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1 **Assessing neodymium isotopes as an ocean circulation tracer in the Southwest Atlantic**

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20

21 Abstract

22 **The global overturning ocean circulation plays a key role in global climate by**
23 **distributing heat around the Earth and by triggering or amplifying major climate changes.**
24 **Neodymium (Nd) isotopes are widely used to trace present-day and past ocean circulation**
25 **changes; however, their value as a circulation tracer has been increasingly challenged by**
26 **studies that have focused on processes that can modify seawater Nd isotope ratios (for**
27 **example, seawater interaction with particles, pore water fluxes from sediments). The**
28 **Southwest Atlantic represents an excellent test bed for investigating the integrity of Nd**
29 **isotopes as an ocean circulation tracer, as it includes the major Atlantic northern and**
30 **southern hemisphere-sourced end-member water masses associated with the global**
31 **overturning ocean circulation, Antarctic Intermediate Water, North Atlantic Deep Water,**
32 **and Antarctic Bottom Water (AAIW, NADW, and AABW, respectively) and potential**
33 **regional sources of Nd that could impact that integrity. This study reports Nd isotope data**
34 **on the GEOTRACES GA02 Southwest Atlantic Meridional Transect, spanning the equator**
35 **to ~50°S. Below the pycnocline, substantial non-conservative behavior is observed only in**
36 **samples dominated by AAIW in the northern portion of the transect (~25°S to the**
37 **equator); this appears to reflect addition of Nd from the cratons of South America or**
38 **Africa from above the pycnocline. This effect is not observed at depths directly below**
39 **dominated by NADW. Otherwise, Nd isotopes behave as a near-conservative water mass**
40 **tracer **along** the transect, with 48% of samples within analytical error of the predicted**
41 **value from water mass mixing, and 84% within 0.9 ϵ_{Nd} -units (~3 times the analytical error),**
42 **thus confirming its potential at most depths and locations in the Southwest Atlantic to**
43 **reconstruct past ocean circulation changes.**

44

45 1. Introduction

46 The global overturning ocean circulation plays an essential role in the climate system,
47 accumulating and redistributing heat around the Earth. However, tracing circulation in the past
48 requires the application of chemical tracers that follow water mass movement. The application of
49 Nd isotope ratios as a paleo-ocean circulation tracer is based on modern ocean observations,
50 whereby its values vary by location and depth such that they fingerprint the globally important

51 water masses and their mixing along their transport paths (Frank, 2002; Goldstein and Hemming,
52 2003; Tachikawa et al., 2017; van de Flierdt et al., 2016). However, many studies have focused
53 on processes that could add external Nd to the water column throughout the oceans, for example,
54 exchange with particulates along continental margins (Jeandel, 2016; Jeandel et al., 2007; Lacan
55 and Jeandel, 2005b), inputs from rivers and wind-borne dusts (Goldstein et al., 1984; Stichel et
56 al., 2015; Tachikawa et al., 1999), submarine groundwater discharge (Garcia-Solsona and
57 Jeandel, 2020; Johannesson and Burdige, 2007; Johannesson et al., 2011), reversible scavenging
58 of falling particles (Elderfield et al., 1988; Siddall et al., 2008), and benthic fluxes (Abbott, 2019;
59 Abbott et al., 2015; Abbott et al., 2022; Du et al., 2020; Haley et al., 2017). These reservations
60 have also been echoed in modeling studies (Arsouze et al., 2007, 2009; Pasquier et al., 2022;
61 Pöppelmeier et al., 2020). Together they challenge the view that Nd isotopes show near
62 conservative behavior in the present-day deep oceans, and its utility for tracing past ocean
63 circulation.

64 This study presents Nd isotope ratios and abundances collected by the GEOTRACES GA02
65 Southwest Atlantic Meridional Transect (*SAMT*) between the equator and $\sim 50^\circ\text{S}$, a region that
66 encompasses the mixing zone between the main water masses of the Atlantic sector of the global
67 meridional overturning ocean circulation (*AMOC*). The Southwest Atlantic is also potentially
68 affected by processes that add external Nd to the water masses (e.g. eolian dust, marginal
69 sediments, oceanic volcanism, benthic nepheloid layers) with a variety of Nd isotope signatures.
70 For these reasons, it is one of the best regions on Earth to investigate the integrity of Nd isotopes
71 as an ocean circulation tracer and the impacts of addition of external Nd.

72

73 ***1.1 Nd isotopes in the Earth and the oceans***

74 ^{143}Nd is produced by radioactive decay of ^{147}Sm ($t_{1/2} = 106$ Ga), and variations in Sm/Nd
75 ratios over geologic time has caused $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios to vary in the Earth. The $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$
76 ratio is expressed as ϵ_{Nd} , the deviation in parts per 10,000 from average chondrite, which is an
77 estimate of the bulk Earth; this study uses $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.512638$ (Jacobsen and Wasserburg,
78 1980), in order to be consistent with decades of past data, rather than the updated value of
79 0.512630 (Bouvier et al., 2008); although the difference is small, only 0.16 ϵ_{Nd} units (and both
80 values are within analytical error). Because Sm/Nd ratios in the continents are $\sim 40\%$ lower than

