

# Nutrients from CTD casts conducted on R/V Hugh R. Sharp cruise HRS2212 in the Chesapeake Bay during August 2022

**Website:** <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/896169>

**Data Type:** Cruise Results

**Version:** 1

**Version Date:** 2023-05-31

## Project

» [Nitrite Oxidation in Oxygen Minimum Zones](#) (NO<sub>2</sub>O<sub>x</sub>\_OMZs)

Contributors	Affiliation	Role
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## Abstract

This dataset includes nutrient data from R/V Hugh R. Sharp cruise HRS2212 in the Chesapeake Bay during August 2022.

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## Coverage

**Spatial Extent:** N:38.9972 E:-76.3665 S:38.5652 W:-76.4407

**Temporal Extent:** 2022-08-12 - 2022-08-19

## Methods & Sampling

Water samples were collected using a 12 x 10-liter Niskin bottle rosette sampler equipped with a conductivity, temperature, and pressure instrument package (SBE9, Sea-Bird Electronics, Bellevue, Washington, U.S.A.), a sensor for dissolved oxygen (SBE43, Sea-Bird), and a sensor for chlorophyll fluorescence (FluoroWetlabECO, AFL FL Sensor). NH<sub>4</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> were measured on board immediately after sample collection. NO<sub>3</sub> was assayed in the home laboratory on samples stored frozen at the time of collection.

## Data Processing Description

### BCO-DMO Processing:

- renamed fields to comply with BCO-DMO naming conventions.

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## Data Files

File
<b>cb_2022_nutrients.csv</b> (Octet Stream, 6.31 KB) MD5:01dac4f2f986346cec7b19ba656cf50e
Primary data file for dataset ID 896169.

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## Related Publications

Garside, C. (1982). A chemiluminescent technique for the determination of nanomolar concentrations of nitrate and nitrite in seawater. *Marine Chemistry*, 11(2), 159-167. doi:[10.1016/0304-4203\(82\)90039-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/0304-4203(82)90039-1)  
*Methods*

Hansen, H. P., & Koroleff, F. (n.d.). Determination of nutrients. *Methods of Seawater Analysis*, 159-228. doi:[10.1002/9783527613984.ch10](https://doi.org/10.1002/9783527613984.ch10)  
*Methods*

Holmes, R. M., Aminot, A., Kerouel, R., Hooker, B. A., & Peterson, B. J. (1999). A simple and precise method for measuring ammonium in marine and freshwater ecosystems. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 56(10), 1801-1808. doi:10.1139/f99-128 <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfas-56-10-1801>  
*Methods*

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## Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
Cast	cast number	unitless
Station	station name	unitless
Date	date of cast	unitless
Latitude	Latitude (positive values = North)	decimal degrees
Longitude	Longitude (negative values = West)	decimal degrees
Depth	depth	meters (m)
NH4	ammonium concentration	micromolar (uM)
NH4_stdev	ammonium concentration standard deviation	micromolar (uM)
NO2	nitrite concentration	micromolar (uM)
NO2_stdev	nitrite concentration standard deviation	micromolar (uM)
NO3	nitrate concentration	micromolar (uM)
NO3_stdev	nitrate concentration standard deviation	micromolar (uM)

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## Instruments

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	Teledyne Chemiluminescence NO/NOx Analyzer (Model 200E)
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	Chemiluminescence NOx Analyzer
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	Used to measure NO3
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	The chemiluminescence method for gas analysis of oxides of nitrogen relies on the measurement of light produced by the gas-phase titration of nitric oxide and ozone. A chemiluminescence analyzer can measure the concentration of NO/NO2/NOX. One example is the Teledyne Model T200: <a href="https://www.teledyne-api.com/products/nitrogen-compound-instruments/t200">https://www.teledyne-api.com/products/nitrogen-compound-instruments/t200</a>

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	10-liter Niskin bottle rosette
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	Niskin bottle
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	A Niskin bottle (a next generation water sampler based on the Nansen bottle) is a cylindrical, non-metallic water collection device with stoppers at both ends. The bottles can be attached individually on a hydrowire or deployed in 12, 24, or 36 bottle Rosette systems mounted on a frame and combined with a CTD. Niskin bottles are used to collect discrete water samples for a range of measurements including pigments, nutrients, plankton, etc.

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	Turner Designs Trilogy Fluorometer
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	Turner Designs Trilogy fluorometer
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	Used to measure NH4
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	The Trilogy Laboratory Fluorometer is a compact laboratory instrument for making fluorescence, absorbance, and turbidity measurements using the appropriate snap-in application module. Fluorescence modules are available for discrete sample measurements of various fluorescent materials including chlorophyll (in vivo and extracted), rhodamine, fluorescein, cyanobacteria pigments, ammonium, CDOM, optical brighteners, and other fluorescent compounds.

