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3 **Title:** An autonomous, *in situ* light-dark bottle device for determining community respiration and net  
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20 instrumentation, optodes, dissolved oxygen, ocean observing

21

22 **Abstract**

23           We describe a new, autonomous, incubation-based instrument that is deployed *in situ* to  
24 determine rates of gross community respiration and net community production in marine and aquatic  
25 ecosystems. During deployments at a coastal pier and in the open ocean, the PHORCYS  
26 (*PH*Otosynthesis and *R*espiration Comparison-*Y*ielding System) captured dissolved oxygen fluxes  
27 over hourly timescales that were missed by traditional methods. The instrument uses fluorescence-  
28 quenching optodes fitted into separate light and dark chambers; these are opened and closed with  
29 piston-like actuators, allowing the instrument to make multiple, independent rate estimates in the  
30 course of each deployment. Consistent with other studies in which methods purporting to measure  
31 the same metabolic processes have yielded divergent results, respiration rate estimates from the  
32 PHORCYS were systematically higher than those calculated for the same waters using a traditional  
33 two-point Winkler titration technique. However, PHORCYS estimates of gross respiration agreed  
34 generally with separate incubations in bottles fitted with optode sensor spots. An Appendix describes  
35 a new method for estimating uncertainties in metabolic rates calculated from continuous dissolved  
36 oxygen data. Multiple successful, unattended deployments of the PHORCYS represent a small step  
37 toward fully autonomous observations of community metabolism. Yet the persistence of unexplained  
38 disagreements among aquatic metabolic rate estimates — such as those we observed between rates  
39 calculated with the PHORCYS and two existing, widely-accepted bottle-based methods — suggests  
40 that a new community intercalibration effort is warranted to address lingering sources of error in  
41 these critical measurements.

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43

## 44 **Introduction**

45           Accurate, reproducible, and cost-effective estimates of aerobic respiration and primary  
46 production in aquatic systems are essential for research across a diverse array of disciplines in the  
47 environmental sciences (del Giorgio and Williams, 2005; Volkmar and Dahlgren, 2006; Staehr et al.,  
48 2012). Rate measurements of these two metabolic parameters can be applied to various problems,  
49 including validating the biogeochemical components of global climate models (Denman et al., 2007),  
50 determining the trophic status of surface-water planktonic communities in open ocean ecosystems  
51 (Williams, 1998), measuring rates of biological oxygen demand (BOD) in treated wastewater  
52 (Spanjers et al., 1994), and identifying unexpected metabolisms in the deep ocean (Reinthal et al.,  
53 2010).

54           While an increasing demand for metabolic rate data has encouraged the development of many  
55 different methods for estimating rates of photosynthesis (Ducklow and Doney, 2013), the number of  
56 new methods for measuring aerobic respiration at the community scale has lagged behind  
57 considerably (del Giorgio and Williams, 2005). The majority of field-based methods for measuring  
58 rates of respiration and primary production in the ocean fall largely into two categories: (1) *in situ*  
59 geochemical tracer techniques that track changes in the concentration or isotopic composition of  
60 dissolved oxygen and carbon dioxide within ocean water masses (e.g., the surface mixed layer), and  
61 (2) *in vitro* incubation techniques that track the rates at which plankton exchange oxygen or carbon  
62 dioxide in discrete seawater samples (i.e., bottle incubations). The merits and faults of these two  
63 categories of approaches have been vigorously debated while significant and often unexplained  
64 differences are noted in the rate estimates they yield (Duarte et al., 2013; Ducklow and Doney, 2013;  
65 Williams et al., 2013). The former category has benefited considerably from recent advances in  
66 optical sensor technology (Moore et al., 2009), mass spectrometry (Goldman et al., 2015), and  
67 techniques for analysis of optical sensor data from autonomous underwater vehicles (Nicholson et al.,

68 2015). By maximizing the extent to which sensors are integrated into the surrounding environment,  
69 low-power instruments increase the spatial and temporal resolution of geochemical tracers *in situ* and  
70 permit increasingly autonomous, long-term deployments (Prien, 2007; Riser and Johnson, 2008;  
71 Porter et al., 2009).

72 By contrast, the field has seen relatively few technical advances in *in vitro* incubation  
73 techniques. *In vitro* techniques provide an important complement to *in situ* methods because they are  
74 sensitive to short-term perturbations and are amenable to experimental design. For these reasons, the  
75 traditional two-point light and dark bottle incubation technique (Gaarder and Gran, 1927) and the  $^{14}\text{C}$   
76 incubation method (Steeman Nielsen, 1952) continue to dominate incubation-based studies, although  
77 a number of other methods based on electron transport (e.g., Kenner and Ahmed, 1975) or fluxes of  
78  $^{18}\text{O}$  or  $\text{CO}_2$  (Bender et al., 1987; Robinson and Williams, 2005) have been introduced over the course  
79 of the last half-century. A number of these methods have been incorporated into modern designs for  
80 benthic flux chambers and so-called “benthic landers,” enabling investigators to capture fluxes of  
81 oxygen and other gases *in situ* at the sediment-water interface instead of in core samples aboard ship  
82 (Hammond et al., 2004; compare, e.g., Martens et al., 2016, Fuchsman et al., 2015, or Lee et al.,  
83 2015, to Kim et al., 2015). However, even the most advanced of these devices can require the use of  
84 divers or remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) for deployment, maintenance, or recovery.

85 Additionally, by their nature, few of these designs can be programmed to conduct multiple  
86 incubations over the course of a single deployment. Taylor et al. addressed this obstacle with the  
87 submersible incubation device (SID), which for the first time allowed multiple, unattended  
88 incubations with  $^{14}\text{C}$ -bicarbonate to be conducted *in situ* (Taylor and Doherty, 1990; Taylor et al.,  
89 1993). The SID represented a significant advance but was limited by its relatively small 400 mL  
90 incubation chamber and its reliance on the use of radiolabeled reagents.

91           Among the advances most consequential for *in situ* instrumentation was the adaptation to  
92 marine applications of optical technologies such as optodes (e.g., Klimant et al., 1995; Tengberg et  
93 al., 2006) and optode sensor spots (e.g., Warkentin et al., 2007), which exploit fluorescence  
94 (luminescence) quenching to measure dissolved oxygen concentrations non-destructively and without  
95 themselves contributing to oxygen consumption in the sample. Integral optodes and sensor spots  
96 based on the same technology have now been successfully used in a variety of shipboard  
97 configurations to measure rates of gross community respiration in whole, unconcentrated and  
98 unfiltered water samples and in water containing particle material from marine and aquatic  
99 environments (Edwards et al., 2011; Wikner et al., 2013; Collins et al., 2015). More recently,  
100 shipboard *in vitro* measurements of respiration within individual marine particles were made  
101 successfully using oxygen microelectrodes (Belcher et al., 2016a; Belcher et al., 2016b). A  
102 significant recent advance was also achieved with the RESPIRE device, which uses an optode fitted  
103 into a modified sediment trap to make particle respiration measurements *in situ* (Boyd et al., 2015;  
104 McDonnell et al., 2015).

105           Despite the significant progress represented in these optode-driven systems, incubation-based  
106 methods remain prone to a number of sources of error that demand reconciliation. These can be  
107 generally divided into two categories: (1) those that result from the preparation for or act of  
108 incubating natural microbial populations and (2) errors inherent in the method used to determine the  
109 concentration of dissolved oxygen (e.g., Winkler titration, fluorescence-quenching optode, or Clark  
110 electrode). The sources of uncertainty associated with bottle/chamber incubations span both  
111 categories and include (1) contamination, disruption, or bias introduced through the process of  
112 obtaining seawater samples from depth and preparing them for incubation (Suter et al., 2016;  
113 Tamburini et al., 2013); (2) unrepresentative incubation conditions that do not faithfully reproduce  
114 the variations in temperature, turbulence, and light inherent in natural systems; (3) so-called “bottle

115 effects” associated with low-volume incubations which may limit nutrient availability (Furnas, 2002)  
116 or induce unnatural changes in community structure (Venrick et al., 1977; Calvo-Díaz et al., 2011);  
117 and (4), in the case of metabolic rate measurements extrapolated from Winker (1888) titrations, the  
118 lack of temporal resolution inherent in measurements based only on two endpoints. In any study  
119 where incubations are used, the choice of incubation methodology places inherent limits on the  
120 spatial and temporal resolution of the data collected (Karl et al., 2001). The integration of point  
121 measurements — data sparse in time and/or space, whether based on *in situ* observations or  
122 incubations — also creates significant representation error. One solution to this problem is to greatly  
123 increase the number of measurements made during data collection using automated technologies.

