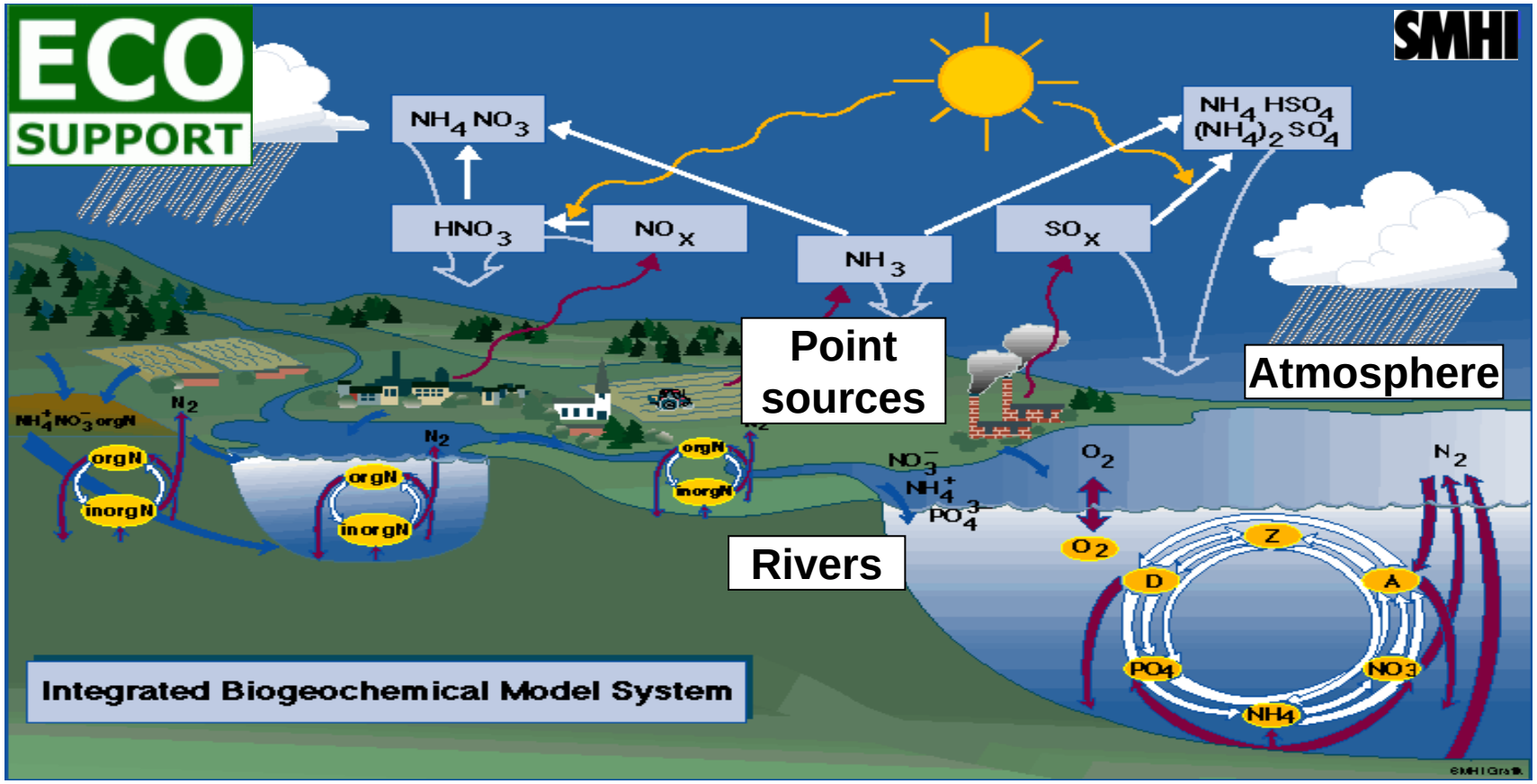
BONUS Annual Conference 2010

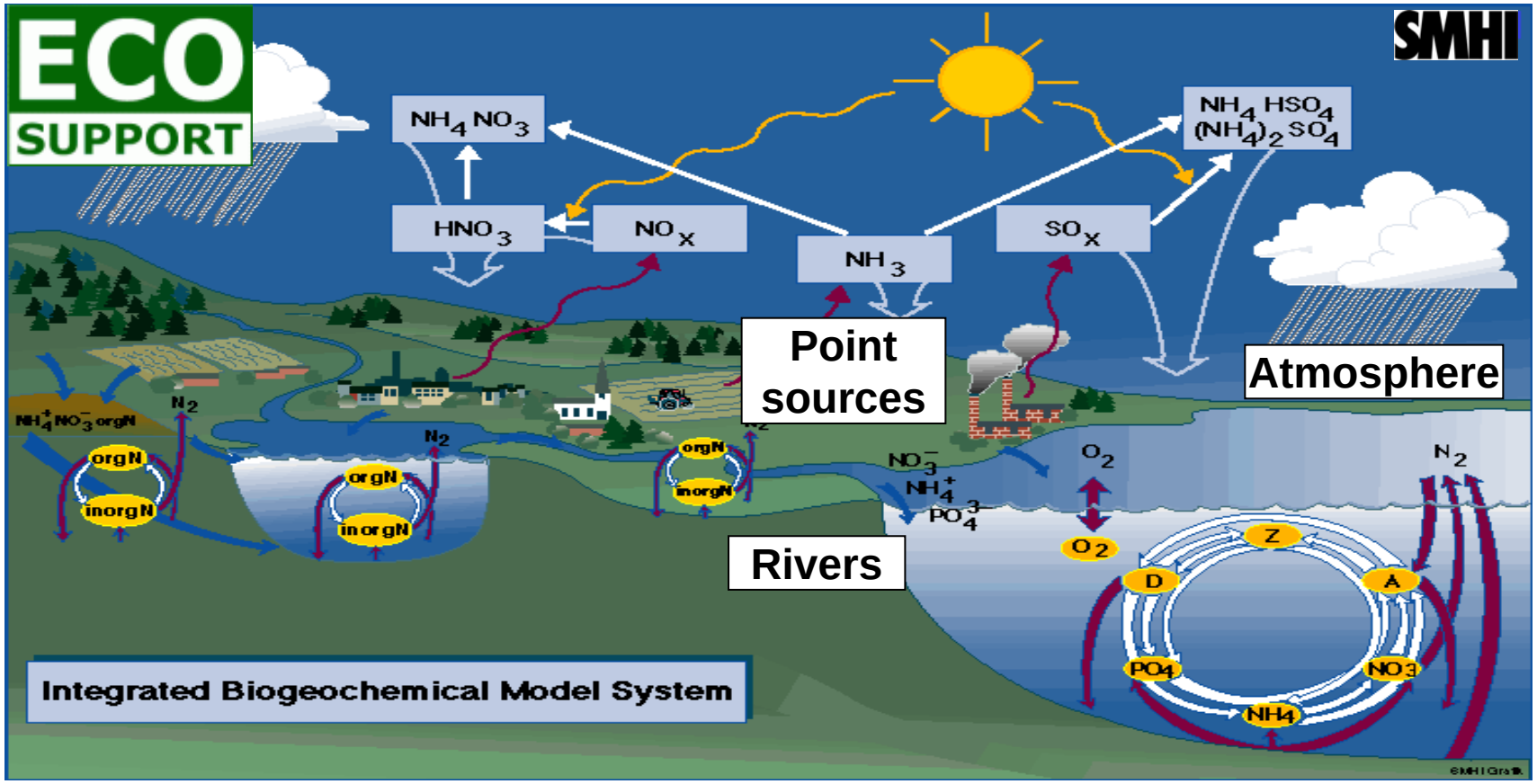
Uncertainty assessment of state-of-the-art coupled physical-biogeochemical models for the Baltic Sea

Presentation: Kari Eilola
Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, Sweden

SMHI



1. Three coupled physical-biogeochemical models calculate changing concentrations of nutrients and organic matter in the Baltic Sea



2. Three time periods

- 1850-2006: Hindcast from “pristine” to present conditions
- 1960-2100: Scenarios forced by down scaled climate GCM’s
- 1961-2006: Hindcast/**validation**/control period of scenarios

Uncertainty assessment of state-of-the-art coupled physical-biogeochemical models for the Baltic Sea

Authors:
K. Eilola[1], B. G. Gustafson[2], R. Hordoir[1], A. Höglund[1], I. Kuznetsov[3], H. E. M. Meier[1], T. Neumann[3], O. P. Savchuk[2]

1. Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, Sweden
2. Baltic Nest Institute, Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden
3. Baltic Sea Research Institute Warnemünde, Germany

3D Model: RCO-SCOBI (2nm)
1D Model: BALTSEM (13 basins)
3D Model: ERGOM (3nm)

Uncertainty assessment of state-of-the-art coupled physical-biogeochemical models for the Baltic Sea

Authors:
K. Eilola[1], B. G. Gustafson[2], R. Hordoir[1], A. Höglund[1], I. Kuznetsov[3], H. E. M. Meier[1], T. Neumann[3], O. P. Savchuk[2]

1. Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, Sweden
2. Baltic Nest Institute, Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden
3. Baltic Sea Research Institute Warnemünde, Germany

3D Model: RCO-SCOBI (2nm)
1D Model: BALTSEM (13 basins)
3D Model: ERGOM (3nm)

Results in SMHI report (www.smhi.se):
K. Eilola, B. G. Gustafson, R. Hordoir, A. Höglund, I. Kuznetsov, H. E. M. Meier, T. Neumann, O. P. Savchuk, 2009, Quality assessment of state-of-the-art coupled physical-biogeochemical models in hind cast simulations 1970-2005, Rapport Oceanografi No.101, SMHI, Norrköping, Sweden.

