Anthropogenic CO₂, air-sea CO₂ fluxes and acidification in the Southern Ocean: results from a time-series analysis at station OISO-KERFIX (51°S-68°E).

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Abstract: The temporal variation of the carbonate system, air-sea CO₂ fluxes and pH is analyzed in the Southern Indian Ocean, south of the Polar Front, based on in-situ data obtained from 1985 to 2021 at a fixed station (50°40’S-68°25’E) and results from a neural network model that reconstructs the fugacity of CO₂ (fCO₂) and fluxes at monthly scale. Anthropogenic CO₂ (Cₐ) was estimated in the water column and in the subsurface, the trend of Cₛ is estimated at +0.53 ±0.015 µmol.kg⁻¹·yr⁻¹ with a detectable increase in the trend in recent years. At the surface during austral winter, the oceanic fCO₂ increased at a rate close or slightly lower than in the atmosphere. To the contrary, in summer, we observed contrasting fCO₂ and dissolved inorganic carbon (Cᵢ) trends depending on the decade and emphasizing the role of biological drivers on air-sea CO₂ fluxes and pH inter-annual variability. The region moved regional air-sea CO₂ fluxes evolved from an annual source to the atmosphere of 0.8 molC.m⁻².yr⁻¹ in 1985 to a sink of -0.5 molC.m⁻².yr⁻¹ in 2020. In 1985-2020, the annual pH trend in surface waters of -0.0165 ±0.0040 decade⁻¹ was mainly controlled by the accumulation of anthropogenic CO₂ but the trend was summer pH trends were modulated by natural processes that reduced the acidification rate in the last decade. Using historical data from November 1962 we estimated the long-term trend for fCO₂, Cₐ and pH confirming that the progressive acidification was driven by the atmospheric CO₂ increase. In 59 years this enabled to a diminution of 11% for both aragonite and calcite saturation state. As atmospheric CO₂ will desperately continue rising, we expected to increase in the future, the pH and carbonate saturation state will decrease at a faster rate than observed in recent years. A projection of future Cₛ concentrations for a high emission scenario (SSP5-8.5) indicates that the surface pH in 2100 would decrease to 7.32 in winter. This is up to -0.86 lower than pre-industrial pH and -0.71 lower than pH observed in 2020. The aragonite under-saturation in surface waters would be reached as soon as 2050 (scenario SSP5-8.5) and 20 years later for a stabilization scenario (SSP2-4.5) with potential impacts on phytoplankton species and higher trophic levels in the rich ecosystems of the Kerguelen Island area.

Keywords: Ocean Carbonate System, Ocean acidification, anthropogenic CO₂, air-sea CO₂ fluxes, Southern Ocean, Time-series station
I Introduction

The ocean plays an important role in mitigating climate change by taking up since decades a large part of the excess of heat (Cheng et al., 2020; Fox-Kemper et al., 2021) and of CO₂ released by human activities (Sabine et al., 2004; Gruber et al., 2019a; Canadell et al., 2021). Since 1750, the global ocean has captured 185 (±35) PgC (Petagramm of Carbon) from a total of 700 (±275) PgC of anthropogenic carbon emissions from fossils fuels and land-use changes (Friedlingstein et al., 2022). From year to year, the ocean has experienced changes (fossil fuels and land-use changes) in the 1960s to 2.3 (±0.4) PgC yr⁻¹ in the 2000s. Over the decade 2012-2021, the partitioning of the anthropogenic CO₂ sink was roughly equal between the ocean (2.9 ± 0.4 PgC yr⁻¹) and the land (3.1 ± 0.6 PgC yr⁻¹) (Friedlingstein et al., 2022). This partitioning has been confirmed for the decade 2013-2022 (Friedlingstein et al., 2023).

Ocean observations indicate that since the 1980s, the Southern Ocean (SO) south of 45°S has been accumulating each year about 0.5 PgC yr⁻¹ since the 1990s (e.g. Takahashi et al., 2009; Lenton et al., 2013; Rödenbeck et al., 2013; Long et al., 2021; Fay et al., 2023; Gray, 2024). Results based on BGC-Argo floats (Southern Ocean Carbon and Climate Observations and Modeling project, SOCCOM) suggest that the CO₂ sink in the SO might be much lower (0.16 PgC yr⁻¹) south of 44°S for the period 2015-2017, Gray et al. 2018; Bushinsky et al., 2019) but there is an ongoing debate on the size of the carbon sink in this region depending the periods and methods (Long et al., 2021; Sutton et al., 2021; Hauck et al., 2023b; Gray, 2024). It is also well established that the CO₂ sink in the SO undergoes substantial decadal variability first documented for the 1990s (Le Quéré et al., 2007; Metzl, 2009; Lenton et al., 2013) and subsequently identified for the period 1982-2018 (Landschützer et al., 2015; Keppler and Landschützer, 2019; Mackay et al., 2022; Hauck et al., 2023a, 2023b). However as for the mean state, there are also uncertainties on both the magnitude and phasing of decadal variability in the SO carbon sink mainly due to insufficient sampling (Gloge et al., 2021; Hauck et al., 2023a, b).

A recent extension of the period to 1957-2020 suggests that the inter-annual to decadal variability of the SO CO₂ sink was most pronounced after the 1980s (Rödenbeck et al., 2022; Bennington et al., 2022). Whatever the variability of the SO CO₂ sink since the 1960s, the ocean continuously absorbs atmospheric CO₂ and the distribution of anthropogenic CO₂ (Cₐ) in the SO is now relatively well documented (e.g. Pardo et al., 2014; Gruber et al., 2019a) thanks to the GLODAP data synthesis effort for the global ocean (Global Ocean Data Analysis Project, Olsen et al., 2016, 2019, 2020). The SO takes up about 40% of the total anthropogenic carbon that enters the ocean (Khatiwala et al., 2013; Gruber et al., 2019a).

The anthropogenic CO₂ uptake in the ocean results in lowering carbonate ion concentrations and pH, a chemical process termed "ocean acidification" (OA) (Caldeira and Wickett, 2003; Doney et al., 2009). This decreases the saturation state with respect to carbonate minerals (aragonite, Ωar and calcite, Ωca), a process most pronounced in the cold and naturally at a low saturation state waters in high latitudes where the saturation state is naturally low (Orr et al., 2005; Takahashi et al., 2014; Jiang et al., 2015). The first estimate of Cₐ distribution in the global ocean (for a nominal year 1994, Sabine et al., 2004) shows that the accumulation of Cₐ uptake led to an upward migration of the Ωar and Ωca saturation horizon in all ocean basins (Feely et al., 2004). This change is particularly pronounced south of the Polar Front (PF) in the SO linked to both Cₐ uptake and the enhanced upwelling of dissolved inorganic carbon (CO₂) rich deep waters (e.g. Hauck et al., 2010; Pardo et al., 2017). It has been suggested, through numerical studies, that depending on future CO₂ emission levels, surface waters in the SO could reach under-saturation state for aragonite by 2030-2050 in the SO (Orr et al., 2005;
Gangstø et al., 2008; McNeil and Matear, 2008; Negrete-Garcia et al., 2019). Such a change would have multiple and detrimental impacts on marine ecosystems (Fabry et al., 2008; Doney et al., 2012; Bopp et al., 2013), in particular calcifying marine organisms and especially aragonite producers such as pteropods (Hunt et al., 2008; Gardner et al., 2023), but also calcite producing planktonic foraminifera (Moy et al., 2009), coccolithophorids (Beaufort et al., 2011), and non-calcifying species such as the abundant SO diatoms (e.g. Benoiston et al., 2017; Petrou et al., 2019; Weir et al., 2020; Duncan et al., 2022) and krill (Kawaguchi et al., 2013).

Hindcast simulations with Global Ocean Biogeochemical Models (GOBM), as well as projections with Earth System Models (ESM) have been used to evaluate the ocean carbon cycle over the past decades and future changes in $C_{\text{sat}}$ storage, ocean acidification or impacts of global change on marine ecosystems. However, current model-based estimates of the contemporary SO CO$_2$ sink are subject to relatively large uncertainties (e.g. Long et al., 2013; Hauck et al., 2020; Gooya et al., 2023; Hauck et al., 2023; Mayot et al., 2023; DeVries et al., 2023). Difference between GOBM models can reach up to 0.7 PgC.yr$^{-1}$ in the SO (Hauck et al., 2020), which is roughly equivalent to the mean climatological flux of 0.5 PgC.yr$^{-1}$ (McNeil et al., 2007; Takahashi et al., 2009; Lenten et al., 2013). In the high latitudes of the SO ($>50^\circ$S) for the 2010s, ESMs from the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 6 (CMIP6) simulated either a large sink or a modest source of CO$_2$ (McKinley et al., 2023). This is mainly due to incorrect or missing physical and/or biological processes in the models (e.g. Pilcher et al., 2015; Kessler and Tjiputra, 2016; Mongwe et al., 2018; Lerner et al., 2021) leading to biases in the seasonality of temperature, dissolved inorganic carbon $C_{\text{i}}$, partial pressure of CO$_2$ (pCO$_2$), air-sea CO$_2$ fluxes, pH or $\Omega$ (e.g. McNeil and Sasse 2016; Rodgers et al., 2023; Rustogi et al., 2023; Joos et al., 2023). Such model imperfections should be resolved to gain reliability in future projections of CO$_2$ uptake, OA, productivity and the responses of the marine ecosystems. Such model imperfections have been used to evaluate the ocean carbon cycle over the past decades and future changes in the SO (Hauck et al., 2020; Mayot et al., 2023; Rodgers et al., 2023). Long-term biogeochemical observations are particularly valuable to quantify and understand recent past and current changes, and ultimately evaluate model simulations as often concluded in modeling studies (e.g. Kessler and Tjiputra, 2016; Gooya et al., 2023; Wright et al., 2023; Hauck et al., 2023a; Mayot et al., 2023; Rodgers et al., 2023).

