

Report of SMHI's marine monitoring cruise with R/V Svea



Photo: Anna-Kerstin Thell, SMHI

Survey period: 2024-08-10 - 2024-08-16

Principals: Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI),
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)

Cooperation partners: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU),
Swedish Maritime Administration (SMA)

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SUMMARY

During the cruise, which is part of the Swedish pelagic monitoring program, the Skagerrak, the Kattegat, the Sound, and the Baltic Proper were visited.

Surface water temperatures in all sea areas were around normal, between 16–19°C, except at BY39, south of Öland, where it was 9°C, which is below normal.

Dissolved inorganic nitrogen was around the detection limit, 0.1 µmol/l, down to the thermocline, which is normal for this time of year. The surface concentration of phosphate was low and at most stations, it was normal for the season. Silica levels in surface water were above normal at most stations in the Gotland basins, while in the Arkona and Bornholm basins, as well as in the Sound, they were below normal.

In the Arkona Basin, the oxygen concentration in the bottom water had decreased since July and was now just over 2 ml/l. In the Bornholm Basin, the concentration had increased slightly and was now 0.5–0.8 ml/l. At station BCS III-10, the oxygen concentration near the bottom had increased to 1.2 ml/l. In the rest of the Baltic Proper, there was no oxygen in the bottom water.

Acute oxygen deficiency, i.e., oxygen levels less than 2 ml/l, was observed from 70 meters in the Bornholm Basin and in the Eastern Gotland Basin, and in the Western Gotland Basin already from 50 meters.

Hydrogen sulfide was measured from 90 meters in the Eastern Gotland Basin and from 60 meters depth in the Western Gotland Basin.

The next regular cruise is scheduled to start on September 14th in Lysekil.

RESULTS

The cruise was carried out on board the R/V Svea and started in Lysekil on August 10th and ended in Lysekil on August 16th. At the start of the cruise, it was relatively windy with westerly winds between 12–15 m/s, but by the second day, the weather improved, and throughout the passage in the Baltic Sea, it was warm and relatively calm.

Svea's instrument for continuous measurements of surface water, Ferrybox, was in operation throughout the cruise, however, the instrument for pH measurements had run out of indicator solution, and unfortunately, no pH measurements were recorded from the Ferrybox. In the Arkona Basin over Kriegers Flak and in the Western Gotland Basin before station BY38, Svea's MVP (Moving Vessel Profiler) was in use underway and provided profiles with temperature, salinity, oxygen and chlorophyll fluorescence. After this, the ship's technicians onboard began replacing the cable/wire for the MVP. One of Svea's two ADCPs (Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers) could be restarted after servicing and reinstallation on the hull during the shipyard visit. During the cruise, a calibration of the ADCP (angle test) was also successfully conducted.

At all stations, surface water was sampled for a project investigating and analysing algal toxins produced by cyanobacteria. The project is a collaboration between SMHI, SLU and the Swedish Food Agency, and sampling is planned to be carried out during the cruises in June, July, August and September.

At two stations in the Baltic Sea, BY38 and BY2, extra samples were taken in collaboration with VOTO. Water samples from the standard depth from the surface down to 30 meters were sampled to investigate the presence of cyanobacteria in the water column and the aim is to investigate whether it is possible to predict future blooms of cyanobacteria. These measurements will be taken during the June, July and August cruises.

Samples were also taken within the AMIME project where water samples were taken from the Ferrybox and pictures were taken with the IFCBn. Measurements within the project will be made during the cruises in June-October.

Extra phytoplankton samples from the surface water were taken at stations Anholt E and Å17 for Uppsala University. At Anholt E, extra samples of microzooplankton were also taken for Gothenburg University.

During the first day of the cruise, a journalist and a photographer from Nordic Eye Productions participated to create educational material for UR (Swedish Educational Broadcasting Company). The program's focus was on source criticism, facts, and climate change.

The results from plankton analyses will be presented in the AlgAware report:

<https://www.smhi.se/publikationer/publikationer/algrapporter>.

Daily algae monitoring via satellite is carried out by SMHI during the summer and is available at:

<https://www.smhi.se/vader/observationer/alsituationen/alger>

This report is based on data that has undergone an initial quality control. When additional quality review has been performed, certain values may change. Data from the cruise is published as soon as possible on the data host, SMHI's website. This usually takes place within one to two weeks after the cruise has ended. Some analyses are made after the cruise and are published later.

Data can be downloaded here: <https://www.smhi.se/en/services/open-data/national-archive-for-oceanographic-data/download-data-1.153150>

The Skagerrak

Surface water temperatures ranged between 18–19°C, which is normal for the season. The salinity in the surface water was also normal, varying between 24–31 psu, with the lowest levels recorded closest to the coast.

Near the coast at station Släggö, a halocline and thermocline coincided around 15 meters. Below this depth, the salinity increased to 34 psu, and the temperature dropped to 7°C. Along the Å-section, stratification varied; at the innermost station Å13, there was shallow stratification at 5 meters and deeper stratification around 35 meters. At the outermost station Å17, stratification was again primarily around 15 meters. In the deep water at 300 meters, the temperature was 7°C, and the salinity was 35 psu. At station P2, located furthest south in Skagerrak, the thermocline and halocline were deeper, around 26 meters.

The levels of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) in the surface water were typically low, around the detection limit (0.1 µmol/l) at all stations except Å15, where it was higher than normal (0.4 µmol/l). Phosphate levels varied between 0.04–0.12 µmol/l, and silica levels ranged between 0.45–2.63 µmol/l. Both phosphate and silica were normal at Släggö and Å17, below normal at P2, and above normal at Å13 and Å15.

The lowest oxygen concentration in the bottom water was measured at Släggö, 2.9 ml/l, which is normal. Offshore, levels in the deep water ranged between 4.4–5.8 ml/l, which is also normal.

Chlorophyll fluorescence measurements with the CTD, which indicate phytoplankton activity, showed activity from the surface down to 50 meters in the area. At station Å13, there was also a chlorophyll peak at 65 meters.

The Kattegat and the Öresund

The surface water temperature had slightly increased since July and was now around 19°C, which is normal for the season. The salinity in the surface water of the Kattegat was normal, ranging between 20–23 psu. In the Sound, the surface salinity was 19 psu, which is higher than normal. In the Kattegat and the Sound, the thermocline and halocline were found between 10 and 20 meters.

In the surface water of the Kattegat, the concentration of nutrients was normal. The concentration of phosphate was around 0.7 µmol/l, silicate 0.4–1.0 µmol/l, and DIN was around the detection limit of 0.1 µmol/l. In the Sound, the levels of DIN were normal (0.2 µmol/l), while phosphate (0.09 µmol/l) and silicate (1.97 µmol/l) were lower than normal.

Oxygen measurements in the bottom water showed lower levels than last month: 3.3–3.8 ml/l in the Kattegat and 3.2 ml/l in the Sound. At the Fladen and N14 Falkenberg stations, oxygen levels were lower than normal.

In the Kattegat, chlorophyll fluorescence measurements with the CTD indicated chlorophyll peaks at 15–20 meters. In the Sound, biological activity was observed at 0–10 meters.

The Baltic Proper

The surface water temperature in the Baltic Proper was around the normal range, with temperatures between 16.1–19.5°C. However, at BY39 near Öland's southern part, the surface temperature was 8.7°C, which is lower than normal. The surface salinity ranged from 6.2 to 7.6 psu and was generally normal, except in the Eastern Gotland Basin where it was above normal.

In the Arkona Basin, the halocline was at 30 meters, where the thermocline was also observed. Near the bottom, there was a layer of warmer water. In the Bornholm Basin, the halocline was slightly deeper, around 40–50 meters, while the thermocline was around 20 meters. In the Gotland basins, there were two haloclines, one around 20 meters and a deeper one at 50–70 meters. The thermocline was around 20 meters. The salinity in the deep water was highest in the Gotland Deep at 12.6 psu. Below the thermocline, the temperature was lowest at 3.6°C, and below the halocline at depths greater than 100 meters, the temperature was relatively stable around 6–7°C.

The levels of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) in the surface water were below the detection limit of 0.1 µmol/l down to 20 meters at almost all stations. The exception was station BY29, where levels were above normal due to high ammonium concentrations.

The phosphate levels in the offshore surface water varied between 0.04–0.1 µmol/l, which was mostly normal for the season. However, in the Bornholm Basin, levels were slightly lower than normal, and in the northernmost parts of the Baltic Proper, they were slightly above normal.

The silicate concentration in the offshore surface water ranged from as low as 5.2 µmol/l in the Arkona Basin to 12.9 µmol/l in the Western Gotland Basin. This was below normal in the Arkona and Bornholm Basins and above normal at most other stations.

At station BY39, which is near the coast and often experiences upwelling, the concentrations of phosphate (0.4 µmol/l) and silicate (13.5 µmol/l) were above normal.

In the Arkona Basin, the oxygen concentration in the bottom water had decreased since July and was now just over 2 ml/l. In the Bornholm Basin, the concentration had increased slightly and was now 0.5–0.8 ml/l. At station BCS III-10, the oxygen concentration near the bottom had increased to 1.2 ml/l. In the rest of the Baltic Proper, there was no oxygen in the bottom water.

Acute oxygen deficiency, i.e., oxygen levels less than 2 ml/l, was observed from 70 meters in the Bornholm Basin and in the Eastern Gotland Basin, and in the Western Gotland Basin already from 50 meters.

Hydrogen sulfide was measured from 90 meters in the Eastern Gotland Basin and from 60 meters depth in the Western Gotland Basin.

Chlorophyll fluorescence measurements with the CTD, which is an indicator of phytoplankton activity, showed activity from the surface down to the thermocline. The highest activity was observed in the Arkona and Bornholm Basins, as well as at station BY29. More information about the algae situation can be found in the Algaware report; <https://www.smhi.se/publikationer/publikationer/algrapporter>.

Oxygen, SBE 43 [ml/l], WS = 2

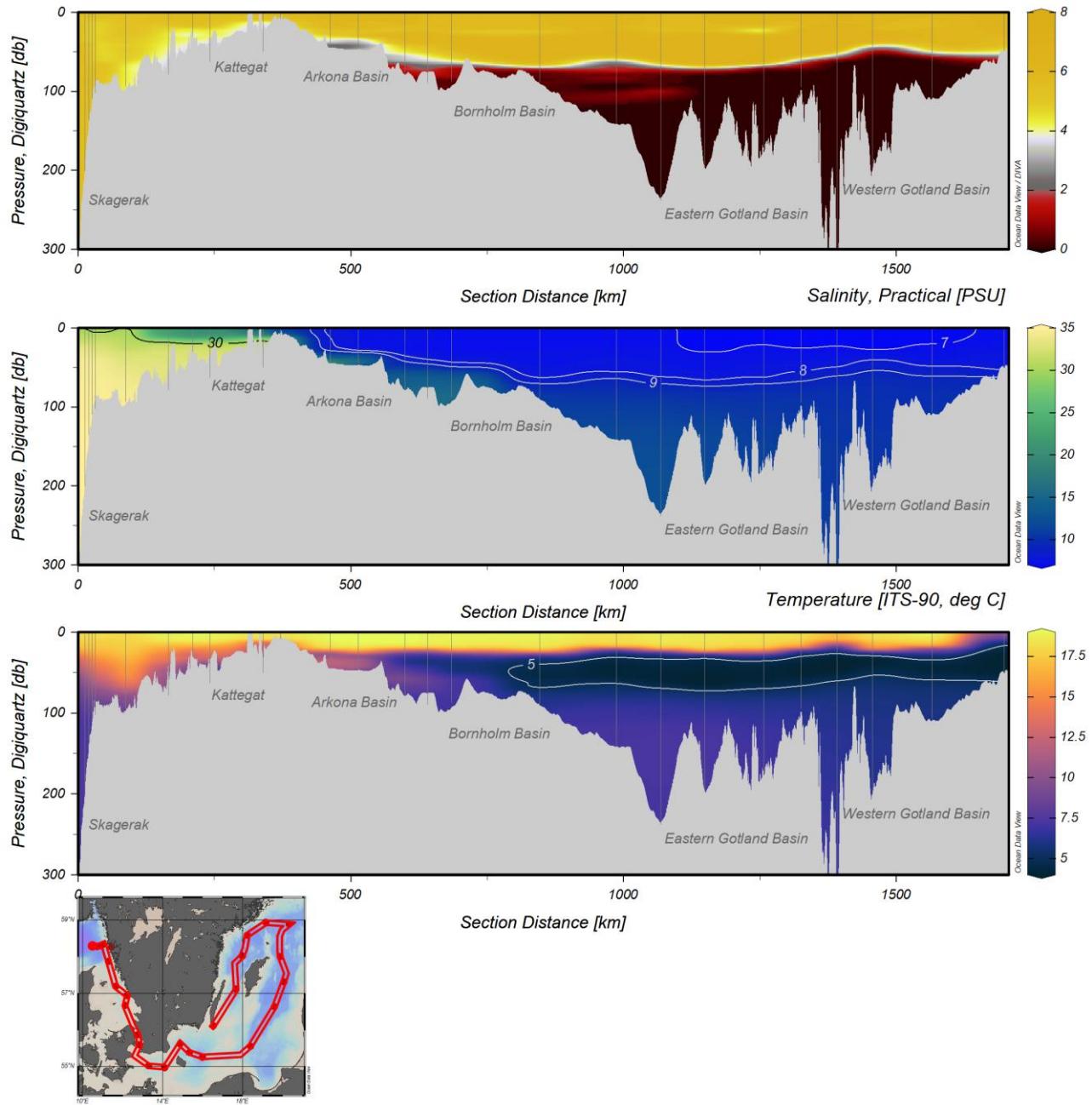


Figure 1. Transects ranging from the Skagerrak, through the Kattegat and The Sounds, further into the Baltic Proper, ending in the Western Gotland Basin shows the oxygen, salinity and temperature. Grey vertical lines indicate the positions where data is collected, also shown in the map.

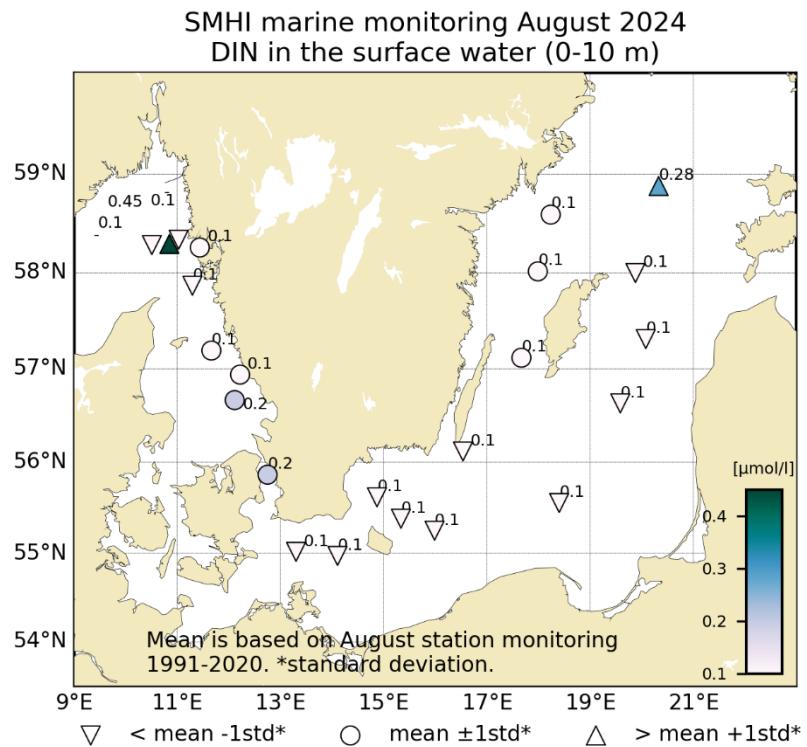


Figure 2. Concentration of dissolved inorganic nitrogen in the surface water (0-10m).

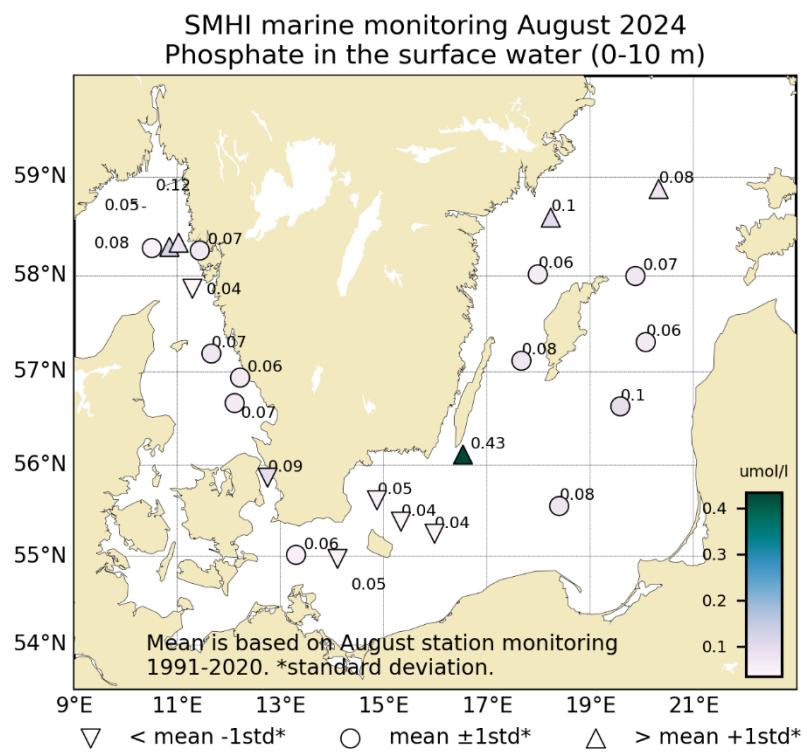


Figure 3. Concentration of phosphate in the surface water (0-10m).

SMHI marine monitoring August 2024
Silicate in the surface water (0-10 m)

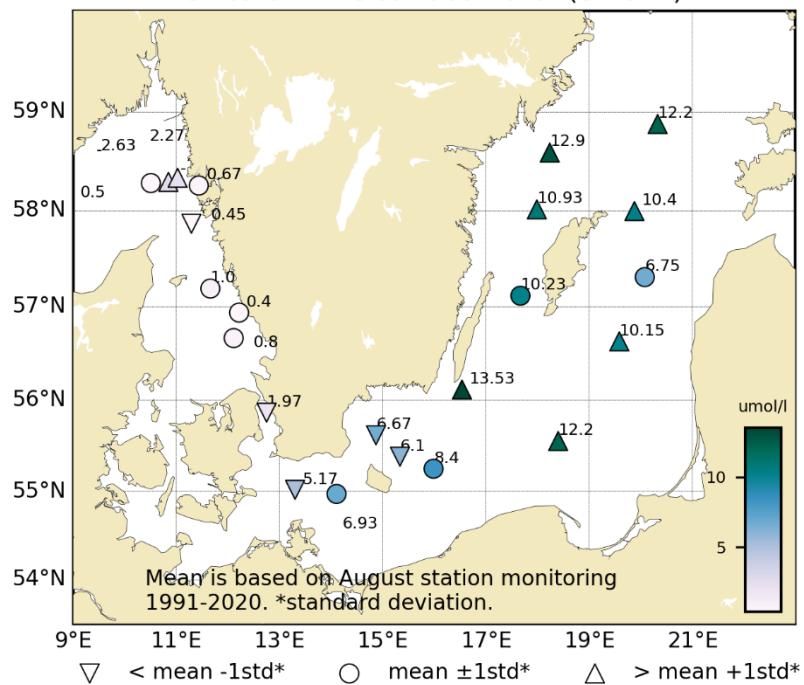


Figure 4. Concentration of silicate in the surface water (0-10m).

Bottom water oxygen concentration (ml/l)

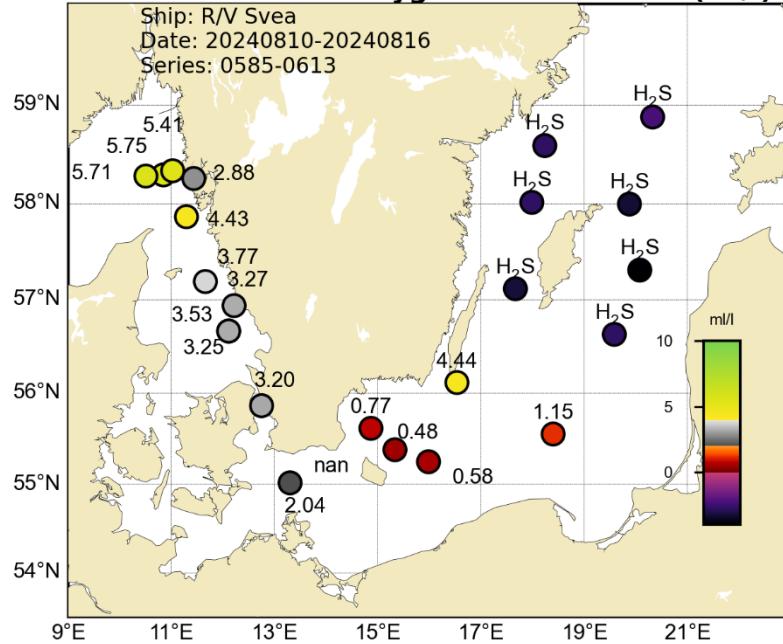


Figure 5. Oxygen concentration in the bottom water.

SMHI marine monitoring August 2024
Temperature (CTD) in the surface water (0-10 m)

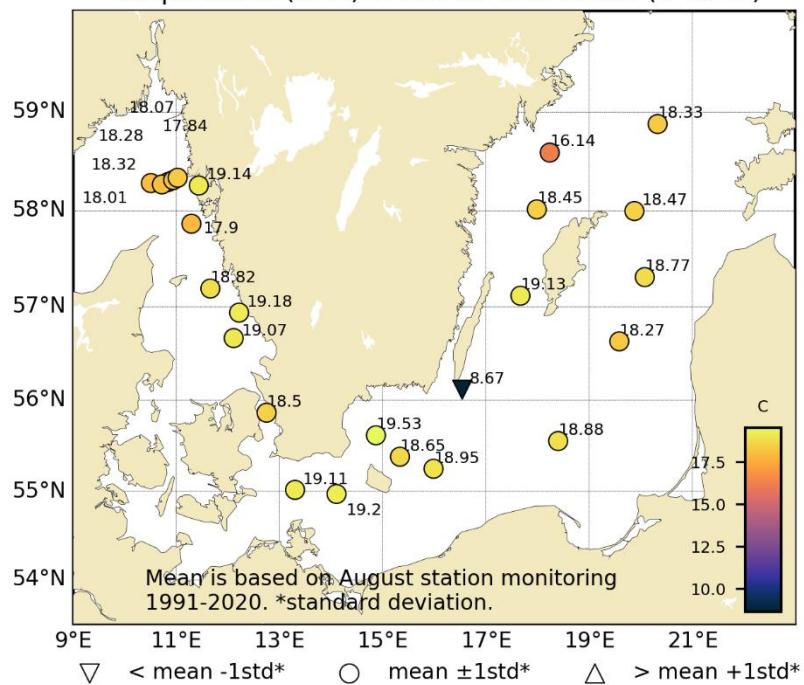


Figure 6. Temperature in the surface water (0-10m).

SMHI marine monitoring August 2024
Salinity (CTD) in the surface water (0-10 m)

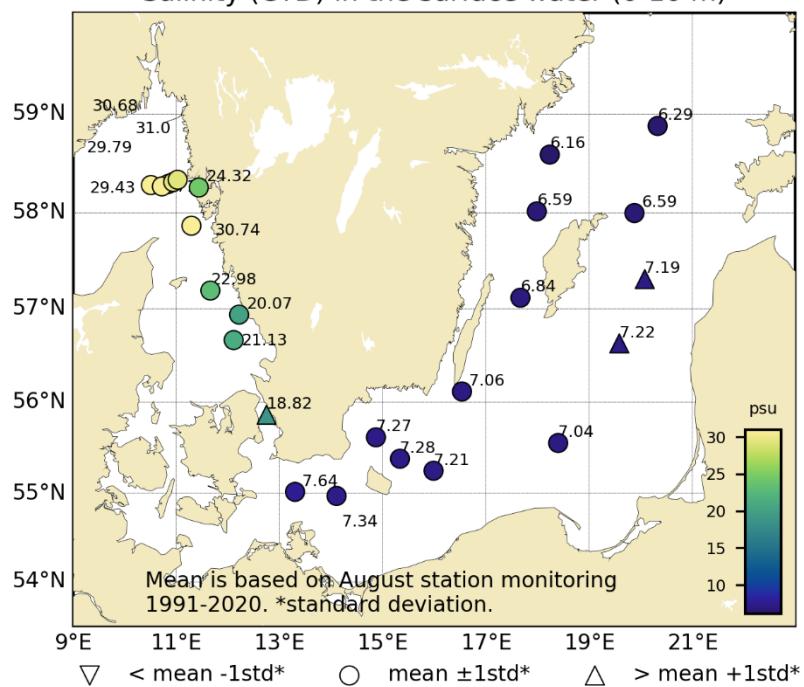


Figure 7. Salinity in the surface water (0-10m).

PARTICIPANTS

Namn	Roll	Från
Lena Viktorsson Lena Viktorsson	Chief scientist, Oceanographer	SMHI
Ola Kalén	Oceanographer	SMHI
Helena Björnberg	Marine chemist	SMHI
Sari Sipilä	Marine chemist	SMHI
Monica Lindner	Marine chemist	SMHI
Bengt Karlson	Marin biologist	SMHI

APPENDICES

- Track chart
- Table over stations, analyzed parameters and number of sampling depths
- Vertical profiles for regular monitoring stations
- Monthly average surface water plots for regular monitoring stations

SMHIs övervakningsstationer

- Högfrekvent, 24 ggr/år
- Frekvent, 12 ggr/år
- Lågfrekvent kartering, 1 g/år
- Havsboj
- Bottenmätsystem
- Vågboj

Å17 Å13
SLÄGGÖ

FLADEN

N14 FALKENBERG

ANHOLT E

W LANDSKRONA

HANÖBUKTEN

BCS III-10

BY1 BY2

HUVUDSKÄRSBOJEN

BY31

BY32

BY38

BY39

BY4

BY5

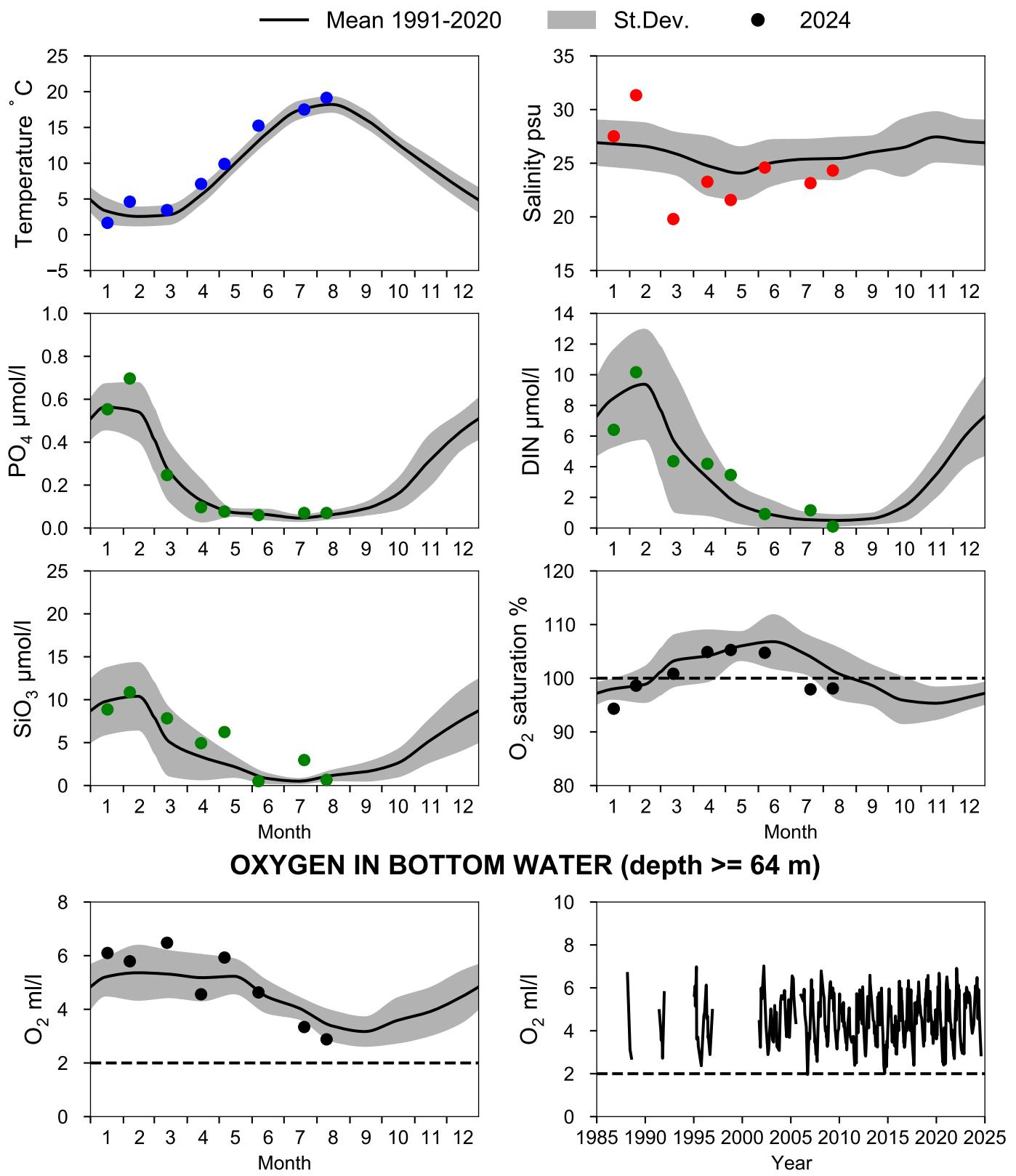
BY20

BY15

BY10

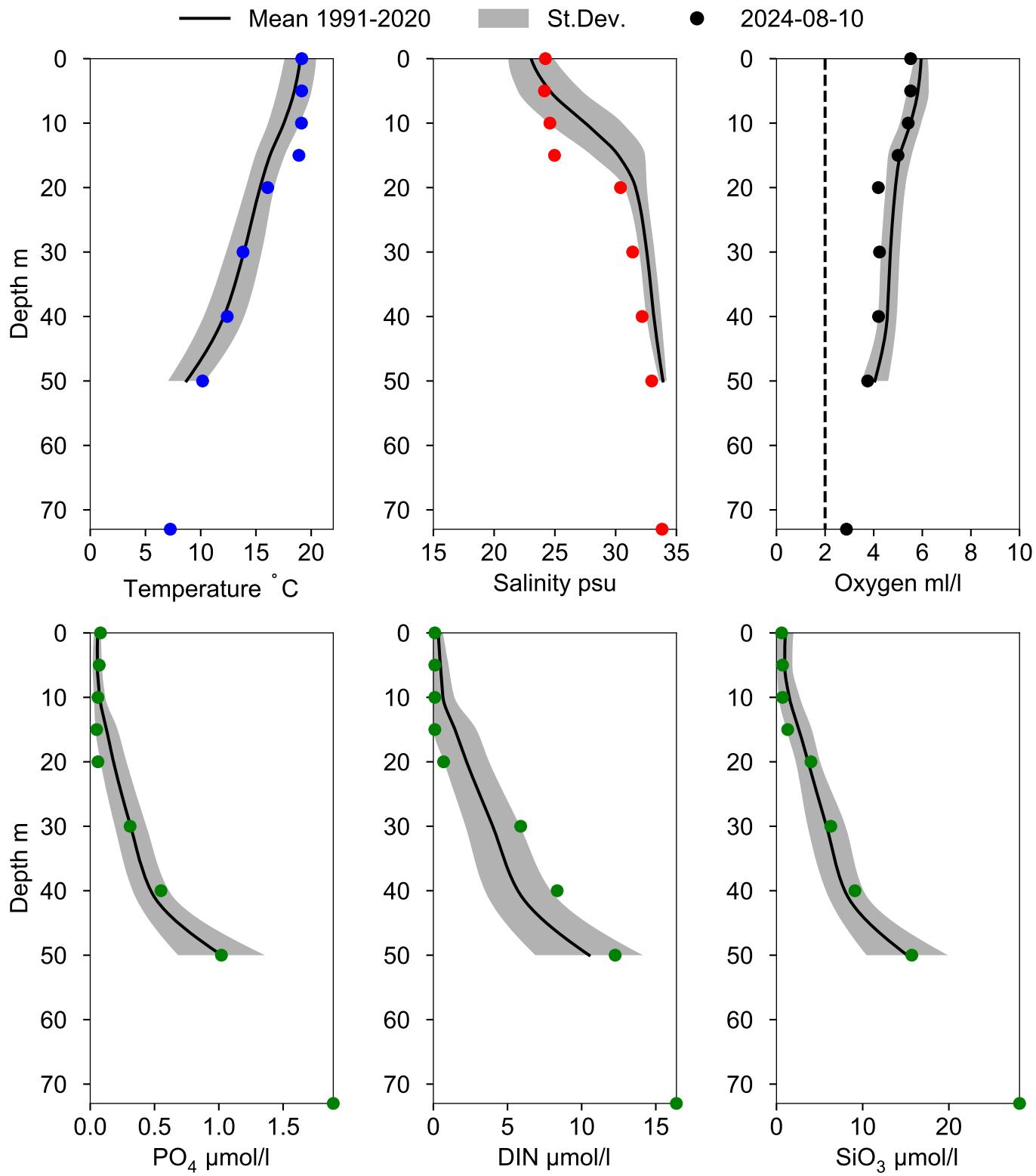
STATION SLÄGGÖ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



