We wish to thank the referees for their detailed, constructive, and thoughtful comments. We switched Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 since we now refer to the initial Fig. 2 first. In addition, we modified Fig. 4-6. Rather than defining the fronts on SST, we now use the mean front positions from Sokolov and Rintoul (2009) as they intersect our cruise track. Finally, Fig. 7 now only includes parts (a) and (c). Parts (b) and (d) are now appendix figures A1 and A2.

Authors’ replies to the comments of Referee #1

Comment: This is an impressive dataset and vastly increases the amount of surface carbon data for this undersampled region. The data is of very high quality and has been thoroughly cross checked with other datasets and between carbonate analyses. The authors are very honest about the offsets between the different analyses, with the CRMs and the calculated carbonate parameter values and are impressively close and for that the authors and those that undertook the analyses should be applauded. The paper is well written and succinct. However, a few minor changes would improve the paper’s readability and flow and it would be nice to have some discussion about the potential broader implications of the work – especially the future predictions.

Section 2: Study area

It would be good to have a bit more information on both the Ross Sea oceanography and the Southern Ocean.

Response: We expanded this section (P 4-5)

Comment: Over the last decade multiple jets have been recognised for each of the Subantarctic and Polar fronts – which one have you defined here? Can you see evidence for these different jets in your data? The SO fronts are now more commonly defined by their Sea Surface Heights (SSH – Sokolov and Rintoul 2009) rather than gradients in SST. How do you’re the SAF and PF defined in the paper compare to the SSH changes at the same time? I appreciate that the SSH cannot be determined from the underway data and need satellite data to define. This would help others to compare these datasets with hydrographic data.

Response: We do not have the expertise to calculate the location of the fronts during our cruise. Therefore, we show the average location of the fronts from Sokolov and Rintoul (2009) as they intersect our cruise track.
Comment: At the bottom of page 8442 the definition of the subtropical waters is incorrect. Subtropical waters are found north of the Subtropical front rather than north of the Subantarctic Front. The waters north of the SAF are the subantarctic surface waters (SAW or SASW).
Response: Done (P14 L14)

Comment: I also felt that the first two paragraphs at the start of the results and discussion should be in this section as this is background information on the Ross Sea – this would help to provide more info on the Ross Sea.
Response: We have moved and reworded these two paragraphs into the Study site section (P4 L21-26).

Comment: There is mention of west and central Ross Sea at the start of the results and discussion – but then this is not used later in the results and discussion?
Response: We discarded the west and central definitions.

Comment: It would also be good to have a link between the Southern ocean section and the Ross Sea to show the association between the two areas. At the moment they read as if they are two completely separate entities with no connection.
Response: In the study site section we now first discuss the Southern Ocean fronts, then describe the linkage between the Southern Ocean and the Ross Sea, and finally discuss the Ross Sea.

Comment: There are several previous datasets that are not mentioned – which surprised me when there are so few datasets in this region. The Sandrini et al., 2007 and Rivaro et al., 2014 data from the western Ross Sea are not mentioned.
Response: These datasets have now been mentioned (P3 L15-16)

Comment: Also it would be good to also reference the paper that was recently published by Kapsenberg et al., 2015 – from the Hoffman voyage – whose voyage report is referenced in the paper.
Response: This paper is now correctly referenced throughout
Comment: Where is the sub-surface data that is mentioned that was collected at 85 stations in the Ross Sea? None of this data is shown in the paper – so why is this mentioned? I assume it will be used in another paper.

Response: We used the sub-surface data to evaluate the controls on the seasonal surface \( \Omega_{\text{Ar}} \) variability. The discrete data will be used in another paper and this is now clear in the methods section (P7 L6-8). We have also now referred to Eq. 2. in the results section (P11 L4) to make it more clear when we use the discrete data.

Comment: Personally I would have preferred a separation of the results and the discussion. But this is not critical.

Response: We initially wrote the results and discussion separately – we found the paper read easier when we combined the results and discussion.

Comment: As the paper is fairly short it would have been nice to see more discussion and comparison with other regions of the Antarctic such as the Weddell Sea and the Mertz region. There are a couple of brief comments on the Arctic. How does the Ross Sea conditions and future scenarios compare with what is expected for other regions?

Response: We now compare current Ross Sea winter conditions with other regions in the Antarctic (P18). We also discuss future predictions by Mattsdotter Bjork in the Ross Sea (P19 L8-13).

Comment: There are a couple of paragraphs in the introduction about the implication of aragonite undersaturation on biology – but this is not revisited in the discussion. Introductions should introduce what is then discussed later… so I was waiting for some comment at the end of the paper about the fact that you suggest that the region will not become undersaturated until 2070 at the earliest.

Response: We now discuss implications on biology (P19 L16-30; P20, L1-8)

Comment: The figures are generally very clear – except Figure 7 – there is too much data and the figures are too small to see the data. It would help if each of the maps and graphs were bigger.
for Figure 7. This may be just the way that it has been published on line in BGD and might be larger in the final paper.

**Response:** We have now reduced Fig. 7 to 2 panels (using Fig 7a and 7c). The initial Fig. 7b and 7d are now separate appendix figures.

**Comment:** Figure 2 – I assume there is missing alkalinity data from a section of the voyage and that is why there is a gap in Figure 2f…

**Response:** There is missing alkalinity data since we consumed the certified HCl in the Ross Sea. This has now been clarified in the text (P6 L4-5).

**Comment:** P 8430, L16: Not clear whether you mean double from todays values or from preindustrial values. Please clarify.

**Response:** We meant from today’s values – this should now be clear (P1 L24-26)

**Comment:** P 8430, L21: I think preindustrial "levels" is more appropriate.

**Response:** Done (P2 L2)

**Comment:** P 8431, L9: the calcification rates of certain species... I think you need to make it clear that this is only for some species and perhaps mention a few. This is a rather vague sentence at the moment.

**Response:** Done (P2, L14-16)

**Comment:** P 8431, L14: Global climate models have predicted that surface waters....... it needs to be clear that these are predictions based on models.

**Response:** Done (P2, L21)

**Comment:** P 8431, L 27: within 48 hours, rather than after.... please write out hours in full - may not be obvious to others.

**Response:** Changed after to within; ‘h’ is the convention for Biogeosciences (P3 L3)
Comment: P 8432, L 10: Sandrini et al., 2007; Rivaro et al., 2014, Recent paper by Kapsenberg et al., 2015
Response: We added these references (P3 L15-16)

Comment: P 8433, L 15: How do the ROss Sea and the Southern Ocean link... it would be good to show how they are linked together here with a sentence or two. At the moment they seem quite separate. Several of these fronts have multiple streams - e.g. NPF and SPF and NSAF and S-SAF... can you see these in your data? Have you defined the NPF or the SPF?
Response: As described earlier, we now discuss how the Ross Sea and Southern Ocean link and discuss the multiple jets in the fronts (P4).

Comment: P 8433, L 22: THese days the PF and SAF are usually defined by SSH - Sokolov and RIntoul, 2009 rather than by SST gradients. But these have to be determined from satellites rather than shipboard instruments - so may be hard to compare directly. Would be nice to just check....
Response: We now have labeled the average location of the frontal jets from Sokolov and Rintoul (2009) instead of using SST gradients.

Response: Done (P5 L19)

Comment: P 8436, L 20: Typically you would put the references in chronological order with the oldest first.
Response: We changed this for the entire manuscript

Comment: P 8438, L 15: This seems like it should be in the introduction in the region/Ross sea information as this is background info.
Response: Done

Comment: P 8439, L 1: THis should be the start of this section.
Response: Done
Comment: P 8439, L 25: do you mean partial derivative?
Response: We meant potential alkalinity. We changed the abbreviation pTA to PALK to avoid confusion (P11, L13)

Comment: P 8442, L 27-28: Subtropical water is found north of the Subtropical front - not north of the SAF. The water north of the SAF is the Subantarctic Waters.
Response: Done (P14 L14)

Comment: P 8444, L 20: Did you use salinity twice?
Response: Salinity is used both to calculate TA and as an input into CO2SYS. We reworded this to make it clearer (P16 L1)

Comment: P 8447, L 3: This is now published in the kapsedberg paper
Response: Done

Comment: P 8448, L 3: I assume you mean more than 2 carbonate parameters - to give a good estimate. Might want to just say this more clearly for your audience.
Response: This has been reworded (P20 L28)

References:
Authors’ replies to the comments of Referee #2

Comment: The manuscript presents a large dataset of surface total alkalinity from the Ross Sea and the Southern Ocean, which together with measured pCO2 is used to calculate the saturation state of aragonite (Ar) in the surface waters. The low amount of data available in the region, together with the importance of the southern oceans in the climate system, and the sensitivity of the region, makes this an important contribution to the field. The manuscript is generally very well written, with good and clear figures, and the data have been calibrated and cross-checked very thoroughly, which all is well described (except some missing data references mentioned below). I recommend that the manuscript is published after minor revisions, following comments below.

