

Supplementary Table 1. Transects and sampling stations in the study area, water depth (m) and geographical coordinates are reported. (C as control and SNI as Site of National Interest).

Transect	Depth (m)	Latitude	Longitude
SNI M1	1	43°39'2.26"N	13°20'58.79"E
SNI M1	3	43°39'7.21"N	13°21'3.35"E
SNI M1	4	43°39'15.55"N	13°21'10.87"E
SNI M1	5	43°39'22.62"N	13°21'17.40"E
SNI M1	6	43°39'29.48"N	13°21'23.62"E
SNI M1	10	43°39'56.04"N	13°21'47.84"E
SNI M1	12	43°40'23.65"N	13°22'13.17"E
SNI M2	1	43°38'58.64"N	13°21'6.91"E
SNI M2	3	43°39'3.65"N	13°21'11.43"E
SNI M2	4	43°39'11.92"N	13°21'18.87"E
SNI M2	5	43°39'18.95"N	13°21'25.17"E
SNI M2	6	43°39'25.20"N	13°21'30.85"E
SNI M2	10	43°39'52.24"N	13°21'55.23"E
SNI M2	12	43°40'20.61"N	13°22'20.88"E
SNI M3	1	43°38'55.36"N	13°21'14.12"E
SNI M3	3	43°39'0.53"N	13°21'26.41"E
SNI M3	4	43°39'8.91"N	13°21'26.41"E
SNI M3	5	43°39'15.37"N	13°21'32.37"E
SNI M3	6	43°39'21.60"N	13°21'37.87"E
SNI M3	10	43°39'49.19"N	13°22'2.74"E
SNI M3	12	43°40'17.63"N	13°22'28.43"E
C1	1	43°41'19.92"N	13°16'8.00"E
C1	3	43°41'26.22"N	13°16'13.89"E
C1	4	43°41'33.36"N	13°16'20.28"E
C1	5	43°41'40.28"N	13°16'26.72"E
C1	6	43°41'47.11"N	13°16'32.77"E
C1	10	43°42'13.28"N	13°16'56.85"E
C1	12	43°42'41.22"N	13°17'22.34"E
C2	1	43°39'39.14"N	13°19'30.82"E
C2	3	43°39'44.55"N	13°19'35.63"E
C2	4	43°39'52.52"N	13°19'42.65"E
C2	5	43°40'0.03"N	13°19'49.23"E
C2	6	43°40'7.76"N	13°19'56.18"E
C2	10	43°40'34.22"N	13°20'19.58"E
C2	12	43°41'3.66"N	13°20'45.55"E
C3	1	43°36'50.59"N	13°26'29.20"E
C3	3	43°36'56.80"N	13°26'34.68"E
C3	4	43°37'3.91"N	13°26'41.07"E
C3	5	43°37'11.01"N	13°26'47.40"E
C3	6	43°37'18.01"N	13°26'53.66"E
C3	10	43°37'45.31"N	13°27'18.13"E
C3	12	43°38'12.24"N	13°27'42.36"E

Supplementary Table 2. Sedimentary grain size, bottom water temperature and salinity in the investigated stations and transects (na = not available, C as control and SNI as Site of National Interest).

