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# 1 VARIABILITY OF MARINE <sup>14</sup>C RESERVOIR AGES IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

## 2 HIGHLIGHTING CIRCULATION CHANGES BETWEEN 1910 AND 1950

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#### 10 Abstract

11 Recent changes in the Southern Ocean overturning circulation have been attributed either to natural variability or to anthropogenic forcing. The <sup>14</sup>C analyses of mollusk shells 12 13 from Kerguelen Islands evidence a high decadal variability of the sea surface radiocarbon 14 reservoir ages in the southern South Indian ranging from 832 to  $1005 (\pm 30)$  years between 15 1910 and 1930. Such high variability is common to the different sectors of the Southern 16 Ocean, (southern South Pacific and Atlantic), at inter-annual and decadal timescales between 1901 and 1950. Notably, a decrease of <sup>14</sup>C of ~40% (increased R of ~290 years) occurred 17 18 bet ween 1901 and 1940, followed by an increase of ~30% bet ween 1940 and 1958. Using a 19 simple box model of ocean-atmosphere  ${}^{14}CO_2$  exchange, this aging is attributed to increased 20 upwelling of cold and <sup>14</sup>C-depleted subsurface seawaters due to intensified poleward Southern 21 Westerlies. The sea surface <sup>14</sup>C aging is indeed well correlated to a positive phase of the 22 Southern Hemisphere Annular Mode and to a cooling of the sea surface temperatures in the

23	Southern Ocean between 1901 and 1940. These pre-1950 sea surface <sup>14</sup> C changes highlight
24	the importance of natural changes in wind intensities and ocean dynamics.

- Keywords: Radiocarbon, Reservoir ages, Kerguelen *Is.*, Southern Westerlies- driven
  upwelling, Southern Ocean,

## 30 **1. Introduction**

31 The Southern Ocean (SO) is an important component of the global oceanic circulation 32 with the redistribution of water masses between the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans by the 33 Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) (Fig. 1) (Tamsitt et al., 2017 and references therein). 34 The strong westerlies in the Southern Hemisphere, combined with the Coriolis force, drive the 35 ACC and a northward Ekman transport, per mitting deep waters to upwell up to the surface at 36 the Antarctic Divergence. In the last few decades, surface westerlies intensified poleward 37 (Thompson & Solomon, 2002) that may give rise to significant changes in ocean circulation, 38 carbon and heat uptake and biological productivity (Toggweiler & Samuels, 1995; Le Quéré 39 et al., 2007; Sall ée et al., 2010, 2012; Waugh et al., 2013; de Vries et al., 2017).

40 Significant changes of ocean ventilation in the Southern Ocean, such as the increase in 41 the age of the circumpolar deep waters (CDW), were inferred from the analysis of 42 chlorofluorocarbon-12 (CFC12) from early 1990s to 2000s and transport model simulations 43 (Waugh et al., 2013). Similarly, using a global data assimilation ocean inverse model, and a 44 carbon cycling model, De Vries et al. (2017) found an enhanced upper-ocean overturning 45 circulation in 1990s relatively to 1980s and increased outgassing of natural  $CO_2$ . Both 46 findings from analysis of CFC-12 and from inverse modeling are consistent with the expected 47 increased northward Ekman drift and intensified upwelling resulting from westerlies 48 intensification (Hall & Visbeck, 2002; Waugh et al., 2013; De Vries et al., 2017). Wind 49 intensity is associated to a zonally symmetric structure in the atmospheric pressure gradient 50 between the southern mid-latitudes and the polar regions of the SO, referred to as the 51 Southern Annular Mode (SAM) (Thompson & Wallace, 2000; Thompson et al., 2000). In a 52 positive phase the Westerlies, associated with higher than normal sea level pressures at the 53 mid-latitudes and lower than normal at the high latitudes, are reinforced poleward, driving 54 increased northward Ekman drift and intensified upwelling (Hall & Visbeck, 2002).

55 South of the Polar Front (PF), the sea surface reservoir ages (R), the difference between the marine and atmospheric  ${}^{14}C$  ages at the same calendar age, are highly variable 56 ranging from ~1000 to ~1500 years. They are based on the  ${}^{14}$ C dating of solitary corals, 57 58 mollusk shells, bones and flesh remains of penguins and seals of known ages, the <sup>14</sup>C of 59 which representing that of the dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) in seawater in which they grow. The values of R reflect the balance between the <sup>14</sup>C production and the ocean-60 at mosphere exchange of <sup>14</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> as well as ocean dynamics (Stuiver et al., 1986) and their 61 62 temporal variability reflect changes among these factors. Particularly, changes in zonal wind 63 intensities in the Antarctic regions may significantly modify the ocean-atmosphere exchange and mixing between the sea surface and the <sup>14</sup>C-depleted underlying subsurface waters, and 64 65 consequently the sea surface  ${}^{14}Cages$ .

