

# Production of mycosporine like amino acids (MAAs) by natural phytoplankton community in the Arctic

**Sun-Yong Ha**

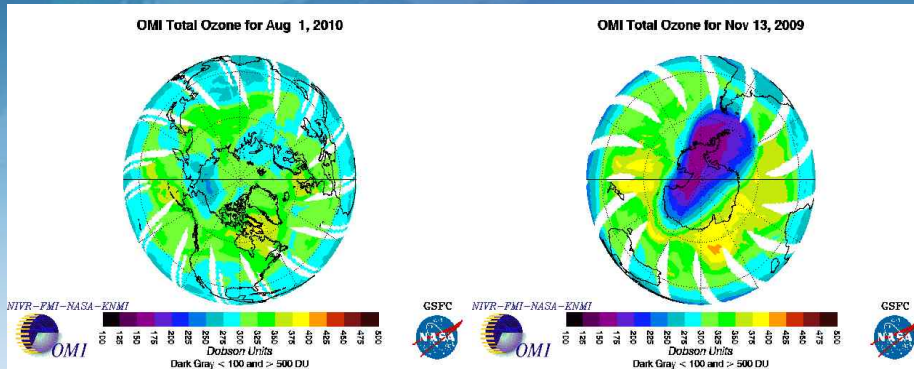
*Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI), Division of Polar  
Ocean Sciences*

A large, 3D-rendered version of the KOPRI logo is positioned at the bottom of the slide. The letters are blue with a white highlight on the top edge, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The logo is slightly tilted and has a soft shadow beneath it.

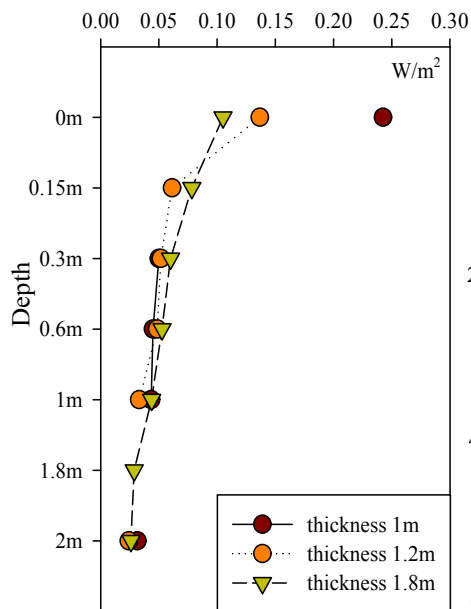
# Background



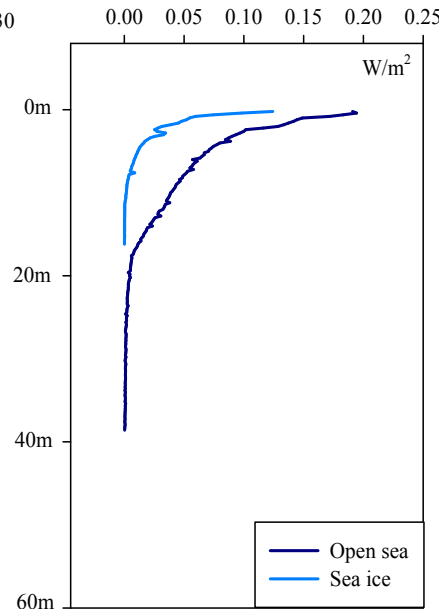
## Ozone depletion in Arctic and Antarctica



