

1     **Distribution and concentration of soluble manganese(II), soluble reactive Mn(III)-L, and**  
2                     **particulate MnO<sub>2</sub> in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean**

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20 **Abstract**

21 As manganese cycles between its three oxidation states, encompassing soluble and particulate  
22 phases, it influences the biogeochemistry of organic carbon, nutrients, and many trace elements.  
23 However, measurements of manganese distributions and speciation in the open ocean have  
24 typically been based only on differentiating soluble (assumed to be manganese(II)) and  
25 particulate (assumed to be manganese(III,IV) oxides) forms. We measured particulate oxidized  
26 manganese ( $\text{MnO}_x$ , where  $x \approx 1.8\text{--}2$ ), reactive soluble manganese(III) (soluble manganese(III)  
27 that forms a complex with desferrioxamine-B ( $\text{Mn(III)-L}_{\text{DFOB}}$ )), and total dissolved manganese  
28 ( $\text{dMn}_T$ ; manganese(II) +  $\text{Mn(III)-L}_{\text{DFOB}}$ ) in Northwest Atlantic offshore waters (10–2600 m).  
29  $\text{Mn(III)-L}_{\text{DFOB}}$  concentrations were from below the detection limit (0.008 nM) up to 0.76 nM and  
30 measured throughout the water column with higher concentrations near the base of the euphotic  
31 zone (~ 100 m), in the oxygen minimum zone (OMZ), and generally increasing from below the  
32 OMZ into the bottom waters.  $\text{MnO}_x$  ranged from 0.19 nM to 3.52 nM in the water column.  
33 Concentrations were high near the base of the euphotic zone where reactions of  $\text{MnO}_x$  with  
34 organic material are the likely source of the  $\text{Mn(III)-L}_{\text{DFOB}}$  observed there. Elevated  $\text{MnO}_x$  was  
35 also occasionally found in deep waters likely due to turbidity layers resulting from sediment  
36 resuspension.  $\text{Mn(III)-L}_{\text{DFOB}}$  accounted for up to 45% of the  $\text{dMn}_T$  and up to 74% of the total  
37 oxidized manganese ( $\text{Mn(III)-L}_{\text{DFOB}}$  +  $\text{MnO}_x$ ) in different regions of the water column.  $\text{Mn(III)-}$   
38  $\text{L}_{\text{DFOB}}$  contributed 10–20% of the generally uniform total dissolved manganese concentration in  
39 the deep ocean. Both soluble and particulate oxidized forms of manganese ( $\text{Mn(III)-L}$  and  
40  $\text{MnO}_x$ ) are a significant component of the deep water manganese pool and likely play a  
41 prominent role in oceanic redox chemistry and organic carbon re-mineralization.

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## 43 1.0 Introduction

44 Within the environment, particulate manganese(III,IV) oxide ( $\text{MnO}_x$ , where  $x \approx 1.8-2$ ) is one of  
45 the strongest oxidants, yet our understanding of the behavior of manganese in aquatic systems is  
46 incomplete. The  $\text{MnO}_x$ /manganese(II) redox couple has a pivotal reactive intermediate oxidation  
47 state (manganese(III); Davies, 1969), through which most manganese-reducing and -oxidizing  
48 reactions occur (Luther, 1990). These redox reactions accompany reversible changes between  
49 insoluble and soluble forms. The recycling of  $\text{MnO}_x$  is the critical process in the manganese  
50 cycle as it directly impacts biogeochemical reactions. The  $\text{MnO}_x$  mineral has an efficient surface  
51 area that oxidizes organic carbon. While oxidizing organic material,  $\text{MnO}_x$  produces 10-times  
52 more low molecular weight organic acids than iron oxides (Chorover and Amistadi, 2001).  
53 During formation,  $\text{MnO}_x$  scavenges nutrients (Yao and Millero, 1996) and trace elements  
54 (Murray, 1975). Oxidation of organic carbon by  $\text{MnO}_x$  can break down high molecular weight  
55 material to low molecular weight compounds. Low molecular weight organics are more  
56 bioavailable (Søndergaard and Middelboe, 1995) and may lead directly to  $\text{CO}_2$  formation  
57 through bacterial consumption (Sunda and Kieber, 1994) or they may be further oxidized to  $\text{CO}_2$   
58 abiotically (Chang Chien et al., 2009). The low molecular weight carbon concomitantly  
59 stabilizes manganese(III) in reactive organic complexes (Mn(III)-L; Jones et al., 2019b; Madison  
60 et al., 2013; Oldham et al., 2017a). Redox reactions occur below the euphotic zone and result in  
61 new  $\text{MnO}_x$  production and particle formation, which significantly enhances the oceanic  
62 sequestration of carbon (Boyd et al., 2019). Moreover, manganese oxides can intercalate up to  
63 20% w/w organic carbon (Estes et al., 2017; Johnson et al., 2015).

64 The pivotal Mn(III)-L species is present in estuarine systems (Jones et al., 2019b; Oldham et al.,  
65 2017b, 2015), occurs at the suboxic/anoxic interfaces of sediments (Madison et al., 2013;

66 Oldham et al., 2019) and is found in variable but high concentrations in anoxic basins (Dellwig  
67 et al., 2012; Schnetger and Dellwig, 2012; Trouwborst et al., 2006). Manganese(III) is also  
68 present in open ocean waters (Jones et al., 2019a; Thibault de Chanvalon and Luther, 2019).  
69 However, because the methods to sensitively measure Mn(III)-L at sub-nanomolar  
70 concentrations have not, until recently, been available, there are no comprehensive  
71 measurements for open ocean waters. Here we apply two newly developed analytical techniques  
72 (Jones et al., 2019b, 2019a) for sensitive measurements of depth profiles of Mn(III)-L and MnO<sub>x</sub>  
73 concentrations in the oxygenated waters of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. We show that there  
74 are significant concentrations of Mn(III)-L in seawater and that this species is pervasive and  
75 persistent. We cannot yet propose the dominant formation pathway for Mn(III)-L because  
76 formation occurs following the oxidation of manganese(II) or reduction of manganese(IV).  
77 However, we propose that the presence of Mn(III)-L is an indicator of an active manganese  
78 cycle.

## 79 **2.0 Methods**

### 80 **2.1 Locations and sampling**

81 Offshore Atlantic locations (Fig. 1 and Table 1) in 2013, east from the Chesapeake Bay, and in  
82 2014, east from Delaware Bay, were visited by the research vessel Hugh R Sharp. In 2013, three  
83 Conductivity-Temperature-Depth sensor profiles were cast. Station A1 (37 07.84 N, 073 19.72  
84 W) sampled from 698 m to the surface, Station A2 (37 18.45 N, 073 23.79 W) sampled from 825  
85 m to the surface, and at Station A2 (37 18.32 N, 073 24.03) there was an additional deep water  
86 sampling (2032 m). In 2014, two CTD casts were deployed. Station B1 (38 17.40 N, 072 43.70

87 W) sampled from 2602 m to the surface, and Station B2 (38 14.96 N, 072 45.27 W) sampled  
88 from 449 m to the surface. Continuous oxygen measurements were made during each cast.

89 All plastic ware, including sampling tubing (attached to the Niskin bottles), sampling bottles,  
90 centrifuge tubes, filter holders and syringes used for sampling were cleaned through two  
91 sequential washes: 3% micro90 detergent (1 week), 2.4 M AR grade HCl (1 week). Sampling  
92 bottles were stored containing 2.4 M trace-metal grade HCl. Between washes, sampling  
93 equipment was rinsed a minimum of three times with DI. During use, the polysulfone filter units  
94 were cleaned through brief multiple rinses ( $n = 3$ ) of 1.2 M trace-metal grade HCl followed by  
95 DI. The 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  Whatman track etched polycarbonate filters were soaked in 1 M HCl for one  
96 week before rinsing in deionized water and storage in deionized water. Seawater samples were  
97 collected using a rosette system (12  $\times$  12 L Niskin PVC bottles). For deployment, Niskin bottles  
98 were flushed with seawater as they remained open on descent during each cast. Samples were  
99 collected directly from the Niskin bottles into 500 mL polycarbonate bottles, being filled to the  
100 brim (625 mL) after filling and rinsing three times. Samples were stored in the dark at 4°C, and  
101 the whole sample filtered (625 mL through 45 mm  $\times$  0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  Whatman Nuclepore track-etched  
102 polycarbonate membranes) within 20 min. All polysulfone filtration units and sample tubes were  
103 rinsed three times, either with the sample or filtrate, as required. Samples for soluble fractions of  
104 manganese were processed once the filtrate was available. The filters for the analysis of  $\text{MnO}_x$   
105 were immediately processed, and the spectrophotometric analysis completed within 2–4 h.

