



# Temporal patterns in benthic food web structure in the southern Chukchi Sea

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## Introduction

The Chukchi Sea shelf supports high benthic biomass due to strong pelagic-benthic coupling of highly productive surface waters with the seafloor. Key water masses differ in their associated nutrient and productivity regimes and can influence spatial patterns of benthic food webs in the southern Chukchi Sea <sup>(1)</sup>. Long-lived Arctic benthic consumers integrate short-term variability, and therefore, reflect persistent oceanographic conditions. It is currently unknown how stable these differences are manifested in food web structure on decadal time scales. Climate warming may affect these water masses and the degree of water mass connectivity.

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