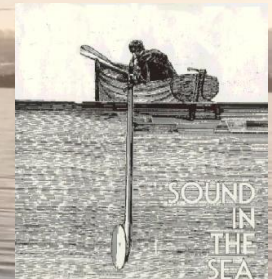
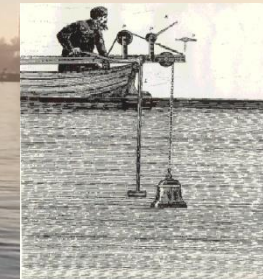
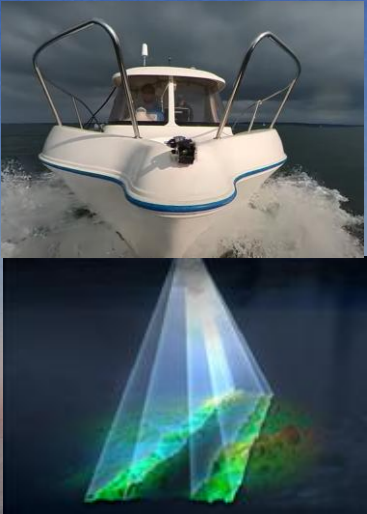
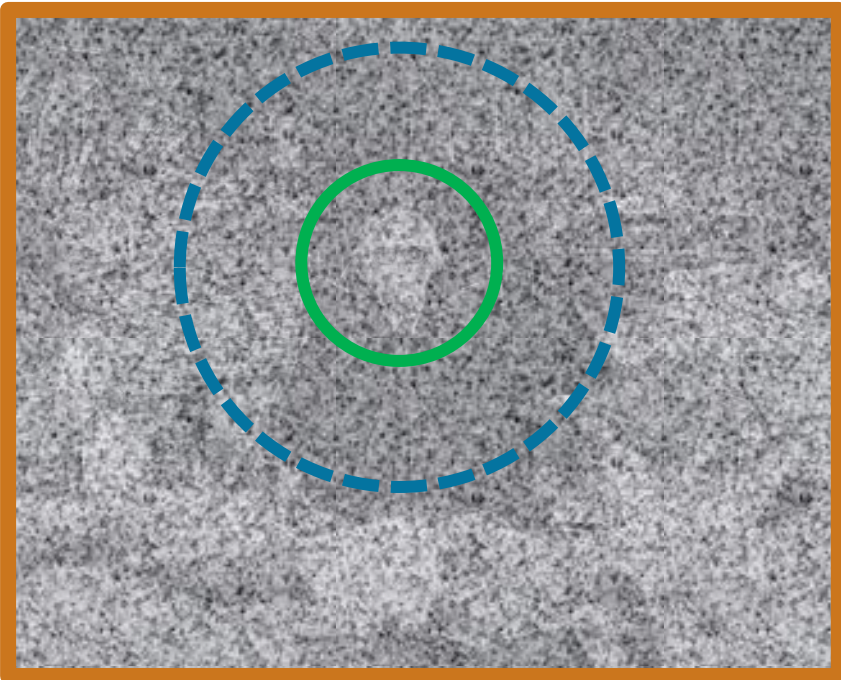


Fernerkundung und Modellierung von marinen Lebensräumen: Herausforderungen und Ergebnisse der Helgoland Expeditionen



Dr. Jens Schneider von Deimling, Merve Jensen
AG Marine Geophysik und Hydroakustik, CAU

Marine Habitats = marine Lebensräume



Scientist's Habitat?

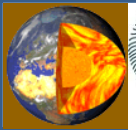
Jean Piaget

A specific Habitat has:

Environmental characteristics that support a species to live there (bio-geo-physico-chemical)

MAP – MINE - MODEL

- Direct detection of living species
- Indirect environmental characterization
- Habitat Modeling



ECO
MAP

SONAR

LiDAR

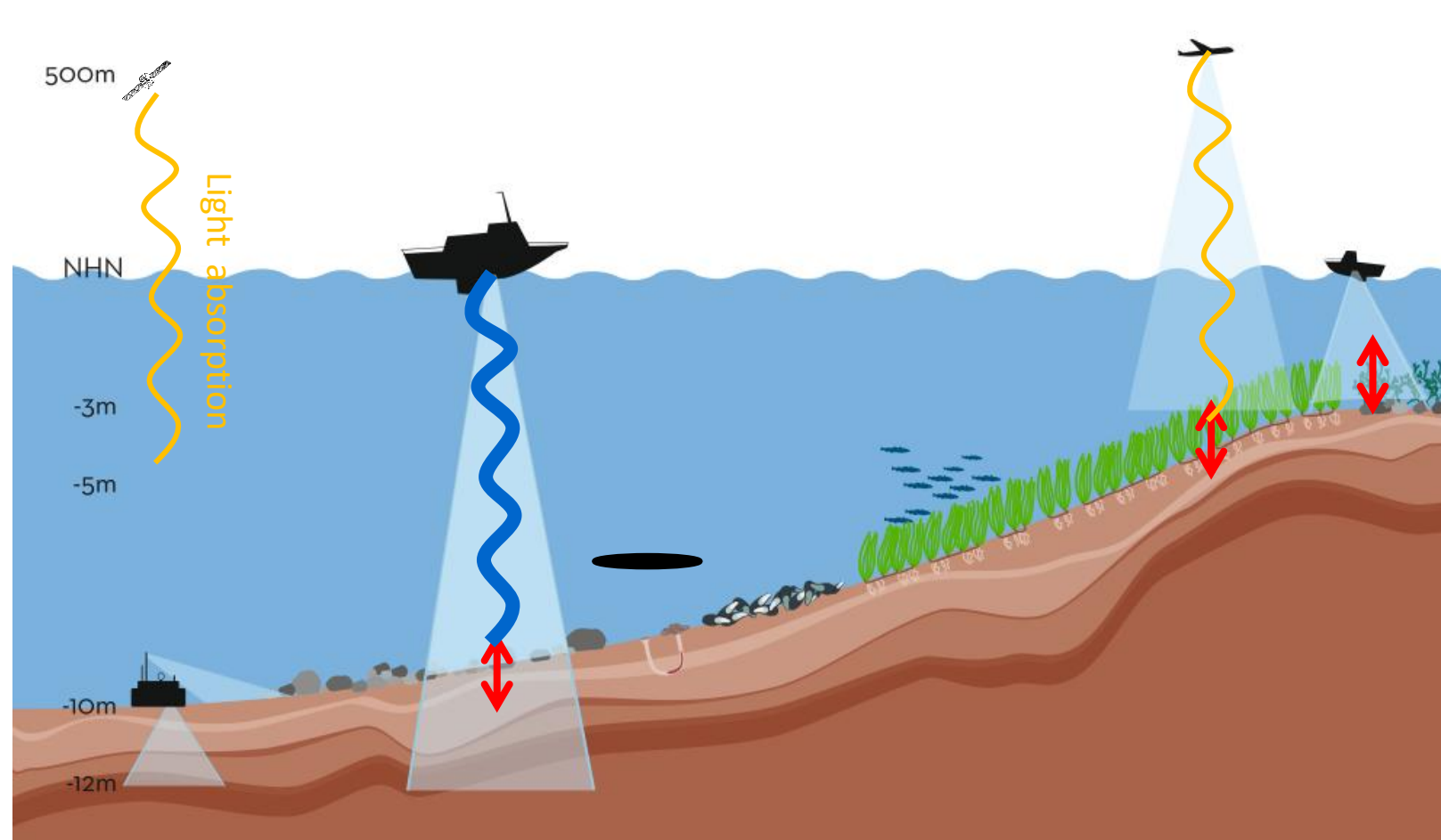
Imagery

Machine Learning

Projects 2017-2026

1. EU BONUS ECOMAP
2. sea4soCiety
3. EU Ocean Citizen
4. Marispace-X
5. BFN MMAP
6. ANK Labluc/Fubluc
7. ANK Zobluc
8. EU BETTER
9. Seascape
10. DFG Research UNIT AMCA

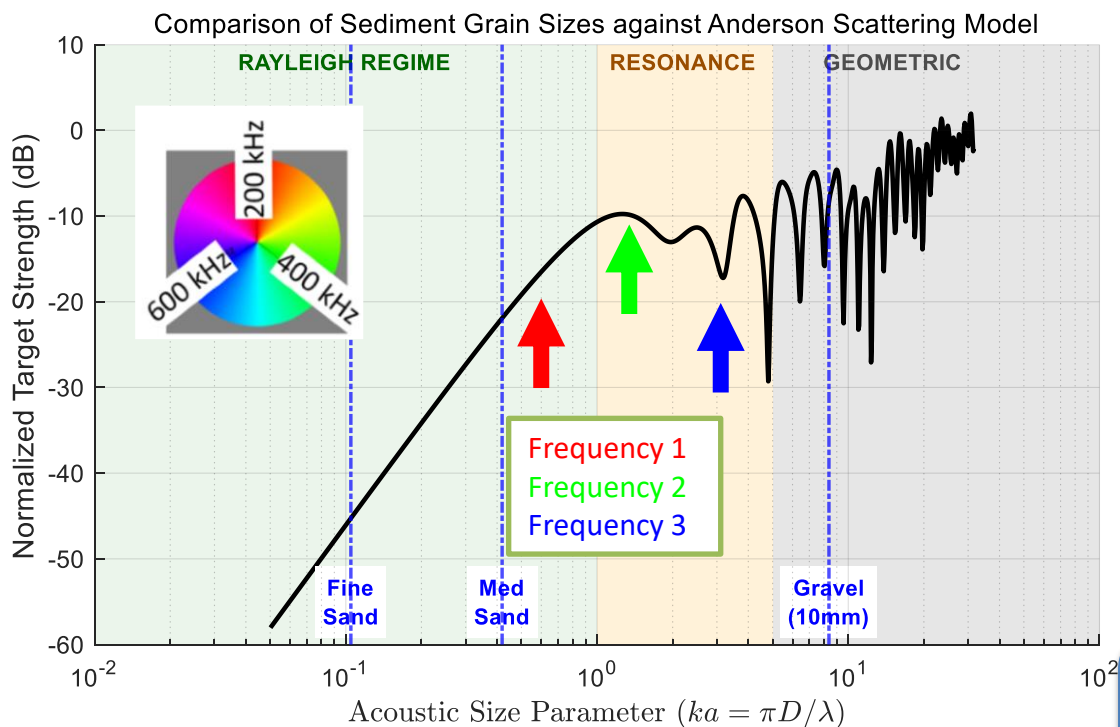
Baltic Sea environmental assessments by innovative opto- acoustic remote sensing, mapping, and monitoring



Subtle acoustic signatures ...

nonlinear behaviour of scatterers

Scattering Regimes for 400 kHz Sonar



$$D = \text{object diameter [mm]}$$

$$\lambda_{400 \text{ kHz @ } 1500 \text{ m/s}} = 3.7 \text{ [mm]}$$

- Frequency dependent penetration
- Penetration with 400 kHz in sand ca. 8 cm, expect much more in silt and mud (decimeters to meters)

Experimental MBES

- Multispectral
- Snippets Backscatter
- WCI
- Point Cloud
- Multidetector

Microroughness Flora & Fauna

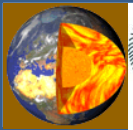
Bioturbation

Biofilms?

