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# The impact of dissolved organic carbon and bacterial respiration on pCO<sub>2</sub> in experimental sea ice

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# 18 Abstract

19 Previous observations have shown that the partial pressure of carbon dioxide (pCO<sub>2</sub>) in sea ice 20 brines is generally higher in Arctic sea ice compared to those from the Antarctic sea ice, 21 especially in winter and early spring. We hypothesized that these differences result from the 22 higher dissolved organic carbon (DOC) content in Arctic seawater: Higher concentrations of 23 DOC in seawater would be reflected in a greater DOC incorporation into sea ice, enhancing 24 bacterial respiration, which in turn would increase the pCO<sub>2</sub> in the ice. To verify this hypothesis, 25 we performed an experiment using two series of mesocosms: one was filled with seawater (SW) 26 and the other one with seawater with an addition of filtered humic-rich river water (SWR). The 27 addition of river water increased the DOC concentration of the water from a median of 142 28  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup> in SW to 249  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup> in SWR. Sea ice was grown in these mesocosms under the 29 same physical conditions over 19 days. Microalgae and protists were absent, and only bacterial 30 activity has been detected. We measured the DOC concentration, bacterial respiration, total 31 alkalinity and pCO<sub>2</sub> in sea ice and the underlying seawater, and we calculated the changes in dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) in both media. We found that bacterial respiration in ice was 32

higher in SWR: median bacterial respiration was 25 nmol C L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> compared to 10 nmol C L<sup>-1</sup> 33 34  $h^{-1}$  in SW. pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice was also higher in SWR with a median of 430 ppm compared to 356 35 ppm in SW. However, the differences in pCO<sub>2</sub> were larger within the ice interiors than at the 36 surfaces or the bottom layers of the ice, where exchanges at the air-ice and ice-water interfaces might have reduced the differences. In addition, we used a model to simulate the differences of 37 38 pCO<sub>2</sub> and DIC based on bacterial respiration. The model simulations support the experimental 39 findings and further suggest that bacterial growth efficiency in the ice might be 0.15-0.2. It is 40 thus credible that the higher  $pCO_2$  in Arctic sea ice brines compared with those from the 41 Antarctic sea ice were due to an elevated bacterial respiration, sustained by higher riverine DOC 42 loads. These conclusions should hold for locations and time frames when bacterial activity is

- 43 relatively dominant compared to algal activity, considering our experimental conditions.
- 44

# 45 Highlights (85 characters per highlight)

- Brine concentration/dilution causes the largest temporal changes of pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice
- 47 Elevated BR due to riverine DOC addition increases pCO<sub>2</sub> in sea ice
- Gas exchange and the buffer effect further affect the bacterial impact on pCO<sub>2</sub>
- 49

## 50 Keywords (up to six)

- 51 Sea ice, dissolved organic matter, carbon dioxide, bacterial activity, gas exchange
- 52 **1. Introduction**

53 Sea ice is formed from the freezing of seawater and covers about 6 % of the Earth's ocean surface. It has a heterogeneous structure composed of a matrix of pure ice and brine inclusions. 54 55 Although sea ice is currently assumed to be impermeable to gas exchange in large-scale climate 56 models, theoretical considerations (Golden et al., 1998) and pioneer gas measurements (Gosink 57 et al., 1976) indicate that sea ice may be permeable under specific conditions of ice temperature and salinity. Measurements of pCO<sub>2</sub> in sea ice and brines have been intensified in both the 58 59 Arctic (Crabeck et al., 2014; Geilfus et al., 2012a; Miller et al., 2011a, 2011b) and the Southern Ocean (Delille, 2006; Delille et al., 2007; Geilfus et al., 2014). The motivation for these 60 61 measurements is to better understand the role of sea ice in the carbon cycle, including its role

- in air-sea exchange of CO<sub>2</sub>, and the potential feedback effects between the changing ice cover,
   CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes, and climate change.
- 64 Current measurements indicate that sea ice may act as a source or a sink for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>,
  65 depending on the interplay of four processes:

(i) Brine concentration and dilution are associated with changes in ice temperature. When
cooling a sea ice sample, some of the liquid water of the brine freezes, reducing the brine
volume and inclusions and increasing the concentration of the impurities in the brine – this is
the so-called brine concentration. In contrast, when warming a sea ice sample, some of the pure
ice melts, increasing the volume of the brine inclusion and decreasing the concentration of the
impurities in brine – this is the so-called brine dilution (Hunke et al., 2011; Notz and Worster,
2009).

- (ii) Biological activity, which includes the photosynthesis and respiration by organisms,
   respectively, consumes and produces CO<sub>2</sub> (e.g., Papadimitriou et al., 2007).
- (iii) The precipitation and dilution of calcium carbonate, which produces and consumes  $CO_2$ , respectively (Dieckmann et al., 2010, 2008; Geilfus et al., 2013), effectively alters the  $CO_2$ budget in the ice when sea ice is semi-permeable, and when the calcium carbonate precipitates remain in the ice while the generated  $CO_2$  is rejected into the under-ice water (Delille et al.,
- 79 2014; Rysgaard et al., 2007) or to the atmosphere (Geilfus et al., 2013; Loose et al., 2011).
- 80 (iv) Gas transport through sea ice is not yet well constrained, but it is commonly assumed that 81 sea ice is permeable for gas transport when its brine volume fraction is above 5 % (Golden et 82 al., 1998). Brine drainage – the intensity of which is estimated using Raleigh numbers – is 83 thought to be a significant process for ice-water exchange (Notz and Worster, 2009), while gas 84 bubble formation potentially plays an important role in air-ice exchange (Moreau et al., 2014; 85 Zhou et al., 2013). The diffusion of  $CO_2$  through sea ice also affects air-ice exchange, but seems 86 to be much slower, i.e., less efficient than gas bubble transport (Kotovitch et al., submitted; 87 Loose et al., 2014).
- Previous studies indicate that, for a given brine temperature, the  $pCO_2$  in sea ice brine in the Arctic Ocean (Geilfus et al., 2014, 2012a) was generally higher than that in the Southern Ocean (Delille et al., 2014; Geilfus et al., 2014), especially when the average ice temperature was below  $-4^{\circ}C$  – which generally corresponds to the winter and early spring period (Figure 1). In this study, we hypothesized that the higher  $pCO_2$  was associated to the more intense bacterial respiration in the Arctic sea ice, due to the large input of riverine particulate organic carbon

94 (POC) and dissolved organic carbon (DOC) in the Arctic Ocean (e.g., Dittmar and Kattner 95 (2003); Hansell et al. (2009)). Ice temperature is unlikely to explain the Arctic-Antarctic 96 discrepancies, because at a given temperature, the effect of brine concentration on pCO<sub>2</sub> is 97 expected to be the same in both hemispheres. However, the impact of DOC availability on 98 bacterial respiration and pCO<sub>2</sub> in sea ice has not yet been demonstrated by systematic DOC and 99 POC measurements in parallel. Therefore we performed an indoor experiment using two series 100 of mesocosms: One was filled with seawater (SW) and another with seawater and an addition 101 of filtered river water (SWR) to simulate riverine DOC input. The objective of the present paper 102 is to verify whether or not higher DOC concentrations in seawater, due to an addition of riverine 103 DOC, induce larger DOC concentrations in sea ice, which in turn enhance bacterial respiration 104 and  $pCO_2$  in the ice.

#### 105

# 2. Material and methods

# 106 **2.1 Experimental setting, and sampling routine and initial conditions**

107 The experimental setting and sampling routine has been described in Zhou et al. (2014). Briefly, 108 we ran a 19-day experiment in the Arctic Environmental Test Basin facility of the Hamburg 109 Ship Model Basin (www.hsva.de) from May to June 2012. We used 21 polyethylene 110 experimental mesocosms each with a volume of 1.2 m<sup>3</sup>. Eleven of the mesocosms were filled 111 with 1000 L of seawater from the North Sea (referred here after as SW), and the remaining ten 112 were filled with 900 L of seawater from the North Sea and 100 L of filtered river water collected 113 at a peat-dominated catchment of the River Kiiminkijoki, in Finland (referred here after as SWR). 114

115 The addition of river water caused a significantly higher DOC concentration in the SWR mesocosms (paired t-test, p<0.001): Median salinity-normalized DOC concentrations were 140 116  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 251  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup> in SWR (salinity 30.9), with a standard deviation of 3 % in 117 118 the SW mesocosms and 9 % in SWR. However, salinity-normalized dissolved organic nitrogen 119 (DON) was not significantly different between both mesocosm series (median of 16 µmol L<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 19 umol L<sup>-1</sup> in SWR), because its concentration in river and North Sea water were 120 almost the same, and the standard deviation was relatively high (17 %) in both SW and SWR 121 122 mesocosms. The carbonate chemistry was also not significantly different for both mesocosm series: median salinity-normalized total alkalinity was 2314 µmol kg<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 2336 µmol 123 kg<sup>-1</sup> in SWR; median salinity-normalized dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) were 2113 µmol 124 kg<sup>-1</sup> in SW and and 2161 µmol kg<sup>-1</sup> in SWR; and median pCO<sub>2</sub> were 212 ppm in SW and 231 125

- 126 ppm in SWR, respectively. The salinities of the SWR mesocosms were adjusted to the SW
- 127 values by adding aquarium standard salt (Tropic Marin<sup>®</sup>). Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) and phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>)
- 128 ) concentrations were also adjusted to concentrations that would not limit bacterial growth in
- both series of mesocosms, and that were representative of areas in both Arctic and Southern
- 130 Oceans (Zhou et al., 2014).