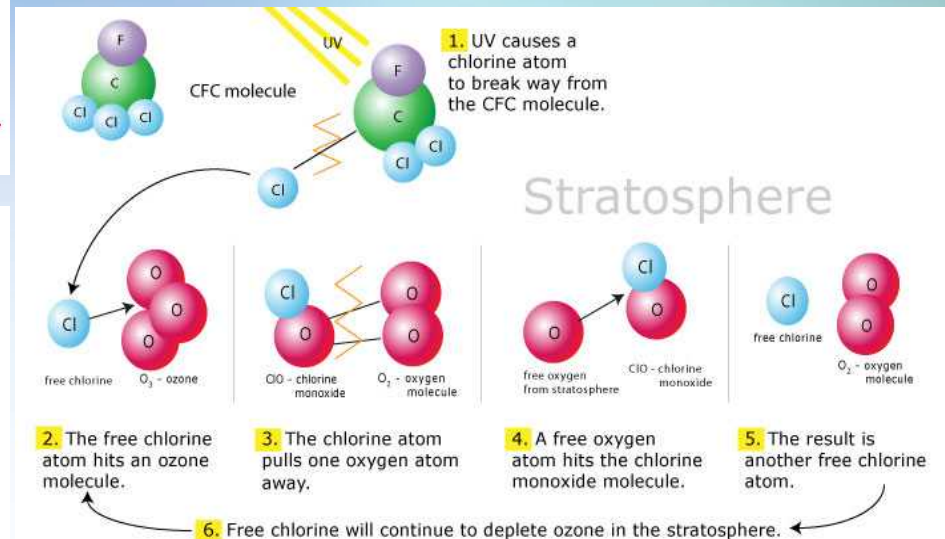
### UV-B transmission on the Sea ice



### Sea ice vs. Open sea

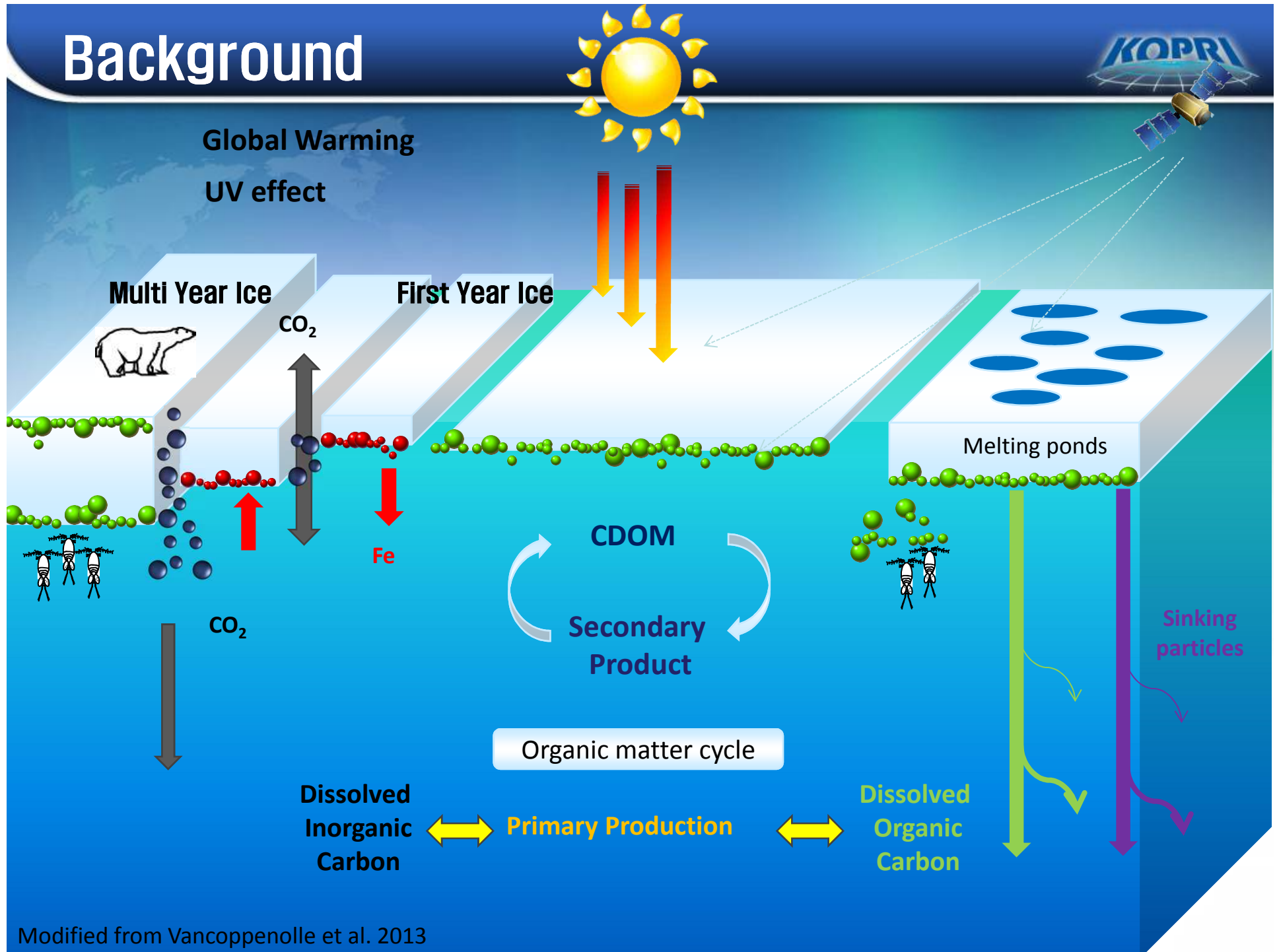


- ✓ In 1985, Reported the 'Ozone hole' over Antarctica.
- ✓ Ozone depletion still occurs and continue



- ✓ In 2013, the average size of the ozone hole was 8.1 million square miles.
- ✓ UV-B transmission on the different sea ice thickness and UVBR have transmitted deeper in open sea water.

