

Interannual variation in phytoplankton blooms and zooplankton productivity and abundance in the Gulf of Maine during winter

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ABSTRACT: An anomalous winter phytoplankton bloom was observed across the central Gulf of Maine during a winter cruise in late February 1999, but not during a similar mission to the same region in late February 2000. During the cruise in 1999, 0 to 40 m mean chl *a* concentrations were $>2 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$, while in 2000 total chl *a* concentrations were <1.0 , and $>5 \mu\text{m}$ size fractions were $<0.5 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$. The presence of the bloom in 1999 could not be explained in terms of the critical depth hypothesis given conditions present at the time of the bloom. The large amount of colder, lower-salinity Scotian Shelf water present at the surface of the central Gulf of Maine in 1999 may have provided conditions suitable for the initiation of the bloom earlier during the winter. The presence of the winter bloom had a major effect on higher trophic levels. Zooplankton were $>10\times$ more abundant in 1999 and included species typically not present in the central Gulf during winter. All developmental stages of planktonic copepods were present, including large numbers of older copepodid stages of species such as *Calanus finmarchicus*, indicating that the bloom had been proceeding for some time. RNA:DNA ratios of surface *C. finmarchicus* stage C5 and adult females were at or near maximum temperature-dependent values in 1999, but were considerably reduced in 2000. Egg production rates of *C. finmarchicus* were high in 1999 but reduced in 2000. Both showed a curvilinear relationship with chl *a*. Analysis of gonads of females of other copepod species indicate similar between-year differences in reproductive rates. We suggest that the presence of the winter bloom in the central Gulf of Maine allows an extra generation of *C. finmarchicus* and other copepods to develop, leading to a buildup of the population during winter. This will have significant effects on downstream regions such as Georges Bank, which depend on re-supply from the Gulf of Maine.

KEY WORDS: *Calanus finmarchicus* · Gulf of Maine · Phytoplankton bloom · Egg production · RNA:DNA

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INTRODUCTION

Phytoplankton production in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) typically follows the classic spring bloom cycle. It was in this region that Gran & Braarud (1935) suggested that stabilization of the water column by thermal stratification allowed the phytoplankton to remain in the euphotic zone and grow. Further studies have shown that initiation of the winter–spring bloom in the GOM does not

normally begin until late March–April (Bigelow 1926, Durbin et al. 1995, O'Reilly & Zetlin 1998). Prior to the initiation of the bloom, phytoplankton levels are low with concentrations $<0.5 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ (Durbin et al. 1995, O'Reilly & Zetlin 1998). The timing of the development of the bloom is considered to be controlled by light limitation (Gran & Braarud 1935, Townsend & Spinrad 1986). This is based on the concept of critical depth (Sverdrup 1953); the depth in the water column at which phytoplankton pho-

tosynthesis, vertically integrated from the surface, equals respiration. The upper mixed layer must be less than the critical depth for a net increase in phytoplankton to occur. It is usually assumed that seasonal development of the thermocline, in combination with increasing solar radiation, is needed for the development of the bloom.

Timing of the development of the phytoplankton bloom may have important consequences for higher trophic levels. Studies indicate a generally low abundance of zooplankton in the GOM during winter (e.g. Bigelow 1926, Fish & Johnson 1937, Sherman et al. 1983, Meise et al. 1990, Meise & O'Reilly 1996, Jossi & Kane 2000). The dominant copepod in the GOM during winter and spring, *Calanus finmarchicus*, returns to the surface after a resting period in early winter and begins reproduction (Durbin et al. 1997, Durbin et al. 2000). Based on studies in other regions and in the laboratory (Campbell et al. 2001a,b) we would expect growth and reproduction of *C. finmarchicus* to be limited by the low food concentrations normally present at this time prior to the spring bloom. In a modeling study of *C. finmarchicus* in the GOM, Lynch et al. (1998) found that they had to impose a food limitation effect to delay successful reproduction during the winter in order to fit available abundance data. Here we describe results from cruises across the GOM during late February 1999 and 2000. In 1999 it was clear that an extensive bloom

was occurring, whereas in 2000 phytoplankton concentrations were very low. Zooplankton were about a factor of 10 more abundant in 1999 than in 2000 and were growing and reproducing at, or near, maximal rates. By contrast during 2000 there was strong food limitation of growth and reproduction.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field sampling. Cruises were carried out between February 27 and March 4, 1999, on RV 'Endeavor' (Cruise EN319) and February 20 and 25, 2000, on NOAA ship 'Delaware II' along a N-S transect between the Maine Coast and Georges Bank (GB) (Fig. 1). At each station a CTD cast for vertical profiles of temperature and salinity was conducted. Water samples for analyses of nutrients and chl *a* were collected from a series of depths on the same casts using Niskin bottles mounted on a rosette sampler. Water samples for nutrients were filtered through 0.45 μm Millipore cellulose acetate membrane filters, after first flushing the filter with water, and then frozen in 20 ml polyethylene scintillation vials. Samples were analyzed for NH_4 , NO_3 , NO_2 , and PO_4 using a Technicon II AutoAnalyzer and standard techniques (Whitledge et al. 1986). Size-fractionated chl *a* (total and $<5 \mu\text{m}$ size fractions) was measured fluorometrically on discrete water samples (Parsons et al. 1984). Samples were filtered onto GF/F filters, immediately extracted in 90% acetone in a freezer for 24 h, and then measured on a Turner fluorometer. The difference between the $<5 \mu\text{m}$ and the total chl *a* gave the $>5 \mu\text{m}$ size fraction.

Zooplankton was collected with a 1 m^2 MOCNESS and a plankton pump at all stations. The MOCNESS was equipped with 0.150 mm nets. The MOCNESS zooplankton samples were collected from 0 to 15, 15 to 40, 40 to 100, 100 to 200, and 200 m to the bottom. The plankton pump system, collected naupliar stages of copepods, as well as other small zooplankton. It consisted of a 6.4 cm diameter ribbed suction hose and an 8 hp diaphragm gasoline-powered pump which pumped water into a net (0.035 mm) suspended in a receiver tank on the deck of the ship. Flow rates (approx. 200 l min^{-1}) and sample volumes were measured with a Signet flow meter. Samples were collected by deploying the hose to the maximum depth and then retrieving it at a constant rate while pumping continuously. Nets were switched at the appropriate intervals to provide integrated samples collected over 0 to 15, 15 to 40, 40 to 75 and 75 to 100 m depth ranges. Pump flow rates and hose volume were used to determine when the nets should be switched. Both MOCNESS and pump samples were preserved in 4% borate buffered formalin for later analysis.

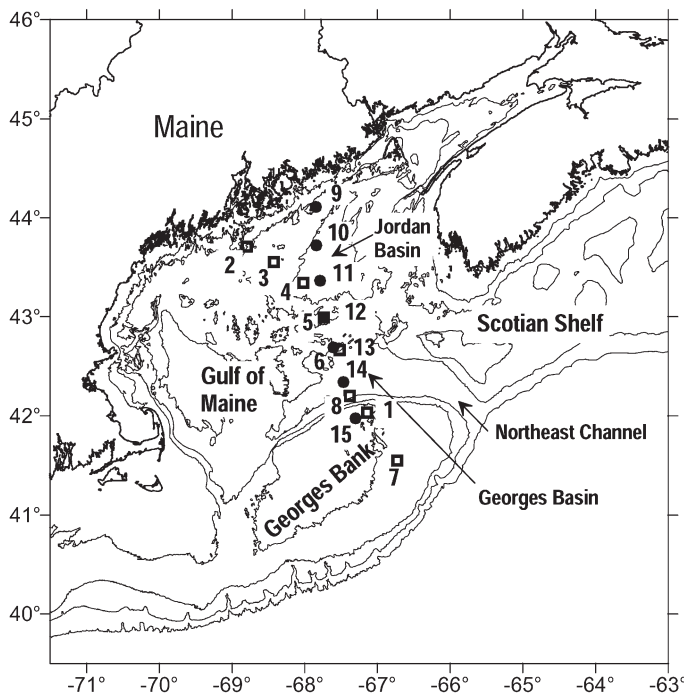


Fig. 1. Map of the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Georges Bank (GB) showing station locations. Open squares are the stations sampled during February 1999, filled circles are the stations sampled during February 2000. Isobaths of 50, 100, 200, and 300 m are shown

Egg production rates. Egg production (EP) rates of *Calanus finmarchicus* followed the procedure described in Runge & Roff (2000). At each station 40 females from vertical live tows were sorted immediately after capture and placed individually in 30 ml petri dishes. At 8 h intervals, eggs were counted and removed from the incubation dishes. Hatching success of *C. finmarchicus* eggs at Stns 3 to 8 was measured by incubation in 4 to 5 replicate scintillation vials for a 72 to 120 h period at 5 to 7°C. Each scintillation vial contained 50 randomly selected eggs produced during incubations and gently sorted with an automatic pipet. Hatching success at Stn 1 (no measurements made at Stn 2) was estimated by removal of spawning females at the end of the 24 h incubation, maintaining eggs in the incubation dishes at 5 to 7°C and counting the number of nauplii present in each dish after 120 h.

EP rates of *Pseudocalanus* spp. were estimated from observations of the rate of extrusion of eggs into egg sacs. Females were kept in groups of 5 in replicate scintillation vials (45 ml) containing either filtered seawater or a feeding mixture of a diatom, *Skeletonema costatum*, and a green alga, *Nannochloropsis* spp. During sorting, the proportion of females carrying egg sacs was recorded. Only replicate vials in which all females were not carrying egg sacs at the time of initial sorting were analyzed. After 24 h, the contents in the vials were preserved in 4% formalin for later analysis of egg sac number and body size. The daily 'egg extrusion rate' per female was calculated as the total number of eggs (either free or in attached or detached egg sacs) divided by the number of females. To obtain the female-specific egg extrusion rates in the population, this rate was multiplied by 1 – (proportion of females carrying egg sacs initially), under the assumption that females already carrying egg sacs at the start of the incubation would not extrude another batch of eggs during the 24 h incubation.

Gonadal indices. Portions of the cod-end contents of the live net tows were preserved in formalin and glutaraldehyde for determination of the reproductive index and staging of gonad development. The reproductive index of *Calanus finmarchicus* females was estimated according to criteria described by Niehoff & Hirche (1996) with modifications for changes in clutch number as described by Niehoff & Runge (unpubl.). Stages of gonad development in *Pseudocalanus* spp. were assessed according to criteria described in Niehoff (2003).

RNA:DNA. Copepodid stage 5 (C5) and adult female (C6F) *Calanus finmarchicus* for nucleic acid measurements were usually sorted from the MOCNESS hauls. In 1999, copepods were always collected from the surface (0 to 15 m) and bottom (depths varied) nets. In 2000, if the bottom depth exceeded 200 m, copepods

were sorted from the 100 to 200 m net rather than the bottom net, which often did not collect enough individuals of both stages. In 1999 stages C5 and adult were also collected from a vertical haul (1 m² ring net, 0.333 mm mesh, 0 to 40 m) at Stn 1 on GB 4 d before the beginning of the transect at Stn 2. In 1999, naupliar stages were sorted from shallow vertical hauls (1 m² ring net, 0.10 mm mesh) at Stn 2 (0 to 20 m) and Stn 4 (0 to 50 m) in the GOM. No naupliar stages were sampled for nucleic acid measurements in 2000.