## 106 2.2 Analytical

### 107 2.2.1 Particulate oxidized manganese [ $\text{MnO}_x$ ]

108 The method to analyze the sample for  $\text{MnO}_x$  (Jones et al., 2019a) used the highly specific  
109 colorimetric probe leucoberbelin blue (LBB; Merck) (Altmann, 1972). This method has proven  
110 successful for measuring  $\text{MnO}_x$  in estuarine (Jones et al., 2019b; Oldham et al., 2015) and  
111 seawater samples (Jones et al., 2019b). Briefly, each filter membrane plus 2 mL of LBB reagent  
112 was placed in a 5 ml LDPE tube. The LBB reagent was 0.04% LBB in 1% Acetic acid (Merck)  
113 subsequently diluted 50-fold by 18.1 M $\Omega$  deionized water. The samples were occasionally  
114 agitated for 2–4 hours before measurement in a World Precision Incorporated (WPI) 100-cm  
115 liquid wave capillary cell (LWCC) connected through optical fiber cables to an Ocean Optics  
116 USB2000 spectrophotometer with a halogen light source (HL-200-FHSA). The absorbance at  
117 624 nm corresponds to the blue-colored oxidized LBB maxima. If required, a baseline correction  
118 calculated from the slope of the linear regression between the absorbance at 480 and 700 nm was  
119 applied. The calibration standard was potassium permanganate. Strictly speaking, LBB measures  
120 the oxidizing equivalents of manganese and the computed  $\text{MnO}_x$  concentration derives from the  
121 oxidation state of +IV. Based on the LBB oxidation stoichiometry, if the  $\text{MnO}_x$  is computed as  
122  $\text{MnO}_2$  but contains 10% manganese(III) it introduces an error of -5% in the estimate of  $\text{MnO}_2$ .  
123 To account for the difference in the oxidation state of the manganese from the standard  
124 (permanganate, +VII) a factor of 2.5 was applied. The error on the LBB measurement was taken  
125 from the relative standard deviation of the standards (< 2%), as this was higher than the error on  
126 the repeat measurements of the sample. The analytical range for standards within the 100-cm  
127 LWCC was 10 to 400 nM and the limit of detection was 6.7 nM which, when corrected for the  
128 volume passed through the filter, was 0.022 nM.

129 **2.2.2 Processing manganese(III) [Mn(III)-L] and total dissolved manganese**  
130 **[dMn<sub>T</sub>] samples**

131 Mn(III)-L was extracted and concentrated from 50 mL of the filtrate as a complex with the  
132 siderophore desferrioxamine-B [DFOB; Mn(III)-DFOB]. The added DFOB outcompetes the  
133 ambient ligands stabilizing reactive manganese(III) and weak-siderophore-complexed  
134 manganese(III). We operationally define this extracted fraction as Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> (Jones et al.,  
135 2019b). DFOB is a strong manganese(III) ligand ( $\log K_{\text{COND}} = 13.2$  in seawater (Luther et al.,  
136 2015);  $\log K_{[\text{Mn(III)HDFOB}^+]} = 28.6 \pm 0.5$  in 0.1M NaCl (Duckworth and Sposito, 2005a)). The  
137 chromatographic extraction technique, coupled to a flow-injection analysis spectrophotometry  
138 quantification method successfully measured Mn(III)-L in estuarine and seawater samples (Jones  
139 et al., 2019b). Briefly, a small volume of recently prepared DFOB (mesylate salt, Merck) in  
140 deionized water was added to the 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  filtered seawater sample to a strength of 20  $\mu\text{M}$ . The  
141 sample was left for 5–20 minutes before passing through inline chromatography cartridges  
142 containing an Oasis Hydrophilic-Lipophilic-Balanced (HLB; Waters) stationary phase (primed  
143 with 20 mM HEPES at pH 7.8) at 1 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. The Mn(III)-DFOB complex that had  
144 concentrated on the solid-phase extraction column was eluted with 4 mL of methanol (12.5-fold  
145 concentration increase of the sample). The methanol was stored cold, -20°C, and on return to the  
146 laboratory, the Mn(III)-DFOB in the methanol was reduced through the addition of a small  
147 volume of 1.44 M hydroxylamine hydrochloride in deionized water that was added to a final  
148 concentration of 14.4 mM, the sample was then acidified to < pH 2 with 6 M nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>;  
149 Optima, Merck) for cold storage prior to analyses.

150 The samples for total dissolved manganese (dMn<sub>T</sub>) analysis were retained in 15 mL pre-cleaned  
151 centrifuge tubes. **Immediately after processing**, a small volume of 1.44 M hydroxylamine  
152 hydrochloride in deionized water was added to a final concentration of 14.4 mM. Sample  
153 acidification for preservation, through the addition of 6 M nitric acid (4  $\mu\text{L}$  per 1 mL sample),

154 occurred between two to four weeks later in the laboratory. The 2013 samples were stored for  
155 eight months before analysis and the 2014 samples for three months. Manganese stability issues  
156 affecting the concentration of soluble reduced manganese in the presence of acid plus a strong  
157 reductant within the storage time-frames are not likely an issue (Jensen et al., 2020; Stumm and  
158 Morgan, 1996). The estimated concentration of manganese(II) derived from the difference  
159 between the concentrations of  $dMn_T$  and  $Mn(III)-L_{DFOB}$ .

160 Processing of deionized water blanks commenced immediately the  $Mn(III)-L_{DFOB}$  and  $dMn_T$   
161 sample processing had finished and the equipment rinsed. The deionized water blank was filtered  
162 as per the sample, spiked with DFOB and passed over the HLB columns. The methanol eluate is  
163 taken as the new  $Mn(III)-L_{DFOB}$  blank and processed as *per* a sample. After filtering deionized  
164 water and adding hydroxylamine hydrochloride, the acidification of the  $dMn_T$  blank occurred as  
165 *per* the sample. It is unlikely that seawater contains significantly high concentrations of strong  
166 ligands capable of complexing manganese(III). Moreover, seawater is unlikely to contain  
167 manganese species that are unreactive towards reduction by hydroxylamine hydrochloride  
168 (Thibault de Chanvalon and Luther, 2019). Therefore, the manganese speciation methods likely  
169 accounted for the majority of the available soluble manganese species.

### 170 **2.2.3 Quantifying manganese(III) [ $Mn(III)-L$ ] and total dissolved** 171 **manganese [ $dMn_T$ ] samples**

172 We used Tiron flow injection analysis spectrophotometry (FIA-S) to measure manganese  
173 concentrations in the  $Mn(III)-DFOB$  in methanol and  $dMn_T$  seawater samples (Jones et al.,  
174 2019b). The method includes a chromatographic extraction phase using the Toyopearl  
175 AFChelate-650M stationary phase to remove the manganese from the methanol and the seawater



176 (Aguilar-Islas et al., 2006; Jones et al., 2019b; Milne et al., 2010). Isolation of the Mn(III)-DFOB  
177 manganese from the methanol is required because, in a 100-cm LWCC, the direct measurement  
178 of the Tiron semiquinone complex is affected by the absorbance of the methanol. In the presence  
179 of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, manganese catalyzes the oxidation of the sulfonated catechol Tiron to its semiquinone  
180 form (Scharff and Genin, 1975). To quantify the manganese concentration, we  
181 spectrophotometrically determined the absorbance at 424 nm, which corresponds to the  
182 semiquinone complex that forms at pH > 9. The measurement of Mn(III)-DFOB (limit of  
183 detection 0.008 nM using 1 mL and considering the 12.5-fold extraction protocol concentration  
184 factor) and dMn<sub>T</sub> (limit of detection 0.1 nM for 1 mL) as manganese(II) occurred on return to the  
185 laboratory. The Tiron concentration during sample analysis was either 3.2 or 4 mM, and these  
186 concentrations provide an analytical window < 0.24 to 10 nM, equivalent to a Mn(III)-L sample  
187 range < 0.02 to 0.8 nM. The analyses of the National Research Council Canada SLEW-3  
188 certified reference material ( $S_p \sim 15$  and  $dMn_T = 29.5 \pm 4$  nM; salinity written as  $S_p$  as per the  
189 Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Thermodynamic Equation of Seawater – 2010)  
190 verified the method for manganese. Replicate analyses using FIA-S yielded total manganese  
191 concentrations of 29.4 and 30.0 nM. Triplicate analyses of samples, standards or blanks were  
192 within a relative standard deviation of < 2%.

### 193 **3.0 Results**

194 Physicochemical upper water (< 500 m) depth profiles vary between the four stations sampled in  
195 2013 (A stations) and 2014 (B stations) from the North Atlantic Ocean off the central east coast  
196 of the U.S. (Figs. 2 & 3). In 2013, the upper water structure of Station A2 extended  
197 approximately 100 m deeper than Station A1 (Fig. 2), though Station A2 profiles were similar if  
198 corrected by this depth difference. At Station A1 and A2, homogenous high salinity water ( $S_p >$

199 35.6) extended from the surface to ~ 155 and 265 m, respectively, below which was the  
200 pycnocline, wherein salinity decreased to  $S_p = 35.0$  by 400–500 m (Fig. 2). Near-surface waters  
201 were higher than 27°C and temperatures dropped rapidly to less than 17°C by 74 m. Following  
202 the steep temperature decrease over the upper thermocline was a more gradual decrease to 6–7°C  
203 by 400–500 m (base of the pycnocline). It is in the higher salinity water where the percentage  
204 oxygen saturation decreased towards its minimum (46% O<sub>2</sub> sat./126 μM). This minimum  
205 occurred in the pycnocline at 224 m and 324 m, Station A1 and A2, respectively (Fig. 2). The  
206 difference in surface salinity structure at Station A is likely related to the presence of warm-core  
207 rings and transient surface eddies (Evans et al., 1985; Joyce et al., 1983) affecting the depth  
208 profile of manganese (Bishop and Fleisher, 1987).

209 At Station B in 2014 (Fig. 3) the near-surface water salinity was 35.2 and salinity  
210 increased with depth to the maximum,  $S_p = 35.7$ . Due to sampling, and at Station B1 the salinity  
211 maximum was at 99 m whereas at Station B2 it was shallower at 36 m (Fig. 3). At the B Stations,  
212 the pycnocline was indicated by salinity decreasing with depth from the maxima to 35.07 by 450  
213 m. Near-surface water temperatures were ~ 3°C lower in 2014 than in 2013, with an average of  
214 24.2°C. The steepest observed thermocline occurred as the temperature dropped to 14.3°C by 97  
215 m; the temperature continued decreasing to 6.8°C by 450 m. The temperature and salinity of  
216 Station B at 450 m were similar to Station A between 400–500 m. For the A and B stations at  
217 400–500 m, salinity ranged from  $S_p = 35.05$  to 35.08. As with Station A, the Station B  
218 percentage oxygen saturation minimum (46% O<sub>2</sub> sat./130 μM) occurred within the pycnocline; at  
219 Station B1 and B2, this minimum corresponded to a depth of 280 m.

