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Key Points:

- Expansion of Glacial North Pacific Intermediate Water (GNPIW) to the tropical Pacific
- Glacial switch to additional influence of GNPIW at the Eastern Equatorial Pacific
- Enhanced GNPIW convection coincides with low-latitude nutrient and marine productivity changes

Supporting Information:

- Table S1
- Table S2

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Evidence for enhanced convection of North Pacific Intermediate Water to the low-latitude Pacific under glacial conditions

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Abstract We provide high-resolution foraminiferal stable carbon isotope ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) records from the subarctic Pacific and Eastern Equatorial Pacific (EEP) to investigate circulation dynamics between the extratropical and tropical North Pacific during the past 60 kyr. We measured the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ composition of the epibenthic foraminiferal species *Cibicides lobatulus* from a shallow sediment core recovered from the western Bering Sea (SO201-2-101KL; 58°52.52'N, 170°41.45'E; 630 m water depth) to reconstruct past ventilation changes close to the source region of Glacial North Pacific Intermediate Water (GNPIW). Information regarding glacial changes in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of subthermocline water masses in the EEP is derived from the deep-dwelling planktonic foraminifera *Globorotaloides hexagonus* at ODP Site 1240 (00°01.31'N, 82°27.76'W; 2921 m water depth). Apparent similarities in the long-term evolution of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ between GNPIW, intermediate waters in the eastern tropical North Pacific and subthermocline water masses in the EEP suggest the expansion of relatively ^{13}C -depleted, nutrient-enriched, and northern sourced intermediate waters to the equatorial Pacific under glacial conditions. Further, it appears that additional influence of GNPIW to the tropical Pacific is consistent with changes in nutrient distribution and biological productivity in surface waters of the glacial EEP. Our findings highlight potential links between North Pacific mid-depth circulation changes, nutrient cycling, and biological productivity in the equatorial Pacific under glacial boundary conditions.

1. Introduction

The high latitudes of the North Pacific and the Southern Ocean play an essential role in regulating the exchange of CO_2 between the ocean and the atmosphere [Takahashi *et al.*, 2002]. In both regions, vertical mixing brings nutrient- and CO_2 -rich deep waters into the euphotic zone and facilitates the biological pump, which sequesters atmospheric CO_2 back into the deeper ocean interior [e.g., Honda *et al.*, 2002]. In the modern North Pacific, however, the further exposure of nutrient- and CO_2 -rich subsurface waters to the surface ocean is largely hampered by a permanent halocline [Haug *et al.*, 1999]. In both regions, intermediate water masses are formed that recirculate excess nutrients from the high-latitude oceans toward the low-latitude regions of the Pacific Ocean (Figure 1). North Pacific Intermediate Water (NPIW) is formed in the subsurface of the Northwest Pacific via mixing of high-nutrient subsurface waters and intermediate water masses produced in coastal polynyas through brine rejection during wintertime sea ice production in the Okhotsk Sea [Talley, 1993; Shcherbina *et al.*, 2003]. Today, NPIW circulates within the upper ~300–800 m and is mainly restricted to the subtropical North Pacific regions between ~20°N and 40°N; however, a tongue of NPIW also spreads into the Celebes Sea in the western tropical Pacific [Talley, 1993; Bostock *et al.*, 2010]. In the Southern Ocean Antarctic Intermediate Water (AAIW) is produced at the surface ocean from upwelled nutrient- and CO_2 -enriched Circumpolar Deep Water (CDW). AAIW further ventilates into the Subtropical Gyre and thereby transports heat, salt, and other chemical species, including dissolved CO_2 , from the high latitudes of the Southern Ocean toward the equatorial Pacific. This, so-called “ocean tunneling” is one major process that provides nutrients to tropical Pacific thermocline waters today [e.g., Bostock *et al.*, 2010] (Figure 1).

An important difference between northern and southern sourced intermediate waters is that subsurface formation of NPIW largely prevents the biologically driven resetting of deep ocean nutrient ratios that happens at the surface ocean during formation of AAIW. It is for this reason that NPIW is characterized by higher silicic acid to nitrate supply ratios compared to southern sourced intermediate waters [Sarmiento *et al.*, 2004] (Figure 1). On the other hand, as carbon fixation is dominated by siliceous phytoplankton at the surface ocean near the formation region of modern AAIW, southern sourced intermediate waters are characterized by high

