

# d15N and d18O isotopic analysis of nitrate samples from R/V Kilo Moana cruise KM0414 from the Hawaiian Islands, HOT Site in 2004 (VERTIGO project)

**Website:** <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/2971>

**Version:** 12 February 2008

**Version Date:** 2008-02-12

## Project

» [VERTical Transport In the Global Ocean](#) (VERTIGO)

## Program

» [Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry](#) (OCB)

Contributors	Affiliation	Role
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## Dataset Description

d15N and d18O isotopic analysis of nitrate samples

## Methods & Sampling

Methodology: [Methodology](#)

Change history: YYYYMMDD

080128: contributed by Karen Casciotti

080212: added to OCB database; Cyndy Chandler (cchandler@whoi.edu), OCB DMO

080529: PI review complete; data are considered final.

DMO Note: use event number to determine sample position and time recorded in cruise [event log](#).

Please refer to the Methodology for detailed parameter descriptions.

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## Data Files

**File**

**d15N\_nitrate.csv**(Comma Separated Values (.csv), 4.44 KB)  
MD5:6b6fc7fc27faa7b593ae282fc8c8fede

Primary data file for dataset ID 2971

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## Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
event	unique sampling event composite of GMT yday and time	YYyday_hhmm
cast	CTD cast number	dimensionless
bot	Niskin bottle number	dimensionless
sample_ID	unique isotope sample ID	dimensionless
press	pressure, from CTD	decibars
depth	depth; calculated from pressure	meters
NO3_HOT	nitrate from the HOT database	micromole/kilogram
PO43_HOT	phosphate from the HOT database	micromole/kilogram
temp	temperature, from CTD, ITS-90	degrees Celsius
sal	salinity, from CTD, PSS-78 (PSU)	dimensionless
sigma_0	sigma-theta (potential density)	kilograms/meter <sup>3</sup>
d15NO3_AIR	delta 15N of nitrate vs. AIR std.	permil
d15NO3_sd	delta 15N of nitrate (stdev)	permil
d18NO3_VSMOW	delta 15N of nitrate vs. VSMOW std.	permil
d18NO3_sd	delta 18O of nitrate (stdev)	permil
d15N_18O	ratio of isotopic analysis D(15,18)	permil

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## Deployments

**KM0414**

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57847">https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57847</a>
<b>Platform</b>	R/V Kilo Moana
<b>Start Date</b>	2004-06-20
<b>End Date</b>	2004-07-10
<b>Description</b>	<p>VERTIGO project expedition to the U.S. Hawaii Ocean Time-series (HOT) site, near the deep-water Station ALOHA (A Long-Term Oligotrophic Habitat Assessment; 22° 45'N, 158° 00'W) located 100 km north of Oahu, Hawaii. Funded by: NSF OCE-0301139 Related information: VERTIGO cruise information from the VERTIGO Project site: <a href="https://cafethorium.whoi.edu/projects/vertigo/vertigo-hi/">https://cafethorium.whoi.edu/projects/vertigo/vertigo-hi/</a> HOT Web site: <a href="https://hahana.soest.hawaii.edu/index.html">https://hahana.soest.hawaii.edu/index.html</a> Original cruise data are available from the NSF R2R data catalog: <a href="http://www.rvdata.us/catalog/KM0414">http://www.rvdata.us/catalog/KM0414</a></p> <p><b>Methods &amp; Sampling</b>  Methodology: Methodology Change history: YMMDD 080128: contributed by Karen Casciotti 080212: added to OCB database; Cyndy Chandler (<a href="mailto:cchandler@whoi.edu">cchandler@whoi.edu</a>), OCB DMO 080529: PI review complete; data are considered final. DMO Note: use event number to determine sample position and time recorded in cruise event log. Please refer to the Methodology for detailed parameter descriptions.</p>

