

# Mesoscale variability of phosphorus stocks, hydrological and biological processes in the mixed layer in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea in autumn and during an unusually dense winter phytoplankton bloom

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## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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#### List of abbreviations

BP: heterotrophic prokaryotic production  
Crypto: cryptophytes-like cells  
DCM: deep chlorophyll maximum  
DIP: dissolved inorganic phosphorus  
DOC: dissolved organic carbon  
DON: dissolved organic nitrogen  
DOP: dissolved organic phosphorus  
EMS: eastern Mediterranean Sea  
Hprok: heterotrophic prokaryotes  
H500: dynamic topography relative to 500 dbar  
L<sub>DOP</sub>: hydrolysable fraction of DOP  
LWCC: liquid waveguide capillary cell  
ML: mixed layer  
MLD: mixed layer depth  
MS: Mediterranean Sea  
Nanoeuk: nanophytoeukaryotes  
NOx: the sum of nitrate + nitrite  
PCA: principal component analysis  
Q10: how many times a biological rate or chemical reaction changes when the temperature shifts by 10°C  
PDE: phosphodiesterase  
Picoeuk: picophytoeukaryotes  
PISO : depth of isopycnal 29.05 kg m<sup>-3</sup>  
PME : phosphomonoesterase  
PP : primary production  
Proc : *Prochlorococcus*  
Syn : *Synechococcus*  
σ: excess density  
Tchl<sub>a</sub> : total chlorophyll a  
ZNcline: nitracline depth  
ZPcline: phosphaciline depth

## Material and Methods

### Phosphacline and nitracline depths

The phosphacline (nitracline) was defined for each station as the layer with maximum vertical gradient of DIP (NO<sub>x</sub>) concentration (computed as the highest significant slope of the linear fitting of DIP (NO<sub>x</sub>) concentration as a function of depth). The set of concentrations selected inside phosphacline (nitracline) included 3 to 9 data points and varied from  $38 \pm 19$  nM to  $158 \pm 40$  nM for DIP and from  $1.3 \pm 0.8$   $\mu$ M to  $3.5 \pm 1.4$   $\mu$ M for NO<sub>x</sub>. The depth of the top of the Pcline (Ncline) was defined as the intercept of the regression line, which is the highest depth at which DIP (NO<sub>x</sub>) concentration is zero (Moutin and Prieur, 2012). See example Fig. S1b. In the case of DIP versus depth relationship we used the DIP concentrations determined with the LWCC technique for depleted layers and classical DIP measurements for replete layers ( $> 0.08$   $\mu$ M). When a ‘staircase’ effects was seen on the plot showing 2 zones of gradients of concentration with depth, we considered the deepest one to calculate the nitracline and phosphacline depths.

### DIP and NO<sub>x</sub> gradients across isopycnals

‘DIP and NO<sub>x</sub> gradients across isopycnals ( $\partial\text{DIP}/\partial\sigma$  and  $\partial\text{NO}_x/\partial\sigma$ ) at the nutriclines were calculated as the slope of the linear fitting of the relationship between nutrient concentrations and  $\sigma$ . We identified the maximum gradient of DIP (NO<sub>x</sub>) across isopycnals (computed as the highest significant slope of the linear fitting of DIP (NO<sub>x</sub>) concentration as a function of  $\sigma$  (see example Figure S1a). For DIP a second DIP gradient from the surface to the upper boundary of the P-cline (i.e. inside the P-depleted layer, across the ML) was also considered when detectable as suggested in Du et al. (2017) and Pulido-Villena et al. (2021), (i.e. when DIP vs sigma increased linearly). In such cases, the set of concentrations selected varied from  $10 \pm 4$  to  $22 \pm 8$  nM.’

Du, C., Liu, Z., Kao, S.-J., Dai, M. (2017). Diapycnal fluxes of nutrients in an oligotrophic oceanic regime: The South China Sea. *Geophys. Res. Lett.* 44, 11,510–11,518. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2017GL074921>

Moutin, T. and Prieur, L. (2012). Influence of anticyclonic eddies on the Biogeochemistry from the Oligotrophic to the Ultraoligotrophic Mediterranean (BOUM cruise), *Biogeosciences*, 9, 3827–3855, <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-9-3827-2012>

Table S1. Medians, first and 3<sup>rd</sup> percentiles (in brackets) of selected physical and biogeochemical parameters among the different groups of stations according to the PCA results (see Fig. 3, Table 1): group A corresponds to PERLE1 cruise (autumn situation, Ierapetra gyre), groups B to F PERLE 2 cruise (winter/spring situation). \* In B group, medians at ST50 in the center of the Ierapetra anticyclone, are indicated in italics.

parameter	units	A	B*	C	D	E	F
Mixed layer depth	m	30 [22-37]	103 <i>213</i> [83-158]	57 [47-88]	50 [49-51]	22 [17-27]	145 [131-207]
Depth of isopycnal 29.05	m	282 [270-288]	408 <i>408</i> [401-429]	212 [193-216]	100 [86-113]	88 [40-130]	191 [95-249]
dynamic height ref 500 dbar	dyn m	-0.238 [-0.263 -0.209]	-0.320 <i>-0.341</i> [-0.331-0.306]	-0.390 [-0.394 -0.39]	-0.416 [-0.418 - 0.414]	-0.416 [-0.422 -0.409]	-0.395 [-0.398 -0.391]
Temperature	°C	24.9 [24.8-25.8]	16.9 <i>16.6</i> [16.6-17.3]	15.6 [15.5-15.9]	16.1 [16.1-16.2]	16.4 [15.3-16.6]	15.7 [15.6-16.0]
Salinity	PSU	39.70 [39.68-39.73]	39.29 <i>39.28</i> [39.28-39.31]	39.04 [38.99-39.16]	39.21 [39.21-39.22]	39.22 [39.21-39.23]	39.19 [39.15-39.25]
depth of nitracline	m	123 [101-139]	211 <i>210</i> [172-225]	89 [70-109]	85 [58-93]	21 [0-46]	90 [75-139]
depth of phosphacline	m	145 [120-181]	257 <i>257</i> [217-261]	94 [72-114]	103 [74-127]	59 [31-83]	163 [122-205]
$\partial\text{NOx}/\partial\sigma$ gradient	mmol kg <sup>-1</sup>	16 [15-17]	18 <i>18.9</i> [16-19]	34 [33-42]	55 [52-60]	51 [42-58]	28 [27-28]
$\partial\text{DIP}/\partial\sigma$ gradient	$\mu\text{mol}$ kg <sup>-1</sup>	993 [935-1003]	800 <i>799</i> [634-841]	1301 [1172-1375]	2753 [2670-3038]	2410 [2315-2726]	1274 [1230-1521]
NOx	$\mu\text{M}$	0.011 [0.010-0.016]	0.48 <i>049</i> [0.44-0.50]	0.77 [0.40-0.83]	0.700 [0.60-0.79]	0.29 [0.22-0.40]	1.10 [1.09-1.13]
DIP	nM	10.2 [7.9-12.4]	8.4 <i>8.3</i> [8.3-9.2]	9.9 [9.1-10.7]	9.7 [7.8-11.0]	9.1 [8.9-9.5]	23.3 [21.9-24.2]
DOP	nM	22 [20-34]	50 <i>63</i> [30-66]	49 [44-53]	38 [29-42]	49 [37-55]	70 [65-73]
L <sub>DOP</sub>	nM	6.2 [4.0-7.5]	11.4 <i>8.7</i> [8.6-14.8]	11.1 [7.3-13.6]	13.9 [12.4-15.3]	13.5 [10.9-16.5]	29.4 [11.0-33.7]
DON	$\mu\text{M}$	5.2 [4.8-5.7]	4.5 <i>4.7</i> [4.3-4.8]	4.4 [4.2-4.7]	4.3 [4.1-4.4]	4.6 [4.5-4.7]	4.3 [4.2-4.5]
DOC	$\mu\text{M}$	80 [78-81]	65 <i>64</i> [62-66]	60 [58-63]	60 [59-62]	60 [58-65]	57 [56-58]
% L <sub>DOP</sub>	%	23 [14-38]	20 [14-50]	18 [14-26]	33 [31-51]	30 [27-33]	41 [14-53]
NOx:DIP molar ratio		1.5 [1.3-2.3]	55 [51-59]	67 [38-75]	79 [68-87]	32 [25-46]	47 [43-54]