124 We describe here the *PHOTOSynthesis and Respiration Comparison-Yielding System*  
125 (PHORCYS), a large-volume (i.e., > 2.5 L), light and dark chamber incubation system for  
126 autonomous measurement of rates of primary production and respiration at high temporal resolution  
127 and under *in situ* conditions. In designing the instrument, we endeavored to minimize the major  
128 hypothesized sources of uncertainty associated with traditional incubation-based methods while  
129 constructing a system that functions autonomously and interrogates water samples non-destructively.  
130 We also sought to eliminate or reduce the need for repeated wet-chemical field measurements such as  
131 Winkler oxygen titrations or reagent-based methods used in other autonomous systems. We first  
132 describe design and validation of the PHORCYS using two independent methods, and then present  
133 results of several deployments of the instrument in different ecosystem types.

## 134 **Materials and procedures**

### 135 *Instrument design and operation*

136 The PHORCYS is composed of only a few basic components, making the design highly  
137 scalable and cost-effective (Fig. 1a,b). In nearly all instances, “off the shelf” components of different

138 size or capacity can be easily substituted for those we describe here. The PHORCYS consists of two  
139 polycarbonate plastic chambers (usable vol. 5.7 L; Table 1), several auxiliary sensors for collection  
140 of environmental data in the ambient water mass outside the chambers, and a watertight power  
141 supply, control, and data recording module (Fig. 1a). A piston-like, magnetically coupled actuator is  
142 programmed to open and close each chamber at a specified interval, allowing users to perform  
143 multiple, unattended incubations over the course of a single deployment. The chamber seals are  
144 tapered to avoid the use of rubber O-rings that might have introduced a source of organic  
145 contamination into the sample water. In experiments, the polycarbonate plastic used for the  
146 PHORCYS incubation chambers reduced photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) within the  
147 transparent chamber to 83% of incident strength; we present a means of accounting for this  
148 attenuation, below. The opaque chamber was darkened by application of a coating to the outside of  
149 the cylinder. All PHORCYS components are mounted to a stainless-steel frame, allowing the  
150 instrument to operate to a depth of 100 m.

151         Dissolved oxygen concentrations in the two chambers are monitored with fast-response,  
152 fluorescence quenching oxygen optodes (Aanderaa model 4531D; accuracy < 8  $\mu\text{M O}_2$ ; resolution <  
153 1  $\mu\text{M O}_2$ ; response time < 30 s; Aanderaa Data Instruments, Inc., Bergen, Norway); each optode is  
154 fitted into its chamber using a water- and gas-tight flange assembly. The instrument also has several  
155 external sensors, including a third optode to monitor dissolved oxygen concentrations in the water  
156 mass outside of the two chambers, PAR sensor, beam transmissometer, chlorophyll fluorometer, and  
157 CTD. We did not investigate whether the arrangement of these sensors had any effect on the external  
158 dissolved oxygen field surrounding the instrument.

159         With a full sensor suite, the nominal power consumption of the PHORCYS is 50 mA at 12V;  
160 standby current is 2 mA. When programmed to sample at a 50 % duty cycle, a single 12V primary  
161 ‘D’ cell battery pack (20,000 mAh capacity) will power the instrument for up to 30 d in an

162 unattended deployment mode. Data are recorded in an ASCII fixed-field format onto a micro SD card  
163 in a DOS-readable format. For attended deployments, a combination communications and external  
164 power port provides the ability to observe data in real time, allow program updates, download data,  
165 and power the instrument indefinitely. The sampling interval is nominally set to 1 min, though data  
166 can be collected as frequently as every 15 s. The acquisition program determines sampling activity by  
167 way of a real-time clock. The chambers can thus be programmed to open and close at any time,  
168 allowing the investigator to make multiple incubations of any desired length. In the configuration  
169 used to acquire the data presented here, (Fig. 2,  $\blacksquare$  symbol; e.g., Fig. 3) the chambers were  
170 programmed to open at or around sunrise and the same operation was repeated at sunset, providing  
171 two incubations in each 24 h period that aligned with the beginning and end of the photoperiod. The  
172 chambers are opened and then closed sequentially (i.e., one after the other) to reduce total current  
173 draw from the power source. The chambers remain open for 30 min at the outset of each incubation,  
174 providing sufficient time for the water to be fully exchanged before closure; we confirmed this  
175 flushing time was sufficient in both quiescent and flowing ( $\sim 1 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ) waters using a series of tests  
176 with a tracer dye (results not shown). While we used a standard 30 min flush time in the deployments  
177 for which data is presented below, any time can be specified in the instrument's control software,  
178 which is written in BASIC.

179         The earlier PHORCYS data from 2012 (Fig. 2,  $\bullet$  symbols; e.g., Fig. 4) were obtained using a  
180 prototype instrument that permitted only one incubation cycle per deployment. This prototype (Fig.  
181 1b) was assembled from two 2.5 L Niskin-style sampling bottles mounted to an aluminum frame  
182 (opaque polyvinylchloride and transparent polycarbonate plastic, respectively; actual usable volume,  
183 2.6 L; General Oceanics, Inc., Miami, FL, USA). Closure of the chambers for incubation was  
184 effected using an electrolytic time release (i.e., "burn wire") system. Prior to deployment, the Niskin  
185 bottle endcaps were cocked open and the retaining cable was rigged to a fusible burn wire plug. Once



186 in the water, a sufficient current was applied to the burn wire at a time set by the user, corroding the  
187 wire and allowing the bottle endcaps to close. The chambers were then sealed and the incubation  
188 began. For the deployments presented here, we programmed the chambers to close approximately 45  
189 min after the PHORCYS had reached the desired depth. In the prototype instrument, Aanderaa model  
190 4330F optodes (accuracy < 8  $\mu\text{M O}_2$ ; resolution < 1  $\mu\text{M O}_2$ ) were used to record dissolved oxygen  
191 concentrations.

### 192 *Instrument deployments*

193 We conducted 6 unattended deployments of the PHORCYS in 3 distinct ecosystem types in  
194 the North Atlantic basin (Fig. 2; Table 2; Supplemental Table 1). Open-ocean deployments (2 to 7 d  
195 in length, using the prototype instrument) were conducted during cruises aboard the R/V *Knorr*;  
196 during these deployments, the instrument was suspended at various depths in the euphotic zone from  
197 a drifting surface buoy (Fig. 1c). Deployment and recovery were accomplished in 45-60 min from a  
198 standard oceanographic research platform (Supplemental Fig. 1). An Argo satellite beacon (Fig. 1c)  
199 allowed us to track the array remotely between deployment and recovery while the ship traveled up  
200 to 300 km away to conduct other shipboard scientific operations; we specifically designed both  
201 models of the PHORCYS to be wholly autonomous, incurring a minimal burden on other shipboard  
202 operations. Pierside deployments were conducted using the present, multiple-incubation version of  
203 the PHORCYS at the Iselin Marine Facility, Woods Hole, MA, USA (41° 31' 24" N 70° 40' 20" W);  
204 the site adjoins a highly productive coastal embayment. In both cases, oxygen concentrations ( $\mu\text{mol}$   
205  $\text{L}^{-1} \text{O}_2$ ), percent saturation, and temperature were then recorded for each chamber at 1 min intervals.  
206 Post-acquisition corrections for salinity were applied to both the open-ocean and coastal data using  
207 concurrent observations of salinity and manufacturer-supplied correction coefficients. Concurrent  
208 salinity data were obtained from the continuous, flow-through CTD system aboard the R/V *Knorr*  
209 (for open-ocean deployments) or from the Seabird CTD unit mounted as an external sensor on the

210 present PHORCYS model (2016 coastal deployments). Due to the limited number of at-sea  
211 deployments of the PHORCYS prototype and the challenges we encountered during our initial  
212 cruises, we pooled our prototype results with the data we later obtained from the production-model  
213 instrument in order to assemble a larger, more robust dataset for subsequent analysis.

