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Concentration maxima of volatile organic iodine compounds in the bottom layer water and the cold, dense water over the Chukchi Sea in the western Arctic Ocean: a possibility of production related to the degradation of organic matter

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Abstract. We conducted a shipboard observation over the Chukchi Sea and the Canada Basin in the western Arctic Ocean in September and October 2012 to obtain vertical distributions of four volatile organic iodine compounds (VOIs) in seawater. The VOIs observed in this study were iodomethane (CH₃I), iodoethane (C₂H₅I), diiodomethane (CH₂I₂), and chloriodomethane (CH₂ClI). Maximum concentrations of the four VOIs were found in the bottom layer water over the Chukchi Sea shelf, in which layer the maximum concentration of ammonium (NH₄⁺) also occurred. A significant correlation was observed between C₂H₅I and NH₄⁺ (correlation coefficient $R = 0.93$, $P < 0.01$, $n = 64$) and between CH₃I and NH₄⁺ ($R = 0.77$, $P < 0.01$, $n = 64$), suggesting that the production of these VOIs increased with the degradation of organic matter. Over the northern Chukchi Sea shelf–slope area, concentration maxima of CH₂I₂, CH₂ClI, and CH₃I were found in the subsurface cold, dense water (CDW). A large nitrogen deficit ($N \text{ deficit} = \text{NH}_4^+ + \text{NO}_3^- + \text{NO}_2^- - 16\text{PO}_4^{3-}$) occurred simultaneously in this water, suggesting the production of the three VOIs in the sediment or the bottom layer water over the shelf, probably in association with the degradation of organic matter. We conclude that VOI production over the Chukchi Sea shelf can be largely attributed to the degradation of organic matter that is produced in the highly productive shelf water. High concentrations of CH₂ClI were also found in the Alaskan Coastal Water (ACW) from the Bering Strait to the surface of the northern Chukchi slope. The VOIs that orig-

inated at the Chukchi Sea shelf are expected to be laterally transported to the Arctic Ocean basin through the CDW and the surface ACW.

1 Introduction

Volatile organic iodine compounds (VOIs) such as iodomethane (CH₃I), iodoethane (C₂H₅I), diiodomethane (CH₂I₂), and chloriodomethane (CH₂ClI) are known to provide iodine atoms to the atmosphere, resulting in catalytic ozone destruction in the troposphere and lower stratosphere (World Meteorological Organization (WMO), 2010). These VOIs have the potential to deplete ozone in boundary layer air on a wide scale (e.g., Carpenter et al., 1999). Arctic ozone depletion during polar sunrise has been indicated, by both observational and theoretical studies (e.g., Spicer et al., 2002), to result from the release of gaseous Br₂ and BrCl from the surface of sea ice and/or snow. More recent theoretical studies have indicated that reactive VOIs such as CH₂I₂ would be extremely effective agents for tropospheric Arctic ozone depletion in polar sunrise and that iodine compounds added to a Br₂–BrCl mixture have a significantly greater ozone depletion effect than additional Br₂ and BrCl molecules only (Carpenter et al., 2005). To understand the flux patterns of VOIs emitted from the ocean to the Arctic air, it is necessary to investigate VOI distribution in seawater and VOI production and loss processes.

The concentrations of VOIs in seawater of the Arctic Ocean have been measured in the following studies. CH_3I , CH_2I_2 , CH_2CII , and $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{I}$ were measured around Ny Ålesund (80°N) in Spitzbergen, Norway, in September (Schall and Heumann, 1993). CH_3I was measured in the Greenland and Norwegian seas ($63\text{--}75^\circ\text{N}$) in November (Happell and Wallace, 1996). CH_2CII was measured in the Arctic Ocean basin from Barrow, Alaska, to Svalbard ($71\text{--}90^\circ\text{N}$; Karlsson et al., 2013). CH_3I , $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$, CH_2CII , and $\text{C}_3\text{H}_7\text{I}$ were measured in the Greenland and Norwegian seas ($78\text{--}82^\circ\text{N}$) in June and July (Atkinson et al., 2014). There have been very few measurements of VOIs in the western (Pacific sector) Arctic Ocean (Karlsson et al., 2013), which has vast continental shelves.

In a recent global mapping of VOIs in the surface mixed layer (Ooki et al., 2015), the Chukchi Sea shelf in the western Arctic Ocean was found to have the second-highest concentration of CH_2CII (average: 5.7 pmol L^{-1}) among all water types (tropical, subtropical, transitional, subpolar, and polar) and ocean areas (shelf, slope, and basin). In the shelf-slope areas, CH_2CII had the largest flux to the atmosphere of three VOIs (CH_3I , $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$, and CH_2CII). The vast Chukchi Sea shelf and the adjacent sea areas might have an impact on organic iodine flux to the Arctic atmosphere. Although these various studies have measured the distribution of VOIs, there is no established approach that will enable us to determine how VOI distributions and processes that produce them are impacted by the environmental conditions – including water mass structure and biochemical parameters, such as nutrients and chlorophyll *a*.

The Chukchi Sea shelf is one of the largest continental shelves in the world and has a high biological productivity (e.g., Cota et al., 1996). Three Pacific-origin water masses – the Anadyr Water (AnW), Bering Shelf Water (BSW), and Alaskan Coastal Water (ACW) – flow through the Bering Strait into the Chukchi Sea (Grebmeier et al., 1988, 1989). The AnW and BSW form a modified Bering-Shelf–Anadyr water (BSAW). BSAW flowing over the Chukchi Shelf is characterized by low temperature (-1 to $+2.0^\circ\text{C}$) and relatively high salinity (>31.8). It is originally enriched in nutrients and occupies the bulk of the central Chukchi Sea. ACW flowing over the eastern Chukchi Shelf along the coastline of the Alaskan Peninsula is characterized by higher temperatures ($>+2^\circ\text{C}$) and lower salinity (<31.8). The nutrient level of ACW is originally low compared with that of BSAW. ACW and BSAW are described as the Pacific-origin summer water (PSW) in the western Arctic Ocean. In the Canada Basin, the surface mixed layer has a seasonally low salinity signature (<30) with a relatively low temperature ($<+2^\circ\text{C}$) in the summer as a result of sea ice melting and river runoff, is called polar mixed layer water (PMLW; Codispoti et al., 2005). Cold, dense water (CDW), which is characterized by its low temperature (-1.7°C) and relatively high salinity ($32\text{--}33$), is created as a result of sea ice formation and brine production, forming upper and lower halocline layers (An-

derson et al., 2013). The CDW that is transported northward on the bottom of the Chukchi Sea shelf is originally derived from Pacific water; thus, CDW over the shelf is described as Pacific-origin winter water (PWW). This CDW (or PWW) flows in the subsurface layer of the Canada Basin. Atlantic water (AW) with high salinity (35) extends from below the halocline layer to the bottom of the Canada Basin. The lower halocline layer water is formed by the mixture of CDW and AW.

In the present study, we conducted a shipboard observation on the R/V *Mirai* (MR12-E03) over the Chukchi Sea and the Canada Basin in the western Arctic Ocean in September and October 2012. We identified the vertical distributions of four VOIs (CH_3I , $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$, CH_2CII , and CH_2I_2) in relation to the water mass structure. We also compare VOIs with nutrients and Chl *a* and discuss possible processes that produce VOIs in seawater.

