

# Late autumn condition of *Calanus finmarchicus* in the northwestern Atlantic: evidence of size-dependent differential feeding

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**ABSTRACT:** We report size, lipid sac volume and fatty acid composition of C5 copepodites of *Calanus finmarchicus* collected in late autumn 2007 on the Newfoundland Shelf and in slope waters in the Labrador Sea, to assess differences in feeding histories between these populations. Copepodites from the slope waters were generally relatively large and were mainly at depth and in diapause, whereas those from shelf waters were relatively small and were either in the surface layers or had only recently descended into the deeper layer. Multivariate analyses revealed a strong pattern of separation among the levels of saturated fatty acids (SFA), monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA) and polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA), bacterial fatty acid markers and  $\omega$ 3 PUFAs in copepods from the different areas. There was clear separation of diatom (16:1 $\omega$ 7, 16:4 $\omega$ 1 and 20:5 $\omega$ 3) from prymnesiophyte–dinophyte (18:1 $\omega$ 9, 18:4 $\omega$ 3 and 22:6 $\omega$ 3) fatty acid markers. Larger body size and greater energy reserves were associated with C5 *C. finmarchicus* from the slope waters and with increases in the proportion of fatty acid biomarkers for diatoms and omnivory. Smaller body sizes were associated with C5s on the shelf and with a greater proportion of fatty acid biomarkers for dinoflagellates and prymnesiophytes. *C. finmarchicus* collected near the coast had significantly higher levels of biomarkers indicative of terrestrial input in their diet.

**KEY WORDS:** *Calanus finmarchicus* · Fatty acids · Biomarkers · Diatoms · Dinoflagellates · Spatial segregation · Trophic relationships

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## INTRODUCTION

Throughout the north Atlantic, the calanoid copepod *Calanus finmarchicus* is a dominant species and a key contributor to secondary production (Mauchline 1998). Over-wintering stages, mostly copepodite stage 5 (C5), are located in the deep ocean basins (e.g. Labrador Sea, Norwegian Sea) at median depths ranging from 500 to 1500 m (Heath et al. 2004, Head & Pepin 2008a). They emerge from dormancy prior to the onset of the spring phytoplankton bloom, moult, mate and migrate to the surface to feed and reproduce, with their off-spring feeding and developing until late summer or

early autumn. Some emergent individuals and their offspring are transported onto continental shelves while most remain over the deep basins (Harms et al. 2000, Edvardsen et al. 2003, Torgersen & Huse 2005, Johnson et al. 2006). After hatching, individuals from the new generation (G1) develop through 6 naupliar and 5 copepodite stages, at which time most undertake an ontogenetic downward vertical migration and enter diapause as stage C5. Some continue development to moult into the adult copepodite (C6) stage to start production of a second generation (G2; Gislason & Asthorsson 1996, Pasternak et al. 2001, Arashkevich et al. 2004). Individuals produced on the continental shelf

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are generally unlikely to find appropriate environments in which to survive the prolonged over-wintering period, although some shelf basins and channels, where the circulation is favourable, may allow diapausing populations to over-winter at depths between 200 and 400 m (e.g. Emerald Basin on the Scotian Shelf: McLaren et al. 2001; Laurentian Channel in the Gulf of St. Lawrence: Plourde et al. 2001; Gulf of Maine: Durbin et al. 2000).

In the northwest Atlantic, the Labrador Sea and the adjacent continental shelves are areas with high densities of *Calanus finmarchicus* (Planque & Batten 2000). In late autumn (November to December), an average of 76% of the population of *C. finmarchicus* is in the C5 stage, with approximately 10% as C4s and similar proportions as adults (average 5:1 female:male ratio; P. Pepin unpubl. data). At the same time, >90% of the C5s in slope waters off the Grand Banks and Newfoundland Shelf are located at depths in excess of 200 m (Head & Pepin 2008a), suggesting that most have entered dormancy, although on the continental shelf 55 to 94% (average 76%) of the population are still in the top 100 m of the water column (Pepin & Head 2009). Throughout the region, food resources available to copepods vary spatially and seasonally. The onset of the spring phytoplankton bloom progresses from south to north, with peaks in April on the northern Grand Banks, in May/June on the Labrador Shelf and in June/July in the central Labrador Sea (Pepin et al. 2008, Head et al. in press). Diatoms are numerically dominant during the spring bloom but form only a small portion of the phytoplankton community during the summer and autumn, when flagellates and dinoflagellates are numerically more abundant. Spatially, diatoms are relatively more abundant in waters of the Labrador Sea and Shelf, whereas dinoflagellates are more significant members of the phytoplankton community on the southern Newfoundland Shelf and Grand Banks throughout much of the year (Pepin et al. 2003). Also, *Phaeocystis* sp., a colonial prymnesiophyte, is often common in areas of high chlorophyll concentration in the central basin and in eastern regions of the Labrador Sea (Head et al. 2000, Stuart et al. 2000).

Development rates and body size at moult in *Calanus finmarchicus* are principally determined by temperature (Corkett et al. 1986, Campbell et al. 2001), which, in combination with feeding history, affects growth rates, sizes-at-stage and the accumulation of energy reserves. The wax ester reserves that are accumulated in late-stage copepodites consist primarily of 14:0, 16:0, 20:1 $\omega$ 9 and 22:1 $\omega$ 11 fatty alcohols, mainly formed de novo by the copepods from non-lipid dietary precursors, and fatty acids of dietary phytoplankton origin (Sargent & Falk-Petersen 1988, Miller et al.

1998). Previous work has demonstrated that fatty acids specific to diatoms, dinoflagellates, prymnesiophytes, ciliates, detritus and metazoans can be used to provide a qualitative assessment of the contribution of these different prey to the diet of herbivorous zooplankton (reviewed by Dalsgaard et al. 2003). Such markers may also allow us to determine whether the differences in body size and energy reserves of copepods from different environments are associated with differences in food type, as well as temperature. If there are differences among individuals collected from different areas, then these, as well as the differences in size and energy reserves, may contribute to the fate of the copepods (e.g. dormancy and successful overwintering versus moulting and reproduction).

