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1 **Oceanic fronts control the distribution of dissolved barium in the Southern Ocean**

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13 **Abstract**

14
15 The globally-observed relationship between oceanic barium and the macronutrient
16 silicic acid results from the shared influence of large-scale ocean circulation and mixing on the
17 two elements, and the inherent link between barium and organic matter formation and
18 dissolution. A detailed examination of deviations from barium-silicon correlations can reveal
19 variations in non-conservative processes within the marine barium cycle. Here, we present a
20 high-resolution dataset of dissolved barium and macronutrients from the Drake Passage and the
21 Scotia and Weddell Seas. Our new results highlight the influence of Southern Ocean frontal
22 zones on barium cycling and the deviations of barium and macronutrient distributions as a result
23 of spatial variations in phytoplankton assemblages and in barite formation processes. These new
24 data also reinforce findings that water mass mixing and ocean circulation, in particular the
25 location of oxygen minima, play a key role in barium distribution. Our findings have implications
26 for the use of sedimentary barium as a proxy for export production, which may be complicated
27 by physical water circulation changes or shifts in plankton community structure.

29 **1. Introduction**

30 The oceanic barium cycle has inherent links with biological activity and carbon cycling.
31 There is a strong positive correlation between dissolved barium (Ba_d) and silicic acid throughout
32 the global ocean, and a similar trend between Ba_d and alkalinity (e.g. Hoppema et al., 2010;
33 Jacquet et al., 2005; Jacquet et al., 2007; Jacquet et al., 2008; Jeandel et al., 1996; Jullion et al.,
34 2017; Thomas et al., 2011), likely a result of relatively deep release of Ba during particulate

35 organic matter remineralization, coupled with large scale ocean circulation (Bates et al., 2017;
36 Horner et al., 2015; Jeandel et al., 1996; Lea, 1993). Water column, sediment trap, and core top
37 studies have also revealed a relationship between excess barium in the particulate phase (total
38 barium corrected for lithogenic input, Ba_{xs}) and particulate organic carbon (POC) (Cardinal et al.,
39 2005). Despite the lack of a known biological requirement for Ba, high concentrations of Ba are
40 found in phytoplankton of many taxa (Fisher et al., 1991), and barite precipitation in the water
41 column is thought to be biologically mediated (Bishop, 1988; Collier and Edmond, 1984; Dehairs
42 et al., 1980; Dymond et al., 1992). In microenvironments formed by phytoplankton cell walls and
43 shell material, Ba binds with transparent exopolymer particles (TEP), cell wall associated
44 polysaccharides or bacterial biofilm extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) (Martinez-Ruiz et
45 al., 2018), before reacting with sulphate derived largely from seawater, to form barite (e.g.
46 Ganeshram et al., 2003 and references therein). This organic aggregate model of barite
47 precipitation in supersaturated microenvironments associated with decaying organic matter
48 accounts for the distributions of barite microcrystals in mesopelagic waters (Dehairs et al., 2008;
49 Sternberg et al., 2005), and its correlation with organic carbon in underlying sediments (Cardinal
50 et al., 2005; Dymond et al., 1992). However, there are still unanswered questions concerning the
51 initial associations of barium with POC in surface waters, the importance of basin-scale
52 correlations between Ba_d and silicic acid in comparison to relationships to other macronutrients,
53 and the mechanisms of initial Ba uptake into euphotic zone organic matter.

54 The Southern Ocean is of particular interest in developing our understanding of the
55 oceanic barium biogeochemical cycle, as a climatically-important region with a large role in
56 ocean carbon storage (Marinov et al., 2008). The potential applications of marine barite and
57 biogenic calcite Ba/Ca as palaeo-proxies for export production and deep water circulation
58 respectively in this region (Jacquet et al., 2007; Jacquet et al., 2008; Lea and Boyle, 1989;
59 Nurnberg et al., 1997) make it crucial that the controls on the barium cycle in these waters are
60 better understood. The heterogeneity of the Southern Ocean, exemplified by the
61 biogeographical zonation caused by the convoluted and meandering circumpolar frontal zones,
62 also offers an opportunity to investigate the various potential effects of different ecological
63 communities on barium distributions, and the interactions of large and small scale water-mass
64 mixing. In the Scotia Sea, the compression of the frontal zones by the physical restrictions of the
65 Drake Passage, and the influence of the North and South Scotia Ridges on the movement of
66 water masses and biological activity, makes this an ideal region in which to examine the barium
67 biogeochemical cycle. Here, we investigate the variability in the Ba_d distribution and its
68 relationship to biological activity across the biogeochemical divide of the Polar Frontal Zone, and

69 use these data to inform interpretations of the widely observed correlation observed between
70 Ba_d and silicic acid. Our results reveal that site-specific deviations from a regional $Ba_d/Si(OH)_4$
71 regression can be used to trace distinct water masses, and potentially to assess the degree of
72 barite precipitation and dissolution occurring in different regions.

73

74

75 **2. Methods and materials**

76

77 **2.1. Oceanographic Setting**

78 The circulation of the Scotia Sea is dominated by the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC),
79 a wind-driven current that flows eastwards around the Antarctic continent, transporting
80 approximately 130–140 Sv (Cunningham et al., 2003). The transport enabled by the ACC is
81 dominated by several frontal jets identified by large horizontal gradients in oceanic properties,
82 namely (north to south) the Subantarctic Front, the Polar Front, the Southern ACC Front and the
83 Southern Boundary (Orsi et al., 1995) (Fig. 1). Whilst these fronts are consistently observed in
84 the narrow constriction of the Drake Passage, at other longitudes there is more complexity, with
85 sub-branches and re-circulations of the fronts observed (Graham et al., 2012; Kim and Orsi,
86 2014). In the Drake Passage and Scotia Sea these fronts partition the ocean into three major
87 zones (Fig. 1): the Subantarctic Zone (SAZ), the Polar Front Zone (PFZ) and Antarctic Zone (AAZ)
88 divided by the Subantarctic and Polar Fronts, as well as the Antarctic Continental Zone south of
89 the Southern Boundary (Orsi et al., 1995; Pollard et al., 2002).

90

91 This physical zonation of the Scotia Sea and its control on the distribution of
92 macronutrients creates a biogeochemical zonation, reflected in spatial variations in
93 phytoplankton biomass and community structure (e.g. Holm-Hansen et al., 2004; Whitehouse et
94 al., 2012). The poleward shoaling of density surfaces, which supports the horizontal geostrophic
95 flow of the ACC, also brings nutrient-rich waters closer to the surface, producing positive
96 gradients in seawater nitrate, phosphate, and silicic acid concentrations from north to south. In
97 addition to this, seawater silicic acid concentrations increase southwards along density surfaces,
98 most likely due to diapycnal mixing with deeper waters that are enriched in Si by deep
99 remineralisation of biogenic silica (Ridgwell et al., 2002).

100 Around the Southern Ocean as a whole, deeper (1000 to 2000 m) waters moving
101 southwards across the ACC are balanced by an equatorward flow of 1) newly-formed dense
102 deep and bottom waters from the Weddell Sea (Sloyan and Rintoul, 2001), and 2) lower density

103 Antarctic Surface Water (AASW) and Winter Water (WW) in the upper layers. The AASW and
104 WW subduct at the Polar Front and contribute to the formation of Antarctic Intermediate Water
105 (AAIW), marked by a subsurface salinity minimum. Within the Scotia Sea, Circumpolar Deep
106 Water (CDW) is introduced by the ACC, comprising Lower CDW (LCDW) derived from North
107 Atlantic Deep Water (NADW) and the less dense, older Upper CDW (UCDW) sourced from the
108 Indian and Pacific Oceans. A colder, slightly less saline variety of LCDW referred to as Southeast
109 Pacific Deep Water (SPDW) has also been observed in the Scotia Sea, with a distinctive silicate
110 maximum resulting from mixing with Ross Sea deep waters (Garabato et al., 2002).

111 In the location of the Weddell Gyre, the cold, Weddell Sea Bottom Water (WSBW) mixes
112 upwards with warmer CDW to form Weddell Sea Deep Water (WSDW), added to by lateral
113 advection of recently-ventilated waters from outside the Weddell Sea (Meredith et al., 2000;
114 Ohshima et al., 2013). WSDW also forms directly from the descent and mixing of shelf waters in
115 the Weddell Sea. WSDW is then able to exit into the Scotia Sea through deep gaps in the South
116 Scotia Ridge, as well as flowing around the South Sandwich Islands and into the Atlantic through
117 the Georgia Basin. This outflow represents the densest contribution to the equatorward-flowing
118 Antarctic Bottom Waters (AABW) (Meredith et al. 2000).

119

120 **2.2. Sampling and analytical methods**

121 Samples were collected during the *RRS James Clark Ross* cruise JR299 in the austral
122 autumn (March to April) 2014 and from an additional transect (JR273b) along the North Scotia
123 Ridge (Fig. 1). Unfiltered seawater samples were collected in acid-cleaned low-density
124 polyethylene bottles for dissolved barium, silicic acid, and nitrate and phosphate analysis using
125 standard Niskin bottles deployed on a CTD (Conductivity-Temperature-Depth) rosette. Samples
126 for nutrient analysis were frozen at -20°C (or at 4°C for the silicic acid samples). Samples for Ba
127 analysis were acidified (0.1% v/v Romil UpA hydrochloric acid) and stored in cool and dark
128 conditions.