2 Methods

2.1 Shipboard observation and seawater sampling

Shipboard observation was conducted on the R/V *Mirai* (MR12-E03), which is owned and operated by the Japan Agency for Marine–Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), in the western Arctic Ocean between 15 September and 4 October 2012 as a part of GRENE (Green Network of Excellence) Arctic Climate Change Research Project initiated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Japan. General information on MR12-E03 is provided in the cruise report, which is available to the public on the JAMSTEC data website (<http://www.godac.jamstec.go.jp/darwin/e>). The locations of the 19 sampling stations for the present study are shown in Fig. 1.

Seawater samples for VOI measurement were collected in Teflon-coated, 10 L Niskin-X sampling bottles attached to CTD-RMSs (conductivity–temperature–depth probe rosette multisamplers). The sampling depths were 0 (bucket sampling), 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000, and 3000 m (or bottom depth -5 m).

Seawater aliquots (125 mL) were collected in dark glass bottles, overflowing approximately 250 mL of seawater. To arrest microbial activity, 50 μL of saturated mercuric chloride (HgCl_2) solution, which had been previously bubbled with high-purity nitrogen for 30 min at $90\text{--}100^\circ\text{C}$ to remove any contaminating gases, was added to each bottle. The bottles were crimp-sealed with 0.5 mL headspace, to avoid damage to the glass bottle, using a butyl rubber-lined septum and an aluminum cap. The sample bottles were kept in the dark at $0\text{--}4^\circ\text{C}$ until pretreatment, typically within 1 month.

Dissolved halocarbons were collected from the seawater samples by the purge-and-trap method. The total volume of seawater (125 mL) in the sample bottle was introduced to a purge vessel by a high-purity nitrogen car-

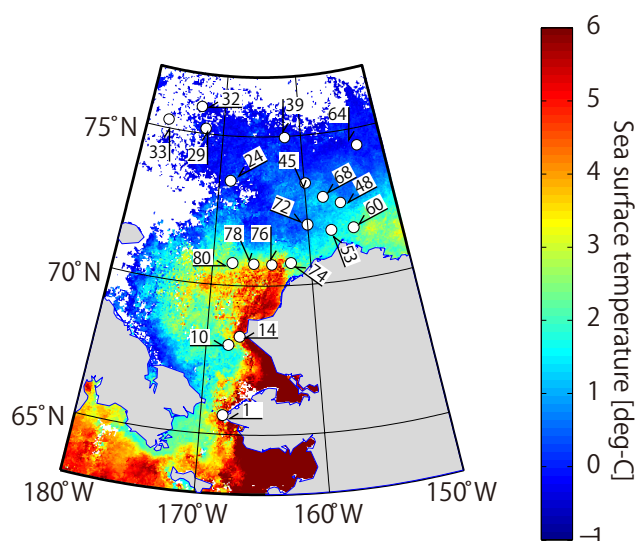


Figure 1. Sampling stations in the present study and sea surface temperature (color) from satellite images from October 2012 (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Ocean Color; <http://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov/cms/>).

rier at 65 mL min^{-1} , and the dissolved gases were consecutively purged by bubbling with nitrogen for 35 min. The purged gas sample was collected in a cold trap containing Tenax TA (10 mg) cooled to -90°C . This cold-trap sample was sealed with 1/16 in. screw nuts (Swagelok[®]) and stored in a freezer (-30°C) until gas-chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC–MS) analysis, typically within 7 days. The purge efficiencies for CH_3I , $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$, CH_2ClI , and CH_2I_2 were 94, 95, 83, and 66 %, respectively (Ooki and Yokouchi, 2011a).

Concentrated VOIs in the cold trap were thermally (200°C) desorbed and transferred to an automated pre-concentration GC–MS analytical system. Details of the GC–MS analysis are described elsewhere (Ooki and Yokouchi, 2011a, b). Briefly, the thermally desorbed sample was collected in a trap containing Carboxene 1000 and Carboxene B cooled to -50°C in a small freezer. Concentrated VOIs in this first trap were thermally (200°C) desorbed and transferred to a second trap, which contained Tenax TA and Carboxene 1000 cooled to -50°C . Then, the second trap was heated to 200°C , and the desorbed components were transferred to a capillary column (Porabond Q, 0.32 mm, 50 m) in preparation for GC–MS analysis (Agilent 5973, 6890).

To check the possibility of loss and contamination of VOIs in the cold trap during storage in the freezer (-30°C), two types of standard gases were separately concentrated in each cold trap. The first type is a purge-and-trap standard containing three VOIs in a water bottle (125 mL). The VOI standards in a standard bottle (125 mL) was collected in a cold trap using the purge-and-trap method mentioned above. The second type is mixed standard gases containing 13 halocarbons in

a high-pressure cylinder. The mixed standard diluted with high-purity nitrogen was introduced to a cold trap. Blank cold traps (no VOI standard) and the two types of standard cold traps were stored in a freezer (-30°C) for 7 to 30 days. The results of the GC–MS analysis of the standard and blank traps showed that no significant loss or contamination occurred during storage.

2.2 Chlorophyll *a* and nutrients

Chl *a* concentrations were measured with a fluorescence sensor attached to the CTD observation system. The fluorescence data were calibrated with Chl *a* concentrations in discrete seawater samples measured using the fluorometric Welshmeyer method (Welshmeyer, 1994). Nutrient (NO_3^- , NO_2^- , NH_4^+ , SiO_2 , and PO_4^{3-}) concentrations were measured by the colorimetric method using a QuAAtro system and in accordance with “The GO-SHIP Repeat Hydrography Manual” (Hydes et al., 2010). Analytical precision was 0.12 % for NO_3^- , 0.21 % for NO_2^- , 0.19 % for PO_4^{3-} , 0.11 % for SiO_2 , and 0.34 % for NH_4^+ .

We calculated the value of nitrogen deficit relative to phosphate: $\text{N deficit} = [\text{NH}_4^+] + [\text{NO}_3^-] + [\text{NO}_2^-] - r \times [\text{PO}_4^{3-}]$, where r is a Redfield ratio of 16. The concentration ratio of nitrogenous nutrient and phosphate in seawater is usually fixed, with $\text{N/P} = 16$. In the anoxic region, such as in bottom sediment, in which nitrate is used in the destruction of organic-matter, phosphate can increase with a decrease in nitrate. We regard the large N deficit as an indicator of the influence of denitrification on shelf sediment.

3 Results

3.1 Overview of hydrographic condition

The spatial distribution of surface seawater temperature (SST) is shown in Fig. 1. The water masses were classified according to Grebeier et al. (1989). We defined the cold dense water (CDW) as having a temperature of -1 to -1.7°C and a salinity of 32–34, which includes modified CDW as a result of mixture of AW in the lower halocline layer. The warm ACW with temperature $> +2^\circ\text{C}$, as shown in light blue to red color in the figure, and a salinity < 31.8 , was found in large parts of the east Chukchi Sea shelf–slope area. The main flow of ACW (temp. $> 4^\circ\text{C}$), shown in both orange and red colors in the figure, was along the coastline of the Alaskan Peninsula. This flow covered the sampling locations of St1, St14, St74, and St76. The ACW seemed to be distributed westward around 70°N , covering the sampling locations of St78–80. Its eastward flow reached the Barrow Canyon (St53–60) and branched to the northwest along the Chukchi Sea slope from St48 to 45 (light blue in the figure). The PMLW ($-1 < \text{temp.} < 2^\circ\text{C}$, sal. < 30) occupied the surface of the northern Chukchi Sea and the Canada Basin, cov-

Table 1. Hydrographic conditions in the Chukchi Sea and the Arctic Ocean basin.