220 In 2013, the surface water (~ 10 m) dMn<sub>T</sub> was  $10.8 \pm 2.2$  nM. In 2014, waters shallower  
221 than 40 m had  $6.7 \pm 0.7$  nM dMn<sub>T</sub> and the concentrations were slightly higher (< 1 nM) at 10 m

222 relative to ~ 40 m (Figs. 4 & 5). Station B had more samples taken in euphotic waters, and these  
223 samples show a decrease of ~ 4 nM in dMn<sub>T</sub> between 40 and 60 m; by ~ 95 m there was 2.2 ±  
224 0.2 nM dMn<sub>T</sub>. At Stations A1 and A2, below 70 m the average dMn<sub>T</sub> was 3.6 ± 0.9 nM with a  
225 maximum of 7.95 nM at 154 m (145 μM O<sub>2</sub>). At the B stations, from 95 m down to the waters  
226 influenced by the nepheloid layer (~ 2000 m), the average dMn<sub>T</sub> was 1.7 ± 0.5 nM, and the  
227 maximum was 2.7 nM at 371 m (151 μM O<sub>2</sub>). The nepheloid layer (2602 m) contained 26 nM  
228 dMn<sub>T</sub> while there was elevated dMn<sub>T</sub> (3.97 nM) at 2004 m.

229 The MnO<sub>x</sub> oceanic profiles (Figs. 2 & 3) generally show low concentrations in the sunlit  
230 surface waters due to photo-induced, organically-mediated reduction (Sunda et al., 1983) that  
231 leads to high concentrations of dMn<sub>T</sub> as manganese(II) (Figs. 4 & 5). There is high MnO<sub>x</sub> (1.1 ±  
232 0.4 nM) around the base of the euphotic zone (~ 100 m) with concentrations decreasing with  
233 depth to the core of the oxygen minimum zone OMZ (0.4 ± 0.1 nM; 300–400 m). At Station A  
234 (2013), through the oxygen minimum and into intermediate waters, MnO<sub>x</sub> decreased slightly  
235 with depth (Fig. 2). Station B (2014) profiles (Fig. 3) were more complex. At the lower limit of  
236 the OMZ (448 m), MnO<sub>x</sub> increased to 2.6 ± 0.4 nM, yet, below this region, the MnO<sub>x</sub>  
237 concentrations of Station B converged with that of Station A (0.31 ± 0.04 nM between 525–1201  
238 m), even though sampled in different years. The Station A (2013) and Station B (2014) MnO<sub>x</sub>  
239 profiles diverged at 2000 m (Figs. 2 & 3); at Station A, MnO<sub>x</sub> decreased to 0.19 nM whereas, at  
240 Station B, MnO<sub>x</sub> increased to 0.5 nM and continued increasing with depth to 3.5 nM MnO<sub>x</sub> at  
241 2600 m.

242 The average Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> at Station A was 0.14 nM (range: detection limit (0.008 nM)  
243 to 0.31 nM) and at Station B it was 0.43 nM (range: 0.17 to 0.83 nM) (Table 1). Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub>  
244 profiles (Figs. 2 & 3) are atypical for a nutrient species initially sourced *via* atmospheric

245 deposition (Jickells et al., 2016). The expectation was that the Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> profiles would  
246 follow that of manganese(II), high at the surface and concentrations decrease with depth as it  
247 adsorbed onto sinking particles. Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> profiles, however, were more similar to nutrient  
248 style profiles; these biologically controlled profiles exhibit low concentrations at the surface, a  
249 subsurface maximum before concentrations decrease with depth. The Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> subsurface  
250 maximum corresponded to the salinity maximum at all stations (Figs. 2 & 3). In contrast to many  
251 trace nutrient species, Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> concentrations increased with depth (~ 0.07 nM per 1000  
252 m); this increase was not linear as some variability occurred. Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> minima occurred in  
253 sunlit surface water, at the oxygen minimum and during the transition from the OMZ to  
254 intermediate waters. Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> maxima occurred at the base of the euphotic zone (~ 100 m),  
255 below the oxygen minimum and at depth. From the lower OMZ boundary into the deeper water,  
256 Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> concentrations increased by a factor of 2–3 with depth (Table 1, Figs. 2 & 3).

#### 257 **4.0 Discussion**

258 The collection of samples for the measurement of particulate MnO<sub>x</sub>, dissolved Mn(III)-  
259 L<sub>DFOB</sub>, and dMn<sub>T</sub> took place during the profiling of four Stations in the Northwest Atlantic  
260 Ocean in August 2013 and 2014 (Figs. 2–5). These profiles, pairs of stations intended as repeat  
261 profiles, traversed the regional OMZ off the margin of the continental shelf. In surface waters  
262 shallower than 45 m, the concentrations of dMn<sub>T</sub> were similar to Shiller (1997) but lower ( $7 \pm 1$   
263 *versus*  $35 \pm 24$  nM) than observed by Oldham et al. (2020) in August 2017 in surface waters (<  
264 54 m) at a shelf station (OLH04; Fig. 1). However, the Oldham et al. (2020) MnO<sub>x</sub>  
265 concentrations ( $1.1 \pm 0.9$  nM), which were measured using the LBB technique, were similar to  
266 our concentrations ( $1.0 \pm 0.8$ ). In our surface water samples, manganese(II) was the dominant  
267 species (Table 1 and Figs. 2 & 3) in agreement with Sunda et al. (1983). However, this

268 observation is at odds with organic-rich near-surface waters (< 3 m) of the Saguenay Fjord in  
269 Canada (Jones et al., 2019a), and NW Atlantic shelf waters (Oldham et al., 2020) where  
270 manganese(III) was dominant. Nevertheless, throughout the water column of the Northwest  
271 Atlantic, manganese(II) was generally the dominant species (Table 2, Figs. 4 & 5).

272 The intermediate and deep water  $dMn_T$  concentrations are approximately 10-times higher  
273 than the 2011 winter measured US GEOTRACES NW Atlantic US continental shelf-slope  
274 station (USGT11-01) and 3–4 times higher than USGT11-06 (Fig. 1; Wu et al., 2014). Our  $dMn_T$   
275 samples show a similarity in their concentration and depth profile to samples collected ~ 420 km  
276 off the Japanese shelf-slope in the North West Pacific Ocean (Morton et al., 2019). The  $dMn_T$   
277 range in those Pacific samples, influenced by lateral inputs of material, was 0.7–6.3 nM with the  
278 maximum at 650 m (106  $\mu M O_2$ ) (Morton et al., 2019). However, as approximately 60% of shelf  
279 inputs of  $dMn_T$  will be lost within < 1000 km, lateral inputs of dissolved manganese are unlikely  
280 to be far-reaching with respect to oceanic basin scale (Middag et al., 2011; Noble et al., 2012).  
281 Comparing our samples and GEOTRACES USGT11-06, the magnitude of  $dMn_T$  decrease  
282 approximates the trend with distance from the shelf observed by Noble et al. (2012); our samples  
283 were collected ~ 60 km off the slope and USGT11-06 ~ 500 km.

284 The measurement of  $MnO_x$  using the organic dye leucoberberlin blue occurs because of  
285 the ability of  $MnO_x$  to oxidize organics, in this case through a hydrogen atom transfer (Jones et  
286 al., 2019a; Luther et al., 2018). Although the LBB analytical method is conducted at ~ pH 4 to  
287 ensure a rapid and complete reaction, LBB reactivity is indicative of the ability of  $MnO_x$  to  
288 oxidize natural organic material. The LBB reaction thus mimics a fundamental step in a wide  
289 range of environmental processes (Mayer, 2011). Weakly complexed manganese(III) ( $\log K_{COND}$   
290 < 13.2 in seawater (Luther et al., 2015)) is also capable of oxidizing LBB through hydrogen atom

291 transfer and is present in marine and estuarine environments (Jones et al., 2019b). DFOB is a  
292 strong ligand ( $\log K_{\text{COND}} = 13.2$  in seawater (Luther et al., 2015)) that outcompetes weak ligands  
293 stabilizing manganese(III) in complexes that oxidize LBB (Jones et al., 2019a). Therefore, the  
294 DFOB technique provides a means of quantifying, at minimum, the LBB reactive pool of  
295 manganese(III) (Jones et al., 2019a). The concentrations of  $\text{MnO}_x$  between 100 and 1000 m are  
296 in good agreement (0.2–0.8 nM) with particulate manganese measurements from GEOTRACES  
297 Stations USGT11-01 and USGT11-06 (Twining et al., 2015). The concentrations of Mn(III)-  
298  $\text{L}_{\text{DFOB}}$  are similar to those measured in North Atlantic seawater ( $S_p > 32$ ) flowing into the Gulf of  
299 St. Lawrence, Mn(III)- $\text{L}_{\text{DFOB}}$ , 0.73–1.1 nM (Jones et al., 2019b). In comparison, our mean  
300 Mn(III)- $\text{L}_{\text{DFOB}}$  concentration at the A Stations was 0.14 nM and at the B Stations, 0.43 nM, the B  
301 Stations maximum was 0.83 nM and at 34 m.

