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**SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL OCCURRENCE OF PREFORMED NITRATE
ANOMALIES IN THE SUBTROPICAL OCEAN**

By

ADAM J. SMYTH

THESIS

Submitted to the University of New Hampshire
in Partial Fulfillment of
the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Science

in

Oceanography

December, 2020

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vi
ABSTRACT.....	viii
<u>CHAPTER</u>	
INTRODUCTION	1
I. METHODS	7
PreNO ₃ Calculation	7
Rates of PreNO ₃ Anomaly Formation.....	9
Spatial Extent & Seasonality of PreNO ₃ Anomalies.....	10
Interannual Variability	11
II. RESULTS.....	11
PreNO ₃	11
Rates of PreNO ₃ Anomaly Formation.....	14
Spatial Extent & Seasonality of PreNO ₃	17
Interannual Variability	21
III. DISCUSSION	21
Vertically Migrating Phytoplankton & Transparent Exopolymer Particles ..	23
IV. CONCLUSION.....	29
LIST OF REFERENCES	31
SUPPLEMENT.....	35

LIST OF TABLES

	<u>PAGE</u>
Table 1: Constants for the calculation of PreNO ₃	8
Table 2: Positive and Negative Rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation	15
Table 3: Mean Positive and Negative Rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.	22
Table 4: Number of TEP and VMP events in each region	27

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>PAGE</u>
Figure 1: TEP and VMP mechanism diagrams.....	2
Figure 2: Annual PreNO ₃ derived with data from World Ocean Atlas 2018.	6
Figure 3: Flow chart of methods.....	7
Figure 4: Hawaii 6401; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	11
Figure 5: SOPACIFIC 7553; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	12
Figure 6: Bermuda 7663; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	12
Figure 7: Hawaii 5145 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	14
Figure 8: Seasonality of PreNO ₃ for Northern Hemisphere Floats.....	17
Figure 9: Distribution of PreNO ₃ anomalies at 100m:150m.....	17
Figure 10: North Pacific Seasonality of PreNO ₃ anomalies.....	18
Figure 11: North Atlantic Seasonality of PreNO ₃ anomalies.....	18
Figure 12: Bermuda and Hawaii seasonal AOU vs PreNO ₃ anomaly depth	19
Figure 13: Hawaii 6401 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	24
Figure 14: SOPACIFIC 7553 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	25
Figure 15: Bermuda 7663 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	25
Figure S1: Hawaii 6401 r ² for different calculations of PreNO ₃	35
Figure S2: Bermuda 7663 r ² for different calculations of PreNO ₃	35
Figure S3: Hawaii 5145; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	36
Figure S4: Hawaii 6403; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	36
Figure S5: Hawaii 6403 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	37
Figure S6: Hawaii 6891; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	37
Figure S7: Hawaii 6891 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	38
Figure S8: Hawaii 8486; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	38
Figure S9: Hawaii 8486 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	39
Figure S10: Hawaii 8497; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	39
Figure S11: Hawaii 8497 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	40

Figure S12: Bermuda 6391; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	40
Figure S13: Bermuda 6391 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	41
Figure S14: Bermuda 6975; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	41
Figure S15: Bermuda 6975 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	42
Figure S16: Bermuda 6976; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	42
Figure S17: Bermuda 6976 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	43
Figure S18: CALCURRENT 7618; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	43
Figure S19: CALCURRENT 7618 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	44
Figure S20: CALCURRENT 7647; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	44
Figure S21: CALCURRENT 7647 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	45
Figure S22: EQPACW 8474; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	45
Figure S23: EQPACW 8474 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation	46
Figure S24: EQPACW 12788; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	46
Figure S25: EQPACW 12788 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation	47
Figure S26: ETNP 6960; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	47
Figure S27: ETNP 6960 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation	48
Figure S28: ETNP 7558; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	48
Figure S29: ETNP 7558 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation	49
Figure S30: KUROSHIO 7546; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	49
Figure S31: KUROSHIO 7546 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation	50
Figure S32: KUROSHIO 7674; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	50
Figure S33: KUROSHIO 7674 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation.....	51
Figure S34: NOPACIFIC 7642; Float path, PreNO ₃ , AOU, NO ₃ , O ₂	51
Figure S35: NOPACIFIC 7642 rates of PreNO ₃ anomaly formation	52
Figure S36: Interannual Variability of PreNO ₃ and Temperature.....	52

ABSTRACT

Preformed nitrate (PreNO₃) was formulated to act as a conservative tracer of ocean circulation after accounting for the stoichiometry of marine biochemical reactions involving oxygen and nitrate. However, PreNO₃ anomalies have been identified within the shallow subtropical ocean, that describe the biological consumption or production of oxygen without assumed stoichiometric changes in nitrate, which still have yet to be fully explained. The mechanisms proposed to drive the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies are: vertically migrating phytoplankton (VMP), the export and subsequent remineralization of N-deficient transparent exopolymer particles (TEP, e.g. marine gels), and the remineralization of N-poor dissolved organic matter (DOM). Observations from the subtropical Pacific and Atlantic oceans taken by twenty Biogeochemical Argo (Bio-Argo) profiling floats which collectively span from 2007 to 2019 have been used to answer two questions related to PreNO₃ anomalies. What is the seasonality and geographic extents of subsurface negative PreNO₃ anomalies and euphotic zone positive PreNO₃ anomalies in the global subtropical ocean? What biogeochemical processes capable of generating PreNO₃ anomalies are consistent with the seasonality and spatial extents found in the Bio-Argo float records? Euphotic zone positive PreNO₃ anomalies are consistently observed between 30°S and 50°N, whereas subsurface negative PreNO₃ anomalies are absent in parts of the Equatorial West Pacific Ocean. The remineralization of N-poor DOM has been shown to contribute to PreNO₃ anomaly formation by previous studies and has been accounted for in this study. The geographic extents of the remaining PreNO₃ anomalies are consistent with previous observations of VMP taxa throughout the global subtropical ocean. The seasonal timing of euphotic zone positive PreNO₃ anomalies in relation to subsurface negative PreNO₃ anomalies indicates that both VMP and the export and remineralization of N-deficient TEP contribute to the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies. Since VMP include large diatoms that produce ballasted organic

matter while TEP may only sink slowly before remineralization, further investigation into the mechanisms generating PreNO₃ anomalies is needed to assess their roles in the future biological carbon pump in an expanding subtropical ocean ecosystem.

INTRODUCTION

PreNO₃ is a theoretically conservative tracer (Broecker 1974; Abell et al. 2005), derived to account for the stoichiometry of oxygen and nitrate in marine biological reactions and thus reveal spatial patterns of water mass mixing. PreNO₃ was derived to trace the mixing and circulation of deep water, since deep water produced in different parts of the ocean will have different PreNO₃ values (Broecker 1974). The calculation of PreNO₃ utilizes the well-known Redfield ratio to account for the O₂:N stoichiometry of biological reactions such as photosynthesis and respiration. PreNO₃ should be positive everywhere below the euphotic zone however, significant PreNO₃ anomalies (e.g. negative concentrations) have been identified within the subtropical ocean including the Hawaii Ocean Time Series (HOT) and the Bermuda Atlantic Time Series (BATS) (Emerson & Hayward, 1995; Johnson et al. 2010; Letscher & Villareal, 2018). The presence of these anomalies reveal biogeochemical processes operating with non-Redfield O₂:N stoichiometries describing biological consumption or production of oxygen without stoichiometric nitrate production or consumption, respectively. PreNO₃ anomalies highlight gaps in the current understanding of marine biogeochemical cycles of nitrogen, oxygen, and carbon in the ocean which oceanographers have been trying to explain for decades. The nitrogen and carbon cycle are tightly coupled (Gruber 2008) making filling the gaps in our understanding of the nitrogen cycle that much more important. This is especially true because atmospheric CO₂ concentrations are currently rising at an unprecedented rate as a result of anthropogenic perturbation. Additionally the subtropical ocean ecosystem is predicted to expand as a result of changes in climate (Polovina et al. 2008), which may result in the mechanism(s) driving the formation of subtropical PreNO₃ anomalies to play a greater role in ocean biogeochemistry into the future.

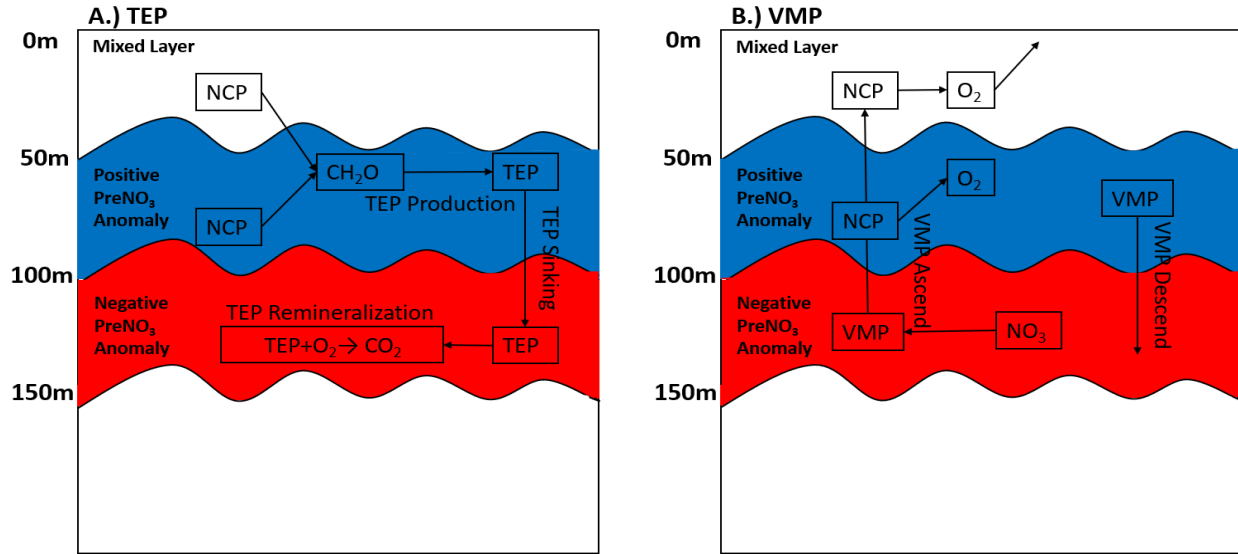


Figure 1. A.) TEP mechanism of euphotic zone positive PreNO₃ anomaly and sub-euphotic zone negative PreNO₃ anomaly formation diagram, depicting formation, sinking, and remineralization of TEP. B.) VMP mechanism euphotic zone positive PreNO₃ anomaly and sub-euphotic zone negative PreNO₃ anomaly formation diagram, depicting VMP descending, consuming NO₃ and ascending to photosynthesize.

Changes in dissolved nutrients and gases are linked by the stoichiometry of biochemical reactions. The stoichiometry of marine biochemical reactions typically follows the Redfield Ratio, 106 C: 16 N: 1P: 138 O₂ (Redfield et al. 1963). Negative PreNO₃ anomalies occur when there is oxygen consumption without stoichiometric nitrate production. Whereas positive PreNO₃ anomalies occur when there is oxygen production without the corresponding amount of nitrate consumption. There are three proposed mechanisms operating with non-Redfield stoichiometry to explain the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies: the export and sub euphotic zone remineralization of N-deficient DOM, Transparent Exopolymer Particles (TEP) export and sub-euphotic zone consumption, and Vertically Migrating Phytoplankton (VMP) utilizing sub euphotic zone stocks of nitrate to photosynthesize in the euphotic zone above (Johnson et al. 2010; Fawcett et al. 2018; Letscher & Villareal, 2018).

TEP are abiotically formed from the coagulation of carbohydrates with a high carbon to nitrogen ratio that are produced by phytoplankton and coagulate to form gel-like particles

(Allredge et al. 1993; Wurl et al. 2011; Mari et al. 2017). As a marine gel, TEP can act as glue for marine snow aggregates and since TEP has a high carbon to nitrogen ratio it could prove significant to the biological carbon pump as an exporter of carbon to the seafloor (Passow 2002). TEP is positively buoyant when it is formed, but as TEP aggregates or becomes ballasted at the surface it eventually becomes negatively buoyant causing TEP to sink out of the euphotic zone (Wurl et al. 2011; Mari et al., 2017; Fawcett et al. 2018). Many vertical profiles of TEP show high concentrations closer to the surface with a decrease with depth, suggesting that TEP is produced shallower in the water column and is consumed at depth (Engel 2003; Wurl et al. 2011; Cisternas-Novoa et al. 2015). The extent to which bacteria degrade TEP is still not well understood and requires further investigation (Busch et al. 2017). Nutrient limitation stimulates the production of TEP, which is why TEP formation is more prevalent in the subtropical ocean (Myklestad 1995; Mari et al. 2017). It has been suggested that TEP production by phytoplankton can be increased by over 50% with an increase in temperature of 2°C, due to enhanced extracellular release of DOM (Moran et al. 2006; Mari et al. 2017). The influence of temperature on TEP production as well as TEP's carbon rich composition both suggest that TEP could play a more significant role in the biological carbon pump with future ocean warming.

Another suggested mechanism is that phytoplankton could be consuming nitrate at depth and producing oxygen at the surface (Johnson et al. 2010; Letscher & Villareal, 2018). This is done by VMP, where phytoplankton travel down to the nitracline to consume nitrate and then ascend to the surface to photosynthesize (Villareal et al. 2014). Examples of taxa of phytoplankton which are known to vertically migrate are; *Pyrocystis*, *Ethmodiscus*, *Rhizosolenia* (Letscher & Villareal, 2018). The vertical migrating behavior of the VMP taxa; *Pyrocystis*, *Ethmodiscus*, and *Rhizosolenia*, have all been well documented in previous studies (Rivkin et al.

1984; Villareal et al. 1999; Pilskaln et al. 2005). For a negative PreNO₃ anomaly to occur photosynthesis needs to occur in a layer where nitrate is not being consumed, since negative PreNO₃ anomalies occur when there is oxygen consumption without stoichiometric nitrate production. The whole migratory cycle of taxa of VMP has been estimated to take 4-5 days (Villareal et al. 1996).

Negative PreNO₃ anomalies were first observed in the North Pacific in 1995 by Emerson & Hayward 1995 where it was suggested that the remineralization of nitrogen poor DOM could potentially explain the occurrence of these anomalies. This suggestion was later supported by the findings of Abel et al. (2005), where their calculations for the magnitude of DOM remineralization and its non-Redfield and N-poor stoichiometry from observations in the subtropical North Pacific removed any anomalies for their calculations of PreNO₃. Then in 2010, Johnson et al., using the first Bio-Argo profiling floats equipped with both nitrate and oxygen sensors deployed near Station ALOHA in the subtropical North Pacific (HOT time series) observed the seasonal occurrence of negative preformed nitrate anomalies below the 1% light level. These authors attempted to link the summertime drawdown of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) in the surface mixed layer without the presence of sufficient amounts of nitrate and related it to negative PreNO₃ anomalies (Johnson et al. 2010). In Johnson et al. (2010), it was suggested that PreNO₃ anomalies could be caused by a dual physical and biological mechanism whereby synoptic vertical transport events at the base of the euphotic zone inject nitrate into the lower euphotic zone followed by VMP consuming this nitrate and then bringing it towards the surface to photosynthesize. VMP was suggested because the missing nitrate could not be moved by a fully physical mechanism because physical transport would also bring DIC to the surface, erasing the observed summertime DIC drawdown (Johnson et al. 2010).

In 2018, Letscher and Villareal formulated a new calculation of PreNO_3 , termed residual PreNO_3 , that accounts for non-Redfield stoichiometry as well as fractions of oxygen use attributed to the remineralization of DOM or sinking particulate organic matter (POM) (Eq. 1). The use of the residual PreNO_3 calculation aids in the identification of positive and negative PreNO_3 anomalies by accounting for the non-Redfield remineralization of DOM or POM that is known to exist in the subtropical ocean (Eq. 1; Letscher & Villareal, 2018). Thus the occurrence of residual PreNO_3 anomalies identify the presence of the two remaining non-Redfield biogeochemical processes: TEP cycling and VMP. As a result of TEP only accounting for a few percent of positive and negative PreNO_3 anomalies at the HOT and BATS time series sites, Letscher and Villareal suggested that VMP is most likely responsible for PreNO_3 anomaly formation. The results of Fawcett et al. (2018) working at the BATS site including isotopic evidence of nitrate consumption directly below the euphotic zone led them to suggest that vertical transport of TEP and subsequent TEP and nitrate consumption by bacteria below the euphotic zone is the most likely mechanism to be responsible for PreNO_3 anomalies. The analyses of Letscher & Villareal (2018) and Fawcett et al. (2018) have led them to opposing conclusions for the most likely mechanism responsible for PreNO_3 anomalies.

Two questions have been answered in the interest of investigating PreNO_3 anomalies as well as the mechanisms that lead to their formation:

- 1.) What is the seasonality and geographic extents of subsurface negative PreNO_3 anomalies and euphotic zone positive PreNO_3 anomalies in the global subtropical ocean?*
- 2.) What biogeochemical processes capable of generating PreNO_3 anomalies are consistent with the seasonality and spatial extents found in the Bio-Argo float records?*

Answers to both of these questions have been obtained by looking at spatiotemporal patterns in the occurrence of PreNO₃ anomalies as well as the rates in which PreNO₃ anomalies form. For the spatial extent of PreNO₃ anomalies, I hypothesized that they would be observed throughout the subtropical ocean. For the seasonality of PreNO₃ anomalies, I hypothesized that PreNO₃ anomalies would be stronger during the summer, based on observations from Letscher and Villareal 2018. For the mechanism that is responsible for PreNO₃ anomalies, I hypothesized that VMP consuming this nitrate at depth and then bringing it towards the surface to photosynthesize would be the more important mechanism for PreNO₃ anomaly formation.

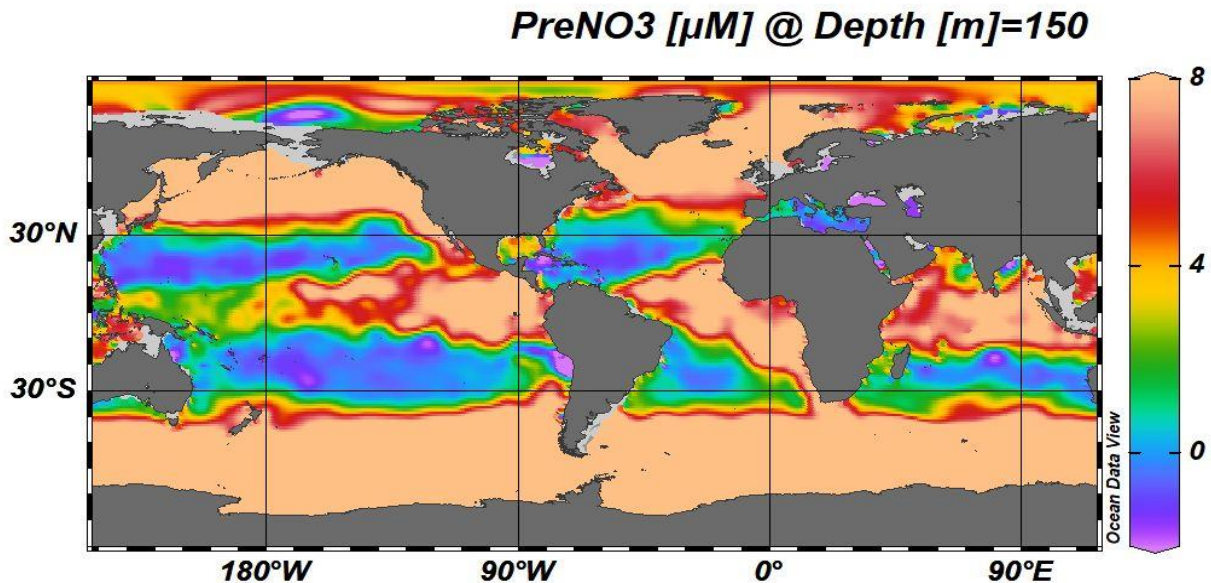


Figure 2. Annual average of PreNO₃ at 150m. PreNO₃ calculated using averages between ocean basin and depth specific constants (Table. 1; Letscher & Villareal, 2018). Data from World Ocean Atlas 2018 (Garcia et al. 2018).

Once Bio-Argo floats are deployed they start a ten-day cycle starting with an initial descent to 1000m where they take observations for roughly nine and a half days (Claustre et al. 2019). The Bio-Argo float then descends even further to 2000m before ascending to the surface to transmit its observations (Claustre et al. 2019). Originally data from 36 Bio-Argo floats were retrieved, however only 20 of the Bio-Argo floats were chosen mainly due to these floats

primarily taking observations between 40°S and 40°N. The reason that this latitudinal range was chosen is that negative PreNO₃ anomalies primarily occur between 30°S and 30°N (Fig. 2).

