Heat and Salt Storage Variability In the Indian Ocean from TOPEX/Poseidon between 1993 - 2000

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Estimates of the heat and salt budget computed us-ing TOPEX/Poseidon (T/P) altimetry, Reynolds SST and hydrographic data (World Ocean Atlas; WOA98) are used to study the redistribution of heat and salt storage of the Indian Ocean. The accuracy of de-rived temperature and salinity is evaluated using hy-drographic data collected on WOCE Transindian Ocean Section 11 bydrographic data. Significant seasonal and rived temperature and salinity is evaluated using hydrographic data collected on WOCE Transindian Ocean Section 11 hydrographic data. Significant seasonal and interannual variability is found in the Indian Ocean Sector. Except the seasonal change in solar radiation and the rainfall, the major ocean processes that affect the heat and salt storage redistribution include monsoon-related upwelling and Ekman pumping, seasonal change of ocean circulation, propagation of Rossby wave and Kelvin wave. Significant interannual heat storage variability could be found during this period (1993 - 2000). EOF analysis shows that the first four EOFs explain nearly 60 % of the total variance of the heat storage variability with the interannual mode to be the first dominant mode. The salt storage variability in the total variance of the salt storage variability in the total variance of the salt storage variability in the total variance of the salt storage variability in the salt storage during the 1997 - 1998 Dipole years are also studied. The significant heat storage interannual mode. The heat storage during 1997 - 1998 is in the same order of the annual variability of the heat storage variability while the salt storage anomaly from the regular year during 1997 - 1998 is in the same order of the annual variability of the heat storage variability while the salt storage anomaly is much less than the annual variability of the salt storage. salt storage

OS21K-08 1035h

Impact of Intraseasonal Atmospheric Forcing on Eastward Surface Jets in the Equatorial Indian Ocean

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²SOEST, University of Hawaii, 2525 Correa Rd., Honolulu, HW 96822 Nonlinear and linear versions of an intermediate ocean model are used to investigate the impact of intraseasonal atmospheric forcing (20–90 day periods) on the eastward surface jets that develop along the Indian Ocean equator during the spring and fall, the Wyrtki jets (WJs). Both the spring and fall WJs exhibit a strong intraseasonal variability, with a perturbation amplitude of 40–60 cm/s during JASMINE period. The intraseasonal fluctuation of WJs is driven primarily by intraseasonal zonal winds, which has a basin scale and possesses a significant seasonality. The intraseasonal forcing and to the alower frequency currents that rectify the WJs strength due to the asymmetric property of the positive and negative phases of the intraseasonal forcing and to the nonlinear response of the ocean to the winds. Strength of the WJs can vary by 10–40 cm/s (10–40 percent of the climatological WJs amplitude) because of the intraseasonal winds, and therefore the WJs can be considerably affected. The rectified WJs in zonal SST gradients at the equator and therefore potentially influence the air-sea interaction at seasonal interannual time scale.

OS21K-09 1050h

Observations of the Great Whirl

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University of Hawaii , 1000 Pope Rd, Honolulu, HI 96822, United States The summer monsoon winds blow as a steady, southwesterly jet off Somalia and across the Arabian Sea between June and September each year. This "Findlater Jet" drives a complex pattern of ocean currents, which is dominated in the west by an in-tense, northward boundary flow (the Somali Current) and a quasi-steady, anti-cyclonic eddy called the Great Whirl. Previous understanding of the structure of the Great Whirl is that of a shallow, surface-intensified fea-ture, although observations, particularly deep ones, are scarce. In addition ship drift data and modelling stud-ies have illustrated the Great Whirl as stationary (once developed), with some interannual variability. Recent observations have changed these ideas dra-matically. Direct velocity measurements have revealed strong currents of order 10 cms⁻¹ at 3000 m depth in the Great Whirl, and satellite altimetry has shown intense variability on short time scales. The position and shape of the Great Whirl changes over periods less than 10 days and 30-40 day period fluctuations mod-ify its velocity field. We use these observations, plus GCM simulations, and analogy to process models to gain insight into the possible mechanisms governing the variability and penetration of the Great Whirl is an inertial recirculation of the Somali Current, consistent with ob-servations that the Somali Current, consistent with ob-servations that the Somali Current dies back with the winds, while the Great Whirl lasts well into Novem-ber, spinning down only as a result of eddy viscosity. In addition we hypothesise that the Great Whirl istelf instigates a Roseby wave mode through its internal in-tabilities, producting the 30-40 day variability in its instigates a Rossby wave mode through its internal in-stabilities, producing the 30-40 day variability in its velocities

