**Supplementary Information Table S4: SIMPER results**

**SIMPER: Designation Phase**

*Group Barents Sea*

Average squared distance = 4.88

Criteria Contrib% Cum.%

1a. Benthos Considered in original designation 0.00 0.00

2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools 0.00 0.00

2c. Management measures on benthos 0.00 0.00

2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos 2.23 2.23

2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA 97.77 100.00

*Group W. Mediterranean*

*Average squared distance = 3.84*

*Criteria Contrib% Cum.%*

*2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools 3.00 3.00*

*2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos 7.77 10.78*

*1a. Benthos Considered in original designation 10.82 21.60*

*2c. Management measures on benthos 12.68 34.28*

*2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA 65.72 100.00*

*Group Celtic Sea*

Average squared distance = 2.14

Criteria Contrib% Cum.%

2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA 0.00 0.00

2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos 6.37 6.37

2c. Management measures on benthos 6.51 12.87

2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools 41.74 54.61

1a. Benthos Considered in original designation 45.39 100.00

*Group Baltic Sea*

*Average squared distance = 4.42*

*Criteria* Contrib% Cum.%

*2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA 0.00 0.00*

*2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos 14.26 14.26*

*2c. Management measures on benthos 25.89 40.15*

*2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools 26.44 66.59*

*1a. Benthos Considered in original designation 33.41 100.00*

*Group Greater North Sea*

Average squared distance = 4.01

Criteria Contrib% Cum.%

2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA 0.00 0.00

1a. Benthos Considered in original designation 22.00 22.00

2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools 23.51 45.51

2c. Management measures on benthos 26.77 72.28

2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos 27.72 100.00

*Group Norwegian Sea*

All the distances are zero

**SIMPER Pairwise Comparisons for Designation Phase**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Groups Baltic Sea & Barents Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 25.65 | Baltic Sea | Barents Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA | -0.249 | 2.57 | 11.9 | 1.41 | 46.48 | 46.48 |
| 2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos | -0.984 | 0.902 | 4.26 | 1.76 | 16.60 | 63.07 |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | -0.694 | 0.802 | 3.37 | 1.08 | 13.12 | 76.19 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | -0.607 | 0.893 | 3.35 | 1.16 | 13.07 | 89.26 |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | -0.557 | 0.597 | 2.76 | 0.92 | 10.74 | 100.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Barents Sea & Celtic Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 15.95 | Barents Sea | Celtic Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA | 2.57 | -0.249 | 11.9 | 1.40 | 74.74 | 74.74 |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | 0.802 | -0.125 | 1.68 | 0.69 | 10.52 | 85.26 |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | 0.597 | 7.92E-2 | 1.16 | 0.50 | 7.25 | 92.51 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Barents Sea & Greater North Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 17.32 | Barents Sea | G. North Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA | 2.57 | -0.249 | 11.9 | 1.41 | 68.86 | 68.86 |
| 2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos | 0.902 | 0.299 | 1.53 | 0.63 | 8.86 | 77.73 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | 0.893 | 0.247 | 1.46 | 0.55 | 8.43 | 86.16 |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | 0.802 | 0.129 | 1.37 | 0.55 | 7.90 | 94.06 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Barents Sea & W. Mediterranean |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 14.82 | Barents Sea | W. Med |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA | 2.57 | 0.402 | 11 | 1.26 | 74.26 | 74.26 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | 0.893 | -0.399 | 2.12 | 1.48 | 14.29 | 88.55 |
| 2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos | 0.902 | 0.279 | 0.754 | 1.11 | 5.09 | 93.64 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Barents Sea & Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 12.20 | Barents Sea | Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA | 2.57 | -0.249 | 11.9 | 1.40 | 97.77 | 97.77 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Baltic Sea & W. Mediterranean |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 11.52 | Baltic Sea | W. Med |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA | -0.249 | 0.402 | 2.75 | 0.43 | 23.89 | 23.89 |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | -0.694 | 0.45 | 2.54 | 0.98 | 22.07 | 45.96 |
