

1 **Surface Inorganic Iodine Speciation in the Indian and Southern** 2 **Oceans from 12°N to 70°S**

3
4 *Running title: Iodine in the Indian Ocean*
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35 **Contribution to the Field**

36

37 The presence of iodide-iodine at the ocean surface impacts air quality and climate.
38 Specifically, the reaction of iodide with ozone at the sea surface is the dominant source of
39 iodine to the atmosphere, and a significant sink for tropospheric (pollutant) ozone. In the
40 atmosphere, iodine takes part in further reactions which remove more ozone, affect
41 greenhouse gas lifetimes and contribute to particle formation. The rate of ozone removal and
42 iodine emission depends on the sea surface iodide concentration, but iodide measurements
43 are sparse and have hitherto been almost completely lacking in the Indian Ocean basin. Here
44 we present an extensive new set of sea-surface iodide measurements, spanning latitudes from
45 $\sim 12^{\circ}\text{N}$ to $\sim 70^{\circ}\text{S}$ and including measurements from the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea, the
46 open Indian Ocean and the Indian Ocean sector of the Southern Ocean. This data set
47 represents a substantial increase in the global coverage of sea surface iodide observations. It
48 will help improve our understanding of marine iodine biogeochemistry, and our ability to
49 predict the impact of iodine chemistry on the atmosphere. We compare the observed
50 distribution to that in other ocean basins, and explore the drivers of the distribution using an
51 ocean iodine cycling model.

52 **Abstract**

53

54 Marine iodine speciation has emerged as a potential tracer of primary productivity,
55 sedimentary inputs, and ocean oxygenation. The reaction of iodide with ozone at the sea
56 surface has also been identified as the largest deposition sink for tropospheric ozone and the
57 dominant source of iodine to the atmosphere. Accurate incorporation of these processes into
58 atmospheric models requires improved understanding of iodide concentrations at the air-sea
59 interface. Observations of sea surface iodide are relatively sparse and are particularly lacking
60 in the Indian Ocean basin. Here we examine 127 new sea surface (≤ 10 m depth) iodide and
61 iodate observations made during three cruises in the Indian Ocean and the Indian sector of the
62 Southern Ocean. The observations span latitudes from $\sim 12^{\circ}\text{N}$ to $\sim 70^{\circ}\text{S}$, and include three
63 distinct hydrographic regimes: the South Indian subtropical gyre, the Southern Ocean and the
64 northern Indian Ocean including the southern Bay of Bengal. Concentrations and spatial
65 distribution of sea surface iodide follow the same general trends as in other ocean basins,
66 with iodide concentrations tending to decrease with increasing latitude (and decreasing sea
67 surface temperature). However, the gradient of this relationship was steeper in subtropical
68 waters of the Indian Ocean than in the Atlantic or Pacific, suggesting that it might not be
69 accurately represented by widely used parameterisations based on sea surface temperature.
70 This difference in gradients between basins may arise from differences in phytoplankton
71 community composition and/or iodide production rates. Iodide concentrations in the tropical
72 northern Indian Ocean were higher and more variable than elsewhere. Two extremely high
73 iodide concentrations (1241 and 949 nM) were encountered in the Bay of Bengal and are
74 thought to be associated with sedimentary inputs under low oxygen conditions. Excluding
75 these outliers, sea surface iodide concentrations ranged from 20 to 250 nM, with a median of
76 61 nM. Controls on sea surface iodide concentrations in the Indian Ocean were investigated
77 using a state-of-the-art iodine cycling model. Multiple interacting factors were found to drive
78 the iodide distribution. Dilution via vertical mixing and mixed layer depth shoaling are key
79 controls, and both also modulate the impact of biogeochemical iodide formation and loss
80 processes.

81 **Introduction**

82

83 Iodine is naturally present in the ocean, predominantly as the inorganic ions iodide (I⁻) and
84 iodate (IO₃⁻). Iodine speciation is linked to many aspects of ocean biogeochemistry, and has
85 been proposed as a tracer of primary productivity (Ducklow et al. 2018; Wong 2001),
86 sedimentary inputs and oxygen status (Lu et al. 2018; Moriyasu et al. 2020). In addition, the
87 concentration of iodide at the sea surface has recently attracted renewed interest from
88 atmospheric chemists because of its impact on atmospheric composition and air quality e.g.
89 (Sherwen et al. 2017; Cuevas et al. 2018).

90

91 The heterogeneous reaction of iodide with ozone at the sea surface has been identified as the
92 largest, but also most uncertain, deposition sink for tropospheric ozone (Hardacre, Wild, and
93 Emberson 2015), and the dominant source of volatile reactive iodine (as I₂ and HOI) to the
94 lower atmosphere (Carpenter et al. 2013). Following emission from the ocean, reactive iodine
95 species initiate catalytic ozone depletion cycles, and hence further influence the oxidative
96 capacity of the atmosphere. Atmospheric iodine cycling results in the formation of iodide
97 oxides, which have been implicated in the nucleation of particles in coastal marine areas
98 (McFiggans et al. 2004; Allan et al. 2015). In remote marine locations, iodine chemistry may
99 also indirectly contribute to the depletion of inorganic volatile species such as gaseous
100 elemental mercury during the polar spring (Wang et al. 2014). The ozone-iodide reaction is
101 now thought to be the dominant source of iodine to the atmosphere, with other sources (e.g.
102 release of iodinated organic compounds by marine algae) contributing only around 20% of
103 the total iodine flux to the atmosphere globally (Carpenter et al. 2013; Prados-Roman et al.
104 2015). To incorporate the sea surface ozone sink and/or iodine source into atmospheric
105 models, iodide concentrations at the interface need to be predicted accurately. However,
106 parameterizations for global sea surface iodide concentrations (MacDonald et al. 2014;
107 Chance et al. 2014) have been limited by the relative scarcity of observations. This is
108 particularly the case for the Indian Ocean basin, where only a few sea surface iodide
109 observations have hitherto been reported (Chance et al. 2014), but atmospheric iodine
110 chemistry has been investigated (e.g. (Mahajan et al. 2019).

111

112 In ocean waters, total inorganic iodine concentrations (the sum of iodide and iodate) behave
113 approximately conservatively, with a value of around 450-500 nM across most of the oceans
114 e.g. (Elderfield and Truesdale 1980; Truesdale, Bale, and Woodward 2000). Iodate is
115 thermodynamically the more stable form under oxygenated conditions, and hence is present
116 at higher concentrations throughout most ocean depths. However, at the ocean surface iodide
117 concentrations are elevated and iodate depleted, despite this being thermodynamically
118 unfavourable. Sea surface iodide concentrations typically range from undetectable to ~250
119 nM, with values higher than this only encountered as outliers (Chance et al. 2014). Iodide
120 concentrations and the iodide to iodate ratio decline with depth below the euphotic zone, and
121 iodide concentrations are generally very low (<20 nM) in oxygenated waters below ~500 m
122 e.g. (Waite, Truesdale, and Olafsson 2006; Nakayama et al. 1989; Bluhm et al. 2011). Under
123 low oxygen conditions, iodide becomes the thermodynamically favourable form, and is found
124 to dominate in sub-oxic and anoxic waters (e.g. Cutter et al., 2018; Rue et al., 1997; Wong
125 and Brewer, 1977). In addition to the two inorganic forms, iodine also occurs in association
126 with dissolved organic matter as so-called dissolved organic iodine (DOI; e.g. (Wong and
127 Cheng 1998)). In the open ocean, levels of DOI are typically low (<5% of the total iodine),
128 but higher levels (e.g. 22% of total iodine) have sometimes been encountered (Wong and
129 Cheng 1998). However, organic forms of iodine are abundant in estuarine environments,
130 where they can represent up to 64% of the total iodine (Wong and Cheng 1998; Schwehr and

131 Santschi 2003). Deposition of particulate iodine to the ocean floor is only a small sink for
132 iodine, with most being remineralised in the water column (Wong et al., 1976). Meanwhile,
133 redox cycling of iodine in sediments is thought to occur (e.g. Price and Calvert, 1977) and
134 iodide-iodine may be released from reducing sediments (e.g. Cutter et al., 2018; Farrenkopf
135 and Luther 2002).

