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Overview of the  
Nordic Seas CARINA  
data

A. Olsen et al.

# Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data and salinity measurements

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Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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**ESSDD**

2, 1–25, 2009

---

**Overview of the  
Nordic Seas CARINA  
data**

A. Olsen et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Abstract

Water column data of carbon and carbon relevant hydrographic and hydrochemical parameters from 188 previously non-publicly available cruises in the Arctic, Atlantic, and Southern Ocean have been retrieved and merged into a new database: CARINA (CARbon IN the Atlantic). The data have been subject to rigorous quality control (QC) in order to ensure highest possible quality and consistency. The data for most of the parameters included were examined in order to quantify systematic biases in the reported values, i.e. secondary quality control. Significant biases have been corrected for in the data products, i.e. the three merged files with measured, calculated and interpolated values for each of the three CARINA regions; the Arctic Mediterranean Seas (AMS), the Atlantic (ATL) and the Southern Ocean (SO). With the adjustments the CARINA database is consistent both internally as well as with GLODAP (Key et al., 2004) and is suitable for accurate assessments of, for example, oceanic carbon inventories and uptake rates and for model validation. The Arctic Mediterranean Seas includes the Arctic Ocean and the Nordic Seas, and the quality control was carried out separately in these two areas. This contribution provides an overview of the CARINA data from the Nordic Seas and summarises the findings of the QC of the salinity data. One cruise had salinity data that were of questionable quality, and these have been removed from the data product. An evaluation of the consistency of the quality controlled salinity data suggests that they are consistent to at least 0.05.

ESSDD

2, 1–25, 2009

### Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Data coverage and parameter measured

Repository-Reference: doi: will be provided by CDIAC upon submission of data

Available at: <http://cdiac.ornl.gov/oceans/CARINA/Carina.inv.html>

Coverage: 59.60° N–82.35° N, 35.23° W–28° E

5 Location Name: Nordic Seas

Date/Time Start: 1982-02-28

Date/Time End: 2003-10-13

Data Product Parameter Name	Data Product Flag name	Exchange File Parameter Name	Exchange File Flag Name	Units
station		STANBR		
day		DATE		
month		DATE		
year		DATE		
latitude		LATITUDE		decimal degrees
longitude		LONGITUDE		decimal degrees
cruiseno				
depth				meters
temperature		CTDTMP		°C
salinity	sf	SALNTY	SALNTY_FLAG_W	
ctdsal	ctdsf	CTDSAL	CTDSAL_FLAG_W	
pressure		CTDPRS		decibars

10 For a complete list of all parameters available in CARINA see Key et al. (2009). Note the different names for the parameters in the Exchange files (the individual cruise files) and the merged data product.

# ESSDD

2, 1–25, 2009

## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## 1 Introduction

CARINA (CARbon In the Atlantic) is a database of carbon and carbon-relevant data from hydrographic cruises in the Arctic, Atlantic and Southern Oceans. The project started as an essentially informal, unfunded project in Delmenhorst, Germany, in 1999 during the workshop on “CO<sub>2</sub> in the North Atlantic”, with the main goal to create a uniformly formatted database of carbon relevant variables in the ocean to be used for accurate assessments of oceanic carbon inventories and uptake rates. The collection of data and the quality control (QC) of the data have been a main focus of the CARINA project. Both primary and secondary QC of the data has been performed.

The CARINA database consists of two parts: the first part is the set of the individual cruise files where all the data reported by the measurement teams are stored. Quality flags are accompanying the data, in many cases those are the flags originally reported, in others they were assigned by R. M. Key. These files are in WHP (WOCE Hydrographic Program) exchange format where the first lines consist of the condensed metadata. There are essentially no calculated or interpolated values in the individual cruise files, with the exceptions of pressure calculated from depth and some bottle salinities that were taken from ctdsal. No adjustments have been applied to any of these values with the exception that all pH measurements were converted to the sea-water pH scale at 25°C.

The second part of CARINA consists of three merged, quality controlled and adjusted data files; one each for the Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Mediterranean Seas and Southern Ocean regions. These files contain all the CARINA data and also include: 1) interpolated values for nutrients, oxygen and salinity if those data were missing and the interpolation could be made according to certain criteria, as described in Key et al. (2009); 2) calculated carbon parameters; e.g. if total dissolved inorganic carbon (TCO<sub>2</sub>) and total alkalinity (TA) data were available, pH was calculated; and 3) instances where bottle salinity was missing or bad and were replaced with CTD salinity. Calculated or interpolated values have been given the quality flag “0”. In many cases there are ad-

ESSDD

2, 1–25, 2009

### Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



ditional parameters in the individual cruise files, which have not been included in the secondary QC, such as  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ ,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\text{SF}_6$ . Most of these are included in the merged data files as well.