Although the SO south of the Polar Front remains much less observed than other oceanic regions, several observations-based studies have allowed to estimate the decrease in pH in the surface waters in response to the increase in oceanic CO$_2$ fugacity, $f$CO$_2$ (Mirodikwa et al., 2012; Takahashi et al., 2014; Lauvset et al., 2015; Munro et al., 2015; Xue et al., 2018; Iida et al., 2021; Leseurre et al., 2022; Brandon et al., 2022). Results showed a large range of pH trends from -0.008.decade$^{-1}$ to -0.035.decade$^{-1}$ depending on the period and the region of interest. Most of these analyses were based on summer observations (Table 1) and some studies highlighted contrasting pH trends on a 5-10 years time probably linked to large scale climate variability such as the Southern Annular Mode (SAM) (e.g. Xue et al., 2018). Given such variability, it is important to continue monitoring $f$CO$_2$ and pH trends and, if possible, at different seasons as future change in CO$_2$ uptake and potential tipping points of the carbonate saturation state also depend on seasonality (Sasse et al., 2015). The above observational studies were dedicated to pH changes in surface waters. In contrast to Northern high latitudes (e.g. Olafsson et al., 2009, 2010; Franco et al., 2021; Skjelvan et al.,
few studies in the SO attempted to evaluate decadal changes of carbonate system properties and acidification in the water column based on time-series stations. These changes in the SO water column were investigated from data collected during cruises generally 3 to 15 years apart (e.g., Hauck et al., 2010; Van Heuven et al., 2011; Pardo et al., 2017; Tanhua et al., 2017; Carter et al., 2019).
Table 1: Trends of oceanic $f$CO$_2$ (µatm yr$^{-1}$) and pH ( decade$^{-1}$) in the Southern Ocean south of the Polar Front based on observations and from this study. IO: Indian Ocean sector. PO: Pacific Ocean sector. AO: Atlantic Ocean sector. SO SPSS: Southern Ocean SubPolar Seasonally Stratified biome (around 50-60°S). PZ: Polar Zone. NR: Not Reported. Standard-deviations when available are given in brackets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Trend fCO$_2$ µatm yr$^{-1}$</th>
<th>Trend pH decade$^{-1}$</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-2011</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>IO PZ 55-60°S</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>-0.016</td>
<td>Xue et al (2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2019</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>IO PZ 54-64°S</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>-0.026 (0.003)</td>
<td>Brandon et al (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-2019</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>IO 50°S-68°E</td>
<td>1.9 (0.3)</td>
<td>-0.019 (0.004)</td>
<td>Leseurre et al (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-2019</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>IO 55°S-63°E</td>
<td>2.1 (0.3)</td>
<td>-0.022 (0.003)</td>
<td>Leseurre et al (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-2007</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>IO 55°S-63°E</td>
<td>5.3 (0.4)</td>
<td>-0.050 (0.016)</td>
<td>Leseurre et al (2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2019</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>IO 55°S-63°E</td>
<td>0.3 (0.2)</td>
<td>no trend</td>
<td>Leseurre et al (2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969-2003</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>PO 55-62°S</td>
<td>1.7 (0.2)</td>
<td>-0.020 (0.003)</td>
<td>Misokita (2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002-2012</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Drake North</td>
<td>2.21 (0.55)</td>
<td>-0.023 (0.007)</td>
<td>Takahashi (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2012</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Drake South</td>
<td>1.50 (0.65)</td>
<td>-0.015 (0.008)</td>
<td>Takahashi (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2015</td>
<td>Summer</td>
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<td>1.95 (0.55)</td>
<td>-0.021 (0.006)</td>
<td>Munro et al (2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2015</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<td>1.92 (0.24)</td>
<td>-0.018 (0.003)</td>
<td>Munro et al (2015)</td>
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<td>2002-2015</td>
<td>Summer</td>
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<td>1.30 (0.85)</td>
<td>-0.017 (0.010)</td>
<td>Munro et al (2015)</td>
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<td>2002-2015</td>
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<td>0.67 (0.39)</td>
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<td>1.74 (0.15)</td>
<td>-0.019 (0.002)</td>
<td>Munro et al (2015)</td>
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<td>2002-2015</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Drake South</td>
<td>1.16 (0.27)</td>
<td>-0.015 (0.003)</td>
<td>Munro et al (2015)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SO SPSS</td>
<td>1.44 (0.10)</td>
<td>-0.020 (0.002)</td>
<td>Lauvset et al (2015)</td>
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<td>1991-2011</td>
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<td>SO SPSS</td>
<td>1.46 (0.11)</td>
<td>-0.021 (0.002)</td>
<td>Lauvset et al (2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993-2018</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>SO 44-75°S</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>-0.0165 (0.0001)</td>
<td>Iida et al (2021)</td>
</tr>
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The present study complements in time, seasons, and in the water column, the surface $f$CO$_2$ and pH trends investigated by Leseurre et al., (2022) in different regions of the Southern Indian Ocean for the period 1998-2019 during austral summer. South of the PF around 50°S, Leseurre et al. (2022) showed that in summer the surface $f$CO$_2$ increase and pH decrease over 20 years were mainly driven by the increase in accumulation of anthropogenic CO$_2$ sequestration by about +0.6 ±0.22 µmolkg$^{-1}$yr$^{-1}$ and by a small warming of +0.03 ±0.02° C yr$^{-1}$. In addition Leseurre et al. (2022) showed that in the recent decade, 2007-2019, the $f$CO$_2$ trend...
was low $\pm 0.3$ (±0.2) μatm yr$^{-1}$ compared to the previous decade (±5.3 (±0.4) μatm yr$^{-1}$ over 1998-2007), highlighting the sensitivity of the fCO$_2$ and pH trends to the selected time period (especially during summer). In particular, they observed relatively stable pH values over 2010-2019 (i.e. no decrease in pH) with no clear explanation on the origin of the slow-down of the fCO$_2$ and pH trends in surface waters south of the PF in recent years. To complement the analysis by Leseurre et al. (2022) based on summer observations of the POOZ, this study focuses on one location regularly visited south of the Polar Front (around 50°S-68°E south-west of Kerguelen Island, Figure 1). The analysis period is first extended back to 1985 and forward to 2021 to investigate the recent status of fCO$_2$ and pH. We also evaluate the trends for different seasons during late winter using sparse spring/summer data in October/November. The combination of in situ observations and monthly estimates from a neural network model over the period 1985-2020 (Chau et al., 2022) enables to assess potential changes in seasonality of the surface ocean carbonates system (including fCO$_2$, C$_{\text{a}}$, pH, Ω) as suggested in recent decades or in future scenarios (Hauck and Völker, 2015; Gallego et al., 2018; Landschützer et al., 2018; Kwiatkowski and Orr, 2018; Kwiatkowski et al., 2020; Lerner et al., 2021; Fassbender et al., 2022; Yun et al., 2022; Rodgers et al., 2023; Joos et al., 2023). The variability changes observed in surface waters will be related to changes in C$_{\text{a}}$ concentrations observed in the water column and will be complemented by an analysis of OA at depth between 1985 and 2021. Finally we will explore the long-term variability of surface fCO$_2$ and pH since the 1960s and potential future changes of the carbonate system at this time-series site.

2 Data selection, methods and quality control

2.1 Study area and data selection

This study focuses on a High Nutrients Low Chlorophyll area (HNLC, Minas and Minas, 1992) in the Indian sector of the Southern ocean (SO) in the Permanent Open Ocean Zone (POOZ) south of the Polar Front (PF) and south-west of Kerguelen Islands (around 50°S-68°E, Figure 1). The Kerguelen Plateau is an extended topographic feature that controls part of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC), generates eddies (Daniault and Ménard, 1985) and the northward deflection of the PF near just east of the Island (Pauthenet et al., 2018). The Plateau is also a region of relatively high chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) concentration (Moore and Abbott, 2000; Mongin et al., 2008) and strong CO$_2$ uptake during austral spring-summer that contrasts with the weaker sink over the POOZ/HNLC (Metzl et al., 2006; Jouandet et al., 2008, 2011; Lo Monaco et al., 2014; Leseurre et al., 2022). The POOZ/HNLC region west (upstream) of the Kerguelen Plateau is characterized by rather stable water mass properties (temperature, salinity, oxygen or nutrients) over time and low eddy activity compared to the Plateau (Daniault and Ménard, 1985; Chapman et al., 2015; Dove et al., 2022). In this region, located in the deep Enderby Basin, the flow is not constrained by topography and there is no local upwelling that would import C$_{\text{a}}$-rich waters to the surface layers as observed on the eastern side of the Kerguelen Plateau (Brady et al., 2021).

The Indian austral sector of the SO is also recognized to host the strongest winds in the SO leading to year-round high gas transfer coefficients (Wanninkhof and Trinanes 2017). As a result, and in contrast to the Atlantic sector of the SO, the Indian region south of 45°S was a periodic annual CO$_2$ source, especially in the 1960s to the 1980s (Rödenbeck et al., 2022; Bennington et al., 2022; Prend et al., 2022; Gray, 2024). In the
POOZ-HNLC region, high winter wind speed (monthly average up to 16 m\text{s}^{-1}) and associated heat loss drive deep mixing. Deep winter mixing entrains subsurface properties to the surface layer, increases surface \(C_T\) concentrations leading to wintertime outgassing of \(CO_2\) (Metzl et al., 2006). This combination of characteristics makes the region an ideal test-bed for 1-D modeling studies investigating the temporal dynamics and drivers of biogeochemical processes including nutrients, iron, phytoplankton and carbon (Pondaven et al., 1998, 2000; Louanchi et al., 1999, 2001; Jabaud-Jan et al., 2004; Metzl et al., 2006; Mongin et al., 2006, 2007; Kane et al., 2011; Pasquer et al., 2015; Demuynck et al., 2020).

Figure 1: Left: Annual air-sea \(CO_2\) flux (molC.m\(^{-2}\).yr\(^{-1}\)) in the South Indian Ocean for year 2020 from the FFNN model (negative flux for ocean sink, positive flux for ocean source). The black box identified the location of the study south-west of Kerguelen Islands. Right: Track of cruises with underway \(fCO_2\) data south-west of Kerguelen Islands. The station at 50°40’S-68°25’E occupied in 1990-1995 in the framework of the WOCE/JGOFS programs (Jeandel et al., 1998). The station was first occupied in March 1985 during the INDIGO-1 cruise (Indian Ocean Geochemistry, Poisson, 1985; Poisson et al., 1988) and since 1998 it is regularly visited during the OISO cruises (Océan Indien Service d’Observations, Metzl and Lo Monaco, 1998, https://doi.org/10.18142/228). The regular occupation from 1985 to 2021 makes it the longest time-series station in the Southern Ocean POOZ/HNLC area allowing for investigating the inter-annual to decadal trends of carbonate properties in surface waters and across the water-column (0-1600m). Despite the occasional variability large anomalies in surface waters properties (e.g. lower surface \(Salinity\) temperature in 1998, lower salinity in February 2013) we consider all observations selected for this study both in surface waters and the water-column to be representative of the water masses in this POOZ/HNLC region upstream of the Kerguelen Plateau.

Data for the period 1985-2011 were extracted from the GLODAP data-product, version V2.2021 (Lauvset et al., 2021 a, b; Table S1a). Observations collected during OISO cruises from 2012-2021 (Lo Mis en forme : Police :10 pt
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Mis en forme : Interligne : simple
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will be included in GLODAP-V3. For the surface water properties, all available underway fCO$_2$ data were selected (Figure 1). This includes one cruise in November 1962 (Keeling and Waterman, 1968) and 41 cruises from 1991 to 2021 (Table S1b). All surface temperature, salinity and fCO$_2$ data were extracted from the SOCAT data-product version v2022 (Surface Ocean CO$_2$ Atlas, Bakker et al., 2016, 2022) and have an accuracy for fCO$_2$ between 2 to 5 µatm.
2.2 Methods

The methods for surface underway fCO$_2$ and biogeochemical properties (Oxygen, C$_T$, total alkalinity A$_T$, C$_T$, nutrients) in the water-column for the INDIGO-1, KERFIX and OISO cruises were described in previous studies (e.g. Poisson et al., 1993; Louanchi et al., 2001; Metzl et al., 2006; Metzl, 2009; Mahieu et al., 2020; Leseurre et al., 2022). Here we briefly recall the methods for underway fCO$_2$ and water-column observations.

2.2.1 Surface fCO$_2$ data

For fCO$_2$ measurements in 1991-2021, sea-surface water was continuously equilibrated with a "thin film" type equilibrator thermostated with surface seawater (Poisson et al., 1993). The xCO$_2$ in the dried gas was measured with a non-dispersive infrared analyser (NDIR, Siemens Ultramat 5F or 6F). Standard gases for calibration (around 270, 350 and 490 ppm) were measured every 6 hours. To correct xCO$_2$ dry measurements to fCO$_2$ in situ data, we used polynomials from Weiss and Price (1980) for vapour pressure and from Copin-Montégut (1988, 1989) for temperature. Note that when incorporated in the SOCAT data-base, the original fCO$_2$ data are recomputed (Pfeil et al., 2013) using temperature correction from Takahashi et al. (1993). Given the small difference between equilibrium temperature and sea surface temperature (+0.56 ± 0.30 °C on average for the cruises in 1998-2021), the fCO$_2$ data from SOCAT used in this analysis (Bakker et al., 2022) are almost identical (within 1 µatm) to the original fCO$_2$ values from our cruises (www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/ocean-carbon-data-system/oceans/VOS_Program/OISO.html).

2.2.2 Water column data

Over the period 1990-1995, water samples were collected during the KERFIX program on the ship *La Curieuse* at standard depths using 8 L Niskin bottles mounted on a stainless steel cable and equipped with reversing SIS pressure and temperature probes. Methods and accuracy for the geochemical measurements used in this analysis (A$_T$, C$_T$, oxygen, nutrients) are detailed by Jeandel et al. (1998) and by Louanchi et al. (2001). From 1998 onwards, the station was occupied within the framework of the OISO long-term monitoring program onboard the *R.V. Marion-Dufresne*. We used Conductivity-Temperature-Depth (CTD) sensors mounted on a 24 bottles rosette equipped with 12 L Niskin bottles. Temperature and salinity measurements have an accuracy of 0.002 °C and 0.005 respectively (Mahieu et al., 2020). Samples for A$_T$ and C$_T$ were filled in 500 mL glass bottles and poisoned with 1000 µL of saturated mercuric chloride solution to halt biological activity. Discrete C$_T$ and A$_T$ samples were analyzed onboard by potentiometric titration derived from the method developed by Edmond (1970) using a closed cell. Based on replicate samples from the surface or depth, the repeatability for A$_T$ and C$_T$ varies from 1 to 3.5 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ depending on the cruise. The accuracy of ±3 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ was ensured by daily analyses of Certified Reference Materials (CRMs) provided by Andrew Dickson’s laboratory (Scripps Institute of Oceanography).

Dissolved oxygen (O$_2$) concentration was determined by a sensor fixed on the rosette and values were adjusted based on discrete measurements (Winkler method, Carpenter, 1965) using a potentiometric titration.
system. Accuracy for O$_2$ is ±2 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ (Mahieu et al., 2020). Although long-term deoxygenation in the Southern ocean has been suggested (Ito et al., 2017; Schmidtko et al., 2017; Oschlies et al., 2018), no significant trend in O$_2$ was identified over 1985-2021 at this station around 50°S in both the surface and the subsurface waters (e.g. in the layer at the depth of the temperature minimum representing winter water, a layer used for C$_{an}$ calculations as described later). However, in the station data a small O$_2$ decrease was detected around 800m in the O$_2$ minimum layer over 36 years (~0.22 ±0.07 µmol.kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$). As this has no impact on the interpretation for pH and Ω trends for this analysis, the observed change of O$_2$ at depth will be not be discussed further. Here the O$_2$ data are mainly used for the calculation of anthropogenic CO$_2$ concentrations and the observed O$_2$ change at depth is too small to have an impact on temporal variations of C$_{an}$ concentrations given the uncertainty of the calculation.