136
137 The ratio of iodide to iodate varies with location as well as depth. Sea surface iodide
138 concentrations exhibit a pronounced latitudinal gradient, with highest surface iodide
139 concentrations observed at low latitudes and in coastal waters (Chance et al. 2014). The
140 distribution of iodine species in the oceans is thought to result from a combination of
141 hydrodynamic and biogeochemical drivers, which are not yet fully understood (Chance et al.
142 2014). The formation of iodide from iodate in the euphotic zone is thought to be associated
143 with primary productivity, but the exact mechanism by which this occurs is not yet known
144 (Chance et al. 2010; Campos et al. 1996; Bluhm et al. 2010). Similarly, the route for iodide
145 oxidation back to iodate has been elusive, although recent work has suggested it may be
146 linked to bacterial nitrification (Zic, Caric, and Ciglonecki 2013; Hughes et al., 2020). The
147 lifetime of iodide with respect to oxidation is poorly constrained but thought to be relatively
148 long, with estimates ranging from several months (Campos et al. 1996; Zic, Caric, and
149 Ciglonecki 2013) or more (Hardisty et al. 2020), to as much as 40 years (Tsunogai 1971;
150 Edwards and Truesdale 1997). Given the relatively long lifetime of iodide in seawater, its
151 distribution is also strongly influenced by advection and vertical mixing e.g. (Campos et al.
152 1996; Truesdale, Bale, and Woodward 2000). Seasonal variations in biological activity and
153 ocean mixing may result in seasonality in iodine speciation in the mixed layer (e.g. Chance et
154 al., 2010). The interplay of these driving factors results in global scale correlations between
155 sea-surface iodide concentrations and sea-surface temperature (SST), and nitrate (Chance et
156 al. 2014), which have been used to predict sea-surface iodide fields (e.g. Ganzeveld et al.
157 2009; MacDonald et al. 2014; Sarwar et al. 2016). In particular, spatial variations in ocean
158 mixed layer depth are likely to be the primary cause of the widely used relationship between
159 sea surface iodide concentration and SST.

160
161 This manuscript explores an extensive new set of sea surface iodide and iodate observations
162 from the Indian Ocean and the Indian sector of the Southern Ocean, spanning latitudes from
163 $\sim 12^{\circ}\text{N}$ to $\sim 70^{\circ}\text{S}$, regions which have been lacking in observations (Chance et al. 2014). To the
164 best of our knowledge, only three studies have previously examined iodine speciation in the
165 Indian Ocean, and all have been in the west of the basin (East African coastal area (Truesdale
166 1978) and Arabian Sea (Farrenkopf and Luther 2002; Farrenkopf et al. 1997)). Of the data
167 presented in these studies, there were only two sea surface iodide observations - both from
168 the Arabian Sea (see Figure 1) - that could be included in Chance et al., 2014. The aim of this
169 study was to substantially increase the number of observations in this region, in order to both
170 improve understanding of large-scale gradients in ocean iodine speciation, and to increase
171 global data coverage for model validation and the improvement of ocean iodide
172 parameterisations. All of these will contribute to the creation of more accurate boundary
173 conditions for atmospheric chemistry models.

174 175 **Materials and methods**

176 177 *Sample collection*

178
179 *[Figure 1]*
180

181 Samples were collected during three research cruises in the Indian Ocean and Indian sector of
182 the Southern Ocean. Sampling locations for each cruise are shown in Figure 1. Samples were
183 collected from the Bay of Bengal (BoB) during a zonal section cruise (Bay of Bengal
184 Boundary Layer Experiment - BoBBLe) along 8°N, from 85.3°E to 89°E. The cruise took
185 place between 24/6/2016 and 23/7/2016, on board the RV *Sindhu Sadhana*. In the Arabian
186 Sea, samples were collected during the Rama mooring equatorial cruise IO1-16-SK (known
187 as SK333 here), operated by Ministry of Earth Sciences, India (MoES) and National Oceanic
188 and Atmospheric Administration, USA (NOAA), and taking place on the ORV *Sagar Kanya*.
189 The cruise departed Chennai, India, on 23/08/2016 and returned to Sri Lanka on 23/09/2016.
190 Samples were collected from the Southern Indian Ocean and Southern Ocean during the 9th
191 Indian Southern Ocean Expedition (SOE9; Jan-March 2017), from Mauritius (22°S) to coastal
192 waters of Prydz Bay, Antarctica (69°S) on board the MV *SA Agulhas*. Sampling included both
193 (Antarctic) coastal and open ocean waters during this cruise.

194
195 During the BoBBLe and SOE9 cruises, surface water samples were obtained manually from
196 the upper 30-70 cm of the sea surface using a metal bucket deployed over the windward side
197 of the ship near the stern. Additional depth profile samples were obtained using a CTD (911
198 plus, Sea-Bird Electronics, USA) rosette equipped with 12 Niskin bottles. During the SOE9
199 cruise, depth profiles were taken at 17 CTD stations, and additional surface samples were
200 taken (by bucket) at least twice a day along the entire cruise track (except when the ship was
201 stationary for CTD stations). Sampling included two time-series, one at ~40°S, and one in
202 coastal Antarctic waters at ~68°S (around the Polar Front), during which samples were
203 collected at 4 or 6 hour intervals for up to 72 hours. During the SK333 cruise, samples were
204 only collected using a CTD rosette. Sample dates, times and locations for all cruises are given
205 in the online dataset available from the British Oceanographic Data Centre
206 (<http://doi.org/czhx>). In this manuscript, both shallow CTD samples (depth ≤ 10 m) and
207 'bucket' samples will be considered to be comparable, and representative of the ocean
208 surface. This follows the approach taken in previous examinations of sea surface iodide
209 concentrations (Chance et al. 2014). Note only surface samples are considered in this
210 manuscript, although selected depth profiles are presented in the Supplementary information
211 to aid interpretation of surface concentrations.