OS21K-10 1105h

The Agulhas Return Flow as Studied from Altimetry, Hydrography and Mooring Data

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A hydrographic study was carried out in the South West Indian Ocean from 6th January to 21st February, 1995 on RRS Discovery as part of the World Ocean Cir-culation Experiment. This dynamic region is a poorly surveyed part of the world's oceans. The cruise objec-tives included: the recovery of eight moorings deployed two years earlier between the Agulhas Plateau and Crozet Island; surveying the Agulhas and Subtropical Fronts between 30E and 50E; and surveying the Sub-antarctic Zone north of the Crozet Plateau between 30E and 50E. Some sections of the survey track, in particu-lar across the Agulhas Return Current near 45E, were run along TOPEX/POSEIDON altimeter tracks. We examine ocean variability of this region as observed by the altimeter in relation to the hydrographic data col-lected during the cruise and the long time series moor-ing data collected during the cruise. We also present an analysis of the combination of remotely sensed data and hydrography as it relates to the dynamics of the ocean fronts in the region. A hydrographic study was carried out in the South

OS21K-11 1120h

Large-Scale Forcing of the Agulhas Variability: The Seasonal Cycle

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In this presentation we will examine the kinematics

In this presentation we will examine the kinematics and dynamics of the seasonal cycle in the western In-dian Ocean from and eddy-permitting numerical simu-lation. The analysis of the model results indicates that the transport of the Agulhas Current has a seasonal variation with a maximum at the transition between the austral winter and spring and a minimum between the austral winter and spring and a minimum between the austral summer and autumn. Regional and basin-scale mass balances indicate that although the mean flow of the Agulhas Current has a substantial contribu-tion form the Indonesian through flow these acceases tion from the Indonesian throughflow, there appears to

be no dynamical linkage between the seasonal oscillabe no dynamical infrage between the seasonal oscilla-tions of these two currents. Instead we found evidence that the seasonal cycle of the western Indian Ocean is the result of the oscillation of barotropic basin modes directly forced by the wind.

OS21K-12 1135h

The Seasonal Variability of the South Indian Ocean in POCM and T/P

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In this study we compare the annual cycle of sea surface heights (SSHs) obtained from an eddy permitting global circulation model (POCM-4C) with observations from TOPEX/POSEIDON mission in the South Indian Ocean and for the period 1993 to 1998. The analysis includes model/data comparisons of wave propagation, EOFs, and harmonics. Model and observations compare well except in a narrow region close to the equator where the amplitude and phase of the model anomalies differ from the observations. The westward propagation of SSHs anomalies appear to be affected by the bottom topography, both in the model and in the observations. The amplitudes of the model and is component are lower than those observed but their spatial distributions compare well. Our analysis indicate that the main forcing for the annual cycle are the wind stress curl and the discharges associated with the Indonesian Throughflow. In this study we compare the annual cycle of sea sur-

OS21L HC: 317 B Tuesday 0830h Linking Modern and Past Biogenic Fluxes I

Presiding: R Francois, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; R A Jahnke, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography

OS21L-01 0830h

Global Synthesis of Organic, Inorganic Carbon Particles and Opal Fluxes at the Ocean Interior

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Woods Hole, MA 02543, United States We have identified published results/data from 228 individual sediment traps, most of them samples col-lected in time-series for about one year or more, de-ployed at 136 locations in the world ocean as of 2001. We estimated the recycling of Corg, Cinorg and Sibio in deep water below 1.5 km by comparing fluxes mea-sured at different depths, after correction for trapping efficiency using a radiochemical method on key sam-ples. By using this relatively coherent export data set we constructed 2⁹-grid model of the global ocean par-ticle flux at the interior and to the floor, then we es-timated the "total global export" of Corg, Cinorg and opal. Finally, by applying global biogeochemical ratios, we propose a hypothesis regarding the provincialism of the biological pump in the global oceans that explains the functional difference and the efficiency in exporting atmospheric CO2-carbon to the oceanic interior. Such oceans functional provincialism at present involves ap-plications to paleoproxy in understanding global change in time and space. in time and space

OS21L-02 0845h INVITED

Comparing Productivity Maps from Inverse Modeling with Satellite Based Estimates: Examples from the Southern Ocean and North Atlantic

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Cite abstracts as: Eos. Trans. AGU, 83(4), Ocean Sciences Meet. Suppl., Abstract ########, 2002.

