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Foraminiferal response to environmental change Kiel Fjord, SW Baltic Sea

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Abstract. The living benthic foraminiferal assemblages in Kiel Fjord Baltic Sea) were investigated in the years 2005 and 2006. The fau studies were accomplished by geochemical analyses of surface sec In general, sediment pollution by copper, zinc, tin and lead is asse moderate in comparison with levels reported from other areas of tl Sea. However, the inner Kiel Fjord is still exposed to a high load of and organic matter due to enhanced accumulation of fine-grained sediments in conjunction with potential pollution sources as shipya harbours and intensive traffic. The results of our survey show that dominant environmental forcing of benthic foraminifera is nutrients availability coupled with human impact. A comparison with faunal d the 1960s reveals apparent changes in species composition and population densities. The stress-tolerant species *Ammonia beccarii* Kiel Fjord. *Ammotium cassis* had disappeared that reflects apparen changes in salinity over the last 10 years. These changes in forami community and a significant increase of test abnormalities indicate intensified environmental stress since the 1960s.

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