

# Iron supply pathways between the surface and subsurface waters of the Southern Ocean: From winter entrainment to summer storms

Sarah Nicholson, Marina Lévy, Julien Jouanno, Xavier Capet, Sebastiaan Swart, Pedro M. S. Monteiro

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- Iron supply pathways between the surface and subsurface waters of the Southern
- **Ocean: from winter entrainment to summer storms**

- 4 S.-A. Nicholson<sup>1</sup>, M. Lévy <sup>2</sup>, J. Jouanno<sup>3</sup>, X Capet<sup>2</sup>, S. Swart<sup>4,5</sup> and P.M.S Monteiro<sup>1</sup>
- <sup>1</sup>Southern Ocean Carbon-Climate Observatory (SOCCO), CSIR, Cape Town, South Africa
- <sup>2</sup> Sorbonne Université, LOCEAN-IPSL, CNRS-IRD-MNHN, Paris, France
- <sup>3</sup>LEGOS, Université de Toulouse, IRD, CNRS, CNES, UPS, Toulouse, France.
- <sup>4</sup> Department of Marine Sciences, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden
- <sup>5</sup> Department of Oceanography, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, South Africa

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11 Corresponding author: Sarah-Anne Nicholson, snicholson@csir.co.za

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- Eddy advection and winter mixing support annual surface iron supplies in equal proportion in an eddy resolving model.
- Eddy advection contributes 25% to restocking subsurface iron reservoir in addition to 75% by local recycling.
- Storms are the most efficient in increasing iron supplies in early summer and over ocean fronts.

#### **Abstract**

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21 Dissolved iron (DFe) plays an immeasurable role in shaping the biogeochemical processes of the open-ocean Southern Ocean. However, due to observational constraints iron supply pathways 22 remain poorly understood. Using an idealized eddy-resolving physical-biogeochemical model 23 representing a turbulent sector of the Southern Ocean with seasonal buoyancy forcing and zonal 24 winds overlaid by storms, we quantify the importance of a range of subsurface and surface iron 25 supply mechanisms. The main physical supply pathways to the surface layer are via eddy advection 26 and winter convective mixing in equal proportions. The associated subsurface loss of DFe is 27 restocked via net remineralisation (75%) and eddy advection (25%). Summer storms resulted in 28 weak DFe supplies relative to the seasonal supplies (<7.6%). However, in situations of deep 29 summer mixed-layers and when interacting with underlying ocean fronts, summer storms resulted 30 in enhanced diffusive and advective DFe supplies and raised summer primary production by 20% 31 for several days. 32

## **Plain Language Summary**

34 The surface of the Southern Ocean is iron depleted, which strongly limits the amount of phytoplankton growth that can occur. Every year, deep mixing in winter moves large quantities of 35 iron from a subsurface under-utilized iron reservoir to the surface alleviating the iron limitation. 36 Once there is sufficient light in spring, phytoplankton consume this iron supply leaving the summer 37 months iron depleted. How exactly phytoplankton are supported through the summer when iron 38 limitations are strong remains under question. This study uses a numerical model to simulate the 39 seasonal and intraseasonal iron supply pathways. We show that physical supplies via advection by 40 eddies and winter mixing drive surface seasonal supplies in equal proportions. During summer, 41 storms supply iron via intermittent mixing and thus increase primary production, particularly over 42 regions of strong ocean fronts. 43