# Background



Modified from Vancoppenolle et al. 2013

# Background



## Mycosporine-like amino acids (MAAs) as versatile elements

### Function Values

Anti-Oxidant

Sunscreen protection

Proto-protection

Osmotic pressure

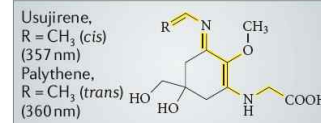
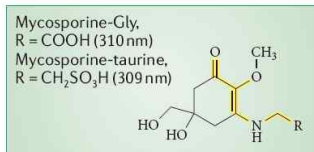
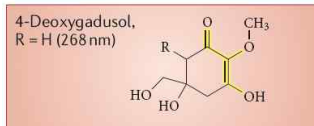
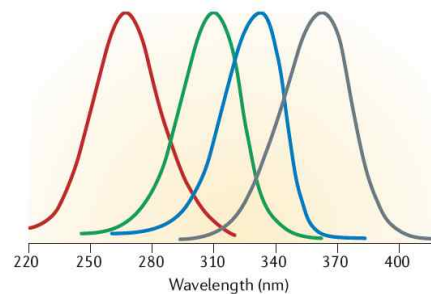
### Ecological Significance

Nitrogen storage

Photosynthetic efficacy

Thermal stress

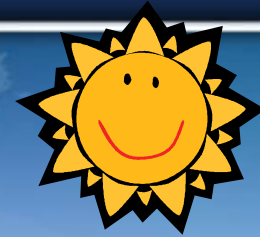
Desiccation stress



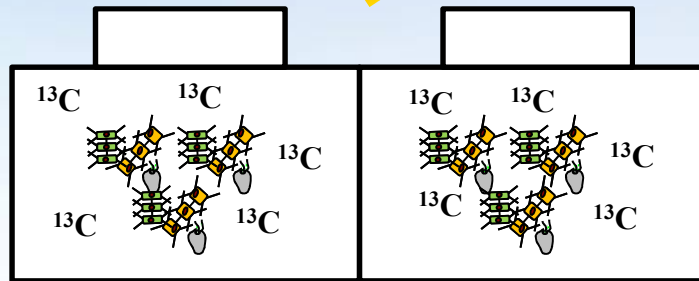
From: Gao and Garcia-Pichel 2011

Modified from Bhatia et al. 2011

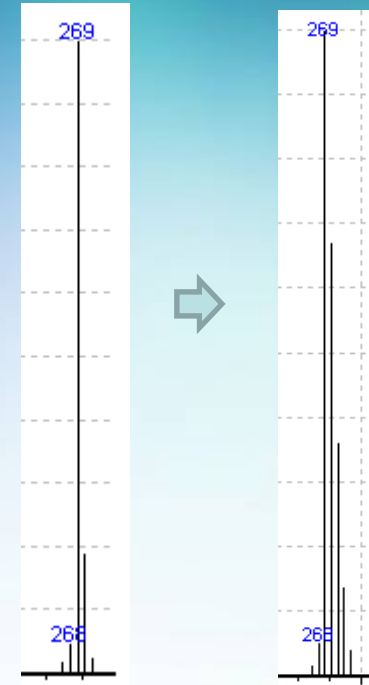
In situ incubation



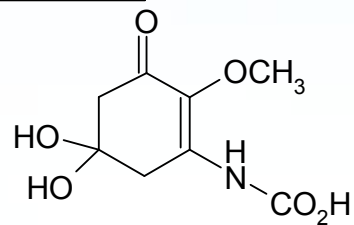
UVR



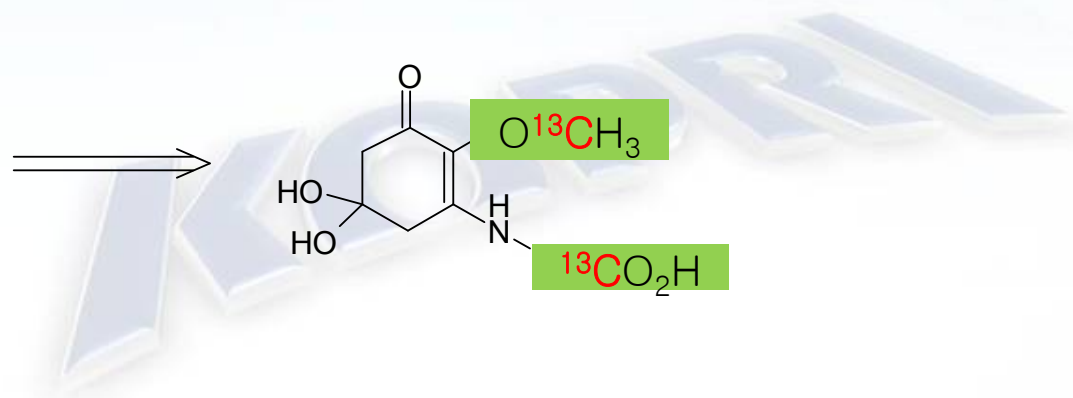
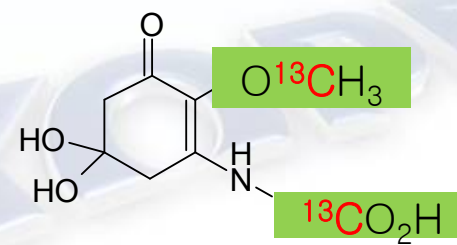
Fatty acids  
C16:1



