

Interactive comment on “Early season mesopelagic carbon remineralization and transfer efficiency in the naturally iron-fertilized Kerguelen area” by S. H. M. Jacquet et al.

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Dr Jacquet and co-workers report an interesting study variability of the mesopelagic barite in excess along a broad N-S transect in the Kerguelen area, from which they deduce the zonal variability of the POC export. They also performed this study within a meander east of the Kerguelen plateau, transect allowing them to follow the temporal evolution of these oceanic parameters. They eventually compare some of their results (when possible) to earlier data obtained at the same location but at fall, which provides an insight on the seasonal variability of the Baxs distribution, POC export (EP) and their remineralization rate estimate, that they compare to primary production (PP and EP being published in companion papers of the same issue). The set of data is of good quality, the complexity of the area made the interpretation challenging, difficulty which is honorably overcome by the authors. This work deserves to be published in Biogeosciences, but not without some improvements proposed below.

#### General Comments

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**Reviewer:** The whole paper is based on the use of Baxs as proxy of the POC remineralization, proxy that was well described by many preceding works of the same authors and others. Indeed, the Baxs mesopelagic maxima is ubiquitous; Bishop, Dehairs and others demonstrated that micro-crystals of barite precipitates in biological microenvironments (fecal pellets, aggregates, . . .), and that the release of these micro-crystals yielding the observed maximum corresponds to the disintegration of this biological material, concomitant to the maximum consumption of oxygen, the latter being related to POC oxidation. However, this reasoning and the empirical relationship allowing relating Baxs to POC remineralization is based on one dimensional approach. The Kerguelen plateau is particularly dynamic, and several preceding works discuss (and even propose a modelling, for the Pa/Th distribution, Venchiarutti et al, 2008) the importance of the advection on the fate of Trace Elements and isotopes on the plateau and around. I am concerned by the fact that the impact of advection and internal tides is never discussed in this work. For example, the maximum of Baxs at the reference station is considered only as a remnant signal from a preceding bloom, occurring in late winter. Other works are observing maxima of LSi, particulate Fe, Mn and Al (van de Merwe, Lasbleiz et al) that could be advected from the Leclaire Rise, located 75 km north west of R-2. . . knowing that re-suspended sediments are also enriched in Baxs (as shown in this work at stations A3 for ex) why is the hypothesis of such horizontal transport not discussed here? On the plateau, what is the importance of horizontal versus vertical transport? This should be more deeply considered in the present manuscript.

#### Reply:

First, to estimate POC remineralization rates we used an algorithm relating Baxs contents to the rate of oxygen consumption that was deduced via a 1-D advection diffusion model applied on highly resolved, precise dissolved O<sub>2</sub> profiles along 6°W in the Southern Ocean (Shopova et al., 1995, Dehairs et al., 1997). During the KEOPS 1 cruise, by comparing mesopelagic oxygen consumption rate obtained using the Winkler method and this obtained using Baxs contents and the above-mentioned algorithm, the correlation was significant ( $R^2=0,90$ ,  $p<0.05$ ). We concluded in the validity of the algorithm in the Kerguelen area. This correlation and discussion about oxygen consumption rate have been added in the ms.

Then, Baxs peak at the K2 reference station is surprising in that in “HNLC / no bloom / low productivity / low export” conditions we observe a signal that we attributed to a previous/ winter production and export event. Nitrate contents and isotopic enrichment also relate an imprint of winter uptake (Dehairs et al., this issue), and low Si:C and Si:N ratios potentially reflect a previous diatoms development (Lableiz et al., this issue), which is consistent with high dissolution rates of BSi in surface (Closset et al., this issue). Both results suggest the occurrence of a winter production and

rem mineralization event. In Bowie et al., Qu erou  et al. and van der Merve et al., (both this issue), authors report that lateral transport of lithogenic matter from the Leclaire Rise (a large seamount located west of station R) would explain local maximum at 500 m depth and deeper, in particulate and dissolved trace metals. This is also corroborated in Lasbleiz et al. (this issue) with LSi data exhibiting a maximum at R station at 500m reflecting particulate lithogenic input. However, the Baxs maximum at K2 is relatively shallower (maximum at 300 m). Also, the size fractions of particles above and below 500 m depths are different at this station. We don't think that the upper 500 m Baxs signal (and maximum at 300 m) could be related to major Ba advection. We can however not exclude the impact of advection on the whole Baxs profile, even if salient Ba peak are not present deeper 500 m. Also, the Baxs was calculated as the difference between total Ba and lithogenic Ba using Al as the lithogenic reference element. During KEOPS2, at most of sites and depths the biogenic Baxs represented >95% of total Ba. At K2, the lithogenic Ba reached up to 20% solely in the upper 80 m.

Concerning station A3 on the Plateau, the lithogenic contribution is relatively important, mainly below 400 m where we observe important Ba and Al peaks. Particles size spectra clearly indicated at A3 sediment resuspension. We mentioned in the ms. that for profiles at station on the plateau, bottom waters with evidence of lithogenic input were not taken into account when calculation DWAV Baxs values. As also reported for station R-2, the lithogenic part at A3 on the Ba signal was minor (expect near the bottom due to sediment resuspension). Concerning the importance of lateral advection on the plateau in setting the Baxs signal, we added a discussion in the ms. (we referred to the work of Venchiarutti et al., 2008 and to Baxs profiles obtained on the plateau during KEOPS 1).

Sentences have been added in paragraphs first mentioned to as 4.1 and 4.2. These paragraphs moved to the results section.

#### Detailed comments

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**Reviewer:** In the abstract, it should be explicitly written that the “mesopelagic POC remineralisation” reported here is deduced from Baxs proxy: this would be more precise

**Reply:** Done

**Reviewer:** -In the introduction and section 3.2, no reference is made to E. Sternberg work, who also demonstrated (with F Morel) that Baxs in the surface water is “scavenged Ba” but not immediately crystallized as barite, and brought some clues on the seasonal “rhythm” of the barite formation by studying a “short time series” in the Mediterranean Sea. This could be added.

**Reply:** Three references related to the works of E. Sternberg (2005, 2007 and 2008) have been added in the introduction and in section 3.1.

**Reviewer:**-At the end of the introduction, I found question 1) not clearly written, please explicit better what was this first motivation.

**Reply:** Question has been reformulated, and explanations have been added in the introduction and section 2.1.

**Reviewer:**-Sampling and analyses: neither the blanks, nor the reproducibility are given, should be added.

**Reply:** Details have been added in section 2.2.

**Reviewer:**--In the result section, the surface maxima observed at E1 and the pic at 100 m at E4-E are not described. Could be done.

**Reply:** The surface Baxs signal at E1 and E4 has been described (paragraph 3.1)

**Reviewer:**-Paragraph 4.1: the first sentence is not clear as it is written: the link between “low productivity, low export and highest DWAV is not direct, which appears to be the case at the first reading of the sentence: rephrase.

**Reply:** the sentence has been revised.

**Reviewer:-** End of the same paragraph: about the hypothesis of “recurrent winter production” that might explain the R-2 maximum. . .was such phenomena visible and already observed with the satellites?

**Reply:** We checked Chla satellite image from the Giovanni online Visualization and Analysis system (NASA GES DISC). It appears that for different years, the R-2 and KERFIX area could indeed be subject to enhanced productivity during early spring periods, but it is not salient for winter period. The sentence has been revised in the ms.

**Reviewer:-** Discussion, station in the meander (4.3): I appreciated the evolution of the different ratios considered here, that allows following an interesting temporal evolution of the biogeochemical dynamic in this “recirculation”. Fig 5b and the related discussion would be easier to follow if the authors could add an inset to the Fig3, inset showing the full depth profile of Baxs at the stations TNS-6 and E-1 where bathypelagic processes are suspected.

**Reply:** Fig3h has been added showing the full depth profile of Baxs at TNS6 and E-1 vs. E4-E. Fig3h is referred in the ms in section 3.1 and 4.2.3.

**Reviewer:-**Table 1: in the date of sampling, the precision “2011” is perhaps not useful

**Reply:** “2011” has been removed from the dates of sampling.

**Reviewer:-**Figures: None of the figure proposes a circulation scheme, that could be helpful (in connection with my general comment)

**Reply:** The two branches of the Fawn trough Current have been added in Fig1a. Sentences have been added in section 2.1.

**Reviewer:-**In the caption of fig 4: the authors could add “POC, deduced from the Baxs maxima”

**Reply:** Done

Interactive comment on “Early season mesopelagic carbon remineralization and transfer efficiency in the naturally iron-fertilized Kerguelen area” by S. H. M. Jacquet et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

Received and published: 4 July 2014

Review of Early season mesopelagic carbon remineralization and transfer efficiency in the naturally iron-fertilized Kerguelen area by Jacquet et al.

#### Overview and major comments

This study is part of the KEOPS2 special issue investigating the downward flux of carbon in a naturally iron fertilized bloom in the southern ocean (Kerguelen). Although we recently gained knowledge on how POC is exported out of the sunlit layer of the ocean following natural fertilizations (Blain et al., 2007;Chever et al., 2010;Morris and Charette, 2013;Pollard et al., 2009;Le Moigne et al., 2014), a major unknown remains about the fate of the particulate organic carbon further down in the water column. This process is critical to understand if one wants to assess the genuine effect of Fe fertilization of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations. Jacquet et al present mesopelagic carbon remineralization rate data in the vicinity of the Kerguelen Islands. The paper focuses primarily on the differences in carbon remineralization rate between high and low iron regions and at different stage of the bloom evolution with emphasis on the efficiency with which POC is transferred into the ocean's interior. While I am not an expert in the “Barium” technique, my feeling is that the methods employed to derive estimates carbon remineralisation rate are well developed and sound, as are the estimates of POC export and primary production estimates presented elsewhere. Nevertheless, before I can recommend the manuscript for publication, significant modifications and improvement are necessary. The discussion lacks substance and only focuses on a basic description on the differences between difference sites sampled and the KEOPS1 results.

**Reviewer:** The authors do not clearly assess to which extent their metrics (r ratio, T<sub>400/800</sub>) are impacted by the integration time of the various technique they used. The PP, the Th- POC export and the Baxs C remineralisation rate are all express as daily rates (g C m<sup>-2</sup>d<sup>-1</sup>). However, PP (likely from bottle incubation, although the information is not available to the reader yet as Cavagna et al is not published) is integrated over a day (24or 12 hours incubation I assume) while the Th-POC export over a month (Le Moigne et al., 2013;Henson et al., 2011). The Baxs integration time seems less constrained and may well be over that of the Th-POC export. To overcome that problem, (Henson et al., 2011) integrated PP over a month which is comparable with the time-period which the Th technique integrates the POC-fluxes over. For instance, this has relevance to explain why the largest remineralisation rates (and subsequent r ratios, and T<sub>s</sub>) are observed in the HNLC zone and why T<sub>s</sub> (400 or 800) are on occasions larger than 100%. This needs to be assessed and discussed.

**Reply:** As detailed further below this has been discussed and revised in the ms.

**Reviewer:** Also, the manuscript would benefit of integrating recent observations about the mechanisms responsible driving the transfer efficiency in high latitude with highlights from some of the paper listed below (non exhaustive list though)(Henson et al., 2012;Le Moigne et al., 2012;Lam et al., 2011;Lam and Bishop, 2007;Maiti et al., 2013;Wilson et al., 2012;Buesseler et al., 2007;Morris and Sanders, 2012) etc... These propos dif- ferent processes as potential mechanisms to explain patterns in POC export/transfer efficiency in high latitude. It would be valuable to examine and discuss the dataset presented here regarding how the various locals Fe supply observed around the Kerguelen Islands impact patterns in POC export/transfer efficiency in high latitude. I do understand that this paper is part of a special issue and that a more comprehensive overview paper including this dataset might be put together later on. Nonetheless, a more thorough discussion of the results and their implications would be welcome to meet the publication criteria defined by Biogeosciences.

**Reply:** Discussion and references have been added in the ms.

**Reviewer:** Finally, the manuscript would benefit from serious improvement regarding language. It needs to be very thoroughly revised by a native English speaker, the text (including references list) is currently littered with typos and awkward sentences which makes the paper hard to read and sometimes confusing.

**Reply:** Language has been revised

**Reviewer:** Also, some manuscripts referenced in the text do not appear in the references list and the acronyms are not consistently used throughout the text.

**Reply:** References will be revised

### Minor comments

P4\_P9038, L10: Please refer to (Le Moigne et al., 2014) for most recent advance on the topic

**Reply:** the reference has been added in the text.

P4\_P9038, L21: “and, and, and” rephrase. See general comment about language

**Reply:** the sentence has been rephrased.

P5\_PP9039, L13: Any feeling on how long the Baxs technique integrates the C remineralisation rate for?

**Reply:** The time window integration of the Ba signal ranges from few (1-3) days to few (1-2) weeks.

P5\_P9039, L25: references

**Reply:** done

P6\_P9040, L19: Dates please

**Reply:** dates have been added in the text

P9\_P9043, L10: please specify “rates” after remineralization.

