# Comparative biogeochemistry-ecosystem-human interactions on dynamic continental margins

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Lisa A. Levin

Kon-Kee Liu

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Authors**

Lisa A. Levin, Kon-Kee Liu, Kay-Christian Emeis, Denise L. Breitburg, James Cloern, Curtis Deutsch, Michele Giani, Anne Goffart, Eileen E. Hofmann, Zouhair Lachkar, Karin Limburg, Su-Mei Liu, Enrique Montes, Wajih Naqvi, Olivier Ragueneau, Christopher Rabouille, Santosh Kumar Sarkar, Dennis P. Swaney, Paul Wassman, and Karen F. Wishner

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2  **continental margins**

3  Lisa A. Levin[1]*, Kon-Kee Liu[2], Kay-Christian Emeis[3], Denise L. Breitburg[4], James
4  Cloern[5], Curtis Deutsch[6], Michele Giani[7], Anne Goffart[8], Eileen E. Hofmann[9], Zouhair
5  Lachkar[10], Karin Limburg[11], Su-Mei Liu[12], Enrique Montes[13], Wajih Naqvi[14], Olivier
6  Ragueneau[15], Christophe Rabouille[16], Santosh Kumar Sarkar[17], Dennis P. Swaney[18], Paul
7  Wassman[19], Karen F. Wishner[20]

8

9  *[1]Corresponding author Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation, Scripps
10  Institution of Oceanography, 9500 Gilman Dr. La Jolla, CA 92093-0218, USA; 858-
11  534-3579; llevin@ucsd.edu),
12  [2] Institute of Hydrological and Oceanic Sciences, National Central University, Chungli,
13  TAIWAN 320, kkliu@ncu.edu.tw
14  [3]Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Institute of Coastal Research, Max-Planck-Str.1, 21502
15  Geesthacht, GERMANY; kay.emeis@hzg.de
16  [4]Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, PO Box 28 647 Edgewater, MD 20676,
17  USA, breitburgd@si.edu
18  [5] United States Geological Survey, 345 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025, USA;
19  jecloern@usgs.gov)
20  [6] School of Oceanography, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 98195, USA,
21  cdeutsch@uw.edu
22  [7]Instituto di Oceanografia e Geofisica Sperimentale (OGS), Via A. Piccard 54 34151
23  Trieste, ITALY, mgiani@inogs.it
24  [8] Laboratoire d'Océanologie, Université de Liège, B6c, B 4000 Liège, Belgium &
25  STARESO, F 20260 Calvi, FRANCE; a.goffart@ulg.ac.be
26  [9] Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography, Old Dominion University, Norfolk,
27  Virginia, 23508, USA, hofmann@ccpo.odu.edu
28  [10] Environmental Physics, Institute of Biogeochemistry and Pollutant Dynamics, ETH
29  Zurich, Zurich, SWITZERLAND CHN E 23.1, Universitätstrasse 16 8092 Zürich,
30  SWITZERLAND, zouhair.lachkar@env.ethz.ch
31  [11] Department of Environmental and Forest Biology, State University of New York
32  College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210 USA,
33  klimburg@esf.edu
34  [12] Key Laboratory of Marine Chemistry Theory and Technology Ministry of Education,
35  Ocean University of China, Qingdao 266100, P. R. China, sumeiliu@ouc.edu.cn.
36  [13] College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, Florida, USA,
37  emontesh@mail.usf.edu
38  [14] National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, India, naqvi@nio.org.
39  [15] Laboratoire des Sciences de l'Environnement Marin, Institut Universitaire Européen de
40  la Mer, Technopôle Brest-Iroise, 29280 Plouzané, FRANCE ;
41  olivier.ragueneau@univ-brest.fr
42  [16] Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, Gif sur Yvette, France
43  christophe.rabouille@lsce.ipsl.fr
44  [17] Department of Marine Science, University of Calcutta, 35  Ballygunge Circular Road,
45  Calcutta 700019, INDIA, sarkar.santosh@gmail.com

46   [18] Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University, Ithaca NY
47       14853, USA, dps1@cornell.edu  USA
48   [19] Dept. of Arctic and Marine Biology, Faculty of Bioscience, Fishery and Economy,
49       University of Tromsø, 9037 Tromsø, NORWAY, paul.wassmann@uit.no
50   [20] University of Rhode Island, 215 S Ferry Rd, Narragansett, RI 02882, USA,
51       kwishner@gso.uri.edu
52

53   **Abstract:** The ocean's continental margins face strong and rapid change, forced by a
54   combination of direct human activity, anthropogenic $CO_2$-induced climate change, and
55   natural variability. Stimulated by discussions in Goa, India at the IMBER IMBIZO III,
56   we (1) provide an overview of the drivers of biogeochemical variation and change on
57   margins, (2) compare temporal trends in hydrographic and biogeochemical data across
58   different margins (3) review ecosystem responses to these changes, (4) highlight the
59   importance of margin time series for detecting and attributing change and (5) examine
60   societal responses to changing margin biogeochemistry and ecosystems.  We synthesize
61   information over a wide range of margin settings in order to identify the commonalities
62   and distinctions among continental margin ecosystems. Key drivers of biogeochemical
63   variation include long-term climate cycles, $CO_2$-induced warming, acidification, and
64   deoxygenation, as well as sea level rise, eutrophication, hydrologic and water cycle
65   alteration, changing land use, fishing, and species invasion. Ecosystem responses are
66   complex and impact major margin services including primary production, fisheries
67   production, nutrient cycling, shoreline protection, chemical buffering, and biodiversity.
68   Despite regional differences, the societal consequences of these changes are unarguably
69   large and mandate coherent actions to reduce, mitigate and adapt to multiple stressors on
70   continental margins.
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## 1. Introduction to dynamic margin ecosystems

The oceans' continental margins extend for some 150,600 km (Jahnke, 2010) and encompass estuarine, open coast, shelf, canyon, slope, and enclosed sea ecosystems. They are both gateway and window to the open ocean, where water, nutrients, energy, sediments, contaminants and organisms meet and are transferred through land-margin and margin-open ocean interactions (Levin et al., 2001). The continental margins include proximal estuaries, bays, lagoons and banks, and distal shelves, slopes and marginal seas. These are susceptible to changes in biodiversity, water quality, and productivity and have been increasingly perturbed by human activities.

Margin ecosystems include hard and soft-substrate habitats ranging from structurally complex wetlands, kelp forests, coral reefs, rocky reefs and sand beaches, to sedimented estuaries, slopes and canyons. Most of the habitat volume, however, occurs in the overlying water column, with variation linked to water masses, circulation, and land and atmospheric interactions. As one crosses depth contours from estuaries across the shelf to the continental slope, steep gradients in nutrient concentrations, temperature, salinity, oxygen, pH and suspended matter are found that impact the productivity, composition, diversity, and abundance of organisms (Cloern, 1996; Hofmann et al., 2011; Levin and Sibuet, 2012). Relative to their area, the margins account for a disproportionately large fraction of the global primary production (10 – 15%), nutrient recycling, carbon burial (> 60% of total settling organic carbon), and fisheries production (Walsh et al. 1988; Muller-Karger et al., 2005). They also are exceptionally dynamic systems with ecosystem structures that can oscillate slowly or shift abruptly, but rarely remain static.

The current continental margin seascape has been shaped extensively by climate change and human activities, yielding altered ecosystem services. Margin ecosystems provide key services in the form of physical protection from waves, storms, and floods, chemical buffering, food provisioning, nursery support, nutrient cycling, habitat fostering biodiversity, carbon sequestration, recreation, and aesthetic value. Finely tuned biogeochemical interactions drive these functions. Because human populations are disproportionately concentrated in coastal cities, there is heterogeneity in the human effects on margins, creating mosaics of heavily impacted and relatively pristine systems. Nutrient inputs, freshwater extraction, fishing, construction, species introductions, and contamination are but a few of the many ways humans alter coastal ecosystems. Also the steady increase of anthropogenic $CO_2$ inputs to the atmosphere will result in significant changes in water column temperature, oxygenation, pH, and productivity by 2100, with major consequences for margin ecosystems and the over 1 billion people that depend on them for food, employment and revenue (Mora et al., 2013; FAO, 2012).

While margin research has a long history among oceanographers (Banner et al., 1980. Walsh et al., 1988, Biscaye et al., 1994, Duarte et al. 1999, Antia et al., 2001, Liu et al., 2010), a synoptic view of dynamic coupled margin systems has emerged more slowly and the linkages between human and natural biogeochemical variations, ecosystem response and human social structures are only now being explored. The interactive effects of remote forcing from distant inland activities, from atmospheric processes, and from

134 physical processes far out to sea are becoming more apparent. There are, however, gaps
135 in our understanding of the combined effects of multiple drivers on coastal
136 biogeochemistry and ecosystems across all continental margins. The objectives of this
137 paper are to provide an overview of sources of biogeochemical variation on margins,
138 associated ecosystem responses, and the societal and policy implications, with a focus on
139 lessons from multiple continental margin time series (Fig 1).

140

141 This paper reflects the themes and discussions of the continental margins working group
142 of IMBER IMBIZO III (Goa, India in January 2013). In this paper we examine drivers of
143 biogeochemical variation on margins, distinguishing natural from $CO_2$-based climate
144 variability, and more direct human drivers. We next compare temporal trends for
145 multiple physical and biogeochemical parameters at geographically contrasting locations
146 We then discuss the complex ecosystem responses to biogeochemical variation and
147 trends on margins, in particular those related to warming, deoxygenation, acidification
148 and hydrologic alterations. We subsequently identify the key roles played by continental
149 margin time-series stations (Fig. 1) in identifying and attributing drivers of change and in
150 understanding the associated ecosystem responses. Finally, we examine societal
151 responses to changing margin biogeochemistry and ecosystems, highlighting areas where
152 social and natural scientists must work together. Case studies (expanded in Supplement
153 B) are synthesized to provide insights into the sensitivity of margins to natural and human
154 perturbations, the ecological, social and economic consequences that stem from these
155 perturbations, and the policy actions needed to mitigate impacts on coastal ecosystems
156 and their resources.