Mycosporine-like amino acids



Mycosporine-glycine

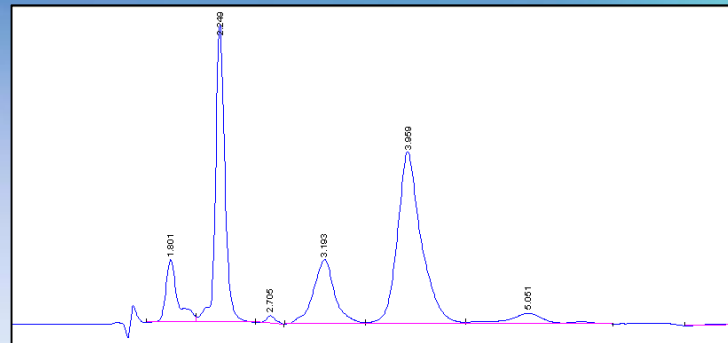




## Production rate of MAAs using HPLC



Separated MAA by HPLC



Collected each compounds



Measured the <sup>13</sup>C value of each compounds

To calculated production rate of individual MAA

$$\Delta MAC(t) = MAC \times \frac{a_{is} - a_{ns}}{a_{ic} - a_{ns}}$$

$\Delta MAC$  : The amount of each MAA carbon photosynthetically produced during the incubation

$a_{is}$  : <sup>13</sup>C atom % in each MAA of incubated sample

$a_{ns}$  : <sup>13</sup>C atom % in each MAA of natural sample

$a_{ic}$  : <sup>13</sup>C atom % in <sup>13</sup>C enriched inorganic carbon

MAC : Concentration of each MAA carbon at the end of incubation

**Ha et al. 2012**

**Photochemistry and Photobiology B:  
Biology 114: 1-14**

## Results and Discussion

- **Production of MAAs of phytoplankton on the melting ponds, Arctic**
- **Distribution of MAAs along size-fractionated phytoplankton in the Beaufort Sea, Arctic**
- **Production rate of Phto-protective compounds on Lab-culture (*Porosira glacialis*)**

# Production of MAAs of phytoplankton on the melting ponds



- Ha et al. 2014 in Journal of Phycology

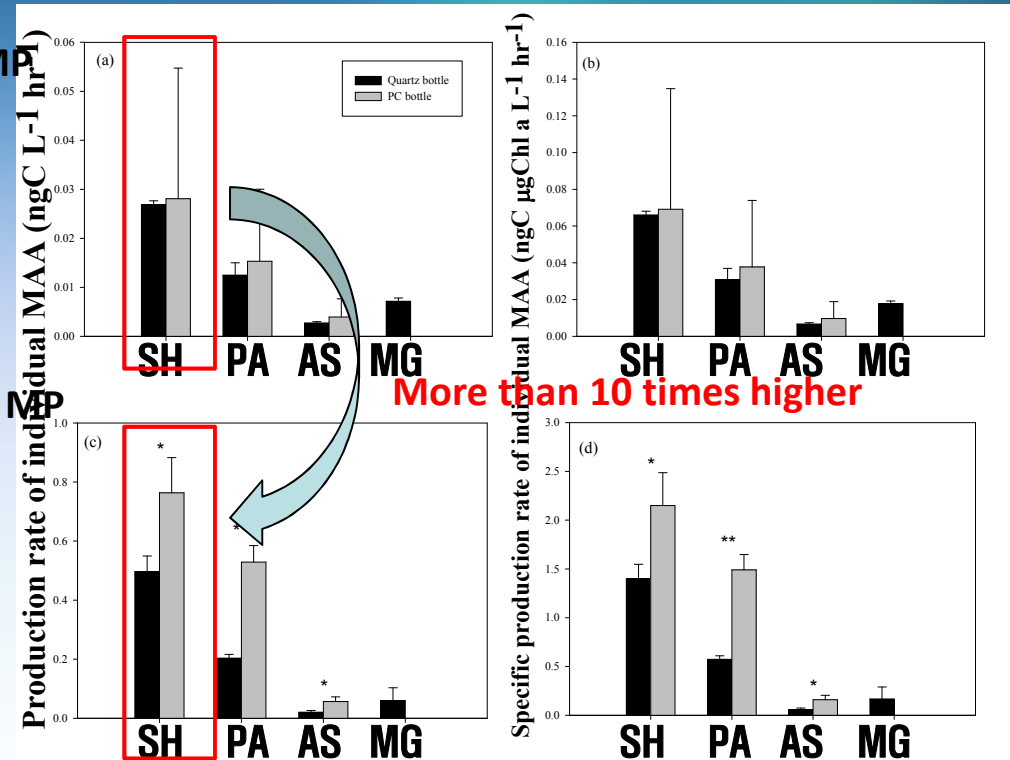
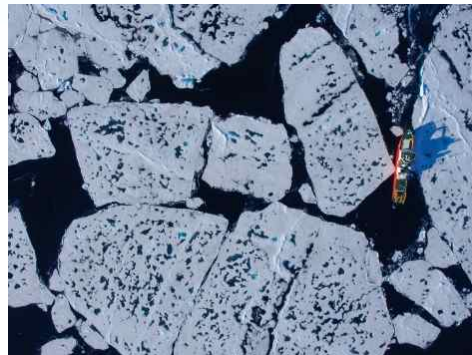


