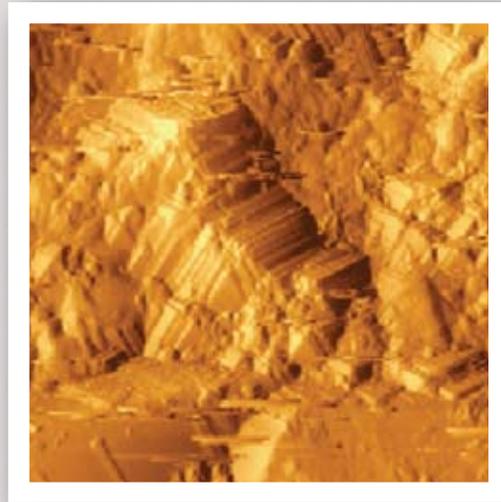


BY VICTORIA J. FABRY, JAMES B. MCCLINTOCK,
JEREMY T. MATHIS, AND JACQUELINE M. GREBMEIER

Ocean Acidification at High Latitudes: The Bellwether



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ABSTRACT. Owing to anthropogenic-induced acidification, surface waters of the high latitudes are projected to become persistently undersaturated with respect to aragonite as early as mid-century. Seasonal aragonite undersaturation in surface and shallow subsurface waters of some northern polar seas has already been observed. Calcified marine organisms, including thecosomatous pteropods, foraminifers, cold-water corals, sea urchins, molluscs, and coralline algae, make up significant components of the rich communities in high latitudes, and they are thought to be at risk with increasing ocean acidification. Over the next decades, trends of rising temperatures and species invasions coupled with progressive ocean acidification are expected to increasingly influence both planktonic and benthic marine communities of Antarctica and the Arctic. The rate and magnitude of these changes underscore the urgent need for increased efforts in ocean acidity research and monitoring in polar and subpolar seas.

PRESENT AND PROJECTED CHANGES IN SEAWATER CARBONATE CHEMISTRY

High-latitude regions have naturally low carbonate ion concentrations, owing to increased CO₂ solubility, the sensitivity of acid-base dissociation coefficients at cold temperatures, and ocean mixing patterns. As a result, seawater saturation states with respect to calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) minerals are lower at high latitudes than in temperate and tropical regions. Although surface waters of high-latitude regions today generally are supersaturated with respect to aragonite, new results show areas of aragonite undersaturation in some northern polar seas (Yamamoto-Kawai et al., 2009; Bates et al., 2009; recent work of author Mathis and colleagues). With current CO₂ emission rates, models project that surface waters of the Southern Ocean, Arctic Ocean, and parts of the subarctic Pacific will become undersaturated with respect to aragonite by the end of this century

(Orr et al., 2005; Steinacher et al., 2009; Feely et al., 2009). Thus, high-latitude seas are a bellwether for prospective impacts of ocean acidification on marine organisms at mid and low latitudes. Because of the large and rapid rates of change now underway in polar seas, these regions constitute ecosystem laboratories for diverse studies in ocean acidification aimed at investigating its effects on physiological processes and action mechanisms, assessing potential acclimation and adaptation, and modeling future impacts at population, community, and regional scales.

The Southern Ocean

The Southern Ocean is a major region of oceanic uptake of anthropogenic CO₂, with about 40% of the total ocean inventory of anthropogenic CO₂ entering south of 40°S (Sabine et al., 2004; Khatiwala et al., 2009). In the Southern Ocean south of 60°S, the average depth of the aragonite saturation

horizon currently is about 730 m (Feely et al., 2004; Orr et al., 2005). Based on model outputs from 13 ocean models and global gridded data (Key et al., 2004), Orr et al. (2005) developed scenarios for future changes in surface ocean carbonate chemistry as a function of changes in atmospheric CO₂. Under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) IS92a business-as-usual emissions scenario through the year 2100, the aragonite saturation horizon in the Southern Ocean is expected to progressively shoal to the surface ocean when seawater pCO₂ values approach 560 ppmv, which could occur by mid century (Orr et al., 2005; Steinacher et al., 2009; Feely et al., 2009). When seasonal variability of the carbonate chemistry is considered, however, aragonite undersaturation is projected to occur during wintertime as early as 2030 (McNeil and Matear, 2008). Because calcite is less soluble in seawater than aragonite, calcite undersaturation in surface waters is predicted to occur later as seawater pCO₂ reaches 900 ppmv (Orr et al., 2005; Fabry et al., 2008).

The Arctic Ocean

Two types of forcing are driving increased ocean acidification in the Arctic Ocean and its marginal seas: loss of sea ice and high rates of primary productivity over the continental shelves coupled with increased ocean uptake of anthropogenic CO₂. In the central basin of the Arctic Ocean, particularly on the western side (Canada and

Makarov basins), high rates of seasonal productivity over the shelves draw down $p\text{CO}_2$ in surface waters. As these shelf-modified waters are exported offshore, the perennial ice cover has, until recently, prohibited significant equilibration with the atmosphere, creating a polar mixed layer that is undersaturated with respect

may enhance the air-to-sea CO_2 flux by $\sim 28\%$ per decade (Bates et al., 2006). Rising atmospheric CO_2 levels combined with the opening of the central Arctic Ocean due to warming and sea ice retreat will lead to higher $p\text{CO}_2$ values in the surface waters of the basin and reduced CaCO_3 saturation states (Ω).

increase, while subsurface waters become undersaturated with respect to aragonite, due primarily to $p\text{CO}_2$ increases from the remineralization of particulate organic carbon (Figure 1; Bates et al., 2009). This seasonal response involving phytoplankton productivity and seawater CaCO_3 saturation state causes the aragonite saturation state to drop below the saturation horizon ($\Omega_{\text{ar}} = 1$) at a depth of $\sim 40\text{--}150$ m over the northern Chukchi Sea shelf and in the Canada Basin within upper halocline waters located between 100- and 200-m depth (Bates et al., 2009). The seasonal aragonite undersaturation in subsurface waters over the Chukchi Sea shelf is hypothesized to be a recent phenomenon driven by the uptake of anthropogenic CO_2 and subsurface remineralization of organic matter. Such aragonite undersaturation will likely be exacerbated and persist longer over the shelf in the future because of increases in anthropogenic CO_2 loading in the atmosphere and possible increases in productivity over the shelf resulting from warming and longer ice-free periods (Bates and Mathis, 2009).

