

## **Responses to Reviewer's Comments**

Hartman *et al.*, Biogeochemical variations at the Porcupine Abyssal Plain sustained observatory (PAP-SO) in the northeast Atlantic Ocean

We would like to thank both reviewers and for their positive and constructive review of our manuscript. Here we address each comment, and list additional changes/updates that were made to the manuscript. References used within the responses have been listed at the end of each section.

The changes outlined in the document have been incorporated into to the revised paper.

### **Responses to Reviewer 1 Comments**

#### **Reviewer specific comments**

- 1) The MLD is calculated using density criteria, while in Hartman et al., (2012) temperature criteria is used. I would like to see arguments for the different choices and possible differences in the calculated MLD.**

The reviewer refers to an earlier paper where MLD was calculated using a temperature difference (in that paper the conclusion was that the new production estimates decreased from 2003 to 2005 irrespective of the two different MLD criteria used). In the current paper we followed the method of Holte and Talley (2009) by using their algorithm to calculate the MLD based on density difference. "Before deciding on a MLD definition an inter-comparison of many definitions commonly used in the literature was done such as density differences, temperature differences and density gradients (*Kara et al. 2000; Thomson and Fine 2003; Montegut et al. 2004*). A subset of the global density profiles calculated from the gridded temperature and salinity fields was use to compare the different methods. The depth of the mixed layer was estimated through visual inspection of over 3000 profiles (following a similar approach used by Fiedler (2010)). The Holte and Talley (2009) density difference algorithm gave the closest match with the visually estimated MLD (RMSD 29.38 m)." This has been added to the method section & the appropriate references added.

**2) There is a mix between paragraphs which refer to both time periods and paragraphs that deal with one time period eg: page 12425, line 8-13. \*\*\***

We have tidied up the results section by dealing with the earlier then the later period for each variable, and it should now be much clearer (see text).

**3) What about the Redfield ratio for the earlier time period? The paragraph refers to Fig4 and the actual time period should be stated in the figure text.**

The Redfield ratio for the earlier time period was dealt with by Kortzinger et al., 2008. We acknowledge that the figure legend could be clearer and this has been changed to reflect the time period covered.

**4) At p.12425 (last paragraph) it is pointed out that wind speed peaks before the peak in nitrate and pCO<sub>2</sub>. This is difficult to see since the figures consist of data from two time periods. The effect could be illustrated by adding a symbol or separate figure.**

As it is so unclear in the weekly data presented we have removed this comment from the text.

**5) In the same paragraph the average wind speed is mentioned is this the annual average, please clarify?**

This is the annual average and has been clarified in the text.

**6) The manuscript is lacking in a discussion of error estimates. The reader doesn't get an idea of precision in nitrate, chl or pCO<sub>2</sub> measurements. Some error estimates are mentioned in the conclusion paragraph but the authors should elaborate more around these values. Also the error introduced by calculating Ct and At should be briefly mentioned.**

We have put precision and uncertainty estimates for each measurements and calculated variables into the method section. Specifically:

For nitrate data: "Nitrate concentration measurements were initially made using wet chemical NAS Nitrate Analysers (EnviroTech LLC, USA) precision 0.2  $\mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$ , as described in Hydes et al. (2000) with twice daily sampling frequency and internal calibration as described by Hartman et al. (2010). From 2010 additional higher frequency inorganic nitrate

measurements were made using UV detection methods (ISUS, Satlantic), precision  $1 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$ ."

For Chl data: "The quoted precision for the fluorometers is 0.04% and the text has been changed. We have also noted that the fluorescence output can only provide an approximation of chlorophyll a. The fluorescence/chlorophyll a calibration ratio changes throughout the year, due to variations in the phytoplankton species composition."

For  $p\text{CO}_2$  data: "Although measured by different instruments, the two  $p(\text{CO}_2)$  data sets were calibrated in a similar way to make them comparable: the sensor outputs were calibrated against  $p(\text{CO}_2)$  values calculated from dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and total alkalinity (TA) from discrete samples taken at the mooring site during deployment/recovery cruises; and plausibility check were made with underway  $p(\text{CO}_2)$  measurements around the PAP site (see below). The 2003-2005 data were previously published (see Körtzinger et al., 2008 for details) with a precision of  $1 \mu\text{atm}$  and an accuracy estimated as 6-10  $\mu\text{atm}$ . The 2010-2012 data have a similar precision ( $1 \mu\text{atm}$ ) and accuracy (6  $\mu\text{atm}$ ). "

For calculated TA: "The TA was calculated from Argo temperature and salinity (30 m), following the relationship for the North Atlantic developed by Lee et al. (2006) with a uncertainty of  $\pm 6.4 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$  (Lee et al., 2006)."