My main concern is the lack of a concluding section in the end. While the second last sentence starts “In conclusion…” this only refers to the most correct Ar in the Ross Sea, but any overall concluding remarks are missing.

Response: We have now added a conclusion section

Comment: The method section does not mention (as far as I can see) anything about the temperature and salinity measurements. Instead the TSG data, from historical pCO2 measurements, are mentioned on page 8444. I would like to see more details on the T/S data utilised in the whole study in the methods.

Response: We have now described the temperature and salinity measurements (P6 L24-26; P7 L2-6)

Comment: I also cannot find any information of the POC data used? This has to be added to the method, or the very least add some reference when they are mentioned (e.g., P8441, L2, and Figure 4).

Response: We have now described the POC measurements (P6 L15-20)

Comment: P 8435, L 7: It would have been interesting to see more results from the discrete data. If this is planned a note about this would be in place.

Response: The discrete data will be presented/further analyzed in upcoming papers. This has now been mentioned (P7 L6-8)
Comment: P 8438, L 15-16: The definition of a western and a central region should be marked in Fig.1, if important. On the other hand this is not really discussed further and would then be better to remove.
Response: We have now removed our definition of the western and central regions.

Comment: P 8439, L 14-15: Here it would be good to refer to Eq. 2.
Response: Done (P11 L4)

Comment: P 8441, L 7-9: It would be helpful to here refer to Fig. 6; this is now done first on line 19.
Response: Done (P12 L26)

Comment: P 8440-8442: When reading the descriptions and explanations of the changes of pCO2 (end P8440), and then the same for changes in sDIC (start P8442) I get the feeling of a repeat. Although referring to different data the explanations are more or less the same (if I didn’t misunderstand). Possibly then these results can be presented together, describing a feature seen for the different regions. At least they could be referred to each other; as of now both sections find a likely explanation of photosynthesis, without any reference to the other data/results.
Response: We have added more transitions between paragraphs and have made wording changes to make our organization clearer (P12-14). We now reference back to pCO2 when describing changing DIC_{calc} (P13 L19-20)

References:
Carbonate saturation state of surface waters in the Ross Sea and Southern Ocean: controls and implications for the onset of aragonite undersaturation

H. B. DeJong¹, R. B. Dunbar¹, D. Mucciarone¹, D. A. Koweek¹

[¹] Department of Earth System Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

Correspondence to: H. B. DeJong (hdejong@stanford.edu)

Abstract

Predicting when surface waters of the Ross Sea and Southern Ocean will become undersaturated with respect to biogenic carbonate minerals is challenging in part due to the lack of baseline high resolution carbon system data. Here we present ~1700 surface total alkalinity measurements from the Ross Sea and along a transect between the Ross Sea and southern Chile from the austral autumn (Feb-Mar 2013). We calculate the saturation state of aragonite ($\Omega_{Ar}$) and calcite ($\Omega_{Ca}$) using measured total alkalinity and pCO$_2$. In the Ross Sea and south of the Polar Front, variability in carbonate saturation state ($\Omega$) is mainly driven by algal photosynthesis. Freshwater dilution and calcification have minimal influence on $\Omega$ variability. We estimate an early spring surface water $\Omega_{Ar}$ value of ~1.2 for the Ross Sea using a total alkalinity-salinity relationship and historical pCO$_2$ measurements. Our results suggest that the Ross Sea is not likely to become undersaturated with respect to aragonite until the year 2070.

1 Introduction

Atmospheric CO$_2$ concentrations have increased by 40% since preindustrial times to ~400 ppm today and could double to 936 ppm by the year 2100 (IPCC AR5 WG1, 2013). Due to oceanic uptake of CO$_2$, surface ocean pH is already 0.1 units lower than preindustrial values and is the pH of surface waters of the world’s oceans are projected to decrease by another 0.3-0.4 units by the end of the century, equivalent to a 50% decrease in carbonate ion (CO$_3^{2-}$).
concentration (Orr et al., 2005). Even after CO$_2$ emissions are halted, it will take thousands of years before the surface ocean pH returns to the preindustrial levels (Caldeira and Wickett, 2003; Archer et al., 2009).

The saturation state ($\Omega$) of seawater with respect to a specific calcium carbonate (CaCO$_3$) mineral (aragonite, calcite, or magnesium calcite) is defined as:

$$
\Omega = \frac{[\text{Ca}^{2+}][\text{CO}_3^{2-}]}{K_{sp}}
$$

where $K_{sp}$ is the solubility product constant for the specific CaCO$_3$ mineral and depends on salinity, temperature, and pressure (Mucci, 1983). Aragonite is ~ 1.6 times more soluble than calcite at 0°C whereas the solubility of magnesium calcite varies depending on the mole fraction of magnesium ions (Dickson, 2010). $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ represents the saturation state of aragonite and $\Omega_{\text{Ca}}$ represents the saturation state of calcite. $\Omega < 1$ represents undersaturation where dissolution is thermodynamically favorable and $\Omega > 1$ represents supersaturation where precipitation is favorable. Most surface waters of the global oceans are currently supersaturated with respect to CaCO$_3$ (Feely et al., 2009). However, for some species including coccolithophorids, foraminifera, and tropical corals, decreasing CO$_3^{2-}$ concentrations can decrease calcification rates even in supersaturated conditions (e.g., Riebesell et al., 2000; Moy et al, 2009; Andersson et al., 2011).

The Southern Ocean is especially vulnerable to Ocean Acidification (OA) due to its relatively low total alkalinity (TA) and because of increased CO$_2$ solubility in cold water. In addition, Antarctic continental shelves have insignificant sedimentary CaCO$_3$ to buffer against OA (Hauck et al., 2013). Modeling studies predict that surface waters in the Southern Ocean may start to become undersaturated with respect to aragonite by 2050 and be fully undersaturated by 2100 (Orr et al., 2005; Feely et al., 2009). McNeil and Matear (2008) have suggested that wintertime aragonite undersaturation in the Southern Ocean may begin as early as 2030.

OA induced decreases in $\Omega$ have potentially serious consequences for Antarctic food webs. In the Ross Sea the aragonitic shelled pteropod *Limacina helicina* is a dominant zooplankton that can reach densities of 300 individuals m$^{-3}$ (Hopkins, 1987; Seibel and Dierssen, 2003; Hunt et al., 2008). Pteropods are important prey for nototheniid fish, which in turn are major prey for penguins, seals, and whales (Foster and Montgomery, 1992; La Mesa et al., 2000; 2004).
Pteropods may also be important contributors to the biological pump (Collier et al., 2000; Accornero et al., 2003; Manno et al., 2009, 2010). A study by Orr et al. (2005) found that the shell of a subarctic pteropod started to dissolve after within 48 h when placed in waters with the level of aragonite saturation expected to occur in the Southern Ocean by 2100. Severe dissolution pitting was observed on live pteropods that were collected from the upper 200 meters in the Atlantic sector of the Southern Ocean, from waters that were near undersaturatation with respect to aragonite (Bednaršek et al., 2012).

Other organisms in the Southern Ocean may be negatively impacted by OA include krill (Kawaguchi et al., 2013), foraminifera (Moy et al., 2009), sea urchins (Sewell and Hofmann, 2011), deep sea hydrocorals (Shadwick et al., 2014), coralline algae, sea-stars (Gonzalez-Bernat et al., 2013), bivalves (Cummings et al., 2011), and brittle stars (McClintock et al., 2011). Conversely non-calcareous phytoplankton may benefit in the Ross Sea in a high pCO$_2$ world, especially the larger diatom Chaetoceros lineola (Tortell et al., 2008; Feng et al., 2009).

There are only a few surface carbon system data sets from the Ross Sea (Bates et al, 1998; Sweeney et al., 2000b; Sandrini et al., 2007; Long et al., 2011; Mattsdotter Björk et al., 2014; Rivaro et al., 2014; Kapsenberg et al., 2015) that can be used to establish baselines in order to understand the relative importance of the physical, chemical, and biological processes that drive the large spatial and seasonal variability of $\Omega$. With no winter $\Omega$ measurements, it is challenging to predict when the Ross Sea will become undersaturated with respect to aragonite and calcite. A model by McNeil et al. (2010) suggests that winter surface waters in the Ross Sea will become undersaturated with respect to aragonite by the year 2045 since sea ice, upwelling of deep water, and short residence times prevent these surface waters from reaching equilibrium with the atmosphere. However, McNeil et al. (2010) indirectly estimated surface winter $\Omega_{Ar}$ values by using limited carbon system data from the spring (Sweeney et al., 2000b).

