

# Modelling the SERIES patch: the important physical terms

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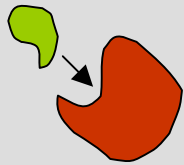
Thanks to **PERD** Canada for funding this research

# HNLC

usual

after iron addition

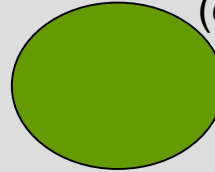
small phytoplankton



small zooplankton

large phytoplankton

(diatoms)



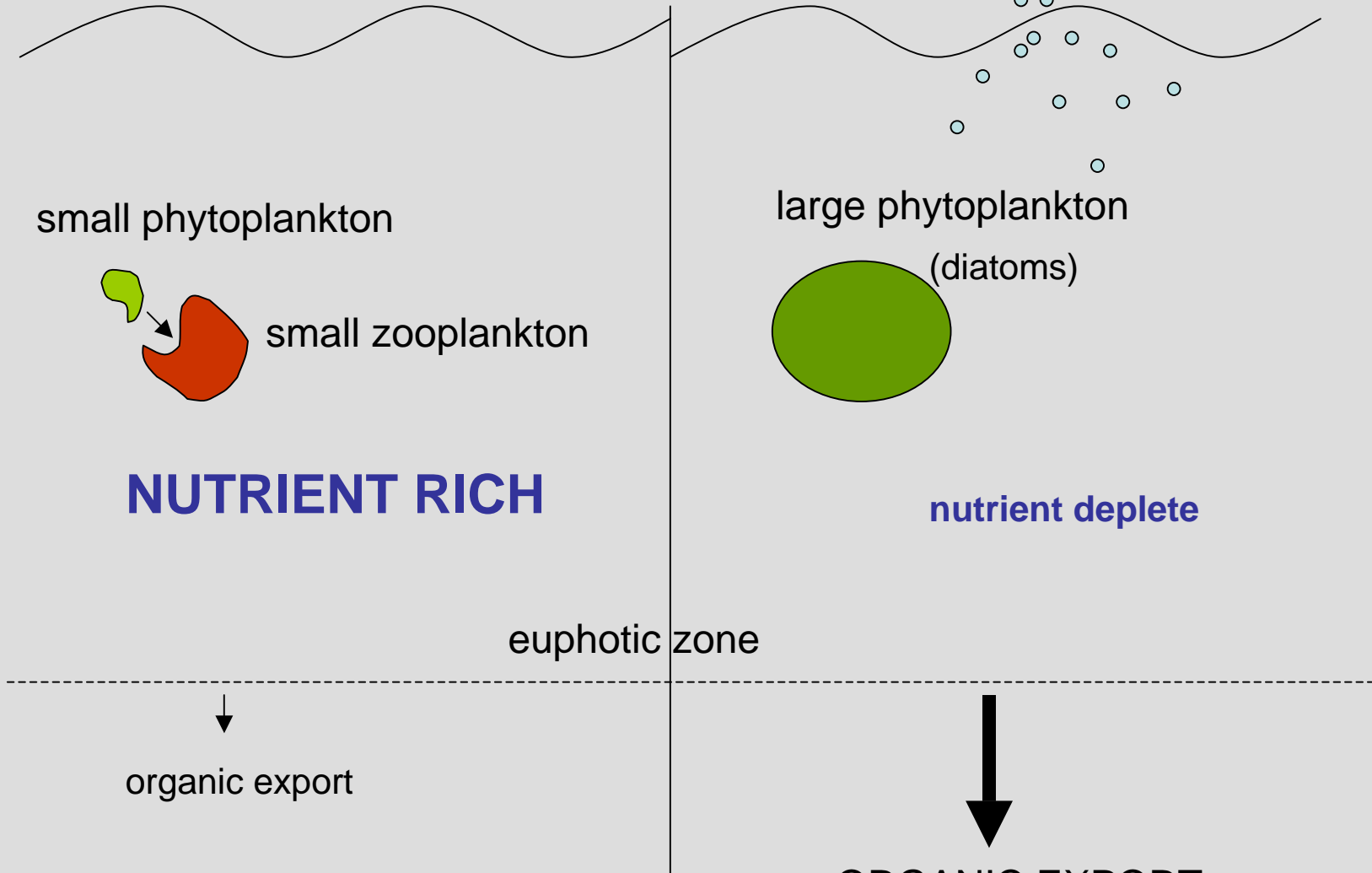
**NUTRIENT RICH**

**nutrient deplete**

euphotic zone

organic export

**ORGANIC EXPORT**



# Goal of Iron Enrichment Expts

1. mimic natural events that are hard to observe because they occur so infrequently and are hard to predict
2. assess the potential of large scale iron fertilization as a means to sequester anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>

*What happens later?*

# Our goal

- use the data to *create biochemical models* that “work” and are simple enough to put in larger scale models that run over longer time scales
- *what happens to the exported carbon?* where and when does it come back up?
- *what happens to the ecosystem?* does silicic acid limit diatom growth?