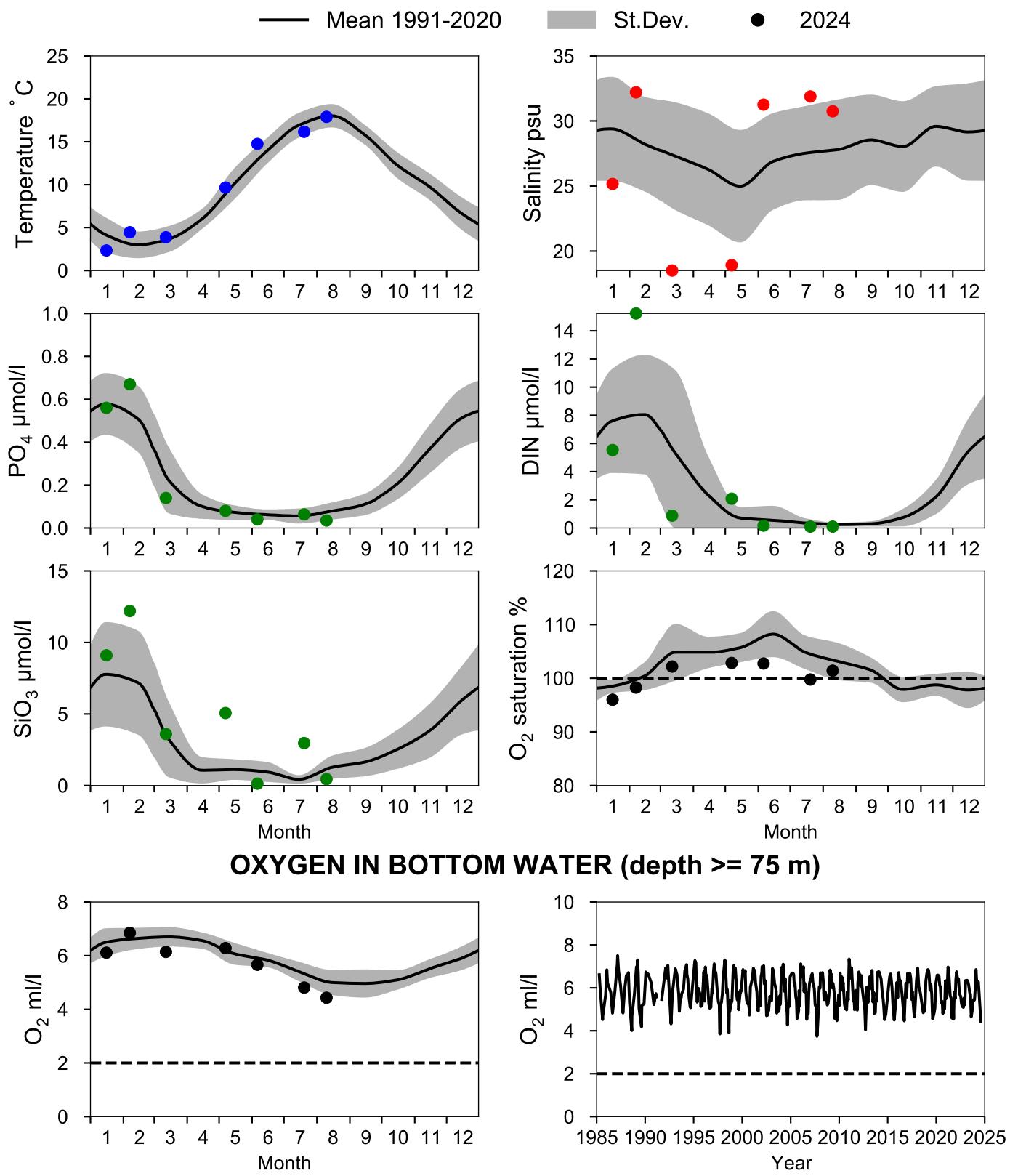
Vertical profiles SLÄGGÖ

August

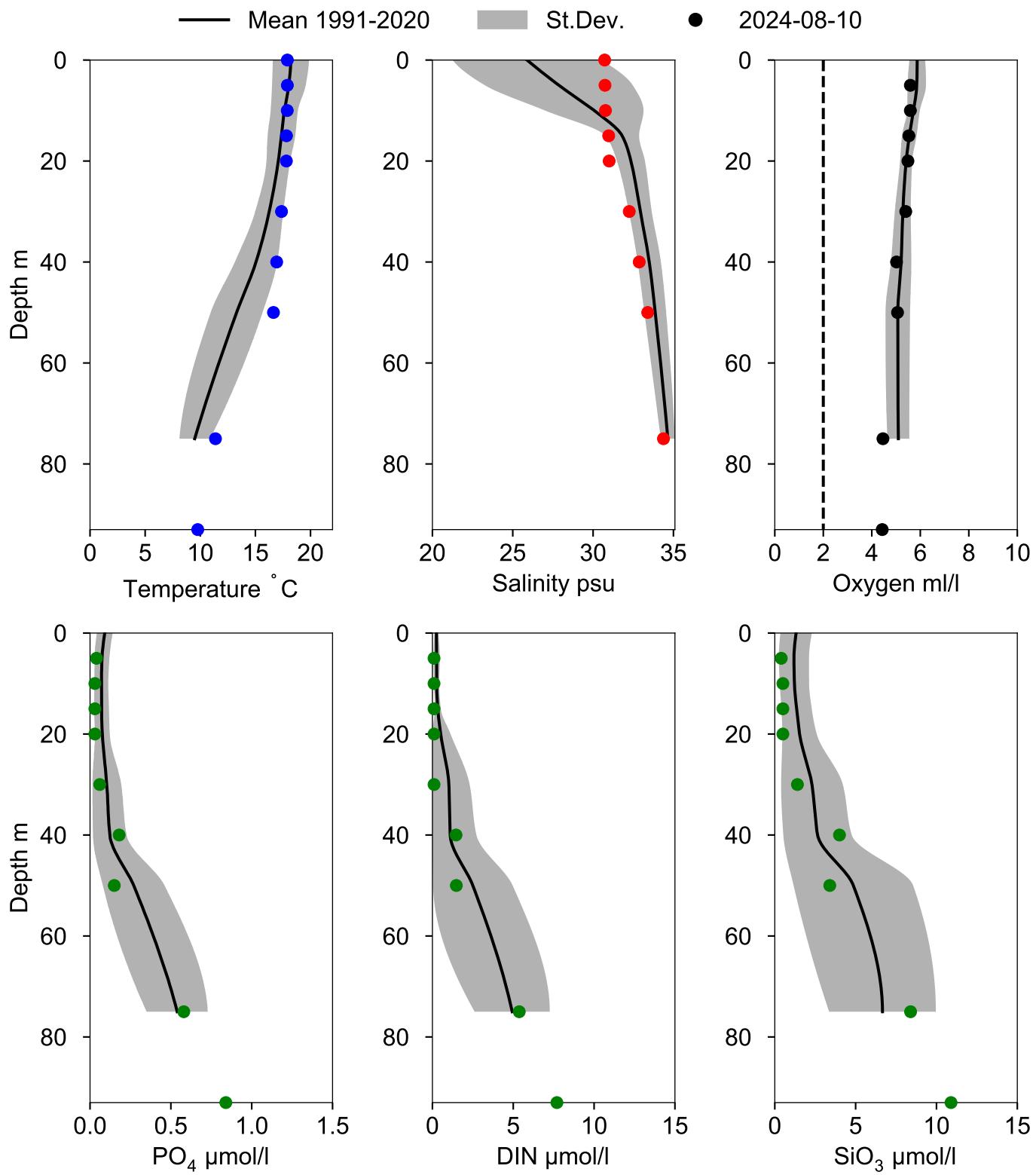


STATION P2 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

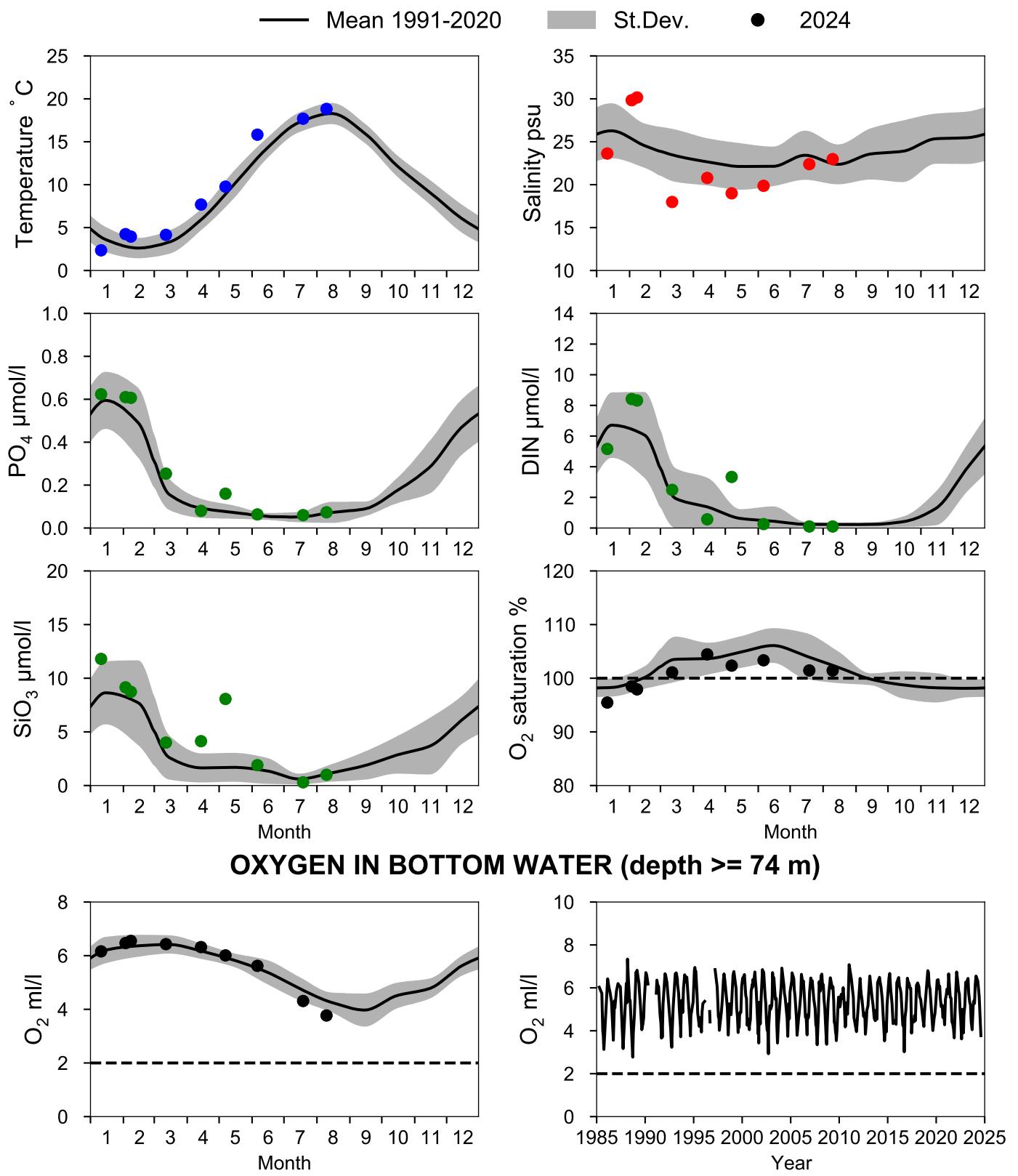


Vertical profiles P2 August



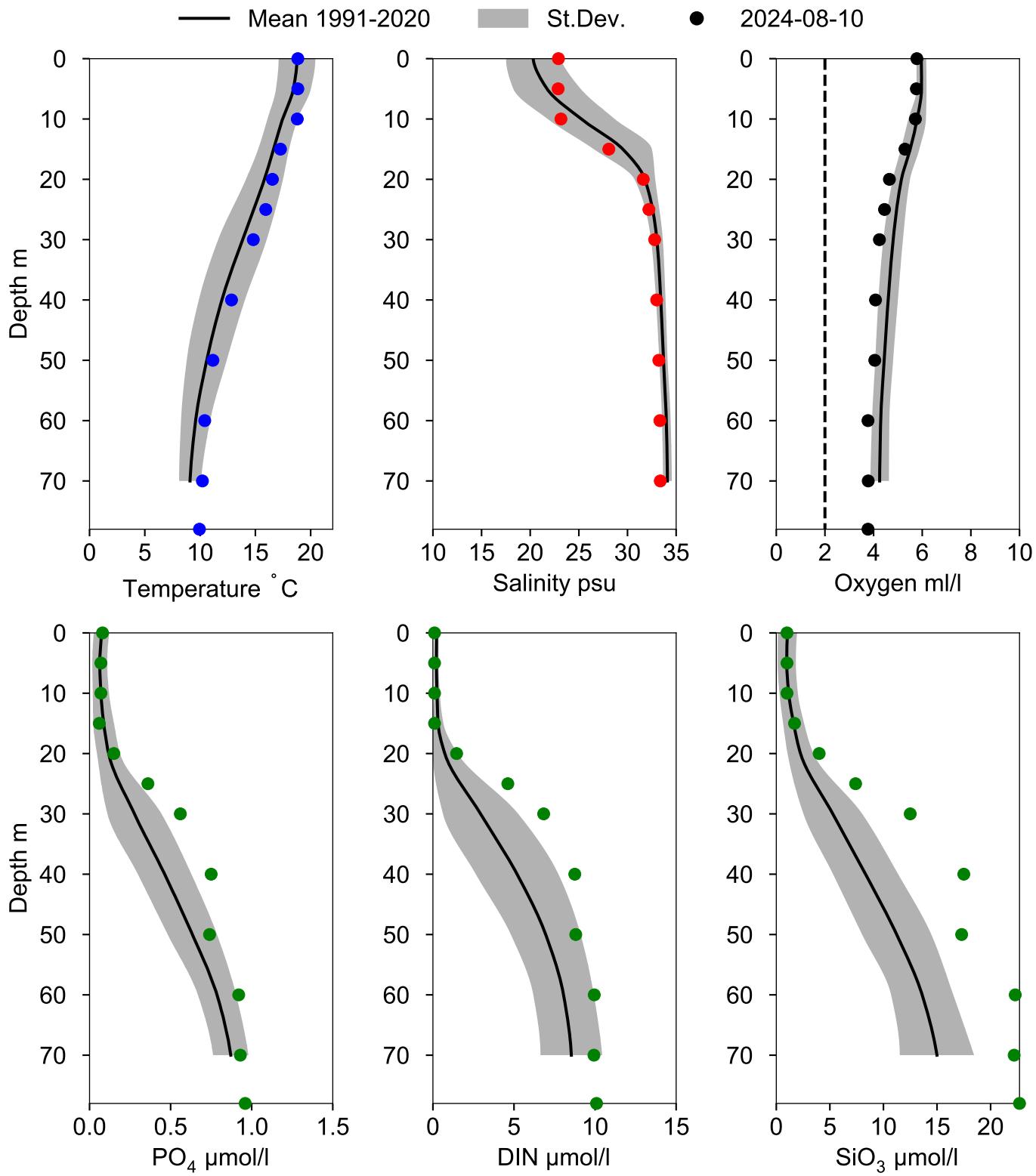
STATION FLADEN SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



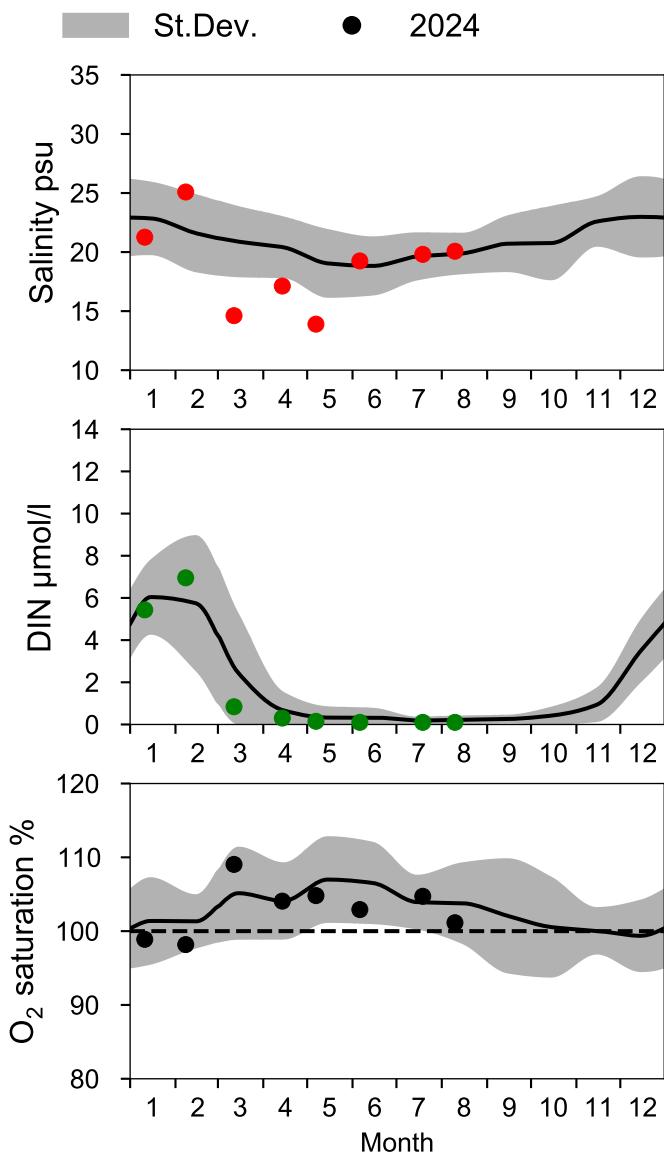
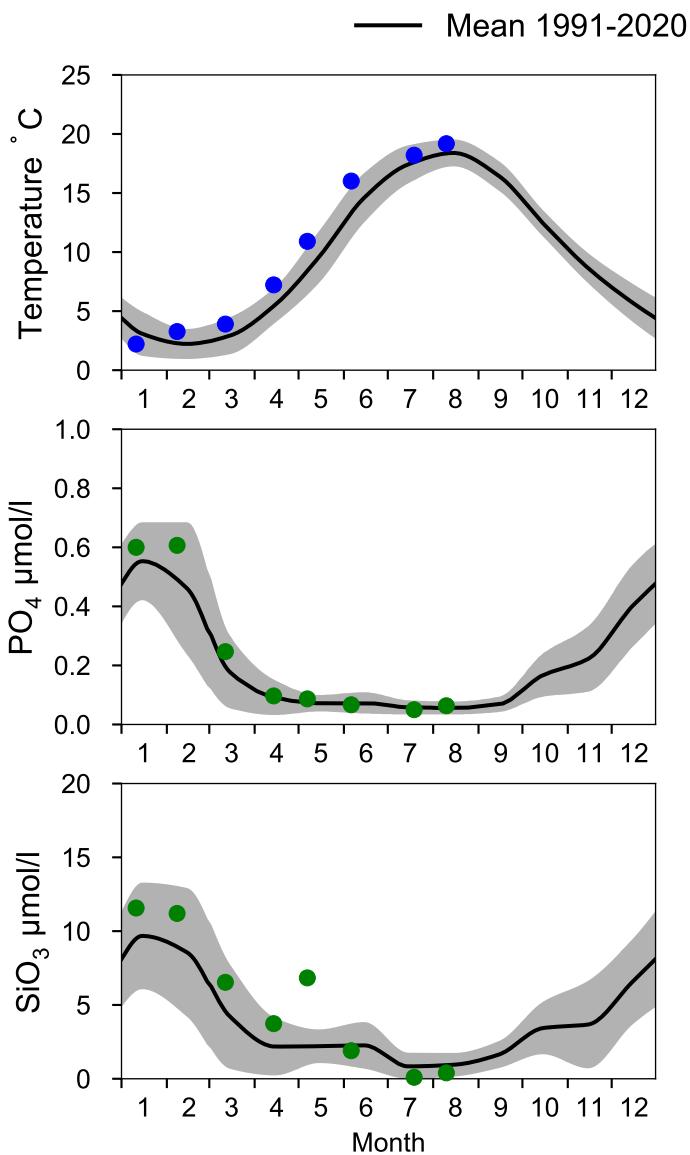
Vertical profiles FLADEN

August

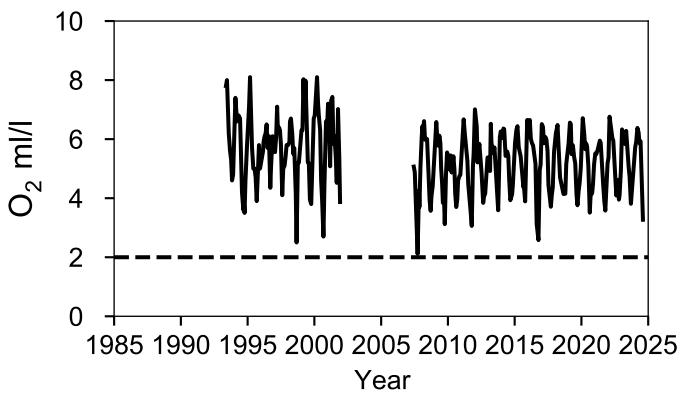
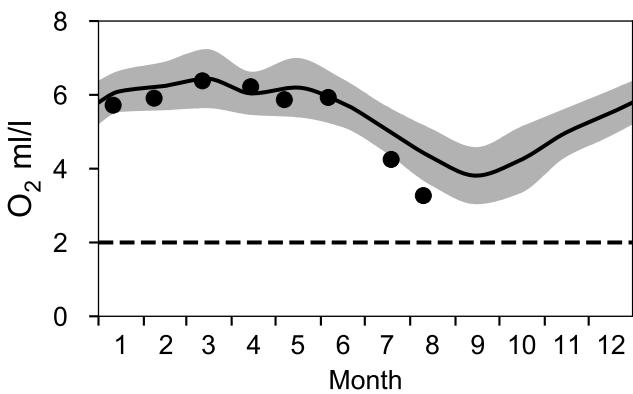


STATION N14 FALKENBERG SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

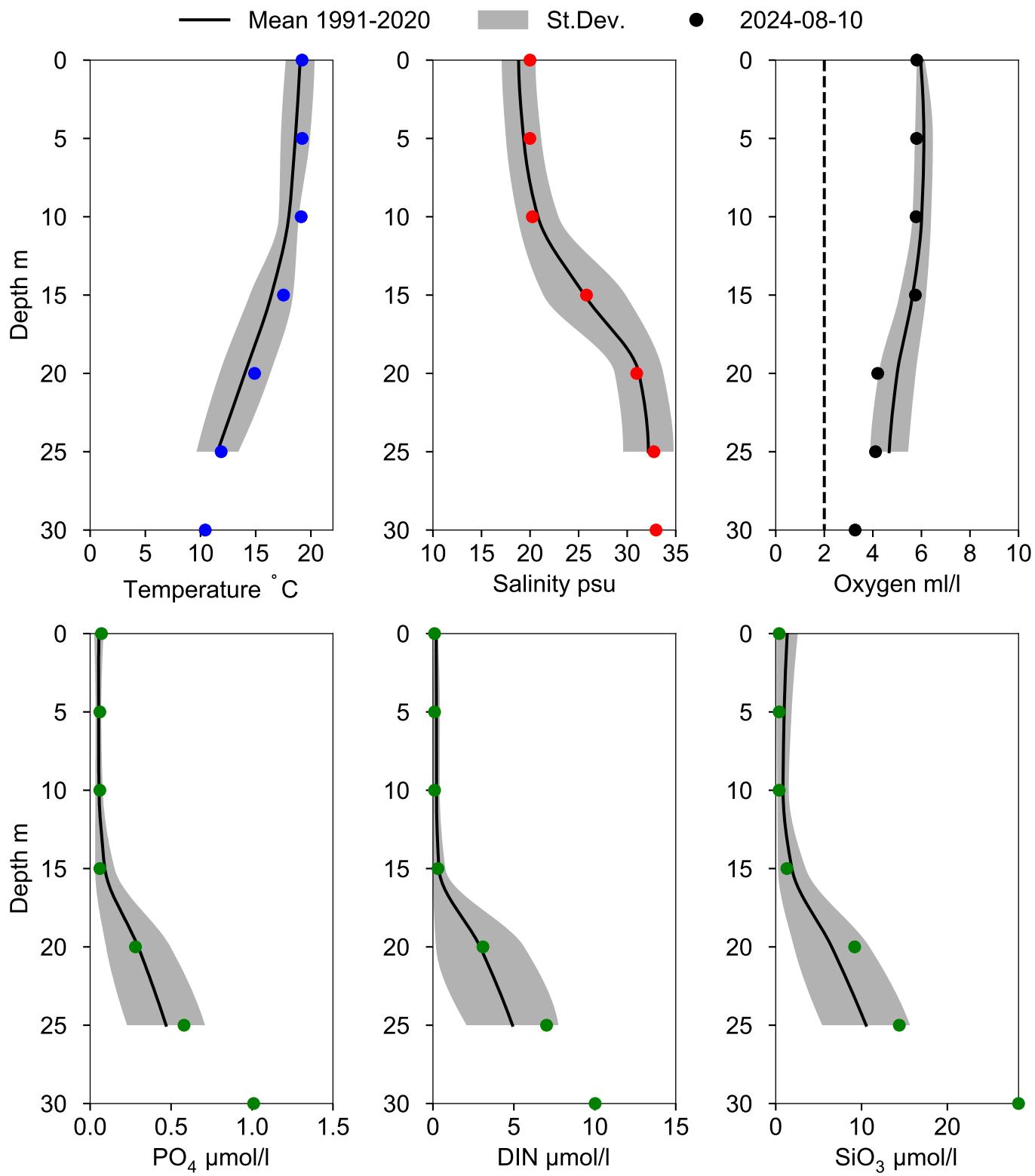


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 25 m)