Closed MP



Closed Melting

Open Melting pond



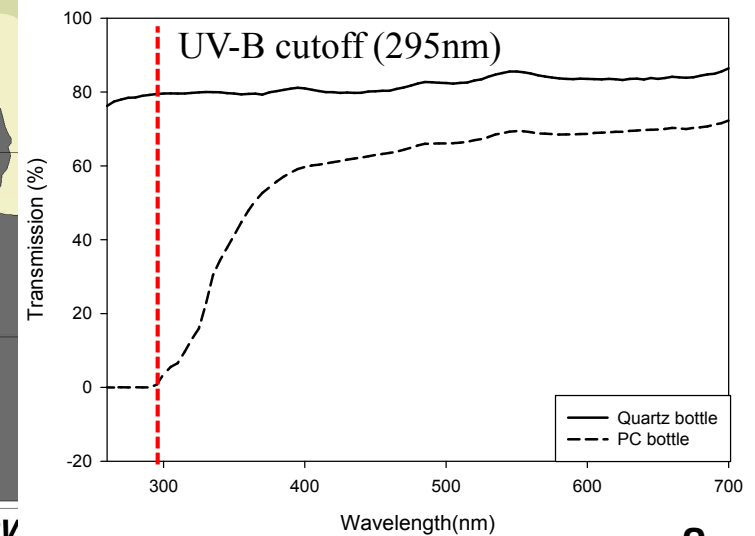
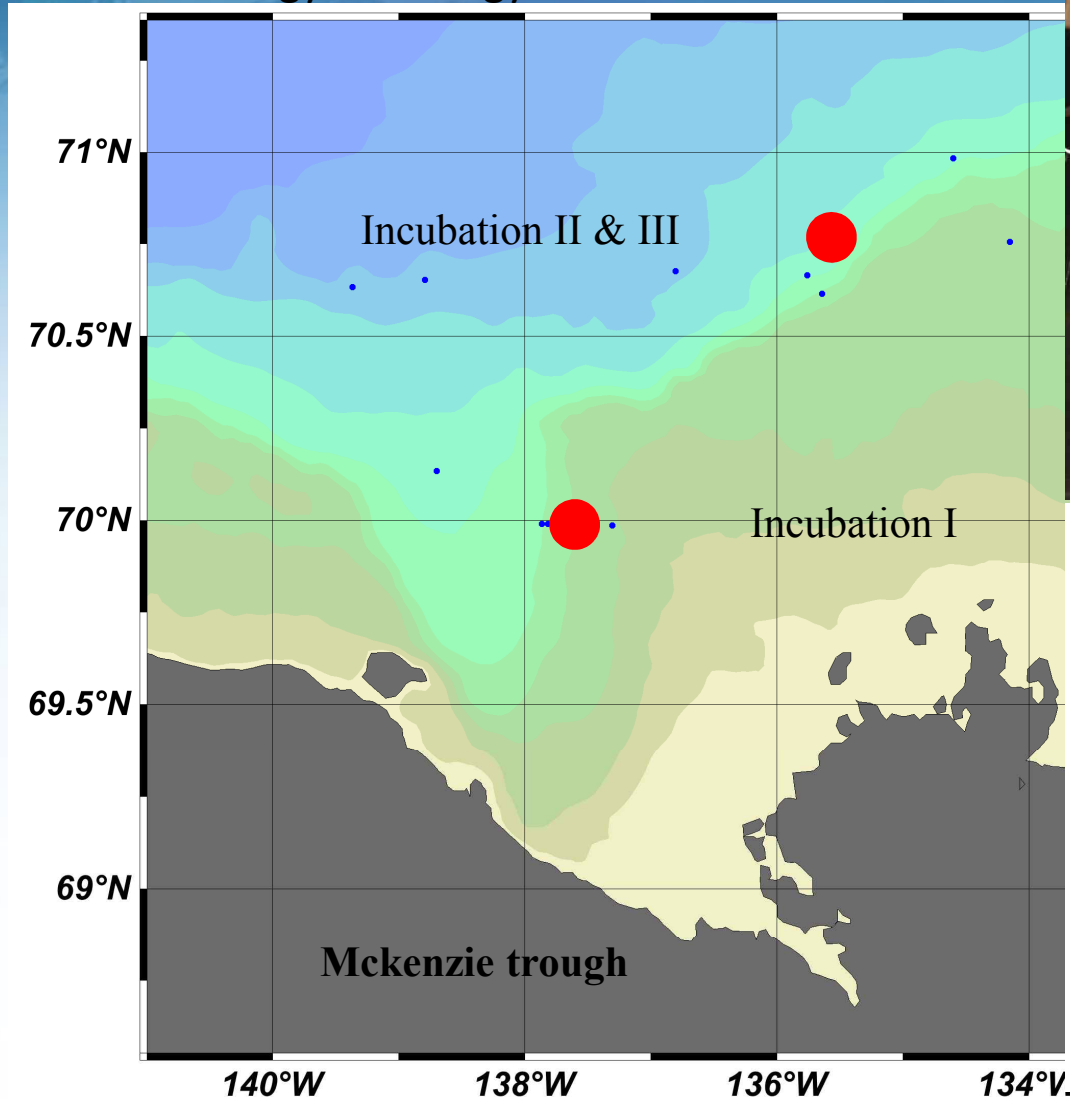
✓ Production rate of MAAs on the melting ponds