The zooplankton was sorted immediately for nucleic acid sampling, and was kept as cold as possible during all subsequent steps. Zooplankton collected with the MOCNESS was kept cold by placing frozen gel ice packs into the buckets. Zooplankton collected with ring nets were diluted in filtered seawater and stored in 4 l jars in a cooler on deck. Before sorting, zooplankton was concentrated, rinsed into a beaker with anesthetic solution (MS-222 in filtered seawater, 0.58 g l⁻¹) and kept on ice for not more than 1 h. Small amounts of the anesthetized plankton were poured into 20 × 60 mm petri dishes for sorting under the dissecting microscope. Zooplankton under the microscope was not chilled but was sorted quickly and replaced frequently. The target sample size was 25 stage C5 and C6F *Calanus finmarchicus* which were sampled individually. In cases where *C. finmarchicus* were scarce, as few as 5 individuals were sampled. We collected fewer than 10 individuals from only 2 of 50 samples. In 2000, stage C5 was virtually absent from the surface in the GOM and was only sampled at 1 station. Copepods were sorted by stage into depression slides containing a drop of anesthetic solution, and video images of each copepod were recorded so that prosome lengths could be measured later in the laboratory. After recording, the copepods were placed in 1.7 ml screw-cap microcentrifuge tubes (Eppendorf Safe-Twist) and stored in the vapor phase of liquid nitrogen for the duration of the cruise. Upon return to the laboratory the samples were stored at –80°C.

Nucleic acids were measured by using the microplate fluorescent assay (MFA) described by Wagner et al. (1998). Copepod samples were homogenized in a 1% sarcosyl solution (N-lauroylsarcosine, a detergent) and RNA and DNA were quantified by measuring the fluorescence of the unpurified homogenate in ethidium bromide before and after treatment with ribonuclease A (RNase). RNA:DNA ratios were expressed relative to the laboratory-derived expected values for each stage under excess-food conditions (relative RNA:DNA index, Wagner et al. 2001).

Critical depth model. The critical depth hypothesis proposes that a spring phytoplankton bloom will occur once the critical depth, i.e. the depth at which total water column phytoplankton photosynthesis equals respiration, exceeds the depth of the upper mixed

layer. A vertically integrated mean irradiance value of 20.9 W m^{-2} has been found to define this critical depth (Riley 1957, Pingree et al. 1976, Hitchcock & Smayda 1977, Townsend & Spinrad 1986, Townsend et al. 1992). The light reaching a particular depth I_z is given by:

$$I_z = I_0(1 - r)\exp(-k_1z[1 - k_2\tan^{-1}(k_3z)])$$

(Townsend et al. 1992), where I_0 is the solar radiation reaching the sea surface (W m^{-2}), r is the reflectance at the air-sea boundary ($r \approx 0.021$ averaged over the visible spectrum), z is the depth (m), and the coefficients k_1 , k_2 and k_3 are attenuation coefficients from measured irradiance profiles. For non-bloom conditions in the GOM these were $k_1 = 0.089 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $k_2 = 0.381 \text{ m}^{-1}$, $k_3 = 1.72 \text{ m}^{-1}$ (Townsend et al. 1992). Daily averages of incoming solar radiation for January and February 1999 and 2000 were taken from the Woods Hole weather station (<http://www.whoi.edu/climate/>). I_z was then calculated at 1 m intervals between the surface and 50 m each day and the critical depth identified as the depth at which the depth-averaged vertically integrated irradiance was equal to 20.9 W m^{-2} .

Zooplankton enumeration. Pump and MOCNESS samples were split with a folsom splitter into aliquots containing about 1200 animals. Both the nauplii and copepodids of *Calanus finmarchicus* and *Pseudocalanus* spp. were staged and enumerated. Adults of other taxa were identified to species in most cases. In several cases where taxa are very similar they were not distinguished. For example, adults of *Oithona similis* and *O. colcarva* were grouped together as *Oithona* spp., although most were *O. similis*. Younger stages were grouped as copepodids and nauplii and identified to species where possible (e.g. *Temora longicornis*), or to genus where it was not possible to identify the younger stages to individual species (e.g. *Centropages hamatus*, *C. typicus* and *C. bradyi*). Other zooplankton taxa were identified to the lowest possible taxon and enumerated. Data were entered into an Oracle® database that can be queried on the web at <http://globec.gso.uri.edu>.

For analysis of depth-distribution the weighted mean depth (WMD) was calculated from:

$$\text{WMD} = \sum(n_i z_i) / \sum n_i$$

where n_i is the number of animals within each depth interval (m^{-2}) and z_i is the depth of the middle of the depth interval (Roe et al. 1984).

Zooplankton taxonomic analysis. For descriptive analysis of the taxonomic abundance, data from the MOCNESS and pump were combined. All nauplii data were from the pump samples. Pump data for other taxa were compared with MOCNESS data from the upper 100 m (Wilcoxon's signed rank test). Taxa significantly more abundant in the pump samples ($p < 0.05$) in-

cluded *Microcalanus* spp. copepodids, *Microsetella norvegica* copepodids and adults, *Oithona* spp. copepodids, and *Oncaea* spp. copepodids and adults. Pump data for these taxa were used in the analysis. For *Pseudocalanus* spp. copepodids there were no significant differences between pump and MOCNESS for any stage (partly because of the small sample size). However abundance was greater in the pump samples and we used these for analysis.

Mortality. Estimates of mortality rates were made for successive stage pairs of *Calanus finmarchicus* nauplii from N2 through N6 using the vertical life table (VLT) method (Aksnes & Ohman 1996, Ohman et al. 2002). Mortality estimates exclude N1 because of a sampling bias by the pump (Ohman et al. 2002) and extend only through the N5/N6 stage pair because early copepodids were too rare for reliable estimates of stage ratios. Mortality rates for a combined egg-through-N2 stage were made using a modified version of the VLT method that incorporates estimates of daily EP into the water column by *C. finmarchicus* (see Ohman et al. 2002). Stage durations for egg through N2 were estimated from the temperature-dependent Belehradek relations in Campbell et al. (2001b). Stage durations for feeding naupliar stages (N3 through N6) were based on multiples of the Belehradek functions in Campbell et al. (2001b). The multipliers were based on RNA:DNA ratios of *C. finmarchicus* in the 2 winter cruises, which suggested that stage durations were slowed to 1.1 to 1.6 times Belehradek predictions in February 1999 and from 1.4 to 3.0 times Belehradek predictions in February 2000.

RESULTS

Hydrography

Adjacent to the Maine coast the water column was completely mixed to the bottom during both years (Fig. 2). On GB the water was well-mixed during February 2000 (Stn 15), whereas during February 1999 (Stn 7) there was a shallow layer of colder, less salty water at the surface and a well-mixed water column extending to the bottom beneath this. Surface waters over most of the central GOM were colder and less salty during 1999 compared with 2000 (Fig. 2), indicating the presence of Scotian Shelf water. During 2000 there was a plume of colder, lower-salinity Scotian Shelf water extending into the GOM over Georges Basin (Stn 14, Fig. 2). A large mass of warm slope water was present at depth in the central GOM with a very sharp pycnocline at around 80 m. In 1999, the bottom water was colder, less salty, and the pycnocline less strong. In the cen-

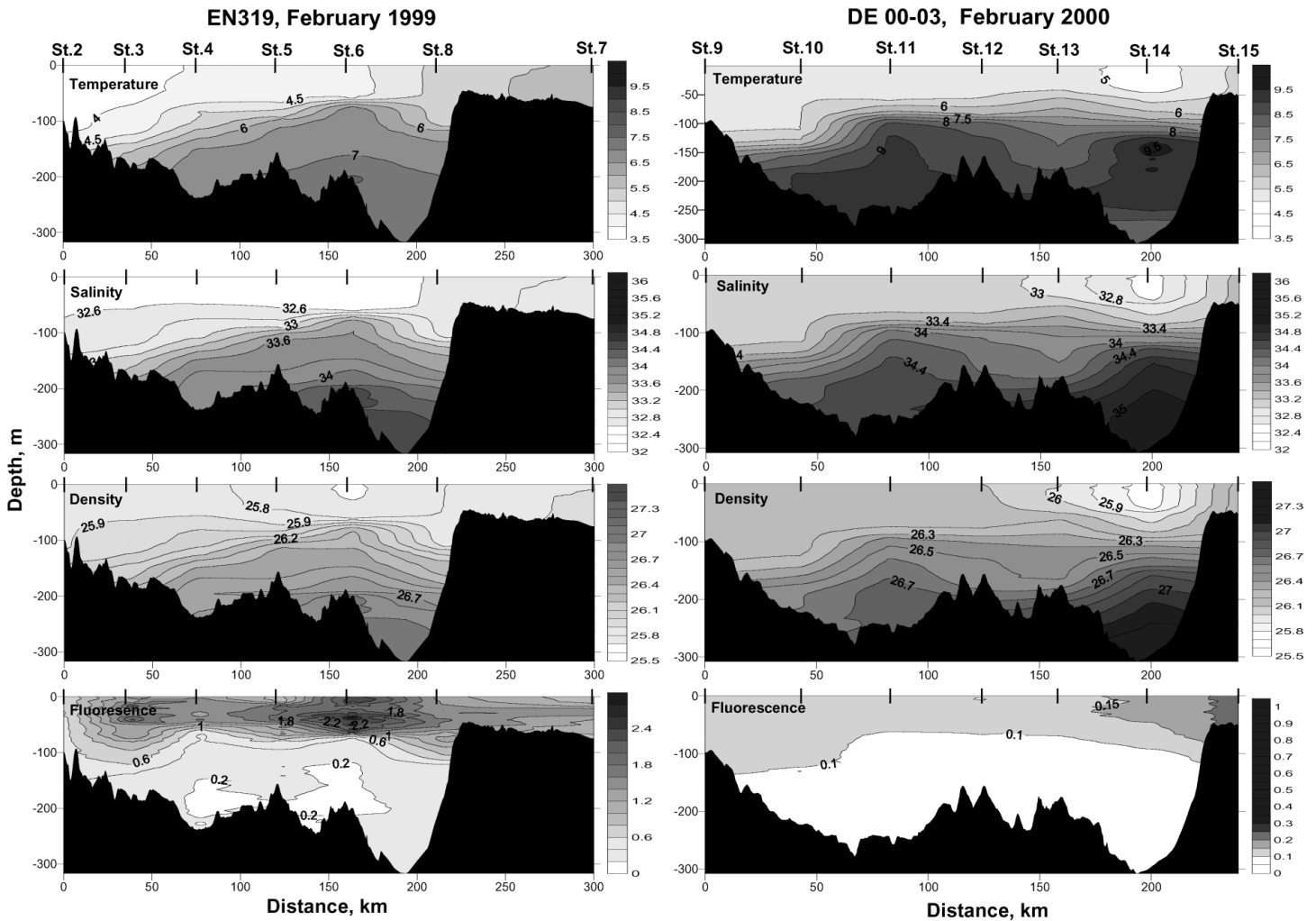


Fig. 2. Vertical sections of temperature, salinity, density and fluorescence between the Maine Coast and Georges Bank during late February 1999 and 2000. Transect distance is the distance from the first station adjacent to the Maine coast

tral GOM the mixed layer shallowed during both years due to a doming of the pycnocline above the deep water (Fig. 2).