### 1 Introduction

- 45 Dissolved iron (DFe) limits phytoplankton growth across the surface of the Southern Ocean (SO), particularly in the open-ocean regions far from terrestrial DFe supplies (Boyd and Ellwood, 2010; 46 47 Moore et al., 2013). Analysis of a compilation of open-ocean DFe data has suggested that the limitation is alleviated on an annual basis by a 'once-off' basin-wide supply during winter driven 48 by deep convective mixing, which entrains large volumes of iron-laden subsurface waters to the 49 surface (Tagliabue et al., 2014). During spring, when light availability increases, the winter supply 50 51 is consumed by the development of widespread phytoplankton blooms, such as occurring in the sub-Antarctic zone (SAZ, Thomalla et al. 2011 and Racault et al. 2012). During summer, physical 52 iron supplies (i.e., via diapycnal mixing and advection) between the subsurface and surface ocean 53 have been estimated to be negligible in comparison to winter entrainment (Tagliabue et al., 2014) 54 and rapid iron biological recycling is thought to extend the spring phytoplankton production 55 through the summer months (Boyd et al., 2005; Tagliabue et al., 2014; Boyd et al., 2017). 56
- In addition to the 'once-off' seasonal supply, there is increasing observational evidence from satellites (Fauchereau et al., 2011; Thomalla et al., 2011; Carranza and Gille, 2015) and from *insitu* high-resolution gliders (Swart et al., 2015; Mtshali et al., 2019) that storms could be entraining intermittent DFe supplies that could support phytoplankton production, especially in summer when DFe limitations are strongest (Boyd, 2002; Ryan-Keogh et al., 2018; Mtshali et al., 2019).

- Carranza and Gille (2015) found strong positive correlations between high wind-speeds with 62
- enhanced surface chlorophyll in summer and concluded that local storm-driven entrainment was 63
- the dominant nutrient supply mechanism over advection by Ekman pumping. Further, Swart et al. 64
- (2015) linked sustained summer chlorophyll in the SAZ to wind-driven mixed-layer depth (MLD) 65
- variability on synoptic timescales. The role of storm-driven mixing in supporting SAZ summer 66
- production was explored in a one-dimensional modelling study by Nicholson et al. (2016), which 67
- showed that intermittent mixing events could entrain subsurface DFe, provided there was a 68
- 69 subsurface post-storm resupply mechanism.
- Many theoretical studies have investigated in detail the importance of wind in increasing the 70
- supply of nutrients to the subsurface and the surface ocean, particularly when the wind interacts 71
- with different meso and submesoscale features (fronts and eddies, e.g., Mahadevan and Tandon, 72
- 2006; Lévy et al., 2009; Whitt et al., 2017a, 2017b). These studies have focused on particular 73
- localized scenarios and their relevance has not yet been contextualized within the broader seasonal 74
- mean state. The SO, in particular the SAZ, is a region of strong eddy (Frenger et al., 2015) and 75
- small-scale frontal activity (du Plessis et al., 2017, 2019); and strong winds from passing storms 76
- (Yuan, 2004; Patoux et al., 2009; Yuan et al., 2009). We hypothesize that storms increase mixing 77
- 78 and advection during summer that are enhanced by wind-mesoscale interactions and may result in
- non-negligible physical iron supplies from the subsurface to the surface ocean to support 79
- phytoplankton production beyond what is possible by the once-off winter supply. 80
- We aim to address the following, from a seasonal-scale perspective: What are the dominant supply 81
- mechanisms of dissolved iron over the seasonal cycle? What maintains the sub-surface iron 82
- reservoir? From an intraseasonal-scale perspective: How is iron supplied and utilized in response 83
- to summer storms? We address these questions using an idealized eddy-resolving biogeochemical 84
- model of the SO, forced by winds and climatological heat fluxes (seasonal forcing) and by a series 85
- of passing storms (intraseasonal). 86

