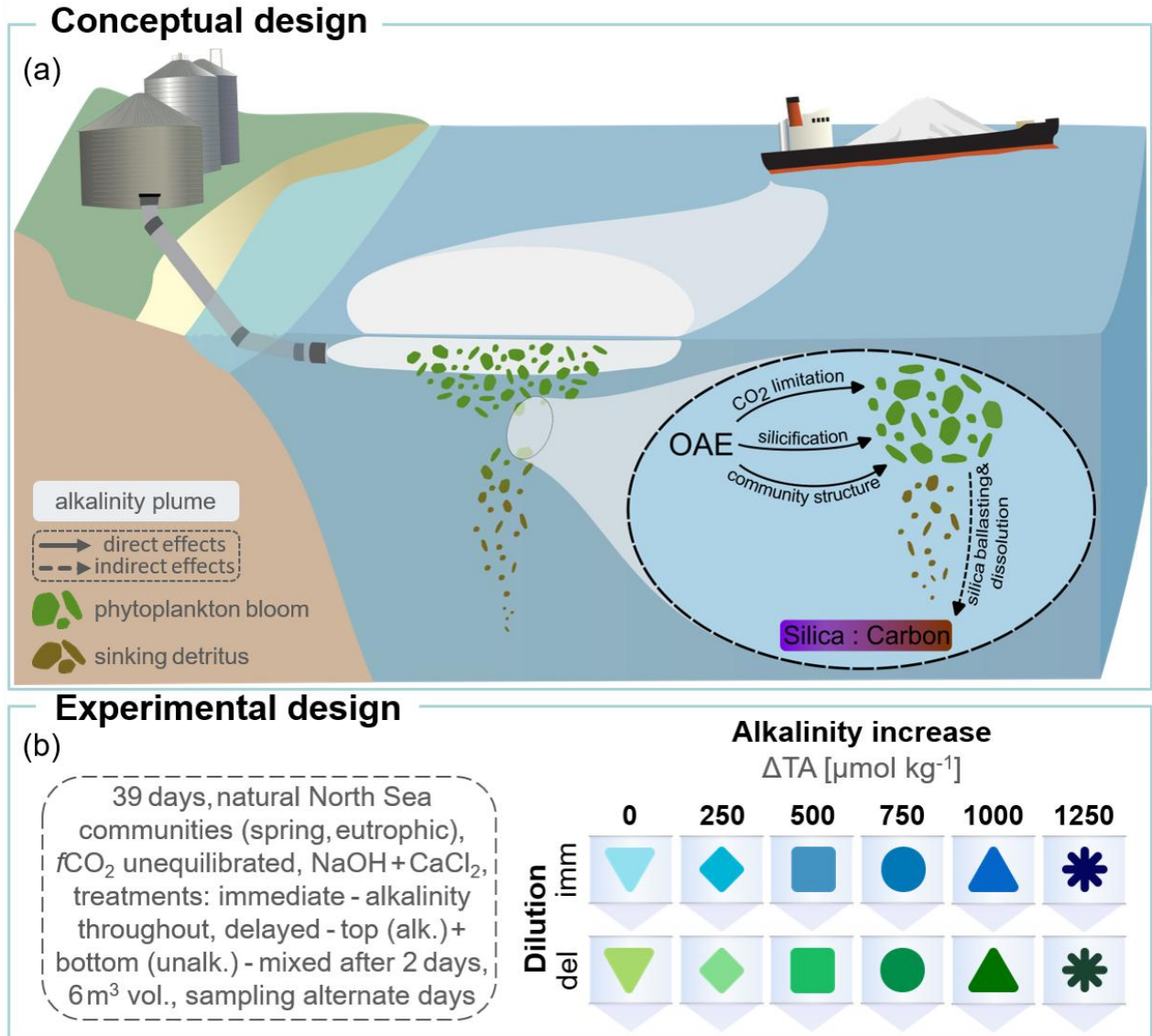
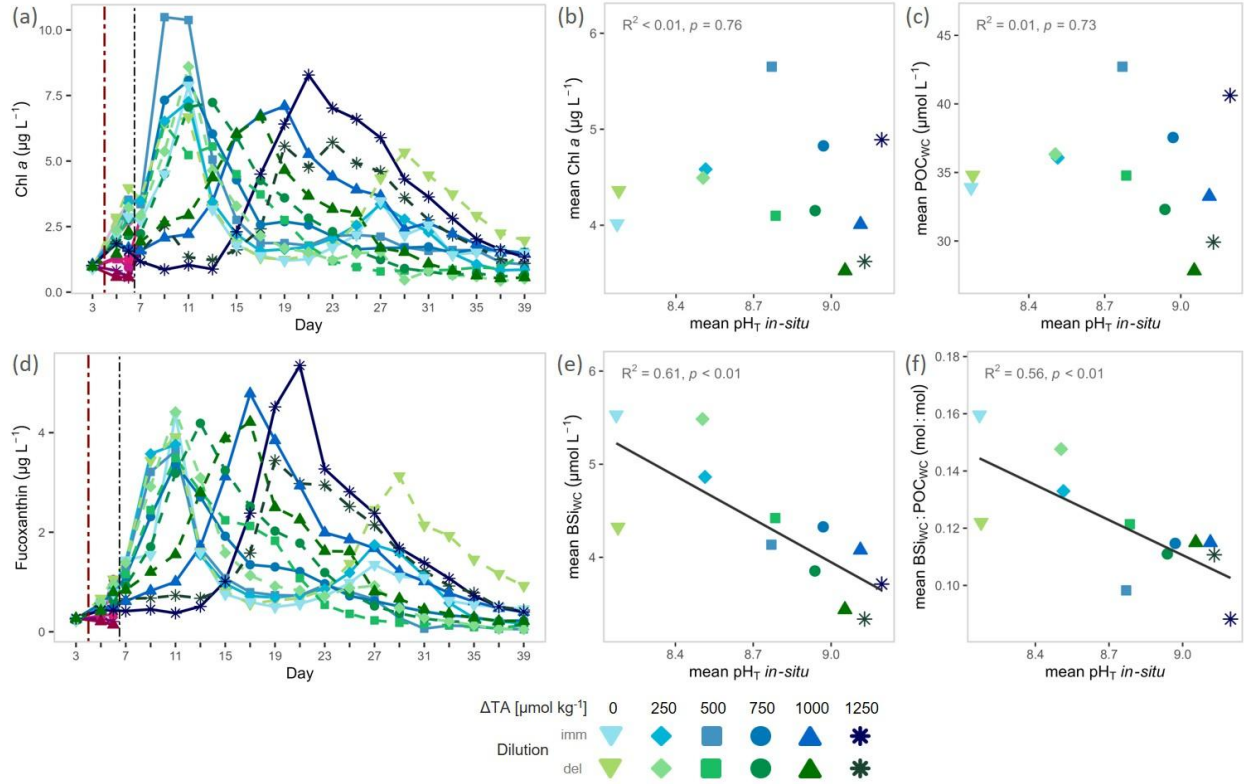


