



Supplement of

**Depositional controls and budget of organic carbon burial in
fine-grained sediments of the North Sea – the Helgoland
Mud Area as a natural laboratory**

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Literature compilation

The literature compilation in and around the HMA is accessible for geographic information systems (e.g., ArcMap, QGIS) via the PANGAEA repository (<https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.968994>; Müller and Kasten, 2024). The search items in the metadata of the shape file include author (main), year of publication, title of publication, respective core ID, location (longitude and latitude), bulk sediment properties (e.g., Al, Ca, Cu, Fe), physical properties (e.g., grain size), radionuclides (e.g., ²¹⁰Pb, ¹³⁷Cs, ¹⁴C), carbon content (TIC, TOC), organic carbon composition (e.g., $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -TOC, C/N ratio, n-alkanes) and more.

Supplementary figures

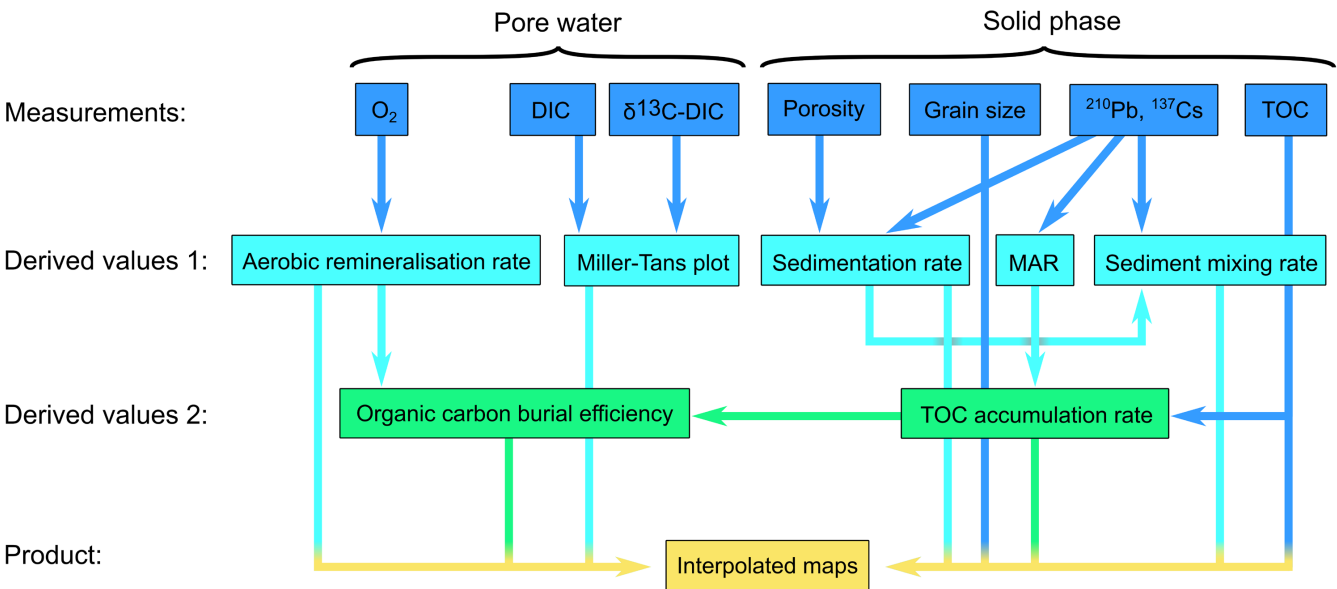
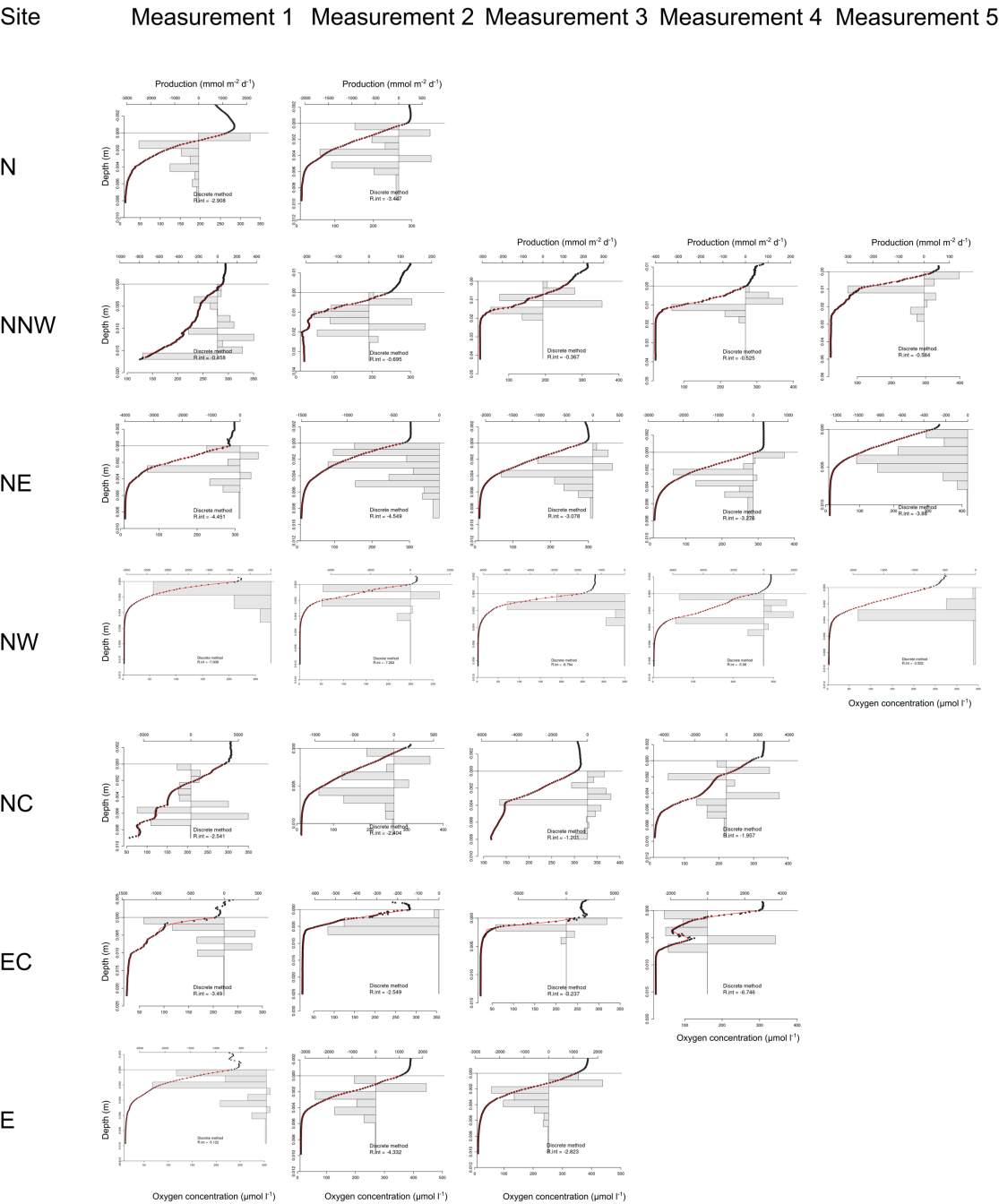
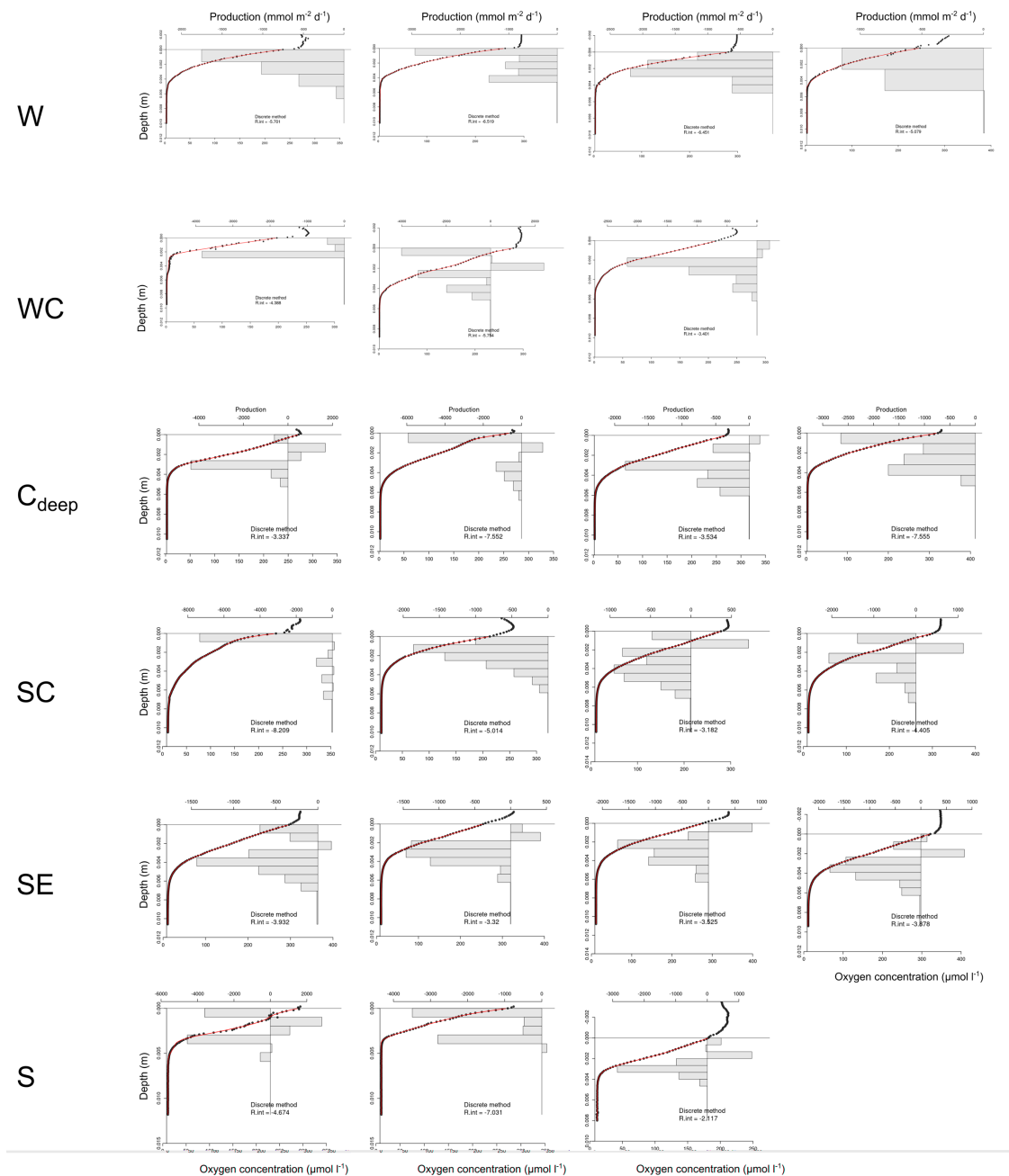


