

1 March 8, 2015

2 Response to **Anonymous Referee #3**

3

4

5 We are grateful for this reviewer's thorough review of our manuscript. Based on their  
6 comments and suggestions, we have revised our manuscript in an effort to improve it and  
7 address their major and minor concerns. Below is our response to each of their comments  
8 (reproduced in bold).

9

10

11 **Page 2 (13253)**

12

13. **contrasting with what?**

14 To improve clarity, we changed this sentence to, "In lakes, CH<sub>4</sub> is produced, consumed, and  
15 exchanged with the atmosphere in a different manner than CO<sub>2</sub>."

16

17. **this is a commentary paper, so not the best citation to support this sentence. Check  
18 all other citations of Battin et al. 2009 below as well, if relevant.**

19 We eliminate this citation and we included two new references (Weyhenmeyer et al., 2012;  
20 Maberly et al., 2013).

21

22. **Bastviken et al. 2008 estimated the importance of MOx in 3 lakes, and Thauer et al.  
23 2008 is a paper on methanogeny (maybe this paper suggest oxidation rates? if so, on  
24 how many lakes was this done??). I suggest you tone down your sentence as this  
25 cannot be generalised! It depends on so many things and it could be anything from  
26 0 to 100%.**

27 Following the reviewer's suggestion, we changed the sentence to, "CO<sub>2</sub> is also formed in  
28 lakes by aerobic oxidation of CH<sub>4</sub>, a process that can consume a significant fraction of CH<sub>4</sub>  
29 produced in lakes (Kankaala et al., 2006; Bastviken et al., 2008; Lofton et al., 2013)". We  
30 added additional supportive references and removed reference to Thauer et al. 2008 since  
31 Thauer et al. did not measure CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation directly. However, it should be noted that Thauer  
32 et al. (2008) included CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation in an interesting balance of CH<sub>4</sub> in the global carbon  
33 cycle in their Figure 1.

34

35. **can you provide examples of these "chemical processes"?**

36 We included some examples in brackets "...chemical processes (e.g. increasing alkalinity,  
37 photooxidation)"

38

39. **no need to cite this paper 2 times within one sentence**

40 We removed once of the citations from this sentence.

41

42. **would be interesting to discuss why northern emissions represent 20% of global  
43 lake CH4 emissions, but 43% of global lake CO2 emissions.**

44 This is an interesting point. We addressed this comment by reorganizing the paragraph and  
45 providing some discussion of potential explanations. "It is estimated that CH<sub>4</sub> emission from  
46 lakes globally comprises about 16% (71.6 Tg) of all human and natural atmospheric sources,  
47 and that northern lakes (> 55 °N) contribute about 20% of these emissions (13.6 Tg;  
48 Bastviken et al., 2011). In contrast, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from northern lakes constitute  
49 approximately 43% (1.2 Pg CO<sub>2</sub>) of global emissions from lakes (Battin et al., 2009; Tranvik  
50 et al., 2009; Maberly et al., 2013). This disproportionality between the contribution of CH<sub>4</sub>

1 and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from northern lakes is not well understood, and may be due to numerous  
2 factors, including sensitivity of methanogenesis to temperature and lake trophic status  
3 (Tranvik et al. 2009; Ortiz-Llorente and Alvarez-Cobelas, 2012; Marotta et al. 2014) versus  
4 processes that control CO<sub>2</sub> availability (e. g. photosynthesis, inputs from terrestrial  
5 ecosystems, and organic matter mineralization) (Kling et al., 1991; Battin et al., 2009;  
6 Tranvik et al., 2009). Furthermore, lake CH<sub>4</sub> emission data is scarce relative to CO<sub>2</sub> data,  
7 particularly at high northern latitudes (Tranvik et al., 2009, Bastviken et al., 2011)."

8  
9 **7. a better link between these 2 sentences is missing**

10 To improve clarity, we modified these sentences as indicated in the above response to  
11 comment 6.

12  
13  
14 **Page 2 (13254)**

15  
16 **8. what do you mean by geographic diversity?? what does geography include? Might  
17 be useful to define early in the paper cause it's been used extensively.**

18 We changed the sentence to, "Landscape diversity in Alaska provides a valuable opportunity  
19 to study CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emission patterns from lakes as they relate to origin, climate, ecology,  
20 geology, and permafrost coverage." The remainder of the paragraph explains specific spatial  
21 patterns across Alaska in these geographical parameters.

22  
23 **9. in this sentence structure, it looks like these characteristics all pertains to "lake"  
24 but a few does not fit (rather to the landscape)**

25 We agree with the reviewer and have modified the sentence to improve clarity. Please see  
26 response to the previous comment 8.

27  
28 **10. are you talking specifically about organic carbon?**

29 We clarified the term adding "organic" in the sentence. "Within the context of permafrost soil  
30 organic carbon content,..."

31  
32 **11. is this really organic-rich? Aren't organic soils defined when they have >20% of  
33 organic C?**

34 We revised the sentence to clarify that yedoma is a mineral (loess-dominated) sediment, not a  
35 soil. Among mineral loess deposits in the world, 2% organic carbon is high (see Zimov et al.  
36 2006, Science). We changed the sentence to, "Pleistocene-aged loess-dominated permafrost  
37 sediment with high organic carbon (~2% by mass) and ice (50-90% by volume) contents  
38 (Zimov et al., 2006)."

39  
40 **12. this is a rather long sentence...**

41 We broke the sentence up into two separate sentences.

42  
43 **13. are you putting all other pmf soils in non-yedoma type or only the "organic-rich"  
44 ones as it seems to be qualified in the second part of the sentence? Because non-  
45 yedoma soils could include for ex. bare rock, right? This non-yedoma classification  
46 looks rather vague to me. Specifically after reading non-yedoma definition at  
47 section 2.1: would this include oligotrophic rocky lakes as well for ex.?**

48 The reviewer is correct that we distinguished yedoma-type permafrost from all other  
49 permafrost types. This means that non-yedoma permafrost includes bedrock as well as peat-

1 soil deposits (see sec. 2.1). To improve accuracy in this section, we added the word, "Some"  
2 to the start of the sentence.

3  
**44. icy or ice-rich?**

5 We changed it to "ice-rich".

6  
**75. they may or they have been shown to produce less CH<sub>4</sub>?**

8 We thank the reviewer for highlighting this ambiguity. We changed the wording to "have  
9 been shown to emit less CH<sub>4</sub>".

10

11

12 **Page 3 (13255)**

13

**14. less soluble, not Insoluble**

15 We changed the term to "less soluble".

16

**17. CH<sub>4</sub> is produced in interstitial water**

18 We revised the manuscript to specify "interstitial sediment water".

19

**20. why using capital letter for these processes (above and below)?**

21 We used capital letters when referring to specific modes and sub-modes of emissions as  
22 proper names: Direct Ebullition, Diffusion, Storage, and Ice-Bubble Storage. We used lower-  
23 case letters when we referred to emission modes as they are commonly encountered in the  
24 literature (ebullition, diffusion, storage); however, we note that these general terms may  
25 encompass more than one of our specific emission modes. We think this distinction is  
26 important because the general term ebullition (not capitalized) as used in the literature can  
27 refer to bubble release from sediments as well as emission to the atmosphere. In our paper,  
28 we partition ebullition into various sub-modes depending on the fate of bubbles (Direct  
29 Ebullition in winter and summer vs. Ice-bubble Storage), because we follow a process  
30 recently recognized by Greene et al. (2014) whereby some bubbles escaping sediments in  
31 winter are temporarily trapped by overlying winter lake ice and subject to gas exchange with  
32 the water column while resting under ice. We considered that giving these sub-modes of  
33 emission proper names (capital letters) would improve clarity in the manuscript.

34

**35. rewrite: "and their emission to the atmosphere."**

36 We changed this sentence as suggested.

37

**38. not any type of deeper water, but especially when hypolimnion is formed**

39 We agree with the reviewer and have revised the sentence to clarify that this occurs  
40 specifically in the case of a hypolimnion.

41

**42. check structure of sentence**

43 We revised the sentence to, "Bastviken et al. (2004) coined the term "Storage flux" when  
44 they considered it in regional lake emission estimates as a function of differences in water  
45 column CH<sub>4</sub> stocks before and after lake ice-out, CH<sub>4</sub> production, and CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation."

46

**47. this is hard to understand, can you clarify? and what is winter melt?**

48 We revised this paragraph to explain the Ice-Bubble Storage emission pathway more  
49 carefully:

1 "The fourth potential emission component involves CH<sub>4</sub> release to the atmosphere from  
2 seasonally ice-trapped ebullition bubbles in spring before the ice disappears. During winter,  
3 emission to the atmosphere of many bubbles rising from sediments is impeded by seasonal  
4 lake ice. When bubbles come to rest under the ice, they exchange gases with the water  
5 column (Greene et al., 2014). Some bubbles become sealed in ice as ice thickens downward.  
6 Due to the insulation property of gas bubbles, ice is locally thinner where bubbles are  
7 trapped, and bubbles usually stack in vertical columns separated by ice lenses of various  
8 thicknesses. As a result, when lake ice begins to melt in spring, bubble-rich patches of ice  
9 begin to locally degrade before the rest of the ice sheet. These ebullition bubbles previously  
10 sealed in and under ice are released to the atmosphere by an emission mode termed "Ice-  
11 Bubble Storage" (IBS) (Greene et al., 2014). Ponded water on the lake-ice surface can  
12 accelerate the release of ice-trapped bubbles to the atmosphere and also provides the  
13 opportunity for visual observation of gas release from bubbles trapped by degrading ice  
14 (K.M.W.A. unpublished data, 2014)."  
15  
16

17 **Page 3 (13256)**

18  
19 **8. can you explain why?**

20 This is due to the thermal conductivity in the ice/water interface. When water is present  
21 above ice, the thermal conductivity in the ice/water interface increases an order of magnitude  
22 compare to ice/air interface (from 0.02 to 0.58 W K<sup>-1</sup> m<sup>-1</sup>). Since liquid water is above the  
23 freezing point, ice at the ice/water interface begins to melt to reach thermal equilibrium  
24 according to the zeroth law of thermodynamics. Meanwhile, as ice locally melts (enhanced  
25 by a locally thinner ice column due to vertically stacked bubbles), the ice-trapped bubbles are  
26 released to the atmosphere. This process is described and modeled in detail by Greene et al.  
27 (2014), which we refer to in this section of the paper.  
28

29 **9. not only this one**

30 During the revision of the paragraph, in response to comment 7 above, the phrase in question  
31 was entirely removed from the paper.  
32

33 **10. I think you may not want to mention O<sub>2</sub> here because of the beginning of the**  
34 **sentence (problem of logic): if O<sub>2</sub> facilitates methane oxidation, it's redundant to**  
35 **say it increases the efficiency, especially after a "but"**

36 We revised the sentence to, "Aerobic CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation is controlled directly by O<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>  
37 concentrations and temperature (Utsumi et al., 1998; Bastviken et al., 2002; Borrel et al.,  
38 2011) and indirectly by nutrient availability (Dzyuban et al., 2010)."  
39

40 **11. recently? (citations are from 2004)**

41 We removed the word, "recently".  
42

43 **12. physicochemical properties or characteristics (check throughout the ms)**

44 We changed the term to "lakes' physicochemical properties" throughout the manuscript, but  
45 we retained use of the word "characteristics" when it referred to "geographical".  
46  
47

48 **Page 4 (13257)**

49

11. **It would be interesting to see the correlation between summer and winter limno data (is summer representative of winter? is summer sampling sufficient to characterize the lake limno?)**

We added results regarding the correlations between summer and winter limnological data to Table 1 and a brief description of the results in section 3.4.

12. **does it only involve thermokarst lakes or any other types of lakes? if any other, is the sampling representative of all types of lakes found in such a climate gradient?**

We revised the manuscript by removing the word "all" from the phrase in this sentence, "all other non-yedoma deposits" because the reviewer is probably correct that there can be combinations of lake types, geologic substrates, climate, permafrost and ecosystems that occur in non-yedoma deposits in Alaska, which our subset of study lakes do not represent. Nonetheless, the north-south study transect represents a wide variety of non-yedoma lake types, as shown in Table 1.

13. **at what time of the day did you sample lake water? (diurnal variations, especially of CO<sub>2</sub>)**

We agree that diurnal variation can have some impact, especially on dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> and oxygen. However, during winter, this effect is negligible due to the absence of light under the ice-sheet/snow cover. During summer, the light intensity received by the lakes exhibit a clear diurnal variation but this variation has little impact on dissolved CO<sub>2</sub>, as noted by Wissel et al. (2008). Beside, when diurnal variation is observed, it occurs mainly during night and up to 2-3 hours after sunrise, with relatively limited effect afterward (Schindler and Fee, 1973). In the present work we reported only daytime measurements because diurnal sampling was not feasible in our study design. Measurements were usually made between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm, which constitutes daytime in June/July in Alaska (i.e. more than several hours after/before sunrise/sunset).

14. **did you find a good correlation between GasFinder measurements and bottle headspace? (if they were taken simultaneously) Interesting result to provide.**

Yes, we revised the manuscript to explain that "Strong correlation between the GasFinder and bottle headspace methods was reported previously by Sepulveda-Jauregui et al. (2012)."

Page 4 (13258)

15. **why converting to year flux already here if diffusion is stopped under the ice cover? Are you using the one summer measurement per lake to extrapolate over the year (but for the open water season I guess??). This needs to be clarified.**

We described our calculations of annual flux in detail in section 2.8. However, to improve clarity, we revised the section of the manuscript in question to explain: "We estimated the Diffusion flux of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> (g m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) based on the once per summer measurement of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in surface water from each lake and extrapolating results to the summer time open water period. We applied Fick's Law to our measurements of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in surface water following the boundary layer method of Kling et al. (1992)".

16. **Basically you assume there is NO change in gas exchange coefficient over the day/weeks/year... This is an assumption that needs to be discussed and acknowledged (or maybe you do so lower? if so, please ignore this comment). I am convinced there are large variations in turbulence; the wind is certainly not that**

1 constant and heat exchange (at least over a day cycle) is likely quite variable (heat  
2 exchange also affects gas exchange, see for ex. Tedford et al. 2014). One thing to  
3 note is that Kling et al. 1992 were using monthly wind speed averages calculated  
4 from daily averages! this is generating constancy artificially. Another thing is that  
5 Kling et al. mentioned that this value of 200  $\mu\text{m}$  is likely overestimated... (thus flux  
6 would be conservative). This will influence the relative importance of diffusion.  
7 Wind speed changing by a factor of 2 (regularly observed) can generate very large  
8 changes in flux (when using gas exchange coefficients computed following Cole &  
9 Caraco).

10 We appreciate this comment and agree with the reviewer that changing wind speed can have  
11 a strong influence on the gas exchange coefficient and thus on the relative importance of  
12 diffusion emission from lakes. Unfortunately, we do not have wind speed data for the study  
13 lakes covering the summer open water period, so we were unable to apply a wind-dependent  
14 parameterization of the exchange coefficient in our calculations. Because most of our  
15 Southcentral and Interior Alaskan study lakes and some of the Northern Alaskan study lakes  
16 are surrounded by trees, the average wind speed at these lakes during the open-water periods  
17 is likely more similar to that of the low-wind Mirror Lake, studied by Cole and Caraco  
18 (1998). One of the main conclusions of Cole and Caraco (1998) was that the exchange  
19 coefficient is weakly dependent on wind speed under low-wind conditions. So, the reviewer's  
20 comment about large changes in wind speed leading to large changes in flux only applies at  
21 higher wind speeds. Since wind speeds were low for our lakes in Interior and Southern  
22 Alaska, the exchange coefficient probably didn't vary much throughout the day for those  
23 lakes, given the weak dependence at low wind speeds. For the northern lakes in the tundra  
24 zone, the average determined wind speed values from Kling et al. (1992) on some of the same  
25 lakes near Toolik Field Station are likely more appropriate. On one lake, Goldstream L.  
26 (forested, Interior Alaska), where we had higher temporal resolution data for surface water  
27 dissolved  $\text{CH}_4$  concentrations (see Greene et al. 2014) during the open water summer period,  
28 we explored the effect of using the average value of the exchange coefficient from Cole and  
29 Caraco instead of the boundary layer thickness value of Kling et al. (1992). We found no  
30 appreciable change to our results of diffusion emission since the exchange coefficient  
31 calculated from the boundary layer thickness of Kling et al. (1992) differed by 2% from that  
32 from Cole and Caraco (1998). Given this relatively small difference and the fact that that our  
33 dissolved gas concentration measurements are spatially and temporally limited on the 40  
34 study lakes, requiring a large assumption that they are representative of the lakes during the  
35 entire open water period, we did not attempt to further improve estimation of the gas  
36 exchange coefficient for the study lakes. We felt that in light of the uncertainty introduced by  
37 those limitations, improving the calculation of our exchange coefficient wouldn't reduce the  
38 uncertainty in our results much. However, we did add to the manuscript a brief discussion of  
39 the implications of these assumptions, as pointed out by this reviewer.

40  
41 **7. did you consider ambient water temperature to calculate  $C_w$  and  $C_{eq}$  or you used  
42 22degC?? For a water at 8deg, it can generate 6% difference in flux.**

43 We thank the reviewer for pointing out the mistake in our writing. We used the measured  
44 surface water temperature to calculate  $C_w$  and  $C_{eq}$  based on Henry's law constant. We  
45 revised this sentence to improve accuracy: " $C_w$  is the measured gas concentration at the  
46 bottom of the boundary layer ( $\text{g m}^{-3}$ );  $C_{eq}$  is the equilibrium gas concentration in surface lake  
47 water ( $\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) exposed to the atmosphere at the top of the boundary layer. We calculated  $C_w$   
48 and  $C_{eq}$  using measured surface water temperatures, Henry's Law constants, and temperature  
49 dependence constants for  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}_2$ , respectively (NIST, 2011)."

50

8. **this simple computation is considering a square lake morphology, but if they are rather like a bowl (deepest layer has a smaller volume), there is likely a bias toward the deepest gas concentrations (overestimation of total mass)**

We agree with the reviewer's comment; however many of our lakes (especially thermokarst lakes) had steep sides and/or relatively flat bottoms (large lakes, especially those in the Brooks Range). In some lakes our sampling sites were offshore, but non-centrally located. This may have provided better representation of average water column gas concentrations. We revised the manuscript to explain that storage flux is a gross estimation for numerous reasons. Sec. 4.1: "We acknowledge that our Storage values for CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> are gross estimations since we estimated only spring Storage emission and did not take into account potential additional emissions associated with fall turnover or the impacts of lake morphology. Low spatiotemporal resolution sampling to calculate storage emissions also introduces imprecision in our estimates. A better method would involve continuous measurements of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature and pH in lake water column at multiple locations in the lake throughout the full ice-melt period."

19. **was this measured at the end of summer when storage is maximal? (see below comment)**

No, as mentioned in the text, all measurements were done during the summer (June/July) period and we did not include in our Storage estimate potential additional emissions associated with fall turnover. See previous response #8.

30. **so I understand that you do not consider the autumnal storage flux, even though your lakes seem stratified as described below (p. 13269). Also, calculation of winter storage would be more accurate when comparing late autumn water column mass to late winter mass; I understand there are field logistic constraints, but the consequences of your assumptions needs to be acknowledged at some point. If summer mass is indeed overestimated, the difference (storage) would be underestimated (?)**

Indeed, we discussed the implications of our lack of autumnal storage flux information in Sec. 4.1. The reviewer is correct that many lakes were stratified; however, we lacked the temporal resolution data (especially late summer concentration data) to accurately calculate autumnal storage. In one stratified, thermokarst lake where we did have this data (Goldstream L.), Greene et al. (2014) found autumnal storage flux to be negligible. On the other hand, Walter et al. (2006) and Walter Anthony et al. (2010) found fall storage flux to occur in association with lake turnover in Siberian thermokarst lakes, although it was still less than 5% of total whole lake annual emissions.

Page 5 (13259)

42. -

44. **something is missing in this sentence to understand these other steps.**

**Were ebullition fluxes only measured in early winter??**

In this sentence we stated that the locations of point-source ebullition seeps were identified in early winter lake ice. Two sentences down we explained that ice was opened above the seeps for placement of submerged bubble traps over the seeps. We retained semi-automated bubble traps placed over individual seeps to measure their fluxes year-round (Walter Anthony et al. 2010).

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**3. Suggested text to delete**

We removed the suggested text.

**4. Suggested text to delete**

We removed the text, which was redundant.

**5. check structure**

We revised this sentence to: "We retained semi-automated bubble traps placed over individual seeps year-round (Walter Anthony et al., 2010) to provide daily and seasonal ebullition flux data from sediments."

**Page 5 (13260)**

**6. do you mean far below maximum solubility? i.e. far below the point where it starts to form bubbles? Because surface waters (especially of thaw lakes) are often found above saturation relative to the atmosphere (=supersaturated), but still below max solubility, and still offer the potential to dissolve ebullition bubbles.**

We mean that the CH<sub>4</sub> concentration in most bubbles is sufficiently high to facilitate the diffusion of CH<sub>4</sub> from the bubbles into the water column. That is, if one was to calculate the CH<sub>4</sub> solubility in the water in contact with bubbles from the CH<sub>4</sub> mole fraction inside the bubbles, it would typically be much greater than measured CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations in the water column. We have revised the sentence as follows to clarify this point: "Since lake water is typically undersaturated in CH<sub>4</sub> with respect to the CH<sub>4</sub> concentration (40-90%) of most ebullition bubbles (Sepulveda-Jauregui et al., 2012), CH<sub>4</sub> readily diffuses out of bubbles into the lake water column."

**7. does this mean trapped bubbles are impoverished in CH4? could this mislead a proper distinction between dissolved CH4 trapped in ice (non-ebullition, freeze-out bubbles) and ebullition bubbles trapped in ice?**

Our findings do indicate that ice-trapped ebullition bubbles are impoverished in CH<sub>4</sub> compared to ebullition bubbles that don't interact with lake ice (see Results sec. 3.2). However, distinguishing between ice-trapped ebullition bubbles and freeze-out bubbles is typically easy because freeze-out bubbles are significantly smaller, elongated in shape, and CH<sub>4</sub>-poor relative to ice-trapped ebullition bubbles. We discussed these distinctions on p. 13256 of our submitted manuscript. Furthermore, our sampling method of ice-trapped ebullition bubbles requires us to tap into and extract gas from individual bubbles in-situ in the field. We are not harvesting ice blocks that may contain a mixture of freeze-out bubbles and ice-trapped bubbles. Thus, our results represent the careful sampling of individual ice-trapped ebullition bubbles.

**Page 6 (13261)**

**1. does it mean you do not consider background ebullition? (although presented as 25% of total emissions in Walter et al. 2007 pie chart). I can see you acknowledged this in the discussion.**



1 Yes, the reviewer is correct. To improve clarity in this Methods section as well (sec. 2.8), we  
2 included a new sentence at the end of the, "Due to a paucity of field measurements on the  
3 Alaskan lakes, annual emissions estimates do not include background (non-seep) ebullition,  
4 which was found to be 25% of annual emission in Siberian lakes (Walter et al., 2006)."

