

# Examples of use of ERA and biomarker-EIA

Study cases on ERA for E&P offshore activities; Examples on how biomarkers are used as a tool for environmental impact assessment

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RF-Akvamiljø



# ERA & Biomarker-EIA

- Use in different phases of field development
  - Pre-operational phase
    - ERA input to assessment of environmental consequences
      - Plan for Development and Operation (in Norway: 'PUD')
      - Regional plans for environmental consequences
    - Biomarker-EIA: Baseline monitoring study
  - During operation
    - ERA for environmental optimization
      - example: minimizing chemical hazards and produced water discharges
    - Biomarker-EIA: Environmental Effect Monitoring to control that environmental goals are achieved
  - After operation
    - Biomarker-EIA: Environmental Effect Monitoring to control that the field is redelivered in good environmental conditions after decommissioning



# First example use of ERA & Biomarker-EIA

## - Pre-operational phase

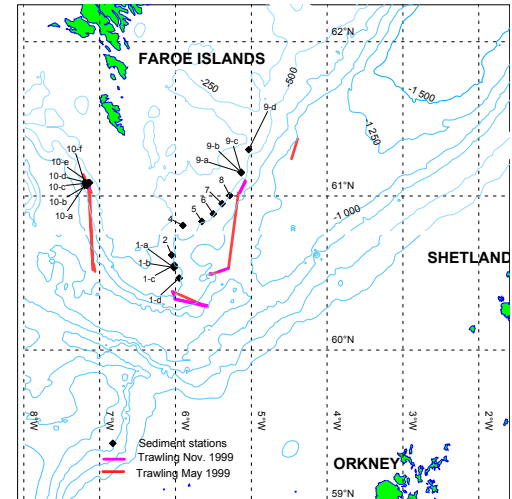
- Biomarker-EIA: Baseline monitoring study



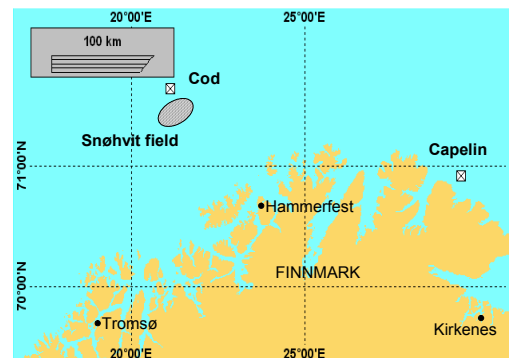
# Biomarker-EIA: Baseline monitoring study

- Baseline:  
Background levels and  
impacts before  
e&p activity start

- Faroes  
(G.E.M. program)



- Snøhvit field  
(Barents sea)  
Operator: Statoil



# Biomarker-EIA: Baseline monitoring study

- Biomarker based baseline studies

- Faroe Islands

- G.E.M. program

- Snøhvit field

- Statoil



Cod



Capelin



Objective:

Greenland halibut

Background levels of biomarkers

- in Greenland halibut (Faroe Islands)
- In Cod and Capelin (Barents Sea)

Biomarkers included:

PAH metabolites

EROD

DNA adducts

Vitellogenin (Vtg)

Zona radiata protein (ZRP)

Reference material

histology



# Faroes baseline - example results

- Overall result - low signals

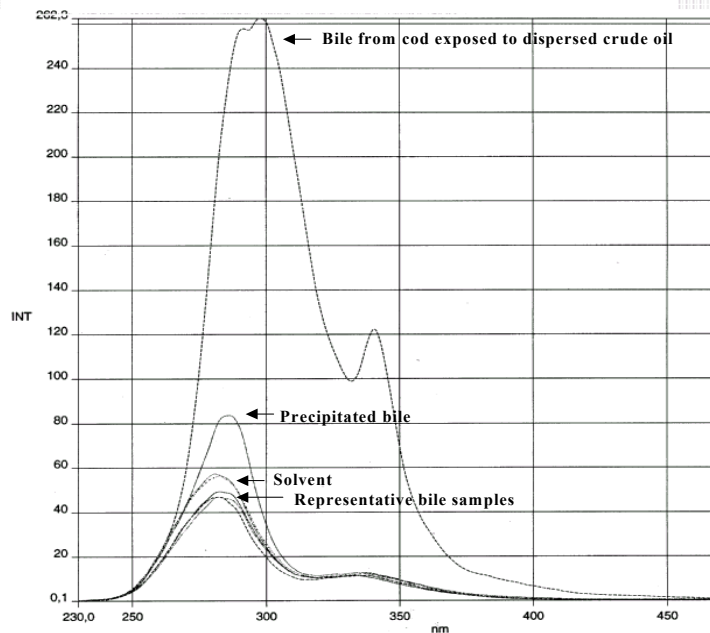
Sex	N	Sampling time	EROD (pmol/min/mg protein)
Male	24	May -99	$2,2 \pm 0,8$
Female	25	May -99	$1,5 \pm 0,7$
Male	20	Nov -99	$0,4 \pm 0,4$
Female	21	Nov -99	$0,3 \pm 0,3$

## EROD

### Low basal levels

probably first time  
measured  
in Greenland halibut

similar level as in cod



### Bile metabolites

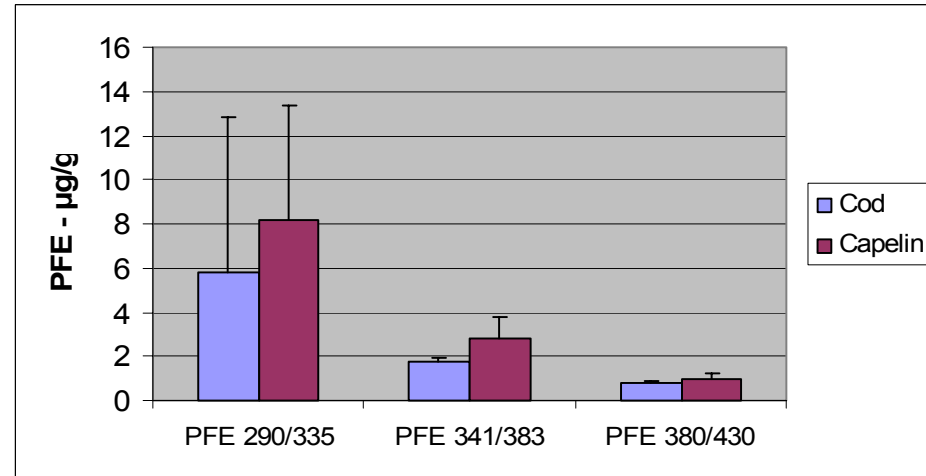
similar results as for EROD



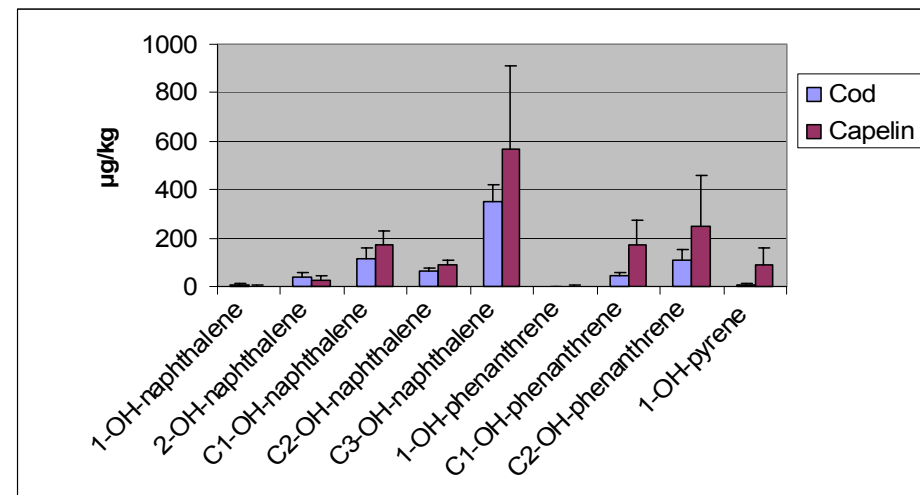
# Snøhvit baseline - example results

- PAH metabolites in bile

Fluorescence (FF)



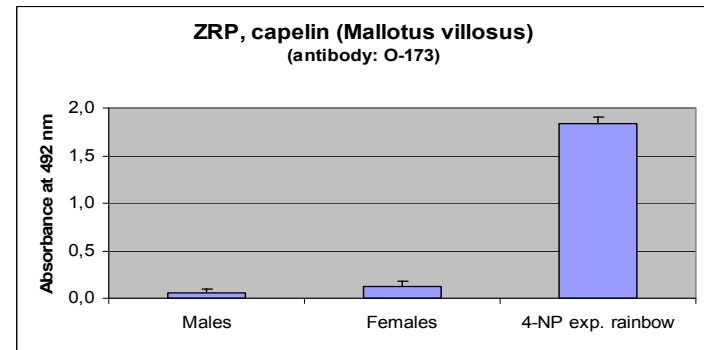
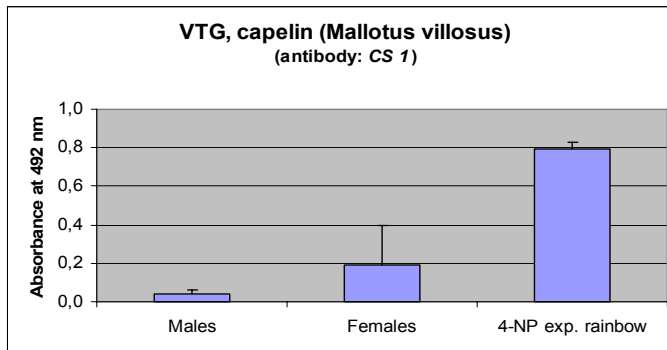
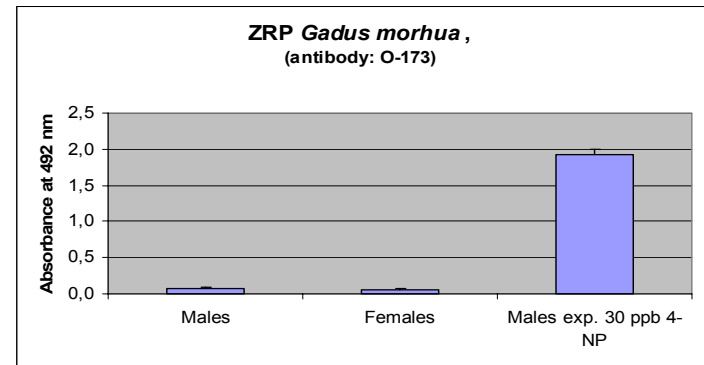
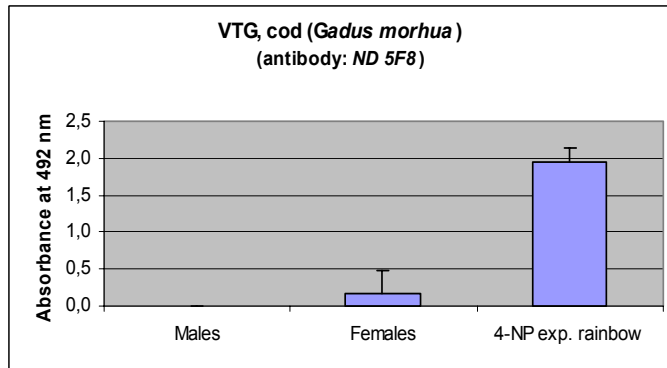
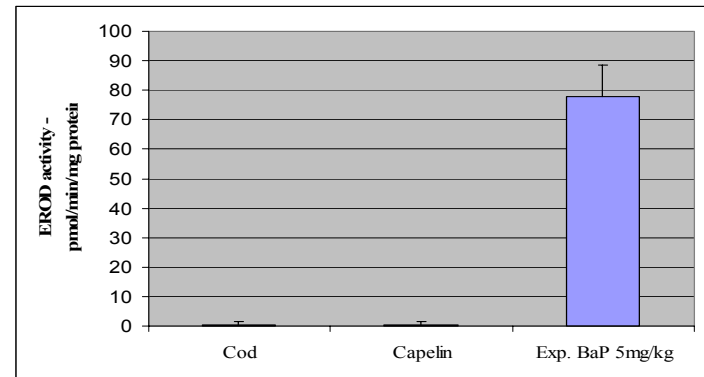
GC-MS SIM