#### 2 Model setup and design

## 2.1 Physical Model

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- The model architecture was provided by the Nucleus for European Modeling of the Ocean 89
- (NEMO, Madec, 2008). The domain, zonal and meridional extent of  $L_x = 2000$  km and  $L_y = 3000$ 90
- km respectively (representing  $40 70^{\circ}$ S) and vertical extent of 4000 m, was setup on a  $\beta$ -plane 91
- with  $f_0 = -1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $\beta = 1 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at the center. A linear equation of state dependent on 92
- temperature is used with a thermal expansion  $\alpha = 2 \times 10^{-10} \,\mathrm{K}^{-1}$ . The eastern and western boundaries 93
- 94 were periodic, while the northern and southern were restricted. The northern boundary temperature
- was restored to an exponential profile to allow deep residual overturning (Abernathey et al., 2011) 95
- and varied seasonally in the upper 150 m to mimic observed seasonal variability at 40°S (Jouanno 96 97
- et al., 2016). Random bathymetry (Figure S1) with linear bottom friction was used to limit the zonal volume transport (Rintoul et al., 2001). In the vertical, 50 levels were used, with 10 levels 98
- 99
- of 10 m thickness in the upper 100 m, increasing exponentially in thickness to 172 m at the bottom.
- For vertical mixing we used a Generic Length Scale scheme with a k-ε closure (Reffray et al., 100 2015), and for tracer and momentum advection, a 3rd order upstream biased scheme and no 101
- additional explicit diffusion. Refer to Jouanno et al. (2016) for further description of the 102

- configuration, including rationale for the choice of bathymetry, restoring, mixing and advection 103
- 104 schemes.

- The configuration was initialized using a hierarchy of increasing horizontal resolution starting 105
- from 100 km, initialized from rest and adjusted for 200 years. This initialized a 24 km resolution 106
- run, which spun-up for 400 years, from which a 5 km run was initialized (then adjusted for 30 107
- years). Our analysis is based on the mesoscale resolving 5 km run. Outputs are saved as two-day 108
- means and the last five years of model integration are analyzed. The analysis is restricted to a 109
- northern band (x = 2000 2800 km) of the domain, which is representative of SAZ like conditions 110
- 111 (Figure S1) and not influenced by boundary conditions.

# 2.2 Seasonal and storm surface forcing

- The surface boundary was forced mechanically by wind and thermodynamically by heat fluxes. 113
- The heat fluxes varied seasonally and zonally and were constructed from OAFlux data between 114
- 1984 2007 (Yu and Weller 2007 and Jouanno et al. 2016). Background wind stress  $(\tau_h)$  is 115
- uniform in time and varies zonally as: 116

$$117 \qquad \mathbf{\tau_{b}} = \mathbf{\tau_0} \sin \frac{\pi y}{L_y}$$

- where,  $\tau_0 = 0.15 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$ . 118
- SO mid-latitude storms are large cyclonic features (diameter of 900 km, Figure S2), which were 119
- represented here as cyclonic anomalies of varying magnitudes in the background wind stress field 120
- and were created using a Rankine vortex model (described in Jouanno et al. 2016). The direct 121
- effect of storms on heat flux is not accounted for. Storm characteristics (i.e., duration and 122
- magnitude) have been designed based on statistics for the SO (Patoux et al., 2009). The simulated 123
- storms are unique, they have different magnitudes, locations across the domain, and times in each 124
- year. They have periods of approximately 10 days and traverse zonally across the domain in two 125
- days, i.e., the time interval during which their associated winds reach maximum intensity (linear 126
- intensification and decay occur over periods of 1 day each). A total of 16 summer storms passed 127
- over the region analyzed over 4 consecutive summers (Figure S2). Storms are stronger in intensity 128
- during winter months than in summer, as observed to occur by Yuan et al. (2009), thus the storm 129
- 130
- wind stress max  $(\tau_{max})$  is modulated by a seasonal cycle where it varies from  $\tau_{max} = 1.5 \text{ Nm}^{-2}$  in winter to  $\frac{\tau_{max}}{2}$  in summer. This seasonal storm intensity, together with background wind and 131
- heat flux, resulted in the seasonality of the MLD, which deepened in response to convective 132
- 133 cooling and stronger storms in winter to a mean of ~175 m and shoaled to a mean of ~30 m in
- summer due to strong buoyancy forcing via surface heating (in agreement with SAZ MLD ranges 134
- in du Plessis et al. 2019). 135