For calculated DIC: "Using TA and  $p(\text{CO}_2)$  to calculate DIC introduces an error in the order of  $6 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ ".

**7) When the air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux is discussed it is claimed that the long term wind speed values have increased and high wind events are earlier in the year. Please add relevant references.**

There are signs that the wind speed is increasing and the intensity of storms is predicted to increase (Knutson et al., 2012). We have added a reference that deals with this and we have reworded the text accordingly.

### **Technical corrections**

#### **1) Changes in references p.12422 Nightingale & p12422 weiss**

Both now changed, thank you.

#### **2) Modification to text to include figure numbers as follows**

These have all been changed:

**p12427 'start of the 2011/2012 winter (Fig. 5b) coinciding with an earlier increase...'**

**p12427 'mixing (Fig. 3b)....'**

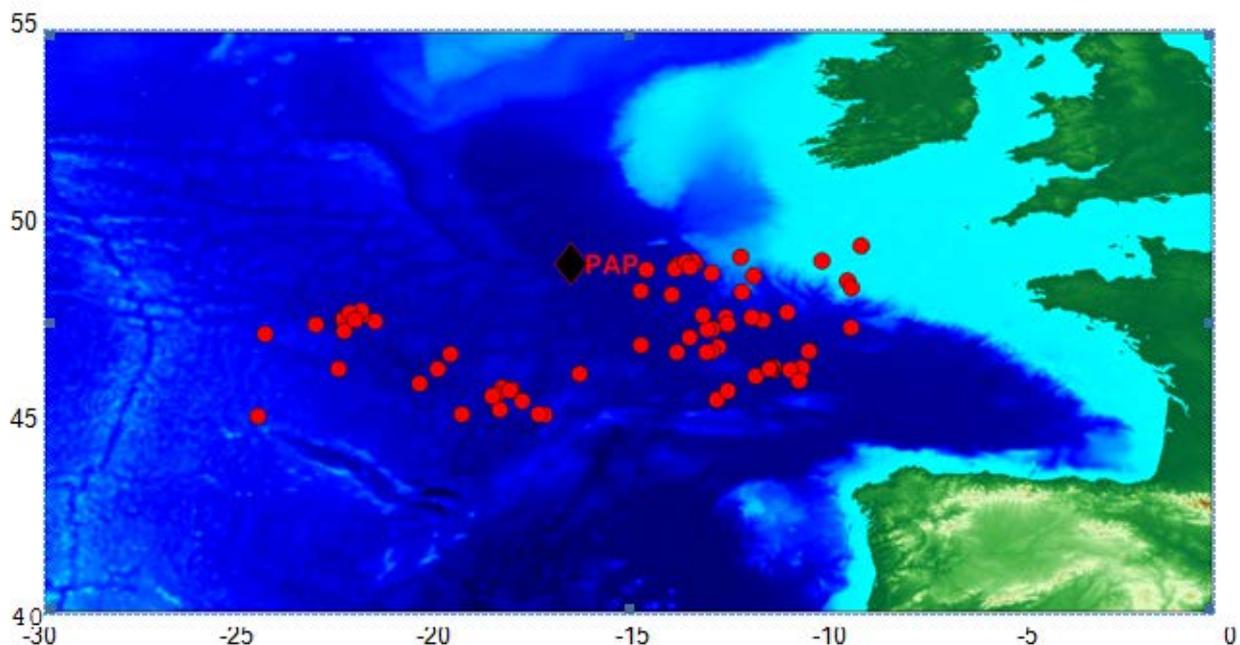
**p12427 ' ... low seawater pCO<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 2a) and high wind speed (Fig. 5b)....'**

**3) p12430 'additional 1m measurements of pCO<sub>2</sub>...' please rewrite as sentence is not understandable**

The sentence has been clarified to 'From 2013 additional measurements of p(CO<sub>2</sub>) will be made at the site, at the shallower depth of 1 m, and should further improve the SOO comparison'.