129 Standard Niskin bottles are not expected to cause contamination for Ba. Additional blank
130 samples of 18MΩ.cm Milli-Q water were processed on board under the same conditions as
131 samples for testing purposes: the blanks were exposed to the air of the ship for the same length
132 of time, handled similarly around the CTD rosette and in the laboratory, acidified, and stored
133 under the same conditions. The blanks were diluted with 3% HNO₃ (Romil UpA) and measured
134 via ICP-MS, yielding signals of 0.2% and 2.5% of average spiked seawater counts (¹³⁵Ba and ¹³⁸Ba
135 respectively). Whilst there is a possibility that some Ba could be released into solution from
136 suspended particles or barite crystals dissolved during storage, the maximum possible

137 particulate contribution is still below 1% of the dissolved fraction, assuming maximum
 138 particulate Ba of 500 pmol/L in the upper water column (top ~200m) of this region of the
 139 Southern Ocean (Dehairs et al., 1997) and all particulate Ba is dissolvable.

140

141 *2.2.1. Dissolved barium*

142 The barium concentrations of unfiltered seawater samples were analysed by isotope
 143 dilution inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ID ICP-MS) at the University of Bristol,
 144 using a Thermo-Finnigan Element-2 (Bristol Isotope Group, Earth Sciences Department).
 145 Subsamples of seawater and reference standards were spiked with a ¹³⁵Ba-enriched solution
 146 (10µg/mL ¹³⁵Ba, Inorganic Ventures, Christiansburg, VA, USA) to a ¹³⁸Ba/¹³⁵Ba ratio of 0.65 to 1, in
 147 order to minimize error magnification, and diluted 20-fold in 18MΩ.cm Milli-Q deionized water
 148 (to produce a final solution of approximately 3-5 nmol/kg Ba) (Pyle et al., 2017).

149 A mass bias correction coefficient was calculated each analysis run by measuring the ratio
 150 of ¹³⁸Ba/¹³⁵Ba in a 1 ppb Ba natural standard solution prepared in 5 % (v/v in 18MΩ.cm Milli-Q
 151 water) seawater (NASS-6), which was then compared to the average natural ratio (10.88 ± 0.02)
 152 (de Laeter et al., 2003). Blank solutions of 3 % (v/v of concentrated reagent) HNO₃ in 18.2MΩ.cm
 153 water were analysed to correct for background Ba signal from the introduction system of the
 154 ICP-MS (¹³⁵Ba blank counts <0.15 % of spiked seawater sample counts; ¹³⁸Ba blank counts <0.5 %
 155 of seawater sample counts), and a set of consistency standards were measured at regular
 156 intervals to quantify the long-term reproducibility of the measurements (Table 1). A correction
 157 for any seawater matrix effects was applied to the blank measurements by monitoring the
 158 sensitivity of a natural standard solution in 3% HNO₃ vs. a natural standard solution in 5 %
 159 seawater, before the blanks were subtracted from sample counts.

Standard:	In-house Standard 1	NASS-5	NASS-6
<i>2RSD</i>	1.34%	3.26%	1.73%
<i>n</i>	72	33	70
<i>Average [Ba] (nM)</i>	73.5	37.4	49.3

160

161 **Table 1:** Reproducibility of standards measured in Bristol from March to November 2016.
 162 Values given are twice relative standard deviation (2RSD). Determined values were corrected
 163 from moles per mass of seawater to nM assuming a seawater density of 1.025 kg/L. Errors from
 164 In-house Standard 1 (from the Scotia Sea, 100m depth) are considered applicable to the higher
 165 range of Scotia and Weddell Sea samples, whilst errors from NASS-6 can be applied to the lower
 166 range, as the average dissolved barium concentrations are the most comparable. For
 167 consistency, the most conservative uncertainty of 1.7 % (2RSD, from the NASS-6 standard) is
 168 applied to all samples.

169 Seawater standards of comparable barium concentration to the samples show a long-
170 term external reproducibility of $\pm 1.7\%$ (2RSD) or better across all analytical runs from March to
171 November 2015 (Table 1). Within each analytical run, reproducibility of these seawater
172 standards was $\pm 1.1\%$ (2RSD) or better. Additional details on the analytical methods for
173 dissolved Ba are provided in Pyle et al. (2017).

174

175 *2.2.2. Dissolved inorganic nutrients*

176 Dissolved inorganic nutrients (silicic acid, phosphate, and nitrate + nitrite) were analysed
177 at the University of East Anglia using a San++ Gas Segmented Continuous Flow Analyser (Skalar,
178 Breda, The Netherlands). The accuracy of the measured nutrient concentrations was assessed by
179 performing a six-point calibration, using a mixed standard containing silicate, nitrate, and
180 phosphate. Standards and wash solution were made in a saline solution containing 35 g reagent
181 grade NaCl/L in ultrapure water. Prior to the preparation of the standards and wash solution the
182 NaCl was baked at 400 °C to remove any nitrate contamination. The reproducibility of nitrate
183 and nitrite (NO_x), phosphate (PO₄) and silicic acid (Si(OH)₄) concentrations was $\pm 1.70\ \mu\text{M}$, ± 0.18
184 μM and $\pm 1.64\ \mu\text{M}$ (1SD) respectively, calculated by analysing eighteen sets of duplicate samples.
185 Further details of nutrient analyses are given in the Supplementary Information.

186

187 *2.2.3. Temperature, salinity and oxygen concentrations*

188 Temperature, salinity, and oxygen concentrations were recorded for each CTD cast using
189 a SBE911Plus unit with dual SBE3Plus temperature and SBE4 conductivity sensors and a
190 Paroscientific pressure sensor, and an SBE43 oxygen sensor, and used to characterise the water
191 masses present and identify the positions of the frontal zones (Supplementary Information).

192 Conductivity measurements were processed and converted to salinity, and calibrated by
193 the regular collection of discrete seawater samples from CTD casts, analysed for salinity on
194 board using a Guildline Autosal 8400B salinometer. Discrete samples were also collected at five
195 CTD stations for on board measurement of dissolved oxygen concentrations via Winkler
196 titration, which was used to calibrate the CTD oxygen probes.

197

198 *2.2.4. Quantifying deviation from Ba_d/Si(OH)₄ trends*

199 Where linear correlations exist between Ba_d and silicic acid, deviation above and below
200 the line of best-fit regression is quantified by calculating Ba_d^{Si residual} values (Equation 1) for each
201 profile. These systematic deviations from the observed linear relationship between Ba_d and
202 silicic acid could result from non-conservative processes such as barite formation or dissolution

203 that do not affect the silicon cycle. Positive $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values indicate that the Ba_d measured is
 204 higher than predicted by silicic acid values, whilst negative $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values signify that Ba_d is
 205 lower than predicted. No direct mechanistic associations are implied between the two
 206 elements, only correlation and deviation from that correlation. Note also that the uncertainty in
 207 the residual value will be location-specific, largely determined by the number of samples in each
 208 station profile.

$$210 \quad Ba_d^{Si\ residual} = Ba_d^{Measured} - (m \times Si(OH)_4^{Measured} + c) \quad (1)$$

213 3. Data and results

214 The full range of Ba concentrations in this study varied between 42 nmol/kg and 100
 215 nmol/kg (Fig. 2, 3). Estimates of barite saturation of surface waters (Supplementary Information)
 216 suggest near surface waters are generally undersaturated north of the Polar Front (PFZ and SAZ
 217 barite saturation index approximately 0.8, with higher values of approximately 1.0 near to
 218 islands), becoming generally more saturated towards the south (AAZ barite saturation index
 219 approximately 1.0-1.1; Weddell Sea barite saturation index approximately 1.1-1.2). There are
 220 significant positive linear correlations between Ba_d and NOx ($Ba_d = 2.4 \times NOx + 6.6$; $R^2 = 0.58$; p
 221 < 0.001), Ba_d and PO₄ ($Ba_d = 28.6 \times PO_4 + 19.8$; $R^2 = 0.44$; $p < 0.001$) and Ba_d and silicic acid ($Ba_d =$
 222 $0.38 \times Si(OH)_4 + 53.9$; $R^2 = 0.92$; $p < 0.001$; Supplementary Information).

223 Applying a multivariate linear regression analyses of the whole dataset (Scotia and
 224 Weddell Seas and all available parameters; Fig. 2, 3) the best model fit to the data (p value
 225 < 0.01) suggests that Ba_d concentrations could be significantly related to processes also linked to
 226 potential temperature, salinity, and silicic acid concentrations (Table 2). Separating the dataset
 227 into regions reveals more nuanced information about the role of frontal zones and water masses
 228 in the biogeochemical cycling of dissolved barium.

	Coefficient	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value
Nitrate (uM)	-0.095	0.106	-0.894	0.372
Phosphate (uM)	0.524	1.128	0.464	0.643
Silicate (uM)	0.188	0.017	11.153	<0.001
Oxygen (μmol/kg)	-0.003	0.008	-0.327	0.744
Potential Temp	-2.530	0.238	-10.625	<0.001
Salinity	14.774	1.815	8.138	<0.001

229

230 **Table 2:** Table of results from multivariate linear regression model applied to the whole
231 Ba_d dataset. Model statistics: $R^2 = 0.94$; $p < 0.001$. Bold values show statistically significant
232 relationships.