Table S2. Medians, first and 3<sup>rd</sup> percentiles (under brackets) of abundances of microorganisms: *Synechococcus* (Syn), *Prochlorococcus* (proc) picophytoeucaryotes (Picoeuk), nanophytoeucaryotes (Nanoeuk); heterotrophic bacterial abundances (Hprok); BP rates; PME and PDE kinetic characteristics (Vm, Km) as well as cell specific and biomass specific Vm rates among the different groups of stations according to the PCA results (see Fig. 3; Table 1): group A corresponds to PERLE1 cruise (autumn situation, Ierapetra gyre), groups B to F PERLE 2 cruise (winter/spring situation). \*Pigments were not available at some stations, see methods.

parameter	units	A	B	C	D	E	F
Tchla*	$\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$	0.047 [0.043-0.054]	0.23 [0.23-0.25]	0.26 [0.24-0.26]	0.45 [0.36-0.47]	0.42 [0.42-0.45]	0.23 [0.23-0.24]
Proc	$\times 10^3$ cell $\text{mL}^{-1}$	0.58 [0.4-0.7]	1.16 [0.8-1.2]	1.95 [1.6-2.1]	3.68 [3.0-5.1]	3.16 [3.0-4.1]	0.89 [0.82-0.91]
Syn	$\times 10^3$ cell $\text{mL}^{-1}$	12 [11-13]	2.0 [1.7-2.2]	2 [2.0-2.4]	3.8 [3.6-4.6]	5.6 [5.2-6.0]	0.7 [0.6-0.8]
Picoeuk	cell $\text{mL}^{-1}$	495 [407-592]	76 [60-106]	70 [63-81]	218 [195-259]	205 [174-269]	208 [62-251]
Nanoeuk	cell $\text{mL}^{-1}$	87 [65-97]	21 [12-27]	22 [19-27]	21 [20-24]	49 [39-52]	15 [12-16]
Hprok	$\times 10^5$ cells $\text{mL}^{-1}$	3.3 [3.0-3.7]	4.1 [3.9-4.3]	3.3 [3.0-4.3]	6.7 [6.5-7.0]	4.2 [3.9-5.2]	3.7 [3.6-4.0]
BP	$\text{ngC L}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$	ND	7.4 [6.2-12.7]	9.6 [8.4-11.2]	28.3 [24.5-30.9]	22.8 [17.1-27.4]	6.7 [6.3-7.2]
Vm PME	$\text{nmol MUF-P}$ $\text{hydr L}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$	2.3 [1.9-2.6]	3.8 [1.5-4.9]	1.9 [1.7-3.7]	5.2 [4.7-5.9]	11.1 [9.3-16.1]	0.34 [0.22-0.41]
Vm PDE	$\text{nmol bis MUF-P}$ $\text{hydr L}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$	2.5 [1.7-4.2]	7.2 [3.4-8.5]	5.5 [3.2-7.3]	7.2 [6.9-7.4]	18.3 [14.4-21.1]	0.20 [0.16-0.42]
Km PME	$\mu\text{M}$	0.063 [0.059-0.068]	0.14 [0.11-0.19]	0.10 [0.093-0.12]	0.20 [0.17-0.23]	0.22 [0.19-0.27]	0.14 [0.12-0.19]
Km PDE	$\mu\text{M}$	2.6 [2.1-4.3]	5.8 [3.9-6.8]	4.1 [3.2-5.1]	6.30 [5.9-6.5]	6.6 [6.5-6.8]	1.3 [1.0-1.5]
TT PME	days	1.16 [1.05-1.31]	1.84 [1.61-2.74]	2.16 [1.46-2.28]	1.74 [1.21-2.24]	0.82 [0.73-0.91]	19.9 [15.5-27.9]
TT PDE	days	45 [39-52]	36 [32-44]	25 [24-41]	36 [35-42]	15 [14-19]	230 [162-326]
cell specific	$\times 10^{-18} \text{mol}$	7	10	6	7	23	1.0
Vm PME	$\text{hydr cell}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$	[5-8]	[4-12]	[4-10]	[6-9]	[20-29]	[0.5-1.2]
cell specific	$\times 10^{-18} \text{mol}$	8	17	14	11	36	0.7
Vm PDE	$\text{hydr cell}^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$	[5-13]	[8-20]	[10-27]	[10-11]	[33-36]	[0.4-1.1]
biomass sp	$\text{nmol hydr}$	0.32	0.16	0.13	0.17	0.45	0.017
Vm PME	$[\mu\text{gC}]^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$	[0.29-0.36]	[0.09-0.19]	[0.09-0.18]	[0.14-0.21]	[0.37-0.59]	[0.013-0.024]
biomass sp	$\text{nmol hydr}$	0.32	0.35	0.39	0.30	0.74	0.013
Vm PDE	$[\mu\text{gC}]^{-1} \text{h}^{-1}$	[0.23-0.48]	[0.25-0.43]	[0.28-0.66]	[0.26-0.33]	[0.61-0.88]	[0.010-0.027]

Table S3. DIP ( $\partial\text{DIP}/\partial\sigma$ ) and NO<sub>x</sub> ( $\partial\text{NO}_x/\partial\sigma$ ) gradients across isopycnals, values  $\pm$  standard deviation and corresponding significance of the regressions (p). Gradients were estimated from nitracline for NO<sub>x</sub> and from phosphacline for DIP. In some cases, it was also possible to determine a secondary DIP gradient inside P depleted layer (across the ML), when detectable (see supplementary information - material and methods for details); nd: not determined, in italics  $p > 0.05$ .

