

**CaCO₃ production in
a warming and
acidifying ocean**

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

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Calcium carbonate production response to future ocean warming and acidification

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Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Abstract

Anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are acidifying the ocean, affecting calcification rates in pelagic organisms and thereby modifying the oceanic alkalinity cycle. However, the responses of pelagic calcifying organisms to acidification vary widely between species, contributing uncertainty to predictions of atmospheric CO₂ and the resulting climate change. Meanwhile, ocean warming caused by rising CO₂ is expected to drive increased growth rates of all pelagic organisms, including calcifiers. It thus remains unclear whether anthropogenic CO₂ will ultimately increase or decrease the globally-integrated pelagic calcification rate. Here, we assess the importance of this uncertainty by introducing a variable dependence of calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) production on calcite saturation state (Ω_{CaCO_3}) in the University of Victoria Earth System Climate Model, an intermediate complexity coupled carbon-climate model. In a series of model simulations, we examine the impact of this parameterization on global ocean carbon cycling under two CO₂ emissions scenarios, both integrated to the year 3500. The simulations show a significant sensitivity of the vertical and surface horizontal alkalinity gradients to the parameterization, as well as the removal of alkalinity from the ocean through CaCO₃ burial. These sensitivities result in an additional oceanic uptake of carbon when calcification depends on Ω_{CaCO_3} (of up to 13% of total carbon emissions), compared to the case where calcification is insensitive to acidification. In turn, this response causes a reduction of global surface air temperature of up to 0.4°C in year 3500, a 13% reduction in the amplitude of warming. Narrowing these uncertainties will require better understanding of both temperature and acidification effects on pelagic calcifiers. Preliminary examination suggests that alkalinity observations can be used to constrain the range of uncertainties and may exclude large sensitivities of CaCO₃ production on Ω_{CaCO_3} .

BGD

8, 11863–11897, 2011

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



1 Introduction

Ocean uptake of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) is having a profound effect on biochemical cycles and ocean ecosystems. Increased CO₂ dissolution in the surface ocean leads to a decrease in seawater pH (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2009, hereafter SCBD, 2009). This, in turn, leads to a decrease in carbonate ion concentration ([CO₃²⁻]), a shoaling of the calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) saturation horizon and lysocline, and an alteration of CaCO₃ stored in deep-sea sediments. This process, known as ocean acidification, has the potential to severely impact the biological carbon pumps, which influence the vertical alkalinity and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) gradients in the ocean. This, in turn, would affect the strength of the ocean as a carbon sink and, ultimately, the rate and magnitude of global climate change.

Biogenic calcification describes the formation of CaCO₃ by certain species of marine biota that use CaCO₃ to create their shells and skeletons (Doney et al., 2009; SCBD, 2009). In general, the rate of biogenic calcification depends on the saturation state of CaCO₃ in the surface ocean defined as:

$$\Omega_{\text{CaCO}_3} = [\text{Ca}^{2+}] [\text{CO}_3^{2-}] / K_{\text{sp}}^*$$

where [Ca²⁺] is the calcium ion concentration and K_{sp}^{*} is the stoichiometric solubility product, which increases with decreasing temperature and increasing pressure. Since the residence time of calcium is on the order of a million years, ocean Ω_{CaCO₃} will be decreased by ocean acidification over the coming centuries. Prior modeling studies have suggested that many areas in the water column, particularly the high-latitude oceans, will become undersaturated with respect to calcite and/or aragonite, two different polymorphs of CaCO₃ (Caldeira and Wickett, 2005; Orr et al., 2005; Andersson et al., 2006; Lenton and Britton, 2006; Cao et al., 2007; Cao and Caldeira, 2008).

Calcifying marine life, such as coccolithophores and foraminifera, may be vulnerable to those predicted changes in Ω_{CaCO₃} brought on by ocean acidification (Barker et al., 2003; Doney et al., 2009; Gehlen et al., 2007; Hofmann and Schellnhuber, 2009;

BGD

8, 11863–11897, 2011

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



SCBD, 2009; Turley et al., 2006; Tyrell, 2008; Zondervan et al., 2001). However, there is large variability in the calcifying response to acidification between species (Doney, 2009; Doney et al., 2009; Fabry et al., 2008; Guinotte and Fabry, 2008; Riebesell et al., 2000, 2007; Iglesias-Rodriguez et al., 2008). Decreased biogenic calcification ultimately leads to an increased ocean uptake of anthropogenic atmospheric CO₂ and a negative feedback on rising CO₂ levels offsetting the decreased ocean CO₂ uptake capacity resulting from acidification (Hofmann and Schellnhuber, 2009; Raven and Falkowski, 2000; Zondervan et al., 2001; Feely et al., 2004; Orr et al., 2005; Gehlen et al., 2008; Doney et al., 2009; Gangsto et al., 2011); however, the variability in species specific responses introduces a large uncertainty to predictions of how this feedback will operate in the future (Doney, 2009; Doney et al., 2009).

In addition to the uncertainty in species-specific responses to acidification, significant changes in ocean ecosystems are expected to arise from ocean warming (Doney, 2010; Schmittner et al., 2008). Among these, the temperature-dependence of plankton growth is expected to increase primary production in the ocean as the surface ocean warms (Schmittner et al., 2008). Because organic matter is recycled in the upper ocean much more efficiently than CaCO₃, this would be expected to result in an increase of the export of inorganic CaCO₃ particles relative to that of organic carbon. Moreover, the fact that organic export is more readily limited by nutrient supply could allow CaCO₃ export to significantly outstrip organic matter export in a warmer ocean, where recycled nutrients drive production. Thus, more rapid production of CaCO₃ due to higher temperatures (Schmittner et al., 2008) could potentially counteract the effect of acidification on calcification. The result has important implications for oceanic carbon storage.

The oceans have taken up approximately 30–40 % of anthropogenic CO₂ in the last 200 yr (Raven and Falkowski, 2000; Feely et al., 2004; Sabine et al., 2004; Zeebe et al., 2008). As CaCO₃ production uses up 2 moles of alkalinity per mole of DIC, a reduction in production would lead to a greater increase in surface water alkalinity than DIC; this, in turn, would result in a decrease in the Revelle factor of the surface ocean and a greater oceanic capacity to uptake atmospheric CO₂. The Revelle factor,

BGD

8, 11863–11897, 2011

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



or buffer factor, of the ocean describes how the $p\text{CO}_2$ of seawater changes for a given change in [DIC] as per

$$\text{Revelle Factor} = (\Delta[\text{CO}_2]/[\text{CO}_2]) / (\Delta[\text{DIC}]/[\text{DIC}])$$

and its value is proportional to the ratio of sea surface DIC : alkalinity. As such, the ocean capacity to uptake atmospheric CO_2 is inversely proportional to the Revelle factor (Denman et al., 2007; Sabine et al., 2004). Neglecting mineral ballasting, a reduction in calcification may also reduce the rain ratio of particulate inorganic carbon to particulate organic carbon (PIC : POC) reaching the sediments. This would lead to greater metabolic dissolution of sedimentary CaCO_3 , brought on by the increased organic matter decomposition acidifying sediment pore water, further altering of the vertical alkalinity and DIC gradients as well as the strength of the ocean as a carbon sink (Barker et al., 2003; Feely et al., 2004; Orr et al., 2005; Riebesell et al., 2007; Wolf-Gladrow et al., 1999; Zondervan et al., 2001). Changes in deep ocean saturation state brought on by the invasion of anthropogenic CO_2 in the deep ocean can also directly enhance the dissolution of CaCO_3 in sediments (Lenton and Britton, 2006). This increased dissolution of sedimentary CaCO_3 adds alkalinity to the ocean thereby reducing sea surface $p\text{CO}_2$ and further stimulating ocean carbon uptake on millennial timescales (Ridgwell and Hargreaves, 2007).