302 At our location, manganese in the water column comes from atmospheric deposition  
303 (Baker et al., 2016, 2006), fluxes from rivers and out of sediments from across the shelf (Burdige  
304 and Komada, 2020; Charette et al., 2016), and horizontal transport of plumes of dissolved and  
305 particulate manganese sourced from the shelf-slope (for example, Martin et al. (1985) and  
306 Morten et al. (2019) and references therein). This region has high surface water  $\text{dMn}_T$ , attributed  
307 to both reductive dissolution of manganese particles in aerosols and advection from the shelf  
308 (Shiller, 1997). Inputs of dust are seasonal and are higher in summer than winter (Adams et al.,  
309 2012; Liu et al., 2008); similar observations have been reported for dissolved iron in surface  
310 waters (Wu and Luther, 1996, 1994). The elevated  $\text{dMn}_T$  measured at Stations A and B relative  
311 to GEOTRACES Stations may, therefore, be a combination of differences in seasonal  
312 atmospheric deposition and lateral inputs from the shelf and continental slope as our stations are  
313 close to the shelf.

314 4.1 Manganese redox cycling

315 Manganese(II) oxidation is most likely to occur as two single-electron transfers (Luther, 2010),  
316 of which there are two pathways. The primary pathway is through microbial catalysis (Clement  
317 et al., 2009; Emerson et al., 1982). The secondary pathway includes all abiotic reactions.  
318 Generally, oxidation of manganese(II) by molecular oxygen is slow (Morgan, 2005; von Langen  
319 et al., 1997) so other oxidants are required, for example, superoxide (Hansard et al., 2011), which  
320 is likely prevalent in marine systems (Sutherland et al., 2020). When sufficient concentrations of  
321 ligands are present, the first single-electron transfer results in a ligand stabilized manganese(III)  
322 (Klewicki and Morgan, 1998; Kostka et al., 1995; Pakhomova et al., 2009; Parker et al., 2004;  
323 Webb et al., 2005). If there are insufficient ligands, the oxidation of manganese(II) rapidly  
324 produces  $MnO_x$  (Butterfield et al., 2013; Soldatova et al., 2017a, 2017b).

325 Manganese(III/IV) oxide particles may oxidize ambient dissolved organic matter  
326 resulting in Mn(III)- $L_{DFOB}$  and manganese(II) (Duckworth and Sposito, 2007, 2005b; Klewicki  
327 and Morgan, 1999). Mn(III)- $L_{DFOB}$  is produced because the oxidized low molecular weight  
328 organic material (Sunda and Kieber, 1994) will form stable complexes with the concomitantly  
329 produced manganese(III) (Jones et al., 2019a; Klewicki and Morgan, 1998; Launer and Yost,  
330 1934; Magliozzo and Marcinkeviciene, 1997). [We found that  \$MnO\_x\$  was present throughout the  
331 water column, albeit, generally at sub-nanomolar concentrations. This finding agrees with work  
332 that used sequential extraction of particulate material collected at depth in the North Atlantic,](#)  
333 which showed that under normal atmospheric loading,  $MnO_2$  accounts for 70% of oceanic  
334 particulate manganese (Lam et al., 2015).

335 4.2 Manganese speciation at the base of the euphotic zone

336 High concentrations of  $\text{MnO}_x$  and  $\text{Mn(III)-L}_{\text{DFOB}}$  occurred at the base of the euphotic  
337 zone (Table 1 and Figs. 2 & 3), a depth approximately corresponding to the deep chlorophyll  
338 maxima (DCM) (Cox et al., 1982; Cullen, 1982; Sunda and Huntsman, 1997).  $\text{MnO}_2$  ( $\text{MnO}_x$ ,  $1.1$   
339  $\pm 0.4$  nM) formation commonly occurs in the DCM (Sunda and Huntsman, 1988). *At the DCM,*  
340 *sinking phytoplankton help to produce elevated nutrients (Huisman et al., 2006) and a relatively*  
341 *dense bacterial community, which respire organic material (containing oxidized manganese in*  
342 *photosystem-II), conditions also leading to manganese(III) formation/stabilization. Since the*  
343 *DCM is iron-limited (Hogle et al., 2018), the formation of Mn(III)-L will exacerbate iron*  
344 *limitation as manganese(III) provides direct competition with iron(III) for stabilization by*  
345 *siderophores (Luther et al., 2015). For example, manganese(III) binds to siderophore*  
346 *hydroxamate motifs (Parker et al., 2004) with a higher affinity than iron(III), and the*  
347 *concentration of manganese(III) ( $0.41 \pm 0.09$  nM) is approximately 20-fold higher than the*  
348 *hydroxamate siderophore concentration (up to 0.02 nM (Mawji et al., 2008)). With*  
349 *manganese(III) more abundant than iron(III), it will compete with iron(III) even if it has a lower*  
350 *affinity.*

#### 351 4.3 Manganese at mid-depth

352 *In surface waters, inhibition of  $\text{MnO}_x$  formation and the near-complete removal of  $\text{MnO}_x$  occurs*  
353 *because of photochemical inhibition and reduction (Sunda et al., 1983; Sunda and Huntsman,*  
354 *1994, 1988). Therefore, the initial formation of  $\text{Mn(III)-L}$  and  $\text{MnO}_x$  below the euphotic zone*  
355 *requires the oxidation of manganese(II). The mid-depth  $\text{MnO}_x$  layer (Station B, 448 m) and the*  
356 *nepheloid layer, with high manganese(II) and  $\text{MnO}_x$ , indicate insufficient ligands were present to*  
357 *prevent the oxidative pathway from completing to  $\text{MnO}_x$ . The similarity in manganese speciation*  
358 *relationships (high manganese(II) and  $\text{MnO}_x$  and low  $\text{Mn(III)-L}$ ) to those of the benthic*



359 nepheloid layer in the St. Lawrence Estuary (Oldham et al., 2017b) support the observations of  
360 Morton et al. (2019) and Bishop and Fleisher (1987) that our  $dMn_T$  and  $MnO_x$  are transported  
361 laterally from sedimentary sources on the shelf and slope. Either,  $MnO_x$  is directly sourced from  
362 the sediment or, through biotic (Emerson et al., 1982; Tebo, 1991; Tebo et al., 2004) and abiotic  
363 processes, is formed *in situ* during lateral transport either producing or accreting on small (1–4  
364  $\mu m$ ) neutrally buoyant particles (Bishop and Fleisher, 1987; Lam et al., 2012; Sundby et al.,  
365 1981). A diffuse  $MnO_x$  layer increases the availability for particle water interactions and  
366 consequently, an increase in reaction rates per volume (Rutgers van der Loeff and Boudreau,  
367 1997). If formed *in situ*, the  $MnO_x$  can sequester organic carbon (Estes et al., 2017; Johnson et  
368 al., 2015) and trace nutrients (phosphorus and iron; Murray, 1975) from their surrounding water.

369         The oxidizing capacity of manganese species derives from the number of electrons each  
370 accepts and their redox potential, which are determined by the relative strength of the Mn(III)-L  
371 complexes in the soluble phase or the crystallinity, sorbed materials and nature of the solid  
372 manganese(III,IV) species. Weak Mn(III)-L complexes are likely redox reactive and the ligand  
373 relatively bioavailable (Beyer Jr. and Fridovich, 1989; Jones et al., 2019a; Klewicki and Morgan,  
374 1998; Sunda and Kieber, 1994). If the ligands are organic acids, the manganese(III) can reduce  
375 the carboxyl motifs to carbon dioxide (Klewicki and Morgan, 1999, 1998). The presence of  
376 Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> increases the oxidizing capability of the soluble phase (Sun et al., 2015; Tian et  
377 al., 2019), which has a longer residence time relative to the particulate phase. Manganese oxide  
378 particles may also have a relatively long residence time as the rate they sink ( $\sim 0.76 \text{ m d}^{-1}$ ) is low  
379 relative to Stokes Law (Glockzin et al., 2014). Glockzin et al. (2014) attribute the slow  $MnO_x$   
380 sinking rate to the entrapment of  $MnO_x$  within an organic matrix, which suggests a bacterial  
381 formation of  $MnO_x$  based on laboratory studies (Toner et al., 2005). Nevertheless, sedimentary

382 sourced particles may also play a role in extending the residence time and influencing lateral  
383 transport of  $\text{MnO}_x$ . The  $\text{MnO}_x$  particles could be sourced directly from surficial (oxidized)  
384 sediments or the benthic boundary layer and advected laterally, or they could be formed in situ  
385 during transport of other particles. For example, small (1–4  $\mu\text{m}$ ) pyrite crystals are relatively  
386 neutrally buoyant and undergo orders of magnitude greater lateral transport (100s km) than  
387 vertical (10s m) transport (Lam et al., 2012). Over hundreds of kilometers of lateral transport in  
388 ~ 100 d, up to 100% of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  pyrite and 35% of 4  $\mu\text{m}$  pyrite will oxidize (Lam et al., 2012). The  
389 oxidation of continental margin sourced pyrite during lateral transport results in a diffuse high  
390 concentration of small neutrally buoyant iron oxyhydroxide particles that provide a large surface,  
391 which may act as a catalyst for  $\text{MnO}_x$  formation.

392 A prominent zone of oxidized manganese species at depth included 2–3 nM  $\text{MnO}_x$  at  
393 Station B (448 m; Fig. 3) and a broad Mn(III)- $L_{\text{DFOB}}$  maximum [0.31 nM at 402 m, Station A  
394 (Fig. 2); 0.6 nM at 371 and 448 m, Station B (Fig. 3)]. Though the oxidized manganese layer was  
395 within the same range as the OMZ, the OMZ in this region contains sufficient oxygen such that  
396 alternate respiratory electron acceptors such as  $\text{MnO}_x$  are not likely to be used. At both stations,  
397 elevated  $\text{MnO}_x$  was at the base of, or below, the Mn(III)- $L_{\text{DFOB}}$  layer, and this location highlights  
398 the current paradigm in manganese biogeochemistry. Either, following the oxidation of Mn(III)-  
399  $L_{\text{DFOB}}$ , the  $\text{MnO}_x$  settled through the water column, or during  $\text{MnO}_x$  lateral transport, which has a  
400 low ( $< 1 \text{ m d}^{-1}$ ) vertical component (Glockzin et al., 2014; Lam et al., 2012), the Mn(III)- $L_{\text{DFOB}}$   
401 layer formed due to the  $\text{MnO}_x$  reacting with sinking organic material. Diffuse reactive oxidized  
402 manganese layers are highly efficient in capturing and breaking down organic carbon (Rutgers  
403 van der Loeff and Boudreau, 1997) with similar processes that occur at the sediment water  
404 interface (Hedges and Keil, 1995; Madison et al., 2013).

