Dissolved Organic Carbon in the Indian Ocean

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IIOE- 2 Theme 6: Unique Geological, Physical, Biogeochemical and Ecological Features of the Indian Ocean.





Survey and Process Studies with DOM Data







Southwest Monsoon



Nitrate (µmol/L)











Mean TOC Stock Upper 150 m along the South Line











DOC Export

Need to move surface DOC to depth!

Low latitude water can export DOC; high latitude waters less so.



Modeled DOC Distribution

Surface Salinity (July – August; WOA) Arrows indicate overturning circulation



IO8 (80°E)



Ventilation with Subtropical Underwater exports DOC; Ventilation with higher latitude (southern) waters does little to export DOC



What conditions allow DOC to accumulate at the surface, then be consumed at depth?



Raymond and Spencer 2015

Major Rivers into the Bay of Bengal; Associated Salinity



ITCZ and Precipitation



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July



80% of the annual, continental rainfall occurs during the SW monsoon

Bay of Bengal Dynamics





Coastal, Fluvial DOC

Shanumgam et al. 2016









Need to distinguish relative and absolute roles of rivers vs precipitation as controls on surface ocean biogeochemistry in this region





Questions Posed

- In an upper ocean system freshened by both major rivers and rainfall, can we distinguish their individual impacts on the biogeochemistry of that system?
- What are the mechanisms controlling initiation of particle export (and associated scavenging), using the SW monsoon as the model system?
- What processes allow DOC accumulation at the surface, but then consumption at depth?
- Who produced that exported DOC? Is it largely of microphytoplankton of upwelling zone, or picophytoplankton elsewhere?