

Response to review

Dear Editor

We are grateful for all the constructive comments and suggestions by the reviewers, which have improved the manuscript a lot. Below we have placed all our original responses plus additional comments and changes made to the manuscript. Additional text put in the manuscript is marked in red.

On behalf of all the authors

Sincerely,

Kristian Spilling

Reviewer #1, Comment #1

The main results show that elevated CO₂ conditions increased total particulate carbon and the DOC pool due to a decrease in respiration and bacterial production at elevated CO₂ concentrations. I think that this is a very interesting result that needs to be discussed more deeply in the manuscript. I refer the authors to Hopkinson et al. 2010 and Teira et al. 2012 for information about decreases in phyto and bacterial respiration under high CO₂ concentrations. Sobrino et al. 2014 can be also used as a reference related to downregulation of phytoplankton metabolism under high CO₂, which might be an appropriate topic for the discussion of the manuscript.

31 **Author response:**

32 A good point and we will expand the discussion on this topic relating the decrease in respiration to
33 possible downregulation of metabolism.

34

35 **Additional comments and Changes made:**

36

37 We did cover the reduced respiration and bacterial production in the Spilling et al 2016 paper and we
38 do not want to be too repetitive, but we did expand on this in order to cover all relevant topics. We
39 included the references suggested by the reviewer and expanded on the discussion around changes in
40 the metabolism and possible impact on carbon concentrating mechanisms.

41

42 **Reviewer #1, Comment #2**

43 Regarding the data analysis, I like the idea of using estimated instead raw data to make comparisons
44 between variables or when observed values are not available. However the authors should also
45 provide more information to complement or justify the usage of estimated vs. measured data. For
46 example when comparing NPP14C and NPPe the authors only say that results “agree reasonably
47 well” which is a very general contention for this paper. In addition, during Phase III, total respiration
48 was not measured and the authors estimated TR based on the NPPe TR-1 and BP TR-1 ratios during
49 Phase II. Information about their correlations during Phase II would be desirable to justify the
50 estimation carried out during Phase III.

51

52 **Author response:**

53

54 We will make changes to the estimated variables according to the suggestions of reviewer #2 (see
55 comments below). We will be more specific when comparing different variables and also provide a
56 better justification for the estimates of TR in Phase III. This was done using two methods as to give a
57 range rather than specific number for the TR estimate.

58

59 **Change made:**

60

61 This was also a topic covered by reviewer #2 and we have followed those recommendations to make
62 the distinction between the different properties easier to follow. For the comparison (referring to the
63 statement “agree reasonably well”) has now been removed. The details regarding the changes made
64 can be found below under the comments made by reviewer #2.

65

66 Regarding the estimations carried out in Phase III, we are aware that this is highly uncertain, but this
67 is also why we did it using two different ways and this can be seen as a much wider span in the
68 estimate presented in Fig 5.

69

70

71 **Reviewer #1; Comment #3**

72 Finally, a specific equation for the estimation of bacterial respiration would be nice to
73 see in the Methods.

74

75 **Author response:**

76 This equation will be added

77

78 **Changes made:**

79

80 We added the equation in parenthesis as it can also be deduced from the following equation: Eq 10

81

82 The added text: $... (BR \leq BB/TB) ...$

83

84

85 **Reviewer #1; Minor comments**

86 Minor issues: - Line 234 days - Line 269 correlated to?? - Line 410. Revise sentence

87 “ The initial increase in the : : .” - Line 425 during - Fig. 1 filtration - Fig. 2. What about

88 using similar units in the Y axis and legend (i.e. $\mu\text{atm}??$)

89

90 **Author response:**

91 Appropriate changes will be made

92

93 **Changes made:**

94 All the changes were made with the exception of the comment to Fig 2. The legend has units μatm as
95 these are the treatments. The flux has been measured in $\text{mmol m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$.

96

97

98 **Reviewer #2, Comment #1**

99 Although I am convinced of the scientific relevance of this study, I am not convinced considering this
100 budgeting exercise as a separate manuscript is highly relevant. Spilling et al. under revision in this
101 special issue already reports on decreasing respiration rates at high CO₂, causing higher Chl_a, TPC
102 and DOC concentrations in the high CO₂ treatments. The added value of the present manuscript is to
103 estimate plankton rates that have not been directly measured (NPP_e, but see later comment on this
104 term; GPPI, but again see later comment; BR; DOC production). I would definitely recommend
105 merging the two Spilling et al. papers to provide a more comprehensive overview of what happened
106 during this experiment.

107 If this suggestion is not followed, this manuscript, in my opinion, needs major revisions in order to
108 improve its clarity and to discuss and criticise more deeply what has been found.

109

110 **Author response:**

111 We do understand this point as having one manuscript was the original idea. During the writing
112 process, however, we decided to present the budgeting exercise on its own in order to keep a more
113 focused paper on respiration and primary production. The present manuscript was submitted as a
114 synthesis paper and additionally presents data from many of the other papers submitted to the special
115 issue, including bacterial production, DOC and a budget for the DIC based on atmospheric exchange.
116 We are confident that following the referees' comments and suggestions will considerably improve
117 our manuscript and justify separate publication.

118

119 **Changes made:**

120 We have taken the second approach and made a major revision, where we e.g. have reformulated
121 some of the terms according the reviewer's suggestion (see comments below)

122

123

124 **Reviewer #2, Comment #2**

125 Estimates of DOC, TPC and DIC pools in mol C m⁻²: I was wondering for quite a while how these
126 initial pools have been calculated and how the authors could provide an error estimate on a single
127 sampling. I saw in the other Spilling et al. that these pools were actually averages of 3 sampling dates
128 at the start of each phase. This must be clarified in the present manuscript. Also, how were integrated
129 pools estimated: it is mentioned (and only for DIC, L136) in the ms that volumetric concentrations in
130 per kg were converted using seawater density. Obviously, they were further multiplied by the
131 considered depth. Please clarify.

132

133 **Author response:**

134

135 The reviewer is correct, the error estimates were made from consecutive measurements, and this will
136 be mentioned in the materials and methods and table legends (Tables 1-3). We will also add the
137 information that the depth and area of the mesocosms were used to calculate all pools and fluxes in m-
138 2 units.

139

140 **Changes made:**

141 We made a new paragraph under section '2.4. Data treatment', where these issues have been
142 addressed (inserted below). Part of this paragraph was moved up from the last paragraph of this
143 section for improving the readability.

144

145 “Based on the primary variables the experiment was divided into three distinct phases:
146 Phase I: t_0-t_{16} ; Phase II: $t_{17}-t_{30}$ and Phase III: $t_{31}-t_{43}$, where e.g. Chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*)
147 concentration was relatively high during Phase I, decreased during Phase II and remained low
148 during Phase III (Paul et al. 2015). Measurements of pools and rates were average for the two
149 first sampling points of each experimental phase ($n = 2$) and were normalized to m^2
150 knowing the total depth and volume of the mesocosms. The three different phases of the
151 experiments were of different length (16, 14 and 13 days respectively). For fluxes and
152 biological rates we used the average for the whole periods normalized to days (day^{-1}) All
153 error estimates were calculated as standard error (SE), with $n = 16$, $n = 14$ and $n = 13$ for
154 Phases I – III respectively. SE for estimated rates were calculated from the square root of the
155 sum of variance for all the variables (Eq 6-11 below) The primary papers present detailed
156 statistical analyses and we only refer to those here. “

157

158

159 **Reviewer #2, Comment #3**

160 Estimates of DOC, DIC and TPC rates of change: no information is provided on how these rates have
161 been calculated. I believe these were calculated through linear regressions of each stock evolution
162 during the considered phase. This must be clarified. Looking at Table 1 of the other Spilling et al.,
163 there are some discrepancies with rates presented here (e.g. Exp TPC of 7.4 in the first mesocosm
164 compared to 6.6 in this paper, but this is also the case for other rates). Looking at the important errors
165 associated with these rate estimates, it does seem like many slopes are not significantly different from
166 0. Please comment. In that case, how is it possible to compare these rates between the different
167 mesocosms. Were these differences actually tested?

168

169 **Author response:**

170 This is a good point. It was calculated based on the difference between the start of each period, and
171 using the average of the first two sampling days as the initial value for each period. So they are not
172 slopes per se. There is no statistical testing of the differences in this paper, but we have explained that
173 this was done in the paper where the original data is presented (and here linear regressions were used
174 e.g. Paul et al 2015).

175

176 The discrepancy between the table in this paper with the other Spilling et al. paper is that here we did
177 not include the time before the start of the CO₂ treatment (this will be changed also in the other
178 Spilling et al paper), i.e. discarding the Exp TPC data from day T-1.

179

180 **Changes made:**

181

182 How these rates were calculated is now described in the new paragraph under section 2.4. Data
183 treatment. Please see our response to the previous comment.

184

185 Changes to the Spilling et al. (2016) paper have been made.

186

187 **Reviewer #2, Comment #4**

188 Estimates of NPPe and GPPi: Based on observed variations of TPC, DOC and DIC, the authors
189 further calculated biological carbon fluxes. Net primary production measured by the 14C method
190 (over 24h incubations) were compared to, what the authors refer to as NPPe being the missing process
191 closing the organic budget: $NPPe = Export + net\ variation\ in\ TPC + net\ variation\ in\ DOC$. As the
192 authors correctly mention, NPPe does incorporate total respiration and not only autotrophic
193 respiration, as does the 14C method (this is actually clearly doubtful considering the long incubations
194 that have been performed)). Anyway, this is incorrect to refer to this process as Net Primary
195 production, this is misleading and you really should consider using the proper term: Net Community
196 Production, and as it is based on an organic budget, you should use NCPo. The authors further use an
197 inorganic budget (based on DIC net fluxes, and estimated CO₂ fluxes) to estimate Gross Primary
198 Production. I would strongly recommend for clarity to reconsider this part and to calculate NCPi,
199 being the Net Community Production based on the inorganic budget. This is, I believe, what is shown
200 in Fig. 3 and termed as Biological release or uptake. The authors have thus two estimates of the
201 plankton community metabolism that do provide different outputs. While it seems like the inorganic
202 budget shows that the community was heterotrophic in ambient mesocosms (Biological release of
203 DIC), the organic budget suggests the opposite for all phases. This must be discussed. The paper as it
204 stands is highly confusing with respect to this metabolic aspect. i.e. In the abstract is mentioned that
205 during phase 1, the community under ambient and high CO₂ treatments was autotrophic (i.e. more
206 production than respiration, with capacity to export to the sediment traps and export to the DOC
207 pool). However, it is clearly stated that the community was heterotrophic during the entire experiment
208 under ambient CO₂ conditions. Again, this must be clarified.

209

210 **Author response:**

211 We were a bit back and forth on how to best present the different variables when the manuscript was
212 being written, and we ended up using the estimated net and gross production. The reviewer has a good
213 point suggesting a better distinction between measured primary production and the estimated
214 community production. We will change the NPPe to Net Community Production, organic budget
215 (NCP_o) and furthermore add the Net Community Production, inorganic budget (NCP_i) as the
216 reviewer suggests.

217

218 We will carefully go through the suggested points for clarification and discuss more in detail the
219 discrepancy between the organic and inorganic carbon budget.

220

221 **Changes made:**

222 We changed the NPPe to become NCP_o as suggested, and furthermore introduced the net community
223 production based on inorganic carbon budget NCP_i (Eq 6). This change was done throughout the
224 manuscript including tables and figure legends.

225

226 We added a paragraph discussing the difference between NCP_o and NCP_i. They are different as the
227 reviewer pointed out, but overall both give the same picture that NCP was higher in high CO₂
228 treatments. Because of this we decided to change around a bit on the order of the Results and
229 Discussion chapter, and placed the Biological rates after the presentation of the different carbon pools.

230

231 The new paragraph reads:

232

233 “The results of the DIC pool and atmospheric exchange of CO₂ provides another way of
234 estimating the net community production based on inorganic carbon (NCP_i). There was some
235 discrepancy between the NCP_o and NCP_i as the latter suggested net heterotrophy in the
236 ambient CO₂ whereas the high CO₂ treatments were net autotrophic during all three phases of
237 the experiment (Fig. 3). For the NCP_o there was no indication of net heterotrophy at ambient
238 CO₂ concentration. In terms of the absolute numbers, the NCP_i estimate is probably more
239 uncertain than NCP_o. Calculating the CO₂ atmospheric exchange from the measurements of a
240 tracer gas involves several steps, each adding uncertainty to the calculation. However, both
241 estimations (NCP_i and NCP_o) indicate that increased CO₂ concentrations lead to higher
242 overall community production, supporting our overall conclusion. “

243

244 **Reviewer #2, Comment #5**

245 Comparison between the inorganic and organic budget: I already mentioned this, but I would like to
246 insist on the fact that this paper reports on budgets based on both inorganic and organic constituents.
247 Since they do not really agree, this must be deeply discussed. A recommendation on which type of
248 budget is the most relevant and associated with the lowest uncertainties should be further proposed.