cruise	group	st	from nitracline		from phosphacline		inside P-depleted layer	
			$\text{mmol kg}^{-1}$		$\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$		$\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$	
			$\partial\text{NO}_x/\partial\sigma$	p	$\partial\text{DIP}/\partial\sigma$	p	$\partial\text{DIP}/\partial\sigma$	p
PERLE1	A	2	12.1 $\pm$ 0.9	< 0.01	887 $\pm$ 161	0.03	2.5 $\pm$ 1.3	0.16
PERLE1	A	5	15.8 $\pm$ 0.4	< 0.01	994 $\pm$ 53	0.03	3.8 $\pm$ 1.1	0.02
PERLE1	A	12	15.3 $\pm$ 0.8	< 0.01	766 $\pm$ 73	< 0.01	9.0 $\pm$ 5.9	0.37
PERLE1	A	15	16.1 $\pm$ 0.8	< 0.01	973 $\pm$ 110	0.013	6.2 $\pm$ 1.4	0.04
PERLE1	A*	16	15.0 $\pm$ 1.4	< 0.01	1011 $\pm$ 58	< 0.01	2.8 $\pm$ 0.8	0.04
PERLE1	A	19	16.2 $\pm$ 0.4	< 0.01	993 $\pm$ 37	< 0.01	5.8 $\pm$ 3.6	0.35
PERLE1	A	20	18.3 $\pm$ 0.9	< 0.01	1187 $\pm$ 70	< 0.01	nd	
PERLE1	A	23	15.7 $\pm$ 1.1	< 0.01	919 $\pm$ 90	< 0.01	3.6 $\pm$ 0.8	0.02
PERLE1	A	25	17.4 $\pm$ 0.6	< 0.01	995 $\pm$ 105	0.011	3.0 $\pm$ 0.8	0.02
PERLE1	A	27	15.5 $\pm$ 1.7	< 0.01	1334 $\pm$ 77	< 0.01	nd	
PERLE1	A	30	17.4 $\pm$ 1.2	< 0.01	952 $\pm$ 89	< 0.01	10.3 $\pm$ 1.5	0.09
PERLE2	F	1	26.5 $\pm$ 4.0	0.02	1186 $\pm$ 83	< 0.01	nd	
PERLE2	F	13	28.5 $\pm$ 1.4	< 0.01	1768 $\pm$ 198	0.07	385 $\pm$ 84	0.02
PERLE2	F	15	28.3 $\pm$ 1.4	< 0.01	1275 $\pm$ 68	0.03	nd	
PERLE2	C	21	42.3 $\pm$ 3.1	< 0.01	3406 $\pm$ 770	0.05	102 $\pm$ 7	0.04
PERLE2	C	26	32.7 $\pm$ 1.4	< 0.01	1301 $\pm$ 21	< 0.01	nd	
PERLE2	C	35	34.5 $\pm$ 2.8	0.05	1375 $\pm$ 83	0.04	nd	
PERLE2	C	44	18.4 $\pm$ 0.8	< 0.01	1172 $\pm$ 51	< 0.01	nd	
PERLE2	B	50	18.9 $\pm$ 0.6	< 0.01	800 $\pm$ 25	0.020	nd	
PERLE2	D*	58	50.0 $\pm$ 0.3	< 0.01	2754 $\pm$ 45	0.010	nd	
PERLE2	E	68	38.1 $\pm$ 5.6	< 0.02	2370 $\pm$ 525	0.139	310 $\pm$ 127	0.14
PERLE2	C	75	44.3 $\pm$ 3.3	< 0.03	700 $\pm$ 219	0.085	nd	
PERLE2	E	80	59.7 $\pm$ 4.1	< 0.01	3549 $\pm$ 301	< 0.01	nd	
PERLE2	E	90	57.5 $\pm$ 7.7	0.02	2451 $\pm$ 305	0.079	97 $\pm$ 62	0.36
PERLE2	E	94	43.8 $\pm$ 1.4	0.02	2150 $\pm$ 185	0.055	nd	
PERLE2	B	104	19.2 $\pm$ 4.0	0.13	883 $\pm$ 206	0.146	429 $\pm$ 133	0.05
PERLE2	B	108	13.3 $\pm$ 1.0	0.05	469 $\pm$ 92	0.123	100 $\pm$ 21	0.13
PERLE2	D	111	55.0 $\pm$ 1.5	< 0.01	3322 $\pm$ 124	0.024	nd	
PERLE2	D	116	64.5 $\pm$ 1.2	0.01	2587 $\pm$ 458	0.112	268 $\pm$ 60	0.02

Table S4. Correlation coefficients (Pearson) between hydrological and biotic variables. Abiotic variables are mixed layer depth (MLD), depth of isopycnal 29.05 kg m<sup>-3</sup> (PISO), dynamic topography relative to 500 dbars (H500), DIP gradient across isopycnals ( $\partial\text{DIP}/\partial\sigma$ ), phosphacline depth, NO<sub>x</sub> gradient across isopycnals ( $\partial\text{NO}_x/\partial\sigma$ ) and nitracline depth. Biotic variables are medians within the mixed layer for nutrient concentrations (DIP, NO<sub>x</sub>, Si), dissolved organic matter (L<sub>DOP</sub>, DOP, DOC), Total chlorophyll a (Tchl a) abundances of cells (*Prochlorococcus* (Proc), *Synechococcus* (Syn), picophytoeukaryotes (Pico-euk), nanophytoeukaryotes (Nano-euk), Cryptophytes-like cells (Crypto), heterotrophic prokaryotes (hprok) with high and low nucleic acid content (HNA, LNA, respectively), and kinetic parameters of phosphomonoesterase (Km PME, Vm PME) and phosphodiesterase (Vm PDE, Km PDE). n = 27 stations, no data = insignificant correlations (p > 0.05), in red positive correlations, in blue negative correlations, in bold r > 0.7 or < -0.7.

