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¹ Meltwater Pathways from Marine Terminating ² Glaciers of the Greenland Ice Sheet

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3 The Greenland Ice Sheet (GrIS) stores the largest amount of freshwater
4 in the northern hemisphere and has been recently losing mass at an increas-
5 ing rate. An eddy-permitting ocean general circulation model is forced with
6 realistic estimates of freshwater flux from the GrIS. Two approaches are used
7 to track the meltwater and its trajectory in the ocean. We show that fresh-
8 water from western and eastern GrIS have markedly different fates, on a decadal
9 timescale. Freshwater from west Greenland predominantly accumulates in
10 Baffin Bay before being exported south down the Labrador shelf. Meanwhile,
11 GrIS freshwater entering the interior of the Labrador Sea, where deep con-
12 vection occurs, comes predominantly ($\sim 80\%$) from east Greenland. There-
13 fore, hosing experiments, which generally assume a uniform freshwater flux
14 spatially, will not capture the true hydrographic response and regional im-
15 pacts. In addition, narrow boundary currents are important for freshwater
16 transport and distribution, requiring simulations with eddy-resolving reso-
17 lution.

1. Introduction

18 The Greenland Ice Sheet (GrIS) is the second largest icesheet in the world. The GrIS
19 has lost large amounts of mass recently [*Sasgen et al.*, 2012; *Shepherd et al.*, 2012]. Since
20 the early 1990s, the ice sheet has gone from close to balance to an imbalance exceeding
21 370 Gt/yr for 2009-2012 [*Enderlin et al.*, 2014], equivalent to 12 mSv. The GrIS has the
22 potential to increase global sea level by 7.3 metres [*Bamber et al.*, 2013] and could pass a
23 threshold for the viability of the ice sheet for a temperature increase above pre-industrial
24 of 3.1°C [*Robinson et al.*, 2012]. The enhanced mass loss from the GrIS comes from a
25 combination of factors including: increasing surface air temperatures [*Box et al.*, 2009;
26 *Hanna et al.*, 2013], a positive feedback between increases in Arctic temperatures and
27 decreasing Arctic sea ice [*Hanna et al.*, 2013] and increasing presence of relatively warm
28 ocean temperatures contacting the GrIS [*Holland et al.*, 2008; *Myers and Ribergaard*, 2013;
29 *Straneo and Heimbach*, 2013; *Jackson et al.*, 2014]. The largest increases in freshwater
30 flux from the GrIS have occurred in the southeast and southwest sectors, close to areas
31 of dense water formation in the North Atlantic Ocean.

32 The southern part of the North Atlantic Subpolar Gyre (SPG) flows across the North
33 Atlantic as the North Atlantic Current (NAC) and continues as the Irminger Current,
34 circulating along Reykjanes Ridge [*Fratantoni and Pickart*, 2007] (Fig.1). The Irminger
35 Current flows along the southeast coast of Greenland where it merges with two relatively
36 fresh currents, made up of Arctic and Greenland melt waters [*Bacon et al.*, 2014]. This
37 merged current mixes and is modified as it rounds Cape Farewell and subducts under
38 the low-salinity polar water, forming the West Greenland Current (WGC) [*Straneo*, 2006;

39 *Fratantoni and Pickart, 2007; Melling et al., 2008; Myers et al., 2009*]. The WGC continues
40 northward through Davis Strait into Baffin Bay, with less saline, cold waters at the surface
41 and relatively warm, saline water at intermediate depth [*Myers et al., 2009; Curry et al.,*
42 *2014*].

43 Additionally, relatively warm Atlantic waters flow from the NAC through the
44 Greenland-Scotland Ridge into the Nordic Sea. The Atlantic waters enter the Arctic
45 Ocean through Fram Strait as the West Spitsbergen Current or through the Barents Sea.
46 The recirculated modified Atlantic and Arctic waters enter the North Atlantic Ocean
47 through Fram Strait, with the East Greenland Current (EGC).

48 The Labrador Sea (the western part of the North Atlantic SPG) has significant biological
49 activity, icebergs, sea ice, and intense air-sea interactions with extreme winds and cold
50 temperatures [*Marshall et al., 1998*]. Buoyancy-driven convection in the central Labrador
51 Sea may be sensitive to freshwater input, lowering the density of the surface waters,
52 reducing convection [*Aagaard and Carmack, 1989; Straneo, 2006; Myers et al., 2009;*
53 *Weijer et al., 2012*]. Sources of high latitude freshwater include: river runoff, waters
54 from the Arctic Ocean through the Canadian Arctic Archipelago (CAA) and Hudson
55 Strait, sea ice, icebergs, and the GrIS [*Dickson et al., 2007*]. All these sources have
56 increased, with much of this increase focused on the Labrador Sea [*Yang et al., 2016*].
57 Additionally, freshwater input into Baffin Bay may impact the dynamic height gradient
58 between the Arctic Ocean and Baffin Bay [*Marsh et al., 2010; Castro de la Guardia et al.,*
59 *2015*], modifying the inflow of Arctic Waters through the CAA into Baffin Bay.