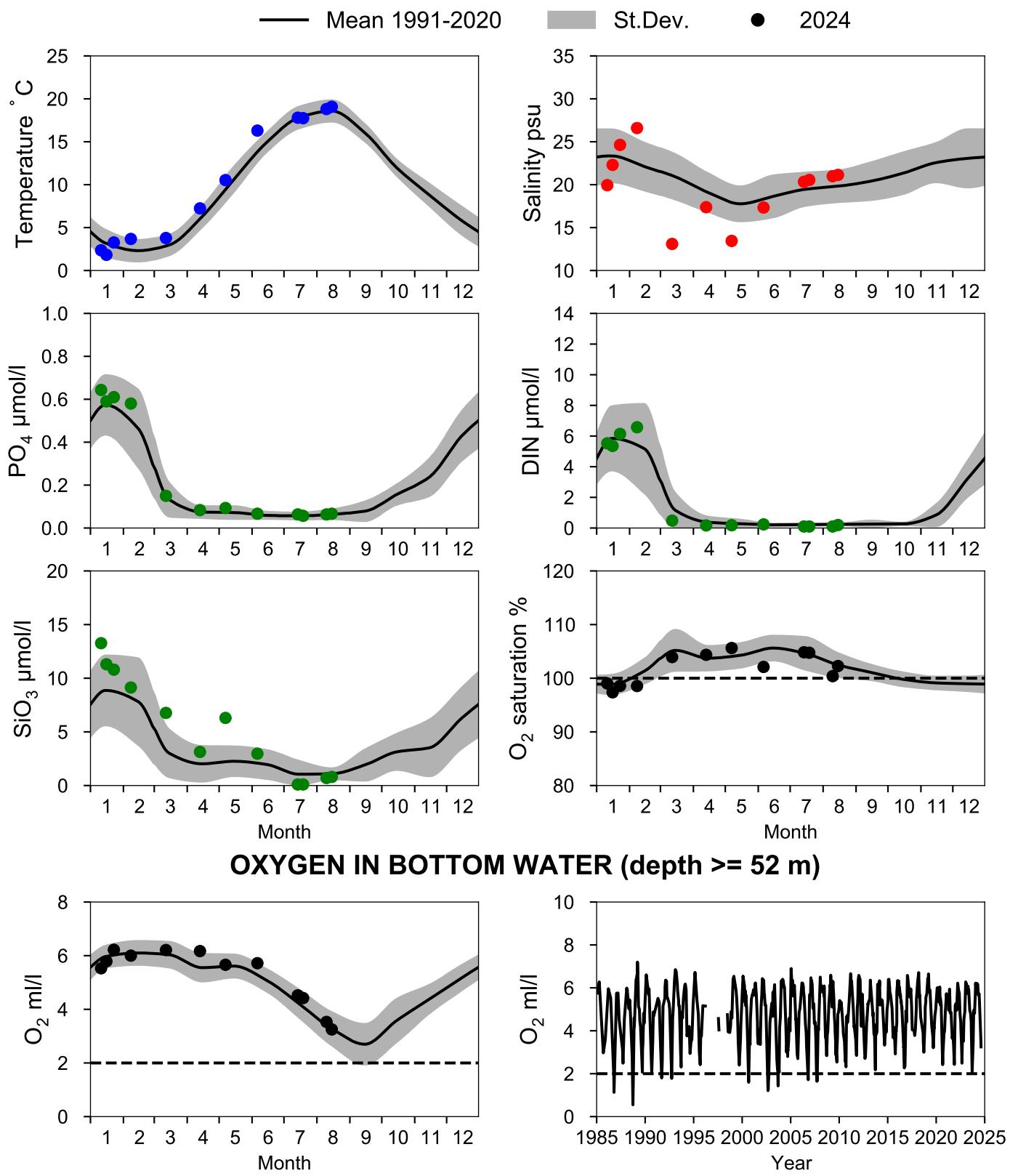
Vertical profiles N14 FALKENBERG

August



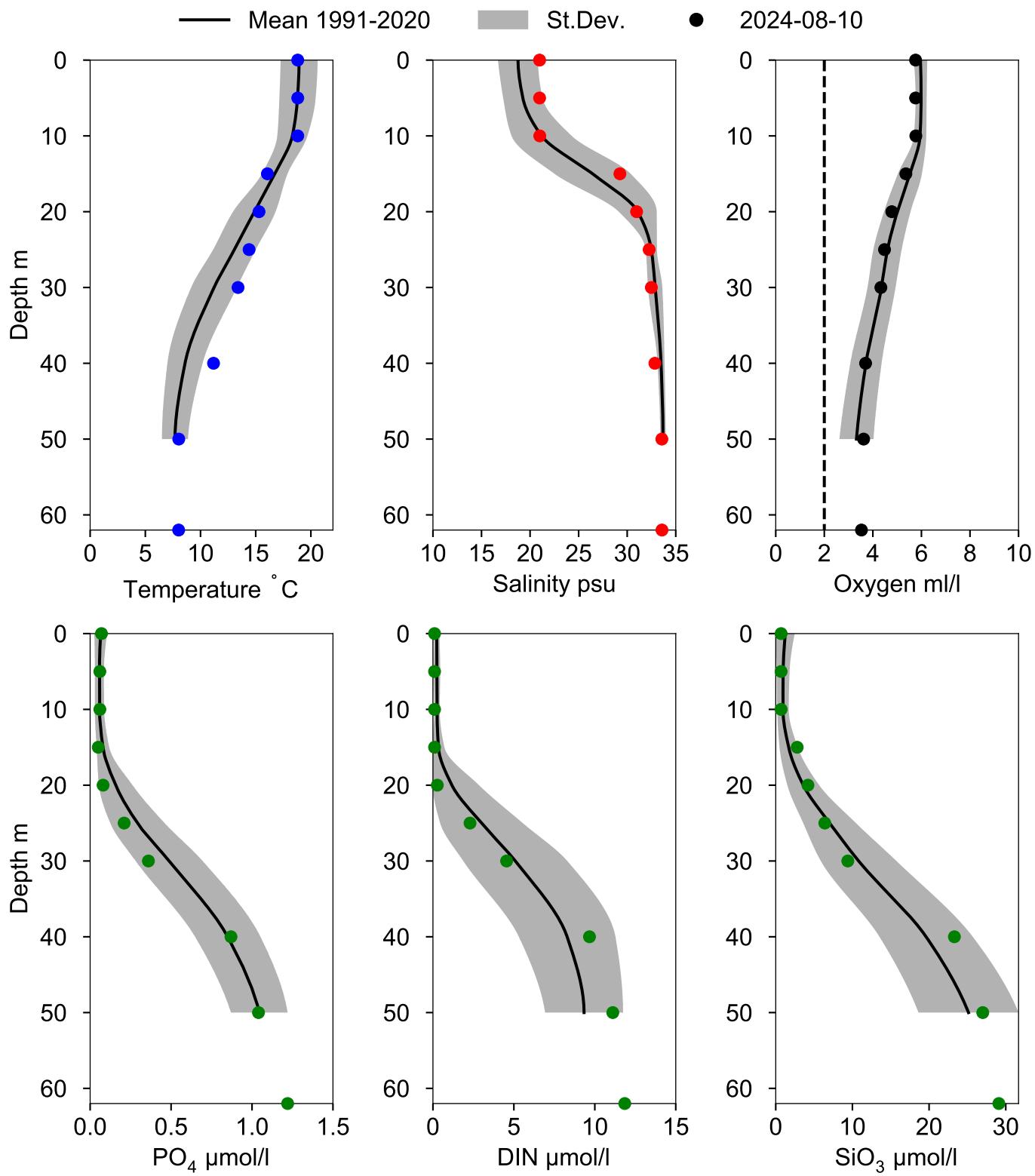
STATION ANHOLT E SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



Vertical profiles ANHOLT E

August



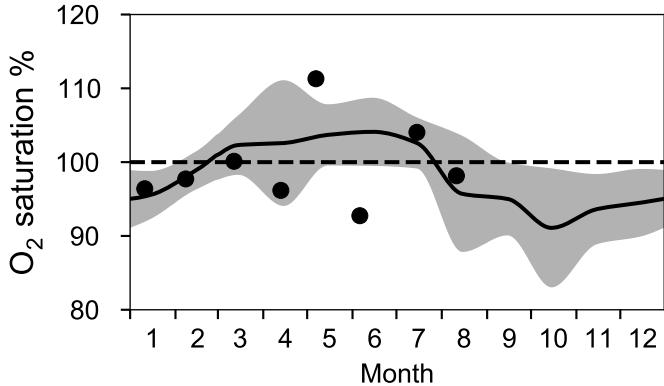
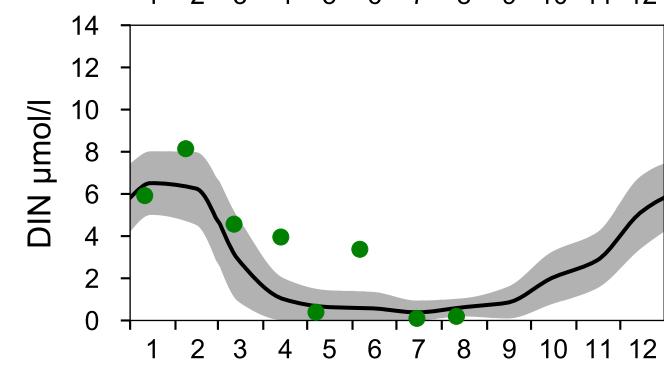
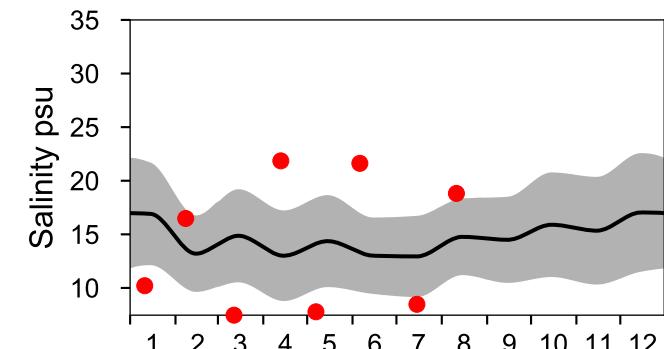
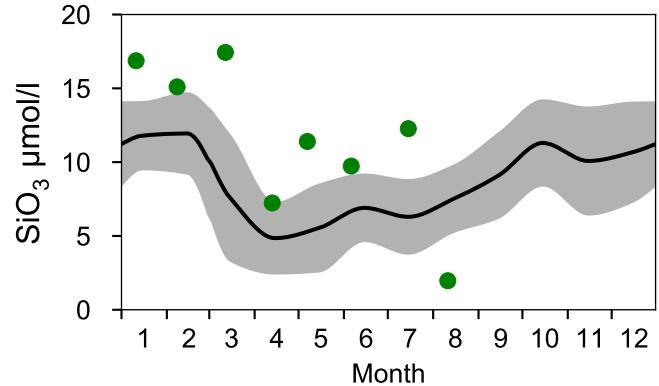
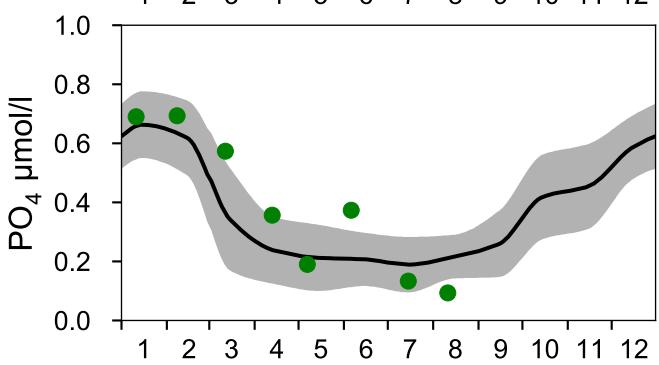
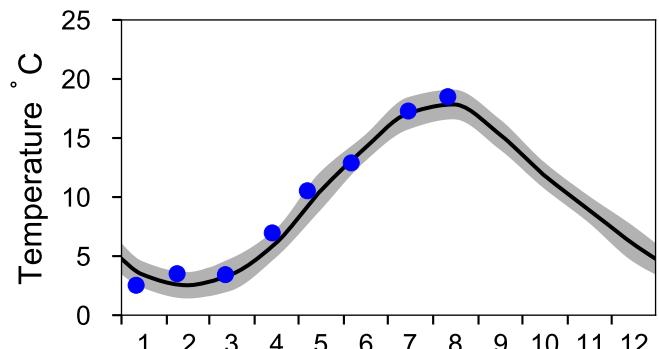
STATION W LANDSKRONA SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

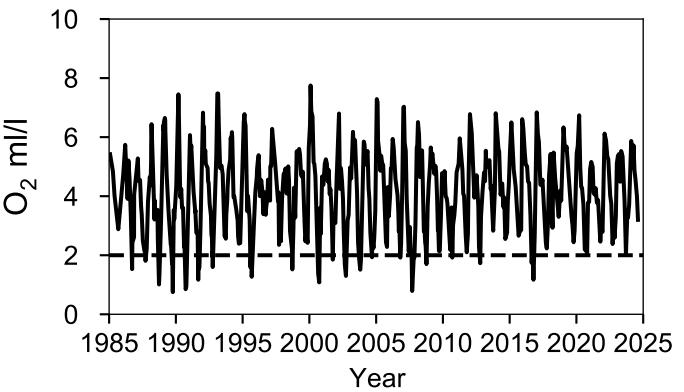
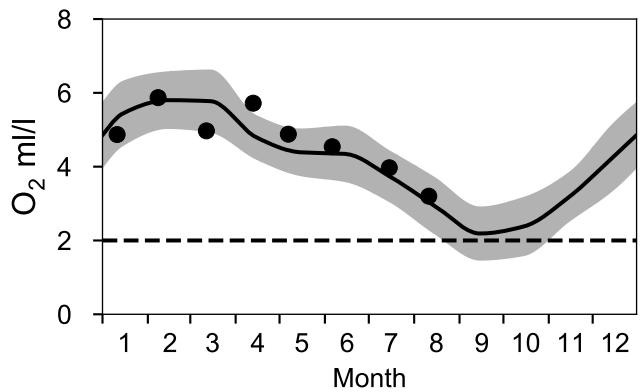
— Mean 1991-2020

St.Dev.

● 2024

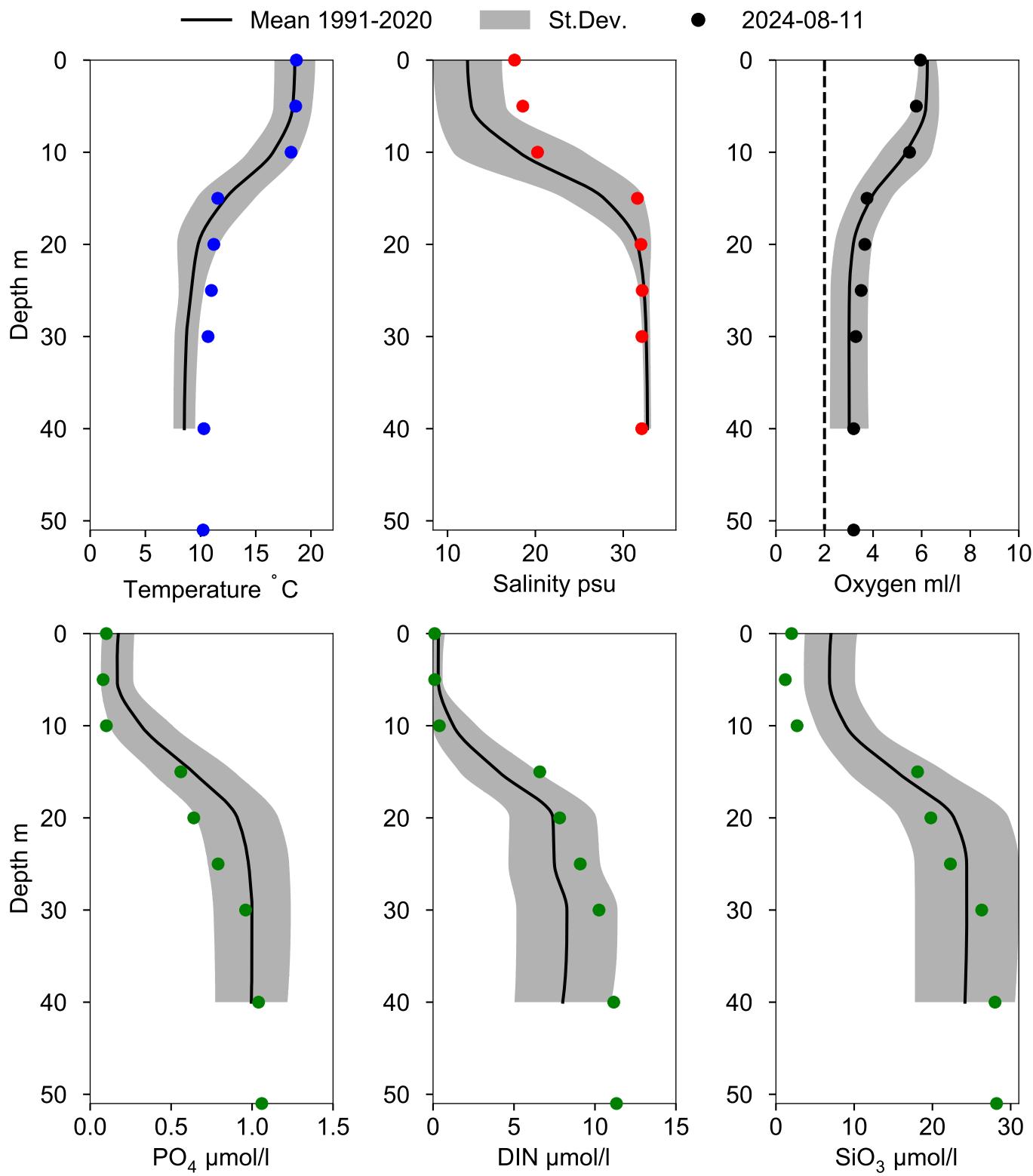


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth ≥ 40 m)



Vertical profiles W LANDSKRONA

August



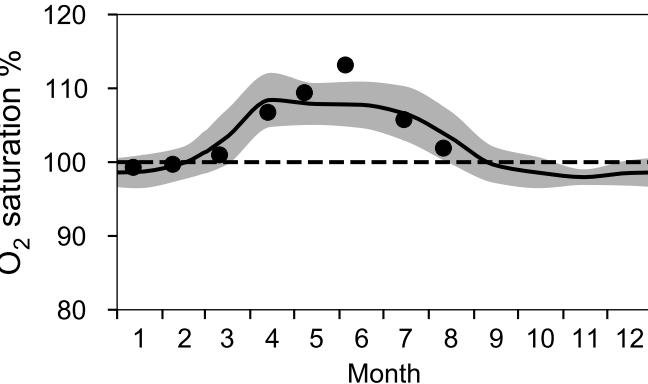
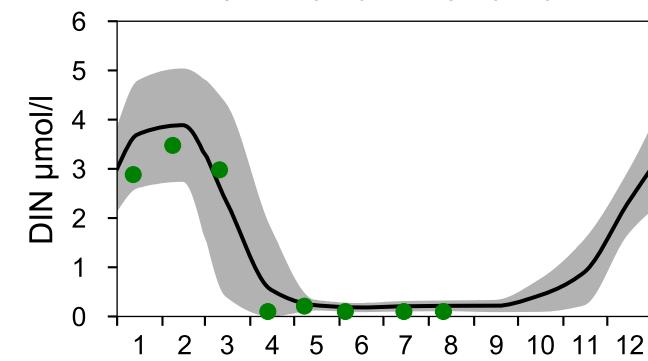
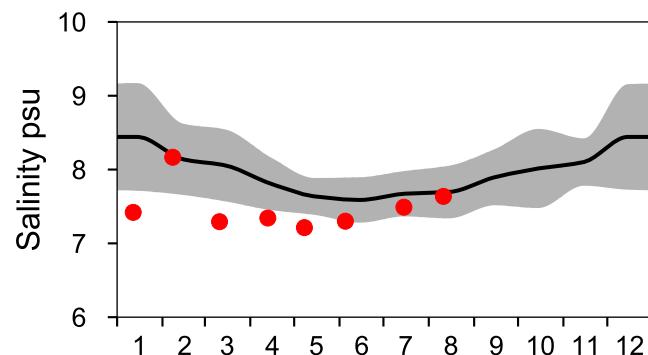
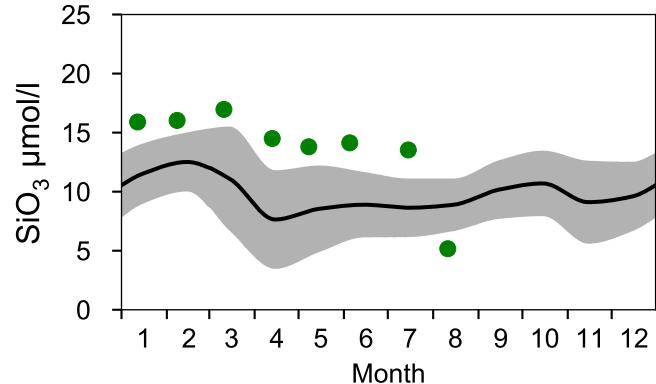
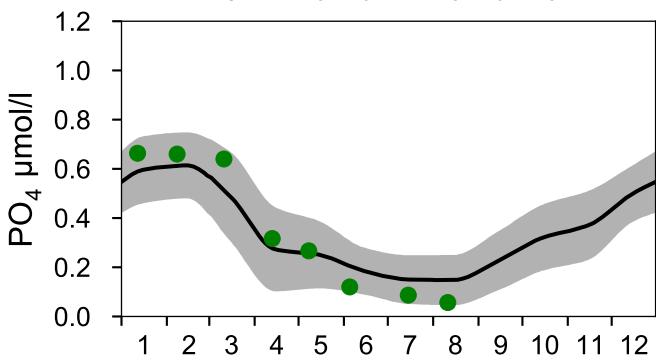
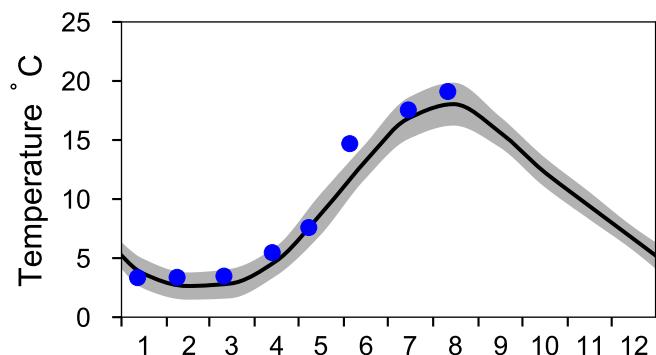
STATION BY1 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

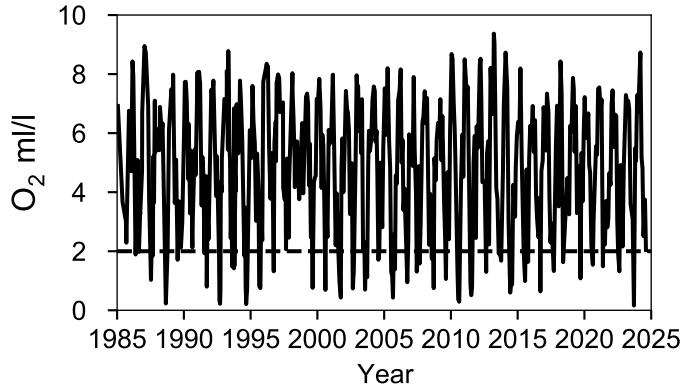
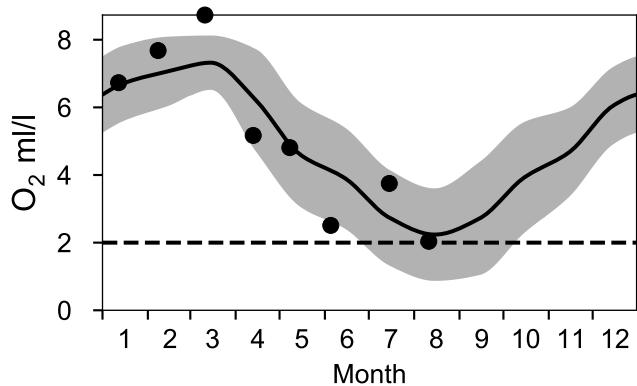
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St.Dev.

● 2024

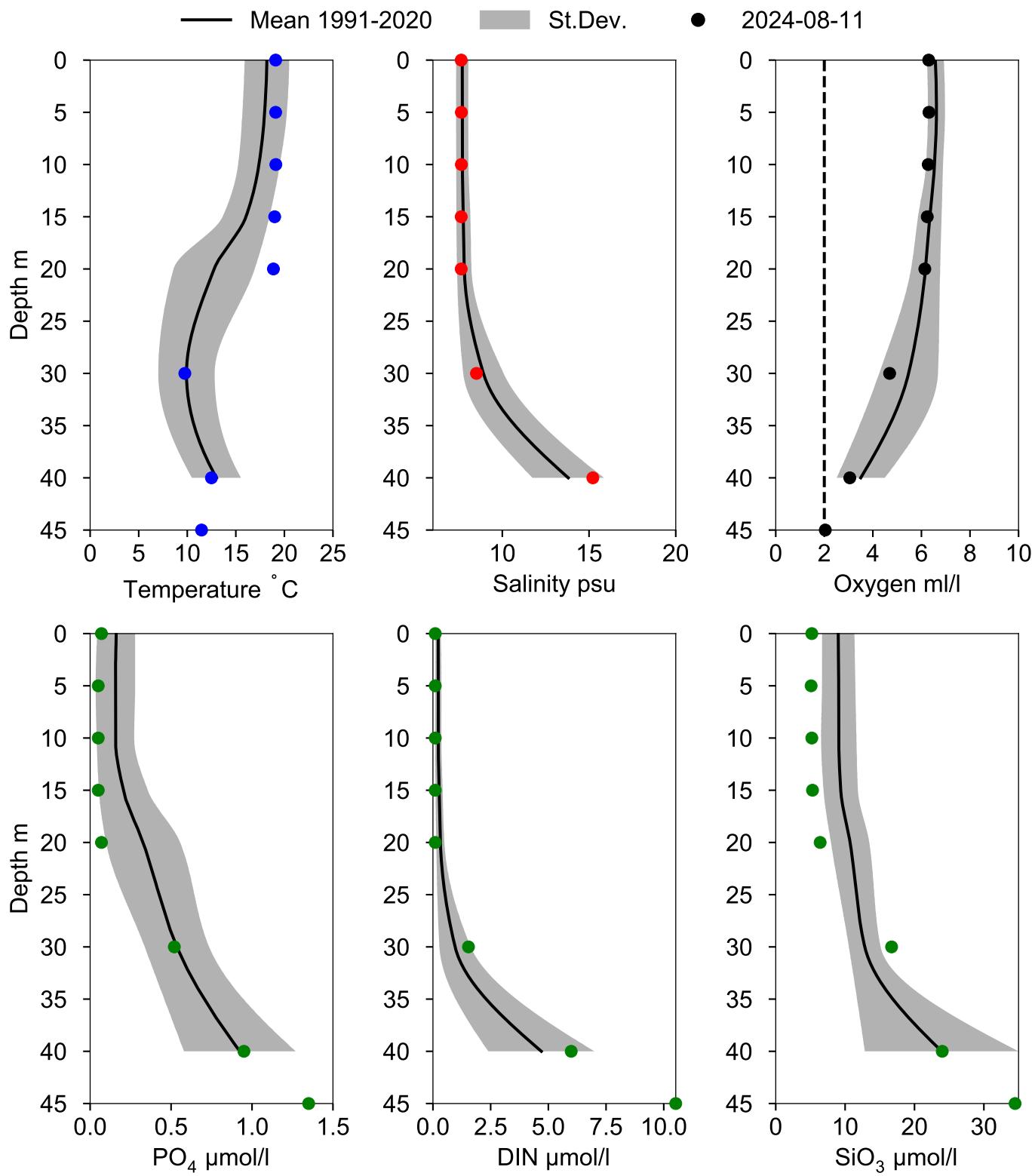


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth \geq 39 m)



Vertical profiles BY1

August



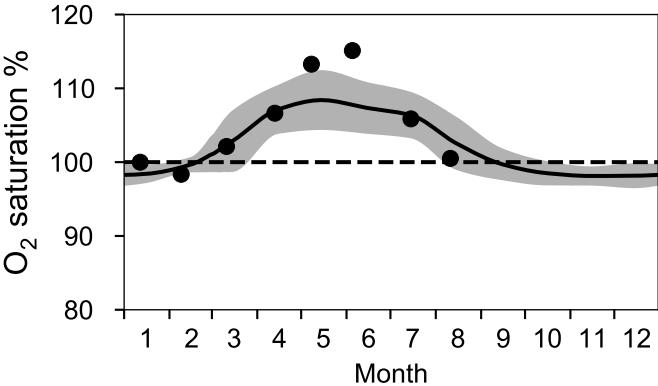
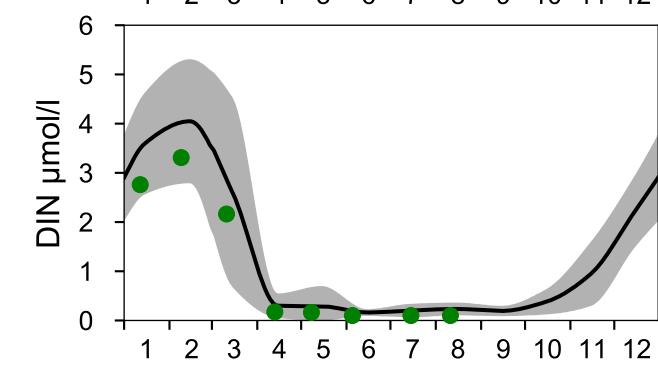
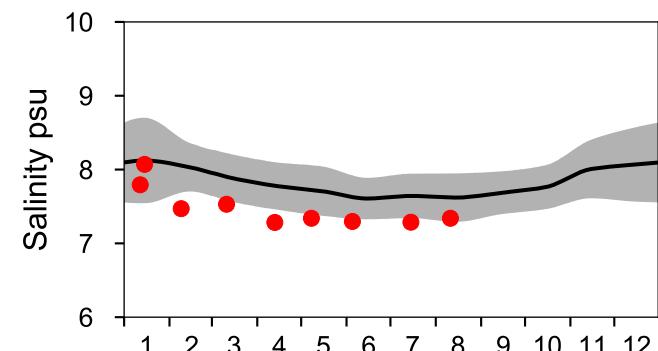
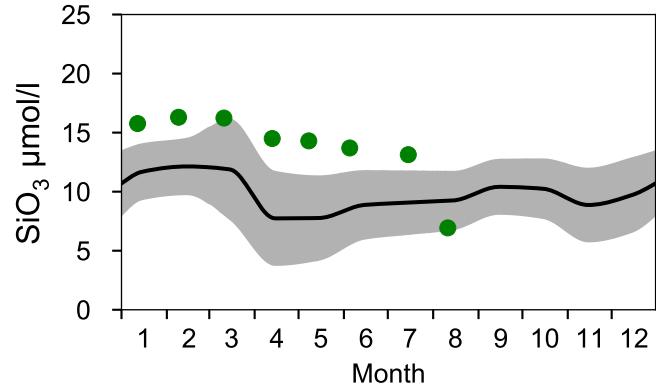
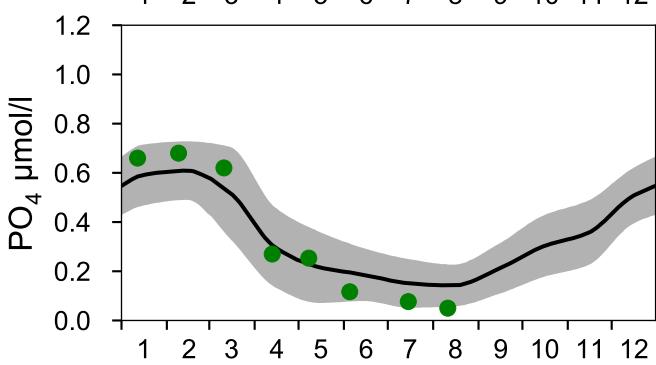
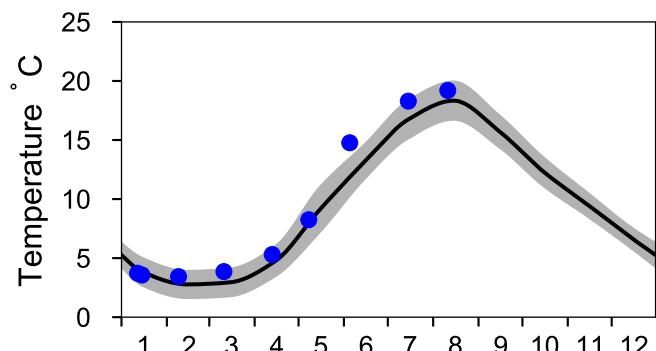
STATION BY2 ARKONA SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

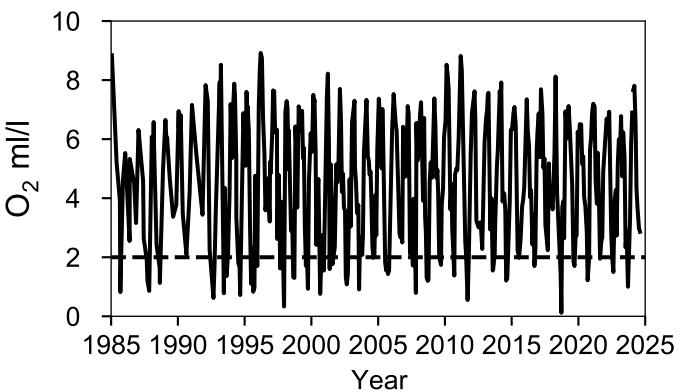
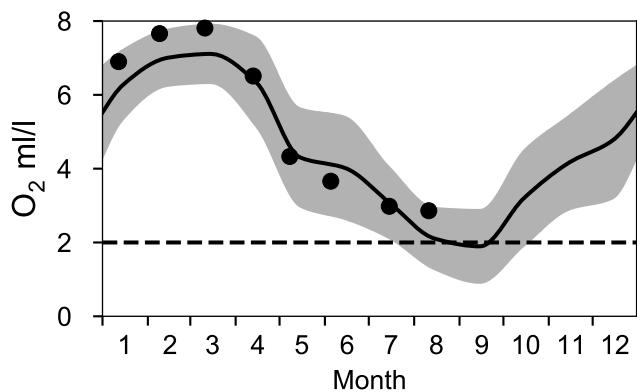
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St.Dev.