Several recent modeling studies have been conducted to examine changes in CaCO_3 production rates due to acidification and their effect on the fate of anthropogenic CO_2 (Heinze, 2004; Andersson et al., 2006; Gehlen et al., 2007; Gangsto et al., 2008). Despite significant research attention, however, estimates of the current rate of global CaCO_3 production vary widely: from 0.4 to 1.8 Pg C y^{-1} (Doney et al., 2009). Estimates of the calcification response to ocean acidification are even more uncertain. For example, Gangsto et al. (2008) simulated a 19 % calcification decrease by 2100 in an intermediate complexity climate model. In contrast, Andersson et al. (2006) simulated a 90 % decrease in calcification by 2300, using a box model driven by “business-as-usual” CO_2 emissions. Much of this variability is attributed to the calcifying species

BGD

8, 11863–11897, 2011

CaCO_3 production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



represented in the model, most often the coccolithophore *Emiliana huxleyi*. Consequently, other modeling studies have sought to address the inter-species/strain uncertainty in calcification response by comparing different calcification response scenarios. These studies have found that increased sensitivity of CaCO_3 production to changes in Ω_{CaCO_3} resulted in increased sea surface alkalinity (Ilynia et al., 2009), increased carbon sequestration, and decreased atmospheric $p\text{CO}_2$ (Ridgwell et al., 2006; Gangsto et al., 2011). Although studies agree that the acidification-calcification- CO_2 feedback is relatively small (Zondervan et al., 2001; Ridgwell et al., 2006; Gangsto et al., 2011), it still contributes uncertainty to climate model predictions. Consequently, it is critical that this feedback be properly represented in modeling studies, especially on centennial and longer timescales. It is also important to note that most modeling studies addressing the calcification- CO_2 feedback uncertainty are either conducted on centennial timescales or omit deep-sea carbonate sediment dynamics and so longer-term studies using models with deep-sea sediment components are required. Moreover, most studies of future CaCO_3 production projections focused only on ocean acidification effects and neglected the temperature effect, although both may be similarly important for long-term ocean carbon cycle changes.

The purpose of this study is to expand on the work of Ridgwell et al. (2006), Ilynia et al. (2009), and Gangsto et al. (2011) by: 1) incorporating a CaCO_3 production rate dependence on ocean calcite saturation state into an intermediate complexity climate model; 2) exploring a range of calcification responses, reflecting experimental uncertainty in the biogenic calcification response to increasing ocean carbon uptake; 3) comparing acidification and temperature effects on future CaCO_3 production; 4) evaluating different model solutions with modern observations; and 5) assessing the resulting impact on the magnitude and direction of future ocean carbon-climate feedbacks on millennial timescales. We conduct a series of model simulations, following two 21st century CO_2 emissions scenarios, and continue the simulations until the year 3500 following a cessation of anthropogenic CO_2 emissions in year 2100. These response scenarios are compared to the standard configuration of the model in order

BGD

8, 11863–11897, 2011

CaCO_3 production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



to determine the impact of changing marine calcification on ocean chemistry and the uptake of anthropogenic CO₂ on millennial timescales.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Model description

5 The University of Victoria Earth System Climate Model (UVic ESCM) version 2.9 is an intermediate complexity global climate model with a spherical grid resolution of 1.8° latitude by 3.6° longitude. The climate component of the model consists of a simplified energy-moisture balance atmospheric model with dynamical feedbacks, coupled to a primitive equation three-dimensional ocean general circulation model (Modular
10 Ocean Model 2 or MOM2), and a thermodynamic/dynamic sea ice model (Weaver et al., 2001). The carbon cycle component of the model is represented by a dynamic vegetation model (Top-down Representation of Interactive Foliage and Flora Including Dynamics or TRIFFID) (Cox, 2001; Meissner et al., 2003), a land surface model (a simplified version of the Met Office Surface Exchange Scheme or MOSES) (Meissner et al., 2003), an ocean ecosystem/biogeochemical model and an inorganic ocean
15 carbon model (Schmittner et al., 2008), and an oxic-only model of ocean sediment respiration (Archer, 1996; Eby et al., 2009).

The MOM2 ocean component includes numerous physical parameterizations such as diffusive mixing along and between layers of different water density, eddy induced tracer transport based on Gent and McWilliams (1990), and the computation of tidally induced diapycnal mixing over rough seafloor topography (Simmons et al., 2004). Radiocarbon ¹⁴C and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are used to track the ocean's ventilation to the atmosphere on decadal to millennial scales (Schmittner et al., 2008). The inorganic carbon cycle model is an Ocean Carbon-Cycle Intercomparison type (OCMIP-2)
20 model while the ocean ecosystem/biogeochemical model is a nutrient-phytoplankton-zooplankton-detritus (NPZD) model based on Schmittner et al. (2005) with a fast microbial-induced nutrient recycling parameterization based on Schartau and Oschlies (2003). The NPZD model further includes two kinds of phytoplankton (nitrogen fixers

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



and other phytoplankton (P_o)), nutrients such as phosphate (PO_4) and nitrate (NO_3), and tracers such as DIC, alkalinity, and oxygen (O_2).

The production of $CaCO_3$ in the model is calculated as

$$Pr(CaCO_3) = ((1 - \beta)G(P_o)Z + \mu_{P_2}P_o^2 + \mu_z Z^2)(PIC^* : POC^*)R_{C:P}$$

where $(1 - \beta)G(P_o)Z$ represents the zooplankton grazing of the P_o phytoplankton type, $\mu_{P_2}P_o^2$ represents the mortality of P_o phytoplankton, $\mu_z Z^2$ represents zooplankton mortality, $(PIC^* : POC^*)$ is the production ratio of $CaCO_3$ to particulate organic carbon, and $R_{C:P}$ is the molar elemental ratio of carbon to phosphorus. As the vertically integrated $CaCO_3$ (PIC) production in the model is parameterized as a fixed ratio of the production of nondiazotrophic detritus (POC), the strength of the $CaCO_3$ -pump is strongly influenced by the $PIC^* : POC^*$ parameter. The dissolution of $CaCO_3$ in the water column assumes an instantaneous sinking of the vertically integrated production (Schmittner et al., 2008) with an e-folding depth of 6500 m.

