



CLIMATE CHANGE

# Challenges of ocean observations: drivers and associated impacts

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WGII CH. 6, Ocean Systems,  
ocean products in TS and SPM, CC-Boxes, SYR

**ipcc**  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

*Photo ©H.O. Pörtner*

# Large-scale climate-related issues in the global ocean

Oceans play a major role in climate regulation **globally**:

- absorb >90% of the heat accumulating in the atmosphere  
→ ocean warming, hypoxia
- absorb 25% of man-made CO<sub>2</sub>  
→ ocean acidification
- accumulate excess water from melting ice sheets → sea level rise
- redistribution of nutrients  
→ productivity shifts

Human activities also influence ocean conditions **locally**:

- overfishing, pollution, eutrophication etc.

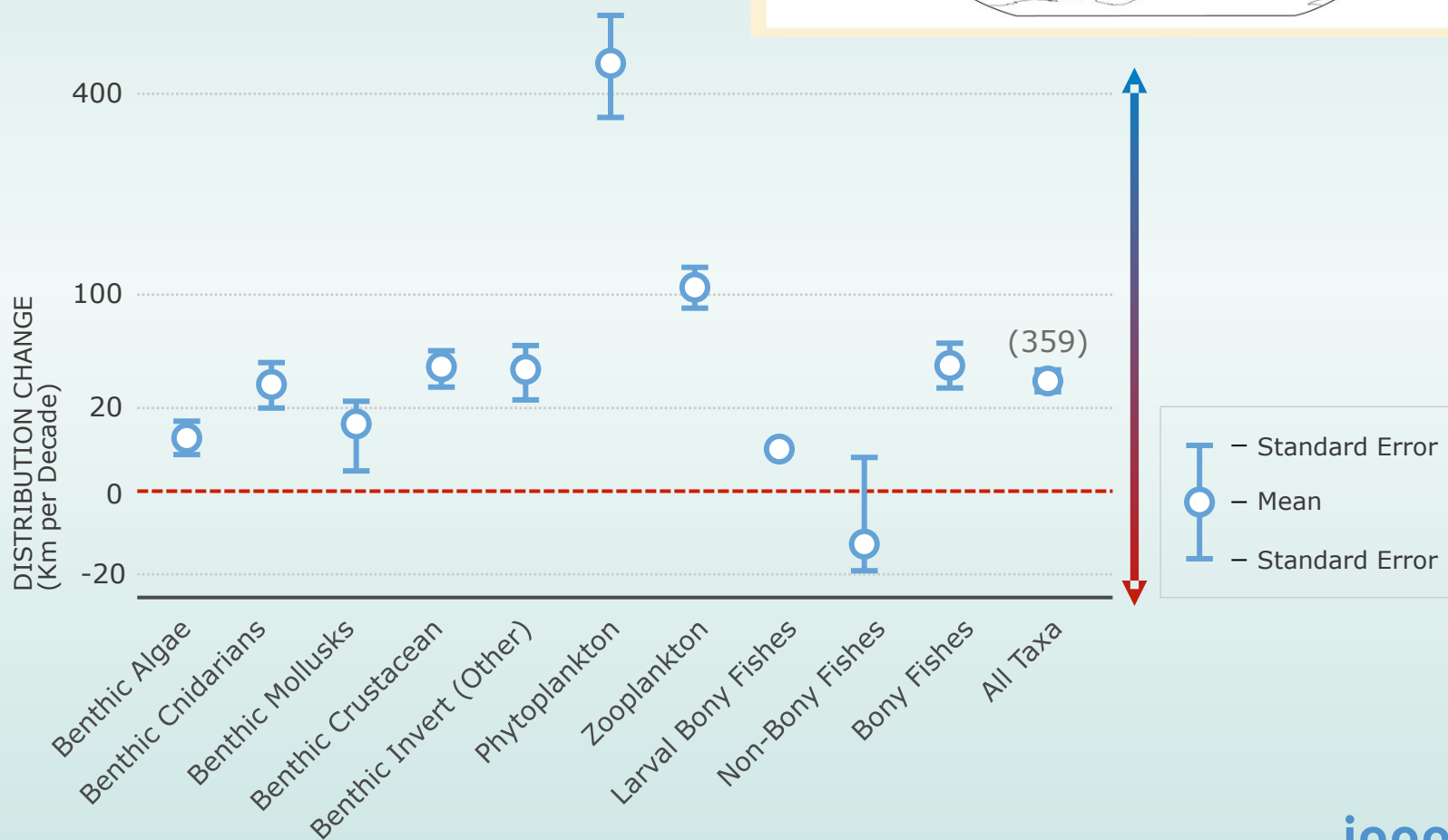
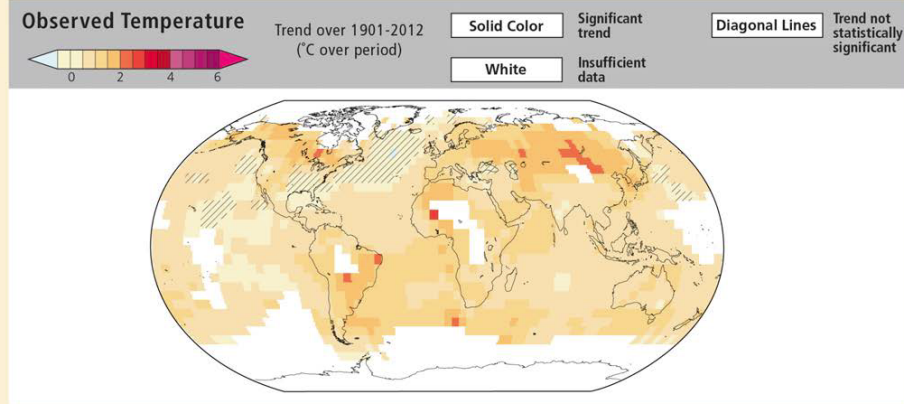
## DETECTION AND ATTRIBUTION

**...with temperature presently being the predominant driver of ongoing global changes, effects of ocean acidification and hypoxia reported in some areas**



