



**Global change and the future of
toxic algal blooms in the North
Pacific Ocean**

Feixue Fu

**Department of Biology, University
of Southern California**

Global warming

Ocean acidification

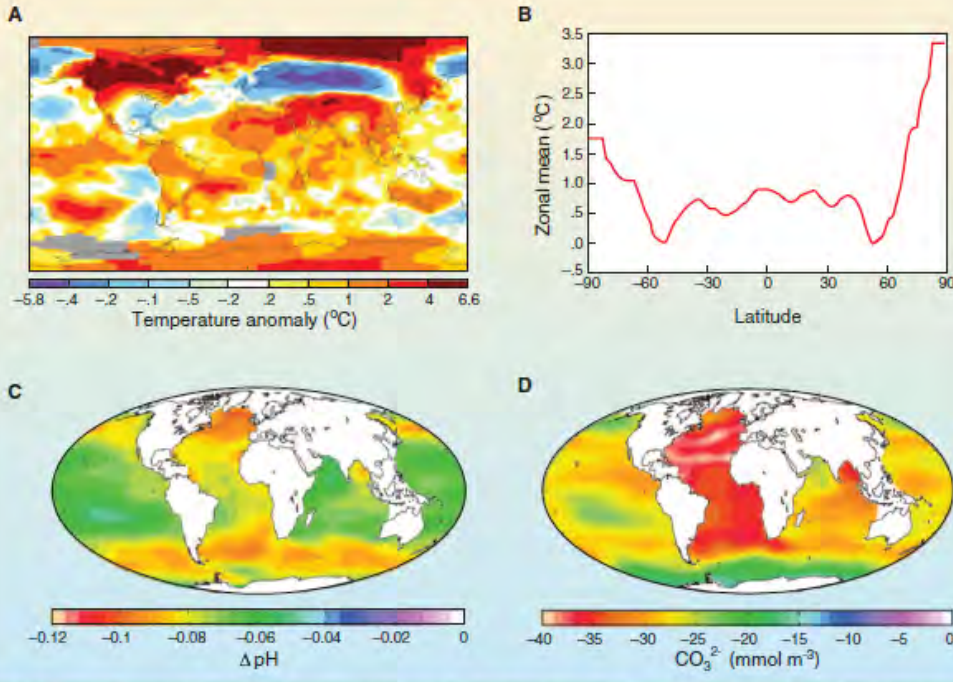


Fig. 1. Recent changes in ocean temperature, acidity, and carbonate ion concentration. **(A)** Surface temperature anomaly for January 2010 relative to the mean for 1951–1980. **(B)** The same data presented in **(A)** as a function of latitude. **(C)** Estimated change in annual mean sea surface pH between the pre-industrial period (1700s) and the present day (1990s). **(D)** Estimated change in annual mean sea surface carbonate ion concentration between the pre-industrial period (1700s) and the present day (1990s). [Credits: **(A)** and **(B)** NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies; **(C)** and **(D)** Global Ocean Data Analysis Project (57)]

Hoegh-Guldberg and Bruno 2010

Harmful algal blooms and toxin production



Multiple anthropogenic global change impacts on the surface ocean

By the year 2100:

1. 3-5°C warmer sea surface temperatures.
2. Doubled pCO₂ (~750 ppm), pH decrease of ~0.3.
3. Intensified stratification, shallower mixed layers
 - Reduced vertical fluxes of nutrients
 - Higher mean light intensities
4. Changes in ocean biogeochemistry
 - Nitrogen cycle shifts
 - Iron chemical speciation
5. Major changes in biological communities
 - Competition
 - Grazing