During 1999 the upper mixed-layer depths (the depth at which the difference in σ_t from that at the surface was >0.04) in the central GOM were relatively shallow (between 43 m, Stn 5 and 59 m, Stn 6, Table 1). Adjacent to the Maine coast the mixed layer extended to the bottom (93 m, Stn 2) while adjacent to GB in Georges Basin it extended to 102 m (Stn 8). In 2000, the mixed layer adjacent to the Maine Coast extended to the bottom at Stn 9 (73 m), and to 125 m at Stn 10. In the central GOM during February 2000, (Stns 11 and 12) mixed-layer depths were 60 and 63 m. In Georges Basin during this year there was no mixed layer at Stn 13 and a relatively shallow one at Stn 14 (43 m). These were in the frontal region (Stn 13), and inside, a plume of colder, less salty, Scotian Shelf water flowing into the GOM (Stn 14, Fig. 2).

Table 1. Mixed-layer depths in the Gulf of Maine during February 1999 and 2000 determined as the depth at which the difference in σ_t from that at the surface is >0.04 . At Stn 2 in 1999 and Stn 9 in 2000 the mixed-layer depth extended to the bottom

	Stn	Depth (m)
1999	2	93 (bottom)
	3	73
	4	51
	5	43
	6	59
	8	102
	7	12
2000	9	73 (bottom)
	10	125
	11	60
	12	63
	13	34
	14	43
	15	47

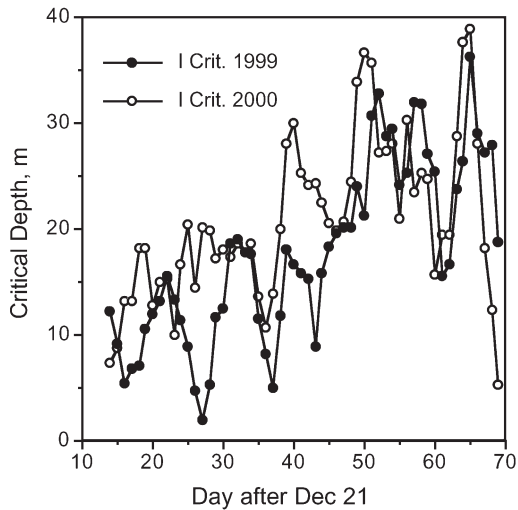


Fig. 3. Critical depths for the Gulf of Maine during January and February 1999 and 2000. Depths were calculated using pre-bloom extinction coefficients and incoming solar radiation measured at Woods Hole

Critical depths

Calculated winter-time critical depths in the GOM showed considerable short-term variation (Fig. 3). Means (\pm SE) for January 1999 and 2000 were 11.5 ± 1.6 and 16.6 ± 1.9 m, respectively, and 24.7 ± 2.6 and 24.1 ± 2.8 m for February. All critical depths were less than the mixed-layer depths observed during February of both years.

Chl *a* and nutrients

Chl *a* concentrations (0 to 40 m mean) differed greatly between years (Fig. 4). During 1999 a phytoplankton bloom was occurring in the central GOM where chl *a* concentrations were $>3 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ (Fig. 4). Concentrations were intermediate (1.71 and $1.9 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ respectively), in Georges Basin and on GB, and were quite low ($0.58 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$) in the well-mixed water adjacent to the Maine coast. Large diatoms dominated the phytoplankton at all but the Maine coastal station and, as a result, most of the chl *a* was in the $>5 \mu\text{m}$ size-fraction (Fig. 4). In the central GOM (Stns 5 and 6) highest levels of chl *a* were found near the base of the mixed layer at about 40 m (Fig. 2). In contrast, during February 2000, chl *a* concentrations were uniformly low across the GOM ($<0.5 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$), with most of the chl *a* in the $<5 \mu\text{m}$ size-fraction (Fig. 4). These were indicative of pre-bloom conditions. On GB, however, concentrations were higher ($2.01 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$), indicating that the spring bloom was already underway.

Surface (0 to 40 m) nitrate concentrations during 1999 were highest in the well-mixed water adjacent to the Maine Coast ($11.0 \mu\text{M}$), lowest in the central GOM (Stns 5 and 6, 7.0 and $6.25 \mu\text{M}$, respectively), and then higher again at the deeply mixed Georges Basin (Stn 8) and on GB (Stn 7) (Fig. 4). During February 2000, surface nitrate values across the central GOM were higher than 1999 at all stations but Stn 15 in Georges Basin (Fig. 4), which was in the plume of lower-salinity Scotian Shelf water (Fig. 2). Concentrations increased again on GB (Fig. 4).

Plots of nitrate against salinity showed that during 1999 the deeper samples, and those at the well-mixed Maine coastal station (Stn 2), lay along a common mixing curve (Fig. 5). Surface mixed-layer samples at other stations had nitrate values that lay beneath this mixing curve. By contrast, during 2000, all data, including the surface mixed-layer stations, lay along the same mixing curve (Fig. 5). This indicates that phytoplankton uptake of nitrate in the surface mixed layer had been occurring during 1999, but not during 2000. There was a difference in elevation of the 2 mixing curves with that for

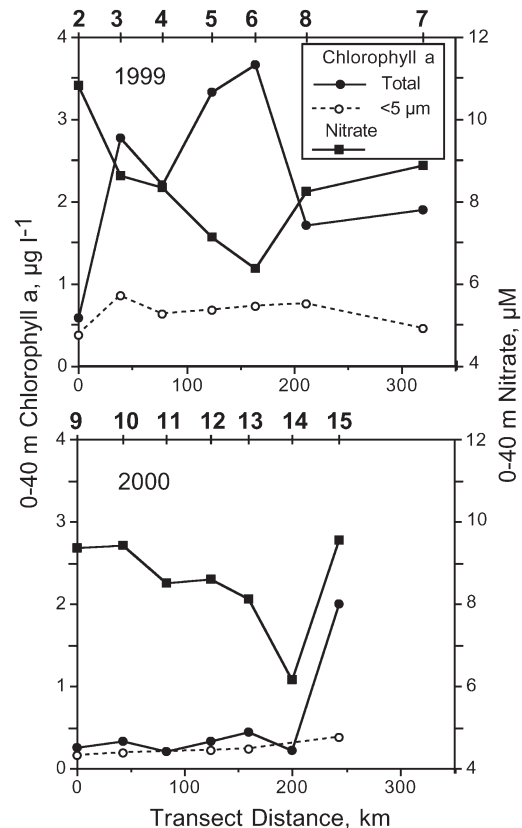


Fig. 4. Mean (0 to 40 m) total and $<5 \mu\text{m}$ chl *a* concentrations, and nitrate concentrations across the Gulf of Maine during late February 1999 and 2000. Transect distance is the distance from the first station adjacent to the Maine coast. Station numbers are shown at the top of each figure

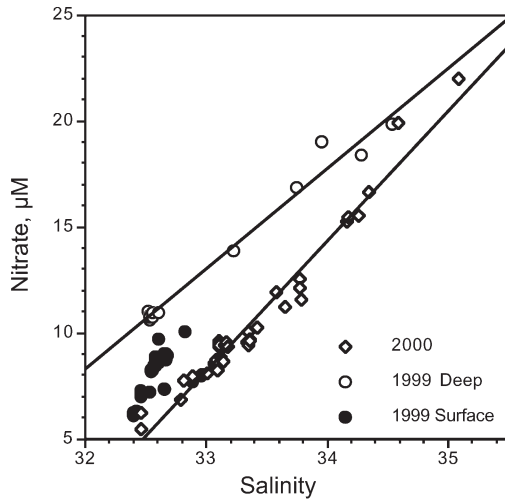


Fig. 5. Plots of nitrate vs salinity for Gulf of Maine stations during late February 1999 and 2000. Least squares linear regressions for the deeper 1999 data ($\text{NO}_3 = 4.735[\text{Sal}] - 143.2$), and all of the 2000 data ($\text{NO}_3 = 6.108[\text{Sal}] - 193.3$) are shown

1999 being about 3 μM nitrate higher than that for 2000 (Fig. 5). This indicates that both the slope waters entering the GOM at the bottom, and surface waters from the Scotian Shelf, had higher nitrate concentrations during 1999 compared with 2000.

During 1999 there was a strong negative relation between mean 0 to 40 m nitrate and chl *a* (Fig. 6) with the highest nitrate concentrations occurring at the station with lowest chl *a* (Stn 2), and lowest nitrate at the highest chl *a* station (Stn 6). This indicates that the bloom had been occurring for sufficient time to have drawn down the water column nitrate. In contrast, during February 2000, there was no relationship between nitrate and chl *a* (Fig. 6). The GB station (Stn 15), which had the highest chl *a* levels ($2.01 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$), was not depleted in nitrate compared with the GOM stations, which had very low chl *a*, suggesting that the bloom on GB had not been progressing long enough to draw down the nutrient levels. At Stn 14 in Georges Basin, both surface nitrate and chl *a* were quite low but still lay on the same nitrate-salinity mixing curve as the other stations (Fig. 5). This station was in the low-salinity plume indicating low nitrate concentrations in the surface water being advected into the GOM from the Scotian Shelf.

Zooplankton abundance and vertical distribution in the GOM

Copepods dominated the zooplankton in the GOM during February of both years (Tables 2 & 3). The water column total copepods (nauplii, copepodids and adults)

at the 6 GOM stations were 87 and 98 % of the total zooplankton during 1999 and 2000, respectively (Table 2). The dominant copepods were the calanoids *Calanus finmarchicus*, *Pseudocalanus* spp., *Centropages* spp. (primarily *C. typicus*), *Metridia* spp. (primarily *M. lucens*), *Clausocalanus arcuicornis*, *Paracalanus parvus* and *Microcalanus pusillus*, the cyclopoids *Oithona* spp. (primarily *O. similis* and *O. spinirostris*), the poecilistomatoid *Oncaea* spp., and the harpacticoid *Microsetella norvegica*. The dominant non-copepod zooplankton included the pteropod *Limacina* spp., and polychaetes and chaetognaths. Among the copepods the small cyclopoid *Oithona* spp. was most abundant during both years with water column totals of $1\,070\,000 \text{ m}^{-2}$ during 1999 and $131\,000 \text{ m}^{-2}$ in 2000 (Tables 2 & 3). However, the biomass was dominated by the very large numbers of *Metridia* spp. adults present during 1999 ($11\,400 \text{ m}^{-2}$), and *C. finmarchicus* adult females during 2000 (3700 m^{-2}).