Transect	Depth (m)	Gravel %	Sand %	Silt %	Temperature (°C)	Salinity (PSU)
SNI M1	1	60.5	39.1	0.3	na	Na
SNI M1	3	0.0	92.5	7.5	19.93	37.41
SNI M1	4	0.8	88.0	11.2	20.35	37.56
SNI M1	5	0.1	91.7	8.2	20.45	37.59
SNI M1	6	0.6	82.5	16.9	20.64	37.64
SNI M1	10	0.1	82.0	17.9	20.97	37.73
SNI M1	12	0.0	72.7	27.3	20.92	37.75
SNI M2	1	2.0	96.9	1.1	na	Na
SNI M2	3	0.0	85.1	14.9	19.99	37.50
SNI M2	4	4.3	86.4	9.4	20.20	37.51
SNI M2	5	0.8	87.2	12.1	20.23	37.53
SNI M2	6	0.0	87.4	12.6	20.49	37.59
SNI M2	10	0.0	80.6	19.4	20.95	37.73
SNI M2	12	0.0	69.8	30.2	20.91	37.75
SNI M3	1	0.0	99.2	0.8	na	Na
SNI M3	3	0.0	84.4	15.6	20.02	37.38
SNI M3	4	0.3	89.8	10.0	20.12	37.47
SNI M3	5	0.7	87.2	12.1	20.01	37.41
SNI M3	6	0.0	84.0	16.0	20.18	37.49
SNI M3	10	0.0	82.0	18.0	20.94	37.74
SNI M3	12	0.0	55.1	44.9	20.88	37.75
C1	1	1.1	98.4	0.5	na	Na
C1	3	0.0	96.8	3.2	19.64	37.59
C1	4	0.5	92.1	7.4	20.49	37.63
C1	5	0.4	92.6	7.0	20.68	37.67
C1	6	1.8	91.3	6.9	20.88	37.69
C1	10	1.0	82.3	16.6	21.01	37.73
C1	12	0.0	66.6	33.4	21.05	37.83
C2	1	0.6	98.8	0.6	na	Na
C2	3	1.2	96.7	2.1	19.62	37.60
C2	4	2.3	90.5	7.2	20.11	37.61
C2	5	0.0	93.0	7.0	20.58	37.66
C2	6	1.4	91.0	7.5	20.86	37.68
C2	10	0.8	84.5	14.7	21.05	37.66
C2	12	0.0	54.9	45.1	21.16	37.90
C3	1	0.9	98.5	0.6	na	Na
C3	3	0.5	88.6	10.9	21.20	37.59
C3	4	0.0	87.1	12.8	21.27	37.73
C3	5	0.5	74.8	24.7	21.20	37.79
C3	6	0.0	74.0	26.0	21.16	37.82
C3	10	0.0	80.9	19.1	21.00	37.90
C3	12	0.3	75.0	24.7	20.95	37.92

Supplementary Table 3. Concentrations of heavy metals in the investigated stations and transects. (C as control and SNI as Site of National Interest).

	Depth	Sediment layer	Al	As	Cd	Ct tot	Fe	Hg	Ni	Pb	Cu	Va	Zn
Transect	m	cm	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg	mg/kg
SNI M1	1	0-10	760	1.7	0.05	2.3	1900	0.006	2.9	1.4	2.0	2.5	6.4
SNI M1	3	0-10	3300	9.9	0.09	12.0	10000	0.013	14.0	4.3	3.8	11.0	19.0
SNI M1	5	0-10	3100	8.8	0.10	10.0	9700	0.018	13.0	4.2	3.9	10.0	18.0
SNI M1	10	0-10	4200	8.9	0.10	13.0	12000	0.020	16.0	4.9	5.2	12.0	22.0
SNI M1	12	0-10	4200	8.8	0.10	13.0	12000	0.018	16.0	4.8	5.3	12.0	22.0
SNI M2	1	0-10	1800	5.2	0.09	6.0	5800	0.011	7.8	2.9	2.6	6.3	14.0
		10- 20	1600	4.6	0.07	5.4	5200	0.005	6.6	2.7	2.3	5.3	11.0
SNI M3	1	0-10	1300	3.6	0.08	7.0	4300	0.028	17.0	2.4	2.1	4.3	12.0
		10- 20	1600	4.6	0.08	5.1	5100	0.014	6.8	3.0	3.1	5.3	14.0
SNI M3	3	0-10	3800	8.5	0.09	12.0	11000	0.018	14.0	4.6	4.2	11.0	20.0
SNI M3	5	0-10	3500	9.3	0.11	13.0	11000	0.017	15.0	4.8	4.4	11.0	23.0
SNI M3	10	0-10	3500	9.3	0.11	12.0	11000	0.022	15.0	4.8	5.0	12.0	20.0
SNI M3	12	0-10	5900	13.0	0.13	20.0	18000	0.031	25.0	7.3	7.8	19.0	34.0
C1	1	0-10	1600	7.4	0.07	5.4	6300	0.005	7.6	2.7	1.9	6.1	10.0
		10- 20	1600	8.1	0.08	6.2	6400	0.005	7.5	2.8	2.0	6.2	10.0
C1	3	0-10	2300	8.9	0.09	9.1	8000	0.010	10.0	3.5	2.7	8.5	14.0
C1	5	0-10	3200	9.7	0.10	11.0	10000	0.013	14.0	4.6	3.8	11.0	20.0
C1	10	0-10	5900	9.6	0.10	19.0	15000	0.023	22.0	6.5	7.6	17.0	32.0
C1	12	0-10	6000	9.1	0.09	18.0	16000	0.022	22.0	6.2	7.3	16.0	31.0
C3	1	0-10	1300	7.2	0.07	4.4	5100	0.012	5.4	2.8	1.8	5.1	8.3
		10- 20	1300	7.4	0.08	4.5	5100	0.005	5.4	2.8	1.8	5.2	8.4
C3	3	0-10	3200	10.0	0.09	12.0	9800	0.014	13.0	4.7	4.1	12.0	19.0
C3	5	0-10	3600	9.8	0.10	13.0	11000	0.013	15.0	5.0	4.3	12.0	21.0
C3	10	0-10	3400	9.3	0.10	11.0	10000	0.015	14.0	4.8	4.9	11.0	19.0
C3	12	0-10	3800	9.7	0.10	12.0	11000	0.018	14.0	4.9	5.1	12.0	20.0

