

## The CISE-LOCEAN seawater isotopic database (1998-2021)

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1 Abstract

2 The characteristics of the CISE-LOCEAN seawater isotope data set ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^2\text{H}$ , later designated  
3 as  $\delta\text{D}$ ) are presented. This data set covers the time period from 1998 to 2021 and currently  
4 includes close to 8000 data entries, all with  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , three quarters of them also with  $\delta\text{D}$ , associated  
5 with a time and space stamp and usually a salinity measurement. Until 2010, samples were  
6 analysed by isotopic ratio mass spectrometry, and since then mostly by cavity ring-down  
7 spectroscopy (CRDS). Instrumental uncertainty on individual data in this dataset is usually with  
8 a standard deviation as low as 0.03 and 0.15‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively. An additional  
9 uncertainty is related to uncertain isotopic composition of the in-house standards that are used  
10 to convert daily data into the Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water (VSMOW) scale. Different  
11 comparisons suggest that since 2010 the latter have remained within at most 0.03/0.20‰ for  
12  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ . Therefore, combining the two suggests a standard deviation of at most (0.05,  
13 0.25)‰ for ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$ ).

14 Finally, for some samples, we find that there has been evaporation during collection and  
15 storage, requiring adjustment of the isotopic data produced by CRDS, based on d-excess ( $\delta\text{D} -$   
16  $8 \times \delta^{18}\text{O}$ ). This adds an uncertainty on the adjusted data of roughly 0.05 and 0.10‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
17 and  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively. This issue of conservation of samples is certainly a strong source of  
18 quality loss for parts of the database, and ‘small’ effects may have remained undetected.

19 The internal consistency of the database can be tested for subsets of the dataset, when time  
20 series can be obtained (such as in the southern Indian Ocean or North Atlantic subpolar gyre).  
21 These comparisons suggest that the overall uncertainty of the spatially (for a cruise) or  
22 temporally (over a year) averaged data is on the order of or less than 0.03 and 0.15‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
23 and  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively. On the other hand, 17 comparisons with duplicate seawater data analysed  
24 in other laboratories or with other data sets in deep regions suggest a larger scatter. When  
25 averaging the 17 comparisons done for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , we find a difference close to the adjustment  
26 applied at LOCEAN to saline water data produced either by CRDS or IRMS. Such a difference  
27 is expected, but the scatter found suggests that care is needed when merging datasets from  
28 different laboratories. Examples of time series in the surface North Atlantic subpolar gyre  
29 illustrate the temporal changes in water isotope composition that can be detected with a  
30 carefully validated dataset.

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## 1. Introduction

Stable isotope analyses of ocean water ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta^2\text{H}$  later termed as  $\delta\text{D}$ ) were first discussed by Craig and Gordon (1965) as tracers of water masses, and of the different components of the global hydrological cycle, in particular the signals gained through evaporation, precipitation, the interaction with sea ice, and continental water inputs, for example from the ice caps of Greenland and Antarctica, and ice shelves. Seawater stable isotopes have been used to verify ocean model circulation and characterize processes controlling their spatial variability (Xu et al., 2012). Seawater isotopes have also been used to provide information on what controls the oxygen isotopic ratio of calcite plankton shells, in order to reconstruct past ocean salinity and circulation. The GEOSECS program (Östlund et al., 1987) provided the first consistent global dataset of seawater isotopes, but with a limited data coverage. The Global Seawater Oxygen-18 Database at GISS (Schmidt et al., 1999) has assembled most water isotope data collected prior to 1998, with an effort to homogenize the dataset, when possible, by estimating biases based on multiple measurements of deep-water samples (Schmidt, 1999; Bigg and Rohling, 1999). A large part of the early analyses was done by isotope ratio mass spectrometry (IRMS) and more recently using cavity ring-down spectrometry (CRDS). Walker et al. (2016) illustrated that the two measurement techniques can provide equivalent results with no obvious biases.

Since 1998, the isotopic platform facility at LOCEAN (later ‘CISE-LOCEAN’) has measured seawater isotopic composition of samples collected on a series of oceanographic cruises or ships of opportunity, mostly in the North Atlantic, the equatorial Atlantic, the southern Indian Ocean and the Southern Ocean. This data set of the oxygen and hydrogen isotopes ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ ) of marine water covers the period 1998 to 2021, and is ongoing. Most data prior to 2010 (only  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) were produced using an Isoprime IRMS coupled with a Multiprep system (dual inlet method), whereas most data since 2010 (and a few earlier data) were obtained by CRDS, usually with a Picarro L2130-i, or less commonly on a Picarro L2120-i. Occasionally, some samples were also run on an Isoprime IRMS coupled to a GasBench (dual inlet method) at the university of Iceland (Reykjavik). There are also a few pairs of samples measured on both systems. Most of these LOCEAN data are not currently included in the Global Seawater Oxygen-18 Database at GISS (Schmidt et al., 1999), except for the 1998 OISO cruise data (NB: earlier datasets measured by co-author C. Pierre on other mass spectrometers preceding the current IRMS are included in the GISS database). Subsets of the LOCEAN data have been used in publications (Akhoudas et al., 2020, 2021; Benetti et al., 2015; Benetti et al., 2017a; Benetti et al., 2017b; Reverdin et al., 2019), where the subsets correspond to measurements at LOCEAN over a short period with specific instrumental and analysis protocols. A regional surface Atlantic subset of the data was also presented in Reverdin et al. (2018b).

Here, we review the errors and uncertainties in this published dataset (Waterisotopes-CISE-LOCEAN, 2021), and the extent to which the overall dataset of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$ , and d-excess ( $\text{d-excess}=\delta\text{D} - 8 \times \delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) presented as per mil V-SMOW, is internally consistent. We will also discuss how the CISE-LOCEAN seawater isotopic database compares with other datasets, in particular GISS, and provide some overall statistics on the number of data and their distribution.

## 2. Uncertainties

We will first review the different sources of uncertainties relevant for this dataset, before discussing the scale used and correction and flagging of data.

Uncertainties in the data reported originate from:

- 82 - the water collection and storage in bottles (Sect. 2.1)
- 83 - the uncertainties resulting from the experimental laboratory set-up and analysis protocols
- 84 (Sect. 2.2)
- 85 - the uncertainties on the internal standards which are used in the experimental set-up (Sect.
- 86 2.3)

## 87

### 88 2.1 Collection and storage

89 At LOCEAN, we have mostly used glass-tinted bottles (volume 20 or 30 ml) with a hard cap  
90 including an internal rim to minimize water exchange through the cap (referred to later on as  
91 ‘common’ cap). No independent internal stopper or insert is used, and the bottles are not  
92 collected full. For some, but not all, cruises, the cap has been secured with parafilm after sample  
93 collection. When arriving in the laboratory, samples are commonly stored in a cold room or in  
94 a refrigerator at 4°C, except when the analysis is expected within 3 months after the arrival of  
95 the samples. The analysis has commonly been done within 1 year – 18 months after collection,  
96 and for some subsets such as for SURATLANT (Reverdin et al., 2018b), the analysis was  
97 usually done within 3 months after collection. However, due to various changes at LOCEAN,  
98 there has been at times a long backlog, with some samples having been stored in the cold room  
99 for 5 years or more. The longest storage time was for OISO-18 data collected in 2010 and  
100 analyzed 9 years later in 2019. Storage time was also very long for most samples of cruises  
101 OISO-21, OISO-22, OISO-23, OISO-25 and OISO-26 (South Indian Ocean, 2012 to 2016).  
102 Before analysis, samples are checked for obvious signs of evaporation, such as low water level  
103 or salt crystals around the bottle’s neck.

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105 We tested whether the samples in ‘common’ cap bottles change during storage by aging three  
106 reference waters of the same deep equatorial Atlantic origin over two years in a laboratory room  
107 which is not air-conditioned and without securing the ‘common’ caps with parafilm. Water is  
108 extracted every three months for isotopic analysis, which so far over 23 months has not revealed  
109 any significant drift, certainly not larger than 0.02 and 0.1 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively. We  
110 expect that drifts would be even smaller when samples are stored at 4°C or with parafilm, if the  
111 caps are properly tightened.

112

113 In 2019, new caps were introduced which were not rigid and would often not provide a tight  
114 seal, with very large sample evolution over less than a year, sometimes reaching close to 1 ‰  
115 in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ . This was the case in particular for the samples collected on M/V Nuka Arctica in April  
116 2019 resulting in 32% of samples with suspected breathing (indicated by unexpected low d-  
117 excess and high  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ; we verified this hypothesis by aging water in bottles with this cap, which  
118 also showed large drifts after three months at room temperature).

