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Carbonate System Parameters of an Algal-dominated Reef along West Maui

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Abstract

Constraining coral reef metabolism and carbon chemistry dynamics are fundamental for understanding and predicting reef vulnerability to rising coastal CO_2 concentrations and decreasing seawater pH. However, few studies exist along reefs occupying densely inhabited shorelines with known input from land-based sources of pollution. The shallow coral reefs off Kahekili, West Maui, are exposed to nutrient-enriched, low-pH submarine groundwater discharge (SGD) and are particularly vulnerable to the compounding stressors from land-based sources of pollution and lower seawater pH. To constrain the carbonate chemistry system, nutrients and carbonate chemistry were measured along the Kahekili reef flat every 4 h over a 6-d sampling period in March 2016. Abiotic process - primarily SGD fluxes - controlled the carbonate chemistry adjacent to the primary SGD vent site, with nutrient-laden freshwater decreasing pH levels and favoring undersaturated aragonite saturation (Ω_{arag}) conditions. In contrast, diurnal variability in the carbonate chemistry at other sites along the reef flat was driven by reef community metabolism. Superimposed on the diurnal signal was a transition during the second sampling period to a surplus of total alkalinity (TA) and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) compared to ocean end-member TA and DIC measurements. A shift from net community production and calcification to net respiration and carbonate dissolution was identified. This transition occurred during a period of increased SGD-driven nutrient loading, lower wave height, and reduced current speeds. This detailed study of carbon chemistry dynamics highlights the need to incorporate local effects of nearshore oceanographic processes into predictions of coral reef vulnerability and resilience.

1. Introduction

Coral reefs provide critical shoreline protection and important ecosystem services, such as marine habitat, and support local economies through tourism, fishing, and recreation (Hughes et al., 2003; Ferrario et al., 2014). However, coral reefs are being threatened by global climate change processes, such as increasing temperatures, ocean acidification (OA), and sea-level rise, and these effects are often compounded by local stressors from over-fishing, sedimentation, coastal acidification, and land-based sources of pollution (Knowlton and Jackson, 2008). Isolating the effects of these stressors is difficult without establishing the biological and physical controls on community calcification and production. This is particularly challenging for coral reefs adjacent to densely inhabited shorelines, where freshwater fluxes can deliver excess nutrients, leading to eutrophication and coastal acidification, outbreaks of harmful algal blooms (Anderson et al., 2002), and decreased coral abundance and diversity (Fabricius, 2005;Lapointe et al., 2005). In many cases, eutrophication can alter ecosystem function and structure by shifting reefs from coral- to algae-dominated (Howarth et al.,

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2000; Andrefouet et al., 2002; Hughes et al., 2007). Changes in community structure can have profound impacts on coral reef metabolism and reef carbon chemistry dynamics, which are ultimately linked to reef health, and the ability to predict future responses to rising pCO_2 levels (Andersson and Gledhill, 2013). Understanding the local drivers of ecosystem function and reef community metabolism is critical for gauging the susceptibility of the reef ecosystem to future changes in ocean chemistry.

Numerous efforts have been conducted along west Maui, Hawaii, USA, to characterize and quantify submarine groundwater discharge (SGD) and associated nutrient input (Dailer et al., 2010;Dailer et al., 2012;Glenn et al., 2013; Swarzenski et al., 2013; Swarzenski et al., 2016). Until this study, however, no field-based measurements of carbonate system parameters were available from the reefs in this area. The carbonate chemistry system is sensitive to changes in photosynthesis, respiration, calcification, and dissolution, and can be characterized by measuring total alkalinity (TA), dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), pH, pCO_2, nutrients, salinity, and temperature. Analysis of these parameters yields valuable information on ratios of net community calcification and production, and can be used to identify biological and physical drivers of reef health and ecosystem function (Silverman et al., 2007; Shamberger et al., 2011; Lantz et al., 2014; Albright et al., 2015; Muehllehner et al., 2016; DeCarlo et al., 2017). Here, we present high temporal-resolution, in-situ measurements of carbonate chemistry dynamics collected from the shallow coral reef off Kahekili in Kaanapali, west Maui, Hawaii, USA (Fig. 1), with the aim of assessing the environmental controls on carbon metabolism (photosynthesis and respiration, calcification and dissolution), and evaluating reef community performance and function. This is particularly important given growing concern that coastal and ocean acidification may shift reef ecosystems from net calcification to net dissolution by the mid to end of the century (Silverman et al., 2009; Andersson and Gledhill, 2013) with an overall reduction in calcification rates and increase in dissolution rates (Shamberger et al., 2011; Shaw et al., 2012; Bernstein et al., 2016) that can contribute to reef collapse (Yates et al., 2017).

The health of many of Maui's coral reefs has been declining rapidly (Rodgers et al., 2015), with recent coral bleaching events leading to increased coral mortality (Sparks et al., 2016). The decline in coral cover along the shallow coral reef at Kahekili has been observed for decades (Wiltse, 1996; Ross et al., 2012), along with a history of macro-algal blooms (Smith et al., 2005). The shift in benthic cover from abundant corals to turf- or macro-algae (primarily *Ulva fasciata*) and increased rates of coral bioerosion has been linked to input of nutrient-rich water via wastewater injection wells (Dailer et al.,

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2010;Dailer et al., 2012; Prouty et al. 2017a). Treated wastewater is injected through these wells into groundwater that flows toward the coast where it emerges on the reef through a network of small seeps and vents (Glenn et al., 2013;Swarzenski et al., 2016). Changes in coastal water quality observed off west Maui can impact the balance of production of $CaCO_3$ skeletons by plants and animals on the reef, cementation of sand and rubble, and $CaCO_3$ breakdown and removal that occurs through bioerosion, dissolution, and offshore transport. Here, a high-resolution seawater sampling study was conducted to constrain the carbonate chemistry system and evaluate the biological and physical processes altering reef health along the shallow coral reef at Kahekili. This study represents the first characterization of diurnal and multi-day variability of coral reef carbonate chemistry along a tropical fringing reef adjacent to a densely inhabited shoreline with known input from land-based sources of pollution, and identifies the controls on carbon metabolism. Ultimately, understanding carbonate system dynamics is essential for managing compounding effects from local stressors.