5  
6

7 **Page 6 (13262)**

8  
9. **see comment above**

10 As suggested, we changed "limnology" to "properties" here and in other such instances  
11 throughout the manuscript.

12  
13. **water properties? The term 'parameter' is rather used for modelling.**

14 We changed the wording to "water properties".

15  
16

17 **Page 7 (13263)**

18  
19. **specify here that this is used to approximate DOC??**

20 Thank you for the suggestion. We have now included the information in brackets.

21  
22. **It's rather total phosphorus that is used in trophic index, not solely soluble reactive  
23 phosphorus.**

24 We agree with this comment; however the data available to us were soluble reactive  
25 phosphorus [SRP, not total phosphorus (TP)]. Since SRP is a component of TP, Trophic  
26 Indexes are underestimated (based in Carlson 1977). We contend that using SRP instead of  
27 TP does not affect the overall conclusions, since SRP is the more biologically reactive form  
28 of phosphorous in lake water lake, and has been shown to be a good predictor of trophic  
29 status (Stendick and Hall, 2003; Haberman and Haldna, 2014). Furthermore, chlorophyll a is  
30 the primary index for trophic state classification, while Secchi Depth and Phosphorous values  
31 help to infer additional information about the functioning of the lake (Carlson and Simpson,  
32 1996). We revised the manuscript to include the reviewer's point and our response.  
33

1 **3. instead of using brackets you may define it as low production associated to high**  
2 **humic color. And what do you mean by 'based on field observations'? See below**  
3 **comment on dystrophy definition. One thing I realised reading below is that you do**  
4 **not provide DOC but only TOC (including particles); do you think the particle**  
5 **contribution to TOC is negligible and TOC is a good surrogate to DOC? It is**  
6 **acknowledged but only too late in the text. And how did you classify dystrophic**  
7 **lakes that had no TOC value measured?**

8 We revised the manuscript to acknowledge much sooner (now sec. 2.9) that TOC is used as  
9 an approximation for DOC following Wetzel (2001) and Weyhenmeyer and Karlsson (2009).

10 We also revised this section of the manuscript in response to the reviewer's concerns, to  
11 explain that, "We classified some lakes as dystrophic since our field and laboratory  
12 observations of brown water color (DOC), low SecD, high nutrients, high Chl-a  
13 concentrations, abundant macrophytes, and anoxic hypolimnion matched the definition of  
14 dystrophy provided by Wetzel (2001). In these lakes, water had a dark brown color resulting  
15 from high concentrations of DOC, presumably from humic substances and organic acids  
16 leached from litter and soils in their watersheds. Wetzel (2001) explains that the productivity  
17 of most dystrophic lakes has classically been described as low; however, more detailed  
18 examinations indicated that chlorophyll concentration (phytoplankton biomass) was  
19 significantly higher in the more shallow photic zone of brown-water lakes than in clear lakes  
20 when expressed per volume of epilimnion. We did not quantify macrophyte biomass, but our  
21 qualitative observation of a higher abundance of submerged and emergent plants growing in  
22 the brown-water lakes is also consistent with Wetzel's description of littoral plants often  
23 contributing significantly to lake ecosystem metabolism in dystrophic lakes."  
24

25 **4. ?**

26 We revised this sentence to improve clarity: "Surface sediment samples (1-5 cm depth) were  
27 collected in summer 2008 from a subset of lakes using a 6.6 cm diameter piston hammer  
28 corer at multiple locations within individual lakes."  
29

30 **5. this still remain obscure: what do these geographic characteristics include? It needs**  
31 **to be briefly clarified earlier in ms.**

32 Geographic characteristics include lake origin, climate, ecology, geology, and permafrost  
33 coverage. They are shown in Table 1 and described more clearly in the revised manuscript's  
34 Introduction. Please see also reviewer comment 8 from Page 13254.

35  
36

37 **Page 8 (13265)**

38 **1. was this occurring over the sampling period 2000-2012?**

39 Beavers altered the hydrology of this creek by building a dam that resulted in ponding prior  
40 to our study; however, we observed active thermokarst activity along the shores during the  
41 period of our study. We revised the manuscript to clarify the timing of these observations.  
42

2. **past tense?**

2 We changed the tense to past tense for consistency in the sentence.

3

4. **could you get rid of the covariance instead? (in stat tests)**

5 We used the Mann-Whitney and Kruskal-Wallis tests when studying the relationship between  
6 CH<sub>4</sub> or CO<sub>2</sub> emission modes and limnological properties or geographic characteristics. Since  
7 data were not normally distributed and did not meet the assumption of homoscedasticity, we  
8 have no reason to believe that ANCOVA can better explain our findings; ANCOVA requires  
9 normal data. The purpose of showing the relationship among these variables was to test the  
10 null hypothesis among parameters; in our opinion, this is best statistical method for this type  
11 of data set. However, we also included in Table 4, Figure 5 and 6 and throughout the  
12 manuscript text the results of the analysis of correlation by the “Coefficient of determination”  
13 for Log normal transformation of the data and by Spearman Product-Moment Correlation  
14 Coefficients (see section 2.10) for non-normal distribution analysis.

15

16. **related in which way? dystrophic having higher emission rates compared to other  
17 trophic states? Dystrophy needs to be better defined (low productivity/high  
18 nutrients) since it turns to be a 'controlling' factor. And I think lakes should be  
19 classified as dystrophic OR UO, O, M or E, but not as both. Dystrophy is defined by  
20 low productivity (low chla) despite high nutrients, because of high DOC that is  
21 limiting light to primary producers. As it is, you seem to define dystrophy solely by  
22 the richness in DOC.**

23 We appreciate this comment. Wetzel (2001) also suggests that dystrophy is a subset of trophy  
24 (oligotrophy to eutrophy), rather than a parallel concept. In response to the reviewer's  
25 comment, we have revised our manuscript in the following ways: (a) We defined what we  
26 mean by dystrophy in greater detail in sec. 2.9. This includes an explanation of why we  
27 disagree that dystrophy implies lower productivity (low Chl-a) [see also Reviewer comment 3  
28 (p. 13263)]. (b) We revised Table 1 following the definition dystrophy provided by Wetzel  
29 (2001) such that dystrophy is a subset of trophy (oligotrophy to eutrophy), rather than a  
30 parallel concept. (c) We re-analyzed our data related to trophic states so that we can more  
31 clearly state that dystrophic lakes had higher CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than lakes with other  
32 trophic states (because most dystrophic lakes were yedoma lakes).

33

34

35 **Page 8 (13266)**

36. **Is this relationship holding within each categories (Y and NY)? i.e. is it only related  
37 to the fact that Y lakes are smaller?**

38 The regression models were built for predictive purposes between some environmental  
39 variables and gas emissions modes for the lakes. We added information in the text about this  
40 relationship. “Direct Ebullition of CH<sub>4</sub> in winter and summer was correlated with lake Area.  
41 Smaller lakes had higher Direct Ebullition (Table 4); since our yedoma study lakes were  
42 smaller than non-yedoma lakes, this factor is strongly influenced by permafrost type. The  
43 regression analysis with permafrost type categories separately (yedoma and non-yedoma lake

1 type) creates scarce data in yedoma lakes ( $n = 5$ ) to do this analysis. However Spearman  
2 coefficients supports this tendency, since it indicates a negative correlation with lake area  
3 among yedoma lakes (summer  $r_s = -0.66$ , winter  $r_s = -0.71$ ) and in non-yedoma lakes  
4 (summer  $r_s = -0.45$ , winter  $r_s = -0.63$ )."

5  
6 **6. some of these numbers are already given in Table 2**

7 Yes, these numbers are already given in Table 2; however, we would like to include them in  
8 the text as well to make the ranges visible to the reader.

9  
10 **7. it's not clear why you have to use the model to calculate this percentage, if IBS is**  
11 **calculated from what is measured in the ice bubbles (gas composition, bubble**  
12 **density) "We collected 37 samples of ebullition bubbles trapped as pockets in lake**  
13 **ice from five Alaskan lakes,..."**

14 The model was used to calculate the decrease in the volume of trapped bubbles, whereas our  
15 37 measurements of the CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations were used to calculate the decrease in the CH<sub>4</sub>  
16 concentration. The decreases in volume and CH<sub>4</sub> concentration were used together to  
17 calculate the IBS flux. We have added the following sentence at the end of Sec. 2.6 to clarify  
18 this point: "The decrease in the volume of ice-trapped bubbles in each lake, as calculated by  
19 this model, was used together with the decrease in their CH<sub>4</sub> concentration, calculated from  
20 our measurements of fresh vs. ice-trapped bubbles, to determine the IBS flux for each lake."

21  
22 **8. is it a volume loss or a CH4 impoverishment in the bubble?**

23 Both the volume and the CH<sub>4</sub> concentration of trapped bubbles decrease, as shown by Greene  
24 et al. (2014). Our revisions to Sec. 2.6 and the sentence in question clarify this point (see  
25 previous #7 and following #9 comments).

26  
27 **9. is it in the surface water under the ice or throughout the whole water column?**

28 Although the CH<sub>4</sub> concentration in the water immediately underneath the ice layer determines  
29 the CH<sub>4</sub> dissolution rate from trapped bubbles, the CH<sub>4</sub> that dissolves out eventually diffuses  
30 throughout the whole water column. To avoid confusion, we have removed the words "under  
31 ice" from the sentence below.

32 "The IBS model, which accounts for decreases in the volume and CH<sub>4</sub> concentration of ice-  
33 trapped bubbles as their CH<sub>4</sub> dissolves into the water column (Greene et al., 2014), revealed  
34 that IBS was on average 13% of total annual CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from yedoma lakes ( $5.8 \pm 4.6$  g  
35  $m^{-2} yr^{-1}$ ,  $n = 6$ ) and 9% for non-yedoma lakes ( $0.7 \pm 0.7$  g  $m^{-2} yr^{-1}$ ,  $n = 28$ ) (Table 2, Fig. 2)."

1  
2. **lesser than minor?**

3 We changed "lesser" to "even smaller".

4  
5. **make sure this is discussed; could it be that winter CH<sub>4</sub> production in Y lakes is greatly suppressed?**

6  
7 Following the reviewer's suggestion, we added a discussion at the end of the section 4.1.  
8 "The small sample size (n = 2 yedoma lakes) might lead to potential bias in the Storage  
9 emissions for yedoma vs. non-yedoma lakes. Further analyses are require to address the  
10 differences in Storage emissions between these lake types."

11  
12. **a significant (reverse words)**

13 We corrected the order of words as suggested.

14  
15. **do you think dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> is produced in the water column or CH<sub>4</sub> is diffusing from sediment?**

16  
17 We think that CH<sub>4</sub> is mainly been produced in the sediments and diffuses to the atmosphere  
18 after passing through the water column. CH<sub>4</sub> production in the anoxic water columns of  
19 lakes has been proven to be significantly lower than CH<sub>4</sub> production in the sediments  
20 (discussed in Conrad, 1996, Casper et al., 2000; Dzyuban, 2002). The production of CH<sub>4</sub> in  
21 oxic water columns has also been demonstrated (Grossart, et al. 2011; Bogard, et al., 2014)  
22 and correlated with algal dynamics (Bogard, et al., 2014); however, assuming that all CH<sub>4</sub>  
23 produced in the oxic water column is released to the atmosphere; this source would be  
24 approximately three orders of magnitude lower than the total CH<sub>4</sub> diffusion emissions from  
25 our studied lakes. Therefore, we suggest that the dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> measured in our Alaskan  
26 studied lakes is mainly diffusing from sediment or dissolving into the water column from  
27 ice-trapped ebullition bubbles in winter (Greene et al., 2014).

28  
29

30 **Page 9 (13268)**

31  
32. **make sure you discuss why Y lakes do not store CO<sub>2</sub>; water column CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by methanogens? is there O<sub>2</sub> left in the water column during the winter?**

33  
34  
35 Based on findings by Kortelainen et al. (2006) and Schilder et al. (2013) of large  
36 spatiotemporal variability in storage estimates and CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations across lakes: we added

1 the following discussion to the end of section 4.1, "We acknowledge that our Storage values  
2 for CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> are gross estimations since we estimated only spring Storage emission and  
3 did not take into account potential additional emissions associated with fall turnover or the  
4 impacts of lake morphology. Low spatiotemporal resolution sampling to calculate storage  
5 emissions also introduces imprecision in our estimates. A better method would involve  
6 continuous measurements of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature and pH in lake water  
7 column at multiple locations in the lake throughout the full ice-melt period."  
8

9 **6. does it mean they were morphologically 'in between'?**

10 Northern lakes showed varied morphology with respect to size and depth (see Table 1).

11  
12

13 **Page 10 (13269)**

14

15 **1. Wind protection by topography or vegetation?**

16 Topography and/or vegetation contributed to wind protection. We revised the sentence to  
17 clarify this.

18

19 **2. thus, how come summer storage in hypolimnia is not considered?**

20 Our sampling resolution was too coarse to estimate late summer/fall storage emissions since  
21 we sampled only in June/July and then again in March/April. Estimating the late summer/fall  
22 storage emissions would have required additional monitoring of physicochemical and  
23 dissolved gas profiles throughout the late summer/fall season of potential water column  
24 mixing.

25

26 **3. was**

27 We changed "were" to "was."

28

29 **4. obvious**

30 To improve brevity we removed this pleonasm.

31

32 **5. showed? presented?**

1 We changed "demonstrated" to "showed".

2

**36. It is necessary to specify the profile shape for Dolly Varden, i.e. an increase from 10 to 12 mg/L from surface to 10m (deep chl-a maximum? do you know the chl-a at this depth?) and then it lowers again to approx 9 mg/L. The way you present this here makes us think there is an increase in DO toward the bottom waters, but this would seem strange to have a large contribution of benthic photosynthesis at depth for such a deep lake. We assume (ND) that DOC (TOC) is low for this lake as it was not classified as dystrophic... I wonder how you classified it as dystrophic without TOC however, with the eye? (brown color)**

11 We revised this section of the paper, providing a more detailed explanation for the observed increase in dissolved oxygen concentrations in three of our study lakes and including the Chl-a concentration data for the deep, clear lake, Dolly Varden (#36), where we observed a deep chlorophyll maximum: "Three exceptions were El Fuego L. (#11), 91 L. (#27) and Dolly Varden L. (#36), where we observed an increase in DO with depth in summer, likely due to benthic photosynthesis in the shallow lakes (#11 and #27) and a deep chlorophyll maximum (DCM) in the deep lake (#36). In #36 we observed Chl-a concentrations near the surface of ~ 3.7  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ; Chl-a concentrations increased with depth to a maximum (23.0  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) just below 20 m. DCM is a common trend in deep, clear-water lakes with low trophic state (Gervais et al., 1997; Camacho, 2006)." We determined that Dolly Varden (#36) was not a dystrophic lake without DOC data based on our observations of clear water, indicated also by a very high Secchi depth (11m).

23

**24. oxygenated? (and correct below if appropriate)**

25 We changed "aerated" to "oxygenated" in both instances.

26

**28. make sure we can read the lake name in final figure version**

28 This is important. We will ensure that lake names are legible in the final figure version.

29

30

31 **Page 10 (13270)**

32

**33. microbial?**

34 We changed "biological" to "microbial" to improve precision.

35

**36 10. I am not sure what I should look at in this table; can you be more explicit?**

37 We revised the sentence to be more explicit: "This relationship suggests a strong influence by microbial processes that consume  $\text{O}_2$ , consequently reducing aerobic oxidation of dissolved  $\text{CH}_4$ ; particularly in the organic-rich, yedoma lakes of interior Alaska (Table 5 and sec. 4.3)."

1  
2 **11. relationship between CH<sub>4</sub> and area was already presented above, no?**

3 We presented the relationship between lake CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and lake area in sec. 3.2. Here we  
4 present the relationship between bottom-water dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> concentration and lake area.

5

6 **12. I am lost; higher nutrients and higher PP (approximated with chl<sub>a</sub>) in dystrophic**  
7 **Yedoma vs NY, while dystrophy should be defined as high nutrients but low PP**  
8 **because of light limitation caused by high DOC... Are you considering other**  
9 **primary producers than plankton (chl<sub>a</sub>) here? If you consider macrophytes**  
10 **(floating Sphagnum?) in your characterization of primary production, it needs to be**  
11 **clarified.**

12 Please see response to Reviewer comment 3, Page 7 (13263) and revised main text sec. 2.9.

13

14 **13. I look forward to read the discussion to get clarifications**

15 Yes, these results are is discussed in section 4.2

16

17 **14. I think it needs to be rewritten (and I don't think this is exclusive of northern lake)**

18 We re-wrote this section, dividing the long sentence into two shorter sentences and modifying  
19 the wording, changing "northern lakes" to "ice-covered lakes" in accordance with the  
20 reviewer's comment:

21 "Since seep locations are identified in winter as vertical stacks of bubbles in lake ice that  
22 represent repeated ebullition from discrete point-sources, surveys of lake-ice bubbles reveal  
23 the locations and densities of ebullition seeps on lakes. Surveys also show the relative  
24 proportion of (ebullition) bubble-free black ice, which in nearly all ice-covered lakes  
25 dominates on an area basis."

26

27

28 **Page 11 (13271)**

29

30 **1. I think this should be clarified higher in the ms (in method section)**

31 In accordance with this comment, we added a sentence to the Methods section 2.8 explaining,  
32 "Due to a paucity of field measurements on the Alaskan lakes, annual emissions estimates do



1 not include background (non-seep) ebullition, which was found to be 25% of annual emission  
2 in Siberian lakes (Walter et al., 2006)."

3  
4. **maybe cite Langer et al. 2014 in BGS Discus.?**

5 In this section of the Discussion we are referring specifically to a component of the total  
6 ebullition flux, called Ice-Bubble Storage (IBS). When we introduced the concept of IBS in  
7 the introduction, we explained how it differed from the freeze-out bubbles described and  
8 quantified by Langer et al. (2014).

9 From the Introduction, "It should be noted that gas in small, tubular bubbles formed in lake  
10 ice by the exclusion of dissolved gases as ice freezes (Gow and Langston, 1977; Langer et al.,  
11 2014) is presumably released to the atmosphere when ice degrades as well; however, given  
12 the substantially lower concentration of CH<sub>4</sub> in these non-ebullition, freeze-out bubbles  
13 (usually < 0.01% by volume; Boereboom et al., 2012), this mode of emission is relatively  
14 insignificant in comparison to the larger ebullition-sourced bubbles, in which CH<sub>4</sub>  
15 concentrations typically range from 40-90% by volume (Martens et al., 1992; Semiletov et  
16 al., 1996; Walter Anthony et al., 2010)."

17 Since Langer et al. (2014) do not quantify ice-sheet/ebullition associated fluxes, but only the  
18 freeze-out bubble fluxes (from dissolved gases), we did not cite them in this section of the  
19 Discussion. However, to improve clarity, we revised this section of the manuscript by adding  
20 the qualifier word "ebullition" to the sentence in question, "The Ice-Bubble Storage (IBS)  
21 mode of emission described here is a newly recognized CH<sub>4</sub> ebullition flux component in  
22 lakes (Greene et al., 2014) that has not previously been included in regional studies."

23  
24  
25 **Page 11 (13272)**

26  
27. **where can we appreciate how you did this? you got the exact same 80% than  
28 Greene et al.? Is the range of variation tight? A little more details is needed so  
29 readers do not have to read Greene et al. to understand well what it means/involve.**

30 We added a new sentence providing the requested details: "The mean and standard deviation  
31 of the CH<sub>4</sub> fraction dissolving out of ice-trapped bubbles was 83 ± 0.9% for 34 lakes (range  
32 65-89% for 33 lakes, excluding Killarney L. with anomalously low CH<sub>4</sub> content in bubbles  
33 freshly released from sediments)."

34  
35. **how could we resolve that fact? with 14C?**

36 Yes, <sup>14</sup>C dating would be a useful tool to help resolve the fraction of the dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> pool  
37 that originates from ebullition seeps vs. diffusion from sediments. Until now, no such studies  
38 have been conducted. However, preliminary ebullition bubble <sup>14</sup>C data from Siberian and  
39 Alaskan lakes suggests that the end members (deep-sourced ebullition seeps vs. near-surface  
40 sediments) would have distinct <sup>14</sup>C ages. Walter et al. (2008) found that CH<sub>4</sub> <sup>14</sup>C ages in

1 high-emission (deep sediment sourced) ebullition seeps were older (11,355 to 42,900 years),  
2 while bubbles stirred from surface sediments (> modern to 3695 years) contained CH<sub>4</sub> of  
3 younger ages.  
4  
5

6 **Page 12 (13273)**

7

8 **1. In addition to the fact that you did not consider summer storage in deep waters**  
9 **released in autumn (as explained below), could this range of values for winter**  
10 **storage be underestimated if the starting point to calculate storage is summer (when**  
11 **concentrations are higher) instead of late autumn prior to ice formation (true**  
12 **strating point for storage; when concentrations could be lower after venting part of**  
13 **the summer production)? Does this make any sense?**

14 We actually calculated spring storage flux in the opposite manner (winter storage - summer  
15 storage). This detail of our approach can be found in Methods sec. 2.4: "Storage flux ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$   
16  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ ) was calculated as the difference between total mass of dissolved gas in spring before ice  
17 break up and the total mass of dissolved gas in summer." Our approach follows that of  
18 previous researchers quantifying the release of winter-time dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> stored in lakes  
19 during the period of ice-out in spring (Michmerhuizen et al., 1996; Phelps et al., 1998; and  
20 Bastviken et al., 2004).  
21

22 **2. what is the point of this sentence?**

23 We agree that this sentence is not necessary and have removed it from the revised  
24 manuscript.

25

26 **3. this paper is on tropics so not supporting your sentence, or you may want to modify**  
27 **your sentence**

28 The paper by Marotta et al. (2014) that we cited assessed temperature effects on the  
29 biological production of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in anaerobic sediments of tropical lakes in the Amazon  
30 as well as boreal lakes in Sweden. We have retained this reference since it is in full support of  
31 our sentence.

32

33 **4. you mean 'directly' (physiologically) sensitive (as oposed to the indirect effect of the**  
34 **first part of the sentence)?**

35 Yes, we mean that CH<sub>4</sub> production is a temperature-sensitive process. To improve clarity, we  
36 revised this sentence to, "Primary production in warmer climates may supplies more organic  
37 substrate for methanogenesis (Duc et al., 2010; Ortiz-Llorente and Alvarez-Cobelas, 2012;  
38 Marotta et al., 2014), and methanogenesis is physiologically sensitive to temperature (Schulz  
39 et al., 1997; Yvon-Durocher et al., 2014)."  
40

5. **Are your temperature measurements appropriate to explore such dependency?  
2 What did you use in your statistical analyses: bottom or surface or an average  
3 water column T? Did you only use your sub data set where 2 thermistors were  
4 placed year-round or you used all lake data set with only 2 profiles over a complete  
5 year? This could also be considered to acknowledge the absence of relationship.**

6 We appreciate the reviewer's question. We revised the manuscript in two ways. First, we  
7 included in sec. 2.10 more detailed information about which specific temperature  
8 measurements were used in the statistical analysis. Then, we explained in Sec. 4.2 that unlike  
9 previous studies that did find temperature (latitude) relationships to lake CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in  
10 non-permafrost systems (Marotta et al., 2014; Rasilo et al., 2014; Yvon-Durocher et al.,  
11 2014), we were not able to demonstrate temperature relationships among our field  
12 measurements, likely due to the confounding factor of geographic variability of substrates  
13 (e.g. yedoma vs. non-yedoma soils). Organic matter supply from thawing yedoma in the  
14 yedoma lakes seemed to be the dominating factor leading to high CH<sub>4</sub> production and  
15 emissions among lakes). [See also response to Zimov review].  
16  
17

18 **Page 12 (13274)**

19

20. **It is not clear what you mean by "can overwhelm"; can you be more explicit? And  
21 for the stat analyses, would the T in sediments (where methanogens are located) be  
22 more appropriate than water column?**

23 To improve clarity, we changed "can overwhelm" to "can supply more substrate to  
24 methanogenesis than". The reviewer is correct that temperature in sediments would be more  
25 appropriate than water column temperatures for assessing methanogenesis since CH<sub>4</sub> is  
26 formed in sediments. Unfortunately we did not measure sediment temperature profiles in all  
27 of our study lakes. In two lakes where we did measure sediment temperature profiles for  
28 another study, we observed a strong thermal lag. The summer heat pulse is observed in  
29 surface sediments in summer but in deep talik sediments later in winter. We also observed  
30 temporal lag in heat propagation spatially in the lake. Surface sediments in shallow parts of  
31 the lake reach a thermal maximum earlier than deep hypolimnion sediments and the  
32 amplitude of temperature changes varies spatially in the lakes. Such data would be useful in  
33 statistical analyses of methane production in lakes, but it was beyond the scope of our study  
34 to collect such detailed temperature data in the 40 widely-dispersed Alaska study lakes.  
35

36. **maybe one ending sentence is missing to make a link to previous discussion?**

37 We added a new sentence to the end of this paragraph to better link this paragraph to the  
38 discussion in the previous paragraphs: "This is consistent with maps of permafrost soil  
39 organic carbon distributions, whereby the organic- horizons of non-yedoma permafrost soils  
40 are typically thinner than yedoma deposits (Ping et al., 2008; Tarnocai et al., 2009;  
41 Kanevskiy et al., 2011)."  
42

43. **Enhance CH<sub>4</sub> cycling: what does it mean?**

44 To improve clarity, we revised this sentence to, "The relationship between ebullition,  
45 dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> concentration and lake type (Fig. 6) also indicates that ebullition seeps

1 releasing CH<sub>4</sub> produced deep in thaw bulbs contribute more to CH<sub>4</sub> cycling in yedoma lakes  
2 than in non-yedoma lakes."

3  
4

5 **Page 13 (13275)**

6  
7

**1. there is a little redundancy (present and next sentence) with above p. 13272**

8 On p. 13272 the emission mode, IBS, was discussed in the context of its contribution to total  
9 annual emissions. Here we discuss IBS as it relates to patterns of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub>  
10 concentrations in lake water.

11  
12

**2. wasn't it 80% above?**

13 This is the first time we mentioned this value (93%), referring specifically to the finding in  
14 Greene et al. (2014) that 93% of the pool of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> in the water column under winter  
15 lake ice in Goldstream L. was derived from ebullition bubbles degassing beneath the ice. This  
16 is different from the 80% value described previously (and in the following sentence), which  
17 pertains to the fraction of CH<sub>4</sub> dissolving out of ice-trapped ebullition bubbles.

18  
19  
20

**3. this could be especially true if spring mixing is short: did you observe this from  
your 2 thermistor chain data set?**

21 Our thermistor data collected from two depths at relatively near-shore locations did not  
22 provide adequate information to represent the duration of spring mixing at the whole-lake  
23 scale.

24  
25  
26

**Page 13 (13276)**

27  
28

**4. any loss processes that could account for this difference?**

29 The major loss processes that could account for this difference is CO<sub>2</sub> uptake by  
30 photosynthesis or high alkalinity; however, we did not highlight these as explanations for our  
31 observation of higher CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from yedoma lakes compared to non-yedoma lakes  
32 because Chl-a concentrations were higher in yedoma lakes (suggesting a larger CO<sub>2</sub> sink in  
33 those lakes) and because there was no observed difference in summertime pH between the  
34 two lake types.

35

**5. this is also to consider for CH4 flux estimations, but its placed in CO2 paragraph**

2 We agree with this comment and have added to sec. 2.8 (calculation of Seasonal and Annual  
3 Emissions) the caveat that "We acknowledge that our calculations contain uncertainty  
4 associated with the assumption that single-day measurements of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in  
5 lakes represent the mean for calculating Diffusion flux for the entire open water period;  
6 however, these were the best available data at the time of this study, and a similar approach  
7 has been used in numerous other studies reviewed by Bastviken et al. (2011)." We also  
8 removed mention of 'CH<sub>4</sub>' from the CO<sub>2</sub> paragraph.  
9

**10. Be careful with redundancy, especially in this section.**

11 We thank the reviewer for this suggestion and revised the section to avoid redundancy.

12

**13. Fig. 5: I think it would be clearer to use r instead of p as the symbol for spearman  
14 coefficient (figure legend). The CH4 bars are black, not grey. We can barely see  
15 the words in this graph.**

16 We thank the reviewer for these suggestions and have revised the figure to improve clarity.  
17 We also added a subscript "s" in the symbol for spearman coefficient to avoid confusion with  
18 the Pearson coefficient.  
19

**20. but methanogenesis occurs in sediments, and having O2 in bottom water does not  
21 preclude methanogenesis in sediment right?**

22 We agree, but when the whole water column is oxygenated, methanogenesis in the very  
23 surface layer of sediments is suppressed because O<sub>2</sub> is a preferable electron acceptor.  
24  
25

26 **Page 14 (13277)**

27

**28. this is the obvious reversal of above sentence for winter**

29 We agree, however we retained the sentence because it is important to contrast the winter and  
30 summer season processes.  
31

**32. not only methanotrophy is consuming O2**

33 The Reviewer makes an important point about the proportion of O<sub>2</sub> consumed. We revised  
34 the sentence to include an aerobic respiration term: "This suggests high methanogenic  
35 activity in sediments that fuels CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation in the water column. Aerobic methane  
36 oxidation together with other aerobic processes reduce O<sub>2</sub> concentration under the  
37 thermocline".

38

**39. Indeed, a multivariate stat analysis, eliminating covariance, would be more  
40 appropriate**

1 We agree that multivariate statistical analysis can be effective in eliminating covariance. We  
2 should clarify that we also explored multivariate models to analyze our data. However, our  
3 sample sizes (in light of numerous data gaps, Table 1) were insufficient to produce robust  
4 models. We found only one statistically significant multivariable model, for IBS ( $p < 0.05$ ,  $r^2$   
5 adjusted = 0.59), and differences in results were minor in comparison to the single regression  
6 analysis. This is because in both cases, the regressions are log-transformed and then fit using  
7 least squares. This yields a regression model that predicted the mean logarithmic values in an  
8 arithmetic scale. Therefore there is a systematical underestimate in the true mean (Newman,  
9 1993). The purpose of our study is precisely to describe the relationships that exist between  
10 CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions mode and key drivers, and we found that single regression was the  
11 most comprehensive approach to accomplish this objective.  
12

13 **4. at most 0.23; is this really useful as a single predictor?**

14 The reviewer is correct. We changed the wording from "useful predictor" to "best predictor".  
15

16 **5. at most 0.32**

17 Please see above response.  
18  
19

20 **Page 14 (13278)**  
21

22 **6. which means the system would be nutrient-limited, not C limited? that deserves a**  
23 **discussion I think**

24 We revised this paragraph and added examples from supporting literature to provide a more  
25 detailed discussion of the reviewer's question: "Single linear regression analysis indicated that  
26 the best limnological predictors of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in the Alaskan lakes were Area, SecD,  
27 PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, and TN, all which are indicators of lake metabolism and morphology (Table 4). These  
28 findings are consistent with the patterns that explain lake CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in Michigan,  
29 Canada, Sweden, and Finland (Bastviken et al., 2004; Juutinen et al., 2009; Rasilo et al.,  
30 2014), suggesting that lake trophic state and organic matter quality, rather than carbon  
31 concentration alone, might play prevailing roles in CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> production and fluxes. The  
32 association between high CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and high nutrients and Chl-a concentrations among  
33 yedoma lakes compared to non-yedoma lakes is consistent with the geographic patterns  
34 previously observed in Siberian lakes. Higher aquatic production observed in Siberian  
35 yedoma lakes compared to non-yedoma lakes in the same climate zone was attributed to  
36 fertilization of the yedoma lakes by nitrogen- and phosphorus-rich thawing yedoma  
37 permafrost (Walter Anthony et al., 2014). Positive relationships between lake nutrient status  
38 and CH<sub>4</sub> fluxes together with low or negative CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes observed in other northern lakes  
39 also suggested that lake trophic status plays diverging roles in CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes (Del  
40 Giorgio et al., 1999; Lapierre and Del Giorgio, 2012). Nutrients can increase primary  
41 productivity that simultaneously fuels methanogenesis and draws down dissolved CO<sub>2</sub>."  
42

43 **7. Have you tested the 2 classes separately? That deserves discussion.**

44 Yes, we analyzed the classes separately and revised the text to include this information (see  
45 sec. 3.2 and reviewer comment 5 (p. 13266).  
46

8. **but would this hold true considering the same argument as above, that Y lakes have a thaw bulb and that most emissions come from talik thus lake size does not really matter? The relationship should hold for Y category to make this argument stronger: do size really matter or it's only a question of Y vs NY?**

5 Based on our broader knowledge of these lake systems, lake size does matter to CH<sub>4</sub>  
6 emissions. In northern lakes previously studied in the literature (similarly as our non-yedoma  
7 lakes), CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were inversely related to lake area because small lakes tend to be  
8 shallower and have larger watershed to lake area ratios, leading to more allochthonous carbon  
9 inputs as substrates for methanogenesis (Juutinen et al. 2009; Rasilo et al. 2014). Small lake  
10 size also usually implies more connection between sediments and the air-water interface  
11 (ebullition is the principal source of CH<sub>4</sub> in lakes), less dilution of the inlets of nutrients and  
12 organic carbon (Bastviken et al. 2004; Rasilo et al. 2014). In yedoma lakes, we expect size to  
13 matter too for the same reasons that pertain to non-yedoma lakes. Additionally, yedoma lake  
14 size matters with respect to dynamics associated with a limited supply of permafrost derived  
15 organic carbon. Kessler et al. (2012) clearly showed that as a yedoma lake develops, it has  
16 higher emissions along the thaw boundary of the lake so that on a per meter square basis, the  
17 thermokarst margins of lakes tend to have the highest emissions. Young (small) lakes that  
18 have not thawed entirely through the yedoma permafrost package in the vertical direction  
19 have the highest emissions. As lakes get large, they also get deep and old. Over time, the  
20 labile pool of permafrost-derived organic carbon is depleted, such that large, old yedoma  
21 lakes actually have much lower CH<sub>4</sub> emissions than young, actively expanding/deepening  
22 yedoma lakes.

23  
24. **Is this paragraph bringing something to the overall goal of the paper? It would if a link with GHG emissions is made**

25  
26 In the revised manuscript this paragraph was removed.

27  
28. **see above comment on dystrophy definition (Y lakes have higher chla)**

29 Please see response to Reviewer comment 3, Page 7 (13263) and revised main text sec. 2.9.

30  
31. **this would rather appear earlier in paper (cf my above comment)**

32 In the revised manuscript this information is presented earlier (sec. 2.9).

33  
34. **I think the feeling of redundancy as we read the discussion comes from the fact that you gave too much info in the result section**

35  
36 We appreciate the reviewer's comment and have eliminated this paragraph from the revised  
37 manuscript since essential information about limnological differences were presented earlier  
38 in Results and since here repeating the details is not directly linked to greenhouse gas  
39 emissions.

1  
2 **13. maybe needs a definition?**

3 We provided a definition in the revised manuscript.

4  
5

6 **Page 15 (13279)**

7 **1. So it seems other emission processes than seeps cancel out with CH<sub>4</sub> consumption**  
8 **(oxidation) to yield the same total previously estimated in Walter Anthony et al.**  
9 **2012?**

10 Yes, it is likely that other emission processes may cancel out that component of seep  
11 ebullition that is oxidized following CH<sub>4</sub> dissolution from ice-trapped bubbles. None of these  
12 emission estimates tell us anything about CH<sub>4</sub> consumption of non-seep related CH<sub>4</sub>, which is  
13 beyond the scope of this study.

14  
15

16 **Page 15 (13280)**

17 **2. Is water column primary production truly an OC contribution or a priming effect?**  
18 **(if the system is not C-limited) Can you estimate the C-stock provided by planktonic**  
19 **growth and compare it to thaw bulb C-stock (on a m<sup>-2</sup> basis)?**

20 Yes, <sup>14</sup>C-CH<sub>4</sub> data from previous studies (Walter et al., 2008; Brosius et al., 2012; Kessler et  
21 al., 2012) suggest that contemporary organic matter is an important substrate to  
22 methanogenesis, especially near the centers of yedoma lakes where permafrost-derived thaw-  
23 bulb organic carbon has already been exhausted due to the passage of time. Contemporary  
24 organic matter includes terrestrial and aquatic sources; aquatic sources include macrophytes,  
25 benthic organisms as well as plankton. Walter Anthony et al. (2014) calculated the fraction of  
26 contemporary (Holocene-aged) vs. yedoma-derived (Pleistocene-aged) carbon in  
27 thermokarst-lake profiles for 49 Siberian lakes. In Alaska, our sampling and laboratory  
28 approaches were quite different. We did not have enough data to make such calculations in  
29 the Alaskan study lakes and do not feel that once per summer sampling of Chl-a is indicative  
30 of the contemporary C stock in lakes on a m<sup>-2</sup> basis since phytoplankton populations are  
31 highly dynamic over time and since they represent only a fraction of the total contemporary  
32 organic matter sources.

33  
34

35 **Page 1395**

36 **1. (ignore this note)**



1  
2  
3 **Page 25 (13299)**

4  
5. **TS is used in table**

6 We corrected the term to TSI.

7  
8. **(ignore this note)**

9  
10

11 **Page 25 (13300)**

12  
13. **I think this line belongs to above summer section?**

14 We appreciate the reviewer's careful proofreading. The line belongs to the winter section. We  
15 have corrected the typographical error changing "ES" to "EW".

16  
17

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13

1 **Methane and carbon dioxide emissions from 40 lakes along a North-South latitudinal**  
2 **transect in Alaska**

3

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1 **Abstract**

2       Uncertainties in the magnitude and seasonality of various gas emission modes,  
3 particularly among different lake types, limit our ability to estimate methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and  
4 carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from northern lakes. Here we assessed the relationship  
5 between CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emission modes in 40 lakes along a latitudinal transect in Alaska to  
6 lakes' physicochemical properties and geographic characteristics, including permafrost soil  
7 type surrounding lakes. Emission modes included Direct Ebullition, Diffusion, Storage flux,  
8 and a newly identified Ice-Bubble Storage (IBS) flux. We found that all lakes were net  
9 sources of atmospheric CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>, but the climate warming impact of lake CH<sub>4</sub> emissions  
10 was two times higher than that of CO<sub>2</sub>. Ebullition and Diffusion were the dominant modes of  
11 CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions respectively. IBS, ~10% of total annual CH<sub>4</sub> emissions, is the release  
12 to the atmosphere of seasonally ice-trapped bubbles when lake ice confining bubbles begins  
13 to melt in spring. IBS, which has not been explicitly accounted for in regional studies,  
14 increased the estimate of springtime emissions from our study lakes by 320%.  
15 Geographically, CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from stratified, dystrophic interior Alaska thermokarst (thaw)  
16 lakes formed in icy, organic-rich yedoma permafrost soils were 6-fold higher than from non-  
17 yedoma lakes throughout the rest of Alaska. The relationship between CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and  
18 geographic parameters was weak, suggesting high variability among sources and sinks that  
19 regulate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (e.g. catchment waters, pH equilibrium). Total CH<sub>4</sub> emission was  
20 correlated with concentrations of phosphate and total nitrogen in lake water, Secchi depth and  
21 lake area, with yedoma lakes having higher nutrient concentrations, shallower Secchi depth,  
22 and smaller lake areas. Our findings suggest that permafrost type plays important roles in  
23 determining CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from lakes by both supplying organic matter to methanogenesis  
24 directly from thawing permafrost and by enhancing nutrient availability to primary  
25 production, which can also fuel decomposition and methanogenesis.

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# 1 Introduction

Lakes are an important source of atmospheric greenhouse gases, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) (Battin et al., 2009; Tranvik et al., 2009; Bastviken et al., 2011). In lakes, CH<sub>4</sub> is produced, consumed, and exchanged with the atmosphere in a different manner than CO<sub>2</sub>. CH<sub>4</sub> is produced in anaerobic environments (mainly in sediments), while CO<sub>2</sub> in lakes originates from respiration throughout the water column and sediments, inflow of terrestrially derived dissolved inorganic carbon from surrounding watersheds, and photooxidation of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) (Graneli et al., 1996; Tranvik et al., 2009; Weyhenmeyer et al., 2012; Maberly et al., 2013). CO<sub>2</sub> is also formed in lakes by aerobic oxidation of CH<sub>4</sub>, a process that can consume a significant fraction of CH<sub>4</sub> produced in lakes (Kankaala et al., 2006; Bastviken et al., 2008; Lofton et al., 2013). The ratio of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions versus carbon sequestration in northern lakes was found to be controlled by nitrate concentrations in lake water (Kortelainen et al., 2013). Meanwhile, CO<sub>2</sub> is consumed by photosynthesis and other autotrophic or chemical processes (e.g. increasing alkalinity, photooxidation) that depend on pH and/or the availability of light (Madigan et al., 2009).

Despite recycling of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> internally in lakes, a significant quantity of these greenhouse gases is released from lakes to the atmosphere (Cole et al., 2007). Most of Earth's lakes are located in northern high latitudes, overlapping the permafrost-dominated region (Downing et al., 2006; Smith et al., 2007; Grosse et al., 2013). It is estimated that CH<sub>4</sub> emission from lakes globally comprises about 16% (71.6 Tg) of all human and natural atmospheric sources, and that northern lakes (> 55 °N) contribute about 20% of these emissions (13.6 Tg; Bastviken et al., 2011). In contrast, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from northern lakes constitute approximately 43% (1.2 Pg CO<sub>2</sub>) of global emissions from lakes (Battin et al., 2009; Tranvik et al., 2009; Maberly et al., 2013). This disproportionality between the contribution of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from northern lakes is not well understood, and may be due to numerous factors, including sensitivity of methanogenesis to temperature and lake trophic status (Tranvik et al., 2009; Ortiz-Llorente and Alvarez-Cobelas, 2012; Marotta et al., 2014) versus processes that control CO<sub>2</sub> availability (e. g. photosynthesis, inputs from terrestrial ecosystems, and organic matter mineralization) (Kling et al., 1991; Battin et al.,

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**Deleted:** Constraining CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is challenged by variability in patterns of CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure mainly due to photosynthesis, inputs from terrestrial ecosystems, and mineralization of the organic matter (Kling et al., 1991; Battin et al., 2009; Tranvik et al., 2009).

1 [2009; Tranvik et al., 2009](#)). Furthermore, lake CH<sub>4</sub> emission data is scarce relative to CO<sub>2</sub>  
2 [data, particularly at high northern latitudes \(Tranvik et al., 2009; Bastviken et al., 2011\)](#). Due  
3 to a disproportionately low number of northern high latitude lakes represented in previous  
4 studies of global CH<sub>4</sub> emissions (Bastviken et al., 2011), and a paucity of studies that  
5 considered various modes of emission together, CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from northern high  
6 latitude lakes are still poorly constrained.

7 [Landscape](#) diversity in Alaska provides a valuable opportunity to study CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>  
8 emission patterns from lakes [as they relate to](#) origin, climate, ecology, geology, and  
9 permafrost coverage. Across Arctic, Continental, and Transitional climate zones in Alaska,  
10 ecological habitats include arctic, alpine and forest tundra, and northern and southern boreal  
11 forests (Gregory-Eaves et al., 2000). The surficial geology in which Alaskan lakes are found  
12 varies primarily from fine-grain aeolian deposits; to coarser-grain coastal, glacial, fluvial and  
13 volcanic deposits; to rubble and bedrock (Karlstrom et al., 1964; Arp and Jones, 2009).  
14 Alaska is also characterized by a variety of permafrost types (Fig. 1) ranging from isolated  
15 permafrost in south-central Alaska to continuous permafrost in northern Alaska (Jorgenson et  
16 al., 2008).

17 Within the context of permafrost soil [organic](#) carbon content, Alaskan lakes can be  
18 classified depending on whether they are surrounded by yedoma-type permafrost or non-  
19 yedoma substrates (Walter Anthony et al., 2012). Yedoma is typically thick (tens of meters),  
20 [Pleistocene-aged loess-dominated permafrost sediment with high organic carbon \(~2% by](#)  
21 [mass\) and ice \(50-90% by volume\) contents \(Zimov et al., 2006\)](#). [When yedoma thaws and](#)  
22 [ground ice melts](#), deep thermokarst (thaw) lakes with high CH<sub>4</sub> production potentials form  
23 [\(Zimov et al., 1997; Kanevskiy et al., 2011; Walter Anthony and Anthony, 2013\)](#). [Some non-](#)  
24 yedoma permafrost [soils](#) can also have high organic carbon and excess ice concentrations  
25 within several meters of the ground surface; however, these organic- [and ice-rich](#) permafrost  
26 horizons are typically thinner than yedoma deposits (Ping et al., 2008; Tarnocai et al., 2009).  
27 As a result, thermokarst lakes formed in non-yedoma permafrost soils are commonly  
28 shallower than yedoma lakes and [have been shown to emit](#) less CH<sub>4</sub> (West and Plug, 2008;  
29 [Grosse et al., 2013](#); Walter Anthony and Anthony, 2013).

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1 Estimating CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from northern high latitude lakes, which are  
2 seasonally covered by ice, represents a difficult task because there are at least four emission  
3 pathways, all of which have not been consistently and simultaneously measured in the past:  
4 (1) Direct Ebullition, (2) Diffusion, (3) Storage flux, and a newly identified (4) Ice-Bubble  
5 Storage (IBS) flux (Greene et al., 2014).

6 Ebullition (bubbling) has been observed as the dominant pathway of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions  
7 from many lakes (Casper et al., 2000; Bastviken et al., 2004; Walter et al., 2006). Since CH<sub>4</sub>  
8 is less soluble, high concentrations in interstitial sediment water lead to bubble formation and  
9 their emission to the atmosphere. In contrast, CH<sub>4</sub> Diffusion flux to the atmosphere is usually  
10 relatively low and occurs mainly in summer when ice cover is absent. Due to much higher  
11 solubility, CO<sub>2</sub> tends to occur in low concentrations in ebullition bubbles, and instead escapes  
12 lakes predominately by Diffusion (Abril et al., 2005).

13 During winter, ice formation on most northern lakes impedes gas emissions to the  
14 atmosphere. Dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> accumulate in the lake water column beneath the ice,  
15 resulting in gas "storage." Storage emissions occur when dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> are emitted  
16 by diffusion when the ice melts in spring, often enhanced by full or partial lake overturn  
17 (Michmerhuizen et al., 1996; Phelps et al., 1998; Bellido et al., 2009). Storage emissions also  
18 occur in some lakes in autumn, if lake overturn caused by falling temperature brings high  
19 concentrations of dissolved gases from the hypolimnion to the surface, resulting in rapid CH<sub>4</sub>  
20 and CO<sub>2</sub> emission by diffusion from the water column. Bastviken et al. (2004) coined the  
21 term "Storage flux" when they considered it in regional lake emission estimates as a function  
22 of differences in water column CH<sub>4</sub> stocks before and after lake ice-out, CH<sub>4</sub> production, and  
23 CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation.