233

234 **3.1. Dissolved barium and macronutrients in the Scotia and Weddell Seas**

235 **3.1.1. North of the Polar Front (PFZ and SAZ)**

236 In the top 200 m Ba_d increases rapidly with depth, more closely following the behaviour
237 of NO_x and PO_4 than silicic acid, which remains fairly constant with depth (Supplementary
238 Information; Fig. S6). The NO_x and PO_4 concentrations continue to increase below 200 m at a
239 slower rate until reaching maximum levels at approximately 1500 m, which are maintained
240 throughout the deeper waters. In contrast, both silicic acid and Ba_d are broadly invariant
241 between 200 and 500 m, before increasing at a similar pace until 1500 m (Fig 4a-d). The Ba_d
242 concentrations reach maximum levels at approximately 2500 m, and silicic acid concentrations
243 continue to rise at the deeper stations until close to bottom depths of 4000 m.

244 The similarity of behaviour between Ba_d , NO_x , and PO_4 in PFZ and SAZ surface waters (0
245 to 200 m) is replaced in intermediate waters by a more dominant similarity between Ba_d and
246 silicic acid. Despite the marked similarity in their surface water behaviour, the overall
247 relationships between Ba_d and NO_x/PO_4 are distinctly non-linear, whilst a significant overall
248 positive linear correlation between Ba_d and silicic acid is identified ($Ba_d = 0.46 * Si(OH)_4 + 50.9$; n
249 $= 76$; $R^2 = 0.95$; $p < 0.001$).

250 These offsets from the linear relationship between Ba_d and silicic acid are shown in the
251 $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values, which are negative in surface waters and rise to values around zero over the
252 upper 200 m. At two stations (Stations 33 and 35; Sta. 35 displayed in Fig. 4a-d) that exhibit the
253 most depleted surface Ba_d concentrations, $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values are negative at the surface and
254 increase over the upper 200m. The $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values then increase to an anomalously high
255 maximum at 300m, decreasing thereafter to near zero at 1000m. These values then remain close
256 to zero through the oxygen minimum zone until they begin to increase again at ~2000m in the
257 transition to UCDW, then decrease from 3000m to negative values again in the deepest water.

258

259 **3.1.2. The Antarctic Zone (AAZ)**

260 Ba_d concentrations in the AAZ display a steady rate of increase from lower surface values
261 (approximately 70 nmol/kg) to maximum concentrations of 95 nmol/kg at approximately 2000 m
262 (Fig. 4e-h). Shallow sites within the ACC (top 150 m) record higher Ba_d values relative to silicic
263 acid than the overall single-station linear regression would predict (Fig. 4f), and these samples

264 record a shallower $Ba_d/Si(OH)_4$ trend, indicating that Ba_d varies less with respect to silicic acid at
265 these shallow ACC sites than it does in the intermediate depth ACC waters.

266 Variations in the behaviour of silicic acid and Ba_d with depth are observed in more detail
267 in the $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values calculated from the individual $Ba_d/Si(OH)_4$ regression at each station,
268 which are positive in surface waters before decreasing to a negative subsurface minimum
269 between 200 and 800 m, returning to positive values below 1000 m, and decreasing to values
270 near zero by the bottom of the water column. The sub-surface minimum of $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values
271 corresponds to the oxygen minimum zone, denoting both a transition into the UCDW and the
272 depth range of maximum NOx and PO₄ remineralisation (Fig. 4). A transition to a sub-surface
273 maximum deeper in the water column but within the UCDW water mass occurs in all profiles,
274 with the depth of that maximum increasing northwards (800 m in the south to 2200 m in the
275 north; Fig. 4e-h).

276

277 3.1.3. The North Scotia Ridge

278 Stations to the west of the Polar Front, as its path curves north through Shag Rocks
279 Passage in the North Scotia Ridge, follow a similar distribution of variables to the PFZ/SAZ and
280 AAZ stations across the Drake Passage. Positive $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values are associated with the deeper
281 UCDW whilst intermediate waters exhibit less scatter around the strong positive $Ba_d/Si(OH)_4$
282 correlation, displaced above the global trend line. East of the Polar Front, the shallowing of
283 UCDW and re-establishment of a strong salinity gradient are accompanied by stronger $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$
284 gradients, with positive values in surface waters and negative values from the transition to
285 UCDW/oxygen minimum zone at 200 to 300 m, underlain by a return to positive values in the
286 lower part of the UCDW at 1000 m (Fig. 3).

287

288 3.1.4. Antarctic continental shelf waters

289 Surface water Ba_d concentrations in this near-Antarctic region are relatively high compared to
290 those in the open Southern Ocean, with the shallowest station on the continental slope reaching
291 maximum concentrations (86 nmol/kg) in the sub-surface by 500 m, and the deeper Station 7
292 reaching maximum values (95 nmol/kg) at the base of the oxygen minimum zone). The NOx and
293 PO₄ concentrations increase with depth throughout the upper 500 m and are then largely
294 invariant throughout the rest of the water column, whilst silicic acid largely mimics the
295 behaviour of Ba_d with depth (Fig. 5, S7). There are significant positive linear correlations
296 between Ba_d and NOx ($Ba_d = 1.94 * NOx + 26.8$; $R^2 = 0.52$; $p < 0.001$) and Ba_d and silicic acid ($Ba_d =$
297 $0.30 * Si(OH)_4 + 60.1$; $R^2 = 0.96$; $p < 0.001$), and a weaker relationship between Ba_d and PO₄ ($R^2 =$

0.17; $p = 0.007$) reflecting a generally weaker N-P relationship in this region. There is very little scatter in the correlation of Ba_d and silicic acid, reflected in the small variations from zero in the $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values with depth (Fig. 5a-d).

301

302 *3.1.5. The Weddell Sea*

Stations 44 and 45 lie on the edge of the Weddell Gyre, where Ba_d concentrations are consistently higher than at the Scotia Sea stations, with even the surface minima at approximately 80 nmol/kg (Fig. 5e-h). The majority of macronutrient variation is seen in the low temperature (-2 to -1 °C) waters of the upper 200 m, with both NO_x and PO_4 increasing from low surface values to sub-surface maxima across a sharp salinity gradient (33.5 salinity at the surface, 35 salinity at 200 m), below which they decrease slightly throughout the bulk of the water column. Silicic acid and Ba_d concentrations do not reach sub-surface maxima until approximately 1000 m, with these values sustained over the next 2000 m until a slight decline in concentrations below depths of 3000 m. At Station 44, $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values are negative at the surface, then maintain slightly positive values from 500 to 4500 m. Station 45 exhibits more variable $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values, with zero values at the surface, negative values by 200 m that steadily rise with depth until 3500 m, remaining at consistent positive values until 4500 m. The $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values at both stations show sharp variations at the very base of the water column (4500 to 4750 m; Fig. 5e-h).

317

318 **4. Discussion**

Although the Ba_d distributions from our study are in general agreement with the global distributions of macronutrients, when examined in detail these relationships are revealed to be more complex. The deviations from the linear correlation between Ba_d and silicic acid in surface waters (Fig. 4-5), and the co-variation of Ba_d and NO_x/PO_4 north of the Polar Front (Fig. S6), implies that the surface cycling of barium depends on factors that also influence dominant phytoplankton ecology. In intermediate and deeper waters, the departures from the linear relationship of Ba_d and silicic acid offer insight into the barium and barite cycling, and the transitions between characteristic water masses (Fig. 4-5).

327

328 **4.1. Linking the distributions of Ba_d and macronutrients: a global view**

329 *4.1.1. Non-linear global relationship between Ba_d and NO_x or PO_4*

Throughout the global ocean there is a non-linear positive correlation between Ba_d and the macronutrients NO_x and PO_4 , with three broad observations: (1) NO_x and PO_4 show consistent

331

332 drawdown in surface waters, whilst the behaviour of Ba_d in surface waters varies between
333 regions; (2) NO_x and PO_4 quickly reach subsurface maxima which they usually sustain through
334 intermediate depth waters, whilst the Ba_d maximum is both deeper and more variable in depth ;
335 (3) NO_x and PO_4 concentrations decrease with depth through deeper waters whilst Ba_d remains
336 constant or continues to increase. With the exception of HNLC regions, NO_x and PO_4 are limiting
337 nutrients for primary productivity, with concentrations depleted to nanomolar levels in
338 subtropical surface waters (Moore et al., 2013). Even in HNLC regions such as large parts of the
339 Southern Ocean, both NO_x and PO_4 still experience surface drawdown, but without reaching
340 fully depleted levels, with phytoplankton growth instead limited by silicic acid, micronutrients, or
341 the availability of light. In contrast, Ba_d never reaches surface concentrations lower than 30
342 nmol/kg, and in some ocean basins (the North Atlantic and the North Pacific) it shows an
343 invariant profile in the top few hundred metres where macronutrients show strong drawdown
344 (Hsieh and Henderson, 2017).