60 The convection in the Labrador Sea links surface waters to the formation of the North
61 Atlantic Deep Water (NADW) [Weijer *et al.*, 2012], feeding the Atlantic Meridonal Over-
62 turning Circulation (AMOC) [Dickson *et al.*, 2007; Weijer *et al.*, 2012]. The sensitivity of
63 the AMOC to freshwater input varies depending on different climate model simulations,
64 though they come to the same result, with increased freshwater flux from the GrIS the
65 AMOC will undergo a weakening phase [Fichefet *et al.*, 2003; Swingedouw *et al.*, 2014].
66 However due to the coarse resolution of climate models, the formation of bouyant bound-
67 ary currents tight to the coast of the Labrador Sea can be unresolved. Thus we look at the
68 pathways of the low salinity melt waters from these coastal glaciers and where it is taken
69 up in the surrounding basins. Luo *et al.* [2016] show using a high resolution numerical
70 model that at least half of the meltwater originating from southeast Greenland in a given
71 summer is transported west into the northern Labrador Sea, while less than 15% of the
72 surface meltwater from southwest Greenland goes westwards.

73 Here we will examine the eventual fate of the Greenland meltwater as it is taken up
74 within the sub-polar gyre and Baffin Bay over longer timescales. By considering all regions
75 of the GrIS and not just the southern coasts, we show for the first time a spatial breakdown
76 of the Greenland meltwater that enters the convective interior of the Labrador Sea, by
77 several routes and with multiple timescales.

2. Methods

78 To examine the fate of a specific water mass, we used a well tested [Lique *et al.*, 2010;
79 de Boisson *et al.*, 2012; Hu and Myers, 2013] offline Lagrangian tool, ARIANE [Blanke
80 and Raynaud, 1997; Blanke *et al.*, 1999]. Although ARIANE provides only the advection

81 scheme, with the diffusion and mixing process partly handled by the source (e.g. numerical
82 model's velocity fields), it still can provide useful information on the large-scale ocean
83 circulation.

84 To compute three dimensional (3D) trajectories, ARIANE is provided with ocean veloc-
85 ity fields. In this study we take the velocity fields from two different numerical simulations.
86 Both simulations are regional configurations of a coupled ocean-sea ice model based on
87 the Nucleus for European Modelling of the Ocean (NEMO) version 3.4 [*Madec, 2008*].
88 We use the Arctic Northern Hemisphere Atlantic (ANHA) configuration for the ANHA4
89 and ANHA12 simulations. This configuration covers the whole Arctic Ocean and North
90 Atlantic and part of South Atlantic, with two open boundaries: one at Bering Strait
91 and the other at 20°S. The configuration's mesh grid is extracted from a global tripolar
92 grid, ORCA [*DRAKKAR et al., 2007*]. ANHA4 has a 1/4° horizontal grid with resolution
93 ranging from ~5.79km in Northern Canada to ~27.9km at the equator. ANHA12 has
94 a 1/12° horizontal resolution, with a resolution of ~1.93km near the artificial pole over
95 Northern Canada and ~9.3km at the equator. Both configurations have 50 vertical model
96 levels. The configuration is coupled with the Louvain la-Nueve Ice Model (LIM2) sea ice
97 thermodynamic and dynamic numerical model [*Fichefet and Morales Maqueda, 1997*] with
98 initial and monthly open boundary conditions provided by Global Ocean Reanalyses and
99 Simulations (GLORYS) [*Ferry et al., 2008*]. The atmospheric forcing data, provided by
100 Canadian Meteorological Centre's (CMC) global deterministic prediction system (GDPS)
101 reforecasts (CGRF) dataset [*Smith et al., 2014*] has hourly 33km resolution for the fol-

102 lowing fields: 10 metre surface wind, 2 metre air temperature and humidity, downward
103 shortwave and longwave radiation and total precipitation.

104 The ANHA4 simulation uses interannual monthly runoff from *Dai et al.* [2009] except for
105 the Greenland region which is provided by *Bamber et al.* [2012]. The ANHA12 simulation
106 uses monthly climatology runoff [*Dai et al.*, 2009]. The detailed settings of each simulation
107 are also discussed in previous studies using this configuration [*Holdsworth and Myers*,
108 2015; *Dukhovskoy et al.*, 2016].

109 The analysis was done using the output (5 day) velocity fields for years 2002-2010
110 for ANHA4 and ANHA12 for each of the 5 sectors (shown in Fig.1 and listed in Table
111 S1) to examine the pathways of GrIS melt found near the mouth of marine terminating
112 glaciers. Virtual particles (hereafter, called particles) were released at the latitudes and
113 longitudes (associated with the corresponding sectors of Greenland as shown in Fig.1 and
114 defined in Table S1). The locations were close to the model coastline, outside the mouth
115 of the marine terminating glacier fjords. To capture the estuarine circulation of a fjord
116 and mixing with interior ocean waters, it requires an extremely high resolution, which is
117 beyond the ability of our current simulations.