131 Ice was grown from day 0 to 14, during which the air temperature was maintained at -14  $^{\circ}$ C, 132 and then the air temperature was increased to -1  $^{\circ}$ C to trigger a decay phase. We collected ice, 133 brine and seawater at various occasions from day 0 to day 19 for the measurements of 134 temperature, salinity, DOC, inorganic nutrients, bacterial abundance, and bacterial activity 135 (Zhou et al., 2014), as well as pCO<sub>2</sub> and total alkalinity.

136 Because the physical constraints were similar for both the SW and SWR mesocosms, we 137 expected bacterial activity to be the only process affecting the difference of pCO<sub>2</sub> in both water and ice. Median bacterial abundance was 922 cells L<sup>-1</sup> in SW at the beginning of the experiment 138 and was not significantly different from the 972 cells L<sup>-1</sup> in SWR. Protists and active 139 140 photoautotrophs were absent in the experiment (checked by microscopy and epifluorescence 141 microscopy, respectively). As a corollary, there was no autochthonous production of DOC and 142 our experiment focuses on the impact of the additional allochtonous DOC (added by the river 143 water) on bacterial respiration and pCO<sub>2</sub> in both water and ice. Although photoautotrophs were 144 absent in our experiments, we believe that it would not drastically affect the verification of the 145 hypothesis, because the largest observed difference of pCO<sub>2</sub> in brine corresponds to the lowest 146 ice temperature (Figure 1), which mostly correspond to the ice interior (over winter and early 147 spring) where algal activity is relatively limited compared to the bacterial activity (Baer et al., 2015). 148

# 149 **2.2 Brine volume fraction and Raleigh number**

150 The brine volume fraction is used here as a proxy of sea ice permeability and is calculated from 151 the ice temperature and salinity following the relationship of Cox and Weeks (1983). We 152 assume that the sea ice was permeable for a brine volume fraction exceeding 5 % (Golden et 153 al., 1998). We also calculated the Rayleigh number (Ra), which is a proxy for brine convection 154 as described by Notz and Worster (2008). Theoretically, convection is possible in an ice layer 155 (of a thickness h) when Ra exceeds 1 and decreases from the top to the bottom of that layer 156 (Notz, personal communication). We thus simply assume the critical Ra being 1 following those 157 theoretical considerations.

#### **2.3 DOC and DON**

159 Samples for the determination of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and total dissolved nitrogen 160 (TDN) were stored frozen (-20 °C) in glass vials (Wheaton; pre-combusted at 500 °C for 5 h) 161 and determined by high temperature catalytic oxidation and subsequent non-dispersive infrared 162 spectroscopy and chemiluminescence detection, respectively (TOC-VCPN, Shimadzu). After 163 each batch of five samples, one reference standard (DOC-DSR, Hansell Research Lab, 164 University of Miami, US), one ultrapure-water blank and one potassium hydrogen phthalate 165 standard for DOC and potassium nitrate for TDN were measured. DON concentrations were 166 calculated as difference of TDN and inorganic nitrogen. The accuracy of the measurements was 167 ± 5 %.

# 168 **2.4 Bacterial respiration**

Bacterial respiration has been calculated as the difference between the bacterial carbon demand and bacterial production. We measured bacterial production (see below) and assumed that it represented 34.8 % (bacterial growth efficiency, BGE) of the bacterial carbon demand to deduce the bacterial respiration. BGE was derived as mean estimate from available sources for sea-ice bacteria or bacteria in very cold temperatures (Kuparinen et al., 2011; Nguyen and Maranger, 2011; Rivkin and Legendre, 2001).

175 For the bacterial production measurements, samples containing a known amount of crushed ice 176 and sterile-filtered seawater (Kaartokallio, 2004) were prepared in a cold room as follows: each 177 intact 5-10 cm ice core section was crushed using a spike and electrical ice cube crusher. 178 Approximately 10 mL of crushed ice was weighed in a scintillation vial. To better simulate the 179 brine pocket salinity and ensure an even distribution of labelled substrate,  $3 \pm 1$  mL of sterile 180 filtered (through a 0.2 µm filter) seawater from the sample bags were added to the scintillation 181 vials. Bacterial production was measured immediately after sample collection using the [<sup>3</sup>H]-182 thymidine incorporation method (Fuhrman and Azam, 1982, 1980). Two aliquots and a 183 formaldehyde-fixed absorption blank were amended with [<sup>3</sup>H]-thymidine (PerkinElmer, USA, specific activity 20 Ci mmol<sup>-1</sup>). The added concentration was 30 nmol L<sup>-1</sup> for all sample types. 184 185 The samples were incubated in the dark at -0.6 °C on crushed ice in an insulated container 186 according to the projected level of activity: ice samples were incubated between 19 h and 22 h, 187 water and brine samples between 4 h and 6 h. The incubations were stopped by addition of 188 formaldehyde and samples were processed using the standard cold-TCA extraction and 189 filtration procedure. Samples were extracted for 15 minutes in ice-cold 5 % TCA and labelled 190 macromolecules collected on 0.2 µm mixed cellulose ester membrane filters (Osmonics). Filters 191 were rinsed five times with ice-cold 5% TCA and placed in clean scintillation vials. A Wallac 192 WinSpectral 1414 counter and InstaGel (Perkin-Elmer) cocktail were used in scintillation 193 counting. Bacterial production was calculated using a cell conversion factor of  $2.09 \times 10^{18}$  cells 194 mol<sup>-1</sup> (Smith and Clement, 1990), a cell volume of 0.3 µm<sup>3</sup> (Kaartokallio, 2004; Smith and 195 Clement, 1990) and a carbon conversion factor of 0.12 pgC µm<sup>-3</sup> (Nagata and Watanabe, 1990; 196 Pelegrí et al., 1999).

#### 197 **2.5 pCO**<sub>2</sub>

The pCO<sub>2</sub> of the seawater was measured *in-situ* using a custom-made equilibration system, 198 199 which is described in Delille et al. (2014). Briefly, the system consists of a membrane contractor 200 equilibrator (Membrana<sup>®</sup>, Liqui-cell) that is connected to a non-dispersive infrared gas analyser (IRGA, Li-Cor<sup>®</sup> 6262) via a closed air loop. Seawater and air flow rates through the equilibrator 201 202 and IRGA were approximately 2 L min<sup>-1</sup> and 3 L min<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Temperature was simultaneously measured *in situ* and at the outlet of the equilibrator using Li-Cor<sup>®</sup> temperature 203 204 sensors. Temperature correction of pCO<sub>2</sub> was applied assuming that the relation of Copin-205 Montegut (1988) is valid at low temperature and high salinity. Data were stored on a Li-Cor<sup>®</sup> 206 Li-1400 data logger. All devices, except the peristaltic pump, were enclosed in an insulated box 207 that contained a 12 V power source providing enough warming to keep the inside temperature 208 above 0 °C. Uncertainty is less than 5 µatm.

209 The method for the pCO<sub>2</sub> measurements in ice is the same as in Geilfus et al. (2012b), but with 210 longer equilibrium times following Crabeck et al. (2014). The ice samples were cut with a band saw, in a cold room at -25 °C and adjusted to the container's inner volume (4 cm x 4 cm x 4.4 211 212 cm). The sample was sanded down using fine-grained sandpaper so that it fitted tightly into the 213 container to minimise the headspace volume. Then, the container was placed into a Dewar 214 vessel filled with ethanol, which was cooled to -30 °C with liquid nitrogen. The container was 215 then connected to the extraction line (tap closed). The line was first evacuated down to a pressure of 10<sup>-3</sup> Torr, after which the container was evacuated for 5 min. The low temperature 216 217 of the vessel insures sea ice impermeability, i.e., the CO<sub>2</sub> of the ice was not vacuumed during 218 this process. The standard gas was then injected into the container at 1013 mbar. The container 219 was subsequently removed from the extraction line (tap closed), placed in a thin plastic bag and 220 submerged in a thermostatic bath (set to the *in situ* temperature, i.e., that was measured on the 221 ice samples directly after the extraction). After 20 h of equilibrium, the container was placed in a Dewar filled with ethanol cooled at the *in situ* temperature and reconnected to the evacuated 222  $(10^{-3} \text{ Torr})$  extraction line. At the same time, a water trap consisting of a Dewar filled with an 223

224 ethanol bath at -65 °C was placed on the line just before the GC. The gas was finally injected 225 into the GC. Immediately after the injection, the ice sample temperature was measured using a 226 calibrated thermometer (Testo 720®). Reproducibility of the measurement is 2.9%.

#### 227 2.6 TA and DIC

228 Total alkalinity (TA) was measured on melted bulk ice and seawater samples. Ice cores were 229 cut at a 2 cm-depth resolution (about 50 g of ice for each section) and melted. Melted bulk ice 230 and seawater samples were poisoned with a solution of supersaturated HgCl<sub>2</sub> and then stored 231 in the dark, until analysis (one year after the sampling). TA was measured by open-cell titration 232 with 0.11 M HCl and the endpoints were determined according to Gran (1952). Routine 233 analyses of Certified Reference Materials (provided by A. G. Dickson, Scripps Institution of 234 Oceanography) ensured that the uncertainty of the TA measurements was less than 4  $\mu$ mol kg<sup>-1</sup>.

