2021 Aquatic Sciences Meeting

Short-term variability in the activity and composition of the diazotroph community in a coastal upwelling system

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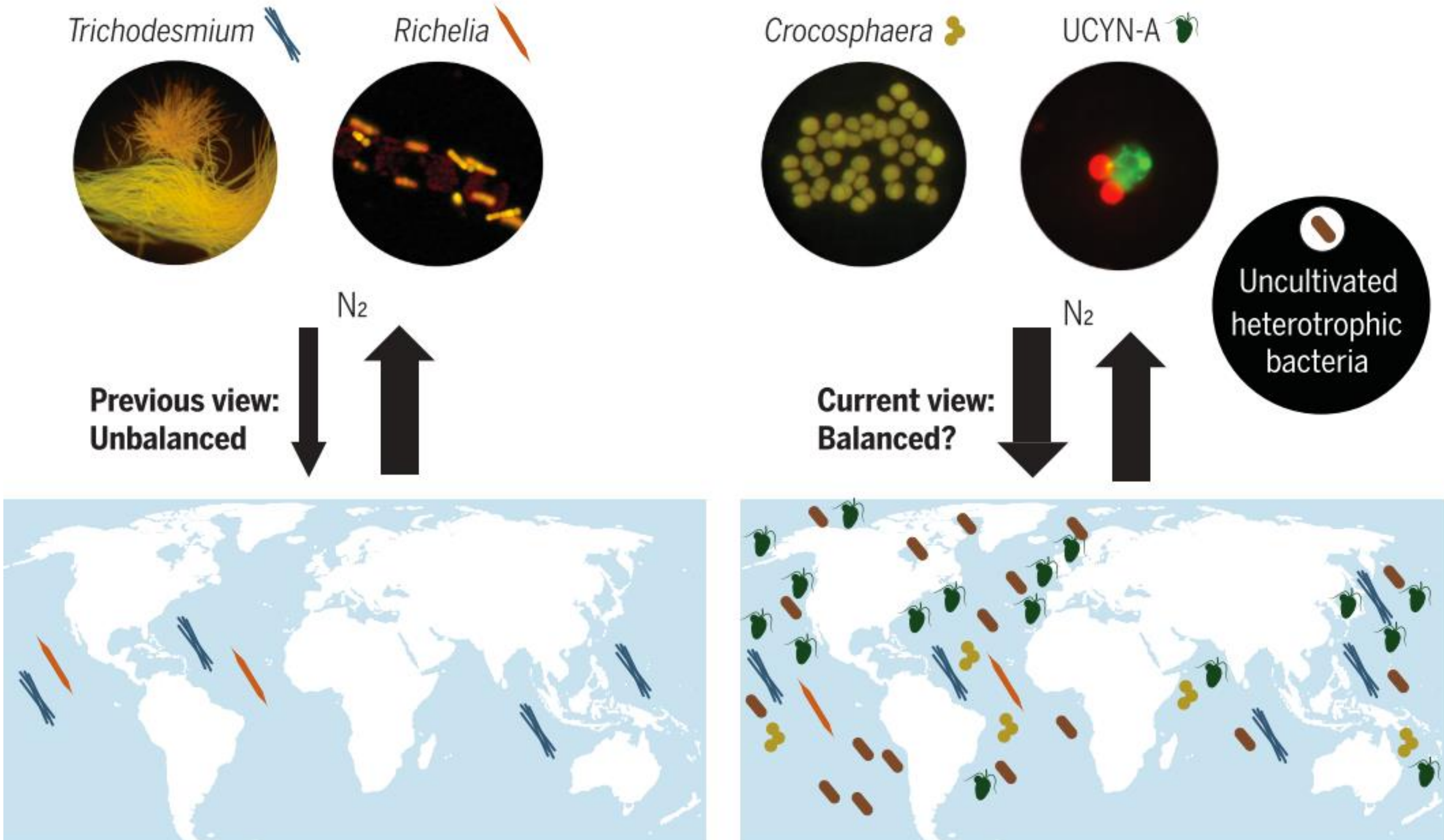
Changes in perspectives in recent decades



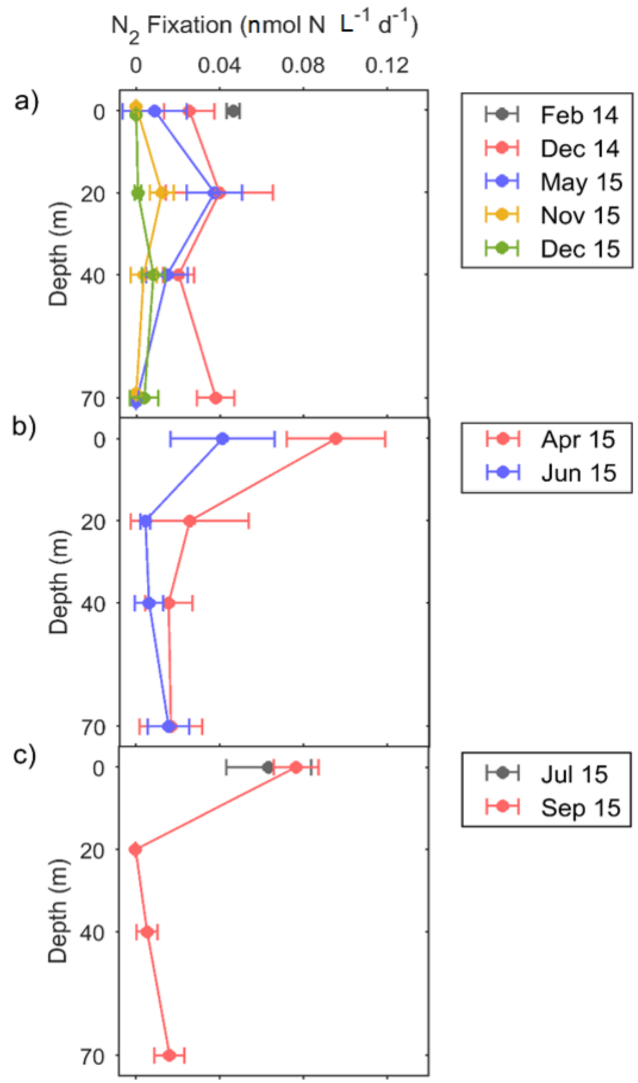
Zehr & Capone (2020, Science)

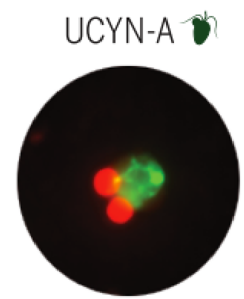
The NW Iberian coastal upwelling: variability in N_2 fixation over seasonal scales