# Model

simple physical structure, detailed forcing



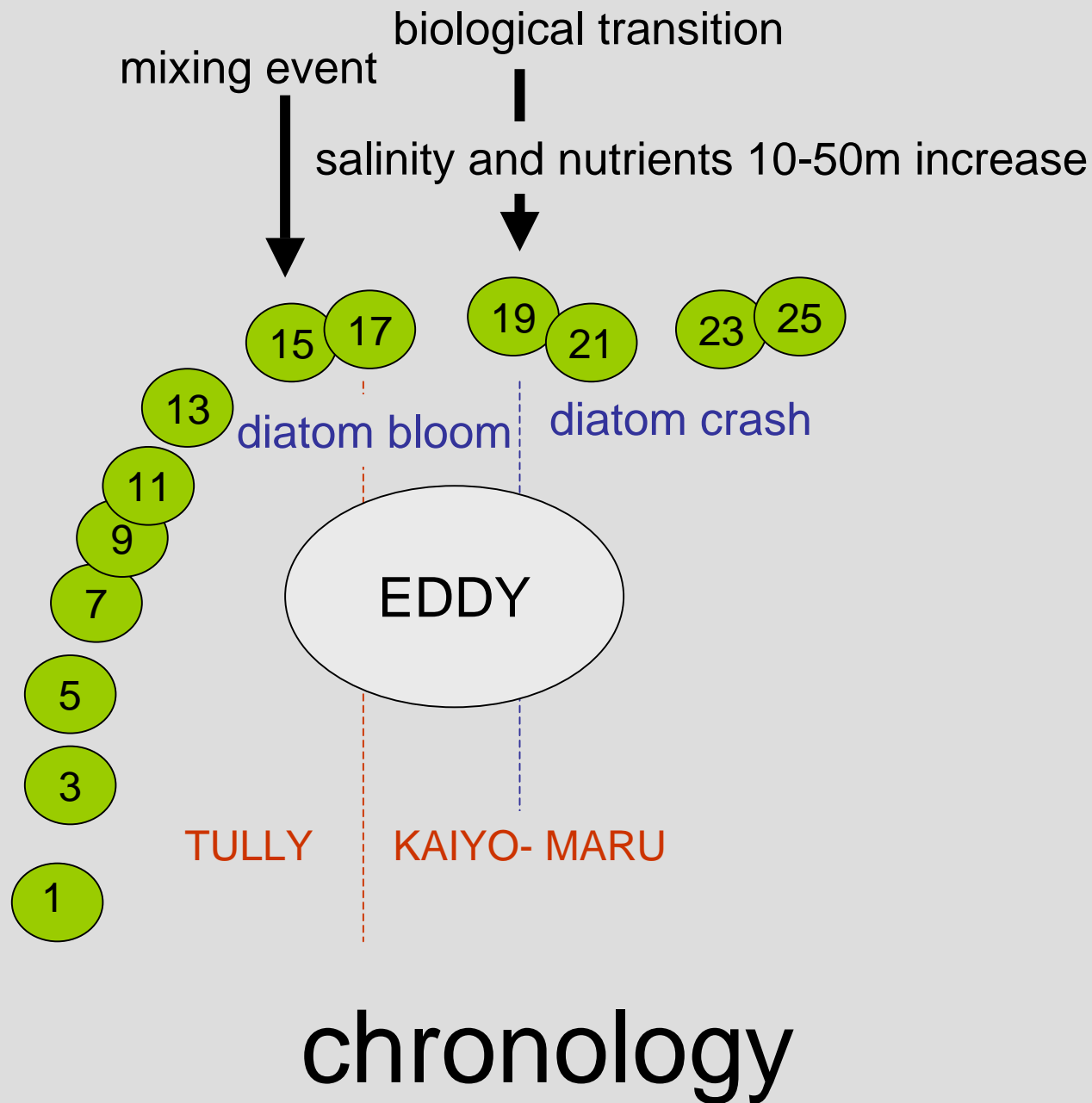
Quasi-homogeneous boxes



data

Complex iron chemistry, ecology

*what fits data?*



# state variables

inorganic

S  $\text{SF}_6$

organic

C N Si

iron

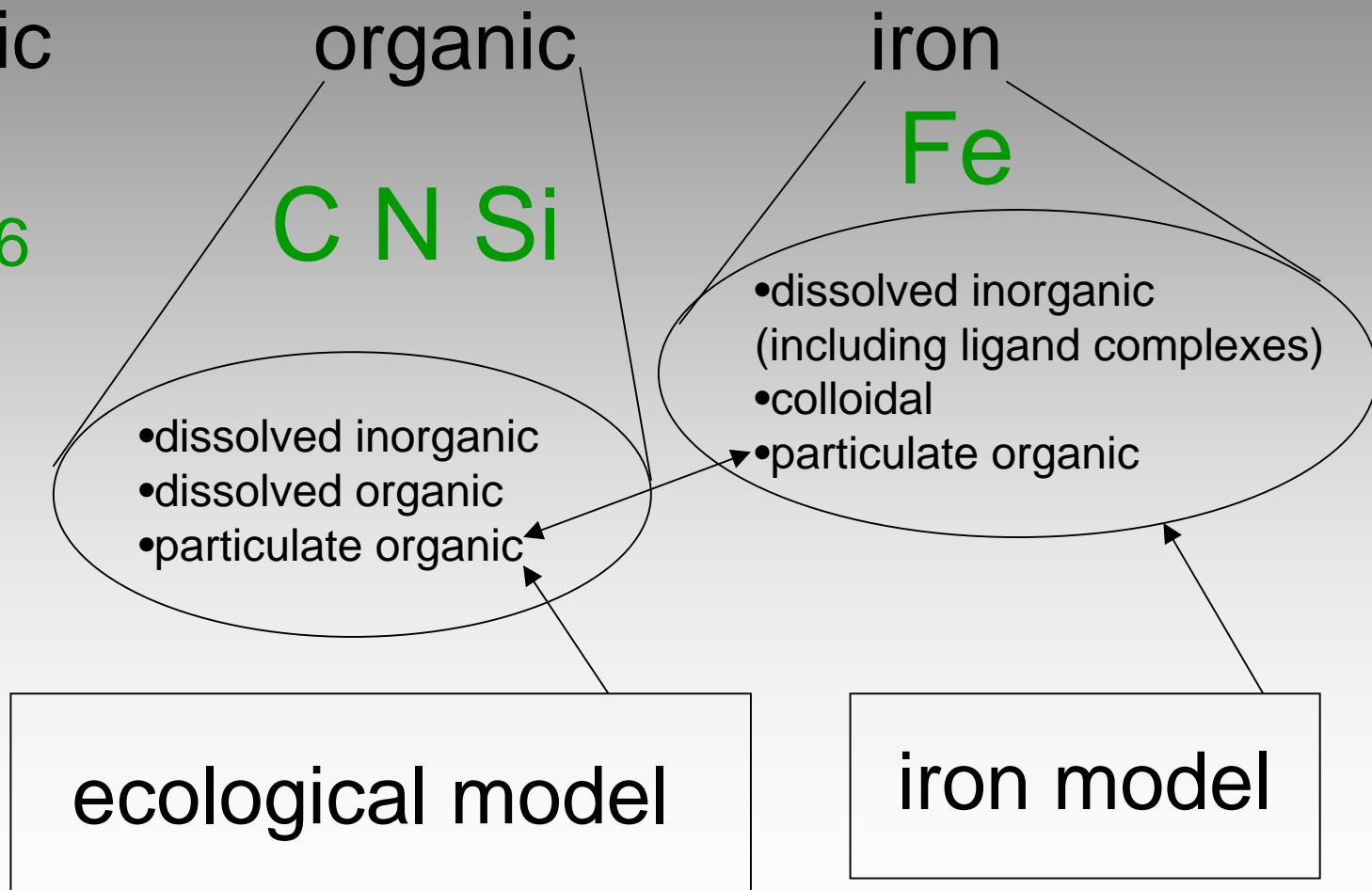
Fe

- dissolved inorganic
- dissolved organic
- particulate organic

- dissolved inorganic  
(including ligand complexes)
- colloidal
- particulate organic