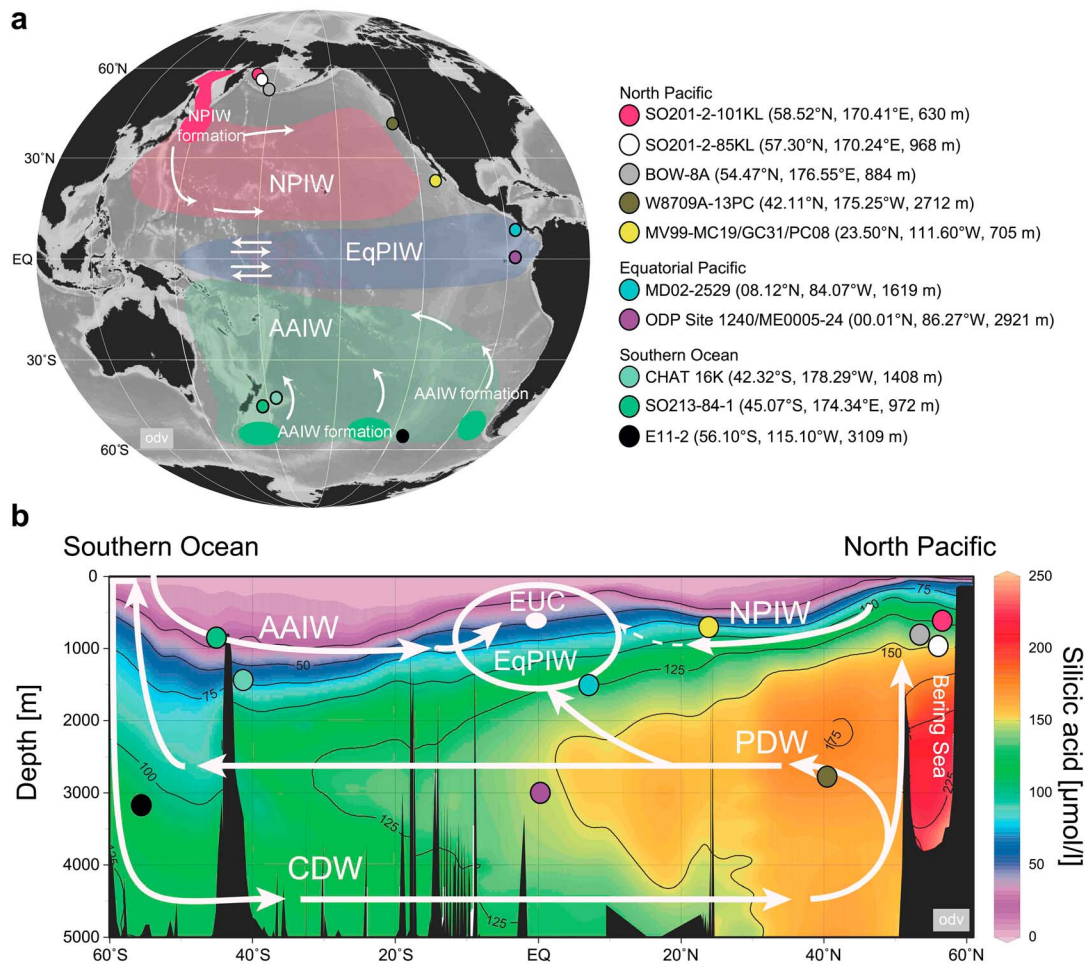


Figure 1. (a) Bathymetric chart of the Pacific Ocean with locations of proxy records in the North Pacific (SO201-2-101KL, this study; SO201-2-85KL [Max *et al.*, 2012]; BOW-8A [Horikawa *et al.*, 2010]; W8709A-13PC [Lund and Mix, 1998]; MV99-MC19/GC31/PC08 [Basak *et al.*, 2010]), the equatorial Pacific (MD02-2529 [Leduc *et al.*, 2010]; ODP Site 1240 [Pichevin *et al.*, 2009; this study]; ME0005-24 [Kienast *et al.*, 2007]), and the Southern Ocean (CHAT 16K [Noble *et al.*, 2013]; SO213-84-1 [Ronge *et al.*, 2015]; E11-2 [Robinson *et al.*, 2014]) considered in this study. White arrows denote major circulation pattern of intermediate water masses in the North Pacific and Southern Ocean. Magenta and green spots indicate formation regions of AAIW and NPIW, and shaded magenta and green areas mark modern lateral extent of intermediate waters in the Pacific Ocean. (b) Meridional section of present-day silicic acid concentrations from the North Pacific to the Southern Ocean [Garcia *et al.*, 2010] and major modern mid-depth to deep-water masses (white arrows): AAIW = Antarctic Intermediate Water; CDW = Circumpolar Deep Water; EUC = Equatorial Undercurrent; EqPIW = Equatorial Pacific Intermediate Water; NPIW = North Pacific Intermediate water; PDW = Pacific Deep Water (modified after Bostock *et al.* [2010]). This figure was generated with Ocean Data View [Schlitzer, 2015].

nitrate, but low silicic acid concentrations [Sarmiento *et al.*, 2004] (Figure 1). Under modern conditions, mainly southern sourced water masses (AAIW) are injected into the eastward directed Equatorial Undercurrent (EUC) and the Equatorial Pacific Intermediate Water (EqPIW) via the South Equatorial Current and the New Guinea Coastal Undercurrent [Dugdale *et al.*, 2002]. The dominant role of AAIW on equatorial intermediate waters was also verified by a geochemical tracer analyses that suggests that EqPIW are primarily a combination of AAIW and Pacific Deep Water (PDW) with only a very minor contribution of NPIW today [Bostock *et al.*, 2010] (Figure 1). As the intermediate water masses flow toward the east, they supply nutrients via diapycnal mixing to the overlying waters masses [Rafter and Sigman, 2016]. As a consequence of the high southern sourced contribution today, carbon fixation by siliceous phytoplankton is limited by low silicic acid and iron availability in the Eastern Equatorial Pacific (EEP), making this region a significant net source of CO₂ to the atmosphere [Dugdale *et al.*, 2002].

Information regarding past deep ocean circulation changes can be reconstructed from the stable carbon isotopic composition ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) measured on benthic foraminiferal tests. During the past 30 years, this proxy has been successfully used to investigate glacial to interglacial changes in water mass geometry and ocean

circulation [e.g., Duplessy et al., 1984; Curry et al., 1988; Mix et al., 1991; Curry and Oppo, 2005; Bostock et al., 2010; Knudson and Ravelo, 2015a]. In the modern ocean, high (low) values of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of the Dissolved Inorganic Carbon (DIC) are indicative of low (high) nutrient concentrations and large-scale oceanic water mass circulation patterns [Kroopnick, 1985]. For $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ reconstructions of intermediate- and deep-water mass circulation changes the initial $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, which is set in surface waters before subduction into the ocean interior, has to be taken into account. The initial $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value of a water mass is affected by air-sea gas exchange at the surface ocean, which in turn is temperature dependent. After isolation from the surface ocean, the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of a given water mass is mainly altered by in situ addition of CO_2 through respiration of sinking organic material and mixing with other water masses. Today, a $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ of about 1‰ characterize surface waters of the North Atlantic where North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW) is formed. As it flows to the circum-Antarctic Ocean interior the continuous degradation of sinking organic particles reduces the original $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ of NADW to about 0.5‰. In the Southern Ocean deep water further recirculates to the Indian and Pacific Oceans and lowest values of $\sim -0.6\text{‰}$ $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ are observed today in the deep subarctic Pacific. Since $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of epibenthic foraminifera is closely related to the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ of ambient seawater, past differences in nutrient content and water mass circulation patterns can be reconstructed from benthic foraminiferal tests preserved in marine sediments [e.g., Duplessy et al., 1984].

Combined evidence of $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ deep-water ventilation ages and benthic foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records suggest changes in mid-depth circulation (the upper 1000 to ~ 2000 m water depth) of the North Pacific Ocean under glacial conditions [Duplessy et al., 1988; Herguera et al., 1992; Keigwin, 1998; Matsumoto et al., 2002a; Okazaki et al., 2012]. Accordingly, the mid-depth circulation of the North Pacific was strengthened by formation of Glacial North Pacific Intermediate Water (GNPIW). In contrast to today, it has been proposed that the Bering Sea formed intermediate waters during glacial times and played an important role in formation of GNPIW [e.g., Tanaka and Takahashi, 2005; Horikawa et al., 2010]. Evidence for additional cold and well-oxygenated intermediate water in the glacial Bering Sea has been provided from a study based on changes in radiolarian assemblages [Tanaka and Takahashi, 2005]. Based on a neodymium isotope record (ϵNd), it has been argued that Bering Sea intermediate water was a principal component of GNPIW during the glacial period [Horikawa et al., 2010]. The formation of glacial Bering Sea intermediate waters was explained by changes in high-latitude hydrological processes such as enhanced brine rejection with the resulting salinity increase favoring the subduction of cold surface waters to the mid-depth in the Bering Sea as important precursor of GNPIW [Rella et al., 2012]. A recent study based on endobenthic foraminiferal stable oxygen ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$) and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records from the Bering Sea indicates that enhanced GNPIW formation was not only restricted to the LGM but also recurred during other extreme glacial intervals of the last 1.2 Myr [Knudson and Ravelo, 2015a].

There is so far no consensus about the amount of AAIW production during glacial boundary conditions. Based on $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ analyses on benthic foraminifera from the Australian margin, it has been suggested that a colder and fresher water mass ventilated at intermediate depths, which was linked to a shift in the frontal zonation within the Southern Ocean [Lynch-Stieglitz et al., 1994]. Furthermore, a study based on authigenic minerals from the Chilean margin found higher oxygen concentrations during glacial times, which were linked to an enhanced production of AAIW [Muratli et al., 2010]. In contrast, it has been proposed that stronger water column stratification in the Southern Ocean led to a reduced production of AAIW under glacial conditions [Pahnke and Zahn, 2005]. Accordingly, periods of increased intermediate water formation were linked to Southern Hemisphere warm episodes through a tight coupling between climate warming and intermediate water production at the high southern latitudes. A recent study combined benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records off New Zealand with modeling results to reconstruct the vertical extent of AAIW over the last 350 kyr [Ronge et al., 2015]. These results showed that the vertical extent of AAIW changed on glacial-interglacial timescales with a significantly shallower AAIW subduction under glacial conditions. The shallower subduction of glacial AAIW has been related to an advanced winter sea ice edge as well as enhanced freshwater flux from sea ice melting, which reduced the salinity and resulted in formation of less dense intermediate waters in the Southern Ocean.