66 We present here new values of R estimated from mollusk shells collected between 67 1910 and 1930 off the Kerguelen Is. in the southern South Indian (SSI) where no values of R 68 exist presently (Fig. 1). They are compared to previous estimates in the southwestern South 69 Atlantic (SSA) (off Signy Is.) and in the southeastern South Pacific (SSP) (off the western 70 Antarctic Peninsula and in the Ross Sea) in order to better understand the causes of the high 71 variability of R in the Southern Ocean. We restricted our comparison to biogenic carbonates, though few, as penguins and seals remains may capture the <sup>14</sup>C content of different water 72 73 masses due to the variety of diving depths, often very far from the Antarctic coasts (Biuw et 74 al., 2007) (supplementary material, Table S1). After a brief description of the main hydrographic features at all the sample locations, the sea surface  ${}^{14}$ C values are compared to 75 those of DIC from early <sup>14</sup>C measurements of water samples before the nuclear bomb tests 76 77 (Broecker et al., 1960; Rafter, 1972) and from the GLODAP reanalyses of the GEOSECS 78 campaigns in the 70's (Rubin & Key, 2002; Key et al., 2004). They are further compared to 79 the variations of the SAM index, based on the time series of the seal evel pressure difference

bet ween the Southern subtropical regions and Antarctica since 1860 (Marshall, 2003; Visbeck,
2009; Fogt et al., 2009; Jones et al., 2009) and to those of the annual sea surface temperature
(SST) anomalies zonally averaged over the latitude bands 50°S-70°S, referred to as the
Southern Ocean centennial variability (SOCV) index (Latif et al., 2013).

84

#### 85 2 Material and methods

86 Mollusk shells, collected on Kerguelen Is., were obtained from the collection of the 87 Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris (Fig. 1; supplementary material and Table S1). 88 They are related to epifaunal species of gastropods, including two active predators 89 Neobuccinum eatoni Smith (specimens from collections Rallier du Baty 1909 and Loranchet 90 1914) and one her bivore, *Nacella kerguelensis* Smith (collection Aubert de la Rue 1931). The 91 date of collection corresponds to the year of sampling during scientific explorations on 92 Kerguelen Is. by Rallier du Baty expedition in 1908/1909 and in 1913/1914, and by Aubert de 93 la Rue in 1931. One epifaunal gastropod (1914) is still presenting tissues. The shells of the 94 two other specimens are whole and intact, so they did not wear away before being collected, 95 confirming that they were sampled alive.

96 Methods for radiocarbon analyses were described el sewhere (Tisnerat-Laborde et al., 97 2001). Chemical pre-treatment and carbonate hydrolyses were performed at the Gif-LSCE 98 Radiocarbon Laboratory and graphite targets were prepared and measured at the French 99 National AMS-ARTEMIS-LMC14 facility (Moreau et al., 2013). Results are expressed in conventional years BP (Table S1) and the  ${}^{14}$ C ‰ is the deviation in parts per thousand (‰) 100 of a sample's  ${}^{14}C/{}^{12}C$  ratio corrected for year of growth from that of the absolute standard 101 activity in 1950 (Stuiver and Polach, 1977). R is the difference between the measured <sup>14</sup>C age 102 and the at mospher ic <sup>14</sup>C age from the cal ibration record SHCal 13 in the southern Hemisphere 103

104 (Hogg et al., 2013), and R the difference between the measured <sup>14</sup>C age and the model ed 105 ocean one using the marine calibration dataset Marine 13 (Reimer et al., 2013) at the date of 106 the collection. Difference between previous published values and those presented in Table S1 107 are due to the different utilized calibration record.

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#### 109 **3 Oceanographic setting**

The Kerguelen plateau (water-depth <1000m) is a major topographic barrier where the east ward flowing ACC subdivides in two parts with the main flows associated to the Sub-Antarctic Front (SAF) and to the south by the Southern ACC front (SACCF) (Park et al., 2014) (Fig. 1). Bet ween SAF and SACCF is located the polar front (PF), the path of which is observed either north or south of the Kerguelen *Is*. (Sokolov and Rintoul, 2009; Kim and Orsi, 2014; Park et al., 2014) and subject to large northward/southward shifts up to 100 km in a few tens of years (Sokolov and Rintoul, 2009; Kim and Orsi, 2014).