● 2024

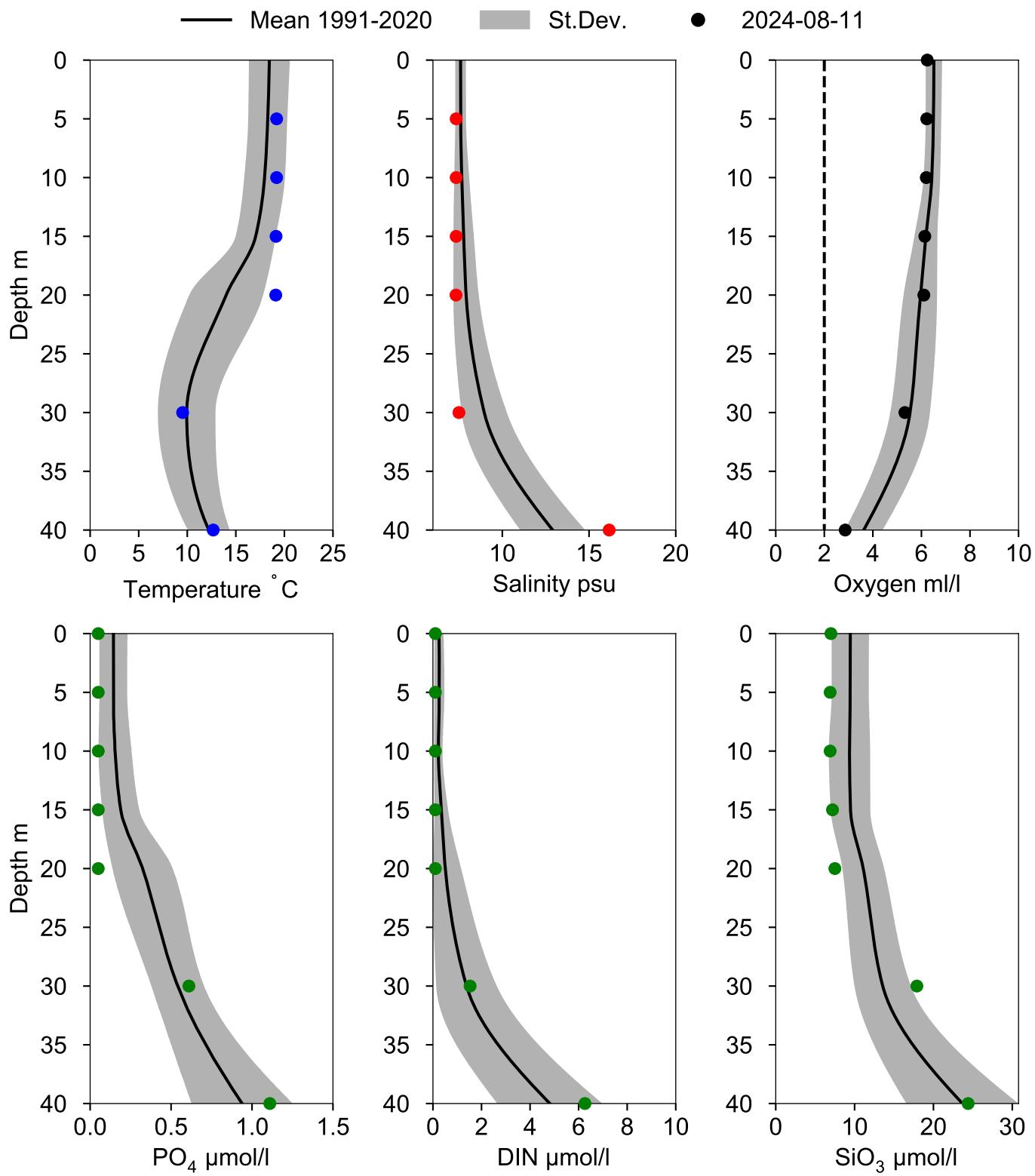


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth ≥ 40 m)



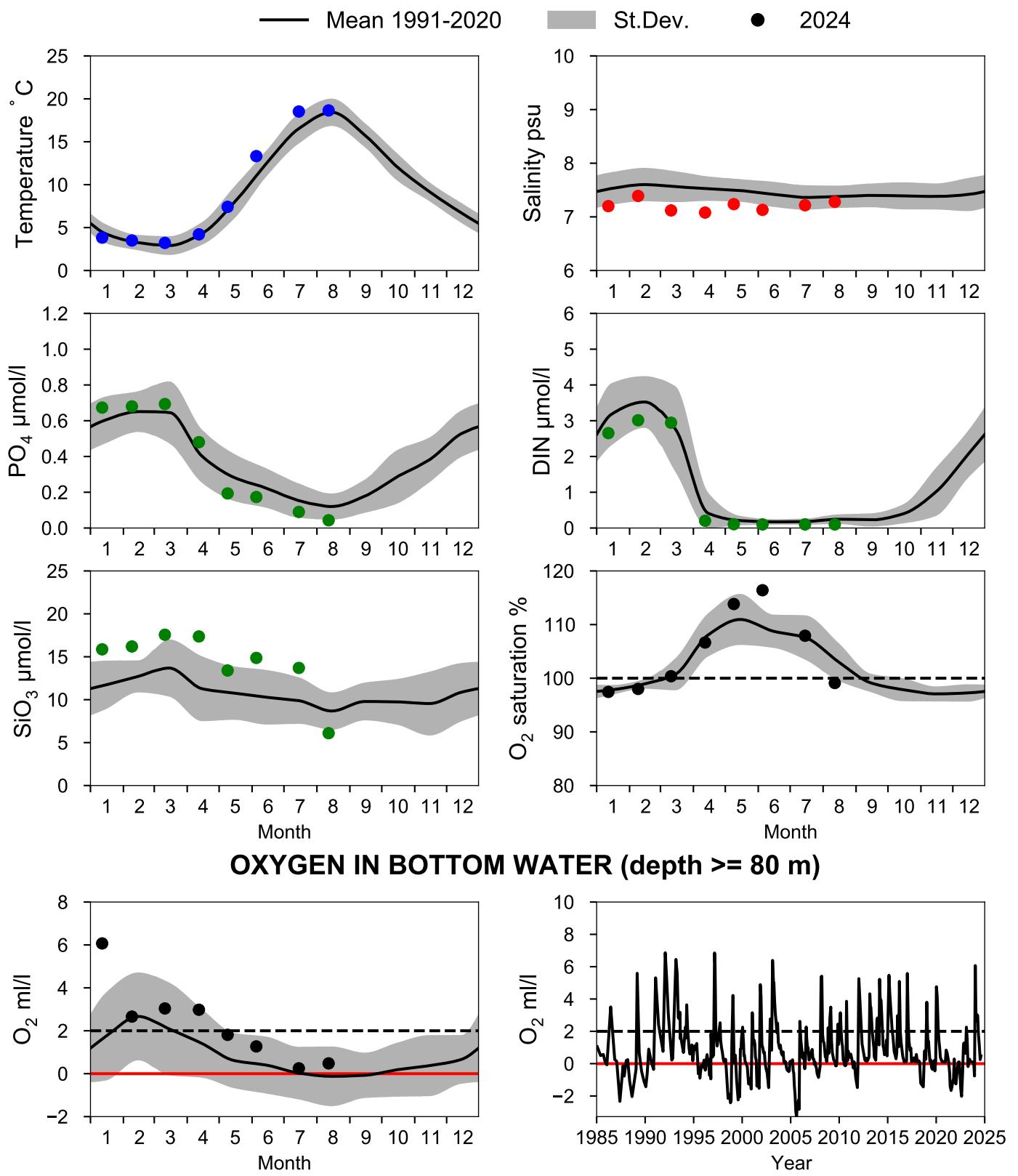
Vertical profiles BY2 ARKONA

August



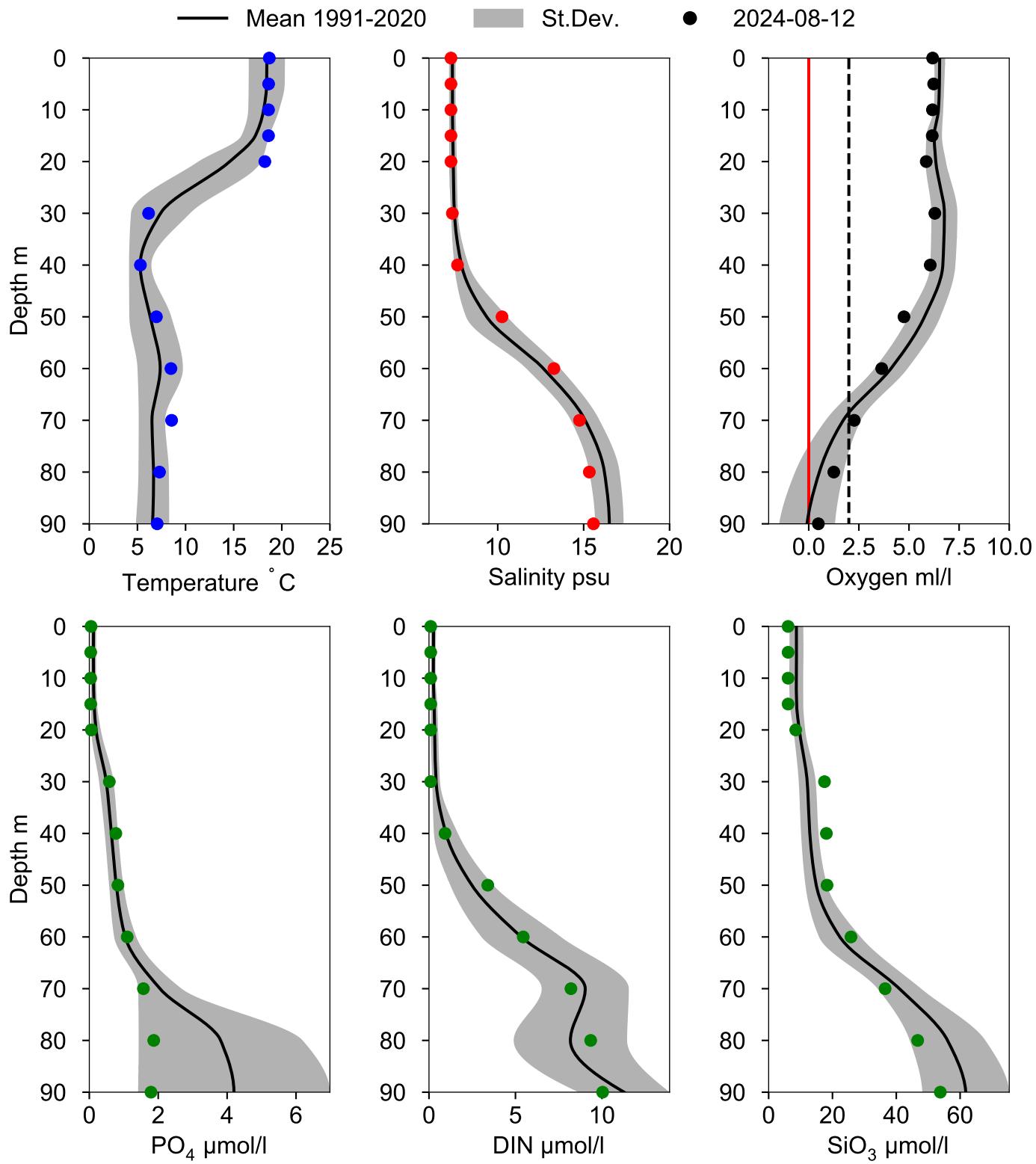
STATION BY4 CHRISTIANSÖ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



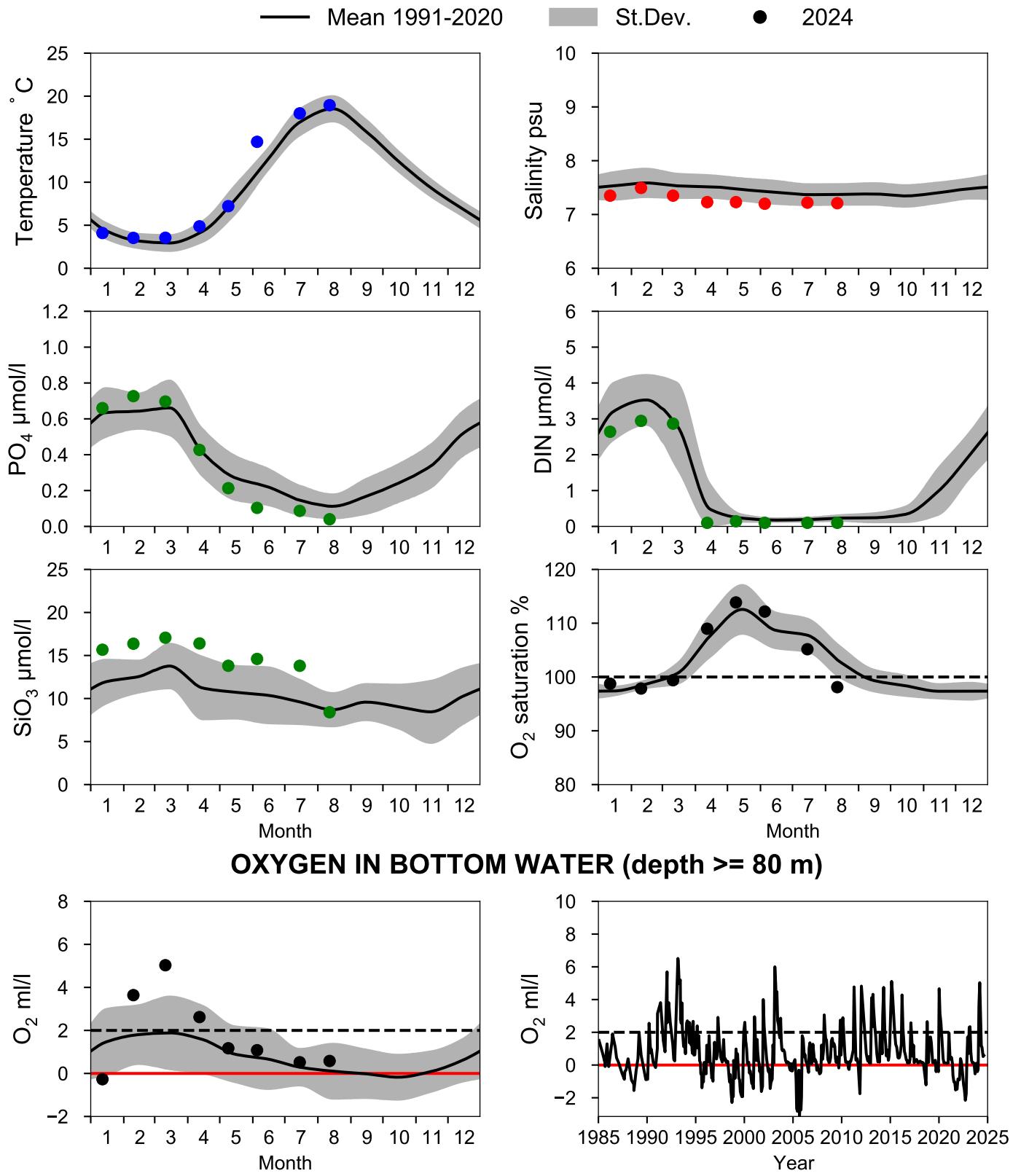
Vertical profiles BY4 CHRISTIANSÖ

August



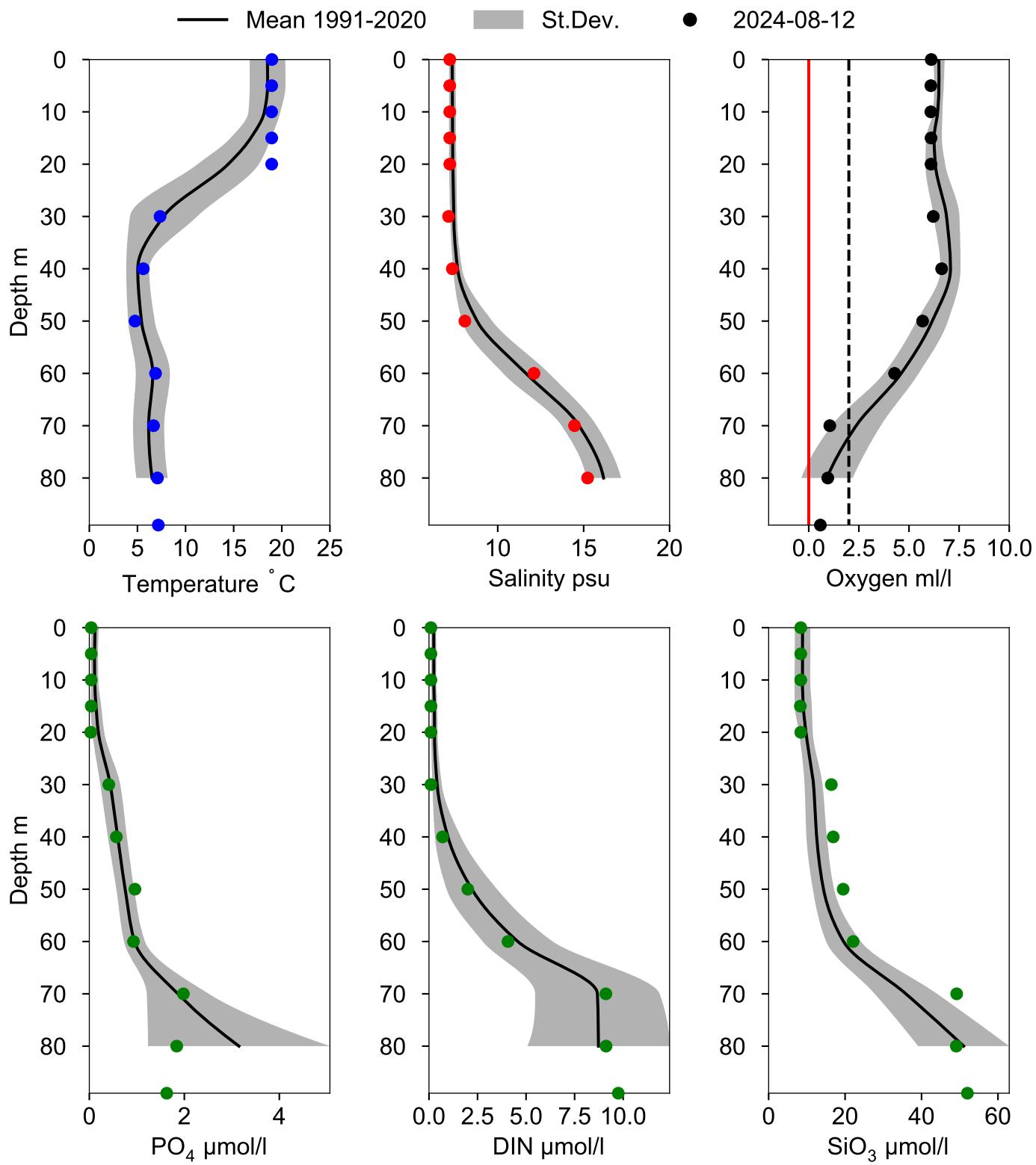
STATION BY5 BORNHOLMSDJ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



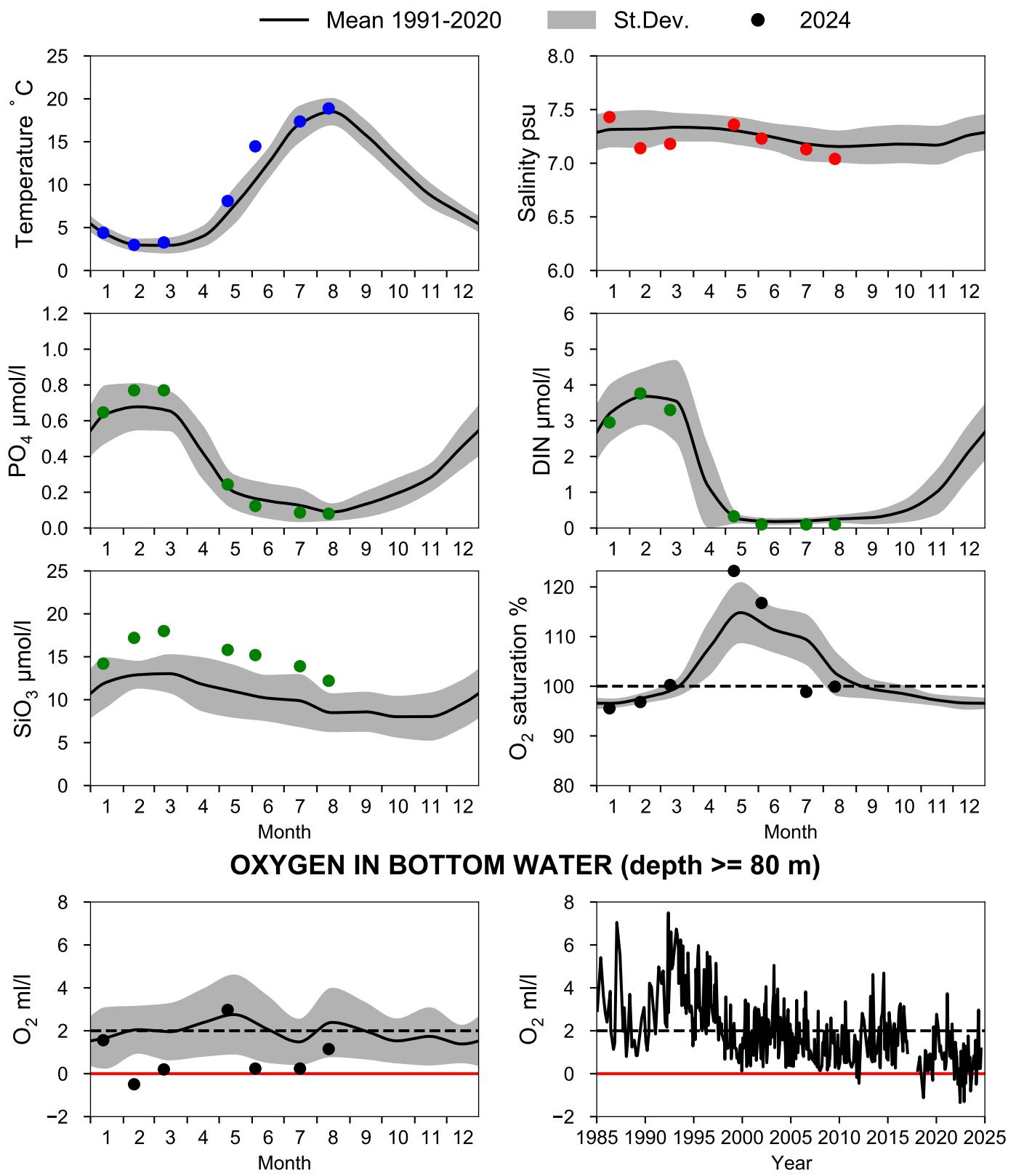
Vertical profiles BY5 BORNHOLMSDJ

August



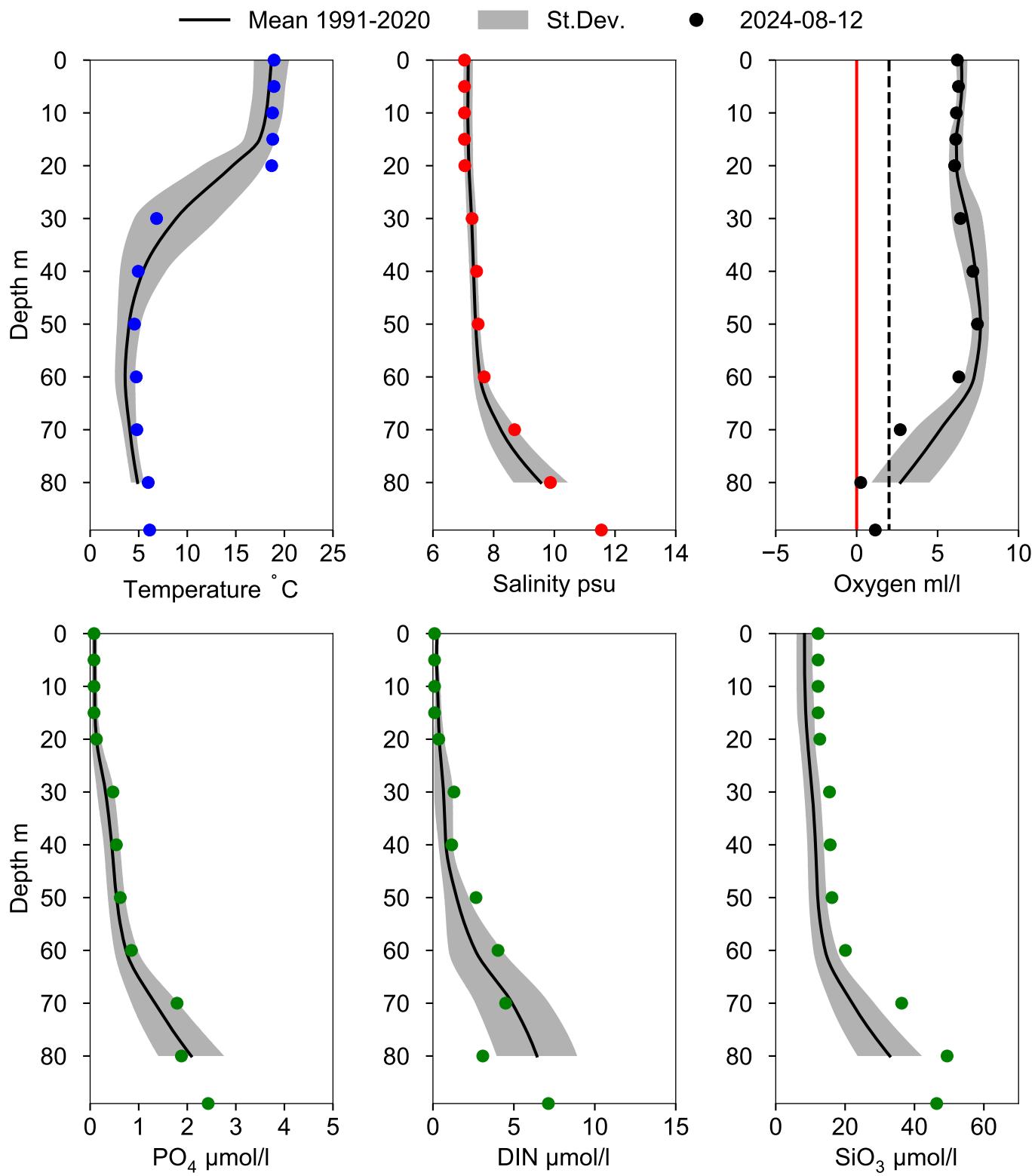
STATION BCS III-10 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