	DIP	NO <sub>x</sub>	Si	L <sub>DOP</sub>	DOP	DOC	Tchl a	Proc	Syn	Pico-euk	Nano-euk	Crypto	LNA	HNA	Hprok	Vm PME	Km PME	Vm PDE	Km PDE
MLD	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.70</b>			<b>0.57</b>	-0.42			-0.50	-0.39	-0.46					-0.40		-0.40	-0.43
H500		-0.62	<b>-0.75</b>	-0.49	-0.67	<b>0.85</b>	-0.73	-0.57	<b>0.76</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>0.78</b>		-0.55		-0.52	-0.39	-0.69	-0.40	
PISO			-0.66		-0.41	<b>0.48</b>	-0.49	-0.53				-0.54	-0.51		-0.53	-0.48	-0.50	-0.44	
$\partial\text{DIP}/\partial\sigma$			<b>0.72</b>			-0.46	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.67</b>				<b>0.62</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.52</b>	
ZPcline			-0.40					-0.54				-0.46			-0.39	-0.47		-0.46	
$\partial\text{NO}_x/\partial\sigma$			<b>0.74</b>			-0.62	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.63</b>	-0.43	-0.38	-0.44	<b>0.60</b>	<b>0.67</b>		<b>0.71</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.64</b>	
ZNcline			-0.52				-0.42	-0.56				-0.44	-0.43		-0.42	-0.49		-0.46	

Table S5. Correlation coefficients (Pearson) between hydrological variables and pigments concentrations or ratios, taken at the median values within the mixed layer. Pigment data were 19' butanoyloxyfucoxanthin (19'BF), fucoxanthin (fuco), 19' hexanoyloxyfucoxanthin (19'HF), zeaxanthin (zea), totalchlorophyll b (Tchl b) and total chlorophyll a (Tchl a). Correlation with some pigment's ratios were also determined: Fuco:Tchl a, Chl b:Tchl a and 19'BF:Tchl a. n = 17 stations, no data = insignificant correlations ( $p > 0.05$ ), in red positive correlations, in blue negative correlations, in bold  $r > 0.7$  or  $< -0.7$

	19'BF	Fuco	19'HF	Zea	Tchl b	Tchl a	Fuco :Tchl a	chl b :Tchl a	19'BF :Tchl a
MLD	<b>0.49</b>						<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>0.70</b>
H500	<b>-0.81</b>	<b>-0.83</b>	<b>-0.78</b>	<b>-0.75</b>	<b>-0.76</b>	<b>-0.76</b>	-0.51	-0.64	
PISO		<b>-0.79</b>	-0.54	-0.67	<b>-0.80</b>	-0.70		-0.62	
$\partial$ DIP/ $\partial\sigma$		<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>0.79</b>			
ZPcline		-0.51		-0.68		-0.56			<b>0.57</b>
$\partial$ NO <sub>x</sub> / $\partial\sigma$		<b>0.69</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.82</b>			
ZNcline		-0.65	-0.50	-0.68	-0.60	-0.64			<b>0.48</b>

Table S6. Correlation coefficients (Pearson) between hydrological variables and biotic variables taken as integrated stocks. Integrated (0-200 m) abundances of *Prochlorococcus* (I Proc), *Synechococcus* (I Syn), picophytoeukaryotes (I Picoeuk), nanophytoeukaryotes (I Nanoeuk), Cryptophytes-like cells (I Crypto), heterotrophic prokaryotes (I hprok)). Integrated DIP, L<sub>DOP</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> (0-200m) and total chlorophyll a (I Tchl a, 0-250 m). n = 27 stations, no data = insignificant correlations ( $p > 0.05$ ), in red positive correlations, in blue negative correlations, in bold  $r > 0.7$  or  $< -0.7$ .

	I Proc	I Syn	I Pico	I Nano	I Crypto	I Hprok	I DIP	I L <sub>DOP</sub>	I DOP	I NO <sub>x</sub>	I Tchl a
MLD	-0.41					<b>0.40</b>			<b>0.63</b>		<b>0.59</b>
H500	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.87</b>			-0.62	-0.49	-0.60	<b>-0.78</b>	-0.64
PISO		0.40			-0.47		<b>-0.76</b>			<b>-0.77</b>	
$\partial$ DIP/ $\partial\sigma$	-0.40	-0.43		-0.42	<b>0.47</b>		<b>0.71</b>			<b>0.76</b>	
Z Pcline							<b>-0.74</b>			<b>-0.72</b>	
$\partial$ NO <sub>x</sub> / $\partial\sigma$	-0.57	-0.58	-0.41	-0.57	<b>0.54</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.72</b>			<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.46</b>
ZNcline					-0.39		<b>-0.76</b>			<b>-0.76</b>	

## Supplement Figure captions

Fig. S1 Computation of  $\partial\text{DIP}/\partial\sigma$  (a) and ZPcline depth (a) at ST26 of PERLE2 cruise.

Fig S2 Vertical profile of NO<sub>x</sub> versus depth at ST1, showing to possible modes of estimation of ZNcline

Fig. S3. Vertical distributions (0-300 m) of a, d, g: density excess ( $\sigma$ , dotted lines) and fluorescence (continuous lines); b,e,h: dissolved inorganic phosphorus (DIP); and c,f,i: phosphomonoesterase and phosphodiesterase maximum rates ( $V_m$  PME,  $V_m$  PDE) for A (a, b, c), B (d,e,f) and C (g, h, i) groups. Groups are organized according the principal component analysis results: Group A clusters stations of the autumn cruise in Ierapetra Gyre, group B stations of the winter cruise more anticyclonic, group C stations of the winter cruise being not clearly under mesoscale influence.

Fig. S4. Vertical distributions (0-300 m) of a, d, g: density excess ( $\sigma$ , dotted lines) and fluorescence (continuous lines); b, e, h: dissolved inorganic phosphorus (DIP); and c, f, i: phosphomonoesterase and phosphodiesterase maximum rates ( $V_m$  PME,  $V_m$  PDE), for D (a, b, c), E (d,e,f) and F (g, h, i) groups. Groups are organized according the principal component analysis results. Group D and E clusters stations of the winter cruise influenced by the cyclonic Rhode gyre, group F clusters stations of the Cretan sea in the beginning of the cruise.

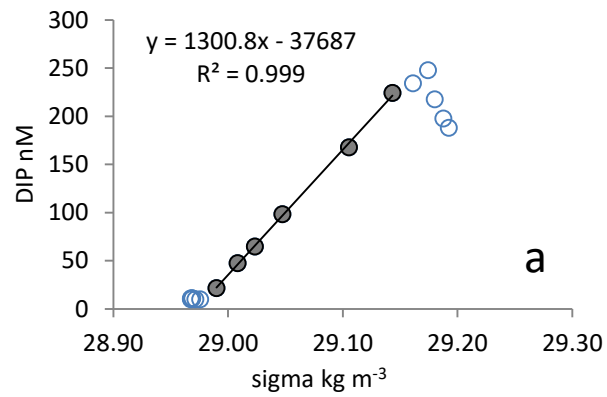
Fig. S5. Vertical profiles of primary production (PP, in  $\text{mg C m}^{-3} \text{d}^{-1}$ , black upper scale), heterotrophic prokaryotic production (BP, in  $\text{mg C m}^{-3} \text{d}^{-1}$ , red upper scale) and chlorophyll derived from fluorescence profiles (Tchl,  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , lower scale) at the ST15, 35, 75, 83, 90, 116 during the winter cruise (PERLE2)

Fig. S6. Vertical profiles of primary production (PP, in  $\text{mg C m}^{-3} \text{d}^{-1}$ , upper scale) and total chlorophyll a derived from fluorescence profiles (Tchl,  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , lower scale) at the ST3, 14, 24 and 26 during the autumn cruise (PERLE1)