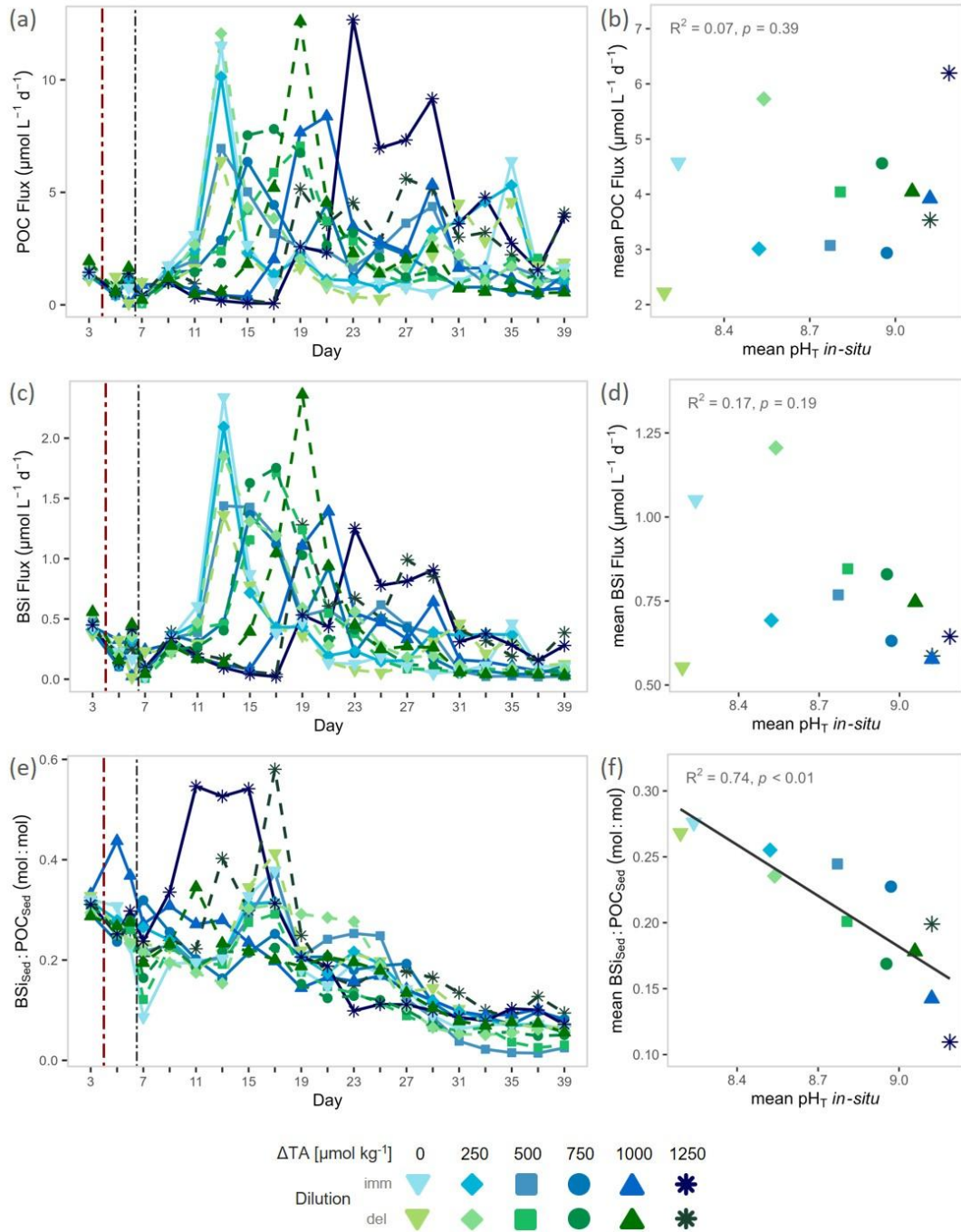
**Main Text Figures:**



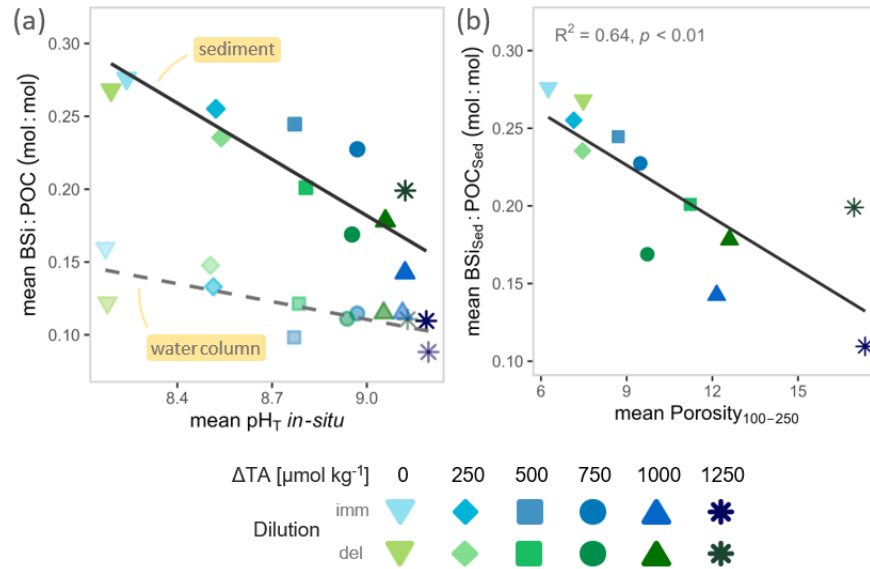
**Figure 1. Conceptual and experimental framework of our mesocosm study on CO<sub>2</sub> unequilibrated OAE.** (a) Potential application scenarios and pathways by which OAE may change phytoplankton biomass, stoichiometry and subsequent export. (b) Setting and manipulation using 12 mesocosms subjected to two idealized dilution scenarios. Delayed dilution (del) represents a localized, surface-intensified perturbation, as may occur near point-source additions, whereas immediate dilution (imm) represents a more distributed upper-mixed-layer perturbation, conceptually relevant to well mixed conditions following alkalinity release. Levels in  $\Delta TA$  given relative to background alkalinity of 2340  $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ . Graphics adapted from Integration and Application Network, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science <https://ian.umces.edu/symbols/>, last access: 21 October 2025).



**Figure 2. Phytoplankton biomass and silica ballasting ratios under OAE.** Temporal trajectories of (a) chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) and (d) Fucoxanthin concentrations. pH-gradient responses of bloom-window averages for (b) Chl *a*, (c) POC<sub>WC</sub>, (e) BSi<sub>WC</sub> and for (f) water column silica ballasting ratio (BSi<sub>WC</sub>:POC<sub>WC</sub>). Note: The averaging windows for pH<sub>T</sub> and each response variable differ among mesocosms, defined by the identified bloom window per mesocosm (see Sect. 2.4 and Fig. S4). Pink–purple symbols represent surface-layer measurements from delayed-dilution mesocosms on days 5–6; hue encodes the alkalinity addition (ΔTA, µmol kg<sup>-1</sup>), with darker purple indicating higher ΔTA. The red dash-dotted vertical line marks the start of the alkalinity manipulation; the black dash-dotted line marks completion by mixing via the sediment trap. Grey annotations report statistical tests (see details in Table S1).