# Snøhvit baseline - example results

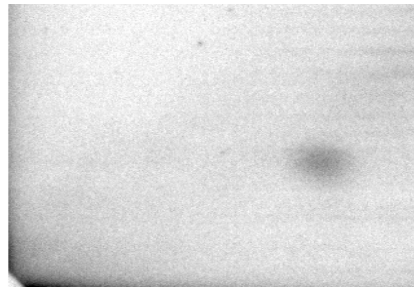
- EROD
- Vitellogenin (Vtg)
- Zona Radiata (Zrp)



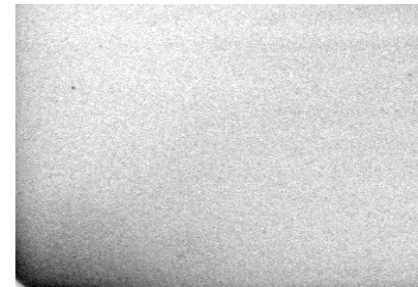


# Snøhvit baseline - example results

- DNA adducts



Cod



Capelin



# Arctic Baseline

- DNA adducts

- Background level in the Arctic

- Positive control

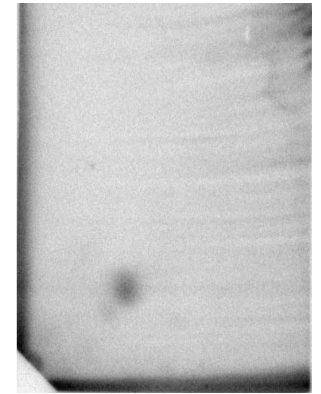


*Autoradiogram  
non exposed  
polar cod*

Similar in 6 other  
species



○ Sampling sites



*Autoradiogram  
BaP exposed  
polarcod*



# Example

## use of ERA & Biomarker-EIA

### - During operation

- ERA for environmental optimization
  - example:  
minimizing chemical hazards and produced water discharges
  - Risk assessment of discharges of Alkylated phenols



## Example *use of ERA*

# Risk Assessment of reproductive effects of alkyl phenols in produced water on fish stocks in the North Sea

- *Preliminary results from*
  - Environmental risk simulations and fish stock estimation
- Project client:
  - Norwegian Oil Industry Association ('OLF')
- Cooperation RF-Akvamiljø and IMR



# ERA- *Alkyl phenols*

## Background and objectives

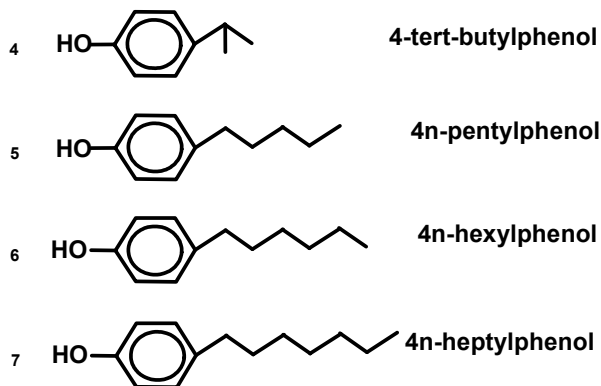
- Background
  - effects in low concentrations of Alkyl phenols found in experiments carried out at IMR and later toxicokinetic study by RF-Akvamiljø
- Objective
  - compile the most relevant data and
  - assess the environmental risk of alkyl phenol discharges in produced water on fish stocks in the North Sea
- To use the best currently available methods and tools in risk assessment (ERA tool: DREAM)



# ERA- Alkyl phenols

## Introduction

- Experiments conducted by IMR (Meier *et al.* 2002)
  - revealed the lowest effect doses reported, namely 20 ppb body burden.
  - converted to water concentration using a BCF=500 this gives an input NOEC to simulations (LOEC) of **40 ng/L** (0,04 ppb)



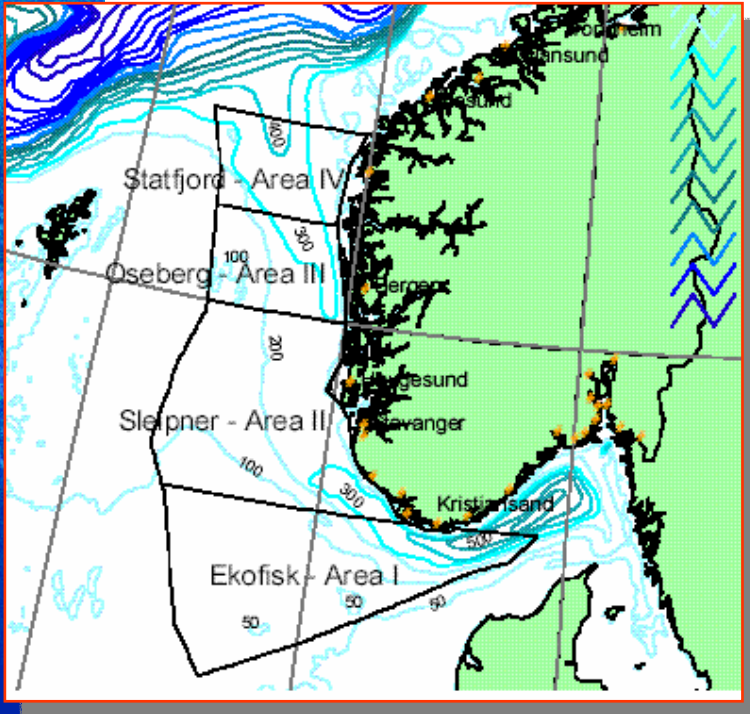
- Later studies
  - show that the absorption efficiency of the AP compounds over the gut wall is only about 10% (Pickford *et al.* 2003; Sundt and Baussant 2003).
  - This suggests an even lower PNEC of **4 ng/l**

(regarded as a very conservative estimate)