117 Deep waters from the southern Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans enter the ACC 118 within the Circumpolar Deep Water (CDW) (Orsi et al., 1993, 1995; Whit worth et al., 1994; 119 Talley, 2013). From the South Atlantic, most of NADW, marked by high salinity in SO, 120 enters the ACC, where it is modified by mixing with the locally for med deep waters of the 121 lower core of CDW (LCDW). A small branch of NADW flows eastward directly into the 122 South Indian upwelling as a component of the less dense deep Indian Water. The Indian and 123 Pacific Deep Waters move southward to the ACC above NADW and form the upper core of 124 CDW (UCDW), characterized by an O<sub>2</sub>-minimum (Orsi et al., 1995; Talley, 2013). UCDW 125 upwelling is balanced by a northward flow of low salinity that descends from the polar to the 126 sub-Antarctic front (SAF) to form the Antarctic Intermediate Water characterized by a salinity

minimum. LCDW flows poleward and sinks along the continental slope mainly in the
Weddell and Ross Seas and along Adél ie Land as the Antarctic Bottom Water.

129 The Signy Is. are located in the vicinity of the Drake Passage on the Scotia Ridge 130 where surface waters result from the mixing of the water bodies from the ACC and from the 131 northwestern Weddell Sea (Whitworth et al., 1994) (Fig. 1). To the north of the shelf is 132 located the southern front of the ACC where UCDW and LCDW upwell (Whit worth et al., 133 1994; Orsi et al., 1995). To the south, a branch of NADW penetrates CDW in the South 134 Atlantic east of the Weddell Sea gyre near longitude 0°. Then it flows westward directly 135 underneath the Antarctic surface water (AASW) and when reaching the Antarctic shelves it is 136 transformed to the Weddell Sea Bottom Water Shelf waters (Whitworth et al., 1994; Orsi et 137 al., 1995). From the South Atlantic, another branch of NADW flows eastward toward the 138 Kerguelen Plateau (Orsi et al., 1993). Over the plateau and upstream Kerguelen Is., AASW 139 overlay the cold Winter Water (WW) at a water depth of around 180-200 m (Park et al, 2008; 140 Bowie et al., 2015). UCDW was observed below at 500m water depth overlying LCDW 141 (Bowie et al., 2015). Downstream, UCDW is observed at 600-800m water-depth with LCDW 142 deeper than 1300m (Park et al., 2008; Quéroué et al., 2015). Over the southern Kerguelen 143 plateau, UCDW is observed at depth of 400-1400m over LCDW (Park et al, 2008). On the 144 western part of the Antarctic Peninsula, WW are observed at a water-depth of ~100m below 145 the cold AASW (Orsi et al., 1995; Moffat et al., 2009). The UCDW intrudes the shelf as 146 frequent and short events, but not as large-scale intrusions, while the 50-150m thick LCDW is 147 inflowing to the shelf at depths of a pproximately 500m and below (Moffat et al., 2009).

All the considered samples of biogenic carbonates are located in the Antarctic surface
waters within or south of the ACC (Fig. 1).

### 151 **4 Results and Discussion**

# 152 1) Values of R and •<sup>14</sup>C off Kerguelen *Is*. and comparison with previous 153 determinations of mollusk shells and seawater •<sup>14</sup>C in the Southern Ocean

Values of R and  ${}^{14}C$  of the biogenic carbonates ( ${}^{14}C_{carb}$ ) off Kerguelen Is. range 154 155 from  $832 \pm 31$  years to  $1005 \pm 32$  years and from  $-108.2 \pm 3.2$  to  $-131.9 \pm 3.2$  %, respectively, 156 between 1909 and 1931 (Fig. 2; Table S1). Compared to these, greater R and more depleted  $^{14}C_{carb}$  were measured from mollusk shells off the Antarctic Peninsula and from the eastern 157 158 Ross Sea varying from  $1088 \pm 58$  years to  $1326 \pm 40$  years and from  $-136.9 \pm 6$  % to  $-166.8 \pm$ 159 3.9 ‰ r espectively in the two regions. Values at Signy Is. are also greater than the measured 160 ones off Kerguelen Is. at an average of  $1109 \pm 89$  years and  $-146 \pm 9.5$  %. The statistical Chisquare tests indicate that, in each sector, the values of R and  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  are incompatible at the 161 95% confidence level attesting a highly significant variability of  ${}^{14}$ C in the Antarctic surface 162 163 water.

We compared the  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  to the natural  ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$  est imated in their respective regions 164 165 (Broecker et al., 1960; Rafter, 1972; Rubin & Key, 2002; Key et al., 2004) (Fig. 3; supplementary material, Table S2). Mean values of  ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$  in UCDW and LCDW are 166 167 calculated using the temperature, salinity and  $O_2$  properties defined by Orsi et al. (1995). The sea surface and UCDW/LCDW values of  ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$  are similar within the uncertainties in the 168 169 southern South Pacific (SSP) along the Antarctic Peninsula and in the Ross Sea and they are 170 not significantly different from those of Signy Is. in the southwestern South Atlantic (SSA). Values of  ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$  in SSP and SSA are consequently grouped into a unique sector. The mean 171 172  $^{14}C_{DIC}$  are lower in SSP-SSA than in SSI by ~20 ‰ for both the sea surface and 173 UCDW/LCDW. In all the sectors, the values from mollusk shells mimic the high variability 174 of AASW  ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$  and some are close or similar to those of UCDW and LCDW. This is also 175 featured by the  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  of the corals from the Ross Sea ice shelves (Hall et al., 2010).