235 Dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) was calculated from TA and pCO<sub>2</sub> using CO2SYS (Lewis 236 and Wallace, 1998), the CO<sub>2</sub> acidity constants of Mehrbach et al. (1973) refitted according to 237 Dickson and Millero (1987) and other constants advocated by DOE (1994). We assumed that 238 the CO<sub>2</sub> dissociation constants were applicable at sub-zero temperatures as suggested by 239 Marion (2001) and Delille et al. (2007). To compare DIC in seawater and in melted bulk ice, 240 we normalized the DIC values to a salinity of 7 (DIC<sub>7</sub>), for consistency with previous studies. 241 The salinity of 7 is also the mean salinity of the ice in this study. Uncertainty of DIC<sub>7</sub> deduced 242 from the reproducibility of TA and pCO<sub>2</sub> has been evaluated to be 0.8  $\mu$ mol kg<sup>-1</sup> using Monte 243 Carlo procedure (Anderson, 1976).

# 244

# 2.7 Differences between the SW and SWR series and statistical tests

245 The ice thickness was different between the SW and SWR mesocosms (up to 3 cm (15 %) of 246 difference) at day 14 and day 15. This was due to an unavoidable temperature gradient in the 247 experimental basin (Zhou et al., 2014). In spite of the gradient of temperature in the 248 experimental basin, we do not think that it has affected the results. The SW and SWR 249 mesocosms sampled the same day were adjacent mesocosms located on the same row 250 (minimizing the differences in physical conditions). For day-to-day sampling, the SW/SWR 251 pairs of mesocosms were randomly selected in space. In spite of that random selection, we still 252 could see a trend in the physical parameters (Zhou et al., 2014), which means that the 253 temperature gradient in the experimental basin did not significantly bias our results. However, 254 to be rigorous, when the ice thicknesses were different for SW and SWR, we calculated the 255 difference of the parameters (e.g., pCO<sub>2</sub>) on normalized ice depth, and then multiplied the

normalized ice depth by the ice thickness of the SW series. In addition, two parameters were
assumed to be similar (i.e., no significant difference between the SW and SWR series), when a
minimum similarity score of 0.95 was achieved.

# **3. Results**

#### 260

## 3.1 Physical sea ice conditions

261 As described in Zhou et al. (2014), the differences in the physical properties of the ice between 262 the SW and SWR mesocosms were insignificant. The brine volume fraction was above 5 % 263 during the whole experiment, which suggests that the ice was always permeable (Golden et al., 264 1998). The maxima in the brine volume fraction were all found at the bottom of the ice, while 265 the minima were found in the ice interior, and decreased from 13.3 % on day 1 to 5.7 % on day 266 14, but increased from day 15 onwards, due to the increase of the air temperature from -14 °C 267 to -1 °C. The Rayleigh numbers were higher than 1, indicating favourable conditions for brine 268 convection at all ice depths on day 2, and thereafter only at the bottom of the ice until day 14. 269 From day 15 onwards, the Rayleigh numbers were always below 1, indicating that brine 270 convection was unlikely (Figure 2). A large difference of Ra has been observed at the bottom 271 of the ice between SW and SWR mesocosms, from day 6 to 14, and was likely due to an 272 underestimation of salinity in SWR, and the propagation of that bias in the calculation of Ra 273 (Zhou et al., 2014), but is not significant for the purpose of the present study.

## **3.2 DOC and DON**

275 DOC concentrations in sea ice and water and their difference between the SW and the SWR 276 mesocosms have been presented and discussed in Zhou et al. (2014) and Jørgensen et al. (2015). 277 Most importantly, the salinity-normalized DOC concentrations in the underlying water were 278 higher in the SWR mesocosms than in the SW mesocosm during the experiment (ppaired t-test, p < 0.001); the medians were 142 µmol L<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 246 µmol L<sup>-1</sup> in SWR (salinity of 30.9), 279 which were similar to the initial conditions. Median DOC concentrations in ice were 71 umol 280  $L^{-1}$  in SW and 109 µmol  $L^{-1}$  in SWR. These are equivalent to 287 µmol  $L^{-1}$  and 409 µmol  $L^{-1}$ 281 282 respectively, once normalized to a salinity of 30.9 as for the underlying water (paired t-test, 283 p < 0.001); they are higher than the values in water, which indicate a preferential retention of 284 DOC in sea ice.

DON concentrations have not been systematically measured as for DOC (n=18 in water and 15 in ice for DON compared to n=20 and 110, respectively, for DOC (SW+SWR)). The limited number of data we have show that the salinity-normalized DON concentrations were not significantly different in SW and SWR mesocosms, not before the experiment (median of 21  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>), or during the experiment, in both the water and ice (medians of 17  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup> and 21

- $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>, respectively) (data not shown). No significant trend in DON has been detected in the
- 291 water and the ice over the experiment.

# **3.3 Bacterial activity**

Median bacterial abundance in the underlying water increased over the experiment, reaching 1470 cells L<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 1505 cells L<sup>-1</sup> in SWR. This difference was not significant, despite the significantly higher bacterial production (BP) in the SWR mesocosms (paired t-test, p=0.007), with a median of 69 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SWR compared to 51 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SW. Bacterial respiration (BR) in water was also higher in the SWR mesocosms (paired t-test, p=0.027), with a median of 98 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 129 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SWR, respectively

299 (Figure 3a, left).

Median bacteria abundance in ice was 299 cells L<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 352 cells L<sup>-1</sup> in SWR, with a net 300 loss of 24 cells L<sup>-1</sup>d<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 16 cells L<sup>-1</sup>d<sup>-1</sup> in SWR over the experiment. Median BP was 5 301 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 13 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SWR, and median BR, 10 nmol L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 302 25 nmol L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SWR (Fig. 3a, right). To compare bacterial activity in ice with that in 303 seawater, we assumed that all these parameters were conservative against salinity. Once 304 normalized to a salinity of 30.9, median bacterial abundance reached 1220 cells L<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 305 1440 cells L<sup>-1</sup> in SWR; median BP of 23 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 53 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SWR; 306 307 and median BR of 42 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 100 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SWR. Note that all these 308 values were higher in SWR than in SW (paired t-test, p<0.001), but lower than in seawater 309 (paired t-test, p<0.001 for BP and BR in SWR; p=0.001 in SW; p=0.004 for bacterial abundance 310 in SW but no significance has been found for bacterial abudnace in SWR). The vertical 311 distribution of BR in ice was similar in the SW and SWR mesocosms (Figure 4): It increased 312 from the top to the bottom of the ice. The difference between both mesocosm series generally increased from the top to the bottom of the ice, where the largest differences were observed. 313

## 314 **3.4 DIC**<sub>7</sub>

For data comparison with litterature, we normalized DIC to a salinity of 7. Differences of DIC<sub>7</sub> between SW and SWR were not significant for both the under-ice water and the ice. DIC<sub>7</sub> in seawater varied around a median value of 455  $\mu$ mol kg<sup>-1</sup>, when excluding the outlier of SWR on day 5. Median DIC<sub>7</sub> in ice for the same mesocosms was slightly higher than in seawater, reaching 486  $\mu$ mol kg<sup>-1</sup> (Figure 3). DIC<sub>7</sub> in both media increased from day 2 to day 16 and then remained constant. DIC<sub>7</sub> in the ice increased from the top to the bottom of the ice in SW and SWR mesocosms (Figure 5). At the bottom of the ice, it increased throughout the experiment and was always higher than the DIC<sub>7</sub> of the under-ice water by an average of 40  $\mu$ mol kg<sup>-1</sup>. The difference of DIC<sub>7</sub> between SWR and SW was higher in the ice interior at 8 cm to 12 cm depth. For comparison with bacterial respiration in ice, median DIC in ice that is not salinitynormalized was 434  $\mu$ mol kg<sup>-1</sup>, which is equivalent to 400  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>.

#### 326 **3.5 pCO**<sub>2</sub>

 $pCO_2$  in water was not significantly different between both mesocosm series, with a median  $pCO_2$  of 270 ppm.  $pCO_2$  in ice was also not significantly different between both mesocosm series probably as a result of the large variability. Median  $pCO_2$  in ice was 360 ppm with a large range spanning from 223 ppm to 651 ppm (Figure 3). Median  $pCO_2$  was higher in the ice than in seawater during ice growth (day 2 to day 14), despite similar concentrations of DIC<sub>7</sub> in the seawater and in the ice and lower bacterial respiration in ice than in seawater (Figure 3c, sections 3.3 and 3.4).

334 The pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice had a similar temporal evolution in the SW and SWR mesocosms (Figures 3c 335 and 6). Considering that the average atmospheric pCO<sub>2</sub> was 460 ppm during the experiment 336 (Kotovitch et al. submitted), pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice was at first under-saturated on day 2, and then became 337 increasingly supersaturated until day 14, and then under-saturated again from day 15 onwards. 338 Despite the similar temporal evolution of  $pCO_2$  in ice,  $pCO_2$  was generally higher in the SWR 339 mesocosms, with a median value of 430 ppm compared to the 356 ppm in the SW mesocosms. 340 The differences in pCO<sub>2</sub> were generally higher from the top to the ice interior to about 8 cm 341 depth, except on day 2, when the ice was relatively thin (6 cm); on days 5 and 19, the difference 342 of pCO<sub>2</sub> at the bottom of the ice was likely biased due to the large difference of CO<sub>2</sub> in the 343 under-ice water (Figure 3c, left). Indeed, for days 5 and 19, the differences in pCO<sub>2</sub> in the under-344 ice water between SW and SWR were 100 ppm and 86 ppm, respectively, while they generally 345 approached 0 ppm to 20 ppm in the other mesocosms on all other sampling days (Figure 3c, 346 left).

