

**Deglacial subarctic Pacific surface water hydrography and nutrient dynamics and links to North Atlantic climate variability and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>**

E. Maier<sup>1#</sup>, M. Méheust<sup>1</sup>, A. Abelmann<sup>1</sup>, R. Gersonde<sup>1</sup>, B. Chaplignin<sup>2</sup>, J. Ren<sup>1</sup>, R. Stein<sup>1</sup>,  
H. Meyer<sup>2</sup>, R. Tiedemann<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, 27568 Bremerhaven, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, 14473 Potsdam, Germany

<sup>#</sup>corresponding author: Edith Maier, Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Am Alten Hafen 26, 27570 Bremerhaven (edith.maier@awi.de)

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## Abstract

The glacial-to-Holocene evolution of subarctic Pacific surface water stratification and silicic acid (Si) dynamics is investigated based on new combined diatom oxygen ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$ ) and silicon ( $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$ ) isotope records, along with new biogenic opal, subsurface foraminiferal  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , alkenone-based sea surface temperature, sea-ice, diatom and core logging data from the NE Pacific. Our results suggest that  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  values are primarily influenced by changes in freshwater discharge from the Cordilleran Ice Sheet (CIS), while corresponding  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  are primarily influenced by changes in Si supply to surface waters.

Our data indicate enhanced glacial to mid-HS1 NE Pacific surface water stratification, generally limiting the Si supply to surface waters. However, we suggest that an increase in Si supply during early HS1, when surface waters were still stratified, is linked to increased North Pacific Intermediate Water formation. The coincidence between fresh surface waters during HS1 and enhanced ice-rafted debris sedimentation in the North Atlantic indicates a close link between CIS and Laurentide Ice Sheet dynamics and a dominant atmospheric control on CIS deglaciation. The Bølling/Allerød (B/A) is characterized by destratification in the subarctic Pacific and an increased supply of saline, Si-rich waters to surface waters. This change towards increased convection occurred prior to the Bølling warming and is likely triggered by a switch to sea-ice-free conditions during late HS1. Our results furthermore indicate a decreased efficiency of the biological pump during late HS1 and the B/A (possibly also the Younger Dryas), suggesting that the subarctic Pacific has then been a source region of atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$ .

## 1. Introduction

Deglacial variations in thermohaline overturning circulation are thought to have played a key role in changing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations via changes in upper ocean stratification in high latitudes [Sigman *et al.*, 2010]. Deglacial destratification especially in the Southern Ocean may have provided a pathway for CO<sub>2</sub> exchange between the deep ocean and the atmosphere during Heinrich Stadial 1 (HS1) [Skinner *et al.*, 2010; Burke and Robinson, 2012], thereby increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations as recorded in ice cores [Schmitt *et al.*, 2012; Parenin *et al.*, 2013; Marcott *et al.*, 2014]. During the past decade the subarctic Pacific received increased paleoceanographic attention with the aim to examine its potential for influencing the nutrient cycle and the oceanic release of CO<sub>2</sub> via deep/intermediate-water formation, upwelling and associated changes in biogenic productivity [e.g. Galbraith *et al.*, 2007; Lam *et al.*, 2013; Rae *et al.*, 2014]. Today, the subarctic Pacific is considered a weak sink for CO<sub>2</sub> [Lèfevre *et al.*, 1999; Ayers and Lozier, 2012], despite regions of incomplete nutrient utilization (Figure 1a). Accordingly, changes in subarctic Pacific upper ocean stratification and/or biological nutrient utilization and export production have the potential to effectively influence the oceanic-atmospheric gas exchange. Today, the subarctic Pacific is characterized by a steep salinity stratification, with the low-salinity surface waters sustained by a large freshwater flux and relatively small regional evaporation [Warren, 1983; Broecker *et al.*, 1990; Emile-Geay *et al.*, 2003]. As a consequence of the halocline there is only limited vertical exchange between surface waters and deeper, nutrient- and CO<sub>2</sub>-rich waters. However, these conditions may have been different during HS1. Recent studies provide evidence for increased ventilation of North Pacific intermediate waters [Jaccard, 2012; Jaccard and Galbraith, 2013; Max *et al.*, 2014] or even suggest deep convective overturning in the North Pacific [Okazaki *et al.*, 2010; Chikamoto *et al.*, 2012; Rae *et al.*, 2014]. In addition to evidence for downwelling in the

subarctic Pacific realm during HS1, there is evidence for deglacial upwelling that might have led to enhanced biological productivity during the Bølling-Allerød (B/A) [Galbraith *et al.*, 2007; Kohfeld and Chase, 2011]. However, only recently the high export production during the B/A has rather been related to a transient stratification event [Lam *et al.*, 2013].

A major challenge regarding the reconstruction of changes in upper ocean stratification in the subarctic Pacific realm is the reconstruction of changes in sea surface salinity (SSS), particularly since oxygen isotopic measurements from the most prominent planktic foraminifera *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* in subarctic Pacific sediments rather reflect subsurface than surface water conditions [Bauch *et al.*, 2002]. Moreover, an evaluation of the actual effect of variations in subarctic Pacific surface water stratification on oceanic-atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> exchange requires information on the efficiency of the biological pump, which removes CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere by biological productivity in the photic zone and transfers it to the deep ocean interior. Oxygen isotope records from diatoms ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$ ), which are photosynthetic algae and thus bound to the photic zone, have been used to trace pulses of freshwater into the Southern Ocean [Shemesh *et al.*, 1994; Shemesh *et al.*, 2002; Crespin *et al.*, 2014]. Diatom silicon isotope records ( $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$ ) provide valuable information on changes in the degree of nutrient (silicic acid) utilization in surface waters [De la Rocha *et al.*, 1998; Reynolds *et al.*, 2008; Maier *et al.*, 2013; Hendry and Brzezinski, 2014], which is a function of silicic acid (Si) supply and use. Thus,  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  are useful to assess changes in the efficiency of the biological pump. During biomineralization diatoms preferentially incorporate the lighter isotope ( $^{28}\text{Si}$ ) into their frustules, with a mass-dependent fractionation of ca.  $-1.1 \pm 0.4\text{‰}$  [De la Rocha *et al.*, 1997; Milligan *et al.*, 2004] for a closed system like the subarctic Pacific surface water layer [Reynolds *et al.*, 2006], where nutrients (e.g. Si, nitrate, iron) are brought to the euphotic zone by vertical mixing during autumn/winter [Harrison *et al.*, 1999]. The recent study of Maier *et al.* [2013] shows the potential of a combined interpretation of

$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  records for paleoclimate reconstructions in the subarctic NW Pacific, but the records only document conditions since the Bølling and do not reach back to the last glacial.

Here, we present the first combined  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  records from the subarctic North-East (NE) Pacific (Core SO202-27-6, Patton Seamount, Alaskan Gyre; Figure 1a) at millennial-scale resolution over the last glacial-to-interglacial transition, to investigate the developments of surface water stratification, Si utilization and the efficiency of the biological pump in the open subarctic NE Pacific. The isotopic results are compared to deglacial (Bølling-to-Holocene)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  records from the NW Pacific (Core MD01-2416, Detroit Seamount, Western Subarctic Gyre) [Maier *et al.*, 2013; this study] and are interpreted in combination with other new data from the NE Pacific (Core SO202-27-6: subsurface foraminiferal *N. pachyderma*<sub>sin</sub> stable isotope ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Nps}}$ ;  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Nps}}$ ), alkenone-based sea surface temperature (SST), sea ice (IP<sub>25</sub> concentrations), X-ray fluorescence (XRF) and biogenic opal data; Core MD02-2489: diatom counting data) and from the NW Pacific (Core MD01-2416: diatom counting data; SO202-07-6: sea-ice data (IP<sub>25</sub> concentrations)) (Figure 1a; Table 1). The reconstructed spatio-temporal evolution of the subarctic Pacific upper ocean stratification and Si utilization allows for an updated view on modern paleoceanographic debates concerning the subarctic Pacific realm. We particularly provide new insights in the relative timing of deglacial subarctic Pacific to North Atlantic climate evolution and the role of the subarctic Pacific during the last deglacial atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> development.

## 2. Modern regional surface water oceanography and water mass formation

The surface circulation in the modern subarctic Pacific is dominated by the wind-driven cyclonic motion of the Subarctic Gyre, which contains two prominent cyclonic circulation systems: the Western Subarctic Gyre in the West and the Alaskan Gyre in the East (Figure 1b). The circulation in the coastal area of the NE Pacific is largely isolated from the open ocean circulation, but confined to the Alaskan Coastal Current, which is strongly influenced by freshwater input from the coast [Allen *et al.*, 1983; Stabeno *et al.*, 2004]. There is a W-E gradient regarding sea surface salinity (SSS), with the NE Pacific surface waters being slightly fresher compared to NW Pacific surface waters (Figure 1b) [Antonov *et al.*, 2010]. This W-E difference is primarily related to the riverine influx of freshwater from the Cordilleran mountains into the NE Pacific, which is transported westward by the Alaskan Stream [Dodimead *et al.*, 1963]. Even though the permanent halocline limits vertical mixing between the nutrient-rich deeper waters and the more nutrient-depleted surface waters, subarctic Pacific surface waters are generally characterized by incomplete Si and nitrate utilization (Figure 1a) [Garcia *et al.*, 2010]. Particularly in the NW Pacific these nutrients are not completely consumed over the course of the year, resulting in a W-E gradient of increasing nutrient utilization. While the studied NE Pacific cores SO202-27-6 and MD02-2489 are located in the catchment area of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet (CIS) (SO202-27-6), NW Pacific cores MD01-2416 and SO202-07-6 are located in the centre of modern day incomplete nutrient utilization (Figure 1a).

As a consequence of the halocline no deep-water is formed in the modern subarctic Pacific realm. Intermediate water formation is restricted to the marginal Sea of Okhotsk, from where well ventilated Okhotsk Sea Intermediate Water, produced in coastal polynyas by brine rejection during sea-ice formation in winter [Shcherbina *et al.*, 2003], leaves via the Kurile Straits, mixes with waters from the western subarctic gyre [Yasuda, 1997; You, 2003]

and further south with Kuroshio waters, thereby forming North Pacific Intermediate Water (NPIW) [Shimizu *et al.*, 2004]. Even though NPIW is largely confined to the subtropical gyre it also influences the subarctic Pacific [Reynolds *et al.*, 2006; Sarmiento *et al.*, 2004]. Compared to intermediate waters entering the subarctic Pacific from the south NPIW is characterized by a relatively high Si content [Sarmiento *et al.*, 2004].