**Reply:** done

P11\_P9045, L9: What are you referring to?

**Reply:** We referred to section 3.1. Note that these sentences have been rephrased as requested by the second reviewer. Some sentences about the surface Baxs signal have been added in section 3.1.

P11\_P9045, L15: Four or for? needs rephrasing

**Reply:** we rephrased

P11\_P9045, L28: The two

**Reply:** done

P12\_P9046, L20 : Include (Robinson et al., 2014)

**Reply:** done

P13\_P9047; L6: Sequestration efficiency refers to the sequestration efficiency (the excess of POC export divided by the excess of DFe supply) as defined in (Blain et al., 2007) and re-used in (Pollard et al., 2009; Morris and Charette, 2013; Chever et al., 2010; Le Moigne et al., 2014). Please stick to the established terminology to avoid confusion.

**Reply:** done

P13\_P9047, L8: untill !!!! (“up to” would be adequate here).

**Reply:** done

P13\_P9047, L10 and Table 2: EP/PP is called export efficiency (Buessler, 1998)

**Reply:** OK we mentioned it.

*P13\_P9047, L14:* You imply here that remineralisation rates are a function of PP and export here (low PP/export; high remineralisation). Why C remineralisation rates would be negatively correlated with PP and export in the HNLC region?

**Reply:** The negative relationship between PP and PP and differences in EP/PP vs. MR have been discussed. The main reasons to explain the differences are the time delay between signals and differences in diatoms and sinking material.

*P13\_P9047, L16:* Could you specify sampling depth? Trull et al and Laurenceau et al are not available yet.

**Reply:** done

*P13\_P9047, L22:* Please provide information or references on what mechanism could potentially lead to an important winter production and subsequent export, *P13\_P9047, L27:* you mean a previous winter bloom? and *P14\_P9048, L3,* Is November in the Southern hemisphere wintertime? I believe not. The argument (or the date indicated) is not valid. Comparing that to previous estimation of C remineralization rate (from Baxs and other technique) estimated in other HNLC regions (and perhaps a bit further in the season) would provide valuable information on whether the HNLC region has intrinsically a more active heterotrophic community early in the season or whether the high C remineralisation rate observed here are an artefact of the Baxs technique integration time.

**Reply (P13\_P9047, L22, P13\_P9047, L27 P14\_P9048, L3):** We checked Chla satellite image from the Giovanni online Visualization and Analysis system (NASA GES DISC). It appears that for different years, the R-2 and KERFIX area could indeed be subject to enhanced productivity during early spring periods, but it is not salient for winter period. The sentence has been revised in the ms. Also, as reported above the integration time of Ba ranges from several days to week and we can exclude a potential artefact of the Ba technique. According to results from Christaki et al. (this issue), the prokaryotic activity at station R-2 was low but column-integrated bacterial production (BP) below 150 m represents 41% of the 900 m column-integrated value, indicating that important mineralization of material transferred from the surface occurs at mesopelagic depths. Other parameters also show that an export event occurs at R-2 (Lasbleiz et al., this issue- Si:C, Laurenceau et al., this issue- particle composition, Dehairs et al., this issue- nitrate isotopes). Discussion has been revised.

*P18\_P9052:* Nothing about the large remineralisation rate at the reference HNLC site in the conclusion?

**Reply:** Conclusion has been revised.

1 **Early season mesopelagic carbon remineralization and transfer**  
2 **efficiency in the naturally iron-fertilized Kerguelen area**

3

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28



29 **Abstract**

30 We report on the zonal variability of mesopelagic particulate organic carbon  
31 remineralization and deep carbon transfer potential during the Kerguelen  
32 Ocean and Plateau compared Study 2 expedition (KEOPS 2; Oct.-Nov. 2011)  
33 in an area of the Polar Front supporting recurrent massive blooms from  
34 natural Fe fertilization. Mesopelagic carbon remineralization (MR) was  
35 assessed using the excess, non-lithogenic particulate barium ( $Ba_{xs}$ )  
36 inventories in mesopelagic waters and compared with bacterial production  
37 (BP), surface primary production (PP) and export production (EP). Results for  
38 this early season study are compared with results obtained during a previous  
39 study (2005; KEOPS 1) for the same area at a later stage of the  
40 phytoplankton bloom. Our results reveal the patchiness of the season  
41 advancement and of the establishment of remineralization processes between  
42 plateau (A3) and Polar Front sites during KEOPS 2. For the Kerguelen plateau  
43 (A3 site) we observe a similar functioning of the mesopelagic ecosystem  
44 during both seasons (spring and summer), with low and rather stable  
45 remineralization fluxes in the mesopelagic column (150-400 m). The shallow  
46 water column ( $\sim 500$ m), the lateral advection, the zooplankton grazing  
47 pressure and the pulsed nature of the POC transfer at A3 seem to drive the  
48 extend of MR processes on the plateau. For deeper stations ( $>2000$  m)  
49 located on the margin, inside a Polar Front meander, as well as in the vicinity  
50 of the Polar Front, east of Kerguelen, remineralization in the upper 400 m in  
51 general represents a larger part of surface carbon export, but when  
52 considering the upper 800 m, in some cases, the entire flux of exported  
53 carbon is remineralized. In the Polar Front meander, where successive  
54 stations form a time series, two successive events of particle transfer were  
55 evidenced by remineralization rates: a first mesopelagic and deep transfer  
56 from a past bloom before the cruise, and a second transfer expanding at  
57 mesopelagic layers during the cruise. Regarding the deep carbon transfer

58 efficiency, it appeared that above the plateau (A3 site) the mesopelagic  
59 remineralization was not a major barrier to the transfer of organic matter to  
60 the sea-floor (close to 500 m). There the efficiency of carbon transfer to the  
61 bottom waters (>400 m) as assessed by PP, EP and MR fluxes comparisons  
62 reached up to 87% of the carbon exported from the upper 150 m. In contrast,  
63 at the deeper locations mesopelagic remineralization clearly limited the  
64 transfer of carbon to depths >400 m. For sites at the margin of the plateau  
65 (station E-4W) and the Polar front (station F-L), mesopelagic remineralization  
66 even exceeded upper 150 m export, resulting in a null transfer efficiency to  
67 depths >800 m. In the Polar Front meander (time series), the capacity of the  
68 meander to transfer carbon to depth >800 m was highly variable (0 to 73 %).  
69 The highest carbon transfer efficiencies in the meander are furthermore  
70 coupled to intense and complete deep (>800 m) remineralization, resulting  
71 again in a close to zero deep (>2000 m) carbon sequestration efficiency  
72 there.

73

74 Key Words: particulate barium, mesopelagic carbon remineralization, carbon  
75 transfer efficiency, Southern Ocean

76

77 **1. INTRODUCTION**

78 While numerous artificial (Boyd et al., 2000, 2004; Gervais et al.,  
79 2002; Buesseler et al., 2004, 2005; de Baar et al., 2005; Hoffmann et al.,  
80 2006; Boyd et al., 2012; Smetacek et al., 2012) and natural (Blain et al.,  
81 2007; Pollard et al., 2009; Zhou et al., 2010, 2013) ocean iron-fertilization  
82 experiments in the Southern Ocean demonstrated the role of iron in  
83 enhancing the phytoplankton biomass and production in high-nutrient low-  
84 chlorophyll (HNLC) regions, determining to what extent fertilization could  
85 modify the transfer of particulate organic carbon (POC) to the deep ocean is  
86 far from being comprehensively achieved (Lampitt et al., 2008; Morris and  
87 Charette, 2013; Le Moigne et al., 2014; Robinson et al., 2014). This is partly  
88 due to the short term over which the observations were made, precluding  
89 extrapolation to longer time scales. Moreover, when assessing whether Fe-  
90 supply could induce vertical POC transfer, the magnitude of the export from  
91 surface is not the only important parameter to take into account. Indeed, POC  
92 fate in the mesopelagic zone (defined as 100-1000 m depth layer) is often  
93 largely overlooked although these depth layers are responsible for the  
94 remineralization of most of the POC exported from the surface layer (Martin et  
95 al., 1987; Longhurst, 1990; Lampitt and Antia, 1997; François et al., 2002;  
96 Buesseler et al., 2007b; Buesseler and Boyd, 2009). Only few studies  
97 considered mesopelagic carbon (C) remineralization rates (Buesseler et al.,  
98 2007a; Jacquet et al., 2008a, 2008b, 2011a, 2011b; Salter et al., 2007) to  
99 estimate the response of deep POC export to fertilization. Assessing  
100 mesopelagic C remineralization is pivotal to evaluate remineralization length  
101 scale as well as the time scale of the C storage in the deep ocean. Indeed the  
102 typical depth of the main thermocline, 1000 m (IPCC, WG1, 2007, chp5) is  
103 often referred to as the horizon clearly removed from the surface ocean and  
104 atmosphere (Passow and Carlson, 2012). Overall, assessing mesopelagic C  
105 remineralization will allow to better quantify the ocean's biological carbon

106 pump and its efficiency in the global C cycle which bears large uncertainty and  
107 is currently under debate (e.g. from 5 Gt/yr in [Henson et al., 2011](#) to 21 Gt  
108 C/yr in [Laws et al., 2000](#) and 13 Gt/yr in [IPPC WG1 report \(ch. 6, 2013\)](#)).

109         The present work aims at understanding the impact of a natural iron-  
110 induced bloom on the mesopelagic POC remineralization and zonal variability  
111 in the Kerguelen area (Southern Ocean). Here, C remineralization was  
112 assessed from particulate biogenic Ba (hereafter called excess-Ba or  $Ba_{xs}$ ;  
113 mainly forms as barite  $BaSO_4$  crystals) contents in the mesopelagic water  
114 column. The link between barite and C remineralization resides in the fact that  
115 this mineral precipitates inside oversaturated micro-environments (biogenic  
116 aggregates) during the process of prokaryotic degradation of sinking POC  
117 ([Dehairs et al., 1980, 1992, 1997, 2008](#); [Stroobants et al., 1991, Cardinal et](#)  
118 [al., 2001, 2005](#); [Jacquet et al., 2007, 2008b, 2011a](#); [Planchon et al., 2013](#);  
119 [Sternberg et al. 2007, 2008a, 2008b](#)). Once the aggregates have been  
120 remineralized, barites are released and spread over the mesopelagic layer.  
121 Overall, earlier work highlights the fact that suspended barite in mesopelagic  
122 waters builds up over the growing season and reflects past remineralization  
123 activity integrated over several days to weeks ([Dehairs et al., 1997](#); [Cardinal](#)  
124 [et al., 2005](#); [Jacquet et al., 2007, 2008b](#)). An algorithm relating mesopelagic  
125  $Ba_{xs}$  contents to oxygen consumption ([Shopova et al., 1995](#); [Dehairs et al.,](#)  
126 [1997](#)) allowed remineralization of POC fluxes to be estimated for the  
127 mesopelagic layer. Combined with surface C production and export estimates,  
128 mesopelagic  $Ba_{xs}$  also informs on the efficiency of the system toward deep  
129 carbon transfer. From earlier studies, the efficiency of C transfer through the  
130 mesopelagic layer was reported to increase under artificially induced (EIFEX;  
131 [Strass et al., 2005](#); [Smetacek et al., 2012](#)) and natural (KEOPS; [Blain et al.,](#)  
132 [2007](#)) Fe-replete conditions ([Jacquet et al., 2008a, 2008b](#); [Savoie et al.,](#)  
133 [2008](#)) compared to Fe-limited, non-bloom, HNLC reference stations in the  
134 Southern Ocean. In contrast, C transfer efficiency through the mesopelagic

135 layer was reported smaller in natural Fe-replete locations during the SAZ-  
136 Sense cruise off Tasmania (Jacquet et al., 2011a, 2011b). Differences in  
137 plankton community structure and composition (e.g. diatoms vs. flagellates,  
138 type of diatoms) were pointed at, as possible causes of such discrepancies in  
139 C transfer efficiency through the mesopelagic layer (Jacquet et al., 2008a,  
140 2011a, 2011b). Also, differences in integration time scales for the processes  
141 that control the carbon fluxes in artificially vs. naturally Fe fertilized systems,  
142 may yield an incomplete picture of the C transfer potential and lead to  
143 misleading conclusions.

144 Here, we examine changes in mesopelagic POC remineralization  
145 during the early spring (Oct. –Nov. 2011) KEOPS 2 expedition to the naturally  
146 iron fertilized area eastward of Kerguelen Islands. The hydrographic structure  
147 of the Kerguelen area generates contrasted environments that are differently  
148 impacted by iron availability and mesoscale activity. The specific objectives of  
149 the present work are to assess the zonal variability of mesopelagic C  
150 remineralization and deep C transfer potential, and to identify possible causes  
151 inducing this variability. As the same area was visited earlier in 2005 during  
152 summer at a late stage of the bloom (KEOPS 1; Jan.-Feb., 2005), this  
153 condition offers a unique opportunity to estimate the main carbon fluxes over  
154 most of the growth season. Mesopelagic C remineralization estimates are  
155 compared to particle and biological parameters as reported in other papers  
156 included in this issue (Cavagna et al., 2014; Christaki et al., 2014; Dehairs et  
157 al., 2014; Lasbleiz et al., 2014; Laurenceau-Cornec et al., 2014; Planchon et  
158 al., 2014; Van der Merve et al., 2015) and in Blain et al., (2007); Christaki et  
159 al. (2008); Jacquet et al., (2008a); Park et al., (2008); Savoye et al., (2008).