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## Project Information

### VERTical Transport In the Global Ocean (VERTIGO)

**Website:** <https://cafethorium.whoi.edu/projects/vertigo/>

**Coverage:** HOT site and subarctic NW Pacific

#### *NSF Award Abstract:*

In this study, researchers at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, University of California - Santa Cruz, University of California - Santa Barbara, University of Tasmania, and NIWA-Australia will work collaboratively to answer a difficult question in marine biogeochemistry: What controls the efficiency of particle transport between the surface and deep ocean? More specifically, what is the fate of sinking particles leaving the upper ocean and what factors influence remineralization length scales for different sinking particle classes? Knowing the efficiency of particle transport is important for an accurate assessment of the ocean carbon sink. Globally, the magnitude and efficiency of the biological pump will in part modulate levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

The research team intends to test two basic hypotheses about remineralization control, namely: (1) particle source characteristics are the dominant control on the efficiency of particle transport; and/or that (2) mid-water processing, either by zooplankton or bacteria, controls transport efficiency. To do so, they will conduct process studies at sea focused on particle flux and composition changes in the upper 500-1000m of the ocean. The basic approach is to examine changes in particle composition and flux with depth within a given source region using a combination of approaches, many of which are new to the field. These include neutrally buoyant sediment traps, particle pumps, settling columns and respiration chambers, along with the development of new biological and geochemical tools for an integrated biogeochemical assessment of the biological pump. Two sites will be studied extensively on three-week process study cruises: the Hawaii Ocean Time-series site (HOT) and a new moored time-series site in the subarctic NW Pacific (Japanese site K2; 47°N 160°E). There are strong contrasts between these sites in rates of production, export, particle composition and expected remineralization length scales.

Evidence for variability in the flux vs. depth relationship of sinking particles is not in dispute, but the controls on particle transport efficiency through the twilight zone remain poorly understood. A lack of reliable flux and particle characterization data within the twilight zone has hampered our ability to make progress in this area, and no single approach is likely to resolve these issues. The proposed study will apply quantitative modeling to

determine the net effects of the individual particle processes on the effective transport of carbon and other elements and to place the shipboard observations in the context of spatial and temporal variations in these processes

Besides the obvious contributions to the study of the oceanic and planetary carbon cycles, there are broader outcomes and impacts forthcoming from this project. Graduate and undergraduate students will be included in all aspects of the research, and the involvement of non-US PIs will encourage exchange of students and post-docs between labs in different countries. In addition, the component groups will continue to maintain science web sites designed for both public and scientific exchange where the broader and specific goals and outcomes of this work can be communicated.

*Original PI-provided project description:*

The main goal of VERTIGO is the investigation of the mechanisms that control the efficiency of particle transport through the mesopelagic portion of the water column.

Question: What controls the efficiency of particle transport between the surface and deep ocean? More specifically, what is the fate of sinking particles leaving the upper ocean and what factors influence remineralization length scales for different sinking particle classes? VERTIGO researchers have set out to test two basic hypotheses regarding remineralization control, namely:

1. particle source characteristics are the dominant control on the efficiency of particle transport; and/or that
2. mid-water processing, either by zooplankton or bacteria, controls transport efficiency.

To test their hypotheses, they will conduct process studies in the field focused on particle flux and composition changes in the upper 500-1000m of the ocean. The basic approach is to examine changes in particle composition and flux with depth within a given source region using a combination of approaches, many of which are new to the field. These include neutrally buoyant sediment traps, particle pumps, settling columns and respiration chambers, along with the development of new biological and geochemical tools for an integrated biogeochemical assessment of the biological pump. Three week process study cruises have been planned at two sites - the Hawaii Ocean Time-series site (HOT) and a new moored time-series site in the subarctic NW Pacific (Japanese site K2; 47°N 160°E) - where there are strong contrasts in rates of production, export, particle composition and expected remineralization length scales.

