

Lab Journal: analysis of an Atlantic clay sediment sample near the Canary Islands

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First, we shall discuss the points we are to research before starting our research plan. In literature, we shall attempt to find:

1. the precipitation rate for this portion of the Atlantic, to determine the time resolution in our sample;
2. perurbation of the ocean floor through natural or human mechanisms;
3. concentration of microplastics, as an indication of the increase in nanoplastic concentration;

4. amounts of detritus, and whether this would contaminate the measurement;

5. protocols for extraction of the plastics from the clay.

From this, we shall construct a protocol for our measurements and from there, we shall find the tools we may need to acquire.

In general we split these into three categories: items 1 and 2 (to be researched by Joost) describe the context of the samples, items 3 and 4 (to be researched by Has) describe the contaminants, and item 5 (to be researched by Eva) describes the practical steps to be taken.