Trophic cascades over three trophic levels in a coastal food web— an 8-year study of the ctenophore *Mnemiopsis leidyi* in the Gullmar Fjord

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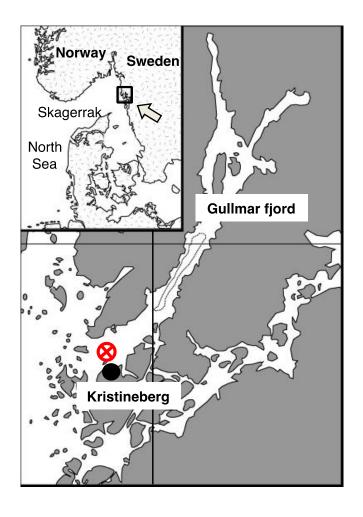
Lene Friis Møller
Danish Shellfish Centre—DTU Aqua



30 year times series of primary production and chlorophyll in the Gullmar fjord



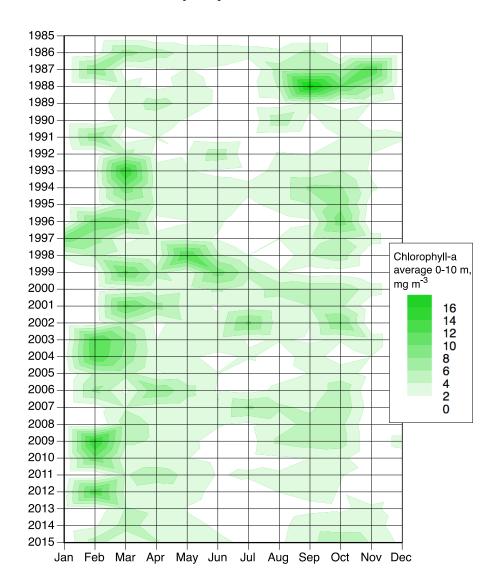


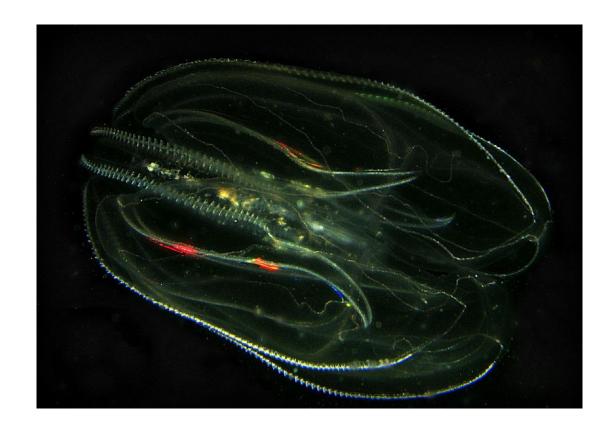


Primary production:

1997 -Primary production, $mg C m^2 d^1$ 2013 -Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

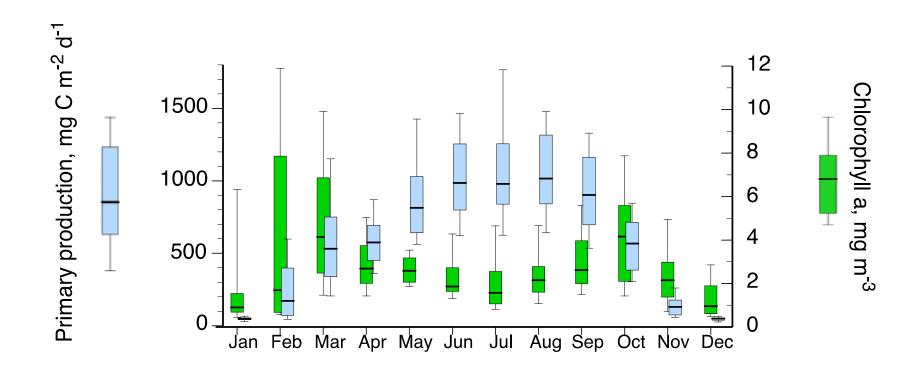
Chlorophyll a:



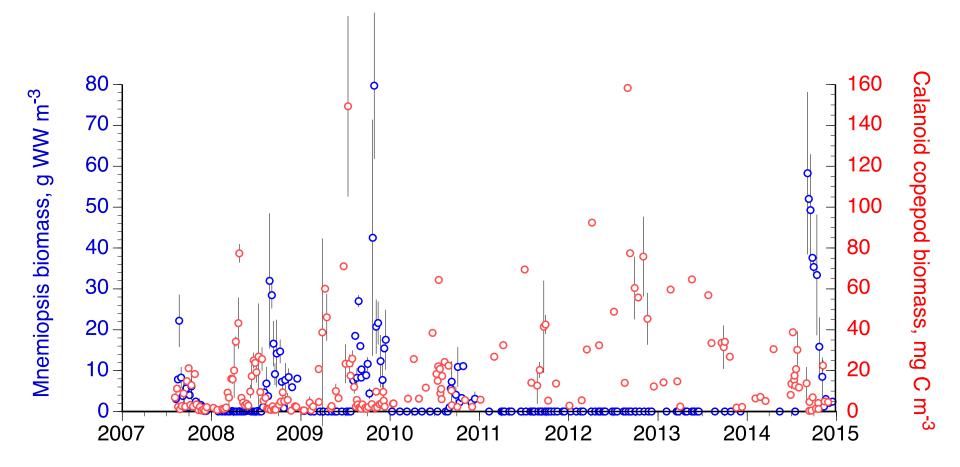


Mnemiopsis leidyi

Primary production and chlorophyll:

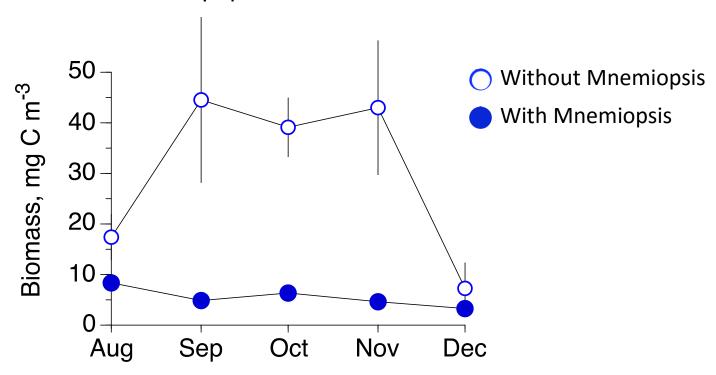


Mnemiopsis and calanoid copepods:

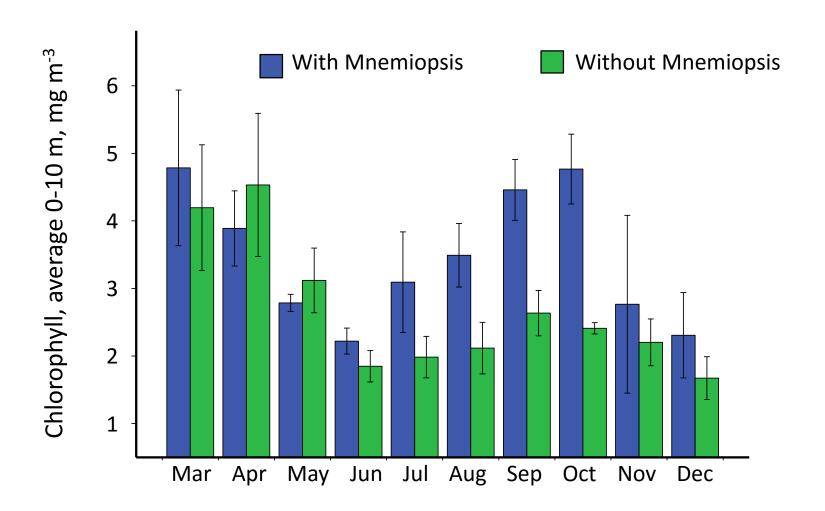




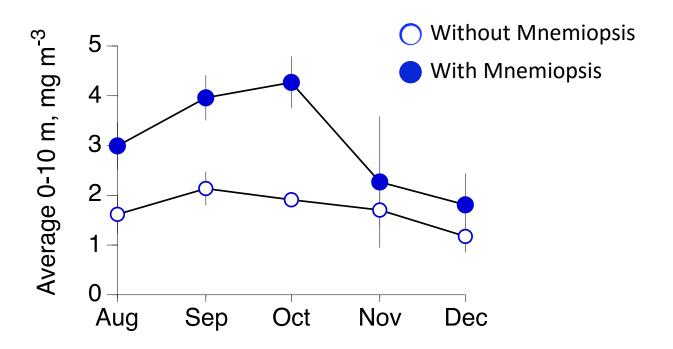
Calanoid copepods



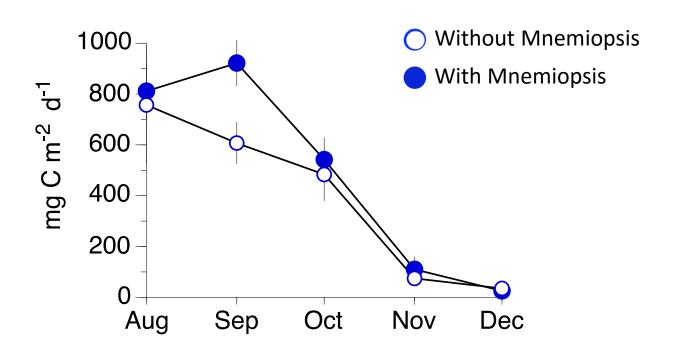
Chlorophyll in years with and without Mnemiopsis:



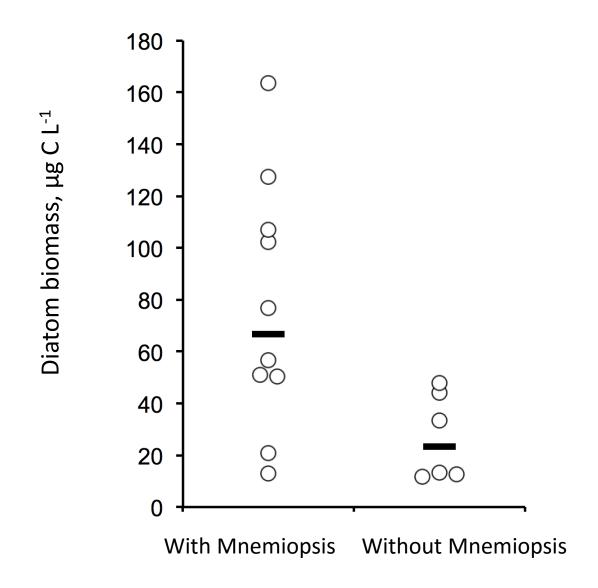
Chlorophyll a



Primary production



Diatom biomass in Sept and Oct 2007-2014



Conclusions

- The invasive ctenophore Mnemiopsis leidyi can significantly change the pelagic ecosystem during autumn in the Gullmar Fjord
- In years with *Mnemiopsis*:
 - Copepods almost disappear
 - Chlorophyll increase as a result of trophic cascades
 - Diatoms instead of dinoflagellate dominate the phytoplankton
 - Primary production is not affected
- Top-down control and trophic cascades can be observed even in productive and eutrophic coastal waters

Acknowledgements

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Odd Lindahl when it all began

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Microzooplankton and copepod interactions in summer:

