Team 5 – Contaminants All-Hands Meeting 14 November 2019

Mercury transport and transformation in the Hudson Bay system in response to <u>hydroelectric development</u> and <u>changing climate</u>



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Team 5 – Contaminants

Guiding hypotheses:

- H1: Organic matter is the primary control over mercury methylation in the water column and in sediments
- H2: Flooding and changing climate are playing an increasing role in mercury accumulation at the base of the Hudson Bay marine and coastal food webs



Team 5 – Contaminants: Tasks

5.2: Suspended sediment and organic/inorganic matter fingerprinting

5.1: Determine the relationship between mercury methylation and organic matter remineralization

5.3: Mass balance model of methyl mercury in Hudson Bay



- 5.2: Suspended sediment and organic/inorganic matter fingerprinting
- T Stainton (2019)







S Huyghe, ZZ Kuzyk

Downcore Profiles of Radioisotopes Ra-226 and Pb-210



S Huyghe, ZZ Kuzyk

Downcore Profiles of OC



S Huyghe, ZZ Kuzyk



5.1: Determine the relationship between mercury methylation and organic matter remineralization

• J Singer (defense 28 November, 2019)







5.1: Determine the relationship between mercury methylation and organic matter remineralization

- Connect watershed processes to Hudson Bay input
 - Datasets
 - Sediment trap subsamples
 - Nanuk campaign
 - BaySys 2018 cruise
 - Historical: 2005-2012 (A. Hare, G. McCullough, ArcticNet)



Rivers

Western HB Rivers 20-·2.0 total methyl Ð -1.5 -1.0 -1.0 -0.5 unfiltered THg (pM) 15-0 В p = 0.0203 0 10- \Box П Ο Ο 5-p = 0.0668 0-+0.0 54 56 58 62 **64** 60 Latitude (°N)



Natural Resources Canada, 2015

KM Munson

Sediment



Decreasing %MeHg offshore suggest local methylation rather than methylation due to resuspension *but wait for sediment budget

250 m

50 m

100 m





Water column

- [MeHg] not correlated with [THg], which has opposite trends with O₂ and NO₃
- Provides empirical relationships needed to link to BGC model output



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Water column

- [MeHg] increase with depth
- Water column or sediment source?



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5.3: Mass balance model of methyl mercury in Hudson Bay



- Stuff on previous slides
- Also, benthic invertebrate and zooplankton THg analyzed
 - MeHg samples selected for external analysis

Hare et al, 2008 Total mercury mass balance for Hudson Bay Updated for 2018 bay-wide cruise measurements