

## Enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing in the Southern Ocean from a positive phase of the Southern Annular Mode

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[1] We investigate the interannual variability in the flux of CO<sub>2</sub> between the atmosphere and the Southern Ocean on the basis of hindcast simulations with a coupled physical-biogeochemical-ecological model with particular emphasis on the role of the Southern Annular Mode (SAM). The simulations are run under either pre-industrial or historical CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, permitting us to separately investigate natural, anthropogenic, and contemporary CO<sub>2</sub> flux variability. We find large interannual variability ( $\pm 0.19$  PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>) in the contemporary air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux from the Southern Ocean (<35°S). Forty-three percent of the contemporary air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux variance is coherent with SAM, mostly driven by variations in the flux of natural CO<sub>2</sub>, for which SAM explains 48%. Positive phases of the SAM are associated with anomalous outgassing of natural CO<sub>2</sub> at a rate of 0.1 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> per standard deviation of the SAM. In contrast, we find an anomalous uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> at a rate of 0.01 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> during positive phases of the SAM. This uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> only slightly mitigates the outgassing of natural CO<sub>2</sub>, so that a positive SAM is associated with anomalous outgassing in contemporaneous times. The primary cause of the natural CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing is anomalously high oceanic partial pressures of CO<sub>2</sub> caused by elevated dissolved inorganic carbon (*DIC*) concentrations. These anomalies in *DIC* are primarily a result of the circulation changes associated with the southward shift and strengthening of the zonal winds during positive phases of the SAM. The secular, positive trend in the SAM has led to a reduction in the rate of increase of the uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> by the Southern Ocean over the past 50 years.

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### 1. Introduction

[2] Variations in the oceanic sources and sinks of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> are an important contributor to the interannual variability in the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> growth rate [Bousquet *et al.*, 2000; Peylin *et al.*, 2005]. Processes that regulate the exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> between the ocean and atmosphere are likely to change in a future characterized by global warming, leading to positive and negative feedbacks in the global climate system [Sarmiento *et al.*, 1998; Joos *et al.*, 1999; Matear and Hirst, 1999; Plattner *et al.*, 2001; Gruber *et al.*, 2004]. Studying the interannual variability in these processes over the last few decades and their impact on atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> may help to determine the future evolution of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Understanding the mechanisms leading to air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux variations is therefore a crucial, albeit not

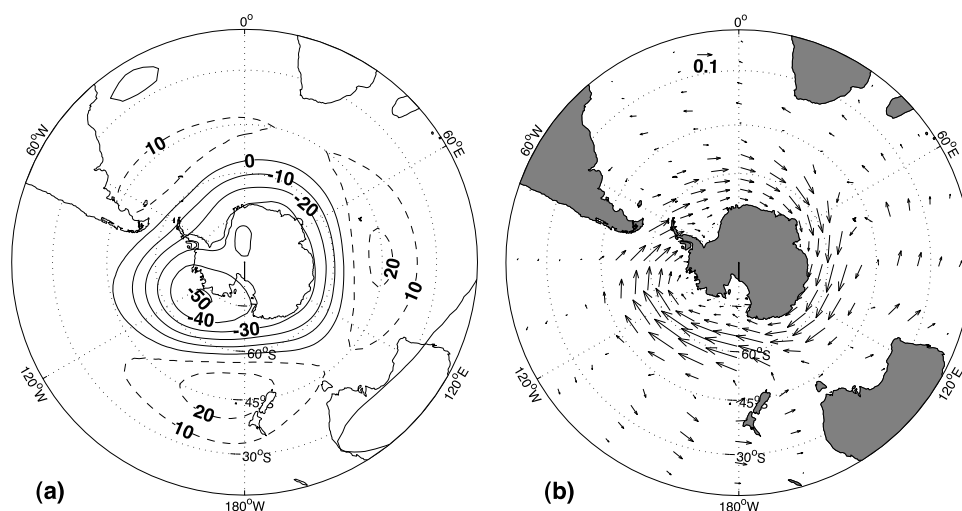
sufficient, condition to quantify the future behavior of the global carbon cycle. Model estimates of global interannual air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux variations are on the order of  $\pm 0.50$  PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>, and suggest that they mostly originate from the Tropical Pacific [LeQuéré *et al.*, 2000; McKinley *et al.*, 2004]. Inversions of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> tend to agree with the model based results with regard to the magnitude of the variability in the Tropical Pacific [McKinley *et al.*, 2004; Peylin *et al.*, 2005], but tend to differ with regard to the magnitude of the extratropical variability in the air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes. Unfortunately, the observational coverage of measurements of the oceanic partial pressures of CO<sub>2</sub> is insufficient in most extratropical regions to establish the interannual variations in the air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes based on in situ data with very few exceptions [Gruber *et al.*, 2002; Dore *et al.*, 2003; Brix *et al.*, 2004; Lefèvre *et al.*, 2004]. Although ill constrained, the contribution from extratropical regions is likely nonnegligible. In fact, a recent model study suggests that the Southern Ocean alone accounts for over 20% of the interannual CO<sub>2</sub> flux variability [Wetzel *et al.*, 2005].

[3] The unique physical oceanography of the Southern Ocean sets the stage for its important role in the global climate system. Atmospheric westerlies propel the strong

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**Figure 1.** Regression of (a) 700 mb geopotential height anomalies (meters) and (b) wind stress anomalies ( $\text{dyn cm}^{-2}$ ) onto the standardized SAM index. Regressions for the zonal and meridional components of the wind stress were calculated separately. For clarity, arrows are only drawn at every other latitude and every fifth longitude point. Note scale arrow near the top of Figure 1b.

eastward flow of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, providing a pathway for the propagation of climatic signals from basin to basin. Westerlies also drive northward Ekman drift, creating the surface branch of a meridional overturning circulation, the Deacon Cell, that may be linked to the global thermohaline circulation [Rintoul *et al.*, 2001]. The rate of meridional overturning is critical to the processes regulating the exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> between the atmosphere and the Southern Ocean. Upwelling in the Antarctic Divergence exposes deep waters with elevated concentrations of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) to the surface, leading to the ventilation of natural CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere [Mikaloff-Fletcher *et al.*, 2007; Toggweiler and Samuels, 1993; Murnane *et al.*, 1999]. The natural CO<sub>2</sub> which is lost to the atmosphere originates as respired carbon from sinking particles, and is important for determining atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> on longer timescales [Sarmiento and Toggweiler, 1984; Siegenthaler and Wenk, 1984]. At the same time, approximately 40% of the global oceanic sequestration of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> occurs on the downwelling side of the Deacon Cell [Sabine *et al.*, 2004; Mikaloff-Fletcher *et al.*, 2006], in association with the formation of mode and intermediate waters [McCartney, 1982]. N. Gruber *et al.* (Oceanic sources and sinks for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, submitted to *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, 2007) (hereinafter referred to as Gruber *et al.*, submitted manuscript, 2007) estimate that this high rate of uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> has turned the Southern Ocean from a preindustrial source of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere to a net sink for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, consistent with the new *p*CO<sub>2</sub> climatology of T. Takahashi *et al.* (Climatological mean and decadal change in surface ocean *p*CO<sub>2</sub>, and net sea-air CO<sub>2</sub> flux over the global oceans, manuscript in preparation, 2007) (hereinafter referred to as Takahashi *et al.*, manuscript in preparation, 2007). Given the large exchange fluxes of both natural and anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>, and the potential for sensitivity to future climate

change [Sarmiento *et al.*, 1998], it is pertinent to understand how this region responds to climate variability and how it might be affected by climate change.

[4] Both observations [Lovenduski and Gruber, 2005; Hughes *et al.*, 2003; Liu *et al.*, 2004] and models [Hall and Visbeck, 2002; Oke and England, 2004; Watterson, 2000] have shown that most of the interannual climatic variability in the Southern Ocean is closely tied to the Southern Annular Mode (SAM), the dominant mode of atmospheric interannual variability in the extratropical circulation of the Southern Hemisphere [Thompson and Wallace, 2000]. The spatial pattern associated with the SAM represents a nearly zonally symmetric oscillation of pressure over the Pole and pressure over midlatitudes (Figure 1a). The SAM index is defined as the leading principal component of monthly geopotential height anomalies south of 20°S, such that positive SAM is associated with anomalously low pressure over the Pole. Such a positive SAM is also coincident with a poleward shift of the westerly winds (Figure 1b) [Hartmann and Lo, 1998; Limpasuvan and Hartmann, 1999; Lovenduski and Gruber, 2005]. Since air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux is directly influenced by wind speed, and wind anomalies can alter the circulation and biogeochemistry of the ocean, and hence the oceanic *p*CO<sub>2</sub>, it is likely that wind anomalies associated with the SAM can impact the flux of CO<sub>2</sub> between the atmosphere and the Southern Ocean.

[5] Here we use output from a hindcast simulation of a global ocean general circulation model with an embedded biogeochemical-ecological model to investigate the interannual variability in the flux of CO<sub>2</sub> between the atmosphere and the Southern Ocean under contemporary conditions. We then separately investigate how much of this variability is driven by the air-sea flux of natural carbon, and how much by the flux of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>. This separation is made by running the model using either a constant pre-industrial

atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (278 μatm) or the time-varying historical atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> record over the last 250 years as surface boundary conditions. The difference between these two runs is considered anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>, while the fluxes in the pre-industrial simulation are just that of natural carbon. Defined this way, the only factor driving the oceanic uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> is the anthropogenic perturbation of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. The anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake rate is then modified by variability and trends in ocean circulation, wind speed, and the surface ocean buffer factor [Gruber *et al.*, 2004]. In contrast, the air-sea exchange flux of natural carbon is not impacted by changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, but responds to all climate variability induced changes of the relevant driving factors, such as wind speed, temperature, salinity, ocean circulation, and ocean biology. Trends in the physical forcing, whether of anthropogenic origin or not, will impact both anthropogenic and natural CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes. However, as we will see, it is primarily the natural CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes that are responding to climate variability and change. Additionally, we quantify the relationship between anomalies in the air-sea flux of contemporary, natural, and anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> and the SAM and analyze the mechanisms responsible for CO<sub>2</sub> flux variability associated with the SAM.

[6] Using similar approaches, but employing different ocean circulation and biogeochemical models, two recent studies have also begun to explore the relationship between the SAM and Southern Ocean CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes. Lenton and Matear [2007] used the ocean component of the CSIRO model with similar forcing, but undertook just a historical simulation. As a result, they were only able to investigate the variability of the contemporary air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux, while our running of both historical and pre-industrial simulations permits us to separately determine the impact of the SAM on natural and anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes. Wetzel *et al.* [2005] also explored air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux variability in the Southern Ocean and its connection to SAM. Similar to Lenton and Matear, they found anomalous outgassing of CO<sub>2</sub> during positive phases of the SAM. Wetzel *et al.* [2005] also noted an outgassing trend in the air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux from the Southern Ocean, and suggested that the trend was likely related to a trend in the SAM. This positive trend in the SAM over the past few decades [Thompson *et al.*, 2000; Thompson and Solomon, 2002] may itself be linked to climate change at high latitudes [Carril *et al.*, 2005]. Here we extend on these two studies with a more in-depth analysis, and use a more realistic ecosystem model coupled to an advanced global ocean general circulation model. We confirm the basic findings of these prior studies in that positive SAM leads to an anomalous outgassing, but demonstrate also the importance of the differential impact of SAM on natural and anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>. We also elucidate that the main driver for the changes are alterations in the meridional overturning circulation, as suggested by Lovenduski and Gruber [2005].

## 2. Methods

[7] We determine the interannual variability of the air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in the Southern Ocean on the basis of hindcast

simulations using a state-of-the-art biogeochemical-ecological model that has been coupled to the Parallel Ocean Program (POP) ocean general circulation model. POP is a level-coordinate, hydrostatic, primitive equation model integrated here with a resolution of 3.6° in longitude, 0.8° to 1.8° in latitude, and 25 vertical levels [Yeager *et al.*, 2006]. The effects of eddy transport are parameterized according to Gent and McWilliams [1990]. The biogeochemical-ecological model is taken from the NCAR global Community Climate System Model (CCSM) and consists of a multiple phytoplankton functional group model for the euphotic zone processes, and a relatively simple biogeochemical model for the aphotic zone processes. This model comprises several nutrient, phytoplankton, zooplankton, and detritus components, and contains complex ecosystem parameterizations, including an iron cycle. The model equations are identical to those reported for the 3-D implementation of Moore *et al.* [2004] with two important modifications as documented in more detail by Moore *et al.* [2006]. First, water column denitrification has been added to the model in order to close the global nitrogen cycle. Second, a number of the parameters associated with the model iron dynamics and scavenging have been adjusted to improve the simulated dissolved iron fields [see Moore *et al.*, 2006, Table 1].

[8] The coupled physical-biogeochemical-ecological model is first spun up to an approximate cyclostationary state with prescribed repeating annual cycles of physical forcing and dust deposition and a pre-industrial atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> mixing ratio of 278 ppm. Two separate hindcast simulations are then performed with the model. In the first, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is held at a constant pre-industrial value of 278 ppm, and in the second, the model is run using the measured and reconstructed evolution of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> from 1765 to 2004 as a boundary condition. We refer to the former as the pre-industrial simulation and the latter as the historical simulation. The CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes from the pre-industrial simulation are driven by the cycling of natural CO<sub>2</sub>, while the CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes from the historical run represent the sum of natural and anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>. We determine the flux of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> by subtracting the CO<sub>2</sub> flux in the pre-industrial simulation from the CO<sub>2</sub> flux in the historical simulation. In doing so, we assume that variations in the natural carbon cycle have no influence on the uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>. This assumption is not without caveats, as variations in the natural carbon cycle change the buffer (Revelle) factor of the ocean [Sarmiento and Gruber, 2006, chap. 8], and hence can alter the ocean's capacity for taking up anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. However, since model simulations that include/exclude an active natural carbon cycle give very similar results with regard to the uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> [Watson and Orr, 2003], we judge the impact of the interaction between the natural and anthropogenic carbon cycle to be small. Both the historical and pre-industrial simulations are brought from the initial cyclo-stationary state (1765) to 1957 using repeating annual cycles of physical forcing following Doney *et al.* [2007]. Then, both simulations are forced with 6-hourly heat, monthly freshwater, and 6-hourly momentum fluxes computed using bulk transfer formula and surface atmosphere data from the National Center for Environmental



**Table 1.** Annual Mean Air-Sea Fluxes of Modeled Contemporary, Natural, and Anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>a</sup>

Region	Latitudes	Contemporary			Natural		Anthropogenic	
		Model <sup>b,c</sup>	Inversion	Observed <sup>d</sup>	Model <sup>b</sup>	Inversion	Model <sup>c</sup>	Inversion
South Atlantic, low latitude	18°S–31°S	0.04	-0.01 ± 0.01	0.03	0.08	0.02 ± 0.01	-0.03	-0.02 ± 0.01
South Atlantic, midlatitude	31°S–44°S	-0.34	-0.16 ± 0.05	-0.16	-0.26	-0.11 ± 0.05	-0.07	-0.05 ± 0.02
South subpolar Atlantic	44°S–58°S	-0.05	0.00 ± 0.08	-0.13	-0.02	0.11 ± 0.05	-0.08	-0.11 ± 0.07
Southern Ocean	S. of 58°S	0.08	-0.20 ± 0.11	0.01	0.25	0.04 ± 0.04	-0.19	-0.24 ± 0.10
Southwest Pacific, midlatitude	18°S–44°S	-0.58	-0.44 ± 0.10	-0.36	-0.46	-0.35 ± 0.09	-0.13	-0.09 ± 0.04
Southeast Pacific, midlatitude	18°S–44°S	0.09	-0.02 ± 0.03	0.04	0.15	-0.01 ± 0.03	-0.04	-0.02 ± 0.01
South subpolar Pacific and Ind	44°S–58°S	0.10	-0.14 ± 0.15	-0.31	0.27	0.25 ± 0.09	-0.23	-0.39 ± 0.12
Southern Indian, midlatitude	18°S–44°S	-0.52	-0.46 ± 0.09	-0.46	-0.38	-0.22 ± 0.06	-0.16	-0.24 ± 0.07
<i>Sum of Regions</i>		-1.18	-1.43 ± 0.25	-1.34	-0.37	-0.27 ± 0.17	-0.93	-1.16 ± 0.19

<sup>a</sup>Flux estimates from ocean inversions and observations are shown for comparison. Positive values indicate ocean outgassing. Inversion estimates are taken from [Mikaloff-Fletcher et al., 2006, 2007], while observational estimates are from Takahashi et al. (manuscript in preparation, 2007).

<sup>b</sup>Regional estimates have been adjusted for a global -0.52 Pg C yr<sup>-1</sup> drift, scaled by area.

<sup>c</sup>Model estimates of contemporary and anthropogenic fluxes represent an average from 1990 to 2000.

<sup>d</sup>Fluxes computed on the basis of the  $\Delta p\text{CO}_2$  values reported by Takahashi et al. (manuscript in preparation, 2007) using the Wanninkhof [1992] formulation for the gas transfer velocity.