249

250 **Author response:**

251 This comment relates to comment #4 above and our reply to that. We will make the distinction
252 between the organic and inorganic carbon budget as suggested and expand on this in the discussion.

253

254 **Changes made**

255 Please see our reply to Comment #4 above.

256

257

258 **Reviewer #2, Comment #6**

259 CO₂ effects on estimated rates: I do not see how differences between estimated rates between low and
260 high CO₂ treatments have been tested. It is mentioned on L345 that “an effect of the different CO₂
261 treatments was noticeable in the NPPe but not in the NPP_{14C}”, how was it tested?

262

263 **Author response:**

264 It was not tested statistically, and the term ‘noticeable’ refers to visual inspection of the data. We will
265 however make a statistical test to strengthen this conclusion.

266

267 **Changes made:**

268 We added linear regression test to further underline this point and the line now reads:

269

270 There was no consistent difference between CO₂ treatments for NPP_{14C} ($p > 0.1$), but NCP_o
271 increased with increasing CO₂ enrichment during Phase II (Phase II; linear regression $p =$
272 0.003 ; $R^2 = 0.91$).

273

274 **Reviewer #2, Comment #7**

275 Comparison between NPP_{14C} and NPPe: as correctly stated by the authors, NPP_{14C} rates should
276 provide equal or higher estimates than NPPe (NCP_o, see above). This is not the case and attributed
277 (on top of potential errors in one control mesocosm) to “changed parameterisation during in

278 incubation in small volumes". Based on my experience, we usually observe higher rates in small
279 incubations vs large ones, not really in accordance with the lower rates of NPP14C during phase 1.
280 Alternatively, this offset could be attributed to errors associated with NPPE estimates, since the TPC
281 pool was clearly underestimated. Could you comment on this?

282

283 **Author response:**

284 We do not have a good explanation for the discrepancy between NPPE and NPP14C, but
285 underestimating of NPP14C seems more plausible as this are incubations in small volumes involving
286 more steps than bulk measurements of TPC. Another possible explanation, suggested by the reviewer,
287 is that the discrepancy could be due to an overestimation of NPPE. That would indicate an
288 overestimation of either Δ TPC, Δ DOC or exported TPC (or a combination of these variables). TPC is
289 not likely to be overestimated considering the methodology used, as measuring TPC has a relatively
290 small uncertainty and would miss the $<0.7 \mu\text{m}$ fraction. With this assumption, exported TPC would
291 have been substantially overestimated. Δ TPC or Δ DOC would only be overestimated in the case when
292 there is an underestimate at the start point, an overestimate at the end point or both an underestimate
293 and overestimate increasing the difference between experimental phases in TPC or DOC. The
294 discrepancy between NPPE and NPP14C during Phase I is so consistent for all treatments that we
295 have hard time believing that we would have this consistent overestimation of Δ TPC or Δ DOC in all
296 mesocosm bags.

297

298 Concerning the statement that: 'the TPC pool was clearly underestimated', we assume that you refer to
299 the difference between the TPC pool and what was found in the bacterial and virus fraction based on
300 flow cytometry. The small bacterial/virus not caught on the GFF filter did not contribute to the NPPE
301 estimate. Defining the TPC as the $>0.7 \mu\text{m}$ fraction, it is not obvious that TPC is underestimated.

302

303

304 **Reviewer #2, Comment #8**

305 Estimates of biological pools: I do not really get what is the added value of calculating and presenting
306 pools of meso- and microzooplankton, micro- and nanophytoplankton, picophytoplankton, bacteria
307 and viruses. I would guess that these informations are already available in other manuscripts from the
308 special issue. Is this not the case? This makes a small paragraph of the Results and Discussion and,
309 apart from showing that measured TPC is much much lower than the cumulated stocks of these
310 biological compartments, I do not see what valuable information it brings.

311

312 **Author response:**

313 There is no paper presenting all of the organism groups together, and this being a synthesis paper we
314 wanted to present these different pools. We agree that this data is not well incorporated into the story
315 and we will expand on this in the discussion, trying to better link the relative contribution of the
316 different groups to the fluxes presented.

317

318 **Changes made:**

319 We expanded on the community section (3.1.), relating the different plankton groups to the prevailing
320 nutrient regime primarily driven by recycling. We also added a new paragraph about the virus fraction
321 that was missing in the original manuscript.:

322

323 “Although there are some uncertainty in the carbon estimate (Jover et al. 2014), virus make
324 up (due to their numerical dominance) a significant fraction of the pelagic carbon pool. Of the
325 different plankton fractions the virioplankton have been the least studied, but their role in the
326 pelagic ecosystem is ecologically important (Suttle 2007 NMR, Brussaard et al. 2008
327 ISMEJ; Mojica et al., 2016 ISMEJ). Viral lysis rates were equivalent to the grazing rates for
328 phytoplankton and for bacteria in the current study (Crawford et al., 2015). As mortality
329 agents they are drivers of the regenerative microbial food web, viruses (Suttle 2007,
330 Brussaard et al. 2008). Overall, the structure of the plankton community reflected the
331 nutrient status of the system. The increasing N-limitation favoring development of smaller
332 cells, and increasing dependence of the primary producers on regenerated nutrients. “

333

334

335

336

337 **Reviewer #2, Comment #9**

338 Estimates of variability: I would recommend the authors to mention the sample size each time SE are
339 provided. Furthermore, I do not really see (as this is not explained) how SEs have been calculated for
340 estimated rates (error propagation). e.g. as NPPe rates are based on DOC net fluxes, therefore the
341 associated errors should be at least equal to the errors associated with DOC net fluxes right? This is
342 not the case, and this must be clarified further.

343

344 **Author response:**

345 We agree that the error estimates needs to be better explained. In the case of NPPe the SE was
346 calculated from the square root of the sum of variance of the three parameters used to calculate the
347 NPPe: DOC TPC and Exported TPC. We will include the sample size as suggested.

348

349 **Changes made:**

350 We added the sample size (n =) for each SE in the text and tables. We also added the way SE was
351 determined for the biological rates as described above in the materials and methods chapter and also
352 in the table legend.

353

354

355 **Reviewer #2, Comment #10**

356 Minor issues: Abstract: L57: did not transfer, please correct L58: revealed a clear effect of increasing
357 CO₂ on carbon production. I don't think this is correct. Carbon production does not seem impacted,
358 while carbon loss is.

359

360 **Author response:**

361 This will be corrected.

362

363 **Changes made:**

364 L57 Corrected as suggested by the reviewer

365 L58 changed to: revealed a clear effect of increasing CO₂ on the carbon budget

366

367 **Reviewer #2, Comment #11**

368 Materials and Methods: L104: I understood that more mesocosms were initially deployed, I do not see
369 why this is not mentioned here. Everyone must also know how hard such experiment is. L159:
370 Grossart et al. (2006), please correct L185: according to: , please correct L194: Cherny et al. (2013b),
371 please correct. L205: organic carbon pool, please add dissolved + particulate for clarity L207: Direct
372 measurements using : : , please correct

373

374 **Author response:**

375 We will refer to the Paul et al. (2015) paper where the initial deployments are mentioned and the
376 overall methods are described in more detail and incorporate the suggested corrections.

377

378 **Changes made:**

379

380 We added the text: "... (nine KOSMOS units were originally deployed but three were lost due
381 to leaks). A more detailed description of the set-up can be found in Paul et al. (2015)."

382

383 The rest of the changes were made according to the reviewer's suggestions

384

385 **Reviewer #2, Comment #12**

386 Results and Discussion: L265: While some indication on temporal evolution is provided for the other
387 measured variables, this is not the case for bacterial biomass, please add this information. L280:
388 Spilling et al. 2016), please correct L286: in e.g., please remove e.g. L287: have pointed at, please
389 correct L297: $p \leq 0.01$ I believe, please correct. L325: (Paul et al. 2015 (a or b)), please correct and
390 clarify L353: Spilling et al. 2016), please correct

391

392 **Author response:**

393 This will be added and corrections will be made.

394

395 **Changes made:**

396

397 There was temporal development of the bacterial community and this information was added:

398

399 “Overall, the bacterial numbers largely followed the phytoplankton biomass with an initial
400 increase then decrease during Phase I; increase during Phase II and slight decrease during
401 Phase III (Crawford et al., 2016).”

402

403 All the other corrections were made according to the reviewer’s suggestions

404

405 **Reviewer #2, Comment #13**

406 Figures Fig. 3. As mentioned earlier, for clarity, Biological release or uptake should be referred to as
407 NCPi (based on the inorganic budget). Values are not in mol C m⁻² but in mol C m⁻² d⁻¹ I think,
408 please correct.

409

410 **Author response:**

411 The reviewer is right and this will be corrected.

412

413 **Changes made:**

414

415 This was corrected in Fig 3 and we also adopted the NCPi parameter instead of the biological
416 release/uptake.

417 Effects of ocean acidification on pelagic carbon fluxes in a
418 mesocosm experiment

419

420

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445

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447 Running title: Modified pelagic carbon fluxes

448 Key words: Carbon fluxes, carbon budget, gross primary production, respiration, bacterial
449 production, sinking carbon flux, CO₂ exchange with atmosphere

450 **Abstract**

451 About a quarter of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions are currently taken up by the oceans
452 decreasing seawater pH. We performed a mesocosm experiment in the Baltic Sea in order to
453 investigate the consequences of increasing CO₂ levels on pelagic carbon fluxes. A gradient of
454 different CO₂ scenarios, ranging from ambient (~370 µatm) to high (~1200 µatm), were set
455 up in mesocosm bags (~55 m³). We determined standing stocks and temporal changes of total
456 particulate carbon (TPC), dissolved organic carbon (DOC), dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC)
457 and particulate organic carbon (POC) of specific plankton groups. We also measured carbon
458 flux via CO₂ exchange with the atmosphere and sedimentation (export); and biological rate
459 measurements of primary production, bacterial production and total respiration. The
460 experiment lasted for 44 days and was divided into three different phases (I: *t0-t16*; II: *t17-*
461 *t30*; III: *t31-t43*). Pools of TPC, DOC and DIC were approximately 420, 7200 and 25200
462 mmol C m⁻² at the start of the experiment, and the initial CO₂ additions increased the DIC
463 pool by ~7% in the highest CO₂ treatment. Overall, there was a decrease in TPC and increase
464 of DOC over the course of the experiment. The decrease in TPC was lower, and increase in
465 DOC higher, in treatments with added CO₂. During Phase I the estimated gross primary
466 production (GPP) was ~100 mmol C fixed m⁻² d⁻¹; from which 75-95% were respired, ~1%
467 ended up in the TPC (including export) and 5-25% added to the DOC pool. During Phase II,
468 the respiration loss increased to ~100% of GPP at the ambient CO₂ concentration, whereas
469 respiration was lower (85-95% of GPP) in the highest CO₂ treatment. Bacterial production
470 was ~30% lower, on average, at the highest CO₂ concentration compared with the controls
471 during Phases II and III. This resulted in a higher accumulation DOC standing stock and
472 lower reduction in TPC in the elevated CO₂ treatments at the end of Phase II extending
473 throughout Phase III. The “extra” organic carbon at high CO₂ remained fixed in an increasing
474 biomass of small-sized plankton and in the DOC pool, and did not ~~transfer~~~~transferred~~ into
475 large, sinking aggregates. Our results revealed a clear effect of increasing CO₂ on the carbon
476 ~~budget~~~~production~~ and mineralization, in particular under nutrient limited conditions. Lower
477 carbon loss processes (respiration and bacterial remineralization) at elevated CO₂ levels
478 resulted in higher TPC and DOC pools compared with the ambient CO₂ concentration. These
479 results highlight the importance to address not only net changes in carbon standing stocks,
480 but also carbon fluxes and budgets to better disentangle the effects of ocean acidification.

481

482 **1 Introduction**

483 Combustion of fossil fuels and change in land use, have caused increasing atmospheric
484 concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Ca. 25% of the anthropogenic CO₂ is absorbed by
485 the oceans, thereby decreasing surface water pH, a process termed ocean acidification (Le
486 Quéré et al., 2009). Ocean acidification and its alterations of aquatic ecosystems have
487 received considerable attention during the past decade, but there are many open questions, in
488 particular related to consequences for planktonic mediated carbon fluxes.