In this study, we report the fatty acid composition of C5 *Calanus finmarchicus* copepodites collected in late November to early December 2007 from the Grand Banks and Newfoundland Shelf as well as from slope waters of the Labrador Sea and northwest Atlantic. Our objective was to assess whether C5 *C. finmarchicus* collected at different locations show evidence of differential growth and whether this is associated with feeding on different food sources. On the Newfoundland Shelf in November/December, a large proportion of the C5 population is in the surface layer, and will likely moult into adults (Head & Pepin 2008b, Johnson et al. 2008), and even those C5s near the bottom have probably descended only recently (Pepin & Head 2009). By contrast, most C5s are at depth and are in diapause in the waters along the slope and beyond (Head & Pepin 2008a, Pepin & Head 2009). Based on the region's seasonal cycles of temperature and phytoplankton taxonomic composition, we would expect individuals spawned earlier in the year or from more northerly locations to be larger (as a result of development at lower temperature), to have greater energy reserves for a given body size (as a result of having fed at higher phytoplankton concentrations), and to have a greater proportion of diatom markers than individuals produced later in the year.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Sample collection.** Zooplankton samples were collected on the continental shelf and slope east of Newfoundland, Canada, between 22 November and 5 December 2007 as part of the Atlantic Zone Monitoring Program. Stations were located either in the inner or outer branches of the Labrador Current (Fig. 1). Samples were collected using a 0.75 m ring net fitted with a 202  $\mu$ m mesh mounted on a dual net frame which was towed vertically from 5 m above bottom, to a maximum of 1000 m, at 1 m s<sup>-1</sup>. The use of vertically integrated

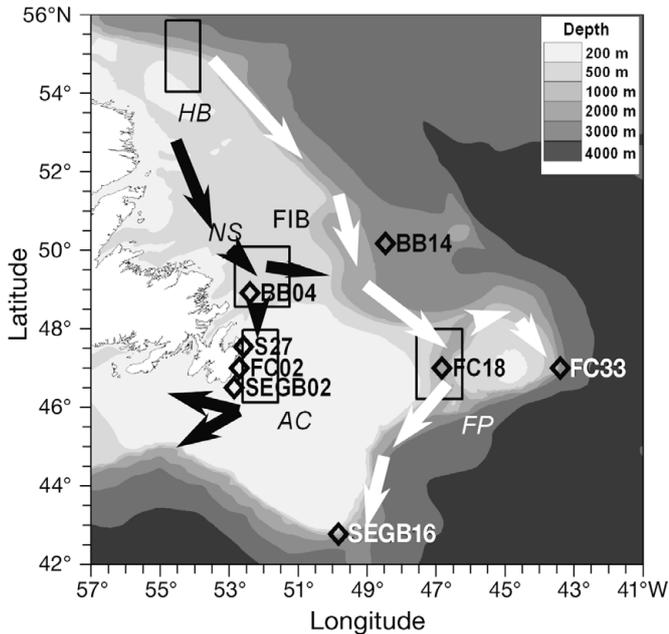


Fig. 1. Grand Banks, Flemish Cap and Newfoundland Shelf showing sampling locations and station identifiers (diamonds). Schematic representations of the inner and outer branches of the Labrador Current are shown as black and white arrows, respectively. The boxes represent the areas (AC: Avalon Channel; FP: Flemish Pass; HB: Hamilton Bank; NS: Newfoundland Shelf) for which satellite derived estimates of average sea surface temperature, based on 2 wk intervals, are presented in Fig. 6. The box for the central Labrador Sea ( $56^{\circ}37.6'N$ ,  $53^{\circ}10.1'W$  to  $58^{\circ}7.6'N$ ,  $50^{\circ}24.9'W$ ) is not shown. Also shown is the location of Funk Island Bank (FIB; see 'Discussion'). Sample depths are BB04: 340 m; S27: 165 m; FC02: 180 m; SEGB02: 180 m; and 1000 m for BB14, FC18, FC33 and SEGB16

tows was not ideal but the contrast in the vertical distribution of C5s on and off the continental shelf is sufficiently large and consistent that samples from different areas reflect differences between populations that are primarily active (near-surface, shelf) and dormant (deep, slope: Head & Pepin 2008a, Pepin & Head 2009).

Zooplankton were sieved to remove seawater, placed in 2 ml cryovials, sealed and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ . To extract C5 *Calanus finmarchicus*, samples were partially thawed, placed on a cold plate and sorted as quickly as possible ( $<20$  min). A high-resolution image of the lateral view of individual C5 was recorded using an Olympus Q-colour 5 RTV (5 megapixel) mounted on a dissecting stereo-microscope and linked to an Image Pro-plus V 6.0 image analysis system. For each specimen, prosome length (PrL) and lateral oil sac length (LOL) and area (LOA) were measured using the image analysis system. LOA was used as an index of energy reserves (Miller et al. 1998, 2000). For each sample, average PrL and LOA provided a measure of the body size and energy reserves. Ten specimens were placed

at the bottom of a glass tube using a stainless steel probe and refrozen at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Utensils were cleaned between samples with filtered de-ionised water and wiped dry to minimise contamination. Only undamaged specimens (i.e. with no evidence of physical damage or with segmented oil sacs, which could indicate leakage) were included for analysis. This same procedure was used successfully by Pepin & Head (2009) to describe the regional and seasonal variations in the distribution of energy reserves in *C. finmarchicus*. Five replicate sub-samples with 10 individuals were collected at 8 stations, but at 4 stations, 1 sub-sample did not yield reliable estimates of fatty acid composition owing to low lipid content and/or poor sample quality (S27, FC02, FC18, FC33), leaving us with a total of 36 sub-samples.

**Lipid and fatty acid analysis.** Lipids were extracted from *Calanus finmarchicus* using a modified Folch method (Parrish 1999). The test tube containing the frozen tissue in 2 ml chloroform was allowed to thaw on ice before addition of 1 ml of methanol. Samples were ground using a metal rod in 1 ml of chloroform:methanol (2:1 v/v), and 0.5 ml of chloroform extracted water were then added. Homogenates were vortexed, sonicated for 4 min and centrifuged at  $4000 \times g$  (2 min) before the lower (chloroform) layer was removed by double pipetting. Three washes were made to maximise lipid recovery, and the chloroform layers were combined.

For a detailed study of fatty acids, samples were dried under  $\text{N}_2$ , transesterified to methyl esters with 14% boron trifluoride and analysed as fatty acid methyl esters with an Agilent 6890 gas chromatograph (GC) equipped with an autoinjector and flexible fused-silica column ( $30 \text{ m} \times 0.32 \text{ mm i.d.} \times 0.25 \mu\text{m}$  film thickness) coated with polyethylene glycol (ZBwax; Phenomenex). To determine derivatisation efficiency, a few samples were analysed by thin layer chromatography/flame ionisation detection (FID) before and after derivatisation. On average, 84% of the total acyl lipid class content was transesterified to methyl esters. The operation parameters for the GC were identical to those described by Budge & Parrish (1998). Briefly, the flow rates for the carrier gases, viz. hydrogen, air and helium, were 2, 300 and  $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ , respectively. The column temperature was programmed to hold at  $65^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 0.5 min, then rise to  $195^{\circ}\text{C}$  and hold for 15 min after ramping at  $40^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ , and to hold at  $215^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 0.75 min after ramping at  $2^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ . The injector temperature increased from 150 to  $250^{\circ}\text{C}$  at  $200^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ . The FID was kept at  $260^{\circ}\text{C}$  throughout the analysis. Fatty acids were identified by comparison of retention times with 4 commercial fatty acid standards (polyunsaturated fatty acid 1 [PUFA1], PUFA3, bacterial fatty acid methyl ester mix and 37-component) supplied by

Supelco. Data were processed with the Varian Galaxie Chromatography Data System, version 1.9.3.2.