81 in the mantle, reflecting the way these elements fractionate during continent formation, and are
82 similar in many continental lithologies, $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios in the continents mainly reflect how
83 long the Nd has been in the continental crust (e.g. Goldstein et al., 1984). Old continental crustal
84 rocks are sources of low ϵ_{Nd} (e.g. the cratons of Canada and Greenland have $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}} < -20$), whereas
85 young mantle-derived rocks are sources of high ϵ_{Nd} (e.g. North Pacific volcanic arcs have $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}} >$
86 $+7$) (e.g. Jeandel et al., 2007; Robinson et al., 2021). Nd in seawater is mainly derived from the
87 continents, as reflected by negative ϵ_{Nd} -values. Its distribution in present-day oceans is
88 characterized by highly negative ϵ_{Nd} -values in deep waters formed by overturning in the North
89 Atlantic, surrounded by old cratons ($\epsilon_{\text{Nd}} \approx -14$ to -13 in the deep North Atlantic and is < -20 in
90 Baffin Bay) (Piepgras and Wasserburg, 1980, 1987; Stordal and Wasserburg, 1986); higher ϵ_{Nd} -
91 values in deep waters of the North Pacific ($\epsilon_{\text{Nd}} \approx -4$ to 0), influenced by input from young
92 volcanics (Piepgras and Wasserburg, 1980, 1987); and intermediate ϵ_{Nd} -values in the Southern
93 Ocean ($\epsilon_{\text{Nd}} \approx -9$ to -8) (Piepgras and Wasserburg, 1982; Stichel et al., 2012). This spatial
94 distribution reflects Nd's short ocean residence time (500-1500 years) compared to the ocean
95 mixing time (Arsouze et al., 2009; Goldstein and O'Nions, 1981; Piepgras et al., 1979; Rempfer
96 et al., 2011; Siddall et al., 2008; Tachikawa et al., 2003; Tachikawa et al., 1999). Early studies of
97 seawater ϵ_{Nd} concluded that Nd behaves “quasi-conservatively” (almost conservatively) in the
98 deep oceans (Frank, 2002; Goldstein and Hemming, 2003; Jeandel, 1993; Piepgras and
99 Wasserburg, 1980, 1982; von Blanckenburg, 1999), with ϵ_{Nd} variations over long distances
100 approximating those expected from conservative water mass mixing; this has been supported by
101 recent data syntheses (Tachikawa et al., 2017; van de Flierdt et al., 2016) and studies associated
102 with the international GEOTRACES Program (Behrens et al., 2018; Rahlf et al., 2020; Wang et
103 al., 2021; Zieringer et al., 2019). Nevertheless, as already noted, several recent studies have
104 focused on the effects of external addition of Nd along water mass transport paths, calling into
105 question the utility of Nd isotopes as an ocean circulation tracer.

106

107 ***1.2 The GEOTRACES GA02 Southwest Atlantic Meridional Transect (SAMT)***

108 The Southwest Atlantic is an excellent region to test how well ϵ_{Nd} behaves as a conservative
109 water mass tracer in the modern ocean because it contains the main AMOC water masses:
110 southward flowing Upper, Middle, and Lower North Atlantic Deep Water (*UNADW*, *MNADW*)

111 *and LNADW*, respectively, $\epsilon_{Nd} \sim -13.5$), and northward flowing Antarctic Intermediate Water,
112 Upper and Lower Circumpolar Deep Water, and Antarctic Bottom Water (*AAIW*, *UDCW*,
113 *LCDW*, *AABW*, respectively, $\epsilon_{Nd} \sim -8$) (Frank, 2002; Goldstein and Hemming, 2003; Tachikawa
114 et al., 2017; van de Flierdt et al., 2016) (*Fig. 1*). Seawater profiles from 17 hydrographic stations,
115 with 16 samples at each station, were collected between 49.5°S and 0.2°S (*Fig. 1a*; station
116 numbers increase from south to north) **during** the Southwest Atlantic Meridional GEOTRACES
117 cruise, (GA02 Leg 3; RRS James Cook 057, from Punta Arenas, Chile, to Las Palmas, Spain,
118 March-April 2011) and analyzed for ϵ_{Nd} and Nd concentrations (*[Nd]*) (*Fig. S1*, *Table S1*). The
119 data are also available online at <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/672203> (Wu et al., 2022).

120 The SAMT is also an exceptional natural laboratory to test the potential effects of external
121 Nd inputs that may impact the ϵ_{Nd} of Southwest Atlantic water column, causing it to deviate from
122 conservative behavior. The transect crosses the volcanic Rio Grande Rise (RGR; $\sim 30^\circ\text{S}$) and
123 Vitória-Trindade Ridge (VTR; $\sim 20^\circ\text{S}$) (*Figs. 1b,c*), where a high- ϵ_{Nd} signal from oceanic basalts
124 could be added to seawater. The SAMT also crosses major geological age boundaries of South
125 **American surficial rocks**, where marginal sediments show the highest ϵ_{Nd} -values near Patagonia,
126 intermediate values between the La Plata estuary and Southern Brazil, and the most negative
127 values adjacent to the Precambrian cratons to the north (*Fig. 1a*). The cratons of central and
128 southern Africa are potential sources of eolian dust with low ϵ_{Nd} -values, transported to the region
129 by the trade winds. The SAMT also includes a benthic nepheloid layer (*BNL*) with resuspended
130 particles observed within 500 m of the seafloor in the southern part of the transect between
131 $\sim 50^\circ\text{S}$ to $\sim 20^\circ\text{S}$ (*Fig. S2*), which could potentially impact the bottom water ϵ_{Nd} by dissolution or
132 exchange of resuspended sedimentary Nd.

