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Biogeochemical impact of submarine ground water discharge on coastal surface sands of the southern Baltic Sea

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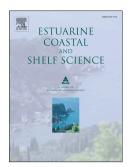
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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1	Biogeochemical impact of submarine ground water discharge on
2	coastal surface sands of the southern Baltic Sea
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16	Keywords: groundwater discharge; permeable sediments; benthic chambers; benthic oxygen
17	fluxes; OM mineralization.
18	Abstract
19 20	This study evaluates the effect of submarine ground water discharge (SGD) on
21	biogeochemical processes of sandy sediments of Hel Bight (Poland) in the shallow southern
22	Baltic Sea, using stirred benthic chambers combined to seepage meters, deep pore water profiles
23	and a reactive transport model. The main impacts of fresh anoxic groundwater seepage are due to
24	(1) the efflux of methane; (2) the efflux of phosphate and silicate; (3) the efflux of dissolved

organic carbon (DOC) of aquifer origin. Methane from SGD is assumed to be only slightly

26 oxidized within the sediments and potentially reach the atmosphere at a maximum rate of 30

27 mmol  $CH_4 m^{-2} d^{-1}$ . Silicate and phosphate supplied by SGD promote a seep-site net community

- production rate that is more than twice as compared to adjacent non seeping sites (70 and 30
- 29 mmol C m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> respectively). However, oxygen uptake rates at the seep site during the night (30
- 30 mmol  $O_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ ) are lower than those observed at the reference sites (50 mmol  $O_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ ). We
- 31 hypothesize that autogenic, relatively labile DOC is available at the reference site, leading to

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