At Kerguelen Is., the values of  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  linearly decrease with a highly significant 176 regression coefficient ( $r^2=0.98$ ) between 1909 and 1931 (Fig. 2). In the SSP-SSA sector, 177  $^{14}C_{carb}$  significantly decrease linearly between 1917 and 1940 (r<sup>2</sup>=0.76) while they do not 178 vary between 1917 and 1953 (r<sup>2</sup>=0.05), that is partly due to the high inter-annual variability of 179  $^{14}C_{carb}$  of ~18‰ at Signy Is. at around 1950. This is also related to a well-marked reverse 180 increasing trend in 1940 up to 1958 (r<sup>2</sup>=0.73) considering the measured  ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$  in 1958 in the 181 southern South Atlantic, south of the ACC, and in the Ross Sea where the bomb-produced <sup>14</sup>C 182 183 effect had a minimum impact (Broecker et al., 1960; Rafter, 1972) (Table S2). Between 1917 184 and 1940, the equation of the linear regression in SSP is very similar to that of SSI. Moreover, it is also similar and highly significant ( $r^2=0.87$ ) when adding one value in 1901 from one 185 186 coral from the Ross Sea (Hall et al., 2010) and when accounting for the calendar age 187 uncertainty, which is greater than that of mollusk shells (supplementary material, Fig. S1). Finally, the negative trends of  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  in SSI and SSP between 1901 and 1940 have an offset 188 of  $\sim 20 \pm 7\%$  that is very consistent with the estimated difference of  ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$  between these 189 sectors (Table S2). Subtracting 20% to the values of  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  at Kerguelen *Is*, results in a 190 significant decrease of sea surface <sup>14</sup>C (r<sup>2</sup>=0.90) between 1901 and 1940. We thus conclude 191 that the observed decreases of  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  in the southern South Indian and South Pacific are 192 robust statistical trends between 1901 and 1940 as well as the increase of  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  and 193 between 1940 and 1958. The uncertainty of <sup>14</sup>C, estimated from the square root of the 194 195 variance, is  $\pm$  7-9‰ between 1901 and 1958 that is of the same order than the mean interannual changes of measured  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  at Signy *Is.*. In addition to the inter-annual variability, 196 the record of <sup>14</sup>C from the biogenic carbonates and seawater DIC very likely reflects long-197 term changes of sea surface <sup>14</sup>C in the Southern Ocean, which are very likely due to common 198

processes acting on the global Southern Ocean sea surface <sup>14</sup>C. Using the values of the slopes and their uncertainties, the decrease of  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  would be of some ~10 ± 2‰ per decade between 1901 and 1940 and the sea surface  ${}^{14}C$  increase per decade would be of some 18 ± 5 ‰ between 1940 and 1958.

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# 204 2) Factors contributing to the variations of sea surface •<sup>14</sup>C in the Southern Ocean

The inter-annual and decadal changes of sea surface  ${}^{14}C$  in the Southern Ocean are 206 much greater than the changes of  ${}^{14}C$  in the atmosphere. Notably, the sea surface  ${}^{14}C$  aging 207 208 between 1900 and 1940 is 2 times greater than the contemporaneous aging of the atmosphere 209 due to the industrial and domest ic input of <sup>14</sup>C-depleted fossil fuels, known as the Suess effect (Hogg et al., 2013). Changes of the sea surface <sup>14</sup>C in the Southern Ocean can neither be 210 211 attributed to changes in the extent of the sea-ice cover that inhibits the atmosphere-ocean  $^{14}$ CO<sub>2</sub> exchange, nor to changes in the outflow of old freshwaters from subglacial lake brines, 212 such as in the Ross Sea (Mikucki et al., 2009), as such features do not exist at Kerguel en Is. 213

214 Changes of the sea surface <sup>14</sup>C in the Southern Ocean may be the result of the variations of the flux of NADW into the CDW core waters as  ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$  is higher in NADW at 215 216 around -100‰ (Broecker et al., 1960) than in the southern South Indian and Pacific deep 217 waters (Fig. 3). They may be also caused by changes of wind-induced mixing of sea surface with the cold and <sup>14</sup>C-depleted subsurface waters from UCDW or LCDW mediated by 218 219 changes of either the mixed layer depth (MLD) or Ekman-induced upwelling. Nonetheless, 220 the greatest wind-induced changes in MLD were observed within and north of the ACC rather 221 than in the southernmost regions of the Southern Ocean (Sall ée et al., 2010; Carranza and 222 Gille, 2014).