Prediction/National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCEP/NCAR) reanalysis [Kalnay et al., 1996], as well as satellite data products including daily Goddard Institute for Space Studies radiation and Special Sensor Microwave/Imager monthly ice fraction from 1958 through 2004 [Large and Yeager, 2004]. There is a repeating annual cycle of surface dust flux [Mahowald et al., 2003] in both simulations. Gas exchange is parameterized using a quadratic wind speed relationship as described by Wanninkhof [1992].

[9] After analyzing the modeled mean state, we conduct statistical analyses on monthly anomalies of model output from 1958 through 2004. Monthly anomalies represent what remains after the climatological mean seasonal cycle and linear trend have been removed from the output at each location and depth. Seasonal cycles were calculated by binning all output into 12 monthly bins and then taking the average. Linear trends were removed from all of the pre-industrial output, as well as most of the historical output. The trends removed from historical air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes, surface ocean  $p\text{CO}_2$ , and DIC were determined by finding the least squares fit to the data as a linear function of the historical atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> curve. With the exception of Table 1, we ignore the modeled drift in air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux. We correlate and regress anomalies onto a standardized SAM index, using the method of Bretherton et al. [1999] to determine the statistical significance of correlation coefficients in the presence of autocorrelation.

[10] Statistical analyses are performed on both a point-by-point and regional average basis. In the case of the regional averages, the Southern Ocean is divided into four distinct zones, whose boundaries are well-known fronts. These fronts represent steep gradients in vertical structure, temperature, salinity, and nutrient concentration. The fronts we use here were derived from satellite sea surface temperature (SST) data [Moore et al., 1999], as well as data collected during meridional section cruises [Belkin and Gordon, 1996]. It is unlikely that this will lead to artifacts in the analysis, as the position of the observed fronts nearly corresponds to those derived from the model (not shown). For the purposes of our analysis, we assume the fronts are stationary. The Antarctic Zone (AZ) is defined as the region

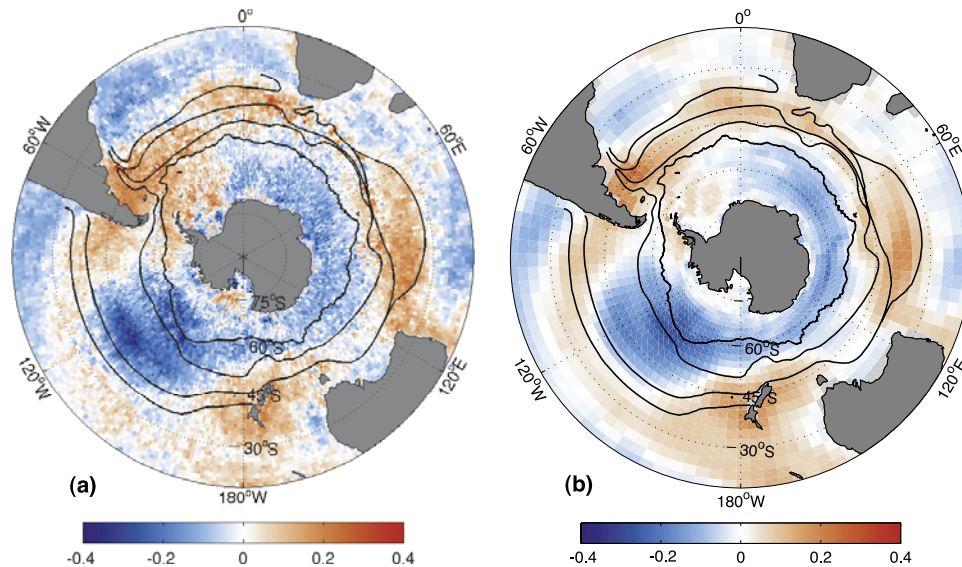
south of the Antarctic Polar Front (APF) [Moore et al., 1999]. The Polar Frontal Zone (PFZ) is the region between the APF and the Subantarctic Front (SAF), and the Subantarctic Zone (SAZ) is the region between the SAF and the South Subtropical Front (SSTF). The Subtropical Zone (STZ) is bordered by the SSTF and the North Subtropical Front (NSTF) [Belkin and Gordon, 1996]. Anomaly time series of output from each region are created by averaging the anomalies of all points within the region.

[11] The SAM index used here is the first principal component of the monthly 700 mb geopotential height anomalies south of 20°S from 1958–2004 obtained from the NCEP/NCAR reanalysis (Figure 1a). The index is standardized by subtraction of the mean and division by the standard deviation. Since it is believed that the SAM has a relatively weak seasonality [Hall and Visbeck, 2002; Hartmann and Lo, 1998], we use year-round data to construct the index. Our index correlates with the monthly SAM index from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center (1979–2004) [<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>] at  $r = 0.97$ .

### 3. Model Evaluation

[12] The successful modeling of the interannual and long-term variations in the air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes requires a well evaluated model, whose strengths and weaknesses are well established. Owing to the sparseness of carbon related observations in the Southern Ocean, and the importance of ocean physics in determining our results, we limit the evaluation to the interannual variations of a few physical parameters (SST, sea-surface height), and the annual mean air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes from ocean inversion models and surface  $p\text{CO}_2$  observations.

[13] The SST in the physical model and in the real ocean respond in a similar way to anomalous surface forcing associated with the SAM. To compare the two, we use satellite observations of monthly averaged SST from AVHRR Oceans Pathfinder (versions 4.1 and interim 4.1) on a 9 km grid from 1985–2003 (<http://podaac.jpl.nasa.gov>). Anomalies in SST were interpolated to a 1° grid, and surface temperature anomaly time series from the model



**Figure 2.** Regression of (a) observed SST anomalies and (b) model SST anomalies from the historical simulation onto the standardized SAM index ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Black contours mark the location of the Southern Ocean fronts. From pole to equator these fronts are: APF, SAF, SSTF, and NSTF.

were sampled to match the months of available SST data. Figure 2 shows the regression of the observed and modeled surface temperature anomalies onto the SAM index. The two regression patterns are nearly identical, indicating that the modeled SST response to the SAM compares well with the observed response. To illustrate this point further, we calculated the regression coefficients of the regional anomaly time series in both observed and modeled surface temperature with the SAM (not shown). The regression coefficients are indistinguishable in the AZ and PFZ, but there are small biases in the model regressions in the SAZ and STZ. One possible cause for this offset is that while the observations represent the skin temperature of the ocean, temperature in the first layer of the model represents an average over the top 8 m. Another possible model bias is the lack of explicit consideration for the role of eddies, which are particularly abundant in the SAZ and STZ.

[14] Similar success is found in the model's ability to simulate ship-based heat content and ship and satellite-based sea-surface height variability [see *Doney et al.*, 2007], although they describe results from an earlier version of the POP model.

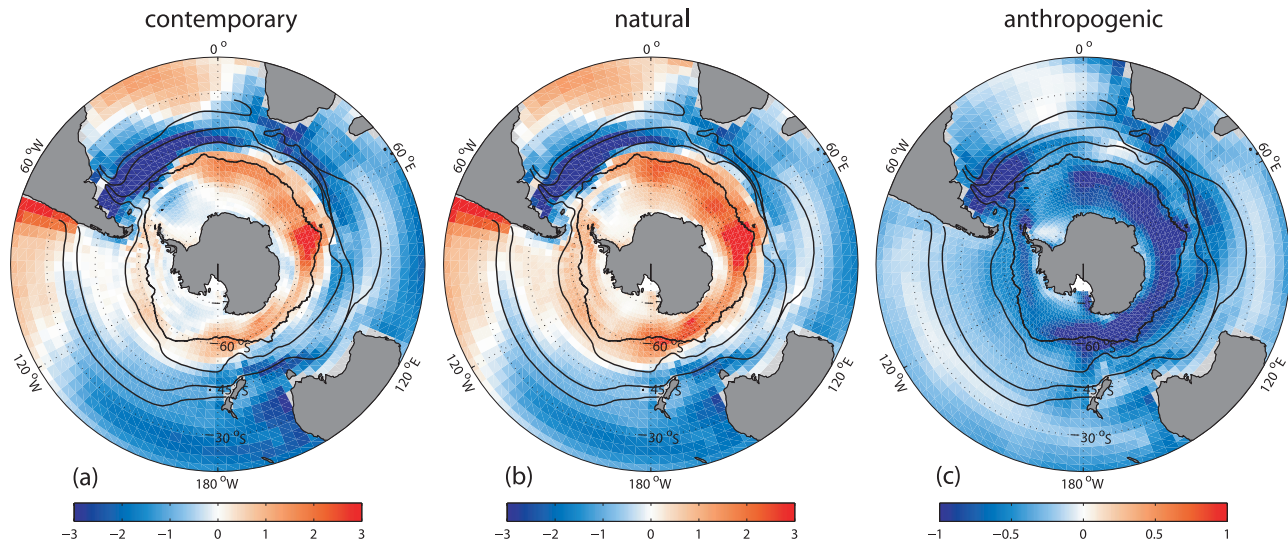
[15] The coupled ocean physical-biogeochemical-ecological model reproduces quite successfully the annual mean air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux patterns in the Southern Ocean, as estimated by ocean inversion models and observations. Figure 3 shows the annual mean contemporary (1990–2000), natural (1958–2000), and anthropogenic (1990–2000) air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes from the model, with positive fluxes into the atmosphere. The contemporary and natural CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes are that of outgassing in the region south of  $\sim 55^{\circ}\text{S}$ , while the mode water formation regions between  $\sim 40$ – $55^{\circ}\text{S}$  are regions of contemporary and natural CO<sub>2</sub> uptake. Anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> is everywhere being taken up by the Southern Ocean in the annual mean, with most of the uptake occurring in the upwelling regions of the AZ and the mode water