CHAPTER I METHODS

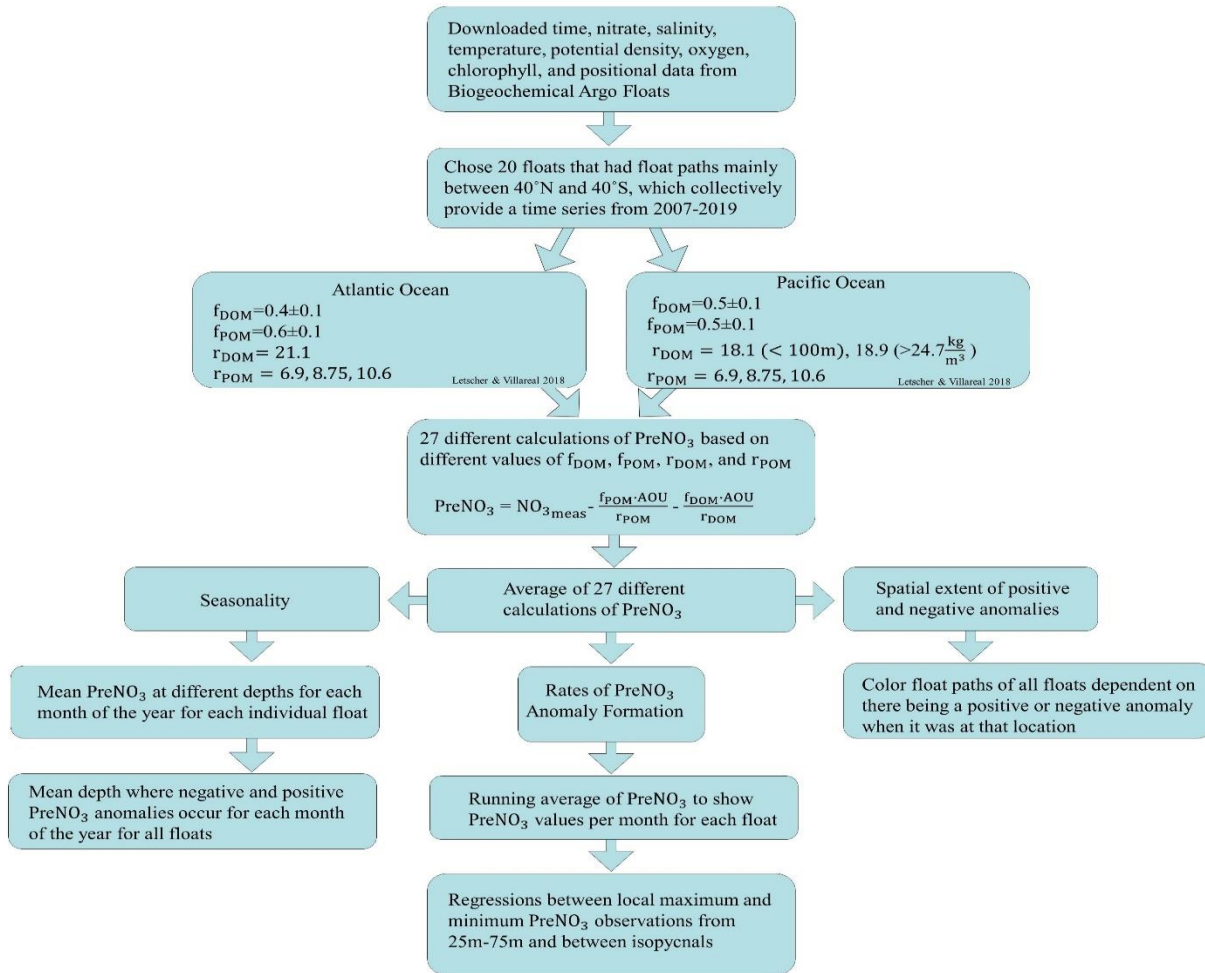


Figure 3. Flow chart of methods.

PreNO₃ Calculation

Twenty Biogeochemical Argo profiling floats were selected that traversed between 40°N–40°S for retrieval of observed nitrate, salinity, potential density, temperature, oxygen, time, and position. All observations from these Bio-Argo floats have associated quality flags for: good, questionable, bad, or missing or not inspected (MBARI 2017). The data quality flag for the

adjusted Bio-Argo data that was downloaded was ‘Good Only’ (MBARI 2017). Values of PreNO₃ were calculated using the formula residual PreNO₃ described in Letscher & Villareal, 2018 including ocean basin and depth specific constants (Table. 1):

$$\text{(Eq. 1) PreNO}_3 = \text{NO}_{3\text{meas}} - \frac{f_{\text{POM}} \cdot \text{AOU}}{r_{\text{POM}}} - \frac{f_{\text{DOM}} \cdot \text{AOU}}{r_{\text{DOM}}}$$

f_{POM} and f_{DOM} is the fraction of oxygen use attributable to POM and DOM remineralization, respectively (Eq. 1; Letscher & Villareal, 2018). r_{POM} and r_{DOM} is the ratio of oxygen used per mole of nitrogen for POM and DOM remineralization, respectively (Eq. 1; Letscher & Villareal, 2018). Apparent Oxygen Utilization (AOU) quantifies the oxygen saturation anomaly due to biological consumption or production of oxygen through respiration or photosynthesis, respectively, and was calculated using code written by Peltzer, 2007 (Eq. 1; Letscher & Villareal, 2018).

Table 1. Constants for the calculation of PreNO₃ and how they were varied for different depths, isopycnals, and oceans. Values based on Letscher & Villareal, 2018.

	Pacific				Atlantic			
	f_{DOM}	f_{POM}	r_{POM}	r_{DOM}	f_{DOM}	f_{POM}	r_{POM}	r_{DOM}
0-100m or $24.2 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3} : 24.7 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	0.5±0.1	0.5±0.1	10.6, 8.75, or 6.9	18.1	0.4±0.1	0.6±0.1	10.6, 8.75, or 6.9	21.1
$\sigma_\theta > 24.7 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	0.5±0.1	0.5±0.1	10.6, 8.75, or 6.9	18.9	0.4±0.1	0.6±0.1	10.6, 8.75, or 6.9	21.1

PreNO₃ values were calculated using 27 different combinations of f_{DOM} , f_{POM} , r_{POM} , and r_{DOM} to capture the estimated uncertainty in each parameter, which is dependent on differences in depth, potential density, or ocean basin (Eq. 1; Table. 1; Fig. S1, S2; Letscher & Villareal, 2018). Note f_{DOM} , f_{POM} , and r_{DOM} were estimated empirically from time-series data at the HOT site in the subtropical North Pacific and the BATS site in the subtropical North Atlantic (Table. 1; Letscher & Villareal, 2018). The values of r_{POM} represent the minimum and maximum estimates from the published literature (Table. 1; Paulmier et al. 2009). Due to the differences in

the values used to calculate PreNO₃ in the Pacific and the Atlantic, there is more variability between the 27 different calculations of PreNO₃ in the Atlantic than there is in the Pacific (Table. 1; Fig. S1, S2) The 27 different calculations of PreNO₃ were averaged together to account for the variability that exists between the different calculations of PreNO₃ (Fig. S1, S2).

Rates of PreNO₃ Anomaly Formation

To calculate the rates of PreNO₃ anomaly formation, the average of the 27 different calculations of PreNO₃ was smoothed by a running average with a non-stationary window size dependent on the number of observations that were taken each individual month. 95% confidence intervals were calculated based on the standard error associated with averaging the 27 different values for PreNO₃ as well as the standard error for smoothing the time series. Regressions were then calculated between local maxima and minima of PreNO₃ observations using method of least squares. Local minima and maxima were identified for each year by using the MatlabTM function, *islocalmax*, with the absolute smoothed PreNO₃ values as the input (The MathWorksTM, Inc.). The input argument *MinSeparation* was used to specify the minimum distance between points that were identified as local maxima or minima (The MathWorksTM, Inc.). The argument *MaxNumExtrema* was used to set the maximum number of minima or maxima that would be identified for each year (The MathWorksTM, Inc.). The number of regressions for each time series as well as the length of the regressions were specified by using the combination of these input arguments. To avoid the introduction of any bias the values for *MaxNumExtrema* and *MinSeparation* were kept the same for all profiling floats to determine the rates of PreNO₃ anomaly formation. The net PreNO₃ magnitude was calculated by taking the sum of the products of the length of the regressions in days by the rates of PreNO₃ anomaly formation (Table. 2). Mean rates of positive and negative PreNO₃ anomaly formation were determined by

taking averages of positive and negative rates of PreNO₃ anomaly formation for each Bio-Argo regional group based on float name within 25m to 75m, the middle layers, and bottom layers from Table. 2 (Table. 3).

Spatial Extent & Seasonality of PreNO₃ Anomalies

The seasonality of PreNO₃ anomalies was determined for the Bio-Argo floats that remained in the northern hemisphere in terms of: the PreNO₃ values, spatial extent of PreNO₃ anomalies, and the depths at which positive and negative PreNO₃ anomalies occurred. The spatial extent of PreNO₃ anomalies was determined by using the *Mapping Toolbox* from MatlabTM (The MathWorksTM, Inc.). The occurrence of positive and negative PreNO₃ anomalies geographically as well as with depth were ascertained by plotting locations where PreNO₃ estimates were available for each individual Bio-Argo float (Fig. 10, 11). The points for each location were then differentiated by color dependent if a positive or negative PreNO₃ anomaly occurred at the locations where PreNO₃ was able to be derived (Fig. 10, 11). The seasonality of PreNO₃ values was determined by grouping all the northern hemisphere floats by their float names and then taking monthly averages of each group's PreNO₃ values between 25m to 75m as well as between isopycnals that outlined where negative PreNO₃ anomalies occurred (Fig. 8). The seasonality of the depths where a negative PreNO₃ anomaly occurred were determined by taking monthly averages of depths in the first 350m of the water column where the core of the negative PreNO₃ anomalies occurred (Fig. 12). The seasonality of the depths where a positive PreNO₃ anomaly occurred were determined by taking monthly averages of depths above where negative PreNO₃ anomalies occurred (Fig. 12).

Interannual Variability

The interannual variability of PreNO₃ and ocean temperature were determined by using a combined and chronologically sorted time series that included the data sets of all North Pacific Bio-Argo floats. Using this time series, the interannual variability of the thickness of the layer where negative PreNO₃ anomalies occurred was determined. This was accomplished by taking the difference between the deepest and shallowest depths where negative PreNO₃ anomalies occurred for each year from 2007 to 2017 (Fig. S36). For comparison, yearly averages for the values for PreNO₃ and ocean temperatures were performed as well (Fig. S36).

CHAPTER II

RESULTS

PreNO₃

North Pacific

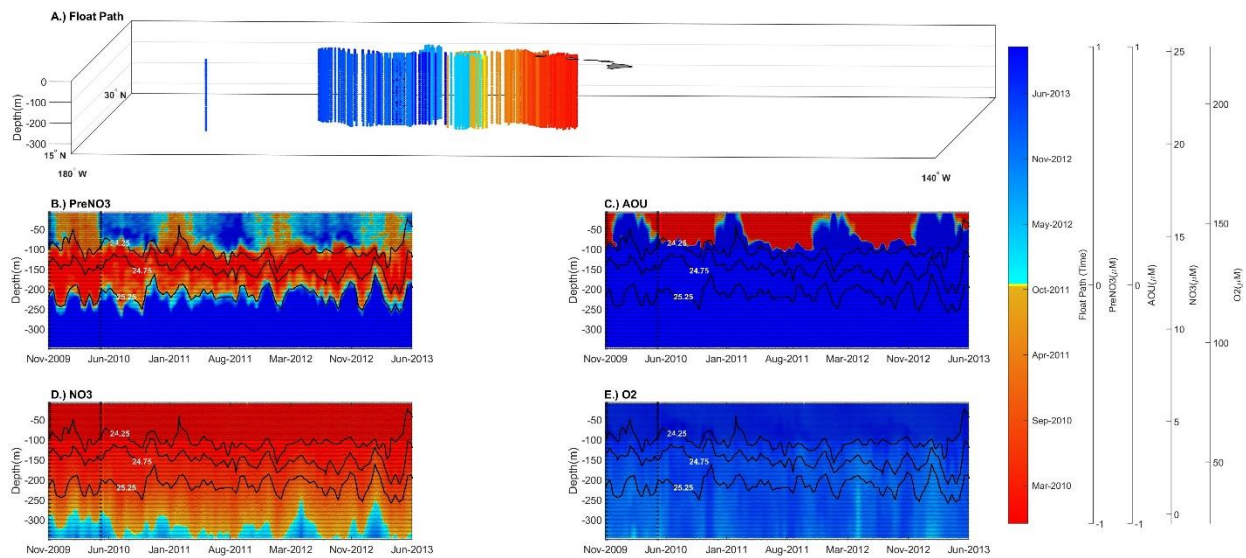


Figure 4. A.) Float path of Hawaii 6401 colored by time. B.) PreNO₃ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Nov-09 to Nov-13, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO₃ for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O₂ for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $24.25 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $24.75 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and $25.25 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. PreNO₃ and AOU limited to -1:1.

South Pacific

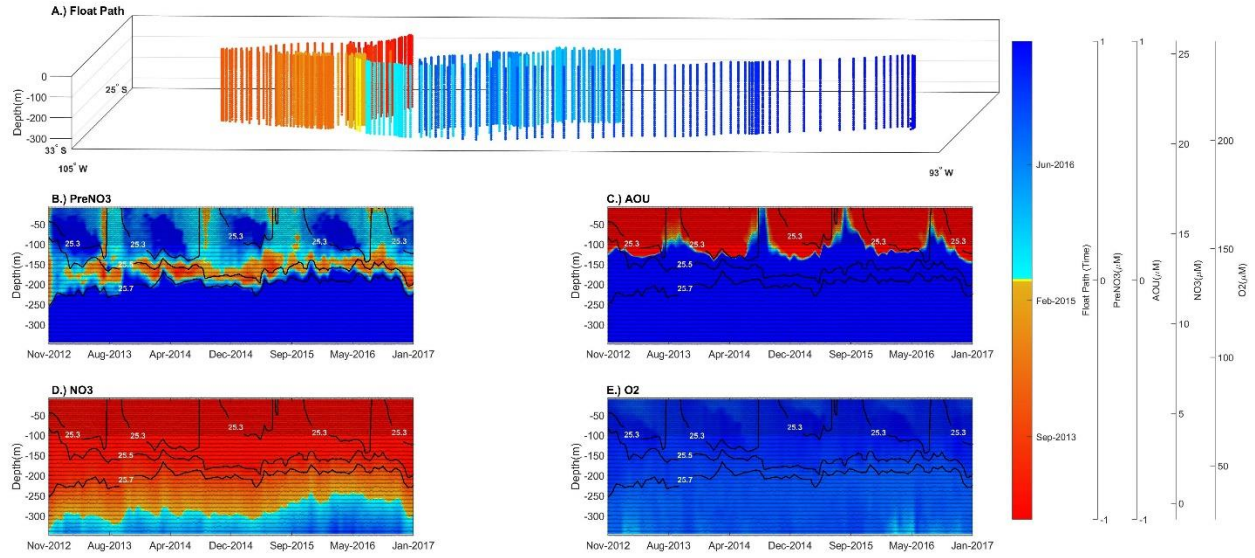


Figure 5. A.) Float path of SOPACIFIC 7553 colored by time. B.) PreNO₃ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Nov-12 to Sep-17, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO₃ for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O₂ for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $25.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and $25.7 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. PreNO₃ and AOU limited to -1:1.

North Atlantic

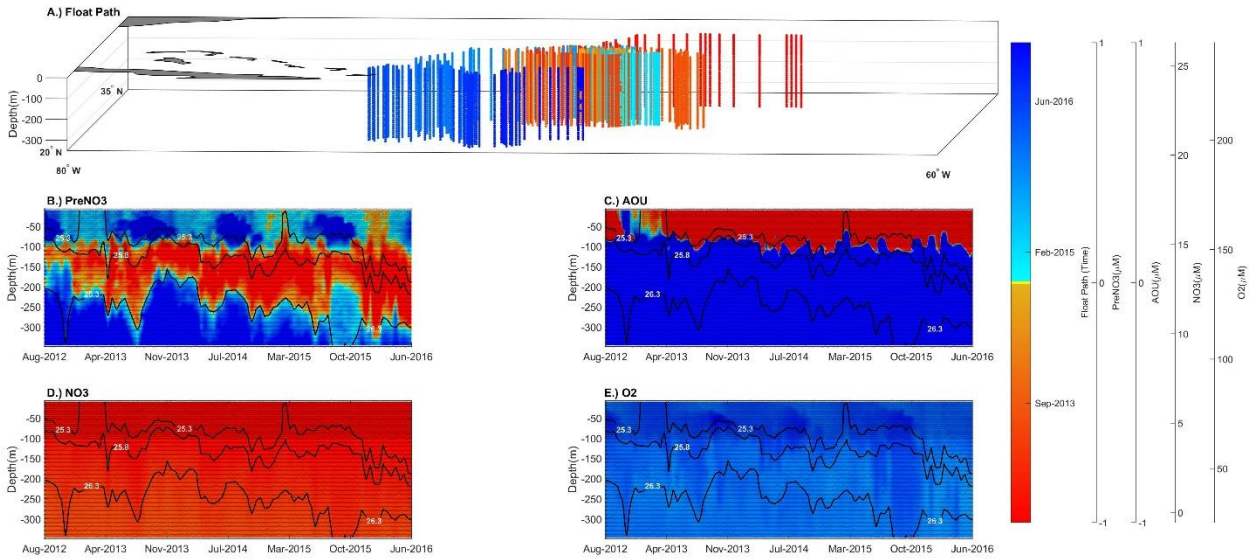


Figure 6. A.) Float path of Bermuda 7663 colored by time. B.) PreNO₃ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Aug-12 to Dec-16, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO₃ for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O₂ for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $25.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and $26.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. PreNO₃ and AOU limited to -1:1.

In the upper 100m (i.e. the approximate euphotic zone) of most float records there is a general trend of swapping between negative PreNO₃ anomalies present in the Winter and positive PreNO₃ anomalies for the rest of the year (Fig. 4, 5, 6). AOU showed net photosynthesis (negative values) in the upper 100m, with episodes of transitioning to net respiration (positive values) during the Winter due to convective mixing (Fig. 4, 5, 6). Observations of NO₃ and O₂ from all floats followed expected trends where NO₃ increases with depth and O₂ decreases with depth (Fig. 4, 5, 6). All profiling floats had positive PreNO₃ anomalies (PreNO₃>0) in the upper ocean (<~100m) and typically exhibited negative PreNO₃ anomalies (PreNO₃<0) at depths of ~100m-250m, however negative PreNO₃ anomalies were not as prevalent in the records from the EQPACW 12788 and CALCURRENT 7647 compared to the other profiling floats (Fig. S20, S24). Whereas EQPACW 8474 and CALCURRENT 7618 did have negative PreNO₃ anomalies in their records (Fig. S18, S22). The CALCURRENT float observations did not match up in terms of time, but the EQPACW floats did have one instance where they did (Fig. S18, S20, S22, S24). However at the time of this observation the two EQPACW floats were in two totally different locations (Fig. S22, S24).

Rates of PreNO₃ Anomaly Formation

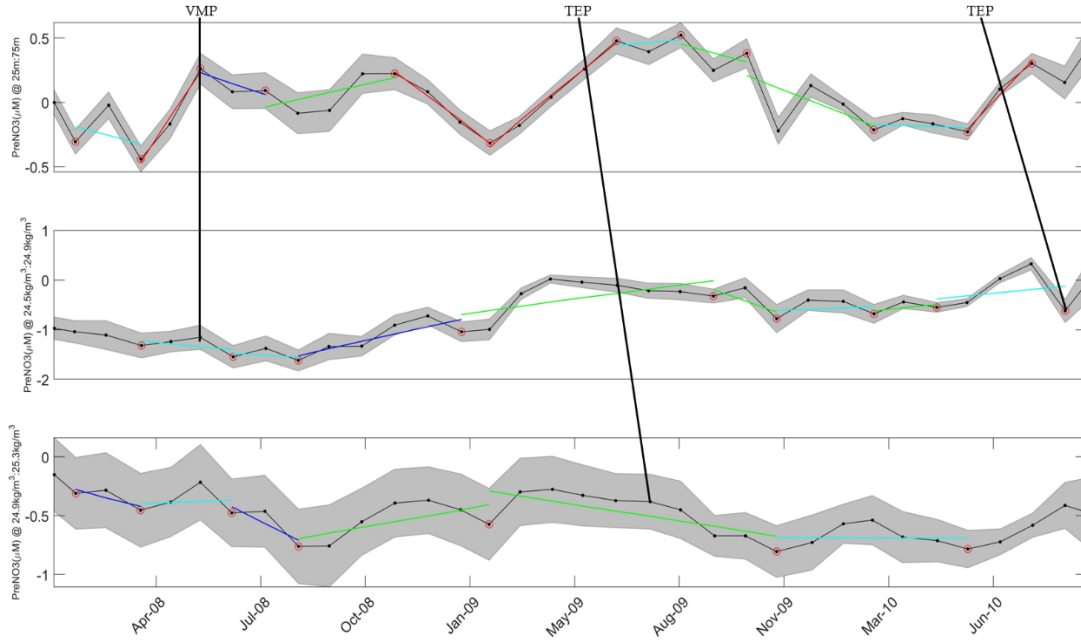


Figure 7. PreNO₃ for Hawaii 5145 smoothed to show PreNO₃ per month with regression of PreNO₃ vs time. Top figure PreNO₃ at 25m-75m, middle figure PreNO₃ at $24.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}:24.9 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and bottom figure PreNO₃ at $24.9 \frac{kg}{m^3}:25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for PreNO₃ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

Table 2. For observations between 25:75m and the chosen isopycnals the mean; Location, Rates of Positive and Negative PreNO₃ anomaly formation, Length of regressions in days and r² for regressions of PreNO₃ concentration versus time, for each individual float. NA indicates that no positive or negative rates of anomaly formation were observed.