Nitrate (NO$_3$) and silicate (DSi) were analyzed on board or at LOCEAN/Paris by colorimetry following the methods described by Tréguer and Le Corre (1975) for 1998-2008 or from Coverly et al. (2009) for 2009-2021. The uncertainty of NO$_3$ and DSi measurements is ±0.1 µmol.kg$^{-1}$. Based on replicate measurements in deep samples, we estimate an error of about 0.3 % for both nutrients. Phosphate (PO$_4$) samples were analyzed in samples from a few cruises following the method of Murphy and Riley (1962) revised by Strickland and Parsons (1972) with an uncertainty of ±0.02 µmol.kg$^{-1}$. When nutrient data are not available for a cruise, we used climatological values based on the seasonal nutrients cycles inferred from data from 1990 to 2021. This method has a very small impact on the carbonate system calculations and the trend analysis as we did not detect any significant trends in nutrients in surface or at depth since 1985 (not shown) as opposed to what has been observed at higher latitudes of the SO (Iida et al., 2013; Hoppema et al., 2015). However, we will see in section 3.1 that the inter-annual variability of nutrients (especially DSi in the HNLC region) might inform on potential changes in biological processes.

For Chlorophyll-a (Chl-a), samples were taken in the top layers (0-150m). One for chlorophyll-a (Chl-a). For that, one to two liters of seawater were filtered onto 0.7 µm glass microfiber filters (GF/F, Whatman) and filters were stored at -80°C onboard. Back at the LOCEAN/Paris laboratory, samples were extracted in 90% acetone (Strickland and Parsons, 1972) and the fluorescence of Chl-a was measured on a Turner Type 450 fluorometer for the period 1998-2007 and since 2009 at 670 nm on a Hitachi F-4500 spectrofluorometer (Neveux and Lantoine, 1993).

### 2.2.3 Data quality-control and data consistency

When exploring the trends of ocean properties based on different cruises more than 35 years apart, it is important to first verify the consistency of the data and if there is correct for any bias or drift. The INDIGO data from 1985 (i.e. prior to CRM available for A$_T$ and C$_T$) were first controlled prior to their incorporation into the original GLODAP product (Sabine et al., 1999; Key et al., 2004) and corrections for A$_T$ and C$_T$ were revisited within the framework of the CARINA project (CARbon IN the Atlantic, Lo Monaco et al., 2010a,b and the GLODAPv2 synthesis (Olsen et al., 2016). A secondary quality control was performed on the data from the OISO cruises collected between 1998 and 2011 within the CARINA and GLODAPv2 initiatives (Lo Monaco et al., 2010; Olsen et al., 2016). Significant off-sets were identified for A$_T$ and C$_T$ in samples from the KERFIX cruises (1990-1993) compared to INDIGO and OISO data and it was proposed to correct the original values by -35 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ for C$_T$ and -49 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ for A$_T$ (Metzl et al., 2006). These corrections were applied in GLODAP.
version v2.2019 (Olsen et al., 2019) and resulted in coherent $A_T$ and $C_T$ concentrations for KERFIX in the deep layers compared to other cruises (Supp. Mat., Table S2, Figure S1). The same data quality control protocol as for GLODAP-v2 was applied to data from OISO cruises for the week period 2012-2021 (Mahieu et al., 2020). Given the accuracy of the data no systematic bias (except in 2014) was found for the properties measured in 2012-2021. The time-series of $A_T$ and $C_T$ at depths below 1450 m for all cruises in 1985-2021 show some variability but no trend over 36 years as expected in the bottom waters in this region (Supp. Mat., Figure S1).

However, we identified a small bias for $C_T$ in 2014 (cruise OISO-23) where $C_T$ concentrations in the deep water appeared slightly lower (2228-2234 μmol.kg$^{-1}$ in 2014 compared to the mean value of 2240.7 ($\pm$3.7) μmol.kg$^{-1}$, Table S2, Figure S1). When compared to ICO$_2$ in surface waters, we also suspect the $C_T$ data in the mixed-layer in 2014 to be too low by about 10 μmol.kg$^{-1}$ (Figures S2, S3). Therefore we applied a WOCE/GLODAP flag 3 for $C_T$ data of this cruise and will not use the station data in 2014 for the $C_{mix}$ calculations and the trend analysis described in this study.

### 2.2.4 CMEMS-LSCE-FFNN model

As most of the cruises took place during austral summer and data are not available each year, we completed the observations with the results from an ensemble of feed-forward neural network models (CMEMS-LSCE-FFNN or FFNN for simplicity here, Chau et al., 2022). The FFNN model allows mapping at global scale monthly surface ICO$_2$ given from the SOCAT gridded datasets and ancillary variables. The reconstructed ICO$_2$ is then used to derive monthly surface $C_T$ and pH fields as well as air-sea CO$_2$ fluxes. This data product enables us to investigate the trends for different seasons and to derive estimates of annual air-sea CO$_2$ fluxes to interpret the change in CO$_2$ uptake, if any. For a full description of the model, access to the data and a statistical evaluation of ICO$_2$ reconstructions please refer to Chau et al. (2022). Within this study, we compared the FFNN ICO$_2$ with observations from 35 cruises for the years between 1991 and 2020 (Table S3, Figure S2a). Excepted for a few periods (January 1993 and January 2002), model-data differences are generally within ±10 μatm with a mean difference of 2.1 ($\pm$7) μatm for the 35 co-located periods. Note that, as opposed to sea surface ICO$_2$, no temporal trend was identified for the differences between the observed and reconstructed ICO$_2$ (Figure S2b), i.e. the trends of sea surface ICO$_2$ derived from the observations and from the FFNN model should be the same. Aside from the ICO$_2$ reconstructions, surface ocean alkalinity ($A_I$) fields are also provided by using the multivariate linear regression model LIAR (Carter et al., 2016; 2018) based on sea surface temperature, salinity, and nutrient concentration.

### 2.2.5 Calculations of carbonate properties

Based on the data available for each cruise (ICO$_2$, or $A_T$ and $C_T$) or from the FFNN model (ICO$_2$ and $A_T$), other carbonate system properties (pH, [H$^+$], [CO$_2^{*}$] and Ω) were calculated using the CO2sys program (version CO2sys_v2.5, Orr et al., 2018) developed by Lewis and Wallace (1998) and adapted by Pierrot et al. (2006) with K1 and K2 dissociation constants from Lueker et al. (2000) as recommended (Dickson et al., 2007; Orr et al., 2015; Wanninkhof et al., 2015). The total boron concentration was calculated according to Uppström (1974) and KSO$_4$ from Dickson (1990). To calculate the properties with the underway surface ICO$_2$ dataset, we
used the $A_T/S$ relationship based on $A_T$ and $C_T$ data from the OISO cruises in the South Indian sector as described by Lesuerre et al. (2022):

$$A_T = 64.341 \times S + 106.764 \text{ (rmse } = 7.4855 \mu\text{mol.kg}^{-1}, n = 4775) \quad \text{(Eq. 1)}$$

The use of other $A_T/S$ relationships (e.g. Millero et al., 1998; Jarraya-Jan et al., 2004; Lee et al., 2006; Carter et al., 2018) would change slightly the $A_T$ concentrations but neither the $A_T$ trend nor the interpretation of the $C_T$, pH or $\Omega$ trends. However, as salinity is an important predictor in the calculation of $A_T$, $C_T$ or pH from fCO$_2$ data, we have assessed the original underway salinity data and found biases for a few cruises in 1992, 1993 and 1995 (Table S1b). For these cruises or when salinity was not measured we used the salinity from the World Ocean Atlas, WOA (Antonov et al., 2006) in the SOCAT data-sets (Pfeil et al., 2013, identified “WOA” in Table S1b). Monthly fCO$_2$ and $A_T$ data extracted from the CMEMS-LSCE-FFNN datasets at the station location (50.5°S-68.5°E) over 1985-2020 were used to calculate the carbonate properties in the same way as from observations.

### 2.2.6 Comparisons of different datasets and the FFNN model

To validate the properties calculated using the fCO$_2$ data for 1991-2021 or from the FFNN model over 1985-2020 we compared the calculated values ($A_T$, $C_T$, pH, [H$^+$], [CO$_2$]$^+$, $\Omega$) with those calculated from $A_T$ and $C_T$ data measured in the mixed-layer at the KERFIX/OISO station occupied in 1985 and in between 1993 and 2021. For this comparison, we averaged the continuous underway fCO$_2$ data selected in a box around the station location (50°S-51.5°S/67.5-69°E, yellow box in Figure 1). Results of the comparisons between various datasets are detailed in the Supplementary Material (Tables S3 and S4). During the period 1993-2021, there are 22 station occupations with co-located underway fCO$_2$ data for different seasons (but mainly in summer).

Since we found a close agreement between measured fCO$_2$ and the FFNN model (Table S3, Figure S2), mismatches in all calculated carbonate system properties between the underway fCO$_2$ dataset and the FFNN model are small, falling within the range of the errors associated with the calculations (Orr et al., 2018). For example, for 35 co-located periods, the mean differences in calculated $C_T$ of 1.5 ($\pm$0.008) μmol.kg$^{-1}$ or pH of -0.002 ($\pm$0.0008) are in the range of the theoretical error of about 5 μmol.kg$^{-1}$ and 0.007 respectively when taking into account measurements errors on salinity, temperature, nutrients, fCO$_2$ and $A_T$ (Orr et al., 2018). On the other hand, compared to the station data in the mixed-layer (Table S4), the for the calculated $A_T$ using Equation 1 is slightly higher by about 5 μmol.kg$^{-1}$. This explains the relatively high differences for $C_T$ (mean difference around 8 μmol.kg$^{-1}$) and for pH (mean difference around 0.008) calculated with fCO$_2$ and the $A_T/S$ relationship. The differences of calculated values with observations in 1991-2021 are, on average, in the range of uncertainties of the carbonate system calculations using $A_T$-$C_T$ pairs (error for fCO$_2$ around 13 μatm and for pH around 0.0144). Importantly, there is no temporal trend for the differences between calculated and observed properties (Figure S3b). We are thus confident using the selected fCO$_2$ data for the trend analysis presented in this study. The independent comparison with $A_T$ and $C_T$ data at measurements in the mixed-layer also indicates that the FFNN model results for $A_T$ and $C_T$ are close to the observations (Table S4, Table S5, Figure S4) as well as for calculated pH, [H$^+$], [CO$_2$]$^+$, $\Omega$$_{Ca}$ and $\Omega$$_{ar}$. This somehow validates the use of the FFNN data for the trend analysis over the period 1985-2020 and for different seasons, although the FFNN model was not constrained by
in-situ fCO$_2$ before 1991 or few data in austral winter since 1991, and no Chl-a satellite data available before 1998. Interestingly, in 1985 Nevertheless, the atmospheric fCO$_2$ was around 335-339 µatm (Dlugokencky and Tans, 2022) and the oceanic fCO$_2$ from the FENN model was higher than shows a good agreement with observations collected in the atmosphere from March to October in 1985 (Table S5, Figure S4) resulting in an annual CO$_2$ source of +0.8 mol m$^{-2}$ yr$^{-1}$ in 1985.
3 Results and discussion

3.1 Variability and trend of sea surface fCO$_2$ and air-sea CO$_2$ fluxes: 1985-2021

The fCO$_2$ observations around 50°S-68°E and their mean values for each cruise are shown in Figure 2a. The fCO$_2$ data in 1991-2021 were measurements available for different seasons but the sampling locations were mainly reoccupied since 1991, though most of them stem from austral summer (January-February). During austral summer, the ocean fCO$_2$ was generally lower than in the atmosphere (i.e. the ocean was a CO$_2$ sink) whereas in March from July to October it was near equilibrium. The same distribution seasonal change is obtained from the FFNN model for the period 1991-2020 (Figure 2a). The model also indicates that between in 1985-1998 and the mid-1990s the fCO$_2$ during austral winter (May-September) was always higher than the atmospheric fCO$_2$ leading to an annual CO$_2$ source during this period (Figure 3). In 1985 the oceanic fCO$_2$ from the FFNN model was higher than in the atmosphere from March to October (Figure S4) resulting in an annual CO$_2$ source of +0.8 molC.m$^{-2}$.yr$^{-1}$. The model estimates a decrease of the annual CO$_2$ source in 1985-2001 until the end of the 1990’s followed by an increase of the source in 2001-2010 and an increase of the sink in 2010-2020.

![Figure 2](image)

*Figure 2: (a): Time-series of sea surface fCO$_2$ observations (µatm) South West of Kerguelen Island in 1985-2021 (inset map shows the location of observations selected around station at 50°40’S-68°25’E). The color dots correspond to 5 seasons.*
The monthly sea surface CO$_2$ from the FFNN model is presented for the period 1985-2020 (purple line) and the atmospheric CO$_2$ represented by red line. In March 1985 there were no underway CO$_2$ observations and the triangle corresponds to CO$_2$ calculated with A$_2$-C$_5$ data in the mixed layer. (b) Trends of atmospheric and oceanic CO$_2$ (µatm yr$^{-1}$) for different season and periods based on observations (January) and the FFNN model (January-August).

Figure 3: Time series of the SAM index (in grey) in the Southern Ocean, wind speed (in black, m s$^{-1}$) and air temperature (°C). Around the year 2010, the annual CO$_2$ flux was around +0.5 molC m$^{-2}$ yr$^{-1}$ from the FFNN model or red at location 50°S-60°S. Positive (negative) flux represents CO$_2$ source (sink). Wind speed and SAM are presented for respectively 12 months and 24 months running mean based on monthly values. Note the positive SAM in 1998, 2003 and 2010-2020. SAM data from Marshall (2003), http://www.nerc-bas.ac.uk/icd/gjma/sam.html, and then decreased over the last decade (April 2021). Wind speed data from ERA5 (Hersbach et al., 2020).