While the general taxonomic composition of the zooplankton was similar between years, the abundance of zooplankton in the GOM was much greater during February 1999 than during 2000 (Tables 2 & 3). Median water column total nauplii, copepodids and adults of all copepod taxa combined were 882 000, 514 000 and $138\,000 \text{ m}^{-2}$ during 1999, and 149 000, 29 000 and 7660 m^{-2} during 2000. Most taxa were significantly more abundant in 1999 than during 2000 (Wilcoxon 2-sample test, $p < 0.05$, Tables 2 & 3). These included median total *Centropages* spp., *Metridia* spp., *Oithona* spp., and *Pseudocalanus* spp. (nauplii, copepodids and adults), which were about 10-fold more abundant during 1999 compared with 2000 (Table 4). Other taxa much more abundant in 1999 included adult *Clausocalanus arcuicornis* and *Para-*

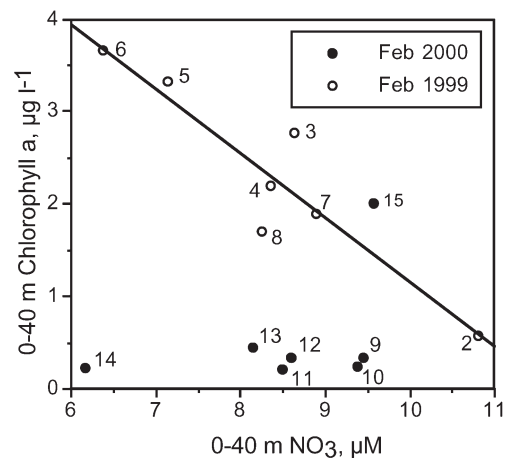


Fig. 6. Plot of mean 0 to 40 m nitrate against chl *a*. Station numbers are indicated next to data point. A linear regression is shown for the 1999 nitrate against chl *a* data ($\text{NO}_3 = -1.24[\text{Chl}] + 11.21$, $r^2 = 0.86$)

Table 2. Zooplankton abundance in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and on Georges Bank (GB) (no. m⁻²) during February 1999. Differences between 1999 and 2000 for GOM stations were tested for significance (Wilcoxon 2-sample test). Levels of significance are indicated (*p < 0.05, **p < 0.01) along with whether 1999 samples are > or < 2000. N = nauplii, C = copepodid, A = adult, ns = not significant

	Stn 2	Stn 3	Stn 4	Stn 5	Stn 6	Stn 8	Stn 7	Significant
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , N	23600	32200	26900	53700	43500	8690	76100	ns
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , C	4530	6210	22000	21300	18000	5520	8840	**,>
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , A	1410	831	1540	1520	1340	1610	514	**,<
<i>Centropages</i> spp., N	2070	8480	5070	20000	22100	46400	28300	*,>
<i>Centropages</i> spp., C	3640	6390	6950	6000	4490	11000	5850	**,>
<i>Centropages typicus</i> , A	1030	2290	2970	2160	3070	2280	552	**,>
<i>Clauso./Paracalanus</i> , N	9670	6250	31200	24700	64900	4900	59200	ns.
<i>Clauso./Paracalanus</i> , C	246	2990	2020	1040	2340	896	9280	ns.
<i>Clausocalanus arcuicornis</i> , A	242	642	473	580	660	208	0	**,>
<i>Euchaeta</i> spp., C	0	103	680	0	83	113	0	ns.
<i>Euchaeta</i> spp., A	0	0	53	0	58	35	0	ns.
<i>Metridia</i> spp., N	19000	80100	154000	221000	242000	42300	172000	**,>
<i>Metridia</i> spp., C	2710	16500	17400	16200	16100	33100	6880	**,>
<i>Metridia longa</i> , A	102	618	898	101	272	98	67	**,>
<i>Metridia lucens</i> , A	3040	34200	14200	8580	6550	33200	982	**,>
<i>Microcalanus</i> spp., C	1770	0	4360	6960	10800	967	8130	*,>
<i>Microcalanus pusillus</i> , A	1290	7850	6660	4300	2940	8990	1130	**,>
<i>Microsetella norvegica</i> , N	281	6750	8100	11000	7170	20900	8800	ns.
<i>Microsetella norvegica</i> , C & A	92100	289000	81900	53100	53100	99600	24200	**,>
<i>Oithona</i> spp., N	173000	1040000	494000	698000	555000	615000	334000	**,>
<i>Oithona</i> spp., C	95700	507000	282000	445000	409000	350000	160000	**,>
<i>Oithona</i> spp., A	43200	112000	87700	123000	109000	101000	32400	**,>
<i>Oithona spinostris</i> , A	458	2360	7980	6220	4850	24000	1300	**,>
<i>Oncaea</i> spp., C & A	9600	4080	12500	4390	13300	717	8150	**,>
<i>Paracalanus parvus</i> , A	140	1060	913	588	661	712	753	**,>
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., N	24000	81300	56000	90000	55700	10800	84700	**,>
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., C	33400	9420	10000	17900	8420	3220	37200	**,>
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., A	10200	5630	5130	5460	2260	2040	9810	**,>
Chaetognaths	8	225	70	0	50	235	712	**,<
<i>Limacina</i>	30100	291000	229000	365000	313000	189000	60700	**,>
Hydroids (polyps)	0	0	0	0	0	35	1130	
Polychaetes	196	64	2670	544	884	804	1270	ns

calanus parvus (526 to 0 m⁻² and 687 to 0 m⁻²), and adult and copepodid *Microcalanus pusillus* and *Microsetella norvegica* (8900 to 1 m⁻² and 94 600 to 14 900 m⁻²). Total *C. finmarchicus* nauplii were not significantly different between years while, in contrast, copepodids were significantly more abundant in 1999 (12 100 to 1100 m⁻²), and adults significantly more abundant in 2000 (1500 to 3700 m⁻², Wilcoxon 2-sample test, p < 0.01, Tables 2 & 3). *Limacina* was very abundant during 1999 but almost absent in 2000 (260 000 and 1600 m⁻² respectively).

There were spatial differences in abundance across the GOM. During 1999, the 5 central stations were quite similar (Stns 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8) while the inshore station (Stn 2) had lower numbers of several taxa (*Oithona* spp., *Metridia* spp., and *Limacina*) and higher numbers of *Pseudocalanus* spp., copepodids and adults

(Table 2). During 2000 a number of taxa were considerably higher at Stn 14, which was in the plume of Scotian Shelf water, than elsewhere in the GOM. These included all stages of *Metridia* spp., *Microsetella* spp., and *Oithona* spp., and nauplii and copepodids of *Clauso/Paracalanus* and *Pseudocalanus* spp. (Table 3).

The age structures of the dominant copepods present in the GOM provide some interesting insights. Nauplii of these taxa were present during both years indicating that reproduction was occurring (Table 4). However, during 2000 copepodids constituted a smaller proportion of the total population of each species than in 1999. For example, for *Metridia* spp. and *Oithona* spp., copepodids were 11 and 35% of the total of each taxa in 1999 and only 4.3 and 11.4% during 2000. The more detailed age

Table 3. Zooplankton abundance in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and on Georges Bank (GB) (no. m⁻²) during February 2000. See Table 2 for significance of differences between 1999 and 2000 GOM stations

	Stn 9	Stn 10	Stn 11	Stn 12	Stn 13	Stn 14	Stn 15
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , N	4660	22800	14500	22000	11100	42300	85600
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , C	558	556	3110	1440	774	2550	4050
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , A	1710	3720	6140	3770	1860	4350	1560
<i>Centropages</i> spp., N	1410	2920	1090	1160	1100	14200	22500
<i>Centropages</i> spp., C	669	363	294	807	45	5290	4110
<i>Centropages typicus</i> , A	106	59	2	117	31	79	81
<i>Clauso./Paracalanus</i> , N	4240	5630	5930	16200	6260	45900	17400
<i>Clauso./Paracalanus</i> , C	59	449	454	399	362	6120	2130
<i>Clausocalanus arcuicornis</i> , A	0	0	0	0	45	0	0
<i>Euchaeta</i> spp., C	10	58	369	3	34	214	20
<i>Euchaeta</i> spp., A	24	218	2400	18	7	327	0
<i>Metridia</i> spp., N	1430	3410	7200	7130	9470	39700	24900
<i>Metridia</i> spp., C	259	299	508	416	62	1560	986
<i>Metridia longa</i> , A	0	0	0	0	33	13	0
<i>Metridia lucens</i> , A	309	725	744	1201	605	3350	513
<i>Microcalanus</i> spp., C	416	25	300	674	16	0	0
<i>Microcalanus pusillus</i> , A	0	0	0	2	193	50	0
<i>Microsetella norvegica</i> , N	194	1180	1970	4040	4670	15900	2460
<i>Microsetella norvegica</i> , C & A	9530	11800	7390	12100	17000	27300	5810
<i>Oithona</i> spp., N	47700	99800	74800	143000	128000	430000	174000
<i>Oithona</i> spp., C	41000	13800	6810	16160	9090	73200	53600
<i>Oithona</i> spp., A	728	2390	1600	2050	2670	7030	3190
<i>Oithona spirostris</i> , A	57	146	180	368	1270	1660	65
<i>Oncaea</i> spp., C & A	1060	81	21	44	158	489	3670
<i>Paracalanus parvus</i> , A	4	0	0	64	36	83	16
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., N	994	1330	720	220	336	18800	5930
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., C	172	116	128	35	21	1370	1120
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., A	145	307	105	135	44	97	402
Chaetognaths	79	54	226	252	219	455	83
<i>Limacina</i>	296	3630	560	2680	148	9920	227
Hydroids (polyps)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1260
Polychaetes	41	361	3760	508	1010	2300	262

structure information available for *Calanus finmarchicus* and *Pseudocalanus* spp. illustrates this pattern more clearly (Fig. 7). During 1999 all stages of both taxa were present, and there was only a small decline in abundance with increasing stage. The age structures during 1999 suggest that stages C4 and C5 of both species were part of a recent cohort rather than remnants of a resting or non-actively growing population. By contrast, during 2000 the age structures of *C. finmarchicus* were quite different from the pattern observed in 1999. While there were actually more N1–3 present in the GOM during 2000 (median 17 000 m⁻²), compared with 1999 (median 14 100 m⁻²), there was a precipitous decline in abundance of the older stages of nauplii with a median abundance of N4–6 during 2000 of only 711 m⁻² compared with 15 600 m⁻² during 1999. Young copepodids (C1–4) were similarly very low in abundance during 2000 (median 243 m⁻²) compared

with 1999 (median 8150 m⁻²) and constituted only 4.8% of the total *C. finmarchicus* population compared with 28% in 1999 (Table 4). *Pseudocalanus* spp. did not show a strong difference in age structure between years but overall abundance was much lower in 2000 (Fig. 7).

Zooplankton abundance on GB

Most taxa present in the GOM were also present at the GB station (Tables 2 & 3). Major differences during both years were the presence of the hydroid *Clytia glacialis* on GB and its absence in the GOM, larger numbers of *Calanus finmarchicus* nauplii, and fewer adult *Metridia* spp. on GB compared with the GOM. During 2000 there were also larger numbers of *Pseudocalanus* spp. on GB compared with the central GOM stations.

Table 4. Median abundance (no. m⁻²) and age structures (%) of the dominant copepods in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) during February 1999 and 2000. N = nauplii, C = copepodid, A = adult

	1999		2000	
	GOM Median	%	GOM Median	%
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , N	29500	68	18300	79
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , C	12100	28	1110	5
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , A	1460	3	3750	16
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , Total	43060	100	23160	100
<i>Centropages</i> spp., N	14200	63	1280	68
<i>Centropages</i> spp., C	6190	27	516	27
<i>Centropages</i> spp., A	2290	10	100	5
<i>Centropages</i> spp., Total	22680	100	1900	100
<i>Clauso./Paracalanus</i> , N	17200	86	6090	93
<i>Clauso./Paracalanus</i> , C	1530	8	424	6
<i>Clauso./Paracalanus</i> , A	1240	6	34	1
<i>Clauso./Paracalanus</i> , Total	19970	100	6550	100
<i>Metridia</i> spp., N	117000	81	7160	87
<i>Metridia</i> spp., C	16400	11	358	4
<i>Metridia</i> spp., A	11900	8	734	9
<i>Metridia</i> spp., Total	145300	100	8250	100
<i>Oithona</i> spp., N	585000	54	114000	87
<i>Oithona</i> spp., C	379000	35	15000	11
<i>Oithona</i> spp., A	114000	11	2480	2
<i>Oithona</i> spp., Total	1078000	100	131480	100
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., N	55800	79	857	78
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., C	9720	14	122	11
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., A	5290	7	120	11
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., Total	70810	100	1100	100
Total nauplii	818700		148000	
Total copepodids	424940		17500	
Total adults	136180		7220	

Vertical distribution of zooplankton taxa

During February 1999, 3 of the GOM stations (Stns 2, 4 and 5) were occupied during the day, and the remainder at night. *Metridia lucens* and *M. longa* adult females and *Metridia* spp. copepodids were deeper during the day than at night (*M. lucens* females WMD 116 m day, 38 m night; *M. longa* WMD 140 m day, 98 m night; *Metridia* spp. copepodids WMD 98 m day, 66 m night) and appeared to be undergoing diel vertical migration (DVM) (Fig. 8). During February 2000, only *M. lucens* females were sufficiently abundant for an analysis of DVM patterns. This species again appeared to be undergoing DVM and was deeper during the day (WMD 94 m, Stns 11 and 12) than at night (WMD 57 m, Stns 9, 10, 13 and 14).