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## 2.3 Biogeochemical Model

- The biogeochemical model Pelagic Interaction Scheme for Carbon and Ecosystems (PISCES, 137
- Aumont et al. 2015), a well-tested and constrained model, simulates the cycle of DFe, 138
- phosphorous, nitrogen, and silicate. PISCES was coupled online to the dynamical configuration 139
- described above. DFe has been initialized based on lower ranges for the SO, which is more 140
- representative of open-ocean waters (Tagliabue et al., 2012). We set DFe to 0.05 nmol L<sup>-1</sup> in the 141

- surface increasing linearly to 0.5 nmol L<sup>-1</sup> until 500 m depth (Figure S3), after which DFe is kept
- 143 constant. For simplicity, we chose to force the model with high (by two factors) nitrate,
- phosphate and silicate, such that the two limitations on phytoplankton are light and iron. While
- silicate limitation occurs in the SO (Boyd et al. 2002), these broadly repleted macronutrient are
- typical of SO surface waters, especially in the SAZ (Giddy et al., 2012), and are therefore not the
- primary limitation. Nutrient profiles are restored at their northern boundary to the initial profile.
- 148 The Monotonic Upstream centered Scheme for Conservation Laws (MUSCL) in flux-form is
- used for the advective transport of biogeochemical tracers (Lévy et al., 2001).

#### 150 **3 Results**

- Here we first show the model ability to simulate seasonal and intraseasonal responses of surface
- phytoplankton, then the seasonal and intraseasonal (summer storms) pathways of DFe are
- investigated.

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## 154 3. 1 Surface chlorophyll

- 155 The seasonal surface chlorophyll (chl<sub>surf</sub>) shows a spring bloom peaking to ~0.5 mg m<sup>-3</sup> during
- 156 September and a constant mean of ~0.2 mg m<sup>-3</sup> in summer (Figure 1a). This range is comparable
- with open-ocean SO chlorophyll (Thomalla et al., 2011). There are raised intraseasonal peaks of
- chl<sub>surf.</sub> as the one highlighted by the grey band in Figure 1a. These anomalies are related to
- increased windspeed anomalies associated with the prescribed storms (Figure 1b). The strongest
- 160 correlations occurred 0 2 days after the storm passage, consistent with Carranza and Gille (2015).
- For illustration, chl<sub>surf</sub> patterns are shown in Figure 1c-e before, during and after a passing storm
- in November. Pre-storm, chl<sub>surf</sub> was low and spatially heterogeneous, with the highest
- concentrations occurring within mesoscale fronts while background concentrations were low (<
- 164 0.15 mg m<sup>-3</sup>). The storm-driven enhancements of chl<sub>surf</sub> is evident both in the frontal features and
- in the background concentrations (mean increase of 12%, Figure 1d, S4). However, the strongest
- increase of chl<sub>surf</sub> (52%) occurs in frontal features, particularly evident in the post-storm stage.

## 3. 2 The seasonal dissolved iron budget

- To investigate the pathways of DFe, the supplies were averaged spatially and separated into
- 169 contributions driven by physical and biological processes. The physical contributions were
- separated into vertical diffusion and total advection (the sum of lateral and vertical components,
- Figure 2a-d). The total biological contribution to the DFe budget includes DFe uptake by
- phytoplankton and supply by net remineralization. Net remineralization includes disaggregation
- of small particulate iron; zooplankton excretion and sloppy feeding; coagulation and aggregation
- of particulate iron; and scavenging.
- In the euphotic layer (set constant defined by maximum depth of production), the signature of the
- "once-off" winter DFe supply is seen as a gain of vertical diffusive DFe during winter (July –
- 177 September) (Figure 2c). This corresponds to diffusive entrainment associated with mixed-layer
- deepening (Figure 2e). A cumulative supply (averaged spatially and summed temporally) of 4.3
- 179 µmol DFe m<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> was brought to the surface due to deep winter mixing, which is in the lower
- range estimated by Tagliabue et al. 2014. In winter the total advective supply of DFe has a lower
- magnitude with respect to mixing (Figure S5). However, it is larger in spring and early summer

