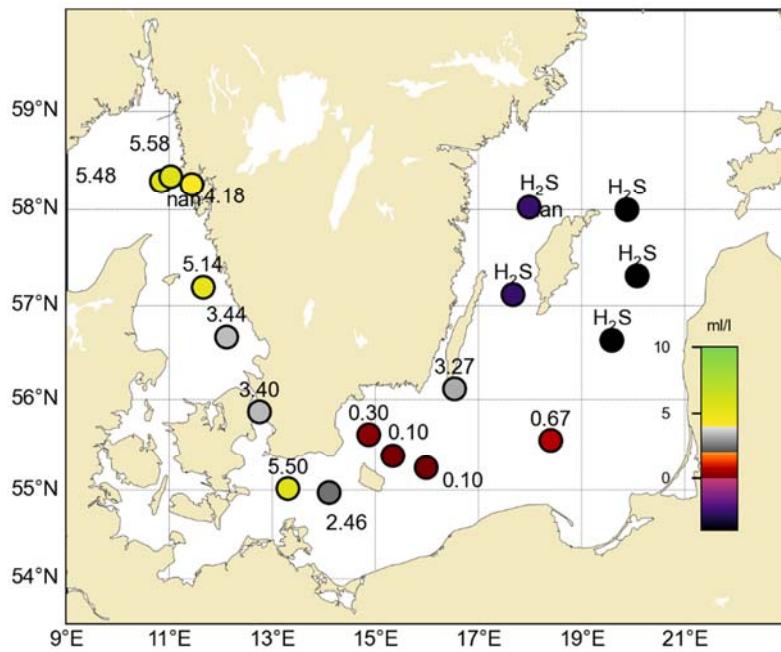


Figure 7. Dissolved oxygen concentration in the bottom water, approximately 1 meter above the seabed. Note that the values have not been compared to statistics in the same way as in figures 2–6, that's why only circles are shown.

PARTICIPANTS

Namn	Roll	Från
Martin Hansson	Chief Scientist, Oceanographer	SMHI
Johan Håkansson	Quality Manager, Chemist	SMHI
Helena Björnberg	Oceanographer	SMHI
Lena Viktorsson	Oceanographer	SMHI
Johanna Linders	Oceanographer	SMHI
Mikael Hedblom	Marine Biologist	SMHI – NODC
Karin Garefelt	Scientist	SciLifeLab - KTH
Emma Kroon	Scientist	SciLifeLab - KTH
Emma-Sophie Nyberg	Oceanographer	Försvarsmakten - METOCC

APPENDICES

- Track chart
- Table over stations, analyzed parameters and number of sampling depths
- Map of dissolved oxygen in the bottom water
- Vertical profiles for regular monitoring stations
- Monthly average surface water plots for regular monitoring stations



SMHIs provtagningsstationer

- Högfrekvent, 24 ggr/år
- Frekvent, 12 ggr/år
- Lågfrekvent kartering, 1 g/år
- ◆ Havsboj
- ▲ Bottenvätsystem

Å17 Å15 Å13 Lysekil
Å16 Å14 SLÄGGÖ

P2 Göteborg

FLADEN N14 FALKENBERG
ANHOLT E

P22 W LANDSKRONA

HANÖBUKTEN Flinten 7

BY1 BY2

Kalmar REF M1V1

BY38 BY39

BY4 BY5

BCS III-10

Gävle

HUVUDSKÄRSBOJEN

BY31

Västervik

BY32

BY20

BY15

BY10

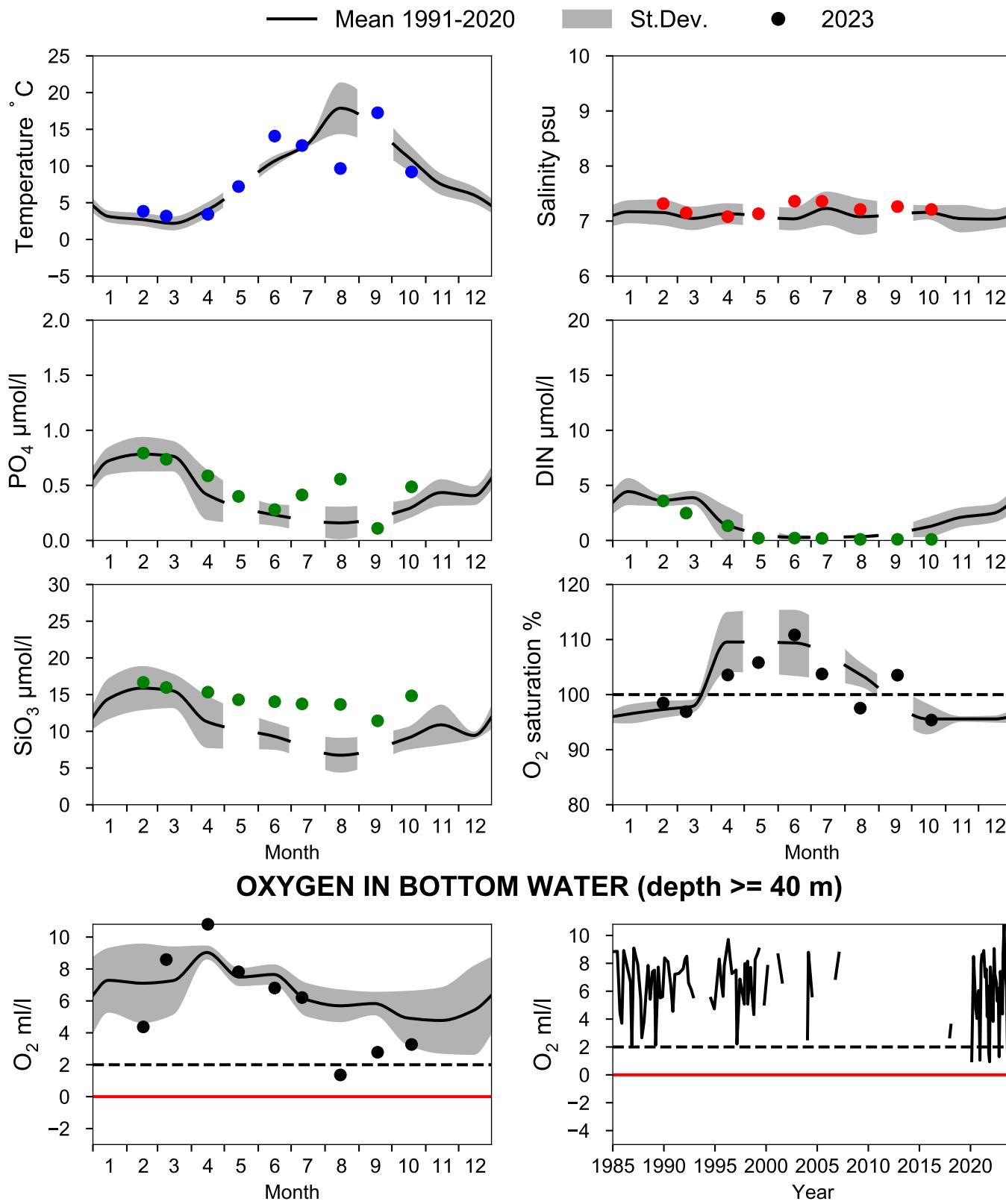
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Year: 2023

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0893	18	BPSE49	BAS... BY39 ÖLANDS S UDDE	5606.94	01632.03	20231019	1620	52	07 11	6.1	1010	2850	x---	8			x	x	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	-	x	x	
0894	18	BPWX45	BAS... BY38 KARLSÖDJ	5706.98	01740.09	20231019	2356	110	06 9	4.3	1011	9990	x---	14			x	x	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	-	x	-	
0895	18	BPWX38	BAS... BY32 NORRKÖPINGSDJ	5801.42	01758.84	20231020	0639	204	05 16.6	6.4	1013	1650	x---	17			-	x	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	
0897	18	BPWX00	EXT... BABET-1	5745.64	01818.29	20231021	1601	108	12 10	5.0	1009	9990	----	12			-	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-
0898	18	BPEX26	BAS... BY20 FÄRÖDJ	5759.86	01952.70	20231021	2330	198	13 5.1	7.6	1010	9990	x---	17			-	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-	x	-
0899	18	BPEX21	BAS... BY15 GOTLANDSDJ	5718.72	02004.61	20231022	0418	241	9	14	7.65	8.9	1009	9990	xx--	19			-	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-
0900	18	BPEX13	BAS... BY10	5638.06	01935.12	20231022	1100	144	10	11 1	11.1	1005	4820	xxx-	15			x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	-
0901	18	BPSE11	BAS... BCS III-10	5533.27	01824.03	20231022	1952	90	34 3.0	11.8	1010	9990	x---	12			x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-		
0902	18	BPSB07	BAS... BY5 BORNHOLMSDJ	5514.99	01559.05	20231023	0411	90	23 8	11.5	1012	9990	xxx-	12			x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-		
0903	18	LAND	BAS... BY4 CHRISTIANSÖ	5323	01520.2	20231023	0810	91	7	16 3.5	9.9	1013	1230	xxx-	12			x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-	
0904	18	BPSH05	BAS... HANÖBUKTEN	5537.02	01452.13	20231023	1113	84	5	23 7.6	10.4	1013	1230	xxx-	11			x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-	
0905	18	BPSA03	BAS... BY2 ARKONA	5458.25	01405.94	20231023	1652	46	25 6.3	11.7	1015	9990	xxx-	10			x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-		
0906	18	BPSA02	BAS... BY1	5500.94	01317.99	20231023	2109	46	21 2.8	11.1	101	9990	x---	8			-	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-		
0907	18	SOCX39	BAS... W LANDSKRONA	5551.99	01244.89	20231024	0445	53	10 6	9.10	1013	9990	xxx--	9			-	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-		
0908	18	KAEX29	BAS... ANHOLT E	5640.13	01206.71	20231024	1028	62	11 12.1	9.9	1013	2730	x---	10			x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-		
0909	18	KANX25	BAS... FLADEN	5711.58	01139.42	20231024	1708	84		13.9	8.8	1011	2840	x---	13			x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-	
0910	18	SKEX23	BAS... P2	5751.93	01117.44	20231024	2030	95		14	7.0	1012	9990	x---	10			x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-	
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0915	18	SKEX14	BAS... Å13	5820.41	01101.56	20231025	0623	116		07 14	5.8	1011	2840	x---	10			x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-	
0916	18	FIBG27	BAS... SLÄGGÖ	5815.57	01126.14	20231025	0840	68	5	07 13	5.0	1011	2830	x---	9			x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-	

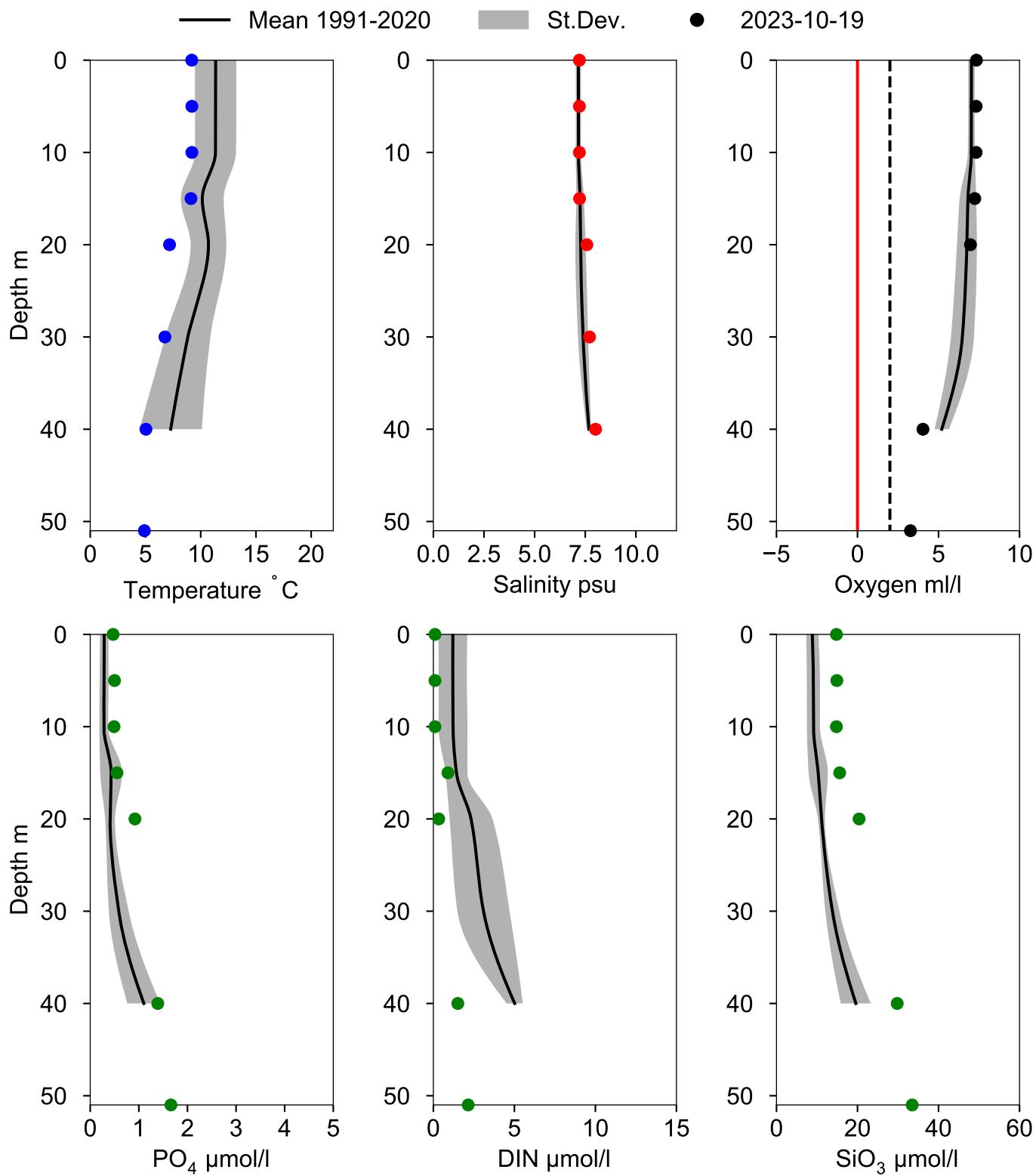
STATION BY39 ÖLANDS S UDDE SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



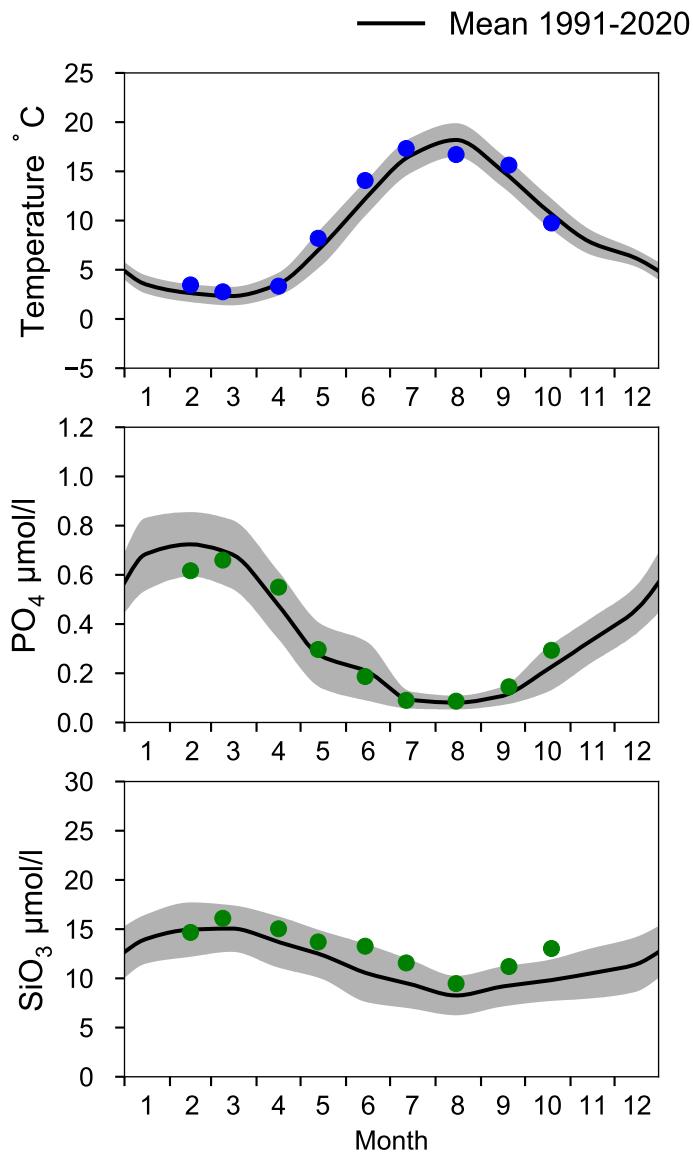
Vertical profiles BY39 ÖLANDS S UDDE

October

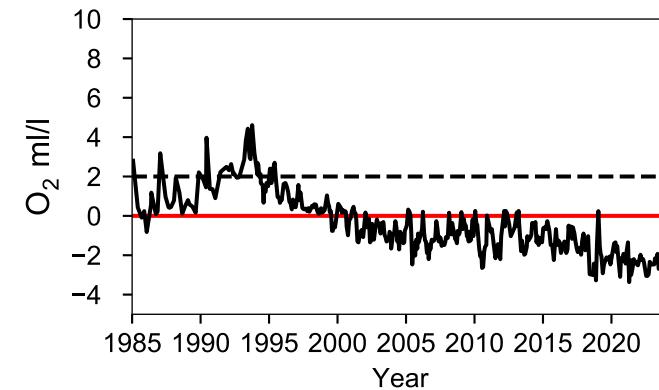
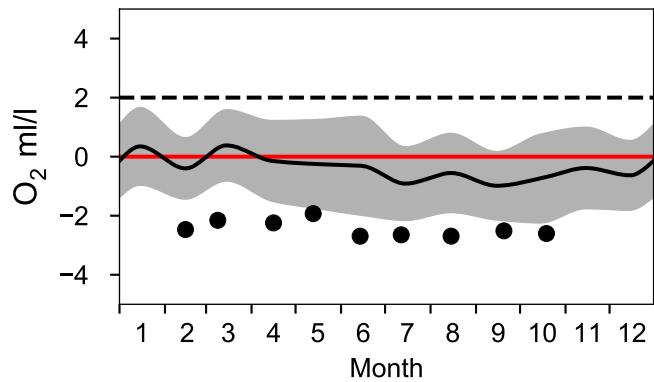


STATION BY38 KARLSÖDJ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

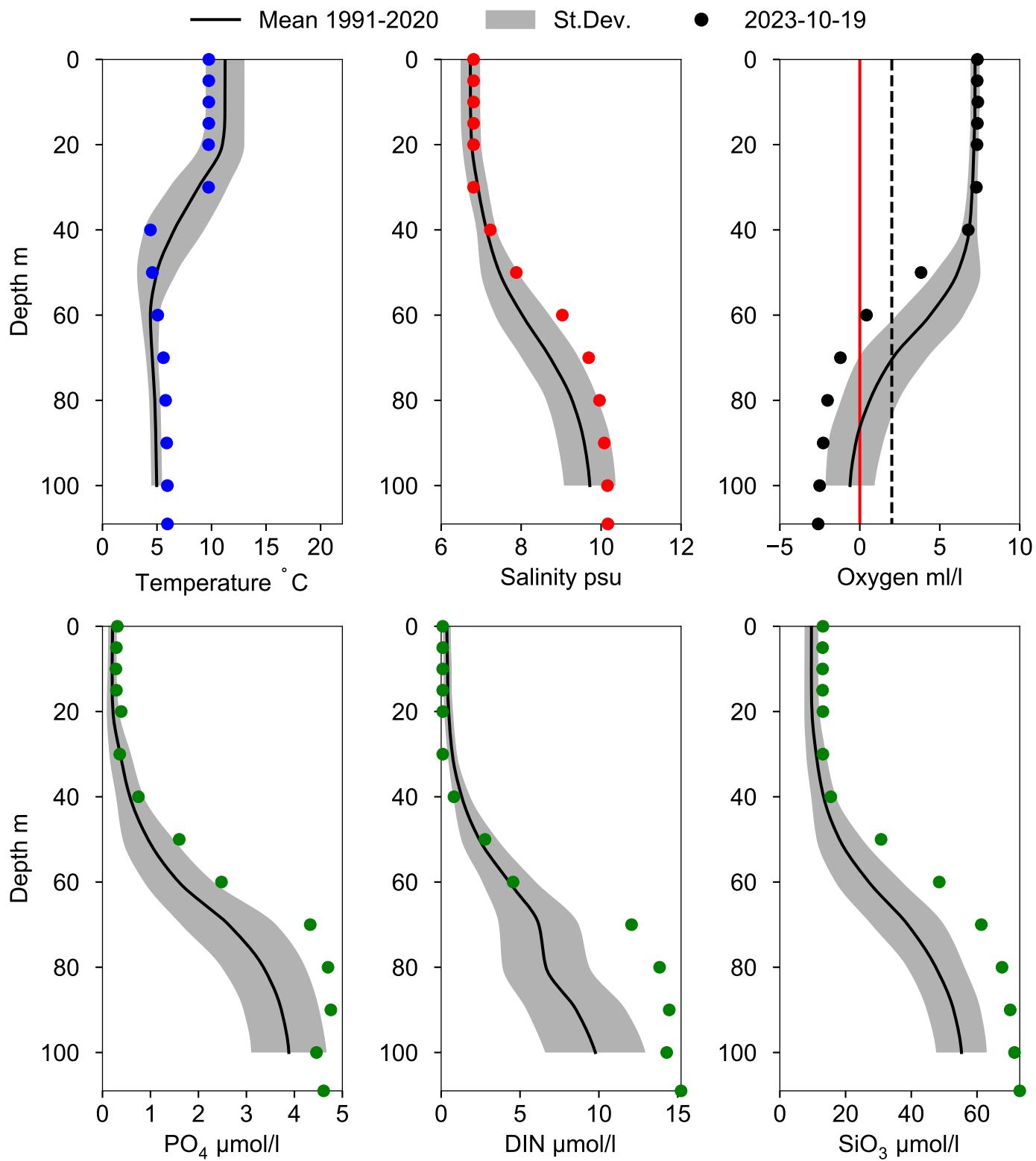


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 100 m)



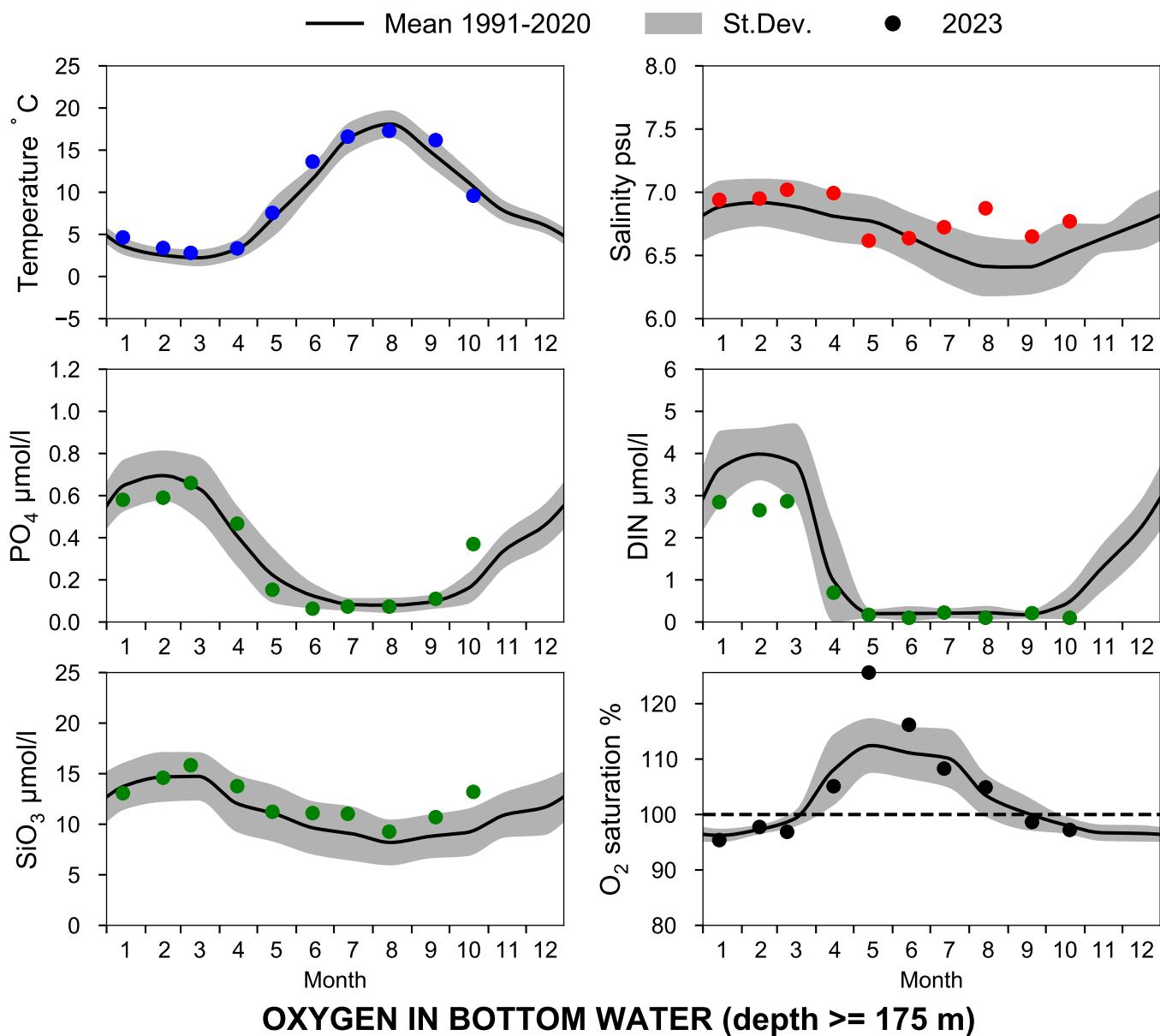
Vertical profiles BY38 KARLSÖDJ

October

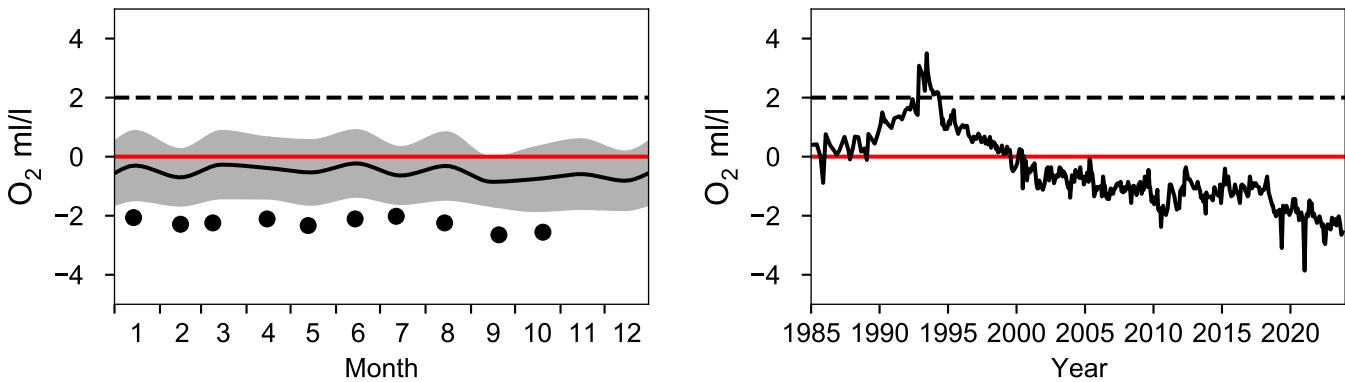


STATION BY32 NORRKÖPINGSJD SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