Buried fish?

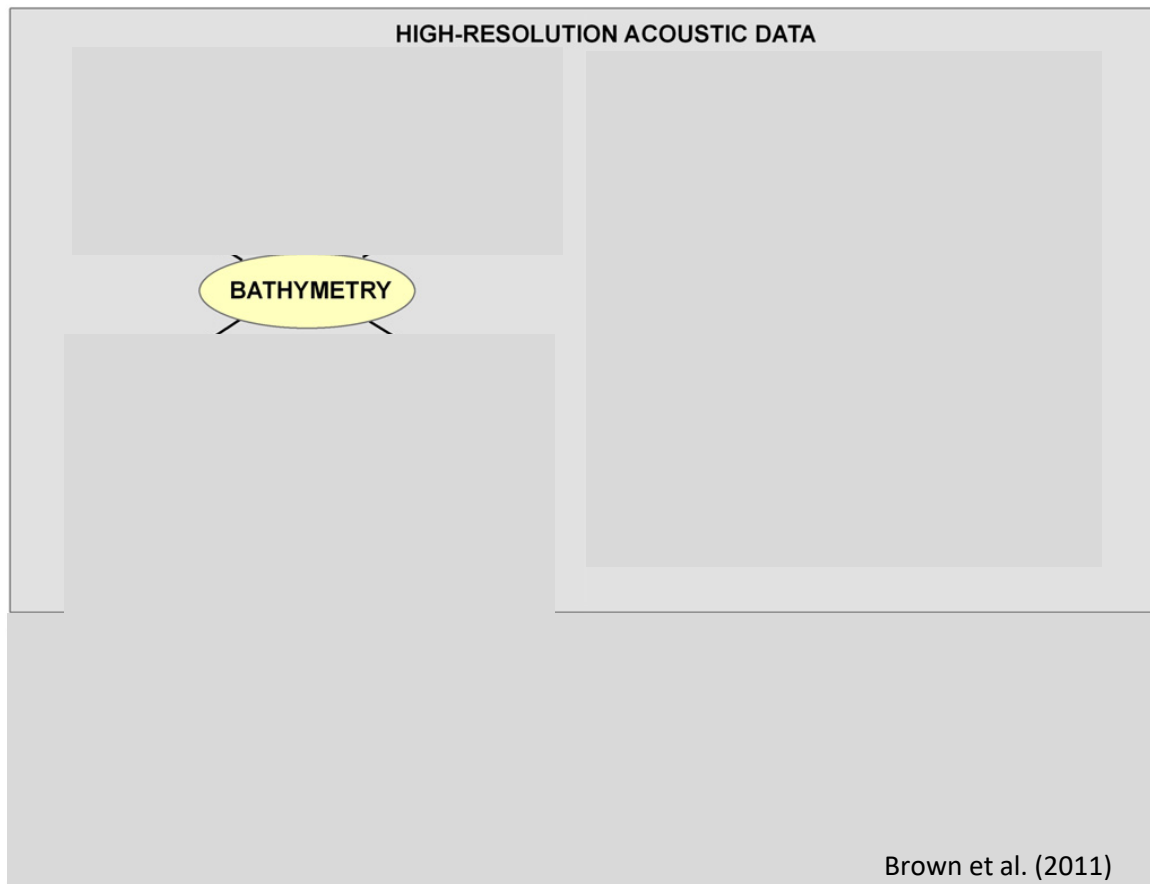


<https://britishseafishing.co.uk/greater-and-lessor-sandeel/>



Habitat Mapping

Beyond bathymetry



Backscatter
Working Group



Multispectral
Substrate

Water column
Fish, Seeps,
Vegetation

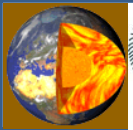
Calibration

Processing

Acquisition

New MBES backscatter
report under construction
for 2027

→ Highly dimensional, Terrabytes of Data



KIEL
MARINE
SCIENCE
CONNECTED RESEARCH

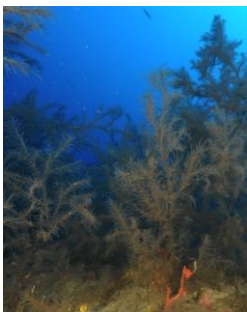
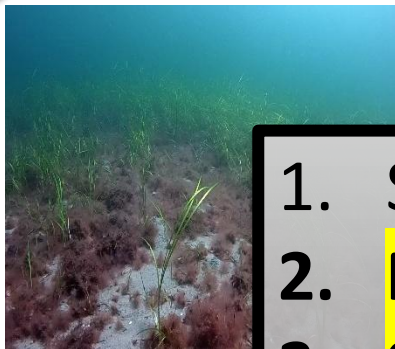
C | A | U

Kiel University
Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel



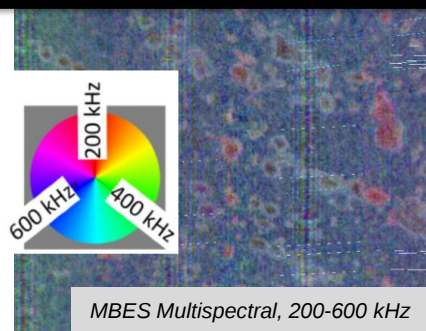
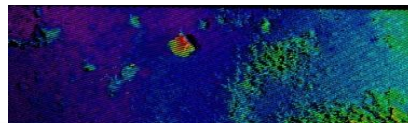
Experimental
Hydroacoustics

Natural



Heinrich et al 2016

Acoustic imaging



MBES Multispectral, 200-600 kHz

Anthropogenic

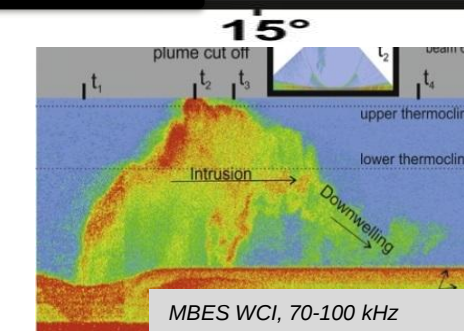
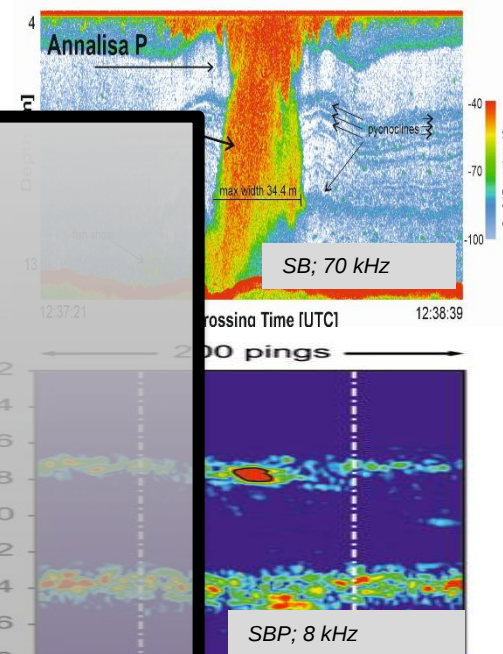


Wikipedia.org



MOBIL

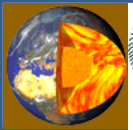
Acoustic imaging



MBES WCI, 70-100 kHz

1. Sidescan Sonar
2. **Multibeam Echosounder**
3. **Sediment Profiler**
4. Fishery Echosounder
5. **Laser**
6. Airborne imagery