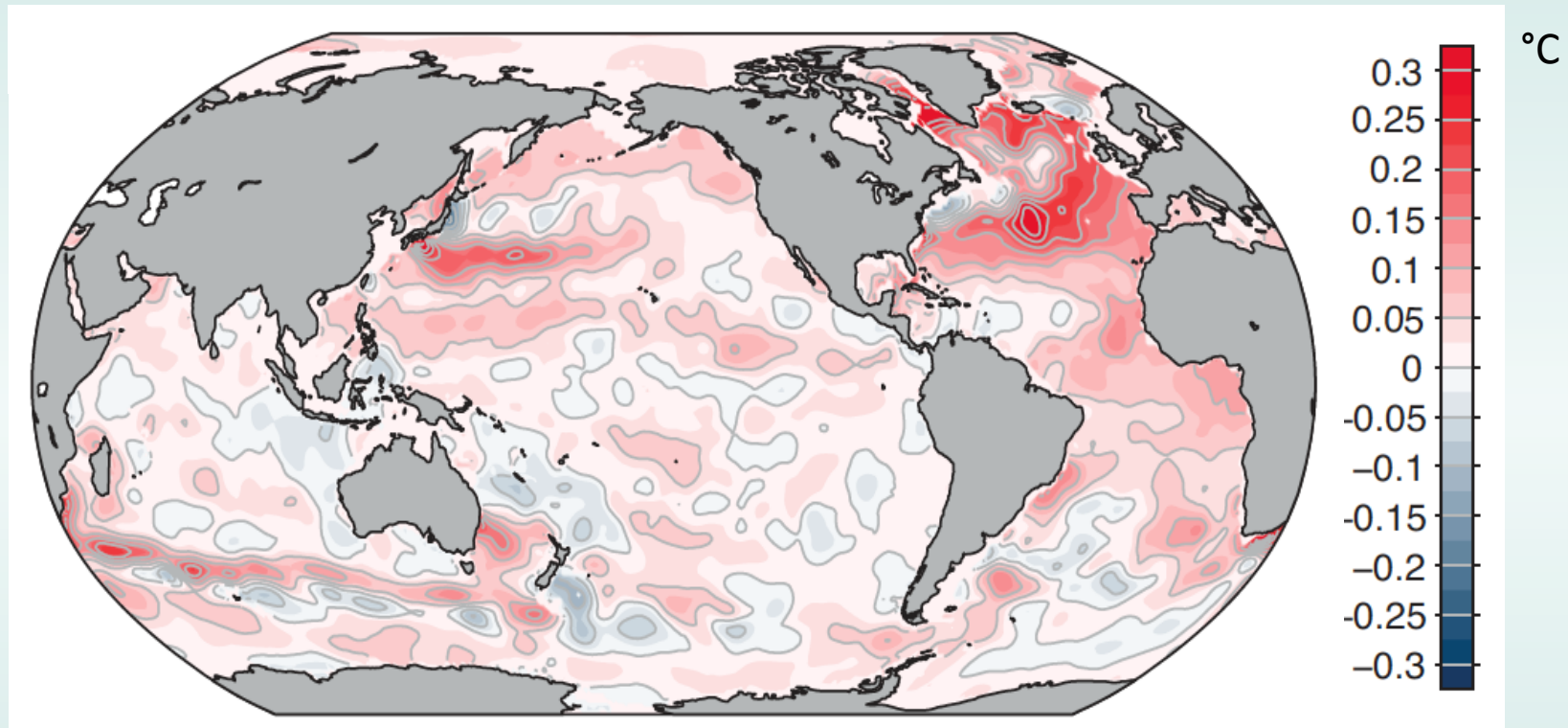
# OBSERVATIONS

## World-wide marine species displacements due to climate change



# OBSERVATIONS: ocean warming

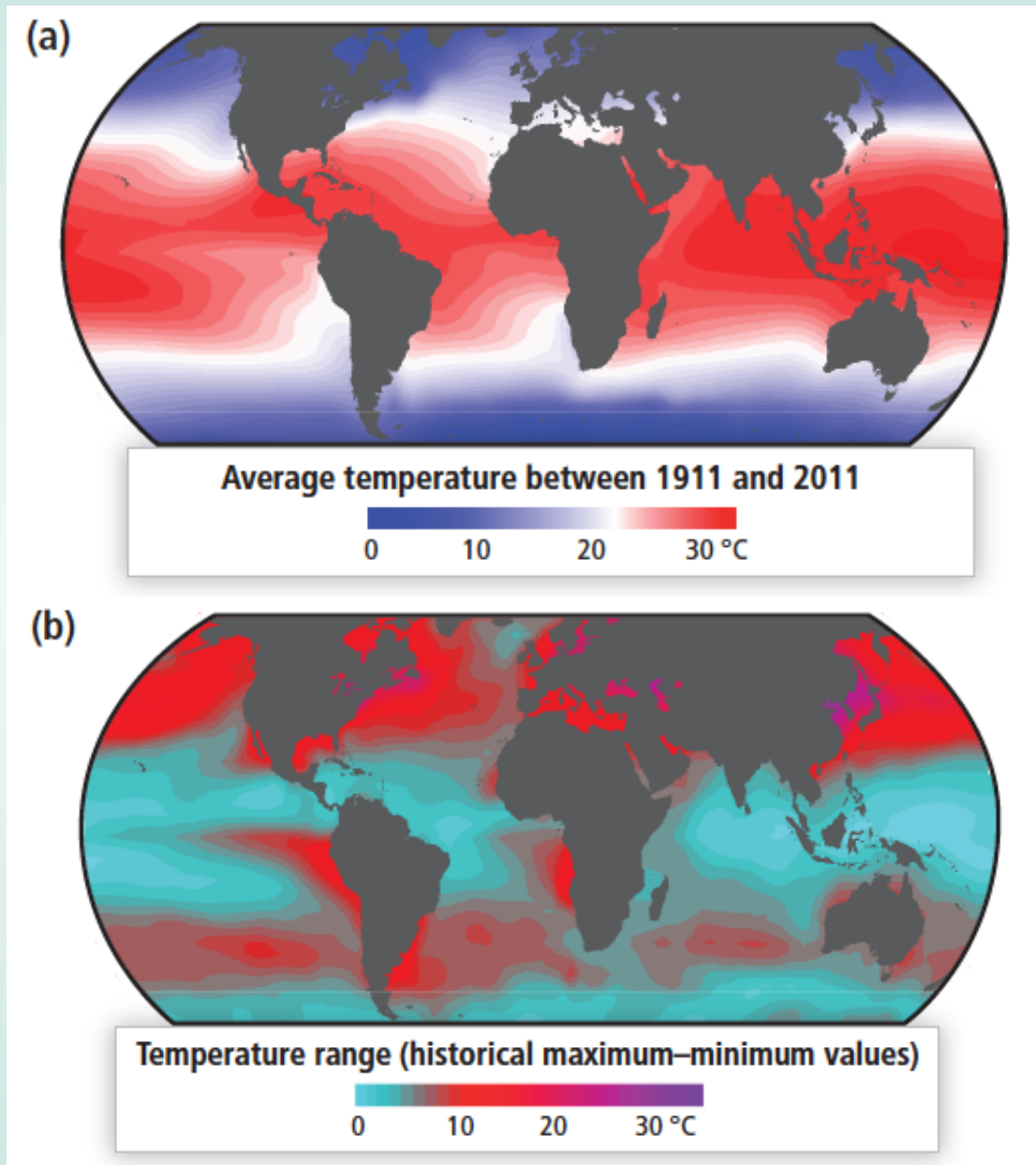
IPCC AR5 WGI Ch.3



Depth-averaged 0 to 700 m temperature trend for 1971–2010  
°C per decade  
1971 – 2010

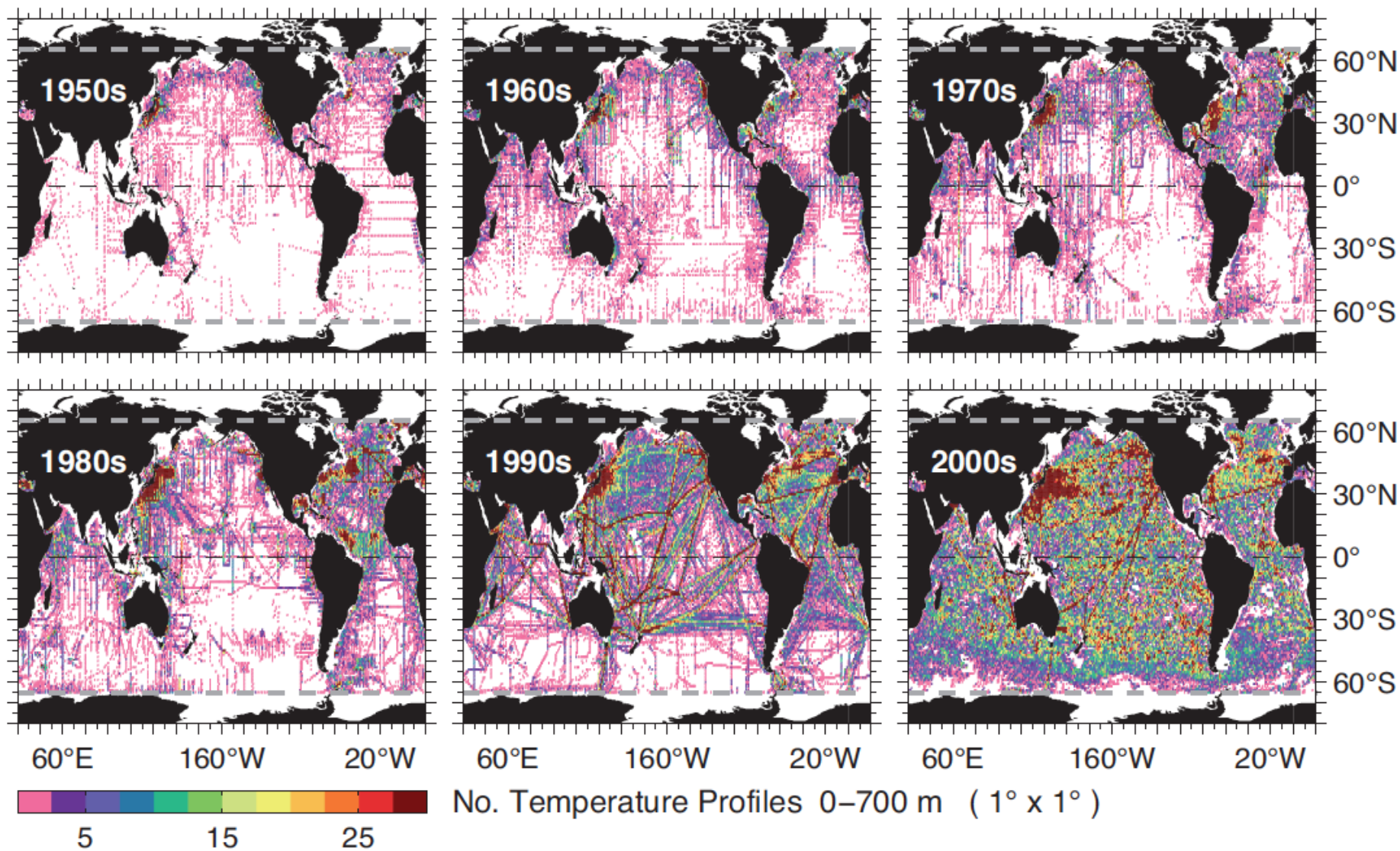


## Temperature means and variability: the two hemispheres



Temperature stability:  
key feature of the  
Southern hemisphere ...  
and Antarctica:

shaping climate  
dependent evolution



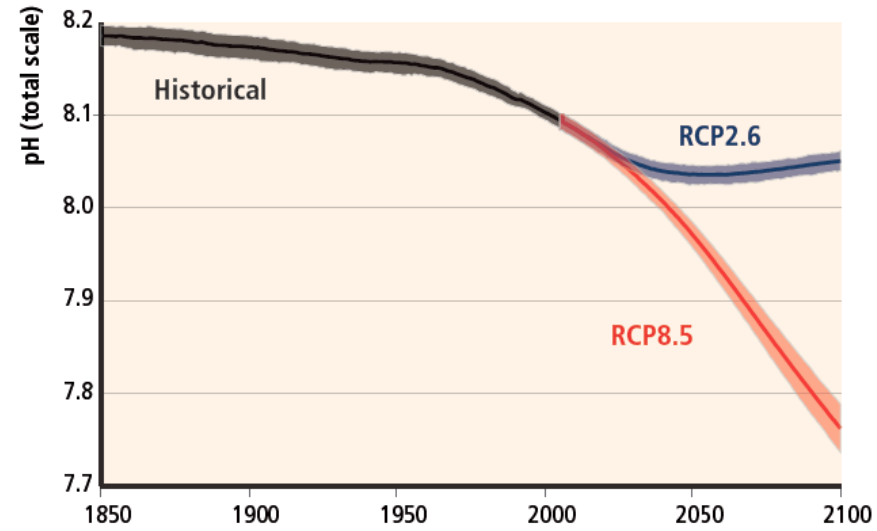
**Figure 3.A.1** | Number of temperature profiles extending to 700 m depth in each  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  square, by decade, between 65°N and 65°S.