# 347 **4. Discussion**

The addition of river water led to an enrichment of the overall DOC concentrations in the SWR water, compared to SW, by a factor of 1.8 (251  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup> / 140  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>). The preferential retention of DOC in sea ice during ice formation (Giannelli et al., 2001; Müller et al., 2013; 351 Zhou et al., 2014) led to a salinity-normalized DOC concentration in ice that was higher than the under-ice water (409  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup> / 287  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>), but the difference of DOC enrichment 352 353 between SWR and SW dropped to 1.4. The mechanisms underlying the preferential retention 354 of DOC in sea ice is not fully understood, but other measurements during our experiment suggested that sea ice formation increases the lability of DOM in ice (Jørgensen et al., 2015). 355 356 We therefore speculate that the more labile forms of DOM were better retained in sea ice than 357 the more refractory ones. Because SWR contained a larger fraction of less labile terrestrial 358 humic acids due to the addition of river water (Jørgensen et al., 2015), the DOC enrichment in 359 ice in SWR was lower than in SW. We show below that the segregation of DOC between water 360 and ice, in addition to the difference in temperature and salinity, likely contributed to the 361 difference of bacterial activity in water and ice.

# 362 **4.1 Impact of riverine DOC addition on bacterial activity**

Available under-ice or partially ice covered water respiration estimates for Western Arctic vary from 19 to 39 nmol C L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> (Kirchman et al., 2009; Nguyen and Maranger, 2011; Nguyen et al., 2012), which is an order of magnitude lower than our respiration estimate for water (median of 98 nmol C L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 129 nmol C L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>). However, our experimental system was based on North Sea water with a high DOC content and added inorganic nutrients, which are both likely to support higher bacterial production than the more oligotrophic Arctic waters.

369 Assuming that bacterial activity took place 24 hours a day, a consumption of 23.3 µmol C L<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 31.5 µmol C L<sup>-1</sup> in SWR is necessary to support the observed BP over the 19-day 370 experiment. These represent 16 % and 13 % of the DOC pool, respectively. However, no 371 372 significant changes have been detected in the DOC and DON concentrations in the under-ice 373 water, or in the concentrations of inorganic nutrients (Zhou et al., 2014). A possible explanation 374 is that bacteria used particulate organic matter (POM) as a carbon source for growth, despite 375 the large pool of DOC. We did not measure POM concentrations in our experiment, but 376 considering the absence of protists and active algae in seawater (in spite of the use of unfiltered seawater), we assumed that they died in the mesocosms, providing an additional source of 377 378 carbon for bacterial growth. If this assumption is correct, BP would represent a smaller fraction 379 of the DOC pool. The fraction was likely smaller than 3 % in SW and 9 % in SWR (the standard 380 deviation of DOC concentrations among the mesocosms in the initial waters), because we 381 would have detected significant changes otherwise.

Although BP only represented a small fraction of the DOC pool, the addition of riverine DOC was the most plausible factor causing the significantly higher BP in the SW water, since all the other parameters (bacterial abundance, DON, inorganic nutrients, temperature, and presumably POC) were not significantly different between the SW and SWR mesocosms.

Published sea-ice respiration values originate from batch culture incubations using sea ice bacteria and are either derived from total Arctic sea ice community respiration measurements made in water phase incubations (Nguyen and Maranger, 2011) or from experimental systems with Baltic sea ice bacteria (Kuparinen et al., 2011). The estimated mean bacterial respiration in western Arctic ice was 50 nmol C L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> (Nguyen and Maranger, 2011) and in the Baltic Sea experiments approximately 80 nmol C L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> (Kuparinen et al., 2011). Our respiration estimate for ice was lower but of the same order of magnitude, despite major differences in methodology

and experimental setup.

Bacterial activity in ice was different from that in the under-ice water. Bacterial abundance in sea ice was lower than in seawater, even when normalized to the same salinity. This has been observed before in similar experiments (Eronen-Rasimus et al., 2014) and likely resulted from the low ice temperature and high brine salinity, which favour the selection of psychrotrophic and psychrophilic bacteria (Helmke and Weyland, 1995).

399 Although the overall BP and bacterial abundance were lower in the ice than in the under-ice 400 water, the ratio between both the SW and SWR mesocosms were more pronounced in the ice. 401 Bacterial production in SWR ice was 2.6 times higher than in SW, i.e., twice as high as the ratio 402 (SWR/SW) observed in the water. Bacterial abundance was 20 % higher than the SW ice, while 403 no significant difference was found in the under-ice water. The only plausible factor driving 404 these SWR/SW differences in ice was the higher DOC concentration in the SWR ice. Ice 405 microalgae and protists were indeed absent (verified by microscopy) and no significant 406 difference has been found in the DON concentrations and the physical properties of the ice.

407 It is curious as to why the differences of BP between both series of mesocosms were larger in 408 ice (SWR/SW ratio of 2.6) than in the water (ratio of 1.3), considering that the differences of 409 DOC concentrations between both mesocosms series decreased (ratio of 1.4 in ice compared to 410 1.8 in water). This might be associated with the changes of the organic matter quality towards 411 more labile (bioavailable) forms in the ice during sea ice formation (Jørgensen et al., 2015). In 412 seawater, the addition of riverine DOC promoted higher BP in the SWR mesocosms. In sea ice, 413 the absolute DOC concentrations in SWR are not only higher than in SW, their lability might 414 also have increased compared to the SWR under-ice water; both might explain the larger

415 difference of BP in ice between the SW and SWR mesocosms compared to the under-ice water. 416 DOC can directly contribute to bacterial growth as a carbon source; it may also support the 417 formation of exopolymeric substances (EPS) in growing sea ice (Aslam et al., 2012) – a 418 substance that is known to support microorganisms survival under the extreme conditions in 419 sea ice (Krembs et al., 2011). Further, it might also have favoured the development of a bacterial 420 community that is different from that in SW, as it has been observed by Eronen-Rasimus et al. 421 (2014).

#### 422 **4.2** Similarities of DIC and pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice in the SW and SWR mesocosms

DIC<sub>7</sub>, which ranged from 423 µmol kg<sup>-1</sup> to 512 µmol kg<sup>-1</sup> (in SW and SWR), was consistent 423 424 with previous measurements on natural sea ice (Geilfus et al., 2014, 2012a; Rysgaard et al., 425 2007). pCO<sub>2</sub> measurements for natural sea ice are scarce (Crabeck et al., 2014; Geilfus et al., 426 2014) and have been mainly obtained from the spring-summer period. Therefore, they were 427 generally under-saturated relative to the atmosphere (i.e., below 400 ppm) (Crabeck et al., 2014; 428 Geilfus et al., 2014). The pCO<sub>2</sub> below 400 ppm in ice during the decay period of our experiment 429 was thus consistent with data from natural sea ice in spring and summer. Because of the lack 430 of pCO<sub>2</sub> measurements in natural ice during ice growth (and especially in autumn), we extended 431 the comparison to the  $pCO_2$  in brine. Considering that the median ice temperature approached -4.5 °C during ice growth in this experiment (Zhou et al., 2014), and that temperature would 432 433 correspond to a pCO<sub>2</sub> of about 800 ppm in Arctic sea ice brine (Figure 1), our in situ 434 measurements of up to 724 ppm are realistic.

Brine concentration and dilution and gas transport are likely to be the two main physical processes determining the similarities in the temporal and vertical pattern of pCO<sub>2</sub> between the SW and SWR mesocosms (Figure 7). When plotting pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice (SW and SWR) against the brine volume fraction, 10 mesocosms over 14 (represented by the circles on Figure 7) followed a decreasing trend ( $r^2 = 0.836$ , p < 0.03). These events include the very beginning of ice growth (day 2) and the ice growth and ice decay, except day 5, day 15 and two other outliers.

When cooling an ice sample, part of the water present in the brine inclusion will freeze, forming a thicker surrounding pure ice matrix, which results in a higher concentration of the dissolved constituents into smaller brine inclusions. Therefore,  $pCO_2$  in sea ice became increasingly supersaturated, as the brine volume fraction decreased (from day 0 to day 14). In contrast, when warming an ice sample, the surrounding pure ice matrix is expected to melt, increasing the size of the brine inclusion and diluting the concentration of the dissolved constituents in the brines. pCO<sub>2</sub> in sea ice thus became under-saturated as a result of the warming air temperature (from
day 15 onwards) (Figures 6 and 7).

449 A rapid and one-time decrease of  $pCO_2$  in ice was observed on day 15. This was a particular 450 event, occurring the day after the rapid increase of the air temperature, when the sea ice surface temperature sharply increased from -10 °C to -2 °C within 20 hours (Kotovitch et al., 451 452 submitted). Different processes may explain this drastic decrease of pCO<sub>2</sub>, e.g., rapid release 453 of gas bubbles (Zhou et al., 2013) and/or melt of CO<sub>2</sub>-poor surface ice layers and seepage of 454 the meltwater (Geilfus et al., 2014), while the equilibrium of air-ice pCO<sub>2</sub> occurs at a much 455 slower rate. However, considering that day 15 was a particular event, it is unlikely that these 456 pCO<sub>2</sub> changes would be representative of those observed in natural conditions, so we will not 457 further discuss the different plausible processes. Another outlier corresponded to the surface 458 ice layer, where ice melt might have induced the low  $pCO_2$  (153 ppm). We currently have no 459 explanation for the other outlier on day 5. Nevertheless, excluding these data,  $pCO_2$  was 460 significantly correlated with the brine volume fraction, which indicates the major role of brine 461 concentration and dilution in regulating  $pCO_2$  in ice.