133

134 **2. Analytical procedures and water mass end-member calculations**

135 Samples comprised five to ten liters of seawater, depending on the sample depth. They were
136 filtered using 0.2 μm Sartobran[®] cartridges, acidified using ultrapure Seastar[®] hydrochloric acid
137 (HCl) to $\text{pH} \approx 2$ shortly after collection, and were stored. Detailed sample processing and
138 analytical procedures for Nd isotopes and concentrations are given in the *Supplementary*
139 *Information*. **The analytical protocols followed the recommended GEOTRACES sampling and**
140 **chemical treatment protocols for REEs and Nd isotopes (van de Flierdt et al., 2012).**

141 In order to quantitatively evaluate the extent that seawater ϵ_{Nd} can be regarded as
 142 conservative, we performed an Optimum Multi-parameter Analysis (OMPA, modified from
 143 Poole and Tomczak, 1999, details are in the *Supplementary Information*) to estimate the
 144 fractional water mass compositions for each sample from a set of defined water mass end-
 145 members (*Figs. 2, S3, S4, S5; Table 1a*). The OMPA assumed isopycnal mixing in the
 146 intermediate and deep-ocean. We divided the water column along three neutral density bands (γ^n
 147 27.1, 27.7, 28.1 kg/m³), thus creating four layers designated as the ‘Shallow’ (above the
 148 pycnocline, defined here as the 27.1 kg/m³ isopycnal), and the ‘Upper’, ‘Middle’, and ‘Lower’
 149 deep water layers (*Figs. 1b, 3, 4, S6; and Supplementary Information*). The OMPA was not
 150 performed for the Shallow Layer samples because this part of the water column is subject to a
 151 large number of processes that are independent of the deep circulation, resulting in a large
 152 natural variability. The Upper, Middle, and Lower Layers are those governed by the AMOC.

153 The OMPA calculations used salinity (S), potential temperature (θ), dissolved oxygen (O_2),
 154 PO_4^* , N^* , and silicate (SiO_2) concentration (explained in detail in the *Supplementary*
 155 *Information*). PO_4^* and N^* the preformed phosphate ($PO_4^* = PO_4 + O_2/175 - 1.95$) and nitrate
 156 ($N^* = 0.87 * (NO_3 - 16PO_4 + 2.95)$), both considered conservative water mass tracers
 157 (Broecker et al., 1991; Gruber and Sarmiento, 1997; Rae and Broecker, 2018). The hydrographic
 158 characteristics of each water mass were defined (*Fig. 2*) using the S-minimum for AAIW, the
 159 O_2 -minimum for UCDW, the S-maximum for UNADW, the O_2 -minimum for MNADW in the
 160 northernmost Stations 17 and 18, the O_2 -maximum for LNADW in Stations 17 and 18, the S-
 161 maximum for LCDW in the southernmost Stations 1 and 2, and the lowest θ -value for AABW.
 162 In the Upper Layer, some of the samples included contributions from South Atlantic Central
 163 Water (SACW). Its end-member compositions for the OMPA were defined based on the average
 164 values from the SAMT samples above the 27 kg/m³ isopycnal and below the mixed layer. These
 165 SACW samples lie along a θ -S curve with large variability in both (34.48-35.63g/kg; 7.8-
 166 16.0°C) (*Fig. S6*). The ϵ_{Nd} - and [Nd]-values of SACW are defined separately for the southern
 167 stations (SACW_s, Stations 1-12) and the northern stations (SACW_n; Stations 13-18) (*Table 1a*),
 168 because the ϵ_{Nd} -values at the SACW θ -S-values are higher in the south and lower in the north,
 169 and [Nd] values are lower in the south and higher in the north (*Figs. 5a,b; discussed in Sections 3*
 170 *and 4.2*).

171 The OMPA gave fractional estimates of the water mass mixtures for each sample from the
 172 Upper, Middle, and Lower Layers. The predicted ϵ_{Nd} -values (*Fig. 4b*; calculations are explained
 173 in the *Supplementary Information*) for samples within each Layer are calculated using water
 174 mass end-members within the same Layer (SACWs was used for Stations 1-12 and SACWn was
 175 used for Stations 13-18 in the Upper Layer) (*Figs. 1b, 3*), and are the ϵ_{Nd} -values expected if this
 176 tracer is truly conservative and if the end-member compositions are defined accurately. We also
 177 compared the measured and predicted ϵ_{Nd} -values (*Fig. 4c*, $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd} = \text{measured minus predicted } \epsilon_{Nd}$)
 178 to evaluate how well the samples reflect conservative mixing.

179

180 3. Results

181 SAMT ϵ_{Nd} -values show a large range, ~ -18 to ~ -7 , with the most extreme values in the top
 182 100 m. ϵ_{Nd} -values of SACW samples, at 250-500 m depending on location, show almost the
 183 same range, ~ -15 to ~ -8 (*Fig. 5b*). The Shallow Layer ϵ_{Nd} -values, above the 27 kg/m³
 184 isopycnal, are higher in the south and lower in the north, reflecting younger crustal sources of
 185 dust or sediment reaching the Atlantic from Patagonia in the south versus older South American
 186 and/or African crustal sources in the north (*Figs. 1a,c, 5a,b*). Below the Shallow Layer, in the
 187 Upper, Middle, and Lower Layers that reflect the AMOC, ϵ_{Nd} -values are within the ranges of the
 188 major northern and southern sourced water masses (*Fig. 5c*). In all of the profiles, [Nd] shows
 189 fluctuations in the Shallow Layer but increases monotonically below it (*Fig. S1*), consistent with
 190 global observations (Goldstein and Hemming, 2003).