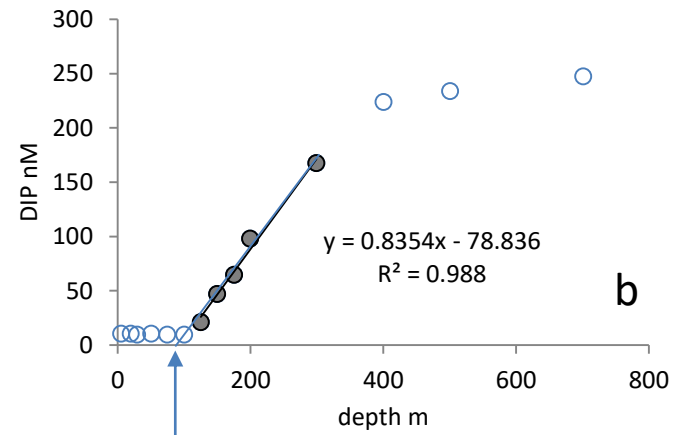
Fig. S7. Box plots distribution of some pigments to Tchl<sub>a</sub> ratios calculated for: fucoxanthin (fuco:Tchl<sub>a</sub>), peridinin (peri:Tchl<sub>a</sub>), zeaxanthine (zea:Tchl<sub>a</sub>), divinyl-chlorophyll a (dv-chl<sub>a</sub>:Tchl<sub>a</sub>), chlorophyll b (chl<sub>b</sub>:Tchl<sub>a</sub>), 19'butanoylfucoxanthin (19'BF:Tchl<sub>a</sub>), alloxanthin (allo:Tchl<sub>a</sub>) and degradation index. Group A gathers stations of the autumn cruise and, groups B to F gather stations of the winter cruise.

Fig. S8. Time series of potential density anomaly values between 20 m and 250 m, and chlorophyll fluorescence at 50 m and 100 m from Nov 2018 to June 2019 at the E1-M3A site in the Cretan Sea (35°47.16' N, 24°55.19' E, 1440 m depth). The shaded area shows the period of PERLE 2 cruise.