We present ~1700 underway TA measurements from the surface waters of the Ross Sea and along a transect across the Southern Ocean from the Ross Sea to southern Chile. By combining the underway TA measurements with pCO$_2$ data we characterize the complete carbon system and describe patterns and controls on $\Omega$ variability. Finally, after establishing a relationship between salinity and TA, we use the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) pCO$_2$ database
(Takahashi et al., 2009) (available at http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/res/pi/CO2) to provide an independent estimate of Ross Sea surface water $\Omega_{Ar}$ in early spring.

2 Study site

The Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) flows from east to west around the entire Antarctic continent and is composed of multiple fronts that separate distinct water masses (Rintoul et al., 2001). There are three primary fronts—the southern ACC front (SACCF), the Antarctic Polar Front (PF) and the Subantarctic Front (SAF) (Orsi et al., 1995). Sokolov and Rintoul (2009) found that these primary fronts are composed of multiple jets that they label south (S), middle (M), and north (N). Convergent Ekman transport north of the westerly wind stress maximum (near the axis of the ACC) downwells surface water into the ocean interior. Circumpolar Deep Water (CDW) upwells south of the wind stress maximum where it becomes modified into Antarctic surface water (AASW) (Rintoul et al., 2001).

The cyclonic Ross Sea gyre is located south of the ACC (Smith et al., 2012). The southern portion of this gyre flows west along the Ross Sea continental slope and generates intrusions of CDW onto the Ross Shelf through the major troughs (Orsi et al., 2009; Dinniman et al., 2011; Kohut et al., 2013). In addition, AASW enters the Ross Sea in the east and flows westward along the Ross Ice Shelf (Orsi et al., 2009).

The Ross Sea is considered a biological hotspot supporting over 400 benthic species (Smith et al., 2012). During the winter the Ross Sea is mostly covered by sea ice, which begins to clear in November to form the largest polynya in Antarctica. There are two main phytoplankton blooms in the Ross Sea. The first bloom begins in late November in the Ross Sea polynya (Fig. 1a) and peaks in mid to late December (Arrigo et al., 1999, 2004). In early January, sea ice melts in the western Ross Sea lowering surface salinity and increasing stratification (Fig. 1b). As a result, a secondary diatom bloom forms in the west with productivity peaking in late January to early February (Arrigo et al., 1999, 2004) (Fig. 1c).

As summer approaches, the Ross Sea supports one of the most productive phytoplankton blooms in Antarctica, accounting for up to half of all primary production over the Antarctic continental shelf (Arrigo and McClain, 1994; Smith and Gordon, 1997; Arrigo and van
Dijken, 2003). Photosynthesis reduces the concentration of nutrients and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) in the mixed layer, causing $\Omega$ to increase in surface waters (McNeil et al., 2010). Once the sea ice reforms during autumn and winter, remineralization of organic matter and deep convective mixing produces a relatively homogeneous water column, causing surface DIC concentrations to increase and $\Omega$ to decrease (Gordon et al., 2000; Sweeney et al., 2000b; Petty et al., 2013).

The Southern Ocean is composed of multiple fronts that separate distinct water masses (Rintoul et al., 2001). The most prominent are the Antarctic Polar Front (PF) and the Sub-Antarctic Front (SAF). Circumpolar Deep Water (CDW) upwells south of the PF where it becomes modified into Antarctic surface water (AASW). We define the fronts based on the sea surface temperature (SST) gradient after averaging the underway SST data into 0.25° bins. Following Dong et al. (2006), the PF is defined as the southernmost location at which the SST gradient exceeds 1.5 $\times$ 10⁻²°C km⁻¹. Following Burling (1961), the SAF is defined as the maximum SST gradient in the SST range of 5-9°C. During our cruise the PF was located at 65.5°S and the SAF was at 57°S.

3 Methods
3.1 Carbon system measurements

As part of the TRacing the fate of Algal Carbon Export (TRACERS) program, we made continuous measurements of surface water TA in the western Ross Sea aboard the Nathaniel B Palmer (NBP13-02) from 13 Feb through 9 March 2013. In addition, from 19 Mar to 2 Apr 2013, we made continuous measurements of surface water TA in transit between the Ross Sea and southern Chile along the cruise track shown in Fig. 21.

Underway TA measurements were conducted using the shipboard uncontaminated continuous flow system with an intake located at ~5 m depth. Seawater from the ship’s underway system was redirected to the bottom of a 250 mL free surface interface cup flowing at 2 L/min and was drawn from the bottom of the cup for TA analysis without filtration. The entire system was automated and relatively unattended. The sampling cycle was every 24 minutes on a custom-configured Metrohm 905 Titrando equipped with three Metrohm 800 Dosino syringe pumps (two 50 mL units for sample handling and rinsing and one 5 mL unit for acid titration). Temperature
was measured at the cup and in the titration cell. We used certified 0.1N HCl provided by A. Dickson (Scripps Institution of Oceanography) for the potentiometric titrations and TA calculations follow Dickson et al. (2003). Since we consumed the certified HCl after ~ 1000 measurements in the Ross Sea, we have no TA data from the eastern Ross Sea. For the transect to southern Chile, we mixed our own 0.1N HCl solution for the transect to southern Chile (from 12.1 N HCl, laboratory grade NaCl, and deionized water). We calibrated TA measurements using certified reference materials (CRMs) Batch 122 provided by A. Dickson (Scripps Institution of Oceanography). Our estimated precision for the underway TA measurements from 68 CRM analyses is ± 3 µmol kg⁻¹ (±1 SD).

Outlier TA analyses were identified by taking a running mean and standard deviation of 9 consecutive measurements. A measurement was rejected if (1) the difference between the measurement and mean was greater than twice the standard deviation and (2) the difference between the measurement and mean was greater than 6 µmol kg⁻¹. A total of 65 measurements (out of 1716) were rejected.

We collected seawater samples for particulate organic carbon (POC) every 2 h from the ship’s continuous flow system between the Ross Sea and Chile. Following the protocols of Knap et al. (1996), we filtered 1 to 3 L of seawater through precombusted Whatman GFC filters and immediately rinsed these filters with 10 mL of 0.01N HCl to remove carbonate. We air dried the filters before sending them to Stanford University where they were analyzed on a Carlo Erba NA1500 Series 2 elemental analyzer.

Surface pCO₂ measurements were made every 3 minutes using the LDEO air-sea equilibrator permanently installed on the NBP (data available at http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/res/pi/CO2). The estimated precision is ± 1.5 µatm.

Underway salinity and sea surface temperature (SST) were measured continuously by the ship’s thermosalinograph (TSG) (Sea-Bird Model SBE-45). These variables were binned into 1 minute intervals.

In order to evaluate the controls of seasonal surface Ω_Ar variability in the Ross Sea, we collected discrete water samples column TA and DIC measurements at 85 stations in the
Ross Sea using Niskin bottles attached to a 24 bottle rosette from 13 Feb through 18 Mar 2013 (Fig. 1a). We used a rosette sampler fitted with 24 Niskin bottles and a Sea-Bird Model SBE-911+ conductivity, temperature, and depth (CTD) sensor. We also measured salinity on discrete underway and hydrocast samples at 25°C using a Guildline 8400 Autosal four-electrode salinometer. The difference between the Autosal measurements and salinity from the conductivity sensor was less than 0.02. In this paper we use the hydrocast samples to evaluate the controls of seasonal surface $\Omega_{Ac}$ variability. The water column data will be further analyzed in upcoming papers.

We collected hydrocast samples for TA and DIC following the protocols of Dickson et al. (2007) and immediately added saturated mercuric chloride (< 0.1% by volume). For TA, we ran each sample within 12 h of collection using a second potentiometric titrator, a Metrohm 855 Robotic Titrosampler equipped with two 800 Metrohm Dosino syringe pumps (one 50 mL unit for rinsing and sample handling and one 5 mL unit for acid titration). The samples were prefiltered through 0.45 µm polyvinylidene fluoride filters and the estimated precision based on the CRMs (n=108) is ± 1.5 µmol kg$^{-1}$.