### 3. Material and Methods

#### 3.1. Core material

We sampled the top 91 cm of Core SO202-27-6 from the Alaskan Gyre (Patton Seamount, NE Pacific) (Figure 1a), which was recovered with a kasten corer (30x30 cm dimension) during the Innovative North Pacific EXperiment (INOPEX) cruise in summer 2009 [Gersonde and SO202-INOPEX Participants, 2010]. A box from this kasten core (15x7.5x99 cm) was sampled every 4-5 cm for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  analysis (2-cm thick slices, 225 cc), every 4 cm for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Nps}}$  and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Nps}}$  analyses (1-cm thick slices; 112 cc) and for reconstruction of alkenone-based SST and sea-ice (IP<sub>25</sub> concentration) (1-cm thick slices; 15cc). Furthermore, we sampled the core every 1-4 cm for the determination of the biogenic opal concentration (1-cm thick slices; 7.5 cc) (For exact sample depths see Tables S2-S5). In addition, we increased the resolution of the previously published  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  record from NW Pacific Core MD01-2416 (Figure 1a) [Maier *et al.*, 2013] by the intercalation of six new  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  measurements over the deglacial to Holocene period (4-cm thick slices taken; only half of the core (12 cm diameter) was sampled). Additionally, the upper 80 cm of NW Pacific Core SO202-07-6 (Figure 1a) were sampled every 5-10 cm for the determination of IP<sub>25</sub> concentrations (1-cm thick slices; 20 cc). We furthermore sampled the upper 200 cm of Core MD01-2416 and the upper 390 cm of Core MD02-2489 every 5-10 cm for the determination of diatom relative abundances (5 cc).

### 3.2. Preparation and documentation of diatom fraction for isotopic analyses

Sixteen bulk samples from kasten Core SO202-27-6, and six bulk samples from piston Core MD01-2416, were prepared for diatom isotope analyses using a combination of physical and chemical treatments [Maier *et al.*, 2013]. Briefly, after bulk samples were liberated from carbonates and organic matter, samples were further prepared using various sieving steps, sonication and treatments with heavy liquids. After a first heavy liquid separation, where most of the lithic fragments were removed, we chose the 100-125- $\mu\text{m}$  fraction for Core SO202-27-6 to be further purified. To estimate the composition of the diatom assemblages in this fraction, we prepared microscopic slides prior to the sonication procedure, since sonication led to the shattering of diatom valves, which precluded the determination of the diatom assemblages in the final purified samples. On average  $\sim 200$  biogenic opal components (diatoms, radiolarians, sponge spicules) were counted using a Zeiss Axioskop I at x400 magnification, following the counting approach described in Maier *et al.* [2013]. Diatoms were identified following the taxonomy of Sancetta [1982, 1987]. Following continuative sonication to separate the majority of radiolarians and sponge spicules from the diatom material (Figure S1), the actual contribution of radiolarians and sponge spicules to the final purified diatom samples was then estimated under a Philips XL 30 ESEM scanning electron microscope by counting on average  $\sim 340$  silica particle equivalents at x350 magnification. The estimation of the radiolarian/sponge spicule content in the final purified diatom samples is particularly important for the  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  record, since diatoms generally harbor positive silicon isotope values [e.g. De la Rocha *et al.*, 1998; Brzezinski *et al.*, 2002; Maier *et al.*, 2013], while  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$  values of radiolarians and siliceous sponge spicules may be as low as ca.  $-3.1\text{‰}$  [A. Abelmann, pers. comm.] and  $-5.7\text{‰}$  [Hendry and Robinson, 2012], respectively. Concerning Core MD01-2416, we purified the  $>63\ \mu\text{m}$  fraction to obtain results comparable to the samples presented by Maier *et al.* [2013].



As contamination with non-biogenic silicates (e.g. rock fragments, clay minerals) may influence especially the oxygen isotope value of biogenic silica [Brewer *et al.*, 2008], all purified diatom samples were checked for such contamination using energy dispersive X-ray spectrometry (EDS) [Chapligin *et al.*, 2012; Maier *et al.*, 2013]. At two depths of Core SO202-27-6 (10 cm and 22 cm) additional inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES) measurements according to Chapligin *et al.* [2012] were performed to assure on the validity of the EDS measurements. We used Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> as a tracer for contamination of non-biogenic silicates [Brewer *et al.*, 2008] following the quantification approach described by Maier *et al.* [2013]. To decipher the influence of non-biogenic silicates on the measured  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  signals we used mass balance corrections based on Swann and Leng [2009], thereby removing the potential isotopic effects of the non-biogenic silicates according to the following equations:

$$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{cont-corr}} = (\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}} - (\% \text{cont} \times \delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{cont}})) / \% \text{purity} \quad (1)$$

$$\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{cont-corr}} = (\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}} - (\% \text{cont} \times \delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{cont}})) / \% \text{purity} \quad (2)$$

where  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{cont-corr}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{cont-corr}}$  are the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  values corrected for contamination with non-biogenic silicates,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  are the measured isotopic values, %cont is the EDS-determined non-biogenic silicate contamination and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{cont}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{cont}}$  are the isotopic values for the contamination. The  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$  of non-biogenic silicates generally ranges between ca. -2.5 and +1.8‰ [Douthitt, 1982; Ding *et al.*, 1996; Ziegler *et al.*, 2005], while their  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{cont}}$  signal usually ranges from +2 to +30‰ [Taylor, 1968; Sheppard and Gilg, 1996]. To cover the possible range of the influence from such a contamination we applied two different  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{cont}}$  values (+2‰, +30.00‰) and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{cont}}$  values (-2.50‰, +1.80‰).

### 3.3. Stable isotope measurements

To monitor surface water conditions 22 purified diatom samples (16 samples from Core SO202-27-6 and six samples from Core MD01-2416) were measured at the Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) (Potsdam and Bremerhaven), using combined silica  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$  analyses according to *Maier et al.* [2013] and *Chapligin et al.* [2010]. Values are reported in the common  $\delta$ -notation vs. V-SMOW for oxygen isotopes and vs. NBS-28 for silicon isotopes, using the laboratory diatom standards PS1772-8<sub>bsis</sub> (marine) and BFC (lacustrine) calibrated against the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reference quartz standard NBS-28. Repeated analyses of PS1772-8<sub>bsis</sub> and BFC over the period of about 8 weeks when SO202-27-6 diatom samples were measured, show an analytical precision better than 0.24‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  ( $1\sigma$ ;  $n=67$  for PS1772-8<sub>bsis</sub>;  $n=10$  for BFC) and better than 0.12‰ for  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  measurements ( $1\sigma$ ;  $n=62$  for PS1772-8<sub>bsis</sub>;  $n=7$  for BFC). This is in line with published long-term analytical reproducibility for silica  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$  from this instrumentation [*Chapligin et al.*, 2011; *Maier et al.*, 2013]. Diatom samples were measured at least twice when enough purified material was available.

Information on the subsurface water development was achieved by analyzing the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of the planktic foraminifer *N. pachyderma*<sub>sin</sub>, which are believed to calcify at the bottom of the thermocline [*Bauch et al.*, 2002]. *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma*<sub>sin</sub> were picked from the 125-250  $\mu\text{m}$  (19 samples), the 315-400  $\mu\text{m}$  (2 samples) and the >400  $\mu\text{m}$  (1 sample) fraction. Isotope measurements were performed at the AWI (Bremerhaven) using a MAT 251 mass spectrometer directly coupled to an automated carbonate preparation device (Kiel I) and calibrated via NIST-19 international standard to the PDB scale. All values are given in  $\delta$ -notation vs. V-PDB. The precision of the measurements, based on repeated analyses of an internal laboratory standard (Solnhofen limestone) over a 1-year period, was

better than 0.08‰ (1 $\sigma$ ).

### 3.4. Alkenone-based SST and sea-ice proxy IP<sub>25</sub>

Alkenone-based SST and IP<sub>25</sub> concentrations were determined using gas chromatography (GC) and GC-mass spectrometry according to the procedures described in *Méheust et al.* [2013]. SST were determined using the *Sikes et al.* [1997] calibration, which has been shown to provide reasonable summer SST estimates for the (sub-)arctic Pacific [*Méheust et al.*, 2013]. The standard error of the calibration is reported as 1.5°C. The total analytical error calculated by replicate analyses of an external alkenone standard (extracted from *Ehux*-cultures with known growth temperature) is less than 0.4°C. IP<sub>25</sub> is a highly branched isoprenoid alkene with 25 carbon atoms, which is produced by certain sea-ice diatoms during the spring bloom period [*Belt et al.*, 2007; *Brown et al.*, 2014]. Surface sediment studies have demonstrated the biomarker IP<sub>25</sub> to be a valuable proxy for reconstructing the presence of sea-ice in the (sub-)arctic Pacific [*Méheust et al.*, 2013; *Stoynova et al.*, 2013; *Brown et al.*, 2014]. Based on these studies and the concept of *Müller et al.* [2011] we used IP<sub>25</sub> as a qualitative indicator for sea-ice.

### 3.5. Estimation of local surface seawater $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ )

We calculated the local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  to approximate past changes in sea surface salinity (SSS) in the NE Pacific by correcting the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  record of Core SO202-27-6 for temperature and global ice-volume (GIV). First,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  was corrected for temperature using alkenone-based SSTs from the same core and following the approach of *Juillet-Leclerc and Labeyrie* [1987]:

$$\text{local surface } \delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}} = \delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}} - 34 - \sqrt{122 - 5\text{SST}} \quad (3)$$

where local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  is the local surface seawater  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  is the measured diatom  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and SST is the temperature calculated from the alkenone-based SST record from the same core. Since samples for alkenone-based SST were not from the exact same depths as the diatom isotope samples, the corresponding temperatures were determined through linear interpolation. The temperature-corrected record was then additionally corrected for global ice-volume, using the data of *Waelbroeck et al.* [2002], which were also linearly interpolated to get data for the same points of time. Considering the poor knowledge of the relationship between salinity and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  for the studied site, we used the approximated local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  as first-order indicator for changes in SSS. The errors in local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  were estimated by propagating the error introduced by the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and alkenone measurements, the alkenone:temperature calibration and the removal of global ice volume and are about 0.44‰ (see Figure S2).