formation regions in the Atlantic and Indian basins. These patterns of contemporary, natural, and anthropogenic uptake and outgassing agree with inverse model estimates from *Mikaloff-Fletcher et al.* [2006, 2007] and with observed estimates from Takahashi et al. (manuscript in preparation, 2007) in the Southern Ocean regions used for this study (Table 1). While flux estimates may differ in the individual regions, the fluxes integrated over the entire Southern Ocean agree to within the uncertainties. Global estimates of air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux from this model are also well matched with inversion estimates and observations (not shown), particularly in terms of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>, whose annual mean modeled global uptake (1990–2000) is  $1.98 \text{ PgC yr}^{-1}$ , in agreement with a large range of independent estimates (as summarized by Gruber et al. (submitted manuscript, 2007)).

[16] From these comparisons, we conclude that the coupled model demonstrates reasonable skill in its representation of the mean state and how this mean state is perturbed by interannual variations in surface forcing. This gives us some confidence in the modeled air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux variability, discussed next.

#### 4. Variability of Air-Sea CO<sub>2</sub> Fluxes

[17] The time series of the Southern Ocean ( $<35^{\circ}\text{S}$ ) integrated air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in Figure 4 reveal a positive trend (less oceanic uptake with time) for natural CO<sub>2</sub>, while the flux of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> shows a strong negative trend (more oceanic uptake with time). The latter is expected as it reflects the oceanic response to increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the historical run, while it has been proposed that the former is due to a trend in the SAM index [*Wetzel et al.*, 2005], as discussed in more detail below. The anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> trend exceeds that for natural CO<sub>2</sub>, so that the contemporary air-sea flux also



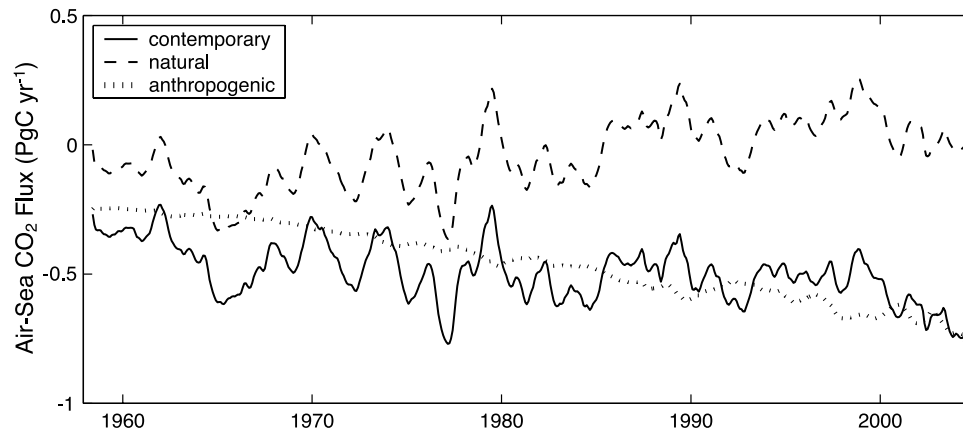
**Figure 3.** Annual mean air-sea flux of (a) contemporary CO<sub>2</sub> (natural + anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>), (b) natural CO<sub>2</sub>, and (c) anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). The fluxes have been averaged using output from the historical simulation for Figure 3a, preindustrial simulation for Figure 3b, and from their difference for Figure 3c. Positive fluxes indicate ocean outgassing. Note difference in scale for the anthropogenic flux.

exhibits a negative trend. With regard to variations around these trends, Figure 4 suggests that most of the contemporary flux variability originates from variability in natural rather than anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>. We first investigate the variability by focusing our analysis on model output that has been both deseasonalized and detrended, and return to the trends at the end.

[18] The contemporary and natural air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies shown in Figure 5 exhibit large variability for the Southern Ocean:  $\pm 0.19$  PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> and  $\pm 0.18$  PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>, respectively ( $1\sigma$ ). These flux variances are substantially larger than those obtained previously for the Southern Ocean from ocean model simulations (e.g.,  $\pm 0.1$  PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> from *Peylin et al.* [2005] and  $\pm 0.05$  PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> from *Wetzel et al.* [2005]). The model simulated contemporary and natural CO<sub>2</sub> flux variability from the Southern Ocean accounts for

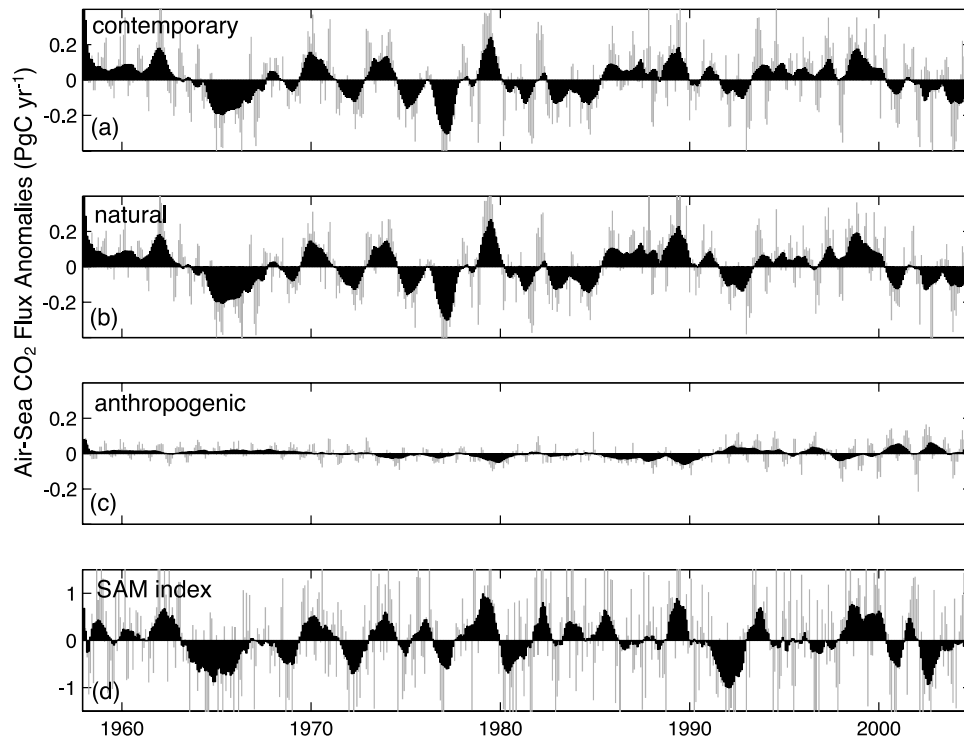
30% of the global variance in these fluxes, which is in line with the estimated contribution from the Southern Ocean in other models [*Wetzel et al.*, 2005; *LeQuéré et al.*, 2000]. The contemporary and natural monthly time series are well correlated ( $r = 0.96$ ), and exhibit similar spatial patterns of variance (Figure 6). In contrast, interannual variability in the air-sea flux of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> does not exhibit high correlations with either contemporary or natural flux anomalies and is considerably smaller ( $\pm 0.05$  PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> ( $1\sigma$ ), Figure 6). As atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations grow throughout the simulation, variability in the anomalous anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes increases slightly.

[19] Variance in the CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies is elevated in the region south of  $\sim 45^\circ\text{S}$  (Figure 6), where the SAM is likely to have an influence on air-sea flux variability. Indeed, there is a clear connection between both the contemporary and



**Figure 4.** Mean Southern Ocean ( $<35^\circ\text{S}$ ) air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux, smoothed with an 12-month running average (PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>). Negative fluxes indicate ocean uptake.

