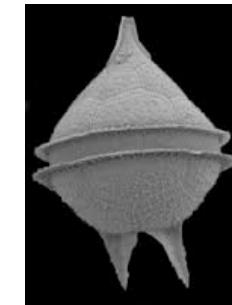
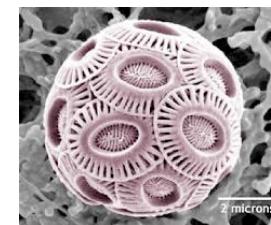
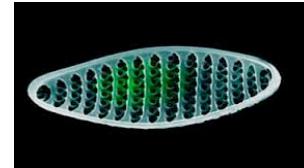
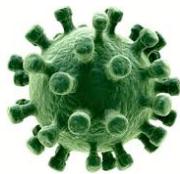


# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems



Dr. Ian Salter - Havstovan / iNOVA

# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems



Earthrise, 1968



Bill Anders



# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems



Earthrise, 1968

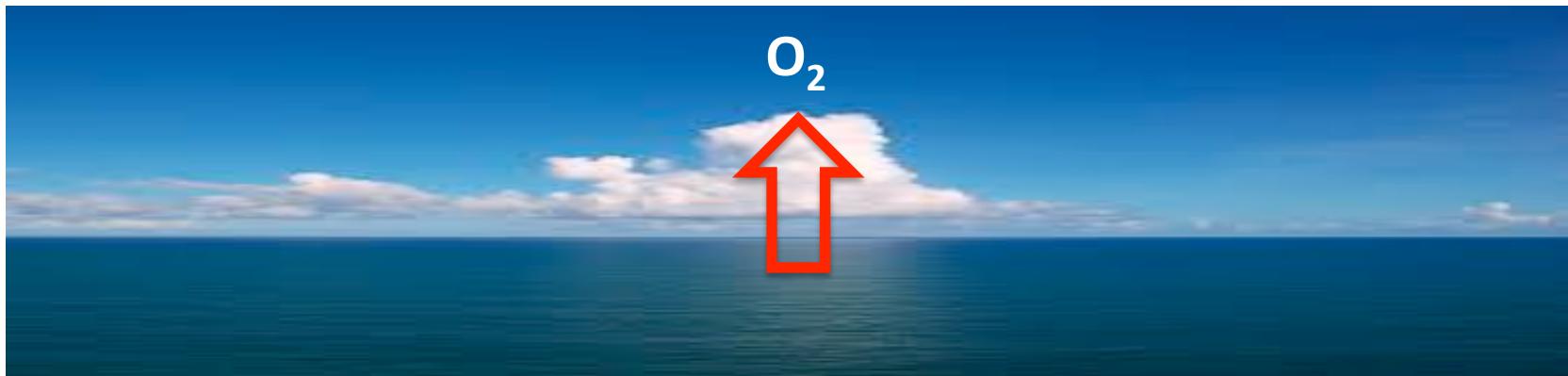


Bill Anders



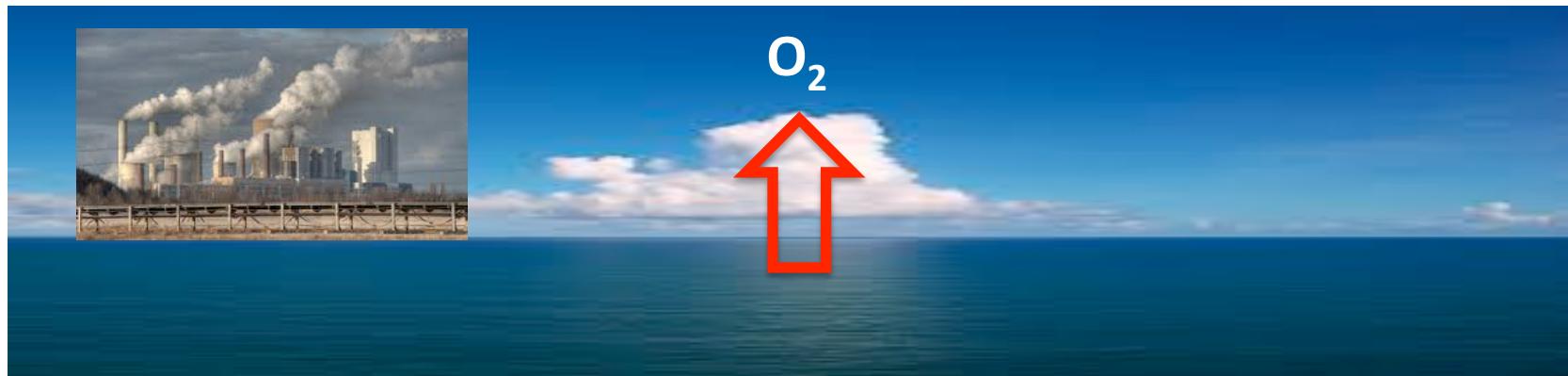
“How inappropriate to call this planet Earth when it is quite clearly Ocean” Arthur C. Clarke

# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems



Today, approximately 50% of global photosynthesis is carried out in the ocean

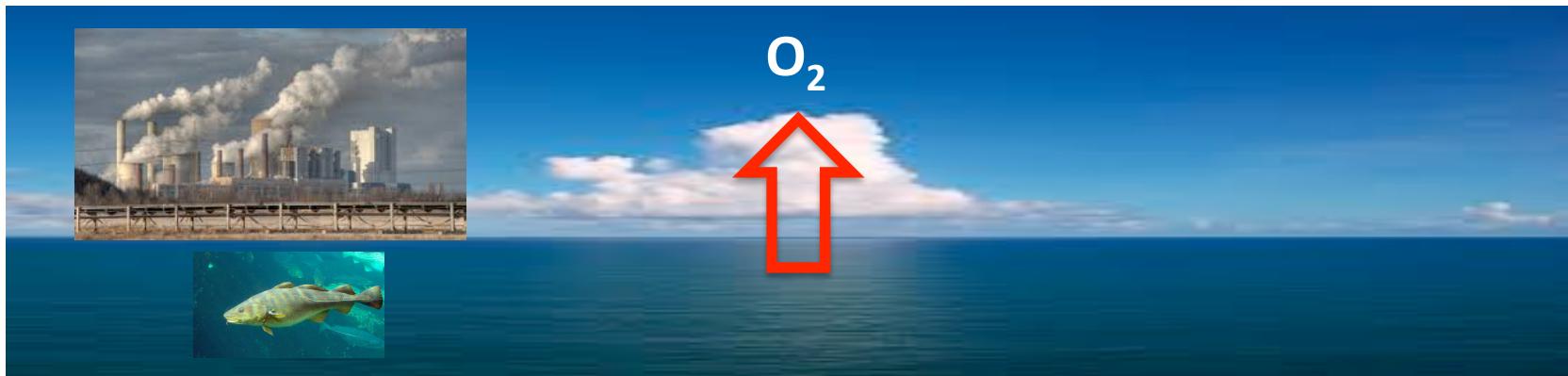
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Approximately 50% of global photosynthesis is carried out in the ocean

Significant amounts of anthropogenic  $CO_2$  are sequestered and stored by the ocean

# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems



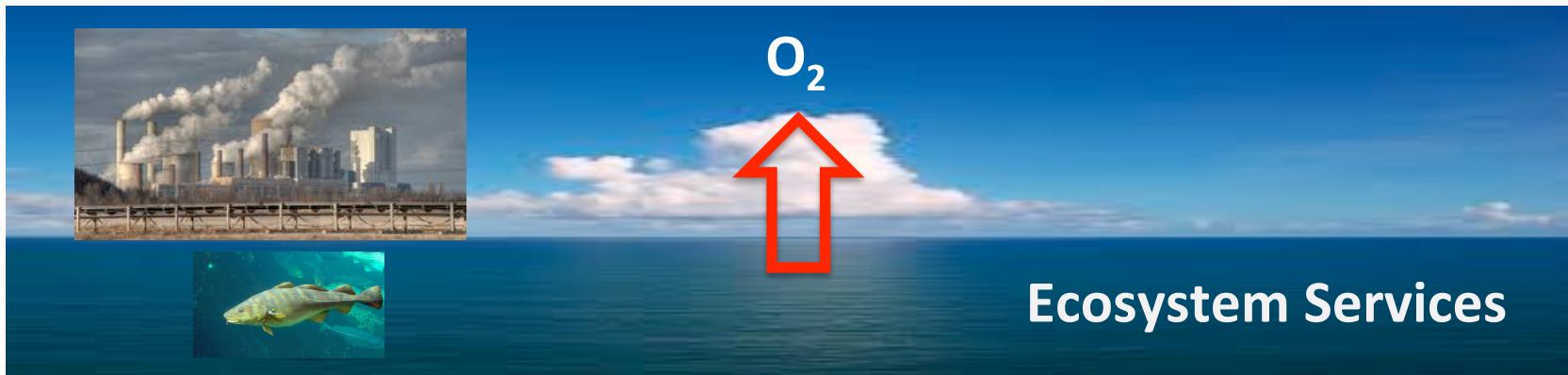
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Significant amounts of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> are sequestered and stored by the ocean

170-200 Mio. tonnes of fish caught or farmed

1/5<sup>th</sup> of global protein consumption

# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems



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Significant amounts of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> are sequestered and stored by the ocean

As of 2014, 170 Mio tonnes of fish caught or farmed

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We know conditions in the oceans are changing rapidly:

Increases in temperature

Changes in nutrient concentrations

Increases in Ocean acidity

These will influence ocean ecosystems and the services they provide

How can we possibly study ocean ecosystems?

# **Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems**

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**Environmental DNA**

# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems

## What is environmental DNA ?

All DNA that can be recovered from an environmental sample.

- Microscopic organisms isolated by filtration
- Free DNA molecules (physically separated from the organism)

Skin  
Tissue  
Mucous  
Saliva  
Sperm  
Secretions  
Eggs  
Urine  
Faeces  
Blood  
Decomposing tissue



## Environmental Forensics

What was where and  
at what time?

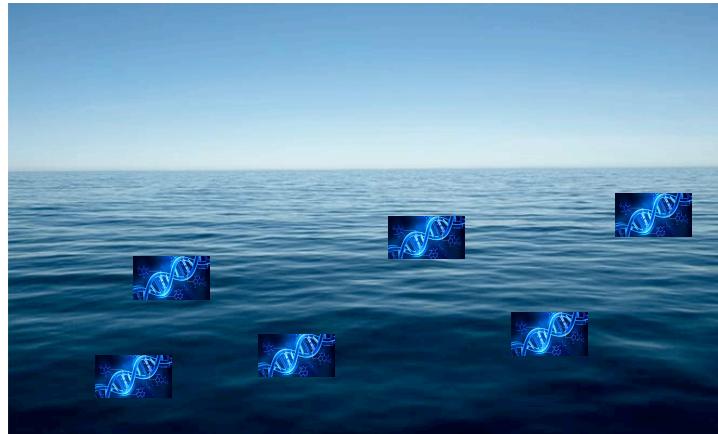
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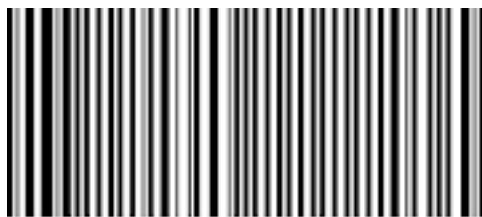
**How can we use this  
Environmental DNA?**

# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems

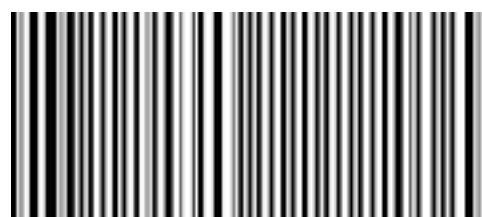
## Metabarcoding

A way to identify species from the DNA encoded in their genes

Uses a very short DNA sequence from a standard part of the genome the same way a supermarket scanner uses the black lines of the UPC barcode to identify products



AGCCCGATTGCCAGT  
ACGATTACGATATAA  
ATCGAGGACATATA



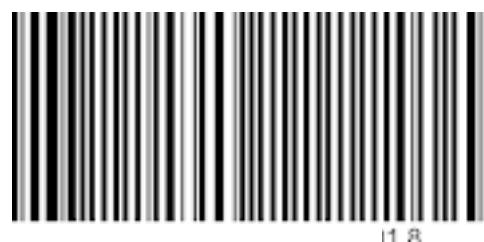
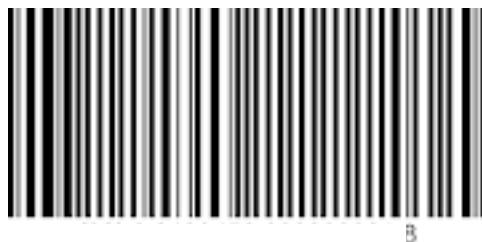
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# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems

## Metabarcoding

Reference databases linking DNA barcodes to taxonomic assignments

**BOLD SYSTEMS** Databases | Taxonomy | Identification | Workbench | Resources

Kingdoms of Life Being Barcoded Print

Specimen Records : 7,053,018 Specimens with Barcodes : 5,342,766 Species with Barcodes : 263,132

[Search Taxonomy](#)

---

**Animals:**

- [Acanthocephala \[588\]](#)
- [Annelida \[55591\]](#)
- [Arthropoda \[5553106\]](#)
- [Brachiopoda \[200\]](#)
- [Bryozoa \[2668\]](#)
- [Chaetognatha \[589\]](#)
- [Chordata \[529777\]](#)
- [Cnidaria \[17981\]](#)
- [Cyclophora \[326\]](#)
- [Echinodermata \[39447\]](#)
- [Gnathostomulida \[18\]](#)
- [Hemichordata \[117\]](#)
- [Mollusca \[136884\]](#)
- [Nematoda \[14015\]](#)
- [Nemertea \[1914\]](#)
- [Onychophora \[690\]](#)
- [Platyhelminthes \[16367\]](#)
- [Porifera \[3760\]](#)
- [Priapulida \[43\]](#)
- [Rotifera \[9637\]](#)
- [Sipuncula \[657\]](#)
- [Tardigrada \[1949\]](#)
- [Xenoturbellida \[7\]](#)