489 Some studies on ocean acidification have reported increased carbon fixation (Egge et al.,
490 2009; Engel et al., 2013), bacterial production (Grossart et al., 2006) and bacterial
491 degradation of polysaccharides (Piontek et al., 2010) at enhanced CO₂ levels, with potential
492 consequences for carbon fluxes within pelagic ecosystems and export to the deep ocean, i.e.
493 the biological carbon pump. Increasing carbon fixation in a high CO₂ environment can
494 translate into an enhanced sequestration of carbon (Riebesell et al., 2007), but this depends on
495 numerous environmental factors including phytoplankton community composition, aggregate
496 formation and nutrient availability. For example, if the community shifts towards smaller cell
497 sizes and/or enhanced cycling of organic matter carbon, export from the upper water layers
498 may decrease (Czerny et al., 2013a).

499 The effect of ocean acidification has mostly been studied in marine ecosystems under high
500 phytoplankton biomass. Brackish water has lower buffering capacity than ocean water and
501 the pH fluctuates more. The limited number of studies of ocean acidification in brackish
502 water and indications that ocean acidification effects are greatest under nutrient limitation
503 (De Kluijver et al., 2010), motivated this mesocosm study in the Baltic Sea during low
504 nutrient, summer months.

505 The Baltic Sea is functionally much like a large estuary, with a salinity gradient
506 ranging from approximately 20 in the South-West to <3 in the Northernmost Bothnian Bay. It
507 is an almost landlocked body of water with a large population in its vicinity (~80 million).
508 Human activities (e.g. agriculture, shipping and fishing) cause a number of environmental
509 problems such as eutrophication and pollution. As a coastal sea projected to change rapidly
510 due to interaction of direct and indirect anthropogenic pressures, the Baltic Sea can be seen as
511 a model ecosystem to study global change scenarios (Niiranen et al., 2013).

512 Most primary data from this experiment are published in several papers of this Special Issue
513 (Riebesell et al., 2015). The aim of the present paper is to provide an overarching synthesis of

514 all information related to carbon standing stocks and fluxes. This enabled us to calculate
515 carbon budgets in relation to different CO₂ levels.

516

517

518 **2 Materials and methods**

519

520 **2.1. Experimental set-up**

521 Six Kiel Off-Shore Mesocosms for future Ocean Simulations (KOSMOS; with a volume of
522 ca. 55 m³) were moored at Storfjärden, on the south west coast of Finland (59° 51.5' N; 23°
523 15.5' E) on 12 June 2012 (nine KOSMOS units were originally deployed but three were lost
524 due to leaks). A more detailed description of the set-up can be found in Paul et al. (2015).

525 The mesocosms extended from the surface down to 19 m depth and had a conical bottom end,
526 which enabled quantitative collection of the settling material. Different CO₂ levels in the bags
527 were achieved by adding filtered (50 µm), CO₂-saturated seawater. The CO₂ enriched water
528 was evenly distributed over the upper 17 m of the water columns and added in 4 consecutive
529 time steps (*t0* – *t3*). Two controls and four treatments were used, and for the controls, filtered
530 seawater (without additional CO₂ enrichment) was added. The CO₂ fugacity gradient after all
531 additions ranged from ambient (average throughout the experiment: ~370 µatm *f*CO₂) in the
532 two control mesocosms (M1 and M5), up to ~1200 µatm *f*CO₂ in the highest treatment (M8).
533 We used the average *f*CO₂ throughout this experiment (from *t1* – *t43*) to denote the different
534 treatments: 365 (M1), 368 (M5), 497 (M7), 821 (M6), 1007 (M3) and 1231 (M8) µatm *f*CO₂.
535 On *t15*, additional CO₂-saturated seawater was added to the upper 7 m in the same manner as
536 the initial enrichment, to counteract outgassing of CO₂.

537 We sampled the mesocosm every morning, but some variables were determined only every
538 second day. Depth-integrated water samples (0 – 17 m) were taken by using integrating water
539 samplers (IWS, HYDRO-BIOS, Kiel). The water was collected into plastic carboys (10 L)
540 and taken to the laboratory for sub-sampling and subsequent determination of carbon stocks.

541

542 **2.2. Primary variables**

543 For more detailed descriptions of the primary variables and the different methods used during
544 this CO₂ mesocosm campaign, we refer to other papers in this joint volume: i.e. total
545 particulate carbon (TPC), dissolved organic carbon (DOC), and dissolved inorganic carbon
546 (DIC) are described by Paul et al. (20152015b); micro and nanophytoplankton enumeration
547 by Bermúdez et al. (2016); picophytoplankton, heterotrophic prokaryotes and viruses by
548 Crawford et al. (2016); zooplankton community by Lischka et al. (2015); primary production
549 and respiration by Spilling et al. (2016); bacterial production (BP) by Hornick et al. (2016);
550 and sedimentation by Boxhammer et al. (20162015); and Paul et al. (20152015b).

551 Briefly, samples for TPC (500 mL) were GF/F filtered and determined using an elemental
552 analyser (EuroAE). DOC was measured using the high temperature combustion method
553 (Shimadzu TOC –VCPN) following Badr et al. (2003). DIC was determined by infrared
554 absorption (LI-COR LI-7000 on an AIRICA system). The DIC concentrations were
555 converted from $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ to $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ ~~mmol m^{-2}~~ using the average seawater density of 1.0038
556 kg L^{-1} throughout the experiment. Settling particles were quantitatively collected every other
557 day from sediment traps at the bottom of the mesocosm units and the TPC determined from
558 the processed samples (Boxhammer et al., 2016) as described above.

559 Mesozooplankton was collected by net hauls (100 μm mesh size), fixed (ethanol) and
560 counted in a stereomicroscope ~~stereomicroscopy in combination with a Folsom plankton~~
561 ~~splitter~~. Zooplankton carbon biomass (CB) was calculated using the displacement volume
562 (DV) and the equation of Wiebe (1988): $(\log DV + 1.429)/0.82 = \log CB$. Micro and
563 nanoplankton (zoo- and phytoplankton) CB was determined from microscopic counts of fixed
564 (acidic Lugol's iodine solution) samples, and the cellular bio-volumes were determined
565 according to Olenina et al. (2006) and converted to POC by the equations provided by
566 Menden-Deuer and Lessard (2000).

567 Picophytoplankton were counted using flow cytometry and converted to CB by size
568 fractionation (Veldhuis and Kraay, 2004) and cellular carbon conversion factors (0.2 pg C
569 μm^{-3} (Waterbury et al., 1986). Prokaryotes and viruses were determined according to Marie et
570 al. (1999) and Brussaard (2004), respectively. All heterotrophic prokaryotes, hereafter termed
571 bacteria, and viruses were converted to CB assuming $12.5 \text{ fg C cell}^{-1}$ (Heinänen and
572 Kuparinen, 1991) and $0.055 \text{ fg C virus}^{-1}$ (Steward et al., 2007), respectively.

573 The respiration rate was calculated from the difference between the O₂ concentration
574 (measured with a Fibox 3, PreSens) before and after a 48 h incubation period in a dark,
575 climate controlled room set to the average temperature observed in the mesocosms.

576 Bacterial protein production (BPP) was determined by ¹⁴C-leucine (¹⁴C-Leu) incorporation
577 (Simon and Azam, 1989) according to (Grossart et al., 2006). The amount of incorporated
578 ¹⁴C-Leu was converted into BPP by using an intracellular isotope dilution factor of 2. A
579 conversion factor of 0.86 was used to convert the produced protein into carbon (Simon and
580 Azam, 1989).

581 Net primary production (NPP) was measured using radio-labeled NaH¹⁴CO₃ (Steeman-
582 Nielsen, 1952). Samples were incubated for 24 h in duplicate, 8 ml vials moored on small
583 incubation platforms at 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 m depth next to the mesocosms. The areal primary
584 production was calculated based on a simple linear model of the production measurements
585 from the different depths (Spilling et al., 2016).

586

587 2.3. Gas exchange

588 In order to calculate the CO₂ gas exchange with the atmosphere (CO_2flux), we used N₂O as
589 tracer gas, and this was added to mesocosm M5 and M8 (control and high CO₂ treatment)
590 according to Czerny et al. (2013b). The N₂O concentration was determined every second day
591 using gas chromatography. Using the N₂O measurements, the fluxes across the water surface
592 (F_{N₂O}) was calculated according to:

$$593 \quad F_{\text{N}_2\text{O}} = I_{t_1} - I_{t_2} / (A * \Delta t) \quad (12)$$

594 where I_{t₁} and I_{t₂} is the bulk N₂O concentration at time: t₁ and t₂; A is the surface area and Δt
595 is the time difference between t₁ and t₂.

596 The flux velocity was then calculated by:

$$597 \quad K_{\text{N}_2\text{O}} = F_{\text{N}_2\text{O}} / (C_{\text{N}_2\text{Ow}} - (C_{\text{N}_2\text{Oaw}})) \quad (23)$$

598 where C_{N₂Ow} is the bulk N₂O concentration in the water at a given time point, and C_{N₂Oaw} is
599 the equilibrium concentration for N₂O (Weiss and Price, 1980).

600 The flux velocity for CO₂ was calculated from the flux velocity of N₂O according to:

601 | $k_{\text{CO}_2} = k_{\text{N}_2\text{O}} / (\text{Sc}_{\text{CO}_2} / \text{Sc}_{\text{N}_2\text{O}})^{0.5}$ (34)

602 | where Sc_{CO_2} and $\text{Sc}_{\text{N}_2\text{O}}$ are the Schmidt numbers for CO_2 and N_2O , respectively. The CO_2 flux
603 | across the water surface was calculated according to:

604 | $F_{\text{CO}_2} = k_{\text{CO}_2} (C_{\text{CO}_2\text{w}} - C_{\text{CO}_2\text{aw}})$ (45)

605 | where $C_{\text{CO}_2\text{w}}$ is the water concentration of CO_2 and $C_{\text{CO}_2\text{aw}}$ is the equilibrium concentration of
606 | CO_2 . CO_2 is preferentially taken up by phytoplankton at the surface, where also the
607 | atmospheric exchange takes place. For this reason, we used the calculated CO_2 concentration
608 | (based on the integrated CO_2 concentration and pH in the surface) from the upper 5 m as the
609 | input for equation 5.

610 | In contrast to N_2O , the CO_2 flux can be chemically enhanced by hydration reactions of CO_2
611 | with hydroxide ions and water molecules in the boundary layer (Wanninkhof and Knox,
612 | 1996). Using the method outlined in (Czerny et al. (2013b)) we found an enhancement of up
613 | to 12% on warm days and this was included into our flux calculations.

614

615 | 2.4. Data treatment

616 | The primary data generated in this study comprise of carbon standing stock measurements of
617 | TPC, DOC, DIC, as well as carbon estimates of meso- and microzooplankton, micro-, nano-
618 | and picophytoplankton, bacteria and viruses. Flux measurements of atmospheric CO_2
619 | exchange and sedimentation of TPC, as well as the biological rates of net primary production
620 | ($\text{NPP}_{14\text{C}}$), bacterial production (BP) and total respiration (TR) enabled us to make a closed
621 | carbon budget.

622 | Based on the primary variables (Chl *a* and temperature), the experiment where divided into
623 | three distinct phases: Phase I: *t*0-*t*16; Phase II: *t*17-*t*30 and Phase III: *t*31-*t*43, where e.g.
624 | Chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) concentration was relatively high during Phase I, decreased during
625 | Phase II and remained low during Phase III (Paul et al. 2015). Measurements of pools and
626 | rates were average for the two first sampling points of each experimental phase ($n = 2$) and
627 | where normalized to m^2 knowing the total depth (17 m, excluding the sedimentation funnel)
628 | of the mesocosms. For fluxes and biological rates we used the average for the whole periods
629 | normalized to days (day^{-1}). The rates of change (ΔTPC , ΔDOC and ΔDIC) were the
630 | difference between the start and end of each phase. All error estimates were calculated as

631 standard error (SE). The three different phases of the experiments were of different length
 632 with n = 16, n = 14 and n = 13 for Phases I – III respectively. SE for estimated rates were
 633 calculated from the square root of the sum of variance for all the variables (Eq 5-10 below)
 634 The primary papers mentioned above (section 2.2.) present detailed statistical analyses and
 635 we only refer to those here.

