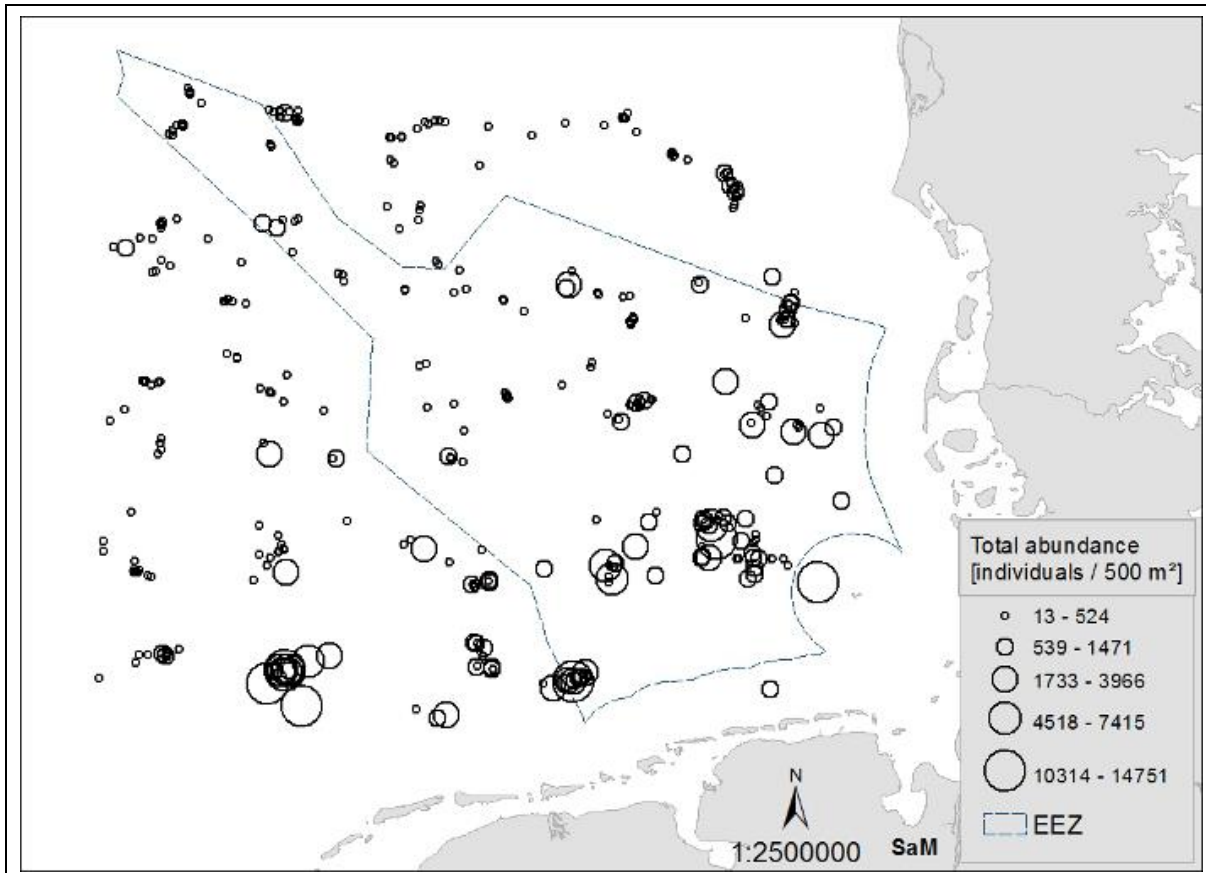


## Epibenthic abundance

GENERAL OVERVIEW	
<b>Dataset name:</b> <i>Total abundance of epifauna in the south-eastern North Sea from 1998 to 2014</i>	
<b>Project:</b> <i>International Bottom Trawl Survey (IBTS)</i> <i>North Sea – Observation and Assessment of Habitats (NOAH)</i>	
<b>Co-Principal Investigator:</b> <b>Dr. Hermann Neumann, Ulrike Kleeberg (Web Services) [HZG]</b>	
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DATASET SPECIFICATIONS	
<b>Dataset Parameter(s) and supplied Unit(s):</b> <small>extend if necessary</small> <i>1. Total abundance of all epibenthic species at the corresponding station (individuals per 500 m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	
<b>Date(s) available:</b> <i>1998 – 2014 (July/August); except of 2001 and 2002</i>	
<b>Validated:</b> <i>Yes</i>	<b>Version Date:</b> <i>23.02.2015</i>
<b>Current State:</b> <i>final</i>	
<b>Format:</b> <i>ESRI shape- /layer file</i>	
<b>Citation:</b> <i>Neumann, H., Reiss, H., Rakers, S., Ehrich, S., Kröncke, I., 2009. Temporal variability of southern North Sea epifauna communities after the cold winter 1995/1996. ICES J Mar Sci 66, 2233-2243.</i>  <i>Neumann, H., Reiss, H., Ehrich, S., Sell, A., Panten, K., Kloppmann, M., Wilhelms, I., Kröncke, I., 2013. Benthos and demersal fish habitats in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the North Sea. Helgoland Mar Res 67, 445-459.</i>	
DATASET DETAILS	
<b>Abstract</b> <i>Total abundance of epifauna in the south-eastern North Sea from 1998 to 2014. Total abundance of epifauna is higher in shallow, coastal areas compared to deeper, offshore areas. High abundance and biomass of common species such as the seastar <i>Asterias rubens</i>, the swimming crab <i>Liocarcinus holsatus</i>, the shrimp <i>Crangon crangon</i> or the brittle star <i>Ophiura albida</i> were characteristic for coastal communities in the south-eastern North Sea.</i>	



**Acquisition and Processing Description:**

*Samples were taken with a 2-m beam trawl from 1998 to 2014 on board of FRV Walther Herwig III. The beam trawl was fitted with a 20 mm net and a cod end of 4 mm mesh size. The beam was towed at a speed of about 1.5 – 2 knots for 5 minutes. Catches were sieved over 5-mm mesh size. In total, 365 stations were sampled (usually 24 per year). Abundance data were standardized to a tow length of 250 m (500 m<sup>2</sup>).*

*The data were roughly interpolated with the deterministic interpolation method inverse distance weighting for visualization in the NOAH Habitatatlas.*

**Notes and Limitations:**

*Sampling did not take place in 2001 and 2002. Certain species were excluded from the analysis. Ask data owner for details.*