→ See publications on <https://www.marinegeophysik.ifg.uni-kiel.de/>



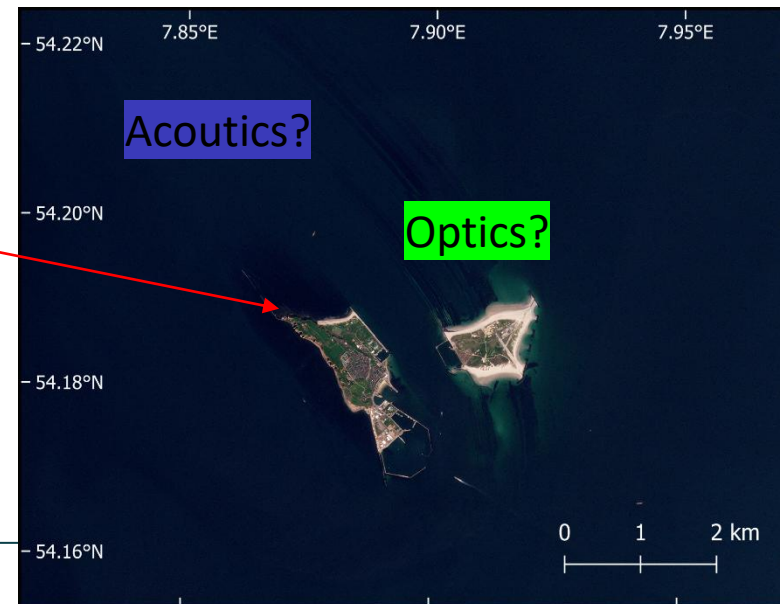
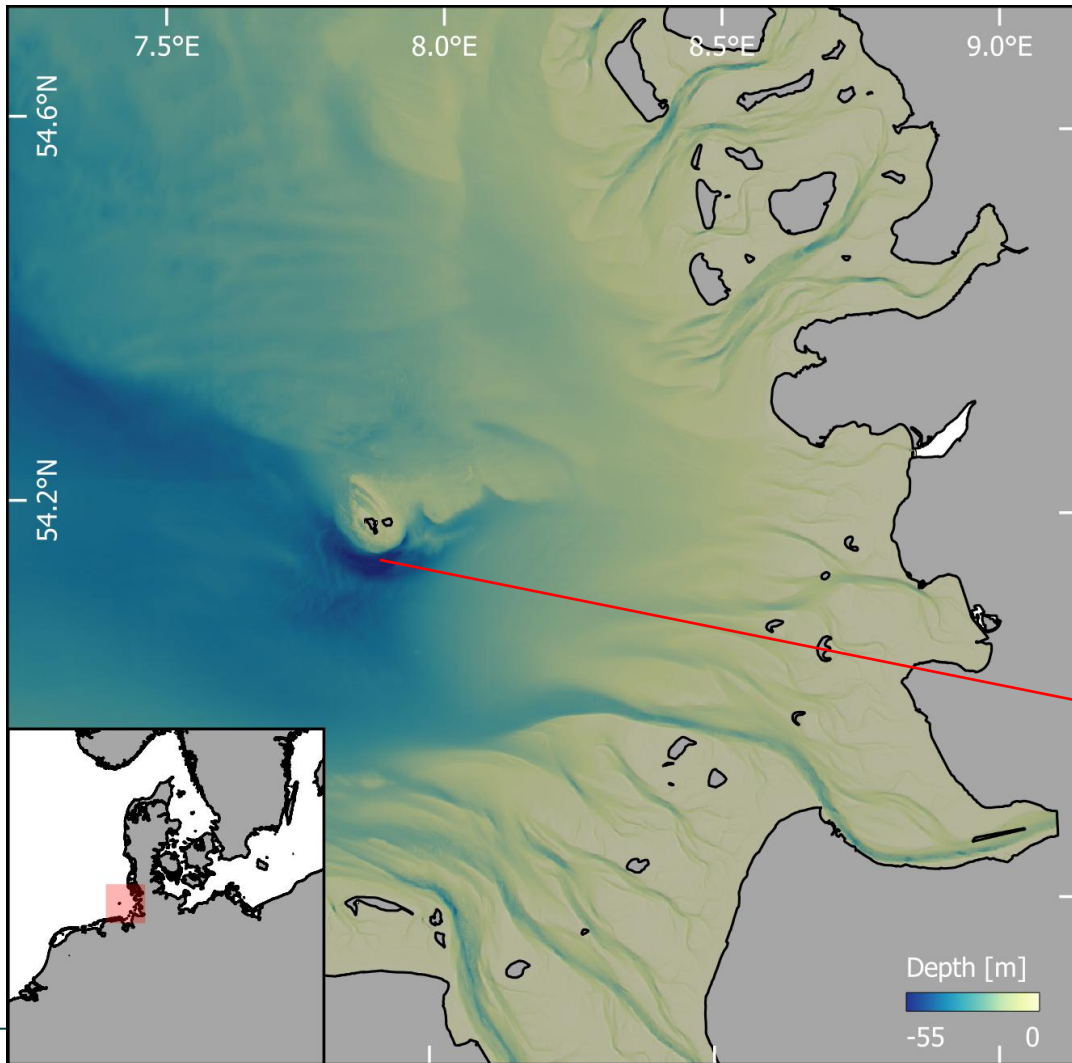
KIEL
MARINE
SCIENCE
CONNECTED RESEARCH

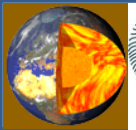
C | A | U

Kiel University
Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel



Helgoland – der Fels in der Brandung ...

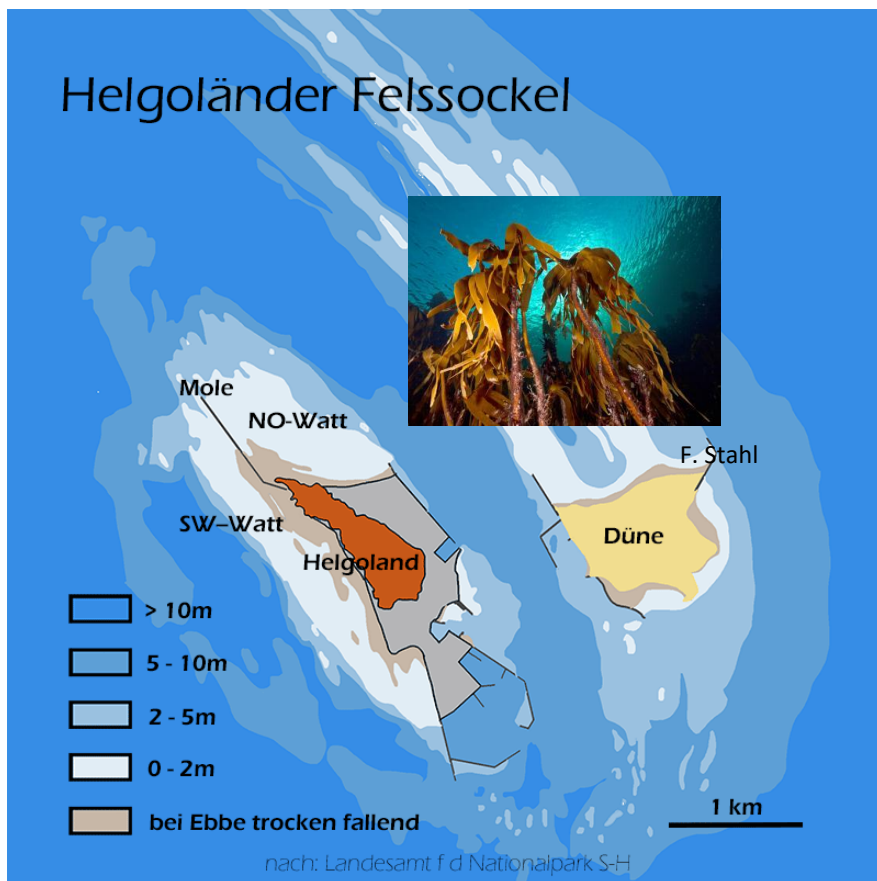




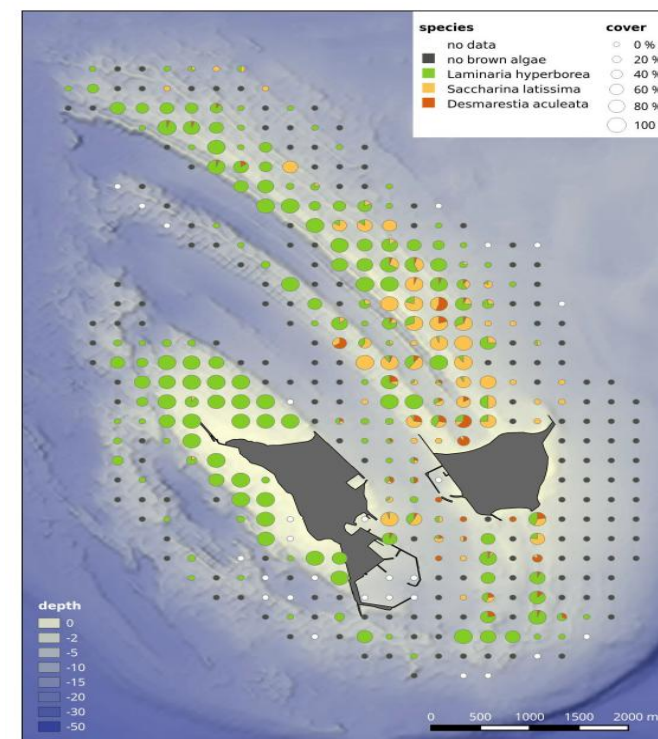
Der marine Biodiversitäts Hotspot Deutschlands