ECO SUPPORT

Baltic Nest Institute

Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde IOW

SMHI

Model validation/intercomparison

- State-of-the-art models at the beginning of the project
- Different nutrient loads and initial conditions
- Same physical forcing 1961-2006 (ERA40-RCA)
- Validation data 1970-2005 at standard depths from Baltic Environmental Database (BED)

Model validation/intercomparison

- State-of-the-art models at the beginning of the project
- Different nutrient loads and initial conditions
- Same physical forcing 1961-2006 (ERA40-RCA)
- Validation data 1970-2005 at standard depths from Baltic Environmental Database (BED)

- First results. Work is in progress. Validation will be repeated with updated forcing and final improvements of models

ECO SUPPORT

Baltic Nest Institute

Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde
IOW

SMHI

Main conclusions

√ • All models and the ensemble mean describe the variability of biogeochemical cycles and hypoxic area well

√ • Ensemble mean cod reproduction volume and DIN and DIP in the Gulf of Bothnia and in the deepest parts of the Gulf of Finland need improvement

√ • The ensemble mean is relatively strongly influenced by any one model member that by some reason give very poor results in some region

√ • Uncertainties are related to bioavailable fractions of nutrient loadings from land and key processes like sediment fluxes that are presently not well known

ECO SUPPORT

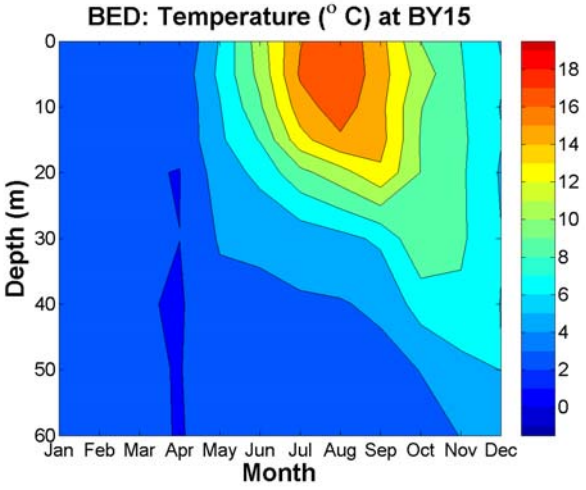
Baltic Nest Institute

Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde IOW

SMHI

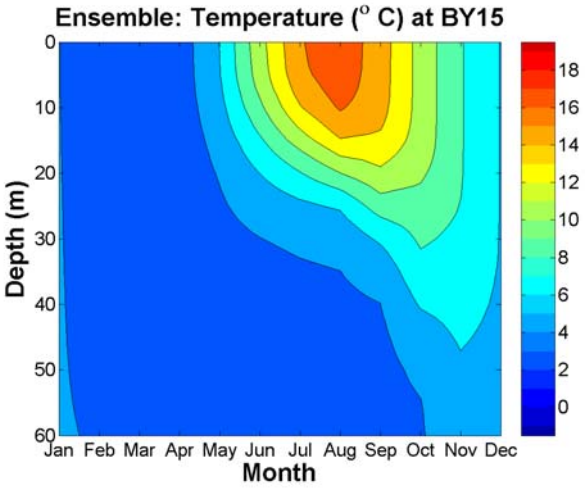
ECOSUPPORT

Monthly mean 1970-2005



Observations:

Data at
Standard depths

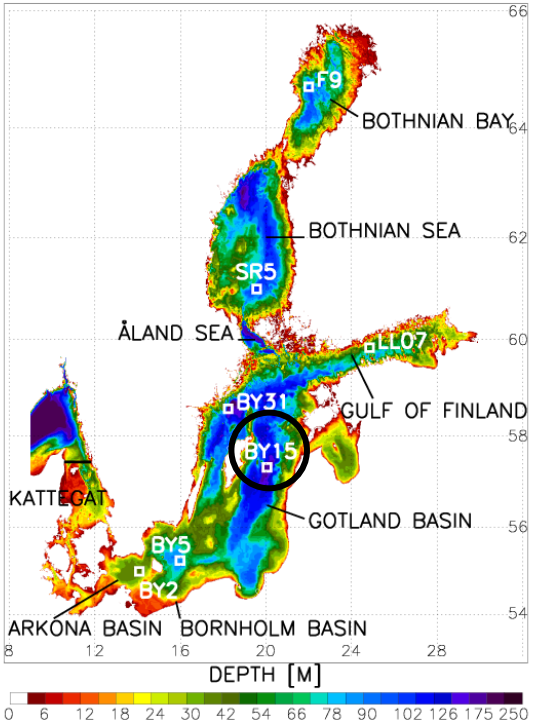


Model ensemble mean*:

Data interval
1 meter

(*average of all models mean values)