**Plants:**

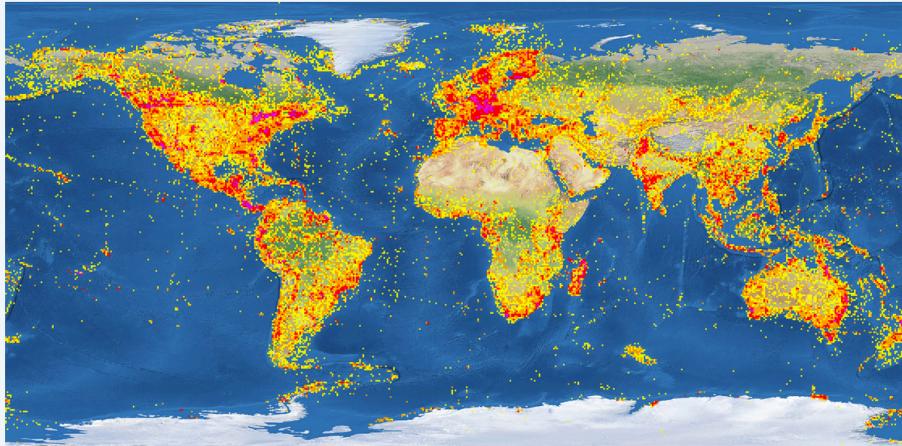
- [Bryophyta \[10896\]](#)
- [Chlorophyta \[12267\]](#)
- [Lycopodiophyta \[945\]](#)
- [Magnoliophyta \[333646\]](#)
- [Pinophyta \[6862\]](#)
- [Pteridophyta \[10429\]](#)
- [Rhodophyta \[47982\]](#)

**Fungi:**

- [Ascomycota \[83086\]](#)
- [Basidiomycota \[53726\]](#)
- [Chytridiomycota \[277\]](#)
- [Glomeromycota \[3523\]](#)
- [Myxomycota \[226\]](#)
- [Zygomycota \[3137\]](#)

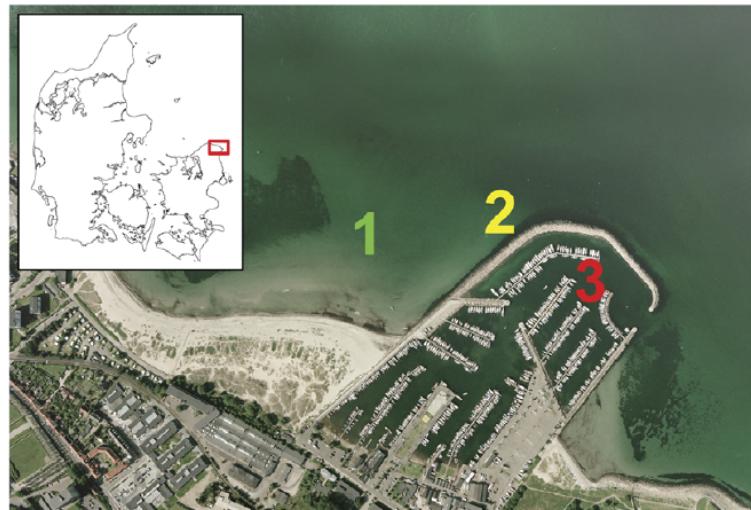
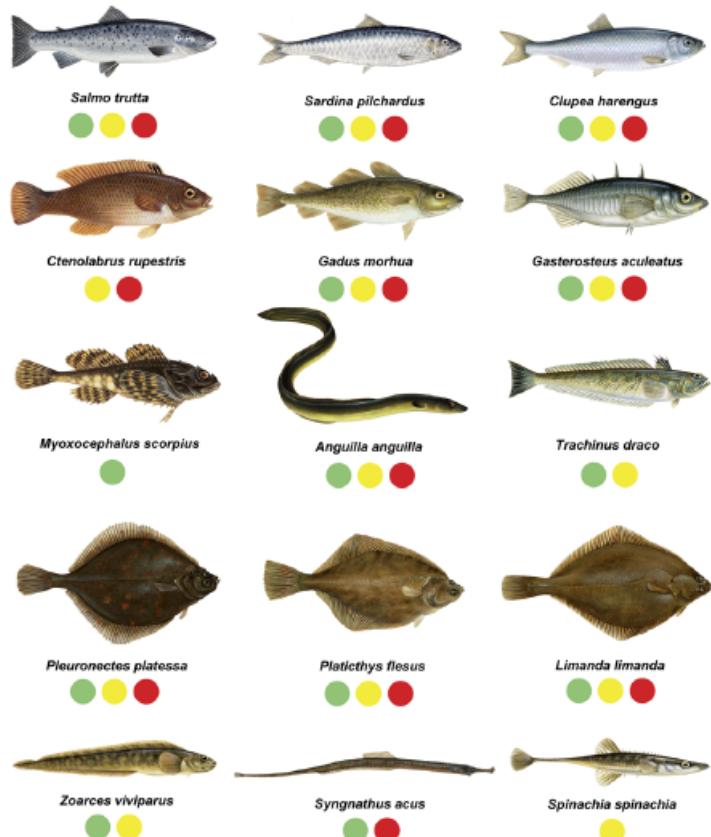
**Protists:**

- [Chlorarachniophyta \[67\]](#)
- [Ciliophora \[706\]](#)
- [Heterokontophyta \[6195\]](#)
- [Pyrrhophycophyta \[2282\]](#)



# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems

Some of the early demonstrations of this approach have been with marine fish

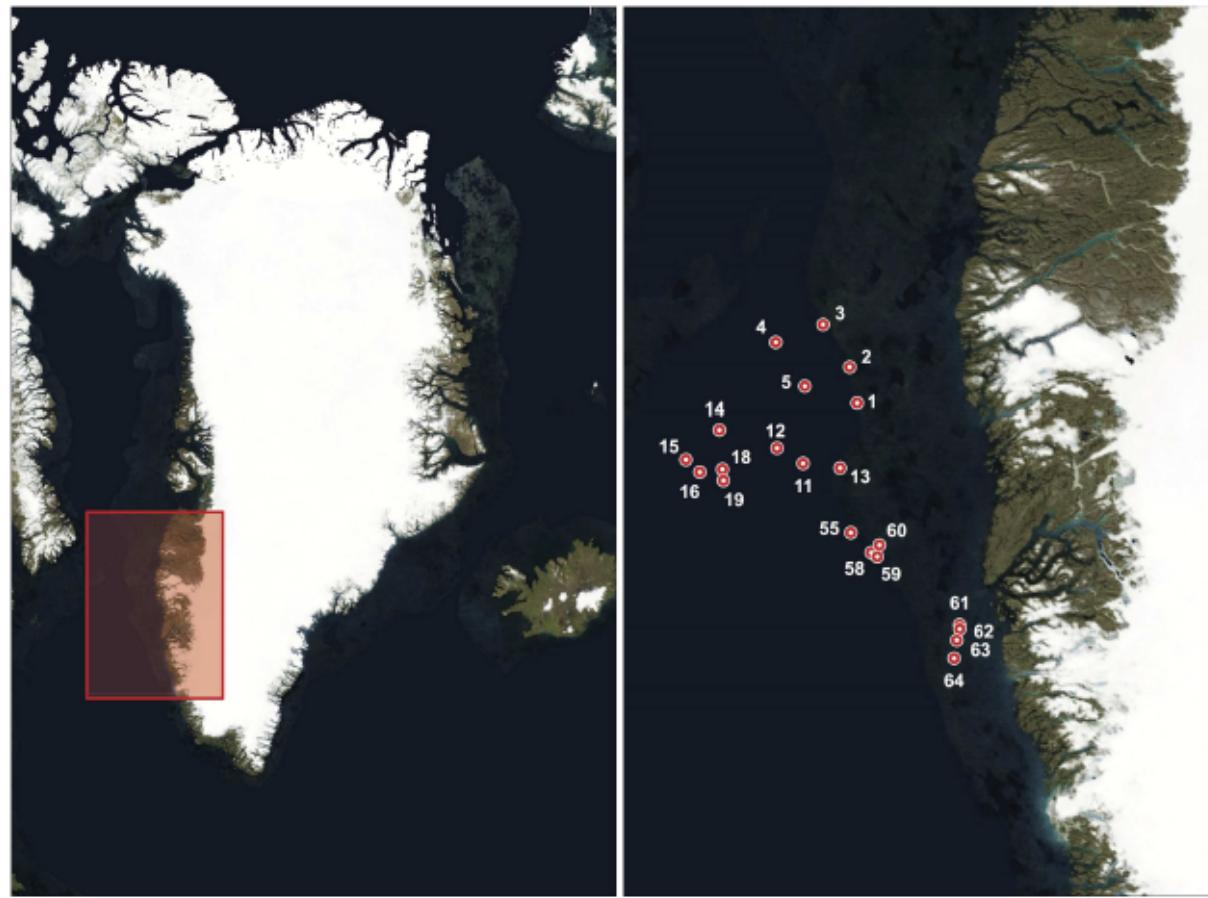


Detection of diverse marine fish fauna using eDNA in seawater

*Thomson et al. 2012 PLoS ONE*

# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems

How does eDNA analysis perform in the field ?

