



This volume, of 25 papers, focuses on the JGOFS-Canada programme in the NE subarctic Pacific. This study consisted of 8 research voyages from September 1992 to June 1997, along an E-W transect from the coastal (station P04) to the open ocean (Ocean Station Papa, OSP).

This oceanic province is of particular interest as it is one of three High Nitrate Low Chlorophyll regions in the World ocean, and possesses a unique overwintering population of actively growing phytoplankton and associated micro-grazers. Furthermore, OSP has been the focus of other research including the Institute of Ocean Sciences (IOS, Canada) 20-year time-series, and the US Subarctic Pacific Ecosystem Research (SUPER) programme. The JGOFS-Canada programme has built on aspects of previous research - such as studies of pelagic foodweb dynamics and ecosystem modelling - and conducted research into previously unexplored areas. Thus, many of the studies in the volume provide datasets on the basin scale, which permit the comparison of the pelagic ecosystem structure of the coastal and the open ocean. In addition, the biogeochemistry of the entire water column, rather than the pelagic realm is investigated at these locales using stand-alone pumps and sediment traps. We are fortunate to be able to include a number of papers analysing data collected as part of the IOS line P time-series, such as one of the longest records of deep ocean sedimentation and a 50 year physics time-series. Such papers help to put the JGOFS-Canada study into a wider temporal context for the NE subarctic Pacific. This volume presents findings on heterotrophic bacterial processes on a time scale of hours to paleo-oceanographic reconstructions of the last 20,000 years in this region.

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