157

158 **2. Natural and human-induced drivers of biogeochemical variation on margins**

159

160 Controls on biogeochemistry of margins are complex and dynamic. In this paper we
161 distinguish drivers associated with natural *variability*, anthropogenic $CO_2$ –driven *climate*
162 *change* and direct human (*anthropogenic*) impacts. It is often difficult to disentangle
163 these three forcing mechanisms, as well as to distinguish local change from regional to
164 global-scale pressures. Multiple factors act together – exerting top-down (often human)
165 and bottom – up (natural or human) controls on ecosystem structure simultaneously.

166

167 *Natural Sources of Variability*
168 Natural variation in biogeochemical features affecting margin ecosystems occurs on a
169 vast range of time scales, from millions of years to hours. Direct measurements during
170 the past century in many of the systems discussed here have revealed large, abrupt,
171 persistent changes in the structure and function (or state) of an ecosystem, which were
172 sometimes interpreted as regime shifts (Mumby et al., 2007; de Young et al., 2008;
173 Barnovsky et al. 2012). These may be manifested as simultaneous changes in
174 phytoplankton, dominant consumer species, and trophic structure. Regime shifts often
175 yield major consequences for fisheries and human livelihood (McFarlane et al., 2002;
176 Zhang and Gong, 2005). Examples can be found in the North Pacific - Pacific Decadal
177 Oscillation (Wooster and Zhang, 2004), North Atlantic (Alheit et al., 2014) Caribbean
178 coral reefs (Hughes, 1994), Mediterranean Sea (Conversi et al., 2010), Northern Adriatic
179 Sea (Conversi et al., 2009) and North Sea (Beaugrand, 2004). In the Northern
180 Hemisphere, major ecosystem shifts were observed in the late 1980s to early 1990s, with

181 synchronous shifts following an overall period of high variability. These ecosystem
182 regime shifts were linked to changes in global-scale climate indices (Chavez et al., 2011;
183 Conversi et al., 2010; Möllmann et al., 2011).  It is cautioned that these abrupt changes
184 are sometimes difficult to distinguish from random fluctuations or overfishing effects and
185 their true nature often remains unclear (e.g., Hsieh et al., 2005).
186
187 Margins may also be subject to basin-specific and regional influences. For example, the
188 California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI), one of the longest
189 existing oceanographic time series (63 y), reveals major natural variations in water
190 column temperature, oxygen, pH and current strength that are associated with changes in
191 the regional hydrography of the California Current Ecosystem over multiple time and
192 space scales (Checkley and Barth, 2009; McClatchie et al., 2010; Nam et al., 2011; Send
193 and Nam 2012). In addition to the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, there are decadal scale
194 ENSO cycles, seasonal and week-long upwelling events that alter productivity and/or
195 ocean biogeochemistry with marked shifts in oxygen and pH (Fig 2). Variability in these
196 environmental parameters results in changes in the regional biodiversity and ecosystem
197 structure with significant impacts on ecosystem services we depend on (Doney et al.
198 2012).
199
200 Much natural climate variability and some manifestations of climate change occur
201 abruptly over short time and space scales.  Most margins experience episodic, extreme
202 events that shape their ecosystems, often through biogeochemical modification.  For
203 example the Rhone River carries 80% of its solid flux during 5% of the time (Antonelli et
204 al., 2007) with large biogeochemical consequences (Cathalot et al., 2010). Extreme storm
205 events can reshape coastal systems with short-lived, dramatic changes in salinity and
206 flushing rates and through more persistent alterations of channel openings (Paerl et al.,
207 2001).   Atmospheric deposition of nutrients associated with air mass outflow from the
208 Indo-Gangetic Plain to the northern Bay of Bengal is significant and most can occur over
209 4 months in association with the NE monsoon, highlighting the temporal nature of these
210 atmospheric drivers (Srinivas et al., this volume). These are likely to have direct
211 consequences for eutrophication in Bay of Bengal surface waters triggering profuse algal
212 blooms in the adjacent Sundarban wetland (Naha Biswas et al., 2013). Heat waves that
213 last for a few weeks can induce mass mortality in coastal ecosystems of the
214 Mediterranean Sea either directly (Garrabou et al., 2009; Marba and Duarte, 2010) or
215 through the spread of disease and invasive species (Lejeusne et al., 2010).
216
217 As with short time scales, small areas of the ocean can play key roles in global
218 biogeochemical fluxes on margins.  For example, 1% of the ocean's water volume
219 accounts for 50% of N removal through water column denitrification and annamox in
220 oxygen deficient zones (Deutsch et al., 2011), and 60-70% of the annual denitrification
221 rate occurs in shelf sediments (Codispoti, 2007). Submarine canyons carry 80-90% of the
222 sediment and organic matter fluxes to the open seafloor sediments, with transport
223 affected by climate-driven stratification, wind regime and winter cooling (Canals et al.,
224 2006; Rabouille et al., 2013). It is proposed that the Congo River, with the second largest
225 discharge in the world, carries 50% of the river's silica through an 800-km long
226 submarine canyon to a 3000 km$^2$ deep-sea fan (Raimonet et al., this volume). The

227 functions of submarine canyons as key removal agents via deep-sea fans and deltas may
228 be diminished by climate change-driven reduction of dense water formation with less
229 cascading and deep export (Herrmann et al., 2008; Rabouille et al., 2013).
230
231 An important question to emerge is whether natural variability associated with exposure
232 to stressful conditions (such as hypoxia or hypercapnia) confers evolutionary pre-
233 adaptation to further stress from climate change or direct human activities. Evidence
234 suggests that animals in margin settings subject to upwelled, low-pH waters are resilient
235 to such conditions (e.g., Thomsen et al., 2010; Yu et al., 2011; Hoffmann et al., 2014). In
236 other coastal regions where hydrographic variability is also intense and there are multiple
237 controls from land, detection of trends, sources and biological responses including
238 adaptation can be difficult (Duarte et al., 2013). Whether hydrographic stressors that vary
239 naturally (oxygen, acidification and warming) elicit more adaptation than 'unnatural'
240 (man made) trace organic or metal/metalloid contaminants, remains an open question.
241
242 *CO$_2$-driven climate drivers*
243 Rising $CO_2$ in the atmosphere is reshaping margin ecosystems by increasing sea level,
244 ocean warming, ocean acidification and ocean deoxygenation (Doney et al. 2012). There
245 are also climate shifts that alter patterns of heat, drought, precipitation, and flooding that
246 modify margins directly and indirectly through changes in land use, runoff, and human
247 activities.
248
249 $CO_2$-induced warming and enhanced stratification have been linked to declining oxygen
250 concentrations on the southern California shelf and upper slope (Bograd et al., 2008) as
251 well as increased seasonal hypoxia on the inner Oregon shelf (Chan et al., 2008). These
252 changes also involve lowered pH and high $pCO_2$ (Frieder et al. 2012; Alin et al. 2012),
253 with consequences for biogeochemical cycling and ecosystem structure in the California
254 Current (CC) system (Doney et al. 2012). Upwelling is intensifying and low pH (which
255 promotes aragonite undersaturation) is spreading in the northeast Pacific (Feely et al.
256 2008; Gruber et al., 2012). The observed low pH conditions in the CC system are shaping
257 characteristics of this ecosystem by affecting calcifying species and have resulted in the
258 decline of cultured bivalves (Barton et al., 2012). Whether the oxygen and pH changes
259 reflect a continuous, secular trend resulting from $CO_2$-driven climate changes or are part
260 of a larger (50 y) natural cycle remains controversial (McClatchie et al. 2010; Deutsch et
261 al., 2011). These changes are occurring in an ecosystem already subject to high natural
262 variability (Fig. 2). Clear understanding of this complexity is needed for forecasting
263 future conditions.
264
265 Beyond upwelling regions, perhaps the greatest manifestations of climate change are
266 found on the shelves of the Arctic Ocean. Among the most massive of inputs, a full 10%
267 of the freshwater reaching the oceans occurs in the Arctic, which has only 4 million
268 people living there. Thawing of permafrost due to warming yields increased inputs of soil
269 organic carbon and methane to the coastal ocean and atmosphere (Schurr, 2013), and will
270 influence many aspects of the Arctic coastal ecosystem (Whiteman et al., 2013). The
271 freshwater from melting sea ice combined with degradation of released organic matter is
272 causing major perturbation of low pH in the Arctic. Baseline monitoring of the W. Arctic

273 Ocean reveals that 20% of the Canada Basin surface waters exhibit aragonite
274 undersaturation (Robbins et al., 2013).
275
276 As temperatures continue to increase (Behrenfeld et al., 2006), warming is expected to
277 reduce productivity over much of the ocean (Mora et al., 2013). It is uncertain whether
278 lowered production will reduce oxygen depletion in midwater (from decomposition of
279 sinking phytoplankton and respiration of vertical migrators), counteracting the
280 deoxygenation effects of global warming (from increased stratification and reduced
281 mixing). Alternatively, intensified upwelling in a warmer world may pump more
282 nutrients into surface waters, increase respiration of microbes and other organisms, and
283 increase the rate of deoxygenation. As a direct effect or through changes in currents such
284 as the Gulf Stream, warming might increase methane emissions via dissociation of gas
285 hydrates on continental margins (Phrampus and Hornbach, 2012). Massive gas hydrate
286 deposits in the shallow Arctic Ocean are particularly susceptible and their release may
287 exacerbate acidification and oxygen depletion via aerobic methane oxidation in the water
288 column (Biastoch et al., 2011). There has yet to be exploration of modern biological
289 responses to long-term increases in methane fluxes on margins, although the geologic
290 past may hold lessons in this regard (Kennett et al., 2003).
291
292 ***Direct Human Drivers***
293 Rivers are a primary conduit of nutrient loading to the shelf from terrestrial sources of
294 nutrients. Since the development in the early 20th century of the Haber-Bosch process
295 for fixing nitrogen for use in fertilizers, the global nitrogen cycle has become increasingly
296 affected by anthropogenic inputs. The net anthropogenic nitrogen inputs (NANI) to a
297 region include fertilizer application, atmospheric deposition, agricultural N fixation by
298 leguminous crops, and the nitrogen associated with food and livestock feed crossing
299 regional boundaries. Nitrogen flux in rivers is often highly correlated to the NANI of
300 their drainage basins (e.g., Howarth et al., 1996; Han and Allen, 2008; Swaney et al.,
301 2012). In areas of high population densities (e.g., coastal cities) or regions of industrial-
302 scale livestock production, as is increasingly seen in India and China, the nitrogen
303 associated with the trade of food and feed commodities may be very significant. In areas
304 of high crop production, synthetic N fertilizer is typically the dominant source of N (e.g.,
305 Yan et al., 2010). In India, use of synthetic fertilizer has grown exponentially over the
306 last fifty years, making Indian agriculture one of the most intense consumers of fertilizer
307 in the world (Swaney et al., this issue). Between 1970 and 2000, the coastal Bay of
308 Bengal has experienced massive N and P loading (50% and 35% increase, respectively)
309 causing eutrophication; 70-80% of the loading is from agricultural sources (Sattar et al.,
310 2014).
311
312 Margins play a key role in filtering nutrients and contaminants that enter the ocean via
313 runoff and rivers. Productive estuarine ecosystems, particularly wetlands, are able to
314 remove nutrients by denitrification, uptake by vascular plant, phytoplankton, and
315 microbes, by promoting flocculation and enhancing deposition and burial (Kennedy
316 1984, Howarth et al., 2006; Dähnke et al., 2008; Lassaletta et al., 2011; Howarth et al.,
317 2012). Intensive filter feeding by bivalves such as oysters and mussels can also remove
318 particulate nutrients and control eutrophication (Cloern et al. 1982; Dame 2012). The

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filtering functions of margins have been greatly affected by massive wetland loss over the past century, due largely to changing land use and sea level rise. Globally, overfishing (of oysters) and species introductions (of invasive bivalves) have also had a major influence on water filtration functions (Dame 2011).