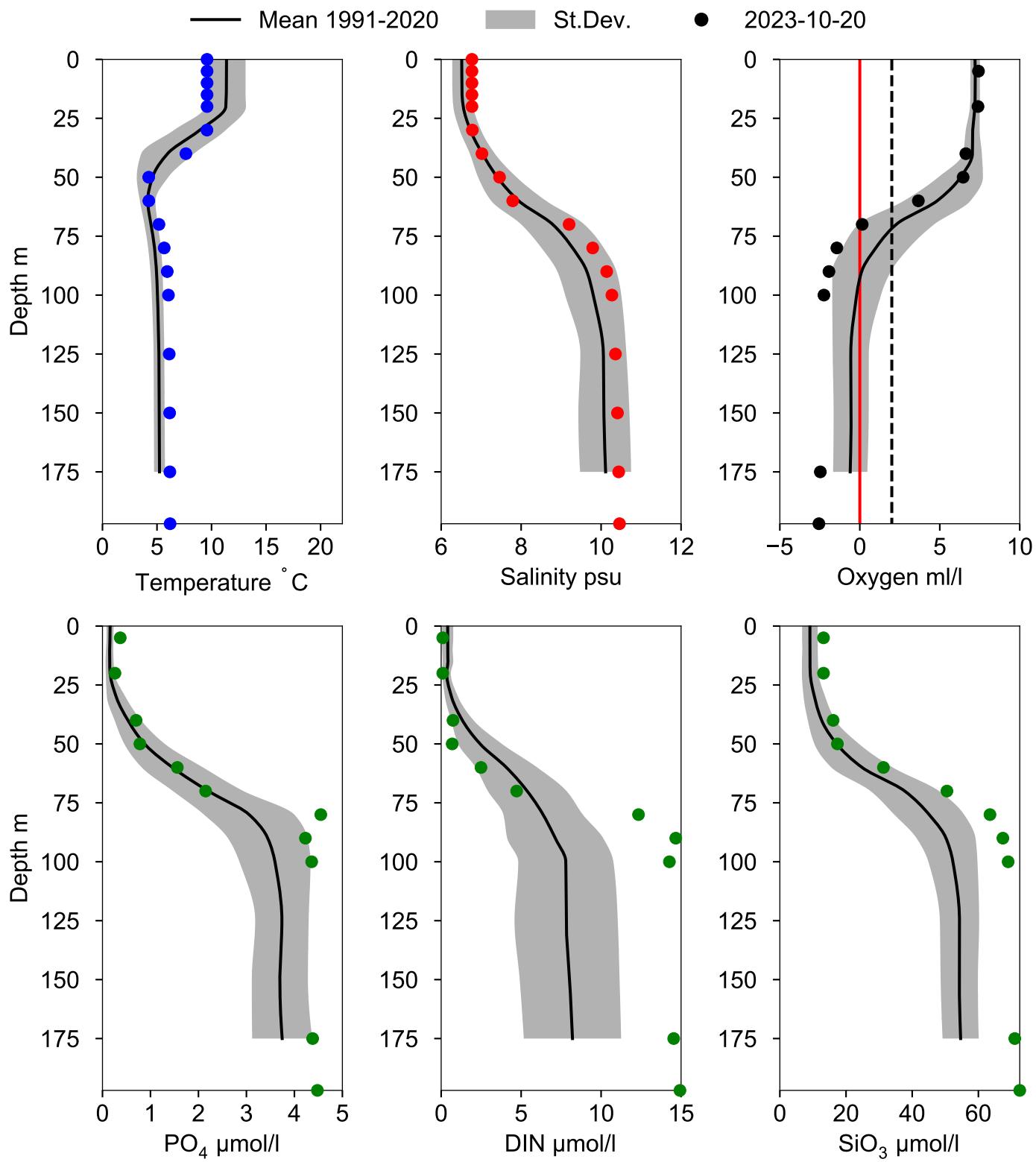
Annual Cycles



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 175 m)



Vertical profiles BY32 NORRKÖPINGSJÖ October

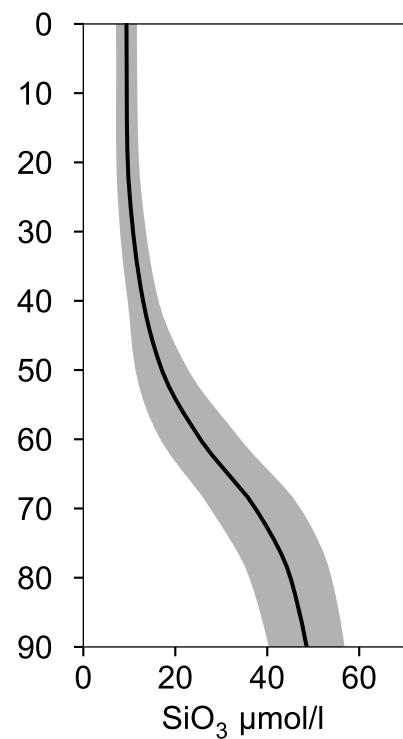
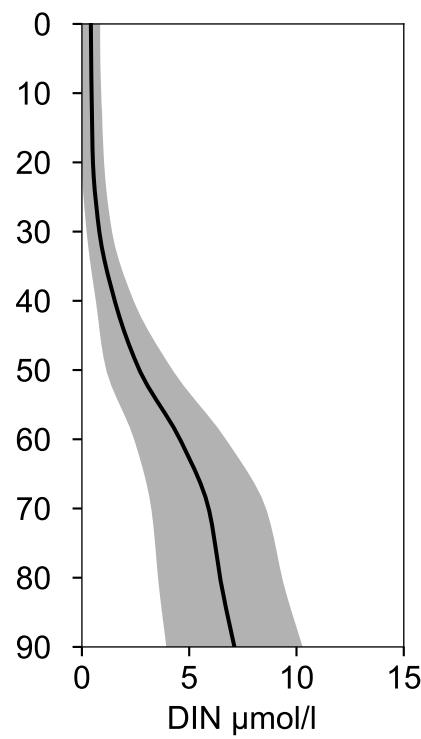
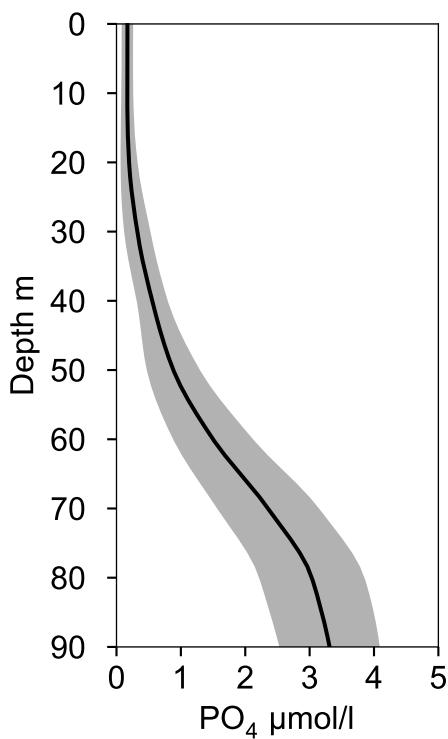
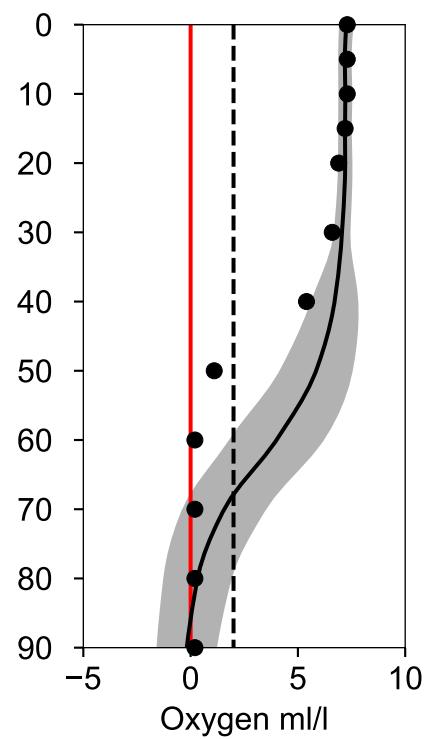
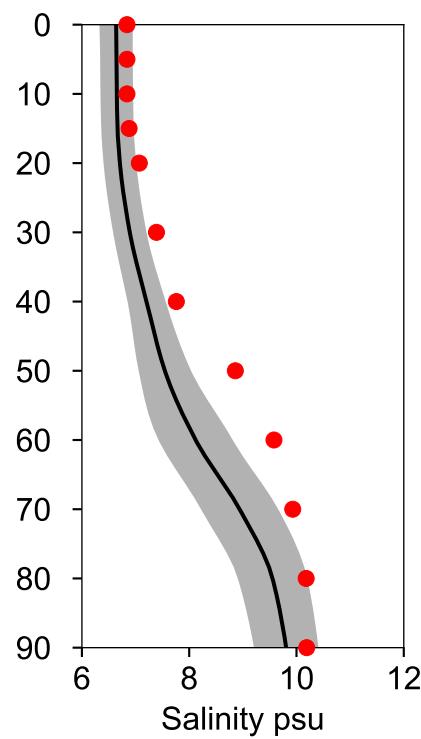
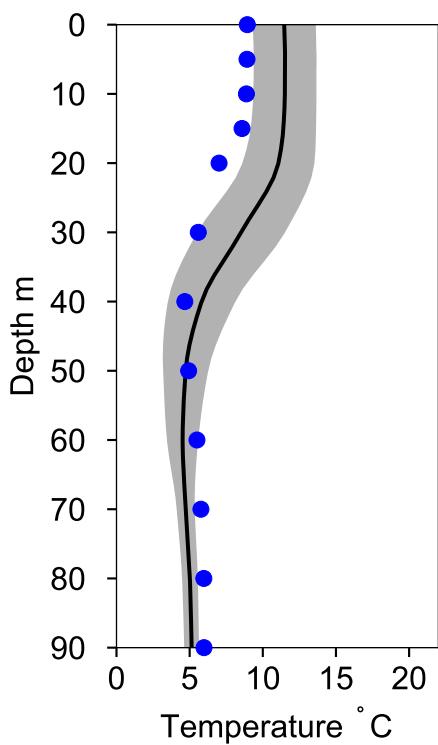


Vertical profiles BABET-1

October

Statistics based on data from: Västra Gotlandshavet

— Mean 1991-2020 ■ St.Dev. ● 2023-10-21



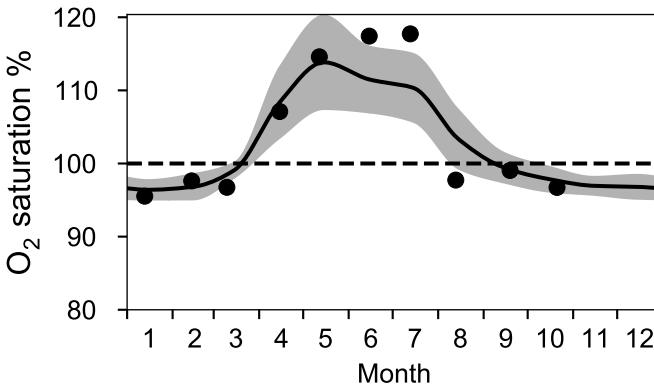
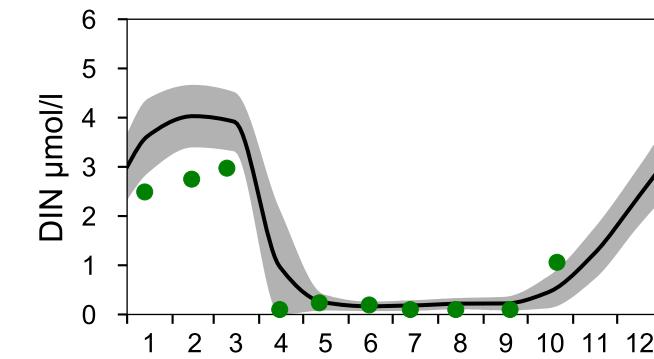
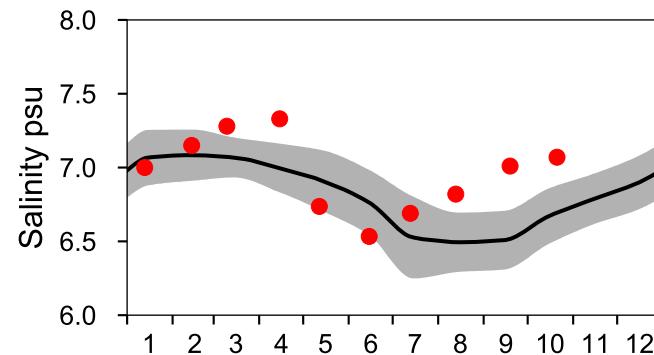
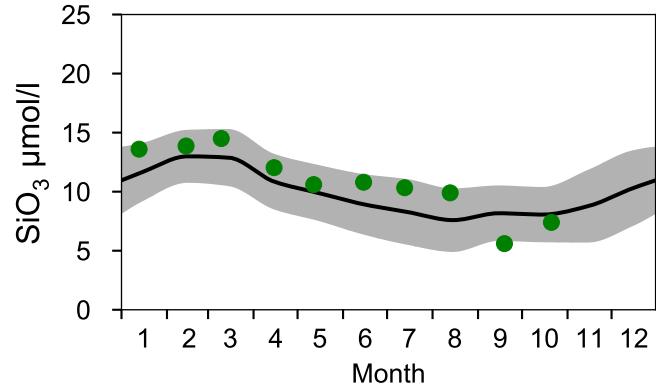
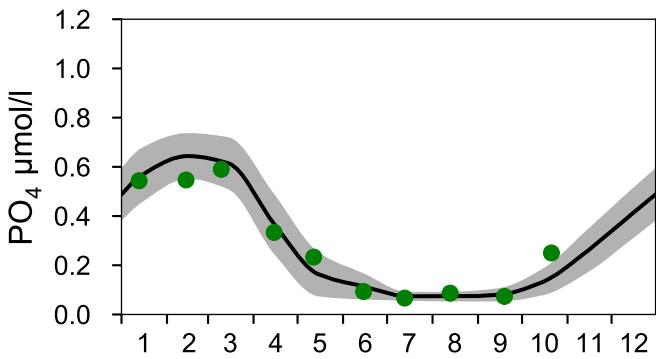
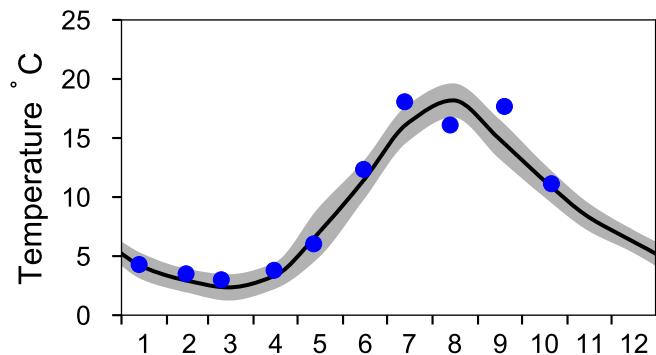
STATION BY20 FÄRÖDJ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

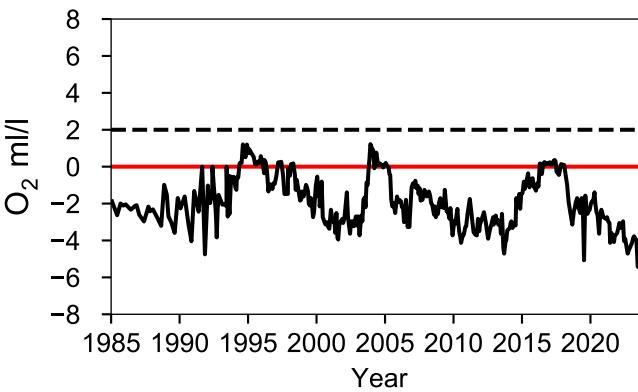
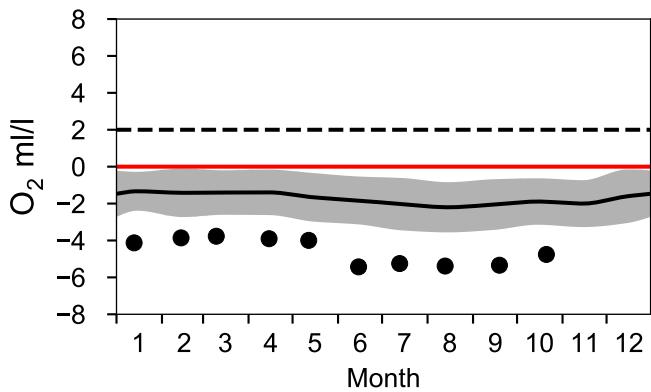
— Mean 1991-2020

St.Dev.

● 2023

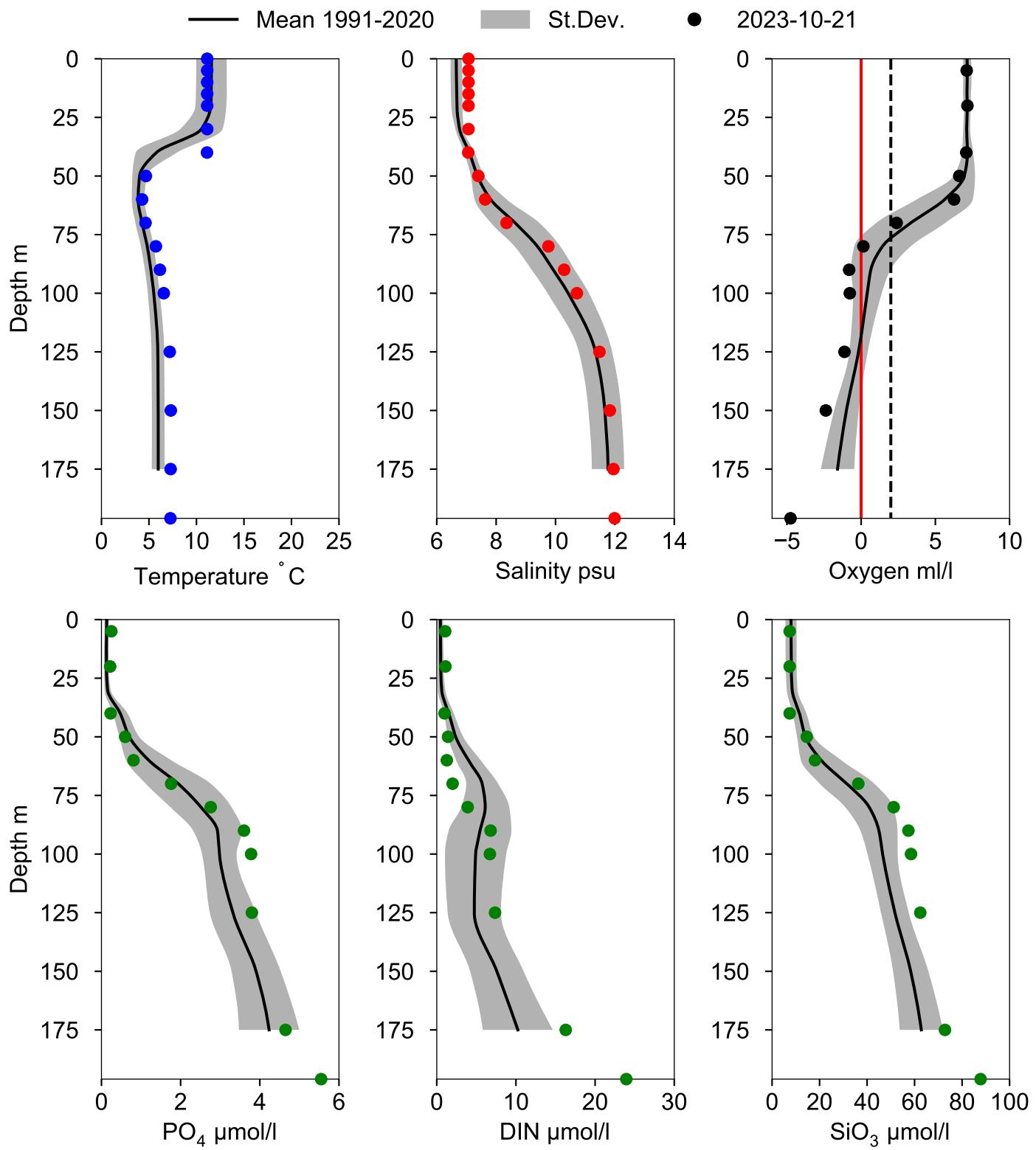


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth ≥ 175 m)