2002 Ocean Sciences Meeting OS121

OS122 2002 Ocean Sciences Meeting

The oceanic distributions of oxygen, dissolved nutri-ents and carbon are strongly affected by the production of particulate matter and its subsequent remineraliza-tion during sinking or after deposition on the sea-floor. Dissolved nutrient data thus provide valuable informa-tion for the determination of the underlying biogeo-chemical rate constants using inverse modeling. Here, a global ocean circulation model is presented that ex-ploits the existing large sets of hydrographic, oxygen, nutrient and carbon data and determines rates of ex-port production and vertical particle fluxes compati-ble with the concentration data. The model is fitted to hydrographic, oxygen, nutrient and tracer data by systematically varying circulation, air-sea fluxes, pro-duction and remineralization rates simultaneously. The adjoint method is applied as an efficient tool for the it-erative optimization procedure and is able to produce simulated fields that are in very good agreement with observations.

erative optimization procedure and is able to produce simulated fields that are in very good agreement with observations. Comparison of the export production in the model with satellite based productivity estimates show a rel-atively good agreement over most of the ocean. How-ever, two regions - the Southern Ocean and the North Atlantic - stand out and show large discrepancies in-dependent of the particular satellite productivity algo-rithm or model solution used. In the Southern Ocean ($<50^\circ$ S) the model fluxes are systematically higher than the satellite based values by factors between 2 and 4. Evidence from sediment trap data also suggests that satellite productivity estimates might be too low in this region. Possible explanations are frequent sub-surface chlorophyll maxima undetectable by satellites and a generally poor calibration database in this area. In the North Atlantic between 40 and 55° N satellite would be expected from the satellite values. This is in line with benthic studies in this region, which show rel-atively small carbon fluxes to the sea floor.

OS21L-03 0900h INVITED

Temporal Variability of Upper Ocean Biology in the Northeast Atlantic and the Link to Deep Water Particle Flux.

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Southampton SOI4 32H, United Kingdom Fifty years of data from the continuous plankton recorder survey (CPR) have been used to examine sur-face water plankton communities in the region of the JGOFS North Atlantic Bloom Experiment (NABE). There is considerable interannual variability in the abundances of several groups and an indication of a long term decrease since 1950. Since 1989 downward particle flux has been measured at this site at several depths below 1000m using time series sediment traps. depths below 1000m using time series sediment traps. These flux data also demonstrate significant interan-nual variation both in the magnitude of the annual flux and in the timing of maxima. Surface water phyto-plankton data were obtained from ships during NABE, from satellite colour sensors and of a more qualitative nature from the 50 year CPR data set. Climatic vari-ability was estimated using the North Atlantic Oscilla-tion index. The relationship between these various data sets is explored and compared to output from a biogeo-chemical model driven by meteorology. This improves our understanding of the various factors that control downward particle flux and in particular the efficiency with which material is lost from the upper ocean.

OS21L-04 0915h INVITED

Decoupling Surface Production from **Deep Remineralization and Benthic** Deposition: The Role of Mineral Ballasts

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Global models of the oceanic carbon cycle have Global models of the oceanic carbon cycle have two moving parts: a production part, which is used to calculate primary (organic matter) production in the ocean's mixed layer as a function of light and nu-trient availability, and an export-and-remineralization part, which is used to partition primary production into that which is remineralized (returned to inorganic form) within the mixed layer, and that which is ex-ported to the deep ocean. A vast amount of effort has been expended on describing production, in the be-lief that production has the greatest influence on the ability of the ocean to take up and store carbon. Re-cent analyses suggest, however, that fluxes of particu-late organic carbon at deep stations are linked mech-anistically to fluxes of silicate and carbonate mineral ballasts, and that organic matter production at the ocean surface may be a much weaker predictor of car-bon transport to the deep ocean than had previously been thought. It is rapidly becoming recognized that an accurate, mechanistic description of the coupling be-tween surface production and export to the deep ocean is of paramount importance. Here we review evidence for the fundamental disconnect between the concept of ballast-mediated oceanic carbon sequestration and the production-centered view that still prevails in the oceanographic community. We argue that a more bal-anced, deeper view of the oceanic carbon cycle is long overdue. overdue

