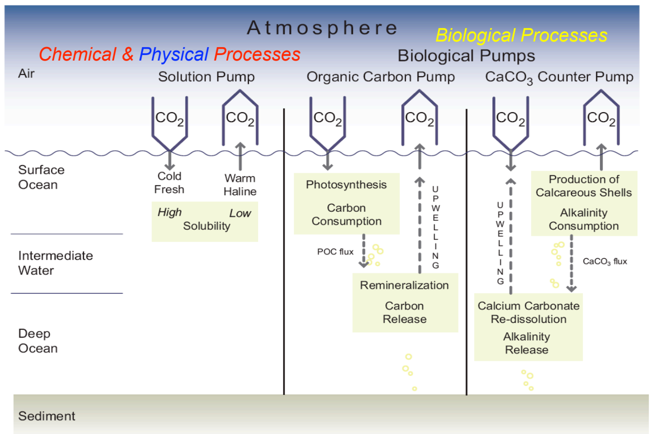
Now that we have looked at the physical processes involved with the exchange of CO_2 between the atmosphere and the ocean let's turn to the chemical processes



IPCC 2007 Fig. 7.10

Chemical Processes Influencing Air-Sea Exchange of CO_2

1. Physical Processes
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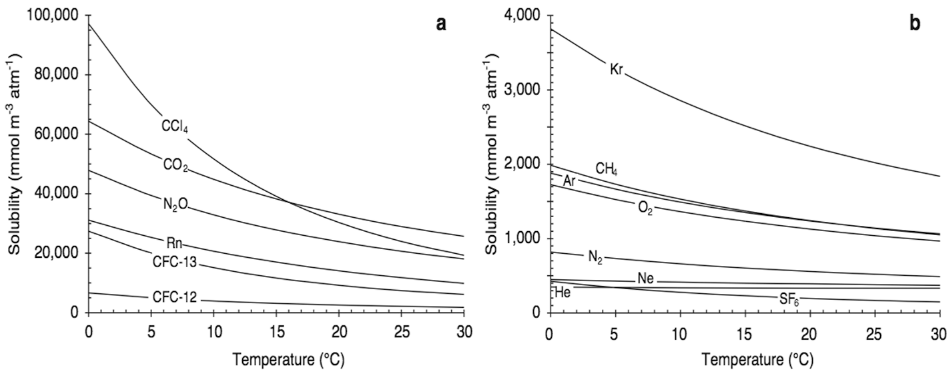
   - CO_2 solubility = f (temperature, salinity) ["The Solubility Pump"]
   - Carbonate chemical equilibrium
3. Biological Processes ["The Biological Pump"]
   - Photosynthesis & respiration
   - Calcium carbonate production

Solubility of Gases as a Function of Temperature

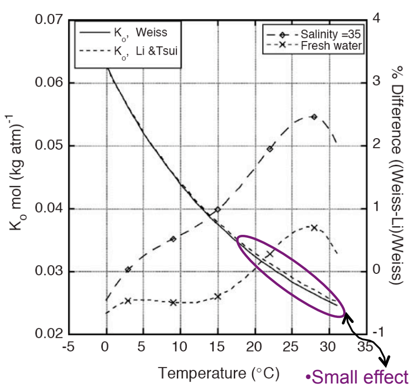


• Solubility of all gases *decreases with increasing T*
• Differences result from molecular interactions between gas & water

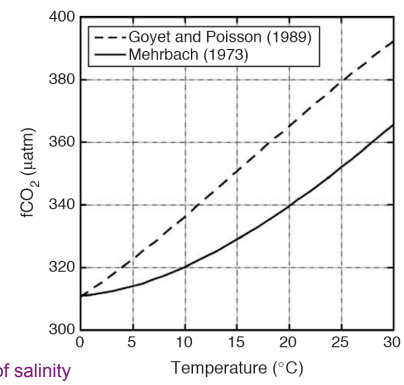
Sarmiento and Gruber (2006)

CO_2 Solubility is a Function of Temperature

• Demonstrations of the temperature dependence



•Small effect of salinity

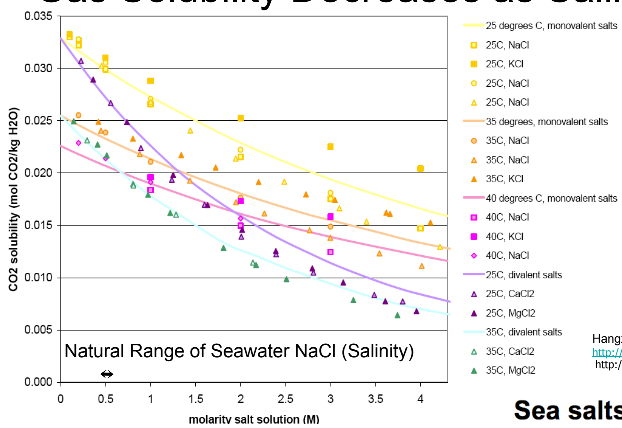


• Solubility decreases as T increases

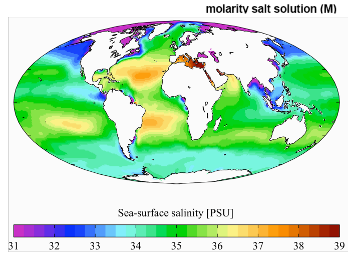
• pCO2 increases as T increases (implying the liquid can hold less of the gas at higher T, resulting in higher gas pressure)