Phytoplankton growth rates and microbial remineralization rates in the biological carbon cycle component are assumed to increase with increasing temperature (Eppley, 1972; Schmittner et al., 2008). Consequently, detrital production rates increase with increasing temperature as well due to enhanced biological carbon fixation. As $CaCO_3$ production in the model is parameterized as a fixed ratio of nondiazotrophic detrital production (the $PIC^* : POC^*$ parameter), $CaCO_3$ production rates tend to increase along with detrital production rates in response to increasing sea surface temperatures resulting in a stronger vertical ocean alkalinity gradient (Schmittner et al., 2008).

The marine sediment component consists of 13 layers ranging from a few millimeters near the sediment surface to a few centimeters at the bottom of the domain at a depth of 10 cm. The penetration depth of POC into the surface sediment mixed layer in contact with overlying bottom waters, or “pore layer”, is determined by the balance between the respiration rate constant and the sediment-mixing rate. Sediment $CaCO_3$ dissolution is regulated by the kinetics of diffusion of the dissolved reaction products from the sediments to the overlying water while the concentration and burial rates of

BGD

8, 11863–11897, 2011

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



sedimentary CaCO_3 are predicted using the PIC : POC rain ratio, dilutant burial rates (primarily clay and opal), and the reaction rate laws for both organic carbon and CaCO_3 (Archer, 1996). Only oxic metabolic dissolution of sedimentary CaCO_3 is simulated by the sediment component and the effects of suboxic and anoxic metabolism are not accounted for (Eby et al., 2009).

It should be noted that the UVic ESCM does not differentiate between the different polymorphs of CaCO_3 such as aragonite and calcite. Since the model does not properly resolve coastal processes where aragonite is produced we focus on the dependence of calcification on calcite saturation state only (Ω_{CaCO_3}), which is a reasonable approximation given that approximately 90 % of pelagic calcification is in the form of calcite (Fabry, 1990). Furthermore, mineral ballasting, which increases the efficiency of POC export to the deep sea, is not represented in the UVic ESCM therefore the model assumes an independence of organic and inorganic material fluxes to the deep ocean. Finally, for the purposes of this study, we have focused on the production dependence on Ω_{CaCO_3} , and have not also introduced a dependence of dissolution on Ω_{CaCO_3} .

2.2 Model experimental methodology

We present a series of transient model simulations from the year 1800 to 3500, so as to reasonably cover one full cycle of the oceanic meridional overturning circulation. In order to achieve a stable preindustrial climate, all model configurations were individually integrated for 10 000 model years using fixed preindustrial boundary conditions. Transient runs are categorized in two suites of six simulations each. The first suite (suite S) was forced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's "business-as-usual" SRES A2 CO_2 emissions scenario, reaching cumulative CO_2 emissions of 2166 PgC by the year 2100. After 2100, emissions were set to zero for the duration of the simulations. The second suite (suite M) was forced by a "mitigation" emissions scenario, in which emissions peaked in the year 2020 and decreased to zero in year 2100, such that cumulative CO_2 emissions were 1000 Pg C.

BGD

8, 11863–11897, 2011

CaCO_3 production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Within each suite (S and M), we carried out six simulations, each with an increasing sensitivity of CaCO_3 production to changes in Ω_{CaCO_3} (Fig. 1). In the standard model configuration, CaCO_3 production is independent of saturation state and the PIC : POC production ratio used in the calculation of CaCO_3 production is fixed at a value of 0.018. This configuration was used for the “control” simulations S0 and M0 (see Table 1) and represents only the temperature effect on CaCO_3 production (Schmittner et al., 2008). In the simulations with CaCO_3 production-saturation state dependence (S1 to S5 and M1 to M5 in Table 1), we introduced a Michaelis-Menten function to calculate the CaCO_3 : nondiazotrophic detritus production ratio (PIC : POC) as a function of saturation state (Ω):

$$\left(\frac{\text{PIC}}{\text{POC}}\right) = \left(\frac{\text{PIC}}{\text{POC}}\right)_{\text{max}} \times \left(\frac{(\Omega - 1)}{K_{\text{max}} + (\Omega - 1)}\right)$$

In this relationship, $(\text{PIC}/\text{POC})_{\text{max}}$ is a specified maximum production ratio, and K_{max} is a half-saturation constant defining the value of $(\Omega - 1)$ for which PIC/POC equals one half of $(\text{PIC}/\text{POC})_{\text{max}}$ (Gehlen et al., 2007).

Table 1 summarizes the values of $(\text{PIC} : \text{POC})_{\text{max}}$ and K_{max} used for each model version. We selected values of K_{max} ranging from 0.07 to 20 for each scenario in order to vary the shape of the PIC : POC vs. Ω_{CaCO_3} function between no PIC : POC – Ω_{CaCO_3} response (scenario 0) to a near linear response (scenario 5), as illustrated in Fig. 1. In order to keep the global preindustrial PIC : POC production ration the same in all models, we back-calculated the value for $(\text{PIC} : \text{POC})_{\text{max}}$ in each scenario using the global mean preindustrial sea-surface calcite saturation state value of 4.78 from the standard model. In the subsequent transient simulations, changes to the PIC : POC production ratio over time brought about by ocean acidification varied according to the imposed calcification sensitivities.

Alkalinity is removed from the ocean by permanent burial in sediments, and added to the ocean by dissolution of the active calcite sediment layer and by a weathering flux from land. In all simulations the weathering flux was held constant.

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[⏪](#)[⏩](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

3 Results

The modern CaCO_3 production rate of 0.6 Pg C y^{-1} predicted in the standard version of the model falls within the estimates of $0.6\text{--}1.6 \text{ Pg C y}^{-1}$ based on satellite and sediment trap data and of $0.4\text{--}1.8 \text{ Pg C y}^{-1}$ based on model predictions (Doney et al., 2009). The rain ratio of CaCO_3 : POC across 130-m depth for all six model configurations is shown in Fig. 2. The global mean rain ratio for all six model configurations is 0.06 which is consistent with observational estimates of 0.06 ± 0.03 (Sarmiento et al., 2002) and is comparable to the range of $0.07\text{--}0.11$ established in other studies (Lee, 2001; Jin et al., 2006). The mean rain ratio across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans is also consistent with observational estimates (Sarmiento et al., 2002; Jin et al., 2006). Overall, the rain ratio exhibits a strong latitudinal dependence with lower global mean ratios at high latitudes. This latitudinal dependence is dominated by the temperature-effect on recycling, as indicated by the relatively small differences between the six saturation-state dependent scenarios. Nonetheless, increasing sensitivity of CaCO_3 production to Ω_{CaCO_3} increases the latitudinal dependence of the rain ratio. The errors and differences between the observational estimates are typically larger than the differences between the different model versions, which render the observations of little use in constraining the models.

Higher rain ratios at low latitudes lead to more efficient removal of alkalinity from the tropical surface ocean (Fig. 3). The control model (S0) captures the spatial patterns of high surface potential alkalinity at high latitudes and along the eastern boundary of the Pacific and low values elsewhere, although the observed gradients are slightly overestimated. Models with high sensitivity of CaCO_3 production to Ω_{CaCO_3} increase the gradients even more making the agreement with the observations worse.