636 NPP was measured directly and we additionally estimated the net community production
 637 (NCP). This was done (NPP_e) from the total change in two different ways from the organic
 638 (NCP_o), dissolved plus particulate and inorganic (NCP_i) fractions of carbon. NCP_o was
 639 calculated from changes in the organic fraction pool plus the exported TPC (EXP_{TPC})
 640 according to:

$$641 \quad \underline{NCP_o + NPP_e} = EXP_{TPC} + \Delta TPC + \Delta DOC \quad (56)$$

642 Direct Comparing direct measurements using ¹⁴C isotope incubations should in principal
 643 provide a higher value than summing up the difference in overall carbon balance (our
 644 NCP_o + NPP_e), as the latter would incorporate total respiration and not only autotrophic
 645 respiration. NCP_i was calculated through changes in the dissolved inorganic carbon pool,
 646 corrected for CO₂ gas exchange with the atmosphere (CO₂flux) according to:

$$647 \quad \underline{NCP_i = CO_{2flux} - \Delta DIC} \quad (6)$$

648 In order to close the budget we estimated gross primary production (GPP) and DOC
 649 production (DOC_{prod}). GPP is defined as the photosynthetically fixed carbon without any loss
 650 processes (i.e. NPP + autotrophic respiration). GPP can be estimated based on changes in
 651 organic (GPP_o) or inorganic (GPP_i) carbon pools, and we used these two different approaches
 652 providing a GPP range:

$$653 \quad GPP_o = \underline{NCP_o + NPP_e} + TR \quad (7)$$

$$654 \quad GPP_i = TR + CO_{2flux} - \Delta DIC \quad (8)$$

655 During Phase III, TR was not measured and we estimated TR based on the ratios between
 656 NCP_o + NPP_e - TR⁺ and BP to TR⁺ ratios during Phase II. The minimum production of DOC
 657 (DOC_{minp}) in the system was calculated assuming bacterial carbon uptake was taken from the
 658 DOC pool according to:

$$659 \quad DOC_{minp} = \Delta DOC + BP \quad (9)$$

660 However, this could underestimate DOC_{prod} as a fraction of bacterial DOC uptake is respired.
661 Without direct measurement of (heterotrophic prokaryote) bacterial respiration, (BR), we
662 estimated BR from TR. The share of active bacteria contributing to bacterial production is
663 typically in the range of 10-30% of the total bacterial community (Lignell et al., 2013). We
664 used the fraction of bacterial biomass (BB) of total biomass (TB) as the maximum limit of
665 BR ($\text{BR} \leq \text{BB}/\text{TB}$), and hence calculated max DOC production (DOC_{maxp}) according to:

$$666 \text{DOC}_{\text{maxp}} = \Delta\text{DOC} + \text{BP} + (\text{BB} * \text{TR} / \text{TB}) \quad (10)$$

667 We assumed that carbon synthesized by bacteria added to the TPC pool, ~~thus aggregation of~~
668 ~~DOC equaled BP.~~

669 There are a number of uncertainties in these calculations, but this budgeting exercise provides
670 an order-of-magnitude estimate of the flow of carbon within the system and enables
671 comparison between the treatments. The average of the two controls (M1 and M5) and two
672 highest CO_2 treatments (M3 and M8) were used to illustrate CO_2 effects. ~~The three different~~
673 ~~phases of the experiments (I, II and III) were of different length (16, 14 and 13 day~~
674 ~~respectively). We used the average carbon pools from the whole period, but normalized~~
675 ~~fluxes and biological rates to day⁻¹. All error estimates were calculated as standard error (SE).~~
676 ~~The primary papers present detailed statistical analyses and we only refer to those here.~~

677

678 3. Results and discussion

679

680 3.1 Change in plankton community, from large to small forms over time

681 The overall size structure of the plankton community decreased over the course of the
682 experiment. Fig 1 illustrates the carbon content in different plankton groups in the control
683 mesocoms. During Phase I, the phytoplankton ~~abundance~~ ~~concentration~~ increased at first in
684 all treatments before starting to decrease at the end of Phase I (Paul et al., ~~2015~~ ~~2015b~~). At the
685 start of Phase II (t17), the phytoplankton biomass was higher than at the start of the
686 experiment ($\sim 130 \text{ mmol C m}^{-2}$ in the controls) but decreased throughout Phase II and III. The
687 fraction of picophytoplankton increased in all treatments, but some groups of
688 picophytoplankton increased more in the high CO_2 treatments (Crawford et al., 2016).

689 Nitrogen was the limiting nutrient ~~throughout~~ during the entire experiment (Paul et al.,
690 ~~2015~~2015b), and primary producers are generally N-limited in the main sub-basins of the
691 Baltic Sea (Tamminen and Andersen, 2007). The surface ~~to~~ volume ratio increases with
692 decreasing cell size, and consequently small cells have higher nutrient affinity, and are better
693 competitors for scarce nutrient sources than large cells (Reynolds, 2006). The prevailing N-
694 limitation was likely the reason for the decreasing size structure of the phytoplankton
695 community.

696 Micro and mesozooplankton standing stock was approximately half of the phytoplankton
697 biomass initially, but decreased rapidly in the control treatments during Phase I (Fig 1). In
698 the CO₂ enriched treatments the zooplankton biomass also decreased but not to the same
699 extent as in the control treatments (Spilling et al., 2016). Overall, smaller species benefitted
700 from the extra CO₂ addition, but there was no significant negative effect of high CO₂ on the
701 mesozooplankton community (Lischka et al., 2015).

702 Bacterial biomass was the main fraction of the plankton carbon throughout the experiment.
703 The bacterial numbers largely followed the phytoplankton biomass with an initial increase
704 then decrease during Phase I; increase during Phase II and slight decrease during Phase III
705 (Crawford et al., 2016). The bacterial community was controlled by mineral nutrient
706 limitation, bacterial grazing and viral lysis (Crawford et al., 2016), ~~and bacterial~~. ~~Bacterial~~
707 growth is typically limited by N or a combination of N and C in the study area (Lignell et al.,
708 2008; Lignell et al., 2013).

709 The bacterial carbon pool was higher than the measured TPC. Part of the bacteria must have
710 passed the GFF filters (0.7 μm), and assuming pico- to mesoplankton was part of the TPC,
711 >50% of the bacterial carbon was not contributing to the measured TPC. The conversion
712 factor from cells to carbon is positively correlated to cell size, and there is consequently
713 uncertainty related to the absolute carbon content of the bacterial pool (we used a constant
714 conversion factor). However, bacteria is known to be the dominating carbon share in the
715 Baltic Sea during the N-limited summer months (Lignell et al., 2013), and its relative
716 dominance is in line with this.

717 Although there are some uncertainty in the carbon estimate (Jover et al. 2014), virus make up
718 (due to their numerical dominance) a significant fraction of the pelagic carbon pool. Of the
719 different plankton fractions the virioplankton have been the least studied, but their role in the
720 pelagic ecosystem is ecologically important (Suttle, 2007; Brussaard et al., 2008; Mojica et

721 al., 2016). Viral lysis rates were equivalent to the grazing rates for phytoplankton and for
722 bacteria in the current study (Crawford et al., 2015). As mortality agents, viruses are key
723 drivers of the regenerative microbial food web (Suttle, 2007; Brussaard et al., 2008). Overall,
724 the structure of the plankton community reflected the nutrient status of the system. The
725 increasing N-limitation favoring development of smaller cells, and increasing dependence of
726 the primary producers on regenerated nutrients.

728 **3.2. The DIC pool and atmospheric exchange of CO₂**

729 The DIC pool was the largest carbon pool: 3-4 fold higher than the DOC pool and roughly
730 60-fold higher than the TPC pool (Tables 1-3). After the addition of CO₂, the DIC pool was
731 ~7% higher in the highest CO₂ treatment compared to the control mesocosms (Table 1). The
732 gas exchange with the atmosphere was the most apparent flux affected by CO₂ addition
733 (Tables 1-3). Seawater in the mesocosms with added CO₂ were supersaturated, hence CO₂
734 outgassed throughout the experiment. The control mesocosms were initially undersaturated,
735 hence ingassing occurred during Phases I and II (Fig 2). In the first part of Phase III, the
736 control mesocosms reached equilibrium with the atmospheric fCO₂ (Fig. 2). The gas
737 exchange had direct effects on the DIC concentration in the mesocosms (Fig. 3). From the
738 measured gas exchange and change in DIC it is possible to calculate the biologically
739 mediated carbon flux. In the mesocosms with ambient CO₂ concentration, the flux
740 measurements indicated net heterotrophy throughout the experiment. The opposite pattern,
741 net autotrophy, was indicated in the two mesocosms with the highest CO₂ addition (Fig 3; see
742 also section 3.7.).

744 **3.3. The DOC pool, DOC production and remineralization**

745 ~~The DOC pool increased throughout the experiment in all mesocosm bags, but more in the~~
746 ~~treatments with elevated CO₂ concentration. The initial DOC standing stock in all treatments~~
747 ~~was approximately 7200 mmol C m⁻³. At the end of the experiment, the DOC pool was ~2%~~
748 ~~higher in the two highest CO₂ treatments compared to the controls (Fig. 4), and there is~~
749 ~~statistical support for this difference between CO₂ treatments (Phase III, p = 0.05) (Paul et al.,~~
750 ~~2015). Interestingly, the data does not point to a substantially higher release of DOC at high~~
751 ~~CO₂ (Figs 4 and 5). The bacterial production was notably lower during Phases II and III in~~
752 ~~the high CO₂ treatments (Hornick et al., 2016), and of similar magnitude as the rate of change~~

753 ~~in DOC pool (Table 2 and 3), indicating reduced bacterial uptake and remineralization of~~
754 ~~DOC. The combined results suggest that the increase in the DOC pool at high CO₂ was~~
755 ~~related to reduced DOC loss (uptake by bacteria), rather than increased release of DOC by the~~
756 ~~plankton community, at elevated CO₂ concentration.~~

757 ~~The Baltic Sea is affected by large inflow of freshwater containing high concentrations of~~
758 ~~refractory DOC such as humic substances, and the concentration in Gulf of Finland is~~
759 ~~typically 400-500 μmol C L⁻¹ (Hoikkala et al., 2015). The large pool of DOC and turn over~~
760 ~~times of 200 days (Tables 1-3) is most likely a reflection of the relatively low fraction of~~
761 ~~labile DOC, but bacterial limitation of mineral nutrients can also increase turn over times~~
762 ~~(Thingstad et al., 1997).~~

763 ~~The DOC pool has been demonstrated to aggregate into transparent exopolymeric particles~~
764 ~~(TEP) under certain circumstances, which can increase sedimentation at high CO₂ levels~~
765 ~~(Riebesell et al., 2007). We did not have any direct measurements of TEP, but any CO₂ effect~~
766 ~~on its formation is highly dependent on the plankton community and its physiological status~~
767 ~~(MacGillchrist et al., 2014). No observed effect of CO₂ treatment on carbon export suggests~~
768 ~~that we did not have a community where the TEP production was any different between the~~
769 ~~treatments used.~~

771 **3.4. The TPC pool and export of carbon**

772 ~~There was a positive effect of elevated CO₂ on TPC relative to the controls. At the start of the~~
773 ~~experiment, the measured TPC concentration in the enclosed water columns was 400-500~~
774 ~~mmol C m⁻³ (Table 1). The TPC pool decreased over time but less in the high CO₂ treatment~~
775 ~~and at the end of the experiment, the standing stock of TPC was 6% higher (Phase III, p =~~
776 ~~0.01; Paul et al. (2015) in the high CO₂ treatment (Fig. 4).~~

777 ~~The export of TPC was not dependent on the CO₂ concentration but varied temporally. The~~
778 ~~largest flux of TPC out of the mesocosms occurred during Phase I with 6 mmol C m⁻³ d⁻¹. It~~
779 ~~decreased to 3 mmol C m⁻³ d⁻¹ during Phase II and was 2 mmol C m⁻³ d⁻¹ during Phase III~~
780 ~~(Table 1-3). The exported carbon as percent of average TPC standing stock similarly~~
781 ~~decreased from 1.3% during Phase I to 0.3-0.5% during Phase III. The initial increase in the~~
782 ~~autotrophic biomass was the likely reason for relatively more of the carbon settling in the~~
783 ~~mesocosms in the beginning of the experiment whereas the decreasing carbon export was~~
784 ~~most likely caused by the shift towards a plankton community depending on recycled~~

785 nitrogen. This reduced the overall suspended TPC and also the average plankton size in the
786 community.

788 **3.5. Biological rates: respiration**

789 Total respiration (TR) was always lower in the CO₂ enriched treatments (Tables 1-3). The
790 average TR was 83 mmol C m⁻² d⁻¹ during Phase I, and initially without any detectable
791 treatment effect. The respiration rate started to be lower in the high CO₂ treatments,
792 compared with the controls, in the beginning of Phase II. At the end of Phase II there was a
793 significant difference (p = 0.02; Spilling et al., 2016) between the treatments (Table 2), and
794 40% lower respiration rate in the highest CO₂ treatment compared with the controls (Spilling
795 et al., 2016Table 2).