345 A certain degree of surface drawdown of Ba_d is consistent with uptake of barium by
346 phytoplankton into an intracellular pool, consistent with observations of labile Ba associated
347 with spring phytoplankton blooms (Ganeshram et al., 2003; Paytan and Griffith, 2007) and the
348 observation of high cellular Ba concentrations (Fisher et al., 1991). However, the lack of a
349 consistent stoichiometric relationship to macronutrients suggests either a highly variable uptake
350 into organic matter, depending for example on plankton community structure, or differing
351 degrees and rates of remineralisation between Ba_d and macronutrients. These differences are
352 again evident in the depth profiles of Ba_d compared to NO_x and PO_4 , which show relatively
353 shallow remineralisation as particulate organic matter is broken down by microbes or
354 zooplankton in the oxygen minimum zone and NO_x and PO_4 are remineralised. In contrast, Ba_d
355 concentrations, although increasing with depth, generally do so at a slower rate over a much
356 larger depth range, implying regeneration in parallel with the slower dissolution of
357 phytoplankton biominerals.

358

359 *4.1.2. The positive linear correlation between Ba_d and silicic acid, and variations between ocean* 360 *basins*

361 The positive linear relationship observed between Ba_d and silicic acid throughout the
362 global ocean (Fig. 6) is highly significant and overall exhibits modest overall scatter ($Ba =$
363 $0.58 * Si(OH)_4 + 39.33$; $n = 322$; $R^2 = 0.94$; $p < 0.01$). However, understanding how and where
364 deviations in this $Ba_d/Si(OH)_4$ relationship occur, and variations in the $Ba_d/Si(OH)_4$ relationship
365 between different ocean basins, can provide insight into the level of interaction between silicon

366 and barium cycling. Although some regions display regressions that deviate little from the
 367 overall relationship (the South Atlantic, South Pacific, and Indian Oceans), others have a
 368 distinctive regional signal (the Equatorial Pacific, the North Atlantic and the North Pacific). The
 369 Southern Ocean has been shown by numerous studies (Jeandel et al. 1996; Jacquet et al. 2007;
 370 Hoppema et al. 2010; data presented here for the Scotia Sea) to exhibit lower slopes and higher
 371 intercepts than are observed in other regions (Fig. 6; Table 3).

372 Investigations in the Southern Ocean have suggested that, although barite does form in
 373 non-diatom-dominated regions, its precipitation is favoured where these siliceous organisms
 374 make up a significant fraction of the material exported from the surface layer (Bishop, 1988).
 375 This observation may be explained if enhanced TEP or polysaccharide availability, from the
 376 remains of diatom frustules, provide a more suitable microenvironment for barite precipitation
 377 than the remains of other phytoplankton (Martinez-Ruiz et al., 2018); if the enhanced ballasting
 378 effect of diatom frustules increases settling rates and reduces Ba recycling in surface waters; or,
 379 indeed, because diatom abundance and barite precipitation are coincidentally linked via a third
 380 mechanism e.g. physical water column conditions that favour diatom growth also favour barite
 381 precipitation. However, the role of non-siliceous organic matter in the removal of Ba_d from the
 382 surface has been observed in the field (Pyle et al., 2017) and confirmed by laboratory production
 383 of barite from axenic coccolithophorid cultures, without the presence of opal or fecal pellet
 384 packaging (Ganeshram et al., 2003). A combination of the possible explanations presented above
 385 may explain why the presence of diatoms tends to be associated with enhanced Ba_d drawdown
 386 (e.g. Esser and Volpe, 2002): barium and sulphate may be associated equally with all
 387 phytoplankton or their decayed products, but will sink more rapidly when associated with
 388 diatom frustules due to the ballasting of larger or more heavily silicified cells (Tréguer et al.,
 389 2018). As this organic matter is exported to the reported depths of barite formation (200 to
 390 2000 m) (Bates et al., 2017; Dehairs et al., 2008; Horner et al., 2015; Van Beek et al., 2007), it
 391 may tend to form aggregates containing microenvironments that are more susceptible to barite
 392 precipitation than organic matter originating from other phytoplankton groups. At greater
 393 depths, or at the sediment surface, both barite and opal dissolve, allowing vertical mixing to
 394 define the Ba-silicic acid relationships.

<i>Location</i>	Slope co- efficient	R²	P	Reference
<i>North Indian Ocean</i>	0.56	-	-	Jeandel et al. 1996
<i>South Indian Ocean</i>	0.25	-	-	Jeandel et al. 1996
<i>Indian Ocean</i>	0.63	0.98	<0.001	GEOSECS (MELVILLE) 1978

<i>North Pacific</i>	0.66	0.93	<0.001	GEOSECS (MELVILLE) 1973
<i>Equatorial Pacific</i>	0.74	0.99	<0.001	GEOSECS (MELVILLE) 1973/4
<i>South Pacific</i>	0.56	0.96	<0.001	GEOSECS (MELVILLE) 1974
<i>North Atlantic</i>	0.75	0.95	<0.001	GEOSECS (KNORR) 1972
<i>South Atlantic</i>	0.55	0.86	<0.001	GEOSECS (KNORR) 1972/3
<i>145°E PFZ-AZ</i>	0.23±0.01	0.72	<0.001	Jacquet et al. 2007
<i>145°E SAF-PFZ</i>	0.31±0.01	0.91	<0.001	Jacquet et al. 2007
<i>Prime Meridian</i>	0.2645	0.909	-	Hoppema et al. 2010
<i>Weddell Sea</i>	0.2322	0.806	-	Hoppema et al. 2010
<i>WAP all</i>	0.21	0.716	<0.001	Pyle et al., 2016
<i>WAP surface</i>	0.14	0.266	<0.001	Pyle et al., 2016
<i>JR299 all</i>	0.40	0.92	<0.001	This study; JR299 (2014)
<i>Drake Passage S.PF</i>	0.32	0.90	<0.001	This study; JR299 (2014)
<i>Drake Passage N.PF</i>	0.46	0.96	<0.001	This study; JR299 (2014)
<i>Weddell Sea</i>	0.15	0.60	<0.001	This study; JR299 (2014)

395

396

397

Table 3: Summary of studies investigating Ba_d vs. $Si(OH)_4$ in the global ocean compared to the Southern Ocean. WAP = West Antarctic Peninsula.

398

399 **4.2. Linking the distributions of Ba_d and macronutrients in the Scotia Sea**

400 **4.2.1. Ba_d and silicic acid in the Scotia Sea**

401 Within different water masses, there are significant changes in $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ with depth,
402 indicating that non-conservative processes are important in most of the study region, in addition
403 to water mass mixing (Supplementary Information; Fig. S9; Fig. 4, 5). However, it is challenging
404 to determine the relative impact of the different non-conservative processes, barite
405 precipitation and silica dissolution, on $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values. Recent measurements of barium
406 isotopes in the tropical North Atlantic and South Atlantic (Bates et al., 2017; Horner et al., 2015)
407 have established the utility of combining Ba_d and silicic acid concentrations with barium isotope
408 measurements ($\delta^{137/134}Ba$), as the preferential incorporation of light isotopes during barite
409 formation makes the isotopic signature of the remaining water mass sensitive to barite cycling,
410 but unaffected by silicate cycling (Cao et al., 2016; Hsieh and Henderson, 2017; Von Allmen et
411 al., 2010). In the absence of ($\delta^{137/134}Ba$) measurements, useful insights can still be made about
412 barium cycling in this region by investigating deviation from linearity in Ba_d - silicic acid
413 relationships, and the comparison of these trends to global patterns (Fig. 6).

414 There is a clear shift in the behaviour of Ba_d in the upper 100m of the water column as
415 the Drake Passage and North Scotia Ridge transects cross the Polar Front. This is observed not

416 only in the near-surface profiles of Ba_d , but in the changing sign of surface $Ba_d^{Si\text{ residual}}$ values
417 (negative to positive, travelling from north to south across the PF), indicating a change in the
418 observed relationship between Ba_d and silicic acid across this frontal divide (Fig. 4).

419 North of the Polar Front in the PFZ/SAZ there is noticeable drawdown of Ba_d in surface
420 waters despite these waters being likely undersaturated with respect to barite in the majority of
421 the region, most pronounced at Stations 33 and 35 where fluorescence indicates a high level of
422 productivity (Fig. S10). These lowered surface concentrations then follow the pattern of NO_x and
423 PO₄ concentrations, increasing rapidly over the upper 100m of the water column. This suggests
424 an association at these stations between Ba_d and the rapidly remineralised particulate organic
425 carbon tracked by NO_x and PO₄. In contrast, in the waters south of the Polar Front in the AAZ,
426 the enrichment of Ba_d from surface minimum concentrations down through the water column is
427 at a much slower rate than for any of the macronutrients (e.g. in the AAZ in the top 1000m, only
428 approximately 30% of the overall Ba remineralisation is complete compared to 100% of the PO₄),
429 and shows no distinct behaviour in the top 100m (Supplementary Information; Fig S8).