24 The fourth potential emission component involves CH<sub>4</sub> release to the atmosphere  
25 from seasonally ice-trapped ebullition bubbles in spring before the ice disappears. During  
26 winter, emission to the atmosphere of many bubbles rising from sediments is impeded by  
27 seasonal lake ice. When bubbles come to rest under the ice, they exchange gases with the  
28 water column (Greene et al., 2014). Some bubbles become sealed in ice as ice thickens  
29 downward. Due to the insulation property of gas bubbles, ice is locally thinner where bubbles

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1 are trapped, and bubbles usually stack in vertical columns separated by ice lenses of various  
2 thicknesses. As a result, when lake ice begins to melt in spring, bubble-rich patches of ice  
3 begin to locally degrade before the rest of the ice sheet. These ebullition bubbles previously  
4 sealed in and under ice are released to the atmosphere by an emission mode termed “Ice-  
5 Bubble Storage” (IBS) (Greene et al., 2014). Pondered water on the lake-ice surface can  
6 accelerate the release of ice-trapped bubbles to the atmosphere and also provides the  
7 opportunity for visual observation of gas release from bubbles trapped by degrading ice  
8 (K.M.W.A. unpublished data, 2014). It should be noted that gas in small, tubular bubbles  
9 formed in lake ice by the exclusion of dissolved gases as ice freezes (Gow and Langston,  
10 1977; Langer et al., 2014) is presumably released to the atmosphere when ice degrades as  
11 well; however, given the substantially lower concentration of CH<sub>4</sub> in these non-ebullition,  
12 freeze-out bubbles (usually < 0.01% by volume; Boereboom et al., 2012), this mode of  
13 emission is relatively insignificant in comparison to the larger ebullition-sourced bubbles, in  
14 which CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations typically range from 40-90% by volume (Martens et al., 1992;  
15 Semiletov et al., 1996; Walter Anthony et al., 2010).

16 Finally, it is important to understand how changes in nutrient availability and  
17 temperature influence CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> cycling in lakes. Increasing nutrients and temperature  
18 stimulates primary production and microbial decomposition of organic matter, which in turn  
19 consumes oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) and enhances anaerobic decay processes, particularly in sediments,  
20 where CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> are produced (Conrad et al., 2010). Aerobic CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation is controlled  
21 directly by O<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations and temperature (Utsumi et al., 1998; Bastviken et al.,  
22 2002; Borrel et al., 2011) and indirectly by nutrient availability (Dzyuban et al., 2010).  
23 Measurement of O<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations in lakes are essential for assessing global carbon  
24 cycling, and in this framework, correlating both parameters in situ has been promoted as an  
25 indirect means of assessing CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation by methanotrophs (Bastviken et al., 2004; Guerin  
26 and Abril, 2007; Sepulveda-Jauregui et al., 2012).

27 In this study we assessed the relationships between measured CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emission  
28 modes in 40 lakes along a North-South Alaska transect to the lakes' physicochemical  
29 properties and geographic characteristics. Our goal was to assess the magnitude, variability

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Deleted: Pondered water on the lake-ice surface can enhance the release of ice-trapped bubbles to the atmosphere and also provides the opportunity for visual observation of gas release from bubbles trapped by degrading ice (K.M.W.A. unpublished data). In this study, we investigated this emission pathway, which Greene et al. (2014) called “Ice-Bubble Storage” (IBS).

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1 and seasonality of individual modes of emission, particularly among the wide range of  
2 geographic lake settings in Alaska.

3

## 4 **2 Materials and Methods**

### 5 **2.1 Study lakes and permafrost zones**

6 We sampled water from 40 Alaskan lakes during open-water conditions in June-July  
7 2011 and 2012 (Fig. 1) and from 26 of the lakes toward the end of the winter ice-cover period  
8 in March-April 2011. Our study lakes were located near the road system along a North-South  
9 transect in Alaska that spans a variety of geographic and limnological settings, described  
10 previously by Gregory-Eaves [et al.](#) (2000), Jorgenson et al. (2008), and Walter Anthony et al.  
11 (2012). Our study lakes occupied three general climatic/permafrost zones: (1) The northern  
12 study area (66-70 °N, Arctic climate/continuous permafrost), (2) the interior study area (64-  
13 66 °N, Continental climate/discontinuous permafrost), and the southern study area (60-64 °N,  
14 Transitional climate/sporadic and isolated permafrost) (Gregory-Eaves et al., 2000; Jorgenson  
15 et al., 2008). Additionally, we distinguished yedoma-type thermokarst lakes as those formed  
16 in yedoma permafrost with active, ongoing thermokarst activity from non-yedoma type lakes,  
17 which were lakes occurring in other non-yedoma deposits in permafrost and non-permafrost  
18 soils (Fig. 1). Lake names, sizes, geographic characteristics, and limnological properties are  
19 shown in Table 1.

### 20 **2.2 Water-dissolved CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>**

21 Offshore and usually near the center of each lake, we sampled lake water at one to  
22 nine distributed depths throughout the water column for dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>  
23 concentrations and at 0.5-m depth intervals for O<sub>2</sub> concentrations during winter and summer.  
24 In lakes shallower than 1 m we sampled only one depth within 25 cm of the lake bottom. In  
25 the field we measured CH<sub>4</sub> concentration by the Headspace Equilibration-Tunable Diode  
26 Laser Spectroscopy (HE-TDLAS) method (Sepulveda-Jauregui et al., 2012) using a  
27 GasFinder 2.0 (Boreal Laser Inc., Edmonton, Canada; Appendix A). Additionally, we  
28 determined concentrations of headspace CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> in bottles of lake water in the  
29 laboratory following Kling (2010) using a GC-2014 gas chromatograph (Shimadzu, Addison,

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1 Illinois, USA) equipped with a flame ionization detector and a PLOT alumina column  
2 (detector temperature 250 °C, oven 40 °C, high purity Helium as carrier gas). Strong  
3 correlation between the GasFinder and bottle headspace methods was reported previously by  
4 Sepulveda-Jauregui et al., (2012). Dissolved O<sub>2</sub> concentrations were measured in the field  
5 with a luminescence sensor connected to a calibrated multiparametric probe Hydrolab  
6 DataSonde (Hach LDO, Loveland, Colorado, USA).

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### 7 2.3 CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> Diffusion Flux

8 We estimated the Diffusion flux of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> (g m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) based on the once per  
9 summer measurement of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in surface water from each lake and  
10 extrapolating results to the summer time open water period. We applied Fick's Law to our  
11 measurements of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in surface water following the boundary layer  
12 method of Kling et al. (1992):

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$$13 \text{ Diffusion flux} = T \times D \times z^{-1} \times (C_w - C_{eq}) \quad (1)$$

14 where T is the conversion factor from seconds to years (31,536,000); D is the molecular  
15 diffusivity of CH<sub>4</sub> or CO<sub>2</sub> (m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) following Kling et al. (1992); z (m) is the thickness of the  
16 surface boundary layer, assumed to be 200 μm as an average for Alaskan lakes following  
17 Kling et al. (1992); C<sub>w</sub> is the measured gas concentration at the bottom of the boundary layer  
18 (g m<sup>-3</sup>); C<sub>eq</sub> is the equilibrium gas concentration in surface lake water (g m<sup>-3</sup>) exposed to the  
19 atmosphere at the top of the boundary layer. We calculated C<sub>w</sub> and C<sub>eq</sub> using measured  
20 surface water temperatures, Henry's Law constants, and temperature dependence constants  
21 for CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>, respectively (NIST, 2011). We acknowledge that wind speed and heat

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22 exchange vary over different time scales and that they have a large effect on the gas exchange  
23 coefficient (Cole and Caraco, 1998; Tedford et al., 2014) and thus on the relative importance  
24 of diffusion emission from lakes. However, lacking wind speed and heat exchange data for  
25 our study lakes, our calculations are based on the assumption of a constant gas exchange  
26 coefficient derived from averaged wind speed values from lakes in our northern tundra study  
27 region (Kling et al. 1992). Because many of our study lakes are surrounded by trees, the  
28 average wind speed at these lakes during the open-water periods is likely more similar to that  
29 of the low-wind Mirror Lake, studied by Cole and Caraco (1998). On one lake, Goldstream

L. (forested, Interior Alaska), where we had higher temporal resolution data for surface water dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations (Greene et al., 2014) during the open water summer period, we explored the effect of using the average value of the exchange coefficient from Cole and Caraco (1998) instead of Kling et al. (1992) and found that the exchange coefficient calculated from the boundary layer thickness of Kling et al. (1992) differed by 2% from that from Cole and Caraco (1998).

#### 2.4 Storage flux

To estimate Storage flux, dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> profiles were measured in spring before the ice began to melt and in summer during ice-free conditions. We multiplied the average concentration of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> measured in samples collected from distributed depths in the water column by the height of the unfrozen water column. Storage flux (g m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) was calculated as the difference between total mass of dissolved gas in spring before ice break up and the total mass of dissolved gas in summer.

#### 2.5 CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> Ebullition from Sediments

We estimated CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> ebullition from sediments associated with discrete seeps following the lake-ice ebullition survey method of Walter Anthony et al. (2010). Seeps are defined as point-source locations of repeated bubbling and identified as A, B, C, and Hotspot classes according to distinct patterns of bubbles trapped in lake ice (Appendix A). To quantify seep ebullition, we removed snow from early winter lake ice to expose ebullition bubble clusters trapped in ice for seep classification, GPS mapping, flux measurements and gas collection using submerged bubble traps. On foot, we surveyed 9,355 individual seeps within 161 plots (30-300 m<sup>2</sup> per plot) positioned randomly within both littoral and profundal zones of lakes. In some lakes, ice was opened above the seeps for placement of submerged bubble traps. We retained semi-automated bubble traps placed over individual seeps year-round (Walter Anthony et al., 2010) to provide daily and seasonal ebullition flux data from sediments. Seep class-specific flux rates and bubble CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations measured on a subset of seeps were applied to all mapped seeps to estimate whole-lake ebullition rates, indexed by Julian Day of the year (Appendix A). These fluxes represent bubbling rates from sediments as measured at the lake surface, not necessarily Direct Ebullition to the

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1 atmosphere. The following two sections describe the fate of ebullition bubbles during the ice-  
2 cover and ice-free seasons.

### 3 **2.6 Ice-Bubble Storage (IBS) flux**

4 During the open-water (ice-free) summer season, ebullition bubbles reaching the lake  
5 surface release CH<sub>4</sub> directly to the atmosphere (Direct Ebullition). In winter, lake ice impedes  
6 Direct Ebullition emissions. Many ebullition bubbles reaching the top of the water column hit  
7 the underside of lake ice, come to rest, and exchange gases with the water column until the  
8 downward-growing ice encapsulates the bubbles. Since lake water is typically undersaturated  
9 in CH<sub>4</sub> with respect to the CH<sub>4</sub> concentration (40-90%) of most ebullition bubbles  
10 (Sepulveda-Jauregui et al., 2012), CH<sub>4</sub> readily diffuses out of bubbles into the lake water  
11 column.

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**Deleted:** Since ebullition bubbles typically have a high CH<sub>4</sub> concentration (40-90%) in comparison to most lake water, which is generally far below saturation with respect to CH<sub>4</sub> (Wilhelm et al., 1977; Sepulveda-Jauregui et al. 2012), CH<sub>4</sub> readily diffuses out of bubbles into the lake water column

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12 We collected 37 samples of ebullition bubbles trapped as pockets in lake ice from five  
13 Alaskan lakes, expanding upon the lake ice-bubble data set of Walter et al. (2008).  
14 Additionally, we opened the lake ice and placed bubble traps beneath ice, above seeps, to  
15 sample 'fresh' ebullition bubbles at the lake surface before they are impeded by ice (n = 2-41  
16 seeps per lake; total of 560 samples). This allowed us to compare concentrations of CH<sub>4</sub> in  
17 ice-trapped bubbles (n = 2-8 seeps per lake) to gas concentrations in 'fresh' bubbles prior to  
18 ice entrapment.

19 Numerical modeling informed by detailed field studies of CH<sub>4</sub> diffusion from ice-  
20 trapped bubbles in one of our study lakes, Goldstream L. (#18) revealed that 80% of CH<sub>4</sub> in  
21 bubbles trapped by ice dissolves into the lake water column in winter (Greene et al., 2014).  
22 The remaining 20% of CH<sub>4</sub> ebullition trapped by ice is released to the atmosphere, either  
23 from Hotspot seep sites that open periodically throughout the winter, or from A, B, and C  
24 seep sites as ice melts in spring (i.e. IBS emissions). With input of observed ice-growth rates  
25 on a subset of lakes in each of the three study regions and mean monthly atmospheric  
26 temperatures during 2003-2013 (U.S. National Weather Service), we employed this model to  
27 calculate a first-order estimate of IBS in 34 of the 40 study lakes in which we had  
28 measurements of both seep ebullition and water-column dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations, which  
29 affect the CH<sub>4</sub> dissolution rate from bubbles. We linearly interpolated between measured



1 surface CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations in the summer and spring to estimate water-column CH<sub>4</sub>  
2 concentrations during the ice-cover period. The decrease in the volume of ice-trapped  
3 bubbles in each lake, as calculated by this model, was used together with the decrease in their  
4 CH<sub>4</sub> concentration, calculated from our measurements of fresh vs. ice-trapped bubbles, to  
5 determine the IBS flux for each lake.

## 6 **2.7 Direct Ebullition in Winter and Summer**

7 Since ice-bubble pockets above A-, B-, and C-type seeps open approximately one  
8 month prior to complete disappearance of lake ice in spring (K.M.W.A. unpublished data,  
9 [2014](#); Greene et al., 2014), we assume in our calculations that subsequent ebullition by seeps  
10 releases fresh bubbles directly to the atmosphere through open holes during this spring melt  
11 period. Particularly high bubbling rates from 'Hotspot' seeps maintain ice-free conditions  
12 above these point-sources of bubbling, allowing for Direct Ebullition to the atmosphere when  
13 air temperature is higher than -15 °C (Zimov et al., 2001; Greene et al., 2014). In interior  
14 Alaska, the only region where Hotspot seeps were observed, mean monthly temperatures  
15 from 2003-2013 indicated that on average, wintertime Direct Ebullition from hotspots occurs  
16 for several weeks post-freeze up in October and in spring from February until ice melt in  
17 May. These shoulder seasons of bubble emissions through open holes in lake ice are  
18 consistent with our field observations. However, warm temperature anomalies or heavy  
19 snowfall events can also open hotspots at other times (on the scale of days) during winter  
20 (K.M.W.A. [personal observation, 2014](#); Zimov et al., 2001; Greene et al., 2014), but these  
21 were not included in our calculations. In this study, ebullition from all seep classes during the  
22 final month of ice cover and from Hotspots during fall and spring shoulder seasons when  
23 mean monthly atmospheric temperatures were higher than -15 °C (U.S. National Weather  
24 Service) together comprised Direct Ebullition in winter.

25 Direct Ebullition in summer was estimated as the product of average seep densities on  
26 each lake and the sum of daily ebullition measured in bubble traps placed on representative  
27 seeps of each class in a subset of lakes during the open-water summer period (Sect. 2.5).

## 28 **2.8 Seasonal and mean annual emissions**

1 We estimated mean annual emissions from lakes as the sum of various modes of  
2 emissions seasonally: 1) Direct Ebullition from all seeps and Diffusion from the water  
3 column in summer (ice-free period); 2) winter (ice-cover period) Direct Ebullition emissions  
4 through ice-free Hotspot seeps during shoulder seasons and from all open seeps during the  
5 final month of the spring ice-melt season; and 3) spring emissions as the sum of first the  
6 release of IBS (ebullition seep gases trapped by lake ice) before lake ice disappears, and  
7 second, the release of lake water column Storage of dissolved gases, previously described by  
8 Michmerhuizen et al. (1996), Phelps et al. (1998), and Bastviken et al. (2004), when ice  
9 melts. We acknowledge that our calculations contain uncertainty associated with the  
10 assumption that single-day measurements of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in lakes represent the  
11 mean for calculating Diffusion flux for the entire open water period; however, these were the  
12 best available data at the time of this study, and a similar approach has been used in  
13 numerous other studies reviewed by Bastviken et al. (2011). Due to a paucity of field  
14 measurements on the Alaskan lakes, annual emissions estimates do not include background  
15 (non-seep) ebullition, which was found to be 25% of annual emission in Siberian lakes  
16 (Walter et al. 2006).

17 Because lakes were classified according to three geographic zones based on climate  
18 and permafrost, the average timing of ice cover was used to estimate the seasonal differences  
19 between CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for all lakes within each zone. Mean annual ice-on and ice-  
20 off dates from were compiled for years 2000-2012 for study lakes near Toolik Field Station  
21 in the northern region (1 Oct. – 18 Jun.), our own observations of interior Alaska study lakes  
22 near Fairbanks from years 2008-2012 (8 Oct. - 9 May), and from Arp et al. (2013) and the  
23 National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program during years 2000-2013 for  
24 southern region lakes near Denali National Park (1 Oct. – 23 May) and southcentral Alaska,  
25 south of the Alaska Range (15 Nov. - 7 May).

## 26 **2.9 Physical and chemical limnology**

27 We measured the physicochemical properties of lakes during winter and summer field  
28 campaigns at the same locations where dissolved gases were measured. Measurements of in  
29 situ water properties along vertical depth profiles in lakes included temperature, pH,

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1 oxidation reduction potential (ORP), and chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) obtained using a calibrated  
2 multiparametric probe Hydrolab DataSonde (Hach, Loveland, CO, USA). For a subset of  
3 lakes in each region, we used temperature data loggers (UA-001-08, Onset HOBO, Bourne,  
4 MA, USA) to record water temperature year-round in five-minute intervals at two depths (1  
5 m water depth and lake bottom). Secchi disk depth (SecD) was measured with a 0.2 m Secchi  
6 disk. We collected water samples for ex situ analyses using a horizontal 2.2 L Van Dorn  
7 Bottle (WILDCO, Yulee, FL, USA). The concentrations of dissolved nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ),  
8 phosphate ( $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ) and sulfate ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) in lake water were measured with a high-performance  
9 liquid chromatograph equipped with an electrochemical detector (ED40 Dionex, Dionex,  
10 USA). We determined total organic carbon [TOC; used to approximate DOC following  
11 [Wetzel \(2001\) and Weyhenmeyer and Karlsson \(2009\)](#)] and total nitrogen (TN) with a total  
12 carbon and nitrogen analyzer (Shimadzu TOC-Vcsn equipped with TNM1 module,  
13 Shimadzu, Japan).

14 Trophic state indexes (TSI), calculated from [Chl-a](#), [SecD](#), and  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ , were used to  
15 estimate the trophic states of the lakes (Carlson, 1977). [Since total phosphorus \(TP\) is](#)  
16 [typically used in TSI calculations, our calculation is an approximation of trophic state.](#)  
17 [However, we do not expect the use of  \$\text{PO}\_4^{3-}\$  instead of TP has a large effect on our results,](#)  
18 [since Chl-a is the primary index for trophic state classification \(Carlson and Simpson, 1996\).](#)  
19 [Furthermore,  \$\text{PO}\_4^{3-}\$  is the more biologically reactive form of phosphorous in lake water lake,](#)  
20 [and has been shown to be a good predictor of trophic status \(Stendick and Hall, 2003;](#)  
21 [Haberman and Haldna, 2014\).](#)

22 [We](#) classified some lakes as [dystrophic since our field and laboratory observations of](#)  
23 [brown water color \(DOC\), low SecD, high nutrients, high Chl-a concentrations, abundant](#)  
24 [macrophytes, and anoxic hypolimnion matched the definition of dystrophy provided by](#)  
25 [Wetzel \(2001\).](#) In these lakes, water had a dark brown color resulting from high  
26 concentrations of [DOC, presumably from](#) humic substances and organic acids [leached from](#)  
27 [litter and soils in their watersheds. Wetzel \(2001\) explains that the productivity of most](#)  
28 [dystrophic lakes has classically been described as low; however, more detailed examinations](#)  
29 [indicated that chlorophyll concentration \(phytoplankton biomass\) was significantly higher in](#)

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1 the more shallow photic zone of brown-water lakes than in clear lakes when expressed per  
2 volume of epilimnion. We did not quantify macrophyte biomass, but our qualitative  
3 observation of a higher abundance of submerged and emergent plants growing in the brown-  
4 water lakes is also consistent with Wetzel's description of littoral plants often contributing  
5 significantly to lake ecosystem metabolism in dystrophic lakes.

6 Surface sediment samples (1-5 cm depth) were collected in summer 2008 from a  
7 subset of lakes using a 6.6 cm diameter piston hammer corer at multiple locations within  
8 individual lakes. Samples were stored under refrigeration and then dried (105 °C), acidified  
9 (5-15 mL 2N HCl) and the top 1-cm was analyzed for TOC and TN on a Costech ESC 4010  
10 elemental analyzer (Alaska Stable Isotope Facility at the University of Alaska Water and  
11 Environmental Research Center). Additional surface lake sediment samples were collected in  
12 2012 from a central lake location using the hammer corer. These sediments were analyzed for  
13 moisture content by weighing and drying to 105 °C. We determined organic matter content  
14 on a dry weight basis via loss-on-ignition at 550 °C (Dean, 1974).

## 15 2.10 Statistical Analysis

16 Since data were not normally distributed and did not meet the assumption of  
17 homoscedasticity, we tested relationships between CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions vs. geographic  
18 characteristics and limnological properties for the different lakes using the non-parametric  
19 Two-tailed Mann-Whitney U test for comparison of two groups and Kruskal-Wallis One Way  
20 Analysis of Variance for comparison of several groups. We followed the Kruskal-Wallis  
21 analysis with the Multiple-Comparison Z-value test; differences were significant when the Z  
22 value was > 1.96.

23 We used single linear regression analysis to quantify relationships between CH<sub>4</sub> and  
24 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and geographic, and limnological properties. For these analyses, data  
25 normalization was obtained using logarithm base 10 (Log) transformation. Before and after  
26 data transformation, normality was assessed by the Shapiro-Wilk test. Regression models  
27 were accepted when the p-value was < 0.01. Mean values from full vertical depth profiles of  
28 temperature, pH, ORP and from epilimnion measurements for Chl-a are shown in Table 1 and  
29 were used in these single linear regression analyses. We used the mean winter temperature

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1 [measured with Hobo data loggers \(1 m water depth and lake bottom\) to fill data gaps in some](#)  
2 [northern lakes \(Table 1\).](#)

3 Relationships between [separately permafrost type CH<sub>4</sub> ebullition and lake area](#), lake-  
4 bottom water dissolved CH<sub>4</sub>, lake-bottom water dissolved O<sub>2</sub>, and ebullition were evaluated  
5 graphically and by Spearman Product-Moment Correlation Coefficients ( $r_s$ ).

6 Statistical analyses were performed with NCSS 2000 Statistical Analysis 193 System  
7 software (Number Cruncher Statistical Systems, USA). To fill data gaps, we added additional  
8 limnological, geographic, and ecological zone information from the literature to our own  
9 measurements (Table 1).

### 11 3 Results

#### 12 3.1 Geographic and limnological patterns of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

13 Total annual CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were highly variable, ranging two orders of  
14 magnitude among lakes (2.0 to > 300 g CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> and 34.2 to > 1,500 g CO<sub>2</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>;  
15 Table 2, Fig. 2). Among the geographic [characteristics](#) presented in Table 1 and CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>  
16 emissions presented in Table 2, we found that the type of permafrost soil (yedoma vs. non-  
17 yedoma) was the geographic [characteristic](#) most closely related to CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
18 (Table 3). Total annual CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from yedoma lakes ( $44.2 \pm 17.0$  g m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, mean  $\pm$   
19 SD, n = 7 lakes, excluding outlier lake #25) was significantly higher than from non-yedoma  
20 lakes ( $8.0 \pm 4.1$  g m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, n = 32 lakes) (Table 2). Total annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions appeared  
21 higher in yedoma ( $784 \pm 757$  g m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, mean  $\pm$  SD, n = 8 lakes, excluding outlier lake #25)  
22 than non-yedoma lakes ( $137 \pm 129$  g m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, n = 32 lakes) (Table 2); however, due to high  
23 variability among lakes, the difference was not significant. Rosie Creek beaver pond (#25),  
24 an outlier lake with particularly high CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ( $317$  g CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>;  $1138$  g  
25 CO<sub>2</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>; Fig. 2), was formed [prior to our study](#) by beaver activity in an active stream  
26 system that drains into the Tanana River. The pond was subsequently influenced by  
27 thermokarst expansion ([Walter Anthony, personal observation](#)) into yedoma-type deposits,  
28 which further [enhanced](#) carbon cycling in the fluvial system.