Effects of a warming-induced extended growing season on *Alexandrium catenella*

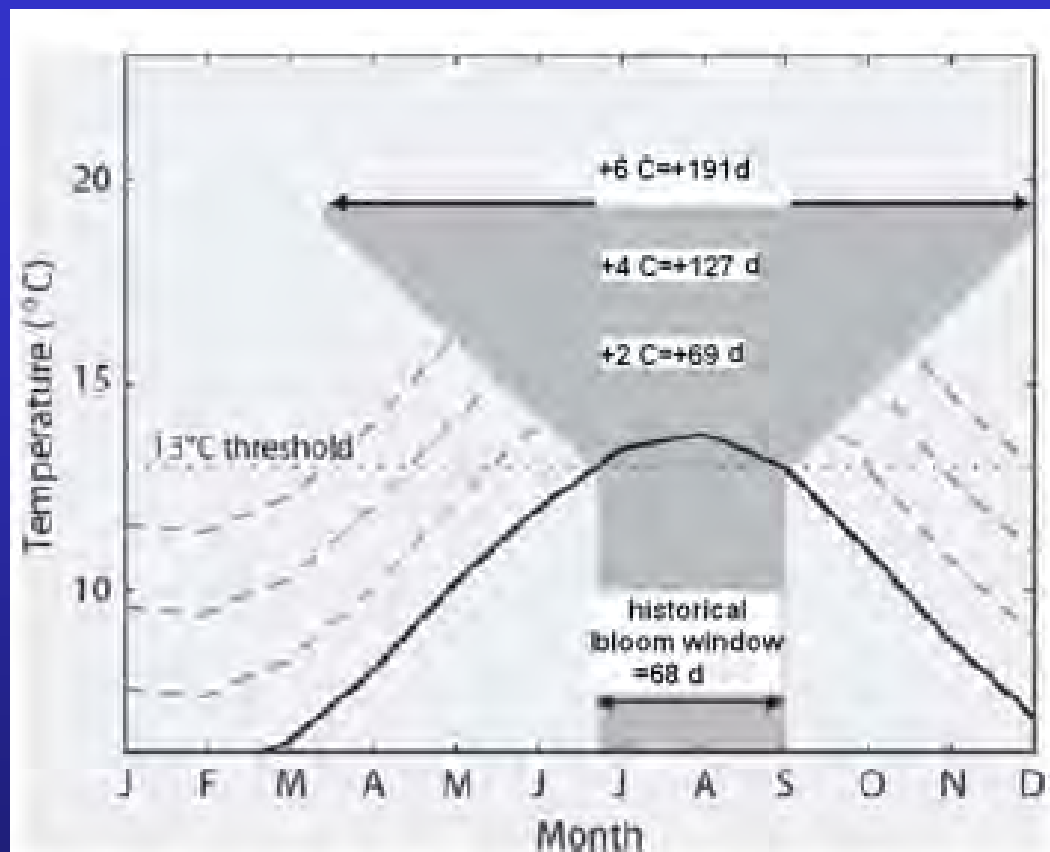
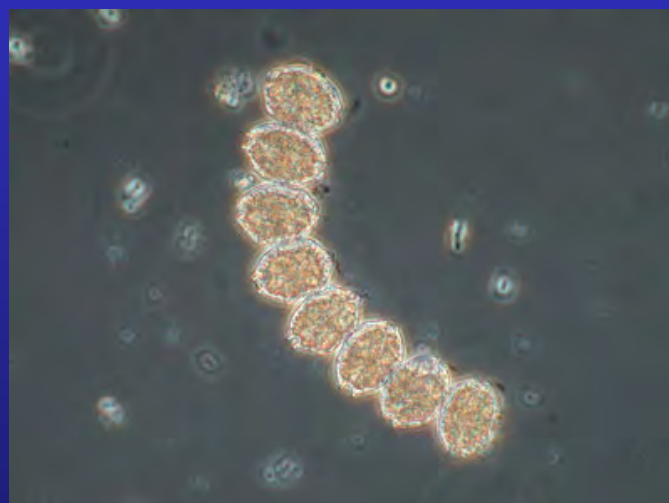
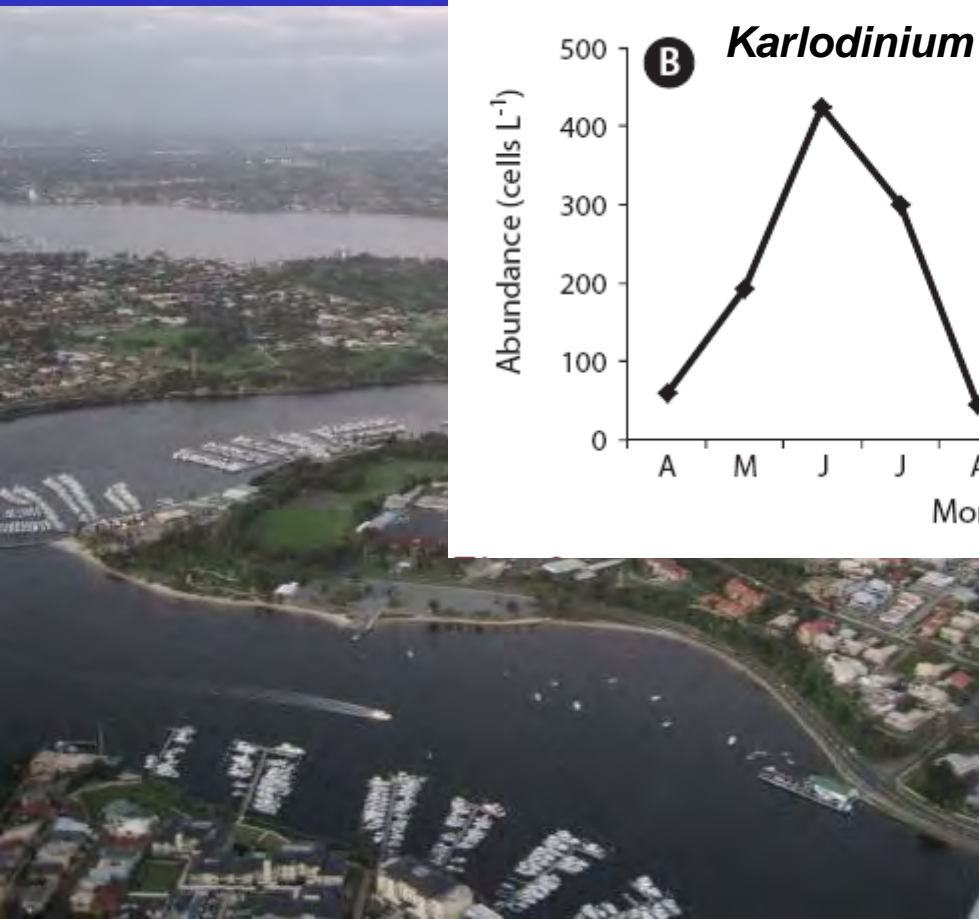
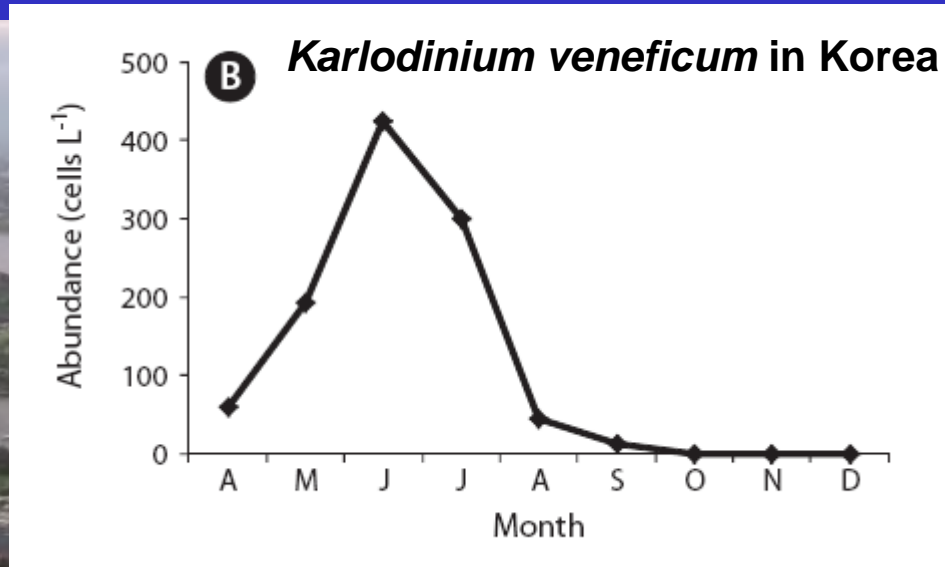


FIG. 7. Scenarios for warmer sea surface temperature conditions in Puget Sound by 2, 4, and 6°C would widen the >13°C window (in gray) of accelerated growth for the PSP dinoflagellate *Alexandrium catenella*. After Moore et al. (2008b). PSP, paralytic shellfish poisoning.

