# An assessment of CO2 uptake in the Arctic Ocean from 1985 to 2018

Sayaka Yasunaka[1], Manfredi Manizza[2], Jens Terhaar[3], Are Olsen[4], Ryohei Yamaguchi[5], Peter Landschützer[6], Eiji Watanabe[5], Dustin Carroll[7], Hanani Adiwara[1], Jens Daniel Müller[8], and Judith Hauck[9]

[1]Tohoku University
[2]Scripps Institution of Oceanography
[3]Climate and Environmental Physics - University of Bern
[4]Geophysical Institute
[5]Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology
[6]Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)
[7]Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
[8]ETH Zürich
[9]Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research

May 22, 2023

**Abstract**

As a contribution to the Regional Carbon Cycle Assessment and Processes phase 2 (RECCAP2) project, we present synthesized estimates of Arctic Ocean sea-air CO2 fluxes and their uncertainties from 8 surface ocean pCO2-observation products, 18 ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models and 6 atmospheric inversions. For the period of 1985-2018, the Arctic Ocean was a net sink of CO2 of 116 ± 4 TgC yr-1 in the pCO2 products and 92 +- 30 TgC yr-1 in the models. The CO2 uptake peaks in late summer and early autumn, and is low in winter when sea ice inhibits sea-air fluxes. The long-term mean CO2 uptake in the Arctic Ocean is primarily caused by steady-state fluxes of natural carbon (70 +- 15 %), and enhanced by the atmospheric CO2 increase (19 +- 5 %) and climate change (11 +- 18 %). The annual mean CO2 uptake increased from 1985 to 2018 at a rate of 31 +-13 TgC yr-1dec-1 in the pCO2 products and 10 +- 4 TgC yr-1dec-1 in the models. Moreover, 77 +- 38 % of the trend in the net CO2 uptake over time is caused by climate change, primarily due to rapid sea ice loss in recent years. Both, the mean CO2 uptake and the trend, is substantially weaker in the atmospheric inversions. Uncertainties across all estimates are large, in the pCO2 products because of scarcity of observations and in the models because of missing processes.

**Hosted file**

`961207_0_art_file_10899645_rt6pg2.docx` available at https://authorea.com/users/581704/articles/638378-an-assessment-of-co2-uptake-in-the-arctic-ocean-from-1985-to-2018

**Hosted file**

`961207_0_supp_10899648_rt6sqt.docx` available at https://authorea.com/users/581704/articles/638378-an-assessment-of-co2-uptake-in-the-arctic-ocean-from-1985-to-2018

# An assessment of $CO_2$ uptake in the Arctic Ocean from 1985 to 2018

**Sayaka Yasunaka[1,2], Manfredi Manizza[3], Jens Terhaar[4,5,6], Are Olsen[7], Ryohei Yamaguchi[2], Peter Landschützer[8,9], Eiji Watanabe[2], Dustin Carroll[10], Hanani Adiwira[1], Jens Daniel Müller[11], Judith Hauck[12]**

[1]Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan
[2]Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Yokosuka, Japan
[3]Geosciences Research Division, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California, USA
[4]Department of Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA
[5]Physics Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland
[6]Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
[7]Geophysical Institute, University of Bergen and Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, Bergen, Norway.
[8]Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Ostend, Belgium
[9]Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany
[10]Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, San José State University, California, USA
[11]Environmental Physics, Institute of Biogeochemistry and Pollutant Dynamics, ETH Zurich, Zürich, Switzerland
[12]Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Bremerhaven, Germany

Corresponding author: Sayaka Yasunaka (yasunaka@tohoku.ac.jp)

**Key Points (<140 characters)**

- From 1985 to 2018, the Arctic Ocean is estimated to have been a net sink of $CO_2$ of 116 ± 4 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in $pCO_2$ products and 92 ± 30 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in ocean models (137 characters)
- The main Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake component is a steady-state natural carbon flux (70 %) that is enhanced by atmospheric $CO_2$ increase (19 %) and climate change (11 %) (138 characters)
- The $CO_2$ uptake increased over the analysis period (31 ± 13 TgC $yr^{-1}dec^{-1}$ in $pCO_2$ products and 10 ± 4 TgC $yr^{-1}dec^{-1}$ in ocean models), mostly as a consequence of decreasing sea ice (137 characters)

**Abstract (<250 words)**

As a contribution to the Regional Carbon Cycle Assessment and Processes phase 2 (RECCAP2) project, we present synthesized estimates of Arctic Ocean sea-air $CO_2$ fluxes and their uncertainties from 8 surface ocean $pCO_2$-observation products, 18 ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models and 6 atmospheric inversions. For the period of 1985−2018, the Arctic Ocean was a net sink of $CO_2$ of 116 ± 4 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ products and 92 ± 30 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in the models. The $CO_2$ uptake peaks in late summer and early autumn, and is low in winter when sea ice inhibits sea-air fluxes. The long-term mean $CO_2$ uptake in the Arctic Ocean is primarily caused by steady-state fluxes of natural carbon (70 ± 15 %), and enhanced by the atmospheric $CO_2$ increase (19 ± 5 %) and climate change (11 ± 18 %). The annual mean $CO_2$ uptake increased from 1985 to 2018 at a rate of 31 ±13 TgC $yr^{-1}dec^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ products and 10 ± 4 TgC $yr^{-1}dec^{-1}$ in the models. Moreover, 77 ± 38 % of the trend in the net $CO_2$ uptake over time is caused by climate change, primarily due to rapid sea ice loss in recent years. Both, the mean $CO_2$ uptake and the trend, is substantially weaker in the atmospheric inversions. Uncertainties across all estimates are large, in the $pCO_2$ products because of scarcity of observations and in the models because of missing processes. (239 words)

**Plain Language Summary (<200 words)**

The Arctic Ocean is at present a net sink for atmospheric $CO_2$ mainly due to the intense cooling of the inflowing waters from the Atlantic and the Pacific. Global warming is amplified in the Arctic Ocean and it experiences rapid retreat of sea ice. Here, we present synthesized estimates of the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake and their uncertainties from 32 estimates obtained with different methods. Almost all estimates suggest that the Arctic Ocean is a net sink of $CO_2$ from 1985 to 2018. The $CO_2$ uptake is strong in late summer and early autumn and weak in winter corresponding to the seasonal variation of sea ice. The $CO_2$ uptake increased in recent years, especially in regions that have experienced sea ice loss. Compared to the global ocean, the Arctic Ocean is unique because climate change, in particular the change in sea ice cover, has enhanced the ocean $CO_2$ uptake almost as much as the increase in atmospheric $CO_2$ over the past 34 years. Moreover, this climate effect on the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake has become more important in recent years and is the current main driver for the trend towards an increasing $CO_2$ uptake in the Arctic Ocean. (198 words)

## 1. Introduction

The Arctic Ocean, which consist of complex subregions that include continental shelves and a central basin (Figure 1), has previously been estimated to represent a sink for atmospheric $CO_2$ that corresponds to 5–14% of the net global ocean $CO_2$ uptake (Bates & Mathis, 2009; Manizza et al., 2013, 2019; Yasunaka et al., 2018). The rapid cooling of the inflowing Atlantic and Pacific waters through the Barents Sea and the Chukchi Sea (Vowinckel & Orvig, 1962) increases the solubility of $CO_2$ (Weiss, 1974) and hence allows these waters to take up $CO_2$ from the atmosphere (Anderson & Kaltin, 2001). The sea-air $CO_2$ flux is mainly modulated by the sea ice cover that acts as a barrier for the exchange of gasses across the sea-air interface, the surface ocean partial pressure of $CO_2$ ($pCO_{2w}$), and the wind speed (Bates & Mathis, 2009). While sea ice cover and wind speed are relatively well known from satellite missions and reanalysis products (e.g., Comiso et al., 2008; Hersbach et al., 2020), large uncertainties in $pCO_{2w}$ remain and make it challenging to quantify both the direction and magnitude of the sea-air $CO_2$ exchange (Yasunaka et al. 2018). In the Arctic Ocean, $pCO_{2w}$ is influenced by many factors, such as ocean heat loss and gain, influx of Atlantic and Pacific water masses, biological production and respiration, sea ice formation and melting, river discharge, land-ocean carbon fluxes from rivers and coastal erosion, vertical mixing, and shelf–basin interactions (Anderson et al., 2009; Bates, 2006; Bates & Mathis, 2009; Fransson et al., 2017, Kaltin & Anderson, 2005; Manizza et al., 2011, Olsen et al., 2015; Terhaar et al., 2019a; Terhaar et al., 2019b; Oziel et al., 2022). The combination of these environmental drivers results in large spatio-temporal variations of the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake.

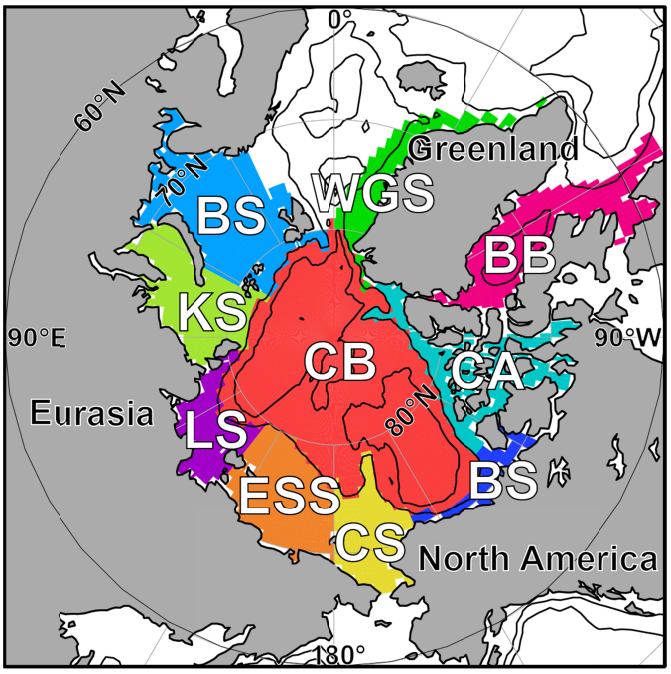



**Figure 1.** Regional mask in the Arctic Ocean: Central Basin (CB), western Greenland Sea (WGS), Baffin Bay (BB), Canadian Archipelago (CA), Beaufort Shelf (BS), Chukchi Sea (CS), East Siberian Sea (ESS), Laptev Sea (LS), Kara Sea (KS), Barents Sea (BS). Contour lines show 1000 m and 3000 m isobaths.

As global warming progresses and sea ice further retreats (Notz & Stroeve, 2016), sea-air $CO_2$ fluxes in the Arctic Ocean might become more important over the 21$^{st}$ century. In recent decades, Arctic surface air temperatures have been increasing at least twice as fast as globally averaged surface air temperatures (Meredith et al., 2019; Rantanen et al., 2022). This is known as "Arctic Amplification" (Screen & Simmonds, 2010) and results in rapid sea ice decline. Melting of sea ice increases the open water area and thus enhances the potential for atmospheric $CO_2$ uptake (e.g., Anderson & Kaltin, 2001; Bates et al., 2006; Gao et al., 2012; Qi et al, 2022). The $CO_2$ uptake might also be increased by enhanced primary production in the Arctic Ocean due to more light availability at the ocean surface (Arrigo & van Dijken, 2015) and increased nutrient delivery from rivers and coastal erosion (Frey and McClelland, 2009; Terhaar et al., 2019b). However, other processes may suppress the $CO_2$ uptake. For example, increasing seawater temperatures, declining buffer capacity due to the freshening of Arctic Ocean surface water by increased river runoff and melting of sea ice, increased vertical mixing supplying high-$CO_2$ water to the surface, and increased carbon fluxes from land (Bates et al., 2014; Bates & Mathis, 2009; Cai et al., 2010; Chierici et al.,

2011; Else et al., 2013; Hauri et al., 2013; Fransson et al., 2017; McGuire et al., 2010; Tank et al., 2016; Terhaar et al., 2019b). Furthermore, an increased inflow of Atlantic water (Wang et al., 2020; Oziel et al., 2020) that is rich in anthropogenic carbon (MacGilchrist et al., 2014; Terhaar et al., 2019a) will likely further decrease the $CO_2$ flux and can even result in outgassing of anthropogenic $CO_2$ (Anderson and Olsen, 2002; Völker et al., 2002, Terhaar et al., 2020). For the end of the 21st century, Earth System Models predict a reversal of the $pCO_{2w}$ seasonality in Arctic Ocean surface waters (Orr et al., 2022), with so far unknown consequences for the functioning of the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ sink.

For the assessment of changes in $pCO_{2w}$ and sea-air $CO_2$ flux, including their regional and seasonal patterns, it is crucial to establish a baseline against which changes can be evaluated. However, establishing such a baseline in the Arctic Ocean is complicated due to sparse observations in this hostile and remote ocean basin, especially in the sea ice covered regions and periods (Yasunaka et al. 2016). As a result, the current uncertainty of Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ flux estimates is large, despite the use of various statistical techniques and numerical models (Bates & Mathis, 2009; Yasunaka et al., 2018). Bates and Mathis (2009) summarized regional $CO_2$ flux estimates from the Arctic Ocean and arrived at a net sink strength of between 66 and 199 TgC $yr^{-1}$. In addition, the first implementation of the Regional Carbon Cycle Assessment and Processes project (RECCAP) also assessed the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ fluxes, but treated the Arctic Ocean as one part of the "large-scale Atlantic Ocean basin" north of 44°S (Schuster et al., 2013). In the first implementation of RECCAP, a small Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ sink of 50 ± 30 Tg C $yr^{-1}$ was estimated from available observational $pCO_{2w}$-based estimates, ocean biogeochemical model outputs and atmospheric inversions. However, it was concluded that one could not reliably constrain the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake because of limited data and poorly resolved processes in the physical and/or biogeochemical models. Since that assessment, the number of available $pCO_{2w}$ measurements have continuously increased (>60% of available $pCO_{2w}$ data in the Arctic Ocean have been collected after 2010), and ocean biogeochemical models have improved in terms of spatial resolution and additional processes such as eddy transport (Chassignet et al., 2020), sea ice ecosystem (Watanabe et al., 2019), and riverine nutrient and carbon input (e.g., Séférian et al., 2019) in some models.

Here we build on these recent developments and present an updated assessment of the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake as part of the RECCAP phase 2 (RECCAP2) project. In this dedicated Arctic Ocean chapter, we integrate and assess recent results from $pCO_2$ products based on $pCO_{2w}$ observations, from ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data

assimilation models and from atmospheric inversions, and present synthesized estimates of the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake together with its drivers and uncertainties. We also examine $CO_2$ fluxes in the various subregions of the Arctic Ocean and their seasonal and interannual variations.

## 2. Data and Methods

### 2.1 Regional Mask

The Arctic Ocean is here defined by the RECCAP2 regional mask (Figure 1). The outer boundary follows Fay and McKinley (2014), which defined the Arctic Ocean as the ocean having more than 50% of sea ice concentration (SIC) in the period 1998−2010, with some modifications: the boundary between the Arctic Ocean and the North Atlantic extends to 56°N in the Labrador Sea while at 25°E it is located at the northern tip of the Scandinavian peninsula. The boundary between the Arctic Ocean and the North Pacific is set to the Bering Strait following the World Ocean Atlas 2009 (Levitus, 2013).

The Arctic Ocean is further divided into 10 subregions, the Central Basin, the western Greenland Sea, the Baffin Bay (including the western Labrador Sea), the Canadian Archipelago, the Beaufort Shelf, the Chukchi Sea, the East Siberian Sea, the Laptev Sea, the Kara Sea, and the Barents Sea (Figure 1). The boundary between the Central Basin and the surrounding marginal shelf seas is defined by the 1000 m isobath. The RECCAP2 mask here is different to the mask that was used by Bates and Mathis (2009) and in the first phase of RECCAP (Schuster et al., 2013); neither of these included the Baffin Bay and the western Greenland Sea in the Arctic Ocean.

### 2.2 Sea-air $CO_2$ flux and $pCO_{2w}$ estimates

The estimates of the sea-air $CO_2$ flux and $pCO_{2w}$ in the Arctic Ocean used in this study were obtained from 8 $pCO_2$ products based on $pCO_{2w}$ observations, 18 ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models, and 6 atmospheric inversions (Table 1). Among them, 24 data sets belong to the RECCAP2 data compilation (see DeVries et al. submitted for detail). All RECCAP2 data sets that cover the Arctic Ocean were used. FESOM_REcoM_HR, which was not included in the global chapter, was used in addition to FESOM_REcoM_LR here because its high spatial resolution allows better representation of the carbon dynamics in the marginal shelf seas and of the horizontal transports in and out of the Arctic Ocean (Chassignet et al., 2020). Another four datasets were used exclusively in the Arctic chapter of RECCAP2: Arctic-SOM, SOM-FFN-extended, Arctic_NEMURO-C, and ECCO2-Darwin. Arctic-SOM is an

observational $pCO_2$ based product for the Arctic Ocean calculated using the self-organizing map technique by Yasunaka et al. (2018) here extended until 2017. SOM-FFN-extended is an updated $pCO_2$ product including the Arctic Ocean, in contrast to the standard SOM-FFN that is part of RECCAP2 data compilation. The largest difference from the standard SOM-FFN is, besides the inclusion of the Arctic domain, the use of a different mixed layer depth product (MIMOC, Schmidtko et al., 2013) as part of the explaining parameters. These changes are documented in Landschützer et al. (2020). Arctic_NEMURO-C is an ocean biogeochemical model including sea ice ecosystem component, coupled with the pan-Arctic sea ice-ocean model COCO (Watanabe et al., 2019). ECCO2-Darwin is an ocean biogeochemical model with assimilation of physical data, which simulates the global ocean but with the main focus in the Arctic Ocean (Manizza et al., 2019).