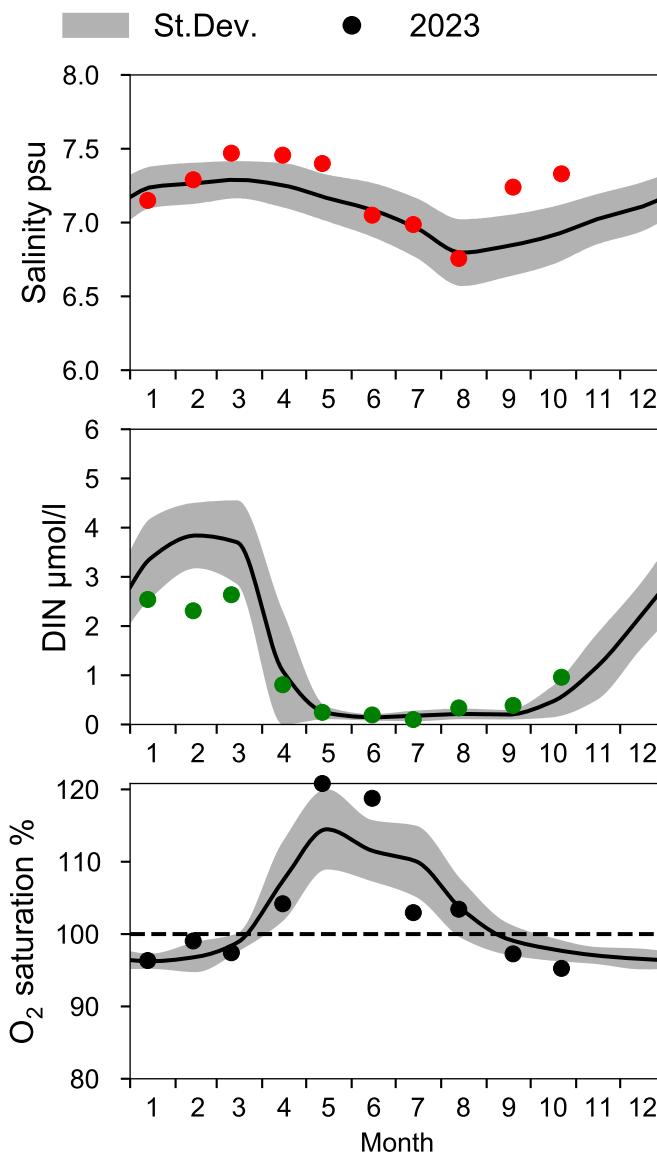
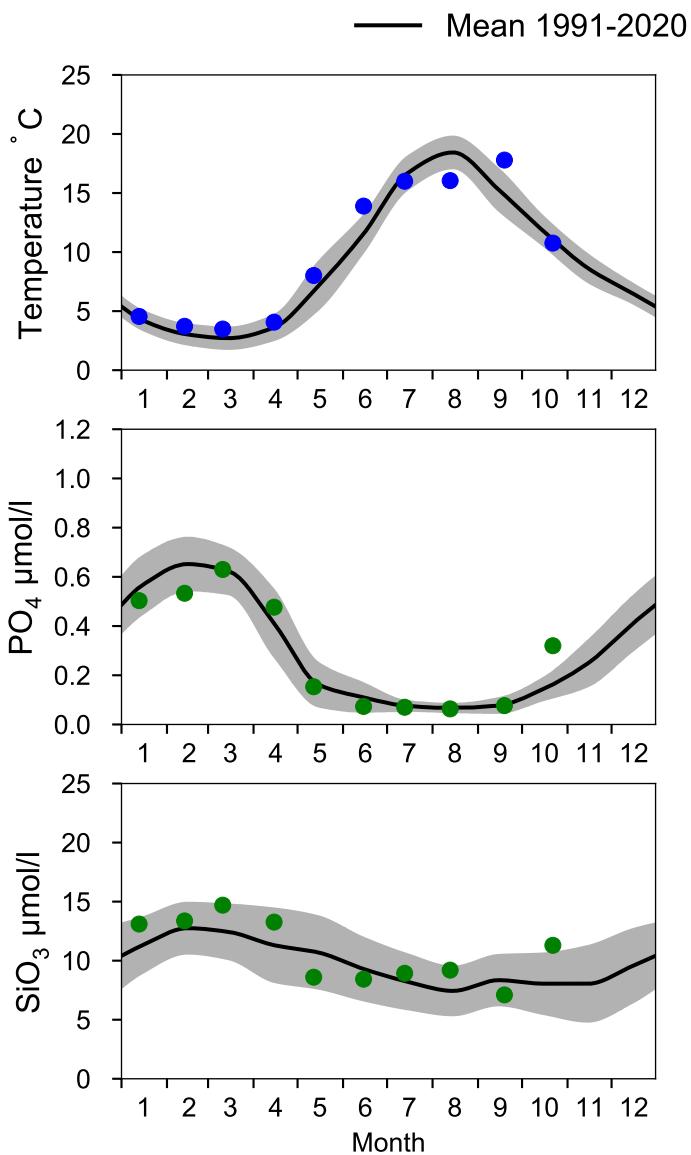
Vertical profiles BY20 FÅRÖDJ

October

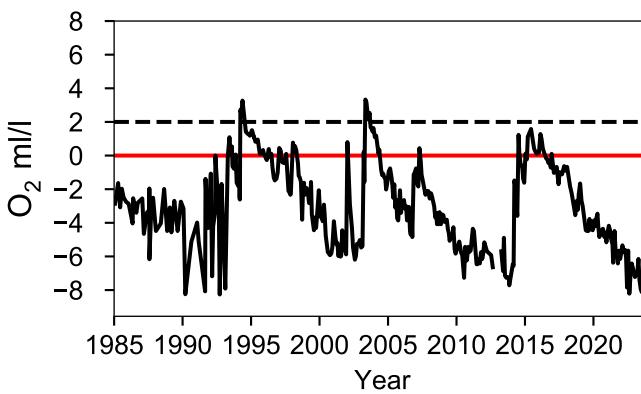
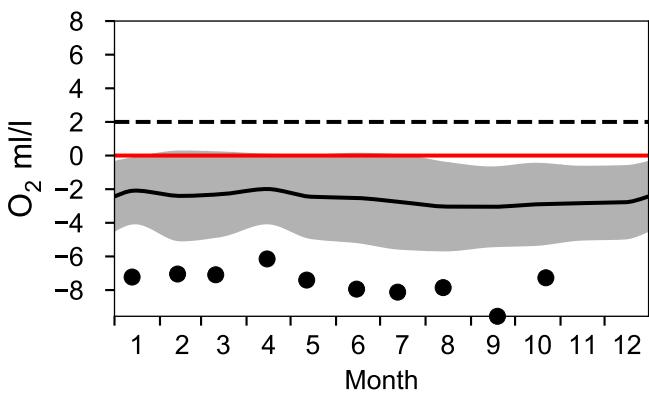


STATION BY15 GOTLANDSDJ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

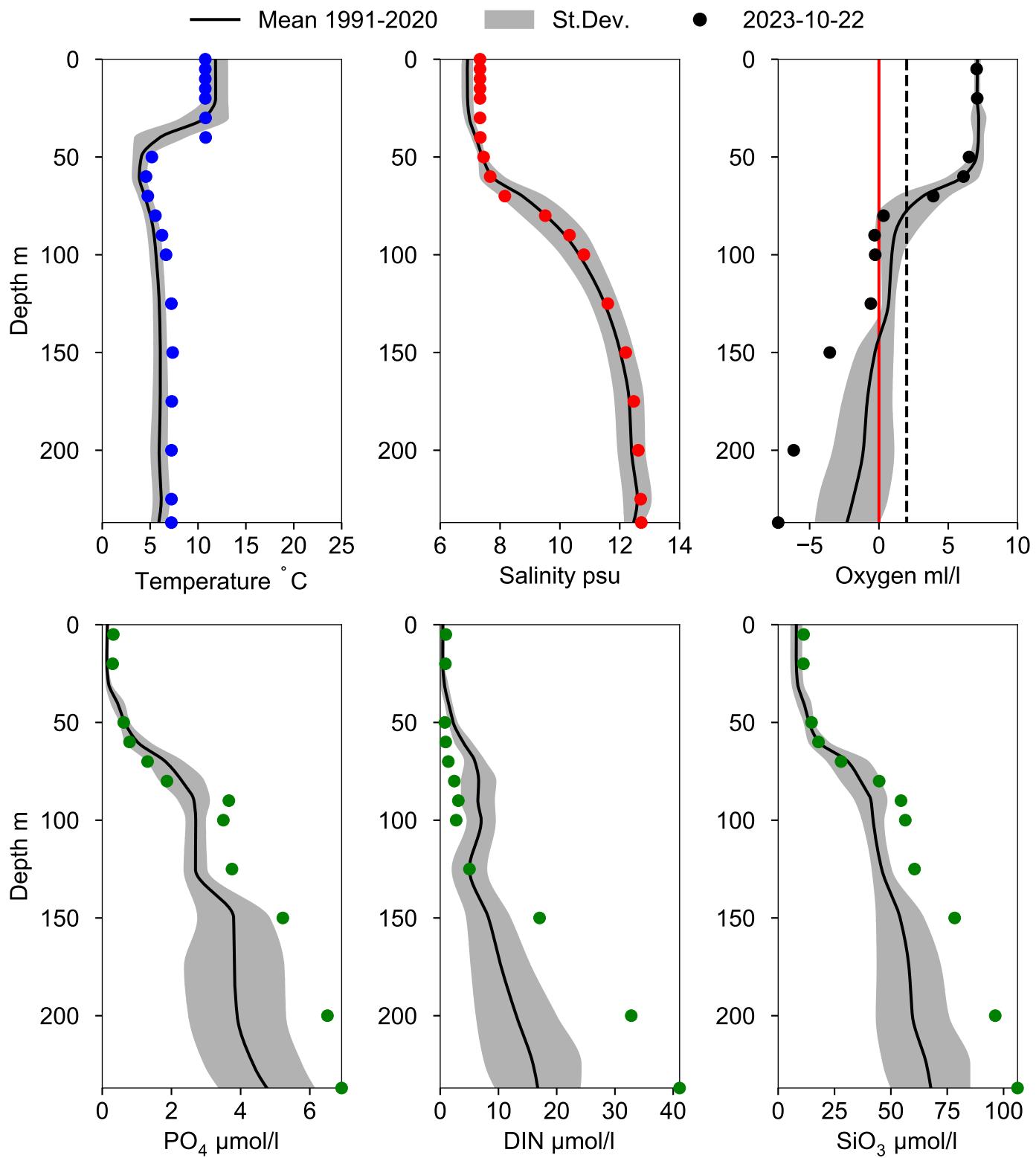
Annual Cycles



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth $\geq 225 \text{ m}$)

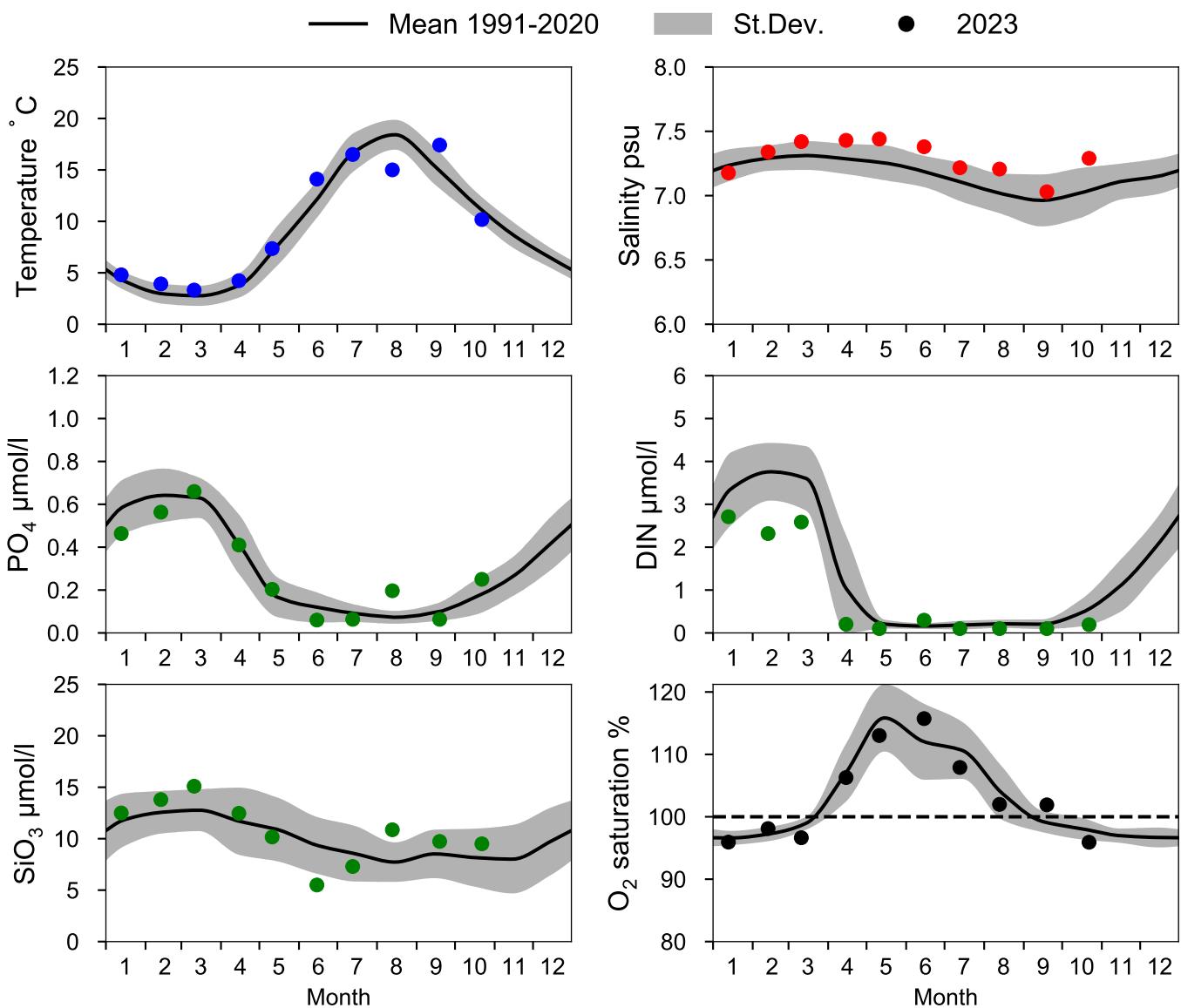


Vertical profiles BY15 GOTLANDSDJ October

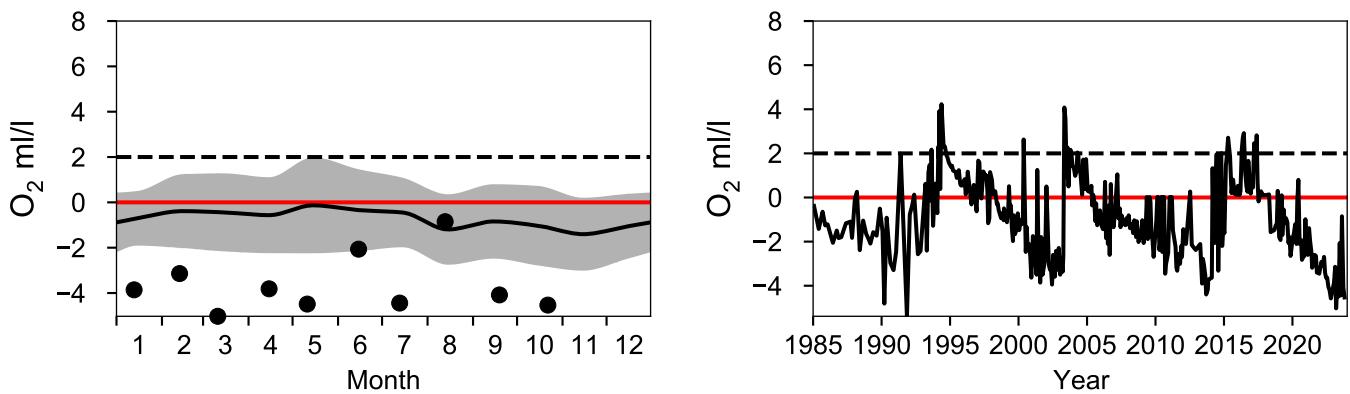


STATION BY10 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

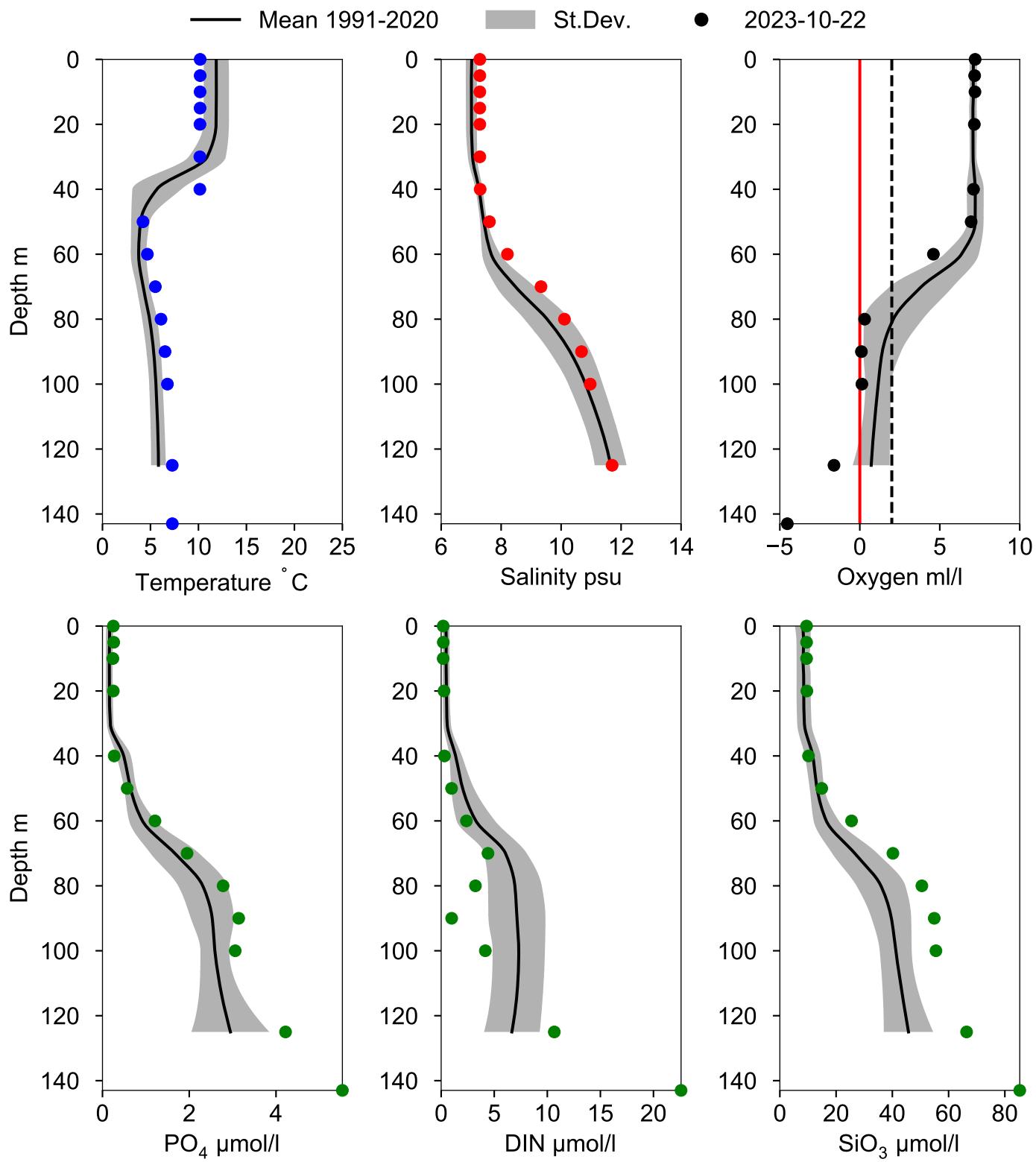
Annual Cycles



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 125 m)

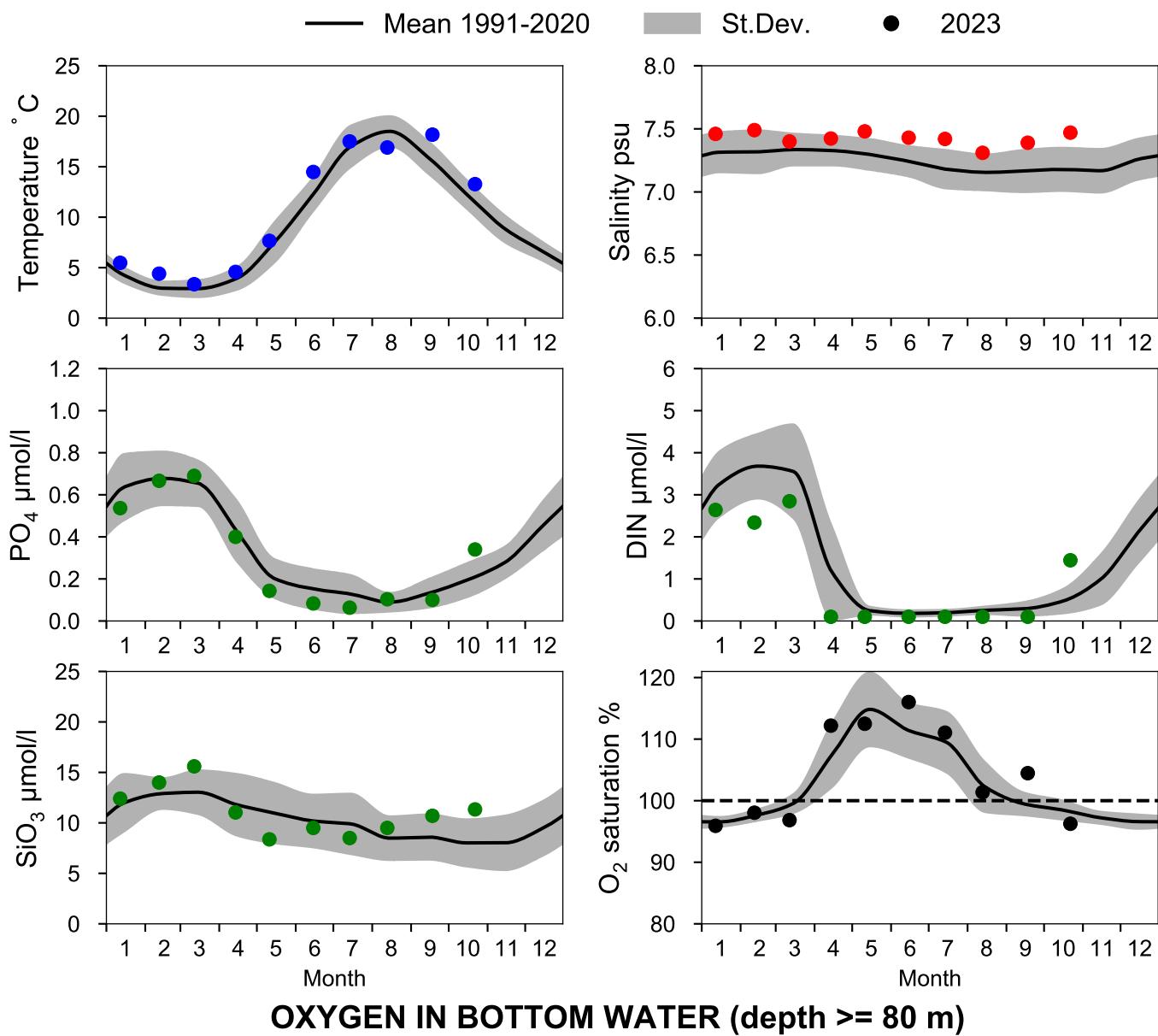


Vertical profiles BY10 October

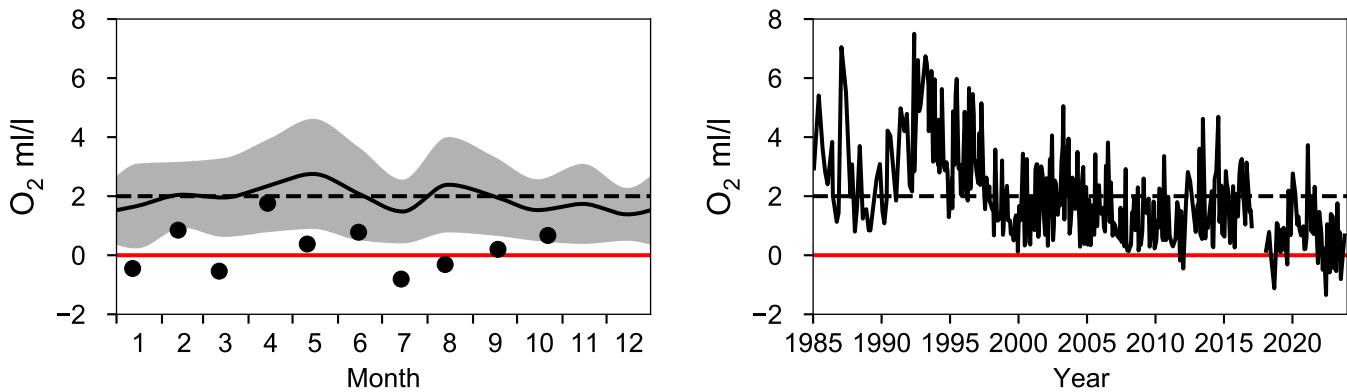


STATION BCS III-10 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

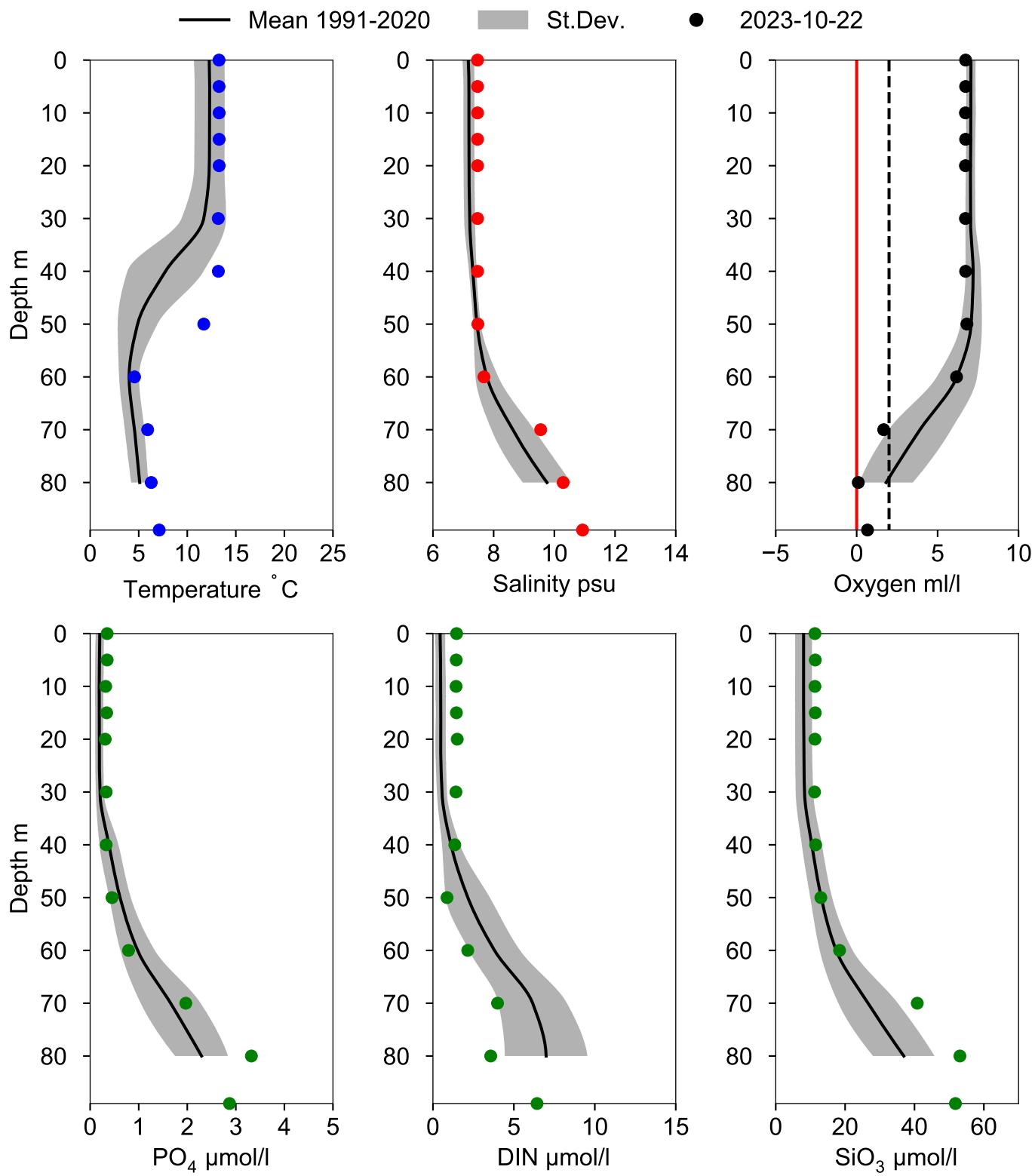
Annual Cycles



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 80 m)