Supplementary Table 4. Concentrations of C<12 and C>12 aliphatic hydrocarbons in the investigated stations and transects. (C as control and SNI as Site of National Interest).

Transect	Station	Depth (m)	Sediment layer (cm)	Hydrocarbons C<12	Hydrocarbons C>12
SNI M1	15A-15B	1	0-10	0.105	14000
SNI M1	16A-16B	3	0-10	0.11	2300
SNI M1	18A-18B	5	0-10	0.075	3000
SNI M1	20A-20B	10	0-10	0.09	2300
SNI M1	21A-21B	12	0-10	0.125	1050
SNI M2	8A-8B	1	0-10	0.105	8400
			10-20	0.08	6900
SNI M3	1A-1B	1	0-10	0.12	12000
			10-20	0.095	1100
SNI M3	2A-2B	3	0-10	0.08	1050
SNI M3	4A-4B	5	0-10	0.095	1200
SNI M3	6A-6B	10	0-10	0.105	1100
SNI M3	7A-7B	12	0-10	0.16	4000
C1	29A-29B	1	0-10	0.11	1100
			10-20	0.08	1050
C1	30A-30B	3	0-10	0.095	1100
C1	32A-32B	5	0-10	0.11	1200
C1	34A-34B	10	0-10	0.1	1050
C1	35A-35B	12	0-10	0.075	1000
C3	36A-36B	1	0-10	0.09	1050
			10-20	0.105	1100
C3	37A-37B	3	0-10	0.095	1050
C3	39A-39B	5	0-10	0.085	1100
C3	41A-41B	10	0-10	0.125	1100
C3	42A-42B	12	0-10	0.115	1050

Supplementary Table 6. Concentrations of PCB congeners in the investigated stations and transects (C as control and SNI as Site of National Interest).

Transect	Depth	Sediment layer	PCB 101	PCB 118	PCB 126	PCB 128	PCB 138	PCB 153	PCB 156	PCB 169	PCB 180	PCB 28	PCB 52	PCB 77	PCB 81	PCB 114	PCB 123	PCB 157	PCB 167	PCB 170	PCB 189
	m		cm	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg
SNI M1	1	0-10	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105
SNI M1	3	0-10	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026
SNI M1	5	0-10	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
SNI M1	10	0-10	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
SNI M1	12	0-10	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
SNI M2	1	0-10	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
		10-20	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
SNI M3	1	0-10	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100
		10-20	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
SNI M3	3	0-10	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
SNI M3	5	0-10	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027
SNI M3	10	0-10	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024
SNI M3	12	0-10	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034
C1	1	0-10	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
		10-20	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
C1	3	0-10	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
C1	5	0-10	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027
C1	10	0-10	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026
C1	12	0-10	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100
C3	1	0-10	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
		10-20	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026
C3	3	0-10	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
C3	5	0-10	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105
C3	10	0-10	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105
C3	12	0-10	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100

Supplementary Table 7. Concentrations of the different biochemical compounds of organic matter in the sediments of the investigated stations and transects. Data are reported as mean $\pm$ standard deviation (C as control and SNI as Site of National Interest).