# Ocean acidification

Historical

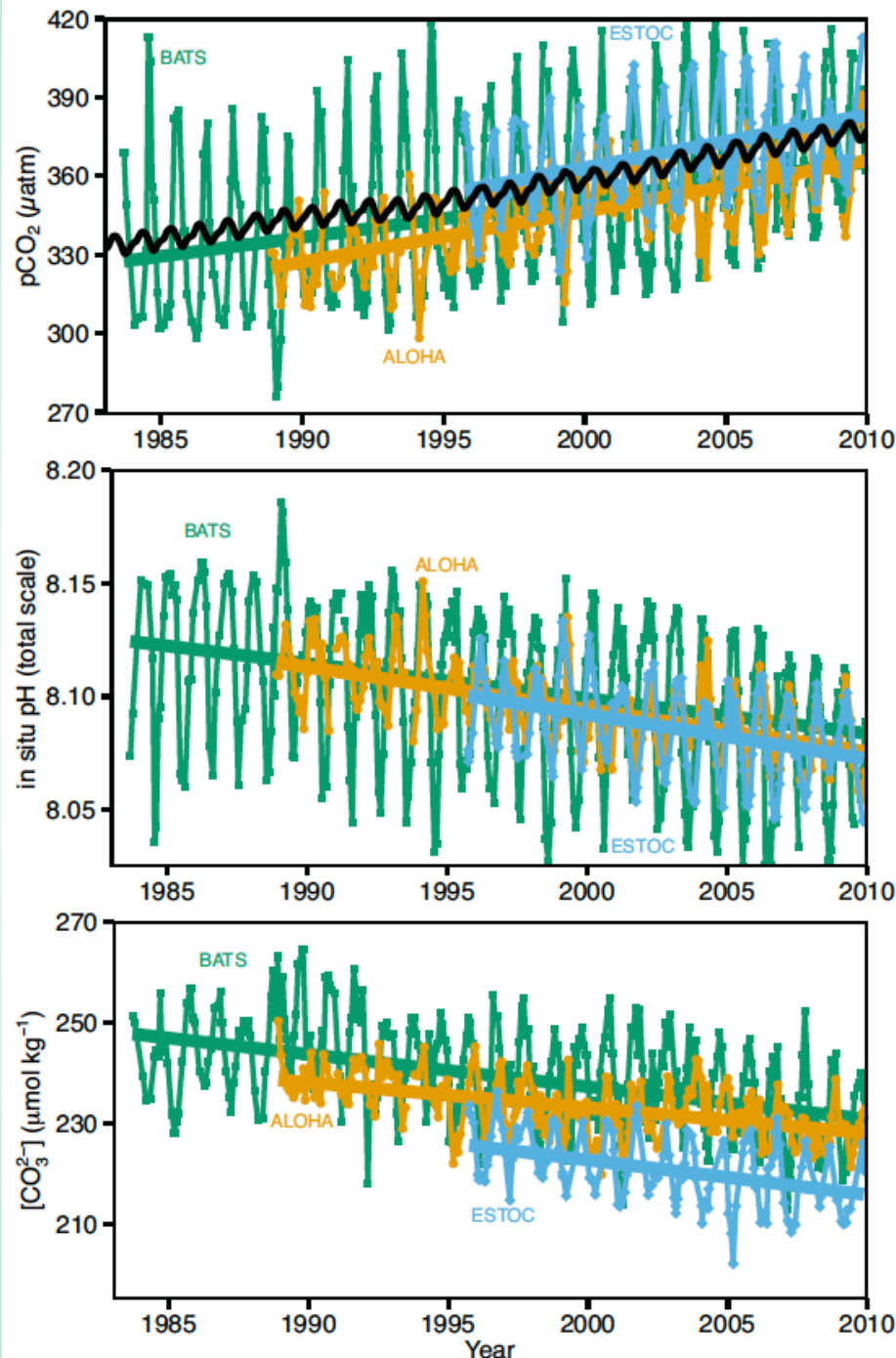


Projections



CMIP5 models

## Observations in surface waters



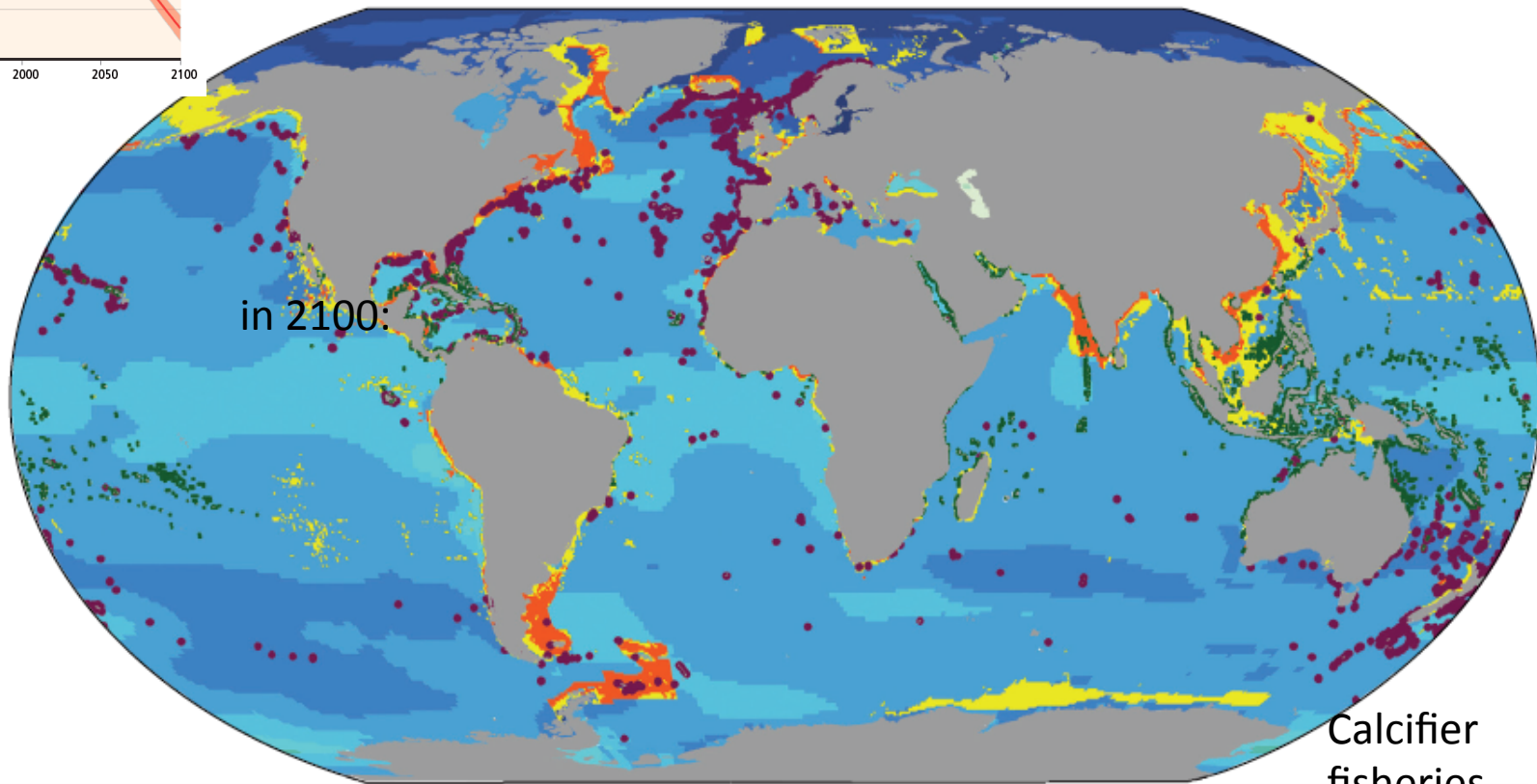
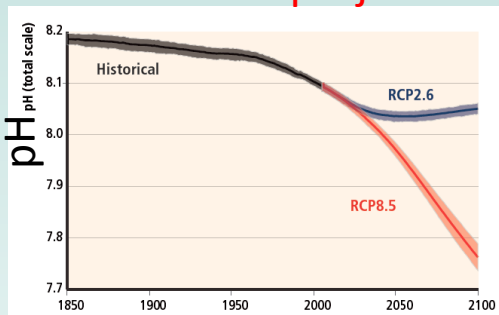
WGI 3-18