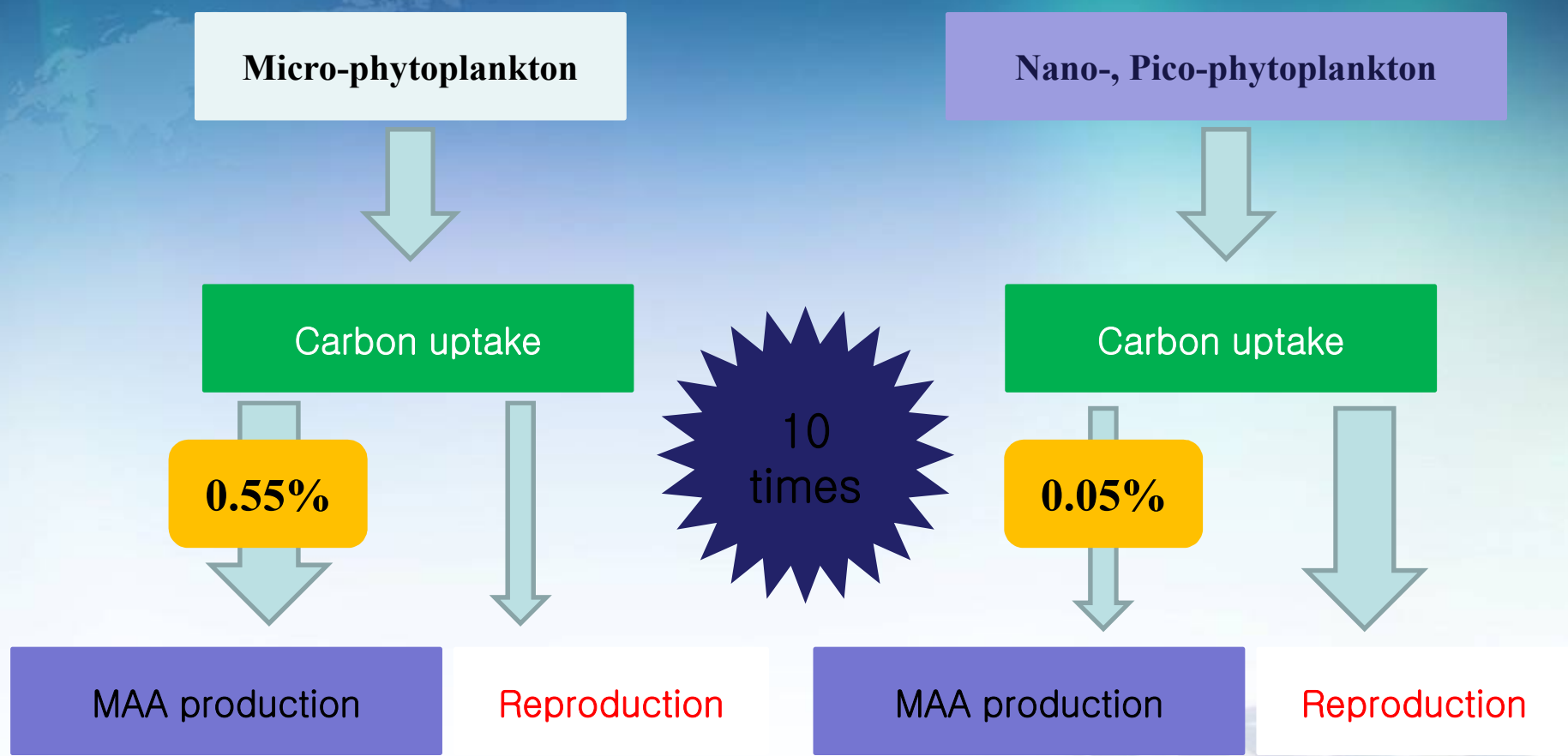
# Distribution of MAAs along size-fractionated phytoplankton in the Beaufort Sea, Arctic