Figure S1: Flow chart of the measured parameters oxygen (O₂), dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), stable carbon isotopic composition of DIC ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -DIC), porosity, grain size, ²¹⁰Pb and ¹³⁷Cs and total organic carbon (TOC). Measurements are used to calculate the derived values 1: aerobic remineralisation rate, Miller-Tans plot, sedimentation rate, sediment mass accumulation rate (MAR) and sediment mixing rates. Further, the derived values 2: TOC accumulation rate and organic carbon burial efficiency are calculated. The final products are interpolated maps of selected parameters.



15 **Figure S2: Zoom in for visibility.** Oxygen measurements (black dots) and modelled aerobic remineralisation rates (red line, bars) for sites N, NNW, NE, NW, NC, EC and E after Berg et al. (1998) following the R script of van de Velde et al. (2022). Integrated aerobic remineralisation rates are presented in the respective plots (R.int). See Table 1 for site abbreviations.

Site Measurement 1 Measurement 2 Measurement 3 Measurement 4



20 **Figure S3: Zoom in for visibility. Oxygen measurements (black dots) and modelled aerobic remineralisation rates (red line, bars) for sites W, WC, C_{deep}, SC, SE and S after Berg et al. (1998) following the R script of van de Velde et al. (2022). Integrated aerobic remineralisation rates are presented in the respective plots (R.int). See Table 1 for site abbreviations.**