118 To simulate how the surface water outside each outlet region's fjord get taken up by
119 the surrounding ocean currents, particle initial positions (~ 1000) were homogeneously
120 distributed in space in the first 21 model grid levels of the water column (77.85 metres)
121 and then were integrated forward in time for 5 years. This was repeated for each successive
122 starting year, with the final probabilities determined by taking the particle positions over
123 all years. To present the pathways of the water in a more meaningful (statistic) way, we

124 defined five likelihood categories (Very High, High, Medium, Low and Very Low), based
125 on the probability of the occurrence of all particles in any given grid box during the entire
126 5 year period (Table S2). The depth terminology used throughout this manuscript are
127 defined in Table S2. Additional information regarding the methodology can be found in
128 a previous dissertation [*Gillard, 2015*].

3. ARIANE Results

129 We first use a Lagrangian virtual float tool to examine the pathways of the freshwater
130 melt from 5 sectors of the GrIS (Fig.1). One representative glacier is chosen for each
131 region. Results for additional glaciers in each region are given in the supplementary
132 information.

133 Surface freshwater by the outlet region of Petermann Glacier (PG) (Fig.2.1) has a high
134 probability to head south through Nares Strait at surface and subsurface depths and enter
135 Baffin Bay interior at sub-intermediate depths. These waters do not significantly extend
136 to the West Greenland shelf. They do recirculate at surface and subsurface depths, and
137 then enter central Baffin Bay after flowing south in the Baffin Island Current with some of
138 these waters remaining even after 5 years. Most of the waters does travel south through
139 Davis Strait, leaving after 2 to 3 years. Significant inflow and recirculation in Hudson
140 Strait is seen, consistent with previous studies [*Straneo and Saucier, 2008*].

141 Most of the freshwater is then carried south by the Labrador Current. The very low
142 probabilities next to the coast (in this and subsequent figures) suggests very little glacial
143 water gets into the inshore branch of the Labrador Current, which is instead fed by outflow
144 from Hudson Bay [*Loder et al., 1998*]. Much of the freshwater rounds the tip of the Grand

145 Banks, to reach the Scotian shelf within 5 years. There is offshore exchange south of
146 Flemish Cap into the NAC (consistent with observations [*Fratantoni and McCartney,*
147 2010]), albeit with much higher probabilities in the coarser resolution run. There are
148 very low probabilities offshore of the Labrador Current suggesting little exchange into the
149 interior of the Labrador Sea in this area.

150 Here we will discuss Disko Bay (DB) (Fig.2.2) and Julianehab (JUL) (Fig.2.3), as results
151 for other glaciers in the west sector behave similarly (Fig.S1.2, Fig.S1.3, Fig.S1.4). The
152 freshwater influx from these glaciers behaves similar to that from PG in Baffin Bay, so we
153 will not repeat that discussion from above, except where the results are different. Since
154 JUL discharges directly onto the West Greenland shelf, we do see high probabilities there.
155 The main difference is that for the particles released near the Baffin Bay glaciers, they
156 have a much greater probability of being transported offshore into the SPG. Even if the
157 probabilities are higher in ANHA4, we still do not see significant offshore exchange in
158 ANHA12. These particles are then quickly mixed through the SPG and reach the interior
159 of the Newfoundland Basin with medium probabilities. Some particles circulate around
160 the SPG within 5 years, and there is a pathway into the southern interior of the Labrador
161 Sea from the south.

162 We discuss results from Helheim Glacier (HEL) (Fig.2.4), which has similar behaviour
163 to all the southeast outlet regions and as well as several from north of Denmark Strait,
164 including Kangerdlugssuaq (KGLQ), Kong Christian IV (KCIV) and ScoresbySund (SBS)
165 (Fig.S1.5, Fig.S1.6, Fig.S1.7). There is a tongue of high probability in the EGC/WGC, as
166 the particles (and freshwater) are swept away within one year by the boundary current.

167 There is also a recirculation of EGC waters south of Cape Farewell, as observed by *Holliday*
168 *et al.* [2007, 2009]. There is significant transport into Baffin Bay by the WGC. In all cases,
169 particles circulate around the northern Labrador Sea into the Labrador Current. Since
170 they are offshore of the Baffin Island Current, there is only a low probability of penetration
171 into Hudson Strait. Once in the Labrador Current, there is significant offshore exchange
172 into the NAC and the Labrador Sea at deep depths. Particles are seen offshore in the
173 region of the northwest corner within 3 years of release and reach the convective interior
174 of the Labrador Sea from the south within 5 years. Additionally, the particles released
175 from the east Greenland glaciers show offshore exchange into the Labrador Sea from the
176 WGC (as identified by *Myers et al.* [2009]; *Rykova et al.* [2015]), occurring within the first
177 year.