Float Name	Layer	Mean Location	Mean Positive PreNO ₃ Rate ($\frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$)	Mean Negative PreNO ₃ Rate ($\frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$)	Mean Length of Positive Trends (days)	Mean Length of Negative Trends (days)	Net PreNO ₃ Magnitude ($\frac{\text{mmol N}}{\text{m}^3}$)	Mean r ²
Hawaii 5145	25m to 75m	22.87 °N,157.99°W	5.91±2.04	-2.82±0.77	84.80±15.21	81.67±9.64	0.84	0.54±0.12
	24.5 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24.9 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.87 °N,157.99°W	2.55±0.65	-3.53±1.97	134.40±31.01	70.00±8.50	1.20	0.28±0.08
	24.9 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.87 °N,157.99°W	0.96±0.63	-2.12±0.98	134.50±47.50	145.75±51.26	-0.51	0.38±0.12
Hawaii 6401	25m to 75m	22.69 °N,157.99°W	4.30±1.01	-5.68±1.64	147.83±21.57	106.00±15.04	1.45	0.76±0.09
	24.25 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24.75 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.69 °N,157.99°W	2.19±0.58	-3.76±1.00	125.43±16.55	103.80±13.14	0.15	0.26±0.07
	24.75 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.25 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.69 °N,157.99°W	1.34±0.60	-1.33±0.41	144.75±19.90	80.67±9.35	1.12	0.28±0.08
Hawaii 6891	25m to 75m	22.68 °N,157.99°W	1.68±0.76	-3.65±2.13	142.67±25.64	61.33±1.33	0.08	0.29±0.11
	24.1 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24.6 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.68 °N,157.99°W	3.21±2.41	-0.70±0.26	121.33±29.38	83.00±22.01	0.82	0.25±0.16
	24.6 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.1 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.68 °N,157.99°W	4.33±0.96	-7.26±0.75	115.25±18.73	74.50±16.50	0.94	0.62±0.06
Hawaii 8497	25m to 75m	22.82°N,157.89°W	2.17±0.88	-2.76±0.92	151.00±53.13	140.80±24.78	-0.85	0.62±0.12
	24.2 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24.75 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.82°N,157.89°W	3.32±0.54	-2.53±0.80	94.00±17.62	111.22±12.59	-1.52	0.31±0.09
	24.75 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.82°N,157.89°W	2.50±0.85	-1.23±0.39	81.86±9.17	118.00±8.94	0.51	0.55±0.10
Hawaii 8486	25m to 75m	22.68°N,158.04°W	4.88±1.43	-5.26±2.07	84.80±11.08	101.33±27.55	0.27	0.67±0.15
	24.5 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24.8 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.68°N,158.04°W	2.64±0.98	-1.74±1.02	113.50±24.75	92.67±17.61	0.88	0.31±0.12
	24.8 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.68°N,158.04°W	1.46±0.94	-2.17±0.42	135.00±47.42	94.50±29.50	0.38	0.21±0.08
Hawaii 6403	25m to 75m	22.70°N,158.12°W	4.60±1.19	-5.61±0.90	187.40±53.50	140.50±5.50	2.24	0.70±0.12
	24.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24.8 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.70°N,158.12°W	4.94±1.18	-3.00±1.31	97.57±13.46	180.00±44.57	1.82	0.51±0.09
	24.8 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.2 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	22.71°N,158.12°W	2.72	-0.78±0.31	154.00	173.71±21.70	-0.44	0.30±0.13
Bermuda 6391	25m to 75m	31.74°N,64.32°W	6.69±0.50	-4.29±1.88	122.00±29.00	136.75±29.14	-0.20	0.76±0.11
	25.5 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.9 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	31.74°N,64.32°W	8.41±3.60	-8.21±4.93	195.67±15.86	76.50±6.96	2.49	0.67±0.10
	25.9 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -26.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	31.74°N,64.32°W	5.60±1.41	-10.49±4.21	198.67±46.35	96.00±24.42	0.04	0.80±0.09
Bermuda 6976	25m to 75m	31.76°N,64.16°W	12.15±3.45	-6.69±1.74	199.00±69.95	100.13±15.47	-0.32	0.54±0.08
	25.4 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.9 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	31.76°N,64.16°W	10.69±2.58	-18.09±5.81	199.00±84.79	151.00±2.00	5.68	0.63±0.12
	25.9 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -26.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	31.76°N,64.16°W	20.64±11.44	-13.39±1.82	176.00±63.06	145.00±38.46	-4.67	0.62±0.08
Bermuda 6975	25m to 75m	31.61°N,64.22°W	15.61±3.77	-5.71±1.65	117.14±20.15	102.33±26.03	8.98	0.51±0.10
	25.2 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.8 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	31.61°N,64.22°W	18.63±14.98	-8.06±4.11	107.25±37.70	144.00±44.67	-1.23	0.38±0.12
	25.8 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -26.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	31.61°N,64.22°W	16.36±8.49	-5.92±1.07	99.00±20.55	128.60±30.34	1.57	0.52±0.10
Bermuda 7663	25m to 75m	31.73°N,64.20°W	5.74±1.10	-7.06±2.62	164.60±28.47	109.00±20.96	0.24	0.72±0.09
	25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.8 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	31.73°N,64.20°W	12.25±4.16	-12.37±3.99	102.60±16.29	92.00±15.14	-2.88	0.65±0.08
	25.8 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -26.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	31.73°N,64.20°W	2.13±0.99	-4.20±1.27	83.00±20.50	147.75±26.58	-3.33	0.31±0.07
ETNP 6960	25m to 75m	14.88°N,123.23°W	3.57±0.72	-3.49±1.37	122.33±7.64	96.60±22.37	1.21	0.45±0.10
	24 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	14.88°N,123.23°W	4.09±1.03	-5.17±1.96	82.50±7.96	99.60±5.64	-0.12	0.27±0.08
	25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -26.6 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	14.88°N,123.23°W	11.92±7.48	-9.32±2.89	100.75±7.42	116.71±15.19	-2.29	0.38±0.11
ETNP 7558	25m to 75m	13.99°N,123.34°W	NA	-11.07	NA	183.00	-2.03	0.75
	24 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	13.99°N,123.34°W	6.15	-17.89	94.00	151.00	-2.12	0.69±0.19
	25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -26.6 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	13.99°N,123.34°W	19.82	-25.49	145.00	152.00	-1.00	0.94±0.03
CALCURRENT 7618	25m to 75m	31.89°N,124.10°W	2.97±1.12	-3.83±1.48	107.71±21.80	102.17±15.39	-1.04	0.48±0.12
	24.4 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24.9 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	31.89°N,124.10°W	3.87±1.26	-5.91±1.84	97.88±17.55	97.33±4.00	-0.77	0.61±0.08
	24.9 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	31.89°N,124.10°W	5.30±1.91	-6.45±2.28	79.50±6.02	153.33±19.36	-3.38	0.49±0.12
CALCURRENT 7647	25m to 75m	35.15°N,122.90°W	14.40±11.25	-17.85±11.44	141.33±9.67	175.50±38.04	-2.61	0.55±0.13
	24.6 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24.8 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	35.15°N,122.90°W	10.92±5.42	-7.75±2.40	97.67±18.11	178.00±44.43	-3.35	0.59±0.10
	24.8 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	35.15°N,122.90°W	13.83±5.00	-34.15±18.15	116.75±19.26	150.50±35.09	-8.15	0.72±0.09
EQPACW 8474	25m to 75m	8.02°S,155.00°W	8.24±5.13	NA	121.50±1.50	NA	1.99	0.49±0.30
	23.4 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	8.02°S,155.00°W	17.62	NA	209.00	NA	3.68	0.77
	24 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24.6 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	8.02°S,155.00°W	10.88±0.65	NA	137.50±14.50	NA	3.01	0.79±0.09
EQPACW 12788	25m to 75m	4.00°S,170.05°W	NA	-6.26	NA	213.00	-1.33	0.80
	22.9 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -23.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	4.00°S,170.05°W	NA	-2.43	NA	147.00	-0.36	0.06
	23.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -23.7 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	4.00°S,170.05°W	11.59	-29.91	54.00	71.00	-1.50	0.38±0.28
KUROSHIO 7546	25m to 75m	33.48°N,147.61°E	16.32±5.17	-13.77±8.15	129.50±29.64	128.20±22.26	1.98	0.68±0.07
	24 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24.5 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	33.48°N,147.61°E	12.69±3.62	-10.64±4.33	171.00±25.26	205.00±99.00	5.52	0.70±0.10
	24.5 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	33.48°N,147.61°E	12.37±4.65	-6.33±2.21	87.57±14.52	96.40±15.29	6.32	0.59±0.10
KUROSHIO 7674	25m to 75m	36.98°N,148.69°E	8.67±3.18	-15.63±3.09	121.83±27.45	97.20±17.48	0.39	0.34±0.09
	23.8 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -24.7 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	36.98°N,148.69°E	13.38±6.05	-4.79±3.52	218.00±116.69	168.00±60.37	4.39	0.36±0.14
	24.7 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	36.98°N,148.69°E	9.38±3.73	-9.15±2.18	97.17±21.15	82.57±8.03	-0.70	0.32±0.07
NOPACIFIC 7642	25m to 75m	36.56°N,158.01°W	5.42	-0.44	243.00	121.00	1.27	0.23±0.20
	25 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	36.56°N,158.01°W	28.69	-5.46	303.00	59.00	8.37	0.68±0.04
	25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.6 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	36.56°N,158.01°W	14.73±7.76	NA	180.50±86.50	NA	6.66	0.73±0.19
SOPACIFIC 7553	25m to 75m	28.01 °S,101.51 °W	2.30±0.74	-4.13±1.19	137.60±31.97	215.00±44.73	-0.91	0.52±0.11
	25.3 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.5 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	28.01 °S,101.51 °W	2.37±1.32	-2.88±0.60	126.83±26.12	102.38±12.88	-0.83	0.52±0.10
	25.5 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ -25.7 $\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$	28.01 °S,101.51 °W	7.45±1.51	-4.23±1.22	94.11±11.41	106.63±17.20	1.35	0.58±0.07

KUROSHIO 7546 had the greatest mean positive rate of PreNO₃ anomaly formation within 25:75m at, $16.32 \pm 5.17 \frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$ (Table. 2). NOPACIFIC 7642 had the greatest mean length of positive trends of PreNO₃ anomaly formation within 25:75m at, 243 days (Table. 2). Whereas Bermuda 6976 had the greatest mean positive rate of PreNO₃ anomaly formation between the deepest layers analyzed out of the profiling floats at, $20.64 \pm 11.44 \frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$ (Table. 2). Bermuda 6391 had the greatest mean length of positive trends of PreNO₃ anomaly formation between the deepest layers at, 198.67 ± 46.35 days (Table. 2).

CALCURRENT 7647 had the greatest mean negative rate of PreNO₃ anomaly formation within 25:75m at, $-17.85 \pm 11.44 \frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$ (Table. 2). SOPACIFIC 7642 had the greatest mean length of negative trends of PreNO₃ anomaly formation within 25:75m at, 215.00 ± 44.73 days (Table. 2). Whereas CALCURRENT 7647 had the greatest mean negative rate of PreNO₃ anomaly formation between the deepest layers analyzed out of the profiling floats at, $-34.15 \pm 18.15 \frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$ (Table. 2). Hawaii 6403 had the greatest mean length of negative trends of PreNO₃ anomaly formation between the deepest layers at, 173.71 ± 21.70 days (Table. 2). The Bermuda and CALCURRENT Bio-Argo floats both had 6 negative net PreNO₃ magnitude values, which was the most out of all the Bio-Argo float groups (Table. 2). It is worth noting that all the layers for both CALCURRENT Bio-Argo floats had negative net PreNO₃ magnitude values (Table. 2).

Spatial Extent & Seasonality of PreNO₃

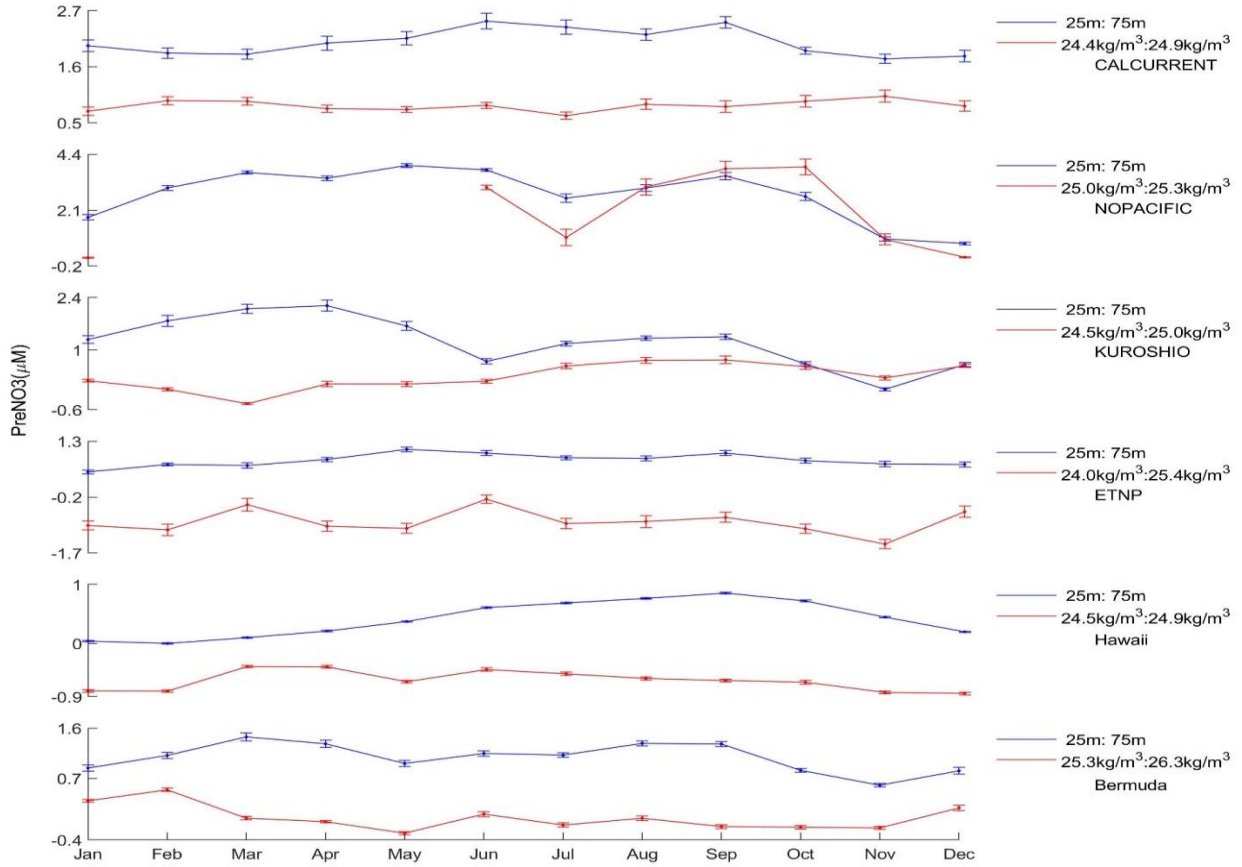


Figure 8. Seasonality of PreNO₃ observations from groups of Bio-Argo floats based on float name. Only floats that stayed in the Northern Hemisphere were included. Blue lines are observations 25m to 75m. Red lines are observations taken between chosen isopycnals.

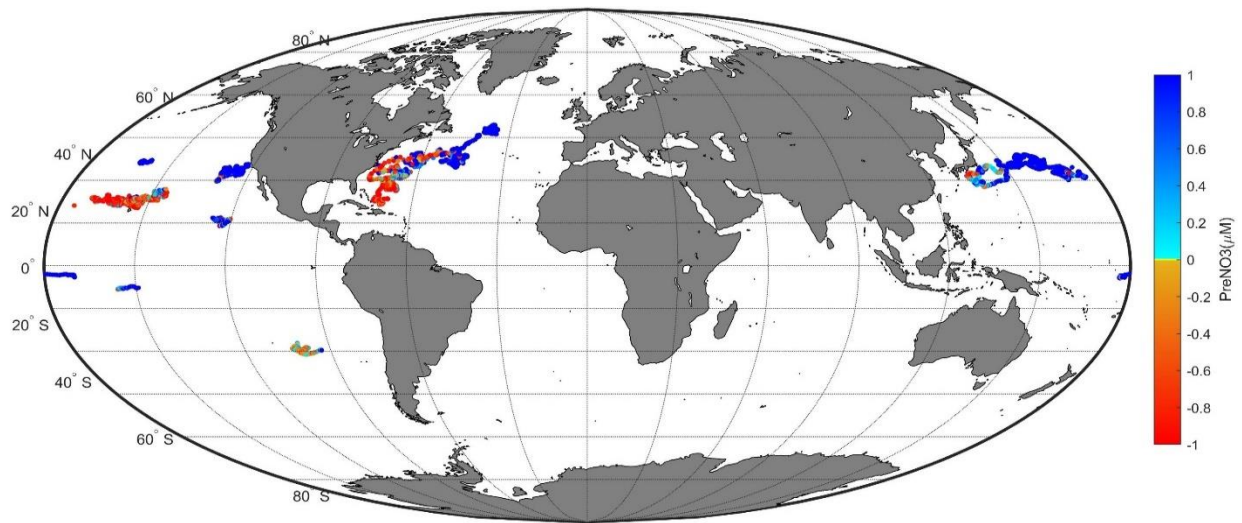


Figure 9. PreNO₃ anomalies from 100m:150m along float paths of the 20 Bio-Argo floats from 2007:2019. PreNO₃ limited to -1:1.

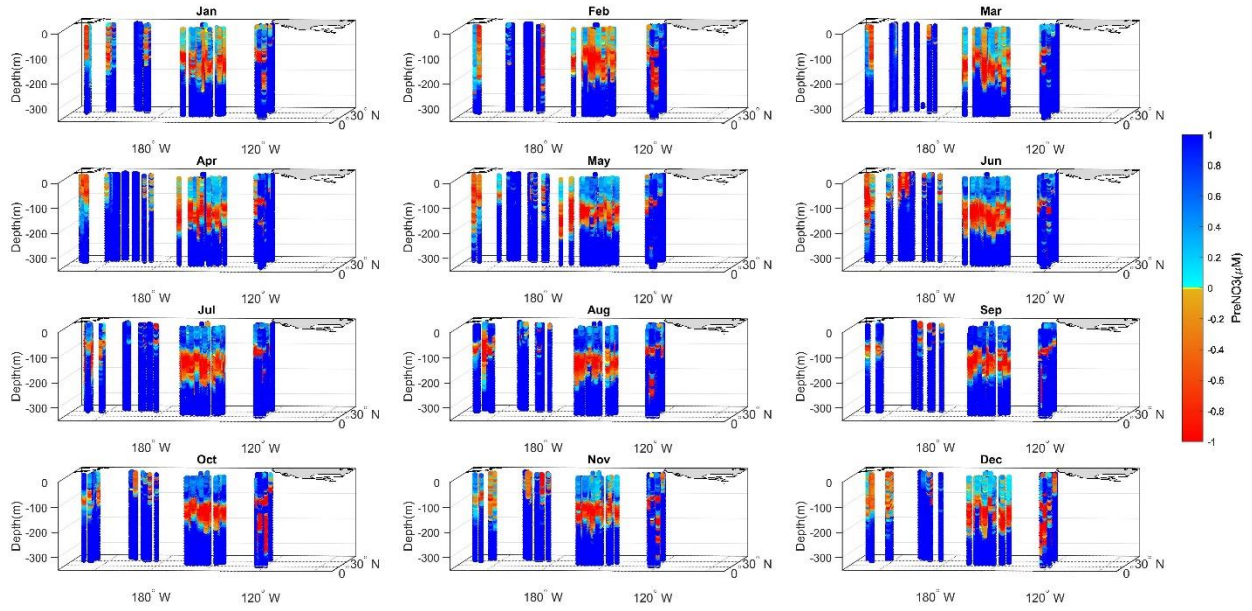


Figure 10. The seasonality of the occurrence of negative or positive PreNO₃ anomalies in the North Pacific in the first 350m of the water column. PreNO₃ limited to -1:1.

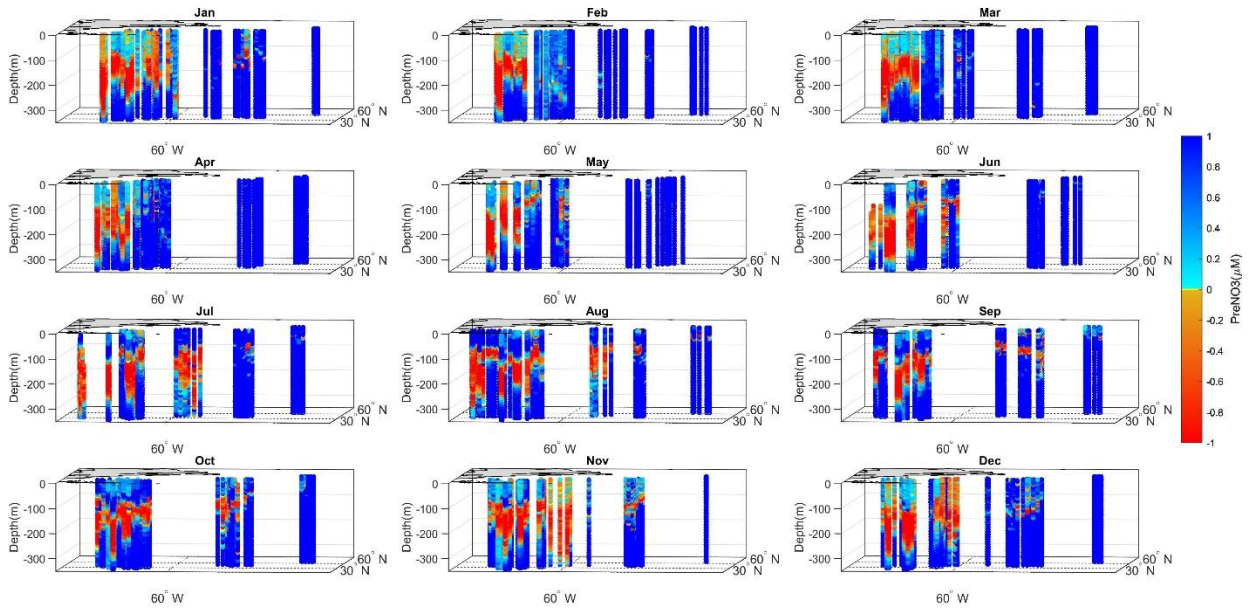


Figure 11. The seasonality of the occurrence of negative or positive PreNO₃ anomalies in the North Atlantic in the first 350m of the water column. PreNO₃ limited to -1:1.