OS21L-05 0930h

Non-steady state diagenesis in Argentine Basin sediments: Reconstruction of sedimentary events by modeling pore water and solid phase geochemical data

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⁻ Max-Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology, Cel-siusstrasse 1, Bremen 28359, Germany Non-steady state sedimentary conditions may lead to characteristic geochemical imprints in the pore wa-ter and the solid phase of marine sediments. In this regard, the correct interpretation of the sedimentary record is crucial for the reconstruction of past envi-ronmental conditions and of the timing of sedimentary events.

record is crucial for the reconstruction of past envi-ronmental conditions and of the timing of sedimentary events. In the Argentine Basin massive downslope transport of material by slides and turbidity currents from the continental shelf leads to very high sedimentation rates on the slope and in the basin. Thus, intense miner-alisation of organic material occurs at the sediment-water interface and within the deeper sediment layers. This is typical for the whole continental slope and is de-coupled from any water depth relation. A specific region is the Rio de Plata mouth where sulfate reduc-tion by methane oxidation is most intense at mid-slope depths decreasing up- and downslope. Generally, pore water profiles obtained from all sediments in this re-gion reflect transient conditions which means a read-justment of newly created pore water gradients via dif-fusion triggered by strong differences in the redox po-tential between older and younger deposits. The over-all results are: (1) The characterization of a variety of sulfate pore water profiles revealed their control by the opcurrence of sedimentary events. (2) Combining geoupward movement of dissolved methane and/or by the occurrence of sedimentary events. (2) Combining geo-chemical data from pore water and solid phase anal-ysis with hydro-acoustic and physical properties data it is possible to estimate the time-scales of sedimen-tary events by using a numerical transport and reaction model. (3) Due to the massive accumulation of organic rich sediments, there is a significant quantitative im-portance of anaerobic methane oxidation as a sink for sulfate in this region.

OS21L-06 0945h

Linking Oceanic Carbon Cycling, Climate and Sediment Records: The Need for a Consistent Measure

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ence Circle, Savannah, GA 31411, United States Developing a quantitative understanding of the large-scale vertical cycling of carbon in the ocean is critical to assessing the impacts and feedbacks be-tween anthropogenic and natural variations in the ex-change rates of carbon among its important reser-voirs and for relating paleoceanographic proxies con-tained in sediment records to ocean conditions and processes. Numerous studies have attempted to relate rates of primary biological production, new produc-tion and export production estimated across relatively shallow depth horizons to large-scale vertical carbon fluxes and burial. Unfortunately, direct correlations between these parameters and deep fluxes are poor at best. Here, simple models are described that demon-strate how surface water biological community compo-sition and maximum mixed layer depth (MMLD) de-couple deep fluxes from surface production. Variations

in the efficiency with which the surface grazer and het-erotrophic communities intercept and recycle primary production is observed to yield sustainable changes in the rate of regenerated and, hence, primary produc-tion but only temporary changes in vertical flux. Sim-ilarly, these calculations reveal that export to the deep water column is sensitive to variations in the MMLD. The deeper the MMLD, the smaller the export relative to primary production. These observations provide an explanation as to why deep water and benthic studies conclude that equatorial and low and mid-latitude mar-gin environments dominate organic matter fluxes to the deep ocean while fluxes based on satellite-derived sur-face productivity and ecosystem models are dominated by high latitude regions. Future studies of large-scale carbon biogeochemistry and pelo-reconstructions must in the efficiency with which the surface grazer and hetcarbon biogeochemistry and paleo-reconstructions must focus on evaluating fluxes across the MMLD or perma-nent thermocline as fluxes across shallower horizons are ambiguous

OS21L-07 1020h

Improving Biogenic Silica as a Paleoproductivity Proxy: A Global Study of Si and C Decoupling in the World Ocean