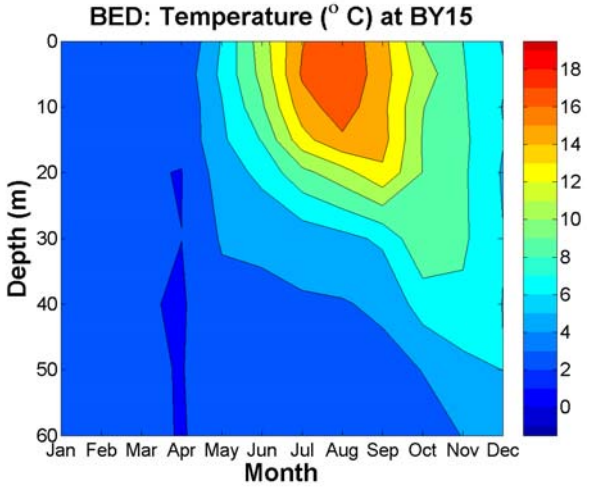
Baltic Sea

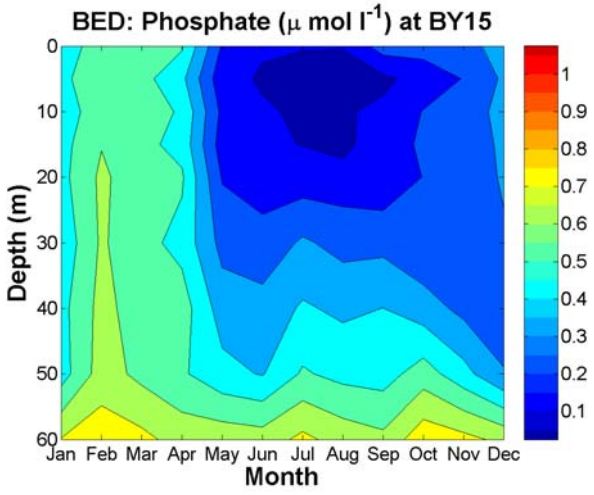


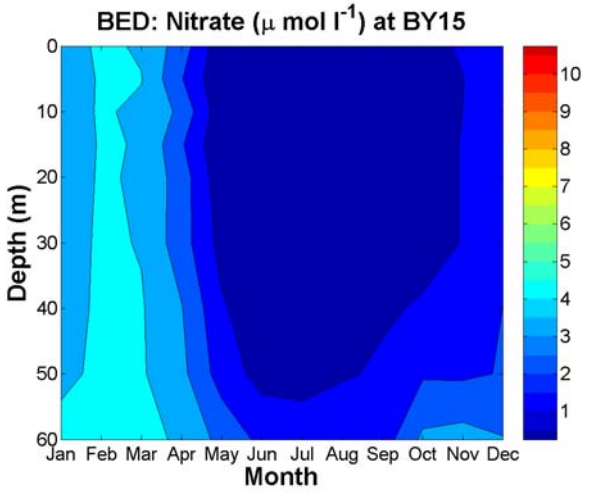
Station list

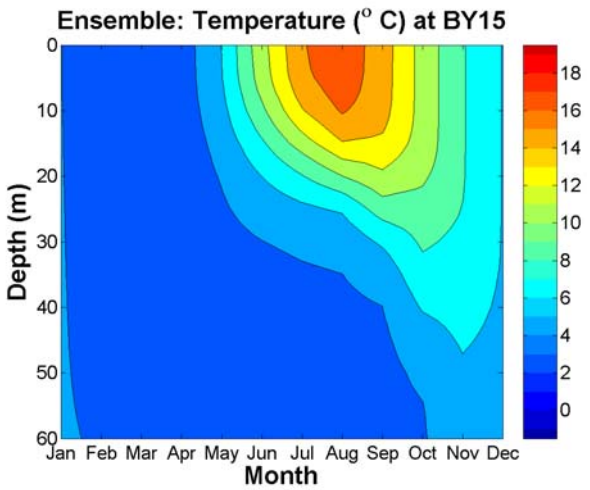
ECOSUPPORT

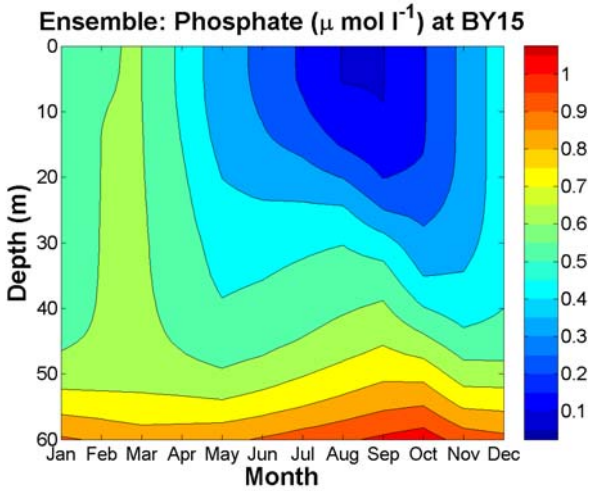
Monthly mean 1970-2005

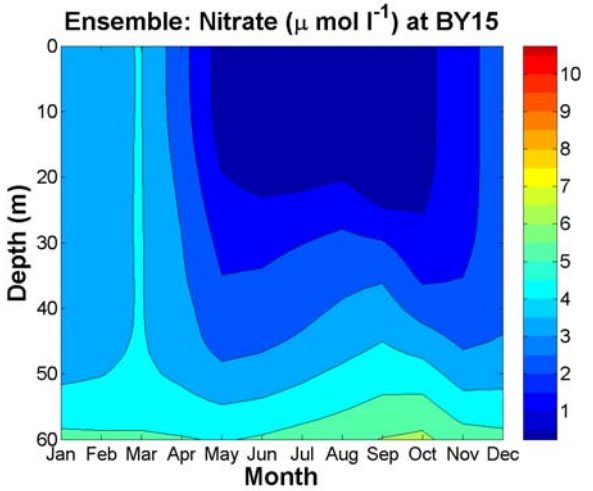






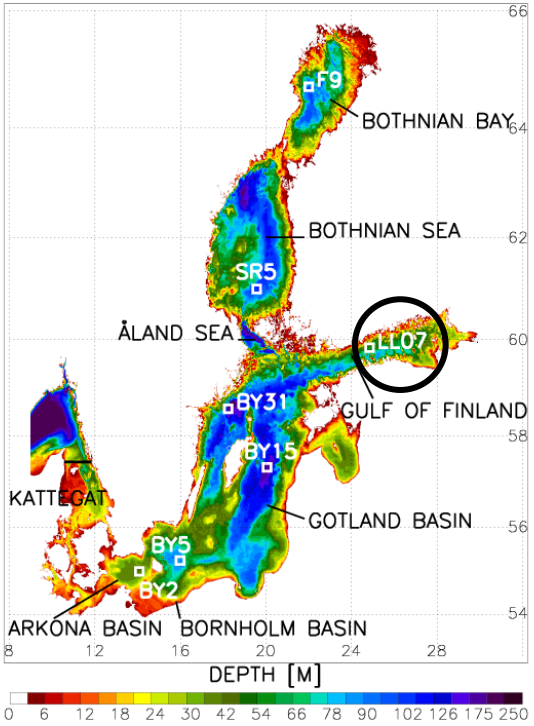






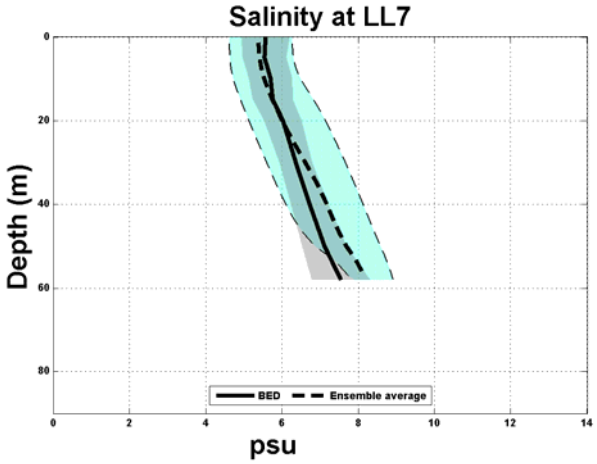
ECOSUPPORT

Annual average 1970-2005



Station list

Salinity



Solid line: BED data mean value

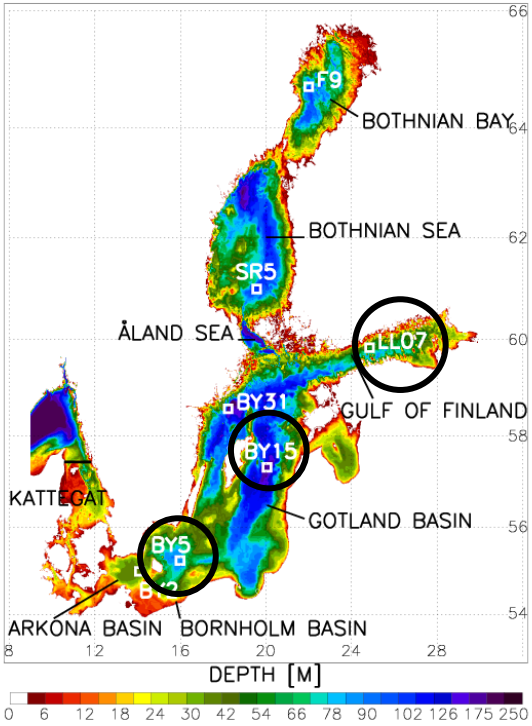
Grey shaded area: ±1 standard deviation

Dashed line: Ensemble mean value

Blue shaded area: Range of ensemble min and max values (ensemble spread)