#### 405 4.4 The nepheloid layer

406 The nepheloid layer at depth at Station B is an example of a significant continental slope  
407 input into the water column. The nepheloid layer(s) occurs as waters flush through the  
408 Wilmington and Baltimore submarine canyons (Canals et al., 2006; Puig et al., 2013).  
409 GEOTRACES observed Nepheloid layers containing  $> 15 \text{ nM MnO}_2$  at Stations USGT11-04, -  
410 06, -08, and -10 during their winter 2011 cruise (Fig. 1 and Lam et al., 2015); the nepheloid layer  
411 at Station USGT11-10 was 1100 m thick. At the shelf-slope, nepheloid layer(s) would likely  
412 combine high concentrations of manganese(II) from the oxygen-deficient interstitial pore waters  
413 and high concentrations of  $\text{MnO}_x$  from the sub-oxic interface. A manganese speciation profile  
414 similar to the bottom waters of Station B occurs in the benthic nepheloid layer of the outer St.  
415 Lawrence Estuary (Jones et al., 2019a; Oldham et al., 2017b). In contrast to our observations, the  
416 particulate manganese nepheloid layers observed in the GEOTRACES program (Lam et al.,  
417 2015) did not contain an enrichment of  $\text{dMn}_T$  (Wu et al., 2014). The difference in manganese  
418 fractions suggests removal of  $\text{dMn}_T$  since nepheloid layer formation.

#### 419 4.5 Relevance of manganese(III)

420 Manganese(III) occurs in two pools of manganese, the oxidized and the dissolved pools.  
421 The oxidized pool includes manganese species known for their oxidizing capacity ( $_{\text{oxi}}\text{Mn}$ ; Figs. 4  
422 & 5). It is inclusive of both soluble and particulate phases,  $\text{Mn(III)-L}_{\text{DFOB}}$  and  $\text{MnO}_x$  ( $_{\text{oxi}}\text{Mn} =$   
423  $\text{Mn(III)-L}_{\text{DFOB}} + \text{MnO}_x$ ), respectively. The soluble manganese pool contains species capable of  
424 being oxidized,  $\text{dMn}_T$  ( $\text{dMn}_T = \text{manganese(II)} + \text{Mn(III)-L}_{\text{DFOB}}$ ; Figs. 4 & 5). The  $\text{dMn}_T$  pool  
425 may contain other soluble oxidized species of manganese at low concentrations ( $< 0.3 \text{ nM}$ ;  
426 (Thibault de Chanvalon and Luther, 2019)), which may not react with DFOB under the

427 conditions used. Below the euphotic zone and between years, there is a difference in the relative  
428 concentrations of manganese species. In 2013,  $_{\text{oxi}}\text{Mn}$  was equivalent to 25% of the total  
429 manganese ( $\text{Mn}_T$ ), whereas, in 2014, it was closer to 45% (Table 2 and Figs. 4 & 5). The  
430 difference in the contribution indicates that significant changes can pervade the underlying redox  
431 behavior of an oceanic water column (Figs. 4 & 5). [One contributing factor may be the seasonal  
432 phytoplankton bloom, which was greater at Station A than Station B \(Fig. 6\), and following its  
433 collapse, the available organic carbon provided a mechanism to induce greater manganese  
434 cycling resulting in different concentrations of Mn\(III\)-L<sub>DFOB</sub>.](#)

435         Though the concentration of Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> is spatially variable, there are three  
436 underlying trends. First, Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> increases within the  $_{\text{oxi}}\text{Mn}$  pool with depth (Figs. 4 & 5),  
437 from < 10% at the surface to up to 60% by 2000 m. [Increasing Mn\(III\)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> suggests that, even  
438 with the aging of the mineral lattice \(Eitel et al., 2018\) during MnO<sub>x</sub> horizontal and vertical  
439 transport, MnO<sub>x</sub> retain some capacity to oxidize available organic material.](#) The second and third  
440 trends are, Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> increasing in concentration with depth (Table 1, Figs. 2 & 3) and  
441 increasing proportionally within  $d\text{Mn}_T$  with depth, from 1 to 23% (Table 2, Figs. 4 & 5). These  
442 trends may help explain why  $d\text{Mn}_T$  concentrations in intermediate and deep oceanic waters are  
443 higher than predicted from the modeling of an ion removed through scavenging onto suspended  
444 particulate material (Martin and Knauer, 1984; Statham et al., 1998; Sunda and Huntsman,  
445 1988). To account for the higher than expected residence time and concentration of  $d\text{Mn}_T$ , redox  
446 cycling of manganese in marine systems (Sunda and Huntsman, 1988) must replenish the  $d\text{Mn}_T$   
447 from MnO<sub>x</sub>. Therefore, MnO<sub>x</sub> particles play an essential role in elemental cycles in the ocean.  
448 This cycling supports the theory that deep oceanic water  $d\text{Mn}_T$  contains significant quantities of  
449 Mn(III)-L (Johnson, 2006) within the global ocean's uniform dissolved manganese concentration

450 of 0.15 nM (Statham et al., 1998).

## 451 **5.0 Conclusion**

452 Through direct quantification of 1) reactive  $\text{MnO}_x$  (Jones et al., 2019a), as opposed to  
453 estimating  $\text{MnO}_2$  from sequential leaching of particulate manganese, and 2) measuring reactive  
454  $\text{Mn(III)-L}$  (Jones et al., 2019a, 2019b), we have quantified the oxidized intermediate- and end-  
455 member in the manganese cycle.  $\text{MnO}_x$  and  $\text{Mn(III)-L}$  are redox reactive, participating in  
456 electron transfer and hydrogen atom transfer reactions (Jones et al., 2019a; Luther et al., 2018),  
457 and are intrinsically linked to organic carbon. In oxygenated systems, these oxidized species  
458 dominate manganese cycling.  $\text{Mn(III)-L}$  is pervasive in marine systems, and this characteristic  
459 means it is a significant component of the deep water-soluble manganese.  $\text{Mn(III)-L}$  will also  
460 play a role as a reductant or oxidant in this system. In the oceanic water column, the dynamic  
461 nature of  $\text{MnO}_x$  and likely  $\text{Mn(III)-L}$  suggest that the cycling of these species will significantly  
462 affect marine biogeochemistry and especially that of organic carbon.

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471

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784 Table 1. The physicochemical values, oxygen concentration and percentage saturation (O<sub>2</sub> sat.), and manganese species concentration  
 785 for A (2013) and B (2014) Stations. The manganese species are particulate manganese(III/IV) oxide (MnO<sub>x</sub>), total dissolved  
 786 manganese (dMn<sub>T</sub>), soluble Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub>, and the estimated manganese(II) (dMn<sub>T</sub> - Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub>). MnO<sub>x</sub> errors are the standard  
 787 deviation of repeat analyses plus the error due to the regression of the calibration curve; dMn<sub>T</sub> and Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> errors are the  
 788 standard deviation of triplicate analyses. The manganese(II) error was calculated through error propagation.

Depth m	Temperature °C	Salinity S <sub>p</sub>	O <sub>2</sub> μM	O <sub>2</sub> sat. %	MnO <sub>x</sub> nM	dMn <sub>T</sub> nM	Mn(III)-L <sub>DFOB</sub> nM	manganese(II) nM
Station A1 (37 07.84 N, 073 19.72 W; St. #7)								
10	27.7	35.74	192	95	0.49 ± 0.02	12.34 ± 0.04	0.02 ± 0.01	12.32 ± 0.04
74	16.8	35.87	244	64	1.22 ± 0.04	4.31 ± 0.08	0.31 ± 0.01	4.00 ± 0.08
154	14.0	35.81	258	56	0.89 ± 0.03	7.95 ± 0.03	0.23 ± 0.01	7.72 ± 0.03
225	11.9	35.48	126	47	0.49 ± 0.01	1.48 ± 0.04	0.09 ± 0.00	1.39 ± 0.04
402	7.1	35.09	171	57	0.40 ± 0.01	2.69 ± 0.03	0.31 ± 0.01	2.39 ± 0.03
698	5.0	35.01	231	73	0.27 ± 0.01	1.95 ± 0.05	0.13 ± 0.01	1.82 ± 0.05
Station A2 (37 18.45 N, 073 23.79 W; St. #12)								
5	27.6	35.73	191	95	0.81 ± 0.03	9.27 ± 0.05	0.07 ± 0.00	9.21 ± 0.05
152	13.5	35.73	212	81	1.30 ± 0.04	4.55 ± 0.02	0.21 ± 0.01	4.34 ± 0.02
256	12.6	35.63	177	67	0.92 ± 0.03	5.12 ± 0.12	0.00 ± 0.01	5.12 ± 0.12
325	10.2	35.29	130	46	0.29 ± 0.01	3.19 ± 0.19	0.02 ± 0.01	3.17 ± 0.19
525	6.2	35.05	194	63	0.26 ± 0.01	2.70 ± 0.19	0.13 ± 0.01	2.56 ± 0.19
825	4.7	34.99	240	75	0.34 ± 0.01	2.01 ± 0.00	0.10 ± 0.01	1.91 ± 0.01
Station A2 deep water (37 18.32 N, 073 24.03 W; St. #12A)								
2032	3.4	34.94	255	77	0.19 ± 0.01	1.38 ± 0.18	0.18 ± 0.01	1.20 ± 0.18
Station B1 (38 17.40 N, 072 43.70 W; St. #9)								
11	24.2	35.23	205	96	0.88 ± 0.07	6.43 ± 0.32	0.19 ± 0.03	6.24 ± 0.32
44	18.7	35.35	233	99	0.79 ± 0.08	6.10 ± 0.49	0.35 ± 0.08	5.75 ± 0.50
63	16.2	35.57	191	77	0.70 ± 0.03	2.86 ± 0.20	0.39 ± 0.01	2.47 ± 0.20
98	14.5	35.71	168	66	0.73 ± 0.04	2.28 ± 0.13	0.46 ± 0.02	1.82 ± 0.14
194	12.3	35.55	150	56	0.70 ± 0.02	1.48 ± 0.12	0.19 ± 0.05	1.29 ± 0.13
282	9.9	35.26	131	47	0.52 ± 0.03	1.31 ± 0.11	0.17 ± 0.07	1.14 ± 0.13
371	8.2	35.13	151	51	0.35 ± 0.01	2.70 ± 0.13	0.57 ± 0.04	2.13 ± 0.13
448	6.8	35.08	180	59	2.21 ± 0.09	1.19 ± 0.16	0.63 ± 0.06	0.56 ± 0.17
599	5.5	35.04	215	69	0.57 ± 0.01	1.92 ± 0.01	0.31 ± 0.02	1.60 ± 0.02
1201	4.2	34.97	247	76	0.35 ± 0.01	1.24 ± 0.04	0.29 ± 0.01	0.96 ± 0.04