Downwelling

Upwelling

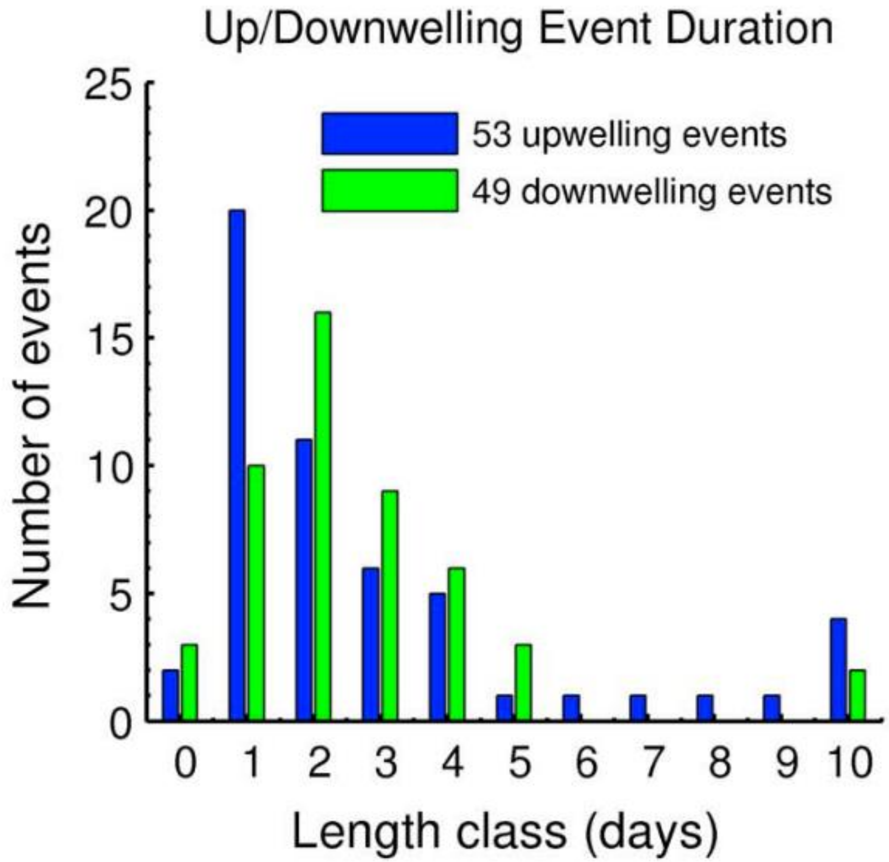
Relaxation





Moreira-Coello (2018, Scientific Reports)

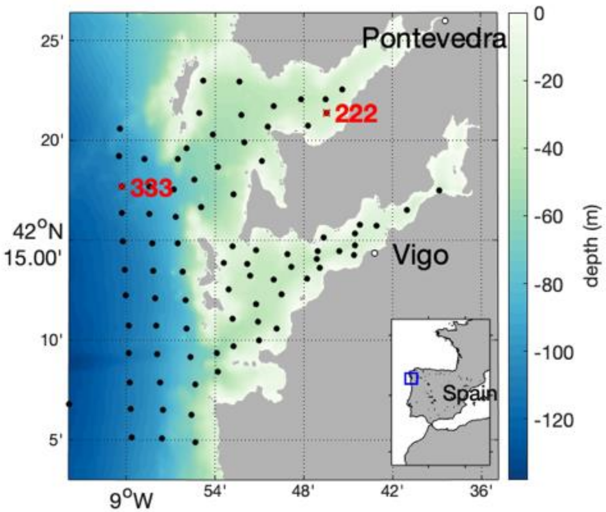
The NW Iberian coastal upwelling: short-term variability



Upwelling occurs as transient events with a duration of about 3 days (Gilcoto et al., 2017)

Does diazotrophy activity and composition respond to the short-term variability in the upwelling-downwelling regime?

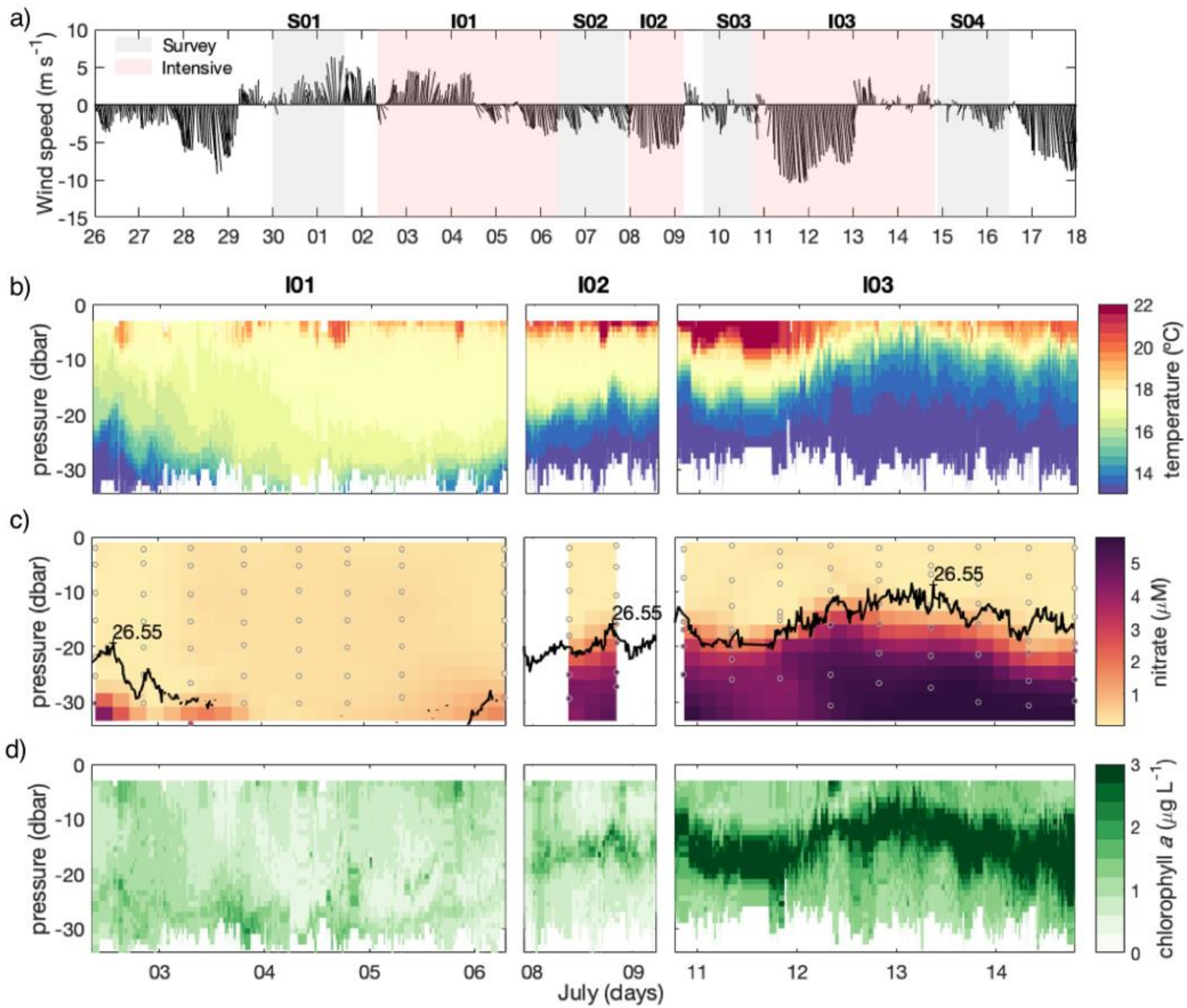
Dataset collected during the REMEDIOS cruise (summer 2018)