Model studies suggest that the effects of future increases in atmospheric CO_2 and climate change on the carbonate chemistry of the Arctic Ocean will lead to aragonite undersaturation in the near term (Orr et al., 2006; Steinacher et al., 2009). The Steinacher et al. (2009) model simulation predicted the beginning of aragonite undersaturation in some Arctic surface waters would occur within a decade, when atmospheric CO_2 reaches 409 ppm. When atmospheric CO_2 increases to 552 ppm, which occurs in the year 2054 under the A2 business-as-usual emissions scenario, 50% of the Arctic Ocean's surface area is projected

“ BECAUSE SURFACE WATERS IN HIGH LATITUDES WILL BE THE FIRST OCEAN REGIONS TO BECOME PERSISTENTLY UNDERSATURATED WITH RESPECT TO ARAGONITE AS A RESULT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES, POLAR AND SUBPOLAR SEAS ARE A BELLWETHER FOR GLOBAL OCEAN ACIDIFICATION. ”

to atmospheric CO_2 . However, the rapid retreat of summertime sea ice cover has exposed these waters to the atmosphere, allowing for enhanced air-sea exchange, and increased the sink for atmospheric CO_2 from 24 TgC yr^{-1} to 66 TgC yr^{-1} over the past three decades (Bates et al., 2006). Furthermore, melting of sea ice reduces the CaCO_3 saturation state of seawater, primarily by reducing alkalinity (Steinacher et al., 2009). Seasonal aragonite undersaturation of surface waters in the Canada Basin has already been observed (Yamamoto-Kawai et al., 2009; Bates et al., 2009). Future sea ice melting

Along with decreasing CaCO_3 saturation states at the ocean's surface, the bottom waters over the continental shelves are also at risk from ocean acidification. Seasonally intense primary productivity is decoupled from grazing on the Chukchi Sea shelf, leading to high rates of export production with particulate carbon being remineralized in the bottom water and sediments. During the summertime sea ice retreat period, high rates of phytoplankton primary productivity decrease the $p\text{CO}_2$ of the surface waters over the shelf, causing the seawater CaCO_3 saturation states to

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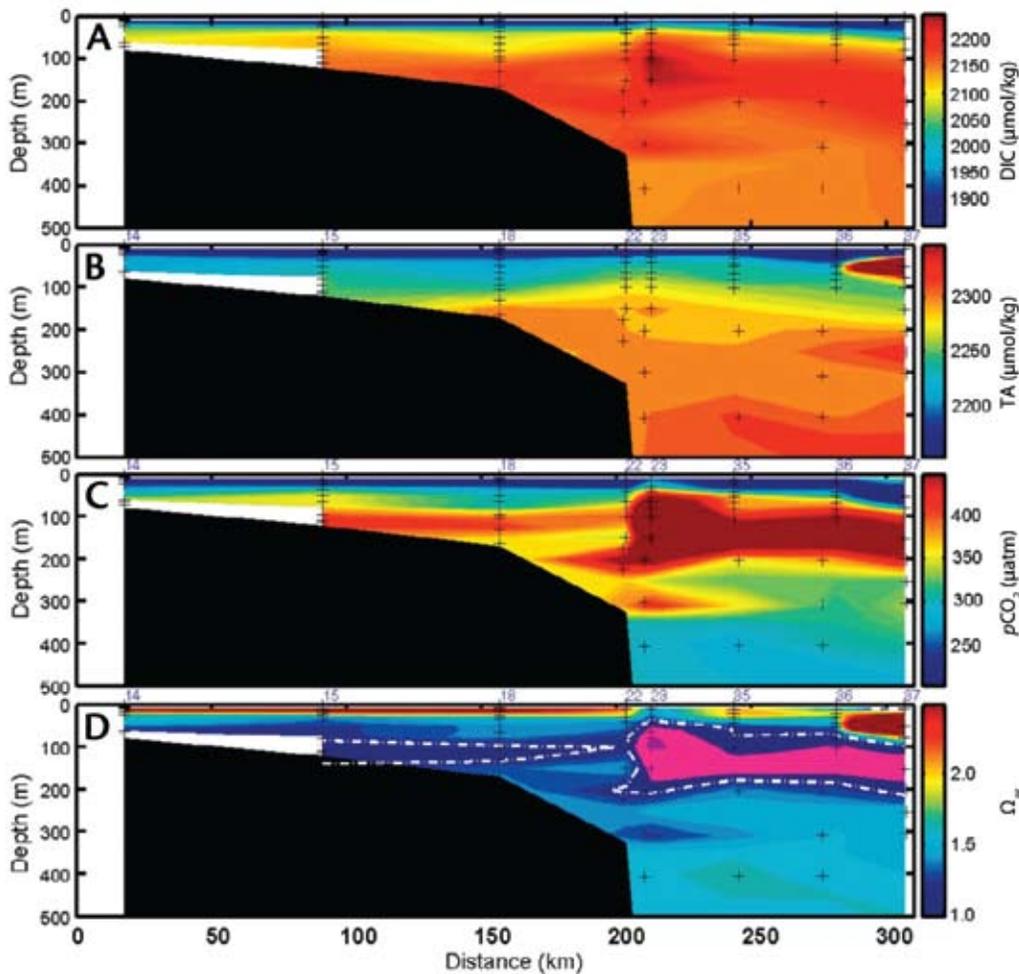