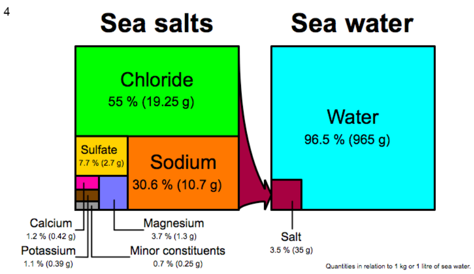
McGillis & Wanninkhof (2006) Aqueous CO_2 gradients for air-sea flux estimates, Mar. Chem. Vol. 98: 100-108

Gas Solubility Decreases as Salinity Increases

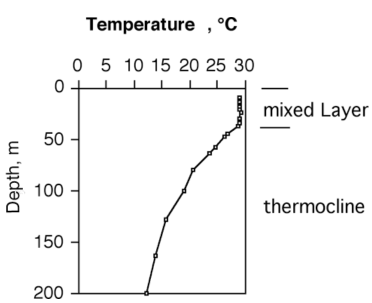


Hangx (2005) CATO Workpackage WP 4.1, Fig. 6c
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2c/Sea_salt-e-dp_h
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3e/Wiki_plot_04.pr





The Carbon "Solubility Pump"



- CO_2 is more soluble in cold waters than in warm waters (the thermal pump), & more soluble in fresher waters than saltier waters (the salt pump).
- If alkalinity (see following discussion) were uniform throughout the ocean & if both cold & warm surface waters equilibrated their p_{CO2} with the atmosphere, then cold surface waters would have a higher dissolved CO_2 content than warm surface waters.
- As these cold surface waters circulate into the deep interior of the ocean, deep waters will have more CO_2 than warm surface waters.

Chemical Processes Influencing Air-Sea Exchange of CO_2

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CO_2 Uptake by the Ocean: the Carbonate System

- The ocean can take up CO_2 from the atmosphere in amounts that far exceed what would be expected based on solubility alone
- The extra absorbing power is caused by the carbonate buffer system

•CO_2 gas dissolves in seawater to become aqueous CO_2

$$CO_2(g) \leftrightarrow CO_2(aq)$$

• *Henry's Law* describes the equilibrium between $CO_2(g)$ & $CO_2(aq)$

$$K_H = [CO_2(aq)]/pCO_2 \qquad \text{(a function of T \& S)}$$

• $CO_2(aq)$ combines with water to produce carbonic acid

$$CO_2(aq) + H_2O \leftrightarrow H_2CO_3$$

• At the pH of surface seawater (~8.2), carbonic acid rapidly dissociates into a hydrogen ion and a bicarbonate ion

$$H_2CO_3 \leftrightarrow H^+ + HCO_3^-$$

• The hydrogen ion then reacts with a carbonate ion to produce a second bicarbonate ion

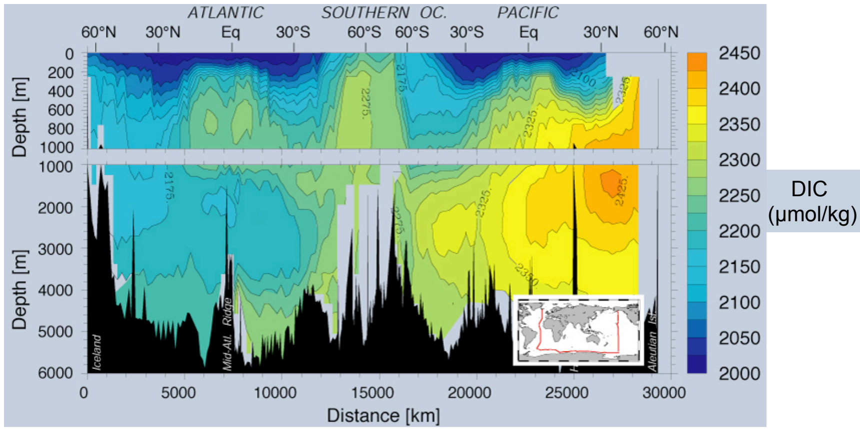
$$H^+ + CO_3^{2-} \leftrightarrow HCO_3^-$$