| 2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos | -0.984 | 0.279 | 2.48 | 1.18 | 21.55 | 67.51 |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | -0.557 | 2.34E-2 | 2.14 | 0.93 | 18.63 | 86.14 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | -0.607 | -0.399 | 1.6 | 0.91 | 13.86 | 100.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Celtic Sea & W. Mediterranean |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 6.56 | Celtic Sea | W. Med |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA | -0.249 | 0.402 | 2.75 | 0.43 | 41.96 | 41.96 |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | 7.92E-2 | 2.34E-2 | 1.28 | 0.75 | 19.46 | 61.42 |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | -0.125 | 0.45 | 1.25 | 0.64 | 19.14 | 80.56 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | 0.139 | -0.399 | 0.866 | 1.20 | 13.21 | 93.77 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups W. Mediterranean & Greater North Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 8.41 | W. Med | G. North Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA | 0.402 | -0.249 | 2.75 | 0.43 | 32.73 | 32.73 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | -0.399 | 0.247 | 1.91 | 1.20 | 22.71 | 55.44 |
| 2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos | 0.279 | 0.299 | 1.36 | 0.86 | 16.13 | 71.56 |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | 2.34E-2 | 0.183 | 1.27 | 0.74 | 15.06 | 86.62 |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | 0.45 | 0.129 | 1.12 | 0.57 | 13.38 | 100.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups W. Mediterranean & Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 6.13 | W. Med | Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2d. Benthic disturbance banned from whole MPA | 0.402 | -0.249 | 2.75 | 0.42 | 44.91 | 44.91 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | -0.399 | 0.893 | 2.12 | 1.48 | 34.57 | 79.49 |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | 2.34E-2 | 0.597 | 0.712 | 0.92 | 11.62 | 91.11 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Baltic Sea & Greater North Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 11.76 | Baltic Sea | G. North Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos | -0.984 | 0.299 | 3.33 | 1.25 | 28.35 | 28.35 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | -0.607 | 0.247 | 2.88 | 1.04 | 24.45 | 52.81 |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | -0.557 | 0.183 | 2.83 | 0.95 | 24.05 | 76.86 |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | -0.694 | 0.129 | 2.72 | 0.98 | 23.14 | 100.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Greater North Sea & Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 4.97 | G. North Sea | Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | 0.247 | 0.893 | 1.46 | 0.55 | 29.39 | 29.39 |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | 0.129 | 0.802 | 1.37 | 0.55 | 27.54 | 56.93 |
| 2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos | 0.299 | 0.476 | 1.11 | 0.74 | 22.37 | 79.30 |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | 0.183 | 0.597 | 1.03 | 0.45 | 20.70 | 100.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Baltic Sea & Celtic Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 9.34 | Baltic Sea | Celtic Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | -0.557 | 7.92E-2 | 2.72 | 0.94 | 29.10 | 29.10 |
| 2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos | -0.984 | 0.37 | 2.57 | 1.66 | 27.47 | 56.57 |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | -0.694 | -0.125 | 2.27 | 0.92 | 24.29 | 80.86 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | -0.607 | 0.139 | 1.79 | 1.12 | 19.14 | 100.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Celtic Sea & Greater North Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 5.95 | Celtic Sea | G. North Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | -0.125 | 0.129 | 1.8 | 0.76 | 30.24 | 30.24 |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | 7.92E-2 | 0.183 | 1.76 | 0.66 | 29.55 | 59.78 |
| 2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos | 0.37 | 0.299 | 1.21 | 0.80 | 20.34 | 80.12 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | 0.139 | 0.247 | 1.18 | 0.82 | 19.88 | 100.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Baltic Sea & Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 12.21 | Baltic Sea | Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | -0.694 | 0.802 | 3.37 | 1.08 | 27.55 | 27.55 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | -0.607 | 0.893 | 3.35 | 1.16 | 27.45 | 55.00 |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | -0.557 | 0.597 | 2.76 | 0.92 | 22.56 | 77.56 |
| 2b. Impact of Human activities on benthos | -0.984 | 0.476 | 2.74 | 1.85 | 22.44 | 100.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Celtic Sea & Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 3.67 | Celtic Sea | Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 2a. Benthic ecosystem components and tools | -0.125 | 0.802 | 1.68 | 0.69 | 45.76 | 45.76 |
| 1a. Benthos Considered in original designation | 7.92E-2 | 0.597 | 1.16 | 0.50 | 31.56 | 77.32 |
| 2c. Management measures on benthos | 0.139 | 0.893 | 0.695 | 0.75 | 18.97 | 96.29 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**SIMPER: Implementation Phase**