Laminaria hyperborea



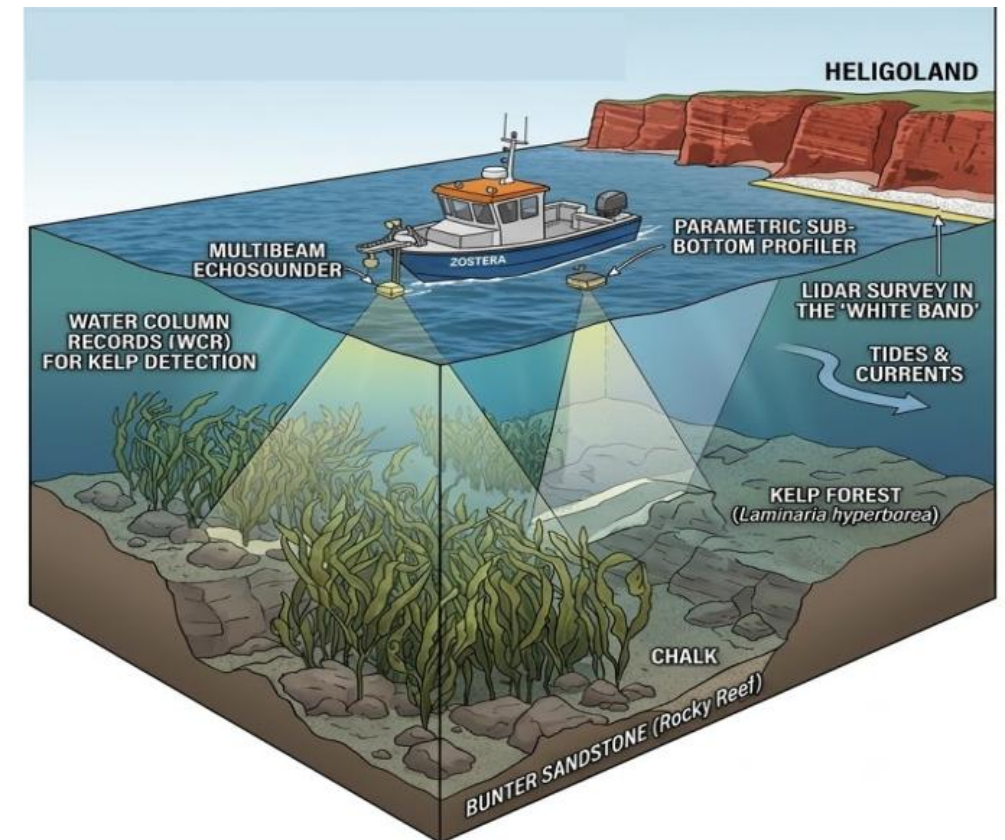
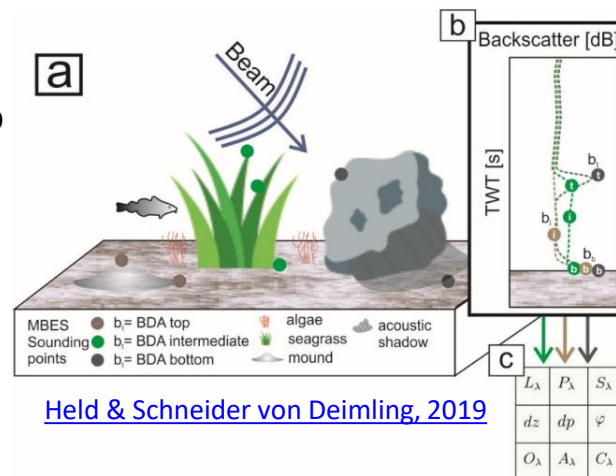
LKN.SH / BSH, basierend auf Singlebeam

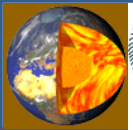


LFU Makrophytenanalysen
(Schubert, Wein, Bartsch, 2016)

Helgoland Herausforderungen

- Nautisch & Logistisch
 - Surveytiefe 0-5 m → kleines Boot
 - Exponiert
 - Untiefen + Felsuntergrund, Tidenhub
 - Kreuzsee, starke Tidenströmung
- Hydrographisch
 - 3 Wasserkörper
- Akustisch
 - Vegetation & Fehlechos





- **Survey Effort**

7 scientific cruises
1 airborne LiDAR s

- **Hydroacousti**

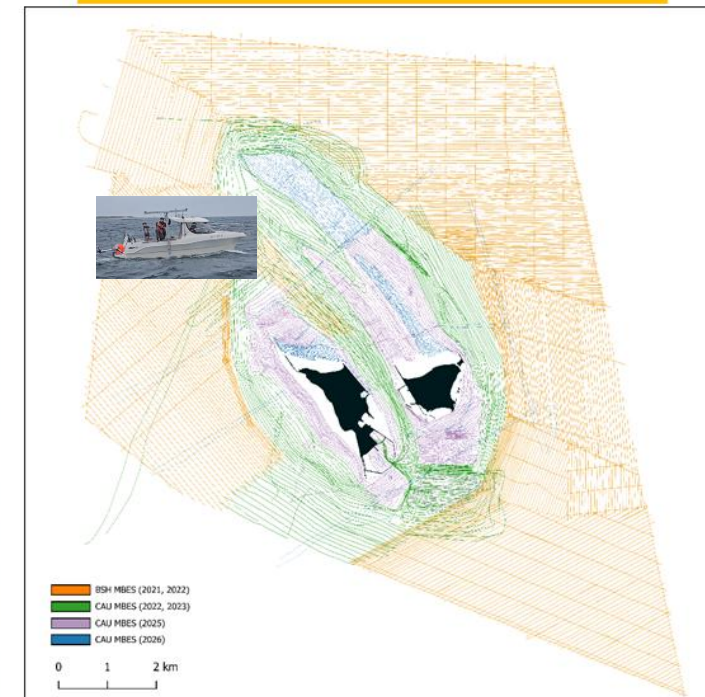
~4 TB raw hydroac
Grid resolution: 0.2
Accuracy: 2–4 cm

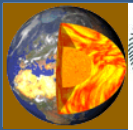
- **Ground-Truth**

Underwater video
CTD profiles
Sediment samples



Mai 2026: we finished the last mile!





Our Survey Boat FB Zostera

1. High-resolution mapping of bathymetry and backscatter
2. Geological reinterpretation of the Heligoland Complex
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FB Zostera since 2018

- MBES NORBIT
- Applanix Wavemaster II
- SBP INNOMAR
- Sidescan Sonar
- Airgun Seismic
- SB Kongsberg EK80
- Video
- CTD AML X-probe and winch
- van-Veen Grab
- Onbord Survey computer
- DCT, very bright Monitors
- ENC plotter
- AIS transponder
- LTE Modem
- Diesel and elektric propulsion
- C4Rpole, elliptic pole

Data Acquisition

FB Zostera (0- 5 m)



NORBIT shallow water iWBMS
Applanix Wavemaster II, full RTK
Chirp signal 400 kHz

INNOMAR smart

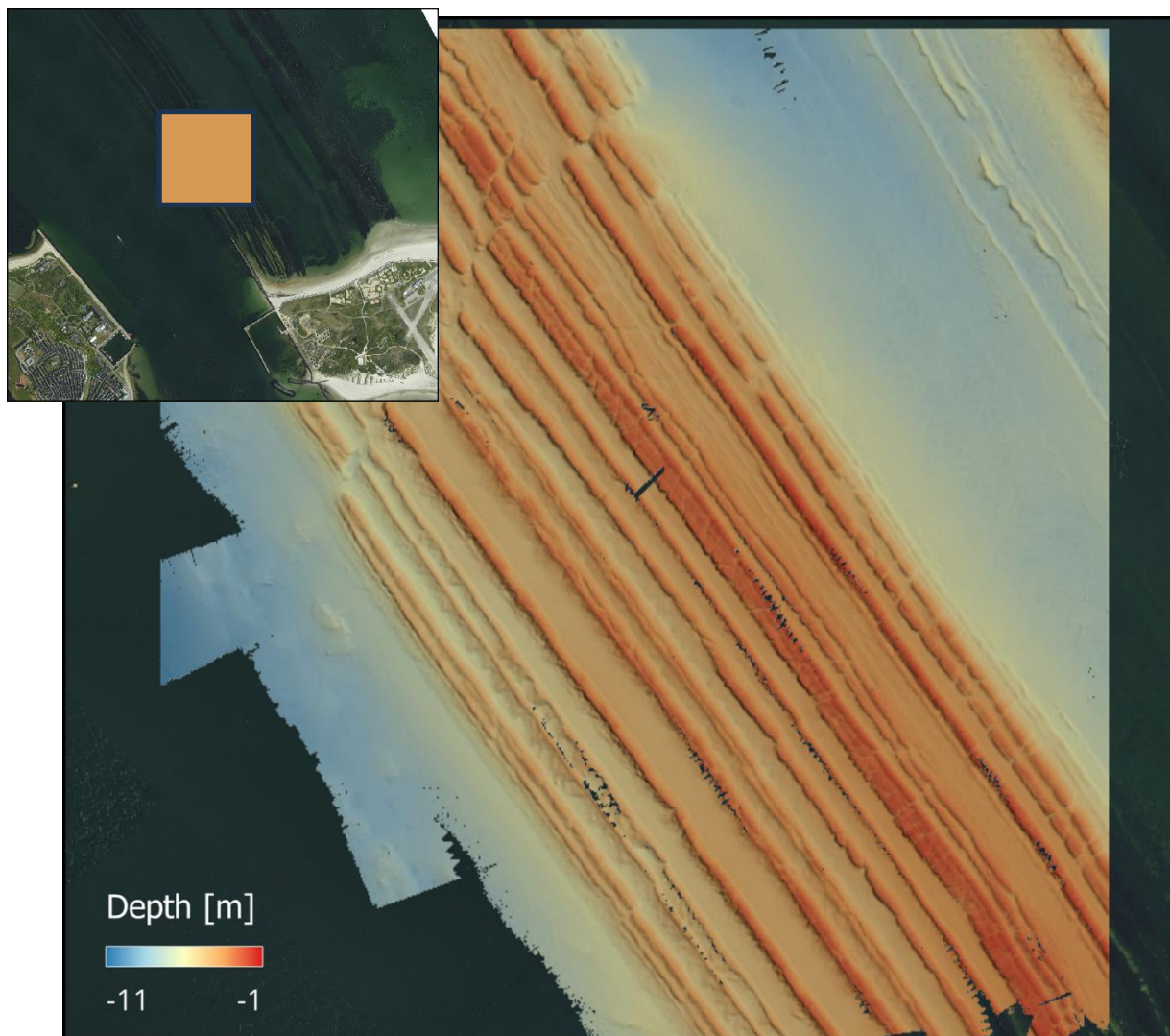
Frequencies: 100 kHz (HF) / 10 kHz (LF)

R/V Littorina (5-10 m)