Figure 1. Representative section of (A) dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC; $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$), (B) total alkalinity (TA; $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$), (C) $p\text{CO}_2$ (μatm), and (D) aragonite saturation state (Ω_{ar}) across the Chukchi Sea shelf into the deep Canada Basin of the Arctic Ocean at Barrow Canyon, summer 2002. Note that the pink color in the bottom panel represents regions of aragonite undersaturation. Adapted from Bates et al. (2009)

to become undersaturated with respect to aragonite throughout the year. With rising atmospheric CO_2 , the spatial and temporal extent of aragonite undersaturation in the Arctic Ocean continues to grow until the entire water column becomes undersaturated with respect to aragonite when atmospheric CO_2 reaches 765 ppm.

The Bering Sea

Recent observations show that the eastern shelf of the Bering Sea is exhibiting a phenomenon involving phytoplankton productivity and CaCO_3 saturation state similar to that observed in the Chukchi Sea (recent work of

author Mathis and colleagues). Between spring (April) and summer (July) occupations over the shelf, the remineralization of exported organic matter in the bottom waters forced $\Omega_{\text{ar}} < 1$ (Figure 2), while primary productivity resulted in decreased $p\text{CO}_2$ and increased aragonite saturation in the surface ocean. Unlike the Chukchi Sea, however, several observations in spring showed aragonite undersaturation from the surface to the bottom at inshore stations near the outflows of the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, both of which contain a high ratio of $p\text{CO}_2$ to total alkalinity (e.g., Striegl et al., 2007). Because observations are limited, the duration of subsurface Ω_{ar}

suppression over the eastern Bering Sea shelf currently cannot be constrained, but it is likely to persist longer in the future due to increases in productivity, atmospheric CO_2 concentrations, and river runoff.

The Gulf of Alaska

The Gulf of Alaska in the subarctic Pacific is a direct extension of the North Pacific and will be impacted by enhanced ocean acidification over the next decade. This region is vitally important to the coastal economy of Alaska, particularly because of its salmon fishery. Observations by author Mathis and colleagues from inside Resurrection Bay (RB) to the outer shelf

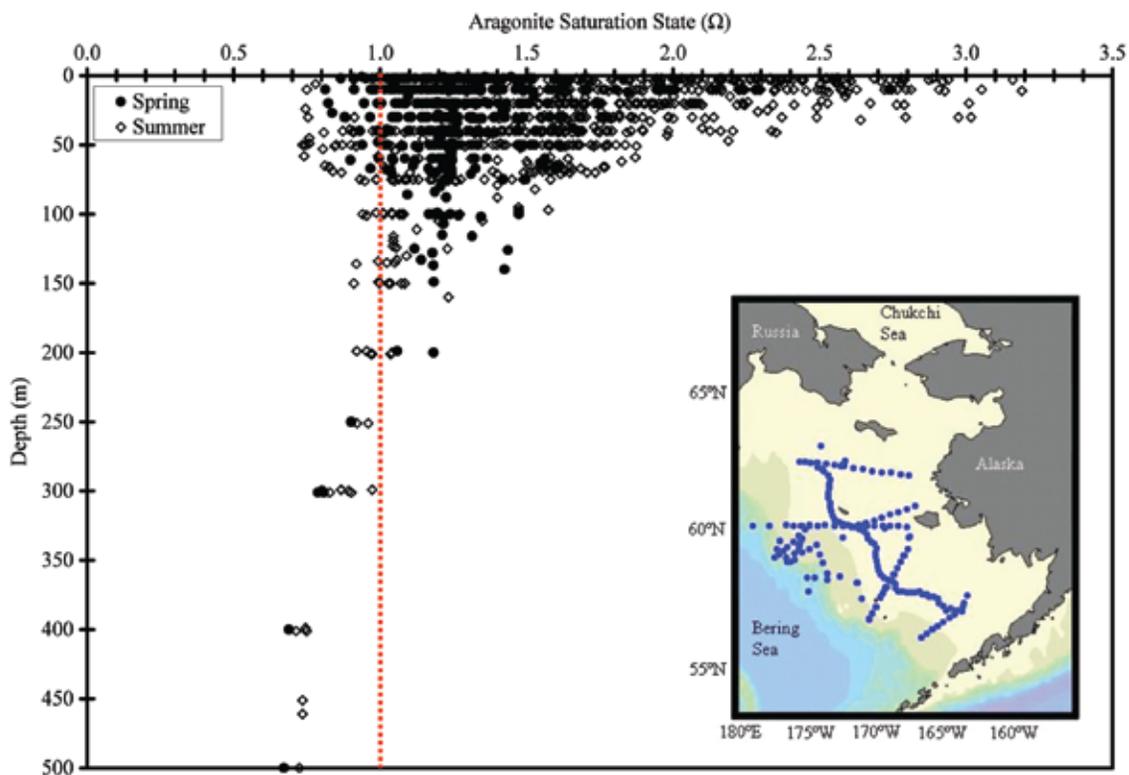


Figure 2. Depth distribution of the seawater aragonite saturation state (Ω) in the eastern Bering Sea in spring (black dots) and summer (open diamonds) of 2008. The red dashed line indicates the saturation horizon for aragonite ($\Omega_{ar} = 1$). The inset map shows the locations of the stations that were occupied.

break (Figure 3) in September 2008 showed that bottom waters inside the bay and along the inner shelf were undersaturated with respect to aragonite, and, over the shelf break, the aragonite saturation horizon outcropped to < 150 m from the surface. Aragonite undersaturation in bottom waters over the inner shelf was not found in May 2008, and the observed undersaturation in September may be the result of remineralization of organic matter at depth coupled with upwelling of deep water onto the shelf.