796 Cytosol pH is close to neutral in most organisms, and reduced energetic cost for internal pH
797 regulation (e.g. transport of H⁺) and at lower external pH levels could be one factor reducing
798 respiration (Smith and Raven, 1979). Hopkinson et al. (2010) found indirect evidence for
799 decreased respiration and also proposed that increased CO₂ concentration (i.e. decreased pH)
800 reduced metabolic cost of remaining intracellular homeostasis. Mitochondrial
801 respiration~~Respiration rate~~ in plant foliage decreases in high CO₂ environments, possibly
802 affected by respiratory enzymes or other metabolic processes (Amthor, 1991; Puhe and
803 Ulrich, 2012). Most inorganic carbon in water is in the form of bicarbonate (HCO₃⁻) at
804 relevant pH, and many aquatic autotrophs have developed carbon concentrating mechanisms
805 (CCMs) (e.g. Singh et al., 2014) that could reduce the cost of growth (Raven, 1991). There
806 are some studies that have pointed to savings of metabolic energy due to down-regulation of
807 carbon concentrating mechanisms (Hopkinson et al., 2010) or overall photosynthetic
808 apparatus (Sobrino et al., 2014) in phytoplankton at high CO₂ concentrations. Yet, other
809 studies of the total plankton community have), and similar processes could take place in e.g.
810 phytoplankton. Yet, previous studies of plankton has pointed at no effect or increased
811 respiration at elevated CO₂ concentration (Li and Gao, 2012; Tanaka et al., 2013), and the
812 metabolic changes behind reduced respiration, remains an open question. Membrane
813 transport of H⁺ is sensitive to changes in external pH, but the physiological impacts of
814 increasing H⁺ needs further study to better address effects of ocean acidification (Taylor et
815 al., 2012). An important aspect is also to consider the microenvironment surrounding
816 plankton; exchange of nutrients and gases takes place through the boundary layer, which

817 | ~~might have very different pH properties than bulk water measurements (Flynn et al., 2012).is~~
818 | ~~an open question. However, there does seem to have been a connection between respiration~~
819 | ~~and bacterial activity in the high CO₂ treatments.~~

820

821 | **3.6.3. Biological rates: bacterial production**

822 | Bacterial production (BP) became lower in the high CO₂ treatment in the latter part of the
823 | experiment. During Phase I, BP ranged from 27 to 46 mmol C m⁻² d⁻¹ (Table 1). The
824 | difference in BP between treatments became apparent in Phases II and III of the experiment.
825 | The average BP was 18% and 24% higher in the controls compared to the highest CO₂
826 | treatments during Phases II and III, respectively (Tables 2 and 3). Statistical support
827 | ($p \leq 0.01$) for a treatment effect during parts of the experiment is presented in Hornick et al.
828 | (2016).

829 | The lower bacterial production accounted for ~40% of the reduced respiration during Phase
830 | II, and ~~the reduced respiration described above could at least partly be explained by the lower~~
831 | ~~bacterial activity. This~~ raises an interesting question: what was the mechanism behind the
832 | reduced bacterial ~~production/respiration activity~~ in the high CO₂ treatment? There are
833 | examples of decreased bacterial production ~~at high CO₂ concentration~~ (Motegi et al 2013)
834 | ~~and respiration (Teira et al., 2012) at elevated CO₂ concentration. However,)~~, but most
835 | previous studies have reported no change (Allgaier et al., 2008) or a higher bacterial
836 | production at elevated CO₂ concentration (Grossart et al., 2006; Piontek et al., 2010; Endres
837 | et al., 2014). The latter was also supported by the recent study of Bunse et al. (2016),
838 | describing up-regulation of bacterial genes related to respiration, membrane transport and
839 | protein metabolism at elevated CO₂ concentration; ~~albeit however~~, this effect was not evident
840 | when inorganic nutrients had been added (high Chl *a* treatment).

841 | In this study, the reason for the lower bacterial activity in the high CO₂ treatments could be
842 | due to either limitation and/or inhibition of bacterial growth or driven by difference in loss
843 | processes. ~~Increased loss processes could also have affected BP.~~ Bacterial grazing and viral
844 | lysis was higher in the high CO₂ treatments during periods of the experiment (Crawford et al.,
845 | 2016), and would at least partly be the reason for the reduced bacterial production at high
846 | CO₂ concentration.

847 | N-limitation increased during the experiment (Paul et al., ~~2015~~2015b), and mineral nutrient
848 | limitation of bacteria can lead to accumulation of DOC, i.e. reduced bacterial uptake

849 (Thingstad et al., 1997), similar to our results. Bacterial N limitation is common in the area
850 during summer (Lignell et al., 2013), however, this N-limitation was not apparently different
851 in the controls (Paul et al., ~~2015~~2015b), and CO₂ did not affect N-fixation (Paul et al.,
852 ~~2016~~2015a). In a scenario where the competition for N is fierce, the balance between ~~the~~
853 bacteria and similar sized picophytoplankton could be tilted in favor of phytoplankton if they
854 gain an advantage by having easier access to carbon, i.e. CO₂ (Hornick et al., 2016).

855 We have not found evidence in the literature that bacterial production will be suppressed in
856 the observed pH range inside the mesocosms, varying from approximately pH 8.1 in the
857 control to pH 7.6 in the highest fCO₂ treatment (Paul et al., 2015), although enzyme activity
858 seems but enzymes seem to be affected even by moderate pH changes. For example, some
859 studies report on an increase in protein degrading enzyme leucine aminopeptidase activities at
860 reduced pH (Grossart et al., 2006; Piontek et al., 2010; Endres et al., 2014), whereas others
861 indicate a reduced activity of this enzyme (Yamada and Suzumura, 2010). A range of other
862 factors affects this enzyme, for example the nitrogen source and salinity (Stepanuskas et al.,
863 1999), and any potential interaction effects with decreasing pH are not yet resolved. Any pH-
864 induced changes in bacterial enzymatic activity could potentially affect bacterial production.

865

866 **3.7.4. Biological rates: primary production**

867 There was an effect of CO₂ concentration on the~~The estimated net community~~primary
868 production based on the organic carbon fraction (NCP_o). NCP_o was~~(NPP_e) indicated~~ higher
869 primary productivity~~during Phase I than during the rest of the experiments and during this~~
870 initial phase without any apparent CO₂ effect. ~~There was no consistent difference between~~
871 CO₂ treatments for NPP_{14C} (p > 0.1), ~~but~~ NCP_oNPP_e increased with increasing CO₂
872 enrichment during Phase II (Phase II; linear regression p = 0.003; R² = 0.91). ~~This was~~
873 caused by the different development in the TPC and DOC pools. The pattern of gross primary
874 production (GPP) was similar to ~~NCP_oNPP_e during Phases I and II. During Phase III there~~
875 were no respiration or NPP_{14C} measurements and the estimated GPP is more uncertain. The
876 NCP_oNPP_e and GPP indicated a smaller difference between treatments during Phase III
877 compared with Phase II.

878 The ~~two~~ measures of NPP_{14C} and NCP_oNPP_e were of a similar magnitude (Tables 1-3). During
879 Phase I, NPP_{14C} < NCP_oNPP_e (Table 1), this relationship reversed for most treatments during
880 Phase II, with the exception of the highest CO₂ levels (Table 2). The difference between

881 ~~Interestingly, an effect of the different CO₂ treatments was noticeable in the NPP_e but not in~~
882 ~~NPP_{14C} and NCP₀ suggests, suggesting that observed reduction in respiration at the effect of~~
883 ~~elevated CO₂ concentration could be mainly refer to~~ heterotrophic respiration. However, in
884 terms of the $NPP_{14C} < NCP_0 NPP_e$, the uncertainty seems to be higher than the potential signal
885 of heterotrophic respiration. This would also indicate that the NPP_{14C} during Phase I ~~have has~~
886 been underestimated, in particular for the control mesocosm M1. During Phase II, the NPP_{14C}
887 was higher than $NCP_0 NPP_e$, except for the two highest CO₂ treatments, more in line with our
888 assumption of $NPP_{14C} > NCP_0 NPP_e$. The systematic offset in NPP_{14C} during Phase I could be
889 due to changed parameterization during incubation in small volumes (8 mL, Spilling et al.,
890 2016), for example increased loss due to grazing. ~~Overall, however, the results suggest that~~
891 ~~the measured NPP_{14C} and estimated NPP_e agree reasonably well.~~

892 The results of the DIC pool and atmospheric exchange of CO₂ provides another way of
893 estimating the net community production based on inorganic carbon (NCP_i). There was some
894 discrepancy between the NCP₀ and NCP_i as the latter suggested net heterotrophy in the
895 ambient CO₂ whereas the high CO₂ treatments were net autotrophic during all three phases of
896 the experiment (Fig. 3). For the NCP₀ there was no indication of net heterotrophy at ambient
897 CO₂ concentration. In terms of the absolute numbers, the NCP_i estimate is probably more
898 uncertain than NCP₀. Calculating the CO₂ atmospheric exchange from the measurements of a
899 tracer gas involves several calculation steps (Eq 1-4), each adding uncertainty to the
900 calculation. However, both estimations (NCP_i and NCP₀) indicate that increased CO₂
901 concentrations lead to higher overall community production, supporting our overall
902 conclusion.

903

904

905 **3.5. The DIC pool and atmospheric exchange of CO₂**

906 ~~The DIC pool was the largest carbon pool: 3-4 fold higher than the DOC pool and roughly~~
907 ~~60 fold higher than the TPC pool (Tables 1-3). After the addition of CO₂, the DIC pool was~~
908 ~~~7% higher in the highest CO₂ treatment compared to the control mesocosms (Table 1). The~~
909 ~~gas exchange with the atmosphere was the most apparent flux affected by CO₂ addition~~
910 ~~(Tables 1-3). Seawater in the mesocosms with added CO₂ were supersaturated, hence CO₂~~
911 ~~outgassed throughout the experiment. The control mesocosms were initially undersaturated,~~
912 ~~hence ingassing occurred during Phases I and II (Fig 2). In the first part of Phase III, the~~
913 ~~control mesocosms reached equilibrium with the atmospheric fCO₂ (Fig. 2).~~

914 ~~Using the direct flux measurements and the net change in the DIC pool, we calculated the net~~
915 ~~uptake or release of carbon by biological activity. Comparing the controls to the mesocosm~~
916 ~~with the highest CO₂ addition (Fig. 3), the CO₂ addition had an effect on the biologically~~
917 ~~mediated carbon flux. In the mesocosm with an ambient CO₂ concentration, the flux~~
918 ~~measurements indicated net heterotrophy throughout the experiment. The opposite pattern,~~
919 ~~net autotrophy, was indicated in the mesocosm with the highest CO₂ addition (Fig 3).~~

921 3.6. The DOC pool, DOC production and remineralization

922 The DOC pool increased throughout the experiment in all mesocosm bags, but more in the
923 treatments with elevated CO₂ concentration. The initial DOC standing stock in all treatments
924 was approximately 7200 mmol C m⁻². At the end of the experiment, the DOC pool was ~2%
925 higher in the high CO₂ treatments compared to the controls (Fig. 4), and there is statistical
926 support for these treatments being different (Phase III, p = 0.05) (Paul et al., 2015b).
927 ~~Interestingly, the data does not point to a substantially higher release of DOC at high CO₂~~
928 ~~(Fig 5).~~ The bacterial production was notably lower during Phases II and III in the high CO₂
929 treatments (Hornick et al., 2016), and of similar magnitude as the rate of change in DOC pool
930 (Table 2 and 3), indicating reduced bacterial uptake and remineralization of DOC. The
931 combined results suggest that the increase in the DOC pool at high CO₂ was related to
932 reduced DOC loss (uptake by bacteria), rather than increased release of DOC by the plankton
933 community, at elevated CO₂ concentration.

934 The Baltic Sea is affected by large inflow of freshwater containing high concentrations of
935 refractory DOC such as humic substances, and the concentration in Gulf of Finland is
936 typically 400-500 μmol C L⁻¹ (Hoikkala et al., 2015). The large pool of DOC and turn over
937 times of ~200 days (Tables 1-3) is most likely a reflection of the relatively low fraction of
938 labile DOC, but bacterial limitation of mineral nutrients can also increase turn over times
939 (Thingstad et al., 1997).

940 The DOC pool has been demonstrated to aggregate into transparent exopolymeric particles
941 (TEP) under certain circumstances, which can increase sedimentation at high CO₂ levels
942 (Riebesell et al., 2007). We did not have any direct measurements of TEP, but any CO₂ effect
943 on its formation is highly dependent on the plankton community and its physiological status
944 (MacGilchrist et al., 2014). ~~No effect of CO₂ treatment on carbon export suggests that we did~~

945 ~~not have a community where the TEP production was any different between the treatments~~
946 ~~used.~~

948 **3.7 The TPC pool and export of carbon**

949 There was a positive effect of elevated CO₂ on TPC relative to the controls. At the start of the
950 experiment, the measured TPC concentration in the enclosed water columns was 400-500
951 mmol C m⁻² (Table 1). The TPC pool decreased over time but less in the high CO₂ treatment
952 and at the end of the experiment, the standing stock of TPC was ~6% higher (Phase III, p =
953 0.01; Paul et al. (2015b) in the high CO₂ treatment (Fig. 4).