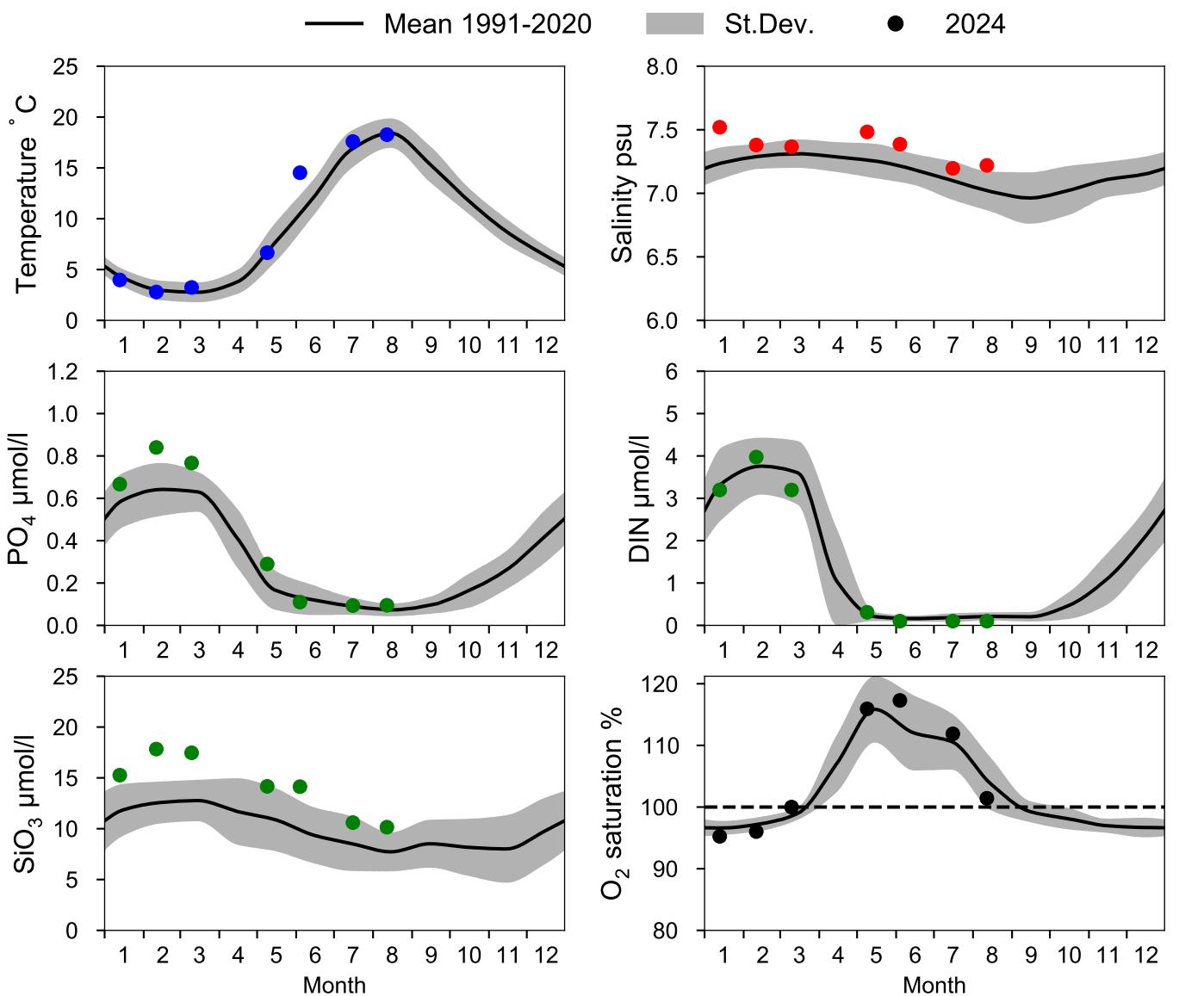
Vertical profiles BCS III-10

August

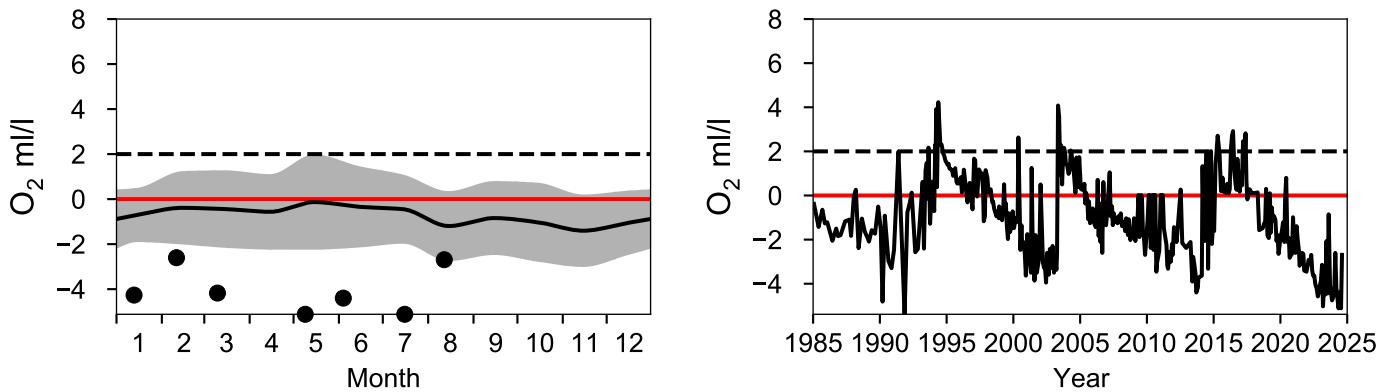


STATION BY10 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

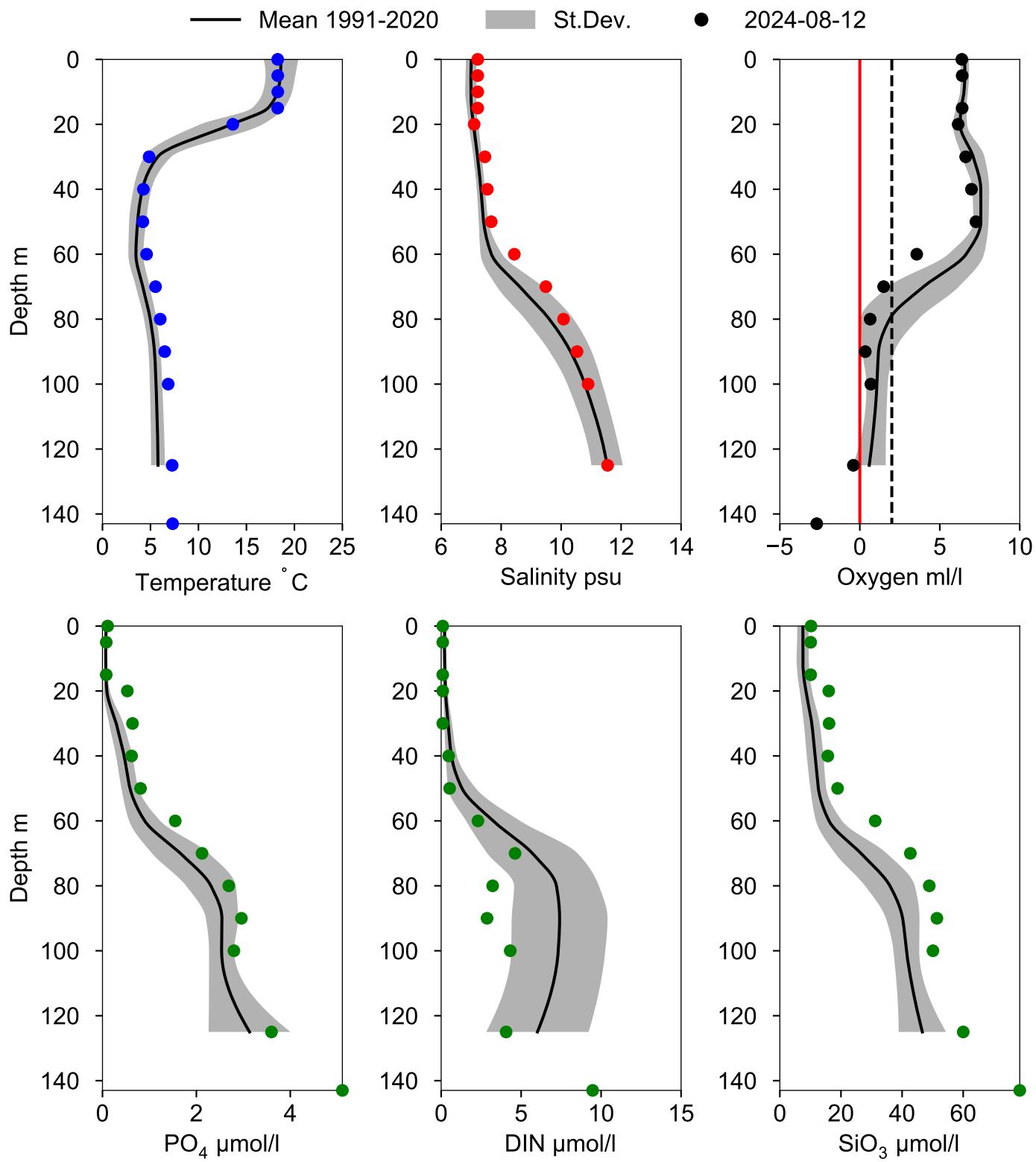


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 125 m)



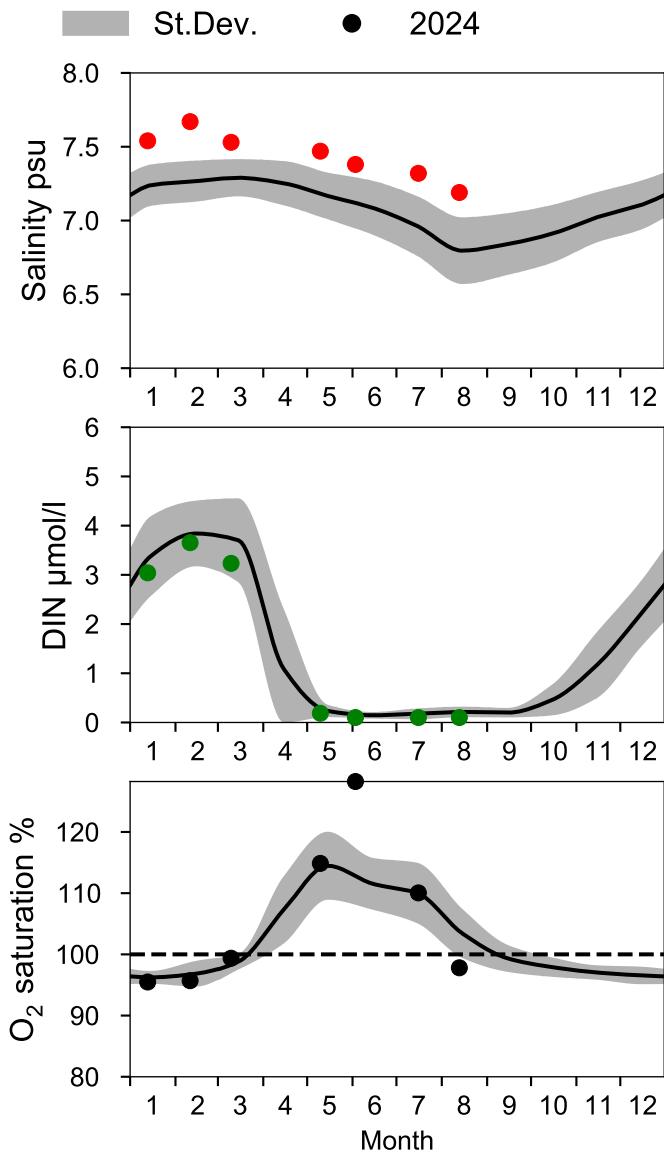
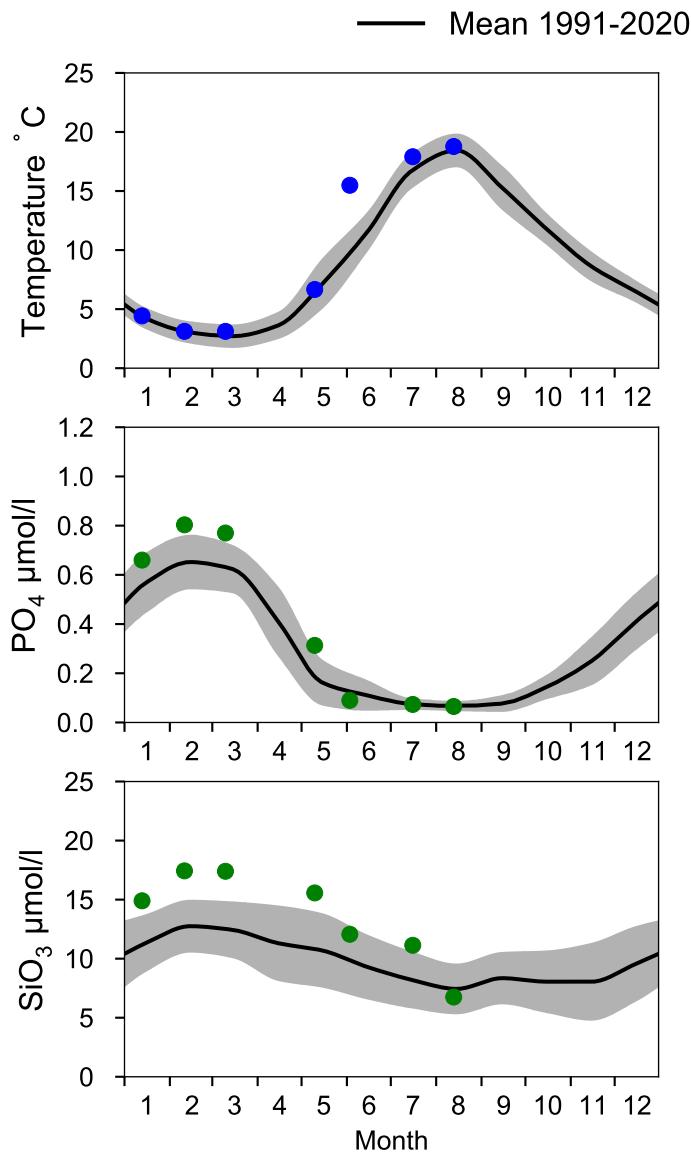
Vertical profiles BY10

August

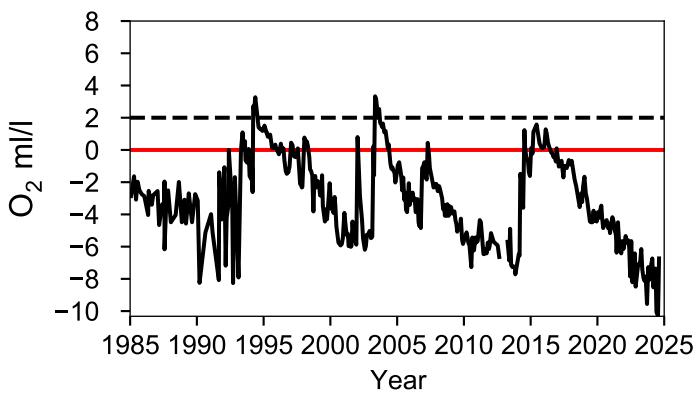
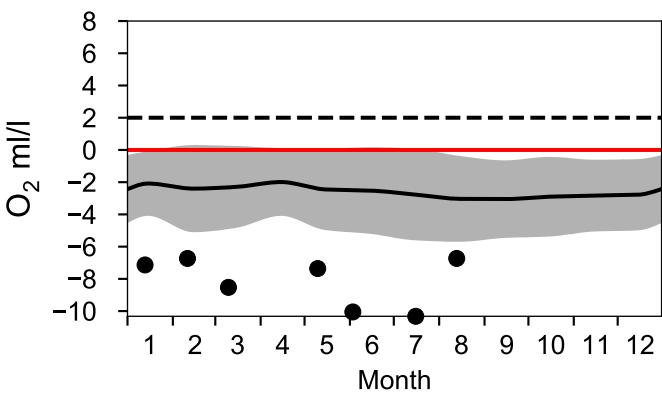


STATION BY15 GOTLANDSDJ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

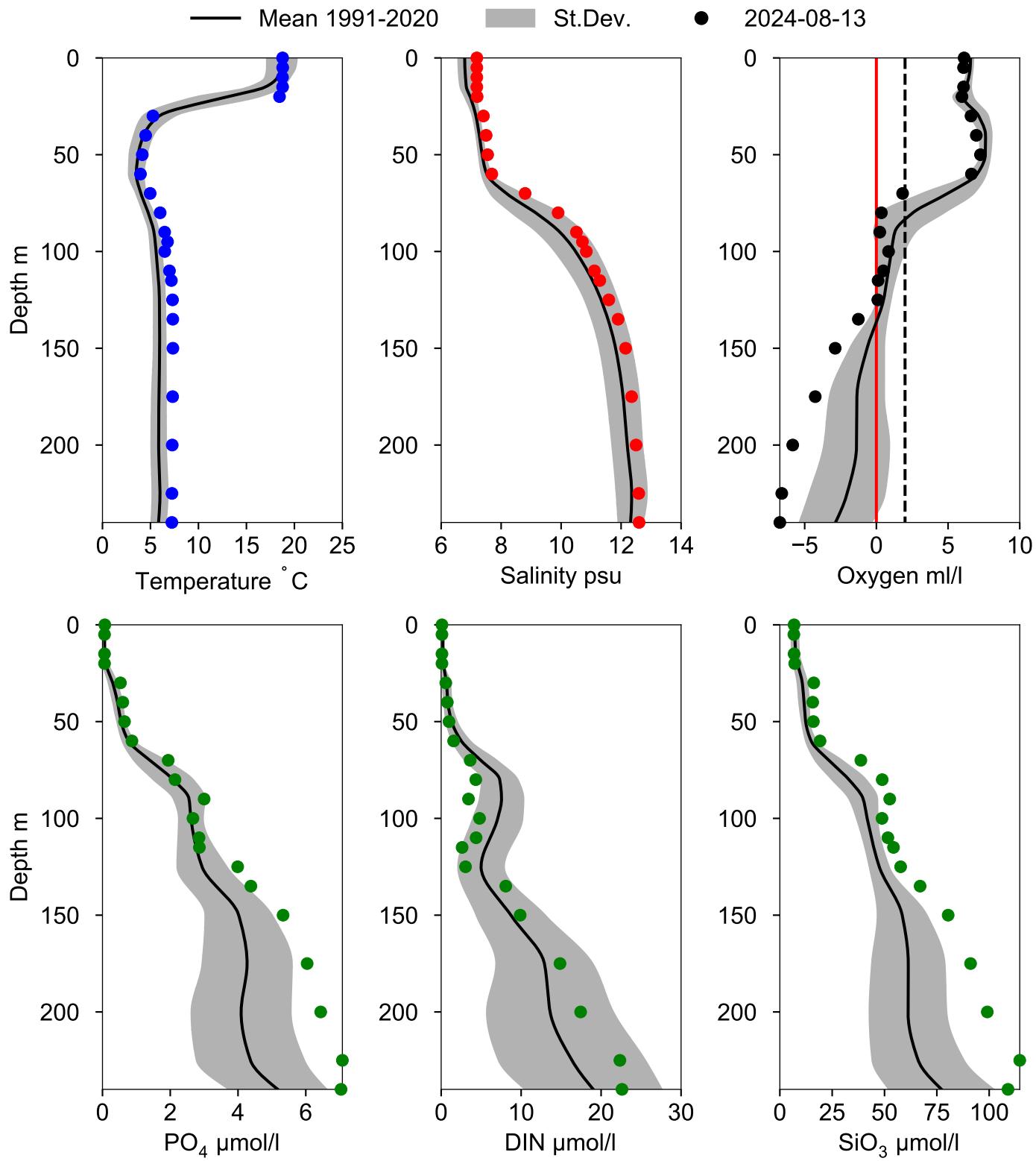


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 225 m)



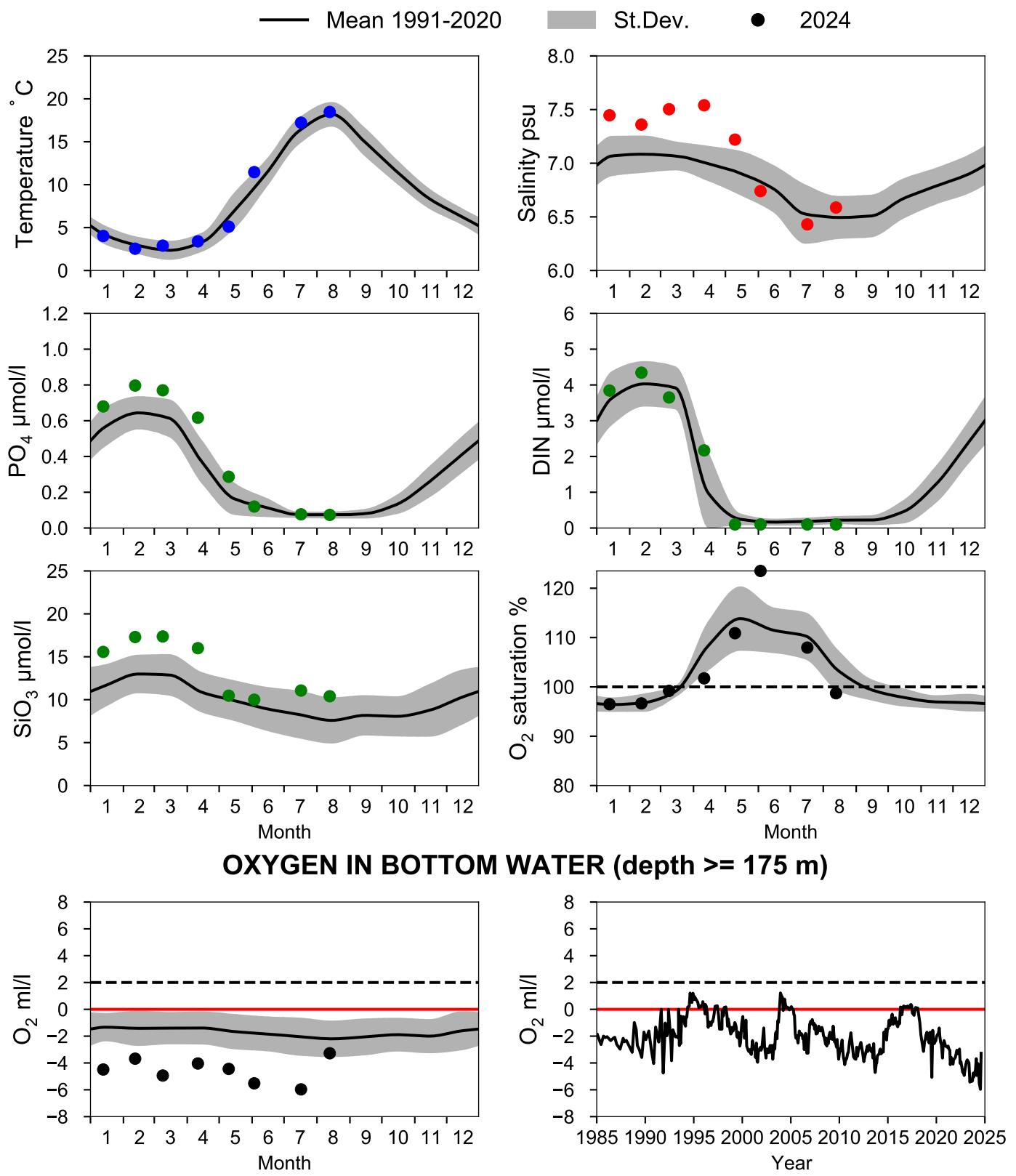
Vertical profiles BY15 GOTLANDSDJ

August



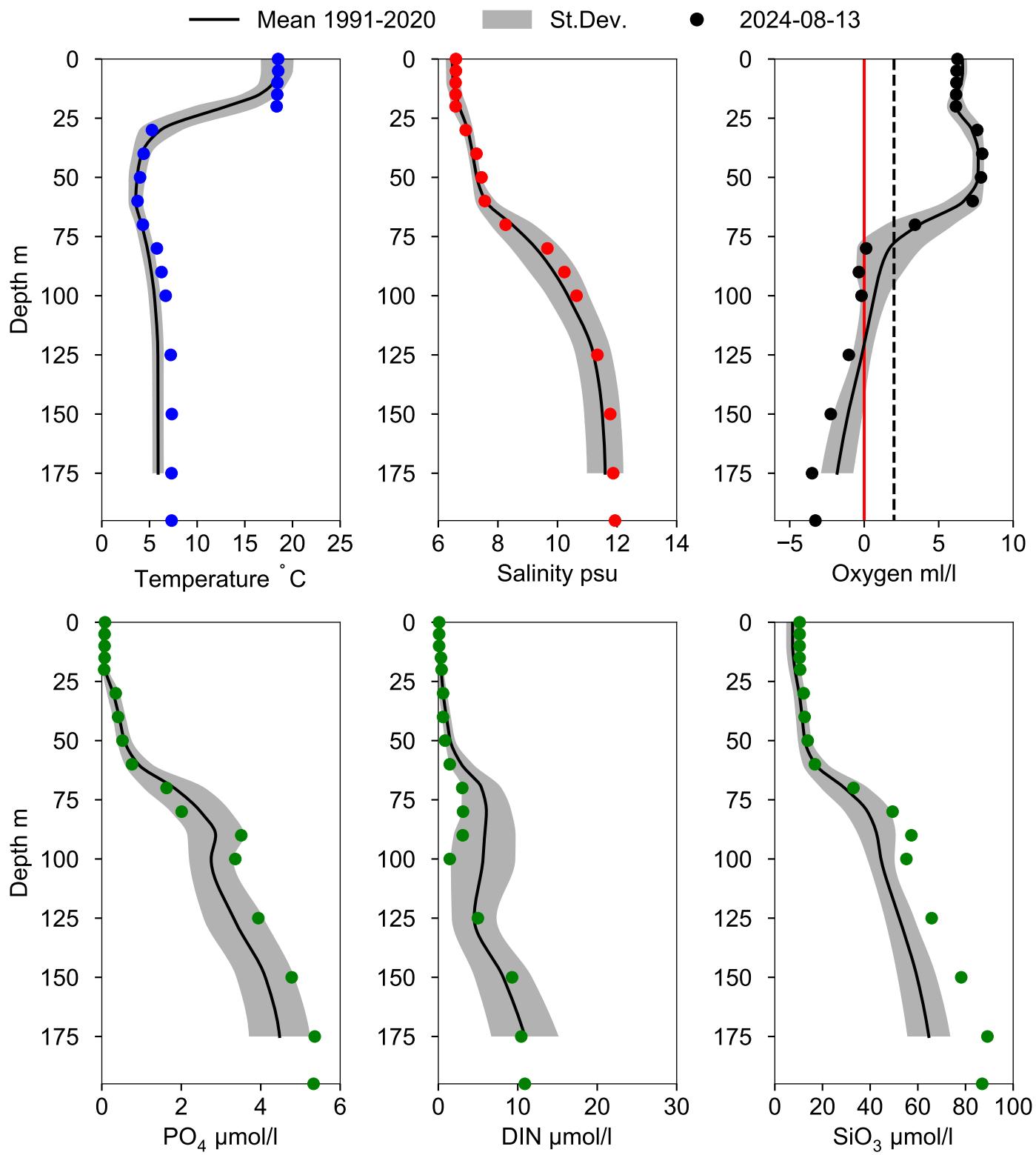
STATION BY20 FÄRÖDJ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



