Increasing depth

Mesotelm

Upper mesotelm

Lower mesotelm

Catotelm

Decreasing fungal metabolism
1. Low nitrogen demand —> high fractionation
2. Use of specific sources with specific δ¹⁵N values

Increasing bacterial metabolism
1. High nitrogen demand —> low fractionation
2. Switch to different sources with other δ¹⁵N values (recycling)

Turning point
Highest microbial diversity —> highest demand of δ¹⁵N

Decreasing microbial metabolism
Lowered nitrogen demand —> high fractionation