

Final submission of “Impact of ocean acidification on Arctic phytoplankton blooms and dimethylsulfide concentration under simulated ice-free and under-ice conditions” by Rachel Hussherr et al.

I. Comments from referees and associated author’s response

(Author’s responses to the referees’ comments are written in blue)

Anonymous Referee #1

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Summary

Hussherr et al. present an interesting and timely study that addresses the lack of data we have on the response of DMS concentrations in Arctic waters to ocean acidification. Specifically, the paper presents the results of a 9 day experiment in which seawater was incubated in 10 L gas tight bags under a range of pH/pCO₂ treatments, from pHT 7.9 – pHT 7.2, representing a range from ‘present day’ to end of century to extreme far future values. Furthermore, the authors investigated the role of light, dividing the bags into low light and high light treatments, in order to simulate ice free and under ice conditions. The pH gradient method is an established and well-used technique, most useful when the possibility of replication is limited. Acidification was performed using the addition of strong acid and base, again another established technique. Samples for a range of parameters were taken on a regular basis over the 9 day experiment. Within 3 days of the start of the incubation period, a bloom initiated in all bags, leading to an increase in phytoplankton biomass and DMS/DMSP concentrations – differences in the response were attributed to the pH treatments, with no clear observed effect of light. DMS concentrations significantly decreased with decreasing pH, which is in agreement with the one other previous

study from Arctic waters (Archer et al. 2013), leading to the conclusion that DMS concentrations during Arctic blooms may be lower in the future, with possible implications for the Arctic climate. The paper is generally well written and logically structured. I have identified a number of minor issues that the authors should address, relating to the methods and the bloom dynamics. Assuming the authors make the suggested changes, this paper would be suitable for publication in Biogeosciences.

In the first place, the authors wish to thank the referee for the positive and constructive comments. Every comment made has been carefully considered and the manuscript has been amended/modified when necessary by addressing each point one-by-one.

Key points

1. Methods: L128: the authors state they ‘poured’ seawater into the gas-tight bags. Through a luer valve? Some clarity is needed as to their exact methods. Pouring is not recommended when handling gas sensitive samples as the gas phase equilibrium may be altered. Notwithstanding the difficulty in pouring anything through a luer valve! Some more detailed explanation is required.

The water was transferred by gravity from the Niskin bottle to the gas-tight bags using a Teflon tube connected between the output valve of the Niskin bottle and the luer-valve of the bag.

This information has been added to the text.

L137 - New sentence: “After initial collection, water was gravity filtered through a 200 µm Nitex mesh, in order to remove large grazers, and transferred to 12 gas-tight 10-L bags (HyClone Labtainer©, Thermo Scientific) using a Teflon tube linking the output valve of the Niskin bottle and the luer-valve of the bag.”

L131: Samples were incubated at 4.3 ± 1.6 °C. This seems warm for experiments that are attempting to simulate ‘under ice’ conditions. Can the authors provide some justification/ further explanation?

This is a good point. We are aware that the experimental temperature did not perfectly reproduce the conditions prevailing under the ice. Our deck incubator was constantly flushed with surface

water during the cruise and we had no control over the temperature of the water. However, all HL and LL bags were in the same incubator, hence submitted to the same temperature.

The following sentence was added to address this issue:

L142 – 145: “Since our deck incubator was cooled with circulating surface water, we had no control on the temperature during the incubation (mean temperature of 4.3 ± 1.6 °C over the 9-day experiment). However, all bags were in the same incubator, hence submitted to the same temperature.”

2. What stimulated the bloom in the bags? Were the team expecting a bloom to occur in the way it did in the bags? Did a bloom also develop in the sampled water simultaneously (i.e. was this a natural or artificial bloom?)? Many questions. . .therefore some more discussion would be useful to the reader. After all, without such a nice bloom, it is unlikely a DMS(P) response would have been observed. L492: the authors talk about their findings in the context of the Arctic spring phytoplankton bloom – but actually this experiment sampled waters in August, which must qualify as late summer for the Arctic. So how comparable were the starting conditions to the spring bloom?

This is also a very good point that we are now addressing in the revised version of the manuscript. Since the cruise took place after the summer bloom in this part of the Arctic, we collected the water just below the nitracline in order to have sufficient nutrients at the beginning of the incubation to support a bloom. The nutrient concentrations at the sampling depth (38 m) corresponded to the concentrations found in the upper mixed layer in Baffin Bay in spring before the seasonal bloom (Tremblay et al. 2002, 2006). The taxonomic composition of the bloom was also similar to the one taking place in spring in this area, with *Chaetoceros* species dominating the assemblage (Von Quillfeldt, 2000). We are thus confident that the bloom that took place in our bags is comparable to the ‘natural’ spring bloom. But we agree that this point should have been made clearer in the paper.

L 132 – 134, new sentence: “Since the cruise took place after the summer bloom in this part of the Arctic, we collected the water just below the nitracline in order to have sufficient nutrients to support a bloom during our incubation”.

L 506 – 509, new sentence: “As the initial concentrations of nutrients measured in our incubation bags were similar to the concentrations found in upper mixed layer waters in early spring before the seasonal bloom in Baffin Bay, we are confident that the bloom that took place in our bags is comparable to the natural spring bloom taking place in these waters (Tremblay et al., 2002, 2006). Furthermore, the dominance of diatoms (...)”

3. Reference to Richier et al. (2014) (Phytoplankton responses and associated carbon cycling during shipboard carbonate chemistry manipulation experiments conducted around Northwest European shelf seas) is lacking and should be included in the discussions. The work of Richier et al. is the most similar to this study in terms of the experimental techniques used. The authors do cite Hopkins & Archer (2014) which was part of the same study, but only in a DMS(P) context. The shipboard incubations of Richier et al. and Hopkins & Archer also need to be addressed in the context of this study in terms of the phytoplankton response.

We are now directly referring to the paper by Richier et al. (2014) in the revised version of the manuscript (see the following responses to the specific comments L 79 – 81 and L 575 – 581).

Specific comments and suggestions

Title: it would be more accurate to say ‘DMS concentrations’, as ‘production’ implies that the work include rate measurements.

As suggested, the title has been changed for “Impact of ocean acidification on Arctic phytoplankton blooms and dimethylsulfide concentrations under simulated ice-free and under-ice conditions”.

L45 – 49: These two sentences are somewhat ambiguous and need further explanation. Why is climate change ‘faster and more important’ in the Arctic? In what respect?

L 50 – 53: The sentence has been modified as follows: “Due to various feedback processes, the air temperature in the Arctic above 64 N has warmed by 1.9 °C between 1981 and 2012, a rate three times higher than the global average (ACIA, 2005, Ford et al., 2015). This phenomenon is known as the Arctic amplification (Cohen et al., 2014).”

L50 – 52: this sentence seems detached and slightly out of context. I see what the authors intend by it. Perhaps they could re-phrase so it says something like: ‘Given that the reduction in extent and thickness of sea ice cover and the acidification of surface waters can potentially impact primary productivity, it is important to consider the associated effects on the production of biogenic climate-active gases. . .’ or similar, just to change the emphasis slightly, and provide an impetus for the work.

L56 – 59: Thank you for the suggestion. The sentence has been changed for: “Given that the reduction in extent and thickness of sea ice cover and the acidification of surface waters can potentially impact primary productivity, it is important to consider the associated effects on the production of biogenic climate-active gases such as dimethylsulfide (DMS) in the Arctic”.

L70 – 75, and throughout: the authors make no mention of Richier et al (2014), a recent and relevant paper that should be cited.

L 79 – 81: Reference to Richier et al. has been added as follow: “(...) but negative impacts of decreasing pH on phytoplankton growth have also been reported and attributed to pH-induced alterations in algal cells physiology, acid-base chemistry, trace metal availability, ion transport, protein functions, and nutrient uptake (Doney et al., 2009; Gao and Campbell, 2014; Richier et al., 2014; Mackay et al., 2015; Thoisen et al., 2015).”

L80: re-word. Suggest: ‘Emissions of DMS thus can. . .’__L83: add ‘atmosphere’ at end of sentence (so reads ‘summer Arctic atmosphere’).

L 88: As suggested “The DMS emission” has been changed for “Emissions of DMS”. L 91: “such as the summer Arctic” has been changed for “such as the summer Arctic atmosphere”.

L97: Not necessary to cite Webb at this point as it is not a review paper. Fine to just cite the references as you specifically mention them later in the paragraph.

L 104: “Several studies have already highlighted the sensitivity of DMS production to decreases in seawater pH (Webb et al., 2015 and references therein)” has been changed for “Several studies have already highlighted the sensitivity of DMS production to decreases in seawater pH.”

L99: although Archer et al. is mentioned later in the paragraph in an Arctic specific context, it

would be appropriate to add it to the listed references here.

L 105 – 108: “The majority of these experimental studies revealed a negative impact of decreasing pH on DMS production (Hopkins et al., 2010; Avgoustidi et al., 2012; Webb et al., 2016)” has been changed for “The majority of these experimental studies revealed a negative impact of decreasing pH on DMS production (Hopkins et al., 2010; Avgoustidi et al., 2012; Archer et al., 2013; Webb et al., 2016)”

L142: ‘submitted’ would be better substituted for ‘exposed’.

L156: “the phytoplankton communities were submitted to a pH gradient and two light regimes” has been changed for “the phytoplankton communities were exposed to a pH gradient and two light regimes.”

L397: should read ‘species’.

L 413: “specie” has been changed to “species”

L403: to improve readability, re-phrase: ‘The sole exception was the LL control mesocosm. . .’

L 419 – 421: “The sole exception was the control microcosm (pH_T of 8.1) exposed to LL conditions” has been changed to “The sole exception was the LL control microcosm (pH_T of 8.1)”.

L452: Rather than staying ‘high pH_T’, it would be useful to state the range of pH over which the response was observed.

L 467 – 469: “the mean DMSP_T concentration decreased with increasing proton concentration, but only under the HL treatment at high pH_T” has been changed to “the mean DMSP_T concentration decreased with increasing proton concentration but only under the HL treatment between pH_T 8.1 – 7.6”.

L513 – 517: this long sentence needs some re-wording as it is currently hard to follow and the English is poor in places.

L 532 – 536:

Old sentence: “During our experiment, the sharp increase in DMSP_T and DMS coincided with the exhaustion of NO_3^- in most of the microcosms (Fig. 3a, b). Despite NO_3^- concentration still ranged between 0.9 and 2.6 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ at day T6 in the microcosms at lowest pH (i.e. 7.4 and 7.2), the observed peak in DMSP_T concentration in those bags was of lower magnitude, reaching approximately 30 nmol L^{-1} at T6 (in contrast with other microcosms, where DMSP_T reached values around 100 nmol L^{-1} that day)”.

New sentence: “During our experiment, the sharp increase in DMSP_T and DMS coincided with the exhaustion of NO_3^- , with the exception of the microcosms at pH 7.4 and 7.2 under both lightregimes (Fig. 3a, b). At those pH, the increase of DMSP_T between T5 and T6 was of lower magnitude compared to the other microcosms and NO_3^- concentrations between 0.9 and 2.6 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ were still measured in the bags at T6 (Fig. 7a, b).”

L524: should read ‘switched’.

L 543: “switch” has been changed to “switched”.

L527 – 528: needs re-wording. Suggest: ‘These results also suggest that diatoms could have more difficulty in efficiently taking up/assimilating. . .’

L 546 – 547: “These results also suggest that diatoms could have more difficulty to efficiently take up/ assimilate NO_3^- at lower pH” has been change to “These results also suggest that diatoms could have more difficulty in efficiently taking up/ assimilating NO_3^- at lower pH”.

Section 4.2: some discussion of the results in comparison to the findings of Richier et al. would be useful, as the two studies use very similar techniques – yet yield quite contrasting responses.

The following sentences were added in section 4.2:

L 575 - 581: “In contrast to our study, Richier et al. (2014) reported a negative impact of ocean acidification not only on nanophytoplankton but on picophytoplankton as well during a microcosm experiment using a similar methodology. In this study conducted with water from the

northwest European shelf, lowering the pH resulted in a decrease in the abundance (cell number) and biomass (Chl *a*) of phytoplankton < 10 µm. These contrasting results could reflect differences in the initial picophytoplankton community composition and possible species-specific physiological response to OA. By contrast, (...)"

L608 – 610: Archer et al (2013) and Hopkins and Archer (2014) report rate measurements – so this statement is not correct, and their findings should be included in the discussion.

L 640: The sentence “Unfortunately, these hypotheses remain to be confirmed, given the lack of DMS production and degradation rate measurements.” was deleted.

L 642 - 646: Was added to the discussion: “Results from the few previous studies where gross rate measurements were performed show no consistent effect of a decrease in pH on neither DMSP synthesis nor DMS consumption (Archer et al. 2013, Hopkins and Archer 2014). Despite the lack of rate measurements in our study, the dominance of diatoms, an algal group lacking DMSP lyase enzymes, suggests that bacteria may have played a critical role in the observed DMS dynamics.”

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., doi:10.5194/bg-2016-501, 2016.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The manuscript provides a good account of the potential effects on OA of Baffin Bay seawater in the Arctic Ocean and its affect on various variables such as Chl *a*, pH, nutrients, DMSPt and DMS etc., The manuscript is well presented and figures and tables are very clearly produced. Significant changes have been highlighted in the 10 day incubation experiment. Whilst the authors state that the rapid change in pH investigated over 10 days is not representative of the gradual OA that is taking place their study does reflect potential extreme responses. However, some further acknowledgement of this should be made in the discussion and in particular acknowledge that organisms do adapt to changes which may well affect the validity of some the

discussion and conclusions.

We wish to thank the referee for his positive remarks.

In response to the comment regarding the capacity of the organisms to acclimate to changes in pH, we added the following sentence:

L 628 – 634, new sentence: “However, it is important to keep in mind that our short-term experiment precludes any acclimation of the algae to their new environment, something that is likely to take place in nature with a more gradual change in pH. In that regard, two studies have highlighted the acclimation capacity/evolutionary adaptation of the strong DMS(P) producer *Emiliana Huxleyi* to decreases in pH (Lohbeck et al., 2012; 2014). More studies are needed to fully assess how the acclimation capacity of phytoplankton will combine with short-term physiological responses to environmental stressors to shape future DMS emissions and climate.”

L 730 – 731, the following passage was added in the conclusion: “...although our results do not account for the acclimation/evolutionary adaptation potential of natural microbial communities.”