*Group W. Mediterranean*

Average squared distance = 1.58

Criteria Contrib% Cum.%

4a. Assessment of State of benthos 9.08 9.08

4b. Monitoring of benthos 31.66 40.75

3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) 59.25 100.00

*Group Celtic Sea*

Average squared distance = 0.68

Criteria Contrib% Cum.%

4a. Assessment of State of benthos 10.40 10.40

3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) 26.89 37.29

4b. Monitoring of benthos 62.71 100.00

*Group Baltic Sea*

Average squared distance = 2.22

Criteria Contrib% Cum.%

4b. Monitoring of benthos 22.86 22.86

4a. Assessment of State of benthos 30.21 53.07

3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) 46.93 100.00

*Group Greater North Sea*

Average squared distance = 3.83

Criteria Contrib% Cum.%

3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) 24.69 24.69

4b. Monitoring of benthos 37.35 62.04

4a. Assessment of State of benthos 37.96 100.00

*Group Norwegian Sea*

All the distances are zero

*Group Barents Sea*

All the distances are zero

**SIMPER: Pairwise Comparisons for Implementation Phase**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Groups Barents Sea & Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All the distances are zero |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Baltic Sea & W. Mediterranean |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 9.10 | Baltic Sea | W. Med |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | -0.406 | 1.24 | 4.59 | 1.14 | 50.42 | 50.42 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | -0.281 | 1.13 | 2.76 | 1.52 | 30.38 | 80.8 |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | -6.16E-02 | 0.83 | 1.75 | 0.96 | 19.2 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Barents Sea & W. Mediterranean |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 11.22 | Barents Sea | W. Med |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | -1.12 | 0.83 | 4.28 | 2.17 | 38.1 | 38.1 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | -0.818 | 1.13 | 3.92 | 3.91 | 34.92 | 73.03 |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | -0.228 | 1.24 | 3.03 | 1.26 | 26.97 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Celtic Sea & W. Mediterranean |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 6.66 | Celtic Sea | W. Med |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | -0.297 | 1.24 | 3.4 | 1.16 | 51.08 | 51.08 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | -0.248 | 1.13 | 2.09 | 2.04 | 31.4 | 82.48 |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | 0.27 | 0.83 | 1.17 | 0.83 | 17.52 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups W. Mediterranean & Greater North Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 8.08 | W. Med | G. North Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | 1.24 | 4.89E-02 | 3.21 | 0.99 | 39.72 | 39.72 |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | 0.83 | 6.37E-02 | 2.44 | 0.99 | 30.22 | 69.93 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | 1.13 | 0.189 | 2.43 | 1.28 | 30.07 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups W. Mediterranean & Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 11.22 | W. Med | Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | 0.83 | -1.12 | 4.28 | 2.17 | 38.1 | 38.1 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | 1.13 | -0.818 | 3.92 | 3.91 | 34.92 | 73.03 |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | 1.24 | -0.228 | 3.03 | 1.26 | 26.97 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Baltic Sea & Celtic Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 2.89 | Baltic Sea | Celtic Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | -0.406 | -0.297 | 1.18 | 0.93 | 41 | 41 |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | -6.16E-02 | 0.27 | 0.99 | 0.75 | 34.32 | 75.32 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | -0.281 | -0.248 | 0.712 | 0.84 | 24.68 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Barents Sea & Celtic Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 2.89 | Barents Sea | Celtic Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | -1.12 | 0.27 | 2.33 | 1.26 | 80.58 | 80.58 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | -0.818 | -0.248 | 0.39 | 2.22 | 13.46 | 94.04 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Baltic Sea & Barents Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 3.59 | Baltic Sea | Barents Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | -6.16E-02 | -1.12 | 1.62 | 1.11 | 45.05 | 45.05 |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | -0.406 | -0.228 | 1.04 | 1.27 | 28.88 | 73.93 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | -0.281 | -0.818 | 0.935 | 0.58 | 26.07 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Baltic Sea &Greater North Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 6.31 | Baltic Sea | G. North Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | -0.281 | 0.189 | 2.28 | 0.83 | 36.16 | 36.16 |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | -0.406 | 4.89E-02 | 2.13 | 0.82 | 33.78 | 69.93 |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | -6.16E-02 | 6.37E-02 | 1.9 | 1.05 | 30.07 | 100 |
| Groups Barents Sea & Greater North Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 6.23 | Barents Sea | G. North Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | -1.12 | 6.37E-02 | 2.8 | 0.95 | 44.98 | 44.98 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | -0.818 | 0.189 | 2.43 | 0.77 | 39 | 83.98 |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | -0.228 | 4.89E-02 | 0.997 | 0.72 | 16.02 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Celtic Sea & Greater North Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 4.70 | Celtic Sea | G. North Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | 0.27 | 6.37E-02 | 1.83 | 1.06 | 38.82 | 38.82 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | -0.248 | 0.189 | 1.67 | 0.84 | 35.51 | 74.32 |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | -0.297 | 4.89E-02 | 1.21 | 0.69 | 25.68 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Baltic Sea & Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 3.59 | Baltic Sea | Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | -6.16E-02 | -1.12 | 1.62 | 1.11 | 45.05 | 45.05 |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | -0.406 | -0.228 | 1.04 | 1.27 | 28.88 | 73.93 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | -0.281 | -0.818 | 0.935 | 0.58 | 26.07 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Celtic Sea & Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 2.89 | Celtic Sea | Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | 0.27 | -1.12 | 2.33 | 1.26 | 80.58 | 80.58 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | -0.248 | -0.818 | 0.39 | 2.22 | 13.46 | 94.04 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Groups Greater North Sea & Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average squared distance = 6.23 | G. North Sea | Norwegian Sea |  |  |  |  |
| Variable | Av.Value | Av.Value | Av.Sq.Dist | Sq.Dist/SD | Contrib% | Cum.% |
| 4b. Monitoring of benthos | 6.37E-02 | -1.12 | 2.8 | 0.96 | 44.98 | 44.98 |
| 4a. Assessment of State of benthos | 0.189 | -0.818 | 2.43 | 0.77 | 39 | 83.98 |
| 3. Benthic indicators (or descriptors) | 4.89E-02 | -0.228 | 0.997 | 0.72 | 16.02 | 100 |