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Satellite-observed daily vertical migrations of global ocean animals

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39 **Every night across the world’s oceans, untold numbers of marine animals (ranging**
40 **from small crustaceans to squid and fish) arrive at the ocean’s surface after an upward**
41 **migration of often hundreds of meters to feed upon the day’s plankton production. Just**
42 **before sunrise, this migration is reversed and the animals return to their daytime residence**
43 **in the dark mesopelagic zone (200 to 1000 m depth). This daily excursion, referred to as**
44 **Diel Vertical Migration (DVM), numerically dwarfs all terrestrial animal migrations**
45 **combined. The DVM is understood primarily as an adaptation to avoid visual predators in**
46 **the sunlit surface layer^{1,2} and was first recorded from ship net hauls nearly 200 years ago³.**
47 **Today, DVMs are routinely recorded by ship-mounted acoustic systems (e.g., Acoustic**
48 **Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP)). These data show that nighttime arrival and departure**
49 **times are highly conserved across ocean regions⁴ and that daytime descent depths increase**
50 **with water clarity^{4,5}, implying faster swimming speeds in clearer waters⁴. Yet after decades**
51 **of acoustics measurements, vast ocean areas remain unsampled and those places where**
52 **data are available typically provide information for just a few months, making our**
53 **understanding of DVMs incomplete. Addressing this issue is important because DVMs**
54 **play a crucial role in global ocean biogeochemistry. Nighttime feeding at the surface and**
55 **daytime metabolism of this food at depth provide an efficient pathway for carbon and**
56 **nutrient export⁶⁻⁸. Here, we use new observations from a satellite lidar to describe global**
57 **distributions of an optical signal from DVM animals arriving in the surface ocean at night.**
58 **Our findings reveal that these animals generally constitute a greater fraction of total**
59 **plankton abundance in the clear subtropical gyres, consistent with visual predator**
60 **avoidance being an important life strategy in these regions. Total DVM biomass, on the**
61 **other hand, is higher in more productive regions where food availability is enhanced.**

62 **Furthermore, the 10 year satellite record reveals significant temporal trends in DVM**
63 **biomass and correlated variations in DVM biomass and surface productivity. These results**
64 **provide an unprecedented view of DVM activities globally and a path for refining the**
65 **quantification of their biogeochemical significance.**

66
67 For decades, airplane-mounted light-detection-and-ranging (lidar) instruments have used the
68 backscattering of light (*bbp*) from phytoplankton, zooplankton, and small fish to locally map the
69 distribution of these organisms in the water column⁹⁻¹¹. Unlike passive ocean sensors that
70 measure reflected sunlight, lidar uses lasers as a light source and thus has the capacity to measure
71 marine organisms both day and night. When DVM animals are prominent, their nocturnal
72 invasion of the surface ocean is expected to increase *bbp* at night compared to what it would be
73 in their absence. Five ship-based examples¹² of this DVM signature are shown in figure 1a,
74 where the animal signals contribute 7% to 28% of total nighttime *bbp*. These signals appear as
75 large spikes in this record because DVM animals are ‘bright’ targets compared to the
76 phytoplankton and other suspended particles constituting the much lower *bbp* baseline¹³ [purple
77 line in Fig. 1a], but the animals are also rarer and only occasionally pass through the small
78 sample volume (~2 ml) of the ship’s *bbp* instrument. In contrast, a lidar with a much larger
79 sampling volume can effectively capture the signal of all scattering components with every
80 measurement. The satellite Cloud-Aerosol Lidar with Orthogonal Polarization (CALIOP) sensor
81 has been conducting such measurements for over a decade¹⁴⁻¹⁵ [Methods] and its *bbp* retrievals
82 provide an opportunity to decipher global patterns in vertically migrating animals.

83

84 The laser footprint of CALIOP has a diameter of 100 m at the ocean surface and a vertical
85 sampling depth of 22 m in water. What this means is that each CALIOP measurement integrates
86 the *bbp* signal from a water volume of $1.73 \times 10^5 \text{ m}^3$, which is $\sim 5 \times 10^6$ greater than the entire water
87 volume measured over a given night in the field data shown in figure 1a. CALIOP's large
88 sampling volume thus ensures that each retrieved *bbp* value encompasses both the animals and
89 suspended cells and particles in the surface layer. CALIOP is a polar orbiting sensor that
90 conducts daytime and nighttime ($\sim 1:40 \text{ p.m.}$ and a.m. local time, respectively) near-nadir
91 backscattering measurements along its orbit track at a sampling frequency equivalent to every
92 330 m on the ground. A slightly precessing orbit with a 16-day repeat cycle provides global *bbp*
93 coverage, but ground tracks oriented in opposite directions on the daylight and dark sides of the
94 Earth mean that day and night *bbp* samples are rarely spatially coincident within a given 24 h
95 period [Extended Data Fig. 1, Supplementary Discussion]. The global signature of DVM
96 animals was therefore investigated by creating 2° latitude by 2° longitude binned monthly
97 CALIOP daytime (bbp^{day}) and nighttime (bbp^{night}) values of *bbp*.

98

99 In the absence of any DVM, the biomass-normalized *bbp* difference ratio:

$$100 \quad \Delta bbp = (bbp^{night} - bbp^{day}) / bbp^{day} \quad (1)$$

101 is expected to yield a negative value for the measurement times of CALIOP [vertical red dotted
102 lines in Fig. 1b]. This is because daytime increases in phytoplankton cell size and organic
103 carbon content and nighttime cell division and metabolism¹⁶⁻¹⁸ create a baseline diel cycle in
104 biomass-normalized *bbp* with an afternoon maximum and nighttime minimum [Fig. 1b]¹⁹. The
105 presence of DVM animals increases bbp^{night} [Fig. 1a] and therefore causes Δbbp to become less
106 negative than the phytoplankton-only signal, or even positive if the migrators are sufficiently

107 abundant. Thus, phytoplankton and DVM animals together determine Δbbp [Fig. 1c], where the
108 magnitude and sign of Δbbp is an index of the DVM signal strength relative to that of the
109 phytoplankton.

110
111 The 2008 to 2017 CALIOP record reveals broad, spatially-coherent patterns in climatological
112 average Δbbp at tropical and subtropical latitudes [equatorward of the yellow/black lines in Fig.
113 2] where plankton populations are relatively stable in time due to the water column being
114 permanently stratified within the euphotic zone (referred to hereafter as the permanently
115 stratified ocean; PSO). These eight broad features [black outlines in Fig. 2] correspond to the
116 seasonally-varying boundaries of the North Pacific (NPSG), South Pacific (SPSG), North
117 Atlantic (NASG), South Atlantic (SASG), and South Indian (SISG) Subtropical Gyres and the
118 higher-nutrient Tropical Pacific (TP) and North Tropical (NTA) and South Tropical (STA)
119 Atlantic [Fig. 2, 3a, Extended Data Fig. 2]. Within these regions, Δbbp values are persistently
120 positive in the NPSG, persistently negative in the TP and NTA, and strongly seasonal in the
121 NASG, STA, and all three Pacific areas [Extended Data Fig. 3]. In the high-latitude seasonal
122 seas [poleward of the yellow/black line in Fig. 2], the CALIOP record reveals large
123 climatological average values for Δbbp . However, persistent cloud cover and small-scale spatio-
124 temporal variations in plankton populations in these regions cause within-bin mismatches in
125 bbp^{day} and bbp^{night} data to yield significant bin-to-bin variability in Δbbp [Supplementary
126 Discussion]. From this point forward, therefore, our analysis primarily focuses on the eight
127 regions of the PSO.

128

129 If variability in Δbbp is largely a reflection of DVM strength rather than changes in the
130 phytoplankton cycle, then results shown in figure 2 suggest significant regional differences in the
131 relative nighttime abundance of these animals. To test this DVM-basis of the regional patterns,
132 we compared CALIOP data to historical field ADCP observations of paired day (I_{dB}^{day}) and night
133 (I_{dB}^{night}) acoustic backscatter. Due to the sparsity of such data, it was necessary to aggregate 32
134 years (1985 to 2017) of field measurements into monthly 5° latitude by 5° longitude bins to
135 achieve even reasonable global coverage. [Methods]. We then calculated median values of the
136 normalized difference ratio:

$$137 \quad \Delta B_{ADCP} = (I_{dB}^{night} - I_{dB}^{day}) / I_{dB}^{day}. \quad (2)$$

138 CALIOP bbp data were then reaggregated into equivalent $5^\circ \times 5^\circ$ bins and regional median
139 values of Δbbp were calculated using only those calendar months and bins for which ADCP data
140 were available. Comparison of ΔB_{ADCP} and Δbbp for all bins within our eight PSO regions
141 yielded a statistically significant relationship ($p = 0.001$, $n = 331$) [Fig. 3b, red line] with a slope
142 very similar to that calculated from regionally-averaged values for the six regions where ADCP
143 data identify a significant DVM signal [Fig. 3b, dashed line] [Supplementary Discussion]. In
144 other words, the ADCP and lidar data sets both indicate DVM animals constitute a greater
145 fraction of nighttime plankton communities in the optically-clear subtropical gyres that are most
146 advantageous to visual predators. Interestingly, the regionally-averaged data for the SISG and
147 SASG deviate from the other PSO regions [Fig. 3b]. The reason for this difference is unknown.
148 These are the only two regions where ΔB_{ADCP} is near zero, suggesting either few DVM animals
149 or that the influx of nighttime DVM animals is compensated by reverse-DVM animals leaving
150 the surface layer²⁰. CALIOP data, in contrast, suggest a moderate DVM signal in the SISG and
151 SASG [Fig. 3b]. Perhaps the discrepancy in these two regions is simply due to poor ADCP

152 coverage (typically one day-night observation per $5^\circ \times 5^\circ$ bin for the 32 year field record).
153 However, it is also noteworthy that all of the ADCP data in the SASG and all but eight
154 observations in the SISG predate the CALIOP mission, so a temporal change in DVM
155 populations cannot be ruled out.

156

157 Day and night zooplankton net tows provide quantitative field measurements of DVM biomass,
158 but these labor-intensive measurements are rarely collected at regular intervals over long periods.
159 Two exceptions in the PSO are the sustained records at the Hawaii Ocean Time-series (HOT)
160 site ($22^\circ 45'N$, $158^\circ W$)²¹ and the Bermuda Atlantic Time Series (BATS) site ($31^\circ 40'N$, 64°
161 $10'W$)²² [yellow stars in Fig. 3a]. Despite considerable interannual variability, significant ($p <$
162 0.01) seasonal cycles in DVM biomass ($\text{g dry weight m}^{-2}$) are observed at these locations. For
163 the CALIOP bin centered on the HOT site, the seasonal cycle in Δbbp from January through
164 November is significantly correlated ($r^2 = 0.44$, $p = 0.03$) with field observations [Fig. 3c].
165 Likewise, Δbbp for the CALIOP bin centered on the BATS site exhibits a two-peaked seasonal
166 cycle that is well correlated with field observations from August through June ($r^2 = 0.42$, $p =$
167 0.03) [Fig. 3d]. These results are particularly noteworthy given the temporal and spatial contrast
168 between data sets (CALIOP = 2° latitude \times 2° longitude bins from 2008 – 2017; zooplankton nets
169 at HOT and BATS from 1994 – 2005²¹ and 1994 – 2017, respectively). Thus, correspondence
170 between Δbbp (which includes DVM animals, surface-resident organisms, and suspended
171 particles) and animal-specific ADCP²² [Fig. 3b] and net measurements [Fig. 3c,d] gives
172 confidence to the DVM signal detected by CALIOP.