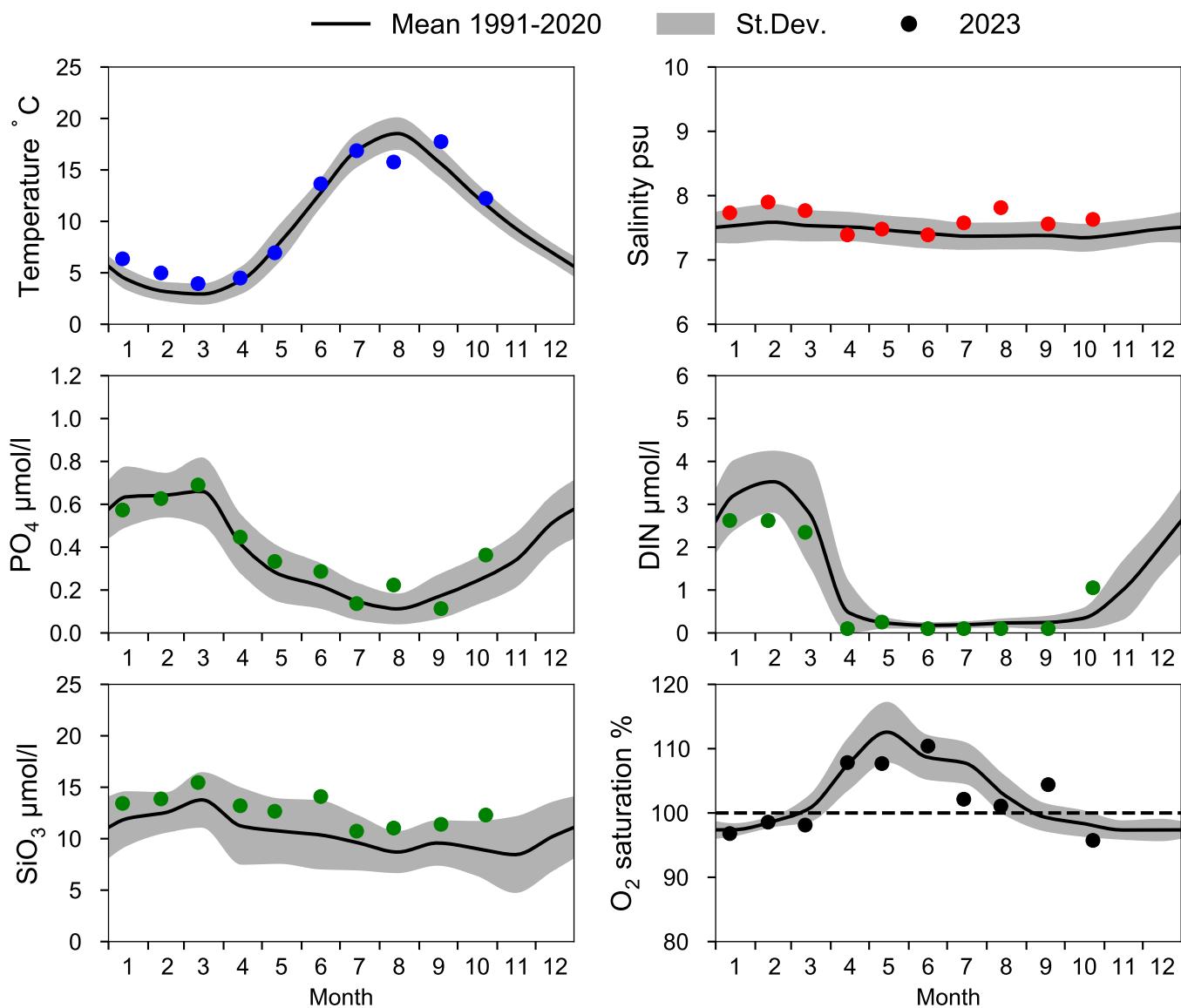


Vertical profiles BCS III-10 October

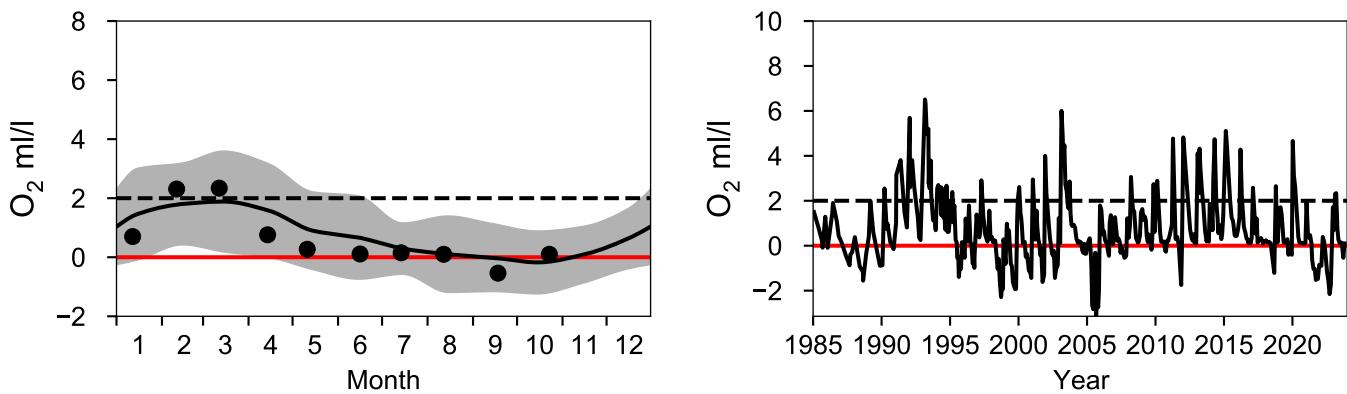


STATION BY5 BORNHOLMSDJ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

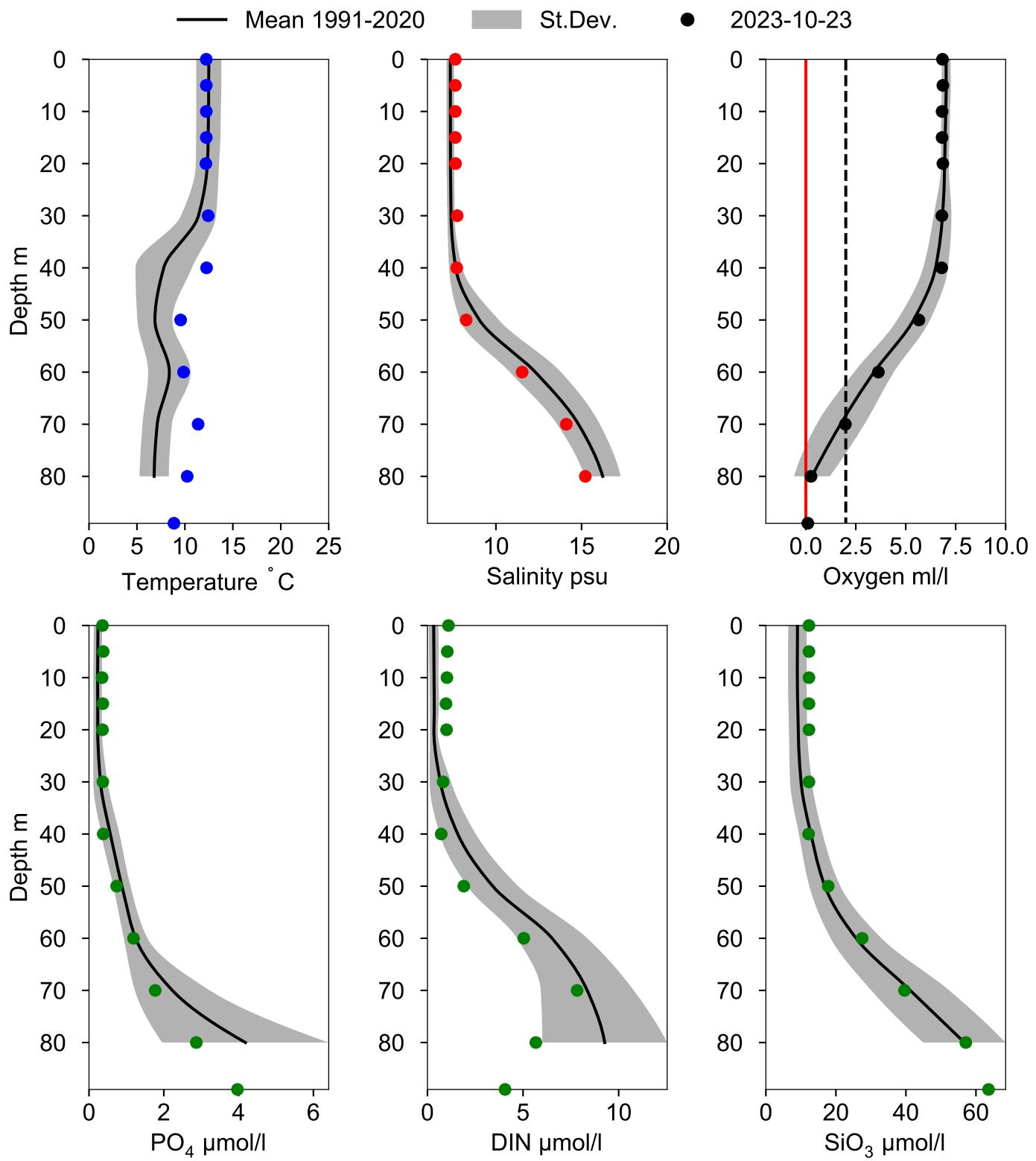
Annual Cycles



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 80 m)

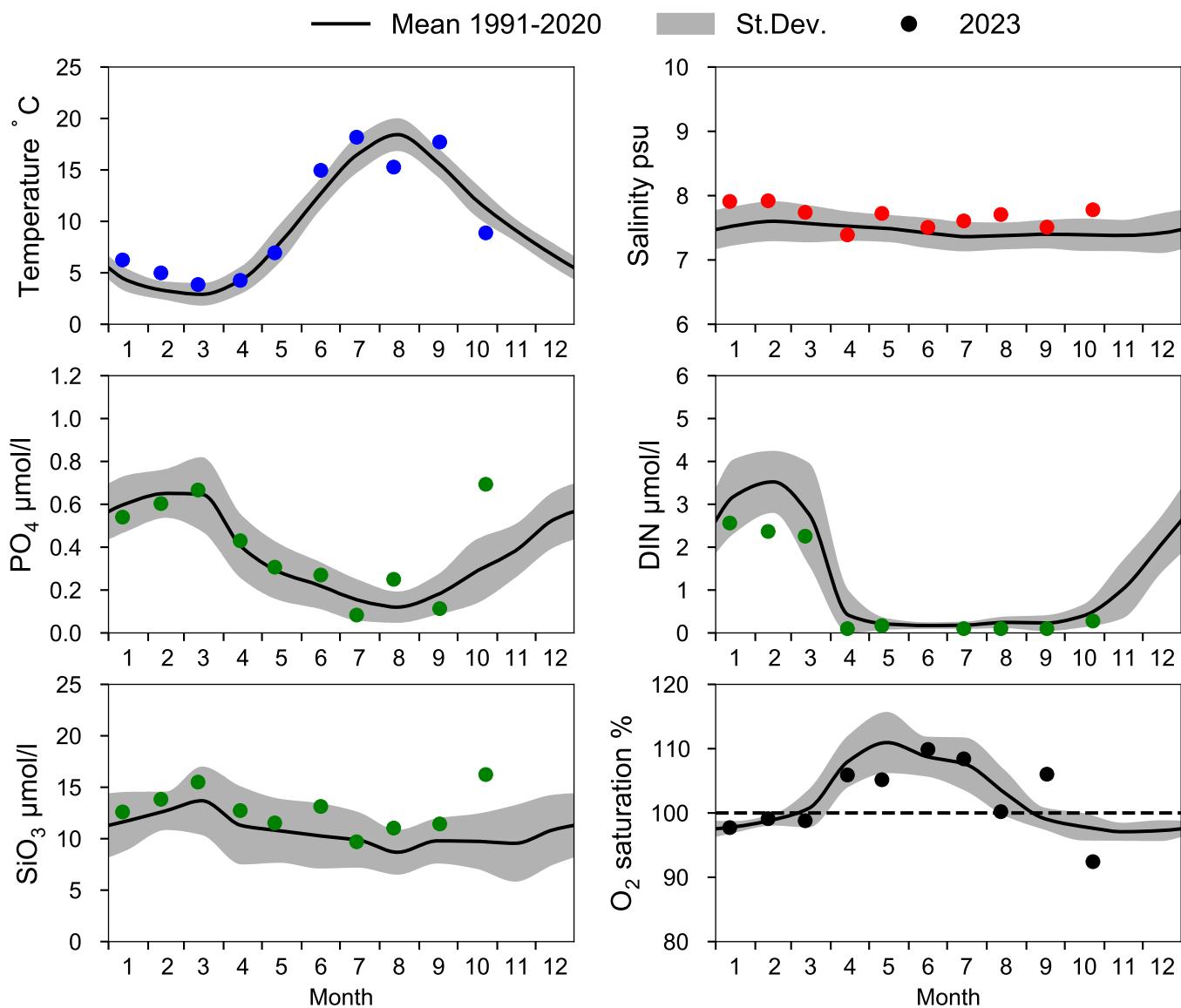


Vertical profiles BY5 BORNHOLMSDJ October

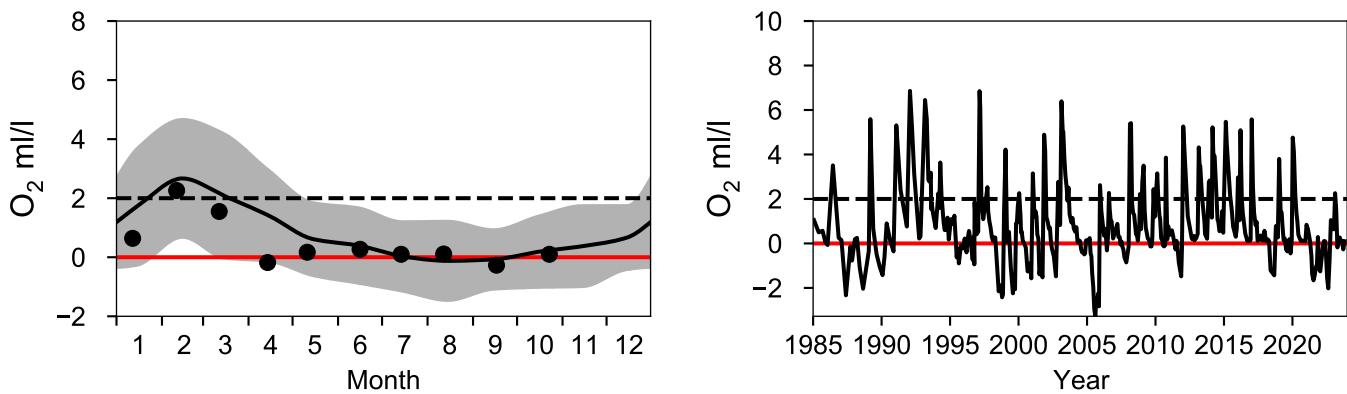


STATION BY4 CHRISTIANSÖ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

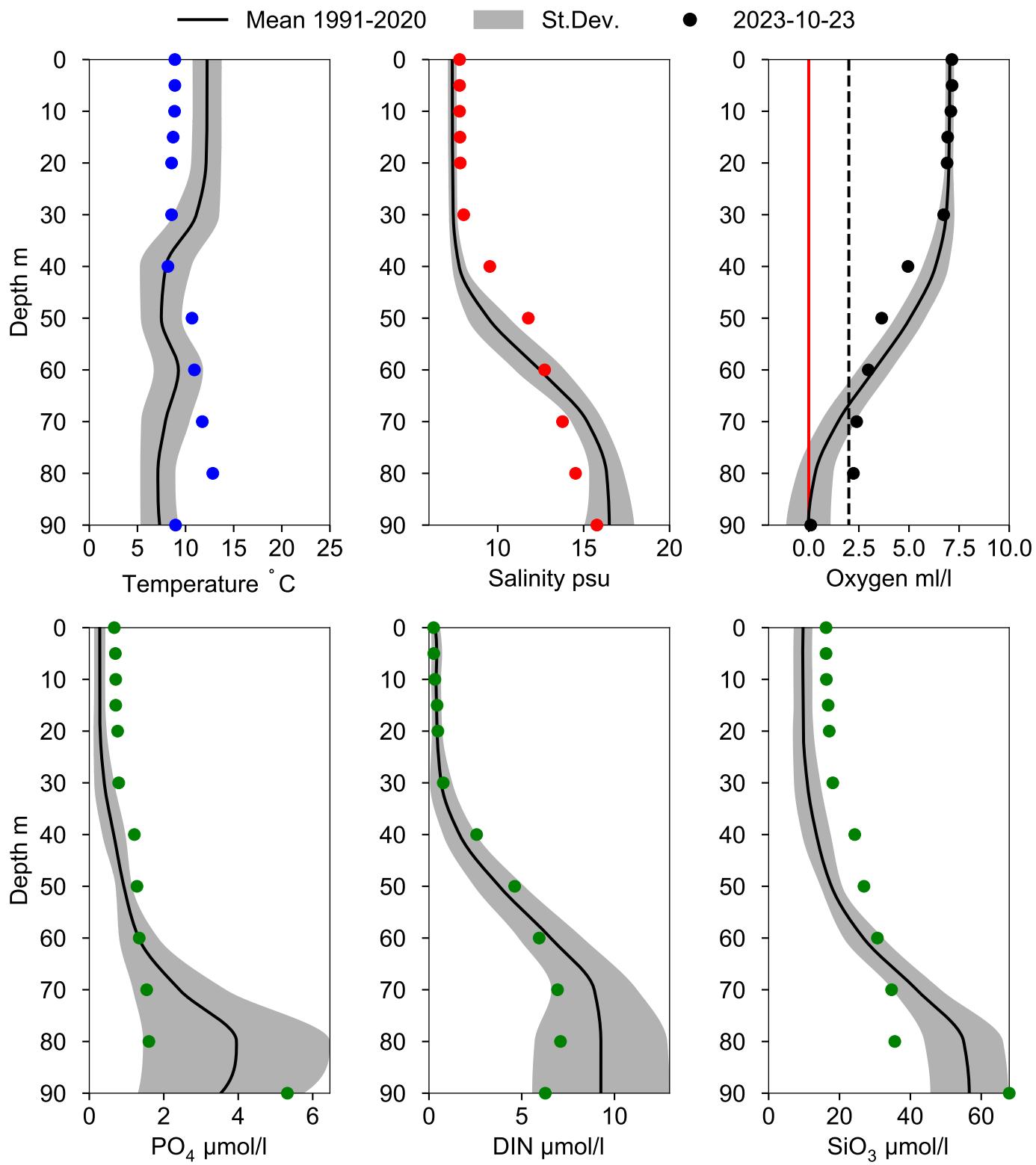


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 80 m)