Human acceleration of nutrient cycles and eutrophication are among the best studied of the anthropogenic forcing factors and cause the most conspicuous adverse effects upon continental margins as witnessed by diverse case studies (Table 1, Fig. 1). Intensified nitrogen loading is widespread in coastal ecosystems receiving effluents from catchments with dense human populations (Rabalais, 2004; Glavovic et al., submitted). This yields continental margin dead zones (coastal hypoxic areas resulting from eutrophication), which number over 475 and are on the rise (Diaz and Rosenberg, 2008; World Resources Institute, 2013). The largest of these occur in the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, the northern Gulf of Mexico and the East China Sea (Rabouille et al., 2008; Zhu et al., 2011), where historical hypoxia induced by natural climate conditions and circulation has been exacerbated by human nutrient input (Zillén et al. 2008; Rabalais et al., 2010; K.-K. Liu et al., this issue). The relative importance of natural and human (nutrient) drivers and efficacy of nutrient legislation has been under debate in recent years (e.g., Bianchi et al., 2008). For example, shrinking of hypoxic areas in the Black Sea appears to have resulted from reductions in human agricultural nutrient inputs, though the extent of the human impacts on this ecosystem is still not clear (Mee et al., 2005). In addition, as indicated above, the balance between N, P and Si is being modified by many factors that affect coastal production, both qualitatively and quantitatively (Ragueneau et al., 2005). $CO_2$-driven changes in warming, winds, upwelling, and precipitation will inevitably influence both the intensity and areal cover of hypoxia in many dead zones (Rabalais et al., 2009, 2014; Giani et al., 2012).

**3. Comparisons across continental margins**

To gain a broader sense of how shelf systems are responding to climatic forcing and direct human activities we have compared multiple physical and biogeochemical observations collected at geographically contrasting locations (Fig. 3, Table 2). Consistent with the global warming trend, three out of five margins (the Cariaco Basin, East China Sea and North Sea) have shown increasing temperatures over the last four decades (slope = X °C yr$^{-1}$; $p < 0.01$), except for San Francisco Bay (slope = -0.029 °C yr$^{-1}$; $p = 0.07$) where a cooling trend has been detected (For more detail see Supplement A). The cooling trend observed in San Francisco Bay is attributed to an increase in upwelling intensity accros the entire California Curruent system resulting from increasing northerly wind stress along the western coast of the US (Chavez et al., 2011). The warming trend in the Cariaco Basin, in turn, is the result of the weakening of the Trade Winds, and thus of upwelling intensity, along the southern Caribbean Sea (Astor et al., 2013; Taylor et al., 2012).

No significant trends in sea surface salinity (SSS) are observed at the Cariaco Basin or the North Sea. SSS in the Bohai Sea, however, shows a positive trend (0.0632 yr$^{-1}$) (Fig.

364    3b). The increasing salinity of the Bohai Sea is thought to be caused by decreasing
365    freshwater discharge from the Yellow River (Fig. 3d).
366
367    The load of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) in Changjiang (aka the Yangtze River),
368    which empties into the East China Sea, has increased by over two-fold (Liu et al., 2014)
369    between 1970 and 2002 (Fig. 3c), while this river's freshwaterwater discharge has only
370    increased slightly (Fig. 3d). This suggests that rising DIN concentrations in the
371    Changjiang River is mainly due to the intensive use of chemical fertilizer (Yan et al.,
372    2010). By contrast, and due to EU policy change, the DIN load discharged to the North
373    Sea has decreased by 50% since 1977. Dissolved inorganic phosphorus (DIP) shows a
374    similar decreasing trend at this location (Pätsch and Lenhart, 2011)
375
376    The sea surface chlorophyll-*a* concentrations in SF Bay have increased in the last two
377    decades (Fig. 3e), which is consistent with the observed decreasing trend in SST .
378    Simultaneously, however, chlorophyll-*a* in the Cariaco Basin shows a decreasing trend
379    since the late 90's due to weaker upwelling events and stronger thermal stratification
380    (Taylor et al., 2012). The monthly mean sea surface chlorophyll-*a* in the East China Sea
381    derived from ocean color products by NASA's Sea-viewing Wide Field-of-view Sensor
382    (SeaWiFS) also exhibits a significant increasing trend since 1998, which is thought to
383    result from increased DIN loads from the Changjiang River (Fig. 3c) (K.-K. Liu et al.,
384    this issue).
385
386    In response to increasing phytoplankton growth, bottom water oxygen saturation in SF
387    Bay and the East China Sea has shown a significant decline (Fig. 3f). Oxygen saturation
388    shows a weak decline in the upper 3 m at the CARIACO Station (Fig 3f), probably due to
389    warming and possibly to lower oxygen production by phytoplaknton (Fig 3e).
390
391    Different margins show markedly different responses to local stressors and to global-
392    scale change. Variations in availability and temporal coverage of different environmental
393    parameters highlight the need for comprehensive and sustained time-series observations
394    on continental margins.  These are required in ordert to understand ecosystem responses
395    to natural, $CO_2$ climate-driven and direct human perturbations.
396
397    **4. Ecosystem responses to biogeochemical change on continental margins**
398
399    Some of the most apparent environmental and ecosystem consequences due to the
400    common climate and human stressors discussed in this special issue are summarized in
401    Table 1 and discussed below.
402
403    Human alteration of hydrological processes such as damming and water diversion (B3,
404    B4), drives very noticeable physical changes in margins causing loss of habitats due to
405    coastal erosion or reduced river discharge (e.g., S.M. Liu, this issue). When combined
406    with climate effects, resulting salinity increases can lead to species invasions that reshape
407    coastal ecosystems.  Following massive water diversion and drought in San Francisco
408    Bay, an invasion by Asian clams altered the timing and magnitude of phytoplankton
409    availability, with cascading trophic consequences (Cloern and Jassby, 2012, B3). In the

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410 Bay of Brest, introduction of an invasive limpet changed the seasonality of primary
411 production, which in turn has changed benthic biodiversity and completely modified the
412 benthic-pelagic coupling over a 30-year period (Grall and Chauvaud, 2002).
413
414  In a broad sense, land use change alters how rainfall interacts with the landscape.  Some
415 land-use activities result in increased soil degradation and erosion (i.e., agriculture,
416 mining), and in eutrophication of rivers and continental margins through the use of
417 fertilizers.  The coastal zone's high primary productivity and the abundant filter feeders
418 (e.g., Lotze et al., 2006) offset land-derived nutrient inputs to some extent, but are tested
419 by eutrophication and overfishing (B2).  Moreover, rising sea levels will lead to flooding
420 of low-lying coastal regions like India and Bangladesh, movement of seawater farther up
421 estuaries, and intrusion of seawater into groundwater reservoirs.
422
423 Eutrophication is among the most widespread of coastal insults (Table 1; B2, B3, B4, B5,
424 B6), but the outcomes, which include productivity enhancement *and* hypoxia, can be
425 complex. For example, several cross-system comparisons indicate that increased N
426 enhances total landings of fish and mobile shellfish even in systems with hypoxia (Fig.
427 4), although individual species may decline and the overall composition of the catch can
428 be affected (Nixon and Buckley, 2002; Breitburg et al., 2009b).  On the downside,
429 hypoxia - an endocrine disrupter in fish that experience chronic exposure (Thomas et al.,
430 2006) - can favor gelatinous plankton and some bivalves (Breitburg et al., 2003), and
431 create and eliminate shallow water refuges for small and juvenile fishes (Breitburg et al.
432 2009a).
433
434 Reversal of eutrophication trends have been observed in some areas such as the Danish
435 straits (Carstensen et al., 2006), the Scheldt Estuary (Soetaert et al., 2006) and other
436 continental European rivers discharging into the North Sea (Emeis et al., this volume),
437 the open Northern Adriatic (Giani et al., 2012), and the NW Black Sea (McQuatter-
438 Gollop et al., 2009).  In some instances P reduction has been considered to be a primary
439 driver of these changes.  In the areas subject to oligotrophication, overfishing may act
440 synergistically to diminish the trophic chain and reduce seafood resources (B5).
441 However, along the Danish and Finnish coasts, dissolved oxygen in bottom waters
442 continues to drop despite efforts to reduce nutrient discharge (Carstensen et al., 2014). In
443 the Baltic Sea, which hosts nearly 20% of the world's identified coastal hypoxic sites,
444 climate and nutrient drivers interact with regional circulation patterns and wastewater
445 treatment technologies to produce a mosaic of faunal responses (Conley et al., 2011).
446
447 While eutrophication-induced hypoxia is spreading, warming also causes the ocean to
448 lose oxygen due to the synergistic effect of reduced oxygen solubility and enhanced
449 water column stratification (Bopp et al., 2001). This has been termed deoxygenation and
450 contributes to global expansion of oxygen minimum zones (Stramma et al. 2010).  Recent
451 model results demonstrate the extreme sensitivity of the volume of suboxic water in the
452 open ocean to changing climate conditions (Deutsch et al., 2011).  Biological analyses
453 suggest that equator-ward species boundaries are highly sensitive to changes in ocean
454 temperature and oxygen content.  Models predict a decline in metabolic scope of species
455 (energy available for maintenance and reproduction) and functional habitat loss.