This report provides an overview of the Nordic Seas data in CARINA and summarises the results of the analysis of the salinity data from this region. These data are part of the Arctic Mediterranean Seas subset of CARINA (CARINA-AMS). This subset includes data from the Nordic Seas and the Arctic Ocean. Because of the very different data coverage in these two areas, and because they are more or less separate, they were analysed separately. The data from the Arctic Ocean are described by Jütterström et al. (2009), whereas the Nordic Seas data are described here and in Olsen (2009a), Olsen (2009b), Falck and Olsen (2009), Jeansson et al. (2009), and Olafsson and Olsen, (2009). A more comprehensive description of the complete CARINA database can be found in Key et al. (2009), as well as in the other, more specialised, papers in this special issue.

## 2 Data Provenance and Structure

The Transient Tracers in the Ocean-North Atlantic Study (TTO-NAS, Brewer et al., 1986) carried out during summer of 1981 was the first cruise in the Nordic Seas in modern times where carbon chemistry data were collected. TTO-NAS is not officially a part of CARINA, but the data have been used to aid the  $\text{TCO}_2$  consistency analyses (Olsen, 2009a). TTO-NAS was followed by the CSS Hudson cruise of winter 1982 (18HU19820228), which is the oldest cruise with data from the Nordic Seas in CARINA. This cruise included sampling for  $\text{TCO}_2$ , Total Alkalinity (TA), and chlorofluoro compounds (CFCs), in addition to standard variables like temperature, salinity, nutrients, and oxygen. After the CSS Hudson cruise no carbon data were collected in the Nordic Seas until the 1990s. Early that decade two important programs were initiated: (1) Sampling for CFCs at the repeated surveys of the Nordic Seas by the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) was started in 1991 (Bönisch et al., 1997; Karstensen et al.,

## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



2005) and (2) The ESOP and CARDEEP projects, funded in 1993 by the European Union and Norwegian Research Council, respectively. The two latter projects included a series of cruises with sampling for carbon chemistry and carbon-relevant data in the Nordic Seas for 3 years. Later, this activity was continued through the EU projects ESOP II and TRACTOR. These data are the backbone of the CARINA Nordic Seas data collection.

The Nordic Seas was loosely defined as the region closed by the Fram Strait to the north, Greenland to the west, the Greenland-Scotland Ridge to the south, and Norway, the Barents Sea Opening, and Spitsbergen to the east. Out of the 188 CARINA cruises, 62 are included in the CARINA-AMS, and 35 of these considered as Nordic Seas cruises. Five of these are in common with the Atlantic Ocean subset of CARINA (Tanhua et al., 2009b), in order to ensure consistency between the regions. The positions of the stations of the cruises that were included are shown in Fig. 1 and the cruises are listed in Table 1. Two of the entries in Table 1 are not single cruises, OMEX1NS and Iceland Sea, but rather collections of data from more or less the same place from one (OMEX1NS) or several years (Iceland Sea). The sample distributions with time and latitude are shown in Fig. 2a and b. These figures show only data that have been retained after the secondary quality control was completed and do not include interpolated or calculated values. There are more than twice as many oxygen and nutrient data as  $\text{TCO}_2$  and TA, and there also tends to be more CFC samples. This is because the collection includes the IMR cruises with sampling for oxygen, nutrients and CFCs, but no carbon data. As the 1982 Hudson  $\text{TCO}_2$  and TA data were found to be of too poor quality to be included in the final CARINA product (Olsen 2009a and b), the earliest carbon data are from 1991. Most data were collected in 2002 with the joint Oden/Knorr effort (Olsen et al., 2006; Jeansson et al., 2008; Jutterström et al., 2008). The most recent data are from 2003. The latitudinal distribution of the data reflects the emphasis on the Greenland Sea where, in particular, the section across  $75^\circ$  N has been occupied repeatedly.

The individual cruises are uniquely identified by an EXPOCODE. These identifiers

## ESSDD

2, 1–25, 2009

### Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



typically consist of two characters identifying the country code of the research vessel, followed by the two-character vessel NODC (National Oceanographic Data Center) code. The last eight characters denote the starting date of the cruise (as YYYYMMDD). For instance 58GS20030922 means that this cruise was conducted on the Norwegian (58) ship G. O. Sars (GS) and that the cruise commenced on 22 September 2009. In a few cases the sailing date was unknown and the EXPCODE was derived from the date of the first station occupied during the cruise. Table 2 lists the codes and names of the ships involved in Nordic Seas CARINA.

The results of the secondary quality control are summarized in Table 1: either 1) the data can be used as they are, 2) the data can be used but we recommend that they are adjusted by the constant or factor given, 3) we do not recommend that these data are used as they appear too be of too poor quality (Flag 3), or 4) no specific recommendation could be given, these have been labelled NC (not considered). The reasoning behind each recommendation other than the first, is provided this paper for salinity, Falck and Olsen (2009) for oxygen, Jeansson et al. (2009) for CFCs, Olafsson and Olsen (2009) for nutrients, Olsen (2009a) for TCO<sub>2</sub>, and Olsen (2008b) for TA. These papers also provide additional information such as names of responsible scientists, complete variable listings, references etc. for the different parameters. The recommendations have been applied to the merged data product, and datums that were found to be questionable or bad have been removed in this, but they are retained with appropriate flags (3 or 4) in the individual cruise files. Occasionally all values of certain parameter obtained during a complete cruise was found to be questionable (option 3 above), these data have not necessarily been flagged in the individual cruise files, but have been removed from the data product. As mentioned previously, no adjustments have been applied to the data in the individual cruise files. The recommendations for the parameters measured at the 5 cruises in common with the CARINA-ATL were the same as those reached at by the CARINA-ATL group (Tanhua et al., 2009b), the CARINA-AMS and CARINA-ATL data products are therefore consistent. This also brings the CARINA-AMS data product into consistency with GLODAP (Key et al., 2004), since

## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



the CARINA-ATL was consistent with this.