A comparison of modeled ocean alkalinity and DIC in the year 1995 with gridded data sets based on field measurements in the 1990's (Key et al., 2004) is shown in Fig. 4. The UVic model version 2.9 contains an average of 59 mmol m^{-3} more alkalinity than the observations, due to errors in the burial flux of CaCO_3 . In addition, the

BGD

8, 11863–11897, 2011

CaCO_3 production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



model simulates a somewhat stronger alkalinity pump than observed, evidenced by high simulated alkalinity in the deep North Pacific. There is little difference between the standard configuration of the model (run S0) and the extreme calcification-sensitivity configuration (run S5) relative to both each other and GLODAP observations. Run S5 has higher alkalinity values in the deep ocean, particularly in the northern hemisphere, increasing the difference with the observations compared to run S0. In Southern Ocean bottom waters, on the other hand, values are lower and in better agreement with the observations compared to S0. Zonally averaged DIC concentrations are almost indistinguishable in the different models.

In the standard “business as usual” simulation (run S0), total ocean carbon increased by 517 Pg C by 2100, resulting in maximum decreases of globally averaged surface pH and surface Ω_{CaCO_3} of 0.397 and 2.34 respectively near year 2100 (Fig. 5). In the standard “mitigation” run M0, the reductions of sea surface pH and Ω_{CaCO_3} were much less, reaching maximal decreases of 0.175 and 1.19 respectively relative near 2100 (Fig. 5). In both cases, after CO_2 emissions ceased in the year 2100, ocean surface pH and saturation state rapidly stabilized and began slow recoveries. For the remainder of the discussion, we focus only on the business-as-usual simulations, given that the mitigation runs generally show the same patterns of variability but with smaller magnitudes, though information for both types of simulations are shown in the tables.

Varying the sensitivity of CaCO_3 production to decreasing Ω_{CaCO_3} had a dramatic effect on the response of CaCO_3 production rates to increased ocean carbon uptake. In the run with no dependence on saturation state (S0) the CaCO_3 production rate increased by as much as $\sim 0.18 \text{ Pg C y}^{-1}$, an increase of $\sim 20\%$ relative to the pre-industrial state (Fig. 6). In contrast, the strongest response to acidification (S5) caused an opposite response, with CaCO_3 production decreasing by almost 0.3 Pg C y^{-1} , a decrease of more than 30%. Simulation S3, with an intermediate dependence on saturation state, produced a cancellation between the temperature and acidification responses leading to a near-constant production rate of CaCO_3 .

BGD

8, 11863–11897, 2011

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



In simulations that included an acidification sensitivity (S1–S5), decreased CaCO₃ production led to weaker vertical gradients of alkalinity and DIC with increased concentrations at the surface and decreased concentrations at depth relative to control (Fig. 7). The greatest increases in alkalinity and DIC occurred in the thermocline and throughout the water column in the Arctic Ocean. Throughout most of the ocean, DIC and alkalinity decreased at depth as a result of decreased export of particulate inorganic carbon to the deep ocean, with the largest decreases evident at around 60° S and 45° N.

As shown in Fig. 8, the simulations show a large volume of the ocean falling below calcite saturation ($\Omega < 1$), extending to about 500 m depth in the equatorial region and in the high latitude Southern Oceans in the zonal average. Compared to the control simulation (S0), runs with acidification-sensitive calcification showed more severe undersaturation developing in the deep sea, and reduced acidification throughout the thermocline, due to weakening of the alkalinity pump.

The sedimentary CaCO₃ pool also responded to the calcifer sensitivity to acidification, affecting the global alkalinity inventory. In the control run, the PIC : POC rain ratio at the ocean sediments rose over time as a result of temperature effect on CaCO₃ production rates (Fig. 9). This rise was dampened by increasing sensitivity of calcification to acidification, with the most sensitive runs (S4 and S5) showing temporary decreases in the rain ratio below the initial rain ratio. But despite any increases in the rain ratio, the global mass of CaCO₃ sediment in the active layer decreased in all cases, due to dissolution by acidic bottom waters. The burial rate of CaCO₃ sediments decreased with increasing sensitivity of calcifiers to acidification, because of the relatively smaller flux of CaCO₃ to the sediments (Fig. 9, Table 5).

4 Discussion

In the absence of the Ω_{CaCO_3} -effect (runs S0 and M0), CaCO₃ production increased proportionally with the temperature-dependent primary production rate, as shown by

Schmittner et al. (2008). This occurs despite a small decrease in the globally-averaged surface PO_4 concentration (not shown) due to greater recycling of nutrients and higher intrinsic growth rates (Eppley, 1971). In configurations 1 and 2, the sensitivity of CaCO_3 production rates to changes in Ω_{CaCO_3} was not high enough to completely counteract this temperature effect. Thus, although reduced relative to control, CaCO_3 production rates in these configurations increased between years 1800 and 2100 despite increasing ocean acidification. In configurations 3–5, however, the sensitivity of CaCO_3 production rates to changes in Ω_{CaCO_3} was high enough to counteract this temperature effect resulting in decreases in CaCO_3 production rates between years 1800 and 2100. In the most extreme case, the globally integrated CaCO_3 production of configuration S0 was 30 % higher than that of S5 in the year 2100.

The CaCO_3 pump representation in the UVic ESCM is fairly simple (e.g. there is no distinction between the different polymorphs of CaCO_3). Nonetheless, the results generally agree with other similar studies in that increasing acidification lead to a reduction in CaCO_3 production rates, to a degree dependent on the sensitivity of calcifiers to saturation state (Andrersson et al., 2006; Gangsto et al., 2008, 2011; Gehlen et al., 2007; Heinze, 2004; Ridgwell et al., 2006; SCBD, 2009). The important dynamic highlighted here – the opposing effects of increasing growth rates vs. decreasing calcification – depends equally on the complex response of ocean ecosystems to recycling of nutrients in the surface layer, and the myriad controls on export. It is difficult to evaluate to what degree the model represents these processes properly, given the current state of understanding, but it is also certain to vary between models. Tentative comparison to surface potential alkalinity observations (Fig. 3) indicates that these observations could be used in the future to better constrain the relative importance of the temperature versus the acidification effect. Our results emphasize that temperature-driven changes may be of equal or greater importance to acidification in determining future pelagic CaCO_3 production.

In our simulations, carbon is redistributed differently amongst the atmospheric, ocean, and sediment reservoirs dependent on the varying CaCO_3 production rates.

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



In all simulations, decreasing CaCO_3 production rates resulted in greater carbon uptake by the ocean and a reduced airborne fraction of carbon. Between years 1800 and 3500, atmospheric $p\text{CO}_2$ decreased by 2.81–52.2 ppmv in runs S1–S5 (and by 0.377–11.2 ppmv in runs M1–M5) relative to control, a similar magnitude to that estimated by Barker et al. (2003), Heinze et al. (2004), Gehlen et al. (2007). It is interesting to note that the net increase of the ocean carbon reservoir exceeds the decrease of the atmospheric carbon reservoir (Tables 2 and 3). The carbon that makes up the difference originates from the terrestrial and marine sediment carbon reservoirs. The sediment reservoir, in particular, adds carbon to the ocean due to CaCO_3 -sediment dissolution. This highlights the importance of including inter-active terrestrial carbon and sediment carbon components when assessing the CO_2 - CaCO_3 climate feedback.