a



b

Intercept to the 0 DIP concentration =  $78.8/0.84 = 94$  m

Fig. S1

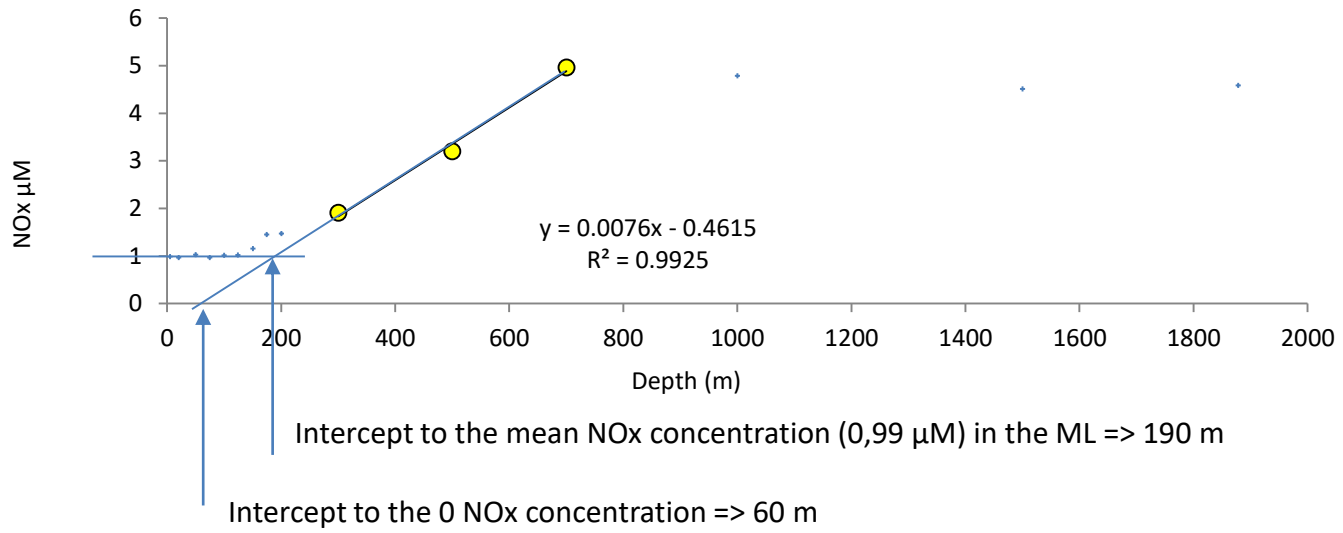


Fig. S2

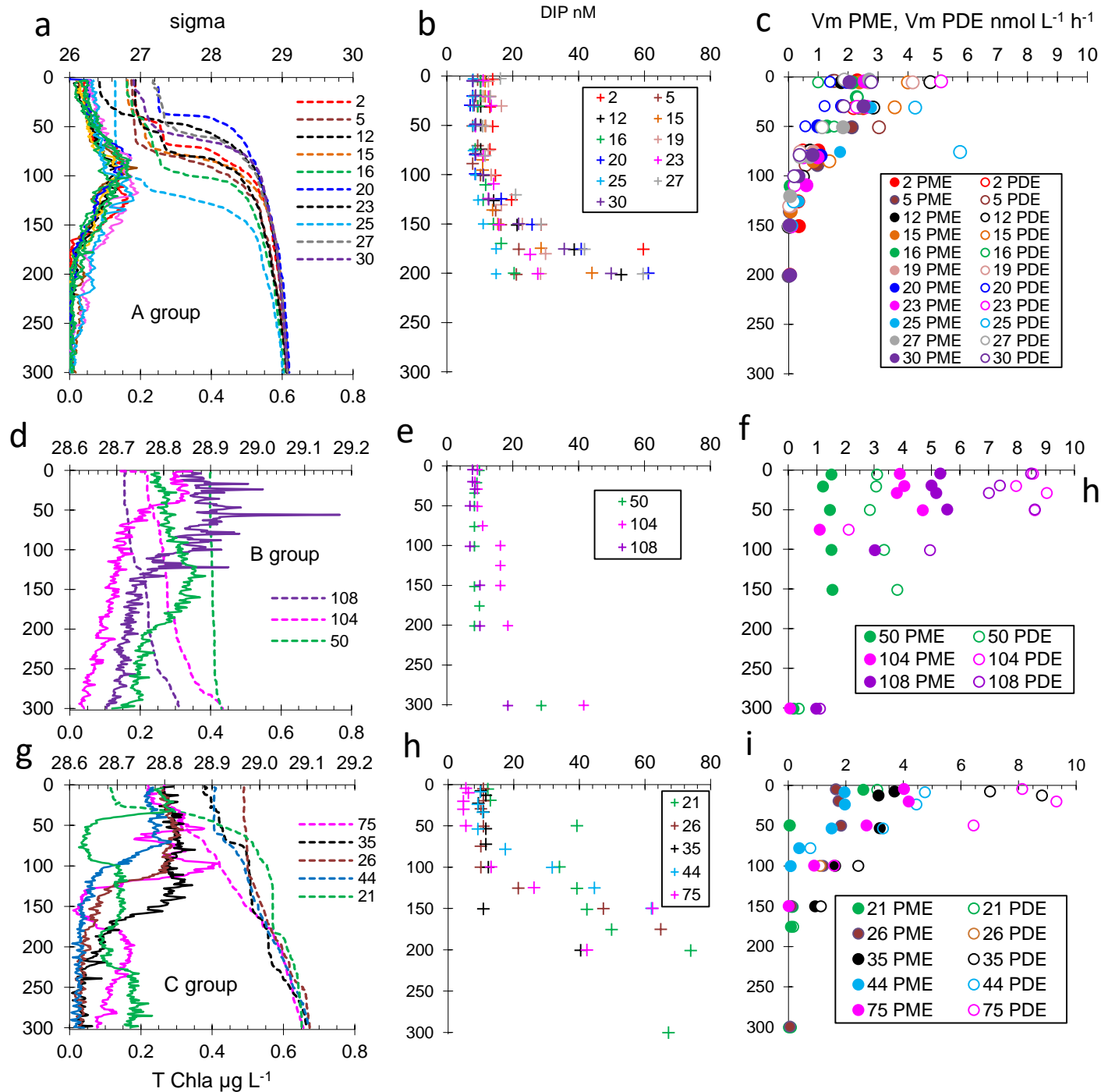


Fig. S3

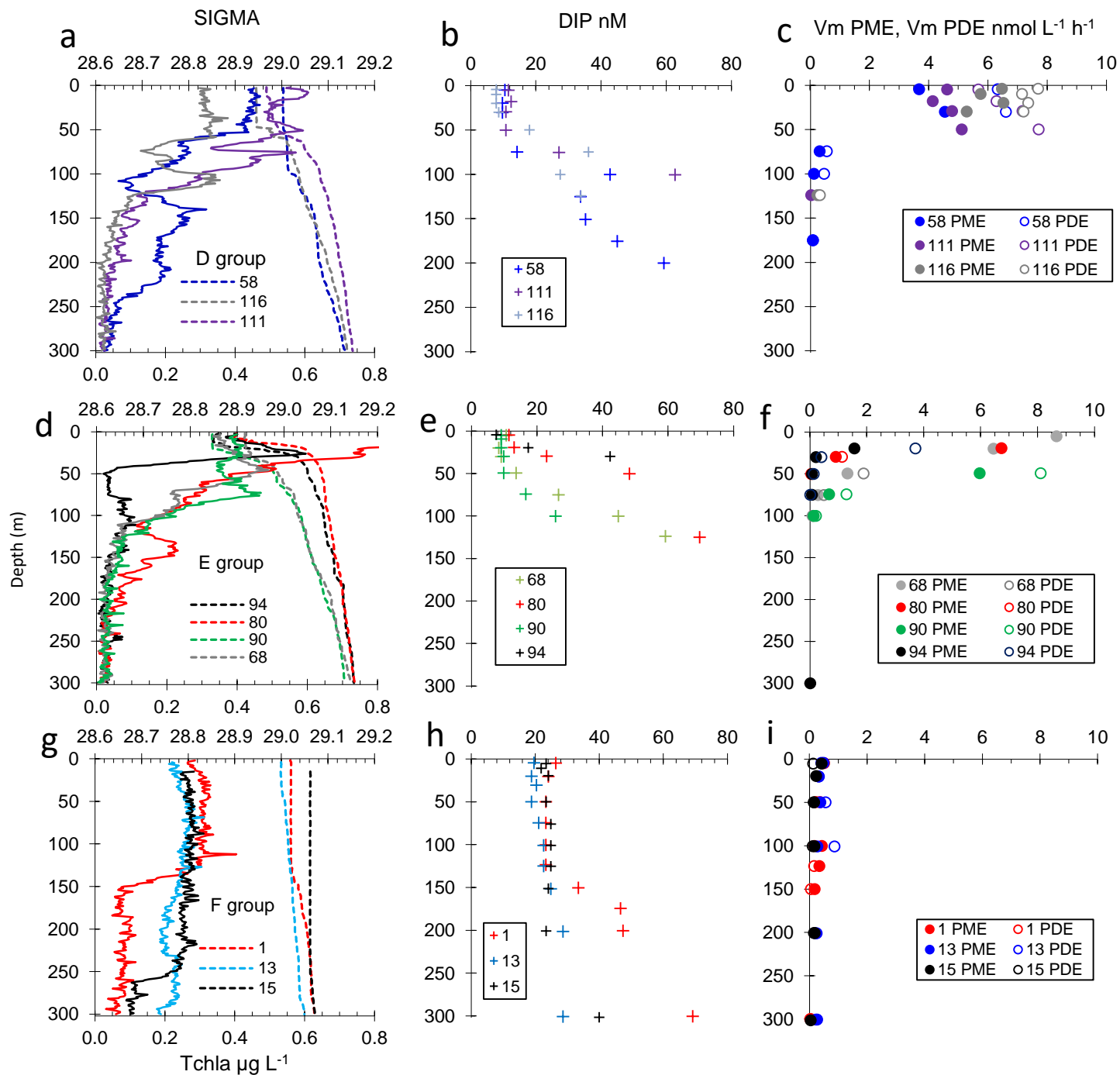


