Ocean Carbon & Biogeochemistry (OCB): Overarching Science Questions

Scott Doney Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

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Ocean carbon uptake and storage



Role of the Southern Ocean



positive := downward

Ocean CO₂ Fluxes & Atmospheric Imprint



J Geophys. Res. Atmos. 2015

Atmos. Phys. Chem. 2010



Climate- and human-driven changes in ocean chemistry and associated impacts on biogeochemical cycles and marine ecosystems

Regional Variation in Multiple Stressors

RCP8.5 - 2090s, changed from 1990s

Bopp et al. Biogeosciences 2013







∆NPP <-100 mgC m⁻² y⁻¹

____ ∆O₂ <-20 mmol m⁻³



O₂ <50 mmol m⁻³





-Physical Circulation & Climate

-Biogeochemistry of Shelf & Open Waters

-Food Web Dynamics & Community Structure

-Linking of Social & Natural Science

North Atlantic-Arctic Science Plan





EXPORTS: EXport Processes in the Ocean from RemoTe Sensing



How do upper ocean ecosystem characteristics determine the vertical transfer of organic matter from the well-lit surface ocean?

What controls the efficiency of vertical transfer of organic matter below the well-lit surface ocean?

How can the knowledge gained be used to reduce uncertainties in contemporary & future estimates of the export and fates of NPP?





Coastal Eutrophication, Hypoxia & Land-use Change

NACP/OCB Coastal CArbon Synthesis (CCARS)



Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON)



Assessment of impacts of disturbances on coastal biomes

Muller-Karger et al. Oceanography 2014



Molecular-level responses of marine organisms to their changing environment Impacts of evolutionary changes on plankton community structure, function and biogeochemical cycling in the face of global change

Bruggeman & Kooijman Limnol. Ocean. 2007 Follows et al. Science 2007

Processes, Scales & Observing Capability



Better integration of suborbital process studies, remote sensing & numerical models to improve:

- Dynamical understanding
- Detection & attribution
- Forecast & prediction

Dickey J. Marine Science 2003

- -Climate- and human-driven changes in ocean chemistry and associated impacts on biogeochemical cycles and marine ecosystems
- -Ocean carbon uptake and storage
- -Estuarine and coastal carbon fluxes and processes, including exchanges with open ocean, terrestrial, and atmospheric reservoirs
- -Water column and seafloor ecological and biogeochemical processes and associated effects on carbon export and the biological pump
- -Molecular-level responses of marine organisms to their changing environment
- -Impacts of evolutionary changes on plankton community structure, function and biogeochemical cycling in the face of global change