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1 The relationship between CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and other geographic parameters  
2 followed the same pattern to the extent that they were related to characteristics of yedoma  
3 and non-yedoma permafrost soils (Table 3). For instance, yedoma is characterized by eolian  
4 deposits, which among the surface geologic deposit types was also most strongly related to  
5 CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Among our study lakes, yedoma lakes occurred in the interior  
6 Alaska region (Fig. 1) and tended to have a dystrophic state, parameters that were both  
7 related to CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Since the particular yedoma lakes in our study were  
8 relatively small lakes ( $\leq 0.1 \text{ km}^2$ ), lake area was a morphologic parameter closely related to  
9 CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

10 Regressions models showed that physical and chemical limnological parameters  
11 (Table 1) explained 19-63% of deviation in the different flux pathways of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions  
12 (Table 4). Total CH<sub>4</sub> emission was correlated with Area, SecD, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, and TN (Table 4). We  
13 did not find any relationships between total CO<sub>2</sub> and the lakes' physicochemical properties,  
14 probably due to chemical equilibrium in water.

### 15 3.2 Modes of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emission

16 Total annual ebullition, consisting of Direct Ebullition in summer and winter as well  
17 as springtime release from IBS, was the dominant mode of CH<sub>4</sub> emission in lakes, comprising  
18 86% of total annual emissions from yedoma lakes and 65% from non-yedoma lakes (Table  
19 2). Summer Direct Ebullition was higher in yedoma-type lakes ( $26.2 \pm 15.9 \text{ g CH}_4 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , n  
20 = 6 lakes, excluding lake # 25) than non-yedoma lakes ( $4.0 \pm 3.7 \text{ g CH}_4 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , n = 28  
21 lakes). This contrast drove other significant relationships in the data set: since yedoma lakes  
22 were primarily located in the interior discontinuous permafrost zone, and they dominated the  
23 dystrophic and northern boreal forest lakes category, we found that summer ebullition was  
24 higher in interior lakes than in northern and southern lakes; summer ebullition was higher in  
25 dystrophic lakes than in lakes of other trophic states; and northern boreal forest lakes had  
26 higher summer Direct Ebullition than lakes from other ecozonal categories (Tables 2 and 3).  
27 Direct Ebullition of CH<sub>4</sub> in winter and summer was correlated with lake Area. Smaller lakes  
28 had higher Direct Ebullition (Table 4); since our yedoma study lakes were smaller than non-  
29 yedoma lakes, this factor is strongly influenced by permafrost type. The regression analysis

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1 [with permafrost type categories separately \(yedoma and non-yedoma lake type\) creates](#)  
2 [scarce data in yedoma lakes \(n = 5\) to do this analysis. However Spearman coefficients](#)  
3 [supports this tendency, since it indicates a negative correlation with lake area among yedoma](#)  
4 [lakes \(summer  \$r\_s = -0.66\$ , winter  \$r\_s = -0.71\$ \) and in non-yedoma lakes \(summer  \$r\_s = -0.45\$ ,](#)  
5 [winter  \$r\_s = -0.63\$ \).](#)

6 Yedoma lakes were the only lakes in which we observed Hotspot ebullition and seep  
7 densities of all seep classes were higher in yedoma lakes (mean  $\pm$  SD:  $2.12 \pm 2.50$  A seeps  $m^{-2}$   
8  $^2$ ,  $0.28 \pm 0.19$  B seeps  $m^{-2}$ ,  $0.06 \pm 0.06$  C seeps  $m^{-2}$ ,  $0.01 \pm 0.01$  Hotspot seeps  $m^{-2}$ ) compared  
9 to non-yedoma lakes ( $0.70 \pm 0.68$  A seeps  $m^{-2}$ ,  $0.05 \pm 0.06$  B seeps  $m^{-2}$ ,  $0.001 \pm 0.003$  C  
10 seeps  $m^{-2}$ , 0 Hotspot seeps  $m^{-2}$ ). It follows that Direct Ebullition during the winter ice-cover  
11 period was also much higher from yedoma lakes ( $5.9 \pm 3.6$  g  $CH_4$   $m^{-2}$   $yr^{-1}$ , n = 6 lakes;  
12 excluding lake #25) than non-yedoma lakes ( $0.6 \pm 0.6$  g  $CH_4$   $m^{-2}$   $yr^{-1}$ , n = 28 lakes) (Table 2).  
13 In contrast, ebullition was not an important mode of  $CO_2$  emission from any lakes. Total  
14 ebullition, including summer and winter Direct Ebullition, contributed 0.1% of the total  
15 annual  $CO_2$  emissions among all lakes (Table 2).

16 A comparison of  $CH_4$  composition in fresh ebullition bubbles vs. bubbles trapped by  
17 lake ice revealed that the  $CH_4$  concentration in ebullition bubbles trapped by ice was  $33 \pm$   
18  $12\%$  (mean  $\pm$  SD, n = 6 lakes) lower than in ebullition bubbles escaping to the atmosphere at  
19 the lake surface unimpeded by ice (Fig. 3; Mann-Whitney U Test,  $Z_{>} > 1.96$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ).

20 The IBS model, which accounts for [decreases in the volume and  \$CH\_4\$  concentration of](#)  
21 [ice-trapped bubbles as their  \$CH\_4\$  dissolves into the water column](#), (Greene et al., 2014),  
22 revealed that IBS was on average 13% of total annual  $CH_4$  emissions from yedoma lakes ( $5.8$   
23  $\pm 4.6$  g  $m^{-2}$   $yr^{-1}$ , n = 6) and 9% for non-yedoma lakes ( $0.7 \pm 0.7$  g  $m^{-2}$   $yr^{-1}$ , n = 28) (Table 2,  
24 Fig. 2). The  $CH_4$  IBS flux from lakes was negatively correlated with Area and SecD (Table  
25 4). Given the minor role of  $CO_2$  Direct Ebullition in the annual emission budget ( $< 0.1\%$ ),  
26 and the [even smaller](#) role of springtime IBS, we considered IBS an insignificant mode of  $CO_2$   
27 emission.

28 Storage emissions were highly variable among all lakes ( $0.5 \pm 0.7$  g  $CH_4$   $m^{-2}$   $yr^{-1}$ , n =  
29 20 lakes;  $7 \pm 17$  g  $CO_2$   $m^{-2}$   $yr^{-1}$ , n = 18 lakes; excluding lake #25). We did not find a

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1 significant difference in Storage flux between yedoma vs. non-yedoma lakes. As with all  
2 modes of emission, lake #25 had the highest Storage CH<sub>4</sub> flux (39.0 g m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). We did not  
3 find a correlation between CH<sub>4</sub> Storage flux and limnological parameters (p < 0.01). Since we  
4 were unable to normalize the CO<sub>2</sub> Storage flux data, it was not possible to assess potential  
5 correlations between this mode of emission and limnological parameters. Comparing  
6 emission modes, Storage flux contributed 3% and 0% of total annual CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions,  
7 respectively, from yedoma lakes and 5% and 7% of total annual CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions,  
8 respectively, from non-yedoma lakes (Table 2).

9 CH<sub>4</sub> Diffusion emissions were statistically different between yedoma (5.0 ± 1.4 g CH<sub>4</sub>  
10 m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, n = 5; excluding lake #25) and non-yedoma lakes (2.4 ± 1.3 g CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, n = 26).  
11 Rosie Creek beaver pond (#25) had the highest diffusive flux (160.3 g CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>).  
12 Diffusion comprised 11% and 30% of total annual CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from yedoma and non-  
13 yedoma lakes respectively. We found a significant positive correlation between CH<sub>4</sub> diffusive  
14 flux and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> (Table 4). In contrast, Diffusion was the dominant CO<sub>2</sub> mode of emission  
15 among all of our study lakes. Diffusion constituted 100% and 92% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from  
16 yedoma and non-yedoma lakes respectively. Diffusion from yedoma lakes (784 ± 757 g CO<sub>2</sub>  
17 m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, n = 4 lakes) was significantly higher than Diffusion from non-yedoma lakes (127 ±  
18 127 g CO<sub>2</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, n = 23 lakes). It was not possible to normalize CO<sub>2</sub> Diffusion data, so we  
19 were unable to determine potential correlations between this mode of emission and  
20 limnological parameters.

### 21 3.3 Seasonal emissions

22 Figure 4 illustrates the contribution of different gas emissions pathways to annual  
23 emissions by season. Approximately three quarters of annual CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were released  
24 from lakes during the open water summer season: 71% and 79% of total annual CH<sub>4</sub>  
25 emissions in yedoma lakes and non-yedoma lakes respectively were the sum of summer  
26 Direct Ebullition and Diffusion. Spring and winter CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were also important. From  
27 yedoma lakes, first 13% of total annual emissions occurred via IBS in spring when the ice  
28 started to degrade; subsequently, water column Storage release of dissolved gases was 3% of  
29 total annual emissions. From non-yedoma lakes, total springtime emissions were 14% of

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1 annual, consisting first of IBS (9%) followed by Storage (5%). Wintertime emissions via  
2 Direct Ebullition from ice-free holes above seeps were 13% of total annual emissions from  
3 yedoma lakes and 7% from non-yedoma lakes. It is of interest to note that accounting for  
4 IBS, a newly recognized mode of emission, increased the estimate of springtime CH<sub>4</sub>  
5 emissions based on the more commonly reported Storage emission by 320%.

6 Seasonally, ~100% and 92% of total annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from yedoma and non-  
7 yedoma lakes respectively occurred in summer by Diffusion from the open water surface.  
8 The remaining 8% of annual emissions in non-yedoma lakes occurred in spring from water  
9 column Storage flux (7%) and winter Direct Ebullition (less than 1%) (Table 2 and Fig. 2).

### 10 3.4 Physical and chemical patterns

11 The difference between yedoma and non-yedoma lakes was observed in several  
12 physical and chemical parameters (Tables 1, 3, and 5). Southern lakes (non-yedoma lakes)  
13 are deeper and larger than Interior lakes (mostly yedoma lakes), while northern lakes (non-  
14 yedoma lakes) were not statistically different from lakes in the other regions.

15 Deep lakes (> 20 m), moderately deep lakes (usually > 6 m) with adequate wind  
16 protection ~~from topography and/or vegetation~~, and all yedoma lakes, owing to their small  
17 surface area to volume ratios and high TOC concentrations were thermally stratified in  
18 summer. Exceptions were two yedoma-type lakes with creeks flowing through them  
19 (Killarney L. #20 and Rosie Creek beaver pond #25) and a small, shallow, yedoma  
20 thermokarst pond (Stevens Pond #22, 1.1 m) that ~~was~~ semi-stratified. In contrast, shallow,  
21 non-yedoma lakes (usually < 3m) and non-yedoma lakes located in mountain regions with  
22 large surface area to volume ratios and high wind conditions were well mixed.

23 In winter, most lakes ~~showed~~ inverse stratification. ~~We found that~~ winter bottom  
24 temperature was significantly different between northern lakes ( $1.3 \pm 1.5$  °C) and southern  
25 lakes ( $2.6 \pm 1.1$  °C), but none of these were significantly different from lake bottom  
26 temperature in Interior Alaska ( $1.4 \pm 1.0$  °C), which is mainly due to the contrasting climatic  
27 conditions and the relatively shallow depths of northern lakes compared to southern lakes.

28 In most lakes, if there was a dissolved O<sub>2</sub> (DO) gradient, then DO was highest near  
29 the lake surface and decreased with depth in winter and summer. Three exceptions were El

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1 Fuego L. (#11), 91 L. (#27) and Dolly Varden L. (#36), where we observed an increase in  
2 DO with depth in summer, likely due to benthic photosynthesis in the shallow lakes (#11 and  
3 #27) and a deep chlorophyll maximum (DCM) in the deep lake (#36). In #36 we observed  
4 Chl-a concentrations near the surface of ~ 3.7  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ; Chl-a concentrations increased with  
5 depth to a maximum (23.0  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) just below 20 m. DCM is a common trend in deep, clear-  
6 water lakes with low trophic state (Gervais et al., 1997; Camacho, 2006). Among yedoma  
7 lakes, lake-bottom dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations were  $< 0.1 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  in both winter  
8 and summer. In contrast, 81% of the 32 non-yedoma lakes had well-oxygenated lake bottoms  
9 in summer; the lake-bottom water DO concentration in the other 19% of lakes was  $< 0.1 \text{ mg}$   
10  $\text{L}^{-1}$ . In winter, we observed the reverse pattern among non-yedoma lakes: 76% of 17 non-  
11 yedoma lakes measured had lake-bottom DO  $< 0.1 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  while 24% of non-yedoma lakes,  
12 all which were southern lakes, had well-oxygenated lake bottoms in winter. All temperature  
13 and DO profiles measured on the study lakes are shown in Supplement Fig. B.

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14 DO concentrations were inversely related to dissolved  $\text{CH}_4$  concentrations in the lake  
15 bottom water during winter and summer (Fig. 5). This relationship suggests a strong  
16 influence by microbial processes that consume  $\text{O}_2$ , consequently reducing aerobic oxidation  
17 of dissolved  $\text{CH}_4$ , particularly in the organic-rich, yedoma lakes of interior Alaska (Table 5  
18 and sec. 4.3). Additionally, we found significant statistical relationships between lake area  
19 and dissolved gas concentrations ( $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{O}_2$ ) among our yedoma (small lakes) and non-  
20 yedoma study lakes (generally larger lakes) (Table 5).

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21 Five additional limnological parameters also showed significant differences between  
22 yedoma and non-yedoma lakes (Table 1). The TOC,  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ , TN, Chl-a, and SecD indicated  
23 higher nutrient availability and higher primary production in the dystrophic, yedoma lakes  
24 and/or their watersheds (Table 1). ORP values were significantly different between winter  
25 and summer in all lakes (Table 1), but were more than 2.5 and 1.5 times lower in yedoma  
26 lakes compared to non-yedoma lakes in winter and summer respectively, indicating more  
27 reducing conditions in yedoma-lake water columns. Temperature and pH were significantly  
28 different between summer and winter in non-yedoma lakes, while only temperature differed  
29 seasonally in yedoma lakes. Altogether, these findings of higher primary production and

1 lower ORP are consistent with the observations of high CH<sub>4</sub> and low O<sub>2</sub> concentrations in  
2 yedoma lakes compared to non-yedoma lakes (Fig. 5).

## 3 **4 Discussion**

### 4 **4.1 Emission modes**

5 The relative magnitude of different emission modes in this study followed the same general  
6 pattern observed previously (Casper et al., 2000; Bastviken et al., 2004; Abril et al., 2005;  
7 Repo et al., 2007), with ebullition dominating lake CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and diffusion dominating  
8 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Most studies of ebullition are conducted by distributing bubble traps in lakes  
9 without prior knowledge of discrete seep locations. Since seep locations are identified in  
10 winter as vertical stacks of bubbles in lake ice that represent repeated ebullition from discrete  
11 point-sources, surveys of lake-ice bubbles reveal the locations and densities of ebullition  
12 seeps on lakes. Surveys also show the relative proportion of (ebullition) bubble-free black  
13 ice, which in nearly all ice-covered lakes dominates on an area basis. Walter et al. (2006)  
14 identified non-point source bubbling from the seep-free fraction of the lake as "Background  
15 Ebullition". Background Ebullition is thought to originate primarily from methanogenesis in  
16 surface lake sediments in summer; in contrast, ebullition seeps consist of bubble tubes that  
17 allow CH<sub>4</sub> produced at depth in sediments to migrate efficiently as bubbles to the sediment  
18 surface in summer and winter by the repeated release from point-source locations. Bubble  
19 traps placed in seep and non-seep locations and monitored year-round in two Siberian lakes  
20 showed that seep ebullition dominated total annual CH<sub>4</sub> emissions. Background Ebullition  
21 was high in summer, nearly absent in winter, and altogether comprised ~25% of total annual  
22 CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in the Siberian lakes. Preliminary results from bubble-traps placed in some of  
23 our Alaskan study lakes in locations where no seep ebullition bubbles were observed in  
24 winter also showed high summertime bubbling (K.M.W.A. unpublished data, 2014). This  
25 suggests that Background Ebullition occurs in Alaska too. Since our estimate of lake  
26 ebullition in the Alaskan lakes is based solely on discrete seeps and does not include non-  
27 seep Background Ebullition, we consider that our estimate of total lake ebullition is below the  
28 total actual ebullition flux. Given that methanogenesis is highly temperature dependent  
29 (Dunfield et al., 1993; Schulz et al., 1997; Duc, et al., 2010; Marotta et al. 2014; Yvon-

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1 Durocher et al. 2014) and surface lake sediments heat up in summer, accounting for  
2 Background Ebullition would likely increase the total ebullition emissions from all of the  
3 Alaskan study lakes.

4 The Ice-Bubble Storage (IBS) mode of emission described here is a newly recognized  
5 CH<sub>4</sub> ebullition flux component in lakes (Greene et al., 2014) that has not previously been  
6 included in regional studies. Given the coarse temporal resolution of temperature and  
7 dissolved gas data used as input to the IBS model, we acknowledge that our estimate of IBS  
8 is a first-order approximation. However, strong agreement in the relative importance of IBS  
9 in the annual CH<sub>4</sub> budget of Goldstream Lake (#18) in this study using coarse resolution data  
10 (IBS 6% of total annual CH<sub>4</sub> emission) vs. the estimate from Greene et al. (2014) using  
11 highly detailed field data allowing detailed modeling (IBS was 6% and 9% of total annual  
12 emissions in two different years), suggests that our first-order approximations of IBS may be  
13 valid. Since IBS was an important mode of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions among our study lakes (13% and  
14 9% of total annual emissions in yedoma and non-yedoma lakes, respectively), it is likely that  
15 past estimates of the magnitude and seasonality of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from lakes with ebullition  
16 seeps were incomplete. Greene et al. (2014) found that a large fraction (~80%) of CH<sub>4</sub>  
17 diffused from ebullition bubbles trapped under lake ice into the lake water in Goldstream L.  
18 Coarser-resolution modeling of the IBS process for our study lakes also suggested that  
19 approximately 80% of CH<sub>4</sub> dissolved out of ice-trapped bubbles. The mean and standard  
20 deviation of the CH<sub>4</sub> fraction dissolving out of ice-trapped bubbles was 83 ± 0.9% for 34  
21 lakes (range 65-89% for 33 lakes, excluding Killarney L. with anomalously low CH<sub>4</sub> content  
22 in bubbles freshly released from sediments). Detailed measurements and modeling in  
23 Goldstream L. showed that about half of this re-dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> was ultimately oxidized  
24 (Greene et al., 2014). Due to a paucity of field data, we did not model CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation;  
25 however, given the observed CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation potentials in our study lakes through incubation  
26 studies (Martinez-Cruz et al., 2015), it is likely that some fraction of the re-dissolved  
27 ebullition bubbles is oxidized. The un-oxidized fraction of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> is subject to release  
28 to the atmosphere via water column convection and diffusion as Storage emissions in spring  
29 when ice more completely disintegrates and as Diffusion during summer (Greene et al.,

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1 2014). Thus the Storage and Diffusion modes of emission may involve not only dissolved  
2 CH<sub>4</sub> that diffused out of lake sediments, but also dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> that first originated as  
3 ebullition bubbles prior to ice entrapment. Since ebullition seeps were important components  
4 of whole-lake CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in all of our study lakes, as well as in tens of other lakes  
5 previously reported in Alaska (Walter Anthony et al., 2012) and Siberia (Walter et al., 2006;  
6 Walter Anthony et al., 2010), IBS should be studied and accounted for in global lake CH<sub>4</sub>  
7 emission budgets.

8 Lake CH<sub>4</sub> Storage emission estimates for our Alaska study lakes ( $0.5 \pm 0.7$  g CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup>  
9 yr<sup>-1</sup>; Table 2), which comprised ~4% of total annual emissions, were highly variable and on  
10 the same order of magnitude as the mean estimate for other northern lakes reported by  
11 Bastviken et al. (2004) (2.4 g CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) and Bastviken et al. (2011) (0.8 g CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>;  
12 pan-Arctic). Storage emission from global lakes ranged from < 0.1 to 37 g CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> y<sup>-1</sup>,  
13 comprising 0.5% to 81% of the total annual emissions (Bastviken et al., 2011). This also  
14 suggests high variability in this emission mode among global lakes. The large relative error  
15 for Storage flux measured among our Alaska study lakes (140%; mean  $\pm$  SD,  $0.5 \pm 0.7$  g CH<sub>4</sub>  
16 m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) confirms that there is large variability associated with this mode of emission;  
17 however, CH<sub>4</sub> Storage emissions in our Alaska study lakes were < 2.7 g CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, except  
18 in Rosie Creek beaver pond (#25, 39 g CH<sub>4</sub> m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). The small sample size (n = 2 yedoma  
19 lakes) might lead to potential bias in the Storage emissions for yedoma vs. non-yedoma lakes.  
20 Further analyses are require to address the differences in Storage emissions between these  
21 lake types. Additionally, full or partial turnover of the lake water column in fall can release  
22 additional stored CH<sub>4</sub> (Bastviken et al., 2004; Bellido et al., 2009). We acknowledge that our  
23 Storage values for CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> are gross estimations since we estimated only spring Storage  
24 emission and did not take into account potential additional emissions associated with fall  
25 turnover or the impacts of lake morphology. Low spatiotemporal resolution sampling to  
26 calculate storage emissions also introduces imprecision in our estimates. A better method  
27 would involve continuous measurements of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature and pH in  
28 lake water column at multiple locations in the lake throughout the full ice-melt period.

**Deleted:** In other northern lakes, full or partial mixing of the water column leads to the release of stored gas during a 10-15-day period associated with ice-out (Phelps et al., 1998; Striegl and Michmerhuizen, 1998; Bellido et al., 2009).

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## 29 4.2 Geographic patterns of lake CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Alaska

1 Previous regional analyses of northern lake emissions found a relationship between  
2 CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from lakes and latitude that was explained by temperature (Marotta et al.,  
3 2014; [Rasilo et al., 2014](#); Yvon-Durocher et al., 2014). Primary production in warmer  
4 climates [may](#) supplies more organic substrate for methanogenesis ([Duc et al., 2010](#); [Ortiz-](#)  
5 [Llorente and Alvarez-Cobelas, 2012](#); [Marotta et al., 2014](#)), and methanogenesis is  
6 [physiologically](#) sensitive to temperature ([Schulz et al., 1997](#); [Yvon-Durocher et al., 2014](#)).  
7 However, the lakes in these studies were not permafrost-affected. In our N-S Alaska transect  
8 we did not find a relationship between [any pathway of](#) lake CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and latitude or  
9 temperature. We attribute this finding to the presence and geographic diversity of permafrost  
10 types (yedoma vs. non-yedoma) (Jorgenson et al., 2008; Kanevskiy et al., 2011), which is  
11 more a function of periglacial history and topography in Alaska than it is of latitude or recent  
12 climate. While methanogenesis in surface sediments of lakes globally is fueled by  
13 contemporary autochthonous primary production and allochthonous organic matter supply  
14 (processes typically controlled by latitude and climate in undisturbed systems), thermokarst-  
15 influenced lakes have an additional, deeper source of organic matter that fuels  
16 methanogenesis: thawing permafrost in the thaw bulbs beneath lakes and along thermally  
17 eroding shorelines. Organic matter supplied by thawing permafrost, particularly in lakes  
18 formed in thick, organic-rich yedoma-type deposits, can [supply more substrate to](#)  
19 [methanogenesis than](#) the more contemporary organic carbon substrates supplied to surface  
20 lake sediments (Kessler et al., 2012).