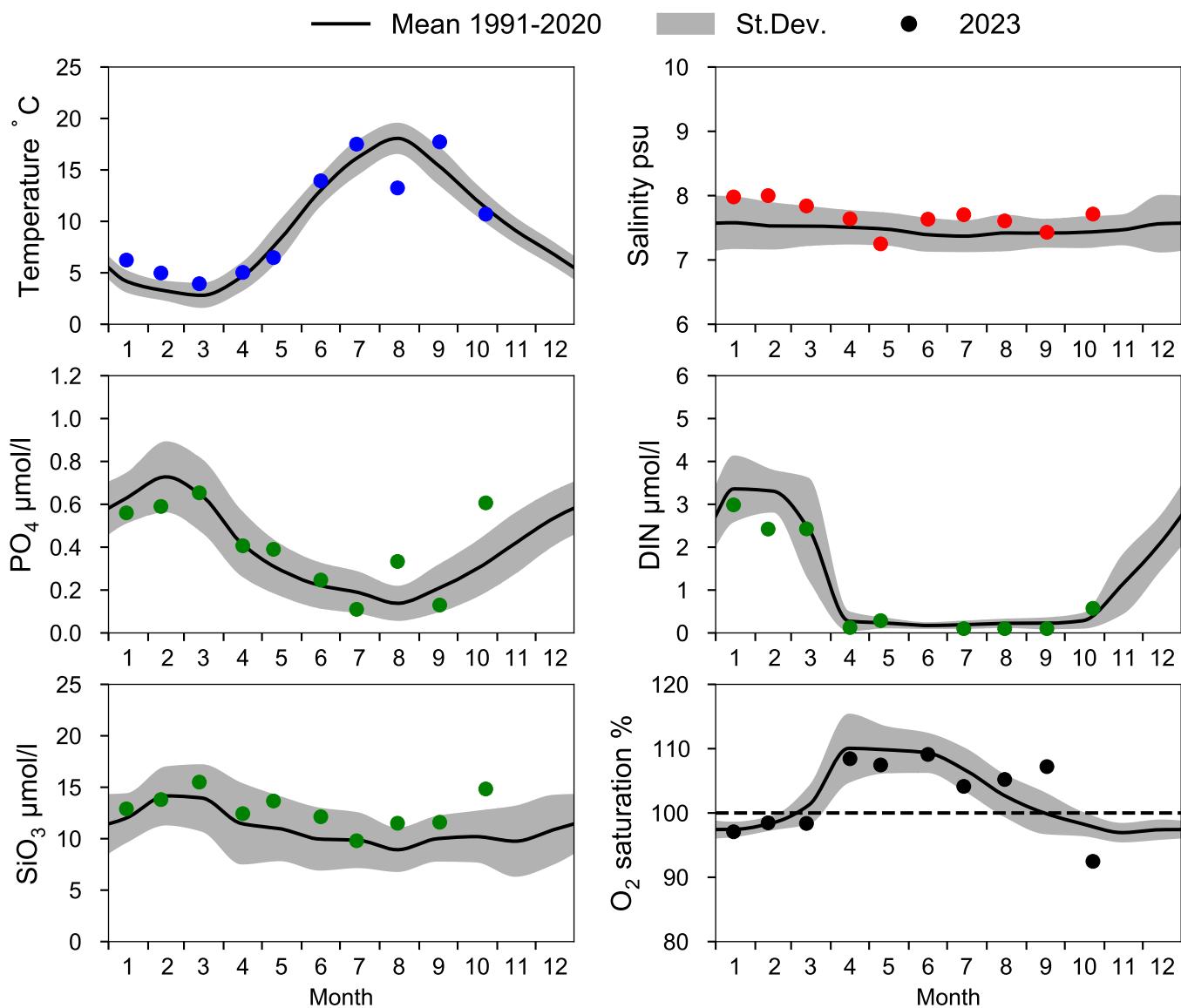
Vertical profiles BY4 CHRISTIANSÖ

October

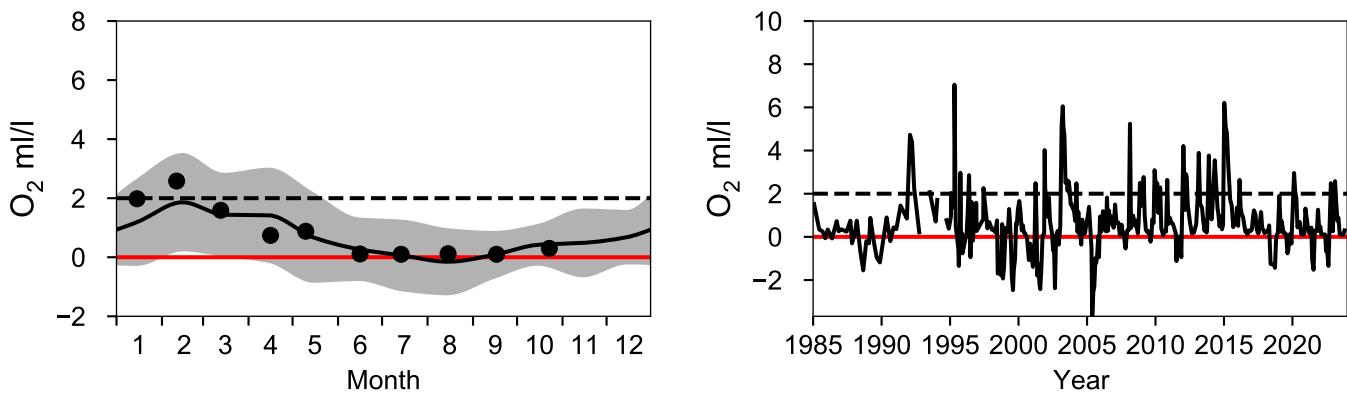


STATION HANÖBUKTEN SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

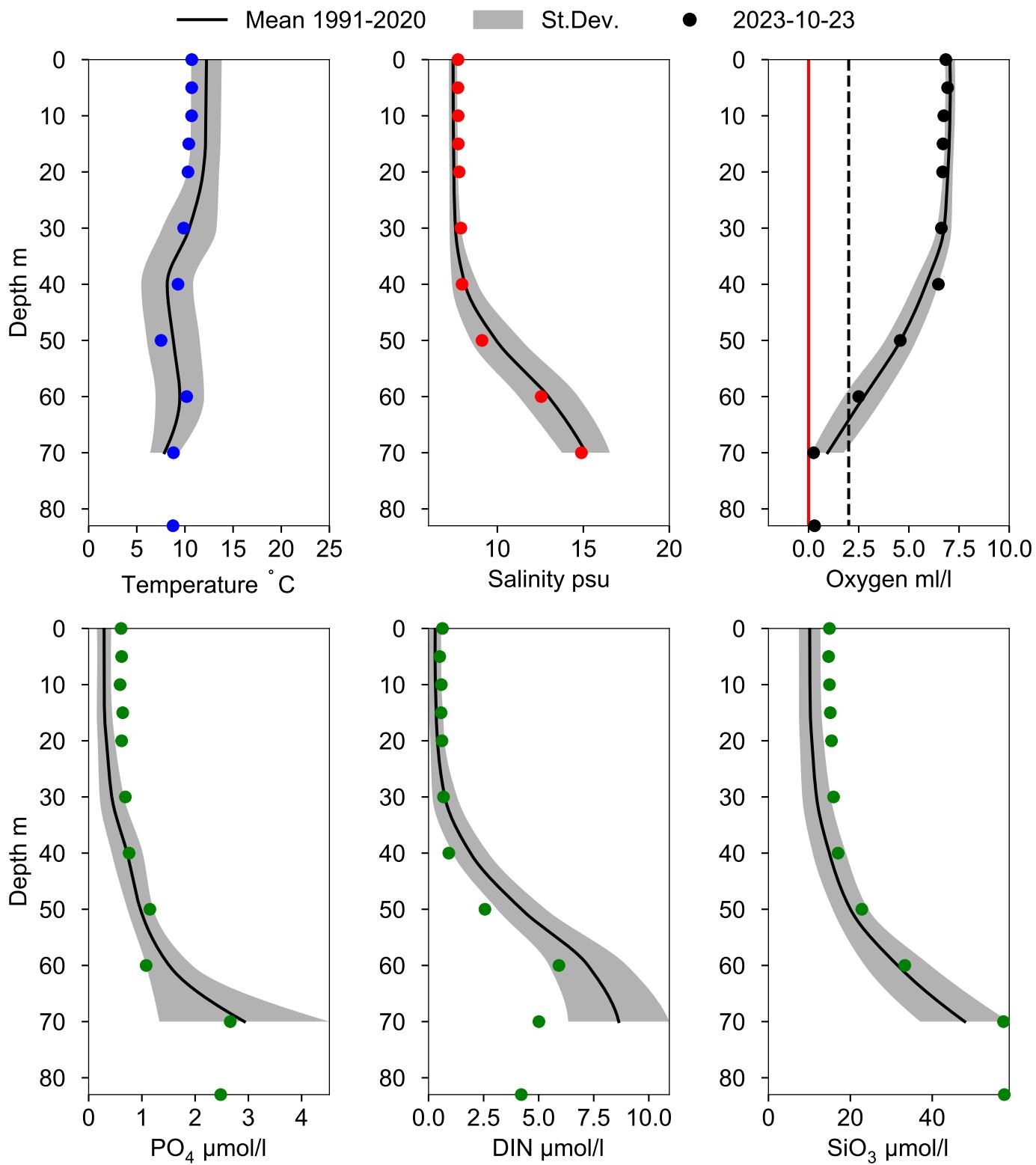


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 70 m)



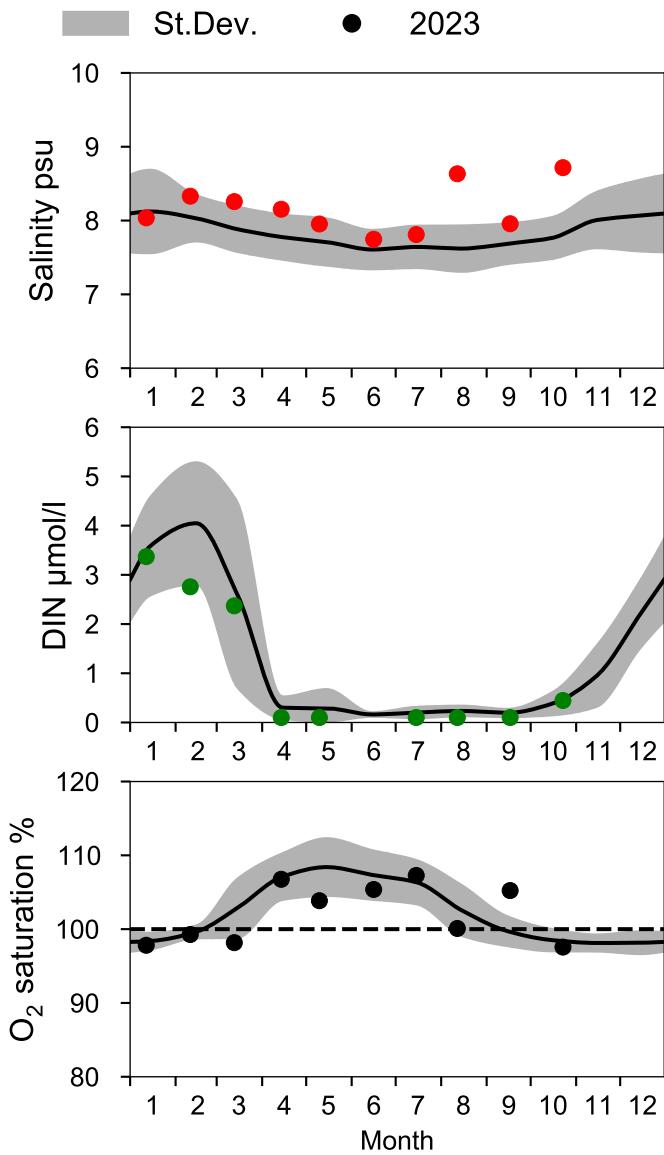
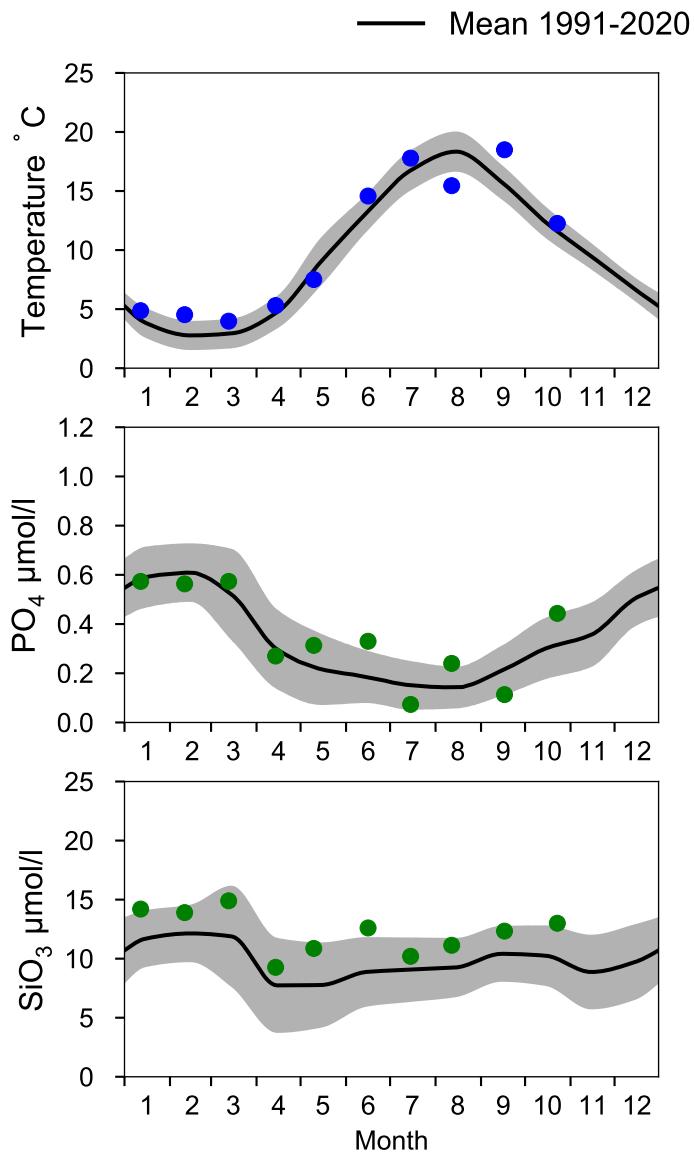
Vertical profiles HANÖBUKTEN

October

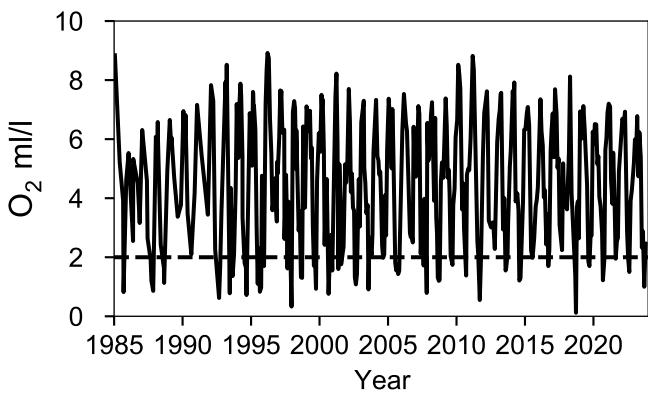
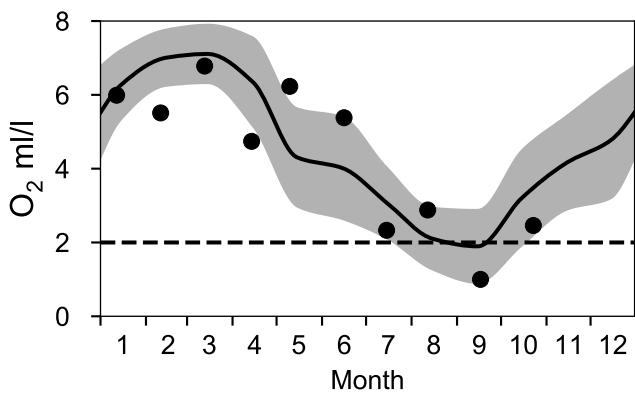


STATION BY2 ARKONA SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

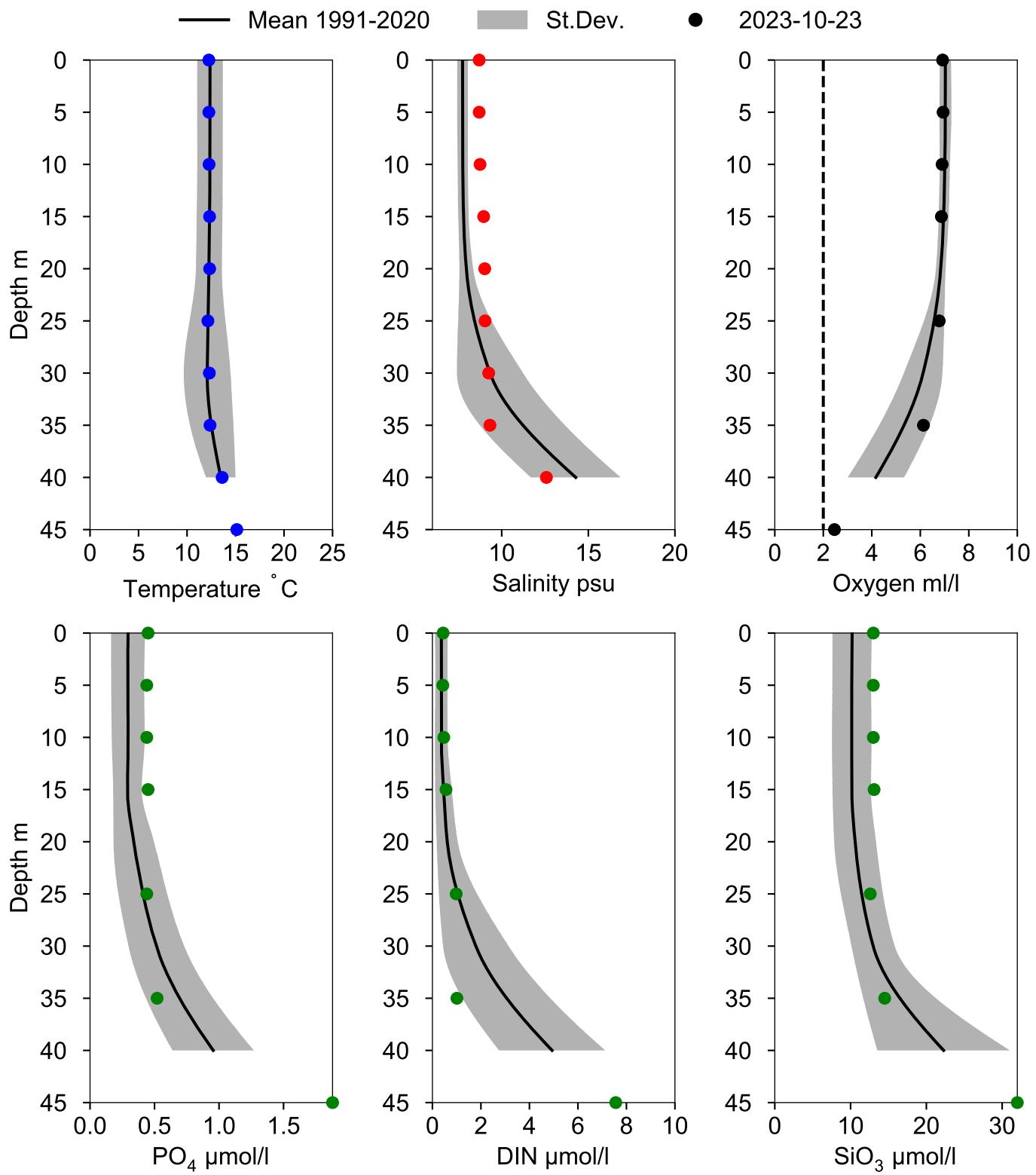
Annual Cycles



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth $\geq 40 \text{ m}$)

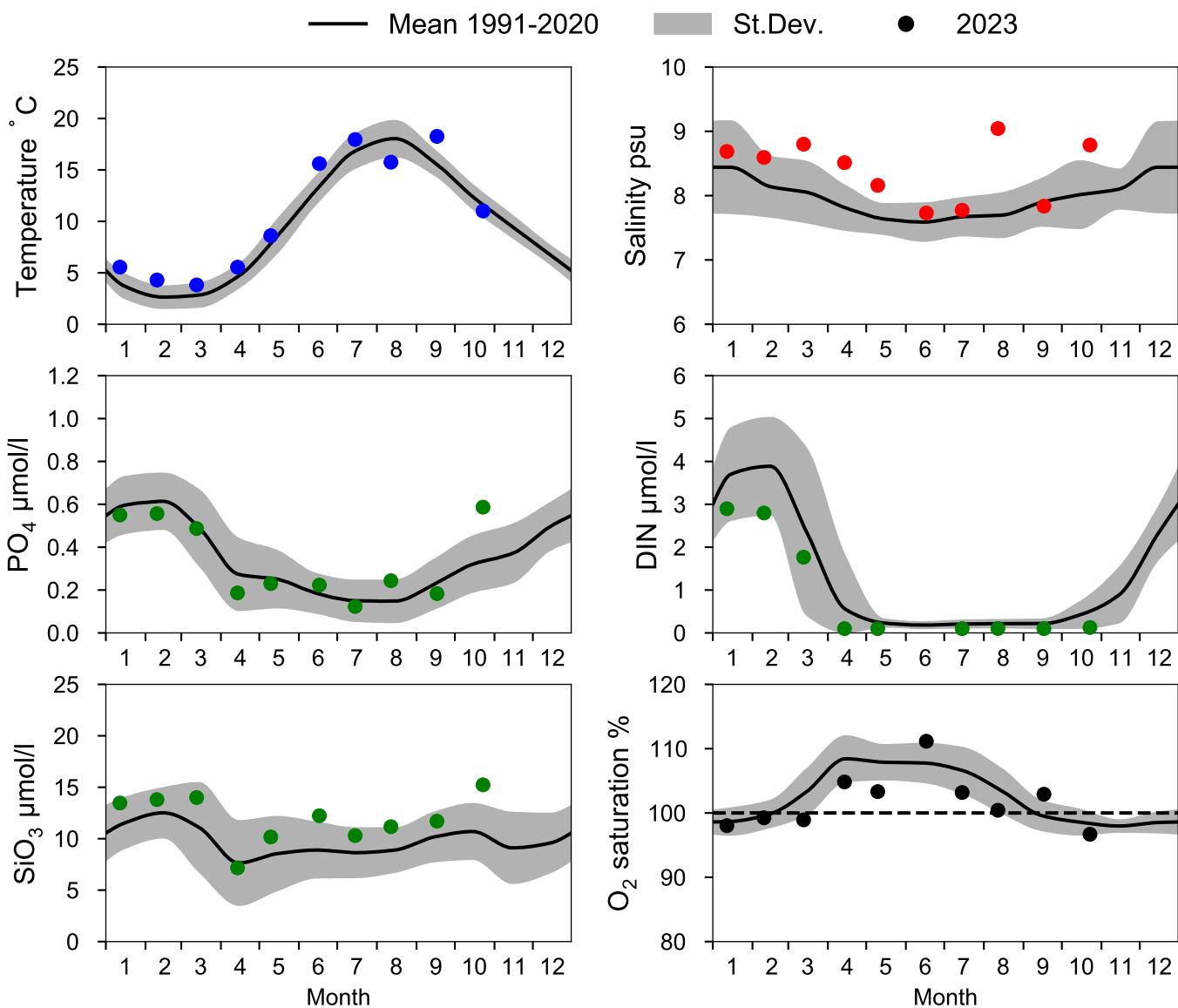


Vertical profiles BY2 ARKONA October

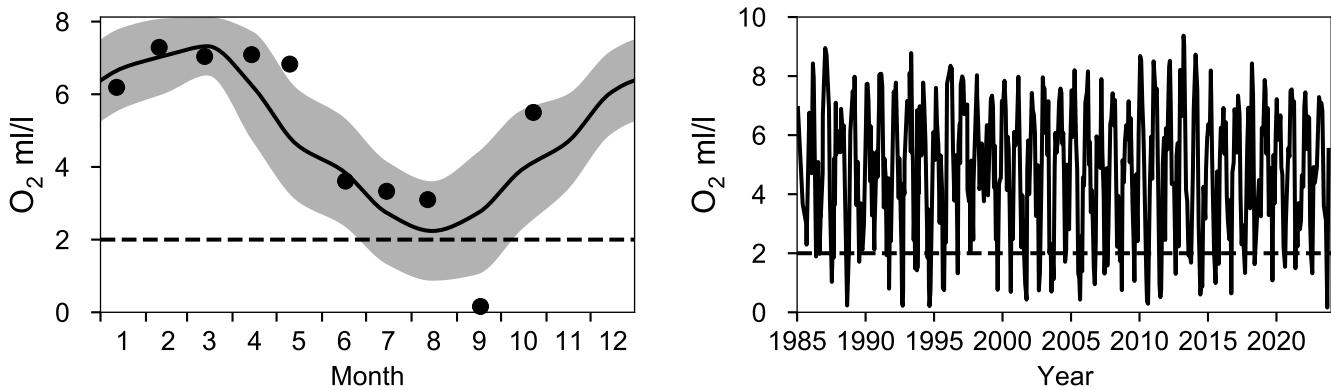


STATION BY1 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

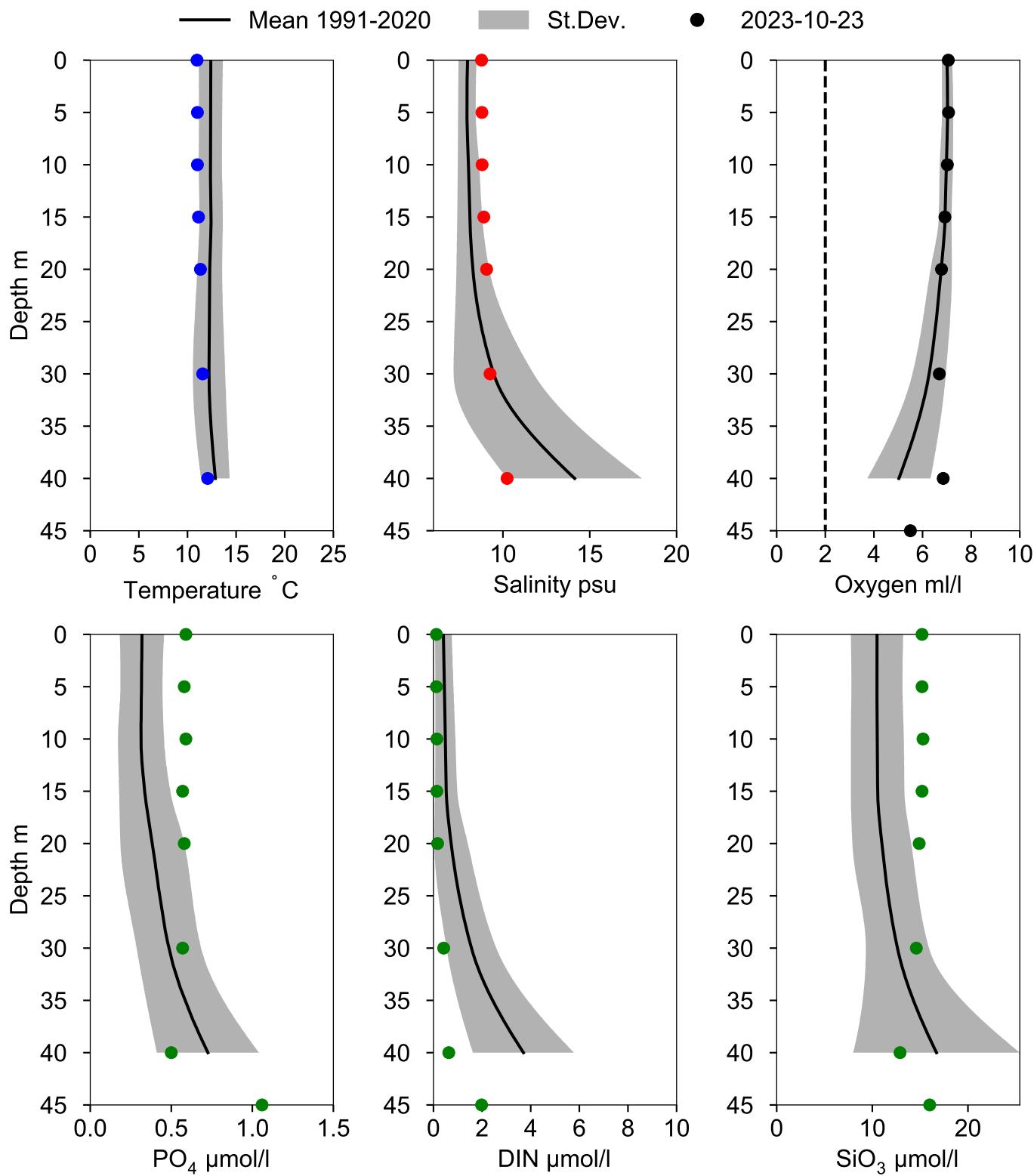
Annual Cycles



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 39 m)