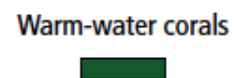
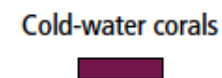
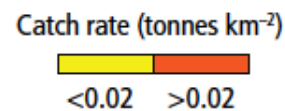
historical projected

# The emerging risk: Ocean acidification

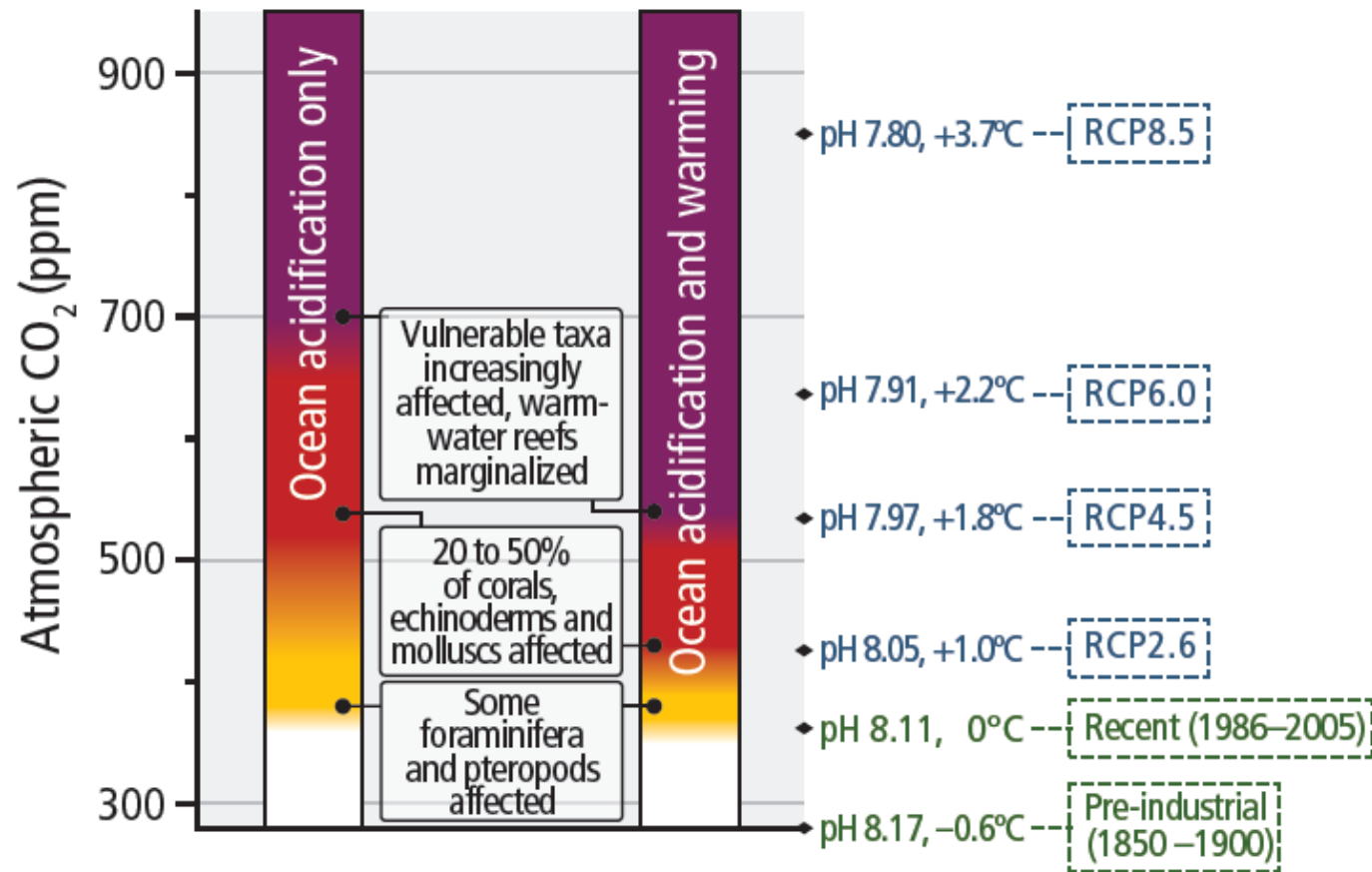
Special vulnerabilities  
of polar species?



Calcifier  
fisheries



(b) Risk for marine species impacted by ocean acidification only, or additionally by warming extremes



Projected pH, temperature for 2081–2100  
 Observed pH, temperature (temperature in °C relative to 1986–2005)

Level of additional risk due to climate change

Undetectable

Moderate

High

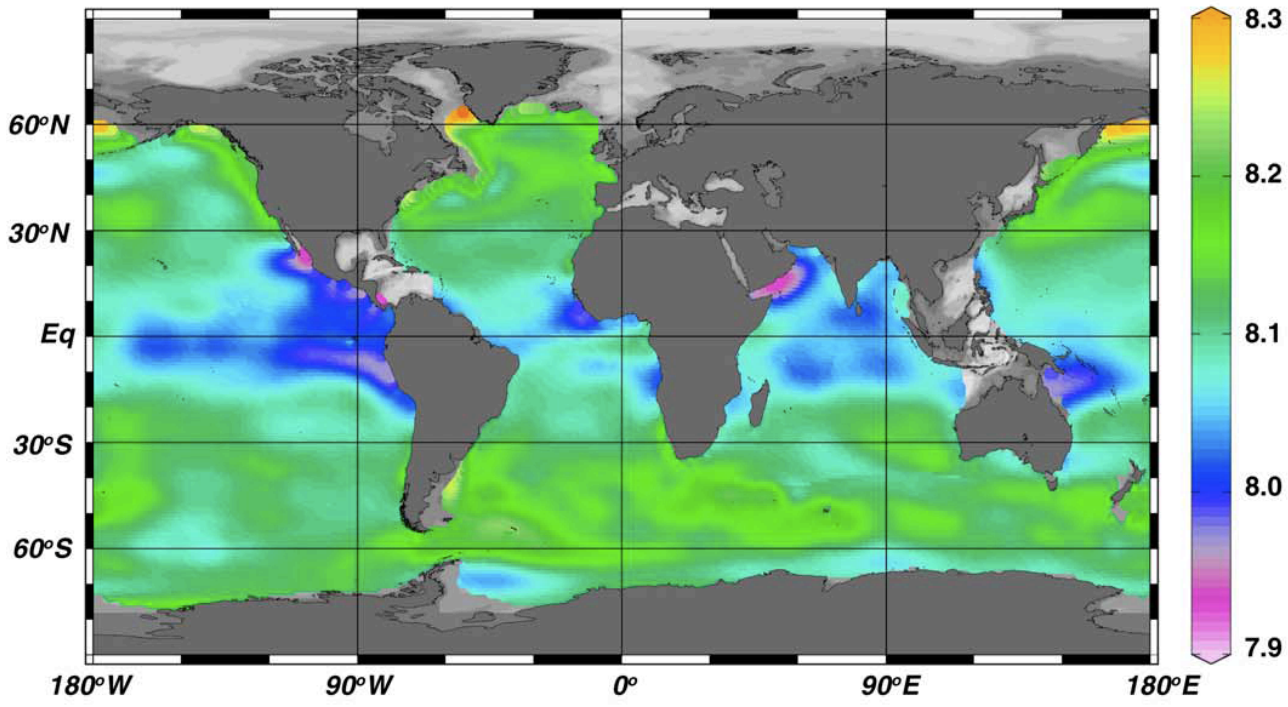
Very high

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

(a)