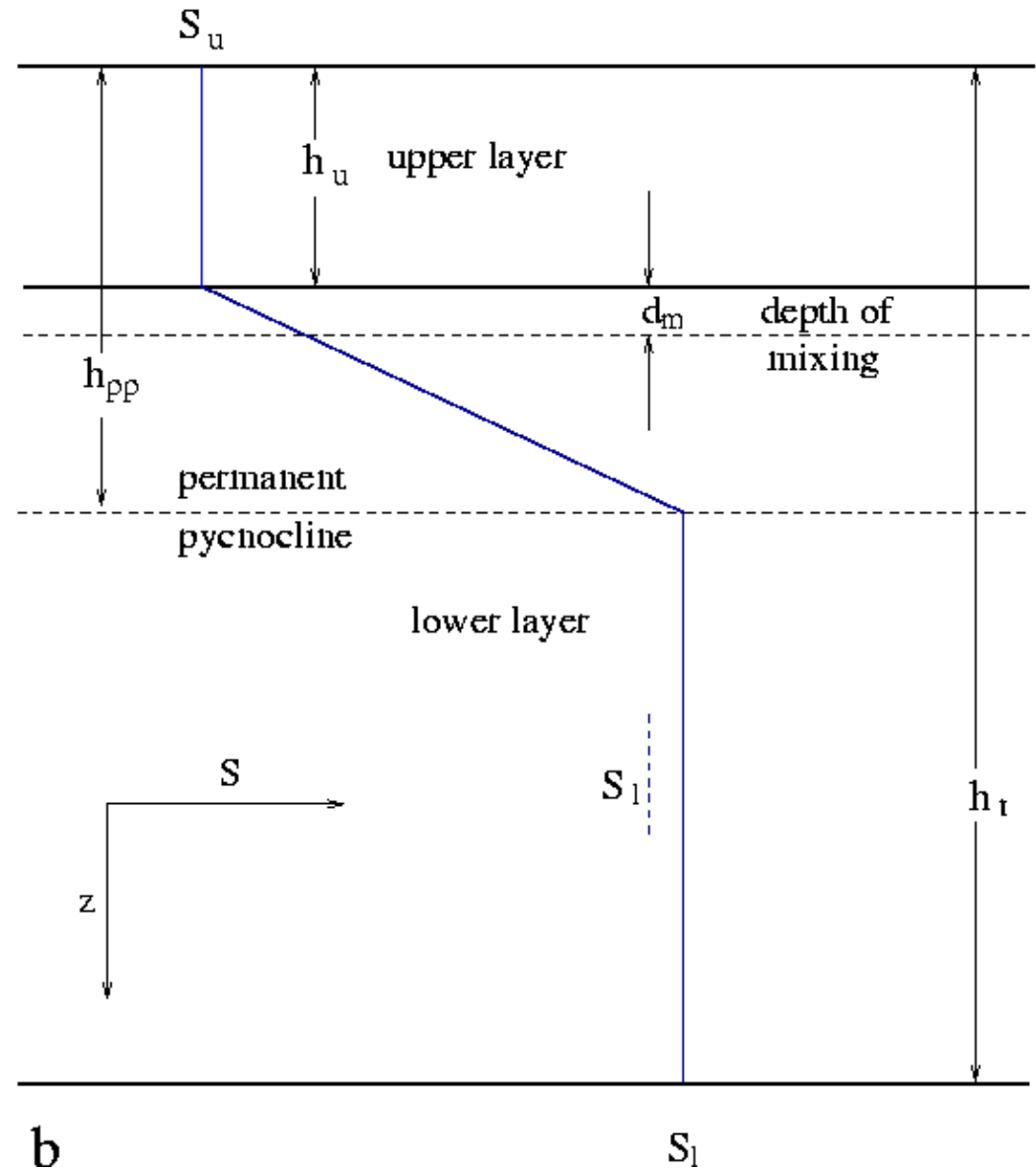
ecological model

iron model



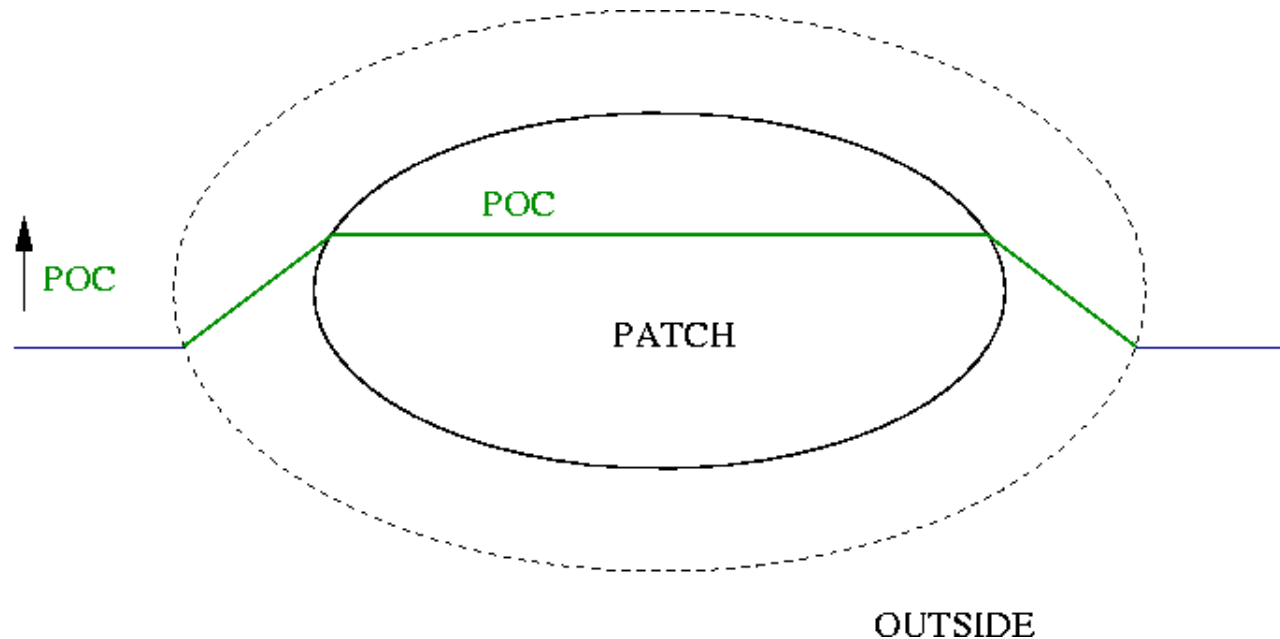
# physics (vertical)

- 2 boxes
- quasi-homogeneous
- gradient adds 2 model parameters ( $h_{pp}$ ,  $d_m$ )
- $h_u = f(t)$  from observations