954 The export of TPC was not dependent on the CO₂ concentration but varied temporally. The
955 largest flux of TPC out of the mesocosms occurred during Phase I with ~6 mmol C m⁻² d⁻¹. It
956 decreased to ~3 mmol C m⁻² d⁻¹ during Phase II and was ~2 mmol C m⁻² d⁻¹ during Phase III
957 (Table 1-3). The exported carbon as percent of average TPC standing stock similarly
958 decreased from ~1.3% during Phase I to 0.3-0.5% during Phase III. ~~The initial increase in the~~
959 ~~autotrophic biomass associated with relatively more of the carbon settling in the mesocosms.~~
960 ~~The decreasing carbon export was most likely caused by the shift towards a plankton~~
961 ~~community depending on recycled nitrogen, reducing the overall TPC and also the size~~
962 ~~structure of the plankton community.~~

964 **3.8 Budget**

965 A carbon budget for the two control mesocosms and two highest CO₂ additions is presented
966 in Fig. 5. During Phase I the estimated gross primary production (GPP) was ~100 mmol C
967 fixed m⁻² d⁻¹; from which 75-95% were respired, ~1% ended up in the TPC (including export)
968 and 5-25% added to the DOC pool. The main difference between CO₂ treatments became
969 apparent during Phase II when the NCP_0NPP_e was higher in the elevated CO₂ treatments. The
970 respiration loss increased to ~100% of GPP at the ambient CO₂ concentration, whereas
971 respiration was lower (85-95% of GPP) in the highest CO₂ treatment. Bacterial production
972 was ~30% lower, on average, at the highest CO₂ concentration compared with the controls
973 during Phase II. The share of NCP_0NPP_e of GPP ranged from 2% to 20% and the minimum
974 flux to the DOC pool was 11% to 18% of TPC.

975 The overall budget was calculated by using the direct measurements of changes in standing
976 stocks and fluxes of export, respiration and bacterial production rates. The most robust data
977 are the direct measurements of carbon standing stocks and their development (e.g.
978 Δ TPC) differences. These are based on well-established analytical methods with relatively
979 low standard error (SE) of the carbon pools. However, the dynamic nature of these pools
980 made the relative SE for the rate of change much higher, reflecting that the rate of change
981 varied considerably within the different phases.

982 The rate parameters, calculated based on conversion factors, have greater uncertainty,
983 although their SEs were relatively low, caused by uncertainty in the conversion steps. For
984 example, the respiratory quotient (RQ) was set to one, which is a good estimate for
985 carbohydrate oxidation. For lipids and proteins the RQ is close to 0.7, but in a natural
986 environment RQ is often >1 (Berggren et al., 2012), and is affected by physiological state e.g.
987 nutrient limitation (Romero-Kutzner et al., 2015). Any temporal variability in the conversion
988 factors would directly change the overall budget calculations, e.g. RQ affecting total
989 respiration and gross primary production estimates. However, the budget provides an order-
990 of-magnitude estimate of the carbon flow within the system. Some of the parameters such as
991 GPP were estimated using different approaches, providing a more robust comparison of
992 the different treatments.

993 The primary effect of increasing CO₂ concentration was the higher standing stocks of TPC
994 and DOC compared with ambient CO₂ concentration. The increasing DOC pool and
995 relatively higher TPC pool were driven by reduced respiration and bacterial production at
996 elevated CO₂ concentration. Decreasing respiration rate reduced the recycling of organic
997 carbon back to the DIC pool. The lower respiration and bacterial production also indicates
998 reduced remineralization of DOC. These two effects caused the higher TPC and DOC pools
999 in the elevated CO₂ treatments. The results highlight the importance of looking beyond net
1000 changes in carbon standing stocks to understand how carbon fluxes are affected under
1001 increasing ocean acidification.

1002

1003

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2 Table 1. The standing stock of total particulate carbon (TPC_{pool}), dissolved organic carbon (DOC_{pool}) and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC_{pool}) at the start of
3 Phase I in mmol C m⁻² ± SE (n = 2). The DOC_{pool} was missing some initial measurements and is the average for all mesocosms assuming that the DOC
4 concentration was similar at the onset of the experiment. The net change in TPC (ΔTPC), DOC (ΔDOC) and DIC (ΔDIC) are average changes in the standing
5 stocks during Phase I in mmol C m⁻² d⁻¹ ± SE (n = 2). Flux measurements of atmospheric gas exchange (CO_{2flux}) and exported carbon (EXP_{TPC}) plus
6 biological rates: total respiration (TR), bacterial (BP) and net primary production (BP), measured (NPP_{14C}) and net community production estimated
7 based on organic carbon pools (NCP_o(NPP_e)) net primary production, are all average for Phase I in mmol C m⁻² d⁻¹ ± SE (n = 16). SE for NCP_o
8 was calculated from the square root of the sum of variance of the three variables used in Eq 6. The NCP_oNPP_e was calculated from the net
9 change in carbon pools plus carbon export, whereas NPP_{14C} was measured carbon fixation using radiolabeled ¹⁴C over a 24 h incubation period *in situ*. TR
10 was measured as O₂ consumption and for comparison with carbon fixation we used a respiratory quotient (RQ) of 1. A total budget of carbon fluxes for
11 ambient and high CO₂ treatments is presented in Fig 5.

12

13 **Phase I (t0-t16)**

14 CO ₂ treatment (μatm fCO ₂)	365	368	497	821	1007	1231	
15 Mesocosm number	M1	M5	M7	M6	M3	M8	
16 TPC _{pool}	417 ± 38	425 ± 39	472 ± 48	458 ± 38	431 ± 48	446 ± 57	
17 DOC _{pool}	7172 ± 87	7172 ± 87	7172 ± 87	7172 ± 87	7172 ± 87	7172 ± 87	
18 DIC _{pool}	25158 ± 9	25182 ± 10	25628 ± 8	26295 ± 22	26637 ± 36	26953 ± 48	
19 ΔTPC	-4.6 ± 15	-5.2 ± 13	-8.3 ± 13	-8.2 ± 17	-7.0 ± 13	-6.3 ± 20	
20 ΔDOC	15.5 ± 58	18.3 ± 30	18.5 ± 33	25.0 ± 36	18.5 ± 73	18.1 ± 63	
21 ΔDIC	5.5 ± 5.2	6.9 ± 9.2	-6.1 ± 11	-24 ± 14	-32 ± 20	-49 ± 42	
22 CO _{2flux}	4.4 ± 0.2	4.8 ± 0.3	-0.8 ± 0.5	-11 ± 1.0	-17 ± 1.4	-23 ± 2.0	
23 EXP _{TPC}	6.6 ± 0.10	5.6 ± 0.04	5.4 ± 0.07	6.0 ± 0.07	5.6 ± 0.06	6.0 ± 0.05	
24 TR	107 ± 9	82 ± 7	81 ± 6	80 ± 8	75 ± 8	74 ± 8	
25 BP	27 ± 8	41 ± 6	43 ± 8	41 ± 4	36 ± 5	46 ± 9	
26 NPP _{14C}	4.8 ± 0.8	11.4 ± 2.1	14.9 ± 3.6	12.3 ± 2.3	11.3 ± 2.4	14.5 ± 2.7	
27 <u>NCP_oNPP_e</u>		17.4 ± 33	18.7 ± 20	15.6 ± 30	22.8 ± 28	17.1 ± 25	17.8 ± 28

28

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1 Table 2. The standing stock of total particulate carbon (TPC_{pool}), dissolved organic carbon (DOC_{pool}) and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC_{pool}) at the start of
 2 Phase II in mmol C m⁻² ± SE (n = 2). The net change in TPC (ΔTPC), DOC (ΔDOC) and DIC (ΔDIC) are average changes in the standing stocks during
 3 Phase II in mmol C m⁻² d⁻¹ ± SE (n = 2). Flux measurements of atmospheric gas exchange (CO_{2flux}) and exported carbon (EXP_{TPC}) plus biological rates: total
 4 respiration (TR), bacterial production (BP), measured (NPP_{14c}) and ~~estimated (NPP_e)~~-net community primary production estimated based on organic carbon
 5 pools (NCP_o), are all average for Phase II in mmol C m⁻² d⁻¹ ± SE (n = 14). See Table 1 legend for further details.

6
 7 **Phase II (t17-t30)**

8 CO₂ treatment (μatm fCO₂)	365	368	497	821	1007	1231	
9 Mesocosm number	M1	M5	M7	M6	M3	M8	
10 TPC _{pool}	339 ± 14	337 ± 20	331 ± 22	318 ± 9	312 ± 12	339 ± 23	
11 DOC _{pool}	7435 ± 38	7483 ± 37	7487 ± 43	7597 ± 37	7487 ± 61	7479 ± 37	
12 DIC _{pool}	25247 ± 34	25269 ± 34	25639 ± 8	26177 ± 25	26413 ± 28	26757 ± 45	
13 ΔTPC	-2.4 ± 5	-2.3 ± 8	-1.6 ± 14	0.3 ± 6	2.8 ± 4	3.2 ± 8	
14 ΔDOC	-0.6 ± 39	2.4 ± 30	3.6 ± 40	8.4 ± 31	11.3 ± 58	9.1 ± 36	
15 ΔDIC	22.4 ± 12	17.6 ± 8.1	-0.4 ± 4.5	-10.5 ± 16	-14.2 ± 10	-23.1 ± 13	
16 CO _{2flux}	1.7 ± 0.3	1.2 ± 0.3	-2.6 ± 0.3	-10 ± 0.5	-14 ± 0.6	-19 ± 1.0	
17 EXP _{TPC}	3.3 ± 0.08	2.6 ± 0.06	2.5 ± 0.08	2.6 ± 0.06	2.8 ± 0.07	2.9 ± 0.06	
18 TR	140 ± 7	127 ± 5	103 ± 3	103 ± 4	101 ± 5	86 ± 4	
19 BP	66 ± 17	57 ± 8	61 ± 7	57 ± 7	43 ± 6	47 ± 6	
20 NPP _{14c}	3.8 ± 0.6	11.2 ± 1.9	10.8 ± 2.0	14.3 ± 2.8	10.4 ± 2.1	12.0 ± 2.5	
21 <u>NCP_oNPP_e</u>		0.3 ± 20	2.7 ± 15	4.5 ± 22	11.4 ± 16	16.9 ± 19	15.2 ± 16

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2 Table 3. The standing stock of total particular carbon (TPC_{pool}), dissolved organic carbon (DOC_{pool}) and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC_{pool}) at the start of
 3 Phase III in mmol C m⁻² ± SE (n = 2). The net change in TPC (ΔTPC), DOC (ΔDOC) and DIC (ΔDIC) are average changes in the standing stocks during
 4 Phase III in mmol C m⁻² d⁻¹ ± SE (n = 2). Flux measurements of atmospheric gas exchange (CO_{2flux}) and exported carbon (EXP_{TPC}) plus biological rates: total
 5 respiration (TR), bacterial production (BP), measured (NPP_{14C}) and ~~estimated (NPP_e)~~-net ~~community~~primary production estimated based on organic carbon
 6 pools (NCP_o), are all average for Phase III in mmol C m⁻² d⁻¹ ± SE (n = 13). See Table 1 legend for further details. During Phase III we did not have direct
 7 measurements of net primary production (NPP_{14C}) or total respiration (TR).

8

9 **Phase III (t31-t43)**

10 CO₂ treatment (μatm fCO₂)	365	368	497	821	1007	1231	
11 Mesocosm number	M1	M5	M7	M6	M3	M8	
12 TPC _{pool}	306 ± 12	304 ± 20	309 ± 20	323 ± 2	351 ± 13	384 ± 16	
13 DOC _{pool}	7426 ± 16	7469 ± 20	7485 ± 92	7553 ± 20	7593 ± 30	7562 ± 38	
14 DIC _{pool}	25557 ± 9	25545 ± 10	25648 ± 13	26030 ± 19	26197 ± 31	26371 ± 32	
15 ΔTPC	-3.8 ± 10	0.3 ± 7	3.3 ± 14	3.3 ± 10	-1.4 ± 8	-4.8 ± 8	
16 ΔDOC	9.8 ± 5	8.8 ± 7	8.9 ± 43	9.2 ± 10	5.7 ± 17	16.3 ± 20	
17 ΔDIC	4.3 ± 3.9	5.5 ± 8.7	6.2 ± 11	-12.3 ± 7.2	-16.3 ± 14	-20.1 ± 14	
18 CO _{2flux}	-0.3 ± 0.7	-0.8 ± 0.6	-3.0 ± 0.5	-7.3 ± 0.5	-9.4 ± 0.6	-13 ± 0.6	
19 EXP _{TPC}	1.5 ± 0.07	1.4 ± 0.05	0.4 ± 0.07	1.9 ± 0.05	1.6 ± 0.04	1.7 ± 0.05	
20 BP	31 ± 6.8	37 ± 1.4	38 ± 1.4	27 ± 2.1	17 ± 3.8	28 ± 2.3	
21 <u>NCP_oNPP_e</u>		7.6 ± 16	10.5 ± 13	12.7 ± 20	14.3 ± 13	6.0 ± 10	13.2 ± 14

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2 **Figure legends**

3 Fig. 1. The different fractions of carbon in the control mesocosms (M1 and M5) at the start of
4 Phase I (t0), II (t17) and III (t31) in $\text{mmol C m}^{-2} \pm \text{SE}$ (n = 2). The differences between the
5 controls and elevated CO_2 concentration are discussed in the text. The size of the boxes
6 indicates the relative size of the carbon standing stocks.