The individual cruise tracks are shown in Fig. 3, along with the salinity profiles after application of our recommendations. Again we note the emphasis on the Greenland Sea, only 7 of the 35 cruises did not have any stations in this area.

### 3 Analysis approach

The quality control was comprised of two distinct steps. First the reported measurements were studied in order to identify outliers and obvious errors, i.e. 1st level QC, these analyses are further described in Key et al. (2009). Secondly the consistency of the data were analysed in a processes called secondary QC. These QC procedures were applied on the post-cruise data sets reported by the measurement teams, and are different from the quality assurance (QA) procedures originally carried out by each cruise measurement team in order to ensure sufficient quality as part of the data collection and analysis procedures.

Several different consistency analyses were carried out, depending on the variable in question. Each is described in the different papers dealing with the various Nordic Seas data (Falck and Olsen, 2009; Jeansson et al., 2009; Olafsson and Olsen, 2009; Olsen, 2009a, b). However, with a lot of data collected in the central Greenland Sea, the Nordic Seas data were in particular suitable for extensive use of the crossover and inversion approach for evaluating data consistency (Johnson et al., 2001; Tanhua et al., 2009a). Some general issues apply to these analyses and are mentioned here. Firstly, whereas the analysis in most regions evaluates cruise-to-cruise differences in density space (Johnson et al., 2001), depth was used as the ordinate in the Nordic Seas due to the small density gradients in this region. Secondly, only samples deeper than 1900 m were compared to avoid effects of ventilation, which reached depths of 1500 m during the 1990s (Ronski and Budéus, 2005). Thirdly, over the last decade there have been clear changes of salinity, silicate, and oxygen in the deep Greenland Sea (Blindheim and Rey, 2004). These changes are the result of an increasing proportion of deep waters

## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



from the Arctic in this area, and showed up in the crossover results as well (Sect. 4; Falck and Olsen, 2009; Olafsson and Olsen; 2009). The corrections determined by the inversion of the crossover offsets were therefore not blindly applied on the data, but care was exercised so that any natural trends would be retained in the final data product. Finally, both manual and automated crossover analyses (Tanhua et al., 2009a) were carried out on all variables, and the agreement between the approaches were excellent

#### 4 Nordic Seas salinity analyses

In the CARINA database there are two different salinity entries: “salinity” and “ctdsal”, where “salinity” refers to salinity measured in discrete samples of water drawn from the water sampling bottle (e.g. Niskin bottle), whereas “ctdsal” refers to salinity measurements derived from the CTD conductivity sensor. It was not possible to unambiguously distinguish between the two for all cruises due to incomplete metadata, and it is almost certain that some ctdsal values have been reported as salinity. During the secondary QC we always used salinity if available, but used ctdsal values if salinity was missing, as indicated by a footnote in Table 1. Note that the typical differences between salinity and ctdsal (usually a few parts in  $\sim 35\,000$ ) or the differences between corrected and uncorrected salinity (typically less than 10 parts in 35 000) are relatively small, but within the cut-off limit of 0.005 salinity units for adjustments to salinity. For most geochemical measurements that require a correction for salinity (through density), these differences do not have any significant impact on the precision of the reported geochemical measurement. Following the salinity QC procedures, the adjustments were either applied to: 1) salinity if the secondary QC was solely based on salinity data; 2) ctdsal if the secondary QC was solely based on ctdsal values; or 3) to both salinity and ctdsal if those values are consistent and the secondary QC was based on both parameters. In the merged data product, ctdsal values have been used to fill in gaps in the salinity records.

## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## 4.1 Crossover and inversion analyses

All results and analyses carried out during the secondary QC of the Nordic Seas salinity data are available at the CARINA website ([http://cdiac.ornl.gov/oceans/CARINA/Carina\\_inv.html](http://cdiac.ornl.gov/oceans/CARINA/Carina_inv.html)). This section summarises the important findings.