- (October December). The total annual cumulative supply of this advective flux was 4.5 µmol 182
- DFe m<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>, thus has a comparable magnitude to the "once-off" winter supply. Together, advection 183
- and diffusion maintain a positive DFe tendency during winter. The advective flux can be explained 184
- by increased eddy advection (Figure 2a-d), during winter, spring and early summer which 185
- dominates the vertical flux (Figure 2f). This increase in the advective flux is not present in a lower 186
- resolution run (Figure S6), where mesoscale eddies are not resolved. 187
- Euphotic layer primary production (PP<sub>eup</sub>) increases from June (Figure 2c). After winter, when the 188
- MLD shoals (Figure 2e), a spring bloom is present peaking between September and October, 189
- which rapidly decreases DFe. However, even during summer months elevated PP<sub>eup</sub> is maintained 190
- (Figure 2c). The seasonal range of PP<sub>eup</sub> (converted to carbon: 200 400 mg C m<sup>-2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>) falls within 191
- open-ocean estimates (Arrigo et al., 2008). After the spring bloom, when the MLD remains 192
- shallow (~30 m), most of the summer PP<sub>eup</sub> is sustained by the net remineralized supply 193
- (cumulative of 33 µmol DFe m<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>), particularly in the late summer period when PP<sub>eup</sub> and net 194
- remineralization are tightly coupled (Figure 2c). 195
- 196 In the subsurface (Figure 2d), there is a cumulative loss of DFe primarily due to winter entrainment
- (-4 μmol DFe m<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>), restocked by eddy-driven advection (1 μmol DFe m<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) and 197
- remineralization (3.4 µmol DFe m<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). Note the weak subsurface production in October (-0.4 198
- umol DFe m<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). Net remineralization, although lower than in the euphotic layer, continuously 199
- supplies the subsurface reservoir, particularly during winter to spring (Figure 2d). While advection 200
- contributes to restocking the subsurface between November to February. 201

# 3.3 Impact of summer storms

- Figure 3a and b show the spatially averaged storm-driven change of  $chl_{surf}$ ,  $PP_{eup}$  and MLD for 203
- 16 unique summer storms (Figure S2). The change is computed from the time-step at the peak of 204
- 205 the storm and the time-step before the storm ( $\Delta$ : storm-pre storm). Both  $\Delta$ chl<sub>surf</sub> and  $\Delta$ PP<sub>eup</sub> are
- strongly positively correlated to  $\Delta MLD$  (r = 0.808 and r = 0.801 respectively). In other words, 206
- the stronger storm-driven deepening of the MLD the larger the response in  $\Delta chl_{surf}$  and  $\Delta PP_{eup}$ . 207
- During early summer, storms drive the largest change in  $\Delta MLD$  (> 10 m) and thus of  $\Delta PP_{eup}$ , 208
- which increases up to 30 nmol DFe m<sup>2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>, approximately 15% increase relative to the mean 209
- summer range of PP<sub>eup</sub> (Figure 3b). In late summer, both mean storm-driven ΔPP<sub>eup</sub> and ΔMLD 210
- 211 are negligible.

- Next, we quantify how much of the increase in  $\Delta PP_{eup}$  in response to storms is in strong fronts 212
- (horizontal gradients in sea surface temperature > 65<sup>th</sup> percentile), versus weak/no fronts (Figure 213
- 3c). For 14 summer storms, the mean response of ΔPP<sub>eup</sub> in fronts compared to weak/no fronts is 214
- 215 the same (r = 0.98), particularly for late summer storms. However,  $\Delta PP_{eup}$  is skewed toward larger
- values in frontal areas, even for weak  $\Delta PP_{eup}$  and there are a few cases in early summer where 216
- ΔPP<sub>eup</sub> is larger in fronts, up to a factor of two. These cases had deeper pre-storm MLD's and 217
- stronger winds. 218
- Figure 4 focuses on the storm for which there is a doubling of  $\Delta PP_{eup}$  at fronts (Figure 3c). The 219
- storm occurred between the 16 18th of November marked in Figure 1a and c, d). The response 220
- of PP<sub>eup</sub> is maximum a few days after the storm (~22<sup>nd</sup>) and stronger in fronts. During the storm, 221
- diffusive entrainment is the dominant DFe supplier to the top 50 m, coinciding with a deepening 222
- of the MLD and the active mixing extent (Figure 4 c, f). The diffusive supply is stronger (42%) 223