For the last cruise in February 2021, the average fCO$_2$ was 394.9 (± 1.5) µatm (Figure 2a), about 10 µatm lower than in the atmosphere (a small decade to change into an annual CO$_2$ sink). This is +50.5 µatm higher than fCO$_2$ observed during the first cruise in February 1991 (fCO$_2$ = 344.4 ± 5.2 µatm). During the same period, the atmospheric CO$_2$ that increased from 354 ppm in 1991 to 411 ppm on average -0.5 molC m$^{-2}$ yr$^{-1}$ in 2021 to 2020. For this region (recorded at Crozet Island, Dlugokencky and Tans, 2022). This first comparison of two cruises 30 years apart indicates that the ocean fCO$_2$ increased at a rate (+1.9 µatm yr$^{-1}$) close to that of the atmosphere (+1.9 µatm yr$^{-1}$). During the same period season and given the data available since 1991, we observed some variations in A$_2$-average A$_2$ = 2276.5±4.5 µmol kg$^{-1}$ and a clear increase in C$_2$ (Figure 4a and S5).

The CO$_2$ concentration in the mixed layer in the summer 2021 was 2144.0 (± 1.8) µmol kg$^{-1}$, much higher than in summer 1993 (C$_2$ = 2115.8 ± 2.6 µmol kg$^{-1}$). The difference over 28 years of +22.1 µmol kg$^{-1}$ corresponds to an annual C$_2$ increase of +0.8 µmol kg$^{-1}$ yr$^{-1}$. At constant temperature and A$_2$, this would translate in an increase of oceanic CO$_2$ of +1.9 µatm yr$^{-1}$, i.e. equal to the atmospheric rate. The same comparison for October shows that fCO$_2$ in 2016 was +13.8 µatm higher and winter trends in fCO$_2$, CT and pH from the FFNN model over 3 periods 1991-2001, 2001-2010, 2010-2020 and compared to 1991-2005 (Figure 2a), i.e. a rate of +2.1 µatm yr$^{-1}$. The CO$_2$ concentrations in October 2016 were also much higher than in 1993 (Figure 4a and S5). Over 23 years the observed C$_2$ increase in October (+22.6 µmol kg$^{-1}$) corresponds to a rate of +0.98 µmol kg$^{-1}$ yr$^{-1}$ that is faster than the rate of +0.8 µmol kg$^{-1}$ yr$^{-1}$ derived from summer data in 2021 and 1993. At constant A$_2$, this would translate in an increase of oceanic CO$_2$ of +2.5 µatm yr$^{-1}$ in October, higher than the trend of +2.1 µatm yr$^{-1}$ computed from fCO$_2$ data. Part of the difference may be explained by A$_2$, that was slightly higher (+6 µmol kg$^{-1}$) in October 2016 compared to 1993 (Figure S5).
Given the temporal variability of observed $C_\text{T}$ in summer and the evolution of the annual air-sea CO$_2$ flux (Figure 3), decadal fCO$_2$ and pH trends as well as the summer trends with those deduced from observations (Table 2). The analysis of trends and their associated drivers need to be analyzed for different seasons and periods. This approach allows exploring links with the variability of primary production and/or the Southern Annual Mode (SAM). Shifts from a negative to a positive SAM index (Figure 3) may have strengthened the upwelling of deep waters and could therefore impact ocean properties throughout the water column including $C_\text{T}$, nutrients, primary production or pH (e.g. Lovenduski and Gruber, 2005; Lenton et al., 2009; Hauck et al., 2013; Hoppema et al., 2015; Pardo et al., 2017).

From the first underway measurements obtained at the OISO-KERFIX site in February 2021 to the last measurements used in this study in February 1991, the average oceanic fCO$_2$ increased by +50.5 µatm (from 344.4 ±1.5 µatm to 394.9 ±1.5 µatm, Figure 2a). During the same period, the atmospheric CO$_2$ increased by 57 µatm in this region (recorded at Crozet Island, Dlugokencky and Tans, 2022). This first comparison of two cruises 30 years apart indicates that the oceanic fCO$_2$ increase was close to that of the atmosphere. During the same period, we observed small variations in $A_\text{T}$ (average $A_\text{T} = 2276.5 ±4.5 \mu$mol kg$^{-1}$) and a clear increase in $C_\text{T}$ (Figure 4a and S5). This suggests that most of the change observed in oceanic fCO$_2$ and $C_\text{T}$ over the last 30 years is due to the uptake of anthropogenic CO$_2$. However, the evolution of air-sea CO$_2$ fluxes (Figure 3) suggests that other mechanisms were at play over shorter periods, and changes in the air-sea fCO$_2$ disequilibrium (Figure 2a) suggests that different drivers may be involved in summer and in winter.
Figure 2: (a): Time-series of sea surface fCO$_2$ observations (µatm) south-west of Kerguelen Islands in 1985-2021 (insert map shows the location of observations selected around station OISO-KERFIX at 50°40'S-68°25'E). The color dots correspond to 5 periods of the year (January-February, March-April, July-August, October and December) and triangles show the average for each month. The monthly sea surface fCO$_2$ from the FFNN model is presented for the period 1985-2020 (grey line) and the atmospheric fCO$_2$ is represented by the red line. In March 1985 there was no underway fCO$_2$ observation and the triangle corresponds to fCO$_2$ calculated with $A_T$ and $C_T$ measured in the mixed-layer. (b): Trends of atmospheric and oceanic fCO$_2$ (µatm.yr$^{-1}$) in summer and winter over four different periods based on observations (January) and the FFNN model (January and August).
Figure 3: Time series of the SAM index in the Southern Ocean (in grey), wind-speed (in black, m s⁻¹) and air-sea CO₂ flux (mol C m⁻² yr⁻¹) from the FFNN model simulation location at 50° S-68° E. A positive (negative) flux represents a CO₂ source (sink). Wind-speed and SAM are presented for 24-months running mean based on monthly values. Note the positive SAM (> 0.5) in 1998-2002 and 2010-2019. SAM data from Marshall (2003), http://www.nerc-bas.ac.uk/icd/gjma/sam.html, last access 14/8/2021. Wind-speed data from ERA5 (Hersbach et al., 2020).
Figure 4: (a) Time-series of surface $C_\text{a}$ ($\mu$mol.kg$^{-1}$) around station OISO-KERFIX at 50°40'S-68°25'E calculated from fCO$_2$ data (Figure 2) using the A$_2$/S relation (see Sect 2.2.5). The color dots correspond to 5 periods of the year (January-February, March-April, July-August, October and December) and triangles show the average for each month. The monthly sea surface $C_\text{a}$ from the FFNN model is presented for the period 1985-2020 (purple line). The annual $C_\text{a}$ trend of $+0.58 \pm 0.05$ µmol.kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$ (dashed line) is derived from the FFNN monthly data. In March 1985 the triangle corresponds to the observed $C_\text{a}$ in the mixed-layer. (b): Trends of sea surface $C_\text{a}$ ($\mu$mol.kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$) in summer and winter over four different seasons and periods based on observations (for January) and the FFNN model (for January and August). The trend for $C_\text{a}$ ($\mu$mol.kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$) is also shown (red bars) based on estimates in the winter water.

Summer data are characterized by a strong inter-annual variability between 1991-2024 in both fCO$_2$ and $C_\text{a}$ (Figures 2a and 4a) with the ocean being a CO$_2$ source in January 2002, but a strong sink in January 1993, 1998, 2014, 2016 and 2019. In January 1998, when the surface ocean experienced a warm anomaly (Jabaud-Jan et al., 2004), the low fCO$_2$ of 337 µatm and the low C$_\text{T}$ of 2110 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ (Figure 4a and S5) co-occurred with intense primary production, (Figure 5), probably supported by diatoms as suggested by very low DSI concentrations (< 2 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ down to 100m, Figure S6). In January 2014 and 2016, mixed-layer DSI concentrations were also remarkably small (< 5 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ down to 75m, Figure S6). In 2014 low DSI coincided with Chl-a levels that started to increase in mid-November 2013 and stayed at high level until February 2014 (Surface Chl-a > 0.3 mg.m$^{-3}$, Figures 5 and S7). The intense primary production contributed to the low fCO$_2$ of 365 µatm reached by mid-January 2014, a value as low as in 200410 years earlier (Figure 2a). To the contrary, in 2002 relatively low Chl-a (mean Chl-a < 0.2 mg.m$^{-3}$, Figure 5) was associated with higher levels of fCO$_2$ (373 µatm), C$_\text{T}$ (2128 µmol.kg$^{-1}$, Figure 4a, Figure S5a) and DSI (Figure S6). This was also associated with higher salinity indicative of entrainment that might be related to storm events that would have occurred few days before the measurements leading to brief positive fCO$_2$ anomaly as recently observed from Glider data in the subpolar South Atlantic (Nicholson et al., 2022). As opposed to the other periods the ocean was a source of CO$_2$ in summer 2002 (this particular year was not well reconstructed by the FFNN model, Figure 2a and Figure S2b).

The important inter-annual variability observed in summer indicates that in this region historically referred to as HNLC (Minas and Minas, 1992), primary production could significantly impact fCO$_2$ level in summer (Jabaud-Jan et al., 2004; Pasquer et al., 2015; Gregor et al., 2018), a result that needs to be taken into account when evaluating drivers of inter-annual variability (Rustogi et al., 2023) and the decadal trends of fCO$_2$ or pH.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: Trends of oceanic fCO$<em>2$ (µatm.yr$^{-1}$) and C$</em>\text{T}$ (µmol kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$) at the OISO-KERFIX location (50°40'S-68°25'E) in the Southern Indian Ocean for different periods based on observations (Obs.) and the FFNN model (FFNN). Standard-deviations are given in brackets.</th>
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<td>Season</td>
<td>Trend fCO$_2$</td>
<td>Trend pH</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>TS.decade$^{-1}$</td>
<td>µmol.kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$</td>
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<td>1962-2016</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>1.3 (0.32)</td>
<td>-0.014 (0.002)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-2021</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>2.10 (0.22)</td>
<td>-0.022 (0.002)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2010-2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995-2020</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>1.71 (0.08)</td>
<td>-0.018 (0.001)</td>
</tr>
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Table 2: Trends of oceanic fCO$_2$ and pH (TS.decade$^{-1}$) and C$_\text{T}$ (µmol kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$) at the OISO-KERFIX location (50°40'S-68°25'E) in the Southern Indian Ocean for different periods based on observations (Obs.) and the FFNN model (FFNN). Standard-deviations are given in brackets.
The Chl-a time-series derived from MODIS suggests higher concentrations in recent years compared to 2002-2013, with Chl-a peaks identified in 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2021 (Figure 5 and S7) when the oceanic fCO$_2$ in summer was well below the atmospheric level (Figure 2a).

The primary production lowers C$_1$ concentrations and fCO$_2$, i.e. opposite to the C$_1$ increase from anthropogenic CO$_2$ uptake. These counteracting processes might explain the relatively stable fCO$_2$ previously observed in the Indian POOZ in summer 2007-2019 with an annual fCO$_2$ rate of increase of only +0.3 (±0.03) µatm yr$^{-1}$ (Leseurre et al., 2022). This low rate is confirmed here with the recent data obtained in 2020-2021 (Figure 2b and Figure S8). For the period 2010-2021, the oceanic fCO$_2$ trend in summer derived from observations and the FFNN model is lower than +1 µatm yr$^{-1}$ (Table 2), i.e. much lower than the atmospheric fCO$_2$ rate of +2.4 µatm yr$^{-1}$ and the oceanic fCO$_2$ trend of +2.21 (±0.17) µatm yr$^{-1}$ estimated in winter by the FFNN model (Table 2, Figure 2b). This rate is also lower compared to the change observed in October (+2.9 µatm yr$^{-1}$) albeit being only based on 2 cruises in October 2011 and 2016 (Figure 2a). As the low fCO$_2$ trend in recent years is detected for summer only this is likely linked to an increase in primary production, as suggested by Chl-a records (Figure 5). From 1998 to 2010 the summer Chl-a concentrations decreased at a rate of -0.99 (±0.041) mg.m$^{-3}$.decade$^{-1}$ whereas in 2010 from 2020 to 2021 Chl-a increased by +0.078 (±0.032) mg.m$^{-3}$.decade$^{-1}$ (Figure 5). These trends are coherent with previous studies, e.g. the reduced net primary productivity reported in the Indian Antarctic zone in 1997-2007 (e.g. Arrigo et al., 2008; Takao et al., 2012) and the shift...
of the Chl-a trend in 2010 also reported at large scale in the HNLC region of the Southern Ocean—in 2010 (Basterretxea et al., 2023). As a consequence, after 2010 the difference between oceanic and atmospheric fCO$_2$, which (ΔfCO$_2$ = fCO$_2$($^\text{atm}$) - fCO$_2$($^\text{in}$)) decreased in summer (-1.4 µatm.yr$^{-1}$) and as it remains relatively steady during winter, the annual CO$_2$ flux progressively varied from a source of +0.45 molC.m$^{-2}$.yr$^{-1}$ in 2010 to a sink of -0.63 molC.m$^{-2}$.yr$^{-1}$ in 2020 (Figure 3). In addition, because the wind speed was stable during this period (12.0 ± 0.9 m.s$^{-1}$ on average in 2010-2020, Figure 3), the variation of the air-sea CO$_2$ flux was mainly controlled by ΔfCO$_2$ (e.g. Gu et al., 2023) and the decadal variation of primary production imprinted a significant change on the fCO$_2$ trend and air-sea CO$_2$ flux in this HNLC region. In the region investigated here, increasing Chl-a levels co-occurred with shifts of the SAM index to a positive state (Figure 3), a link previously suggested south of the Polar Front in the SO but for a short period over 1997-2004 (Lovenduski and Gruber, 2005). Modeling studies also suggest that summertime biological activity could play an important role for the variability of the CO$_2$ sink in the SO in response to the SAM (Hauck et al., 2013).