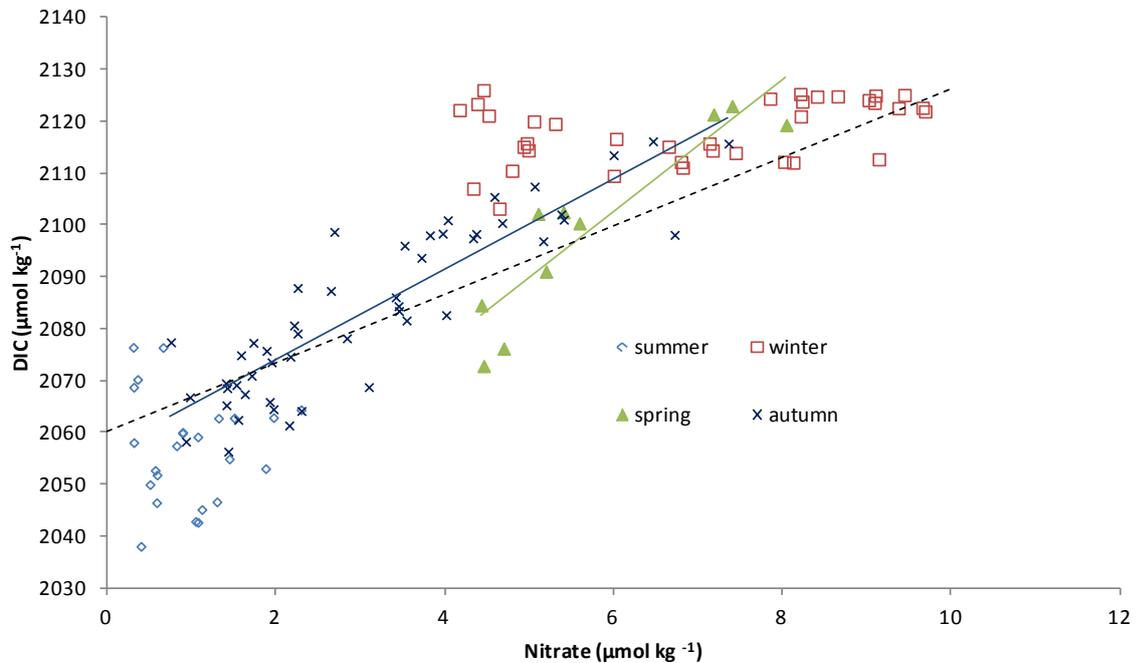
**4) Reviewer comment: re p12435 Fig 1. It would be preferable to include the general circulation pattern in this figure.**

As this is only a small part of the North Atlantic it doesn't seem appropriate to draw arrows on to represent the circulation. We propose that adding the bathymetry is more useful as you can clearly see the shelf break and ridge. We hope that this is satisfactory for the reviewer as an improvement on the previous Fig. 1?



5) Fig.4 has to be made clearer eg: use 'spring' in the figure with 'april-June' in the legend. Consider putting rates in the text and not the figure.

We have changed figure 4 to reflect both aspects of the reviewers comments and believe that it is now much clearer



Fiedler, P.C. (2010). "Comparison of objective descriptions of the thermocline." *Limnology and Oceanography-Methods* **8**: 313-325.

Kara, A.B., P.A. Rochford and H.E. Hurlburt (2000). "An optimal definition for ocean mixed layer depth." *Journal of Geophysical Research-Oceans* **105**(C7): 16803-16821.

Knutson, T.R. McBride, J.L. Chan, J. Emanuel, K. Holland, G. Landsea, C. Held, I. Kossin, J.P. Srivastava, A.K. Sugi, M. 2010. Tropical cyclones and climate change. *Nature Geoscience*. 3. 157-163

Montegut, C.D., G. Madec, A.S. Fischer, A. Lazar and D. Iudicone (2004). "Mixed layer depth over the global ocean: An examination of profile data and a profile-based climatology." *Journal of Geophysical Research-Oceans* **109**(C12): 20.

Thomson, R.E. and I.V. Fine (2003). "Estimating Mixed Layer Depth from Oceanic Profile Data." *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology* **20**(2): 319-329.

## Responses to Reviewer 2 Comments

### Re: Reviewer specific comments

- 1) Some information necessary to assess the quality of the dataset are missing. In general uncertainty estimates for measured and calculated data, especially when used for TA & flux.**

As with our reply to reviewer 1 we have put precision and uncertainty estimates for each measurements and calculated variables into the method section. Specifically:

For nitrate data: "Nitrate concentration measurements were initially made using wet chemical NAS Nitrate Analysers (EnviroTech LLC, USA) precision  $0.2 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$ , as described in Hydes et al. (2000) with twice daily sampling frequency and internal calibration as described by Hartman et al. (2010). From 2010 additional higher frequency inorganic nitrate measurements were made using UV detection methods (ISUS, Satlantic), precision  $1 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$ ."