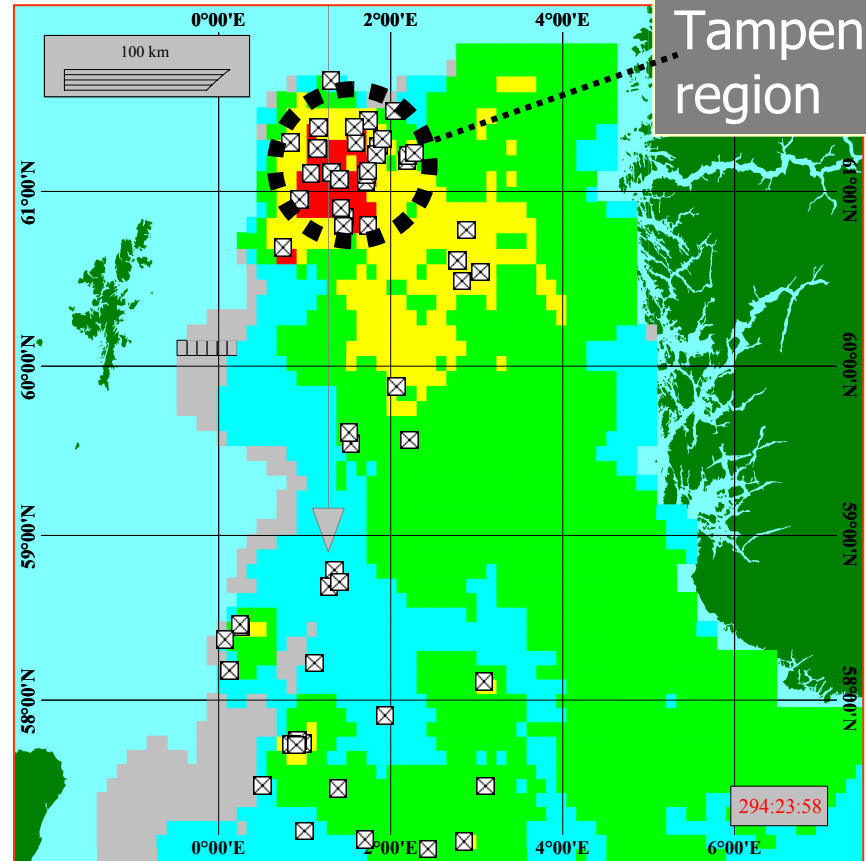





# The North Sea recipient



Oil production regions in the Norwegian sector



 > 1 ppb oil hydrocarbons

Model data (1996) - SINTEF





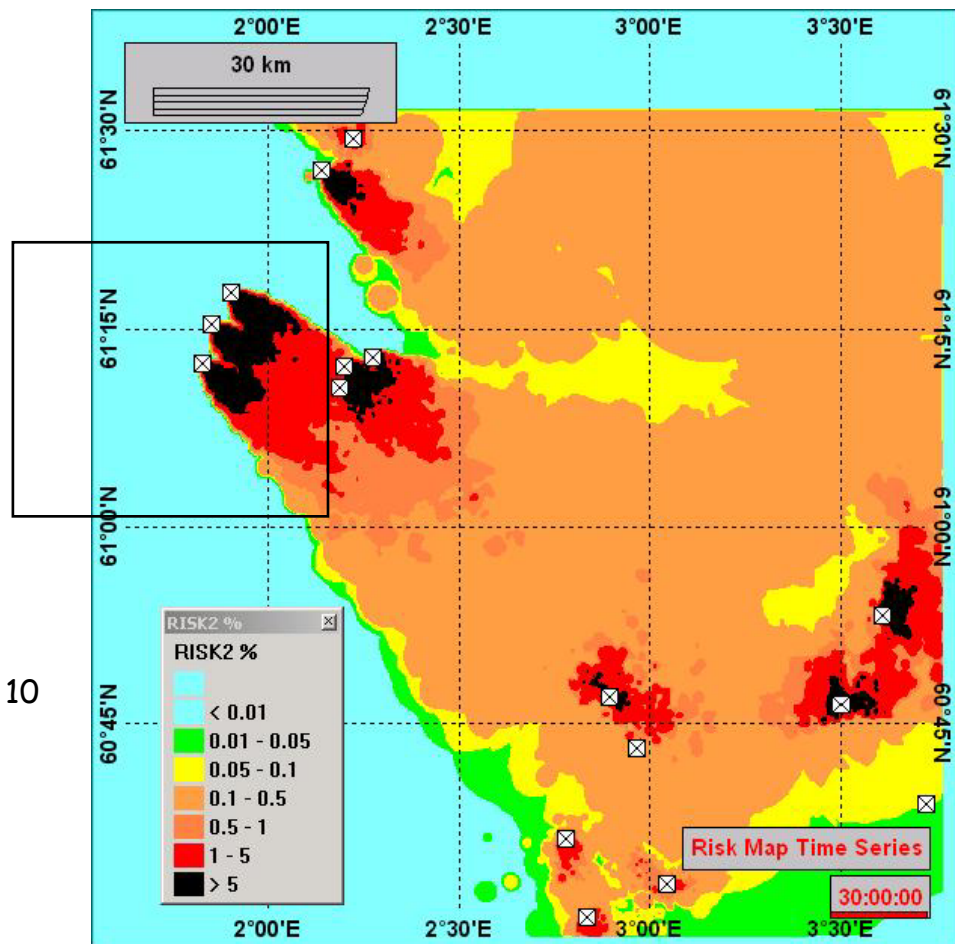
# ERA- Alkyl phenols

## Simulation of different North Sea regions

- Tampen region
- PNEC 4 ng/l

Using PEC:PNEC approach

- Sum of risk area over 30 days
- # cells in concentration grid:  $400 * 400 * 10$
- Output interval: 12 hours
- Time step: 60 min
- Size of habitat area:  $110 * 120$  km



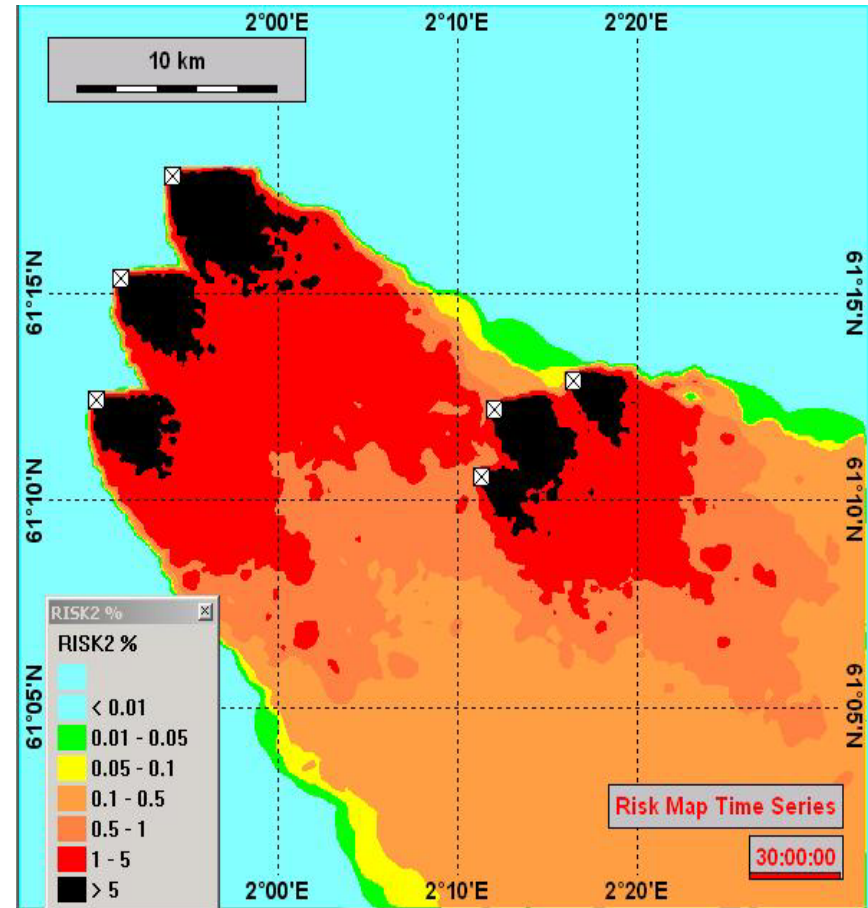
# ERA- Alkyl phenols

## Simulation of Tampen sub region

- Close up at
- Statfjord/Gullfaks
- PNEC 4 ng/l

### Using PEC:PNEC approach

- Sum of risk area over 30 days
- # cells in concentration grid:  $300 * 300 * 10$
- Output interval: 6 hours
- Time step: 20 min
- Size of habitat area:  $46 * 42$  km



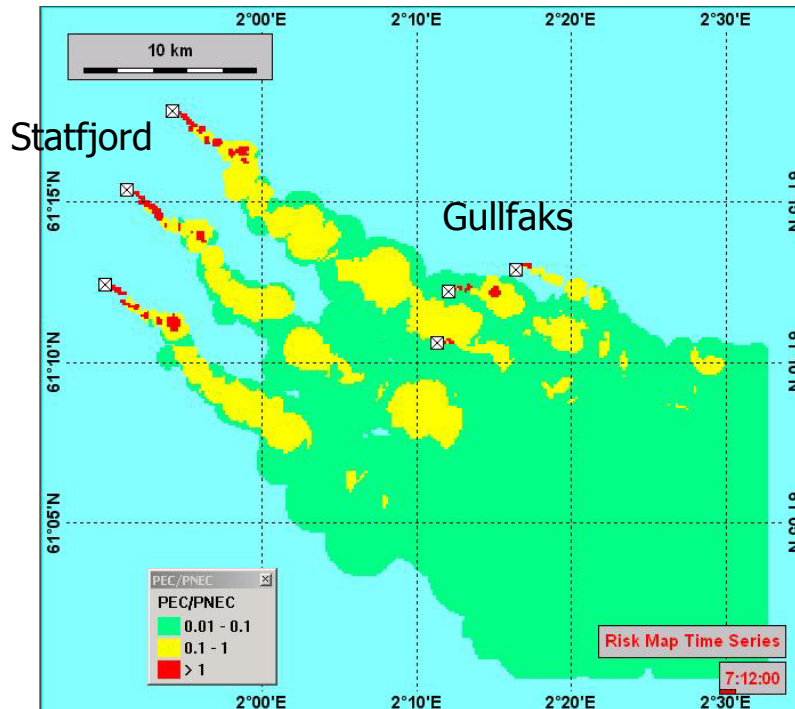
# ERA- Alkyl phenols

## Estimation of risk area (PEC:PNEC approach)

### Sub region Statfjord/Gullfaks

PNEC 4 ng/l

Estimated actual risk area



Installation	Number of squares with PEC/PNEC >1,0	Area, 1 square 0,021 km <sup>2</sup>
Statfjord A	54	1,134 km <sup>2</sup>
Statfjord B	61	1,281 km <sup>2</sup>
Statfjord C	71	1,491 km <sup>2</sup>
Gullfaks A, Gullfaks B Gullfaks C	42	0,882 km <sup>2</sup>
Total		4,788 km <sup>2</sup>





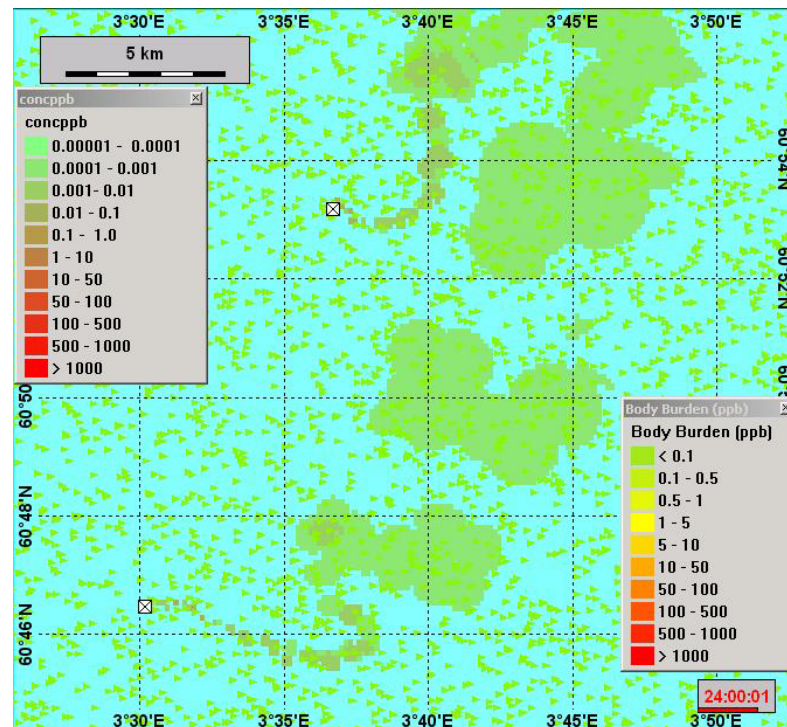
# ERA- Alkyl phenols

## Simulation of body burdens -> effects (Dose related approach)

Field: Troll

CBB 2 ppm (equivalent to 4 ng/l NOEC)