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120 Even for bottles with the ‘common’ caps, issues of poor conservation have been suspected in  
121 some cases, in particular after long storage (typically, for 5 years or more). There is also the  
122 possibility that breathing has happened during transport, in particular when the samples have  
123 experienced very high temperatures, for instance for cruises ending in tropical ports and with  
124 long-time storage in containers. This was probably the case for samples from the EUREC4A-  
125 OA cruise collected in February 2020 (Stevens et al, 2021) with an almost two-months storage  
126 in a container placed without sun-shielding in Pointe-à-Pitre (Guadeloupe, France), for which  
127 close to 22% of the bottles with no parafilm securing the cap are suspected to have breathed  
128 (during analysis, we noticed that the cap was often not tightly closed; their isotopic values also  
129 contrasted with the ones from special tightly closed nutrient vials pasteurized at 80°C for 40  
130 minutes after collection that did not present any anomalous d-excess). There are also other  
131 subsets with data presenting obvious breathing. The extreme case is for samples collected on

132 M/V Nuka Arctica in 2018-2019, for which we suspect evaporation for 20% of the water  
133 samples. In this case, the water was transferred from salinity bottles during the salinity analysis  
134 to be stored in bottles with the ‘common’ cap, where they stayed for close to 18 months before  
135 analysis.

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## 138 2.2 Laboratory measurements

139

### 140 2.2.1 Method and protocol of analysis

141 Until 2011, the seawater samples  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  were directly measured on an Isoprime IRMS coupled  
142 to a Multiprep system (dual inlet method). A typical run lasted more than 24 hours, with a few  
143 in-house/internal standards interspersed in the run. Drifts in the values corresponding to the  
144 internal standard used at the time (‘Eau de Paris’, referred to as EDP) were corrected for,  
145 assuming that the correction is not dependent on salinity or isotopic value. When checking the  
146 records, we found that  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  drift between successive EDP samples were often larger than 0.05  
147 ‰. Uncertainty on correcting these drifts probably is on the order of 0.05 ‰.

148

149 Since 2011, CRDS has been used, which simultaneously measures the samples  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ .  
150 Each sample is vaporized, then injected in the cavity, a process repeated 6 to 12 times. The  
151 average and SD of the sample  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  are computed out of the last (2 to 8) injections after  
152 stabilization is reached (Skzypek and Ford, 2014). This technique is applied to minimize the  
153 contamination from the previous sample, even though such memory effects should be small, in  
154 particular for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (Lis et al., 2008; Skrzypek and Ford, 2014; Vallet-Coulomb et al., 2021).  
155 The SD computed on the 2 to 8 selected injections is taken as an estimate of the instrumental  
156 error on the sample  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  measurements.

157

158 When a Picarro CRDS was first used at LOCEAN in 2011-2015, samples were distilled, and  
159 the measurement was thus done on freshwater (see Benetti et al., 2017c, for the average effect  
160 of the distillation on isotopic composition). Since 2016, seawater samples have been most often  
161 directly measured using a wire mesh (liner) to limit the spreading of sea salt in the vaporizer  
162 ([https://www.picarro.com/sites/default/files/Salt%20Liner%20App%20Note\\_180323\\_final.pdf](https://www.picarro.com/sites/default/files/Salt%20Liner%20App%20Note_180323_final.pdf)  
163 f).

164 We most commonly used a Picarro L2130-i CRDS, but at times, a Picarro L2120-i CRDS was  
165 used, resulting in a larger standard deviation, in particular for  $\delta\text{D}$ . On both CRDS analyzers,  
166 when repeatability of the different injections of the sample was not sufficient or the daily run  
167 presented an unacceptably drift, the samples were analyzed at least a second time. In that case,  
168 either the best value or an average of the different values was taken/retained.

169

170 The typical daily run at LOCEAN currently includes one or two reference water samples  
171 followed by three freshwater standards at the beginning to establish a slope calibration, as well  
172 as regularly interspersed reference water samples afterwards (usually, from KonaDeep mineral  
173 water with a value close to 0.8 and 2.0 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively). In addition to these  
174 freshwater in-house reference materials, a series can contain up to 12 isotopically-  
175 uncharacterized water samples, using a little over 1 ml of the sample placed in a cap-closed  
176 vial. Until 2015, when samples were distilled, series typically included 12 water samples. Since  
177 2015, when salt water was directly placed in the vials, we have mostly run not more than 9  
178 samples in a run, because the deposit of salt in the liner induces water retention or release, and  
179 thus noise in the measurements after roughly 60 injections of salty samples, as well as drifts in  
180 the reference water (Fig. 1a, b) and possibly slope calibration. Another source of drift is the

181 appearance of condensation on the top cap of the vials after a few hours, which will result in  
182 enriching the residual vial water, although it is very likely a small source of drift.

183  
184 Each seawater sample is injected 6 times, and usually 9 to 12 times for the internal standards at  
185 the beginning and end of the run. Whenever possible, samples expected to be in the same range  
186 of values are placed together in the run to minimize the memory effect on the CRDS which is  
187 largest for  $\delta D$ . We reject the first injection, as well as later injections if they are not stable,  
188 retaining between two and eight injections that we average. Two methods were tested, an  
189 empirical one, when we look for successive injections of the sample with close values (typically  
190 0.02‰ in  $\delta^{18}O$ ), and the systematic selection of the values within  $1 \sigma$  starting with the last three  
191 injections. The retained injection values are then averaged. Differences in the estimates  
192 produced by the two methods is usually within 0.02 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}O$  (0.10 ‰ in  $\delta D$  for the L2103-  
193 i). In the current database, the data retained are the ones obtained with the empirical approach.

194  
195 If a significant drift in the reference water values is noticed through the run, it is corrected,  
196 usually by adjusting it linearly between the successive values of the reference water (Fig. 1c,  
197 d). We thus assume that the estimated drift is independent of the  $\delta^{18}O$ ,  $\delta D$  values. In addition,  
198 in 2017-2019, the response slope of the Picarro CRDS was adjusted by interpolating between  
199 the three-point slope estimate (based on 3 internal standards) at the beginning and at the end of  
200 the runs, when that was deemed possible. However, this adjustment was discontinued in 2020  
201 because the last internal standard samples were often not as reliably measured, with values more  
202 sensitive to the number of injections, probably as a result of salt deposits in the liner. Since  
203 2020, we only check the instrument's response at the end of the run with one of the freshwater  
204 internal standards.

205  
206 Accuracy is best when samples are distilled, and for  $\delta D$  it is better on the Picarro CRDS L2130-  
207 i than on the Picarro CRDS L2120-i. Usually, the reproducibility of the  $\delta^{18}O$  measurements  
208 between the different selected injections is within  $\pm 0.05$  ‰ and of the  $\delta D$  measurements within  
209  $\pm 0.15$  ‰, which should be considered an upper estimate of the random error on a measurement  
210 with the Picarro L2130-i CRDS. Samples with a SD larger than 0.06 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}O$  were considered  
211 too uncertain and were rerun, as well as often (after 2015) the first and last samples of each run.

212  
213 In addition to the instrumental error of each sample  $\delta^{18}O$  and  $\delta D$  described above, other  
214 uncertainties arise from the data processing and conversion of measured  $\delta^{18}O$  and  $\delta D$  into the  
215 Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water (VSMOW) scale. These additional sources of  
216 uncertainties are detailed in the next sections.