We measured DIC on hydrocast samples within ~ 4 h of collection without filtration. We acidified 1.25 mL of the sample using a custom built injection system coupled to an infrared gas analyzer (LI-COR LI7000). As described by Long et al. (2011), the infrared absorption signal versus time is integrated for each stripped gas sample to yield a total mass of CO$_2$. Samples were run in triplicate or greater and were calibrated using CRMs between every 3-4 unknowns. Micro-bubbles regularly appeared within injected samples due to sample warming between acquisition and DIC analysis. Each integration curve was visually inspected and integration curves that exhibited evidence for bubbles were rejected. The estimated precision based upon unknowns (>3500 runs) and CRM replicates (n=855) for cruise NPB-1302 is ± 3 µmol kg$^{-1}$.

### 3.2 Carbon system calculations and crosschecks

We calculate $\Omega$ and DIC (hereafter called DIC$_{calc}$) for underway samples with CO2SYS –for MATLAB (Lewis and Wallace, 1998; van Heuven et al., 2009) with TA, pCO$_2$, SST, and salinity as input variables. Calculations are only conducted for pCO$_2$ measured within 3 minutes of the TA measurement (n=1034), the average cycle time for the automated pCO$_2$ measurements.
We use the equilibrium constants of Mehrback et al. (1973) as refit by Dickson and Millero (1987) since previous studies have found that they are the optimal choice, including for Antarctic waters (e.g., McNeil et al., 2007; Lee et al., 2000; Millero et al., 2002, McNeil et al., 2007). For the hydrocast data, we calculate Ω using TA, DIC, temperature, and salinity as input variables.

As a means of internal quality control, we use the initial pH reading from the TA titration as a third carbon system parameter to crosscheck the accuracy of our Ω_{Ar} estimates. In terms of consistency, Ω_{Ar} calculated using TA and pCO_{2} is 0.02 ± 0.07 greater than Ω_{Ar} calculated using TA and pH. In addition, DIC_{calc} using TA and pCO_{2} is 2 ± 7 µmol kg^{-1} lower than DIC_{calc} using TA and pH. Finally, measured pCO_{2} is 4 ± 14 µatm lower than pCO_{2} calculated from TA and pH. These strong consistencies suggest that our pCO_{2} and TA measurements are accurate. Our surface TA and DIC_{calc} measurements versus latitude for the Southern Ocean are within the ranges of other studies (Mattsdotter Björk et al., 2014, McNeil et al., 2007, Metzl et al., 2006; McNeil et al., 2007; Mattsdotter Björk et al., 2014).

We compare the TA measurements from the surface hydrocasts (< 5 meters deep) to the underway TA measurements made while the ship was still on station within ~ 15 minutes of when the surface samples were collected. The underway values are 3 ± 5 µmol kg^{-1} higher than the hydrocast TA values.

### 3.3 Ross Sea and Southern Ocean Calculations

The Ω_{Ar} of surface waters in the Ross Sea increases during the austral summer months (McNeil et al., 2010). We use DIC, TA, SST, and salinity to determine the controls on the seasonal cycle of surface water Ω_{Ar}. We normalize DIC and TA to a salinity of 34.5, the average salinity of the Ross Sea (hereafter called sDIC and sTA). Due to the deep convective mixing during the winter, we use the average sDIC and sTA concentrations of hydrocast samples collected from 200-400 m to determine winter water values (sDIC = 2221 ± 5 µmol kg^{-1}, sTA = 2338 ± 3 µmol kg^{-1}). While sDIC and sTA concentrations below 200 m are influenced by carbon export particularly in the summer and early autumn, observations show that sDIC and sTA concentrations are relatively uniform below 200 m across space and a given season (Table 1).
Following Hauri et al. (2013), the change in $\Omega_{Ar}$ of surface hydrocast samples (upper 10 m) from winter conditions can be expressed as:

$$\Delta \Omega_{Ar} = \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial DIC} \Delta sDIC + \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial TA} \Delta sTA + \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial T} \Delta T + \Delta S_\Omega + Residuals$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

where

$$\Delta S_\Omega = \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial S} \Delta S + \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial DIC} \Delta DIC^s + \frac{\partial \Omega}{\partial TA} \Delta TA^s$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

$\Delta sDIC$ and $\Delta sTA$ are the difference in $sDIC$ and $sTA$ for each sample from the winter value. The term $\Delta T$ is calculated using a winter SST of -1.89°C (per Sweeney, 2003). $\Delta S_\Omega$ represents the total contribution of salinity changes to $\Delta \Omega_{Ar}$.

Since salinity between 200 to 400 m is variable across the Ross Sea (Orsi and Wiederwohl, 2009), $\Delta S$ is calculated as the difference between the salinity of a surface sample and the average salinity for samples from that station that are between 200-400 m.

$\Delta DIC^s$ and $\Delta TA^s$ represent changes to DIC and TA due to dilution/concentration from freshwater input and sea-ice processes:

$$\Delta DIC^s = \left[DIC_{200-400}\ * \left(Salinity_{surface\ sample}/Salinity_{200-400}\right)\right] - DIC_{200-400}$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

$$\Delta TA^s = \left[TA_{200-400}\ * \left(Salinity_{surface\ sample}/Salinity_{200-400}\right)\right] - TA_{200-400}$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

$DIC_{200-400}$, $TA_{200-400}$, and $Salinity_{200-400}$ are the average values for samples collected from 200-400 m calculated at each station.

The partial derivatives quantify the change in $\Omega_{Ar}$ per unit change in DIC, TA, temperature, and salinity respectively. To determine the partial derivatives, we calculate $\Omega_{Ar}$ for all hydrocast samples within the upper 10 m using DIC, TA, temperature, and salinity as input parameters. We recalculate $\Omega_{Ar}$ after independently increasing DIC, TA, temperature, and salinity by one unit. The partial derivatives are the average difference between the initial $\Omega_{Ar}$ and the recalculated $\Omega_{Ar}$.

We use the same equations to evaluate the relative importance of DIC, TA, temperature, and salinity on the variability of $\Omega_{Ar}$ from 75°S to 55°S. For the $\Delta$ terms, we calculate the change in $sDIC$, $sTA$, temperature, and salinity from the mean of the first 6 underway measurements at
75°S. For Eq. 4 and Eq. 5, instead of using DIC, TA, and salinity values from 200-400 m, we use the mean of the first 6 underway measurements at 75°S.

4 Results and Discussion

4.1 Ω in the Ross Sea

We define the area west of 171°E as the western region and the area between 171 and 180°E as the central region. This demarcation is similar to regions defined by Sweeney et al. (2000a) and roughly traces the western boundary between sea ice and open water when the Ross Sea polynya is opening during austral spring (Fig. 2a).

Surface water salinity is lower in the western region (33.79 ± 0.27) than the central region (34.11 ± 0.10) (Fig. 2b). While sea ice advects northwards in the central region as the Ross Sea polynya forms, in the western region much of the sea ice melts in place lowering the surface salinity and increasing stratification. Monthly Aqua MODIS chlorophyll concentration data shows that the highest chlorophyll concentrations during February 2013 are in the western region (Fig. 2c). Arrigo et al. (1999) also observed that diatom blooms in the highly stratified western region peak during the early autumn ~ 6 weeks after the main Phaeocystis antarctica bloom in the central Ross Sea.

Surface Underway TA values range from 2268 to 2346 µmol kg⁻¹ (mean = 2314 ± 16 µmol kg⁻¹). Since TA strongly covaries with salinity (R²=0.86, residual ± 6 µmol kg⁻¹), the lowest TA values are located in the western region where the salinity is lowest (Fig. 1b). Values of sTA range from 2336 to 2386 µmol kg⁻¹ (mean = 2360 ± 7 µmol kg⁻¹) and are influenced by calcification/dissolution as well as phytoplankton photosynthesis since one unit of nitrate drawdown increases TA by one unit (Brewer and Goldman, 1978) (Fig. 2d).

Surface pCO₂ values range from 162 to 354 µatm (Fig. 2e). Surface pCO₂ values are lower in the western region (238 ± 34 µatm) compared to the central region (319 ± 16 µatm) due to greater late season phytoplankton photosynthesis (Fig. 1e) in the west. Surface Ω_{Ar} values range from 1.40 to 2.42 and Ω_{Ca} ranges from 2.24 to 3.89 (Fig. 2f). The highest Ω_{Ar} values are also located in the western region (1.94 ± 0.18, Ω_{Ca} = 3.09 ± 0.30) compared to the central
Greater phytoplankton photosynthesis in the western region increases $\Omega$ by both decreasing DIC and increasing TA.