456      On margins both eutrophication and intensified upwelling typically increase production
457      while drawing down oxygen and creating hypoxia at deeper water levels.  Animal
458      avoidance of hypoxia acts to aggregate species around or above hypoxic zones, and leads
459      to habitat compression, both in estuarine settings and in open-ocean oxygen minimum
460      zones (OMZs). The resulting aggregations are susceptible to overfishing (Craig, 2012,
461      Breitburg et al., 2009b), but high catches may mask the consequences of ecosystem
462      stress, making detection of habitat degradation difficult (Breitburg et al., 2009b).  Such
463      conditions also induce shoaling of the zooplankton biomass layer at the thermocline
464      (upper oxycline boundary) and concentration of midwater biomass in a layer at the lower
465      oxycline  (Wishner et al., 2013). As oxygen declines and oxygen minima shoal in both
466      the Atlantic and Pacific, large billfish are now found at shallower depths and are
467      increasingly susceptible to overfishing (Prince and Goodyear, 2006; Prince et al., 2010;
468      Stramma et al., 2011).

470      Upwelling margins, which host key world fisheries, exhibit strong vertical gradients in
471      temperature, oxygen and pH associated with oxygen minimum zones (Paulmier et al.,
472      2011). Across these gradients bathyal benthic assemblages reveal shifts in diversity, body
473      size, zonation, carbon processing, bioturbation, colonization and resilience (Levin, 2003,
474      Levin et al. 2009; Gilly et al., 2013; Levin et al., 2013). Intensified upwelling is predicted
475      to result in changes in biodiversity and ecosystem functioning associated with the
476      expansion of OMZs (Stramma et al., 2010; Gilly et al., 2013).  Recent onset of seasonal
477      hypoxia on the Oregon inner shelf now causes summer die-offs of fish and invertebrates
478      (Grantham et al., 2004).  Responses to intensified upwelling winds and increased
479      stratification can also vary regionally. For example, comparative analyses of the
480      California and Canary systems reveal substantial differences in the responses of
481      biological production and air–sea $CO_2$ fluxes to upwelling intensification in these two
482      systems (Lachkar and Gruber, 2013). These differences have been attributed to various
483      drivers such as the contrasting shelf topography, eddy activity, coastal water residence
484      times and basin-scale forcing in the two regions (Marchesiello and Estrade, 2009;
485      Lachkar and Gruber, 2013). These differences also affect the vulnerability of these
486      ecosystems to global anthropogenic perturbations such as ocean acidification (Lachkar,
487      2014). Other upwelling regions have received less attention and could exhibit additional
488      (or alternative) response mechanisms.

490      $CO_2$-induced climate change is the predominant forcing on the ecosystem of the polar
491      margins (S8).  Warming of the Arctic is taking place two to three times faster than global
492      rates (Trenberth et al., 2007); as a result sea-ice cover has been decreasing at a rate of
493      >10% per decade with ice-free summers expected in a few decades. Arctic ecosystems
494      are increasingly being challenged by tipping elements (Duarte et al., 2012; Naam, 2012;
495      Wassmann and Lenton, 2012).  In the future Norway may experience decreased primary
496      productivity, while Russia will show increased productivity. Nowhere will adaptation be
497      a more critical element of sustainability than in the Arctic, because the Arctic shelves
498      have inordinate importance in feeding the world population. (See S8 for more details)

500      Among the many effects of rising atmospheric $CO_2$, the significant decrease of ocean pH
501      (ocean acidification) and shift in seawater carbonate chemistry (Doney et al., 2001) may

502     elicit some of the most economically significant responses from margin ecosystems.
503     Acidification alters seawater chemical speciation, most notably the lowering of calcium
504     carbonate saturation states, which impacts shell-forming marine organisms from plankton
505     to benthic molluscs, echinoderms, and corals, all of which are abundant in continental
506     margins.  Ocean acidification is exacerbated in the coastal zone by increased land-derived
507     nutrient inputs, which enhance, in turn, productivity of organic matter and therefore
508     respiration and release of $CO_2$ (e.g., Borges and Gypens, 2010; Cai et al., 2011).  A
509     serious drop of aragonite saturation state has occurred in some coastal seas, such as the
510     North Yellow Sea, threatening the aquaculture of shellfish (e.g., Zhai et al., 2014). Coral
511     reef ecosystems, which provide key fisheries, critical shoreline protection and habitats for
512     a large number of species, are highly susceptible (Andersson and Gledhill, 2013). Due to
513     ocean acidification, rates of coral calcification may decrease, whereas rates of bioerosion
514     and carbonate dissolution may increase, resulting in a transition from net accretion to net
515     erosion. Impairment of the calcifying capacity of marine organisms is therefore expected
516     to have negative impacts on coral reefs and other calcifiers (e.g., bivalves) and on the
517     ecosystem services they provide.
518
519     The complexity of ocean biogeochemical-ecosystem interactions on margins means that
520     some drivers will create responses that generate feedback – further altering a system. One
521     example occurs when acidification-induced undersaturation of carbonate minerals
522     adversely affects shell growth and settlement success of bivalves and coral polyps
523     building reefs; this is predicted to ultimately reduce oyster, mussel and clam populations
524     and coral reef building. Locally, the presence of large oyster populations buffers
525     increasing $CO_2$ and decreasing pH through shell dissolution and alkalinity increase. So
526     lowered pH ultimately reduces local buffering capacity, leading to further reductions in
527     pH when the mineral buffer is exhausted. In addition, mass removal of shellfish (by
528     harvest), could contribute to a deficit in the carbonate balance, as the shells form a
529     dissolution buffer needed by many animals to survive (Waldbusser et al., 2013).
530     Populations may be reduced to the point of unsustainability leading to 'recruitment
531     overfishing'.
532
533     On some margins high-frequency climate oscillations are the dominant driver of
534     biogeochemical variation and consequently, ecosystem structure.  In the Bay of Calvi in
535     the Ligurian Sea of the NW Mediterranean (Goffart et al., this issue) the biogeochemical
536     condition is very oligotrophic during mild winters and mesotrophic during moderate
537     winters (B7). During severe winters, the Bay sustains a "high nutrient - low chlorophyll"
538     situation.  With little human disturbances this Bay may serve as the baseline, against
539     which ecosystem changes in the Mediterranean due to direct human impacts can be
540     detected (see B7 for more details). In the East Pacific Ocean, interannual variations
541     linked to ENSO induce low productivity (well oxygenated) El Nino and high productivity
542     (low oxygen) La Nina conditions that affect fisheries production in the Humboldt and
543     California and Benguela current ecosystems (Arntz et al., 2006).
544
545     **5. Using time series to distinguish drivers of change**
546     Hydrographic and ecological time series have provided data critical to evaluating and
547     interpreting change on margins. Koslow and Couture (2013) have referred to ecological

548    time series as the Cinderella (hard working drudges) at the climate change ball. Beyond
549    this they may provide the "Anthropocene's canary in a coal mine" for many other forms
550    of human disturbance. Below we address the approaches, benefits and limitations of time
551    series in attribution of change on margins.
552
553    Several multi-decadal oceanographic time series measurements from a variety of coastal
554    and pelagic systems have shown how lower and intermediate trophic levels, and
555    biogeochemical cycling react to climate oscillations regionally and globally (Chavez et
556    al., 2003; Black et al., 2011; Church et al., 2013) (Table 1).  Multi-decadal time series of
557    phytoplankton have been generated for many regions including San Francisco Bay
558    (Cloern and Jassby, 2013), Chesapeake Bay (Lee et al., 2013), Narragansett Bay
559    (Borkman and Smayda, 2009), the Cariaco Basin (Chavez et al., 2011, Muller-Karger et
560    al., 2013), the North Sea (Wiltshire et al., 2008) and areas of the Mediterranean Sea (e.g.
561    Goffart et al., 2002, Ninčević Gladan et al., 2010, Zingone et al., 2010, Goffart et al.,
562    submitted) including the Northern Adriatic (Bernardi-Aubry et al., 2012, Marić et al.,
563    2012, Mozetič et al., 2012) and Gulf of Naples (Ribera d'Alcalà et al., 2004).  There are
564    also Arctic time series in the Bering, Chukchi, and Barents Sea. Most of these reveal
565    oscillations associated with climate variability (Borkman et al., 2009; Harrison et al.,
566    2010).  Indeed, such long-term ocean time series have been fundamental for expanding
567    our knowledge about the sensitivity of marine biodiversity, ecosystems and
568    biogeochemistry to environmental change (Church et al., 2013; Koslow and Couture,
569    2013). However, moving forward an international network of time series is needed to
570    evaluate regional linkages and interpret global changes.
571
572    There are some major gaps in time series monitoring. Whereas models of nutrient fluxes
573    from watersheds abound, monitoring data to verify them do not. In the developing world,
574    the scarcity of monitoring data adequate to characterize riverine nutrient flows has
575    impeded our understanding of the relationships with human activities.  Research and
576    development of monitoring in these regions, should be made a priority, and would
577    improve our management of coastal waters. It is important to add that not only the N
578    cycle should be monitored, but also changes in nutrient ratios delivered by rivers. In
579    particular the Si:N and Si:P ratios should be closely monitored as potential early warning
580    indicators of disturbances (Billen and Garnier, 2007); indeed, they are often decreasing
581    due to excessive N and P inputs and decreasing Si inputs due to damming (Humborg,
582    1997) and the proliferation of invasive species (Ragueneau et al., 2005) causing
583    replacement of diatoms by dinoflagellates. South East Asia, where anthropogenic factors
584    leading to decreasing Si:N and Si:P ratios combine, should be especially targeted for
585    monitoring (Ragueneau et al., 2006).
586
587    Modern time series gain added value when used in conjunction with paleooceanographic
588    studies (Black et al., 2011) and models (see Church et al., 2013); together these tools
589    allow researchers to discern natural sources of environmental change from variations
590    induced by climate change (warming, extreme flooding from river input or snow melt, or
591    heat waves) and direct human drivers such as eutrophication, damming and fishing
592    (Koslow and Couture, 2013). In some margin settings subject to long bouts of habitation
593    and industrialization (e.g., Chesapeake Bay, the coastal SE North Sea, northern Adriatic),