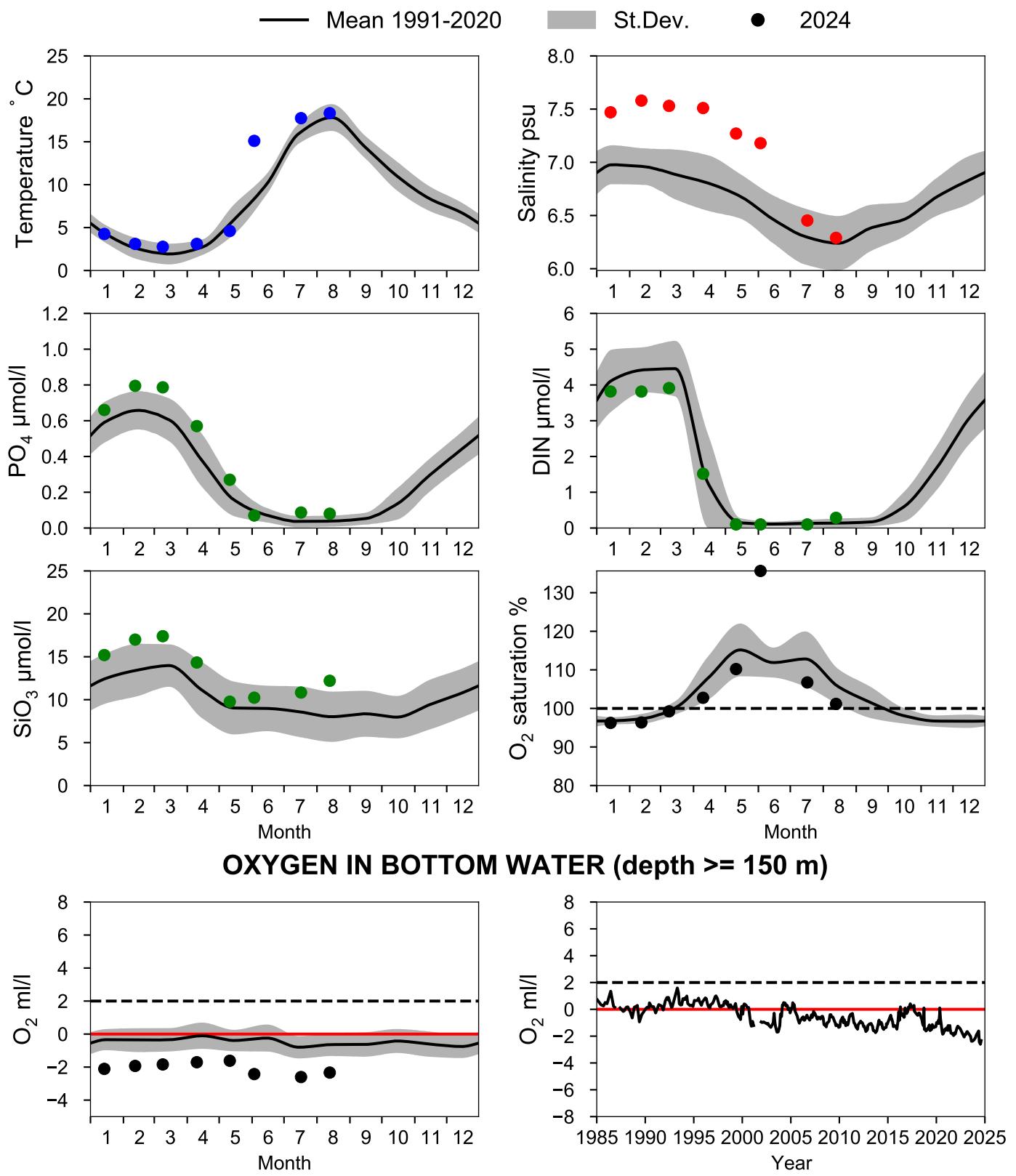
Vertical profiles BY20 FÅRÖDJ

August

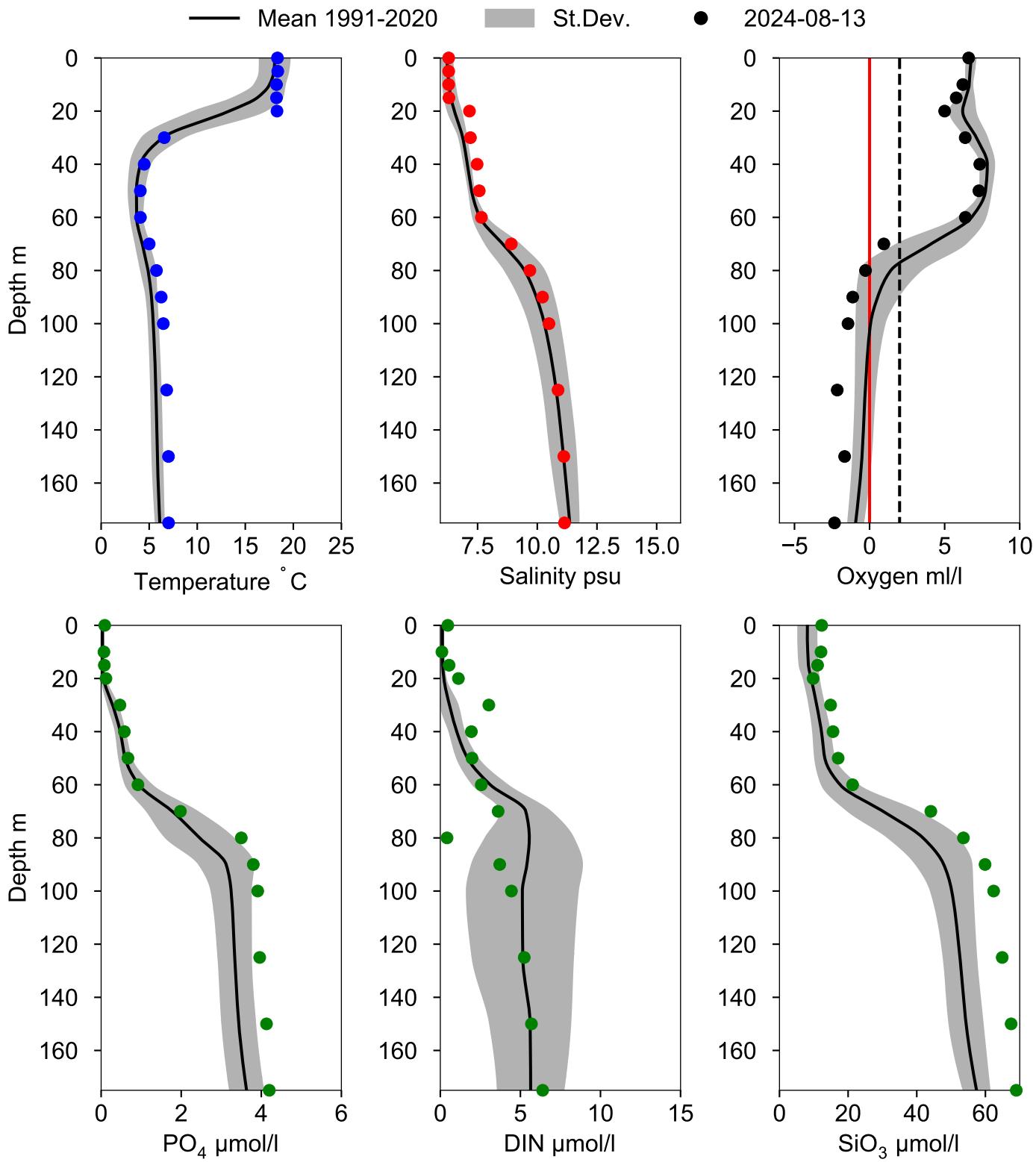


STATION BY29 / LL19 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

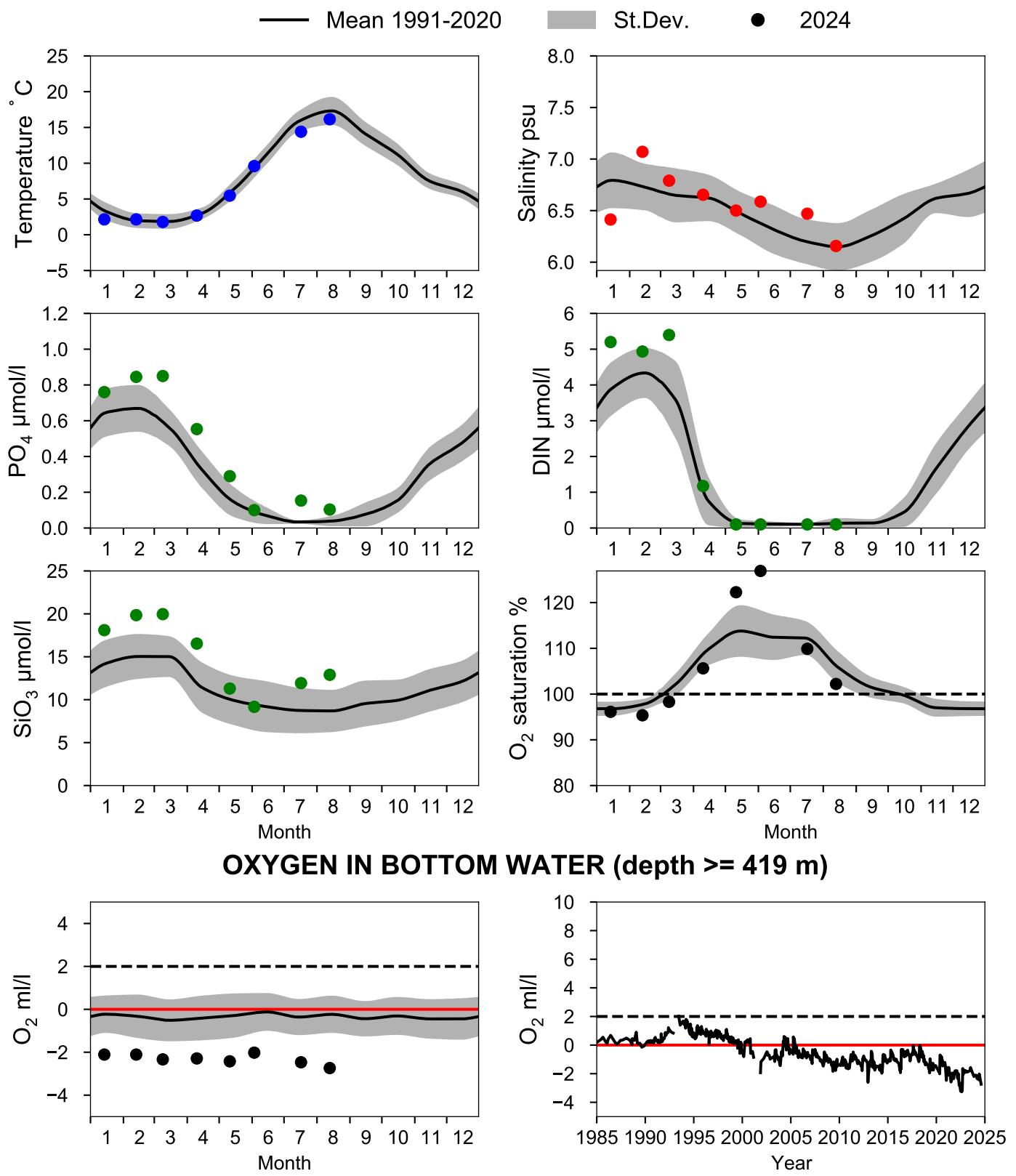


Vertical profiles BY29 / LL19 August



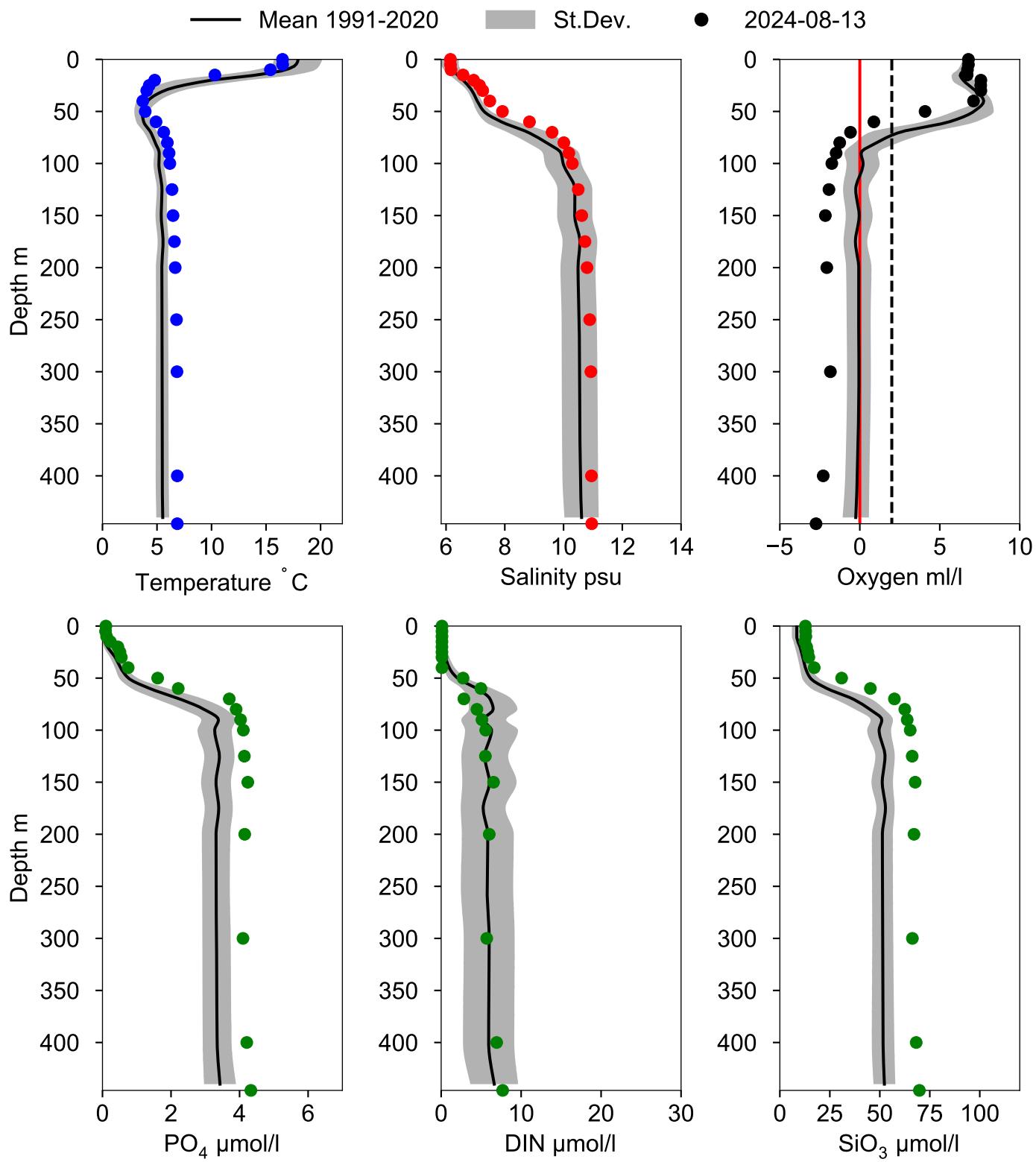
STATION BY31 LANDSORTSJD SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



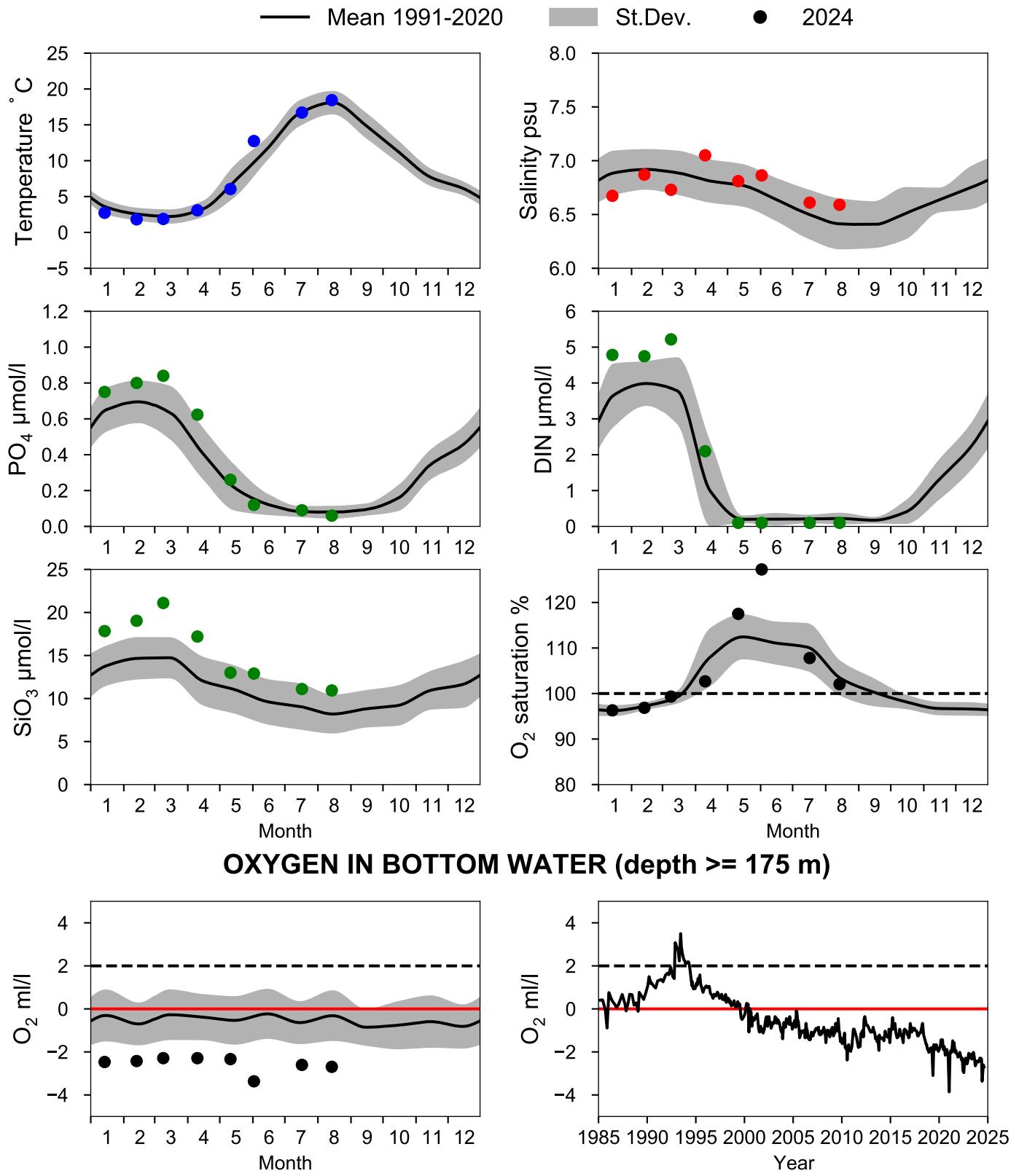
Vertical profiles BY31 LANDSORTSDJ

August

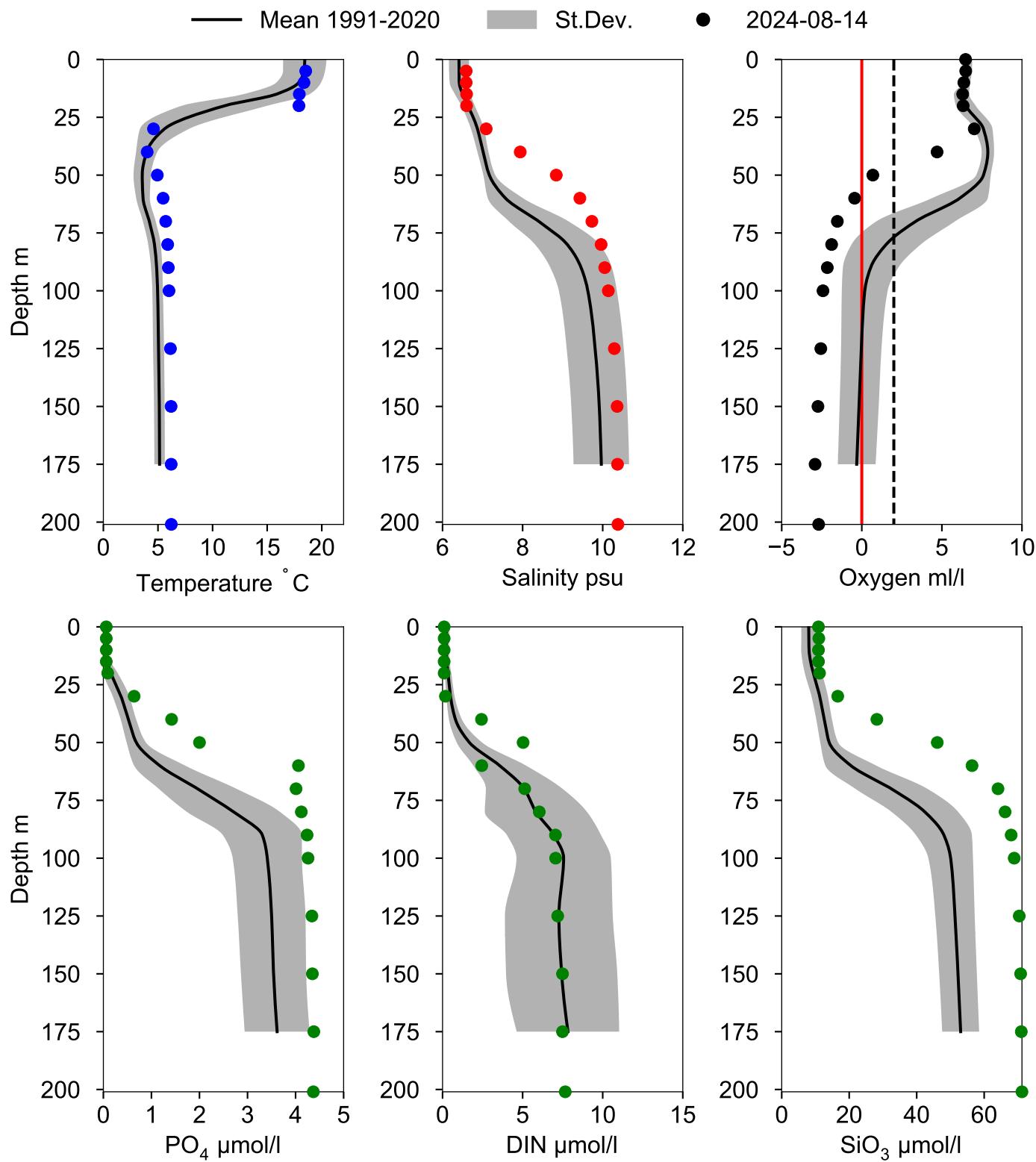


STATION BY32 NORRKÖPINGSJD SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

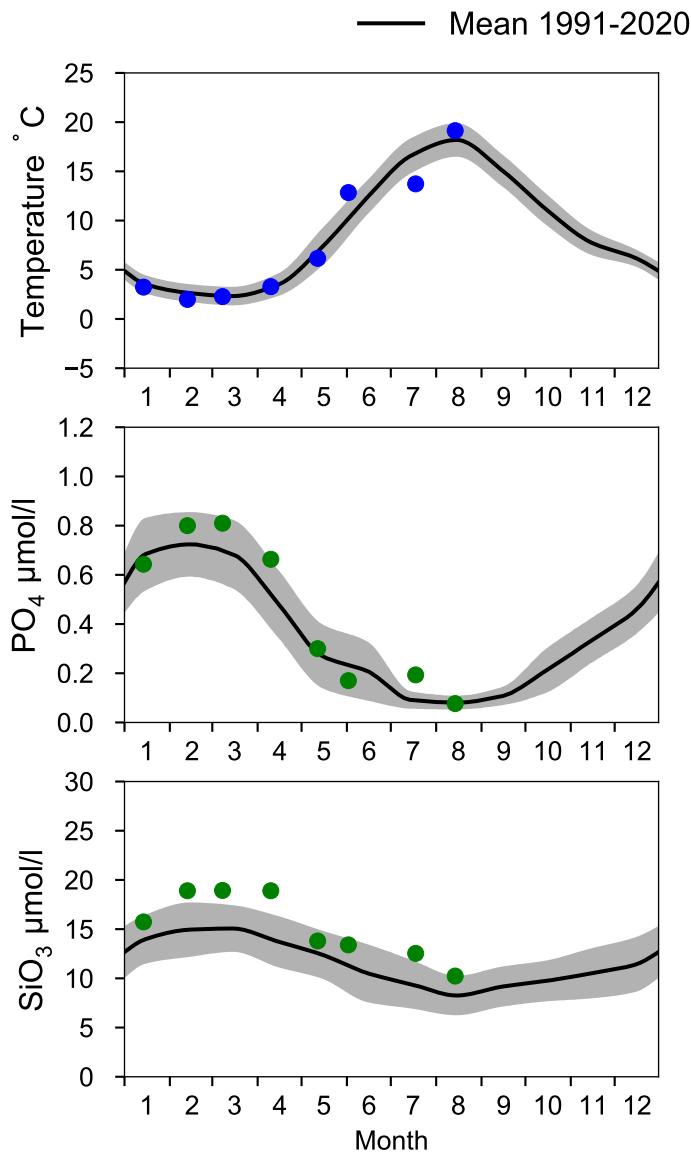


Vertical profiles BY32 NORRKÖPINGSJDJ August

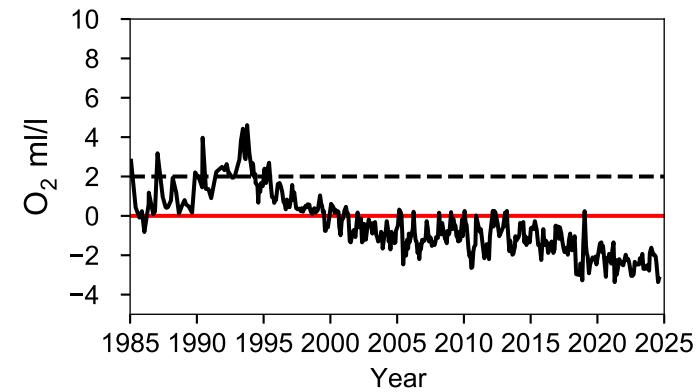
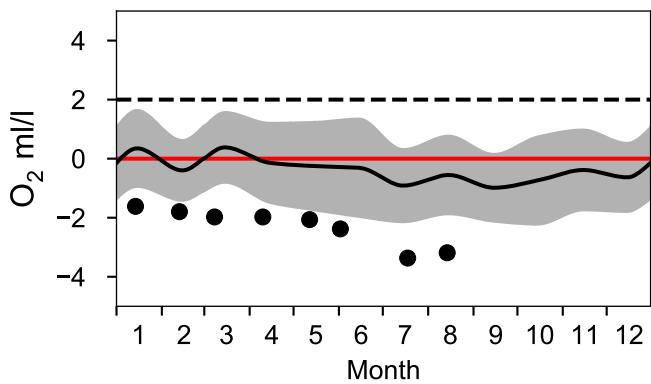


STATION BY38 KARLSÖDJ SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

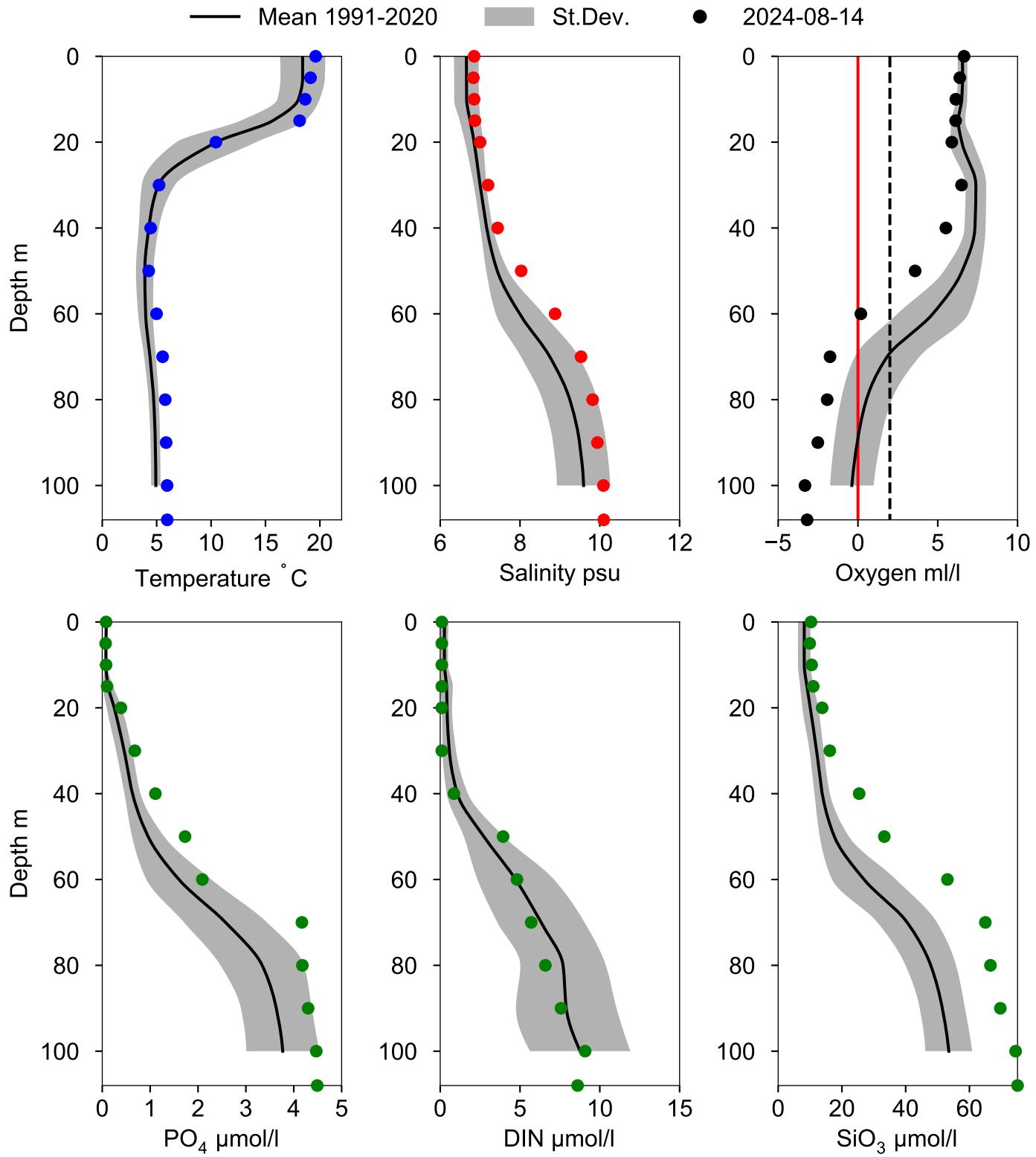


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 100 m)



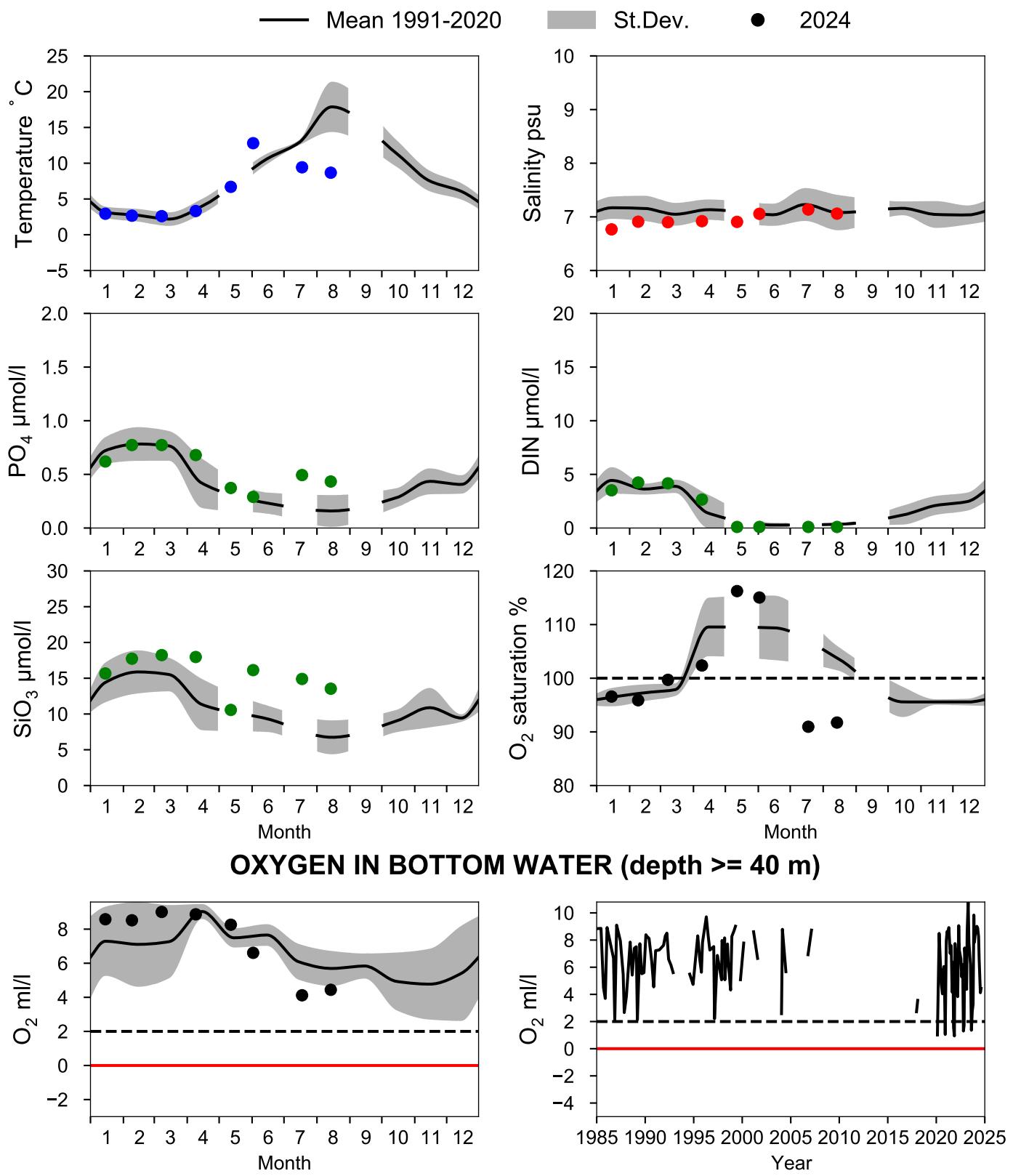
Vertical profiles BY38 KARLSÖDJ

August



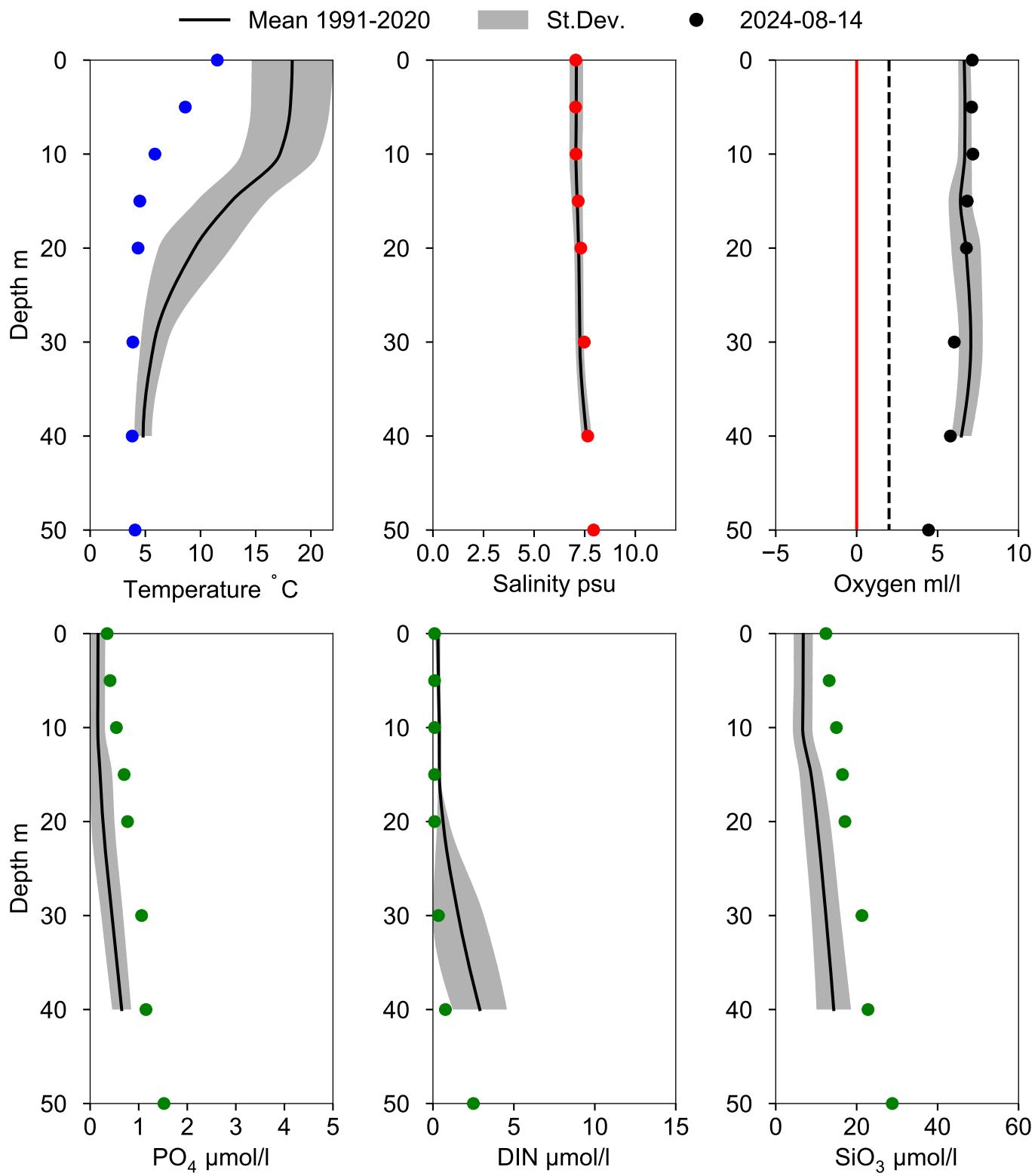
STATION BY39 ÖLANDS S UDDE SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