**Table 1.** $CO_2$ flux and $pCO_{2w}$ estimates used in this study. # denotes the models that used for the ensemble mean of $CO_2$ uptake in the Arctic Ocean. * denotes the models that conducted all additional simulations required to decompose the $CO_2$ fluxes (Sims A to D; see text for details).

| Name | Period | Notes | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***p*CO$_2$ products** | | | |
| AOML-EXTRAT | 1997-2020 | No data in sea ice region | Pierrot et al. (2009) |
| CMEMS-FFNN | 1985-2018 | No data in sea ice region | Chau et al. (2022) |
| Jena-MLS# | 1985-2018 | | Rödenbeck et al. (2022) |
| NIES-ML3 | 1985-2021 | No data in sea ice region | Zeng et al. (2022) |
| OceanSODAETHZ# | 1985-2018 | | Gregor and Gruber (2021) |
| Takahashi-climatology | - | Climatology; No data in sea ice region | Takahashi et al. (2009) |
| Arctic-SOM | 1997-2017 | Arctic only | Yasunaka et al. (2018) |
| SOM-FFN-extended# | 1983-2019 | | Landschützer et al. (2020) |
| **Ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models** | | | |
| CCSM-WHOI* | 1958-2017 | No riverine carbon flux | Doney et al. (2009) |
| CESM-ETHZ#* | 1980-2018 | | Yang and Gruber (2016) |
| CNRM-ESM2#* | 1980-2018 | | Seferian et al. (2019) |
| EC-Earth3#* | 1980-2018 | | Doscher et al. (2022) |
| ECCO-Darwin | 1995-2018 | Data assimilation; No riverine carbon flux | Carroll et al. (2020) |
| FESOM_REcoM_HR# | 1980-2018 | No riverine carbon flux | Hauck et al. (2020) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FESOM_REcoM_LR#* | 1980-2018 | No riverine carbon flux | Hauck et al. (2020) |
| MOM6-Princeton# | 1980-2018 | | Stock et al. (2020) |
| MPIOM-HAMOCC#* | 1980-2019 | No riverine carbon flux | Mauritsen et al. (2019) |
| MRI-ESM2#* | 1980-2018 | No riverine carbon flux | Urakawa et al. (2020) |
| NorESM-OC1.2#* | 1980-2018 | No riverine carbon flux | Schwinger et al. (2016) |
| OCIMv2021# | 1980-2018 | Data assimilation; Abiotic model; Constant circulation; No riverine carbon flux | DeVries (2022) |
| OCIMv2014 | 1980-2017 | $CO_2$ flux only; Data assimilation; Abiotic model; Constant circulation; No riverine carbon flux | DeVries (2014) |
| ORCA1-LIM3-PISCES#* | 1980-2018 | | Aumont et al. (2015) |
| ORCA025-GEOMAR#* | 1980-2018 | No riverine carbon flux | Kriest and Oschlies (2014) |
| Planktom12#* | 1980-2018 | | Wright et al. (2021) |
| Arctic_NEMURO-C# | 1979-2018 | Arctic only; No riverine carbon flux | Watanabe et al. (2019) |
| ECCO2-Darwin | 2006-2013 | Data assimilation; No riverine carbon flux | Manizza et al. (2019) |
| **Atmospheric inversions** | | | |
| CAMS# | 1980-2020 | $CO_2$ flux only | Chevallier (2020) |
| CTE | 1990-2020 | $CO_2$ flux only | van der Laan-Luijkx et al. (2017) |
| Jena-CarboScope | 2001-2020 | $CO_2$ flux only | Rödenbeck et al. (2018) |
| UoE-in-situ | 1990-2020 | $CO_2$ flux only | Feng et al. (2016) |
| NISMON-CO2 | 2010-2020 | $CO_2$ flux only | Niwa et al. (2017) |
| CMS-Flux | 2001-2020 | $CO_2$ flux only | Liu et al. (2021) |

The $pCO_2$ products are based on observed $pCO_{2w}$ values, and fill temporal and spatial gaps in the observations by various techniques (e.g., multiple regressions and machine learning). The models are forced with historical time-evolving atmospheric $pCO_2$ ($pCO_{2a}$) and surface boundary conditions (such as atmospheric temperature, humidity and wind fields; Simulation (Sim) A). In addition to the global and regional ocean biogeochemical hindcast models, ocean data assimilation models that assimilate observed distributions of temperature, salinity, and other physical and/or chemical parameters are used. Since there is not a large difference in $CO_2$ flux and $pCO_{2w}$ between the hindcast models and the data assimilation models (see Figure S1 and S2), they are treated as a single category. Potential model drift in the sea-air $CO_2$ flux was assessed as the slope of a linear regression applied to the $CO_2$ flux in a pre-industrial control simulation with constant $pCO_{2a}$ and climatological-mean atmospheric forcing (Sim B). As this drift in the Arctic Ocean surface fluxes is less than 2% of the decadal

trend, it is neglected and Sim A without any drift adjustments is used to estimate the long-term mean and seasonal as well as interannual variations of the sea-air $CO_2$ flux and $pCO_{2w}$ in this study. However, potential constant biases in the $CO_2$ flux (too large natural uptake or outgassing of $CO_2$) related to the models not being fully equilibrated might be larger. Unfortunately, such biases cannot be assessed by these simulations and are hence an intrinsic component of the net $CO_2$ flux uncertainty in the models. The atmospheric inversions used atmospheric transport models and observed atmospheric $CO_2$ levels to assess sources and sinks of $CO_2$.

For each estimate, monthly $CO_2$ fluxes and $pCO_{2w}$ were interpolated onto a regular $1° \times 1°$ grid. Regional area-weighted means and spatial integrals were calculated based on the basin mask shown in Figure 1. Long-term and annual means of individual estimates were calculated over the period of 1985−2018, the years for which most estimates provided data. In some cases, products and models did not fully cover this period, these means are then based on data from available years. Ensemble means and ensemble standard deviations of the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models were calculated from 1985 to 2018. The number of estimates used for the ensemble means vary among the regions (see numbers in brackets in Table 2). For the atmospheric inversions, only one inversion (CAMS) covers the period from 1985 to 2018.

The areas where sea-air $CO_2$ flux and $pCO_{2w}$ estimates exist in the individual $pCO_2$ products, ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models or inversions are not identical. Several $pCO_2$ products (AOML-EXTRAT, CMEMS-FFNN, NIES-ML3, and Takahashi-clim) have, for example, no estimates in the sea ice covered area (see Figures S1 and S2). The data coverage along the coastline also differs among the products, models and inversions. To minimize biases due to the differences in area coverage, regional $CO_2$ flux and $pCO_{2w}$ averages are calculated only where data was available for at least 80% of the total region's area (see Table S1). For example, area averaged values in the Arctic Ocean, the Central Basin, and the Canadian Archipelago are not calculated from AOML-EXTRAT, CMEMS-FFNN, NIES-ML3, and Takahashi-clim, as their areal coverage is below 80% in these regions. For the regional $CO_2$ uptake, first the area-weighted average of flux density was calculated using the areas covered by each estimate, and then it was scaled up using the same area for all datasets. The uncertainty associated with this scaling is determined by comparing scaled regional $CO_2$ uptakes from minimum coverage and from maximum coverage, using the estimates which cover the whole area. This is estimated to be smaller than 4%, which is much less than the standard deviation among the estimates.

Specific SIC and sea surface temperature (SST) datasets used as predictor variables in the $pCO_2$ products and those simulated in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models are used for driver analysis in this study. Part of the $pCO_2$ products and all models included in the RECCAP2 data compilation provide SIC and SST. For the $pCO_2$ products that did not provide SIC and SST, Hadley Centre Sea Ice and SST data set (Rayner et al. 2003), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) /National Snow and Ice Data Center Climate Data Record of Passive Microwave Sea Ice Concentration version 2 (Meier et al., 2013), and NOAA Optimum Interpolation SST Version 2 (Reynolds et al., 2002) were used for our analysis.

### 2.3 $pCO_{2w}$ and $pCO_{2a}$ observations

Direct $pCO_{2w}$ observations available in the Surface Ocean $CO_2$ Atlas (SOCAT) version 6 (Bakker et al., 2016) and the Global Surface $pCO_2$ Database version 2017 (LDEOv2017; Takahashi et al., 2018) were combined, and binned on a regular 1° × 1° × 1 month grid after removing duplicates and extreme values (see Yasunaka et al., 2018, for the detailed procedure), and used to evaluate the $pCO_{2w}$ estimates in the $pCO_2$ product and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models.

Zonal mean data for the atmospheric $CO_2$ mixing ratio ($xCO_{2a}$) from the NOAA Greenhouse Gas Marine Boundary Layer Reference product (Conway et al., 1994) were interpolated into 1° × 1° × 1 month grid-cells assuming even $xCO_{2a}$ values across all longitudes, and converted to $pCO_{2a}$ using SST data from the NOAA Optimum Interpolation SST Version 2 (Reynolds et al., 2002) and sea level pressure from the US National Centers for Environmental Prediction–Department of Energy Reanalysis 2 (NCEP2) (Kanamitsu et al., 2002).

### 2.4 Assessment of components of the net sea-air $CO_2$ flux

Most of the ocean biogeochemical hindcast models provide additional simulations that allow quantifying different components of the sea-air $CO_2$ flux (Table 1). In addition to the historical run with historical time-evolving $pCO_{2a}$ and historical time-evolving atmospheric forcing (Sim A), and the pre-industrial control run with constant $pCO_{2a}$ and climatological-mean atmospheric forcing (Sim B), two simulations with historical time-evolving $pCO_{2a}$ and climatological-mean atmospheric forcing (Sim C), and constant $pCO_{2a}$ and historical time-evolving atmospheric forcing (Sim D) were performed by most hindcast models.

The additional simulations from the ocean biogeochemical hindcast models, allow for the separation of the sea-air $CO_2$ flux into different components (see DeVries et al.

293 submitted for detail). Here, we decompose the net $CO_2$ flux in two ways. The first
294 decomposition split the net $CO_2$ flux into the flux of natural carbon (Sim D) and the flux
295 of anthropogenic carbon (Sim A – Sim D):

$$\text{Net } CO_2 \text{ flux (Sim A)} = \text{Natural } CO_2 \text{ flux (Sim D)} + \text{Anthropogenic } CO_2 \text{ flux (Sim A} - \text{Sim D)}. \quad (1)$$

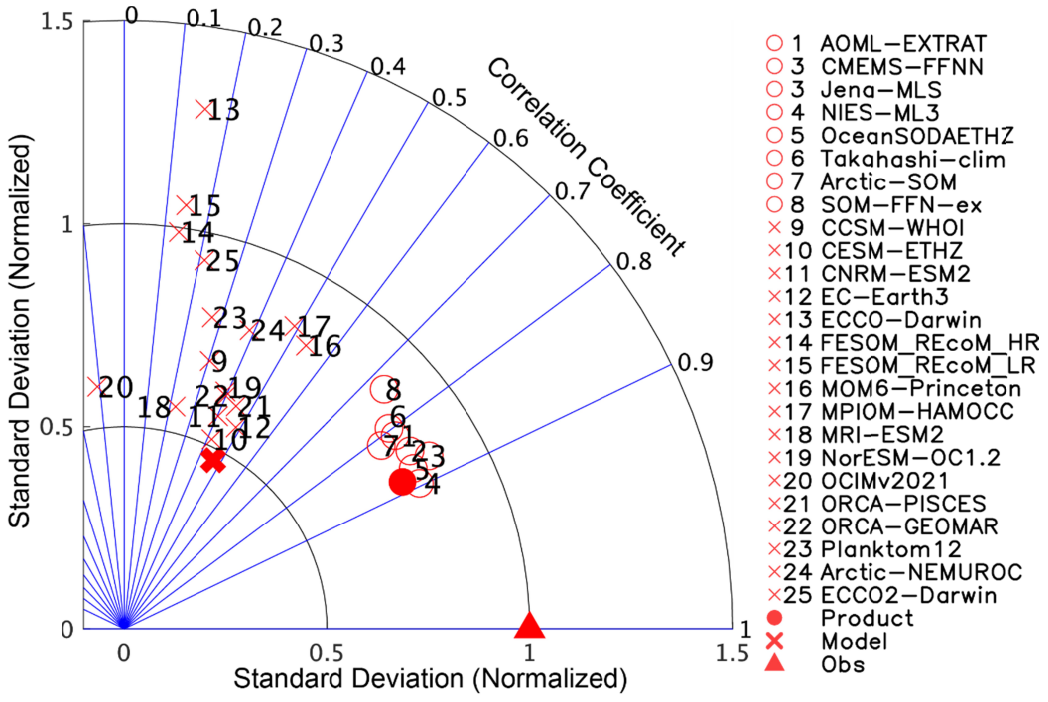
296 In this first decomposition, both the natural and the anthropogenic fluxes do not
297 distinguish between flux components that represent a steady-state and that are affected
298 by climate change and variability.
299 The second decomposition splits the net $CO_2$ flux into the natural $CO_2$ flux in steady
300 state (Sim B), the $CO_2$ flux driven by increasing $pCO_{2a}$ alone (referred to as the $CO_2$
301 effect; Sim C – Sim B), and the $CO_2$ flux due to climate change and variability (referred
302 to as the climate effect; Sim A – Sim C):

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Net } CO_2 \text{ flux (Sim A)} = {} & \text{Natural } CO_2 \text{ flux in steady state (Sim B)} \\ & + CO_2 \text{ flux by } CO_2 \text{ effect (Sim C} - \text{Sim B)} \\ & + CO_2 \text{ flux by climate effect (Sim A} - \text{Sim C)}. \quad (2)\end{aligned}$$

303 In this second decomposition, the climate-driven $CO_2$ flux does not distinguish between
304 fluxes of anthropogenic or natural carbon.
305
306 **3. Results**
307 **3.1 Comparison with observed values**
308 The estimates of $pCO_{2w}$ from the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical
309 hindcast and data assimilation models were evaluated by comparing them to available
310 observed values of $pCO_{2w}$ at the same time and location on the 1° × 1° × 1 month grid.
311 All individual $pCO_2$ products are better correlated with observed values (correlation
312 coefficients are 0.7–0.9) than the models (correlation coefficients are lower than 0.6;
313 Figure 2a). Both the $pCO_2$ products and the models underestimate the variability in
314 $pCO_{2w}$ in time and space. The standard deviations of the $pCO_2$ products over time and
315 space are about 80% of the standard deviation of the observations. The standard
316 deviations of the ocean biogeochemical models are mostly smaller than 80% of the
317 observation and often smaller than 60%, while one data assimilation model (ECCO-
318 Darwin) is 130%. The ensemble means of products and models, tend to slightly better
319 correlate with observations than the individual products and models (the correlation
320 coefficient is 0.88 for the ensemble mean of products and 0.47 for that of models), but
321 this comes at the cost of a lower agreement on the magnitude of variability, i.e.,
322 averaging tends to smooth the values (the standard deviations of the ensemble means

are 78% of the observations in the $pCO_2$ products and 47% in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models). Differences between the observation and the ensemble means of products and models are particularly large in the Chukchi Sea and around 85°N (root mean squared difference is 30–90 µatm in the products and 90–150 µatm in the models in those regions; Figures 2b and 2c).

The better agreement of $pCO_{2w}$ in the $pCO_2$ products and observed $pCO_{2w}$ reflects that the $pCO_2$ products use the $pCO_{2w}$ observations as basis for their estimates (and not independent data), and does not ensure a good performance of the $pCO_2$ products in data-sparse regions. Unfortunately, the lack of independent measurements prevents us from quantifying the performance of the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models in data-sparse regions. Furthermore, the monthly means of the observed $pCO_{2w}$ may not be comparable to the estimated $pCO_{2w}$ in the products and the models. They are sometimes based on measurements from one single cruise in that month and may not be representative of the monthly mean $pCO_{2w}$ values in regions with large day-to-day variation and within-grid-cell spatial variability (Yasunaka et al., 2016).



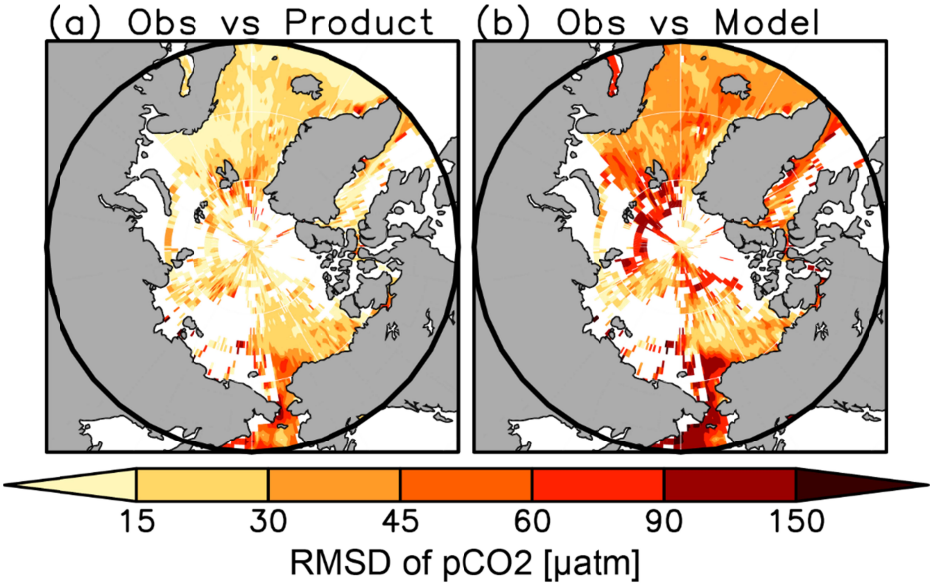



**Figure 2.** (a) Taylor diagram of $pCO_{2w}$. The radial distance from the origin represents the standard deviation of $pCO_{2w}$ in each estimate relative to that of the available observations. The azimuthal angle represents the correlation coefficient of $pCO_{2w}$ between individual estimate and the observation. (b, c) Root mean squared difference between observed and ensemble mean $pCO_{2w}$ from $pCO_2$ products (b) and ocean biogeochemical models (c). $pCO_{2w}$ from $pCO_2$ products and ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models were subsampled at the same time and location as the observations.

### 3.2 Long-term mean

#### 3.2.1 Sea-air $CO_2$ flux and $pCO_{2w}$

The long-term mean sea-air $CO_2$ flux shows that the Arctic Ocean acted as a sink for $CO_2$ from the atmosphere (Figure 3; Table S1). Averaged and scaled up, the $CO_2$ flux over the Arctic Ocean from 1985 to 2018 yields an uptake of 116 ± 4 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ products (average over 2 products) and 92 ± 30 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models (average over 14 models) (Ensemble mean ± ensemble standard deviation; Figure 3; Tables 1, 2 and S1). The Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake in the atmospheric inversion (CAMS) is much weaker (29 TgC $yr^{-1}$). All individual estimates except one data assimilation model (OCIMv2014) agree that the Arctic Ocean acted as a sink for atmospheric $CO_2$ over the 1985 to 2018 period (Figure 3; Table S1).

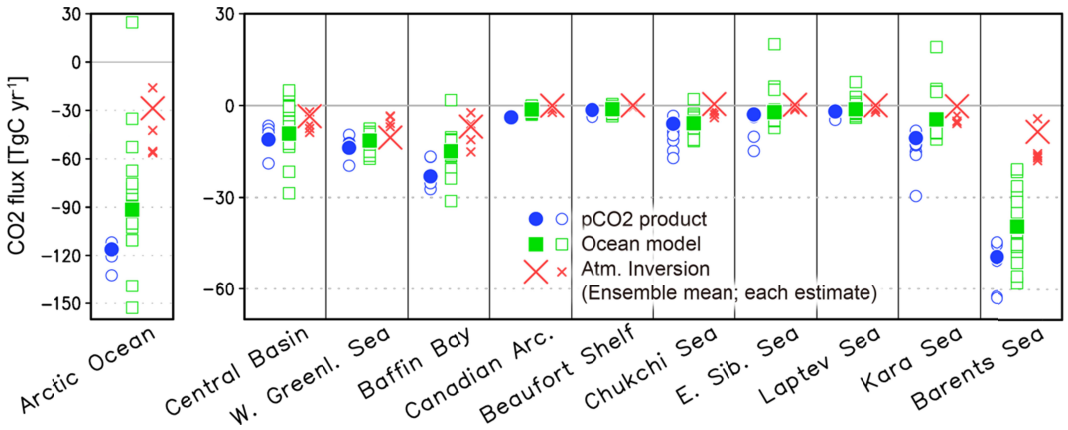



**Figure 3.** Long-term mean sea-air $CO_2$ flux. Closed or large marks indicate ensemble means and open or small marks indicate individual estimates (blue circle, $pCO_2$ products; green square, ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models; red cross, atmospheric inversions) averaged over the period of 1985−2018 (or in some cases the longest period covered by the estimate). Negative values indicate a $CO_2$ flux into the ocean. Ensemble means are calculated by using the estimates which cover the full period of 1985−2018.