### 3.6. X-ray fluorescence (XRF) core logging

The relative elemental composition (counts per second; cps) of Core SO202-27-6 was measured at 1 cm resolution using an Avaatech X-ray fluorescence (XRF) core scanner located at the AWI (Bremerhaven). Altogether three measurements were performed at 1 mA with varying tube voltages (10 kV, 30 kV, 50 kV) to allow for the mapping of a large quantity of elements. Counting time was set to 30 seconds. The relatively light elements Si, Fe and Ca presented here were obtained from the scan at 10 kV. We used the Fe and Ca XRF records to help creating an age model (see *section 4*) and the Si/Fe ratio as supporting information on relative changes in the content of biogenic opal within the sediment.

### 3.7. Biogenic opal

We determined the concentration of biogenic opal within 33 bulk samples of Core SO202-27-6 at the AWI (Bremerhaven), following the automated leaching method of *Müller and Schneider* [1993] and using an amount of ca. 20 mg. Biogenic opal (weight-%) values were calculated from the biogenic silica concentration adding 10% H<sub>2</sub>O bound in the skeleton and correcting for the concentrations of salt in the input sample after *Kuhn* [2013]. Weight-% of biogenic opal from 10 samples, of which we had information on dry bulk density, were converted into mass accumulation rates (MAR) of opal to compensate for effects of percentage dilution of biogenic silica by other sediment particles. As supporting information on relative changes in the concentration of biogenic opal we used the Si/Fe ratio from XRF core logging (see *section 3.4*). We use the changes in biogenic opal concentration, opal mass accumulation rates (MAR) and Si/Fe as indicators for changes in opal deposition.

### 3.8. Diatom counting

Quantitative diatom slides from cores MD01-2416 (31 slides) and MD02-2489 (44 slides) were prepared according to the standard procedure established by *Gersonde and Zielinski* [2000]. Diatom counting was done following the description of *Schrader and Gersonde* [1978]. An average of 400 diatom valves was counted for each sample using a Zeiss Axioskop microscope at ×1000 magnification. Diatoms were identified to species or species group level according to *Ren et al.* [2014] and references therein. The observed *Chaetoceros* specimens belong to the subgenus *Hyalochaetae*, whose resting spores were not possible to be identified to species level due to the absence of setae. Therefore, we grouped resting spores of different *Chaetoceros* species into *Chaetoceros* resting spores (r.sp.).

### 3.9. Radiocarbon

Six samples of pristine specimens of the planktic foraminifer *N. pachyderma*<sub>sin</sub> were picked from the 125-250  $\mu\text{m}$  fraction of Core SO202-27-6 and analyzed for radiocarbon by accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) at the National Ocean Science AMS facility (NOSAMS) at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (Table 2). Foraminifera were not cleaned before radiocarbon analysis.

### 4. Chronologies for cores MD01-2416, MD02-2489 and SO202-27-6

The age models of cores MD01-2416 and MD02-2489 are primarily based on  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateau tuning [see *Sarnthein et al.*, 2015], where marine  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateaus, detected within the high-resolution  $^{14}\text{C}$  records of cores MD01-2416 and MD02-2489 [*Gebhardt et al.*, 2008; *Sarnthein et al.*, 2015], were correlated to atmospheric  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateaus, identified within the well calibrated, high-resolution Lake Suigetsu record of atmospheric  $^{14}\text{C}$  [*Bronk Ramsey et al.*, 2012]. Outside of the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateaus we calculated calendar years (1000 cal. yr BP = 1 ka BP) from the raw  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages [*Sarnthein et al.*, 2004, 2007; *Gebhardt et al.*, 2008] using the CALIB 7.1 software and the Marine13 calibration dataset [*Stuiver and Reimer*, 1993; *Reimer et al.*, 2013] (Table S1). For the calibration we applied the reservoir ages determined by *Sarnthein et al.* [2015] for the respective  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateaus (Figure 2, Table S1).

To create the age model for Core SO202-27-6 we used its proximity to Core MD02-2489. By correlating XRF and biogenic opal data, we first assigned a suite of three  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateaus (Plateaus I, IIa and IIb; *Sarnthein et al.*, 2015) to Core SO202-27-6 (Figure 2). This assignment provides five age control points (the calibrated ages of the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateau boundaries). Outside of the plateaus we calibrated the raw  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages of Core SO202-27-6 with the CALIB 7.1 software as described above, using different reservoir ages (Table 2). We applied a reservoir age of  $440 \pm 285$  a for the two  $^{14}\text{C}$  values above Plateau I and of  $1100 \pm$

334 a for the two  $^{14}\text{C}$  values below Plateau IIb, which correspond to the reservoir ages determined by *Sarnthein et al.* [2015] for the time of the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateau closest to the  $^{14}\text{C}$  age. In between the nine determined age control points we used linear interpolation.

Considering the poor knowledge of paleoreservoir ages in the subarctic Pacific realm, we tested our age model for Core SO202-27-6 by plotting the diatom isotopic data additionally on three age models, which were solely based on calibrated planktic  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages and linear interpolation in between, using different paleoreservoir ages previously applied for the subarctic Pacific realm (Figure S3). This comparison shows that even though the ages of single isotopic data points can vary by a maximum of 500-850 years depending on the age model, the main changes of the isotopic signals as discussed below occur within the same time intervals independent from the choice of the age model, highlighting the robustness of our findings.

## 5. Results

### 5.1. Reliability and significance of the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$ and $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$ records

The reliability of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  records to reflect changes in surface water parameters (SSS, SST, Si utilization) strongly depends on the quality of the isotopic data and the knowledge on environmental and biological factors affecting the isotopic signal. It is thus crucial to assess the impact of factors potentially biasing the isotopic signal such as contamination by non-diatom silicates and species-related isotope effects (vital and environmental/seasonal effects). Equally, the primary environmental factors, which control the generation of the isotopic signals should be determined to allow for appropriate paleoenvironmental interpretation, e.g. concerning physical water properties (SST, SSS, stratification) and Si utilization (Si supply vs. use). This issue can best be achieved by

combination of the diatom isotopic signals and considering environmental information obtained with other proxies (e.g. for SST, biogenic deposition).

Contamination with non-biogenic silicates (minerals, rock fragments) is generally below 4.0% for all measured diatom samples from both sediment cores (SO202-27-6; MD01-2416) (Table S2), with two exceptions regarding Core SO202-27-6: the core top sample (4.2%) and the lowermost sample of the studied core section (6.0%). Since the mass-balance corrections for Core SO202-27-6 based on these results show only a shift of the isotopic signals, which does not change the overall deglacial to Holocene patterns (Figure S4), the large amplitudes occurring in the isotopic records are not attributed to contamination with non-biogenic silicates. *Maier et al.* [2013] demonstrated that the effects of non-diatom biogenic silicates, in particular radiolarians and sponge spicules, on the isotopic signals are negligible for the MD01-2416 diatom samples. We regard this also true for the isotopic signals from Core SO202-27-6, considering the low content of radiolarians (~5%) and sponge spicules ( $\leq 1\%$ ) in the purified diatom samples (Table S3).

*Maier et al.* [2013] showed that the diatom species composition of the  $>63 \mu\text{m}$  fraction of Core MD01-2416 solely (98.5-100%) consists of the species belonging to the genus *Coscinodiscus*. Qualitative checking of the diatom composition of all new complementary MD01-2416 diatom samples under the light microscope and the SEM confirm the absolute dominance of *Coscinodiscus* species. The SO202-27-6 diatom samples were also dominated (93.7-100%) by *Coscinodiscus* species, with a strong dominance of *C. marginatus* (83-98%) over *C. oculus-iridis* (2-11%) (Table S3). There is no significant correlation between the diatom species composition and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  or  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  values ( $R^2 \leq 0.19$ ;  $P \geq 0.10$ ), indicating no discernable species-related isotope effects biasing the isotopic records. This can be partly explained by a similar ecology of both *Coscinodiscus* species, as indicated by sediment trap studies from the subarctic Pacific showing major fluxes of both *C. marginatus* and *C. oculus-*



*iridis* during the same season (autumn/early winter) [Takahashi, 1986; Takahashi *et al.*, 1990; Onodera *et al.*, 2005]. Moreover, culture studies on different diatom species from different suborders (including *Coscinodiscus* sp.) [Brandriss *et al.*, 1998; Schmidt *et al.*, 2001] show no unequivocal evidence of vital effects on  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$ , suggesting vital effects for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  unlikely to occur between both *Coscinodiscus* species. Concerning  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$ , the recent culture study of Sutton *et al.* [2013] indicates limited evidence of species-specific fractionation, but so far no study has investigated the Si fractionation of *Coscinodiscus* species. However, the genus *Coscinodiscus* belongs to the same suborder as the genus *Thalassiosira*, for which culture studies showed variations in the fractionation factor  $\epsilon$  between -0.92‰ and -1.50‰ [De la Rocha *et al.*, 1997; Milligan *et al.*, 2004; Sutton *et al.*, 2013; Sun *et al.*, 2014]. Assuming a similar range in  $\epsilon$  for the genus *Coscinodiscus*, Si utilization calculations from the  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  record show that even when a difference in  $\epsilon$  of 0.58‰ between both *Coscinodiscus* species is applied (-0.92‰ for *C. marginatus* and -1.50‰ for *C. oculus-iridis*, and vice versa), the resulting Si utilization still mirrors the pattern of the  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  record (Figure S5). Thus, considering the purity of the measured diatom samples and the absence of discernable species-related isotope effects, the isotopic signals are considered to be reliable proxies for temporal changes in surface water hydrography and relative changes in Si utilization.

In NE Pacific Core SO202-27-6 the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  record varies by about 4.0‰ between high  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  values during the B/A and the YD (ca. +43.6‰) and low  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  values during HS1 (+41.1‰) and the Early Holocene (+40.0‰) (Figure 3a; Table S4). The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  record shows the same deglacial pattern as the reconstructed local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  record (Figure 3a). This suggests that  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  is strongly controlled by SSS variability, while the effect of SST (Figure 3e) and global ice volume is minor (Figure S2). Hence, the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  signal can be interpreted to mirror changes in SSS, such as glacial and deglacial meltwater events in the catchment

area of the CIS (Figure 1a). The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  record from NW Pacific Core MD01-2416 exhibits similar absolute  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  values around +43.9‰ during the B/A and YD (Figure 3j; Table S4), but the Early Holocene decrease in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  in the NE Pacific is nearly 3 times larger than the decrease in the NW Pacific (Figure 3a, j; Table S4). In contrast to the NE Pacific, where the local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  record indicates an Early Holocene decrease in SSS equal to a decrease in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  of about 2.0‰, the Early Holocene decrease in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  of about 1.4‰ can largely be explained by changes in global ice volume and SST increase of about 4°C [Max et al., 2012], assuming a relationship between  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and water temperature of ca. -0.2‰/°C [Dodd and Sharp, 2010].