St.	Location	Lat	Long.	Bottom depth (m)	Area type	SST (°C)	SSS	MLD (m)	Surface mixed layer (m)	Subsurface layer (m)	CDW (m)	AW (m)
<i>1</i>		65.7	191.8	43	Shelf	8.1	24.1	5	0–5 (ACW)	6–36(ACW)	–	–
<i>10</i>		68.0	192.0	55	Shelf	3.9	28.9	6	0–6 (ACW)	7–22 (ACW), 23–48 (BSAW)	–	–
<i>14</i>	Southern	68.3	193.0	38	Shelf	7.1	28.0	7	0–6 (ACW)	7–32 (ACW)	–	–
<i>80</i>	Chukchi	70.8	192.0	48	Shelf	2.7	31.9	20	0–20 (ACW)	21–22 (ACW), 23–39 (BSAW)	–	–
<i>78</i>	shelf	70.7	194.0	40	Shelf	3.1	31.2	11	0–11 (ACW)	12–28 (ACW), 29–33 (BSAW)	–	–
<i>76</i>		70.8	196.0	47	Shelf	4.5	29.6	15	0–15 (ACW)	16–39 (ACW)	–	–
<i>74</i>		70.8	198.0	43	Shelf	4.5	31.1	33	0–33 (ACW)	34–35 (ACW)	–	–
<i>53</i>		71.4	202.5	124	Shelf	3.6	29.7	9	0–9 (ACW)	10–24 (ACW), 25–36 (BSAW)	37–99	> 100
<i>60</i>	Central	71.7	204.9	257	Slope	3.2	30.3	6	0–6 (ACW)	7–25 (ACW), 26–54 (BSAW)	55–111	> 112
<i>48</i>	Chukchi	72.5	204.0	1896	Slope	4.0	26.7	9	0–9 (ACW)	10–40 (ACW), 41–70 (BSAW)	71–207	> 208
<i>68</i>	Shelf–slope	72.9	202.0	1573	Slope	2.6	28.4	14	0–14 (ACW)	15–20 (ACW), 21–55 (BSAW)	56–151	> 152
<i>45</i>		73.3	200.0	1390	Slope	2.7	26.9	10	0–10 (ACW)	11–13 (ACW), 14–81 (BSAW)	82–203	204
<i>72</i>		72.0	200.0	30	Shelf	0.2	28.2	8	0–8 (PMLW)	9–15 (BSAW)	16–20	–
<i>24</i>		73.5	191.3	118	Shelf	–0.2	26.9	9	0–8(PMLW)	9–32 (BSAW)	32–105	–
<i>29</i>		75.2	187.4	453	Slope	–0.3	26.6	13	0–13 (PMLW)	14–51 (BSAW)	52–192	> 193
<i>33</i>		75.2	182.5	721	Slope	0.0	26.7	18	0–18 (PMLW)	19–45 (BSAW)	46–162	> 163
<i>39</i>	Northern	75.0	198.1	1987	Slope	0.8	25.7	20	0–20 (PMLW)	21–91 (BSAW)	92–240	> 240
<i>32</i>	Slope–basin	76.0	186.0	2137	Basin	–0.4	25.8	23	0–20 (PMLW)	21–83 (BSAW)	84–225	> 226
<i>64</i>		74.5	206.0	3851	Basin	0.1	25.1	17	0–18 (PMLW)	19–105 (BSAW)	106–263	> 264

Shelf area with bottom depth < 200 m; slope area with bottom depth between 200 and 2000 m; basin area with bottom depth > 2000 m. Sampling stations in the shelf area are printed in italics. ACW: Alaskan Coastal Water ($T > +2$ °C; $S < 31.8$). BSAW: Bering–Shelf–Anadyr water ($T = -1 \sim -2.0$ °C). PMLW: polar mixed layer water ($T < +2$ °C, $S < 30$). Subsurface layer: between surface mixed layer (ML) and CDW. CDW: cold dense water (halocline layer; $T = -1 \sim -1.7$ °C; $S = 32 \sim 34$). AW: Atlantic water ($S > 34.2$).

ering the sampling locations of St24, St29, St32, St33, St39, St64, and St72.

Geographical information is summarized in Table 1. This information includes sampling position (lat, long.), bottom depth and area type (shelf with bottom depth < 200 m, slope with bottom depth 200–2000 m, or basin with bottom depth > 2000 m). The table also includes hydrographic conditions, which include SST, sea surface salinity (SSS), surface mixed layer depth (MLD), and water mass types (ACW, BSAW, PMLW, CDW, or AW). The sampling stations under the influence of ACW are listed in order of latitude from the southernmost St1 to the northernmost St45 and those under the influence of PMLW are given in order of bottom depth from the shallowest St72 to the deepest St64. The MLD was defined as the depth where the potential density increases by 0.125 kg m^{-3} compared with the reference depth of 5 m. The subsurface layer was defined as the layer between the surface mixed layer and the CDW or ocean floor.

In the present study, we divided our study area into three groups: “Southern Chukchi shelf”, “Central Chukchi shelf–slope”, and “Northern slope–basin”, defined as area between Bering Strait and 71, 71 and 74° N, and north of 74° N, respectively (Table 2).

In the water structure analysis, the ACW occupied the water column under the main flow of ACW (temp. > 4 °C; St1, St14, St76, St74), and the BSAW was found in the subsurface layer at the other stations where ACW ($4 > \text{temp.} > 2$ °C) flows over BSAW. The CDW (or PWW) was found below the subsurface layer at the Central Chukchi shelf–slope and the Northern slope–basin. The AW underlaid the CDW at the deeper stations (bottom depth 124 m) of the central and northern areas.

3.2 Distributions of chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*), ammonium (NH_4^+), N deficit, and VOIs

The average concentrations of Chl *a*, NH_4^+ , N deficit, and the four studied VOIs (CH_3I , $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$, CH_2I_2 , and CH_2ClI) in the surface mixed layer, subsurface layer, CDW, and AW at each station are listed in Tables 2–7. The vertical distributions of potential density, NH_4^+ , N deficit, and the four VOIs in the Southern Chukchi shelf (St10, St14, St80 and St76) and the Central Chukchi shelf–slope and Northern slope–basin (St24, St29, St64, St32, and St68) are shown in Figs. 2a–g and 3a–g.

3.2.1 Chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*)

The total average concentration of Chl *a* in all Pacific-origin water (ACW + BSAW + PMLW + CDW) was $0.42 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$. The averages of Chl *a* in ACW in the surface mixed layer ($0.75 (\pm 0.33\sigma) \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) and the subsurface layer ($0.67 (\pm 0.26\sigma) \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) were higher than the total average in all Pacific-origin water. The averages in PMLW ($0.19 (\pm 0.17\sigma) \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) and BSAW ($0.31 (\pm 0.16\sigma) \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) were lower than the total average. In the Northern slope–basin stations, where the PMLW occupied the surface layer, the Chl *a* concentrations were very low ($0.08\text{--}0.16 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) in the surface layer. However, concentration maxima were found in the subsurface layer at station St29 ($0.53 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) and the CDW at St33 ($0.48 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$; Table 2).