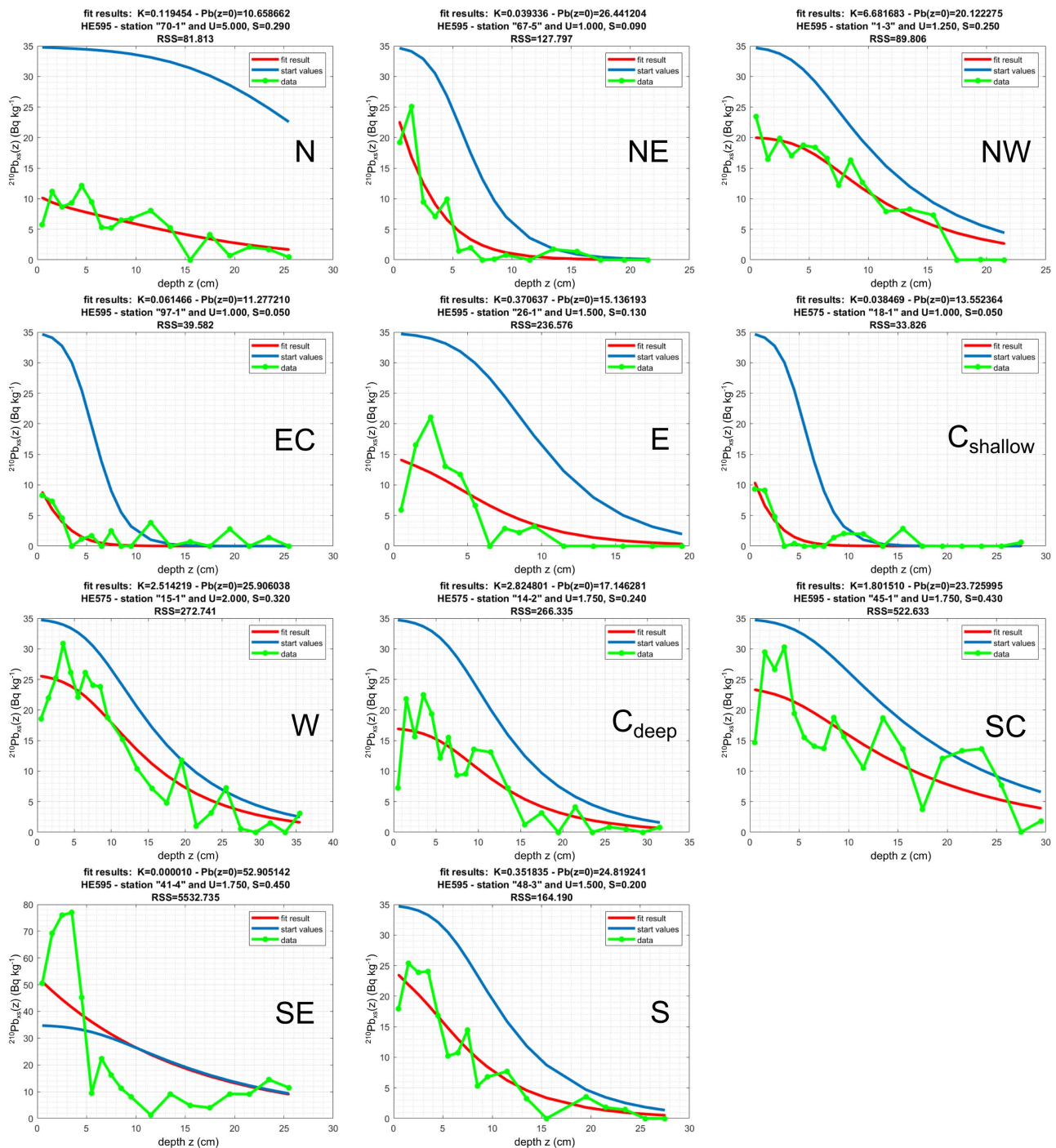


Figure S4: Zoom in for visibility. Model results (red lines) for the steady state sedimentation rates and sediment mixing rates after Gardner et al. (1987). The green dots and lines represent the measurements and start values for the model before optimisation are the blue lines. See Table 1 for site abbreviations.

Supplementary references

- 30 Berg, P., Risgaard-Petersen, N., and Rysgaard, S.: Interpretation of measured concentration profiles in sediment pore water, *Limnol. Oceanogr.*, 43, 1500–1510, <https://doi.org/10.4319/lo.1998.43.7.1500>, 1998.
- Gardner, L. R., Sharma, P., and Moore, W. S.: A regeneration model for the effect of bioturbation by fiddler crabs on ^{210}Pb profiles in salt marsh sediments, *J. Environ. Radioact.*, 5, 25–36, [https://doi.org/10.1016/0265-931X\(87\)90042-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/0265-931X(87)90042-7), 1987.
- 35 Müller, D. and Kasten, S.: Compilation of studies on sediments since the mid-20th century in and around the Helgoland Mud Area, SE German Bight, North Sea (GIS shape file) [data set], PANGAEA, <https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.968994>, 2024.
- van de Velde, S. J., Burdorf, L. D. W., and Meysman, F. J. R.: Code for: FLIPPER - flexible interpretation of porewater profiles and estimation of rates., <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.662498>, 2022.