The  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  values of NE Pacific Core SO202-27-6 vary by about 0.8‰, with low values during early HS1 (ca. 1.2‰), high values during mid-HS1 and the Early Holocene (ca. +2.0‰), and values in between during the last glacial and the B/A and YD (Figure 3b). The correlation between  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  values ( $R^2=0.46$ ;  $P<0.01$ ) indicates a relatively close relationship between relative changes in Si utilization (Si supply vs. use) and SSS. Since high  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  values are generally not coupled to high opal deposition and vice versa (Figure 3b, c), the observed pattern in  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  seems to be dominantly modulated by changes in the supply of Si to the euphotic zone rather than net Si use. Changes in the supply of bioavailable iron to surface waters, which could affect Si utilization by influencing diatom productivity, diatom physiology [Takeda, 1998] and/or phytoplankton community [Marchetti et al., 2006; Tsuda et al., 2007], seem to be only of subordinate importance. In NW Pacific Core MD01-2416,  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  values are not correlated ( $R^2=0.01$ ;  $P=0.72$ ) (Figure 3j, k), suggesting a more complex deglacial relationship between both proxies. However, while similar, relatively low,  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  values during the B/A and the Early Holocene (ca. +1.3‰) indicate a similar degree of Si utilization during both times, the increased biogenic opal concentrations during

the B/A (Figure 3l) [Gebhardt *et al.*, 2008] point towards a relatively increased Si supply during the B/A.

## 5.2. Sequence of paleoceanographic events in subarctic Pacific surface waters since the last glacial

Diatom isotopic records from Core SO202-27-6 provide paleoceanographic information about the evolution of subarctic NE Pacific surface waters from the last glacial to the Holocene, and the diatom isotopic records from NW Pacific Core MD01-2416 allow for an additional spatial reconstruction of surface water evolution since the Bølling (Figure 3).

The deglacial pattern of the NE Pacific subsurface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Nps}}$  does not mirror the surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  pattern (Figure 3a, f), but the glacial-interglacial change in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Nps}}$  of about 1.3‰ largely corresponds to the mean global glacial-interglacial changes in seawater  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  [Waelbroeck *et al.*, 2002] and an increase in subsurface temperature of about 2-3°C [Gebhardt *et al.*, 2008] (assuming a relationship between temperature and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Nps}}$  of -0.28°C/‰ [Mulitza *et al.*, 2003]). This indicates largely decoupled paleoclimatic evolutions of NE Pacific surface and subsurface waters.

From the last glacial to mid-HS1 diatom isotopic results generally indicate freshwater-related stratified surface waters in the NE Pacific, likely due to glacial meltwater from the CIS, which limit the Si supply to surface waters (Figure 4). The presence of sea-ice, as indicated by the presence of IP<sub>25</sub> (Figure 3d), points to an even further enhanced stratification due to melting sea-ice. The exceptional situation of an increased Si supply during early HS1, when surface waters were still stratified, can be explained by an increased Si content in subsurface and/or intermediate waters, which constitute the major source of nutrients for phytoplankton in the open subarctic Pacific (Figure 3b, Figure 4). Recent studies showed an increased formation rate of NPIW during HS1 [Jaccard and Galbraith, 2013; Max *et al.*,

2014]. Since NPIW influences the entire modern North Pacific [Reynolds *et al.*, 2006; Sarmiento *et al.*, 2004] and is characterized by a relatively high Si content [Sarmiento *et al.*, 2004], we suggest that the increased intensity of NPIW formation during HS1 has led to an increased lateral supply of Si to NE Pacific subsurface/intermediate waters, which was then transported to surface waters via upwelling or diapycnal mixing. During early-to-mid HS1 our  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$ /local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  data indicate even fresher surface waters compared to the last glacial. Such a freshwater anomaly, however, is not mirrored by subsurface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Nps}}$ , (Figure 3f) indicating that it was restricted to surface waters.

Relatively saline surface waters in combination with an excess Si supply during the B/A and YD point to a breakdown in NE Pacific surface water stratification, starting in late HS1 BP (Figure 4), in coincidence with a switch to sea-ice free conditions, an increase in alkenone-based SST of ca. 1.5°C and an increase in subsurface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Nps}}$  (Figure 3d-f). The excess Si supply also to NW Pacific surface waters during the B/A (see also Maier *et al.* [2013]), together with similar absolute  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  values in the NE and NW Pacific (ca. +43.9‰) (Figure 3a, j) point to a uniform pattern of subarctic Pacific upwelling during the B/A. In situ iron fertilization experiments in the iron-limited subarctic Pacific showed a high growth rate of *Chaetoceros* species upon iron addition [Takeda and Tsuda, 2005; Takeda, 2011]. Thus, the low relative abundances of *Chaetoceros* r.sp. in bulk sediments from the NE and NW Pacific during the B/A (Figure 3h, m) indicate that incomplete Si utilization is likely linked to iron limitation, even though the flux of air-borne iron via dust in the subarctic Pacific is still higher during the B/A compared to the Early Holocene [Lam *et al.*, 2013; Serno *et al.*, 2015].

While diatom isotopic data indicate that there was still upwelling in the NE Pacific during the YD, we suggest that the combination of unchanged high  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  but slightly increased  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  (by ca. 0.2‰) in the NW Pacific is indicative of stratified surface waters,

related to melting sea-ice (Figure 4). Such a scenario, based on the fact that sea-ice formation/melting has no significant effect on  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  [Craig and Gordon, 1965; Meredith *et al.*, 2008], was previously suggested by Maier *et al.* [2013]. We increase robustness to this hypothesis by adding new  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  data covering the YD as well as by providing evidence for the presence of sea-ice at the study site during the YD (indicated by the presence of  $\text{IP}_{25}$  in YD sediments of Core SO202-07-6) (Figures 1a, 3o). Note that the standard deviation of the highest  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  value during the YD, composed of two isotopic measurements, is exceptionally high (0.52‰,  $1\sigma$ ). Unfortunately we could not perform a third measurement since there was not enough purified diatom material available. Nevertheless, even without this data point the record shows an increase in Si utilization following the B/A.

Following the YD the larger decrease in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  in the NE Pacific compared to the NW Pacific indicates a relatively lower SSS in the Early Holocene NE Pacific (Figure 3a, j). A W-E difference can also be observed concerning the evolution of Early Holocene Si utilization (Figure 3b, k). However, both observations might be related to the evolution towards modern low-salinity, incompletely utilized surface waters with a lower salinity and higher Si utilization occurring in the modern NE Pacific compared to the NW Pacific (Figure 1a, b). Following the YD, where stratification due to sea-ice melting has been constrained to the uppermost NW Pacific surface waters, a freshening of (sub-)surface waters during the Early Holocene [Sarnthein *et al.*, 2004; Riethdorf *et al.*, 2013] indicates a change towards a comparatively weaker stratification of the uppermost water masses associated with a deepening of the winter mixed-layer, possibly resulting in an increased relative supply of nutrients. In the NE Pacific, where there has been no sea-ice induced stratification during the YD, the Early Holocene warming and freshening (Figure 3a, e) led to comparatively stronger stratified upper ocean waters and a reduced Si supply.

## 6. Discussion

### 6.1. Implication of increased freshwater input into the NE Pacific during HS1

The observed minimum in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}/\text{local surface } \delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  records occurred during times of enhanced IRD deposition in the open subarctic NE and NW Pacific (Figure 5a, b, d) and coincides with an IRD peak found in the coastal eastern North Pacific (Figures 1a, 5c) [Hendy and Cosma, 2008] as well as with Heinrich Event 1 (H1) in the North Atlantic, which is characterized by high deposition of IRD (Figure 5e) [Bard et al., 2000] associated with the episodic discharge of icebergs from the Laurentide Ice Sheet (LIS) [Heinrich, 1988; Hemming, 2004].

The coinciding events in the North Atlantic and the North Pacific suggest a close link between the deglacial meltwater histories of the LIS and the CIS. This link might be related to the external forcing of increasing summer insolation (Figure 6g), which could indicate an increased rate of summer melting. Alternatively, processes happening in the North Atlantic during HS1, particularly associated with the weakening/shutdown of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) (Figure 6q) [McManus et al., 2004], could have triggered rapid climate change in the North Pacific realm via atmospheric and/or oceanic teleconnections, e.g. through sea level rise [Rohling et al., 2004] or oceanic/atmospheric warming [Clark et al., 2007; Hendy and Cosma, 2008].

Between 19.0-14.5 ka BP the eustatic sea level rose about 8-20 m [Carlson and Clark, 2012]. Since the Bering Strait was still closed during HS1, oceanic teleconnections from the North Atlantic via the Arctic Ocean can be discarded for the transmission of rapid climate changes. Generally, increasing sea level may have been of importance for the retreat of CIS glaciers, since they had marine grounding lines during times of maximum ice extent [Mann and Hamilton, 1995; Kaufman et al., 2011]. However, according to Alley et al. [2007] only rapid changes in sea level >10 m could have acted as a forcing factor to synchronize ice sheet

retreat, e.g. due to the stabilizing effect of subglacial sedimentation on glacier grounding lines [Anandakrishnan *et al.*, 2007].