#### 214 *Instrument calibration and choice of deployment depth*

215 Optodes were calibrated before each pierside deployment and prior to each research cruise  
216 using a two-point method, assuming a linear response between end-members. An air-saturated  
217 solution was obtained according to manufacturer instructions by bubbling ambient air for approx. 30  
218 min through a sufficient volume of Milli-Q water using an aquarium stone; a zero-oxygen solution  
219 was obtained by dissolving an excess of reagent-grade sodium sulfite into a beaker containing Milli-  
220 Q water. The optodes were then calibrated at atmospheric temperature and pressure, as recommended  
221 by the manufacturer. At the open-ocean stations, we deployed the prototype instrument within the  
222 euphotic zone at depths where the observed flux of photosynthetically active radiation (PAR;  
223 wavelengths 400-700 nm) was between 10-30% of the incident flux at the surface. The depth of the  
224 euphotic zone ( $z_{eu}$ , defined as the depth at which PAR = 1 % of incident intensity) was identified  
225 using profiles from shipboard hydrocasts. At each of these stations, we calculated an equivalent  
226 deployment depth ( $z_{equiv}$ ) that accounted for light attenuation by the transparent chamber's  
227 polycarbonate plastic, according to a modification of the standard equation for the exponential decay  
228 of light with depth:

$$229 \quad I_z(PAR) = \frac{I_0(PAR)e^{-K_d(PAR)z_{equiv}}}{T(PAR)} \quad (1)$$

230 where  $I_0(PAR)$  and  $I_z(PAR)$  are, respectively, the incident PAR intensity and intensity at depth  $z$ ,  
231  $K_d(PAR)$  is the diffuse attenuation coefficient for the PAR spectral band (calculated from the

232 hydrocast profile at each station), and  $T(PAR)$  is the transmissivity of the polycarbonate plastic  
233 expressed as a fraction (0.83). Pierside deployments of the present PHORCYS model were conducted  
234 at a depth of 1.5 m.

235 *Instrument validation by two independent methods*

236 First, to validate the optodes' ability to accurately track respiration, we used a standard  
237 analytical method — two-point Winkler titration — to determine dissolved oxygen consumption in  
238 triplicate water samples at the beginning and end of each incubation period (present model  
239 instrument) or deployment (for data obtained with the prototype). Winkler titrations were conducted  
240 in 125 mL BOD bottles according to EPA Method 360.2 as modified for shipboard determination in  
241 seawater (Knapp et al., 1989). Initial Winkler titrations were made in samples collected within 15  
242 min of deployment using a Niskin or Go-Flo bottle suspended at the same depth as the instrument. A  
243 set of three darkened 125 mL BOD bottles containing water from the same Niskin or Go-Flo bottle  
244 was incubated at *in situ* temperature until the PHORCYS was recovered or the incubation period  
245 ended; these samples were then sacrificed according to the same protocol. The BOD bottles used in  
246 these incubations were triple-rinsed with 10 % HCl and then Milli-Q water prior to sampling. All  
247 reagents for Winkler titrations were A.C.S. grade or better; the sodium thiosulfate titrant was  
248 standardized daily. Amperometric titration was performed using an autotitrator (Metrohm 904  
249 Titrando; Metrohm USA, Inc., Riverview, FL).

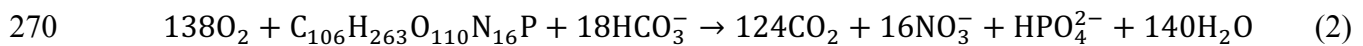
250 As an additional means of comparison during the open-ocean deployments, we also tracked  
251 changes in dissolved oxygen in a series of continuously monitored shipboard bottle incubations.  
252 Water from the PHORCYS deployment depth was retrieved for these incubations from a hydrocast  
253 made within 1 h of deployment. Incubations were conducted in gas-tight, 300 mL glass BOD bottles;  
254 at least 5 replicates were used for each series of measurements. Determination of dissolved oxygen

255 was made at 3 to 9 h intervals using optode spot minisensors (PreSens PSt3; response time < 40 s;  
256 Precision Sensing GmbH, Regensburg, Germany; Warkentin et al., 2007) that were glued to the  
257 inside surfaces of the bottles using food-quality silicone cement. The use of these optode spots  
258 eliminated the need for drawing of aliquots from the sample bottles; the bottles had been soaked in  
259 Milli-Q water for > 2 months following application of the sensor spots. Incubations were conducted  
260 in the dark at *in situ* temperature as described in Edwards et al. (2011).

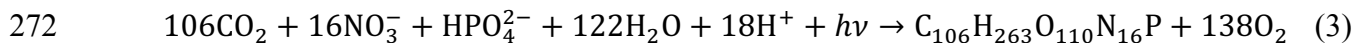
261 *Data analysis*

262 *PHORCYS rate calculations*

263 Volumetric rates of gross community respiration (GR) and net community production (NCP)  
264 were calculated by linear least-squares regression of observations of dissolved oxygen concentration  
265 over the length of the deployment (prototype model) or incubation period (present model). We  
266 assumed the only significant chemical reactions contributing to oxygen consumption and evolution in  
267 the two chambers were aerobic respiration and photosynthesis. For organic matter of elemental  
268 stoichiometry roughly corresponding to that of Redfield (1934) and assuming production is based on  
269 nitrate, these redox reactions can be represented as (after Stumm and Morgan, 2013):



271 and



273 As is the case with the classic light and dark bottle incubation technique, we assumed that only  
274 respiration was taking place in the dark (i.e., GR; reported as positive quantities), while both  
275 reactions were taking place simultaneously in the presence of light (i.e. NCP; in reality,

276 photorespiration also contributes to oxygen consumption in the light bottle). Finally, where possible,  
277 we estimated the rate of gross primary productivity (GPP) according to the relationship

$$278 \quad \text{GPP} = \text{NCP} + \text{GR} \quad (4)$$

279 To estimate uncertainties in PHORCYS rate estimates, we adapted an effective degrees of freedom  
280 technique traditionally applied to time-series data in physical oceanography (Emery and Thomson,  
281 2001). The method, which serves as an alternative to the standard error of the regression slope in  
282 instances when true replication cannot be achieved, is described in detail in the Appendix.

### 283 *Rate calculations from Winkler titration samples and sensor spot incubations*

284 For the Winkler titration samples, GR was calculated using a difference of means,

$$285 \quad \text{GR} = -\frac{d\text{O}_2}{dt} \quad (5)$$

286 where  $d\text{O}_2$  is the difference between the mean dissolved oxygen concentration in samples sacrificed  
287 at the final incubation timepoint and the mean measured at the initial timepoint and  $dt$  is the  
288 incubation duration. For the sensor spot incubations, we calculated rates for each bottle using a linear  
289 least-squares regression of all observations recorded over the time period; we then averaged the rates  
290 obtained for the various replicates to obtain a final estimate. Uncertainties in rates based on the  
291 Winkler titration method were determined from the standard deviations of the dissolved oxygen  
292 concentrations measured in the replicates at each timepoint. For rates based on the sensor spot  
293 incubations, we used the standard error of regression. While we report metabolic rate estimates from  
294 the PHORCYS in oxygen-based units, a stoichiometric relationship such as the molar respiratory  
295 quotient of Anderson and Sarmiento (1994) can be applied to convert these estimates to units of  
296 carbon.

297 **Assessment**

298 *PHORCYS metabolic rate estimates*

299 We observed a significant degree of daily and hourly variability in the time series data from  
300 each PHORCYS deployment (e.g., Fig. 3 and 4). This variability manifested itself in a wide range of  
301 metabolic rate estimates (Table 2; Supplemental Table 1) that reflect the interaction of multiple  
302 biological and physical forcings, including diel changes in cellular growth cycle, surface-layer water  
303 temperature, and irradiance. Daily rates of GR were estimated from dark chamber data for all  
304 PHORCYS deployments (Table 2). For data obtained with the present model instrument, hourly rates  
305 were calculated for each incubation segment (Fig. 3); these were extrapolated to daily rates to  
306 facilitate comparison with other studies and with data from the prototype instrument. For open-ocean  
307 data obtained with the PHORCYS prototype, daily rates were calculated using the entire DO time  
308 series from each deployment. Erroneous readings from one of the optodes and a system malfunction  
309 prevented us from recovering usable NCP data from the transparent chamber during two of the open-  
310 ocean deployments of the prototype instrument. During the 24-27 April 2012 deployment, the chosen  
311 depth of 29 m provided insufficient PAR (< 3% of surface intensity) to support measurable  
312 photosynthesis in the transparent chamber; consequently, we could not calculate NCP or GPP for this  
313 station (Supplemental Table 1). An obstruction prevented the transparent chamber from closing  
314 during the November 2016 deployment, allowing us to recover useful data from only the dark  
315 chamber.

316 We captured daily rates of GR ranging from  $1.8 \pm 0.2 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$  at a mid-latitude  
317 station in the North Atlantic to  $10.5 \pm 7.5$  and  $18.9 \pm 1.9 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$  in two different water  
318 masses at the Woods Hole pier in early November (Fig. 3 and 4; Table 2). The wide variation in GR  
319 we observed with the PHORCYS covers a significant range of the rates for marine systems compiled

320 by Robinson and Williams (2005). Daily rates of GPP at the PHORCYS deployment depth ranged  
321 from essentially zero on several days at a mid-latitude station in the North Atlantic (Supplemental  
322 Table 1) to  $3.6 \pm 0.5 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$  during a coccolithophore bloom (Collins et al., 2015) in the  
323 sub-Arctic North Atlantic (Fig. 4). Rates of NCP at the deployment depth ranged from  $-2.0 \pm 0.4$   
324  $\mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$  to  $-4.2 \pm 0.2 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$  (Supplemental Table 1).