CO_2 Uptake by the Ocean: DIC

• Since only ~1% of $CO_2(aq)$ exists as H_2CO_3 it is usually left out of the sum of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) species

$$DIC = CO_2(aq) + HCO_3^- + CO_3^{2-}$$

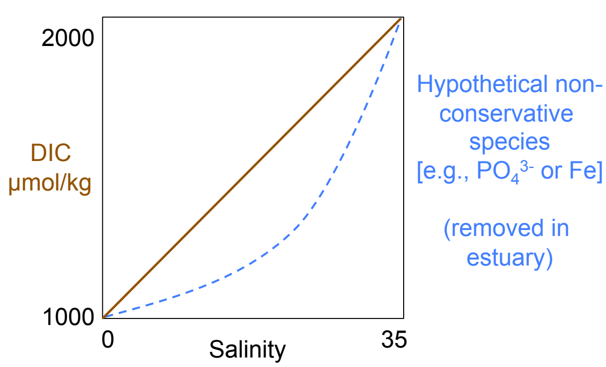
• The molar ratio of these three species in seawater is about **1 : 100 : 10**



CO_2 Uptake by the Ocean: Conservative Quantities

- DIC is a **conservative** quantity in seawater, meaning
  - Its concentration can only be changed by mixing & advection
  - It can be mixed linearly
  - Non-conservative properties (e.g., O_2 & PO_4^{3-}) are altered by biological & chemical processes

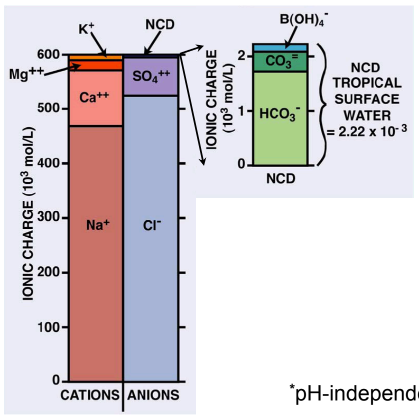
• An example would be mixing in an estuary, where the DIC concentration changes linearly from the low value in rivers to the high value in seawater:



CO_2 Uptake by the Ocean: Alkalinity

▪ Another conservative quantity in seawater that is important for understanding the exchange of CO_2 between the atmosphere & the ocean is **Alkalinity**, the best definition of which I have ever read is:

The negative charge deficit in seawater that is compensated by ions which can exist in more than one charge state. *(Broecker, 2005)*



•Seawater must be electrically neutral

• Though comprised primarily of ions with a fixed electrical charge*, such as the cations Na^+, K^+, Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, and the anions Cl^- & SO_4^{2-}, there is a *slight* deficit of negative charge—the alkalinity

*pH-independent species; strong acids & bases

Broecker (2005) *The Role of the Ocean in Climate Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, Eldigio Press, NY.

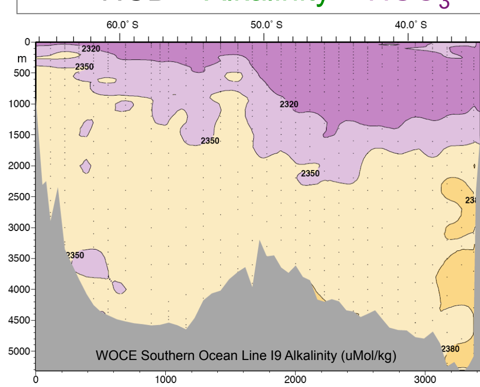
CO_2 Uptake by the Ocean: Alkalinity (cont'd.)

• The negative charge deficit is compensated by ions that can exist in more than one charge state (pH-dependent species; weak acids & bases)

• The carbon species HCO_3^- & CO_3^{2-} and the boron species $B(OH)_3$ & $B(OH)_4^-$ serve in this role

• Thus

$$NCD = Alkalinity = HCO_3^- + 2{*}CO_3^{2-} + B(OH)_4^-$$



• Alkalinity is greater in the deep ocean than in the surface ocean because Ca^{2+} ions are incorporated into $CaCO_3$* (removing alkalinity & negative charge deficit) in surface waters and released by dissolution of $CaCO_3$ in deep waters (adding alkalinity & negative charge deficit)

*A biological process we will discuss shortly

Adapted from Broecker (2005) *The Role of the Ocean in Climate Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, Eldigio Press, NY.

CO_2 Uptake by the Ocean: Alkalinity (cont'd.)

