



**Fig. S2.** Rarefaction curves of ASV richness across sequencing depth (Sample size) for all samples, plotted by sample type (polymetallic nodule, sediment, water). Sample names as labeled, with sampling metadata as reported in Table S1. Extrapolation values (dotted lines) are based on the Chao1 estimator. Grey shaded areas correspond to the 95 % confidence interval. Samples included in the low read count section of the figure (left side) had read counts below 15,000 reads for nodule and sediment, and below 25,000 for water.