212
213 Immediately following collection, samples were filtered (Whatman GF/F) under gentle
214 vacuum, and transferred to 50 mL polypropylene screw cap tubes. Duplicate aliquots were
215 prepared for each sample. Aliquots were either stored at 4°C for on-board iodide
216 determination within 24 hours, or frozen at -20°C for transport back to our laboratories for
217 analysis. The majority (91%) of frozen samples were analysed within 12 months of
218 collection, and all analyses were complete within 17 months of collection. Inorganic iodine
219 speciation is preserved in frozen samples (≤-16°C) for at least one year (Campos 1997).
220 Repeat analyses of high and low concentration samples indicated that iodine speciation was
221 preserved during the storage period. To avoid possible contamination, sample bottles for the
222 iodine samples were kept strictly separated from the dissolved oxygen reagents containing
223 iodine.

224 225 ***Iodide and iodate analysis***

226 Iodide was determined by cathodic stripping square wave voltammetry (Campos 1997;
227 Luther, Swartz, and Ullman 1988) using a µAutolab III potentiostat connected to a 665VA
228 stand (Metrohm) with a hanging mercury drop electrode, an Ag/AgCl reference electrode and
229 a carbon or platinum auxiliary electrode. 12 (or 15) mL of the sample was introduced to a
230 glass cell and 90 (or 112) µL of Triton X-100 (0.2%) was added. The sample was purged

231 with N₂ (oxygen free grade) for 5 minutes before each measurement. The deposition potential
232 was set at 0 V and deposition times were typically 60 s; scans ranged from 0 to -0.7 V, with a
233 step of 2 mV, a 75 Hz frequency and a 0.02 V wave amplitude. Each scan was repeated 5-6
234 times, with scan repeatability equal or better than 5%. Calibration was by 2 or 3 standard
235 additions of a KI solution (~10⁻⁵ or 10⁻⁶ M). Precision was estimated by repeat analysis (n = 6)
236 of selected seawater samples over period of ten days and was found to be lower than 7%
237 relative standard deviation.

238
239 Iodate was measured using a spectrophotometer (UV-1800, Shimadzu; 4 decimal places)
240 after reduction to iodonium (I₃⁺) (Jickells, Boyd, and Knap 1988; Truesdale and Spencer
241 1974). 2.3 mL of the sample was introduced in the 1 cm UV quartz cell, 50 μL of sulfamic
242 acid (1.5 M) was added, and the first absorbance value was obtained after 1 minute. Then 150
243 μL of KI (0.6 M) was added and the second absorbance read after 2.5 minutes. Iodate
244 concentrations were calculated from the difference between the two absorbances. Calibration
245 was performed daily using a series of KIO₃ standard solutions. Samples were measured at
246 least in triplicate with repeatability better than 5%; reported values are means. Reported
247 errors are calculated by propagation of the standard deviation on the repeated measurements,
248 the errors on the fit of the calibration and error on the volumes pipetted. Note that strictly,
249 this method measures all inorganic iodine in oxidation states from 0 to +5, but as this fraction
250 is dominated by iodate it is taken as a measure of iodate.

251 ***Supporting measurements***

252 Samples from CTD stations use the temperature, salinity and depth data directly obtained
253 from the CTD. Precision of these measurements was as follows: temperature: ± 0.001 °C;
254 conductivity: ± 0.0001 S m⁻¹; depth: ± 0.005% of the full scale. CTD salinity was calibrated
255 using a high-precision salinometer (Guildline AUTOSAL). Temperature and salinity of
256 manually collected ‘bucket’ samples were determined using an outboard thermometer, and
257 the salinometer, respectively.
258

259
260 Samples for nitrate (NO₃⁻) analysis were collected in 250 mL narrow mouth polypropylene
261 amber bottles (Nalgene). Each bottle was rinsed twice with the sample water prior to
262 collection. Analysis was performed onboard as soon as possible after sample collection, using
263 an SKALAR SAN+ segmented continuous flow autoanalyzer. Precision and accuracy of NO₃⁻
264 measurements were ±0.06 and ±0.07 μM, respectively.

265 ***Ocean Modelling***

266 The ocean iodine cycling model described in Wadley et al. (Wadley et al. 2020) was used to
267 evaluate which physical and biogeochemical processes drive the observed trends in iodide
268 concentration in the Indian Ocean and Indian sector of the Southern Ocean. The model
269 comprises a biogeochemical model of iodine cycling embedded in a three-dimensional global
270 ocean circulation framework, and has been calibrated using the data from a recently available
271 extended global sea surface iodide compilation (Chance et al. 2019) which includes the
272 current data set, plus additional depth resolved iodide measurements (see (Wadley et al.
273 2020) for details). In the model, iodide production is driven by primary production, and
274 iodide loss (by oxidation) is linked to biological nitrification. A spatially variable I:C ratio is
275 used to allow the model to better capture the observed iodide concentrations.
276

277 **Results and Discussion**

278 ***Overview – Global scale trends***

281 In total, 127 sea surface iodide observations and 130 sea surface iodate observations were
282 made during the three cruises, including two time series. Measurements were made at 98
283 different sampling locations, spanning latitudes from ~12°N to ~70°S. This is a substantial
284 increase in data coverage for the Indian Ocean and the Indian sector of the Southern Ocean
285 region, which was previously particularly lacking in observations of sea surface iodine
286 speciation (Chance et al. 2014). As noted in the introduction, only two sea surface iodide
287 observations for the Indian Ocean were included in Chance et al., 2014, and both were from
288 the Arabian Sea (see Figure 1).

289

[Figure 2]

290

291

[Figure 3]

292

293

294 The lowest iodide concentrations were observed at high latitudes, while the highest
295 concentrations were encountered at the northern extent of the southern sub-tropical region
296 and within the tropics (Figure 2). This latitudinal trend in sea surface iodide concentration
297 broadly follows those observed in other ocean basins (Figure 3). In addition, a ‘dip’ in sea
298 surface iodide concentrations is seen around the equator and elevated concentrations are seen
299 in coastal polar waters, as observed elsewhere (Figures 2 & 3) (Chance et al. 2014; Chance et
300 al. 2010). While these global scale trends are well documented in the Atlantic and Pacific
301 basins e.g.(Bluhm et al. 2011; Campos, Sanders, and Jickells 1999; Truesdale, Bale, and
302 Woodward 2000; Tsunogai and Henmi 1971), to the best of our knowledge this is the first
303 time they have been confirmed in the Indian Ocean and the Indian section of the Southern
304 Ocean.

305

[Figure 4]

306

307

308 Considering the entire data set, sea surface iodide concentrations ranged from 20 to 1241 nM,
309 with a median of 61 nM (Figure 4). The very large range in the data is primarily due to the
310 presence of two very high outliers in the Bay of Bengal, which are discussed later. When
311 these outliers are excluded, the upper limit of the data is reduced to 250 nM, bringing the
312 range within the global range of marine iodide concentrations previously reported (Chance et
313 al. 2014). The large range in the overall data set can mainly be ascribed to the large span of
314 latitudes covered. The median value is somewhat lower than the global median value (77 nM;
315 (Chance et al. 2014), reflecting the bias towards high latitude/low iodide samples in our data
316 set.