Another process to take into account for interpreting fCO$_2$ trends is the change in temperature in surface waters. Previous analysis suggested a progressive warming in the region investigated here (Auger et al., 2021 for summer 1993-2017). Leseurre et al. (2022) estimated a warming of Indian POOZ surface waters of +0.03 ± 0.02 °C.yr$^{-1}$. Extending the time-series for the period 1991-2021 (Figure S9a) we note that the surface temperature presents sub-decadal variability and that the ocean cooled after 2018 with a trend of -0.474 ± 0.164 ± 0.164 °C.yr$^{-1}$ for the monthly sea surface temperature (SST, Figure S9b). The trend derived from our in-situ observations in summer 2018-2024 over this period was -0.252 ± 0.25 ± 0.024 ± 0.024 °C.yr$^{-1}$.

In 2019, the lower temperature and relatively high Chl-a indicated low fCO$_2$ (380 µatm, Figure 2a) and low C$_T$ (2128 µmol.kg$^{-1}$) compared to 2018 (fCO$_2$ = 386 µatm; C$_T$ = 2137 µmol.kg$^{-1}$, Figure 4a). The decrease in observed fCO$_2$ from summer 2018 to 2019, also reconstructed by the FFNN model (Figure 2a), is contrary to the expected fCO$_2$ and C$_T$ increase due to anthropogenic uptake. In 2020, although the temperature was also lower than in 2019, the oceanic fCO$_2$ was higher (392 µatm) probably due to lower primary production as suggested by higher DSI (Figure S6), as well as from C$_T$ (2135 µmol.kg$^{-1}$; Figure 4a) and Chl-a records (Figure 5). In January
2021 the temperature was close to that in January 2020, and both fCO$_2$ and C$_T$ were slightly higher (395 µatm, 2139 µmol.kg$^{-1}$). A$_T$ concentrations were stable between 2018 and 2021 (2278.9 ± 1.8 µmol.kg$^{-1}$, Figure S5) indicating no effect of A$_T$ on the observed fCO$_2$ change in this region as opposed to the areas north of the Polar Front in the Indian Ocean where A$_T$ variations are often linked to coccolithophores blooms (Balch et al., 2016; Smith et al., 2017).

The inter-annual and pluri-annual variability observed over 1991-2021 highlights the competitive processes that drive C$_T$, fCO$_2$ or pH temporal variations. In summer 2018-2019, cooling and increased primary production both lead to low fCO$_2$ counteracting the effect of anthropogenic CO$_2$ uptake. Given the changes of Chl-a, SST and air-sea CO$_2$ flux, trends will be evaluated for three periods, 1991-2001, 2001-2010 and 2010-2020. In order to separate natural and anthropogenic contributions, the anthropogenic CO$_2$ signal is estimated in the following section.

3.2 Anthropogenic CO$_2$

3.2.1 Anthropogenic CO$_2$ in the water column

To calculate anthropogenic CO$_2$ concentrations (C$_{ant}$), we used the TrOCA method developed by Touratier et al. (2007) and previously applied in the southern Indian Ocean (Mahieu et al., 2020; Leseurre et al., 2022). Such an indirect method is not suitable for evaluating C$_{ant}$ concentrations in surface waters due to biological activity and gas exchange and we restrict the C$_{ant}$ calculations below the productive layer around 150m. In the region south of the Polar Front, a well-defined subsurface temperature minimum is observed each year characterizing the winter water (WW) Winter Water (WW) at depth range 150-250m (Figure 6a).
The C$_T$ and C$_{at}$ concentrations increased over time in the water column, a signal that is most pronounced in the top layers (0-400m, Figure 6b). In the deep layer, the presence of the Indo-Pacific Deep Water (IPDW) around 600-800m is identified by a maximum of C$_T$ (C$_T$ > 2250 µmol.kg$^{-1}$) and a minimum of O$_2$ (O$_2$ close to or < 180 µmol.kg$^{-1}$, Figure S10) (Talley, 2013; Chen et al., 2022). In the IPDW layer restricted to the neutral density (ND) range 27.75-27.85 kg.m$^{-3}$ there is no significant change in C$_T$ over time (Figure S10). In that layer the C$_{at}$ concentrations in 1985 (17.3 µmol.kg$^{-1}$) were almost identical to those evaluated in 2021 (21.2 µmol.kg$^{-1}$), considering the uncertainty in the C$_{at}$ calculations (± 6.5 µmol.kg$^{-1}$, Touratier et al., 2007). As discussed above (section 2.2.3) the C$_T$ and A$_T$ concentrations in the bottom layer (>1450m) were stable in 1985-2021 (Table S2, Figure S1). Below 800m, the C$_{at}$ concentrations were small but not null (Figure 6b). The average C$_{at}$ concentration below 800m for all years and seasons is 7.97 ± 8.0 ±5.31µmol.kg$^{-1}$ (n=123) with a very small change detected over time (C$_{at}$ = 7.22 ± 4 ±1.22 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ in 1985 and C$_{at}$ = 10.45 ± 4 ±0.62 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ in 2021). As discussed above (section 2.2.3) the C$_T$ and A$_T$ concentrations in the bottom layer (>1450m) were stable over 1985-2021 (Table S2, Figure S1).

3.2.2 Anthropogenic CO$_2$ trend in the subsurface Winter Water

To separate the natural and anthropogenic signals in surface waters for the driver analysis we assume that C$_{at}$ in the WW is representative of C$_{at}$ in the mixed-layer (ML). This is confirmed with few stations occupied during winter showing that C$_{at}$ concentrations in the WW in summer are almost equal to C$_{at}$ in the ML during the preceding winter (Figure S11). The variation of C$_{at}$ in the WW was from 1985 to 2021 is presented in Figure 7a for all seasons. In 1985 the C$_{at}$ concentration in the WW was 47.1 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ and C$_{at}$ reached a maximum of 71.7 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ in 2021. The data selected at 200m present some inter-annual variability like as the relatively low C$_{at}$ in 1998, 2005 and 2020 probably related to natural variability. In 1998 and in 2020 the O$_2$ concentrations were slightly lower in the WW (< 300 µmol.kg$^{-1}$) explaining the lower C$_{at}$ concentration (44.8 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ in 1998 and 53.8 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ in 2020). In 2005 anomalies of C$_{at}$, O$_2$, and temperature) but no anomaly was observed for C$_T$. This suggests that the biological contribution may have been overestimated (lower O$_2$ is interpreted by the TrOCA method as more organic matter remineralization which should be associated with higher C$_T$). This could be instead related to a change in mixing or circulation. In 2005 anomalies of C$_T$, A$_T$ and O$_2$ concur to explain the lower C$_{at}$ (43.9 µmol.kg$^{-1}$).
From 1985 to 2021, we estimated a $\Delta C$ trend in WW of +0.49 (±0.09) µmol.kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$. When the $\Delta C$ anomalies in 1998, 2005 and 2020 were discarded, this $\Delta C$ trend was +0.53 (±0.01) µmol.kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$ (Figure 7a). As expected, the $\Delta C$ concentrations in the ocean are positively related to atmospheric CO$_2$ (slope +0.263 ± 0.042 µmol.kg$^{-1}$.µatm$^{-1}$, Figure 7b). Interestingly the slope observed south of the PF in the Indian Ocean is close to that observed in the Antarctic Intermediate waters (AAIW) in the South Atlantic (+0.23 ±0.05 µmol.kg$^{-1}$.µatm$^{-1}$, Fontela et al., 2021). At large scale, Gruber et al. (2019 a, b) evaluated $\Delta C$ changes between 1994 and 2007 in the global ocean. In the South Indian sector, they estimated a mean $\Delta C$ accumulation in the surface of +6.0 (±1.1) µmol kg$^{-1}$ in the band 50-55$^\circ$S south of the PF. At our station location (50-52$^\circ$S/68$^\circ$E) in the layer 0-250m, the $\Delta C$ accumulated from 1994 to 2007 was +5.67 (±0.42) µmol kg$^{-1}$. In 13 years, this corresponds to a trend of +0.44 (±0.11) µmol.kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$. Gruber et al. (2019 a, b) did not use the data presented here allowing for an independent comparison to the present study. Estimates of $\Delta C$ accumulation by Gruber et al. (2019 a, b) are in agreement with ours for the period 1994-2007 (+0.46 ±0.01 µmol.kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$) but lower than reported here between 2008 and 2021 in recent years (+0.61 ±0.01 µmol.kg$^{-1}$.yr$^{-1}$ over 2008-2021). Indeed our estimates over 3 decades indicate an increase in the uptake of anthropogenic CO$_2$ with time (Figure 4b).
The C\textsubscript{a} trend in the WW over 1985-2021 (+0.53 ± 0.01 µmol.kg\textsuperscript{-1}.yr\textsuperscript{-1}) is slightly lower than the annual surface C\textsubscript{a} trend in surface derived from the FFNN model for 1985-2020 (C\textsubscript{a,trend} = +0.58 ± 0.05 µmol.kg\textsuperscript{-1}.yr\textsuperscript{-1} Figure 4b, Table 2) suggesting that anthropogenic CO\textsubscript{2} uptake explains 86% of the C\textsubscript{a} increase in surface waters. Over 1991-2020 the surface C\textsubscript{a} trend appears slightly higher in January (+0.68 ± 0.07 µmol.kg\textsuperscript{-1}.yr\textsuperscript{-1}) than in August (+0.56 ± 0.04 µmol.kg\textsuperscript{-1}.yr\textsuperscript{-1}; Figure 4b, Table 2). This suggests that in addition to the increase of C\textsubscript{a} due to anthropogenic CO\textsubscript{2} other processes contributed such as the variability of the biological activity, vertical mixing or upwelling contributed to the observed trend. Indeed, as for CO\textsubscript{2} (Figures 2b), the C\textsubscript{a} growth rate also depends on seasons and decades (Figure 4b). In 1991-2001 the C\textsubscript{a} trend from the observations (+0.05 ± 0.04 µmol.kg\textsuperscript{-1}.yr\textsuperscript{-1}; Table 2) is highly uncertain due to few data and the large variability (Figures 4a, b). The FFNN model showed that the C\textsubscript{a} trend in summer was faster than the trend in C\textsubscript{a} (Figure 4b), suggesting that natural processes would have increased C\textsubscript{a}. This could be explained by an increase in vertical mixing due to the increase in wind speed (Figure 3). On the contrary, the winter and the winter C\textsubscript{a} trend was lower than the C\textsubscript{a} trend estimated in subsurface (Figure 4b). This is because during that decade, the higher primary production in 1998 created a negative C\textsubscript{a} anomaly (Figure 4a) not compensated by the accumulation of C\textsubscript{a} in waters (Figure 4b). In 2001-2010 the C\textsubscript{a} trends were much faster than in 1991-2001 over the previous decade and they were the same for both seasons (around +0.05 ± 0.04 µmol.kg\textsuperscript{-1}.yr\textsuperscript{-1}; Figure 4b, Table 2). For this decade the summer C\textsubscript{a} trends from the observations and the FFNN model are coherent. They were also twice the C\textsubscript{a} rate in the WW that, which could be explained by enhanced upwelling of C\textsubscript{a}-rich deep waters during this period after the SAM reached a high positive index (Figure 3; Lenton and Matear, 2007; Le Quéré et al., 2007; Hauck et al., 2013).

However, in 2001-2010 over this period we did not detect any clear change at depth for ocean properties (except for C\textsubscript{a} and C\textsubscript{a}) that would support this assumption (enhanced upwelling). The rapid C\textsubscript{a} (and CO\textsubscript{2}) trend for this decade is probably due to processes occurring at the surface (e.g. biological activity, as discussed later) rather than changes in the water column (vertical mixing or upwelling). In 2010-2020 over the last decade C\textsubscript{a} trends were lower than in 2001-2010 over the previous one (Figure 4b). For summer, this is identified from both observations and the FFNN model. In winter the C\textsubscript{a} trend (from FFNN) is close to C\textsubscript{a} indicative of the anthropogenic CO\textsubscript{2} accumulation. The low C\textsubscript{a} trend at the surface in summer, about half the C\textsubscript{a} trend for the FFNN model, is likely due to the increase of primary production after 2010 as described above (Figure 5).
Thus, it appears that the impact of biological activity and its variability in summer could counteract that of anthropogenic CO$_2$ and explain the low temporal change of the carbonate system at the surface in recent years.