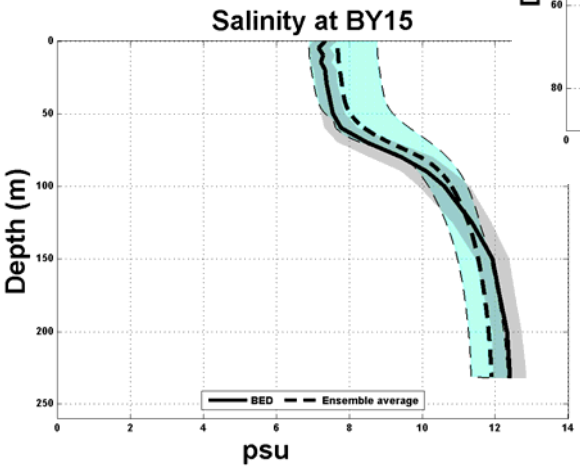
ECOSUPPORT

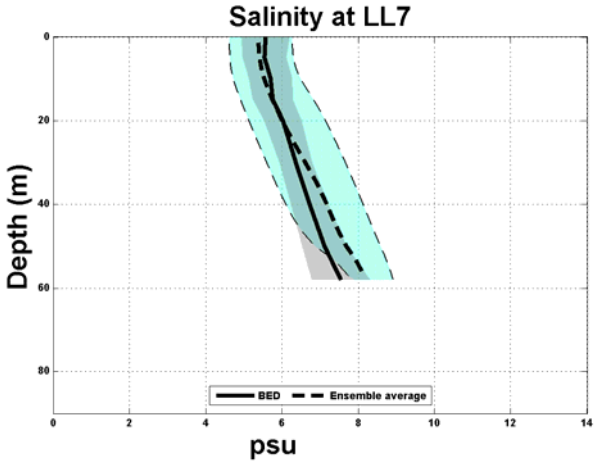
Annual average 1970-2005

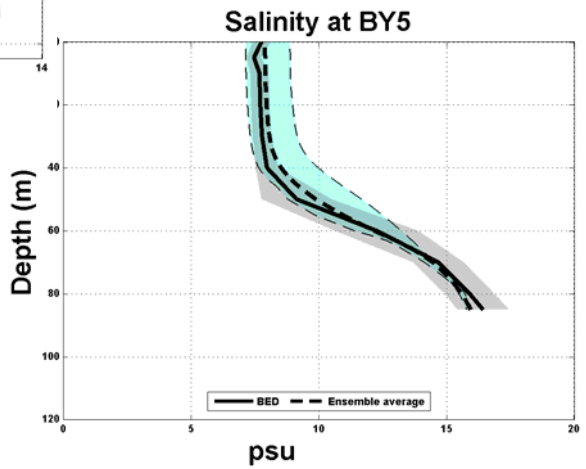


Station list

Salinity

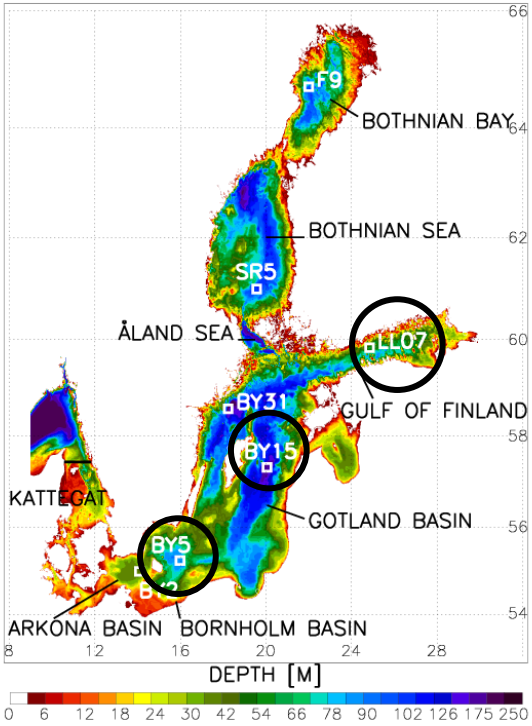






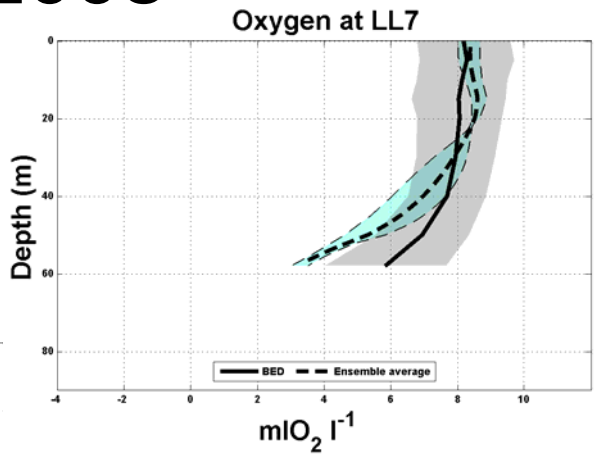
ECOSUPPORT

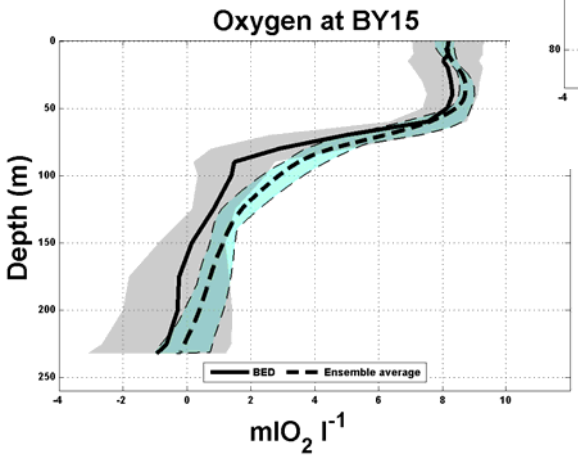
Annual average 1970-2005

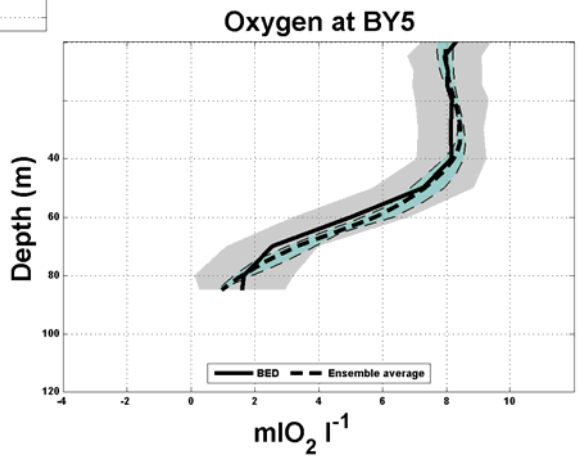


Station list

Oxygen

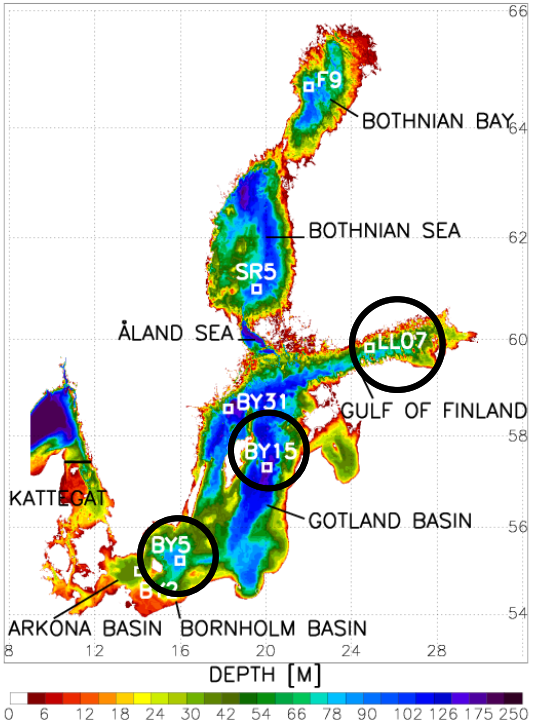






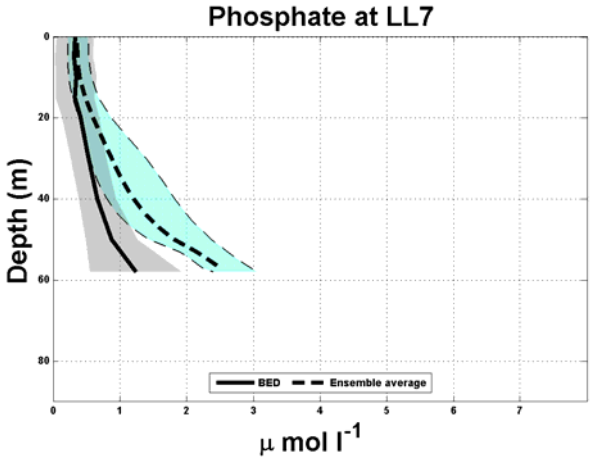
ECOSUPPORT

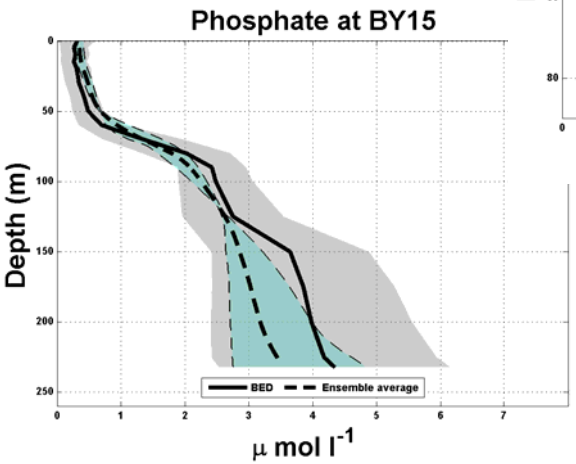
Annual average 1970-2005

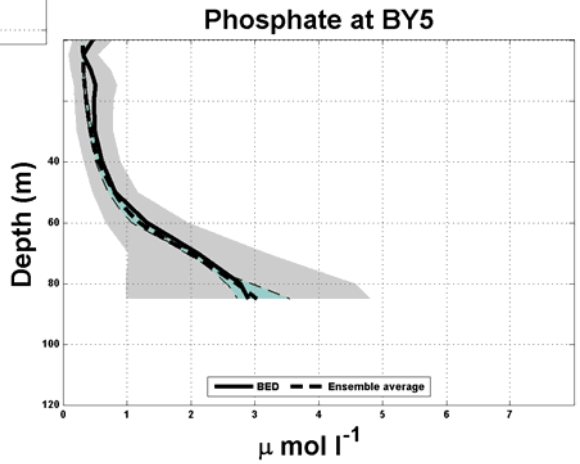


Station list

Phosphate

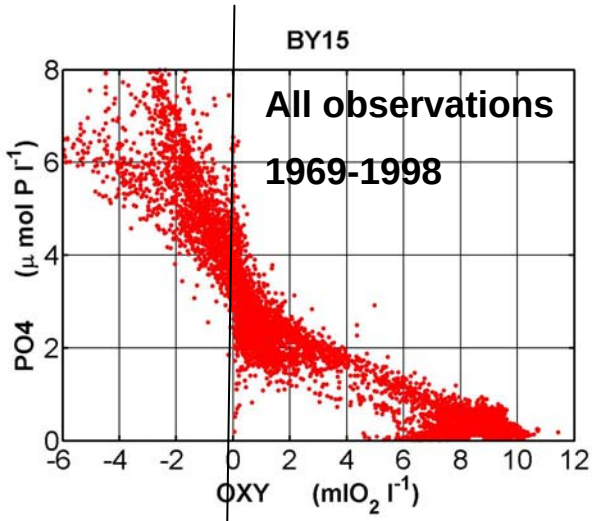




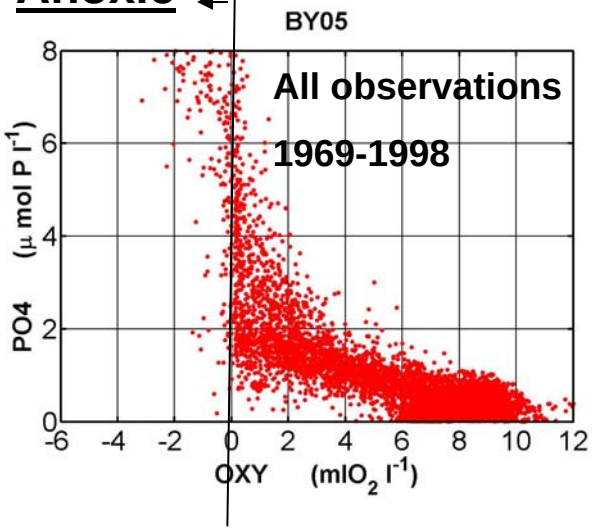


ECOSUPPORT

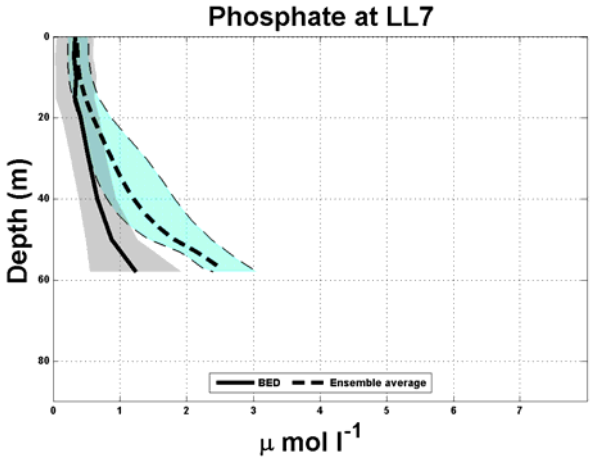
Annual average 1970-2005

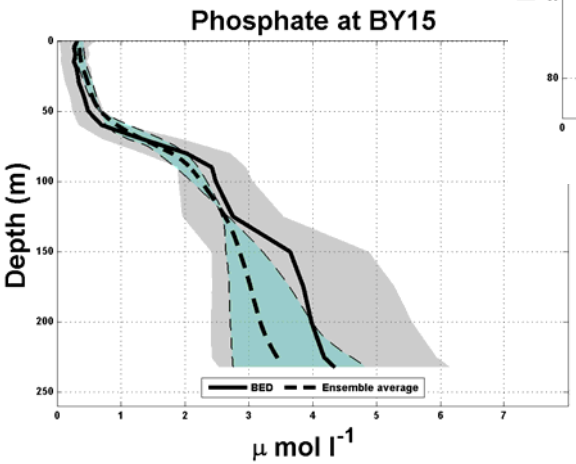


Anoxic ←