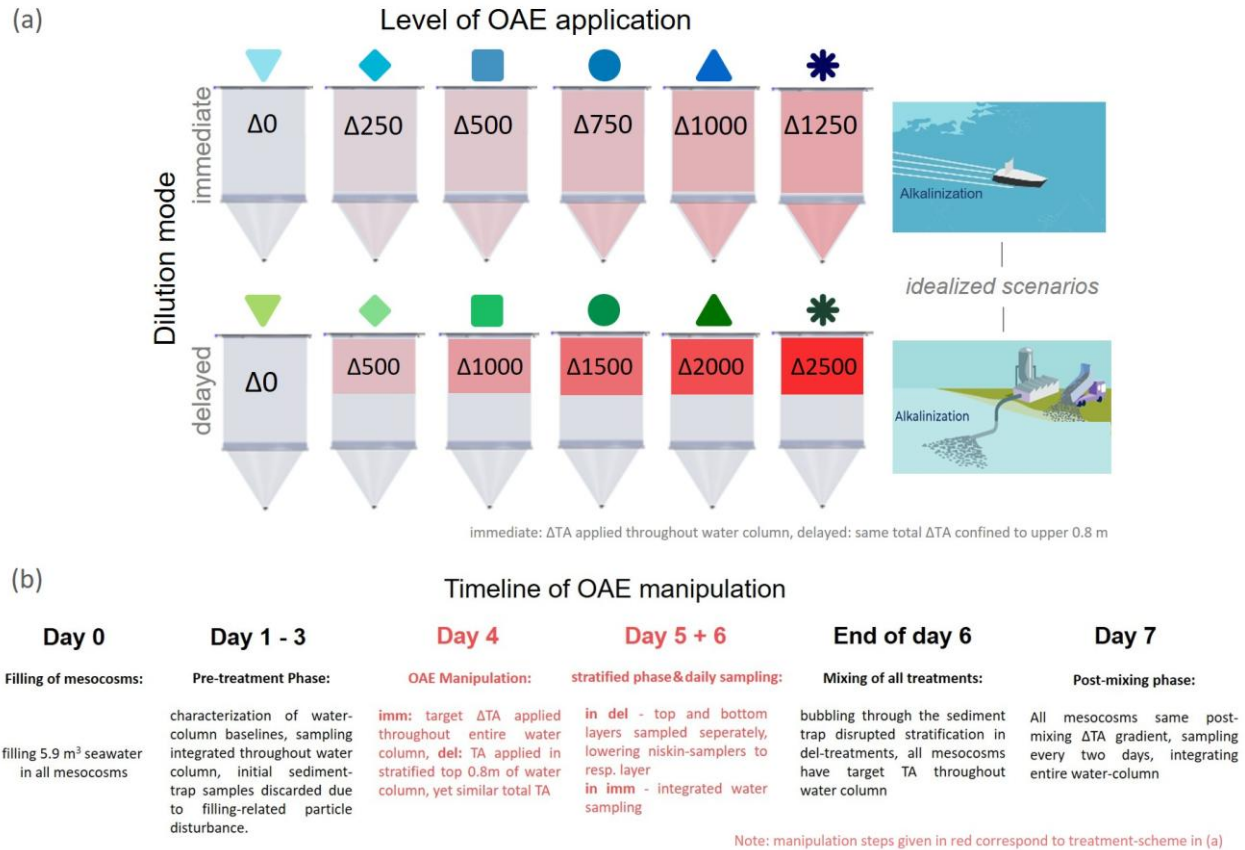


**Figure 3. Organic matter export and silica ballasting ratios under OAE.** Temporal trajectories of (a) particulate organic carbon export (POC Flux), (c) biogenic silica export (BSi Flux), and (e) sediment silica ballasting ratio (BSi<sub>Sed</sub>:POC<sub>Sed</sub>). pH-gradient responses of deposition-window averages for (b) POC flux, (d) BSi flux, and (f) sediment silica ballasting ratio (BSi<sub>Sed</sub>:POC<sub>Sed</sub>). Note: The averaging windows for pH<sub>T</sub> and each response variable differ among mesocosms, defined by the identified deposition window per mesocosm (see Sect. 2.5 and Fig. S5). The red dash-dotted vertical line marks the start of the alkalinity manipulation; the black dash-dotted line marks completion by mixing via the sediment trap. Grey annotations report statistical tests (see details in Table S1).

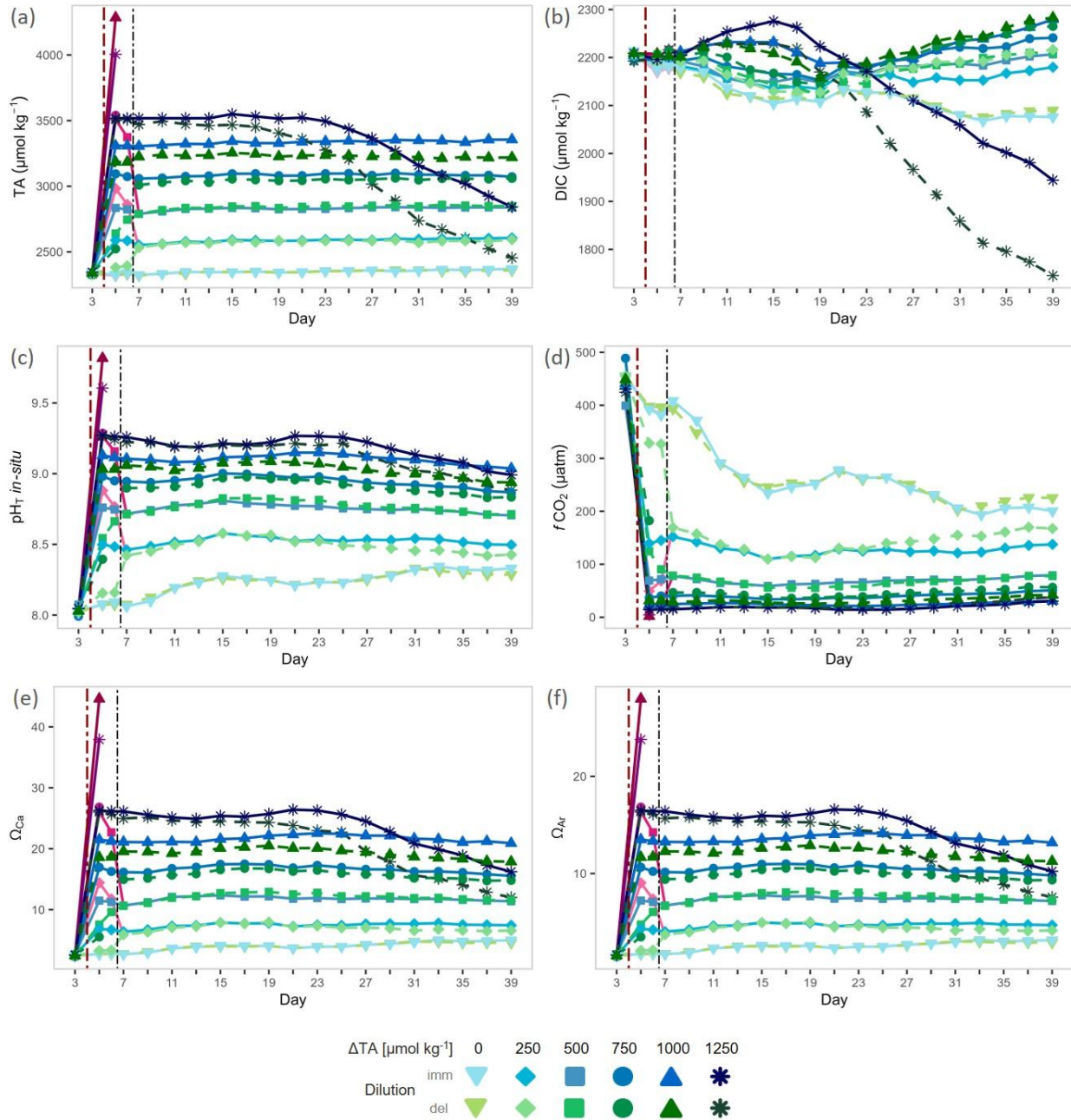


**Figure 4. Enrichment of silica ballasting ratios and links to particle structure.** (a) Visualizing export-phase intensification of silica ballasting ratios across the  $pH_T$  gradient via variable slopes; dark solid regression line + opaque symbols = sediment, light dashed regression line + transparent symbols = water column. (b) Parameter regression within deposition phase for sediment silica ballasting ratio vs. mean particle porosity (in 100-250  $\mu\text{m}$  size class). Note: To link processes across phases, sediment parameters ( $BSi_{Sed}:POC_{Sed}$ ,  $Porosity_{100-250}$ ) were averaged over each mesocosm's deposition window, whereas water column silica ballasting ratios ( $BSi_{WC}:POC_{WC}$ ) was averaged over each mesocosm's bloom window; for (b) pairs were matched by mesocosm for regression. Both, bloom and deposition windows (and thus averaging days) differ among mesocosms (see Sect. 2.4, 2.5; compare Figs. S4 and S5). Grey annotations report statistical tests (see details in Table S1).

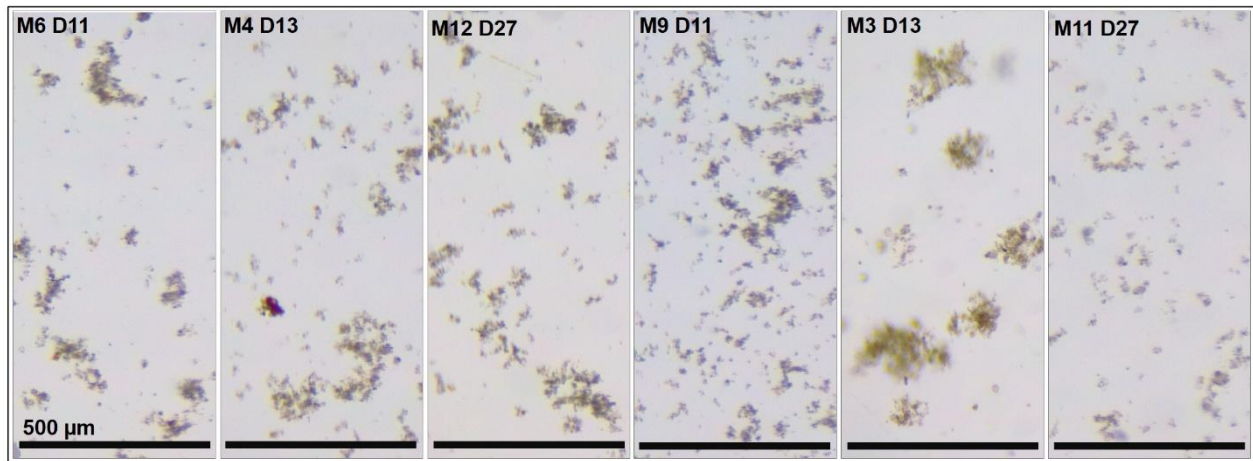
## Supplementary Figures:



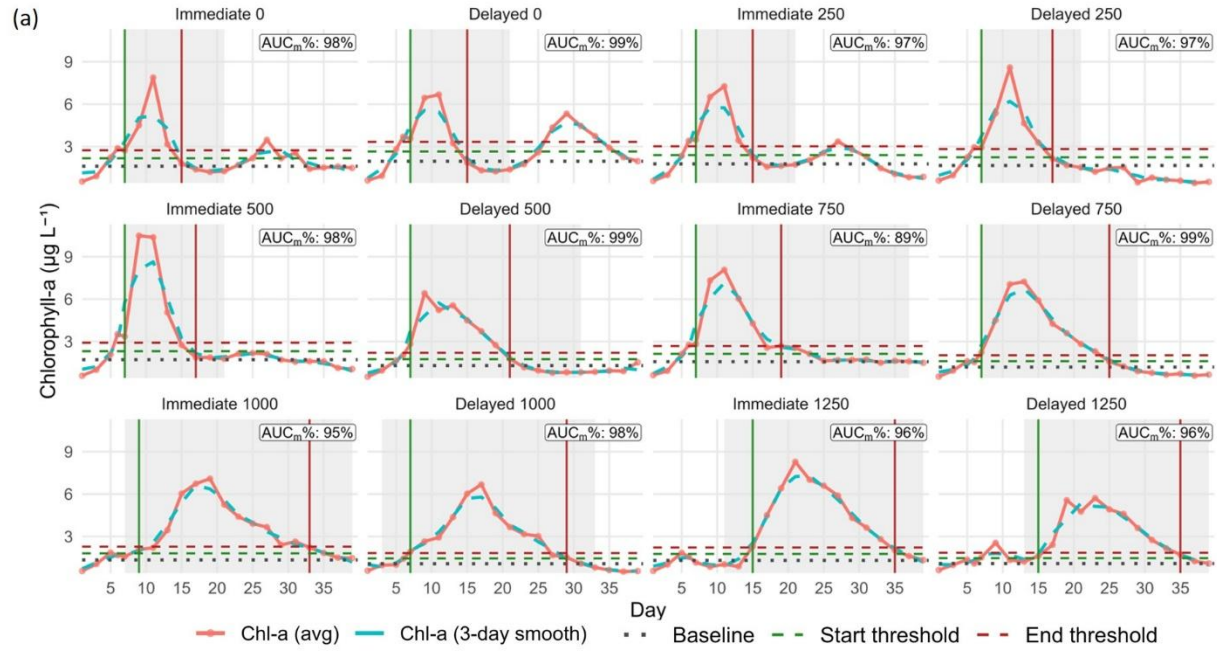
**Figure S 1 Schematic overview and timeline of the immediate- and delayed-dilution treatments.** (a) Immediate-dilution mesocosms received alkalinity additions throughout the enclosed water column on day 4, whereas delayed-dilution mesocosms received the same TA addition, but initially confined to the upper 0.8 m. Delayed treatments therefore had higher transient surface-layer  $\Delta$ TA before mixing after two days. (b) Timeline of filling, OAE manipulation, stratified sampling, and post-mixing sampling. Delayed treatments were sampled separately in the upper and lower layers during the stratified phase and mixed at the end of day 6. From day 7 onward, all mesocosms were sampled as integrated water columns.



**Figure S 2. Temporal variation of carbonate chemistry parameters.** Measured parameters: (a) Total alkalinity (TA), (b) dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and (c) pH on total scale ( $pH_T$  in-situ). Remaining parameters were calculated with CO2SYS (Pierrot et al., 2021): (d) fugacity of  $\text{CO}_2$  ( $f\text{CO}_2$ ), (e) Calcite saturation state ( $\Omega_{Ca}$ ) and (f) Aragonite saturation state ( $\Omega_{Ar}$ ). Water column-averaged temperature and salinity (CTD), as well as dissolved phosphorous and silicate concentrations were used for correction. Carbonate dissociation constants  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  were taken from Lueker et al. (2000). Pink-purple symbols represent surface-layer measurements from delayed-dilution mesocosms on days 5–6; hue encodes the alkalinity addition ( $\Delta TA$ ,  $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ ), with darker purple indicating higher  $\Delta TA$ . The red dash-dotted vertical line marks the start of the alkalinity manipulation; the black dash-dotted line marks completion by mixing via the sediment trap.



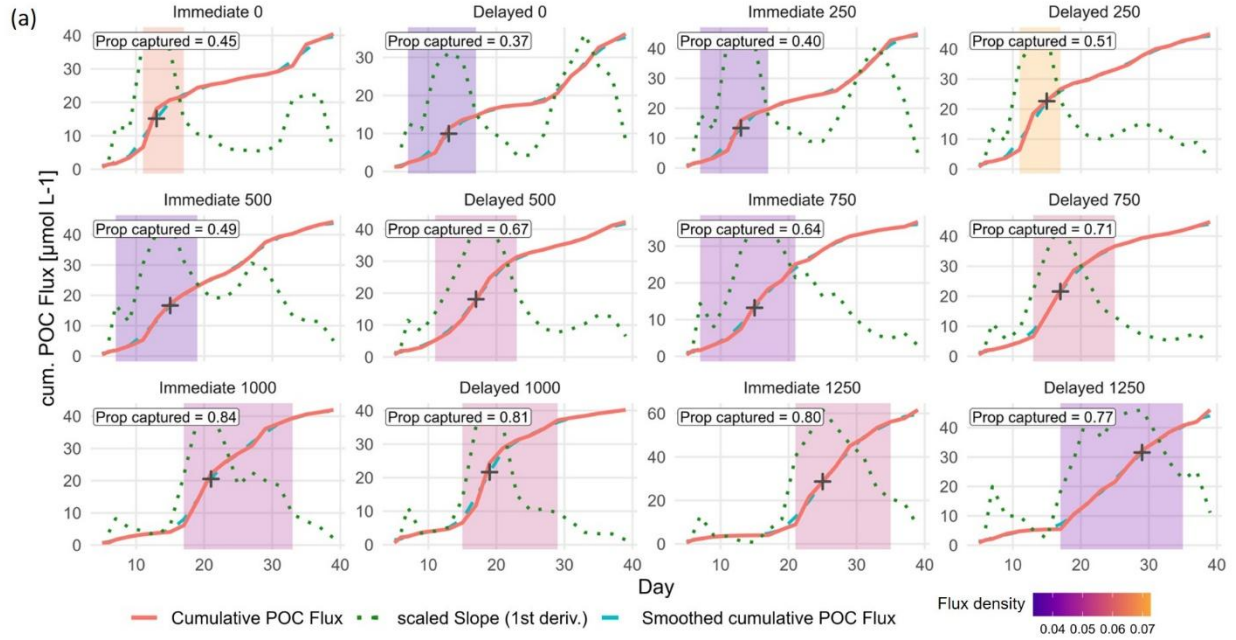
**Figure S 3. Particle size structure of sediment trap material.** Light-microscopy images of particulate matter collected from sediment traps of several mesocosms on different sampling days (11, 13, 27), illustrating the range of particle size classes. Panel labels (e.g., “M6 D11”) indicate mesocosm identity and day; all images were taken at 400x magnification. Black scale bar = 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .



(b)

Mesocosm	Imm 0	Del 0	Imm 250	Del 250	Imm 500	Del 500	Imm 750	Del 750	Imm 1000	Del 1000	Imm 1250	Del 1250
Bloom Start - End [day]	7-15	7-15	7-15	7-17	7-17	7-21	7-19	7-25	9-33	7-29	15-35	15-35
AUC <sub>m</sub> %	97.74	99.14	97.17	97.01	97.91	98.51	89.31	98.94	95.07	97.57	96.19	96.21
Baseline [µg L <sup>-1</sup> ]	1.61	1.96	1.77	1.66	1.71	1.29	1.57	1.19	1.34	1.07	1.30	1.09
Threshold Start [µg L <sup>-1</sup> ]	2.17	2.65	2.39	2.24	2.31	1.75	2.13	1.61	1.81	1.45	1.76	1.47
Threshold End [µg L <sup>-1</sup> ]	2.73	3.33	3.01	2.82	2.91	2.20	2.68	2.03	2.28	1.83	2.22	1.85

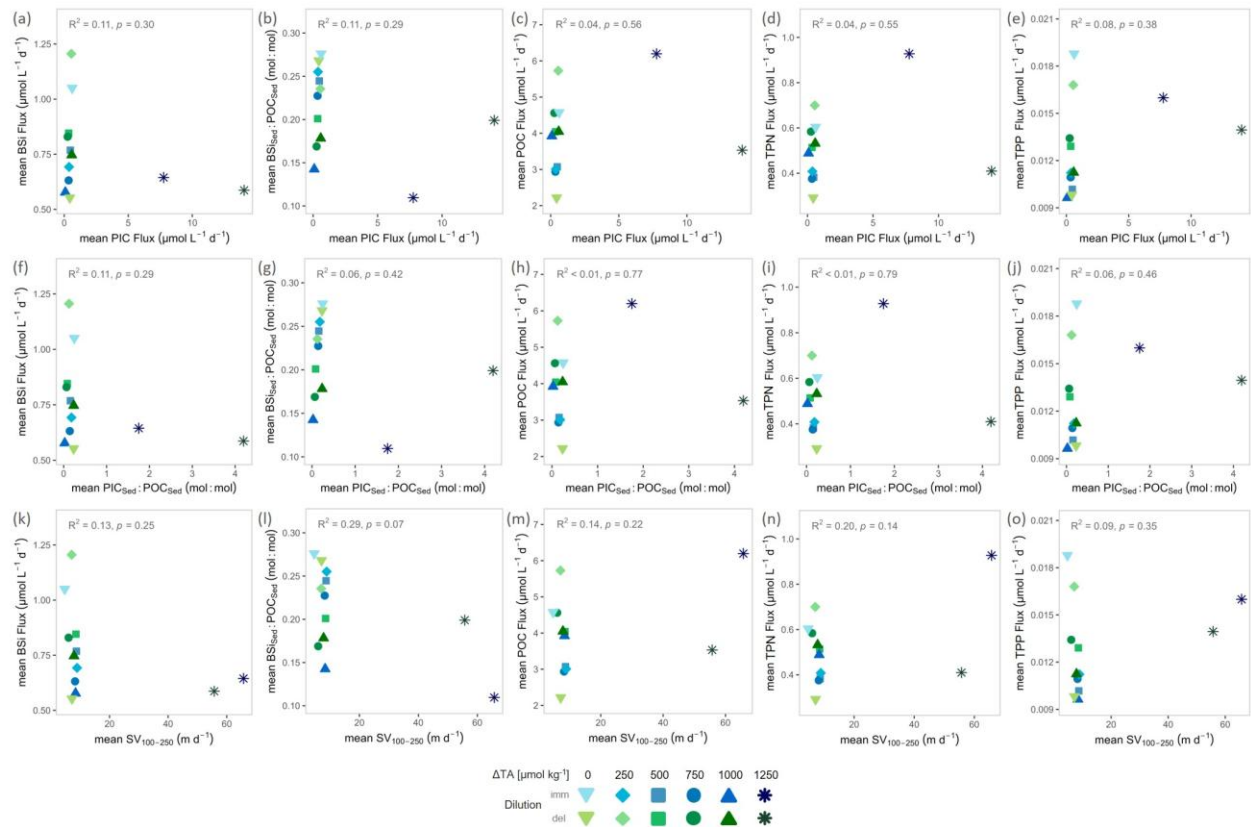
**Figure S 4. Bloom-window detection from Chl  $\alpha$ .** (a) Time series per mesocosm with raw Chl- $\alpha$  (salmon) and the 3-day centered smooth (teal). The baseline (B) (black dotted) is the median of smoothed Chl- $\alpha$  on days 1–6. Bloom detection is allowed from day 7 onward and uses asymmetric thresholds to allow hysteresis: Start (green line): first day of a 2-day run where smoothed Chl- $\alpha \geq (1+\alpha*B)$  and slopes are positive on both days. End (red line, after the global peak): first day of a 2-day run where smoothed Chl- $\alpha \leq (1+\beta*B)$  and at least one slope is negative; whereas  $\alpha = 0.35$  and  $\beta = 0.70$ ). The grey band marks the reference main-peak window (largest peak bounded by the nearest local minima). AUC<sub>m</sub>% in each facet is the area under the smoothed curve and above (B) within the detected bloom window divided by the corresponding area for the reference main peak (trapezoidal integration). (b) Summary table by mesocosm providing bloom start–end days, AUC<sub>m</sub>%, baseline (B), and the start/end threshold levels.



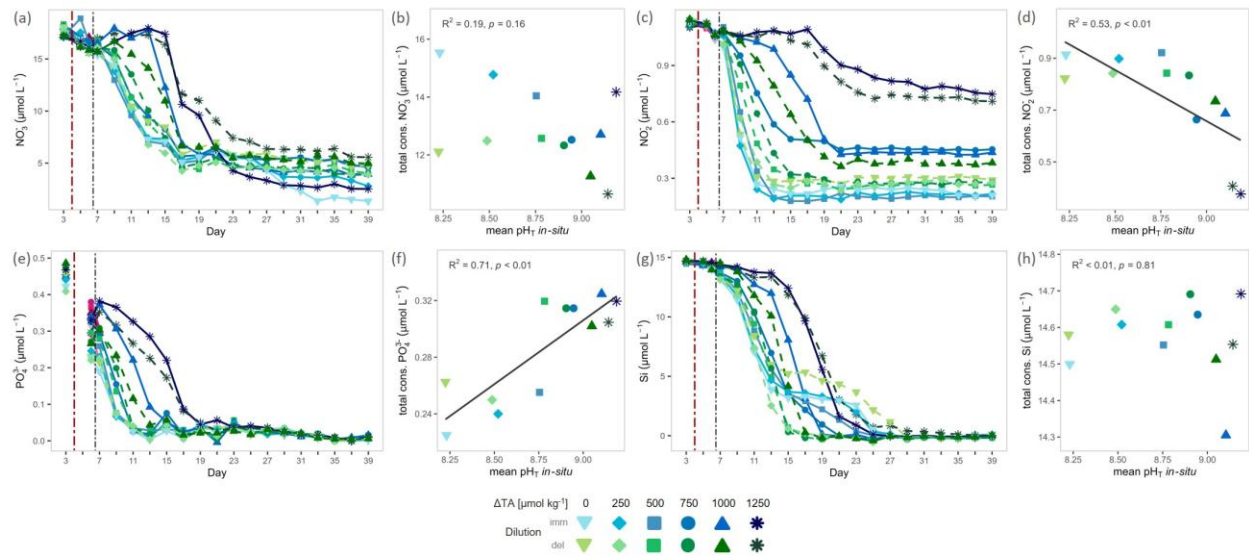
(b)

Mesocosm	Imm 0	Del 0	Imm 250	Del 250	Imm 500	Del 500	Imm 750	Del 750	Imm 1000	Del 1000	Imm 1250	Del 1250
Deposition Start - End [day]	11-17	7-17	7-17	11-17	7-19	11-23	7-21	13-25	17-33	15-29	21-35	17-35
Flux Density [Prop.-captured d <sup>-1</sup> ]	0.064	0.034	0.037	0.072	0.038	0.051	0.043	0.054	0.049	0.053	0.053	0.040
Max. Deposition [day]	13	13	13	15	15	17	15	17	21	19	25	29
Baseline Deposition Intensity (slope) [ $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$ ]	0.20	0.35	0.31	0.35	0.29	0.23	0.21	0.32	0.47	0.35	0.29	0.49
Max. rel. Deposition Intensity (norm. slope) [ $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$ ]	2.68	1.37	2.17	3.03	2.23	2.62	2.06	3.36	2.78	3.37	4.20	1.80
Delay to Bloom Start [day]	4	0	0	4	0	4	0	6	8	8	6	2