Spatial and temporal variations in surface water $\Omega_{Ar}$ are mainly controlled by sDIC in the Ross Sea (Eq. 2, Fig. 3). The concentration of sDIC decreased by 58 ± 20 µmol kg$^{-1}$ from a winter value, causing $\Omega_{Ar}$ to increase by 0.5 ± 0.2. In addition, sTA increased by 11 ± 7 µmol kg$^{-1}$ during the preceding summer months, causing $\Omega_{Ar}$ to increase by 0.1 ± 0.1. Although there was a significant reduction in salinity compared to winter values (0.7 ± 0.3), $\Omega_{Ar}$ only decreased by ~0.01 due to this freshening since both DIC and TA concentrations were reduced. Lastly, the effect of temperature on $\Omega_{Ar}$ was negligible since the Ross Sea only experiences a 2°C seasonal change in SSTs (Sweeney, 2003).

Two processes can reduce sDIC: calcification and phytoplankton photosynthesis. To evaluate the importance of calcification, we use time dependent changes in potential alkalinity ($p_{TA-PALK}$, defined as sNitrate + sTA) from a winter value (2367 ± 3 µmol kg$^{-1}$, defined as average value for all samples between 200-400 m). While TA will increase during photosynthesis due to nitrate drawdown, $p_{TA-PALK}$ will be conserved. Therefore, changes in $p_{TA-PALK}$ can be attributed to calcification and dissolution. The average $\Delta p_{TA-PALK}$ from a winter concentration is negligible (0 ± 5 µmol kg$^{-1}$); therefore, calcification appears to be insignificant and the increase in sTA from winter conditions is largely driven by nitrate drawdown during photosynthesis. Earlier studies found that calcification contributed to only ~5% of the total seasonal DIC drawdown (Bates et al., 1998; Sweeney et al., 2000a; Bates et al., 1998). Therefore, we argue that photosynthesis exerts the dominant control on sDIC, sTA, and $\Omega_{Ar}$. While the highest $\Omega_{Ar}$ value that we observed was 2.4, values up to ~4 have been observed during Dec-Jan (McNeil et al., 2010). By the time we arrived in the Ross Sea, surface sDIC concentrations would have already increased relative to the summer due to enhanced air-sea CO$_2$ fluxes (Arrigo and Van Dijken, 2007), deepening of the mixed layer (Sweeney, 2003), and remineralization of organic carbon (Sweeney et al., 2000b).

Mattsdotter Björk et al. (2014) also argue that phytoplankton photosynthesis is the major control on surface water $\Omega_{Ar}$ variability between the Ross Sea and the Antarctic Peninsula based upon the covariance of $\Omega_{Ar}$ and chlorophyll-a. The largest contributor to seasonal $\Omega_{Ar}$ change in the Chukchi Sea in the Arctic is also phytoplankton photosynthesis (Bates et al., 2013). However,
unlike the Ross Sea, numerous studies have also demonstrated aragonite undersaturation of surface waters in parts of the Arctic due to sea ice melt and river runoff leads to significant reductions in $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ (Chierici and Fransson, 2009; Yamamoto et al., 2009; Robbins et al., 2013).

4.2 $\Omega$ in the Southern Ocean

The spatial changes in $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$, SST, pCO$_2$, and particulate organic matter (POC) between 75°S and 55°S are shown in Fig. 4. We also include the mean location of the fronts from Sokolov and Rintoul (2009) as they intersect our cruise track. The lowest $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ value is 1.25 ($\Omega_{\text{Ca}} = 2.00$) at 75°S, corresponding with the highest pCO$_2$ of ~396 µatm. $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ increases along the transect to reach a maximum of 1.93 ($\Omega_{\text{Ca}} = 3.04$) at 55°S. The changes in $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ are not always monotonic. In two regions changes in $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ can be attributed to enhanced primary production, sometimes correspond to drops in pCO$_2$. For instance, between 74°S and 73°S, $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ first increases and then decreases by ~ 0.1. This corresponds with a 40 µatm drop and then rise in pCO$_2$. Given that SST is constant, this localized increase in $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ is likely due to phytoplankton photosynthesis. This region may be along the Antarctic Slope Front that is known for higher biological activity (Jacobs, 1991). There is another step in $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ from ~1.4 to ~1.5 between 67.56°S and 67.6°S across the SACC-F-N. This step also corresponds with a decrease in pCO$_2$ from ~370 to ~340 µatm, likely due to phytoplankton photosynthesis. Elevated POC concentrations between the SACC-F-N and the PF-M correspond with these and lower pCO$_2$ values around the PF and again indicate enhanced phytoplankton photosynthesis. Ruben (2003) also found that pCO$_2$ is reduced south of the PF (170°W) due to primary production.

To further gain insight into why $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ increases along our transect, we quantify the contribution of changing sDIC (calculated from TA and pCO$_2$), sTA, SST, and salinity to changing $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ along the transect (Fig. 5a). The dominant control is declining sDIC$_{\text{calc}}$ from ~2240 to ~2140 µmol kg$^{-1}$ between 75°S and 55°S, which causes $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ to increase by 0.87 if sTA, SST, and salinity are held constant (Fig. 6). Declining sTA from ~2340 to ~2310 µmol kg$^{-1}$ partially counters the influence of sDIC$_{\text{calc}}$ and reduces $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ by 0.28. The influences of SST and salinity on $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ are minimal.

$\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ variability is driven almost entirely by changes in sDIC$_{\text{calc}}$ from 75°S to the PF-S. Between the PF-S and the SAF-N, variability in $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ is influenced by the opposing effects of sDIC$_{\text{calc}}$ and sTA. The TA:DIC$_{\text{calc}}$ ratio and $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ are constant between the PF-S and 60°S the SAF-S since both
sDIC\textsubscript{calc} and sTA decrease at the same rate (Fig. 5b). Between 60°S the SAF-S and the SAF-N, Ω\textsubscript{Ar} increases since sDIC\textsubscript{calc} declines faster than sTA (Fig. 5b). North of the SAF-N, Ω\textsubscript{Ar} variability is again driven by sDIC\textsubscript{calc}. Ω\textsubscript{Ar} increases due to a decrease in sDIC\textsubscript{calc} while sTA remains constant.

We examine possible controls on sDIC\textsubscript{calc} along the transect. The concentration of sDIC\textsubscript{calc} is highest south of the PF-S due to upwelling of CDW (Fig. 6a). To evaluate the properties of CDW, we use data from the 2011 Repeat Hydrography Cruise SO4P, which is part of the U.S. Climate Variability and Predictability (CLIVAR) program (Swift and Orsi, 2012) (available at http://www.clivar.org/resources/data/hydrographic). We only use data from hydrocasts located between 168°E – 73°W where the bottom depth is >1000 m (Fig. 4b2b). We reject the data from hydrocast 46(B) where the deep DIC data below 200 m is ~ 30µmol kg\(^{-1}\) higher than the rest of the stations. Following Sweeney (2003), CDW is defined as centered on the level of maximum temperature below 150 m.

From this CLIVAR dataset, CDW has a sDIC value of 2243±3 µmol kg\(^{-1}\). Between 75°S and 74°S, sDIC\textsubscript{calc} concentration of surface water is also 2243±5 µmol kg\(^{-1}\), indicating little modification to CDW and consistent with the observation that this region was covered by sea ice even during the summer of 2013. At 74°S sDIC\textsubscript{calc} drops to ~2220 µmol kg\(^{-1}\) and at-by 67.566°S, across the SACCF-N, sDIC\textsubscript{calc} drops to ~2200 µmol kg\(^{-1}\). The main driver of this 40 µmol kg\(^{-1}\) decrease in sDIC\textsubscript{calc} between Antarctica and the PF-S is consistent with the observed drops in pCO\(_2\) that we attributed to likely photosynthesis. Ruben et al. (1998) also observed a 30-50 µmol kg\(^{-1}\) decrease in sDIC at 67°S in Pacific Antarctic waters between winter and summer that they attribute to primary productivity.

sDIC\textsubscript{calc} continues to drop from ~2220 µmol kg\(^{-1}\) at the PF-S to ~2140 µmol kg\(^{-1}\) at 55°S, consistent with surface DIC measurements between 70°S and 40°S compiled by McNeil et al. (2007). There are multiple factors likely responsible for this decrease in sDIC\textsubscript{calc}. Both satellite (Arrigo et al., 2008) and in situ measurements (Reuer et al., 2007) show that annual primary productivity increases from south to north in the Southern Ocean. In addition, surface waters north of the PF advect northwards and accumulate a sDIC deficit. Finally, warmer water holds less DIC while in equilibrium with the atmosphere. There is little net air-sea CO\(_2\) flux between
75˚S and 55˚S (except for net efflux at 60˚S) since warming and increased biological production compensate each other (Takahashi et al., 2012).