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mark Biogenic silica (opal) has a high potential as a pa-leoproductivity proxy. The deciphering of this sed-imentary record, however, is complicated by spatial and temporal variations in opal preservation and by the decoupling between Si and C biogeochemical cy-cles. Building on recent studies devoted to improving and temporal variations in opal preservation and by the decoupling between Si and C biogeochemical cy-cles. Building on recent studies devoted to improving our understanding of spatial variations in opal preser-vation, the present study will focus on Si/C decoupling. Within the EU-SINOPS project, data sets of Si and C production, water column fluxes and accumulation in underlying sediments have been gathered for the At-lantic, Indian and Pacific sectors of the Antarctic Cir-cumpolar Current, as well as for the north Atlantic, the equatorial Pacific and the north Pacific. 9 regional budgets of Si and C fluxes have been built, for 5 sites lo-cated inside the Southern Ocean and for 4 sites located outside. Within each reservoir, the highest SiC flux ratios are found in the Southern Ocean. The mean val-ues calculated for the 5 sites inside the Southern Ocean are 6-times higher than outside, in surface waters as in deep waters and in the sediments. Only during ex-port, is this difference reduced because of higher Corg export efficiency in the Southern Ocean. Regional dif-ferences in Si:C production ratios encompass one or-der of magnitude and can be explained by silicit acid vasia-unchanged down to the sediment. At all sites, the strongest downward increases in the Si: C flux ratio are found between production and export (factor 6), and bis sugsted that trophic food webs in these two zones play a major role in the relative enrichment of the bio-genc particles with Si. During the transfer through the deep waters, the Si:C flux ratio increases only slightly (factor 1.3). A unique equation has been formulated, fwice applicability, which allows a good prediction of the fate of the Si:C flux ratio increases only slightly (factor 1.3). A unique equation has been formulated, fwice applicability, which allows a good prediction of bis for ductor ratio is known, and vice-versa. It is suggeted that trophic food webs in these two zones play a major role in the relative enrichment of the bio-orie Si:C roduction ratio

OS21L-08 1035h

Natural Variations in Silicon Isotope Abundances as Indicators of Silica Production in the Southern Ocean

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Cite abstracts as: Eos. Trans. AGU, 83(4), Ocean Sciences Meet. Suppl., Abstract #######, 2002.

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Diatoms are the only primary producers that utilize Diatoms are the only primary producers that utilize silicon and function as key exporters of organic matter and silica to the deep ocean. Recent studies showed that the open ocean around Antarctica accounts for a much higher fraction (10-15%) of global silica produc-tion than previously estimated. These high production rates give rise to the opal-rich band of sediments that circle the Antarctic continent south of the Polar Front. The marine silicon cycle needs to be studied in greater detail throughout the world oceans. Natural variations

The marine silicon cycle needs to be studied in greater detail throughout the world oceans. Natural variations in the abundance of silicon isotopes provide a tool to carry out such widespread studies. Application of silicon isotopes as tracers for tempo-ral and spatial variations in silica production requires an understanding of the mechanisms underlying varia-tions of silicon isotope abundances in seawater silicic acid and diatom opal. Changes in the silicon isotopic composition of opal in sediment cores can then be bet-ton intermented and earthing with othen newsize for sa

composition of opai in sediment cores can then be bet-ter interpreted and combined with other proxies for re-constructing past biogeochemical conditions. We measured the silicon isotopic composition of sili-cic acid in surface waters on samples collected along 170° W in the vicinity of the Antarctic Polar Front dur-ing four cruises (October 1997 to March 1998) as part ing four cruises (October 1997 to March 1998) as part of the US JGOFS AESOPS program. δ^{30} Si values de-creased southward from +2.9 to +1.8°/_{oo} along the strong meridional gradient in dissolved silicon. δ^{30} Si values were inversely correlated with silicic acid con-centration and imply an enrichment factor, ϵ , of - $0.8^{\circ}/_{oo}$ similar to the value of -1.1°/_{oo} obtained for cultured diatoms. These are the first data that doc-ument changes in the δ^{30} Si value of silicic acid as it is consumed by diatom growth in a natural system; thus they provide direct evidence that silicon isotope fractionation in the sea conforms to a simple Rayleigh fractionation in the sea conforms to a simple Rayleigh