The downward flux of CaCO_3 from the sediment pore layer followed the same pattern as CaCO_3 production rates seen in the S simulations and decreased relative to simulation S0 with greater sensitivity of CaCO_3 production to Ω_{CaCO_3} . Consequently, the decrease in rain ratio contributed to both a reduction of CaCO_3 in the pore-layer and decreased accumulation of CaCO_3 in deeper sediments (Table 4). We note that inclusion of the ballast-effect of CaCO_3 on settling organic matter fluxes (Armstrong, 2002) would likely decrease the sensitivity of CaCO_3 burial to the CaCO_3 export flux, by reducing the variability in sediment rain ratios.

5 Conclusions

Ocean acidification is a growing concern in the scientific community. Its impact on calcifying marine life shows high inter-species variability, and the subsequent changes to marine carbon cycling contribute uncertainty to climate model predictions of future climate change and the fate of anthropogenic CO_2 .

A number of modeling studies have attempted to address this uncertainty by assessing a range of biogenic calcification responses to changes in CaCO_3 saturation state rather than relying on the single-calcifier species representation commonly found

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8, 11863–11897, 2011

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



in many ocean ecosystem/biogeochemical models (Ridgwell et al., 2006; Ilynia et al., 2009; Gangsto et al., 2011). Our research has applied a broadly similar approach by implementing a new dependence of CaCO_3 production rates on calcite saturation state to a coupled carbon-climate model. We used six model configurations: one control configuration where CaCO_3 production rates remained independent of saturation state and five calcification response configurations with increasing sensitivity of production rates to saturation state changes. These configurations were forced by two different CO_2 emissions scenarios allowing us to assess the differences in carbon partitioning between the various reservoirs, alkalinity and dissolved inorganic carbon distribution, and the strength of the ocean carbon sink.

Our simulations show that the response of the UVic ESCM's marine CaCO_3 cycle to anthropogenic CO_2 hinges on the degree to which increased temperatures accelerate plankton growth, vs. the degree to which acidification hinders calcification. Greater sensitivity to acidification shifts carbon partitioning between atmosphere, ocean, and marine sediments by weakening the vertical ocean alkalinity and DIC gradients and decreasing sediment burial of CaCO_3 . Both of these effects increase surface ocean alkalinity. As a result, ocean carbon uptake is enhanced, acting as a negative feedback on rising atmospheric CO_2 of approximately 13%, producing an equivalent decrease in warming by year 3500 of 13% (0.4°C). In the absence of a strong sensitivity of calcifiers to acidification, the climate feedback on the carbon cycle is positive, increasing the airborne fraction of carbon as the ocean warms (Schmittner et al., 2008). It appears that the effect of the CaCO_3 production- Ω_{CaCO_3} relationship on the marine carbon cycle is significant for future climate projections, on the millennial timescale. This effect is in addition to the serious effects that acidification is expected to have on pelagic and coastal biota. Improving the representation of long-term carbon-cycle processes in models will help us to quantify and evaluate the millennial-scale climate legacy that we may bequeath to future generations.

CaCO_3 production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

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CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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**CaCO₃ production in
a warming and
acidifying ocean**

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

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30

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



Table 1. Summary of Model Run Calibrations.

Scenarios	Cumulative CO ₂ Emissions by 2100 (PgC)	K_{\max}	(PIC : POC) _{max}	PIC : POC at Preindustrial Surface Ω_{calcite}	Preindustrial Surface Ω_{calcite}
S0	2166 PgC (all S)	–	–	0.0180 (all)	4.78 (all)
S1		0.07	0.0183		
S2		0.5	0.0204		
S3		1.5	0.0251		
S4		3	0.0322		
S5	20	0.113			
M0	1000 PgC (all M)	–	–	0.0180 (all)	4.78 (all)
M1		0.07	0.0183		
M2		0.5	0.0204		
M3		1.5	0.0251		
M4		3	0.0322		
M5	20	0.113			

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Table 2. Summary of the change in atmospheric and ocean output for years 1800–3500 for Suite S simulations. Values in column S₀₁₈₀₀ represent absolute output in the base model in year 1800. Subsequent columns show differences from 1800 to 3500 for each calcification sensitivity (S₀ to S₅).

	S ₀ ₁₈₀₀	S ₀ _{3500–1800}	S ₁ _{3500–1800}	S ₂ _{3500–1800}	S ₃ _{3500–1800}	S ₄ _{3500–1800}	S ₅ _{3500–1800}
CaCO ₃ Production Rate (Pg C y ⁻¹)	0.572	0.143	0.132	0.0776	0.0235	-0.0150	-0.0926
Sea Surface Alkalinity (Pg C)	175	-5.23	-4.98	-3.94	-2.71	-1.76	0.340
Sea Surface DIC (Pg C)	152	4.44	4.61	5.30	6.13	6.76	8.16
Sea Surface pCO ₂ (ppmv)	293	316	313	302	290	281	263
Total Ocean Alkalinity (Pg C)	39 495	39.1	48.6	97.2	157	203	319
Total Ocean Carbon (Pg C)	37 321	1138	1150	1200	1260	1305	1410
Total Atmospheric Carbon (Pg C)	602	667	661	637	612	594	556
Sea Surface Calcite Saturation State	4.81	-1.81	-1.79	-1.73	-1.65	-1.59	-1.45
Sea Surface pH	8.16	-0.288	-0.286	-0.277	-0.267	-0.259	-0.242

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Table 3. Summary of the change in atmospheric and ocean output for years 1800–3500 for Suite M simulations. Values in column MO₁₈₀₀ represent absolute output in the base model in year 1800. Subsequent columns show differences from 1800 to 3500 for each calcification sensitivity (M1 to M5).

	MO ₁₈₀₀	MO _{3500–1800}	M1 _{3500–1800}	M2 _{3500–1800}	M3 _{3500–1800}	M4 _{3500–1800}	M5 _{3500–1800}
CaCO ₃ Production Rate (Pg C y ⁻¹)	0.572	0.0615	0.0585	0.0436	0.0237	0.00752	-0.0286
Sea Surface Alkalinity (Pg C)	175	-2.31	-2.24	-1.95	-1.53	-1.17	-0.228
Sea Surface DIC (Pg C)	152	1.97	2.02	2.21	2.48	2.70	3.31
Sea Surface pCO ₂ (ppmv)	293	104	103	102	99.4	97.4	92.4
Total Ocean Alkalinity (Pg C)	39 495	15.3	17.9	32.4	53.4	72.0	130
Total Ocean Carbon (Pg C)	37 321	584	587	600	619	634	681
Total Atmospheric Carbon (Pg C)	602	219	218	215	210	206	195
Sea Surface Calcite Saturation State	4.81	-0.841	-0.835	-0.813	-0.782	-0.755	-0.684
Sea Surface pH	8.16	-0.119	-0.119	-0.117	-0.114	-0.111	-0.104