191 The SAMT salinity section profile (*Fig. 1b*) clearly distinguishes the major water masses,
 192 with southward flowing NADW marked by a high-S wedge that is sandwiched by northward
 193 flowing AAIW-UCDW and AABW-LCDW. Overall, the ϵ_{Nd} -section profile (*Fig. 1c*) strikingly
 194 resembles the S-profile, with ϵ_{Nd} clearly reflecting the southward thinning NADW wedge. S- θ -
 195 ϵ_{Nd} plots (*Fig. 3*) offer further insight into the relationships between these parameters. The high
 196 S-and- θ samples ($S > 34.8\text{g/kg}$, $\theta > 2^\circ\text{C}$), reflecting the Upper, Middle and Lower NADW end-
 197 members (*UNADW, MNADW, LNADW*, respectively), have the lowest ϵ_{Nd} -values (-13 to -12),
 198 similar to the North Atlantic (Lambelet et al., 2016; Piepgras and Wasserburg, 1980, 1987),
 199 while the middle-to-lower S-low θ samples ($S < 34.7\text{g/kg}$, $\theta < 2^\circ\text{C}$), reflecting the southern water
 200 mass end-members (AABW, LCDW, UCDW and AAIW) have the highest ϵ_{Nd} -values (-9 to

201 –8), similar to the Southern Ocean (Piepgras and Wasserburg, 1982; Stichel et al., 2012). Other
 202 samples with θ -S values intermediate to these end-members show intermediate ϵ_{Nd} -values. The
 203 only significant discrepancy between the S- and ϵ_{Nd} -section profiles, showing a significant
 204 deviation from conservative water mass mixing, is north of Station 13 at $\sim 15^\circ\text{S}$ in the Upper
 205 Layer (*Figs. 1b,c*), where the AAIW tongue remains robust to the equator in the S-section
 206 profile, while ϵ_{Nd} -values are too negative (discussed in *Section 4.2.2*).

207

208 4. Discussion

209 4.1. Conservative and non-conservative behavior of ϵ_{Nd} and $[Nd]$ in the SAMT

210 The salinity and ϵ_{Nd} -section profiles (*Fig. 1*) demonstrate the striking similarities between a
 211 conservative circulation tracer and Nd isotopes. Both the predicted ϵ_{Nd} -values of section profile
 212 from the OMPA (*Fig. 4b*) and the observations (*Figs. 1b, 4a*) strongly resemble the S-section
 213 profile (*Fig. 1b*), excepting the Upper Layer north of $\sim 25^\circ\text{S}$. A histogram of all of the below-
 214 pycnocline results (*Fig. S7*) shows that of the 198 samples measured, $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ has an average value
 215 of -0.3 ± 0.8 (1σ) ϵ_{Nd} -units, and a median value of -0.1 ϵ_{Nd} -unit; in 48% of samples, the
 216 measured and the OMPA predicted ϵ_{Nd} -values agree within typical measurement error (i.e., $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$
 217 = 0.0 ± 0.3), and 84% are within 3-times the typical measurement error (i.e., $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd} = 0.0 \pm 0.9$)
 218 (*Fig. S7*). Additional insight can be gained by evaluating the data from the Lower, Middle, and
 219 Upper Layers separately; ϵ_{Nd} -values agree within the typical measurement error in 46%, 45%,
 220 and 54% of samples, respectively (*Figs. 6a,c,e*) fully 68%, 94%, and 82% of the samples,
 221 respectively, agree within 3-times the typical measurement error. This means that the vast
 222 majority of these data show near conservative mixing behavior. As the samples in the Upper,
 223 Middle, and Lower Layers range in ϵ_{Nd} -values from ~ -13 to -8 , ~ 17 times the typical
 224 measurement error, the observed deviations are small compared to the range of ϵ_{Nd} -values in the
 225 dataset (*Figs. 5c, S1*).

226 This agreement between predicted and observed ϵ_{Nd} -values is particularly impressive
 227 considering that potential sources of external Nd near the transect show a large range of at least
 228 ~ 22 ϵ_{Nd} -units (*Fig. 5b*; ~ 73 times the analytical error), the large number of processes that can
 229 modify the seawater ϵ_{Nd} -values that have been discussed in the literature and listed in the
 230 introductory paragraph of this paper, and the uncertainties inherent in accurately predicting the

231 ϵ_{Nd} -values using the OMPA mixing model. The SAMT dataset clearly demonstrates that, with
232 the exception of the northern region of the Upper Layer, the seawater ϵ_{Nd} -values in the
233 intermediate to deep Southwest Atlantic Ocean can be effectively predicted by conservative
234 isopycnal water mass mixing.

235 Insight into magnitudes and locations of the $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ deviations can be gained by evaluating the
236 data from three depth layers separately. The largest ϵ_{Nd} deviations from conservative mixing
237 (*Fig. 4c*) are near the pycnocline boundary of $\gamma^n = 27.1 \text{ kg/m}^3$ in the Upper Layer north of $\sim 26^\circ\text{S}$
238 (Stations 11-18), where 14 samples (of 50 total Upper Layer samples) show negative $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$
239 deviations of $> 1 \epsilon_{Nd}$ -unit (*Fig. 6b*). In the Lower Layer (*Fig. 6f*), only 3 of 50 measured samples
240 deviate by more than 1.5 ϵ_{Nd} -units. Most of the samples with $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ deviations greater than 1 ϵ_{Nd} -
241 unit are negative, and located north of 26°S (blue symbols in *Fig. 6f*). Based on limited marine
242 sediment ϵ_{Nd} data between 26°S and the equator (*Fig. 5b*) (Robinson et al., 2021), we speculate
243 that this reflects a contribution of a negative ϵ_{Nd} signature from the marine sediments to the
244 bottom seawater in this region. In the Middle Layer (*Figs. 6c,d*), dominated by NADW, only 7 of
245 98 measured samples deviate more than 1 ϵ_{Nd} -unit, with no tendency to be too positive or too
246 negative. These results show that the Middle Layer shows strongly conservative behavior, and
247 that the leakage of Nd from above, observed in the Upper Layer in the northern part of the
248 transect, does not extend to the Middle Layer.