INNOMAR SES2000 standard
Frequencies: 100 kHz (HF) / 15 kHz (LF)

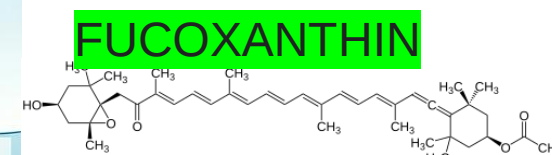
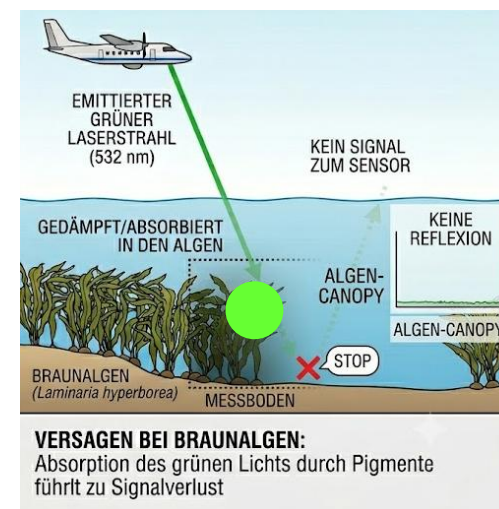
MBES – SBP Synchronization with Triggerbox



Satellite Image

LIDAR Riegl VQ880 (532 nm)

MBES NORBIT 400 kHz



Absorptions Maximum
450 bis 540 nm

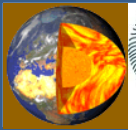
LIDAR Eindringtiefe:

4.5 m auf Sand

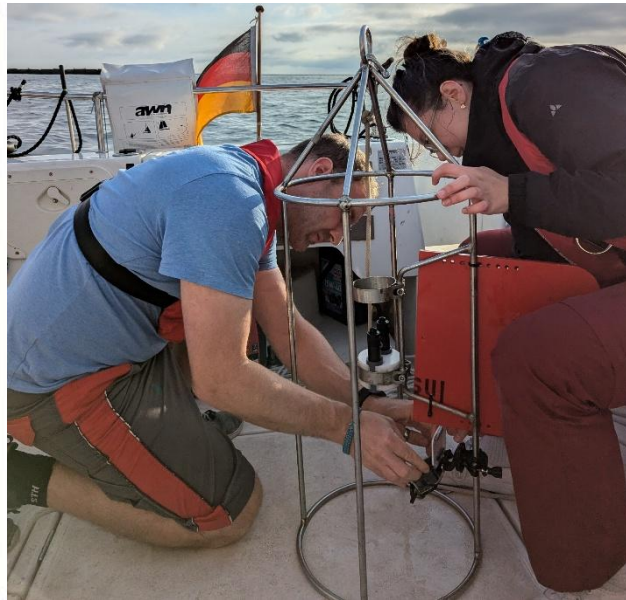
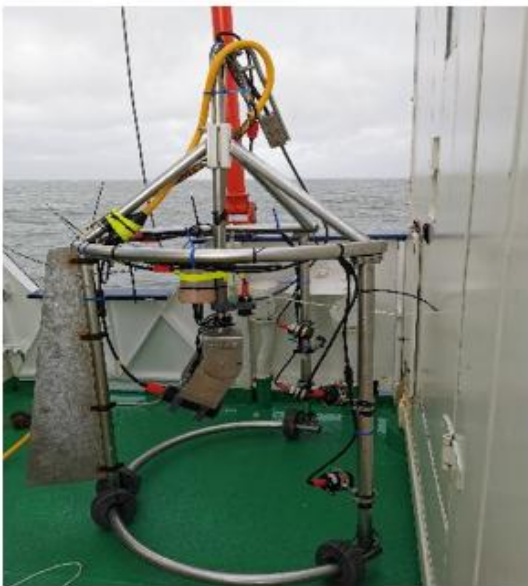
0 m bei Vegetation

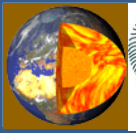
→ Full Waveform Analyse ?





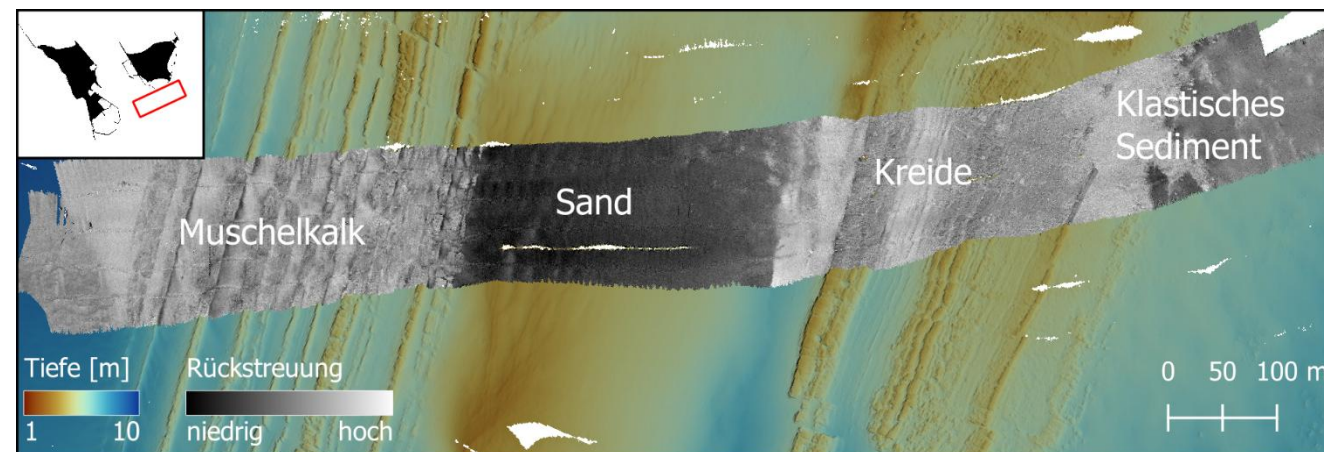
Validierung mit Kamera (Biologie) & Greifer (Geologie)





First results

1. High-resolution mapping of bathymetry and backscatter
2. Geological reinterpretation of the Heligoland Complex
3. Acoustic detection and characterisation of submerged vegetation
4. Predictive habitat modelling and carbon budget estimation



[Schneider von Deimling & Jensen, 2026 HN133](#)

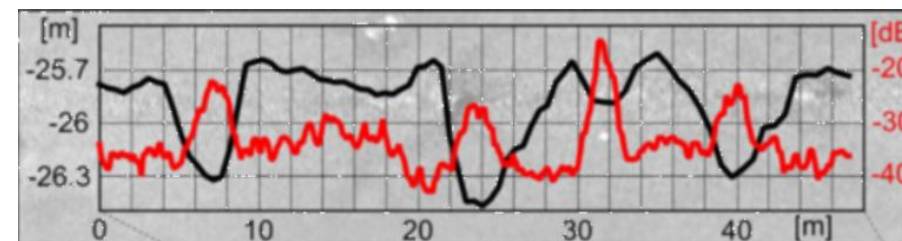
0.25 m Grid

MBES – LiDAR ($r=0.993$)

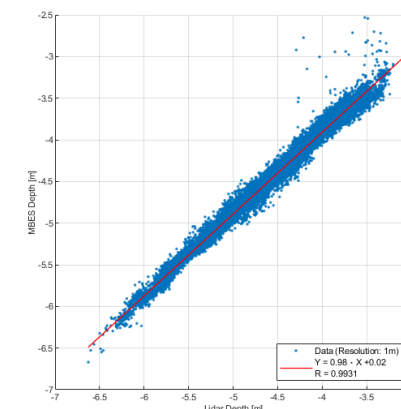
Snippet Backscatter (5 cm Auflösung)

BS Kompensiert

BS Unkalibriert



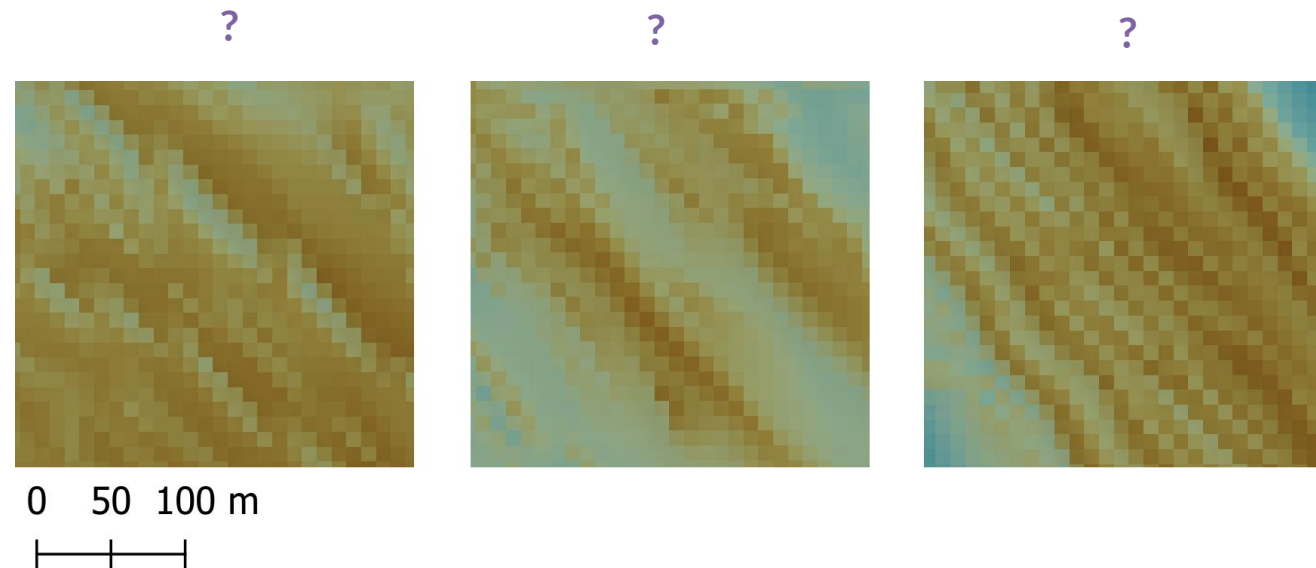
MBES **bathymetry** / **backscatter**



First results

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Deriving geology from microbathymetry?