St 333 (Shelf) and st 222 (Ría de Pontevedra):

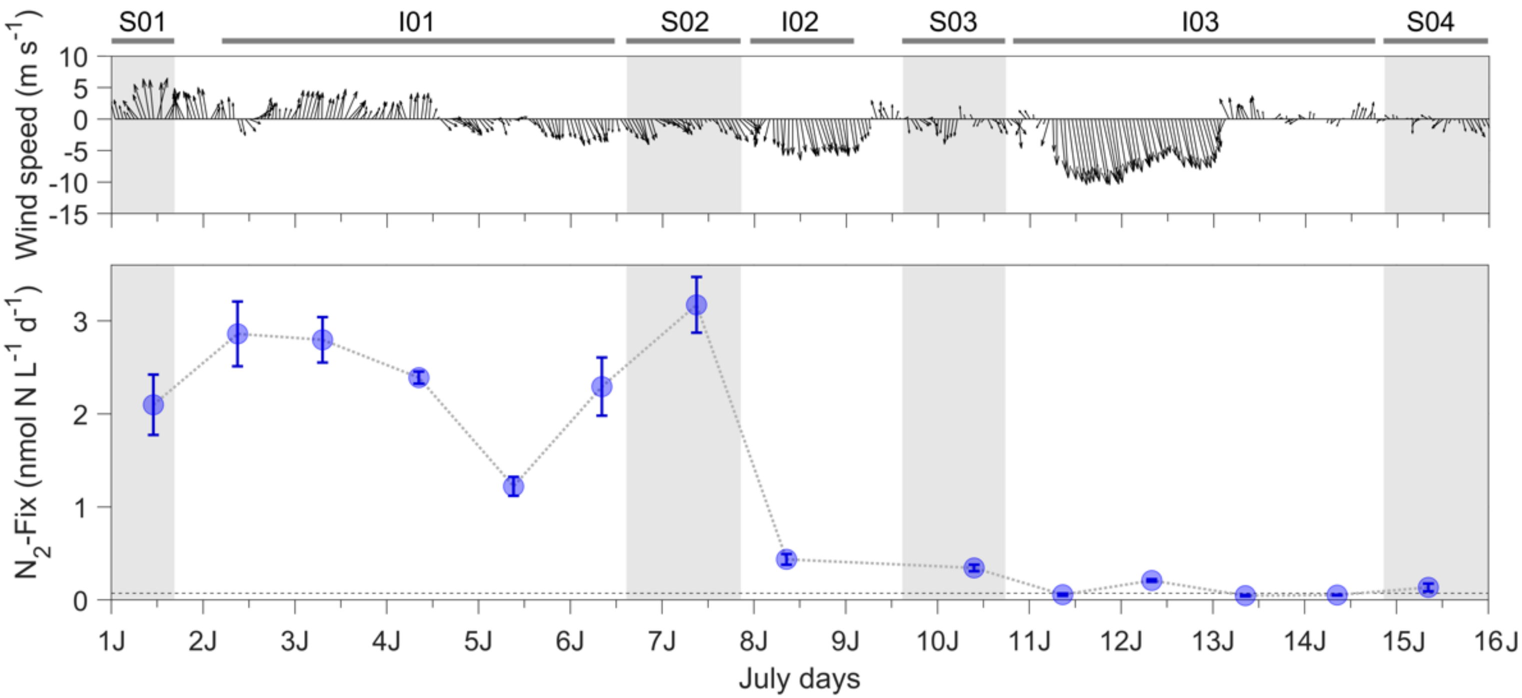
- Microturbulence profiler (st 222)
- Nitrate concentration (7-8 depths)
- Chlorophyll a (7-8 depths)
- N_2 fixation rates ($^{15}N_2$-uptake)
- Diversity of gene *nifH* (ASV level)
- Diazotroph abundances (qPCR)

Variability in wind speed, temperatura, nitrate, and chlorophyll a



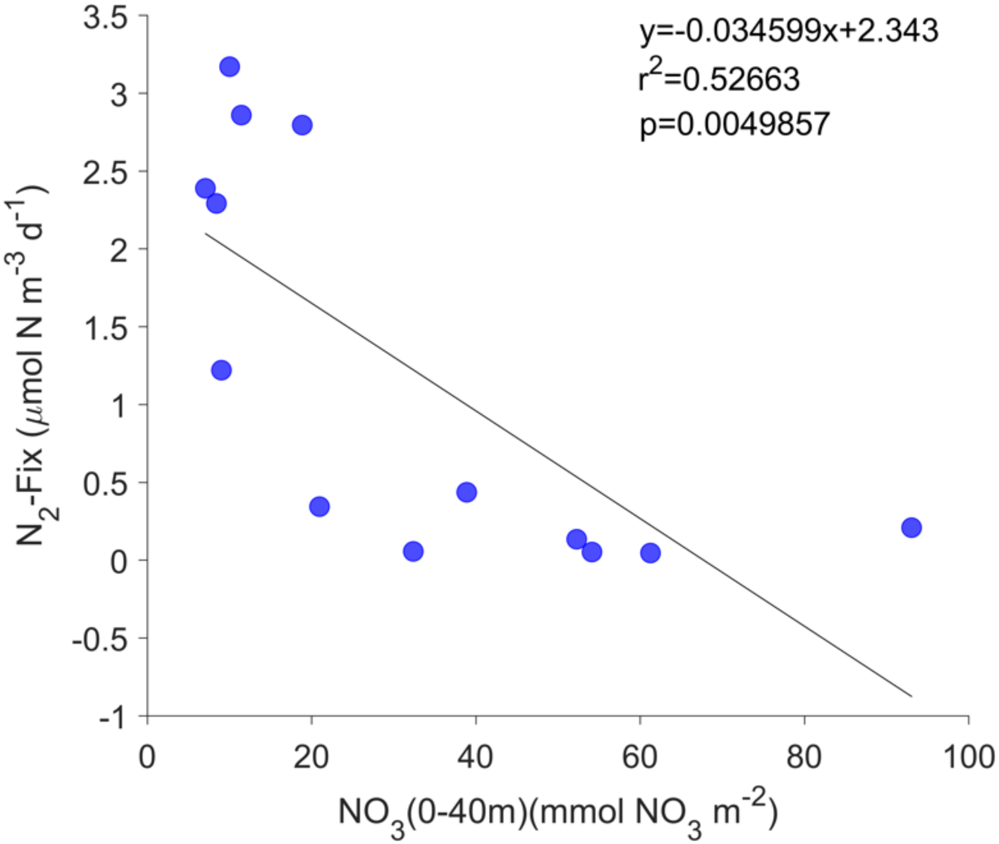
The cruise started after strong upwelling followed by few days of relaxation-downwelling, and after another upwelling pulse

Variability in N_2 fixation rates



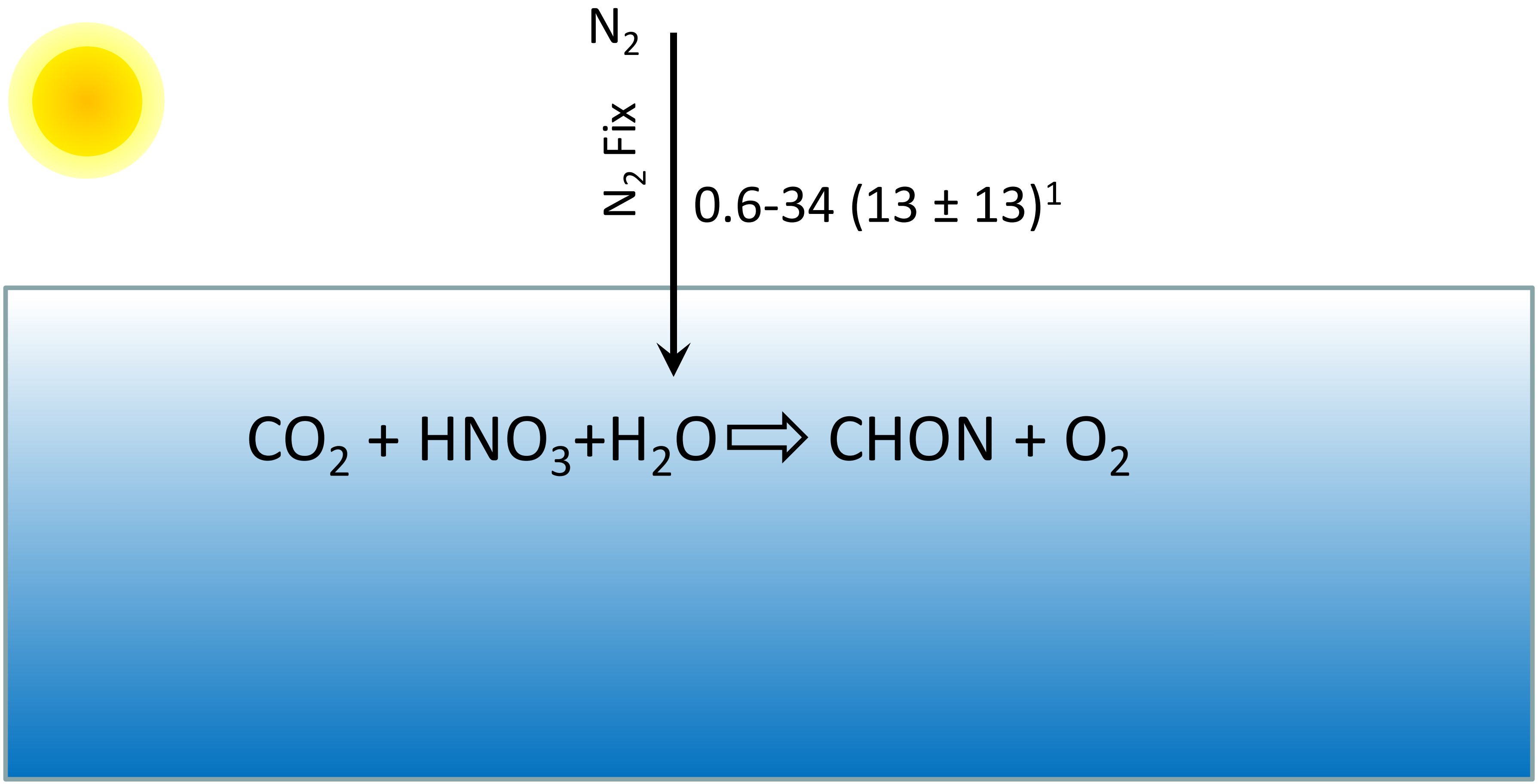
Higher rates (ca. 2.2 µmol m^{-3} d^{-1}) during relaxation-downwelling, which decreased (0.10 µmol m^{-3} d^{-1}) during the fertilization associated with upwelling