It is commonly agreed that atmospheric circulation and air-sea interaction in the Northern Hemisphere are fundamentally influenced by processes happening in the Atlantic and tropical Pacific [Alexander *et al.*, 2002; Okumura *et al.*, 2009]. Some modeling studies suggest an increased advection of warm, salty surface waters from the subtropical Pacific into the subarctic Pacific in response to the weakening/shutdown of the AMOC [Kiefer, 2010; Okazaki *et al.*, 2010]. Such a warming might have accelerated iceberg discharge into the North Pacific [Hendy and Cosma, 2008]. However, this hypothesis is not supported by the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Nps}}$  and SST data (Figure 3a, e, g) as well as other (sub-)surface temperature/salinity data from the subarctic Pacific [Max *et al.*, 2012; Riethdorf *et al.*, 2013], indicating cold and fresh (sub-)surface waters in the NE and NW Pacific during most of HS1. These proxy data are supported by modeling studies arguing for a slight cooling and freshening of the subarctic North Pacific surface waters during HS1 [Okumura *et al.*, 2009; MIROC model of Chikamoto *et al.*, 2012]. Such a cooling could actually have increased Cordilleran ice-sheet growth, ultimately resulting in enhanced iceberg calving, a scenario similar, even though much smaller scaled, to the scenario proposed for the North Atlantic [Clark *et al.*, 2007]. However, despite smaller, regionally constrained, glacier re-advances the CIS largely retreated during HS1 [Mann and Peteet, 1994; Mann and Hamilton, 1995]. Furthermore, iceberg calving from the southern CIS into the North Pacific during HS1 seems to have been related to ice retreat, not to ice advance [Hendy and Cosma, 2008].

The rapid retreat of the CIS might also have been associated with regional atmospheric warming, which may not be mirrored in the SST records due to a dampening influence of melting ice [Hendy and Cosma, 2008]. The change towards higher  $\text{IP}_{25}$  concentrations at the beginning of HS1 (Figures 6d), which may indicate a switch from a more extensive sea-ice



cover towards more seasonal sea-ice resulting in increased light penetration and  $IP_{25}$  production [Müller *et al.*, 2011], supports a dominant atmospheric control if we assume that, similar to the Southern Ocean, atmospheric forcing [Holland and Kwok, 2012] and local orbital forcing [WAIS Divide Project Members, 2013] are mainly controlling sea-ice advance and retreat. Furthermore, episodic meltwater outbursts from glacial lakes point towards atmospheric forcing. Ice dam failure repeatedly led to meltwater floods from glacial Lake Missoula, mostly before ~15.6 ka BP [Benito and O'Connor, 2003; Hendy, 2009]. Particularly during the LGM and HS1, when the subarctic front is displaced southward [Sabin and Pisias, 1996; Okumura *et al.*, 2009], megaflood events from glacial Lake Missoula might have had the potential to reach the open NE Pacific. Also likely influencing the study site area are megafloods related to the drainage of Alaskan glacial Lake Atna into the NE Pacific, which occurred at least two times between ~26-15.5 ka BP [Wiedmer *et al.*, 2010]. While most of the freshwater entering the Gulf of Alaska today is transported along the coast within the Alaskan Coastal Current and does not mix offshore [Weingartner *et al.*, 2005], megaflood events likely had a direct impact on the open NE Pacific surface water.

## **6.2. Late HS1 paleoceanographic change in the subarctic Pacific**

A common feature of all SO202-27-6 proxy data presented here is a synchronous change following ~16 ka BP (Figure 3a-g), indicating a prominent paleoceanographic change influencing both surface and subsurface waters, which precedes the paleoclimate change in the North Atlantic realm at the start of the B/A (Figure 6). This Late HS1 paleoceanographic change is supported by an increase in *N. seminae* concentration in bulk sediments from the NE Pacific Core MD02-2489 (Figure 3i), which indicate a change towards warmer and comparatively saline surface waters [Sancetta, 1982; Barron *et al.*, 2009; Ren *et al.*, 2014] already in Late HS1. Even though the rapid increase in biogenic opal content of NW Pacific



Core MD01-2416 at the start of the Bølling seems to support an in-phase behavior with North Atlantic climate (Figure 3m), we suggest that a Late HS1 paleoceanographic change represents a true feature of both the NE and the NW Pacific sites, based on two arguments. First, a shift of the observed paleoceanographic change in the Core SO202-27-6 to the HS1-B/A boundary would require a planktic reservoir age of about 1500 years, which is several hundred years higher than previously calculated/assumed reservoir ages for this time slice in the NE Pacific [e.g. *De Vernal and Pederson, 1997; Kovanen and Easterbrook, 2002; Galbraith et al., 2008; Gebhardt et al., 2008; Lund et al., 2011*]. Second, pollen data from an independently dated (varve counted) Japanese Lake Suigetsu sediment core also indicate a paleoclimate change preceding the onset of the Bølling event in the North Atlantic by several hundred years [*Nakagawa et al., 2003*]. We therefore suggest that the HS1-B/A boundary within Core MD01-2416 is located further up-core than presented (Figure 3j-n). This may be possible considering that the HS1-B/A boundary is calculated by linear interpolation between the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateau boundaries. Alternatively there might be a hiatus of a few centimeters located within upper part of the  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateau.

The observed paleoceanographic change in the subarctic Pacific in Late HS1 indicates that a dominant Northern Hemisphere atmospheric control on subarctic Pacific surface water parameters (see *section 6.1.*) has been superimposed by an additional forcing after ~16 ka BP. In order to explain the Late HS1 paleoclimate change recorded in Japanese Lake Suigetsu, *Nakagawa et al. [2003]* proposed a temporal difference between the regional responses of the North Pacific and the North Atlantic climate to changes in solar insolation. A dominant forcing of increasing local summer insolation has also been proposed to explain deglacial Southern Ocean sea-ice decline and Antarctic warming [*WAIS Divide Project Members, 2013*]. Related to this, we suggest that a quicker response of the North Pacific region to increasing Northern Hemisphere summer insolation (Figure 6g) relative to the North Atlantic

region could have resulted in the observed switch to sea-ice free conditions in the subarctic Pacific already during late HS1 (Figure 6d). The weakened surface water stratification related to the sea-ice decline then facilitated an increased input of saline and nutrient-rich deeper waters, stimulating biological productivity prior to the Bølling (Figure 6a-c). At the start of the Bølling, when the AMOC accelerated (Figure 6f) [McManus *et al.*, 2004] and invigorated the influx of southern-sourced, nutrient-rich deep waters into the North Pacific [Galbraith *et al.*, 2007], upwelling amplified and nutrient supply to the surface waters increased, further promoting productivity (Figure 6a-c) [Galbraith *et al.*, 2007; Gebhardt *et al.*, 2008]. This interpretation supports the hypothesis of an increased input of nutrients as primary cause for the peak in export production in the subarctic Pacific realm during the Bølling [Galbraith *et al.*, 2007; Kohfeld and Chase, 2011], but is in contrast to the study of Lam *et al.* [2013] suggesting transient stratification, possibly associated with meltwater-pulse 1a (MWP-1a), as responsible trigger. However, our diatom isotope records do not provide any evidence for freshwater stratification during the time of MWP-1a at 14.6 ka BP (Figure 3a, b) [Carlson and Clark, 2012; Deschamps *et al.*, 2012]. Furthermore, since the contribution of the CIS to the eustatic sea level rise of ca. 14-18 m associated with MWP-1a [Deschamps *et al.*, 2012] was probably less than 1 m [Carlson and Clark, 2012], freshwater input from the CIS related to MWP-1a was likely restricted to settings influenced by the Alaskan Coastal Current (e.g. Core EW0408-85JC) (Figure 1a) [Davies *et al.*, 2011] and did not reach the open NE Pacific.

### **6.3. Links to deglacial rise in atmospheric $p\text{CO}_2$**

Southern Hemisphere processes, including the degassing of  $\text{CO}_2$  from the Southern Ocean related to upwelling of  $\text{CO}_2$ -enriched deep waters during HS1 and the YD [Skinner *et al.*, 2010; Burke and Robinson, 2012], are generally assumed to have played a dominant role regarding the deglacial rise in atmospheric  $p\text{CO}_2$  of ~90 ppm [Schmitt *et al.*, 2012; Parrenin

*et al.*, 2013; *Marcott et al.*, 2014]. This view is underlined by the close relationship between the atmospheric  $p\text{CO}_2$  record and Antarctic temperatures (Figure 7j, k). However, recent studies suggest that some  $\text{CO}_2$  might have also degassed from the deglacial subarctic Pacific [Galbraith *et al.*, 2007; Gebhardt *et al.*, 2008; Rae *et al.*, 2014], which is characterized by  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich deep waters. These studies, however, did not yet consider changes in the efficiency of the biological pump, which influences the ocean-atmosphere  $\text{CO}_2$  exchange and which can be assessed through changes in nutrient utilization.

Medium-to-high glacial Si utilization in NE Pacific Core SO202-27-6, in combination with increased glacial dust supply [Lam *et al.*, 2013; Serno *et al.*, 2015], is indicative of a moderate-to-highly efficient biological pump (Figures 7c, d). The comparatively high relative abundance of *Chaetoceros* r.sp. from nearby Core MD02-2489 (Figure 7a) supports this view, considering that *Chaetoceros* species are weakly silicified diatoms, which indicate a comparatively large export of carbon relative to silica [Abelmann *et al.*, 2006]. An efficient biological pump and stratified NE Pacific surface waters during the last glacial point towards the subarctic Pacific as a sink for  $\text{CO}_2$  (Figures 4a, 7d), strengthening the hypothesized link between glacial polar stratification and low atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  [Jaccard *et al.*, 2005; Sigman *et al.*, 2010]. The increase in Si supply during early HS1 indicates a change towards a regime characterized by a low efficiency of the biological pump (Figure 7c, d). Since the enhanced Si supply can be related to enhanced NPIW formation (see *section 5.3.*), which originated in the subarctic Pacific realm [Max *et al.*, 2014] and which was therefore comparatively young and not very enriched in  $\text{CO}_2$ , we suggest no or only little  $\text{CO}_2$  degassing during the early HS1 (Figure 4). This is in contrast to Rae *et al.* [2014], who suggest  $\text{CO}_2$  degassing of up to 30 ppm from the subarctic Pacific during that time. However, we think such a scenario unlikely based on two arguments. First, an amount of 30 ppm would correspond to the about complete rise of atmospheric  $p\text{CO}_2$  for that time interval (Figure 7k) and would argue for the

subarctic Pacific as main modulator of the atmospheric  $p\text{CO}_2$  record. This is considered unlikely given the comparatively small size of the subarctic Pacific and the evidence of Southern Ocean upwelling of  $\text{CO}_2$ -enriched deep waters during that time [Skinner *et al.*, 2010; Burke and Robinson, 2012]. Moreover, the  $\text{CO}_2$  degassing hypothesis of Rae *et al.* [2014] is linked to increasing SSS in the subarctic Pacific realm. However, the surface water  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  record does not indicate increasing SSS during early HS1 (Figure 3a), at least not in the NE Pacific realm. At ~16 ka BP highest  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  then indicate high Si utilization and a highly efficient biological pump (Figure 7c, d), suggesting that the subarctic Pacific has been a sink for  $\text{CO}_2$  at that time (Figure 4).