### 217 218 219 2.2.2 Data processing

220 The second source of uncertainty (for Picarro CRDS) is due to the way we process the data of  
221 a daily run with salty water samples. As mentioned above, we first adjust the values to  
222 compensate for the drift in reference water. Usually, this drift during the run is relatively small,  
223 not exceeding 0.10 and 0.6 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}O$  and  $\delta D$ , respectively, but in about 10% of the runs, it  
224 exceeded 0.20 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}O$  over the whole run, or 0.10 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}O$  over successive reference water  
225 samples (23 out of 214 daily runs over which statistics were established from 06/2020 to  
226 04/2021). When these large changes are encountered, the run is estimated noisy and is usually  
227 rerun. However, even for the other runs, a drift is usually observed with salty samples, and it  
228 often is a positive drift, in particular between the reference water samples before and after the  
229 three initial internal standards (Fig. 1a, b). The average (SD) drift in reference water during a  
230 run was +0.081 (0.106) ‰ in  $\delta^{18}O$ , and +0.62 (0.53) ‰ in  $\delta D$  in the 191 (out of 214) daily

231 runs retained. The drift is also found in the internal standard water analysed at the end of the  
232 run compared with the one analysed just after the initial reference waters with an average (SD)  
233 drift of +0.069 (0.073) ‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , and +0.43 (0.34) ‰ in  $\delta\text{D}$  for the same 191 daily runs subset.  
234 These values slightly differ from the drifts for the reference water, which at 99%  
235 confidence level is not significant for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , but significant for  $\delta\text{D}$ . This may be indicative of  
236 errors resulting from linearly adjusting the drift, in particular for the initial standard water  
237 samples. This suspicion of a slight non-linearity in the initial drift is reinforced by 7 runs in  
238 2020-2021 when the three standards were also measured at the end of the run. However, as this  
239 is too uncertain, a correction has not been attempted for that, but in addition to being a source  
240 of random error (at least 0.02 and 0.1 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively) for individual runs, this  
241 might also contribute to absolute errors (i.e. in the VSMOW scale) in the range of 0.01 and 0.05  
242 in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively.

243  
244 Occasionally, after the correction of the drift, the value of the last internal standard (last sample  
245 port of the run) is shifted for no obvious reason, sometimes by more than 0.10‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  from  
246 what is expected. This might result from a temporary pollution that influences the  
247 measurements (organic matter or particles, either left in the cavity of the vaporizer, on the filter  
248 or on the salt liner), which can also happen for other sample ports. Often, when this happens,  
249 there is also a larger scatter between the different injections, either for this sample or the initial  
250 in-house standards. Running the set of samples again or a selection of them, sometimes  
251 evidences isotopic shifts that can exceed 0.05 and 0.2 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively.  
252 Repeating the analysis helps mitigate this source of uncertainty. But, this has not always been  
253 done, except for data sets on which there was a specific emphasis.

254  
255 2.3 Internal standard waters

256  
257 The last large source of uncertainty is the value (in the VSMOW scale) attributed to the internal  
258 standards used. On the Isoprime IRMS, most internal standards were extracted from different  
259 batches of 'Eau de Paris' (EDP) stored in a tank covered with paraffin, whereas since 2012,  
260 three internal standards are regularly extracted from metal tanks where they are kept for up to  
261 5-6 years with a slight overpressure of dry air (following Gröning, 2018, TEL Technical Note  
262 No. 03). The internal standards have been calibrated using VSMOW and GISP (or GRESP),  
263 usually more than once, and some were also sent to other laboratories at different times to  
264 independently evaluate their characteristics. Comparisons were done in 2013-2014 for three  
265 internal LOCEAN standards with 6 laboratories for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and 4 laboratories for  $\delta\text{D}$ , which, taken  
266 together, did not reveal an average bias larger than 0.01 for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  or 0.10 ‰ for  $\delta\text{D}$ . However,  
267 there seems to be differences for the individual standards (Table 1), with the one at -3.26 and -  
268 21.32‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  presenting an average positive difference of (+0.029, +0.19) ‰,  
269 whereas the two other ones present a negative difference (i.e. LOCEAN standards seemed too  
270 low) smaller or equal to (-0.01, -0.19) ‰ for ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$ ).

271  
272 After further limited comparisons in 2017-2018 that were not conclusive and mostly internal,  
273 the next round of comparisons of the LOCEAN internal standards took place in 2019-2021,  
274 with 5 other European laboratories and for two of them, two different setups for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (most of  
275 those with IRMS, except for one with a PICARRO L2130-i CRDS). Thus, this includes 7  
276 comparisons for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and 5 for  $\delta\text{D}$ . This set of comparisons (Table 1) was done for the three  
277 internal standards used in 2019-2021, and presents a large scatter between the different  
278 laboratories, with standard deviation on the order of 0.055 and 0.7 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ ,  
279 respectively. As the differences between laboratories are similar for the three internal  
280 standards, this suggests some systematic differences between laboratories. However, the large

281 scatter implies that the average differences found are very uncertain. The differences in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
282 and  $\delta\text{D}$  found for the three internal standards used in 2019-2021 range between +0.029 and  
283 +0.21 ‰ for the most negative standard to -0.010 and 0.02 ‰ for the most positive one,  
284 respectively (Table 1). This might indicate that we have a positive bias for two of our recent  
285 internal standards. This could also produce a small difference in the response slopes of the  
286 Picarro CRDS adopted since 2020. A set of four calibration runs done in November 2021 at  
287 LOCEAN with new VSMOW, GRESP as well as three USGS standards with intermediate  
288 values confirmed a positive bias on the most negative internal standard (MIX2). This run  
289 however did not confirm the average biases on the other internal standards at LOCEAN  
290 suggested by Table 1, nor any major slope error. Therefore, the correction of a systematic bias  
291 has only been applied on the MIX2 value for analyses since August 2020. For some internal  
292 standards, we witnessed larger differences for measurements done in June 2020 after the  
293 L2130-i just returned from a cruise and long shipping and storage for more than 9 months. We  
294 assume that this anomaly is instrumental, and did not last for a long time, as the anomaly was  
295 not reproduced during later tests in August 2020, nor in November 2021.

296  
297 The two storage methods used successively for internal standard waters were designed to  
298 minimize water vapor exchange. It is however possible that small isotopic drifts of the internal  
299 standards have taken place with time, due to evaporation or possible oxidation of the tanks (rust  
300 was found in one nearly empty tank). As mentioned, based on different comparisons over time,  
301 sometimes over remnants of the tank waters, we could verify that these drifts have remained  
302 smaller than 0.02 and 0.1 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively. Finally, standards for the daily runs  
303 are temporarily stored, for up to a month, in glass bottles stored at 4°C, which are briefly opened  
304 every day to extract water. Through its storage life, this water will slightly breath, by exchange  
305 with the outside air that penetrates when the bottle is briefly opened. Back of the envelope  
306 estimates suggest that the effect should be less than 0.01 and 0.05 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ ,  
307 respectively, even after a month.

#### 308 309 2.4 Concentration scale

310 Both oxygen and hydrogen isotope compositions are reported in parts per thousand (‰) on the  
311 VSMOW scale. One issue is that we analyse saline samples, while the internal standards are  
312 fresh water standards, and the method of analysis has changed over time. There is still a large  
313 uncertainty on the correction to be applied to account for the effect of salt on IRMS and CRDS  
314 seawater analyses. Here we have applied the corrections provided by Benetti et al. (2017c).  
315 Note that in some instances IRMS and CRDS analyses of the same seawater samples may yield  
316 similar values. For example, Walker et al. (2016) found very close  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values in unadjusted  
317 measurements of seawater samples from the same water mass done on different IRMS and  
318 CRDS instruments. We have adjusted LOCEAN CRDS and IRMS data on the concentration  
319 scale based on the study of Benetti et al. (2017c) as well as on complementary tests with the  
320 different wire meshes used more recently and between duplicated IRMS/CRDS samples. The  
321 values we report are thus internally consistent, but could present differences with datasets  
322 processed in other institutions without this proposed adjustment or with other changes of scale  
323 of up to (0.10, 0.20) ‰ in ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$ ), as indicated in Benetti et al. (2017c). We thus expect that  
324 adjusted LOCEAN CRDS  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  data would be higher (more enriched in heavy isotopes) than  
325 these other CRDS and more common IRMS data.

#### 326 327 2.5 Correction and flagging of samples having probably breathed

328 In regions where there is enough information in the LOCEAN dataset to establish an average  
329 relationship between d-excess and salinity (Benetti et al., 2017a), a large breathing of a sample  
330 during storage can be detected using its d-excess value, which is then too low compared to the



331 expected relationship. This was recently checked on a set of 10 water samples originating from  
332 salinity bottles collected in the surface North Atlantic in 2021 on MV Tukuma Arctica that did  
333 not have the usual plastic insert, and thus had evaporated as witnessed by the comparison of  
334 their salinity with thermosalinograph records. These samples indeed present, higher practical  
335 salinity (S), d-excess lower than expected and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  higher than the expected values,  
336 estimated by average linear fits of d-excess versus salinity and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  versus S for this region.  
337 The average values of the deviations are  $\Delta\text{S}=+0.29$ ,  $\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}=+0.15\text{‰}$ ;  $\Delta\delta\text{D}=+0.33 \text{‰}$ ,  $\Delta\text{d-}$   
338  $\text{excess}=-0.82 \text{‰}$ . The deviations from these expected values present a loose relationship with  
339 the deviation in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  ( $\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) on the order of -20% of the deviation of d-excess ( $\Delta\text{d-excess}$ )  
340 (Fig. 2). This relationship is close to the one used by Benetti et al. (2017a) based on other data  
341 in the Labrador Sea, where  $\Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}=-1/7 \Delta\text{d-excess}$ ,  $\Delta\delta\text{D}=+2 \Delta\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\Delta\text{d-excess} = +0.34 \Delta\text{S}$ .  
342 On the other hand, the correlation between  $\Delta\text{d-excess}$  and  $\Delta\text{S}$  is not significantly different from  
343 0, which might be caused by uncertainties on sampling time causing errors in estimating salinity  
344 deviation.

