Sample preparation for simultaneous CN/CNS stable isotope analysis
Preparation of benthic and pelagic organisms for stable isotope analysis.
Benthic or pelagic organisms should be pre-sorted alive to genus or species level using a
stereomicroscope. The organisms for CNS stable isotope analysis are rinsed with artificial seawater.
Small organisms such as copepods can be transferred directly into small tin capsules (3.2 * 4.0 mm,
e.g. Hekatech, Wegberg, Germany). Larger organisms are dried and ground in a mortar before a
subsample is weighed in. Drying should be carried out at 60°C for at least 24 h.
Preparation of seston samples for stable isotope analysis
Seston can be filtered onto a 0.8 µm polycarbonate membrane (PC 1110610, diameter 25 mm; Corning,
NY, USA) or onto a GFF filter. The loaded filter is rinsed with artificial seawater for CNS stable isotope
analysis. The still wet biomass can be carefully removed from the surface of the membrane filter using
a metal spatula and transferred directly into a tin ca