The abstract should contain more of the important findings mentioned in the text. Go through and highlight these changes in discussion and make sure they are included in the abstract.

This is a good point. The following sentences were added to the abstract:

- L 32 – 35: “During our experiment, a sharp increase in DMSP_T and DMS concentrations

coincided with the exhaustion of NO⁻ in most of the microcosms, suggesting that the nutrient 3 stress stimulated DMS(P) synthesis by the diatom community.”

- L 36 – 37: “The pH-induced decreases in Chl *a* concentration suggest a decrease in net carbon fixation by diatoms under low pH conditions.”

The introduction is well stated although there should be some attempt perhaps in the discussion to state why different authors find different affects of OA on phytoplankton response.

L 575 - 581, in part 4.2 “Phytoplankton community and nutrient uptake response to the pH

gradient”, a new sentence is discussing the contrasting results found by our study and the very similar study of Richier et al. We give there some hypotheses that could explain the contrasting responses of phytoplankton to OA observed between these studies. These hypotheses could also be valid for other OA experiments that reported contrasting results (Thoisen et al., 2015; Villafane et al., 2015)

L 575 - 581: “In contrast to our study, Richier et al. (2014) reported a negative impact of ocean acidification not only on nanophytoplankton but on picophytoplankton as well during a microcosm experiment using a similar methodology. In this study conducted with water from the northwest European shelf, lowering the pH resulted in a decrease in the abundance (cell number) and biomass (Chl *a*) of phytoplankton < 10 µm. These contrasting results could reflect differences in the initial picophytoplankton community composition and possible species-specific physiological response to OA. By contrast, (...)”

Methods. Are the expts 9 days or 10 days-it is not clear. As the authors removed the large grazers could microzooplankton affected the results? Why was alkalinity kept constant? Surely in the natural environment and in particular a bloom event alkalinity would change as well as the concentration and ion activities of some of the constituents measured?

The whole experiment lasted 10 days, but the incubation lasted 9 days: T0 was the day when we filled the bags and did the initial acidification. We then started sampling the bags at T1 for the incubation experiment. This inconsistency was corrected in the revised version of the manuscript. To avoid confusion, we are now stating that the experiment lasted 9 days.

The point about removing the large grazers is valid, although the practice is common for this type of experiment. Unfortunately, we can only speculate about how removing the large grazers may have affected our results. Nonetheless, the absence of a relationship between the abundance of heterotrophic protists and the H⁺ and DMS concentrations suggest that grazing by microzooplankton did not have a significant influence on the observed results. For sake of clarity, a sentence was added so the readers are made aware that removing the large grazers may have affected the relative importance of microzooplankton grazing on small autotrophic and heterotrophic cells (see L 667 – 671, later in the document).

The alkalinity in our samples was kept constant only during the initial process of acidification, and we did not control alkalinity during the following 9 days. However the alkalinity varied only slightly (< 2% variation) between day 1 and day 9 in all bags. The variations could be attributed mostly to biological phosphate and silicate uptake or CaCO₃ precipitation/dissolution (Richier et al., 2014), CaCO₃ reactions being the main process responsible for non-conservative TA variation (Cross et al., 2013). However, calcareous species are believed to be absent from our experiment (see Poulin et al. 2011), so we suggest that this process would have been minimal and negligible.

We also note that the majority of the salts in seawater are non-reactive ions (see Riebesell et al., 2010), and their ion activities would have remained essentially constant during the incubation experiments, since salinity did not vary. Changes in minor/trace seawater constituent concentrations (e.g., nitrate, phosphate, silicate, iron, organic ligands, which would be biologically taken up or produced) could surely affect trace element complexation in solution, but these would not affect the pH or total alkalinity within the precision of our measurements.

Results: See the sticky notes added to the manuscript and please attend to them. Can you say what species were mainly reflected in the nanoplankton. Were any calcareous?

At the peak of the bloom, the nanoplankton were mostly composed (74% of total cells) of small (< 20 µm) centric diatoms *Chaetoceros* species. Unfortunately, we could not identify the *Chaetoceros* to the species level. We found no calcareous species in the samples, but since we preserved the samples with acidic Lugol, calcareous species may not have been preserved. Irrespective, no calcareous species have yet been identified in these waters (see Poulin et al. 2011).

Discussion and Conclusion: see the sticky notes. These parts need to be carefully gone over and some sentences modified.

The suggested modifications and re-wording have been carefully applied. Here are more specific responses to some of your comments:

- L 105: Have any of these studies considered speciation differences in CO₂ in seawater? Have any of these studies measured or calculated CO₂ throughout the experiment and compared with the speciation of CO₂ in controls?

The concentrations of the individual species of the carbon dioxide system in solution cannot be measured directly (Dickson et al., 2007), but are derived from pH and total alkalinity measurements using the MS Excel macro CO₂ SYS (Pierrot et al., 2006).

None of the cited studies reported the speciation between the different species in water (CO₂, HCO₃⁻ and CO₃²⁻). As these studies were focused mostly on the biological impact of OA on the microbial and planktonic communities and their influence on DMS dynamics, the authors may have chosen to focus their sampling and analysis efforts on the biological community.

We calculated the speciation of CO for all microcosms at T1, T4 and T9. As expected, HCO₃⁻ represented around 94% of the carbonate species in all microcosms at T1, T4 and T9. The proportion between free CO₂ and CO₃²⁻ varied between 7- 0.6% depending of the pH, with the lowest CO₃²⁻/ highest CO₂ values observed at the lowest pH, which is concordant with the information found in the literature (see the diagram of CO₂, HCO₃⁻ and CO₃²⁻ concentrations in function of pH for example). Despite these natural changes due to pH modification in the microcosms, these percentages (HCO₃⁻/ CO₃²⁻/ CO₂) did not change during the incubation and remain relatively constant between T1, T4 and T9. Moreover, measuring the impact of each individual species on the monitored biological processes would have required many buffered experiments. This would have been logistically very difficult to conduct on board of the Amundsen.

- L 131: You state above seawater temperature is -1.35oC why difference?

Since our deck-incubator was cooled with circulating surface water, we had no control over the temperature. However, all HL and LL bags were in the same incubator and were therefore held at the same temperature.

L 142 – 145, new sentence added: “Since our deck incubator was cooled with circulating surface water, we had no control over the incubation temperature (mean temperature of 4.3 ± 1.6 °C over the 9-day experiment). However, all bags were in the same incubator and, therefore, held to the same temperature.”

- L150-152: Can you be more specific?

When CO₂ dissolves in the ocean, it combines with water (H₂O) to form carbonic acid (H₂CO₃). This acid then dissociates to form one proton (H⁺) ion and one bicarbonate (HCO₃⁻), and thus, the absorption of CO₂ does not impact alkalinity (e.g., Riebesell et al., 2010).

- L160-163: What about changes in ion activities and complexation effects that also affect pH? Did you test for these effects? As alkalinity was kept constant this is not what would happen in the natural environment? Could discuss these issues in discussion

Please, see our response to your general comment about the method at the beginning of this document.

- L 203-204: How much seawater was sampled for analysis and how did this loss of volume affect the results?

To minimise potential low-volume effects, we removed at most half the initial volume of each bag over the course of the 9-day experiment (ca.5 out of 10 L). Since large grazers had been removed prior to the incubation, we believe that the gradual decrease in volume had no impact on the relative abundance of the protists assemblage.

L 217: “At least half of the initial volume of the microcosms was still...” has been changed to “At least half of the initial volume of the microcosms (5L) remained ...”

- L262: How much seawater was taken?

20 mL samples were taken directly from each bag with a syringe connected to the luer-lock port of each bag.

L 276: “Water for FRRF measurements was taken” has been changed to “For FRRF measurements, 20 mL of seawater were taken (...)”.

- L330: Did you calculate concentrations of H⁺ ions or activities?

Proton (H⁺) concentrations were measured spectrophotometrically on the total proton concentration scale under the constant ionic medium convention (e.g. Dickson et al., 2007; section SOP 6b)

- L 338: But could it not also increase due to decreasing volume of seawater in the bags as you take more sample out for analysis? Also could plankton growth affect Ca and Mg ions? which could affect activities of H⁺? In natural ocean these complexation affects would be diluted but perhaps not in incubation experiments?

Plankton growth will affect macronutrient concentrations (nitrate, phosphate, silicate), but it is the uptake of CO₂ for organic carbon production that will affect pH most. Calcium and magnesium are major constituents of seawater and their concentrations in seawater are not significantly (< 0.5%) affected by plankton growth, except in areas of massive biogenic CaCO₃ precipitation such as on the Bahamas Bank and Persian Gulf. Given the presumed absence of calcareous species and the low concentration of these micronutrients in seawater, their uptake should not affect pH values within the precision our measurements. However, due to the limitation of our experiment, we could neither substantiate nor reject the possible impact of these ions complexation on the results.

- L 389: This statement seems at variance with the above?

The 1-2 days lag between the peak in chlorophyll *a* and the peak in nanoplankton abundance did not affect much the overall correlation between the two variables. The lag probably reflects a decrease in chlorophyll *a* synthesis (and thus chlorophyll *a* cell quota), as the dividing cells were becoming nitrogen limited.

L 397–398, new sentence added: “The lag probably reflects a decrease in chlorophyll *a* synthesis (and thus chlorophyll *a* cell quota) as the dividing cells were becoming nitrogen limited.”

- L 542: Don't you mean Si concentrations? If not how did you measure Si consumption? L 561: “Si(OH)₄ : NO₃⁻ consumption” has been changed to “Si(OH)₄ : NO₃⁻ concentration”.

- L 565: Did you measure any production of free CO₂ in your expts? If not can you calculate it for the length of your expt? Is it significant?

We did not measure CO₂ production *per se* during the incubation. If there was any CO₂ production (this includes all bacterial respiration processes), this would have been implicitly captured by the change in pH and DIC over time. However, our measurements only show the net

effect of CO₂ production and consumption. To unravel any individual processes, we would have need labelled incubations.

- L 591: But this assumes DMS is mainly produced from DMSPt? Could it not be produced directly into seawater as a stress response?

Both algae and bacteria can produce DMS from DMSP. In algae, DMS can be produced as a stress response. This stress response is, however, only present in species with DMSP lyase capacity such as the prymnesiophytes *Phaeocystis spp.* and *Emiliana huxleyi*. So far, DMSP lyases were never found in diatoms, the dominant group during our experiment. In the open ocean, bacteria are thought to be responsible for most of the transformation of dissolved DMSP (released by the algae in the medium) into DMS. For this reason, we believe that most of the DMS produced during our incubation resulted from bacterial activity. Since non-diatom species present in the assemblage may have contributed to this production, our statement refers to both direct exudation of DMS by algae as well as bacterial DMSP cleavage. To make this point clear, the sentence was modified as follow:

L 617 – 619: “Together, these results suggest that ongoing OA will have a stronger impact on the algal and bacterial DMSP transformation into DMS than on the synthesis of DMSP by algae (...)”

- L 602: This is a long bow from a 10 days experiment. It suggests that organisms don't adapt to change.

L 628: Deleted passage: “...during the next centuries, with OA potentially counteracting the predicted stimulation of DMS production due to sea-ice retreat and the consequent increase in primary production (Six et al., 2013).”

Passage added to the discussion: please, see our response to your general comment at the beginning of the document.

- L 611: You can get a measure of DMSPt and DMS production rates or consumption rates by taking the concentration measurements on the different days to see if production or consumption varied much as a function of the elapsed time between measurements. You are comparing concentrations of DMSPt /DMS with changes in ion activities of H⁺ not an ideal comparison. As

DMSPd did not change much it seems unlikely that bacterial activity had much effect being swamped by the increases in Chl a?

Since both DMSP and DMS are produced and consumed by distinct pathways, day-to-day changes in the size of their pools only allow a calculation of net changes in DMSP and DMS, not their gross changes.

Because pH is simply equal to the negative logarithm of $[H^+]$, the linear relationship between different dependant variables and pH, as often indicated in the literature, is not appropriate. This is the reason why we choose to compare $DMSP_T$ and DMS with H^+ concentration ($[H^+]$). A similar type of representation was also adopted by Archer et al. (2013) and Hopkins and Archer (2014) during their mesocosm/microcosm experiments.

- L 617: Some reference should be made to changes in these ratios also observed in polar waters by Jones et al. (1998)

L 654 – 656, new sentence added: “Although the decrease of this ratio could also be due to an increased grazing of diatoms by microzooplankton (Jones et al., 1998), we found no significant relationship between the micrograzers and H^+ or DMS.”

- L 631: Whilst you removed large grazers you presumably still had microzooplankton present?

This is right. The abundance of heterotrophic protists (mostly ciliates and choanoflagellates) was measured at T0, T5 and T9 in 6 pH treatments during the study (8.07, 7.61 and 7.22 at both high and low light). Their abundance varied from 786,008 to 15,254,481 cells L^{-1} . However, we found no significant relationship between their abundance and H^+ or DMS concentrations.

To clarify our argument, some details were added to the discussion:

L 667 – 671: “Heterotrophic protists were present in the microcosms, with abundances varying between ca. 786,008 to 15,254,481 cells L^{-1} (data not shown). Although removing large grazers before the incubation may have affected the relative importance of the microzooplankton grazing on phytoplankton, no relationship between protists abundance and H^+ or DMS could be found.”

- L 638: a large biomass of centric diatoms could have increased DMS and affected $DMSP_T$. Why

not use the % of each species found and apply this % to DMS and DMSPt production (concentrations measured) and see if any trends.?

The large diatom bloom that took place during our experiment certainly contributed to the increase in DMSPt, but since DMSP lyases have never yet been identified in diatoms, they are likely not directly responsible for the associated increases in DMS concentrations.

- L 639: Jones et al (1998) suggest an inverse correlation occurs in polar waters of the Southern Ocean for diatoms and dinoflagellates. Could something like this occur in your incubation bags?

We cannot respond to this question since the few dinoflagellates present in the water at the beginning of the experiment quickly disappeared. The dinoflagellates seem to be too fragile to survive the initial filling of the bags.

- L 656: Yes this is an important point and makes sense in a melting sea ice environment (see Vance et al. 2013?)

L 697 – 699, new sentence added: “These results suggest that phytoplankton exiting the ice pack would not necessarily experience a light shock as previously noted by others (Vance et al., 2013, Galindo et al., 2016).”

- L 680: Too much speculation. This last sentence should be removed. As Chl a increased and is a function of SRD.