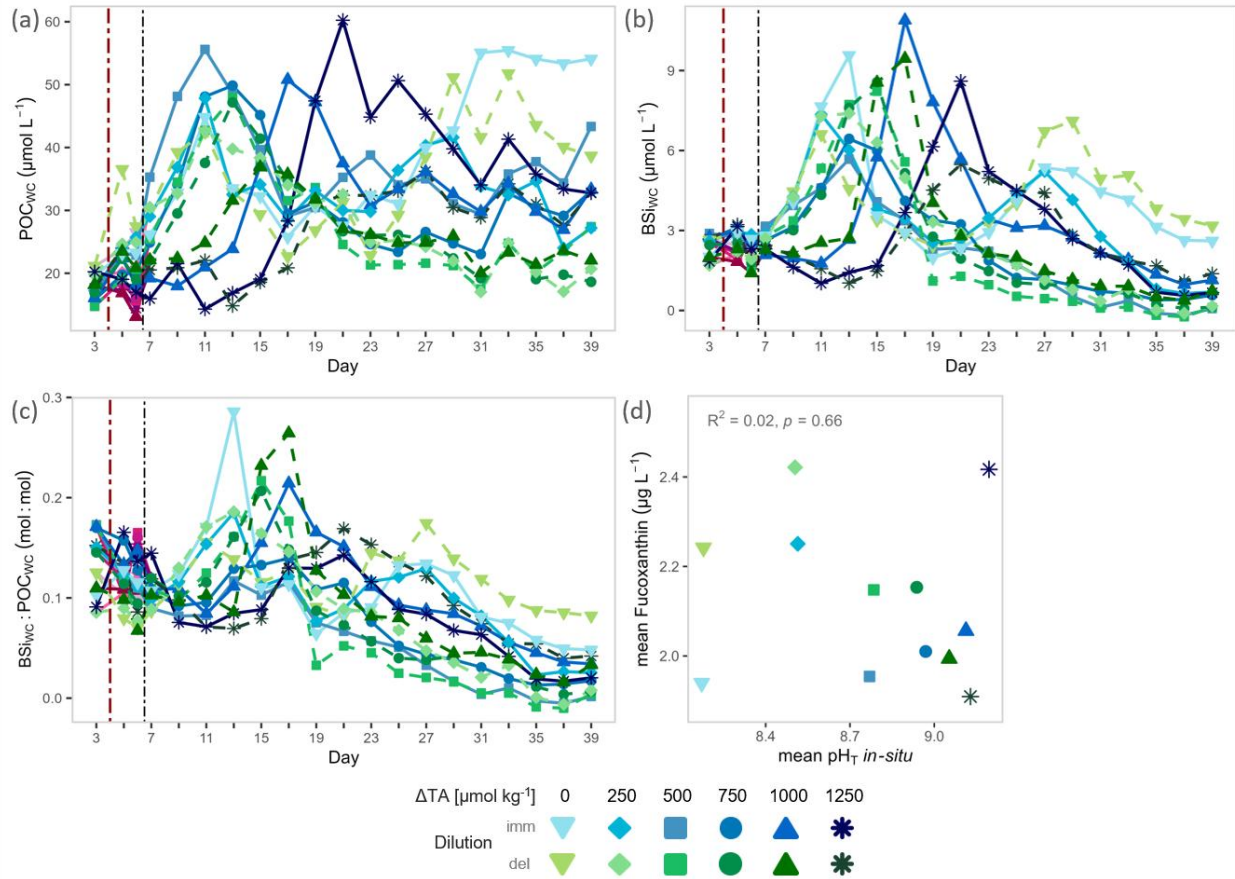
**Figure S5. Detection of bloom-following sediment-deposition events from cumulative POC fluxes.** (a) Facets show cumulative POC flux (salmon) with its 3-day centered smooth (teal) and the first derivative (“slope”) of the smoothed series (scaled to y-axis, green dotted). Analysis was restricted to a focus window beginning at each mesocosm’s water column bloom start and ending at bloom end + extended search window ( $w$ ). The black + marks the day of maximum relative slope ( $m_{max}$ , peak deposition intensity). Relative slopes ( $m_{rel}$ ) were attained by baseline correction (i.e., subtracting the median of slopes pre-water column bloom (from day5) from daily slopes). Thresholds for start and end of deposition events were determined. Start: day where  $m_{rel} \geq \alpha * m_{max}$ . End: day where  $m_{rel} \leq (1 - \alpha) * m_{max}$  (after  $m_{max}$  + water column bloom end). Thresholds used were  $\alpha = 0.32$  and  $w = 6$  days. Opposing gates for start and end conditions ( $\alpha$  vs.  $1 - \alpha$ ) allowed for hysteresis, but kept sensitivities tied. Shaded rectangles depict identified deposition windows and respective flux density (proportion of flux captured per day). Label within facets (“Prop captured”) gives the proportion of the total cumulative flux captured. (b) Summary by mesocosm: start–end days, flux density (as proportion captured per day), day of peak deposition, baseline deposition intensity (slope), maximum relative deposition intensity, and the delay of deposition start to bloom start (days). Several combinations of the threshold ( $\alpha$ ) and the search window ( $w$ ) were tested to balance coverage (proportion captured) and sharpness (flux density) while matching the observed phenology of cumulative POC flux and slope series. All series use mesocosm-specific bloom windows; methods as in Sect. 2.5.



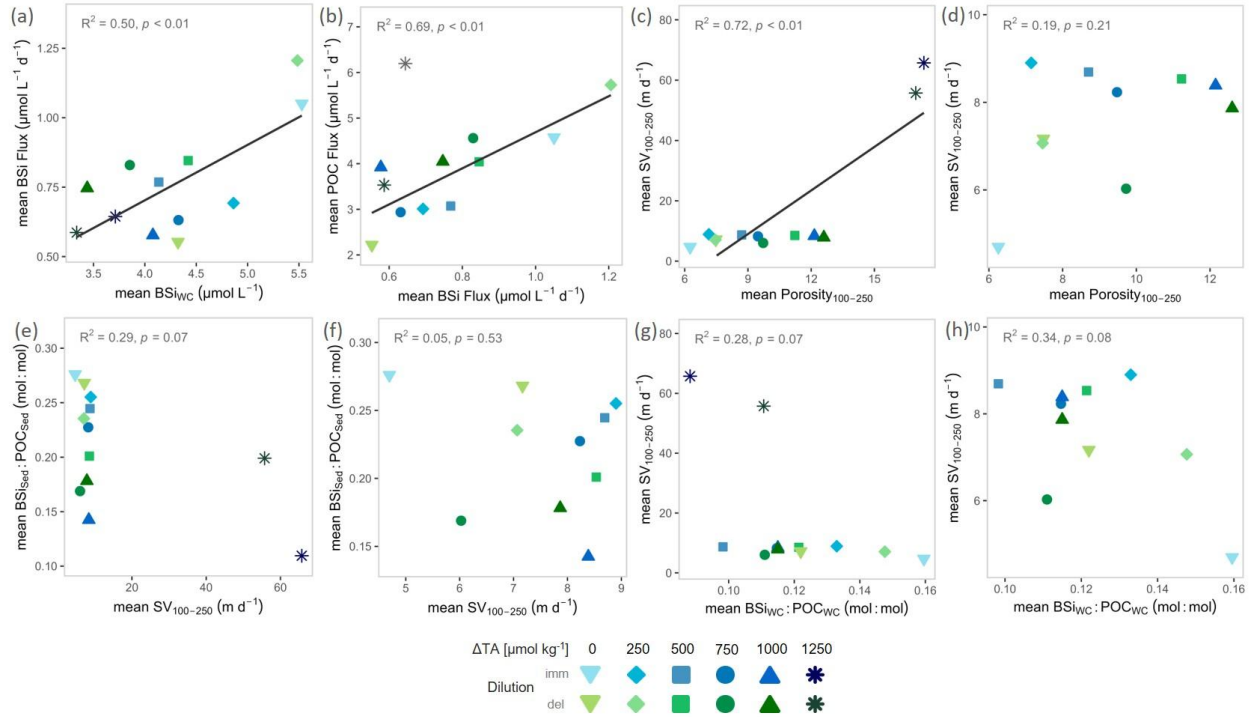
**Figure S 6. Carbonate precipitation did not influence organic matter export, stoichiometry or sinking velocities consistently.** Parameter regressions vs. mean particulate inorganic carbon export (PIC Flux): (a) BSi Flux, (b) sediment silica ballasting ratio (BSi<sub>sed</sub>:POC<sub>sed</sub>), (c) POC Flux, (d) TPN Flux, and (e) TPP Flux. Parameter regressions vs. mean carbonate ballasting (PIC<sub>sed</sub>:POC<sub>sed</sub>): (f) BSi Flux, (g) sediment silica ballasting ratio (BSi<sub>sed</sub>:POC<sub>sed</sub>), (h) POC Flux, (i) TPN Flux, and (j) TPP Flux. Parameter regressions vs. mean particle sinking velocities (in 100-250 μm size class): (k) BSi Flux, (l) sediment silica ballasting ratio (BSi<sub>sed</sub>:POC<sub>sed</sub>), (m) POC Flux, (n) TPN Flux, and (o) TPP Flux. All variables are averaged over each mesocosm's deposition window; windows—and thus averaging days—differ among mesocosms (see Sect. 2.5, Fig. S5). Grey annotations report statistical tests (see details in Table S1).