2. Methods

2.1 Study Site

The benthic habitat along the shallow reef at Kahekili in Kaanapali, West Maui (Fig. 1) consists of aggregate reef, patch reef, pavement, reef rubble and spur and groove (Cochran et al., 2014), with persistent current flow to the south (Storlazzi and Jaffe, 2008). Only 51% of the hardbottom at Kahekili is covered with at least 10% live coral (Cochran et al., 2014). The shallow fore reef experiences algae blooms, in response to inputs of nutrient-rich water via wastewater injection wells (Dailer et al., 2010;Dailer et al., 2012). Groundwater inputs occur from both natural sources (rainfall and natural infiltration) and from artificial recharge (irrigation and anthropogenic wastewater). The inland Wailuku Basalt, consisting of a band of unconsolidated sediment along the coast, and a small outcrop of Lahaina Volcanics, dominates the geology of the area surrounding the study site, controlling the flow of groundwater. Mean annual precipitation rates are up to 900 cm yr^{-1} (Giambelluca et al., 2013), with natural recharge the greatest in the interior mountains.

2.2 Field Sampling

Two intensive sampling periods were carried out during the 6-d period between 16 to 24 March 2016. Seawater nutrients and carbonate chemistry variables were collected every 4 h during each sampling period from the primary vent site and in adjacent coastal waters along the shallow reef at Kahekili (Fig. 1). The first sampling period was from 15:00 on 16 March 2016 to 15:00 on 19 March 2016, and the second sampling period was from 15:00 on 21 March 2016 to 11:00 on 24 March 2016 (all reported

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111 times in local [HST]). There were five sampling sites: two shallow (<1.5 m) sites (S1 and S2) located
112 approximately 10 m offshore, two deeper (5 m) sites (S3 and S4) located approximately 115 m
113 offshore, and a shallow site located approximately 20 m offshore and adjacent to an active SGD vent
114 (vent site) (Glenn et al., 2013;Swarzenski et al., 2016). Sampling tubes (ranging from approximately
115 100 to 200 m in length) were installed at each site by affixing the tube to a concrete block located
116 approximately 20 cm above the seafloor, or by attaching the tubing directly to dead reef structure using
117 zip ties. Tube intakes were fitted with a stainless steel screen cap to prevent uptake of large
118 particulates. The remaining length of each tube was positioned along the seafloor to the adjacent beach
119 by weighting the tube with a 1 m piece of chain, or by weaving the tube through dead reef structure
120 approximately every 20 m. The tube outflow ends were labeled for each sampling site, bundled in a
121 common location, and located above the high water line on the beach for sampling access. A peristaltic
122 pump was used to pump seawater from the seafloor. Sampling tubes were flushed for a minimum of 20
123 minutes to remove residual seawater before collecting data and water samples. Temperature (±
124 0.01°C), salinity (± 0.01), and dissolved oxygen (±0.1 mg L^{-1}) of water samples were measured using a
125 YSI ProPlus multimeter that was calibrated daily. However, due to temperature change during water
126 transit time within the sampling tube, in-situ temperatures were also recorded from Solonist CTD
127 Divers installed at the intake of each sampling tube. An upward-looking 2-MHz Nortek Aquadopp
128 acoustic Doppler profiler (ADP) was deployed at the southern deeper site (S4). The ADP sampled
129 waves at 2 Hz for 17 min every hour and currents at 1 Hz every 10 min in 1-m vertical bins from 1 m
130 above the seabed up to the ocean surface.
131
132 *2.3 Seawater Analyses*
133 Samples for dissolved nutrients (NH_4^+, Si, PO_4^{3-}, and [NO_3^-+NO_2^-]) were collected in duplicate by
134 filtering water with an in-line 0.45-µm filter and 0.20-µm syringe filter, and were kept frozen until
135 analysis. Nutrients were analyzed at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's nutrient laboratory
136 and University of California at Santa Barbara's Marine Science Institute Analytical Laboratory via
137 flow injection analysis for NH_4^+, Si, PO_4^{3-}, and [NO_3^-+ NO_2^-], with precisions of 0.6-3.0%, 0.6-0.8%,
138 0.9-1.3%, and 0.3%-1.0% relative standard deviations, respectively. Select samples were collected and
139 analyzed for nitrate isotope ($\delta^{15}N$ and $\delta^{18}O$) analyses at the University of California at Santa Cruz
140 using the chemical reduction method (McIlvin and Altabet, 2005;Ryabenko et al., 2009) and
141 University of California at Davis' Stable Isotope Facilities using the denitrifier method (Sigman et al.,
142 2001). The isotope analysis was conducted using a Thermo Finnigan MAT 252 coupled with a
143 GasBench II interface; isotope values are presented in per mil (‰) with respect to AIR for $\delta^{15}N$ and

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VSMO for $\delta^{18}O$ with a precision of 0.3-0.4‰ and 0.5-0.6‰ for $\delta^{15}N$-nitrate and $\delta^{18}O$-nitrate, respectively.

Seawater samples for determining carbonate chemistry variables (pH on the total scale, TA, and DIC) were collected from the 5 sampling sites using a peristaltic pump and pressure filtering seawater through a 0.45-µm filter. Samples for pH (±0.005) were filtered into 30-mL optical glass cells and analyzed within 1 hr of collection using spectrophotometric methods (Zhang and Byrne, 1996), an Ocean Optics USB2000 spectrometer, and thymol blue indicator dye. Samples for TA (±1 µmol kg^{-1}) and DIC (±2 µmol kg^{-1}) were filtered into 300-ml borosilicate glass bottles, preserved by adding 100 µL saturated $HgCl_2$ solution and pressure sealed with ground glass stoppers coated with Apiezon grease. TA samples were analyzed using spectrophotometric methods of (Yao and Byrne, 1998) with an Ocean Optics USB2000 spectrometer and bromocresol purple indicator dye. DIC samples were analyzed using a UIC carbon coulometer model CM5014 and CM5130 acidification module fitted with a sulfide scrubber, and methods of (Dickson et al., 2007). In-situ temperatures recorded from Solonist CTD Divers were reported and used to temperature-correct pH and perform CO2SYS calculations as described below.