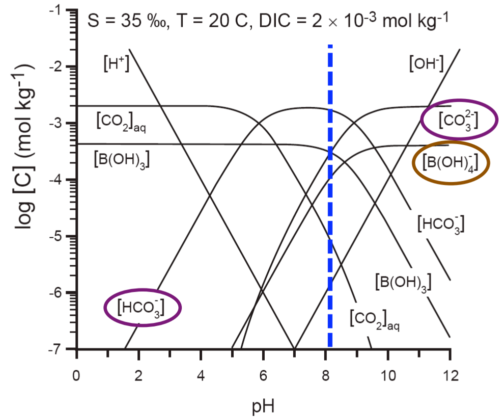
• Because borate concentrations in the ocean are only 2-5% of total Alkalinity they are often left out and the term *Carbonate Alkalinity* is often used as a simplifying approximation:

$$\text{Carbonate Alkalinity} = HCO_3^- + 2{*}CO_3^{2-}$$

PROPERTIES	TROPICAL SURFACE	DEEP PACIFIC	UNITS
WATER DEPTH	0	4000	meters
TEMPERATURE	25.0	1.5	°C
SALINITY	35.0	34.7	g/kg
p_{CO_2}	280	510*	10^{-6} atm
NCD	2216.0	2450.0	10^{-6} mol/kg
ΣCO_2	1858.0	2340.0	10^{-6} mol/kg
$(CO_2)_{aq}$	7.9	29.9	10^{-6} mol/kg
(HCO_3^-)	1601.5	2215.0	10^{-6} mol/kg
$(CO_3^=)$	248.5	95.0	10^{-6} mol/kg
ΣB	410.6	407.1	10^{-6} mol/kg
$B(OH)_3^0$	302.0	362.6	10^{-6} mol/kg
$B(OH)_4^-$	108.6	44.5	10^{-6} mol/kg
(OH^-)	8.8	0.4	10^{-6} mol/kg
pH	8.15	7.77	

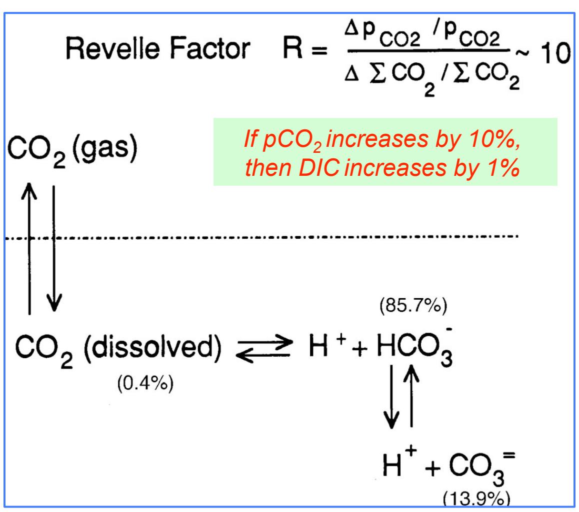
*AT SEA SURFACE PRESSURE

108.6 / 2216 = 0.049



Broecker (2005) p. 81, Emerson & Hedges (2007) Fig. 4.2.

CO_2 Uptake by the Ocean: the Revelle Factor



• The amount of CO_2 the ocean can absorb from the atmosphere beyond the amount of CO_2 gas that can be dissolved in it is referred to as its buffering capacity

• The buffering capacity of the ocean is quantified by the Revelle Factor

• The RF (*aka* buffer factor) relates the fractional change in atmospheric pCO_2 to a fractional change in DIC (after re-equilibration)

• RF is directly proportional to the ratio of DIC : Alkalinity *(see next page…)*

Figure adapted from Ed Boyle 12.842 Lecture Notes (2008)

Buffering Capacity of the Ocean

• Because Carbonate Alkalinity = HCO_3^- + $2*CO_3^{2-}$ it is clear that the greater the alkalinity of a solution the greater its potential for neutralizing acid (H^+), such as CO_2 :

$$CO_2(aq) + H_2O \leftrightarrow H_2CO_3$$
$$H_2CO_3 \leftrightarrow H^+ + HCO_3^-$$
$$H^+ + CO_3^{2-} \leftrightarrow HCO_3^-$$

$$CO_2(aq) + H_2O + CO_3^{2-} \leftrightarrow 2HCO_3^-$$

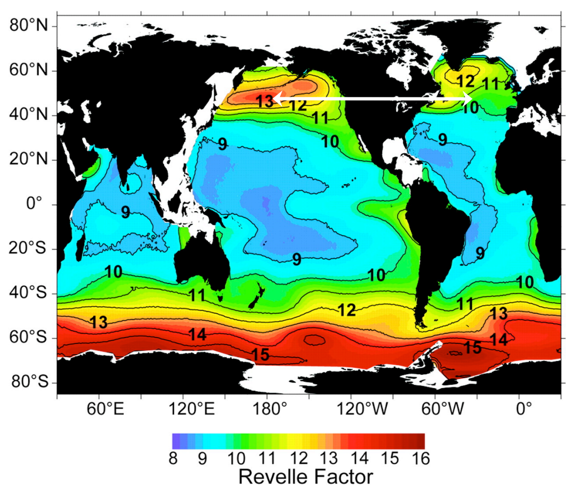
• The more CO_3^{2-}, or Alkalinity, contained in the water, the more CO_2 (acid) it will be able to absorb

• But the total amount of DIC is also a factor, because with low concentrations of DIC there cannot be large amounts of CO_3^{2-} to neutralize CO_2 at any pH

• That is why the Revelle factor is proportional to (DIC / Alkalinity). Low values of either quantity imply greater capacity to buffer added CO_2.