160

## 161 **2. EXPERIMENT AND METHODS**

### 162 **2.1. Study area**

163           The KEOPS 2 (Kerguelen Ocean and Plateau compared Study) cruise  
164 was conducted in austral spring at the onset of the bloom from 10 October to  
165 20 November aboard the R/V *Marion Dufresne* (TAAF/IPEV). The KEOPS 2  
166 expedition studied the Kerguelen Plateau area (Indian sector of the Southern  
167 Ocean) which is characterized by the passage of the Polar Front (PF), as  
168 illustrated in Fig.1a. The Kerguelen Plateau is surrounded by the Antarctic  
169 Circumpolar Current (ACC) whose main branch circulates to the north of the  
170 plateau (Park et al., 2008). A second branch of the ACC circulates to the  
171 south of Kerguelen Islands to further join a branch of the Fawn Trough  
172 Current (FTC). The FTC has a main northeast direction, but a minor branch  
173 splits away northwestward to join the eastern side of the Kerguelen plateau  
174 (Park et al., 2008; Fig1.a). These particular hydrographic features generate a  
175 mosaic of recurrent massive bloom patterns in the northeastern part of the  
176 Plateau and the possible sources and mechanisms for fertilization were  
177 investigated during ANTARES 3 (1995; Blain et al., 2001) and KEOPS 1 cruise,  
178 later referred to as KEOPS 1 (Jan.-Feb. 2005, late summer conditions; Blain  
179 et al., 2007, 2008). During KEOPS 2 the evolution of Chl-a data based on  
180 multi-satellite imagery of the study area revealed the presence of different  
181 Chl-a rich plumes (D’ovidio et al., 2014) (Fig.1a; e.g. Chl-a map from  
182 11/11/2011). Stations were sampled in distinct zones covering these different  
183 bloom patterns (Fig.1a) (corresponding stations are reported in Fig1.b): (a)  
184 on the shallow plateau (station A3; see 1 in Fig.1a). Note that station A3  
185 coincides with a site studied during the KEOPS 1 cruise, and that it was  
186 sampled twice over a 27-day period; (b) in a meander formed by a quasi-  
187 permanent retroflexion of the Polar Front (PF) and topographically-steered by  
188 the eastern escarpment (Gallieni Spur) of the Kerguelen Plateau (mainly  
189 stations E, sampled as a quasi-lagrangian temporal series) (see 2 in Fig.1a);  
190 (c) along a North-South Transect (referred to as TNS stations; see 3, grey line  
191 in Fig.1a) and a West-East Transect (referred to as TEW stations; see 4, grey

192 line in Fig.1a), both crossing the PF; and (d) in the Polar Front Zone (PFZ) in  
193 the vicinity (east) of the PF (station F-L; see 5 in Fig.1a). Furthermore we also  
194 sampled a reference HNLC/non bloom/non Fe-fertilized station southwest of  
195 the Plateau (station R-2; see 6 in Fig.1a). Station locations are given in Table  
196 1.

197 Detailed descriptions of the complex physical structure of the area,  
198 circulation, water masses and fronts are given in Park et al. (2014). Briefly,  
199 the main hydrodynamic features observed during the cruise are the following  
200 (see  $\theta$ -S diagram, Fig.2a): (1) North of the PF, stations in the PFZ (TNS-1,  
201 TEW-8 and F-L) present Antarctic Surface Waters (AASW;  $\theta \approx 4^\circ\text{C}$  and density  
202  $< 27$ );  $\theta$ -S characteristics between 150 to 400 m at station F-L (and to a  
203 lesser extent at station TNS-1) reveal the presence of interleaving with waters  
204 from northern (subantarctic) origin, centered between the 27.2 and 27.5  
205 density curves, where Antarctic Intermediate Waters (AAIW) are usually  
206 found. This contrasts with the situation at station TEW-8, where there is no  
207 evidence of interleaving; (2) stations south of the PF exhibit subsurface  
208 temperature minima characteristic of Winter Waters (WW); below the WW  
209 three water masses can be identified, namely: the Upper (temperature  
210 maximum) and Lower (salinity maximum) Circumpolar Deep Water (UCDW  
211 and LCDW), and the Antarctic Bottom Water (AABW). These water masses  
212 are present roughly in the following depth intervals:  $700 \text{ m} < \text{UCDW} < 1500 \text{ m}$ ;  
213  $1500 \text{ m} < \text{LCDW} < 2500 \text{ m}$ ;  $\text{AABW} > 2500 \text{ m}$ .

214 Based on the  $\theta$ -S characteristics (Fig.2a, -2b) and surface  
215 phytoplankton biomasses we can schematically group the stations as follows.  
216 The R-2 HNLC reference station (white dot in Fig.1b) is characterized by a  
217 very low biomass (with low iron contents; Qu erou  et al., 2014). Stations  
218 TEW-3 and TNS-8 (black dots) are characterized by a low to moderate  
219 biomass and Fe contents. Stations A3 and E-4W (red dots; south of the PF) as  
220 well as stations TNS-1, F-L and TEW-8 (blue dots; north of the PF) are

221 characterized by high biomass and iron contents. Stations in the core of the  
222 PF meander (green dots; stations TNS-6, E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4E and E-5  
223 considered as a temporal series) are characterized by moderate biomass and  
224 iron contents.

225

## 226 **2.2. Sampling and analyses**

227 22 CTD casts (surface to 500-2000 m) were sampled for particulate  
228 barium (Table 1) using a CTD-rosette equipped with 22 12L Niskin bottles.  
229 Deep particulate Ba profiles (>1000 m) were not systematically obtained from  
230 the same CTD cast, but from successive casts sampled closeby in time and  
231 space and having similar  $\theta$ -S data profiles. In the following, we use both the  
232 station and CTD numbers to refer to stations.

233 4 to 7 L of seawater were filtered onto 47 mm polycarbonate  
234 membranes (0.4  $\mu\text{m}$  porosity) under slight overpressure supplied by filtered  
235 air (0.4  $\mu\text{m}$ ). The filters were rinsed with Milli-Q grade water (<5 mL) to  
236 remove sea salt, dried (50°C) and stored in Petri dishes for later analysis. In  
237 the home-based laboratory we performed a total digestion of samples using a  
238 tri-acid (0.5 mL HF/1.5 mL HCl/1 mL HNO<sub>3</sub>; all Suprapur grade) mixture in  
239 closed telfon beakers overnight at 90°C in a clean pressurized room. After  
240 evaporation close to dryness samples were re-dissolved into around 13 mL of  
241 HNO<sub>3</sub> 2%. The solutions were analysed for Ba and other major and minor  
242 elements by ICP-QMS (inductively coupled plasma-quadrupole mass  
243 spectrometry; X Series 2 ThermoFisher) equipped with a collision cell  
244 technology (CCT). To correct instrumental drift and matrix effects, internal  
245 standards and matrix-matched calibrations were used. We analysed several  
246 certified reference materials which consisted of dilute acid-digested rocks  
247 (BHVO-1, JB-3 and JGb-1), natural riverine water (SLRS-5) and multi-element  
248 artificial solutions for these external calibrations. Based on analyses of these  
249 external standards, accuracy and reproducibility are better than  $\pm 5\%$ . For



250 more details on sample processing and analysis we refer to Cardinal et al.  
251 (2001). Among all elements analysed, particular interest went to Ba and Al.  
252 The presence of sea-salt was checked by analysing Na and the sea-salt  
253 particulate Ba contribution was found negligible. Average detection limits  
254 equal 0.6 nM for Al and 3 pM for Ba. Detection limits were calculated as three  
255 times the standard deviation on the blank measured on board and then  
256 normalized to an average dilution factor of 385, i.e., particles from around 5 L  
257 of Milli-Q water, dissolved in a final volume of 13 mL as for the samples.  
258 Biogenic barium (hereafter called excess-Ba or  $Ba_{xs}$ ) was calculated as the  
259 difference between total particulate Ba and lithogenic Ba using Al as the  
260 lithogenic reference element (Dymond et al., 1992; Taylor and McLennan,  
261 1985). At most sites and depths the biogenic  $Ba_{xs}$  represented >95% of total  
262 particulate Ba. Lithogenic Ba reached up to 20% of total particulate Ba at  
263 some depths in the upper 80-100 m, mainly at station R-2 and stations north  
264 of the Polar Front (i.e., TEW-8, F-L and TNS-1). The standard uncertainty  
265 (Ellison et al., 2000) on  $Ba_{xs}$  data ranges between 5 and 5.5%.  $Ba_{xs}$  and Al  
266 data are reported in Appendix A.

267

### 268 **2.3. O<sub>2</sub> consumption and POC remineralization**

269 The rate of oxygen consumption and particulate organic carbon  
270 remineralization rate in the mesopelagic layer (later referred to as MR) can be  
271 estimated using an algorithm relating mesopelagic  $Ba_{xs}$  contents and oxygen  
272 consumption based on earlier observations in the Southern Ocean (Shopova  
273 et al., 1995; Dehairs et al., 1997; 2008). The detailed calculations are  
274 described in Jacquet et al. (2008a, 2011a). Briefly, we use the following  
275 equations:

$$276 \quad J_{O_2} = (Ba_{xs} - Ba_{residual})/17450 \quad (\text{Eq.1})$$

$$277 \quad C_{respired} = Z \times J_{O_2} \times RR \quad (\text{Eq.2})$$

278 where  $J_{O_2}$  is the  $O_2$  consumption ( $\mu\text{mol l}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$ ) and  $C_{respired}$  is the  
279 Mineralization Rate of organic carbon (in  $\text{mmol C m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ ; MR);  $Ba_{xs}$  is the  
280 depth-weighted average  $Ba_{xs}$  value (DWA<sub>v</sub>), i.e. the  $Ba_{xs}$  inventory divided by  
281 the depth layer considered  $Z$ ,  $Ba_{residual}$  is the residual  $Ba_{xs}$  signal (or  $Ba_{xs}$   
282 background) at zero oxygen consumption and RR is the Redfield C/ $O_2$  molar  
283 ratio (127/175; Broecker et al., 1985). DWA<sub>v</sub>  $Ba_{xs}$  values were calculated both  
284 for the 150 to 400 m (Plateau and deep stations) and the 150 to 800 m layers  
285 (deep stations only) (see details further below). The residual  $Ba_{xs}$  is  
286 considered as 'preformed'  $Ba_{xs}$ , left-over after partial dissolution and  
287 sedimentation of  $Ba_{xs}$  produced during a previous phytoplankton growth  
288 event. In  $BaSO_4$  saturated waters, such as the ones filling the whole ACC  
289 water column (Monnin et al. 1999), this background  $Ba_{xs}$  value was  
290 considered to reach 180 to 200 pM which is rather characteristic for the deep  
291 ocean (>1000m) (see Dehairs et al., 1997; Jacquet et al., 2008a, 2011). In  
292 the present study we used a  $Ba_{xs}$  background of 180 pM.

293 We take the opportunity here to also compare  $O_2$  consumption rates  
294 for the KEOPS 1 expedition (D. Lefèvre, unpublished data) with KEOPS 1  $Ba_{xs}$   
295 data published earlier (Jacquet et al., 2008a). No such  $O_2$  consumption data  
296 are available for KEOPS 2. During KEOPS 1, dark community respiration  
297 (DCR) was estimated from changes in the dissolved oxygen concentration  
298 over 72 hours incubations. Discrete samples were collected at three depths in  
299 the mesopelagic zone from Niskin bottles into 125  $\text{cm}^3$  borosilicate glass  
300 bottles according to the WOCE procedure, and oxygen concentration was  
301 determined by Winkler titrations using a photometric endpoint detector  
302 (Williams and Jenkinson, 1982). By integrating DCR data in the water column  
303 we estimated the rate of oxygen consumption (later referred to as  $JO_2$ -W). We  
304 compared  $JO_2$ -W obtained from incubated oxygen samples with the rate of  
305 oxygen consumption based on KEOPS 1 mesopelagic  $Ba_{xs}$  contents (Eq.1;  
306 later referred to as  $JO_2$ -Ba). Dissolved oxygen was measured three times at

307 station A3 (same location as during KEOPS2) over a 19-day period (A3 CTD  
308 #32, #74 and #119). Dissolved oxygen was also measured at station C11  
309 located off-shelf in less productive HNLC waters (51.65°S, 78.00°E; not  
310 shown in Fig.1) and was sampled two times over a 10-day period (C11  
311 CTD#42 and #83). **Fig.3 compares**  $\text{JO}_2\text{-W}$  and  $\text{JO}_2\text{-Ba}$  for repeat stations A3  
312 (#32, 74 and 119) and C11 (#42 and 83) (integration between 150-300 m).  
313  $\text{JO}_2\text{-W}$  range from 0.082 to 0.208  $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$  at station A3 and from 0.292  
314 to 0.528  $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$  at station C11. Although  $\text{JO}_2\text{-Ba}$  rates (from 0.846 to  
315 1.555  $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ ) are slightly higher than  $\text{JO}_2\text{-W}$ ,  $\text{JO}_2$  rates are of the same  
316 order of magnitude and present a same trend. We observe a significant  
317 positive correlation between both  $\text{JO}_2$  rates ( $R^2=0.90$ ;  $p<0.01$ ) with a slope of  
318 0.64. The difference in oxygen consumption rates could be explained by the  
319 integration time of both methods (few hours for the incubations vs. few days  
320 to weeks for  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$ ) and by the fact that KEOPS 1 occurred at the decline of the  
321 bloom (late summer; low organic substrates), which would explain the lower  
322  $\text{JO}_2$  rates as estimated by the incubation method.