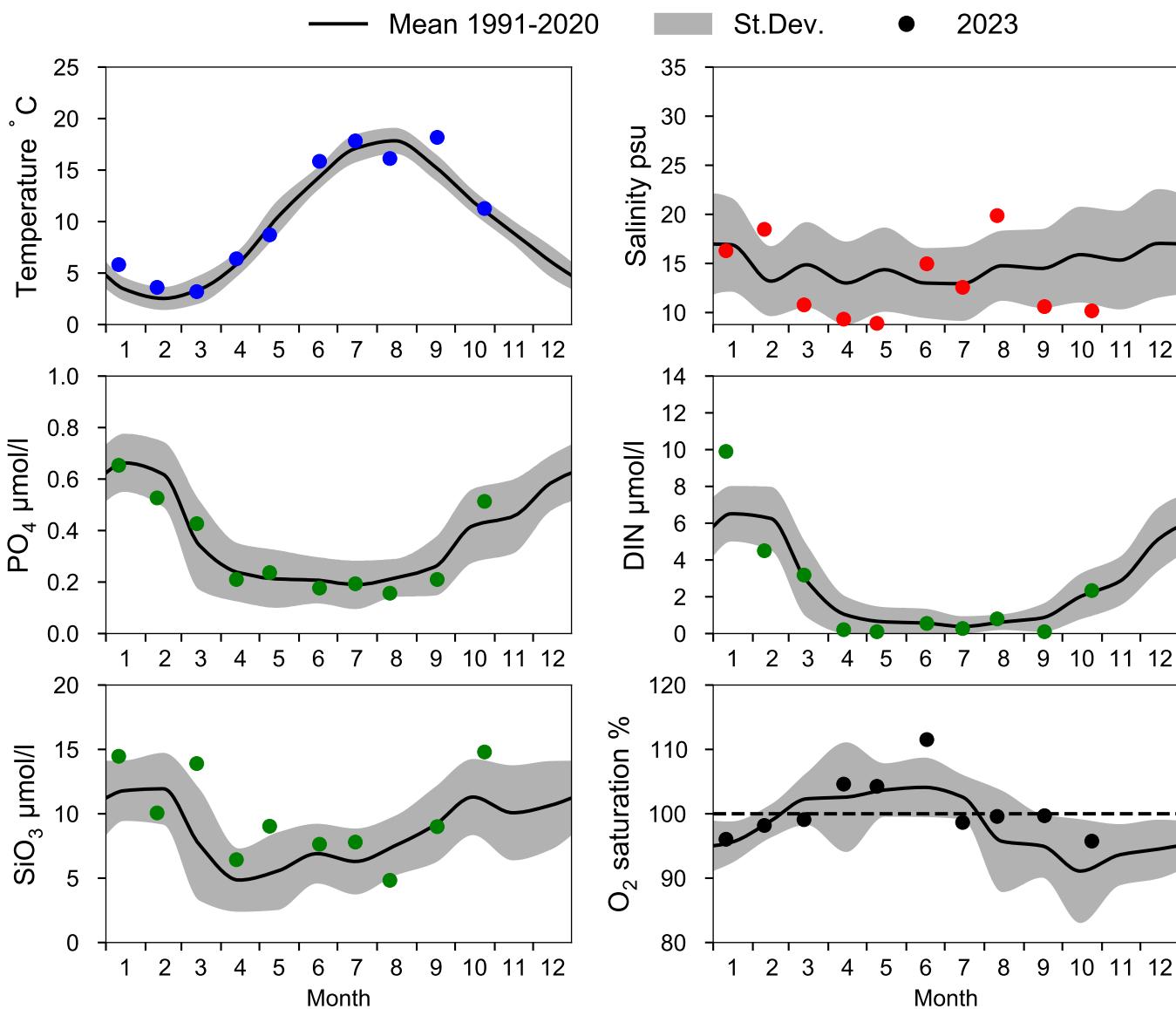


Vertical profiles BY1 October

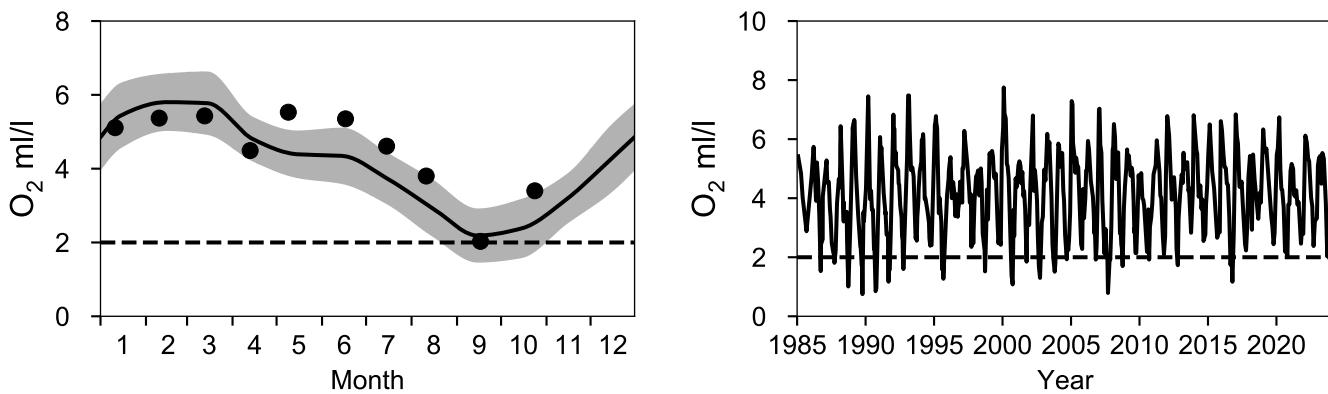


STATION W LANDSKRONA SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

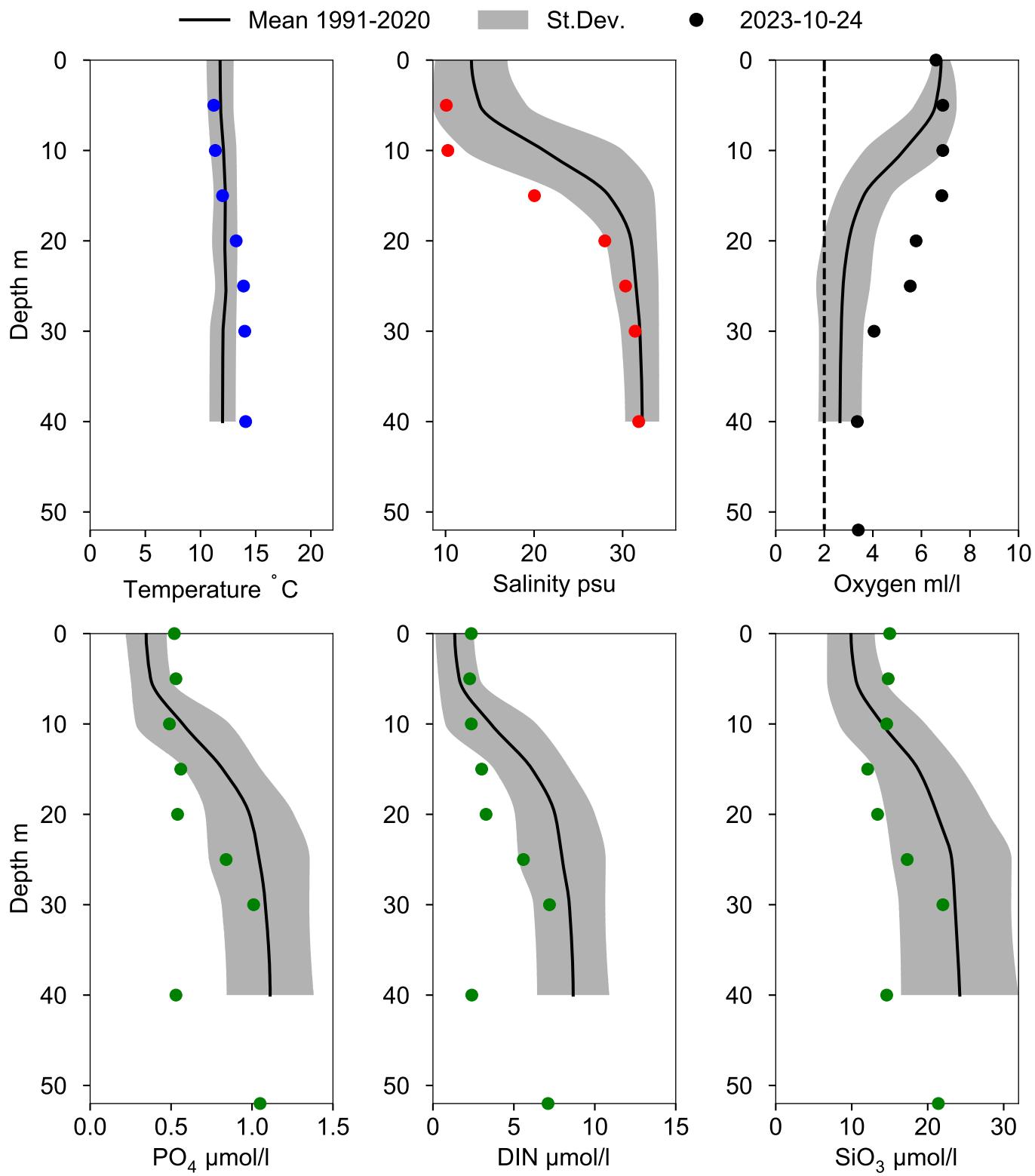


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 40 m)



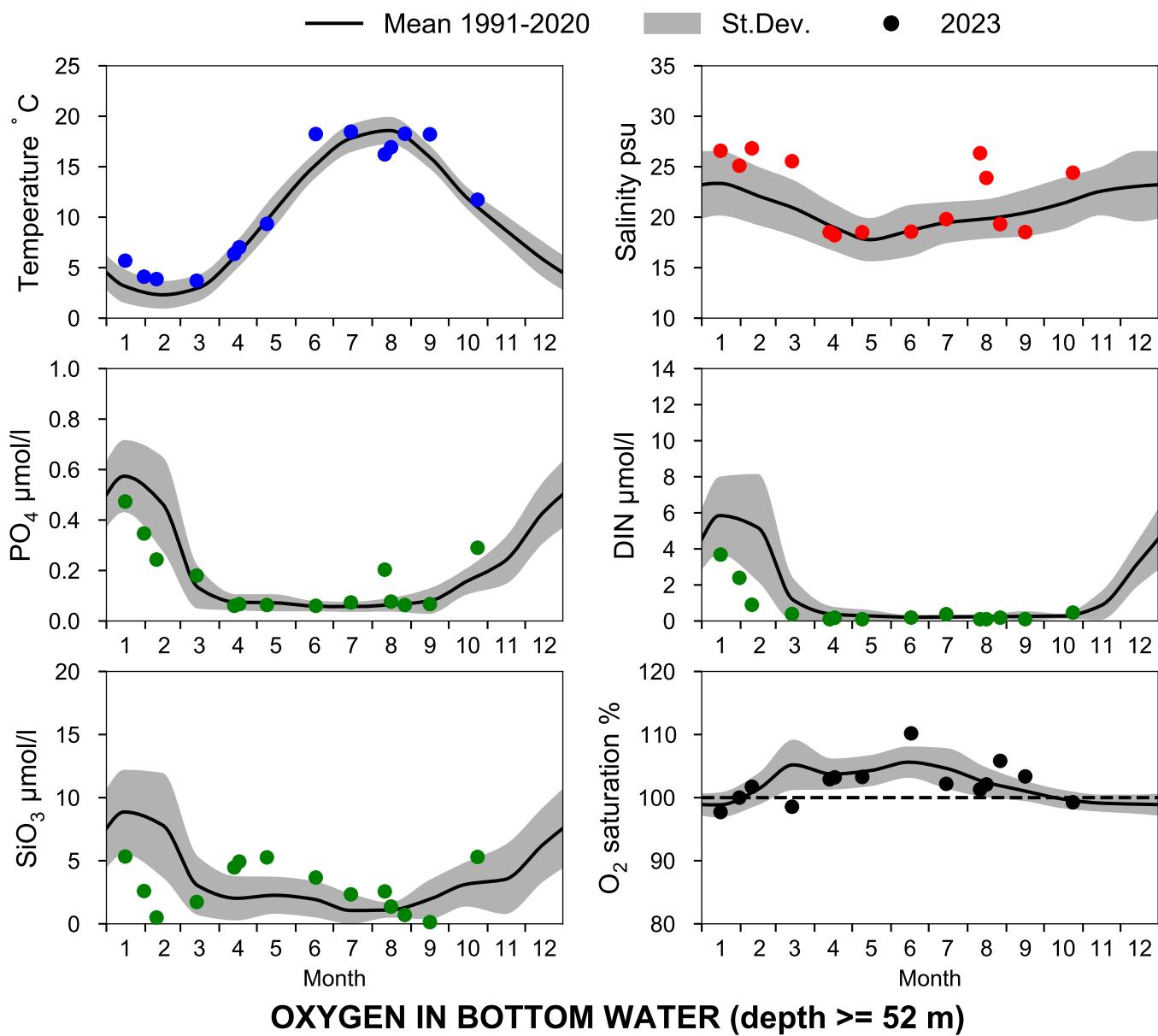
Vertical profiles W LANDSKRONA

October

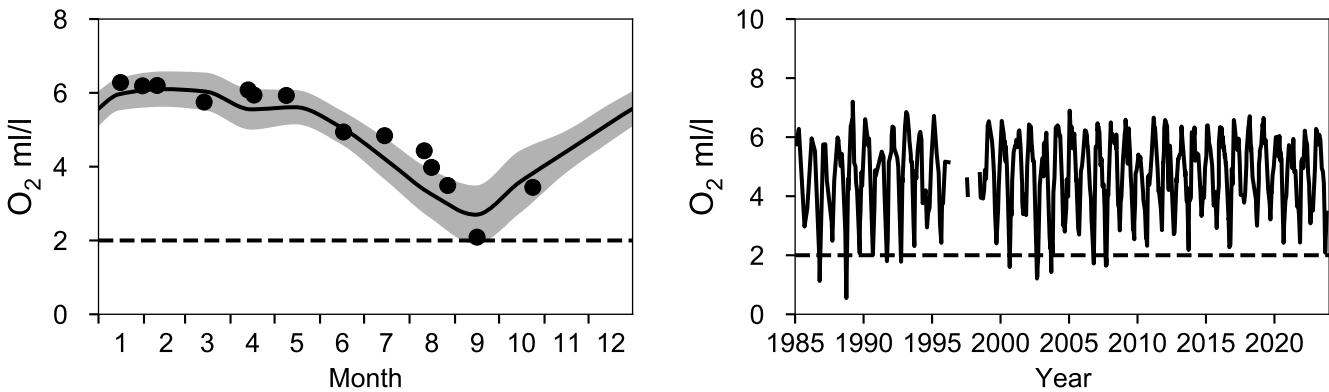


STATION ANHOLT E SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

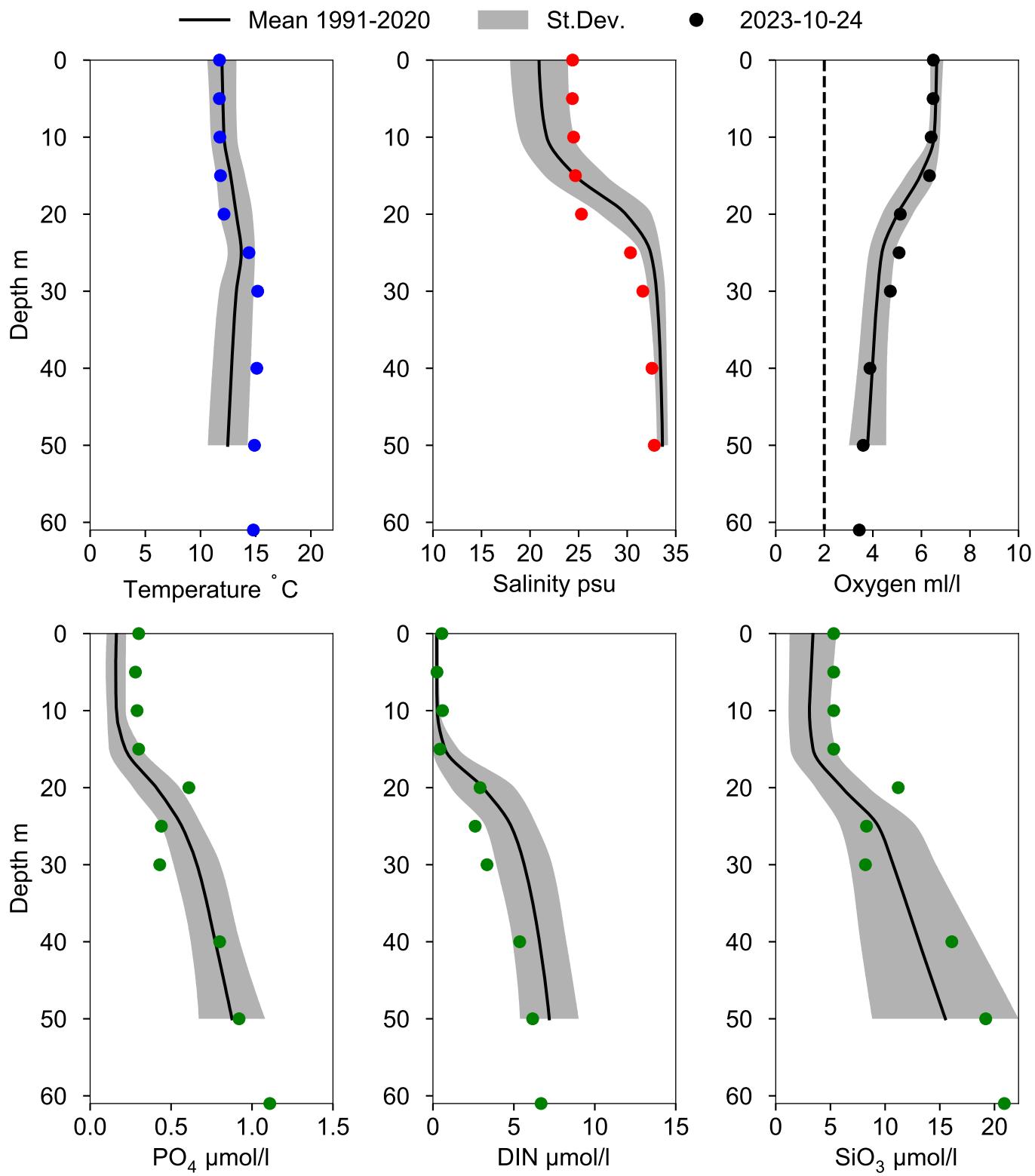


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 52 m)



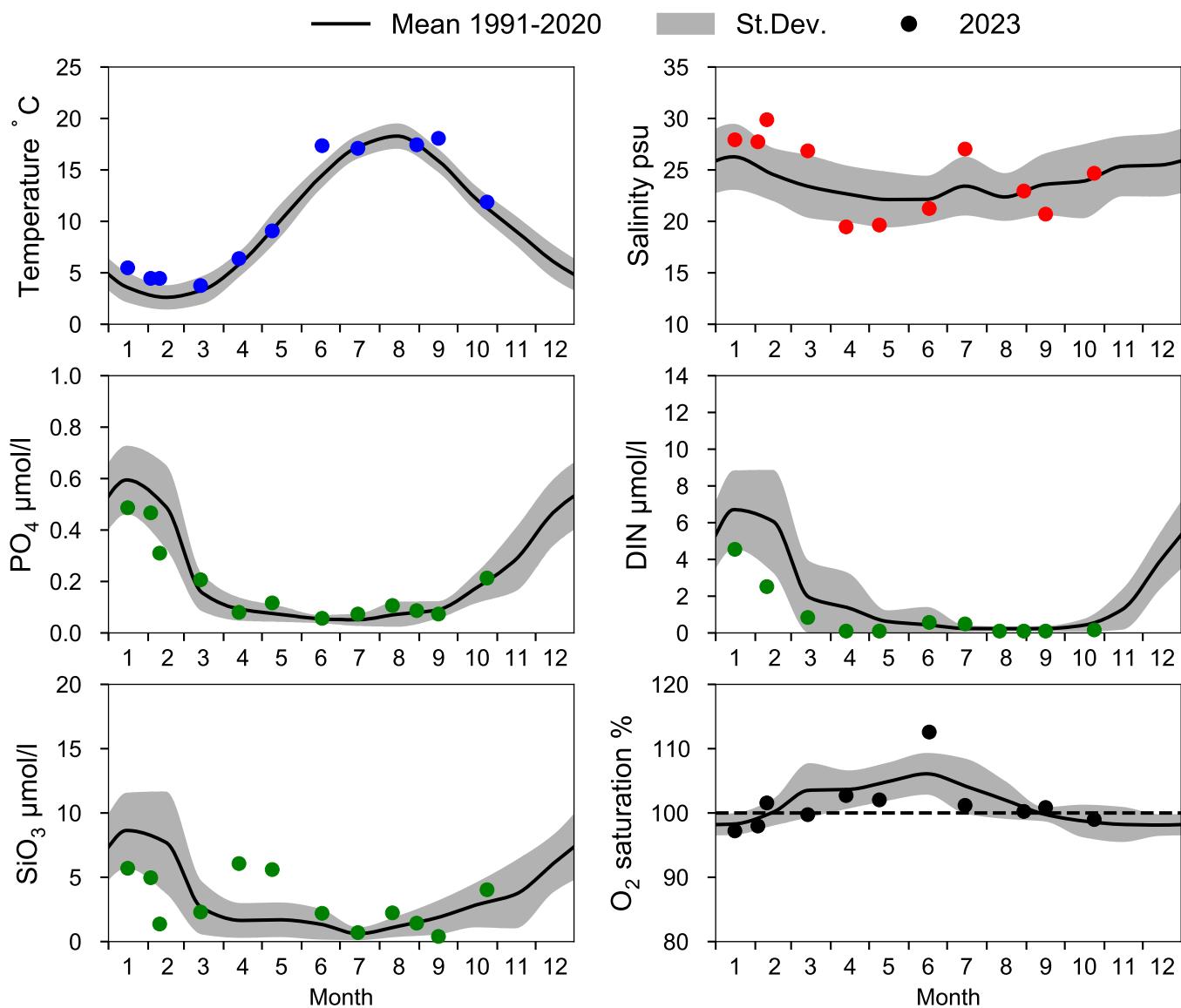
Vertical profiles ANHOLT E

October

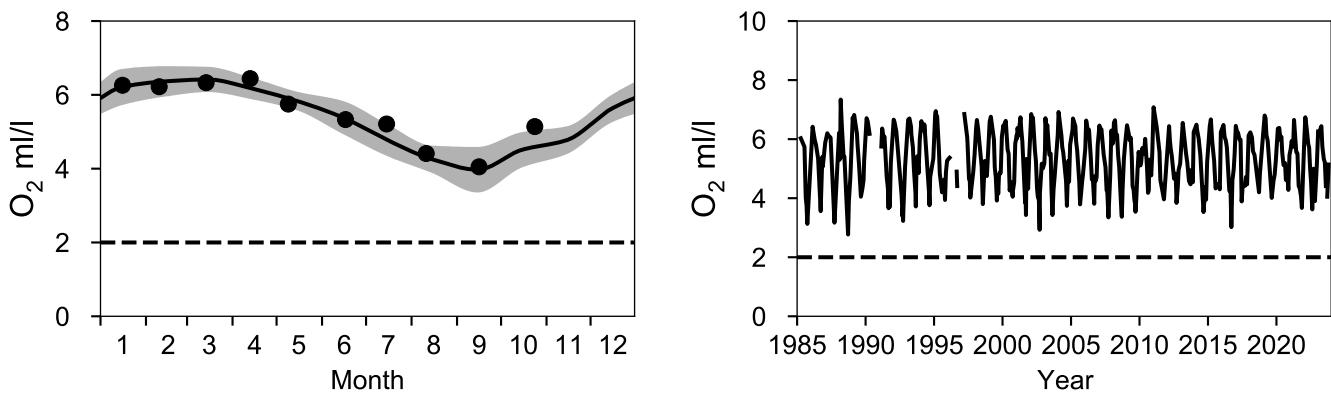


STATION FLADEN SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

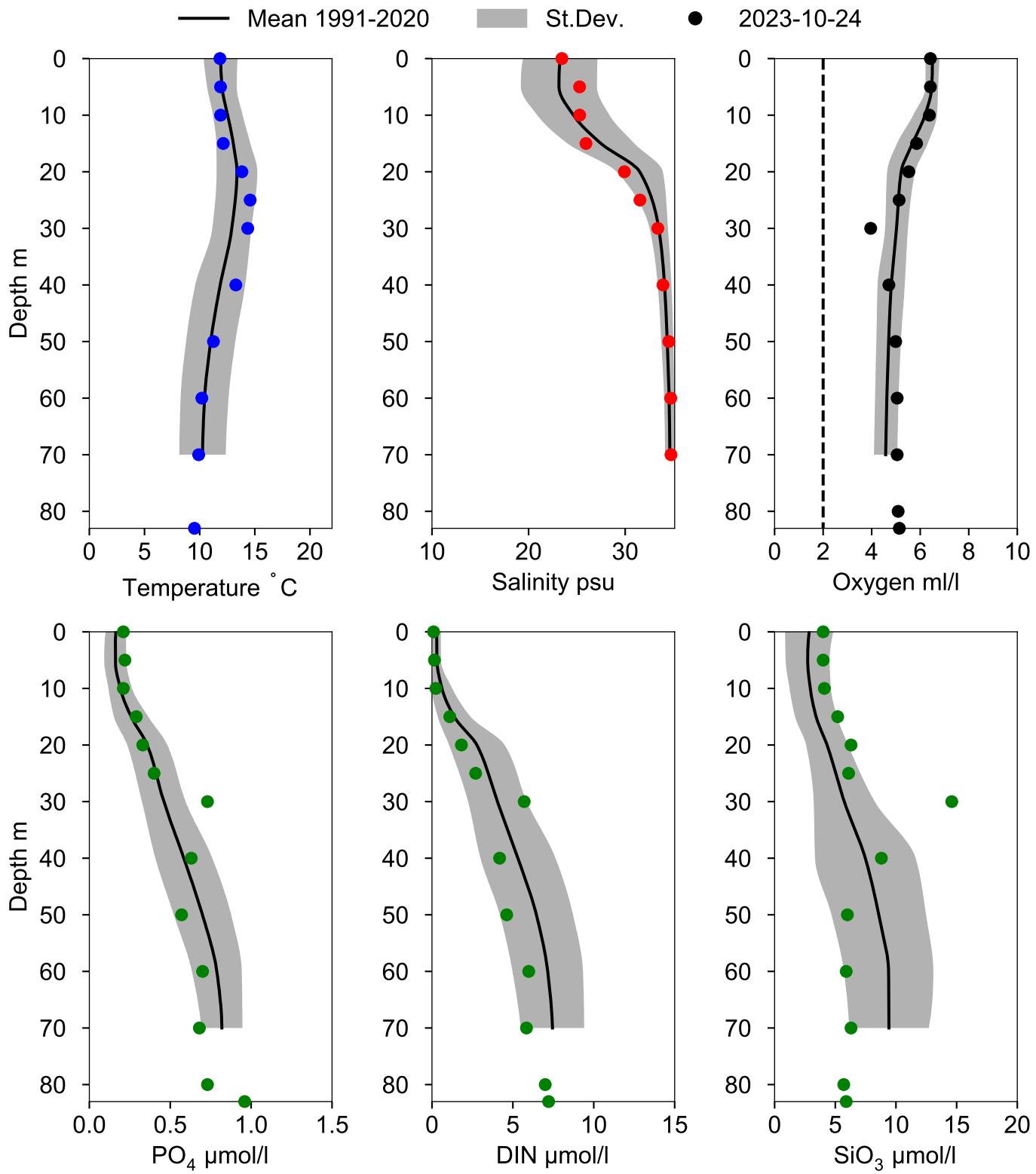


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 74 m)