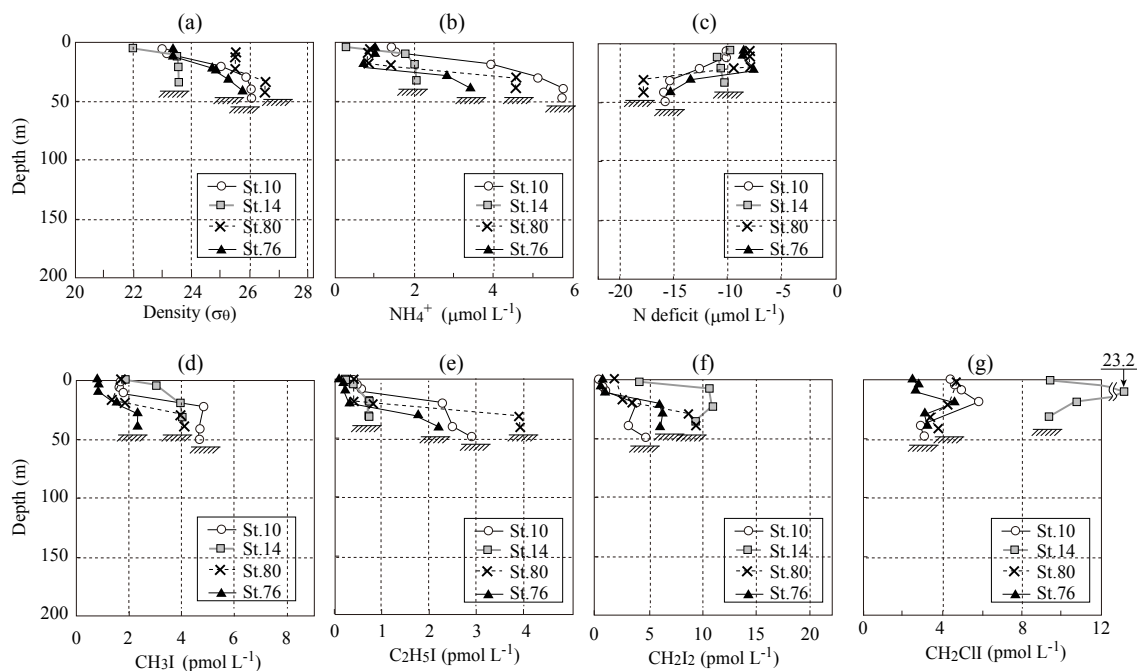


Figure 2. Vertical distributions of potential density (a), NH_4^+ (b), N deficit (c), CH_3I (d), $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$ (e), CH_2I_2 (f), and CH_2CII (g) at St.10, St.14, St.80, and St.76 over the Southern Chukchi shelf.

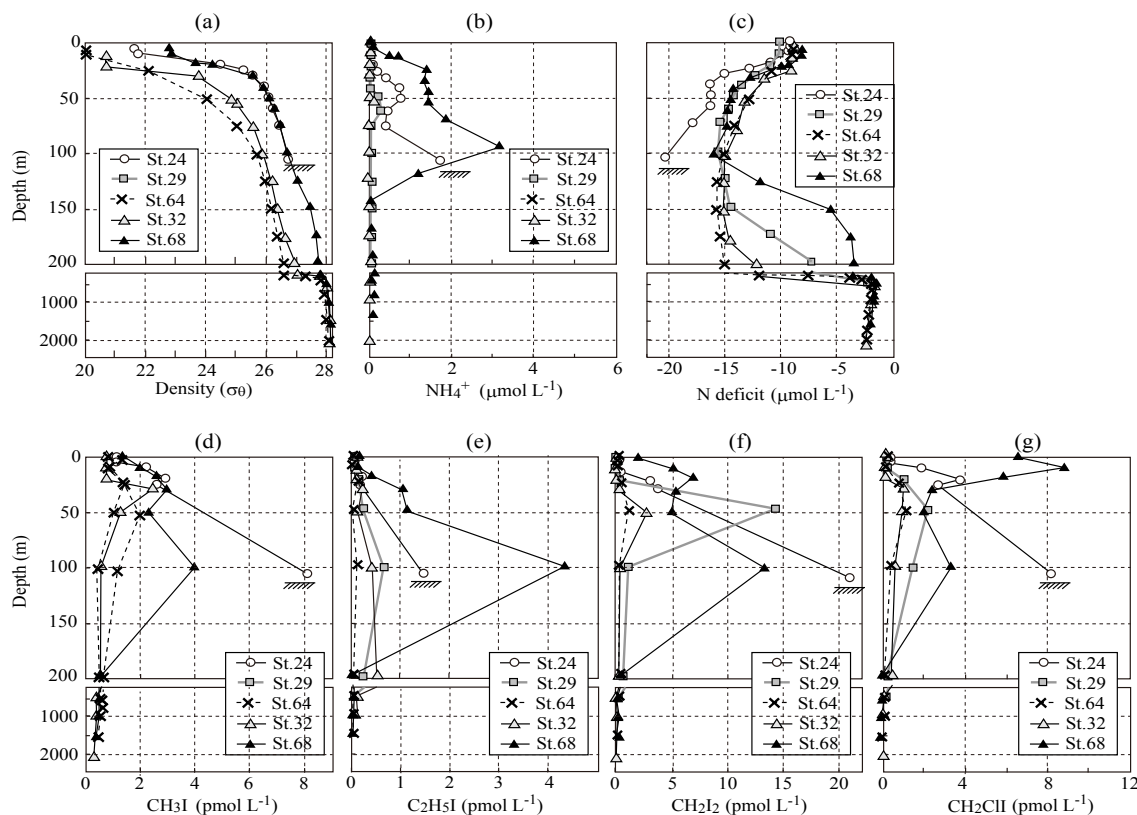


Figure 3. Vertical distributions of potential density (a), NH_4^+ (b), N deficit (c), CH_3I (d), $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$ (e), CH_2I_2 (f), and CH_2CII (g) at St.24, St.29, St.64, St.32, and St.68 over the Central Chukchi shelf-slope and the Northern slope-basin.

Table 2. Concentrations of Chl *a*. bML indicates the subsurface layer.

St.	ML ACW	ML PMLW	bML ACW	bML BSAW	CDW	AW
Southern Chukchi shelf						
1	1.28		1.24			
10	1.14		0.66	0.23		
14	0.98		0.46			
80	0.71			0.21		
78	0.64		0.85	0.22		
76	0.24		0.29			
74	0.73		0.69			
Central Chukchi shelf–slope						
53	0.93		0.59	0.18	0.20	0.21
60	0.97		0.58	0.14	0.12	0.12
48	0.47		0.51		0.08	0.06
68	0.63		0.81	0.20	0.10	0.06
45	0.22			0.28	0.03	0.02
72		0.56	0.69		0.27	
24		0.14	0.46		0.13	
Northern slope–basin						
29		0.14	0.53		0.11	0.07
33		0.13	0.31		0.48	0.03
39		0.16	0.38		0.10	0.06
32		0.08	0.29		0.04	0.01
64		0.12	0.16			0.05

High Chl *a* ($>0.42 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) values above the total average in Pacific-origin water are denoted in bold.

3.2.2 Ammonium (NH_4^+) and N deficit

The total average concentration of NH_4^+ in all Pacific-origin water (ACW + BSAW + PMLW + CDW) was $1.0 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$. Over the Southern Chukchi shelf, the concentration maxima (1.0 – $5.8 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) were found in the bottom layer water as shown in Fig. 2b for St10, St80, and St76. The highest concentration ($5.8 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) was found near the bottom of the BSAW around the Hope Valley over the Chukchi Sea shelf (St10), where the “Hope Valley biological hotspot” is known to exist (Grebmeier et al., 2015). The dissolved oxygen minimum ($243 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$) and large N deficit ($-12.3 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) occurred simultaneously near the bottom in this area.