# physics (horizontal)

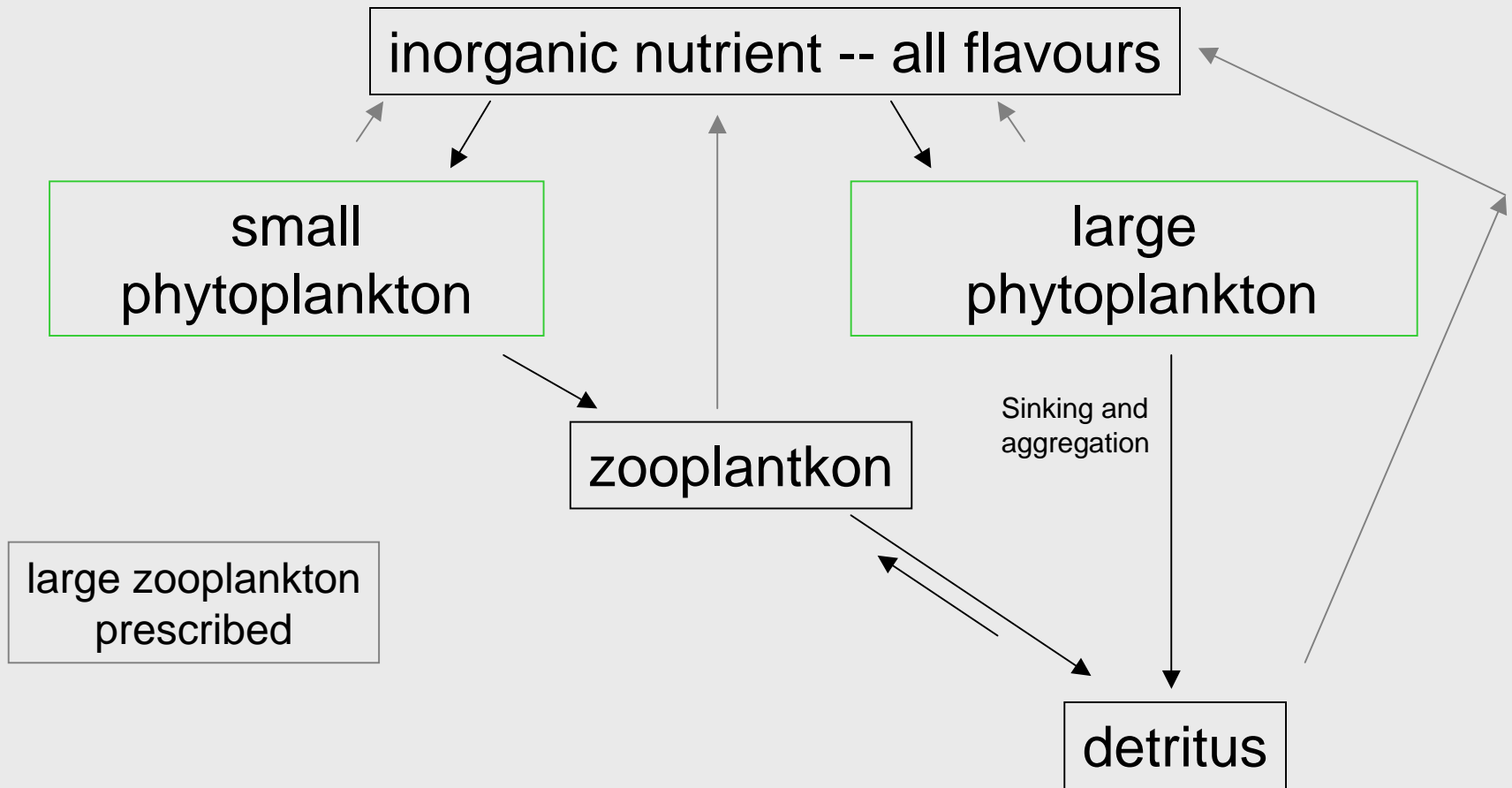


- 2 areas (inside and outside)
- quasi-homogeneous
- need  $A(\text{area})$  and  $p(\text{perimeter}) = f(t)$  from data (Cliff Laws)
- Adding gradient (2 parameters) as in vertical
- Issues: anisotropy (e.g. upwind, downwind)

# detailed forcing

- mixed layer depth GOTM (Y. LeClainche, N. Steiner) from data, heavily restored
- patch area (C. Laws), assume circular for perimeter as a first approximation