594 natural variability is a small signal relative to the influence of humans. In others (e.g.,
595 upwelling margins) natural variability produces an exceedingly strong signal and
596 irrefutably detecting $CO_2$-driven climate change or anthropogenic forcing is difficult.
597
598 Sediment and glacial ice core climate records often provide the long temporal perspective
599 needed to identify climate oscillations prior to high anthropogenic $CO_2$ (> 280 ppm)
600 conditions or resulting from long-term changes in human population density and land use
601 practices (Cooper and Brush, 1993; Emeis et al., 2000; Yasuhara et al., 2012).  Some of
602 these geological climate records are now complemented by oceanographic and
603 biogeochemical time series observations, thus providing valuable insights into the effects
604 of anthropogenic perturbations on the marine environment (see Black et al., 2011).
605
606 *Time Series and Coastal Management.* The motivation underlying the establishment of
607 ecological time series varies. In California, CalCOFI was developed in the 1950s to
608 understand the boom and bust cycles of the sardine (Bograd et al., 2003; Chavez et al.,
609 2003).  At its inception, the CalCOFI concept of monitoring the entire ecosystem, now
610 widely accepted in the context of ecosystem-based management, was visionary and
611 somewhat heretical. In Chesapeake Bay, a long time series of young-of-year fish
612 abundances in Maryland waters was initiated in 1954 by the state fisheries agency to aid
613 management of several anadromous species (Durrell and Weedon, 2011), a time series of
614 jellyfish abundances was begun in 1960 by a University of Maryland researcher in
615 response to the 'Jellyfish Nuisance Act' (Cargo and King, 1990), and bay-wide time
616 series monitoring of water quality parameters was begun in the 1980s with funding from
617 the States of Maryland and Virginia and the US EPA to aid management efforts to
618 improve water quality conditions (Boesch et al., 2001).  Governments of states bordering
619 the western coasts of Europe  (OSPAR) and the Baltic Sea (HELCOM) initiated
620 monitoring programs in the 1970´s to protect the marine environment from all sources of
621 pollution through intergovernmental cooperation.
622
623 Although each time series is fixed in space and provides local information, when data are
624 combined across time series they can provide a powerful synoptic understanding of the
625 link between climate variability and ocean biogeochemistry (Church et al, 2013).  The
626 ICES Phytoplankton and Microbial Plankton Status Report 2009/2010 exemplifies this
627 for the North Atlantic (O'Brien et al., 2012). Records of sea ice cover and tipping points
628 in the Arctic provide another example (Carstensen and Weydmann, 2012). Under optimal
629 conditions, time series provide data prior to catastrophe (e.g., fishery collapse) so that
630 causes can be discerned. It is important, however, to recognize the value of understanding
631 regional differences and their forcing mechanisms.
632
633 *Time series constraints.*  Spatially fixed time series may have limitations.  Single-location
634 measurements typically do not reveal spatial expansions, contractions or oscillations.
635 They cannot recognize change due to relocation of organisms or features, making it
636 difficult in some cases to untangle spatial and temporal change, although spatial
637 comparisons can sometimes be used as proxies of temporal change (e.g., Wishner et al.,
638 2013). Satellite remote sensing has typically been the tool of choice for extrapolating
639 fixed time series observations to broader spatial and temporal scales. Some time-series
640 stations (i.e., Hawaiian Ocean Time-series [HOT] and the Bermuda Atlantic Time Series

640   [BATS]) have been successful at using autonomous samplers and sensors (e.g., gliders,
641   drifting profilers) for learning the regional significance of the measurements they collect.
642   These are especially important for hard-to-reach areas like the Arctic and Antarctic, and
643   can expand coverage for traditional time series in other regions. Autonomous sampling
644   platforms, however, are expensive to operate and thus are out of reach for time-series
645   programs with limited resources. Another approach is to engage platforms of opportunity.
646   Industry with a presence on the ocean margins, such as offshore wind and aquaculture,
647   fishing, fossil fuel extraction and minerals, may have a role to play in time series
648   development in the future, and should be broadly engaged to support monitoring efforts.
649   Expansion of programs like the World Ocean Council Smart Data/Smart Industries
650   (http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/smart_ocean.php) may be useful.

651   Time, funding and facilities constraints often limit time series to the upper water column
652   and basic hydrographic parameters.  To link these to key resource needs and sustainable
653   management – including aquaculture, fisheries, energy and minerals – it will be necessary
654   to incorporate the sea floor and its organisms into time-series monitoring. Benthos
655   monitoring can also provide critical information about biogeochemical feedbacks from
656   the sea floor, processes often not included in large-scale climate or ecosystem models.
657
658   Most margin time series are not of sufficient duration to detect variation outside normal
659   statistical variability (especially given decadal-scale cycles emerging in the atmosphere-
660   surface ocean system). Often shifts and change are misattributed due to lack of
661   knowledge about natural variability and its sources. Paleoceanographic records in ice
662   cores, sediment cores or tree rings allow us to extend understanding of margin processes
663   back in time, prior to the establishment of *in situ* observations (Gooday et al. 2009).
664   Innovative analyses of scales, teeth, otoliths and ichnofacies may allow use of such
665   records to reconstruct complex changes in exposure histories and food web dynamics
666   (Gooday et al., 2009; Morat et al., 2014). Recent development of geochemical proxies for
667   detection of fish exposure to hypoxia offers the promise of identifying past and present
668   trends in oxygen concentration using otoliths (Limburg et al., 2011; 2014 [this volume]);
669   fish scales and other skeletal elements may also prove useful, but require testing.
670   Chronosequences from long-lived calcifying organisms (e.g., coldwater corals or
671   bivalves) may provide excellent time series of temperature or pH as a basis for
672   chronometric analyses similar to dendrochronology (e.g., Chauvaud et al., 2005, 2012;
673   Black et al., 2008). Novel functional gene microarrays may be used to evaluate the
674   diversity and composition of the denitrifying microbial community in hypoxic settings
675   like OMZs, allowing us to better understand how microbial metabolism can impact the
676   global climate through the production of $N_2O$, a bi-product of denitrification and a
677   powerful greenhouse gas (Jayakumar et al., 2013).  We need to further develop proxy
678   variables for environmental reconstructions, expand the data bases for regional-scale
679   hindcasts, and strive to detect and interpret interannual variability from low resolution
680   archives.
681
682   While valuable in having fixed measurements, time series may also need to have an
683   adaptive observation component focused on (a) identifying changes and their underlying
684   causes and (b) monitoring parameters tied to the ecosystem services we care about, in
685   order to directly address policy concerns for effective management of these services.

15

686 There is often a gap between what we can realistically measure, and what we want to
687 achieve. This highlights the importance of research on basic processes and mechanisms
688 that will identify indicators of change and incorporate process-based knowledge into our
689 models. Often the early warning of degradation will come from land.  For example,
690 agricultural inputs, nutrient concentrations, N:P, Si:P , Si:N ratios or multiple nutrient
691 concentration data together could be key indicators (Billen and Garnier, 2007).

692 The burgeoning number of time series and rising volumes of data highlight a need to
693 engage more scientists in the analysis phase of time series research. There is also a
694 challenge of maintaining continuity in the face of severe funding shortages; scientists
695 must advocate for continuation of monitoring programs.  Key to the successful
696 continuation of time series is concise presentation of insight gained and raising the
697 awareness of the public and policy makers of their value.  It is here that social scientists
698 can help natural scientists learn how to make a strong case without loss of integrity and
699 accountability.
700
701 **6. The continental margin in the Anthropocene: the convergence of**
702 **biogeochemistry, ecosystems and society**
703
704 To be effective, economic models must be able to weigh the costs of the unwanted
705 impacts of stressors and forcings on ecosystem services discussed above and associated
706 consequences against gains for society, and to attribute change to specific and
707 controllable drivers. To date scientists have failed to convey the message of the
708 overriding importance and societal consequences of $CO_2$ emissions (as well as other
709 greenhouse gases) in the context of global warming.  Investment in collaboration efforts
710 between social and natural scientists, development of outreach and public communication
711 skills, and advocacy about the importance of individual actions are required to manage
712 margins effectively (Pidgeon and Fischhoff, 2011).  A need to combine scientific with
713 traditional and local ecological knowledge, especially in settings such as the Arctic,
714 further argues for key social-natural science integration.
715
716 There is growing need for modeling of coupled human (social)-biogeochemical systems
717 on margins.  A pioneering example can be found for the surfclam fishery on the Middle
718 Atlantic Bight (MAB) continental shelf (McCay et al., 2011). This million-dollar fishery
719 has been managed since the 1990s with transferable quotas, one of the first in the US to
720 do so. In recent decades the population has shifted to the north and overall abundance has
721 declined (Weinberg, 2005).  Simulations of surfclam growth that use 50-year hindcasts of
722 bottom temperature obtained from an implementation of the Regional Ocean Modeling
723 System for the MAB (Kang and Curchister, 2013) show that episodic warming events
724 increase surfclam mortality and limit animal size in the southern portion of its range
725 (Narváez et al, this issue). The resulting northward movement of the stock has negative
726 economic consequences for the fishing fleet and processing plants. These studies point to
727 a key role for natural scientists in assessment of the socio-economic consequences of
728 climate change (McCay et al., 2011).
729
730 *Disasters can sometimes serve as catalysts for action.* In the United States, several
731 disaster events have caught the attention of the scientific community and policy makers,

