

## ***Interactive comment on “Different seasonality of pelagic and benthic *Thaumarchaeota* in the North Sea” by N. J. Bale et al.***

**N. J. Bale et al.**

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Received and published: 19 August 2013

We thank Dr. Hansman for her positive and constructive review and we appreciate her comments about the novel aspect of this study. We agree that measure of the statistical correlation between HPH abundance and the molecular data (DNA or RNA abundances) could be helpful. Unfortunately, for both the water column data and sediment data we have too few DNA and RNA data points to make any meaningful statistical correlations with the lipid concentrations. In the sediment there is a strong correlation between the HPH concentration and the RNA concentration, ( $\rho = 1.0$ ,  $P \leq 0.01$ ) but as  $n = 6$  we do not feel this is reportable. Minor comments: Change hexose, phosphohexose to hexose-phosphohexose. We agree with this suggestion and will change this. The other minor changes are editorial and we will apply these in our revised

C4390

manuscript.

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Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 10, 12593, 2013.

C4391