Karlodinium veneficum blooms



Massive Australian *K. veneficum* bloom,
Swan River estuary
(Alice Gedaria, UWA)



Karlodinium veneficum



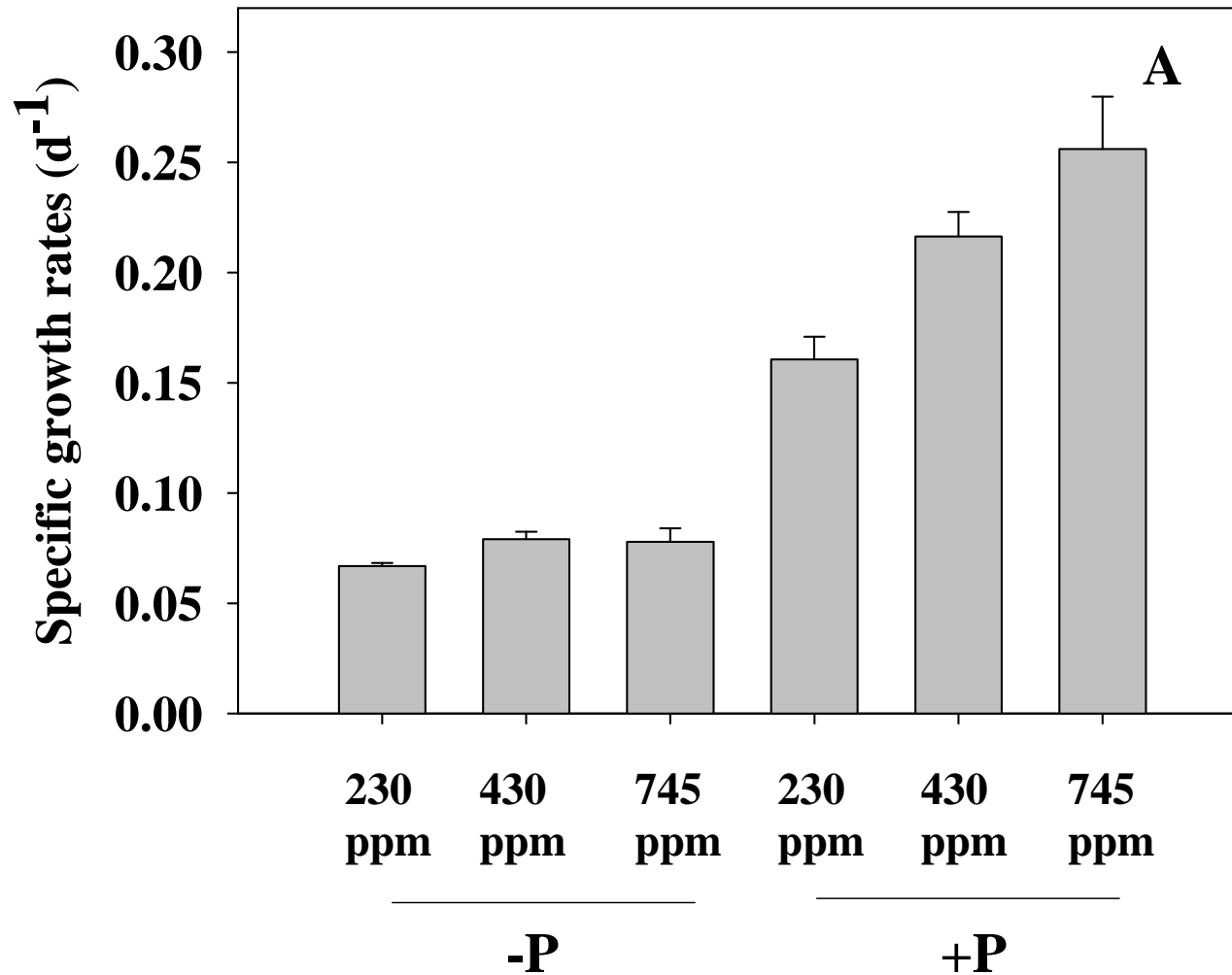
2009 Maryland *K. veneficum* fish kill
(Maryland DOE)

EE 3:34PM

Methods

1. *Karlodinium veneficum* cultures isolated from the DIB were grown in semi-continuous cultures
2. Treatments: Three pCO₂ levels: 230, 430, and 745 ppm: each under both P-limited and P-replete growth conditions
3. Measurements of growth rates, physiological parameters, karlotoxin production