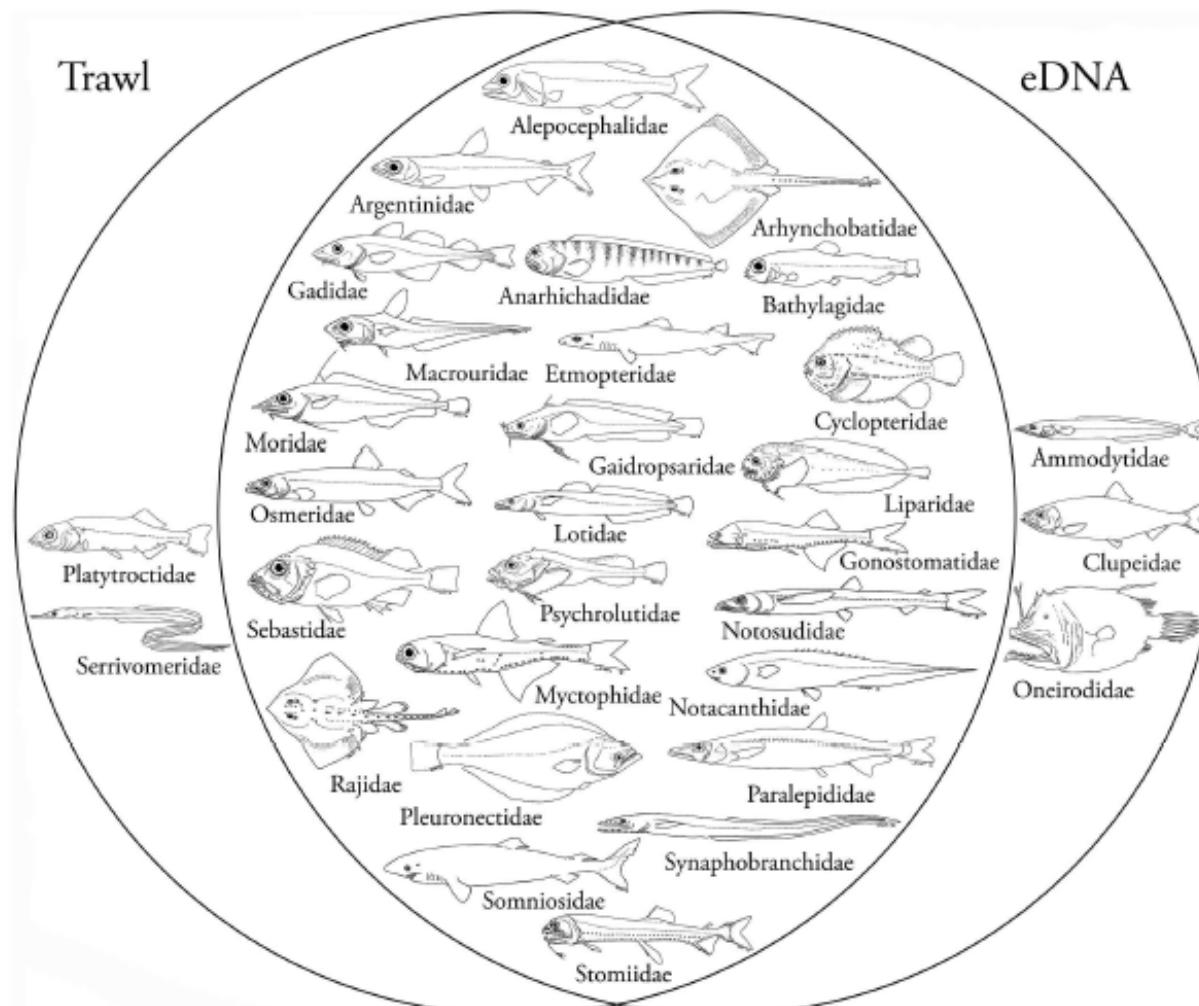


1.5 litre water samples

Collected prior to  
Bottom-trawl

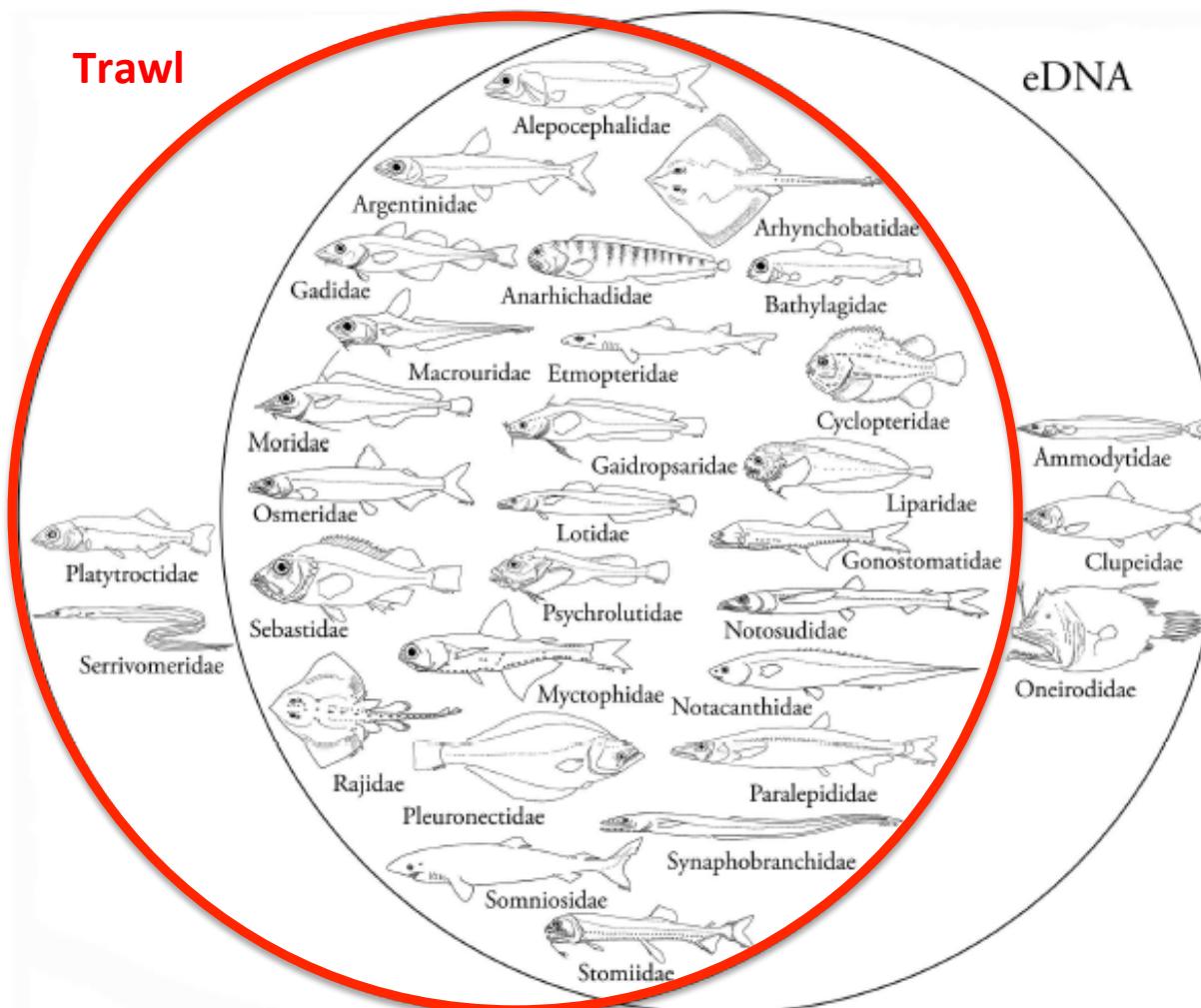
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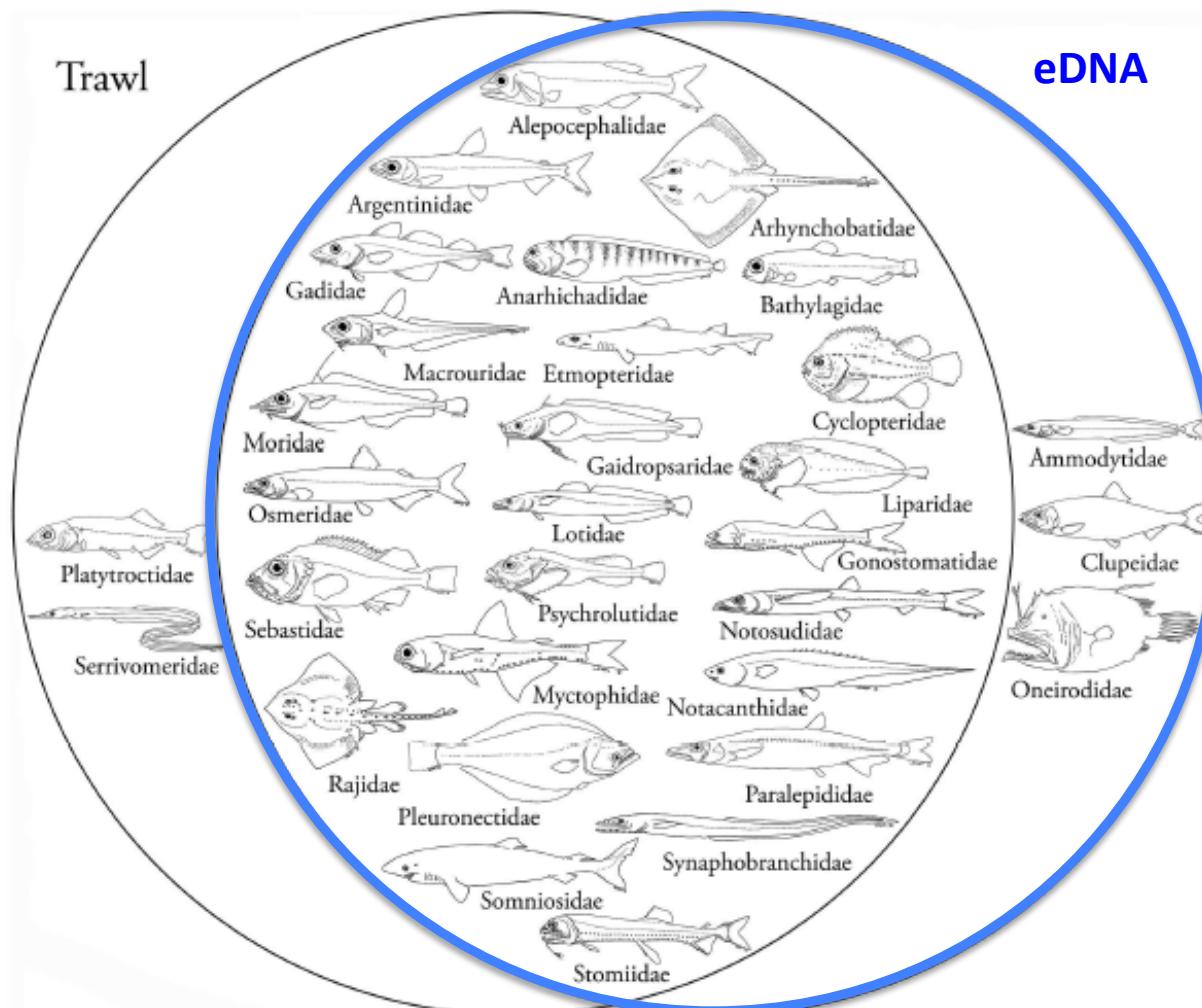
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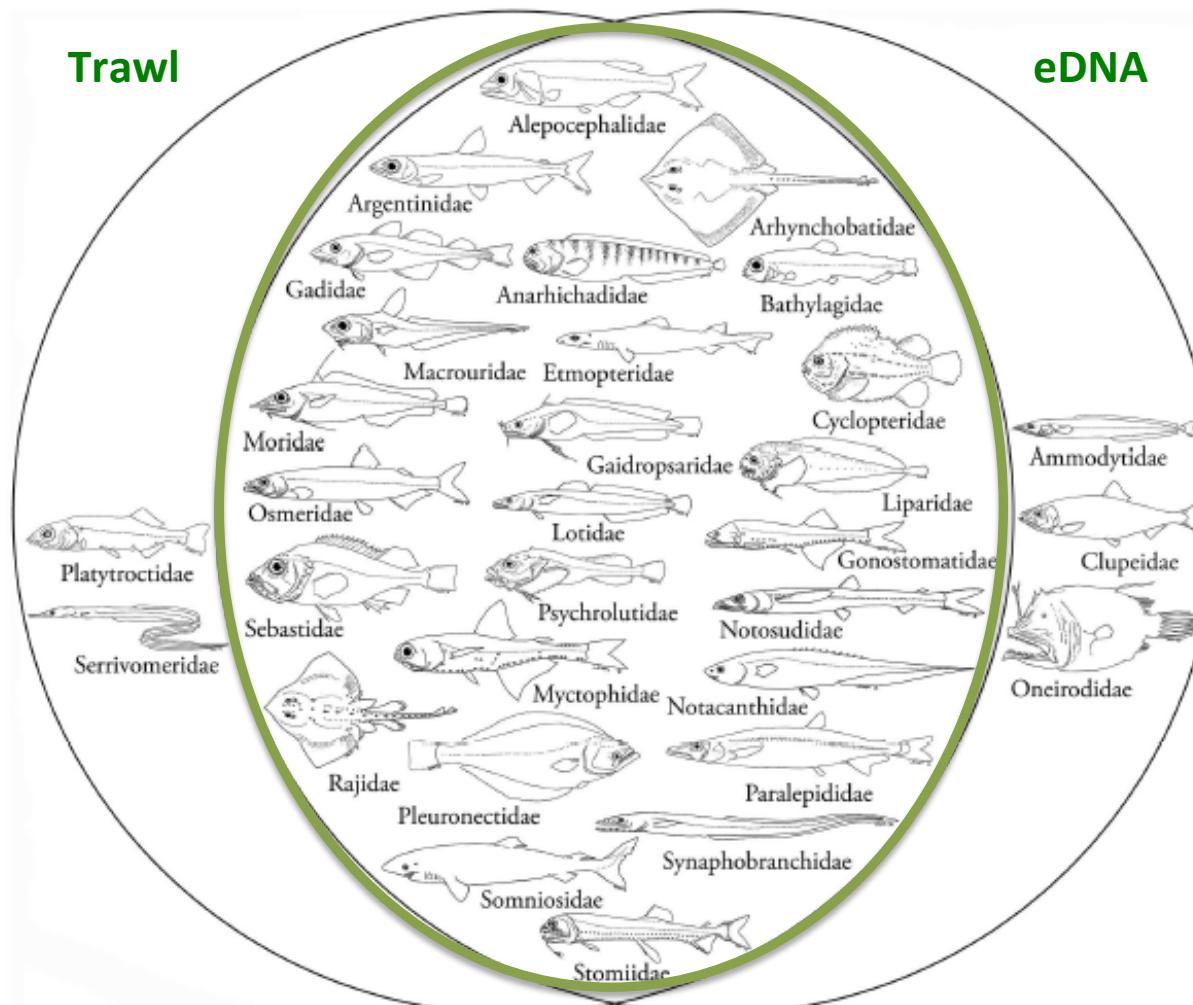
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How does eDNA analysis perform in the field ?



# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems

How does eDNA analysis perform in the field ?



26 of 28

>90%  
Detection  
rate

# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems

---

## eDNA performs well for presence / absence of species

- Ecological models
- Invasive species
- Pathogens and parasites (Salmon Louse)
- Feeding ecology

## How about relationships with biomass?

Intuitively > Organism > eDNA

Depends on production mechanisms of environmental DNA

Degradation mechanisms of environmental DNA

# **Environmental DNA and its application to aquatic Science and ecosystem studies**

---

## **1. COD-e-DNA (Fiskivinnuroyndir) September 2017-September 2019**

*A complimentary approach to Atlantic Cod Stock assessment on the Faroe Bank using environmental DNA*

## **2. FAMEOS (Granskingar ráðið) January 2018 – December 2020**

*Towards a FAroese Marine Ecosystem Observing System (FAMEOS) – integrating environmental DNA-based estimates of diversity with essential ocean measurements*

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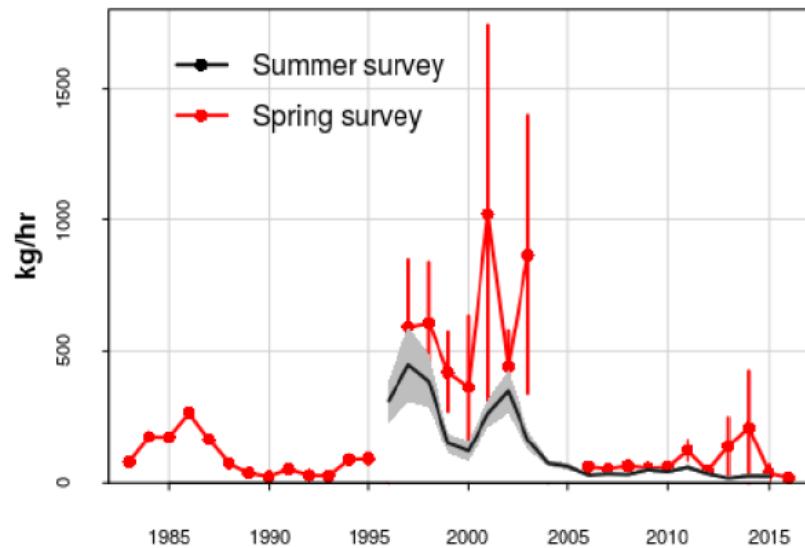
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## COD-e-DNA



Decline of catch per unit effort have significantly declined since 2005, leading to a management decision to close the fishery In 2009.

[ICES Working group report, 2016](#)

## Objectives

- Compare biomass in trawls with eDNA from seawater for Atlantic Cod
- Determine degradation rates of Cod DNA in natural samples
- Production rates of DNA from cod specimens in aquarium
- Compare total fish diversity in trawls with metabarcoding of fish DNA

# Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems

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# FAMEOS

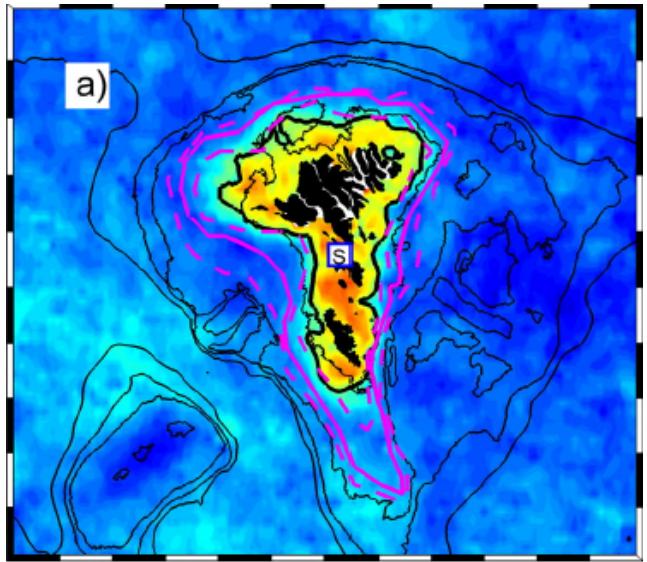


Figure: S. Eliasen, Havstovan

Weekly samples taken at station Skopun (Havstovan)

Skopun is representative of wider shelf area due to strong tidal mixing

Important chemical variables already measured  
Temp, Salinity, nutrients.

Couple with an eDNA sampling scheme

## Main Objectives

Describe entire ecosystem diversity to establish baselines of coastal diversity

Use statistical analyses to describe food-web interactions

Establish a DNA archive – monitor for pathogens/parasites and invasive species

Citizen Science – Faroese coastal sampling day



# FAMEOS

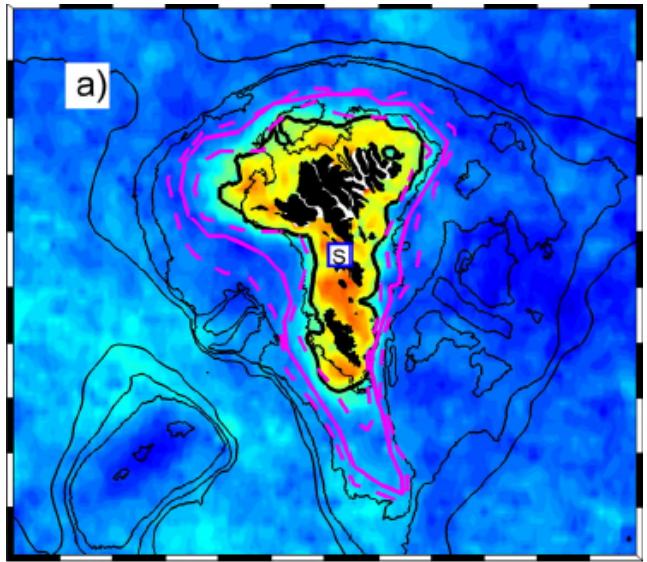


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# FAMEOS



Describe entire ecosystem diversity to establish baselines of coastal diversity



*“Critical to develop observing systems that integrate physical, chemical and biological elements to characterise coastal ecosystems and understand the societal consequences of natural and anthropogenic pressure...”*