5 The consistency of the Nordic Seas salinity data was evaluated using the cnaX-scripts (Tanhua et al., 2009a). The salinity data from Iceland Sea (cruiseno. 184), OMEX1NS (cruiseno. 186), 32L919920715 (cruiseno. 78), and 32L919930718 (cruiseno. 79) were not included as there were no samples from deeper than 1900 dbar. These data have been labelled NC in Table 1. Figure 4 shows corrections from a  
10 Weighted Least Squares (WLSQ, Johnson et al., 2001; Tanhua et al., 2009a) inversion of the cnaX crossover offsets. Additive corrections have been used and positive values indicate that to obtain consistency an upward correction is required, these data are thus low and vice versa for negative values. Three features are noteworthy: (1) There is an overall trend towards higher salinity values, i.e. increasingly negative corrections. This is consistent with the aforementioned increasing fraction of deep waters  
15 from the Arctic Ocean in this region (Blindheim and Rey, 2004) and should not be corrected for. (2) The data from 58JH19920712 appear almost 0.02 too high, those from 58JH19940525 appear almost 0.02 too low, and those from 34AR19970805 appears almost 0.01 too low. These data are thus all more offset than the CARINA wide threshold for applying salinity corrections of  $\pm 0.005$  (Tanhua et al., 2009a). Finally, (3) at the start and end there is some noise, but within  $\pm 0.005$  when the temporal trend is taken into account.  
20

## 4.2 Recommendations

Given the outcome of the crossover and inversion analysis we believe that the cruises  
25 58JH19920712, 58JH19940525 and 34AR19970805 should be considered for adjustments and are discussed in the following subsections. In addition some special considerations applies to 58JH19940723.

ESSDD

2, 1–25, 2009

### Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



#### 4.2.1 58JH19920712

This cruise took place outside the Greenland Sea, mainly through the Denmark Strait and Iceland – Faeroe Gap (see Fig. 3a). The number of crossovers with other cruises is therefore limited. Given this and given the variability of this region we feel that we do not have enough evidence to recommend that an adjustment should be applied to these data. To signify this, the salinity data of cruise have been labelled NC (Not Considered) in Table 1.

#### 4.2.2 58JH19940525

The inversion of the crossover results indicated that the data were almost 0.02 too low. This cruise covered the northern Norwegian Sea and Greenland Sea, and it had many crossovers with other cruises. Figure 5 compares the salinity data from this cruise with data from the other cruises in the central Greenland Sea and Lofoten Basin. In the Greenland Sea the bottom salinity of 58JH19940525 appears reasonable, but an offset starts appearing at about 3000 dbar and at 2000 dbar salinity appears  $\sim 0.025$  lower than what is normally observed. With some variations this difference is retained to the surface. In the Lofoten basin the deepest data are  $\sim 0.015$  lower than what is normally observed. The difference increases moving towards shallower depths, and at 2000 dbar the data are around 0.03 lower than normal. None of the other data obtained at this cruise suggested that an exceptional hydrographic phenomenon was taking place in either of these two basins. We therefore attribute these features to deficiencies of the measurements, but given the variable nature of the offset no robust correction factor can be determined and we feel that the most appropriate recommendation for these data is to label them questionable. The data are therefore not included in the merged CARINA data product.

ESSDD

2, 1–25, 2009

### Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



### 4.2.3 34AR19970805

The crossover and inversion analysis indicated that the salinity data from this cruise were almost 0.01 too low. The cruise took place across the Nordic Seas – North Atlantic overflow regions (Fig. 3a) and given the variability here there is a chance that the offset has a natural rather than instrumental cause, and we have chosen to label the salinity data from this cruise NC in Table 1. This is consistent with the decision for the 58JH19920712 salinity data.

### 4.2.4 58JH19940723

The correction determined by the inversion was smaller than the threshold of  $\pm 0.005$ . However, the cruise took place in the same region as 58JH19920712 and 34AR19970805, and for consistency we have chosen to label the salinity data NC in Table 1.

## 4.3 Consistency of final Nordic Seas salinity data

In order to evaluate the consistency of the final Nordic Seas salinity data, a cnaX crossover analysis was carried out after the recommendations were implemented. The corrections determined through the WLSQ inversion of the crossover offsets are shown in Fig. 4. With a few exceptions the data are consistent to within  $\pm 0.005$ . The most notable are 58JH19920712 and 34AR19970414 which both took place in the overflow regions and therefore have been labelled NC. Otherwise there appears to be a slight trend in the data, with newer cruises having higher salinities than the older (i.e. newer cruises needing negative adjustments), consistent with the observations of Blindheim and Rey (2004). Both 58JH19911105 and 58AA20010527 falls just outside the  $\pm 0.005$  consistency limit, but considering the timing we believe that this just reflects the natural variation in the Greenland Sea.

ESSDD

2, 1–25, 2009

## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

⏪

⏩

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## 5 Data access

The whole CARINA database is published at [http://cdiac.ornl.gov/oceans/CARINA/Carina\\_inv.html](http://cdiac.ornl.gov/oceans/CARINA/Carina_inv.html). It contains 188 individual cruise files in comma-separated, WHP exchange format. Condensed metadata is contained in the header of each data file. In addition, the CARINA database contains the three merged comma-separated data files with the data products. These files are divided into the three geographical regions of CARINA. The Nordic Seas data presented here are part of the Arctic Mediterranean Seas collection. No special software is needed to access the data, but software for Matlab users is offered to facilitate reading of the data.

