



## **Time series of the partial pressure of carbon dioxide (2001-2004) and preliminary inorganic carbon budget in the Scheldt plume (Belgian coastal waters)**

L.-S. Schiettecatte (1), F. Gazeau (2), C. van der Zee (3), N. Brion (4), **A.V. Borges** (1)

Chemical oceanography Unit, ULg, Liège, Belgium, [Laure-Sophie.Schiettecatte@ulg.ac.be]

(2) NIOO-KNAW, Centre for Estuarine and Marine Ecology, Yerseke, The Netherlands, (3)

Laboratoire d'Océanographie Chimique et Géochimie des eaux, ULB, Brussels, Belgium, (4)

Laboratory of Analytical and Environmental Chemistry, VUB, Brussels, Belgium

A four-year time series (2001-2004) of the partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> (pCO<sub>2</sub>) and air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes is reported in the Scheldt estuarine plume. This system is oversaturated in CO<sub>2</sub> with respect to the atmosphere, except during the spring phytoplanktonic bloom, and acts as a net source of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere of 0.7 mol C m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> that represents 7 to 27% of the inner Scheldt estuary CO<sub>2</sub> emission. Results also highlight that a high spatial and temporal coverage of the surface pCO<sub>2</sub> in coastal ecosystems is crucial for reliable estimations of air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes. The seasonal variations of pCO<sub>2</sub> seem to be more dominated by biological activities (photosynthesis/respiration) than by temperature change. Based on a preliminary dissolved inorganic carbon input/output budget, the annual emission of CO<sub>2</sub> towards the atmosphere seems to be largely due to the outgassing of the inputs of CO<sub>2</sub> from the inner Scheldt estuary, rather than due to organic carbon degradation.