Certified reference materials (CRM) for TA and DIC analyses were from the Marine Physical Laboratory of Scripps Institution of Oceanography (Dickson et al., 2007). Duplicate or triplicate analyses were performed on at least 10% of samples, yielding a mean precision of ~1 µmol kg^{-1} and ~2 µmol kg^{-1} for TA and DIC analyses, respectively. The full seawater CO_2 system was calculated with measured salinity, temperature, nutrients (phosphate and silicate), TA, DIC, and pH data using an Excel Workbook Macro translation of the original CO2SYS program (Pierrot et al., 2006). Given the enriched nutrient setting of the study site, TA values were nutrient corrected in CO2SYS (Dickson, 1981). The aragonite saturation state and pCO_2 are reported based on TA-pH pairs, with dissociation constants K_1 and K_2 from (Mehrbach et al., 1973) refit by (Dickson and Millero, 1987) and KSO4 from (Dickson, 1990). The TA and DIC values were normalized to salinity (by multiplying by a factor of 35/S, where S is the measured salinity value) to account for variations in TA and DIC driven by evaporation and/or precipitation (Friis et al., 2003) and are reported as *n*TA and *n*DIC as previously established in reef geochemical surveys (e.g., Suzuki and Kawahata, 2003; Yates et al., 2014; Muehllehner et al., 2016). However at the vent site the TA and DIC data was not normalized to salinity given the contribution of TA and DIC from SGD.

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3. Results

3.1 Submarine Groundwater Endmember

The magnitude of change and absolute values in the carbonate chemistry, nutrients, and salinity were greatest at the primary vent site relative to the four sites along the reef. The salinity ranged from 10.64 to 36.72 over the 6-d period (Fig. 2A), with the most dramatic decrease in salinity on March 22nd when salinity decreased from 32.45 to 12.47 within 4 hr. The reduction in salinity was sustained over a 32-hr period. A rapid change was also observed in the pH, DO, TA, DIC, and nutrient concentrations (Fig. 2). For example, nitrate concentrations at the vent site ranged from 0.45 to over 70 μmol L^{-1}, with an average nitrate concentration of 117 (SD 0.09) μmol L^{-1} measured directly from the discharging seep water. The Ω_{arag} values decreased to less than 1 and pCO_2 values increased to 2000 μatm when salinity values dropped to less than 15 (Fig. 2D). No diurnal pattern was detected in the seawater carbonate chemistry at this site. Instead, these results are consistent with earlier work documenting lower pH, nutrient enriched freshwater endmember values tightly coupled to SGD (Swarzenski et al., 2012; Glenn et al., 2013;Swarzenski et al., 2016).

3.2 Reef Flat

In contrast to the vent site, the overall magnitude of carbonate chemistry variation at the other four sites along the reef flat was less, and the signal was coherent among these sites. This coherency is captured in the pH time series (Fig. 3B), where the pH data from the four sites were significantly (p<0.05) positively correlated with each other (with r ~ 0.5). The lowest salinity value along the reef flat was 33.51, indicating minimal freshwater influence on reef flat salinity. As a result, the carbonate system parameters measured along the reef were non-linear with respect to salinity, instead a diurnal pattern dominated the signal (Fig. 3). Lowest pH values occurred around midnight (23:00); and highest pH values occurred in the afternoon (~14:00-15:00). This diurnal pattern was also apparent in the DIC data, with lowest values in the afternoon and increasing around midnight, with a cubic spline fit (Press et al., 1988) highlighting diurnal cycle from all four sites along the reef flat. Likewise, the diurnal signal was identifiable in the Ω_{arag} and pCO_2 time-series, with Ω_{arag} values increasing and pCO_2 decreasing during the mid-day hours (Fig. 3). The diurnal signal in the nTA time-series was similar to the signal for nDIC. At the shallow (<5 m) sites, pH and DO covaried (r^2=0.43-0.87; p<0.001). The range in pH and Ω_{arag} was largest at the shallow sites; however, the average values were similar along the reef, 3.02 to 3.06 and 8.00 to 8.01, respectively, and were elevated relative to the average values recorded at the vent site, 7.85 (SD 0.17) and 2.28 (SD 0.81) for pH and Ω_{arag}, respectively (Prouty et al., 2017b). No diurnal pattern was observed for the nutrient data; however, there was an offshore

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gradient in nutrient concentrations with enriched nutrients at the shallow sites compared to the deeper sites. Nutrient concentrations (Si, PO_4^{3-}, and NO_3^-) from the two shallow sites were statistically greater than the two deeper sites according to pairwise multi-comparison one-way ANOVA with a *post hoc* Tukey HSD (p>0.05). For example average nitrate concentrations at the two shallow sites were 0.71 (SD 0.35) and 0.41 (0.18 SD) compared to 0.17 (SD 0.10) and 0.19 (SD 0.11) μmol L^{-1}. Deficits and surpluses of *n*TA and *n*DIC, with respect to open ocean conditions, were calculated as Δ*n*TA and Δ*n*DIC using values from Station HOT (Dore et al., 2009), located approximately 250 km offshore. The Δ*n*TA values ranged from -332 μmol kg^{-1} to 85 μmol kg^{-1} and -171 μmol kg^{-1} to 141 μmol kg^{-1} Δ*n*DIC. The standard error of difference (SE_{dif}) was calculated for Δ*n*TA and Δ*n*DIC values to evaluate whether the deficits and surpluses of *n*TA and *n*DIC were significant. Histogram plots reveal statistical (p=0.05; critical t value of 1.68; df=37) deficits and surpluses as well as differences between the first and second half of the sampling period (Fig. 4). Results show a shift from a deficit in Δ*n*TA to a surplus in Δ*n*TA at all stations, as well as a shift from a deficit in Δ*n*DIC to a surplus in Δ*n*DIC, suggesting a shift in the second sampling period from net $CaCO_3$ production to net $CaCO_3$ dissolution, and from net photosynthesis to net respiration. This change was most distinct at the two shallow sites. The *n*TA and *n*DIC values from the second sampling period were also enriched relative to a range of values reported from nearshore Oahu sites (Drupp et al., 2013).