We also examine possible controls on sTA concentrations along the transect. The concentration of sTA is also highest south of the PF-S due to upwelling of CDW. Based off the CLIVAR dataset, the sTA of CDW is 2334±3 µmol kg⁻¹. The sTA of surface water between 74˚S and the PF-S has a relatively constant sTA concentration of ~2340 µmol kg⁻¹, slightly higher than its CDW source (Fig. 6b). Nitrate drawdown during photosynthesis may explain the elevated sTA.

Between 75˚S and 74˚S, sTA exceeds 2360 µmol kg⁻¹. One possible explanation is that ikaite (CaCO₃·6H₂O), a mineral that has been observed directly and indirectly to precipitate in Antarctic sea ice (Dieckmann et al., 2008; Fransson et al, 2011), dissolved into surface waters during the summer causing sTA concentrations to increase. Between the PF-S and SAF-N, sTA drops to 2310 µmol kg⁻¹ where the concentrations level off. This drop appears to be in part due to the mixing of two end member water masses, AASW south of the PF-S and subtropical Subantarctic surface water north of the SAF-N. The decreasing sTA is consistent with the suggestion of Millero et al. (1998) that a negative linear relationship between sTA and SST is due to colder water being indicative of greater upwelling of TA rich water.

This dataset supports the argument that increased upwelling of CDW from strengthening westerly winds will increase OA in the Southern Ocean (Lenton et al., 2009). While the TA:DIC ratio for CDW is 1.040 ± 0.002, the TA:DICcalc ratio for surface waters between 75˚S and the PF-S ranges from 1.046 to 1.064 (Fig. 5b). Therefore increased upwelling will lower the TA:DIC ratio and cause ΩAr to decrease.

4.3 Estimate of wintertime surface ΩAr values in the Ross Sea

Efforts to predict winter ΩAr undersaturation in the Ross Sea are complicated by the complete lack of carbon system measurements from the winter months in the Ross Sea.

McNeil et al. (2010) estimated winter surface water ΩAr by using the lowest observed ΩAr value from early spring when the Ross Sea is still covered by sea ice. They used mid October and early November carbon system measurements from the Joint Global Ocean Flux Study (JGOFS)
(Sweeney et al., 2000b). Although sea ice algae productivity peaks in November, their impact on water column DIC concentrations is likely to be negligible (Saenz and Arrigo, 2014). McNeil et al. (2010) found that early spring surface water Ω_{Ar} was ~1.2. There was a single Ω_{Ar} value < 1.1 that they used as an initial condition along with the IPCC US92a scenario to predict that surface waters of the Ross Sea could begin to experience seasonally undersaturated conditions with respect to aragonite as early as 2015 if full equilibrium with rising atmospheric CO₂ is achieved. Based on a three-dimensional Coupled Ice, Atmosphere, and Ocean model (Arrigo et al., 2003, Tagliabue and Arrigo, 2005), McNeil et al. (2010) argued that only 35% of the atmospheric CO₂ signal equilibrates with Ross Sea surface waters due to sea ice, upwelling of CDW, and short residence times, thereby delaying the onset of aragonite undersaturation until 2045. Decadal wintertime surface carbon system measurements do not exist to directly validate this disequilibrium assumption. In addition, McNeil et al. (2010) would inaccurately predict when the Ross Sea would become undersaturated with respect to aragonite if the minimum wintertime surface Ω_{Ar} value used was low due to measurement error.

To independently calculate Ω_{Ar} from early spring surface waters, we use the LDEO pCO₂ measurements from November 1994, 1997, 2005, and 2006 that are from the Ross Shelf (defined by the 1000m isopleth) and are south of 74°S (Fig. 7a). The earliest pCO₂ measurements are from 16 Nov 1994, 17 Nov 1997, 6 Nov 2005, and 13 Nov 2006 when much of the Ross Sea is still covered in sea ice. The earliest measurements from 2005/06 are more likely to represent winter conditions since they are from 74°S as the NBP entered the Ross Sea. Conversely, the earliest measurements from 1994/97 are from the 76.5°S line, close to where the Ross Sea polynya opens up from.

We calculate wintertime TA in the Ross Sea by establishing a salinity-TA relationship using data from Bates et al. (1998), Sweeney et al. (2000b), and our own hydrocast TA measurements from the upper 10 m (Fig. 7bA1). Since one unit of nitrate drawdown increases TA by one unit, the TA measurements are adjusted to winter nitrate concentrations of 29 µmol kg⁻¹ (the mean nitrate concentration between 200-400 m from our cruise). The relationship between TA and salinity is consistent among these independent datasets and the standard deviation of the residuals for TA is ± 5 µmol kg⁻¹.
We calculate historical $\Omega_{Ar}$ using historical pCO$_2$ measurements, salinity derived TA calculated from salinity, SST, and salinity. Phosphate and silicate are set to the winter values of 2.1 µmol kg$^{-1}$ and 79 µmol kg$^{-1}$ respectively. The thermosalinograph (TSG) salinity data from the historical pCO$_2$ measurements appears reasonable and is uncalibrated. While the largest offset in TSG salinity compared with Autosal measurements is 0.3, such error is not typical. For instance, on our cruise the difference between TSG and Autosal measurements is less than 0.02. To test the possible impact of a poor salinity calibration, we recalculate $\Omega_{Ar}$ for all pCO$_2$ measurements after increasing salinity by 0.3. TA calculated from the observed TA-salinity relationship increases by ~21 µmol kg$^{-1}$ and $\Omega_{Ar}$ increases by 0.024 ± 0.003.

The lowest $\Omega_{Ar}$ measurements are 1.24 in 1994, 1.25 in 1997, 1.22 in 2005, and 1.20 in 2006 (Fig. 7c). Although $\Omega_{Ar}$ declines from 1994 to 2006, we have low confidence in any trend due to spatial-temporal sampling biases. The lowest $\Omega_{Ar}$ values are consistently between 1.2 and 1.3 as the ship crossed sea ice covered regions and open water that had experienced DIC drawdown. With the exception of a single measurement, the lowest 1996/97 $\Omega_{Ar}$ values from McNeil et al. (2010) are also ~1.2. The similarity between the $\Omega_{Ar}$ values reported by McNeil et al. (2010) from 1996/97 and our 2005/06 values is consistent with their delayed acidification hypothesis.

A simple calculation also suggests that wintertime $\Omega_{Ar}$ values may be closer to 1.2 than 1.1. If salinity is 34.5, approximately the mean salinity of the water column, TA would be 2339 µmol kg$^{-1}$ based on the observed TA-salinity linear relationship. Sweeney (2003) estimates winter pCO$_2$ values of ~ 425 µatm based on deep pCO$_2$ measurements made during early spring. Setting salinity to 34.5, TA to 2339 µmol kg$^{-1}$, pCO$_2$ to 425 µatm, temperature to -1.89, silicate to 79 µmol kg$^{-1}$, and phosphate to 2.1 µmol kg$^{-1}$ yields a $\Omega_{Ar}$ value of 1.22.

Although pCO$_2$ measurements of surface waters colder than -1.75°C south of 60°S typically reach ~ 410 µatm by September, Takahashi et al. (2009) present a few measurements of ~ 450 µatm. Even if pCO$_2$ reaches 450 µatm during winter in the Ross Sea, $\Omega_{Ar}$ would be 1.16 (with salinity at 34.5 and TA at 2339 µmol kg$^{-1}$). In order to obtain $\Omega_{Ar}$ of 1.1, pCO$_2$ would need to be ~480 µatm, a value that appears unreasonably high given the available datasets from the Ross Sea.

McNeil et al. (2010) calculated the $\Omega_{Ar}$ of water arriving onto the Ross Shelf following the recipes of Jacobs and Fairbanks (1985): 50% CDW, 25% Tmin water (minimum temperature in
upper 100 m), and 25% AASW. To calculate the $\Omega_{Ar}$ of these three source water masses, they used hydrocast temperature, salinity, and DIC data collected during the austral winter of 1994 from north of the Ross Shelf as described in Sweeney (2003). They calculated that the average $\Omega_{Ar}$ of incoming water would be 1.08.

We independently calculate $\Omega_{Ar}$ of incoming water using the 2011 CLIVAR hydrocast data from north of the Ross Shelf between 168°E – 73°W as described earlier (Fig. 4b, 2b). The $\Omega_{Ar}$ of water in the upper 100 m (AASW and Tmin) from the CLIVAR dataset is 1.36 ± 0.13 and the $\Omega_{Ar}$ of CDW (maximum temperature below 150 m) is 1.18 ± 0.03 (Fig. 7d, A2). Even if 100% of the incoming water onto the Ross Shelf is CDW, the $\Omega_{Ar}$ of this incoming water would be significantly greater than 1.08. While most properties of CDW are similar between the 2011 CLIVAR data and the 1994 data used by McNeil et al. (2010), the TA of CDW from the CLIVAR dataset is 18 µmol kg$^{-1}$ higher (Table 2).