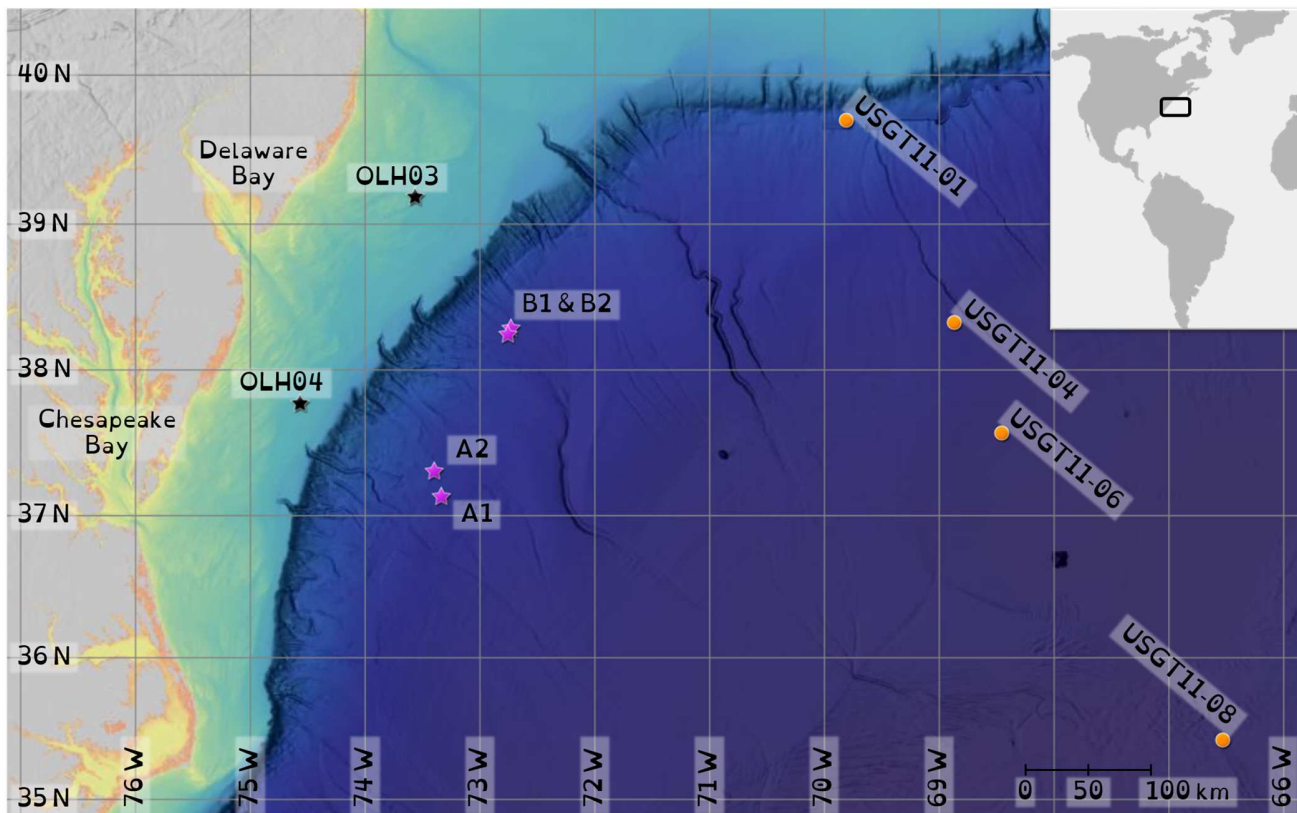
2004	3.4	34.94	252	76	0.50 ± 0.01	3.97 ± 0.18	0.76 ± 0.01	3.22 ± 0.18
2602	2.8	34.92	252	75	3.51 ± 0.30	26.02 ± 1.91	0.73 ± 0.02	25.28 ± 1.91
Station B2 (38 14.96 N, 072 45.27 W; St. #10)								
5	24.3	35.25	204	96	2.15 ± 0.05	7.67 ± 0.26	0.47 ± 0.04	7.21 ± 0.26
34	22.8	35.79	238	108	0.30 ± 0.04	6.70 ± 0.15	0.83 ± 0.03	5.87 ± 0.15
95	14.1	35.65	171	67	1.45 ± 0.04	2.07 ± 0.06	0.46 ± 0.06	1.61 ± 0.09
196	12.1	35.52	151	56	0.75 ± 0.02	2.17 ± 0.04	0.50 ± 0.04	1.67 ± 0.05
274	10.0	35.27	130	46	0.42 ± 0.01	1.41 ± 0.09	0.52 ± 0.04	0.89 ± 0.10
449	6.8	35.08	180	59	3.03 ± 0.14	1.41 ± 0.04	0.52 ± 0.02	0.89 ± 0.04

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790 Table 2. Columns 2 to 4, the percentage contribution of Mn(III)-L towards total dissolved manganese  
 791 (dMn<sub>T</sub> = manganese(II) + Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub>) and oxidized manganese (<sub>oxi</sub>Mn), which is composed of  
 792 soluble Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> and particulate MnO<sub>x</sub> and the ratio (expressed as a percentage) of <sub>oxi</sub>Mn to dMn<sub>T</sub>.  
 793 Columns 5 to 7, the percentage contribution of each manganese species towards total manganese (Mn<sub>T</sub>).

Depth (m)	Mn(III)-L in dMn <sub>T</sub>	Mn(III)-L in <sub>oxi</sub> Mn	<sub>oxi</sub> Mn / dMn <sub>T</sub>	Mn(II) in Mn <sub>T</sub>	Mn(III)-L <sub>DFOB</sub> in Mn <sub>T</sub>	MnO <sub>x</sub> in Mn <sub>T</sub>
Station A1 (37 07.84 N, 073 19.72 W)						
10	0.2	3.8	4 <sup>‡</sup>	96	0.2	3.8
74	7	20	36	72	6	22
154	3	21	14	87	3	10
225	6	16	39	71	4	25
402	11	43	26	77	10	13
698	7	33	20	82	6	12
Station A2 (37 18.45 N, 073 23.79 W)						
5	0.7	8	9 <sup>‡</sup>	91	1	8
152	5	14	33	74	4	22
256	0.0	0.1	18	85	0	15
325	0.5	5	10	91	1	8
525	5	34	15	86	5	9
825	5	23	22	81	4	15
2032	13	49	27	76	12	12
Station B1 (38 17.40 N, 072 43.70 W)						
11	3	18	17 <sup>‡</sup>	85	3	12
44	6	31	19 <sup>‡</sup>	83	5	12
63	14	36	38	69	11	20
98	20	38	52	61	15	24
194	13	22	60	59	9	32
282	13	24	53	62	9	29
371	21	62	34	70	19	11
448	53	22	238 <sup>‡</sup>	17	18	65
599	16	36	46	64	13	23
1201	23	45	51	60	18	22
2004	19	60	32	72	17	11
2602	3	17	16 <sup>‡</sup>	85	3	12
Station B2 (38 14.96 N, 072 45.27 W)						
10	6	18	34 <sup>‡</sup>	74	4	22
34	12	74	17 <sup>‡</sup>	84	12	4
95	22	24	92	46	13	41
196	23	40	58	57	17	26
274	37	15	67	49	28	23
449	37	55	251 <sup>‡</sup>	20	12	68

794 <sup>‡</sup> External forcings control manganese cycling in these waters; photochemistry in near-surface waters (<  
 795 50 m) and nepheloid layer(s) in the bottom water, or these waters had a significant presence of MnO<sub>x</sub>  
 796 indicating a likely presence of microbial manganese oxidizers.  
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799 Figure 1. Bathymetry map of the mid-Atlantic Bight (USA east coast) showing sampling station  
 800 locations for this study (Stations A & B; pink stars) and those referenced in the discussions  
 801 [GEOTRACES Winter 2011 (USGT11; orange circles), and Oldham et al. (2020) (OLH; black stars)].  
 802 Inset, map of North and South America with black rectangle highlighting the sampling region. Station  
 803 A sampled in August 2013 and Station B in August 2014.