223 We thus estimated the changes of R due to changes either in the NADW flux into the 224 Southern Ocean or in upwelling intensities from simplified equations for a surface water 225 box, exchanging with a deep box CDW and the atmosphere (supporting material, Fig. S2). 226 The flux of NADW into CDW was changed by a factor of 2, as observed during the past 60 227 years for NADW intensity in the North Atlantic (Bryden et al., 2014; Atkinson et al., 2012). 228 Augmenting the contribution of NADW from 40% (Ganachaud, 2003; Talley, 2013) to 57% 229 decreases R in SO by 25 years, that is much lower than the measured decadal changes of ~80 years. Testing a 40% increase of the upwelling in SO, the sea surface <sup>14</sup>C ages were 230 231 augmented by ~100 years. In our simple model, using a sinusoidal change in SO upwelling, the time lag of the maximum <sup>14</sup>C age response to changes in wind-driven upwelling fluxes is 232 233 6 years, but a coupled ocean at mosphere model would better estimate the impact of winds on both the amplitude and timing of the oceanic changes of <sup>14</sup>C in SO. The 40% increase in 234 upwelling at the Antarctic Divergence used in the test is of the same order of magnitude than 235 236 that estimated by DeVries et al. (2017), using data assimilation of global oceanographic 237 tracers (CFC, temperature and salinity) in the 1990s relative to 1980s in an inverse model of 238 the upper ocean circulation. The impact of increased upwelling is clearly a robust candidate to 239 account for the long terms ea surface changes of 80 years per decade in the SO.

We compared the temporal changes of <sup>14</sup>C against the 11 year - running mean 240 241 filtered records of the SAM index (Visbeck, 2009) and of the SOCV index (Lat if et al., 2013) (Fig. 4). After subtracting 20 % from SSI  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  in order to normalize to SSP, the values of 242 <sup>14</sup>C in the Southern Ocean were interpolated using a 3<sup>rd</sup> order polynomial fit between 1901 243 244 and 1958. The changes of <sup>14</sup>C in the Southern Ocean are significantly correlated with the 245 variations of SAM ( $r^2=0.67$ ) with a time lag of  ${}^{14}C$  of 6 years and with those of SOCV  $(r^2=0.94)$  and a time lag of <sup>14</sup>C of 12 years. Between 1901 and 1940, <sup>14</sup>C decreased when 246 the wind strength increased and SST became colder and between 1940 and 1958 it increased 247

when the wind strength decreased and SST became warmer. The long term changes of <sup>14</sup>C in the Southern Ocean are thus likely related to the changes of wind driven upwelling intensities between 1900 and 1958. The poleward increase of westerlies between 1901 and 1940 led to increased upwelling similarly as determined from CFC analyses and inverse modeling for the 1980s to the 2000s, when poleward Westerlies intensified (Waugh et al., 2013; de Vries et al., 2017).

254 In the latitudinal bands  $50^{\circ}$ - $70^{\circ}$ S, the SST exhibit one cycle of centennial variability (Lat if et al., 2013) (Fig. 4B). Pr ior to 1901, few values of  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  exist from paired  ${}^{14}C$  and 255 256 U/Th dating of corals from Ross Sea Ice Shelves (Hall et al., 2010). The two values of 257  $^{14}C_{carb}$  in 1847 and 1862 are compatible at -144.1± 8.4‰ and significantly more depleted than that of the coral in 1901, indicating an increase of  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  prior to 1901 (supplementary 258 259 material). Between 1850 and 1958, the <sup>14</sup>C of corals, mollusks shells and seawater DIC from 260 the Ross Sea, Antarctic Peninsula and southern South Atlantic would vary along a potential 261 fluctuation of  $\sim 80$ —100 year, that should be examined more thoroughly.

262 The recent changes in wind intensities were attributed either to natural decadal 263 variability or to anthropogenic forcing due to increased greenhouse gases and ozone depletion 264 (Thompson and Solomon, 2002; Thompson et al., 2011) or both (Waugh et al., 2013; De Vries 265 et al., 2017). Between 1910 and 1940, wind intensities increase markedly such as between 266 1980 and 2000 (Visbeck, 2009), but the  $CO_2$  input into the atmosphere increases moderately 267 by 10ppm (Rubino et al., 2013) while it augments by 45 ppm between 1980 and 2000 (Keeling 1976; Thoning et al., 1989). The changes of  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  in the Antarctic surface waters 268 269 that we linked to fluctuations in wind driven upwelling intensities provide further evidence of 270 the natural variability of the coupled ocean at mosphere system at low frequency.

