



Changes in C₃₇ alkenones flux recorded in surface sediment on the eastern continental shelf of the Bering Sea: record of *Emiliana huxleyi* bloom over the past 100 years

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Flourishes of coccolithophores can be detected by ocean color imagery with data from the satellite-borne Sea-viewing Wide Field-of-view sensor SeaWiFs that was launched in 1997. Thus, temporally and spatially large-scale blooms of *Emiliana huxleyi* (*E. huxleyi*) have been distinguished annually in the eastern continental shelf of the Bering Sea since 1997. In 1997, a combination of atmospheric mechanisms produced summer weather anomalies such as calm winds, clear skies, and warm air temperature over the Bering Sea and the weather anomalies caused depletion of the subpycnocline nutrient reservoir (Napp and Hunt, 2001). After depletion of nitrate and silicate, a sustained (more than 4-month-long) bloom of *E. huxleyi* was observed (Stockwell et al., 2001). Because of the speed and magnitude with which parts of the Bering Sea ecosystem responded to changes in atmospheric factors (Napp and Hunt, 2001) and because a bloom of the coccolithophorid, *Coccolithus pelagicus* has also been detected in the northeastern Atlantic Ocean off Iceland every year since 1997 (Ostermann, 2001), the appearance of an *E. huxleyi* bloom in the Bering Sea could be related to atmospherically forced decadal oscillations or global factors.

We have investigated spatial expansion and temporal development of *E. huxleyi* bloom on the continental shelf in the Bering Sea by using a biomarker of *E. huxleyi*, C37 alkenones flux recorded in the sediments during the past 100 years. As a result, the *E. huxleyi* bloom had been prominent since 1970's at latest during the last 100 years. In this presentation, we will discuss the relationship between *E. huxleyi* bloom and activity of Aleutian low, and also changes in diatom assemblages.

References

- Napp and Hunt, 2001, *Fish Oceanogr.*, 10, 61-68.
Ostermann, 2001, *WHOI annual report*, pp.17-18.
Stockwell et al., 2001, *Fish Oceanogr.*, 10, 99-116.