## 325 **Discussion**

### 326 *Subdaily variation in rates of metabolism; choices concerning data analysis*

327         Increasing evidence suggests the significant sub- and inter-daily variation in metabolic  
328 activity captured by the PHORCYS exists in almost all natural aquatic systems (Caffrey, 2004;  
329 Staehr et al., 2012; Collins et al., 2013); even in oligotrophic waters, respiration and production rates  
330 may change significantly from one day (or hour) to the next, even as the system maintains an overall  
331 state of near trophic balance (Aranguren-Gassis et al., 2012). The types of fluctuations we observed  
332 in the various dissolved oxygen time series obtained from the PHORCYS appear to be characteristic  
333 of incubation-based *in situ* instruments. McDonnell et al. (2015) and Boyd et al. (2015) both  
334 observed similar patterns in dissolved oxygen data during recent deployments of an *in situ* device  
335 that measures oxygen consumption rates on marine particles.

336         Nevertheless, the subtle changes in DO concentration we observed in multi-day incubations  
337 with the PHORCYS prototype (e.g., Fig. 4) suggest that a single regression line — fitted, in this case,  
338 to align with the closing and opening of the chambers — might have been poorly suited to a time  
339 series exhibiting such variation. While one might instead have divided the full time series into shorter  
340 segments to compute several different regressions (e.g, according to the photoperiod), we chose to  
341 define the interval for rate calculations from the prototype instrument according the chamber opening  
342 and closing times. This allowed us to avoid the bias inherent in dividing such a time series into

343 smaller segments. The present PHORCYS model allows users to predefine multiple, shorter  
344 incubation periods of length appropriate to the ecosystem (e.g., Fig. 3); this feature eliminates the  
345 need for a choice between either a subjective, *ex post facto* division of data or the application of a  
346 single regression that might fail to capture the observed variation.

347 *Evaluation of instrument performance using independent methods*

348 PHORCYS estimates of community respiration were systematically higher than those  
349 calculated for the same waters using the two-point Winkler titration method (Fig. 5a; Table 2). While  
350 there was a significant correlation between estimates from the two different methods ( $r^2 = 0.42$ ;  $p =$   
351  $0.04$ ), the traditional Winkler titration approach appeared to underestimate rates of respiration by  
352 nearly one-third. Alternatively, the PHORCYS could have overestimated true rates of respiration  
353 through artificial stimulation of the microbial community or inadvertent retention of residual  
354 dissolved oxygen by the chambers or optode. In contrast, rate estimates from the PHORCYS  
355 generally agreed with those based on our non-destructive optode sensor spot incubations, though we  
356 had only five data points on which to evaluate the correlation (Fig. 5b; correlation was not  
357 statistically significant).

358 Wikner et al. (2013) observed close agreement ( $\sim 3\%$  deviation) between gross community  
359 respiration rates derived from continuous optode measurements in a shipboard incubation chamber (1  
360 L, clear glass) and a series of parallel incubations based on a Winkler method in 120 mL glass BOD  
361 bottles. In previous work, we observed similar coherence between rates derived from a two-point  
362 Winkler method in 300 mL glass BOD bottles and those based on incubations in 125 mL glass BOD  
363 bottles fitted with optode sensor spots (surface area : volume ratios as reported in Table 1; Collins et  
364 al., 2015). Underlying the agreement among methods in these previous studies is a common reliance  
365 on incubations aboard ship. One might therefore conclude that the observed divergence between



366 estimates of respiration from the PHORCYS and those we made with the Winkler titration method  
367 are due to inherent differences between the *in situ* PHORCYS approach and shipboard incubation  
368 methods. However, evidence suggests that use of the same method is not even a guarantor of  
369 agreement. For example, Robinson et al. (2009) found that vastly different rates were obtained from  
370 the same method of measuring primary production when the only the timescale of incubation was  
371 varied.

### 372 *Possible sources of observed discrepancies between methods*

#### 373 *Gas permeability of materials*

374 The materials chosen for construction of the PHORCYS, particularly the polycarbonate  
375 plastic we used for the incubation chambers, represent one possible source of bias in our method. We  
376 chose polycarbonate material for its durability, low cost, and, compared with other plastics such as  
377 polyvinylchloride, minimal biological reactivity. Polycarbonate was selected for its minimal  
378 biological reactivity in construction of at least two similar *in situ* incubation devices (Langdon et al.,  
379 1995; Robert, 2012). However, polycarbonate, like most plastics, is at least partially permeable to  
380 dissolved oxygen; by comparison, the borosilicate glass of which BOD bottles are fabricated is  
381 nearly impermeable (Kjeldsen, 1993; Robert, 2012). While some diffusion of dissolved oxygen  
382 across the polycarbonate chamber walls could have occurred during incubations with the PHORCYS,  
383 thus biasing our results, we believe the effect would likely have been very modest given the  
384 dissolved oxygen gradients and timescales typical of our deployments. First, the gradient necessary  
385 to drive any diffusion across the PHORCYS chamber wall (i.e., the difference between the internal  
386 and external dissolved oxygen concentrations) did not exceed  $25 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1}$  during any  
387 deployment; in the deployment presented in Fig. 3, the average difference between internal and  
388 external concentrations was just  $6.1 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1}$ . In a series of oxygen-diffusion experiments with a

389 device similar to the PHORCYS, Robert (2012) monitored the dissolved oxygen concentration inside  
390 a polycarbonate chamber after the water inside was treated with sodium hydrosulfite to render it  
391 anoxic. After manipulating the dissolved oxygen concentration in water outside the chamber to create  
392 cross-boundary gradients ranging from approx.  $50 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1}$  to  $> 350 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1}$ , the authors  
393 observed little change in the dissolved oxygen concentration inside the chamber on timescales similar  
394 to those of the PHORCYS deployments (11-12 h for the current version of the instrument; 3-5 d for  
395 the PHORCYS prototype). Further, in a comprehensive study of the permeabilities of several gases  
396 ( $\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{N}_2$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$ , and  $\text{CH}_4$ ) in various polymers, Kjeldsen (1993) concluded that bias introduced by  
397 permeability should be taken into account primarily when certain materials such as silicone rubber  
398 were considered for use in anoxic waters; silicone rubber is more than 250 times as permeable to  
399 dissolved oxygen than the polycarbonate plastic we used in construction of the PHORCYS (Kjeldsen,  
400 1993).

#### 401 *Handling or sampling bias*

402 Errors or bias introduced during the handling and manipulation of samples for bottle  
403 incubations might also explain some of the discrepancy in rate measurements. For example, the  
404 PHORCYS minimizes physical disturbances associated with seawater handling: Since the instrument  
405 takes seawater samples and then incubates them in place, the planktonic community is not subjected  
406 to rapid changes in temperature, pressure, and light associated with bringing water samples to the  
407 surface via hydrocast and preparing them for shipboard incubations (Calvo-Díaz et al., 2011). The  
408 PHORCYS also minimizes another potential bias that can arise when water containing marine  
409 microbes is sampled from Niskin bottles; Suter et al. (2016) found that variation in settling rates  
410 among marine particles can lead to an undersampling of microbial communities on faster-sinking  
411 particles, which can fall below the bottles' spouts before aliquots can be drawn.

412 *Biofouling and surface colonization*

413           While we did not observe any significant biofouling of the PHORCYS or its components  
414 during the deployments for which data are presented here, unwanted biological growth represents a  
415 significant challenge and source of potential bias when autonomous sensors are deployed in the  
416 surface and mesopelagic ocean (Delauney et al., 2010; Manov et al., 2004; e.g., Collins et al., 2013).  
417 We imagine biofouling could represent a significant obstacle during future deployments if the  
418 deployment duration were to exceed 5-7 d (the maximum explored in this work; Table 2), or if the  
419 instrument were deployed in a productive ecosystem during a period of elevated primary production.  
420 Compare, however, Robert (2012), who reported little biofilm growth on the chamber of a similar  
421 incubation-based instrument after deploying it with no fouling controls for several months in the  
422 Mediterranean Sea.