**Statistical analysis.** The average morphometrics of copepods from the different sampling locations were contrasted using analysis of variance (ANOVA), in which location (shelf versus slope) was treated as a categorical variable. Tukey's pairwise post hoc test was used to compare means among locations. The energy reserves of individual copepods from the different locations were contrasted using an analysis of covariance (ANCOVA), in which location (shelf versus slope) was treated as a categorical variable and PrL and LOA were continuous.

Fatty acid data are reported as mean ( $\pm$ SD) proportion of total fatty acids. In several instances, many biomarkers may be used to identify prey. One might be tempted to choose a single marker as an ideal index, but this might raise the question that the choice of a single marker was intended to demonstrate a particular trend. To avoid any uncertainty in the reliability of our findings, we chose to use several markers whenever possible. We also performed comparisons of various biomarkers and/or indices of nutritional status. Individual fatty acids, their sums or ratios, were used as indicators of diatoms (16:1 $\omega$ 7 + 16:4 $\omega$ 1 + 20:5 $\omega$ 3; 16:1 $\omega$ 7/16:0;  $\Sigma C_{16}/\Sigma C_{18}$ : Budge & Parrish 1998, Dalsgaard et al. 2003), prymnesiophytes (18:1 $\omega$ 9 + 18:4 $\omega$ 3; Dalsgaard et al. 2003); dinoflagellates (22:6 $\omega$ 3/20:5 $\omega$ 3; Budge & Parrish 1998), carnivory (18:1 $\omega$ 7/18:1 $\omega$ 9; Dalsgaard et al. 2003) and terrestrial input (18:2 $\omega$ 6 + 18:3 $\omega$ 3; Budge & Parrish 1998). The ratio 22:6 $\omega$ 3/20:5 $\omega$ 3 is also an important nutritional index (Sargent 1995, Shields et al. 1999), as is  $\Sigma\omega$ 3/ $\Sigma\omega$ 6 (Sargent 1995, Milke et al. 2004). In addition, we included Parrish et al.'s (2005) polyunsaturated index of  $C_{16}$  fatty acids as a measure of the biochemical status of diatoms in the diet of *Calanus finmarchicus*: the ratio of (16:2 $\omega$ 4 + 16:3 $\omega$ 4 + 16:4 $\omega$ 3 + 16:4 $\omega$ 1) to (16:0 + 16:1 $\omega$ 7 + 16:1 $\omega$ 5 + 16:2 $\omega$ 4 + 16:3 $\omega$ 4 + 16:4 $\omega$ 3 + 16:4 $\omega$ 1). This ratio provides an index of nutrient sufficiency in diatoms and has been shown to decline rapidly as nitrate concentrations in the water column fall following the spring bloom (Parrish et al. 2005)

All statistical analyses were performed after arcsine-square root transformation of proportions of individual fatty acids relative to total fatty acids and untransformed values of ratio indices. For comparative purposes, samples were grouped by location, either on the continental shelf or in slope waters. A 2-sided Student's *t*-test with unequal variance was used to compare the proportion of individual fatty acids between locations. We also applied the 2-sided Student's *t*-test with unequal variance to the grouping based on a Tukey post hoc test of average PrL by location determined from the ANCOVA of morphometric characteristics.

To assess which elements contributed to the differentiation among samples, separate principal components analyses were performed on fatty acid categories (bacterial, saturated -SFA, monounsaturated -MUFA, polyunsaturated -PUFA and  $\omega$ 3 fatty acids) as well as on the composition of individual fatty acids that exceeded an average of 1% of total fatty acids. This ensured that potentially important fatty acids were not excluded from the analysis. Performing our analyses with only fatty acids with an overall average exceeding 2% contribution to the total fatty acids did not affect our findings or conclusions. Pearson product-moment correlation coefficients were used to assess the relationships between fatty acid composition, biomarkers and principal component scores with PrL or LOA.

## RESULTS

The integrated abundance of C5 *Calanus finmarchicus* at stations on the continental shelf (BB04: 11 600 m<sup>-2</sup>; S27: 4200 m<sup>-2</sup>; FC02: 5200 m<sup>-2</sup>; SEGB02: 13 500 m<sup>-2</sup>) was on average 3 times less than that found in slope waters (BB14: 21 700 m<sup>-2</sup>; FC18: 32 000 m<sup>-2</sup>; FC33: 10 600 m<sup>-2</sup>; SEGB16: 38 000 m<sup>-2</sup>), and there were significant differences in the morphometrics of copepods from the 8 sampling stations. The average PrL of *C. finmarchicus* was generally smaller for samples from the continental shelf than for animals collected in slope waters (ANOVA,  $F_{7,32} = 10.32$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) (Fig. 2). However, the average PrL of animals from the northernmost shelf station (BB04) was closer to that of animals collected on the continental slope (average: 2.53 mm versus averages of 2.44 to 2.58 mm) and significantly different (Tukey pairwise comparison,  $p < 0.05$ ) from those collected at other locations on the shelf (average: 2.29 to 2.36 mm). In addition, the average LOA was also generally smaller in individuals found on the shelf than in slope waters (ANCOVA,  $F_{\text{location } 1,396} = 213.4$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ;  $F_{\text{PrL } 1,396} = 405.0$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) (Fig. 2).

*Calanus finmarchicus* C5s showed relatively high levels of 14:0, 16:0, 16:1 $\omega$ 7, 18:1 $\omega$ 9, 20:1 $\omega$ 9, 22:1 $\omega$ 11, 16:4 $\omega$ 1, 18:2 $\omega$ 6, 18:3 $\omega$ 3, 20:4 $\omega$ 3, 20:5 $\omega$ 3 and 22:6 $\omega$ 3 (Table 1). Of the 59 fatty acids identified in our samples, these accounted for 65% of the total. SFA, MUFA, and PUFA represented an average of 32, 28 and 39% of the total fatty acids, respectively (Table 2). Saturated fatty acids with chains  $>C_{18}$  totalled  $<1\%$  of the total fatty acids in *C. finmarchicus*.  $\omega$ 3 fatty acids accounted for a higher proportion of PUFA than  $\omega$ 6 fatty acids, but their relative abundance ( $\Sigma\omega$ 3/ $\Sigma\omega$ 6), an index of nutritional status, was not significantly correlated with either PrL or LOA. Bacterial fatty acid markers represented approximately 3% of the total. Bacterial fatty acid markers and MUFA were most variable, with a