### 272 **5** Conclusion

The <sup>14</sup>C analyses of mollusk shells collected on Kerguelen Is. evidence a high decadal 273 274 variability of the sea surface radiocarbon reservoir ages in the southern South Indian ranging 275 from 830 to 1005  $(\pm 30)$  years between 1909 and 1931. Such high variability of sea surface 276 <sup>14</sup>C is common to the different sectors of the Southern Ocean at inter-annual and decadal timescales. In addition to inter-annual changes of  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  of 18‰ as observed in the 277 278 southwestern South Atlantic, a noticeable sea surface decrease of ~40‰ (increased R of ~290 279 years) was evidenced between 1900 and 1940, followed by an increase of ~30‰ between 280 1940 and 1958. These pre-1950 variations are large compared to atmospheric variations and 281 highlight the natural variability of the Southern Ocean reservoir ages.

Between 1900 and 1958, the temporal changes of sea surface  ${}^{14}C$  in the Southern Ocean are well correlated to the indices of the wind strength and SST changes of SAM and SOCV, respectively. Aging of sea surface occurred when SAM changed to a positive phase and SST became colder between 1901 and 1940, and inversely later up to 1958. We suggest that wind driven upwelling of cold and  ${}^{14}C$ -depleted waters up to the sea surface is the main factor controlling the observed changes in the sea surface  ${}^{14}C$  content in the Southern Ocean.

Measurements of the past changes of sea surface <sup>14</sup>C from biogenic carbonates, such as those between 1840 and 1950, provide one way to approach the low frequency natural variability of the coupled ocean at mosphere system. Further detailed <sup>14</sup>C analyses and model simulations would help in separating the natural and anthropogenic causes of the variability of the Southern Hemisphere Westerlies.

293

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#### 446 **Figures Captions**

447 Fig. 1: Map of the Southern Ocean from Ocean Data View (R. Schlitzer, 2018) with the 448 location of mollusks shells (black stars), corals (white stars) and water samples stations 449 from the GEOSECS campaigns (numbered circles) and from early cruises (lettered 450 circles) in Broecker et al. (1960) (B) and Rafter (1972) (R). Hydrographic fronts are 451 from Orsi et al. (1995): SAF: sub-Antarctic front; PF: polar front; SACC: Southern 452 front of the ACC; Bdy: southernmost boundary of the ACC. The lower and higher 453 values of R in the Southern South Indian (SSI), South Atlantic (SSA) and South Pacific 454 (SSP) are also indicated (supplementary information in text section 1 and Table S1).