4. Discussion

The diurnal pattern observed at the four sampling sites along the reef flat is typical of a reef environment where biotic processes involving coral reef community metabolism (e.g., respiration/photosynthesis and calcification/dissolution) dominate the carbonate chemistry system (e.g., Smith, 1973). The non-linear relationship between salinity and carbonate chemistry parameters further supports the notion that biotic processes are driving carbonate chemistry variability along the reef flat (Millero et al., 1998; Ianson et al., 2003). The lower amplitude *n*TA diurnal signal supports previous observations that the region was algal-dominated (Smith et al., 2005). In this case, the lower biomass of calcifying organisms leads to conditions that favor respiration-photosynthesis processes relative to calcification-dissolution (Jokiel et al., 2014). Elevated pH values during mid-day, coincident with elevated sea surface temperature (SST) and peak solar irradiance, are consistent with maximum photosynthetic activity. DIC decreased during the day due to photosynthesis, whereas at nighttime, pH decreased and DIC increased in response to respiration (Fig. 3). This pattern is in stark contrast to the primary vent site where no diurnal pattern was observed, and abiotic controls on the carbonate system dynamics explain the strong linear relation to salinity. Variability at the vent site is driven by SGD

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rates, which are elevated during low tide when hydraulic gradients are the steepest (Dimova et al., 2012;Swarzenski et al., 2016).

To further understand the temporal variability in carbonate chemistry over the 6-d sampling period along the reef flat, diagrams of *n*TA versus *n*DIC were plotted according to Zeebe and Wolf-Gladrow, (2001), along with vectors indicating theoretical effects of organic and inorganic carbon metabolism on seawater chemistry (Kawahata et al., 1997;Suzuki and Kawahata, 2003) (Fig 5). Diagrams of *n*TA-*n*DIC indicate the dominance of net community production (NCP) and net community calcification (NCC) during the first sampling period (16-19 March). The slope values of the *n*DIC-*n*TA plots were used to calculate ratios of NCC:NEP (Table 1) using methods of Suzuki and Kawahata (2003). In the absence of reliable water mass residence time, ratios were used rather than metabolic rates. The NCC:NEP ratios for the first sampling period ranged from 0.50 to 0.87 indicate that both calcification and photosynthesis contributed to variability in carbonate system parameters with photosynthesis as the dominant processes in all cases. This pattern was observed at all four sites along the reef flat. In comparison, a shift occurred after the first sampling period. Elevated *n*DIC and *n*TA values during 21-24 March indicate a shift to primarily respiration and dissolution in the *n*TA-*n*DIC diagrams (Fig. 5). At the shallow sites, S1 and S2 (Fig. 5A and B), the NCC:NCP ratios were 0.56 and 0.39 (Table 1), respectively, indicating primarily net respiration at these locations. On Heron Island for example, high organic production results in NCC:NCP ratios between 0.25 and 0.29 (McMahon et al., 2013; Albright et al., 2015). Dissolution and respiration contributed nearly equally with NCC:NCP ratios near 1.0 at sites S3 and S4 located further offshore. Rather than reflecting an artifact of the salinity normalization, given the non-linear relation of DIC and TA to salinity along the reef flat, this shift is interpreted as a reef community response. As shown in Figures 4 and 5, this change captures a shift from a reef community dominated by calcification to one dominated by respiration and dissolution.

The shift from net photosynthesis (P) to net respiration (R) as captured in the Δ*n*DIC histogram plots (Fig. 4), suggests that the coral-algal association consumed more energy than it produced during the second sampling period. As a proxy for autotrophic capacity, the change in P:R ratio may reflect an increase in coral heterotrophic feeding relative to autotrophic feeding (Coles and Jokiel, 1977;Hughes and Grottoli, 2013). Typically, stored lipid reserves in the tissue are utilized when the stable symbiotic environment is disturbed (e.g., Szmant and Gassman, 1990; Ainsworth et al., 2008). Although short-lived, thermally-induced bleaching has been linked to depletion of coral lipid reserves (e.g., Hughes and Grottoli, 2013), excess nutrient loading can also shift the stability of the coral-algae symbiosis,

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thereby reducing stored tissue reserves (Wooldridge, 2016). According to Glenn et al. (2013), up to 11 m^3 d^{-1} of dissolved inorganic nitrogen are discharged onto the West Maui reef as the result of receiving and treating over 15,000 m^3 d^{-1} of sewage. Using a SGD flux rate of 87 cm d^{-1} at the primary seep site (Swarzenski et al., 2016), and SGD nitrate end-member concentration of 117 μmol L^{-1} (Prouty et al., 2017b), the nitrate flux from the primary vent site is 712 mol d^{-1}, clearly demonstrating excess nutrient loading. As described above, an offshore gradient in nutrient concentrations was observed with enriched nutrients at the shallow sites compared to the deeper sites, consistent with a decrease in coral $\delta^{15}N$ values away from the vent (Prouty et al., 2017a). Coral tissue thickness was also negatively correlated to coral tissue $\delta^{15}N$ values (r = -0.66; p = 0.08), with the latter serving as a proxy for nutrient loading in alga samples along the reef flat (Dailer et al., 2010). It is possible that a reduction in coral tissue reflects preferential heterotrophic feeding under high nutrient loading, with nutrient enrichment by sewage effluent increasing primary production and biomass in the water column (e.g., Smith et al., 1981; Pastorok and Bilyard, 1985). While assessing the impacts of nutrient loading on coral physiology may be long term and subtle in some cases, results from our study highlight the potential short-term impacts of nutrification on the short term.