323 Overall, these results highlight the need for further constraining spatial  
324 and temporal variability of deep ocean oxygen utilisation via a combination of  
325 direct rate measurements and the  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$  proxy. In the present work  $\text{O}_2$   
326 consumption and POC remineralisation was assessed from  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$  inventories  
327 and Eqs.1 and 2. C remineralization rates are given in **Table 1**. Relative  
328 standard uncertainties (Ellison et al., 2000) on C remineralization ranged  
329 between 4 and 20%.

330

### 331 **3. RESULTS**

#### 332 **3.1. Particulate biogenic $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$ profiles**

333  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$  profiles in the upper 800 m are reported in **Fig.4**. The complete  
334 whole water column data set is given in **Appendix A**. From previous studies we  
335 know that  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$  in surface waters is distributed over different, mainly non-

336 barite biogenic phases (see [Stroobants et al., 1991](#), [Jacquet et al., 2007](#),  
337 [Cardinal et al., 2005](#), [Sternberg et al., 2005](#)). As such, these do not reflect  
338 POC remineralization processes, in contrast to mesopelagic waters where  $Ba_{xs}$   
339 is mainly composed of barite ([Dehairs et al., 1980](#)) formed during prokaryotic  
340 degradation of sinking POC ([Martin et al., 1987](#); [Sarmiento et al., 1993](#);  
341 [Buesseler et al., 2007b](#)). For KEOPS 2 we observe that  $Ba_{xs}$  concentrations  
342 generally increase below 150 m (i.e., they increase above the background  
343 level set at 180 pM), but some sites have ocean surface  $Ba_{xs}$  contents  
344 significantly larger than background (E-1, 896 pM at 21 m; E4-E, 563 pM at 93  
345 m). Such values are not unusual, and very high surface values have been  
346 observed occasionally in earlier Southern Ocean studies. During KEOPS 1,  
347 surface  $Ba_{xs}$  maxima at the three A3 repeats stations ranged from 1354 to  
348 5930 pM at 50 m, likely associated with phytoplankton derived particles  
349 ([Jacquet et al., 2008a](#)).

350         The following part focuses on the mesopelagic zone where most of the  
351 remineralization of exported organic matter takes place. The  $Ba_{xs}$  profile for  
352 station R-2 (CTD #17) displayed a characteristic mesopelagic  $Ba_{xs}$  maximum  
353 reaching up to 834 pM at 304 m which is actually one of the highest values  
354 observed for the whole study ([Fig.4a](#)).  $Ba_{xs}$  profiles for stations A3 above the  
355 Kerguelen plateau (A3-1 CTD #4 and A3-2 CTD #107; [Fig.4b](#)) had lower  
356 mesopelagic  $Ba_{xs}$  contents, with values ranging from about 80 to 350 pM. For  
357 both A3 visits,  $Ba_{xs}$  values increased close to the seafloor reaching up to 1108  
358 pM (A3-1, 474 m) and 1842 pM (A3-2, 513 m). In contrast, station E-4W  
359 (located further north along the margin in deeper waters, but with similar  $\theta-S$   
360 and Chl-a characteristics as station A3) displayed a large mesopelagic  $Ba_{xs}$   
361 maximum reaching up to 627 pM at 252 m ([Fig.4c](#)). Station TEW-3 (located  
362 on the Kerguelen plateau, in waters with similar  $\theta-S$  and Chl-a characteristics  
363 as station TNS-8) had a profile similar to the one observed at station A3-2,  
364 but compared to plateau sites A3-1 and A3-2 no increased  $Ba_{xs}$  contents were

365 observed in bottom water (Fig.4d). The other stations of the study area  
366 (Fig.4d-g) have  $Ba_{xs}$  profiles similar to the one at station E-4W, showing the  
367 characteristic  $Ba_{xs}$  maximum between 200 and 500 m. Note that for most of  
368 the stations,  $Ba_{xs}$  concentrations in waters below the mesopelagic maximum  
369 did not systematically decreased to reach the  $Ba_{xs}$  background level (180 pM;  
370 see above). In some cases  $Ba_{xs}$  contents significantly higher than residual  $Ba_{xs}$   
371 were observed until below 1000 m (see Appendix A). This is particularly  
372 salient at stations TNS-6, E-1, E-2 and F-L where  $Ba_{xs}$  values below 1000 m  
373 reach 410 pM at 1886 m (TNS-6) and 436 pM at 1498 m (E-1). These cases  
374 of high deep  $Ba_{xs}$  contents clearly contrasted with the values observed at  
375 station E4-E (Fig.4h).

376

### 377 **3.2. Depth-weighted average $Ba_{xs}$ content of mesopelagic waters**

378 Since the base of the mixed layer was generally shallower than  $\leq 150$   
379 m, this depth is taken as the upper boundary of the mesopelagic domain. The  
380 depth-weighted average (DWAV)  $Ba_{xs}$  contents, calculated for the 150-400 m  
381 and 150-800 m depth intervals, are given in Table 1. For the profiles on the  
382 plateau (500 m water column) bottom waters with evidence of sediment  
383 resuspension were not taken into account when calculating DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$  values  
384 ( $\geq 400$  m). Particle size spectra indicated that sediment resuspension occurred  
385 especially at stations A3 and TEW-3 (Jouandet et al., 2014; Lasbleiz et al.,  
386 2014; Van der Merve et al., 2015;). Thus, at site A3 (Fig.4b) DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$  was  
387 calculated for the layer between 150 and 354 m for A3-1 (CTD #4) and  
388 between 150 and 405 m for A3-2 (CTD#107). For station TEW-3 (CTD #38)  
389 DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$  was calculated for the water layer between 150 and 400 m  
390 (Fig.4d). For the deep sites, we considered both, the 150-400 m and the 150-  
391 800 m depth intervals, when calculating the DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$  contents. Depth  
392 weighted average  $Ba_{xs}$  values were translated into carbon remineralization

393 rates using equation (1) and (2) given above. These rates ranged from 2 to  
394 91 mgC m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> (Table 1).

395 DWAV Ba<sub>xs</sub> values range from 199 to 572 pM (Table 1) and fit within  
396 the range reported for Polar Front areas during previous studies (Cardinal et  
397 al., 2001, 2005; Jacquet et al., 2005, 2008a, 2008b, 2011; Planchon et al.,  
398 2013). For the KEOPS 2 cruise the main observed features are:

399 (a) Unexpectedly, the highest DWAV Ba<sub>xs</sub> value of the whole study area  
400 (572 pM; 150-400 m) was observed at the reference R-2 site. Bowie et al.  
401 (2014), Qu  rou   et al. (2014) and van der Merve et al. (2015) reported for R-  
402 2 local maxima in particulate and dissolved trace metals at 500 m and deeper,  
403 reflecting lateral transport of lithogenic matter possibly originating from the  
404 Leclaire Rise (a large seamount located west of R-2). Similarly, Lasbleiz et al.  
405 (2014) observed a maximum of lithogenic silica (LSi) at 500 m, confirming  
406 lithogenic inputs there. However, we note that the mesopelagic Ba<sub>xs</sub>  
407 maximum at R-2 occurs at shallower depths, around 300 m, and that there is  
408 no evidence for elevated values at 500 m where the previous authors  
409 reported higher trace element and silica concentrations. Also, as reported  
410 above (see section 2.2 and Appendix A), the higher lithogenic Ba fractions at  
411 R-2 (up to 20% of the total Ba) occur only in the upper 80 m. Moreover, we  
412 do note that surface waters at R-2 experienced already some nitrate  
413 consumption as compared to subsurface Winter Waters (Tmin waters).  
414 Indeed, surface waters had 10% less nitrate than Winter Water (26 µM at 5 m  
415 vs. 29 µM at 200 m) and the isotopic enrichment of this surface nitrate  
416 confirmed an imprint of uptake (see Dehairs et al., 2014). Also, Lasbleiz et al.  
417 (2014) report relatively low Si:C and Si:N ratios for surface ocean suspended  
418 matter) pointing to the development of a diatom assemblage just prior the  
419 sampling, consistent with the high dissolution rates of biogenic silica (BSi)  
420 Closset et al. (2014) report for R-2 surface waters. It is therefore likely that  
421 the mesopelagic Ba<sub>xs</sub> content at R-2 indeed reflects remineralization of

422 organic material that was fuelled by an important past early spring production  
423 and export event. Similarly, F. Dehairs ([unpublished results](#)) observed the  
424 presence of significant numbers of barite microcrystals in mesopelagic waters  
425 at the KERFIX time series station (50°40'S, 68°25'E) located east of R-2  
426 during late winter (Nov. 1993). Results would thus suggest the occurrence in  
427 this HNLC area of recurrent brief early spring diatom productive period pulses  
428 and subsequent export and remineralization activity in the underlying layers.  
429 Chla satellite images (Giovani online Visualization and Analysis system, NASA  
430 GES DISC) corroborate that the R-2 and KERFIX area is occasionally subject  
431 to enhanced biomass during early spring;

432 (b) The two successive visits (27-day interval) at site A3 yielded  
433 relatively low DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$  values of 267 and 316 pM, and a quite similar value  
434 was observed for the shallow station TEW-3 (324 pM), located further north  
435 on the plateau, but north of the PF. Note that for comparison purposes, we  
436 recalculated the DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$  and MR values of KEOPS 1 by considering upper  
437 and lower mesopelagic layer boundaries of 150 and 400 m rather than 125  
438 and 450 m, as in Jacquet et al. ([2008a](#)). Also, in the latter study the high  $Ba_{xs}$   
439 contents observed near the seafloor were not excluded from the calculations,  
440 while they are here. These increased benthic boundary layer  $Ba_{xs}$  contents  
441 (observed also during KEOPS 2) are due to sediment resuspension which  
442 extended up to 70 m above the seafloor during KEOPS 1 ([Blain et al., 2008](#);  
443 [Venchiarutti et al., 2008](#); [Armand et al., 2008](#)). Because of these slightly  
444 different depth intervals over which  $Ba_{xs}$  values were integrated, the KEOPS 1  
445 values discussed here will be slightly different from those reported in Jacquet  
446 et al. ([2008a](#)). [At the other depths the lithogenic Ba contribution at A3](#)  
447 [\(KEOPS 2\) was only minor](#);

448 (c) The time series stations in the Polar Front meander had DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$   
449 contents ranging from 258 to 427 pM (150-400 m), so reaching values  
450 exceeding those on the plateau. For these time series stations values

451 decreased between day 0 (TNS-6) and 12 (E-3), and then increased again at  
452 days 22 (E-4E) and 27 (E-5). Stations E-4W and TNS-8 above the plateau but  
453 in deeper waters close to the Kerguelen margin, at the edge the high biomass  
454 plume (Figure 1) had the highest DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$  values (468 and 473 pM,  
455 respectively; 150-400 m), not considering the R-2 reference station. The  
456 Polar Front F-L site, although located within the eastern part of the high  
457 biomass plume had a smaller DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$  value of 345 pM (150-400 m) and  
458 the close by station TEW-8 had the lowest DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$  value of the whole  
459 study area (199 pM; 150-400 m).

