Exploring the production, contributions and utilization of sea ice algae in DBO using IP₂₅ and other diatom biomarkers

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Highly Branched Isoprenoids





Sea Ice Associated Diatoms IP₂₅ Producers:

Pleurosigma stuxbergii var. rhomboides (a) Haslea crucigeroides (b) Haslea kjellmani (c) Haslea spicula (b – maybe) Pelagic Diatoms Known III Producers:

Rhizosolenia spp. Pleurosigma spp.

Belt et al. 2000, 2018

Internal Standard

Not found in marine sediments

Same mass to ion charge (m/z) as IP₂₅

Brown et al. 2014

Conditions for HBI Synthesis



Modified from Müller et al. 2011

$$H - print = \frac{HBI III}{\sum (IP_{25} + HBI II + HBI III)} x100$$

Applying HBI Biomarkers to the Arctic food web



HBI depositional patterns across DBO

20

40

60

80

100

20

40

60

80

100

Surface Sediment H-print (%)



Overall, two distinct regions of varying HBI proportions.

DBO 1-3 tends to be comprised of primarily pelagic HBI signal. Minimal IP₂₅ concentrations.

East-west gradients in DBO 3, transitional.

DBO 4-5 has a consistently strong sympagic signal. Elevated IP₂₅ concentrations.

Relationship with Satellite-derived Sea Ice Observations

2012-2017 Sea Ice Index Linear Regression **A** 100 Latitude (°N) 75 72.5 H-Print (%) 70.0 67.5 50 65.0 62.5 25 25 50 75 100 Spring Sea Ice Concentration (SpSIC %)

The relationship between H-print and April – June monthly mean sea ice concentrations was moderate p<0.001, R²=0.46, n=184



2016 AMJ spring sea ice concentrations from NSIDC

2015-16 Chukchi Ecosystem Observatory



C.W.Koch et al., in review

Ice Derived Organic Matter Uptake by Benthic Macrofauna – HLY18



Variation of ice-derived resources within feeding guilds



Variation of ice-derived resources within major taxa



Sympagic to Pelagic Ratio =
$$\frac{IP_{25} + HBI II}{HBI III}$$



- Stronger sea ice signal in diets of walrus harvested while foraging in the Chukchi Sea
- No difference between regions in 2012 – the record low sea ice year for the Arctic, including the Chukchi Sea but not the Bering Sea.

Sympagic to Pelagic Ratio =	$IP_{25} + HBI II$
	HBI III



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Thank you!

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