Title Page

Abstract

Introduction

Conclusions

References

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



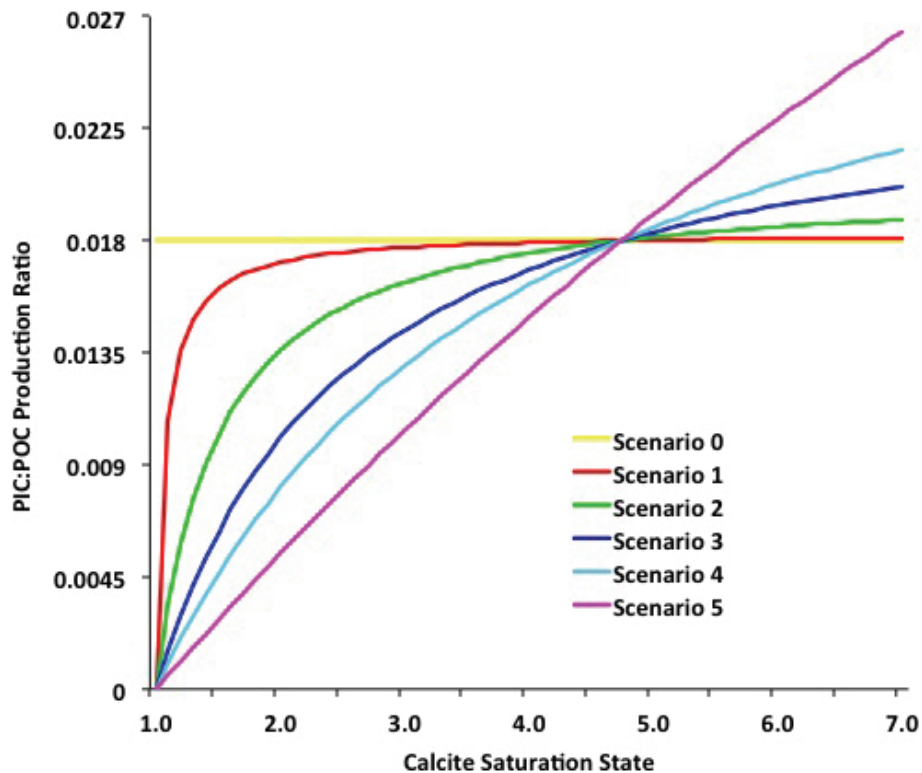


Fig. 1. CaCO_3 : Particulate organic carbon production ratio dependence on calcite saturation state.

CaCO_3 production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

Title Page

Abstract Introduction

Conclusions References

Tables Figures

◀ ▶

◀ ▶

Back Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

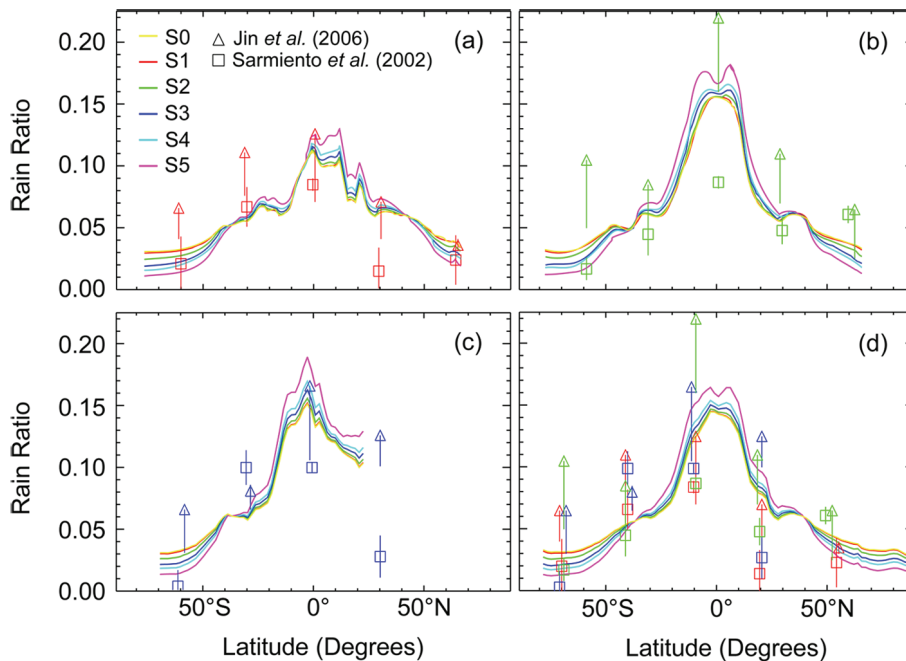


Fig. 2. Zonally averaged CaCO₃:Particulate organic carbon flux (rain ratio) across 130-m depth in comparison with observational estimates from Sarmiento et al. (2002) (square symbols) and Jin et al. (2006) (triangles) including their reported error bars (vertical lines) for the (a) Atlantic, (b) Pacific, and (c) Indian Oceans as well as (d) the global model mean.

Discussion Paper | Discussion Paper | Discussion Paper | Discussion Paper | Discussion Paper

Title Page

Abstract Introduction

Conclusions References

Tables Figures

◀ ▶

◀ ▶

Back Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



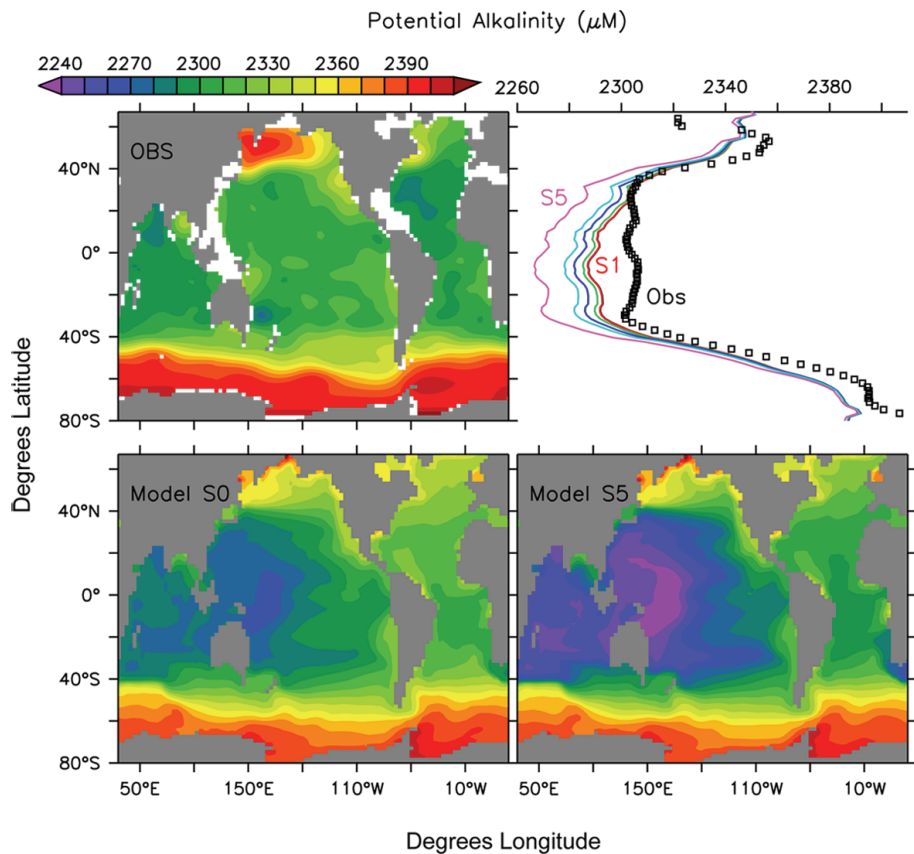


Fig. 3. Comparison of observed (top left) and modeled (bottom) surface distributions of potential alkalinity. The top right panel shows zonally averaged values for the observations (squares) and the different models (color lines). Note that the black line representing model S0 is overlain by the red line representing model S1 because both are almost undistinguishable.