- mixing/diffusion from theory, scaled to spatial dimensions of problem (steady or tuned to vary with time)

# Ecological Model



Denman and Pena (simple version) ↓

# ecological model

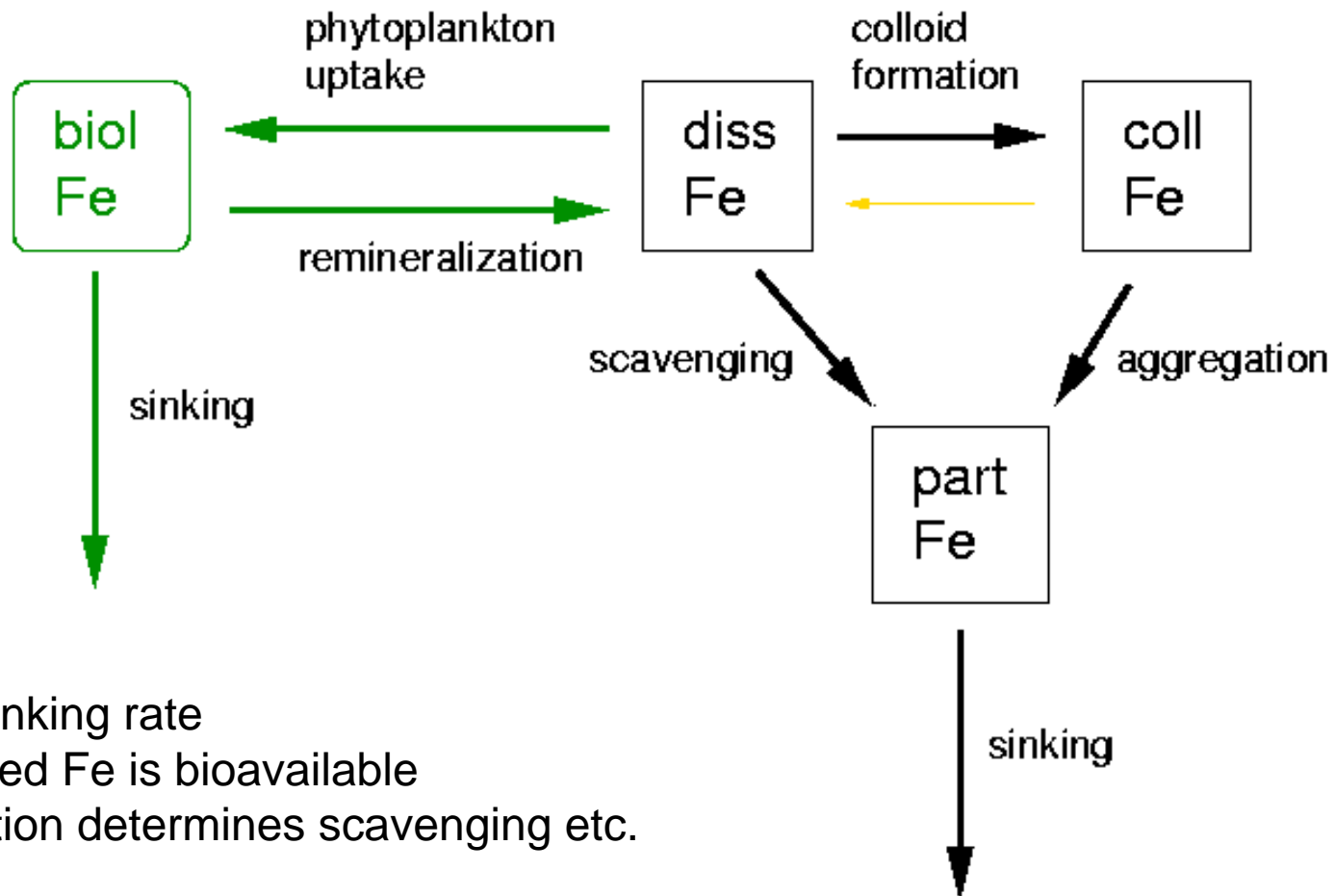
- 2 size classes of phytoplankton (P)
- small P tightly coupled with zooplankton
- large P (diatoms) need silicic acid
- large P sink as single cells and aggregates
- mesozooplankton are imposed based on data, diatom grazers