Transect	Depth	Chlorophyll-a		Phaeopigments		Total phytopigments		Proteins		Carbohydrates		Lipids		Biopolymeric C	
	m	$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$		$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$		$\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$		mg g^{-1}		mg g^{-1}		mg g^{-1}		mgC g^{-1}	
		Avg	sd	avg	sd	avg	sd	avg	sd	avg	Sd	avg	sd	avg	Sd
SNI M1	1	0.02	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.09	0.02	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.08	0.01
SNI M1	3	0.76	0.15	1.64	0.14	2.40	0.29	0.47	0.06	0.22	0.01	0.19	0.02	0.46	0.02
SNI M1	4	1.41	0.42	2.91	0.63	4.32	1.04	0.49	0.07	0.23	0.02	0.23	0.04	0.50	0.06
SNI M1	5	0.87	0.09	2.71	0.24	3.57	0.33	0.75	0.07	0.22	0.02	0.27	0.04	0.66	0.06
SNI M1	6	0.69	0.13	2.59	0.41	3.28	0.54	0.59	0.10	0.25	0.01	0.21	0.03	0.55	0.04
SNI M1	10	0.55	0.08	4.04	0.03	4.59	0.10	0.52	0.05	0.11	0.03	0.21	0.04	0.46	0.04
SNI M1	12	0.32	0.03	3.01	0.06	3.33	0.08	0.17	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.16	0.01	0.23	0.02
SNI M2	1	0.09	0.01	0.32	0.02	0.42	0.01	0.20	0.03	0.12	0.03	0.10	0.03	0.22	0.02
SNI M2	3	1.06	0.04	2.55	0.17	3.61	0.21	0.67	0.03	0.24	0.02	0.28	0.05	0.63	0.05
SNI M2	4	0.96	0.03	2.39	0.05	3.35	0.07	0.49	0.11	0.25	0.02	0.26	0.04	0.53	0.04
SNI M2	5	0.87	0.09	3.08	0.13	3.96	0.22	0.67	0.05	0.37	0.04	0.30	0.04	0.70	0.03
SNI M2	6	0.45	0.08	2.23	0.62	2.67	0.56	0.61	0.07	0.26	0.03	0.21	0.05	0.56	0.05
SNI M2	10	0.60	0.01	3.07	0.04	3.67	0.05	0.49	0.06	0.28	0.03	0.20	0.02	0.50	0.03
SNI M2	12	0.35	0.02	2.85	0.43	3.21	0.45	0.54	0.05	0.28	0.06	0.22	0.04	0.55	0.03
SNI M3	1	0.07	0.00	0.24	0.02	0.32	0.02	0.18	0.01	0.12	0.02	0.09	0.02	0.20	0.00
SNI M3	3	0.80	0.05	2.26	0.15	3.06	0.19	0.95	0.09	0.22	0.03	0.20	0.06	0.70	0.03
SNI M3	4	0.83	0.08	2.48	0.25	3.31	0.33	0.87	0.04	0.22	0.04	0.13	0.04	0.61	0.03
SNI M3	5	0.39	0.01	1.72	0.22	2.10	0.23	0.35	0.02	0.18	0.04	0.09	0.00	0.32	0.02