345  
346 In cases when breathing was not too large (resulting in an increase of less than +0.11‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ),  
347 we used the deviation from the expected d-excess relationship to S to estimate an adjusted  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
348 and  $\delta\text{D}$  (Benetti et al., 2017a). When this method is used,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  data are flagged to  
349 ‘probably good’ and d-excess to probably bad, as these data are certainly not as accurate as the  
350 data with no ‘correction’, with the adjustment adding an uncertainty on the order of (0.05, 0.10)  
351 ‰ in ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$ ). For larger suspected evaporation,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  data are not adjusted and  
352 flagged as ‘probably bad’. Altogether, we have flagged 12.3% of the CRDS-measured samples,  
353 most of which (11.3%) correspond to unadjusted data with anomalously low d-excess and thus  
354 suspected evaporation. There is of course also the possibility that for some samples, too low or  
355 too high (for 1% of the cases) d-excess might just result from an occasional large uncertainty  
356 in the analysis.

357  
358 We recently tested the effectiveness of applying this adjustment for 32 pair of samples collected  
359 during cruise OVIDE2018 (North Atlantic Ocean in 2018; Lherminier, 2018) which were stored  
360 in different bottles. One set was analyzed by CRDS at LOCEAN and the other by IRMS at  
361 Geozentrum Erlangen. Among the LOCEAN samples, 11 show indications of breathing and  
362 have been slightly adjusted based on their low d-excess. An average difference is estimated  
363 between the 21 non-adjusted samples at LOCEAN and the IRMS data, which we apply to all  
364 the IRMS data before comparison. The comparison suggests that the adjustment we applied to  
365 some of the LOCEAN data, based on their d-excess, results in diminishing from 0.060 to 0.041  
366 ‰ the standard deviation of the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  differences between the 32 LOCEAN and Geozentrum  
367 Erlangen isotopic values. The adjustment of the 11 samples also diminished from 0.25 to 0.15  
368 ‰ the standard deviation in the differences between d-excess and d-excess estimated from the  
369 d-excess versus S relationship derived for the entire LOCEAN dataset. As a comparison, when  
370 the set is restricted to the 21 non-adjusted LOCEAN samples, the corresponding standard  
371 deviations for the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  differences between LOCEAN and Geozentrum Erlangen values, and  
372 d-excess differences to the expected d-excess versus S relationship were 0.043 and 0.14 ‰,  
373 respectively. These values are very close to what is found for the set of 32 samples including  
374 the 11 adjusted samples, suggesting that we have not over-adjusted the LOCEAN samples.

375  
376 For earlier IRMS analyses at LOCEAN, we base the identification of possible evaporated data  
377 on excessive scatter in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  versus S scatter plots or between successive data compared to  
378 what we have previously measured in regions with repeated cruises, and outliers (6%) are  
379 flagged as probably bad. The smaller (by half) proportion of flagged IRMS analyses than for  
380 the CRDS analyses suggests either that this validation missed some evaporated IRMS samples,

381 or that these earlier data had evaporated less than the more recent ones (some were analyzed  
382 sooner after collection), or that the IRMS runs had smaller uncertainties than the latter CRDS  
383 runs.

### 384 3. Validation 385

386 As discussed in section 2, in addition to random errors or to issues related with evaporation of  
387 samples, there is the possibility of shifts between subsets of the data, due to the different internal  
388 standard waters, methods of processing, adjustment (for CRDS) or conversion from the activity  
389 to the concentration scale (for IRMS). We thus need to compare this database with data  
390 analyzed in other laboratories, and evaluate time series when the data have been repeated in  
391 time at the same location. In particular, the LOCEAN dataset contains a limited number of  
392 samples for different cruises in deep-water masses that are unlikely to have experienced much  
393 change in their isotopic composition over the last 50 years, due to their weak ventilation and  
394 small salinity variability. Examining data in such deep-waters can thus provide a test of  
395 consistency between subsets of the LOCEAN data, or relative to other datasets.

396  
397 Within the LOCEAN dataset, relevant deep waters have been sampled in different years (in the  
398 Southern Indian Ocean (OISO cruises), in the equatorial Atlantic (PIRATA cruises) and in the  
399 North Atlantic subpolar gyre (mostly OVIDE cruises), with statistics presented in Table 2.  
400 These comparisons on a limited set of cruises, but corresponding to analyses done throughout  
401 the 22 last years of the spectrometry platform suggest that internally the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  dataset is coherent  
402 in time to within 0.035 ‰ (after an adjustment applied on LOCEAN IRMS data which most of  
403 the time was +0.09 ‰ to adjust to CRDS data). For  $\delta\text{D}$ , the period of comparison is more  
404 limited with data from Picarro CRDS only since 2010, and the standard error of yearly  $\delta\text{D}$   
405 averages is typically on the order of 0.15 ‰. The comparison also highlights cruises with more  
406 noisy data than others. This is for example the case of the 2002 OISO08 IRMS data (without  
407 the OISO08 data, the mean (standard error)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  for subset 1 decreases to +0.078 (0.030) ‰).  
408 There are also some suggestions of systematic differences between cruises (for example, for  
409 subsets 1-2, OISO29 (2019) samples tend to have lower  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  values, whereas OISO31  
410 (2021) samples tend to have higher values). However, this is within the uncertainties of the  
411 means and is not fully understood. Thus, no further correction is warranted.

412  
413 There are  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  data from a few cruises sampling deep-waters which can be compared with  
414 subsets of the LOCEAN data. These together with duplicates sets of samples between  
415 LOCEAN and other facilities form the basis for estimating consistency relative to the other data  
416 (details in App. A). The different comparisons yielded very varied results. It is often difficult  
417 to understand what is the source of the differences, but one commonly suspects choices of  
418 protocols, characteristics of the instrument used or internal standards (see also Aoki et al, 2017;  
419 Wassenaar et al., 2021). Altogether, although the limited inter-comparisons listed above have  
420 a large scatter (the standard deviation in the set of 18 average differences listed in App. A is  
421 0.055 ‰), there is a tendency for LOCEAN  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values reported in the concentration scale to  
422 be higher (relatively enriched in heavy isotopes). The average of these 18 different comparisons  
423 is +0.082 ‰ with a standard error of 0.016 ‰ (assuming that the 18 comparisons have the same  
424 uncertainty). This average difference happens to be close to the +0.09 ‰ adjustment that was  
425 applied to recent CRDS salty water samples analysed since 2015 at LOCEAN based on Benetti  
426 (2017c), an adjustment that was not done on CRDS or IRMS datasets produced in other  
427 facilities.

428  
429 In summary, these external comparisons, together with the internal consistency tests on the  
430 LOCEAN database in a few regions, suggest that the LOCEAN  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  dataset are within +0.035

431 ‰ absolute accuracy, at least when averaged spatially or in time (Table 2). Individual data have  
432 larger uncertainties as discussed before, because of the instrumental and internal standards  
433 uncertainty (resulting in a total uncertainty of usually less than 0.05 ‰ in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) and possible  
434 aging/evaporation during collection and storage. We are not able to provide similar  
435 comparisons for  $\delta\text{D}$  or d-excess, as the database for comparison is much reduced.

#### 437 4. The data

##### 438 4.1 Data distribution

439 Fig. 3 presents the spatial distribution of the LOCEAN-analyzed data close to the surface, with  
440 the largest data collection being in the North Atlantic (Fig. 3a) (in particular, with OVIDE  
441 cruises since 2002 and the SURATLANT ship of opportunity dataset since 2011), the tropical  
442 Atlantic (in particular, the EGEE and PIRATA cruises since 2005), and the South Indian Ocean  
443 (Fig. 3b) (OISO cruises since 1998).