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For  $p\text{CO}_2$  data: "Although measured by different instruments, the two  $p(\text{CO}_2)$  data sets were calibrated in a similar way to make them comparable: the sensor outputs were calibrated against  $p(\text{CO}_2)$  values calculated from dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and total alkalinity (TA) from discrete samples taken at the mooring site during deployment/recovery cruises; and plausibility check were made with underway  $p(\text{CO}_2)$  measurements around the PAP site (see below). The 2003-2005 data were previously published (see Körtzinger et al., 2008 for details) with a precision of  $1 \mu\text{atm}$  and an accuracy estimated as 6-10  $\mu\text{atm}$ . The 2010-2012 data have a similar precision ( $1 \mu\text{atm}$ ) and accuracy (6  $\mu\text{atm}$ ). "

For calculated TA: "The TA was calculated from Argo temperature and salinity (30 m), following the relationship for the North Atlantic developed by Lee et al. (2006) with a

uncertainty of  $\pm 6.4 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$  (Lee et al., 2006)."

For calculated DIC: "Using TA and  $p(\text{CO}_2)$  to calculate DIC introduces an error in the order of  $6 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ ".

**2) The dataset could have been used to calculate budgets**

We acknowledge that this is a strength of the dataset and will be done in further work but it was not our intention to address this in the paper.

**3) An estimate of advection could be given**

Hartman et al 2010 showed the importance of advection at the site but we have not calculated the extent of this. It is important to acknowledge this in the discussion of results and we have strengthened the discussion to reflect this.

**4) Be consistent with affiliations**

We have added a city when there are multiple sites (eg: Southampton version of NOC to distinguish it from Liverpool). Where the site is unambiguous we have not mentioned the city (eg: University of Exeter or UEA). The citation list has been further modified to put the affiliations in the correct numerical order.

**5) Remove mention of Gas tension device if not used.**

Thank you we have now removed reference to this device.

**6) There is no quantitative comparison with Kortzinger 2008 data.**

The early data was reproduced here - we had previously reported it in Kortzinger 2008 so the whole paper is a comparison of that early time period with more recent data. For most variables such as temperature, MLD, DIC and wind speed, our 2010-2012 data show similar seasonality when compared with the Kortzinger 2008 data (as shown in Fig. 2, 3, 5). However, when we are discussing inter-annual variability, we not only qualitatively compare the seasonal trends but also quantitatively compare the winter maximum nitrate concentration, air-sea  $\text{CO}_2$  flux, annual mean wind speed and  $p\text{CO}_2$  values (See Discussion section).

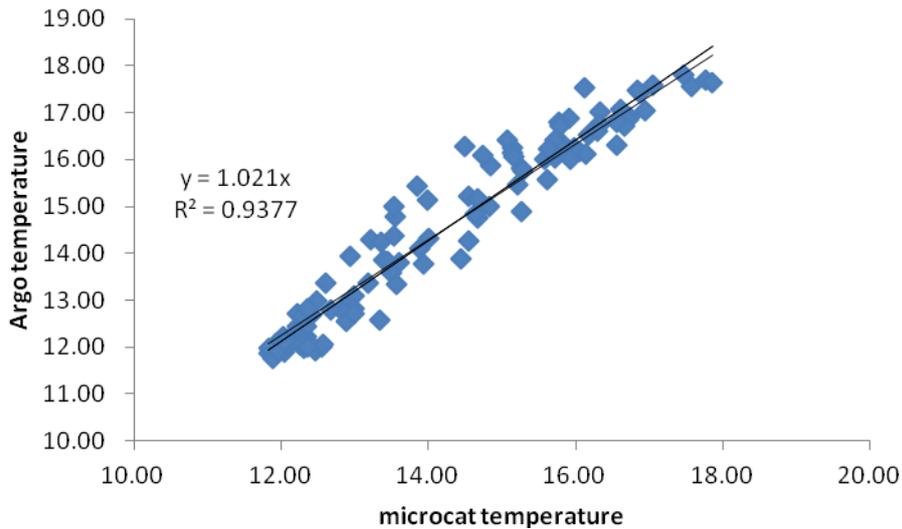
**7) Concerns with using factory calibrations especially with respect to IR instrument drift and temperature dependence**