- in fronts (e.g., 300 nmol DFe m<sup>3</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> compared to 172 nmol DFe m<sup>3</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in no fronts). Advection 224
- resupplies some of the entrained DFe beneath the MLD during the storm (Figure 4 b, c) and is 225
- also stronger in fronts (e.g., 105 nmol DFe m<sup>2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> compared to 51 nmol DFe m<sup>2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup> in weak/no 226
- fronts). The enhanced advection in both scenarios is due to Ekman pumping (accounting for 50% 227
- increase in mean total vertical advection, Figure S7), while the remainder is due to the rectified 228
- effect of mesoscale-wind interactions. 229

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#### 4. Discussion and conclusion

- 232 This study investigates the dissolved iron budget in the open waters of the SAZ with an idealized
- eddy-resolving biogeochemical model, intermittently disturbed by storms to investigate seasonal 233
- and intraseasonal supply pathways. 234
- On the seasonal-scale, in addition to the "once-off" winter DFe supply to the surface by convective 235
- mixing (Tagliabue et al., 2014), this study shows that enhanced eddy activity contributes to a DFe 236
- supply of similar magnitude over the year (Figure 2c) and is thus an important supply mechanism 237
- for SO productivity (supporting 14% annual and 25% spring-summer production). Our estimate 238
- 239 of the eddy DFe flux is likely underestimated as the horizontal resolution used (~5 km or 1/24°) is
- not sufficient to represent submesoscale iron fluxes (Rosso et al., 2016; Takaya et al., 2019). 240
- 241 Iron supplies to the euphotic layer can only be maintained if the subsurface iron reservoir is being
- refilled. In the subsurface, we showed that the dominant seasonal supplies were via net 242
- 243 remineralization (July to October), a result of detrainment of euphotic bioavailable iron during
- winter, and via total advection driven by seasonally increased eddy advection (November to 244
- February) (Figure 2d). No previous studies have contrasted the role of these different subsurface 245
- 246 pathways. However, individual studies have shown that remineralization (Boyd et al., 2017),
- upwelling (Rosso et al., 2016) and lateral advection (Bowie et al., 2009) are important. The impact 247
- of remote advection was excluded here but has been shown to be important (Graham et al., 2015),
- 248
- 249 as have hydrothermal vents (Tagliabue et al., 2010; Ardyna et al., 2019) and aeolian dust (Jickells
- et al., 2005). 250
- On the intraseasonal-scale, we investigated whether summer storms could supply iron to support 251
- summer production above and beyond these seasonal iron supplies. Storm-driven supplies are 252
- currently unresolved by temporal coverage of available DFe observations (Mtshali et al., 2019). In 253
- agreement with Fauchereau et al. (2011) and Carranza and Gille (2015), we found strong positive 254
- correlations between storm-driven anomalies of the MLD with surface chlorophyll, but also with 255
- primary production (Figure 3a,b). Moreover, we showed that the magnitude of these anomalies is 256
- dependent on the timing of the summer storm. Early summer storms had the largest mean impact 257
- (20 m) on the MLD and thus on primary production. During this period, the largest increase in
- 258
- production (40 nmol DFe m<sup>2</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>) resulted from storm-front interactions. Fronts amplified the 259
- storm-driven iron supplies primarily via enhanced diffusive entrainment associated with deeper 260
- mixing and enhanced advection below the MLD. Furthermore, the storm-driven mixing 261
- contribution of DFe is larger than the advective contribution, so Ekman pumping, and more 262
- generally enhanced advection, is of second order compared to mixing (Figure 4). While these 263
- results support a well-established hypothesis that winds interacting with fronts enhance mixing 264
- 265 (Lévy et al., 2009; Whitt et al., 2017a) and advection (Franks and Walstaad, 1997; Lévy et al.,