462 To further demonstrate the importance of brine concentration and dilution for pCO<sub>2</sub> dynamics, 463 we compared our values with the theoretical pCO<sub>2</sub> considering only the changes in temperature 464 and brine salinity. The theoretical pCO<sub>2</sub> was calculated using the CO2SYS program (Lewis and 465 Wallace, 1998), the constants of Goyet and Poisson (1989), and the median temperature, 466 salinity, total alkalinity and DIC in the parent water as initial conditions. We then used the 467 median ice salinity (6.3) to calculate the brine volume fraction associated with each prescribed 468 temperature. The theoretical  $pCO_2$  (red curve in Figure 7) reproduced the observations well 469 between 10 % and 20 % of brine volume fraction (i.e., for about half of the data set), but 470 overestimated the pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice (up to 320 ppm, i.e., 44 %) for brine volume fractions below 10 471 %. We attribute this overestimation to a significant escape of  $CO_2$  from the ice to the 472 atmosphere during ice growth, which is not taken into account by the CO2SYS. Another 473 explanation could be that the constants used in CO2SYS might be incorrect for sea ice, since 474 they were developed for temperature and salinity ranges of seawater, which are less extreme 475 than those of sea ice. However, the error in the estimate of  $pCO_2$  should approach 10 % 476 according to Brown et al. (2014), when using TA and DIC as input parameters and the constants 477 of Goyet and Poisson (1989). Hence, the error on the seawater-derived constant is not great 478 enough to explain the difference in pCO<sub>2</sub> between the CO2SYS estimate and the observations, 479 and therefore the escape of  $CO_2$  from the ice to the atmosphere remains the most plausible 480 explanation.

481 The DIC<sub>7</sub> profiles confirm that gas transport through sea ice affected  $pCO_2$  in ice (Figure 5), in 482 addition to brine concentration and dilution. If sea ice would be a closed system, and the air-ice 483 and ice-water exchange absent, DIC would be conservative against salinity. Hence, the value 484 of DIC<sub>7</sub> would be the same at all ice depths and in seawater. In our study, the ice was always 485 permeable, with the brine volume fraction always above 5 % (Golden et al., 1998). Gas 486 exchange through the ice was thus possible and resulted in the deviation of the DIC<sub>7</sub> in ice from 487 the conservative behaviour. Values of DIC<sub>7</sub> in ice that decreased from the bottom to the top of 488 the ice indicate an escape of  $CO_2$  from the surface of the ice to the atmosphere (Figure 5) 489 (Geilfus et al., 2013), and the observed decrease was also consistent with the air-ice fluxes we 490 have measured during the growth phase of this experiment (Kotovitch et al., submitted). At the 491 bottom of the ice, DIC<sub>7</sub>, which approached the values in the under-ice water, indicate that ice-492 water exchange took place, which was possible through brine convection (high Rayleigh 493 number, Figure 2). The DIC<sub>7</sub> at the bottom of the ice increased throughout the entire period of 494 ice growth, following the increase in DIC<sub>7</sub> in the under-ice water as a result of the expulsion of 495 DIC from the ice and bacterial respiration in the water during ice growth (Figure 3) (Moreau et 496 al., submitted).

# 497 **4.3 Differences of DIC and pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice between the SW and SWR mesocosms**

498 DIC<sub>7</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice were higher in SWR than in SW. However, these differences between 499 SW and SWR were not significant, despite the significantly higher BR in SWR, which should 500 result in a larger accumulation of DIC and CO<sub>2</sub> in SWR. Because the dynamics of DIC<sub>7</sub> and 501 pCO<sub>2</sub> not only depend on bacterial activity, but also on physical processes (which were the same 502 in both SW and SWR), the absence of significant differences might indicate that the physical 503 processes have offset the bacterial impact on DIC<sub>7</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub>. For instance, if the differences of 504 DIC<sub>7</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub> were only due to bacterial activity, it is curious as to why the largest differences 505 of DIC<sub>7</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub> were observed in the ice interior (Figures 5 and 6), instead of at the bottom 506 of the ice, where the difference in bacterial respiration was the largest. We interpret this as the 507 result of gas exchange at the air-ice and ice-water interfaces, in addition to bacterial respiration. 508 Since the difference of  $pCO_2$  was smaller between the bottom of the ice and the water than 509 between the surface of the ice and the atmosphere, we conclude that ice-water exchange might 510 have been more efficient than air-ice exchange in decreasing the difference of pCO<sub>2</sub> between 511 SWR and SW due to bacterial respiration. This is in agreement with the higher Rayleigh 512 numbers observed at all times at the bottom of the growing sea ice, that indicate enhanced 513 convection and therefore exchanges with the under-ice water.

Bacterial respiration in bulk ice (10 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SW and 25 nmolC L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>) over 19 days 514 only represent 1 to 3% of the stock of DIC (400  $\mu$ molC L<sup>-1</sup>). It is therefore curious as to how 515 516 such a low bacterial respiration may have caused a significant difference of pCO<sub>2</sub> in the ice 517 interior. An explanation could be the increase of the buffering effect of the carbonate system 518 with the decrease of temperature and the increase of salinity in brine (brine concentration). The 519 chemical buffer factor ( $\beta = \Delta p CO_2 / \Delta D IC$ ) describes the change in pCO<sub>2</sub> relative to the DIC change induced by an input (i.e., respiration) or output of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub>. It results from the 520 521 interplay of equilibrium dissociation reactions of the carbonate system and is a function of 522 several physico-chemical conditions (Delille et al., 2005; Frankignoulle, 1994). In a closed 523 system,  $\beta$  of brines increases significantly with decreasing temperature and the associated 524 increase of brine salinity (Figure 8). Providing that bacterial respiration could explain the 525 accumulation of DIC, an increase of DIC (even small) can result in a larger increase in pCO<sub>2</sub> 526 in cold saline brine compared to warmer underlying seawater (Figure 8). Considering that the difference of DIC<sub>7</sub> in the ice interior approached 15  $\mu$ mol kg<sup>-1</sup> (Figure 5) and that at  $\beta$ 527 approached 4 at -4.5 °C (median temperature of the ice), an expected difference of pCO<sub>2</sub> due 528 529 to buffer factor changes should approach 60 ppm, which is relatively close to our observation 530 (Figure 6).

531 An alternate explanation is the underestimation of the bacterial respiration in bulk ice. We 532 calculated bacterial respiration based on thymidine incorporation and different conversion 533 factors. Our choice of BGE might have led to an underestimation of the estimate of bacterial 534 respiration, as discussed in the next section,.

535

# 4.4 Modelling the impact of bacterial respiration on pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice

536 In a closed system, bacterial respiration would induce an accumulation of DIC. In our semi-537 enclosed system, DIC also changed due to physical processes (ice-air and ice-water exchanges). 538 The interplay of these various processes makes it difficult to use a simple calculation to prove 539 (i) whether the difference in bacterial respiration caused the observed difference of DIC and 540 pCO<sub>2</sub> in the ice interior, and (ii) whether ice-air and ice-water exchanges have offset the difference of DIC and pCO<sub>2</sub> caused by respiration at the surface and the bottom of the ice, 541 542 respectively.

543 To tackle these issues, we used the one-dimensional thermodynamic sea ice model of Moreau 544 et al. (2015) which includes ice-air gas exchanges and sea ice carbon dynamics. The model 545 features ice growth and melt, ice-air and ice-water exchanges, as well as representations of full 546 inorganic carbon and basic organic carbon dynamics within the ice. For the model simulations, 547 all the parameters used are those described in Moreau et al. (2015), except for biological activity 548 where primary production was shut down in the model runs. Bacterial respiration is prescribed with the median values of the bacterial respiration for SW and SWR, i.e., 10 nmol C  $L^{-1} h^{-1}$  in 549 SW and 25 nmol C L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup> in SWR, which corresponded to the use of a bacterial growth 550 efficiency (BGE) of 0.348. Based on the initial conditions of the experiment, we prescribed the 551 552 initial seawater TA and DIC concentrations (2244 µmol kg<sup>-1</sup> and 2039 µmol kg<sup>-1</sup>, respectively) and the initial sea ice TA and DIC concentrations (847  $\mu$ mol kg<sup>-1</sup> and 748  $\mu$ mol kg<sup>-1</sup>). The 553 554 model was run over 19 days (duration of the experiment), with a 1-hour time step.

Because the model has different temporal and spatial resolutions than the observations, we decided to only compare the temporal evolution of the median values in the ice (modelled versus measured variables). Overall, the model reproduced the ice thicknesses, median ice temperatures and salinities, as well as the standing stock of DIC and the median  $pCO_2$  in ice in the same magnitude as those observed (Figure 9).

560 We first ran the model with the median values of the observed bacterial respiration for SW and 561 SWR by using a BGE of 0.348 (Kuparinen et al., 2011). Given these bacterial respiration rates, 562 the model reproduces the spatial pattern of the observed DIC7 standing stock and the median 563 pCO<sub>2</sub> (Figure 9) but not the magnitude of their difference between SW and SWR (Table 1). 564 Therefore, we re-calculated bacterial respiration rates for SW and SWR using different BGE. 565 Reducing BGE to 0.2 or 0.15 is plausible considering that BGE ranges from 0.05 to 0.6 (i.e., from 5 % to 60 %), depending on the environmental conditions (e.g., the quality of the dissolved 566 567 organic matter) (Del Giorgio and Cole, 1998; Nguyen et al., 2012; Rivkin and Legendre, 2001).