For other taxa, the vertical distribution was similar across all of the GOM stations with no clear day-night

differences. However, different taxa occupied different depth ranges in the water column (Fig. 9, Table 5). During 1999 a number of taxa were close to the surface with WMD <35 m. These included *Calanus finmarchicus* nauplii, copepodids, and adult females, *Centropages* spp. nauplii and copepodids and *C. typicus* adult females and males, *Pseudocalanus* spp. copepodids and *Limacina*. A large group of taxa occupied a wider vertical range in the water column and were distributed throughout the mixed layer resulting in greater WMD values. These included *Metridia* spp. nauplii, *Pseudocalanus* spp. nauplii and adults, *Oithona* spp. nauplii, copepodids and adults, *Clausocalanus/Paracalanus* nauplii and copepodids, *Clausocalanus arcuicornis* females, and *Microsetella* spp. nauplii, copepodids and adults. A few taxa were deeper and near the bottom, or below, the mixed layer with WMD >60 m. These included *Calanus finmarchicus* males, *Microcalanus pusillus* males and females, *Oithona spinirostris* females, and *Oncaea* spp. copepodids and adults (Table 5).

During 2000, taxa sufficiently abundant for the estimation of WMD were significantly deeper in the water column than during 1999 ($p < 0.005$, Wilcoxon 2-sample test,

Table 5). The overall median WMD of all abundant taxa combined was 42 m in 1999, compared to 59 m in 2000. The WMD of *Calanus finmarchicus* copepodid stages was 116 m in 2000 and only 24 m in 1999. This large difference was due to the absence of younger actively growing stages in 2000, when most of the copepodid population were present as C5, which were at depth (70% of the C5 were >100 m). In 1999, by contrast, large numbers of all stages were present and only a very small proportion of the *C. finmarchicus* C5 population (20%) was at depth (>100 m). This suggests an actively growing population in 1999 and a resting population in 2000. Other groups showing large depth differences between years were *C. finmarchicus* males and naupliar stages, the life stages of *Oithona* spp. and *Pseudocalanus* spp., and the non-copepod taxa. *C. finmarchicus* females, however, remained close to the surface in both years.

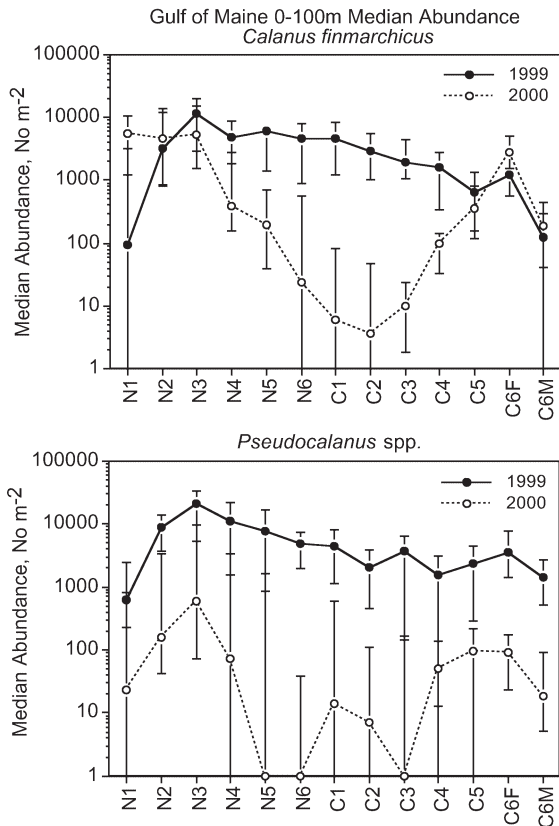


Fig. 7. *Calanus finmarchicus* and *Pseudocalanus* spp. Median 0 to 100 m abundance (no. m⁻²) of the different stages for Gulf of Maine stations sampled during February 1999 and 2000. For *Calanus* nauplii, data are from a plankton pump, while copepodite and adult data are from a 1 m⁻² MOCNESS. For *Pseudocalanus* spp., all nauplii and copepodite data are from the plankton pump, while adult data are from the MOCNESS. 95% CI are shown

Copepod nutritional and reproductive rates

Relative RNA:DNA ratios of adult female *Calanus finmarchicus* were considerably higher at the surface than near bottom in the central GOM during both years (Fig. 10A,B), suggesting that the individuals at depth remained there in diapause and were not migrating to the surface to feed. RNA:DNA ratios were also low in deep-dwelling C5 in both years. In 1999, surface-dwelling C5 had higher RNA:DNA levels while in 2000, surface C5 had low RNA:DNA ratios and were not significantly different from deep C5 (although only 1 surface C5 station was sampled because of very low abundance at the others). In 1999, surface adult females had slightly higher relative RNA:DNA ratios than stage C5 copepodids (101 to 105 vs 83 to 95), with significant differences at Stns 2, 3 and 4 (1-way ANOVA, $p < 0.05$).

Relative RNA:DNA ratios of both stages at depth were similar at the different stations in both years. By

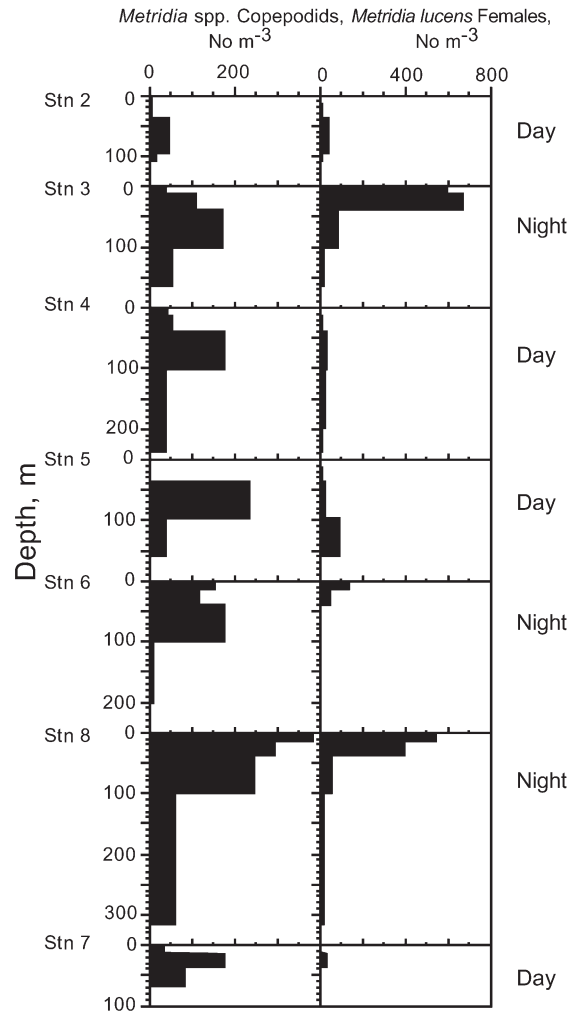


Fig. 8. Depth-distribution of *Metridia* spp. copepodites and *Metridia lucens* adult females during February 1999. Abundance is in no. m⁻³. Time of collection (day vs night) is indicated next to each station

contrast, at the surface there was a striking difference in the condition of adult females among the different stations during the 2 yr, especially at the northern and central GOM stations (Fig. 10A,B). In 1999, relative RNA:DNA of the adult females was low near the Maine Coast (Stn 2), but increased at the central GOM stations to values equaling or exceeding those expected under excess food conditions. In contrast, in 2000, adult female relative RNA:DNA was quite low at the coastal station (Stn 9) and increased gradually across the GOM while remaining markedly lower than the ratios observed in 1999. On GB (Stn 15) during 2000 values were similar to those observed in 1999.

EP rates and reproductive status of adult female *Calanus finmarchicus* corresponded to differences in nutritional status as indicated by the relative RNA:DNA measurements. In 1999, mean EP rates were

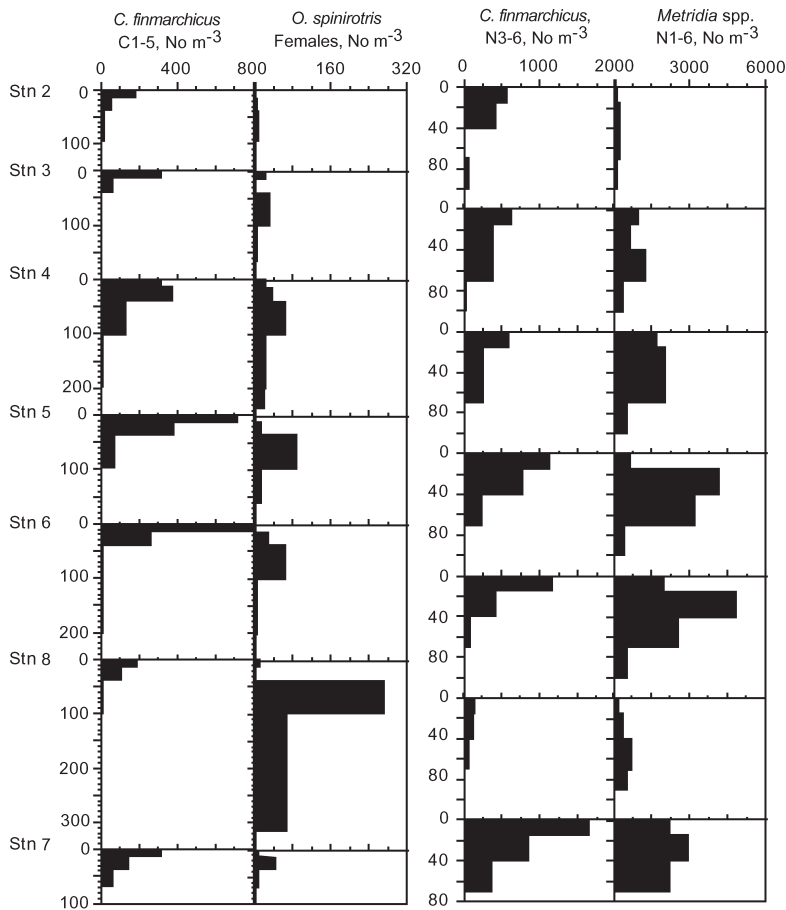


Fig. 9. Depth-distributions of selected taxa during February 1999. Abundance is in no. m^{-3} . *Calanus finmarchicus* C1–5 (MOCNESS) and N3–6 (pump) are examples of taxa that tend to be close to the surface. In contrast, *Oithona spirostris* females (MOCNESS) and *Metridia* spp. N1–6 are examples of taxa that are deeper in the water column

15 eggs female $^{-1}$ d $^{-1}$ at the coastal station (Stn 2) and ranged from 40 to 62 eggs female $^{-1}$ d $^{-1}$ in the central GOM and on GB (Table 6). In contrast, EP rates in 2000, estimated from the gonadal stage indices, were much lower, increasing across the GOM from low values of 10 to 14 eggs female $^{-1}$ d $^{-1}$ in the northern and central regions to about 30 eggs female $^{-1}$ d $^{-1}$ in Georges Basin. On GB rates were 45 eggs female $^{-1}$ d $^{-1}$ (Fig. 10C).