![Figure 8: (a): Time-series of the seasonal amplitude (August minus January) for surface C$_T$ (black, µmol kg$^{-1}$) and fCO$_2$ (grey, µatm) from the FFNN model at station GISO-KERFIX (50°40'S-68°25'E). Also shown are the mean surface Chl-a (green, mg m$^{-3}$) in summer from 1998 to 2021. (b): Seasonal amplitude of fCO$_2$ and C$_T$ versus summer Chl-a over 1998-2020. The dashed lines indicate that the seasonal amplitude (August-January) increases when Chl-a is higher.](image)

Given the differences of the fCO$_2$ and C$_T$ trends in summer and winter (Figures 2b and 4b, Table 2) we explored the temporal variations of the seasonality. For each year we estimated the differences between August and January (Figure 8a). The seasonal amplitude for C$_T$ was on average 26.1 for each year we estimated the differences between August and January (Figure 8a). The seasonal amplitude for C$_T$ was on average 26.1 (±3.4) µmol kg$^{-1}$ and for fCO$_2$ 15.1 (±5.6) µatm. Some large inter-annual variations appear related to the variability of Chl-a in summer (Figure 8a). Interestingly, the fCO$_2$ seasonal amplitude reached a minimum around 2008-2010 and then increased over 2010-2020. This signal also appears correlated with the evolution of surface Chl-a in summer (Figure 8b-a-8). This supports the conclusion that low phytoplanktonic biomass between 2008 and 2010 reduced the seasonal amplitude of fCO$_2$.

The inter-annual variability of the seasonality is clearly identified when comparing C$_T$ with C$_{sat}$ calculated due only to C$_{sat}$ accumulation after 2010 (Figure S12a-S12). This supports the conclusion that in addition to the C$_{sat}$ accumulation, the variations of phytoplanktonic biomass imprinted inter-annual variability on C$_T$ and fCO$_2$ in summer. This holds for the seasonal amplitude as the results for winter follows the C$_{sat}$ trend (Figure 4b, Figure S12a). The same is true for pH for which reduced seasonal amplitude was found when the production was low (not shown). However, over 36 years (1985-2020) we did not identify a long-term trend of
the seasonal amplitude for $C_T$ or for $\text{fCO}_2$ as suggested by other studies (Landschützer et al., 2018; Rodgers et al., 2023; Shadwick et al. 2023). Our results highlight a variability over 5-10 years (Figure 8a) and suggest a potential change in seasonality and annual CO$_2$ sink if primary production changes in the future (e.g. Bopp et al., 2013; Leung et al., 2015; Fu et al., 2016; Kwiatkowski et al., 2020; Krumhardt et al., 2022; Seifert et al., 2023).

**Figure 8:** (a): Time-series of the seasonal amplitude (August minus January) for surface $C_T$ (black, µmol.kg$^{-1}$) and $\text{fCO}_2$ (grey, µam) from the FFNN model at station OISO-KERFIX (50°40'S - 68°25'E). Also shown are the mean surface Chl-a (green, mg.m$^{-3}$) in summer in 1998-2021. (b): Seasonal amplitude of $\text{fCO}_2$ and $C_T$ versus summer Chl-a for 1998-2020. The dashed lines indicate that the seasonal amplitude (August-January) increases when Chl-a is higher.

### 3.3 Anthropogenic CO$_2$ drives acidification in surface waters and in the water column

#### 3.3.1 Surface pH trend

To explore the temporal change of pH in surface waters we used the $\text{fCO}_2$ observations and the monthly results from the FFNN model. For both data-sets pH was calculated from $\text{fCO}_2$ and $A_T$ reconstructed as described in section 2.2.5. Figure 9a presents the time-series of pH in the surface (the same time-series for [H$^+$] concentrations is shown in Figure S13). For the full period, 1985-2020, the annual pH trend derived from the FFNN model is $-0.0165 \pm 0.0004$.decade$^{-1}$ ($\pm 0.0004$, Table 2) exactly the same as derived at large scale in the Southern Ocean (south of 44°S) for the period 1993-2018 (Iida et al., 2021, Table 1) but when restricted to this period, 1993-2018, the trend from the FFNN model appears slightly faster at $-0.0182 \pm 0.0006$.decade$^{-1}$ ($\pm 0.0006$). This is less than the pH trend of $-0.020 \pm 0.003$.decade$^{-1}$ derived from pCO$_2$ data in the SO SubPolar
Seasonally Stratified biome around 40-50°S (SO-SPSS) for 1981-2011 (-0.020 ±0.002.decade⁻¹, Table 1, Lauvset et al., 2015) and close to the pH trend of -0.0189 ±0.0010.decade⁻¹ based on OceanSODA-ETH reconstructed fields in the SO-SPSS for the period 1982-2021 (-0.0189 ±0.0010.decade⁻¹, Ma et al., 2023). However, as for fCO₂ and C₅, we estimated different pH trends were estimated in summer and winter as well as depending on the periods (Figure 9b, Table 2).

![Graph showing pH trend over time](image)

The winter pH decrease estimated over the last two decades was twice as fast as the previous one, mirroring the winter fCO₂ trends (Table 2). In summer, the pH trend presents a large variability at decadal scale as it was three times faster than during the previous decades (Figure 9b, Table 2). Although the trends based on the observations are less robust because the cruises were not conducted each year, the reduced pH trend in summer after 2010 is confirmed from in-situ data (Figure 9b, Table 2).
The winter pH decreased faster in recent years, mirroring the winter fCO₂ trend (Figure 2b). On the opposite, in summer, the pH trend presents a large variability at decadal scale and was lower in 2010-2020. In summer 2001-2010, the pH trend from the FFNN model was -0.0304 decade⁻¹ (± 0.0026) whereas in 2010-2020, it was -0.0068 decade⁻¹ (± 0.0042) (Figure 9b, Table 1). Although the trends based on the observations are less robust because the cruises were not conducted each year the reduced pH trend in summer after 2010 is confirmed from in situ data (0.0351 ± 0.0114 decade⁻¹ in 2001-2010 against 0.0078 ± 0.0079 decade⁻¹ in 2010-2020, Figure 9b, Table 1). These results show that the pH trend varied significantly from decade to decade and that part of the variations could be explained by the evolution of phytoplanktonic biomass, but overall the decrease of pH since 1985 was mainly driven by the accumulation of anthropogenic CO₂. This is revealed in the winter water when comparing pH and pre-industrial pH (Figure 10a). Here, the pre-industrial pH (pH-PI) was calculated after subtracting C₄ values from the observed C₄ concentrations for each sample in the WW layer. Interestingly the pH trend in the WW of -0.0161 (±0.0033) decade⁻¹ (here deduced from the station Aₚ and C₄ data in 1985-2021) is very close to the long-term annual trend at the surface deduced from the FFNN model in 1985-2020 (-0.0165 (±0.0004) decade⁻¹ ± 0.0004). This trend is slightly faster than the pH trends of 0.0134 (±0.0014) decade⁻¹ recently estimated in subsurface waters (100-210m) of the Southern Ocean south of the PF and derived for years 1994-2017 from historical data and BGC-Argo floats (Mazloff et al., 2023). For the same period, 1994-2017, at the OISO-KERFIX station we estimated a pH trend in the WW of -0.0168 (±0.0043) decade⁻¹ and of -0.0186 (±0.0006) decade⁻¹ in surface waters from the FFNN model.
Figure 10: (a): Time-series of pH (red dots) and pre-industrial pH (pH-PI, black dots) estimated in the Winter water layer (WW around 200m, see figure 6) in over 1985-2021 at station OISO-KERFIX (50°40’S-68°25’E). pH-PI for each sample was calculated after subtracting C_{ant} to C_{T}. The pH trend from the present days is -0.0161 ± 0.0033 decade⁻¹ (red dashed line). No trend is observed for pH-PI (black dashed). The mean pH-PI in the WW is 8.173 ± 0.020 (n=45). (b): Profiles of pH and pH-PI evaluated from March 1985 (black symbols) and February 2021 data (red symbols). The profiles for pH-PI are shown below 150m only as C_{ant} estimates are not available in the surface layer. Note that the pH-PI profiles are the same either using either the 1985 or 2021 data.

\[ \Delta_{\text{As}} \] for other properties (Ar, O2, temperature, salinity and nutrients), the pre-industrial pH (pH-PI) does not change over time in the WW (mean pH-PI = 8.173 ± 0.020, n=45, Figure 10a). The pH-PI in the WW is in the range of the pre-industrial surface pH value in the Southern Ocean (8.2 for year 1750 and 8.18 for year 1850) derived from Earth system Models (Jiang et al., 2023, their Table S9). In the WW at our location the modern pH (1985-2021) was on average -0.147 ± 0.021 lower than pre-industrial pH. In 1985 pH in the WW was -0.119 lower than pH-PI and in 2021 it was -0.184 lower than pH-PI (Figure 10a). The progressive decrease
of pH was clearly linked to $C_{\text{ext}}$ concentrations in the WW layer and the pH decrease identified below that layer in the water column (Figure 10b).
Temporal change in the water column

From 1985 to 2021, signals of decreasing pH and increasing C\textsubscript{T} in surface waters are propagated in the water column down to about 500m. As mentioned above the data in 1985 (first occupation of the station) reveal significant C\textsubscript{ant} levels across the water column (Figure 6b). Therefore the pH down to 4400m\textit{the bottom} was already lower in 1985 than at pre-industrial times (Figure 10b). However, the largest C\textsubscript{ant} increases were found in the top layers and changes in pH from 1985 to 2021 were small below 500m (Figure 10b, Figure S14). While observations for all years fall on a common linear relationship between C\textsubscript{ant} and pH\textsubscript{ant} for depths greater than 500m, the change in pH for a given level of C\textsubscript{ant} increases with time for layers shallower than 500 m (Figure 11).

The increase in C\textsubscript{ant} concentrations over time (Figure 6b) also leads to a decrease of carbonate ion concentrations [CO\textsubscript{3}\textsuperscript{2-}] and of Ω\textsubscript{ar} and Ω\textsubscript{ca} (Figure S14, S15). These decreases are well identified since the pre-industrial era in the whole water column but in the last 36 years, observations do not show any appreciable changes below 500m (Figure 11). The aragonite saturation horizon (Ω\textsubscript{ar}=1) was found around 600m in 1985 and around 400m in recent years (2015-2021, Figures S14, S15). Moreover, during the period covered by observations (1985-2021), we did not detect abrupt change of the aragonite saturation horizon from one year to the next (including from season to season or between winter and summer, Figure S16). This contrasts with previous regional studies in the SO and most notably with results from the layers close to the deep minimum of carbonate ion concentrations (Hauri et al., 2015; Negrete-Garcia et al., 2019). At our station the [CO\textsubscript{3}\textsuperscript{2-}] minimum lies around 500-600m (Figure S14, S15) and, along with the superimposed C\textsubscript{ant} accumulation, explains the upward shift of the aragonite and calcite saturation horizon between the pre-industrial and modern periods (Figure S15). At pre-industrial time under-saturation with regard to aragonite (Ω\textsubscript{ar}<1) was found at the bottom only (1600m) whereas in between 1985, and 2021 it was found in the water column below 600 m or 400 m.
The winter surface value in 1985 was 1.6, higher than in January 2020 or 2021. The same correlation between winter surface and WW data were identified for pH, CO$_3$-I, and $\Omega$ar derived from the FFNN model in winter 1985. Over 36 years, this represents a decrease in pH of -0.184 for pH (1.42) was equal to $\Omega$ar observed at 125 m in 1985. The surface value derived from the FFNN model in winter 1985 (1.6) was equal to the $\Omega$ar observed at 125 m in 1985. In 2020, the winter $\Omega$ar at the surface (2140 µmol.kg$^{-1}$) is equal to $\Omega$ar concentrations observed at 150-180 m in January 2020 or in 2021. For $\Omega$ar, the decrease in the carbonate system in surface waters and across the water column (Figure 12). The comparison shows that the seasonal amplitude of water properties was of similar magnitude to the observed changes in the mixed layer between 1985 and 2021. For example, the C$_T$ and $\Omega$ar seasonal amplitude, respectively around 20 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ and 0.2, corresponds to the C$_T$ increase and $\Omega$ar decrease from 1985 to 2021. The comparisons also highlight that in summer the FFNN results were close to observations in the mixed-layer (e.g. C$_T$ was 2120 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ in 1985 and $\Omega$ar, the winter surface properties were different: C$_T$ was higher, and pH, [CO$_3$-I], $\Omega$ar were lower, and intercept the (from the FFNN model, blue line in Figure 12). The winter surface values in 1985 and 2020/2021 are in good agreement with observations at depth close to the winter water (150-200m). This is true as an example, in 1985 and 2020/2021. Specifically, surface C$_T$ from the FFNN model in winter 1985 was 2145.5 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ equal to the C$_T$ at the surface, which corresponds to the concentration measured at 150 m in March 1985 (2148 µmol.kg$^{-1}$) and 150m during summer (purple line in Figure 12). In 2020, the winter C$_T$ at the surface (2168.3 µmol.kg$^{-1}$) is equal to C$_T$ concentrations observed at 150-180 m in January 2020 or in 2021. For $\Omega$ar, the winter $\Omega$ar (1.42) was equal to $\Omega$ar observed at 100-150 m in January 2020 or 2021. The same correspondences between winter surface and WW data were identified for pH and [CO$_3$-I] (Figure 12). This supports the use of winter and summer surface data from the FFNN model to investigate the seasonal $\Omega$ar trends and their projection in the future.
water column. However, a potential change in primary productivity after 2010 mitigated the effects of increasing C\text{ant} accumulation in response to increasing atmospheric CO\text{2} leading to relatively stable summer C\text{T} and CO\text{2} and to a stronger CO\text{2} sink (Figure 3). Consequently, when restricted to the period 2010-2020, the trend of C\text{ant} in surface waters in summer was much smaller, -0.024 ± 0.027 decade\textsuperscript{−1} (± 0.027), than during the preceding period. This was much smaller than derived from all the data in the period 1985-2021 (-0.048. decade\textsuperscript{−1}) or estimated from reconstructed fields in the SO-SPSS in the period 1982-2021 (-0.0616. decade\textsuperscript{−1}, Ma et al., 2023). It underscores the uncertainty in extrapolating long-term time-series to the future depending on the selection of data and periods.

