Widespread and unprecedent phytoplankton blooms triggered by 2019-20 Australian wildfires

Ocean Carbon From Space Workshop – February 2022

Joan Llort (BSC)

Extreme Fire season 2019/20



Figures from Abram et al, 2021

- 74,000 km2
- 715 million tons of CO₂*



* Australia's 2018 anthropogenic CO₂ emissions = 537.4 million tons





Massive smoke and aerosols emissions











Pyrogenic Fe and phytoplankton



REVIEW ARTICLE OPEN Ocean fertilization by pyrogenic aerosol iron

Akinori Ito ₀¹ [™], Ying Ye ₀²[™], Clarissa Baldo ₀³ and Zongbo Shi ₀³[™]

Aerosols supply bioaccessible iron to marine biota which could affect climate through biogeochemical feedbacks. This paper review progresses in research on pyrogenic aerosol iron. Observations and laboratory experiments indicate that the iron solubility of pyrogenic aerosol can be considerably higher than lithogenic aerosol. Aerosol models highlight a significant contribution of pyrogenic aerosols (~20%) to the atmospheric supply of dissolved iron into the ocean. Some ocean models suggest a higher efficiency of pyrogenic iron in enhancing marine productivity than lithogenic sources. It is, however, challenging to quantitatively estimate its impact on the marine biogeochemical cycles under the changing air quality and climate.

Check for updates

npj Climate and Atmospheric Science (2021)4:30; https://doi.org/10.1038/s41612-021-00185-8



Simulated change in NPP_{nano} (mgC m-2 day-1) induced by Pyrogenic DFe

AOD and Phytoplankton anomalies in 2019/20



Black-Carbon AOD relative anomaly derived from atmospheric reanalysis (CAMS)



Surface Chl concentration observed from satellite. Relative anomaly computed over a 22-years long records (ESA's OC-CCI)

Tang and Llort et al., 2021

AOD and Phytoplankton anomalies in 2019/20







Tang and Llort et al., 2021

AOD and Phytoplankton anomalies in 2019/20



Pacific



Chl-a anomaly lasted more than 12 months!!

Deposition flux to delimit fertilisation hot-spots



Deposition flux to delimit fertilisation hot-spots





1. Spatial correlation ≠ Causation



Deposition flux to delimit fertilisation hot-spots





1. Spatial correlation ≠ Causation

2. Why high deposition does not always induce a Chl-a response?



Iron and levoglucosan content in aerosols

High TFe and LFe in aerosols sampled when a smoke plume from wildfires crossed the station.

High concentrations of Levoglucosan too (tracer for biomass burning origin)



M. Perron, A. Bowie (IMAS-UTAS)



Satellite data + *In-situ* data = causation



Floats equipped with nitrate sensors showed HNLC conditions inside anomalies.

MEETING 24 FEBRUARY - 4 M/ ONLINE EVERYWHEE





Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies

OBP03 Ocean Biology/Biogeochemistry Posters (OB07)

Add to Google | Outlook | iCalendar

Time: 2:00 AM | Date: 3/4/2022 | Room: Room 16

Lead Organizer: Andrea Fassbender, (andrea.j.fassbender@noaa.gov)

Posters for oral session OB07 Research Opportunities from a Global Biogeochemical Argo Fleet

Preparing the unprecedented

Satellite data are an outstanding tool to observe extreme event

Yet, in order to understand what we "see" from space we need *in-situ* observations _ and fundamental research.



2020 Phytoplankton bloom



1 to 5 years from now

Observing the full impact of aerosols on the BCP

- Remote estimates of phytoplankton community composition, physiology, DOC, DIC and PIC
- Remote estimates of the ecosystem's metabolic state







1 to 5 years from now

Observing the full impact of aerosols on the BCP

- Remote estimates of phytoplankton community composition, physiology, DOC, DIC and PIC
- Remote estimates of the ecosystem's metabolic state

Amount of chlorophyll a change following aerosol addition (%) (scale is continuous)







Barcelona Supercomputing Center Centro Nacional de Supercomputación Hamilton et al, 2022



1 to 5 years from now

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- Remote estimates of the ecosystem's metabolic state
- Deposition flux from space

5 to 10 years

Center



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DOMOS: DUST-OCEAN MODELLING & OBSERVING STUDY



Yu et al, 2019





1 to 5 years from now

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5 to 10 years

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Capturing the complete story

Centro Nacional de Supercomputación

- Characterizing aerosols at source
- Monitoring atmospheric chemical processes
- Real-time deposition over the ocean
- Autonomous platforms to capture export mechanisms