173

174 The biomass-normalized Δbbp property reflects the relative strength of the DVM signal, whereas
175 DVM biomass (DVM_{CALIOP}) is more quantitatively related to the simple difference, $bbp^{night} -$
176 bbp^{day} . We estimated DVM_{CALIOP} from this difference as:

$$177 \quad DVM_{CALIOP} = a (bbp^{night} - c bbp^{day}), \quad (3)$$

178 where a is an empirical conversion factor between backscattering (m^{-1}) and biomass ($g m^{-2}$)
179 determined from BATS and CALIOP data and c accounts for night-day bbp differences from
180 growth rate and day length dependent variations in the phytoplankton diel cycle [Methods].
181 Application of (3) to the CALIOP record yields a global distribution in DVM_{CALIOP} [Fig. 4a] that
182 differs markedly from Δbbp [Fig. 2]. In particular, DVM_{CALIOP} is generally low in the subtropical
183 gyres and high in the nutrient-enriched tropical regions. Thus, while the relative contribution of
184 DVM animals to nighttime plankton communities is higher in clearer waters [Fig. 2], total DVM
185 biomass is greater in more productive regions where food availability is enhanced [Fig. 4a].
186 Indeed, annual average DVM_{CALIOP} for our PSO regions is highly correlated with passive ocean
187 color based estimates of net primary production ($r^2 = 0.80$, $p = 0.002$) [Fig. 4b, Methods].
188 Results for the high-latitude northern and southern regions are also consistent with this finding
189 [Fig. 4b]. Importantly, an increase in phytoplankton production yields a less than proportional
190 increase in DVM_{CALIOP} , as might be expected for migrating animals that may be multiple trophic
191 levels removed from the phytoplankton. Consequently, the night-day difference in bbp caused
192 by the phytoplankton diel cycle [Fig. 1b] generally increases more rapidly than the DVM signal
193 as productivity increases, resulting in negative Δbbp values in productive tropical regions [Fig.
194 2].

195

196 Evidence of long-term changes in zooplankton populations, often linked to climate oscillations,
197 has emerged from field time-series studies²²⁻²⁷. At the HOT site, field-measured DVM
198 zooplankton biomass increased on average $12.4 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ y}^{-1}$ (38% decade⁻¹) between 1994 and
199 2005 ($p = 0.04$)²¹. The DVM_{CALIOP} record indicates that this trend continued ($p = 0.05$) at a rate
200 of 23% decade⁻¹ from 2008 to 2017 [Fig. 4c, red star]. At BATS, an overall increasing trend of
201 $7.4 \text{ mg m}^{-2} \text{ y}^{-1}$ (54% decade⁻¹) was reported for field observations from 1994 to 2011 ($p <$
202 0.01)²². Expanding this data set to 2017 and re-evaluating, we find DVM biomass increased
203 63% decade⁻¹ from 1994 to 2007 ($p = 0.01$) and then decreased 28% decade⁻¹ from 2008 to 2017
204 ($p = 0.04$). For this latter period, DVM_{CALIOP} data similarly suggest a decreasing trend (9%
205 decade⁻¹; $p > 0.1$) for the $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$ bin encompassing the BATS site [Fig. 4c, blue star]. The global
206 coverage provided by CALIOP now allows the evaluation of DVM biomass temporal trends to
207 be greatly expanded. For example, subdividing our eight PSO regions [Fig. 3a] into $6^\circ \times 6^\circ$ bins
208 and evaluating only those bins that remain within their respective regional boundaries throughout
209 the year [Extended Data Fig. 2] reveals decadal trends in DVM_{CALIOP} with coherent geographical
210 patterns [Fig. 4c]. Specifically, a predominance of increasing DVM animal biomass is observed
211 in the NPSG, SPSG, SASG, and SISG, whereas decreasing DVM biomass is indicated across
212 much of the tropical regions and the NASG. Moreover, DVM_{CALIOP} is positively correlated with
213 changes in phytoplankton production for most bins, but in the two tropical Atlantic regions the
214 correlations are counterintuitively inverse [Fig. 4c].

215

216 The power of a satellite lidar in studying marine animals lies in its unparalleled annual coverage
217 of the global ocean. By contrast, it was necessary here to compile >30 years of ADCP
218 measurements to create a single field test data set and, even then, spatial and temporal coverage

219 is poor in many regions [Extended Data Fig. 4]. A challenge with satellite lidar data, however, is
220 that the measured night-day *bbp* differences are not solely due to DVM animals, so continued
221 work is needed to refine descriptions of the non-DVM contributors [Methods, Supplementary
222 Discussion]. Further field data analyses (*e.g.*, ADCP data, continuous plankton recorder survey
223 observations) and modeling²⁸ are also needed to fully understand the causative ecological
224 processes underlying the spatial and temporal DVM patterns observed from space, while an
225 advanced satellite lidar with ocean profiling capabilities¹¹ may contribute new insights on DVM
226 behaviors [Supplementary Discussion]. While there are clearly multiple new avenues to pursue
227 regarding the study DVM animals, results presented here provide a forward step in the global
228 exploration of this greatest animal migration on Earth.

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329

330 **Supplementary Information** is linked to the online version of the paper at

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332

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341 processed data and analyzed results. M.J.B., P.G., A.DP, and R.T.O. prepared display items.
342 M.J.B. wrote the manuscript with contributions from all authors.

343 **Figure Legends**

344

345 **Figure 1. Marine animal and phytoplankton influences on day-to-night changes in**

346 **particulate backscattering coefficients (*bbp*) and the biomass-normalized difference ratio**

347 **(Δbbp).** (a) Ship-based time-series of *bbp* showing nocturnal spikes associated with DVM

348 animals and the general lack of these spikes during the day¹² [Methods]. Black line = complete

349 *bbp* record. Purple line = de-spiked baseline *bbp* record. (b) Typical diel cycle in *bbp* due to

350 phytoplankton¹⁹ [Methods]. Red dotted line = daily equator crossing times of CALIOP. (a – b)

351 Black and white bars on x-axis indicate night and day, respectively. (c) Biomass-normalized

352 difference ratios (Δbbp) for ranges in DVM (x-axis) and phytoplankton (y-axis) contributions to

353 day-to-night *bbp* changes. For example, if the phytoplankton diel cycle corresponds (as in panel

354 b) to a 15% day-to-night decrease in *bbp* at the two CALIOP measurement times (horizontal

355 white dashed arrow) and this decrease is countered by a 5% increase in *bbp* from DVM animals

356 (vertical white dashed arrow), then Δbbp will have a value of -10% (color inside labeled white

357 circle). Diagonal black lines correspond to the color bar range for the CALIOP observations

358 shown in figure 2. Note that values on the y-axis encompass the range of values expected in the

359 PSO [Supplementary Discussion, Extended Data Fig. 5].

360

361 **Figure 2. Global climatological signal of vertically migrating animals quantified as the**

362 **normalized difference ratio, Δbbp .** Data are 2° latitude by 2° longitude bin averages for the

363 2008 to 2017 CALIOP record. Yellow/black line = contour of annual average sea surface

364 temperature of 15°C, which effectively separates high-latitude seasonal seas from lower latitude

365 permanently stratified oceans.²⁹⁻³⁰ Heavy black lines separate major regions of the PSO, where

366 the five subtropical gyres are defined by annual average surface chlorophyll concentrations of \leq
367 0.08 mg m^{-3} . Dark gray = excluded pixels where water column depth $< 1000 \text{ m}$.

368

369 **Figure 3. Comparison of CALIOP normalized difference ratios (Δbbp) and field-based**

370 **DVM measurements in the PSO.** (a) Color-coded regions of the PSO from figure 2. Yellow

371 stars = locations of the Hawaii Ocean Time-series (HOT) site and Bermuda Atlantic Time Series

372 (BATS) site. (b) CALIOP (Δbbp) versus field ADCP (ΔB_{ADCP}) normalized difference ratios. Red

373 line = two-sided least squares linear regression fit to all 5° latitude x 5° longitude bins within our

374 eight PSO regions (slope = 0.42, F test p value = 0.001, n = 331 independent geographical bins)

375 [Supplementary Discussion]. Symbols = regional average values of Δbbp and ΔB_{ADCP} , with

376 standard error bars shown for each region (n for each region = 19 for SISG, 18 for SASG, 115

377 for TP, 16 for NASG, 23 for NTA, 59 for NPSG, 22 for STA, 59 for SPSG, 302 for Other) .

378 Symbol colors identify region (labeled on right) and correspond to coloring in (a). For

379 completeness, the average value for all PSO bins outside our eight primary regions is indicated

380 by the white symbol. Numbers next to each symbol indicate the median number of days with

381 ADCP data within the 32 year field record for the bins within a given region. Dashed line is

382 two-sided least squares linear regression fit to regionally-averaged data for the n = six primary

383 regions where ΔB_{ADCP} is significantly greater than zero (slope = 0.64, $r^2 = 0.55$, p = 0.09). (c)

384 Average monthly field-measured (1994 – 2005)²¹ migratory zooplankton biomass (g m^{-2} dry

385 weight) for the HOT site [Methods] (n = 112 net haul samples) and CALIOP-measured Δbbp

386 (2008-2017) (n = 75 monthly retrievals) for a 2° latitude x 2° longitude bin centered on the HOT

387 site. Vertical lines indicate 1 standard deviation. Field and CALIOP data are offset on the x-axis

388 by 6 days to separate standard deviation lines. (d) Same as in (c) except for field (1994-2017) (n
389 = 285 net haul samples) and CALIOP (n = 87 monthly retrievals) data at the BATS site.

390

391 **Figure 4. CALIOP-based estimates of vertically migrating animal biomass (DVM_{CALIOP})**

392 **and temporal changes.** (a) Annual average DVM_{CALIOP} (g m^{-2} dry weight). Yellow-black and

393 heavy-black lines as in figure 2. (b) Relationship between annual average regional DVM_{CALIOP}

394 and mixed layer net primary production (NPP_{CbPM} , $\text{mg C m}^{-3} \text{d}^{-1}$) [Methods]. Solid line = two-

395 sided least squares linear regression fit ($r^2 = 0.80$, F test p value = 0.002, n = 9 geographic

396 regions) for the PSO regions, which are color-coded following figure 3a. Black symbols = high-

397 latitude North Pacific (NP), North Atlantic (NA), and Southern Ocean (SO) (see panel c). Error

398 bars = 1 standard deviation for annual values between 2008 and 2017 (n = 111 months per

399 geographic region). (c) Rate of change in DVM_{CALIOP} ($\% \text{decade}^{-1}$) for 6° latitude x 6° longitude

400 bins for eight PSO regions and at the HOT and BATS sites (colored stars). Only bins that stay

401 within their respective regional boundaries throughout the year are shown [Extended Data Fig.

402 2]. Black dot in center of bin indicates trend is significant (two-sided least squares linear

403 regression, F test p value $p < 0.05$, n = 111 months per bin). Outlined bins exhibit a significant

404 (two-sided least squares linear regression, F test p value < 0.05 , n = 111 months per bin)

405 relationship between DVM_{CALIOP} and NPP_{CbPM} , with black and green outlines indicating positive

406 and negative correlations, respectively.