![Figure 12: Profiles (0-400m left axis) of observed and calculated properties (C\text{T}, pH, C\text{ant}, CO\text{2}) at station OISO-KEF IX (50°40'S-68°25'E) in Mach 1985, January 2020 and January 2021 along with surface time-series in 1985-2020 (right axis) of the same properties in January (yellow line) and August (blue line) from the FFNN model. The FFNN values in January 2020 are coherent with January 2020 or January 2021 observations in the mixed-layer and in January 1985 are close to the observations in March 1985. Note that the differences of properties between 2020-21 and 1985 have a similar magnitude as the seasonal amplitude (illustrated by the FFNN values for January and August).]

3.4 Long-term change in surface water, from the sixties to the future.

The data described above allowed evaluating the temporal variations of the properties of the carbonate system and C\text{ant} over 1985-2021 along with a comparison to the pre-industrial state in the water column excluding the surface layer. The results over 36 years informed on the recent changes, inter-annual variations
and trends, but the time-series appears somehow short to extrapolate the trends over time. What was the change of the carbonate system in surface waters before 1985 and what will be its future evolution?

3.4.1 Back to the sixties: observed trends since 1962.

To explore the long-term change, we start by comparing our recent data with the observations from the LUSIAD cruise conducted in 1962-1963 (Keeling and Waterman, 1968). Some data from this cruise were obtained in mid-November 1962 south of the Polar Front, in the region south-west off Kerguelen Islands. Because of the seasonality, we compared the November 1962 data with our observations obtained in October-November in 1995, 2011 and 2016, and with the FFNN model results for November (Figure 13). The $C_T$ concentration, pH, $Ω_{ar}$ and $Ω_{ca}$ for 1962 were calculated using fCO$_2$ data and $A_T$ (from the $A_T$/S relationship Eq. 1) with salinity from the World Ocean Atlas (Antonov et al, 2006).

First, we note that the measured SST in November 1962 (1.7°C) was slightly lower (on average about 0.6°C) compared to recent years, but SST as low as 1.8°C for this season was also recorded in other periods (e.g. November 1995, 2014). The change in SST is unlikely to explain the long-term increase in fCO$_2$ or decrease in pH since 1962 (Figure 13). In 1962, the oceanic fCO$_2$ was...
November 1985-2020 the ocean was a small CO₂ sink on average (ΔCO₂ = -3.3 ± 4.5 µatm). The C₇ concentration in 1962 (2135 µmol.kg⁻¹) was much lower than observed in the 90s since 1995 and the pH (8.115) was much higher than in recent years the last three decades (Figure 13). Compared to 1962, pH in 2016 was -0.078 lower, i.e., representing 70% of the pH decrease of -0.11 in the global ocean since the beginning of the industrial era (Jiang et al., 2019). In November 1962, surface C₇ was lower by -15.1 µmol.kg⁻¹ compared to the data in October 1995, i.e., a trend of +0.46 µmol.kg⁻¹ yr⁻¹ (as observed in the WW site). Having the C₇ value in 1962, we can project the C₇ in time by adding the C₇ concentration based on the relationship observed between C₇ and atmospheric CO₂ (Figure 7b) assuming that the anthropogenic CO₂ uptake since the sixties is representative of the C₇ change (i.e., the change of C₇ due to natural variability was small). This projection is shown for all properties (red dashed-lines in Figure 13) and confirms that the progressive C₇ accumulation explained most of the C₇ and fCO₂ increase in surface waters since 1962. We note that the C₇ derived from the FFNN model suggests slightly lower C₇ compared to the C₇ projection especially before 2004. The difference of projected C₇ and the FFNN model (on average -2.2 ± 2.7 µmol.kg⁻¹) is within the uncertainty of C₇ calculations (error is ±5 µmol.kg⁻¹ when using the A₂f/CO₂ pairs) and the trend of the difference over 1985-2020 (-0.15 µmol.kg⁻¹ yr⁻¹) is too small to be related with confidence to changes associated with natural processes. On the other hand, the oceanic fCO₂ recalculated with the projected C₇ trend suggested that for this season (November) the ocean moved from a CO₂ source in 1962-1985 (ΔCO₂ > 0) to a sink in 1986-2021 (ΔCO₂ < 0) in line with results from the FFNN model. The recalculated fCO₂ with C₇ (dashed red line in Figure 13) was close to that observed in 1995 or from the FFNN model in 1985-2014 (mean difference over 1985-2014 is 1.2 ± 5.2 µatm). After 2016, the recalculated fCO₂ suggest a stronger sink and the difference with observations in 2011 and 2016 or the FFNN model is slightly higher (mean difference over 2016-2020 is -8.8 ± 1.5 µatm). Although the differences are in the range of the error in fCO₂ calculation unusing A₂-C₇ pairs (± 13 µatm), this might indicate that after 2016 a process could contribute to increase fCO₂ faster than the effect of C₇ only. This difference could be due to the warming that occurred after 2016 when SST was higher than 2°C and up to 3°C in November 2017 (Figure S9). The same could be applied for pH that was slightly lower than the pH recalculated from C₇ trend after 2015 (the mean difference between recalculated pH and FFNN-pH over 1985-2020 is only 0.002 ± 0.006). Therefore, we conclude that for November the pH decrease since 1962 was mainly driven by the accumulation of anthropogenic CO₂. Aragonite and calcite saturation states also show a clear decrease since 1962 (Figure 13), a diminution of 11% in 59 years for both Ωar and Ωca. Based on these results over almost 60 years that confirm the conclusions from the observations in 1985-2021, we now evaluate the long-term change of the carbonate system in surface waters in the future.

3.4.2 Projecting the observed trends in the future

The trends of the properties based on observations in 1962-2021 and the FFNN model in 1985-2020 indicate relatively linear trends linked to C₇ uptake albeit with some decadal variability in summer (Figure 4). A simple linear extrapolation of the trends in the future suggests that aragonite under-saturation in surface waters would be reached in year 2110 for the winter season and 2120 for summer (Figure S17) whereas the trend in subsurface trend suggests under-saturation in 2000. In year 2100, surface pH and [H⁺] would be around...
7.9 and 12 nmol.kg⁻¹ (Figure S17). However, ESM CMIP6 models suggest that under a high emission scenario (SSPS-8.5), pH in 2100 in the Southern Ocean near 50°S would be around 7.65 and [H⁺] around 22 nmol.kg⁻¹ (Jiang et al., 2023, their figure 4). This suggests that the simple linear extrapolation based on recent observed trends (Figure S17) underestimated the future change of the carbonate system for a high emission scenario as previously shown in the South-Eastern Indian Ocean based on summer trends derived from observations in 1969-2003 (Midorikawa et al., 2012, their figure 4).

To better investigate the changes in the next decades, we assumed that the Cₑₑₑ trend for the modern period (Figure 7) that experienced a “business as usual” scenario after the sixties is representative of the future changes in the surface ocean carbonate system. For this analysis, we used two emissions scenarios (Shared Socioeconomic Pathways, SSP, Meinshausen et al., 2020) with atmospheric xCO₂ reaching 1135 ppm in 2100 (a “high” emission scenario SSP5-8.5) or xCO₂ reaching 603 ppm in 2100 after a stabilization around 2080 (scenario SSP2-4.5). This enables to simulate future C loser concentrations for summer or winter (Figure 14) and to calculate other carbonate properties using C loser and A loser (Figure 15, Table 23) in response to approximated future changes in physical and geochemical properties excluding impacts of changes in atmospheric and oceanic circulation. As the calculated properties are sensitive to A loser values, we used a fixed A loser of 2280 μmol.kg⁻¹ or applied a correction based on the long-term change of sea surface salinity observed in the last 6 decades (1960-2017), i.e. a freshening in the Southern Ocean of around -0.01 to -0.02.decade⁻¹ (Durack and Wijffels, 2010; Cheng et al., 2020b). The decrease in salinity in the South Indian Ocean (-0.02, ±0.01 decade⁻¹±0.01) was recently analyzed by Akhoudas et al. (2023) who showed that in the years 1993-2021 the freshening was mainly due to an increase in the precipitation linked to the acceleration of the atmospheric hydrological cycle. From our data in the mixed-layer over 1985-2021, we estimated a trend in salinity of -0.020±0.014±0.004 decade⁻¹±0.000011°C. For the A loser sensitivity test we thus selected a salinity trend of -0.01.decade⁻¹ in 1962-1985 and -0.02.decade⁻¹ after 1985 and applied these trends to simulate A loser over 1960-2100 using the A loser/Salinity relationship (Equation 1). This leads to a salinity of 33.650 and A loser of 2272 μmol.kg⁻¹ in the year 2100, about 8 μmol.kg⁻¹ lower than observed in 2021 (2280 μmol.kg⁻¹). Compared to the C loser change from 2021 to 2100 (+50 and +193 μmol.kg⁻¹ for the “low” and “high” emissions scenario, Figure 14), the impact of the A loser decrease has a minor effect on the future change for pH, [CO₂]aq and Ω (Table 23). For example, in winter for the SSP5-8.5 scenario, when the A loser decrease is taken into account, pH in 2100 is 7.316 and Ω is 0.33 against 7.372 and 0.34 when A loser is constant (Table 23). In both cases, the surface aragonite saturation (Ωía=1) in winter occurred in 2055, whereas in summer it is identified in 2070. The effect of lower A loser in the future appeared also small compared to the seasonal differences of pH and Ω in 2100.

As noted above, the Southern Ocean experienced a warming in recent decades (e.g. Auger et al., 2021) and it is projected that warming will continue in the future (IPCC, 2022). Therefore, to test the sensitivity of calculated properties to warming we applied a correction of warming of +0.0125°C.yr⁻¹ in 1985-2020 and +0.025°C.yr⁻¹ after 2020 (Azarian et al., 2023). As for A loser, these results are compared for winter using constant SST (Table 23). The effect of the long-term warming does mainly impact the projection of [H⁺] and pH (Table 23).