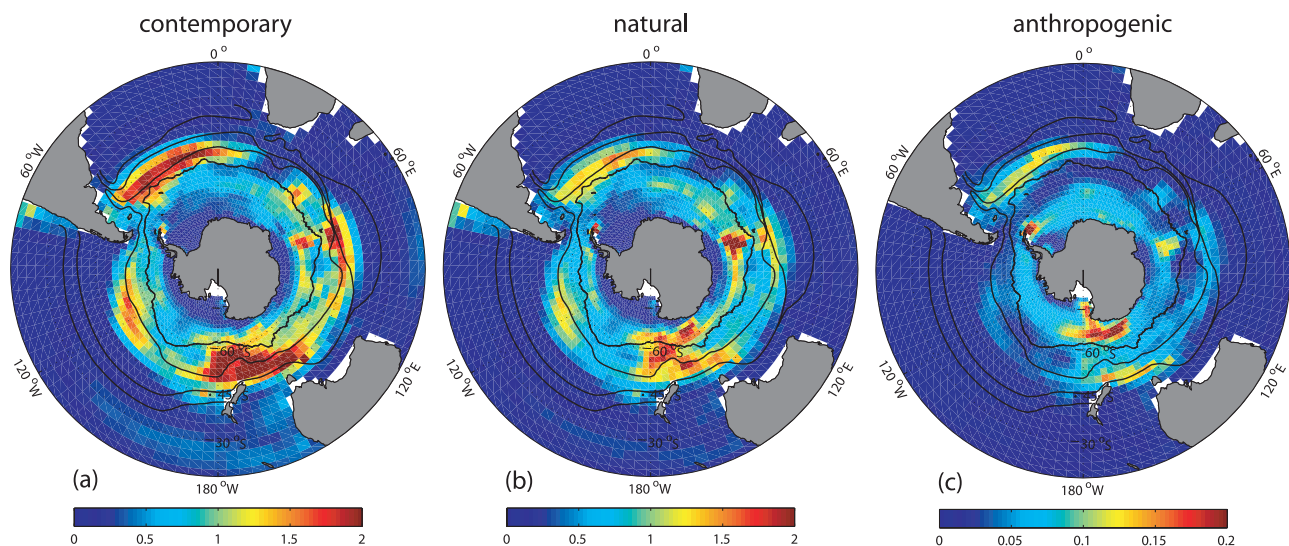




**Figure 5.** Southern Ocean air-sea flux anomalies of (a) contemporary, (b) natural, and (c) anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> (PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>). (d) Standardized SAM index used in this study. Each time series has been smoothed with a 12-month running average, with the monthly time series displayed behind in gray. Positive fluxes indicate ocean outgassing.

natural air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux variability in the Southern Ocean (<35°S) and the SAM (Figure 5). The SAM explains 21% and 31% ( $r^2$ ) of the variance in the contemporary and natural CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies, respectively (Table 2). When the time series are filtered with a 12-month running mean,

the SAM explains 43% ( $r^2$ ) of the variance in the contemporary CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies and 48% of that for natural CO<sub>2</sub> (Table 2). This implies that their relationship is stronger at lower frequencies. When the SAM leads the contemporary and natural CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies by one month (lag 1), the



**Figure 6.** Variance of air-sea flux anomalies of (a) contemporary, (b) natural, and (c) anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> ( $\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ )<sup>2</sup>. Note that the scale of Figure 6c is 10 times smaller than that used in Figures 6a and 6b.

**Table 2.** Relationship Between Spatially Integrated (<35°S) Air-Sea CO<sub>2</sub> Flux Anomalies and the Standardized SAM Index

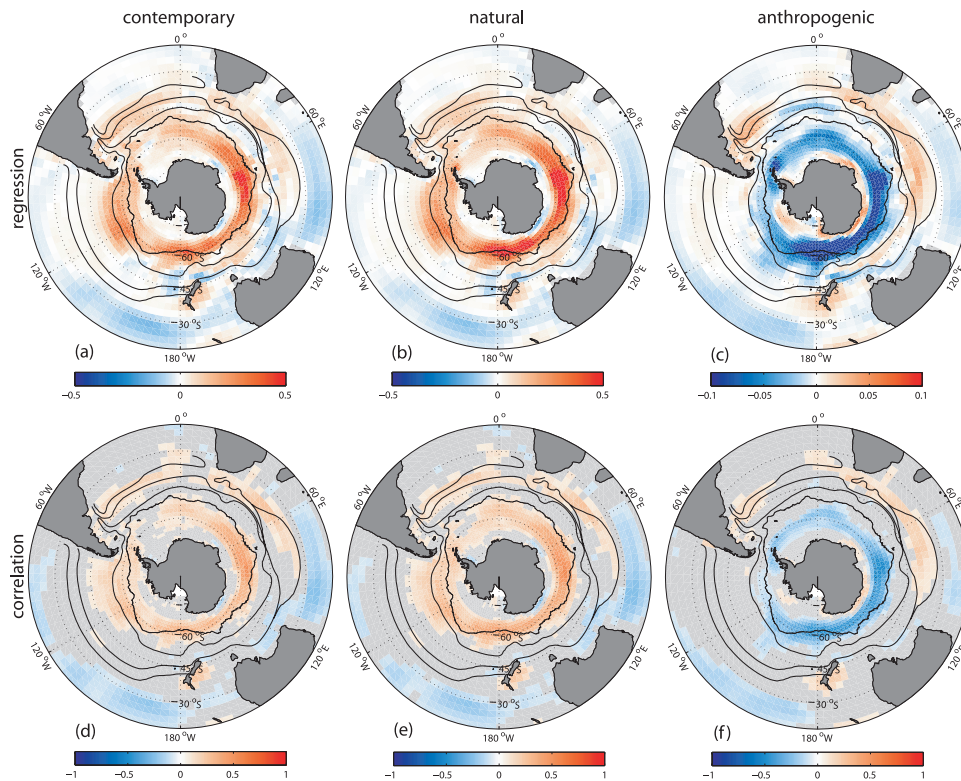
Quantity	Contemporary	Natural	Anthropogenic
<i>Regressions, PgC yr<sup>-1</sup></i>			
Regression with SAM	0.09	0.10	-0.01
Smoothed regression <sup>a</sup>	0.16	0.18	-0.02
Lag-1 Regression <sup>b</sup>	0.08	0.08	0
<i>Correlations (r)</i>			
Correlation with SAM	0.46	0.56	-0.28
Smoothed correlation <sup>a</sup>	0.66	0.69	-0.35
Lag-1 correlation <sup>b</sup>	0.42	0.47	-0.09

<sup>a</sup>A 12-month running average was used.

<sup>b</sup>The SAM leads the CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes by 1 month, without smoothing.

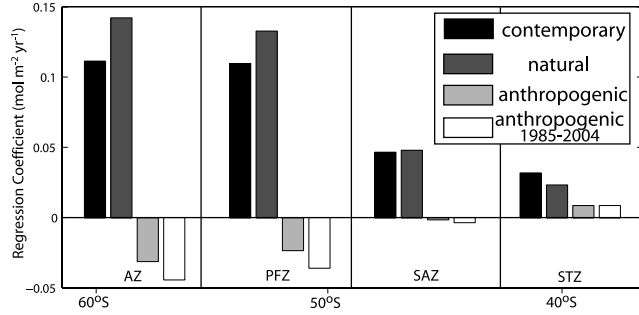
correlation with the SAM remains high (Table 2), suggesting that any anomalous contemporary or natural CO<sub>2</sub> flux linked to the SAM can persist for at least one month. In the rest of this paper, however, we focus only on the monthly relationship at zero lag. Anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies have a weaker relationship with the SAM when spatially integrated over the Southern Ocean (Table 2), although we will see next that climate variations associated with the SAM can slightly change the rate of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake.

[20] Positive phases of the SAM are associated with significant anomalous outgassing of both contemporary and natural CO<sub>2</sub> throughout a large fraction of the Southern Ocean, as revealed by Figure 7. When integrated over the region south of 35°S, the rates of anomalous outgassing during a +1 $\sigma$  SAM are 0.09 and 0.10 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> for contemporary and natural CO<sub>2</sub>, respectively (Table 2). In contrast, positive phases of the SAM are associated with small, but significant uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> in the same region, where the rate of anomalous uptake during a +1 $\sigma$  SAM is 0.01 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup> (Table 2). Anomalies in the outgassing and uptake stand out most clearly in the region south of 55°S, where the regression coefficients are nearly zonally symmetric. However, regionally averaged time series of contemporary, natural, and anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies have strong relationships with the SAM in all four regions of the Southern Ocean, as demonstrated in Figure 8. Contemporary CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing is enhanced by 28% in the AZ and 33% in the PFZ during positive SAM, where enhanced outgassing of natural CO<sub>2</sub> is only slightly mitigated by enhanced uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>. In the SAZ and STZ, positive phases of the SAM are associated with a reduction of contemporary CO<sub>2</sub> uptake. This reduction is mostly driven by the natural CO<sub>2</sub> response, as the anthropogenic response is small and only significant in the STZ (Figure 8). We find a larger anomalous anthropogenic



**Figure 7.** (a–c) Regression ( $\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{yr}^{-1}$ ) and (d–f) correlation of (Figures 7a and 7d) contemporary, (Figures 7b and 7e) natural, and (Figures 7c and 7f) anthropogenic air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies with the SAM index. Regression coefficients correspond to 1 standard deviation change in the SAM index. Only those correlation coefficients with significance  $\geq 95\%$  are shown. Positive fluxes indicate ocean outgassing. Note that the scale of Figure 7c is 20% of Figures 7a and 7b.