Studies based on ϵNd records as well as $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ shallow- and deep-water ventilation ages from the equatorial Pacific suggest a dominant role of the Southern Ocean in transferring climatic signals from the high latitudes toward the tropical regions during late Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 2 [Pena et al., 2013; de la Fuente et al., 2015]. Accordingly, available reconstructions of changes in water mass signatures of the equatorial Pacific suggest

a principal southern source for tropical Pacific intermediate water masses during glacial times similar to today. In a recent study, *Carriquiry et al.* [2015] analyzed $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records at the western Baja California Margin and relates changes in mid-depth nutrient distribution to a larger influence of glacial AAIW to the tropical North Pacific. In contrast, *Leduc et al.* [2010] explained anomalies in glacial $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of intermediate waters in the Eastern Tropical North Pacific (ETNP) by a switch from southern nutrient-poor to northern nutrient-enriched intermediate water masses due to a sustained formation of GNPIW. A recent ϵNd data compilation from 55 core sites around the Pacific [*Hu et al.*, 2016] revealed a significant offset in EEP ϵNd signature values between LGM and Holocene values (by 1–2 epsilon units lower than during the Holocene), which has been explained by a higher contribution from northern sourced waters [*Hu et al.*, 2016]. The enhanced penetration of northern sourced water masses is in agreement with evidence for enhanced glacial mid-depth circulation reconstructed from $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records of California margin sediment cores; however, these records also point to spatial and temporal complexity in the ventilation history of the Northeast Pacific [*Stott et al.*, 2000]. Together, these results imply a more prominent role of northern sourced water masses in shaping the mid-depth water mass characteristics of the glacial North Pacific. On the other hand, it still remains illusive how strengthened GNPIW circulation shaped the mid-depth water mass characteristics of the glacial North Pacific and whether GNPIW might have influenced the nutrient distribution, biological productivity, and export patterns far beyond the northern high latitudes.

In this study, we report on stable isotope measurements derived from sedimentary records of the western subarctic Pacific (Bering Sea) and EEP to investigate spatiotemporal changes in GNPIW circulation and its influence on low-latitude Pacific water mass characteristics during the past 60 kyr. We chose a sediment core from the western Bering Sea located on Shirshov Ridge (SO201-2-101KL, 58°52.52'N, 170°41.45'E, 630 m water depth, Figure 1) and measured the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ composition of the epibenthic foraminifera *Cibicides lobatulus* (*C. lobatulus*) as an indicator for past ventilation changes close to the source region of GNPIW [*Max et al.*, 2014]. Today the western Bering Sea is poorly ventilated due to the absence of local intermediate water formation and water masses bathing core site SO201-2-101KL are dominated by upwelling of nutrient-rich PDW (Figure 1b). Additional $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data of deep-dwelling planktonic foraminifera *Globorotaloides hexagonus* (*G. hexagonus*) from Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) Site 1240 (00°01.31'N, 82°27.76'W, 2921 m water depth, Figure 1) provide information about glacial changes of subthermocline water mass characteristics in the EEP. Modern water mass signatures of subthermocline waters at ODP Site 1240 are linked to the lower branch of the EUC, which brings nutrients to the surface ocean of the EEP (Figure 1b). By comparing water mass signatures of intermediate- to deep-water masses of the Pacific Ocean and Southern Ocean with subthermocline to mid-depth water masses in the tropical Pacific we (1) examine whether the influence of northern sourced versus southern sourced water masses on tropical Pacific intermediate and subthermocline water masses of the EEP changed during the last glacial period and (2) discuss potential implications for subthermocline nutrient availability and biological productivity in the equatorial Pacific in the past.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Stable Carbon ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$) and Oxygen ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$) Isotope Measurements From Benthic and Deep-Dwelling Planktonic Foraminifera

We measured the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ isotope composition of epibenthic foraminifera *C. lobatulus* selected from sediment samples of western Bering Sea sediment core SO201-2-101KL and deep-dwelling planktonic foraminifera *G. hexagonus* from samples of ODP Site 1240 in the Panama Basin (Figure 1; see supporting information Tables S1 and S2). Sedimentation rates of 11–16 cm kyr⁻¹ have been reported for core SO201-2-101KL from Shirshov Ridge [*Riethdorf et al.*, 2013] and 6.4–25.2 cm kyr⁻¹ for ODP Site 1240 [*Pena et al.*, 2008]. According to our sampling scheme, we achieved a millennial to centennial-scale resolution of proxy data in this study with an average temporal resolution of ~0.25 kyr for core SO201-2-101KL and ~0.23 kyr for the last 60 kyr of ODP Site 1240, respectively. Stable isotope analyses in core SO201-2-101KL were made on samples of two to three specimens of *C. lobatulus* picked from the 250–400 μm size fractions. The stable isotopic composition of *G. hexagonus* of ODP Site 1240 was determined using five specimens per sample picked from the 250–315 μm size fraction.

It has been proposed that *C. lobatulus* preferentially lives attached to hard substrate on or slightly above the sediment surface and studies on living specimen indicated that this species faithfully records the $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ of ambient seawater [*Schweizer et al.*, 2009]. Some investigators have observed a positive offset in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of *C.*

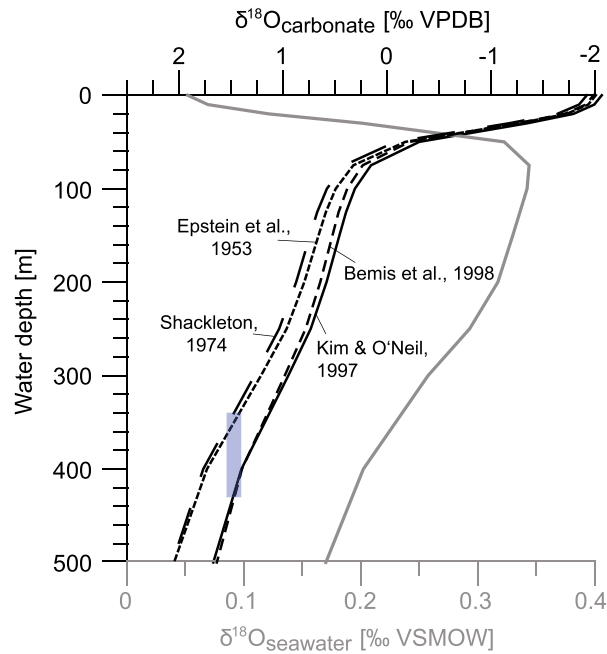


Figure 2. Apparent calcification depth (ACD) of planktonic foraminifera *G. hexagonus* in the Eastern Equatorial Pacific. ACD of *G. hexagonus* at ODP Site 1240 was inferred from best match between measured foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ values and corresponding calculated theoretically present $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$ value, which were determined using various paleotemperature equations (black partly dashed lines), modern water temperatures [Locarnini et al., 2010] and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ (gray line). The blue bar indicates the ACD range of *G. hexagonus* considering all used equations.

Overall long-term analytical reproducibility of measurements based on internal laboratory standard (Solnhofen limestone) together with samples over a 1 year period is better than $\pm 0.06\text{‰}$ for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\pm 0.08\text{‰}$ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$.

2.2. Stable Oxygen Isotope Composition ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$) and Apparent Calcification Depth of Deep-Dwelling Planktonic Foraminifera *G. Hexagonus*

Information regarding apparent calcification depth (ACD) of the planktonic foraminifera *G. hexagonus* is still sparse. We make a first attempt to determine the ACD at ODP Site 1240 to validate the depth habitat of *G. hexagonus* in the EEP. The ACD estimation was done by comparing measured foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ from a near-core top sample (at 10 cm) to a theoretically expected equilibrium $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of calcite ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$) that foraminifera would incorporate in dependence of modern water temperature, salinity, and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of seawater ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$). In order to calculate $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ -salinity relationships given by Leduc et al. [2007] for 0–40 m water depth,

$$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}(\text{‰}) = 0.253 S (\text{p.s.u.}) - 8.52,$$

and for >40 m water depth,

$$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}(\text{‰}) = 0.471 S (\text{p.s.u.}) - 16.15$$

were used in conjunction with annual salinity data derived from World Ocean Atlas 2009 [Antonov et al., 2010].