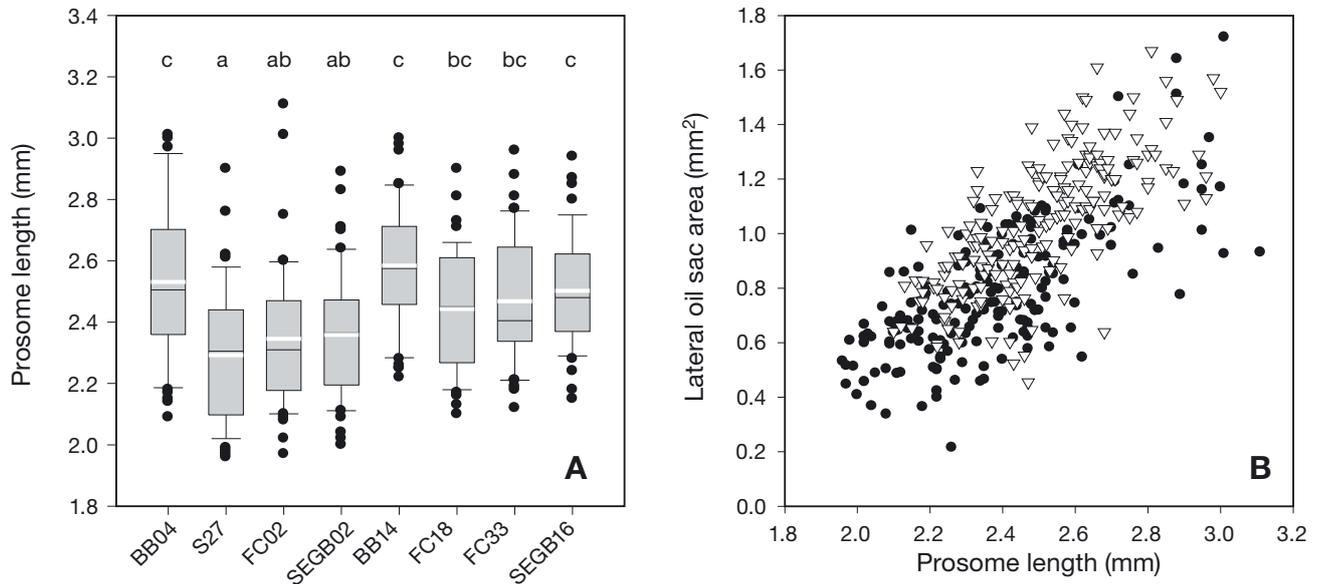


Fig. 2. *Calanus finmarchicus*. (A) Average prosome length (mm) of C5 copepodites from different sampling locations. Each bar represents all subsamples from each location. The thick white line represents the mean, whereas the thin black line represents the median. The lower and upper bars represent the 25th and 75th percentiles, while the whiskers represent the 10th and 90th percentiles of the distribution and closed circles represent outliers. Letters above column groups indicate similarity based on Tukey's post hoc test of means. Locations with the same letter are not significantly different based on a comparison of the mean prosome length among subsamples. (B) Individual measurements of lateral oil sac area (mm<sup>2</sup>) in relation to prosome length (mm) for specimens collected on the continental shelf and slope. Circles and inverted triangles in Panel B represent samples collected at stations on the shelf and continental slope, respectively

Table 1. *Calanus finmarchicus*. Fatty acid composition (percent total fatty acids) of compounds exceeding average levels of 0.5% in C5 copepodites. Data are means and SD over all stations (sample size from the frequency of occurrence column). Also included is the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient of the arcsine-square root transformed proportion of fatty acid composition in relation to the mean prosome length (PrL) and lateral oil sac area (LOA) of copepodites from each subsample. The 2 right-hand columns give the p-values of the *t*-tests contrasting samples by location (shelf versus slope) and the dominant Tukey post hoc groupings of average PrL. Statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) correlation coefficients and p-values are shown in **bold**. *Italicised* values in the 2 right most columns indicate that the indices are greater in samples from the slope and in larger copepodites, respectively

Fatty acid	Mean percentage	SD	Frequency of occurrence	Pearson correlation with PrL	Pearson correlation with LOA	p-value of <i>t</i> -test (shelf vs. slope)	p-value of <i>t</i> -test (size groups)
14:0	19.1	2.5	36	0.081	0.196	<i>0.074</i>	0.926
<i>i</i> 15:0	0.5	0.1	36	<b>-0.579</b>	<b>-0.560</b>	0.130	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
15:0	1.0	0.2	36	<b>-0.693</b>	<b>-0.576</b>	0.235	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
16:0	11.1	1.2	36	<b>-0.443</b>	-0.225	0.955	<b>0.010</b>
16:1 $\omega$ 9	0.5	0.2	35	<b>-0.447</b>	<b>-0.355</b>	0.444	<b>0.008</b>
16:1 $\omega$ 7	5.8	1.6	36	<b>0.543</b>	<b>0.479</b>	<i>0.253</i>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
16:1 $\omega$ 5	0.7	0.1	36	<b>-0.688</b>	<b>-0.766</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
16:2 $\omega$ 4	0.8	0.2	36	0.092	0.124	<i>0.894</i>	<i>0.073</i>
16:3 $\omega$ 4	0.6	0.4	34	0.230	0.115	0.600	<i>0.101</i>
16:4 $\omega$ 3	0.5	0.2	36	<b>-0.558</b>	<b>-0.566</b>	<b>0.038</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
16:4 $\omega$ 1	1.5	1.0	36	<b>0.739</b>	<b>0.626</b>	<i>0.088</i>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
18:0	0.7	0.2	36	-0.231	-0.303	0.075	<b>0.009</b>
18:1 $\omega$ 9	4.1	0.9	36	<b>-0.569</b>	<b>-0.395</b>	0.403	<b>0.018</b>
18:2 $\omega$ 6	1.2	0.2	36	-0.247	-0.350	0.184	<b>0.030</b>
18:3 $\omega$ 3	1.4	0.6	36	<b>-0.809</b>	<b>-0.706</b>	<b>0.019</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
18:4 $\omega$ 3	10.8	3.4	36	<b>-0.677</b>	<b>-0.704</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
19:0	0.9	0.3	34	0.231	0.131	0.974	0.900
20:1 $\omega$ 9	5.2	2.1	36	<b>0.669</b>	<b>0.594</b>	<b>0.020</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
20:4 $\omega$ 3	1.2	0.4	35	-0.284	<b>-0.346</b>	0.277	0.118
20:5 $\omega$ 3	12.2	1.6	36	<b>0.644</b>	<b>0.466</b>	<i>0.450</i>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
22:1 $\omega$ 11(13)	7.6	2.7	36	<b>0.592</b>	<b>0.628</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
22:1 $\omega$ 9	0.5	0.2	36	<b>0.537</b>	<b>0.497</b>	<b>0.040</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
22:6 $\omega$ 3	6.5	1.4	36	<b>-0.569</b>	<b>-0.711</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>

Table 2. *Calanus finmarchicus*. Trophic marker and summary indices of C5 copepodites. Data are means and SD averaged over all stations. MUFA: monounsaturated fatty acid; PUFA: polyunsaturated fatty acid. Other explanations as in Table 1