568 Firstly, changing the BGE to 0.2 or 0.15, and hence increasing the BR, did not change the total 569 stock of DIC and the median pCO<sub>2</sub> significantly (Figure 9, coloured curves), which supports 570 our previous suggestions about the importance of the physical processes, such as brine 571 concentration and dilution and gas transport, in regulating the dynamics of DIC and pCO<sub>2</sub> in 572 sea ice. However, changing the BGE to 0.2 or 0.15 enhanced the differences in DIC<sub>7</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub> 573 in ice between SW and SWR (Table 1). The modelled median difference of DIC<sub>7</sub> fits the 574 observations better when using a BGE of 0.2 and 0.15 (Table 1), and considering the reproducibility of  $+/-0.8 \mu$ mol kg<sup>-1</sup> for DIC. The median difference of pCO<sub>2</sub> is then higher than 575

576 the observed differences in pCO<sub>2</sub> between SW and SWR, but considering that the model slightly 577 overestimates the pCO<sub>2</sub> near the ice surface (*Kotovitch et al.*, submitted), differences in DIC<sub>7</sub>, 578 rather than pCO<sub>2</sub>, would be a better indicator of the difference in bacterial impact. The model 579 simulations therefore suggest that the bacterial respiration in ice might be up to 3 times higher 580 than our previous estimate (Table 1).

581 The estimate of BGE for the entire period of the experiment (0.15 - 0.2), as suggested by the 582 model simulations, was lower than assumed. Our BGE estimate of 0.348 was based on 583 empirical values obtained in liquid batch cultures in above-zero temperature (Kuparinen et al. 584 2011, Nguyen and Maranger 2011) combined with calculated temperature-dependent estimate 585 (Rivkin & Legendre 2001). Measuring bacterial process rates, especially respiration in sea-ice 586 systems is complicated and direct respiration measurements were not available. The lower 587 actual BGE suggested by the model in our experimental system compared to the previous 588 published values is plausible because of the extremely low temperatures and high salinities in 589 brine. Extreme conditions are in general forcing bacteria to invest more energy for survival than 590 for growth. Along these lines, the actual BGE may vary throughout the ice growth, being lower 591 during ice growth (where the conditions were more extreme), and higher during ice melt (where 592 the conditions were milder). Further investigations are encouraged to verify this hypothesis. 593 Furthermore, BGE in water column and ice may be different with higher BGE in water where 594 conditions are less extreme. Higher BGE from 0.4 to 0.5 were suggested by Moreau et al. 595 (submitted) for the under-ice water, in the same experimental system. Higher BGE for under-596 ice water would also lower the respiration estimate towards values measured in other studies 597 (Kirchman et al. 2009, Nguyen and Maranger 2011, Nguyen et al. 2012) albeit in the high Arctic 598 under different nutrient and dissolved organic carbon regimes.

599 The comparison of Figure 5 with Figure 10, and Figure 6 with Figure 11 shows that the model 600 reproduced the temporal and spatial pattern of DIC<sub>7</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub> well. DIC<sub>7</sub> decreased from the 601 bottom to the top of the ice due to air-ice gas exchange, except in the bottom most layer where 602 DIC<sub>7</sub> is underestimated due to an improper parameterization of heat and salt transfer in this 603 layer (Moreau et al., 2014; Vancoppenolle et al., 2010). pCO<sub>2</sub> was supersaturated in the ice during the entire ice growth period, except in the bottom layer where brine convection pulled 604 605 the pCO<sub>2</sub> towards the under-saturated pCO<sub>2</sub> value of the under-ice water. pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice then also 606 became under-saturated, as it was observed, as a result of the increase of air temperature (and 607 the related brine dilution). In addition, due to the higher bacterial respiration in SWR compared 608 to SW, DIC<sub>7</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub> were higher in SWR than in SW. The differences of pCO<sub>2</sub> are alleviated at the bottom of the ice because of brine convection, and slightly at the top of the ice due to airice gas exchange, but they are greater in the ice interior, which has to be associated with the
difference in bacterial respiration – the sole difference between the two runs: SW and SWR.

612 There are two main differences between the model simulations and the observations: The 613 absolute values of DIC<sub>7</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub> are higher in the model than in the observations, and the 614 differences of DIC<sub>7</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub> between SWR and SW present a smoother pattern in the model 615 than in the observations (Figures 5, 6, 9 and 10). Ice-air gas fluxes are currently not yet well 616 constrained in the model, resulting in a slight underestimation of the ice-air gas fluxes, and thus 617 an overestimation of the modeled DIC and pCO<sub>2</sub> content in the ice (Kotovitch et al., submitted). 618 The smoother pattern in the modelled differences of DIC<sub>7</sub> and pCO<sub>2</sub> may result from the higher 619 spatial and temporal resolution in the model than in the observations: Hourly time step and 620 calculation on the 10 ice layers in the model compared to the almost daily sampling with 1 to 4 621 measured ice layers on each ice core.

622 In brief, differences exist between the model simulations and the observations, probably due to 623 the parameterization of air-ice gas exchange and the difference of spatial and temporal 624 resolution, but the model was able to reproduce the temporal and spatial patterns of  $DIC_7$  and 625 pCO<sub>2</sub>, confirming therefore the importance of brine concentration and dilution, and gas 626 transport in controlling their dynamics. Most importantly, the model reproduced the observed 627 median difference of DIC<sub>7</sub> in the ice by introducing the measured bacterial respiration (for a 628 lower BGE of 0.15 or 0.2), confirming that higher bacterial respiration could indeed cause a 629 larger accumulation of DIC and a larger pCO<sub>2</sub> in the ice.

630 A corollary to the higher bacterial respiration, DIC and  $pCO_2$  in SWR in the model is an enhanced ice-air CO<sub>2</sub> flux during ice growth by 17 % (1.68 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> and 1.97 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> 631 <sup>1</sup> in SW and SWR, respectively), and a reduced CO<sub>2</sub> flux during ice decay by 38 % (-1.52 mmol 632  $m^{-2} d^{-1}$  and -0.93 mmol  $m^{-2} d^{-1}$  in SW and SWR, respectively) if we assume a BGE of 0.15 633 634 (simulated fluxes not shown). The enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes during ice growth are obviously due to 635 the higher  $pCO_2$  in the ice resulting from the higher bacterial respiration. The negative  $CO_2$ 636 fluxes (i.e., from the air to the ice) are due to brine dilution (e.g., Nomura et al., 2010), and the 637 flux is less negative in SWR because the larger bacterial respiration in SWR better compensates 638 the effect of brine dilution. The integrated CO<sub>2</sub> flux over the 19 days of the simulation was 0.16 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> and 1.04 mmol m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in SW and SWR, respectively. Hence, the addition of DOC 639 640 might have induced an air-ice CO<sub>2</sub> flux that was more than 6 times higher than without the 641 addition of DOC.

# **5. Conclusion and large scale implications**

The aim of the study was to verify the hypothesis as to whether a larger input of riverine DOC in the Arctic water could induce a higher DOC concentration in sea ice, which would promote bacterial respiration, leading to a higher  $pCO_2$  in brine. Although the overall trend of  $pCO_2$  in both mesocosm series strongly depends on the ice temperature (Figure 1) as a result of the effect of brine concentration and brine dilution, the differences (SWR-SW) in observations and model simulations support our hypothesis.

649 The difference of pCO<sub>2</sub> between SW and SWR was much lower than the difference of pCO<sub>2</sub> in 650 brine between the Arctic Ocean and the Southern Ocean. However, if we have added more 651 labile DOC instead of humic-rich riverine water to our mesocosms and if we extended the 652 duration of the experiment with lower air temperature, we may have observed larger differences 653 of DIC and pCO<sub>2</sub>, closer to those observed in natural conditions. The availability of more labile 654 autochthonous DOC may promote higher bacterial respiration and higher accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub> 655 in ice. Further, extending the duration of the experiment to several months, with further 656 decrease of the ice temperature, would increase the respiration burden, reduce the ice 657 permeability, and therefore reduce gases and DIC losses through the ice.

658 Because the addition of riverine DOC to seawater causes larger pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice, the Arctic Ocean, 659 which receives a large input of terrestrial DOC through rivers, might induce more positive (or 660 less negative) ice-air CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes than the Southern Ocean, for the same environmental 661 conditions. Similarly, Arctic coastal waters might also be associated with a more positive (or 662 negative) ice-air CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes than the central Arctic. This is at least true for the ice growth period 663 when algal growth is limited, as considered by the absence of autochthonous DOC in our 664 experiment. Algal growth would consume CO<sub>2</sub> but will also produce labile autochtonous DOC 665 that enhances bacterial production. Further experiments are therefore needed to refine the net 666 impact of algal and bacterial growth on pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice and on the inter-hemispheric differences.

667 The inter-hemispheric difference of pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice and brine likely results from the impact of ice 668 temperature on the ice permeability and the buffering effect of the carbonate system, in addition 669 to the DOC input. Lower ice temperatures are associated with larger buffering effects, i.e., the 670 increase of pCO<sub>2</sub> in the ice interior in response to a given increase of DIC (due to bacterial 671 respiration) would be enhanced. If the ice temperature is low enough so that the ice becomes 672 impermeable to gas exchange, the accumulation of pCO<sub>2</sub> would have been more obvious, 673 resulting in the larger observed inter-hemispheric difference of pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice and brine. On the 674 contrary, higher ice temperatures are associated with lower buffering effects and larger ice

675 permeability. Exchange may occur through the ice, and offset the bacterial accumulation of 676  $CO_2$ . In our study, the impact of bacterial respiration on pCO<sub>2</sub> was most obvious in the ice 677 interior, because ice-air gas exchange and brine convection have offset the increase of pCO<sub>2</sub> 678 associated with bacterial respiration at the ice interfaces.