L 719: The following sentence was deleted: “These results further suggest that SRD may not be the main factor driving net DMS production in Arctic waters, similar to results from the northeast Atlantic, where Belviso and Caniaux (2009) found that the SRD accounted for only 19% to 24% of DMS variations during the summer.”

- L 682: very rapid OA!

L 721: “During this study, we demonstrated that OA could negatively impact” has been changed to “During this study, we demonstrated that a rapid decrease in surface water pH could negatively impact”

- L 688: but Chl *a* and DMSPt increased as *Chaetoceros* increased?

It is true that Chl *a* and DMSPt concentrations increased in parallel with the bloom of *Chaetoceros spp.* during the experiment, but the amplitude of the peak in Chl *a* and DMSPt decreased as the pH decreased.

- L 712: This last bit seems to be at variance with what you have stated earlier?

We agree with the reviewer.

L 750 – 753, new sentence added: “(...), our results show that Arctic diatoms may bloom under light conditions much lower than the one tested here. This apparent capacity of Arctic diatoms to growth under extremely low light conditions should be explored in future studies.”

Overall I would recommend publication with attention paid to the minor comments. Also the authors should end their discussion with what future studies should concentrate on wrt. Baffin Bay to extend the field and make these expts more relevant to actual conditions in the field.

L 753 - 755, new sentence added: “As short-term impacts of OA on the DMS cycle become clearer, future studies should focus on assessing the potential adaptation and tolerance mechanisms of microbial DMS(P) producers, mechanisms that likely develop on a time scale closer to the natural OA rate.”

Please also note the supplement to this comment: <http://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/bg-2016-501/bg-2016-501-RC2-supplement.pdf>

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., doi:10.5194/bg-2016-501, 2016. C2

II. Author's changes in manuscript

Please find below the final version of the manuscript. The changes made to the text after the referees' comments are indicated in blue.

Impact of ocean acidification on Arctic phytoplankton blooms and dimethylsulfide concentration under simulated ice-free and under-ice conditions

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Abstract. In an experimental assessment of the potential impact of Arctic Ocean acidification on seasonal phytoplankton blooms and associated dimethylsulfide (DMS) dynamics, we incubated water from Baffin Bay under conditions representing an acidified Arctic Ocean. Using two light regimes simulating under-ice/ subsurface chlorophyll maxima (low light; Low PAR and no UVB) and ice-free (high light; High PAR + UVA + UVB) conditions, water collected at 38 m was exposed over 9 days to 6 levels of decreasing pH from 8.1 to 7.2. A phytoplankton bloom dominated by the centric diatoms *Chaetoceros* spp. reaching up to $7.5 \mu\text{g}$ chlorophyll *a* L^{-1} took place in all experimental bags. Total dimethylsulfoniopropionate (DMSP_T) and DMS concentrations reached 155 nmol L^{-1} and 19 nmol L^{-1} , respectively. The sharp increase in DMSP_T and DMS concentrations coincided with the exhaustion of NO_3^- in most microcosms, suggesting that nutrient stress stimulated DMS(P) synthesis by the diatom community. Under both light regimes, chlorophyll *a* and DMS concentrations decreased linearly with increasing proton concentration at all pH tested. Concentrations of DMSP_T also decreased but only under high light and over a smaller pH range (from 8.1 to 7.6). In contrast to nanophytoplankton ($2\text{-}20 \mu\text{m}$), picophytoplankton ($\leq 2 \mu\text{m}$) was stimulated by the decreasing pH. We furthermore observed no significant difference between the two light regimes tested in term of chlorophyll *a*, phytoplankton abundance/ taxonomy, and DMSP/ DMS net concentrations. These results show that OA could significantly decrease the algal biomass and inhibit DMS production during the seasonal phytoplankton bloom in the Arctic, with possible consequences for the regional climate.

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Supprimé: The pH-induced decreases in Chl *a* concentration suggest a decrease in net carbon fixation by diatoms under low pH conditions.

1 Introduction

As a result of anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) to the atmosphere, important transformations are observed in the global ocean, including a rise in water temperature, a decrease in ocean pH, modifications of water circulation patterns and nutrient distributions, and a loss of sea-ice in the Arctic (ACIA, 2005; Fabry et al., 2009; Macdonald et al., 2015). Due to various feedback processes, the atmospheric temperature in the Arctic region above 64°N has warmed by 1.9°C between 1981 and 2012, a rate three times higher than the global average (ACIA, 2005; Ford et al., 2015). This phenomenon, known as the Arctic amplification (Cohen et al., 2014), is leading to the greatest regional transformations observed in the recent decades (ACIA, 2005). Given that the reduction in the extent and thickness of the sea ice cover and the acidification of surface waters are two factors that can potentially affect Arctic primary productivity, it is important to consider the associated effects on the production of biogenic climate-active gases such as dimethylsulfide (DMS).

Since the pre-industrial era, the ocean has absorbed more than one quarter of the anthropogenic CO₂ emitted to the atmosphere (Feely et al., 2009, and references therein). This phenomenon alters the chemistry of seawater and results in a decrease in pH. The dissolution of anthropogenic CO₂ has already led to an estimated 0.1 unit decrease of pH in the global ocean surface waters (Feely et al., 2009). An additional decrease of 0.2 pH unit is anticipated by the end of the century and as much as 0.8 by 2300, depending on future net CO₂ emissions (Caldeira and Wickett, 2003; Raven et al., 2005; Doney et al., 2009; Feely et al., 2009). Owing to the lower buffer capacity and greater solubility of CO₂ in cold waters and the dilution of total alkalinity (TA) by freshwater due to sea-ice melt and river run-off, a more rapid decline of 0.45 unit is predicted by 2100 for Arctic waters under IPCC SRES emission scenario A2 (Steinacher et al., 2009).

During the last two decades, many studies have attempted to quantify the sensitivity of marine ecosystems to ocean acidification (OA). Since the dissolution of atmospheric CO₂ increases its concentration in seawater, low pH-high pCO₂ could enhance phytoplankton growth rate by facilitating CO₂ uptake and reducing the energy cost of the Carbon Concentrating Mechanism (CCM, cellular processes used by algae to overcome CO₂ limitation in water) in some phytoplankton species (Gao and Campbell, 2014 and references therein). Accordingly, a decrease in pH has been reported to stimulate carbon fixation by phytoplankton (Doney et al., 2009; Gao

rachel Husserr y-3-23 08:56

Supprimé: . Climate change is faster and more important in the Arctic than in any other place in the world

and Campbell, 2014; Wu et al., 2014; Mackey et al., 2015; Thoisen et al., 2015), but negative impacts of decreasing pH on phytoplankton growth have also been reported and attributed to pH-induced alterations in [algal cell physiology](#), acid-base chemistry, trace metal availability, ion transport, protein functions, and nutrient uptake (Doney et al., 2009; Gao and Campbell, 2014; 85 [Richier et al., 2014](#); Mackay et al., 2015; Thoisen et al., 2015). Due to these potential antagonist effects, it is still difficult to predict how a specific bloom in a given area will respond to the projected decrease of ocean pH.

A ubiquitous, biogenic trace gas produced in the ocean (Keller et al., 1989; Townsend and Keller, 1996; Kiene et al., 2000), DMS, accounts for 80% of the biogenic sulfur emitted from the ocean 90 to the atmosphere (Kettle and Andreae, 2000). Once released to the atmosphere, DMS undergoes a rapid photochemical transformation into sulfate, which may result in an increase in the concentration of sulfate aerosols and cloud condensation nuclei. [Emissions of DMS](#) thus can increase cloud albedo and potentially cool the climate (Ferek et al., 1995; Quinn et al., 2002). The effect of DMS on climate is particularly important in regions of low aerosol burden, such as the 95 summer Arctic [atmosphere](#) (Mungall et al., 2016). This gas is mostly produced by the degradation of dimethylsulfoniopropionate (DMSP), a cellular compound present in the majority of phytoplankton species where it fulfils several physiological functions, including osmoregulation (Dickson et al., 1980; Kirst, 1996; Van Bergeijk et al., 2003), cryoprotection (Kirst et al., 1991), and protection against reactive oxygen species (Sunda et al., 2002). A 100 significant fraction of algal DMSP is released to the water column by exudation or [from](#) grazing; constituting a dissolved pool that is rapidly consumed by heterotrophic bacteria, which can cleave it into DMS (the “cleavage pathway”) or metabolize it via the demethylation/ demethiolation pathway (Kiene et al., 2000). Both unicellular algae and bacteria can thus convert DMSP to 105 DMS, their relative contribution being governed by the taxonomic composition of the phytoplankton community, as well as the abundance and physiological state of the bacteria (Stefels et al., 2007). Oceanic DMS production is thus closely linked to phytoplankton bloom development, which makes it also potentially sensitive to OA.

Several studies have already highlighted the sensitivity of DMS production to decreases in seawater pH. The majority of these experimental studies revealed a negative impact of decreasing 110 pH on DMS production (Hopkins et al., 2010; Avgoustidi et al., 2012; [Archer et al., 2013](#); Webb

et al., 2016), but some have reported either no effect or a positive effect (Vogt et al., 2008; Hopkins and Archer, 2014). Several hypotheses have been proposed to explain these contrasting results. Some authors attribute the pH-induced variation in DMS production to an alteration of the physiological properties of the phytoplankton cells or of the bacterial DMSP metabolism (Vogt et al., 2008; Hopkins et al., 2010, Avgoustidi et al., 2012; Archer et al., 2013; Hopkins and Archer, 2014; Webb et al., 2015, 2016), whereas others evoke an interaction between the DMSP producers and their grazers (Kim et al., 2010; Park et al., 2014). So far, only one study has looked at the impact of OA on DMS dynamics in the Arctic (Archer et al., 2013). The results of this mesocosm study, conducted near Svalbard, show a decrease in DMS concentrations at low pH, suggesting that OA may significantly reduce DMS emissions to the atmosphere in the Arctic.

The main objective of this study was to experimentally assess the impact of decreasing pH on the DMS produced by an Arctic phytoplankton seasonal bloom. Furthermore, we investigated how light conditions corresponding to those experienced by a marginal ice phytoplankton bloom and an under-ice or subsurface phytoplankton bloom could modulate the effects of pH on phytoplankton and DMS variations. The latter was motivated by the strong contribution of subsurface phytoplankton layers to annual productivity in several sectors of the Arctic as well as the apparent increasing occurrence of under-ice blooms, attributed to the thinning of sea ice and the replacement of the multiyear ice by first-year ice (Martin et al., 2010; Frey et al., 2011; Palmer et al., 2014 and references therein).

130

2 Methods

2.1 Initial water collection and experimental setting

The incubation experiment was conducted on board of the Canadian research icebreaker *CCGS Amundsen* between 6 and 15 August 2015. The water was collected near the nitracline at 38 m
135 depth at station BB-3 in Baffin Bay (see Fig. 1) using 12-L Niskin-type bottles deployed on a CTD rosette system. *Since the cruise took place after the summer bloom in this part of the Arctic, we collected the water between the subsurface chlorophyll maximum (SCM) and the nitracline in order to have sufficient nutrient to support a bloom during our incubation.* *In situ* temperature and salinity were respectively -1.35°C and 32.67 at the sampling depth. All water manipulations were
140 done under dim light conditions in order to protect the cells from potential light shock. After the initial collection, water was gravity filtered through a $200\ \mu\text{m}$ Nitex mesh, in order to remove large grazers, and *transferred to 12 gas-tight 10-L bags (HyClone Labtainer®, Thermo Scientific) using a Teflon tube installed between the Niskin bottle and the luer-valve of each bag.* All 12 bags were placed in an incubator on the ship's foredeck, through which surface water was
145 circulated to maintain the incubation bags close to sea surface temperature. *Since our deck incubator was cooled with circulating surface water, we had no control over the temperature during the incubation* (mean temperature of $4.3 \pm 1.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ over the 9-day experiment). *However, all bags were in the same incubator, hence submitted to the same temperature.* An insulated box (a “cooler”) was used to transport the samples whenever they had to be carried between the
150 incubator and the ship-board laboratory. Water temperature was monitored every 15 minutes during the entire experiment using a RBR TR-1060 temperature recorder. Incident photosynthetically active radiation (PAR, 400-700 nm) was monitored continuously using a LI-1000 Data logger combined with a LI-190SA cosine sensor (LICOR) located near the incubator. Incident UVA (SED033 detector/UVA filter/W diffuser) and UVB (SED240 detector/UVB
155 filter/W diffuser) radiation was measured daily (day 5 to 9 only due to instrument dysfunction during the *first four* days) around midday with an IL1700 radiometer (International Light).

2.2 Treatments and acidification protocol

Acidification protocol

160 For this experiment, the phytoplankton communities were exposed to a pH gradient and two light regimes. Twelve incubation bags were separated into 2 groups of six bags to produce two similar sets of pH gradients (control + 5 acidified bags; Table 1). The pH gradient method has been successfully applied by Schulz et al. (2013) and Paul et al. (2016) and is suitable when the possibility of replication is limited (see Cottingham et al., 2005, and Havenhand et al., 2010, for more details).

165 After equilibrating at incubator temperature, the “non-control” samples were taken to the lab and acidified (at time T0, 6 August) by addition of strong acid and bicarbonate (HCl, 0.02 N; NaHCO₃, 0.3 N) following procedures described by Riebesell et al. (2010). By keeping the alkalinity constant, this procedure mimics the natural acidification process as observed in global ocean waters. The volumes needed to reach each targeted pH value on the total hydrogen ion
170 scale (mol kg⁻¹ SW) were determined with the help of the MS Excel macro CO₂SYS (Pierrot et al. 2006) (using the carbonic acid dissociation constants (K₁ and K₂) of Luecker et al., 2000 and the bisulfate dissociation constant (K_{H₂SO₄}) of Dickson, 1990). The acid and bicarbonate solutions were added in appropriate proportions to each bag using a syringe connected to the Luer-lock port of the bag. After acidification, each bag was gently inverted around 10 times before being
175 returned to the incubator. The entire process of the bags acidification was completed within 4 hours. The incubator was then covered with a white canvas sheet until sunset and bags remained overnight in the incubator without further manipulation. After the initial acidification, the carbonate chemistry was not manipulated and the only changes in pH that occurred during the experiment were due to biological activity. Subsampling began the next day in the morning (T1,
180 7 August, around 7:00 am).