249 Both measured and OMPA predicted Nd concentrations increase with increasing depth
250 below the pycnocline at all stations (*Fig. S1*). Overall [Nd] is surprisingly conservative, as
251 indicated by the similarity of the section profiles (*Figs. 4d,e*). Moreover, this accords with the
252 results of a South Atlantic zonal transect (Zheng et al., 2016) where Nd and the other rare earth
253 elements were shown to behave conservatively. In the SAMT, Figure 4f shows that [Nd] is
254 within 10% of the predicted value over much of the transect. [Nd] shows enrichment $> 10\%$ in
255 the north between $\sim 12^\circ\text{S}$ and the equator (Stations 15-18) in the Upper Layer, and between
256 $\sim 17^\circ\text{S}$ and the equator (Stations 13-18) in the Lower Layer, and [Nd] shows depletions $> 10\%$
257 between $\sim 50^\circ\text{S}$ and $\sim 10^\circ\text{S}$ (Stations 1-15) in the Middle Layer.

258

259 **4.2. Sources of external Nd to seawater and their impacts**

260 The SAMT data show that external Nd added by eolian and shallow sources have major
261 impacts on the Shallow Layer above the pycnocline, such that the ϵ_{Nd} variability of the surface
262 waters is much larger (-18 to -7) than intermediate and deep water (-13 to -8) (*Figs. 5c, SI*).
263 Below the pycnocline, the vast majority of samples show quasi-conservative mixing for Nd
264 isotopes, with only about half the samples showing deviations outside of measurement error, and
265 only a few showing substantial deviations. As summarized in the Section above, the deviations
266 are mainly in the Upper Layer. Even there, 46% of measured samples are within measurement
267 error of conservative mixing (*Fig. 6a*).

268

269 4.2.1. Sources of external Nd to the Shallow Layer

270 The SAMT offers the opportunity to investigate the sources of Nd to the Shallow Layer,
271 which shows the most extreme range of ϵ_{Nd} -values from ~ -18 to ~ -7 (*Fig. 5b*); below the
272 Shallow Layer the data are essentially bounded by the ϵ_{Nd} -values of the major AMOC water
273 masses (*Fig. 5c*). There is a systematic increase of ϵ_{Nd} -values of terrigenous detritus, eolian dust,
274 sediment and dust sources to the Southwest Atlantic from north to south that is mirrored by the
275 Shallow Layer (*Fig. 5b*).

276 In the northern part of the transect from $\sim 35^\circ\text{S}$ to the equator, near surface seawater sample
277 (25 and 100 m) (Stations 8-16) ϵ_{Nd} -values range from ~ -18 to ~ -11.5 (*Figs. 5b, SI*). This could
278 reflect input of Nd from the nearby South American craton ($\epsilon_{Nd} \sim -17$ to -8) or African-sourced
279 eolian dust ($\epsilon_{Nd} \sim -19$ to -8) brought to the region by the trade winds (*Figs. 5a,b*) (de Mahiques
280 et al., 2008; Dia et al., 1990; Goldstein et al., 1984). South of $\sim 35^\circ\text{S}$, the major source of
281 terrigenous detritus is Patagonia. Interestingly, ϵ_{Nd} -values of the Shallow Layer waters of the
282 southern Stations 1 to 7 (~ -11 to -7) are much more negative than Patagonian marginal marine
283 sediments and Patagonian dusts (~ -4 to $+4$; *Fig. 5b*). A possible source of Nd with ϵ_{Nd} -values
284 more negative than Patagonian sources is the Proterozoic age continent of the Malvinas/Falkland
285 Plateau (Wareham et al., 1998). Another possible source of the negative ϵ_{Nd} signatures south of
286 $\sim 35^\circ\text{S}$ may involve the interaction of the Malvinas and Brazil Currents. The northward flowing
287 Malvinas Current has an estimated flux of ~ 45 Sv when it converges and mixes with the Brazil
288 Current at the Brazil-Malvinas Confluence near the La Plata estuary (Maamaatuaiahutapu et al.,
289 1998). Leakage of Brazil Current-sourced Nd with negative ϵ_{Nd} -values into the southward return

290 flow of the Malvinas Current (*Figs. 1, S8*) may contribute to the offset from Patagonian detritus
 291 sources. It is noteworthy that there are a large number of Surface Layer samples that show $\epsilon_{Nd} \sim$
 292 -10 over a large latitude range between $\sim 20^\circ$ - 40° S (*Fig. 5b*), which may reflect mixing of the
 293 southern- and northern-derived Nd at the Confluence and dispersion by the return flow.

294

295 4.2.2. Sources of external Nd to the Upper Layer

296 As already noted, the largest ϵ_{Nd} deviations from conservative mixing (*Fig. 4c*) are near the
 297 boundary between the Shallow and Upper Layers, at 400-1000 m and between ~ 15 - 0° S. Their
 298 association at this boundary strongly indicates leakage of Nd from the Shallow to the Upper
 299 Layer, and the negative $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ -values (*Figs. 4c, 6b*) indicate addition of continental Nd from
 300 sediments eroded from Brazil's Precambrian craton and/or eolian dust from the African craton
 301 carried by trade winds, both with low ϵ_{Nd} -values (de Mahiques et al., 2008; Dia et al., 1990;
 302 Goldstein et al., 1984) (*Figs. 5a,b*). Both sources are consistent with very negative ϵ_{Nd} -values
 303 observed in the most shallow samples (25-100 m) in Stations 13-18 (*Figs. 5a,b, S1*). This
 304 apparent addition of external Nd from detritus or eolian dust from the Shallow Layer to the
 305 Upper Layer contrasts with areas beneath the Saharan dust plume in the eastern North Atlantic,
 306 which do not show significant impacts of dust apart from the uppermost surface layer (Stichel et
 307 al., 2015; Zieringer et al., 2019). A possible explanation for the difference is that the SAMT
 308 samples that display the negative $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ anomaly are in a region where the ϵ_{Nd} -values of the
 309 shallow detritus input (< -15 ; *Fig. 5*) are markedly different from the AAIW and UCDW end-
 310 members (~ -8). Also notable is that these highly negative $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ -values occur directly beneath a
 311 well-developed oxygen minimum zone (OMZ) (*Fig. S5c*), where regeneration of organic matter
 312 may release Nd back into seawater and locally alter the isotopic composition. This interpretation
 313 is further supported by positive $\Delta[Nd]$ -values, with 10-20% more Nd in solution than expected
 314 from water mass mixing (*Fig. 4f*).