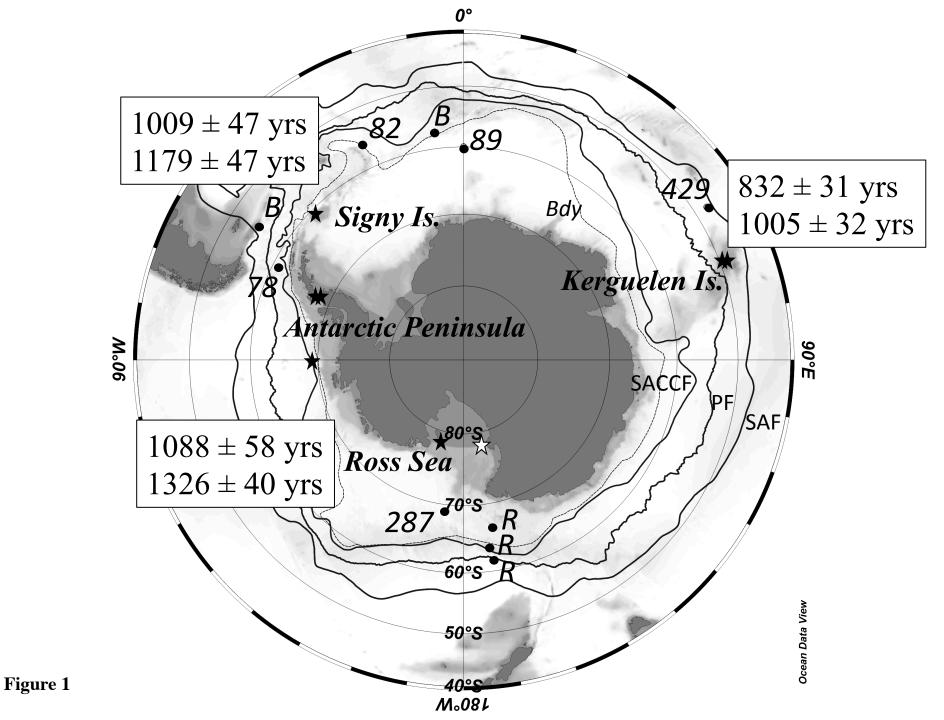
455

Figure 2: Radiocarbon ages (A), reservoir ages (B) and  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  (‰) (C) as a function of year 456 457 A.D. of mollusk shells from Kerguelen Is. (squares), Antarctic Peninsula (black circles) and Ross Sea (grey circle), Signy Is. (triangles) (Table S2) and from Ross Sea corals 458 (open circles) (Hall et al., 2010). Measured seawater  ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$  in 1958 from the Ross Sea 459 460 (dotted circles) (Rafter, 1972) and from the southern South Atlantic in the Weddell Sea 461 (white triangle) (Broecker et al., 1960) are also shown on C. Between 1901 and 1940, 462 linear regression equations and coefficients of correlation are shown for values of 463 Kerguelen Is. (SSI); for shell values of the Antarctic Peninsula and Ross Sea (SSP1) 464 and for shells and coral values of these two last regions (SSP2). Bet ween 1940 and 1958, 465 the linear regression equations and coefficients of correlation derive from values of  $^{14}C_{carb}$  and seawater  $^{14}C_{DIC}$  excluding the most  $^{14}C$ -depleted value at -170% 466 (supplementary material). Uncertainties on  ${}^{14}C_{carb}$  (1 $\sigma$ ) for SSI (grey lines), SSP1 467 468 (black lines) and SSP2 (dotted lines) are represented prior to 1940, as well as between 469 1940 and 1958 for SSP(3) (black lines) (see text).

470	Fig. 3: (A) Comparison of ${}^{14}C_{carb}$ and ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$ in SSI, SSA and SSP. Values of ${}^{14}C_{carb}$ and
471	uncertainties (1 $\sigma$ ) are reported for mollusk shells from Kerguelen <i>Is</i> . (SSI), Signy <i>Is</i> .
472	(SSA), Antarctic Peninsula (AP) and Ross Sea (RS) (Table S2) and from corals in the
473	Ross Sea (Hall et al., 2010) (SSP) with the same symbols than in Figure 2. Values of
474	$^{14}C_{DIC}$ at the sea surface (plus), in UCDW (cross) and LCDW (double cross) are from
475	early ${}^{14}C$ measurements of water samples before the nuclear bomb tests (B*: Broecker
476	et al., 1960; R*: Rafter, 1972) and from GLODAP reanalyses of natural $^{14}$ C from
477	stations (St) of the GEOSECS campaigns in the 70's (Rubin & Key, 2002; Key et al.,
478	2004). The mean values of ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$ and standard deviations are underlined for sea
479	surface (grey box) and UCDW-LCDW (dark grey box). Analytical errors and standard
480	deviations of the means are reported at $1\sigma$ . Analytical errors of UCDW and LCDW, not
481	drawn for graphic readability, range between 7 to 10 % as an average (Broecker et al.,
482	1960; Rafter, 1972; Rubin & Key, 2002; Key et al., 2004). Sea surface ${}^{14}C_{DIC}$ noted
483	DP (Drake Passage) is from the northern edge of the ACC (supplementary material
484	Table S2).

Fig. 4: Comparison of the changes of  ${}^{14}C$  (same symbols than in Fig. 2) with the annual 486 487 variations of SAM as a function of time (Year) (A). The dotted (annual) and dark grey 488 (11yr running mean) records are from Visbeck (2009). Thin black line refers to records 489 from Marshall (2003) and light grey line to Fogt et al. (2009) and Jones et al. (2009). 490 Records are normalized for graphic convenience and correspond to 11yr running means. 491 (B) Same comparison with the annual (thin black) and 11yr running mean (bold grey) variations of SOCV (Latif et al., 2013). The thick black line in A and B represents a 492 third order polynomial fit between the values of <sup>14</sup>C, once subtracting 20‰ from the 493

- 494 <sup>14</sup>C from Kerguelen *Is.* (dotted squares) in order to normalize to SSP (see text). A
- 495 sinusoidal curve of a 100 yr period (dotted line) is also shown in (B).