IMPACTS ON BIOTA AND ECOSYSTEMS

Some of the richest and most heavily exploited fishing areas in the world are located in high-latitude seas. The southeastern Bering Sea shelf (inset in Figure 2) sustains more than half of the total US fish landings annually through massive pollock, salmon, and crab

catches (Grebmeier et al., 2006). In the Southern Ocean, the major fisheries are krill and Patagonian toothfish (Antarctic cod). Cold-water corals, including those near the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, and deep-water, emergent coral communities in the fjords of southern Chile, support high biodiversity (Guinotte and Fabry, 2008). High-latitude organisms are not as well studied as those living in lower latitudes, however. Although a few investigations have begun recently, the effects of ocean acidification on polar and subpolar marine life remain largely unexamined.

Polar marine invertebrates often exhibit low metabolic rates (Bluhm et al., 1998; Peck and Conway, 2000) and very slow development and growth (Pearse et al., 1991; Arntz et al., 1994; Coyle and Highsmith, 1994) when compared with similar taxa at mid or low latitudes. Because of their prolonged life histories,

fewer generations will have opportunities for successful acclimation or adaptation to seawater that will become progressively elevated in dissolved CO_2 and bicarbonate ion concentration and reduced in pH, carbonate ion concentration, and CaCO_3 saturation state. Although many physiological processes in diverse organisms may be affected by rising ocean acidity, the declining aragonite and calcite saturation states of surface waters—and establishment of corrosive conditions in some regions—may particularly impact high-latitude planktonic and benthic calcifiers.

Planktonic Communities

Although present throughout the world ocean, thecosomatous pteropods (shelled planktonic snails) can reach densities of thousands of individuals per cubic meter in high latitudes where they are prey for a variety of zooplankton and fish

(e.g., pollock, salmon, cod, mackerel). In the subarctic Pacific, pteropods can be important prey of juvenile pink salmon, accounting in some years for > 60% by weight of their diet (Armstrong et al., 2005). When exposed to the level of aragonite undersaturation expected to occur by the year 2100, one pteropod species (*Clio pyramidata*) showed net shell dissolution within 48 hours (Orr et al., 2005). In the Gulf of Alaska, the shoaling aragonite saturation horizon coupled with the region's deep winter mixing may bring subsurface waters that are corrosive to aragonite to the upper ocean where they could adversely affect pteropod populations. Similarly, the projected reductions in the aragonite saturation state of Ross Sea surface waters may cause dissolution of the thin shells of the abundant pteropod *Limacina helicina antarctica* (Figure 4A, cover of this issue), unless this species has mechanisms to prevent net shell dissolution (recent work of author Fabry and colleagues). If high-latitude thecosomatous pteropods cannot adapt to living in seawater that is expected to become corrosive to aragonite throughout the year as early as mid century (Orr et al., 2005; Steinacher et al., 2009), their ranges will likely first contract to shallower depths and then, provided they can survive warmer temperatures and successfully compete with other species, to lower latitudes that have higher carbonate ion concentrations.

Other planktonic calcifiers may be impacted by changing carbonate chemistry at high latitudes. In a comparison between shell weights of the foraminifer *Globigerina bulloides* collected from sediments traps in the subantarctic Southern Ocean with shell weights

preserved in underlying Holocene sediments, Moy et al. (2009) reported that modern shell weights are about 30% lower than those from sediments and suggest that these results are consistent with those expected from ocean acidification. If the production of foraminifer

calcite decreases in some high-latitude regions where foraminifers are currently abundant (e.g., subarctic Pacific), the potential for foraminiferal tests to act as ballast in the transport of organic carbon to the deep sea would be similarly reduced (Schiebel, 2002).