317

[Figure 5]

318

319

320 Sea surface iodate concentrations ranged from 51 to 495 nM, with a median of 294 nM.
321 Iodate concentrations broadly showed the opposite pattern to iodide concentrations, with
322 highest median values in the Southern Ocean (median of 323 nM), intermediate values in the
323 subtropical Indian Ocean (median of 294 nM) and lowest values in the tropical Indian Ocean
324 (median 196 nM). However, there was only a very weak, inverse linear relationship between
325 sea surface iodide and iodate concentrations ($R^2 = 0.16$, $p = 3 \times 10^{-6}$; Figure 5). Total iodine
326 concentrations in seawater are typically ~450-500 nM (Chance et al. 2014, and references
327 therein), with the budget dominated by iodide and iodate. Here we find the sum of iodide and
328 iodate was less than this at most sampling locations (Figure 5), with a median value of 380
329 nM (range 88 to 560 nM). Although somewhat unusual, comparable low total inorganic
330 iodine concentrations have been reported elsewhere (e.g. North Sea (Hou et al. 2007), South

331 East China Sea (Wong and Zhang 2003)). Depleted total inorganic iodine may be due to
332 uptake of iodine to the particulate phase in the surface ocean, or the presence of a significant
333 dissolved organic iodine reservoir. Although it could imply substantial loss of iodine from the
334 surface ocean to the atmosphere, current knowledge suggests the magnitude of such fluxes
335 (e.g. Carpenter et al. 2013) is too small to have such a large impact on the sea surface
336 concentrations. No clear relationships were evident between total inorganic iodine and either
337 latitude or nitrate concentration.

338
339 Our sampling area spanned a wide range of different hydrographic provinces and
340 biogeochemical conditions (Figure 2). North of the equator, SST becomes a poor predictor of
341 iodide concentration. To explore our data set further, we consider iodine speciation separately
342 in each of three different hydrographic regimes (tropical, mid-latitudes and polar).

343 344 ***South Indian subtropical gyre (~23-42°S)***

345 In the southern Indian Ocean, samples were collected along an approximate latitudinal
346 transect at 57°E, from ~23-42°S. The open ocean transect spanned the Indian South
347 subtropical gyre and the subtropical convergence zone. North of this region, at ~15°S, the
348 Southern Equatorial Current (SEC; not sampled in this work) has been noted as a clear
349 biogeochemical front, separating subtropical gyre waters from the lower oxygen northern
350 Indian Ocean (Grand et al. 2015). The subtropical gyre waters are characterised by very low
351 nitrate concentrations and relatively high salinity (Figure 2), with SST rising from ~15°C in
352 the south to ~29°C in the north. Between these latitudes, iodide concentrations ranged from
353 35 to 235 nM and increased in step with decreasing latitude and increasing SST (Figure 2). In
354 this region, iodide is strongly correlated with both latitude ($R^2 = 0.86$, $p = 3 \times 10^{-30}$) and SST
355 ($R^2_{adj} = 0.89$, $p = 2 \times 10^{-22}$) (Table 1). These are stronger correlations than the global
356 relationships reported in Chance et al., 2014, and also have steeper gradients than found in
357 the Chance et al. (2014) data set (Table 1).

358
359 Nitrate concentrations have been used to predict sea-surface iodide concentrations
360 (Ganzeveld et al., 2009), and significant relationships between iodide and nitrate in upper 100
361 m of the water column have been reported for the subtropical Atlantic (Campos, Sanders, and
362 Jickells 1999). However, in our data set no relationship between nitrate and iodide was
363 apparent ($R^2 = 0.0004$; Table 1), implying sea surface nitrate concentrations are a poor
364 predictor of sea surface iodide in this hydrographic region. This likely reflects the fact we
365 only consider surface concentrations, which exhibited low nitrate concentrations (86% of
366 data points were below 0.5 μ M), but substantial gradients for iodide.

367
368 [Table 1]

369 370 371 ***Comparison of latitudinal sea surface iodide gradients between subtropical regions of*** 372 ***different ocean basins***

373 Using the extended dataset of global sea surface iodide observations (Chance et al., 2019),
374 sea surface iodide gradients in the subtropical regions of each of the ocean basins were
375 compared (Table 2). Considering each of the major ocean gyres individually reveals that the
376 latitudinal dependency of iodide is greater in the Indian Ocean than in the north Atlantic,
377 north Pacific or south Atlantic (Figure 3; Table 2). Iodide in the south Pacific appears to also
378 have a steep gradient if observations from the Peruvian upwelling region (Cutter et al., 2018)
379 are included in the analysis. However, this dataset has an unusually large iodide
380 concentration range (153 to 790 nM) within a small latitudinal band (~11 to 16°S), and does

381 not exhibit a latitudinal trend in iodide as observed elsewhere. This distinct behaviour may be
382 due to the influence of sub-surface low oxygen waters. The remaining data from the south
383 Pacific subtropical gyre is from a transect along the 170°W meridian from 12 to 38°S
384 (Tsunogai and Henmi, 1971). If the Peruvian upwelling data is excluded from the gradient
385 analysis, the remaining data for the south Pacific exhibits a comparable iodide gradient to the
386 other ocean basins. The higher sea surface iodide gradient observed in the subtropical Indian
387 Ocean is driven by concentrations at low latitudes (~25°S) being approximately double those
388 at comparable latitudes in the other ocean basins, rather than a difference between
389 concentrations at the high latitude limits of the gyres (Figure 3).

390

391 The same trend is also evident in iodide vs. SST gradients, which are steeper in the Indian
392 Ocean than in other basins (Table 2). This implies that the differences between basins cannot
393 entirely be accounted for by differences in SST gradients. Examination of climatological data
394 (World Ocean Atlas, see Chance et al., 2014 for details) for the locations and months of
395 iodide observations does not demonstrate any clear differences in SST, nitrate or mixed layer
396 depth (MLD; defined using potential temperature) between ocean basins that might account
397 for the difference in iodide gradient. Although SST is not thought to directly impact iodine
398 cycling itself, its correlation with iodide concentration is important as it is widely used to
399 predict sea surface iodide fields for use in atmospheric models (e.g. Sarwar et al. 2016). The
400 stronger latitudinal dependency of iodide in the Indian Ocean that we observe here is not
401 replicated in sea surface iodide values predicted using commonly employed global scale
402 parametrisations based on sea surface temperature (Chance et al. 2014; MacDonald et al.
403 2014). This is likely to introduce uncertainties specific to the Indian Ocean when using such
404 parameterisations, for example in model calculations of iodine emissions from the sea
405 surface.

406

407

[Table 2]

408

409 The observational data is too limited to properly evaluate whether the pattern is the result of
410 seasonal biases in sampling; of the data used in this comparison, all subtropical Indian Ocean
411 observations were made during the southern hemisphere summer (January and February),
412 while the modal months for observations in other basins were November (North Atlantic),
413 October (South Atlantic) and March (North Pacific), see Table 2. In the South Pacific, if data
414 from the Peruvian upwelling is excluded, at least 90% of observations used were made in
415 January (Tsunogai and Henmi, 1971), i.e. in the same season as the Indian Ocean data.
416 Despite this, they have a lower latitudinal gradient (slope = 2.8 compared to 9.5; Table 2),
417 hinting that the difference between basins is not due to seasonal variation and/or sampling
418 biases and may instead be due to differences in iodine cycling.