460

## 461 **4. DISCUSSION**

### 462 **4.1. Mesopelagic $Ba_{xs}$ and bacterial production**

463 Previous studies revealed that the shape of the column-integrated  
464 bacterial production (BP) profile (i.e. the attenuation length scale) was  
465 important in setting the  $Ba_{xs}$  signal in the mesopelagic zone (Dehairs et al.,  
466 2008; Jacquet et al., 2008a, 2011a). Mesopelagic  $Ba_{xs}$  content is smaller  
467 when most of the column integrated BP is restricted to the upper mixed layer  
468 (indicating an efficient, close to complete remineralization within the surface),  
469 compared to situations where a significant part of integrated BP was located  
470 deeper in the water column (reflecting significant deep bacterial activity and  
471 POC export). During KEOPS 2 the incorporation of  $^3H$ -leucine was used to  
472 estimate bacterial production. BP data are described in Christaki et al. (2014).  
473 In Fig.5 we compare column-integrated BP at 150 m over 400 m (BP150/400)  
474 and DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$  for the 150-400 m depth interval, next to the relation  
475 obtained during KEOPS 1 (BP200/125 and 150-450 m DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$ ; Jacquet et  
476 al., 2008a; Christaki et al., 2008). Excluding stations A3, E-1, E-2 and E-3,  
477 KEOPS 2 data presented a significant correlation ( $R^2=0.88$ ;  $p<0.01$ ) and a  
478 similar trend to the one reported for KEOPS 1. A similar picture was obtained  
479 when integrating DWAV  $Ba_{xs}$  and BP up to 800 m (not shown). The time series



480 "E" stations in the meander revealed a shift from stations E-1, E-2 and E-3 to  
481 stations E-4E and E-5, i.e. towards the trend reported above. A shift was also  
482 apparent at station A3 from KEOPS 2 (early spring) to KEOPS 1 (late  
483 summer). It is thus possible that results reflect the occurrence of different  
484 stage of bloom advancement. The large variability of  $Ba_{xs}$  and BP relationship  
485 during KEOPS 2, especially at A3 site and in the meander, could reflect the  
486 temporal evolution and patchiness of the establishment of mesopelagic  
487 remineralization processes in this Polar Front area.

488

#### 489 **4.2. Fate of exported organic C in the mesopelagic zone and deep** 490 **water column**

491 An important question relates to the fate of the exported POC: how  
492 much of this POC is respired in the mesopelagic waters and how much  
493 escapes remineralization and is exported to deeper layers where longer term  
494 sequestration is likely (see e.g. Passow and Carlson, 2012; [Robinson et al.,](#)  
495 [2014](#); [Schneider et al., 2008](#)). To address these questions, we defined two  
496 ratios: (1) the mesopelagic C remineralization efficiency (r-ratio in [Table 2](#))  
497 which is the ratio of mesopelagic C remineralization (MR, based on the DWAV  
498  $Ba_{xs}$  concentrations) over C export (EP) from the 150 m horizon (based on  
499  $^{234}\text{Th}$ , see [Planchon et al., this issue](#)), and (2) the C transfer efficiency at 400  
500 and 800 m (i.e., T400, T800 in [Table 2](#)) which is the fraction of C export (EP)  
501 at 150 m passing through the 400 m (T400) or the 800 m (T800) horizons  
502 (e.g.,  $T400 = EP400/EP150 = 1 - (MR/EP150)$ , with  $MR/EP150 = r\text{-ratio}$ ; see  
503 above). This approach is similar to the one developed by Buesseler and Boyd  
504 ([2009](#)) stating that a conventional curve-fitting of particle flux data (i.e.,  
505 power law or exponential) skews our interpretation of the mesopelagic  
506 processes. They recommended the use of combined metrics to capture and  
507 compare differences in flux attenuation. In the following, we compare MR  
508 fluxes for the different KEOPS 2 areas (Reference site; Plateau sites; Polar

509 Front and Polar Front Meander) and discuss remineralization and transfer  
510 efficiencies for those sites for which MR, primary production (PP) and/or EP  
511 data (Table 2) were available. PP data were estimated from uptake  
512 experiments including 24-hour incubations at different PAR levels over the  
513 euphotic layer i.e., up to the 0,01% PAR level (Cavagna et al., 2014). EP data  
514 were estimated from  $^{234}\text{Th}$  activities and  $^{234}\text{Th}$  /POC ratios and are discussed  
515 in Planchon et al. (2014). The thorium method integrates POC export over a 1  
516 month period ( $^{234}\text{Th}$  half live equals 24.1 days). We remind here that MR  
517 fluxes as based on mesopelagic  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$  reflect past remineralization activity  
518 integrated over several days to a few weeks (Dehairs et al., 1997; Cardinal  
519 et al., 2005; Jacquet et al., 2007, 2008b). In order to compare EP with MR (r-  
520 ratio and transfer efficiency) we consider EP fluxes from 150 m. Results are  
521 compared with late summer KEOPS 1 results. For KEOPS 1, PP data are  
522 detailed in Lefèvre et al. (2008) and Mosseri et al. (2008), EP data are  
523 detailed in Savoye et al. (2008) and  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$  data are described in Jacquet et al.  
524 (2008a).

525

#### 526 **4.2.1. Reference station R-2**

527 Since station R-2 had the highest DWAV  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$  content it yielded the  
528 highest MR flux of the whole study area ( $91 \text{ mgC m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ ; 150-800 m; Table  
529 2). In contrast, both PP and EP fluxes at R-2 were very low ( $132$  and  $10 \text{ mgC}$   
530  $\text{m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ , respectively) and the calculated MR flux exceeded EP (Table 2). The  
531 resulting export efficiency (EP/PP) was high, and T400 and T800 value (the  
532 fraction of EP exported deeper than 400 m and 800 m, as defined above)  
533 equal 0 (i.e., no export of POC beyond 400 and 800 m; note that  $>100\%$   
534 values, i.e.,  $\text{MR} > \text{EP}$ , were set to zero in Fig.7a and Table 2). The fact that MR  
535 exceeds EP therefore implies a non-steady state condition at the R-2 site. As  
536 reported above, R-2 probably experienced a brief early spring diatom  
537 production pulse days to a few weeks before the start of the KEOPS 2 cruise,

538 followed by subsequent export and quite important remineralization activity in  
539 the underlying layers as depicted by MR data.

540

#### 541 **4.2.2. Station A3 on the Plateau**

542 The MR fluxes on the plateau varied little between the two visits 27  
543 days apart (Table 1) and as discussed below they were moreover similar to  
544 summer values obtained during KEOPS 1 (see Jacquet et al., 2008a) when the  
545 same A3 site was sampled 3 times over a 19-day period. While during KEOPS  
546 2 (spring) MR fluxes at A3 ranged from 11 to 14 mgC m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> (with a standard  
547 uncertainty around 5%) they were slightly larger during KEOPS 1 (summer;  
548 17 to 23 mgC m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>) (Fig.5). We observed differences in the mesopelagic  
549 POC remineralization efficiency between the two seasons (r-ratio, blue values  
550 in Fig.6, Table 2). During KEOPS 1 r-ratios (MR/EP) remained low, ranging  
551 from 7 to 9% of EP at A3, while during KEOPS 2 r-ratios were slightly higher  
552 but decreased from 29% (A3-1; first visit) to 13%, 27 days later (A3-2;  
553 second visit). This variation in r-ratio during KEOPS 2 is mostly due to an  
554 increase of EP (from 47 to 85 mgC m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>; Planchon et al., 2014) over the  
555 same period while MR showed little change. Although at this early stage of the  
556 season (spring) PP at A3-2 had already reached 2172 mgC m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> (Cavagna  
557 et al., 2014), EP remained relatively low (85 mgC m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>). Here EP accounted  
558 for only about 4% of PP (low export efficiency; see green data points in  
559 Fig.5). This condition suggested that phytoplankton biomass was  
560 accumulating in the surface waters without significant export yet, or that C  
561 was channeled to higher trophic levels as suggested by Christaki et al.  
562 (2014). Note that a negative relationship between primary productivity and  
563 surface carbon export efficiency has already been reported from previous  
564 studies in the Southern Ocean (Savoye et al., 2008; Morris et al., 2007;  
565 Jacquet et al., 2011a; 2011b; Lam et al., 2007). Among possible explanations  
566 for the occurrence of high productivity-low export efficiency regimes in high

567 latitude systems Maiti et al. (2013) mentioned differences in trophic structure,  
568 grazing intensity, recycling efficiency, high bacterial activity, or increase in  
569 DOC export, but the exact reason remain unclear. In contrast, during KEOPS  
570 1 (summer), EP fluxes reached  $250 \text{ mgC m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$  at 125 m (14-31% of PP)  
571 while PP ranged from 865 to  $1872 \text{ mgC m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ , reflecting enhanced export  
572 efficiency (Jacquet et al., 2008a; Savoye et al., 2008).

573         It is important to underline the fact that MR at station A3 was only  
574 slightly higher in summer than in spring especially considering the large  
575 differences in export efficiency between seasons. According to results from  
576 sediment traps deployed over one year at the A3 site, Rembauville et al. (this  
577 issue-b) reported that 60% of the annual POC export at the base of the mixed  
578 layer occurred over a short periods of time representing <4% of the years  
579 and was composed by small highly silicified, fast sinking, resting spores of  
580 diatoms that bypass grazing pressure. According to these authors, the pulses  
581 are linked to nutrient depletion dynamics inducing resting spore formation.  
582 During the rest of the year, the flux was composed of small diatoms (empty  
583 frustules) and small fecal pellets, with efficient C retention in the surface layer  
584 or transfer to trophic levels. If we consider that export conditions during  
585 KEOPS 2 are more similar to those prevailing most of the year, it is surprising  
586 that during KEOPS 1 (that would reflect an export event toward the end of the  
587 growth season) MR is not more important. This would indicate that fast  
588 sinking- highly silicified- and pulsed material was directly transferred to the  
589 bottom without major remineralization. Note for example that at the complex  
590 R-2 reference station, a small export event (Laurenceau-Cornec et al.; this  
591 issue) held heavily silicified diatoms (Lasbleiz et al.; 2014), and that the  
592 material was efficiently remineralized in the upper mesopelagic layer as  
593 witnessed by the high MR values we observe for that station. For the KEOPS 2  
594 A3 site Laurenceau-Cornec et al. (2014) report that the sinking flux collected  
595 in the upper layer using gel-filled sediment traps was composed by

596 phytodetrital aggregates that held slightly silicified diatoms (Lasbleiz et al.,  
597 2014). Even considering the shift from slightly- to highly-silicified material  
598 transfer between spring (KEOPS2) and summer (KEOPS 1), MR only slightly  
599 increases between both periods. Also, the mesozooplankton biomass at A3-2  
600 was one of the highest of the KEOPS2 cruise, with a doubling from KEOPS 2  
601 (early spring) to KEOPS 1 (late summer) (Carlotti et al., 2014). It is thus  
602 possible that at A3 the export event reported above, combined with a lasting  
603 grazing pressure would have induced this rather low and perduring  
604 mesopelagic remineralization. We also wonder whether the shallow water  
605 column at A3 combined with lateral advection above the plateau would play a  
606 role in triggering the mesopelagic POC remineralization activity and in setting  
607 its efficiency. For KEOPS 1, Venchiarutti et al. (2008) report that lateral  
608 advection over the plateau could significantly impact particle dynamics.  
609 During KEOPS 1, station B1 (CTD68) located on the plateau upstream from A3  
610 according to the plateau circulation (Park et al., 2008) exhibited a very similar  
611  $Ba_{xs}$  distribution as station A3: low mesopelagic  $Ba_{xs}$  and important bottom  
612 resuspension (not shown here; see Jacquet et al., 2008a). These strong  
613 similarities in  $Ba_{xs}$  profiles shape would indicate that next to the pulsed nature  
614 of the events, the dynamics on the shallow plateau play an important role in  
615 limiting the extend of mesopelagic POC remineralization processes.

616 In Fig.7a is shown for both KEOPS cruises the ratio of EP over PP  
617 (export efficiency) vs. the fraction of EP exported deeper than 400m (i.e.  
618 T400; defined above). Note that for station A3-1 (KEOPS 2), there are no PP  
619 data. The A3 site shows increasing EP/PP ratios from spring (KEOPS 2) to late  
620 summer (KEOPS 1), and so do the T400 values (A3-1: 70%; A3-2: 87%;  
621 KEOPS 1 A3 site:  $92 \pm 1\%$ ). Station E-4W located in waters with similar  $\theta$ -S  
622 and Chl-a characteristics as the A3 plateau site but has a deeper water  
623 column (1384 m has PP and EP fluxes of the same order of magnitude (Table  
624 2). However, MR values ( $36 \text{ mgC m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$ ; 150-400 m) are larger at E-4W,

625 resulting in a lower T400 value of around 33%, compared to 87% for A3-2  
626 (Fig.7a). When integrating down to 800 m, T800 at E-4W equals 0 (i.e., no  
627 export of POC beyond 800 m; Fig.7a and Table 2). Station F-L (in the vicinity  
628 of the PF; 74.7°E) appears to function in a similar way as observed for E-4W  
629 (71.4°E). PP at station F-L is relatively high (3380 mgC m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>), while EP is  
630 quite low (43 mgC m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>), reflecting the fact that the biomass was not yet  
631 exported from the surface waters or was transferred to higher trophic levels.  
632 Since MR fluxes are slightly lower (21 mgC m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>; 150-400 m) at F-L than at  
633 E-4W, resulting T400 values are higher (52%) there.