Buffering Capacity of the Ocean: The Revelle Factor

1994 distribution of the Revelle factor averaged over upper 50m of water.



• Lower RF = Greater buffering capacity

• Low RFs occur in warm tropical-subtropical waters; high RFs in cold high latitude waters

• The capacity for seawater to take up CO_2 from the atmosphere is inversely proportional to the RF

• Hence, the lower the RF, the higher the oceanic equilibrium concentration of CO_2 for a given atmospheric CO_2 increase

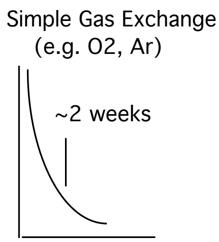
• North Pacific surface waters have a higher RF at comparable latitudes & consequently lower anthropogenic CO_2 concentrations

• This difference results from North Pacific alkalinity values about 100 mol/kg lower than in the North Atlantic

• Current RFs are about one unit higher than in the preindustrial ocean.

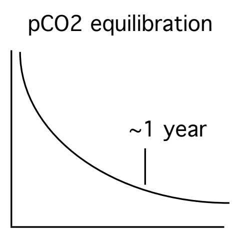
Sabine et al. (2004) *Science* Vol. 305: 367-371

Equilibration Time for Atmospheric Gases in Ocean Mixed Layer



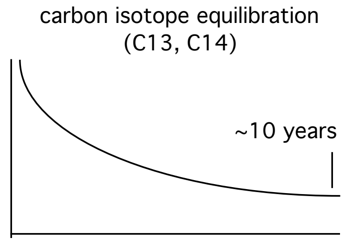
- For mixed layer depth of 100m & piston velocity of 2000 m/yr
- Equilibration time =100m/2000m yr^{-1} =0.05yr = 18d

Equilibration Time for Atmospheric Gases in the Ocean Mixed Layer



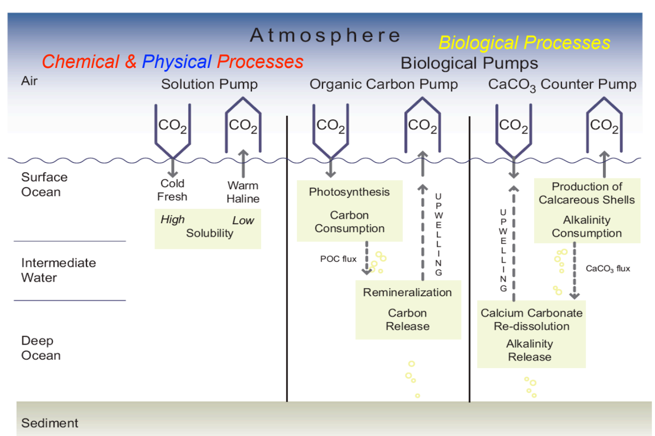
- Change in pCO_2 causes equal change in CO_2(aq)
- Revelle factor: fractional change in pCO_2 is ~10x greater then DIC change
- Since CO_2(aq)=0.5% of DIC it takes 10/0.5, or 20x longer to equilibrate DIC then to equilibrate CO_2(aq)
- Equilibration time =(100m / 2000m yr^{-1})*20=1yr

Equilibration Time for Atmospheric Gases in the Ocean Mixed Layer



- Total DIC must equilibrate with atm. CO_2
- $1 m^2$ of upper 100m of ocean contains: 10^5kg water * ($2000*10^{-6}$mol C/kg water) = 200 moles C
- CO_2 gas exchange rate = 20 mol/m^2/yr (see prev. lec.)
- Equilibration time = (200 mol) / (20 mol/m^2/yr) = 10yr

Now that we have looked at the physical & chemical processes involved with the exchange of CO_2 between the atmosphere & the ocean let's turn to the biological processes



IPCC 2007 Fig. 7.10

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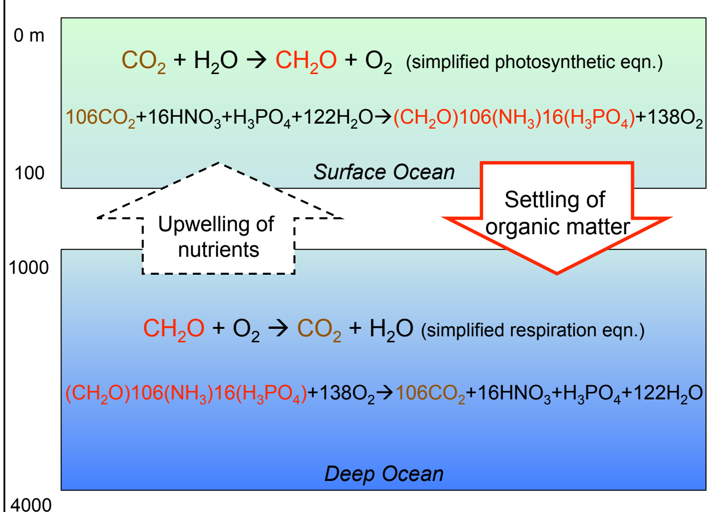
The "Biological Carbon Pump"