**Figure 8.** Regression coefficient of the SAM index with the regionally averaged time series of the air-sea flux anomalies of contemporary, natural, and anthropogenic air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> (mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). Regression coefficients of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies from the last 20 years (1985–2004) with the SAM are also plotted. Regression coefficients correspond to 1 standard deviation change in the SAM index. All regressions are statistically significant at >95%, with the exception of the anthropogenic coefficients in the SAZ.

CO<sub>2</sub> uptake in the AZ and PFZ during positive SAM over the last 20 years of the simulation (Figure 8), suggesting that the mitigating role of this component could become more important in the future.

## 5. Causes of the Variability

[21] In order to ascertain the mechanisms governing the contemporary CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies during positive SAM, it is most insightful to investigate the flux anomalies of natural and anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> separately. We focus first on the natural CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies by performing postprocessing calculations on monthly output, and then briefly study the anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies.

[22] We investigate the mechanisms responsible for the anomalous natural air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux during positive SAM by considering the total derivative of the air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux. As the model uses a standard bulk parameterization for the computation of this flux, the parameters to be considered are the gas exchange coefficient (modeled as a function of wind speed ( $WS$ ), temperature ( $T$ ), and salinity ( $S$ )), the sea ice fraction ( $Ice$ ), and surface ocean  $pCO_2$  ( $pCO_2^{oc}$ ). Here we can neglect variations in atmospheric pressure and  $pCO_2$  as it is assumed constant in the preindustrial simulation. Furthermore, variations in temperature and salinity have a relatively small impact on the gas exchange coefficient, so that we consider only the impact of wind speed. This yields for the relative contribution of each parameter to the anomalous air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux in each Southern Ocean region,  $\Delta F$ ,

$$\Delta F = \frac{\partial F}{\partial WS} \Delta WS + \frac{\partial F}{\partial Ice} \Delta Ice + \frac{\partial F}{\partial pCO_2^{oc}} \Delta pCO_2^{oc}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\frac{\partial F}{\partial WS}$ ,  $\frac{\partial F}{\partial Ice}$ , and  $\frac{\partial F}{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}$  are determined from the model equations and mean values in each region.  $\Delta WS$  and  $\Delta Ice$

are the differences of the mean wind speed and ice fraction, respectively, during a one standard deviation positive phase of the SAM and their mean values. The contribution to  $\Delta pCO_2^{oc}$  is further decomposed into contributions from  $DIC$ , alkalinity ( $Alk$ ), temperature, and salinity,

$$\Delta pCO_2^{oc} = \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial DIC} \Delta DIC + \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial Alk} \Delta Alk + \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial T} \Delta T + \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial S} \Delta S. \quad (2)$$

[23] As changes in  $DIC$  and  $Alk$  and hence changes in  $pCO_2$  can be driven by variations in freshwater fluxes ( $\Delta fw$ ) [see, e.g., Keeling *et al.*, 2004] as well as by variations in ocean internal biogeochemical processes and transport/mixing, it is useful to separate the two mechanisms. We achieve this by expanding the total derivatives and introducing salinity-normalized  $DIC$  ( $sDIC$ ) and salinity normalized  $Alk$  ( $sAlk$ ) (see Appendix A for more details). Substituting (2) and (A1)–(A3) into (1) yields

$$\Delta F = \frac{\partial F}{\partial WS} \Delta WS + \frac{\partial F}{\partial Ice} \Delta Ice + \frac{S}{S_0} \frac{\partial F}{\partial DIC} \Delta sDIC + \frac{S}{S_0} \frac{\partial F}{\partial Alk} \Delta sAlk + \frac{\partial F}{\partial fw} \Delta fw + \frac{\partial F}{\partial T} \Delta T + \frac{\partial F}{\partial S} \Delta S, \quad (3)$$

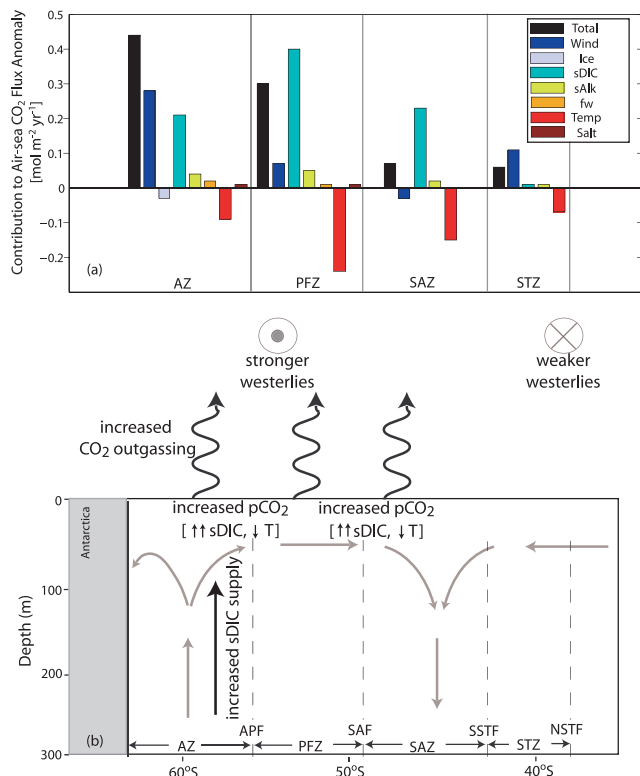
whose individual terms are shown in Table 3 and Figure 9a.

[24] The analysis of the total derivative of the air-sea flux of natural CO<sub>2</sub> during a positive phase of SAM (Table 3, Figure 9a) demonstrates that variations in  $sDIC$  and/or wind speed tend to dominate the overall response, and that their contribution is generally countered by opposing tendencies arising from temperature variations [Doney *et al.*, 2006]. The contribution of the other terms, such as  $sAlk$ , sea-ice,  $fw$ , and salinity is comparatively small. Wind speed tends to dominate in the Antarctic Zone (AZ) and the Subtropical Zone (STZ). The flux in the AZ is especially sensitive to wind speed changes, and the AZ experiences a large anomaly in wind speed during positive SAM. In the STZ, however,  $\frac{\partial F}{\partial WS}$  is negative, so that a decrease in wind speed

**Table 3.** Estimated Contributions to the Air-Sea CO<sub>2</sub> Flux Anomalies,  $\Delta F$ , as in Equation (3)<sup>a</sup>

Quantity	AZ	PFZ	SAZ	STZ
<i>Individual Terms</i>				
$\frac{\partial F}{\partial WS} \Delta WS$	0.28	0.07	−0.03	0.11
$\frac{\partial F}{\partial Ice} \Delta Ice$	−0.03	0	0	0
$\frac{S}{S_0} \frac{\partial F}{\partial DIC} \Delta sDIC$	0.21	0.40	0.23	0.01
$\frac{S}{S_0} \frac{\partial F}{\partial Alk} \Delta sAlk$	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.01
$\frac{\partial F}{\partial fw} \Delta fw$	0.02	0.01	0	0
$\frac{\partial F}{\partial T} \Delta T$	−0.09	−0.24	−0.15	−0.07
$\frac{\partial F}{\partial S} \Delta S$	0.01	0.01	0	0
<i>Sum of Terms Versus Modeled</i>				
$\Sigma$	0.44	0.30	0.07	0.06
$\Delta F_{mod}$	0.25	0.21	0.09	−0.03

<sup>a</sup>Units are mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>. Positive fluxes are to the atmosphere.  $\Sigma$  is the sum of all seven terms, and  $\Delta F_{mod}$  is the modeled anomaly in  $F$  during positive SAM.



**Figure 9.** (a) Contribution to the air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomaly,  $\Delta F$ , as in equation (4) (mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). (b) Schematic illustration of the upper ocean response to a positive phase of the SAM in the pre-industrial simulation.