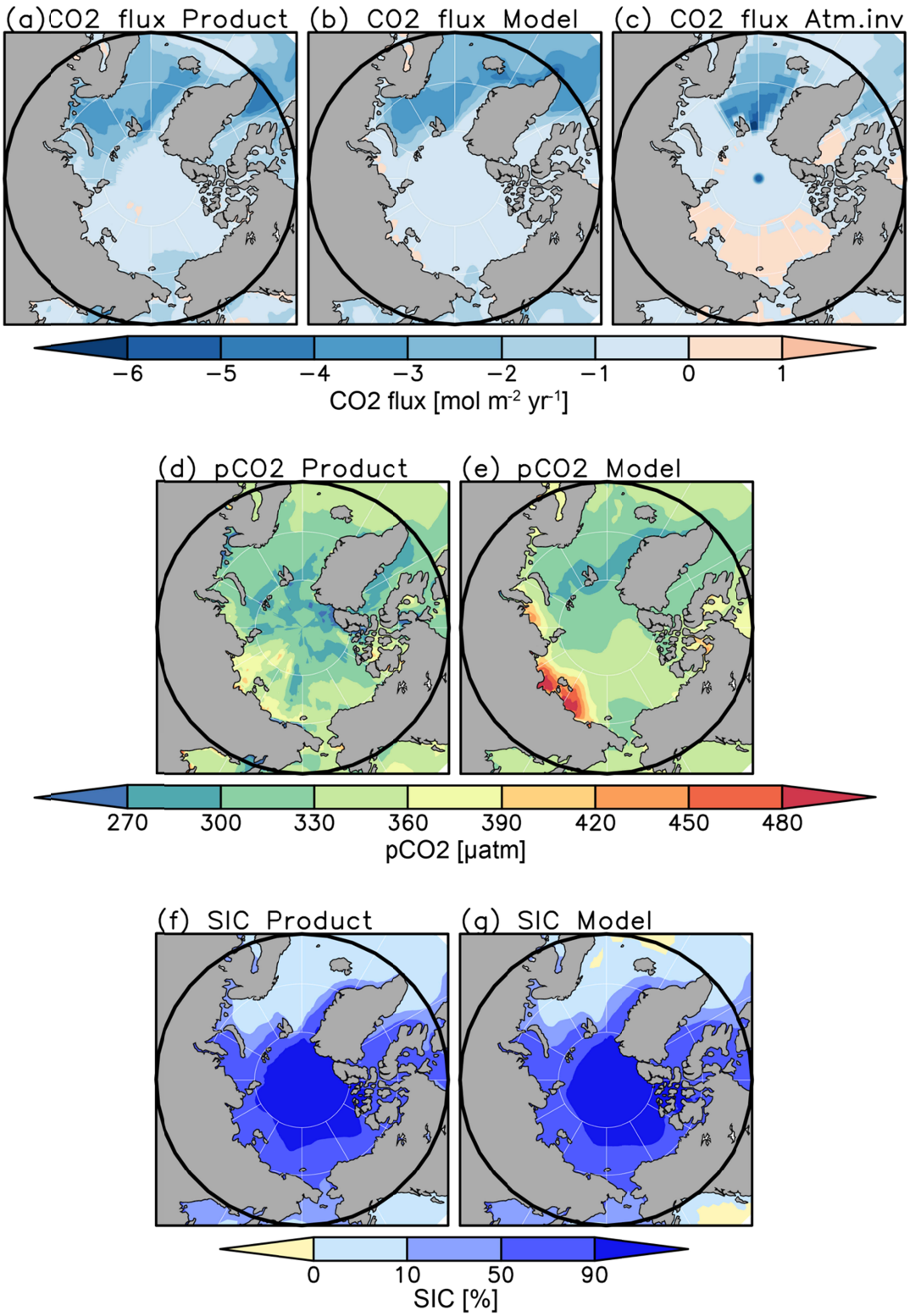
**Table 2.** Ensemble mean and ensemble standard deviation of the long-term mean sea-air $CO_2$ flux from 1985 to 2018 in each region [TgC $yr^{-1}$]. Negative values indicate a $CO_2$ flux into the ocean. The numbers in brackets indicate the number of estimates to calculate the ensemble means.

| Region | Sea-air $CO_2$ flux [TgC $yr^{-1}$] | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | $pCO_2$ product | Ocean model | Atm. inversion |
| Arctic Ocean | –116.2 ± 4.3 (2) | –91.5 ± 30.0 (14) | –28.7 (1) |
| Central Basin | –11.1 ± 5.5 (3) | –9.1 ± 8.4 (14) | –3.5 (1) |
| W. Greenland Sea | –13.8 ± 4.3 (3) | –11.4 ± 2.8 (14) | –10.4 (1) |
| Baffin Bay | –23.1 ± 4.6 (3) | –14.9 ± 5.3 (14) | –6.9 (1) |
| Canadian Arc. | –3.8 (1) | –1.3 ± 1.0 (11) | –0.0 (1) |
| Beaufort Shelf | –1.4 ± 0.0 (2) | –1.2 ± 1.2 (11) | 0.1 (1) |
| Chukchi Sea | –5.9 ± 2.6 (2) | –5.8 ± 1.7 (13) | 0.5 (1) |
| E. Siberian Sea | –2.9 ± 0.0 (2) | –2.1 ± 3.7 (13) | 0.3 (1) |
| Laptev Sea | –1.9 ± 0.4 (2) | –1.2 ± 1.8 (13) | 0.1 (1) |
| Kara Sea | –10.6 ± 2.4 (2) | –5.0 ± 5.4 (13) | –0.2 (1) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barents Sea | –49.4 ± 7.5 (4) | –39.5 ± 11.8 (14) | –8.6 (1) |

378

379




382

383 **Figure 4.** Long-term mean $CO_2$ flux (a–c), $pCO_{2w}$ (d, e), and SIC (f, g) in the period of

1985−2018 for ensemble means of $pCO_2$ products (a, d, f), ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models (b, e, g), and atmospheric inversion (c). Negative values indicate $CO_2$ flux into the ocean in panel a–c.

The ensemble mean of the regional sea-air $CO_2$ flux shows ocean uptake larger than the standard deviation in all regions in the $pCO_2$ products, and in most regions in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models except for the East Siberian Sea, the Laptev Sea, and the Kara Sea (Figure 3; Table 2). Both the $pCO_2$ products and the models show the largest uptake per unit area in the Barents Sea (sea-air $CO_2$ flux $< -3$ mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$), and smaller to medium uptake in the western Greenland Sea, the Baffin Bay, and the Chukchi Sea (sea-air $CO_2$ flux $-2$–$-1$ mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$; Figures 4a and 4b). Some individual models even show outgassing of $CO_2$ in the Central Basin (FESOM_REcoM_HR and FESOM_REcoM_LR), the Baffin Bay (OCIMv2014), and the coastal areas such as the Chukchi Sea (ECCO-Darwin), the East Siberian Sea (FESOM_REcoM_HR, FESOM_REcoM_LR and OCIMv2014), the Laptev Sea (FESOM_REcoM_HR, FESOM_REcoM_LR, OCIMv2014 and Planktom12), and the Kara Sea (FESOM_REcoM_HR, FESOM_REcoM_LR, OCIMv2014 and Planktom12) (Figure S1; Table S1).

The regional $CO_2$ uptake in the atmospheric inversions is smaller than in the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models (Tables 2 and S1). CAMS shows outgassing in the Beaufort Shelf, the Chukchi Sea, the East Siberian Sea, and the Laptev Sea, and only small $CO_2$ uptake in the Barents Sea (sea-air $CO_2$ flux $> -1$ mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$; Figures 3, 4c and S1).

The spatial distribution of the standard deviation of $CO_2$ flux among the individual estimates are different between the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models; it is large (> 1 mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$) in the Barents, the Chukchi Sea, and around 80°N in the $pCO_2$ products, and in the Barents Sea and the coastal region of the Kara Sea and the Laptev Sea in the models (Figures S3a and S3b).

In line with the overall negative sea-air $CO_2$ flux in the Arctic Ocean, the annual mean of $pCO_{2w}$ from 1985 to 2018 is lower than the annual mean of the $pCO_{2a}$ (~390 µatm) in almost all regions except for the coastal region along the Eurasian Continent (Figures 4d and 4e). The standard deviation among the individual estimates is smaller in the $pCO_2$ products than in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models (Figures S3c and S3d). For the $pCO_2$ products, the standard deviation is smaller than 30 µatm except for smaller areas in the coastal and sea ice edge regions. On the other hand, the standard deviation in the models is more than 90 µatm in the coastal

region along the Eurasian coast due to the high $pCO_{2w}$ (> 480 μatm) in several models there.

The spatial patterns of the sea-air $CO_2$ flux are different from those of the $pCO_{2w}$, and correspond with the SIC (Figure 4). The largest uptake across all products occurs in the Barents Sea, of which >50% remains ice free even in winter (Årthun, M. et al., 2012). Moreover, this is a region where $pCO_{2w}$ is substantially reduced because of the large heat loss from the Atlantic waters that flow in from the southwest (Lundberg and Haugen, 1996). Medium $CO_2$ uptake in the western Greenland Sea, the Baffin Bay and the Chukchi Sea corresponds to moderate SIC and low $pCO_{2w}$. Although very low $pCO_{2w}$ (< 330 μatm) is estimated for the Central Basin, the $CO_2$ uptake is small as thick sea ice does not allow for sea-air gas exchange. In the East Siberian Sea, the Laptev Sea and the Kara Sea, the $CO_2$ uptake is small or even outgassing in some biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models because $pCO_{2w}$ is relatively high due to large influxes of organic and inorganic carbon from rivers and coastal erosion (Figures 4a-e, S1 and S2; Anderson et al., 2009; Manizza et al., 2011; Tank et al., 2012; Vonk et al., 2012; Tanski et al., 2021).

### 3.2.2 Natural and anthropogenic sea-air $CO_2$ flux and the climate and $CO_2$ effect

The net Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake of 93 ± 27 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in the hindcast models (number is different from that in Table 2 because the uptake here is the average only over those models that have also provided Sims B, C and D; see Table 1) is the sum of a large uptake of natural carbon (74 ± 23 TgC $yr^{-1}$; 80 ± 25 % of the net uptake) and a smaller uptake of anthropogenic carbon (19 ± 6 TgC $yr^{-1}$; 20 ± 22 %) (Figure 5). Regionally, the relative importance of the flux of anthropogenic carbon is large on the North American side from the Baffin Bay (36 ± 12 %) to the Beaufort Shelf (34 ± 12 %) and small on the Eurasian continent side from the Chukchi Sea (18 ± 16 %) to the Barents Sea (14 ± 5 %).

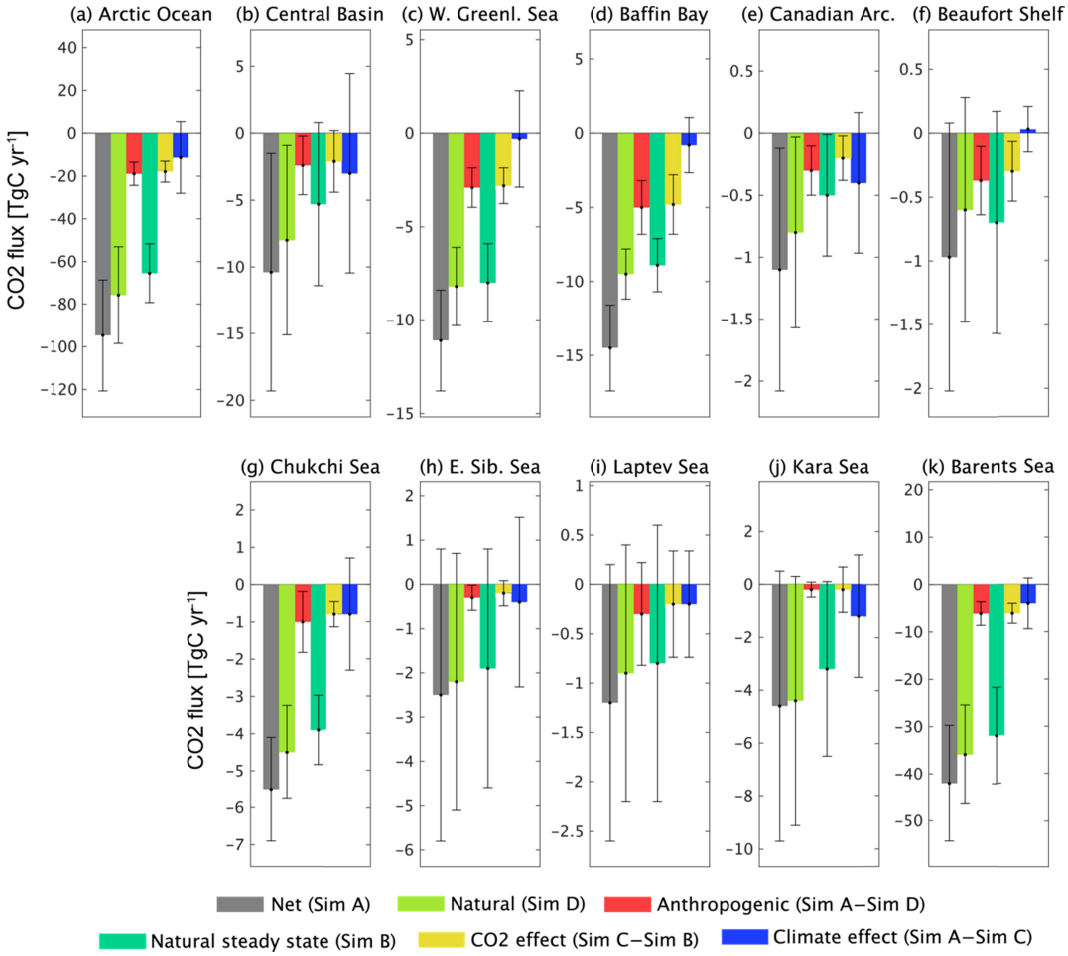



**Figure 5.** Decomposition of the long-term mean $CO_2$ flux (Net; Sim A; gray) into the natural $CO_2$ flux (Sim D; light green) and the anthropogenic $CO_2$ flux (Sim A – Sim D; red), and into the natural $CO_2$ flux in steady state (Sim B; aqua), and the $CO_2$ flux attributed to the $CO_2$ effect (Sim C – Sim B; yellow) and the climate effect (Sim A – Sim C; blue). Negative values indicate $CO_2$ flux into the ocean. Error bars denote the standard deviation of the flux components across the ensemble of individual ocean biogeochemical hindcast models.

The net sea-air $CO_2$ flux can also be divided into the steady state natural flux, the $CO_2$ fluxes due to the atmospheric $CO_2$ increase alone, and the $CO_2$ fluxes caused by climate change and variability (Figure 5). The background steady state natural flux accounts for the largest part of the net Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake (65 ± 14 TgC $yr^{-1}$; 70 ± 15 % of the net uptake), and is enhanced by 18 ± 5 TgC $yr^{-1}$ (19 ± 5 %) via the $CO_2$ effect and by 10 ± 17 TgC $yr^{-1}$ (11 ± 18 %) via the climate effect. The anthropogenic

462 $CO_2$ uptake in the Arctic Ocean (19 TgC $yr^{-1}$) is almost fully due to the $CO_2$ effect (18
463 TgC $yr^{-1}$). The climate effect is split into the climate effect on the anthropogenic flux
464 (19 – 18 = 1 TgC $yr^{-1}$) and the climate effect on the natural flux in non-steady state (10
465 – 1 = 9 TgC $yr^{-1}$). Regionally, although the climate effect varies strongly among the
466 individual models, it is on average almost nonexistent in the western Greenland Sea, the
467 Baffin Bay, and the Beaufort Shelf. In the remaining regions the climate effect is of
468 similar magnitude or even larger than the $CO_2$ effect. In contrast to the Arctic Ocean,
469 the $CO_2$ effect is much larger than the climate effect in the Southern Ocean (the other
470 polar ocean) and the global ocean where the $CO_2$ flux via the $CO_2$ effect is 2.1 PgC $yr^{-1}$
471 of uptake and the flux from the climate effect is 0.2 PgC $yr^{-1}$ of outgassing, respectively
472 (DeVries et al. submitted). The Arctic Ocean is thus a unique ocean basin where climate
473 change plays a role of similar magnitude as the increase in atmospheric $CO_2$ in
474 controlling the sea-air fluxes of $CO_2$.
475 The similar strength of the $CO_2$ effect and the climate effect in the Arctic Ocean
476 requires a relatively strong climate effect and a relatively weak $CO_2$ effect, compared to
477 other ocean basins. The climate effect is strong in the Arctic due to fast warming (Arctic
478 Amplification; Screen & Simmonds, 2010; Meredith et al., 2019) and the rapid
479 reduction in sea ice coverage that increases the amount of open water and the potential
480 of sea-air $CO_2$ exchange. Furthermore, the relatively weak $CO_2$ effect may be caused by
481 the inflowing surface waters from the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean that have already
482 taken up the anthropogenic $CO_2$ in the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean and thus decrease the
483 importance of the anthropogenic $CO_2$ flux and hence the $CO_2$ effect in the Arctic Ocean
484 (Olsen et al., 2015; Terhaar et al., 2019a).
485
486 **3.3 Seasonal cycle**
487 The $CO_2$ uptake in the Arctic Ocean is largest in late summer and early autumn
488 (August–October), and smallest in winter and spring (January–May) (Figure 6a). The
489 phasing of the seasonal cycle is similar in all subregions of the Arctic Ocean (Figures
490 6b–6j) except the Barents Sea, which has a relatively constant $CO_2$ uptake throughout
491 the entire year (Figure 6k). The seasonal amplitude of the sea-air $CO_2$ flux is large in the
492 western Greenland Sea, the Baffin Bay, the Chukchi Sea, and the Kara Sea (mostly > 2
493 mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$; Figures 6c, 6d, 6g, and 6j, respectively), and small in the Central Basin
494 and the Canadian Archipelago (mostly < 1 mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$; Figures 6b and 6e).
495 OCIMv2014 has no seasonal cycle of $CO_2$ flux because of the annual time steps of this
496 model (DeVries, 2014).
497

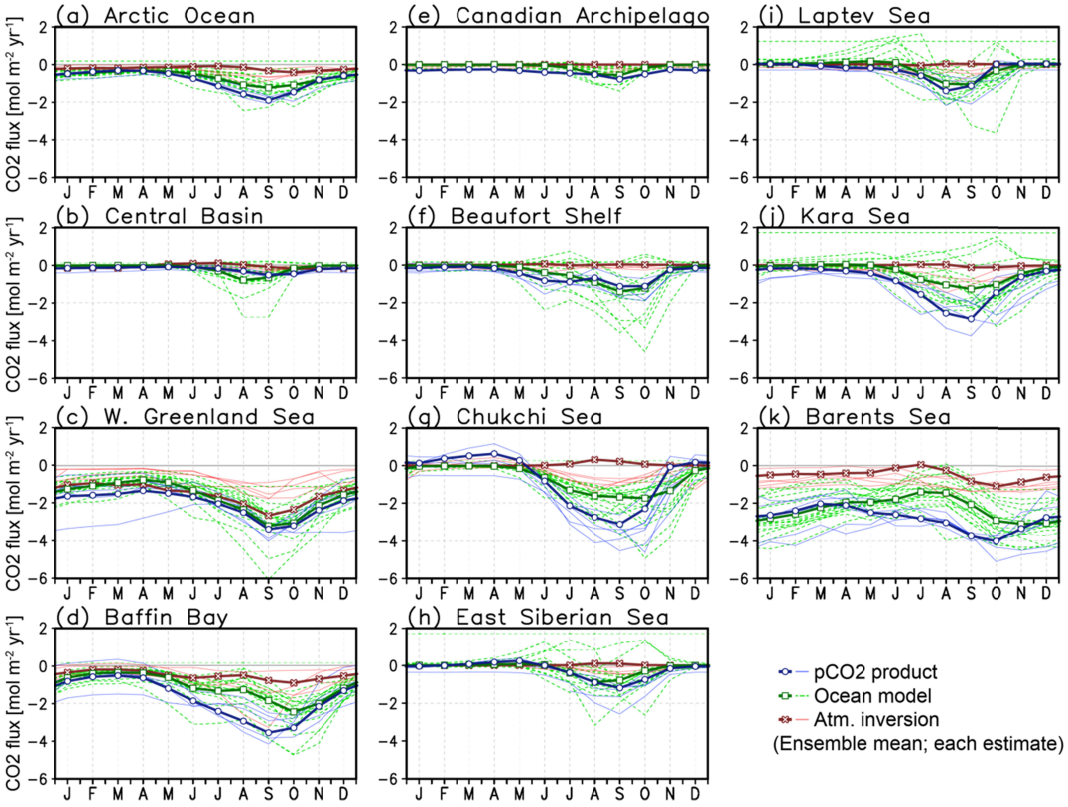



**Figure 6.** Monthly climatology of $CO_2$ flux averaged over the period of 1985−2018 (or the longest period available). Thick lines with marks indicate ensemble means, and thin lines indicate individual estimates (blue and circle, $pCO_2$ products; green and square, ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models; red and cross, atmospheric inversions). Negative values indicate $CO_2$ flux into the ocean.

