







It was observed from the river study (Figure 3A) and the Baltic and Kattegat Sea study (Figure 3B) that most of the PFASs (except for FOSA) are negatively correlated to latitude, which shows that at lower latitude (southern, more populated areas) have higher PFAS water levels than the northern areas. In the river study, it can be seen that the highly used PFOS (Stockholm Convention (SC), Annex B) and PFOA (on the EC watch list) are positively correlated with e.g. 'population density' and 'sewage density', demonstrating that although restricted, these two PFASs can still be predicted from human activities. PFBA is the substance with strongest correlation to population density indicating contemporary usage of PFBA containing products. PFBA also shows a strong correlation to DOC/TOC in the rivers, which indicates a different mechanism of transport compared to the other investigated PFASs.

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