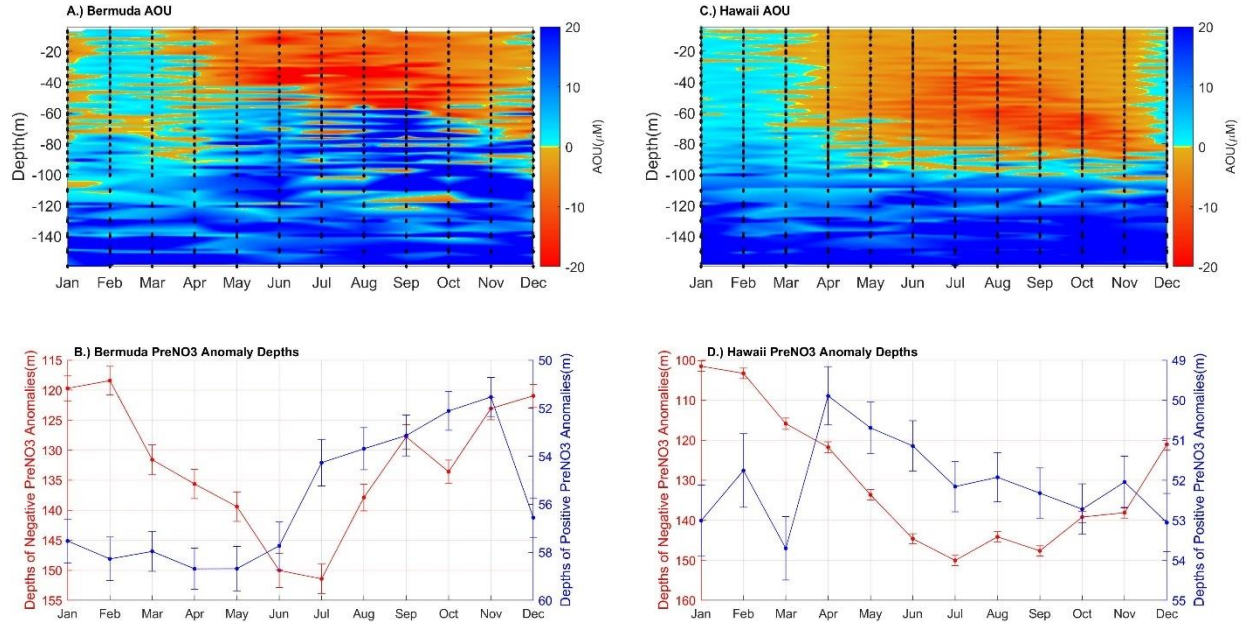


Figure 12. Bermuda and Hawaii seasonal AOU vs PreNO₃ anomaly depths. A.) Monthly AOU derived from Bermuda Bio-Argo float observations for 0m-160m. B.) Monthly depths of core of negative PreNO₃ anomalies within 0m:350m (red) and of positive PreNO₃ anomalies above negative PreNO₃ anomalies (blue) from Bermuda Bio-Argo floats. C.) Monthly AOU derived from Hawaii Bio-Argo float observations for 0m-160m. D.) Monthly depths of core of negative PreNO₃ anomalies within 0m:350m (red) and of positive PreNO₃ anomalies above negative PreNO₃ anomalies (blue) from Bermuda Bio-Argo floats. Black dots in A.) and C.) represent observations.

For the California Current PreNO₃ values increase in the Winter and Spring whereas they decrease in the Summer and Fall at 25m:75m (Fig. 8). Where at depth PreNO₃ values increase during the Winter, Summer, and Fall whereas they decrease during the Spring (Fig. 8). North of Hawaii (NOPACIFIC) PreNO₃ values increase in the Winter and Spring whereas they decrease in the Summer and Fall at 25m:75m (Fig. 8). Where at depth PreNO₃ values increase during the Summer whereas they decrease during the Fall (Fig. 8). For the Kuroshio Current PreNO₃ values increase in the Winter and Summer whereas they decrease in the Fall and Spring at 25m:75m (Fig. 8). Where at depth PreNO₃ values increase during the Spring and Summer whereas they decrease during the Fall and Winter (Fig. 8). For the East Tropical North Pacific (ETNP) PreNO₃ values increase in the Spring whereas they decrease in the Winter, Summer and Fall at 25m:75m (Fig. 8). Where at depth PreNO₃ values increase during every season (Fig. 8). For Hawaii PreNO₃ values increase in the Spring and Summer whereas they decrease in the Winter and

Fall at 25m:75m (Fig. 8). Where at depth PreNO₃ values increase during the Winter whereas they decrease during the Spring, Summer and Fall (Fig. 8). For Bermuda PreNO₃ values increase in the Winter and Summer whereas they decrease in the Fall and Spring at 25m:75m (Fig. 8). Where at depth PreNO₃ values shows the same seasonal trend that is seen at 25m:75m (Fig. 8). There being no values for the NOPACIFIC float during the Winter and Spring months is likely due to the isopycnal contours shoaling to the surface (Fig. 8, S34). NOPACIFIC had the most positive PreNO₃ values whereas ETNP had the most negative PreNO₃ values (Fig. 8).

PreNO₃ values derived within 100m:150m from the Bio-Argo floats indicate that negative PreNO₃ anomalies did not occur outside of the latitudinal range between 40°S and 40°N (Fig. 9). Generally in the North Pacific, the negative PreNO₃ anomalous layer retreats below 100m starting in July and then starts shoaling towards the surface again starting in November (Fig. 10). In the North Atlantic, the negative PreNO₃ anomalous layer retreats below 100m starting in June and then start moving towards the surface again starting in November (Fig. 11). Positive PreNO₃ anomalies appear around Bermuda beginning at about 58m in January and shoal to approximately 54m by July, followed by an increase in depth to roughly 57m by December (Fig. 12). Whereas negative PreNO₃ anomalies appear around Bermuda beginning at about 120m in January and increase to roughly 150m depth by June, followed by shoaling back to approximately 120m by December (Fig. 12). Positive PreNO₃ anomalies appear around Hawaii beginning at about 53m in January and shoal to approximately 51m by May, followed by an increase in depth back to roughly 53m by December (Fig. 12). Whereas negative PreNO₃ anomalies appear around Hawaii beginning at about 102m in January and increase to roughly 150m depth by July, followed by shoaling back to approximately 120m by December (Fig. 12). Changes in the monthly averaged depths of the core of positive and negative PreNO₃ anomalies

are tracked relatively well by changes in AOU around Bermuda (Fig. 12). However the monthly averaged depths of the core of positive PreNO₃ anomalies does not coincide with changes in AOU around Hawaii (Fig. 12).

Interannual Variability

In 2007 the thickness of the layer where negative PreNO₃ anomalies occurred in the North Pacific was roughly 245m (Fig. S36). For the same year the average value for PreNO₃ inside of the negative anomaly layer was about -0.72μM and the average ocean temperature was approximately 20.43°C (Fig. S36). The thickness of the layer steadily increased to about 312m by 2012 and then ultimately decreased in size to approximately 150m by 2017 (Fig. S36). PreNO₃ inside the negative PreNO₃ layer stayed relatively constant around -0.6μM between 2009 and 2011 and was the most negative in 2012, -0.98μM (Fig. S36). PreNO₃ inside the negative PreNO₃ layer then became less negative where it was -0.43μM by 2017 (Fig. S36). The yearly average of ocean temperature after 2007 decreased to 19.33 °C by 2012, increased again between 2013 and 2015 with a maximum value of 20.29 °C, and then decreased again to 17.19 °C by 2017 (Fig. S36).

CHAPTER III

DISCUSSION

The general observation of swapping between negative PreNO₃ anomalies in the winter and positive PreNO₃ anomalies for the rest of the year in the upper 100m is likely due to winter vertical mixing redistributing the subsurface negative PreNO₃ anomaly signal when bringing nutrients up from depth (Fig. 4, 5, 6). The fact that EQPACW 8474 and 12788 did overlap spatially and temporally at one point, but showed differences in their PreNO₃ observations is likely the result of the profiling floats following different water parcels and is unlikely due to

sensor error (Fig. S18, S22). The years 2015 and 2016 both experienced a strong El Niño period which corresponds to the years that the Bio-Argo floats in the North Pacific recorded the largest negative PreNO₃ subsurface layer (Fig. S36; Shea, 2018). The anomalous warming of the North Pacific known as ‘the Blob’ that occurred from the years 2013 to 2015, can be seen in the interannual variability of temperature (Fig. S36; Siedlecki et al. 2016). The thickness of the negative PreNO₃ subsurface layer increased and the PreNO₃ values became more negative from 2013 to 2015, which potentially could be attributed to the Blob or the transition to a strong El Niño (Fig. S36).

Table 3. Mean positive and negative rates of PreNO₃ anomaly formation within 25m to 75m, the middle, and bottom layer where regression were performed for each regional group based on Bio-Argo float name or area that they primarily took observations in.

Region	25m to 75m Mean Positive PreNO ₃ Rate ($\frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$)	25m to 75m Mean Negative PreNO ₃ Rate ($\frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$)	Middle Layer Mean Positive PreNO ₃ Rate ($\frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$)	Middle Layer Mean Negative PreNO ₃ Rate ($\frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$)	Bottom Layer Mean Positive PreNO ₃ Rate ($\frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$)	Bottom Layer Mean Negative PreNO ₃ Rate ($\frac{\mu\text{mol N}}{\text{m}^3 \text{ day}}$)
Hawaii	3.92	-4.30	3.14	-2.54	2.22	-2.48
Bermuda	10.05	-5.94	12.49	-11.68	11.18	-8.50
California Current	8.68	-10.84	7.40	-6.83	9.56	-20.30
Easter Tropical North Pacific	3.57	-7.28	5.12	-11.53	15.87	-17.41
East Tropical South Pacific	2.30	-4.13	2.37	-2.88	7.45	-4.23
Kuroshio Current	12.49	-14.70	13.03	-7.72	10.88	-7.74
Equatorial West Pacific	8.24	-6.26	17.62	-2.43	11.23	-29.91

The equivalence of the absolute value of euphotic zone positive rates of PreNO₃ anomaly formation compared to the absolute value of subsurface negative rates of PreNO₃ anomaly formation, can speak to if all anomaly generating processes are being accounted for or if there are processes missing (Table. 3). In Hawaii, Bermuda, California Current, and the ETSP absolute values for euphotic zone positive rates of PreNO₃ anomaly formation are roughly equivalent to the absolute value of the negative rates within the subsurface layers (Table. 3). This suggests that whatever process is causing anomalies in the euphotic zone is related to the process that is

causing anomalies in the subsurface layers for Hawaii, Bermuda, California Current, and the ETSP (Table. 3). However this is not the case for the other floats groups, suggesting that in these other regions there are anomaly generating process that are not being accounted for (Table. 3). Note that the values for the East Tropical South Pacific (ETSP) are the same as the values for SOPACIFIC 7553 in Table. 2, because SOPACIFIC 7553 was the only float that took observations in the ETSP (Table. 3). The rates of PreNO₃ anomaly formation reported for Station ALOHA from Letscher & Villareal, 2018 agree with those reported in Table. 3, however the rates for BATS in Table. 3 are greater than those from Letscher & Villareal, 2018.

Vertically Migrating Phytoplankton & Transparent Exopolymer Particles

The TEP mechanism involves net community production at the surface of N-deficient polysaccharides forming positive PreNO₃ anomalies and then subsequently aggregate and sink out of the euphotic zone where it is remineralized forming negative PreNO₃ anomalies (Fig. 1). The VMP mechanism involves descending to consume nitrate which forms negative PreNO₃ anomalies and then ascending to the surface to photosynthesize forming positive PreNO₃ anomalies (Fig. 1). The mechanism responsible for the formation of positive and negative PreNO₃ anomalies could be determined based on the timing of euphotic positive PreNO₃ anomalies compared to the timing of sub-euphotic zone negative PreNO₃ anomalies. TEP may only sink a few meters per year whereas VMP can migrate tens of meter in just a day (Fig. 1; Mari et al. 2017; Letscher & Villareal, 2018; Wirtz & Smith, 2020). It is worth noting that TEP can act as the glue for marine snow allowing for the sinking speed of TEP when attached to marine snow particles to be much faster than when TEP is on its own (Asper 1987; Passow 2002; Busch et al. 2017). Therefore due to the differences in their sinking/migrating speeds, if euphotic zone positive PreNO₃ anomalies occur at relatively the same time as sub-euphotic zone negative

PreNO₃ anomalies in the monthly smoothed estimates of PreNO₃ then VMP could be the responsible PreNO₃ anomaly generating biogeochemical process. Whereas if euphotic zone positive PreNO₃ anomalies occur before (weeks to months) sub-euphotic zone negative PreNO₃ anomalies then TEP could be the responsible anomaly generating process since the TEP pool must accumulate slowly following the production of dissolved carbohydrate precursors as a product of net community production in the euphotic zone before it becomes negatively buoyant and starts slowly sinking (Mari et al. 2017; Letscher & Villareal, 2018).

North Pacific

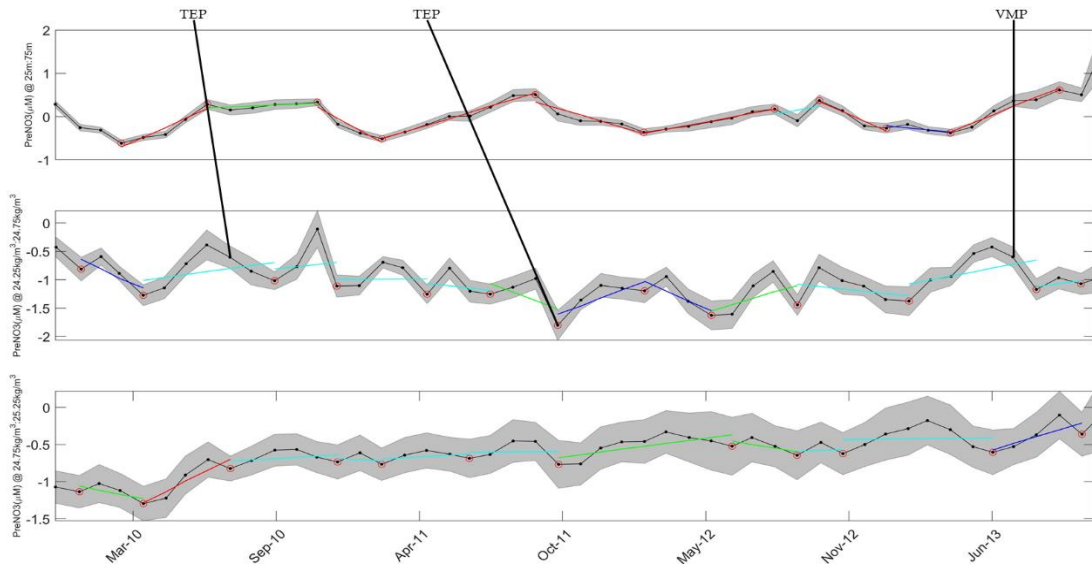


Figure 13. PreNO₃ for Hawaii 6401 smoothed to show PreNO₃ per month with regression of PreNO₃ vs time. Top figure PreNO₃ at 25m-75m, middle figure PreNO₃ at $24.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}, 24.9 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and bottom figure PreNO₃ at $24.9 \frac{kg}{m^3}, 25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for PreNO₃ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

South Pacific

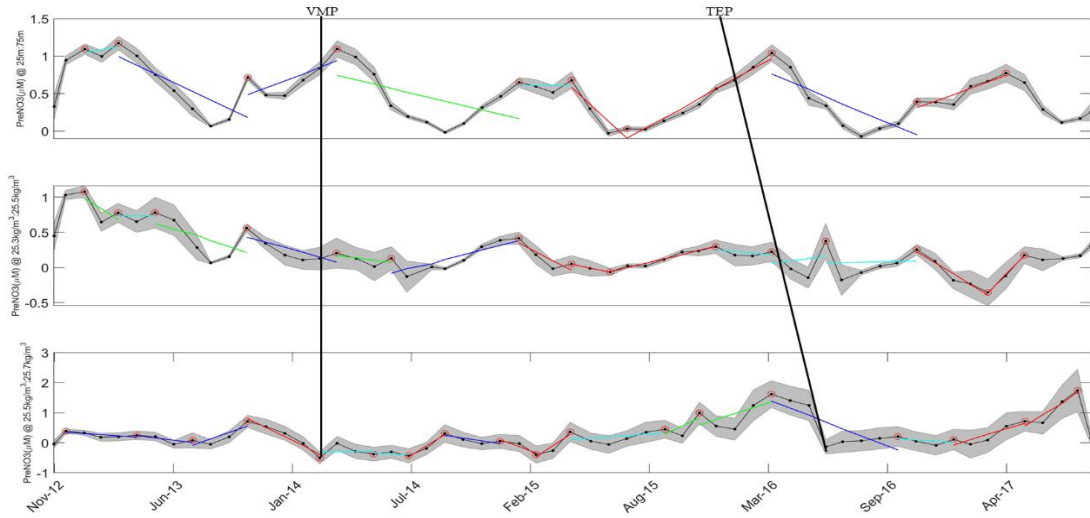


Figure 14. $PreNO_3$ for SOPACIFIC 7553 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3} : 25.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.5 \frac{kg}{m^3} : 25.7 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

North Atlantic

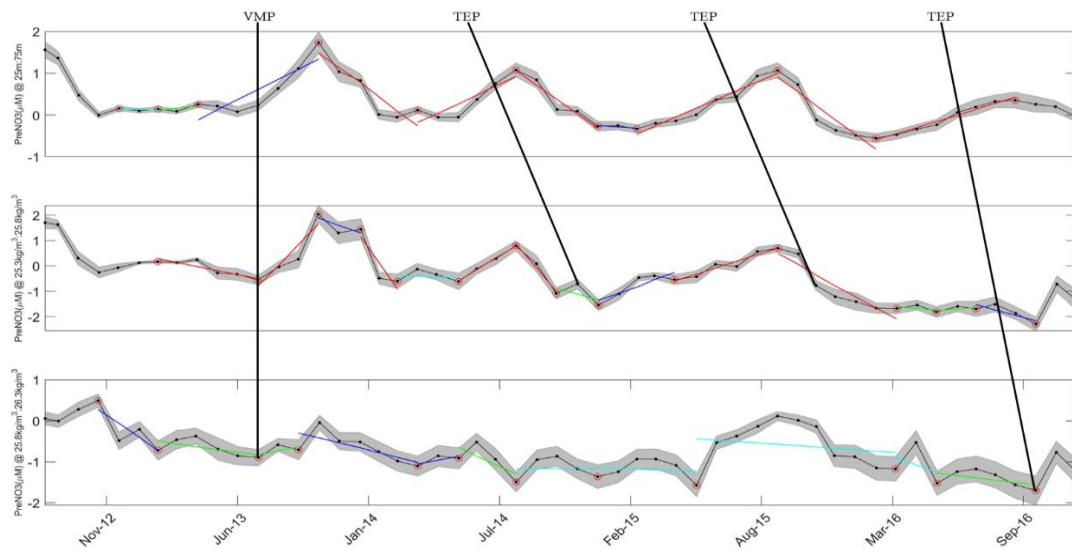


Figure 15. $PreNO_3$ for Bermuda 7663 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3} : 25.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.8 \frac{kg}{m^3} : 26.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

Whether TEP or VMP was responsible for PreNO₃ anomalies could be determined by comparing the timing of euphotic positive PreNO₃ anomalies and the timing of sub-euphotic zone negative PreNO₃ anomalies. The profiling floats with patterns suggestive of only TEP being responsible for PreNO₃ anomalies were Bermuda 6976, CALCURRENT 7618, and KUROSHIO 7546 (Fig. S17, S19, S31). The only profiling float with patterns suggestive of VMP solely being responsible for the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies was EQPACW 8474 (Fig. S23). The profiling floats with patterns suggestive of PreNO₃ anomalies being formed by a combination of TEP and VMP were: Hawaii 6891, Hawaii 5145, Hawaii 6403, Hawaii 6401, Hawaii 8486, Hawaii 8497, Bermuda 7663, Bermuda 6975, Bermuda 6391, KUROSHIO 7674, ETNP 6960, ETNP 7558, and SOPACIFIC 7553 (Fig. S7, 7, S5, 13, S9, S11, 15, S15, S13, S33, S27, S29, 14). The profiling floats where it was not discernable what mechanism was responsible for the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies were: CALCURRENT 7647, NOPACIFIC 7642, and EQPACW 12788 (Fig. S21, S35, S25).

Identifying and quantifying the exact biogeochemical mechanism(s) driving the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies in the shallow subtropical ocean is an important goal in the face of the predicted expansion of the subtropical ocean biome in the 21st century (Polovina et al. 2008). Since most known vertical migrator phytoplankton are diatoms (Villareal et al. 2014), the VMP mechanism could be an efficient transporter of carbon as a result of their shells acting as mineral ballasts. The overall magnitude of the ocean's biological carbon pump, currently estimated at 12±2 Pg C yr⁻¹ (Emerson 2014), is predicted to decline over the 21st century as the expansion of the subtropical marine biome displaces adjacent higher nutrient biomes preferentially populated with diatoms and other efficient carbon exporters including calcifiers. However, if VMP was to be determined to be the primary driver of PreNO₃ anomaly formation in

the shallow subtropics then this predicted expansion of the subtropical ocean may not result in a decrease in the oceans biological pump since diatoms can be continually sustained via the VMP mechanism. Whereas if TEP were to be determined to be the primary driver of PreNO₃ anomaly formation then the predicted expansion of the subtropical ocean could induce a less efficient biological carbon pump. TEP exhibits slow sinking speeds (order meters per year) and some observations suggest that only a small percent of TEP will attain sufficient density to actually sink out of surface waters (Mari et al. 2017). The DIC produced by the consumption of TEP is recycled within the shallow seasonal thermocline and is in contact with the atmosphere on annual timescales, thus contributing little to the oceans biological carbon pump or carbon sequestration.

Table 4. Number of occurrences of either TEP or VMP events observed in each regional group based on Bio-Argo float name or area that they primarily took observations in.