178 Surface waters found by the northeast outlet regions of Nioghalvfjerdingsfjorden (79NG)
179 (Fig.2.5) (similarly Zachariae Isstrom (ZI), Fig.S1.8), have a very high probability of
180 recirculating close to the outlet region at surface to subsurface depths. Some of the
181 particles are transported into the Arctic Ocean, where they flow west north of Greenland
182 and enter Nares Strait. However, the majority flow south with the EGC, although this
183 process takes around 3 years. There is significant offshore exchange south of the Greenland
184 Sea around the Jan Mayen Fracture Zone in the Jan Mayen Current [*Mauritzen et al.*,
185 2011]. The particles continue south through Denmark Strait and around Greenland,
186 following the EGC, WGC and the Labrador Current. Penetration into Baffin Bay occurs
187 but at lower probability compared to the glaciers farther south. Most particles continue

188 south in the Labrador Current, four to five years after release, with little exchange offshore
189 north of the Grand Banks (especially in ANHA12).

4. Discussion

190 Given the potential significance of the divergent pathways for west and east Greenland
191 particles (and thus freshwater), we wonder about the sensitivity of the results to the use
192 of ARIANE. We thus repeat an experiment [*Dukhovskoy et al.*, 2016] except defining 5
193 passive tracers for the different regions of coastal Greenland (Fig.3.a). As discussed in
194 greater detail in that paper [*Dukhovskoy et al.*, 2016], passive tracers are released from
195 January 1, 2004, proportional to the amount of runoff from Greenland at each timestep,
196 and each grid cell.

197 Integrated concentrations of the passive tracer after 7 years (the end of 2010) are shown
198 for the southwest (Fig.3.c) and southeast (Fig.3.d) tracer release locations. In general,
199 the tracer field is consistent with ARIANE. The tracer released from southwest Greenland
200 (Fig.3.c) accumulates mainly in Baffin Bay, and then flows south along the Labrador
201 Current to the Scotian Shelf. Most of the offshore exchange is still around Flemish Cap
202 and the Grand Banks. There is limited take-up of this tracer in the interior of the Labrador
203 Sea, with entry coming from the south. Some of the southeast Greenland tracer penetrates
204 Baffin Bay (Fig.3.d). However, very little of the tracer is seen on the Labrador and Scotian
205 shelves. Instead there is significant accumulation offshore in the Labrador Sea and the
206 Newfoundland Basin. Plumes of higher tracer concentration recirculating back into the
207 Irminger Sea are seen south of Cape Farewell, consistent with the circulation pattern of
208 *Holliday et al.* [2007, 2009].

209 To quantify the take-up of the regional Greenland passive tracers in the interior of the
210 Labrador Sea (given on Fig.3.a), we look at two definitions of the interior of the Labrador
211 Sea. One is the same small interior box used in a previous study [*Dukhovskoy et al.*,
212 2016], while the other is based on the 3000 metre isobath and includes the region where
213 deep convection occurs (given on Fig.1). This confirms the picture from ARIANE and the
214 passive tracer concentration maps. As seen in Fig.3.d, tracer from southeast Greenland
215 is rapidly transported into the Labrador Sea soon after it is turned on, with continual
216 and significant accumulation during the entire run. After 7 years, there is approximately
217 3 times as much of the tracer from southeast Greenland in the Labrador Sea interior as
218 from southwest Greenland. In fact, there is as much of the tracer from the more northerly
219 glaciers of the Nordic Seas part of east Greenland as from southwest Greenland.

220 Recycling our forcing over 2004-2010 to provide an extra 7 years of simulation, as in
221 *Dukhovskoy et al.* [2016], it is evident from Fig.3.b that the TRC05 has a lagged signal of
222 accumulation into Labrador Sea, showing that meltwater from southwest Greenland will
223 eventually be taken into the Labrador Sea, after circulating the basin, and being taken
224 offshore around the Grand Banks.