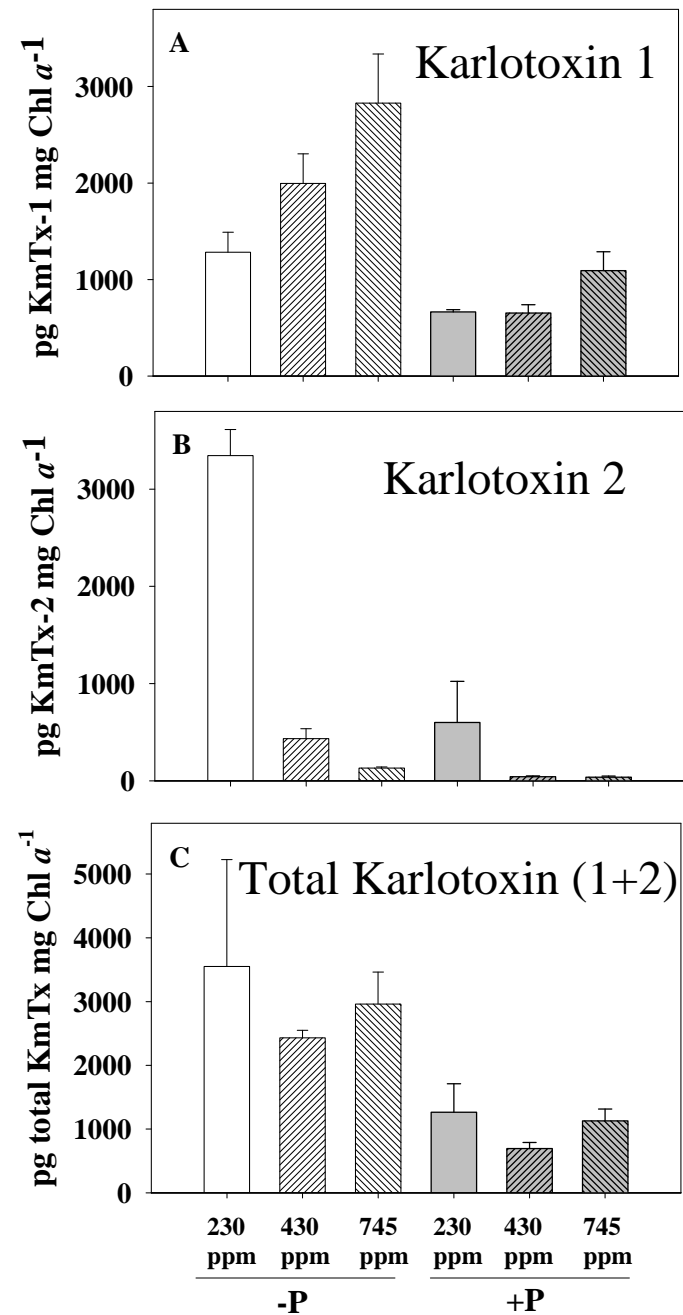
Karlostodinium growth rates



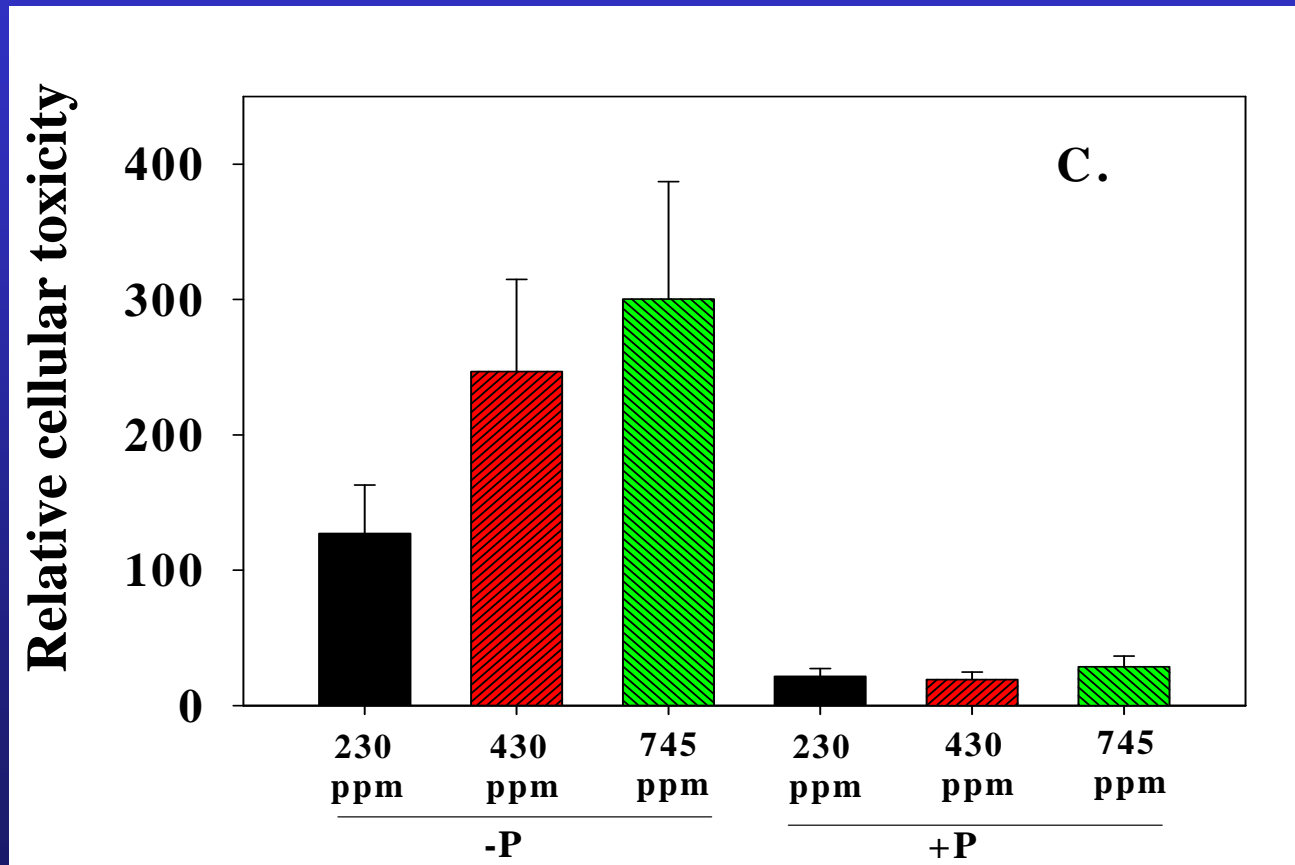
pCO₂ and
P availability
together
control

Karlodinium
toxin production
and congener
composition

(Fu et al. 2010 AME)