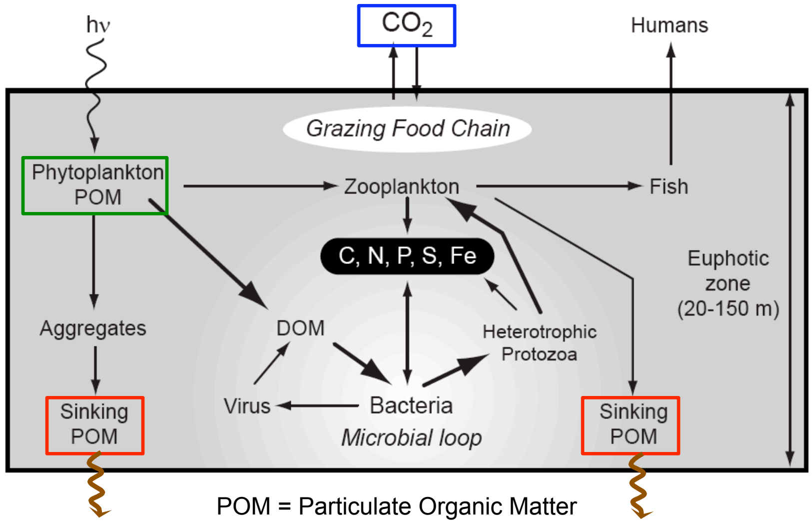
- *The biologically mediated transfer of CO_2 & nutrients from the surface to the deep ocean*



- The elemental composition of phytoplankton in the ocean is amazingly constant, as 1st noted by A.C. Redfield*
- This "Redfield ratio" characterizes both phytoplankton & seawater!
- Grazing of phytoplankton by zooplankton produces fecal pellets that sink & transport algal biomass to the deep sea where it is "remineralized" back to inorganic nutrients

* Redfield, Ketchum & Richards (1963) "The influence of organisms on the composition of sea-water." In: M.N. Hill (Ed.), *The Sea 2*: 26-77, Interscience, NY.

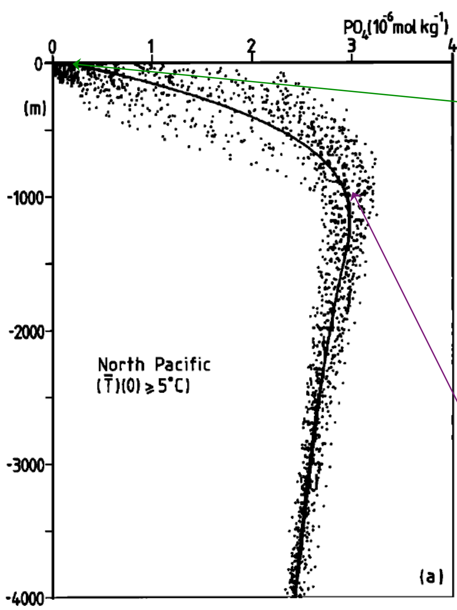
A More Realistic View of Biological Processes in the Surface Ocean "Box"



POM = Particulate Organic Matter
DOM = Dissolved Organic Matter

Emerson & Hedges (2007) *Chem. Oceanogr.*, Fig. 6.5

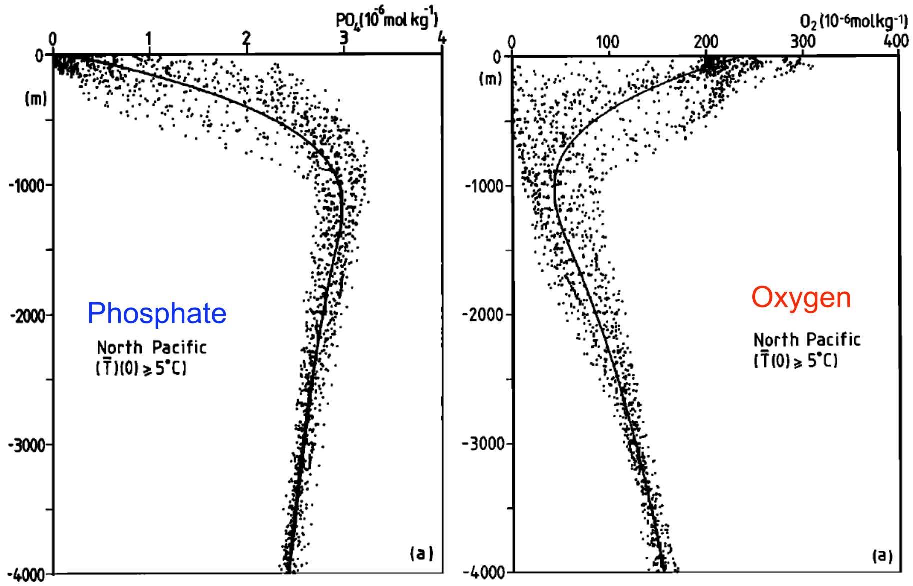
Biological Pump Effect on Nutrient Distributions