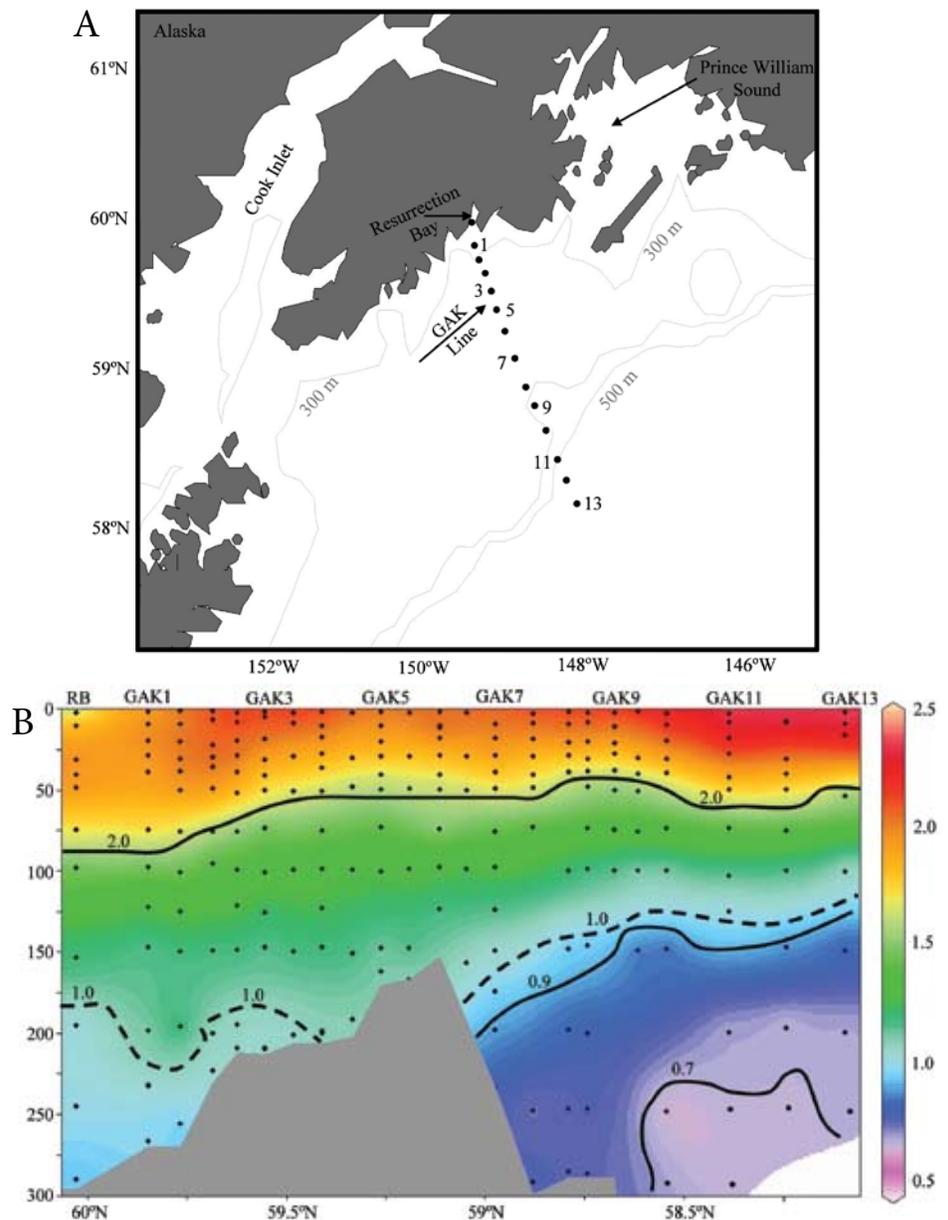


Figure 3. (A) Map of the Gulf of Alaska showing the locations of the stations occupied. (B) Seawater aragonite saturation state (Ω) in September 2008 along the Gulf of Alaska (GAK) line. The dashed line indicates the depth of the saturation horizon for aragonite ($\Omega_{ar} = 1$).

Figure 4. Photographs of examples of weakly calcified Antarctic marine invertebrates. (Top) Pteropod *Limacina helicina antarctica*. (Middle) Limpets with encrusting coralline red algae growing on shells. (Bottom) Brachiopods. Photo credits: V. Fabry (top), D. Martin (middle and bottom)



Benthic Communities

High-latitude marine benthic communities of the Southern and Northern hemispheres differ, reflecting different geological and evolutionary histories. The Antarctic continent's landmass is the size of China and India combined, and it is surrounded by the Southern Ocean.

The bottom descends rapidly to a deep, narrow continental shelf averaging about 500-m depth. Although the nearshore coastal benthos are periodically scoured by the action of icebergs, the Antarctic benthos are generally considered to be environmentally stable, and biotic factors including predation and competition are

the primary structuring agents (Dayton et al., 1974). In contrast, the Arctic is comprised of an ocean surrounded by the continents of North America and Eurasia, as well as the island countries of Greenland and Iceland. Arctic benthos span the broad, shallow continental shelves to depths of less than 200 m on the Amerasian side and to depths averaging 300–400 m on the European side. The shallow continental shelves of the Amerasian side can be subjected to significant levels of freshwater riverine input during spring and summer months (Grebmeier and Barry, 1991). As there have been few barriers to colonization since the last ice age, Arctic benthic marine organisms exhibit relatively low endemism (species that occur in one region only) and share high levels of taxonomic affinity with species in the Pacific and Atlantic (Dayton et al., 1994).

In contrast, Antarctic continental shelf fauna are considered comparatively ancient, having been effectively isolated since the establishment of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current brought about by the separation of Antarctica from South America some 30 million years ago. Today there is a rich, diverse, and mostly endemic marine fauna associated with Antarctica (Arntz et al., 1994; Clarke and Johnston, 2003; Aronson et al., 2007). A striking difference between the benthic communities of north and south polar regions is the near absence of shell-crushing predators in the Antarctic, which are common in the Arctic. Clawed crabs and lobsters never radiated into Antarctic seas at the end of the Eocene, nor did durophagous (heavily jawed) fish. Both groups are thought to have been excluded by the extremely low (approaching $\sim -2^{\circ}\text{C}$)

seawater temperatures that occur in nearshore Antarctica. The lack of crushing predators may have contributed to the evolution of the thin, weakly calcified shells that typify marine invertebrates of Antarctic benthic communities (Aronson et al., 2007; McClintock et al., 2008; Figure 4). Another contributing factor to their poor calcification may be the inverse correlation between seawater temperature and the solubility of calcium carbonate, a relationship that makes shell calcification more demanding at low temperature. Recently, McClintock et al. (2009) demonstrated that post-mortem shells of weakly calcified Antarctic bivalves and a brachiopod suffer significant dissolution (loss of mass) after only 35 days when held at 4°C in seawater at a pH of 7.4. By day 56, severe erosion of the outer shell surface layers was detected, exposing the structural prisms within the shell architecture (Figure 5).