Vertical profiles FLADEN

October



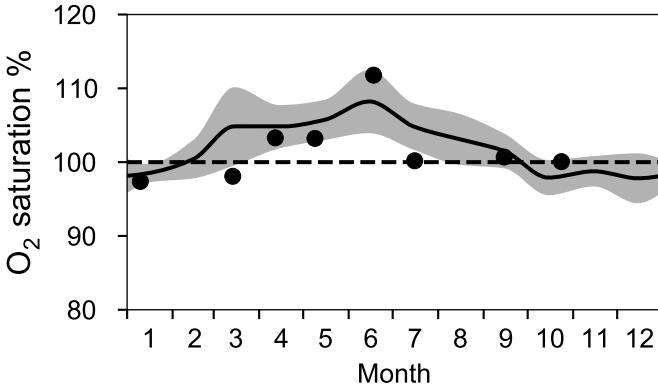
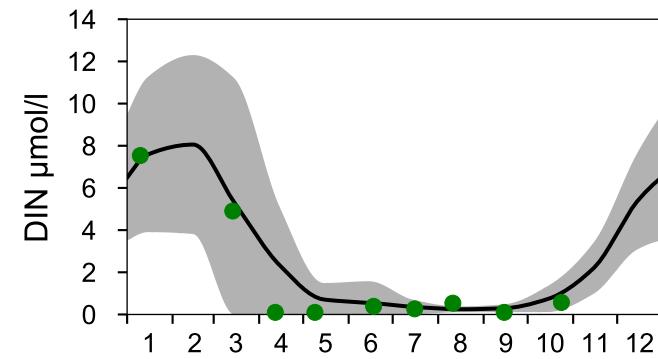
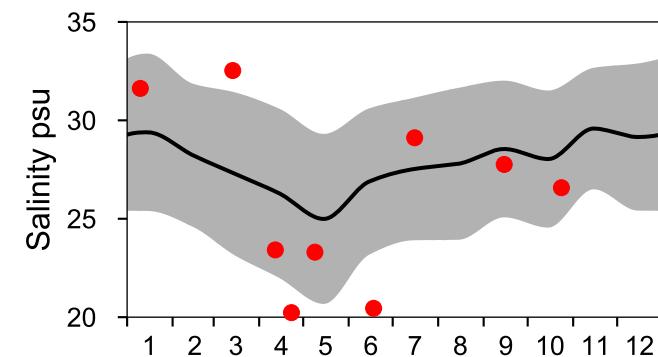
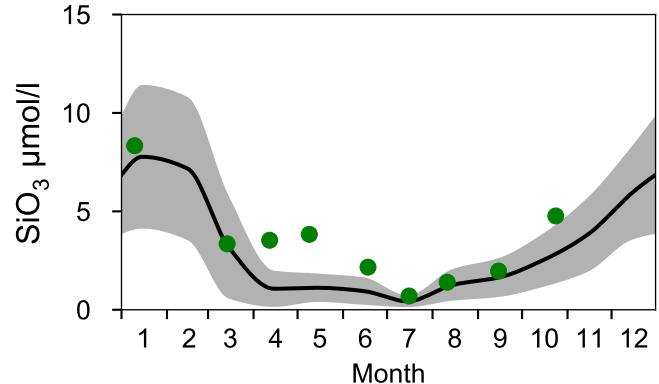
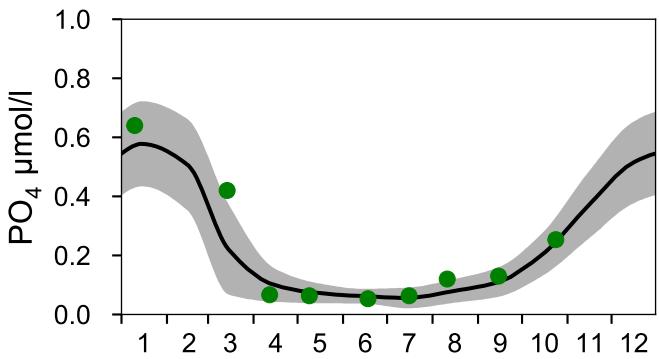
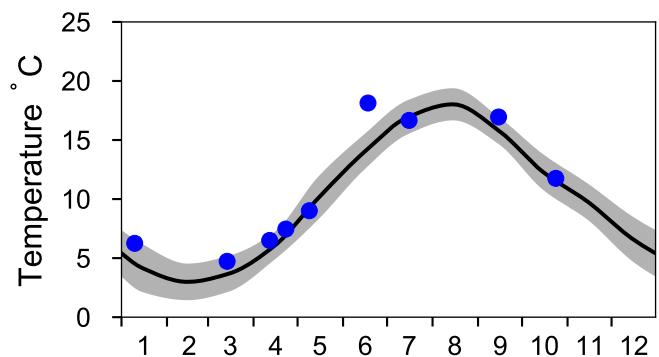
STATION P2 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

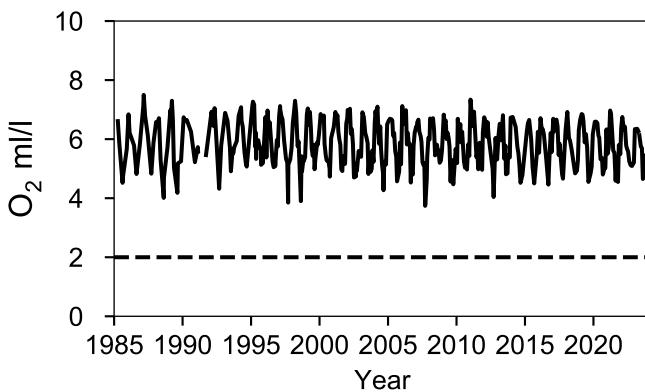
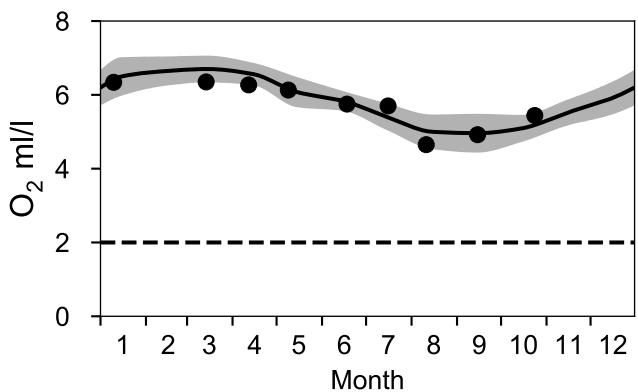
— Mean 1991-2020

St.Dev.

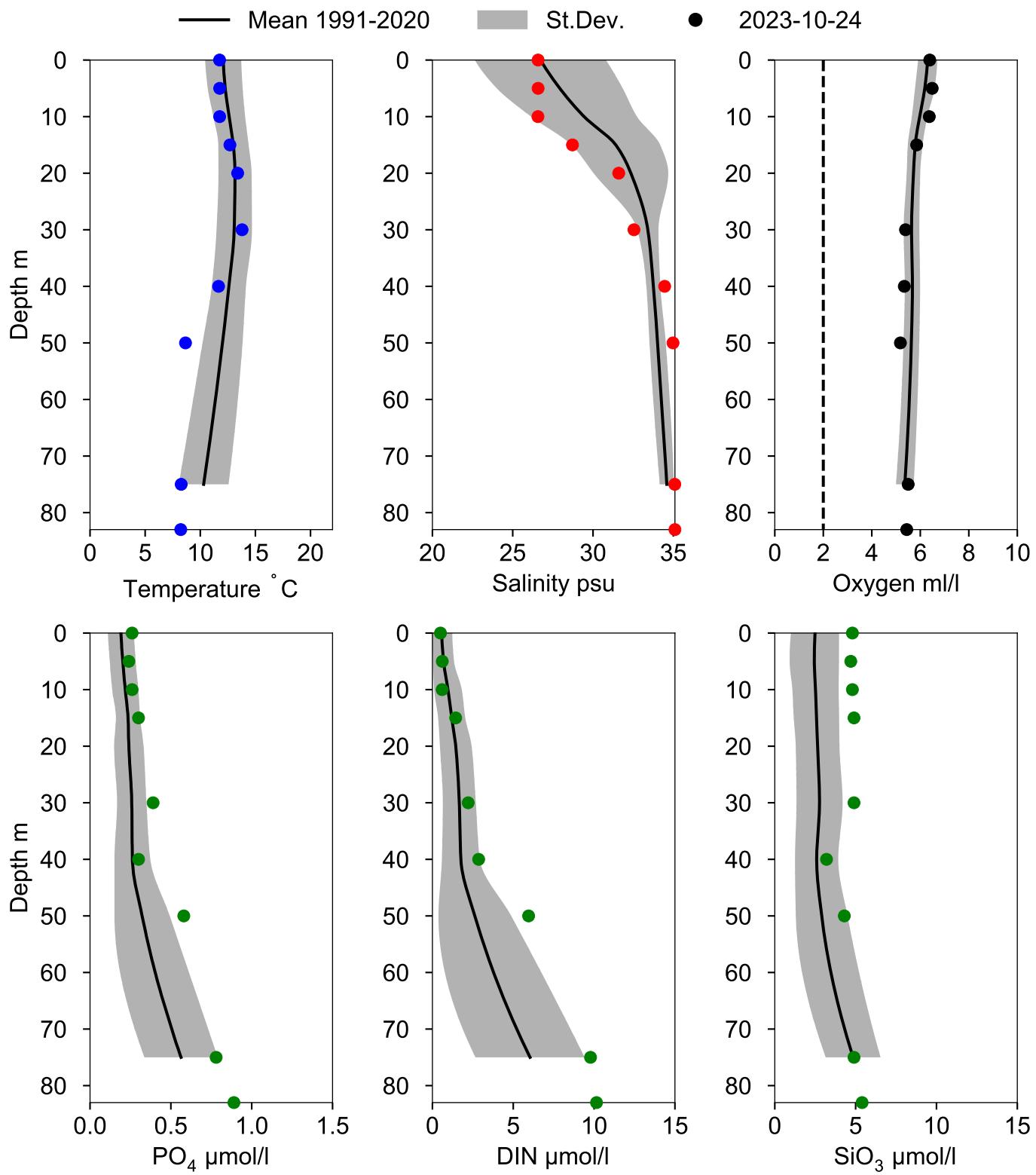
● 2023



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth $\geq 75 \text{ m}$)

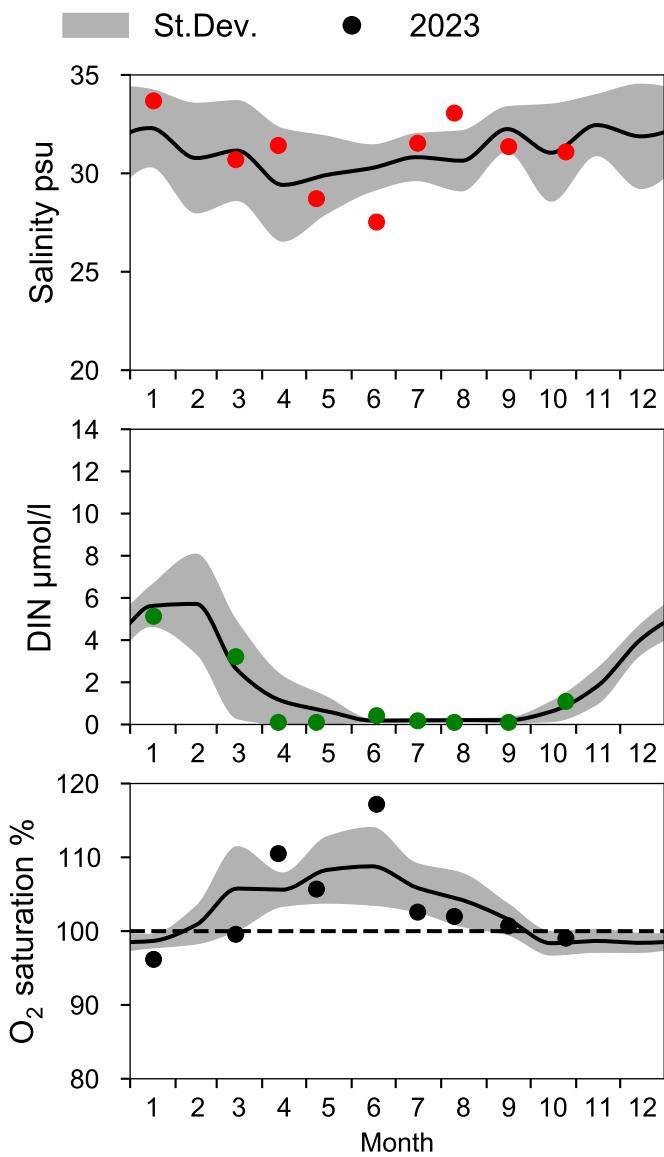
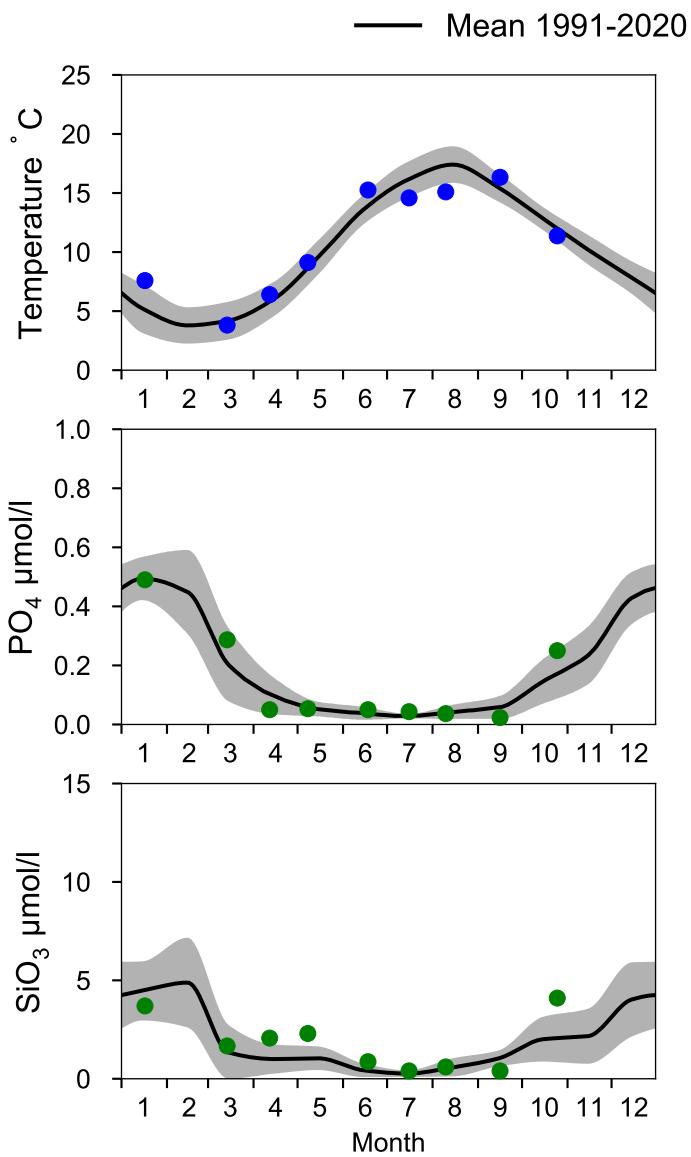


Vertical profiles P2 October

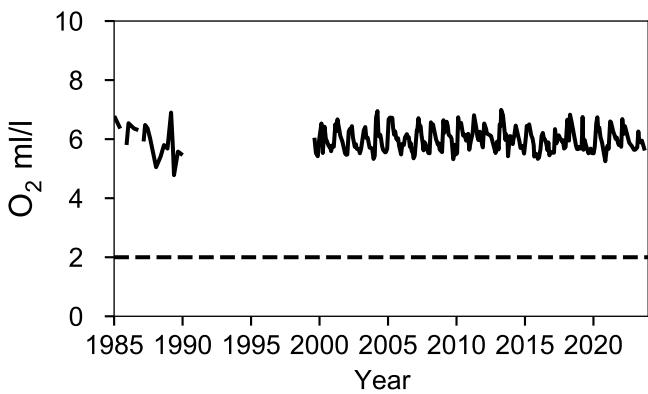
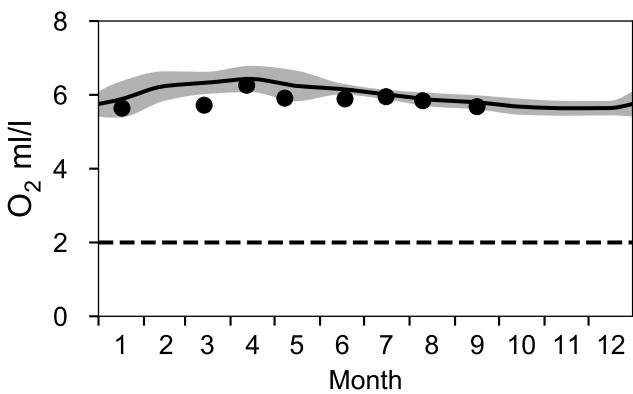


STATION Å17 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

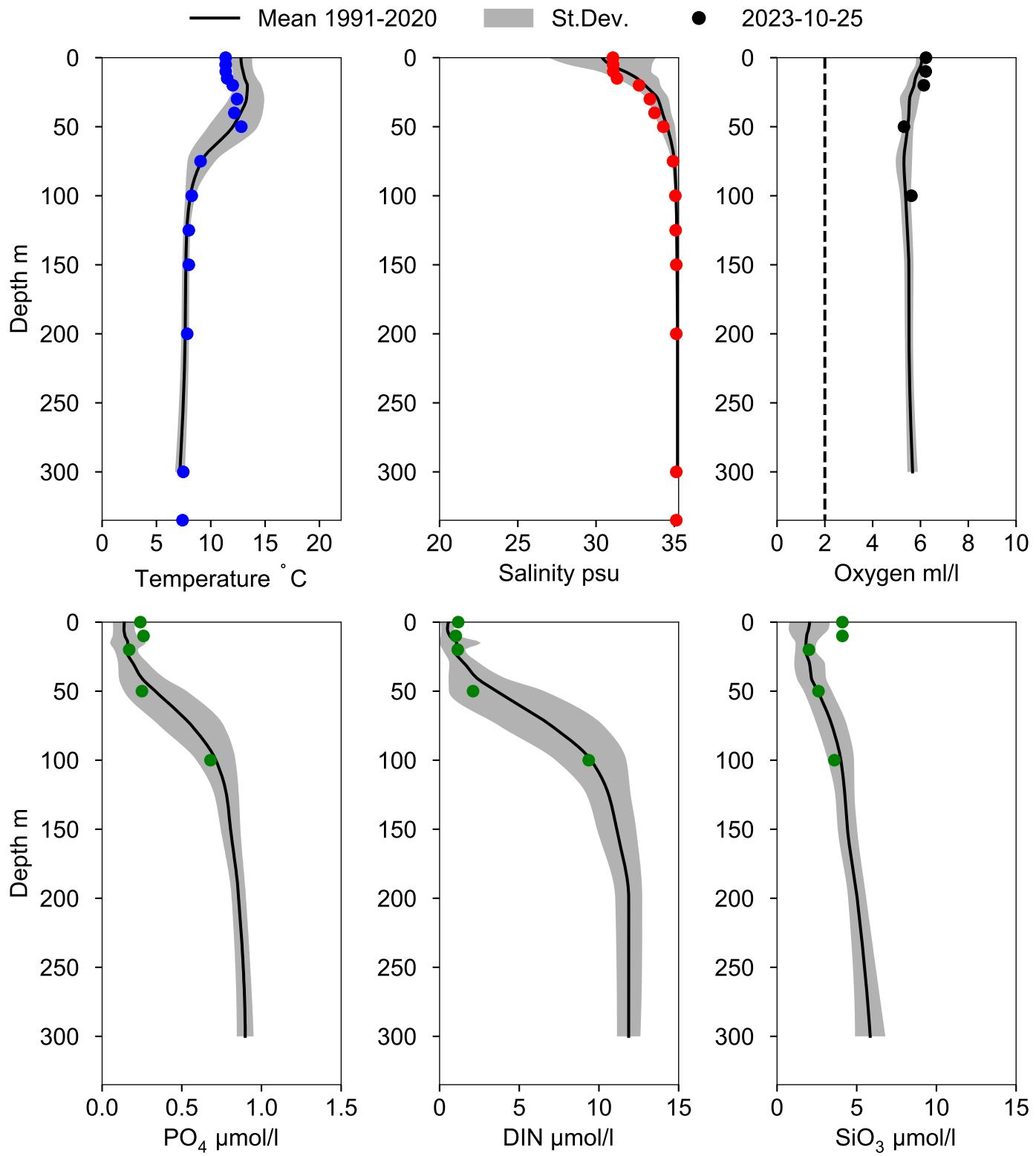
Annual Cycles



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth $\geq 300 \text{ m}$)