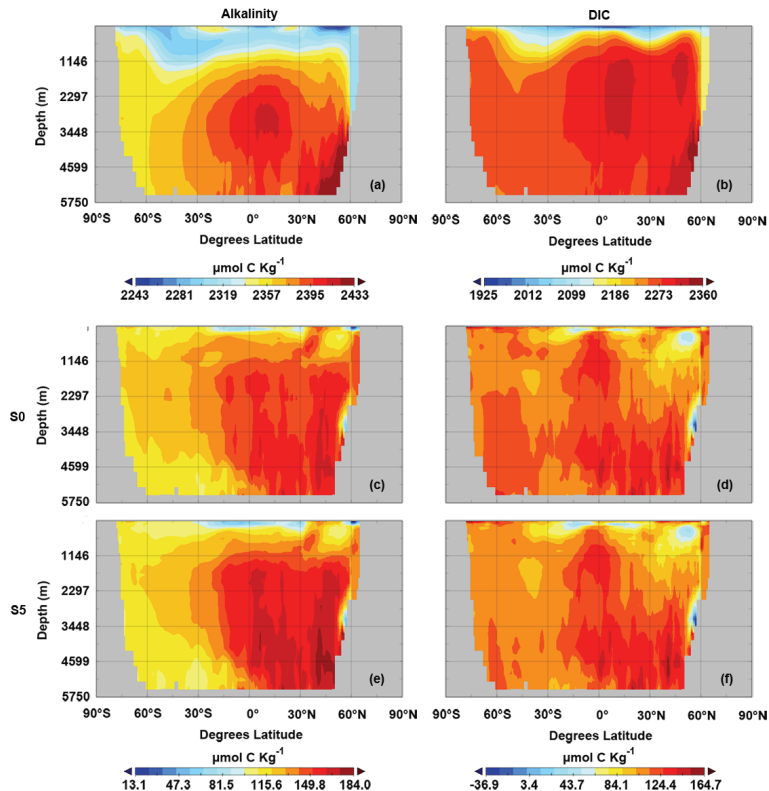


Fig. 4. Observed **(a)** ocean alkalinity and **(b)** dissolved inorganic carbon (Key et al., 2004). Panels **(c)** and **(e)** are plots of the difference between the zonally averaged global ocean alkalinity model output in year 1995 and observations for runs S0 and S5, respectively. Panels **(d)** and **(f)** are plots of the difference between the zonally averaged global dissolved inorganic carbon model output in year 1995 and observations for runs S0 and S5, respectively.

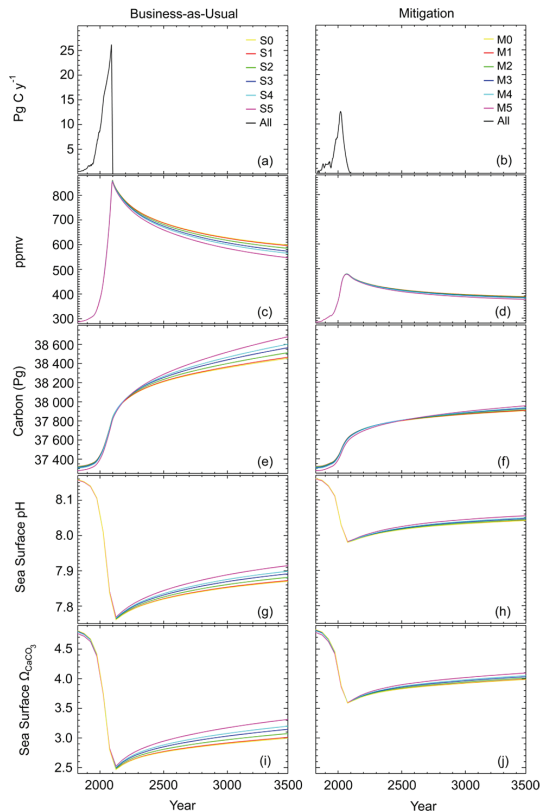


Fig. 5. (a and b) Change in anthropogenic CO₂ emissions, (c and d) globally averaged atmospheric CO₂ concentration, (e and f) globally averaged ocean carbon, (g and h) globally averaged sea surface pH, and (i and j) globally averaged calcite saturation state under a “business-as-usual” (Suite S) and a “mitigation” CO₂ emissions scenario (Suite M), respectively.

CaCO₃ production in a warming and acidifying ocean

A. J. Pinsonneault et al.

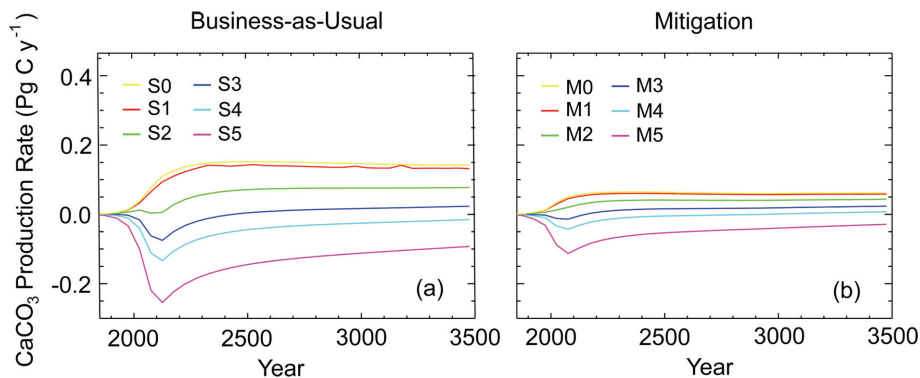


Fig. 6. Change in total sea surface CaCO₃ production rate under (a) a “business-as-usual” CO₂ emissions scenario (Suite S) and (b) under “mitigation” CO₂ emissions scenario (Suite M).