The seasonal amplitude of the $CO_2$ flux tends to be larger in the $pCO_2$ products than in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models (Figure 6). The largest differences in $CO_2$ uptake between $pCO_2$ products and the models occur in spring in the Chukchi Sea, and in summer in the Baffin Bay and the Kara Sea (Figures 6d, 6g and 6j, respectively). Seasonal variation is small in the atmospheric inversions with some exceptions: in the western Greenland Sea (CAMS), the Baffin Bay (Jena-CarboScope), the Chukchi Sea (all inversions but CAMS), and the Kara Sea (CTE, Jena-CarboScope, UoE-in-situ and NISMON-CO2) (Figures 6b–6j). The phasing of the seasonal cycle in the Barents Sea differs among the categories of estimates; $CO_2$ uptake based on the $pCO_2$ products is on average largest in October and smallest in April, while the models and the atmospheric inversion have their summer minimum uptake in July (Figure 6k). Large differences in the phasing of the seasonal cycle also exist in

several ocean biogeochemical hindcast models (FESOM_REcoM_HR, FESOM_REcoM_LR, Planktom12, and Arctic_NEMRO-C) that show $CO_2$ release in the East Siberian Sea, the Laptev Sea, and/or the Kara Sea from spring to autumn (Figures 6h–6j).

The average $pCO_{2w}$ in the Arctic Ocean peaks in late winter to early spring (February–May), and reaches a minimum in summer (July–August) (Figure 7a), which slightly precedes the seasonal cycle of the sea-air $CO_2$ flux (Figure 6a). For the $pCO_2$ products, this pattern is apparent in all subregions, but the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models simulate highest $pCO_{2w}$ levels in the Barents Sea and the Baffin Bay during mid-summer (Figures 7d and 7k). $pCO_{2w}$ in the Chukchi Sea in spring is higher in the $pCO_2$ products than in the models (Figure 7g). A few ocean biogeochemical hindcast model estimates show high $pCO_{2w}$ (> 500 µatm) values in winter and spring in the East Siberian Sea, the Laptev Sea and the Kara Sea (FESOM_REcoM_HR, FESOM_REcoM_LR, and Arctic_NEMROC; Figures 7h–7j).

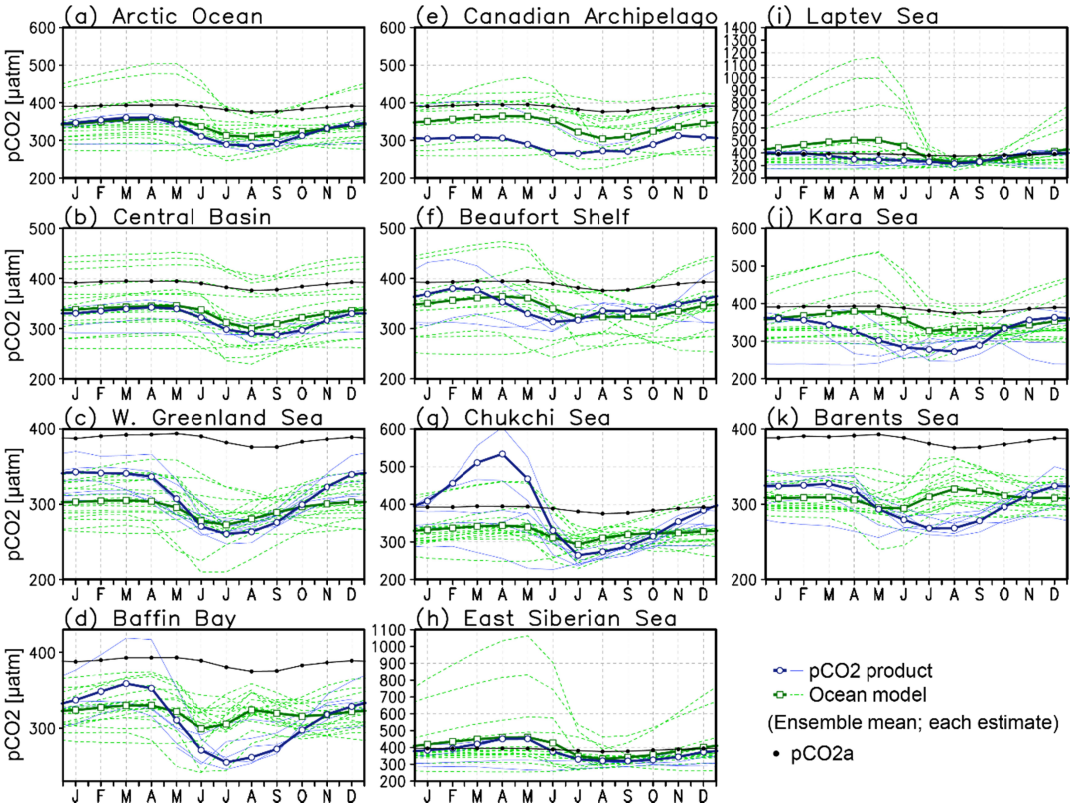



**Figure 7.** Monthly climatology of $pCO_{2w}$ averaged over the period of 1985−2018 (or the longest period available). Tick lines with marks indicate ensemble means, and thin

lines indicate individual estimates (blue and circle, $pCO_2$ products; green and square, ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models).

The seasonal cycle of the sea-air $CO_2$ flux correlates with SIC in all regions both in the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models but the Barents Sea; $CO_2$ uptake is large when sea ice retreats in summer, and it is small when sea ice covers the ocean (Figures 6 and 8). Relative seasonal amplitudes of the $CO_2$ flux correspond well with those of the SIC; the seasonal amplitude of the $CO_2$ flux is large where that of the SIC is large (Figure S4). In essence, the seasonal amplitudes of SIC alone explain the $CO_2$ flux variability, which is expected since the $CO_2$ flux is generally calculated assuming that it is proportionally inhibited by SIC. In the Barents Sea, the seasonal cycle of $CO_2$ flux in the $pCO_2$ products is in phase with SIC but in the models it is modulated by high $pCO_{2w}$ in summer.

The discrepancy between the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models is discussed in Section 4.2.2.

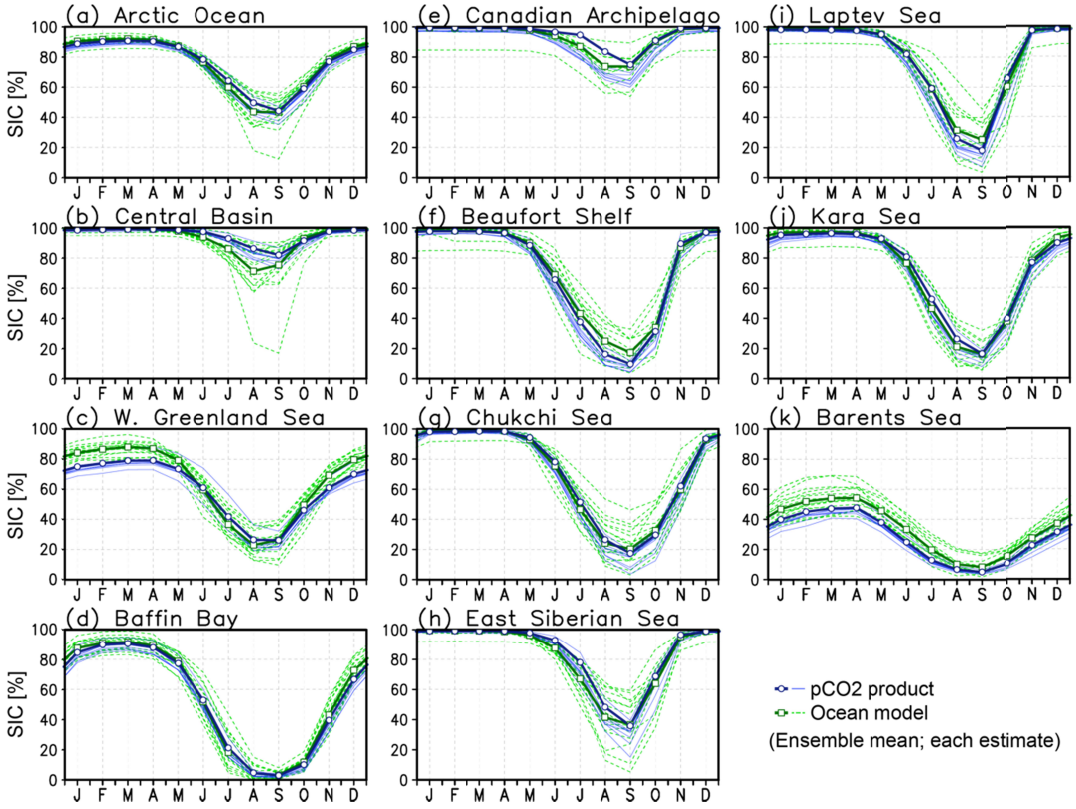


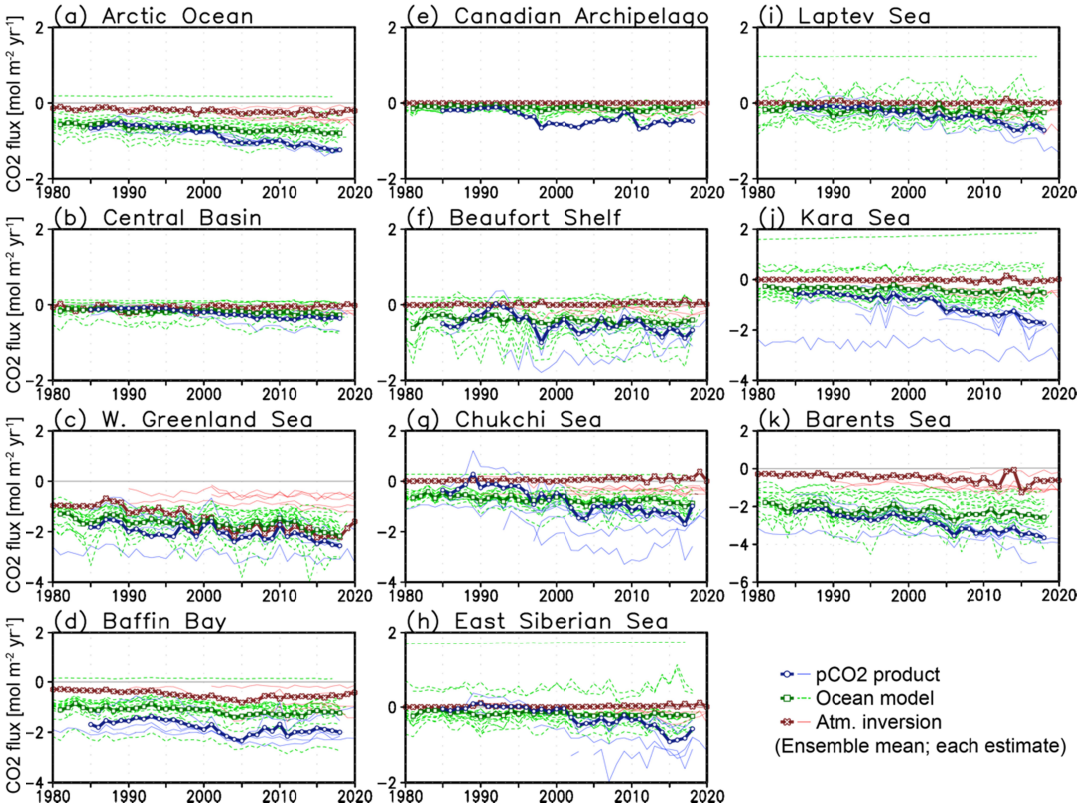
**Figure 8.** Monthly climatology of SIC averaged over the period of 1985−2018 (or the longest period available). Thick lines with marks indicate ensemble means, and thin lines indicate individual estimates (blue and circle, $pCO_2$ products; green and square, ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models).

### 3.4 Decadal trends

#### 3.4.1 Sea-air $CO_2$ flux and $pCO_{2w}$

The annual $CO_2$ uptake increases in almost all regions (Figures 9, 10a and 10b; Table S2). The increase in the $CO_2$ uptake per unit area is particularly large in the Barents Sea, the Kara Sea, and the western Greenland Sea (linear slopes of sea-air $CO_2$ flux < −0.2 $mol^{-1}\ m^{-2}\ yr^{-1}\ dec^{-1}$; Figures 9c, 9j, 9k, 10a and 10b). During the 1985−2018 period, the trend in the $CO_2$ uptake integrated over the entire Arctic Ocean is 31 ± 13 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ products, 10 ± 4 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models, and 5 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the atmospheric inversion (Table S2). In the $pCO_2$ products, the uptake trend in the Arctic Ocean (especially in the Kara Sea, the Laptev Sea, the East Siberian Sea and the Barents Sea) accelerated in the recent period, while such an acceleration is not simulated by the models (Table S2). In the models, a positive trend in $CO_2$ flux (decrease in $CO_2$ uptake or increase in $CO_2$ release) is observed in the coastal region off the Eurasian Continent (Figure 10c).

The $pCO_{2w}$ increases with the atmospheric $pCO_2$ in all regions (Figure 11). During the 1985−2018 period, the trend in $pCO_{2w}$ integrated over the entire Arctic Ocean is 7 ± 10 μatm $dec^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ products, and 18 ± 3 μatm $dec^{-1}$ in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models. The trend in $pCO_{2w}$ in both the $pCO_2$ products and the models are smaller than the atmospheric $pCO_2$ increase (~21 μatm $dec^{-1}$; Figures 10c, 10d and 11). In the $pCO_2$ products, the $pCO_{2w}$ trend is especially small in the Central Basin, the Chukchi Sea, the East Siberian Sea and the Kara Sea (< 10 μatm $dec^{-1}$). In the models, it is larger than 15 μatm $dec^{-1}$ in almost all regions except for coastal parts of the Kara Sea and the East Siberian Sea. The discrepancy between the trends in the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models is discussed in Section 4.2.3.




585
586

590 **Figure 9.** Annual mean $CO_2$ flux. Thick lines with marks indicate ensemble means, and
591 thin lines indicate individual estimates (blue and circle, $pCO_2$ products; green and
592 square, ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models; red and cross,
593 atmospheric inversions). Negative values indicate the $CO_2$ flux into the ocean.

591
592

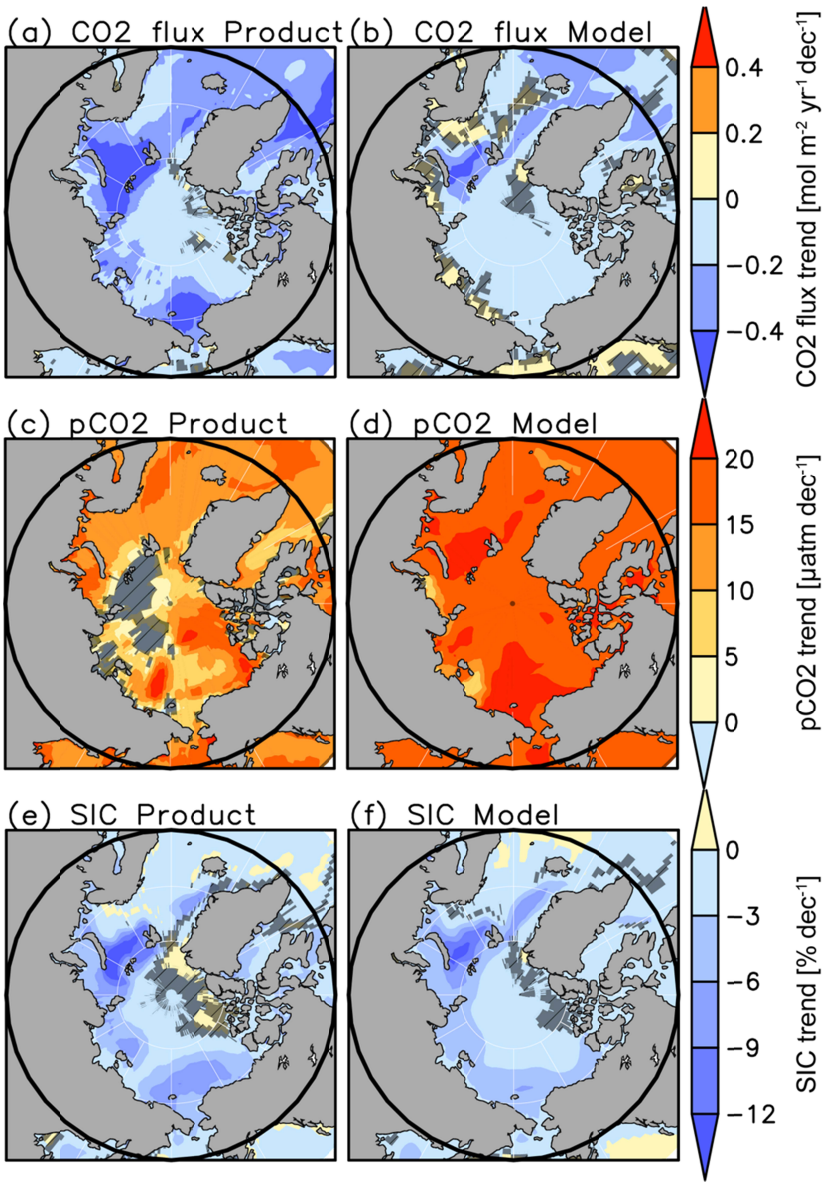



**Figure 10.** Trend over 1985−2018 for ensemble mean $CO_2$ flux, $pCO_{2w}$, and SIC from the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models. Negative values indicate increasing $CO_2$ flux into the ocean in panels (a) and (b). Darker hatched areas represent values in grids where less than two third of the estimates show the same sign of the trend.