Several established $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -paleotemperature equations [Epstein et al., 1953; Shackleton, 1974; Kim and O'Neil, 1997; Bemis et al., 1998] were considered for $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ as absolute ACD estimation strongly depends on the applied temperature equation [Wejnert et al., 2013] (Figure 2). Modern temperatures are derived from the World Ocean Atlas 2009 [Locarnini et al., 2010], and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ were included after correcting $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ to the VPDB scale by subtracting the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{seawater}}$ -conversion factor given in Bemis et al. [1998].

lobatulus with regard to ambient bottom water $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ in some high-latitude settings of the North Atlantic Ocean [Mackensen et al., 2000]. However, this effect was caused by high seasonal variability of the original ambient $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ -signal, confirmed by time series measurements of water column $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ and related to the calcification of *C. lobatulus* during time intervals of maximum ventilation [Mackensen et al., 2000]. We thus regard the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -signal *C. lobatulus* to reliably reflect $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of ambient seawater.

Isotopic compositions of *C. lobatulus* and *G. hexagonus* were measured at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Germany, using a Thermo Fisher MAT 253 mass spectrometer coupled to a Kiel IV automatic carbonate preparation device. All stable isotope measurements were calibrated via the NBS-19 international standard, and results are reported in δ notation versus Vienna Pee Dee belemnite (VPDB) scale.

The water depth showing the best match between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{equilibrium}}$ is taken as the ACD of *G. hexagonus* (Figure 2).

The calculated ACD suggests that *G. hexagonus* dwells below the thermocline in 340–430 m water depth similar to estimated depth habitats defined by *Ortiz et al.* [1996] in the North Pacific. Further support comes from a very recent ACD assessment from the western equatorial Pacific, which concludes that deep-dwelling *G. hexagonus* is a suitable proxy for tracing properties of equatorial subthermocline water masses [*Rippert et al.*, 2016]. Hence, the stable isotopic composition of *G. hexagonus* is considered to reflect the water mass properties of subthermocline waters of the EEP.

2.3. Stratigraphic Approach and Age Models

The stratigraphic framework of western Bering Sea core SO201-2-101KL was constructed using a multiproxy approach described in detail in *Riethdorf et al.* [2013]. Briefly, information derived from high-resolution X-ray fluorescence (XRF) and spectrophotometric logging data (color b^*) of core SO201-2-101KL were used for correlation to millennial-scale variability preserved in the North Greenland Ice Core Project (NGRIP) ice core [*Andersen et al.*, 2004] according to the GICC05 timescale [*Svensson et al.*, 2008] (Figure 3a). The tuning of core SO201-2-101KL to NGRIP was further validated by five planktonic radiocarbon ages spanning the time interval from the onset of MIS 2 to the time interval of the last glacial termination (Figure 3a) [see *Max et al.*, 2012].

We adopted the established age scale of ODP Site 1240 described in the work of *Pena et al.* [2008]. The stratigraphic framework of ODP Site 1240 was constructed from 17 accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) ^{14}C ages based on monospecific samples of the planktonic foraminifera *Neogloboquadrina dutertrei* (*N. dutertrei*) and tuning of the initiation of *N. dutertrei* $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ minima at ODP Site 1240 to the CO_2 increase in the Vostok CO_2 , as shown by *Spero and Lea* [2002]. Graphical correlation of planktonic foraminiferal Mg/Ca derived sea surface temperatures (SST) from ODP Site 1240 to Antarctic Vostok deuterium records was used to get additional age controls for deeper parts of the core (see supplement of *Pena et al.* [2008] for more details) (Figure 3b).

3. Results

The reconstructed glacial (60–20 ka) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values based on *C. lobatulus* from Bering Sea core SO201-2-101KL show a pronounced variability on millennial timescales, in particular during MIS 3, where they vary between -0.8 and 0.2‰ (Figure 4). Upon millennial-scale variability a long-term trend towards increased $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of Bering Sea intermediate water since the beginning of MIS 3 is clearly visible in core SO201-2-101KL, which culminated during early MIS 2 (~29 ka) with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures of up to $\sim 0.3\text{‰}$ (Figure 4). During MIS 2 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values show a long-term decrease with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures reaching $\sim -0.2\text{‰}$ at the beginning of the last deglaciation (~17 ka).

During MIS 3 (~60–30 ka) the *G. hexagonus* $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ proxy record from ODP Site 1240 indicates the presence of relatively ^{13}C -enriched (nutrient-depleted) water masses with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures of 0.1 – 0.2‰ and relatively low variability in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of subthermocline waters (Figure 4). A first switch to relatively ^{13}C -depleted subthermocline water masses in the EEP is apparent during early MIS 2 (~25 ka); the most ^{13}C -depleted values of $\sim -0.4\text{‰}$ are found at the beginning of the last deglaciation (~17 ka).

4. Discussion

Based on our results, we found evidence that the Bering Sea experienced a long-term increase in intermediate water ventilation from the beginning of MIS 3. We also identified most enhanced ventilation of the Bering Sea during MIS 2, which is in accordance with recent results from *Knudson and Ravelo* [2015a]. In general, it confirms previous studies on marine productivity and benthic foraminiferal stable isotope records that imply a long-term increase in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ Bering Sea intermediate water due to local formation of water masses with lower salinity and higher oxygen content under glacial conditions [*Schlung et al.*, 2013]. *Rella et al.* [2012] argued that an eastward displacement of the Aleutian Low and a shift to predominantly northerly winds over the Bering Sea created favorable conditions for active polynya formation and brine rejection coupled to sea ice formation, which led to intermediate water production as one potential source of GNPIW during the glacial period. A recent study showed that during stadial periods of the deglaciation most of the western Bering Sea was covered by seasonal sea ice [*Méheust et al.*, 2016], thus providing favorable conditions for