Identifying the exact mechanism(s) responsible for driving this shift is difficult given the complexity of the reef system. Possible explanations include warmer SSTs, suspension of organic matter, as well as secondary effects of nutrification from contaminated SGD (D'Angelo and Wiedenmann, 2014). Given that microbial communities rapidly take up inorganic nutrients (Furnas et al., 2005), there could be increased respiration as a result of increased microbial remineralization of organic matter in the nutrient-loaded environment. In other words, enhanced SGD- driven nutrient fluxes during the second sampling period could have increased microbial growth and remineralization, shifting the reef community metabolism, as captured in a shift in the carbonate chemistry system. In addition to community metabolism, local oceanographic effects such as the wind and wave regime can also drive carbonate chemistry by altering air-sea exchange and water mass residence times. During the first sampling period, the wave height increased from 0.4 m to 1.6 m over the first 2 d and mean current speeds were 1.6 cm s^{-1} (Fig. S1). In comparison, during the second sampling period, wave height declined to less than 0.4 m and mean current speeds were 1.0 cm s^{-1}. Together, the reduced wave height and reduced wind speeds favor slower release of CO_2 generated by calcification and respiration processes from the water column (Massaro et al., 2012), resulting in higher pCO_2 and lower pH.

Despite being situated in an oligotrophic region with naturally occurring, low nutrient concentrations,

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anthropogenic nutrient loading to coastal waters via sustained SGD is driving nearshore eutrophication (Dailer et al., 2010; Dailer et al., 2012; Bishop et al., 2015; Amato et al., 2016; Fackrell et al., 2016), with algal $\delta^{15}N$ signatures at Kahekili Beach Park indicative of wastewater effluent (Dailer et al., 2010;Dailer et al., 2012). In response, there has been a shift in benthic cover from abundant corals to turf- or macro-algae over the last two decades. Areas of discrete coral cover loss up to 100% along the shallow coral reef at Kahekili have been observed for decades (Wiltse, 1996; Ross et al., 2012), with a history of macro-algal blooms (Smith et al., 2005). More recently, Prouty et al. (2017a) found accelerated nutrient driven-bioerosion from coral cores collected along the Kahekili reef flat in response to land-based sources of nutrients. This is consistent with earlier work showing nutrification-mediated increase in plankton loads can trigger increases in filter feeders and bioeroders that endanger reef structure integrity (e.g., Fabricius et al., 2012). Eutrophication from nutrient enriched SGD may contribute to an already compromised carbonate system (i.e., reduced pH and Ω_{arag}) by increasing net respiration and remineralization of excess organic matter, and increasing bioerosion. Therefore, secondary effects of nutrient-driven increase in phytoplankton biomass and decomposing organic matter are also important considerations for coral reef management (D'Angelo and Wiedenmann, 2014).

As discussed above, SGD rates are elevated during low tide when the relative pressure head between terrestrial groundwater and the oceanic water column is greatest (Dimova et al., 2012;Swarzenski et al., 2016). Relative SGD is greater in the shallows close to shore where the tidal height is larger relative to the depth of the water column. Higher islands, therefore, have the potential for not only greater orographic rainfall and thus submarine groundwater recharge, but also greater potential pressure head and thus enhanced SGD- driven nutrient fluxes. There is also greater potential for enriched nutrient sources and reduced water quality with fast-growing population and development (Amato et al., 2016;Fackrell et al., 2016). Thus, SGD represents a key vector of nutrient loading in tropical, oligotrophic regions (e.g., Paytan et al., 2006). At the same time, closer to shore, current speeds are generally slower resulting in longer water mass residence times (Storlazzi et al., 2006); longer residence times would also be expected closer to the seabed, compared with upper water column flows (Storlazzi and Jaffe, 2008). Together, these suggest that the resulting exposure (= intensity x residence time) of coral reefs to nutrient-laden, low pH submarine groundwater is greater for coral reefs closer to shore off high islands than along barrier reefs or on atolls. This heightened vulnerability therefore needs to be taken into account when evaluating vulnerability of nearshore fringing reefs to changes in carbonate chemistry system given evidence of nutrient driven-bioerosion

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from land-based sources of pollution.

5. Conclusion

Field based measurements of carbonate chemistry variability were made along a shallow coral reef off Kahekili, west Maui, and captured differences in the relative importance of inorganic and organic carbon production over a 6-d period in March 2016. Submarine groundwater discharge fluxes controlled the carbonate chemistry adjacent to the primary vent site, with nutrient-laden freshwater decreasing the pH levels and favoring undersaturated Ω_{arag} conditions. In contrast, reef community metabolism dominated the carbonate chemistry diurnal signal at sites along the reef flat. Superimposed on the diurnal signal was a transition during the second sampling period, yielding a surplus of *n*TA and *n*DIC compared to ocean endmember measurements indicating a shift from net photosynthesis and calcification to net respiration and carbonate dissolution. This shift could be interpreted as a direct response to increased nutrient loading, and subsequent enhancement of organic matter remineralization. Predictions of reef response to elevated pCO_2 levels assume reef water tracks open-ocean pH, however local effects are equally important (e.g., Cyronak et al., 2013), particularly along densely-inhabited shorelines with known input from land-based sources of pollution. Building on previous work documenting the input of nutrient laden, low-pH freshwater to the reefs off Kahekili, results presented here offer a first glimpse into how anthropogenic-driven eutrophication might add an additional stressor to thresholds tipping the balance between net carbonate accretion and net carbonate dissolution, thus altering carbonate system dynamics.

Author contribution

NGP and KKY designed the experiments and NGP, KKY, NS and CG carried them out. NGP and KKY completed the chemical measurements and OC compiled the oceanographic data. NGP prepared the manuscript with contributions from all co-authors.

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Figure Captions

Figure 1. Location map of the island of Maui, Hawaii, USA, and the study area along west Maui. Bathymetric map (5-m contours) of study area showing seawater sampling locations (blue closed circle) along Kahekili Beach Park, and the primary seep site (blue open circle) superimposed on distribution of percent coral cover versus sand.

Figure 2 Results of time-series of seawater chemistry variables over a 6-d period collected from bottom water near the seep site on the nearshore reef every 4 hr. (A) Salinity, (B) dissolved nutrient (nitrate+nitrite, phosphate, and silicate) concentrations (μmol L^{-1}), and nitrate stable nitrogen isotopes (δ^{15}N-nitrate; ‰), (C) total alkalinity (TA) and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) (μmol kg^{-1}), (D) calculated carbonate parameters for aragonite saturation state (Ω_{arag}), and pCO_2 (μatm; inverted) based on TA-pH pairwise and measured salinity, temperature, nutrients (phosphate and silicate) data, (E) dissolved oxygen (DO; mg L^{-1}), and (F) temperature corrected pH (total scale). End-of-century projections according to IPCC-AR5 RCP8.5 "business as usual" scenario for pH (reduction by 0.4 units), Ω_{arag} (2.0; blue dashed), and pCO_2 (750 μatm; red dashed).

