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Constraining regional and global ocean carbon fluxes in RECCAP2

Judith Hauck¹, Nicolas Gruber², Masao Ishii³, Jens Daniel Müller², and the RECCAP2 ocean chapter leads*

¹Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung

²Environmental Physics, Institute of Biogeochemistry and Pollutant Dynamics, ETH Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland.

³Meteorological Research Institute, Japan Meteorological Agency, Tsukuba, Japan

*A full list of authors appears at the end of the abstract

Keeping global warming in line with the Paris Agreement requires rapid reductions in CO₂ emissions. Tracking these reductions demands a thorough bookkeeping of natural and anthropogenic carbon fluxes. The second REgional Carbon Cycle Assessment and Processes (RECCAP2) activity of the Global Carbon Project aims to accurately assess land and ocean CO₂ sources and sinks through the efforts of hundreds of scientists around the globe.

For the ocean component, regional budgets are developed for the global ocean and five large regions for the period 1980-2018. In addition, four 'special focus' themes, namely the biological carbon pump, the seasonal cycle, the coastal ocean and model evaluation are addressed. We use state-of-the-art ocean models and observation-based datasets to provide robust estimates of regional CO₂ budgets and constrain their uncertainties. Here, we will provide an overview of RECCAP2 activities, and showcase key results focusing on mean ocean carbon fluxes, and their trends and variability.

RECCAP2 ocean chapter leads: Brendan Carter, Minhan Dai, Tim DeVries, Scott Doney, Andrea Fassbender, Marion Gehlen, Nadine Goris, Luke Gregor, Stephanie Henson, Zouhair Lachkar, Peter Landschützer, Goulven Laruelle, Manfredi Manizza, Are Olsen, Fiz Perez, Pierre Regnier, Laure Resplandy, Keith Rodgers, V.V.S.S. Sarma, Jörg Schwinger, Jens Terhaar, Jerry Tjiputra, Rik Wanninkhof, Sayaka Yasunaka, Josep G. Canadell