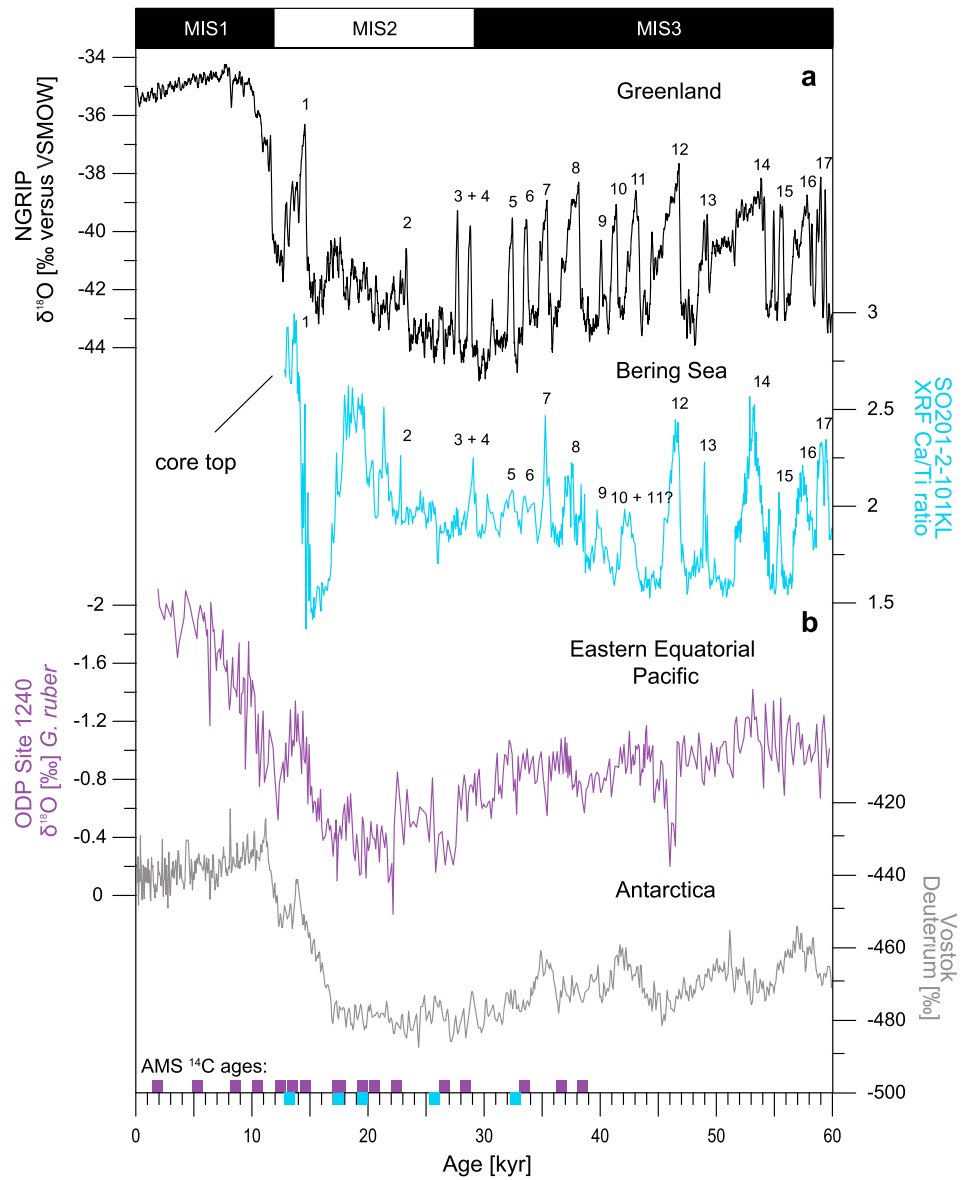


Figure 3. (a) Comparison of high-resolution XRF core-logging data (Ca/Ti ratio) from core SO201-2-101KL to NGRIP ice core record. Numbers indicate Dansgaard-Oeschger Interstadials in NGRIP [Andersen et al., 2004] and SO201-2-101KL (this study) during the past 60 kyr [Riethdorf et al., 2013]. (b) The stratigraphic framework of ODP Site 1240 based on 17 AMS ¹⁴C ages and graphical tuning of deeper parts of the cores to the Vostok ice core record [Petit et al., 1999; Pena et al., 2008]. Available AMS ¹⁴C datings derived from core SO201-2-101KL and ODP Site 1240 are given by blue and purple squares at the bottom.

intermediate water formation. Moreover, benthic δ¹³C data from proximal core SO201-2-85KL point to a decline in δ¹³C and reduced ventilation during deglacial warm stages and the early Holocene when sea ice cover was substantially reduced [Max et al., 2012; Max et al., 2014]. However, changes in thermodynamic (temperature-dependent) equilibration between the surface ocean δ¹³C_{DIC} and the atmospheric CO₂ also influence isotopic fractionation, whereby surface ocean δ¹³C_{DIC} increases by 0.1‰ with each 1°C decrease in surface ocean temperature [Mook et al., 1974]. Given that glacial production of intermediate waters in the western Bering Sea was supposedly linked to sea ice formation during winter, when surface ocean temperature were always close to the freezing point, temperature-dependent changes in air-sea gas exchange of western Bering Sea surface waters should have had a minor effect on the δ¹³C_{DIC} signal.

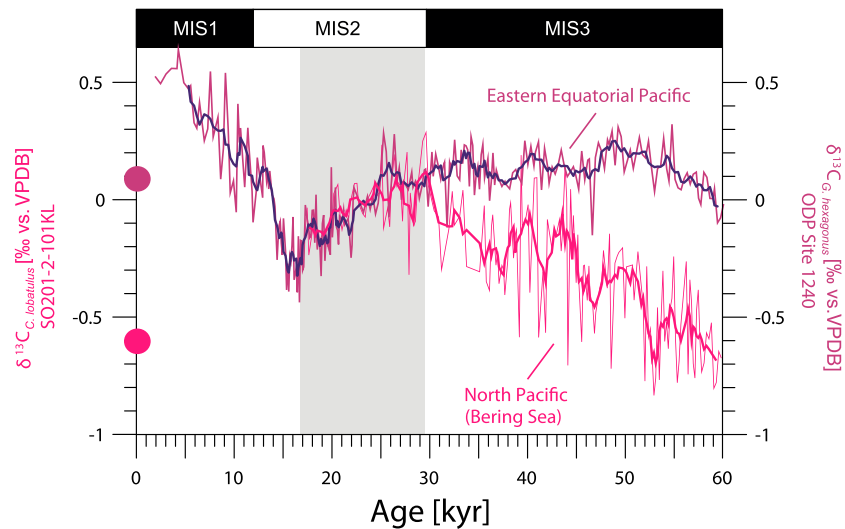


Figure 4. Detailed comparison of mid-depth benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record from sediment core SO201-2-101KL from the subarctic Pacific (Bering Sea) with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record of deep-dwelling (subthermocline) planktonic foraminifera *G. hexagonus* derived from ODP Site 1240 in the Eastern Equatorial Pacific during the past 60 kyr. Gray shaded area marks times of convergence between the given $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records during MIS 2. Colored circles indicate $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ composition of water masses bathing the respective core sites under modern conditions [Key *et al.*, 2004].

4.1. Glacial Contribution of Northern Versus Southern Sourced Water Masses in the Eastern Tropical North Pacific (~8°N)

To assess the influence of northern versus southern sourced water masses on EqPIW characteristics during the past 60 kyr, we compare benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ mid-depth records from the subarctic Pacific (SO201-2-101KL; this study) and the Southern Ocean (SO213-84-1 [Ronge *et al.*, 2015]) as well as a deep-water benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record from the Northeast Pacific (W8709A-13PC [Lund and Mix, 1998]) with mid-depth $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures derived from sediment core MD02-2529 [Leduc *et al.*, 2010] located in the ETNP (Figures 1 and 5a). The core site of MD02-2529 in the ETNP is situated at the modern confluence of northern oxygen-poor and southern oxygen-rich waters and thus is ideally located to investigate past changes in the respective latitudinal extents of northern versus southern sourced water masses in the past [Leduc *et al.*, 2010].

First, we consider our new benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record from the mid-depth subarctic Pacific (SO201-2-101KL) and the benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record of PDW from the Northeast Pacific (W8709A-13PC) [Lund and Mix, 1998], which are compared with EqPIW $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ water mass characteristics (MD02-2529) [Leduc *et al.*, 2010] during the past 60 kyr (Figures 1 and 5a). Millennial-scale variability superimposed on the long-term $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ trend of EqPIW is more pronounced compared to the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -signal recorded in SO201-2-101KL (GNPIW) or W8709A-13PC (PDW) during early MIS 3 (55–45 ka). In addition EqPIW $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values oscillate between $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures of GNPIW and PDW during MIS 3 (60–30 ka). During this time, there is no clear relationship to northern or southern sourced intermediate waters, and rather, admixing of different source water masses to EqPIW is likely. On the other hand, clear similarities in the long-term evolution in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ between the intermediate water records derived from subarctic Pacific core SO201-2-101KL and sediment core MD02-2529 from the ETNP are observed since at least ~29 ka (Figure 5a). Moreover, glacial gradients in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ between GNPIW and EqPIW are relatively small and vary between 0.2 and 0.5‰. In contrast, absolute $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures as well as the temporal evolution of EqPIW and PDW differs substantially such as $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of EqPIW increases steadily, whereas $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of PDW shows a long-term trend to more depleted ^{13}C signatures during MIS 2 (Figure 5a). Accordingly, available deep-water ventilation ages as well as the long-term trend in deep-water $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of the North Pacific indicate that glacial PDW was similar or even less well ventilated than today [Lund and Mix, 1998; Galbraith *et al.*, 2007; Lund *et al.*, 2011] and the ventilation history different to the mid-depth circulation dynamics of the North Pacific [Kennett and Ingram, 1995; Stott *et al.*, 2009]. Altogether, our results indicate that intermediate waters in the subarctic Pacific and ETNP (GNPIW and EqPIW) share similar glacial $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures, which are indicative for the presence of nutrient-enriched intermediate water masses but are apparently different to $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures

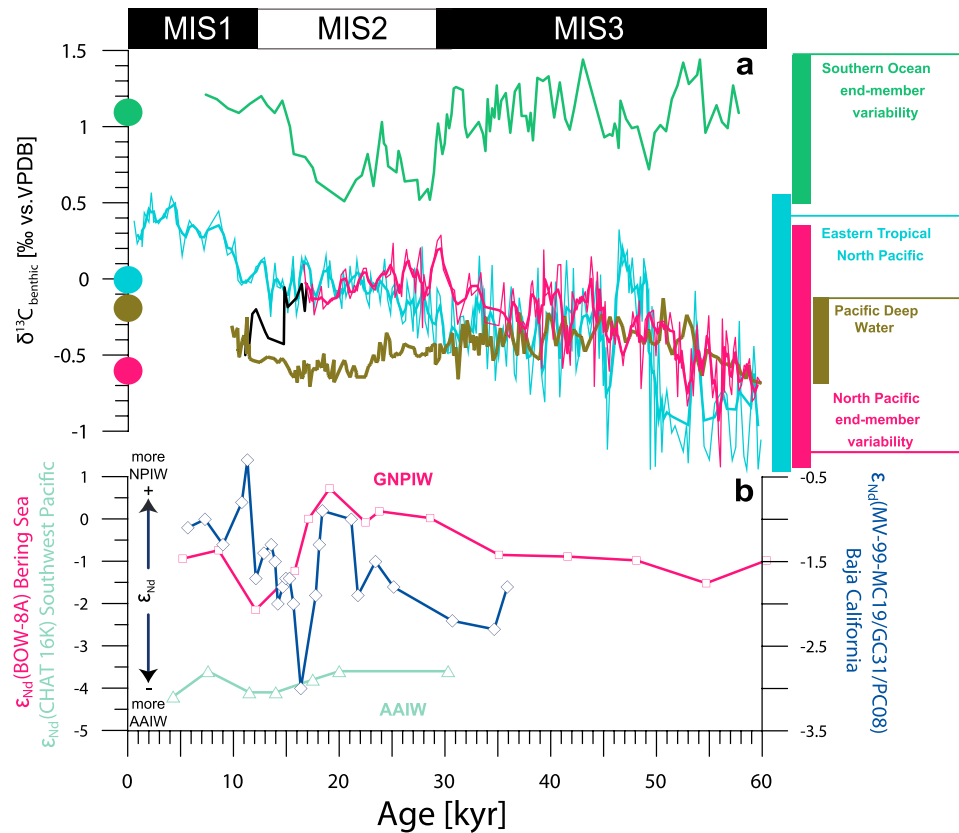


Figure 5. Benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records and ϵNd signatures from intermediate waters of the North Pacific (GNPIW), off Baja California, the Eastern Tropical North Pacific (EqPIW), and the Southern Ocean (AAIW) compared to benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ deep-water (PDW) variability for the last 60 kyr. (a) Benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record from Southern Ocean core SO213-84-1 (AAIW, in green) [Ronge *et al.*, 2015], benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record from MD02-2529 located in the Eastern Tropical North Pacific (in light blue) [Leduc *et al.*, 2010], benthic intermediate-water $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record from Bering Sea core SO201-2-101KL (in magenta; this study) and SO201-2-85KL (in black) [Max *et al.*, 2014], and deep-water benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record from core W8709A-13PC (in brown) [Lund and Mix, 1998]. (b) End-member intermediate-water mass ϵNd records from southern Bering Sea core BOW-8A (GNPIW, in magenta) [Horikawa *et al.*, 2010] and Southwest Pacific core CHAT 16K (AAIW, in light green) [Noble *et al.*, 2013] together with ϵNd signatures derived from sediment cores off Baja California (in blue) [Basak *et al.*, 2010]. Colored vertical bars indicate total variability in measured $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ at respective core sites. Colored circles indicate $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{DIC}}$ composition of water masses bathing respective core sites under modern conditions [Key *et al.*, 2004].

of PDW (Figure 5a). Given that GNPIW features slightly higher $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures compared to EqPIW masses, our results point to the advection of northern sourced intermediate water masses towards the tropical Pacific. Thus, from similarities in long-term evolution of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ between the North Pacific and ETNP intermediate water records, we argue that relatively nutrient-enriched GNPIW generally extended farther south to the tropical Pacific under glacial conditions. During the last deglaciation (~17–15 ka), however, intermediate water $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signals at the ETNP and North Pacific starts to diverge substantially. The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures in the ETNP increase, while the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values decrease at site SO201-2-85KL in the subarctic Pacific (Figure 5a).

The glacial $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ end-member variability of AAIW is reflected by sediment core SO213-84-1 off New Zealand, where glacial $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures of AAIW vary between ~0.5 and 1.4‰ [Ronge *et al.*, 2015] (Figure 5a). The long-term evolution of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures between AAIW and intermediate waters in the North Pacific and ETNP reveals remarkable differences in temporal variability under glacial conditions (Figure 5a). Moreover, huge gradients in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (up to 2‰) between Southern Ocean core SO213-84-1 and MD02-2529 from the ETNP [Leduc *et al.*, 2010] clearly separate ^{13}C -enriched (more nutrient-depleted) signatures of AAIW from ^{13}C -depleted (more nutrient-enriched) signatures of EqPIW under glacial conditions (Figure 5a). Evidence for a weakened production or shoaling of glacial AAIW has been inferred from $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records off New Zealand [Pahnke and Zahn, 2005; Ronge *et al.*, 2015], which generally points to a glacial change in relative contribution

of intermediate waters from the Southern Ocean to the tropical Pacific. Thus, large gradients and the discrepancy in temporal evolution of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures of EqPIW and AAIW are indicative for additional water masses influencing the glacial mid-depth tropical Pacific.

Independent evidence for enhanced glacial influence of northern sourced intermediate waters to the low-latitude Pacific comes from the comparison of available ϵNd records of the Bering Sea and off Baja California [Basak *et al.*, 2010; Horikawa *et al.*, 2010] (Figure 5b). In particular, ϵNd data at the intermediate depth in the Bering Sea show radiogenic values explicitly indicating that Bering Sea surface water masses (marked by more radiogenic ϵNd signatures) were subducted to intermediate depths under glacial conditions [Horikawa *et al.*, 2010]. At the same time, glacial ϵNd values derived from a sediment record off Baja California point to the presence of more radiogenic intermediate water masses, which has been linked to admixture of dominantly northern sourced intermediate waters [Basak *et al.*, 2010]. Furthermore, available information of glacial ϵNd signatures from a sediment core in the Southwest Pacific [Noble *et al.*, 2013] clearly distinguish less radiogenic ϵNd signatures of AAIW from signals of more radiogenic intermediate water masses found in the Bering Sea or off Baja California (Figure 5b). Altogether, results from ϵNd records are in line with enhanced glacial advection of northern sourced intermediate water masses towards the tropical Pacific (Figures 1 and 5b). However, rapid changes in Bering Sea and Baja California ϵNd signatures are visible during the last deglaciation that point to a switchback to reduced influence of northern sourced intermediate water masses to the low-latitude Pacific since ~ 17 ka (Figure 5b).

The combined evidences from $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and ϵNd proxy data of the subarctic Pacific, the eastern North Pacific (Baja California), the ETNP, and Southern Ocean suggest that northern sourced intermediate waters extended farther south to the ETNP under glacial conditions (Figures 5a and 5b). This is in agreement with a scenario proposed by Herguera *et al.* [2010], in which a deepening of the main thermocline and cooling of the high-latitude North Pacific would lead to a southeastward expansion of GNPIW circulation and greater glacial influence of northern sourced intermediate water on the tropical Pacific. Therefore, we propose that glacial changes in the relative contribution of intermediate waters from both the Southern Ocean and North Pacific are important in recirculating excess nutrients from the high-latitude oceans toward the low-latitude regions of the Pacific Ocean. We suggest that the observed glacial changes in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures of tropical intermediate waters in the ETNP are linked to additional contribution of northern sourced intermediate waters that further confirm considerations of a southward expansion of GNPIW to explain the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures found in the mid-depth tropical Pacific during MIS 2 [Herguera *et al.*, 2010].