7 Fig 2. The calculated exchange of CO_2 between the mesocosms and the atmosphere. Positive
8 values indicate net influx (ingassing) and negative values net outflux (outgassing) from the
9 mesocosms. The flux was based on measurements of N_2O as a tracer gas and calculated using
10 equations 2-5.

11 Fig 3. Change in dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) pool and the atmospheric CO_2 exchange
12 (Fig. 2). All values are average $\text{mmol C m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1} \pm \text{SE}$ for the three different phases (n = 16,
13 14 and 13 for Phases I – III respectively) in the control mesocosms (M1 + M5) and high CO_2
14 mesocosms (M3 + M8). Black, solid arrows indicated measured fluxes. Grey, dashed arrows
15 are estimated by closing the budget, and indicate the net community production based on
16 inorganic carbon budget (NCP_i), which equals biological uptake or release of CO_2 .

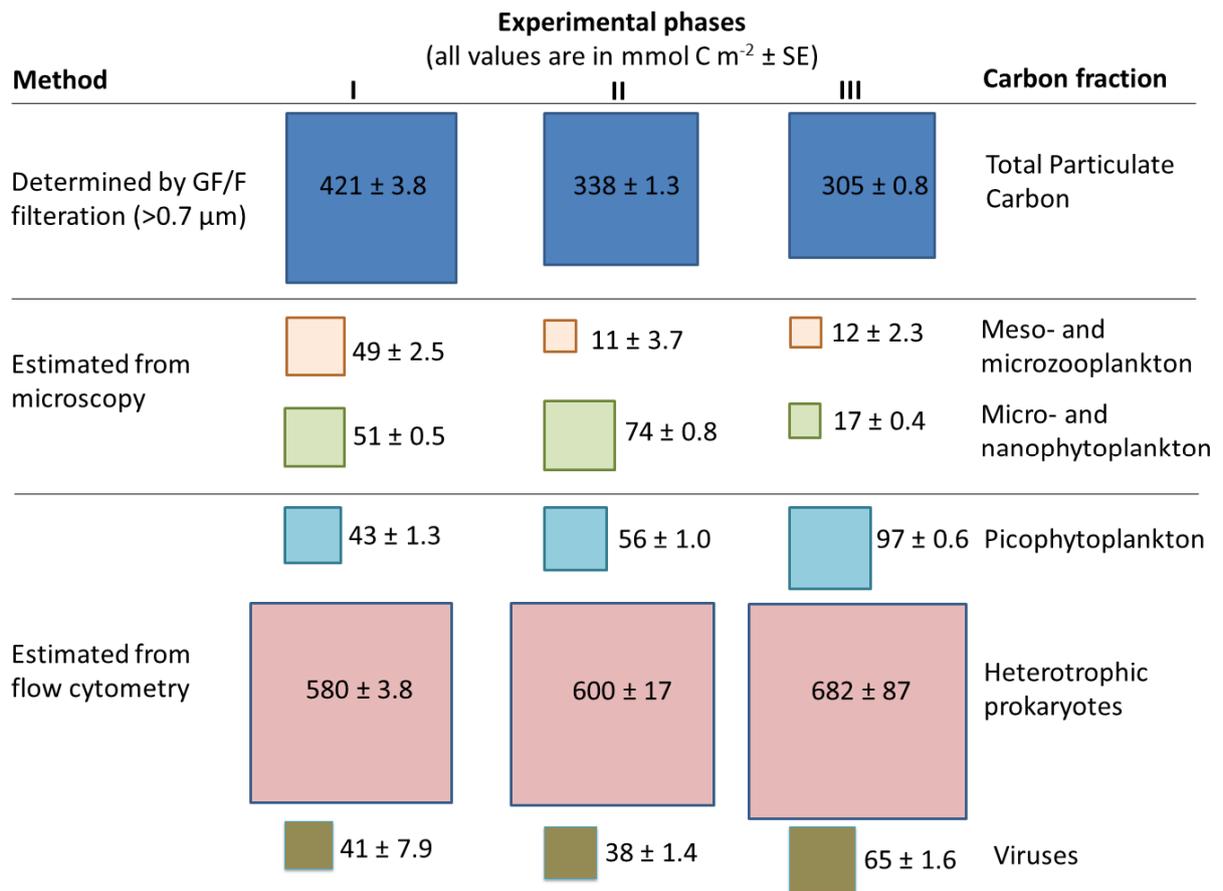
17 Fig 4. Standing stocks of total particulate carbon (TPC) and dissolved carbon (DOC) at the
18 last day of the experiment (t43), plus the sum of exported TPC throughout the experiment; all
19 values are in $\text{mmol C m}^{-2} \pm \text{SE}$ (n = 2). The values are averages of the two controls (M1 and
20 M5) and the two highest CO_2 treatments (M3 and M8). Red circles indicate statistically
21 significant higher standing stocks in the high CO_2 treatments (further details in text). The size
22 of the boxes indicates the relative size of the carbon standing stocks and export.

23 Fig 5. Average carbon standing stocks and flow in the control mesocosms (M1 + M5) and
24 high CO_2 mesocosms (M3 + M8) during the three phases of the experiment. All carbon
25 stocks (squares): dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), total particulate carbon (TPC) and
26 dissolved organic carbon (DOC), are average from the start of the period in $\text{mmol C m}^{-2} \pm \text{SE}$
27 (n = 2). Fluxes (arrows) and net changes (Δ) are averages for the whole phase in mmol C m^{-2}
28 $\text{d}^{-1} \pm \text{SE}$ (n = 2). Black, solid arrows indicated measured fluxes (Tables 1-3): total respiration
29 (TR), bacterial production (BP), exported TPC (EXP_{TPC}). Grey, dashed arrows are estimated
30 by closing the budget: gross primary production (GPP) using equations 7 and 8; DOC
31 production (DOC_{prod}) using equations 9 and 10. Bacterial respiration was calculated using

1 equation 10 and is a share of TR (indicated by the parenthesis). Aggregation was assumed to
2 equal BP. Red circles indicate statistically higher values compared with the other CO₂
3 treatment (p < 0.05, tests presented in the primary papers described in section 2.2.).- The size
4 of the boxes indicates the relative size of the carbon standing stocks.

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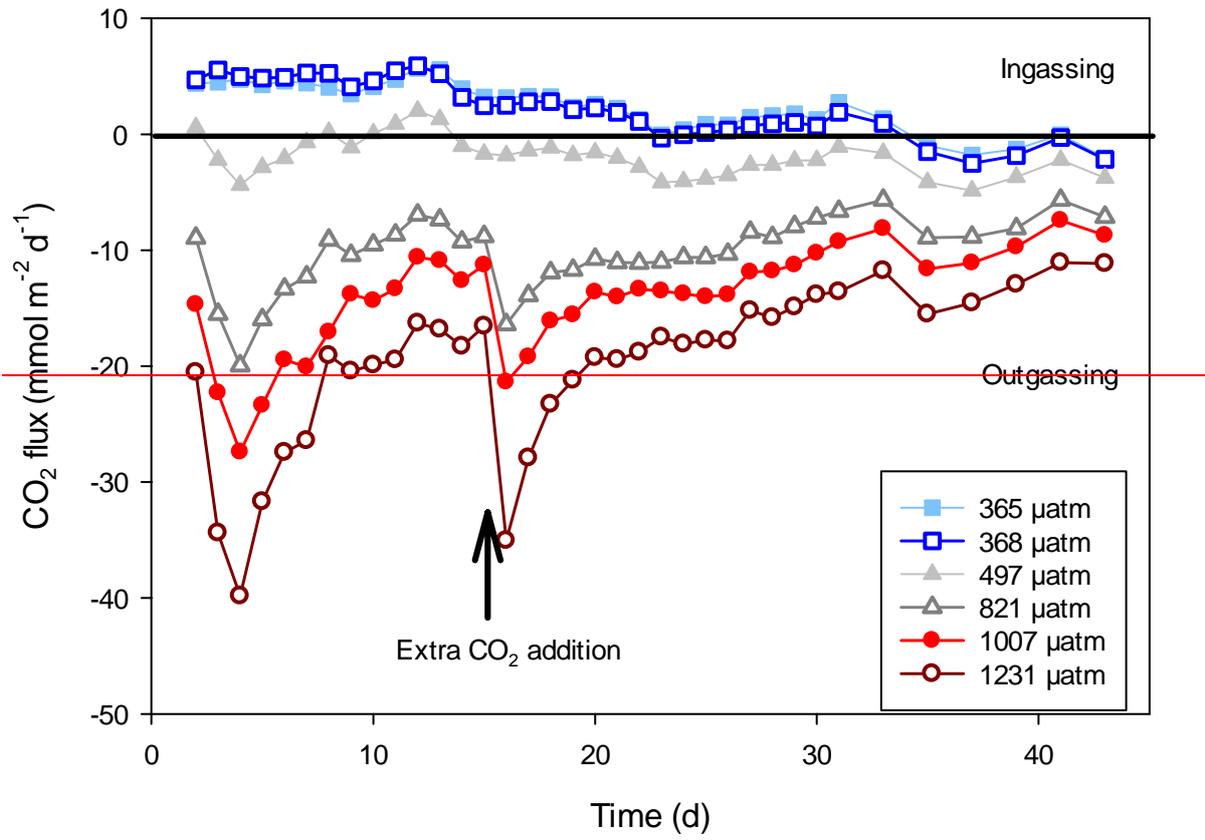


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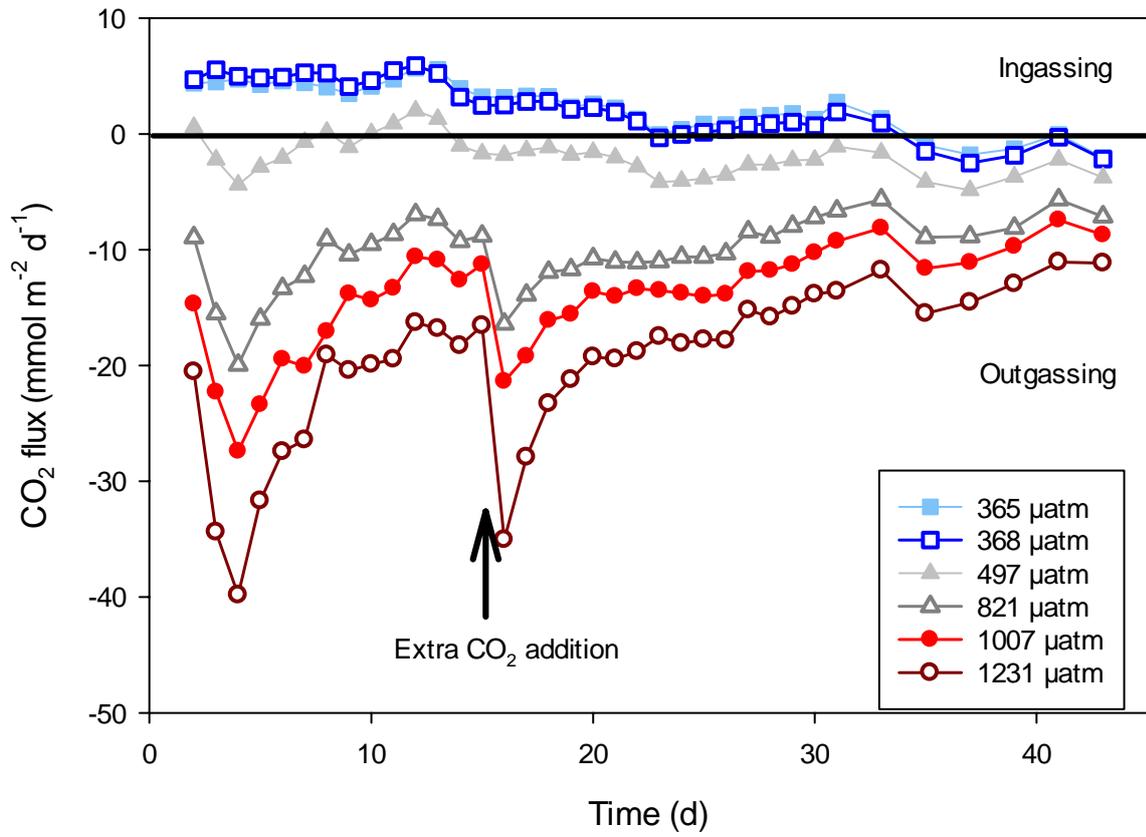
2 **Fig 1**