Fatty acid summary indices	Mean percentage or ratio	SD	Pearson correlation with PrL	Pearson correlation with LOA	p-value of <i>t</i> -test (shelf vs. slope)	p-value of <i>t</i> -test (small vs. large)
$\Sigma\omega 3$	33.6	4.8	<b>-0.653</b>	<b>-0.743</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
$\Sigma\omega 6$	1.93	0.5	<b>-0.471</b>	<b>-0.328</b>	0.283	0.125
$\Sigma\omega 3/\Sigma\omega 6$	18.0	3.74	-0.055	-0.234	0.287	0.491
18:1 $\omega 9$ + 18:4 $\omega 3$	14.9	0.04	<b>-0.750</b>	<b>-0.727</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
22:6 $\omega 3/20:5\omega 3$	0.54	0.15	<b>-0.723</b>	<b>-0.761</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
16:1 $\omega 7$ + 16:4 $\omega 1$ + 20:5 $\omega 3$	7.7	2.4	<b>0.684</b>	<b>0.590</b>	0.752	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
16:1 $\omega 7/16:0$	0.54	0.19	<b>0.563</b>	<b>0.431</b>	0.600	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
16:1 $\omega 7/18:4\omega 3$	0.63	0.34	<b>0.587</b>	<b>0.541</b>	0.124	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
$\Sigma C_{16}/\Sigma C_{18}$	1.08	0.27	<b>0.681</b>	<b>0.664</b>	<b>0.014</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
$C_{16}$ PUFA index	0.16	0.05	<b>0.524</b>	<b>0.392</b>	0.591	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
18:2 $\omega 6$ + 18:3 $\omega 3$	2.6	0.01	<b>-0.741</b>	<b>-0.682</b>	<b>0.019</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
18:1 $\omega 7/18:1\omega 9$	0.11	0.04	<b>0.460</b>	0.323	0.804	<b>0.002</b>
$\Sigma$ Bacterial	2.9	0.6	<b>-0.417</b>	<b>-0.331</b>	0.883	<b>0.001</b>
$\Sigma$ Saturated	32.4	3.2	-0.209	-0.027	0.327	0.159
$\Sigma$ MUFA	27.7	5.2	<b>0.602</b>	<b>0.601</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
$\Sigma$ PUFA	38.9	4.8	<b>-0.549</b>	<b>-0.686</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>

coefficient of variation (CV) ~20%, while PUFA and SFA were somewhat less variable (CV ~10–12%).

Multivariate analyses revealed a strong pattern of separation among MUFA, PUFA, SFA, bacterial fatty acid markers and  $\omega 3$  PUFAs (Fig. 3). The first 2 principal components (PCs) explained a total of 92% of the variation among the 36 subsamples. MUFAs were separated from other fatty acids along the first principal

component, while PUFAs were separated from the SFAs and the bacterial fatty acid markers along the second PC. Superimposing the observations revealed a clear separation of samples from shelf and slope locations principally along the first axis, with slope samples having higher levels of MUFAs and shelf samples having greater levels of PUFAs (Table 2, Fig. 3). Separation along the first PC was significantly negatively

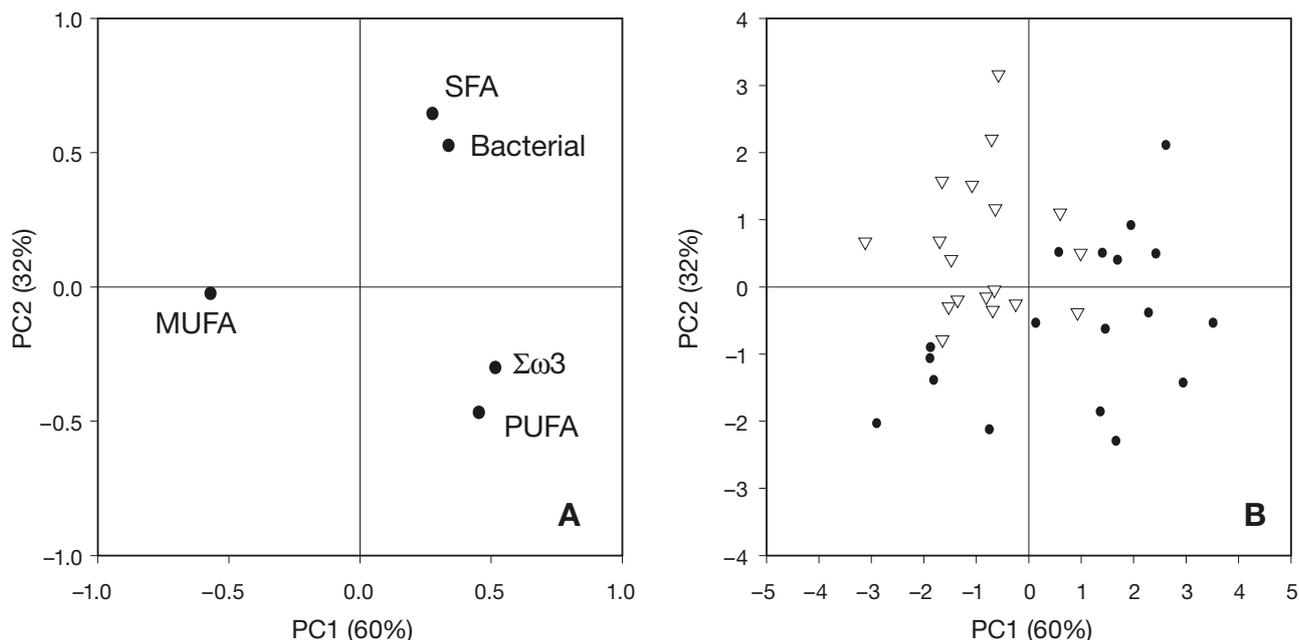


Fig. 3. *Calanus finmarchicus*. First (PC1) and second (PC2) principal components, showing the position of (A) fatty acids and (B) observations. Values in parentheses indicate the percentage of variance explained by each PC. Circles and inverted triangles in (B) represent samples collected at stations on the shelf and continental slope, respectively

associated with average PrL ( $r = -0.655$ ) and LOA ( $r = -0.649$ ) of the copepods in each sample.

A similar separation of sites was obtained when 14 individual fatty acids (>1% average of total) were used in the analysis, although the overall variance explained by the first 2 PCs was reduced to 68% (Fig. 4). There was clear separation in the proportion of diatom (16:1 $\omega$ 7, 16:4 $\omega$ 1 and 20:5 $\omega$ 3) and prymnesiophyte-dinophyte (18:1 $\omega$ 9, 18:4 $\omega$ 3 and 22:6 $\omega$ 3) fatty acid markers along the first PC. PrL was again significantly inversely correlated with the first PC ( $r = -0.745$ ), positively correlated with diatom markers and negatively correlated with dinoflagellate markers (Tables 1 & 2, Fig. 5).

Of the 25 fatty acids with average levels >0.5%, 16 were significantly correlated with average PrL: 10 negatively and 6 positively (Table 1). Similar results were obtained for LOA. In contrast, location (shelf versus slope water) only resulted in 8 significant differences, whereas 18 significant differences were obtained using the Tukey post hoc groupings that were strongly differentiated based on PrL (Table 1). These findings indicate that body size is a dominant correlate of fatty acid composition in *Calanus finmarchicus*.