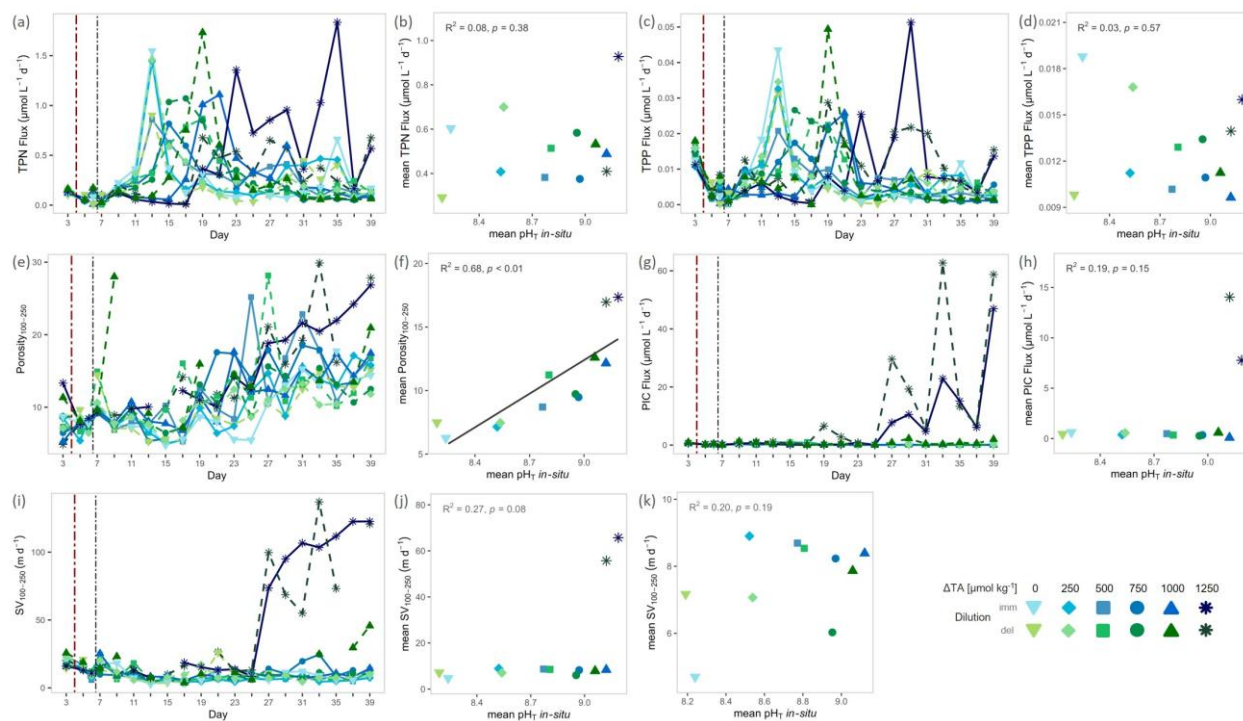
**Figure S 7. Temporal variation and total consumption of inorganic nutrients throughout the experiment.** Daily (a) nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ), (c) nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2^-$ ), (e) phosphate ( $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ) and (f) silicate (Si) concentrations. Total nutrient consumption (b,d,f,h) per species was computed as the absolute decrease in concentration from day 5 to day 39 ( $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ : day 6–39) and regressed against the respective window-averaged  $\text{pH}_7$ . Pink–purple symbols represent surface-layer measurements from delayed-dilution mesocosms on days 5–6; hue encodes the alkalinity addition ( $\Delta\text{TA}$ ,  $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ ), with darker purple indicating higher  $\Delta\text{TA}$ . The red dash-dotted vertical line marks the start of the alkalinity manipulation; the black dash-dotted line marks completion by mixing via the sediment trap. Grey annotations report statistical tests (see details in Table S1).



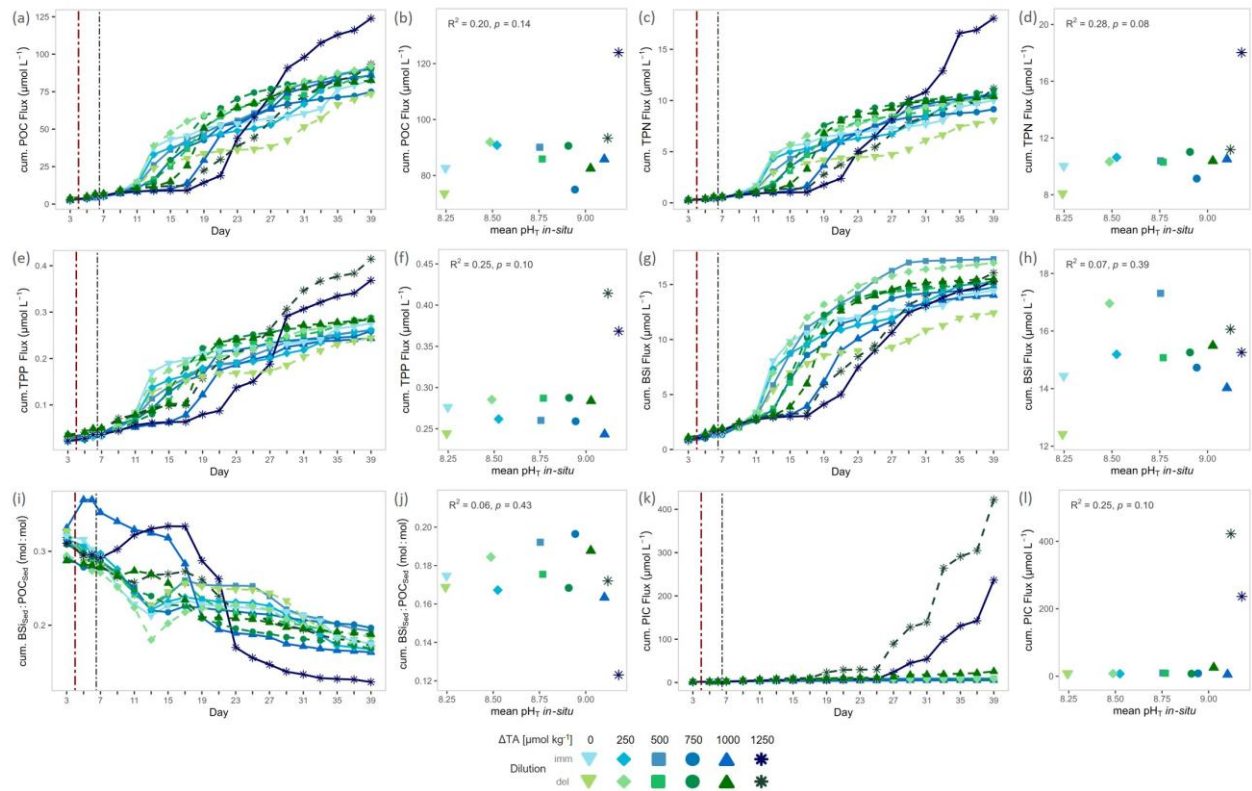
**Figure S 8. Temporal variation of water column biomass and stoichiometry.** Daily concentrations of (a) water column particulate organic carbon (POC<sub>wc</sub>), (b) water column biogenic silica (BSi<sub>wc</sub>), and daily ratios of (c) water column silicification (BSi<sub>wc</sub>:POC<sub>wc</sub>). pH-gradient responses of bloom-window averages for (d) Fucoxanthin. Note: The averaging windows for pH<sub>T</sub> and Fucoxanthin differ among mesocosms, defined by the identified bloom window per mesocosm (see Sect. 2.4 and Fig. S4). Pink–purple symbols represent surface-layer measurements from delayed-dilution mesocosms on days 5–6; hue encodes the alkalinity addition (ΔTA, µmol kg<sup>-1</sup>), with darker purple indicating higher ΔTA. The red dash-dotted vertical line marks the start of the alkalinity manipulation; the black dash-dotted line marks completion by mixing via the sediment trap.