407 **Methods**

408

409 **Field data in Figure 1:** Data shown in figure 1a provide five examples from the subarctic
410 Pacific where DVM animals significantly increased ship-measured *bbp* at night. Data are from
411 (12), which also provides full details on the study region, measurement system, data processing,
412 and uncertainty analyses. The phytoplankton diel cycle in *bbp* shown in figure 1b is from (19)
413 and is normalized to 1 at the nighttime minimum [Supplementary Discussion].

414

415 **CALIOP data:** CALIOP is the primary instrument on the Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared
416 Pathfinder Satellite Observation (CALIPSO) platform, which was launched in 2006 (31).
417 CALIOP measures the total time-dependent return of a pulsed laser output at 1064 nm and both
418 the co-polarized and cross-polarized return of a 532 nm laser output. The current study is based
419 on night and day differences in the cross-polarized return at 532 nm. *bbp* values (available at
420 <http://www.science.oregonstate.edu/ocean.productivity/>) were calculated from this signal
421 following (15), except that *bbp* at 532 nm was not converted to *bbp* at 440 nm as in the earlier
422 study. For (15), 30° off-nadir CALIOP tilting maneuvers were conducted every two weeks
423 between 2015 and 2016 to collect ocean measurements with minimal surface backscatter from a
424 wide range of ocean environments. Removing molecular backscatter from the CALIOP parallel
425 channel and combining with data from the cross-polarized channel, we then derived particulate
426 backscatter depolarization ratios and compared these data to collocated MODIS diffuse
427 attenuation (K_d) values. This analysis yielded a linear relationship between CALIOP
428 depolarization ratios and K_d that was then used in (15) to directly retrieve *bbp* values from
429 CALIOP without reliance on collocated MODIS observations. This same approach was used for

430 the current study. However, we also further evaluated the relationship between particulate
431 depolarization ratios and K_d at 532 nm using an extensive open ocean airborne lidar data set
432 compiled from the 2012 Azores campaign¹⁴, the Ship-Aircraft Bio-Optical Research (SABOR)
433 campaign, and three campaigns of the North Atlantic Aerosol and Marine Ecosystem Study
434 (NAAMES)³² (note, no airborne data were collected during the fourth NAAMES campaign due
435 to mechanical issues grounding the plane). This airborne-based analysis confirmed the earlier
436 CALIOP-MODIS finding of a linear relationship between depolarization ratios and K_d , with an
437 average depolarization: K_d of 1.76 m and standard deviation of 0.19 m. Finally, we calculated
438 bbp using a volume scattering function (VSF) at 180° following Lu et al.³³ that was developed
439 using measurements from collocated CALIPSO and MODIS 531 nm data. This VSF is
440 consistent with scattering properties for particles in the phytoplankton size domain and it was
441 applied to both day and night CALIOP data. Organisms larger than phytoplankton, such as
442 DVM animals, will have a VSF with a somewhat lower efficiency in the backward direction and
443 enhanced efficiency in the forward direction. This difference is one factor [see also
444 Supplementary Discussion] influencing the relationship between the CALIOP-retrieved DVM
445 backscatter signal and the biomass of these animals, but it is encompassed in the field-based
446 scaling factor between CALIOP bbp^{night} - bbp^{day} data and zooplankton dry weight (see below).
447
448 CALIOP merges low gain and high gain data onboard to reduce data downlink. The onboard
449 gain ratio calculations fail when there are not enough data for both the low and high gain
450 channels, which can happen for nighttime cross polarization measurements. At the beginning of
451 the CALIPSO mission, there was an error in the default values of the gain ratios when the
452 onboard calculation fails. This issue rendered the nighttime cross polarization measurements

453 unusable for ocean *bbp* retrievals until the error was corrected in late 2007, which is why the
 454 current study on night-day differences in *bbp* was limited to the period of 2008 to 2017. In
 455 addition, Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer (AMSR) data were used to flag and omit
 456 CALIOP retrievals made at wind speeds $\geq 9 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ to avoid bubble contamination of the *bbp*
 457 values. At wind speeds $< 9 \text{ m s}^{-1}$, we also applied a depolarization ratio threshold to remove
 458 bubble-contaminated data based on statistical analysis from high wind conditions.

459

460 **Calculation of DVM_{CALIOP} :** The biomass of DVM animals (DVM_{CALIOP}) was estimated from
 461 CALIOP-measured night-day differences in *bbp*, an estimate of the day-to-night change in *bbp*
 462 due to the phytoplankton diel cycle alone [Fig. 1b], and a scaling factor between backscattering
 463 and zooplankton dry weight.

464

465 The value of bbp^{night} can be expanded into backscatter by DVM animals (bbp^{DVM}) and
 466 backscatter by phytoplankton and other non-migrating particles (bbp^{other}):

$$467 \quad bbp^{night} = bbp^{DVM} + bbp^{other} . \quad (4)$$

468 The value of bbp^{other} is equal to bbp^{day} corrected for the phytoplankton-based change (c) in *bbp*
 469 from day to night. Rearranging (4) and solving for bbp^{DVM} yields:

$$470 \quad bbp^{DVM} = bbp^{night} - c \, bbp^{day} . \quad (5)$$

471 A variety of factors may influence the value of c , including the daily division rate of the
 472 phytoplankton population, the degree to which this division is synchronized around the day-night
 473 cycle, the composition of the phytoplankton community³⁴, and day length. Over much of the
 474 PSO, phytoplankton populations are dominated by *Prochlorococcus*, *Synechococcus*, and
 475 picoeukaryotics species, all of which generally synchronize cell division to the first half of the

476 night³⁵⁻³⁹. We therefore focused on describing c as a function of both division rate (μ ; divisions
477 day⁻¹) and day length.

478
479 First, the dependence of c on μ was determined from the laboratory study of DuRand and
480 Olson³⁴ and is described by [Supplementary Discussion; Extended Data Fig. 5a]:

$$481 \quad c_1 = 0.929 - 0.122 \mu, \quad (6)$$

482 where the term -0.122 has units of days division⁻¹. Equation 6 was applied to MODIS passive
483 ocean color based estimates of μ calculated for the 2008 to 2017 period (see below). Second, the
484 dependence of c on day length exists because a change in day length causes the two CALIOP
485 sampling points (determined by its fixed orbit) to line up differently with the phytoplankton diel
486 cycle. For the range of day lengths encountered across the PSO, this day length (dl) dependence
487 is described by [Supplementary Discussion; Extended Data Fig. 5b]:

$$488 \quad c_2 = 0.986 + 0.0012 dl, \quad (7)$$

489 where dl (h) is known precisely for each CALIOP pixel based on date and latitude and the term
490 0.0012 has units of h⁻¹.

491
492 Monthly DVM zooplankton dry weight data are available at the BATS site over the 2008 to 2017
493 CALIOP era. Comparison of these field data to monthly bbp^{DVM} values calculated from
494 equations (5) through (7) for the 2° latitude by 2° longitude CALIOP bin centered on the BATS
495 site yields an average scaling factor between bbp^{DVM} and DVM biomass of 1596 g m⁻¹
496 [Supplementary Discussion]. Applying this conversion factor gives the following expression for
497 DVM_{CALIOP} :

$$498 \quad DVM_{CALIOP} = 1596 (bbp^{night} - c_1 c_2 bbp^{day}). \quad (8)$$

499 In figures 3c and 3d, we compare HOT and BATS DVM zooplankton dry weight data to the
500 CALIOP-retrieved property, Δbbp , simply to maintain consistency with figure 3b
501 [Supplementary Discussion]. However and as stated in the main text, DVM biomass should be
502 quantitatively related to the simple difference, $bbp^{night} - bbp^{day}$. The reason the seasonal cycle in
503 Δbbp corresponds to that of DVM biomass at HOT and BATS is that bbp^{day} varies little over the
504 year at these two sites, making Δbbp highly correlated ($r^2 > 0.99$, $p < 0.001$) with the simple
505 difference, $bbp^{night} - bbp^{day}$.

506
507 **Field ADCP data:** Global ADCP data were obtained from the Joint Archive for Shipboard
508 ADCP (JASADCP, <http://ilikai.soest.hawaii.edu/sadcp/>). We selected acoustic backscatter data
509 for the upper 20 m of the ocean surface (equivalent to the sampling depth of CALIOP) from
510 ADCPs with frequencies of 150 or 300 kHz and excluded data from 38 and 75 kHz frequencies.
511 The 150 and 300 kHz frequencies better isolate scattering from the small ($\sim 0.5 - 5$ mm) animals
512 that are most likely detected by CALIOP due to their much greater abundances. Backscatter
513 amplitude (E) measurements were converted into acoustic intensity (I_{dB}) following Gostiaux and
514 van Haren⁴⁰:

$$515 \quad I_{dB} = 10 \log(10^{k_c E/10} - 10^{k_c E_{noise}/10}), \quad (4)$$

516 where k_c is a scaling factor used to convert backscatter amplitude counts to decibels (dB), and
517 E_{noise} is the noise floor of the individual ADCP dataset. Values of k_c are frequency dependent
518 and were taken from Gostiaux and van Haren⁴⁰. The noise floor was defined as the minimum
519 $k_c E$ for each individual data file. A total of 7,622 individual paired diel cycles were extracted
520 from the global database [Extended Data Fig. 4]. The geographic distribution of these diel cycle
521 data is largely biased to the regions surrounding the Hawaiian Islands, along the Tropical Ocean

522 Atmosphere (TAO/TRITON) mooring array in the equatorial Pacific, the Southern California
523 Bight, between Chile and Antarctica, and off the northeast United States seaboard [Extended
524 Data Fig. 4]. Detailed inspection of echograms computed from each individual data file revealed
525 occasional time synchronicity issues, with the apparent deep DVM occurring more than 2 hour
526 before or after local sunrise/sunset. To validate the time stamp of each data file, we compared
527 the timing of the mesopelagic (max depth of the data file to 150 m) DVM to the time of local
528 sunrise and sunset. Time synchronicity issues were detected in less than 10% of the data files.
529 The time stamp of these errant ADCP backscattering observations were corrected to synchronize
530 the deep DVM with sunrise/sunset prior to computing the day/night differences analyzed in the
531 manuscript.

532

533 **Field time-series zooplankton biomass data:** Monthly climatological migratory zooplankton
534 dry weight data shown in figure 3c for HOT were calculated from data in figure 1 of Hannides et
535 al²¹. Monthly climatological migratory zooplankton dry weight data shown in figure 3d for
536 BATS were calculated from 1994 to 2017 data provided by D.K.S. The 1994 to 2011 subset of
537 these data were published as figure 2c in Steinberg et al.²².

538

539 **Global phytoplankton net primary production, biomass, and division rate data:**

540 Phytoplankton net primary production (*NPP*) values used for figure 4b,c, phytoplankton division
541 rates (μ) used for calculating c_l in equation 6, and phytoplankton biomass (C_{phyto}) shown in
542 Extended Data Figure 6 are from the Carbon-based Production Model (*CbPM*)⁴¹ using MODIS
543 passive ocean color data collected between 2008 and 2017 (data are available at
544 <http://www.science.oregonstate.edu/ocean.productivity/>).