430 Surveys of the Southern Ocean have established the presence of a clear biogeochemical
431 divide between the northerly waters of the PFZ and SAZ, and the AAZ waters south of the polar
432 front (Marinov et al., 2008). There is a distinct change in phytoplankton assemblage across the
433 Polar Front, with nanoflagellates to the north and diatoms dominating to the south (Hinz et al.,
434 2012; Mengelt et al., 2001), consistent with cross-front differences in the observed distributions
435 of Ba_d . In the nanoflagellate-dominated waters north of the divide there appears to be an
436 association between Ba_d and the organic matter of the organisms that is not observed elsewhere
437 in the Scotia Sea, or indeed in any other stations throughout the global ocean. It is difficult to
438 assess what the nature of this organic matter association might be, as a mechanism for the
439 active uptake of barium into cells is not known (Paytan and Griffith, 2007). However, cellular Ca
440 transporters rarely distinguish strongly against co-transport of Ba (Krejci et al., 2011), and we
441 postulate that barium uptake occurs in these surface waters in association with cells or organic
442 matter that is not diatom-generated, and is then remineralised at shallow depths. This behaviour
443 parallels NO_x and PO₄ only in the upper 100m, below which the Ba_d distribution resumes a more
444 silica-like profile, indicating that the generally observed correlation between Ba_d and skeletal
445 material still occurs in this region, in layers below this unusual surface activity (Supplementary
446 Information; Fig. S6).

447 During the spring and summer months, diatom blooms are prevalent in the silicic acid and
448 iron limited AAZ waters, consuming silicic acid and causing the silicate front to migrate
449 southwards (Franck, 2000; Hiscock et al., 2003; Landry et al., 2002). As these samples were

450 collected during austral autumn, the background productivity of these diatom-dominated waters
451 was relatively low, with substantial surface silicic acid concentrations extending northwards to
452 just south of the polar front. Nevertheless, there is some silicic acid drawdown at the surface,
453 and while there is also Ba_d drawdown, the removal is less than predicted by the overall Ba-
454 silicate regression for each station (Fig. 4). The persistence of a slight positive $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ signal in
455 the very surface layer of the AAZ waters highlights this deviation from the observed Ba-silicic
456 acid relationship over the depth range of maximum primary production.

457

458 *4.2.2. Barium in intermediate waters (200-2000m): the overprinting of large scale circulation by* 459 *barite cycling*

460 Although intermediate waters tend to agree with the global linear correlation between
461 Ba_d and $Si(OH)_4$, there are notable deviations with depth at individual stations. There is a
462 seasonally-variable transition in phytoplankton communities between the diatom-dominated
463 colder AAZ waters and the nanoflagellate-dominated warmer waters of the PFZ and the SAZ
464 (Hinz et al., 2012; Mengelt et al., 2001). However, the Ba_d signals in intermediate waters
465 (between 100 to 200m and 2000m) reflect not only the recycling of any biologically related
466 phases of barium sinking from the surface, but also any vertical mixing between laterally
467 transported water masses. It is also likely that the majority of biologically-mediated barite
468 precipitation occurs within this depth range. The changing $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values recorded across
469 known water mass transitions is a key tool for de-convolving these different signals.

470 The multivariate linear regression analysis of the whole dataset suggests that the Ba_d
471 distribution was most significantly linked to the distributions of salinity, temperature, and silicic
472 acid. The predictive power of these parameters can be attributed to the distinct variation in Ba_d
473 distributions between water masses – not only the horizontal gradient of Ba_d across the frontal
474 zones of the Scotia Sea, but the variation with depth as the cores of vertically layered water
475 masses are sampled.

476 North of the Polar Front in the PFZ/SAZ, Ba_d shows a strong linear relationship with
477 salinity, indicating an important role of water mass mixing (Supplementary Information; Fig. S5).
478 Surface waters in the PFZ subduct to form AAIW, with initially invariant silicic acid and Ba_d
479 concentrations that mix at its base with the higher concentrations of UCDW. South of the Polar
480 Front, the oxygen-poor UCDW lies directly below the surface waters, deepening from south to
481 north, and recording a steady increase in silicic acid and Ba_d concentrations with depth. The Ba_d
482 and silicic acid gradients within this water mass, and the shift towards positive $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values
483 (Supplementary Information; Fig. S9), indicates the occurrence of in-situ dissolution of barite co-

484 occurring with diatom frustules, potentially with a depth-gradient in input from deep Pacific
485 waters that carry a notable excess of Ba_d relative to silicic acid.

486 There appear to be two different types of $Ba_d/Si(OH)_4$ deviations occurring within the
487 UCDW. This is most distinct south of the Polar Front, where there is a large negative $Ba_d^{Si\text{ residual}}$
488 signal recorded between 100 and 1000m (Fig. 4f), denoting a relative depletion in Ba_d as surface
489 waters transition to UCDW. As the surface waters here also have a relative Ba_d excess due to
490 silicic acid uptake by diatoms, this cannot be a result of the mixing of UCDW and surface waters,
491 but must instead reflect a separate process. The co-location of this Ba_d depletion horizon with
492 the oxygen minimum zone, and the subsurface maxima of NO_x and PO_4 is highly suggestive that
493 this Ba_d depletion relative to silicic acid results from microbially-mediated barite precipitation
494 (Dehairs et al., 1997; Gonzalez-Muñoz et al., 2012; González-Munoz et al., 2003; Jacquet et al.,
495 2007). This precipitation would transfer barium from the dissolved to the particulate pool, and
496 although the concentrations concerned are likely to be too small to show up as a localised
497 minimum in $Ba_d^{Si\text{ residual}}$ (Jacquet et al., 2007), the fact that this process does not involve any
498 change in the silicic acid pool could potentially cause the negative swing in $Ba_d^{Si\text{ residual}}$ values
499 within the upper few hundred meters (Fig. 4-5).

500 Whilst this feature is clear in the AAZ waters, north of the Polar Front the pattern of Ba_d^{Si}
501 residual values is more complex. The negative residual signatures in surface waters (particularly at
502 the highly productive Stations 33 and 35) are underlain here by the broadly uniform AAIW,
503 within which Ba_d and silicic acid appear to become correlated again once the surface drawdown
504 of Ba_d has been returned to the dissolved pool by dissolution of sinking barite. At Stations 33 and
505 35, there is suggestive evidence of the profiles tending towards negative residual values at the
506 oxygen minimum zone, where the rate of organic matter remineralization and potential Ba-
507 binding to phytoplankton TEP, polysaccharides, or bacterial EPS is at a maximum rate. Generally,
508 however, the intermediate waters are dominated by the positive UCDW signal.

509 This could be an indication of reduced barite formation at mesopelagic depths in waters
510 north of the Polar Front relative to south, which could be directly linked to the shift in overlying
511 phytoplankton assemblages and to the magnitude of export production and rate of sinking in the
512 two regions. The surface water drawdown of Ba_d north of the Polar Front does not seem to
513 translate to a higher formation of barite at depth, with much of the Ba_d instead being recycled
514 initially at shallower depths in the water column. This shallower remineralisation could also be
515 aided by the lower barite saturation state within the surface waters of the SAZ and PFZ. It
516 appears that the specific association of Ba_d with siliceous organisms, coupled with the ballasting

517 power of the large or heavily silicified diatom frustules (Tréguer et al., 2018), enables the
518 transport of Ba to depths greater than in areas dominated by other sinking phytoplankton.

519

520 *4.2.3. Deep waters of the Scotia Sea*

521 In deeper waters (2000 to 4000 m) Ba_d concentrations reach an asymptotic value and then
522 show little variation down to the base of the water column in all of the regions investigated.
523 Deeper stations in the Drake Passage record a slight decrease in Ba_d values at the base of the
524 water column, with a simultaneous increase in silicic acid concentrations and resulting negative
525 excursion in $Ba_d^{Si\text{ residual}}$ values that marks the presence of Southeast Pacific Deep Water (SPDW;
526 Fig. 2). The distinctive silicate maximum associated with this colder, slightly fresher sub-set of
527 LCDW is thought to originate from mixing with Ross Sea deep waters (Garabato et al., 2002), and
528 it appears that these waters may also inherit relatively low Ba_d concentrations, possibly due to a
529 low Ba content in sinking organic particles (DeMaster et al., 1992; McManus et al., 2002). Both
530 north and south of the Polar Front, the preservation of a consistent Ba maximum indicates that
531 at these depths the exchange between the particulate and dissolved barium pools is at steady
532 state, in contrast to silicic acid concentrations, which generally continue to increase until the
533 base of the water column. This observation could be explained by i) different relative saturation
534 states of barite within organic matter micro-environments or in seawater (as barite saturation
535 state increases with depth) and silica in deepwater (undersaturated globally in the oceans), or ii)
536 because the more soluble barite particles have already dissolved from sinking aggregates at
537 shallower depths in the water column, leaving only the more massive or less soluble particles,
538 while biogenic silica continues to dissolve even within the upper sediments. The latter
539 interpretation is supported by the observation that biogenic barite preserved in sediments is less
540 soluble in acid digestions than barite in water column samples (Bridgestock et al., 2018; Dymond
541 et al., 1992; Eagle et al., 2003).

542

543 ***4.3. The Weddell Sea: a region of barite supersaturation?***

544 In most regions of the global oceans, near-surface seawater is undersaturated with respect
545 to barite, as saturation state is a function of barium and sulphate concentrations, temperature,
546 salinity and pressure (Monnin et al., 1999; Rushdi et al., 2000). Our estimates of barite
547 saturation index for the surface waters of the Weddell Sea may be a notable exception, where
548 open ocean surface waters may become supersaturated with respect to pure barite (saturation
549 index approximately 1.1-1.2, likely reaching a maximum at Station 44; Supplementary
550 Information; Fig. S10), in agreement with previous findings (Jeandel et al., 1996; Monnin et al.,

551 1999). Barite precipitation from solution, without the need for biologically-derived micro-
552 environments, may explain the excursions in $Ba_d^{Si\text{ residual}}$ values in the upper 200 m of the
553 southern-most Weddell Sea Station 44 (Fig. 5e-h).