We have clarified this in the methodology. "For each instrument the manufacturer's calibration was checked at the start of each deployment and instrument drift was corrected using a second calibration check on recovery of the instruments". For  $p\text{CO}_2$  measurement: "Twice daily  $p(\text{CO}_2)$  measurements, from 2010 to 2012, were made using a membrane-based PRO-CO<sub>2</sub> sensor (Pro-Oceanus, Canada), which uses an infrared detector and is internally calibrated through an auto-zero calibration function (Jiang et al., 2014). Note that measurement error of early version of PRO-CO<sub>2</sub> sensor during the deployment, induced by the fluctuation of detector cell temperature, was identified and corrected (see Jiang et al., 2014 for further details)". "The sensor outputs were calibrated against  $p(\text{CO}_2)$  values calculated from dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and total alkalinity (TA) from discrete samples taken at the mooring site during deployment/recovery cruises; and plausibility check were made with underway  $p(\text{CO}_2)$  measurements around the PAP site".

**8) Show how ARGO and microcat compare, especially as the box contains shelf and open ocean water**

I am not sure how to clarify this further as we stated in the text that the shelf edge data were excluded: 'To obtain a continuous seasonal description, a large region was selected (45° N to 52° N and 26.08° W to 8.92° W, excluding the shelf area)'.

Also stated in the text was the results of the ARGO comparison with *in situ* 30 m microcat data and our decision not to show this. 'n=112, comparison not shown'. We don't think a plot of this comparison (supplementary figure a below) adds to the interpretation.



**9) Why didn't the authors use SOCAT?**

When we looked at SOCAT data for the region the only data set that showed (for the time periods covered here) was the UEA SOO data. As we are also involved in collecting salinity and nutrient data on this line we didn't include further data from SOCAT as it would not add to the comparison.

**10) Use parenthesis for pCO<sub>2</sub>sea and pCO<sub>2</sub>air**

Thank you we have amended this.

**11) Delete line 21 'the partial pressure of carbon dioxide' as already introduced**

Thank you we have amended this

**12) How good is the agreement between VOS and PAP-SO pCO<sub>2</sub> data?**

As the VOS (SOO) data were not collected at the same frequency with the PAP-SO measurements and there are rarely times when the data points coincide, we didn't directly compare the agreement between VOS and PAP-SO pCO<sub>2</sub> data. Instead, the VOS data is used as a plausibility check for the calibrated sensor outputs and it fill the gap where the PAP-SO data are not available.

**13) Add parenthesis to 2010 citation 1.13**

Thank you we have amended this

**14) Use PAP-SO instead of ‘sustained observatory..’**

Likewise, we have amended this

**15) Add uncertainty estimates p. 12425.1.10**

Uncertainty estimates have been added by looking at the change of ratio between max & min lines of best fit..

**16) Correct DIC for air-sea flux**

We have now corrected the DIC for air-sea flux.

**17) P12428, l.11 the NAO was already introduced**

This is not a reintroduction of the NAO and has been left unamended. The initial introduction was to Hurrell dataset, in the discussion we point out the importance of the winter index to the MLD.