419

420

421 Although less pronounced, a relatively steep iodide vs. latitude gradient in the Indian Ocean
422 is replicated in our model (Table 2), and hence a series of model sensitivity tests have been
423 conducted to investigate which processes may be responsible for the apparent differences in
424 the iodide gradient between ocean basins. Specifically, the model was run with each of the
425 iodide forcing processes in the Indian Ocean and Indian sector of the Southern Ocean
426 replaced by those from the Atlantic. Figure 6 shows the forcing fields used for the two ocean
427 basins, and the modelled iodide concentrations generated using these fields. The iodide vs.
428 latitude gradient is significantly increased between 30°S and 20°S when the Indian Ocean
429 productivity fields are replaced with those for the same latitudes in the Atlantic (Figure 6c).
430 This is driven by a smaller decrease in productivity with decreasing latitude in the Indian

431 Ocean than the Atlantic (Figure 6b). Thus productivity differences would act to decrease,
432 rather than increase the iodide gradient. In the model oxidation of iodide in the mixed layer
433 occurs as a function of nitrification, which is parameterised using the proportion of nitrate
434 regenerated in the mixed layer (see Wadley et al., 2020). Differences in this ratio between the
435 subtropical regions of the Indian and Atlantic oceans are small (Figure 6d), and have
436 negligible impact on modelled iodide in the Indian Ocean (Figure 6e). At lower latitudes
437 MLDs are similar in the two basins, but between ~35 and 45°S, MLDs are significantly
438 deeper in the Atlantic due to the greater northward extent of polar waters (Figure 6f). Since a
439 deeper MLD dilutes iodide, modelled iodide concentrations are decreased between 45°S and
440 35°S when Atlantic MLDs are imposed in the Indian basin (Figure 6g). Again this further
441 increases the latitudinal gradient of iodide, rather than decreasing it. Precipitation and
442 evaporation act to dilute/concentrate iodide in the mixed layer, so changes in the net
443 freshwater flux with latitude could influence the latitudinal iodide gradient. However,
444 imposing the Atlantic surface freshwater flux in the Indian Basin had a negligible effect on
445 modelled iodide (Figure 6i). Finally, the I:C ratio in the model determines the amount of
446 iodide produced per unit carbon fixed by primary production. To fit model to the observed
447 iodide in each basin, a higher I:C ratio is utilised in the Indian than in the Atlantic Ocean
448 (Figure 6j; see Wadley et al., 2020). Replacing the I:C ratio in the Indian Ocean with that for
449 the Atlantic Ocean results in lower modelled iodide concentrations in the Indian Ocean, but
450 little overall change in the latitudinal iodide gradient (Figure 6k). Note the model currently
451 underestimates the iodide gradient in the Indian Ocean (Table 2), and further refinement of
452 the spatial variation in the I:C ratio is needed to improve the model fit to observations. This
453 may show that the I:C ratio influences latitudinal gradients of iodide.

454
455 In summary, basin scale differences in four key forcing fields (productivity, nitrification,
456 MLD and P-E) do not appear to explain the difference in latitudinal iodide gradient between
457 the subtropical Indian and southern Atlantic oceans. In fact, differences in productivity and
458 MLD between the two basins appear to have the opposite effect, as Atlantic forcing fields
459 resulting in an even steeper gradient than Indian Ocean forcing fields. Removal of advection
460 in the model also results in an increase rather than a decrease in iodide at sub-tropical
461 latitudes in the Indian Ocean (see later/Figure 7) and hence an even steeper latitudinal iodide
462 gradient. This suggests the basin scale differences in iodide gradient are not due to advection
463 in the Indian Ocean. Instead we suggest the difference may be the result of different
464 phytoplankton types, with differing I:C iodide production ratios between basins. The need for
465 a higher I:C ratio in the Indian Ocean/Indian sector of the Southern Ocean than the Atlantic
466 (Figure 6j) implies there may be profound differences in microbiological community
467 composition, and/or the cycling of iodine by such organisms between basins. *Synechococcus*
468 dominates in the subtropical Indian Ocean, whereas Nanoecaryotes and *Prochlorococcus*
469 dominate in the subtropical Atlantic (Alvain et al., 2008). Recent work by our group indicates
470 that the I:C ratio associated with iodide production varies between phytoplankton types, with
471 *Synechococcus* having a higher I:C ratio than Nanoecaryotes and *Prochlorococcus* types
472 (Wadley et al., *Manuscript in Preparation*). Hence the higher relative abundance of
473 *Synechococcus* in the subtropical Indian Ocean might account for the higher iodide
474 concentrations observed at low latitudes, and the resulting steeper sea-surface iodide gradient.
475 This also indicates that any change in microbiological community composition associated
476 with climate change could significantly impact ocean iodide concentrations.

477
478
479
480

[Figure 6]

481 ***Southern Ocean domain (~42°S - 68°S)***

482 At the subtropical front around 42°S, a decrease in salinity is accompanied by a sharp
483 increase in nitrate concentration (Figure 2). This front marks the transition from the Indian
484 Ocean to the Southern Ocean (Orsi, Whitworth, and Nowlin 1995). The colder, nutrient rich
485 waters south of the subtropical front have much lower iodide content, with a median
486 concentration of 43 nM and range of 20 to 104 nM (Figure 4). Relationships between iodide
487 concentrations and latitude or SST in this region are much weaker than those observed
488 further north (Table 1). This may be due to disruption by strong, but variable, vertical mixing
489 events, which are characteristic of the Southern Ocean. No significant relationship between
490 sea surface iodide and nitrate was observed in the Southern Ocean samples (Table 1).

491
492 The Southern Ocean samples may be further subdivided into coastal (i.e. near the Antarctic
493 continent) and open ocean samples. The former category was defined as samples falling
494 within the Austral Polar biogeochemical province (Longhurst 1998), while the latter category
495 included samples from both the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic provinces, and spanned the Polar
496 Front. The range and distribution of concentrations seen in the coastal and open ocean subsets
497 are very similar (Figure 4), despite the coastal samples spanning a much narrower latitudinal
498 range (69° - 64° S, compared to 63° - 43° S). In the open ocean sub-set, iodide concentrations
499 generally decrease moving south ($R^2 = 0.16$; $p = 0.04$), while in the coastal samples at the
500 most southerly extreme of the data set, this relationship breaks down ($R^2 = 0.02$; Figure 2). A
501 similar pattern is also reported in the global compilation of Chance et al. (2014), where
502 Southern Ocean and Antarctic samples were predominantly from the Atlantic sector and the
503 western Antarctic Peninsula. The range of concentrations observed in the Antarctic coastal
504 samples (20 to 95 nM) is within that observed previously in coastal Antarctic waters during
505 the austral summer (Chance et al. 2010). The magnitude of this variability is greater than can
506 be accounted for by normalizing the iodide concentrations to salinity variations (e.g. due to
507 ice melt water).