444  
445 Table 3 reports the number of valid data points by depth range, which indicates that the  
446 emphasis in this set has been on near surface data (58% of the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  data above 40m depth, with  
447 13% between 40 and 200m depth, and only 12% at 1000m or deeper). There is less valid  $\delta\text{D}$   
448 than  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  data, the difference corresponding to IRMS-measured data, which correspond to 25%  
449 of the total number of water samples in the database. There is even less valid d-excess than  $\delta\text{D}$   
450 (by 10%), the difference corresponding to samples for which an adjustment for slight  
451 evaporation was done on  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  data. The database contains fewer deep samples since  
452 the transition to CRDS than before, because of a recent emphasis of sampling the upper ocean.

##### 454 4.2 Time series

455 We illustrate the dataset with time series of June (or July) data between  $50^\circ$  and  $55^\circ\text{N}$  in the  
456 eastern North Atlantic subpolar gyre (NASPG) collected mostly during the OVIDE cruises  
457 (Fig. 4). This scatter plot of cruise-averaged S and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  indicates a near alignment of the values.  
458 It is striking that the strongest negative (fresher/lighter) anomalies in 2016 fit rather well on the  
459 regression line (in red) for water samples in the southwestern NASPG. This regression line is  
460 derived from data from the  $47\text{--}55^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $30\text{--}49^\circ\text{W}$  region, excluding very low salinity data from  
461 seasonal sea ice melt or from shelf waters, and is very similar to the distribution in Frew et al.  
462 (2000). Thus, this reinforces the hypothesis of Holliday et al. (2020) that the strong freshening  
463 present in the eastern subpolar gyre in 2016 originated from the transport of Arctic freshwater  
464 from the western boundary current into the eastern basins, and not from local rainfall, which  
465 would have likely resulted in higher  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  at the same ‘low’ salinity such as depicted by the  
466 black line (Frew et al., 2000; C. Risi, pers. comm., 2021).

467  
468 The SURATLANT surveys provided a seasonal sampling of water isotopes between late 2011  
469 and 2019 along the western flank of the Reykjanes Ridge in the central part of the gyre ( $53\text{--}$   
470  $56^\circ\text{N}/38^\circ\text{--}44^\circ\text{W}$ ). Annual summaries of these data are provided on Fig. 5a. There is less  
471 alignment of the interannual values on the average southwestern NASPG linear regression line  
472 than for the OVIDE surveys (Fig. 4). However, there is some aliasing of the seasonal cycle in  
473 the annual averages (see Reverdin et al., 2018b), which contributes to the scatter, as well as  
474 noise on the data, and natural variability. On this plot the freshest year appears to be 2017, in  
475 agreement with an analysis using a much more complete salinity dataset (Reverdin et al.,  
476 2018a). 2017 is also one of the lighter  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  years. The corresponding d-excess versus S diagram  
477 (Fig. 5b) presents yearly anomalies that are fairly aligned with the average regression between  
478 southwestern NASPG d-excess and salinity data. Error bars are large, but nevertheless, low  
479 salinity waters exhibit high d-excess, as described in Benetti et al. (2017a, b).

480

481 5. Data availability:  
482 The dataset described is version V2 at <https://doi.org/10.17882/71186> (Waterisotopes-  
483 CISE-LOCEAN, 2021).

## 484 485 6. Conclusions

486 Instrumental uncertainty on individual data in this dataset is as low as 0.03, 0.15‰, in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  /  
487  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively, for most runs, with occasional much larger uncertainties. One needs to add to  
488 that the uncertainties on the internal standards that are used to convert measured values into the  
489 VSMOW scale. Different comparisons suggest that the internal standard values have almost  
490 always remained defined within at most 0.03 and 0.2‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively, since  
491 2012. There was however a short-term larger difference found for the most negative standard  
492 (equal to 0.1‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ), most likely related to the readjustment of the instrument to laboratory  
493 conditions in May 2021. When using the CRDS Picarro L2130-i, we also found periods with  
494 quite uncertain analyses, in particular due to salt or particle deposit in the vaporizer or filters.  
495 These samples could often be run again afterwards to reach lower resulting uncertainty.

496  
497 Finally, there is the issue of possible evaporation during collection and storage. When the  
498 analysis is done on a CRDS, we are usually able to detect possible biases larger than 0.05‰ in  
499  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , by comparing d-excess with the expected d-excess derived from regional d-excess-S  
500 linear relationships. Attempts were made here to correct  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  when the resulting  
501 uncertainty does not exceed 0.05 and 0.1‰, respectively. In particular this was done for some  
502 OISO cruise samples which were analysed many years after collection, or in the case of faulty  
503 caps being used, or caps that were not properly closed and wrapped with parafilm. This is  
504 certainly a strong source of quality loss for part of the database, and ‘small’ effects may have  
505 remained undetected.

506  
507 Possible long-term drifts due to changes in internal standards, storage, instrumentation and  
508 protocols are difficult to estimate. This is done here by checking the consistency of different  
509 subsets of the database, for instance when time series can be obtained (such as in the southern  
510 Indian Ocean or North Atlantic subpolar gyre), or by comparison with duplicate data analysed  
511 in other laboratories, or with other datasets in deep regions commonly sampled. These  
512 comparisons are encouraging. On one hand, they suggest that the internal consistency in the  
513 database is usually within a 0.03 and 0.15‰ uncertainty for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ , respectively. On the  
514 other hand, although other datasets sometimes differ by much more with a large scatter between  
515 the 17 comparisons (with a standard deviation of 0.055‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ), the average difference  
516 (+0.093‰) found with them is close to the adjustment that is applied to the LOCEAN data to  
517 report them on the concentration scale (+0.09‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  analyzed with a salt liner since 2015).  
518 Of course, there is still the possibility of errors and biases in subsets that could not be compared  
519 in a similar way, such as surface samples collected from ships of opportunity or sailing vessels  
520 in the tropics, that could result from different handling of the samples during collection and  
521 more uncertain storage conditions. There are also small errors originating from memory effects  
522 in the Picarro CRDS runs that could be better corrected and taken into account (Vallet-Coulomb  
523 et al., 2021).

524  
525 We also illustrated the possibility of using this dataset to investigate ocean variability. Of  
526 course, the interest of a data archive is to merge different institutes datasets such as this one,  
527 while retaining a similar accuracy. This was attempted in the Global Seawater Oxygen-18  
528 Database at GISS (Schmidt et al., 1999), although biases between subsets of this mostly  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
529 dataset remain at a level that makes the overall analysis of variability difficult to carry. The few  
530 comparisons we could do suggest that differences with other datasets are at times large. The

531 effort to correctly adjust for these differences and produce a larger coherent archive is required  
532 to get full use of the data collected. There is still a need of more and better calibrated seawater  
533 isotope data to reconstruct tropical hydroclimate variability, such as formulated for the tropical  
534 coral archives by PAGES CoralHydro2k Project, or for high latitude studies of the various  
535 sources of freshwater in the ocean, including continental runoff, sea ice, iceberg melt and air-  
536 sea exchanges.

537

538 Appendix A: Comparisons of LOCEAN data with other isotopic data

539 This includes on one hand comparisons with data of other cruises, in areas where we expect  
540 variability to have been weak, such as in the deep ocean, and on the other hand, considering  
541 duplicate sets of samples analysed in different institution.

542

543 Akhoudas et al. (2021) used the first approach in the deep Weddell Sea, comparing the  
544 LOCEAN 2017 Wapiti cruise data with data from other cruises over a fairly large range of  
545 neutral density surfaces. They identified a cruise whose  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values were lower by 0.13‰ than  
546 at LOCEAN, as well as datasets that fit the Wapiti cruise values to within the data uncertainties  
547 (for example, from ANT-X12 cruise on RV Polarstern in 1995). Another water mass which can  
548 be used for comparison is the near - bottom waters in Fram Strait (below 2000m), which are  
549 either originating from the Arctic Ocean, or recirculating from the Greenland Sea. This water  
550 mass is regularly sampled, and has not been strongly ventilated recently. In 1998-2015 during  
551 German-led cruises, these waters presented an average  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  value close to +0.28‰ (after  
552 removing suspiciously high data of a cruise in 2011 and large positive outliers in 2012; Paul  
553 Dodd, personal communication). The LOCEAN database contains seven  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  samples close to  
554 the bottom across Fram Strait from MSM76 cruise on RV Maria S Merian in 2018, with average  
555 (SD) value close to +0.395 (0.035) ‰, thus averaging higher by 0.115‰ than the other set in  
556 1998-2015.