Another approach to estimate the $\Omega_{Ar}$ of winter surface waters is to use the properties of water below 200 m. For the TRACERS data, sTA below 200 m is 2338 ± 2 µmol kg$^{-1}$. For the JGOFS autumn cruise (NBP 97-3) sTA below 200 m is 2339 ± 2 µmol kg$^{-1}$. Using the CLIVAR dataset, sTA of CDW from off the Ross Shelf is 2334 ± 3 µmol kg$^{-1}$. This consistency between independent datasets suggests that we can accurately estimate winter TA in the Ross Sea.

The range in sDIC below 200m is much greater than that for sTA (Table 2). The lowest value is 2220 ± 5 µmol kg$^{-1}$ from our cruise and the highest is 2237 ± 3 µmol kg$^{-1}$ from the summer JGOFS cruise (NBP 97-01). This range in sDIC concentrations below 200 m is not surprising given that sDIC concentrations vary across the input water masses. In addition, sDIC concentrations below 200 m will be influenced by carbon export particularly in summer and early autumn and over multiple seasons’ air to sea flux of CO$_2$.

Assuming that deep water concentrations of TA and DIC are relatively unmodified following wintertime deep convective mixing, we estimate the $\Omega_{Ar}$ of winter surface water by setting TA to 2338 µmol kg$^{-1}$, salinity to 34.5, temperature to -1.89°C, phosphate to 2.1 µmol kg$^{-1}$, and silicate to 79 µmol kg$^{-1}$. If DIC concentrations are 2220 µmol kg$^{-1}$, $\Omega_{Ar}$ would be 1.37. If sDIC concentrations are 2237 µmol kg$^{-1}$, $\Omega_{Ar}$ would be 1.24 and pCO$_2$ would be 417 µatm.

These results are consistent with a study by Matson et al. (2014) where early spring $\Omega_{Ar}$ at 20 m depth calculated using pH and salinity derived TA was 1.2 – 1.3 from Hut Point (bottom depth >
200 m) and Cape Evans (bottom depth < 30 m) in McMurdo Sound. In Prydz Bay, the lowest measured winter surface $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ values were also ~ 1.2 during 1993-95 (Gibson and Trull, 1999; McNeil et al., 2011) in Prydz Bay (McNeil et al., 2011) and 2010-11 (Roden et al., 2013). Weeber et al. (2015) using hydrocast data estimated that the $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ of Winter Water in the Weddell Sea was ~ 1.3. In the Mertz Polynya, the lowest $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ value at 100 m (below the mixed layer) was 1.2 (Shadwick et al., 2013). In Arthur Harbor on the western Antarctic Peninsula the lowest winter surface $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ value was 1.31 (Schram et al., 2015).

A few studies find Antarctic winter $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ values for surface water below 1.2. Hauri et al. (2015) used LDEO pCO$_2$ measurements and predicted TA from salinity to estimate winter $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ values of surface water in the western Antarctic Peninsula. They found that 20% of $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ values were below 1.2 during the spring and winter, with a few winter values near undersaturation. It is not surprising that winter surface $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ values are lower in the Antarctic Peninsula than the Ross Sea given less sea ice in the Peninsula. In another study, Kapsenberg et al. (2015) report $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ at 18 m depth (bottom depth < 30 m) at two coastal sites in McMurdo Sound, the Jetty and Cape Evans, for Dec-May and Nov-June respectively using pH and salinity derived TA as input variables. The lowest $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ observations were from May at both sites and were 1.22 and 0.96 at the Jetty and Cape Evans. The maximum calculated pCO$_2$ was 559 at Cape Evans. The low $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ and high calculated pCO$_2$ values measured by Hofmann Kapsenberg et al. (2015) may represent differences between coastal and open ocean systems—there may be a coastal amplification signal when sinking organic matter hits a shallow bed. Another possibility is that their carbon system time series, particularly at Cape Evans, is inaccurate. After conditioning and calibrating their pH measurements using discrete water samples, for logistical reasons Hofmann Kapsenberg et al. (2015) could not collect additional validation samples during deployment or measure multiple carbon system parameters for crosscheck. Although the SeaFET pH sensors that they used are generally stable, they can drift (Bresnahan et al., 2014). Hofmann Kapsenberg et al. (2015) have no means to assess possible pH sensor drift.

Following McNeil et al. (2010) and a Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP8.5) scenario (Meinshausen et al., 2011), we use the lowest $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ values from 2006 ($\Omega_{\text{Ar}} = 1.20$, pCO$_2 = 428\mu$atm, TA = 2328 µmol kg$^{-1}$, salinity = 34.33, SST = -1.87°C, phosphate = 2.1 µmol kg$^{-1}$,}
silicate = 79 µmol kg\(^{-1}\)) to assess when the Ross Sea could become corrosive to aragonite. While shelf water salinity in the Ross Sea has declined by 0.03 decade\(^{-1}\) from 1958 to 2008 (Jacobs and Giulivi, 2010), we show that such rates of change will have inconsequential effects on Ω\(_{Ar}\). For equilibrium conditions, surface waters in the Ross Sea would become corrosive to aragonite by 2040 (2092 for calcite) when atmospheric CO\(_2\) concentrations exceed 485 ppm. In the disequilibrium scenario (McNeil et al., 2010), surface aragonite undersaturation state would occur by 2071 (2185 for calcite) when atmospheric CO\(_2\) concentrations exceed 677 ppm.

Mattsdotter Björk et al. (2014) also predicted the onset of summertime aragonite in the Ross Sea. Their lowest Ω\(_{Ar}\) value was also ~1.2 and they estimated onset of undersaturation between 2026 and 2030 by increasing DIC by 10 µmol kg\(^{-1}\) per decade. This approach does not take into account air-sea CO\(_2\) disequilibrium. In contrast, Hauck et al. (2010) found that only 3 – 5 µmol kg\(^{-1}\) of anthropogenic carbon accumulated per decade between 1992 and 2008 in shelf water of the Weddell Sea. In short, our analysis suggests that it may be possible to prevent future winter aragonite undersaturation of surface waters in the Ross Sea. For instance, CO\(_2\) concentrations never exceed 543 ppm in the CO\(_2\) stabilization scenario RCP4.5 (Meinshausen et al., 2011).

If the Ross Sea experiences aragonite undersaturation during winter in the future, live pteropod shells would start dissolving, making them more vulnerable to predation and bacterial infection (Bednaršek et al., 2012, 2014). In particular, pteropod larvae develop during the winter/spring (Gannefors et al., 2005; Hunt et al., 2008) and their shells have been shown to completely dissolve within weeks of exposure to aragonite undersaturation (Comeau et al., 2010). Declines in pteropod populations may reduce carbon export (Manno et al., 2010) and could have dramatic ecological effects up the food web.

Antarctic deep sea hydrocorals may also decline or disappear at the onset of aragonite undersaturation (Shadwick et al., 2014). In addition, the shells of post-mortem bivalves and brachiopods show significant dissolution within two months of exposure to undersaturated conditions, although live organisms may be able to compensate for this dissolution (McClintock et al., 2009). For instance, Cummings et al. (2011) show that the Antarctic bivalve *Laternula elliptica* can increase calcification in undersaturated conditions. However, the associated energy costs may be difficult to maintain over the long term, especially for larvae. Stumpp et al. (2012) shows that while echinoid larvae can maintain calcification in high pCO\(_2\) treatments, increased
Energetic costs reduce growth rates and ultimately increase mortality. Larvae of the Antarctic sea urchin *Sterechinus neumayeri* and seastar *Odontaster validus* are smaller and exhibit abnormal development under elevated pCO$_2$ treatments (Byrne et al., 2013; Gonzalez-Bernat et al., 2013; Yu et al., 2013). In addition, the synergistic effects of warming and OA could impact echinoderm fertilization and embryo development (Ericson et al., 2012). Although it is not clear to what extent species may acclimatize or adapt (e.g. Suckling et al., 2015), the onset of aragonite undersaturation during winter months may have profound impacts on the Ross Sea ecosystem.

5 Conclusions

Our study demonstrates the possibility of setting up underway TA measurement systems. Although our system was relatively unattended, carbon system crosschecks and comparisons between hydrocast and underway data indicate that our measurements were accurate. Similar underway TA systems could be set up on scientific vessels and ships of opportunity in undersampled regions of the world’s oceans.