Over the Central Chukchi shelf–slope, concentration maxima (1.3 – $3.8 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) were found in the subsurface BSAW and CDW above AW at St24, St53, St60, St68, and St72 (Table 3). The vertical distributions at St24 and St68 are shown in Fig. 3b.

In the Northern slope–basin, NH_4^+ concentrations were very low, with an average of $0.05 (\pm 0.07\sigma) \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$. Note that small concentration peaks were found in the CDW at St29 ($0.27 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) at 60 m depth, as shown in Fig. 3b. The same was found in the CDW at St33 ($0.56 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) at 51 m

depth over the Chukchi Sea slope. The latter is the location where Chl *a* peaks (0.48 – $0.53 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) also occurred.

The high NH_4^+ concentration in the Northern slope–basin can be explained as follows. Ammonium regenerated from the organic matter in sediment is added to the bottom layer water over the Chukchi Sea shelf in summer. The CDW, which has an added high amount of NH_4^+ from the sediment of the northernmost end of the Chukchi Sea shelf, has been moved to the slope area (Nishino et al., 2005). The supply of NH_4^+ regenerated from organic matter in the ocean sediment contributes to keeping the NH_4^+ concentration at several micromol per liter in the water column. In contrast, the low concentrations of NH_4^+ in the Northern slope–basin can be explained by the biological consumption of NH_4^+ (NH_4^+ oxidation as a first step of nitrification) in the water column.

Large N deficits (-11.1 to $-20.4 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) were found in the bottom layer water of the BSAW and CDW from the Southern Chukchi shelf to the Northern slope–basin. The largest N deficit ($-20.4 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) occurred in the CDW at the northern tip of the Chukchi Sea shelf (St24), as shown in Fig. 3c. These N deficits largely resulted from denitrification in the ocean sediment over the shelf. Within a narrow depth range in the subsurface waters of the BSAW and CDW over the northern Chukchi Sea shelf–slope and the Canada Basin, the N deficit minima were coincident with the remarkably high maxima of nutrients, humic-like fluorescent dissolved organic matter (F-DOM), and dissolved Fe – which are all attributed to emissions from the bottom sediment, which in turn are linked to organic-matter decomposition (Hioki et al., 2014).

3.2.3 Iodomethane (CH_3I)

The total average concentration of CH_3I in all Pacific-origin water (ACW + BSAW + PMLW + CDW) was 2.2 pmol L^{-1} , which corresponds to the global ocean surface average values (in the range of 2.3 – 2.6 pmol L^{-1}) in shelf slope areas (Ooki et al., 2015). Globally, the polar surface waters had the lowest concentrations of CH_3I (1.0 – 1.5 pmol L^{-1}) among all water types from tropical to polar (total average 2.3 – 3.7 pmol L^{-1}).

High concentration peaks ($>2.2 \text{ pmol L}^{-1}$) above the total average in all Pacific-origin water were occasionally found in the bottom layer water over the Southern Chukchi shelf (Fig. 2d), with average values in the range of 2.1 – 5.2 pmol L^{-1} , and in the subsurface ACW and BSAW and CDW over the Central Chukchi shelf–slope, with average values in the range of 1.5 – 8.1 pmol L^{-1} (Table 4). These concentrations are consistent with the surface mixed layer averages of 2.5 (1.2 – 4.3) pmol L^{-1} in the Amundsen Sea and 3.0 (2.1 – 4.7) pmol L^{-1} in the Ross Sea in Antarctica. In summer, considerable algal bloom occurs, and maximum Chl *a* concentrations are 8.4 – $10 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (Mattson et al., 2012).

The highest concentration of CH_3I (8.1 pmol L^{-1}) occurred in the CDW, near the bottom over the northern

Table 3. Concentrations of NH_4^+ and N deficit ($\text{NH}_4^+/\text{N deficit}$).

St.	ML ACW	ML PMLW	bML ACW	bML BSAW	CDW	AW
Southern Chukchi shelf						
1	0.91/–10.0		1.03/–10.8			
10	1.38/–9.8		2.73/–10.9	5.77/–15.2		
14	0.31/–9.1		2.08/–9.9			
80	1.01/–7.9			4.58/–16.8		
78	0.47/–7.6		0.52/–8.0	3.35/–14.3		
76	1.01/–8.1		2.28/–11.4			
74	1.40/–11.5		1.61/–11.6			
Central Chukchi shelf–slope						
53	0.74/–10.7		1.49/–12.1	3.39/–15.5	3.83/–15.0	0.67/–7.7
60	0.17/–9.3		1.36/–11.6	1.67/–13.7	2.15/–11.9	0.03/–2.9
48	0.04/–8.5		0.56/–10.2		0.11/– 11.1	DL/–2.3
68	0.11/–8.0		0.50/–9.2	1.44/–13.6	3.22/–16.1	0.07/–2.1
45	DL/–8.8			DL/– 13.2	DL/–10.9	DL/–2.1
72		DL/–7.5		DL/–8.0	1.34/–15.6	
24		0.05/–9.3		0.13/– 11.1	1.81/–20.4	
Northern slope–basin						
29		0.02/–10.0		0.12/–12.5	DL/– 15.5	DL/–4.7
33		0.05/–9.6		0.02/–10.2	0.29/–15.5	DL/–2.3
39		0.03/–9.2		0.05/– 13.2	0.02/– 13.6	0.01/–2.0
32		0.05/–9.1		0.02/– 12.4	0.02/– 13.6	DL/–2.1
64		0.05/–8.5		0.02/– 12.4		DL/–2.2

High NH_4^+ ($>1.0 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) values above the total average in Pacific-origin water and large N deficits ($<-11 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) are denoted in bold.

tip of the Chukchi Sea shelf (St24), where the largest N deficit ($-20.4 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) also occurred. A significant peak (4.0 pmol L^{-1}) occurred in the CDW above the AW over the northern Chukchi Sea slope (St68 in Table 4), coincident with the concentration peak in NH_4^+ ($3.2 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$), as shown in Fig. 2b and d. In the northern slope–basin, the CH_3I concentrations were low with average values in the range of $0.37\text{--}1.9 \text{ pmol L}^{-1}$.

3.2.4 Iodoethane ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$)

The total average concentration of $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$ in all Pacific-origin water (ACW + BSAW + PMLW + CDW) was 0.84 pmol L^{-1} , which is 1.5–3 times the global ocean surface average values in the range of $0.23\text{--}0.59 \text{ pmol L}^{-1}$ in shelf–slope areas (Ooki et al., 2015).

High concentration peaks ($>0.84 \text{ pmol L}^{-1}$) above the total average in Pacific-origin water were occasionally found in the bottom layer water over the Southern Chukchi shelf (average values in the range of $0.9\text{--}3.9 \text{ pmol L}^{-1}$ in Table 5), as shown in Fig. 2e, and in subsurface BSAW and CDW over the Central Chukchi shelf–slope (average values in the range of $1.2\text{--}4.4 \text{ pmol L}^{-1}$), as shown in Fig. 3e.

The highest concentration of $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$ (4.4 pmol L^{-1}) occurred in the CDW over the central Chukchi Sea slope (St68),

at which depth a large N deficit ($-13.2 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) and high concentration of NH_4^+ ($3.2 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$) occurred simultaneously. In the Northern slope–basin, the $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$ concentrations were low (detection limit, DL, $-0.70 \text{ pmol L}^{-1}$). A small peak in $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$ (1.5 pmol L^{-1}) was found in the CDW over the northern tip of the Chukchi Sea shelf (St24), where the CH_3I maximum and a large N deficit occurred simultaneously.