554

555 **5. Summary and conclusions**

556 There is a positive linear correlation between Ba_d and silicic acid throughout the global
557 ocean water column, a link which is not seen between Ba_d and the other macronutrients. An
558 exception to this general rule is observed in the surface waters of the Scotia Sea north of Polar
559 Front, where the distribution of Ba_d appears more similar to that of NO_x and PO_4 than silicic acid
560 in the upper 100 m, suggesting an unusual association between Ba_d and primary production in
561 surface waters in this region. This could be explained by near-surface Ba uptake by adsorption,
562 cellular incorporation or potentially barite formation, which is rapidly dissolved as it sinks out of
563 the surface layer.

564 The globally-observed linear relationship between silicic acid and Ba_d may result solely
565 from co-location in the formation and recycling of separate and distinct carrier phases, coupled
566 with the effects of large-scale ocean circulation. In support of this, the data presented here
567 suggest that the Ba_d distribution in the Scotia Sea is largely controlled by transitions between
568 distinct water masses, each with slightly differing relationships between Ba_d and silicic acid.
569 However, the signature of barite formation at mesopelagic depths, and dissolution in the deeper
570 water column, can also be distinguished in $Ba_d/Si(OH)_4$ deviations that overprint these larger
571 scale circulation patterns. Variation in the degree of implied biogenic barite formation across the
572 Polar Front suggests a correlation between phytoplankton assemblage and barium cycling, as
573 enhanced barium drawdown in subsurface waters is observed south of the Polar Front, where
574 the phytoplankton community shifts to one dominated by diatoms. This could be a significant
575 consideration in the application of the Ba_{excess} proxy for past export production (Paytan and
576 Griffith, 2007), as increases in sedimentary barite concentrations may be related to changes in
577 phytoplankton community structure as well as absolute increases in the export of organic
578 matter produced in surface waters.

579 These insights into the effects of surface phytoplankton community structure on the
580 formation of barite in the subsurface could be investigated further through barium isotope
581 analysis. Such isotopic measurements could verify whether or not deviations in the observed
582 $Ba_d/Si(OH)_4$ relationship observed in intermediate waters are the result of changes in barite
583 precipitation, re-dissolution and water mass mixing (e.g. Bates et al., 2017). If rates of biogenic
584 barite precipitation are controlled more by community structure than by net primary

585 productivity, as indicated here, then this could have important consequences for the use of
586 sedimentary barite as a proxy for export production.

587

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594

595 **Figure captions:**

596 **Figure 1:** Sites of depth profiles collected during cruise JR299 in the Scotia Sea and Weddell Sea
597 (Bathymetry etopo1). Approximate positions of fronts marked by dashed lines: Subantarctic
598 Front (SAF), Polar Front (PF), Southern ACC Front (SACCF) and Southern Boundary (SB). Stations
599 north of the Polar Front (Subantarctic Zone SAZ and Polar Front Zone PFZ; JR299 Stations 30-40
600 from the Drake Passage Section and Stations 101-132 from the North Scotia Ridge Section) are
601 marked with yellow squares. Stations south of the Polar Front are marked with red diamonds
602 (Antarctic Zone AAZ; Stations 95-100 from the North Scotia Ridge Section). Stations south of the
603 Southern Boundary are marked by green triangles (continental shelf waters adjacent to the
604 Peninsula; stations 2-7) and white circles (Weddell Sea; Stations 44-45). White numbers show
605 station numbers of examples plotted in profile in Figures 4 and 5.

606 **Figure 2:** Drake Passage section. Colour scale represents labelled parameters in each panel;
607 locations of Southern Boundary (SB) and Polar Front (PF) marked by vertical dotted purple lines.
608 Stations and sampling events are marked with black dots; station numbers are labelled along the
609 top of the top panel. Delineation of water masses schematically marked for reference: Weddell
610 Sea Deep Water (WSDW), South Pacific Deep Water (SPDW), Lower and Upper Circumpolar
611 Deep Water (LCDW and UCDW), Antarctic Intermediate Water (AAIW), and Antarctic Surface
612 Water (AASW). a. Ba_d concentrations (nmol/kg); b. $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values (nmol/kg); c. dissolved
613 oxygen concentrations ($\mu\text{mol/kg}$); d. salinity; e. potential temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$).

614 **Figure 3:** North Scotia Ridge section. Colour scale represents labelled parameters in each panel;
615 a. Ba_d concentrations (nmol/kg); b. $Ba_d^{Si\ residual}$ values (nmol/kg); c. dissolved oxygen
616 concentrations ($\mu\text{mol/kg}$); d. salinity; e. potential temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$). Stations and sampling events
617 are marked with black dots; station numbers are labelled along the top of the top panel.

618 **Figure 4:** a-d. Example depth profiles of Drake Passage waters north of the Polar Front in the
619 SAZ/PFZ (Station 30 black circles; Station 35 red triangles; Station 40 green squares) a. Dissolved
620 oxygen concentrations ($\mu\text{mol}/\text{kg}$); b. $\text{Ba}_d^{\text{Si residual}}$ values (nmol/kg); c. Dissolved barium
621 concentrations (nmol/kg); d. Silicic acid (μM). Shaded area represents the oxygen minimum
622 zone. e-h. Example depth profiles of ACC waters south of the Polar Front in the AAZ (Station 11
623 black circles; Station 13 red triangles; Station 26 green squares) e. Dissolved oxygen
624 concentrations ($\mu\text{mol}/\text{kg}$); f. $\text{Ba}_d^{\text{Si residual}}$ values (nmol/kg); g. Dissolved barium concentrations
625 (nmol/kg); h. Silicic acid (μM). Shaded area represents the oxygen minimum zone (note OMZ
626 marginally deeper at Station 26).

627 **Figure 5:** a-d. Example depth profiles of Antarctic continental shelf waters south of the Southern
628 Boundary (Station 3 black circles; Station 5 red triangles; Station 7 green squares) a. Dissolved
629 oxygen concentrations ($\mu\text{mol}/\text{kg}$); b. $\text{Ba}_d^{\text{Si residual}}$ values (nmol/kg), zero line marked by black
630 dotted line for reference; c. Dissolved barium concentrations (nmol/kg); d. Silicic acid (μM). e-h.
631 Depth profiles of Weddell Sea stations (Station 44 black circles; Station 45 red triangles) e.
632 Dissolved oxygen concentrations ($\mu\text{mol}/\text{kg}$); f. $\text{Ba}_d^{\text{Si residual}}$ values (nmol/kg); g. Dissolved barium
633 concentrations (nmol/kg); h. Silicic acid (μM). Shaded area represents the oxygen minimum
634 zone.

635 **Figure 6:** Scatter plots of dissolved barium (nmol/kg) vs. silicic acid ($\mu\text{mol}/\text{kg}$) for biogeographical
636 divisions of the dataset, superimposed upon the global GEOSECS dataset (Ostlund, 1987),
637 plotted in grey circles. Note our new data are in good agreement with the GEOSECS dataset.
638 Data from the Drake Passage Transect a. Stations south of the Southern Boundary (yellow
639 circles), ACC stations south of the PF (green circles); b. Stations north of the PF (blue circles). c.
640 Data from the Weddell Sea (red circles). d. Data from the North Scotia Ridge Transect (cyan
641 circles).