Light treatments

Once acidified, each set of incubation bags covering the initial pH values between 8.1 and 7.2 was assigned to a light treatment (Tables 1 and 2): “low light” (LL, 6 bags), and “high light” (HL, 6 bags). The transmittance through the incubation bags of both LL and HL treatments was
185 determined in the laboratory using a Perkin Elmer LAMBDA 850 Spectrophotometer. We based our experimental “low light” conditions (PAR, UVA and UVB transmittance of 32.6%, 20.6%

and 0%, respectively) on a model of the minimal light conditions required to trigger an under-ice bloom (Palmer et al., 2014) and available data from measurements of UV and PAR under ponded ice (Trodehl and Buckel, 1990; Perovich et al., 1998; Belzile et al., 2000; Frey et al., 2011; Palmer et al., 2014). As UVB is strongly attenuated by sea ice and thus likely negligible at 5 m
190 depth under the ice (Frey et al., 2011; Palmer et al., 2014), those short wavelengths were eliminated. The LL treatment transmittances were achieved by covering the 6 LL bags with 2 layers of Nitex mesh (300 μm) and one layer of Mylar D film (0.13 mm thick; Demers et al., 1998). The Nitex mesh attenuated the entire light spectrum equally whereas the Mylar D film specifically removed the leftover UVB radiation (Demers et al., 1998; Roux et al., 2002). The
195 resulting transmittance measured through the incubation bags under LL treatment was similar to light conditions encountered at 5 m depth under the ice in early summer (Frey et al., 2011) or at subsurface chlorophyll maxima, which are widespread in the Arctic Ocean (Martin et al. 2010, 2013).

200 The incubation bags dedicated to the HL treatment (PAR, UVA and UVB transmittance of 77.5%, 61.5% and 32.6%, respectively) were exposed to light conditions representing a typical Arctic upper mixed layer of approximately 5 m depth, based on the equation of Riley (1957):

$$E_z = E_0 \cdot \frac{1 - e^{-K_d \cdot z}}{K_d \cdot Z}$$

205 where E_z ($\mu\text{mol quanta m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$) is the daily PAR averaged over the surface mixed layer, E_0 ($\mu\text{mol quanta m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$) is the daily averaged PAR at the surface, K_d is the PAR diffuse attenuation coefficient (assumed to be 0.123 m^{-1} ; unpublished data from Baffin Bay, M. Gosselin), and Z (m) is the surface mixed layer depth. The attenuation of incident light for the HL treatment was only due to the bag itself.

2.3 Microcosm subsampling for chemical and biological variables

210 The 12 incubation bags (microcosms) were monitored over 9 days after the initial acidification (T0). Subsampling took place at 9:00 am the first day (T0), before the initial acidification, and between 6:00 and 10:00 a.m. for the 9 following days (T1-T9). Not all the variables were sampled every day. Water for pH, total alkalinity (TA), dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), and DMS analyses was collected directly from the microcosms to minimise outgassing, whereas

215 water for the measurement of chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*), nutrients, flow cytometry, and taxonomy was
first collected in a brown bottle (Nalgene[®], 1L) and kept at 4°C in the refrigerator until
subsampling, generally 2 h after initial water sampling. Water for salinity determination was
taken at T0 before the acidification process and at T9 in each incubation bag. Samples for salinity
220 were stored in the dark in 250 mL plastic bottles until analysis in May 2016 using a Guidelines
8400B salinometer. At least half of the initial volume of the microcosms (5L) remained in the
bags at the end of the experiment.

Carbonate system

The pH was measured on T1, T2, T4, T6, T8, and T9 using an Agilent 8453 UV/Vis
Spectrophotometer on the total hydrogen ion scale (pH_T). Water was directly subsampled from
225 the incubation bags to the spectrophotometric cells in order to minimise gas exchange with
ambient air. The spectrophotometer cells (10 cm path length, V = 33 mL) were brought up to
25°C in an aluminum block before readings on the spectrophotometer (approximately 1 hour after
sampling). Absorbance was measured at 434, 578, and 730 nm before and after addition of 50 μL
of a *m*-cresol purple indicator dye solution (Clayton and Byrne, 1993). A second addition of 50 μL
230 of *m*-cresol purple indicator dye solution was made to the sample in order to determine the extent
of the dye perturbation on pH_T values. Duplicates were analysed for each incubation bag, and pH_T
subsequently calculated according to Dickson et al. (2007, see their section SOP 6b). Data were
then converted to mean incubation temperature using CO₂SYS and the TA measurements (Pierrot
et al., 2006). The *p*CO₂ values corresponding to each pH_T measurement were also calculated
235 using CO₂SYS software. Concentrations in protons for each microcosm were calculated using the
pH_T measurements.

Water for TA and DIC analyses was subsampled early in the morning on days T1, T4 and T9.
Water was gently collected from the incubation bags in pre-rinsed 250 mL glass bottles. Samples
were analysed on board within 4 hours by coulometric and potentiometric titration for DIC and
240 TA, respectively (more details are given for example in Johnson et al., 1993, or Dickson et al.,
2007), using a VINDTA 3C (Versatile Instrument for the Determination of Titration Alkalinity,
Marianda). Both the DIC and TA measurements were calibrated against Certified Reference
Materials (CRMs, Andrew Dickson, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA) and the

245 reproducibility was better than 1 and 2 $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ SW, respectively, for the DIC and TA measurements.

Nutrients

250 Water for nutrient analysis was filtered through Luer-lock syringe acrodisc filters (GMF, porosity of 0.7 μm) into 15 mL acid-washed polyethylene tubes. After collection, samples were stored at 4°C in the dark and analysed within 1 hour for nitrate (NO_3^-) plus nitrite, nitrite (NO_2^-), silicic acid ($\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4$), and soluble reactive phosphate (SRP) on a Bran and Luebbe Autoanalyser III using a colorimetric method adapted from Hansen and Koroleff (2007) (detection limits for; NO_3^- : 0.03 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$; NO_2^- : 0.02 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$; $\text{Si}(\text{OH})_4$: 0.1 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$; SRP: 0.05 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$).

Plankton biomass and enumeration

255 Water for Chl *a* concentration analysis was subsampled from each incubation bag every day using 1 L brown polyethylene bottles. The bottles were stored at 4°C in the dark for 2 hours before filtration onto 25 mm Whatman GF/F filters (0.7 μm nominal pore size). Phytoplankton pigments were extracted in 90% acetone and stored at 4°C in the dark for 20 hours. The fluorescence of the extracted pigments was then measured using a Turner Designs fluorometer 10-AU after acidification according to the method described by Parsons et al. (1984). Chl *a* 260 concentrations were calculated from the equation published in Holm-Hansen et al. (1965).

For the enumeration of phytoplankton ($\leq 20 \mu\text{m}$) and bacteria, sterile cryogenic polypropylene vials were filled with 4 mL of water to which 20 μL of glutaraldehyde (Grade I, 25% in water, Sigma Aldrich; Marie et al., 2005) were added. Duplicate samples were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen after standing 15 min at room temperature in dark. These samples were then stored at - 265 80°C for 5 months until flow cytometry analysis. After defrosting to ambient air temperature, samples were analysed using a FASC Calibur FCB3 flow cytometer (Becton Dickinson). One of the duplicate samples was used to determine the abundance of picophytoplankton (0.2-2 μm), which include picoeukaryotes and picocyanobacteria, and nanophytoplankton (2-20 μm) based on their autofluorescence characteristics and size (Marie et al., 2005). The other tube was used 270 for bacterial counts (Marie et al., 1999).

On days T0, T5 and T9, water samples (between 100 and 250 mL depending on the biomass) were taken for identification and counting of eukaryotic cells (protists) larger than 2 μm . Samples

were preserved in acidic Lugol's solution (Parsons et al., 1984) and stored in the dark for 7 months until enumeration with an inverted microscope (WILD Heerbrugg) equipped with phase contrast optics (Lund et al., 1958). Thirteen selected samples collected under both light treatments and representing the whole range of pH amendments (i.e. pH_T 8.1 (control), 7.6 and 7.2) were counted.

Fast Repetition Rate Fluorometry (FRRF) measurements

For FRRF measurements, 20 mL of seawater were taken directly from the microcosms at pH_T 8.1, 7.8, and 7.2 for both HL and LL treatments on days T2, T4, T6, T7 and T9. Water was subsampled early in the morning in order to avoid photoinhibition (Schuback et al., 2015). The FRRF measurements were conducted on a bench top FRRF instrument (Soliense Inc.), as described in Schuback et al. (2015). For each sample, background fluorescence blanks were prepared by syringe filtering a small amount of water through a Whatman GF/F filter. Samples were kept at very low light (approx. 5 μmol quanta m⁻² s⁻¹) at *in situ* temperature for 45 minutes before the measurements. A single turnover (ST) excitation protocol was applied to derive minimum (F_o) and maximum (F_m) chlorophyll *a* fluorescence yields by applying an iterative non-linear fitting procedure to a mean of 20 consecutive ST flashlet sequences using custom software (Kolber et al., 1998). The F_o and F_m were used to calculate F_v/F_m as (F_m-F_o)/F_m. In the absence of iron limitation, this ratio can be used as a sensitive indicator of algal photosynthetic efficiency (Maxwell and Johnson, 2000; Schuback et al., 2016).

DMSP and DMS concentrations

For the quantification of dissolved DMSP (DMSP_d), 20 mL of the water sample were gravity-filtered through 47 mm Whatman GF/F filters and the first 3.5 mL of filtrate were stored in 5 mL polyethylene tubes using the less disruptive Small-Volume gravity Drip Filtration (SVDF) method described by Kiene and Slezak (2006). Tubes for total DMSP (DMSP_T) samples were directly filled with 3.5 mL of unfiltered water. Samples of both DMSP_d and DMSP_T were preserved by adding 50 μL of a 50% sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) solution to the 5 mL tubes, which were then stored at 4°C in the dark until analysis in laboratory. DMSP concentrations were determined as DMS through hydrolysis with a 5 N solution of NaOH, purging and cryotrapping in liquid nitrogen, followed by analysis on a Varian 3800 Gas Chromatograph equipped with a Pulsed Flame Photometric Detector (Varian 3800) with a detection limit of 0.1 nmol L⁻¹ (Scarratt

et al., 2000; Lizotte et al., 2012; Galindo et al., 2016). All DMSP samples were calibrated against multiple micro-injections of a 100 nmol L⁻¹ solution of standardized dimethyl-B-propiothetin (DMPT from Research Plus) hydrolyzed with a 5 N solution of NaOH.

Water samples for DMS concentration analysis were withdrawn on days T0, T2, T4 and every day for the remainder of the incubation period. DMS concentrations were determined onboard the ship using purging, trapping and S-specific gas chromatography, as described by Asher et al. (2015). The custom-built system described by Asher et al. (2015) was used here in manual mode by directly injecting 10 mL of each incubation sample into a sparge vessel. Water for DMS analysis was subsampled directly from each bag using a Luer-lock syringe and injected into the custom-built system at most 40 minutes after sampling. Ultra-high purity N₂ was used to extract the volatile DMS from solution at a flow rate of 100 mL min⁻¹. The sparged DMS was adsorbed onto Carboxen-100 packed in a stainless steel trap. After trapping was completed, a series of high current pulses heated the trap to 250°C to desorb the DMS onto the capillary column prior to elution and detection by a Pulsed Flame Photometric Detector (PFPD, OI Analytical, Model 5380). Light emitted during combustion in the PFPD was converted to a voltage (using a PMT – photomultiplier tube) and recorded by the LabView software. Raw data outputs (peak voltages) were processed using Matlab by calculating the area under each curve and by comparing them to standard curves to give final DMS concentrations. Known DMS concentrations of 0, 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15 nmol L⁻¹ were processed for calibration purpose before each sampling day in order to obtain the standard curves. Area under each standard curve was calculated using Matlab and associated with its known DMS concentration.

2.4 Statistical analysis

All statistical analyses were run using RStudio (<http://www.rstudio.com/>). Normality of the data was determined using a Shapiro-Wilk test at the 0.05 significance level and data were transformed (log or square root) when the normality was rejected ($p < 0.05$). To test for differences between pH and light treatments for the variables measured during the experiment (time-series of nutrient and Chl *a* concentrations, phytoplankton, bacteria abundances, and dimethylated compound concentrations), we used a generalized least square model that corrected for data autocorrelation due to time repetition (glS command in R studio, package nlme; also see the method described by Paul et al., 2016). In the model, time and pH were taken as two

continuous factors; the light was included as a categorical factor (2 levels: “Low Light”, “High Light”). As the inclusion of the interaction between light and pH in our gls model did not yield significant results, it was not included in our statistical analysis. Relationships between the average values of all response variables and the set of pH_T were evaluated using the Pearson’s linear regression (r^2).

3 Results

3.1 Irradiance conditions

Daily mean incident PAR varied between 189 and 492 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{quanta s}^{-1}$ during the 9 days of the incubation. Accordingly, daily mean PAR in the HL and LL treatment varied between 146 and 312 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{quanta s}^{-1}$ and between 61 and 131 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{quanta s}^{-1}$, respectively (Table 2). Incident UVA and UVB levels varied respectively between 4 and 13 W m^{-2} , and between 0.1 to 0.3 W m^{-2} during the last 5 days of the experiment.

3.2 State of the carbonate system

Table 1 summarizes values of four carbonate system parameters and associated protons concentrations (pH_T , $[\text{H}^+]$, DIC, TA, $p\text{CO}_2$) for each light and pH treatment at T0, T1, T4, and T9. At T1, the mean TA in the acidified bags was $2221 \pm 16 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}\text{ SW}$, approximately 1% lower than the value of $2243 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}\text{ SW}$ measured in the original sample recovered from 38 m depth at station BB-3. At the beginning of the experiment (T1), the mean pH_T at 4.27°C (mean incubator temperature during the experiment) between HL and LL controls was 7.939 ± 0.003 (see Table 1 and Fig. 2). Values for the following decreasing pH levels were 7.779 ± 0.012 , 7.641 ± 0.007 , 7.460 ± 0.001 , 7.323 ± 0.030 , and 7.159 ± 0.004 . As expected, the pH_T in all bags increased during the incubation period due to photosynthesis (Rost et al., 2008; Paul et al., 2016) (mean protons change per bag of $-1.52 \times 10^{-8} \pm 6.67 \times 10^{-9} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ over the 9-day experiment; Fig. 2). A difference in pH_T (corresponding to an average proton difference of $-8.87 \times 10^{-9} \pm 8.59 \times 10^{-9} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$) was still observed at T9 between bags in both the LL and HL treatments (Fig. 2). The pH_T gradients between the two light treatments were thus very similar, allowing us to clearly discriminate between pH_T and light effects. Hereafter, we refer to the pH treatments by their mean pH_T values measured over the 9 incubation days: 8.1 (control) and decreasing mean pH_T values of 7.9, 7.8, 7.6, 7.4 and 7.2.