3.2.5 Diiodomethane (CH_2I_2)

Very high levels of CH_2I_2 ($30\text{--}47 \text{ pmol L}^{-1}$) were found in the ACW at the Bering Strait (St1). Similar high levels of CH_2I_2 (average: 23 pmol L^{-1} ; min (below DL)–max: (<0.9)– 48 pmol L^{-1}) were reported in the macroalgal field seawater in the fjord of Ny Ålesund (80° N , 12° E) on Spitzbergen, Norway (Schall and Heumann, 1993). The total average concentration of CH_2I_2 in all Pacific-origin water (ACW + BSAW + PMLW + CDW) except for the Bering Strait water (St1) was 4.4 pmol L^{-1} , which is within the range of surface averages from 2.5 pmol L^{-1} in the coastal area (10 km offshore) of the English Channel (50° N , 4° W ; Archer et al., 2007) to 6.2 pmol L^{-1} in the fjord of Ny Ålesund (Schall and Heumann, 1993). High concentrations ($>4.4 \text{ pmol L}^{-1}$) were found in the bottom layer water of

Table 4. Concentrations of CH₃I in each water type.

St.	ML ACW	ML PMLW	bML ACW	bML BSAW	CDW	AW
Southern Chukchi shelf						
1	3.4		5.20			
10	1.7		3.35	4.70		
14	2.5		4.05			
80	1.7			4.05		
78	1.2		1.45	2.75		
76	0.9		2.13			
74	2.2		2.40			
Central Chukchi shelf–slope						
53	1.5		2.30	4.30	4.45	1.10
60	2.0		2.35	2.65	2.10	0.30
48	1.4		3.13		0.65	0.50
68	1.7		2.60	2.65	4.00	0.58
45	1.1			1.50	0.60	0.27
72		1.30		1.50	3.70	
24		1.10		2.57	8.10	
Northern slope–basin						
29		1.00		1.80	1.20	0.75
33		1.15		1.40	1.60	0.63
39		0.93		1.20	0.70	0.50
32		0.80		1.90	0.60	0.37
64		0.87		1.03		0.48

High CH₃I (>2.2 pmol L⁻¹) values above the total average in Pacific-origin water are denoted in bold.

the Southern Chukchi shelf and the subsurface layer of the ACW, BSAW, and CDW over the central to northern Chukchi shelf–slope areas, as shown in Figs. 2f and 3f. The low concentrations (0.80–1.50 pmol L⁻¹) occasionally found in the surface mixed layer water over the shelf (St76 and St45 in Table 6) are probably due to the photolysis of CH₂I₂ in seawater (Jones and Carpenter, 2005).

A significant peak in CH₂I₂ (20.9 pmol L⁻¹), which is the highest concentration other than the Bering Strait samples, was found in the CDW, near the bottom over the northern tip of the Chukchi Sea shelf (St24 in Fig. 3f). The largest N deficit and the CH₃I maximum also occurred in this water. In the Northern slope–basin, the lowest levels of CH₂I₂ (DL: -0.05 pmol L⁻¹) were found in the surface mixed layer and the underlying deeper AW. In contrast, significant peaks in CH₂I₂ (0.47–14 pmol L⁻¹) were found in the subsurface BSAW and CDW over the slope–basin area. The peak concentrations decreased with increasing bottom depth from the shelf (St24) to the far basin (St64).

3.2.6 Chloriodomethane (CH₂CI)

The total average concentration of CH₂CI in all Pacific-origin water (ACW + BSAW + PMLW + CDW) was 5.0 pmol L⁻¹, which is within the global ocean surface aver-

Table 5. Concentrations of C₂H₅I in each water type.

St.	ML ACW	ML PMLW	bML ACW	bML BSAW	CDW	AW
Southern Chukchi shelf						
1	0.50		1.58			
10	0.45		1.45	2.70		
14	0.30		0.70			
80	0.53			3.90		
78	0.30		0.35	2.55		
76	0.17		1.40			
74	0.83		0.90			
Central Chukchi shelf–slope						
53	0.40		0.85	2.70	2.95	0.70
60	0.30		0.85	1.30	1.90	0.10
48	0.15		0.43		0.30	0.07
68	0.20		0.50	1.15	4.40	0.10
45	0.13			0.17	0.25	0.07
72		0.23		0.30	2.10	
24		0.10		0.17	1.50	
Northern slope–basin						
29		0.10		0.25	0.70	0.20
33		0.05		0.10	0.55	0.00
39		0.13		0.20	0.25	0.10
32		0.10		0.15	0.45	0.07
64		0.10		0.17		0.08

High C₂H₅I (>0.84 pmol L⁻¹) values above the total average in Pacific-origin water are denoted in bold.

age values in the range of 3.7–6.6 pmol L⁻¹ in shelf–slope areas (Ooki et al., 2015). High concentrations of CH₂CI were found in all the ACW samples except for St76, with an average of $8.7 \pm 3.6(1\sigma)$ pmol L⁻¹ from the Bering Strait to the Central Chukchi shelf–slope (Table 7). Low concentrations of CH₂I₂ in the surface ACW were occasionally found over the shelf (St76) and slope (St45). The occasional low concentrations of CH₂I₂ in the surface layer are attributed to photochemical degradation. Since the photolysis rate of CH₂CI is much slower than that of CH₂I₂ in seawater (Jones and Carpenter, 2005), CH₂CI in the surface layer would exist for a longer time than CH₂I₂. The lateral transport of CH₂CI and CH₂I₂ will be discussed in Sect. 4.4.

A high concentration peak in CH₂CI (11.0 pmol L⁻¹) was found in the CDW, near the bottom over the northern tip of the Chukchi Sea shelf (St24 in Fig. 3g). Significant peaks in CH₂I₂ and CH₃I and the largest N deficit also occurred in this water.

4 Discussion

4.1 Correlation analysis and VOI production

Correlation analysis was performed to identify a potential correlation between VOIs, Chl *a*, NH₄⁺, and N⁻ deficit for

Table 6. Concentrations of CH₂I₂ in each water type.

St.	ML ACW	ML PMLW	bML ACW	bML BSAW BSAW	CDW	AW
Southern Chukchi shelf						
1	47.40		30.00			
10	0.65		2.45		4.00	
14	7.20		9.95			
80	2.63			9.10		
78	3.80		6.10	6.30		
76	0.80		6.20			
74	9.38		13.90			
Central Chukchi shelf–slope						
53	2.77		5.40	10.10	9.80	1.70
60	4.20		5.55	4.20	7.60	0.20
48	4.10		11.30		0.60	0.27
68		3.60	6.90	5.15	13.40	0.20
45	1.50			1.60	0.85	0.10
72		0.27		1.00	5.90	
24		0.10		2.37	20.90	
Northern slope–basin						
29		0.00		7.40	1.30	0.45
33		0.00		0.60	2.30	0.03
39		0.05		1.45	0.15	0.00
32		0.03		1.55	0.35	0.03
64		0.00		0.47		0.04

High CH₂I₂ (>4.4 pmol L⁻¹) values above the total average in Pacific-origin water are denoted in bold.

all the samples and ACW and BSAW–PMLW–CDW samples. The correlation coefficients are summarized in Table 8. Scattering diagrams of VOIs as compared to NH₄⁺ are shown in Fig. 4.