545 **Author Information:** Reprints and permissions information is available at
546 www.nature.com/reprints. The authors declare no competing financial interests. Correspondence
547 and requests for materials should be addressed to MJB.

548
549 **Data Availability:** The CALIOP lidar and field ADCP datasets analyzed during the current
550 study are available at <http://www.science.oregonstate.edu/ocean.productivity/> and from the Joint
551 Archive for Shipboard ADCP at <http://ilikai.soest.hawaii.edu/sadcp/>. Data presented in figures
552 3b-d and 4b and Extended Data figures 3, 6, 7, and 8 were provided as spat tabs in an excel file
553 as part of this manuscript submission.

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592 **Extended Data Figure Legends**

593 **Extended Data Figure 1: Global CALIOP observational coverage.** (a-e) CALIOP ground
594 tracks for (a) one, (b) two, (c) four, (d) eight, and (e) sixteen days. (f) Number of months for each
595 2° latitude x 2° longitude bin with day and night retrievals of *bbp* for the 2008 and 2017 study
596 period. Total number of months possible is 115. The north-south strip of low retrieval success
597 in the middle of the Pacific is caused by a gap in ancillary AMSER surface wind data, which is
598 used for flagging data with potential bubble contamination [Methods].

599
600 **Extended Data Figure 2: Global distributions of monthly climatological average values of**
601 **Δbbp .** Thin black line = contour of monthly average sea surface temperature of 15°C. Heavy
602 black lines = Monthly extent of the five subtropical gyres where annual average surface
603 chlorophyll concentrations are $\leq 0.08 \text{ mg m}^{-3}$.

604
605 **Extended Data Figure 3: Time series of Δbbp for the PSO.** (a-h) 2008 to 2017 monthly
606 values of Δbbp (%) for the eight PSO regions (labeled at top of each panel) identified in figure 3a
607 of the main manuscript.

608
609 **Extended Data Figure 4: Global coverage of field ADCP data.** Number of days within each
610 5° latitude by 5° longitude bin that paired day-night ADCP data are available from the 1985 to
611 2017 JASADCP-based field archive (<http://ilikai.soest.hawaii.edu/sadcp/>). Total number of days
612 possible is 11,680. White bins = no data. Yellow/black line = contour of annual average sea
613 surface temperature of 15°C. Heavy white lines = boundaries of the eight PSO regions identified
614 in figure 3a of the main manuscript.

615

616 **Extended Data Figure 5: Influence of phytoplankton division rate and of day length on**
617 **calculated DVM backscatter for the PSO.** (a) Values for c_1 (see equation 6 in Methods of
618 main manuscript) over the range of phytoplankton division rates (μ) in the PSO (n = 999
619 monthly μ values for all PSO regions). Solid circle = mean value of μ and c_1 for the PSO. Box
620 = ± 1 standard deviation from the mean value of μ . (b) Values for c_2 (see equation 7 in Methods
621 of main manuscript) over the range of day lengths in the PSO (n = 999 monthly day length
622 values for all PSO regions). Solid circle = mean day length and c_2 value for the PSO. Box = ± 1
623 standard deviation from the mean day length.

624

625 **Extended Data Figure 6: Seasonal cycles in monthly mean regionally-integrated values of**
626 **DVM_{CALIOP} (g m^{-2}) and phytoplankton biomass (C_{phyto} ; mg C m^{-3}) for high-latitude regions.**
627 (a) North Pacific. (b) North Atlantic. (c) Southern Ocean. These three regions are identified in
628 figure 4c of the main manuscript. Vertical lines = ± 1 standard deviation (n = 111 monthly
629 DVM_{CALIOP} and C_{phyto} values for each region). C_{phyto} data are from the Carbon-based Production
630 Model ($CbPM$) and MODIS passive ocean color data [Methods].

631

632 **Extended Data Figure 7: Comparison of CALIOP night-day bbp differences and field**
633 **ADCP night-day differences in acoustic backscatter.** Dashed line = two-sided least squares
634 linear regression fit to data for the SPSG, NPSG, TP, STA, NASG, and NTA (n = 6). For
635 completeness, the average value for PSO bins outside our eight primary regions is indicated by
636 the white symbol. Symbols = regional average values with standard error bars (n for each region
637 = 19 for SISG, 18 for SASG, 115 for TP, 16 for NASG, 23 for NTA, 59 for NPSG, 22 for STA,

638 59 for SPSG, 302 for Other). Symbol colors identify region (labeled on right) and correspond to
639 coloring in figure 3a of the main manuscript. Numbers next to each symbol indicate the median
640 number of days with ADCP data within the 32-year field record for the 5° latitude x 5° longitude
641 bins.

642

643 **Extended Data Figure 8: Bin-to-bin comparison of CALIOP Δbbp and field-based DVM**

644 **measurements in the PSO.** (a) CALIOP normalized difference ratios (Δbbp) versus field

645 ADCP (ΔB_{ADCP}) normalized difference ratios for 5° latitude x 5° longitude bins within the PSO.

646 Black line = two-sided least squares linear regression fit. Black line = two-sided linear least

647 squares regression relationship (F test p value for slope < 0.001, n = 331 independent

648 geographical bins) for all data from our eight primary PSO regions (colored symbols, labeled on

649 right). White symbols = PSO values for 5° x 5° bins outside of the eight primary regions.

650 Inclusion of these data in the linear regression analysis increases to the F test p-value to 0.005 (n

651 = 633 independent geographical bins). (b) Relationship between field DVM biomass at the HOT

652 site measured for a given calendar month and year (x-axis) versus DVM biomass measured

653 during all other years for the same calendar month (y-axis).

654

655 **Extended Data Figure 9: Field-based diel cycles in bbp .** Average diel cycles in bbp from

656 Kheireddine and Antoine¹⁹ for (blue line) mixing (n = 69 days of measurements), (green line)

657 oligotrophy (n = 322 days of measurements), and (red line) declining (n = 32 days of

658 measurements) conditions and (black line) the average of these three cycles, which corresponds

659 to the diel cycle in Fig. 1b of the main manuscript.