315

316 4.2.3. Negligible impact from SAMT oceanic basalts to seawater Nd

317 Another potential source of external Nd is oceanic basalts, which could result in the addition
 318 of Nd with very high ϵ_{Nd} -values (e.g. Mid-Atlantic Ridge basalts have average ϵ_{Nd} of $+8.6 \pm 2.5$

319 (Class and Lehnert, 2012), 1σ , $n = 844$). Along the SAMT, volcanic rocks from the Rio Grande
320 Rise (RGR) and Vitória-Trindade Ridge (VTR) (*Fig. S9*) have ϵ_{Nd} -values of -3.7 ± 2.4 (1σ ,
321 $n=10$) and $+2.9 \pm 0.6$ (1σ , $n = 47$), respectively (data are from EarthChem:
322 www.earthchem.org/portal and data sources are listed in the *Supplementary Information Table*
323 *S2*). In the SAMT, exchange or addition of Nd from the RGR (near Stations 9 and 10) and VTR
324 (near Stations 12 and 13) can potentially influence the seawater ϵ_{Nd} signal, resulting in a positive
325 $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ and possibly a positive $\Delta[Nd]$ downstream along the main water mass transport path after it
326 bathes the volcanic RGR and VTR. The SAMT data near RGR and VTR show no discernible
327 positive deviations of $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ and $\Delta[Nd]$ in the transect profiles (*Figs. 4c,f*), indicating negligible
328 influence from the volcanics. A volcanic influence on regional seawater imparting more positive
329 ϵ_{Nd} has been observed in the water column near the Cape Verde Islands (Stichel et al., 2015). The
330 absence of more positive ϵ_{Nd} in the water column near the RGR and VTR may reflect the thicker
331 sediments there compared to the Cape Verde Islands (Straume et al., 2019).

332

333 4.2.4. Sources of external Nd to the Lower Layer

334 Benthic nepheloid layers (*BNLs*) are a common feature in the deep water column with the
335 potential to impact seawater ϵ_{Nd} -values. BNLs are characterized by high particle concentrations
336 (Gardner et al., 2018) that potentially act as a source of external Nd through remobilization (e.g.
337 Stichel et al., 2015), or as a sink through scavenging of Nd onto the remobilized particles. A
338 recent study (Jaume-Seguí et al., 2020) ascribed possible impacts on deep seawater in the North
339 Atlantic during deglaciations to BNLs. The SAMT cruise identified the presence of an extensive
340 BNL between Stations 2-12 ($\sim 49^\circ$ - $\sim 22^\circ$ S), as shown by beam attenuation (*Fig. S2*). Within the
341 BNL, $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ -values of the bottom water samples are close to 0 (*Figs. 4c, 6f*), interestingly in
342 contrast to positive $\Delta[Nd]$ values elsewhere in the bottom water (*Fig. 4f*). The absence of a
343 deviation from conservative water mass mixing within the BNL means that the resuspended
344 particles in this case do not impact the bottom water ϵ_{Nd} -values.

345 Another potential source of external Nd to the bottom water is a benthic pore water flux
346 (Abbott, 2019; Abbott et al., 2015; Haley et al., 2017). This process can be expected to cause
347 positive $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ and $\Delta[Nd]$ values in the lower layer in the southern stations near Patagonia, and
348 negative $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ and positive $\Delta[Nd]$ values in the northern stations (*Figs. 5a,b*). While $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ -values

349 of most Lower Layer samples are close to 0, there is a small tendency toward too low ϵ_{Nd} -values
350 in the north, mainly within ~ 1 ϵ_{Nd} -unit but clearly skewed toward negative values – ϵ_{Nd} -values
351 are mainly within 1 ϵ_{Nd} -unit that can be seen in the $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ section profile and the individual data
352 (Figs. 6e,f), and positive $\Delta[Nd]$ values (Fig. 4f), that may reflect a flux of Nd with negative ϵ_{Nd} -
353 values from the bottom sediment.

354

355 *4.3. Comparison with other parts of the Atlantic Ocean*

356 To put the SAMT results into a broader Atlantic basin-wide perspective, we compared our
357 results with other published Atlantic data. Most of the intermediate and deep water ϵ_{Nd} -values
358 from the SAMT are consistent with the published data, with some regional impacts on ϵ_{Nd} as
359 discussed below.

360

361 *4.3.1. Water mass end-member compositions in Atlantic water mass formation regions*

362 The compositions of the AMOC water mass end-members in their formation regions were
363 determined to evaluate how much they are modified between formation and transport to the
364 SAMT region (shown in Figs. 7, 8). ϵ_{Nd} and $[Nd]$ end-member values are defined from the
365 published data of filtered seawater samples from the AMOC water mass formation regions
366 (WMFR) in the western North Atlantic and the Southern Ocean. The data are from 17°N to 65°N
367 for the North Atlantic water masses (Filippova et al., 2017; Hartman, 2015; Lacan and Jeandel,
368 2004, 2005a; Lambelet et al., 2016; Pahnke et al., 2012; Rickli et al., 2009; Shiller, 2021;
369 Sholkovitz et al., 1994; Sholkovitz and Schneider, 1991; Stichel et al., 2018; van de Flierdt et al.,
370 2012) and from 56°S to 67°S for the Southern Ocean water masses (Hathorne et al., 2015;
371 Stichel et al., 2012).