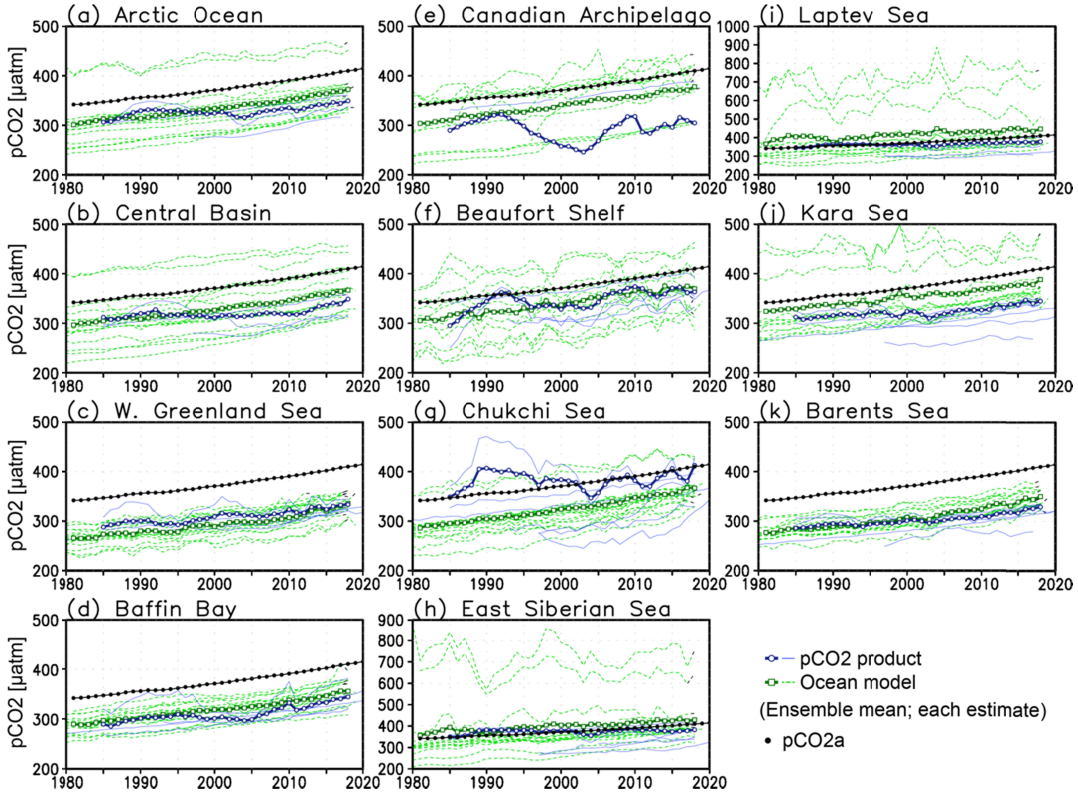



**Figure 11**: Annual mean $pCO_{2w}$. Thick lines with marks indicate ensemble means, and thin lines indicate individual estimates (blue and circle, $pCO_2$ products; green and square, ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models), and observed $pCO_{2a}$ (black dot).

### 3.4.2 Drivers of the decadal trends

The spatial patterns of the trend in sea-air $CO_2$ flux are similar to the SIC trend both in the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models (Figures 9, 10 and 12). The largest increase in the $CO_2$ uptake occurs in regions with extensive sea ice loss, in particular the Barents Sea and the Kara Sea. In these two regions of the Arctic Ocean, the largest reduction in SIC (> 5 % $dec^{-1}$) is observed. The trend in $CO_2$ flux relative to the long-term mean corresponds well with that in the SIC (Figure S5) except for in the coastal region off the Eurasian Continent, indicating that decrease of SIC can explain most of the $CO_2$ flux increase in the Arctic Ocean. Furthermore, smaller trend in $CO_2$ uptake in models than in $pCO_2$ products also corresponds with difference in the SIC trend. In the coastal region off the Eurasian

Continent, in the $pCO_2$ products, the increase in the $CO_2$ uptake is larger than the decrease in SIC (Figures S5a and S5c) since small $pCO_{2w}$ increase also intensifies the $CO_2$ uptake (Figure 10c). In the models, the $pCO_{2w}$ increase causes a change in the direction of $CO_2$ flux in some areas of the coastal region off the Eurasian Continent, from ocean uptake to release (Figures 4b, 10d, and S5b).

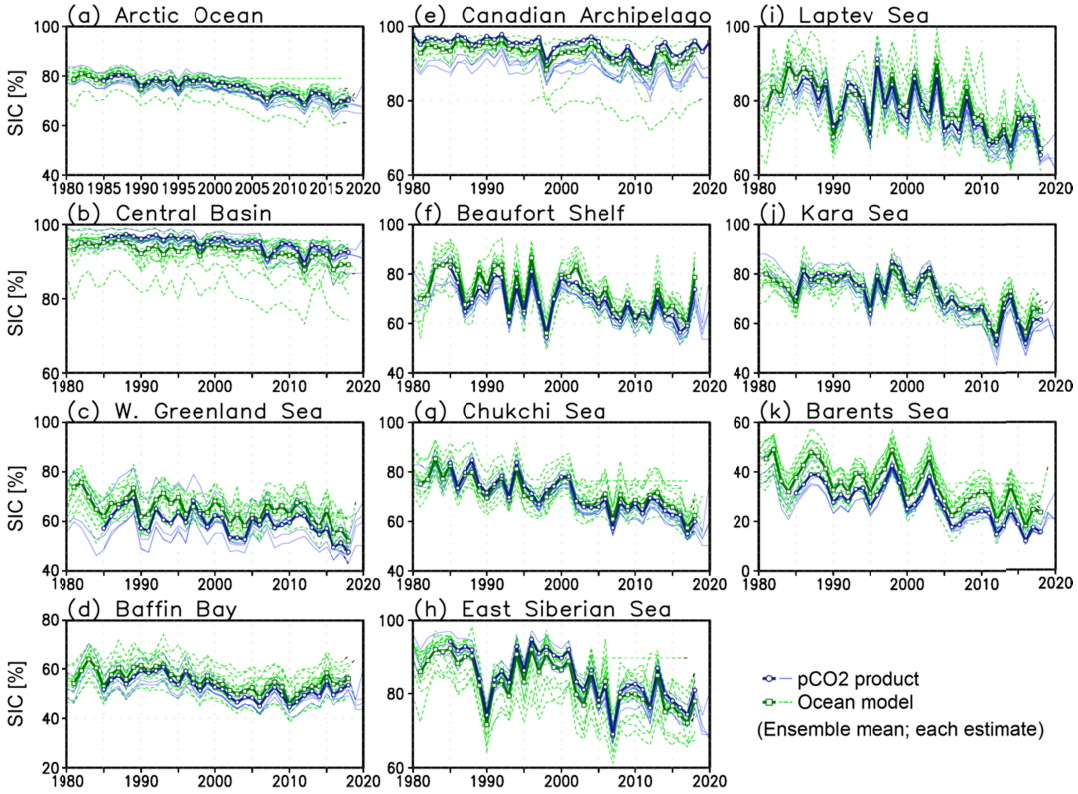



**Figure 12**: Annual mean SIC. Thick lines with marks indicate ensemble means, and thin lines indicate individual estimates (blue and circle, $pCO_2$ products; green and square, ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models).

A correspondence between the trends in sea-air $CO_2$ flux and SIC can be seen in each month both in the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models (Figure 13). The $CO_2$ uptake averaged over the Arctic Ocean increases all year round, while on the regional scale the increase occurs in different seasons because the decrease of SIC varies regionally and seasonally (Onarheim et al. 2018; Årthun et al. 2020). In the $pCO_2$ products, for most of the subregions except for the Barents Sea, the largest loss of SIC is observed in summer and autumn, such that the

638 increase in $CO_2$ uptake is strongest in that season. In the Barents Sea, the $CO_2$ uptake
639 increase shows no particular seasonal pattern; in winter it is driven by the loss of sea ice
640 and in summer it is driven by relatively small $pCO_{2w}$ growth rates. The SIC trends in the
641 ocean biogeochemical and data assimilation models are similar but smaller in summer
642 than the observed ones. Trend in $pCO_{2w}$ is larger in the models in almost all months and
643 all regions. As a result, the trends in the $CO_2$ uptake in the models is much smaller than
644 in the $pCO_2$ products, as was the case for the annual mean described in Section 3.4.1.
645 This is further discussed in Section 4.2.3.
646

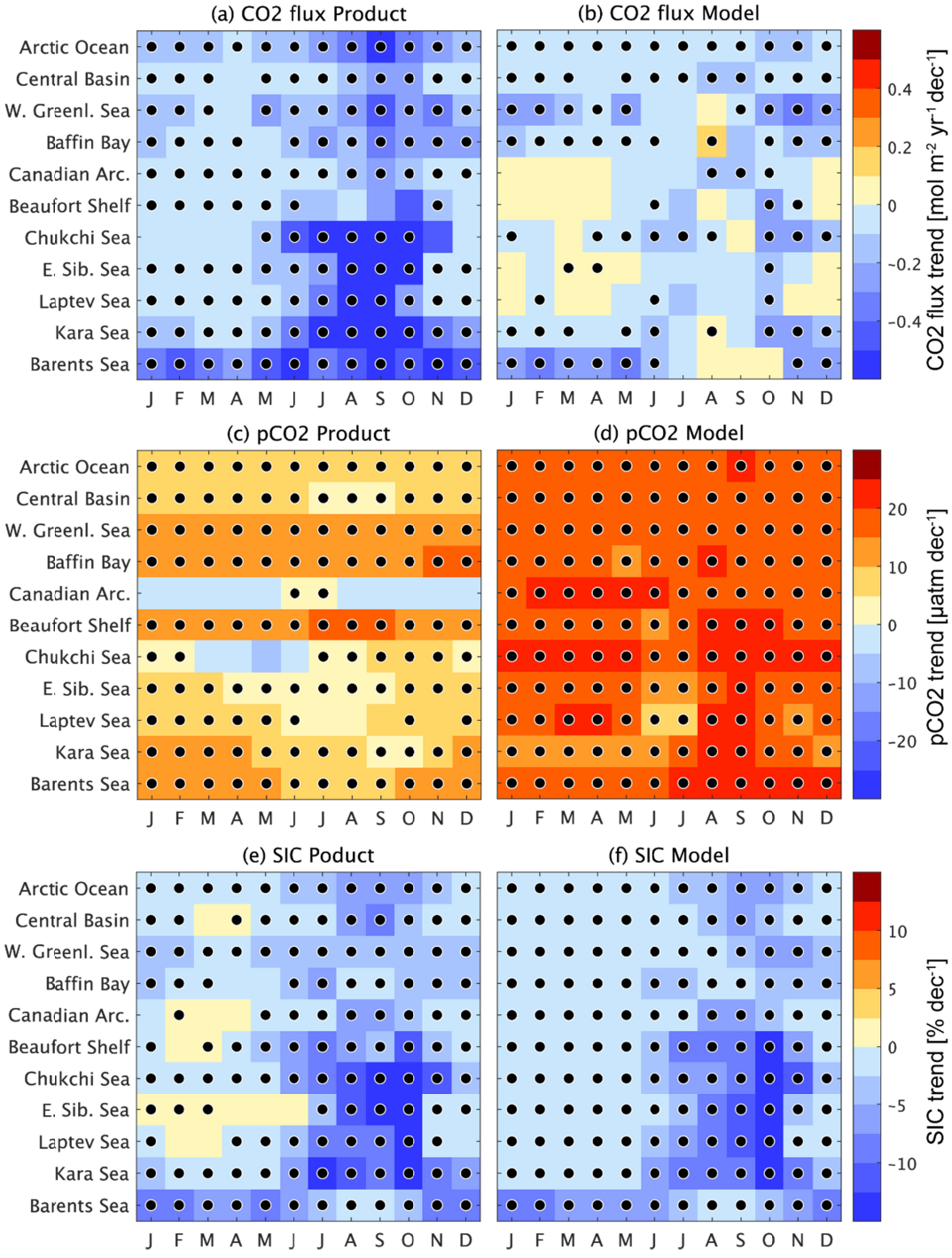



**Figure 13.** Trends in $CO_2$ flux, $pCO_{2w}$, and SIC over the 1985−2018 period from the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models. Negative values in panels (a) and (b) indicate increasing $CO_2$ influx to the ocean. Dots

represent values in grids where more than two third of the estimates show the same sign of the trend.

A dominance of the climate change effect, which includes the impact of the SIC decrease, on the $CO_2$ flux trend can be inferred from comparing the flux in the four simulations of the ocean biogeochemical hindcast models (Figure 14). In terms of the model ensemble mean, the $CO_2$ effect intensifies the $CO_2$ uptake (i.e., the $CO_2$ flux via the $CO_2$ effect is negative) in all regions and for each year throughout the 1985–2018 period (yellow ribbons in Figure 14), while the climate effect suppresses the $CO_2$ uptake (i.e., the $CO_2$ flux via the climate effect is positive) in some years at every region (hatches in Figure 14). Both effects show a negative trend of $CO_2$ flux with time, thus contributing to the increase in the net $CO_2$ uptake. Integrated over the entire Arctic Ocean, 77 ± 38 % of the trend in the net $CO_2$ uptake over time is caused by climate change effect on natural and anthropogenic $CO_2$, while 25 ± 9 % is driven by increasing atmospheric $CO_2$ in the steady state (excess 2% is the trend in the natural $CO_2$ flux in the steady state, which would be the model drift). The climate change effect on the $CO_2$ flux trends tends to be more important in regions of the high Arctic Ocean (the Barents Sea, the Kara Sea, the Laptev Sea, the East-Siberian Sea, the Chukchi Sea, the Canadian Archipelago, and the Central Basin; > 70%), whereas the increase in atmospheric $CO_2$ is more important in southern regions like the Baffin Bay (84 ± 40 %) and the western Greenland Sea (52 ± 20 %). The strong climate-induced $CO_2$ fluxes in the Arctic Ocean (Section 3.2) have become even more important in recent years.

Another decomposition of the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake shows 65 ± 29 % of the increase in the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake over time is caused by the natural flux components, while 35 ± 18 % is driven by anthropogenic components (Figure S6). Since the anthropogenic component (35%) includes both the $CO_2$ effect and the climate effect on the anthropogenic $CO_2$, it is bigger than the 25% of the $CO_2$ effect alone.

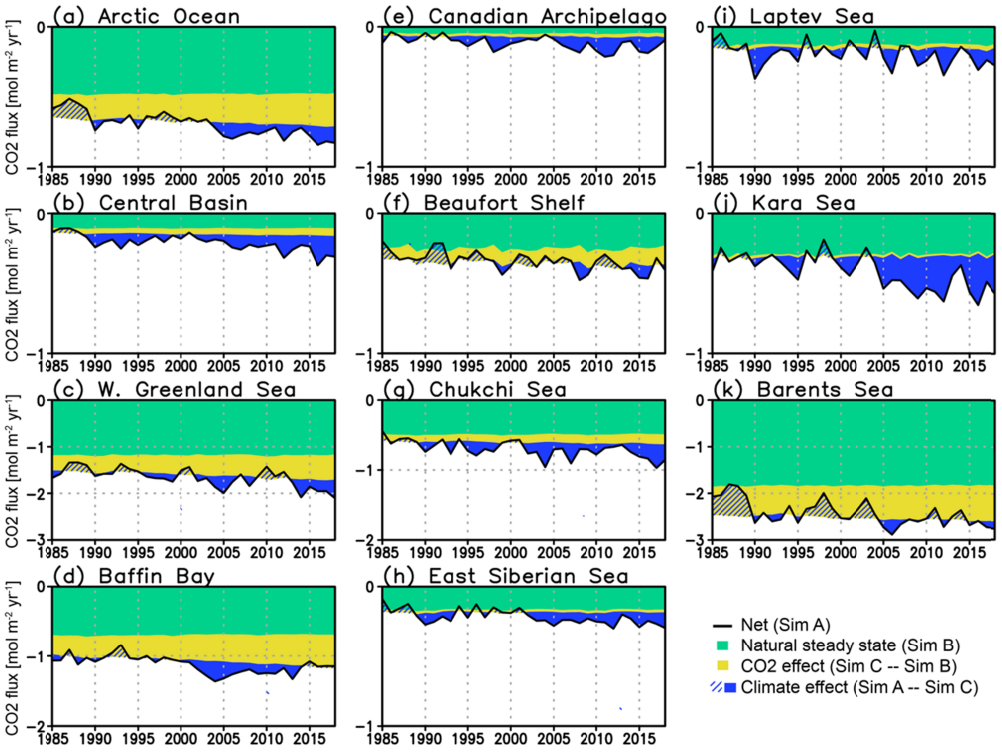



**Figure 14.** Time series of the decomposition of the net $CO_2$ flux (Sim A; black line) into the $CO_2$ effect (Sim C – Sim B; yellow ribbon), the climate effect (Sim A – Sim C; blue hatch and ribbon), and the natural steady-state flux (Sim B; aqua ribbon). Negative values (or widths of the ribbons) indicate the $CO_2$ influx to the ocean, and positive values (or widths of the hatches) indicates the $CO_2$ outflux from the ocean.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1 Comparison with the previous estimates

Previous estimates (Bates & Mathis, 2009; Schuster et al., 2013; Yasunaka et al., 2018) were determined for the Arctic Ocean without the western Greenland Sea and the Baffin Bay. When excluding these regions, the here synthesized estimate of the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake from 1985 to 2018 reduces to 84 ± 1 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ products, 65 ± 25 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in the ocean biogeochemical models, and 11 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in the atmospheric inversion (Table 2). The estimates from the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models are both larger than their