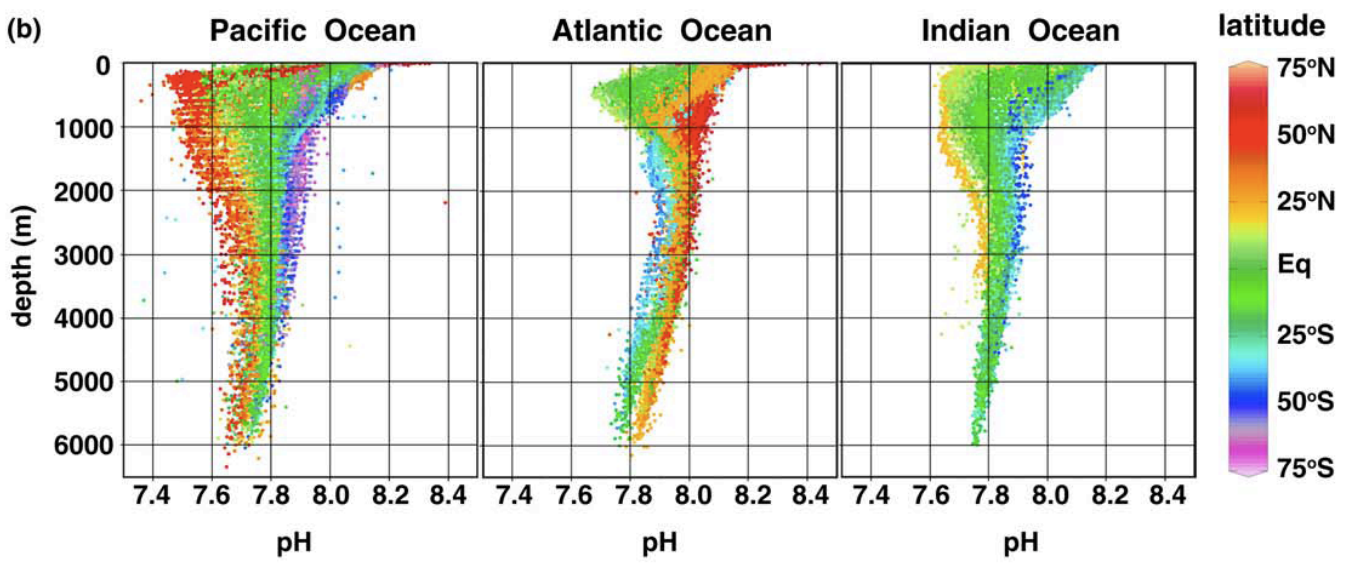
Mixed surface layer (upper 50m) pH



Natural variability  
in pH

Ocean surface  
layer

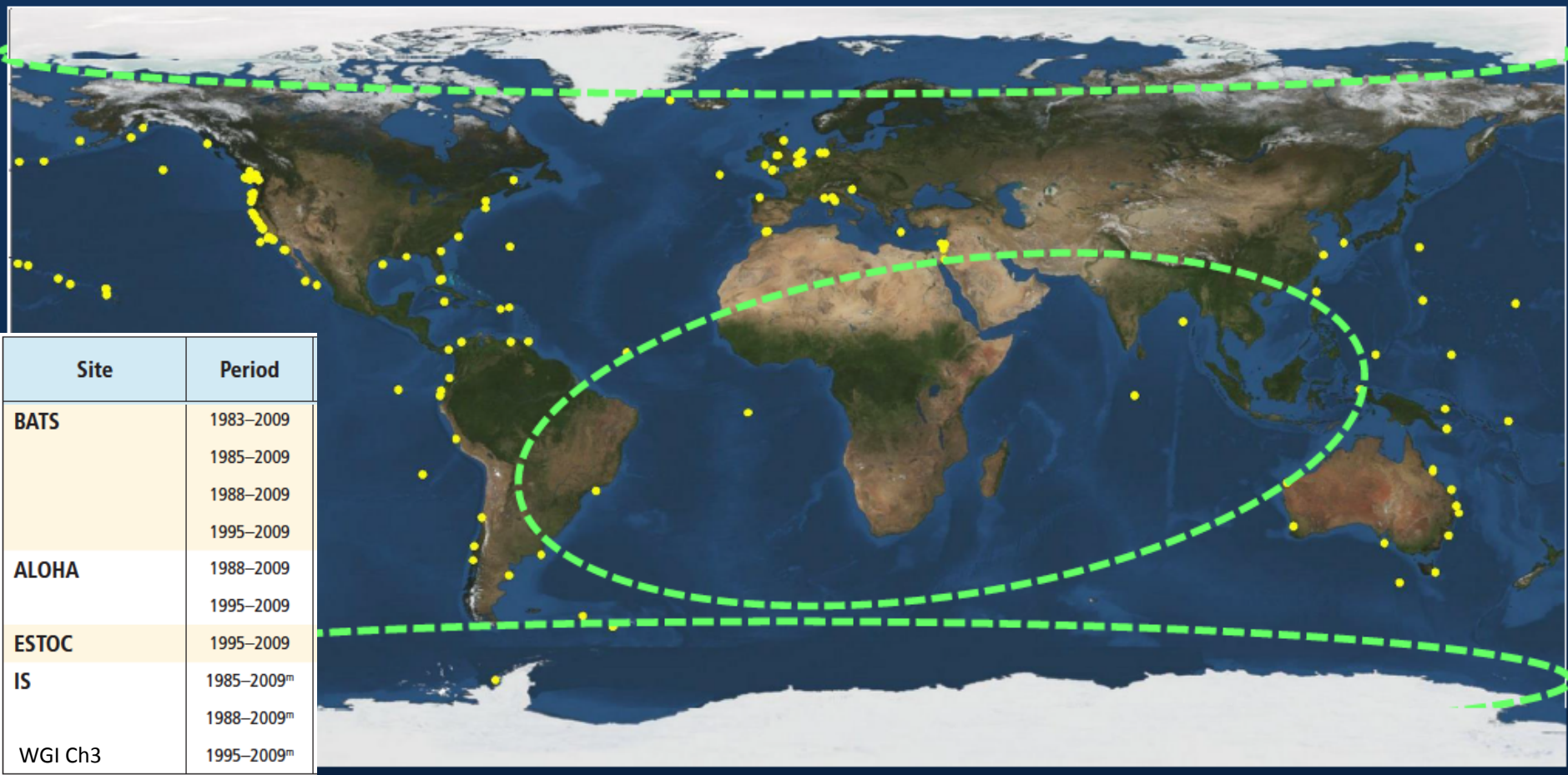
(b)



Deep ocean



# OA monitoring sites: current coverage by Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON)



Most sites are chemistry-only. Need to fill gaps,  
add biology and sustain support



UK Ocean Acidification  
Research Programme



Ocean Acidification  
International  
Coordination Centre  
OA-ICC



## ***Ocean Acidification Measurement Tools Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network***

### **HYDROGRAPHIC CRUISES**

DOCUMENTING CARBON DISTRIBUTIONS  
IN THE OCEAN INTERIOR



### **VOLUNTEER OBSERVING SHIPS**

DOCUMENTING CARBON DISTRIBUTIONS  
IN THE SURFACE OCEAN

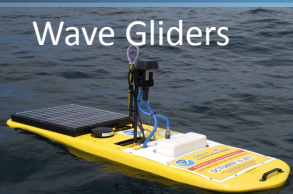


### **BUOYS AND OTHER AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS**

DOCUMENTING TEMPORAL  
CHANGES IN OCEAN CARBON



Wave Gliders



Profiling Gliders



Automated pCO<sub>2</sub>, DIC System for Hatcheries "the Burkeolator"





UK Ocean Acidification  
Research Programme



Ocean Acidification  
International  
Coordination Centre  
OA-ICC



## Ocean Acidification Measurement Tools Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network

### HYDROGRAPHIC CRUISES

DOCUMENTING CARBON DISTRIBUTIONS  
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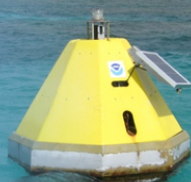
### VOLUNTEER OBSERVING SHIPS

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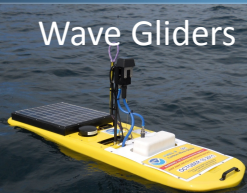
### BUOYS AND OTHER AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

DOCUMENTING TEMPORAL  
CHANGES IN OCEAN CARBON



Wave Gliders

Profiling Gliders



### Estimated pH Uncertainties for Different Measurement Platforms

Platform	Analytical Method	Estimated pH Uncertainty	Reference
Shipboard Discrete pH	Spectrophotometric	0.003-0.005	Dickson (2010)
Shipboard Underway pH	Durafet (Potentiometric)	0.005	Martz et al (2010)
Mooring pH	SeaFET (Potentiometric)	0.004	Satlantic Specifications
Glider pH	SeaFET (Potentiometric)	~0.01	Estimate
Profiling Glider pH	Proxi	~0.03	Juranek et al (2011)

courtesy: R.A. Feeley

Parameters to be analyzed:

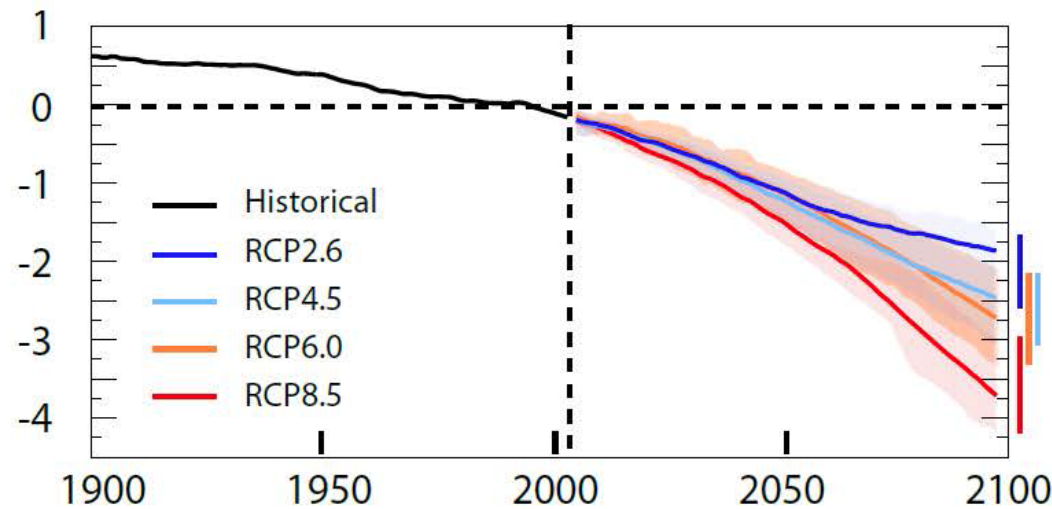
pH  
DIC ( $C_{CO_2}$ )  
Alkalinity

Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC)  
and Surface Ocean  $CO_2$  Atlas (SOCAT, Bakker et al., 2013).