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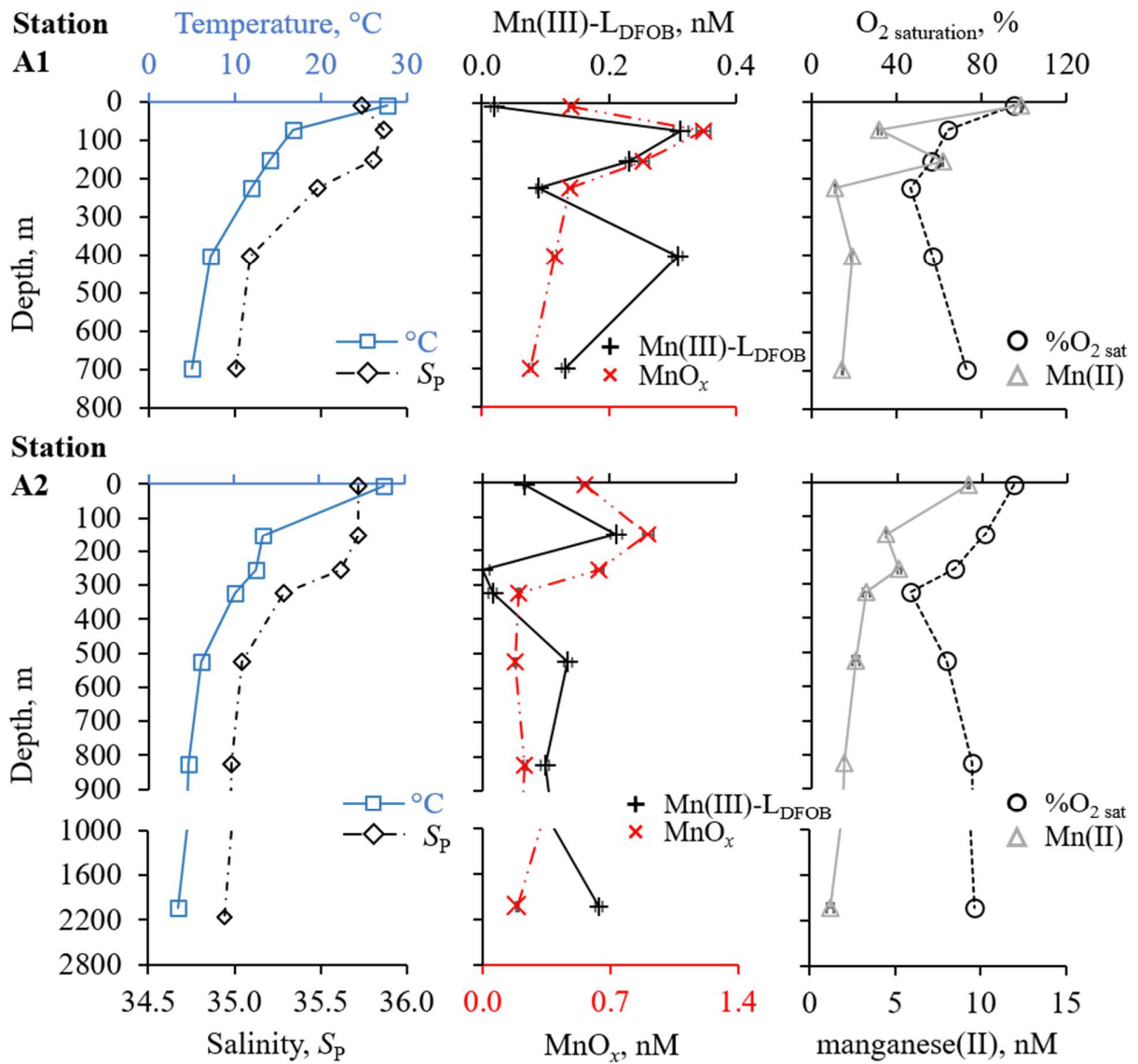
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811 Figure 2. Station A depth profiles for physicochemical parameters and manganese speciation,  
 812 manganese(II), Mn(III)- $L_{DFOB}$  and MnO<sub>x</sub>, in Northwest Atlantic offshore waters. The second station  
 813 (A2) was intended as a repeat profile through that location's oxygen minimum zone.

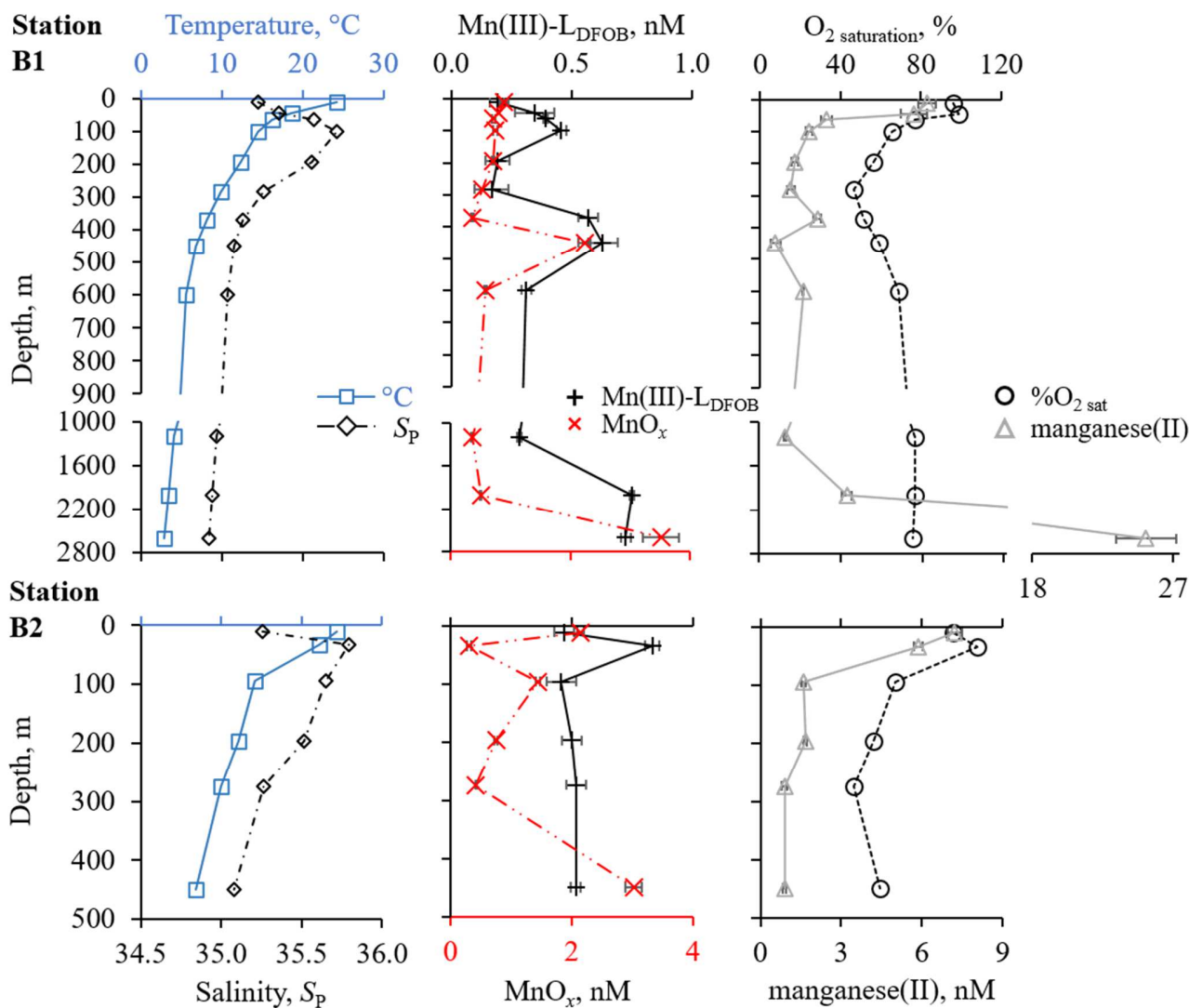
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820 Figure 3. Station B depth profiles for physicochemical parameters and manganese speciation,  
 821 manganese(II), Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> and MnO<sub>x</sub>, in Northwest Atlantic offshore waters. The second station  
 822 (B2) was intended as a repeat profile through that location's oxygen minimum zone.