3.3 Dissolved inorganic nutrient concentrations

At T1, NO_3^- , Si(OH)_4 , and SRP concentrations varied between 5.07-5.83, 8.87-10.45, and 0.94-1.00 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$, respectively (Fig. 3). All three nutrients displayed the same general temporal pattern during the incubation, irrespective of the light treatment. Their concentrations remained constant or increased slightly during the first three days and then decreased rapidly with the onset

of the bloom to very low or undetectable concentrations between T6 and T8 for NO_3^- (all pH_T) and at T8 for Si(OH)_4 (highest pH_T only). Likewise, SRP concentrations decreased in parallel with NO_3^- and Si(OH)_4 , but remained higher than $0.3 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ during the whole experiment. The impact of pH on nutrient consumption was apparent under both light treatments, with nutrients being generally consumed more rapidly at high pH_T than at low pH_T (Fig. 3, Table 3). The NO_3^- depletion was temporally delayed in the most acidified treatments, reaching below detection values one day after the other treatments for microcosms at pH_T 7.4 (T7) and two days after the others for microcosms at pH_T 7.2 (T8). With the exception of microcosms at pH_T 8.1 under LL, and at pH_T 7.8 under both light treatments, Si(OH)_4 remained at relatively high concentrations in all treatments after the peak of the bloom (Figs. 3c, d and 4a, b). While the ratio of NO_3^- to SRP uptake ($\Delta\text{NO}_3^-:\Delta\text{SRP}$) during the incubation showed no statistical difference between the six pH_T treatments tested, the ratio $\Delta\text{Si(OH)}_4:\Delta\text{NO}_3^-$ decreased linearly with increasing proton concentration for both light regimes ($r^2 = 0.72$, $p < 0.001$; data not shown). This change was driven mostly by a reduction in Si(OH)_4 uptake, which exhibited a ca. 3-fold difference between experimental pH extremes compared to a ca. 1.7-fold difference for ΔNO_3^- uptake (not shown).

3.4 Phytoplankton biomass

The mean Chl *a* concentration before the beginning of the experiment (T0) was $0.686 \pm 0.004 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$, and increased exponentially from T1 to T5-T8, depending on the pH_T treatment, to reach maximum values varying between 4.5 and $7.5 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (Fig. 4a, b). The bloom period was followed by either a plateau or a small decrease in Chl *a* biomass. The temporal changes in Chl *a* concentrations were not affected by the light regimes but we observed a significant difference in Chl *a* concentrations between pH_T treatments (Table 3). Figure 5a shows the relationship between the mean Chl *a* concentrations and the corresponding mean proton concentrations over the entire experimental period. For both light regimes (data pooled), the mean Chl *a* concentration decreased linearly with increasing proton concentration (Fig. 5a, Table 4).

3.5 Phytoplankton abundance and taxonomy of the protist community > 2 μm

Nanophytoplankton (algal cells between 2 and 20 μm) abundance varied during the incubation from $0.81 \times 10^3 \text{ cells mL}^{-1}$ on day T1 to $19 \times 10^3 \text{ cells mL}^{-1}$, a maximal value reached at pH_T 7.61 on day T8 under LL conditions (Fig. 4c,d). For both light treatments, nanophytoplankton abundance increased steadily from T1 to T6-T8 and decreased or remained stable thereafter. This

trend is comparable with the trend observed for Chl *a* (Fig. 4a,b) but with the slight difference that the nanophytoplankton generally reached their maximal abundance 1-2 days after the Chl *a* concentration maxima. The lag probably reflects a decrease in Chl *a* synthesis (and thus Chl *a* cell quota) as the dividing cells were becoming nitrogen limited. Variations in nanophytoplankton abundance were significantly correlated with Chl *a* during the growth phase ($r^2 = 0.78$, $p < 0.001$), suggesting that nanophytoplankton were responsible for most of the biomass build-up during the bloom. Like Chl *a*, only the pH_T gradient (not light treatment) appeared to have affected nanophytoplankton dynamics as we observed significant differences between nanophytoplankton abundances between all pH_T tested (Table 3). As shown in Figure 5b, the mean nanophytoplankton abundances decreased as the proton concentration increased (data pooled, Table 4).

The initial protist community $> 2 \mu\text{m}$ was dominated by centric diatoms (33% of total protist abundance), followed by cryptophyceae (22%), unidentified flagellates (17%), and prasinophyceae (12%) (Fig. 6). Pennate diatoms, dinophyceae and chrysophyceae were also present in smaller proportions (4, 3 and 2% respectively; included in the group named “others” in Fig. 6, given their low abundance). Among the protists $> 2 \mu\text{m}$, centric diatoms were dominant in most treatments at T5 and T9, accounting for between 72% and 89% of total cells, while the other groups initially present decreased in abundance or became undetectable. More than 90% of the centric diatoms belonged to the genus *Chaetoceros*. Although the dominant species of *Chaetoceros* could not be identified (the biomass of this genus was dominated by unidentified *Chaetoceros* comprised between 2 and 5 μm), *Chaetoceros gelidus*, *Chaetoceros wighamii*, *Chaetoceros cf. karianus* and *teniussimus* also contributed to the bloom. All microcosms subsampled during the experiment showed very similar taxonomic compositions, with *Chaetoceros* spp. dominating the community and accounting for more than 65% of cell abundance. The sole exception was the LL control microcosm (pH_T of 8.1), in which the species composition on day T9 was more evenly distributed, with 58% of cell abundance attributed to groups other than centric diatoms. Within this fraction, flagellates accounted for 24% of the total abundance, choanoflagellidea for 12%, prasinophyceae for 10%, cryptophyceae for 2%, and minority protist groups (“others”) for 11%. Due to the low number of samples analyzed by inverted microscopy, it was not possible to statistically confirm whether the difference observed on day T9 between the control microcosm and the two other microcosms analyzed was related to

the pH gradient or resulted from inter-microcosm variability. Nevertheless, the general trends
430 visible in Figure 6 suggest that the relative abundance of each protist group was not influenced by
the light regime or the pH gradient. Centric diatoms, and especially *Chaetoceros* spp., remained
the dominant taxa throughout the incubation period in every microcosm. Dinophyceae, which
initially contributed up to 3% of the protist abundance, became undetectable in all microcosms,
including the controls, suggesting a negative effect of bag manipulation and the incubation
435 process on this taxon during the experiment.

During the present experiment, picophytoplankton (algal cells between 0.2 and 2 μm) accounted
for more than 90% of total phytoplankton cells $\leq 20 \mu\text{m}$. Photosynthetic picocyanobacteria made
up $\leq 2\%$ of total abundance of picophytoplankton (i.e. picocyanobacteria + photosynthetic
picoeukaryotes). Picophytoplankton cell abundance was low at the start of the experiment
440 ($< 5 \times 10^3 \text{ cells mL}^{-1}$) and remained at this low level until T3 when it began to increase to reach
maximum concentrations ($200\text{-}300 \times 10^3 \text{ cells mL}^{-1}$) between T7 and T8, depending on the pH_T
(Fig. 4e, f). Exceptions to this trend are the two microcosms at the lowest pH_T under both light
regimes, in which picophytoplankton abundance continued to increase linearly until the end of
the experiment. Of the two stressors tested (light and pH), only pH_T had a weak but significant
445 effect on picophytoplankton abundances (Table 3). As shown in Figure 5c, mean
picophytoplankton abundance increased with increasing proton concentration for both light
treatments although this relation does not appear to be linear (data pooled, Table 4).

3.6 Photosynthetic performance

The F_v/F_m ratio, a parameter widely used to indicate the photosynthetic performance of primary
450 producers, was very similar between the two light treatments at each sampling day (Table 4). On
days T2 and T4, the F_v/F_m ratios were higher than 0.5 under both light treatments and pH_T values
of 8.1, 7.8, and 7.2, suggesting that the blooming algal cells were in good physiological
condition. The ratios then decreased to ca. 0.3-0.4 between days T6-T9, when NO_3^- started to be
exhausted in most microcosms and the increase in Chl *a* biomass and phytoplankton cell
455 abundance had stopped (Figs. 3a, b and 4a-f). These results show low photosynthetic
performance in the microcosms at the end of the experiment.

3.7 Bacteria

Bacterial abundances under both light treatments showed a moderate increase during the experiment (Fig. 4g,h). Although it is not evident on Figure 4 (g, h), the bacterial abundances were significantly different between both light and pH treatments, in contrast with the other variables presented above (Table 3). As shown in Figure 5d, the mean bacterial abundance decreased with increasing proton concentrations under HL but showed no proton/pH related effect under LL (Table 4).

3.8 DMSP and DMS concentrations

The DMSP_T concentrations showed the same general temporal pattern in all microcosms (Fig. 7a,b). Initial average DMSP_T concentration was $7 \pm 3 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$, and remained at this low level during the first five days of the experiment, increased sharply between T5 and T6 to reach values of 80 nmol L^{-1} (under HL) and 120 nmol L^{-1} (under LL), and remained high but variable for the rest of the experiment. Of the two stressors tested, only the pH gradient significantly influenced the DMSP_T concentrations (Table 3). As shown in Figure 8a, the mean DMSP_T concentration decreased with increasing proton concentration, but only under the HL treatment between pH_T 8.1 – 7.6 (Table 4).

The DMSP_d concentrations started at $0.5\text{-}1.8 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$, decreased slightly until T5 and then tended to increase, again slightly, to reach maximum values between 2 and 3 nmol L^{-1} near the end of the experiment (Fig. 7c,d). Neither the light nor the pH_T treatments significantly affected the DMSP_d concentrations over the period of incubation (Table 3).

In most of the microcosms, temporal changes in DMS concentrations were very similar to those in DMSP_T and were characterised by a gradual increase from 0.54 to ca. 4 nmol L^{-1} between T1 and T5, a sudden increase to $10\text{-}20 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$ between T5 and T7, followed by either a plateau or a decrease in concentrations until the end of the experiment (Fig. 7e,f). The sharp increase in DMS was not observed at the two lowest levels of pH_T (i.e. 7.4 and 7.2). At these low pH_T values, DMS concentrations did not exceed 6 nmol L^{-1} during the phytoplankton growth phase. Of the two stressors tested, only the pH gradient had a significant effect on the DMS concentrations over time (Table 3). As shown in Figure 8b, the mean DMS concentration decreased with increasing proton concentration (Table 4). The average DMS:DMSP_d ratio followed the same trend as for

DMS concentrations, showing a linear decrease over the whole range of proton concentration, irrespective of the light treatment (Fig. 8c, Table 4).

4 Discussion

490 In this study, a natural Arctic plankton community in a pre-bloom stage (initial high nutrient-low
Chl *a* concentrations) was exposed over 9 days to reduced pH conditions under two contrasting
light regimes. The two light regimes were designed to simulate the mean irradiance in an ice-free
5-m thick surface mixed layer (HL, marginal ice bloom conditions) and the mean irradiance at 5
495 m depth under a melting ponded ice pack (LL, under-ice bloom/ subsurface chlorophyll
maximum conditions). The pH_T gradient comprised 6 levels covering the range of pH expected
between the present and the year 2300. We recognize that the rapid change in pH to which the
plankton assemblage was exposed at the beginning of our study is not representative of the more
gradual acidification that is taking place in the ocean. For this reason, negative impacts should be
interpreted as potential extreme responses, and the planktonic community could be more
500 adaptable than is implied by our results.

4.1 General bloom characteristics and associated variations in DMSP and DMS

During this experiment, a phytoplankton bloom numerically dominated by the centric diatom
Chaetoceros spp. and by photosynthetic picoeukaryotes occurred almost simultaneously in all
microcosms (Figs. 4c-f). The exponential growth phase lasted 6-7 days, a period during which
505 the concentration of all three monitored nutrients decreased, with NO₃⁻ reaching near-zero values.
The F_v/F_m ratios around 0.5 characterised the period of exponential growth in all microcosms,
including the controls (Table 5). The peak of the bloom and NO₃⁻ depletion were followed by a
decrease of F_v/F_m ratios and a stabilization or slight decrease in phytoplankton abundances (Figs.
3 and 4c-f). [As the initial concentrations of nutrients in the incubation bags were similar to the
510 concentrations found in the upper mixed layer before the spring bloom in Baffin Bay, we are
confident that the bloom that took place in our bags is comparable to the spring bloom naturally
developing in these waters \(Tremblay et al., 2002, 2006\). Furthermore,](#) the dominance of diatoms
during our experiment was expected as blooms of this phytoplankton group are commonly found
at the marginal ice zone in the Arctic, and in Baffin Bay in particular (Poulin et al., 2011), and
515 tend to dominate spring primary production when nutrients are non-limiting in this region
(Heimdal, 1989; Matrai and Vernet, 1997; Wolfe et al., 1999; Von Quillfeldt, 2000).

Picophytoplankton were numerically more abundant than nanophytoplankton during our
experiment, representing between 54% (during the diatom bloom) and up to 96% (post bloom

520 period) of total phytoplankton abundance. High picophytoplankton abundances (64% of total
photosynthetic cell abundance $\leq 20 \mu\text{m}$) have been reported by Tremblay et al. (2009) in the
Canadian Arctic where, due to their small size, they accounted for only 16% of total Chl *a*.
During the growth phase of this study, concentrations of Chl *a* displayed a stronger correlation
525 with nanophytoplankton abundances ($r^2 = 0.78$, $p < 0.001$) than they did with picophytoplankton
($r^2 = 0.48$, $p < 0.001$) despite the latter's numerical dominance. The taxonomy of the
picophytoplankton was not determined during our study, but *Micromonas*-like species are known
to be a major component of the photosynthetic picoeukaryotes in the Arctic (Lovejoy et al., 2007;
Tremblay et al., 2009).