225 In this study, we trace the pathways of meltwater from Greenland into the basin inte-
226 riors. Since we cannot represent the fjord dynamics and the mixing that occurs within
227 them, we release the particles in the upper (low salinity) water column on the shelf, after
228 departing the fjord. The response of the ocean to the added freshwater from Greenland
229 is an important question and has been looked at in many studies [*Aagaard and Carmack*,
230 1989; *Fichefet et al.*, 2003; *Straneo*, 2006; *Dickson et al.*, 2007; *Myers et al.*, 2009; *Marsh*

231 *et al.*, 2010; *Weijer et al.*, 2012; *Straneo and Heimbach*, 2013; *Swingedouw et al.*, 2014;
232 *Castro de la Guardia et al.*, 2015]. However, most such studies have been focused on
233 changes in sea level [*Fichefet et al.*, 2003; *Marsh et al.*, 2010; *Rignot and Mouginot*, 2012;
234 *Castro de la Guardia et al.*, 2015], deep water formation [*Straneo*, 2006; *Weijer et al.*,
235 2012; *Swingedouw et al.*, 2014], the AMOC [*Fichefet et al.*, 2003; *Dickson et al.*, 2007;
236 *Weijer et al.*, 2012; *Swingedouw et al.*, 2014] and the large scale climate response [*Fichefet*
237 *et al.*, 2003; *Straneo and Heimbach*, 2013] rather than a detailed examination of the path-
238 ways. A study [*Dukhovskoy et al.*, 2016] examined pathways of melt from Greenland using
239 passive tracers, looking at its detailed take-up in basins such as the Labrador Sea and the
240 Nordic Seas. However, they [*Dukhovskoy et al.*, 2016] do not break down the discharge by
241 region, which we believe is important as the response is not homogeneous.

242 Almost all of the freshwater released from west and southwest Greenland is initially
243 swept away by the boundary currents and ends up in Baffin Bay. For those glaciers in
244 Baffin Bay, this is not surprising. Although there is significant exchange from the WGC
245 into the interior of the Labrador Sea [*Myers et al.*, 2009; *Rykova et al.*, 2015], the freshwater
246 released from the glaciers in southwest Greenland feeds the inshore shelf component of the
247 WGC and is thus rapidly transported north to Baffin Bay (Fig. S2). This is consistent
248 with a more idealized modelling study [*Castro de la Guardia et al.*, 2015] and supports
249 their contention that circulation within Baffin Bay and the exchange through the CAA is
250 very dependent on the melt from West Greenland.

251 From Baffin Bay, most of the particles that leave, flow south in the Baffin Island Current
252 and the Labrador Current. There is some inflow into Hudson Strait [*Straneo and Saucier*,

253 2008]. Note that almost no particles get into the inshore component of the Labrador
254 Current, which is instead fed by freshwater from the Hudson Bay System. There is little
255 direct exchange from the Labrador Current into the Labrador Sea and thus this freshwater
256 is unlikely to have a direct short term impact on convection, unlike that observed in water
257 hosing experiments [*Fichefet et al.*, 2003; *Myers*, 2005; *Swingedouw et al.*, 2006]. Many
258 of the particles actually continue south to the Scotian shelf and the mid-Atlantic Bight,
259 a region known to be impacted by SPG waters [*Li et al.*, 2014]. Offshore exchange into
260 the SPG is concentrated around Flemish Cap and the Grand Banks [*Fratantoni and*
261 *McCartney*, 2010]. Given that this exchange path involves interaction with the NAC,
262 significant dilution of the freshwater signal will occur, limiting the transport of low salinity
263 signals.

264 The particles and passive tracer from the glaciers of eastern Greenland (such as HEL,
265 Fig.2.4 and Fig.3.d) more easily reach the interior of the Labrador Sea. This occurs both
266 due to exchange from the WGC, and also do to circulation around the Labrador Sea. The
267 exchange from the WGC is rapid, occurring within 6 months of release (Fig. 2, S2). As
268 the particles are farther offshore along a deeper isobath, they recirculate back to the north
269 (Fig. S2) in the Labrador Sea counter-current [*Lavender et al.*, 2000]. These particles are
270 then taken up into the Labrador Sea Water and transported to greater depths in winter.

271 It is widely accepted that freshwater fluxes from Greenland have been increasing since
272 the mid 1990s [*Bamber et al.*, 2012], which will have an impact on the surrounding oceans
273 [*Marsh et al.*, 2010]. However, this study clearly indicates that melt from different sectors
274 of Greenland has markedly different pathways within the high latitude seas. Melt and

275 runoff from west and southwest Greenland will have a disproportionate effect on Baffin
276 Bay and the Labrador Current. However, it is discharge from east Greenland that will
277 impact the interior of the Labrador Sea, at least on decadal timescales, and thus poten-
278 tially impact stratification, deep water formation and the AMOC (and its associated heat
279 transport). GrIS freshwater fluxes are also an important source of nutrients to coastal
280 waters and affect, therefore, biological productivity [*Hawkings et al.*, 2016] as well as the
281 hydrography. Our results indicate that the fate of freshwater and nutrient export from
282 the GrIS is sensitive to the location that it enters the ocean and that narrow boundary
283 currents play a critical role in the transport. Models that do not adequately resolve these
284 boundary currents will struggle to capture this behaviour.