We find that the seasonal increase in $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ in the Ross Sea by early autumn is driven almost entirely by phytoplankton photosynthesis. In the Southern Ocean between the Ross Sea and Chile we find that $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ also increases mainly due to declining DIC$_{\text{calc}}$ although declining TA partially counters the influence of declining DIC$_{\text{calc}}$. The influences of SST and salinity on $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ are minimal in the Ross Sea and on our Southern Ocean transect.

We establish a salinity-TA relationship for the winter that is consistent across independent datasets. Using historical pCO$_2$ measurements from early spring along with TA predicted from salinity, In conclusion, we argue that it is unlikely that the Ross Sea actually experienced winter surface $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ values of $\sim$1.1 during 1996 (as per McNeal et al., 2010) and that a $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$-value of $\sim$1.2 may more accurately represent current winter conditions.

Since predictions are sensitive to current surface wintertime $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ values as well as the extent of disequilibrium, highly accurate over-determined carbon system measurements from the winter are crucial. It is also essential to measure more than two carbon system parameters for
crosscheck. For instance, pH and pCO$_2$ sensors on moorings and floats could be used with TA predicted from salinity to calculate $\Omega$ during the winter.

Our analysis indicates that the Ross Sea will not experience aragonite undersaturation until the year 2070 following RCP8.5. In some CO$_2$ stabilization scenarios, including RCP4.5 (Meinshausen et al., 2011), the Ross Sea may avoid becoming corrosive to aragonite.

Acknowledgements

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Petty, a. a., Holland, P. R. and Feltham, D. L.: Sea ice and the ocean mixed layer over the Antarctic shelf seas, Cryosphere, 8, 761–783, doi:10.5194/tc-8-761-2014, 2014.


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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data source</th>
<th>Early Spring</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Autumn</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweeney et al.</td>
<td>2226 ± 3</td>
<td>2233 ± 3</td>
<td>2237 ± 3</td>
<td>2233 ± 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2000)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Long et al.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2224 ± 5</td>
<td>2225 ± 4</td>
<td></td>
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<td>(2011)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This paper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2220 ± 5</td>
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Table 1. Mean values for sDIC concentrations below 200 m
### Table 2. Water properties of CDW from McNeil et al. (2010) and CLIVAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data source</th>
<th>Salinity</th>
<th>DIC (µmol kg(^{-1}))</th>
<th>TA (µmol kg(^{-1}))</th>
<th>PO(_4) (µmol kg(^{-1}))</th>
<th>SiO(_4) (µmol kg(^{-1}))</th>
<th>Ω(_{Ar})</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>McNeil et al. (2010)</td>
<td>34.70 ± 0.02</td>
<td>2255 ± 1</td>
<td>2330</td>
<td>2.22 ± 0.01</td>
<td>93.5 ± 1.2</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIVAR</td>
<td>34.71 ± 0.02</td>
<td>2257 ± 3</td>
<td>2348 ± 4</td>
<td>2.21 ± 0.04</td>
<td>95.6 ± 6.0</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Fig. 1.** Cruise track (black line) from NBP 13-02. Stations used in this study (red circles) from (a) TRACERS (NBP 13-02) and (b) CLIVAR (NBP 11-02). Blue line is the 1000 m isobath.

**Fig. 21.** Maps of (a) 6.25 km gridded sea ice concentration on 1 Dec 2012 from the University of Bremen, [http://www.iup.uni-bremen.de:8084/amsr2/#Antarctic](http://www.iup.uni-bremen.de:8084/amsr2/#Antarctic) (Spreen et al., 2008), (b) sea surface salinity from NBP 13-02, (c) satellite chlorophyll concentration on Feb 2013 from the 9 km level 3 Aqua MODIS product, [http://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov/cgi/l3](http://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov/cgi/l3), (d) sTA from NBP 13-02, (e) pCO$_2$ from NBP 13-02 (f) aragonite saturation state ($\Omega_{Ar}$) from NBP 13-02.

**Fig. 2.** Cruise track (black line) from NBP 13-02. Stations used in this study (red circles) from (a) TRACERS (NBP 13-02) and (b) CLIVAR (NBP 11-02). Blue line is the 1000 m isobath.

**Fig. 3.** Contributions of sDIC, sTA, temperature, salinity, and pTA-PALK to changes in the aragonite saturation state ($\Omega_{Ar}$) of surface waters from the winter to early autumn. Error bars represent ±1 S.D.

**Fig. 4.** Surface water properties from a Southern Ocean transect, 20 March – 2 April 2013: (a) aragonite saturation state ($\Omega_{Ar}$), (b) SST, (c) pCO$_2$, and (d) particulate organic carbon. The locations of the Subantarctic Front (SAF), the Polar Front (PF), and the southern Antarctic Circumpolar Current Front (SACCF) from Sokolov and Rintoul (2009) Polar Front (PF) and Sub-Antarctic Front (SAF) are indicated (grey dashed lines).

**Fig. 5.** From surface water measurements along a Southern Ocean transect (a) contributions of changing sDIC (red), sTA (blue), temperature (green), and salinity (magenta) to changing aragonite saturation state (black, $\Omega_{Ar}$) relative to the start of the transect and (b) TA to DIC ratios. The locations of the Subantarctic Front (SAF), the Polar Front (PF), and the southern Antarctic Circumpolar Current Front (SACCF) from Sokolov and Rintoul (2009) Polar Front (PF) and Sub-Antarctic Front (SAF) are indicated (grey dashed lines).
Fig. 6. Measured surface water salinity normalized (a) DIC calculated from pCO$_2$, TA, temperature, and salinity and (b) TA. The locations of the Subantarctic Front (SAF), the Polar Front (PF), and the southern Antarctic Circumpolar Current Front (SACCF) from Sokolov and Rintoul (2009) Polar Front (PF) and Sub-Antarctic Front (SAF) are indicated (grey dashed lines).

Fig. 7. Estimating winter surface aragonite saturation states ($\Omega_{Ar}$): (a) map of surface pCO$_2$ measurements from the LDEO pCO$_2$ database (http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/res/pi/CO2) used in this study from November 1994 (blue), 1997 (red), 2005 (green), and 2006 (black). Blue line is the 1000 m isobath. (b) Linear regression between TA and salinity with surface data from February—March 2013 (blue, this study), November—December 1994 (green, Bates et al., 1998), December—January 1995/1996 (red, Bates et al., 1998), and April 1997 (magenta, Sweeney et al., 2000). TA has been corrected to a nitrate concentration of 29 µmol kg$^{-1}$ to account for the effects of nitrate drawdown on TA (Brewer and Goldman, 1976). (c) Aragonite saturation state ($\Omega_{Ar}$) of surface waters from November calculated from pCO$_2$, salinity derived TA, temperature, and salinity (d) profiles of aragonite saturation state ($\Omega_{Ar}$) from off the Ross Shelf (see Fig. 1) from NBP 11-02 calculated from TA, DIC, temperature, and salinity at surface pressures.
Decomposition of $\Delta \Omega_{Ar}$ from winter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution to $\Delta \Omega_{Ar}$</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>sDIC</th>
<th>sTA</th>
<th>Temp</th>
<th>Sal</th>
<th>pTA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.572 ± 0.192</td>
<td>0.525 ± 0.180</td>
<td>0.108 ± 0.063</td>
<td>0.001 ± 0.002</td>
<td>-0.012 ± 0.005</td>
<td>-0.002 ± 0.046</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 4

(a) Q$_{4d}$

(b) Temp [°C]

(c) pCO$_2$ [μatm]

(d) POC [μg L$^{-1}$]

Latitude [°S]
Fig. 7
Fig. A1. (b) Linear regression between TA and salinity with surface data from February – March 2013 (blue, this study), November – December 1994 (green, Bates et al., 1998), December – January 1995/1996 (red, Bates et al., 1998), and April 1997 (magenta, Sweeney et al., 2000a). TA has been corrected to a nitrate concentration of 29 µmol kg\(^{-1}\) to account for the effects of nitrate drawdown on TA (Brewer and Goldman, 1976).

Fig. A2. (d) Profiles of aragonite saturation state (Ω\(_{Ar}\)) from off the Ross Shelf (see Fig. 42b) from the CLIVAR program (NBP 11-02) calculated from TA, DIC, temperature, and salinity at surface pressures.
Fig. A1

\[
\text{TA} = 68.9 \times \text{Sal} - 37.8 \\
R^2 = 0.94
\]
Fig. A2

$\Omega_{Ar} = 1.08 \rightarrow$

Depth (m)

$\Omega$

Aragonite