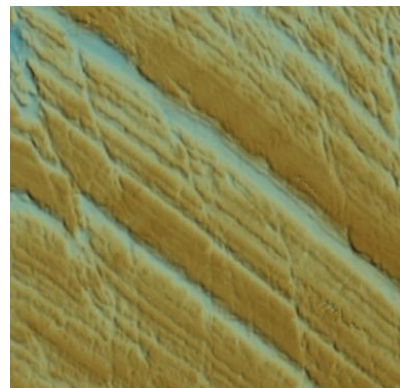


First results

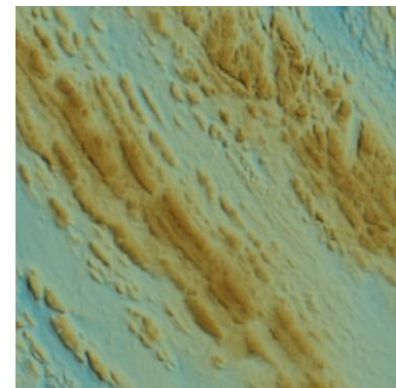
1. High-resolution mapping of bathymetry and backscatter
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Deriving geology from microbathymetry?

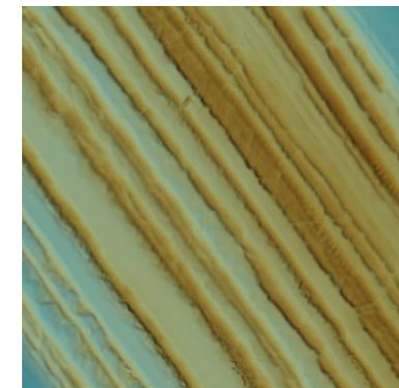
Buntsandstein



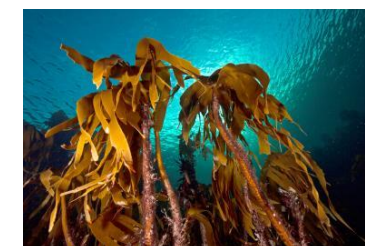
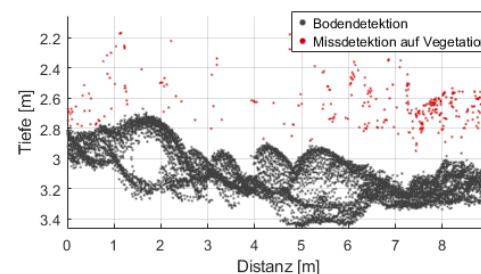
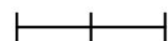
Kreide

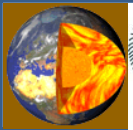


Muschelkalk



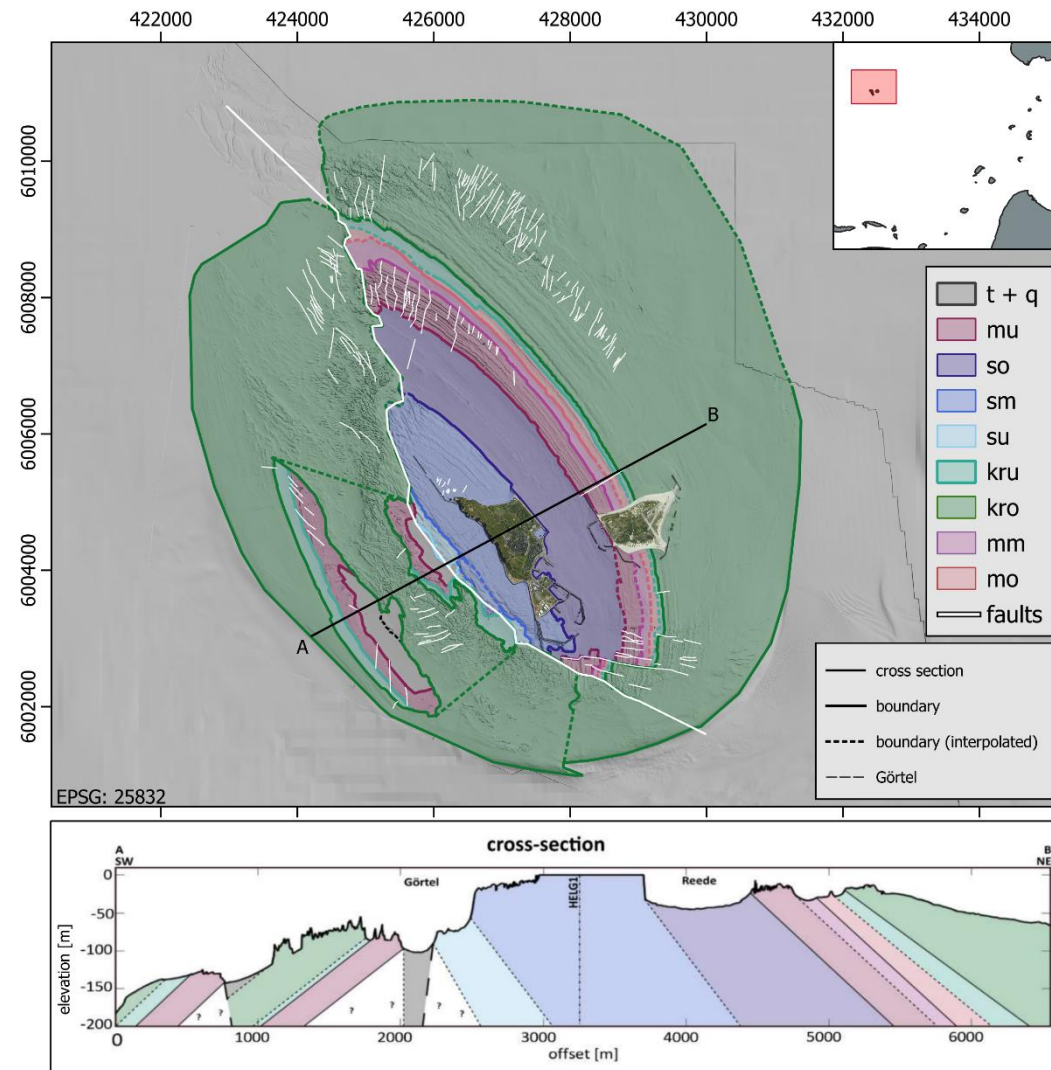
0 50 100 m



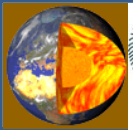


First results

1. High-resolution mapping of bathymetry and backscatter
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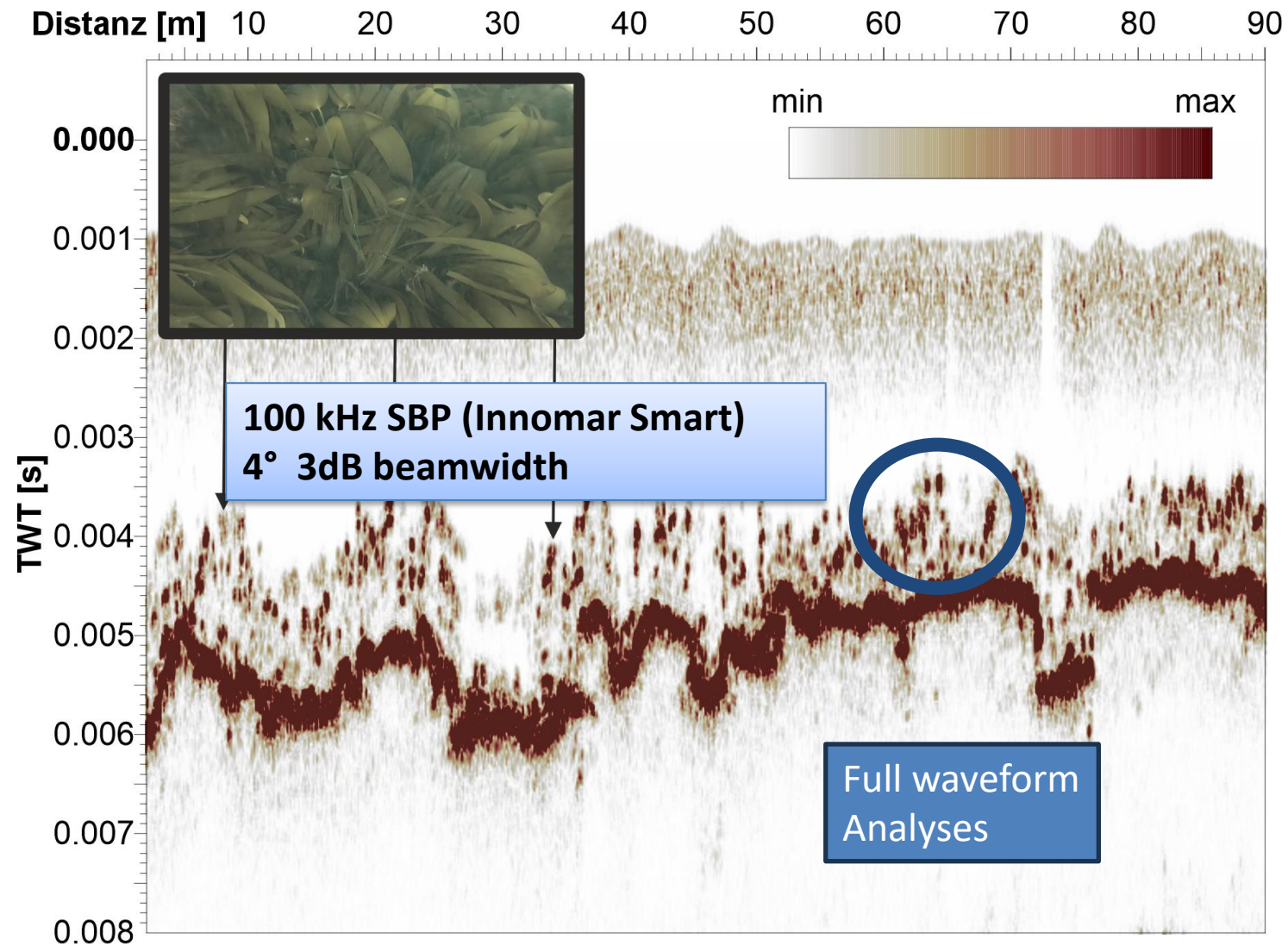


