

Nutriments et biomasse microalgale de l'interface eau-glace au large de Kuujjuarapik, Baie d'Hudson, Arctique Canadien



Nutrient analyses were done in melted ice, frazil and sea water of the upper part of the water column, where as major constitutive elements of micro-algae were analysed. Measurements of nutrient uptake were carried out with frazil algae incubated at -1.5 degree C in a field incubator. Differential-enrichment bioassays and mean N/P ratio (5.9) demonstrated that actual growth of the cultures was nutrient-limited. Nitrogen governed the algal yield when illumination and grazing allowed the microalgae to grow. It concluded that the epontic dynamics is not only controlled from above, by the seasonal (climatic) changes in light intensity as generally assumed, but also from below, by the short-term (hydrodynamic) events of vertical mixing that replenish the ice-water interface in nutrients.

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