Figure 1

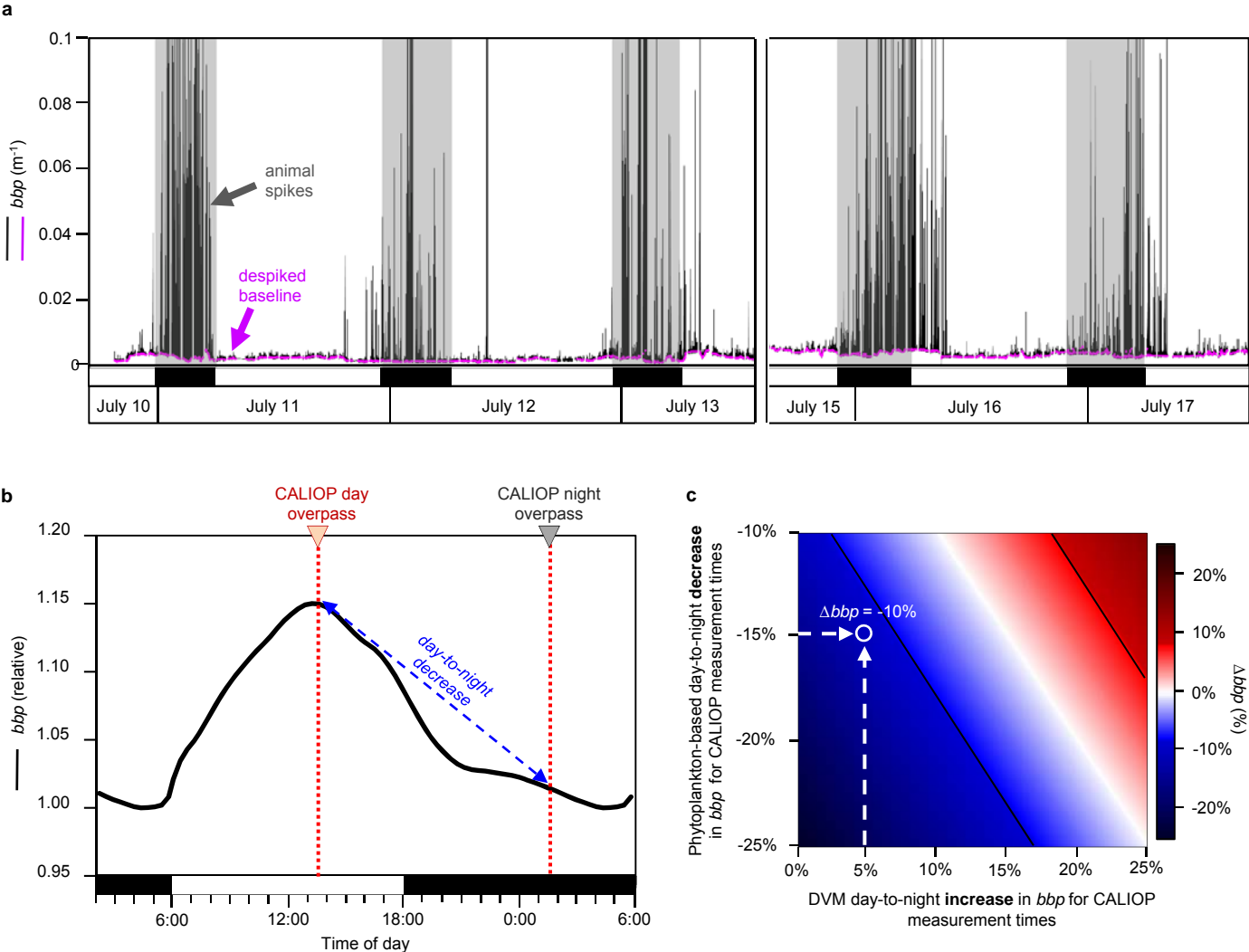


Figure 2

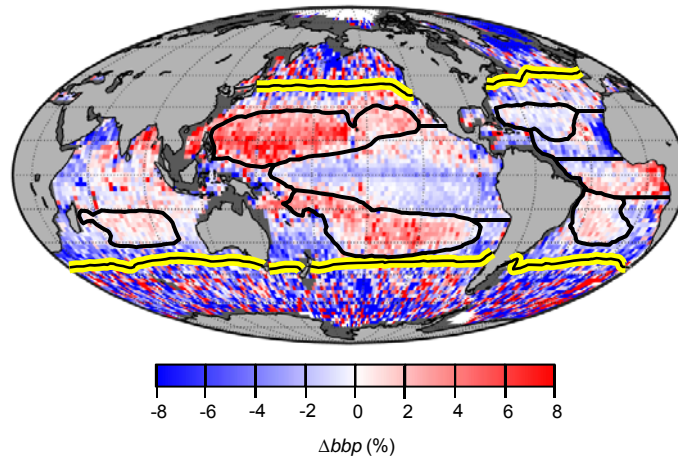


Figure 3

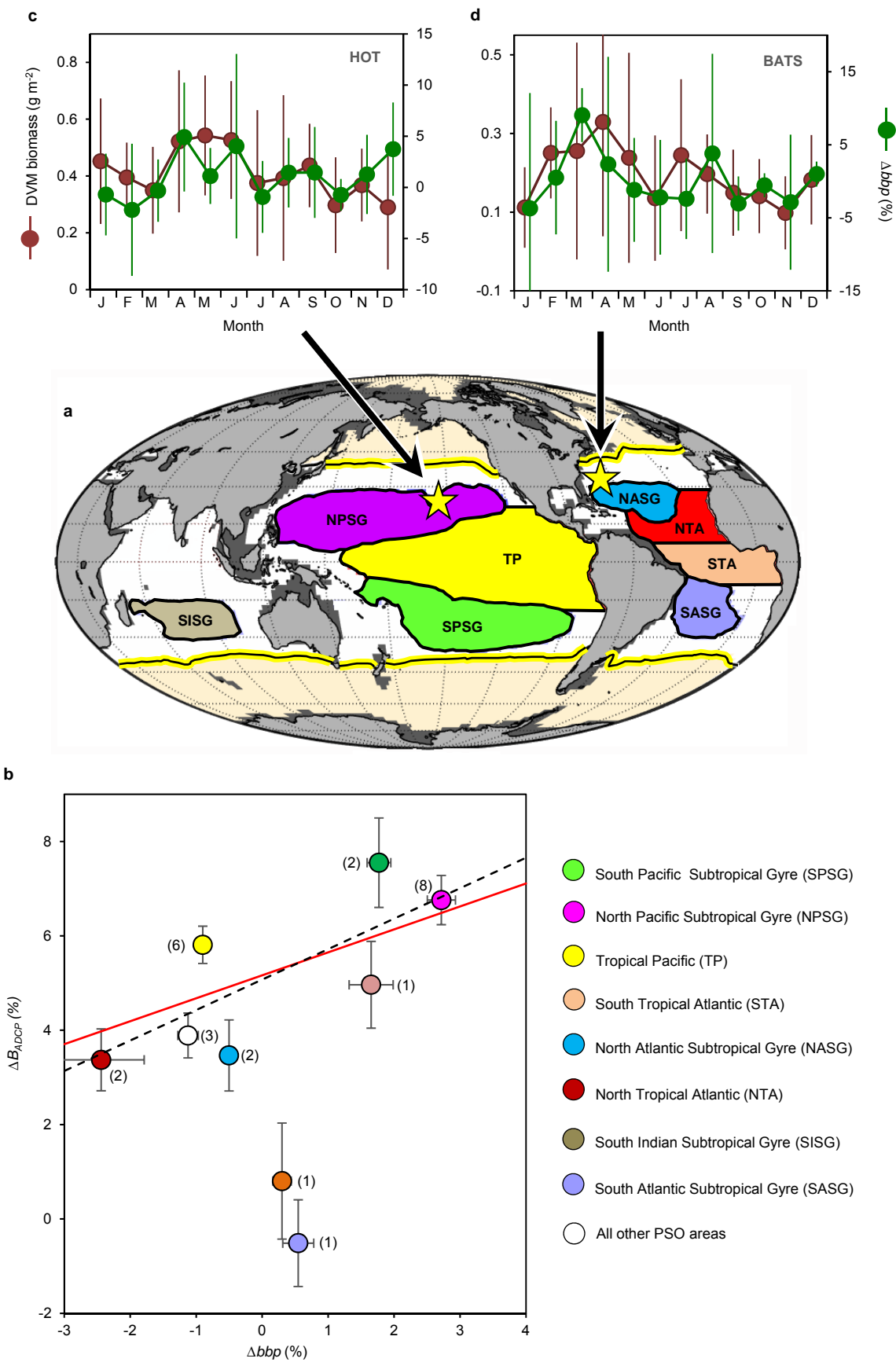
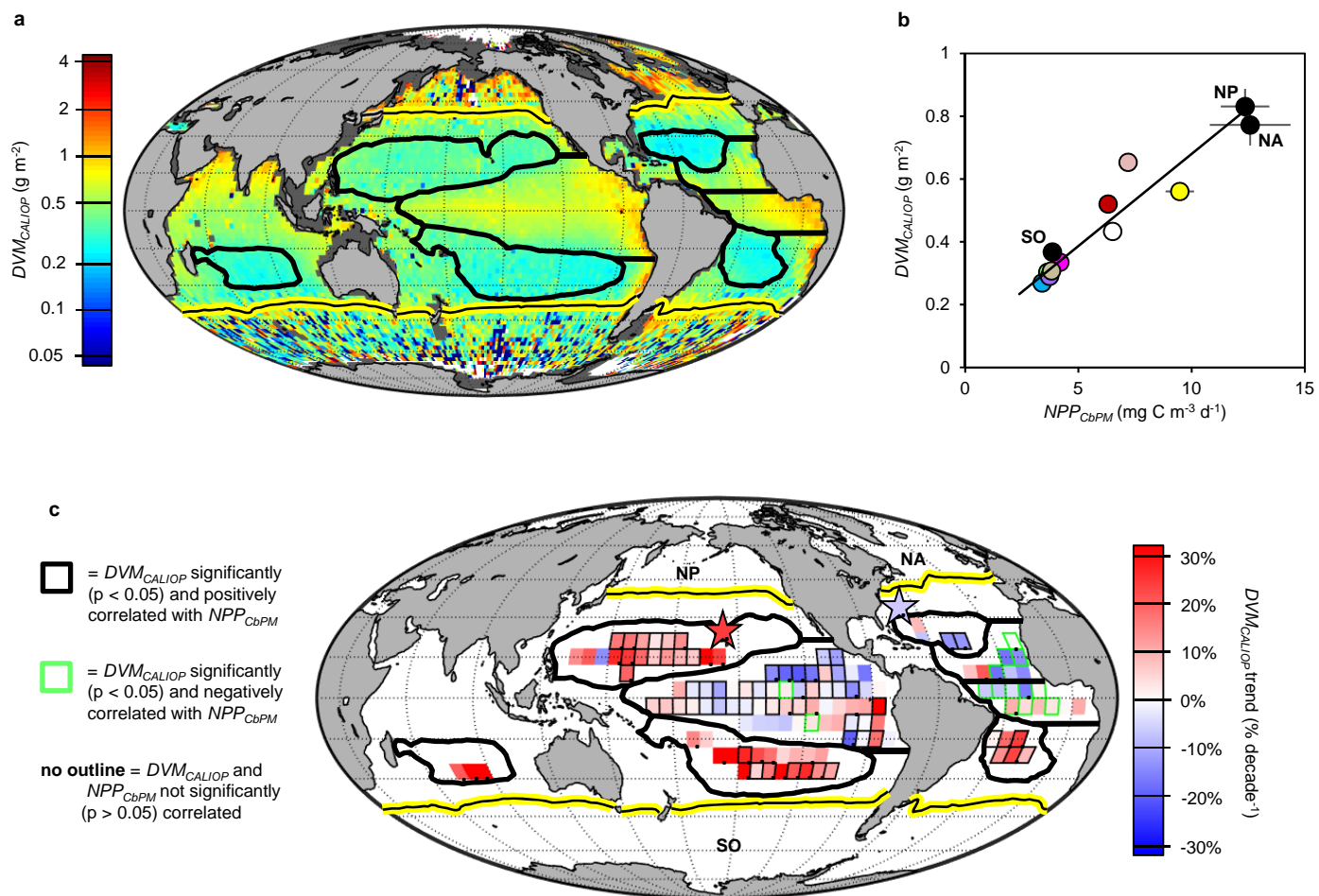


Figure 4



Supplementary Discussion

This file includes supplemental text for the manuscript, “Satellite-observed daily vertical migrations of global ocean animals”, by Behrenfeld *et al.* regarding (1) CALIOP orbits and data binning, (2) high-latitude spatial variability in CALIOP retrievals, (3) normalized difference ratio data and results in figure 3 of the main manuscript, (4) calculation of the phytoplankton diel *bbp* cycle, (5) additional details on calculations of DVM biomass, and (6) directions for future research.

1) CALIOP orbits and data binning: While satellite lidar measurements have become a common tool for atmospheric research, they are relatively new for studying ocean ecosystems^{11,14,15}. Unlike familiar passive ocean color instruments that use a rotating telescope or ‘push-broom’ approach to achieve broad-swath measurements, the CALIOP instrument conducts its measurements at a near-nadir angle and only along its orbit tracks, which are oriented along the ground in opposite directions on the daylight and dark sides of the Earth. Extended Data Figure 1a shows day and night orbits for a single 24 hour period, illustrating how rare orbit cross-over points are for collecting spatially coincident data within a single day (and ocean retrievals for many of these will be prevented by clouds). Furthermore, even when ocean retrievals are successful at both times for a given cross-over point, the water sampled during the day will be different than that measured 12 hours later at night because surface waters are continuously moved by ocean currents. Because of these considerations, we used binned CALIOP data to evaluate global patterns in DVM animals rather than focusing only on spatially coincident data. Binning was also necessary for comparing CALIOP results to field data (which are also spatially and temporally sparse).

While not providing broad swaths of data like an ocean color sensor, advantages of CALIOP are that it provides measurements during the day and night and its rapid laser pulse rate enables measurements every 330 m along the ground. In addition, its precessing orbit allows for fully-global sampling over its 16-day repeat cycle. Extended Data Figures 1a-e illustrate how this global coverage builds-up over 1, 2, 4, 8, and 16 days. Thus, for a given spatial binning resolution, the CALIOP approach can provide a dense within-bin ‘sampling’ over the course of a month. Averaging these repeated measurements within a monthly bin reduces noise in the retrieved ocean property and allows the signal of interest to be isolated. As discussed in **Section 2** below, the number of successful day and night retrievals within a bin depends on atmospheric conditions (cloud cover, aerosol thickness), which vary strongly with latitude.

In our first publication using CALIOP data¹⁴, we validated satellite-retrieved *bbp* values using coincident ship-based and airborne-based field measurements. We then binned global CALIOP data into 2° latitude \times 2° longitude bins to evaluate global patterns in phytoplankton biomass and total particulate carbon concentration. The same $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$ binning was used in the current manuscript for figure 2. In our second CALIOP publication¹⁵, we demonstrated an excellent agreement between CALIOP and ocean color based seasonal cycles in *bbp* and then used $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ binned data to evaluate phytoplankton bloom dynamics. This slightly higher spatial resolution was used because the study was geographically restricted to the north and south polar regions, whereas $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$ binning is appropriate for the global scope of the current study. For figure 3b of the current manuscript, a coarser resolution of $5^\circ \times 5^\circ$ was used because of the very sparse coverage of ADCP data. Finally, $6^\circ \times 6^\circ$ binning was used for figure 4c because (1) smaller bins

make it difficult to distinguish the outlines and dots used for each bin that indicate statistical significance and (2) the enhanced signal-to-noise of the larger bins improves detection of temporal trends (i.e., de-seasoned anomalies) in DVM_{CALIOP} .