The DMSP_T concentrations measured during the development of the diatom bloom correspond to
a DMSP_T:Chl *a* ratio ranging from 3 to 15 nmol μg^{-1} (data not shown), as expected for this
530 phytoplankton group (Stefels et al., 2007). The sharp increase in DMSP_T measured between T5
and T6 under both light regimes and at all pH_T values investigated was however unexpected (Fig.
7a,b), as it contrasts with results from previous mesocosms experiments that showed a more
gradual increase in DMSP along with algal biomass (Vogt et al., 2008; Archer et al., 2013; Park
et al., 2014). During our experiment, this sharp increase in DMSP_T and DMS coincided with the
535 exhaustion of NO₃⁻, with the exception of the microcosms at pH_T 7.4 and 7.2 under both light
regimes (Fig. 3a, b). At the two latter pH the increase of DMSP_T between T5 and T6 was of lower
magnitude compared to the other microcosms and the remaining NO₃⁻ concentrations varied from
0.9 to 2.6 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ in these bags at T6 (Fig. 7a, b). Previous laboratory experiments have shown
that NO₃⁻ limitation could induce a 25-fold increase in diatoms DMSP_T cellular quotas (Keller et
540 al., 1999; Bucciarelli and Sunda, 2003; Sunda et al., 2007). Our results show a ca. 9-fold increase
of DMSP_T between T5 and T6, which corresponds well with the values found in the literature
(Sunda et al., 2007). Unicellular algae are known to synthesize DMSP during episodes of stress
or senescence as an overflow mechanism to evacuate excess energy, sulfur, and carbon, while
allowing the cell to function (Stefels et al., 2000; Hopkins and Archer, 2014). In response to NO₃⁻
545 limitation, diatoms could have switched from the synthesis of glycine betaine (GBT), a nitrogen-
containing osmolyte, to its sulfur analog DMSP (Andrea, 1986; Keller et al., 1999). Altogether,
these results suggest a relationship between the intensity of nitrate depletion and the magnitude of
DMSP synthesis by the diatom community during our experiment. These results also suggest that
diatoms could have more difficulty in efficiently taking up/assimilating NO₃⁻ at lower pH.

550 4.2 Phytoplankton community and nutrient uptake response to the pH gradient

Lowering the pH had a negative impact on the mean concentration of Chl *a*, as well as on the mean abundance of nanophytoplankton during the 9-day experiment (Fig. 5a,b, Table 4). Considering that *Chaetoceros* diatoms accounted for more than 65% of the total abundance of the large phytoplankton ($> 2 \mu\text{m}$) and most of the Chl *a* build-up, these results suggest that net carbon fixation by diatoms was negatively impacted by the decrease in pH, as observed in other studies (Gao and Campbell, 2014, and references therein). Altered seawater carbonate chemistry could perturb the energy requirements of diatom cells, leading to changes in respiration, cell surface and intracellular pH stability (Gao and Campbell, 2014 and reference therein). Such energy re-allocation could force diatoms to assign more energy to repair mechanisms and ion transport to remedy the acid-base perturbation, thus impairing their growth.

The relative uptake of nutrients was also impacted by the pH_T treatments in diatoms. The observed linear decrease of the Si(OH)_4 : NO_3^- concentration ratio with increasing proton concentration, which was mostly driven by a reduction in Si(OH)_4 consumption, either suggests that, at low pH_T , diatoms cells were less silicified or that non-diatom phytoplankton made a larger contribution to nutrient drawdown. The former is the most likely explanation since diatom abundance increased in all experimental treatments and numerically dominated the cells community $> 2\mu\text{m}$ at T5 and T9, irrespective of the pH_T level tested. This explanation is also consistent with laboratory studies that previously reported an impairment of Si(OH)_4 uptake in diatom cultures grown at low pH (Milligan et al., 2004; Hervé et al., 2012; Mejía et al., 2013). In Hervé et al. (2012), the cells exhibited similar growth rates at high and low pH, implying that the negative impact of a low pH on silification does not preclude bloom development in nature.

The picophytoplankton were also impacted by the decrease in pH_T (i.e. the augmentation of proton concentration), albeit differently from the nanophytoplankton. As shown in Figure 5c, their mean abundance increased as the proton concentration increased from 0.1 to $2.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ and then tends to stabilise at pH_T below 7.6 (see Table 1 for the corresponding proton concentration). In contrast to our study, Richier et al. (2014) reported a negative impact of ocean acidification not only on nanophytoplankton but on picophytoplankton as well during a microcosm experiment using a similar methodology. In this study conducted with water from the northwest European shelf, lowering the pH resulted in a decrease in the abundance (cell number)

580 and biomass (Chl *a*) of phytoplankton $< 10 \mu\text{m}$. These contrasting results could reflect
differences in the initial picophytoplankton community composition and possible species-specific
physiological response to OA. By contrast, a positive influence of a decreasing pH_T on
picophytoplankton abundance, and particularly *Micromonas*-like phylotypes, has been previously
585 reported by Hama et al. (2016) for a coastal planktonic community near Japan, as well as by
others based on mesocosm experiments (Paulino et al., 2008; Brussaard et al., 2013). This
response could be explained by an adjustment of the CCM (Carbon Concentrating mechanism)
used by these small cells at low pH. Indeed, picophytoplankton may rely more on CO_2 diffusion
at lower pH than on investing energy in active CO_2 and HCO_3^- uptake (Brussaard et al., 2013).
The energy saved that way could translate into higher growth. Moreover, small
590 picophytoplankton species are known to possess less effective CCM than diatoms (Mackey et al.,
2015). If the picophytoplankton thriving in our experiment were not saturated with CO_2 at *in situ*
levels, an increase in $p\text{CO}_2$ could have stimulated photosynthesis and growth of this size group
(Brussaard et al., 2013).

In summary, during our experiment, OA stimulated picophytoplankton net growth over the whole
595 range of pH_T investigated while impairing the development of nanophytoplankton, especially at
the lowest pH_T tested. This implies that OA will most probably maintain or increase the
numerical dominance of picophytoplankton over the nanophytoplankton in the Arctic Ocean
(Newbold et al., 2012; Davidson et al., 2016). Tremblay et al. (2012) suggested that climate
warming and the associated increase in surface water stratification could also favour the growth
600 of small cells relative to larger diatoms, thus favouring the diminution of primary producers
biomass. Our results suggest that OA could accentuate this community response caused by
warming and stratification.

4.3 Effect of the pH gradient on dimethylated compounds

During our experiment, DMSP_T and DMS responded differently to decreasing pH_T . While
605 DMSP_T concentrations decreased between pH_T of 8.1 and 7.6 (see Table 1 for corresponding
proton concentration values) only under HL conditions, DMS concentrations decreased linearly
over the full range of pH_T investigated and under both light regimes (Fig. 8, Table 4).

610 Although not linear over the full range of pH_T investigated, the decrease in DMSP_T concentrations measured under HL conditions was, nevertheless, important (50%) over the range of pH_T predicted for ocean surface waters by 2100 (8.1 to 7.6, approximately corresponding to proton concentration between 0.1 and $3.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ on Fig. 8a). The mean abundance of nanophytoplankton varied little within this pH_T range, while the abundance of picophytoplankton increased (Fig. 5b,c). The pH-induced decrease in DMSP_T under HL conditions could thus be related to a decrease in algal cellular DMSP quota. The more ambiguous response of DMSP_T to the pH_T decrease, compared to DMS, is in line with previous experiments that have also observed similar responses to OA for those two sulfur compounds (Vogt et al., 2008; Hopkins et al., 2010; Archer et al., 2013; Hopkins and Archer, 2014; Webb et al., 2015). Together, these results suggest that ongoing OA will have a stronger impact on the algal and bacterial DMSP transformation into DMS than on the synthesis of DMSP by algae (Vogt et al., 2008; Hopkins et al., 2010; Webb et al. 2016).

625 As in this study, several OA experiments conducted in mesocosms or with monospecific phytoplankton cultures have revealed a consistent decrease in DMS concentration under the influence of decreasing pH (Avgoustidi et al., 2012; Arnold et al., 2013; see Table 6 for a summary of past meso- and microcosm experiments). The percent decreases observed during our microcosm experiment over the full range of pH_T investigated are consistent with the results from other studies that also found decreases ranging from -34 to -82% (Table 6). Keeping in mind the limitations of the experimental protocols, the consistency of the DMS response to pH at different latitudes and with different planktonic assemblages suggests that the potential for DMS net production during the seasonal bloom is likely to decrease in the Arctic during the next centuries.

630 However, it is important to also keep in mind that our short-term experiment precludes any acclimation of the algae to their new environment, something that is likely to take place in response to a more gradual change in pH. In that regard, two studies have highlighted the acclimation capacity/evolutionary adaptation of the strong DMS(P) producer *Emiliana Huxleyi* to decreases in pH (Lohbeck et al., 2012; 2014). More studies are needed to fully assess how the acclimation capacity of phytoplankton will combine with short-term physiological responses to environmental stressors to shape future DMS emissions and climate.

Multiple interrelated processes interact in the global ocean to regulate DMS dynamics. Hence, several hypotheses have been proposed to explain the observed attenuation of DMS concentrations at low pH. Whereas some authors suggest a physiological response of phytoplankton under conditions of acidification (Avgoustidi et al., 2012; Hopkins and Archer, 2014), others propose a pH-induced impact on bacterial activity (Archer et al., 2013; Webb et al., 2015) or on zooplankton grazing (Kim et al., 2010; Park et al., 2014). In our study, the absence of DMSP and DMS gross rate measurements limits our interpretation of the observed decreasing DMS trend. Results from the few previous studies where gross rate measurements were performed do not show a consistent effect of a decrease in pH on neither DMSP synthesis nor DMS consumption (Archer et al. 2013, Hopkins and Archer 2014). Despite the unavailability of rate measurements in our study, the dominance of diatoms, an algal group lacking DMSP lyase enzymes, suggests that bacteria may have played a critical role in the observed DMS dynamics. Low pH conditions have been reported to stimulate the productivity, and hence the carbon demand, of bacteria (Maas et al., 2013; Piontek et al., 2013; Endres et al., 2014). This increase in bacterial productivity could in turn have resulted in an increase in sulfur demand leading to a decrease in bacterial DMS yield (% of the DMSP taken up by the bacteria and cleaved into DMS). This interpretation is supported by the linear decrease in the DMS:DMSP_d ratio observed over the full range of pH_T investigated (Fig. 8c, Table 4), which suggests that at lower pH bacteria increasingly favoured the demethylation over the cleavage pathways of DMSP degradation. Although the decrease of this ratio could also result from an increase in microzooplankton grazing on diatoms (Jones et al., 1998), we found no significant relationship between the micrograzers and phytoplankton, pH or DMS. Archer et al. (2013) also proposed that the pH-induced decrease in DMS observed during their experiments could partly be explained by a decrease in bacterial DMS yield related to the increase in phytoplankton biomass and net primary production at lower pH, as well as the associated increase in bacterial protein production and sulfur demand. In contrast with their observations, however, phytoplankton biomass did not increase but decreased with pH_T during our study. Nevertheless, this does not preclude the possibility of an increase in dissolved organic carbon (DOC) release by phytoplankton at low pH as previously reported (Riebesell et al., 2013). Whether the productivity and sulfur demand of DMS-consuming bacteria are also stimulated at low pH is unknown. If so, they may also have contributed to the pH-induced decrease in DMS reported here and in other studies.

670 Finally, it is unlikely that grazing played a major role in the pH-associated reduction in DMS
concentrations we observed. [Although removing large grazers before the incubation may have](#)
[affected the relative importance of microzooplankton grazing on phytoplankton during our](#)
[experiment, no relationships between protist abundance and H⁺ or DMS were found.](#)
Modifications in micrograzing activity at low pH have been reported to either stimulate (Kim et
675 al., 2010) or decrease net DMS production (Park et al., 2014). Park et al. (2014) attributed the
reduction in grazing to a pH-induced shift in the phytoplankton species composition, with larger
diatoms outcompeting smaller DMSP-rich dinoflagellates in acidified treatments, resulting in a
weaker grazing pressure on the small DMSP-rich phytoplankton species and therefore less
release of DMSP and DMS. In our study, small DMSP-rich producers were not abundant and
diatoms dominated the community biomass over the full range of pH_T investigated. It is
important to note that dinophyceae did not survive in our incubation bags, so no conclusion can
680 be drawn as to how they could have responded to a decrease in pH and influenced DMS net
production.

4.4 Response to the contrasting light regimes

The two experimental light treatments applied in this study had no significant effects on the
temporal evolution, magnitude and taxonomic composition of the phytoplankton bloom (Table
685 3). These results show that both nanophytoplankton and picophytoplankton achieved optimal
growth in the range of PAR used in our treatments. During a laboratory experiment, Gilstad and
Sakshaug (1990) found that 10 Arctic diatom species exhibited negligible variations in growth
rate at PAR levels ranging from 50 to 500 $\mu\text{mol quanta m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, while their growth rate increased
linearly with increased PAR from 0 to 50 $\mu\text{mol quanta m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$. During our experiment, PAR
690 ranged from 61 to 402 $\mu\text{mol quanta m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ (Table 2), and these values fall within the tolerance
range reported by Gilstad and Sakshaug (1990). Moreover, the phytoplankton community in our
incubation was initially taken at 38 m depth [where](#) PAR irradiance was as low as 7 $\mu\text{mol quanta}$
 $\text{m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$. Thus, diatoms in our experience were already very well adapted for growing at very low
light [levels](#). As they were then capable of growing as efficiently in both the HL and LL treatment,
695 we could assess that diatoms during our experiment were capable of adapting themselves to
higher irradiances very quickly. This is supported by the high and similar F_v/F_m ratios recorded
during the growth phase in both light treatments (Table 5), suggesting that photosynthesis was

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Supprimé: Heterotrophic protists were present in the microcosms, with abundances varying between 786,008 to 15,254,481 cells L⁻¹ (data not shown).

equally efficient at HL and LL exposure. These results suggest that phytoplankton exiting the ice pack would not necessarily experience a light shock as severe as previously noted by others (Vance et al., 2013, Galindo et al., 2016).

705 Among the biological variables measured, only bacteria showed a significant response to the different light treatments, with higher abundances at LL than at HL exposure (Table 3, Fig. 5d). This may reflect the known sensitivity of bacteria to UVB radiation (Herndl et al., 1993), which was absent in our LL treatment.