**18) Try to estimate advection p.12429, l.3-5**

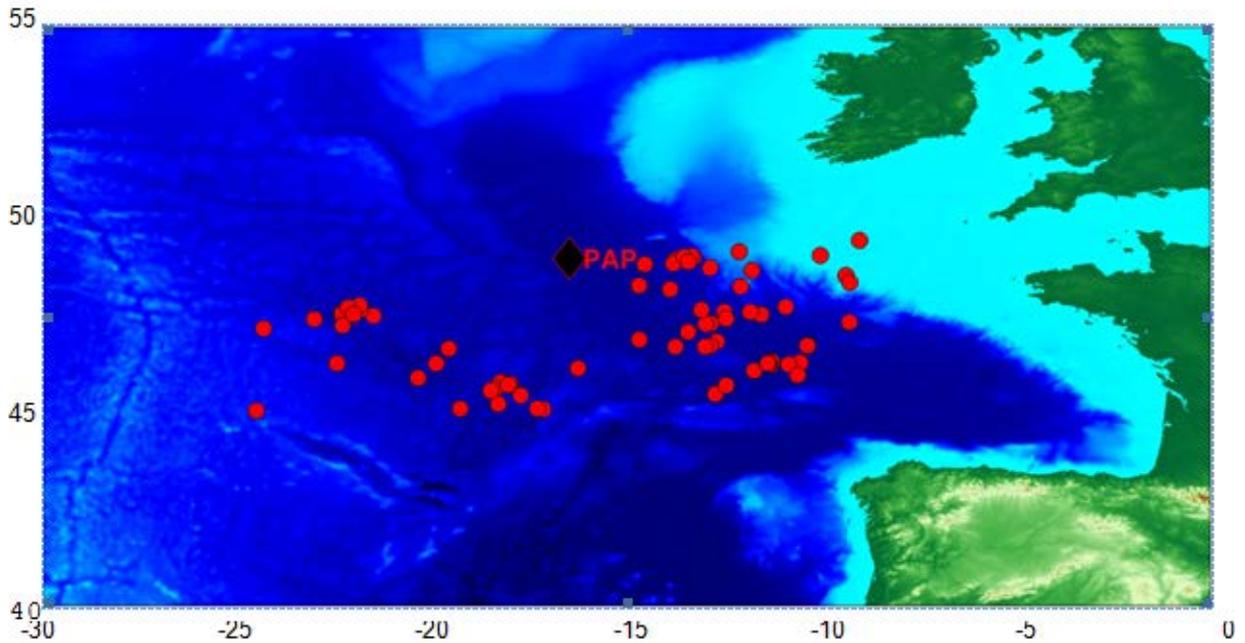
As in comment 3 Hartman et al 2010 showed the importance of advection at the site but we have not calculated the extent of this for later data as it was not the focus of the paper (this will be investigated in a further paper by H.Frigstad). However, it is important to acknowledge advection in the discussion of results and we have strengthened the discussion to reflect this.

**19) Correct page numbers on l.16, p.12432 to 264-280**

Thank you, we have amended this

**20) Add a contour line for the shelf break**

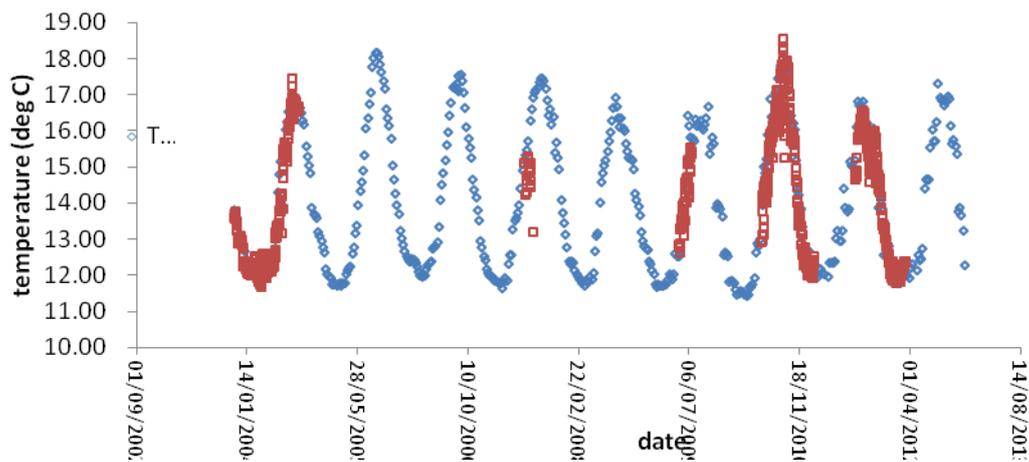
Please see response to reviewer 1 who had a similar comment. Figure 1 has been amended to show the shelf break. We hope that this is satisfactory for the reviewer as an improvement on the previous Fig. 1?



21) Fig.2 labels are hard to read. Keep legend consistent (no legend in panel a)

Thank you we have amended this by going up one font size.

22) Fig 3 add Microcat temperature and rephrase the last part of the figure caption



The microcat data have not been added. As you can see from supplementary figure b above they are in agreement with Argo data and as stated in comment 8 above we decided to use ARGO data (away from the shelf) in preference as the dataset was more complete. We have rephrased the caption as follows: ‘Figure 3. Data from 2003–2005 (blue circles) and 2010–2012 (red diamonds) with vertical lines to represent the start of each year showing: (a) Argo temperature data from 30 m depth around the PAP-SO; (b) monthly mixed layer depth (MLD) data; (c) calculations of weekly dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) concentrations.’

**Fig.4 increase font size. Typo in caption (concentration). Add ‘of’ before 6.6 in last line. Make Redfield dashed line more visible.**

Figure 4 has been amended to reflect all of the above and the DIC (corrected for air-sea flux has been used).

**23) Fig. 5. Increase font size. Keep legend consistent with no repetition in caption.**

Figure 5 has been amended to reflect all of the above.