508

509 ***Northern Indian Ocean including southern Bay of Bengal (~4°S - 11°N)***

510 Samples were collected from open ocean locations in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea,
511 between ~4°S and ~11°N. Sampling locations were all within the Indian Monsoon Gyre
512 biogeochemical province (Longhurst 1998), and shared high sea-surface temperatures,
513 variable salinity and typically low nitrate concentrations. This sample sub-set showed the
514 highest, and most variable iodide concentrations (range 63 to 1241 nM, median 165 nM;
515 Figure 4). This was primarily due to the occurrence of two extremely high iodide
516 concentrations (>900 nM) in the Bay of Bengal; excluding these values, the range in tropical
517 open ocean iodide was still the largest of the three hydrographic regions surveyed, with a
518 maximum of 250 nM being observed in the Bay of Bengal (Figure 4). Such concentrations
519 are comparable to measurements made at similar latitudes elsewhere (Figure 3).

520

521 All but one of the samples collected around the equator (~5°S to ~3°N) during the SK333
522 cruise had iodide concentrations in the range ~80 to 120 nM. The exception to this was a
523 station at 0°N where iodide concentrations reached ~200 nM (Figure 2). As iodide
524 concentrations were typically lower than in tropical waters further north and south (Figure 2),
525 there was a positive rather than negative correlation between iodide and absolute latitude in
526 this sample set (Table 1). A similar dip at very low latitudes is also seen in the Atlantic and
527 Pacific (Figure 3; Chance et al., 2014). This feature is replicated in our model and is thought
528 to be due to the advection and vertical mixing associated with the seasonally varying
529 equatorial current system (see final section).

530

531 As already noted, exceptionally high sea surface iodide concentrations of 1241 and 949 nM
532 were observed at two stations in the Bay of Bengal (BS3 & BS8). Very high near-surface
533 iodide concentrations were also observed at Station AR nearby (2039, 1546 & 479 nM at 10,
534 25 & 50 m respectively; see Figure S1 in Supplementary Information). We believe these
535 concentrations are real, and not the result of contamination or analytical error because: (i)
536 repeat analyses gave the same results, (ii) very high concentration samples were also
537 analysed by ion chromatography, a completely independent method, and this yielded
538 concentrations within 10% of those obtained by voltammetry (1277 and 960 nM for samples
539 BS3 and BS8 respectively, and 1693 nM for Station AR at 25 m depth), (iii) results for
540 Station AR show oceanographic consistency (see Figure S1), (iv) no likely sources of iodine
541 contamination were present during sampling. It is possible that the high, very localised,
542 iodide concentrations could arise from the break-down of an iodine rich substrate, for
543 instance a mass of brown macroalgae such as *Laminaria digitata*. However, nothing unusual
544 of this nature was observed during sampling. These very high iodide levels result in total
545 (dissolved) inorganic iodine concentrations more than double (2.2 and 2.6 times larger) the
546 near universally observed value of ~450-500 nM (Chance et al. 2014). This amount of iodide
547 cannot be accounted for solely by the reduction of iodate in the water column (as this could
548 only yield concentrations up to ~500 nM). Instead it implies an exogenous source of iodine,
549 which is either already in the form of iodide, or is reduced to iodide following introduction to
550 the water column.

551
552 Samples with elevated iodide exhibited relatively low surface salinity (Figure S1,
553 Supplementary Information), possibly indicating an association with freshwater inputs. The
554 Bay of Bengal is characterized by very heterogeneous salinity - low salinity is caused by
555 monsoon rainfall and high riverine inputs to the north, while high salinity water arrives from
556 the Arabian Sea via the intense Southwest Monsoon Current (SMC). The BoBBLe cruise
557 took place during the Asian summer monsoon season, during which the region experiences
558 high rainfall. However, atmospheric wet deposition is thought unlikely to be the source of
559 elevated iodide because meteoric water has a lower iodine content than seawater (20-124 nM
560 (Sadasivan and Anand 1979); 4.7-26.2 nM; (Gilfedder, Petri, and Biester 2007)).
561 Furthermore, observations of elevated sea surface iodide did not correspond to rainfall events
562 encountered during the BoBBLe cruise itself. Similarly, riverine inputs are unlikely to be the
563 iodide source, as total iodine concentrations in rivers, including the Ganges, are lower than or
564 comparable to those in seawater (≤ 20 ug/L, ~ 157 nM; (Moran, Oktay, and Santschi 2002;
565 Ghose, Das, and Saha 2003)), and the area surveyed was away from major outflows. While
566 freshwater inputs are thus not thought to be the source of the excess iodide, stratification
567 caused by rainwater dilution of surface layers could plausibly contribute to the persistence of
568 high iodide concentrations at the ocean surface.

569
570 In addition to the SMC, the second main oceanographic feature in the BoBBLe study area is a
571 wind driven upwelling feature called the Sri Lanka Dome (SLD), which manifests as a large
572 cyclonic gyre in the south western part of the BoB to the east of Sri Lanka. Both the SLD and
573 the SMC were well developed and distinct during the study period (Vinayachandran et al.
574 2018). Extreme iodide values were observed at stations north (AR, BS3) and east (BS8) of
575 the SLD, but not in the stations that were inside the SLD (Figure S1 and S2, Supp Info)
576 (Vinayachandran et al. 2018). High iodide station AR exhibited high seawater pCO₂ (467–
577 554 atm), low surface pH and low alkalinity, indicative of upwelled waters that are presumed
578 to be associated with the SMC (Vinayachandran et al. 2018). Station BS3 was close in space
579 and time, while station BS8 was also influenced by the SMC (Vinayachandran et al. 2018).
580 We therefore speculate that the high iodide observed is in some way related to the SMC.

581 However, the high salinity core of the SMC (i.e. Arabian Sea water), which was evident at
582 depths of ~25-150 m at stations east of the SLD, was not itself associated with elevated
583 iodide (Figure S1, Supplementary Information). This suggests the excess iodide was not in
584 the main water mass carried by the SMC, and did not originate from the Arabian Sea. Instead
585 we suggest its source could be coastal waters that are entrained in the periphery of the SMC
586 and carried into the BoB with it.

587
588 Comparable high iodide concentrations have previously been observed in low oxygen sub-
589 surface waters in the north western part of the Arabian Sea (Farrenkopf and Luther 2002);
590 these were attributed to advection from shelf sediments. More recently, plumes of very high
591 iodide sub-surface concentrations (~1000 nM) have also been reported in sub-oxic waters in
592 the Eastern Tropical South Pacific (ETSP) (Cutter et al. 2018) and the Eastern Tropical North
593 Pacific (ETNP) (Moriyasu et al. 2020). In both cases some outcropping of elevated iodide
594 concentrations at the ocean surface was observed (Cutter et al., 2018; Moriyasu et al., 2020).
595 In the ETSP, the plume followed an isopycnal and was associated with corresponding
596 features in Fe(II) and nitrite, so was again thought to be due to a shelf sediment iodide source
597 (Cutter et al. 2018). Elevated concentrations persisted more than 1000 km from the shelf
598 break due to the relatively long iodide lifetime in seawater with respect to oxidation. Trace
599 metal concentrations were not measured during the BoBBLe cruise, but sub-surface waters in
600 the region have previously been reported to contain additional dissolved Fe from sedimentary
601 inputs (Grand et al. 2015), suggesting it is plausible that stations on the edge of the SLD
602 could be influenced by sedimentary interactions. Waters over the western Indian shelf
603 experience severe hypoxia (Naqvi et al. 2000), and so could be subject to significant
604 sedimentary iodide inputs as implicated in other low oxygen regions (Cutter et al. 2018;
605 Farrenkopf and Luther 2002). During the Southwest Monsoon, the West Indian Coastal
606 Current flows south along the west coast of India, and these waters are advected along the
607 path of the SMC into the BoB. We speculate that such waters have potential to contain
608 'excess' iodide levels as a result of sedimentary inputs, and that it is the remnants of these
609 water masses that we may have sampled. Iodide has a long lifetime in oxygenated seawater
610 (6 months to several years; Chance et al., 2014; Hardisty et al., 2020), and so a signal may be
611 expected to persist where other indicators of sedimentary inputs are lost (Cutter et al., 2018),
612 and could potentially reach the ocean surface via upwelling areas such as the south western
613 BoB (Figure S2, Supplementary Information).