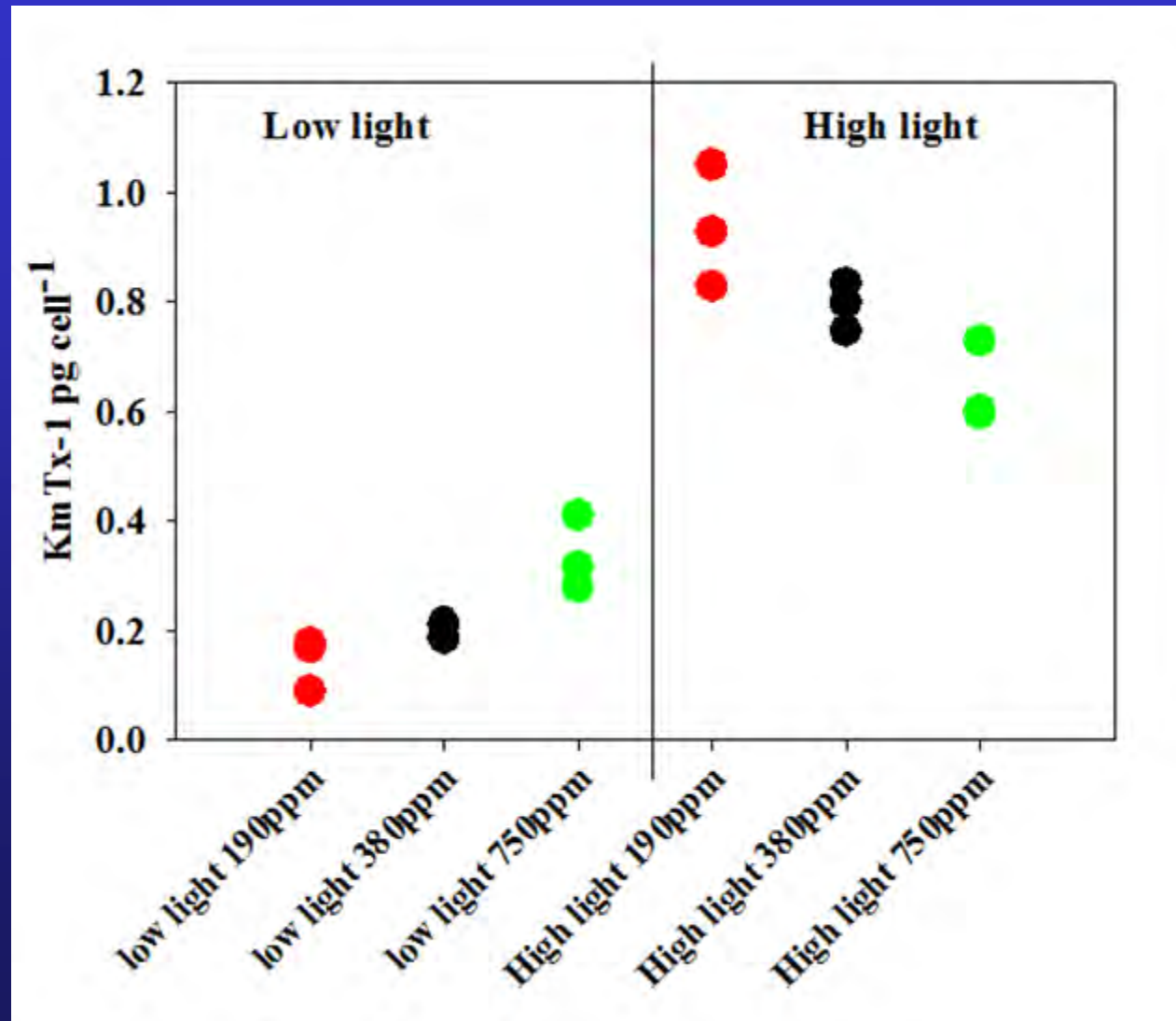


Karlodinium: Cellular potency increases under higher pCO₂ and reduced P availability



(picosaponin equivalents cell⁻¹)

Complex interactions between pCO₂, light and karlotoxin production



Fu, Place and Hutchins, unpubl. data

Conclusions

- Higher pCO₂ could greatly increase the cell-specific toxicity of *Karlodinium* blooms, through changes in the relative production rates of differentially potent karlotoxin congeners
- Interactions between cellular toxicity and pCO₂ are likely to be especially significant in P-limited and high light conditions
- The effects of pCO₂ on cellular karlotoxin are also dependent on light intensities
- More work is needed to determine the interactions of global change variables with pCO₂ in other toxic dinoflagellates e.g. *Alexandrium*, *Pyrodinium bahamense*, and *Gymnodinium catenatum* in the Pacific region

Methods

- Toxic *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseriis* culture from eastern Canada
- Grown at three pCO₂ levels (220, 400 and 730 ppm)
- Each pCO₂ treatment under P-limited and P-replete conditions
- Measurements of domoic acid production (ELISA), physiological and biogeochemical parameters

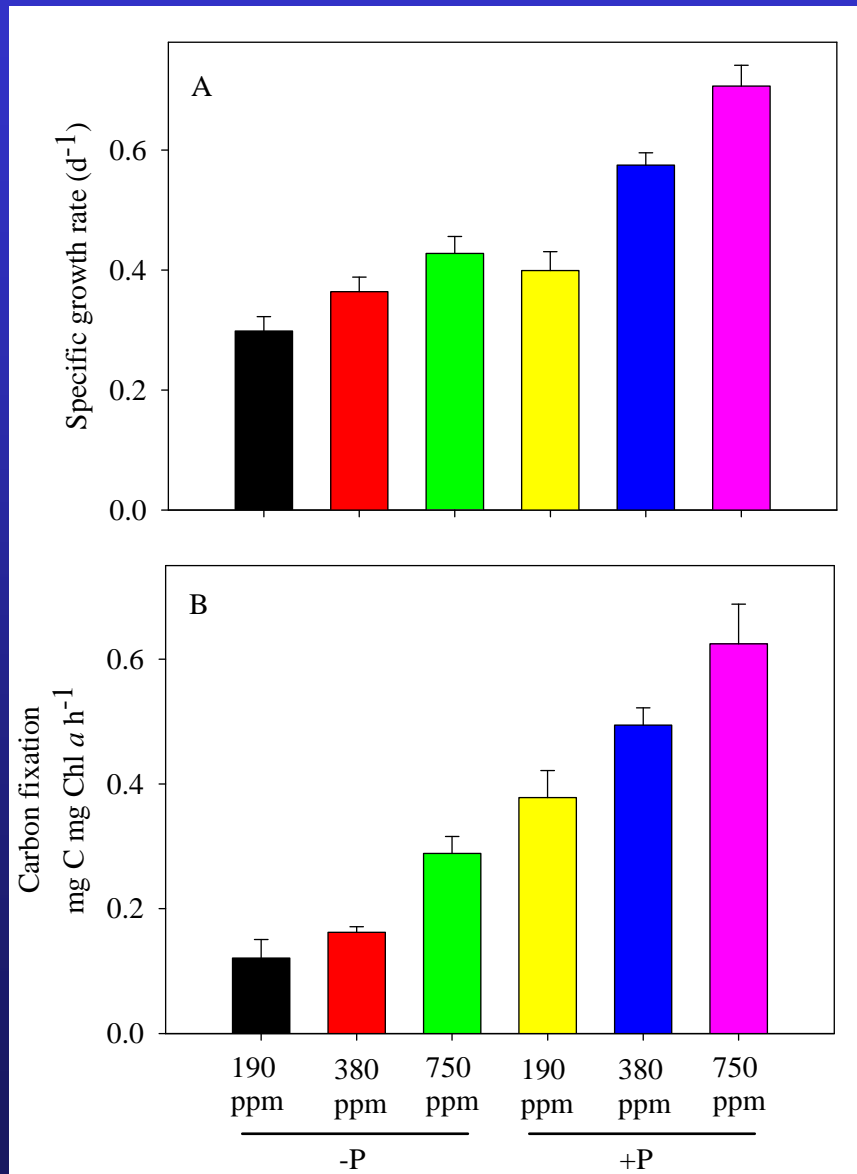


Effects of changing pCO₂ and phosphate availability on domoic acid production and physiology of the marine harmful bloom diatom *Pseudo-nitzschia multiseriis*

Jun Sun, David A. Hutchins, Yuanyuan Feng, Erica L. Seubert, David A. Caron,
and Fei-Xue Fu