2) High-latitude zones: At latitudes poleward of the PSO, CALIOP retrievals of the DVM signal remain noisy between the spatial bins used for our analysis. In contrast, these retrievals exhibit significantly better spatial coherence within the PSO. Consequently, we have largely restricted our more detailed analyses of the CALIOP record to these lower-latitude PSO regions. A number of factors contribute to the noisy spatial maps of the DVM signal at high latitudes. First and foremost of these factors is the combined impact of spatial and temporal variability in plankton ecosystems, persistent cloudiness, and the sampling coverage of CALIOP. Extended Data Figure 1f shows the total number of months within the 2008 – 2017 period (115 total possible) for each 2° latitude x 2° longitude bin with at least one day and one night retrieval of *bbp*. This latter figure clearly shows the much poorer coverage at high latitudes, but even this stark difference between high latitudes and the PSO over-represents high-latitude coverage. CALIOP's small single-shot footprint (100 m at the ocean surface) allows successful retrievals between even small gaps in cloud cover. Thus, even if a given bin is largely overcast for an entire month (as is often the case at higher latitudes), a single day and night retrieval through gaps in the clouds would yield a day-night pair for that month and add to the total number of measurement pairs for that bin in Extended Data Figure 1f. These two points could come from different locations anywhere within the 2° x 2° bin and may be separated in time by nearly a month. In such a case, spatial and temporal variations in the plankton community can be a large contributor to the calculated night-day difference. As cloudiness decreases from this extreme

example, many more CALIOP retrievals can be averaged together within a given $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$ bin, thereby dampening the influence of plankton community spatial and temporal variations and better isolating the DVM signal (as discussed above). In the PSO, clear sky scenes are far more common than at higher latitudes. With a 100 m single-pulse footprint and a 330 m ground distance separation between pulses, >600 measurements can be collected within a given $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$ bin on a single day or night overpass under clear skies. With clear sky conditions for even two overpasses per month, this means that >1200 daytime measurements and >1200 nighttime measurements spanning the breadth of the bin may be available to calculate a single monthly average night-day difference. In addition, temporal variability in plankton stocks within the $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$ bins of the PSO tend to be smaller than most high-latitude bins. Thus within the PSO, effective retrieval of the DVM signal at $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$ binning resolution is far more likely than at higher latitudes. One solution to the ‘spatial speckling’ problem at high latitudes is to average data over a much larger area. When we do this, we find that regionally-integrated annual average DVM_{CALIOP} for the three high-latitude regions shows a relationship with annual average mixed layer net primary production that is highly consistent with that found for the PSO regions [Fig. 4b]. Furthermore, regionally-integrated monthly DVM_{CALIOP} data for the three high-latitude regions exhibit strong annual cycles consistent with both the magnitude and seasonality of phytoplankton biomass in these regions [Extended Data Fig. 6].

In addition to the above considerations regarding high latitude retrievals, phytoplankton community composition in these regions tends to be more diverse than in the PSO, division rates vary strongly with season and are poorly constrained by satellite productivity algorithms, and it is highly likely that cell division cycles are often not synchronized to the daily light-dark cycle.

The impact of these ecological considerations on the phytoplankton night-day difference is currently unresolved (see **Section 6** below).

3) Normalized difference ratios: In figure 2 of the main manuscript, we compare CALIOP retrievals of Δbbp with normalized difference ratios calculated from field ADCP measurements. We used normalized difference ratios (equations 1 and 2 in the main manuscript) for this comparison for two primary reasons. First, division of night-day differences by daytime values makes the retrieved property biomass-specific, allowing an evaluation of the relative contribution of DVM animals. Second, normalization to daytime values, at least in part, helps reduce the influence of instrument-dependent variations in the field measurements. Specifically, the ADCP acoustic backscatter record used in the current study was compiled from more than 30 research vessels and 2,000 field surveys. Differences between the instruments used, how they are mounted, and how they are calibrated can generate instrument-dependent differences in the resultant backscattering data that are not linked to real differences in *in situ* particle backscattering. By calculating the normalized difference ratio, the influence of this instrument-dependent contribution is reduced. To illustrate the significance of this normalization, the ADCP-CALIOP comparison presented in figure 3b of the main manuscript was revised by substituting the normalized difference ratios with simple differences (i.e., y-axis = $I_{dB}^{night} - I_{dB}^{day}$; x-axis = $bbp^{night} - bbp^{day}$) for each data set [Extended Data Fig. 7]. The outcome of this analysis is similar to the result presented in figure 3b of the main manuscript. Specifically, (1) the relative location of each regional average value is the same between graphs and (2) results for the SISG and SASG regions deviate from the other regions in the same manner in both graphs. The primary difference (as expected from the above discussion) is that the linear regression on the

regional ADCP and CALIOP values shown in figure 3b gives an $r^2 = 0.55$ and $p = 0.09$, whereas the same comparison for data in Extended Data Fig. 7 gives an $r^2 = 0.39$ and $p > 0.10$.

In figures 3c and 3d, we also compare Δbbp to DVM biomass measured at the HOT and BATS sites. The expectation is that, across the PSO, DVM biomass will be more quantitatively related to the simple difference, $bbp^{DVM} = bbp^{night} - c bbp^{day}$, than the normalized difference ratio. Since bbp^{DVM} and Δbbp have nearly the exact same seasonal cycle at HOT and BATS ($r^2 = 0.99$, $p < 0.001$), we chose to show the CALIOP normalized difference ratio data in figures 3c and 3d simply to be consistent with figure 3b. However, as described in the main manuscript, the actual calculation of DVM biomass is based on the simple difference, bbp^{DVM} .

As discussed in the main text and in the Methods section, creating an adequate field data set (with respect to PSO coverage) for comparison with CALIOP data required aggregating historical ADCP data from over 30 years (1985 to 2017). Even over this long period, most of our $5^\circ \times 5^\circ$ bins have only one to a few days of data, and many of these observations pre-date CALIOP. Due to this paucity of data and their temporal mismatches with CALIOP, figure 3b in the main manuscript focuses on the correspondence between regional values of ΔB_{ADCP} and Δbbp . However, we also report that linear regression analysis of ΔB_{ADCP} and Δbbp data for all $5^\circ \times 5^\circ$ bins within the eight primary PSO regions yielded a highly significant slope similar to the relationship calculated from the regionally binned data. Extended Data Fig. 8a shows this relationship, where data are color-coded following the regional coloring scheme shown in figure 3a of the main manuscript. As expected, the relationship for all individual data exhibits significant scatter around the least squares linear regression line ($r^2 = 0.04$). We can use the

HOT time series field measurement of DVM biomass to put this result in context. Specifically, we can ask how much predictive skill does knowledge of DVM biomass during a given month of a given year provide in estimating DVM biomass for the same month but other years in the HOT record. This result is shown in Extended Data Fig. 8b. The implication here is that there is a large amount of year-to-year variability in monthly DVM biomass within field records and thus considerable scatter is expected between CALIOP and field ADCP data when compared at the level of individual measurements [Extended Data Fig. 8a], particularly when the two data sets are collected during different years. However, when data are averaged over time and space, clear regional differences emerge in DVM strength and these patterns are consistent between the ADCP and CALIOP records for all PSO regions except the SASG and SISG [Fig. 3b] (see **Section 6** below). A corollary to this result is found in the published studies of Hannides et al.²¹ and Steinberg et al.²², where an annual cycle in DVM biomass becomes clear by calculating monthly average values for field records extending a decade or more. Because of the large variability between years in the monthly data [e.g., Extended Data Fig. 8b], these cycles are difficult to decipher in the full time-series records.

4) Phytoplankton diel *bbp* cycle: Historical studies on diel cycles in ocean inherent optical properties have largely focused on the particulate beam attenuation coefficient⁴²⁻⁴⁴. To our knowledge, the only published account of diel cycles in *bbp* are from Kheireddine and Antoine¹⁹. In their study, five years of *bbp* data were evaluated from the long-term, deep-water (2440 m) BOUSSOLE buoy site in the Mediterranean Sea. Over this period, 1322 total days of data were collected, from which the authors selected 737 days of highest data quality. These data were then separated into mixing, declining, oligotrophic, and bloom-climax phases with respect to

phytoplankton biomass. A vast majority of the data were from the three former phases, which are most representative of the PSO. The average diel cycle in bbp for each of these phases is reproduced as the blue, red, and green lines, respectively, in Extended Data Fig. 9. The average of these three diel cycles is shown as the black line in Extended Data Fig. 9 and this averaged cycle corresponds to the diel cycle shown in figure 1b of our main manuscript. The bloom-climax data in (19) exhibits a similar diel cycle as during the other seasons but with a daytime peak ~2 hour later in the afternoon.

5) DVM biomass calculations: The biomass of DVM animals (DVM_{CALIOP}) was calculated from CALIOP-measured night (bbp^{night}) and day (bbp^{day}) differences in bbp following [Eq. 3 of main manuscript]:

$$DVM_{CALIOP} = a (bbp^{night} - c_1 c_2 bbp^{day}),$$

where c_1 accounts for growth rate (μ ; divisions day⁻¹) dependent night-day differences in bbp due to the phytoplankton diel cycle [Fig. 1b], c_2 accounts changes in night-day bbp differences caused by variations in day length, and a is an empirical conversion factor between the backscatter signal of DVM animals (bbp^{DVM}) and zooplankton biomass. In the following three subsections, we provide details on the derivation of c_1 , c_2 , and a .

For the current study, we did not attempt to introduce an additional correction factor to account for community composition effects on the phytoplankton diel bbp cycle because (1) community composition is relatively conserved in the open ocean regions of the PSO (at least compared to higher latitude and coastal regions), (2) very little is known from targeted field or laboratory studies about taxonomic influences on the diel bbp cycle, and (3) satellite-based global

determinations of phytoplankton community composition are still relatively immature and would likely add more errors than improvements in our estimates of DVM_{CALIOP} . Beyond taxonomic considerations, we also evaluate whether regional time series in $bbp^{night} - bbp^{day}$ covaried with other globally-retrieved ocean properties (surface chlorophyll *a* concentration, euphotic zone depth, median mixed layer light level, surface PAR, mixed layer depth, sea surface temperature), but found no unique relationships consistent across regions that could not be attributed to corollary relationships between these other ocean properties and variations in phytoplankton growth rates.

Dependence on division rate: Very few controlled studies have been conducted that enable a quantitative assessment of growth rate dependent variability in the phytoplankton diel *bbp* cycle. One notable exception is the study of DuRand and Olson³⁴. In that study, diel cycles in scattering cross section were reported for cultures of *Nannochloris* (chosen as representative of the small phytoplankton found in oligotrophic waters) grown under daily light-dark irradiance cycles of intensity ranging from 60 to 1500 $\mu\text{mole photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. Cell division cycles in all cultures were tightly phased with the light:dark cycle, with division occurring in the dark (as is the case in the PSO). The relationship between growth irradiance and μ (divisions day^{-1}) was extracted from figure 3 of DuRand and Olson³⁴. Daytime maxima and nighttime minima in scattering cross section were extracted for each growth condition from figure 6 of DuRand and Olson³⁴. The relationship between these minimum and maximum values and values that would be observed during the CALIOP measurement times was calculated using the field-based diel cycle in figure 1b of the current manuscript (see **Section 4** above). A two-sided least squares linear regression analysis was then conducted on the relationship between the night-day

difference in these scattering values and μ ($r^2 = 0.40$, $p = 0.12$, $n = 6$). However, this relationship does not provide a description of c_l because it is based on a pure phytoplankton culture, whereas *bbp* data from CALIOP includes additional ‘background’ scattering from other non-phytoplankton components. This issue was addressed by considering the results presented in figure 1b where the field-measured diel cycle in *bbp* gives a day-to-night decrease in *bbp* of ~15%. These field data were collected in the Mediterranean Sea where the dominant prokaryotic and picoeukaryotic phytoplankton divide at a rate slightly less than 1 division day⁻¹. Thus, assuming a bulk phytoplankton division rate of ~0.8 division day⁻¹, a ‘background’ *bbp* signal was added to our DuRand and Olson³⁴ based two-sided linear regression result until a value for c_l of 0.85 was achieved for $\mu = 0.8$ division day⁻¹. This resultant description for c_l is:

$$c_l = 0.929 - 0.122 \mu.$$

The mean, standard deviation, and range for c_l values in the PSO are shown in Extended Data Fig. 5a.