372 The hydrographic properties of the AMOC water mass end-members are defined using
373 World Ocean Atlas (WOA) 2018 (García et al., 2019a, b; Locarnini et al., 2019; Zweng et al.,
374 2019). The WMFR end-member compositions (Table 1b) are defined based on the same
375 hydrographic properties as the SAMT end-members, that is the S-minimum for AAIW, S-
376 maximum for UNADW and LCDW, O₂-minimum for UCDW and MNADW, O₂-maximum for

377 LNADW, and the lowest θ -value for AABW. The corresponding ϵ_{Nd} and [Nd] data of these
378 samples were used to define the end-member compositions.

379 Comparing the WMFR and SAMT end-member compositions, most of them are effectively
380 the same, the only exceptions are AAIW and AABW (*Figs. 7b,c, 8b,c; Table 1*). In AAIW, the
381 SAMT end-member has lower S than the WMFR end-member (a difference of $\sim 0.1\text{g/kg}$,
382 compared to $0.01\text{-}0.04\text{g/kg}$ for the others), and slightly lower [Nd], but no significant change of
383 the ϵ_{Nd} -value (~ -8), thus indicating some dilution with fresher water between the formation
384 region and the SAMT. AABW is the only AMOC end-member that shows significant
385 modification to the Nd-system between its formation region and the SAMT. The Southern Ocean
386 end-member has more negative ϵ_{Nd} (-9.0 vs -8.0) and lower [Nd] (26.07 vs 36.99 pmol/g). This
387 modification of AABW is most likely a consequence of its long flow path from the Southern
388 Ocean to the Southwest Atlantic. The direct pathway is blocked at depth by the
389 Malvinas/Falkland Plateau, and the AABW enters the Atlantic basin from the Southern Ocean
390 east of South Georgia Island (Abrahamsen et al., 2019), and then travels nearly 2000 km
391 westward along the Plateau's northern margin toward SAMT Stations 1 and 2. Along this path,
392 Nd is added from the margins and/or the seafloor. The more positive ϵ_{Nd} of this input accords the
393 characteristics of the detrital input to the Southwest Atlantic from Patagonia (*Figs. 5a,b*)

394

395 4.3.2. Comparison of SAMT ϵ_{Nd} and the rest of the Atlantic

396 The Southwest Atlantic is part of the broader AMOC, and in order to assess how the SAMT
397 results fit in the basinal context, the intermediate and deep SAMT samples (> 100 m, $\theta < 6^\circ\text{C}$)
398 are compared in θ -S and ϵ_{Nd} -S plots with the published data, separately for the South Atlantic
399 and the Atlantic sector of the Southern Ocean (*Fig. 7*), and for the North Atlantic (*Fig. 8*). The
400 comparison with the South Atlantic-Southern Ocean data highlights the evolution of the
401 Southern Ocean water masses near their source regions, and NADW towards the end of its path
402 within the Atlantic, and the comparison with the North Atlantic data highlights the source of
403 NADW and the fate of the Southern Ocean water masses near their end path. The basinal context
404 is also shown by meridional transects the western and eastern Atlantic basins for salinity and ϵ_{Nd}
405 (*Figs. 9, S10*).

406 In the South Atlantic and Southern Ocean Atlantic sector, almost all of the published
 407 seawater ϵ_{Nd} data fall within the θ -S compositional range of the individual SAMT samples and
 408 mixing envelopes of the SAMT end-members, and all of the AMOC end-members are
 409 represented (*Fig. 7b*). With a few exceptions, this is also mainly the case for ϵ_{Nd-S} (*Fig. 7c*). The
 410 compositions of the published southwest Atlantic seawater samples coincide with SAMT, as do
 411 those from the south-central Atlantic crossing the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and most samples from
 412 the southeast Atlantic (*Fig. 7c*, yellow triangles). The most important exception to this coherency
 413 is seen in some of the samples in the Angola Basin (*Fig. 7c*, black triangles) that show even more
 414 negative ϵ_{Nd} -values than the SAMT and WMFR end-members (Rahlf et al., 2020). This has been
 415 interpreted as resulting from partial dissolution of Fe-Mn oxides originating from surface waters
 416 and lateral transport of dissolved Nd originating from African shelf sediments (Rahlf et al., 2020;
 417 Zheng et al., 2016). Interestingly, the region affected by the highly negative ϵ_{Nd} -values is limited
 418 and concentrated between ~ 10 - 28° S along the transect (*Fig. S10c*), and it appears that these
 419 waters sampled in the central Angola Basin do not contribute significantly to the NADW wedge
 420 south of the Walvis Ridge, which show ϵ_{Nd} -values expected from its AMOC position. All of the
 421 other exceptions are from intermediate depths corresponding to the Upper Layer in the SAMT,
 422 which accords from our observations in the SAMT that this is the depth region that is most
 423 vulnerable to local modification: these are two samples at ~ 1000 and 1600 m (Garcia-Solsona et
 424 al., 2014) at $\sim 50^\circ$ S in the Southern Ocean, and two samples at ~ 1000 and 1200 m in the Cape
 425 Basin (Wang et al., 2021) (*Fig. 7c*).