642

643

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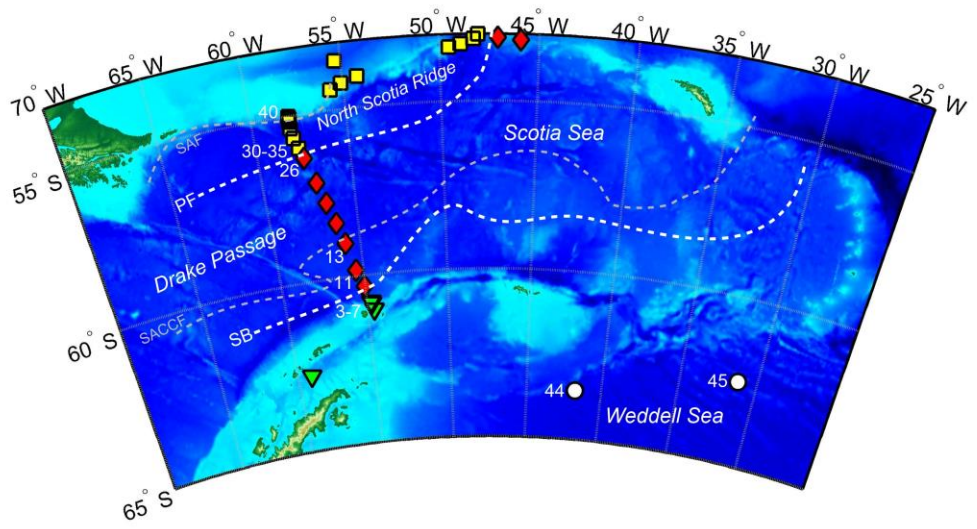
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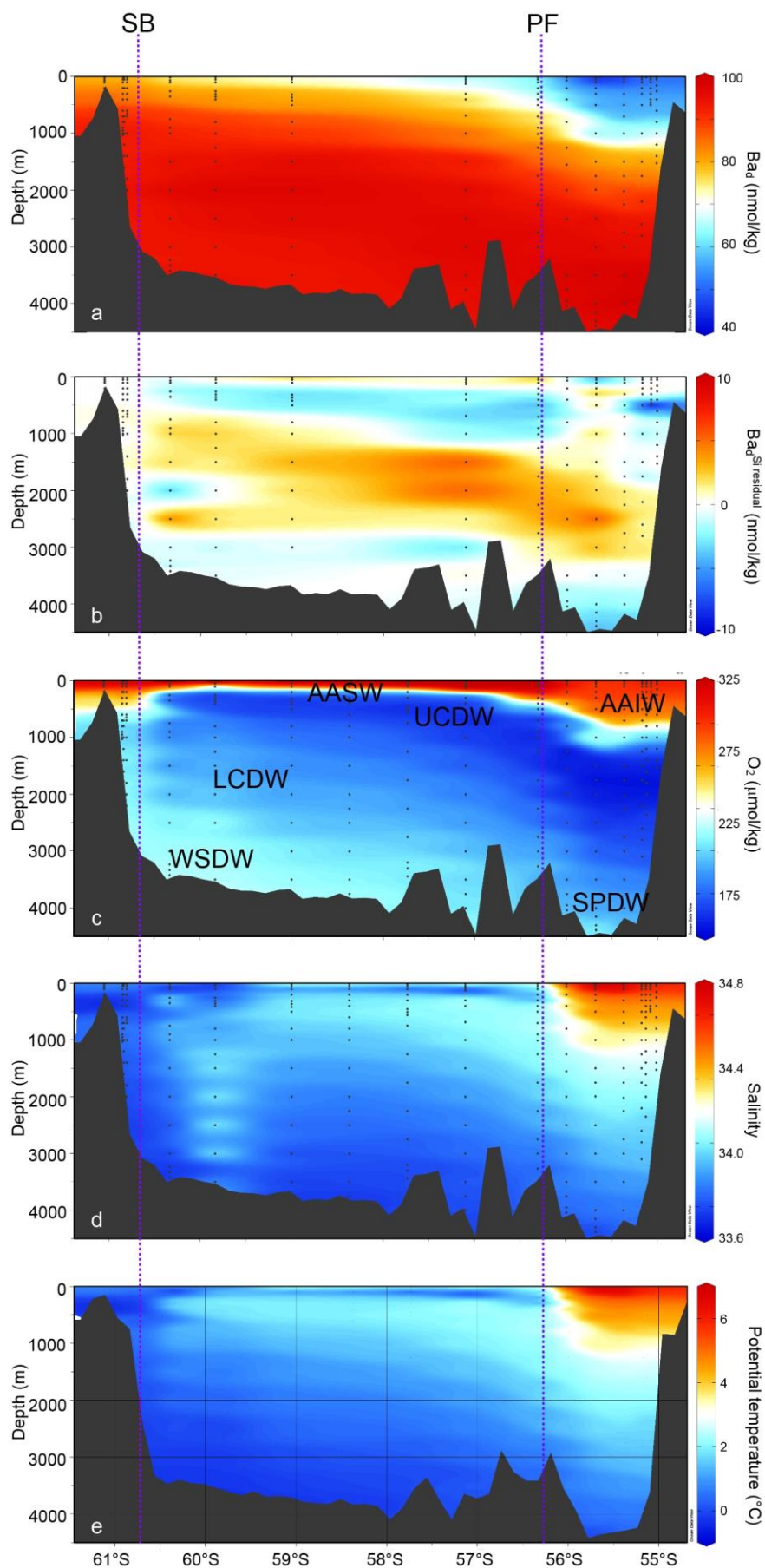
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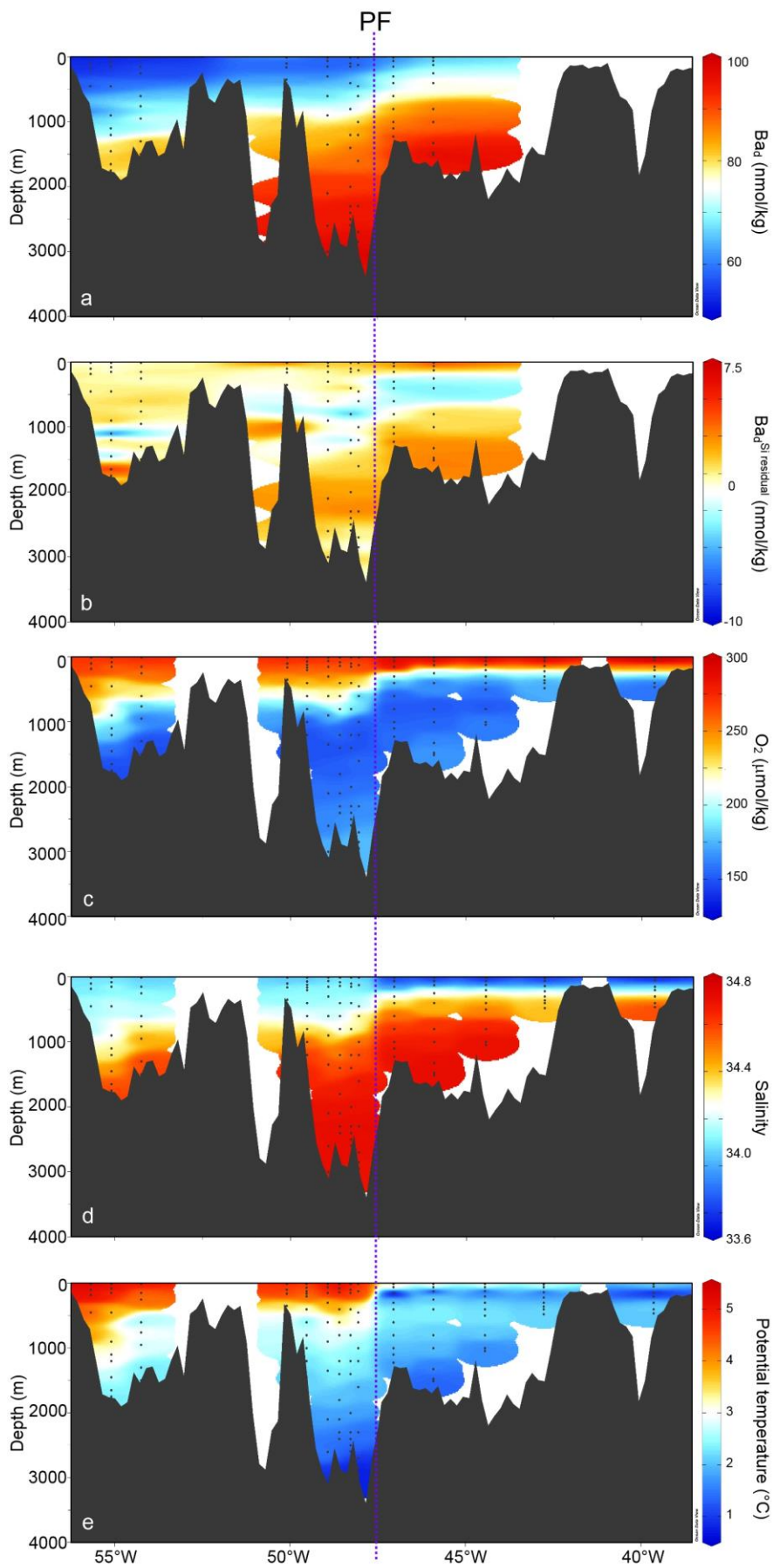