423           The lack of visual evidence of fouling in the PHORCYS chambers notwithstanding, there is  
424 substantial evidence that microbial colonization of surfaces happens rapidly in the marine  
425 environment (Salta et al., 2013; Dang and Lovell, 2016). It is therefore almost certain that at least  
426 some microbial colonization of the chamber walls would have taken place within the 3-5 d timescale  
427 of our deployments. Because we did not make measurements of biofilm activity or species  
428 abundance, it is impossible to diagnose what contribution these communities might have made to the  
429 observed fluxes in dissolved oxygen. However, compared to the surface area to volume ratios of the  
430 150 and 300 mL vessels in which the other rate measurements were made (125 mL bottle, 0.83; 300  
431 mL bottle, 0.77), the lower surface area to volume ratios of the PHORCYS chambers (current model,  
432 0.34; prototype, 0.67) provide fewer opportunities for colonization relative to the volume being  
433 incubated (Table 1). There is also some evidence that the small volumes typical of BOD bottles may  
434 induce non-representative changes in the planktonic microbial community during incubations on  
435 timescales of 24-48 h (Pratt and Berkson, 1959); however, compare Fogg and Calvario-Martinez

436 (1989), who found that such bottle size effects were only significant during periods of very high  
437 primary productivity. A thorough, systematic assessment of these so-called wall and bottle effects  
438 should be part of the community intercalibration we advocate in our conclusion.

439 *Other possible sources of bias*

440           Alternatively, the well-documented dependence of community respiration rates on  
441 temperature (Yvon-Durocher et al., 2012) might explain the apparent disagreement between methods.  
442 While temperatures within the PHORCYS chambers fluctuated only according to the movement of  
443 tidal water masses (Fig. 3) or the natural warming and cooling of the surface layer (Fig. 4), the  
444 temperature inside the incubator in which the Winkler samples were kept during the shipboard  
445 deployments fluctuated during each series of experiments by  $\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  from the target. A further, more  
446 intriguing explanation for the systematic discrepancy — pointing in this case to overestimation of  
447 rates by the PHORCYS — is that dissolved oxygen could have accumulated on the optodes or inside  
448 walls of the instrument chambers over the course of each deployment, in spite of the standard 30 min  
449 flushing protocol. Wikner et al. (2013) offer convincing evidence for the accumulation of dissolved  
450 oxygen on the optode surface and acrylic (polymethylmethacrylate) stopper used in their shipboard  
451 incubation apparatus; the application of a correction factor for this bias reduced apparent rates  
452 calculated from the optode time series relative to the Winkler method. We did not evaluate oxygen  
453 retention by the polycarbonate plastic material of which the PHORCYS chambers were constructed.

454           The nature of linear regression itself may also play a role in differences observed between the  
455 PHORCYS and the Winkler-based method. A least-squares regression line fit to a large set of  
456 observations collected at high temporal frequency, such as those obtained from the PHORCYS, is  
457 sensitive in some degree to each of those observations. In comparison, a rate calculated from the  
458 beginning and ending oxygen concentrations in the two-point Winkler method is necessarily sensitive

459 only to those two observations; if some unrepresentative source of variability is present in just one  
460 bottle, the entire measurement can be heavily biased. Regression of data from the PHORCYS thus  
461 yields rate estimates which are robust to the sampling bias inherent in point measurements, yet the  
462 technique leaves the underlying data intact to be further interrogated for information about natural  
463 variability.

#### 464 *The “deep breath” phenomenon*

465 Finally, while not evident in data from the deployments presented in Fig. 3 or 4, we did  
466 occasionally observe a sharp initial decrease in dissolved oxygen concentration within the chambers  
467 shortly after closure (data not shown). This phenomenon was reported extensively by Robert (2012)  
468 during testing of a similar instrument in the Mediterranean Sea, and thus warrants further  
469 investigation. The initial “deep breath” observed in these instances could reflect the rapid and  
470 preferential utilization by the microbial community of a limited but highly labile fraction of the  
471 dissolved organic carbon (DOC) pool within the chamber. Such a phenomenon has been observed  
472 frequently in rates of DOC consumption in freshwater systems, where labile carbon is often  
473 metabolized at a rapid rate in the initial minutes or hours of an incubation, leading to an apparent  
474 decline in metabolic activity once the labile pool has been exhausted and the incubation progresses  
475 (del Giorgio and Pace, 2008; Guillemette and del Giorgio, 2011; Guillemette, McCallister, et al.,  
476 2013). While we did not directly observe a pronounced initial change in the rate of dissolved oxygen  
477 consumption in any of our shipboard optode sensor spot incubations, it is possible that our sampling  
478 interval (3 to 9 h; see above) was of insufficient resolution to detect it.

#### 479 **Comments and recommendations**

480 Through autonomous collection of biogeochemical observations at uniquely high temporal  
481 frequency, the PHORCYS yields estimates of community metabolic activity while simultaneously

482 freeing the analyst from the logistical constraints of attended water column sampling and preparation  
483 of shipboard incubations. While we could not determine the origin of the systematic discrepancy  
484 between the PHORCYS rate estimates and those based on the traditional two-point Winkler method,  
485 the instrument's design allows investigators to avoid many of the potential biases associated with  
486 bottle incubations that have been previously documented in the literature. The PHORCYS offers a  
487 further advantage in that it can be used to collect information over multiple timescales about the  
488 metabolic state of marine and aquatic ecosystems at minimal cost and burden to the user. While the  
489 mixed-layer deployments we have presented here provided volumetric rates of ecosystem metabolism  
490 at a single depth, multiple PHORCYS units could be deployed simultaneously at different depths in  
491 the water column as a means of making depth-integrated rate measurements; one could compare  
492 these rates to estimates obtained from *in situ* geochemical tracer studies. Future work could also  
493 include direct, side-by-side comparison of metabolic rates obtained from the PHORCYS with those  
494 from the classic, bottle-based  $^{14}\text{C}$  or  $^{13}\text{C}$  tracer methods.

495 In this spirit, we believe a new, community intercalibration effort is warranted to  
496 systematically evaluate the many sources of uncertainty in incubation-based measurements of  
497 community metabolism. The workshops of the Group for Aquatic Primary Productivity (GAP;  
498 Figueroa et al., 2014) could serve as a model for such an effort, which should include comprehensive  
499 evaluation of various combinations of incubation chamber materials, types of oxygen sensors,  
500 chamber sizes, and incubation durations. Genetic and biogeochemical tools for characterizing the  
501 extent, mechanisms, and effects of surface colonization within the incubation chambers would be  
502 critical to the success of any such endeavor. We are optimistic such an effort might reveal the causes  
503 of longstanding discrepancies such as those we observed between our PHORCYS rate estimates and  
504 those we obtained with bottle-based methods.

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#### 520 **Availability of data and code**

521 A MATLAB script to read in, process, and estimate rates and uncertainties in dissolved  
522 oxygen data from the PHORCYS is provided online at  
523 [https://github.com/jamesrco/DO\\_Instruments/](https://github.com/jamesrco/DO_Instruments/). The script can be easily adapted to calculate  $N_{eff}$ -  
524 based estimates of uncertainty in any dissolved oxygen time series. All PHORCYS and Winkler  
525 titration data and other scripts required to reproduce the results and figures in this work are available  
526 online in the same location.

527

528 **Appendix**

529 *A new method for calculation of uncertainties in metabolic rate estimates*

530 The ideal means of estimating uncertainties in PHORCYS rates would have been true  
531 biological replication, i.e., the simultaneous deployment of several identical instruments in the same  
532 water mass. One could then have used the standard deviation of the rate measurements in each  
533 different instrument as an estimate of the overall uncertainty. Because we had only one instrument —  
534 an exceedingly common situation in oceanographic work — such true replication was not possible.  
535 The standard error of the regression slope provides one possible estimate of uncertainty in time-series  
536 dissolved oxygen data; for example, this common approach was recently applied to data from *in situ*  
537 chamber incubations of sinking marine particle material (McDonnell et al., 2015). However, we  
538 assumed that the standard error of regression would significantly underestimate the true uncertainty  
539 in our estimates since it does take into account the reduced number of degrees of freedom in such a  
540 time series. Because the data points in such a dissolved oxygen time series are not independent of one  
541 another, there are almost always far fewer effective degrees of freedom  $N_{eff}$  in such data than the  
542 number of observations (i.e., data points)  $N$  (Emery and Thomson, 2001). (We represent the effective  
543 degrees of freedom by the notation  $N_{eff}$  in lieu of the  $N^*$  notation used by Emery and Thompson.)