285 The inclusion of the entire coast of the GrIS in the analysis offers in detail, where and
286 how the freshwater from all regions of the GrIS enters the Labrador Sea and Baffin Bay. A
287 recent study [*Luo et al.*, 2016] also used passive tracers to examine the fate of meltwater
288 from southwest and southeast Greenland. They found only limited amounts of runoff
289 from southwest Greenland entering the northern Labrador Sea while at least half of the
290 runoff from southeast Greenland was found to enter that region. Work presented here
291 agrees with previous results of *Luo et al.* [2016] and significantly extends the analysis.

292 For the first time it is shown that meltwater from different regions of Greenland pene-
293 trate into the interior of the Labrador Sea uniquely, on different timescales. We offer two
294 routes for Greenland meltwater tracer entering and accumulating in the interior convec-
295 tive part of the Labrador Sea, a rapid offshore exchange from the WGC, as well a lagged,
296 freshwater signal entering the Labrador Sea from the south. The different penetration of

297 meltwater from different regions of Greenland into the convective interior of the Labrador
298 Sea on different timescales is important for the formation of the Labrador Sea Water. This
299 water mass is what makes the Labrador Sea important for the AMOC and its associated
300 heat transport and large scale climate response.

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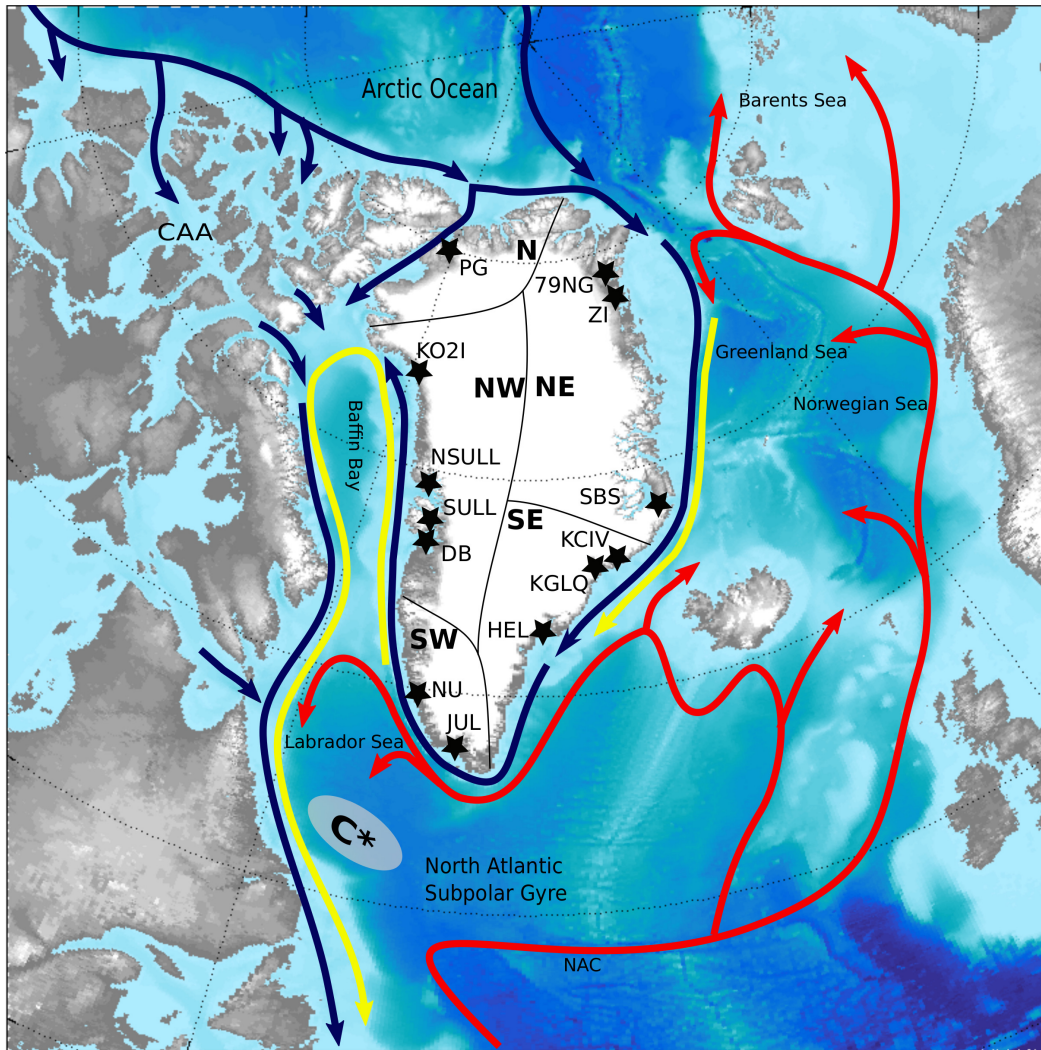
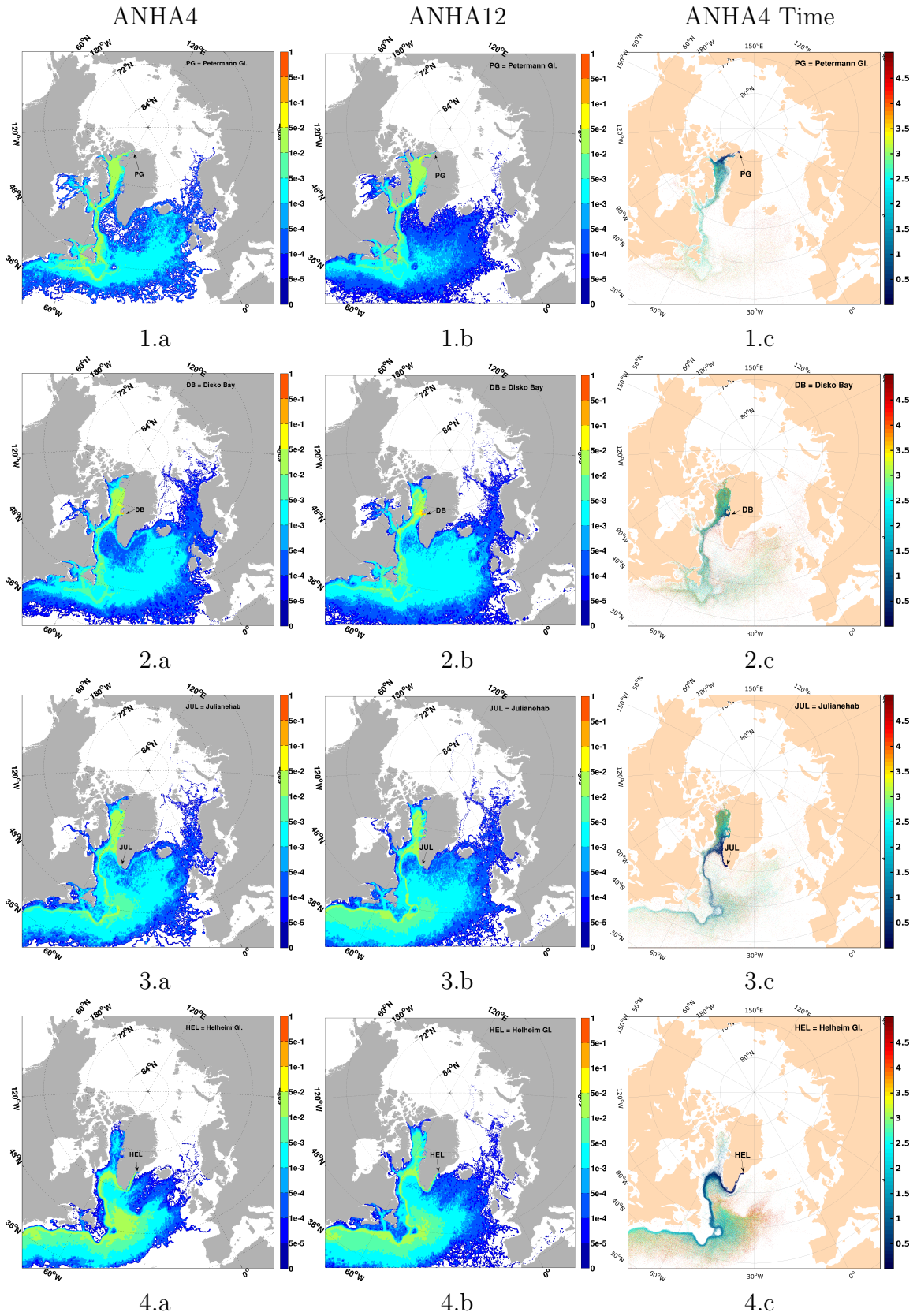