# Historical and projected deoxygenation

a. Ocean oxygen content change (%)

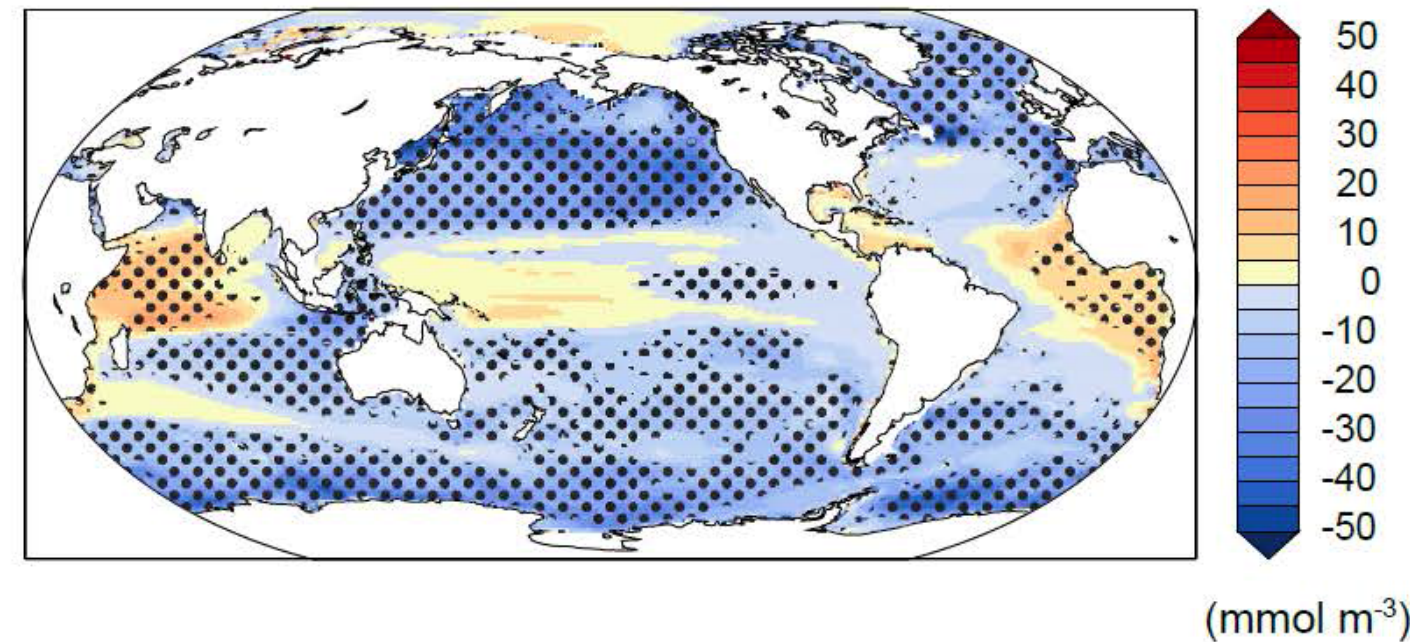


**RCP8.5: Overall loss in oxygen also affecting Antarctic oceans**

**respiratory deoxygenation  
(e.g. deep water)  
exacerbates acidification**

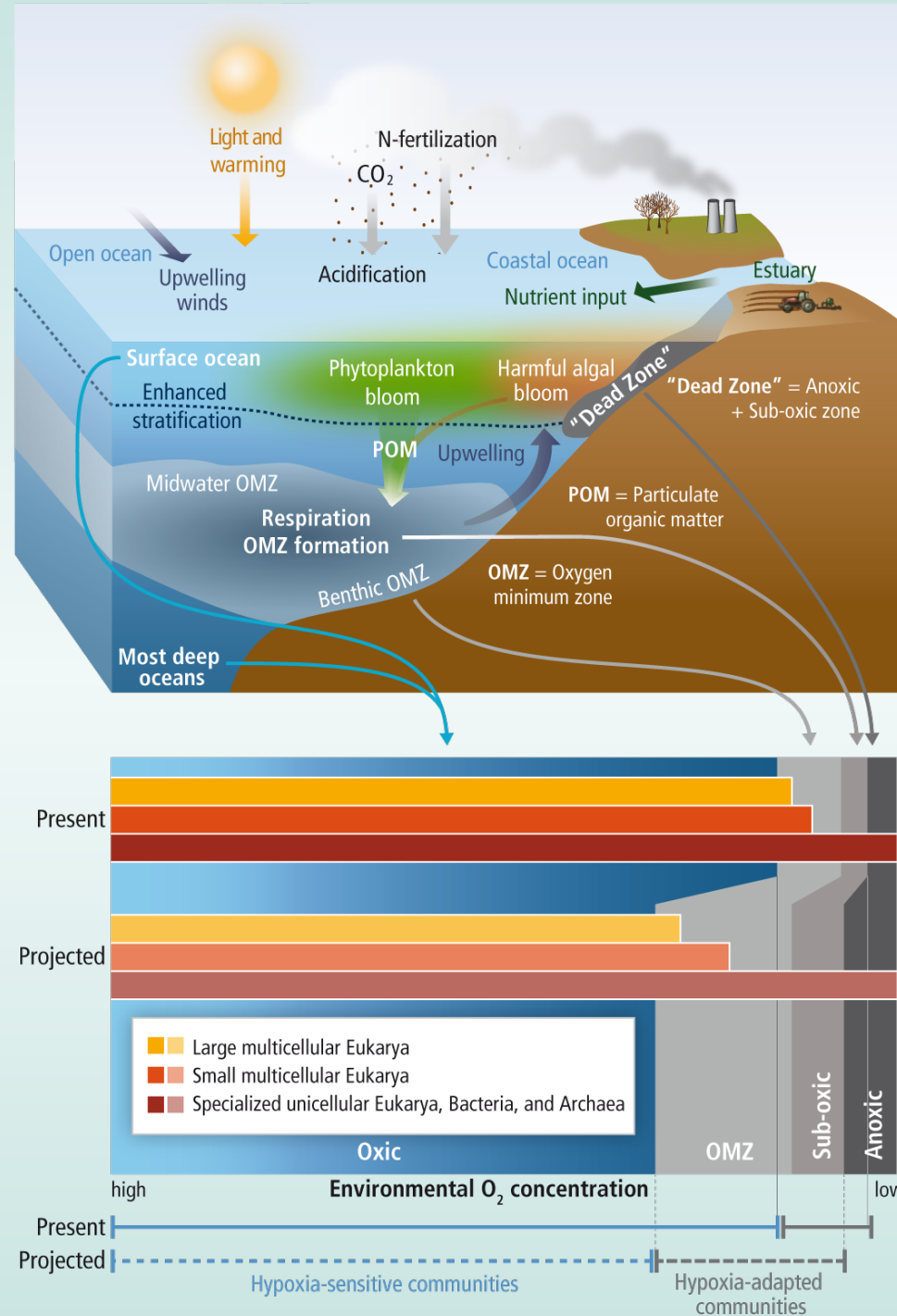
d. 2090s, changes from 1990s

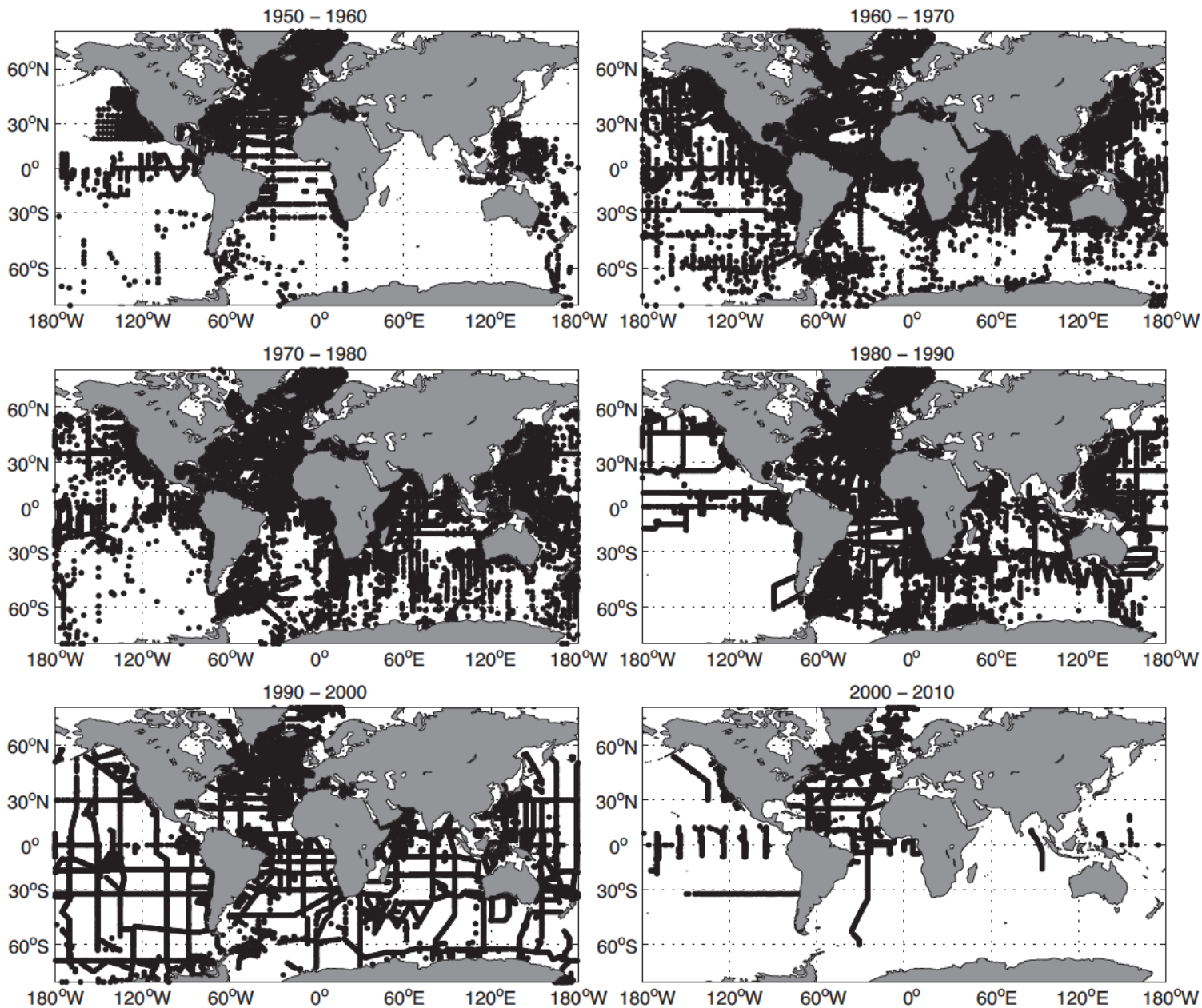
RCP8.5



WGI Figure 6.30

Figure 6-11: (a) Principal mechanisms underlying the formation of hypoxic conditions and their biological background  
(b) Distribution of free-living marine organisms (...) across the ranges of O<sub>2</sub> concentrations in various water layers





Patchiness of oxygen measurements depending on field programs, Northern hemisphere bias

WGI, Figure 3.A6