Evidence for variability in the flux vs. depth relationship of sinking particles is not in dispute but the controls on particle transport efficiency through the twilight zone remain poorly understood. A lack of reliable flux and particle characterization data within the twilight zone has hampered our ability to make progress in this area, and no single approach is likely to resolve these issues. The proposed study will apply quantitative modeling to determine the net effects of the individual particle processes on the effective transport of carbon and other elements, and to place the shipboard observations in the context of spatial and temporal variations in these processes. For rapid progress in this area, we have organized this effort as a group proposal taking advantage of expertise in the US and international community.

The efficiency of particle transport is important for an accurate assessment of the ocean C sink. Globally, the magnitude and efficiency of the biological pump will in part modulate levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. We maintain that to understand present day ocean C sequestration and to evaluate potential strategies for enhancing sequestration, we need to assess possible changes in the efficiency of particle transport due to climate variability or via purposeful manipulations of C uptake, such as via iron fertilization.

*VERTIGO Acknowledgments:* (from K.O. Buesseler, et al / Deep-Sea Research II 55 (2008) 1522-1539) We thank the officers, crew and shore-based support teams for the R/V Kilo Moana (2004) and R/V Roger Revelle (2005). Funding for VERTIGO was provided primarily by research grants from the US National Science Foundation Programs in Chemical and Biological Oceanography (KOB, CHL, MWS, DKS, DAS). Additional US and non-US grants included: US Department of Energy, Office of Science, Biological and Environmental Research Program (JKBB); the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (DMK); the Australian Cooperative Research Centre program and Australian Antarctic Division (TWT); Chinese NSFC and MOST programs (NZJ); Research Foundation Flanders and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (FD, ME); JAMSTEC (MCH); New Zealand Public Good Science Foundation (PWB); and internal WHOI sources and a contribution from the John Aure and Cathryn Ann Hansen Buesseler Foundation (KOB). A number of individuals at sea and on shore, helped make the VERTIGO project a success, including: J. Andrews, C. Bertrand, R. Bidigare III, S. Bray, K. Casciotti, M. Charette, R. Condon, J. Cope, E. Fields, M. Gall, M. Gonneea, P. Henderson, T. Kobari, D. Kunz, S. Saitoh, S. Manganini, C. Moy, S. Okamoto, S. Pike, L. Robertson, D. Ruddick and Y. Zhang. Suggestions by three anonymous reviewers and help by the editor, R. Lampitt, are also greatly appreciated.

## **Program Information**

### **Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry (OCB)**

**Website:** <http://us-ocb.org/>

**Coverage:** Global

The Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry (OCB) program focuses on the ocean's role as a component of the global Earth system, bringing together research in geochemistry, ocean physics, and ecology that inform on and advance our understanding of ocean biogeochemistry. The overall program goals are to promote, plan, and coordinate collaborative, multidisciplinary research opportunities within the U.S. research community and with international partners. Important OCB-related activities currently include: the Ocean Carbon and Climate Change (OCCC) and the North American Carbon Program (NACP); U.S. contributions to IMBER, SOLAS, CARBOOCEAN; and numerous U.S. single-investigator and medium-size research projects funded by U.S. federal agencies including NASA, NOAA, and NSF.

The scientific mission of OCB is to study the evolving role of the ocean in the global carbon cycle, in the face of environmental variability and change through studies of marine biogeochemical cycles and associated ecosystems.

The overarching OCB science themes include improved understanding and prediction of: 1) oceanic uptake and release of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases and 2) environmental sensitivities of biogeochemical cycles, marine ecosystems, and interactions between the two.

The OCB Research Priorities (updated January 2012) include: ocean acidification; terrestrial/coastal carbon fluxes and exchanges; climate sensitivities of and change in ecosystem structure and associated impacts on biogeochemical cycles; mesopelagic ecological and biogeochemical interactions; benthic-pelagic feedbacks on biogeochemical cycles; ocean carbon uptake and storage; and expanding low-oxygen conditions in the coastal and open oceans.