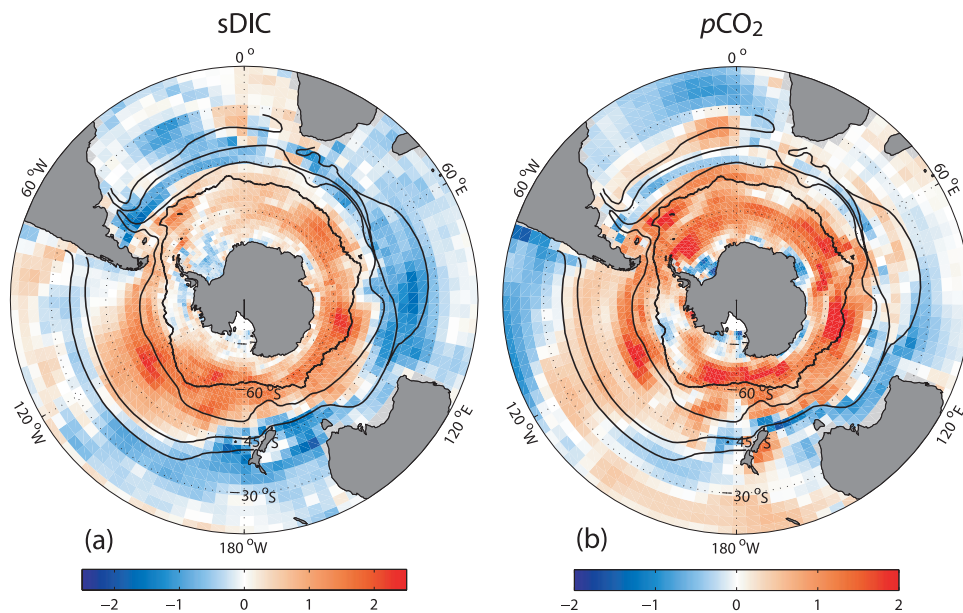
during positive SAM leads to anomalous outgassing. The contribution from *sDIC* dominates in the Polar Frontal Zone (PFZ) and the Subantarctic Zone (SAZ), and plays a secondary role in the AZ. During positive SAM, we find increased *sDIC* in the AZ, PFZ, and SAZ (Figure 10a, Table 4), leading to considerable  $\Delta sDIC$  values in these regions. Temperature plays a secondary, but important role in mitigating the outgassing in both the PFZ and SAZ, where positive SAM leads to colder than normal surface temperatures (Figure 2), and hence large negative  $\Delta T$  values.

[25] While our analysis of the CO<sub>2</sub> derivative offers a simple way to understand the anomalous outgassing, we find a slight discrepancy between the sum of terms,  $\Sigma$ , and the modeled anomaly in  $F$  during positive SAM,  $\Delta F_{mod}$  (Table 3, last two rows). The approximations used in the  $pCO_2$  calculations (see (A4)–(A9)), or the possible cross correlations among the variables may lead to imprecise results in some of the regions.

[26] Given the importance of *sDIC* variations for causing surface  $pCO_2^{oc}$  and air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux variations south of the STZ, it is incumbent on us to determine the mechanisms controlling *sDIC* anomalies,

$$\frac{d(sDIC')}{dt} = J'_{circ} - J'_{bio} - J'_{ex}, \quad (4)$$

where  $J'_{circ}$ ,  $J'_{bio}$ , and  $J'_{ex}$  represent the sources and sinks of  $sDIC'$  from circulation, biology, and CO<sub>2</sub> flux anomalies.  $J'_{ex}$  is the anomaly in modeled air-sea flux of CO<sub>2</sub> divided by the depth of the mixed layer.  $J'_{bio}$  represents the sink of  $sDIC'$  due to organic and calcium carbonate production (see Appendix B for additional details). The circulation term,



**Figure 10.** Regression of (a) salinity-normalized surface *DIC* anomalies (mmol m<sup>-3</sup>) and (b)  $pCO_2^{oc}$  anomalies ( $\mu atm$ ) from the pre-industrial simulation onto the standardized SAM index.

**Table 4.** Mean Values and Regression and Correlation Coefficients of the Mean Anomaly Time Series With the SAM Index From the Pre-Industrial Run<sup>a</sup>

Zone	Mean Value	Regression	Correlation
<i>Air-Sea CO<sub>2</sub> Flux, mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup></i>			
AZ	0.95	0.14	0.56
PFZ	0.78	0.13	0.42
SAZ	-0.68	0.05	0.23
STZ	-0.99	0.02	0.13
<i>pCO<sub>2</sub><sup>oc</sup>, μatm</i>			
AZ	294	0.79	0.26
PFZ	280	0.80	0.30
SAZ	268	0.45	0.21
STZ	268	0.09	0.05
<i>Surface sDIC, mmol m<sup>-3</sup></i>			
AZ	2166	0.59	0.36
PFZ	2112	0.81	0.32
SAZ	2061	0.36	0.16
STZ	2002	-0.49	-0.20
<i>Mixed Layer Depth, m</i>			
AZ	60.76	0.95	0.28
PFZ	96.52	1.97	0.30
SAZ	82.92	0.69	0.09
STZ	95.83	-3.05	-0.27
<i>Vertical Velocity, cm s<sup>-1</sup></i>			
AZ	$6.2 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-5}$	0.83
PFZ	$2.5 \times 10^{-5}$	$-0.9 \times 10^{-5}$	-0.50
SAZ	$-2.6 \times 10^{-5}$	$-1.2 \times 10^{-5}$	-0.70
STZ	$-5.3 \times 10^{-5}$	$-0.7 \times 10^{-6}$	-0.45
<i>Northward Meridional Velocity, cm s<sup>-1</sup></i>			
AZ	0.37	0.16	0.85
PFZ	0.95	0.14	0.76
SAZ	1.02	0.02	0.14
STZ	0.91	-0.11	-0.59

<sup>a</sup>Regression coefficients correspond to 1 standard deviation change in the SAM index. Positive air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux and vertical velocity correspond to outgassing and upwelling, respectively. Velocities were calculated for the mixed layer.

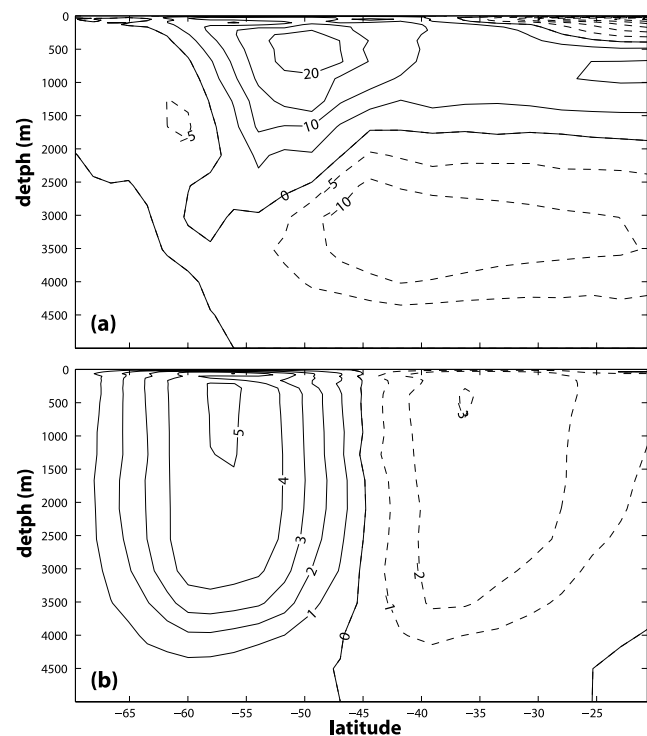
$J'_{circ}$  is computed by difference. All source and sink terms were calculated for the region south of the SSTF ( $\sim 42^\circ\text{S}$ ), integrated over the annual mean mixed layer.

[27] We report the results of the *sDIC* tendency components in (4) as regressions of the anomaly time series with the SAM index (Table 5). The source of *sDIC* due to circulation dominates the *sDIC* anomaly during positive SAM, with the sinks of natural CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing and biology playing smaller roles. This anomalous circulation driving the *sDIC* source is caused by the stronger overturning in the southernmost regions of the Southern Ocean, which results in a 16% increase in upwelling and a 43% increase in northward meridional velocity in the AZ (Figure 11, Table 4). The upwelling of *sDIC*-rich waters and their subsequent lateral transport creates positive anomalies in surface *sDIC* throughout the AZ, PFZ, and SAZ (Figure 9b). A separate calculation not shown here indicates that the deepening of the mixed layer during positive SAM (Table 4) also has a small effect on the circulation contribution to *sDIC*. Our findings indicate that biological production does not play a particularly important role in controlling surface *sDIC* anomalies during positive SAM (Table 5).