634 Overall, during KEOPS 2 it appears that biomass at stations A3, E-4W  
635 and F-L (sites of high productivity) was accumulating in surface waters (e.g.  
636 transfer to higher trophic levels) and export did not start yet considering the  
637 early stage of the season during KEOPS 2. Our observations allow us to  
638 conclude the following:

639 (1) Both seasons (KEOPS 1 and KEOPS 2) showed a similar functioning of the  
640 mesopelagic ecosystem at A3. The rather low and perduring MR fluxes under  
641 high production and variable export regimes (high export efficiency during  
642 KEOPS 1 and low export efficiency during KEOPS 2) indicated that here  
643 mesopelagic remineralization does not represent a major resistance to organic  
644 matter transfer to the sea-floor at A3. On average (considering both seasons,  
645 but excluding A3-1) the C transfer efficiency into the deep (>400 m) as  
646 assessed by PP, EP and MR fluxes comparisons reached 91±3% at A3;

647 (2) In contrast to A3, E-4W and F-L showed important mesopelagic  
648 remineralization rates, reducing the efficiency of C transfer beyond 400 m to  
649 33 and 52%, respectively, and to zero for both stations beyond 800 m.  
650 Bottom depth, lateral advection, zooplankton grazing pressure and the pulsed  
651 nature of the POC transfer at A3 were the particular conditions that could  
652 drive the differences in C transfer efficiency between A3 and E4-W and F-L  
653 and limit the extend of MR processes at A3.

654

### 655 **4.3. Stations in the meander**

656 Temporal short term changes for the stations TNS-6, E-1, E-2, E-3, E-  
657 4E and E-5, located in the Polar front meander, will be discussed in this  
658 section. Note that no PP or EP data exist for TNS-6. From [Table 2](#) it appears  
659 that PP almost doubled between E-1 and E-5 but this increase was not  
660 paralleled by an increase of EP and MR, except for the 30% EP increase from  
661 E-1 to E-3. In fact overall EP shows a decreasing trend with time, while MR  
662 (150-400 m) stays rather constant, except for the decrease between E-1 and  
663 E-3 ([Table 2](#)). As reported above such a mismatch may result from  
664 differences in time scales characterizing the different processes that were  
665 compared. The most likely explanation is that in this early stage of the growth  
666 season, phytoplankton biomass was accumulating in the surface layer and  
667 export was lagging behind.

668 The ratio of EP over PP vs. T400 and T800 showed a large variability in  
669 transfer efficiency inside the meander ([Fig.7b](#)). PP and EP fluxes increased by  
670 about 30% from E-1 to E-3, but a concomitant decrease of mesopelagic MR  
671 yielded to an enhanced transfer efficiency, from 74 to 92%, through the 400  
672 m boundary and from 52 to 73% through the 800 m boundary. This suggests  
673 that significant remineralization should have occurred at greater depths (even  
674 > 1000 m) and it is also reflected by the presence of  $Ba_{xs}$  maxima below 1000  
675 m (see [Fig.4h](#) and [Appendix A](#)). This was particularly salient when plotting  
676  $Ba_{xs}$  contents vs. depths over the 27-day observation period ([Fig.8](#)). The high  
677 deep water  $Ba_{xs}$  values in [Figure 8](#) were not taken into account when  
678 integrating TNS-6 and E-1 profiles between 150 and 400 or even 150 and 800  
679 m ([Fig. 5e](#)). Considering that the seafloor in the meander area is at about  
680 2000 m depth, it seems unlikely that these high  $Ba_{xs}$  contents at depths  
681 >1000 m were due to sediment resuspension. Also, particle spectra for these  
682 sites do not reveal any bottom resuspension ([Jouandet et al., 2014; Lasbleiz](#)

683 [et al., 2014; Vandermerve et al., 2015;](#)). Therefore, the high deep (>1000 m)  
684  $Ba_{xs}$  contents at TNS-6 and E-1 most likely reflected the fact that here  
685 significant remineralization of POC material did occur in the bathypelagic  
686 domain and even down to the sea-floor. Note that suspended particles in the  
687 depth range containing the deep  $Ba_{xs}$  maxima were dominated by the <2  $\mu$ m  
688 size fraction ([Zhou et al., pers. comm.](#)). When integrating the  $Ba_{xs}$  contents  
689 from 150 m to the sea-floor at stations TNS-6 and E-1, MR fluxes increase to  
690 156 and 184  $mgC\ m^{-2}\ d^{-1}$  respectively. Such C fluxes were similar to the EP  
691 values (maximum value of 130  $mgC\ m^{-2}\ d^{-1}$  at E-3) and suggested that the  
692 exported POC was entirely remineralized in the water column leaving no C for  
693 transfer to the sediments.

694 Overall, the temporal pattern of mesopelagic remineralization  
695 described above reflects two successive events of particle transfer: a first  
696 transfer from a previous bloom (occurred before visiting TNS-6 and perduring  
697 at E-1) and a second transfer from E-4E to E-5. The first transfer was evident  
698 by the downward (up to the bottom) propagation of the mesopelagic  $Ba_{xs}$   
699 maximum signal, which mostly weakens at E-2. The second event was  
700 reflected by the occurrence again of important mesopelagic  $Ba_{xs}$  build-up at E-  
701 4E and E-5. Overall, our results indicated the large capacity of the Polar Front  
702 Meander to transfer POC material to depth, but in contrast to station A3 on  
703 the Plateau, this transfer was coupled to intense and near to complete POC  
704 remineralization (as also observed at E-4W and F-L). Between-sites changes  
705 in mesopelagic carbon remineralization due to unequal biomass productivity  
706 and iron fertilization over the Kerguelen Plateau were thus relatively complex.  
707 Furthermore, the situation in the Meander area seems to corroborate results  
708 obtained in the iron-replete Subantarctic Zone east of the Tasman Plateau  
709 (Australian sector of the Southern Ocean; SAZ-Sense cruise; [Jacquet et al.,](#)  
710 [2011a, 2011b](#)), where the mesopelagic remineralization efficiency was  
711 reported relatively high (on average 91%) and the deep (>600 m) carbon



712 transfer weak (<10%). Finally, the important  $Ba_{xs}$  contents reported between  
713 1000 and 2000 m during the first stages of the meander time-series  
714 strengthen recent results indicating for the Southern Ocean that 1000 m is  
715 insufficient as an ocean-wide reference for carbon transfer and sequestration  
716 potential (Robinson et al., 2014).

717

## 718 **5. Conclusion**

719 Based on spatially and temporally well resolved mesopelagic excess  
720 particulate Ba inventories this work estimated mesopelagic POC  
721 remineralization above the Kerguelen Plateau and inside a permanent  
722 meander of the Polar Front to the east of Plateau, areas. The observed  
723 variability of mesopelagic remineralization reflects differences in the fate of  
724 the biomass that is exported to the deep ocean, between Plateau and Polar  
725 Front. Results also reveal the patchiness of the season advancement and of  
726 the establishment of remineralization processes between these sites. Our  
727 results indicate that the reference station R-2 experienced few days to weeks  
728 before the start of the cruise an export event that was efficiently  
729 remineralized in the upper mesopelagic layer. In terms of deep ocean carbon  
730 transfer efficiency, our results highlight that above the plateau (A3 site)  
731 mesopelagic remineralization is not a major barrier to organic matter transfer  
732 to the sea-floor, with carbon transfer beyond 400 m reaching up to 87% of EP  
733 during KEOPS 2, while in the Polar Front Meander remineralization of exported  
734 organic carbon in the upper 400 m is more efficient than above the plateau.  
735 In the Meander area remineralization may even balance export when including  
736 its effect in the deeper waters (till 800 m and even deeper), thus resulting in  
737 a close to zero carbon transfer to sediment. A similar condition is also  
738 observed for sites at the margin of the plateau (E-4W) and the Polar front (F-  
739 L).

740

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752

753 **Figure captions**

754

755 Figure 1: (a) Kerguelen Island area in the Southern Ocean with KEOPS 2  
756 sampling zones and MODIS Chlorophyll concentrations ( $\text{mg m}^{-3}$ ) (Chl-a map  
757 from 11/11/2011, courtesy F. d'Ovidio) superposed. 1 refers to station A3; 2  
758 to stations E; 3 to the South-North Transect; 4 to the West-East Transect; 5  
759 to station F-L and 6 to reference station R-2; (b) Corresponding stations  
760 location. Colors indicate stations with near similar  $\theta$ -S and Chl-a  
761 characteristics.

762

763 Figure 2: (a) Potential temperature  $\theta$  - salinity S plots and isopycnals for  
764 KEOPS 2 profiles, (b) Focus on the upper 200 m water column. AASW=  
765 Antarctic Surface Waters, AAIW= Antarctic Intermediate Waters, WW= Winter  
766 Waters, UCDW and LCDW= Upper and Lower Circumpolar Deep Water,  
767 AABW= Antarctic Bottom Water. Graph constructed using Ocean Data View  
768 (Schlitzer, 2002; Ocean Data View; [http://www.awi-](http://www.awi-bremerhaven.de/GEO/ODV)  
769 [bremerhaven.de/GEO/ODV](http://www.awi-bremerhaven.de/GEO/ODV)).

770

771 Figure 3: Rates of oxygen consumption ( $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ ) during KEOPS 1 as  
772 directly measured ( $\text{JO}_2\text{-W}$ ) and from mesopelagic  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$  contents ( $\text{JO}_2\text{-Ba}$ ).  
773 Rates are integrated between 150-300 m.

774

775 Figure 4: Particulate biogenic  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$  profiles (pM) in the upper 800 m (Fig.4a-g)  
776 and in the upper 2500 m (Fig.4h). Stations are identified by CTD cast  
777 numbers. BKG=  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$  background (180 pM).

778

779 Figure 5: Regression of the ratio of integrated bacterial production (BP) in the  
780 upper 150 m over integrated BP in the upper 400 m versus depth weighted  
781 average (DWA<sub>v</sub>) mesopelagic  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$  (pM; 150-400 m) during KEOPS 2. KEOPS  
782 1 data (dots) are reported for comparison.

783

784 Figure 6: Schematic, comparing the fate of POC at station A3 during KEOPS 1  
785 and KEOPS 2 cruises. PP= primary production, EP= export production at 150  
786 m depth and MR= mesopelagic POC remineralization deduced from the  $\text{Ba}_{\text{xs}}$   
787 maxima and integrated between 150-400 m; all fluxes in  $\text{mgC m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$ . EP/PP  
788 (green values), MR/PP (red values) and MR/EP (r-ratio, blue values) ratios  
789 shown as %.

790

791 Figure 7: Y-axis: EP/PP = POC flux at 150 m (EP150) as a fraction of primary  
792 production (PP); X-axis: EP<sub>x</sub>/EP150 = POC flux at defined depths (EP<sub>x</sub>; here  
793 400 and 800 m) as a fraction of POC flux at 150 m (EP150). The green cross  
794 (Fig.5a) is for station A3-1 (KEOPS-2). Since no PP data is available for that  
795 station, the EP/PP value has been arbitrarily set to 0. Isolines represent the  
796 modeled 1, 5, 10, 20 and 30% of PP export to depths >at 400 or 800 m, and  
797 represent export efficiency.

798

799 Figure 8: Temporal evolution of particulate biogenic Ba ( $Ba_{xs}$ ; pM) in the  
800 upper 2000 m water column in the Polar Front meander. Graph constructed  
801 using Ocean Data View (Schlitzer, 2002; Ocean Data View; [http://www.awi-](http://www.awi-bremerhaven.de/GEO/ODV)  
802 [bremerhaven.de/GEO/ODV](http://www.awi-bremerhaven.de/GEO/ODV)).

803

#### 804 **Table captions**

805

806 Table 1: Station locations, CTD cast number and bottom depth during KEOPS  
807 2. Depth-weighted average values (DWA<sub>v</sub>) of mesopelagic  $Ba_{xs}$  (pM) and  $Ba_{xs}$   
808 based mesopelagic POC remineralization (MR;  $mgC\ m^{-2}\ d^{-1}$ ) integrated  
809 between 150-400 and 150-800 m depths. See text for further information on  
810 calculation.

811

812 Table 2: Comparison of mesopelagic POC remineralization (MR) with primary  
813 production (PP) and export production (EP). All fluxes in  $mg\ C\ m^{-2}\ d^{-1}$ . r-ratio  
814 is the ratio of MR over EP. EP/PP is the export efficiency. The C transfer  
815 efficiency at 400 and 800 m (T400, T800) is the fraction of C export (EP) at  
816 150 m exiting through the 400 m (T400) or the 800 m (T800) horizons. See  
817 text for further information on calculation.