Figure 3 Carbonate chemistry parameters and sea surface temperature (SST) composite from S1, S2, S3 and S3 along the shallow reef flat of Kahekili, Maui and cubic spline fits highlighting diurnal cycle for the first (16-19 March 2016; solid line) and second (21-24 March 2016; dashed line) sampling period for (A) Temperature, (B) pH, (C) *n*DIC and (D) *n*TA (μmol kg^{-1}), (E) Ω_{arag} and (F) pCO_2 (μatm).

Figure 4 Histogram Δ*n*TA and Δ*n*DIC capturing deficits and surpluses of *n*TA and *n*DIC with respect to open ocean conditions. Overall a transition from net $CaCO_3$ production to net $CaCO_3$ dissolution and net photosynthesis to net respiration occurred between the first (16-19 March 2016; blue) and second (21-24 March 2016; red) sampling period for the shallow sampling sites (A)-(B) S1 and (C)-(D) S2, and the two deeper sites (E)-(F) S3, and (G-H) S4. Statistical (p=0.05) deficit and surplus values (±) for Δ*n*TA and Δ*n*TA shown in parentheses.

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Figure 5 Seawater carbonate chemistry system along the reef flat off Kahekili as a function of *n*DIC and *n*TA for the shallow sampling sites (A). S1 and (B) S2, and two deeper sites (C) S3, and (D) S4 for the first (blue) and second (red) sampling periods and their respective slopes (solid lines) of *n*DIC and *n*TA (Table 1) and theoretical slope (dashed lines) given the predicted effects of photosynthesis, respiration, calcification, and dissolution as shown in (E) and the respective change in net community calcification (NCC) and net community production (NCP).

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Site	*n*TA-*n*DIC Slope	NCC:NCP	r^2
16-19 March 2016			
S1	0.88	0.78	0.94
S2	0.67	0.50	0.75
S3	0.93	0.88	0.89
S4	0.93	0.87	0.92
21-24 March 2016			
S1	0.72	0.56	0.78
S2	0.56	0.39	0.77
S3	0.99	0.98	0.95
S4	1.04	1.08	0.94

638

639 **Table 1**

640 Slope of salinity normalized total alkalinity (*n*TA): salinity normalized dissolved inorganic carbon
641 (DIC), net community calcification: net community production ratio (NCC:NCP=2ΔDIC/ΔTA-1)
642 (Suzuki and Kawahata, 2003) and correlation coefficients (r^2).
643