fractionation in the set constant is model. δ^{30} Si of particulate silica from a sediment trap lo-cated in the Polar Front at 1031 m depth from Novem-ber 1996 to January 1998 increased sharply from +0.6 to +1.59/₀₀ during the course of a diatom bloom, af- 2^{30}

to $+1.5^{o}/_{oo}$ during the course of a diatom bloom, after which the $\delta^{30}{\rm Si}$ signal dropped to pre-bloom conditions. The increase in the $\delta^{30}{\rm Si}$ values of particulate silica in the trap paralleled that of silicic acid in surface waters with an offset of approximately $-1.1^{o}/_{oo}$. The results support the use of natural variations in silicon isotope abundances in surface waters as a proxy for dissolved silicon utilization and support the use of the $\delta^{30}{\rm Si}$ of diatom opal recovered from sediments to reconstruct the history of relative silicic acid use in surface waters.

OS21L-09 1050h

Ge:Si Fractionation in Continental Margin Sediments: Balancing the Ge Budget

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⁶COAS, Oregon State University 104 Ocean Admin Bldg, Corvallis, OR 97331-5503, United States While the modern oceanic silica budget is reason-ably well-constrained, the sink term for the germa-nium budget is poorly defined. This lack of funda-mental geochemical information limits our ability to in-terpret glacial-interglacial Ge:Si variations observed in biogenic opal. While opal burial is certainly one im-portant sink for Ge, budget calcuations suggest that there is at least one additional significant sink. Re-cently our group showed that at several stations along the California continental margin, germanium is frac-tionated from silica in iron-rich sediments, with ger-manium being sequestered in an unidentified sediment phase (GCA, 2000, 64 : 2453 - 2465). We present here sediment porewater data from the Peru-Chile continen-tal margin and additional in situ benthic incubation and sediment core incubation data from the California continental margin. These additional results show that the magnitude of this diagenetic fractionation is 50% in reducing, iron-rich margin sediments. At abyssal depths, the Ge:Si benthic regeneration ratio is consis-tent with no fractionation from the ratio in opal. Cal-culations indicate that fractionation in the depth range

0.1-1 km is sufficient to balance the Ge budget. We conclude that sequestering of Ge in iron-rich continen-tal margin sediments is the "missing" Ge sink. Tempo-ral variation in the strength of this sink could be suf-ficient to drive fluctuations in the glacial-interglacial Gasti environments and the sufficient set of the sink Ge:Si oceanic ratio.

OS21L-10 1105h

The Effect of Ocean Temperature on the Ge/Si Ratio of Seawater

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Large Lakes Observatory, U. Minnesota, Duluth, Min 55812 Although the water column cycling of inorganic Ge and Si in sea water are remarkably similar, the ratio of Ge/Si in opal has varied through time in concert with changes in global climate. Results published by Froelich, Mortlock, Shemesh, and their colleagues have demonstrated that ratios have ranged from the present value of 0.7 RU (1 RU = 10e-6 atoms Ge/atom Si), to 0.5 RU during the last glacial maximum, to approx-imately 0.9 RU during the mid-Miocene. Weathering (approximately 0.5 RU) and hydrothermal (approxi-mately 11 RU) sources provide the two largest inputs of these elements, and the temporal variation of the ratio in opal has often been interpreted to reflect variations in their relative importance. The recent discovery and quantification of a substantial sink for Ge in anoxic, iron-rich sediments provides an alternative explanation for the temporal variation of seawater Ge/Si. The im-portance of this newly discovered Ge sink depends on the rate at which opal reaches the sea floor in margin environments. environments.

Water column temperature is a key factor in de-termining the fraction of opal produced that reaches termining the fraction of opai produced that reaches the sea floor. Based on the temperature dependence of water column opal dissolution determined in situ by Erez et al. (EPSL 59,1982), a decrease of 3° C in sur-face water in the CA margin should increase the opal rain at 1 km by 1.4-2.0 times; an increase in T of 2° C should decrease it by 0.4-0.7 times. These tempera-ture changes are published estimates of changes during the last glacial maximum and the mid-Miccepe respecture changes are published estimates of changes during the last glacial maximum and the mid-Miocene, respec-tively, and the calculated changes in opal reaching the sea floor at 1 km are sufficient to account for the tem-poral variation in oceanic Ge/Si. The range in the cal-culated flux reflects different scenarios for the water column temperature structure. Other important fac-tors, such as weathering rates, dust dissolution, opal production, changes in the methylgermanium cycle, or the areal extent of iron-rich anoxic sediments could also vary, but it appears that their effects might be sec-ondary. One implication of these results is that the effective depth of opal regeneration in the ocean varies in response to climate. Whether this might influence the rate or oceanic distribution of diatom production is unknown at present.