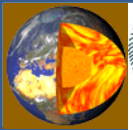
Adapted from Anna Ziehl, 2024



First results

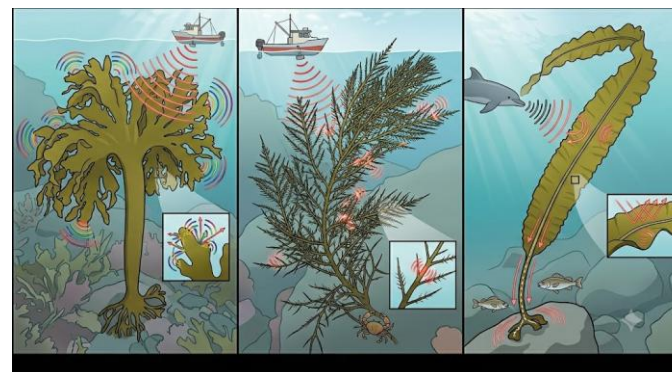
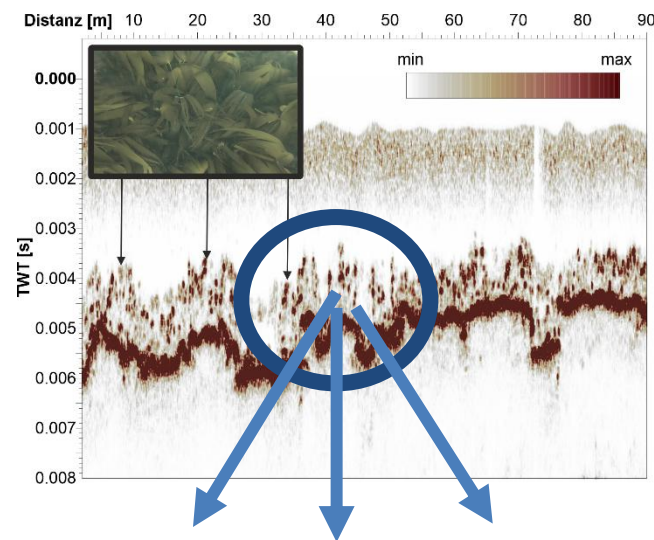
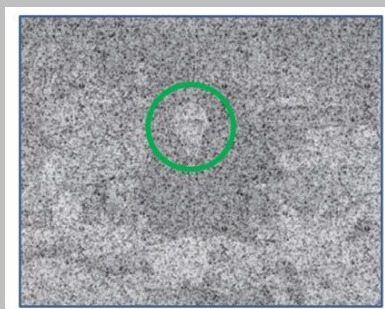
1. High-resolution mapping of bathymetry and backscatter
2. Geological reinterpretation of the Heligoland Complex
3. Acoustic detection and characterisation of submerged vegetation
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First results

1. High-resolution mapping of bathymetry and backscatter
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Eiche?
L. hyperborea

Tanne?
D. aculeata

Bambus?
S. latissima

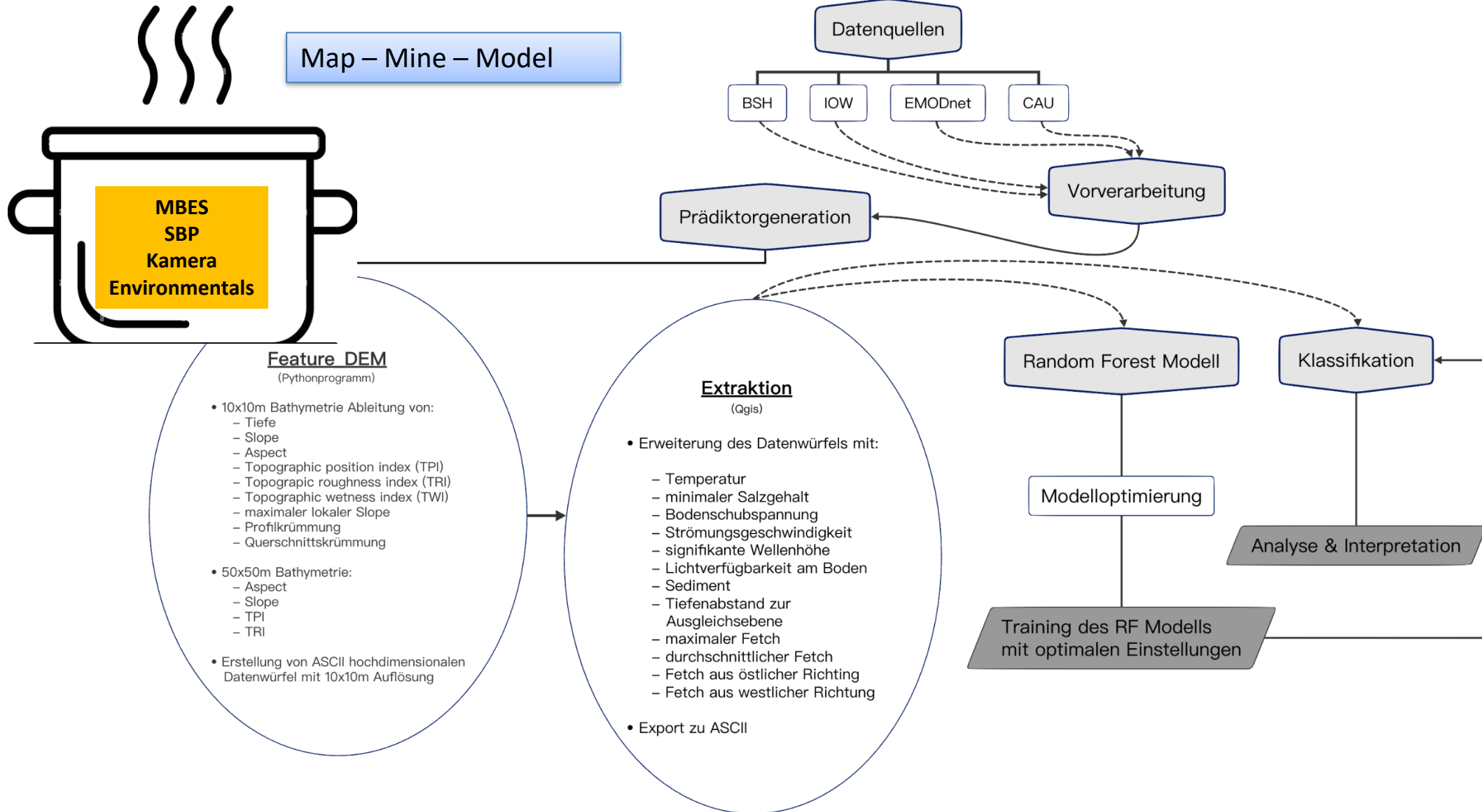
**100 kHz SBP (Innomar Smart)
4° 3dB beamwidth**