818

819 Appendix A: Excess particulate biogenic Ba ( $Ba_{xs}$ ; pM) and particulate Al (nM)  
820 during KEOPS 2.

821

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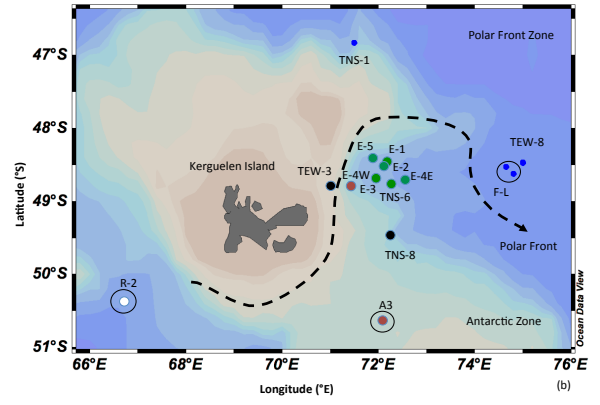
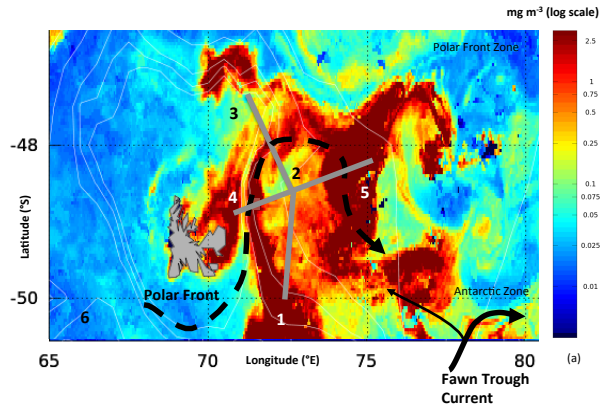
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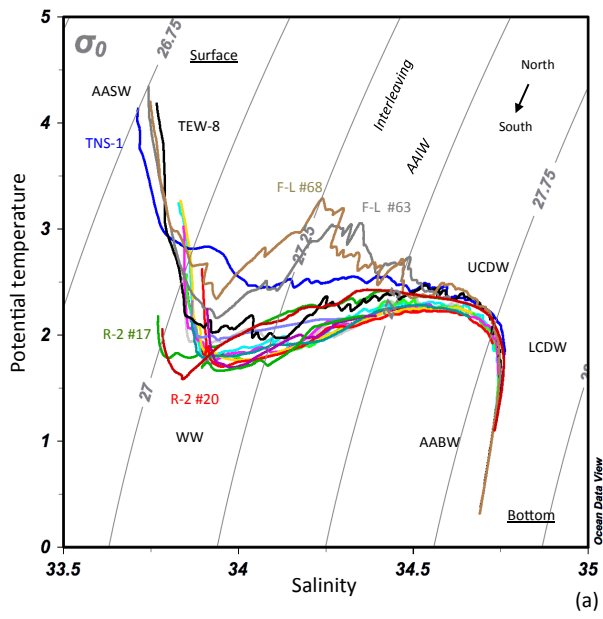
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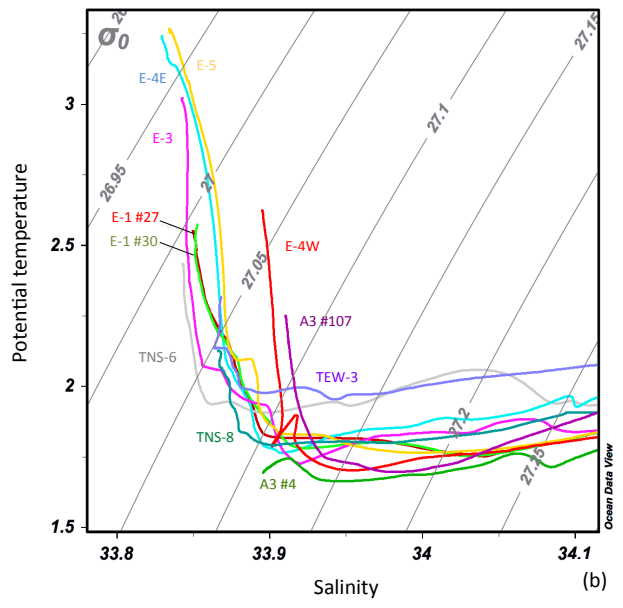
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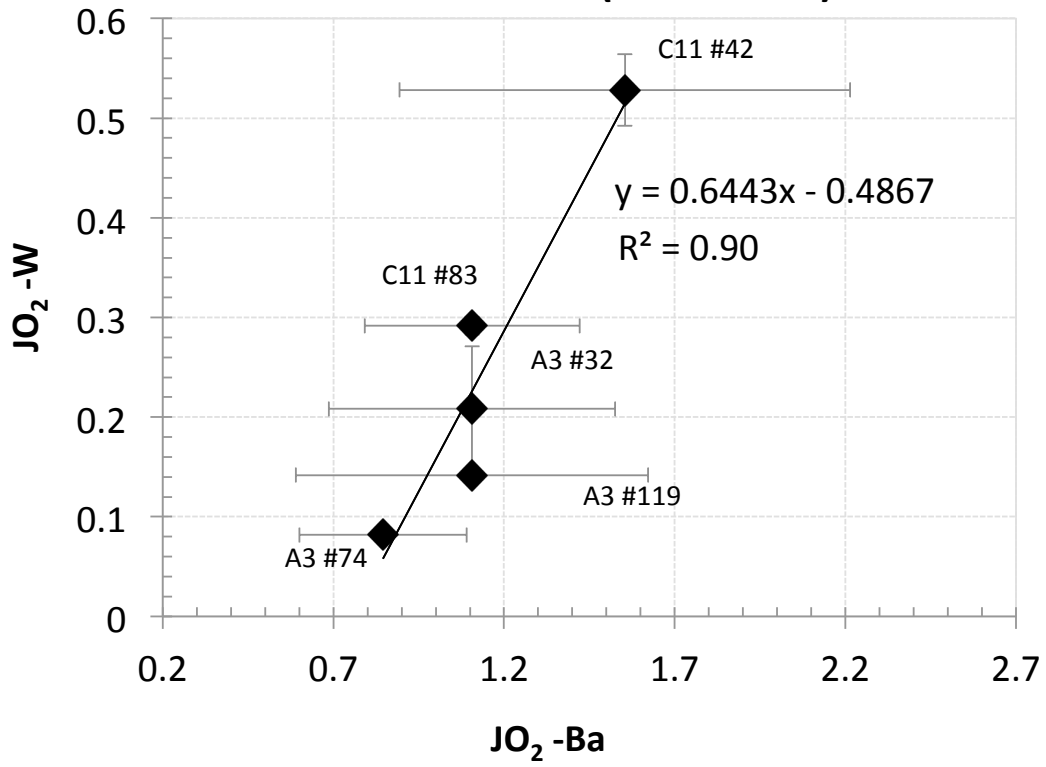


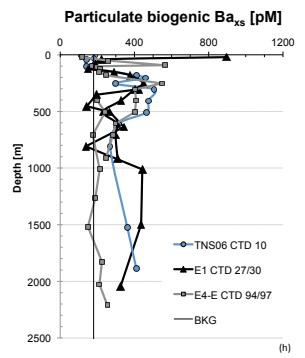
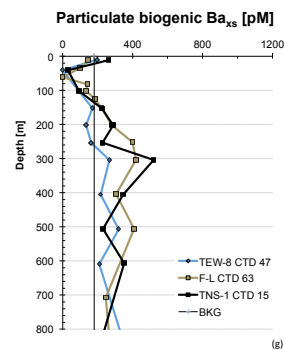
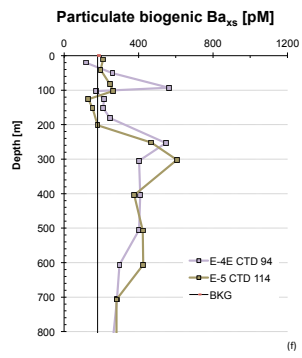
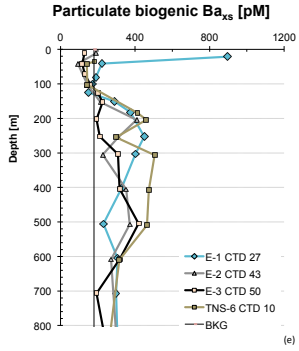
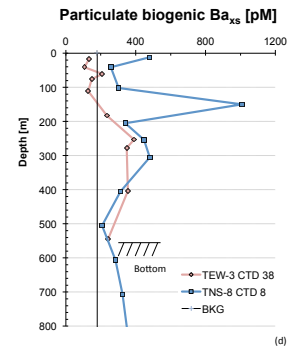
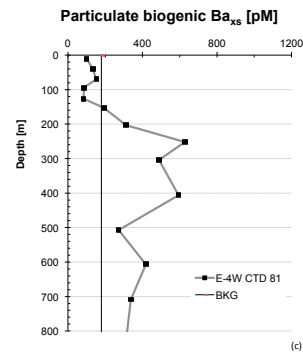
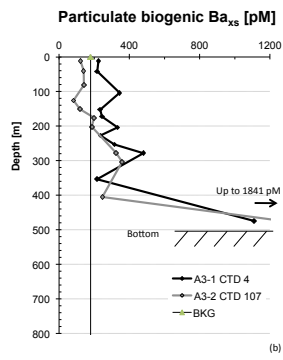
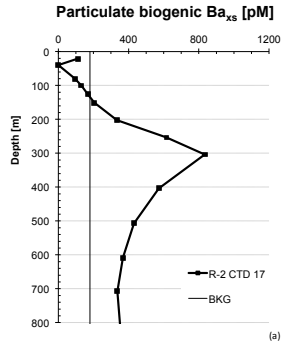
(a)

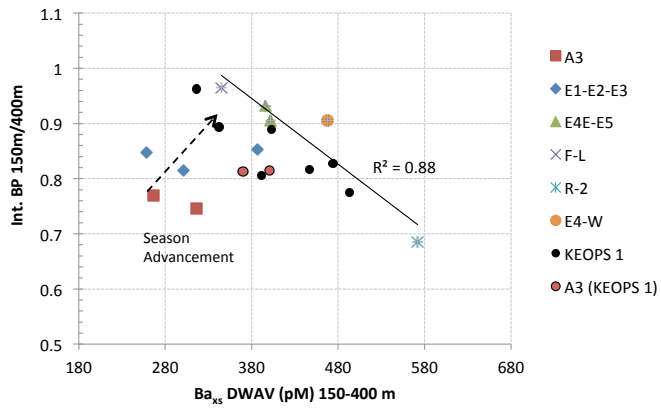


(b)

mmol m<sup>2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> (150-300 m)







**KEOPS 2  
(Early spring 2011)**

**KEOPS 1  
(Late summer 2005)**

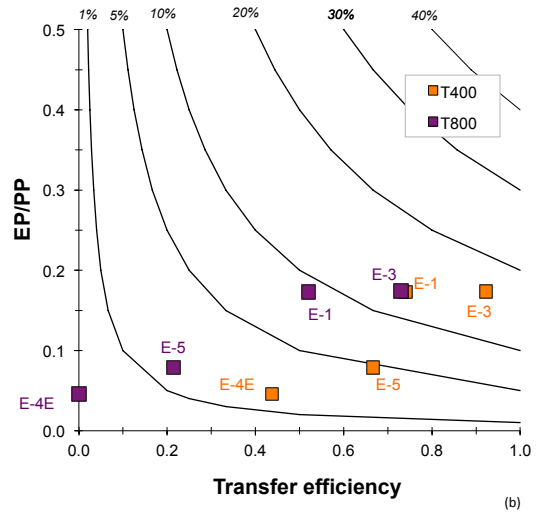
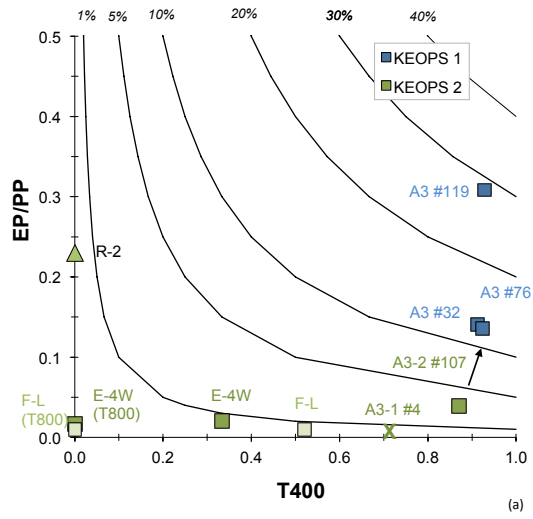
	<b>A3-1</b>	<b>A3-2</b>	<b>Mean of the 3 repeats</b>
PP	Not available	2172	864-1872
	↓ -	↓ 4%	↓ 14-31%
EP	47	85	250
	↓ 29%	↓ 13%	↓ 7-9%
MR	14	11	17-23
	↓ -	↓ <1%	↓ 1-2%