614
615 In the northern Indian Ocean agreement between model and observations is poorer than
616 elsewhere, but modelled concentrations fall within the range of the observations in the area.
617 Furthermore, the model predicts unusually high iodide concentrations in the BoB, where
618 extremely high iodide concentrations were observed. As the model does not currently include
619 sedimentary processes, this suggests additional physical and biogeochemical processes may
620 also contribute to elevated iodide levels in the BoB.

621
622 We believe this is the third reported observation of very elevated (>500 nM) iodide
623 concentrations at the surface of the open ocean. The dataset reported by Cutter et al. (2018)
624 contains two surface samples with iodide concentrations of 594 and 960 nM immediately off
625 the coast of Peru, while transects in (Moriyasu et al. 2020), show patches of high iodide
626 outcropping at the surface. An extreme surface iodide concentration of ~700 nM has also
627 been reported for the brackish waters of the Skagerrak (Truesdale, Danielssen, and Waite
628 2003), a shallow strait that is subject to hypoxia (Johannessen and Dahl 1996). The paucity of
629 previous observations suggests it is a rare phenomenon, but it may nonetheless be of local
630 significance.

631
632 Atmospheric ozone deposition and iodine emission fluxes will proportionally increase where
633 surface iodide concentrations are high. An increase in iodide from 150 to 2050 nM (x 13.7)
634 leads to a 5-6 fold increase in total iodine emissions, for a typical ambient ozone
635 concentration of 25 ppb and a wind speed of 7 m s⁻¹ (Figure S3, Supplementary Information).
636 This comprises a 4.5-fold increase in HOI emissions, which dominates the flux, and a 30-fold
637 increase in I₂ emissions, which increase from 5.5% of the total flux at 150 nM iodide to 28%
638 at 2050 nM iodide. It is assumed that the regional atmospheric impact of such ‘hot-spots’ will
639 be low, as they will only represent a small proportion of the relevant footprint area. However,
640 the atmospheric impacts of such areas may become significant if either very localised
641 processes are being considered, or their extent and/or frequency of occurrence increases. As
642 areas of low oxygen waters in contact with shelf sediments become more extensive (Naqvi et
643 al. 2000), the possibility that this could impact on surface iodide concentrations in coastal
644 regions may need to be considered. Understanding the potential impact of low oxygen
645 conditions and sedimentary inputs on surface iodide concentrations, and hence local
646 atmospheric chemistry, requires both the sedimentary fluxes and the lifetime of iodide in
647 oxygenated seawater to be better constrained. The atmospheric boundary layer above the
648 northern Indian Ocean has high iodine oxide (IO) levels, with inputs dominated by the
649 inorganic iodine flux from the ozone-iodide reaction (>90%), as a result of “ozone-related”
650 pollution outflow (Prados-Roman et al. 2015). Hence atmospheric chemistry in the region
651 may be particularly sensitive to changes in the surface iodide budget.

652
653 ***Exploring physical and biogeochemical controls on sea surface iodide in the Indian Ocean***
654 ***using the ocean iodine cycling model***
655

656 The trends in sea surface iodide concentrations observed across the south Indian subtropical
657 gyre and Indian sector of the Southern Ocean are well replicated by the iodine cycling model
658 of Wadley et al. (2020) (Figure 7a). We used the model to explore how physical (MLD,
659 advection, net surface freshwater flux) and biogeochemical (productivity, iodide formation to
660 carbon fixation ratio) factors influence iodine cycling in the study area.

661
662 Biological productivity drives iodide formation in the model, but has a different spatial
663 distribution to iodide in the Indian Ocean basin (Figure 7a, b). Although both tend to
664 increase moving north along the transect, the very strong peak in productivity centred on 40°S
665 (Figure 7b) has no corresponding peak in either observed or simulated iodide concentrations.
666 This indicates that other processes are also important in determining the iodide distribution.
667 Imposing a constant level of productivity (set at the annual mean for each grid point)
668 throughout the year had very little effect on modelled iodide concentrations, (Figure 7c),
669 suggesting that the seasonal cycle of iodide production does not have a dominant effect on
670 iodide concentrations. Halving the productivity in the model reduces simulated iodide
671 concentrations by around a half south of 40°S (where iodide is very low, and iodate high), but
672 only by around a quarter north of 40°S, and has almost no effect in the northern Indian Ocean
673 where modelled iodide is highest (and thus modelled iodate lowest, at ≤ 300 nM). This may
674 indicate that lower iodate concentrations to the north limit iodide production. The amount of
675 iodide produced per unit primary productivity is specified in a spatially variable I:C ratio
676 (Figure 7e; (Wadley et al. 2020). Halving this ratio is equivalent to halving primary
677 production, and has identical consequences (Figure 7f).

678
679 As iodide is assumed to be evenly distributed throughout the mixed layer, surface
680 concentrations are dependent on the MLD. Summer MLD minima are similar throughout the

681 section, with typical values of a few tens of metres, whereas late winter MLD maxima
682 increase with latitude (Figure 7j). Deepening of the MLD decreases iodide concentrations
683 throughout the mixed layer as a result of dilution, while shoaling of the MLD decreases the
684 total amount of iodide present integrated over the mixed layer, but does not change the
685 concentration at any given depth within it. Removing the seasonal cycle of MLD in the
686 model (by replacing with the annual mean MLD for each grid point) increases surface iodide
687 concentrations, particularly at lower latitudes (Figure 7k), indicating that the removal of
688 iodide through MLD shoaling is important. Removing both seasonal and spatial variation in
689 the MLD by setting it to a uniform 56 m results in substantial increases in surface iodide
690 concentrations at higher latitudes (Figure 7l), due to elimination of both dilution and shoaling
691 effects. In contrast, doubling the MLD decreases iodide concentrations, with the greatest
692 effect seen where iodide concentrations are highest (Figure 7m). Interestingly, this brings
693 modelled and observed iodide concentrations into good agreement around the equator.
694 Inspection of SK333 CTD data indicates that at the time of sampling, actual MLDs in this
695 region (between 50 to 100 m) were deeper than the climatological values used in the model
696 (less than 40 m; Figure 7j), which may indicate that short term variations in MLD, for
697 example due to weather events, affected iodide concentrations.

698
699 In the model, phytoplankton mediated iodide formation occurs 60 days after the uptake of
700 carbon, and the interplay of this lag period with the MLD cycle could influence iodide
701 concentrations. However, changing the duration of the lag to 0 and 120 days in the model has
702 only a small impact on the iodide, and only at high latitudes (Figures 7g and 7h).