SNI M3	6	1.06	0.05	2.89	0.06	3.95	0.06	1.05	0.12	0.29	0.07	0.14	0.03	0.74	0.03
SNI M3	10	0.46	0.03	2.74	0.04	3.21	0.02	1.02	0.02	0.24	0.02	0.11	0.02	0.68	0.01
SNI M3	12	0.39	0.00	2.99	0.15	3.38	0.15	0.95	0.05	0.28	0.07	0.13	0.00	0.68	0.01
C1	1	0.18	0.01	0.37	0.01	0.55	0.01	0.34	0.07	0.15	0.01	0.07	0.01	0.28	0.04
C1	3	0.61	0.03	1.39	0.08	2.00	0.09	0.61	0.13	0.17	0.02	0.13	0.03	0.46	0.07
C1	4	0.84	0.05	2.48	0.09	3.32	0.14	1.29	0.22	0.21	0.01	0.14	0.02	0.82	0.10
C1	5	0.81	0.10	2.39	0.20	3.20	0.29	1.00	0.16	0.26	0.05	0.11	0.03	0.67	0.11
C1	6	0.55	0.01	2.78	0.03	3.33	0.02	0.92	0.16	0.20	0.05	0.18	0.03	0.67	0.10
C1	10	0.48	0.03	3.06	0.14	3.54	0.18	0.82	0.04	0.21	0.01	0.17	0.01	0.61	0.02
C1	12	0.38	0.03	3.52	0.22	3.90	0.24	0.66	0.08	0.21	0.03	0.27	0.02	0.61	0.02
C2	1	0.22	0.03	0.42	0.07	0.64	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.12	0.02	0.13	0.01
C2	3	0.72	0.05	1.52	0.13	2.24	0.18	0.10	0.02	0.09	0.01	0.14	0.01	0.19	0.02
C2	4	0.96	0.20	2.09	0.38	3.05	0.58	0.37	0.04	0.10	0.01	0.14	0.00	0.33	0.01
C2	5	0.80	0.07	2.44	0.42	3.24	0.48	0.57	0.13	0.12	0.03	0.24	0.00	0.51	0.07
C2	6	0.85	0.06	2.61	0.14	3.46	0.19	1.12	0.14	0.18	0.03	0.11	0.01	0.70	0.07
C2	10	0.39	0.02	3.44	0.14	3.83	0.15	1.36	0.21	0.17	0.00	0.16	0.03	0.85	0.13
C2	12	1.04	0.05	6.76	0.27	7.80	0.28	1.94	0.01	0.29	0.01	0.16	0.01	1.19	0.02
C3	1	1.58	0.08	1.75	0.12	3.34	0.05	0.35	0.01	0.12	0.02	0.13	0.00	0.32	0.01
C3	3	0.80	0.05	2.44	0.45	3.24	0.49	1.40	0.11	0.37	0.08	0.23	0.05	1.01	0.01
C3	4	0.94	0.05	3.14	0.26	4.08	0.30	0.98	0.07	0.50	0.09	0.31	0.06	0.91	0.01
C3	5	1.13	0.44	3.30	0.82	4.43	1.26	0.70	0.20	0.42	0.04	0.52	0.17	0.90	0.18
C3	6	1.93	0.52	7.67	0.78	9.61	0.45	0.77	0.26	0.47	0.06	0.42	0.08	0.88	0.11
C3	10	0.52	0.10	3.37	0.68	3.89	0.61	0.65	0.07	0.38	0.03	0.34	0.06	0.73	0.02
C3	12	0.87	0.07	3.88	0.10	4.75	0.10	1.14	0.07	0.57	0.12	0.26	0.05	0.98	0.04