# Fe in ecomodels

- constant limitation in phytoplankton uptake, no explicit iron Denman and Pena
- just like dissolved nutrients (1 pool)
- add scavenging  $=f(\text{Fe}, \text{particle})$  Watson et al. 2000;  
Christian et al. 2002
- complex, all reactions known to mankind  
Weber et al.
- diagnose fast reactions in dissolved pool, model non-sinking and sinking Fe (not bioavailable) Voelker et al.

Parekh and Follows

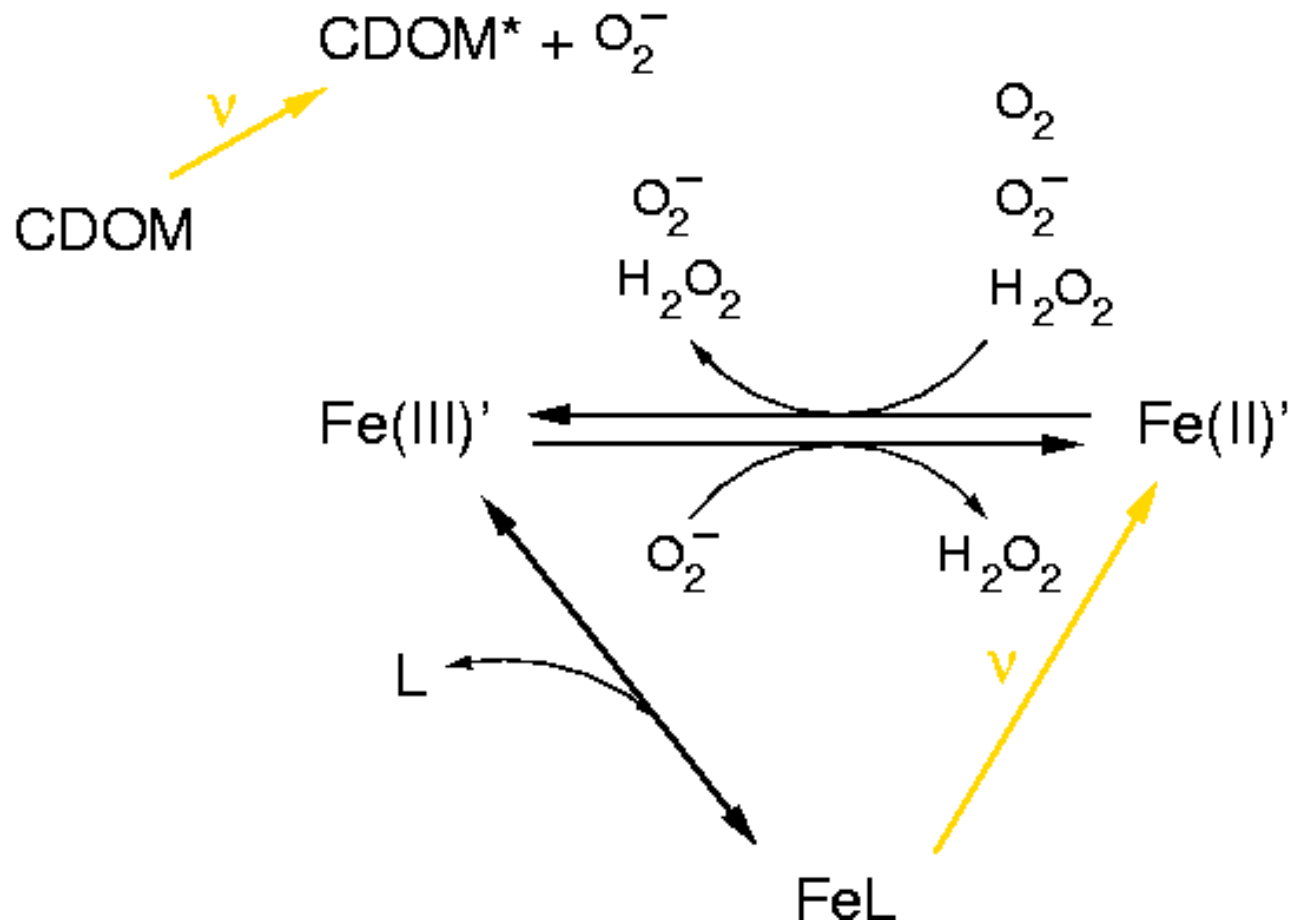
## prognostic part of iron model



- fixed sinking rate
- dissolved Fe is bioavailable
- speciation determines scavenging etc.



## diagnostic part of iron model: speciation of Fe(diss)



Speciation =  $f(\text{irradiance}, [\text{Ligand}], [\text{H}_2\text{O}_2])$

# Iron model ideas

- luxury Fe uptake
- simplify – bioavailable Fe made up of ligands and colloids of varying lability (one less Fe pool, combine scavenging and aggregation flux)
- sensitivity to ligand strength?