Vertical profiles Å17 October



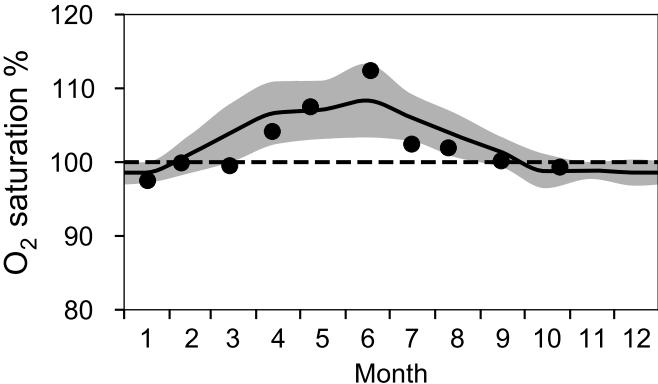
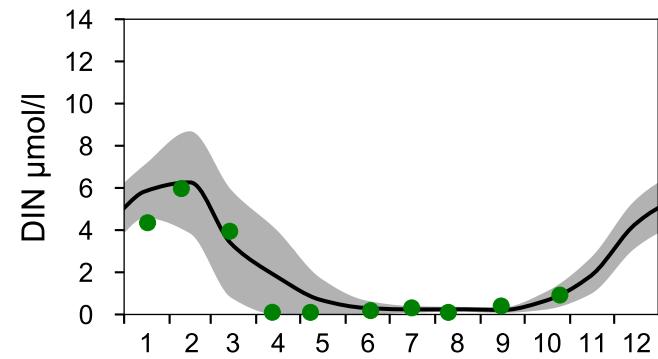
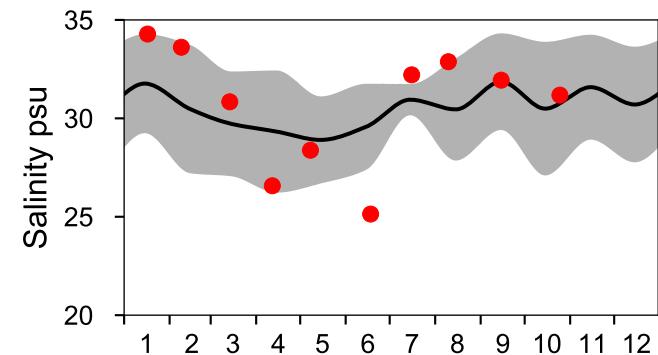
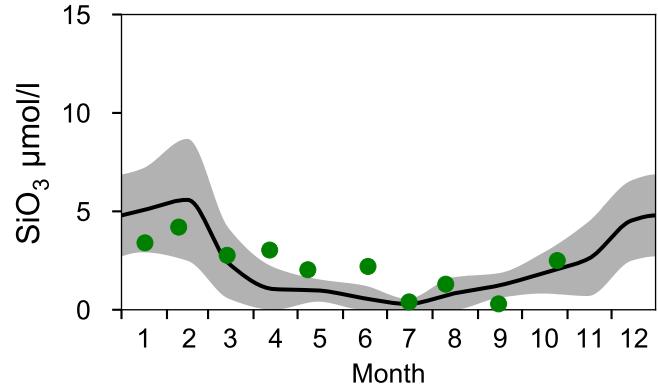
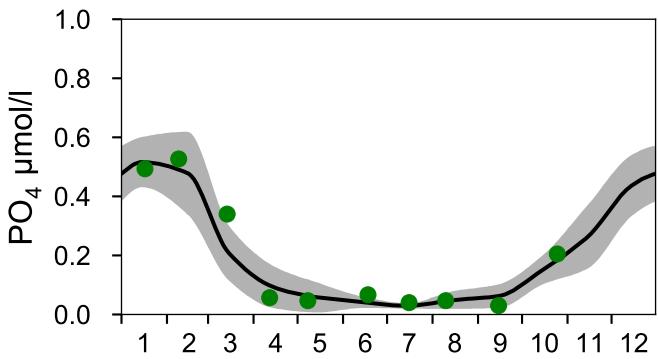
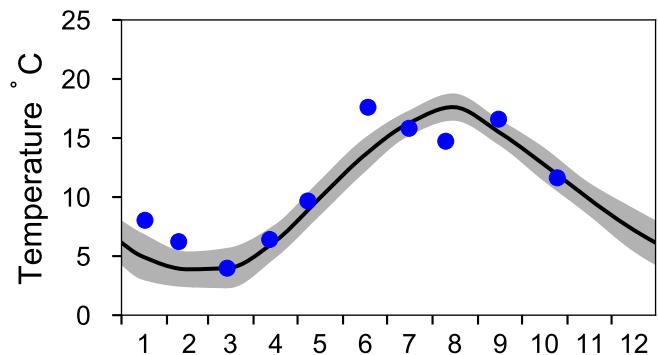
STATION Å15 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

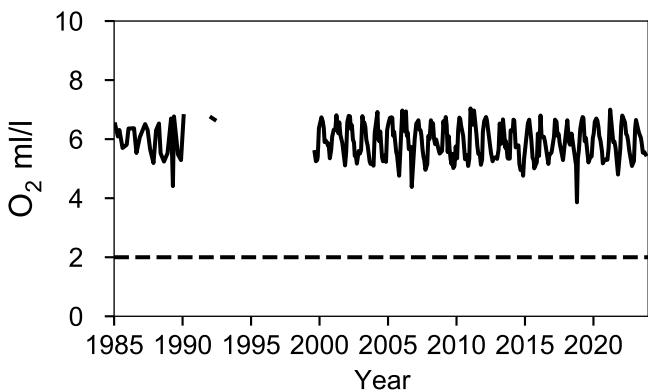
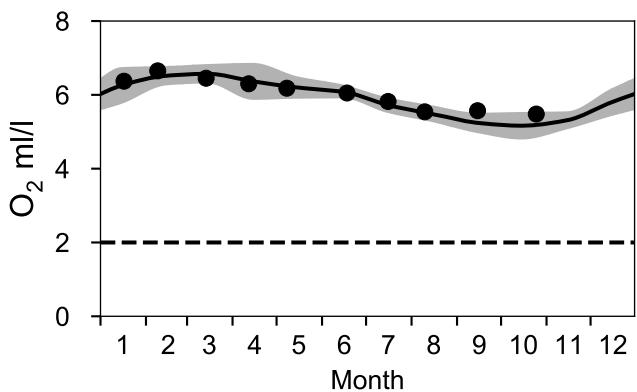
— Mean 1991-2020

St.Dev.

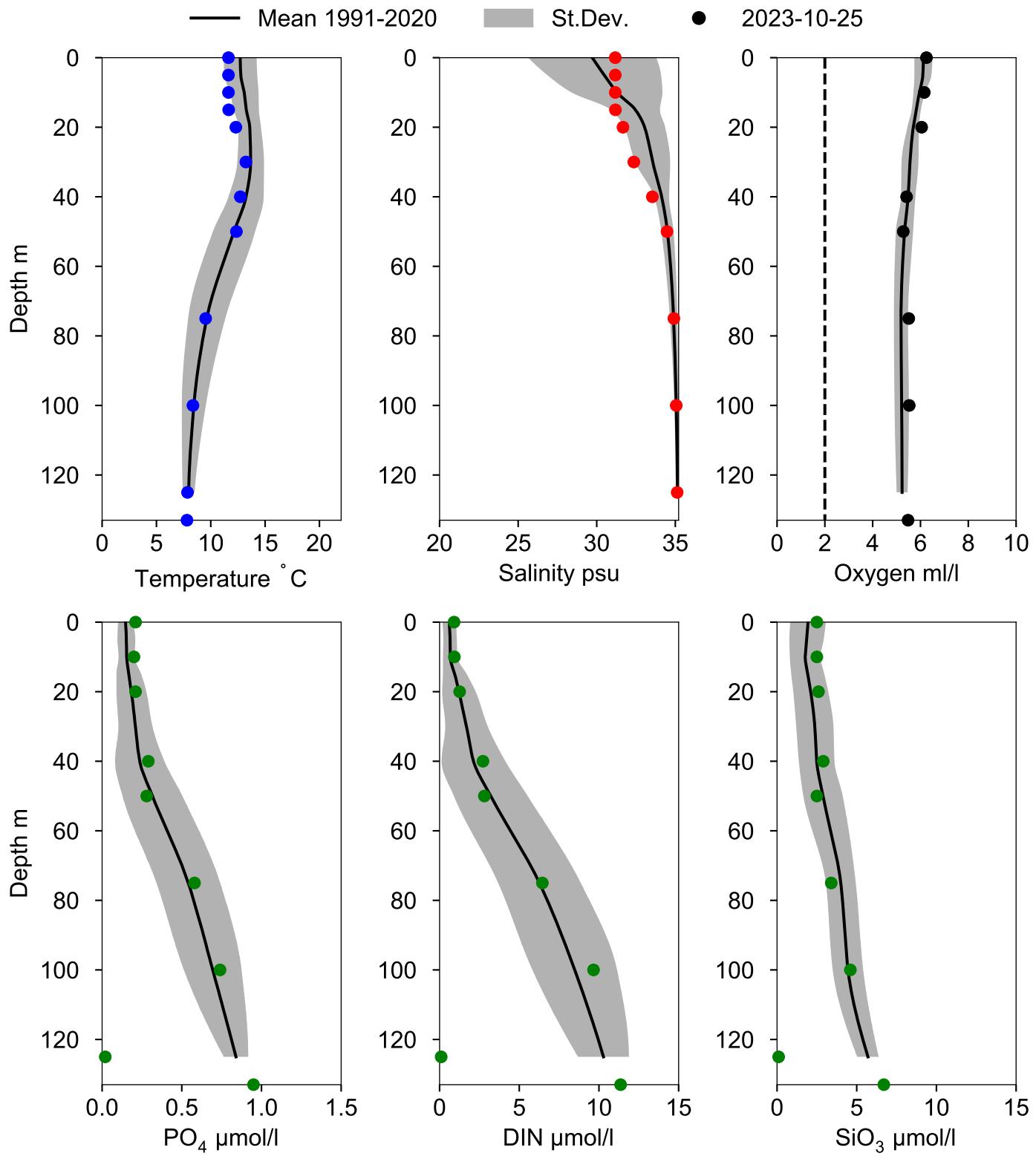
● 2023



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 125 m)



Vertical profiles Å15 October



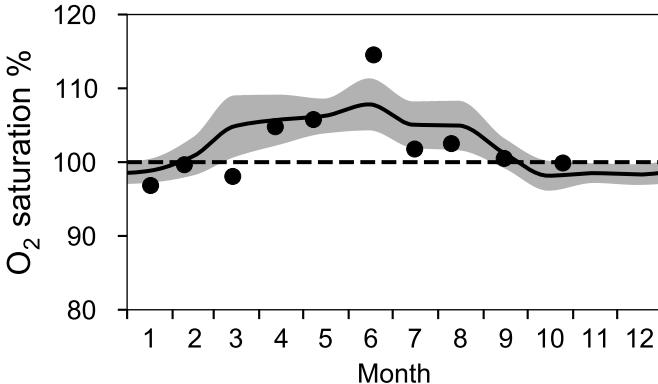
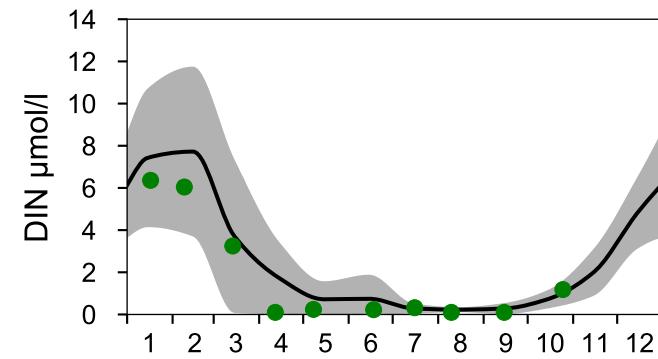
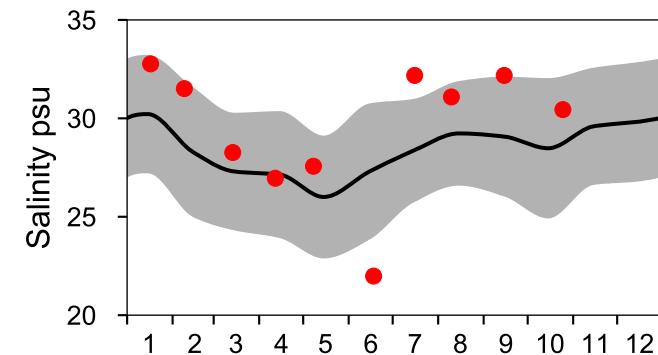
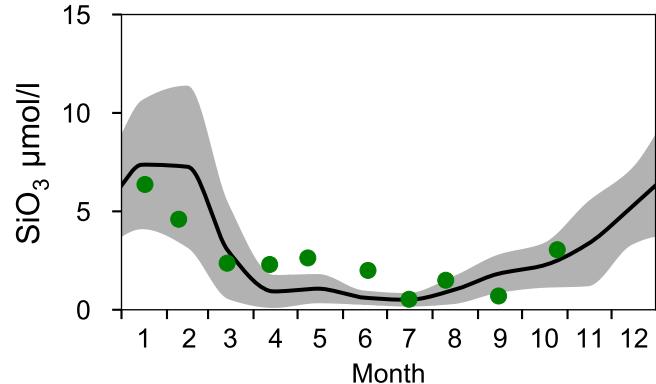
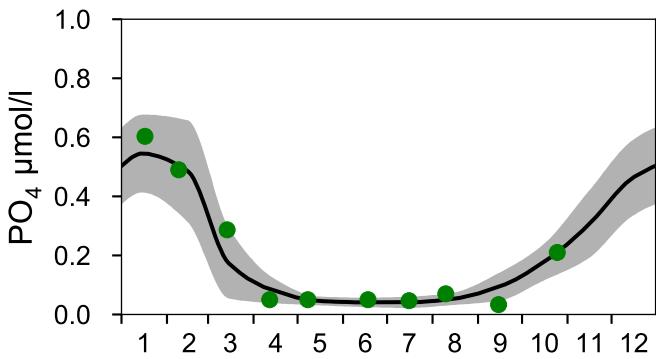
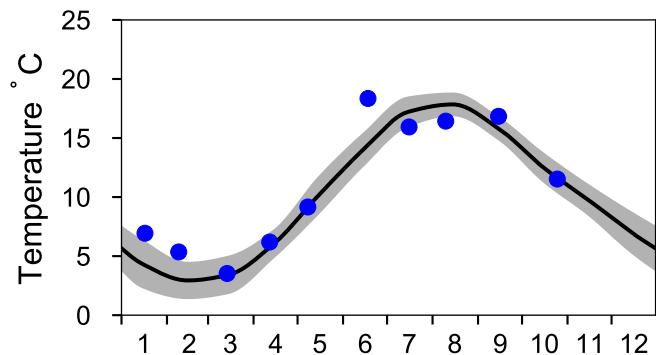
STATION Å13 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

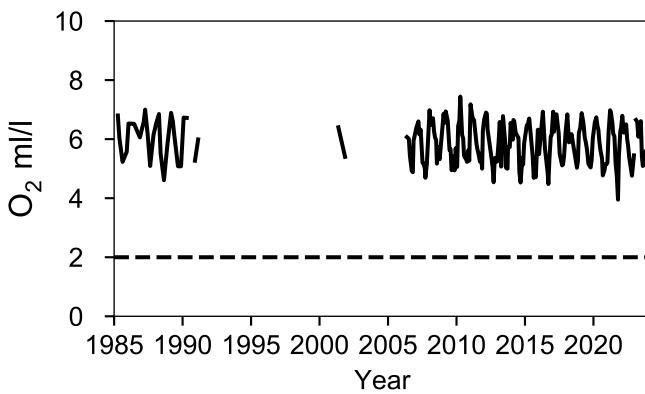
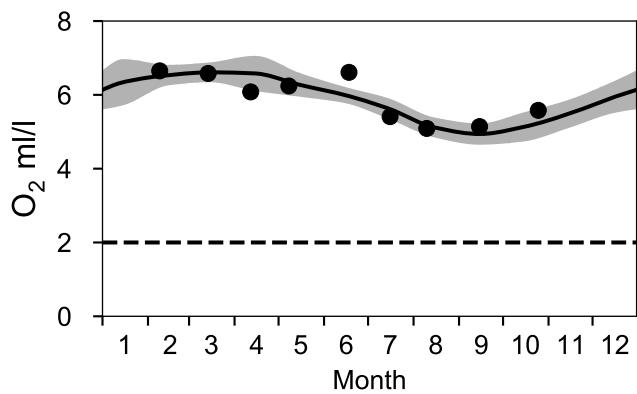
— Mean 1991-2020

St.Dev.

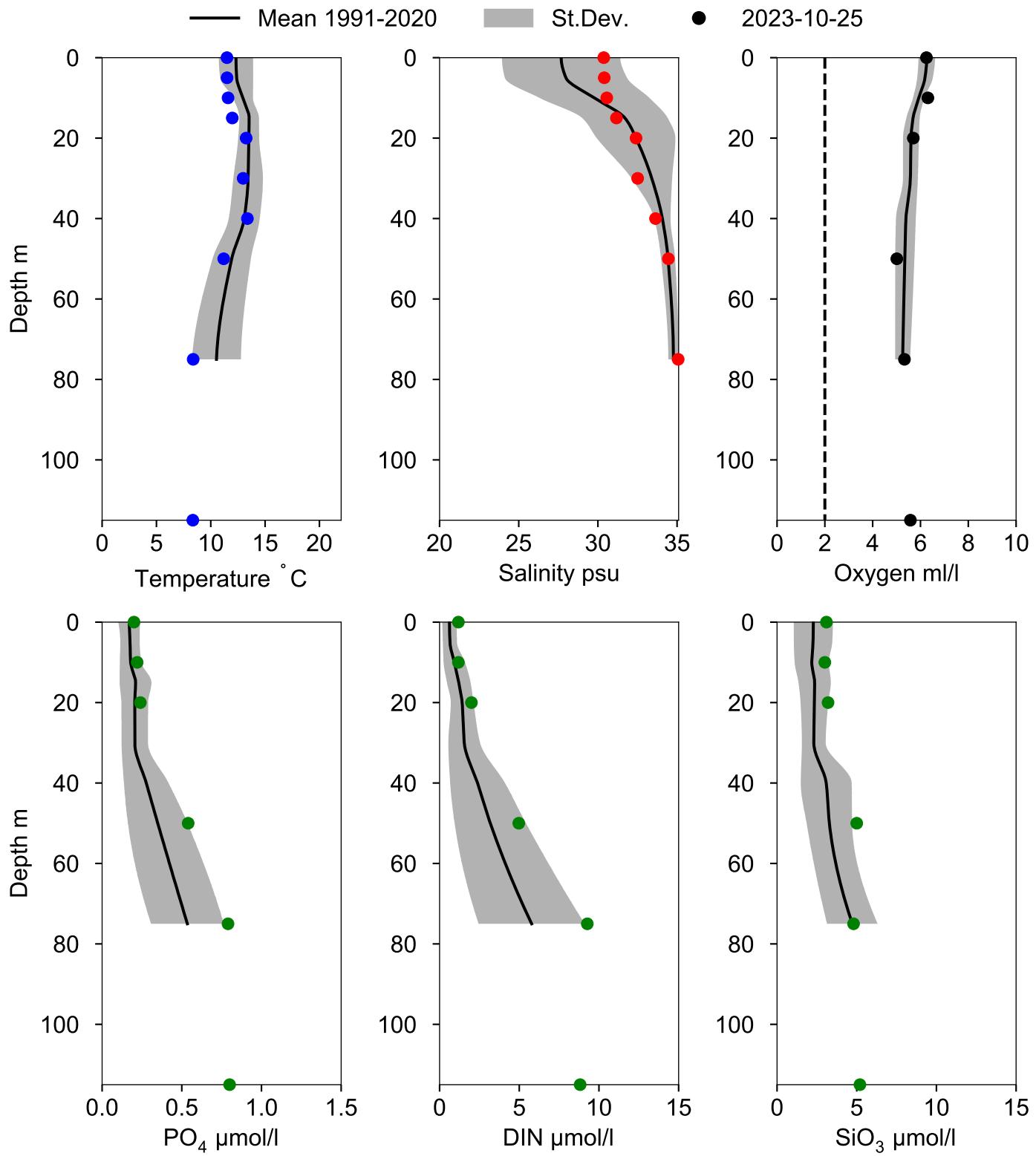
● 2023



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth $\geq 82 \text{ m}$)

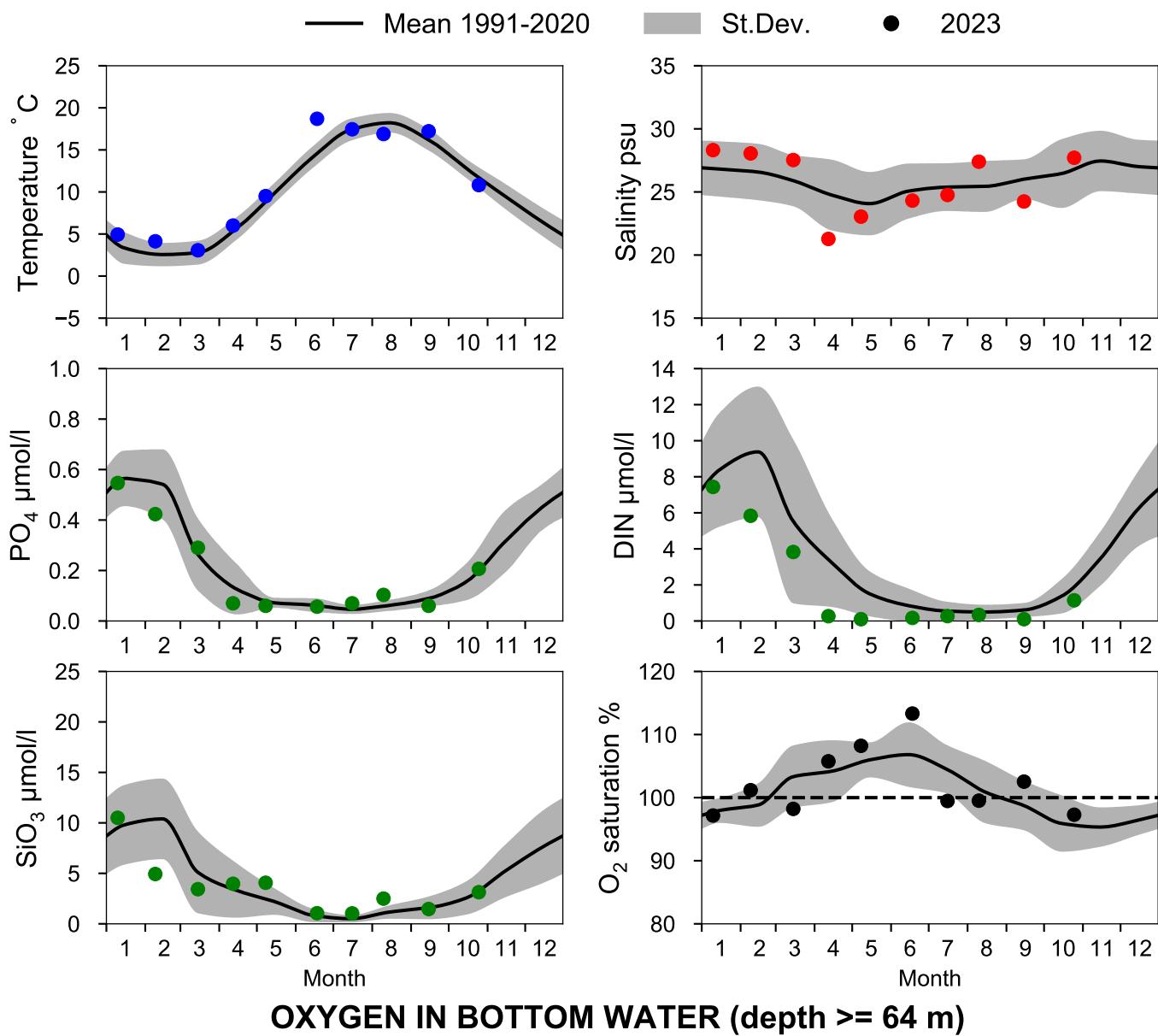


Vertical profiles Å13 October

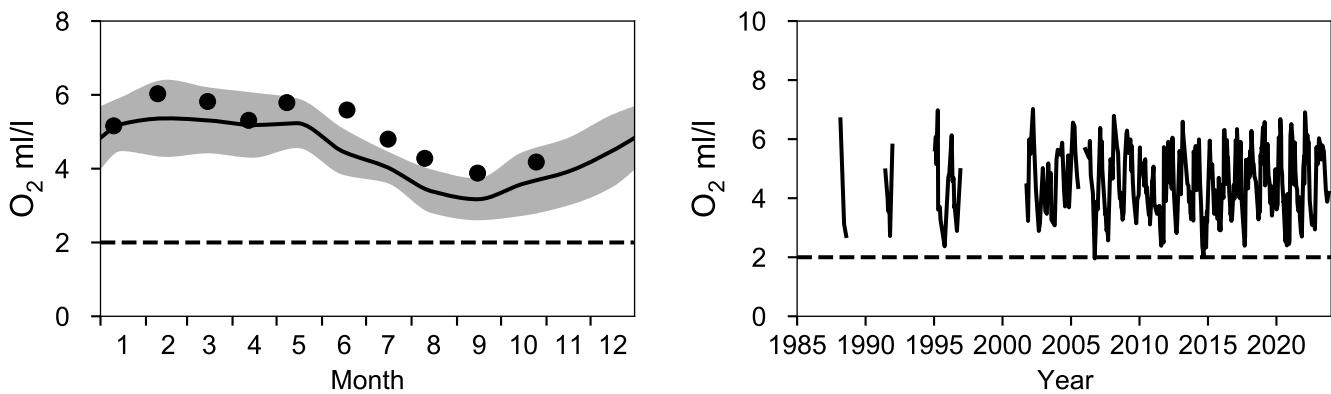


STATION SLÄGGÖ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 64 m)



Vertical profiles SLÄGGÖ

October