Region	TEP	VMP
Hawaii	13	11
Bermuda	8	3
California Current	4	0
East Tropical North Pacific	4	2
East Tropical South Pacific	1	1
Kuroshio Current	3	1
Equatorial West Pacific	0	1

Events of both TEP and VMP causing the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies were observed the most around Hawaii (Table. 4). However it seems that both VMP and TEP are equally important in causing the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies around Hawaii, ETNP, ETSP where SOPACIFIC 7553 was, and the Kuroshio Current (Table. 4). TEP seems to be the more important mechanism around Bermuda (Table. 4). There is not enough evidence to determine which mechanism is more important in the EQPACW and the California Current (Table. 4). Four out of the five Bio-Argo floats used in Fawcett et al. 2018 was used for this research; Bermuda 7663, Bermuda 6391, Bermuda 6975, and Bermuda 6976 (Fig. 6, 15, S12:S17). Observations of

the occurrence of TEP causing the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies from; Bermuda 7663, Bermuda 6975, Bermuda 6976, and Bermuda 6391 agree with the suggestion by Fawcett et al. 2018 that the remineralization of TEP is most likely responsible for PreNO₃ anomaly formation (Fig. 15, S13, S15, S17). However VMP events were still observed in the PreNO₃ records of; Bermuda 7663, Bermuda 6975, and Bermuda 6391 (Fig. 15, S13, S15). Hawaii 5145 is the same float that was used in Johnson et al. 2010 and the observation of one VMP event in the PreNO₃ records of Hawaii 5145 agrees with the suggestion that VMP is the most likely mechanism for PreNO₃ anomaly formation (Fig. 7).

Taxa of VMP (*Pyrocystis*, *Ethmodiscus*, *Rhizosolenia*) are more abundant in the Pacific Ocean than the Atlantic Ocean (Letscher & Villareal, 2018). Since the depths of the core of positive PreNO₃ anomalies does not agree with changes in AOU around Hawaii as well as it does around Bermuda, something else besides VMP could be causing euphotic zone positive PreNO₃ anomalies around Hawaii (Fig. 12). The monthly averages of the depths of the core of the negative PreNO₃ anomaly layers track the seasonal changes in the euphotic zone, since the depths of the core of the negative PreNO₃ anomaly layers is deepest in the summer and shallowest in winter (Fig. 12). This can also be seen in the seasonality of the distribution of negative PreNO₃ anomalies, where negative PreNO₃ anomalies generally descend below 100m in summer and then ascend again in the winter (Fig. 10, 11). There isn't much seasonal variability for the depth of the core of positive PreNO₃ anomaly layers around Hawaii and Bermuda, (change of only a few meters) (Fig. 12).

Thirteen out of the twenty Bio-Argo floats that were examined indicate that positive euphotic zone, and negative subsurface PreNO₃ anomalies were likely the result of a combination of both the VMP and TEP mechanisms (Fig. S7, 7, S5, 13, S9, S11, 15, S15, S13, S33, S27, S29,

14). Three out of the twenty Bio-Argo floats examined indicate that positive euphotic zone, and negative subsurface PreNO₃ anomalies were likely solely the result of the TEP mechanism (Fig. S17, S19, S31). Whereas only one out of the twenty Bio-Argo floats that were examined indicated that positive euphotic zone, and negative subsurface PreNO₃ anomalies were likely caused by the VMP mechanism alone (Fig. S23). Out of the twenty Bio-Argo floats examined, VMP was identified 17 times whereas TEP was identified 33 times as the mechanisms driving PreNO₃ anomaly formation, thus it seems that TEP occurred nearly twice as much in the Bio-Argo float record over the years 2007:2019. However, we are unable to quantify the importance of each mechanism to the overall rate of PreNO₃ anomaly formation. Such analysis requires more information not easily gleaned from the extant Bio-Argo suite, e.g. migrator phytoplankton biomass and TEP quantity and carbon content. Identifying the mechanisms of PreNO₃ anomaly formation is important in understanding the true stoichiometry of biochemical reactions as well as better understanding the biological pump.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS

Solving the mystery of the biogeochemical processes responsible for the generation of PreNO₃ anomalies that oceanographers have been investigating for decades will give insight into non-Redfield processes that accounts for changes in oxygen without stoichiometric changes in nitrate. Bio-Argo floats provide the opportunity to get high resolution observations of biogeochemical processes which can help find answers to many oceanographic questions such as what mechanisms drive the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies. Analyses have shown that both euphotic zone positive and subsurface negative PreNO₃ anomalies are widespread in the subtropical ocean and while there is some variability in the PreNO₃ values and sign, these vertically segregated PreNO₃ anomalies are persistent seasonally in the Bio-Argo PreNO₃ record.

However due to the amount of time Bio-Argo floats spend at 1000m depth (~9.5 days) there could be significant spatial differences between the water masses that Bio-Argo floats descend in and the water masses that they eventually ascend in (Claustre et al. 2019). PreNO₃ anomalies being wide spread in the subtropical ocean suggests that they could have a strong influence on the biological pump that is thus far not included in global estimates of the ocean's biological pump as estimated by the current class of Earth System Models (e.g. Moore et al. 2018; Stock et al. 2020), ocean color based models (e.g. Westberry et al. 2008; Silsbe et al. 2016), and particle flux models (DeVries et al. 2014; Cael and Bisson, 2018). The locations of PreNO₃ anomalies are consistent with previous observations of VMP taxa (*Pyrocystis*, *Ethmodiscus*, *Rhizosolenia*) throughout the global subtropical ocean (Fig. 10, 11; Letscher & Villareal, 2018, Figures S11-13). The timing of euphotic zone positive PreNO₃ anomalies in relation to sub-euphotic zone negative PreNO₃ anomalies suggest that both the export and remineralization of TEP as well as the utilization of stocks of nitrate by VMP play roles in the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies. Further investigation of both TEP and VMP including abundance and stoichiometry is needed to better understand the formation of PreNO₃ anomalies as well as the influence PreNO₃ anomalies may have on ocean biogeochemistry into the future.

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SUPPLEMENT

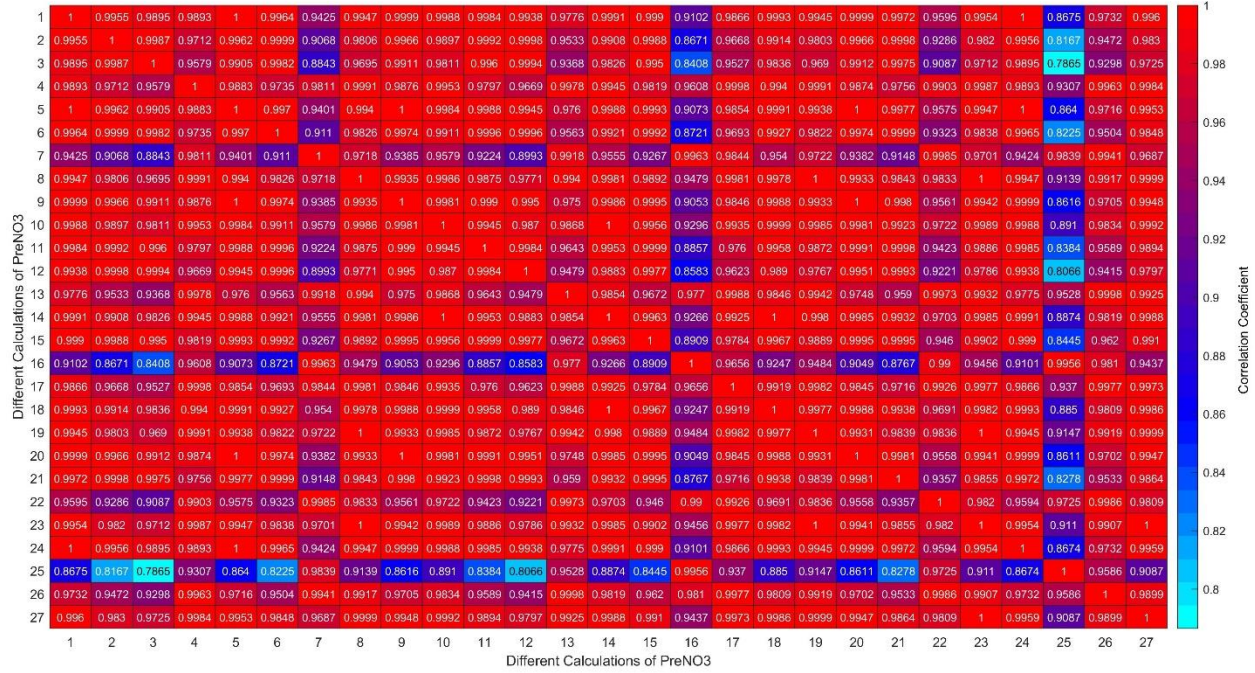
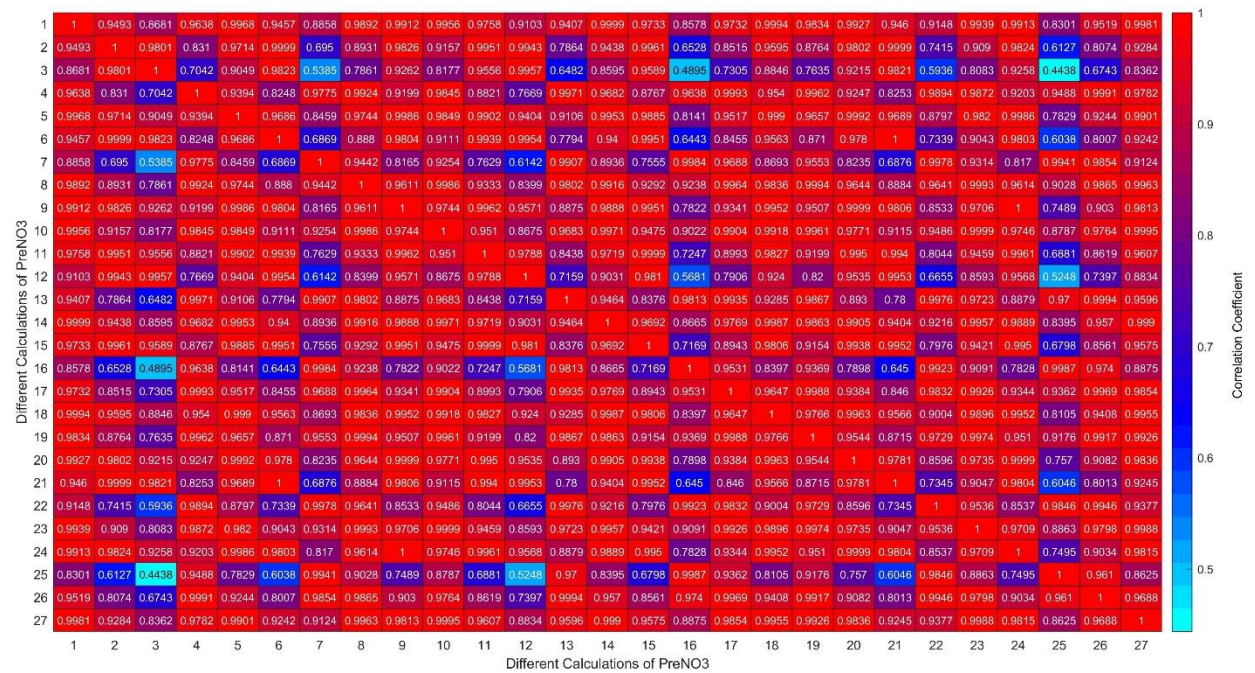


Figure S1. Correlations between 27 calculations of PreNO₃ for float, Hawaii 6401. Colorbar as well as values in boxes indicate the correlation between each different calculations of preformed nitrate.



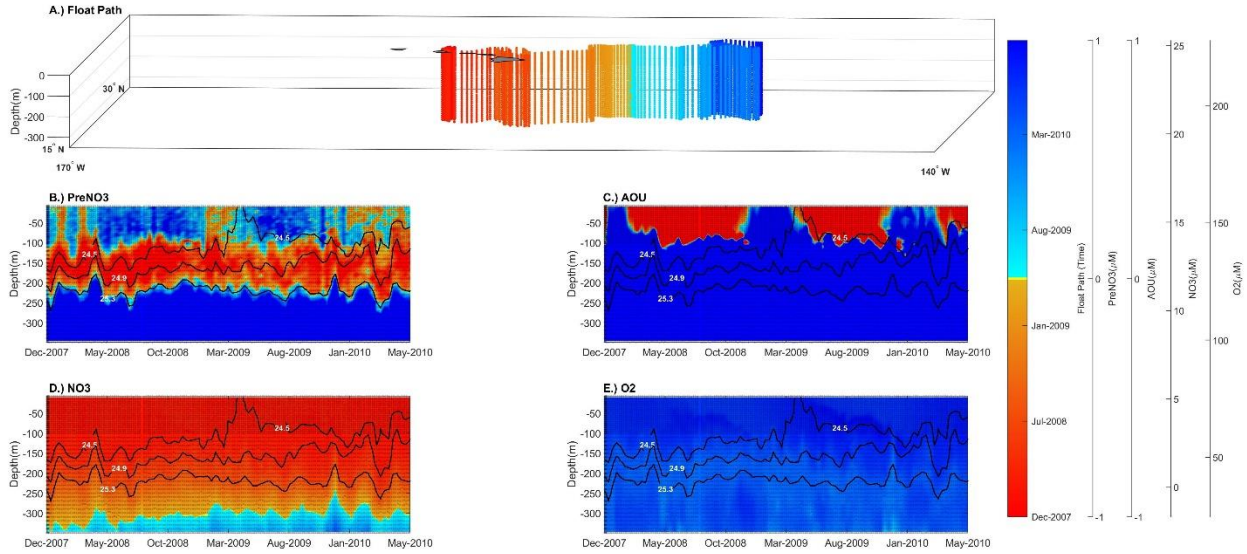


Figure S3. A.) Float path of Hawaii 5145 colored by time. B.) PreNO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path from Dec-07 to Sep-10, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $24.5 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$, $24.9 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$, and $25.3 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. PreNO_3 and AOU limited to -1:1.

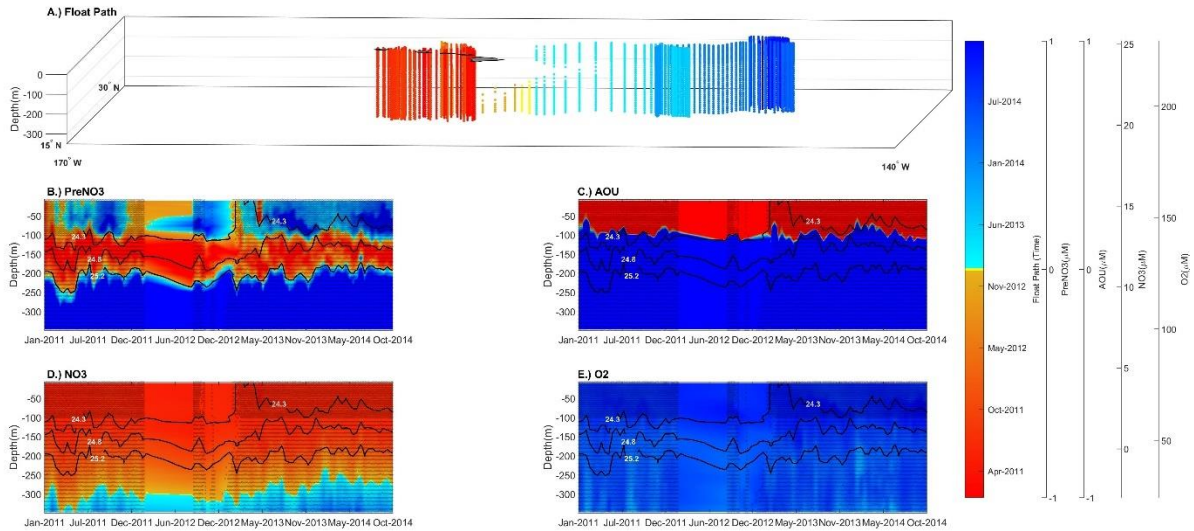


Figure S4. A.) Float path of Hawaii 6403 colored by time. B.) PreNO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path from Jan-11 to Jan-15, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $24.3 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$, $24.8 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$, and $25.2 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. PreNO_3 and AOU limited to -1:1.

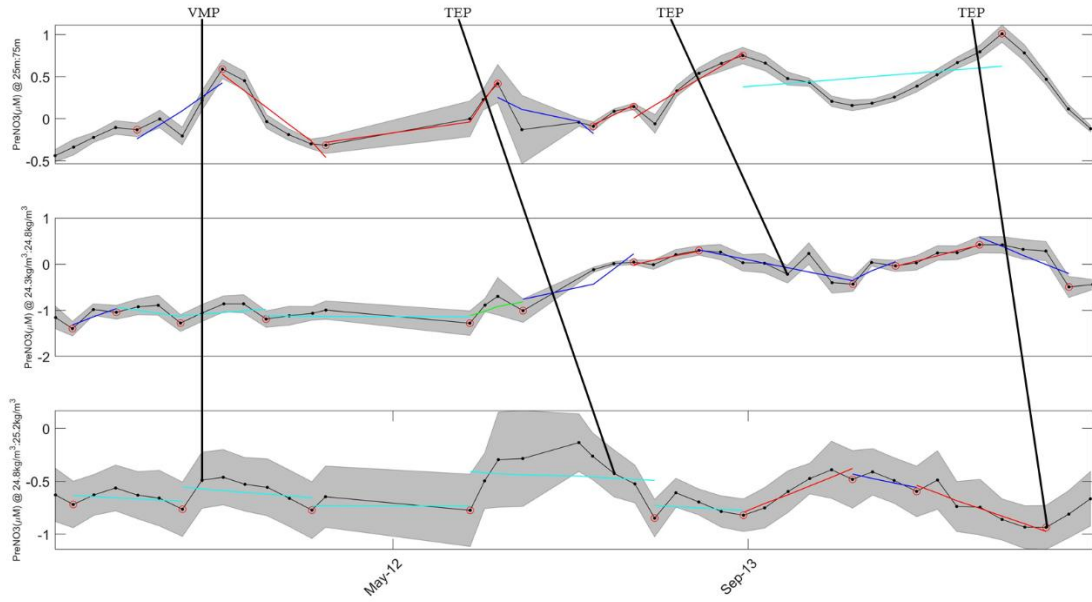


Figure S5. PreNO₃ for Hawaii 6403 smoothed to show PreNO₃ per month with regression of PreNO₃ vs time. Top figure PreNO₃ at 25m-75m, middle figure PreNO₃ at $24.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ - $24.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and bottom figure PreNO₃ at $24.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ - $25.2 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for PreNO₃ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

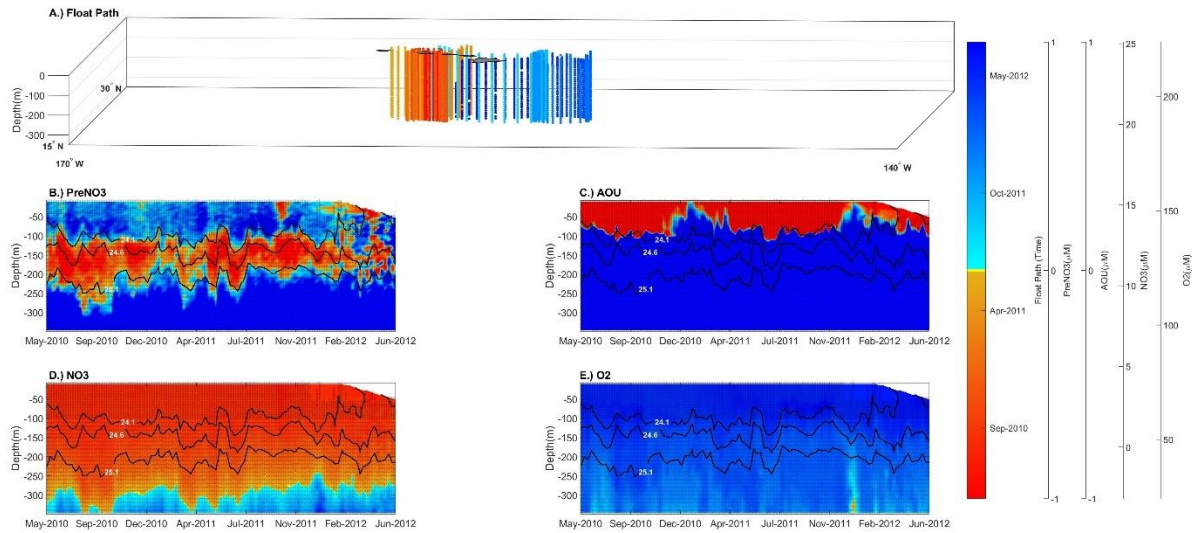


Figure S6. A.) Float path of Hawaii 6891 colored by time. B.) PreNO₃ for the first 350m of water column along float path from May-10 to Jul-12, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO₃ for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O₂ for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $24.1 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $24.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and $25.1 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. PreNO₃ and AOU limited to -1:1.