# FAMEOS



Describe entire ecosystem diversity to establish baselines of coastal diversity



*"Sustained observations are lacking, particularly biodiversity, and this significantly limits the capacity to report on changes in status and guide management decisions..."*



# FAMEOS

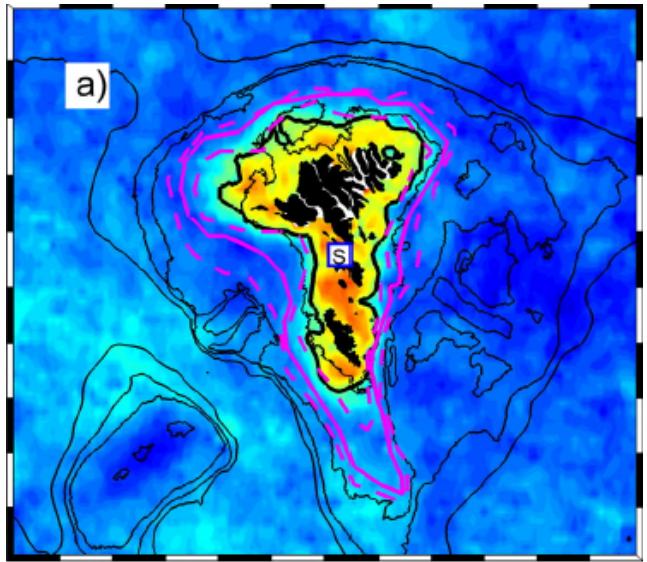


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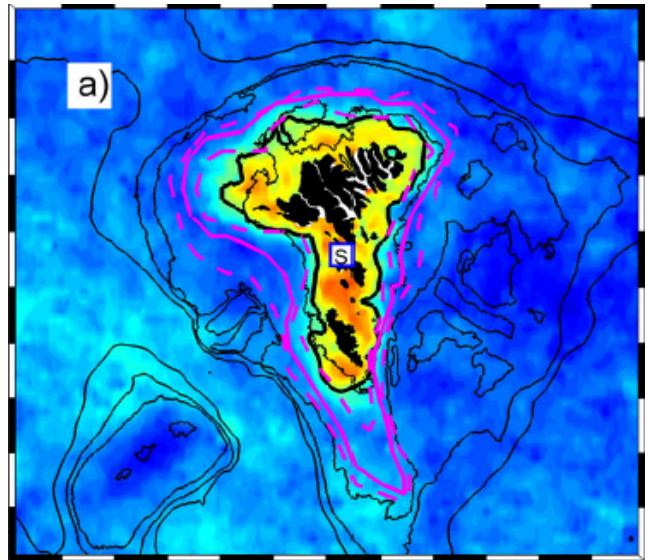


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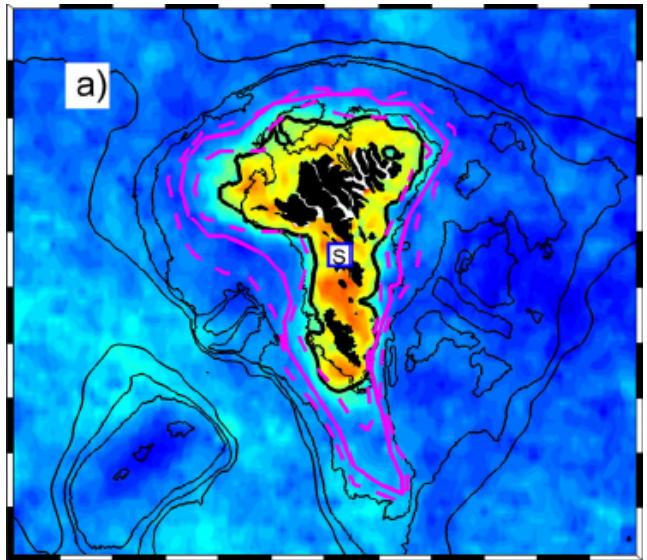


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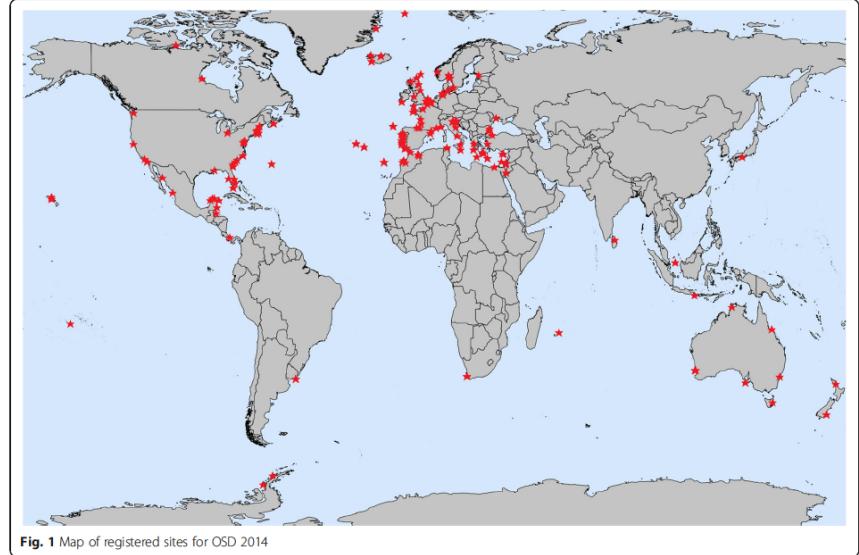