We found no difference in the DMSP and DMS concentrations between the two light regimes tested, as the DMSP_T and DMS variations were very similar under both LL and HL conditions (Table 3). This result was unexpected considering that several processes associated with the DMS cycle are either directly (e.g., DMS photo-oxidation) or indirectly (e.g., DMS bacterial production under high UV-R) light-sensitive (Sunda et al., 2002; Slezak et al., 2007; Galí et al., 2011). Previous studies demonstrated a strong positive correlation between the solar radiation dose (SRD) received by the plankton community in the upper mixed layer and the DMS concentrations measured in surface waters (Toole et al., 2004; Vallina and Simó, 2007). Hence, our working hypothesis was that light conditions under the ice pack (low PAR and quasi-absence of UV-R) would result in lower DMS concentrations than under open water light conditions (high PAR and high UV-R). The absence of such light response may suggest that our LL treatment, as it was already light saturating for diatoms, was not different enough from our HL treatment to trigger a different photo-induced response of diatoms. Hence, the differences in PAR and UV radiation between a 5 m mixed layer depth in ice-free water and under ponded first-year ice (or a subsurface chlorophyll layer) in summer may not be sufficient to significantly affect the net production of DMSP and DMS.

725 **5 Conclusion**

During this study, we demonstrated that a rapid decrease in surface water pH could negatively impact the net production of algal biomass as well as DMS concentrations in Baffin Bay waters. Irrespective of the treatment, a nanophytoplankton (diatoms mostly) and picophytoplankton bloom developed within 5 to 7 days in each of our microcosms. The growth of picophytoplankton was stimulated at low pH_T, whereas the diatoms, which dominated the algal community in term

of biomass at all pH_T levels investigated, had their abundance negatively affected by the acidification, especially at the lowest pH_T level tested when compared to the controls. These results show that OA can potentially affect the magnitude of diatoms biomass in Arctic waters and enhance the already observed shift towards smaller autotrophic cells due to increased stratification (Li et al., 2009; Tremblay et al., 2012), [although our results do not account for the acclimation/evolutionary adaptation potential of natural microbial communities.](#)

Concurrent with the response of phytoplankton to OA, the DMS dynamics were strongly affected by decreasing the pH_T , with a 80% reduction in average DMS concentrations between the control and the lowest pH_T investigated (from pH_T 8.1 to 7.2). This result adds to conclusions found in 740 70% of published studies that have focused on pH-DMS dynamics and showed a decrease in DMS concentrations as pH decreases. In contrast, the pH-induced decrease in DMSP_T concentration was less pronounced, as it only decreased under the HL treatment at relatively high pH_T (8.1 to 7.6). The synthesis of DMSP by unicellular algae appears to be less sensitive to OA than processes responsible for its conversion into DMS, as previously hypothesized by other 745 authors (Vogt et al., 2008; Hopkins et al., 2010; Webb et al., 2016). The lack of rate measurements during our study precludes a definitive explanation for this trend, but a decrease in bacterial DMS yield seems to be the most probable candidate.

Our data highlighted a remarkable similarity in responses of the phytoplankton community and DMS-related processes to experimental variations in light (LL versus HL treatment). Indeed, 750 neither the phytoplankton community nor the dimethylated sulfur compounds exhibited significantly different signatures between the two light treatments, which were designed to simulate contrasting light conditions, experienced by a marginal ice blooms (ice-free surface mixed layer) versus under-ice blooms (irradiance under a melting pondered ice pack) or subsurface chlorophyll maxima. Although further studies are needed to fully assess the importance of light in the context of climate change in the Arctic, [our results show that Arctic diatoms may bloom under light conditions much lower than the one tested here. This apparent capacity of Arctic diatoms to grow under extremely low light conditions should be explored in future studies. As short-term impacts of OA on the DMS cycle become clearer, future studies should focus on assessing the potential susceptibility and adaptive mechanisms of microbial](#) 755 [DMS\(P\) producers, processes that likely develop on a time scale closer to the natural OA rate.](#) 760

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Authors' contribution: R. Husserr was responsible of the elaboration of the experimental design, the sampling process, the data analysis and processing and the redaction of this 775 manuscript. Several co-authors provided specific data included in the manuscript and all co-authors contributed to the final edition of the paper.

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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1115 **Table 1.** Values of pH_T (total hydrogen ion scale), the associated proton concentration $[\text{H}^+]$ dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), total alkalinity (TA), and pCO_2 in the microcosms under low light (LL) and high light (HL) treatments on days T0, T1, T4, and T9. Values of pCO_2 were calculated using CO_2SYS software, values of proton concentrations were calculated after the pH_T measurements. 1L and 1H are the control microcosms.

		pH_T			$[\text{H}^+]$			DIC			TA			pCO_2		
		(total hydrogen ion scale)			(x 10^{-8} mol L $^{-1}$)			($\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ SW)			($\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ SW)			(μatm)		
		T0			T0			T0			T0			T0		
		7.94			1.15			2137			2243			492		
		T1	T4	T9	T1	T4	T9	T1	T4	T9	T1	T4	T9	T1	T4	T9
Microcosm	1L	7.94	7.99	8.22	1.15	1.03	0.60	2142	2129	2041	2238	2243	2247	509	451	247
	2L	7.79	7.84	8.11	1.62	1.46	0.77	2186	2178	2083	2237	2243	2243	738	658	326
	3L	7.65	7.70	8.06	2.24	1.99	0.87	2221	2222	2099	2231	2248	2238	1040	917	375
	4L	7.46	7.49	7.83	3.47	3.24	1.47	2261	2255	2163	2217	2220	2226	1618	1508	660
	5L	7.34	7.36	7.65	4.57	4.37	2.23	2293	2293	2210	2212	2217	2222	2116	2046	1022
	6L	7.16	7.17	7.33	6.92	6.73	4.68	2366	2340	2283	2210	2192	2198	3296	3149	2179
	1H	7.94	8.00	8.22	1.15	1.01	0.61	2144	2129	2041	2242	2246	2245	505	442	249
	2H	7.77	7.85	8.12	1.70	1.42	0.76	2184	2169	2075	2229	2237	2237	768	638	322
	3H	7.64	7.69	8.02	2.29	2.06	0.96	2218	2210	2109	2225	2231	2233	1063	946	415
	4H	7.46	7.49	7.85	3.47	3.27	1.42	2260	2257	2157	2217	2222	2225	1610	1521	636
	5H	7.30	7.32	7.53	5.01	4.82	2.92	2304	2302	2236	2208	2211	2214	2337	2259	1349
	6H	7.16	7.17	7.30	6.92	6.73	5.00	2330	2326	2281	2178	2178	2185	3208	3134	2318

1120 **Table 2.** Photosynthetically active radiation (PAR), ultraviolet A radiation (UVA) and ultraviolet
 1125 B radiation (UVB) measured during the 9-day microcosm experiment. Values are shown for the
 incident irradiance and the estimated irradiance under the high light (HL) and low light (LL)
 treatments (i.e. values corrected for the transmission through the incubation bags). PAR values
 were averaged over a day whereas UVA and UVB were measured each day around noon between
 T5 and T9 only due to instrument dysfunction during the 4 first days.

		PAR ($\mu\text{mol quanta m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$)			UV-A (W m^{-2})			UV-B (W m^{-2})		
		Incident	HL	LL	Incident	HL	LL	Incident	HL	LL
Time	(day)									
	T1	189	146	61						
	T2	216	168	70						
	T3	333	258	109						
	T4	402	312	131						
	T5	394	306	129	13	7.8	2.6	0.37	0.12	-
	T6	381	270	124	4.6	2.8	0.94	0.2	0.07	
	T7	348	304	113	12	7.6	2.5	0.37	0.12	
	T8	392	304	128	10	6.2	2.1	0.36	0.12	
	T9	272	211	89	4.9	3	1	0.17	0.06	

Table 3. Overview of the results of generalized least square models testing for the effects of time, light, and pH_T over the duration of the incubation on nitrate, silicic acid, soluble reactive phosphate (SRP), chlorophyll *a*, dissolved DMSP, total DMSP, and DMS concentrations, as well as nanophytoplankton, picophytoplankton, and bacterial abundances. Type of transformations applied to data when necessary are indicated in parentheses, significant results are indicated in bold, df are the degrees of freedom, p is the significance of the t-value.

Response variable	Factor	df	t-value	p
Nitrate ($\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$)	Time	77	-7.853	< 0.001
	Light	77	-0.395	0.693
	pH	77	-5.156	< 0.001
Silicic acid ($\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$)	Time	108	-8.308	< 0.001
	Light	108	0.123	0.903
	pH	108	-6.608	< 0.001
(sqrt) SRP ($\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$)	Time	108	-8.487	< 0.001
	Light	108	-1.826	0.071
	pH	108	-6.915	< 0.001
(sqrt) Chlorophyll <i>a</i> ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)	Time	108	7.456	< 0.001
	Light	108	0.151	0.880
	pH	108	4.862	< 0.001
(sqrt) Nanophytoplankton (cells mL^{-1})	Time	107	17.614	< 0.001
	Light	107	-0.346	0.608
	pH	107	6.513	< 0.001
(sqrt) Picophytoplankton (cells mL^{-1})	Time	107	26.926	< 0.001
	Light	107	1.388	0.185
	pH	107	2.043	0.035

(2 outliers removed) Bacteria (cells mL ⁻¹)	Time	104	4.300	< 0.001
	Light	104	2.604	0.011
	pH	104	3.167	< 0.01
Total DMSP (nmol L ⁻¹)	Time	108	1.562	0.121
	Light	108	0.950	0.344
	pH	108	2.070	0.041
(log) Dissolved DMSP (nmol L ⁻¹)	Time	60	2.529	0.014
	Light	60	-0.753	0.454
	pH	60	0.362	0.718
(sqrt) DMS (nmol L ⁻¹)	Time	77	2.478	0.015
	Light	77	0.387	0.700
	pH	77	6.635	< 0.001

1135 **Table 4.** Empirical relationships of various biological or chemical (response) variables with
 proton concentration (mol L^{-1}). Values are the means of all the microcosms. Linear regressions
 were performed on both light treatments when light had significant effect on the response
 variable (see Table 3). Significant results are in bold, df are the degrees of liberty, r^2 is the
 1140 squared Pearson correlation coefficient between proton concentration and the response variable,
 and p is the significance of each parameters of the regression.

Response variable	df	r^2	Parameters	p	
Mean Chlorophyll <i>a</i> ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)	10	0.86	slope	$-2.70 \cdot 10^7$	< 0.001
			intercept	3.95	< 0.001
Mean nanophytoplankton (cells mL^{-1})	10	0.73	slope	$-4.37 \cdot 10^{10}$	< 0.001
			intercept	$6.74 \cdot 10^3$	< 0.001
Mean picophytoplankton (cells mL^{-1})	10	0.32	slope	$6.52 \cdot 10^{11}$	0.056
			intercept	$6.73 \cdot 10^4$	< 0.001
Mean bacteria (cells mL^{-1})					
<i>High Light</i>	4	0.84	slope	$-2.54 \cdot 10^{12}$	< 0.01
			intercept	$9.77 \cdot 10^5$	< 0.001
<i>Low Light</i>	4	0.33	slope	$-8.04 \cdot 10^{11}$	0.23
			intercept	$1.01 \cdot 10^6$	< 0.001
Mean DMSP _T (nmol L^{-1})	10	0.04	slope	$-6.90 \cdot 10^7$	0.55
			intercept	$3.81 \cdot 10^1$	< 0.001
Mean DMS (nmol L^{-1})	10	0.9	slope	$-1.19 \cdot 10^8$	< 0.001
			intercept	8.37	< 0.001
Mean DMS:DMSPd ratio	10	0.57	slope	$-1.02 \cdot 10^8$	< 0.01
			intercept	8.45	< 0.001

Table 5. F_v/F_m ratios for three different pH_T measured on days T2, T4, T6, T7 and T9 under high light (HL) and low light (LL) conditions.

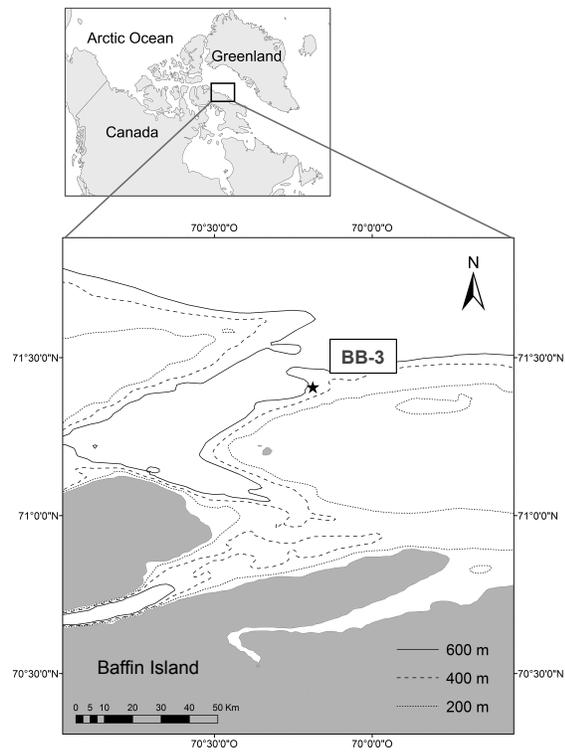
	pH	8.07		7.81		7.22	
		HL	LL	HL	LL	HL	LL
Time (day)	T2	0.52	0.55	0.51	0.53	0.44	0.46
	T4	0.59	0.58	0.58	0.59	0.5	0.5
	T6	0.49	0.47	0.44	0.51	0.5	0.5
	T7	0.4	0.4	0.41	0.42	0.5	0.52
	T9	0.31	0.32	0.33	0.36	0.36	0.37

1145

Table 6. Changes in dimethylsulfide (DMS) concentrations reported in previous CO₂ perturbation experiments in mesocosms or microcosms. ΔpH represents the change in pH_T applied in each experiment. In our study, pH_T ranged from 7.94 to 7.16 at day T1. ND: No data

Location	ΔpH	pCO_2 range (μatm)	Change in DMS (%)	Reference
Baffin Bay, Arctic	-0.75	500 - 3000	-80	This study
Baltic Sea	-0.4	350 - 1500	-34	Webb et al. 2016
Raunesfjorden, Norway	-0.6	280 - 3000	-60	Webb et al. 2015
Jangmok, Korea	-0.5	160 - 830	-82	Park et al. 2014
Kongsfjorden, Svalbard	-0.8	180 - 1420	-60	Archer et al. 2013
Raunesfjorden, Norway	-0.2	300 - 750	-40	Avgoustidi et al. 2013
Raunesfjorden, Norway	-0.3	300 - 750	-57	Hopkins et al. 2010
Raunesfjorden, Norway	-0.5	300 - 750	0	Vogt et al. 2008
NW European Shelf	-0.4	340 - 1000	225	Hopkins et Archer 2014
Jangmok, Korea	ND	400 - 900	80	Kim et al. 2010

Figures



1155 **Fig. 1.** Map showing the location of station BB-3 (71°24.373'N; 70°11.269'W) where seawater was collected for the incubation experiment.