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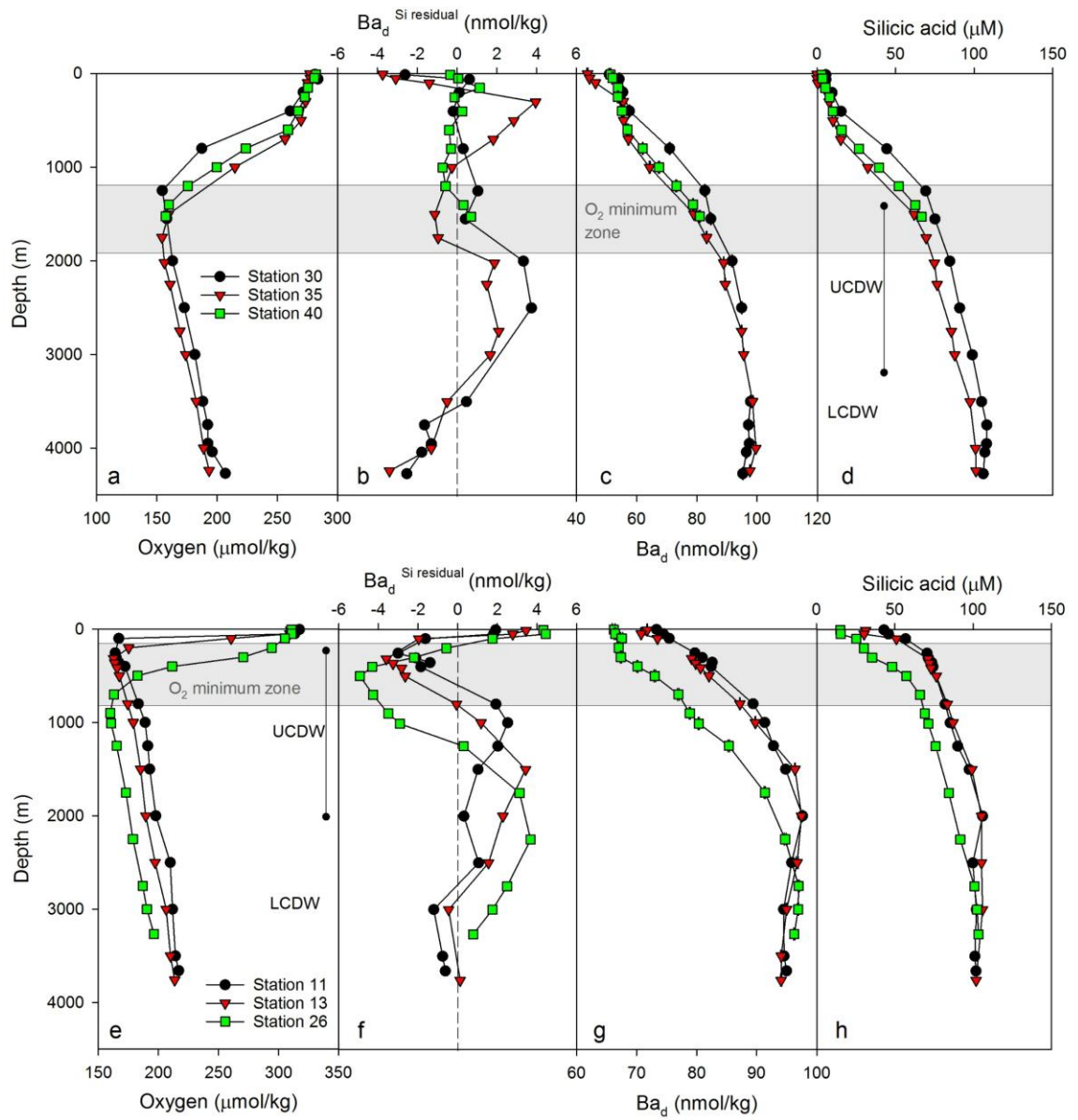
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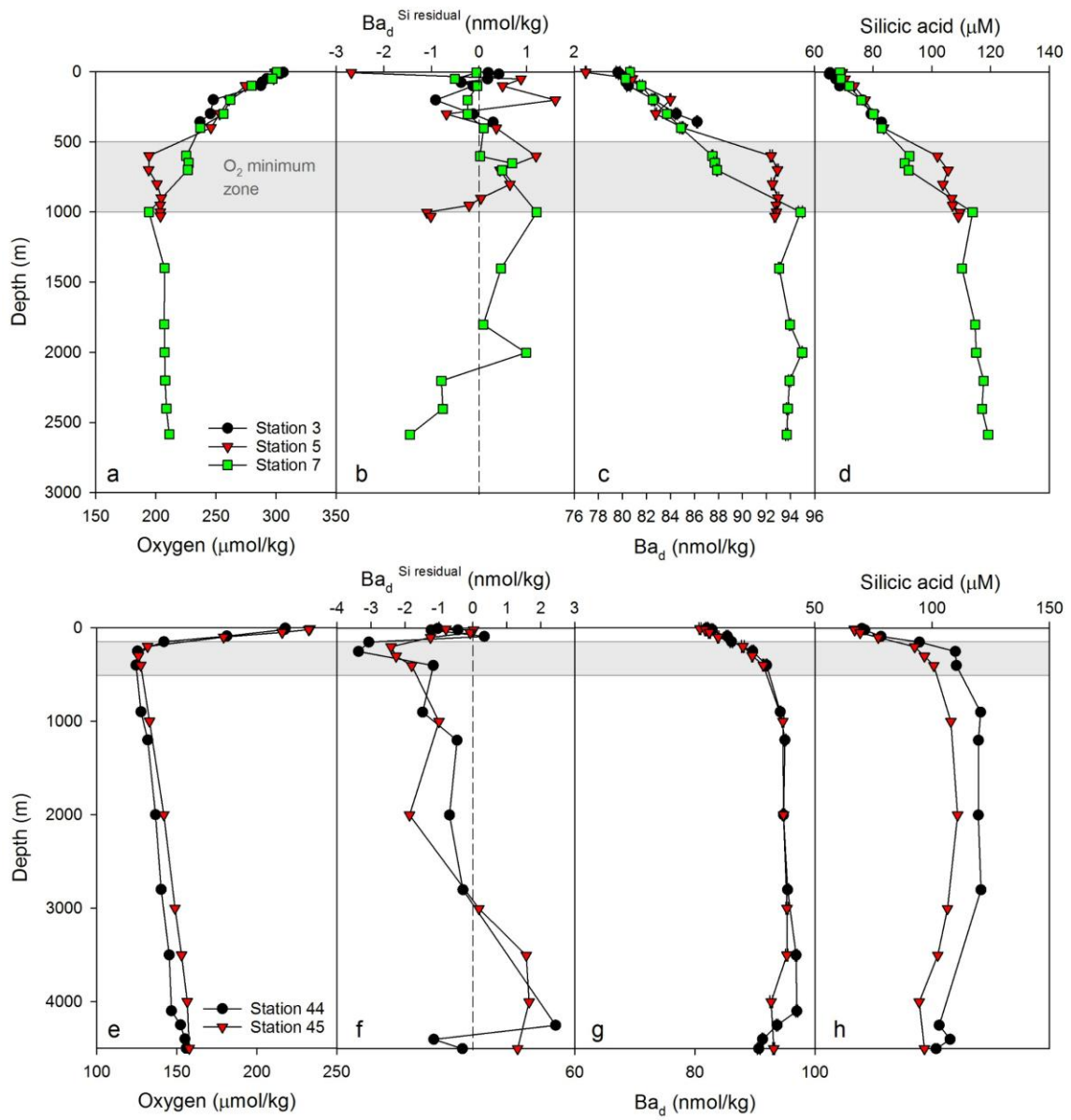
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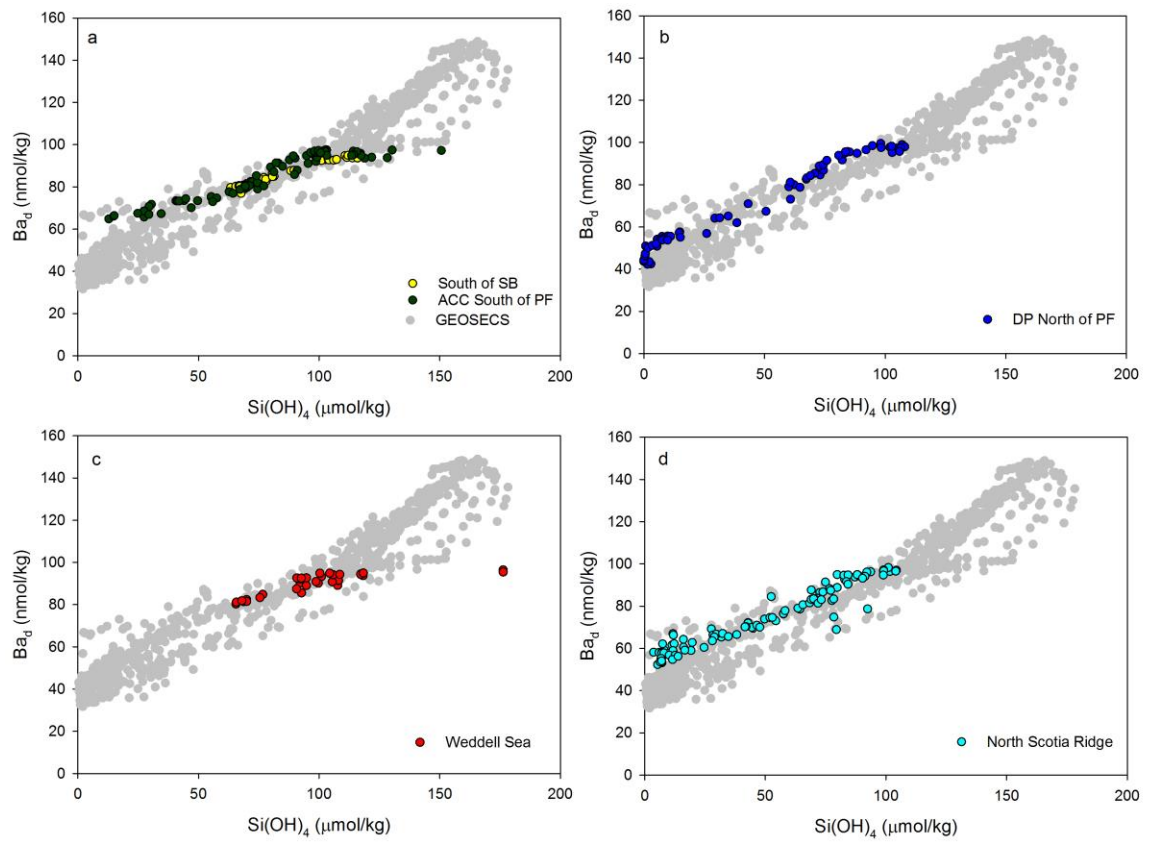




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