The late HS1 increase in upwelling accompanied with an excess Si supply to the photic zone indicates a change towards a comparatively low efficiency of the biological pump, which prevailed during the B/A and possibly also the YD (Figure 7c, d). Decoupled  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  and opal deposition records in Core MD01-2416 during the B/A (Figure 7f, g), as well as the decline in *Chaetoceros* r.sp. particularly in the NW Pacific during late HS1 (Figure 7a, e), also indicate a comparatively low efficient biological pump in the NW Pacific (Figure 7h). We therefore suggest that the subarctic Pacific has been a source region of atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  during late HS1 and the B/A (possibly also the YD in the NE Pacific), actively modulating the atmospheric  $p\text{CO}_2$  record (Figure 4). Such a scenario could explain discrepancies between the atmospheric  $p\text{CO}_2$  record and Antarctic temperatures particularly during HS1 and the B/A, where abrupt rises in atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  at ~16.3 ka BP (~12 ppm) and over the HS1-B/A transition (~13 ppm) are not mirrored by Antarctic temperatures, and about constant  $\text{CO}_2$  levels during the B/A are accompanied by Antarctic cooling (Figure 7j, k). Marcott *et al.* [2014] speculated that the atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$  rise at ~16.3 ka BP might have been associated with the prominent North Atlantic HS1 iceberg discharge event, which could have eventually triggered a rapid release of terrestrial carbon. Due to the close temporal correlation of this

CO<sub>2</sub> rise with the observed subarctic Pacific increase in upwelling and decrease in the efficiency of the biological pump following ~16 ka BP, one could also argue that the abrupt rise in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at ~16.3 ka BP was related to the start of subarctic Pacific CO<sub>2</sub> degassing. Our results of subarctic Pacific CO<sub>2</sub> degassing during late HS1, B/A (and possibly YD in the NE Pacific) are contrary to the hypothesis of *Rae et al.* [2014], who suggest stratified conditions and no CO<sub>2</sub> degassing during late HS1 and the B/A. However, our findings support and further extend the previous studies of *Gebhardt et al.* [2008], who argue for weakened deglacial surface water stratification after ~15 ka BP, and *Galbraith et al.* [2007], who suggested subarctic Pacific CO<sub>2</sub> degassing over the HS1-B/A transition, related to an increased AMOC.

## 7. Conclusions

This study presents new combined  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  records from the subarctic NE Pacific at millennial-scale resolution, for the first time providing data also from the last glacial and early deglacial. Our results show that glacial-to-Holocene changes in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  record are primarily controlled by changes in local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ , demonstrating the potential of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  for paleosalinity reconstructions in NE Pacific surface waters. Changes in  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$ , which mirror relative changes in Si utilization, are largely coupled to variations in surface water stratification and associated Si supply. The combined interpretation of both  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  provide a consistent picture of changes in surface water stratification, Si utilization and the efficiency of the biological pump, suggesting that the subarctic Pacific was a source region of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> during Late HS1 and the B/A (possibly also the YD), actively modulating the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> record.

Our data reveal an increased freshwater input into the open subarctic NE Pacific, which coincides with H1 IRD event in the North Atlantic, indicating a close link between the CIS

and LIS meltwater histories. Future studies should investigate the source, pathway and extension of the observed freshwater input in the NE Pacific. This is particularly important for general circulation models, which to date do not incorporate meltwater forcing into the North Pacific during HS1. Furthermore, to allow for a more precise evaluation of down-core changes in  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$ , future studies should e.g. investigate the distribution of silicon isotopes throughout the subarctic Pacific water column and the relationship between the  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$  of surface water silicic acid and the  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}$  of *in situ* captured diatoms, diatoms from sediment traps as well as from core tops.

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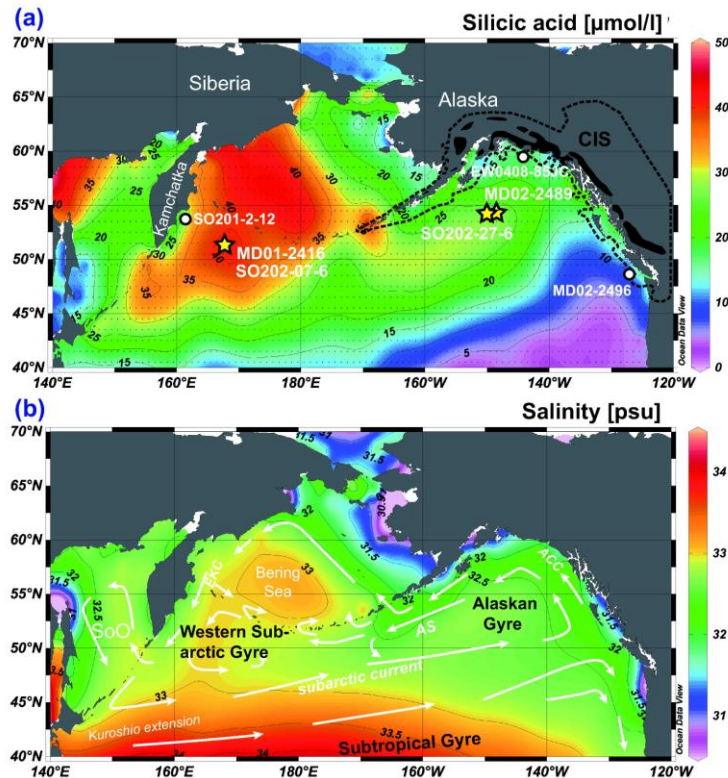
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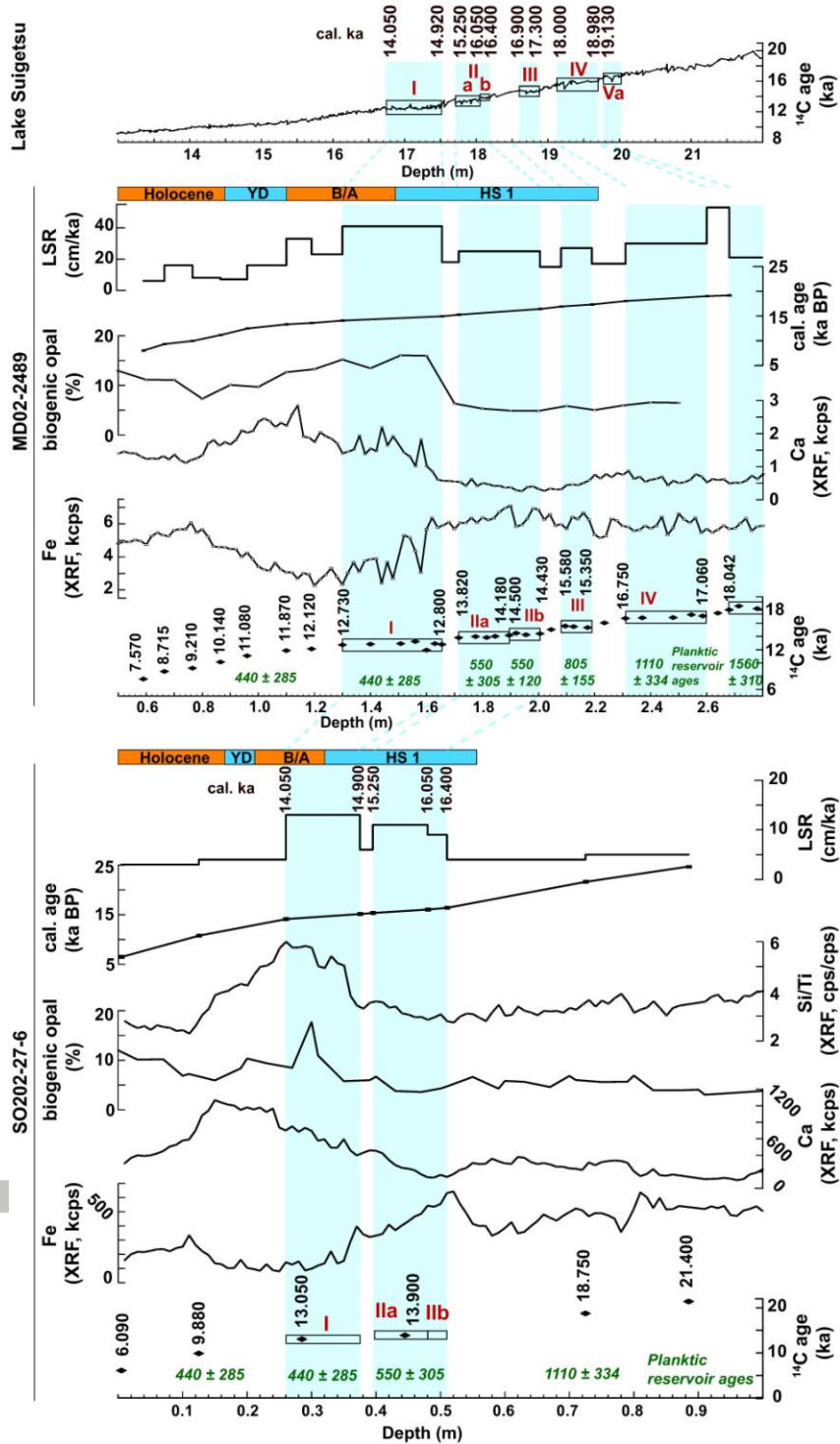
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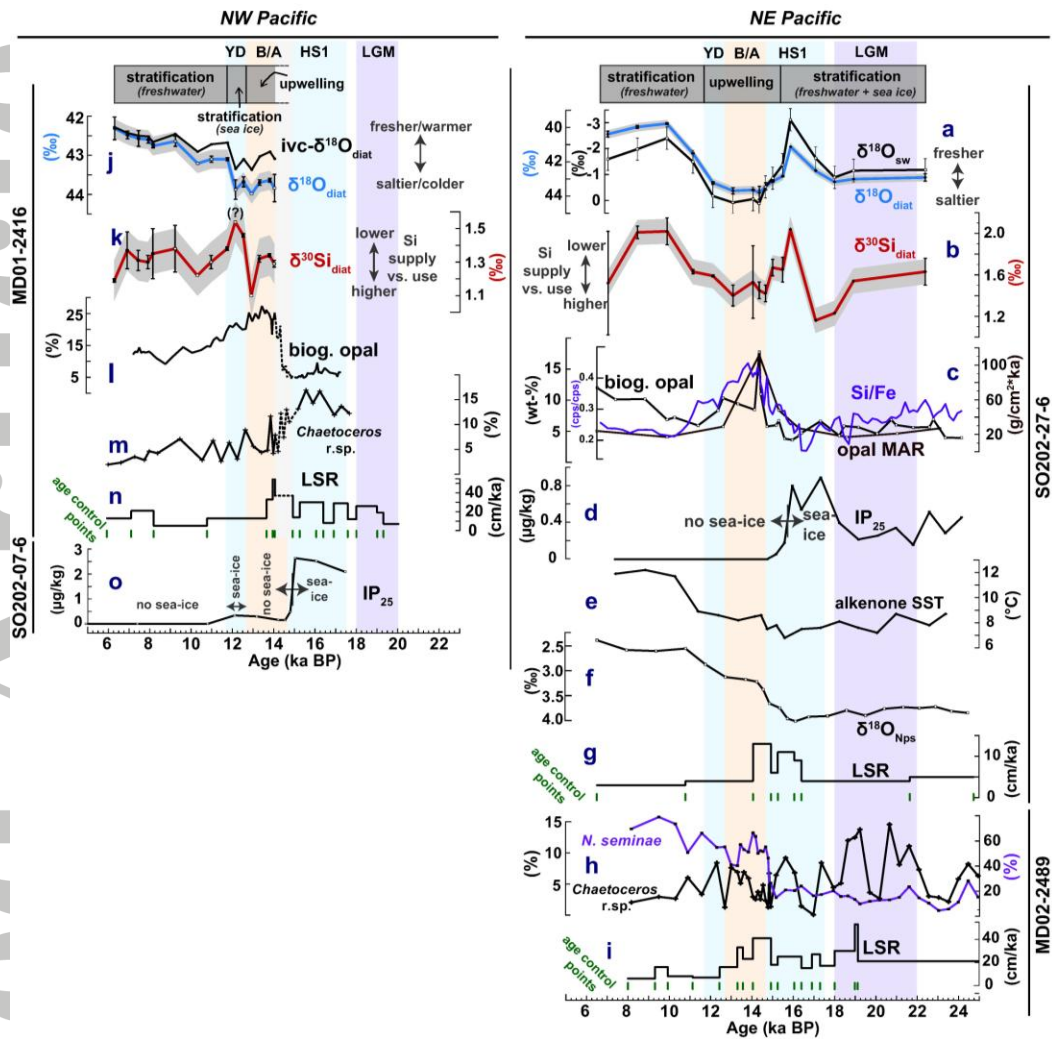
**Figure 1.** (a) Mean annual silicic acid concentration of subarctic Pacific surface waters [Garcia *et al.*, 2010], distribution of modern glaciers in the North American Cordillera (black areas), maximum extent of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet (CIS) during the last glacial (black dashed contour) [after Clague and James, 2002; Kaufman *et al.*, 2011], as well as core sites of this study (yellow stars) and of other cores mentioned in the text (white circles). (b) Mean annual sea surface salinity [Antonov *et al.*, 2010] as well as surface water currents [after Dodimead *et al.*, 1963; Stabeno *et al.*, 2004]: ACC: Alaska Coastal Current; AS: Alaskan Stream; EKC: East Kamchatka Current. SoO: Sea of Okhotsk. The maps were created with Ocean Data View ([www.odv.awi.de](http://www.odv.awi.de)).