Rich and diverse benthic communities

also occur in high-latitude regions of the Northern Hemisphere (Carey, 1991), including the Bering Sea shelf, which supports some of the highest benthic faunal biomass in the world (Grebmeier et al., 2006). An example of a group that may be at risk from ocean acidification is the bivalves that dominate the infauna of sediments of the northern Bering Sea, just south of St. Lawrence Island. This area is influenced by a winter polynya (an open area in ice-covered seas) that forms south of St. Lawrence Island when the winds blow from the north. The cold, brine-rich waters that descend to the benthos form the low-temperature (< -1°C) cold pool in late winter that becomes enriched with CO₂ owing to high carbon recycling in the sediments and the large populations of bioturbating organisms (Grebmeier and Barry, 2007). The three main types of clams in the region include: *Nuculana radiata* (Nuculanidae), *Macoma calcarea* and

M. moesta (Tellinidae), and Nuculidae (*Nucula belloti*) (Figure 6). The diving spectacled eider, a threatened species, consumes tellinid bivalves (white, lower left and upper right corners, Figure 6A) that live in sediments, but now also preys on a specific size class of nuculanid bivalve prey (Lovvorn et al., 2009). The thin-shelled tellinid bivalves have been decreasing in number over the past few decades, and birds now focus their feeding on *N. radiata* (Figure 6B), a thicker-shelled clam. All of these bivalves, the prey base for the spectacled eider, currently live in a very cold environment (< -1.5°C) and thus have high susceptibility for potential impact by ocean acidification. The northern Bering and Chukchi seas support extremely high biomass of key calcifying prey organisms for higher trophic predators, such as diving seaducks, bearded seals, gray whales, and walrus. In addition, snow crab (*Opilio* spp.) populations

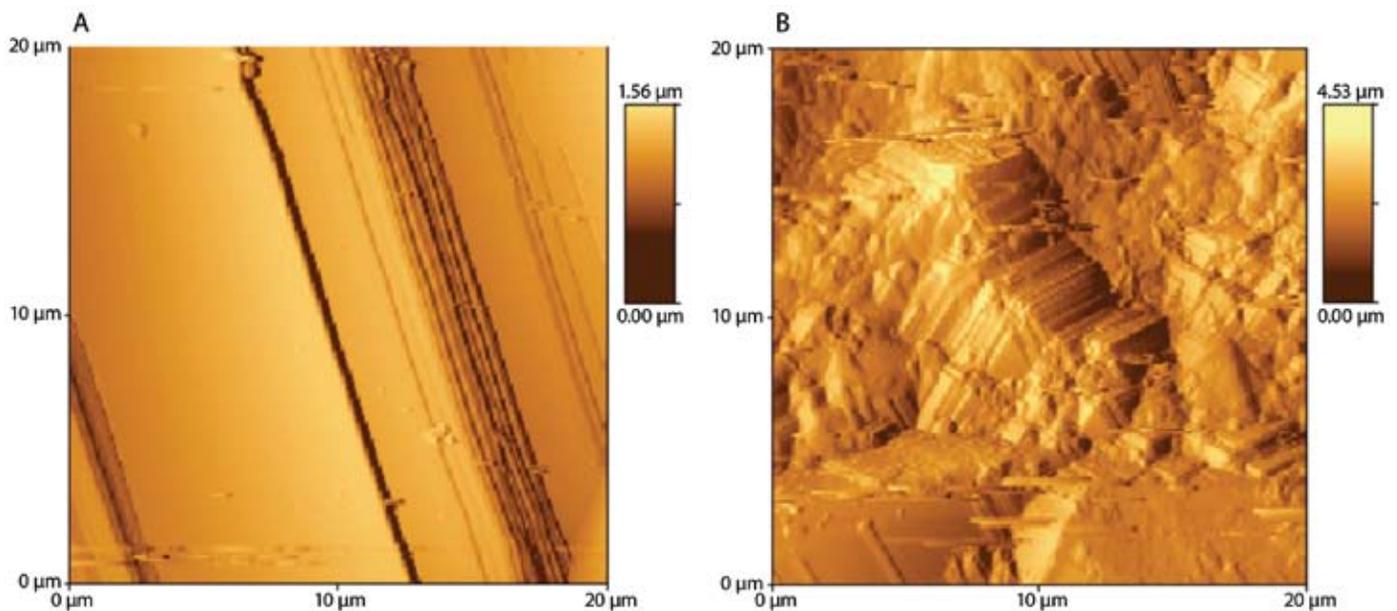


Figure 5. Atomic force micrographs of the surfaces of shells of the Antarctic bivalve *Yoldia eightsi* exposed for 56 days to (A) control seawater at pH 8.2 and (B) acidified seawater at pH 7.4. Calcium carbonate prisms indicating dissolution are visible in the acidified shell (McClintock et al., 2009).