732    and have resulted in the development of large-scale monitoring efforts that seek to
733    mechanistically understand these events and mitigate their impacts by improving our
734    predicting capabilities. One example is the unexpected failure of the oyster aquaculture
735    fishery on the US Pacific coast due to upwelling of carbonate-undersaturated waters
736    (Barton et al., 2012); this stimulated state-sponsored research programs on ocean
737    acidification (Adelsman and Binder, 2012). Highly destructive Superstorm Sandy
738    stimulated sea level rise preparedness, and massive fish kills resulting from hurricane-
739    induced release of hog waste and sewage in North Carolina (Malin et al., 1999) have
740    engendered public support for altered agricultural practices and backup treatment plants.
741    These types of events are not one–time occurrences, but are likely to become more
742    frequent. For example, low bottom-water aragonite saturation values on shelves are
743    expected to have negative effects on shellfish in the Yellow Sea (Zhai et al., 2014) and
744    off California (Gruber et al., 2012).  The costs required for building community, industry
745    and ecosystem resilience are now being weighed against the massive costs of disaster
746    damage and disaster relief.
747
748    While continued and expanded time series measurements are essential to monitor status
749    and trends, scientists often know enough to make strong policy recommendations
750    regarding $CO_2$, nutrients and human activities. In many instances adaptation to change is
751    required and distinguishing among drivers is not essential for policy decisions.  Whether
752    reduced sediment inputs to the coastal zone result from damming or from drought, it will
753    still be necessary to prepare for climate-related sea level rise and associated consequences
754    of limited land-building and net loss of coastal wetlands. For anadromous fishes, loss of
755    freshwater inputs from damming versus drought will have similar consequences, as will
756    loss of river-sea connectivity from eutrophication induced hypoxia versus upwelling-
757    induced deoxygenation.  For coastal shellfish, the corrosive effects of acidification may
758    result from atmospheric $CO_2$ inputs, intensified upwelling, increased stratification,
759    anthropogenic nutrient loads, precipitation or sea ice melting. Acting to reduce $CO_2$
760    emissions and limit the now-inevitable rise in ocean temperatures, acidification, and
761    deoxygenation is critical.
762
763    There is growing consensus that direct anthropogenic stressors such as overexploitation
764    of natural resources (fisheries, mining), habitat destruction, land use/cover change,
765    alteration of river catchments, coastal construction, damming, species invasion and
766    pollution will lower the resilience of populations, species and ecosystems and make them
767    less able to cope with climate-induced stress (Bijma et al., 2013).  For example, reducing
768    fishing mortality in exploited populations can also reduce total mortality and be
769    protective of declining populations, even where part of that total mortality was due to
770    hypoxia, disease or habitat degradation (Breitburg et al., 2009b). Thus policy, law and
771    management of margins must consider and address climate and direct human stressors
772    together. Relevant lessons can be drawn from regional, time series and case studies where
773    different combinations of stressors interact and their trends have been tracked over time.
774    Understanding system connectivities, seeking indicators of regime change, and
775    promoting adaptation-oriented policy to build functional resilience, are lessons from the
776    Arctic (Carmack et al., 2012) that apply well to most margin ecosystems. The recently
777    released IPCC AR5 report emphasizes the overwhelming need for societal adaptation to

778 multiple stressors associated with climate change, especially in countries where poverty
779 will exacerbate the consequences (Field et al. IPCC 2014).
780
781 The recognition of the importance of natural capital and ecosystem services to national
782 wealth has come slowly to some nations.  In the USA this is now evidenced by the
783 generation of a National Ocean Policy (2004; http://ioc-
784 unesco.org/images/stories/LawoftheSea/Documents/NationalOceanPolicy/nop.usa.pdf).
785 To a large extent this policy addresses the continental margins, where most of the key
786 services and commercial resources are provided. The Marine Strategy Framework
787 Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC**,**
788 **http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine/ges.htm)**, adopted by the European
789 Commission in 2008, marks an important milestone in the development of the EU's
790 marine environmental policy and is the first framework instrument aimed expressly at
791 protecting and preserving the marine environment with a holistic approach. In 2012 The
792 EU launched its Blue Growth initiative
793 (http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth/) that addresses three crucial
794 components of sustainable development of marine resources: gathering and channeling
795 marine knowledge to improve access to information about the continental margins of
796 Europe, maritime spatial planning to aid management of offshore resources, and
797 integrated maritime surveillance. Other nations have national ocean policies in review
798 (e.g., South Africa) or in early stages of formulation (Namibia).
799
800 *Margin management strategies must move from mono- to multiple stressor*
801 *considerations.*  Most policies and research programs address only one or two factors –
802 nutrients, oxygen, ocean acidification, fishing pressure, disease, or invasive species, (e.g.,
803 Crain et al., 2008). We know that T, $O_2$ and $CO_2$ are changing simultaneously and
804 interacting (Bijma et al., 2013). There is need for scientific consensus on a) what the
805 multistressor questions are and b) how to approach the issues.  How to integrate
806 laboratory studies, field observations, monitoring, modeling, and use of proxies to
807 address these questions remains a major challenge.
808
809 To incorporate natural variability and climate change into our decision making and
810 management activities *we need research that identifies, quantifies and confronts*
811 *management tradeoffs.* Stakeholder identification and finding equitable solutions is
812 critical as every decision has winners and losers. We must quantify the economic costs of
813 nutrient reduction for agriculture, fishers, and ecosystem services.  Margin researchers
814 have only just begun to tackle the larger question of valuing ecosystem services and
815 biodiversity on the continental slope beyond the shelf –this is especially critical in deep
816 waters where resource extraction activities (energy, minerals and deep-water fishing) are
817 on the rise (Levin and Dayton, 2009; Jobstvogt et al., 2013).
818
819 As both top predators and guardians of the planet we face immense ocean policy
820 challenges over the next 10-50 years. The mentality of many nations is of a land-based
821 society.  Managing a fluid -connected environment is fundamentally different than
822 managing land use where discrete boundaries between impacted and more pristine areas
823 can be maintained. There is a spatial disconnect between farm policies and their effects

824    on the coastal ocean and our margins. Even international climate negotiations
825    (Converence of Parties) involve remarkably little consideration of ocean processes,
826    despite the large role the ocean plays in regulating climate.  The concepts underlying
827    sustainability in ocean margins must involve an educational thrust that starts early, as
828    well as strategies to communicate at national and international levels. *We need to better*
829    *understand the process by which science is introduced to policy, and target and fast track*
830    *scientific approaches that meet those needs*. End-to-end efforts are needed that first bring
831    together the natural and human component of socio-ecosystems; and then work with
832    stakeholders and policy makers towards finding and implementing solutions.
833
834    This article focuses on the impacts of the 20$^{th}$ century; we recognize that the 21$^{st}$ century
835    may involve a different suite of primary stressors, some of which are as yet unknown.
836    The continental margins of the future will undergo further changes as the system is
837    continuously perturbed. As human populations grow, needs for fresh water, energy,
838    space, and food will create new demands of the coastal ocean including coastal
839    aquaculture, wind farms, wave energy stations and desalinization plants, intensified
840    shipping activities, and seabed mineral exploration.
841
842    Holistic consideration of margins facing the confluence of human, climate and natural
843    stressors highlights the need to integrate science with societal needs. Building on work of
844    others (e.g., Islam and Tanaka, 2004), we identify the need to:
845        • Formulate a clear understanding of the environmental, ecological and economic
846          value of margin ecosystems and how these vary under different climate regimes.
847        • Enact water quality management that recognizes land-ocean-atmosphere
848          exchanges controlled by climate and humans.
849        • Enact comprehensive monitoring to link policy-based changes in drivers to
850          ecosystem responses
851        • Improve cooperation of stakeholders, regulators, scientists and civil society
852        • Scale and coordinate local, regional, national and international activities to
853          maximize knowledge and promote modeling efforts
854        • Protect key services via ecosystem-based management
855        • Develop mechanisms to translate scientific knowledge into regulation and
856          legislation, and the political realities needed to achieve action.
857
858    Ultimately, we will need to set priorities, accept tradeoffs and motivate creative solutions.
859    These goals are very much in line with the approach of the Future Earth Initiative to meet
860    the grand challenge of global sustainability (Reid et al., 2010). Interactions among social
861    and natural scientists are nascent, but a growing number of national and international
862    programs recognize their importance.  Achieving sufficient energy, water, food and
863    healthy margin ecosystems is a tall order, but a challenge that natural and social scientists
864    must work together to meet head on.
865
866    **6. Acknowledgements**
867

**7. References**

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Table 1. Environmental drivers and ecosystem responses on continental margins: Case studies

| Consequences & regional responses (Supplements*) | Drivers of environmental change on continental margins from regional to global scale | | | | | | | | | | Actions taken |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Land use change | Damming, diking, water diversion | Alien species | Anthropogenic nutrients & pollutants | Energy & mineral extractions from the sea | Overfishing | Changes in water cycle | Rising sea level | Warming | Climate change & oscillation | |
| **General consequences** | Changes in soil qual. & erosion in watershed | Sed. retention, decr. runoff | Change in ecosystem structure | Eutrophication, change in nutrient ratios & plankton community, HAB, hypoxia | Change in seascape & marine environments | Decr. fish stock, trophic cascades | Extreme weather, flooding, drought | Lowland flooding, salt water intrusion | Incr. stratification, drop in $O_2$, incr. vulnerability | Change in ocean circulation, upwelling, | |
| **American margins** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Cariaco Basin** **(B1)** | | | | | | Collapse of Spanish sardine (*Sardinella aurita*) | Freshening of surface waters due to higher regional precipitation | | >1°C incr. since 1995 | Decr. upwelling, PP and phytoplankton biomass; incr. N* ., change in ecosystem structure; Increasing zooplankton biomass | |
| **Chesapeake Bay** **(B2)** | Degrading water qual. & clarity | Blocked migratory pathways for anadromous fish | Decreased oyster populations and increased piscivory | Seasonal hypoxia, decline of SAV, fish advisories | | extirpation of sturgeon, collapse of oyster fishery | Salinity drop following Tropical Storm Agnes | Rate of sea level rise much higher than average | | Change in water exchange rate | Acts for reducing nutrients & restoring SAV, oysters; removing blockages to fish |
| **San Francisco Bay** **(B3)** | | Decreased sediment supply, shrinking mudflats, incr. salinity | Decreased phytopl. PP due to Asian clams | Degrading water quality | | | Drought and water diversion trigger invasion | | | Change in bio-community | 1972 Clean Water Act |
| **Asian margins** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Bohai Sea** **(B4)** | Changes in tidal regime | Massive drop in water discharge and sediment load, fishery collapse in 1990s | | High N, low P and Si, decrease in diatom/ dinoflagellate ratio | | Decrease in fish biomass; dominant fish species changed from bottom to pelagic fish | | | 0.011oC per year increase during the 1960s-1990s | | Artificially controlled water discharge in Yellow River |
| **European margins** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Mediterranean - N. Adriatic Sea** **(B5)** | | | | N/P increase, anoxic events (1970s-1980s), loss of macrobenthos; trend reversed recently. | | Loss of demersal fish, small pelagic fish and top predators | | Reduced river flow, salinity rise | | | Mandates of reduction in P loading |
| **North Sea** **(B6)** | | Altered mudflat | | Massive coastal environment deterioration in 1980s | Massive wind farming | | | | Temporally and regionally faster than global mean, provoked ecosystem shift | NAO state determines circulation mode and nutrient inventories | EU wide mitigation, Marine Strategy Framework Directive |

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*Note: More descriptions and references about the case studies are presented in electronic supplements listed under each case heading.