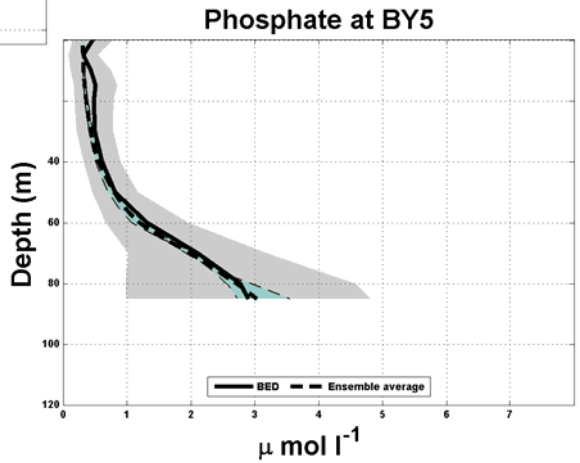


Phosphate



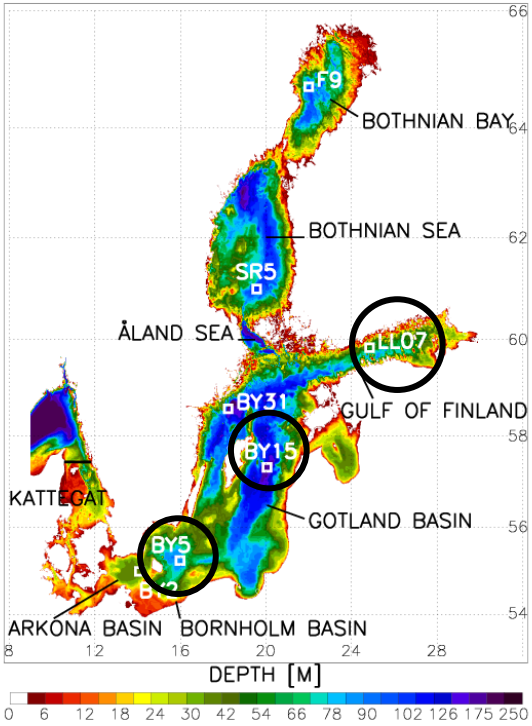


Highly non-linear oxygen dependence



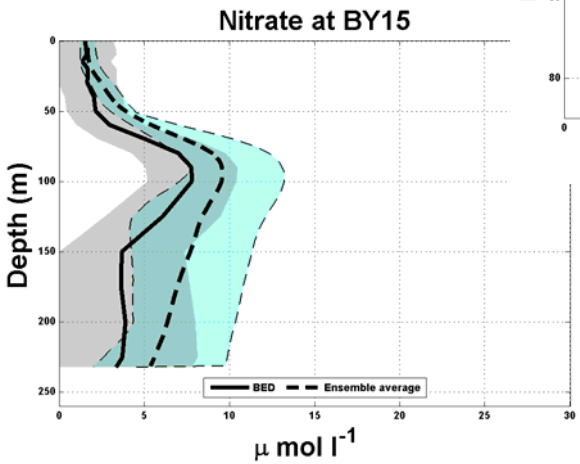
ECOSUPPORT

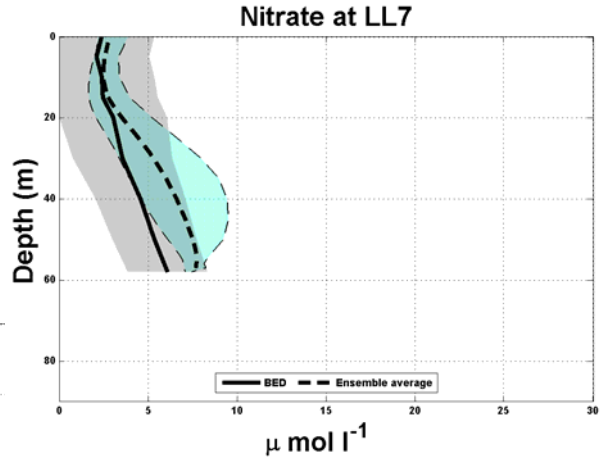
Annual average 1970-2005

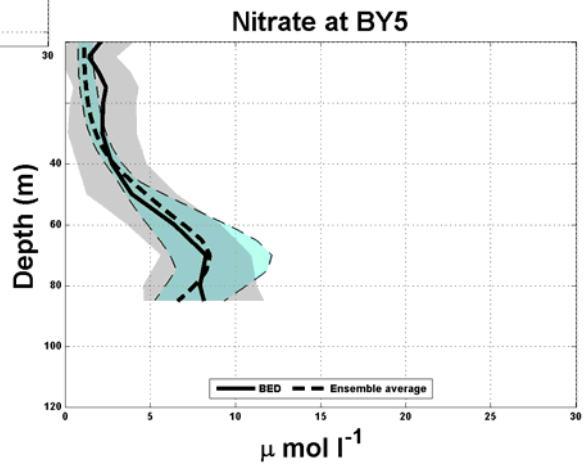


Station list

Nitrate

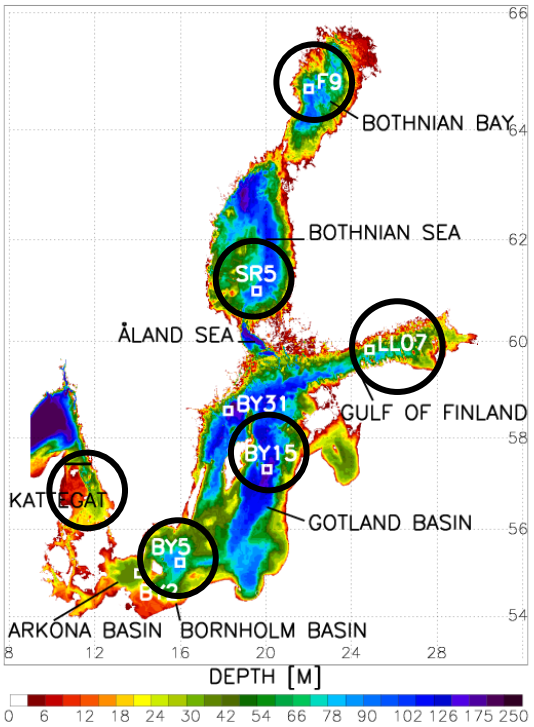






ECOSUPPORT

Ensemble cost function 1970-2005

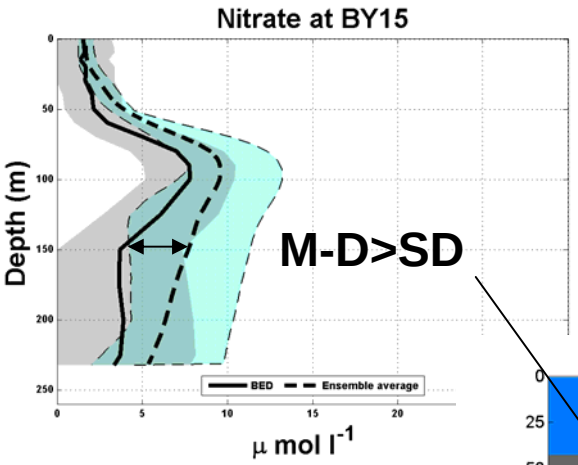


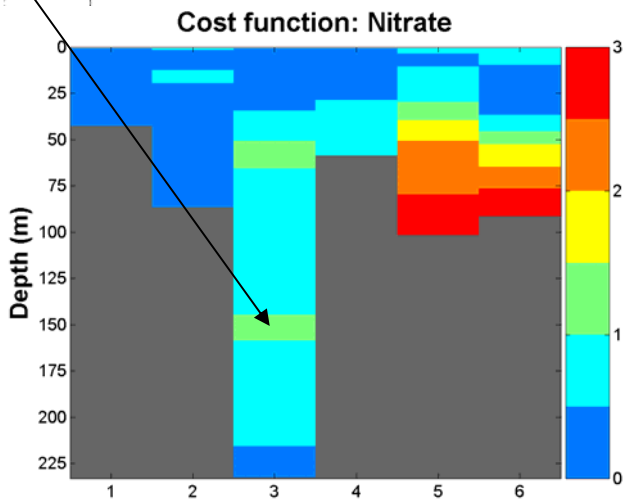
Station list

Nitrate

$$C = \left| \frac{M - D}{SD} \right|$$

$0 \le C < 1$ (good)
$1 \le C < 2$ (reasonable)
$2 \le C$ (poor)



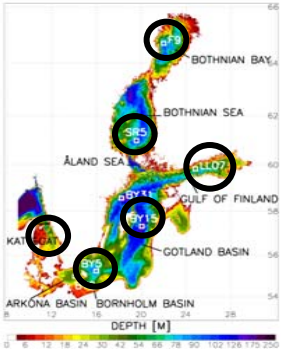


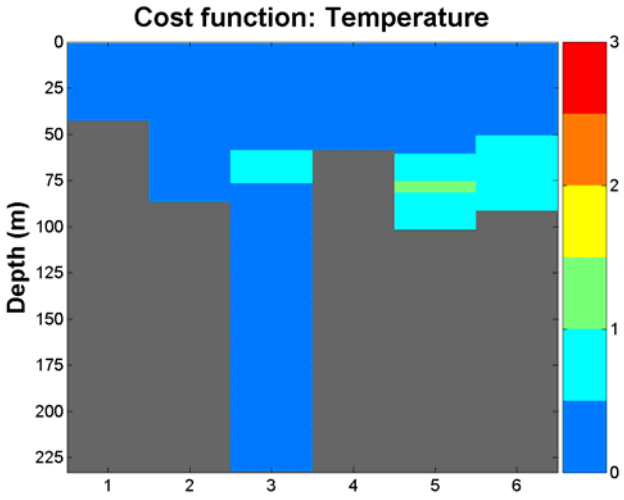
Station number

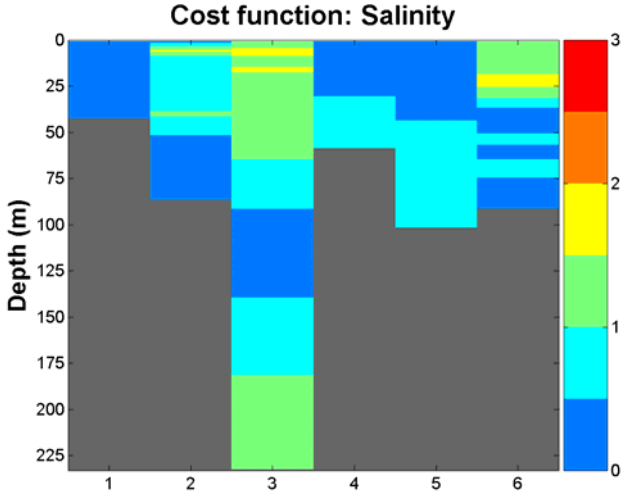
1. Anholt E
2. Bornholm Deep BY5
3. Gotland Deep BY15
4. Gulf of Finland W LL07
5. Bothnian Sea SR5
6. Bothnian Bay F9