- Nutrients such as N & P stripped out of surface water by photosynthesis
  - Consuming CO_2(aq)
  - Producing O_2
- Transported to deep sea by sinking fecal pellets
- Released back into deep water during decomposition by bacteria (remineralization)
  - Consuming O_2

Shaffer (1996) *J. Geophys. Res.* Vol. 101(C2): 3723-3745.

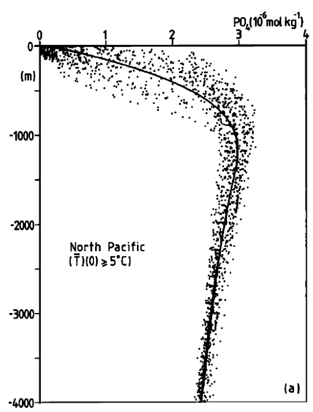
Biological Pump Effect on Nutrient Distributions



- Note that O_2 has mirror-image profile of PO_4^{3-}

Shaffer (1996) *J. Geophys. Res.* Vol. 101(C2): 3723-3745. GEOSECS data.

Combined Effect of the Biological Pump & Ocean Circulation



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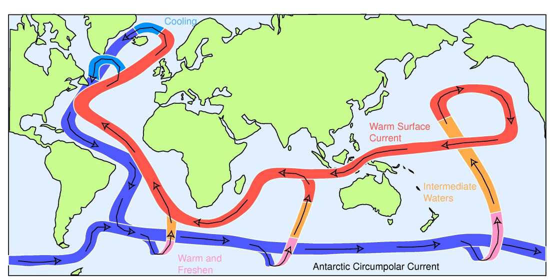
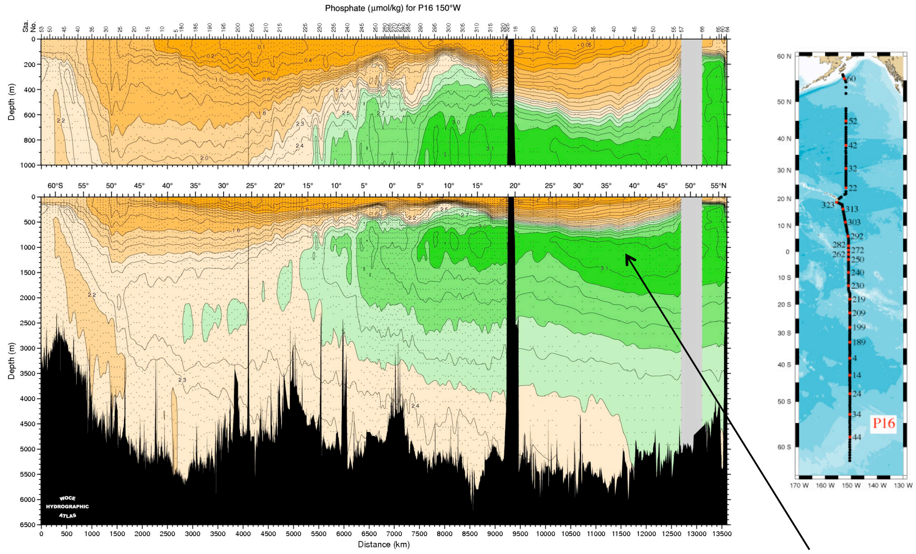


= ?

PO4: Shaffer (1996) *J. Geophys. Res.* Vol. 101(C2): 3723-3745. MOC: John Marshall, MIT.

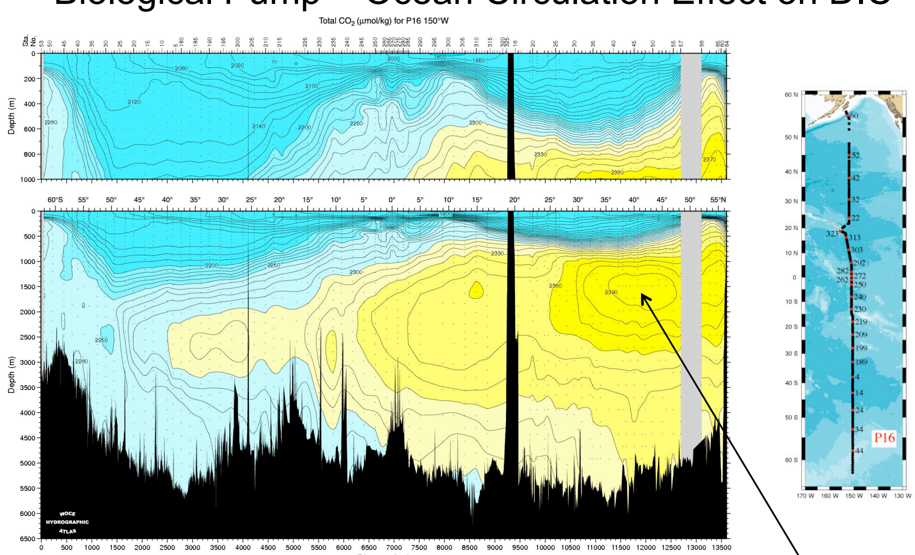
Biological Pump + Ocean Circulation Effect on Phosphate