Mean EP rates of *Pseudocalanus* spp. at Stns 2 to 5 in the northwestern GOM in 1999 ranged between 1.5 and 4.7 eggs female $^{-1}$ d $^{-1}$ but were not significantly different (Student-Newman-Keuls [SNK] pairwise comparison; $p > 0.05$); the overall mean for these stations was 2.8 eggs female $^{-1}$ d $^{-1}$. Mean EP rate at the GB station (Stn 7), however, was 7.1 eggs female $^{-1}$ d $^{-1}$, 2.5 times higher than the GOM stations (Tukey and SNK pairwise comparison tests; $p < 0.05$).

Only the reproductive status of the dominant copepods was measured in 2000 and the proportion of

Calanus finmarchicus and *Metridia lucens* females in mature states of gonad development (GS4) similarly increased along the transect (Fig. 11). *Pseudocalanus* spp. was only present at the coastal station and on GB during 2000 but at these locations showed the same trends as the other 2 species (Fig. 11). These observations suggest that similar processes influenced reproductive status across a number of copepod species.

The overall relationships of nutritional condition (RNA:DNA) and EP rate of *Calanus finmarchicus* to the mean concentration of chl *a* are well described by Ivlev functions (Fig. 12A). In both cases, the critical concentration at which nutritional condition and EP rate become optimal is on the order of 1.5 μg chl *a* l^{-1} , which is approximately equivalent to the

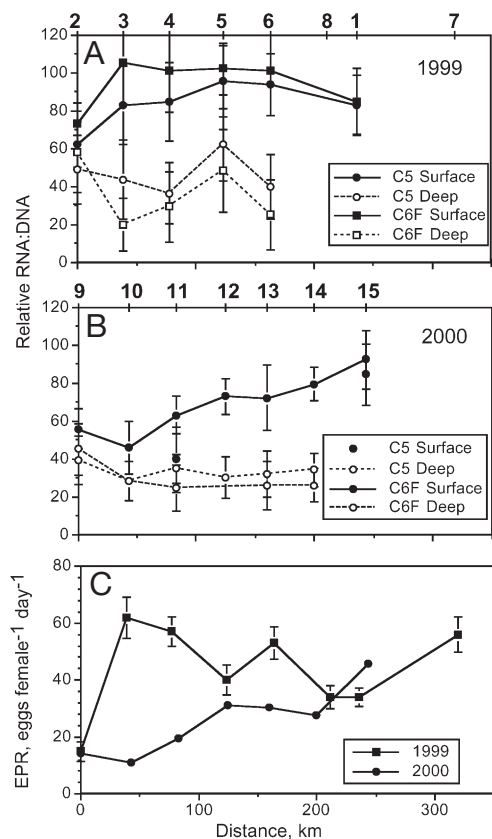


Fig. 10. *Calanus finmarchicus*. (A,B) Relative RNA:DNA ratios of C5 and adult females collected from the surface and from at depth in the Gulf of Maine during February 1999 and 2000. Means and standard deviations are indicated. Transect distance is the distance from the first station adjacent to the Maine coast. Station numbers are shown at the top of each figure. (C) Egg production rates of *C. finmarchicus* during February 1999 (measured) and February 2000 (estimated from the Reproductive Index, Niehoff & Runge unpubl.)

75 mg chl *a* m⁻² critical concentration observed for *C. finmarchicus* on GB during US GLOBEC 1995–1997 process cruises (J. A. Runge, S. Plourde, P. Joly, E. Durbin, B. Niehoff unpubl.). In 1999 chl *a* was above the critical concentration for maximal RNA:DNA ratios and reproductive rates at all but 1 station (Stn 2), whereas in 2000 chl *a* concentrations were below saturating conditions at all but 1 station (Stn 15). This is strong evidence that the high rates of growth and reproductive activity of *C. finmarchicus* during February 1999 were related to the presence of the winter bloom.

The mean hatching percentage of *Calanus finmarchicus* eggs spawned during incubations in 1999 ranged from 63% at Stn 3 to 92% at Stn 1 (Table 6). Hatching was significantly higher at the 2 GB stations (Stns 1 and 7) than at GOM Stn 3 (1-way ANOVA, Tukey and SNK pairwise tests: $p < 0.05$). Hatching success at stations in the central GOM (Stns 4, 5, 6 and 8) was not significantly different (1-way ANOVA; $p = 0.194$), with an overall mean of 78%.

The EP rates of adult female *Calanus finmarchicus* were directly related to the RNA:DNA ratios. Combining data for 1999 and 2000 showed a strong linear relationship of mean EP rates at each station with the mean relative RNA:DNA ratio (Fig. 13). The slope and *y*-intercept of these EP-RNA:DNA functions were not significantly different from those observed for *C. finmarchicus* in the GB region between January and June 1995 (ANCOVA $p > 0.05$, Wagner 2000). This suggests that the relationship of reproductive rates and RNA:DNA ratios is similar from year to year in this region. The linear relation between *C. finmarchicus* EP rates and RNA:DNA ratios indicates that the RNA:DNA ratios are a good indicator of EP rates as noted previously by Saiz et al. (1998) for *Acartia grani*.

Median mortality rates for *Calanus finmarchicus* in the 2 winters are illustrated in Fig. 14. For both years, the estimates assume that the stage structure of the population observed in Fig. 7 was constant for a period of time corresponding to the development time from egg through N6, i.e. at least 24 to 28 d. This assumption appears reasonable in 1999, where there is no pronounced cohort structure. If the stage structure of the

Table 5. Median WMD (m) for abundant taxa at Gulf of Maine (GOM) stations during February 1999 and 2000. Taxa are grouped by WMD values for 1999 and assigned ranks (1 = 0–35 m, 2 = 36–45 m, 3 = 46–60 m, 4 = 61–100 m, 5 = >100 m). WMD values for 2000 and their ranks illustrate differences in depths between years. N = nauplii, C = copepodids, A = adults, F = adult females, M = adult males, nd = no data

GOM stations	1999		2000	
	Median	Rank	Median	Rank
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , N	29	1	46	2
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , C	24	1	116	5
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , F	29	1	34	1
<i>Centropages</i> spp., N	35	1	37	2
<i>Centropages</i> spp., C	33	1	31	1
<i>Centropages typicus</i> , F	23	1	nd	nd
<i>Centropages typicus</i> , M	19	1	nd	nd
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., C	34	1	46	3
Chaetognaths	23	1	76	4
<i>Limacina</i> spp.	34	1	75	4
<i>Metridia</i> spp., N	44	2	51	3
<i>Oithona</i> spp., N	40	2	56	3
<i>Oithona</i> spp., C	40	2	57	3
<i>Oithona</i> spp., F	38	2	77	4
<i>Oithona</i> spp., M	42	2	67	4
<i>Paracalanus parvus</i> , F	38	2	33	1
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., N	42	2	49	3
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., F	40	2	57	3
<i>Pseudocalanus</i> spp., M	45	2	nd	nd
<i>Clauso./Paracalanus</i> , N	57	3	60	3
<i>Clauso./Paracalanus</i> , C	48	3	45	2
<i>Clausocalanus arcuicornis</i> , F	58	3	nd	nd
<i>Clausocalanus arcuicornis</i> , M	58	3	74	4
<i>Metridia lucens</i> , F	50	3	61	4
<i>Microsetella norvegica</i> , N	54	3	47	3
<i>Microsetella norvegica</i> , C & A	51	3	52	3
Polychaetes	87	3	135	5
<i>Calanus finmarchicus</i> , M	68	4	117	5
<i>Metridia</i> spp., C	71	4	97	4
<i>Microcalanus pusillus</i> , F	82	4	nd	nd
<i>Microcalanus pusillus</i> , M	96	4	nd	nd
<i>Oithona spinirostris</i> , F	72	4	100	4
<i>Oncaea</i> spp., C & A	63	4	63	4
<i>Metridia lucens</i> , M	112	5	118	5

population in winter 2000 instead reflected a prior recruitment pulse of early developmental stages that had not fully matured, then the mortality estimates in Fig. 14 for 2000 would be invalid. If, however, the stage structure observed in February 2000 was at steady state, then the envelope of mortality rates in Fig. 14 would imply markedly higher mortality rates of late naupliar stages in winter 2000 than in winter 1999.

DISCUSSION

These results document how large interannual differences in winter phytoplankton abundance in the GOM dramatically influence zooplankton abundance

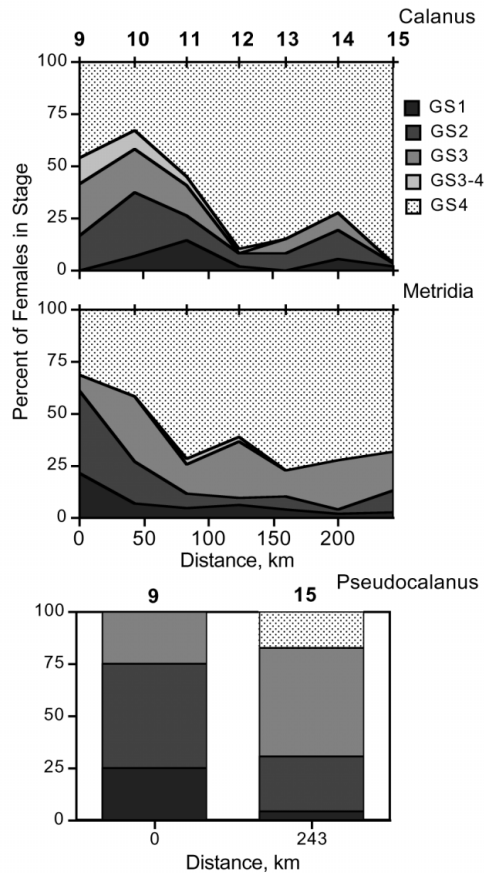


Fig. 11. Gonad stages of *Calanus finmarchicus*, *Metridia lucens* and *Pseudocalanus* sp. during February 2000. Transect distance is the distance from the first station adjacent to the Maine coast. Station numbers are shown at the top of each figure

and productivity. We suggest that these differences, in turn, will have large effects on downstream regions such as GB. Both phytoplankton and zooplankton appeared to be responding to hydrographic changes between years. It appears that during late fall or early winter of 1999, a large influx of cooler, less salty, Scotian Shelf water to the eastern GOM provided the stability necessary for a phytoplankton bloom. This winter bloom supported high zooplankton population growth rates and provided a source of what are normally coastal or bank zooplankton species to the central Gulf. In contrast, during 2000, with no distinct presence of Scotian Shelf water, there was a more typical deep winter mixing and low phytoplankton and zooplankton abundance.