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ESSDD

2, 1–25, 2009

### Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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ESDD

2, 1–25, 2009

---

### Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



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## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

---

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



**Table 1.** CARINA cruises with data from the Nordic Seas. The table lists CARINA cruises, EXPOCODE, and recommendations from the secondary quality control. Adjustments for salinity, TCO<sub>2</sub> and TA are additive, whereas those for oxygen, nutrients, and CFCs are multiplicative. ND denotes “no data”, i.e. the parameter was not measured, and NC, denotes “not considered”, and were applied to data with limited possibilities for secondary QC due to special regions (e.g. polynyas, shelf regions) for instance, or no values from deeper than 1900 dbar, or as described in the texts. Flag 3 means that the data are of questionable quality, and these are not included in the merged data product.

No	EXPOCODE	Salinity	TCO <sub>2</sub> <sup>a</sup>	TA <sup>b</sup>	pH <sup>c</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>d</sup>	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>d</sup>	Si <sup>d</sup>	Oxygen <sup>e</sup>	CFC11 <sup>f</sup>	CFC12 <sup>f</sup>	CFC 113 <sup>f</sup>	CCl4 <sup>f</sup>
10	06MT19920701 <sup>g</sup>	0	Flag 3	0	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
36	18HU19820228	0	Flag 3	Flag 3	ND	1	1	1	1	1.05	1	ND	ND
67	316N20020530	0	0	0	ND	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.9	ND
78	32L919920715	NC	NC	NC	ND	NC	NC	NC	NC	ND	ND	ND	ND
79	32L919930718	NC	NC	NC <sup>f</sup>	ND	NC	NC	NC	NC	ND	ND	ND	ND
91	34AR19970805	NC <sup>i</sup>	ND	ND	ND	1.05	1.04	1.15	NC	0.95	1	1	1
116	58AA19940203	0	Flag 3	Flag 3	ND	Flag 3	Flag 3	ND	1	ND	ND	ND	ND
117	58AA19940224	0	0	+15.5	ND	1.12	Flag 3	ND	1	1	Flag 3	ND	0.9
118	58AA19940826	0	0	0	ND	1.10	Flag 3	Flag 3	1	ND	ND	ND	ND
119	58AA19950217	0	Flag 3	Flag 3	Flag 3	Flag 3	1	1 <sup>a</sup>	1	1.1	1	1	ND
120	58AA19961121	0	0	0	ND	Flag 3	Flag 3	Flag 3	0.983	1	1	ND	ND
121	58AA19970225	0	0	0	ND	Flag 3	Flag 3	Flag 3	0.987	ND	ND	ND	ND
122	58AA19980308	0	0	0	ND	1	Flag 3	1	0.991	ND	ND	ND	ND
125	58AA20010527	0 <sup>j</sup>	0	0	NA	ND	ND	ND	1	1	0.95	ND	ND
128	58GS20030922	0	0	0	ND	1	1	1	1	1	0.95 <sup>h</sup>	ND	ND
129	58JH19911105	0	ND	ND	ND	1	1	1	1	1	ND	ND	1
130	58JH19920712	0	NC	ND	ND	NC	NC	NC	NC	ND	ND	ND	ND
131	58JH19921105	0	ND	ND	ND	1	1	1	1	0.95	1	1	1.05
132	58JH19930730	0	Flag 3	Flag 3	ND	1	1	1	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
133	58JH19931106	0	ND	ND	ND	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.95	ND
134	58JH19940525	Flag 3 <sup>i</sup>	0	+11.6	ND	1	1	1	1	ND	ND	ND	ND
135	58JH19940723	NC	NC	ND	ND	NC	Flag 3	NC	1	Flag 3	Flag 3	Flag 3	Flag 3
136	58JH19941028	0	ND	ND	ND	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
137	58JH19950427	0 <sup>j</sup>	Flag 3	Flag 3	ND	1	1	1	1	ND	ND	ND	ND
138	58JH19951108	0	Flag 3	Flag 3	ND	1	1	1	1	1	0.95	1	1
139	58JH19960720	0 <sup>j</sup>	ND	ND	ND	1	1	1	1	ND	ND	ND	ND
140	58JH19961030	0	ND	ND	ND	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.05	1
141	58JH19970414	0	0	0	0.025	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
142	58JH19980801	0	0	0	0.02	1	1	1	1	1	1.05	1.1	1
143	58JH19990615	0 <sup>j</sup>	ND	ND	ND	1	1	1	1	1	1	Flag 3	1
144	58JH20000527	0	ND	ND	ND	1	1	1	1	1	1.05	1	0.95
176	74JC19960720	0	0	+15.5	ND	0.83	1	1	0.982	1	1	1	Flag 3
179	77DN20020420	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	Flag 3	Flag 3
184	Iceland Sea	NC	0	ND	ND	1	1	1	NC	ND	ND	ND	ND
186	OMEX1NS <sup>h</sup>	NC <sup>i</sup>	ND	ND	ND	NC	NC	NC	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



### Table 1. Continued.

<sup>a</sup> Secondary quality control described by Olsen (2009a), adjustments are additive ( $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ ).