A comparison of 4 diatom indices (16:1 $\omega$ 7 + 16:4 $\omega$ 1 + 20:5 $\omega$ 3; 16:1 $\omega$ 7/16:0; 16:1 $\omega$ 7/18:4 $\omega$ 3;  $\Sigma C_{16}/\Sigma C_{18}$ ) and the  $C_{16}$  PUFA diatom index based on location alone gave a significant difference only for  $\Sigma C_{16}/\Sigma C_{18}$ , although differences became highly significant for all 5 when samples were grouped by the dominant Tukey post hoc groupings of average PrL by location

(Table 2). Dinoflagellate (22:6 $\omega$ 3/20:5 $\omega$ 3) and prymnesiophyte (18:1 $\omega$ 9+18:4 $\omega$ 3) indices were significantly inversely correlated with PrL and LOA, and showed significant differences in groupings by location of body size (Table 2). The average proportions of diatom markers 16:1 $\omega$ 7, 16:4 $\omega$ 1 and 20:5 $\omega$ 3 were higher in the large copepod grouping by 0.0198, 0.0142 and 0.0190, respectively, while the average proportions of the prymnesiophyte marker 18:4 $\omega$ 3 and dinoflagellate marker 22:6 $\omega$ 3 were higher by 0.0616 and 0.0225, respectively, in the small copepod grouping. The average proportions of 20:1 $\omega$ 9 and 22:1 $\omega$ 11 were greater in the large copepods (difference = 0.0293 and 0.0441, respectively), as were the levels of larger energy reserves. The difference in the proportions of other fatty acids between Tukey post hoc groupings based on average PrL did not exceed 0.01. Overall, smaller C5 *Calanus finmarchicus* tended to have greater proportions of dinoflagellate markers, whereas diatom markers were more abundant in larger copepodites.

*Calanus finmarchicus* collected on the continental shelf, near the coast, had significantly higher levels of biomarkers indicative of terrestrial input in their diet, whether the groupings were based on location or size. There was a strong significant negative correlation of 18:2 $\omega$ 6 + 18:3 $\omega$ 3 with both PrL and LOA (Table 2). In addition, we note a significant positive association between the index of omnivory (18:1 $\omega$ 7/18:1 $\omega$ 9) and PrL, again presenting a strong separation among animals based on average body size.

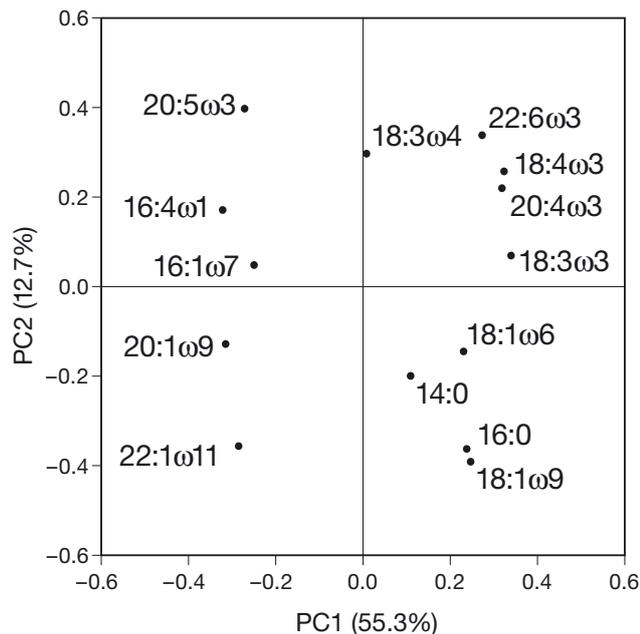


Fig. 4. First (PC1) and second (PC2) principal components, showing the position of individual fatty acids. Values in parentheses indicate the percentage of variance explained by each PC

## DISCUSSION

The circulation on the Newfoundland Shelf and western Labrador Sea is dominated by the equatorward-flowing inshore and offshore branches of the Labrador Current, with some cross-shelf transport occurring through channels adjacent to major banks (Loder et al. 1998, Han et al. 2008). The pattern of satellite-derived sea surface temperature (Fig. 6) reveals that animals from northern areas on the continental shelf would have experienced lower temperatures than animals found farther south. Similarly, animals in surface waters on the continental shelf during summer and autumn would have been exposed to higher temperatures than animals in surface waters of the western Labrador Sea in spring and early summer. Therefore, animals collected in December on the southern continental shelf would have experienced higher temperatures during their development than copepods collected farther north or in offshore waters.

On the Newfoundland Shelf, the abundance of phytoplankton, particularly diatoms, is inversely related to temperature in the upper mixed layer (Pepin et