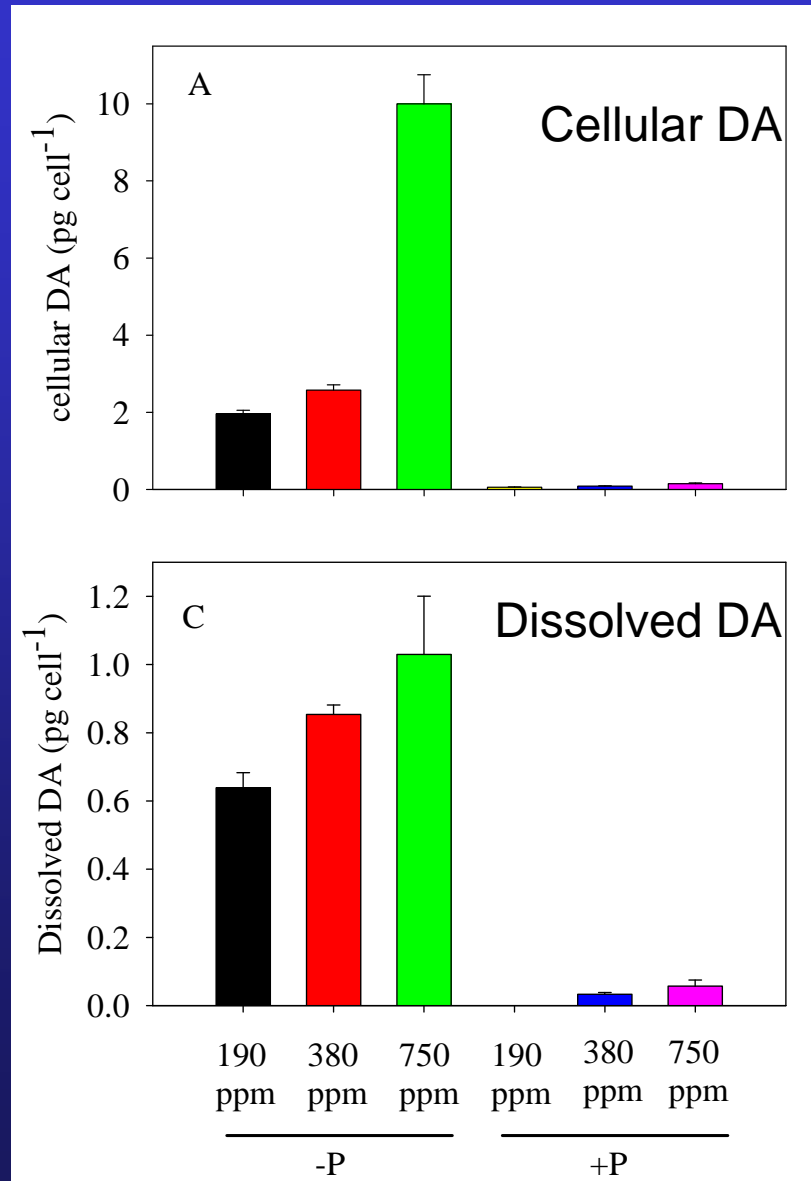
Limnology and Oceanography 56 (2011)

Pseudo-nitzschia multiseri- growth and carbon fixation rates



Sun et al. 2011
L&O 56

Domoic acid production is regulated by both pCO₂ and P availability



Sun et al. 2011

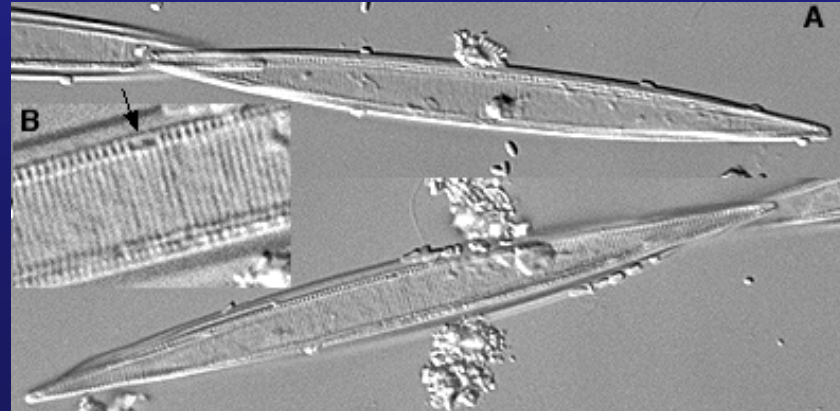
L&O 56

Si and CO₂ effects on a coastal Southern California *Pseudo-nitzschia fraudulenta* isolate

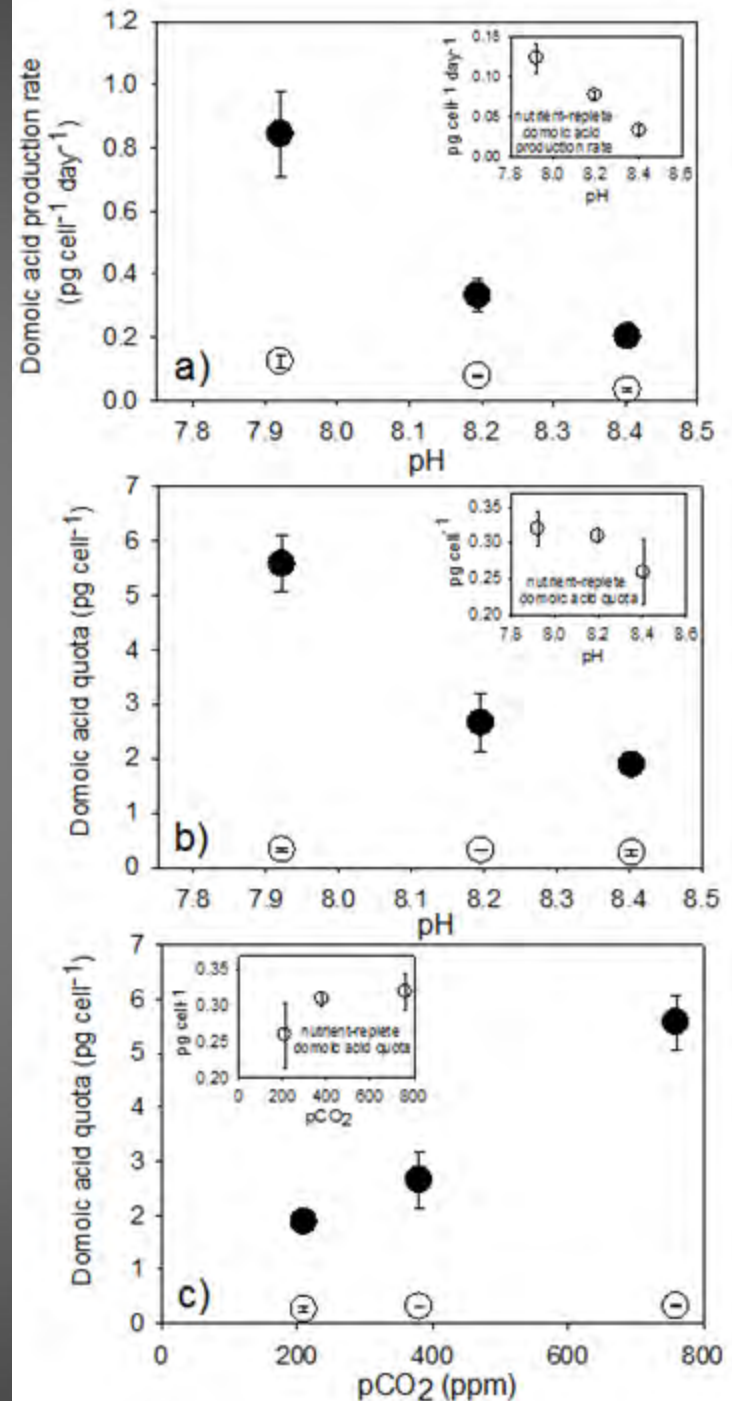
Three CO₂ levels (210 ppm, 380 ppm, 770 ppm)