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Figure 1

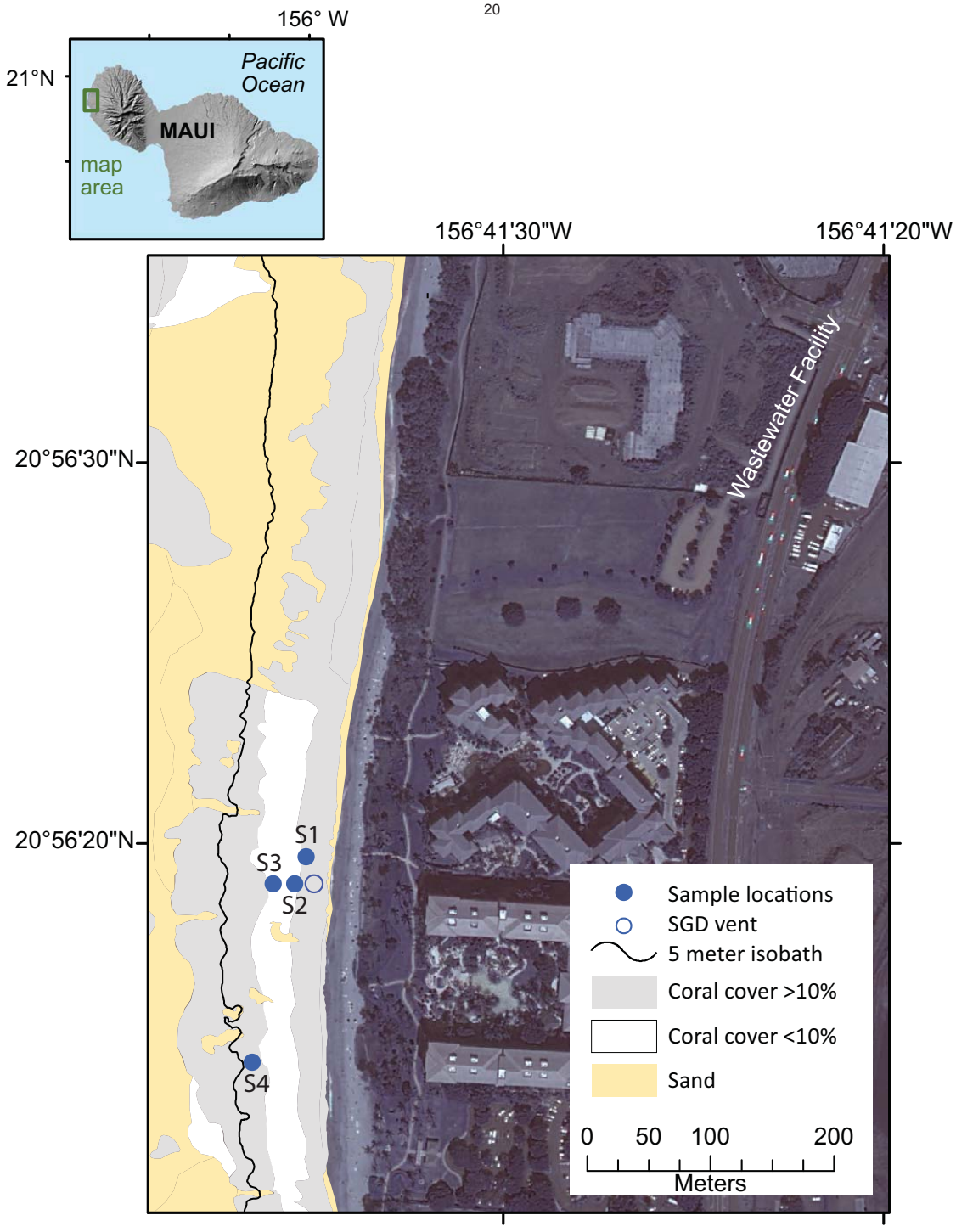

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Figure 2

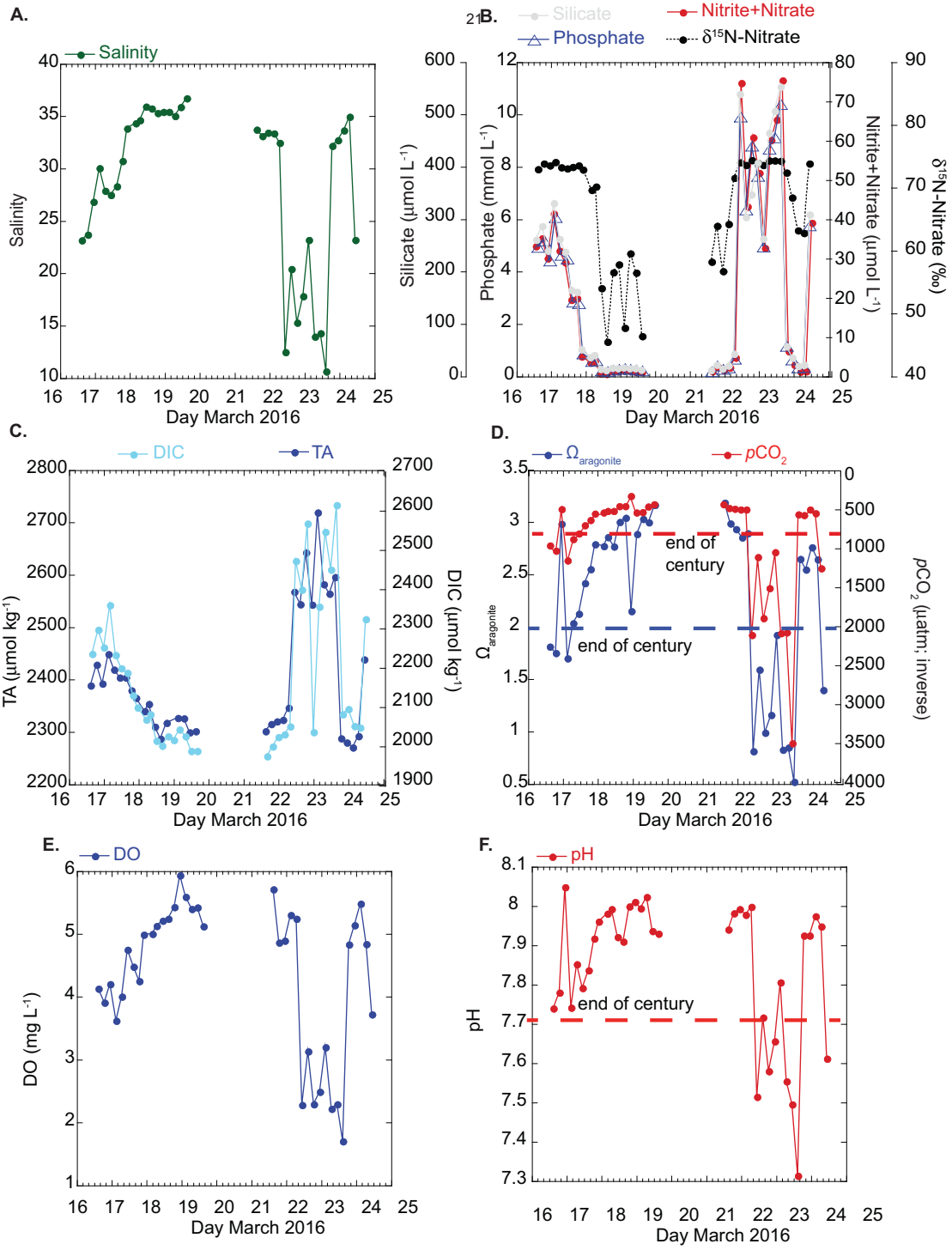

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Figure 3

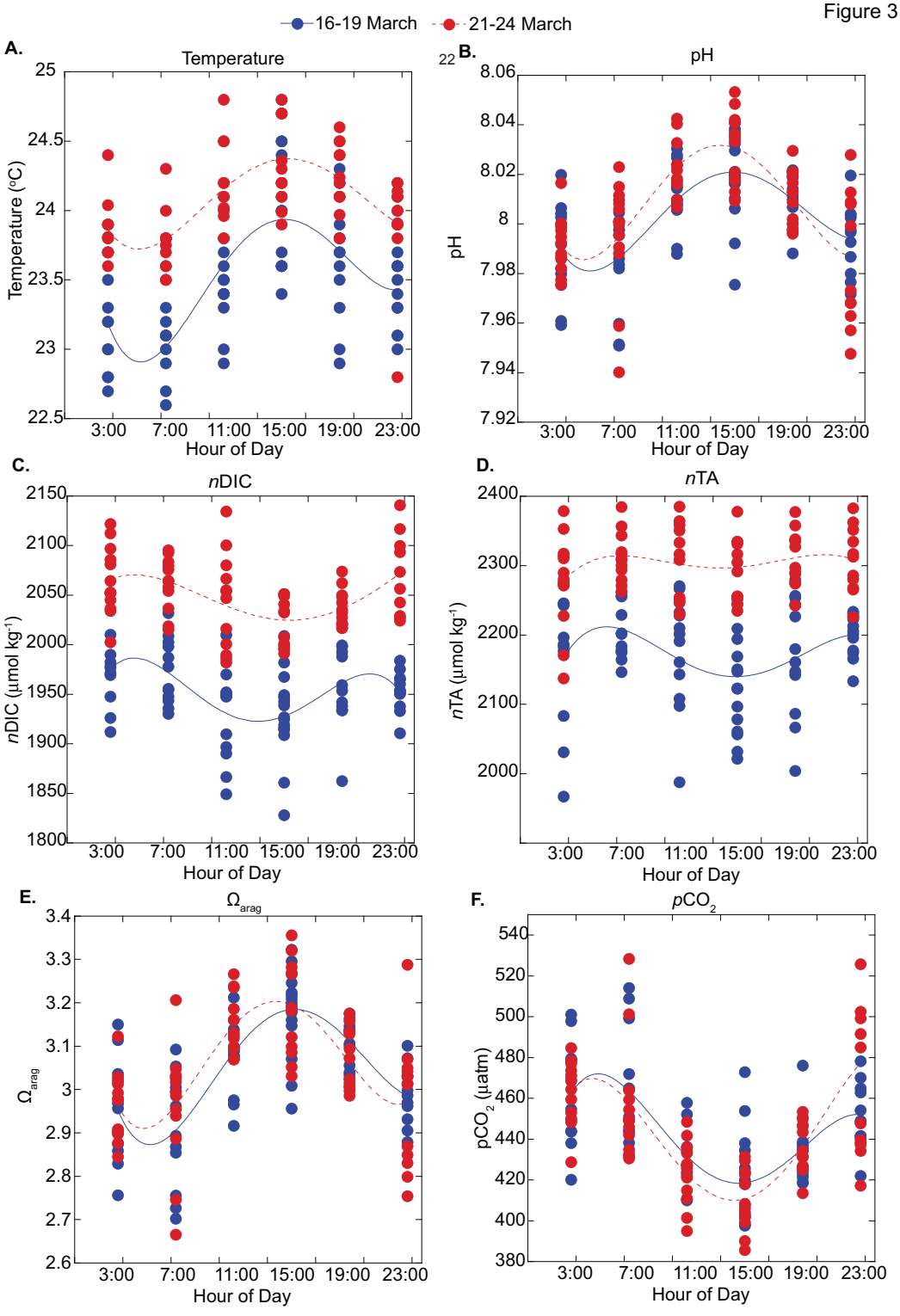