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	UV-visible spectrophotometer (UV-2450, Shimadzu, Japan)
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	UV Spectrophotometer-Shimadzu
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	Used to measure NO <sub>2</sub> and urea
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	The Shimadzu UV Spectrophotometer is manufactured by Shimadzu Scientific Instruments (ssi.shimadzu.com). Shimadzu manufactures several models of spectrophotometer; refer to dataset for make/model information.

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## Deployments

### HRS2212

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/896459">https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/896459</a>
<b>Platform</b>	R/V Hugh R. Sharp
<b>Start Date</b>	2022-08-11
<b>End Date</b>	2022-08-20
<b>Description</b>	See additional cruise information in R2R: <a href="https://www.rvdata.us/search/cruise/HRS2212">https://www.rvdata.us/search/cruise/HRS2212</a>

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## Project Information

### Nitrite Oxidation in Oxygen Minimum Zones (NO<sub>2</sub>O<sub>x</sub>\_OMZs)

**Coverage:** Eastern Tropical South Pacific and Chesapeake Bay

#### *NSF Award Abstract:*

This research is grounded in the fundamental role of nitrogen in limiting production in the ocean. Nitrite is a pivotal compound in the nitrogen cycle: it can be oxidized to nitrate, and thus retained as an available nutrient, or it can be reduced to dinitrogen gas, and thus lost from the bioavailable nitrogen pool. Oxidation of nitrite by nitrite oxidizing bacteria (NOB) is the only biological pathway by which nitrate is produced, and all known NOB require oxygen for life. The reduction pathway is also carried out by microbes, in this case, bacteria that thrive only in the absence of oxygen. In previous experiments, however, both oxidation and reduction of nitrite were detected in the same samples from ocean waters in the absence of oxygen. We will investigate three explanations for the apparent oxidation of nitrite in the absence of oxygen on a research cruise to the low oxygen waters off the coast of Peru: 1) The presence of unknown kinds of NOB that do not require oxygen; 2) a new reaction called dismutation, which is possible but never detected in nature; 3) an artifact associated with oxygen stress in NOB. This research could lead to discovery of novel mechanisms and or novel organisms that determine the fate of nitrite and the availability of nitrogen to support primary production in the long run. This project will advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training and learning by providing opportunities for Princeton students to get involved in and have hands on experience in research in the lab and potentially at sea. Both undergraduate and graduate students will participate in the research through internships and field experiences. We will also integrate our work at sea into teaching in the classroom via videos and assignments based on data collected during the cruise.

Nitrite oxidation is the only known biological process that produces nitrate, which comprises the largest fixed nitrogen reservoir in the ocean. Nitrite oxidation is carried out by nitrite oxidizing bacteria (NOB), and all known species are obligate aerobes. Nitrite reduction to N<sub>2</sub> occurs in multiple microbial pathways, generally under anoxic conditions. Despite their apparent incompatibility regarding oxygen, both processes are detected in the low oxygen or anoxic waters of oxygen minimum zones (OMZs). Thus, the fate of nitrite in OMZs has implications for the global fixed N budget. Nitrite oxidation is detected at high rates in essentially zero oxygen water in the most oxygen depleted depth intervals in OMZ regions, which suggests that some nitrite oxidizers might possess anaerobic metabolic capabilities. Nitrite disproportionation (or dismutation), in which nitrite is simultaneously oxidized to nitrate and reduced to N<sub>2</sub>, is a thermodynamically favorable reaction, which would link the two processes in one organism – but it has never been observed in nature. The research proposed here will address two big questions about nitrite in the ocean: 1) How does anaerobic nitrite oxidation work? 2) What determines the fate of nitrite? The experimental approach will investigate three possible explanations for anaerobic nitrite oxidation: 1) Nitrite is oxidized to nitrate by different clades of NOB, which exhibit different tolerances/requirements for oxygen; 2) Nitrite dismutation, also performed by NOB, partially explains the cooccurrence of oxidation and reduction of nitrite; 3) Apparently anaerobic nitrite oxidation is indeed biologically mediated but does not always represent net production of nitrate from nitrite; rather it results from isotopic equilibration during enzyme-catalyzed interconversion of nitrite and nitrate. These questions will be addressed by performing a suite of <sup>15</sup>N-tracer incubations at stations located within and outside of one of the major OMZs in the ocean, the Eastern Tropical South Pacific. The dependence of the rate processes on oxygen concentrations will be determined, and the composition of the microbial assemblages will be assessed in order to determine whether different microbial components are involved under different environmental conditions. The expression of genes involved in oxidation/reduction/ respiratory metabolisms at low oxygen concentrations will be measured across oxygen gradients and in oxygen manipulations to identify their potential role in supporting “anaerobic” nitrite oxidation. The possibility that the apparently anaerobic nitrite oxidation is due to an enzyme level interconversion between nitrite and nitrate, which does not lead to net nitrate production and is not linked to growth of nitrite oxidizing bacteria, will also be investigated.

This award reflects NSF's statutory mission and has been deemed worthy of support through evaluation using the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts review criteria.

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## Funding

Funding Source	Award
<a href="#">NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)</a>	<a href="#">OCE-1946516</a>

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