Fig. S4

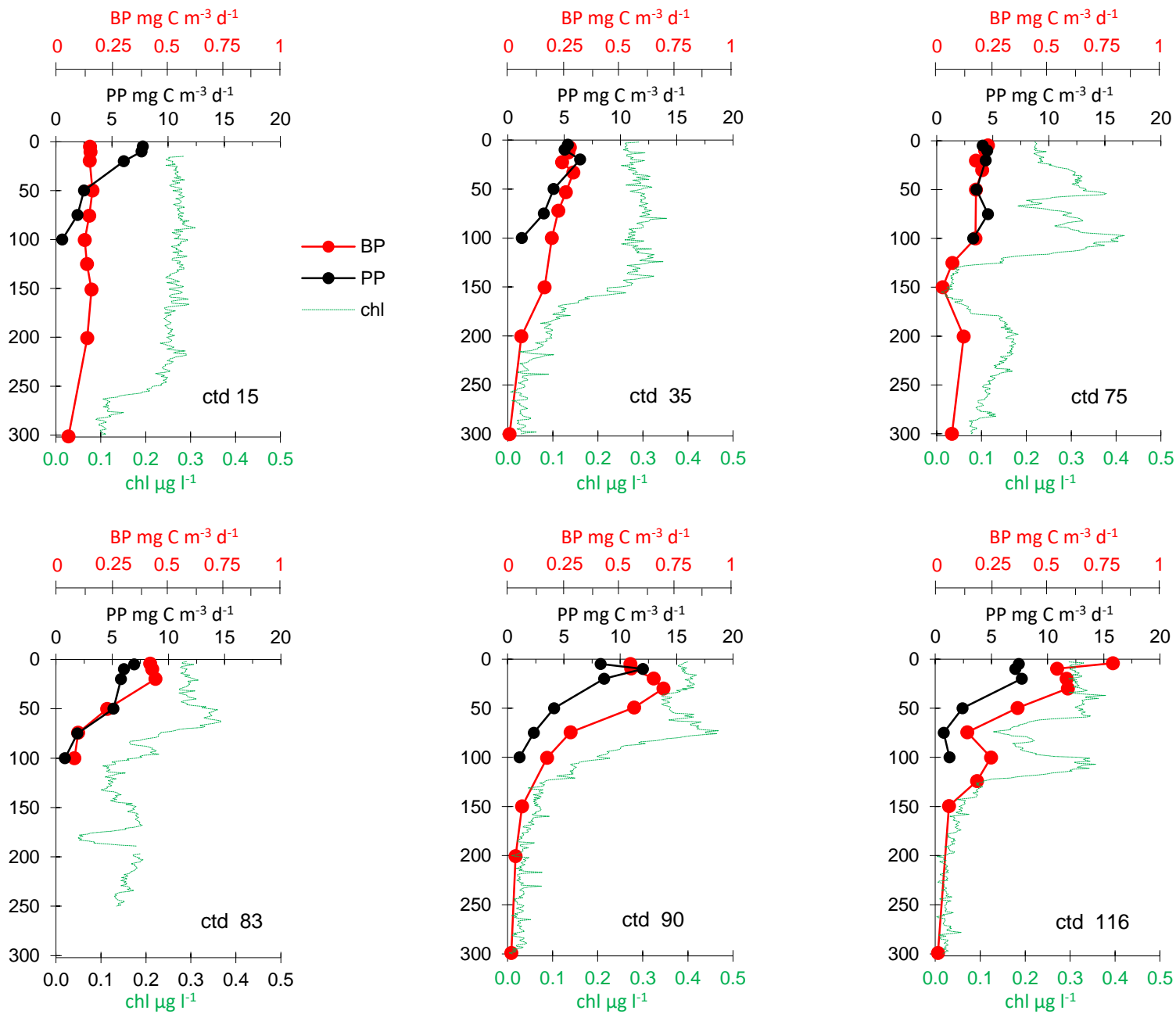


Fig. S5

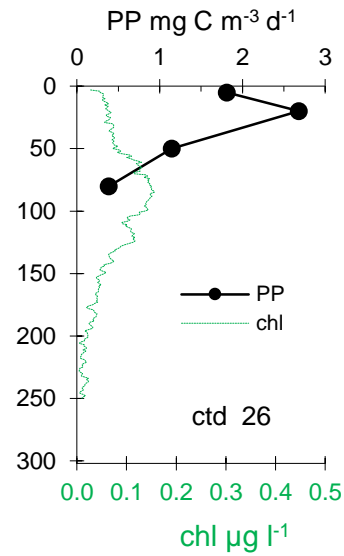
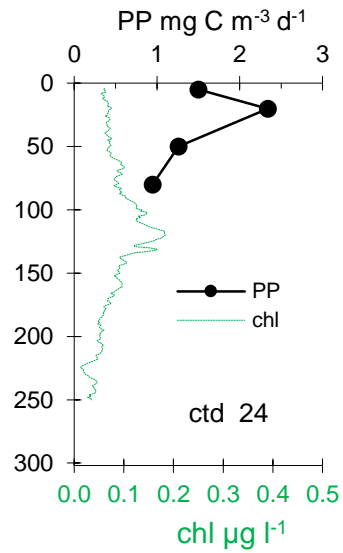
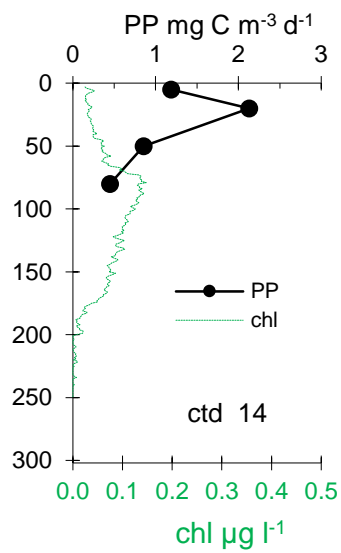
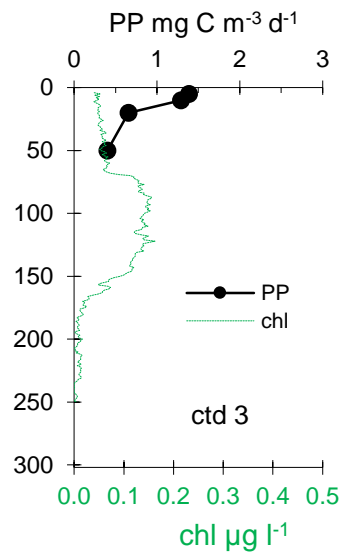


