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15-19 July 2019 Gingdao, PR China

Coastal acidification and deoxygenation/hypoxia: the other eutrophication problems

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Background

• Long-term changes of environmental parameters in

the YS: Observations on deoxygenation and acidification

- Conceptual view and implications
- Concluding remarks







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(Breitburg et al. 2018)

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(Levin and Le Bris, 2015)



Impacts of deoxygenation on ecosystems

Eukaryotic biomass and diversity not limited by oxygen unless increasing temperature increases oxygen demand above oxygen supply

Fishing boats target finfish and invertebrates found at high densities at the edge of low-oxygen zones where they escape physiologically stressful conditions and take advantage of prey that use this edge as a refuge habitat

Upwelling of low-O₂, high-CO₂ waters can kill and displace fish and benthic invertebrates, but high nutrients in upwelled waters fuel high productivity

Organisms inhabiting low-oxygen habitats have evolved physiological and behavioral adaptations, but when tolerances are exceeded, survival, growth, and reproduction decline

Hypoxia

Well-

oxygenated

water

Global warming is expected to continue to worsen deoxygenation in the open ocean, and both increasing nutrient loads and warming could worsen future deoxygenation in coastal waters

Absence of eukaryotes dependent on aerobic respiration; increased dentrification, production of N_2O , and release of Fe and P from sediments

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(Breitburg et al. 2018)

Hotspots of deoxygenation



Deoxygenation and hypoxia in coastal waters and open ocean

has been a global environment issue.

OMZ is expanding.

More and more hypoxic zones in the coastal area.

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Acidification of subsurface coastal waters enhanced by eutrophication

Wei-Jun Cai¹*, Xinping Hu¹, Wei-Jen Huang¹, Michael C. Murrell², John C. Lehrter², Steven E. Lohrenz³, Wen-Chen Chou⁴, Weidong Zhai⁵, James T. Hollibaugh¹, Yongchen Wang¹, Pingsan Zhao¹, Xianghui Guo^{1,5}, Kjell Gundersen⁶, Minhan Dai⁵ and Gwo-Ching Gong^{4,7}







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Study area







Data:

1) Long-term data along the section (1976-2006)

41 (N)

40°

39°

38°

 37°

BS

Bohai Stra

120°(E) 121°

Shandong Peninsula

Liaodong Bay

Jong Peninsula

NYS

123°

122°

SYS

124°

125°

80

70

60 50

40

30

25

20

15

10

5

n

of Chengshanjiao-Dalian in the NYS:

temperature, salinity, DO, Nutrient, O₂%, AOU

2) Sea surface Chl-a derived from multiple-

satellite products of SeaWiFS and MODIS

Climatologic vertical distributions:

Vertical mixing winter

Stratified summer







Winter

- Temperature: increased
- Salinity: almost no changes
- DIN and N/P: increased
- DO: decreased
 - (~0.76 and ~0.78 $\mu mol~kg^{-1}$
 - yr⁻¹ in surface and bottom
 - , respectively)
- DO saturation and AOU:

almost no changes



Summer

- Temperature and salinity:
 - almost no changes
- DIN and N/P: increased
- > DO: decreased in bottom
 - (~1.43 µmol kg⁻¹ yr⁻¹)
- DO saturation: decrease in bottom
- AOU: increased in bottom

Winter deoxygenation



Relations between the annual average DO content and temperature

In winter, when the water column is vertical homogeneous, DO at nearsaturation indicates that physical mixing overwhelmed biological activities, and a linear correlation between DO content and seawater temperature suggests that warming is the most plausible driver of design genation in this region in winter.

Summer deoxygenation



In the stratified summer, increased nutrient availability and consequently enhanced productivity are reasonable for the drawdown of DO in the bottom layer, and the stoichiometric pattern between DO depletion and N also suggests a cascading linkage between the eutrophic conditions and bottom deoxygenation.

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Conceptual view of deoxygenation







Showing the different mechanisms of DO declining in seasonality SCIENCE 15-19 July 2019 CONFERENCE Qingdao, PR China
(Wei et al, under review)

Concluding remarks

- Shows the drawdown of DO in winter and in the bottom layer in summer (~0.76 and ~0.78 µmol kg⁻¹ yr⁻¹ in surface and bottom in winter, respectively; ~1.43 µmol kg⁻¹ yr⁻¹ in summer), which is companied with seawater warming (especially in winter) and enhanced nutrients.
- In winter, seawater warming is the most plausible driver of deoxygenation in the NYS.
- In the stratified summer, increased nutrient availability and consequently enhanced productivity are reasonable for the drawdown of DO in the bottom layer.
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谢谢大家!

Thank you

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