544 Our approach was the following: For each time series of dissolved oxygen concentrations, we  
545 first approximated the integral time scale  $T$  of the data according to

546 
$$T = \frac{1}{C(0)} \int_0^{B_0} C(\tau) d\tau \quad (A1)$$

547 where  $C(0)$  is the value of the autocorrelation function  $C$  of the time series at lag  $\tau = 0$ , and  $B_0$  is the  
548 time lag of the autocorrelation function at the first zero crossing of the  $x$ -axis, which (after, e.g.,  
549 Talley et al., 2011) we use as an estimate of the timescale of decorrelation. We then followed the



550 method of Emery and Thompson (2001) to estimate the effective number of degrees of freedom  $N_{eff}$   
551 from  $T$ ,  $N$ , and  $\Delta t$ , where  $\Delta t$  is the sampling interval of the data:

$$552 \quad N_{eff} = \frac{N\Delta t}{T} \quad (A2)$$

553 In this formulation,  $N\Delta t$  is therefore the total length of the oxygen time series in which the rate  
554 estimate was made. Finally, we used this  $N_{eff}$  to obtain  $s_{\hat{\beta}_{1,adj}}$ , an adjusted estimate of the  
555 standardized uncertainty in the slope parameter of the regression (i.e.,  $\hat{\beta}_1$ , the rate of dissolved  
556 oxygen consumption or production), according to

$$557 \quad s_{\hat{\beta}_{1,adj}} = \sqrt{\frac{SSE}{N_{eff}-2} \frac{N}{\Delta}} \quad (A3)$$

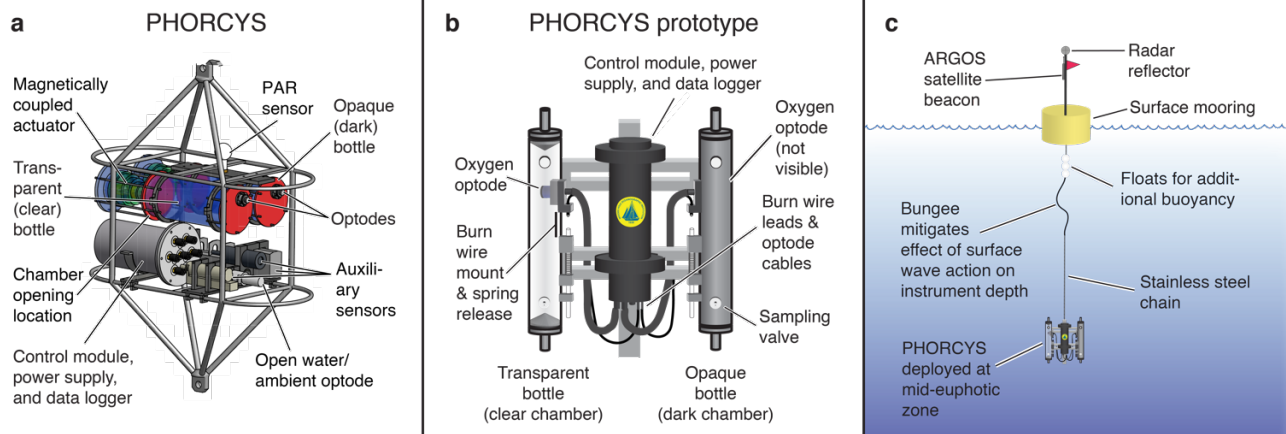
558 where  $SSE$  is the sum of the squared errors from the fit of the regression, i.e.,  $\sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$ ,  $N$  is  
559 the number of observations (as above), and  $\Delta$  is the determinant  $NS_{xx} - S_x^2$ . Eq. A3 is simply the  
560 formula for calculation of the standard error of the regression slope in the unweighted case, except  
561 that  $N_{eff}$  is used instead of  $N$ .

562 This method of estimating uncertainties in PHORCYS rates produced values of  $N_{eff}$ , the  
563 number of effective degrees of freedom, which were typically  $\ll N$ , the number of observations in  
564 the given dissolved oxygen time series (Table A1). Estimates of the integral time scale  $T$  ranged from  
565 0.5 to 7.2 h; at station PS-2, the 77.4 h deployment for which data are presented in Fig. 4, we  
566 estimated  $T$  to be 7.2 h (Table A1). Using the  $N_{eff}$  derived from these time scales, we obtained  
567 adjusted uncertainty estimates for our PHORCYS rates ( $s_{\hat{\beta}_{1,adj}}$ ) which were much greater in each  
568 case than the standard error of the regression slope,  $s_{\hat{\beta}_1}$  (compare mean precision of 24.8 % and 3.4  
569 %, respectively; Table A1). While more robust than the corresponding  $s_{\hat{\beta}_1}$ , these  $s_{\hat{\beta}_{1,adj}}$  still reflect a

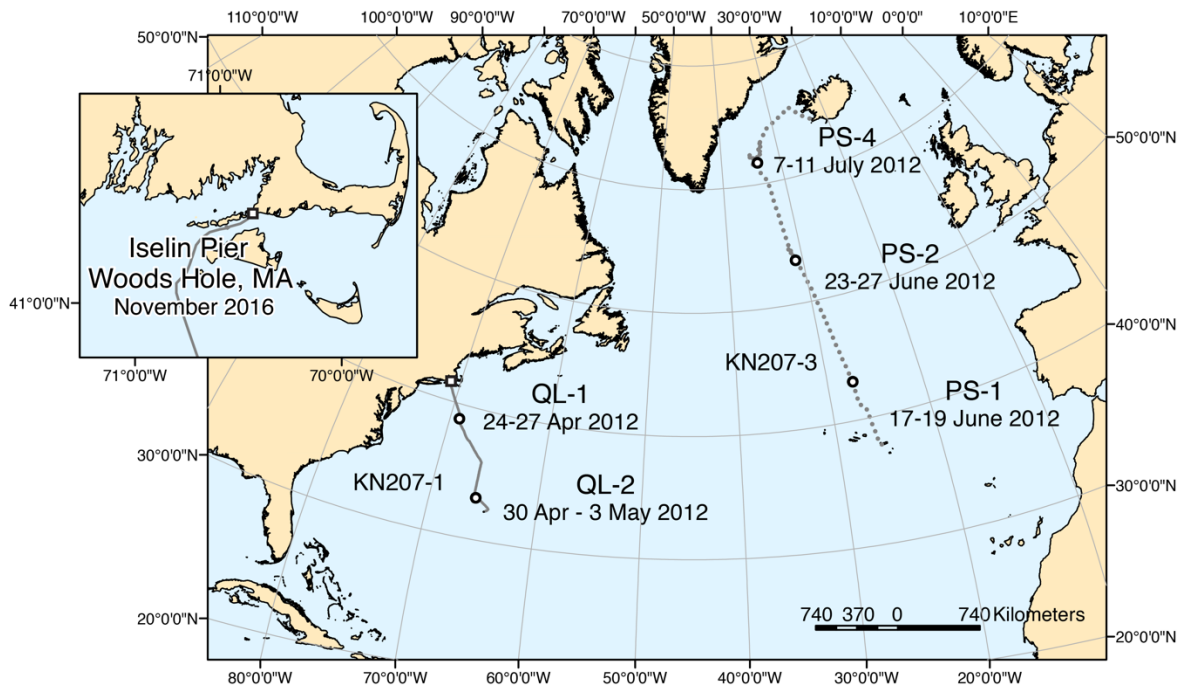
570 fundamental limitation of linear regression: Both methods yield estimates of uncertainty which are  
571 inversely proportional to the number of data points (i.e., the length of the underlying data series) and  
572 the range of values spanned by the independent variable.