- Submitted in Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology B: Biology



Carbon source

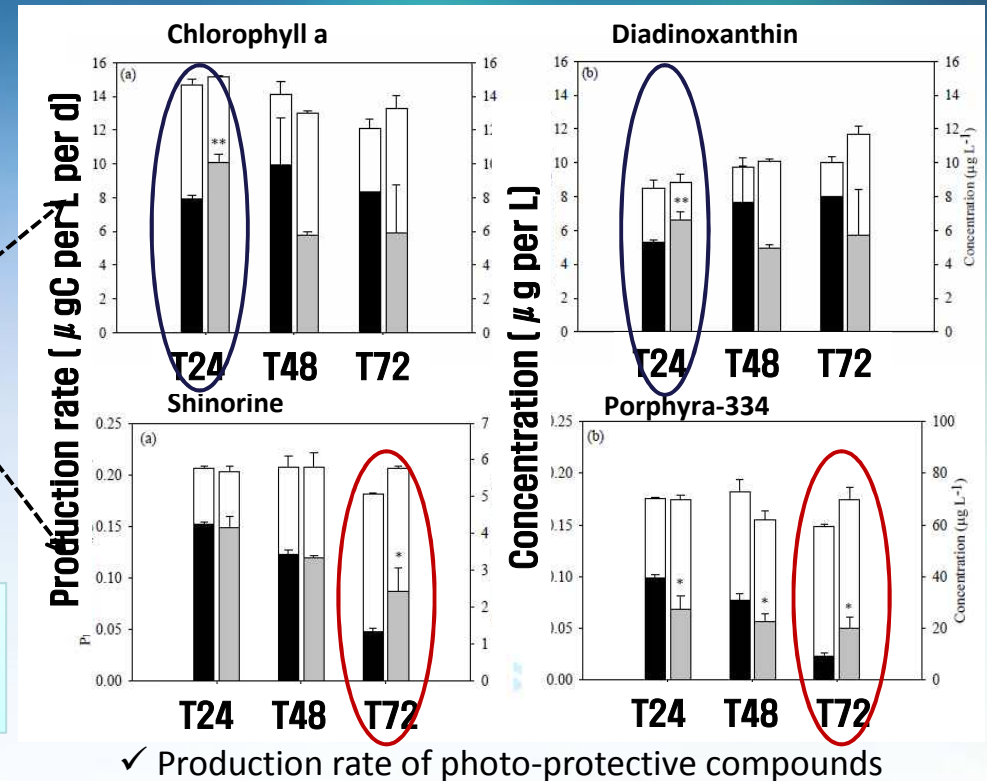
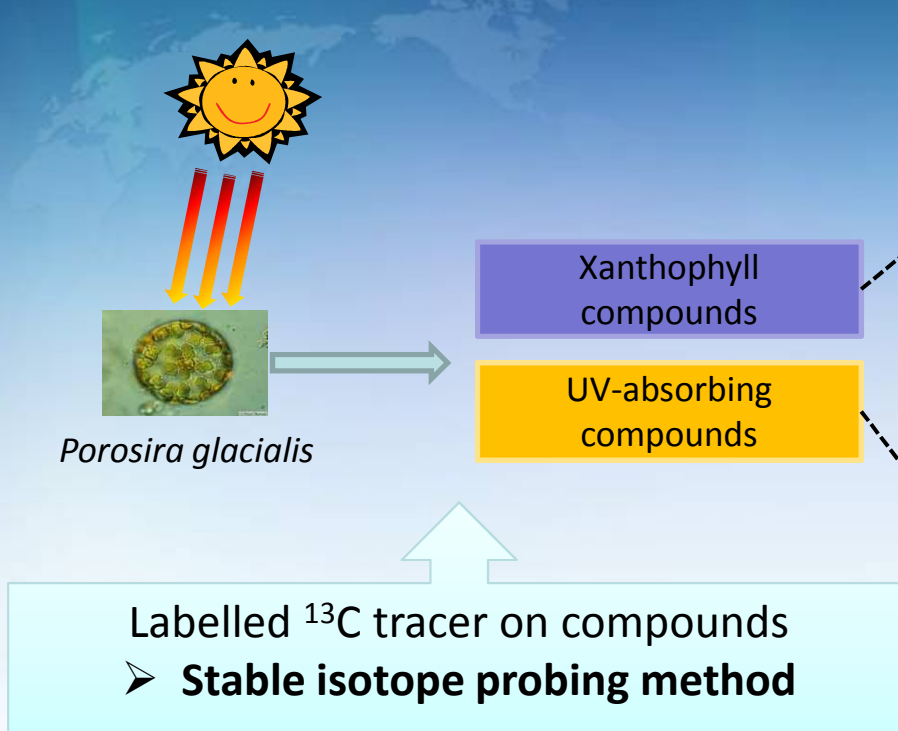