N_2 fixation versus depth-integrated NO_3 concentration



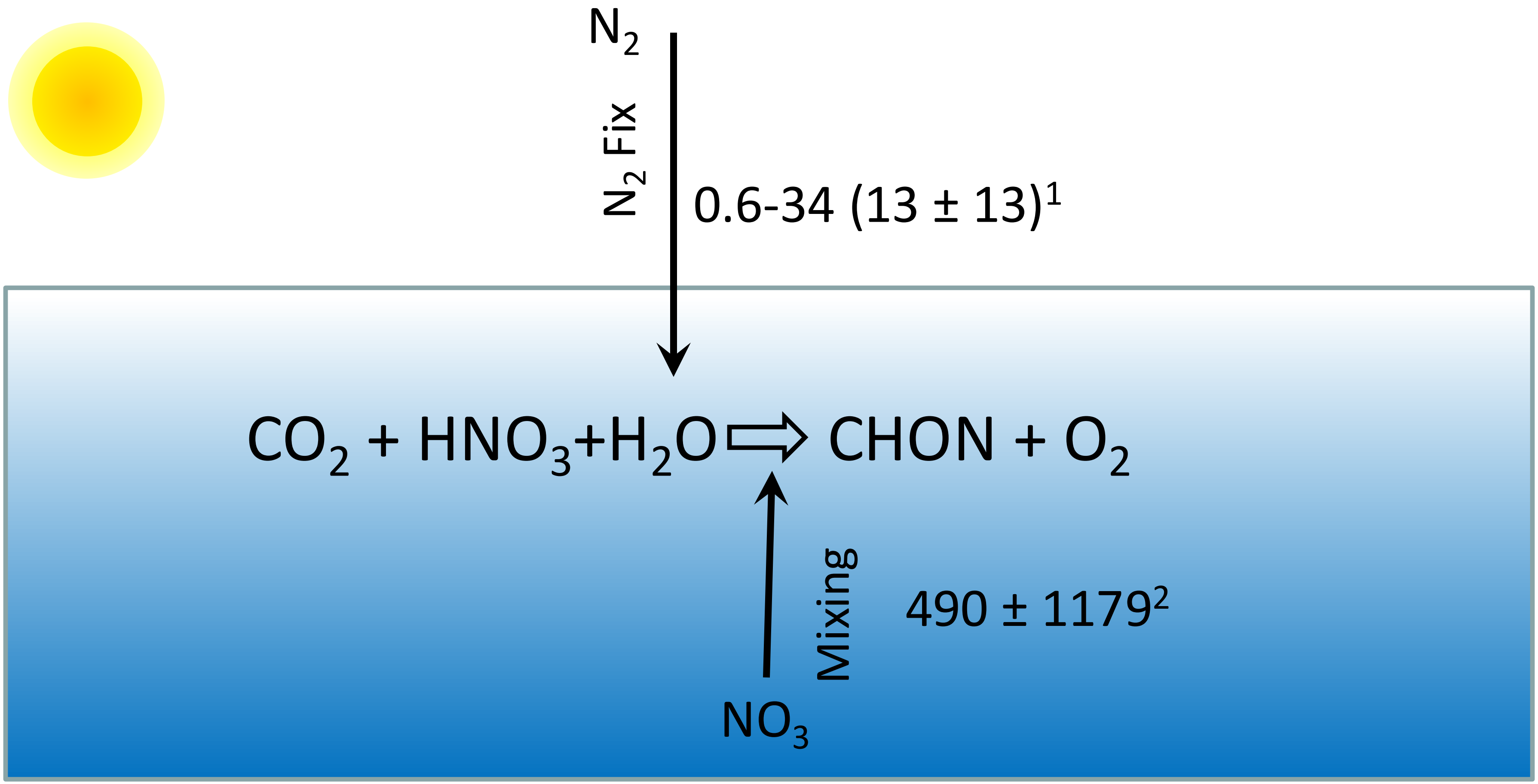
Negative relationship between N_2-fixation and depth-integrated NO_3 (R^2=0.53, p<0.01)

Biogeochemical role of N_2-fixation (μmolN m^{-2} d^{-1})



[1] Depth-integrated N_2 Fix (dBNF=f(sBNF); Moreira et al., 2017))

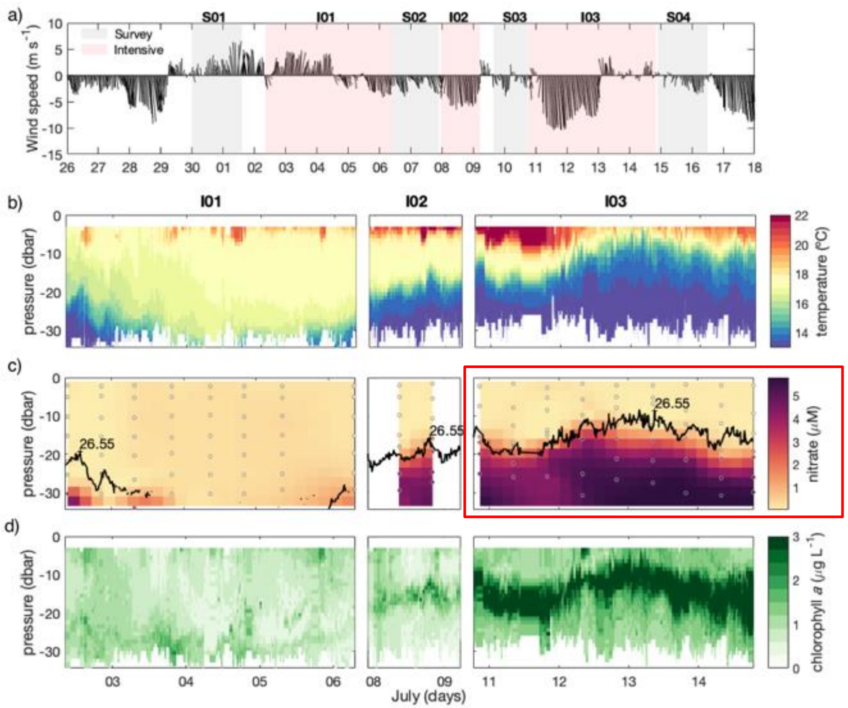
Biogeochemical role of N_2-fixation ($\mu molN\ m^{-2}\ d^{-1}$)

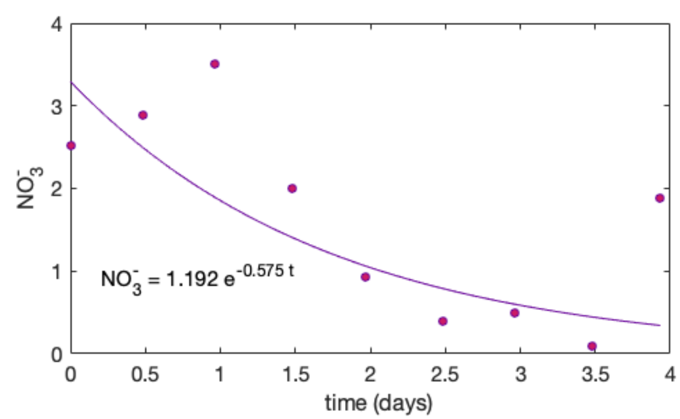


[1] Depth-integrated N_2 Fix (dN_2 Fix =f(sN_2 Fix); Moreira et al., 2017))