573 **Figures**

574

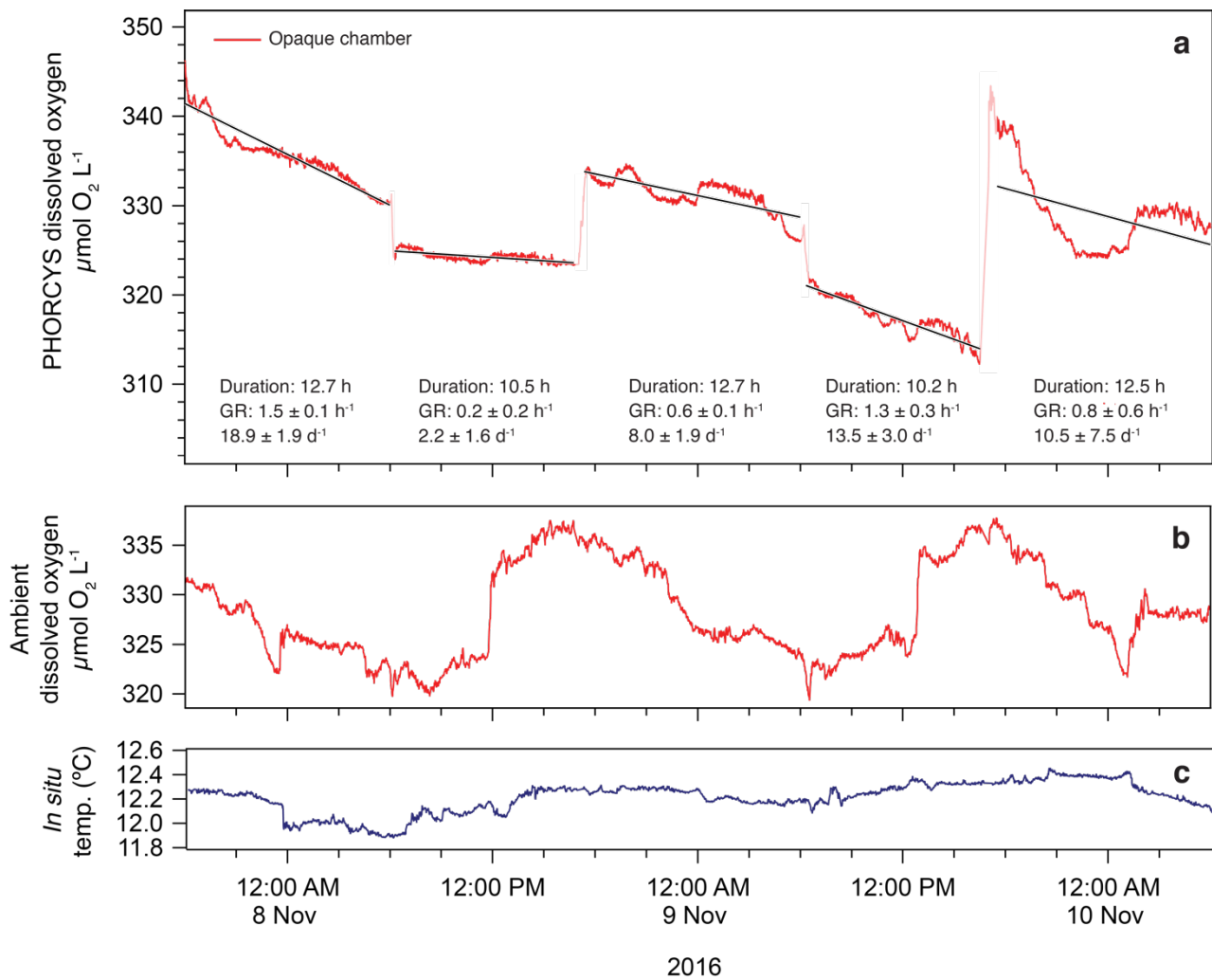


575 **Fig. 1.** Design and deployment of the PHORCYS. Major components of the current model  
 576 PHORCYS and prototype instrument are illustrated in (a) and (b), respectively. (a) The PHORCYS  
 577 uses magnetically-coupled actuators, allowing for multiple openings and closings of the chambers  
 578 during a single deployment. The current instrument also includes several sensors for collection of  
 579 auxiliary data in the water outside of the chamber, including photosynthetically active radiation  
 580 (PAR), conductivity, ambient temperature, transmissivity, and chlorophyll fluorescence. The  
 581 PHORCYS also includes a third optode to measure dissolved oxygen concentrations in the ambient  
 582 water mass outside of the two chambers. (c) Rigging scheme for open-ocean deployments from a  
 583 drifting surface mooring, as described in the text.



584

585 **Fig. 2.** Locations of PHORCYS deployments described in the text. Primary map: Unattended open-  
 586 ocean deployments from a surface mooring were conducted using the PHORCYS prototype at 5  
 587 stations during two cruises aboard the *R/V Knorr*. Stations QL-1 and QL-2 were conducted during  
 588 cruise KN207-1; PS-1, PS-2, and PS-3 were conducted during cruise KN207-3. Inset: Pierside  
 589 deployments using the present PHORCYS model were conducted in November 2016 at the Iselin  
 590 Marine Facility in Woods Hole, MA, USA.



591

592 **Fig. 3.** Continuous, unattended observations of community respiration at the Iselin Pier in Woods

593 Hole over a 3 d period in November 2016. (a) Record of dissolved oxygen concentration in the

594 opaque PHORCYS chamber. The incubation periods from which estimates of GR were calculated are

595 separated by 30 min, *in situ* flushing periods when the chamber was opened and closed to obtain a

596 new water sample. Separate estimates of GR for each of the incubation periods (units of  $\mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1}$

597  $\text{d}^{-1}$ ) were obtained by linear least-squares regression, and are shown as solid traces superimposed

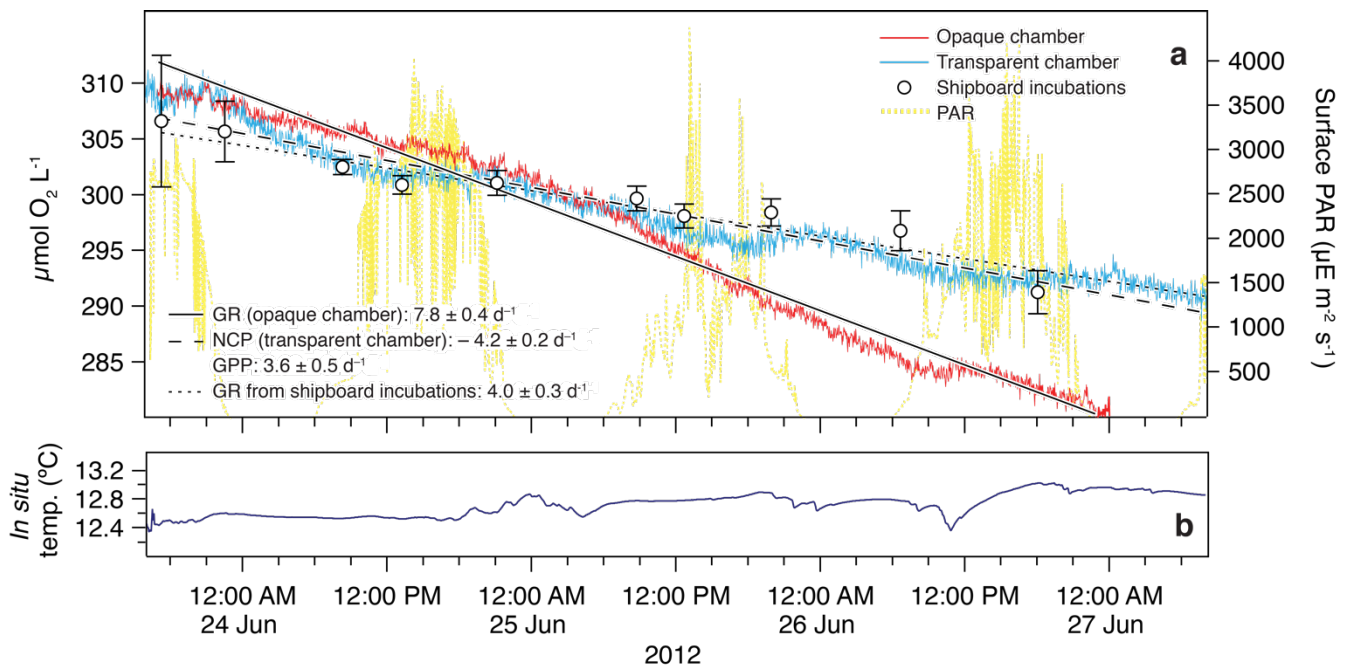
598 over the instrument data; these are the Iselin Pier data reported in Tables 2 and A1. Uncertainties

599 were determined using the effective degrees of freedom method described in the Appendix. (b)

600 Ambient *in situ* dissolved oxygen concentration measured concurrently outside the PHORCYS

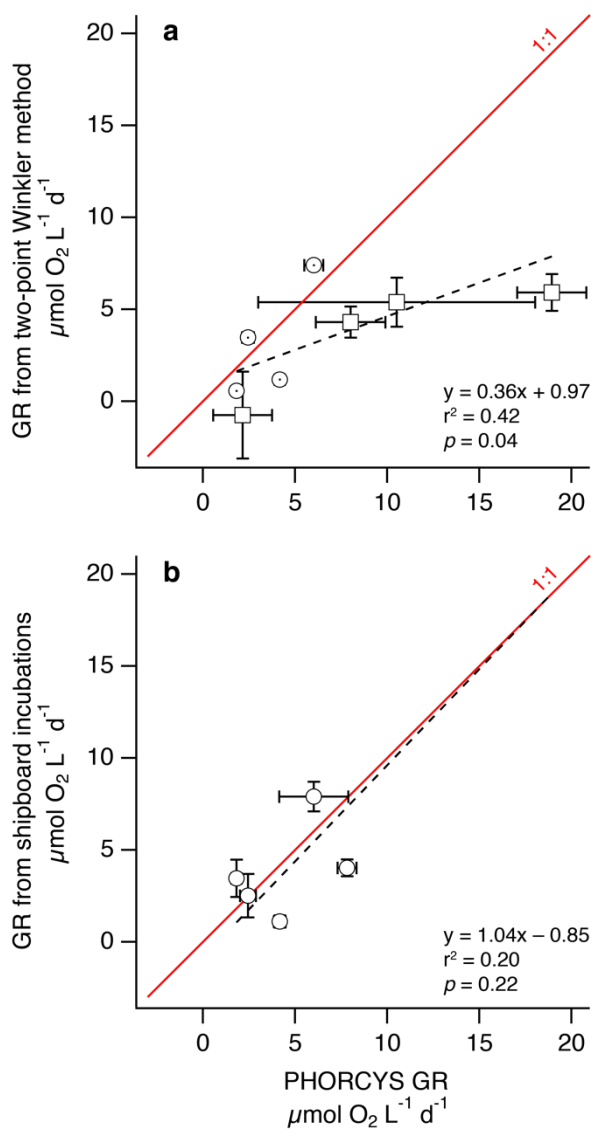
601 chambers, reflecting tidal changes in water-mass properties. (c) Ambient *in situ* temperature data

602 recorded outside the PHORCYS chambers. An instrument malfunction during the deployment  
603 prevented us from recovering data from the transparent PHORCYS chamber.



