Observational strategies to quantify export and remineralization, including transfer of carbon cycle applications to trace elements and their isotopes.



### Ken Buesseler and Erin Black

Preliminary particulate nutrients and metals from P. Lam Preliminary dissolved metals from Bruland and Shiller Labs





## **Upper Ocean Export**



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Preliminary particulate nutrients and metals from P. Lam Preliminary dissolved metals from Bruland and Shiller Labs





Many data in this talk are part of E. Black's ongoing PhD thesis work and not yet published but presented Aug. 2, 2016 at a GEOTRACES conference at LDEO

Please contact Black and Buesseler for more information or if you want to use any of these slides or data products.

## <sup>234</sup>Th Method







## <sup>234</sup>Th Flux



## **GEOTRACES** Advancements

- high <sup>234</sup>Th resolution allows for flux extrapolations <u>at any</u> <u>depth</u> in the surface ocean (at features of interest)
- Paired dissolved sampling = residence times





GP-16, EZPT Peru to Tahiti

	Offshore Region	Oxygen Deficient Region (ODR)	Shelf Oxygen Deficient Region
Community Dominance*	Pico	Nano (Pico in ODZ)	Micro
Mean Euphotic Depth (m)	171	133	49
ODZ Upper Boundary (m)	NA	159	64

\*Ohnemus et al., 2016



• Greatest <sup>234</sup>Th excesses coincide with the upper boundary of the oxygen minimum zone

• These regions may be an important site for remineralization of carbon and TEIs



Remineralization features evident at 26 of 35 stations

## Flux of POC and TEI's

POC flux =  $[POC/^{234}Th]_{sink part} \times ^{234}Th flux$ 

## TEI flux = $[TEI/^{234}Th]_{sink part} \times ^{234}Th flux$

Use large size particles from base of layer of interest to approximate

- Empirical approach works if particles collected represent bulk sinking matter
- Approach fails if a class of sinking particles are not collected AND they differ greatly in composition

## Regional POC:<sup>234</sup>Th Ratios (>51 μm) in μmol dpm<sup>-1</sup> for the upper 400 meters.



#### POC flux at EZ using <sup>234</sup>Th in Atlantic vs Pacific



**Oxygen Saturation % at 400 meters Depth (Source: WOA09)** 











Mn part > 51  $\mu$ m



Mn flux at EZ ( $\mu$ mol/m<sup>2</sup>/d)



 $\mathrm{EZ}\ 150 \xrightarrow{\phantom{a}} \xrightarrow{\phantom{a}} \xrightarrow{\phantom{a}} \xrightarrow{\phantom{a}} \xrightarrow{\phantom{a}} \xrightarrow{\phantom{a}} \xrightarrow{\phantom{a}} 30\mathrm{m}$ 



#### Co diss (pmol/kg)



#### Co part > 51 $\mu$ m



#### Co flux at EZ (nmol/m<sup>2</sup>/d)







Fe flux at EZ ( $\mu$ mol/m<sup>2</sup>/d)



 $EZ 150 \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow 30m$ 

### Historical Fe fluxes in deep traps

• Use of single or paired traps only provided broad indicators for trends (e.g. increase with depth)



Adapted from Weinstein and Moran (2005)

• Until 2005, scarcity of SHALLOW metal flux data and profiles (<500 m fluxes above only existed for the Ross Sea)

### Historical Fe fluxes in upper ocean







### GEOTRACES transects with <sup>234</sup>Th sampling - but not all with in situ large particles





Does it make sense to average ratios of large particles?

# Challenges & Opportunities

- What are most appropriate boundaries to compare TEI fluxes and processes (light, redox, water mass...)?
- Use <sup>228</sup>Th for longer timescales
- Need to resolve upwelling vs. depth to fully interpret data near coast line
- Can we determine a TEI/Th relationship between small and large particles as small particle data is much more abundant?
- GEOTRACES <sup>234</sup>Th data will allow for global constraints on upper ocean TEI fluxes- important for understanding processes, models, etc.

A wise man once said *"Engage in group activities that further transformation"*