679 Considering the drastic decline in Arctic sea ice, we may also wonder how air-sea and air-ice 680 CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes may change in the future. If the ice cover is replaced more and more by open water, 681 the most common scenario is that air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes increase, because gas exchange is more 682 efficient via an open sea surface than a semi-permeable ice cover. Our work highlighted the 683 fact that the dynamics regulating the  $pCO_2$  gradient will be different too. Due to the buffering 684 effect of the carbonate system, brine concentration makes the pCO<sub>2</sub> more sensitive to DIC 685 increase in ice than in seawater, and a small accumulation of DIC, due to low bacterial 686 respiration may result in a large increase of  $pCO_2$  in the ice. At some specific locations, where 687 bacterial activity is more intense in the ice than in the underlying water, the consequence of 688 bacterial respiration on pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice may be even more significant, especially when algal activity 689 is limited. The interplay between gas transfer velocity and the pCO<sub>2</sub> gradient needs to be taken 690 into consideration while assessing the future evolution of the air-sea and air-ice CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in 691 the polar regions.

692

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706

#### 707 Contributions

- 708 JLT, BD, GD, HK, GK planned and designed the experiment under the lead of DT; JZ, MK,
- 709 JLT, BD, GD and DT provided the data on sea ice physics and carbonate chemistry, HK, the
- 710 bacterial data, GK, the DOC data, and SM, the model simulations. JZ, BD, HK, SM wrote the
- 711 paper with the valuable comments and inputs from all the other co-authors.
- 712

#### 713 Captions

- 714 Figure 1. pCO<sub>2</sub> measurements in sea ice and brine in the Arctic and Antarctica after Geilfus et
- 715 al. (2014), excluding the measurements where flooding was observed. The horizontal line
- 716 indicates a  $pCO_2$  of 400ppm - a reference value considering current atmospheric  $pCO_2$ .
- 717 Figure 2. Brine volume fraction (BrV, in %) and Rayleigh number (Ra) in the SW and SWR
- 718 mesocosms during the experiment. The black dots are the data points from the sampling, while
- 719 the color in between results is from interpolation (natural neighbours in Surfer 8 © software)
- 720 (Zhou et al., 2014).
  - 721 Figure 3. a) Bacterial respiration (BR TdR), b) DIC<sub>7</sub> and c) pCO<sub>2</sub> in water and sea ice. Note 722 that for sea ice, we plotted the median value of each ice core.
  - 723 Figure 4. Bacterial respiration (BR TdR) in ice in the SW and SWR mesocosms during the 724 experiment, and the difference between both mesocosms. Bacterial respiration is expressed in 725 nmol C L<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>.
  - 726 Figure 5. DIC<sub>7</sub> in ice of the SW and SWR mesocosms during the experiment, and the difference
  - 727 between both mesocosms. DIC<sub>7</sub> is expressed in umol C kg<sup>-1</sup>. Insignificant differences of DIC<sub>7</sub>
  - 728 are set in white.
  - 729 Figure 6. pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice in the SW and SWR mesocosms during the experiment, and the difference 730 between both mesocosms. pCO<sub>2</sub> is expressed in ppm. Insignificant differences of pCO<sub>2</sub> are set
  - 731 in white.
  - 732 Figure 7. Relationship between  $pCO_2$  in ice and brine volume fraction. The circles are the data
  - 733 used to draw the fit (black curve), the other discrete symbols are not considered (see explanation
- in the text). The blue curves are the 95 % confidence bands of the fit and the red dashed curve 734 735
  - is the relationship predicted by CO2SYS (Lewis and Wallace, 1998).
  - 736 Figure 8. Buffer factor of the carbonate system for decreasing temperature and related increase
  - 737 of salinity due to brine concentration/dilution in a closed system. Initial conditions was S =
  - 35.17, T = -1.8 °C, TA = 2578 μmol kg<sup>-1</sup>, DIC = 2450.4 μmol kg<sup>-1</sup>, pCO<sub>2</sub> = 400 μatm. β is 738
  - 739 provided for an increase of DIC of 20 µmol kg<sup>-1</sup>.
  - Figure 9. (Clockwise) Temporal changes of the ice thickness, median ice temperature, median 740 741 ice salinity, the standing stock of DIC and the median pCO<sub>2</sub> in the ice. The dots refer to the 742 measurements (white for SW and black for SWR), while the curves refer to the simulated 743 results. The vertical dashed line shows the transition from ice growth to ice decay.
  - 744 Figure 10 Modeled DIC<sub>7</sub> in ice, in SW and SWR mesocosms, and the difference SWR minus 745 SW, using a median bacterial respiration in ice associated with a BGE of 0.15 (Table 1).
  - Figure 11. Modeled pCO<sub>2</sub> in ice, in SW and SWR mesocosms, and the difference SWR minus 746 747 SW, using a median bacterial respiration in ice associated with a BGE of 0.15 (Table 1).
  - 748 Table 1. Calculated median bacterial respiration (BR) in ice in SW and SWR using different
  - 749 bacterial growth efficiencies (BGE), the measured median difference of pCO<sub>2</sub> and DIC (SWR
  - 750 minus SW) during the experiment (Diff pCO<sub>2</sub> and Diff DIC<sub>7</sub>), and the modeled difference of
  - 751 pCO<sub>2</sub> and DIC for each set of BGE-dependent BR.
  - 752

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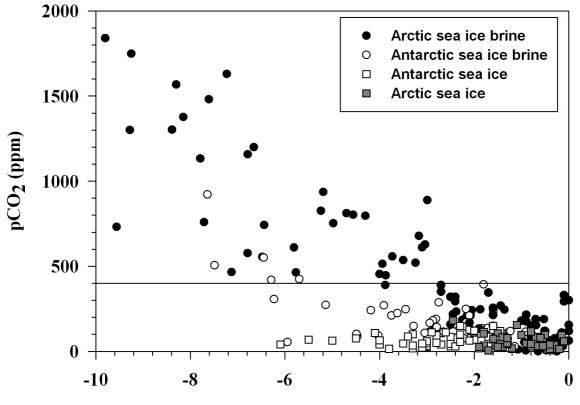
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|             | Observations           |                        |                       |                              | Model                 |                              |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
|             | BR (SW)                | BR (SWR)               | Diff pCO <sub>2</sub> | <b>Diff</b> DIC <sub>7</sub> | Diff pCO <sub>2</sub> | <b>Diff</b> DIC <sub>7</sub> |
|             | nmol C $L^{-1} h^{-1}$ | nmol C $L^{-1} h^{-1}$ | ppm                   | $\mu$ mol kg <sup>-1</sup>   | ppm                   | $\mu$ mol kg <sup>-1</sup>   |
| BGE = 0.348 | 10.0                   | 24.7                   |                       |                              | 8.3                   | 0.9                          |
| BGE = 0.2   | 21.5                   | 52.6                   | 13                    | 2.8                          | 19.3                  | 1.9                          |
| BGE = 0.15  | 30.4                   | 74.6                   |                       |                              | 31.9                  | 2.7                          |

Fig. 1



Ice temperature (°C)