604

605 **Fig. 4.** Unattended observations of ecosystem metabolism made with the prototype PHORCYS  
 606 instrument at station PS-2 (Fig. 2; Supplemental Table 1) during a sub-Arctic, open-ocean  
 607 deployment aboard the R/V *Knorr*. A midsummer bloom of a calcifying phytoplankton species was  
 608 in progress at the site (Collins et al., 2015) when these observations were made. (a) Estimates (in  
 609 units of  $\mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1}$ ) of gross community respiration (GR) and net community production (NCP)  
 610 were obtained by linear least-squares regression, and are shown as traces (GR as solid trace; NCP as  
 611 dashed trace) superimposed over the instrument data. The prototype instrument allowed for only a  
 612 single incubation over the course of the deployment. GPP was calculated as the difference between  
 613 GR and NCP based on Eq. 4 in the text. Uncertainties were determined using the effective degrees of  
 614 freedom method described in the Appendix. Incident photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) was  
 615 measured using shipboard sensors. Dissolved oxygen concentrations measured concurrently in dark  
 616 shipboard incubations using optode sensor spots (5 replicates; error bars show  $\pm$  SD) are  
 617 superimposed as open circles. The respiration rate estimated from these incubations is shown as a  
 618 dotted trace. (b) Diel warming of the surface layer is evident in *in situ* temperature data collected by  
 619 the PHORCYS.



620

621 **Fig. 5.** Comparison of community respiration (GR) rate estimates from the PHORCYS ( $x$ -axis) with  
 622 rates determined by (a) the two-point Winkler titration method and (b) a series of shipboard bottle  
 623 incubations using optode sensor spots. Circles show data from the prototype instrument, while  
 624 squares show data collected with the present PHORCYS model. A Type II (major axis) regression  
 625 (dashed line) was fit to each set of paired observations using the lmodel2 package for R (Legendre,  
 626 2014). In (a), the regression model was fit to a single dataset consisting of both current and prototype  
 627 model data. A red 1:1 line is superimposed in each panel for reference.

628



629 **Table 1.** Estimated surface area to volume ratios of PHORCYS chambers and standard BOD bottles.  
630

Bottle or chamber type	Actual usable volume (mL)	Estimated internal surface area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Estimated surface area : volume ratio
PHORCYS chamber (prototype)	2610	1760	0.67
PHORCYS chamber (current model)	5680	2035	0.34
Typical 125 mL BOD bottle	149.2 ± 0.3	124.4 ± 5.0	0.83
Typical 300 mL BOD bottle	299.2 ± 0.4	229.1 ± 4.3	0.77

631  
632 The average volumes and surface areas reported in this table for BOD bottles were determined from  
633 independent measurements of the dimensions of 10 different bottles of each size; these were chosen  
634 at random from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution inventory.

635 **Table 2.** Rates of community respiration measured in opaque bottles using the PHORCYS and two independent, traditional methods.

Deployment dates	Incubation period	Incubation duration (h)	Location <sup>a</sup>	PHORCYS model <sup>b</sup>	Community respiration (GR) ( $\mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ L}^{-1} \text{ d}^{-1} \pm \text{uncertainty}$ )		
					PHORCYS opaque bottle <sup>c</sup>	Shipboard incubations <sup>d</sup>	Two-point difference of Winkler titrations at $t=0$ and recovery <sup>e</sup>
24-27 Apr 2012	Entire deployment	71.6	QL-1	Prototype	$1.8 \pm 0.2$	$3.2 \pm 0.7$	$0.6 \pm 0.1$
30 Apr - 3 May 2012	Entire deployment	65.4	QL-2	Prototype	$4.2 \pm 0.3$	$1.1 \pm 0.2$	$1.2 \pm 0.04$
17-19 June 2012	Entire deployment	41.2	PS-1	Prototype	$2.4 \pm 0.3$	$3.4 \pm 0.5$	$3.5 \pm 0.2$
23-27 June 2012	Entire deployment	77.4	PS-2	Prototype	$7.8 \pm 0.4$	$4.0 \pm 0.3$	—
7-11 July 2012	Entire deployment	94.0	PS-4	Prototype	$6.0 \pm 0.5$	$7.9 \pm 0.6$	$7.4 \pm 0.2$
7-8 Nov 2016	17:15-06:00	12.7	Iselin Pier	Present model	$18.9 \pm 1.9$	—	$5.9 \pm 1.0$
8 Nov 2016	06:15-16:45	10.5	Iselin Pier	Present model	$2.2 \pm 1.6$	—	$-0.8 \pm 2.4$
8-9 Nov 2016	17:20-06:00	12.7	Iselin Pier	Present model	$8.0 \pm 1.9$	—	$4.3 \pm 0.9$
9-10 Nov 2016	17:30-06:00	12.5	Iselin Pier	Present model	$10.5 \pm 7.5$	—	$5.4 \pm 1.3$

636

637 <sup>a</sup> Cruise station or geographical location (Fig. 2); additional metadata for each station are provided in Supplemental Table 1

638 <sup>a</sup> See Fig. 1

639 <sup>c</sup> Uncertainty adjusted for effective degrees of freedom, as described in the Appendix

640 <sup>d</sup> Mean of  $\geq 5$  replicates; uncertainty derived from standard error of regression slope

641 <sup>e</sup> Mean of 3 replicates; uncertainty derived from standard error

642 **Table A1.** Comparison of methods for estimation of uncertainties in dissolved oxygen time series data.  
 643

Deployment dates	Location <sup>a</sup>	PHORCYS community respiration (GR) ( $\mu\text{mol O}_2$ $\text{L}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$ )	No. obser- vations ( $N$ )	Incubation duration (h)	Est. integral time scale (h)	Effective degrees of freedom ( $N_{eff}$ )	Estimated uncertainty ( $\mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{L}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$ )		Method precision (est. uncertainty as percent of rate measurement)	
							Standard error of regression slope ( $s_{\hat{\beta}_1}$ )	Adjusted estimate $s_{\hat{\beta}_{1,adj}}$ based on $N_{eff}$	$s_{\hat{\beta}_1}$	$s_{\hat{\beta}_{1,adj}}$
24-27 Apr 2012	QL-1	1.8	2150	71.6	1.1	66.5	0.03	0.18	1.6 %	9.9 %
30 Apr - 3 May 2012	QL-2	4.2	1964	65.4	3.1	21.0	0.03	0.28	0.7 %	6.7 %
17-19 June 2012	PS-1	2.4	1238	41.2	0.5	76.4	0.08	0.32	3.3 %	13.1 %
23-27 June 2012	PS-2	7.8	2323	77.4	7.2	10.7	0.03	0.43	0.4 %	5.5 %
7-11 July 2012	PS-4	6.0	2820	94.0	1.9	49.8	0.07	0.52	1.2 %	8.6 %
7-8 Nov 2016	Iselin Pier	18.9	765	12.7	1.3	19.8	0.29	1.87	1.5 %	9.9 %
8 Nov 2016	Iselin Pier	2.2	627	10.5	1.2	17.0	0.25	1.60	11.6 %	74.4 %
8-9 Nov 2016	Iselin Pier	8.0	760	12.7	1.6	16.2	0.26	1.89	3.2 %	23.6 %
9-10 Nov 2016	Iselin Pier	10.5	750	12.5	2.9	8.7	0.71	7.51	6.7 %	71.4 %
Mean					2.3				3.4 %	24.8 %

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<sup>a</sup> Cruise station or geographical location (Fig. 2); additional metadata for each station are provided in Supplemental Table 1

649 **References**

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