21 The interior Alaska yedoma lakes, which had the highest CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, are  
22 largely thermokarst lakes formed by thaw of organic-rich yedoma permafrost. Radiocarbon  
23 ages (18-33 kyr BP) and δD-depleted values of CH<sub>4</sub> in ebullition bubbles collected from the  
24 interior Alaskan thermokarst lakes suggested that thaw of late Pleistocene yedoma organic  
25 matter fuels methanogenesis in these lakes (Walter et al., 2008; Brosius et al., 2012). The 6-  
26 fold difference in CH<sub>4</sub> emissions between yedoma lakes and non-yedoma lakes throughout  
27 the rest of Alaska is likely explained by the variability in the availability of recently thawed  
28 permafrost organic matter, which provides a larger additional substrate for methanogenesis in

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1 the yedoma lakes owing to the thickness (usually tens of meters) of organic-rich yedoma  
2 deposits (Kanevskiy et al. 2011; Walter Anthony et al. 2012).

3 Previous research using stable isotopes and radiocarbon dating of CH<sub>4</sub> in ebullition  
4 bubbles in yedoma lakes demonstrated that stronger ebullition seeps originate from greater  
5 depths beneath the sediment-interface and are characterized by older <sup>14</sup>C ages and more  
6 depleted δD values associated with thaw of Pleistocene-aged yedoma permafrost (Walter et  
7 al., 2008). The disproportionately large contribution of strong Hotspot ebullition seeps to  
8 emissions from yedoma lakes (mean ± SD: 17 ± 12% of total annual emissions) in this study  
9 suggests microbial production of CH<sub>4</sub> at greater depths in sediments beneath yedoma lakes.  
10 In contrast, the absence of Hotspot ebullition seeps in non-yedoma lakes, which we observed  
11 to also have dense sediments, suggests that CH<sub>4</sub> formation by microbial decomposition of  
12 organic matter is more restricted to shallower sediment depths in the non-yedoma lakes. This  
13 is consistent with maps of permafrost soil organic carbon distributions, whereby the organic-  
14 horizons of non-yedoma permafrost soils are typically thinner than yedoma deposits (Ping et  
15 al., 2008; Tarnocai et al., 2009; Kanevskiy et al., 2011).

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16 The relationship between ebullition, dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> concentration and lake type (Fig.  
17 6) also indicates that ebullition seeps releasing CH<sub>4</sub> produced deep in thaw bulbs contribute  
18 more to CH<sub>4</sub> cycling in yedoma lakes than in non-yedoma lakes. Yedoma lakes, which had a  
19 higher density of ebullition seeps than non-yedoma lakes (Sect. 3.2), had both higher volumes  
20 of CH<sub>4</sub>-rich bubbles impeded by lake ice and higher concentrations of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> in the  
21 lake water in winter (Fig. 6a, r<sub>s</sub> = 0.72). Based on Greene et al. (2014), in which 93% of  
22 dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> in the water column in winter originated from CH<sub>4</sub> dissolution from ebullition  
23 bubbles trapped by lake ice, we attribute the higher concentrations of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> in the  
24 yedoma study lakes to the process of CH<sub>4</sub> dissolution from ice-trapped bubbles. Modeling  
25 results, which showed that approximately 80% of CH<sub>4</sub> in bubbles trapped by lake ice in our  
26 study lakes dissolved into the water column, support this conclusion. Other important  
27 processes that would also control dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations in lake water are diffusion  
28 from sediments and CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation. Given the thicker CH<sub>4</sub>-producing sediment package  
29 beneath yedoma lakes, we would expect diffusion of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> from yedoma lakes to be

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1 | higher than that of non-yedoma lakes. Ex situ incubations by Martinez-Cruz et al. (2015) on a  
2 | subset of our Alaska study lakes also showed that yedoma lakes had higher CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation  
3 | potentials, owing in large part to higher concentrations of the dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> substrate in these  
4 | lakes. Compared to winter, the weaker correlation between dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and Direct  
5 | Ebullition in summer (Fig. 6b,  $r_s = 0.42$ ) has several potential explanations. First, in summer,  
6 | ebullition bubbles escape directly to the atmosphere, so the dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> stock of the water  
7 | column is not supplied from ice-trapped bubble dissolution like it is in winter unless residual  
8 | winter-dissolved bubble CH<sub>4</sub> remains in the water column in summer. Second, dissolved CH<sub>4</sub>  
9 | diffusing from lake sediments in summer may be more immediately oxidized by aerobic CH<sub>4</sub>  
10 | consumption since O<sub>2</sub> is more available in lake water from atmospheric diffusion and  
11 | autochthonous primary production. Finally, higher PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-3</sup>, TN and Chl-a concentrations in  
12 | yedoma lakes (Table 1) suggests primary production in yedoma lakes may contribute  
13 | relatively more substrate to methanogenesis in surface sediments. CH<sub>4</sub> produced in surface  
14 | sediments more readily escapes to the water column via diffusion than CH<sub>4</sub> produced in thaw  
15 | bulbs, which preferentially escapes by ebullition (Tan et al., 2014). Higher diffusion from  
16 | surface sediments would support higher concentrations of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> in lake water, a  
17 | process that can be independent of ebullition from thaw bulbs in summer. This explanation is  
18 | supported by two times higher summer Diffusion emissions from yedoma lakes compared to  
19 | non-yedoma lakes (Table 2), despite higher observed CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation potentials in yedoma  
20 | lakes vs. non-yedoma lakes (Martinez-Cruz et al., 2015).

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21 | CO<sub>2</sub> Diffusion, which was ~100% and 92% of total annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from  
22 | yedoma and non-yedoma lakes respectively, was 6 times higher on average in yedoma lakes  
23 | than in non-yedoma lakes. Potential explanations include enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> production  
24 | associated with yedoma organic matter decomposition, photooxidation of the large DOC pool  
25 | observed in the dystrophic yedoma lakes, and potentially higher rates of CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation in  
26 | yedoma lakes (Martinez-Cruz et al., 2015) generating more CO<sub>2</sub> in the lake water columns.

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27 | The higher DOC content of yedoma lakes would favor CO<sub>2</sub> production; however, DOC  
28 | quality has also been observed to be an important control over CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from northern  
29 | lakes (Kortelainen et al., 2006). Vonk et al. (2013) recently showed that Pleistocene-aged



1 DOC mobilized in stream water draining yedoma outcrops is exceptionally biolabile among  
2 contemporary fluvial systems in the Arctic. This suggests that yedoma-derived DOC in lakes  
3 may be more easily decomposed than non-yedoma DOC. Finally, possible differences in  
4 watershed sizes draining into lakes could also influence CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in lakes and  
5 Diffusion emissions since terrestrial dissolved inorganic carbon often dominates lake CO<sub>2</sub>  
6 pools (Kling et al., 1992; Battin et al., 2009; Tranvik et al., 2009). While Kortelainen et al.  
7 (2013) found lake water NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations in Finnish lakes to control the ratio of  
8 terrestrially-derived CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from lakes versus long-term carbon sequestration in lake  
9 sediments, we found no relationship between CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations. Since  
10 we did not study long-term carbon sequestration or the other aforementioned processes, and  
11 since our calculations contain uncertainty associated with the assumption that single-day  
12 measurements of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in lakes represent the mean flux for the entire open  
13 water period, further research is needed to validate these hypotheses in the Alaskan lakes.

#### 14 **4.3 Dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> dynamics**

15 Dissolved O<sub>2</sub> concentration is a useful parameter for predicting the CH<sub>4</sub>  
16 concentrations in Alaskan lakes. The inverse relationship observed between CH<sub>4</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>  
17 concentration in lake water (Fig. 5) suggests physical and biological processes govern the  
18 availability of these compounds to different degrees in various lakes,

19 There are several possible explanations for the pattern of seasonally higher dissolved  
20 CH<sub>4</sub> and lower O<sub>2</sub> concentrations in winter among lakes (Fig. 5): (1) Ice cover inhibits O<sub>2</sub>  
21 transfer from the atmosphere into the water column (White et al., 2008); (2) Primary  
22 production in lakes declines as day length shortens (White et al., 2008; Clilverd et al., 2009);  
23 (3) Snow cover impedes light transfer, further extinguishing photosynthesis beneath the ice  
24 (Welch et al., 1987; Clilverd et al., 2009); and (4) Finally, aerobic microorganisms consume  
25 residual O<sub>2</sub> in the water beneath the ice (Bellido et al., 2009, Clilverd et al., 2009). The  
26 resulting anoxic conditions facilitate anaerobic processes like methanogenesis and decrease  
27 methanotrophy (Dunfield et al., 1993). All the while, CH<sub>4</sub> is emitted from lake sediments  
28 throughout winter via diffusion and seep ebullition. Many ebullition bubbles are impeded by  
29 lake ice, leading to dissolution of CH<sub>4</sub> from bubbles and an increase in dissolved CH<sub>4</sub>

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Deleted: that low dissolved O<sub>2</sub> levels in lakes are due to high microbial activity, which in turn leads to optimal anoxic conditions for methanogenesis (

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1 concentration. In summer, the lack of ice cover allows CH<sub>4</sub> in bubbles to be released directly  
2 to the atmosphere without partially dissolving in the lake water column. This explains in part  
3 the lower CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations in lake water in summer (Greene et al., 2014). Furthermore, the  
4 O<sub>2</sub> concentration in lake water increases in summer by gas exchange with the atmosphere and  
5 by primary production in lakes (Fig. 5b). As a result, a fraction of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> in lake  
6 water is emitted to the atmosphere, while methanotrophic activity, supported by elevated O<sub>2</sub>  
7 concentration, oxidizes another fraction (Martinez-Cruz et al., 2015).

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8 In addition to the seasonal variations described above, a permafrost-type effect on  
9 dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> patterns was also observed. While during summer, most of the non-  
10 yedoma lakes were well oxygenated, yedoma lakes in interior Alaska had contrastingly lower  
11 O<sub>2</sub> concentrations and higher dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations beneath the thermocline. This  
12 suggests high methanogenic activity in sediments that fuels CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation in the water  
13 column. Aerobic methane oxidation together with other aerobic processes, reduce O<sub>2</sub>  
14 concentration under the thermocline, where stratification limits O<sub>2</sub> ingress from superficial  
15 water layers.

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16 Understanding the dynamics of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> in northern lakes also has  
17 relevance to the distribution of lake biota. Ohman et al. (2006) showed that CH<sub>4</sub> concentration  
18 in the water column is correlated with fish community composition in lakes, which is easily  
19 understood since CH<sub>4</sub> can be used as an indicator of anoxia and therefore, correlated with the  
20 fish O<sub>2</sub> requirements.

#### 21 4.4 Limnological and morphological patterns

22 Single linear regression analysis indicated that the best limnological predictors of CH<sub>4</sub>  
23 emissions in the Alaskan lakes were Area, SecD, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, and TN, all which are indicators of  
24 lake metabolism and morphology (Table 4). These findings are consistent with the patterns  
25 that explain lake CH<sub>4</sub> emissions in Michigan, Canada, Sweden, and Finland (Bastviken et al.,  
26 2004; Juutinen et al., 2009; Rasilo et al., 2014), suggesting that lake trophic state and organic  
27 matter quality, rather than carbon concentration alone, might play prevailing roles in CH<sub>4</sub> and  
28 CO<sub>2</sub> production and fluxes. The association between high CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and high nutrients  
29 and Chl-a concentrations among yedoma lakes compared to non-yedoma lakes is consistent

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1 with the geographic patterns previously observed in Siberian lakes. Higher aquatic production  
2 observed in Siberian yedoma lakes compared to non-yedoma lakes in the same climate zone  
3 was attributed to fertilization of the yedoma lakes by nitrogen- and phosphorus-rich thawing  
4 yedoma permafrost (Walter Anthony et al., 2014). Positive relationships between lake  
5 nutrient status and CH<sub>4</sub> fluxes together with low or negative CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes observed in other  
6 northern lakes also suggested that lake trophic plays diverging roles in CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes  
7 (Del Giorgio et al., 1999; Lapierre and Del Giorgio, 2012). Nutrients can increase primary  
8 productivity that simultaneously fuels methanogenesis and draws down dissolved CO<sub>2</sub>.

9 The negative correlation between CH<sub>4</sub> emissions and lake area indicates that small  
10 lakes had higher total annual CH<sub>4</sub> emissions. This finding is driven by yedoma lakes, which  
11 were on average much smaller and tended to develop more noticeable anaerobic hypolimnia  
12 than non-yedoma lakes (Table 1, Fig. 5, Supplement Fig. B). This finding is also consistent  
13 with lake CH<sub>4</sub> emission patterns in other regions whereby smaller lakes have higher CH<sub>4</sub>  
14 emissions due to a stronger relative contribution of littoral organic matter to whole-lake  
15 methanogenesis (Bastviken et al., 2004; Juutinen et al., 2009; Rasilo et al. 2014).

#### 17 **4.5 Climate warming impacts of Alaskan lake emissions**

18 Previously, Kling et al. (1992) showed that tundra lakes near Toolik Field station emit  
19 CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> via Diffusion. More recently, Walter Anthony et al. (2012) recognized the  
20 importance of CH<sub>4</sub> ebullition from ecological seeps (formed from recent microbial  
21 decomposition vs. geologic seeps releasing fossil CH<sub>4</sub>) in Alaskan lakes (0.75 Tg CH<sub>4</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup>);  
22 however, this represented the quantity of ebullition seep CH<sub>4</sub> released from sediments rather  
23 than the magnitude of atmospheric emissions. Since ebullition emission is partially impeded  
24 by lake ice in winter, and a fraction of CH<sub>4</sub> dissolved out of bubbles beneath ice is oxidized  
25 by microbes (Greene et al., 2014), ebullition emissions to the atmosphere are lower than what  
26 is released annually from sediments. This study is the first to consider multiple modes of  
27 emissions for CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> together, including the ice-bubble storage process, for a large  
28 number of Alaskan lakes spanning large geographic gradients. Scaling total annual CH<sub>4</sub> and  
29 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions observed among yedoma and non-yedoma lakes to the extent of these lake

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Deleted: Significant differences between other limnological and geographical parameters also distinguished yedoma from non-yedoma lakes. Dystrophy (i.e. brown-water lakes due to high DOC concentrations; Wetzel, 2001), characterized yedoma lakes. Due to the absorption of incoming solar radiation by DOC in the surface water [indicated by TOC (Table 1), which corresponds approximately to DOC in natural lake ecosystems (Wetzel, 2001; Tranvik et al., 2009), Table 1)], the yedoma lakes were thermally stratified in summer, and had relatively cold, anoxic hypolimnia nearly all year round. Since non-yedoma lakes have a variety of different origins, lake depth was highly variable among them; however, lower concentrations of DOC in non-yedoma lakes and, in many cases, large surface area to volume ratios that facilitated water column mixing by wind contributed to less intense stratification or the absence of stratification among many of the non-yedoma lakes.

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1 types in Alaska (Walter Anthony et al., 2012) ( $44 \pm 17 \text{ g CH}_4 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  x  $\sim 8,800 \text{ km}^2$  yedoma  
2 lakes;  $8 \pm 4 \text{ g CH}_4 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  x  $\sim 41,700 \text{ km}^2$ , non-yedoma lakes), we estimate that yedoma and  
3 non-yedoma lakes emit a total of  $0.72 \text{ Tg CH}_4 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  ( $\sim 0.39 \text{ Tg CH}_4 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  from yedoma lakes,  
4  $0.33 \text{ Tg CH}_4 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  from non-yedoma lakes). This estimate of Alaska lake emissions increases  
5 the previous estimate of Alaska's wetland ecosystem emissions ( $3 \text{ Tg CH}_4 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , Zhuang et al.,  
6 2007), in which lakes were not included, by 24%. Our estimate of lake  $\text{CH}_4$  emission is  
7 conservative because it does not include Background (non-seep) Ebullition or Storage  
8 emissions associated with fall lake turnover events.

9 If we assume that our study lakes represent the  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  emission dynamics of all  
10 lakes in Alaska and account for the 34-fold stronger global warming potential of  $\text{CH}_4$  vs.  $\text{CO}_2$   
11 over 100 years ( $\text{GWP}_{100}$ ; Myhre et al., 2013), the impact to the climate based on  $\text{CO}_2$   
12 equivalent ( $\text{CO}_2$ -eq) emissions from yedoma lakes is  $\sim 20 \text{ Tg CO}_2\text{-eq yr}^{-1}$  ( $13 \text{ Tg CO}_2\text{-eq yr}^{-1}$   
13 from  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $7 \text{ Tg CO}_2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  from  $\text{CO}_2$ ). For non-yedoma lakes, the total climate impact is  
14  $\sim 17 \text{ Tg CO}_2\text{-eq yr}^{-1}$  ( $11 \text{ Tg CO}_2\text{-eq yr}^{-1}$  from  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $6 \text{ Tg CO}_2 \text{ yr}^{-1}$  from  $\text{CO}_2$ ). These results  
15 have several important implications. First,  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions have nearly twice the impact on  
16 climate as  $\text{CO}_2$  emissions among all Alaskan lakes. Second, the climate impact of yedoma  
17 and non-yedoma lakes in Alaska due to carbon greenhouse gas emissions are approximately  
18 equal, despite yedoma lakes comprising less than 1/5 of the total lake area in Alaska. The  
19 disproportionately large climate impact of  $\text{CH}_4$  emissions from yedoma lakes is due in large  
20 part to thaw of deep, organic-rich yedoma permafrost beneath these lakes; however, higher  
21 concentrations of total nitrogen, phosphate and chlorophyll-a in these lakes suggests  
22 enhanced primary production in the lakes, which can also fuel decomposition and  
23 methanogenesis, as recently demonstrated in Siberia (Walter Anthony et al., 2014). Based on  
24 relationships observed in Finnish lakes, it is possible that shifts in nitrate availability could  
25 also control the long-term patterns of terrestrially-derived  $\text{CO}_2$  emission versus carbon  
26 sequestration by our study lakes as well.

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Comment [K5]: This Conclusion section was added in during the Proof stage, per request of the Editor.

## 28 5 Conclusions

1 Total annual CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were dominated by ebullition and diffusion,  
2 respectively; however, the climate warming impact of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions was twice that of CO<sub>2</sub>.  
3 Our 40 study lakes spanned large gradients of physicochemical properties and geography in  
4 Alaska. We attribute the 6-fold higher CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions observed in thermokarst lakes  
5 formed in icy, organic-rich yedoma permafrost in interior Alaska compared to non-yedoma  
6 lakes throughout the rest of Alaska to enhanced organic matter supplied from thawing  
7 yedoma permafrost, which is typically thicker than the organic-rich strata of non-yedoma  
8 soils. Higher total nitrogen, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-3</sup>, and Chl-a concentrations in yedoma lakes suggest that  
9 higher primary production may also enhance organic substrate supply to decomposition and  
10 greenhouse gas production in these lakes. Consideration of multiple modes and seasonality of  
11 CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions revealed that summer emissions were largest. However, winter and  
12 spring emissions of CH<sub>4</sub>, including Direct Ebullition through holes in lake ice and the ice-  
13 bubble storage and release process, were also significant components of the annual CH<sub>4</sub>  
14 budget. Our results imply that regional assessments of lake CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in other  
15 parts of the pan-Arctic should take into account the myriad of emission modes, lake type and  
16 geographic characteristics, such as permafrost type.

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## 18 **Appendix A: Methods**

### 19 **A1. Dissolved gas measurements**

20 We used the Headspace Equilibration-Tunable Diode Laser Spectroscopy (HE-  
21 TDLAS) technique, described in detail by Sepulveda-Jauregui et al. (2012), to measure the  
22 concentration of CH<sub>4</sub> dissolved in lake water. Briefly, we collected water samples using a  
23 Van Dorn Bottle (WILDSCO, Yulee, FL, USA) and gently transferred 60 mL into three  
24 borosilicate vials (100 mL volume) using disposable polypropylene syringes for triplicate  
25 measurements. Vials were immediately sealed with butyl rubber stoppers and aluminum  
26 crimp caps. The vials containing the water samples were shaken vigorously for 10 seconds to  
27 transfer CH<sub>4</sub> from the water into the vials' headspace for subsequent measurement with the  
28 GasFinder 2.0.

1 In addition to HE-TDLAS, we also measured dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> in a subset of  
2 samples using the traditional headspace equilibration method by gas chromatography (Kling  
3 et al., 1992). Water samples (10 mL) collected with the Van Dorn Bottle were transferred into  
4 25 mL glass serum bottles and immediately sealed with butyl rubber stoppers and aluminum  
5 crimp caps. Serum bottles were stored upside down and frozen until laboratory analysis. In  
6 the laboratory, we thawed the samples to room temperature, shook bottles for 10 seconds to  
7 equilibrate headspace and water samples, and then measured CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> of the headspace  
8 by gas chromatography (Shimadzu GC-2014).

9

## 10 **A2 Seep ebullition**

11 GPS-mapped ebullition seeps were classified as A, B, C and Hotspot types, based on  
12 ice-bubble morphologies. This classification system has been described in detail, with  
13 example photographs and bubble morphology classification criteria presented in multiple  
14 previous publications (Walter et al., 2006, 2008; Walter Anthony et al., 2010, 2013). Briefly,  
15 A-type ebullition seeps are relatively small clusters of ebullition bubbles in which individual  
16 bubbles stack on top of each other in the winter ice sheet without merging laterally. Due to  
17 progressively higher ebullition rates, individual bubbles of B-type seeps laterally merge into  
18 larger bubbles under the ice prior to freezing in ice. Types A and B seeps produce low gas-  
19 volume clusters of bubbles in lake ice with cluster diameters typically < 40 cm. The larger C  
20 seeps result in large (usually > 40 cm diameter) pockets of gas in ice separated vertically by  
21 ice layers containing few or no bubbles. Bubble-trap measurements showed that the solid ice  
22 layers in between the large gas pockets of C-type seeps represent periods of relative  
23 quiescence in between large ebullition events (Walter et al., 2006; Walter Anthony et al.,  
24 2010). Hotspot seeps have the greatest mean daily bubbling rates. The frequency of ebullition  
25 release from Hotspot seeps and the associated convection in the water column created by  
26 rising bubble plumes can be strong enough to maintain ice-free holes in winter lake ice or ice-  
27 free cavities covered by thin layers of ice during cold periods.

28 Thirty-day averages of bubbling rates (mL gas seep<sup>-1</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>) were determined through  
29 bubble-trap measurements of seep fluxes and associated with seep classes for each Julian day

1 of the year (Walter Anthony et al., 2010). This data set consists of ~210,000 individual flux  
2 measurements made using submerged bubble traps placed over ebullition seeps year-round.  
3 These class-specific fluxes were applied to the whole-lake mean densities of seeps on lakes to  
4 derive estimates of bubble-release rates from lake bottom sediments indexed by Julian Day.  
5 To determine mass-based estimates of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> in ebullition bubbles, we applied lake  
6 specific measurements of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> bubble concentrations to the individual lakes where  
7 seep-bubble gases were collected and measured. Methods of bubble-trap gas collection and  
8 measurements were described in detail by Walter et al. (2008). We sampled with bubble traps  
9 and measured by gas chromatography the CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> compositions of seep ebullition  
10 bubbles collected from up to 246 individual ebullition events per lake. In lakes where few or  
11 no seep-bubble gas concentrations were determined, we applied mean values of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>  
12 by seep class (Walter Anthony et al., 2010): A, 73% CH<sub>4</sub>, 0.51% CO<sub>2</sub>; B, 75% CH<sub>4</sub>, 0.40%  
13 CO<sub>2</sub>; C, 76% CH<sub>4</sub>, 0.55% CO<sub>2</sub>; Hotspot, 78% CH<sub>4</sub>, 0.84% CO<sub>2</sub>. Whole-lake mean ebullition  
14 was the sum of seep fluxes observed along an average of five 50-m long transects per lake  
15 (median 4 transects per lake), divided by the total area surveyed. In a recent comparison of  
16 methods for quantifying ebullition, Walter Anthony and Anthony (2013) showed that when at  
17 least three 50-m transects per lake are used to quantify seep ebullition, the estimate of mean  
18 whole-lake ebullition is 4-5 times more accurate than the mean flux determined by placement  
19 of seventeen 0.2-m<sup>2</sup> bubble traps randomly distributed across lake surfaces.