DREAM simulated body burdens



# ERA- *Alkyl phenols*

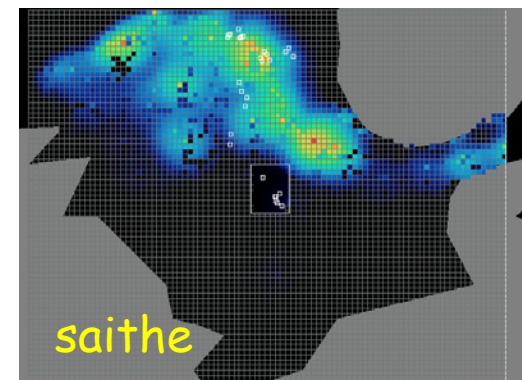
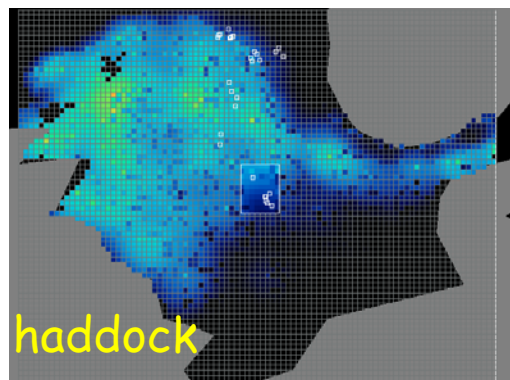
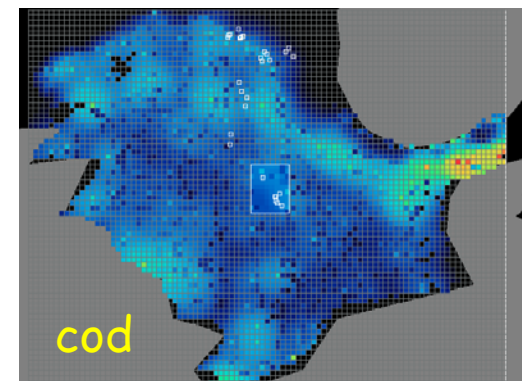
## Fish distributions

### North Sea



Cod, Haddock, Saithe  
(1+3q 2002; ICES)

Data processed and prepared  
for ERA by IMR



In the risk assessment  
the amount of fish  
exposed to alkyl phenols  
over the critical body  
burden was combined  
with the fish abundance  
data provided by IMR

# ERA- Alkyl phenols Results

## Tampen area

Cod, Haddock, Saithe

Percentage Risk of Reproductive effect (unsuccessful spawning)

$(F_{\text{risk}} * 35) / 100 = \text{potential percentage of the fish stocks with unsuccessful spawning that year}$

Tampen	NOEC	$F_{\text{risk}}$			$F_{\text{risk}}$		
		Cod	Saithe	Haddock	Cod	Saithe	Haddock
2002	40 ng/l	0,0000	0,0001	0,00002	0,000007	0,000045	0,000007
	4 ng/l	0,0011	0,0085	0,00132	0,000416	0,003003	0,000462
2006	40 ng/l	0,0000	0,0000	0,00001	0,000003	0,000021	0,000003
	4 ng/l	0,0008	0,0059	0,00092	0,000287	0,002079	0,000322

Percentages of the fish stocks of Cod, Saithe and Haddock that have unsuccessful spawning.



# ERA- *Alkyl phenols*

## Conclusions



- Conclusion after ERA using DREAM
  - There is insignificant risk of reproductive effects on the population levels of cod, saithe and haddock in the North Sea as a result of alkyl phenol discharges in produced water
  - It is reasonable to believe that effects may occur on individual level in the close vicinity of the discharges, but effects on individual level would not influence the populations
  - it is still important that the alkyl phenols discharges will be followed up with monitoring as soon as the methods for this are sufficiently developed





# Example

## use of ERA & Biomarker-EIA

- After operation

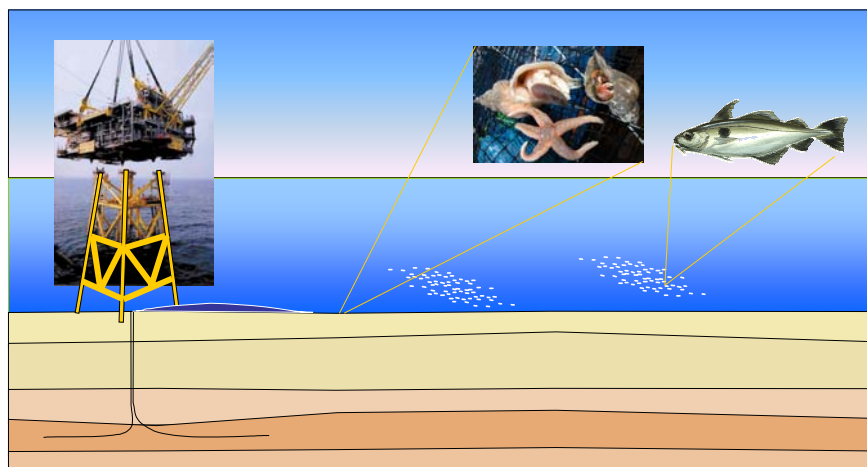
- Biomarker-EIA:

- Environmental Effect Monitoring to control that the field is redelivered in good environmental conditions after decommissioning



# Biomarker tools in sediment monitoring after decommission

*Experience from the 2003 survey at the Frøy field  
(in Frigg area, North Sea)*



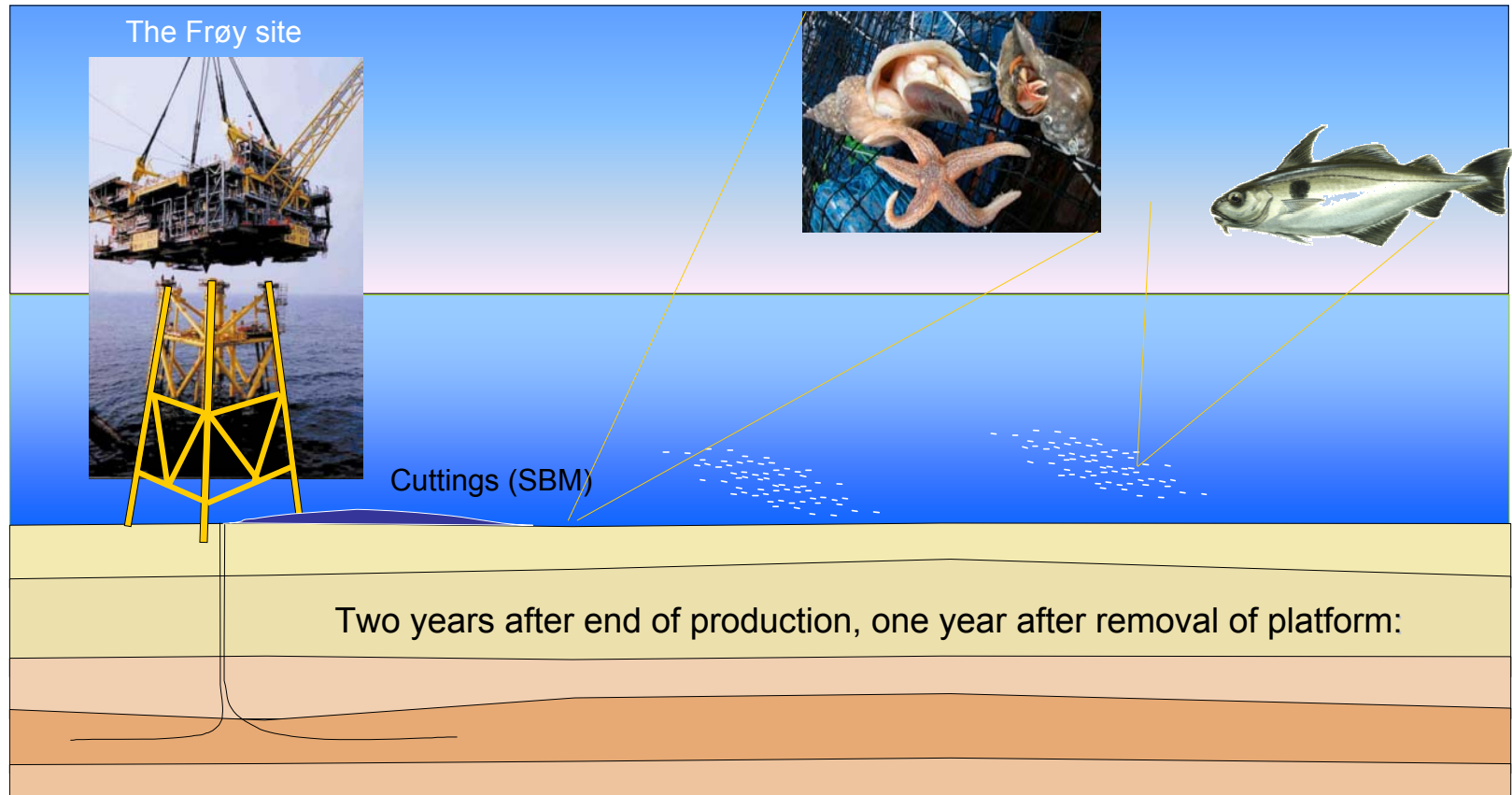
RF-Akvamiljø & TOTAL E&P Norge AS



RF-Akvamiljø



# Study issue and study subjects



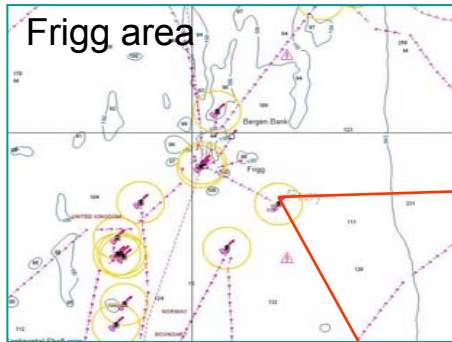
Are biomarker levels in fish and invertebrates at the Frøy site different from the background levels?