Silicate-limited and Silicate-replete

Measurements of domoic acid production (HPLC),
growth rates, elemental ratios

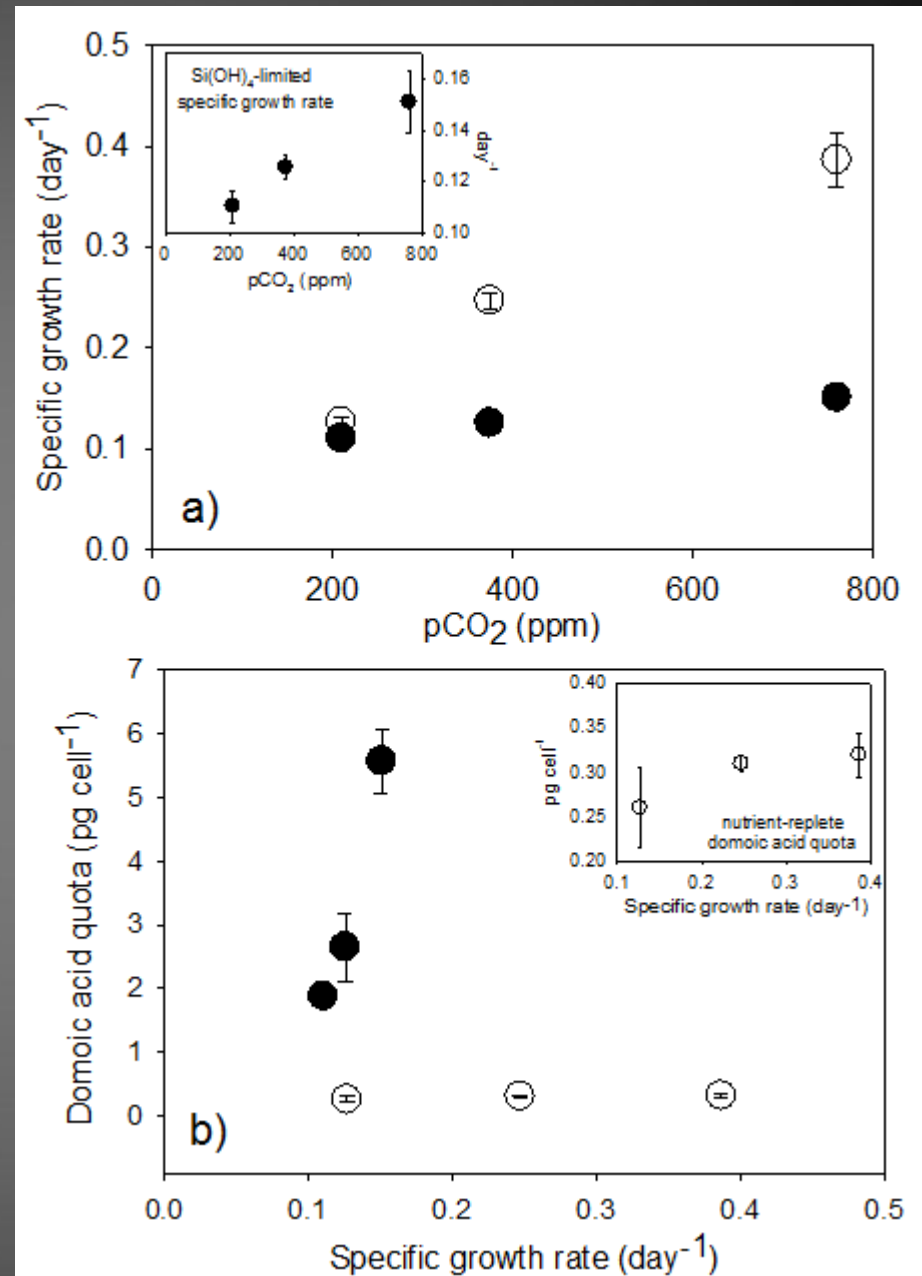


Domoic acid production increases dramatically at lower pH (higher pCO₂), especially during Si-limited growth



Growth rate
is positively
correlated with
toxin production
in both Si-limited
and Si-replete
diatom cultures