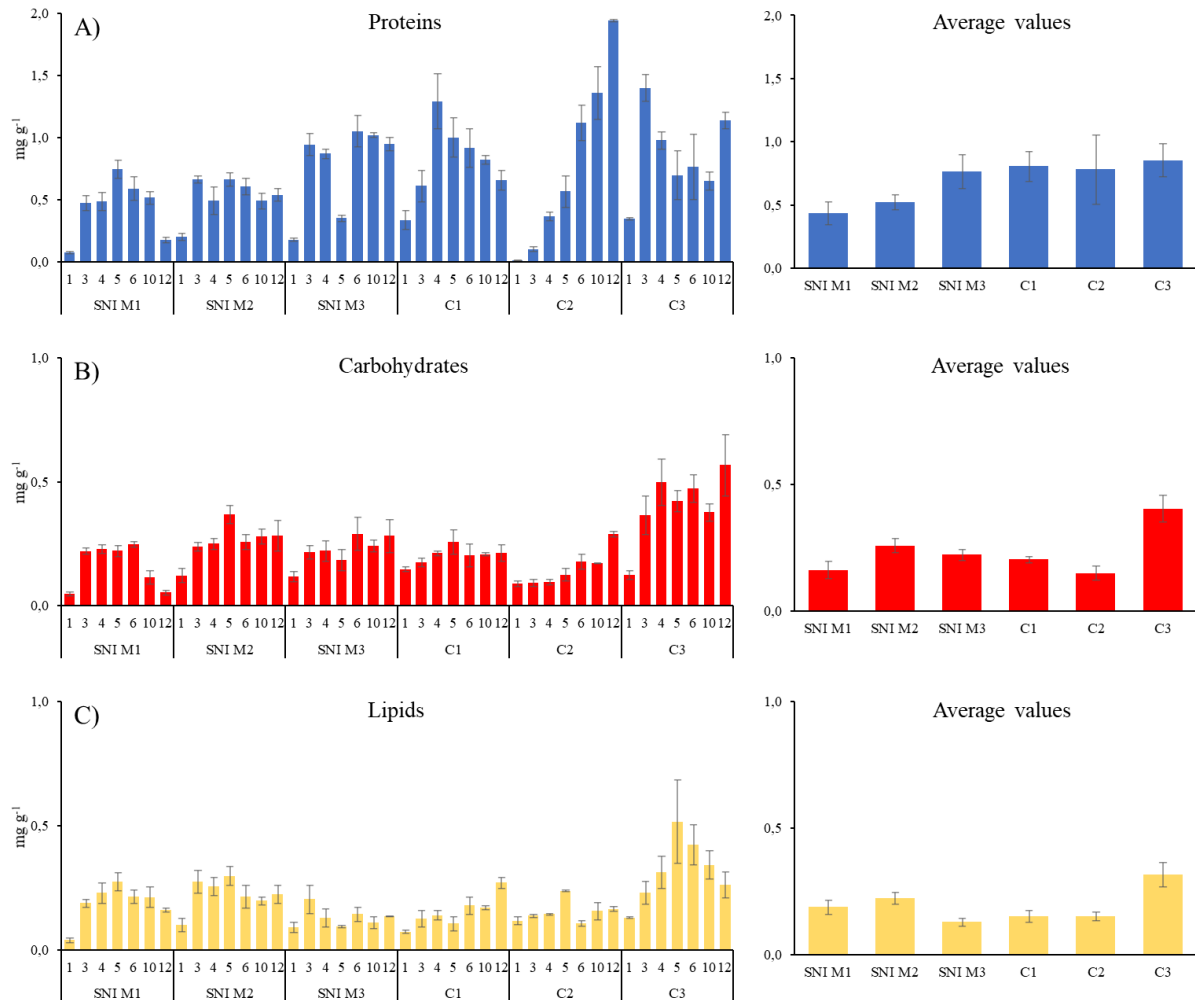
Supplementary Table 8. Output of SIMPER test carried out on the meiofaunal assemblage composition. Reported are the average % dissimilarity among Control, SNI, Control vs SNI transects at each investigated water depth and among depths along Control and SNI transects and the results of pair wise tests in the transects where differences were significant.