Fig. S6

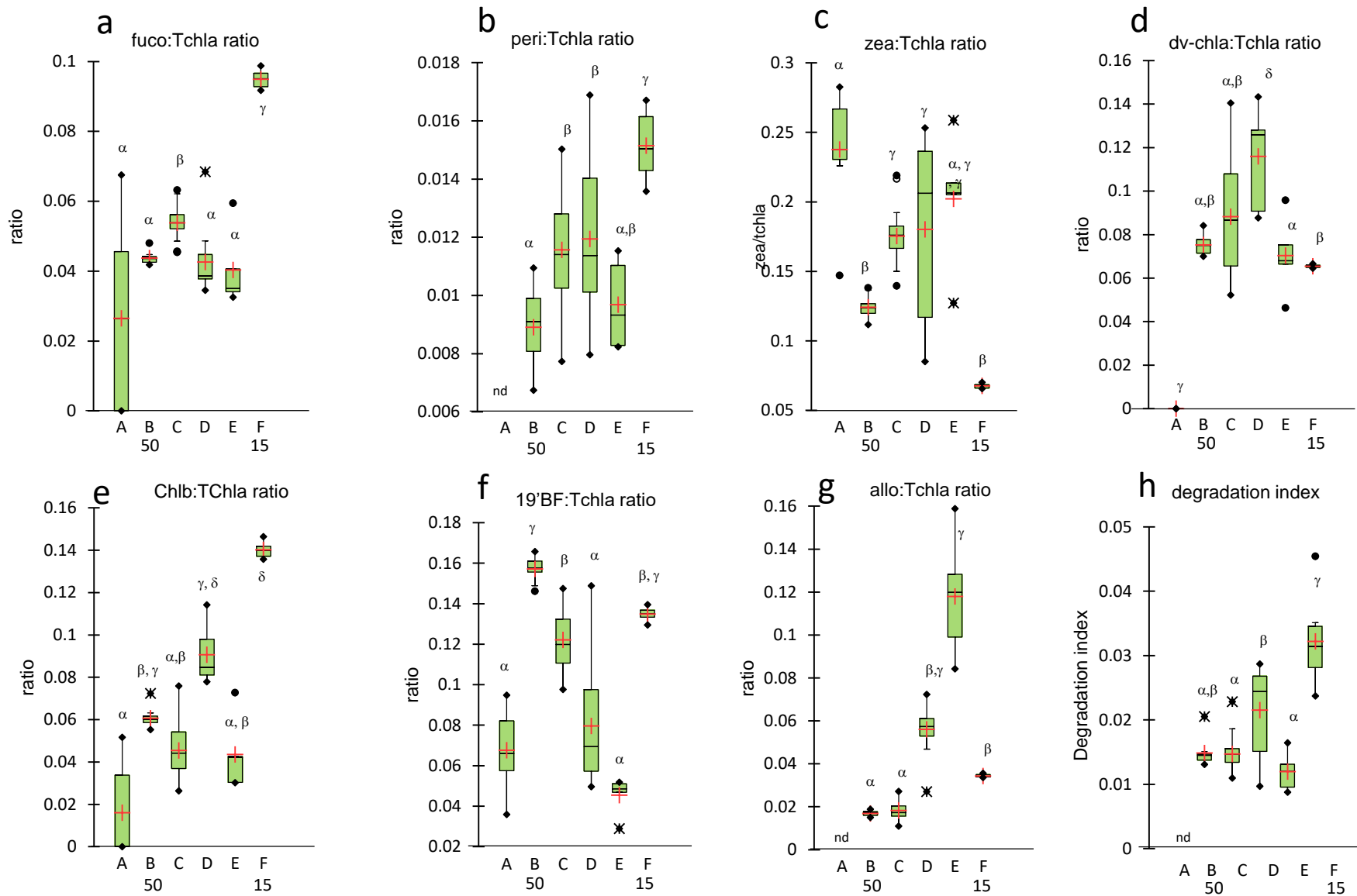


Fig. S7

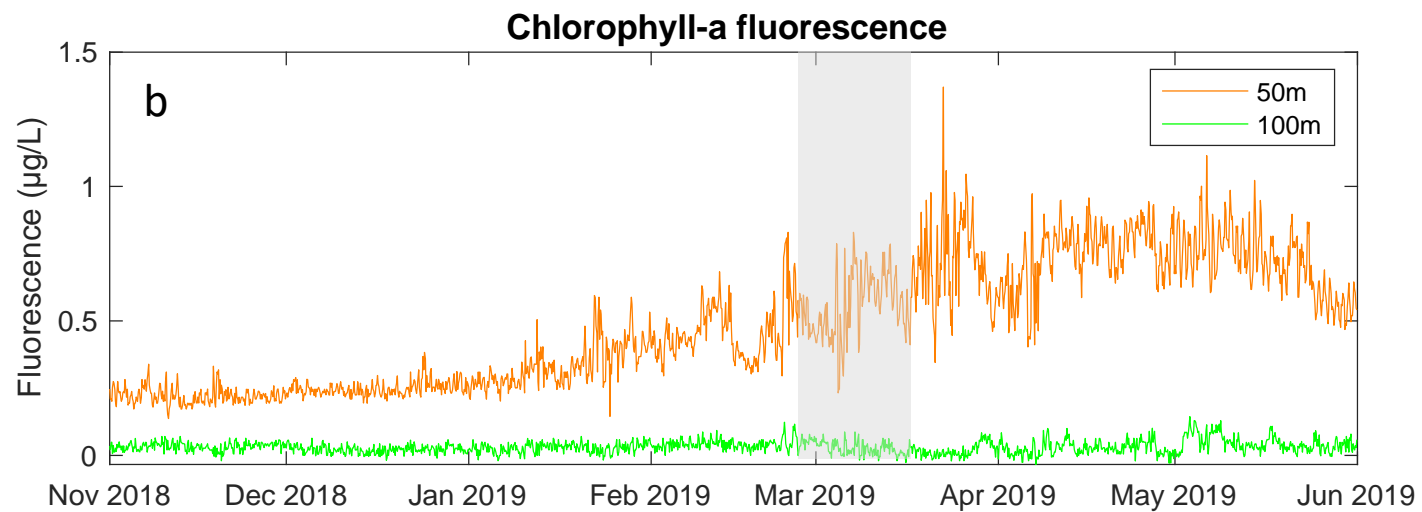
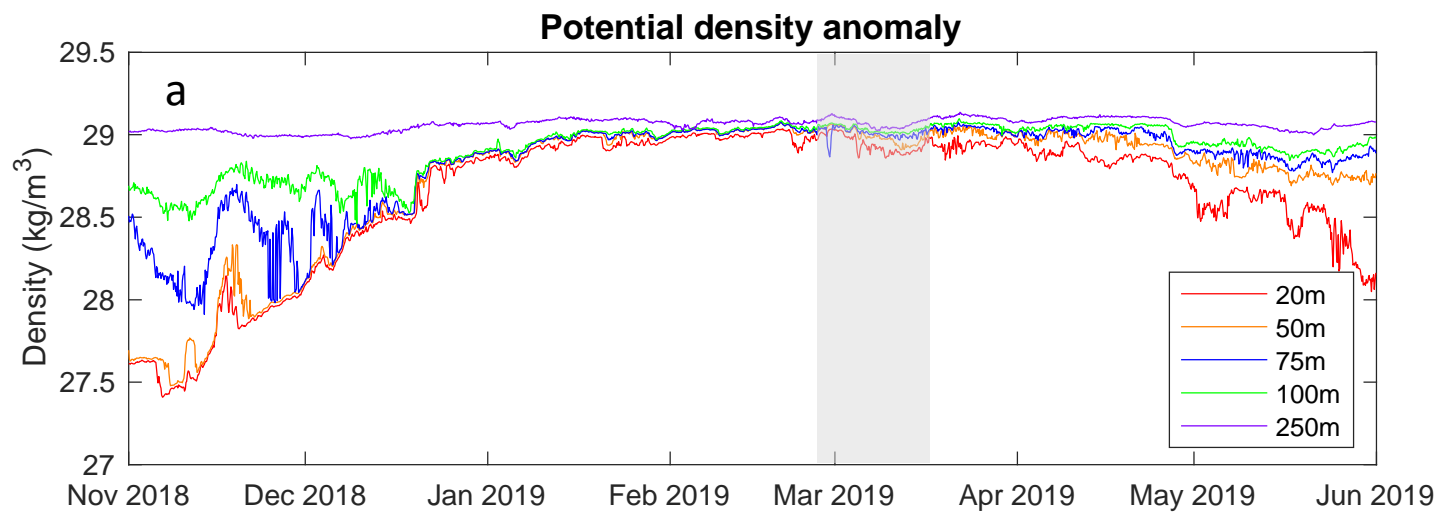


Fig. S8