699 respective estimates in the first iteration of RECCAP (30 ± 30 Tg C $yr^{-1}$ and 50 ± 30 Tg
700 C $yr^{-1}$, respectively; Schuster et al., 2013). However, the estimates here are smaller than
701 other estimates (81–199 TgC $yr^{-1}$, Bates & Mathis, 2009; 180 ± 130 TgC $yr^{-1}$,
702 Yasunaka et al., 2018) but agree within the standard deviations. The atmospheric
703 inversion estimate in this study is smaller than that previously determined in the
704 framework of RECCAP (40 ± 20 Tg C $yr^{-1}$; Schuster et al., 2013) and other estimates.
705 Although average periods are different among the studies (before 2004 in Bates &
706 Mathis, 2009; 1990–2009 in Schuster et al., 2013; 1997–2014 in Yasunaka et al., 2018),
707 the different time periods cannot explain the discrepancies between the estimates
708 because the year-to-year variation and the trend in the $CO_2$ uptake is smaller than the
709 identified discrepancies (Figure 9; Table S2). In this study and the first phase of
710 RECCAP, the standard deviations and the median absolute deviation across the
711 estimates are used to show the range of estimates, but uncertainties may be larger due to
712 common biases or weaknesses across the entire estimates.
713 The $CO_2$ uptake in the Barents Sea in the present study is estimated to be 2.8 ± 1.1
714 mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ product and 2.3 ± 0.7 mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$ in the ocean
715 biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models, which are in the center of
716 previous studies from 4.4 mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$ to 0.7 mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$ (Arrigo et al., 2011; Fransson
717 et al., 2001; Kaltin et al., 2002; Land et al., 2013; Lauvset et al., 2013; Manizza et al.,
718 2013, 2019; Omar et al., 2007; Takahashi et al., 2009; Yasunaka et al., 2016, 2018).
719 Previous estimates of $CO_2$ uptake in the Chukchi Sea differs among the studies from 7.3
720 mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$ to 0.4 mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$ (Bates, 2006; Evans et al., 2015; Kaltin & Anderson,
721 2005; Manizza et al., 2013, 2019; Murata & Takizawa, 2003; Takahashi et al. 2009;
722 Yasunaka et al., 2016, 2018). The ensemble mean $CO_2$ uptake in the Chukchi Sea in the
723 present study is 0.8 ± 0.3 mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ product and 0.7 ± 0.2 mol $m^{-2}$ $yr^{-1}$ in
724 the models, which are near the lower limit of the previous estimates. In the first
725 implementation in RECCAP, the $CO_2$ uptake in the subregions were not assessed
726 (Schuster et al., 2013).
727
728 **4.2 Uncertainty in sea-air $CO_2$ flux and $pCO_{2w}$**
729 **4.2.1 Long-term mean**
730 The $CO_2$ uptake in the Arctic Ocean is larger in the $pCO_2$ products (116 ± 4 TgC
731 $yr^{-1}$) than in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models (92 ± 30
732 TgC $yr^{-1}$). This difference might occur because most ocean models do not (fully)
733 include the carbon input from land and the burial and remineralization in ocean
734 sediments (Table 1; DeVries et al. submitted). According to Lacroix et al. (2020), this

735 riverine-burial carbon flux was estimated to give rise to an outgassing of 29.7 TgC $yr^{-1}$
736 in the Arctic Ocean, and it amplifies the difference between the $pCO_2$ product and the
737 models, as this would need to be added to the flux in the $pCO_2$ products to make them
738 comparable to the models, following procedures of, e.g., the Global Carbon Budget
739 (Friedlingstein et al., 2022). However, the uncertainty of this adjustment is large
740 because the ocean biogeochemical model used by Lacroix et al. (2020) does not resolve
741 the Arctic Ocean small scale dynamics due to the relatively coarse model resolution and
742 likely does not capture the wide range of lability of organic carbon, sediment dynamics,
743 or coastal erosion that are important for the carbon cycle in the Arctic Ocean (Kaiser et
744 al., 2017; Mann et al., 2012; Sanchez-Garcia et al., 2011; Holmes et al., 2008; Brüchert
745 et al., 2018; Grotheer et al., 2020; Freitas et al., 2020 & 2021; Vonk et al., 2012; Hilton
746 et al., 2015; Couture et al., 2018).
747 The $CO_2$ uptake in the atmospheric inversions is weaker than that in the $pCO_2$
748 product and the ocean biogeochemical and data assimilation models (Figure 3; Table 2).
749 CAMS, which is the only inversion that covers the period 1985−2018, shows almost no
750 flux in the Central Bain, the Canadian Archipelago, the Beaufort Shelf, the Chukchi Sea,
751 the East Siberian Sea, the Laptev Sea and the Kara Sea even in summer (Figures 6 and
752 S1) probably because the prior in these regions was set to be zero (Denvil-Sommer et al.,
753 2019). However, the $CO_2$ uptake integrated over the whole Arctic Ocean is weak also in
754 the other atmospheric inversions in which non-zero $CO_2$ fluxes are used as their priors
755 (Figure 3; Table S1).
756
757 **4.2.2 Seasonal cycle**
758 The $CO_2$ uptake during summer and autumn in the Chukchi Sea, the Baffin Bay, the
759 Kara Sea, and the Barents Sea is larger in the $pCO_2$ products than in the ocean
760 biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models, which leads to the smaller
761 annual uptake in the models there (Figures 6d, 6g, 6j and 6k, respectively). The $pCO_{2w}$
762 from the $pCO_2$ products is consistently lower than that from the models in these seasons
763 and regions (Figures 7d, 7g, 7j and 7k). The models do not reproduce the low $pCO_{2w}$
764 values observed in summer and the seasonal amplitudes of $pCO_{2w}$ are smaller in the
765 models. Given that the seasonal SST amplitude in the models is similar to that in the
766 products (Figure S7), the $pCO_{2w}$ differences cannot be explained by potentially different
767 temperature effects on $pCO_{2w}$. Although differences in the Arctic Ocean
768 biogeochemistry may cause the discrepancy, there is not sufficient observational data
769 available to evaluate this.

Large discrepancies among the estimates of $pCO_{2w}$ are observed in the coastal parts of the East Siberian Sea, the Laptev Sea and the Kara Sea (Figure 7). A few ocean biogeochemical hindcast models (FESOM_REcoM_HR, FESOM_REcoM_LR, and Arctic_NEMURO-C) show high $pCO_{2w}$ values (> 500 μatm) in winter in these regions (Figures 7h, 7i and 7j), which leads to the annual $CO_2$ release in some cases (FESOM_REcoM_HR and FESOM_REcoM_LR; Table S1). Once the sea ice disappears in spring, the outgassing of $CO_2$ to the atmosphere (Figure 6h, 6i and 6j) and intense phytoplankton blooms (not shown here) lower the $pCO_{2w}$ in those models. Remineralization below the surface or under sea ice of this newly formed organic matter then likely increases $pCO_{2w}$ values in winter. High $pCO_{2w}$ values (> 500 μatm) were observed very near the coast in the Laptev Sea and the East Siberian Sea (Anderson et al., 2009), but the spatial and temporal extent of the high $pCO_{2w}$ has not been determined yet and the $pCO_{2w}$ estimates both in the $pCO_2$ products and the models cannot be evaluated at this stage. Although general features of low SSS and low DIC in these regions due to fresh water input from rivers (Tank et al., 2012) are simulated in the models, the range of the model simulated SSS and DIC are large (standard deviations are > 2 in SSS and > 200 μmol $kg^{-1}$ in DIC; not shown here) leading to inter-model differences in $pCO_{2w}$. This implies that the differences in the riverine water, carbon, alkalinity and nutrient input leads to large uncertainties in the $pCO_{2w}$ estimates in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models. Other factors leading to large uncertainty in the coastal regions are burial, erosion and seafloor sediments, which is also difficult to evaluate at this stage. On the other hand, observations are scarce and biased towards summer and open ocean, which may well lead to biases in the $pCO_2$ products based on $pCO_{2w}$ observations.

$pCO_{2w}$ in the Chukchi Sea is higher in the $pCO_2$ products than in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models (Figure 7g). High $pCO_{2w}$ (>500 μatm) has been sometimes observed in the Chukchi Sea via storm-induced mixing events (Hauri et al. 2013), which may not be simulated in the models.

#### 4.2.3 Trend from 1985 to 2018

The increasing trend in the $CO_2$ uptake is larger in the $pCO_2$ product than in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models in almost all regions and all seasons (Figures 9, 10a, 10b, 13a and 13b; Table S2). The decreasing trend in SIC is also larger in the $pCO_2$ products than in the models (Figures 10e, 10f, 13e and 13f). Although the models reproduce SIC well not only in the mean distribution but also the seasonal and interannual variability (Figures 4g, 8, 10f, 12 and 13f), small discrepancies

in the SIC trends affect the trend in $CO_2$ flux (Figure S5). Furthermore, the increase in $pCO_{2w}$ is much larger in the models than in the $pCO_2$ product although the difference among the estimates is large (Figures 10c, 10d, 11, 13c and 13d). Since the relevance of $pCO_{2w}$ for determining the $CO_2$ flux will increase along with the sea ice retreat, model improvement and more observations for the better $pCO_{2w}$ estimates are crucial.

The $CO_2$ uptake in the southern Barents Sea and the coastal region in the East Siberian Sea, the Laptev Sea, and the Kara Sea is increasing in the $pCO_2$ products but decreasing (or increasing outgassing in some regions that are $CO_2$ sources) in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models (Figures 10a and 10b), but both estimates have large uncertainties in these regions as mentioned in Section 4.2.2. Recently, an increasing trend of summertime $CO_2$ uptake in the Chukchi Sea has been reported (Ouyang et al., 2020, 2022 Tu et al., 2021). In this study, the large increasing $CO_2$ uptake trend in the Chukchi Sea is detected in the $pCO_2$ products but it is small in the models (Figure 14a and 14b).

The trend in the global ocean $CO_2$ uptake is also larger in the $pCO_2$ products than in the ocean biogeochemical models (380 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ products 260 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the ocean biogeochemical models from 2001 to 2018; DeVries et al. submitted). To resolve the temporal change of $CO_2$ uptake, more $pCO_2$ observations in all seasons and implementing observed changes in riverine and coastal erosion fluxes, including the substantial temporal changes in the riverine alkalinity (Drake et al., 2018), into the ocean biogeochemical models (Peterson et al., 2002; Behnke et al., 2021; Frey & McClelland, 2009; Terhaar et al. 2019b) are needed.

### 4.3. Importance of the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ flux for the global ocean carbon sink

Previous studies based on passive tracer observations have estimated that the Arctic Ocean anthropogenic carbon inventory (only due to increasing $CO_2$) by 2005 was 3.3 ± 0.3 Pg C (~2% of the change in the global ocean anthropogenic carbon inventory (scaled from Sabine et al., 2004; Tanhua et al., 2009; Terhaar et al., 2020) although the Arctic Ocean volume represents only 1% of the global ocean volume (Jakobsson et al., 2002). Observations (Olsen et al., 2015) and model studies from hindcast models and Earth System Models (Terhaar et al., 2019a) suggest that one third of this anthropogenic carbon has been taken up in the Arctic Ocean and two thirds were transported to the Arctic Ocean from the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean. Thus, the Arctic Ocean sea-air anthropogenic $CO_2$ flux accounts for less than 1% of the global ocean sea-air anthropogenic $CO_2$ flux. Actually, for the years from 1985 to 2018, we find that the anthropogenic sea-air $CO_2$ flux into the ocean to be 19 ± 6 Tg C $yr^{-1}$, ~1% of the global

ocean anthropogenic sea-air $CO_2$ flux over the same period (DeVries et al., submitted). This relatively small contribution of the Arctic Ocean to the anthropogenic sea-air $CO_2$ flux may lead to the conclusion that the Arctic Ocean only plays a minor role for the global ocean carbon sink.

Our analysis, however, suggests that the importance of the Arctic Ocean for the global carbon sink has increased in the last decades. The anthropogenic sea-air $CO_2$ flux was augmented by an increasing uptake of natural carbon of 10 ± 17 TgC $yr^{-1}$ due to climate change (half of the anthropogenic sea-air $CO_2$ flux). The relatively large importance of the uptake of natural carbon suggests that observation-based estimates of the anthropogenic carbon storage in the Arctic Ocean (Tanhua et al., 2009; Terhaar et al., 2020) underestimate the total change in DIC inventory and the associated historical acidification rates (Andersson et al., 2010; Terhaar et al., 2020). Furthermore, the increase in the combined uptake of anthropogenic and natural carbon in the Arctic Ocean (31 ± 13 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ products, 10 ± 5 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models, and 5 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the atmospheric inversion) is 4−8% of the global ocean change in carbon uptake (380 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ products and 260 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the ocean biogeochemical models; DeVries et al. submitted). Thus, the Arctic Ocean contribution to the global ocean carbon sink remains relatively small but fast changes in the Arctic Ocean make it a relatively important ocean basin for changes in the estimated sea-air $CO_2$ flux. The Arctic Ocean's importance may further increase in the future when climate change and ocean warming are projected to cause further outgassing of natural carbon in most parts of the global ocean (Joos et al., 1999; Frölicher and Joos, 2010) and potentially further enhanced uptake of natural carbon in the Arctic Ocean (Frölicher and Joos, 2010).

## 5. Conclusions

We integrated results from the $pCO_2$ products based on surface ocean $pCO_{2w}$ observation, ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models and atmospheric inversions, and presented synthesized estimates of the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake and their uncertainties. The Arctic Ocean is a net sink of $CO_2$ of 116 ± 4 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ products and 92 ± 30 TgC $yr^{-1}$ in the models. The $CO_2$ uptake is substantially weaker in the atmospheric inversions. The $CO_2$ uptake peaks in late summer to early autumn, and is low in winter because of the sea ice cover inhibiting sea-air fluxes. The annual mean of $CO_2$ uptake increased at the rate of 29 ± 11 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the $pCO_2$ products and 10 ± 4 TgC $yr^{-1}$ $dec^{-1}$ in the models.

The $CO_2$ uptake in the Arctic Ocean is primarily caused by steady-state fluxes of natural carbon (70 ± 15 %), and enhanced by the atmospheric $CO_2$ increase (19 ± 5 %) and climate change (11 ± 18 %). The Arctic Ocean is the only ocean where climate change influences the sea-air $CO_2$ flux by a similar magnitude as the increase in atmospheric $CO_2$. Moreover, the climate effect in the Arctic Ocean has become more important in recent years. The relatively strong importance of climate change is due to decreased sea ice cover that allows more $CO_2$ exchange via the sea-air interface.

The uncertainty remains large especially in the $pCO_{2w}$ estimates in the East Siberian Sea and the Laptev Sea because of the limited observations in the $pCO_2$ products and limited or non-existing representation of carbon and nutrient coastal boundary fluxes from rivers, coastal erosion and sediment dynamics, and insufficient model resolution to resolve small scale mixing in the models. Discrepancies in the seasonal cycle and long-term trend of $pCO_{2w}$ between the $pCO_2$ products and the ocean biogeochemical hindcast and data assimilation models was also observed in many other subregions of the Arctic Ocean.

Further model development and more observations are crucially needed to improve estimates of the Arctic Ocean sea-air $CO_2$ fluxes in a time when the Arctic Ocean faces the effects of rapid change, such as SIC decrease, warming and increasing riverine inputs, that will ultimately also affect ecosystem drivers such as ocean acidification and changing net primary production (Vancoppenolle et al., 2013; Terhaar et al., 2020).

**Acknowledgements**

We thank the many researchers and funding agencies responsible for the product and model developments and the data submission to the RECCAP2 compilation, and for the collection of data and quality control for their contributions to SOCAT. This work was financially supported by the Arctic Challenge for Sustainability II (ArCS II) project funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, and JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number JP 20K04073. JT, PL and JDM acknowledge support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 821003 (project 4C). JT also acknowledges funding from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Postdoctoral Scholar Program, and the Swiss National Science Foundation under grant #200020_200511. JH received funding by the Initiative and Networking Fund of the Helmholtz Association (Helmholtz Young Investigator Group Marine Carbon and Ecosystem Feedbacks in the Earth System [MarESys], grant number VH-NG-1301. AO appreciates funding from the Research

912 Council of Norway (grant no. 296012, N–ICOS-2). None of the authors have conflicts
913 of interest to declare.
914
915 **Data Availability Statement**
916 All sea-air $CO_2$ flux and $pCO_{2w}$ estimates in the RECCAP2 compilation and those
917 provided on a personal basis are available upon request at https://reccap2-
918 ocean.github.io/data/. Hadley Centre Sea Ice and SST data set, NOAA/National Snow
919 and Ice Data Center Climate Data Record of Passive Microwave Sea Ice Concentration
920 version 2, and NOAA Optimum Interpolation SST Version 2 were downloaded from the
921 web sites (https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/hadisst/; http://nsidc.org/data/G02202;
922 http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/gridded/data.noaa.oisst.v2.html). SOCAT version 6
923 and LDEOv2017 are available in their web site (http://www.socat.info/;
924 https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/ocean-carbon-acidification-data-
925 system/oceans/LDEO_Underway_Database/). The NOAA Greenhouse Gas Marine
926 Boundary Layer Reference product and sea level pressure from NCEP2 were
927 downloaded from the websites (http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/mbl/index.html;
928 http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/gridded/data.ncep.reanalysis2.html).
929
930 **References**
931 Anderson, L. G., Jutterström, S., Hjalmarsson, S., Wåhlström, I., & Semiletov, I. P.
932 (2009). Out-gassing of $CO_2$ from Siberian Shelf seas by terrestrial organic matter
933 decomposition. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *36*, L20601.
934 https://doi.org/10.1029/2009GL040046
935 Anderson L. G., & Kaltin S. (2001). Carbon fluxes in the Arctic Ocean-potential impact
936 by climate change. *Polar Research*, *20*(2), 225-232.
937 https://doi.org/10.3402/polar.v20i2.6521
938 Anderson, L. G., & Olsen, A. (2002). Air–sea flux of anthropogenic carbon dioxide in
939 the North Atlantic. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *29*(17), 16-1.
940 https://doi.org/10.1029/2002GL014820
941 Anderson, L. G., Tanhua, T., Björk, G., Hjalmarsson, S., Jones, E. P., Jutterström, S., et
942 al. (2010). Arctic ocean shelf–basin interaction: An active continental shelf CO2
943 pump and its impact on the degree of calcium carbonate solubility. *Deep Sea*
944 *Research Part I: Oceanographic Research Papers*, *57*(7), 869-879.
945 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2010.03.012