## Other objectives of Frøy study

- o To assess the use of biomarkers as a tool to study environmental effects from cuttings in fish and invertebrates by using the decommissioned Frøy site
- o To field validate biomarkers that could be included in future offshore oil industry EIA studies
- o To provide additional knowledge to the 2000 cuttings survey and the regular sediment surveys



# Study locations: Frøy site + reference



Frøy rig site X

Station 1

Station 2

Trawl paths

Station 3  
(ref site)  
10 km NE

Areas for  
operation of  
fish and  
invertebrate  
traps



1000 m

The survey vessel



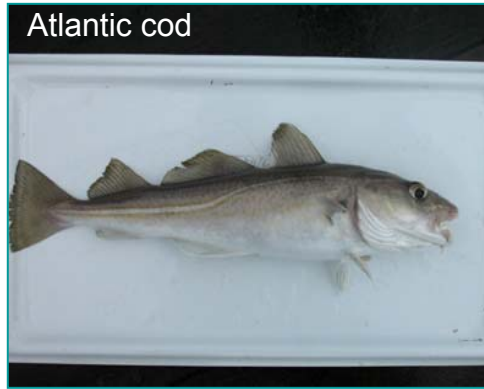


# Fish study species

Haddock



Atlantic cod



Lemon sole



Saithe



Gurnard



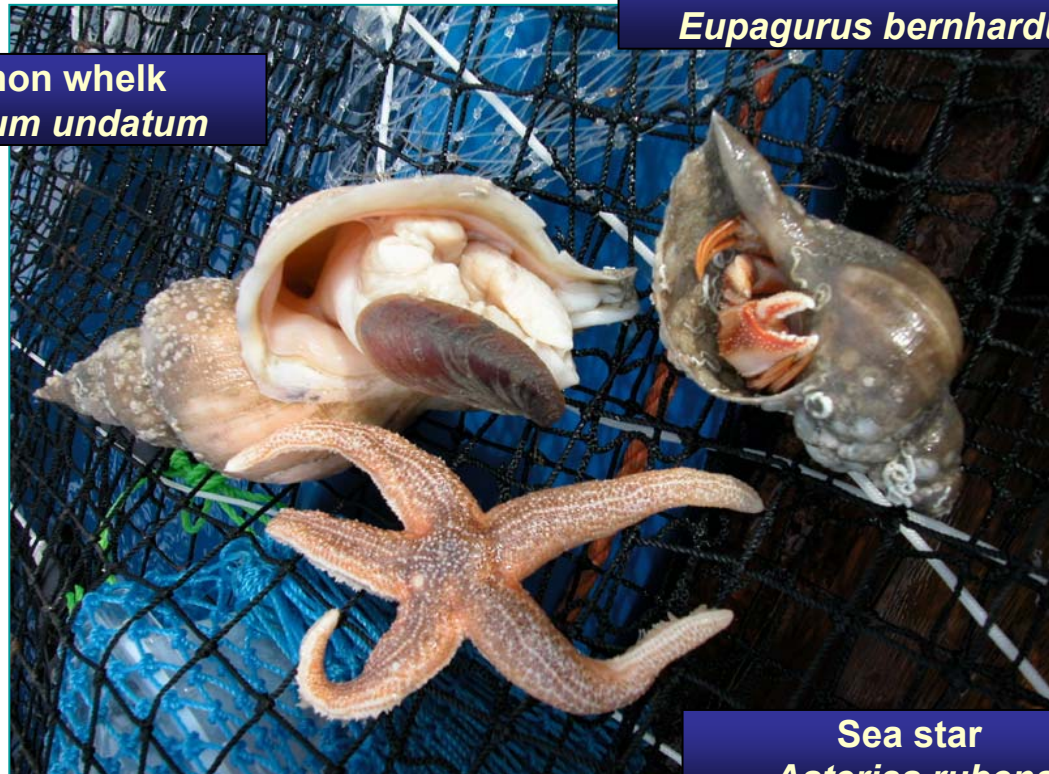
Monk fish



# Invertebrate study species

**Common whelk**  
*Buccinum undatum*

**Hermit crab**  
*Eupagurus bernhardus*

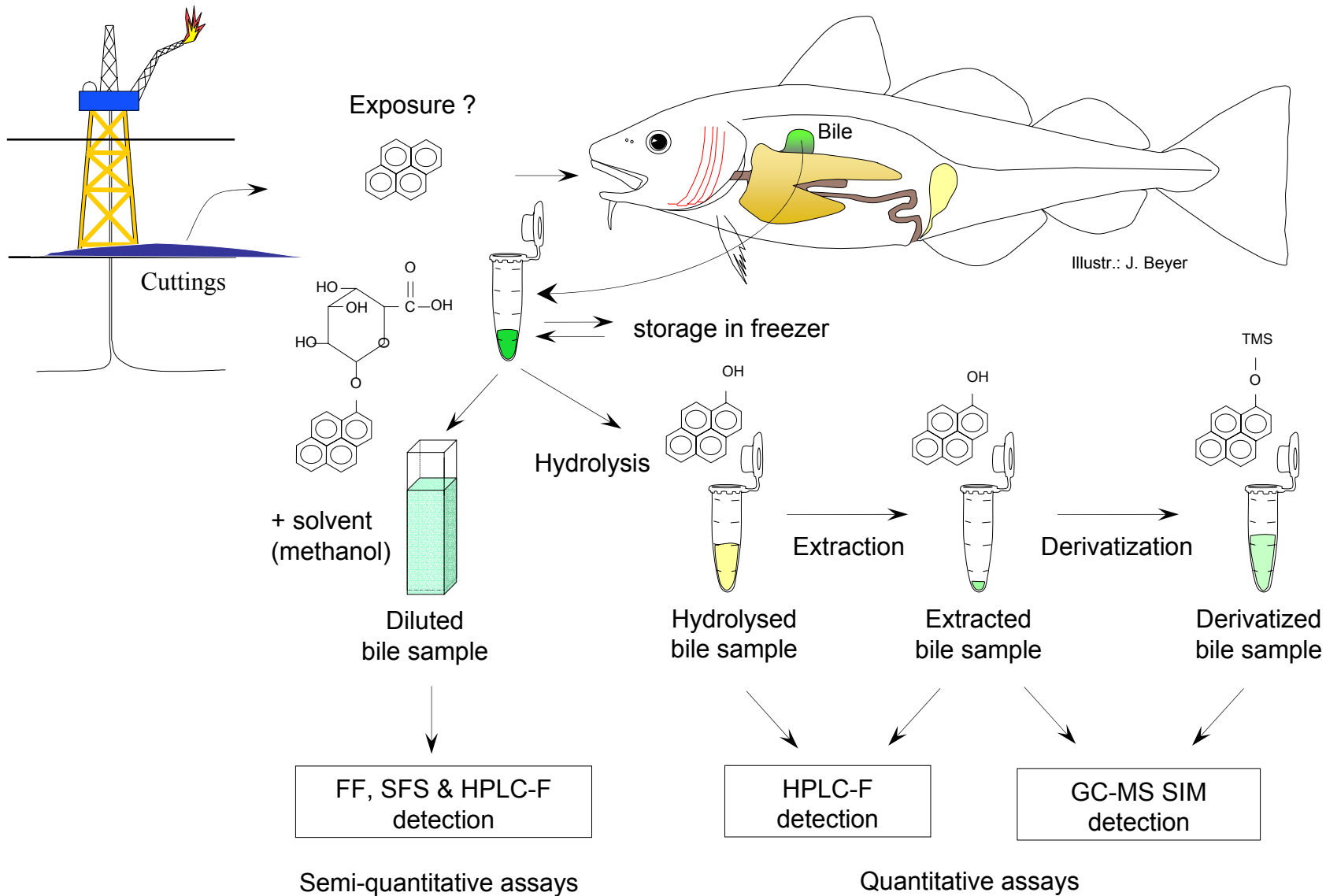


**Sea star**  
*Asterias rubens*

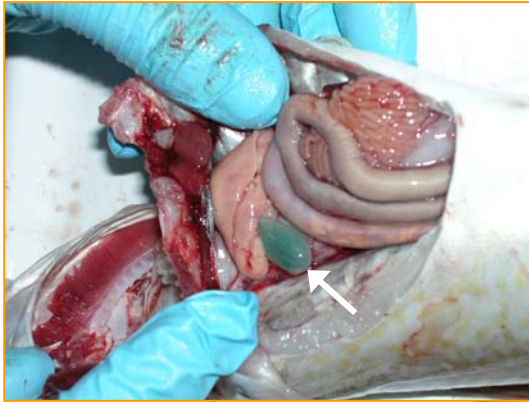




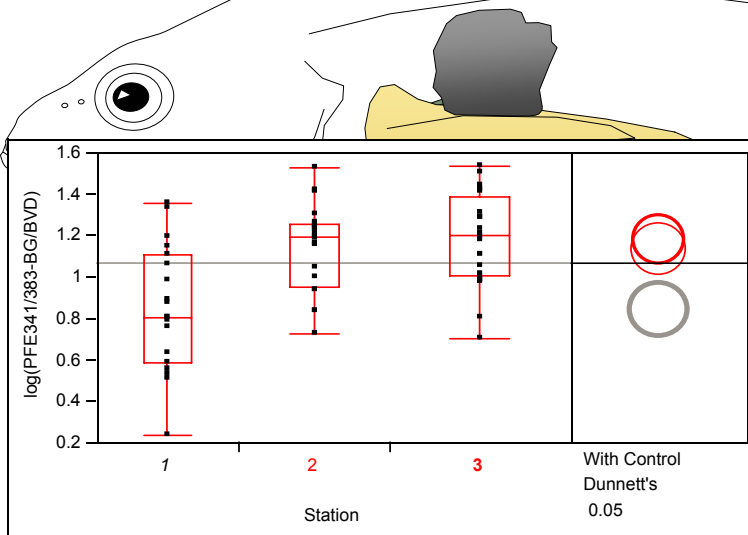
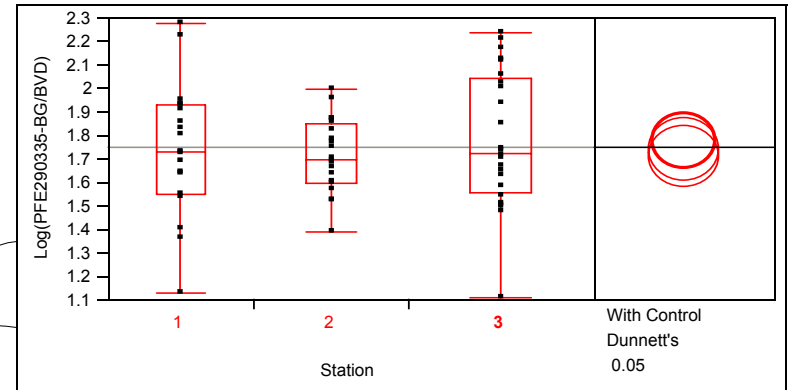
# 3 Methods for bile PAH detection



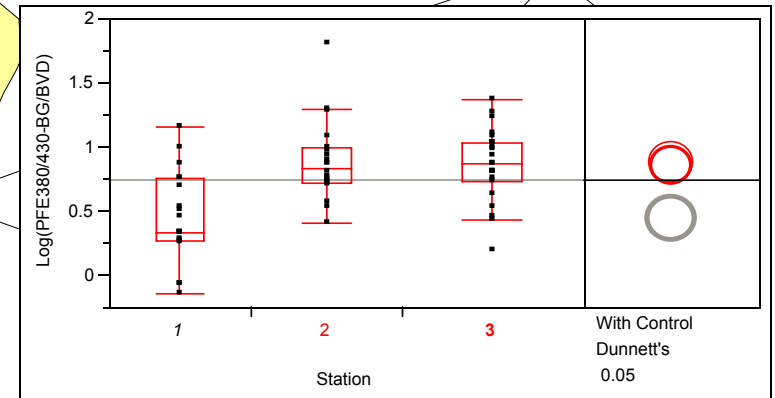
# PAH exposure biomarker in haddock bile