High correlations were found in the BSAW/PMLW/CDW between NH₄⁺ and three VOIs: CH₃I ($R = 0.77$, $P < 0.01$, $n = 64$), C₂H₅I ($R = 0.93$, $P < 0.01$, $n = 64$), and CH₂ClI ($R = 0.66$, $P < 0.01$, $n = 64$). High correlations were also found between N deficit and CH₂I₂ ($R = 0.67$, $P < 0.01$, $n = 64$). Other nutrient components (NO₃⁻, NO₂⁻, PO₄³⁻, SiO₂) showed lower correlations with VOIs than NH₄⁺ and N deficit.

We could not find any correlation between VOIs and Chl *a*, even though previous incubation experiments have indicated that many marine phytoplankton species produce VOIs as they grow (Tokarczyk and Moore, 1994; Moore et al., 1996; Manley and de la Cuesta, 1997). However, high and low concentrations of VOIs in surface seawater have also been attributed to varying high and low biological productivity in different types of water (e.g., from tropical to polar) and different sea areas (shelf, slope, basin; Ooki et al., 2015). It seems that Chl *a* is not a main factor in the vertical–horizontal distributions of VOIs on a regional scale, such as the Chukchi Sea and adjacent sea area, implying that large fractions of VOI abundances in coastal sea area were not directly emitted from living phytoplankton, as discussed in later Sects. 4.1.1 and 4.1.2.

Table 7. Concentrations of CH₂ClI in each water type.

St.	ML ACW	ML PMLW	bML ACW	bML BSAW	CDW	AW
Southern Chukchi shelf						
1	10.95		7.70			
10	5.90		7.10		3.95	
14	17.80		13.35			
80	5.97				4.80	
78	8.37		9.40	5.65		
76	3.50		4.83			
74	12.68		14.60			
Central Chukchi shelf–slope						
53	6.93		6.05	5.10	4.30	0.70
60	9.60		6.55	3.10	2.90	0.20
48	10.60		7.50		0.50	0.13
68	10.45		8.00	3.10	4.60	0.08
45	4.23			1.37	0.60	0.00
72		2.00		3.50	5.30	
24		0.50		3.70	11.00	
Northern slope–basin						
29		0.20		2.10	1.90	0.25
33		0.25		1.30	2.15	0.13
39		0.58		1.10	0.55	0.00
32		0.17		1.35	0.70	0.03
64		0.23		1.00		0.02

High CH₂ClI (>5.0 pmol L⁻¹) above the total average in Pacific-origin water are denoted in bold.

4.1.1 Production of iodomethane (CH₃I) and iodoethane (C₂H₅I)

The significant correlation between C₂H₅I and NH₄⁺ implies that C₂H₅I production in seawater occurs at the same time as regeneration of NH₄⁺ from organic matter. The C₂H₅I consumption, which is probably bacterial consumption, might occur at a rate similar to the biological NH₄⁺ consumption. The consumption rates for NH₄⁺ in seawater over the Chukchi Sea shelf are reported to vary widely from 0.15–3.6 nmol L⁻¹ d⁻¹ (Christman et al., 2011) to 0.24–7.2 μmol L⁻¹ d⁻¹ (Souza et al., 2014), with a variable turnover from within 1 day to over 10 days. The high correlation between CH₃I and NH₄⁺ ($R = 0.77$) would also be attributable to the CH₃I production linked to the degradation of organic matter.

Note that two data points below the linear regression line in Fig. 4 are the data collected from the bottom layer water at the Hope Valley biological hotspot (St10) with high nutrients and low dissolved oxygen. We do not currently propose a reason for this exceptional plot.

The production of C₂H₅I and CH₃I associated with the bacterial degradation of organic matter was first demonstrated by an incubation experiment for marine biogenic aggregates, which mainly consisted of diatoms collected from the Arctic seawater. The concentrations of C₂H₅I and CH₃I

Table 8. Correlation coefficients R (all water types ($n = 147$)/warm ACW ($n = 54$)/cold BSAW–PMLW–CDW ($n = 64$)).

	CH ₃ I	C ₂ H ₅ I	CH ₂ I ₂	CH ₂ ClI	NH ₄ ⁺	Chl <i>a</i>	N deficit
CH ₃ I		0.73/0.71/0.76	0.55/0.47/ 0.84	0.55/0.21*/ 0.91	0.70/0.43/0.77	0.41/0.28*/0.09*	0.61/0.49/0.63
C ₂ H ₅ I	0.73/0.71/0.76		0.27/0.08*/ 0.73	0.24/0.10*/ 0.70	0.90/0.79/0.93	0.05*/0.07*/0.11*	0.59/ 0.76/0.61
CH ₂ I ₂	0.55/0.47/ 0.84	0.27/0.08*/ 0.73		0.50/0.27*/ 0.85	0.23/0.05*/ 0.64	0.62/0.64/0.13*	0.22/0.01*/ 0.67
CH ₂ ClI	0.55/0.21*/ 0.91	0.24/0.10*/ 0.70	0.50/0.27*/ 0.85		0.31/0.10*/ 0.66	0.69/0.30*/0.18*	0.29/0.03*/ 0.63
NH ₄ ⁺	0.70 / 0.43/0.77	0.90/0.79/0.93	0.23/0.05*/0.64	0.31/0.10*/0.66		0.06/0.32*/0.08*	0.52/ 0.68/0.55
Chl <i>a</i>	0.41/0.28*/0.09*	0.05*/0.07*/0.11*	0.62/0.64/0.13*	0.69/0.30*/0.18*	0.06/0.32*/0.08*		0.20*/0.18*/0.04*
N deficit	0.61/0.49/0.63	0.59/ 0.76/0.61	0.22/0.01*/0.67	0.29/0.03*/0.63	0.52/0.68/0.55	0.20*/0.18*/0.04*	

All water types: ACW+BSAW+PMLW+CDW+AW; p value < 0.01; * p value > 0.01.

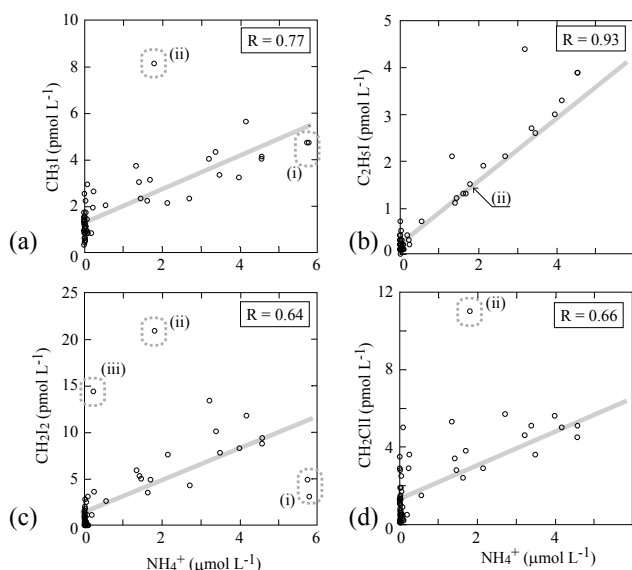


Figure 4. Scatterplots of CH₃I and NH₄⁺ (a), C₂H₅I and NH₄⁺ (b), CH₂I₂ and NH₄⁺ (c), and CH₂ClI and NH₄⁺ (d). Dashed lines enclose the following: data for St10 in the subsurface bottom layer water of the Hope Valley biological hotspot (i); data for St24 in the bottom layer water over the northern tip of the Chukchi Sea shelf (ii); and data for St29 in the subsurface BSAW (48 m) over the northern slope area (iii).

in the incubation vessel increased sharply, simultaneously with the enhancement of the bacterial heterotrophic production rate (Hughes et al., 2008).