Increase in N*. Whether this is due to increased N fixation is being explored

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1491 Table 2. The temporal trends of the environmental variables presented in Fig. 3. All
1492 trends are statistically significant except those shown in italics. (For more detailed
1493 information on the linear regressions see Supplement A.)

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| Site | SST ($^{o}$C yr-1) | SSS (yr$^{-1}$) | Q (km$^3$ yr$^{-1}$) | DIN (Kt yr$^{-1}$) | DIP (Kt yr$^{-1}$) | Chl (mg m$^{-3}$ yr$^{-1}$) | O$_2$ saturation (% yr$^{-1}$) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bohai Sea | *0.0022* | 0.0632 | -0.75[1] | | | | |
| Cariaco Basin | 0.0895 | -0.0097 | | | | -0.0462 | *-0.105* |
| East China Sea | 0.0282 | | 3.34 | 26.1 | | 0.0135 | -0.536 |
| North Sea | 0.0376[2] | *0.0007* | -7.44 | -12.1 | -2.3 | | |
| SF Bay | -0.0290[3] | *0.0427* | | | | 0.131 | -0.290[3] |

1495 Notes: (1) Water discharge of the Yellow River that empties into the Bohai Sea. (2) The
1496 mean temperature of the top 10 m in the North Sea in winter months (DJF). (3) The
1497 bottom temperature of the USGS Station 18 in the San Francisco Bay.
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**Figure Captions**

**Figure 1.** Map showing locations of time-series observations that exemplify the interplay of natural variability, $CO_2$-driven climate change and human activities to shape margin ecosystems. Each area is discussed in the manuscript or summarized in Table 1. 1. Arctic Sea; American margins: 2. Cariaco Basin, 3. Chesapeake Bay, 4. Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana, 5. San Francisco Bay, 6. Southern California Bight; African margins: 7. Canary Current System, 8. Congo River Submarine Canyon; Asian seas: 9. Bay of Bengal, 10. Bohai Sea, 11. East China Sea; European seas: 12. Baltic Sea, 13. Black Sea, 14. Mediterranean - Corsica (Liguran Sea), 15. Mediterranean - N. Adriatic Sea, 16. North Sea.

**Figure 2.** Data plots of $O_2$ and pH illustrating time scales of natural hydrographic variability in the nearshore southern California Bight, USA. (a) Decadal scale suggesting regime shifts (modified from McClatchie et al., 2010). (b) Interannual scale illustrating effects of ENSO at a site 6 km from Del Mar (from Nam et al., 2011) (c) Seasonal scale combining CalCOFI data at line 93 and continuous mooring measurements (from Send and Nam, 2012), (d) Event (week) scale illustrating upwelling (blue) and relaxation (green) phases (modified from Send and Nam, 2012), (e) semi-diurnal and diurnal scale variations in the La Jolla Kelp Forest during upwelling phase (blue) when there are strong semidiurnal signals and relaxation phase (green) when kelp influences the oxygen and pH variability (Frieder et al., unpublished).

**Figure 3.** Time series of sea surface temperature (SST) (a), sea surface salinity (SSS) (b), nutrient loads (c), riverine discharge (d), chlorophyll-*a* (e), and saturation of dissolved oxygen (f) from the Cariaco Basin and San Francisco Bay (SF Bay) in the Americas, the East China Sea (ECS) and Bohai Sea (BH) in Asia, and the North Sea (NS) in Europe (See Fig. 1 for location of time-series stations). SST time series include values obtained from satellite remote sensing monthly composites (lines without symbols) from NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (See Supplement A), and *in situ* observations (lines with symbols). Statistically significant regression ($p < 0.1$) results are shown as solid straight lines; insignificant ones are shown as dashed lines. (See text).
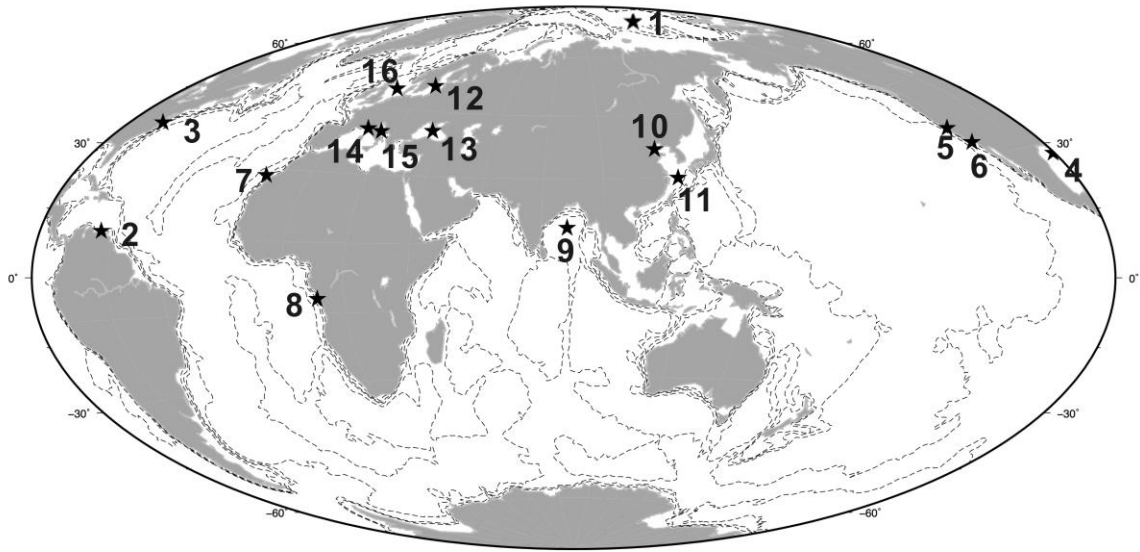
**Figure 4.** The relationship between nitrogen loading and fisheries landings as a function of hypoxic area for mobile species in estuaries and semi-enclosed seas. Modified from Breitburg et al., 2009b.
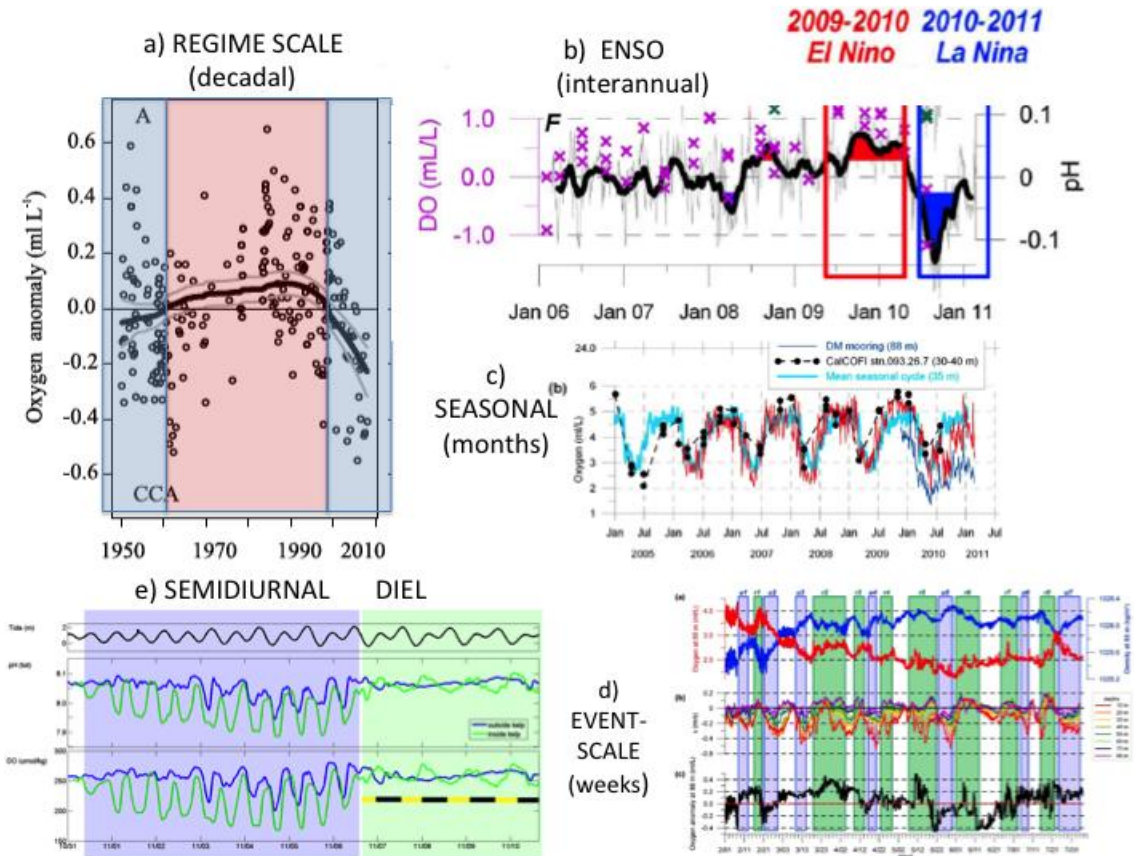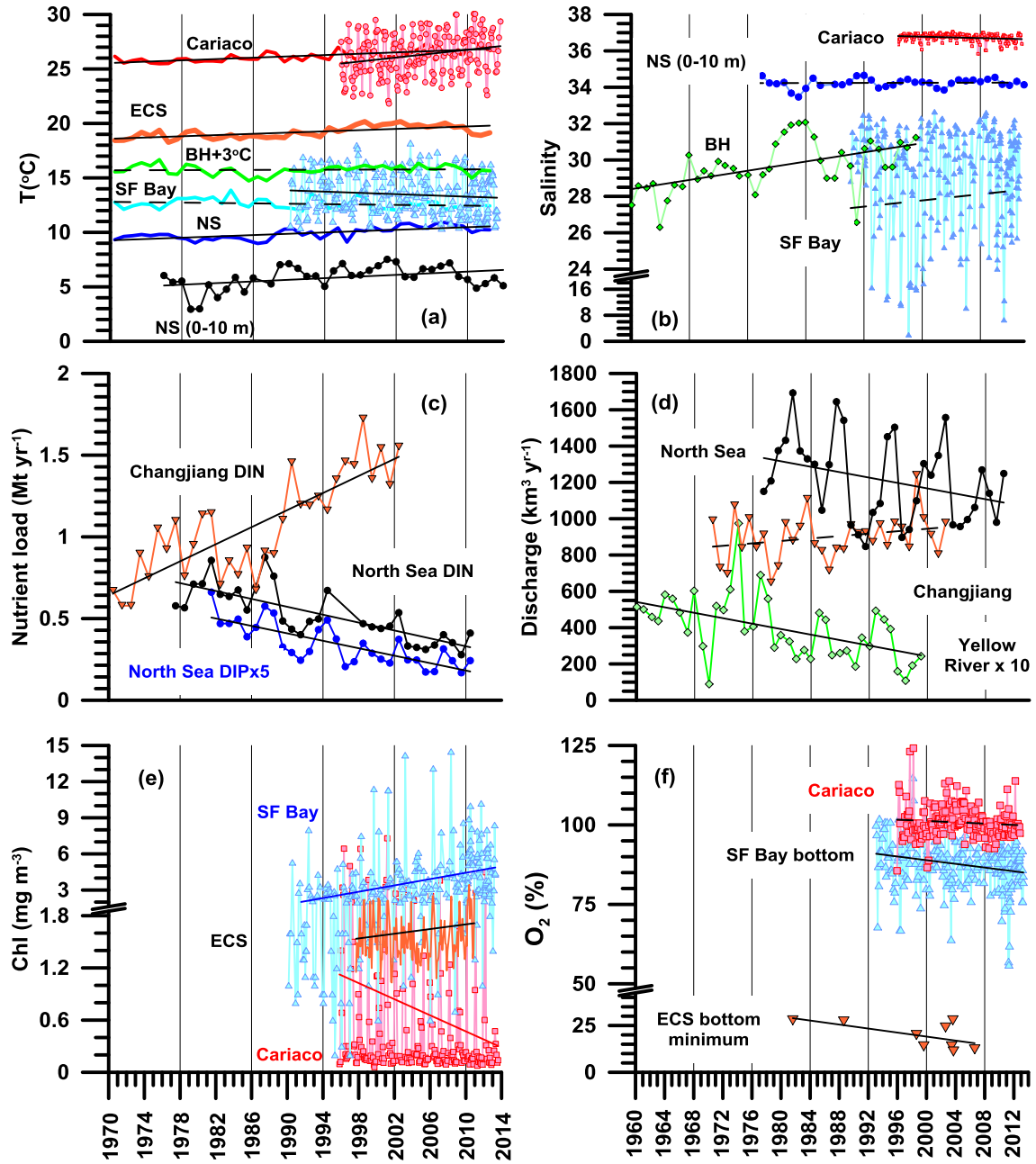
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**Figure 1**