- ✓ Micro-phytoplankton use the carbon to photoprotective mechanisms rather than cell reproduction.
- ✓ However, nano-, and pico-phytoplankton focus on to cell reproduction due to poor photoprotective mechanisms.

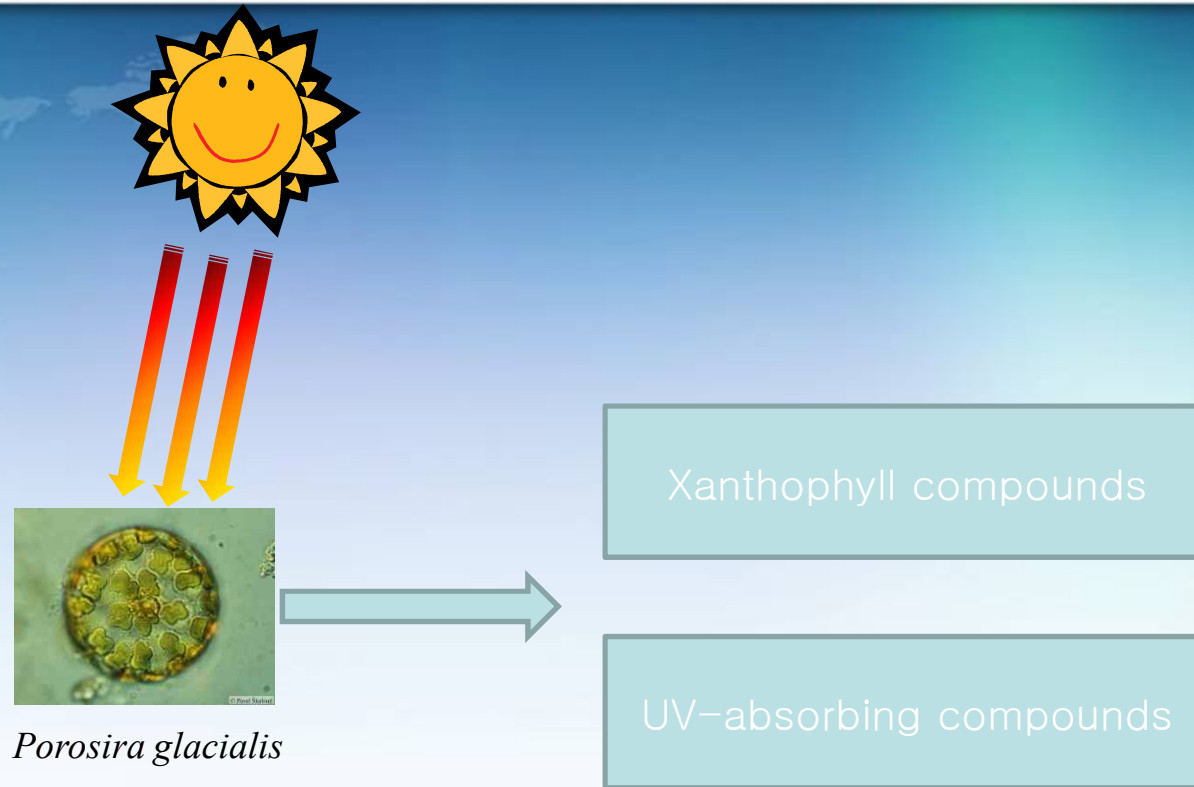
# Production rate of Photo-protective pigment



- Ha *et al.* 2014 in Diatom Research



- The time difference between the production of MAAs and the production of pigments is the direct result of **the allocation of carbon to different photo-protective compounds**
- We could find out the **stable isotope probing method** better than bulk concentration for interpreting the complex environment



- To reflect the synthetic pathways of photoprotective compounds and the carbon cycle within the cell in contrasting patterns over time that are defined by the production of photoprotective pigments and MAAs.
- The time difference between the production of MAAs and the production of pigments is the direct result of the allocation of carbon to different photoprotective compounds.
- Organic carbon is initially fixed to produce photoprotective pigments and that organic carbon ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ) is fixed to produce MAAs within the cell.



Thank you !!



√ This research was a part of the project titled 'K-AOOS (KOPRI, PM16040)', funded by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Korea.

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From Joo