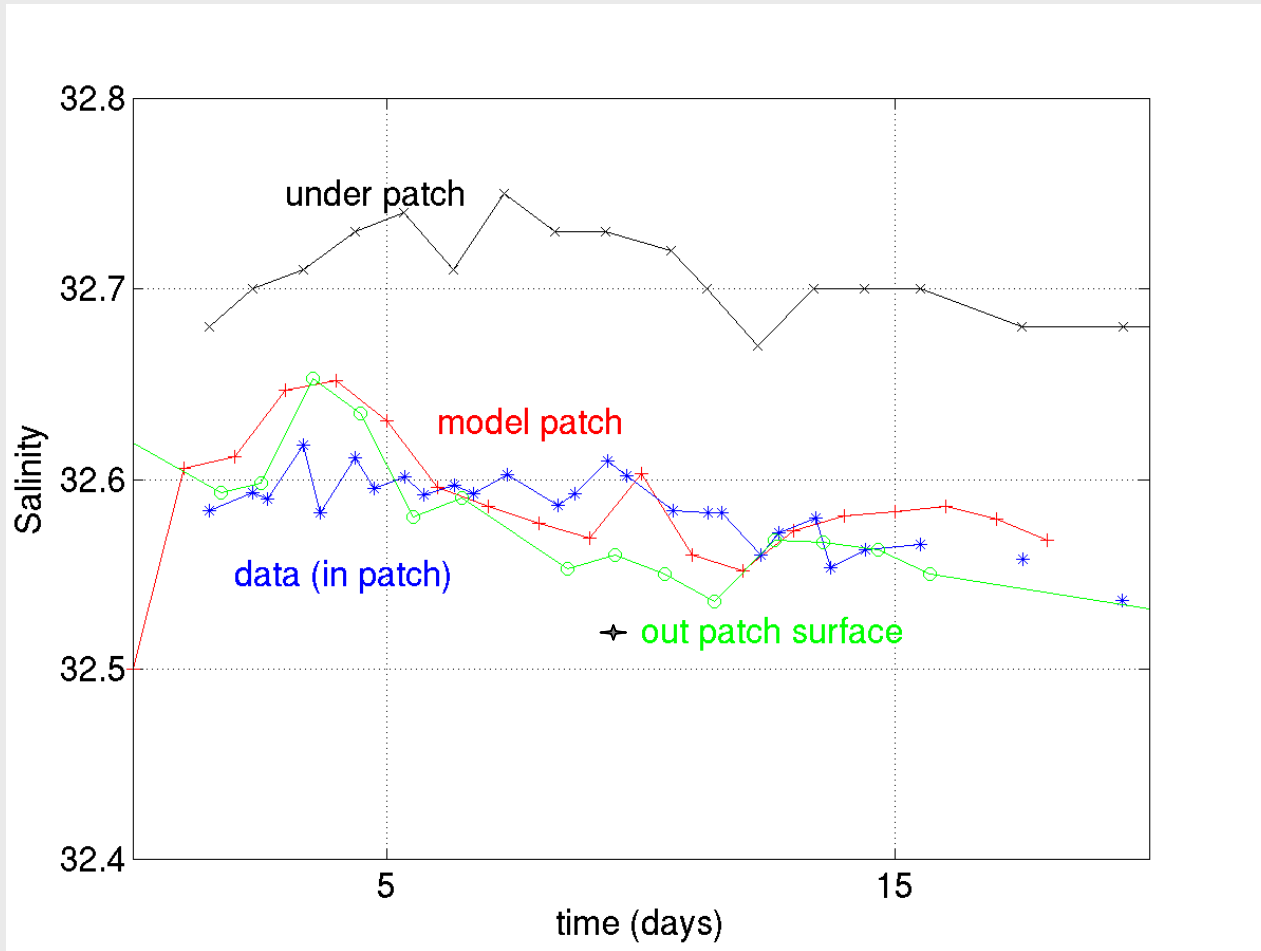


# results (day0-19)

- physical model reasonable without tuning
- eco model is embedded, both inside and outside of patch for comparison
- iron model under construction

# Salinity

NOT BAD....



MLD – GOTM

patch area (Laws)

mixing/diffusion -- theory

✦ patch is sitting in a horizontal salinity gradient

# physical conclusions

## vertical

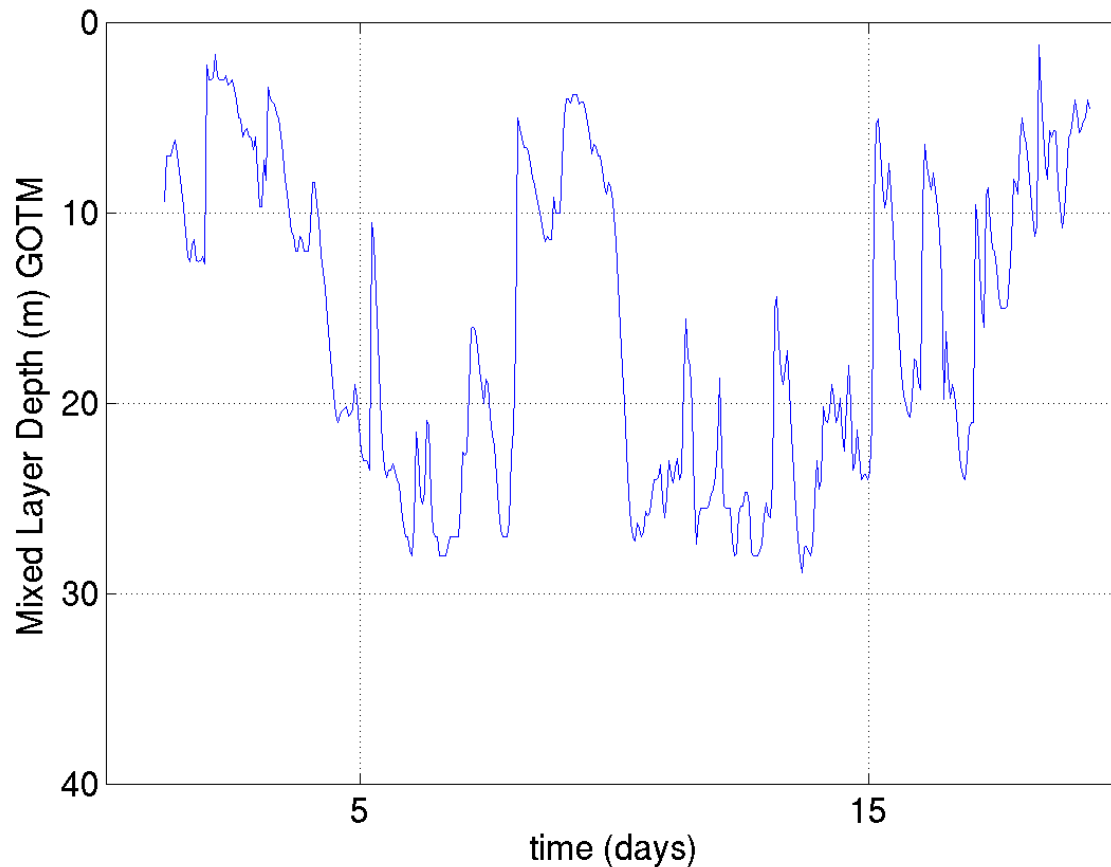
- time-varying mixed layer depth important
- mixing/diffusion same order as entrainment

