

SEA VOMIT

WATCH OUT FOR THE GOO



BACKGROUND

Invasive species pose a serious threat to global diversity. Human activities consistently contribute to changes in biological invasions (Occhipinti-Ambrogi, 2007).

Sea vomit, *Didemnum vexillum*, is a marine invasive species that may spread through human activities, like maritime traffic. The species spread from ships by dripping fragments onto the sea floor, and can grow elevenfold in two weeks. The tunicate covers the sea bed, suffocating everything underneath (Husa, 2022).

The first observation of *D. vexillum* in Norway was made in 2020. Seeing as previous literature indicates that sea vomit spreads through ship traffic, we aim to investigate the potential influence of different types of boats on the distribution of *D. vexillum*.

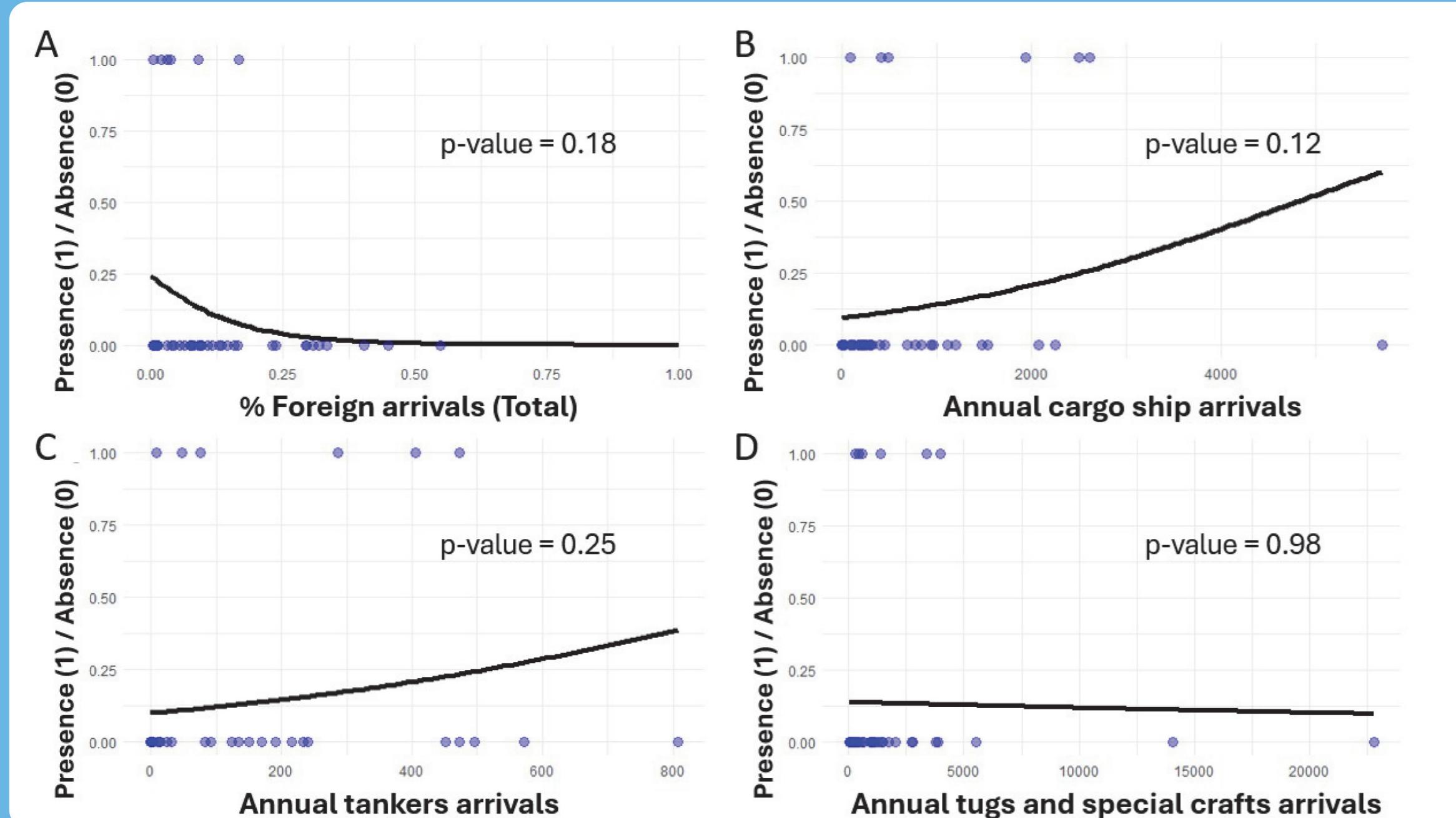
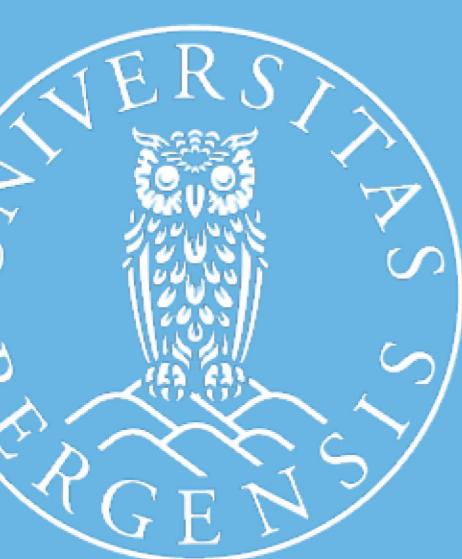


Figure 1: Regression models showing the relationship between different types of vessel arrivals and the presence of *D. vexillum* across ports. Each model includes corresponding p-values. Panel A shows the effect of foreign arrivals, and panel B-D illustrates arrivals of different ship categories in relation to presence of *D. vexillum*.



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Occhipinti-Ambrogi, A. (2007). Marine Pollution Bulletin, 55(7–9), 342–352

MAIN FINDINGS

Given that the species is relatively new to Norway, it is challenging to expect a significant result at this stage. However, the correlation specifically with cargos and possibly tankers, could mark the beginning of a trend.

Existing scientific research suggests a likely rapid spread of the species in the coming years, with a potential for a more significant association.