**Figure 2.** Age models of Core SO202-27-6 and MD02-2489 including linear sedimentation rates (LSR). The Lake Suigetsu record of atmospheric  $^{14}\text{C}$  is taken from *Bronk Ramsey et al.* [2012],  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateau boundaries displayed after *Sarnthein et al.* [2015]. MD02-2489: Biogenic opal and XRF data taken from *Gebhardt et al.* [2008], planktic  $^{14}\text{C}$  record taken from *Gebhardt et al.* [2008] and *Sarnthein et al.* [2015] and  $^{14}\text{C}$ -plateau boundaries and planktic reservoir ages from *Sarnthein et al.* [2015].

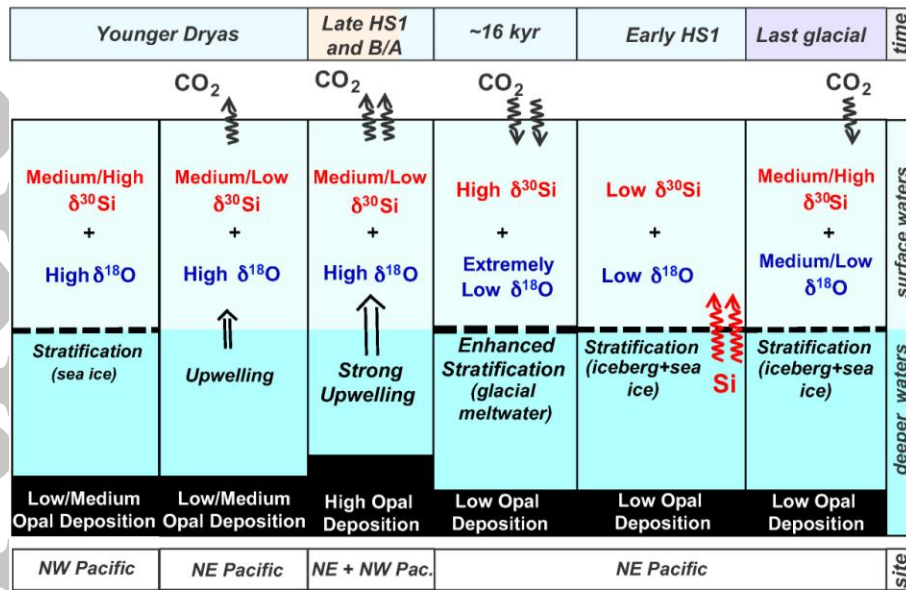




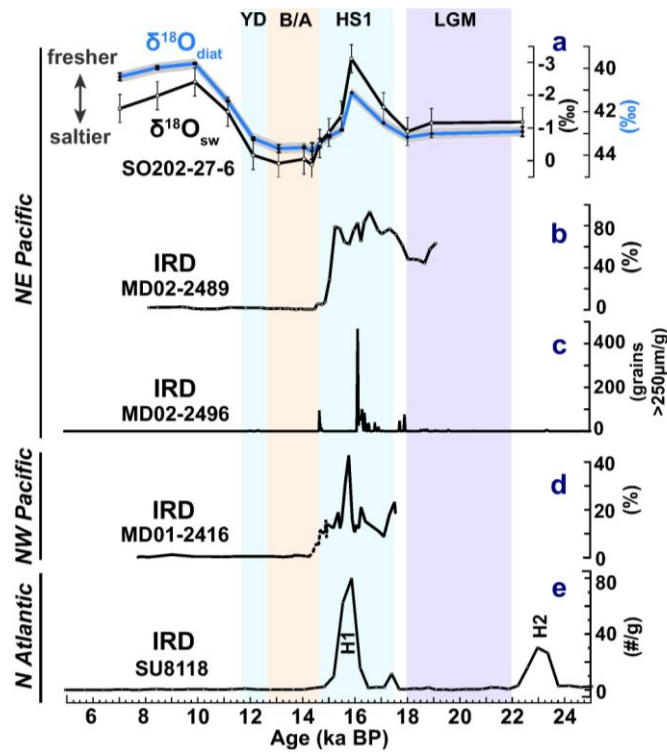
**Figure 3.** Proxy data of cores from the (a)-(l) NE Pacific (SO202-27-6 and MD02-2489) and (m)-(q) NW Pacific (MD01-2416, SO202-07-6) and interpretation of changes in surface water hydrography. (a)-(g) SO202-27-6: (a)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$ : error bars indicate errors of replicate analyses ( $1\sigma$ ), grey envelope indicates long-term reproducibility of standards ( $1\sigma$ ); local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ : error bars indicate errors estimated by propagating the errors introduced by the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  measurements, the alkenone measurements, the alkenone:temperature calibration and the removal of global ice volume (see section 3.5), (b)  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  (error bars indicate errors ( $1\sigma$ ) of replicate analyses, grey envelope indicates long-term reproducibility of standards ( $1\sigma$ )), (c) biogenic opal, opal MAR and Si/Fe ratio, (d)  $\text{IP}_{25}$  concentration, (e) alkenone-based SST, (f)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{Nps}}$ , (g) LSR including age control points. (h)-(i) MD02-2489 (on timescale presented in this paper): (h) *Chaetoceros* r.sp. and *N. seminae* relative abundances, (i) LSR including age control points. (j)-(o) MD01-2416 (on timescale presented in this paper): (j)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  (Maier *et al.*, 2013: black squares; this study: open

squares) (error bars and grey envelope as described in (a)) and ice-volume corrected  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  [after *Waelbroeck et al.*, 2002], (**k**)  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  (*Maier et al.*, 2013: black squares; this study: open squares) (error bars and grey envelope as described in (b)). The isotopic value marked with a question mark is the average value based on two replicate measurements (1.17‰ and 1.90‰). The great difference between both measurements suggests that one of these measurements was biased; (**l**) biogenic opal [*Gebhardt et al.*, 2008], (**m**) *Chaetoceros* r.sp. relative abundances (**n**) LSR including age control points. The grey vertical box marks the  $^{14}\text{C}$  plateau that includes the HS1-B/A boundary. This boundary cannot be determined more precisely (see *chapter 4*) for Core MD01-2416. (**o**)  $\text{IP}_{25}$  concentration data from Core SO202-07-6. The age model of Core SO202-07-6 is based on the correlation of dust fluxes to NGRIP dust fluxes, in combination with *N. pachyderma* radiocarbon ages [*Serno et al.*, 2015].