4.2. Evidence for Increased GNPIW Influence on the Eastern Equatorial Pacific Since MIS 2?

To assess whether GNPIW expanded farther south to the equatorial upwelling system, we compare the variability in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of GNPIW and AAIW with our new subthermocline $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ proxy record of the deep-dwelling planktonic foraminifera *G. hexagonus* from ODP Site 1240. Glacial variations in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of subthermocline water masses are interpreted as both changes in incoming nutrients and export productivity in the surface ocean of the EEP. During MIS 3 (~ 60 – 30 ka) the *G. hexagonus* $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ proxy record indicates the presence of relatively ^{13}C -enriched (nutrient-depleted) water masses with low variability in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of subthermocline waters of the EEP (Figure 6a). At the same time, GNPIW shows distinctly lower (more nutrient-rich) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values with higher temporal variability than EEP subsurface waters. However, apparent similarities are observed since ~ 29 ka at the beginning of MIS 2, where absolute $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values as well as the long-term trend indicate more nutrient-enriched subthermocline water masses recorded in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of *G. hexagonus* at ODP Site 1240, which closely follows the temporal evolution of the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signature advected towards the tropical Pacific via GNPIW (Figure 6a).

Interestingly, another rapid switch to monotonically increasing $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of *G. hexagonus* is visible during the last deglaciation, which suggests a decoupling from northern sourced intermediate waters between ~ 17 and 15 ka. The transition from ^{13}C -depleted (more nutrient-enriched) to rather ^{13}C -enriched (more nutrient-depleted) subsurface water implies another significant change in characteristics of source water masses along with changes in biological productivity in the EEP during the last deglaciation (Figures 6a and 6b). Simultaneously, intermediate waters in the North Pacific became further ^{13}C -depleted and seem to be decoupled from subthermocline waters in the EEP. This is in line with a study on surface ocean productivity at ODP Site 1240, which showed that southern sourced intermediate waters played a more dominant role for the nutrient redistribution in the EEP since the early deglaciation [e.g., Calvo *et al.*, 2011]. Dissimilar trends are

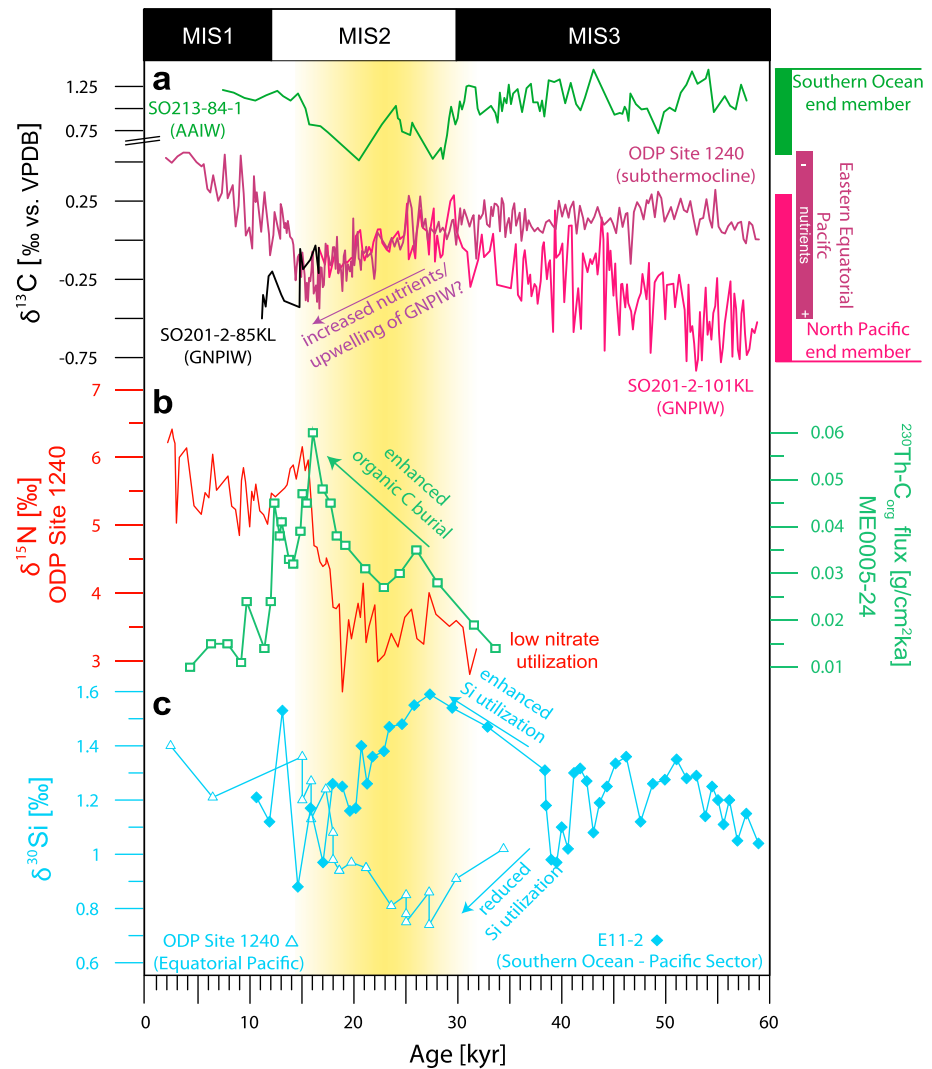


Figure 6. Reconstructed $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ variability of GNPIW versus AAIW compared to glacial changes in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of subthermocline waters, biological productivity, and nutrient utilization in the Eastern Equatorial Pacific (EEP) and Southern Ocean. (a) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record of GNPIW (SO201-2-85KL [Max et al., 2014]; SO201-2-101KL (this study)) compared to $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ composition of AAIW (SO213-84-1 [Ronge et al., 2015]) and deep-dwelling planktonic foraminifera $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record of *G. hexagonus* (ODP Site 1240, this study) during the past 60 kyr. (b) $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ record at ODP Site 1240 in the EEP [Pichevin et al., 2009] together with ^{230}Th -normalized C_{org} flux of neighboring core ME0005-24 [Kienast et al., 2007]. (c) $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{Diatom}}$ isotope composition of ODP Site 1240 in the EEP [Pichevin et al., 2009] compared to $\delta^{30}\text{Si}_{\text{Diatom}}$ composition derived from core E11-2 [Robinson et al., 2014] located in the Pacific Zone of the Southern Ocean. Yellow shaded bar marks times of increased GNPIW contribution to subthermocline waters of the EEP during MIS 2.

also evident between northern sourced intermediate water and mid-depth water masses in the ETNP, probably due to a reduced lateral extent of GNPIW during the last deglaciation (Figure 5a). Since then, mid-depth waters in the ETNP seem to follow the temporal variability of southern sourced intermediate water that imply a larger influence of ^{13}C -enriched (more nutrient-depleted) AAIW in the tropical Pacific. However, we note that large gradients between $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of subthermocline waters in the EEP and AAIW are also present during the last deglaciation and Holocene. Still, available benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records from the mid-depth to deep North Pacific do not cover the whole Holocene and impede further interpretation of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ variability in the ETNP during this time.