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21 **[The Supplement related to this article is available online at doi:10.5194/bgd-11-1-2014-](https://doi.org/10.5194/bgd-11-1-2014-supplement)**  
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3

#### 4 **Author Contributions**

5 K. M. Walter Anthony and A. Sepulveda-Jauregui conceived of the study. A. Sepulveda-  
6 Jauregui and K. M. Walter Anthony wrote the manuscript. K. M. Walter Anthony, A.  
7 Sepulveda-Jauregui, K. Martinez Cruz and F. Thalasso were responsible for field and lab  
8 work. A. Sepulveda-Jauregui conducted statistical analyses. S. Greene modeled ice-bubble  
9 storage emissions. All authors commented on the composition of the manuscript.

10

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1 **Tables**

2

3 Table 1. Lake physical and chemical properties from 40 Alaskan lakes. N-Lake number; \*  
4 indicates informal lake names, the A-number refers to lake identification numbers used by  
5 Gregory Eaves et al. (2000) for study of the same lakes; Y/NY- permafrost soil type as  
6 Yedoma or non-Yedoma<sup>a,b</sup>; TSI- Trophic State Index<sup>c</sup>; EC-Ecozonal Categories<sup>d</sup>; Lat-  
7 Latitude; Long-Longitude; DN<sup>e</sup>-Sedimentary Deposit Name<sup>e</sup>; and MD-Maximum known  
8 depth; A-Area; SecD-Secchi Depth. Winter and summer temperature [T (Win) and T (Sum)],  
9 pH [pH (Win) and pH (Sum)], and oxidation reduction potential [ORP (Win) and ORP  
10 (Sum)] are the mean values measured along the full vertical profiles. Summer chlorophyll-a  
11 concentrations (Chl-a) are the mean of epilimnion measurements. Water-column nutrient and  
12 carbon values (PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>- Dissolved phosphate; NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-Nitrate; SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>-Sulfate; TOC-Total Organic  
13 Carbon; TN-Total Nitrogen) are from 1-m depth, except data summarized from other  
14 investigators<sup>g,h</sup>. TOCS-Total organic carbon in surface sediments; TNS-Total nitrogen in  
15 surface sediments. Error terms are the standard deviation. ND indicates not determined; CF  
16 indicates lake completely frozen; '<' indicates below detection limit, '-' indicates no standard  
17 deviation due a sample size of one.

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- Moved down [1]:** TOCS-Total organic carbon in surface sediments; TNS-Total nitrogen in surface sediments.
- Deleted:** Water column-averages are reported for temperature, pH and ORP.
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N	Name	Y/nY <sup>b</sup>	TSI <sup>f</sup>	EC <sup>d</sup>	Lat (°N)	Long (°W)	DN <sup>e</sup>	MD (m)	A (Km <sup>2</sup> )	SecD (m)	T (Win) (°C)	T (Sum) (°C)
1	Big Sky* A31	NY	O	ArT	69.581	148.639	ES	2.2	0.349	1.30	0.7 ± 0.2	15.7 ± 0.9
2	Dragon's Pond* A33	NY	O	ArT	68.795	148.843	GF	1.5	0.010	1.30	2.4 <sup>f</sup> ± 2.2	18.4 ± 0.9
3	GTH 112	NY	D <sub>v</sub>	ArT	68.672	149.249	GF	4.8	0.025	0.80	2.6 <sup>f</sup> ± 1.1	11.7 ± 3.8
4	NE2	NY	O	ArT	68.647	149.582	GMD	2.7	0.067	2.70	0.4 ± 0.6	15.3 ± 0.6
5	E6	NY	O	ArT	68.643	149.440	GMD	2.6	0.027	2.60	3.3 <sup>f</sup> ± 1.5	15.8 ± 1.0
6	E5 Oil Spill A30	NY	O	ArT	68.642	149.458	GMD	11.9	0.116	3.10	2.8 <sup>f</sup> ± 1.3	10.8 ± 4.2
7	Toolik A28	NY	UO	ArT	68.632	149.605	GMD	24.1	1.449	3.31	2.2 ± 1.1	10.3 ± 4.1
8	E1	NY	UO	ArT	68.626	149.555	GMD	6.4	0.026	2.55	2.4 ± 0.8	12.4 ± 3.7
9	Autumn* A35	NY	UO	ArT	68.462	149.393	GMD	7.5	0.057	4.51	0.45 <sup>f</sup> ± 4.4	13.5 ± 1.9
10	Julietta* A27	NY	UO	ArT	68.447	149.369	GMD	7.0	0.051	3.40	-1.4 <sup>f</sup> ± 2.0	14.3 ± 1.2
11	El Fuego* A36	NY	UO	FoT	67.666	149.716	GMD	2.5	0.057	2.71	2.9 <sup>f</sup> ± 4.5	15.7 ± 1.2
12	Jonas* A26	NY	UO	FoT	67.647	149.722	GMD	4.2	0.170	0.95	-0.2 ± 0.0	14.2 ± 4.8
13	Augustine Zoli* A25	NY	O	FoT	67.138	150.349	F	3.0	0.069	1.12	ND	17.3 ± 1.7
14	Ping*	NY	UO	FoT	67.136	150.370	F	1.4	0.102	1.08	0.1 ± 0.3	18.5 ± 1.7
15	Grayling A24	NY	O	FoT	66.954	150.393	MAC	1.8	0.401	1.80	0.4 ± 0.1	17.0 ± 0.8
16	Eugenia*	Y	D <sub>v</sub>	FoT	65.834	149.631	ES	3.3	0.027	0.70	0.5 ± 0.7	17.0 ± 4.0
17	Vault*	Y	D <sub>v</sub>	NBF	65.029	147.699	MAC	4.6	0.003	1.00	0.3 ± 0.3	9.5 ± 7.7
18	Goldstream*	Y	D <sub>v</sub>	NBF	64.916	147.847	E	3.3	0.010	1.00	1.5 ± 1.5	9.3 ± 6.9
19	Doughnut* <sup>a</sup>	NY	O	NBF	64.899	147.908	E	3.8	0.034	1.59	0.7 ± 0.8	22.2 ± 2.2
20	Killarney*	Y	D <sub>v</sub>	NBF	64.870	147.901	E	2.1	0.008	0.50	0.6 ± 0.7	7.8 ± 4.5
21	Smith A13 <sup>a</sup>	NY	D <sub>v</sub>	NBF	64.865	147.868	E	4.4	0.094	0.50	0.5 ± 0.7	19.0 ± 1.7
22	Stevens Pond*	Y	D <sub>v</sub>	NBF	64.863	147.871	E	1.1	0.002	0.50	CF	17.6 ± 1.6
23	Duece A2	Y	D <sub>v</sub>	NBF	64.863	147.942	E	6.0	0.023	0.79	0.9 ± 0.6	11.4 ± 7.0
24	Ace A1	Y	D <sub>v</sub>	NBF	64.862	147.937	E	9.0	0.077	1.26	2.9 ± 0.9	11.6 ± 6.3
25	Rosie Creek*	Y	D <sub>v</sub>	NBF	64.770	148.079	E	3.7	0.004	1.46	0.0 ± 0.3	11.9 ± 2.4
26	Monasta A37 <sup>a</sup>	NY	D <sub>v</sub>	NBF	64.741	148.276	MAC	5.6	0.005	0.43	ND	8.8 ± 5.6
27	91 Lake*	NY	O	NBF	63.848	148.973	F	0.5	0.066	1.40	ND	15.3 ± 0.7
28	Otto	NY	O	FoT	63.842	149.037	GMD	3.1	0.515	1.60	1.6 ± 1.3	12.0 ± 6.4
29	Floatplane* A16	NY	O	FoT	63.394	148.670	GL	5.0	0.103	1.20	3.9 <sup>f</sup> ± 1.5	13.1 ± 1.3
30	Nutella* A39	NY	O	AIT	63.215	147.678	I	9.4	0.020	3.10	3.4 <sup>f</sup> ± 1.1	10.2 ± 3.4
31	Swampbuggy A18	NY	O	FoT	63.055	147.421	GL	4.9	0.142	1.20	3.2 <sup>f</sup> ± 2.3	13.7 ± 0.4
32	Montana A40	NY	O	SBF	62.143	150.048	F	9.0	0.300	2.80	0.8 ± 0.7	16.2 ± 2.4
33	Rainbow Shore* A41	NY	M	SBF	61.694	150.089	GL	11.5	0.575	2.00	0.9 ± 1.0	17.2 ± 1.8
34	Big Merganser A49	NY	O	SBF	60.726	150.644	GL	24.2	0.210	2.00	2.9 ± 1.3	14.4 ± 4.7
35	Rainbow A48	NY	UO	SBF	60.719	150.808	GMD	5.5	0.630	3.00	1.7 ± 1.6	14.8 ± 5.6
36	Dolly Varden A47	NY	UO	SBF	60.704	150.787	GL	30.0	1.074	11.00	2.5 ± 0.2	17.1 ± 0.6
37	Abandoned Cabin* A50	NY	O	SBF	60.696	151.315	GL	3.0	0.031	3.00	1.9 <sup>f</sup> ± 1.6	17.4 ± 1.7
38	Scout A46	NY	O	SBF	60.533	150.843	GL	6.3	0.384	4.00	0.7 ± 0.7	16.4 ± 1.7
39	Engineer A45	NY	O	SBF	60.478	150.323	GMD	3.9	0.909	1.60	0.4 ± 0.6	16.4 ± 1.2
40	Lower Ohmer A44	NY	O	SBF	60.456	150.317	GMD	28.0	0.471	2.70	3.6 <sup>f</sup> ± 0.5	11.6 ± 3.7
	Yedoma <sup>i</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.2 <sup>k</sup>	0.022 <sup>k</sup>	0.82 <sup>k</sup>	1.1 <sup>k,u</sup> ± 1.0	11.3 <sup>k,u</sup> ± 4.5
	Non-Yedoma <sup>j</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.6 <sup>k</sup>	0.267 <sup>j</sup>	2.39 <sup>j</sup>	1.6 <sup>k,u</sup> ± 1.3	14.9 <sup>j</sup> ± 3.0

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1 Table 1. cont.

N	Name	pH (Win)		pH (Sum)		ORP (Win) (mV)		ORP (Sum) (mV)		Chl-a ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ )		$\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ )	$\text{NO}_3^-$ ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ )
1	Big Sky* A31	7.0	± 0.0	8.8	± 0.7	102	± 18	254	± 78	2.6	± 3.3	4.2 <sup>§</sup>	< 0.01
2	Dragon's Pond* A33		ND	7.7	± 0.5		ND	304	± 78	4.7	± 4.2	5.9 <sup>§</sup>	ND
3	GTH 112		ND	7.2	± 0.7		ND	264	± 69	45.9	± 7.4	ND	< 0.01
4	NE2	6.6	± 0.1	7.9	± 0.6	322	± 17	299	± 66	3.7	± 4.6	1.3 <sup>b</sup>	ND
5	E6		ND	7.7	± 0.7		ND	272	± 80	5.9	± 6.2	1.1 <sup>b</sup>	ND
6	E5 Oil Spill A30		ND	7.1	± 0.8		ND	322	± 64	13.5	± 2.9	1.8 <sup>b</sup>	ND
7	Toolik A28	6.9	± 0.1	7.9	± 0.8	303	± 32	308	± 75	1.5	± 0.4	1.6 <sup>b</sup>	< 0.01
8	E1	7.0	± 0.1	9.1	± 0.4	283	± 58	231	± 71	1.3 <sup>§</sup>	± -	1.1 <sup>b</sup>	< 0.01
9	Autumn* A35		ND	8.2	± 0.6		ND	303	± 45	2.9	± 2.4	2.8 <sup>§</sup>	ND
10	Julieta* A27		ND	8.5	± 0.6		ND	318	± 34	3.4	± 3.8	3.6 <sup>§</sup>	< 0.01
11	El Fuego* A36		ND	8.8	± 0.4		ND	271	± 50	1.2	± 0.1	ND	ND
12	Jonas* A26	8.2	± 0.0	8.5	± 0.6	23	± 4	250	± 119	1.0	± 0.0	6.6 <sup>§</sup>	0.02
13	Augustine Zoli* A25		ND	8.7	± 0.6		ND	259	± 80	10.1	± 11.4	9.8 <sup>§</sup>	< 0.01
14	Ping*	5.9	± 0.0	6.9	± 0.2	211	± 6	303	± 21	22.4	± 0.0	ND	< 0.01
15	Grayling A24	6.3	± 0.0	7.6	± 0.5	119	± 4	323	± 66	20.7	± 20.5	5.3	< 0.01
16	Eugenia*	6.3	± 0.0	7.0	± 0.3	118	± 9	314	± 45	41.9	± 2.4	ND	< 0.01
17	Vault*	7.7	± 0.7	8.6	± 0.8	75	± 62	156	± 87	35.0	± 15.0	ND	ND
18	Goldstream*	7.4	± 0.6	7.9	± 0.7	117	± 11.8	216	± 134	31.0	± 14.5	9.7	0.01
19	Doughnut* <sup>a</sup>	6.8	± 0.1	7.7	± 0.6	189	± 56	254	± 77	113.4	± 0.0	ND	ND
20	Killarney*	7.0	± 0.1	7.6	± 0.7	66	± 45	316	± 99		ND	10.2	0.01
21	Smith A13 <sup>a</sup>	6.5	± 0.0	8.3	± 1.1	98	± 16	187	± 99	44.7	± 0.6	16.2 <sup>§</sup>	< 0.01
22	Stevens Pond*		CF	8.4	± 1.7		CF	212	± 136	43.7	± 13.4	CF	CF
23	Duece A2	7.2	± 0.0	9.2	± 0.4	58	± 10	-20	± 94	1.5 <sup>§</sup>	± -	60.2 <sup>§</sup>	0.32
24	Ace A1	7.1	± 0.0	8.1	± 1.0	68	± 15	116	± 161	54.0 <sup>§</sup>	± -	31.5 <sup>§</sup>	0.02
25	Rosie Creek*	7.1	± 0.0	8.1	± 1.0	33	± 19	245	± 127	45.3	± 1.9	ND	ND
26	Monasta A37 <sup>a</sup>		ND	6.3	± 0.1		ND	160	± 119		ND	24.9 <sup>§</sup>	ND
27	91 Lake*		ND	8.2	± 0.0		ND	351	± 25		ND	ND	ND
28	Otto	7.1	± 0.1	7.8	± 0.5	120	± 14.1	260	± 59	8.2	± 11.6	9.8	0.01
29	Floatplane* A16		ND	8.1	± 0.5		ND	349	± 25	27.1	± 1.3	4.3 <sup>§</sup>	ND
30	Nutella* A39		ND	7.2	± 0.3		ND	384	± 20	13.6	± 1.4	3.3 <sup>§</sup>	ND
31	Swampbuggy A18		ND	7.3	± 0.0		ND	362	± 1	7.9	± 0.9	4.7 <sup>§</sup>	ND
32	Montana A40	6.1	± 0.0	7.1	± 0.4	290	± 31	329	± 61	9.5	± 0.4	2.2 <sup>§</sup>	< 0.01
33	Rainbow Shore* A41	6.5	± 0.3	7.9	± 0.4	289	± 12	305	± 49	7.2	± 0.9	4.7 <sup>§</sup>	0.02
34	Big Merganser A49	6.4	± 0.4	7.1	± 0.3	321	± 38	325	± 49	7.4	± 1.1	4.4 <sup>§</sup>	< 0.01
35	Rainbow A48	7.0	± 0.0	7.7	± 0.0	241	± 62	289	± 85	12.6	± 0.4	4.8 <sup>§</sup>	< 0.01

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36	Dolly Varden A47	ND	7.1 ± 0.3	ND	282 ± 22	3.7 ± 0.5	2.1 <sup>g</sup>	<0.01						
37	Abandoned Cabin* A50	6.0 ± 0.5	6.3 ± 0.2	299 ± 113	338 ± 33	10.2 ± 1.1	2.3 <sup>g</sup>	0.04						
38	Scout A46	6.3 ± 0.4	7.0 ± 0.4	290 ± 36	347 ± 25	10.9 ± 0.4	4.7 <sup>g</sup>	0.01						
39	Engineer A45	6.7 ± 0.3	7.8 ± 0.4	273 ± 31	267 ± 43	7.0 ± 0.2	7.5 <sup>g</sup>	<0.01						
40	Lower Ohmer A44	ND	7.5 ± 0.5	ND	379 ± 50	9.9 ± 0.5	1.8 <sup>g</sup>	<0.01						
	Yedoma <sup>i</sup>	7.1 <sup>k</sup> <sub>m</sub> ± 0.5	8.2 <sup>k</sup> <sub>m</sub> ± 0.9	84 <sup>k</sup> <sub>m</sub> ± 27	187 <sup>k</sup> <sub>m</sub> ± 118	34.5 <sup>k</sup> ± 18.0	27.9 <sup>k</sup>	0.09 <sup>k</sup>						
	Non-Yedoma <sup>j</sup>	6.7 <sup>l</sup> <sub>m</sub> ± 0.5	7.7 <sup>k</sup> <sub>m</sub> ± 0.7	222 <sup>l</sup> <sub>m</sub> ± 95	295 <sup>l</sup> <sub>m</sub> ± 51	14.5 <sup>l</sup> ± 21.8	5.3 <sup>l</sup>	0.02 <sup>k</sup>						

1

2 Table 1. cont.

N	Name	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	TOC (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	TN (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	TOCS (%)	TNS (%)
1	Big Sky* A31	<0.04	16.48	1.3	1.8 ± 0.0	1.5 ± 0.3
2	Dragon's Pond* A33	6.20 <sup>g</sup>	16.98	3.2	6.2 ± 0.8	2.2 ± 0.3
3	GTH 112	0.51	ND	ND	ND	ND
4	NE2	ND	0.93	0.2	2.9 ± 0.5	1.1 ± 0.2
5	E6	ND	ND	ND	3.5 ± 0.5	1.4 ± 0.1
6	E5 Oil Spill A30	<0.04	ND	0.2 <sup>g</sup>	8.1 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.0
7	Toolik A28	<0.04	0.70	0.2	7.8 ± 1.3	0.8 ± 0.2
8	E1	<0.04	0.18	0.2	ND	ND
9	Autumn* A35	5.30 <sup>g</sup>	3.66	0.4	ND	ND
10	Julietta* A27	<0.04	0.71	0.3 <sup>g</sup>	0.8 ± 0.8	0.4 ± 0.2
11	El Fuego* A36	40.40 <sup>g</sup>	ND	0.4	1.1 ± 0.2	0.5 ± 0.1
12	Jonas* A26	0.25	0.89	0.7	2.9 ± 2.2	1.1 ± 0.8
13	Augustine Zoli* A25	<0.04	4.42	0.9	3.0 ± 0.4	1.1 ± 0.1
14	Ping*	0.18	12.38	0.9	ND	ND
15	Grayling A24	0.86	8.34	1.0	7.3 ± 1.8	0.3 ± 0.1
16	Eugenia*	<0.04	16.51	0.8	22.0 ± 0.3	ND
17	Vault*	ND	ND	ND	8.0 ± 1.2	ND
18	Goldstream*	0.30	45.30	3.0	4.2 ± 0.6	ND
19	Doughnut* <sup>a</sup>	ND	ND	ND	24.0 ± 2.2	ND
20	Killarney*	0.01	18.12	2.3	3.5 ± 2.5	0.2 ± 0.1
21	Smith A13 <sup>a</sup>	11.60	ND	1.3 <sup>g</sup>	ND	ND
22	Stevens Pond*	CF	CF	CF	CF	CF
23	Duece A2	1.10	ND	2.4 <sup>g</sup>	5.0 ± 0.7	1.8 ± 0.7
24	Ace A1	0.34	ND	1.3 <sup>g</sup>	2.6 ± 2.5	1.0 ± 0.9
25	Rosie Creek*	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
26	Monasta A37 <sup>a</sup>	ND	58.80 <sup>g</sup>	2.2 <sup>g</sup>	ND	ND
27	91 Lake*	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
28	Otto	0.20	3.63	0.8	8.8 ± 1.3	ND
29	Floatplane* A16	ND	ND	0.5 <sup>g</sup>	ND	ND
30	Nutella* A39	ND	ND	0.3 <sup>g</sup>	ND	ND
31	Swampbuggy A18	ND	ND	0.3 <sup>g</sup>	ND	ND
32	Montana A40	<0.04	0.16	0.3	ND	ND
33	Rainbow Shore* A41	0.33	52.20	0.1	38.8 ± 15.2	ND

34	Big Merganser A49	12.32	2.38	0.3	ND	ND	
35	Rainbow A48	2.30	1.05	0.2	ND	ND	
36	Dolly Varden A47	1.70	ND	0.2 <sup>e</sup>	6.2 ± 0.7	ND	
37	Abandoned Cabin* A50	0.76	ND	0.3 <sup>e</sup>	25.7 ± 0.4	ND	
38	Scout A46	0.78	2.58	0.4	23.0 ± 0.1	ND	
39	Engineer A45	< 0.04	5.71	0.6	7.6 ± 1.2	ND	
40	Lower Ohmer A44	2.50	ND	0.3 <sup>e</sup>	ND	ND	
	Yedoma <sup>i</sup>	0.44 <sup>k</sup>	26.6 <sup>k</sup>	2.0 <sup>k</sup>	7.6 <sup>k</sup> ± 7.3	1.0 <sup>k</sup> ± 0.8	
	Non-Yedoma <sup>i</sup>	5.39 <sup>k</sup>	10.1 <sup>l</sup>	0.6 <sup>l</sup>	10.0 <sup>k</sup> ± 10.6	1.0 <sup>k</sup> ± 0.6	

1 <sup>a</sup>Doughnut L., a partially-drained lake (uncalibrated <sup>14</sup>C age 1,190 ± 20 yr BP, measured on  
2 outer wood of an in situ, dead tree near the lake center), Smith L., and Monasta L. were  
3 included in the non-yedoma lake classification. While Doughnut and Monasta lakes likely  
4 formed in yedoma permafrost originally, following partial drainage events, they no longer  
5 appear to be influenced by active yedoma thaw along the margin. Smith Lake is thought to  
6 have formed as part of a previous river drainage network (V. Alexander, pers. com, Aug.  
7 2011).

8 <sup>b</sup>Permafrost soil type: Y-Yedoma, NY-Non yedoma.

9 <sup>c</sup>Trophic State Index: UO-Ultraoligotrophic, O-Oligotrophic, M-Mesotrophic, E-Eutrophic,  
10 D-Dystrophic.

11 <sup>d</sup>Ecozonal categories according to Gregory Eaves et al. (2000): ArT-Arctic tundra, AIT-  
12 Alpine tundra, FoT-Forest tundra, NBF-Northern boreal forest, SBF-Southern boreal forest.