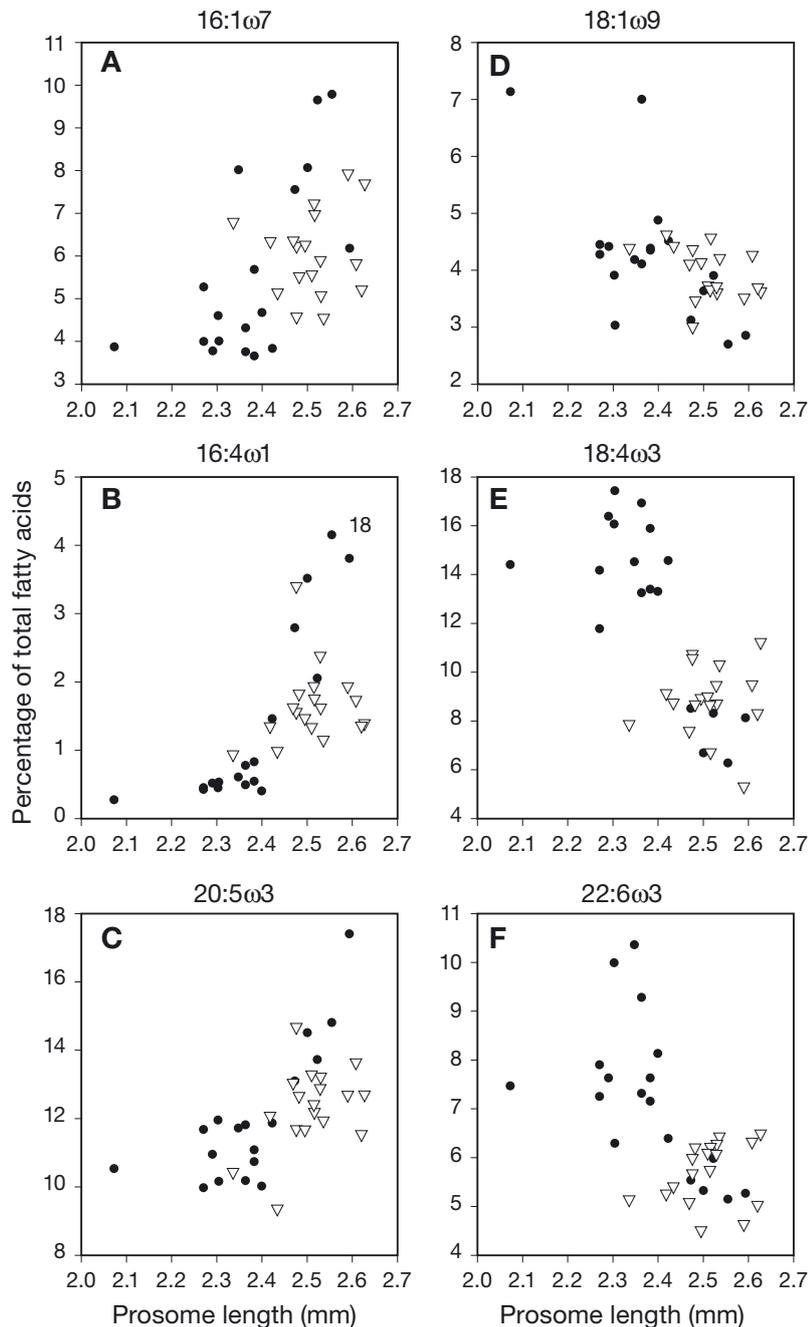


Fig. 5. *Calanus finmarchicus*. Percentage of total fatty acid of (A) 16:1 $\omega$ 7, (B) 16:4 $\omega$ 1, (C) 20:5 $\omega$ 3, (D) 18:1 $\omega$ 9, (E) 18:4 $\omega$ 3 and (F) 22:6 $\omega$ 3 in relation to average prosome length. Circles and inverted triangles in the panels represent samples collected at stations on the shelf and continental slope, respectively. Note that statistical analyses were performed on arcsine-square root transforms of proportions shown in panels

al. 2008). Diatoms are most abundant in the early spring, when temperatures begin to rise from the winter minimum, while autotrophic flagellates are present throughout the year, with minor increases in the abundance of dinoflagellates during the spring and late fall (Fig. 7). Consequently, high diatom concentrations are

associated with low temperatures, and their effects on copepod growth in this region are therefore confounded. Temperature probably has the most important influence on body size (PrL) based on a laboratory study by Campbell et al. (2001). Interpretation of fatty acid composition must therefore be set against a backdrop of the seasonally co-varying effects of environmental conditions.

Pepin & Head (2009) found that larger individuals were produced during the early part of the year, in response to the relatively low temperatures and high food concentrations. As the season progressed, the composition of animals in the deep offshore waters began to reflect a mixture of individuals that had developed at different times during the growing season. The accumulation of large energy reserves by copepods in the form of lipids has been hypothesised to play a significant role in the ability of *Calanus finmarchicus* to survive over-wintering periods, by contributing to buoyancy and metabolism during diapause (e.g. Irigoien 2004), and subsequently by fuelling moulting and early gonad development prior to the spring phytoplankton bloom (e.g. Plourde & Runge 1993). Based on prior observations of the vertical distributions of *C. finmarchicus* on and off the continental shelf (Head & Pepin 2008a, Pepin & Head 2009), the larger animals collected at offshore sites in this study were most likely from the sub-surface layers and were most likely diapausing, whereas a large proportion of animals occurring at sites on the shelf were probably from the near surface layers and still active. At slope water stations dominated by diapausing copepods, C5 *C. finmarchicus* had larger body sizes and greater energy reserves and had apparently fed mainly on diatoms and omnivorously. By contrast, at shelf sta-

tions where a greater proportion of the population was active, individuals were small, had lower energy reserves, and had been feeding more extensively on dinoflagellates and prymnesiophytes. The relatively high proportions of energy-rich MUFAs in the larger animals may reflect the fact that they had been in dia-

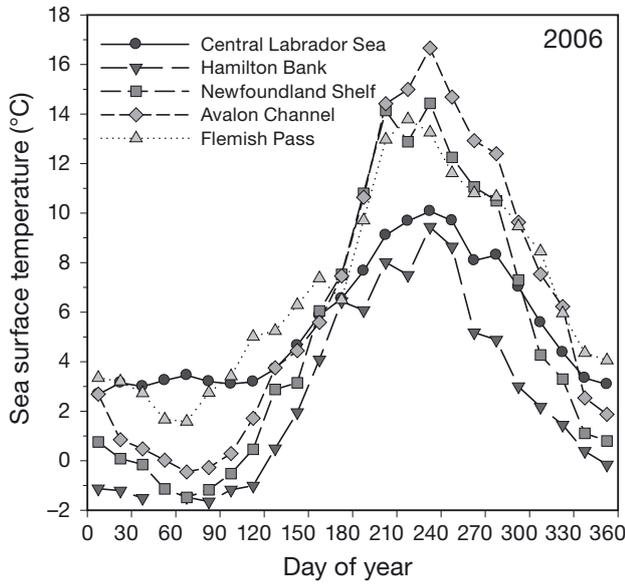
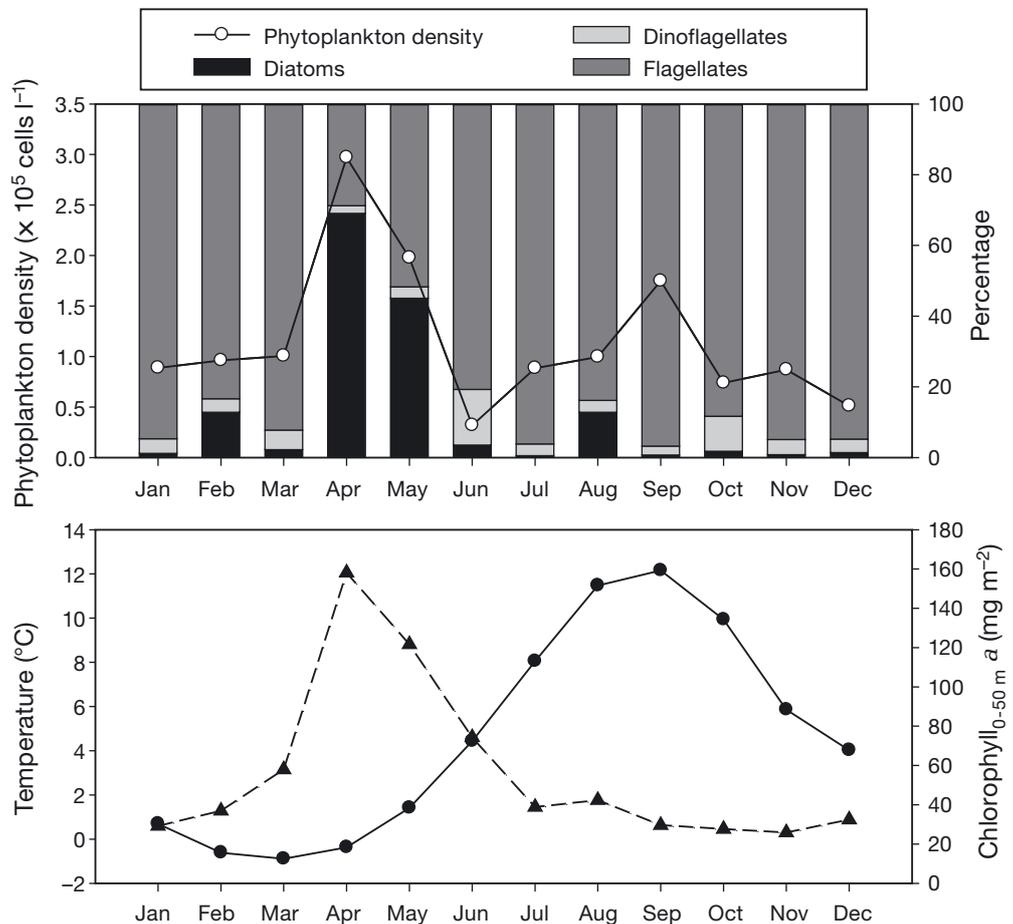