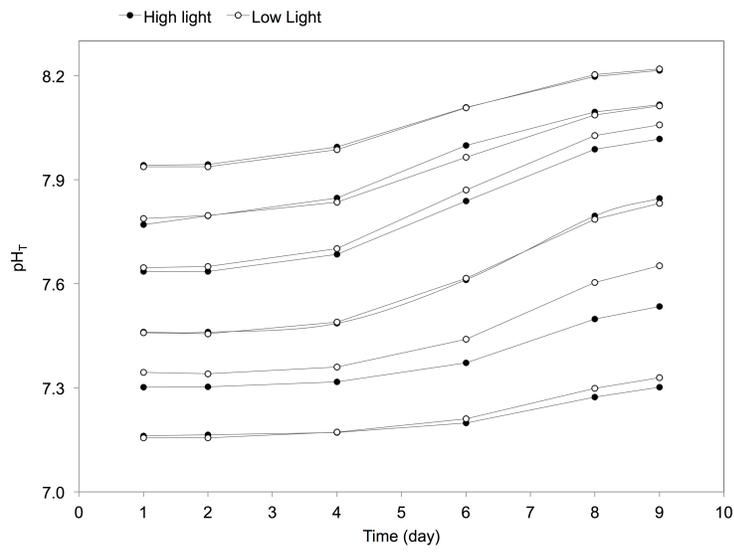
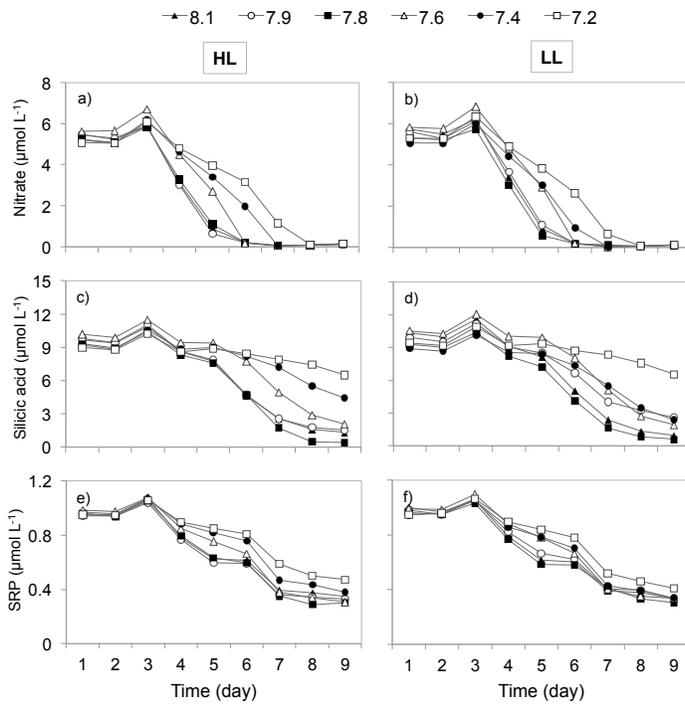
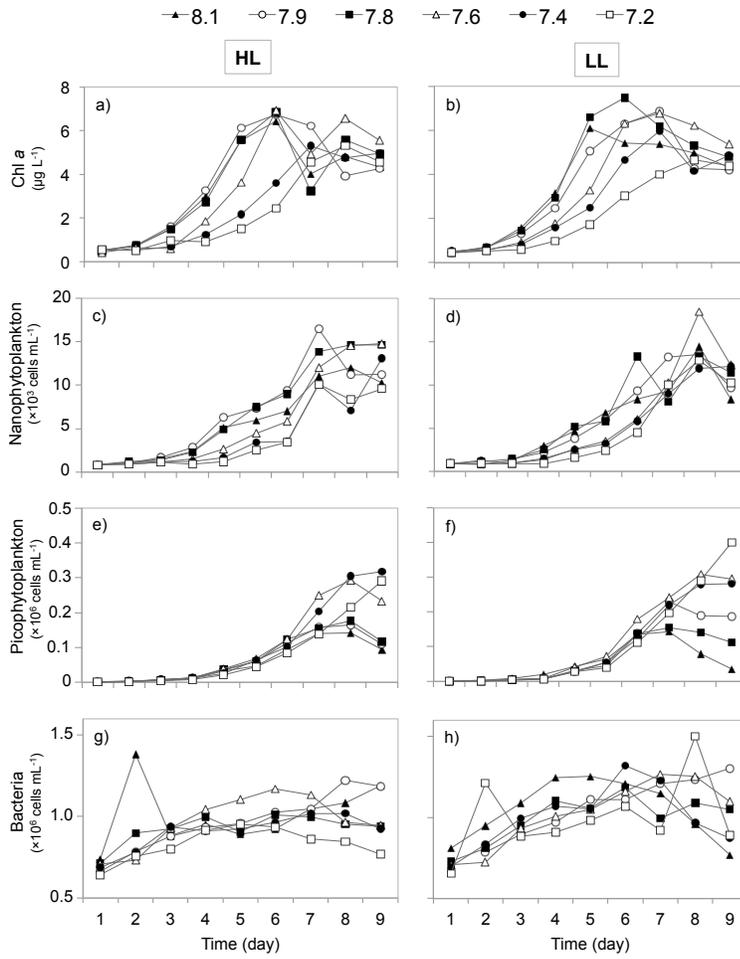


Fig. 2. Temporal variations in pH_T (total hydrogen ion scale) during the microcosm experiment. Black and white circles represent the pH gradient in the high light (HL) and low light (LL) treatments, respectively.

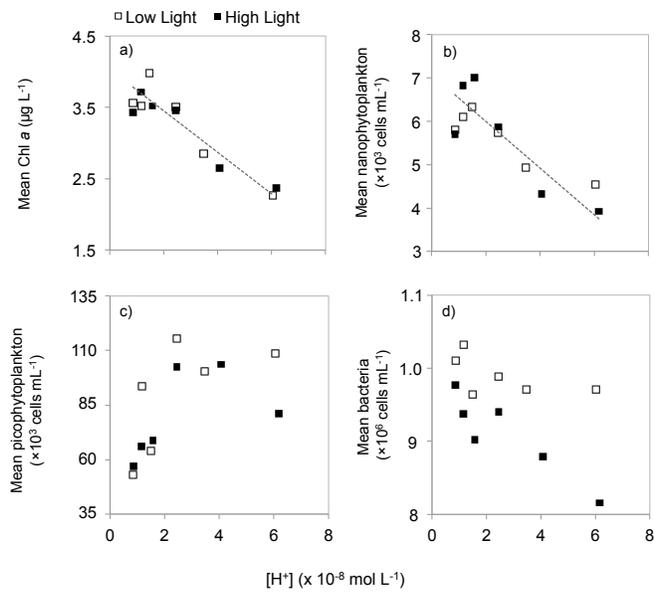
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1165 **Fig. 3.** Temporal variations in (a,b) nitrate, (c,d) silicic acid, and (e,f) soluble reactive phosphate (SRP) concentrations during the experiment. Left and right panels show variations under the high light (HL) and low light (LL) treatments, respectively. Each curve represents a microcosm identified by its mean pH_T value.



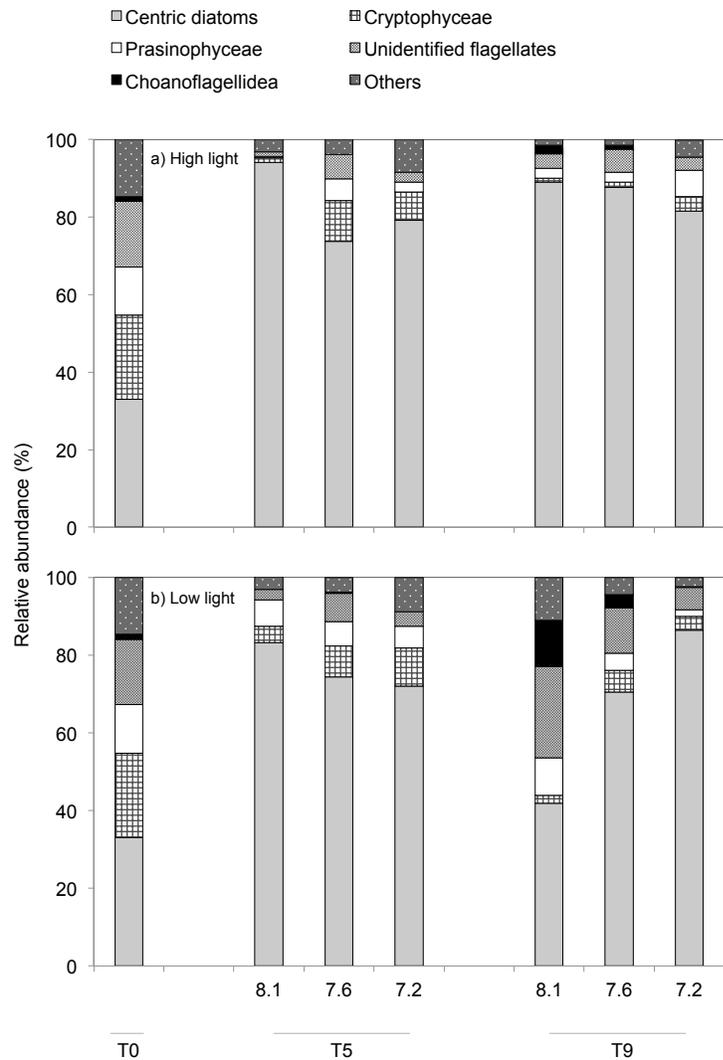
1170 **Fig. 4.** Temporal variations in (a,b) chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) concentration, (c,d) nanophytoplankton, (e,f) picophytoplankton, and (g,h) bacteria during the microcosm experiment. Left and right panels show variations under the high light (HL) and low light (LL) treatments, respectively. Each curve represents a microcosm identified by its mean pH_T value.



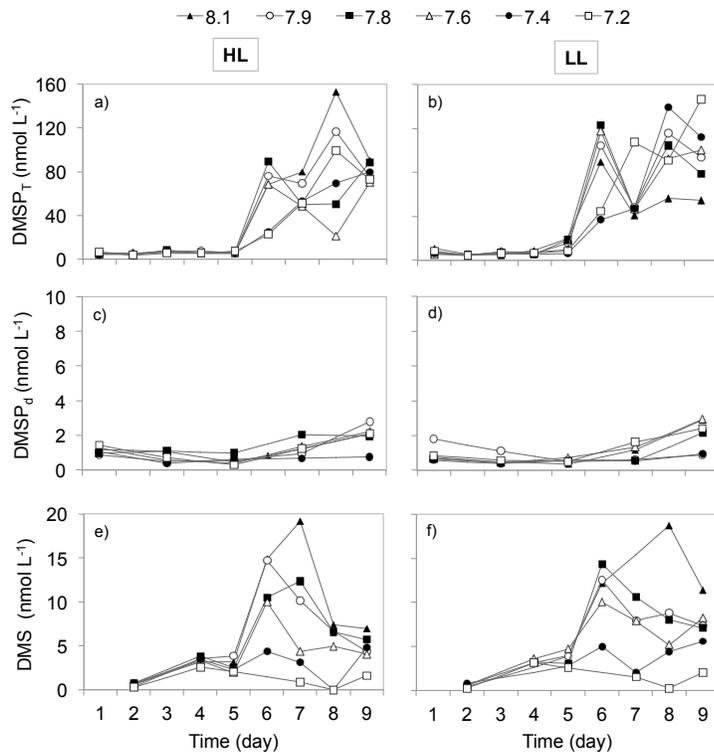
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Fig. 5. Relationships between the mean proton concentration values ($[H^+]$) and a) mean Chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*), b) mean nanophytoplankton abundance, c) mean picophytoplankton abundance, and d) mean bacteria abundance. Values are the means over the duration of the incubation in each microcosm. Significant regressions are shown with dashed lines; details of which are given in Table 4. Regressions were based on the full dataset when no significant difference between the light treatments was detected (see also Table 3 for more details).

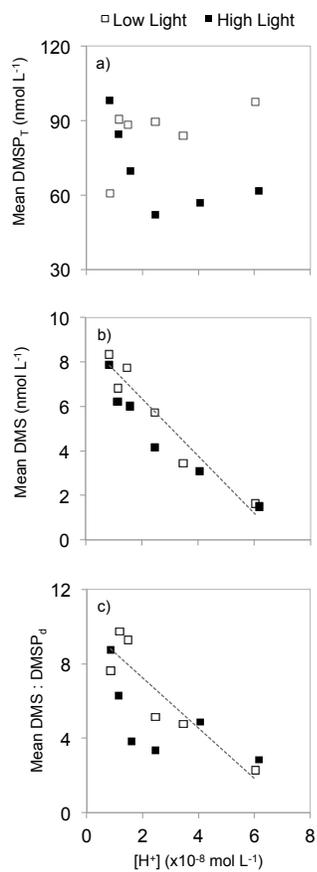
1180



1185 **Fig. 6.** Relative abundance of 6 groups of protists at the beginning (T0), the middle (T5) and the
 end (T9) of the microcosm experiment for (a) high light (HL) and (b) low light (LL) treatments.
 The group “Others” includes pennate diatoms, dinophyceae, chrysophyceae, dictyophyceae,
 euglenophyceae, ciliates and unidentified cells. Each barplot represents a pH treatment. The
 barplot at T0 represents the initial community assemblage before pH manipulations, and is
 1190 therefore the same for both light treatments.



1195 **Fig. 7.** Temporal variations in (a,b) total DMSP (DMSP_T), (c,d) dissolved DMSP (DMSP_d), and (e,f) DMS concentrations during the microcosm experiment. Left and right panels show variations under the high light (HL) and low light (LL) treatments, respectively. Each curve represents a microcosm identified by its mean pH_T value.



1200 **Fig. 8.** Relationships between the mean proton concentration values ($[H^+]$) and (a) mean total DMSP concentration, (b) mean DMS concentration, and (c) mean DMS:DMSP_d ratio. Values are the mean over the duration of the incubation in each microcosm. Significant regressions are shown as dashed lines, details of which are given in Table 4.