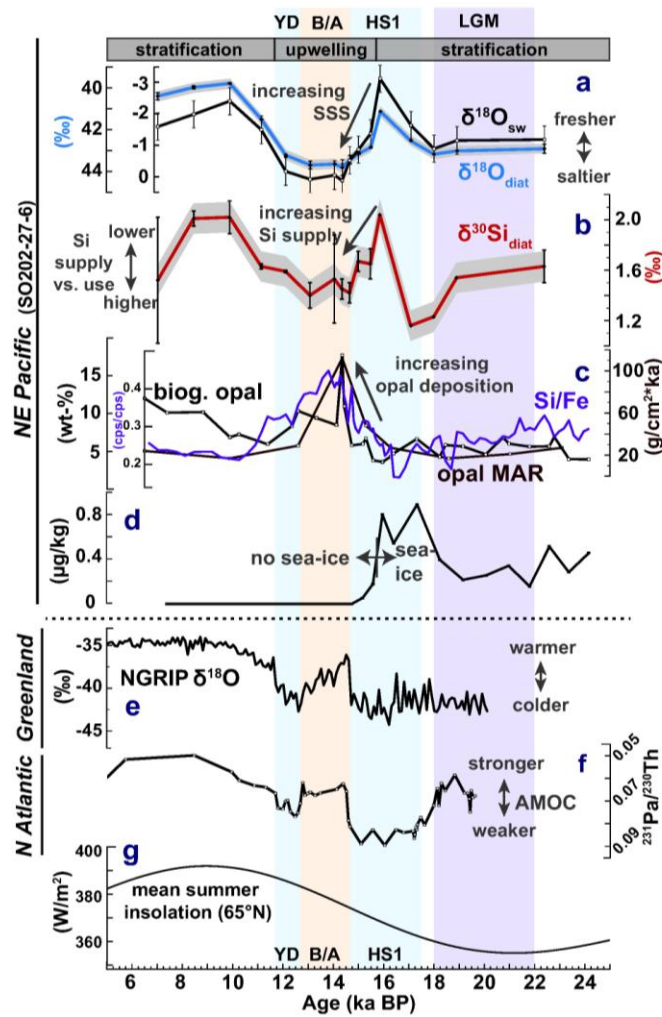
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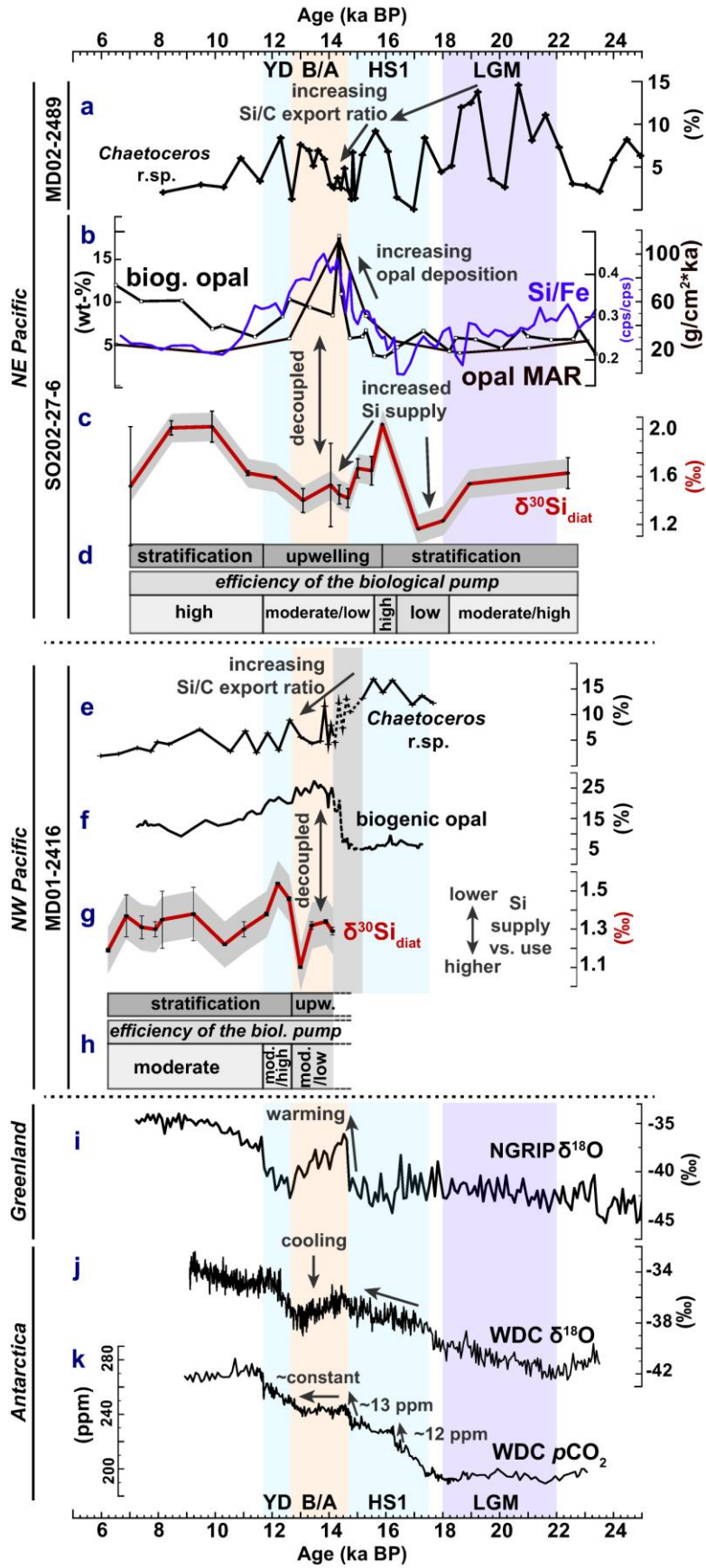
**Figure 4.** Summarizing scheme of deglacial changes in subarctic Pacific  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and opal deposition as well as inferred changes in surface water stratification, upwelling and CO<sub>2</sub> degassing. NW Pacific opal deposition after Gebhardt *et al.* [2008].



**Figure 5.** (a)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$  from NE Pacific Core SO202-27-6 (error bars and grey envelope as delineated in Figure 3); (b)-(e) IRD data from (b) NE Pacific Core MD02-2489 (on timescale presented in this paper) [Gebhardt et al., 2008], (c) NE Pacific Core MD02-2496 [Hendy and Cosma, 2008], (d) NW Pacific Core MD01-2416 (on timescale presented in this paper) [Gebhardt et al., 2008] and (e) NE Atlantic Core SU8118 [Bard et al., 2000].



**Figure 6.** Proxy data from NE Pacific Core SO202-27-6: (a)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{diat}}$  and local surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ , (b)  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$ , (c) biogenic opal, opal MAR and Si/Fe ratio, (d)  $\text{IP}_{25}$  concentration, (e) NGRIP ice core  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record [NGRIP members, 2004], (f) Pa/Th ratio from NW Atlantic Core OCE326-GGC5 [McManus et al., 2004]. (g) mean summer insolation record at  $65^\circ\text{N}$  [Laskar et al., 2004]. Error bars and grey envelopes as delineated in Figure 3.





**Figure 7.** Glacial to Holocene NE and NW Pacific proxy data and interpretation of changes in stratification and the efficiency of the biological pump. **(a)-(d)** NE Pacific : **(a)** *Chaetoceros* r.sp. relative abundance from Core MD02-2489 (on timescale presented in this paper); **(b)-(d)** SO202-27-6: **(b)** biogenic opal, opal MAR and Si/Fe ratio, **(c)**  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$  (error bars and grey envelope as delineated in Figure 3), **(d)** inferred changes in surface water stratification and efficiency of the biological pump. **(e)-(h)** NW Pacific Core MD01-2416 (on timescale presented in this paper; grey vertical box as defined in Figure 3): **(e)** *Chaetoceros* r.sp. relative abundance, **(f)** biogenic opal [Gebhardt *et al.*, 2008], **(g)**  $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{diat}}$ , (error bars indicate errors of replicate analyses), **(h)** inferred changes in surface water stratification and efficiency of the biological pump. **(i)** NGRIP ice core  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record [NGRIP members, 2004], **(j)**  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  from West Antarctic WDC ice core [WAIS Divide Project Members, 2013], **(k)** atmospheric  $p\text{CO}_2$  record from West Antarctic WDC ice core [Marcott *et al.*, 2014].

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**Table 1.** Core site summary.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Core type</b>
SO202-27-6	54.30	210.40	2929	kasten core
MD02-2489	54.39	211.08	3633	piston core
MD01-2416	51.27	167.73	2317	piston core
SO202-07-6	51.27	167.70	2340	kasten core

**Table 2.** Planktic (*N. pachyderma<sub>sin</sub>*) radiocarbon ages and calibrated ages of Core SO202-27-6. Reservoir ages were assigned from nearby Core MD02-2489 [Sarnthein *et al.*, 2015].

Sample ID	Depth (cm)	14C ages (ka)	14C age error (a)	Reservoir age (a)	Calibrated ages (ka BP)	Derivation of cal. age	Calib 7.1 calibrated ages (ka BP)			Relative area under probability distribution
							Median (ka BP)	2 $\sigma$ min (ka BP)	2 $\sigma$ max (ka BP)	
OS-85661	0.5	6.090	30	440 $\pm$ 285	<b>6.49</b>	Calib 7.1	6.49	5.88	7.16	1
OS-85752	12.5	9.880	30	440 $\pm$ 285	<b>10.78</b>	Calib 7.1	10.78	10.08	11.68	1
-	26.5	-	-	440 $\pm$ 285	<b>14.050</b>	Plateau I top	-	-	-	-
OS-87903	28.5	13.050	55	440 $\pm$ 285	14.239	Plateau I	-	-	-	-
-	37.5	-	-	440 $\pm$ 285	<b>14.920</b>	Plateau I base	-	-	-	-
-	39.5	-	-	550 $\pm$ 305	<b>15.250</b>	Plateau IIa top	-	-	-	-
OS-85753	44.5	13.900	30	550 $\pm$ 305	15.721	Plateau IIa	-	-	-	-
-	48.0	-	-	550 $\pm$ 305/120	<b>16.050</b>	P IIa base / P IIb top	-	-	-	-
-	51.0	-	-	550 $\pm$ 120	<b>16.400</b>	P IIb base	-	-	-	-
OS-87888	72.5	18.750	70	1110 $\pm$ 334	<b>21.321</b>	Calib 7.1	21.321	20.49	22.214	1
OS-87894	88.5	21.400	120	1110 $\pm$ 334	<b>24.44</b>	Calib 7.1	24.44	23.58	25.34	1

**bold: age control points**

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