2&3-ring PAH metabolite signal



4-ring PAH metabolite signal



5-ring PAH metabolite signal

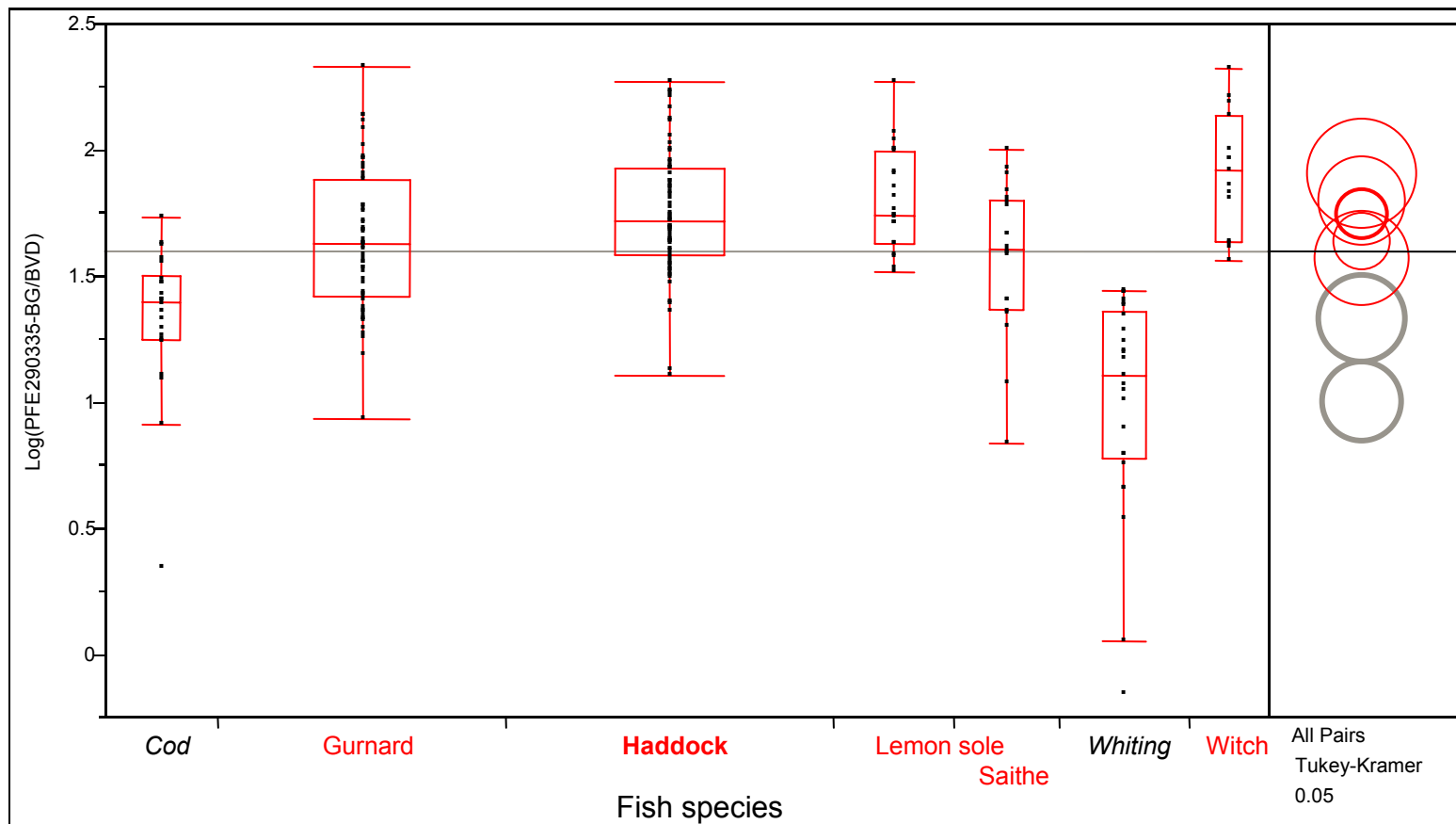
Oneway Analysis By Station



RF-Akvamiljø



# PAH exposure biomarker – species effect

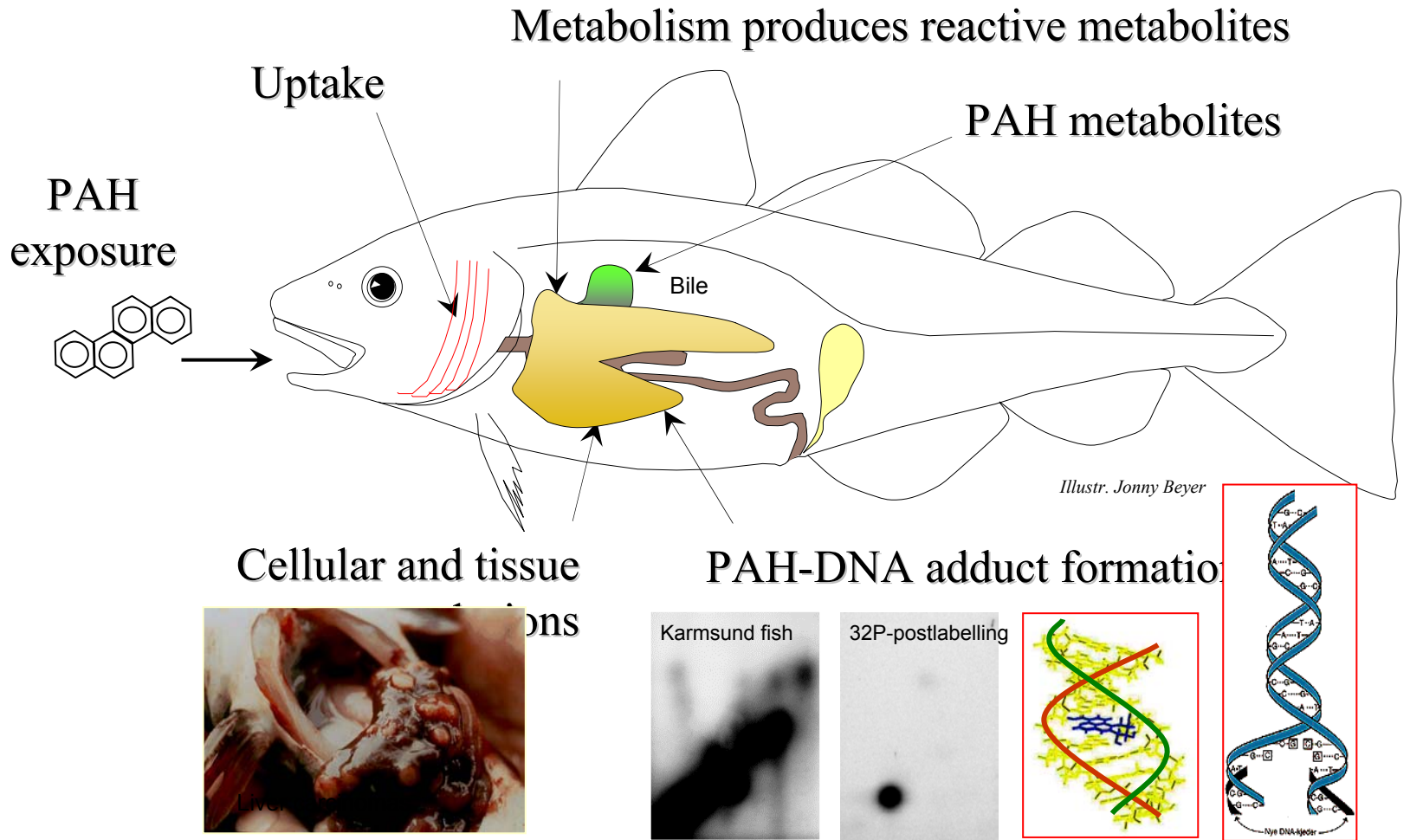


2&3-ring PAH metabolite signal in fish bile

One way analysis by species

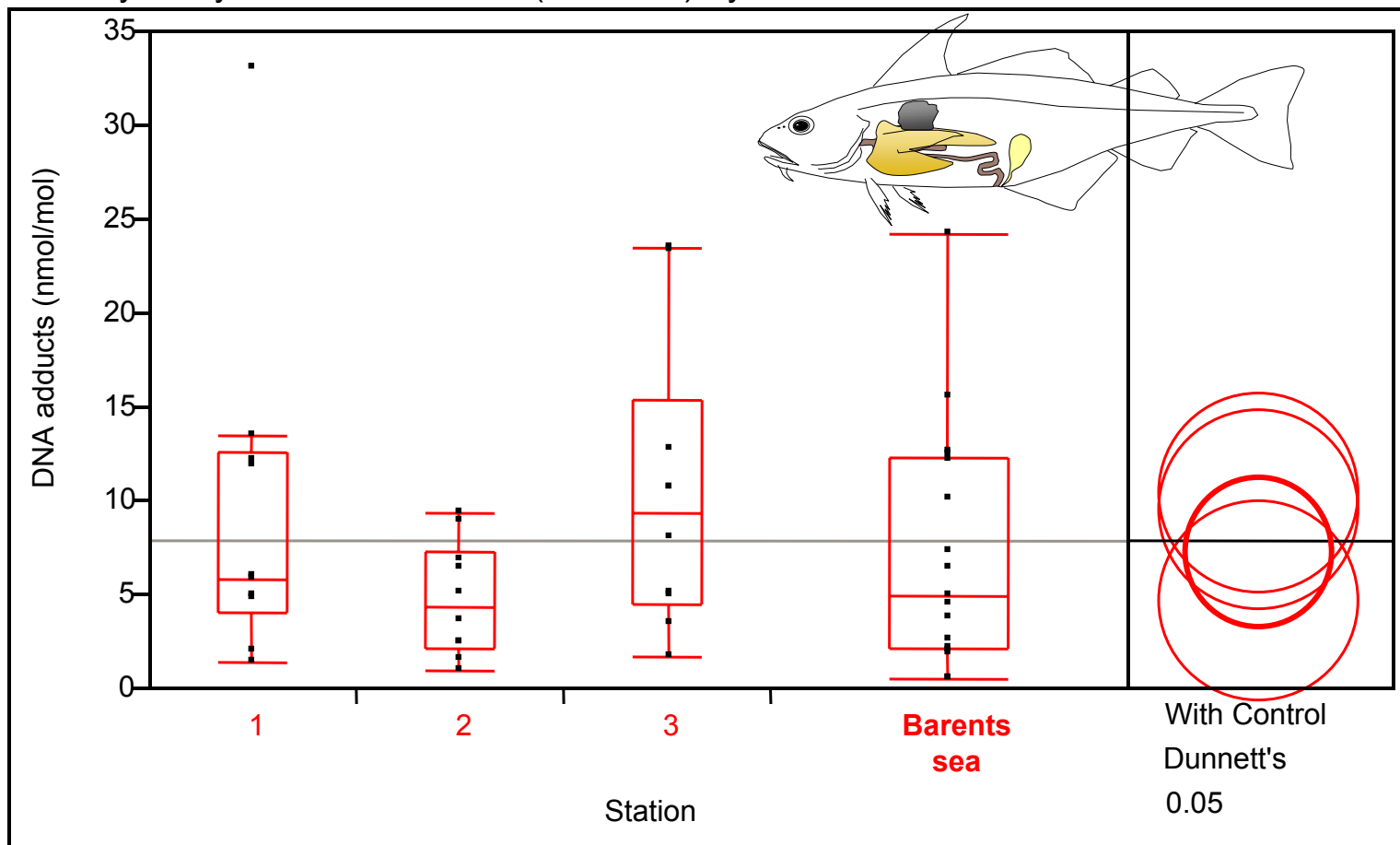


# DNA adduct formation - a biomarker of potential genotoxic effects



# DNA adducts in haddock liver

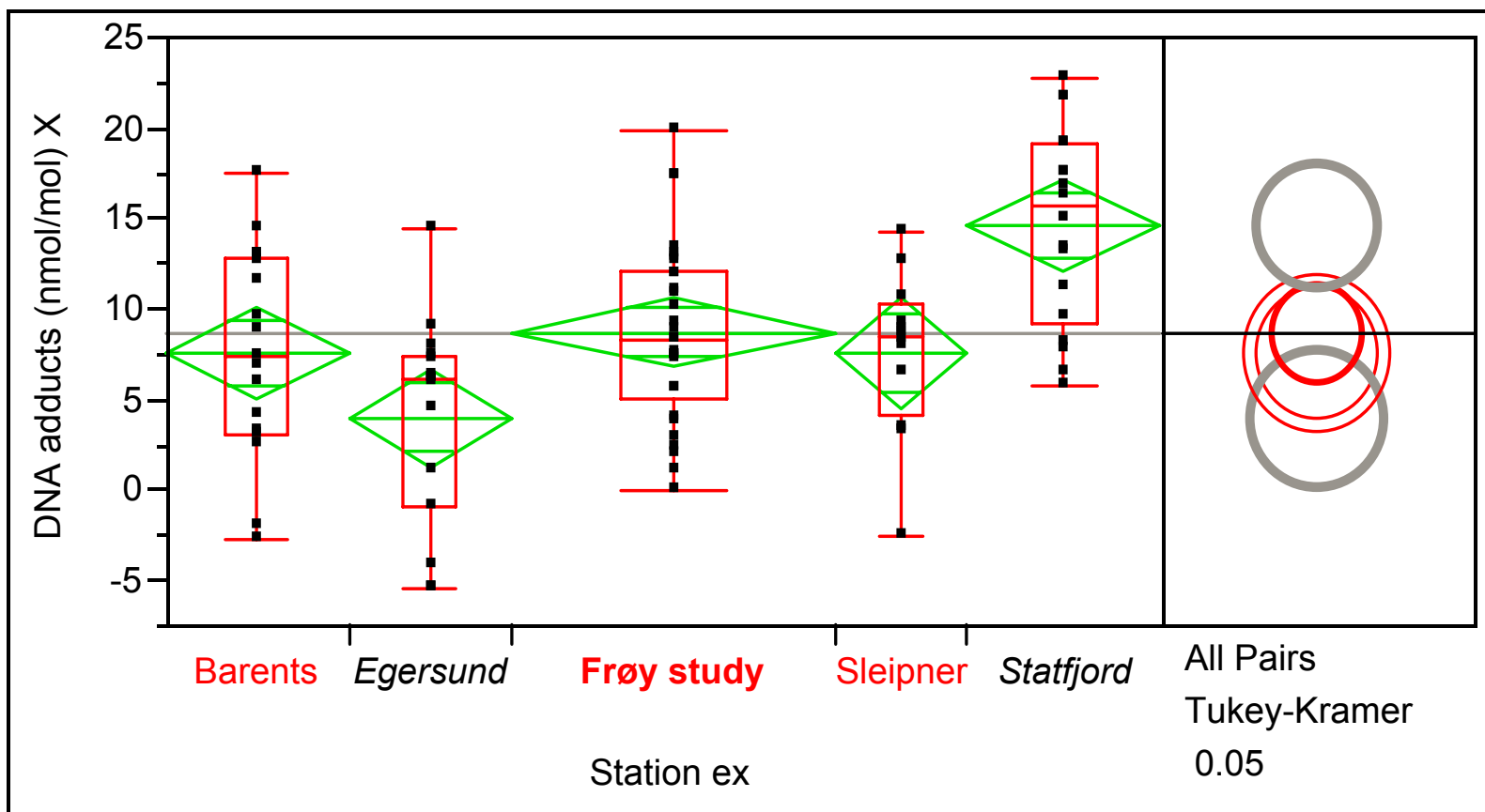
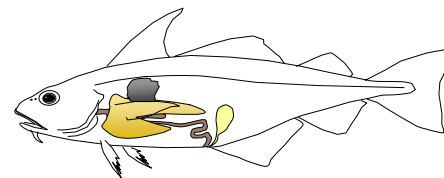
Oneway Analysis of DNA adducts (nmol/mol) By Station



Barents sea data: Biomarker Deep Sea (Cold Water) project – Sundt & Børseth (in prep)