• Oldest water in ocean accumulates most remineralized PO_4^{3-}, the ultimate source of which was photosynthesis in the global surface ocean.

WOCE (2007) Atlas Volume 2: Pacific Ocean

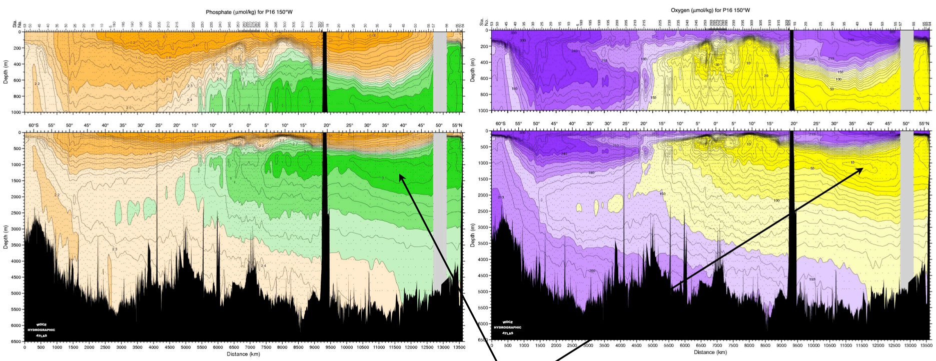
Biological Pump + Ocean Circulation Effect on DIC



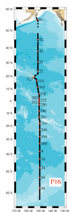
• Oldest water in ocean accumulates most respired CO_2, the ultimate source of which was photosynthesis in the global surface ocean.

WOCE (2007) Atlas Volume 2: Pacific Ocean

Biological Pump + Ocean Circulation Effect on Oxygen

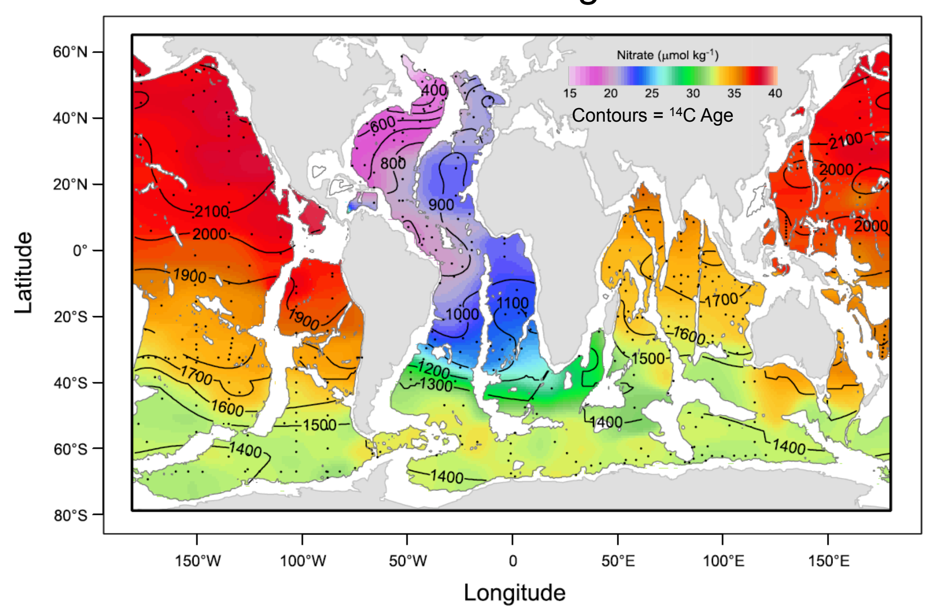


- Oldest water in ocean is most impoverished in O_2 because 138 moles of O_2 are *consumed* per mole of PO_4^{3-} liberated during organic matter decomposition
- From the Redfield ratio of $C:N:P:O_2$ of 106:16:1:-138



WOCE (2007) Atlas Volume 2: Pacific Ocean

Global Nitrate & Water Age at 3000 m



✧ *The best visual depiction of the combined effect of the biological pump & ocean circulation I have seen!*

From Key et al. (2005) in Emerson & Hedges (2007), Fig. 6.16.