946 Arrigo, K., Pabi, S., van Dijken, G., & Maslowski, W. (2011). Air-sea flux of $CO_2$ in
947 the Arctic Ocean, 1998–2003. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *115*, G04024.
948 https://doi.org/10.1029/2009JG001,224
949 Arrigo, K.R., & van Dijken, G.L. (2015). Continued increases in Arctic Ocean primary
950 production. *Progressive in Oceanography*, *136*, 60–70.
951 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pocean.2015.05.002
952 Årthun, M., Eldevik, T., Smedsrud, L. H., Skagseth, Ø., & Ingvaldsen, R. B. (2012).
953 Quantifying the influence of Atlantic heat on Barents Sea ice variability and retreat.
954 *Journal of Climate*, *25*(13), 4736-4743. https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-11-00466.1
955 Årthun, M., Onarheim, I. H., Dörr, J., & Eldevik, T. (2021). The seasonal and regional
956 transition to an ice-free Arctic. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *48*, e2020GL090825.
957 https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GL090825
958 Aumont, O., Ethé, C., Tagliabue, A., Bopp, L., and Gehlen, M. (2015). PISCES-v2: an
959 ocean biogeochemical model for carbon and ecosystem studies. *Geosci. Model Dev.*,
960 *8*, 2465–2513. https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-8-2465-2015
961 Bakker, D. C. E., Pfeil, B., Smith, K., Harasawa, S., Landa, C., Nakaoka, S., et al.
962 (2016). A multi-decade record of high quality $fCO_2$ data in version 3 of the Surface
963 Ocean $CO_2$ Atlas (SOCAT). *Earth System Science Data*, *8*, 383–413.
964 https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-8-383-2016
965 Bates, N. R. (2006). Air-sea $CO_2$ fluxes and the continental shelf pump of carbon in the
966 Chukchi Sea adjacent to the Arctic Ocean. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *111*.
967 C10013, https://doi.org/10.1029/2005JC003083
968 Bates, N. R., &. Mathis, J. T. (2009). The Arctic Ocean marine carbon cycle: evaluation
969 of air-sea $CO_2$ exchanges, ocean acidification impacts and potential feedbacks.
970 *Biogeosciences*, *6*, 2433-2459, https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-6-2433-2009
971 Bates, N. R., Moran, S. B., Hansell, D. A., & Mathis, J. T. (2006). An increasing $CO_2$
972 sink in the Arctic Ocean due to sea-ice loss. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *33*,
973 L23609. https://doi.org/10.1029/2006GL027028.
974 Bates, N. R., Garley, R., Frey, K. E., Shake, K. L., & Mathis J. T. (2014). Sea-ice melt
975 $CO_2$-carbonate chemistry in the western Arctic Ocean: meltwater contributions to
976 air-sea $CO_2$ gas exchange, mixed layer properties and rates of net community
977 production under sea ice. *Biogeosciences*, *11*, 6769–6789. https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-
978 11-6769-2014.
979 Behnke, M. I., McClelland, J. W., Tank, S. E., Kellerman, A. M., Holmes, R. M.,
980 Haghipour, N., et al. (2021). Pan-Arctic riverine dissolved organic matter:
981 Synchronous molecular stability, shifting sources and subsidies. *Global*

*Biogeochemical Cycles*, *35*, e2020GB006871. https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GB006871

Brüchert, V., Bröder, L., Sawicka, J. E., Tesi, T., Joye, S. P., Sun, X., et al. (2018). Carbon mineralization in Laptev and East Siberian sea shelf and slope sediment. *Biogeosciences*, *15*(2), 471-490. https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-15-471-2018

Cai, W.J., Chen, L. Q., Chen, B. S., Gao, Z. Y., Lee, S. H., Chen, J. F., et al. (2010). Decrease in the $CO_2$ uptake capacity in an ice-free Arctic Ocean Basin. *Science*, *329*, 556–559. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1189338

Carroll, D., Menemenlis, D., Adkins, J. F., Bowman, K. W., Brix, H., Dutkiewicz, S., et al. (2020). The ECCO-Darwin Data-Assimilative Global Ocean Biogeochemistry Model: Estimates of Seasonal to Multidecadal Surface Ocean $pCO_2$ and Air-Sea $CO_2$ Flux. *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*, *12*, e2019MS001888. https://doi.org/10.1029/2019MS001888

Chassignet, E. P., Yeager, S. G., Fox-Kemper, B., Bozec, A., Castruccio, F., Danabasoglu, G., et al. (2020). Impact of horizontal resolution on global ocean–sea ice model simulations based on the experimental protocols of the Ocean Model Intercomparison Project phase 2 (OMIP-2). *Geoscientific Model Development*, *13*(9), 4595-4637. https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-13-4595-2020

Chau T. T. T., Gehlen M., & Chevallier F. (2022). A seamless ensemble-based reconstruction of surface ocean $pCO_2$ and air–sea $CO_2$ fluxes over the global coastal and open oceans. *Biogeosciences*, *19*, 1087–1109. https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-19-1087-2022

Chevallier, F. (2020). *Validation report for the $CO_2$ fluxes estimated by atmospheric inversion, v20r1*. Retrieved from https://atmosphere.copernicus.eu/sites/default/files/2020-12/CAMS73_2018SC2_D73.1.4.1-2019-v4_202011_v1.pdf

Chierici, M, Fransson, A., Lansard, B., Miller, L. A., Mucci, A., Shadwick, E., et al. (2011). The impact of biogeochemical processes and environmental factors on the calcium carbonate saturation state in the Circumpolar Flaw Lead in the Amundsen Gulf, Arctic Ocean. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *116*, C00G09. https://doi.org/10.1029/2011JC007184

Comiso, J.C., Parkinson, C.L., Gersten, R., & L. Stock (2008). Accelerated decline in the Arctic sea ice cover. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *35*, L01703. https://doi.org/10.1029/2007GL031972

Conway, T.J., Tans, P. P., Waterman, L. S., Thoning, K. W., Kitzis, D. R., Masarie, K. A., and Zhang, N. (1994). Evidence for interannual variability of the carbon cycle

1018 from the NOAA/CMDL global air sampling network. *Journal of Geophysical*
1019 *Research*, *99*, 22831–22855
1020 Couture, N. J., Irrgang, A., Pollard, W., Lantuit, H., & Fritz, M. (2018). Coastal erosion
1021 of permafrost soils along the Yukon Coastal Plain and fluxes of organic carbon to the
1022 Canadian Beaufort Sea. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences*, *123*(2),
1023 406-422. https://doi.org/10.1002/2017JG004166
1024 Denvil-Sommer, A., Gehlen, M., Vrac, M., & Mejia, C. (2019). LSCE-FFNN-v1: a
1025 two-step neural network model for the reconstruction of surface ocean pCO 2 over
1026 the global ocean. *Geoscientific Model Development*, *12*(5), 2091-2105.
1027 https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-12-2091-2019
1028 DeVries, T. (2014). The oceanic anthropogenic CO2 sink: Storage, air-sea fluxes, and
1029 transports over the industrial era. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles.*, *28*, 631-647.
1030 https://doi.org/10.1002/2013GB004739
1031 DeVries, T. (2022). Atmospheric $CO_2$ and Sea Surface Temperature Variability Cannot
1032 Explain Recent Decadal Variability of the Ocean $CO_2$ Sink. *Geophysical Research*
1033 *Letters*, *49*, e2021GL096018, https://doi.org/10.1029/2021GL096018
1034 DeVries, T., Yamamoto K., Wanninkhof R., Gruber N., Hauck J., Müller J. D., et al.
1035 Magnitude, trends, and variability of the global ocean carbon sink from 1985-2018.
1036 Submitted to *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*
1037 Doney, S. C., I. Lima, R. A.Feely, D. M. Glover, K. Lindsay, N. Mahowald, J. K.
1038 Moore R.Wanninkhof (2009). Mechanisms governing interannual variability in
1039 upper-ocean inorganic carbon system and air-sea CO2 fluxes: Physical climate and
1040 atmospheric dust, *Deep Sea Res. II*, *56*, 640– 655.
1041 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr2.2008.12.006
1042 Döscher, R., Acosta, M., Alessandri, A., Anthoni, P., Arsouze, T., Bergman, T., et al.
1043 (2022). The EC-Earth3 Earth system model for the Coupled Model Intercomparison
1044 Project 6. *Geoscientific Model Development*, *15*(7), 2973-3020.
1045 https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-15-2973-2022
1046 Drake, T. W., Tank, S. E., Zhulidov, A. V., Holmes, R. M., Gurtovaya, T., & Spencer,
1047 R. G. (2018). Increasing alkalinity export from large Russian Arctic
1048 rivers. *Environmental Science & Technology*, *52*(15), 8302-8308.
1049 https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.8b01051
1050 Else, B. G. T., Galley, R. J., Lansard, B., Barber, D. G., Brown, K., Miller, L., et al.
1051 (2013). Further observations of a decreasing atmospheric CO2 uptake capacity in the
1052 Canada Basin (Arctic Ocean) due to sea ice loss. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *40*,
1053 1132–1137. https://doi.org/10.1002/grl.50268

Evans, W., Mathis, J. T., Cross, J. N., Bates, N. R., Frey, K. E., Else, B. G. T., et al. (2015). Sea-air $CO_2$ exchange in the western Arctic coastal ocean. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *29*, 1190– 1209. https://doi.org/10.1002/2015GB005153

Fay, A. R., & McKinley, G. A. (2014). Global open-ocean biomes: mean and temporal variability. *Earth Syst. Sci. Data*, *6*, 273–284. https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-6-273-2014

Feng, L., Palmer, P. I., Parker, R. J., Deutscher, N. M., Feist, D. G., Kivi, R., ... & Sussmann, R. (2016). Estimates of European uptake of CO 2 inferred from GOSAT X CO 2 retrievals: sensitivity to measurement bias inside and outside Europe. *Atmospheric chemistry and physics*, *16*(3), 1289-1302. https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-16-1289-2016

Fransson, A., Chierici, M., Anderson, L. G, Bussmann, I., Kattner, G., Peter Jones, E., & Swift, J. H. (2001). The importance of shelf processes for the modification of chemical constituents in the waters of the Eurasian Arctic Ocean: Implication for carbon fluxes. *Continental Shelf Research*, *21*, 225–242. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0278-4343(00)00088-1

Fransson, A., Chierici, M., Skjelvan, I., Olsen, A., Assmy, P., Peterson, A. K., Spreen, G., & Ward, B. (2017). Effects of sea-ice and biogeochemical processes and storms on under-ice water $fCO_2$ during the winter-spring transition in the high Arctic Ocean: Implications for sea-air $CO_2$ fluxes. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *122*(7), https://doi.org/10.1002/2016JC012478

Freitas, F. S., Hendry, K. R., Henley, S. F., Faust, J. C., Tessin, A. C., Stevenson, M. A., ... & Arndt, S. (2020). Benthic-pelagic coupling in the Barents Sea: an integrated data-model framework. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A*, *378*(2181), 20190359. https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2019.0359

Freitas, F. S., Pika, P. A., Kasten, S., Jørgensen, B. B., Rassmann, J., Rabouille, C., et al. (2021). New insights into large-scale trends of apparent organic matter reactivity in marine sediments and patterns of benthic carbon transformation. *Biogeosciences*, *18*(15), 4651-4679. https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-18-4651-2021

Frey, K.E. & McClelland, J.W. (2009). Impacts of permafrost degradation on arctic river biogeochemistry. *Hydrological Processes*, *23*, 169-182. https://doi.org/10.1002/hyp.7196

Friedlingstein, P., Jones, M. W., O'Sullivan, M., Andrew, R. M., Bakker, D. C., Hauck, J., et al. (2022). Global carbon budget 2021. *Earth System Science Data*, *14*(4), 1917-2005. https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-14-4811-2022

1089 Frölicher, T. L., & Joos, F. (2010). Reversible and irreversible impacts of greenhouse
1090 gas emissions in multi-century projections with the NCAR global coupled carbon
1091 cycle-climate model. *Climate dynamics*, *35*, 1439-1459.
1092 https://doi.org/10.1007/s00382-009-0727-0
1093 Gao, Z., Chen, L., Sun, H., Chen, B., & Cai, W.-J. (2012). Distributions and air–sea
1094 fluxes of carbon dioxide in the Western Arctic Ocean. *Deep-Sea Res. II*, 81–84, 46–
1095 52. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr2.2012.08.021.
1096 Gregor, L., & N. Gruber (2021). OceanSODA-ETHZ: a global gridded data set of the
1097 surface ocean carbonate system for seasonal to decadal studies of ocean acidification.
1098 *Earth Syst. Sci. Data*, *13*, 777–808. https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-13-777-2021
1099 Grotheer, H., Meyer, V., Riedel, T., Pfalz, G., Mathieu, L., Hefter, J., et al. (2020).
1100 Burial and origin of permafrost-derived carbon in the nearshore zone of the southern
1101 Canadian Beaufort Sea. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *47*(3), e2019GL085897.
1102 https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GL085897
1103 Hauck, J., Zeising, M., Le Quéré, C., Gruber, N., Bakker, D. C. E., Bopp, L., et al.
1104 (2020). Consistency and Challenges in the Ocean Carbon Sink Estimate for the
1105 Global Carbon Budget. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 7:571720. https://doi.org/
1106 10.3389/fmars.2020.571720
1107 Hauri, C., Winsor, P., Juranek, L. W., McDonnell, A. M., Takahashi, T., & Mathis, J. T.
1108 (2013). Wind-driven mixing causes a reduction in the strength of the continental
1109 shelf carbon pump in the Chukchi Sea. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *40*(22), 5932-
1110 5936. https://doi.org/10.1002/2013GL058267
1111 Hersbach, H., Bell, B., Berrisford, P., Hirahara, S., Horányi, A., Muñoz-Sabater, J., et al.
1112 (2020). The ERA5 global reanalysis. *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological*
1113 *Society*, *146*(730), 1999-2049. https://doi.org/10.1002/qj.3803.
1114 Hilton, R. G., Galy, V., Gaillardet, J., Dellinger, M., Bryant, C., O'Regan, M., et al.
1115 (2015). Erosion of organic carbon in the Arctic as a geological carbon dioxide sink.
1116 *Nature*, *524*(7563), 84-87. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature14653
1117 Holmes, R. M., McClelland, J. W., Raymond, P. A., Frazer, B. B., Peterson, B. J., &
1118 Stieglitz, M. (2008). Lability of DOC transported by Alaskan rivers to the Arctic
1119 Ocean. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *35*(3). https://doi.org/10.1029/2007GL032837
1120 Jakobsson, M. (2002). Hypsometry and volume of the Arctic Ocean and its constituent
1121 seas. *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, *3*(5), 1-18.
1122 https://doi.org/10.1029/2001GC000302

Joos, F., Plattner, G. K., Stocker, T. F., Marchal, O., & Schmittner, A. (1999). Global warming and marine carbon cycle feedbacks on future atmospheric CO2. *Science*, *284*(5413), 464-467. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.284.5413.464

Kaiser, K., Benner, R., & Amon, R. M. W. (2017). The fate of terrigenous dissolved organic carbon on the Eurasian shelves and export to the North Atlantic. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*, *122*(1), 4-22. https://doi.org/10.1002/2016JC012380

Kaltin, S., Anderson, L. G., Olsson, K., Fransson, A., & Chierici, M. (2002). Uptake of atmospheric carbon dioxide in the Barents Sea. *Journal of Marine Systems*, *38*, 31–45. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0924-7963(02)00168-9

Kaltin, S., & Anderson, L. G. (2005). Uptake of atmospheric carbon dioxide in Arctic shelf seas: Evaluation of the relative importance of processes that influence $pCO_2$ in water transported over the Bering-Chukchi Sea shelf. *Mar. Chem.*, *94*, 67– 79. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marchem.2004.07.010

Kanamitsu, M., Ebisuzaki, W., Woollen, J., Yang, S-K, Hnilo, J. J., Fiorino, M., & Potter, G. L. (2002). NCEP-DOE AMIP-II Reanalysis (R-2), *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, *83*, 1631–1643. https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-83-11-1631

Kriest, I., & Oschlies, A. (2015). MOPS-1.0: towards a model for the regulation of the global oceanic nitrogen budget by marine biogeochemical processes. *Geosci. Model Dev.*, *8*, 2929–2957. https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-8-2929-2015

Lacroix, F., Ilyina, T., & Hartmann, J. (2020). Oceanic $CO_2$ outgassing and biological production hotspots induced by pre-industrial river loads of nutrients and carbon in a global modeling approach. *Biogeosciences*, *17*, 55–88. https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-17-55-2020

Lammers, R. B., Shiklomanov, A. I., Vörösmarty, C. J., Fekete, B. M., Peterson, B. J. (2001). Assessment of contemporary Arctic river runoff based on observational discharge records. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *106*, 3321–3334. https://doi.org/10.1029/2000JD900444

Land, P. E., Shutler, J. D., Cowling, R. D., Woolf, D. K., Walker, P., Findlay, H. S., et al. (2013). Climate change impacts on sea-air fluxes of $CO_2$ in three Arctic seas: A sensitivity study using earth observation. *Biogeosciences*, *10*, 8109– 8128. https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-10-8109-2013

Landschützer, P., Laruelle, G. G., Roobaert, A., & Regnier, P. (2020). A uniform $pCO_2$ climatology combining open and coastal oceans. *Earth Syst. Sci. Data*, *12*, 2537–2553. https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-12-2537-2020

Lauvset, S., Chierici, M., Counillon, F., Omar, A., Nondal, G., Johannessen, T., & Olsen, A. (2013). Annual and seasonal $fCO_2$ and air-sea $CO_2$ fluxes in the Barents

Sea. *Journal of Marine Systems*, *113*, 62–74. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmarsys.2012.12.011

Levitus, Sydney. (2013). US DOC/NOAA/NESDIS > National Oceanographic Data Center. NODC Standard Product: World Ocean Atlas 2009 (NCEI Accession 0094866). basin.msk. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information. https://accession.nodc.noaa.gov/0094866. Accessed November 30, 2022.

Liu, J., Baskaran, L., Bowman, K., Schimel, D., Bloom, A. A., Parazoo, N. C., et al. (2021). Carbon monitoring system flux net biosphere exchange 2020 (CMS-flux NBE 2020). *Earth System Science Data*, *13*(2), 299-330. https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-13-299-2021

Locarnini, R. A., Mishonov, A. V., Antonov, J. I., Boyer, T. P., Garcia, H. E., Baranova, O. K., Zweng, M. M., & Johnson, D. R. (2010). World Ocean Atlas 2009, Volume 1: Temperature. S. Levitus, Ed. NOAA Atlas NESDIS 68, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 184 pp.