Fig. 6. Average satellite-derived sea surface temperature for 5 areas of the Newfoundland Shelf and Labrador Sea for 2 wk intervals in 2006. Areas are shown in Fig. 1, with the exception of the site for the central Labrador Sea (56° 37.6' N, 53° 10.1' W to 58° 7.6' N, 50° 24.9' W)

pause for some time and had metabolised the PUFAs that would have been ingested in their diatom diet (Kattner et al. 1989); MUFAs can be synthesised de novo by copepods and may be preferentially conserved in wax esters (Lee 1974).

The C5s analysed in this study were the survivors of *Calanus finmarchicus* spawned over the course of the preceding spring and summer. Madsen et al. (2001) found that diatoms were important prey for *Calanus* copepods during the spring phytoplankton bloom but that ciliates and heterotrophic dinoflagellates were important food sources during the post-bloom period. Our results are consistent with this if the larger animals we collected in the slope waters were spawned earlier during the year and had fed on the spring (diatom) bloom when temperatures were lower, while the smaller animals we collected on the shelf were spawned later and had fed on dinoflagellates and prymnesiophytes when temperatures were higher. It is not possible to determine the relative role of food availability versus food type on growth from this study because the effect of temperature would have had a greater influence on the overall size of copepodites and would probably also have affected their ability to store, rather than metabolise, ingested energy

Fig. 7. (A) Seasonal cycle in phytoplankton abundance (open circles) and relative taxonomic composition (proportion – solid bars) from sampling site S27, for the period 2000 to 2005 (P. Pepin unpublished data). (B) Seasonal cycle in upper layer temperature (0 to 25 m average; closed circles and solid line) and chlorophyll a concentration (0 to 50 m average; closed triangles and dashed line) for the same period. Sampling at that site is based on approximately bi-monthly collections using ships-of-opportunity as part of an oceanographic monitoring programme



(including fatty acids). Despite smaller energy reserves and body sizes, however, the fatty acid composition of *C. finmarchicus* from the continental shelf was of high nutritional value (high levels of  $\Sigma\omega 3$  PUFA and high docosahexaenoic acid/eicosapentaenoic acid, DHA/EPA, ratio), which might have resulted from a low intake of diatom 20:5 $\omega 3$  and preferential catabolism of non- $\omega 3$  fatty acids. This suggests that these copepods were in relatively good physiological condition, which may have allowed them to subsequently moult and reproduce, because higher DHA/EPA ratios have been linked to hatching success in *Temora longicornis* (Arendt et al. 2005, Evjemo et al. 2008), and high levels of PUFAs have been shown to promote egg production in *C. helgolandicus* (Pond et al. 1996) and *C. finmarchicus* (Jonasdottir et al. 2002). Indeed, there is evidence that there is successful reproduction in *C. finmarchicus* on the Newfoundland Shelf in fall because young stage copepodites are often found there from fall to late winter (March; Head & Pepin 2008b).

Spatial segregation of animals based on the index of terrestrial input (18:2 $\omega 6$  + 18:3 $\omega 3$ ) showed that animals collected west of the Grand Banks had significantly greater amounts of this tracer than larger copepods sampled farther north or in offshore waters. The differences probably reflect the greater exposure to detrital inputs from coastal environments as the animals were transported by the inner branch of the Labrador Current, with copepods from the southern coastal sites having drifted in closer proximity to the coast relative to *Calanus finmarchicus* that were transported by the outer branch of the current. It is possible that high levels of 18:3 $\omega 3$  could have been derived from green algae, which can have high levels of this fatty acid (Arendt et al. 2005); however, high densities of Chlorophyceae were infrequent during long-term seasonal monitoring at S27 (P. Pepin & C. H. McKenzie unpubl. data). On the other hand, Cryptophyceae can have high proportions of 18:2 $\omega 6$  (Viso & Marty 1993) and can be abundant during August and September (C. H. McKenzie unpubl. data), which could have contributed to the elevated levels found in copepods in the inner branch of the Labrador Current. However, compound-specific stable isotope analyses confirmed the terrestrial nature of 18:2 $\omega 6$  and 18:3 $\omega 3$  in an ecosystem study of a Newfoundland fjord (Copeman et al. 2009). The close association between 18:3 $\omega 3$  and 18:4 $\omega 3$  in principal components analyses here and in Copeman et al. (2009) suggests that some of the 18:4 $\omega 3$  may be derived by desaturation of 18:3 $\omega 3$ .

In contrast to our observations, Heath et al. (2008) found that the highest proportion of entrants to the overwintering state in the East Greenland Current–Atlantic area of the Irminger Sea in July/August were animals that had the highest dietary contribution of

fatty acid biomarkers from dinoflagellates and the lowest from diatoms and microheterotrophs–prymnesiophytes. They argued that diatoms were probably less diagnostic of the spatial origin of copepods because of the localised nature of the blooms within the region. In the western Labrador Sea and Newfoundland Shelf, however, because of the strong association with body size, differences in fatty acid composition among collection sites are more likely to result from seasonal differences in food available to *Calanus finmarchicus*.

The significance of the fall generation of *Calanus finmarchicus* to regional population dynamics is unclear (Neuheimer et al. 2010), although autumn survival of *C. finmarchicus* on the Newfoundland Shelf appears to be lower than during the main spring growth period (Plourde et al. 2009). Variations in body size observed in our collections reflect the different feeding and thermal histories of individual copepods, and the combined effects of these factors could perhaps be explored using inverse modelling techniques and individual based models (e.g. Gentleman et al. 2008) so as to help establish the influence that prey type has on growth and development. Most models of *C. finmarchicus* dynamics to date have relied on representing prey availability in direct relation to total phytoplankton standing stock instead of a community of 2 or more taxa (e.g. Bryant et al. 1997, Speirs et al. 2006, Gentleman et al. 2008). If, however, prey type can influence growth and the accumulation of energy reserves, and thus, for example, the likelihood of entry into diapause, then models using gross measures of phytoplankton biomass may be inadequate. An improved understanding could be crucial in predicting the effects of climate change on this keystone species, since warming temperatures are likely to lead to significant changes in phytoplankton production and composition in the future (e.g. Agawin et al. 2000, Li 2009).

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