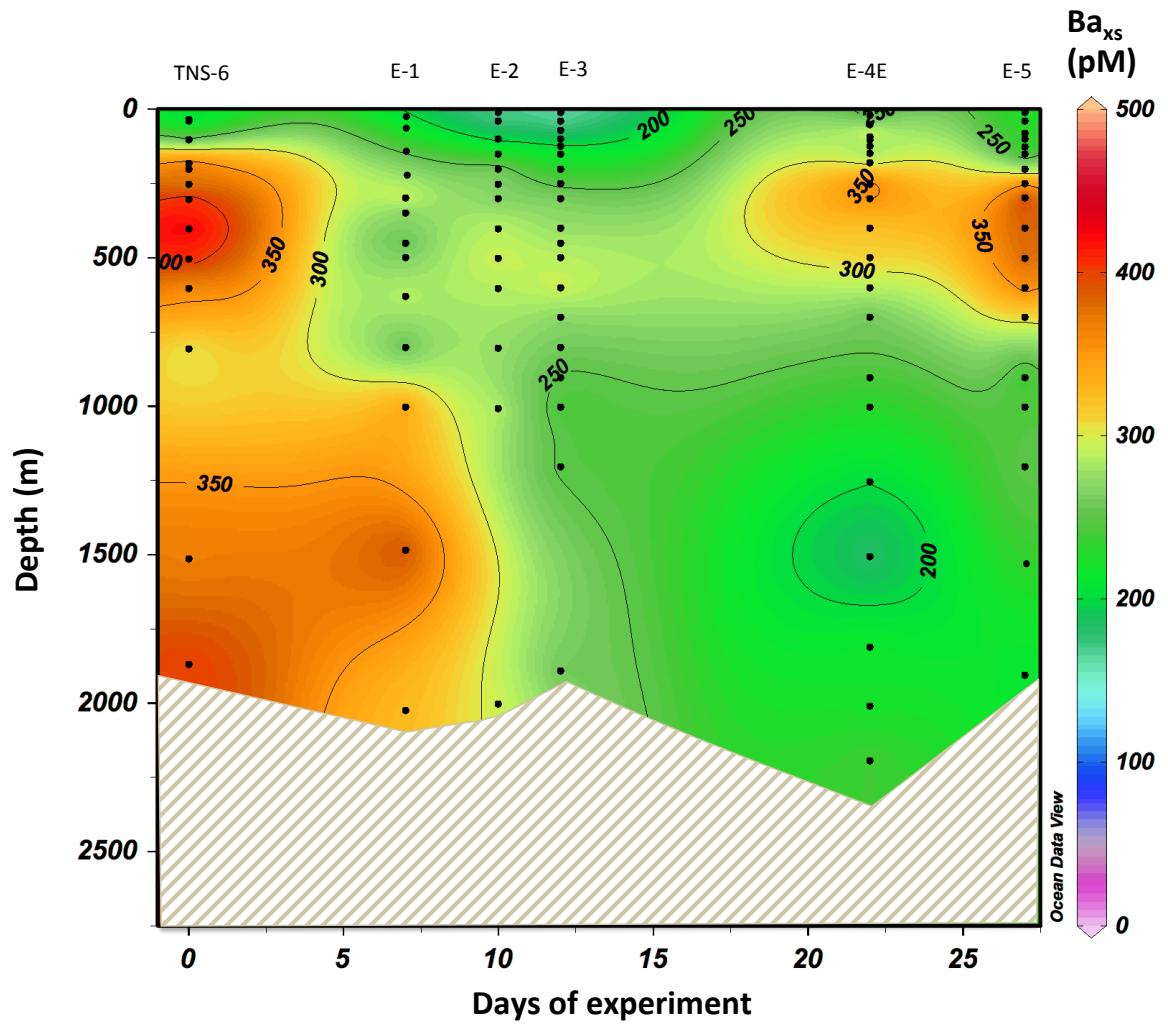
All fluxes in  $\text{mgC m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$

Blue values: r-ratio, mesopelagic remineralization efficiency (MR/EP)

Green values: EP/PP

Red values: MR/PP







Station	CTD cast #	Long (°E)	Lat (°S)	Date of sampling	Seafloor [m]	DWAV <sup>a</sup> Ba <sub>xs</sub> [pM] 150- 400 m	DWAV Ba <sub>xs</sub> [pM] 150- 800 m	MR <sup>o</sup> 150- 400 m [mgC/m <sup>2</sup> /d]	MR Stnd Uncertainty %	MR 150- 800 m [mgC/m <sup>2</sup> /d]	MR Stnd Uncertainty %
<b>Plateau</b>											
A3-1	4*	72.080	50.629	20/10	530	316	/	14	4	/	/
A3-2	107*	72.056	50.624	16/11	527	267	/	11	5	/	/
TEW-3	38	71.018	48.799	31/10	560	324	/	28	8	/	/
<b>Meander time series</b>											
TNS-6	10	72.277	48.779	22/10	1885	427	389	31	7	69	17
E-1	27/30	72.187	48.458	29,30/10	2056	387	325	26	6	48	14
E-2	43	72.077	48.523	1/11	2003	301	309	15	5	42	13
E-3	50/55	71.967	48.702	03,04/11	1915	258	286	10	4	35	12
E-4E	94/97	72.563	48.715	13,14/11	2210	395	357	27	7	58	15
E-5	113/114	71.900	48.412	18/11	1920	402	380	28	7	66	17
<b>Polar Front Zone</b>											
TNS-1	15	71.501	46.833	23/10	2280	350	315	22	6	45	14
TEW-8	47	74.999	48.471	2/11	2786	199	240	2	4	20	11
F-L	63/68	74.659	48.532	06,07/11	2695	345	328	21	6	49	14
<b>Polar Front</b>											
E-4W	81/87	71.425	48.765	11,12/11	1384	468	411	36	8	76	18
<b>Antarctic Zone</b>											
R-2 (Reference site)	17/20	66.717	50.359	25,26/10	2300	572	456	50	10	91	20
TNS-8	8	72.240	49.463	21/10	1030	473	358	37	8	59	15

\*Station A3 (CTD #4 and #107); integration up to 354 and 405 m  
DWAV<sup>a</sup>= Depth weighted average value  
MR<sup>o</sup>= Mesopelagic C remineralization

Station	CTD	MLD [m]	Ez** [m]	PP° Ez [mgC/m <sup>2</sup> /d]	EP°° 150 m [mgC/m <sup>2</sup> /d]	MR 150-400 m [mgC/m <sup>2</sup> /d]	MR 150-800 m [mgC/m <sup>2</sup> /d]	EP/PP	r-ratio 150-400 m	r-ratio 150-800 m	T400	T800
<b>Plateau</b>												
A3-1	4*	161	/	/	47	14	/	/	0.29	/	0.70	/
A3-2	107*	165	38	2172	85	11	/	0.04	0.13	/	0.87	/
<b>Reference site</b>												
R-2	17/20	111	92	132	30	50	91	0.23	1.65	3.02	0	0
<b>Meander time series</b>												
E-1	27/30	84	64	578	100	26	48	0.17	0.26	0.48	0.74	0.52
E-3	50/55	41	68	748	130	10	35	0.17	0.08	0.27	0.92	0.73
E-4E	94/97	77	34	1037	48	27	58	0.05	0.57	1.21	0.43	0.00
E-5	113/114	36	54	1064	84	28	66	0.08	0.33	0.78	0.67	0.22
<b>Polar Front Zone</b>												
F-L	63/68	21	29	3380	43	21	49	0.01	0.48	1.13	0.52	0
<b>Polar Front</b>												
E-4W	81/87	67	31	3287	54	36	76	0.02	0.67	1.41	0.33	0

\*Station A3 (CTD4 and 107); MR integrated up to 354 and 405 m

\*\*EZ euphotic layer (till 1% PAR level)

° PP data from Cavagna et al. (this issue)

°° EP data from PLanchon et al. (this issue)

**Station A3**
**A3-1 CTD4**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
23	11	224	35
21	42	217	64
19	104	345	65
17	152	234	19
15	173	244	19
13	204	333	17
11	227	235	8
9	253	315	6
7	279	480	8
5	354	216	21
1	474	1108	155

**A3-2 CTD 107**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
23	11	122	16
21	40	140	12
19	81	141	10
17	126	82	27
15	151	119	14
13	176	199	9
11	202	186	14
9	277	323	24
7	303	359	32
5	405	247	19
1	513	1842	186

**Station RK2**
**R-2 CTD 17**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
24	21	110	107
23	40	0	693
22	80	95	49
20	100	131	27
18	126	168	5
16	151	205	4
14	203	334	3
13	253	616	6
12	304	834	16
10	404	573	9
9	507	430	10
7	608	367	4
5	708	337	10
1	911	368	13

**R-2 CTD 20**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
17	356	546	12
15	507	239	17
13	609	226	7
11	812	267	3
10	1011	189	2
8	1520	201	4
6	1832	184	2
1	2473	286	3

**Station E**
**E-1 CTD 27**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
24	21	896	166
23	41	221	131
22	81	190	161
20	101	172	102
18	125	150	10
16	151	290	9
14	182	375	5
13	253	450	12
12	303	402	9
10	403	327	10
9	505	230	6
7	605	305	10
5	707	298	10
1	913	309	7

**E-1 CTD 30**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
17	303	424	30
16	353	195	25
15	41	134	17
13	505	268	6
11	636	343	7
10	808	138	2
8	1011	442	4
6	1498	436	9
1	2042	326	7

**E-2 CTD 43**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
23	11	192	43
21	41	93	152
18	102	143	17
16	153	215	57
14	204	408	9
12	254	311	6
10	305	227	4
8	406	353	5
7	507	371	9
6	609	271	10
5	813	297	14
4	1016	350	35
1	2020	302	11

**E-3 CTD 50**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
24	11	129	45
23	42	117	93
22	102	71	130
20	102	160	22
18	125	201	11
16	153	225	18
14	203	193	3
13	252	210	2
12	304	309	6
10	404	316	7
9	505	419	64
7	606	320	14
5	707	193	12
1	912	265	5

**Station E (continued)**
**E-3 CTD 55**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
17	404	185	5
16	455	272	5
15	505	176	6
13	605	378	5
11	810	258	3
10	910	172	2
8	1012	184	3
6	1214	228	6
1	1908	237	9

**E-4W CTD 81**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
24	10	101	16
23	41	134	17
22	70	152	5
20	94	86	18
18	126	84	7
16	153	193	8
8	203	312	4
13	252	628	17
12	304	488	12
10	406	594	11
9	507	272	11
7	607	418	12
5	708	338	21
1	909	294	14

**E-4W CTD 87**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
17	304	277	9
16	354	350	10
15	453	233	7
13	606	182	9
11	811	186	5
10	910	187	7
8	1011	268	4
6	1214	249	29
1	1384	250	30

**E-4E CTD 94**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
24	20	116	32
23	51	260	11
22	93	563	223
20	103	170	5
18	126	215	9
16	152	210	6
14	181	247	7
13	253	547	4
12	305	403	78
10	404	408	26
9	505	403	26
7	606	298	13
5	706	285	8
1	912	245	65

**Station E (continued)**
**E-4E CTD 97**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
21	404	199	2
18	505	242	3
13	706	175	1
8	1012	212	11
7	1265	189	2
6	1518	149	2
5	1827	225	43
4	2027	212	12
1	2212	254	9

**E-5 CTD 113**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
23	10	196	31
10	911	111	3
8	1011	266	16
6	1214	256	15
1	1922	208	5

**E-5 CTD 114**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
24	11	146	37
23	41	196	14
22	82	245	4
20	102	264	14
18	126	131	6
16	152	153	5
14	202	181	2
13	252	469	6
12	302	606	9
10	404	377	13
9	507	422	11
7	606	425	7
5	707	281	12
1	910	281	6

**Transect West-East**
**TEW-3 CTD38**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
23	16	133	40
21	41	107	112
19	61	209	45
17	76	148	20
13	112	128	13
11	183	235	8
9	253	391	11
7	277	348	9
5	404	356	8
1	545	242	13

**TEW-8 CTD 47**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
23	10	196	31
21	41	0	251
18	102	92	41
16	152	169	45
14	202	134	9
12	254	164	5
10	304	268	12
8	405	217	5
7	507	319	5
6	609	209	8
5	809	330	14
4	1011	334	22
1	2812	11179	826

**Station F-L**
**F-L CTD 63**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
24	11	146	37
23	35	97	41
22	61	0	228
20	82	141	36
18	101	134	5
16	126	185	5
14	151	221	5
13	202	280	7
12	252	399	8
10	303	420	7
9	404	305	26
7	506	408	7
5	707	247	10
1	911	282	11

**F-L CTD 68**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
17	405	264	6
16	456	233	9
15	506	339	12
13	607	265	3
11	910	718	7
10	1013	257	5
8	1215	316	8
6	1772	225	7
1	2741	2999	131

**Transect North-South**
**TNS-1 CTD15**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
23	11	262	62
21	41	30	90
18	102	93	15
16	153	225	17
14	202	289	5
12	253	228	2
10	304	521	4
8	405	346	3
7	506	230	1
6	607	352	13
5	809	234	4
4	1520	127	6
1	2282	211	19

**TNS-6 CTD 10**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
23	35	182	26
21	42	141	12
18	103	143	14
16	184	413	11
14	204	461	8
12	255	298	5
10	306	505	7
8	407	474	4
7	509	464	9
6	610	315	15
5	813	269	9
4	1526	362	13
1	1886	410	21

**TNS-8 CTD8**

Niskin	Depth [m]	Ba <sub>eq</sub> [pM]	Al [nM]
23	12	478	45
21	41	258	53
18	102	303	32
16	150	1008	33
14	205	341	10
12	254	447	6
10	305	481	4
8	405	312	3
7	505	208	3
6	606	283	7
5	707	325	11
4	910	376	35
1	1000	294	28