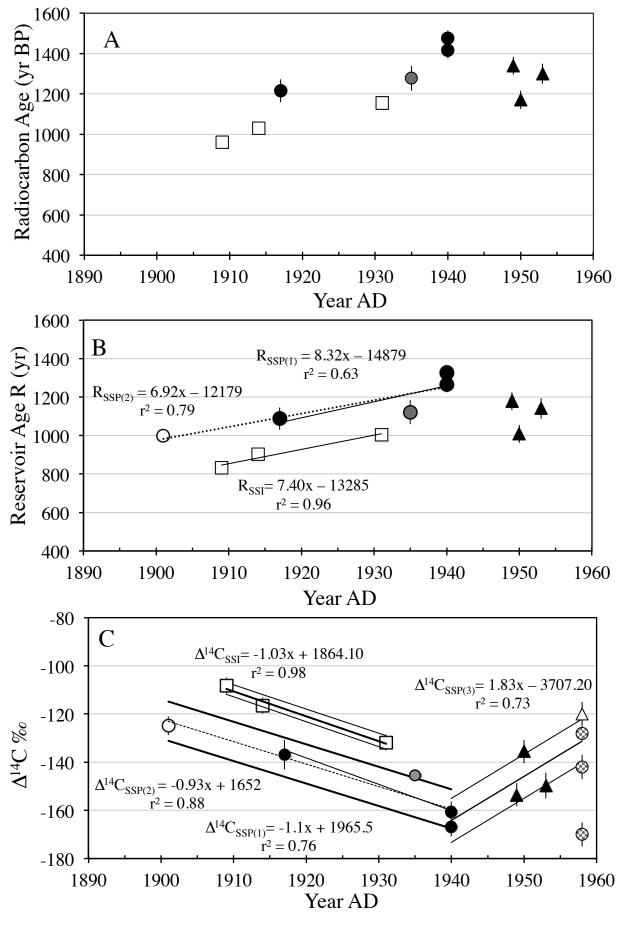


Fig 2

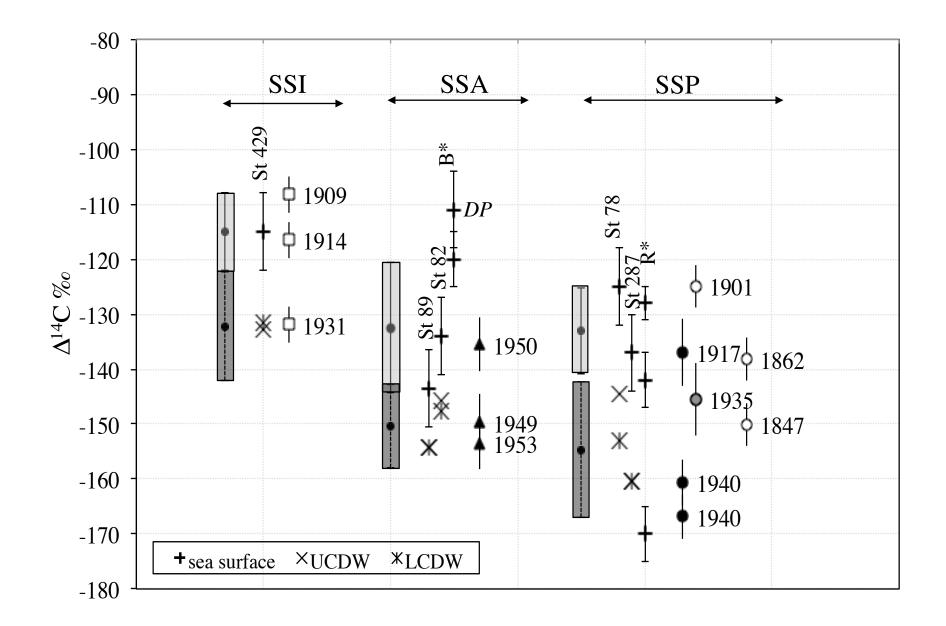


Fig. 3

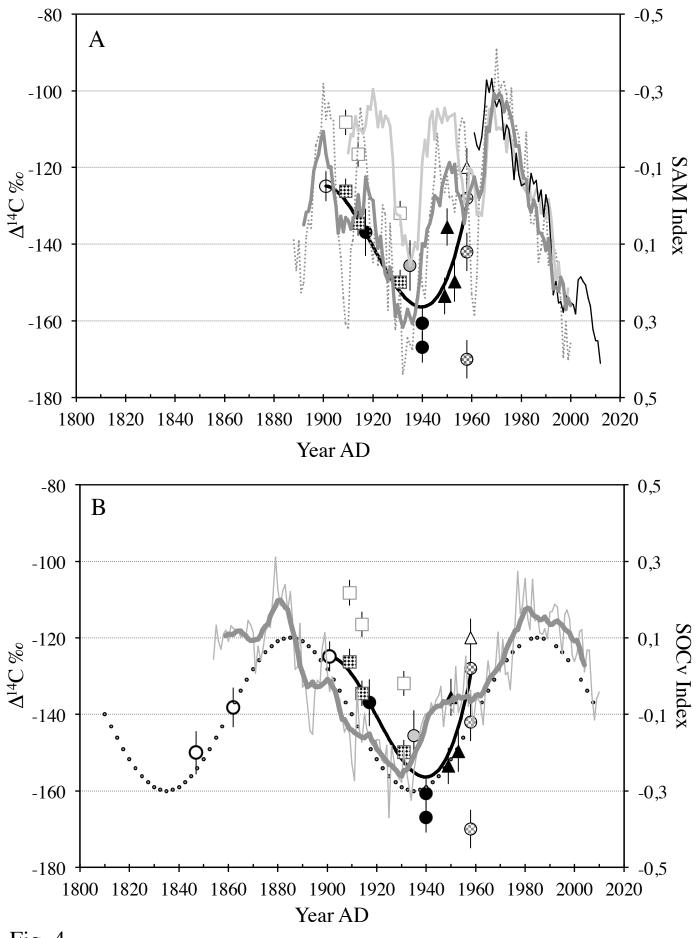


Fig. 4