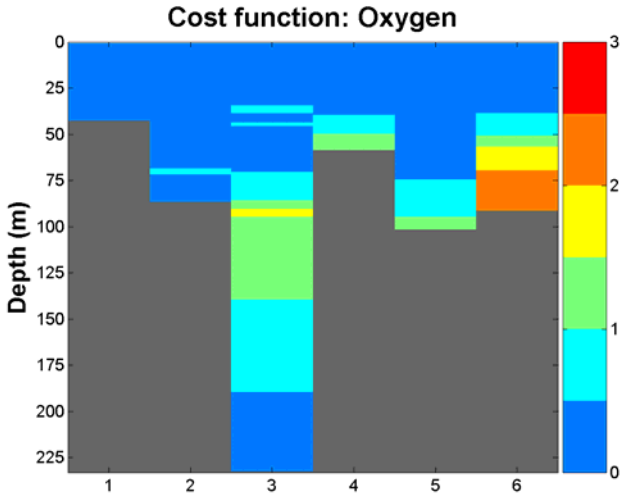
ECOSUPPORT

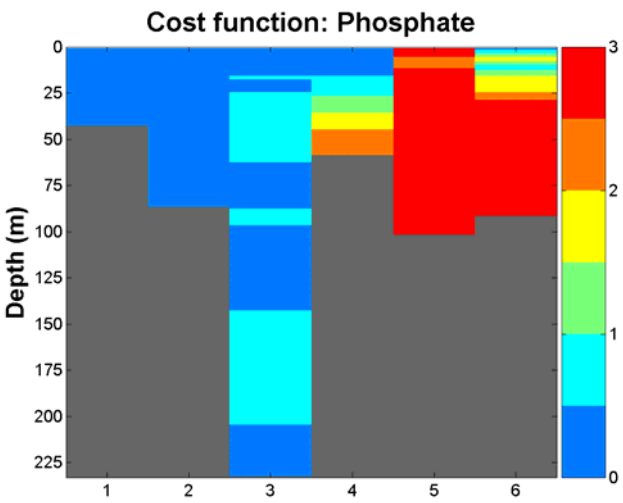
Cost function 1970-2005

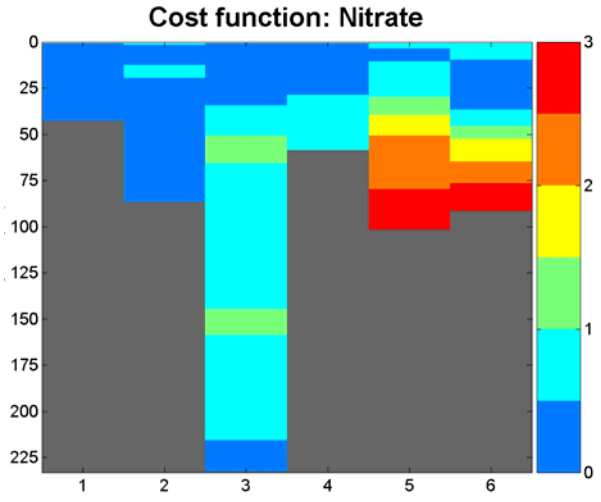






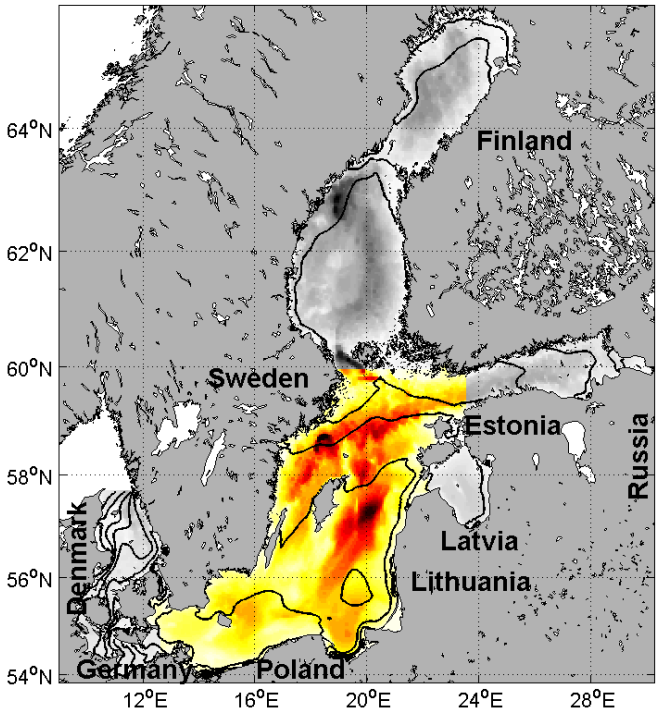






ECOSUPPORT

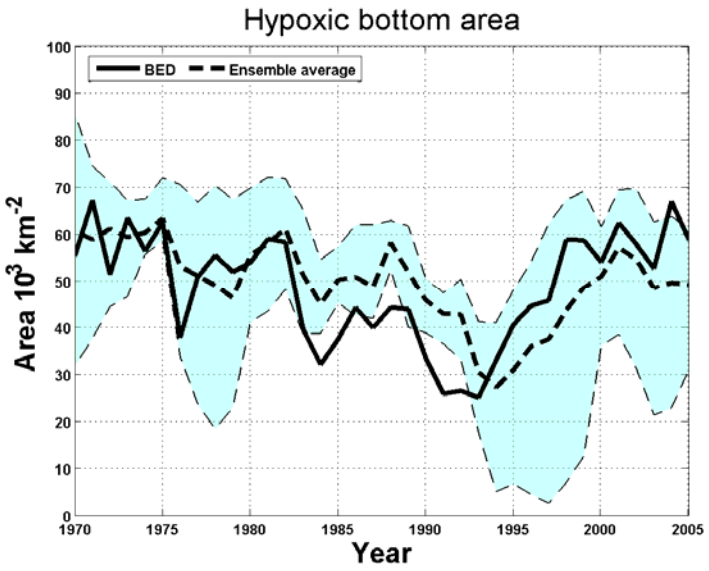
Hypoxic area and cod reproduction volume Baltic proper