Lundberg, L., & Haugan, P. M. (1996). A Nordic Seas–Arctic Ocean carbon budget from volume flows and inorganic carbon data. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *10*(3), 493-510. https://doi.org/10.1029/96GB00359

MacGilchrist, G. A., Garabato, A. C. N., Tsubouchi, T., Bacon, S., Torres-Valdés, S., & Azetsu-Scott, K. (2014). The Arctic Ocean carbon sink, *Deep Sea Res. I*, *86*, 39-55. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2014.01.002

Manizza, M., Follows, M. J., Dutkiewicz, S., Menemenlis, D., McClelland, J. W., Hill, C. N., Peterson, B. J., & Key, R. M. (2011). A model of the Arctic Ocean carbon cycle. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *116*, C12020. https://doi.org/10.1029/2011JC006998

Manizza, M., Follows, M. J., Dutkiewicz, S., Menemenlis, D., Hill, C. N., & Key, R. M. (2013). Changes in the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ sink (1996–2007): A regional model analysis. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *27*, 1108–1118. https://doi.org/10.1002/2012GB004491

Manizza, M., Menemenlis, D., Zhang, H., & Miller, C. E. (2019). Modeling the Recent Changes in the Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ Sink (2006–2013). *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *33*, 420-438. https://doi.org/10.1029/2018GB006070

Mann, P. J., Davydova, A., Zimov, N., Spencer, R. G. M., Davydov, S., Bulygina, E., et al. (2012). Controls on the composition and lability of dissolved organic matter in Siberia's Kolyma River basin. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *117*(G1). https://doi.org/10.1029/2011JG001798

Maritorena, S., d'Andon, O. H. F., Mangin, A., & Siegel, D. A. (2010). Merged satellite ocean color data products using a bio-optical model: Characteristics, benefits and issues. *Remote Sensing of Environment*, *114*, 1791-1804. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2010.04.002

Mauritsen, T., Bader, J., Becker, T., Behrens, J., Bittner, M., Brokopf, R., et al. (2019). Developments in the MPI-M Earth System Model version 1.2 (MPI-ESM1.2) and its response to increasing $CO_2$. Journal of *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*, *11*, 998–1038. https://doi.org/10.1029/2018MS001400

McGuire, A. D., Hayes, D. J., Kicklighter, D. W., Manizza, M., Zhuang, Q., Chen, M., et al. (2010). An analysis of the carbon balance of the Arctic Basin from 1997 to 2006. *Tellus B: Chemical and Physical Meteorology*, *62*(5), 455-474. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0889.2010.00497.x

Meier, W., Fetterer, F., Savoie, M., Mallory, S., Duerr, R., & Stroeve, J. (2013). NOAA/NSIDC Climate Data Record of Passive Microwave Sea Ice Concentration. Version 2, Boulder, Colorado USA: National Snow and Ice Data Center. http://dx.doi.org/10.7265/N55M63M1

Meredith, M., Sommerkorn, M., Cassotta, S., Derksen, C., Ekaykin, A., Hollowed, A., et al. (2019). Polar Regions. In: IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, V. MassonDelmotte, P. Zhai, M. Tignor, E. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Nicolai, A. Okem, J. Petzold, B. Rama, N.M. Weyer (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 203–320. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009157964.005

Murata, A., & Takizawa, T. (2003). Summertime $CO_2$ sink in shelf and slope waters of the western Arctic Ocean. *Continental Shelf Research*, *23*, 753–776. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0278-4343(03)00046-3

Niwa, Y., Fujii, Y., Sawa, Y., Iida, Y., Ito, A., Satoh, M., et al. (2017). A 4D-Var inversion system based on the icosahedral grid model (NICAM-TM 4D-Var v1. 0)–Part 2: Optimization scheme and identical twin experiment of atmospheric CO 2 inversion. *Geoscientific Model Development*, *10*(6), 2201-2219. https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-10-2201-2017

Notz, D., & Stroeve, J. (2016). Observed Arctic sea-ice loss directly follows anthropogenic CO2 emission. *Science*, *354*(6313), 747-750. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aag2345

Olsen, A., Anderson, L. G., & Heinze, C. (2015). Arctic carbon cycle: Patterns, impacts and possible changes. *The New Arctic*, 95-115. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-17602-4_8

Omar, A. M., Johannessen, T., Olsen, A., Kaltin, S., & Rey, F. (2007). Seasonal and interannual variability of the air-sea CO2 flux in the Atlantic sector of the Barents Sea. *Marine Chemistry*, *104*, 203–213. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marchem.2006.11.002

Onarheim, I. H., Eldevik, T., Smedsrud, L. H., & Stroeve, J. C. (2018). Seasonal and regional manifestation of Arctic sea ice loss. *Journal of Climate*, *31*, 4917–4932. https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-17-0427.1

Orr, J.C., Kwiatkowski, L. & Pörtner, HO. Arctic Ocean annual high in pCO2 could shift from winter to summer. Nature, *610*(7930), 94–100 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-05205-y

Ouyang, Z., Qi, D., Chen, L., Takahashi, T., Zhong, W., DeGrandpre, M. D., Chen, B., Gao, Z., Nishino, S., Murata, A., Sun, H., Robbins, L. L., Jin, M., & Cai, W.-J., (2020). Sea-ice loss amplifies summertime decadal $CO_2$ increase in the western Arctic Ocean. *Nature Climate Change*, *10*, 678– 684. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0784-2

Ouyang, Z., Collins, A., Li, Y., Qi, D., Arrigo, K. R., Zhuang, Y., et al. (2022). Seasonal Water Mass Evolution and Non-Redfield Dynamics Enhance CO2 Uptake in the Chukchi Sea. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *127*(8), e2021JC018326. https://doi.org/10.1029/2021JC018326

Oziel, L., Baudena, A., Ardyna, M., Massicotte, P., Randelhoff, A., Sallée, J. B., et al. (2020). Faster Atlantic currents drive poleward expansion of temperate phytoplankton in the Arctic Ocean. *Nature Communications*, *11*(1), 1-8. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-15485-5

Oziel, L., Schourup-Kristensen, V., Wekerle, C., & Hauck, J. (2022). The pan-Arctic continental slope as an intensifying conveyer belt for nutrients in the central Arctic Ocean (1985–2015). *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *36*(6), e2021GB007268. https://doi.org/10.1029/2021GB007268

Peterson, B. J., Holmes, R. M., McClelland, J. W., Vorosmarty, C. J., Lammers, R. B., Shiklomanov, A. I. (2002). Increasing river discharge to the Arctic Ocean. *Science*, *298*(5601), 2171-2173. DOI: 10.1126/science.1077445

Pierrot, D., Neill, C., Sullivan, K., Castle, R., Wanninkhof, R., Luger, H., Johannessen, T., Olsen, A., Feely, R. A., & Cosca, C. E. (2009). Recommendations for autonomous underway $pCO_2$ measuring systems and data-reduction routines. *Deep Sea Research II*, *56*, 512-522. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr2.2008.12.005

Qi, D., Ouyang, Z., Chen, L., Wu, Y., Lei, R., Chen, B., et al. (2022). Climate change drives rapid decadal acidification in the Arctic Ocean from 1994 to 2020. *Science*, *377*(6614), 1544-1550. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abo0383

Rantanen, M., Karpechko, A.Y., Lipponen, A., Nordling, K., Hyvärinen, O., Ruosteenoja, K, Vihma T., Laaksonen A. (2022). The Arctic has warmed nearly four times faster than the globe since 1979. *Communications Earth Environment,* 3(1), 1-10. https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-022-00498-3

Rayner, N. A. A., Parker, D. E., Horton, E. B., Folland, C. K., Alexander, L. V., Rowell, D. P., et al. (2003). Global analyses of sea surface temperature, sea ice, and night marine air temperature since the late nineteenth century. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, *108*(D14). https://doi.org/10.1029/2002JD002670

Regnier, P., Resplandy, L., Najjar, R. G., & Ciais, P., (2022). The land-to-ocean loops of the global carbon cycle. *Nature*, *603*, 401–410. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-04339-9.

Reynolds, R. W., Rayner, N. A., Smith, T. M., Stokes, D. C., & Wang, W. (2002). An improved in situ and satellite SST analysis for climate. *Journal of Climate*, *15*, 1609–1625. https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442(2002)015<1609:AIISAS>2.0.CO;2

Rödenbeck, C., DeVries, T., Hauck, J., Le Quéré, C., & Keeling, R. F., (2022). Data-based estimates of interannual sea–air $CO_2$ flux variations 1957–2020 and their relation to environmental drivers. *Biogeosciences*, *19*, 2627–2652. https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-19-2627-2022

Rödenbeck, C., Zaehle, S., Keeling, R., & Heimann, M. (2018). History of El Niño impacts on the global carbon cycle 1957–2017: A quantification from atmospheric $CO_2$ data. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, *373*(1760), 20170303. https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2017.0303

Sabine, C. L., Feely, R. A., Gruber, N., Key, R. M., Lee, K., Bullister, J. L., et al. (2004). The oceanic sink for anthropogenic CO2. *science*, *305*(5682), 367-371. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1097403

Sánchez-García, L., Alling, V., Pugach, S., Vonk, J., Van Dongen, B., Humborg, C., et al. (2011). Inventories and behavior of particulate organic carbon in the Laptev and East Siberian seas. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *25*(2). https://doi.org/10.1029/2010GB003862

Sarmiento, J. L., & Gruber, N. (2006). Ocean biogeochemical dynamics. Princeton University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0016756807003755

Schmidtko, S., Johnson, G. C., & Lyman, J. M. (2013). MIMOC: A global monthly isopycnal upper-ocean climatology with mixed layers. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *118*(4), 1658-1672. https://doi.org/10.1002/jgrc.20122

Schourup-Kristensen, V., Wekerle, C., Wolf-Gladrow, D. A., & Völker, C., (2018). Arctic Ocean biogeochemistry in the high resolution FESOM 1.4-REcoM2 model. *Progressive in Oceanography*, *168*, 65–81. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pocean.2018.09.006

Schuster, U., McKinley, G. A., Bates, N., Chevallier, F., Doney, S. C., Fay, A. R., et al. (2013). An assessment of the Atlantic and Arctic sea–air $CO_2$ fluxes, 1990–2009. *Biogeosciences*, *10*, 607–627. https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-10-607-2013

Schwinger, J., Goris, N., Tjiputra, J. F., Kriest, I., Bentsen, M., Bethke, I., et al. (2016). Evaluation of NorESM-OC (versions 1 and 1.2), the ocean carbon-cycle stand-alone configuration of the Norwegian Earth System Model (NorESM1). *Geosci. Model Dev.*, *9*, 2589–2622. https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-9-2589-2016

Screen, J., & Simmonds, I (2010). The central role of diminishing sea ice in recent Arctic temperature amplification. *Nature*, *464*, 1334–1337. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature09051

Séférian, R., Nabat, P., Michou, M., Saint-Martin, D., Voldoire, A., Colin, J., et al. (2019). Evaluation of CNRM Earth System Model, CNRM-ESM2-1: Role of Earth System Processes in Present-Day and Future Climate. *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*, *11*, 4182–4227. https://doi.org/10.1029/2019MS001791

Steele, M., Morley, R., & Ermold, W. (2001). PHC: A global ocean hydrography with a high quality Arctic Ocean. *Journal of Climate*, 14, 2079–2087. https://doi.org/10.1175/1520-0442(2001)014<2079:PAGOHW>2.0.CO;2

Stock, C. A., Dunne, J. P., Fan, S., Ginoux, P., John, J., Krasting, J. P., Laufkötter, C., et al. (2020). Ocean Biogeochemistry in GFDL's Earth System Model 4.1 and Its Response to Increasing Atmospheric $CO_2$. *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*, *12*, e2019MS002043. https://doi.org/10.1029/2019MS002043

Takahashi, T., Olafsson, J., Goddard, J., Chipman, D. W., & Sutherland, S. C. (1993): Seasonal variation of $CO_2$ and nutrients in the high-latitude surface oceans: A comparative study. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *7*, 843–878. https://doi.org/10.1029/93GB02263

Takahashi, T., Sutherland, S. C., & Kozyr A. (2018). Global Ocean Surface Water Partial Pressure of CO2 Database: Measurements Performed During 1957–2017 (LDEO Database Version 2017) (NCEI Accession 0160492) (Version 4.4).

LDEO_Database_V2017. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information. https://doi.org/10.3334/CDIAC/OTG.NDP088(V2015)

Takahashi, T., Sutherland, S.C., Sweeney, C., Poisson, A., Metzl, N., Tillbrook, B., Bates, N., et al. (2002). Global sea–air $CO_2$ flux based on climatological surface ocean $pCO_2$, and seasonal biological and temperature effects. *Deep-Sea Res. II*, *49*, 1601-1622. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0967-0645(02)00003-6

Takahashi, T., Sutherland, S. C., Wanninkhof, R., Sweeney, C., Feely, R. A., Chipman, D. W., et al. (2009). Climatological mean and decadal change in surface ocean $pCO_2$ and net sea-air $CO_2$ flux over the global oceans. *Deep-Sea Res. II*, *56*, 554–577. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr2.2008.12.009

Tanhua, T., Jones, E. P., Jeansson, E., Jutterström, S., Smethie Jr, W. M., Wallace, D. W., & Anderson, L. G. (2009). Ventilation of the Arctic Ocean: Mean ages and inventories of anthropogenic CO2 and CFC-11. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*, *114*(C1). https://doi.org/10.1029/2008JC004868

Tank, S. E., Raymond, P. A., Striegl, R. G., McClelland, J. W., Holmes, R. M., Fiske, G. J., & Peterson, B. J., (2012). A land-to-ocean perspective on the magnitude, source and implication of DIC flux from major Arctic rivers to the Arctic Ocean. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *26*, GB4018. doi:10.1029/2011GB0041

Tank, S. E., Striegl, R. G., McClelland, J. W., & Kokelj, S. V., (2016). Multi-decadal increases in dissolved organic carbon and alkalinity flux from the Mackenzie drainage basin to the Arctic Ocean. *Environmental Research Letters*, *11*, 054015. https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/11/5/054015

Tanski, G., Bröder, L., Wagner, D., Knoblauch, C., Lantuit, H., Beer, C., et al. (2021). Permafrost carbon and CO2 pathways differ at contrasting coastal erosion sites in the Canadian Arctic. *Frontiers in Earth Science*, *207*. https://doi.org/10.3389/feart.2021.630493

Terhaar, J., Tanhua, T., Stöven, T., Orr, J. C., & Bopp, L. (2020a). Evaluation of data-based estimates of anthropogenic carbon in the Arctic Ocean. Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans, 125, e2020JC016124. https://doi.org/10.1029/2020JC016124

Terhaar, J., Kwiatkowski, L., & Bopp, L. (2020b). Emergent constraint on Arctic Ocean acidification in the twenty-first century. *Nature*, *582*(7812), 379-383. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2360-3

Terhaar, J., Lauerwald, R., Regnier, P., Gruber, N., & Bopp, L. (2021b). Around one third of current Arctic Ocean primary production sustained by rivers and coastal erosion. *Nature Communications*, *12*, 169. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-20470-z

Terhaar, J., Torres, O., Bourgeois, T., and Kwiatkowski, L.: Arctic Ocean acidification over the 21st century co-driven by anthropogenic carbon increases and freshening in the CMIP6 model ensemble, *Biogeosciences*, *18*, 2221–2240, https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-18-2221-2021, 2021a.

Terhaar, J., Orr, J. C., Gehlen, M., Ethé, C., & Bopp, L. (2019a). Model constraints on the anthropogenic carbon budget of the Arctic Ocean. *Biogeosciences*, *16*, 2343–2367. https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-16-2343-2019

Terhaar, J., Orr, J. C., Ethé, C., Regnier, P., & Bopp, L. (2019b). Simulated Arctic Ocean response to doubling of riverine carbon and nutrient delivery. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *33*, 1048– 1070. https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GB006200

Tu, Z., Le, C., Bai, Y., Jiang, Z., Wu, Y., Ouyang, Z., et al. (2021). Increase in CO2 uptake capacity in the Arctic Chukchi Sea during summer revealed by satellite-based estimation. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *48*, e2021GL093844. https://doi.org/10.1029/2021GL0

Urakawa, L. S., Tsujino, H., Nakano, H., Sakamoto, K., Yamanaka, G., & Toyoda, T. (2020). The sensitivity of a depth-coordinate model to diapycnal mixing induced by practical implementations of the isopycnal tracer diffusion scheme. *Ocean Model.*, *154*, 101693. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocemod.2020.101693

Van Der Laan-Luijkx, I. T., Van Der Velde, I. R., Van Der Veen, E., Tsuruta, A., Stanislawska, K., Babenhauserheide, A., et al. (2017). The CarbonTracker Data Assimilation Shell (CTDAS) v1. 0: implementation and global carbon balance 2001–2015. *Geoscientific Model Development*, *10*(7), 2785-2800. https://doi.org/10.5194/gmd-10-2785-2017

Vancoppenolle, M., Bopp, L., Madec, G., Dunne, J., Ilyina, T., Halloran, P. R., & Steiner, N. (2013). Future Arctic Ocean primary productivity from CMIP5 simulations: Uncertain outcome, but consistent mechanisms. Global Biogeochemical Cycles, *27*(3), 605-619. https://doi.org/10.1002/gbc.20055

Völker, C., Wallace, D. W., & Wolf-Gladrow, D. A. (2002). On the role of heat fluxes in the uptake of anthropogenic carbon in the North Atlantic. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *16*(4), 85-1. https://doi.org/10.1029/2002GB001897

Vonk, J. E., Sánchez-García, L., Van Dongen, B. E., Alling, V., Kosmach, D., Charkin, A., et al. (2012). Activation of old carbon by erosion of coastal and subsea permafrost in Arctic Siberia. *Nature*, *489*(7414), 137-140. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature11392

Vowinckel, E., & Orvig, S., (1962). Water Balance and Heat Flow of the Arctic Ocean. *Arctic*, *15*, 205-223. https://www.jstor.org/stable/40507011

Wang, Q., Wekerle, C., Wang, X., Danilov, S., Koldunov, N., Sein, D., et al. (2020). Intensification of the Atlantic Water Supply to the Arctic Ocean Through Fram Strait Induced by Arctic Sea Ice Decline. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *57*, e2019GL086682. https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GL086682

Watanabe, E., Jin, M., Hayashida, H., Zhang, J., & Steiner, N. (2019). Multi-model intercomparison of the pan-Arctic ice-algal productivity on seasonal, interannual, and decadal timescales. *Journal of Geophysical Research Oceans*, *124*, 9053-9084. https://doi.org/10.1029/2019JC015100

Weiss, R.F., (1974). Carbon dioxide in water and seawater: the solubility of a non-ideal gas. *Marine Chemistry*, *2*, 203-215. https://doi.org/10.1016/0304-4203(74)90015-2

Wright, R.M., Le Quéré, C., Buitenhuis, E., Pitois, S., & Gibbons, M. J., (2021). Role of jellyfish in the plankton ecosystem revealed using a global ocean biogeochemical model. *Biogeosciences*, *18*, 1291–1320. https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-18-1291-2021

Yang, S., & Gruber, N., (2016). The anthropogenic perturbation of the marine nitrogen cycle by atmospheric deposition: Nitrogen cycle feedbacks and the 15N Haber-Bosch effect. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, *30*, 1418–1440. https://doi.org/10.1002/2016GB005421

Yasunaka, S., Murata, A., Watanabe, E., Chierici, M., Fransson, A., van Heuven, S., et al. (2016). Mapping of the air–sea $CO_2$ flux in the Arctic Ocean and its adjacent seas: basin-wide distribution and seasonal to interannual variability. *Polar Science*, *10*, 323–334. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polar.2016.03.006

Yasunaka, S., Siswanto, E., Olsen, A., Hoppema, M., Watanabe, E., Fransson, A., et al. (2018). Arctic Ocean $CO_2$ uptake: An improved multiyear estimate of the air-sea $CO_2$ flux incorporating chlorophyll a concentrations. *Biogeosciences*, *15*(6), 1643–1661. https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-15-1643-2018

Zeng, J., Matsunaga, T., & Shirai, T. (2022). A new estimate of oceanic $CO_2$ fluxes by machine learning reveals the impact of $CO_2$ trends in different methods. *Earth System Science Data Discuss*