Figure 1. Ocean Circulation around Greenland and 13 outlet regions along the Greenland Ice Sheet. Relatively warm Atlantic waters are seen in red and, the yellow dashed lines represent the mixed and cooled Atlantic waters. Arctic water and freshwater pathways are shown in blue dashed lines. The Labrador Sea deep convection site is approximately located at the C*. The black stars show the distribution of the 13 outlet regions examined along the coast of the Greenland Ice Sheet and the sectors they are found in, North (N), Northwest (NW), Southwest (SW), Southeast (SE), and Northeast (NE). For exact locations see Table S1.



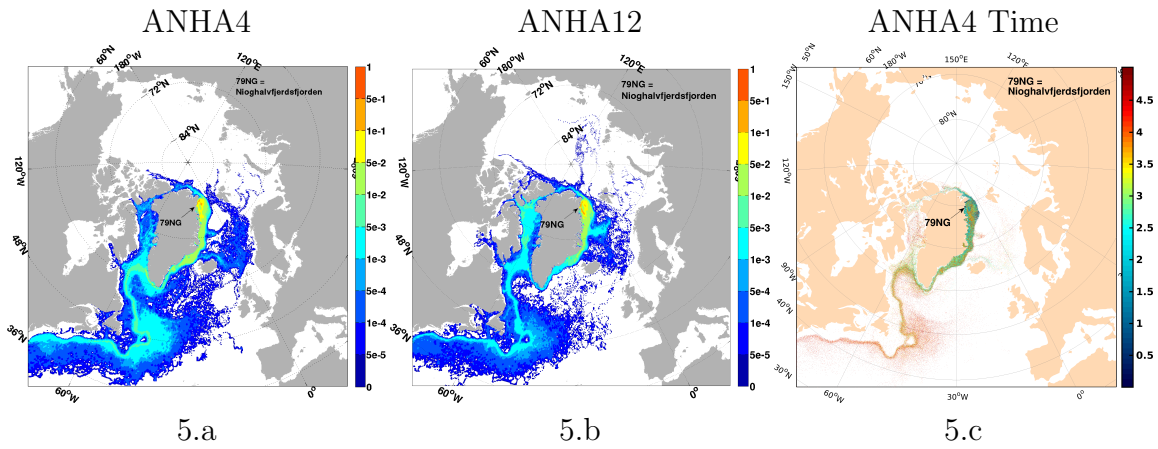


Figure 2. Forward transport of ARIANE virtual particles at selected outlet regions. Every row shares a similar outlet region, noted by the arrow in the figure with the full name on the top right hand side of the figure. Each column separates the outlet region by the 2 experiments (ANHA4 and ANHA12 respectively) and a time evolution analysis of ANHA4. This figure contains 1 outlet region for the 5 separate sections along Greenland. The first two columns show the probability a given virtual particle to be found in a given model grid cell, based on 5 year averages from the ARIANE Lagrangian model run in forward mode. Particle initial positions (~ 1000 per insertion (yearly)) are homogeneously distributed in space in the first 21 model grid levels of the water column (77.85 metres). Values here correspond to the percentage out of all particles and grid cells that particles can be found in a given grid cell. The third column shows the time evolution of the virtual particles from the ANHA4 experiment. For an analysis on the other 8 outlet regions see Fig. S1.

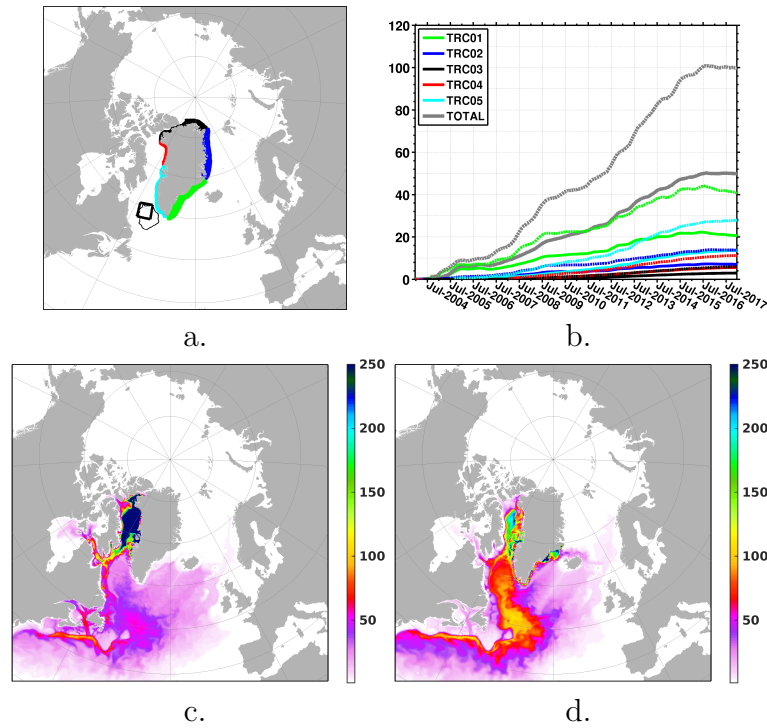


Figure 3. 5 passive tracers for different regions along the coast of Greenland. Passive tracers are released from January 1, 2004, proportional to the amount of runoff from Greenland at each timestep, and each grid cell. (a): Shows the location of five passive tracers, corresponding to the location of freshwater input. The thick black box shows the location of the central Labrador Sea and the thin black polygon outlines the 3000 metre deep central basin. (b): Shows the evolution of central Labrador Sea tracer storage (solid line for the central Labrador Sea and dashline for the deep basin in Fig.3.a) integrated over the region with units of volume (km^3). (c): Vertical integral concentration (units of kg/m^2) of the passive tracer released from southwest Greenland (TRC05, colour in cyan in Fig.3.a,b) by the end of 2010. (d): Vertical integration concentration (units of kg/m^2) of the passive tracer released from southeast Greenland in 2004 (TRC01, green colour in Fig.3.a,b) by the end of 2010.