OS21L-11 1120h

New Insights Into the Mechanism of Barite Formation in Seawater and Implications for Paleoproductivity Reconstruction

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Ba accumulation in marine sediments has often used as a proxy for past changes in ocean productivity, but a better understanding of the mechanism of barite

but a better understanding of the mechanism of barite formation in seawater is necessary to develop the ap-proach as a quantitative method. To this end, we have conducted time-series decay experiments of cultured and coastal plankton. Barite crystals, monitored by SEM, were produced during each experiment. Chemical leaching was applied to the coastal plankton before and after decay. The results show that plankton accumulates a relatively large pool of labile Ba, which is rapidly released during decom-position and acts as the main source of Ba for barite formation in supersaturated microenvironments. This contrasts with earlier suggestions that barite satura-tion in microenvironments might be achieved by in-creasing sulfate concentration. Since mass balance in-dicates that only a small fraction (2 to 4 percent) of the labile-Ba pool is converted to barite, the availability of labile-Ba pool is converted to barite, the availability of microenvironments that could locally concentrate Ba

released by plankton decay seems to be the main con-

released by plankton decay seems to be the main con-trolling factor for barite precipitation. This may ex-plain the higher barite yield that is typically observed in the field, and the seasonal and geographic changes that have been observed in the Ba/Corg ratio of set-tling particles collected with sediment traps. Since Ba uptake by phytoplankton seems to be the initial step for barite formation, these results are en-couraging for realizing the potential of the approach, but they also caution against a simplistic interpreta-tion of the Ba sedimentary record. Barite formation yield can vary between 3 percent in high productivity margin areas to 30 percent in open ocean sites. Using Ba as a quantitative paleoproductivity tool will thus require that we understand the factors controlling this yield and that we quantify the processe involved. yield and that we quantify the processes involved.

OS21L-12 1135h

Barium Benthic Fluxes Over a Range of Oceanic Environments: Testing the Utility of Barium as a Paleoproxy

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Observed biological associations of Ba in seawater Observed biological associations of Ba in seawater plus correlations between fluxes of sedimentary barite and bio-Ba with organic carbon and/or opal fluxes in sediment traps and sediments have been used and tested by paleoceanographers as algorithm-driven pale-oproductivity proxies. The details of this mechanism In security taps and security have been determined for a security of the security security of the security of These fluxes have then been compared to the regener-ation fluxes of bioactive constituents (carbon, alkalin-ity, silica), and to bottom water and sediment redox state to deconvolve the multivariate relationships with benthic Ba-fluxes. Our preliminary data extends the Ba-flux range several fold over previous data sets, and covers sites with high and low alkalinity fluxes, above and below the lysocline, high and low carbon- and opal-rain, and greatly differing bottom water oxygen con-centrations. From this data, a Ba:Alk relationship from benthic fluxes of approximately 1:4500 is observed, sig-nificantly different from the ratio of 1:1500 observed, from modern deep waters. This suggests the possibil-ity that the paleo-Ba:Alk relationship in seawater may have differed from that observed today. Additionally, there are strong correlations between the Ba benthic flux and both the silica and TCO2 fluxes, as well as with depth. with depth.

OS21M HC: 315 Tuesday 0830h **Oceanic Time-Series Measurements:** Assessment of the Past and Planning for the Future II

Presiding: M W Lomas, Bermuda Biological Station for Research, Inc.,; N **R Bates**, Bermuda Biological Station for Research, Inc.,; J Dore, University of Hawaii

OS21M-01 0830h INVITED

Time Versus Space: the Problems of Scale

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Cite abstracts as: Eos. Trans. AGU, 83(4), Ocean Sciences Meet. Suppl., Abstract ########, 2002.

OS123 2002 Ocean Sciences Meeting