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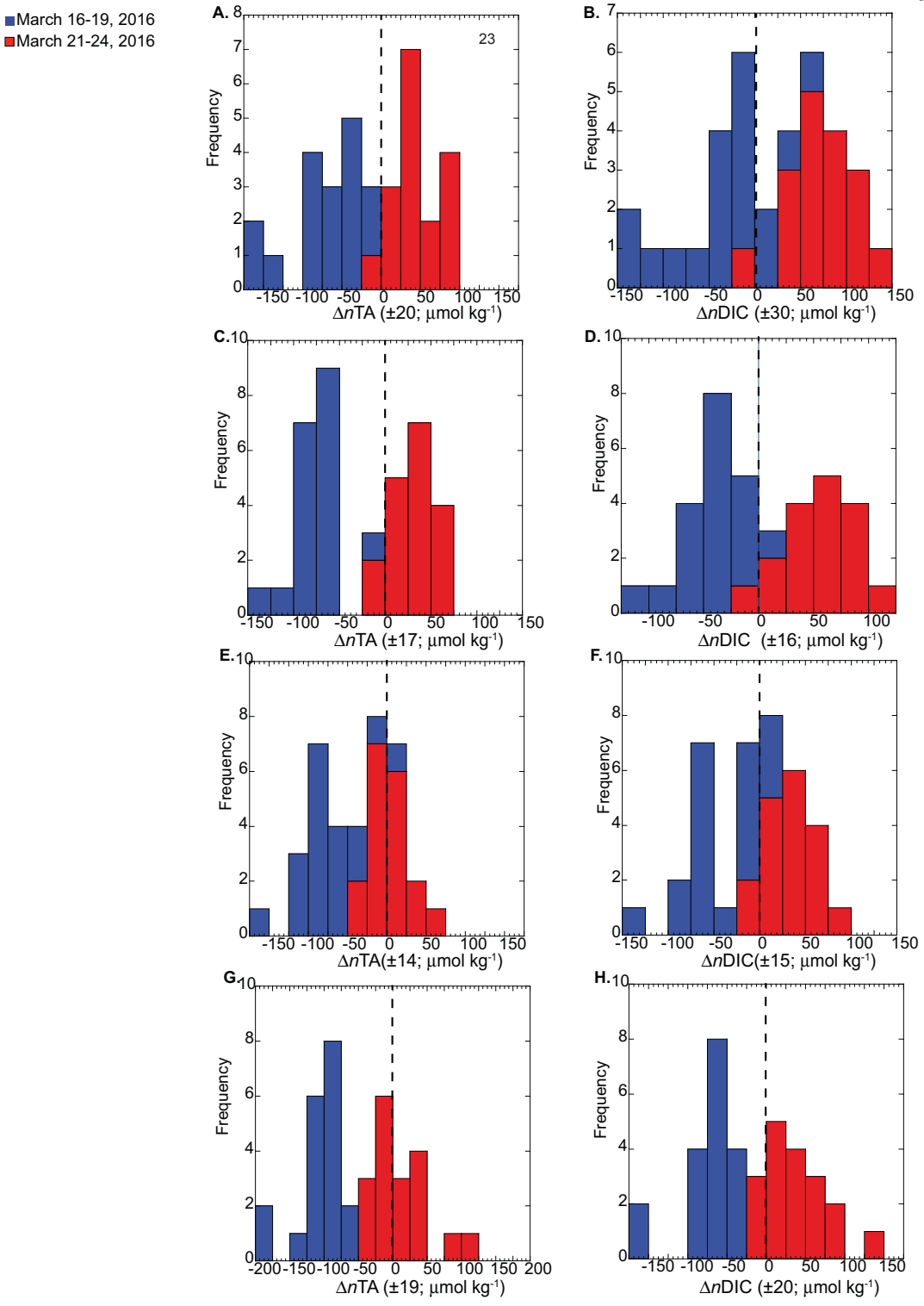
Figure 4



Biogeosciences Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2018-35
Manuscript under review for journal Biogeosciences
Discussion started: 23 January 2018

Figure 5