# Haddock DNA adducts – Comparison of Frøy with other areas



Statfjord, Sleipner & Egersund data: NFR 152231/720 & TOTAL E&P funding

Barents sea data: Biomarker Deep Sea (Cold Water) project



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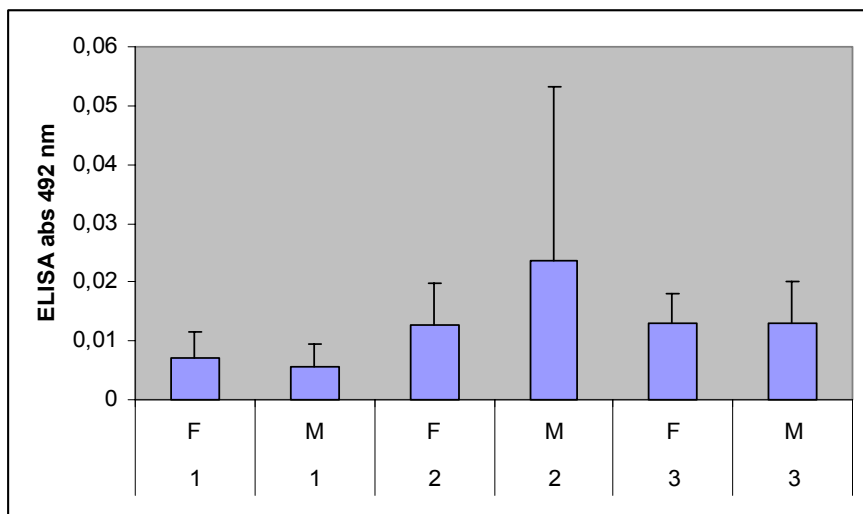




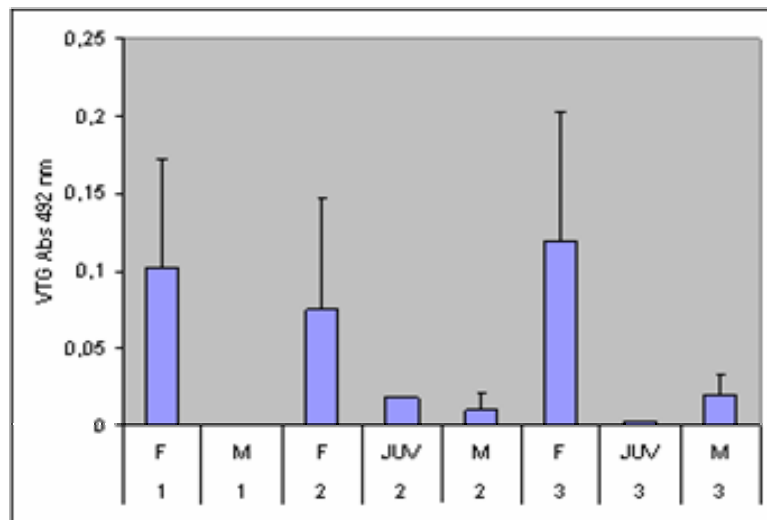
# CYP1A and VTG induction in haddock:



No effect at Frøy in comparison to the reference station



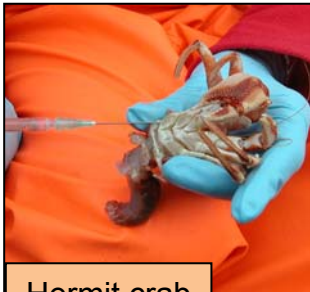
CYP1A ELISA  
In liver of male and female haddock



VTG ELISA  
In plasma of male and female haddock



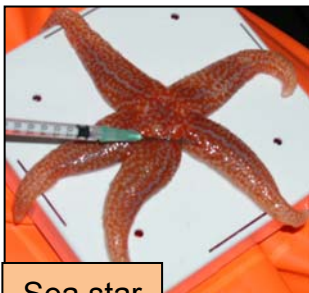
# Lysosomal stability condition in invertebrates