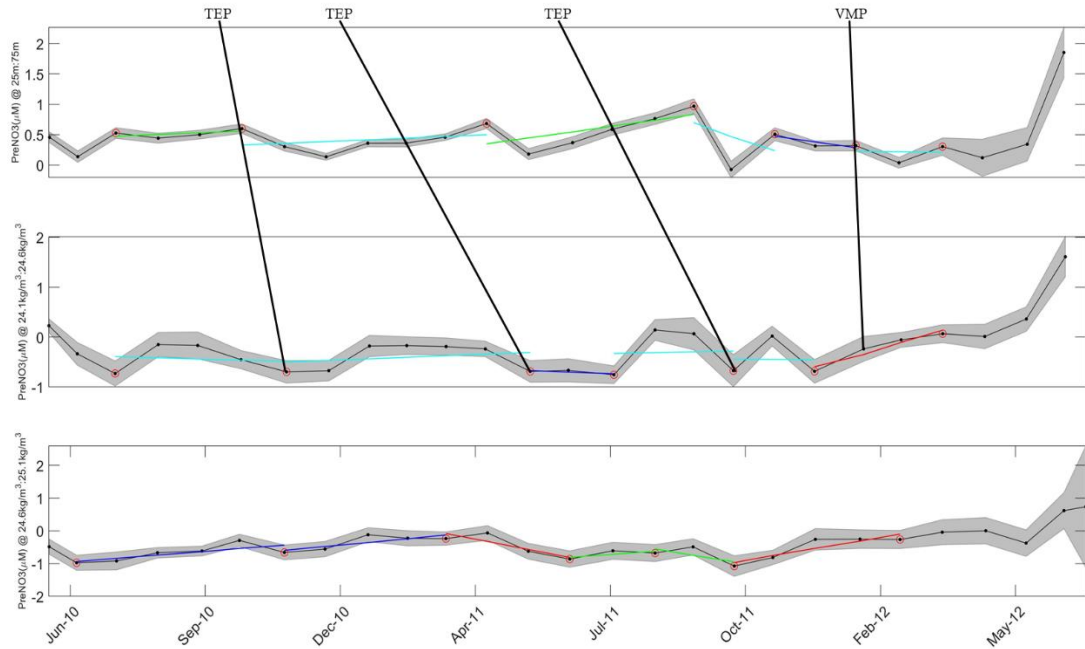


Figure S7. $PreNO_3$ for Hawaii 6891 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $24.1 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ - $24.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $24.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ - $25.1 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

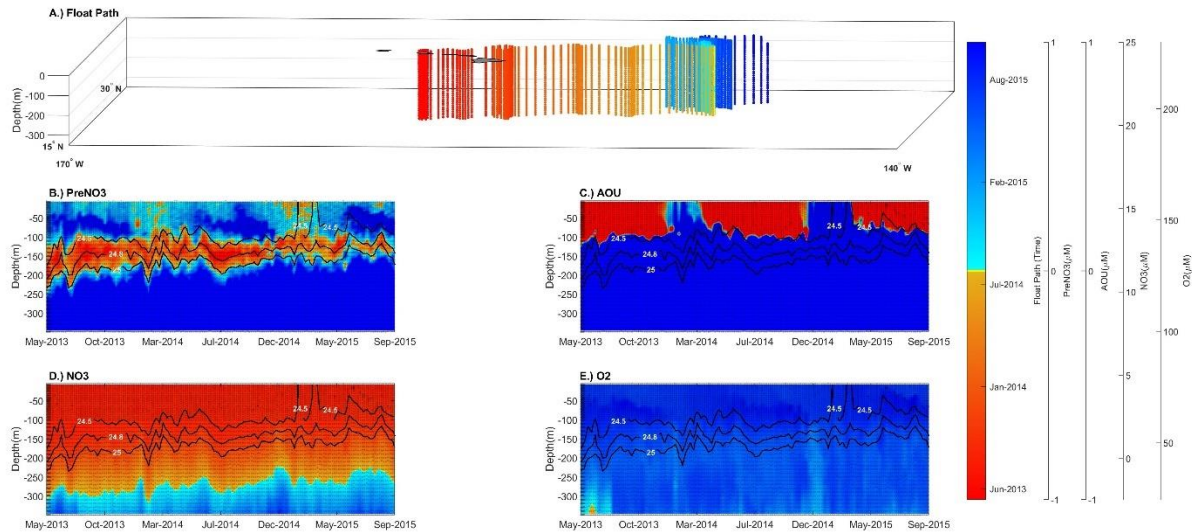


Figure S8. A.) Float path of Hawaii 8486 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from May-13 to Nov-15, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $24.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $24.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and $25 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

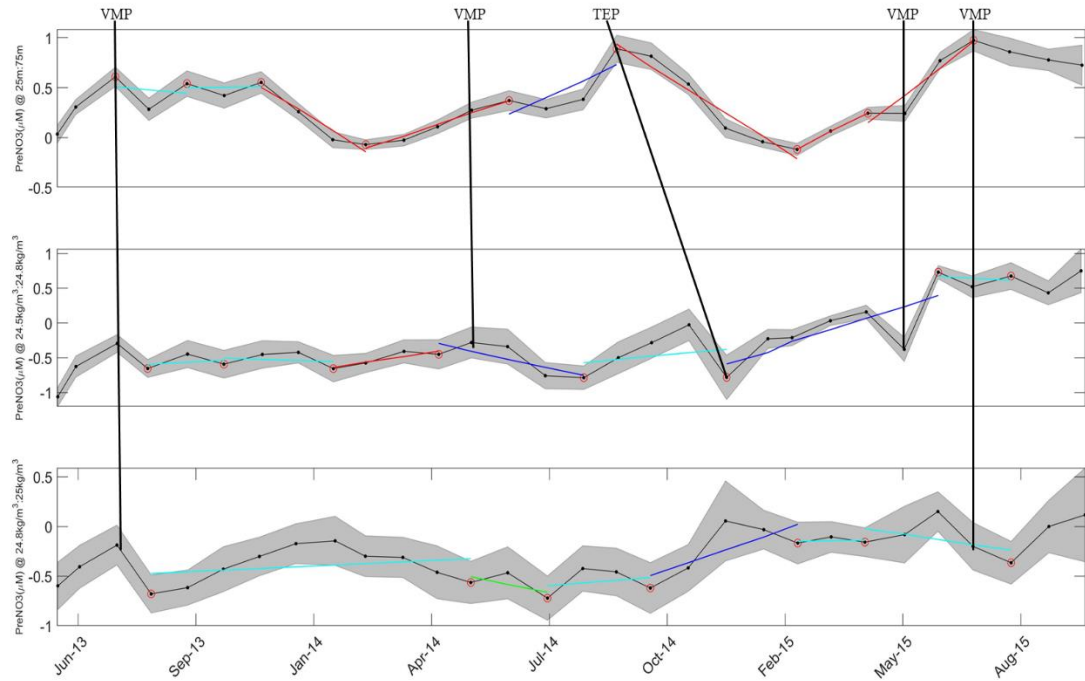


Figure S9. $PreNO_3$ for Hawaii 8486 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $24.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ - $24.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $24.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ - $25 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

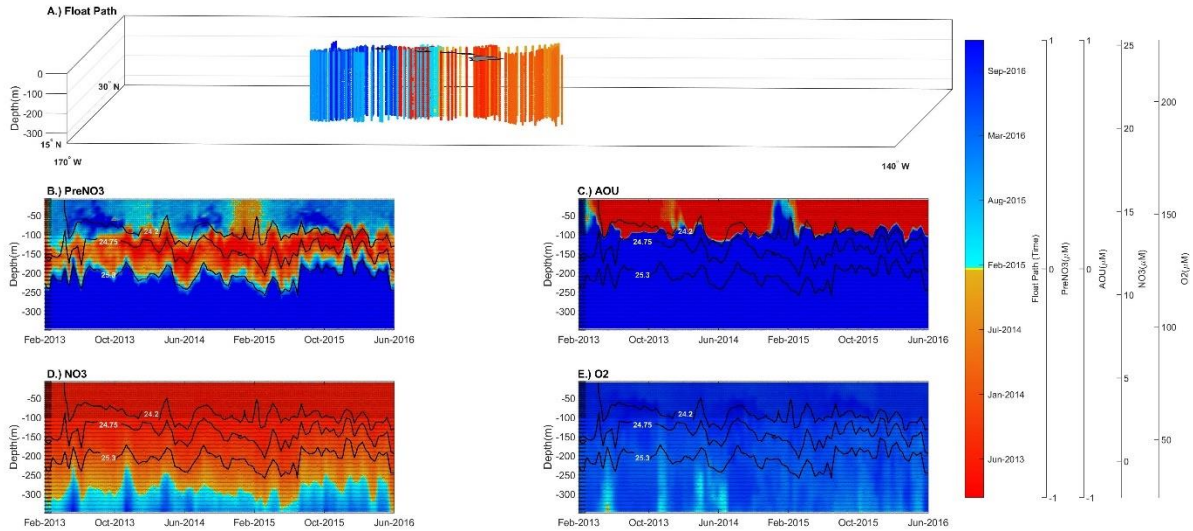


Figure S10. A.) Float path of Hawaii 8497 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Feb-13 to Dec-16, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $24.2 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $24.75 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

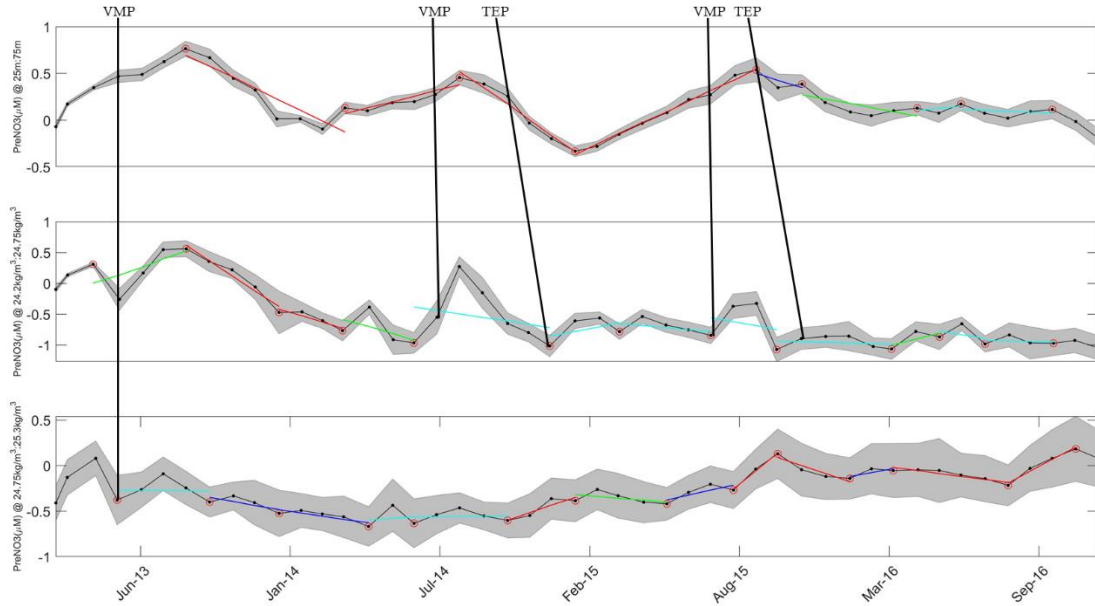


Figure S11. PreNO_3 for Hawaii 8497 smoothed to show PreNO_3 per month with regression of PreNO_3 vs time. Top figure PreNO_3 at 25m-75m, middle figure PreNO_3 at $24.2 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ - $24.75 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ and bottom figure PreNO_3 at $24.75 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$ - $25.3 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for PreNO_3 values. Black lines in figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

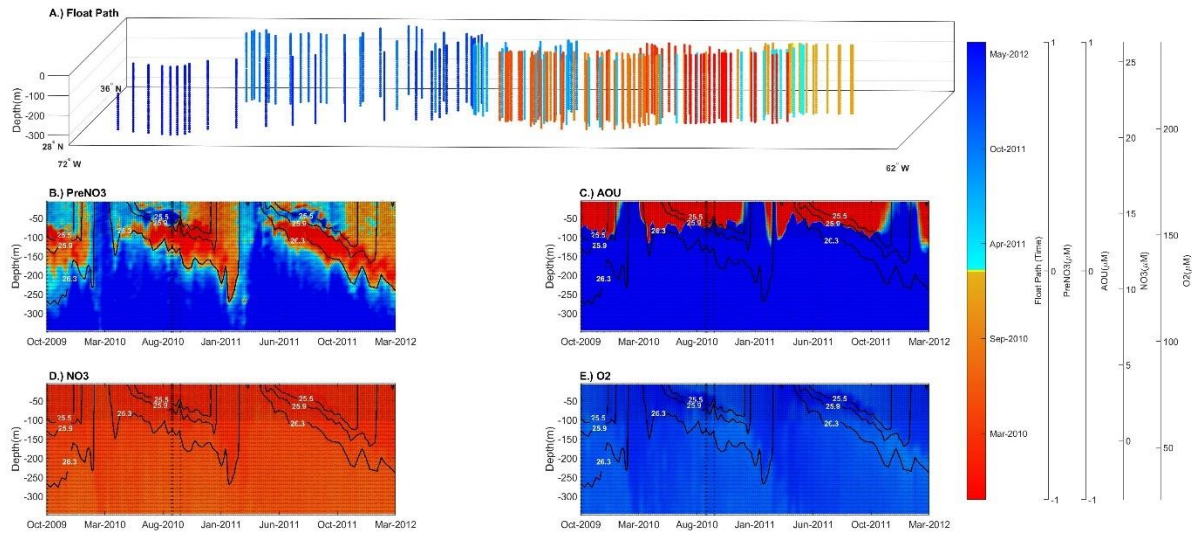


Figure S12. A.) Float path of Bermuda 6391 colored by time. B.) PreNO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path from Oct-09 to Jun-12, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $25.5 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$, $25.9 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$, and $26.3 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. PreNO_3 and AOU limited to -1:1.

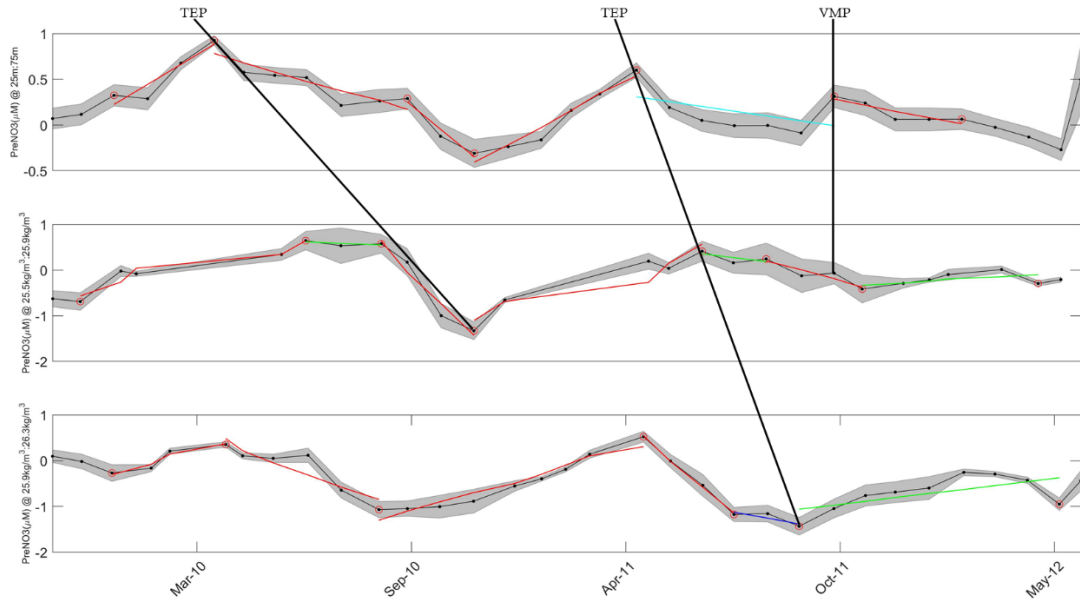


Figure S13. $PreNO_3$ for Bermuda 6391 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $25.9 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.9 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $26.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

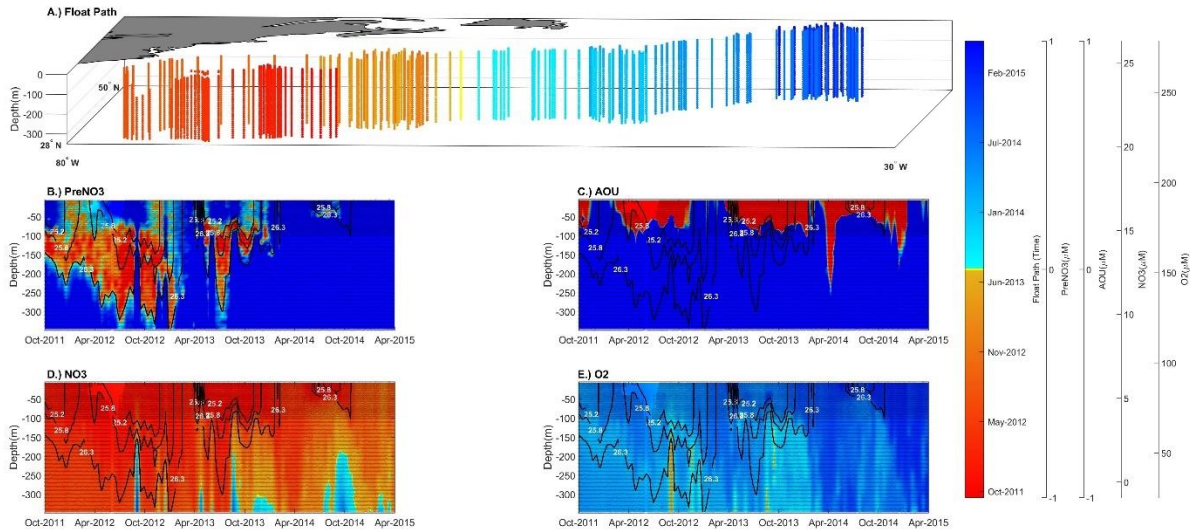


Figure S14. A.) Float path of Bermuda 6975 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Oct-11 to May-15, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $25.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and $26.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

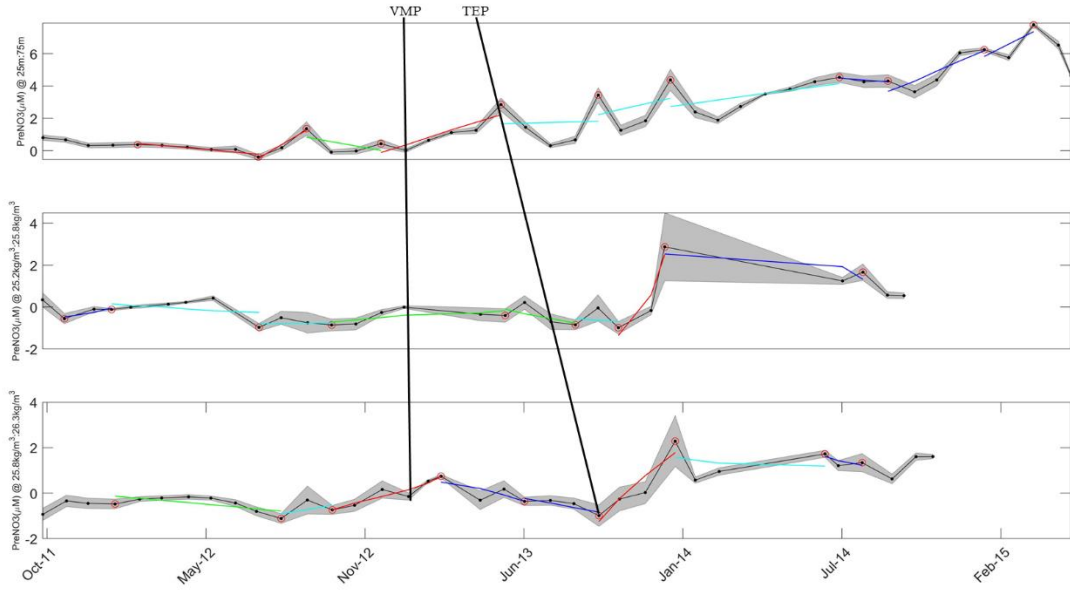


Figure S15. $PreNO_3$ for Bermuda 6975 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $25.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $26.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

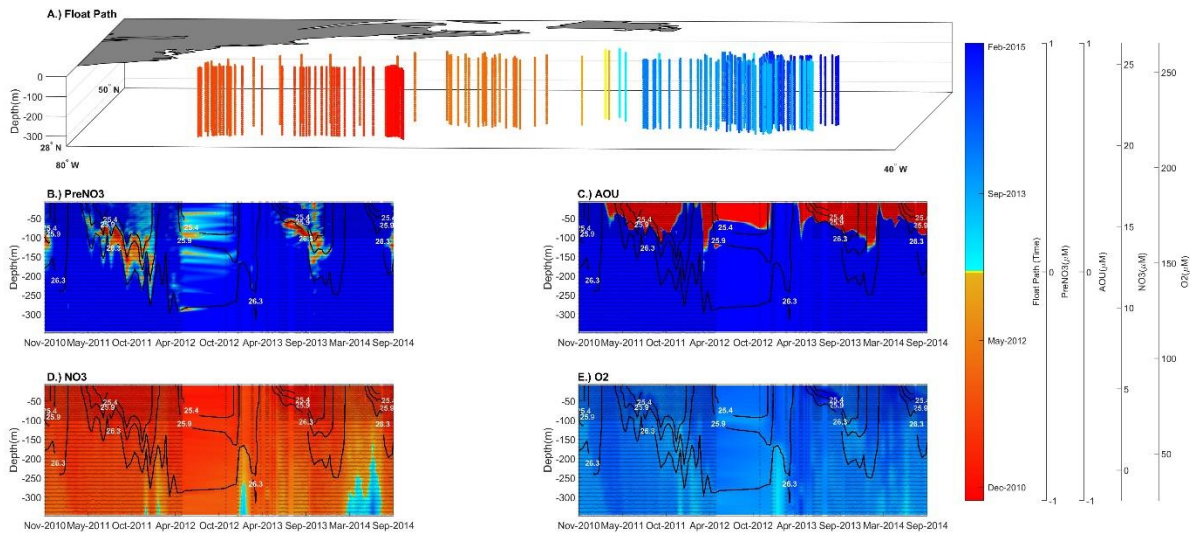


Figure S16. A.) Float path of Bermuda 6976 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path Nov-10 to Feb-15, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $25.4 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $25.9 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and $26.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