13 <sup>e</sup>Deposit Name: ES-Eolian silt, GF-Glaciofluvial, GMD-old Glacial moraines and drift, F-  
14 Fluvial, MAC-Mountain alluvium and colluvium, E-Eolian, GL-Glacio lacustrine (Jorgenson  
15 et al., 2008).

16 <sup>f</sup>Winter (October-April) temperature average from Hobo measurements.

17 <sup>g</sup>Data from Gregory Eaves et al. (2000)

18 <sup>h</sup>Data from Giblin et al. (2009); water-column average.

19 <sup>i</sup>Average from yedoma lakes (Lake # 25 excluded).

20 <sup>j</sup>Average from non-yedoma lakes.

21 <sup>k, l</sup>Different letters indicate a significant difference between yedoma and non-yedoma means

22 <sup>m, n</sup>Different letters indicate a significant difference between summer and winter means in  
23 yedoma lakes for temperature, pH and ORP (Mann-Whitney U test).

- 1 | <sup>o, p</sup>Different letters indicate a significant difference between summer and winter means in
- 2 | non-yedoma lakes for temperature, pH and ORP (Mann-Whitney U test).

1 Table 2. Total annual CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by mode from 40 lakes along a North-South  
2 latitudinal transect in Alaska. \* indicates informal lake names. Eb. Sum.-Direct Ebullition  
3 emission to the atmosphere from seeps during the ice-free summer season; Eb. Win.-Direct  
4 Ebullition emission to the atmosphere from seeps during the ice-cover winter season; IBS-  
5 Ice-bubble storage during spring ice melt; Stor.-Storage emission following ice-out; Diff.-  
6 Diffusive emission in summer, Total-Total annual emissions. If there was ND (no  
7 determination) for one or more modes in a lake, then total annual emission for the lake is  
8 likely an underestimate. Average emissions are summarized at the bottom of the table as is  
9 the percent of total annual emissions contributed by each mode as well as statistical results  
10 for differences in means among yedoma and non-yedoma lakes (Mann-Whitney test). Error  
11 terms represent standard deviation; n number of lakes analyzed; CF-Indicates impossible  
12 determination due to lake ice completely freezing to the lake bed in winter. CO<sub>2</sub> diffusive  
13 flux from lakes #17 and #18 were estimated from samples taken on multiple dates in June and  
14 July 2013 since no data were available in 2011-2012. Different letters<sup>a, b</sup> indicate a significant  
15 difference between yedoma and non-yedoma means.



N	Lake name	CH <sub>4</sub> (g m <sup>-2</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> )					Total
		Eb. Sum.	Eb. Win.	IBS	Diff.	Stor.	
1	Big Sky* A31	0.2	0.0	0.1	2.0	2.7	5.0
2	Dragon's Pond* A33	3.0	0.6	0.6	3.2	ND	7.4
3	GTH 112	ND	ND	ND	2.0	0.0	2.0
4	NE2	2.8	0.5	0.5	1.3	0.0	5.1
5	E6	8.8	1.6	1.9	1.0	ND	13.3
6	E5 Oil Spill A30	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.9	ND	1.4
7	Toolik A28	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.2	2.0
8	E1	5.1	0.9	0.9	2.5	0.0	9.4
9	Autumn* A35	6.9	1.3	1.5	1.0	ND	10.7
10	Julieta* A27	7.5	1.3	1.6	1.9	0.0	12.3
11	El Fuego* A36	10.2	2.0	2.2	ND	ND	14.5
12	Jonas* A26	7.0	1.3	1.4	ND	0.7	10.4
13	Augustine Zoli* A25	9.3	1.7	2.3	4.5	ND	17.7
14	Ping*	5.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	9.0
15	Grayling A24	1.9	0.4	0.6	2.1	0.0	5.0
16	Eugenia*	ND	ND	ND	6.6	0.6	7.2
17	Vault*	26.6	4.9	4.5	4.8	ND	40.9
18	Goldstream*	<del>13.4</del>	<del>6.7</del>	<del>2.3</del>	6.0	1.9	<del>30.3</del>
19	Doughnut *	ND	ND	ND	3.1	ND	3.1
20	Killamey*	20.7	4.1	14.0	4.4	ND	43.3
21	Smith A13	2.7	0.3	0.4	3.2	0.2	6.7
22	Stevens Pond*	55.0	12.8	8.1	3.1	CF	79.0
23	Duece A2	30.1	4.2	4.6	ND	ND	38.9
24	Ace A1	11.4	2.7	1.5	ND	ND	15.6
25	Rosie Creek*	80.1	17.4	20.5	160.3	39.0	317.4
26	Monasta A37	4.1	0.3	0.7	ND	ND	5.1
27	91 Lake*	1.5	0.2	0.2	2.3	ND	4.2
28	Otto	2.1	0.2	0.3	4.9	0.6	8.1
29	Floatplane* A16	ND	ND	ND	1.1	ND	1.1
30	Nutella* A39	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	ND	1.3
31	Swampbuggy A18	3.2	0.3	0.4	0.8	ND	4.8
32	Montana A40	4.1	0.2	0.3	3.5	0.0	8.1
33	Rainbow Shore* A41	3.9	0.2	0.3	ND	0.9	5.4
34	Big Merganser A49	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.1	2.5
35	Rainbow A48	15.1	0.8	1.3	ND	0.0	17.2
36	Dolly Varden A47	2.4	0.1	0.2	3.2	0.9	6.8
37	Abandoned Cabin* A50	0.4	0.0	0.0	ND	ND	0.5
38	Scout A46	ND	ND	ND	3.6	0.0	3.6
39	Engineer A45	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	0.0	4.9
40	Lower Ohmer A44	1.4	0.1	0.1	3.6	ND	5.3
Yedoma (mean ± SD)		<del>26.2 ± 15.9<sup>a</sup></del>	5.9 ± 3.6 <sup>a</sup>	<del>5.8 ± 4.6<sup>a</sup></del>	5.0 ± 1.4 <sup>a</sup>	1.2 ± 0.9 <sup>a</sup>	<del>44.2 ± 17.0<sup>a</sup></del>
Percent		59%	13%	13%	11%	3%	100%
Non-yedoma (mean ± SD)		4.0 ± 3.7 <sup>b</sup>	0.6 ± 0.6 <sup>b</sup>	0.7 ± 0.7 <sup>b</sup>	2.4 ± 1.3 <sup>b</sup>	0.4 ± 0.7 <sup>a</sup>	8.0 ± 4.1 <sup>b</sup>
Percent		50%	7%	9%	30%	5%	100%
All lakes (mean ± SD)						0.5 ± 0.7	

**Comment [K8]:** We found an error in the calculation of ebullition emissions for this particular lake and revised the numbers. This led to an insignificant change in results and no change to conclusions of the study. See Table 2 cont. for CO2 too.

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1 Table 2. cont.

N	Lake name	CO <sub>2</sub> (g m <sup>-2</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> )				Total
		Eb. Sum.	Eb. Win.	Diff.	Stor.	
1	Big Sky* A31	0.005	0.001	124	0	124.4
2	Dragon's Pond* A33	0.056	0.010	37	ND	37.1
3	GTH 112	ND	ND	42	ND	41.8
4	NE2	0.048	0.009	ND	ND	0.1
5	E6	0.153	0.028	36	ND	36.2
6	E5 Oil Spill A30	0.006	0.002	44	ND	44.3
7	Toolik A28	0.011	0.002	40	ND	40.5
8	E1	0.088	0.016	ND	ND	0.1
9	Autumn* A35	0.157	0.030	186	ND	186.5
10	Julieta* A27	0.128	0.023	270	ND	269.8
11	El Fuego* A36	0.181	0.036	ND	ND	0.2
12	Jonas* A26	0.122	0.023	ND	0	0.1
13	Augustine Zoli* A25	0.172	0.032	148	0	148.5
14	Ping*	0.097	0.018	34	0	34.2
15	Grayling A24	0.033	0.007	40	0	39.7
16	Eugenia*	ND	ND	131	ND	131.0
17	Vault*	0.445	0.099	1,278	0	1,279
18	Goldstream*	0.261	0.164	1,582	0	1,583
19	Doughnut *	ND	ND	ND	0	0.0
20	Killarney*	0.723	0.070	ND	0	0.8
21	Smith A13	0.052	0.006	251	0	250.9
22	Stevens Pond*	0.991	0.292	144	CF	144.9
23	Duece A2	0.477	0.087	ND	0	0.6
24	Ace A1	0.196	0.059	ND	0	0.3
25	Rosie Creek*	1.462	0.404	1,136	ND	1,138
26	Monasta A37	0.076	0.005	ND	ND	0.1
27	91 Lake*	0.029	0.003	604	ND	604.2
28	Otto	0.040	0.004	234	0	233.9
29	Floatplane* A16	ND	ND	69	ND	69.5
30	Nutella* A39	0.002	0.000	ND	ND	0.0
31	Swampbuggy A18	0.056	0.006	ND	ND	0.1
32	Montana A40	0.076	0.004	143	33	176.4
33	Rainbow Shore* A41	0.075	0.004	ND	48	47.6
34	Big Merganser A49	0.010	0.001	59	ND	58.9
35	Rainbow A48	0.289	0.016	59	ND	59.4
36	Dolly Varden A47	0.047	0.003	65	ND	64.7
37	Abandoned Cabin* A50	0.008	0.000	85	52	137.5
38	Scout A46	ND	ND	64	0	63.9
39	Engineer A45	0.000	0.000	118	0	117.8
40	Lower Ohmer A44	0.027	0.001	157	ND	156.6
Yedoma (mean ± SD)		0.5 ± 0.3 <sup>a</sup>	0.13 ± 0.09 <sup>a</sup>	784 ± 757 <sup>a</sup>	0 <sup>a</sup>	784 ± 757 <sup>a</sup>
Percent		0.07%	0.02%	100%	0%	100%
Non-yedoma (mean ± SD)		0.07 ± 0.07 <sup>b</sup>	0.01 ± 0.01 <sup>b</sup>	127 ± 127 <sup>b</sup>	10 ± 20 <sup>a</sup>	137 ± 129 <sup>a</sup>
Percent		0.05%	0.01%	92%	7%	100%
All lakes (mean ± SD)					7 ± 17	159 ± 322

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1 Table 3. The Mann-Whitney and Kruskal-Wallis test results of the limnological and  
 2 geographic characteristics of lakes using CH<sub>4</sub> or CO<sub>2</sub> emission mode as the factor. (≠)  
 3 indicates a significant difference between limnological property or geographic characteristic  
 4 vs. flux; (=) indicates no significant difference at Z value < 1.96. IBS-Ice-Bubble Storage;  
 5 Latitude: I-interior, N-northern, S-southern according to Sect. 2.1; Permafrost Soil Type (Y-  
 6 yedoma/YN-non-yedoma); Trophic State Index (TSI), Ecozonal Categories (EC), Deposit  
 7 type (DN), according to descriptions in Table 1; Maximum depth known (MD) and Area (A).  
 8 In the MD analysis we considered two categories: shallow lakes ≤ 2.5 m and deeper lakes >  
 9 2.5 m. In the A analysis we considered two categories: small lakes ≤ 0.1 km<sup>2</sup> and large lakes  
 10 > 0.1 km<sup>2</sup>.

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Emission mode	Latitude	Y/NY	TSI	EC	DN	MD	A
CH <sub>4</sub>							
Direct Ebullition (Summer)	I ≠ N-S	≠	O ≠ D-UO	NBF ≠ ArT-SBF	=	=	≠
Direct Ebullition (Winter)	S ≠ I-N	≠	O ≠ D-UO	SBF ≠ FoT-NBF	E ≠ GMD-GL	=	≠
IBS	S ≠ I-N	≠	O ≠ D-UO	SBF ≠ FoT-NBF	E ≠ GL	=	≠
Diffusion	I ≠ N	≠	D ≠ O-UO	ArT ≠ NBF-SBF	=	=	=
Storage	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
Total	I ≠ S	≠	O ≠ D-UO	=	GL ≠ E-GMD	=	≠
CO <sub>2</sub>							
Direct Ebullition (Summer)	I ≠ N-S	≠	O ≠ D-UO	NBF ≠ ArT-SBF	E ≠ GMD-GL	=	≠
Direct Ebullition (Winter)	S ≠ I-N	≠	O ≠ D-UO	SBF ≠ FoT-NBF	E ≠ GMD-GL	=	≠
Diffusion	I ≠ N	≠	=	NBF ≠ ArT-FoT-SBF	=	=	≠
Storage	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
Total	=	=	=	=	=	=	=

11

1 Table 4. Single regression equations for emission modes based on data from Table 1.

Flux/Characteristic	Regression Equation	n	Adjusted r <sup>2</sup>	F	p	
CH <sub>4</sub>						
Direct Ebullition (summer)	Log(ES-CH <sub>4</sub> )= -0.50Log(Area)	32	0.30	14.4919	0.0006	Formatted: Subscript
Direct Ebullition (winter)	Log(EW-CH <sub>4</sub> )= -0.93 - 0.68Log(Area)	28	0.60	43.6036	0.0000	Formatted: Subscript
	Log(EW-CH <sub>4</sub> )= 0.10 - 1.12Log(SecD)	28	0.23	9.3352	0.0050	Formatted: Subscript
	Log(EW-CH <sub>4</sub> )= -2.63 + 0.81Log(TN)	24	0.32	12.4092	0.0018	Deleted: ES
IBS	Log(IFS-CH <sub>4</sub> )= -0.83 - 0.64Log(Area)	29	0.58	50.705	0.0001	Formatted: Subscript
	Log(IFS-CH <sub>4</sub> )= 0.10 - 1.00Log(SecD)	29	0.19	7.9309	0.0088	Formatted: Subscript
Diffusion	Log(DF-CH <sub>4</sub> )= 0.55Log(PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-3</sup> )	24	0.40	16.7767	0.0004	Formatted: Subscript
Total	Log(Tot-CH <sub>4</sub> )= 0.43 - 0.37Log(Area)	38	0.27	15.0877	0.0004	Formatted: Subscript
	Log(Tot-CH <sub>4</sub> )= 1.01 - 0.77(SecD)	38	0.21	11.1414	0.0019	Formatted: Subscript
	Log(Tot-CH <sub>4</sub> )= 0.42 + 0.55Log(PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-3</sup> )	30	0.22	9.4969	0.0045	Formatted: Subscript
	Log(Tot-CH <sub>4</sub> )= 0.98 - 0.61Log(TN)	32	0.29	13.7928	0.0008	Formatted: Superscript
CO <sub>2</sub>						
Direct Ebullition (summer)	Log(ES-CO <sub>2</sub> )= -1.72 - 0.50Log(Area)	32	0.30	14.6253	0.0006	Formatted: Subscript
Direct Ebullition (winter)	Log(EW-CO <sub>2</sub> )= -2.78 - 0.76Log(Area)	30	0.63	52.0960	0.0000	Formatted: Subscript
	Log(EW-CO <sub>2</sub> )= -1.83 - 0.76Log(TN)	26	0.24	9.0882	0.0058	Formatted: Subscript

2

1 | Table 5. Mann-Whitney and Kruskal-Wallis test results of the limnological and geographic  
 2 | characteristics of lakes using mode of dissolved gases concentrations (CH<sub>4</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>) during winter  
 3 | and summer. (≠) indicates a significant difference between a geographic characteristic and  
 4 | flux when  $Z > 1.96$ ; (=) indicates no significant difference. Latitude: I-interior, N-northern, S-  
 5 | southern according to Sect. 2.1; Permafrost Soil Type (Y-yedoma/NY-non-yedoma); Trophic  
 6 | State Index (TSI), Ecozonal Categories (EC), Deposit type (DN) according to descriptions in  
 7 | Table 1; Maximum depth known (MD) and Area (A). In the MD analysis we considered two  
 8 | categories: shallow lakes  $\leq 2.5$  m and deeper lakes  $> 2.5$  m. In the A analysis we considered  
 9 | two categories: small lakes  $\leq 0.1$  km<sup>2</sup> and large lakes  $> 0.1$  km<sup>2</sup>.

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Dissolved Gas (Season)	Latitude	Y/NY	TS	EC	DN	MD	A
CH <sub>4</sub> (Winter)	I ≠ S	≠	D ≠ O	=	E ≠ GL, GMD	≠	≠
CH <sub>4</sub> (Summer)	I ≠ N, S	≠	D ≠ O, UO	NBF ≠ ArT, SBF, FoT	E ≠ GMD	=	≠
O <sub>2</sub> (Winter)	I ≠ S	≠	D ≠ O	=	E ≠ GL, GMD	=	≠
O <sub>2</sub> (Summer)	I ≠ N, S	≠	D ≠ O, UO	NBF ≠ ArT, SBF, FoT	E ≠ GL, GMD	=	≠

11

## 1 **Figures Legends**

2 Figure 1. Locations of study lakes in Alaska (circles) plotted on the Alaska DEM hillshade  
3 raster. Information about the distribution of yedoma-type deposits (ice-rich silt containing  
4 deep thermokarst lakes) and permafrost was from Jorgenson et al. (2008) and Kanevskiy et  
5 al. (2011). The Alaska map is the National Elevation Data Set 30 m hillshade raster.

6  
7 Figure 2. Total annual CH<sub>4</sub> (a) and CO<sub>2</sub> (b) emissions by mode from 40 lakes along a North-  
8 South latitudinal transect in Alaska. Yedoma lakes are indicated by 'Y'. Lakes for which all  
9 emission modes were measured are indicated by '\*' (see Table 2). Panels a and b follow the  
10 legend shown in 'a'.

11  
12 Figure 3. Average CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations in ebullition bubbles collected at the lake surface  
13 before interaction with lake ice ('fresh bubbles', grey bars) and in ebullition bubbles trapped  
14 by the lake ice (white bars). Error bars represent standard error for n = 2 to 41 seeps per lake.  
15 Among lakes, CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations in ice-trapped bubbles were 33 ± 12% lower than in fresh  
16 bubbles (Mann-Whitney U test, Z > 1.96, p < 0.05).

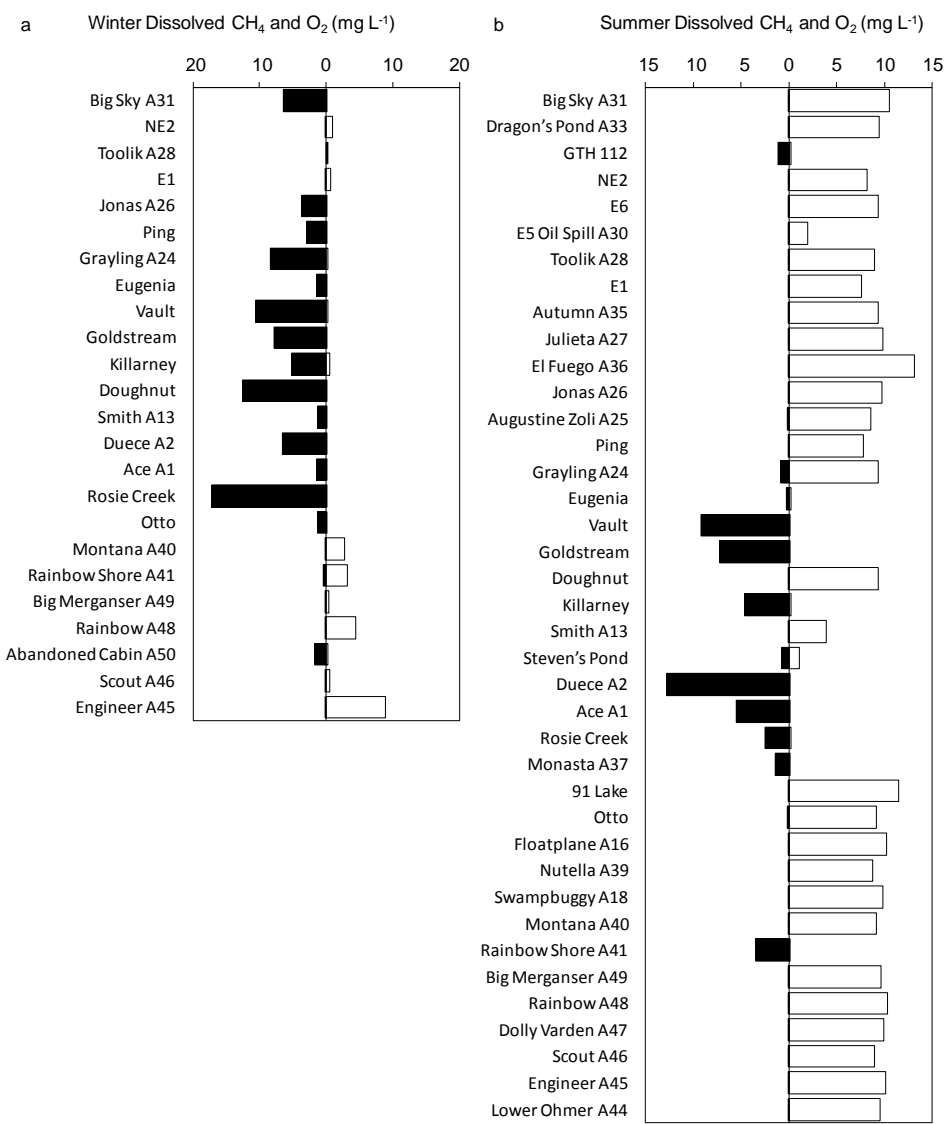
17  
18 Figure 4. Illustration of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions pathways during different seasons in Alaskan  
19 lakes. The thickness of arrows indicates the relative magnitude of contribution from each  
20 pathway according to Table 2: (1) Direct Ebullition through ice-free Hotspot seeps in winter  
21 and from all seep classes during the last month of ice cover in spring and in summer; (2) Ice-  
22 Bubble Storage (IBS) emission during spring ice melt; (3) Storage emission of dissolved  
23 gases accumulated under lake ice when ice melts in spring; (4) Diffusion emission from open  
24 water in summer.

**Comment [K9]:** Figures are the same as previous submission, except Fig. 5, which was revised according to Reviewer 3's comments.

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1  
 2 Figure 5. Average dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> (black bars) and O<sub>2</sub> (white bars) concentrations in lake  
 3 bottom water during winter (a) and summer (b). Yedoma lakes are indicated by 'Y'. In  
 4 winter, Spearman coefficient  $r_s = 0.58$  indicates a moderate positive correlation between  
 5 dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>; in summer  $r_s = 0.70$  indicates a strong positive correlation.

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1 Figure 6. Dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> concentrations measured in lake bottom water vs. winter ice-  
2 impeded ebullition in winter (a) and Direct Ebullition in summer (b). The Spearman  
3 coefficients,  $r_s = 0.72$  and  $r_s = 0.42$  indicate a strong positive correlation and a weak positive  
4 correlation in winter and summer, respectively. All lakes were considered a single  
5 population; however, yedoma lakes (closed circles) had higher concentrations of lake-bottom  
6 dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> (mean ± SD:  $9.3 \pm 5.4$  mg L<sup>-1</sup> winter,  $6.7 \pm 4.1$  mg L<sup>-1</sup> summer) and a higher  
7 density of ebullition seeps (Sect. 3.2) than non-yedoma lakes (open circles;  $2.1 \pm 3.0$  mg L<sup>-1</sup>  
8 winter,  $0.3 \pm 0.7$  mg L<sup>-1</sup> summer). We observed relatively high concentrations of dissolved  
9 CH<sub>4</sub> in some non-yedoma lakes in winter due to dissolved gas exclusion during ice formation  
10 in shallow lakes that nearly froze to the lake bed, indicated by \*. Excluding lakes that nearly  
11 froze to the lake bed, the mean dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> in the remaining non-yedoma lakes was  $0.3 \pm$   
12  $0.5$  mg L<sup>-1</sup> in winter.

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