Baltic Proper area defined by the colored depth scale

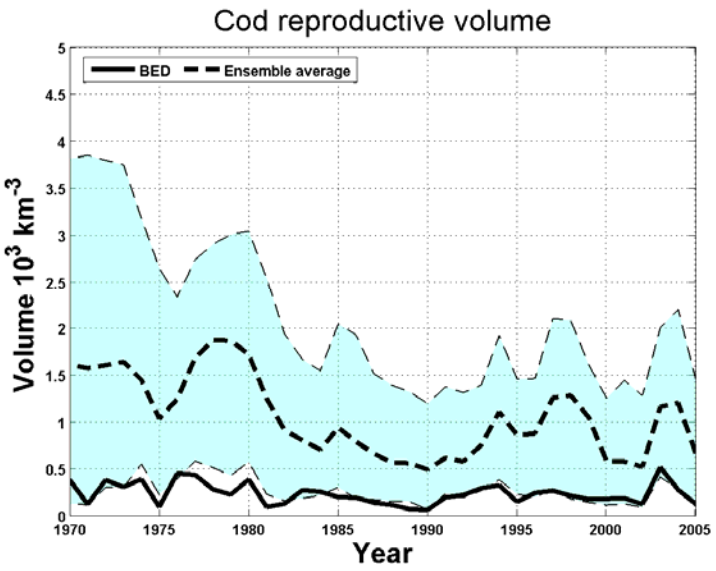
ECOSUPPORT

Hypoxic area and cod reproduction volume Baltic proper



Annual average bottom area covered with

O_2 < 2 ml/l

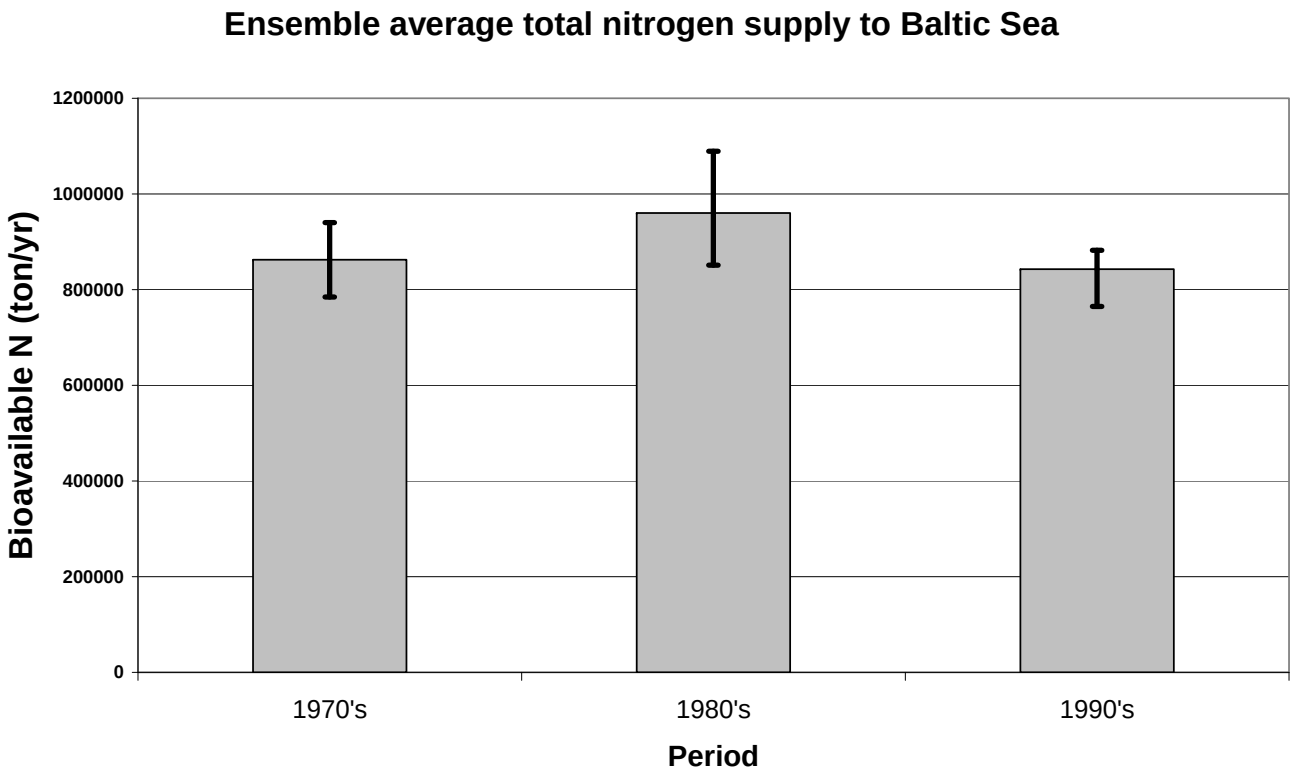


Annual average water volume with

O_2 > 2 ml/l and salinity > 11psu

ECOSUPPORT

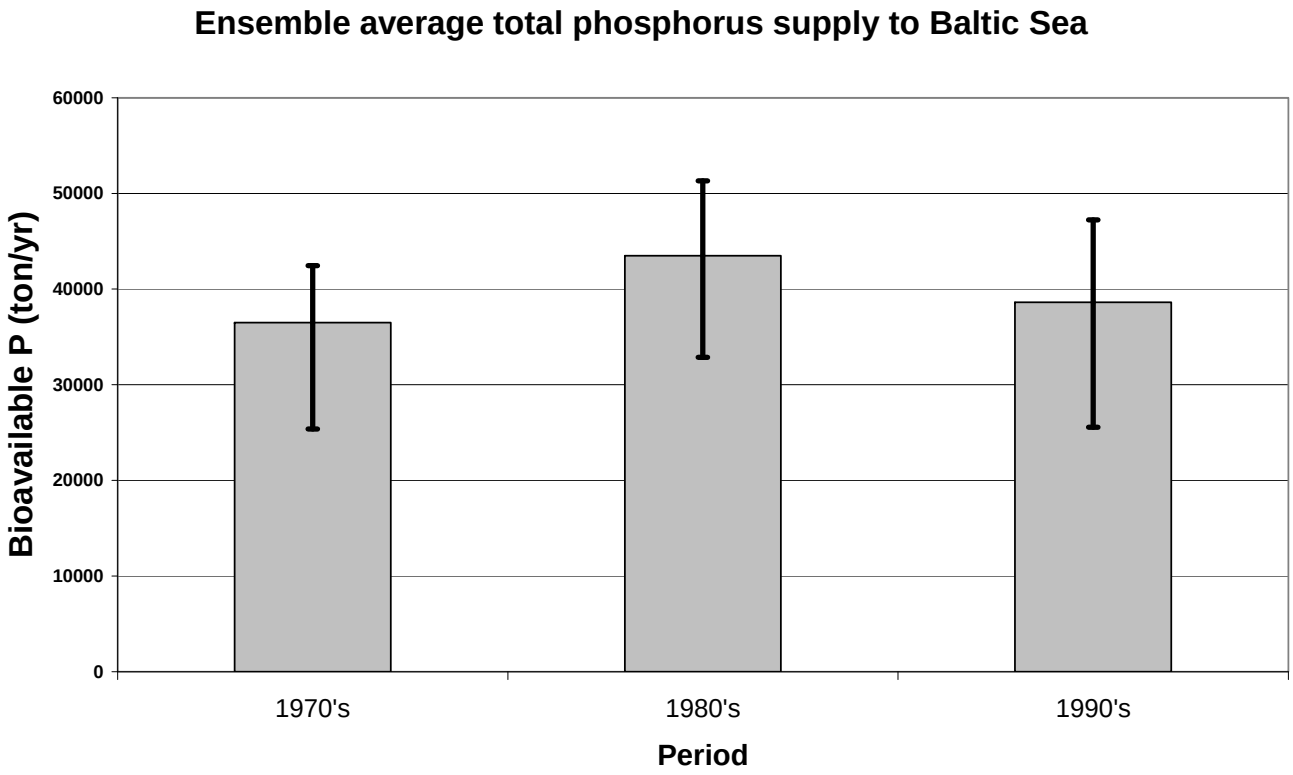
Baltic Sea bioavailable nitrogen loads



Differences between model loadings of N (error bar) are in the range 14-25 % of the ensemble average supplies (grey bar).

ECOSUPPORT

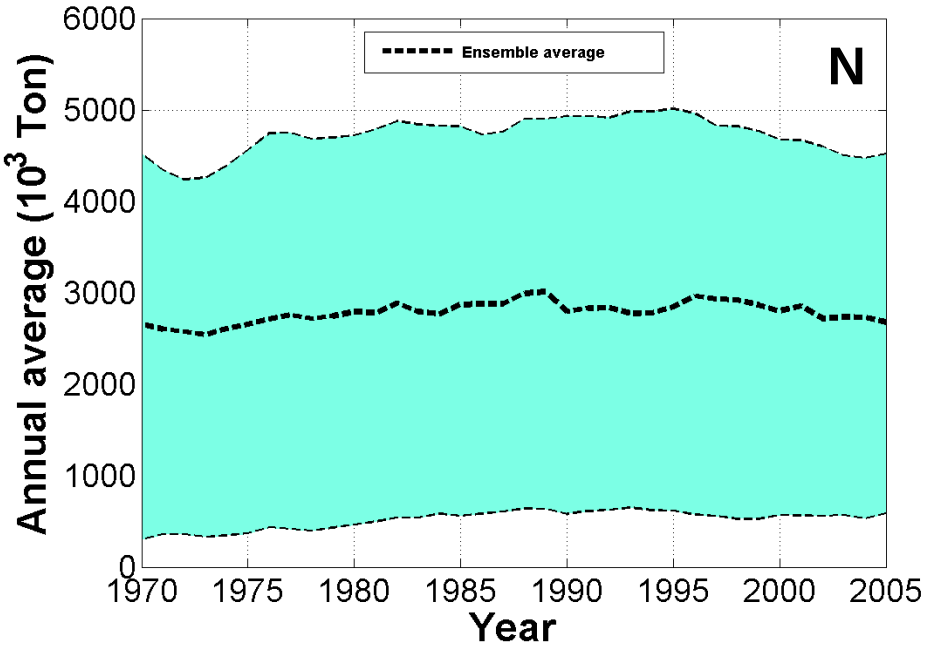
Baltic Sea bioavailable phosphorus loads

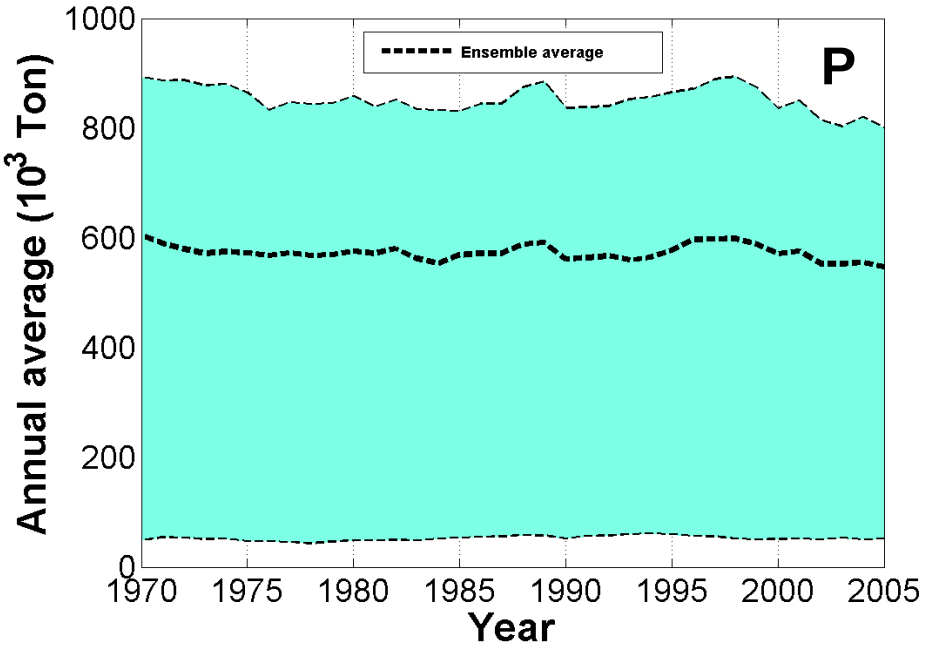


Differences between model loadings of P (error bar) are in the range 42-56 % of the ensemble average supplies (grey bar).

ECOSUPPORT

Baltic Proper sediment content





Spread between modelled sediment contents of N and P (blue shaded area) is in the range 140-150 % of the ensemble average content (dashed line).