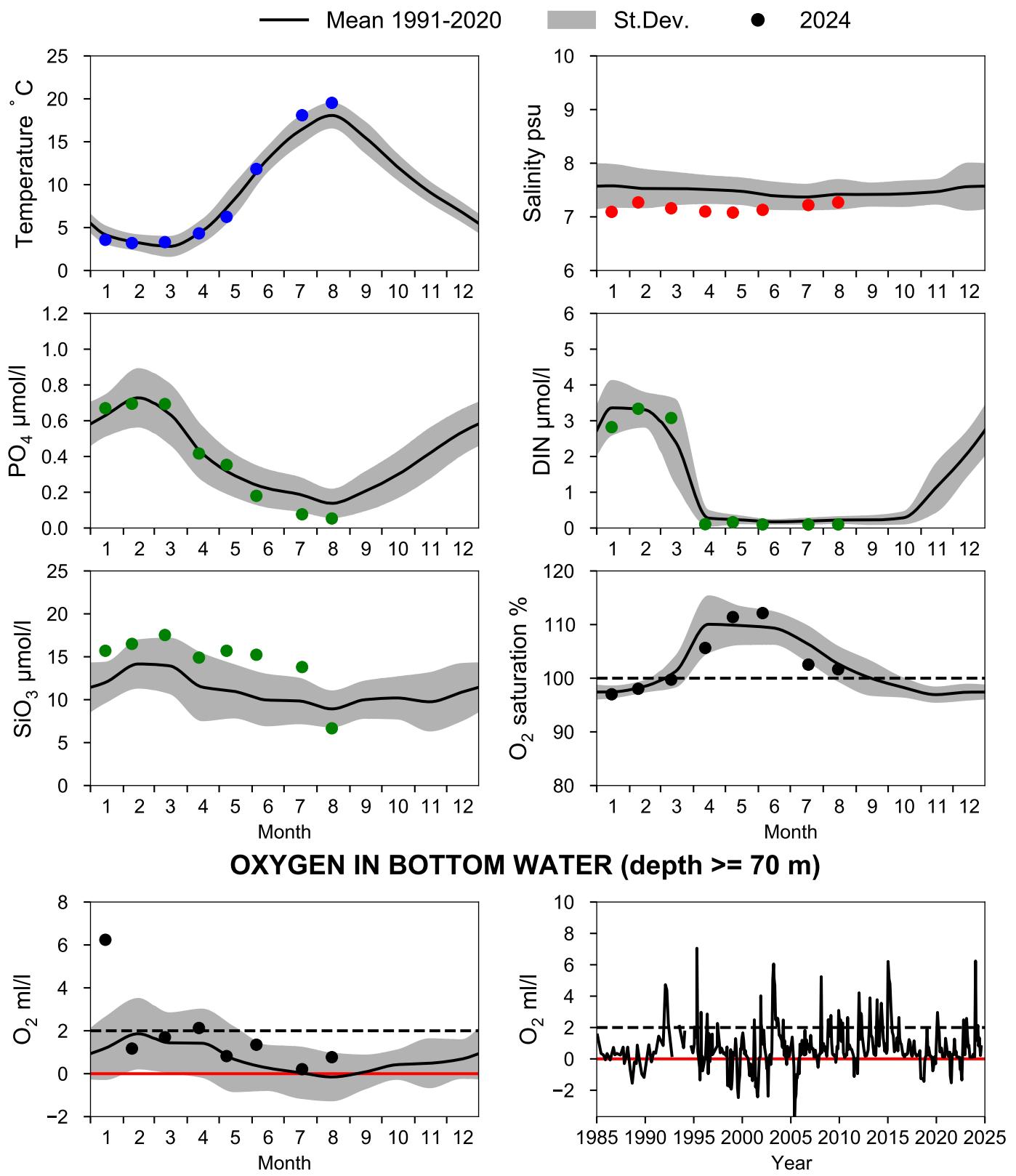
Vertical profiles BY39 ÖLANDS S UDDE

August



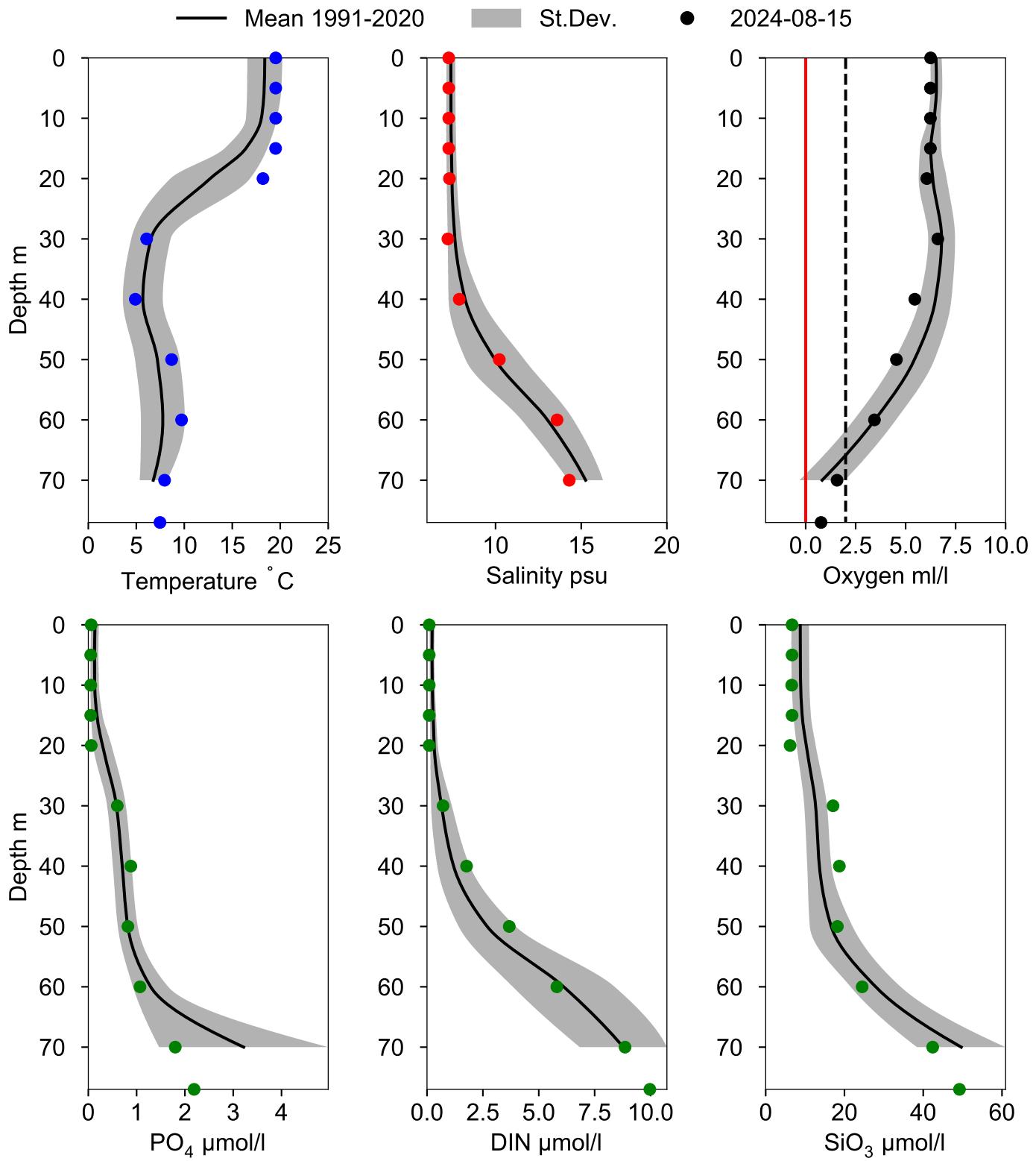
STATION HANÖBUKTEN SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



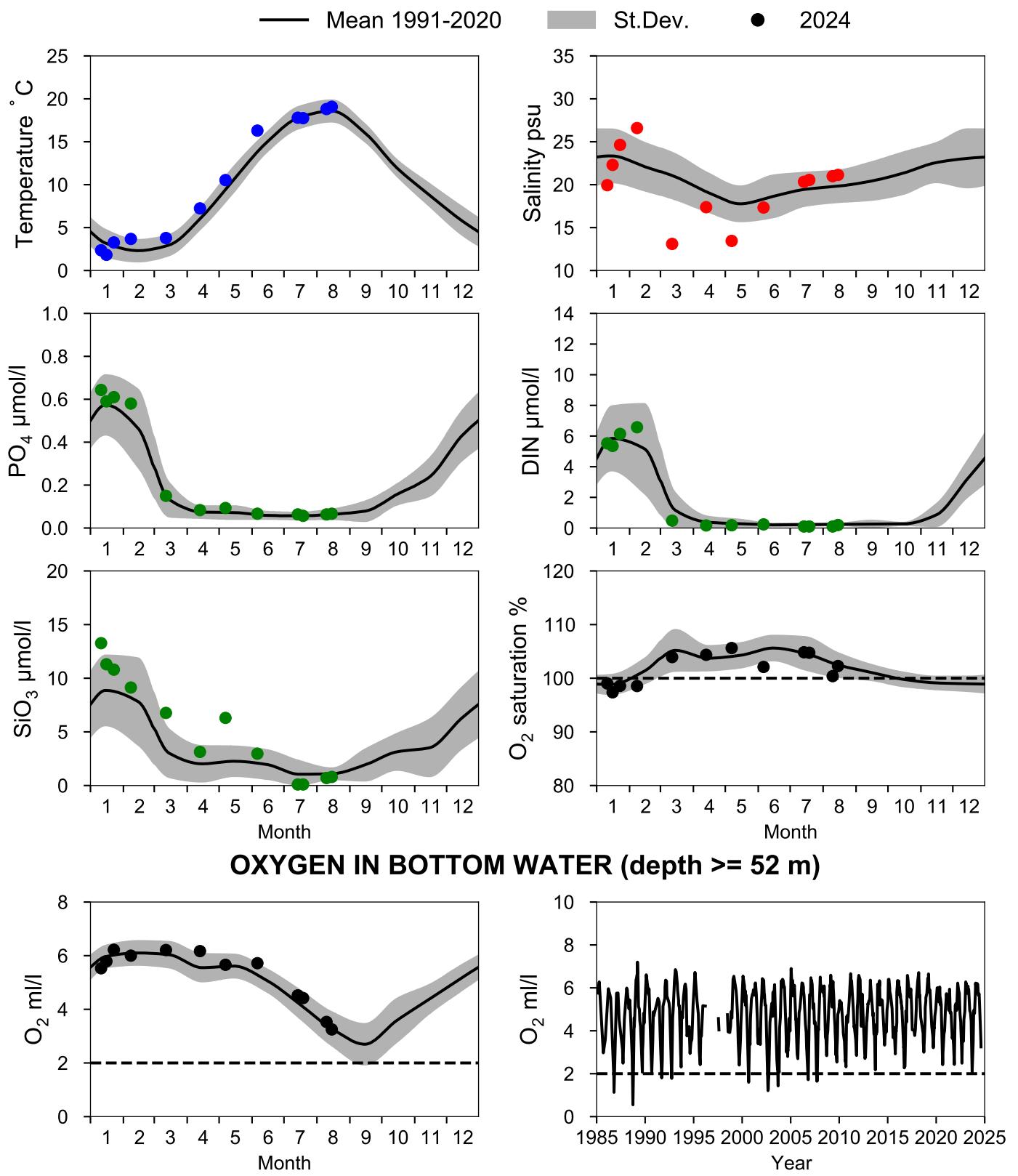
Vertical profiles HANÖBUKTEN

August



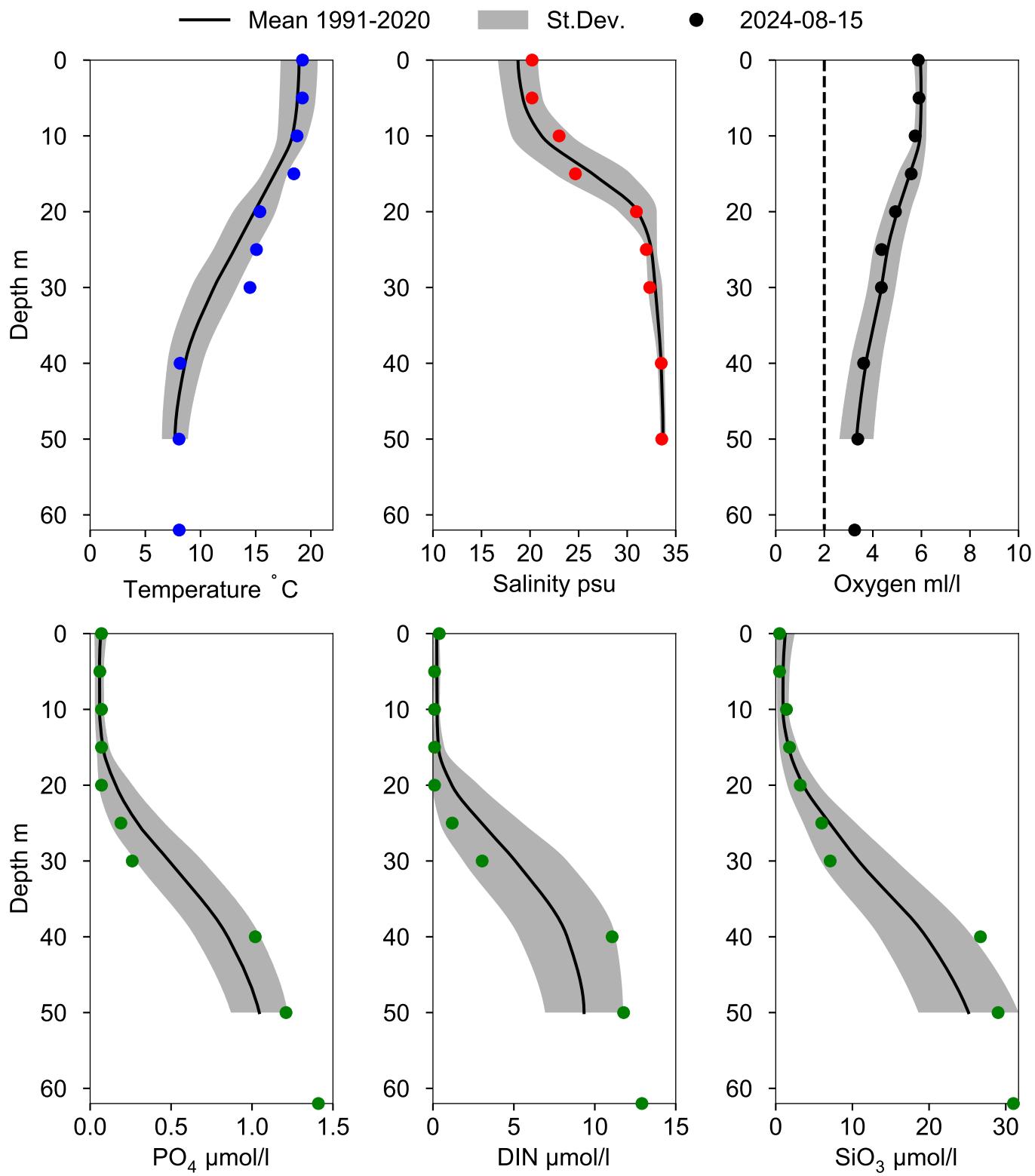
STATION ANHOLT E SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles



Vertical profiles ANHOLT E

August



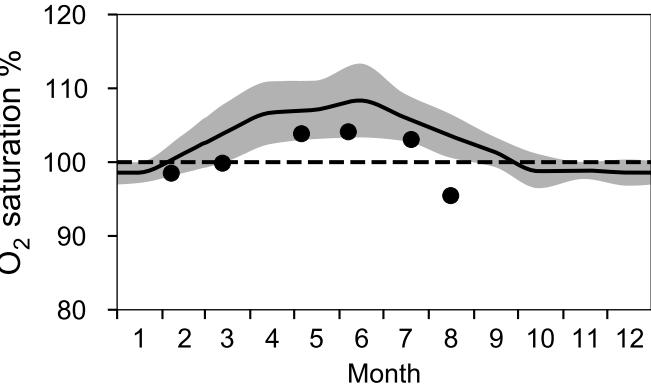
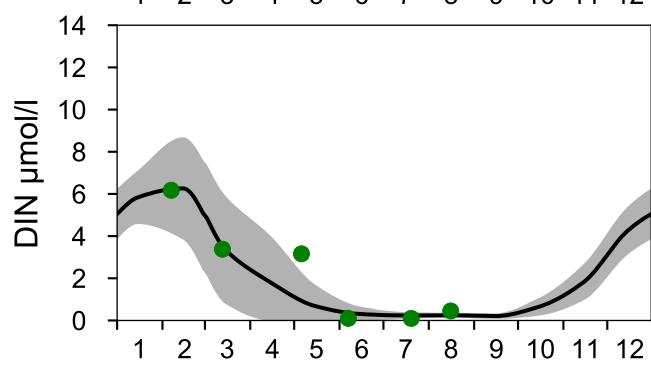
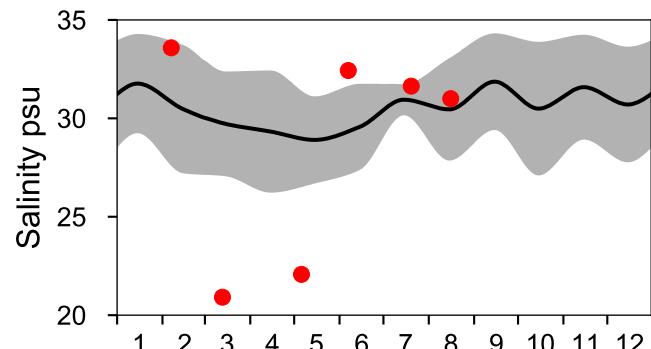
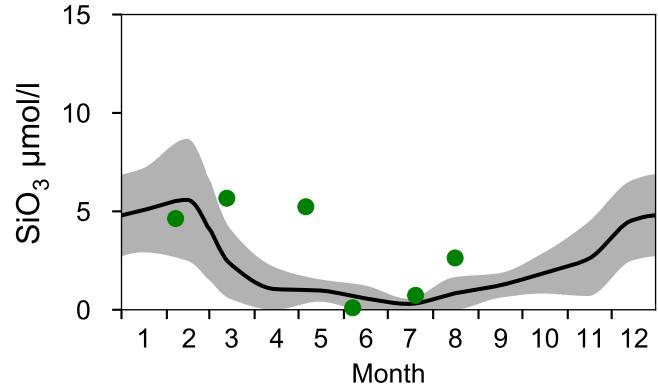
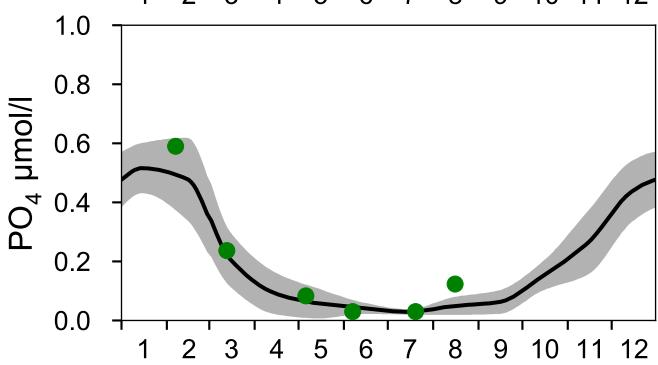
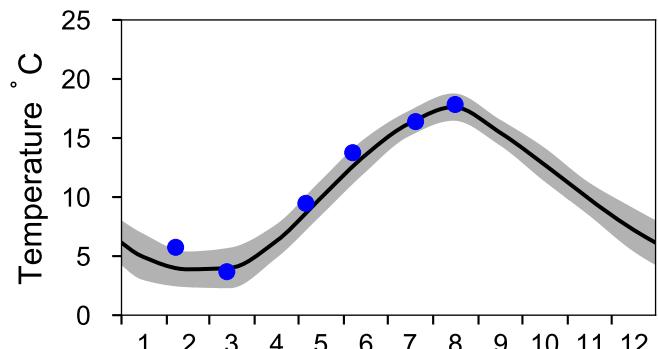
STATION Å15 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

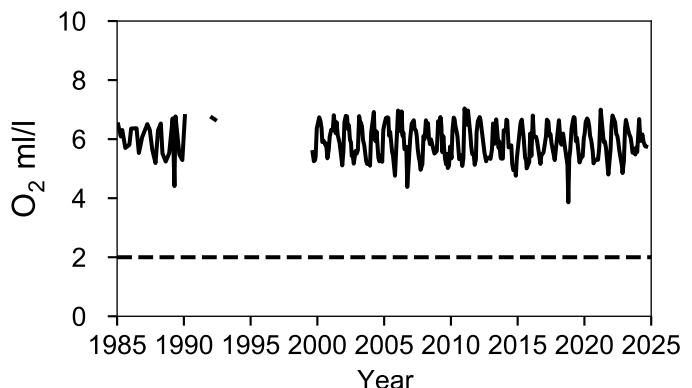
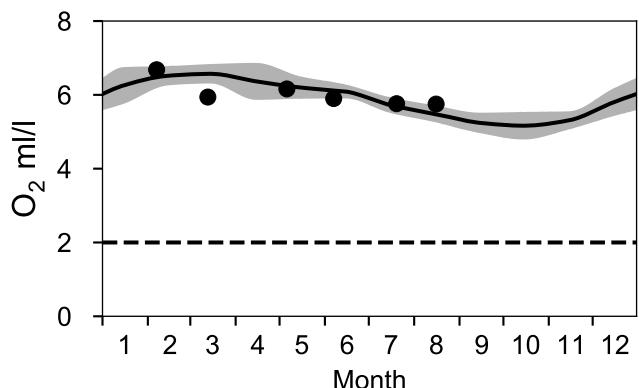
— Mean 1991-2020

St.Dev.

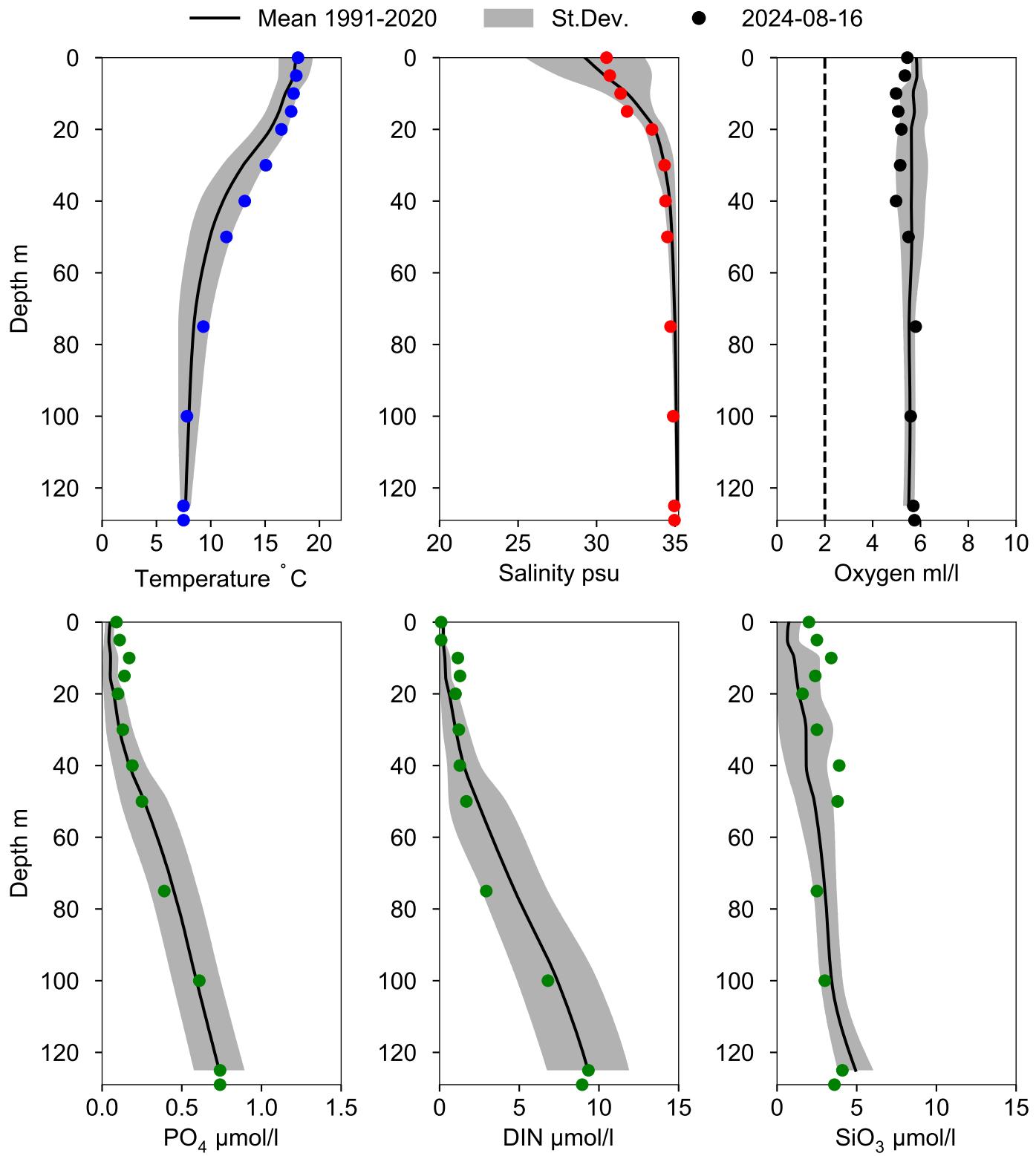
● 2024



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth $\geq 125 \text{ m}$)



Vertical profiles Å15 August



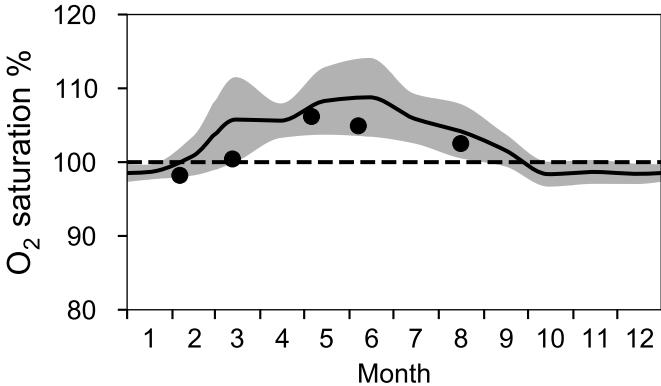
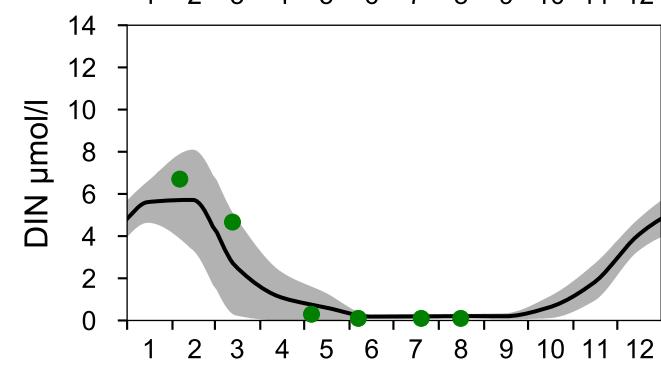
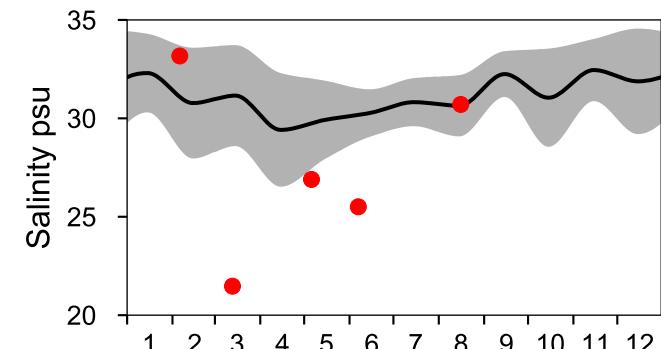
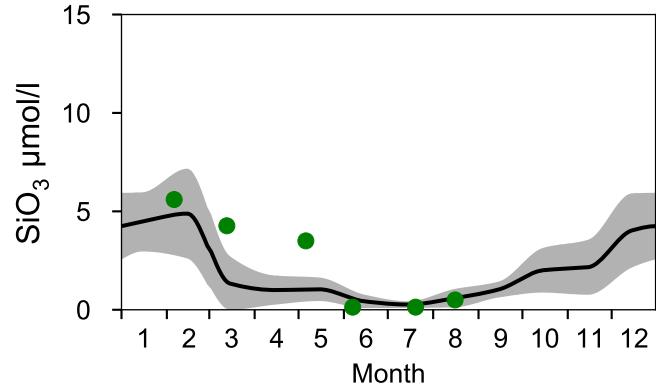
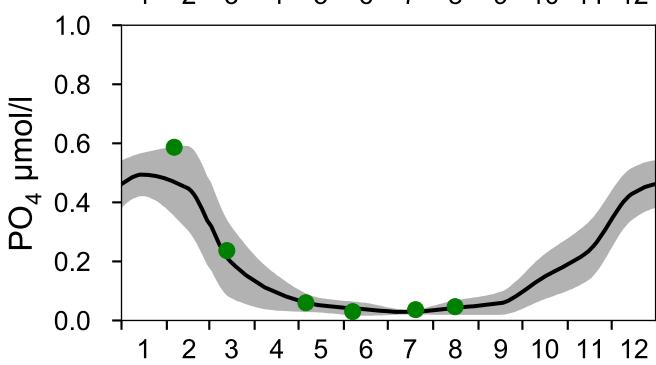
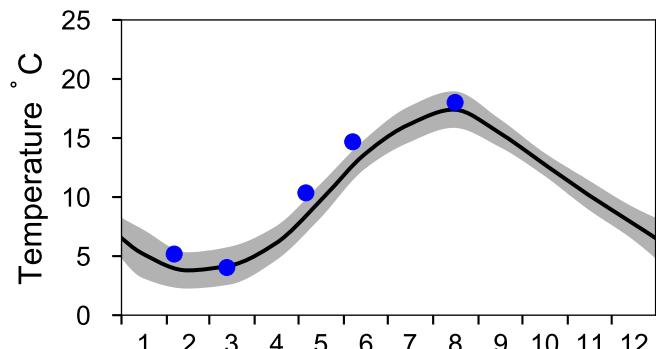
STATION Å17 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

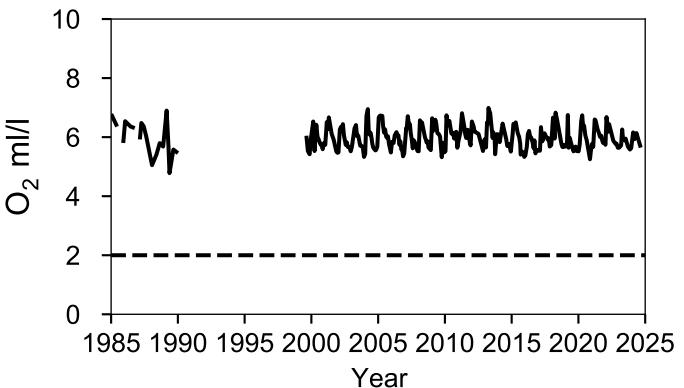
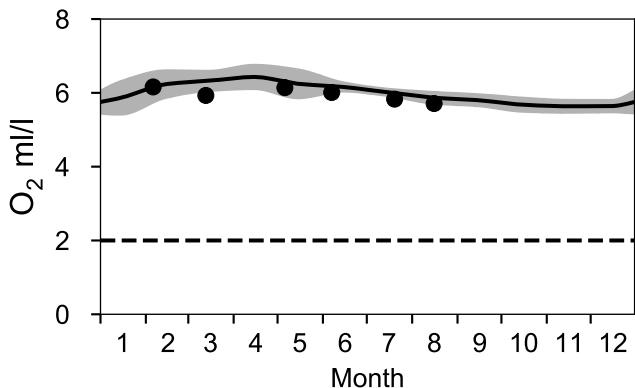
— Mean 1991-2020

St.Dev.