# FAMEOS



## Ocean Sampling Day

Kopf et al. *GigaScience* (2015) 4:27  
DOI 10.1186/s13742-015-0066-5



### COMMENTARY

### Open Access



## The ocean sampling day consortium

Anna Kopf<sup>1,2†</sup>, Mesude Bicak<sup>3†</sup>, Renzo Kottmann<sup>1</sup>, Julia Schnetzer<sup>1,2</sup>, Ivaylo Kostadinov<sup>2</sup>, Katja Lehmann<sup>4</sup>, Antonio Fernandez-Guerra<sup>1,3</sup>, Christian Jeanthon<sup>5</sup>, Eyal Rahav<sup>6</sup>, Matthias Ulrich<sup>7</sup>, Antje Wilhelms<sup>7</sup>, Gunnar Gerds<sup>7</sup>, Paraskevi Polymenakou<sup>8</sup>, Giorgos Kotoulas<sup>8</sup>, Rania Siam<sup>9</sup>, Rehab Z Abdallah<sup>9</sup>, Eva C Sonnenschein<sup>10</sup>, Thierry Cariou<sup>5</sup>, Fergal O'Gara<sup>11,12</sup>, Stephen Jackson<sup>10</sup>, Sandi Orlac<sup>14</sup>, Michael Steinkraus<sup>15</sup>, Julia Busch<sup>16</sup>, Bernardo Duarte<sup>17</sup>, Isabel Caçador<sup>17</sup>, João Canning-Clode<sup>17,18</sup>, Oleksandra Bobrova<sup>19</sup>, Viggo Marteinsson<sup>20</sup>, Eijolfur Reynisson<sup>20</sup>, Clara Magalhães Loureiro<sup>21</sup>, Gian Marco Luna<sup>22</sup>, Grazia Marina Quero<sup>22</sup>, Carolin R Löscher<sup>23</sup>, Anke Kremp<sup>24</sup>, Marie E DeLorenzo<sup>25</sup>, Lise Øvreås<sup>26</sup>, Jennifer Tolman<sup>27</sup>, Julie LaRoche<sup>27</sup>, Antonella Penna<sup>28</sup>, Marc Frischer<sup>29</sup>, Timothy Davis<sup>30</sup>, Barker Katherine<sup>31</sup>, Christopher P Meyer<sup>31</sup>, Sandra Ramos<sup>32</sup>, Catarina Magalhães<sup>32</sup>, Florence Jude-Lemelleur<sup>33</sup>, Ma Leopoldina Aguirre-Macedo<sup>34</sup>, Shiao Wang<sup>35</sup>, Nicola Poulton<sup>36</sup>, Scott Jones<sup>37</sup>, Rachel Colijn<sup>38</sup>, Jed A Fuhrman<sup>39</sup>, Pascal Conan<sup>40</sup>, Cecilia Alonso<sup>41</sup>, Noga Stambler<sup>42,43</sup>, Kelly Goodwin<sup>44</sup>, Michael M Yakimov<sup>45</sup>, Federico Baltar<sup>46</sup>, Levente Bodrossy<sup>47</sup>, Jodie Van De Kamp<sup>47</sup>, Dion MF Frampton<sup>47</sup>, Martin Ostrowski<sup>48</sup>, Paul Van Ruth<sup>49</sup>, Paul Malthouse<sup>49</sup>, Simon Claus<sup>50</sup>, Klaas Deneudt<sup>50</sup>, Jonas Mortelmans<sup>50</sup>, Sophie Pitois<sup>51</sup>, David Wallom<sup>52</sup>, Ian Salter<sup>52</sup>, Rodrigo Costa<sup>53</sup>, Declan C Schroeder<sup>54</sup>, Mahrous M Kandil<sup>55</sup>, Valentina Amaral<sup>56</sup>, Florencia Biancalana<sup>57</sup>, Rafael Santana<sup>58</sup>, Maria Luiza Pedrotti<sup>56</sup>, Takashi Yoshida<sup>58</sup>, Hiroyuki Ogata<sup>59</sup>, Tim Ingleton<sup>60,64</sup>, Kate Munnik<sup>61</sup>, Naiara Rodriguez-Etxeleta<sup>62</sup>, Veronique Berteaux-Lecellier<sup>63</sup>, Patricia Wecker<sup>63</sup>, Ibon Cancio<sup>65</sup>, Daniel Vaulot<sup>6</sup>, Christina Bienhold<sup>1,52</sup>, Hassan Ghazal<sup>67,68</sup>, Bouchra Chaouni<sup>69,71</sup>, Soumya Essayeh<sup>67</sup>, Sam Ettamimi<sup>68,70</sup>, El Hocine Zaid<sup>71</sup>, Noureddine Boukhater<sup>66</sup>, Abderrahim Bouali<sup>68</sup>, Rajaa Chahbounne<sup>67,72</sup>, Said Barjaji<sup>72</sup>, Mohammed Timinoun<sup>74</sup>, Fatima El Otmani<sup>75</sup>, Mohamed Bennani<sup>74</sup>, Marianna Mea<sup>2</sup>, Nadezhda Todorova<sup>77</sup>, Venzislav Karamfilov<sup>77</sup>, Petia ten Hoopen<sup>78</sup>, Guy Cochrane<sup>78</sup>, Stephane L'Haridon<sup>79</sup>, Kemal Can Buzsel<sup>80</sup>, Alessandro Vezzi<sup>81</sup>, Federico M Lauro<sup>82</sup>, Patrick Martin<sup>83</sup>, Rachelle M Jensen<sup>84</sup>, Jamie Hinks<sup>82</sup>, Susan Gebbel<sup>85</sup>, Riccardo Rossell<sup>81</sup>, Fabio De Pascale<sup>81</sup>, Riccardo Schiavon<sup>81</sup>, Antonina dos Santos<sup>59</sup>, Emile Villar<sup>13</sup>, Stéphane Pesant<sup>87</sup>, Bruno Cataletto<sup>88</sup>, Francesca Malfatti<sup>88</sup>, Ranjith Edrisinghe<sup>89</sup>, Jorge A Herrera Silveira<sup>35</sup>, Michèle Barbier<sup>92</sup>, Valentina Turk<sup>93</sup>, Tinkara Tinta<sup>93</sup>, Wayne J Fuller<sup>94</sup>, Ilkay Salihoglu<sup>94</sup>, Nedime Serakinci<sup>94</sup>, Mahmut Cerkez Ergoren<sup>94</sup>, Eileen Bresnan<sup>98</sup>, Juan Iribarri<sup>65</sup>, Paul Anders Fronth Nyhus<sup>100</sup>, Edvardsen Bentz<sup>101</sup>, Hans Erik Karlsten<sup>102</sup>, Peter N Golyshev<sup>103</sup>, Josep M Gasol<sup>104</sup>, Snejana Moncheva<sup>105</sup>, Nina Dzhembekova<sup>105</sup>, Zackary Johnson<sup>106</sup>, Christopher David Sinigalliano<sup>44</sup>, Maribeth Louise Gidley<sup>44,107</sup>, Adriana Zingone<sup>108</sup>, Roberto Danovaro<sup>108,109</sup>, George Tsiamis<sup>110</sup>, Melody S Clark<sup>111</sup>, Ana Cristina Costa<sup>21</sup>, Monia El Bour<sup>99</sup>, Ana M Martins<sup>21,95</sup>, R Eric Collins<sup>96</sup>, Anne-Lise Ducluzeau<sup>96</sup>, Jonathan Martinez<sup>97</sup>, Mark J Costello<sup>86</sup>, Linda A Amaral-Zettler<sup>90,91</sup>, Jack A Gilbert<sup>69,73,76,90</sup>, Neil Davies<sup>266</sup>, Dawn Field<sup>2,3</sup> and Frank Oliver Glöckner<sup>1,2\*</sup>

Globally-coordinated effort to sample microbial diversity in the World's Oceans

Kopf et al. 2015 *Gigascience*



# FAMEOS



## Taking the pulse of the Faroese shelf ecosystem



## Citizen Science

Organise a Faroese Coastal Sampling Day

Snapshot of diversity on the Faroese Shelf

# **Novel approaches to understand changes in marine ecosystems**

## **Summary**

Environmental DNA is an emerging approach that has the potential to transform ecosystem studies

Quick, cheap, no taxonomic expertise required

Spatial and temporal scales enhanced

Non-destructive for habitats

DNA can be archived long-term for retrospective studies

**Establish this approach specifically to the Faroe Islands**



- A new way to do science



# Takk Fyri



**FISKIMÁLARÁÐIÐ**  
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES





- A new way to do science



# Takk Fyri



**FISKIMÁLARÁÐIÐ**  
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

granskingar ráðið  
THE FAROESA RESEARCH COUNCIL