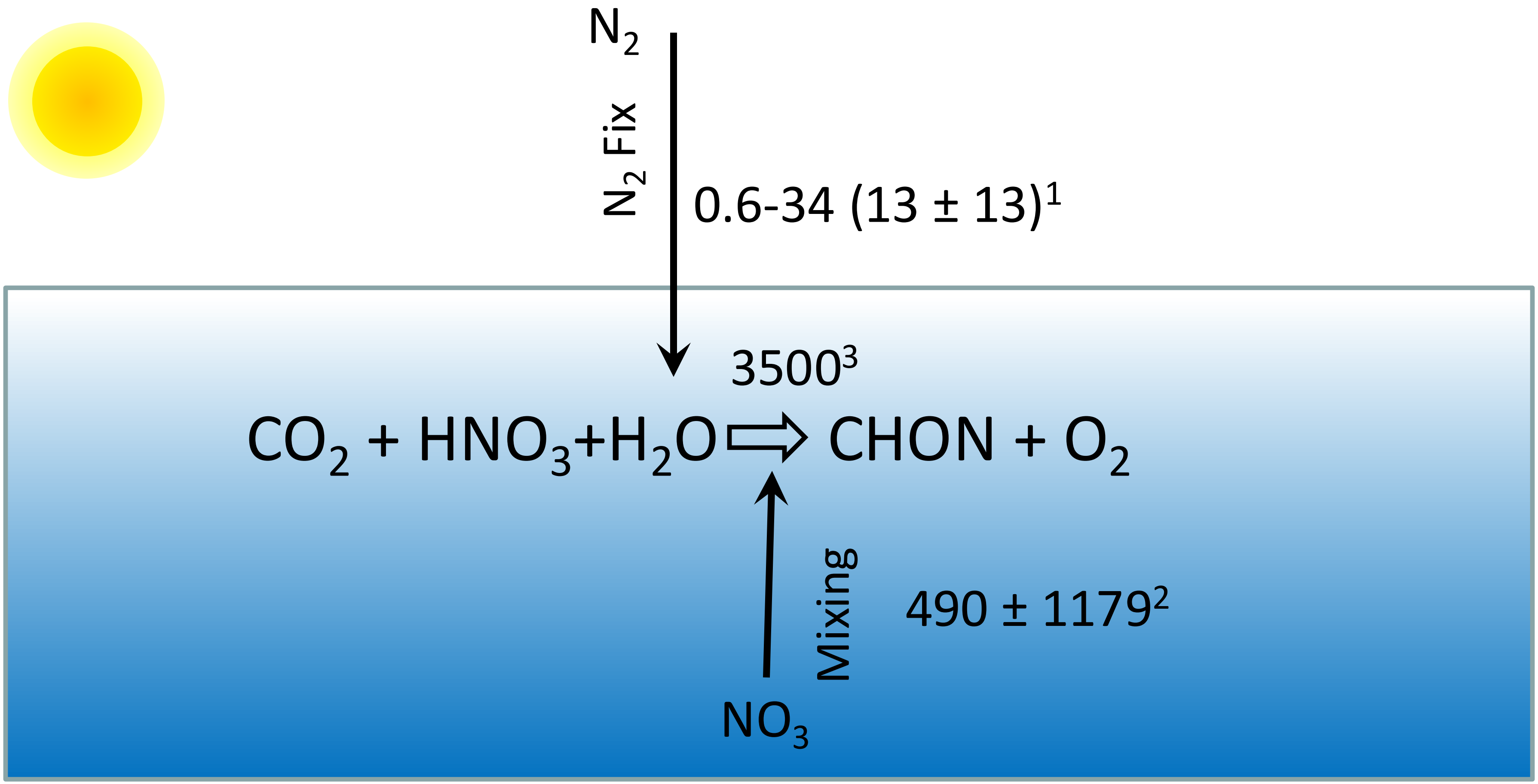
[2] NO_3 diffusive flux = $Kz \times \left(\frac{d[NO_3^-]}{dz}\right)$;

Exponential fit of NO_3 at $\boldsymbol{\sigma}t$=26.55 kg m^{-3}





Biogeochemical role of N_2-fixation (µmolN m^{-2} d^{-1})

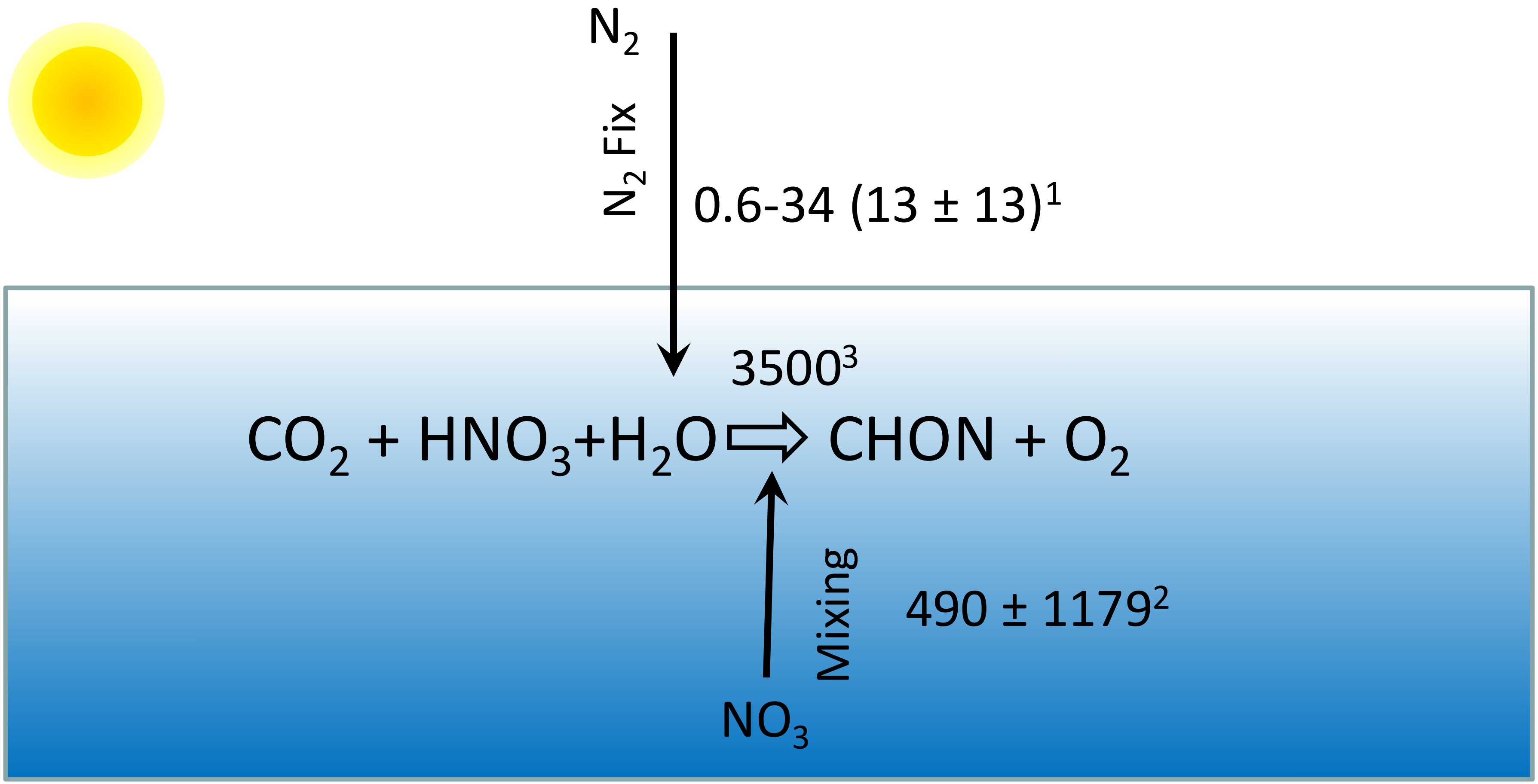


[1] Depth-integrated N_2 Fix (dN_2 Fix =f(sN_2 Fix); Moreira et al., 2017))