557

558 We extracted individual profiles from the GISS Global Seawater Oxygen-18 Database  
559 (Schmidt et al., 1999) that can be compared with the LOCEAN station data, in deep and old  
560 water masses. In the southern Indian Ocean, for example numerous profiles collected during  
561 1993-1994 cruises (CIVA1 (Archambeau et al., 1998), ADOX1, SWINDEX, ADOX2)  
562 suggest that LOCEAN  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in the deep layers are higher by 0.10 to 0.17 ‰ depending on the  
563 cruise. There is also one GEOSECS 1978 station with a single deep value within 0.01 ‰ of  
564 close-by OISO stations, as well as some 1984 (INDIVAT1) and 1996 (CIVA2) station data  
565 with larger uncertainties that indicate higher LOCEAN  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values by 0.15 to 0.22 ‰,  
566 depending on how outliers are identified and removed.

567  
568 In the North Atlantic, there are data from three cruises that can be directly compared with  
569 LOCEAN data, focusing on deep waters with T-S properties close to the ones of the  
570 LOCEAN dataset. Comparison with one GEOSECS 1972 station south of Greenland suggests  
571 higher  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  LOCEAN values by  $\sim 0.060$  ‰ (there is a small salinity shift between the two  
572 profiles which required to adjust the LOCEAN  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  value to the same salinity based on the  
573 average  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -S relationship). Data of 4 stations of the CONVEX1991 cruise (Frew et al.,  
574 2000) indicate higher  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in LOCEAN dataset by  $\sim 0.090$  ‰ (after adjustment done to  
575 consider small salinity differences). On the other hand, data close to the North East Atlantic  
576 deep-water layer from stations collected in 6/1995 in the southern Labrador Sea (Khaliwala et  
577 al., 1999) do not show a significant difference with LOCEAN stations closer to south  
578 Greenland (southern Irminger Sea) at a similar salinity. In the equatorial Atlantic there are  
579 deep data of two GEOSECS stations collected in 10/1972 and 2/1973 that can be compared  
580 with the LOCEAN data (mostly near 1000-2000m depth). These limited comparisons (often  
581 at large distance, but at a similar salinity) suggest that LOCEAN values are larger than the  
582 GEOSECS  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  by 0.055 ‰.

583  
584 Finally, there are a few instances of seawater samples that have been duplicated and shared  
585 with other laboratories. Some of these in 2013-2014 have been used to validate how to convert  
586 IRMS or CRDS measurements into the concentration scale, with or without distillation (Benetti  
587 et al, 2017c), that we will not include here, and that suggested a scatter in the comparisons with  
588 different IRMS laboratories for natural or artificial seawater samples often on the order of 0.10  
589 ‰. More recently, 18 samples of the WAPITI2017 cruise were duplicated with analyses both  
590 at LOCEAN and at the British Geological Survey stable isotope facility (BGS), which indicated  
591 lower LOCEAN  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  averaging  $-0.09$  ‰ (SD = 0.035 ‰) (Akhoudas et al., 2021). In the same  
592 region, a small set of 11 samples was duplicated in 2020 with Hokkaido University, which  
593 suggests that LOCEAN  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values are higher by  $+0.139$  ‰ with a SD of 0.019 ‰ (Shigeru  
594 Aoki, pers. comm., 2021). Another set of 137 samples was duplicated in 2017 in the Southern  
595 Ocean from the Antarctic Circumnavigation Experiment cruise with samples analyzed at BGS  
596 (Haumann et al., 2019), which yielded an average difference of  $+0.004$  (SD = 0.055 ‰).

597  
598 There have also been duplicates of LOCEAN samples during OVIDE cruises in 2010, 2016 and  
599 2018 analysed in different facilities (Antje Voelker, pers. comm., 2021), which suggested  
600 diverse average offsets for the different years. In particular for 2016 samples close to 2500m,  
601 LOCEAN values average higher by  $+0.035$  ‰, whereas in 2018, the average difference is closer  
602 to  $+0.07\%$ , but with a few stations at the north-western end of the section in Irminger sea with  
603 differences on the order of  $+0.02$  ‰.

604  
605 Author contribution:  
606 Gilles Reverdin and Claire Waelbroeck have measured parts of the isotopic data, contributed to  
607 their validation and written the paper. Catherine Pierre, Camille Akhoudas, Giovanni Aloisi,

608 Marion Benetti, have measured parts of the isotopic data and contributed to their validation.  
609 Jérôme Demange has maintained the CISE-LOCEAN IRMS and CRDS and Aïcha Naamar has  
610 measured parts of the isotopic data. Denis Diverrès, Magnus Danielsen and Thierry Reynaud  
611 have contributed water samples from ships of opportunity with associated salinity  
612 measurements. Bernard Bourlès, Jean-Claude Gascard, Hervé Le Goff, Marie-Noëlle Houssais,  
613 Pascale Lherminier, Claire Lo Monaco, Herlé Mercier, Nicolas Metzl, Simon Morisset, Jean-  
614 Baptiste Sallée, Virginie Thierry, Susan Hartman, Ed Mawji, Solveig Olafsdottir, Torsten  
615 Kanzow, Antje Voelker, Igor Yashayaev, Anton Velo, Alexander Haumann have contributed  
616 to the sample collection, and in some cases provided duplicate samples from other institutions.  
617 Melanie Leng and Carol Arrowsmith analyzed water samples, and contributed to the  
618 qualification of some of the reference materials. Michael Meredith contributed to the planning  
619 and sampling strategy of the ACE fieldwork, with the ACE and ORCHESTRA projects.

620  
621 Competing interests:

622 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

623

624 Acknowledgments: Data were measured at the CISE-LOCEAN facility housed by the  
625 LOCEAN laboratory and part of the OSU ECCE Terra analytical services. Support by OSU  
626 ECCE Terra, by LOCEAN, and by various French national institutes and programs is gratefully  
627 acknowledged (including INSU/CNRS, IFREMER, IPSL, IRD, IPEV, LEFE program, ANR  
628 GEOVIDE), as well as support by different French ‘Services nationaux d’Observation’, such  
629 as PIRATA, SSS and OISO/CARAUS. Many of the data originate from research cruises on  
630 French Research vessels: R.V. Suroit, Thalassa, Atalante, Marion Dufresne 2, Tara. Some data  
631 were collected during research cruises on non-French vessels, such as MIDAS in 2013 as well  
632 as BOCATS1 in 2016 and BOCATS2 in 2021 on the Spanish R.V. Sarmiento de Gamboa,  
633 HUD2014007 on the Canadian R.V. Hudson, 2014 JR302 in 2014 and 2017 JR16004 cruises  
634 on the U.K. HMS James Clarke Ross, the Arctic cruises in 2006-2008, 2013, and the 2020-  
635 2021 Microbiome cruise on French S.V. Tara, the Nordic seas MIZEX cruises in 2002-2004 on  
636 Swedish R.V. Oden, the 2017 SPURS2 cruise on R.V. Revelle, and the 2018 east Greenland  
637 cruise MSM76 on German R.V. Maria S. Merian. The SURATLANT data were collected on  
638 merchant vessels with support from Iceland-based EIMSKIP and Marine and Fisheries  
639 Research Institute in Iceland and the Nuka Arctica/Tukuma Arctica dataset was collected on  
640 the merchant vessels Nuka Arctica and Tukuma Arctica from Greenland-based company RAL.  
641 Data were also collected from different Merchant Vessels recruited by SNO SSS for the  
642 Atlantic Ocean monitoring. Finally, data were collected from sailing vessels, including the Rara  
643 Avis (AJD), the Boogaloo and Ragnar (OceanoScientific), the Northabout (UnoMundo) and  
644 the UltimIII (SODEBO). In all instances, we are thankful for the contribution of the crew, and  
645 numerous scientists and technicians who contributed to the sampling. We also acknowledge the  
646 contribution of the scientists and technicians of the Vigo CO2 group who participated in the  
647 CATARINA, BOCATS1 and BOCATS2 (PID2019-104279GB-  
648 C21/AEI/10.13039/501100011033) campaigns funded by the Spanish Research Agency, as  
649 well as in other OVIDE cruises. The WAPITI project received funding from the European  
650 Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation  
651 program (grant agreement 637770). The Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition was made  
652 possible by funding from the Swiss Polar Institute and Ferring Pharmaceuticals, and F.A.  
653 Haumann was supported by the SNSF grant numbers P2EZIP\_175162 and P400P2\_186681.  
654 Intercomparisons of samples were done with various other institutions to which we are very  
655 grateful. In particular, we acknowledge the contributions by Robert van Geldern at Geozentrum  
656 Nordbayern, Melanie Leng at the British Geological Survey, Arne E Sveinbjörnsdóttir and Rosa  
657 Ólafsdóttir at the University of Reykjavik, Pal Morkved at the University of Bergen, Bénédicte

658 Minster at LSCE, Penny Holliday at NOC in Southampton, Paul Dodd at the Norwegian Polar  
659 Institute in Tromsø, and Shigeru Aoki at Hokkaido University. We thank the two reviewers  
660 for their helpful comments.  
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770 Table 1

771 Comparison of standards measured at LOCEAN and in other laboratories (in ‰). The  
 772 laboratories in the 2013-2014 comparisons took place at LSCE (France), LDEO (Columbia  
 773 University, USA), NIOZ (Netherlands), VRIJE (Brussels, Belgium), Dalhousie Univ  
 774 (Dahulousie, Canada), BGS (Nottingham, UK), U. Ottawa (Ottawa, Canada), and in 2018-2019,  
 775 at GeoZentrum NordBayern (Erlangen, Germany), AWI (Bremerhaven, Germany), U. Kiel  
 776 (Kiel, Germany), LSCE (France), U. Bergen (Bergen, Norway).