<sup>b</sup> Secondary quality control described by Olsen (2009b), adjustments are additive ( $\mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ ).

<sup>c</sup> Secondary quality control described by Velo et al. (2009), adjustments are additive.

<sup>d</sup> Secondary quality control described by Olafsson and Olsen (2009), adjustments are multiplicative.

<sup>e</sup> Secondary quality control described by Falck and Olsen (2009), adjustments are multiplicative.

<sup>f</sup> Secondary quality control described by Jeansson et al. (2009), adjustments are multiplicative.

<sup>g</sup> This cruise was the 5th and 6th leg of the MT21 cruise, only leg 5 data were included in our analyses.

<sup>h</sup> These data were included after secondary QC was completed, regardless they were collected on the Norwegian Shelf and there were limited possibilities for secondary QC.

<sup>i</sup> Only ctdsal values in file, QC carried out on these.

<sup>j</sup> Systematic offset(s) in bottle salinity due to long storage time prior to analysis, All bottle values flagged 3 and calculations made with CTD salinity values.

## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

**Table 2.** List of ships included in the CARINA data from the Nordic Seas. Vessels with \* were included in the entry “Iceland Sea”, and the vessel with \*\* was included in the “OMEX1NS” entry.

NODC Ship Code	Ship name	Country
06MT	Meteor	Germany
18HU	Hudson	Canada
316N	Knorr	USA
46FR	Arni Fridrikson*	Iceland
58AA	Håkon Mosby	Norway
58JH	Johan Hjort	Norway
58JM	Jan Mayen**	Norway
58GS	G. O. Sars	Norway
NA	Bjarni Saemundson*	Iceland

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

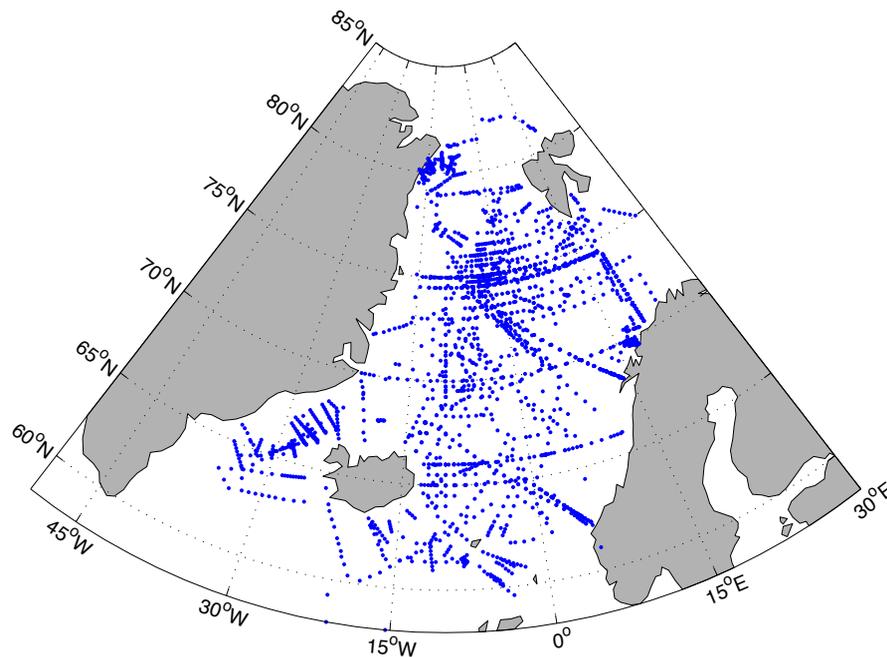
Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.



**Fig. 1.** The Nordic Seas with positions of CARINA data included in this region.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

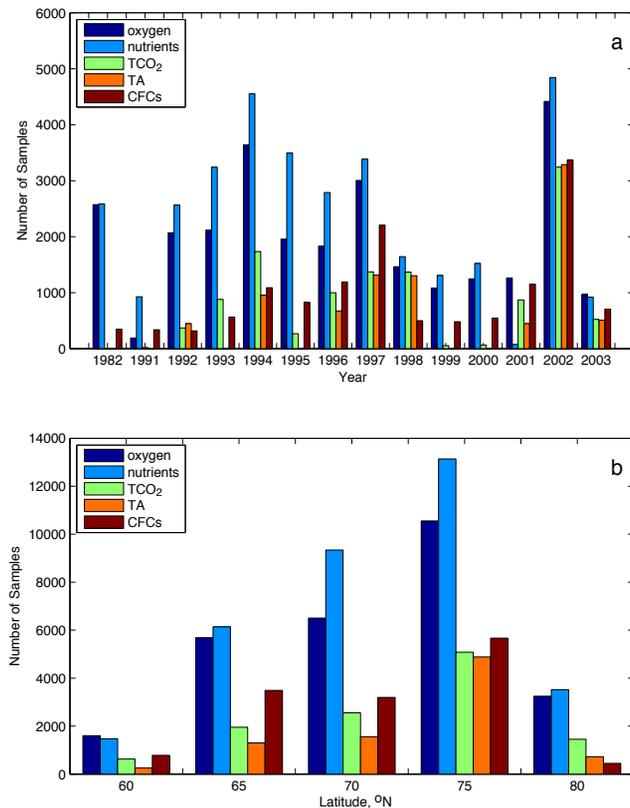
Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.