These sensitivity tests for temperature and A loser showed that as for the observed period 1962-2021 (Figure 13), the projection in the future depends mainly on the anthropogenic CO₂ accumulation. Here, the C loser concentrations were calculated using the Cₑₑₑ versus atmospheric CO₂ relationship (Figure 7b). We thus tested the results for winter based on the error associated with this relationship (Figure S18). This leads to either higher
or lower $C_T$ compared to the original calculation (Figure 14). For the SSP5-8.5 scenario, the winter $C_T$ concentrations in 2100 range between 2328 and 2378 $\mu$mol.kg$^{-1}$, higher than simulated in the ESM CMIP6 models around 50°S (2300 $\mu$mol.kg$^{-1}$, Jiang et al., 2023). As in the ESM models for the SSP2-4.5 scenario, the projected $C_T$ concentration in 2100 at our location for the SSP2-4.5 scenario is much lower 2217 $\mu$mol.kg$^{-1}$ (Figure 14). The future change of the carbonate system is not significantly different using low or high $C_{\text{ant}}$ accumulation (Figure S18) but this test gives a range of years to reach aragonite and calcite under-saturation. In winter (SSP5-8.5 scenario), aragonite (calcite) would reach under-saturation between year 2050 and 2060 and (between year 2070 and 2080 for calcite). Note that for summer we derived under-saturation for $\Omega_{\text{Ar}}$ in year 2065 and for $\Omega_{\text{Ca}}$ in year 2085. For the SSP2-4.5 scenario, where $C_T$ is 143 $\mu$mol.kg$^{-1}$ lower in 2100 compared to SSP5-8.5, aragonite under-saturation would not be reached before 2070 (Figure 15).
January (Obs) and the FFNN model for SSP2-4.5. For 2020 the results based on observations in January (Obs) and the FFNN model in January and August also listed. Sensitivity tests: “SSP85 W-T” is for winter with constant temperature and “SSP85 W-A” is for winter with constant A, and temperature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Atm-CO₂</th>
<th>TCO₂</th>
<th>Cₐ</th>
<th>Aₜ</th>
<th>pH</th>
<th>[H⁺]</th>
<th>[CO₃²⁻]</th>
<th>Ωca</th>
<th>Ωar</th>
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<tr>
<td>Obs Jan</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>410.6</td>
<td>391.9</td>
<td>2142.2</td>
<td>2281.8</td>
<td>8.044</td>
<td>9.04</td>
<td>105.2</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>1.59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Std obs.</td>
<td></td>
<td>(2.0)</td>
<td>(0.7)</td>
<td>(0.3)</td>
<td>(0.002)</td>
<td>(0.04)</td>
<td>(0.5)</td>
<td>(0.01)</td>
<td>(0.01)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFPN Jan</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>410.6</td>
<td>385.1</td>
<td>2138.5</td>
<td>2201.0</td>
<td>8.051</td>
<td>9.90</td>
<td>106.3</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>1.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSP Summer</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>414.9</td>
<td>375.4</td>
<td>2173.5</td>
<td>2282.1</td>
<td>8.061</td>
<td>8.70</td>
<td>108.0</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>1.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFPN Aug</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>410.6</td>
<td>410.0</td>
<td>2188.3</td>
<td>2289.8</td>
<td>8.024</td>
<td>9.45</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>1.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSP Winter</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>414.9</td>
<td>434.5</td>
<td>2167.3</td>
<td>2282.1</td>
<td>8.001</td>
<td>9.98</td>
<td>90.4</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>1.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **SSP85 Summer** 2050: 562.8 526.5 2177.2 2278.3 7.928 11.79 84.2 2.02 1.28
- **SSP85 Winter** 2050: 562.8 624.7 2207.0 2278.3 7.857 13.91 68.5 1.65 1.04
- **SSP85 W-T** 2050: 562.8 585.7 2207.0 2280.0 7.880 13.17 69.0 1.66 1.04
- **SSP45** 2050: 562.8 592.7 2207.0 2278.3 7.875 13.32 68.1 1.64 1.03
- **SSP345 Winter** 2050: 506.9 554.8 2192.0 2278.3 7.905 12.46 75.8 1.92 1.15
- **SSP345 Summer** 2100: 1135.2 1986.9 2303.6 2271.8 7.394 41.31 26.9 0.65 0.41
- **SSP345 Winter** 2100: 1135.2 2306.3 2360.4 2271.8 7.316 48.26 19.8 0.52 0.33
- **SSP345 W-T** 2100: 1135.2 1993.1 2360.4 2280.0 7.372 42.44 22.6 0.54 0.34
- **SSP145** 2100: 1135.2 2097.0 2360.4 2271.8 7.349 44.74 21.3 0.51 0.32
- **SSP245** 2100: 602.8 753.9 2217.7 2271.8 7.782 16.51 60.9 1.47 0.92

Figure 14: Evolution of atmospheric CO₂ (ppm) and sea surface Cₐ (µmol.kg⁻¹) between 1960 and 2110 evaluated for 2 scenarios (SSP2-4.5 black dashed and SSP5-8.5 red dashed), for summer (red line for SSP5-8.5) and winter (blue line for SSP5-8.5 and green line for SSP2-4.5). Grey lines are the high and low Cₐ for winter SSP5-8.5 based on the error in the Cₒₒ/ICO₂ relationship (figure 7b). Also shown are the results for the FFNN model in 1985-2020 for summer (red diamonds) and winter (blue diamonds) and Cₐ in 1962 (black diamonds). The Cₐ values for different seasons and scenarios were used to calculate the carbonate properties in the future (Figure 15).
Figure 15: Evolution of sea surface $fCO_2$ (µatm), pH (TS), $[CO_3^{2-}]$ (µmol.kg$^{-1}$), $[H^+]$ (nmol.kg$^{-1}$), $\Omega$-Ar and $\Omega$-Ca in between 1960- and 2110 evaluated for the SSP5-8.5 scenario for winter (blue line) and summer (red line) taking into account both $A_T$ and SST future trends. For winter the results are also presented using the SSP2-4.5 scenario (green line). Also shown are the results for the FFNN model in 1985-2020 for summer (red diamonds) and winter (blue diamonds). Atmospheric $fCO_2$ is also shown for SSP5-8.5 (red dashed) and SSP2-4.5 (green dashed). Values in 2020, 2050 and 2100 for different sensitivity tests are listed in Table 2.

4 Summary and concluding remarks

The times-series of high quality observations collected between 1985- and 2021 and the results from the FFNN model at one location, south of the Polar Front in the Southern Indian Ocean (50°S-68°E) presented in this analysis offered new results on the inter-annual variability, decadal to long-term trends of the carbonate system in surface waters, air-sea CO$_2$ fluxes and associated drivers. The evaluation of anthropogenic CO$_2$ concentrations in the water column indicates that the trends of the carbonate species are mainly driven by the anthropogenic CO$_2$ uptake leading to a progressive acidification in surface waters and at depth.

In 1985, the C$_{ant}$ concentrations were approaching 50 µmol.kg$^{-1}$ at 200 m and C$_{ant}$ was detected in the water column down to the bottom (1600m). This explains why aragonite under-saturation was observed at around 600m-700m in 1985, where [CO$_3^{2-}$] concentration was at its minimum, whereas...
industrial era the whole water column was super-saturated (this study Figure S15; Lauvset et al., 2020, their Figure S15). 36 years later, because of the anthropogenic CO₂ accumulation, we observed an upward migration of the aragonite saturation horizon that was found around 400 m in 2021 (a shoaling rate of around -6 m yr⁻¹).

At subsurface, in the winter water Winter Water layer, the Cₑₑₑₑ trend is estimated at +0.53 (+-0.01) μmol.kg⁻¹.yr⁻¹ over 1985-2021 with a detectable increase of the trend in recent years up to 72 μmol.kg⁻¹ in 2021 compared to 47 μmol.kg⁻¹ in 1985. The Cₑₑₑₑ concentrations in the ocean are closely related to the atmospheric CO₂ concentrations and the slope we observed south of the PF in the Indian sector of +0.263 ± 0.042 μmol.kg⁻¹.µatm⁻¹ is close to that observed in the AAIW in the South Atlantic (+0.23 ± 0.05 μmol.kg⁻¹.µatm⁻¹; Fontela et al., 2021). This suggests that local observations in the South Indian POOZ captured the link between Cₑₑₑₑ and atmospheric CO₂ at larger scale.

In surface waters, over 1991-2020 the oceanic fCO₂ increased at a rate close or slightly lower than in the atmosphere (Figure 2b) and the C₇ trend followed the Cₑₑₑₑ accumulation (Figure 4b, S12a). However in the last decade both observations and the FFNN model showed low fCO₂ trends in summer (less than 1 µatm.yr⁻¹). The change in summer trend appears related to primary production as revealed by a decrease of Chl-a in 1998-2010 followed by an increase after 2010. Biological activity counteracts the C₇ increase due to Cₑₑₑₑ, resulting in rather stable C₇ and fCO₂ in summer 2010-2020 (+0.38± 0.26 μmol.kg⁻¹.yr⁻¹ and +0.98 ± 0.40 µatm.yr⁻¹) during the last decade. As a result, the region moved from an annual source of +0.8 mol.C.m⁻².yr⁻¹ in 1985 to a sink of -0.5 mol.C.m⁻².yr⁻¹ in 2020. Adding historical data from November 1962 that indicate an annual source of 2.2 mol.C.m⁻².yr⁻¹ and extrapolating to the entire South Indian POOZ (50-58°S/20-120°E, 6.5 Mkm²), suggest that this region changed from a CO₂ source of 0.17 PgC.yr⁻¹ in 1962, reduced to 0.06 PgC.yr⁻¹ in 1985 and a CO₂ sink of -0.04 PgC.yr⁻¹ in 2020. This can be compared with reconstructed fluxes from a data-based model that produced a CO₂ source around 0.10 PeC.yr⁻¹ in 1960-1990 and a sink around -0.05 PeC.yr⁻¹ in 2020 in the south Indian sector (Rödenbeck et al., 2022, their Figure 6). Based on the FFNN reconstructions, the increase of the ocean CO₂ sink was particularly pronounced after 2011 (Figure 3) when phytoplankton biomass was stronger increasing in this HNLC region and occurred when the SAM index was in a positive state. Although observations in the water column do not suggest enhanced upwelling, we cannot eliminate the possibility that the SAM influenced changes in primary production.

In 1959-1963, the SAM was also positive on average and moved to a negative phase in 1964 (Marshall, 2003; King et al., 2023). Historical data from 1962 suggest that in For October/November the region was a small CO₂ source (ΔfCO₂ < 8 µatm). Assuming the seasonality was the same as in the 80s, we estimate that in 1962 the annual flux would be around 2.2 mol.C.m⁻².yr⁻¹. Extrapolating to the entire South Indian POOZ (50-58°S/20-120°E, 6.5 Mkm²), this region was a CO₂ source of 0.17 PgC.yr⁻¹ in 1962, reduced to 0.06 PgC.yr⁻¹ in 1985 and a CO₂ sink of -0.04 PgC.yr⁻¹ in 2020. This could be compared with reconstructed fluxes from a data-based model that produced a CO₂ source in 1960-1990 and a sink in 2020 in the south Indian sector (Rödenbeck et al., 2022, their Figure 6).

For November 1962, the estimated increase in Cₑₑₑₑ concentration in surface (2135 μmol.kg⁻¹) in waters over 54 years (+21 μmol.kg⁻¹ lower than observed mid-October 2016 in the mixed layer (2156 μmol.kg⁻¹)). This increase was almost equal to the increase of Cₑₑₑₑ in 54 years (+22.3 μmol.kg⁻¹). As a result, surface ocean pH dropped from 8.11 in 1962 to 8.044 in 2020. Over a multi-decadal time scale (30 years or more), acidification in the South Indian POOZ has been mainly controlled by the uptake of anthropogenic CO₂. However, our data also indicate a modulation of the summer pH trend by natural processes. After 2010, a very small pH trend was...
estimated in summer (-0.0098.decade$^{-1}$ ±0.0042) when the region experienced higher increase in primary productivity. On the opposite, in winter, the pH trends continuously increased with time, -0.010.decade$^{-1}$ ±0.002. In A$_T$ the subsurface (winter water Winter Water layer), the trend of pH based on A$_T$ and C$_T$ data are over 1985-2021 of -0.0161 (±0.0033) decade$^{-1}$ is also almost equal to the annual surface trend from the FFNN model. A simple extrapolation of the trends in the WW indicated that under-saturation (Ω<1) would be reached at year 2090 for aragonite and year 2180 for calcite. However, as atmospheric CO$_2$ will desperately continue expected to rise and ocean C$_T$ will increase in the future, the pH and Ω will continue at a faster rate than observed in recent years, especially for the last decades. A projection of future C$_T$ concentrations based on emissions scenarios, two emission scenarios, excluding changes in ocean circulation, indicated that the winter surface pH in 2100 would decrease to 7.32 for a high emission scenario (SSP5-8.5) or to 7.782 for a low emission scenario (SSP2-4.5). This is up to -0.86 lower than pre-industrial pH and -0.71 lower than pH observed in 2020. For the winter season the aragonite under-saturation in surface would be reached around 2050 for a high emissions scenario and 2070 for a low emission scenario.

The time-series presented here for the Southern Ocean, along with other historical time-series of $A_T$ and C$_T$ in the water-column (BATS, HOT, ESTOC, KNOT, Iceland or Irminges seas; Bates et al., 2014; Lange et al., 2023) or the recent BIGBGC-Argo floats in the Southern Ocean (Mazloff et al., 2023) offer useful data for the evaluation of biogeochemical and Earth system models, especially for the coupling of CO$_2$, C$_T$, A$_T$, physical and biological drivers of the carbonate system not well represented in current models at seasonal to decadal scales in the Southern Ocean (e.g. Hauck et al., 2022; Rodgers et al., 2023; Joos et al., 2023). Observing the decadal changes of the carbonate system in the water column is also an important step to extend the evaluation of biogeochemical and ESM models below the surface (Jiang et al., 2023). It is important to maintain such time-series for monitoring the future evolution of the ocean CO$_2$ sink, of the acidification and its impact on phytoplankton species and higher trophic levels. This is especially the case in Marine Protected Area such as the French Sub-Antarctic islands including the Kerguelen Archipelago which was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2019.

**Data availability:**
Data used in this study are available in SOCAT (www.socat.info) for fCO$_2$ surface data, in GLODAP (www.glodap.info) for water-column data and at NCEI/ORCADS (www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/ocean-carbon-data-system/oceans/VOS_Program/OISO.html). The CMEMS-LSCE-FFNN model data are available at E.U.

**Copernicus Marine Service Information** (https://resources.marine.copernicus.eu/products).

**Authors contributions:**
CLM and NM are co-1 of the ongoing OISO project. CLM, NM, CL and CR participated to OISO cruises.

Underway fCO$_2$ was measured by CLM, NM, CL, and qualified by CLM and NM. Nutrients data were measured and qualified by CLM and CL. Chl-a data were measured and qualified by CR. Water column data were qualified by CLM, NM, CL, CR and GR. MG, FC and TTFC developed the CMEMS-LSCE-FFNN model and provided the model results. NM started the analysis, wrote the draft of the manuscript and prepared the figures.

All authors contributed to revising the draft manuscript.

**Competing interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.
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