[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

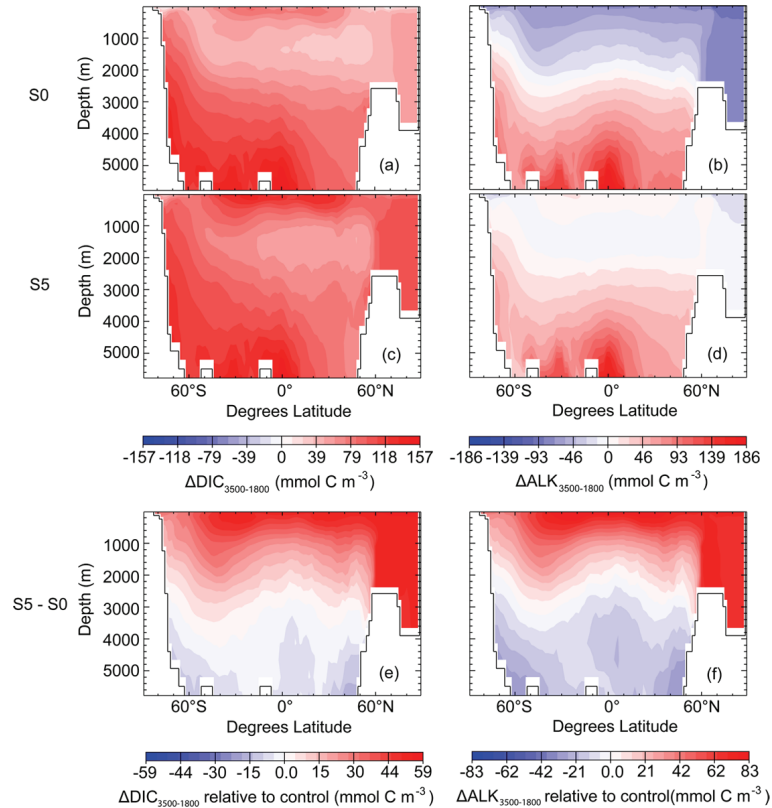


Fig. 7. (a) Global zonally averaged $\Delta\text{DIC}_{3500-1800}$ for run S0, (b) the global zonally averaged $\Delta\text{ALK}_{3500-1800}$ for runs S0, (c) the global zonally averaged $\Delta\text{DIC}_{3500-1800}$ for run S5, (d) the global zonally averaged $\Delta\text{ALK}_{3500-1800}$ for runs S5, (e) the difference in global zonally averaged $\Delta\text{DIC}_{3500-1800}$ relative to control (S0) for run S5, and (f) the difference in global zonally averaged $\Delta\text{ALK}_{3500-1800}$ relative to control (S0) for run S5.

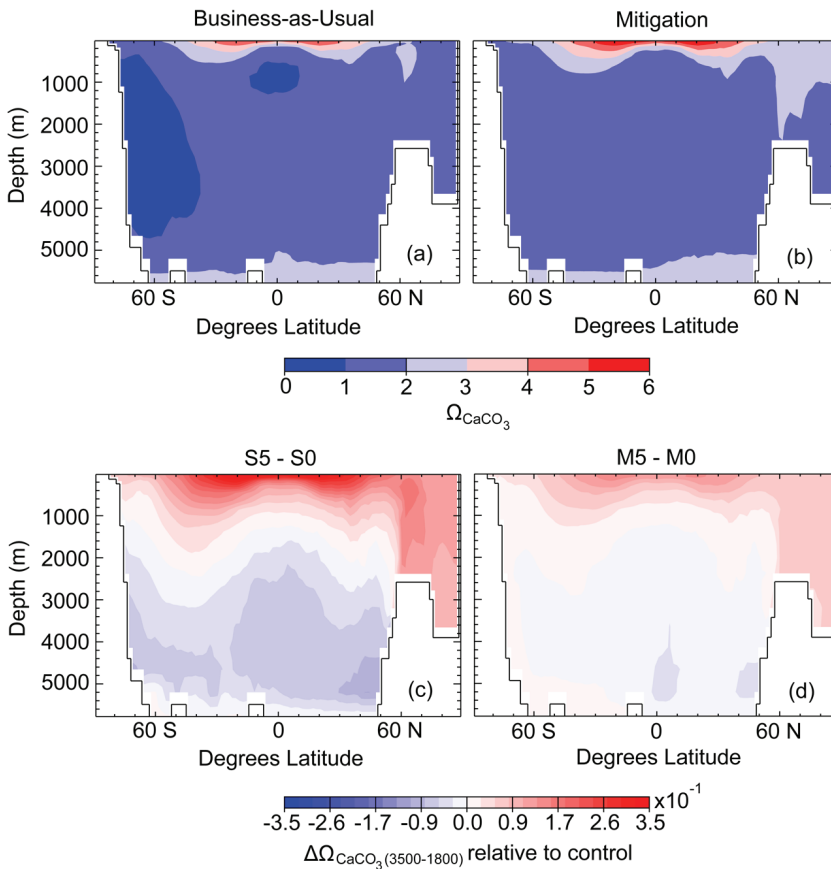


Fig. 8. Global zonally averaged ocean calcite saturation state in year 3500 for **(a)** run S0 and **(b)** run M0 and the global zonally averaged change in $\Delta\Omega_{\text{CaCO}_3(3500-1800)}$ relative to control (scenario 0) for **(c)** run S5 and **(d)** run M5, respectively.

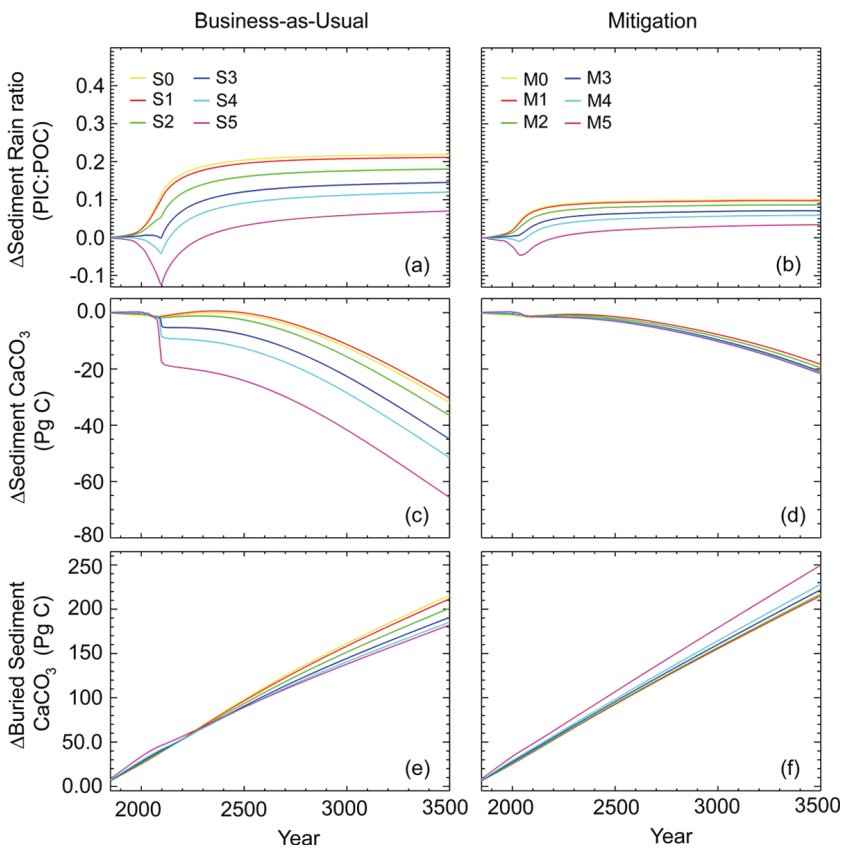


Fig. 9. (a and b) Change in globally averaged sediment rain ratio, (c and d) the total CaCO₃-carbon in the sediment surface pore layer, (e and f) and the total CaCO₃ buried in deeper marine sediments under a “business-as-usual” a “mitigation” CO₂ emissions scenario, respectively.