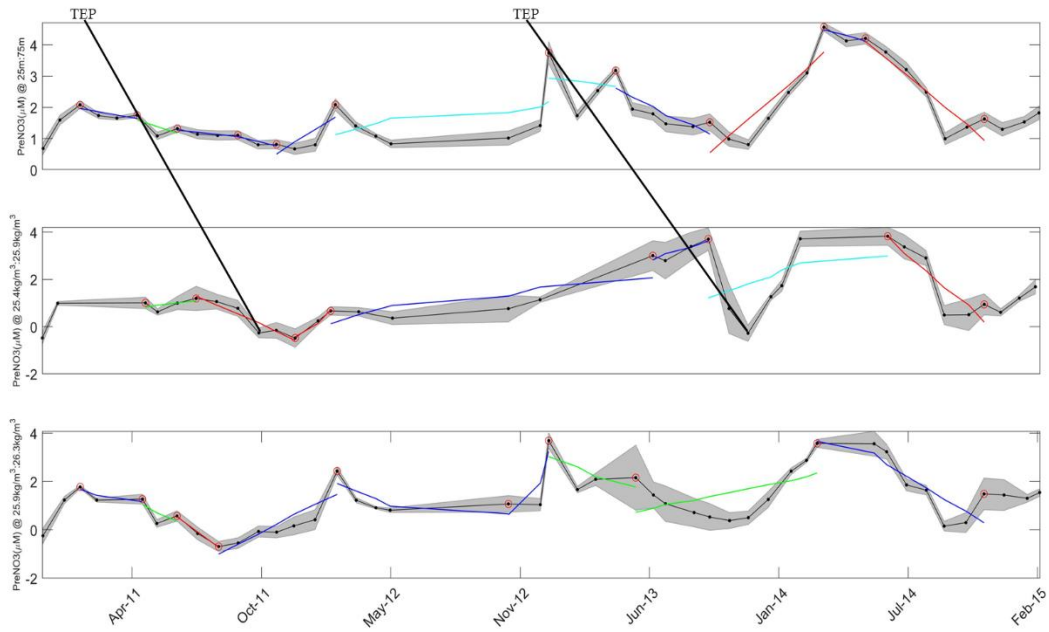


Figure S17. $PreNO_3$ for Bermuda 6976 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.4 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $25.9 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.9 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $26.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

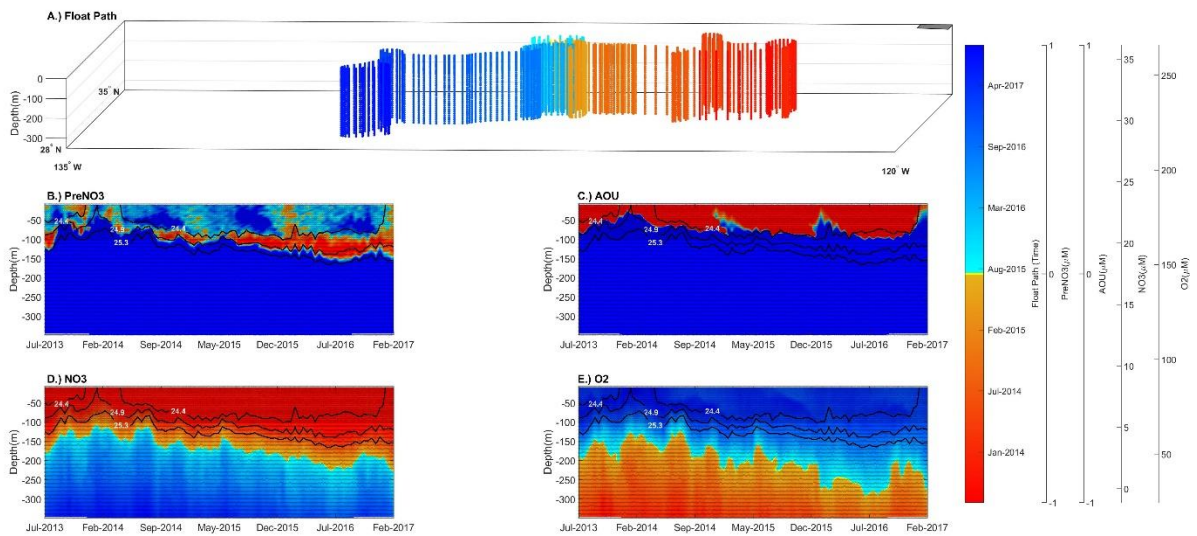


Figure S18. A.) Float path of CALCURRENT 7618 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Jul-13 to Aug-17. C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $24 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $24.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and $25 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

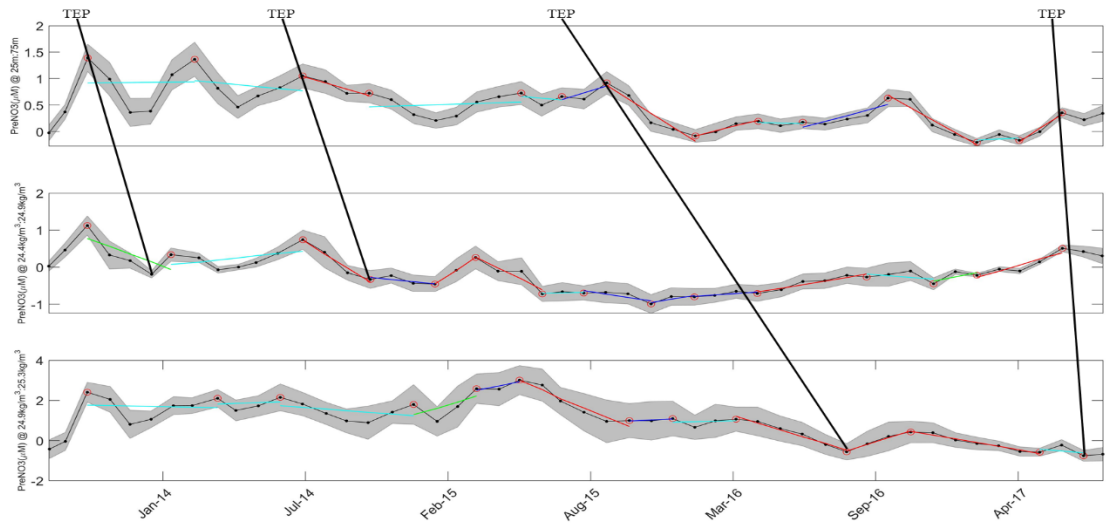


Figure S19. $PreNO_3$ for CALCURRENT 7618 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $24.4 \frac{kg}{m^3}$; $24.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $24.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}$; $25 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

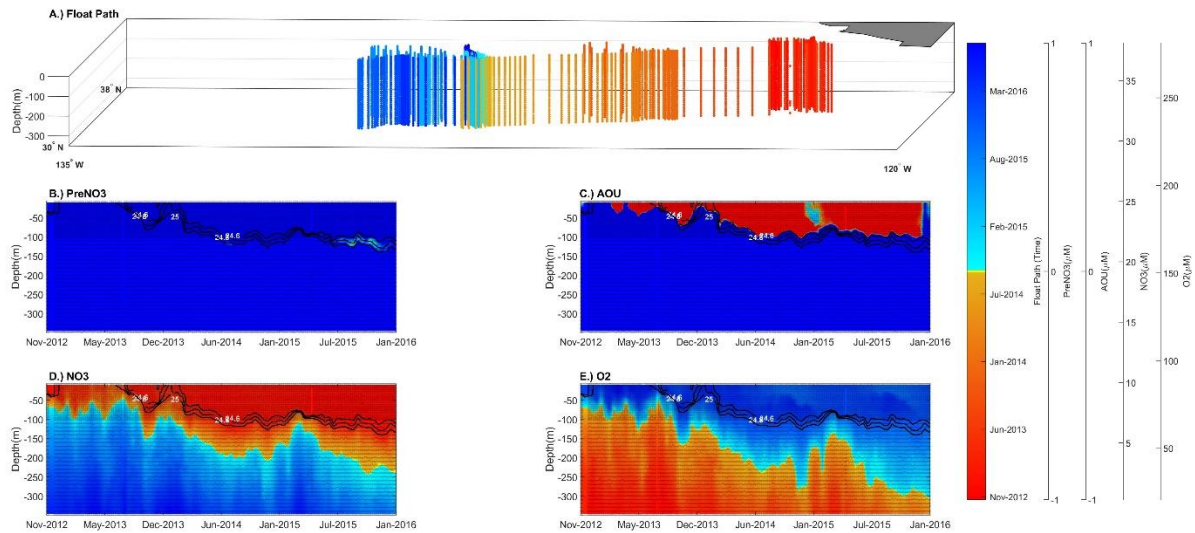


Figure S20. A.) Float path of CALCURRENT 7647 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Nov-12 to Aug-16, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $24.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $24.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and $25 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

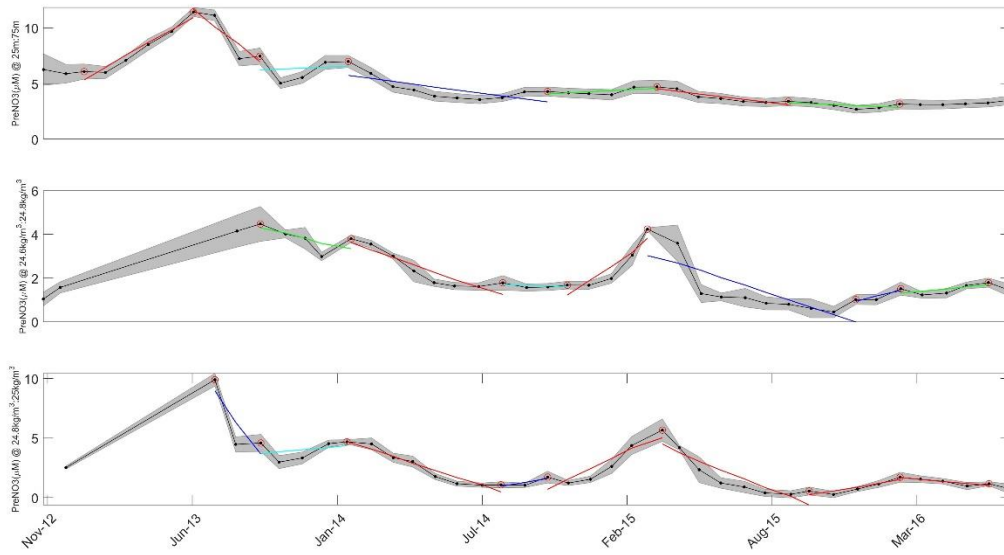


Figure S21. $PreNO_3$ for CALCURRENT 7647 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $24.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ - $24.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $24.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ - $25 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

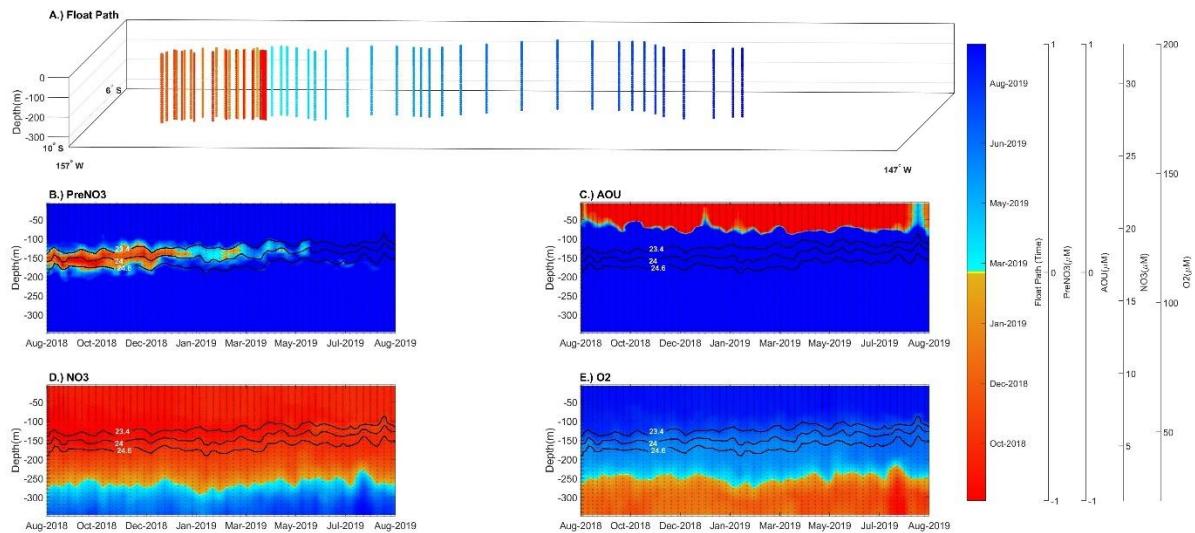


Figure S22. A.) Float path of EQPACW 8474 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Aug-18 to Sep-19, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $23.4 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $24 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and $24.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

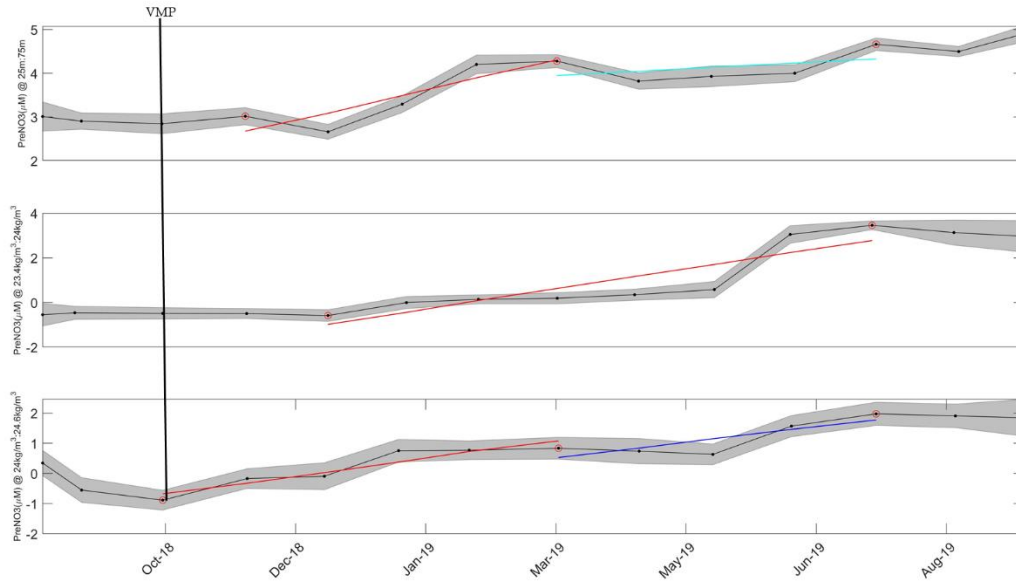


Figure S23. $PreNO_3$ for EQPACW 8474 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $23.4 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $24 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $24 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $24.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

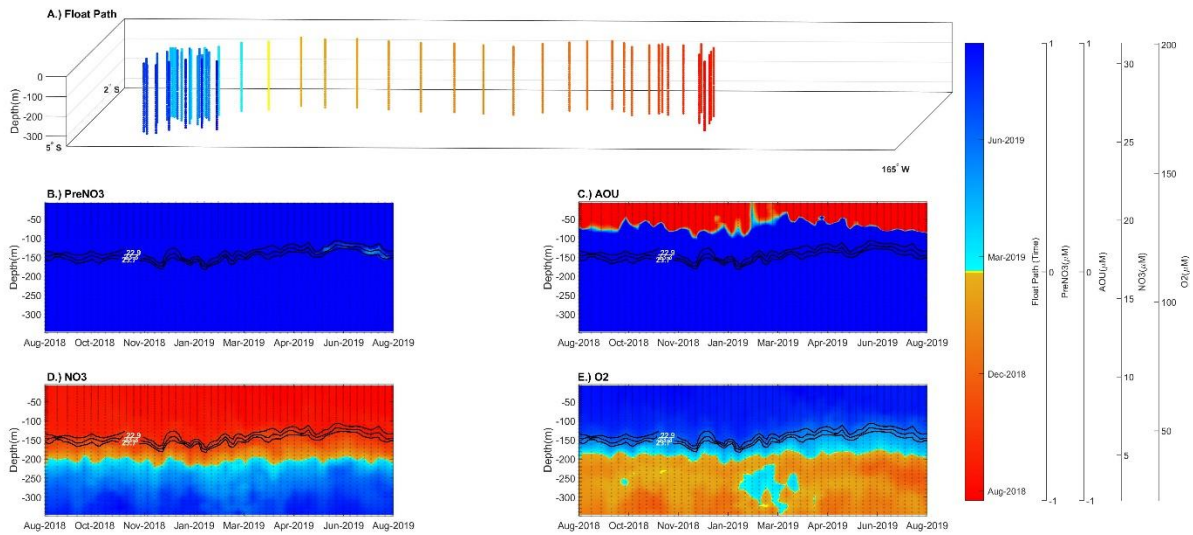


Figure S24. A.) Float path of EQPACW 12788 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Aug-18 to Sep-19. C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $22.9 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $23.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and $23.7 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

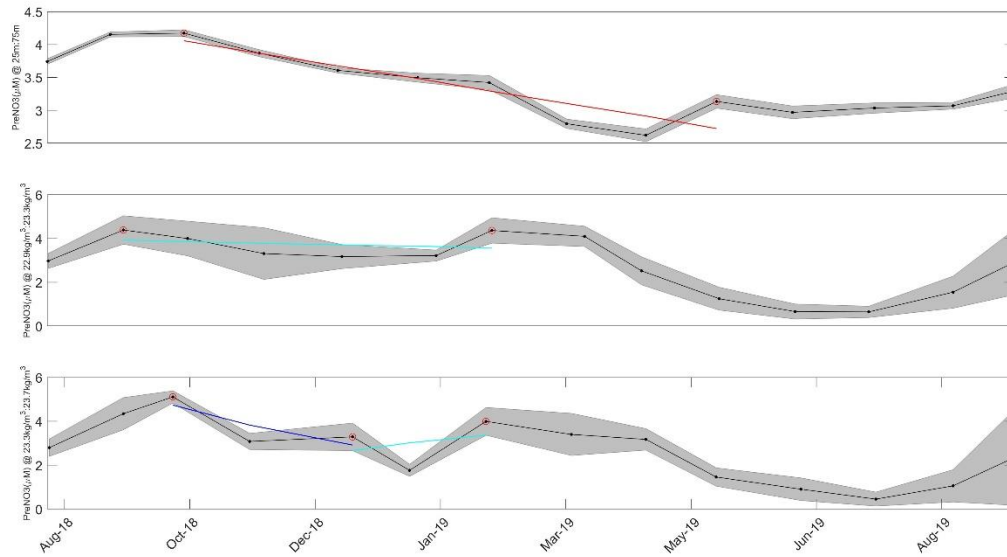


Figure S25. $PreNO_3$ for EQPACW 12788 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $22.9 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ - $23.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $23.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ - $23.7 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

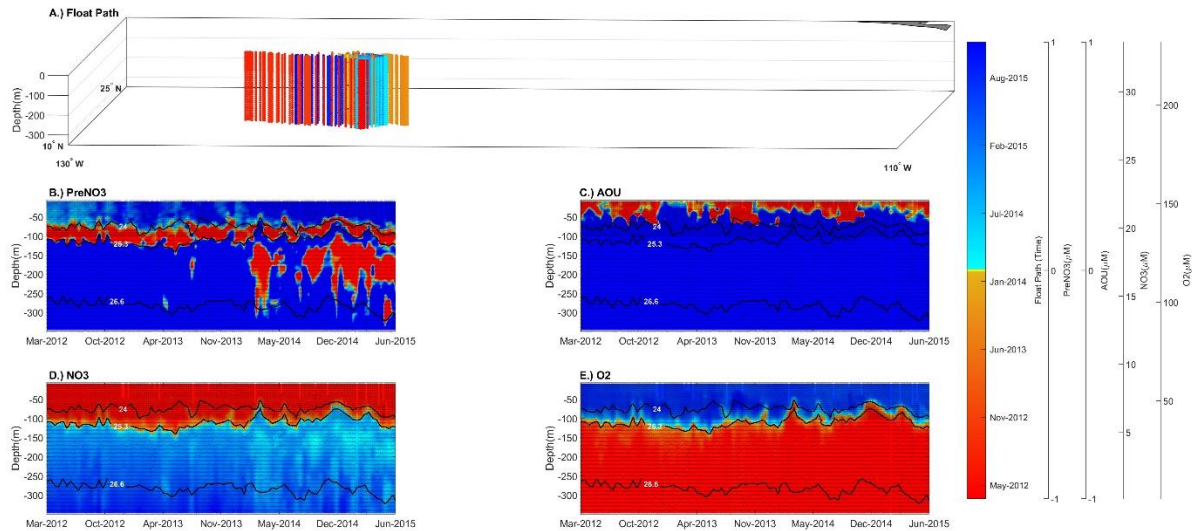


Figure S26. A.) Float path of ETNP 6960 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Mar-12 to Dec-15, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $24 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and $26.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

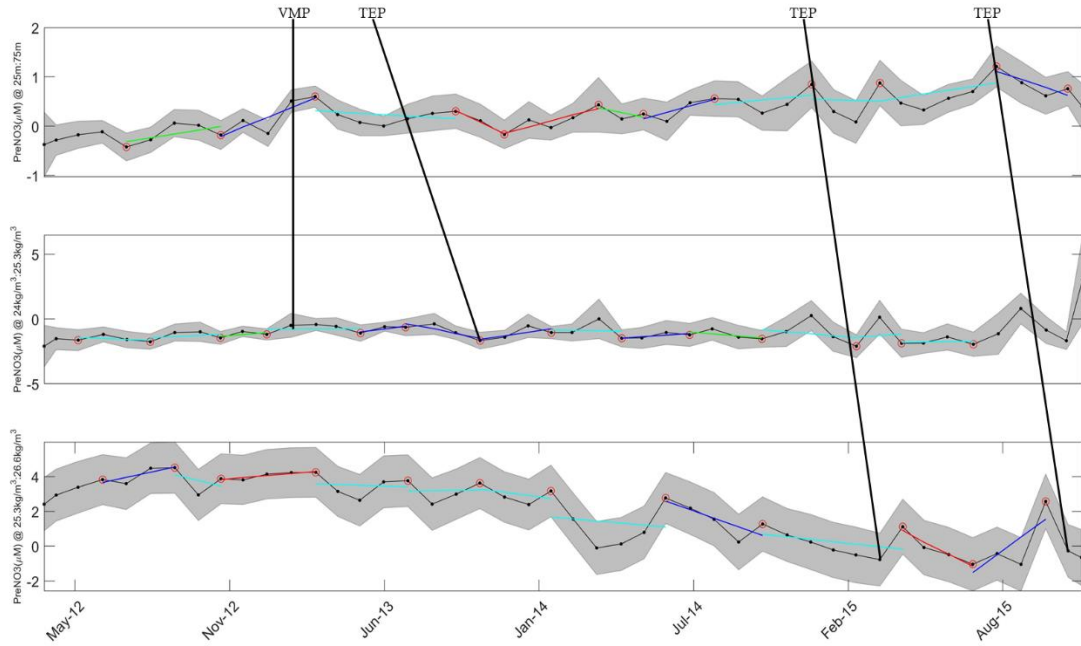


Figure S27. $PreNO_3$ for ETNP 6960 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $24 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $26.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