266 2009; Whitt et al., 2017b), when contrasted against the seasonal-scale perspective, it results in at most a 20% increase of PP for several days. Towards late summer, storm-frontal interactions were

inhibited by strong heat flux and weaker winds that maintained shallow MLDs, limiting both

entrainment of iron and the development of instabilities (Capet et al., 2008; Sasaki et al., 2014;

270 Callies et al., 2015; Lévy et al., 2018; du Plessis et al., 2019).

Our approach is based on a simplified model in which some connected and potentially relevant processes have not been accounted for and may result in the underestimation of storm impacts. The first simplification concerns the representation of the storms, which only includes an anomaly in the wind stress. However, surface heat loss has been shown to be important: Carranza and Gille (2015) showed that SO summer MLD variance was explained by windspeed (21.8%) and net surface heat flux (16.7%). This unaccounted thermodynamic effect may further destabilize the MLD during a storm, and potentially increase the storm-driven DFe supply during late summer when buoyancy forcing is strong. The two storms that stand out in Figure 3c are likely most representative of reality because they are associated with mixed-layer anomalies that are comparable to the magnitude observed in the SO (i.e., summer SAZ MLD standard deviations of 16 m, Swart et al., 2015). The model horizontal resolution (not submesoscale-resolving) could potentially underestimate the effect of storms. Increasing the horizontal resolution could lead to stronger and deeper responses in vertical advection and diffusion and it might also impact the deep iron reservoir. Since Jouanno et al. 2016 demonstrated full-depth impacts of a storm on dissipation and advection. The quantitative results in our model should be considered the lower range of potential impacts of storms on DFe supply.

The idealized nature of our simulation has not allowed us to explore the full range of situations that are representative of the SO. For instance, the timing of our bloom is too early compared to some observations (e.g. Swart et al. 2015). These findings give new insight on the response of biophysical processes to storm events. Given the potential susceptibility of SO iron supplies and primary production to future changes in storm seasonality and characteristics, future work should investigate the regional-scale sensitivity of storm-driven iron supplies by testing a wider range of SO mixing seasonal cycles (e.g., Llort et al., 2016; 2019), which could affect the bloom timing, mean seasonal supplies and the significance of storms.

## Acknowledgments

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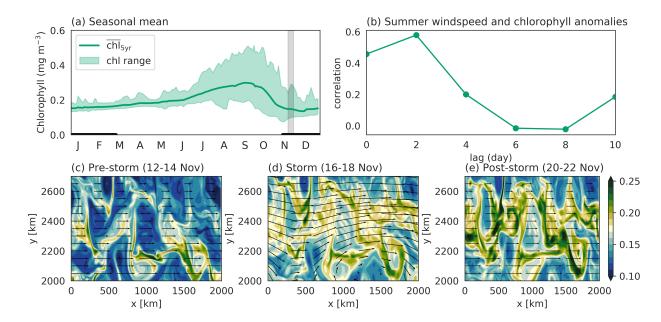
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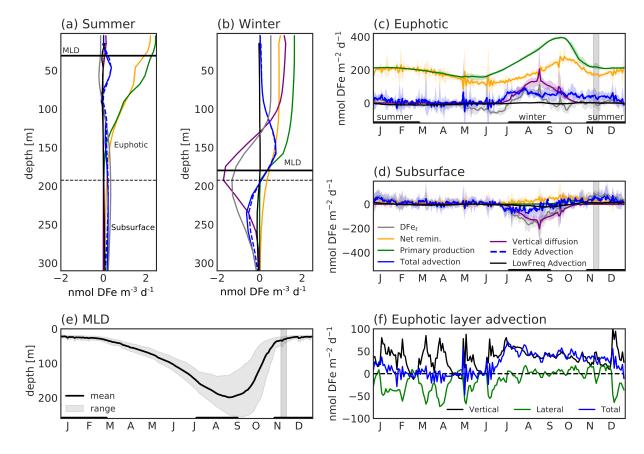
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# Figures:

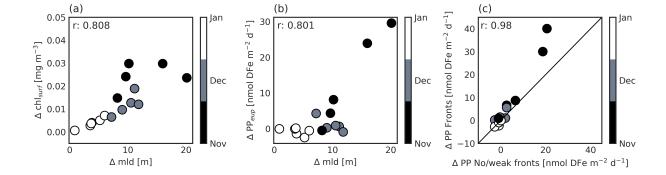


**Figure 1:** a) Seasonal mean of surface chlorophyll (mg m<sup>-3</sup>), with green shading for the range (min - max), (b) cross-correlation between summer (01 November - 01 March) intraseasonal anomalies in windspeed (16 individual storms) and in surface chlorophyll, and (c-e) the response of two-day mean surface chlorophyll to a single and unique storm occurring in one summer as marked by gray shading in (a). Black vectors in c-e are wind stress.

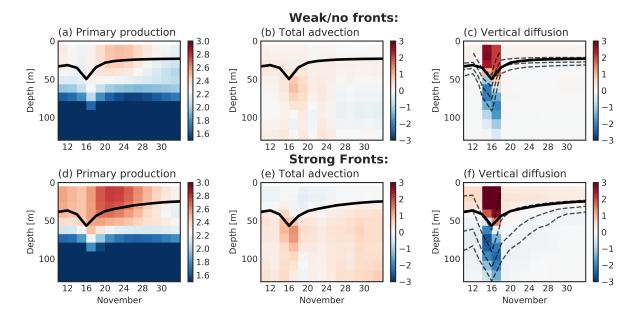


**Figure 2**: The seasonal climatology of the dissolved iron (DFe) budget computed over 5 years and averaged spatially. The iron budget terms (nmol DFe m³ d⁻¹) include net primary production (i.e. phytoplankton uptake of DFe shown as positive for comparison), total advection, low frequency total advection (computed from two-month running average of u, v, w and DFe), eddy advection (total - low frequency), vertical diffusion, net remineralization and the total DFe tendency (DFe<sub>t</sub>,). Vertical profiles for each term averaged in (a) summer (November - February) and (b) winter (July - August). Iron budget terms are integrated vertically over: (c) the euphotic layer (0 - 190 m) and

(d) a subsurface layer (190 - 300 m, the DFe reservoir). Climatologies of (e) mixed-layer depth and (f) vertical and lateral components of euphotic layer integrated advection.



**Figure 3:** (a, b) The relationship between the storm-driven change ( $\Delta$ : storm – pre-storm) of (a) surface chlorophyll (chl<sub>surf</sub>, mg m³) and (b) euphotic layer integrated primary production ( $\Delta PP_{eup}$ , nmol DFe m² d¹l) against the storm-driven change on the mixed-layer depth ( $\Delta MLD$ , m), for 16 individual summer storms over 4 consecutive summers. (c) The relationship between  $\Delta PP_{eup}$  separated spatially into fronts ( $\Delta PP$  fronts) and weak/no fronts ( $\Delta PP$  weak/no fronts). The 1:1 line is marked in black. Fronts are regions with strong (> 65<sup>th</sup> percentile) horizontal gradients in sea surface temperature. In (a) and (b) each point represents the spatially averaged impact of a storm. Pearson correlation coefficient (r) is on each panel.



**Figure 4**: Depth-time composites separated and averaged in regions of weak/no fronts (top) and strong fronts (bottom) showing the storm-driven response of (a, d) net primary production and iron supply for (b, e) total advection and (c, f) vertical diffusion. Units in nmol DFe m<sup>3</sup> d<sup>-1</sup>. (c, f)

- dashed-lines are  $log 10(k_z)$  at -7, -6, -5 and -4 m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. The black line is the mean MLD within
- 349 fronts and no/weak fronts.

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