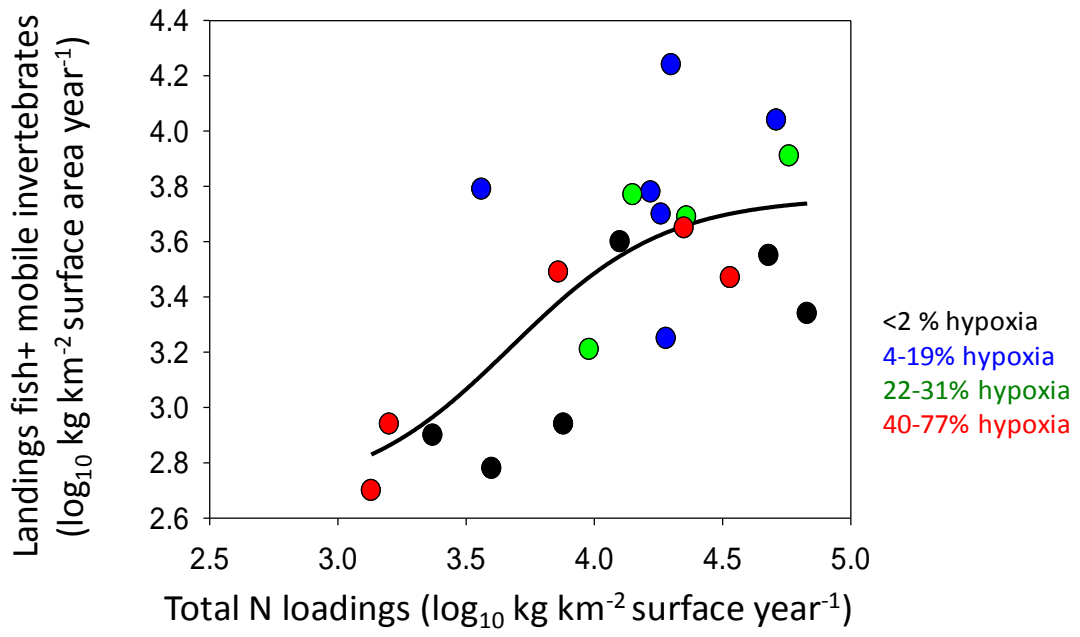1544    **Figure 2**
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1551 **Figure 3.**

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1554 **Figure 4.**



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1642    Table A1. Locations of margin time series observations and data sources.

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| Sites | Coordinates | Data sources | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bohai Sea | 37-41°N, 117-121°E | SSS: Lin et al. (2001)<br>Discharge: Liu et al. (2012);<br>Liu (this issue) | Domain for satellite SST data retrieval |
| Cariaco Basin | 10.2-11.0°N, -64~66°W | SST: See text | Domain for satellite SST data retrieval |
| CARIACO Sta | 10° 30'N 64° 40'W | (http://imars.marine.usf.edu/cariaco/cariaco-ocean-time-series-program) | *In situ* observations |
| East China Sea | 28-32°N, 121-125°E | SST: See text<br>Discharge, DIN load: Liu et al. (this issue) | Domain for satellite SST data retrieval |
| North Sea | 53~57°N, 4~8.6°E | SST, SSS: (http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/dataset-collections/Pages/default.aspx) accessed on March 31, 2014<br>Discharge, nutrient loads: Pätsch and Lenhart (2011) | ICES data |
| North Sea (L) | 53-59°N, -2~8°N | SST: See text | Larger domain for satellite SST data retrieval |
| San Francisco Bay | 38°50.8'N, 121°25.3'W | (http://sfbay.wr.usgs.gov/access/wqdata/index.html) | USGS Sta 18 (Point Blunt)<br>Water depth = 43.0 |
| Coastal zone adjacent to SF Bay | 36.2-38.1°N, 122.5-124.7°W | SST: See text | Domain for satellite SST data retrieval |

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1646 Table A2. Results of linear regression analysis of margin time series data. The
1647 statistically insignificant trends, defined as those with $p > 0.1$, are shown in italics.

| Variables | Site | Period | Trend (per year) | n | $R^2$ | $p$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SST (°C) | Bohai Sea | 1970-2012 | *0.0022* | 43 | 0.004 | 0.6830 |
| | Cariaco Basin | 1970-2012 | 0.0303 | 43 | 0.548 | <0.001 |
| | Cariaco Basin | 1995-2012 | 0.0351 | 18 | 0.168 | 0.0917 |
| | CARIACO Sta | 1995-2013 | 0.0895 | 198 | 0.058 | <0.001 |
| | East China Sea | 1970-2012 | 0.0282 | 43 | 0.438 | <0.001 |
| | North Sea (winter) | 1976-2013 | 0.0376 | 38 | 0.160 | 0.0129 |
| | North Sea (L) | 1970-2012 | 0.0301 | 43 | 0.493 | <0.001 |
| | SF Bay | 1990-2013 | *-0.0126* | 288 | 0.002 | 0.498 |
| | Adj. SF Bay | 1970-2012 | *-0.0087* | 43 | 0.053 | 0.138 |
| | SF Bay bottom water | 1990-2013 | -0.0290 | 285 | 0.011 | 0.071 |
| SSS | CARIACO Sta | 1995-2013 | -0.0097 | 188 | 0.048 | 0.0025 |
| | North Sea (winter) | 1976-2013 | *0.0007* | 38 | 0.001 | 0.846 |
| | SF Bay | 1990-2013 | *0.0427* | 287 | 0.004 | 0.300 |
| | Bohai Sea | 1960-1999 | 0.0632 | 40 | 0.287 | <0.001 |
| Discharge ($km^3\ yr^{-1}$) | Changjiang | 1970-2002 | *3.34* | 33 | 0.068 | 0.142 |
| | Huanghe | 1960-2009 | -0.750 | 40 | 0.251 | <0.001 |
| | North Sea | 1977-2010 | -7.43 | 34 | 0.103 | 0.064 |
| DIN load ($kt\ yr^{-1}$) | Changjiang | 1970-2002 | 0.0261 | 33 | 0.671 | <0.001 |
| | North Sea | 1977-2010 | -0.0121 | 31 | 0.601 | <0.001 |
| DIP load ($Kt\ yr^{-1}$) | North Sea | 1981-2010 | -2.28 | 30 | 0.596 | <0.001 |
| Chl ($mg\ m^{-3}$) | CARIACO Sta | 1995-2013 | -0.0462 | 201 | 0.039 | 0.005 |
| | East China Sea | 1997-2010 | 0.0135 | 152 | 0.021 | 0.073 |
| | SF Bay | 1990-2013 | 0.131 | 279 | 0.151 | <0.001 |
| O2 satu. (%) | CARIACO Sta | 1995-2013 | *-0.105* | 180 | 0.009 | 0.198 |
| | East China Sea | 1981-2006 | -0.536 | 9 | 0.390 | 0.072 |
| | SF Bay bottom | 1993-2013 | -0.290 | 251 | 0.042 | 0.001 |

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