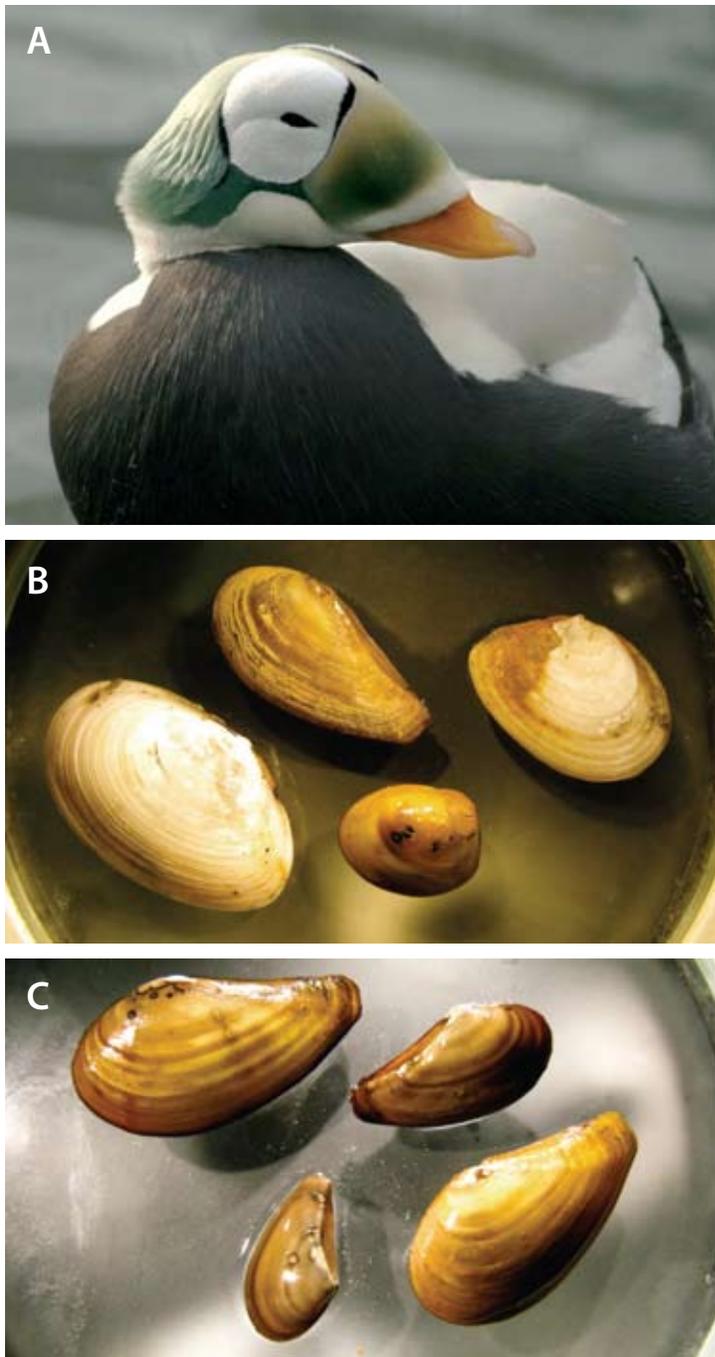


Figure 6. Arctic bivalves consumed by spectacled eiders (A). (B) Thin-shelled tellinid clams appear white in lower left and upper right corners. (C) Clam *Nuculana radiata* with thicker shells. Photo credits: L. Whitehouse (A), A. Trites (B and C)

are increasing in the north (Grebmeier et al., 2006, Cui et al., 2009), whereas ampeliscid amphipods that are the prey of gray whales are declining (Moore

et al., 2003; Coyle et al., 2007). Whether these crustaceans will be impacted by increasing CO₂ levels in bottom waters is unknown. Other taxa potentially at

risk from ocean acidification are solitary corals and basket stars that live in the fast current areas in Arctic regions and that contribute to the biodiversity of the northern marine systems.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOTIC STRESSORS

Warming temperatures associated with anthropogenic climate change are driving major ecological changes in polar regions of both hemispheres. With a transition from arctic to subarctic conditions in the northern Bering Sea, marine mammal distributions have shifted poleward, coincident with a reduction in their benthic prey, and accompanied by an increase in pelagic fish (Grebmeier et al., 2006). There are also indications of a penetration of Pacific benthic clams into the Chukchi Sea (Sirenko and Gagaev, 2007) and movement of Pacific zooplankton species into the Beaufort Sea (Nelson et al., 2009). Seasonal air temperatures recorded over the past 60 years indicate that the western Antarctic Peninsula is now the most rapidly warming region on Earth (Clarke et al., 2007; Ducklow et al., 2007; McClintock et al., 2008). The west coast of the northern Antarctic Peninsula is changing from a cold, dry polar climate to a warmer, humid subantarctic climate, with reduced sea ice and productivity displacing ice-dependent species such as krill and Adelie penguins poleward (Montes-Hugo et al., 2009). Warming sea temperatures may allow shell-crushing, deep-water king crabs to invade the continental shelves surrounding Antarctica (Thatje et al., 2005). Since the Eocene (33 million years ago), constant, very low seawater temperatures have precluded crabs from invading Antarctic

seas, in large part due to the narcotizing effects of magnesium in their hemolymph at very cold temperature. As warming seawater temperatures remove this physiological barrier, king crabs are beginning to migrate up the western Antarctic continental slope (Thatje et al., 2005; Figure 7). If king crabs successfully invade the continental shelf, the thinly calcified shells and CaCO_3 skeletons of Antarctic invertebrates such as molluscs and echinoderms would be readily crushed by the powerful claws of these benthic predators, with substantial implications for biodiversity and structure of these benthic communities (Aronson et al., 2007). Any weakening of invertebrate shells owing to ocean acidification would likely render them even more vulnerable to these crushing predators. Over the next decades, these trends of rising seawater temperatures and invasive fauna coupled with progressive ocean acidity are expected to increasingly influence both planktonic and benthic marine communities of Antarctica and the Arctic.

FUTURE RESEARCH

Because surface waters in high latitudes will be the first ocean regions to become persistently undersaturated with respect to aragonite as a result of human activities, polar and subpolar seas are a bellwether for global ocean acidification. Changes in seawater CO_2 chemistry have already been detected, and are expected to intensify within decades. The rapid rates of change now in progress at high latitudes emphasize the urgent need to accelerate efforts in ocean acidity monitoring and research.