	1 m	3 m	4 m	5m	6 m	10 m	12 m	Along bathymetric gradient
Among Control transects	32.5	15.5	18.4	16.9	20.9	21.5	17.8	23.5
Among SNI transects	44.3	13.6	10.3	14.6	13.0	17.6	19.1	27.3
Control vs SNI transects	42.4	14.6	15.6	15.5	17.0	20.0	21.5	

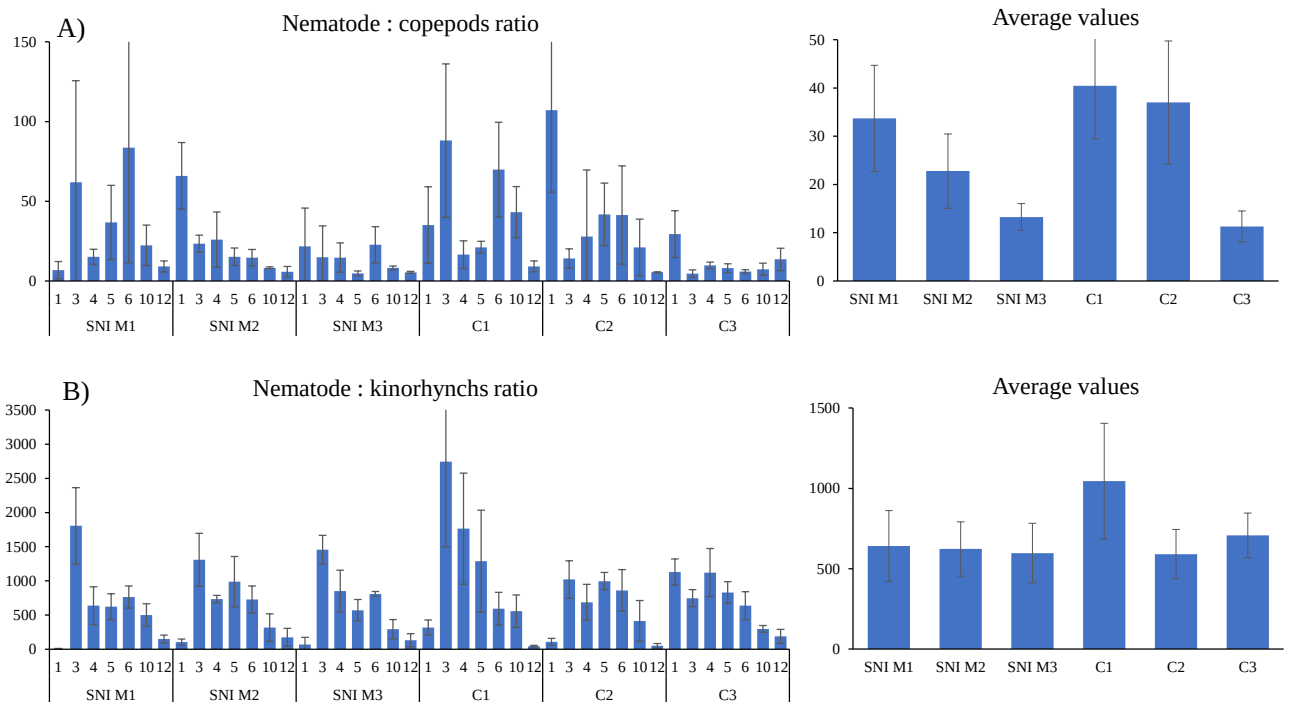
Supplementary Table 9. Output of the DistLM forward analyses testing for environmental parameters, contaminants and trophic resources as drivers of meiofaunal taxonomic composition variance. F = F statistic; P = probability; ** = $P < 0.01$, * = $P < 0.05$, ns = not significant ($P > 0.05$); Prop% = proportion of explained variance; Prop. Cumul. % = cumulative proportion of explained variance.

	Variable	F	P	Prop. %	Prop. Cumul. %
All stations	Hydrocarbons C>12	18.8	**	49.7	49.7
	Depth	5.9	**	12.4	62.1
	% Sand	3.9	*	7.1	69.2
	Total phytopigment	3.9	*	6.0	75.2
	Temperature	1.6	ns	2.4	77.6
	Ni	1.5	ns	2.1	79.7
	% Gravel	1.6	ns	2.3	82.0
After exclusion of M1 station at 1 m depth	Hydrocarbons C>12	10.1	**	36.0	36.0
	Depth	6.8	**	18.3	54.3
	Total phytopigment	4.1	*	9.3	63.6
	Ni	2.8	ns	5.7	69.3
	Temperature	1.2	ns	2.4	71.7
	% Sand	1.1	ns	2.3	74.0

Supplementary Figure 1. Bathymetric distribution of protein (A), carbohydrate (B) and lipid (C) concentrations (left panels) and average values (right panels), in the SNI and control transects.



Supplementary Figure 2. Bathymetric distribution of nematode to copepode (A) and nematode to kinorhynch (B) abundance ratios (left panels) and their average values (right panels), in the SNI (M1, M2 and M3) and control (C1, C2 and C3) transects.



Supplementary Figure 3. Bathymetric distribution of ostracods (left panels) and their average values (right panels), in the SNI (M1, M2 and M3) and control (C1, C2 and C3) transects.