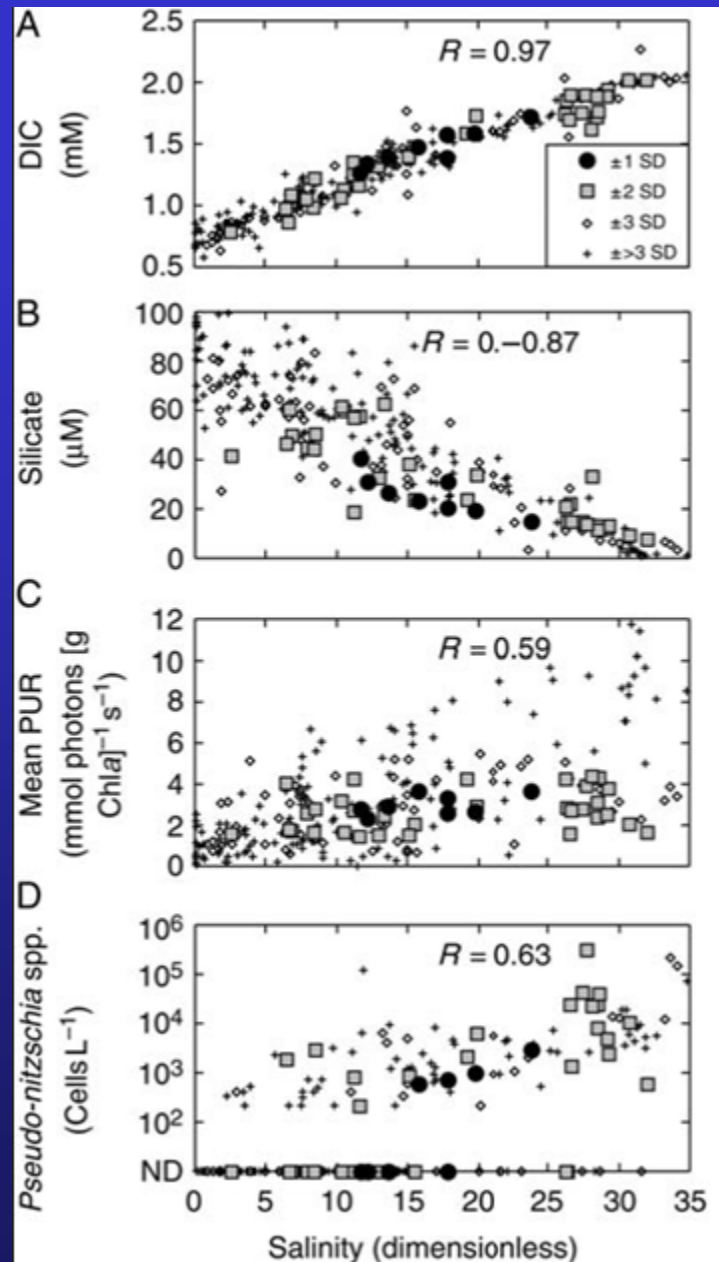
Tatters, Fu and Hutchins
In preparation



Supporting evidence from field studies

MacIntyre et al. 2011.

Environmental correlates of community composition and toxicity during a bloom of *Pseudo-nitzschia* spp. in the northern Gulf of Mexico.
J. Plank. Res. 33



DIC (pCO_2)

Silicate

Irradiance

Pseudo-nitzschia cell number

Estuary \longrightarrow Open ocean

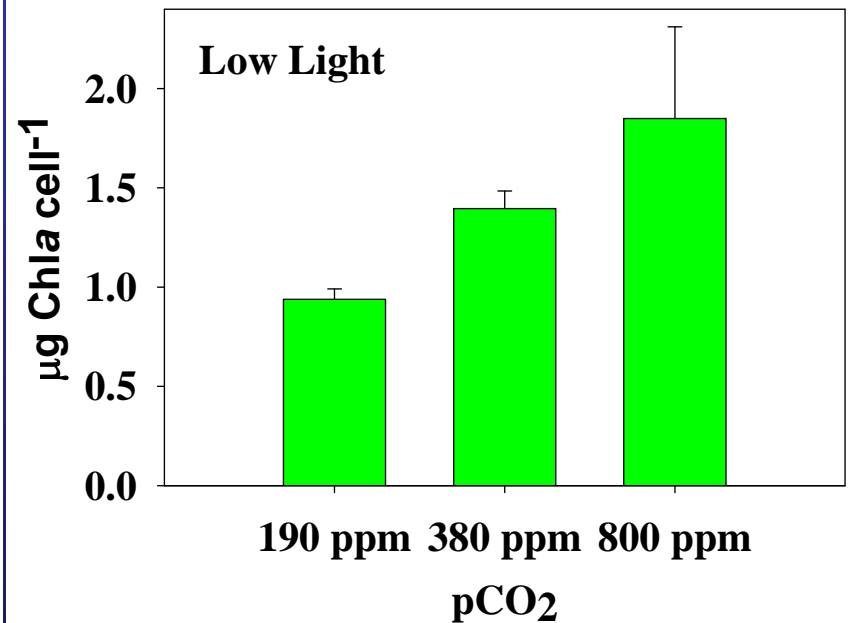
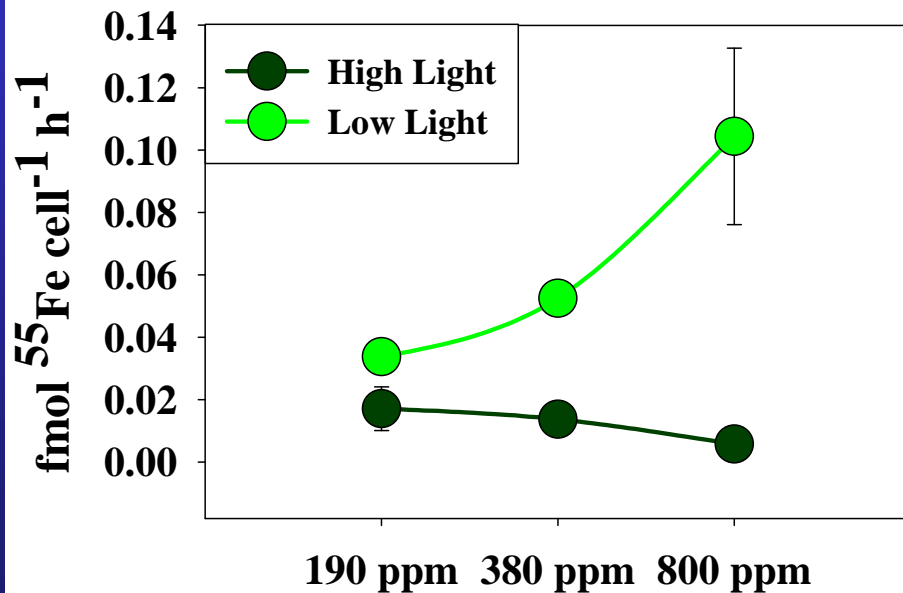
Gene expression and domoic acid/CO₂/Si interactions

- Transcriptome samples from this *Pseudo-nitzschia fradulenta* CO₂/Si experiment have just been Illumina-sequenced through a small grant from the Moore Foundation Marine Microbial Eukaryote Transcriptome Project, in collaboration with Bethany Jenkins (URI)
- Gene expression patterns are currently being analyzed, with an eye towards identifying CO₂- and toxin-responsive genes for future followup work



The interactive effects of CO₂ & light on Fe uptake and cellular Chl in *Pseudo-nitzschia fraudulenta*

⁵⁵Fe uptake vs pCO₂



Conclusions

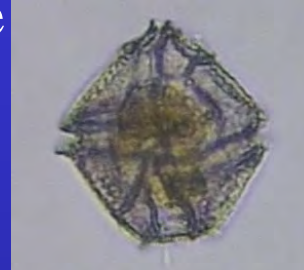
- Like the dinoflagellate, the toxicity of *Pseudo-nitzschia* spp. diatoms is greatly increased by the combination of nutrient limitation and elevated pCO₂.
- Effects on domoic acid production of interactions between pCO₂ and other global change variables, such as temperature, light and iron, are unknown and still need to be determined
- There is a potential for greatly increased toxicity of *Pseudo-nitzschia* blooms in the future acidified ocean

Overall conclusions

In some HAB dinoflagellates and diatoms, cellular toxicity can increase dramatically as $p\text{CO}_2$ goes up

Interactions of global change variables with other key environmental variables like nutrients and light are critical and need to be considered

The potential for adaptation of HAB species to long-term ecosystem changes also needs to be considered





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