Goals of this talk

- Background overview of Southern Ocean oceanography.
- Prompt discussion about sampling strategies designed to target important regional features.

Southern Ocean circulation





Properties along meridional section (P16; 150°W)





Anthropogenic CO₂ uptake is mediated by circulation

Ocean Cant inventory (1990s)



Natural carbon distributions



Net community production



- GPP: Gross primary productivity
- NPP: Net primary productivity
- NCP: Net community production

after Sigman & Hain 2012



Deep winter mixing sustains iron supply





At what regional scales are oceanographic processes accessible to observation in ORCAS?

Are there important environmental gradients across which we can sample and thereby improve opportunities for insight into system dynamics?

Satellite-based NPP: meridional gradient?



Arrigo et al., 2008

Spatial variation in bloom onset and peak (based on chlorophyll)





Timing of max chlorophyll

Carranza & Gille, 2015

Summer (DJF) mixed layer depth: mean and variability





Carranza & Gille, 2015

Surface heat fluxes

SOSE-derived, 5-day mean, surface heat fluxes (80°-90°W)



positive := downward

courtesy of M. Mazloff

Simulated air-sea oxygen fluxes

CESM sensitivity experiments: O_2 fluxes N and S of ${\sim}\mathsf{PF}$ $_{(80^\circ\text{-}90^\circ\text{W})}$



positive := downward

Conceptual framework: Mechanisms driving fluxes



$$h\frac{dC}{dt} = k^{\text{CO}_2} \alpha \left(p\text{CO}_2^{atm} - p\text{CO}_2^{ocn} \right) + \Theta \left(\frac{dh}{dt} \right) \cdot \left(C_{pyc.} - C \right) + \left. K_z \frac{dC}{dz} \right|_{pyc.} + J_{ncp}$$
gas exchange entrainment vertical mixing biology

Entrainment formulation

$$C_{pyc.} = C + (h_{n+1} - h_n) \cdot \left. \frac{dC}{dz} \right|_{pyc.} \qquad \Theta\left(\frac{dh}{dt}\right) = \begin{cases} 0, dh/dt \leq 0\\ 1, dh/dt > 0 \end{cases}$$
(Heaviside step function)

The Southern Ocean leak in the biological pump



Sigman et al., 2010

Seasonal rectification in the Antarctic zone Properties in the Ross Sea



Long, 2010

Annual mean surface properties



Net flux is a residual between C_{ant} uptake and C_{nat} outgassing



Southern Ocean air-to-sea fluxes

Zickfeld et al. 2008

Southern Ocean carbon inventory under RCP8.5 and idealized forcing



Ito et al., GRL, in revision

Southern Ocean overturning is strongly mediated by eddies

Eddy compensation



After Marshall and Radko, JPO, 2003

Eddy compensation: insensitivity of upper MOC to wind stress; Eddy saturation: insensitivity of ACC transport to wind stress.

Vertical mixing mediates transient tracer uptake

Vertical fluxes in ACC



Missing physics? September mixed layer depth: Obs and biases in CORE-forced runs



Downes et al. in prep

Southern Ocean leak in the biological pump



Preformed nutrient

Regenerated nutrient



(produced in situ from sinking organic matter)

Sarmiento and Gruber, 2006

Freshly forming mode and intermediate waters