703
704 The seasonal MLD cycle imposes an annual timescale on the removal of iodide from the
705 mixed layer where the seasonal cycle has a large amplitude, but vertical and horizontal
706 advection also exchange water between the surface layer and ocean interior. Turning off the
707 circulation in the model, so that vertical mixing is the only physical mechanism for iodide
708 removal from the mixed layer also results in increased mixed layer iodide concentrations at
709 almost all locations (Figure 7n).

710
711 In addition to removal by MLD shoaling, the model also allows for the removal of mixed
712 layer iodide by oxidation to iodate, via a pathway linked to nitrification (Hughes et al. 2020;
713 Wadley et al. 2020). Eliminating this pathway has little impact on modelled iodide
714 concentrations at high latitudes, but results in a significant increase in concentrations north of
715 40°S (Figure 7i). This is because the iodide oxidation timescale in the model is multi-annual,
716 and hence its impact is modulated by the lifetime of iodide in the mixed layer with reference
717 to vertical mixing. At high latitudes, large seasonal changes in the MLD result in low
718 sensitivity to oxidation, whereas at lower latitudes there is less annual mixed layer exchange,
719 resulting in a longer iodide residence time, and hence oxidation is a more important process
720 for mixed layer iodide removal.

721
722 The net surface freshwater flux resulting from precipitation and evaporation (P-E) acts to
723 respectively dilute or concentrate iodide in the mixed layer (Figure 7o). Setting the P-E flux
724 to zero has a small impact on iodide, decreasing concentrations in the subtropical gyres where
725 evaporation is strong. Thus at these latitudes evaporation results in a modest increase in
726 iodide concentrations.

727
728 The model sensitivity tests described above confirm that sea surface iodide concentrations in
729 the Indian and Southern Oceans are determined by a combination of factors which interact
730 non-linearly. The dominant processes that determine iodide concentrations are the rate of

731 iodide production, which is a function of productivity and the I:C ratio, and the MLD and its
732 seasonal cycle, which acts to dilute and remove iodide from the surface layer. Loss by
733 oxidation has the greatest impact at lower latitudes where physical removal mechanisms are
734 weakest. As the climate changes over coming decades, changes in any of these factors are
735 likely to result in changes in sea surface iodide concentrations. For example, the 100 to 300
736 m depth layer in the Indian Ocean has significantly warmed since 2003 as a result of heat
737 distribution from the Pacific (Nieves et al., 2015) and this is likely to reduce stratification,
738 and enhance vertical mixing, with an accompanying reduction in mixed layer iodide
739 concentrations. Conversely, changes in nutrient inputs to the Indian Ocean and declining
740 oxygen levels will act to reduce iodide oxidation, due to its association with nitrification
741 (Hughes et al. 2020), and hence may act to increase iodide concentrations. Any changes in
742 productivity, and/or shifts to different phytoplankton types with different I:C ratios, will also
743 potentially alter the rate of iodide production, although this has been found to predominantly
744 impact on iodide concentrations at higher latitudes (Wadley et al., *Manuscript In*
745 *Preparation*).

746
747
748 [Figure 7]
749
750
751

752 **Concluding remarks**

753 The 127 sea surface iodide observations examined here represent a substantial (>10%)
754 increase in the number of measurements that have been made across the global oceans (925
755 individual observations were included in Chance et al., 2014). They span nearly 80 degrees
756 latitude in the Indian Ocean and Indian sector of the Southern Ocean, a region where very
757 few (n=2) surface observations were previously available. This increase in observations will
758 facilitate better predictions of sea surface iodide concentrations, and consequent atmospheric
759 chemistry, and the data has already been incorporated in a new global iodide database
760 (Chance et al., 2019) and parameterisation (Sherwen et al. 2019).

761
762 The large scale latitudinal trends observed in the Indian Ocean and Indian sector of the
763 Southern Ocean are similar to those in other ocean basins (Chance et al. 2014). At subtropical
764 latitudes, the latitudinal and temperature dependency of iodide is steeper than in other ocean
765 basins. Therefore, using global scale relationships with SST (e.g. (MacDonald et al. 2014)) to
766 predict regional scale iodide concentrations for the Indian Ocean will be subject to biases.
767 Exploration of this basin scale difference using the a state-of-the-art global iodine cycling
768 model (Wadley et al. 2020) indicates that it may be driven by differences in biological iodide
769 production. We have also used the model to explore the controls on the sea-surface iodide
770 distribution in the Indian Ocean basin. Model sensitivity tests indicate that sea surface iodide
771 is likely to be a function of vertical mixing and the seasonal cycle in MLD, the rate of iodide
772 production, which is related to productivity and the I:C ratio, and – at lower latitudes – iodide
773 oxidation in the mixed layer. These factors interact in a non-linear manner.

774
775 Exceptionally high iodide concentrations were observed at a small number of stations in the
776 northern Indian Ocean. Such high concentrations are rare, but have been reported previously
777 in low oxygen subsurface waters (Farrenkopf and Luther 2002), and more recently, in surface
778 waters above the Peruvian and Mexican oxygen deficient zones (Cutter et al. 2018; Moriyasu
779 et al. 2020). In all cases, the excess iodide is suggested to be sedimentary in origin, raising
780 the possibility that processes at the sea floor could influence air-sea interactions, should that

781 water reach the sea surface. Although such iodide 'hot-spots' are unlikely to have significant
782 impact on a global or regional scale, it is possible they may impact on local scale air-sea
783 exchange processes involving iodine. Their existence also means care must be taken to
784 ensure iodide concentrations used to generate parameterisations are representative of the
785 entire study area.

786

787 Marine iodine cycling is anticipated to be affected by global change, with consequent impacts
788 on atmospheric chemistry. The Indian Ocean basin is subject to a number of specific
789 pressures with potential to affect iodine cycling. Despite the empirical relationship between
790 SSI and SST, changes in vertical mixing as a result of the Indian Ocean warming may in fact
791 reduce mixed layer iodide concentrations. Meanwhile, changes to biological processes as a
792 result of anthropogenic nutrient inputs, ocean deoxygenation and changes in heat distribution
793 are likely to impact iodide production and loss processes. Such changes will in turn impact
794 ozone deposition and iodine emission from the sea surface.

795 **Data Availability Statement**

796 Sea surface iodide concentration data described in this work is available from the British
797 Oceanographic Data Centre, as part of a global compilation of observations doi:10/czlx
798 (Chance et al. 2019). Additional supporting datasets are available on request to the
799 corresponding author.

800

801 **Author contributions**

802 LT, AS, AKS and AM collected seawater samples during the three research cruises; LT and
803 RJC analysed samples for iodine speciation; AS, AKS and RR provided supporting
804 biogeochemical measurements; RC and PS provided insight regarding physical oceanography
805 in the study area; DS and MW performed the iodine modelling described in Section 4; RJC
806 and LT interpreted the data and wrote the manuscript with input from TDJ and MW, other
807 authors also provided comments on the manuscript; LJC, TDJ, AM and RJC conceived the
808 study.

809

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815

816 **Conflict of Interest**

817 The authors declare no competing interests.

818

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