[28] In summary, both wind speed and surface *sDIC* changes during positive SAM influence the flux of natural CO<sub>2</sub> between the atmosphere and the Southern Ocean. We have shown that circulation changes contribute to a large fraction of the *sDIC* anomalies. Similar circulation mechanisms are primarily responsible for the anomalous uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> during positive SAM (Table 5), when anomalous upwelling and meridional transport expose deep, older waters to higher atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels. Positive phases of the SAM are therefore associated with simultaneous natural CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing and anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake anomalies in the Southern Ocean. This suggests that the same circulation mechanisms which currently drive enhanced outgassing of natural CO<sub>2</sub> from the Southern Ocean during positive SAM may also play a role in mitigating this response in the future, as the anomalous uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> during positive SAM rises due to increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.

## 6. Trends in Air-Sea CO<sub>2</sub> Fluxes

[29] Given the responsiveness of air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes to interannual variations in the SAM, it is worth investigating how the trend in the SAM influences air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux. Our results suggest that the observed secular trend in the SAM between 1958 and 2004 toward more positive phases has led to an outgassing trend of natural CO<sub>2</sub> of 0.006 PgC yr<sup>-2</sup> (Figure 4), with a total increase in the outgassing flux over



**Figure 11.** (a) Annual mean meridional overturning stream function ( $S_v$ ) and (b) regression of meridional overturning anomalies from the pre-industrial simulation onto the standardized SAM index, including the *Gent and McWilliams* [1990] bolus parameterization velocities.



**Table 5.** Regression Coefficients of the SAM Index With Anomaly Time Series of the Estimated Contributions to the  $sDIC'$  Tendency in the Region South of the SSTF, Integrated Over the Mixed Layer, as in Equation (4)<sup>a</sup>

Quantity	Natural	Anthropogenic
$d(sDIC')$	0.25	-0.03
$-J_{ex}^{dt}$	-0.09	0.02
$-J_{bio}^{dt}$	0.03	0
$J_{circ}^{dt}$	0.31	-0.04

<sup>a</sup>Units are PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>.

the 47 years of 0.3 PgC yr<sup>-1</sup>. This trend is masked by the increasing rate of uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>, which exhibits a linear trend of -0.011 PgC yr<sup>-2</sup>, so that the linear contemporary flux trend of -0.005 PgC yr<sup>-2</sup> is still toward a stronger sink (Figure 4). Nevertheless, the secular trend in the SAM has led to a reduction in the rate of increase of the net uptake of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by the ocean. If this trend persists into the next decade or century, as suggested by some coupled climate models [see, e.g., *Fyfe and Saenko*, 2006], the associated CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing could cause a positive feedback for the global climate system over this time period.

## 7. Summary

[30] Using a coupled ocean physical-biogeochemical-ecological model, we have demonstrated that the SAM has a significant impact on the flux of CO<sub>2</sub> between the atmosphere and the Southern Ocean under both pre-industrial and historical conditions. During a positive phase of the SAM, we find anomalous outgassing of natural CO<sub>2</sub> nearly everywhere in the Southern Ocean. The outgassing anomalies are concentrated in the AZ, PFZ, and SAZ, where enhanced overturning brings  $sDIC$ -rich water to the surface and elevates the  $pCO_2^{oc}$  (Figure 9). In contrast, there is a simultaneous anomalous uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> during a positive phase of the SAM in the southernmost regions of the Southern Ocean, due to increased upwelling of deep, older waters and their subsequent exposure to higher atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels. The anthropogenic uptake only slightly mitigates the natural outgassing from the Southern Ocean, so that a positive SAM is associated with anomalous outgassing of contemporary CO<sub>2</sub>. In a future characterized by higher atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, however, positive phases of the SAM may be associated with a greater oceanic uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>.

[31] Our findings are supported by a recent study by A. H. Butler et al. (Observed relationships between the Southern Annular Mode and atmospheric carbon dioxide, submitted to *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, 2007) who investigate the role of the SAM in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration variability. They find that positive phases of the SAM are associated with both an elevated rate of increase of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at Palmer Station on the Antarctic Peninsula, and an increase in the flux of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere from the Southern Ocean. These results inspire confidence in our findings for anomalous outgassing of contemporary CO<sub>2</sub> during positive SAM.

[32] Mounting evidence for a positive trend in the SAM index over the past few decades suggests that the mechanisms we describe here will continue to play an important role in the global carbon cycle over the next century [see *Russell et al.*, 2006]. The impact of future secular trends in the SAM on Southern Ocean air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux will compete with climate driven effects, such as increased stratification [e.g., *Fung et al.*, 2005]. The mechanisms we describe here may have also been responsible for past climatic variability. *Toggweiler et al.* [2006] hypothesize that a feedback exists between the position of the midlatitude westerlies and the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations on paleoclimatic time-scales, and that these mechanisms are key for explaining the large CO<sub>2</sub> variations between glacial and interglacial times. Although our simulations cannot test this hypothesis, they do highlight the important role of the Southern Ocean for the global carbon cycle.

## Appendix A: The $pCO_2$ Calculations

[33] Anomalous  $pCO_2$  during positive SAM ( $\Delta pCO_2^{oc}$ ) is decomposed into the contributions from  $DIC$ ,  $Alk$ ,  $T$ , and  $S$  according to (2). To separate the contribution from freshwater fluxes on  $DIC$  and  $Alk$ , we use the following two equations for the first and second terms of (2),

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial DIC} \Delta DIC &= \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial(S/S_0 \text{ sDIC})} \Delta(S/S_0 \text{ sDIC}) \\ &= \frac{sDIC}{S_0} \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial DIC} \Delta S + \frac{S}{S_0} \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial DIC} \Delta sDIC \end{aligned} \quad (A1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial Alk} \Delta Alk &= \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial(S/S_0 \text{ sAlk})} \Delta(S/S_0 \text{ sAlk}) \\ &= \frac{sAlk}{S_0} \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial Alk} \Delta S + \frac{S}{S_0} \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial Alk} \Delta sAlk. \end{aligned} \quad (A2)$$

We extract the first terms from (A1) and (A2), as they represent the contribution from freshwater forcing ( $f_w$ ) on  $pCO_2^{oc}$  and account for variability in lateral/vertical circulation working on gradients in salinity,

$$\frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial f_w} \Delta f_w = \frac{sDIC}{S_0} \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial DIC} \Delta S + \frac{sAlk}{S_0} \frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial Alk} \Delta S. \quad (A3)$$

The flux contributions from each region and each process are shown in Table 3.

[34] We use the following set of equations to approximate the regional mean values of the  $pCO_2^{oc}$  partial derivatives, using the regional mean values of  $DIC$ ,  $Alk$ ,  $pCO_2^{oc}$ , and  $S$  [*Sarmiento and Gruber*, 2006],

$$\frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial DIC} = \frac{pCO_2^{oc}}{DIC} \cdot \gamma_{DIC} \quad (A4)$$

$$\frac{\partial pCO_2^{oc}}{\partial Alk} = \frac{pCO_2^{oc}}{Alk} \cdot \gamma_{Alk} \quad (A5)$$

$$\frac{\partial p\text{CO}_2^{oc}}{\partial T} \approx p\text{CO}_2^{oc} \cdot 0.0423^\circ\text{C}^{-1} \quad (\text{A6})$$

$$\frac{\partial p\text{CO}_2^{oc}}{\partial S} \approx \frac{p\text{CO}_2^{oc}}{S}, \quad (\text{A7})$$

where the buffer factors can be approximated with [Sarmiento and Gruber, 2006]

$$\gamma_{DIC} \approx \frac{3 \cdot \text{Alk} \cdot \text{DIC} - 2 \cdot \text{DIC}^2}{(2 \cdot \text{DIC} - \text{Alk})(\text{Alk} - \text{DIC})} \quad (\text{A8})$$

$$\gamma_{\text{Alk}} \approx -\frac{\text{Alk}^2}{(2 \cdot \text{DIC} - \text{Alk})(\text{Alk} - \text{DIC})}. \quad (\text{A9})$$

## Appendix B: Biological Fluxes

[35] The biological sink to the  $s\text{DIC}$  anomaly tendency,  $J'_{bio}$ , can be defined as

$$J'_{bio} = \frac{\Phi'_{bio}}{h}, \quad (\text{B1})$$

where  $h$  is the depth of the mixed layer and  $\Phi'_{bio}$  represents the anomalies in the biological flux, defined as the sum of anomalies in the flux of organic carbon and calcium carbonate across the depth of the mixed layer,

$$\Phi'_{bio} = \Phi'_{org} + \Phi'_{\text{CaCO}_3}. \quad (\text{B2})$$

$\Phi'_{org}$  is approximated by the anomalous flux of particulate organic carbon, as the anomalous flux of dissolved organic carbon is very small. Substitution of (B2) into (B1) yields

$$J'_{bio} = \frac{1}{h} (\Phi'_{org} + \Phi'_{\text{CaCO}_3}). \quad (\text{B3})$$

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