## horizontal

- mixing/diffusion  $\gg$  entrainment
- changes in patch area with time not important

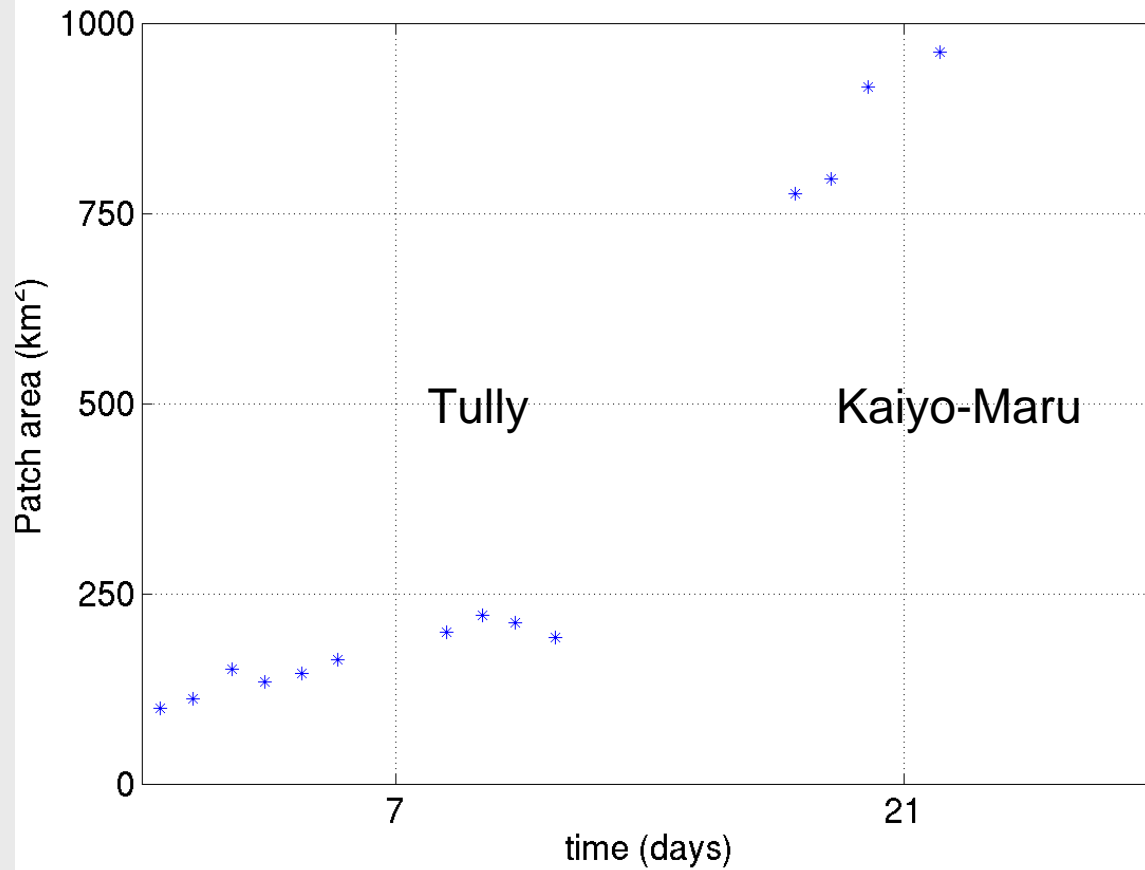
*need to get MLD and perimeter right*

# MLD – GOTM (Y.LeClainche)



MLD appears unrealistically shallow at times  
heavily restored (deepens MLD)  
Tully data only

# patch area (C. Laws)



# Questions:

- sensitivity to horizontal gradients, location of outer sampling.... Is it a 2D or 3D problem?
- How to handle transition from Tully to Kaiyo-Maru? WIND, PATCH AREA
- IRON – what do you know that I should?

# Bottom line

- *need to get MLD right* for time variation  
gee those 1D models look pretty good..
- *need to get perimeter and horizontal diffusion/mixing coefficient right* for average values

Patch budgets need to think about the stuff coming out the bottom in their dilution terms