Dependence on day length: The dependence of c on day length exists because a change in day length causes the two CALIOP sampling points (determined by its fixed orbit) to line up differently with the phytoplankton diel cycle. To account for this effect, the field-based diel cycle in *bbp* shown in figure 1b was split into its daytime and nighttime components. The duration of these day and night components was then expanded and contracted to create diel cycles for day lengths ranging from 4 to 20 hours (i.e., outside this range both CALIOP measurement times either occur in the day or the night). The night-day difference in *bbp* was then calculated for the two CALIOP measurement times for each day length. For the highly constrained range in day length across the PSO (10 – 14 h), the relationship between these night-

day difference values and day length is linear ($r^2 = 1.0$, $p < 0.001$). This relationship was then adjusted to give a value of 1 for a 12:12 day:night cycle (i.e., the day length corresponding to the data in figure 1b). The resultant relationship is:

$$c_2 = 0.986 + 0.0012 dl,$$

where dl = day length (h). The mean, standard deviation, and range for c_2 values in the PSO are shown in Extended Data Fig. 5b, with the full range being highly constrained to $c_2 = 0.998$ to 1.002. Thus, inclusion of c_2 in our calculation of DVM biomass is more for completeness than as an important correction in the calculation of DVM_{CALIOP} .

Over a broader range of day lengths, the relationship between night-day difference values and day length becomes nonlinear and, when normalized to 1 for a 12:12 day:night cycle is described by ($r^2 = 1.0$, $p < 0.001$):

$$c_2 = -7E-06 dl^4 + 0.0004 dl^3 - 0.0069 dl^2 + 0.06 dl + 0.8013,$$

which for a day length range of 4 to 20 hours gives a slightly larger range of values for c_2 of 0.952 to 1.006.

Scaling bbp^{DVM} to DVM_{CALIOP} : Our primary motivation for scaling bbp^{DVM} to DVM_{CALIOP} was to convert the former property with units of m^{-1} into a more ecologically-understandable property with units of $g m^{-2}$ dry weight. For this conversion, we use a constant scaling factor, meaning that the results shown in figure 4 of the main manuscript can be interchanged between the directly-measured CALIOP property, bbp^{DVM} , and the scaled biomass property, DVM_{CALIOP} . Our approach for quantifying the scaling factor between bbp^{DVM} to DVM_{CALIOP} was similar to that used for more standard satellite ocean color products, such as surface chlorophyll concentration.

Specifically, we used field data collected coincidentally (in this case at the monthly time scale) with CALIOP. For the current study, this means that we limited our analysis to BATS field data collected between 2008 and 2017, which yielded a conversion factor of 1596 g dry weight m⁻¹. If we had instead combined these BATS data with monthly average DVM biomass data from HOT (1994 to 2005) adjusted for the apparent 23% increase since the end of the field record (see main manuscript), then the resultant conversion factor would have been 1402 g dry weight m⁻¹.

6) Future directions: The current manuscript describes the first attempt to connect a satellite-retrieved property (*bbp*) to animal biomass and distributions in the global ocean. As is standard practice in satellite oceanography, we have used the best available *in situ* observations (ADCP and zooplankton biomass time-series data) to validate the CALIOP retrievals before attempting an interpretation of their ecological meaning. As should be expected with any such new satellite product, additional future studies and new technologies are needed to both evaluate and constrain uncertainties in our analysis and to expand upon the capabilities of CALIOP for studying global ocean DVM animals. The following list provides some examples.

- i. *Phytoplankton diel bbp cycle*: CALIOP retrieved Δbbp span from negative to positive values because nighttime increases in *bbp* from DVM animals are countered by a background phytoplankton diel cycle that decreases *bbp* from day to night. We have used data from the only published study that has quantified the phytoplankton diel *bbp* cycle in the field¹⁹. These data were collected at a single location in the Mediterranean Sea and, while a range of phytoplankton populations were encountered during that study, similar analyses are needed in other ocean regions with different phytoplankton

populations to evaluate the robustness of our description of phytoplankton diel *bbp* changes. These analyses should include populations where cell division of the dominant species are synchronized over the diel cycle and also populations where cell division is not synchronized, as the latter case is likely common at higher latitudes.

It is important to recognize that the assessment of phytoplankton diel *bbp* cycles in the field is not as straightforward as it might initially appear. The problem is that the cycle of interest is the biomass-normalized cycle, so an appropriate (preferably independent) assessment of biomass is needed, particularly when measurements are conducted on a moving ship. One potential approach is to divide *bbp* by coincident measurements of chlorophyll concentration, but this approach will typically fail because cellular chlorophyll concentrations also have a diel cycle of their own that will result in an incorrect cycle for biomass-normalized *bbp*. In the study of Kheireddine and Antoine¹⁹, measurements were conducted from a fixed location (rather than a moving ship) and *bbp* values measured over each diel cycle were normalized to the value measured at dawn. However, even for this study, physical advection of the surface layer ensures that different populations were sampled over each diel cycle, which may largely be the reason that this earlier study typically found that *bbp* values at the end of a given diel cycle were not the same as at the beginning¹⁹. A great advantage of the Kheireddine and Antoine¹⁹ study was that investigators had a large number of daily cycles in *bbp* to work with and thus, through averaging, they arrived at consistent cycles under various growth conditions (see **Section 4** above).

An alternative approach for addressing uncertainties in the phytoplankton diel *bbp* cycle would be to conduct a series of laboratory experiments (much like that of DuRand and Olson³⁴) where different phytoplankton species are synchronized to light-dark cycles of various durations and changes in *bbp* are continually monitored over the diel cycle. Such experiments should also encompass a range in growth rates for each species to enable development of predictive relationships.

- ii. *DVM biomass*: In the current study, we convert CALIOP retrievals of bbp^{DVM} into an estimate of DVM animal biomass using data from a single field time-series data set (i.e., BATS). This conversion was largely conducted to put CALIOP results in more intuitive ecological units (see **Section 5** above), but there is significant uncertainty in this single conversion factor. Specifically, the backscattering efficiency of DVM animals depends on animal size, shape, composition, and other factors and the CALIOP-coincident BATS time-series data do not encompass every type of DVM animal found in the global oceans. Achieving more accurate estimates of DVM_{CALIOP} from bbp^{DVM} will require a broader diversity of field samples, an increase in the number of time-resolved DVM animal properties characterized, and a detailed optical model linking these properties to backscattering.
- iii. *Spatial sampling*: As discussed in detail above, spatial binning is required to achieve low-noise day-night match-up data with CALIOP. These binned data must then be validated with field observations that are typically collected at much smaller scales (e.g., the size of the opening of a zooplankton net or the footprint of a ship ADCP). A future

study is needed to assess uncertainties in this spatial disconnect by providing a direct measurements that span the sampling scales of field zooplankton and CALIOP data. One potential approach here would be to couple ship-based DVM animal and backscattering measurements with airborne lidar measurements. In this scenerio, the airborne measurements could be conducted along a flight pattern that encompasses the retrieval scale of a satellite lidar, and might even be coordinated with simultaneous CALIOP overpasses (as in Behrenfeld et al.¹⁴), assuming CALIOP is still operational.

- iv. South Indian and South Atlantic Subtropical Gyres: When regionally-averaged field ADCP and CALIOP data are compared [Fig. 3B, Extended Data Fig. 7], results for the SISG and SASG deviate from the other PSO regions. Potential reasons for this discrepancy are discussed in the main manuscript. Of particular concern is the low number of ADCP data available for these two regions in the historical record and their temporal disconnect with the CALIOP record. However, it is noteworthy that the individual bin data for the SISG and SASG actually span a considerable fraction of the range of variability in Δb_{bp} and ΔB_{ADCP} found for the other PSO regions [Extended Data Fig. 8a]. Clearly, additional field sampling campaigns are needed in the SISG and SASG to investigate the underlying basis of the apparent discrepancy in regionally-averaged Δb_{bp} and ΔB_{ADCP} values.
- v. New technology: CALIOP was designed for atmospheric science, not ocean applications. It provides information on ocean b_{bp} for only a single 22 m depth bin immediately below the ocean's surface. High Spectral Resolution Lidar (HSRL) instruments have been

developed since the launch of CALIOP and extensively field demonstrated from aircraft over a diversity of ocean regimes. These instruments can retrieve *bbp* values deep within the sunlit surface layer of the ocean with meter-scale vertical resolution. If this technology is transferred to a satellite instrument, the HSRL approach could yield both improved accuracy in *bbp* retrievals and an assessment of DVM animal nighttime vertical distributions. It is conceivable that vertically resolved DVM retrievals could provide information on feeding behavior linked to phytoplankton production layers and more accurate assessments of DVM biomass, as only those DVM animals that reach the upper 22 m of the surface are currently detected by CALIOP.

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Extended Data

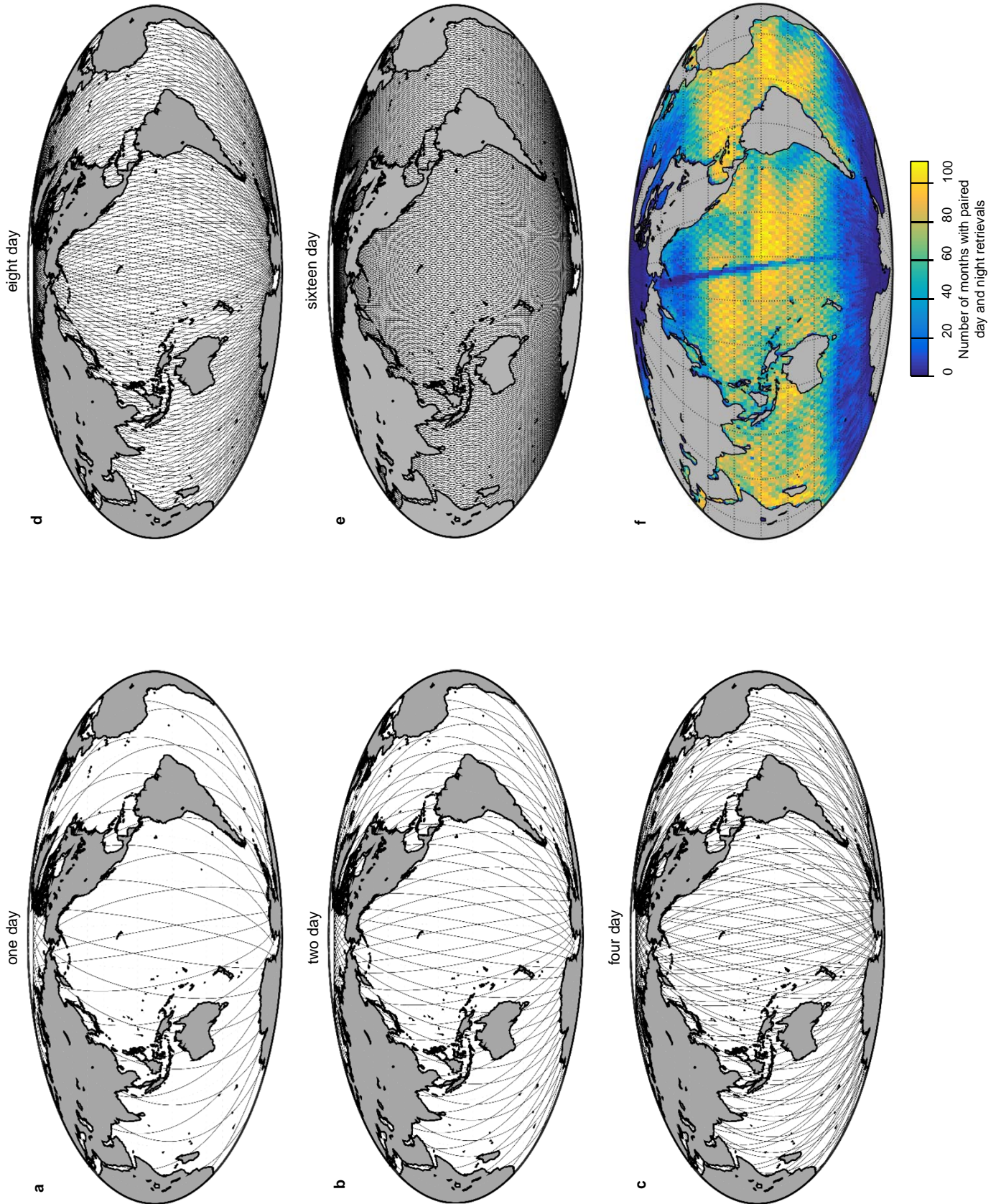
This file includes all Extended Data for the manuscript, “Global satellite observations of vertically migrating animals in the ocean’s surface layer”, by Behrenfeld *et al.* This file includes the following materials:

- 1) **Extended Data Figure 1:** Global CALIOP ground tracks for (a) one, (b) two, (c) four, (d) eight, and (e) sixteen days. (f) Number of months for each 2° latitude x 2° longitude bin with day and night retrievals of *bbp* for the 2008 and 2017 study period. Total number of months possible is 115. The north-south strip of low retrieval success in the middle of the Pacific is caused by a gap in ancillary AMSER surface wind data, which is used for flagging data with potential bubble contamination [Methods].
- 2) **Extended Data Figure 2:** Global distributions of monthly climatological average values of Δbbp . Thin black line = contour of monthly average sea surface temperature of 15°C. Heavy black lines = Monthly extent of the five subtropical gyres where annual average surface chlorophyll concentrations are $\leq 0.08 \text{ mg m}^{-3}$.
- 3) **Extended Data Figure 3:** 2008 to 2017 monthly values of Δbbp (%) for the eight PSO regions (labeled at top of each panel) identified in figure 3a of the main manuscript.
- 4) **Extended Data Figure 4:** Number of days within each 5° latitude by 5° longitude bin that paired day-night ADCP data are available from the 1985 to 2017 JASADCP-based field archive (<http://ilikai.soest.hawaii.edu/sadcp/>). Total number of days possible is 11,680. White bins = no data. Yellow/black line = contour of annual average sea surface temperature

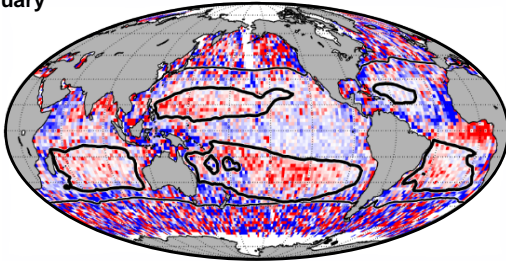
of 15°C. Heavy white lines = boundaries of the eight PSO regions identified in figure 3a of the main manuscript.

- 5) **Extended Data Figure 5:** (a) Values for c_1 (see equation 6 in Methods of main manuscript) over the range of phytoplankton division rates (μ) in the PSO. Solid circle = mean value of μ and c_1 for the PSO. Box = ± 1 standard deviation from the mean value of μ . (b) Values for c_2 (see equation 7 in Methods of main manuscript) over the range of day lengths in the PSO. Solid circle = mean day length and c_2 value for the PSO. Box = ± 1 standard deviation from the mean day length.
- 6) **Extended Data Figure 6:** Monthly mean regionally-integrated values of DVM_{CALIOP} (g m^{-2}) and phytoplankton biomass (C_{phyto} ; mg C m^{-3}) for the high-latitude (a) North Pacific, (b) North Atlantic, and (c) Southern Ocean regions identified in figure 4c of the main manuscript. Vertical lines = ± 1 standard deviation. C_{phyto} data are from the Carbon-based Production Model (*CbPM*) and MODIS passive ocean color data [Methods].
- 7) **Extended Data Figure 7:** Comparison of CALIOP night-day bbp differences and field ADCP night-day differences in acoustic backscatter. Dashed line = two-sided least squares linear regression fit to data for the SPSG, NPSG, TP, STA, NASG, and NTA. For completeness, the average value for PSO bins outside our eight primary regions is indicated by the white symbol. Symbols = regional average values with standard error bars. Symbol colors identify region (labeled on right) and correspond to coloring in figure 3a of the main manuscript. Numbers next to each symbol indicate the median number of days with ADCP data within the 32-year field record for the 5° latitude x 5° longitude bins.

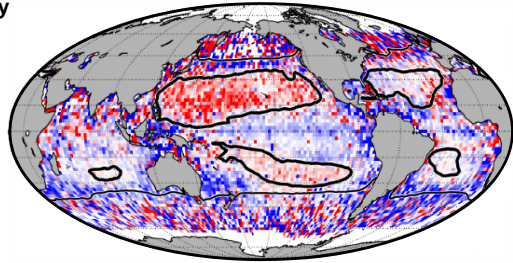
- 8) **Extended Data Figure 8:** (a) CALIOP normalized difference ratios (Δbbp) versus field ADCP (ΔB_{ADCP}) normalized difference ratios for 5° latitude x 5° longitude bins within the PSO. Black line = two-sided least squares linear regression fit. Black line = linear least squares regression relationship (p-value for slope < 0.001 , $n = 331$) for all data from our eight primary PSO regions (colored symbols, labeled on right). White symbols = PSO values for $5^\circ \times 5^\circ$ bins outside of the eight primary regions. Inclusion of these data in the linear regression analysis increases to the p-value to 0.005 ($n = 633$). (b) Relationship between field DVM biomass at the HOT site measured for a given calendar month and year (x-axis) versus DVM biomass measured during all other years for the same calendar month (y-axis).
- 9) **Extended Data Figure 9:** Average diel cycles in *bbp* from Kheireddine and Antoine¹⁹ for (blue line) mixing, (green line) oligotrophy, and (red line) declining conditions and (black line) the average of these three cycles, which corresponds to the diel cycle in Fig. 1b of the main manuscript.



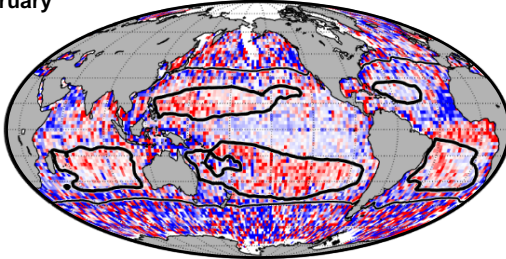
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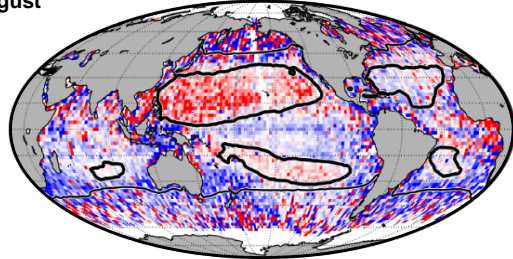
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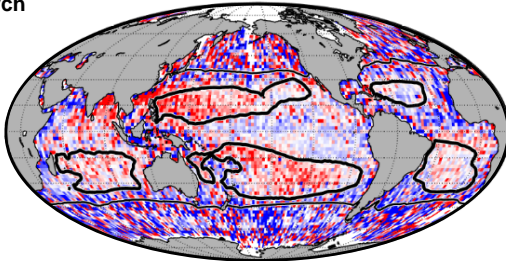
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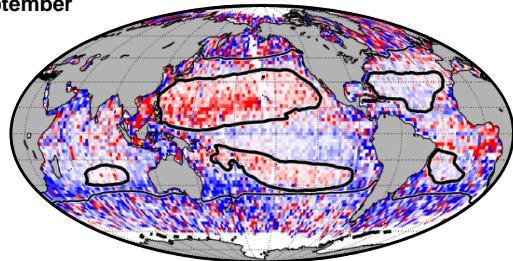
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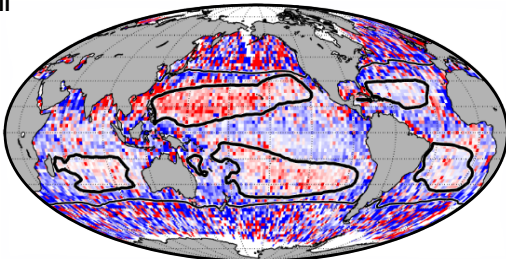
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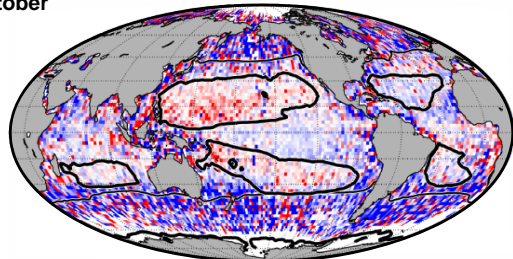
September



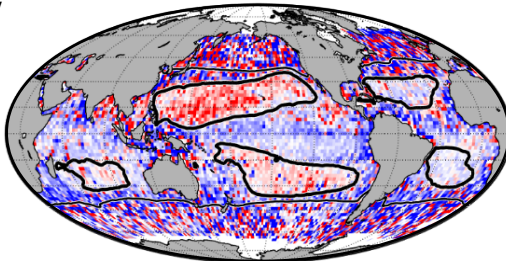
April



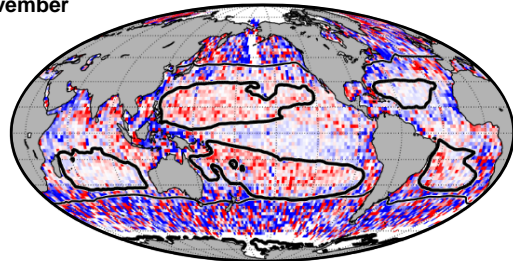
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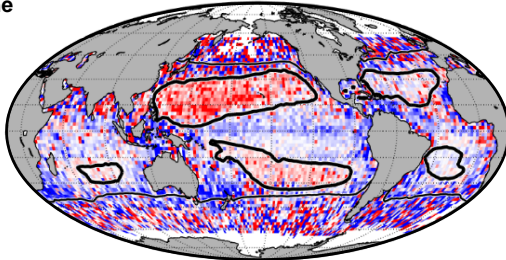
May



November



June



December