Challenges and future outlook

- √ Ongoing discussions about the introduction of harmonized nutrient loadings to the models and about the key processes that cause uncertainties for the sediment pools and fluxes
- √ The atmospheric forcing of the models will be updated
- √ The model calibrations and validations will be repeated with updated forcing and nutrient loading
- √ Methods to quantify model ensemble results and uncertainties related to the different models results will be further discussed and developed
- √ The results from each individual model and the causes to differences between models will be further analyzed

ECO SUPPORT

Baltic Nest Institute

Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde IOW

SMHI

Main conclusions repeated

√ • All models and the ensemble mean describe the variability of biogeochemical cycles and hypoxic area well

√ • Ensemble mean cod reproduction volume and DIN and DIP in the Gulf of Bothnia and in the deepest parts of the Gulf of Finland need improvement

√ • The ensemble mean is relatively strongly influenced by any one model member that by some reason give very poor results in some region

√ • Uncertainties are related to bioavailable fractions of nutrient loadings from land and key processes like sediment fluxes that are presently not well known

ECO SUPPORT

Baltic Nest Institute

Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde IOW

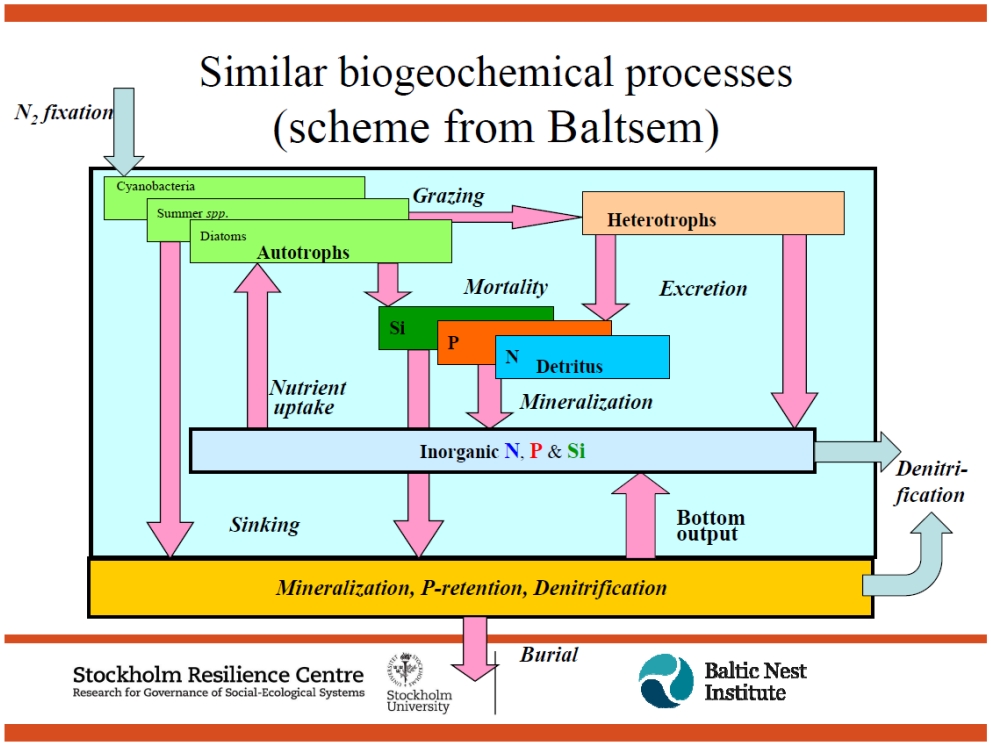
SMHI

Thank you !

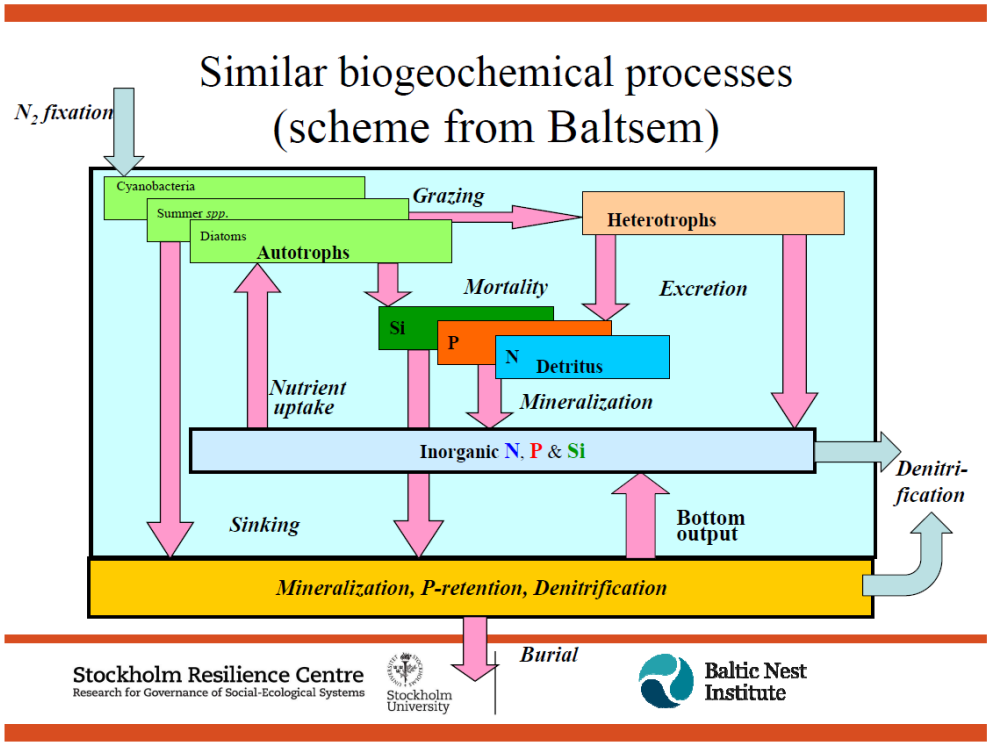
Questions ?

ECO SUPPORT

Advanced modeling tool for scenarios of the Baltic Sea ECOsystem to SUPPORT decision making



The ERGOM, RCO-SCOBI and BALTSEM models are similar in that they handle dynamics of nitrogen, oxygen and phosphorus including the inorganic nutrients, nitrate, ammonia and phosphate (and also silicate in BALTSEM and inorganic carbon in ERGOM), and particulate organic matter consisting of phytoplankton (autotrophs), dead organic matter (detritus) and zooplankton (heterotrophs). Primary production assimilates the inorganic nutrients by three functional groups of phytoplankton, diatoms, flagellates and others, and cyanobacteria. Organic material may sink and accumulate in the model sediment as benthic nitrogen and phosphorus (and silicate in BALTSEM).



Key differences:

•Differences in treatment of dead organic matter: one state-variable for each nutrient vs. a single variable with constant N/P ratio

•Differences in parameterizations of P sediment dynamics, in particular redox dependent P processes

•Resuspension and sediment transport: mechanistic description (from waves and currents) vs. simple parameterization

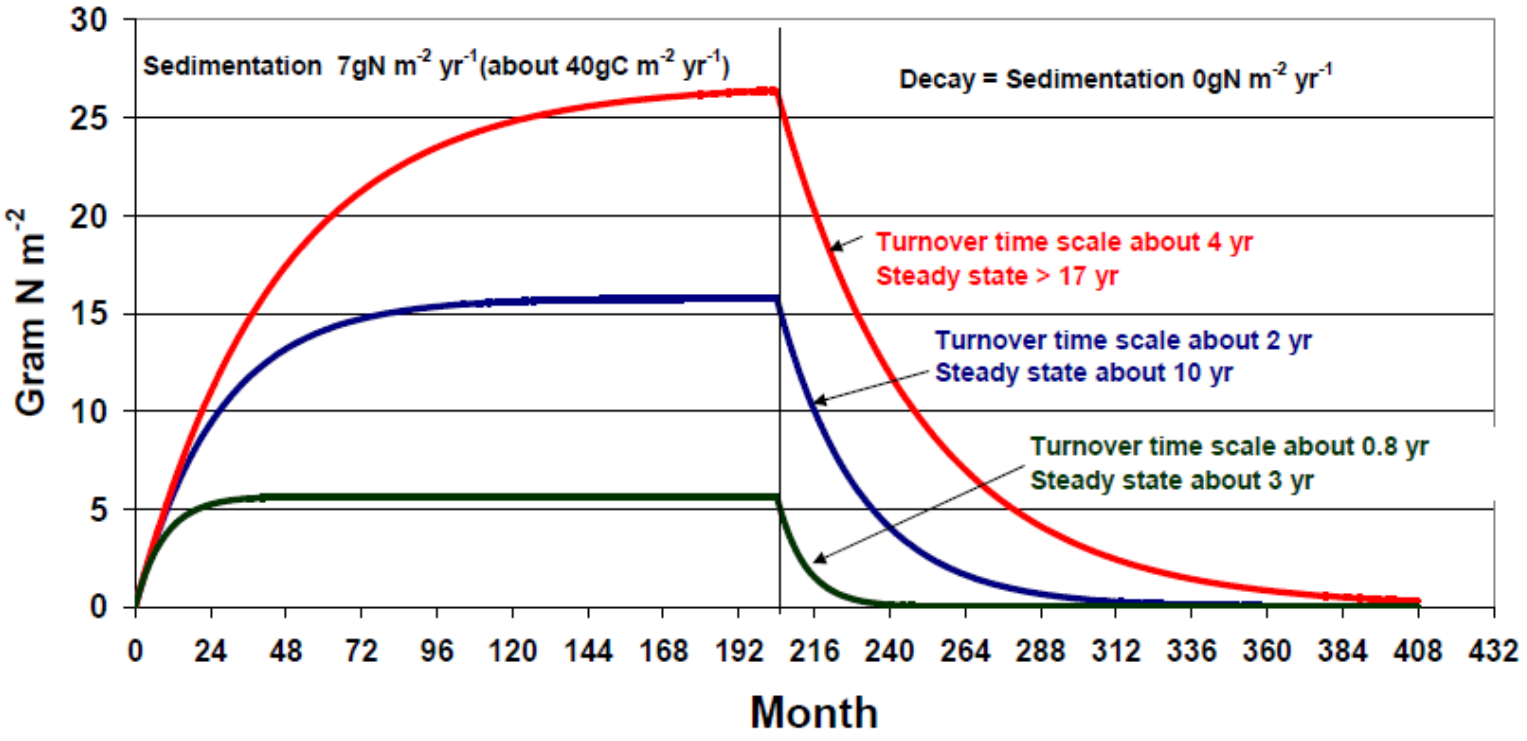
•Resolving coastal boundary and deep pits vs. large-scale horizontally integrated sub-basins

•Different vertical resolution

•In addition there are other “minor” quantitative (relationships) and qualitative (numerical values of constants) differences in parameterizations of similar pelagic and sediment biogeochemical processes that have not been listed and analyzed yet.

ECOSUPPORT

Sediment concentrations discussion



Theorethical consideration based on decomposition and burial rates in the models.

The sediment N turnover time scales in the models vary from about 1 to 4 yr

The time scales of steady state in the sediment N vary from about 5 to >25 yr