[2] NO_3 diffusive flux = $Kz \times \left(\frac{d[NO_3^-]}{dz}\right)$;

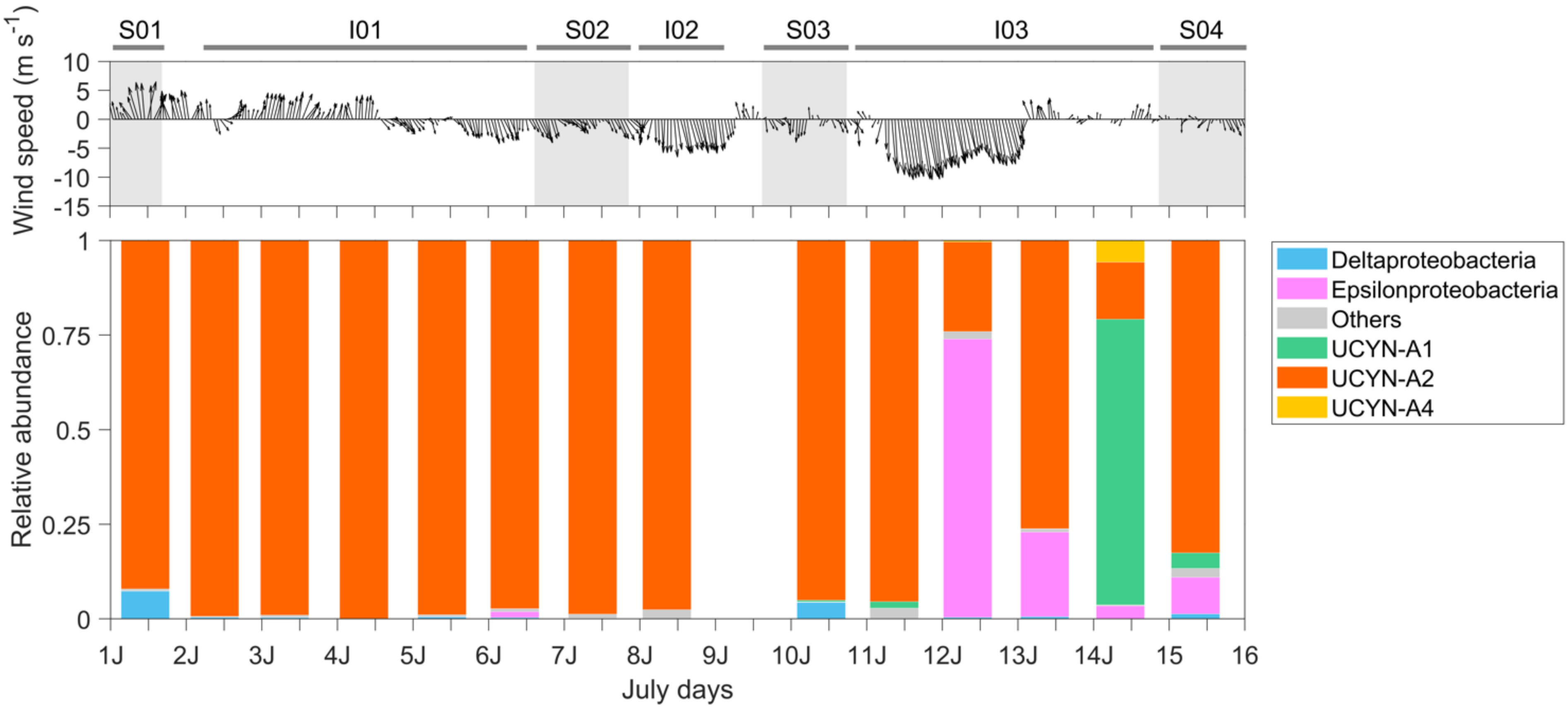
[3] NO_3 consumption on $\boldsymbol{\sigma}_t$=26.55 (NO_3=1.192$e^{-0.575t}$)

Biogeochemical role of N_2-fixation (μmolN m^{-2} d^{-1})



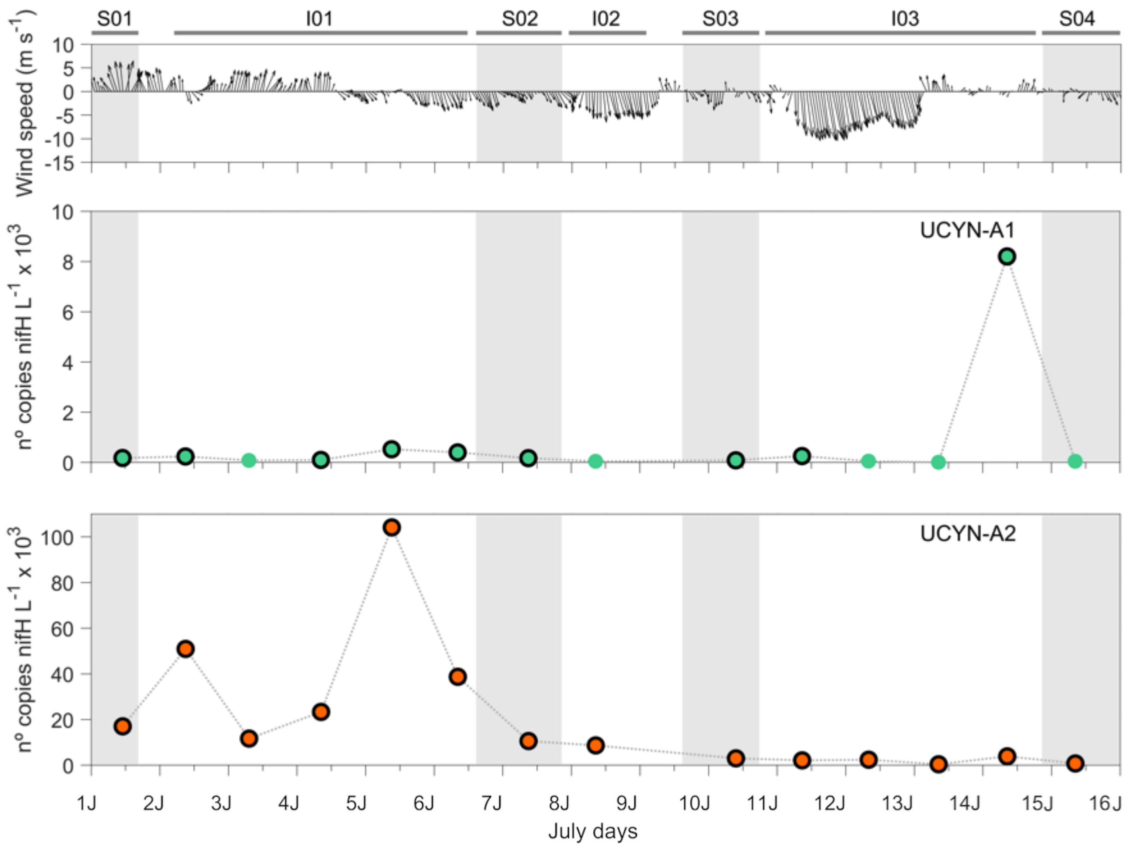
The comparison with NO_3 consumption and diffusion confirmed the minor role of N_2 Fix (<1%)