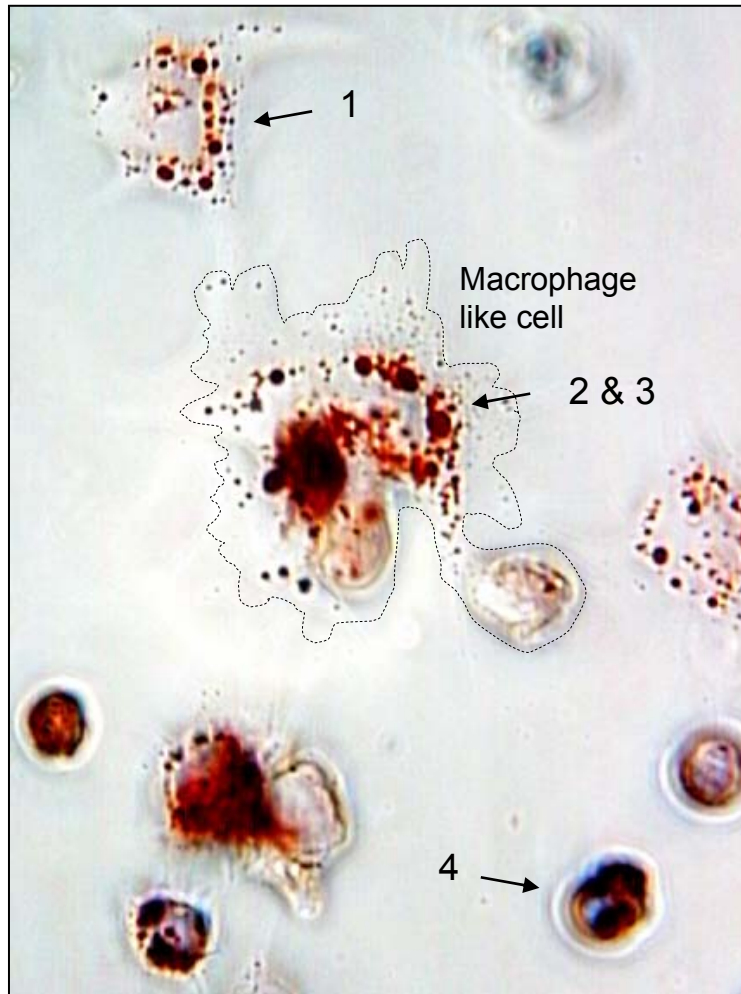
Hermit crab



Whelk

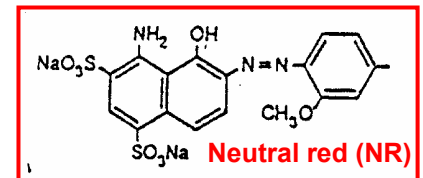


Sea star



Obtain macrophage like cells and attach them to a microscope slide

Add dye (NR) solution to cells



NR is taken up by cells & accumulates in the lysosome organelles (1)

The lysosomes swell up & the lysosome membrane becomes stressed (2)

Lysosomal membrane breaks and NR leaks into cytosol (3)

The cell rounds up (4) & subsequently dies

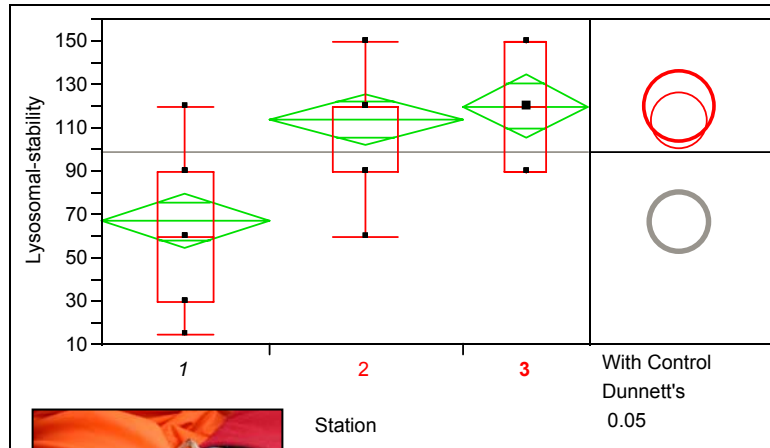
Photo: Anne Bjørnstad



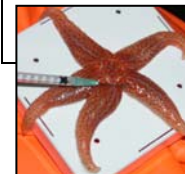
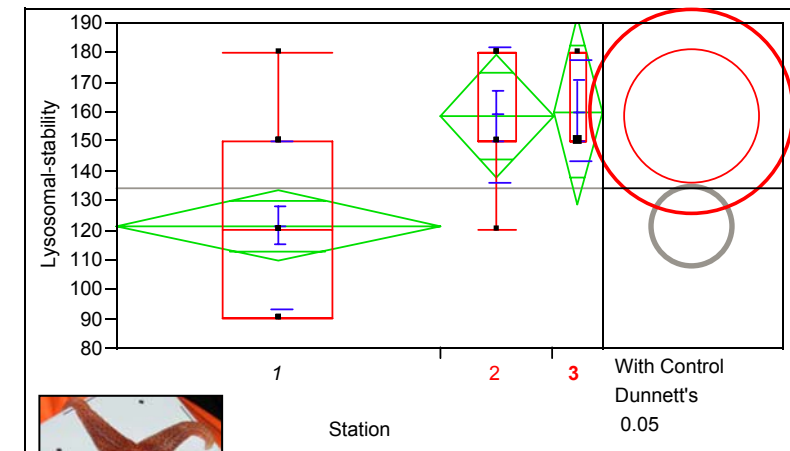
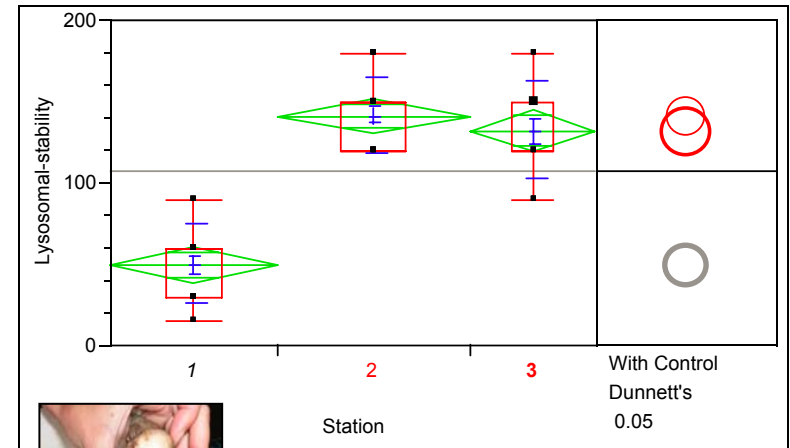
RF-Akvamiljø



# Lysosomal stability in Frøy invertebrates



Significant effect at station 1

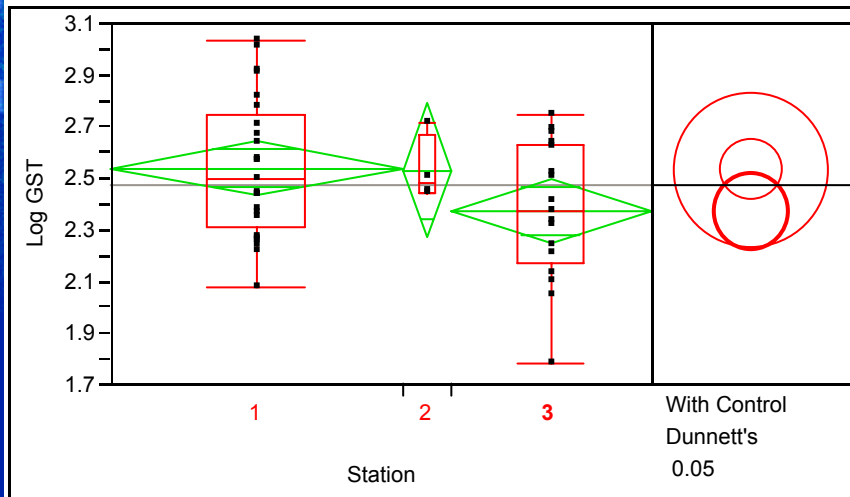




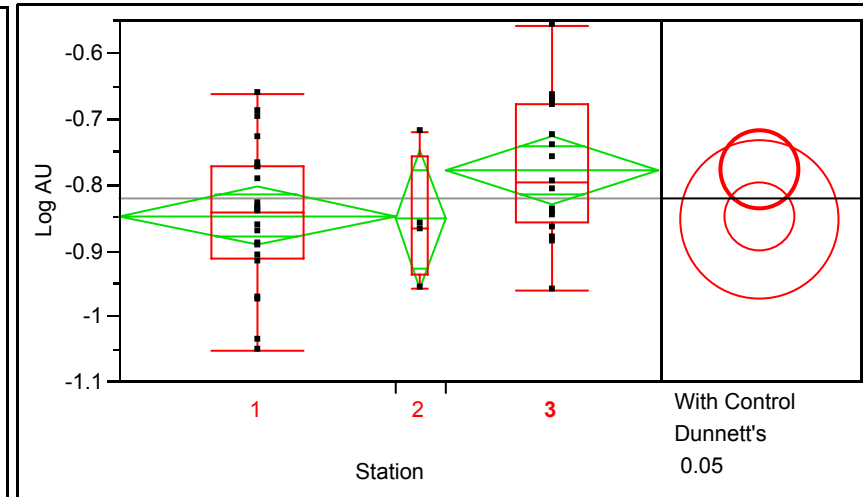
Hermit crab

# Other invertebrate biomarkers

## GST activity in hermit crab hepatopancreas



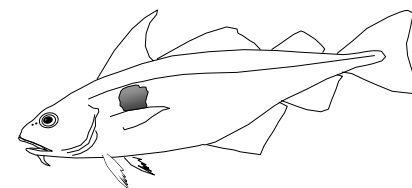
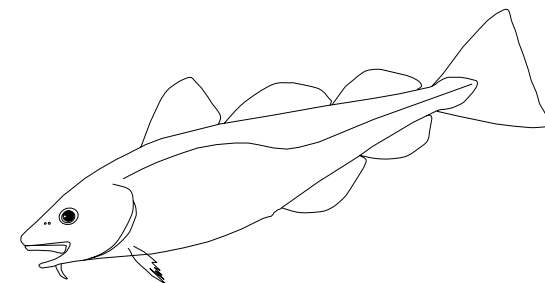
## alkaline unwinding in hermit crab hepatopancreas



Possible weak effect at station 1 & 2



# Discussion of approach and findings



Cuttings



RF-Akvamiljø



# Conclusions of Frøy study

- o Biomarkers in Frøy invertebrates
  - o Clearest signs of effect was observed for lysosomal stability.
  - o Effects was restricted to the of cuttings deposit and ultimate surroundings.
  - o Slow moving invertebrates better than fish for effect studies of cuttings
  
- o Biomarkers in Frøy fish
  - o In general, no site effect at Frøy in comparison to reference site.
  - o DNA adducts in haddock seemed first to be weakly above background, but recent results in Barents sea haddock suggest the Frøy data to be within normal range.
  - o A species effect was found on biliary PAH exposure markers in fish with higher signals in benthic species as compared to pelagic.
  - o Haddock is apparently a more suitable species than cod for addressing sediment associated pollutant situations.
  
- o The biomarker approach was proven applicable for the task in the Frøy study
  
- o A similar approach may be used to assess possible impact of Offshore installations in general (e.g. drilling discharges, produced water, accidental spills)





# Summary of the study cases

The presented study cases have demonstrated how ERA and biomarkers are used as tools for environmental risk and impact assessment related to different phases of E&P offshore activities

The methods are applicable today, and can be further refined to fit different specific purposes

In other words, altogether they constitute a multipurpose environmental assessment toolbox