In high-latitude seas of the Northern and Southern hemispheres, seawater

inorganic carbon measurements with increased spatial and temporal resolution are critical. In conjunction with these seawater chemistry observations, high-quality measurements of the abundances and depth distributions of key planktonic and benthic organisms and their rates of calcification, growth, and metabolism are needed now and with appropriate sampling effort to differentiate natural variability from anthropogenic-induced changes that may occur within the next 10–20 years. For different life stages of key species, manipulative laboratory experiments are needed to investigate organisms' calcification and dissolution responses, identify physiological indices useful in predicting CO_2 tolerance, determine the costs of acid-base regulation, and quantify sensitive energetic processes

such as skeletal and somatic tissue growth, reproduction, and metabolism. These manipulative studies will need to consider that while compensatory calcification may occur in response to acidification in some species, it may also come at an appreciable (or even fatal) cost to the organism (e.g., Wood et al., 2008, McDonald et al., 2009). Therefore, measurement of multiple physiological processes is desirable. To better understand these compensatory processes and their trade-offs, mechanistic studies of the regulation of calcification with ocean acidification are now needed, including functional genomic and physiological studies to investigate the interplay of CO_2 and key regulatory enzymes such as carbonic anhydrase (Tambutté et al., 2007; Hofmann et al., 2008). Target species for investigation in high-latitude

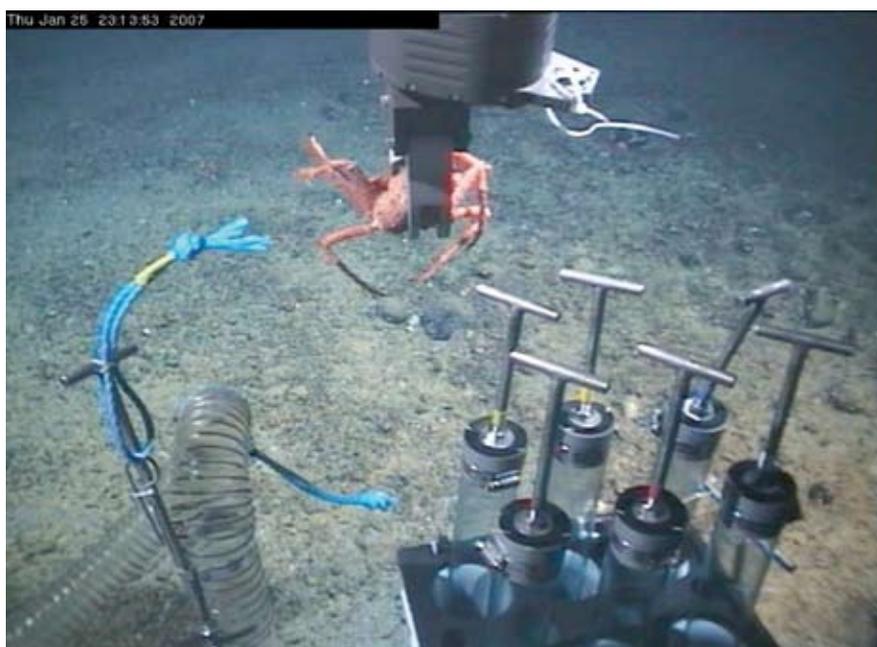


Figure 7. One of 13 juvenile and adult individuals of the lithodid king crab *Paralomis birsteini* discovered on the Antarctic continental slope using the remotely operated vehicle *Isis* deployed from R/V *James Clark Ross* (JCR 166) in January 2007 (Thatje et al., 2008). Bellingshausen Sea, Antarctica (1123-m depth). Photo credit: Sven Thatje

regions include thecosomatous pteropods, foraminifers, coccolithophores, epi-pelagic squids, cold-water corals, calcareous algae, and larval stages and adults of commercially and ecologically important benthic marine invertebrates such as bivalves, sea urchins, crabs, and lobsters. Experimental design should consider the potential interaction of increased ocean acidification with warmer seawater temperature.

Admundsen, and Ross seas.

Similarly, a long-term monitoring and investigative program is needed in the marine Arctic regions where both bivalve and crab populations are transiting northward from the subarctic regions. Many of these areas have high pteropod populations that influence pelagic-benthic coupling processes critical to the marine systems of this region. Time series, latitudinally placed transect lines

JBM also acknowledges support provided by an Endowed Professorship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. 

“OVER THE NEXT DECADES, THESE TRENDS OF RISING SEAWATER TEMPERATURES AND INVASIVE FAUNA COUPLED WITH PROGRESSIVE OCEAN ACIDITY ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASINGLY INFLUENCE BOTH PLANKTONIC AND BENTHIC MARINE COMMUNITIES OF ANTARCTICA AND THE ARCTIC.”

In the Southern Ocean, long-term studies are needed to track the movements and evaluate the consequences for benthic communities of invasive king crabs currently moving up the Antarctic slope and onto the coastal shelf. Such efforts might build on a 2010 joint United States-Swedish research program (supported primarily by the US National Science Foundation) that will use the Swedish icebreaker *Oden* and the US icebreaker R/V *Nathaniel B. Palmer* in tandem to conduct autonomous underwater vehicle video transect surveys, benthic and epibenthic trawls, and plankton sampling to evaluate patterns of larval, juvenile, and adult king crab occurrence in shelf-slope transition regions along the Antarctic Peninsula and in the Bellingshausen,

with standard hydrographic, nutrient, and inorganic carbon measurements coincident with lower trophic level standing stocks and rate measurements, as well as process studies tied to specific marine predators, are essential to evaluate the ongoing changes in marine animal population distributions and community composition in the shelf and shelf-slope regions of the Pacific Arctic sector.

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