Diversity of the diazotrophic community (*nifH*)



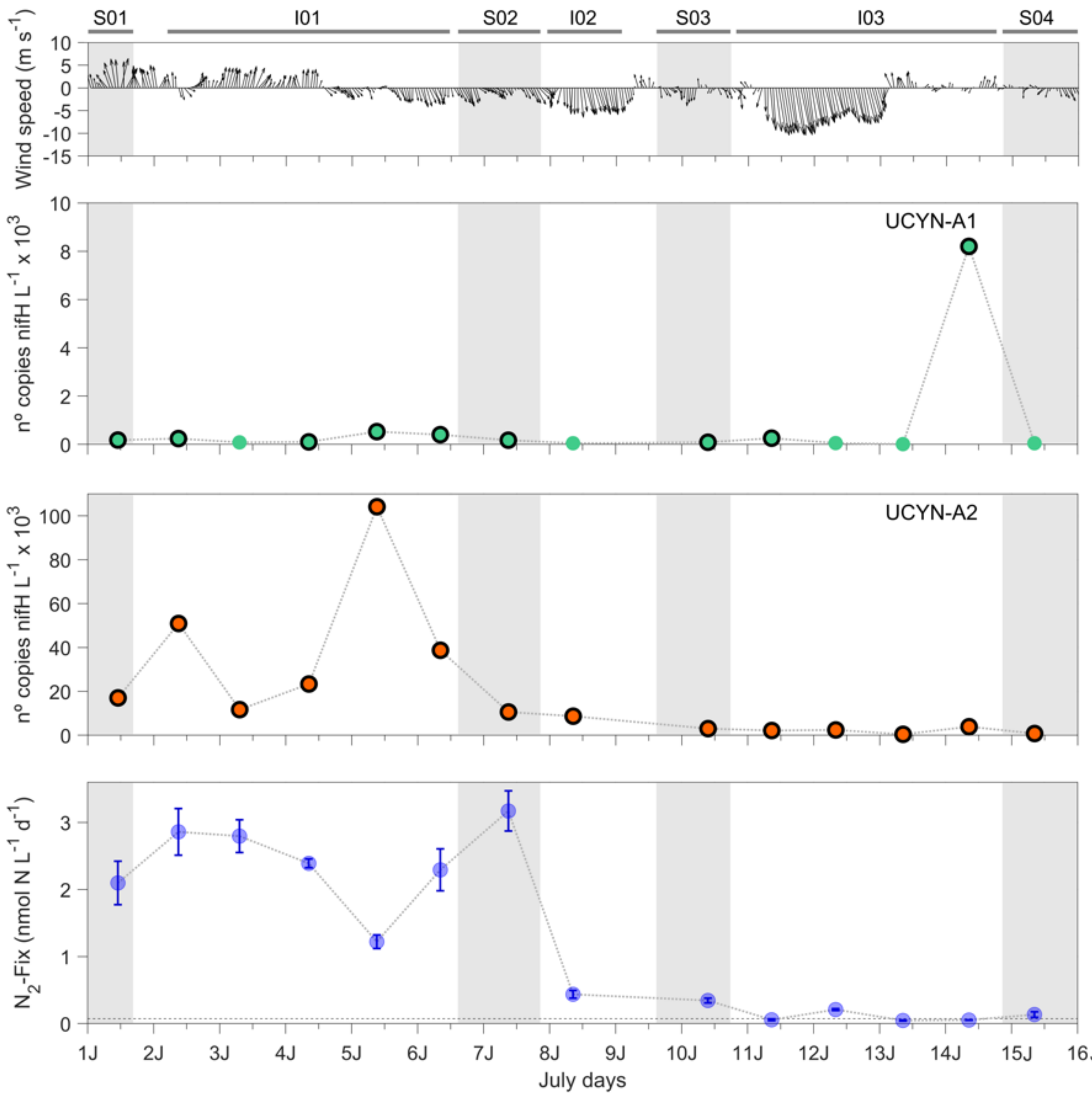
The unicellular cyanobacterium UCYN-A2 was the dominant diazotroph during the cruise

Abundance of UCYN-A1 and UCYN-A2 (qPCR)



UCYN-A2 abundance four times higher during relaxation-downwelling ($4x10^4$ copies L^{-1}) compared to upwelling ($0.2x10^4$ copies L^{-1})

Relationship between UCYN-A2 abundance and N_2 fixation



Positive relationship between UCYN-A2 abundance and N_2-fixation (R^2=0.50, p<0.01)

Conclusions

1. Minor role of N_2 Fix

2. Decrease in N_2 Fix rates from relaxation-downwelling to fertilizing upwelling

3. Dominant UCYN-A2 exhibited changes in abundance in parallel to N_2 Fix

Does diazotrophy activity and composition respond to the short-term variability in the upwelling-downwelling regime?

Diazotrophs respond rapidly to changes in the environment, and the availability of N controls their activity, composition and distribution

Thanks to...

- CTM2016-75451-779 C2-1-R to B. Mouriño-Carballido (Spanish government)

Presentation Date, Time: 6/25/2021 11:00 AM (GMT Daylight Time)
Session: CS27 - Phytoplankton ecology and physiology
Room 6

Rapid wind-driven fluctuations of the pycnocline drive phytoplankton blooms in a long, narrow bay

Esperanza Broullón, Peter JS Franks, Bieito Fernández-Castro, Miguel Gilcoto and Beatriz Mouriño-Carballido

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