The presence of the phytoplankton bloom during winter of 1999 appears to be an unusual phenomenon in this region. Examination of 1998–1999 SeaWiFS images suggests that the phytoplankton bloom was in progress for some time prior to the 1999 winter cruise, as high

surface chl *a* was observed from December onwards (J. O'Reilly pers. comm.). Prior to the initiation of the spring bloom in the GOM phytoplankton levels are normally low with concentrations $<0.5 \mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ (Durbin et al. 1995, O'Reilly & Zetlin 1998); the same level as observed during winter 2000. The bloom in the GOM typically begins in late March and continues through April (Bigelow 1926, Townsend & Spinrad 1986, Durbin et al. 1995, O'Reilly & Zetlin 1998). During the 10 yr MARMAP (Marine monitoring and prediction) program carried out by the US National Marine Fisheries Service (1977 to 1988) there was no evidence of anomalously high chl *a* concentrations either in Jordan or Georges Basin during winter (O'Reilly & Zetlin 1998), although these regions appeared to have been sampled during winter in only 3 out of 10 yr.

The timing of the onset of the winter–spring bloom is considered to be controlled by light when the critical depth becomes less than the mixed layer depth. Usually this occurs by thermal stratification when solar insolation increases during April. On the nearby southwestern Scotian Shelf, a mixed-layer model incorporating surface heating, differential advection, and turbulent dissipation by wind and tide, showed transient periods of stratification during late winter and early spring (Perry et al. 1989). The patterns of mean mixed-layer light intensities calculated from the modeled mixed-layer depths were significantly correlated with observed chl *a* biomass, and they suggested that the transient stratification events were partially responsible for the higher chl *a* biomass in 1 of the 3 years studied. However, in the GOM during winter the estimated critical depth was very shallow (11 to 25 m), much less than the mixed-layer depth we observed; the bloom observed in 1999 occurred prior to any significant development of stratification through solar

Table 6. *Calanus finmarchicus*. Summary of egg production data for February 1999. EPR denotes egg production rate (eggs female⁻¹ d⁻¹) and clutch size is mean eggs female⁻¹. Standard error in parentheses (n = 36–40). Hatch success represents percentage of eggs hatching to nauplii. Standard error (n = 16 at Stn 1; n = 4–5 elsewhere) in parentheses. No data for Stns 2 and 9. Local time at the start of each experiment is shown

Date (1999)	Stn	Time (h)	EPR	Clutch size	Hatch success (%)
23 Feb	1	14:00	34 (3.3)	40 (3.0)	92 (2.2)
27 Feb	2	13:10	15 (3.4)	39 (3.5)	–
27 Feb	3	20:20	62 (7.3)	53 (2.6)	63 (8.3)
28 Feb	4	09:20	57 (5.3)	48 (2.3)	79 (3.6)
28 Feb	5	14:10	40 (5.2)	49 (3.0)	79 (2.5)
28 Feb	6	20:00	53 (5.6)	49 (2.4)	80 (2.6)
02 Mar	7	11:15	56 (6.2)	45 (2.9)	86 (2.9)
02 Mar	8	21:30	34 (3.9)	36 (2.7)	72 (1.8)
03 Mar	9	10:35	55 (6.1)	46 (3.1)	–

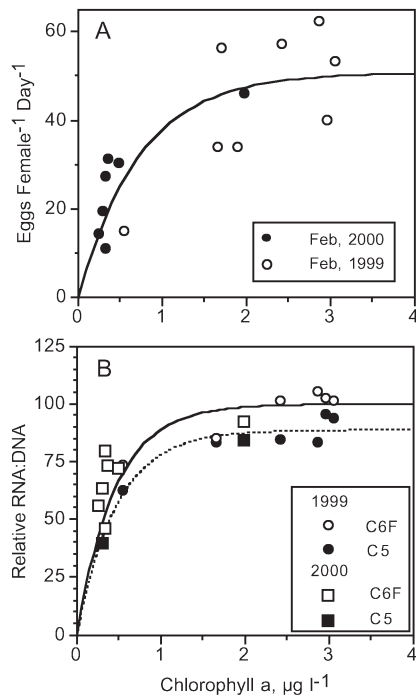


Fig. 12. *Calanus finmarchicus*. (A) Relationship between total chl *a* (mean for the water column depth over which the copepods were collected) and egg production rate for near-surface collected adult females during February 1999 (measured) and 2000 (estimated from the Reproductive Index, Niehoff & Runge unpubl.). Curves show the relationship between EP and chl *a* for both years together. $EPR = 50.7(1 - \exp[-1.38 \times \text{chl } a])$. (B) Relationship between relative RNA:DNA and total chl *a* (mean for the water column depth over which the copepods were collected) for near-surface collected *C. finmarchicus* C5 and adult females during February 1999 and 2000. Curves show the relationship between RNA:DNA and chl *a* for C5 and adult females collected during both years. For C5 $Rel\ RD = 88.64(1 - \exp[-2.12 \times \text{chl } a])$ while for C6 $Rel\ RD = 99.8(1 - \exp[-2.21 \times \text{chl } a])$

insolation. Other possible explanations for the presence of the bloom during this year include: (1) weak or absent wind-driven vertical mixing, which could allow development of a bloom even when the mixed-layer depth is considerably greater than the critical depth (Townsend et al. 1992), (2) upward doming of dense slope water in the central GOM resulting in a shallower pycnocline (Townsend & Spinrad 1986), or (3) advection into the GOM of a shallow layer of less dense water providing stratification.

The suggestion of transient stratification was based on the observation of high chl *a* concentrations in the GOM during winter when the mixed-layer depth was much deeper than the critical depth (Townsend et al. 1992). However, examination of the wind fields during the 2 years of our study do not indicate sufficient differences between years that would have allowed the development of a bloom in 1999 but not in 2000 (J. Manning pers. comm.).

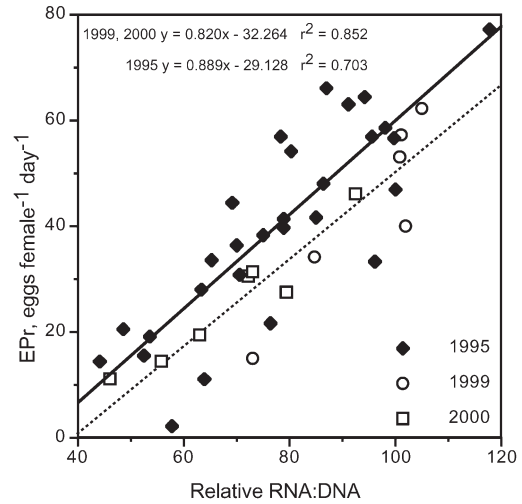


Fig. 13. *Calanus finmarchicus*. Relationship between adult female egg production rate (EPR) and relative RNA:DNA for all of the data collected during February 1999 and 2000 in the Gulf of Maine. For comparison, the relationship between EP and relative RNA:DNA is shown for *Calanus finmarchicus* collected on Georges Bank during the winter-spring period of 1995 (from Wagner 2000)

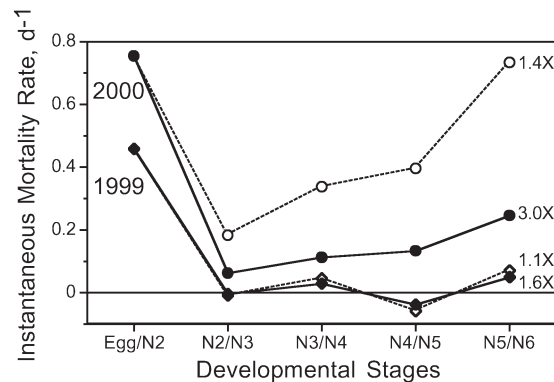


Fig. 14. *Calanus finmarchicus*. Estimated median instantaneous mortality rates in February 1999 (assuming stage durations ranged from 1.1 to 1.6× Belehradec development times in Campbell et al. 2001b), and February 2000 (assuming stage durations ranged from 1.4 to 3× development times in Campbell et al. 2001b). Estimates further assume that the stage structure is at steady state

In an analysis of anomalously high chl *a* levels during late March in the Jordan Basin, Townsend & Spinrad (1986) suggested that an intrusion and subsequent upward doming of dense slope water caused the pycnocline to be present at 90 to 100 m. This was calculated to be the critical depth during mid-March (assuming maximal surface irradiance with no cloud cover). While doming of bottom water in both the Jordan and Georges Basins was observed during each year of our study, the depth of the pycnocline was much greater than our estimates of winter critical

depth and consequently would not have promoted phytoplankton growth. Moreover, the effects of the deep water intrusions on pycnocline depth were actually opposite to the observed trends in phytoplankton. During 2000 a large mass of warm, salty slope water was present within 90 m of the surface and a very strong pycnocline occurred between 60 and 90 m. In winter 1999, on the other hand, the bottom water, a remnant of Labrador Slope water that had entered into the GOM during the spring of 1998 (Drinkwater et al. 1999), was cooler and less salty. During this year the pycnocline was deeper and less pronounced.

Surface waters of the eastern GOM are heavily influenced by advective inputs of cold and fresher Scotian Shelf water around Cape Sable (Smith 1983). Because of this advective influence, Mountain et al. (1996) found no correlation between variations in water temperature in the eastern GOM and heat flux. While the presence of the Scotian Shelf water in 1999 did not have a major effect on mixed layer depth during the study period, we suggest that the initial spread of Scotian Shelf water across the eastern GOM during early 1999 resulted in a shallow surface mixed layer, allowing the bloom to develop. For example, at Stn 14 during February 2000, which was in the plume of lower salinity water entering the Gulf, the mixed-layer depth was relatively shallow (<40 m). Subsequently, this shallow surface layer was mixed down to the depth observed during the 1999 cruise. This hypothesis points to the significance of processes controlling inflow of Scotian shelf water into the central GOM on the region's phytoplankton bloom dynamics. A similar important role of advection was found in a model of the development of the spring bloom off southwest Nova Scotia (Perry et al. 1989).

The between-year differences in abundance of zooplankton in the GOM resulted from interannual differences in advective supply of copepods to the central GOM and in the productivity of copepods present in the GOM. These productivity differences were the result of the interannual differences in phytoplankton described above.

The influx of Scotian Shelf water to the central GOM in 1999 carried with it zooplankton species which are not normally found in abundance in this region during winter. A group including *Pseudocalanus* spp., *Centropages typicus* and *C. hamatus* were abundant in 1999 in the central GOM but were only present in a plume of Scotian Shelf water in Georges Basin, on GB and in coastal waters of the northern GOM during 2000. These 3 taxa are not typically present in the central GOM during winter (Jossi & Kane 2000), but are present on the Scotian Shelf (Tremblay & Roff 1983), on GB (Davis 1987) and in coastal waters of the GOM (Bigelow 1926). Both *Centropages* species lay resting

eggs which sink to the bottom (Marcus 1996) causing their association with shallow coastal or bank regions. There are 2 species of *Pseudocalanus*: *P. moultoni*, which tends to be more inshore in the GOM, and *P. newmani*, which originates from the Scotian Shelf and tends to be more offshore (Frost 1989, McLaren et al. 1989a). The low abundance of these taxa in the central GOM observed during 2000 is the more typical pattern for these species (Jossi & Kane 2000). The higher abundance of *Pseudocalanus* spp. in the central GOM in 1999 and at Stn 14 in the plume of Scotian Shelf water in 2000 were probably seeded from the Scotian Shelf and are thus likely to be *P. newmani*.

A second group of small copepods, including *Microcalanus pusillus*, *Microsetella norvegica*, *Oithona spirostris* and *Oithona* spp., were also abundant in 1999 but low at all stations in 2000, except in the plume of Scotian Shelf water in Georges Basin. There is little information about these species in the GOM because their small size has led to inadequate sampling in prior studies. However, they are observed in Scotian Shelf waters (Tremblay & Roff 1983) and their presence in abundance only in the Scotian Shelf plume during 2000 would also indicate a Scotian Shelf origin during 1999.