**Figure 3.A.6** | Distribution of oxygen measurements at 300 dbar for the decades 1950 to 1960 (upper left) to 2000 to 2010 (lower right frame). (From Stramma et al., 2012.)  
[Note that additional oxygen data have become available for the 2000–2010 period since that study was completed.]



**... in animals strongest impacts are expected where warming, acidification and hypoxia come together,**

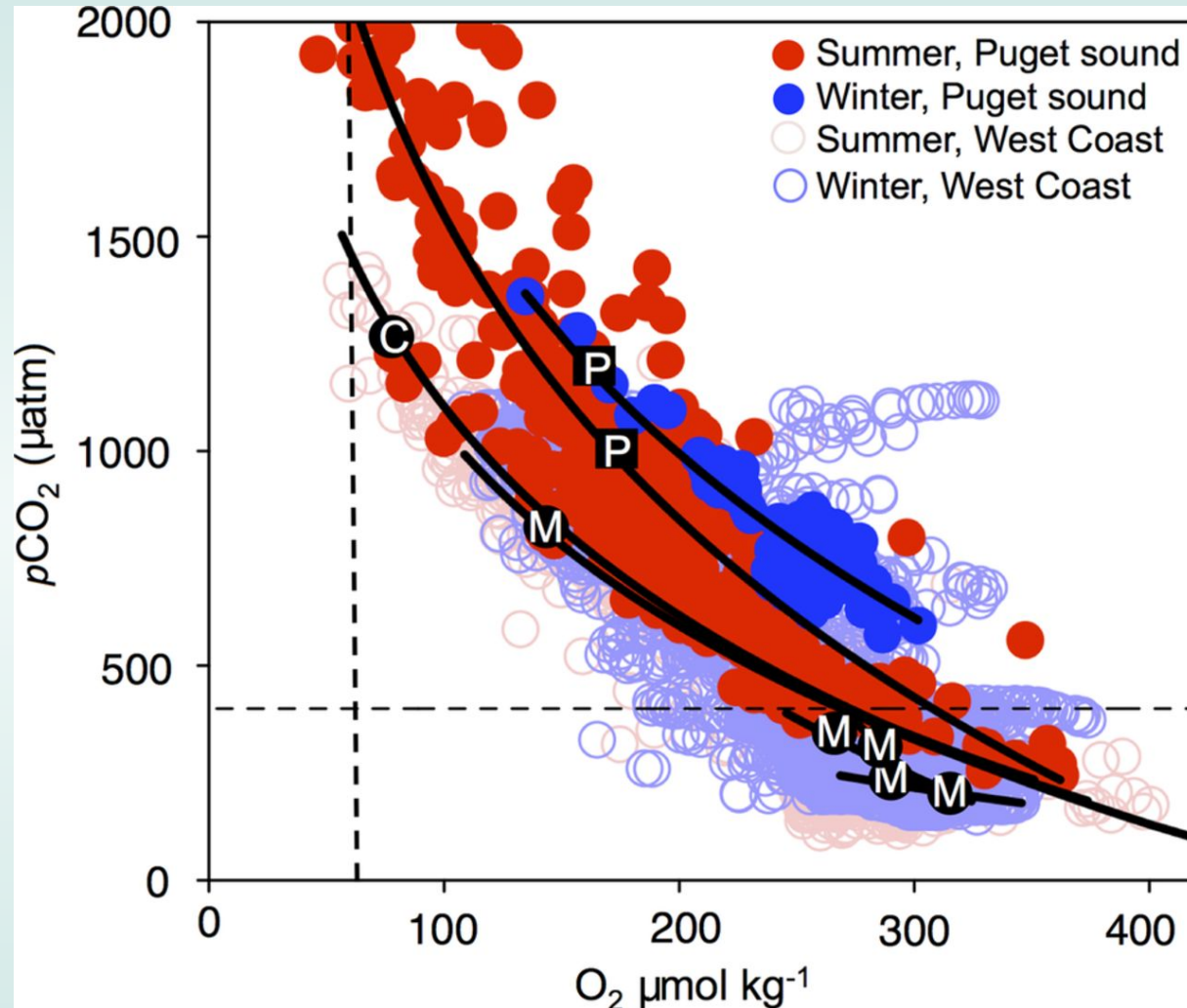
**...indicating that assessments based on individual drivers are conservative.**

**NEEDED:**

**...observations of biological impact  
paralleled by the  
comprehensive monitoring of key climate drivers  
and local drivers**

## Correlated changes in oxygen and $P_{CO_2}$

Relationships between  $pCO_2$  and  $O_2$  in the top 50 m of the water column during summer upwelling (May through October) and winter downwelling seasons (November through April).