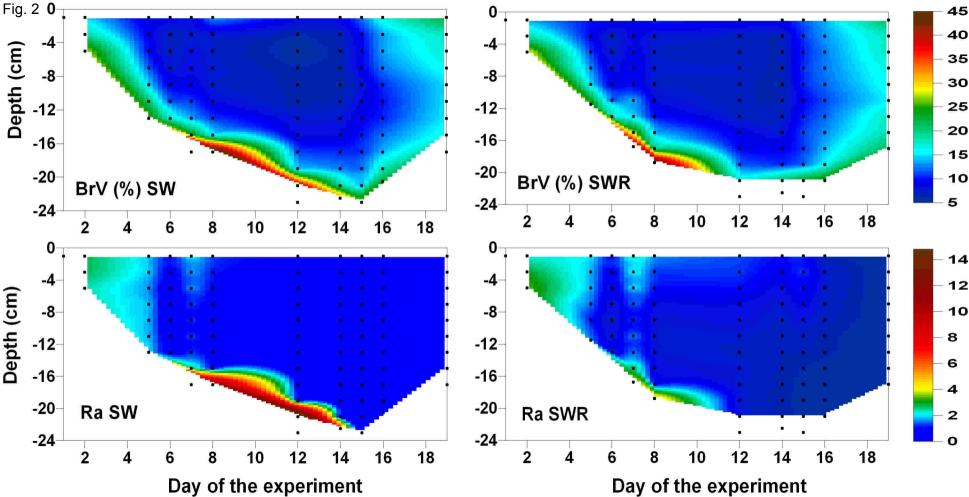
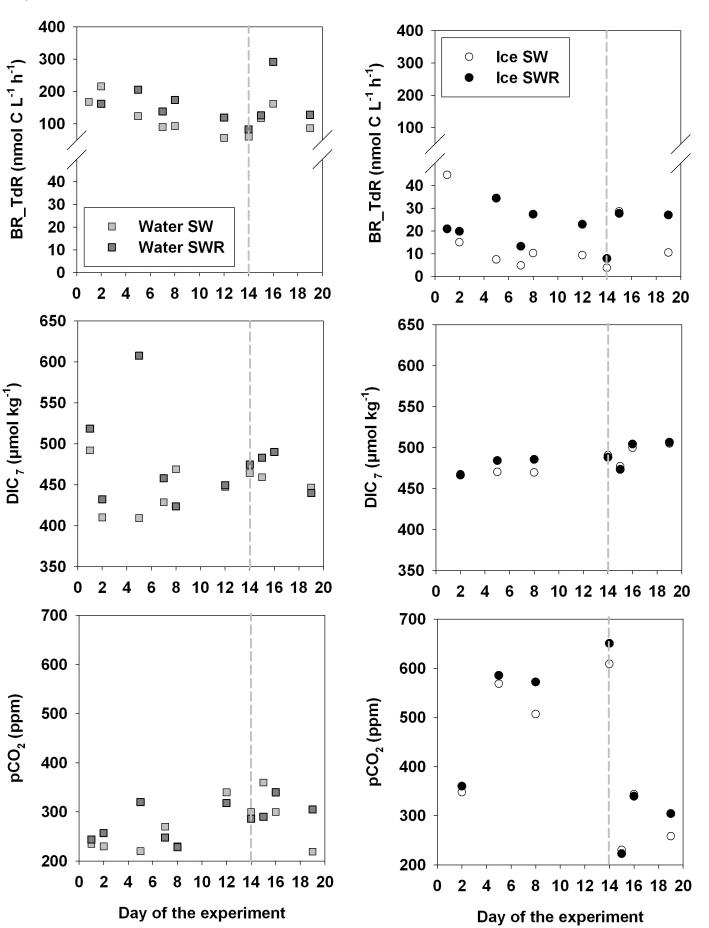
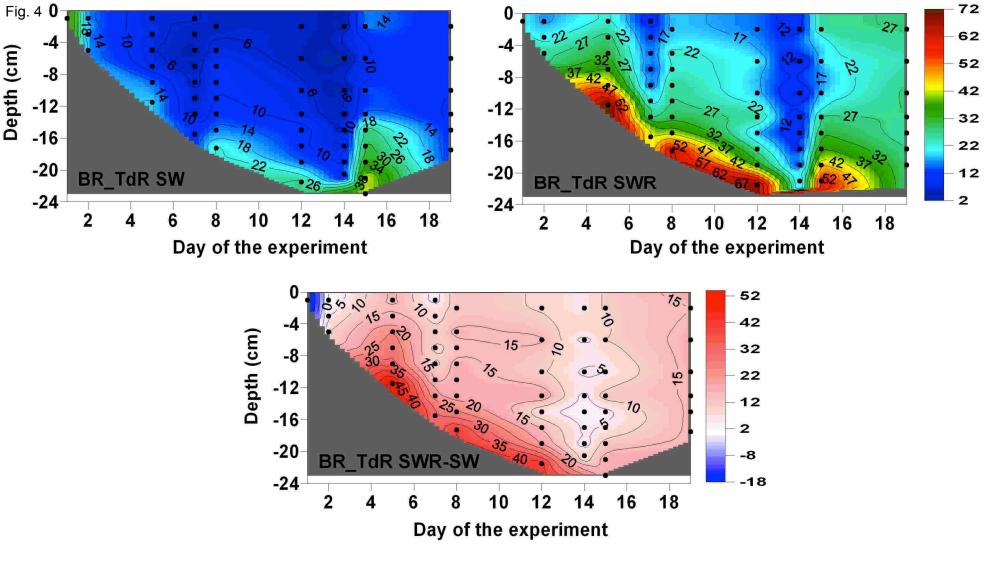
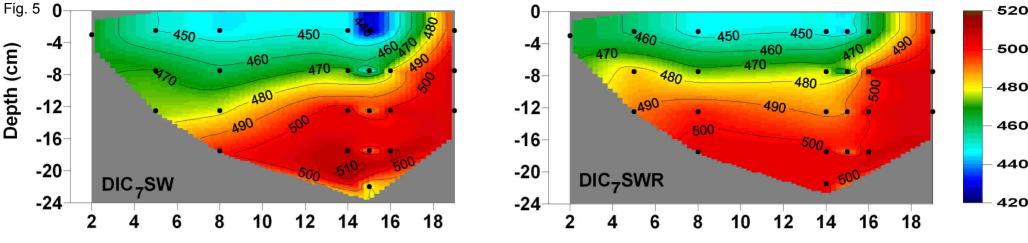


Fig.3

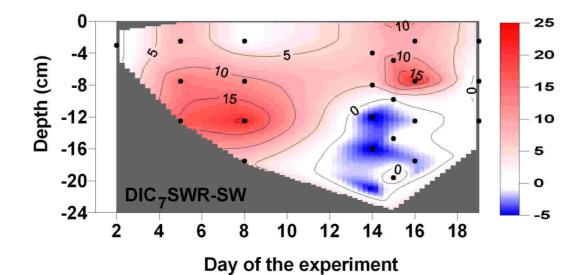


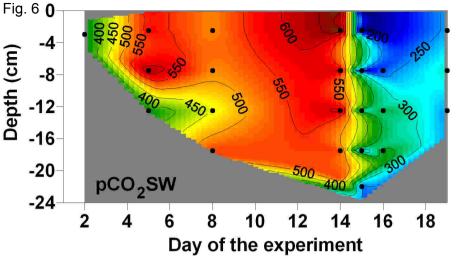


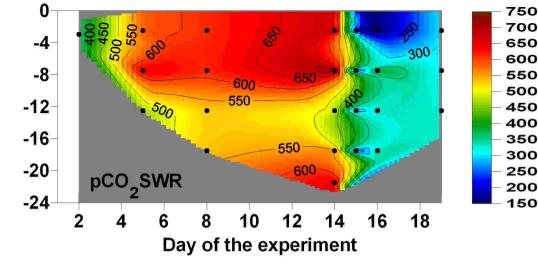


Day of the experiment

Day of the experiment







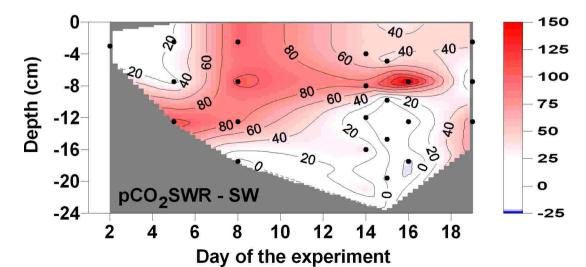
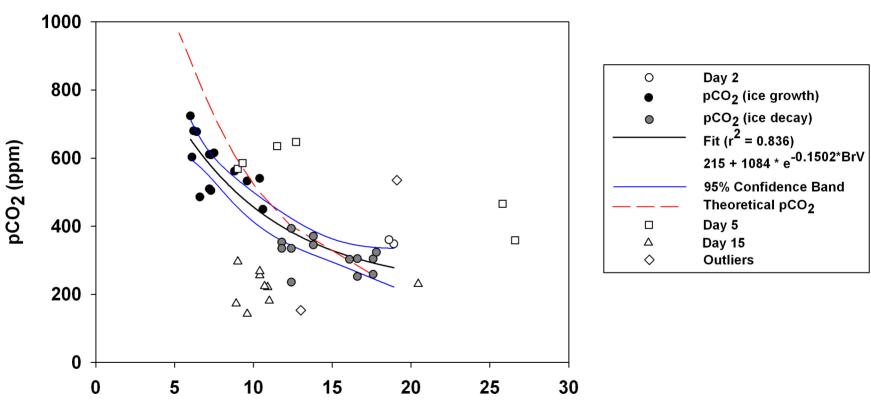
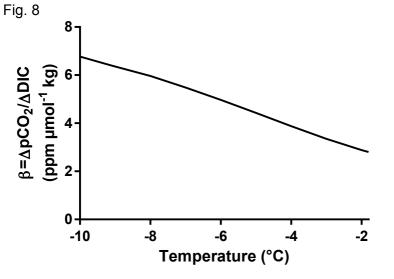
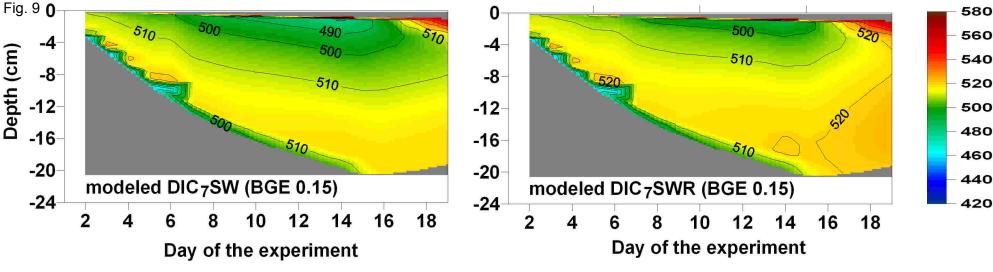


Fig. 7



**Brine volume fraction (%)** 





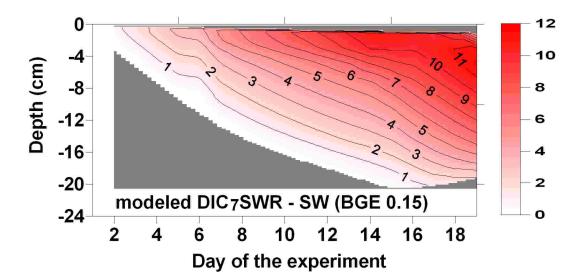


Fig. 10