● 2024

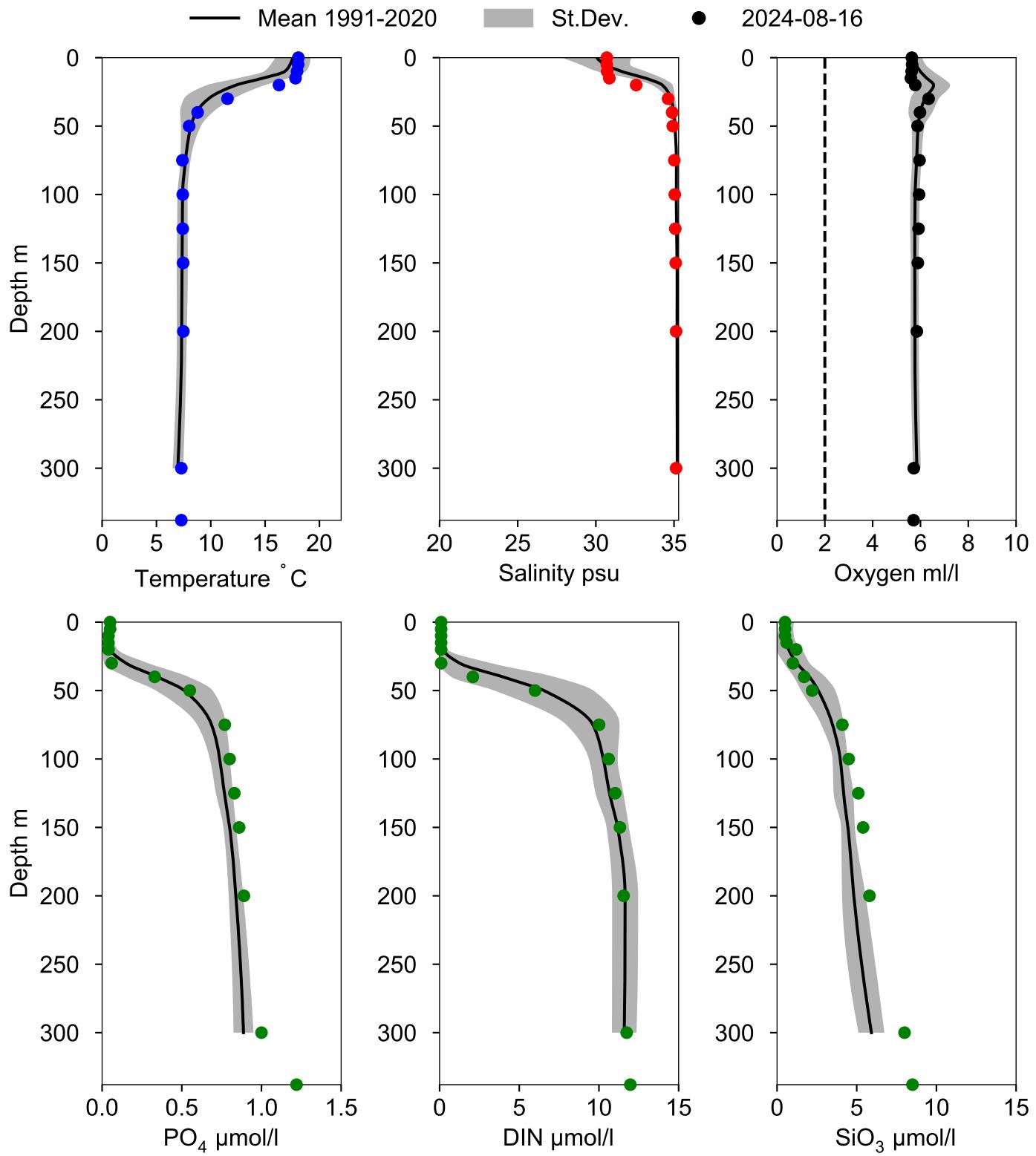


OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth \geq 300 m)



Vertical profiles Å17

August



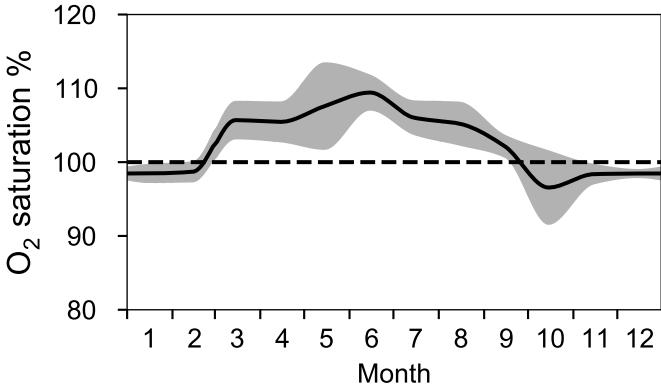
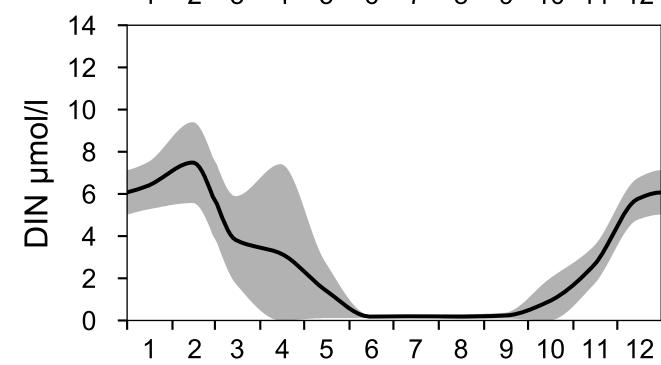
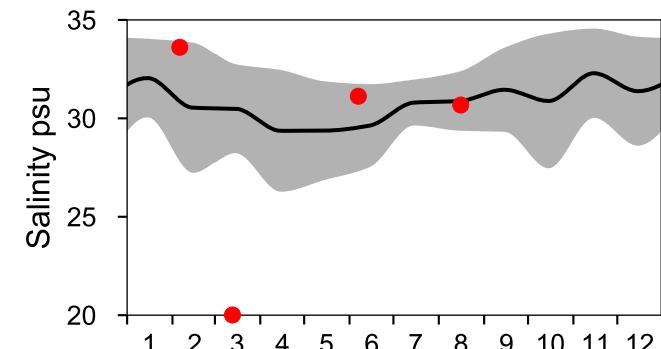
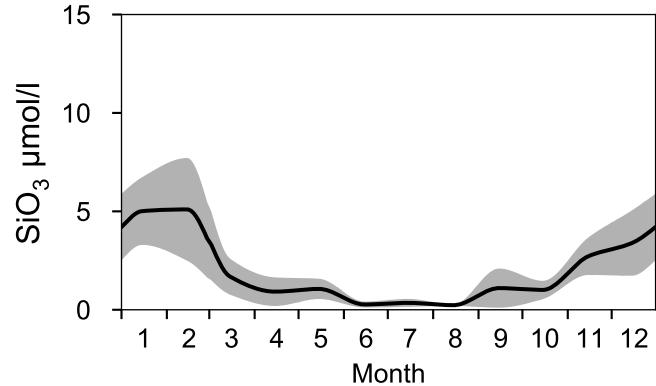
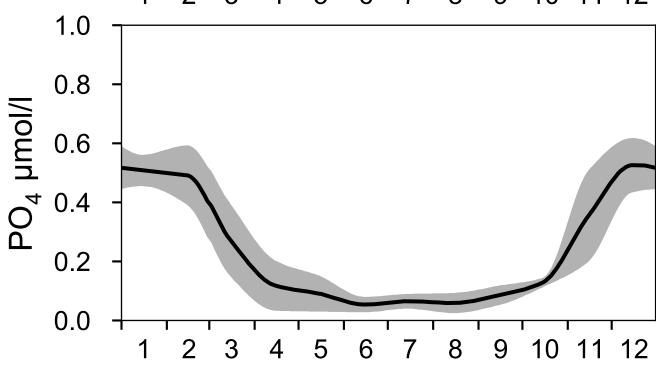
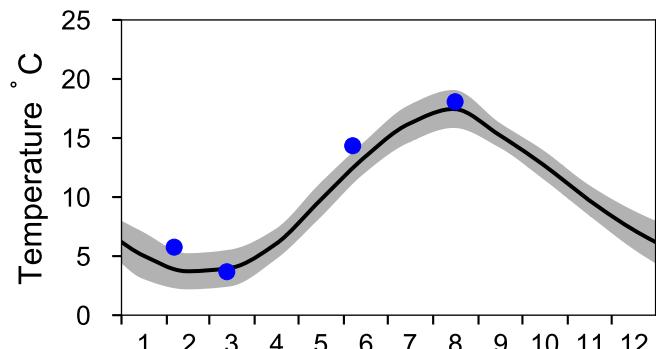
STATION Å16 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

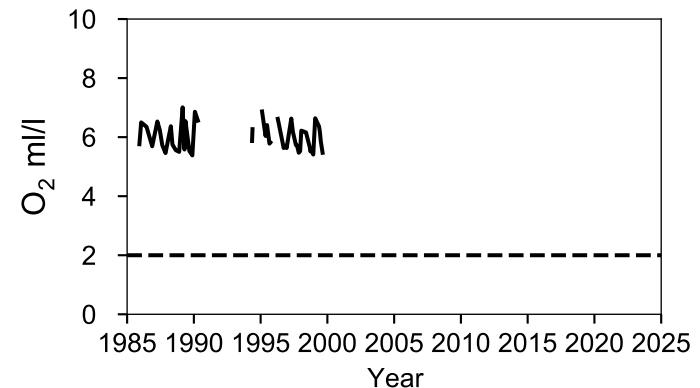
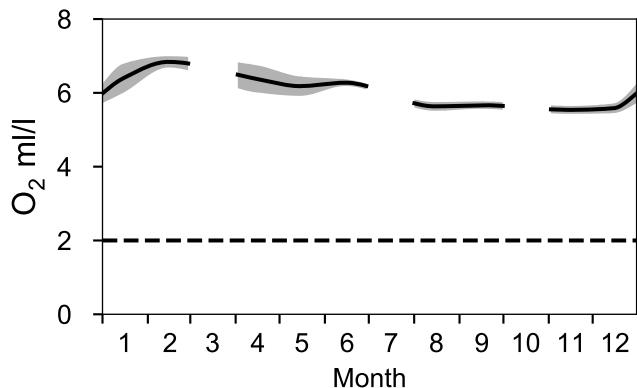
— Mean 1991-2020

St.Dev.

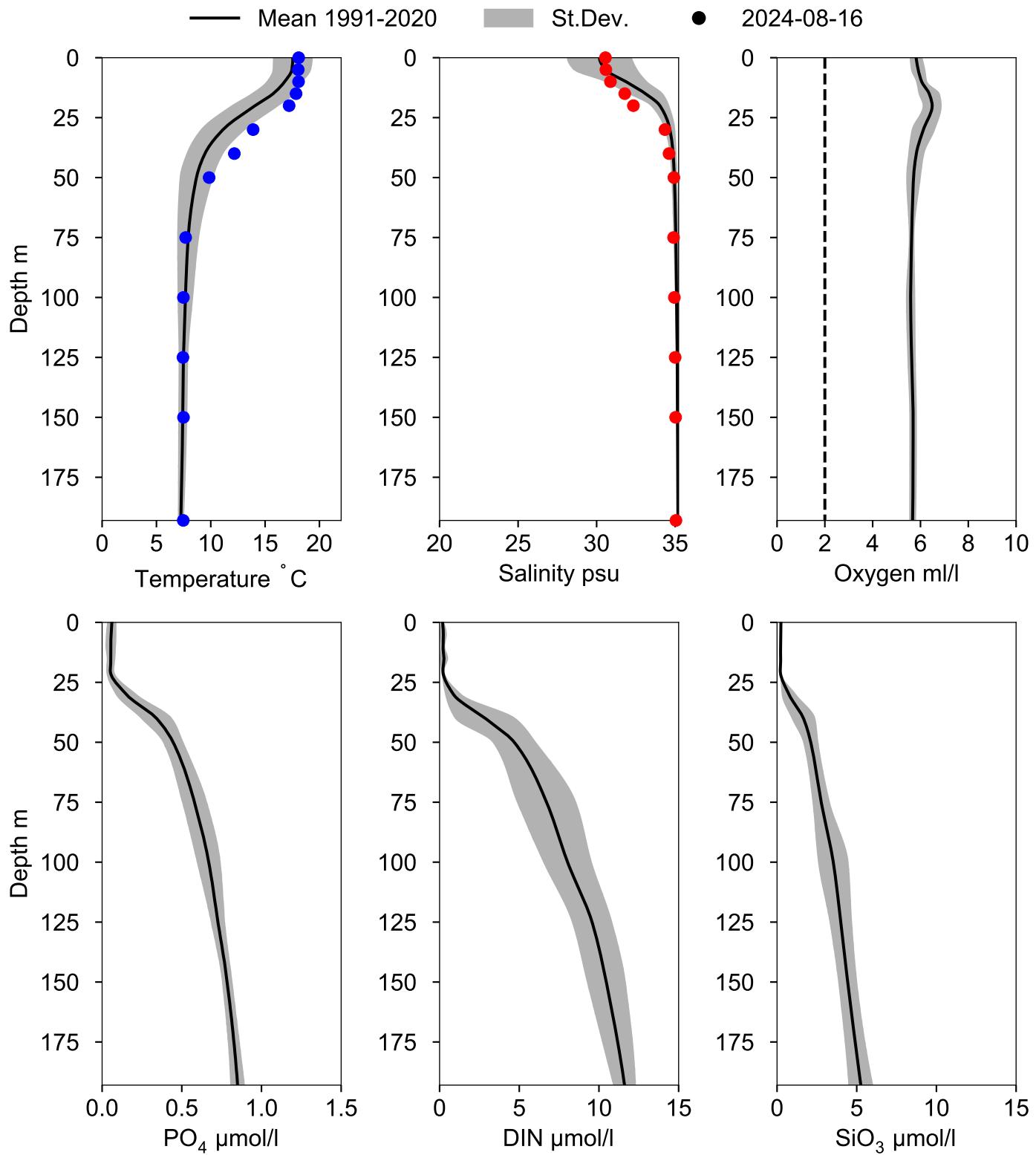
● 2024



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth \geq 193 m)

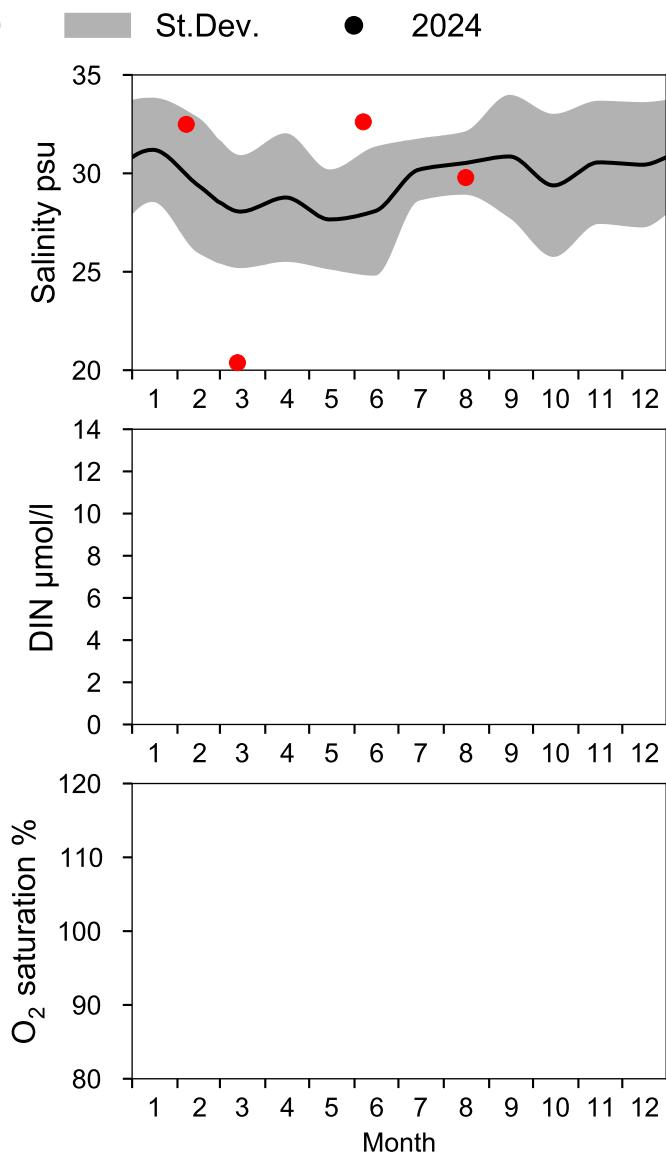
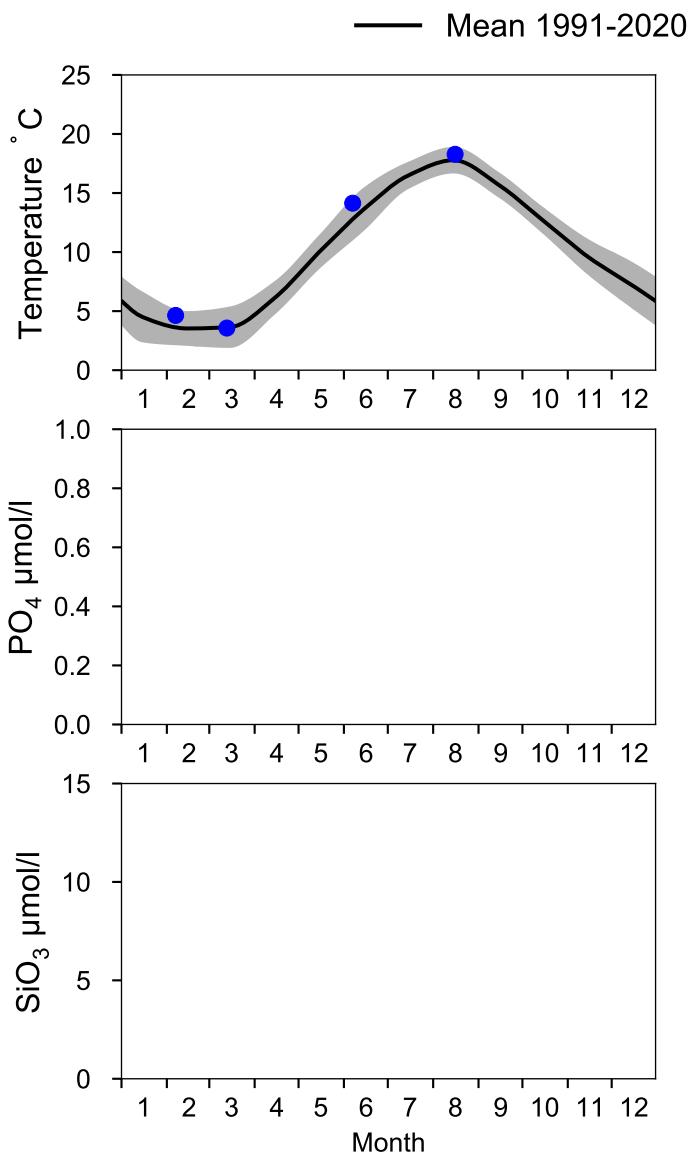


Vertical profiles Å16 August

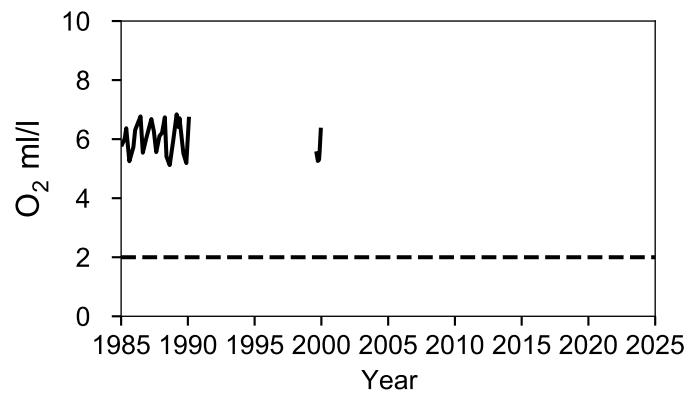
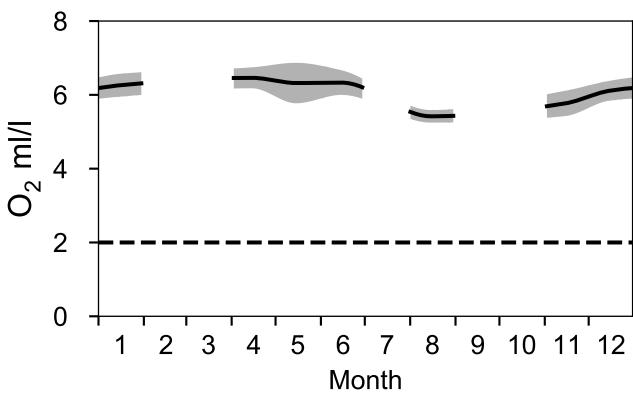


STATION Å14 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

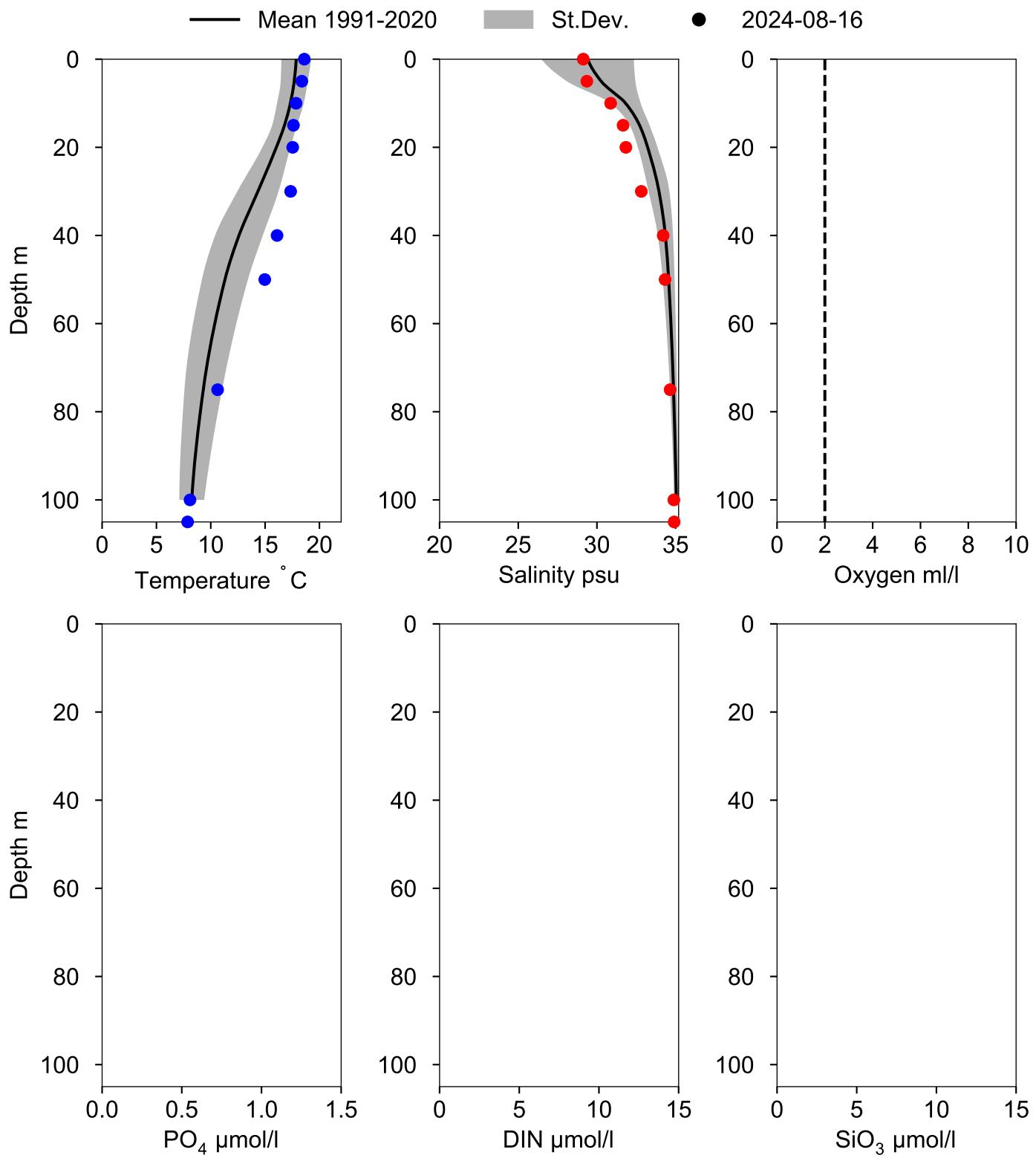
Annual Cycles



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth >= 100 m)



Vertical profiles Å14 August



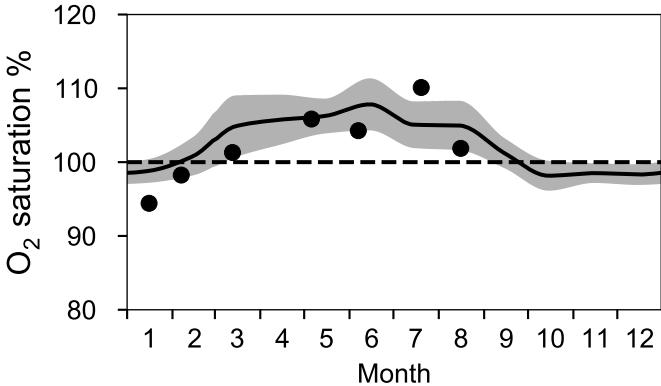
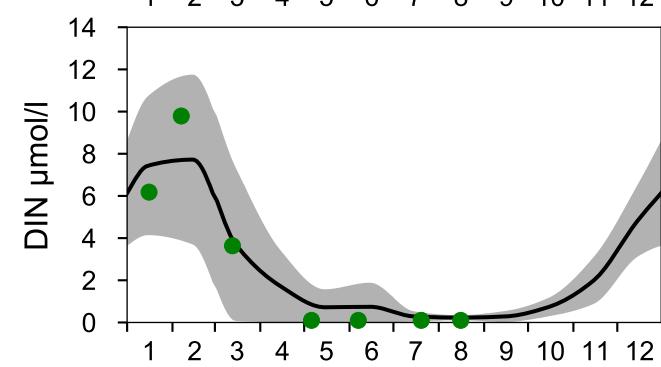
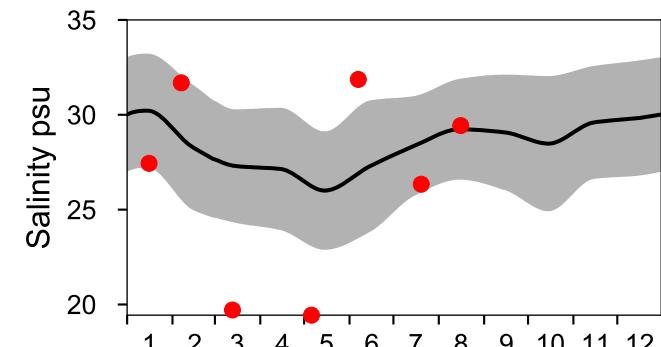
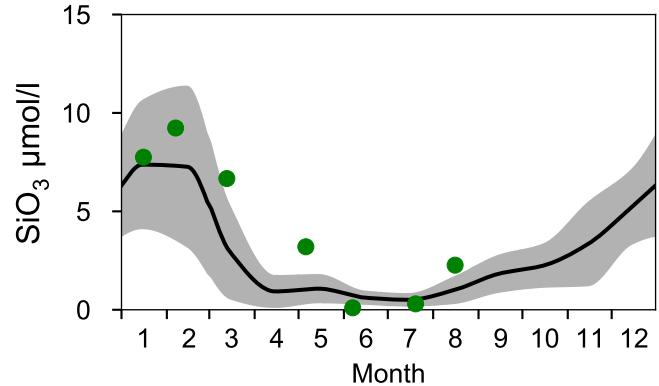
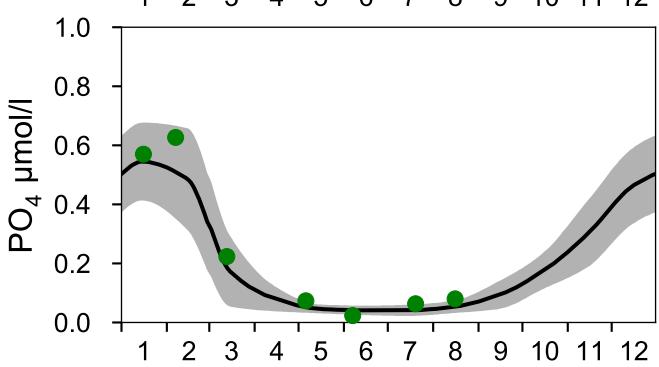
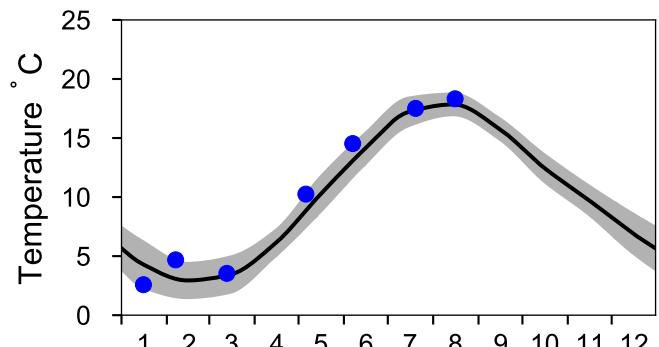
STATION Å13 SURFACE WATER (0-10 m)

Annual Cycles

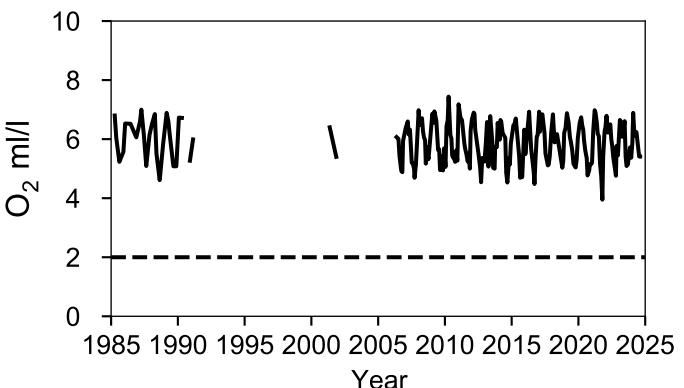
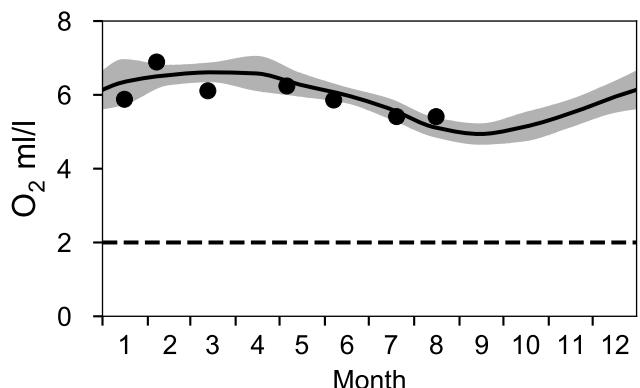
— Mean 1991-2020

St.Dev.

● 2024



OXYGEN IN BOTTOM WATER (depth $\geq 82 \text{ m}$)



Vertical profiles Å13 August