Past changes in subthermocline water mass signatures in the EEP have been usually linked to differences in advection and/or source water mass characteristics of Southern Ocean water masses to the tropical Pacific. Rapid changes in meridional transport of southern sourced intermediate water toward the tropical regions

have been proposed from ϵNd records over the last 30 kyr [Pena *et al.*, 2013]. A recent study investigating Southern Ocean and EEP shallow- and deep-water ventilation ages suggest that relatively old water masses (PDW/UCDW) upwelled to EEP thermocline waters and proposed a dominant deep southern source during late MIS 2 [de la Fuente *et al.*, 2015]. A study reconstructing radiocarbon activity of mid-depth waters from sediment cores off Baja California also pointed to the presence of slightly older intermediate waters in the eastern North Pacific during the latter part of the glacial period [Marchitto *et al.*, 2007], which might also explain glacial age anomalies in the surface ocean of the EEP. Thus, we explain changes in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of subthermocline water masses of the EEP between MIS 3 and MIS 2 by changes in source water mass characteristics probably due to variable ocean interior transport pathways reaching the equatorial Pacific under glacial conditions. Based on the apparent similarities between $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures of northern sourced intermediate waters, mid-depth waters in the Panama basin of the ETNP and subthermocline waters in the EEP (Figures 5a and 6a), we argue for additional intrusion of GNPIW into subthermocline water masses of the EEP during MIS 2.

4.3. “North Pacific Nutrient Leakage”

We provide the first evidence that relatively ^{13}C -depleted (nutrient-enriched) GNPIW influenced glacial EEP subthermocline waters during MIS 2 and discuss further potential implications on marine productivity of the equatorial Pacific regions at that time (Figures 6a–6c). Nitrogen and silicon isotopes are often used as diagnostic tools for reconstructing past nutrient cycling. With higher nutrient consumption, both substrate (dissolved nutrients) and products generated from it become progressively enriched in heavier isotopes [Robinson *et al.*, 2014]. Indeed, several studies of sediment cores in the EEP found evidence for changes in marine productivity and nutrient utilization during MIS 2 [Kienast *et al.*, 2007; Pichevin *et al.*, 2009; Robinson *et al.*, 2009; Dubois *et al.*, 2011] (Figure 6b). Overall similarities between these records demonstrate that they are not primarily influenced by local processes at the deposition site but rather reflect a robust signal of regional changes in nutrient delivery and biological productivity in the EEP [Dubois *et al.*, 2011]. Pichevin *et al.* [2009] suggested that the glacial biological carbon pump in the EEP was more efficient due to a relaxation of nutrient limitation and speculated about its contribution to lower atmospheric CO_2 conditions during MIS 2.

Glacial relaxation of nutrient limitation and concurrent maxima in biological productivity in the EEP have been usually related to the redistribution of excess nutrients (mainly silicic acid) from the Southern Ocean via ocean tunneling as proposed by the Silicic Acid Leakage Hypothesis [Matsumoto *et al.*, 2002b]. At the same time, changes in the contribution of northern sourced intermediate waters are often neglected, e.g., by assuming that the relative contribution from northern and southern sourced water did not change significantly in the past [e.g., Dubois *et al.*, 2011; Pena *et al.*, 2013]. However, studies using diatom-bound silicon and nitrogen isotopes as proxies for nutrient utilization suggested enhanced glacial drawdown of silicic acid and nitrate along with higher glacial opal fluxes in the Pacific Subantarctic Zone of the Southern Ocean during MIS 2 [Bradtmiller *et al.*, 2009; Robinson *et al.*, 2005, 2014]. These results show that in contrast to the EEP, silicic acid and nitrate have been utilized more efficiently and became rather “trapped” north of the Antarctic Polar Front in the glacial deep Southern Ocean (Figures 6b and 6c). However, it has been also shown that average glacial opal fluxes were less than during the Holocene south of the Antarctic Polar Front [Bradtmiller *et al.*, 2009]. Whether the glacial Southern Ocean provides sufficient nutrients via ocean tunneling to enhance marine productivity at the EEP as predicted by the Silicic Acid Leakage Hypothesis is still controversial [Hendry and Brzezinski, 2014; Robinson *et al.*, 2014].

Interestingly, times of enhanced organic carbon flux rates and low nutrient utilization (silicic acid and nitrate) in the EEP are visible since the beginning of MIS 2 and generally coincided with the proposed changes in additional contributions of relatively nutrient-rich GNPIW to equatorial Pacific subthermocline water masses (Figures 6b and 6c). Invoking an additional export of unutilized (preformed) nutrients from the high-latitude North Pacific via nutrient-enriched GNPIW (here named as “North Pacific Nutrient Leakage”) thus might be another, yet unconsidered, process to explain relieved nutrient limitation and a stimulated biological pump in the EEP during MIS 2. Unfortunately, less is known about glacial changes in utilization of major nutrients, such as silicon or iron in the source region of GNPIW. Some studies propose low biological productivity and nutrient utilization (nitrate) in the Bering Sea due to a decrease in productivity, or an increase in nitrate availability through changes in vertical mixing under glacial conditions [Riethdorf *et al.*, 2013; Schlung *et al.*, 2013]. Other studies point to near-complete nutrient utilization (nitrate) in the Bering Sea and western subarctic

Pacific during glacial times [Brunelle *et al.*, 2007, 2010]. A recent study emphasizes the role of strong physical stratification of the glacial subarctic Pacific surface waters, which prevented additional flux of nitrate from underlying water, such that available surface nitrate was used to near completion [Knudson and Ravelo, 2015b]. Our results propose that additional influence of nutrient-rich North Pacific mid-depth waters to the tropical Pacific via GNPIW might hold new clues about glacial productivity changes in the EEP but need to be further evaluated in order to understand the role of enhanced influence of GNPIW to the low-latitude Pacific under glacial conditions.

During the deglaciation, the resumption of intense overturning within the Southern Ocean led to a higher injection of relatively nutrient-depleted southern sourced water masses into the EqPIW. As a consequence, decreasing nutrient concentrations and increasing nutrient consumption are recorded in the EqPIW (Figure 6). However, we can only speculate about the offset in timing between the onset of EqPIW $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ changes (shown by *G. hexagonus*) and the increase in $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ in ODP Site 1240. The switch in relative end-member contribution during the deglaciation possibly causes variations in intermediate water suboxia and hence water column denitrification [Robinson *et al.*, 2009]. This would affect the nitrogen isotopes only as *G. hexagonus* seems to be more insensitive to varying oxygen concentrations [Rippert *et al.*, 2016]. Nonetheless, the discrepancy in timing needs to be further investigated in combination with $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ studies from the subarctic Pacific.

5. Conclusions

Here we report on new foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records from the western subarctic Pacific (Bering Sea) and EEP spanning the past 60 kyr. Combined evidence of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ from core SO201-2-101KL and ϵNd records of the Bering Sea points to a long-term increase in GNPIW formation since the onset of MIS 3, which culminated early in MIS 2 (~29 ka). The comparison between benthic foraminiferal $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ records of SO201-2-101KL and marine sediment core MD02-2529 from the Panama Basin as well as ϵNd records of the Bering Sea and eastern North Pacific reveals remarkable similarities in the long-term evolution between GNPIW and EqPIW signatures in the tropical North Pacific during the glacial period. These results support the notion that northern sourced intermediate water extended farther south to the tropical Pacific region than today under glacial boundary conditions. Glacial changes in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of subthermocline water masses in the EEP were derived from deep-dwelling planktonic foraminiferal species *G. hexagonus* at ODP Site 1240 and indicate significant changes in subthermocline water mass characteristics during MIS 2. Notably, the proposed times of additional influence of GNPIW to the tropical Pacific coincides with changes in nutrient availability and biological productivity in the glacial EEP. Overall, our new findings indicate that past changes in North Pacific mid-depth circulation might have played a crucial role in glacial nutrient availability and biological productivity in the EEP but needs to be further constrained by future studies investigating glacial changes in utilization of major nutrients, such as silicon or iron in the subarctic Pacific.

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