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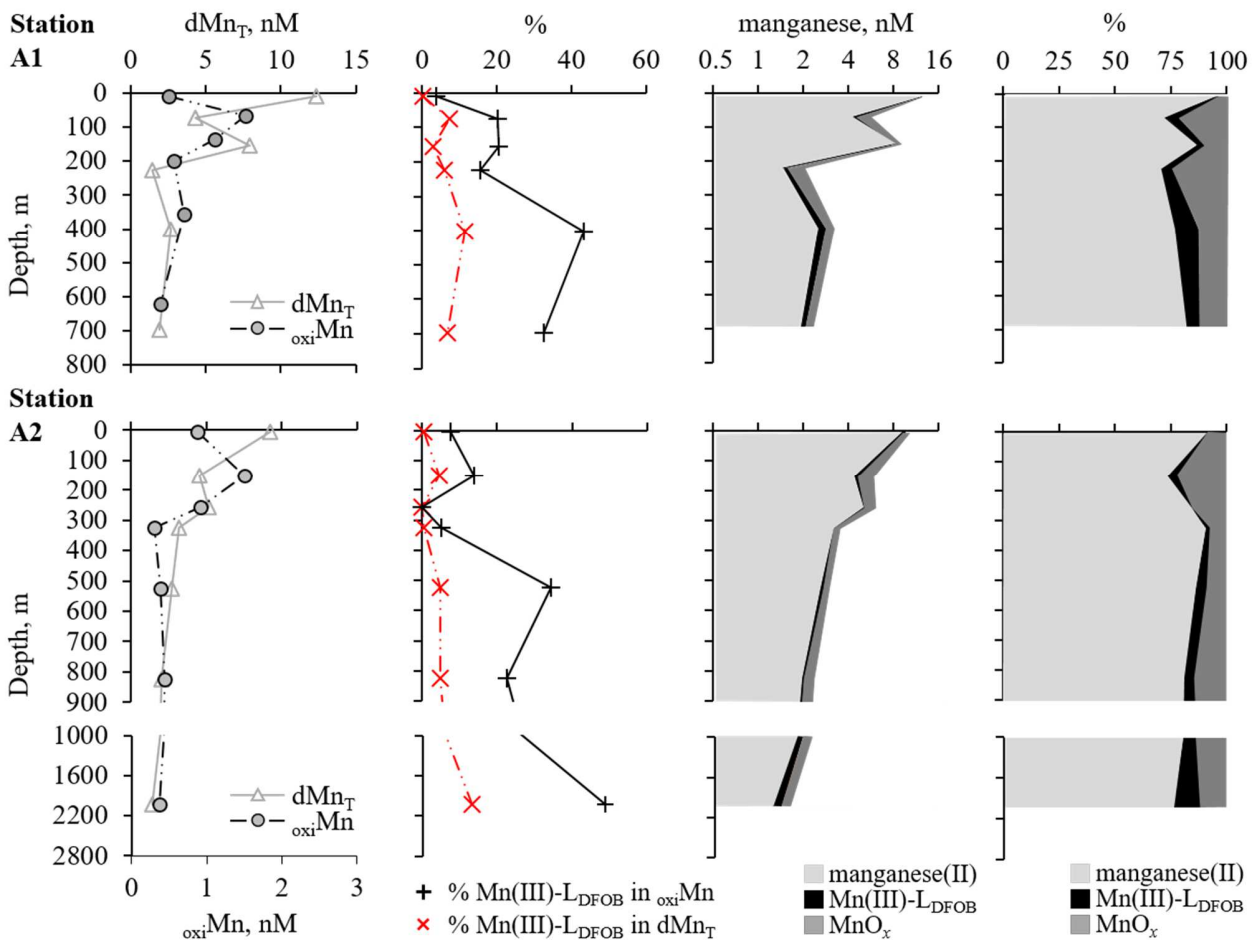
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830 Figure 4. From left to right, 1) Station A depth profiles of the manganese pools, total dissolved  
 831 manganese ( $dMn_T = \text{manganese(II)} + \text{Mn(III)-L}_{DFOB}$ ) and oxidized manganese ( $_{\text{oxi}}Mn$ ), composed of  
 832 soluble  $\text{Mn(III)-L}_{DFOB}$  and particulate  $\text{MnO}_x$ . 2) Profiles of the percentage contributions of  $\text{Mn(III)-L}_{DFOB}$   
 833 within  $_{\text{oxi}}Mn$  and  $dMn_T$  (Table 2). 3) Profiles of the contribution of each manganese species to the  
 834 total bio-available manganese ( $Mn_T$ ) and 4) profiles of the relative percentage contribution of  
 835 manganese species within  $Mn_T$  in Northwest Atlantic offshore waters (Table 2). Total bio-available  
 836 manganese concentration (manganese, nM) is presented on a logarithmic (base 2) scale. The second  
 837 station (A2) was intended as a repeat profile through the oxygen minimum zone.

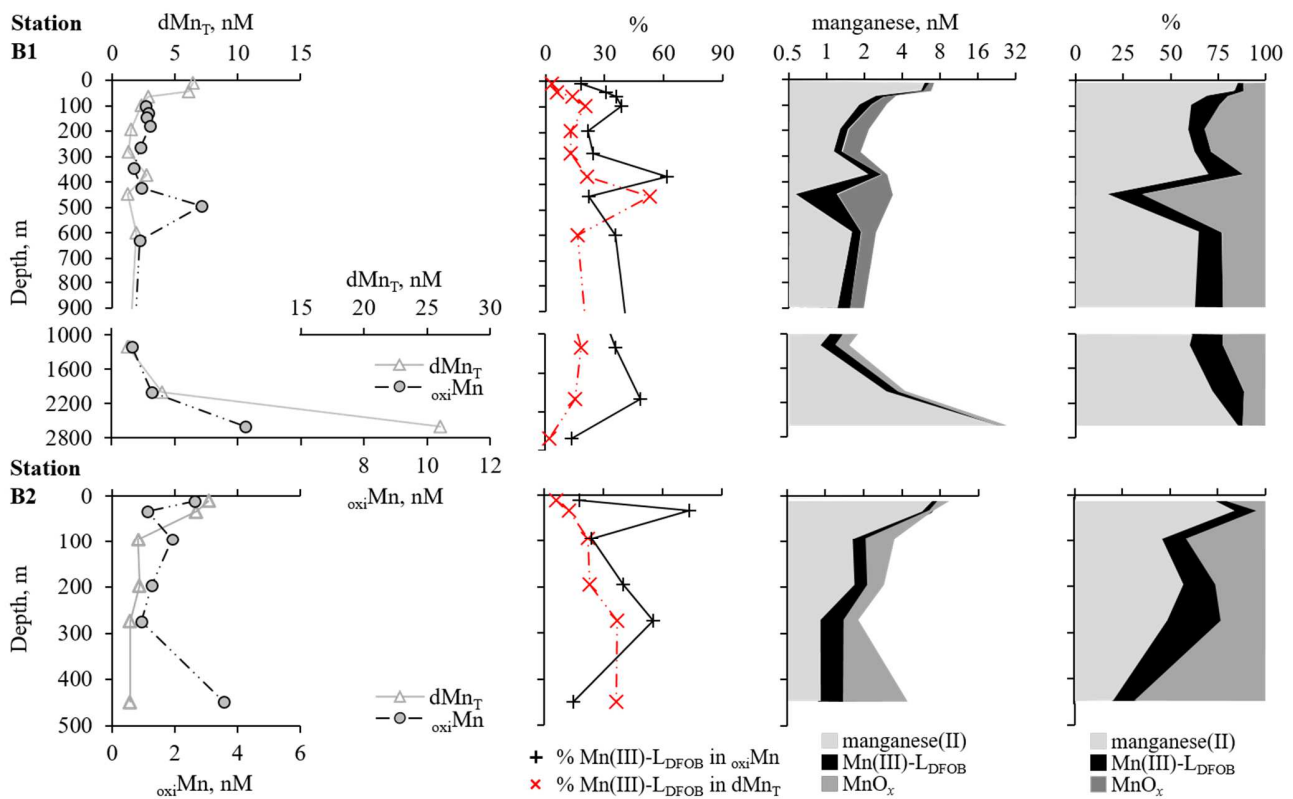
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845 Figure 5. From left to right, 1) Station B depth profiles of the manganese pools, total dissolved  
 846 manganese (dMn<sub>T</sub> = manganese(II) + Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub>) and oxidized manganese (oxiMn), composed of  
 847 soluble Mn(III)-L<sub>DFOB</sub> and particulate MnO<sub>x</sub>. 2) Profiles of the percentage contributions of Mn(III)-  
 848 L<sub>DFOB</sub> within oxiMn and dMn<sub>T</sub> (Table 2). 3) Profiles (Table 1) of the contribution of each manganese  
 849 species to the total bio-available manganese (Mn<sub>T</sub>) and 4) profiles of the relative percentage contribution  
 850 of manganese species within Mn<sub>T</sub> in Northwest Atlantic offshore waters (Table 2). Total bio-available  
 851 manganese concentration (manganese, nM) is presented on a logarithmic (base 2) scale. The second  
 852 station (B2) was intended as a repeat profile through the oxygen minimum zone.

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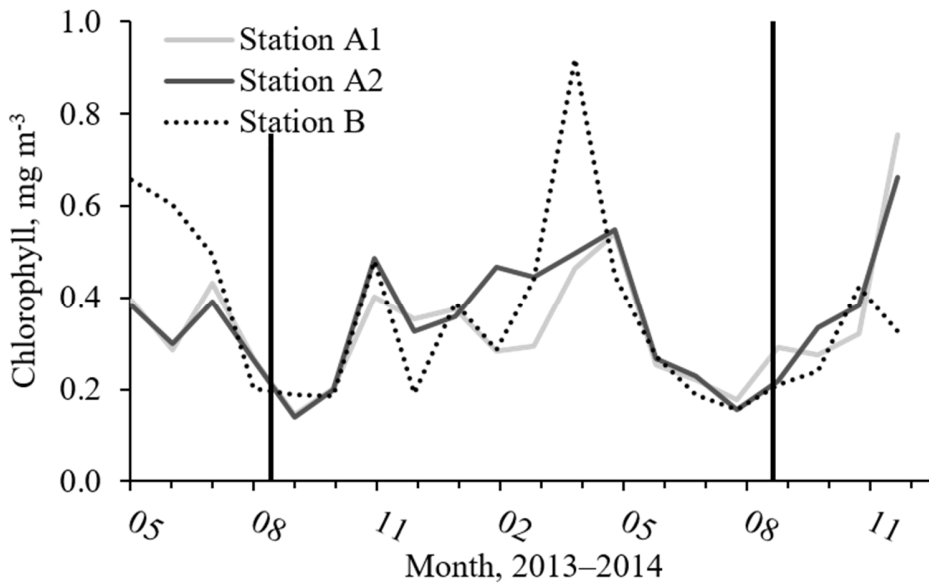
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861 Figure 6. Mean monthly surface chlorophyll concentrations at Stations A1, A2 and B, taken from  
862 National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) VIIRS level 3 satellite data. Vertical  
863 black lines show occurrence of sampling in August 2013 (Stations A1 and A2) and 2014 (Station B).