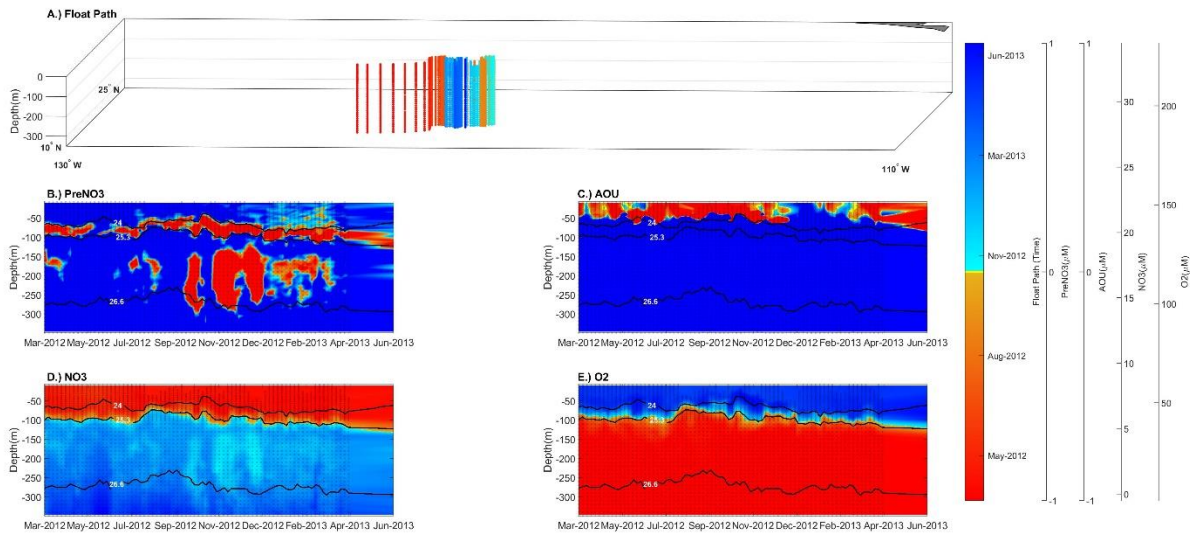


Figure S28. A.) Float path of ETNP 7558 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Mar-12 to Jun-13, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals, $24 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ and $26.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

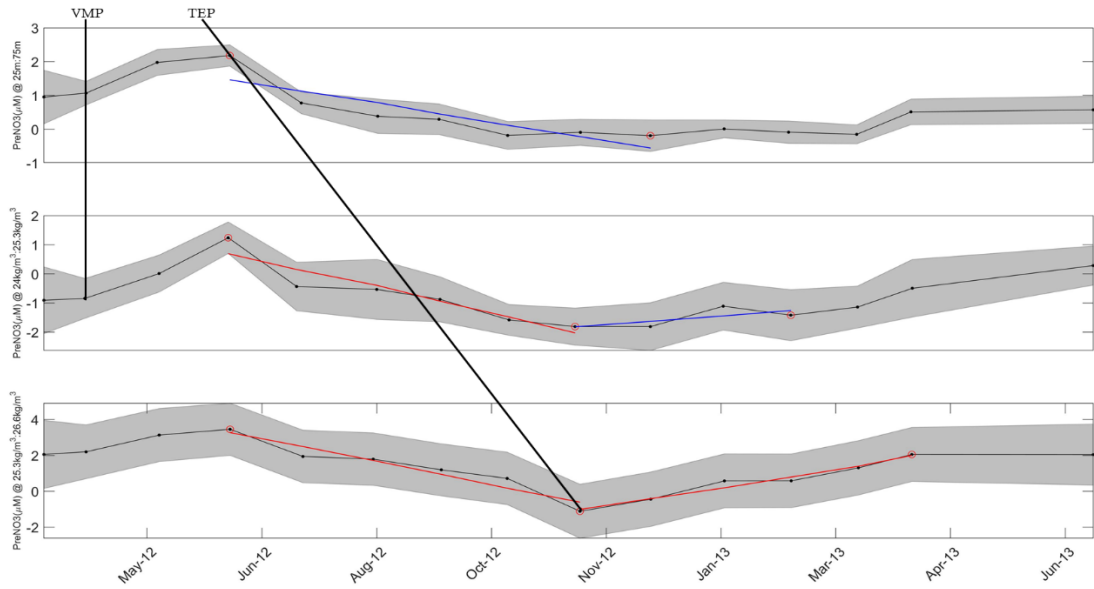


Figure S29. $PreNO_3$ for ETNP 7558 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $24 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $26.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

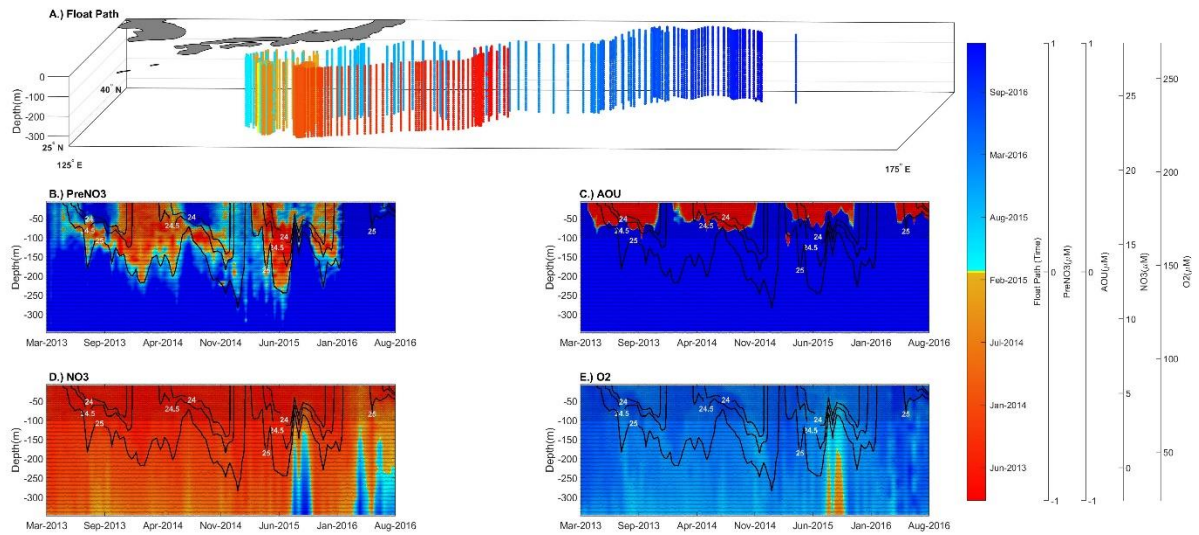


Figure S30. A.) Float path of KUROSHIO 7546 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Mar-13 to Mar-17, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals $24 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $24.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and $25 \frac{kg}{m^3}$ chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

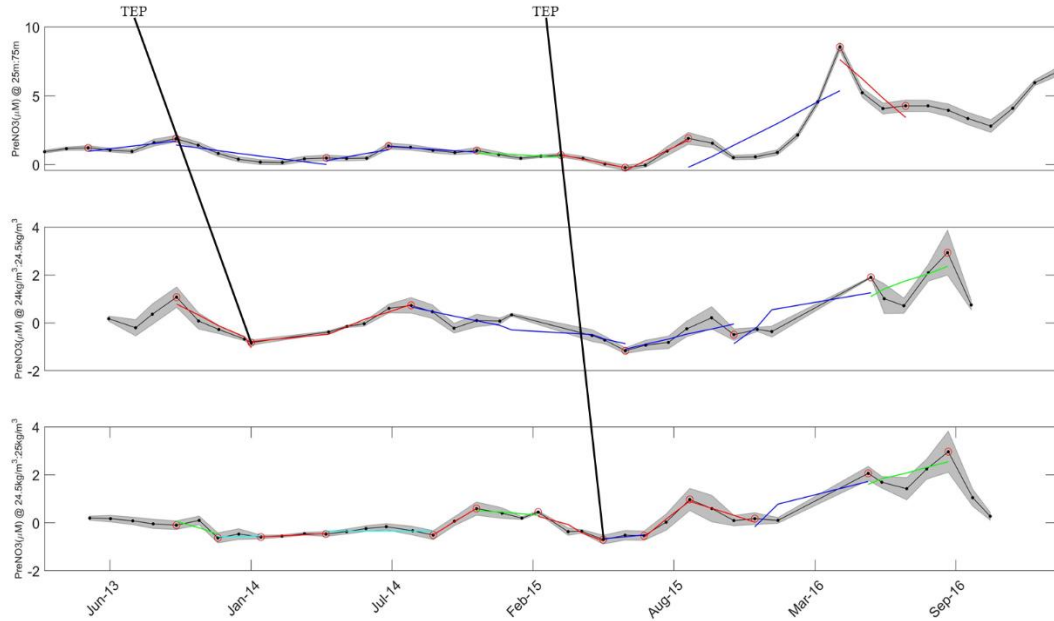


Figure S31. $PreNO_3$ for KUROSHIO 7546 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $24 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $24.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $24.5 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $25 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

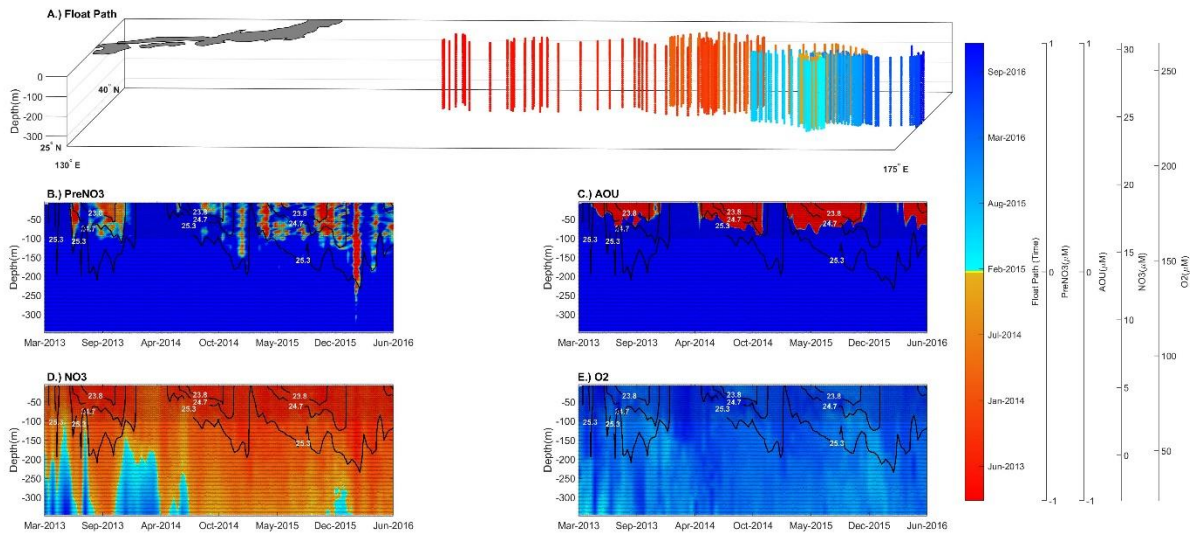


Figure S32. A.) Float path of KUROSHIO 7674 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Mar-13 to Jan-17, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals $23.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $24.7 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

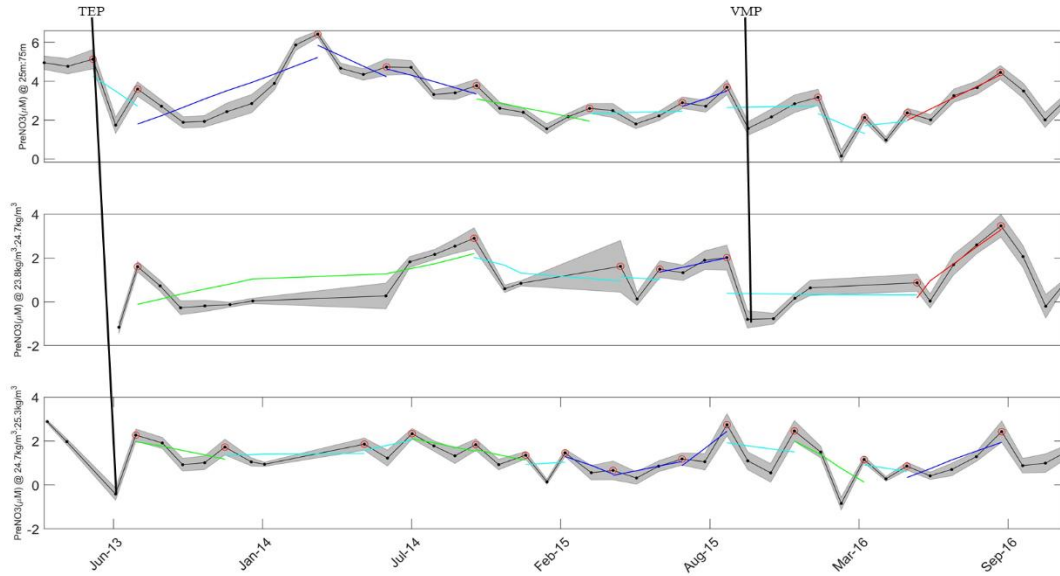


Figure S33. $PreNO_3$ for KUROSHIO 7674 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $23.8 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $24.7 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $24.7 \frac{kg}{m^3}$: $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

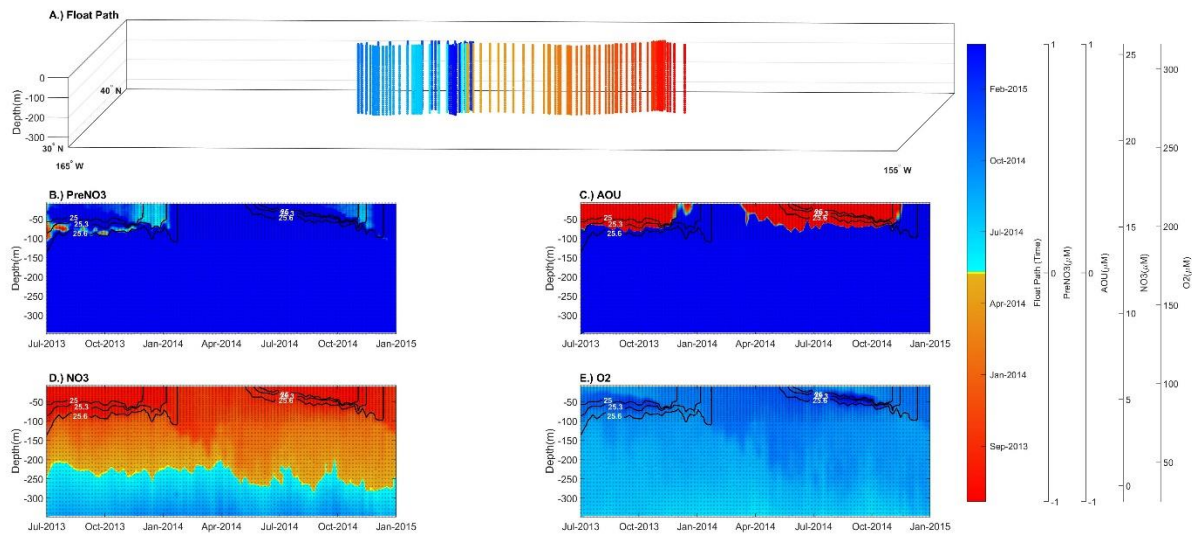


Figure S34. A.) Float path of NOPACIFIC 7642 colored by time. B.) $PreNO_3$ for the first 350m of water column along float path from Jul-13 to Apr-15, C.) AOU for the first 350m of water column along float path. D.) NO_3 for the first 350m of water column along float path. E.) O_2 for the first 350m of water column along float path. Black lines in B:E represent isopycnals $25 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and $25.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, chosen to outline anomalies. Dots in B:E represent observations. $PreNO_3$ and AOU limited to -1:1.

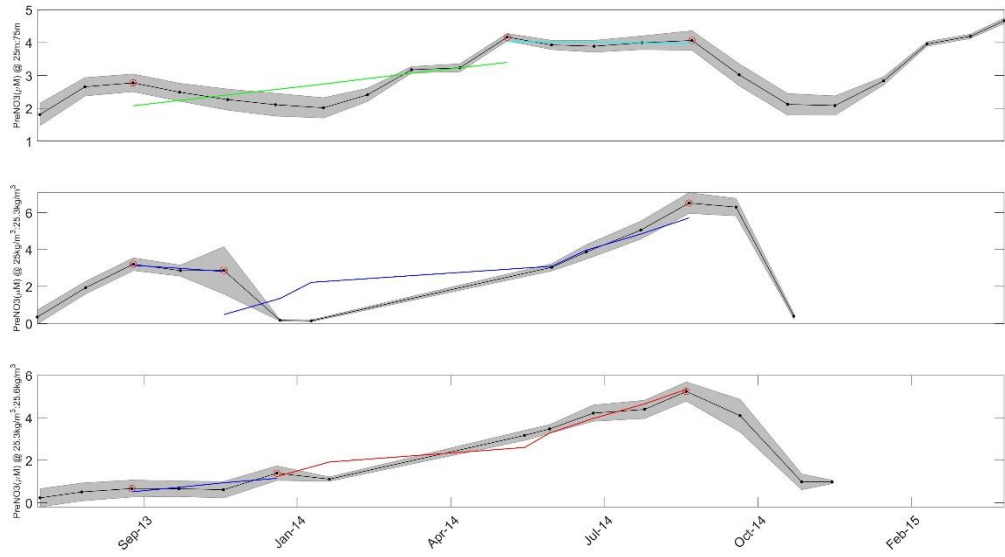


Figure S35. $PreNO_3$ for NOPACIFIC 7642 smoothed to show $PreNO_3$ per month with regression of $PreNO_3$ vs time. Top figure $PreNO_3$ at 25m-75m, middle figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3} - 25.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$, and bottom figure $PreNO_3$ at $25.3 \frac{kg}{m^3} - 25.6 \frac{kg}{m^3}$. Black dots are observations and the ones with red circles are local minima and maxima. Regressions colored by the value of the correlation coefficient; $r^2 > 0.75$ (Red), $0.75 > r^2 > 0.5$ (Blue), $0.5 > r^2 > 0.25$ (Green), $0.25 > r^2 > 0$ (Cyan). Grey regions represent 95% confidence intervals for $PreNO_3$ values. Black lines on figures indicate observations where TEP or VMP may have been responsible.

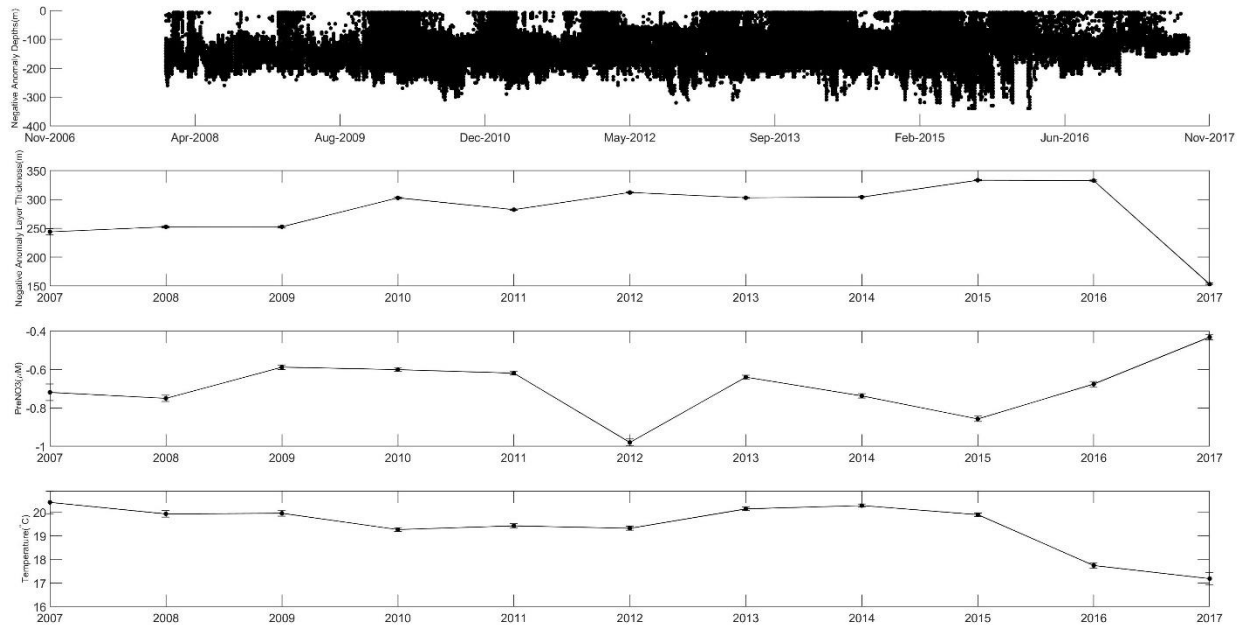


Figure S36. Interannual Variability of North Pacific; depths where negative $PreNO_3$ occurred (Top Panel), Thickness of layer were negative $PreNO_3$ occurred smoothed by year (Second Panel), $PreNO_3$ from the negative $PreNO_3$ layer smoothed by year (Third Panel), Temperature smoothed by year (Bottom Panel). Error bars are standard error.