Adult *Calanus finmarchicus* and *Metridia lucens* were most abundant in the central GOM and lower in abundance in coastal waters and on GB. While *M. lucens* follows the same pattern as seen in the other smaller copepods with a greater abundance of adults during 1999, *C. finmarchicus* adults were more abundant during 2000. These 2 species appear to have different sources. While the Scotian Shelf-GOM shelf populations of *C. finmarchicus* may ultimately be supplied from slope populations (Head et al. 1999) with possibly some input from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the immediate source of adult *C. finmarchicus* present in the GOM during winter is the local diapausing population in the GOM's deep basins. As a result, abundance of adult females at the surface during early winter is determined by the size of the resting population returning to the surface rather than by advective events. The higher abundance of adult females during 2000 reflects a greater abundance of resting animals during the previous fall. This is supported by the observation of a very low abundance of resting *C. finmarchicus* in the deep basins of the GOM during the fall of 1998 compared to the fall of 1999 (*C. Greene & P. Wiebe pers. comm.*). Our data indicate that *C. finmarchicus* resides close to the surface once they emerge from diapause; models predict that *C. finmarchicus* in surface waters of the GOM will be rapidly exported onto GB by surface currents (Hannah et al. 1998, Miller et al. 1998). As the winter progresses, the central GOM populations must be re-supplied through

advective processes, with the Scotian Shelf serving as an important source (Lynch et al. 1998, Miller et al. 1998).

Metridia lucens is more abundant in deeper shelf regions and lower in abundance on shallow banks such as Browns Bank (McLaren et al. 1989b) and GB (Kane 1993, Perry et al. 1993). It does not have a deep resting stage and thus the population in the central GOM requires advective input. The much greater abundance during 1999 associated with the Scotian Shelf water influx, and the greater abundance at Stn 14 during 2000, where a plume of Scotian Shelf water was present, suggest a Scotian Shelf origin rather than an influx with slope water through the NE Channel. Not much is known about the population dynamics of this species in the GOM. McLaren et al. (1989b) found that development ceases at C5 and adult in late fall on the nearby Scotian Shelf, and that reproduction does not recommence until the following spring, when the phytoplankton spring bloom develops. The very low population levels during 2000, together with low reproductive rates and an absence of intermediate developmental stages, indicate that this species normally follows a similar pattern in the central GOM during winter. The strong diel vertical migration by the adult *Metridia lucens*, together with the observation that the younger stages occupy a wide depth range and not just the immediate surface layer, suggest that it will be less rapidly advected out of the region and onto GB than *C. finmarchicus* (Gentleman 2000).

There were pronounced differences in zooplankton productivity between years with much higher levels during 1999 reflecting the high phytoplankton levels present. This is seen in the much greater abundance of younger developmental stages of most taxa during 1999 compared with 2000, the higher observed EP rates and RNA:DNA levels of *Calanus finmarchicus*, as well as in the gonadal indices of other copepod species. In contrast to these large differences observed in the GOM, zooplankton productivity was high in both years on GB, reflecting the normally high phytoplankton levels there during the winter (O'Reilly & Zetlin 1998).

RNA:DNA ratio, a good indicator of growth rate for *Calanus finmarchicus* (Wagner et al. 2001), showed a strong correlation with chl *a* for surface C5 and adult females, and between-year differences in RNA:DNA ratios reflected the between year differences in food availability. In contrast, RNA:DNA ratios of deep C5 and adult females were always very low, indicating individuals in diapause (Wagner 2000). Interestingly, the 1 surface C5 sample taken from the central GOM during 2000 showed values more typical of diapause, whereas surface RNA:DNA ratios in 1999 were rela-

tively high, indicating animals growing at near maximal rates. We suggest that the surface C5 in 1999 originated from the actively growing G1 cohort and that in 2000 the surface stage C5 were overwintering animals in the process of emerging from diapause. Consistent with this interpretation, the population age structure shows the presence of all developmental stages through stage C5 in winter 1999, but no younger copepodid stages in 2000. In addition, in 1999 a relatively small proportion (20%) of the stage C5 population resided at depths >100 m, whereas the opposite (70% stage C5 at depth) was observed in 2000.

EP rates of *Calanus finmarchicus* exhibited a similar relationship to available food as that described above for RNA:DNA. Rates were much lower in the central GOM in 2000 compared with 1999, supporting the suggestion of a strong food limitation during pre-bloom conditions in 2000. Gonad stage indices for *Metridia lucens* and *Pseudocalanus* spp. showed the same trends as *C. finmarchicus*, indicating that they also were responding to differences in food availability. Although EP rates for *C. finmarchicus* were reduced during 2000, they were not reduced as greatly as may have been expected given the very low food levels (total chl *a* <0.5 $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$, >5 $\mu\text{m chl a}$ essentially zero), and our observations on GB during a post-spring bloom period when EP ceased while total chl *a* was around 0.5 $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ (Campbell et al. 2001a). A conclusion might be that EP by females, just after they emerge from diapause in winter and early spring, depends more on internal sources of energy than on external sources (Irigoien et al. 1998). However, there is conflicting evidence on this issue at present. In the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Plourde & Runge 1993) and in the Norwegian Sea (Melle & Skjoldal 1998), no eggs were spawned until the development of the phytoplankton bloom. In the Gulf of St. Lawrence, pre-bloom food limitation was demonstrated, as non-egg-producing females captured before the spring bloom and maintained in high food levels in the laboratory produced eggs well before their field counterparts. In contrast, significant rates of EP by *C. finmarchicus* have been observed at pre-bloom chl *a* concentrations of only 0.2 to 0.4 $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ (Niehoff et al. 1999, Richardson et al. 1999, this study). In 2 of these studies, measured (Irigoien et al. 1998) and estimated (Richardson et al. 1999) ingestion rates were insufficient to cover the energetic costs of EP. It is possible that in this species of *Calanus*, internal lipid stores provide most of the energetic requirements and some level of ingested material is required for gonad maturation and subsequent egg production (Ohman & Runge 1994, Niehoff et al. 1999). Consistent with this interpretation, the spawning rates predicted in winter of 2000 in the GOM fit with Ivlev relationships relating chl *a* biomass to EP in this region

(Fig. 12). Additional studies of ingestion rate and EP by *C. finmarchicus* during pre-bloom periods are needed to resolve this issue.

Egg hatching success at all stations was relatively high, consistent with observations of *Calanus finmarchicus* and other species in other regions (Irigoiien et al. 2002). The finer-scale (but significant) differences in hatching percentage between stations on GB and in the GOM in winter 1999 (medians of 89 and 79%, respectively) may reflect differences in female condition or food quality between the GB and the GOM, possibilities that would be amenable to experimental study in the future.

Despite the reduced EP rates during 2000, the relatively large numbers of *Calanus finmarchicus* naupliar stages N1-3 in 2000 are the manifestation of relatively high population EP rates (i.e. eggs $m^{-2} d^{-1}$) due to the greater abundance of females. This illustrates the importance of female abundance in the regulation of population EP rates. A similar effect, where high abundance of adult females results in high population EP rates despite food limitation of EP rates, has been observed in the Norwegian Sea by Niehoff et al. (1999).

The stage of development of the *Calanus finmarchicus* populations were very different between the 2 years. During 1999 large numbers of all stages were present and the leading edge of the cohort had reached C5. In contrast, there were few individuals older than N3 during 2000. The paucity of N4 to C3 stages in February 2000 could be due to 2 different processes: (1) delayed maturation and delayed initiation of egg production in food-limited conditions, or (2) severe starvation-induced mortality of the feeding naupliar stages. Indeed, both processes could be operating. In the GOM *C. finmarchicus* emerges from diapause during late December and begins reproduction in early January (Durbin et al. 1997). During the GB GLOBEC study several stations were sampled in the GOM adjacent to GB each month between January and June 1995 to 1999, and there was a consistent pattern of molting from overwintering C5 to adults in January with little variation in the proportion of stages present between years (E. G. Durbin unpubl.). This would suggest that delayed maturation during 2000 is unlikely. If C5 copepodids molted to adult at the normal time in 2000, an even lower level of phytoplankton than the already low level we observed in 2000 would be required to delay initiation of EP. This is unlikely. Elevated starvation-induced mortality rates of the feeding naupliar stages would be consistent with the evidence above for food limitation of per capita EP in 2000 and the low RNA:DNA ratios. However, in the absence of information on the recruitment schedule of *C. finmarchicus* prior to our arrival in the GOM we have no means of distinguishing between food limita-

tion effects that retarded cohort development and food limitation effects that caused severe mortality of late naupliar stages. These results highlight the need for continuous temporal analysis of population changes, such as would be generated by a high frequency ship-board measurement program or moored zooplankton sensors. The mortality rates observed in the GOM in 1999 are consistent with those observed for *C. finmarchicus* on GB (Ohman et al. 2002). The rates inferred for 2000, if not biased by a temporal pulse of development, are appreciably higher than those measured on GB. The elevated mortality of *C. finmarchicus* eggs and young nauplii in winter 2000 is also consistent with the higher abundance of adult females and the hypothesized role of adult females as cannibals of eggs and early nauplii (Ohman & Hirche 2001, Ohman et al. 2002).

The winter phytoplankton bloom may have allowed an additional generation of *Calanus finmarchicus* to take place in the GOM prior to the generation that develops in response to the March–April spring bloom in more normal years. Our results indicate that *C. finmarchicus* is normally food-limited in the GOM during winter after it emerges from diapause. This would delay the development of the population as suggested by Lynch et al. (1998). A consequence of this early 1999 generation would be to overcome the effects of the very low abundance of resting C5 *C. finmarchicus* observed in the deep basins of the GOM during the fall of 1998 by C. H. Greene & P. H. Wiebe (pers. comm.). Early emergence of *C. finmarchicus* from diapause in the GOM allows the population to take advantage of interannual variability in the timing of production of sufficient food for successful reproduction.

The GOM serves as an important source for seed populations of zooplankton advected onto GB (Durbin et al. 1997, 2000). Thus, zooplankton production processes during the winter in the GOM will have effects on GB. Observations (Meise & O'Reilly 1996, Durbin et al. 1997, 2000) and modeling studies (Lynch et al. 1998, Miller et al. 1998, Hannah et al. 1998) indicate that *Calanus finmarchicus* is normally absent or present in only very low abundance on GB in late fall. The abundance of *C. finmarchicus* on GB during the winter and spring of 1999 were not unusually low compared to other GLOBEC study years (E. G. Durbin unpubl.), suggesting that the early development of the *C. finmarchicus* population in the GOM overcame the potential effects of the very low abundance of resting C5 in the GOM the previous fall.

Populations of *Pseudocalanus* spp. on GB are similarly seeded from off-bank sources (Davis 1984, McGillicuddy et al. 1998). Population sources for *P. moultoni* appear to be the inshore regions of the western GOM, whereas the source of *P. newmani* is likely

via Scotian Shelf water crossing over to GB. The presence of a large population of *Pseudocalanus* spp. across the central GOM during 1999 suggests that there was much greater seeding of GB during that year. Results from the US GLOBEC GB study indicate that the highest abundance of *Pseudocalanus* spp. on GB occurred during April 1999 compared to any of the other 4 GLOBEC years (E. G. Durbin unpubl.). Enhanced seeding of GB due to interannual variation in advective processes and winter phytoplankton blooms in the GOM could have important implications for higher trophic levels on GB, particularly larval cod and haddock, which hatch out during late winter and feed on copepod nauplii.

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