Date	Internal Standard	LOCEAN $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ‰	LOCEAN $\delta\text{D}$ ‰	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ deviation ‰	Nber of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ lab settings	$\delta\text{D}$ deviation ‰	Nber of $\delta\text{D}$ lab settings
2013-2014	EDP	-6.610	-44.30	-0.010	6	-0.19	4
2013-2014	MIX	-3.260	-21.32	+0.029	6	+0.19	4
2013-2014	KONA	-0.050	+0.46	-0.007	6	-0.18	4
2019-2021	MIX2	-2.610	-17.93	+0.029	7	+0.21	5
2019-2021	BERING	-0.805	-4.56	+0.028	7	+0.19	5
2019-2021	KONA3	+1.220	+3.40	-0.010	7	+0.02	5

777  
 778 Table 2:

779 Comparison of LOCEAN annually-averaged data in a few selected deep-water masses which  
 780 exhibit little variability in their salinity, and have likely not been recently ventilated. S,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  
 781  $\delta\text{D}$  and d-excess values are first averaged for each year. The values reported are the mean and  
 782 standard deviations of these yearly averages. The number of years (N years) refers to the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
 783 data.

784 1: OISO cruises (1998 to 2021) near 1000-1500m in South Indian Ocean Antarctic sector of  
 785 the Southern Ocean (50°S-58°S) (1998\*, 2002\*, and most years since 2010)

786 2: OISO cruises (1998 to 2021) near 2000m in the western South Indian Ocean subtropical gyre  
 787 (1998\*, 2002\*, and most years since 2010)

788 3: PIRATA and EGEE cruises (2005-2021) near 1000m in eastern equatorial Atlantic (2005\*,  
 789 2006\*, 2007\*, 2015, 2020, 2021)

790 4: OVIDE and RREX2017 data between 2000m and 3500m in eastern North Atlantic subpolar  
 791 gyre (data in 2002\*, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2021)

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Cruise set	1	2	3	4
N years	13	9	6	5
S	34.710 (0.013)	34.695 (0.005)	34.615 (0.010)	34.936 (0.010)
$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (‰)	+0.095 (0.035)	+0.085 (0.035)	+0.150 (0.020)	+0.287 (0.030)
$\delta\text{D}$ (‰)	-0.25 (0.13)	-0.29 (0.10)	+0.24 (0.15)**	+1.18 (0.20)
d-excess (‰)	-0.80 (0.15)	-1.03 (0.19)	-0.81 (0.0)**	-1.05 (0.10)

793 \* IRMS estimates for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  only.

794 \*\* only two years

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Table 3: number of valid seawater isotopic data by depth range in Waterisotopes-CISE-LOCEAN (2021, version V2) (a total of 7595 valid data for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  out of 7703 data entries)

Depth range (m)	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (‰)	$\delta\text{D}$ (‰)	d-excess (‰)
0-40	4517	3416	3180
40-199	1029	716	625
200-999	1245	1029	919
> 999	804	539	465
total	7595	5700	5189

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Figure captions

802  
803 Figure 1: A typical run (on 2/08 2021) of 19 samples using three internal standards and  
804 KonaDeep-water samples (left for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and right for  $\delta\text{D}$ ). Top panels (a, b): the deviations of  
805 isotopic values (‰) of internal standards (in blue) and of the KonaDeep-water samples (in red)  
806 relative to their expected values (horizontal axis is sample number). Error bars are the standard  
807 deviation of the different injections, and the vertical scale is arbitrary set so that 0 corresponds  
808 to KonaDeep sample 6 (after the three internal standards). The lower panels (c, d) present the  
809 values obtained after adjusting for the drifts identified with the KonaDeep-water samples  
810 through the run.

811  
812 Figure 2: Scatter diagram of the deviation of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (‰) versus the deviation of d-excess (‰) for  
813 a set of samples extracted from salinity bottles with no plastic inserts that had evaporated (2021,  
814 mostly from MV Tukuma in the North Atlantic). The deviations are estimated by subtracting  
815 from the isotopic data the isotopic value estimated as a function of practical salinity, based on  
816 the other regional data. The error bars on each sample are the standard deviation between the  
817 different injections and assuming that the standard deviation of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  are independent  
818 when estimating d-excess. The red line is the regression used in Benetti et al. (2016).

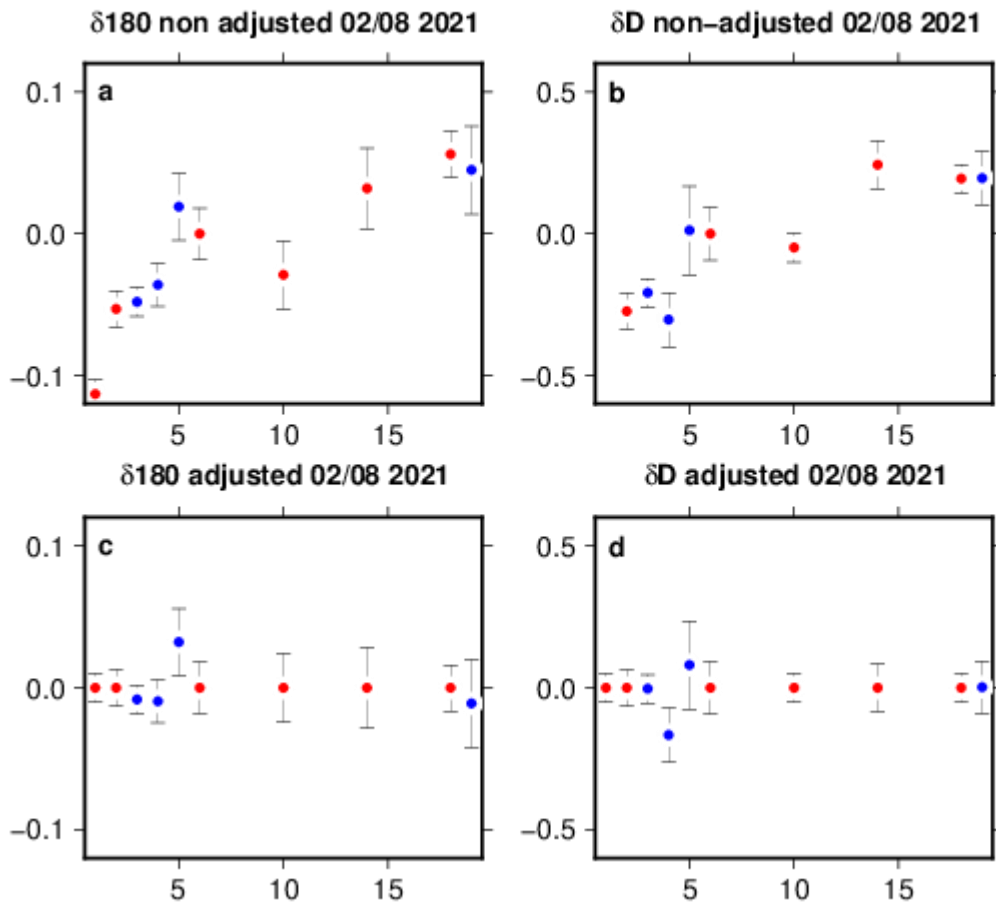
819  
820 Figure 3: Maps which include most of the near-surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  data in the LOCEAN archive (color  
821 scale  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in ‰). (3a) Arctic and Atlantic oceans; (3b) other oceanic regions.