Full waveform analyses

- Wavelets
- Seismic attributes
- ML

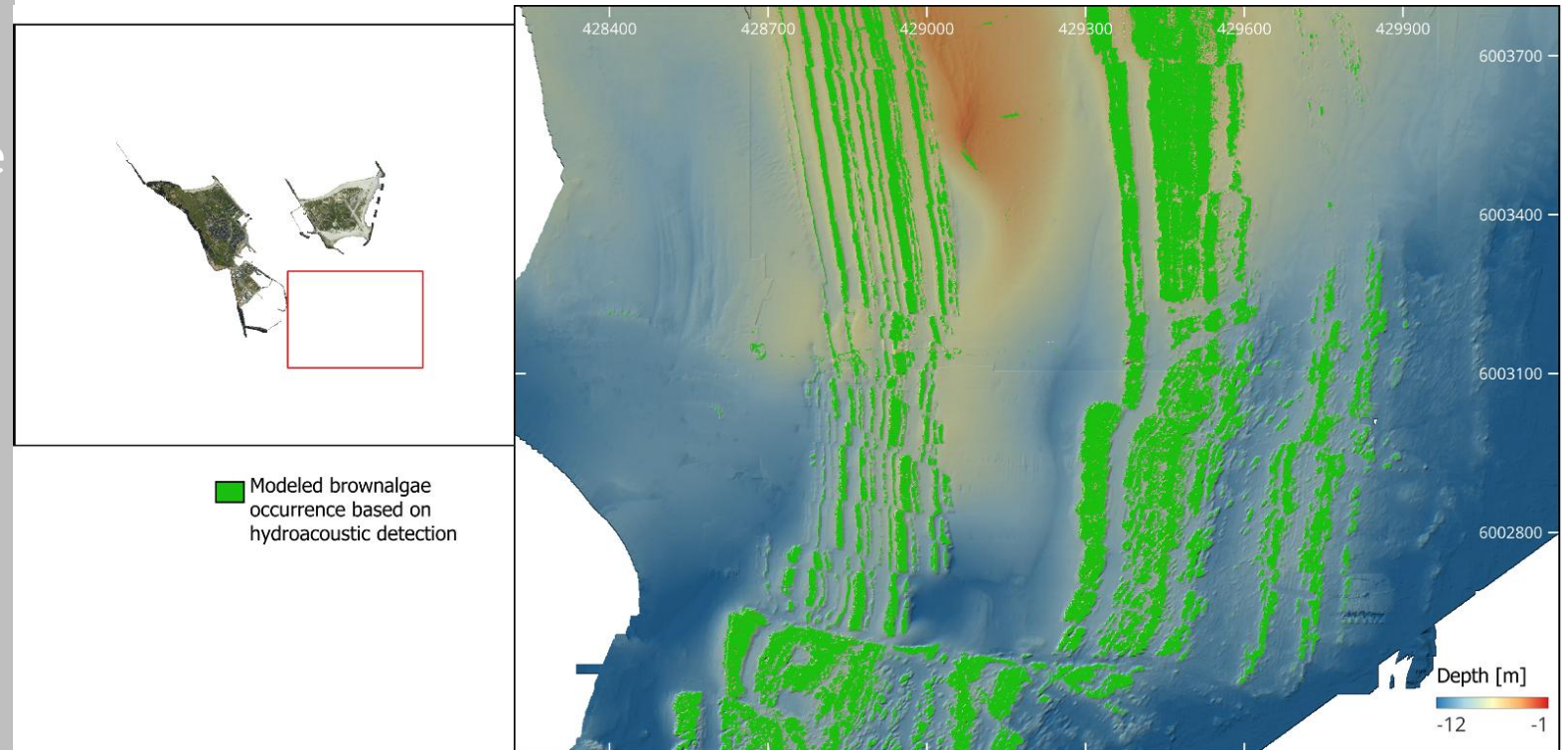
Nano Banana 2

Map – Mine – Model



First results

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Wozu eignet sich das am Ende?

Map & Mine

MBES (Fächerecholot):

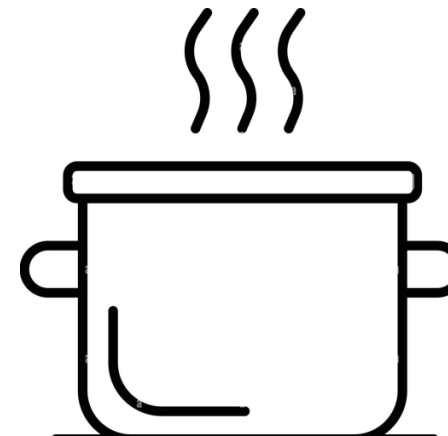
- Neue geologische Karte Helgolands
- Morphometrie und Substrat als Prädiktor für Habitate

SBP (Sedimentecholot):

- Nachweis und Quantifizierung von Biomasse (Kelp)

Model & Predict

- Identifikation von ökologischen Stressoren
- Flächenhafte Biomasse-Extrapolation und Bilanzierung (CO₂)
- effizienteres Monitoring und optimierte Schutzstrategien



I. Hardware

II. Data acquisition

III. Processing

IV. Calculation of bathymetry and backscatter

V. Models

MBES

($\leq 50\text{Hz}$ per beam)

Travelttime
Angle
Beam backscatter
Calibrated backscatter
Sidescan
Snippet sidescan
Water column imagery

Keel sound
velocity probe

MotionReference
Unit*
(200Hz)
Gyro*

GNSS*
(200Hz)

Vessel

CTD

*Inertial navigation
system (INS)

Velocity

CAT A
→ cm accuracy

Heading

Position
Phase
Real time kinematic

Draft
Squat

Conductivity
Temperature
Depth

IHO



Correcting position/depth of sounding
Correcting backscatter value of sounding
Correcting bottom detection algorithm)

Bathymetry:

Correction of tide, raytracing,
offsets: roll+pitch+yaw+latency
(patch test*) and draft, squat

Raytracing
Cleaning
Filtering
CUBE

Jackson
CAB



CAT E
(environmental)
0.3 dB
backscatter

MBES experimental

- Snippets
- Multispectral
- Point Cloud
- Multidetector
- WCI

3.8 Nature of the Bottom

Characterisation Methods

S-44 Edition 6.2.0

The nature of the bottom should be determined in potential anchorage areas, other critical areas, and in areas where bottom conditions are suspected to have significant influence on required [feature detection](#). Components of bottom characterisation techniques include: physical sampling (PHY), visual/optical analysis (VIS), laboratory analysis (LAB), and inference technique (INF) from sensors data (e.g. backscatter).

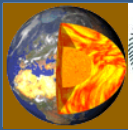
Morphometry
Unsupervised classification
Supervised classification
Groundtruthing

* correcting static offsets of hardware:

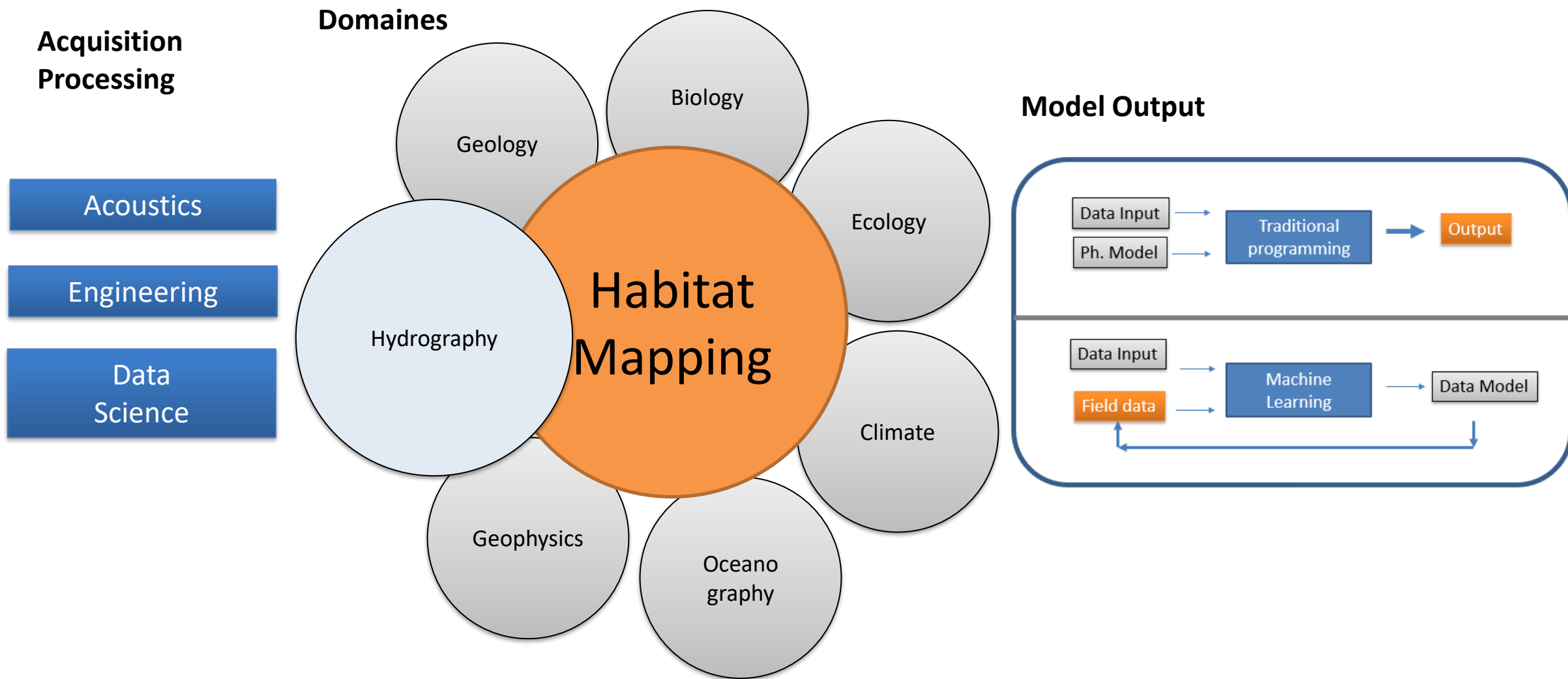
x, y, z [m] – distance between components

α, β, γ [°] – angle offsets in orientation

9



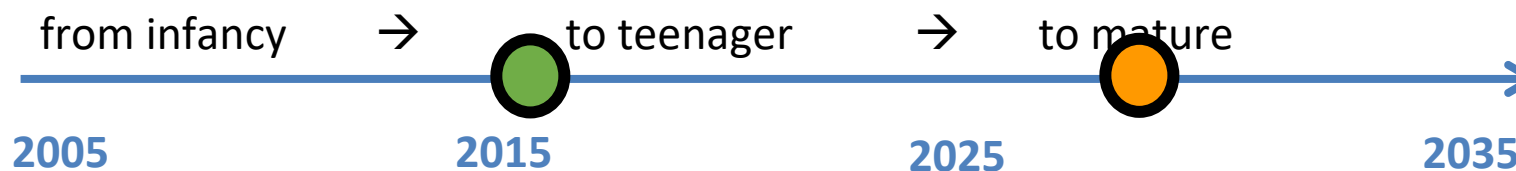
Habitat Mapping... truly cross-disciplinary

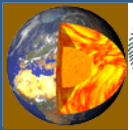


Coastal habitat mapping using modern MBES systems: **where are we?**

Task	Challenge	Solution
Remote sensing reliability	Mixed habitats	Feature / Spectral libraries Indices R&D
Map Large Areas	Data rates: 1h → 50 Mio. data points	Data scientists Super Computers
Seafloor Classification and Habitat Modeling	High data dimensionality: Bathy, Multispectral backscatter, Derivatives...	Machine learning R&D
Calibration	Sensor drift	Manufacturers R&D
.....		

Emerging Market driven e.g. by MSFD





Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!



<https://www.marinegeophysik.ifg.uni-kiel.de>