Reum J C P et al. ICES J. Mar. Sci. 2015;icesjms.fsu231

This relationship will shift to higher  $CO_2$  levels under ocean acidification

## Local data by Biological stations

Region	Time series	Duration	Type	Interpretation
Global	<b>SeaWiFS</b> (Sea-viewing Wide Field-of-view Sensor)	1997-2011	Near surface chlorophyll	lower chlorophyll concentrations and decreased rates of NPP Satellite time-series insufficient to make robust projections on chlorophyll concentrations or rates of NPP
English Channel and later into the open sea	<b>CPR</b> (Continuous Plankton Recorder)	1920s - ongoing	Zoo- and phytoplankton abundance/ presence absence	- changes in the seasonal abundance of phytoplankton - rapid northerly movements of temperate and subtropical species of zooplankton and phytoplankton) - climate induced trophic mismatch between phytoplankton and zooplankton and its impact on fisheries
North Sea	<b>Helgoland Roads</b> (Alfred Wegener Institute)	1962 - ongoing	salinity, secchi disk depth, macronutrients, phytoplankton, zooplankton, intertidal macroalgae, zoobenthos and bacterioplankton	Increase in green algae, decrease in brown algae, increased number of invaders on macrofauna, changing foodweb and bloom dynamics
California	<b>CalCOFI</b> (California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations)	1949 - ongoing (quarterly, 1969-1984 triennial) on variable grid	Ecological assessment	- El Niño impacts marine invertebrates and fishes - decline in zooplankton biomass during periods of warming - multidecadal shifts in the pelagic ecosystems (sardines and anchovies)
North Pacific Subtropical gyre	<b>Climax</b>  <b>HOT</b> (Hawaii Ocean Time-series)	1968 - 1985 and 18 expeditions, mostly in summer months  1988 - ongoing monthly	ecosystem structure and variability	- Doubling of ship-measured chlorophyll a concentrations during period 1968-1985. - Change from large eukaryotic to small photosynthetic prokaryotes. - Decrease in dissolved phosphate concentrations due to proliferation of nitrogen fixing microorganisms.
Fisheries data series	<b>Various</b>	Various	Fish stock assessments	- from 1950: FAO: <a href="http://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/en">http://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/en</a> - from 1950: <a href="http://www.seaaroundus.org">www.seaaroundus.org</a> , - from 1950: Global fishing effort data - from 1970: ICES Trawl Surveys – - from 1950: RAM Legacy Stock Assessment Database - from 1903: British landings and effort



# Joining forces with the private sector?

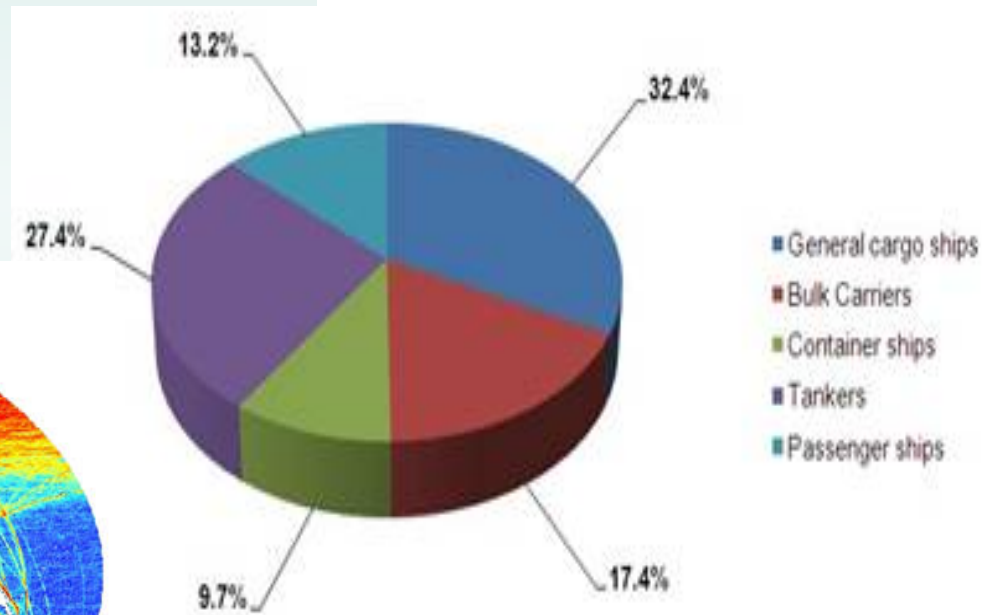
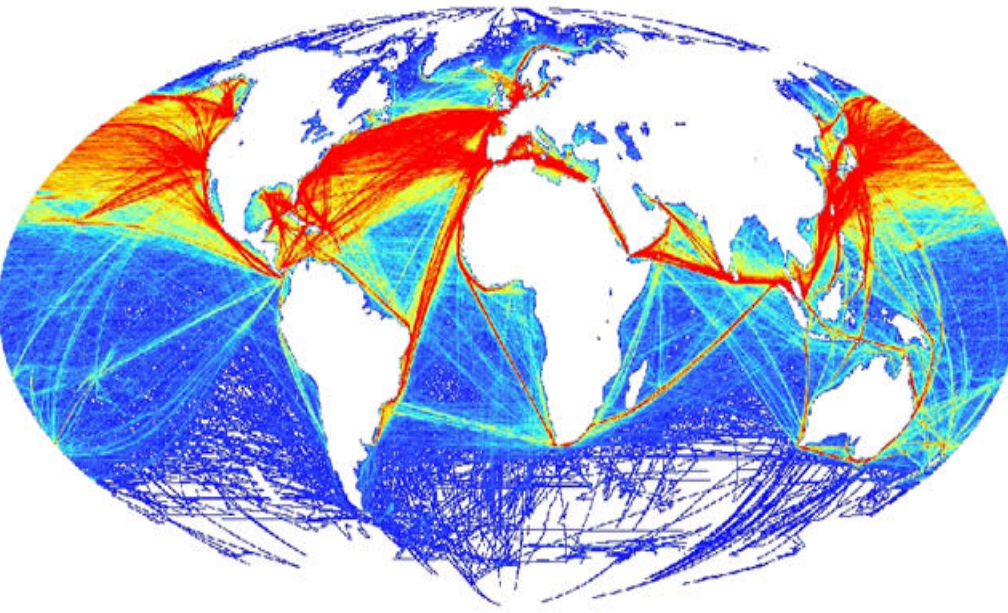
## Opportunities of Ships

**50,054 ships** (Oct 2010)

- Tankers: 13,175
- Bulk Carriers: 8,687
- Container ships: 4,831
- Passenger ships: 6,597



The International Business Alliance  
for Corporate Ocean Responsibility



Figures in brackets are numbers of ships, by sector.  
Source: IHS Fairplay October 2010

## Question

How can GCOS / IPCC help inform and coordinate national and international agencies to establish observation programs for the joint, continuous and reliable **study of physical, physicochemical, and biological indicators of climate change and impacts** in ocean regions? ....*involving the private sector?*

## Challenge

...To take into account **biological parameters** and their **regional specificities** and inform the evolution of monitoring for **combined ocean warming, acidification and hypoxia** as well as their specific regional impacts, combined with **local conditions** such as freshening, eutrophication and pollution.

# Thank you!

Rhein, M., S.R. Rintoul, S. Aoki, E. Campos, D. Chambers, R.A. Feely, S. Gulev, G.C. Johnson, S.A. Josey, A. Kostianoy, C. Mauritzen, D. Roemmich, L.D. Talley and F. Wang, 2013: **Observations: Ocean**. In: Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis.

Pörtner, H.-O., D.M. Karl, P.W. Boyd, W.W.L. Cheung, S.E. Lluch-Cota, Y. Nojiri, D.N. Schmidt, and P.O. Zavialov, 2014: **Ocean systems**. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. **Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects**., pp. 411-484.

Hoegh-Guldberg, O., R. Cai, E.S. Poloczanska, P.G. Brewer, S. Sundby, K. Hilmi, V.J. Fabry, and S. Jung, 2014: **The Ocean**. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. **Part B: Regional Aspects**., pp. 1655-1731.



## GOA-ON will provide:

### **Goal 1** An understanding of global OA conditions

Identify spatial/temporal patterns and assess generality of response; document and assess variation to infer driving mechanisms; quantify rate of change

### **Goal 2** An understanding of ecosystem response to OA

Measure biological responses to physical/ chemical changes; quantify rate of change and identify areas of vulnerability

### **Goal 3** Data needed to optimize modeling for OA

Provide spatially and temporally-resolved chemical and biological data to be used in developing models for societally-relevant analyses and projections

**Strong dependence on individual engagement**

# GOA-ON has a nested system design

Coral reefs

Coasts & shelf seas

Open ocean

Goal 1 OA conditions	Goal 2 Ecosystem response	Goal 3 OA modeling
<p><u>L1:</u> carbonate-system constraint, T, S, O, fluorescence, irradiance</p> <p><u>L2:</u> nutrients, bio-optics, transport, meteorology, trace metals...</p> <p><u>L3:</u> capability-specific</p>	<p><u>L1:</u> biomass of functional groups (phytoplankton, zooplankton &amp; microbes)</p> <p><u>L2:</u> species; processes incl. growth, grazing &amp; respiration</p> <p><u>L3:</u> capability-specific</p>	<p>} Inputs to models</p>

# GOA-ON observing shortcoming:

**Open ocean**: On global scale, significant building blocks are there, but network needs filling-in, enhancing and sustaining.

**Coasts & shelf seas**: On global scale, needs construction. On regional scale, there are some systems (with ability to leverage), but many gaps. Global design needs to be regionally coordinated and implemented.

**Coral reefs**: On a global scale, needs construction; on regional scale, some systems can serve as building blocks. Observing assets may not cover full variability range, hence need for detailed site-specific studies.



## Correlated changes in temperature and $p\text{CO}_2$

(a) Relationship between  $p\text{CO}_2$  and temperature in the top 50 m of the water column in the northern and central California Current Ecosystem during summer upwelling season which approximately spans May through October and (b) winter (November through April) when downwelling-favourable winds predominate.