822  
823 Figure 4: Scatter plot of cruise averages of near surface (upper 100-m)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (‰) versus  
824 practical salinity in the Iceland Basin, close to the NAC fronts. The bars indicate the standard  
825 deviation between the individual data that are averaged. Notice the fresher and isotopically  
826 lighter data from the BOCATS (OVIDE transect) cruise in 2016. The red line corresponds to  
827 the average linear relationship in the south-western NA SPG (SURATLANT dataset within 47–  
828 55°N and 30–49°W, with practical salinity between 33.1 and 35.5), whereas the black line  
829 reports the slope expected from mixing with local rainfall end-member.

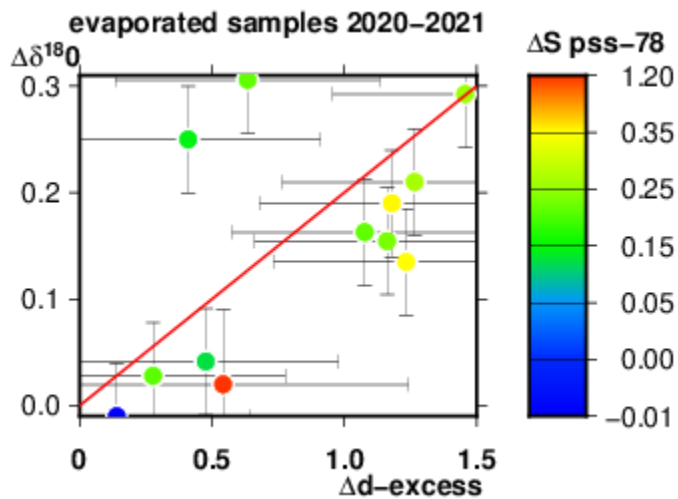
830  
831 Figure 5: Scatter plots in the southern Irminger Sea/NASPG of annually averaged  
832 SURATLANT surveys data. (a) presents  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (‰) versus practical salinity, whereas (b)  
833 presents d-excess (‰) versus practical salinity. The bars indicate the standard deviation  
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835 relationships in the SURATLANT dataset within 47–55°N and 30–49°W, with salinity between  
836 33.1 and 35.5 (see Reverdin et al., 2018b), the red line on the left panel, being the same as on  
837 Fig. 4.

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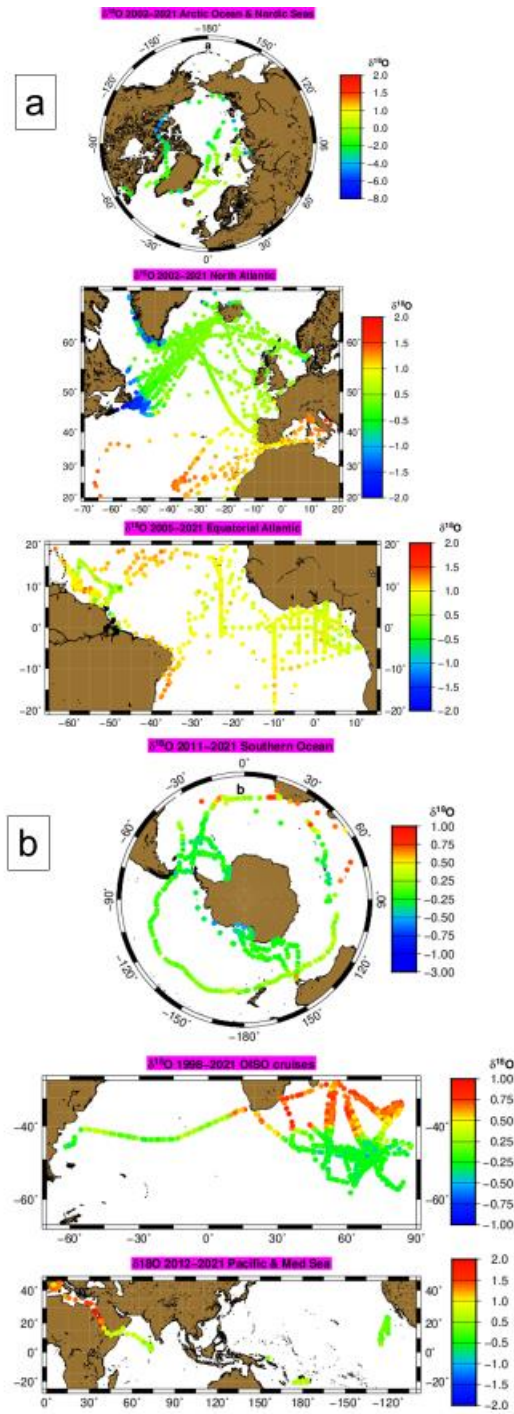


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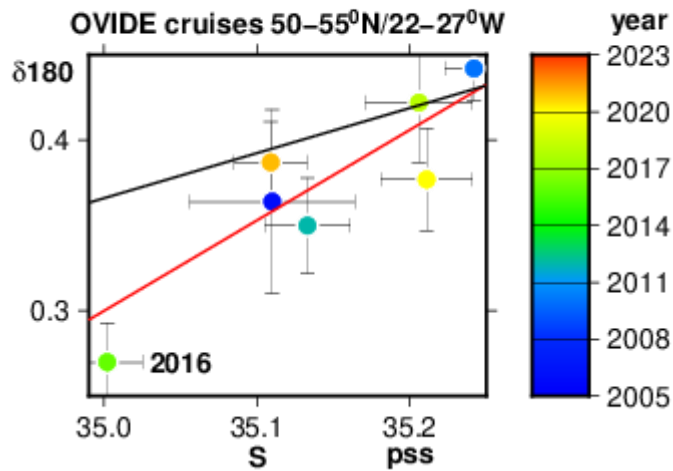


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Figure 3: Maps which include most of the near-surface  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  data in the LOCEAN archive (color scale  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in ‰). (3a) Arctic and Atlantic oceans; (3b) other oceanic regions.





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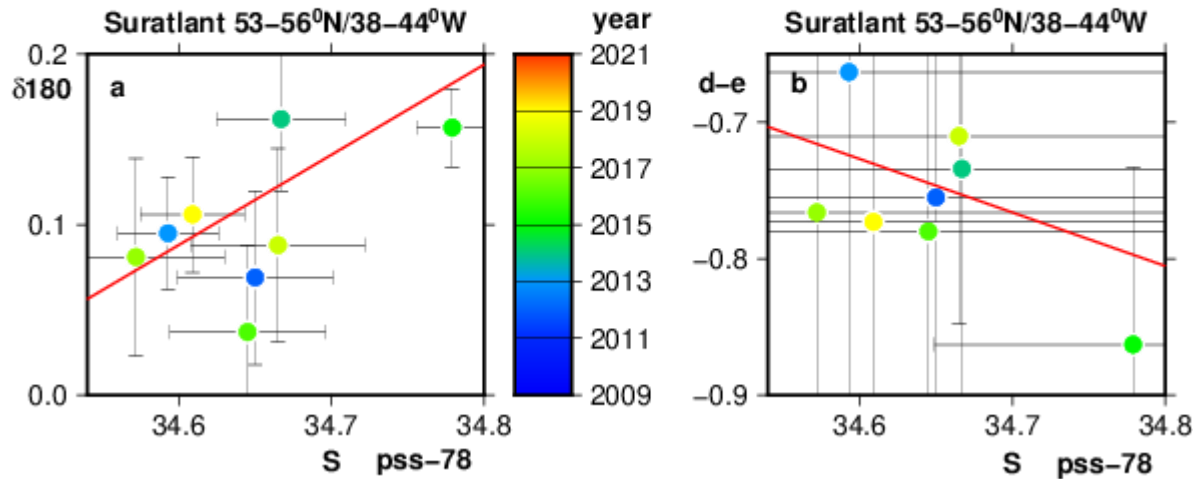
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Figure 4: Scatter plot of cruise averages of near surface (upper 100-m)  $\delta^{18}O$  (‰) versus practical salinity in the Iceland Basin, close to the NAC fronts. The bars indicate the standard deviation between the individual data that are averaged. Notice the fresher and isotopically lighter data from the BOCATS (OVIDE transect) cruise in 2016. The red line corresponds to the average linear relationship in the south-western NA SPG (SURATLANT dataset within 47–55°N and 30–49°W, with practical salinity between 33.1 and 35.5), whereas the black line reports the slope expected from mixing with local rainfall end-member.



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