**Fig. 2.** Data distribution of Nordic Seas CARINA data, number of samples by **(a)** year and **(b)** latitude. Data that were found to be of too poor quality to be included in the CARINA product are not included. The count for nutrients reflects measurements of any or several of the triplet nitrate, phosphate, and silicate. Similarly, the count for CFC reflects measurements of any or several of CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, and CCl<sub>4</sub>. Note that X-axis jumps from 1982 to 1991 in (b). Interpolated or calculated values have not been included.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures

◀

▶

◀

▶

Back

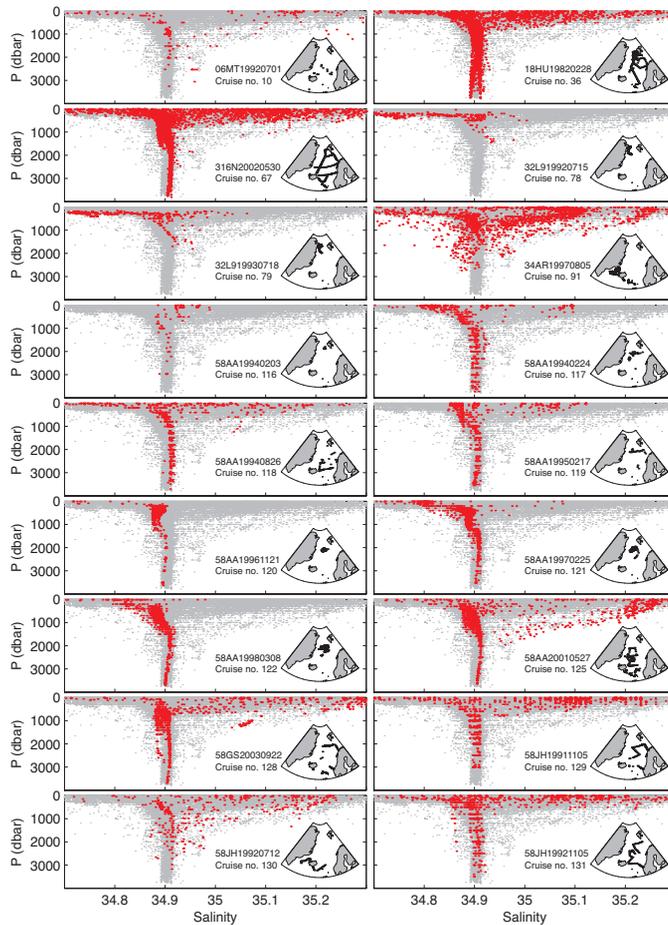
Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion





**Fig. 3.** Salinity profiles and station locations for the Nordic Seas CARINA data. All data in collection shown in grey and the specific cruise is shown in red. Note that these are the data with recommendations applied, thus there are no salinity data for 58JH19940525, see Sect. 4.2.2.

Overview of the  
Nordic Seas CARINA  
data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



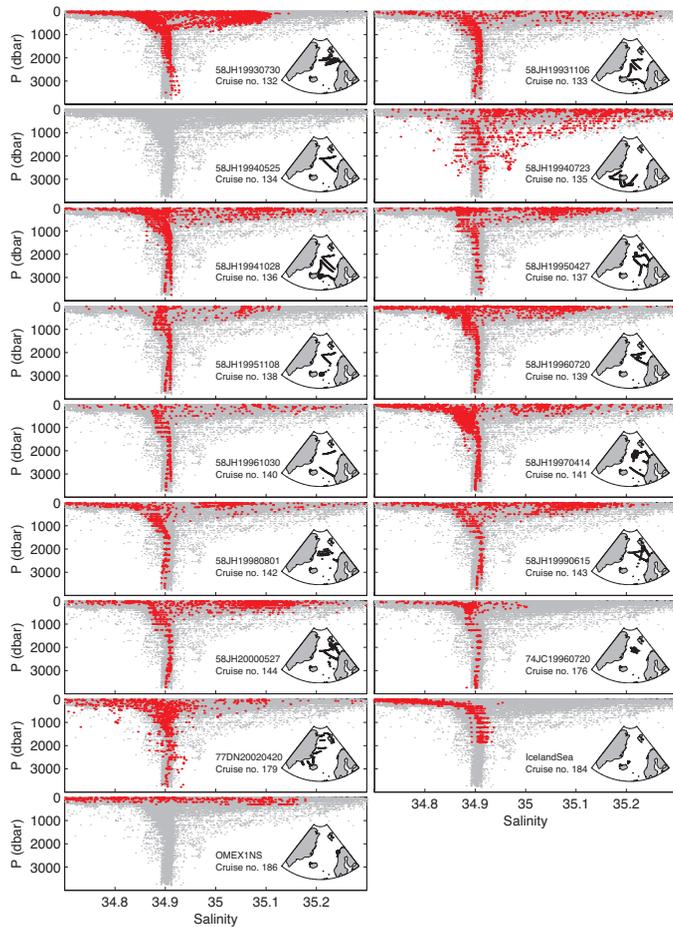


Fig. 3. Continued.