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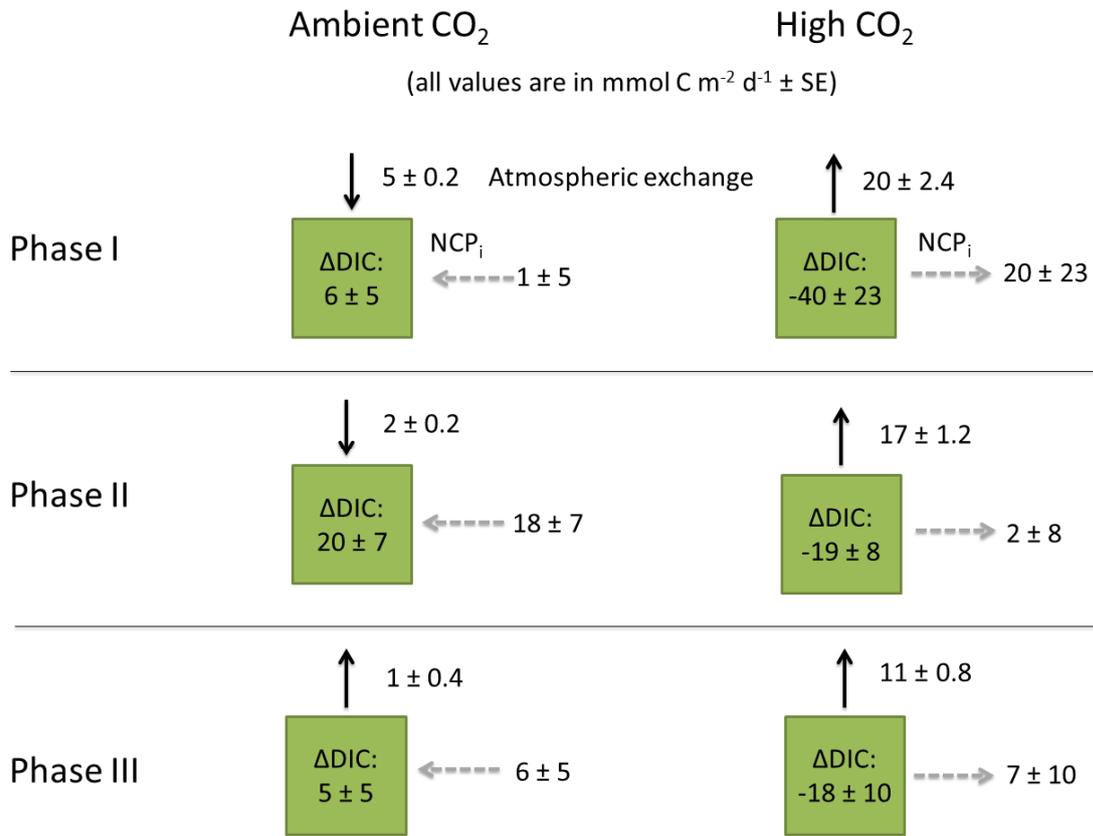
2 **Fig 2**

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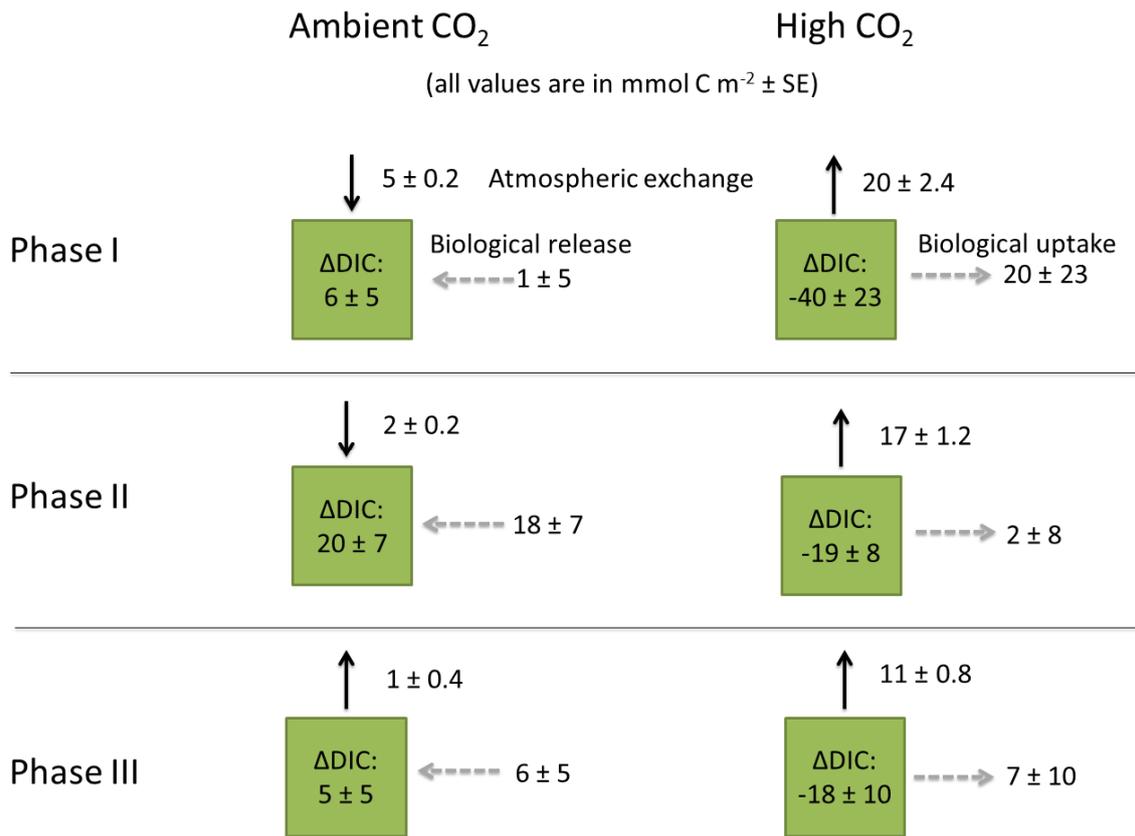
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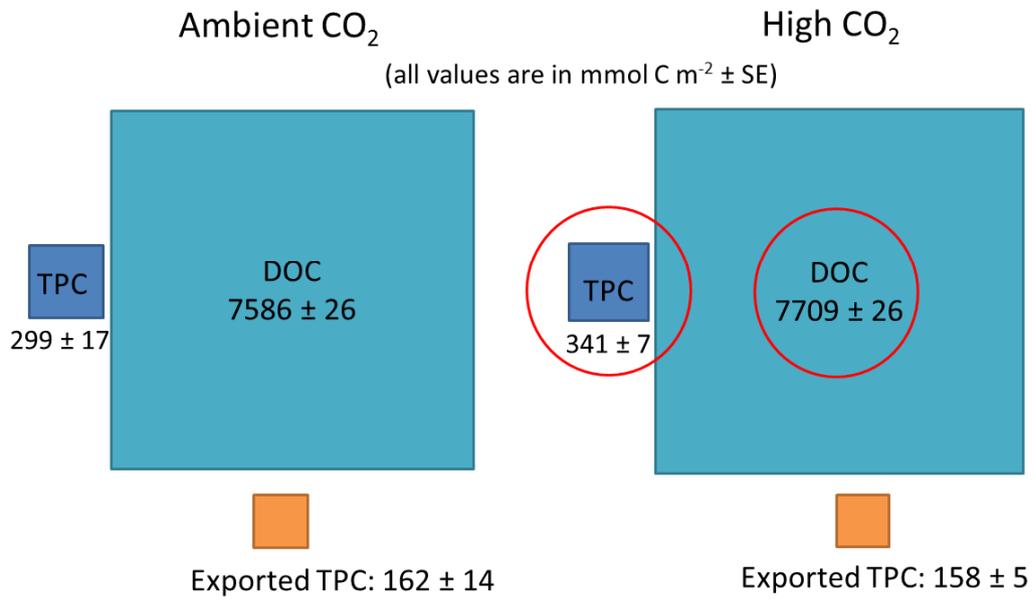
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Fig 3

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3 **Fig 4**

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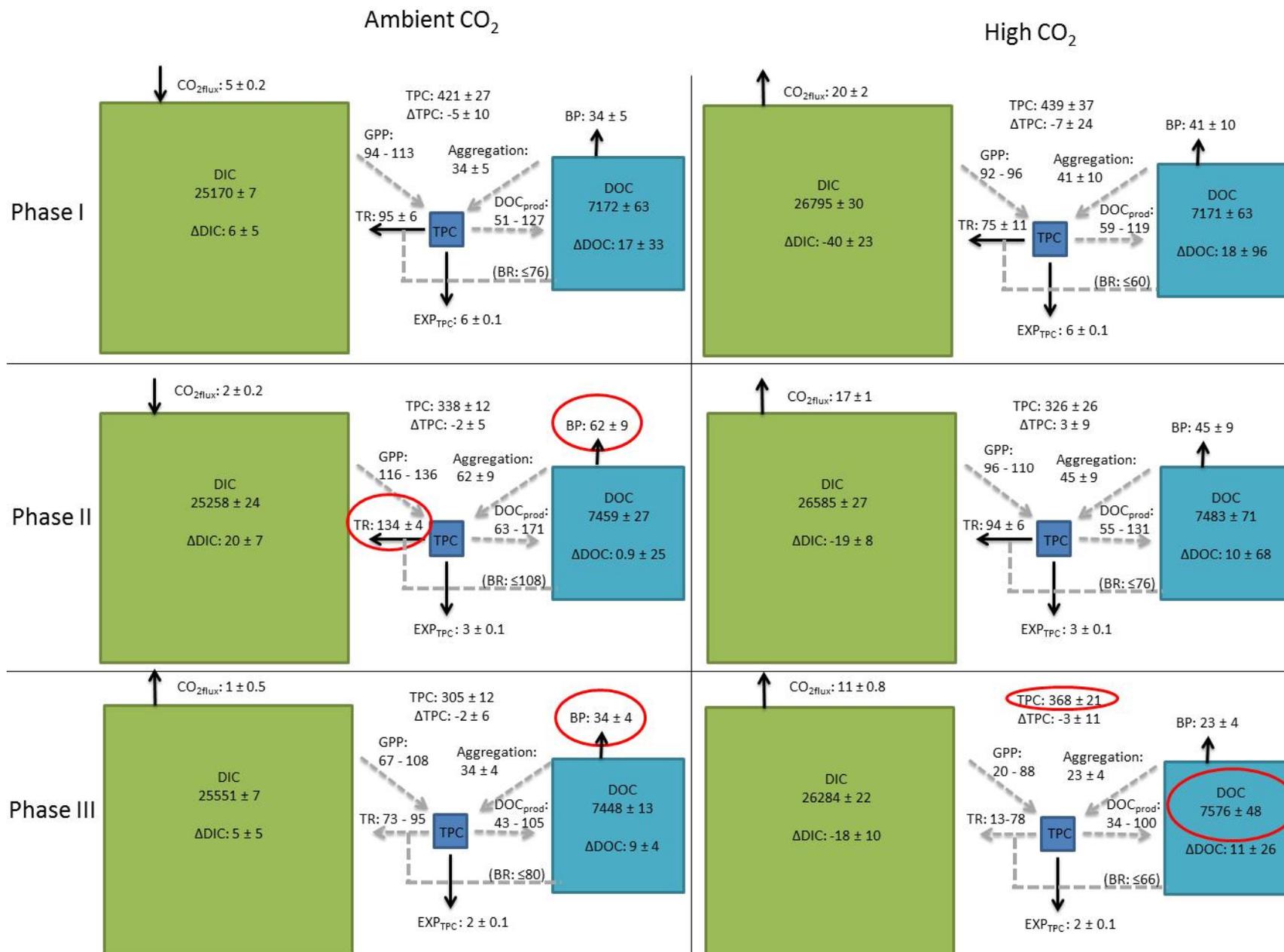


Fig 5