Previously, NH₄⁺ concentrations in coastal subarctic seawater have been observed to increase in the bottom layer water (~90 m depth) after the spring bloom of diatoms (Kudo et al., 2007). Therefore, we suggest that the production of C₂H₅I and CH₃I associated with the degradation of organic matter occurs in the bottom layer water, probably after the diatom bloom, over the Chukchi Sea shelf.

4.1.2 Production of diiodomethane (CH₂I₂) and chloriodomethane (CH₂ClI)

The notable feature of CH₂I₂ and CH₂ClI distributions was that high concentration peaks were found 1) in the CDW and

subsurface BSAW over the Chukchi Sea shelf (St24, St53, St60, St72) and slope (St68), where large N deficit and high NH₄⁺ concentration occurred simultaneously, and 2) at the northern Chukchi Sea slope (St29), where large N deficit and low NH₄⁺ concentration occurred simultaneously. Concentration peaks in C₂H₅I and CH₃I were not found over the northern slope area (St29) where NH₄⁺ concentration was low.

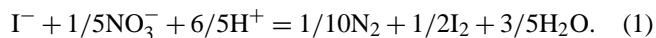
From the marine biogenic aggregates incubation (Hughes et al., 2008) mentioned in the last section, the concentrations of CH₂I₂ and CH₂ClI did not increase in the incubation vessel during the incubation period of 70 h, whereas C₂H₅I showed significant increases in concentration with the enhancement of the bacterial production rate after 30 h of incubation. It is possible that the production processes of CH₂I₂ in bottom layer water are quite different from those of C₂H₅I, even if the production of both VOIs is associated with the degradation of organic matter in the sediment or the bottom layer water.

Recent studies have suggested that the production of CH₂I₂ in seawater occurs after the reaction of organic matter with I₂, which is known as the “iodoform (CHI₃) reaction.” The production of CHI₃ and CH₂I₂ has been shown to occur after the reaction of dissolved organic matter with I₂, which is produced by I[−] oxidizing bacteria in a culture vessel (Fuse et al., 2003; Amachi et al., 2005). It is noted that small amounts of CH₂ClI and CH₃I have been detected in the culture vessel with drastic increases in CH₂I₂, whereas C₂H₅I production has not yet been detected in the iodoform reaction.

The production of I₂ in seawater is believed to be initiated by I[−] oxidations. However, it remains unclear where the I[−] oxidations occur in the ocean environment. Recently, iodide-oxidizing bacteria, which oxidize iodide (I[−]) to molecular iodine (I₂), have been detected in natural seawater samples after incubation under iodide-rich conditions (~1 mmol L^{−1}; Amachi et al., 2005). Iodide-rich conditions have been found in pore water of ocean sediment, with an I[−] concentration of ~7 μmol L^{−1}, which is 70 to 700 times the seawater concentration (10–100 nmol L^{−1}; Anschutz et al., 2000). Iodide-oxidizing bacteria might actively produce I₂ in pore water of the ocean sediment. Therefore, it is supposed that I₂ production by I[−]-oxidizing bacteria in the sediment over the

Chukchi Sea shelf has resulted in the production of CH_2I_2 , CH_2CII , and CH_3I in the sediment or the bottom layer water.

Moreover, iodide can be oxidized by nitrate in a reaction that yields N_2 and I_2 in marine sediments (Anschutz et al., 2000):



This reaction, which is thermodynamically favorable at all pH levels encountered in marine sediments ($\text{pH} < 8$), would promote denitrification. Therefore, we suppose that the high concentrations of CH_2I_2 and CH_2CII in the bottom layer water and CDW over the Chukchi Sea shelf–slope areas, with the large N deficit, were linked to denitrification in the sediment.

4.2 Lateral transport of VOIs

The significant concentration peaks in the four VOIs in the CDW over the northern shelf–slope suggest the lateral transport of VOIs through the CDW layer from the shelf to the basin area, as well as the transport of humic-like DOM, nutrients, and dissolved Fe (Hioki et al., 2014) – which are all believed to be derived from organic-matter decomposition in the sediment over the shelf.

High concentrations of CH_2CII in the surface mixed layer over the Central Chukchi shelf–slope would be due to the lateral transport of ACW from the Bering Strait and the southern Chukchi Sea. Lateral transport of CH_3I , $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$, and CH_2I_2 in ACW through the surface mixed layer to the Central Chukchi shelf–slope was not observed.

The lateral transport of CH_2CII from the Chukchi Sea to the northern Canada Basin in ACW through the mixed layer, and to the Alpha Ridge (85°N) in the Pacific-origin CDW through the subsurface upper halocline layer has recently been reported by Karlsson et al. (2013). The VOIs produced over the Chukchi Sea shelf might have the potential to supply iodine to Arctic air far from the shelf.

5 Summary

Shipboard observation was conducted over the Chukchi Sea shelf–slope and the Canada Basin in the western Arctic Ocean in September and October 2012 by the R/V *Mirai* (MR12-E03) as part of the GRENE Arctic Climate Change Research Project. The purpose of the study was to obtain vertical distributions of iodomethane (CH_3I), iodoethane ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$), diiodomethane (CH_2I_2), and chloriodomethane (CH_2CII) in seawater. The following is a summary of the characteristics of the vertical distributions of these VOIs and hypotheses concerning lateral transport of VOIs in the area and mechanisms responsible for their production in relation to the degradation of organic matter.

High concentrations of four VOIs were found in the bottom layer water over the Chukchi Sea shelf, in which layer

the concentration maximum of ammonium (NH_4^+) occurred simultaneously. High correlations were found between NH_4^+ and $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$ with correlation coefficient $R = 0.93$ and between NH_4^+ and CH_3I with $R = 0.77$. These results suggest that production of these VOIs is related to degradation of organic matter. The significant correlation between $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$ and NH_4^+ implies similar consumption rates for both compounds in seawater, probably owing to bacterial consumption. Over the central and northern Chukchi Sea shelf–slope areas, concentration maxima of CH_2I_2 , CH_2CII , and CH_3I were found in the subsurface BSAW and CDW alongside large N deficits and low concentrations of NH_4^+ . These results suggest that the production of the three VOIs is quite different from the production process of $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{I}$, while the productions of the four VOIs are all suspected to be relevant to the decompositions of organic matter in the sediment or the bottom layer water over the shelf.

Concentration peaks in four VOIs in the subsurface BSAW and CDW over the northern Chukchi Sea slope, and the peaks in CH_2CII in the surface ACW over the Central Chukchi shelf–slope, suggest lateral transport from the Chukchi Sea shelf to slope–basin areas. The production of VOIs over the Chukchi Sea, in relation to decomposition of organic matter created in the highly productive Chukchi Sea shelf, would have the potential to supply iodine to Arctic air far from the shelf.

Author contributions. A. Ooki and S. Kawasaki measured VOIs in seawater and analyzed the data. K. Kuma, S. Nishino, and T. Kikuchi designed the ship observation. A. Ooki, S. Kawasaki, S. Nishino, and T. Kikuchi carried out the observation. A. Ooki prepared the manuscript with contributions from all co-authors.

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