ESSDD

2, 1–25, 2009

## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures



Back

Close

Full Screen / Esc

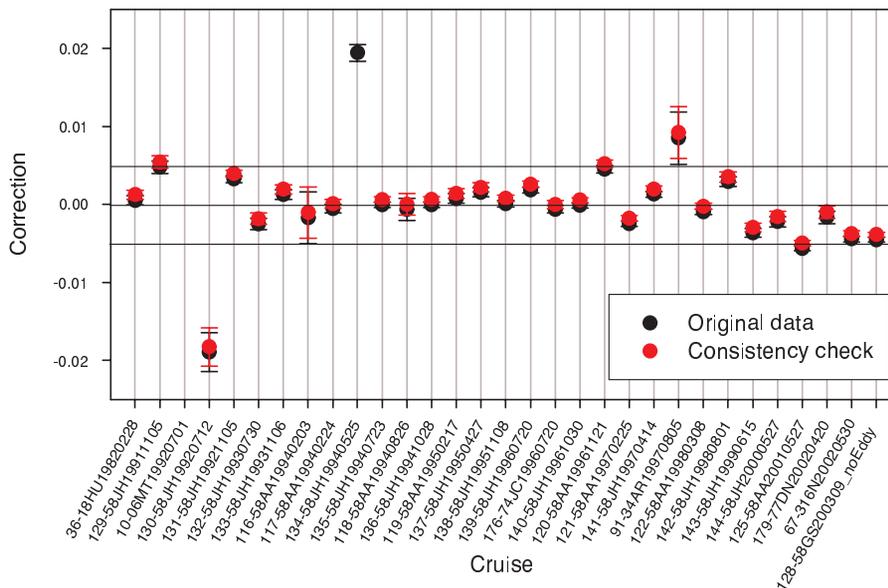
Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion



## Overview of the Nordic Seas CARINA data

A. Olsen et al.



**Fig. 4.** Salinity corrections and their uncertainties from WLSQ inversion of *cnaX* crossover results (Tanhua et al., 2009a) from data without and with recommendations applied. 58GS20030922 had several stations in a submesoscale coherent eddy (Kasajima et al., 2006), the “\_noEddy” signifies that these stations were removed prior to the crossover analysis. Note that cruises have been by date, with oldest cruise to the left.

Title Page

Abstract

Instruments

Data Provenance & Structure

Tables

Figures



Back

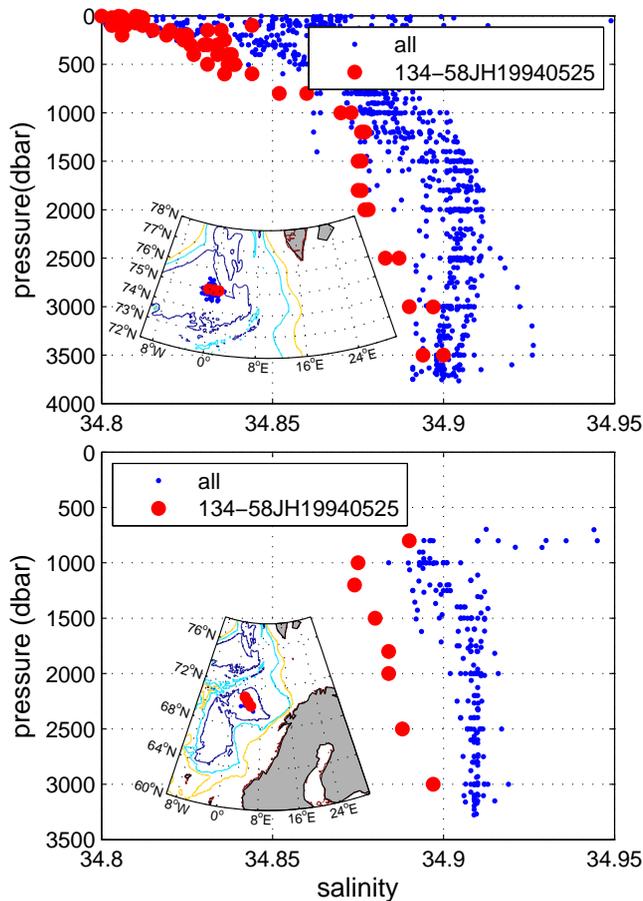
Close

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion





**Fig. 5.** Salinity profiles from (upper) Central Greenland Sea (74.5–75.5° N, 2° W–2° E) and (lower) Lofoten Basin (69.5° N–71° N, 2–6° E) obtained at the 58JH19940525 cruise, compared to the other data in the same area. Note that scale has been customised to resolve deep ocean variations and there are surface data not appearing in this figure, as they are off-scale.