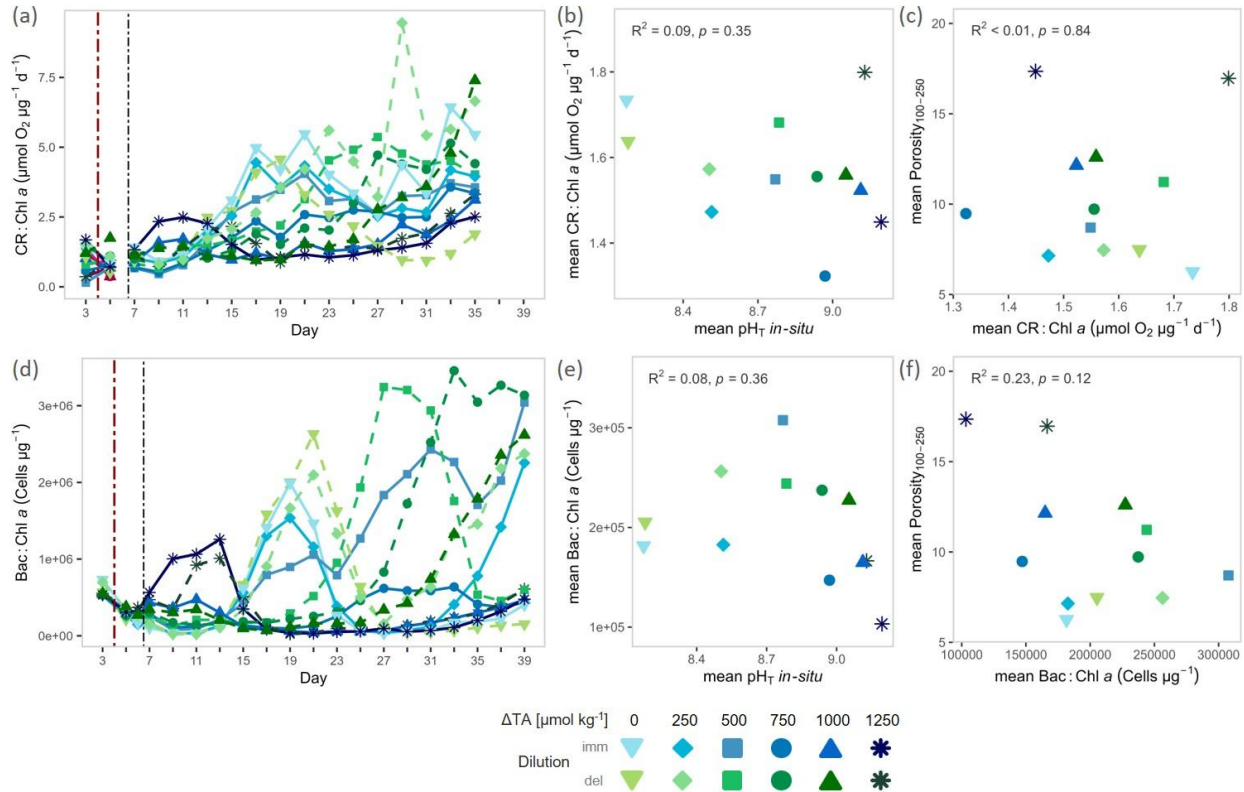
**Figure S9. Links between water-column silica production and export metrics.** Cross-phase regressions (bloom-to-deposition): (a) mean BSi Flux vs. mean BSi<sub>WC</sub>; (b) mean POC Flux vs. mean BSi Flux. Within-sediment regression: (c-d) mean particle porosity (in 100-250  $\mu\text{m}$  size class) vs. mean particle sinking velocities (in 100-250  $\mu\text{m}$  size class) including and excluding precipitation driven outliers; (e-f) mean BSi<sub>Sed</sub>:POC<sub>Sed</sub> vs. mean particle sinking velocities (in 100-250  $\mu\text{m}$  size class) including and excluding precipitation driven outliers and (g-h) mean particle sinking velocities (in 100-250  $\mu\text{m}$  size class) including and excluding precipitation driven outliers vs. mean BSi<sub>WC</sub>:POC<sub>WC</sub>. For panel (b) one inconsistent outlier was excluded to clarify respective relationships (grey asterisk); results with and without outliers are reported in Table S1. Note: To link processes across phases, sediment parameters (BSi Flux, POC Flux, SV<sub>100-250</sub>) were averaged over each mesocosm's deposition window, whereas the water-column parameters (BSi<sub>WC</sub>, BSi<sub>WC</sub>:POC<sub>WC</sub>) were averaged over each mesocosm's bloom window; for (a) and (g-h) pairs were matched by mesocosm for regression. Both, bloom and deposition windows (and thus averaging days) differ among mesocosms (see Sect. 2.4, 2.5; compare Figs. S4 and S5). Grey annotations report statistical tests (see details in Table S1).



**Figure S 10. Sediment export and particle properties during deposition phase.** Temporal trajectories of (a) total particulate nitrogen export (TPN Flux), (c) total particulate phosphorus export (TPP Flux), (e) particle porosity (in 100-250  $\mu\text{m}$  size class), (g) particulate inorganic carbon export (PIC Flux) and (i) particle sinking velocities (in 100-250  $\mu\text{m}$  size class). pH-gradient responses of deposition-window averages of (b) TPN Flux, (d) TPP Flux, (f) porosity (in 100-250  $\mu\text{m}$  size class), (h) PIC Flux, (j) particle sinking velocities (in 100-250  $\mu\text{m}$  size class) including precipitation driven outliers and (k) particle sinking velocities (in 100-250  $\mu\text{m}$  size class) excluding precipitation driven outliers, plotted against deposition-window mean  $\text{pH}_T$ . Note: The averaging windows for  $\text{pH}_T$  and each response variable differ among mesocosms, defined by the identified deposition windows per mesocosm (see Sect. 2.5 and Fig. S5). The red dash-dotted vertical line marks the start of the alkalinity manipulation; the black dash-dotted line marks completion by mixing via the sediment trap. Grey annotations report statistical tests (see Table S1).



**Figure S 11. Cumulative particulate export and stoichiometry under OAE.** Temporal trajectories of cumulative fluxes for (a) POC Flux, (c) TPN Flux, (e) TPP Flux, (g) BSi Flux, (i) sediment silica ballasting ratios ( $BSi_{sed}:POC_{sed}$ ), and (k) PIC Flux.  $pH$ -gradient responses: for each mesocosm, the cumulative value at day 39 (from corresponding time series) is regressed against the mean  $pH_T$  averaged over days 5–39. The red dash-dotted vertical line marks the start of the alkalinity manipulation; the black dash-dotted line marks completion by mixing via the sediment trap. Grey annotations report statistical tests (see Table S1).



**Figure S 12. Community respiration and bacteria abundances normalized to phytoplankton biomass.** Temporal trajectories of (a) chlorophyll *a* normalized community respiration (CR:Chl *a*) and (c) chlorophyll *a* normalized bacterial abundances (Bac:Chl *a*).  $pH_T$ -gradient responses: bloom-window averages of (b) CR:Chl *a* and (d) Bac:Chl *a* plotted against the corresponding bloom-window mean  $pH_T$ . Cross-phase regressions (bloom-to-deposition): (c) mean Porosity<sub>100-250</sub> vs. mean CR:Chl *a*; (f) mean Porosity<sub>100-250</sub> vs. mean Bac:Chl *a*. Note: To link processes across phases, sediment parameters (Porosity<sub>100-250</sub>) were averaged over each mesocosm's deposition window, whereas the water-column parameters (CR:Chl *a*, Bac:Chl *a*) was averaged over each mesocosm's bloom window; for (b-c, and e-f) pairs were matched by mesocosm for regression. Both, bloom and deposition windows (and thus averaging days) differ among mesocosms (see Sect. 2.4, 2.5; compare Figs. S4 and S5). Grey annotations report statistical tests (see details in Table S1). Pink–purple symbols represent surface-layer measurements from delayed-dilution mesocosms on days 5–6; hue encodes the alkalinity addition ( $\Delta TA$ ,  $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ ), with darker purple indicating higher  $\Delta TA$ . The red dash-dotted vertical line marks the start of the alkalinity manipulation; the black dash-dotted line marks completion by mixing via the sediment trap. Grey annotations report statistical tests (see details in Table S1).