426 The SAMT data are compared to North Atlantic intermediate and deep samples (below 1000
 427 m) from $\sim 45^\circ$ N (*Fig. 8a*), where NADW is fully formed. Most of these North Atlantic samples
 428 lie close to the UNADW-MNADW-LNADW end-member mixing curve in θ -S space, with some
 429 extending toward AABW, and none show indications of contributions from AAIW, UCDW or
 430 LCDW (*Fig. 8b*). The general absence of Southern Ocean water mass contributions are reflected
 431 in the restricted range of North Atlantic ϵ_{Nd} -values; with few exceptions they fall within the
 432 restricted range of -14 to -11 (*Fig. 8c*). In the Northwest Atlantic, the formation region of
 433 NADW, they show a statistically small range of ϵ_{Nd} -values of -12.8 ± 0.7 (1σ , $n = 129$, this does
 434 not include the Caribbean samples), close to the WMFR values of the NADW water masses
 435 (-13.2 , -12.6 , and -12.2 for UNADW, MNADW and LNADW, respectively, *Table 1b*). The
 436 shallower samples from 1000 - 2000 m Atlantic ($\epsilon_{Nd} = -13.4 \pm 0.6$, 1σ , $n = 40$) show more

437 negative ϵ_{Nd} than the deeper samples ($\epsilon_{Nd} = -12.6 \pm 0.5$, 1σ , $n = 81$), indicating contributions of
438 Labrador Sea Water (Hartman, 2015; Lambelet et al., 2016). These are the samples that show
439 more negative ϵ_{Nd} than the UNADW WMFR end-member in Figure 8c (brown squares). The
440 tongue of Labrador Sea Water can also be observed in the western Atlantic transect (*Fig. 9c*). If
441 1000-2000 m Northwest Atlantic samples are excluded, the Northwest Atlantic ϵ_{Nd} for
442 intermediate and deep water is -12.5 ± 0.6 (1σ , $n = 86$). Samples from outside of the NADW
443 formation region show lower ϵ_{Nd} , with the Northeast Atlantic ($\epsilon_{Nd} = -11.7 \pm 0.6$, 1σ , $n = 133$)
444 and the Central North Atlantic subtropical gyre ($\epsilon_{Nd} = -11.8 \pm 0.5$, 1σ , $n = 33$) showing
445 essentially the same ϵ_{Nd} -values and small variability.

446 In contrast to the South Atlantic, many North Atlantic samples show θ -S values outside of
447 the AMOC end-member mixing envelopes compared to the South Atlantic samples, towards
448 both higher and lower S and higher θ (*Figs. 7b, 8b*). Although the North Atlantic data set shows
449 limited ϵ_{Nd} variability overall, this likely contributes to the small amount there is. For example,
450 the only significant population of samples with ϵ_{Nd} -values more negative than the UNADW
451 WMFR value are those from 1000-2000 m in the Northwest Atlantic, and these samples also
452 tend to show lower salinity than the UNADW end-member (*Fig. 8c*, brown squares). Caribbean
453 Sea seawater occupy a unique range of S- ϵ_{Nd} , showing typical North Atlantic salinity and high
454 ϵ_{Nd} (-9.0 ± 1.7 , 1σ , $n = 14$; *Fig. 8c*), reflecting its setting as a semi-enclosed basin isolated from
455 the main Atlantic basin with young continent and volcanics that serve as sources of radiogenic
456 Nd (Osborne et al., 2014; Pindell et al., 1991; Thompson et al., 2004). The highest salinity
457 samples are those in the Northeast Atlantic near the Mediterranean Sea, in this case their ϵ_{Nd} -
458 values of ~ -12 to -11 are typical for the Northeast Atlantic (*Figs. 8b, c, S10b, c*). Accounting for
459 the characteristics of the Mediterranean Outflow (high salinity of ~ 38.5 g/kg, $\epsilon_{Nd} \sim -9.4$, [Nd]
460 ~ 23 pmol/kg; Naranjo et al., 2017; Spivack and Wasserburg, 1988) shows that even the most
461 saline North Atlantic sample has only $\sim 10\%$ of an Outflow component, and most have only a
462 few percent.

463 Meridional ϵ_{Nd} and salinity transects are compared in the western and eastern Atlantic basins
464 for all published data and the SAMT (*Figs. 9, S10*). In the western Atlantic basin the agreement
465 is stunningly good for the AMOC water masses, with the exception of AAIW north of $\sim 20^\circ$ S
466 (*Figs. 9b, c*). The extension of the transect into the northern hemisphere corroborates our findings
467 that the AAIW salinity signal reaches north of the equator but the ϵ_{Nd} -signal disappears at $\sim 20^\circ$ S.

468 Compared to the western basin, the eastern Atlantic basin (*Fig. S10c*) shows similar ϵ_{Nd} -values
469 for AAIW and AABW but some variations for the NADW. In the Northeast Atlantic ($\sim 20^\circ N$),
470 ϵ_{Nd} is affected by radiogenic Nd from the Canary and Cape Verde Islands (Stichel et al., 2015;
471 Zieringer et al., 2019). In the Southeast Atlantic ($10-20^\circ S$), ϵ_{Nd} is influenced by partial
472 dissolution of Fe-Mn oxides originating from surface waters in the Angola basin and less
473 radiogenic Nd originating from sediments of the African shelf (Rahlf et al., 2020; Zheng et al.,
474 2016) (*Fig. S10c*). The fewer regional impacts in the western Atlantic basin may reflect faster
475 water mass advection there, allowing less opportunity for local effects.

476

477 5. Conclusions

478 Although recent studies have emphasized the probability of non-conservative behavior of
479 ϵ_{Nd} in some areas of the oceans, analyses of dissolved ϵ_{Nd} in the GEOTRACES GA02 Southwest
480 Atlantic Meridional Transect (SAMT) confirm its potential use as a “quasi-conservative” water
481 mass tracer in intermediate and deep waters. Our evaluation of Nd isotopic deviations from
482 predictions of conservative behavior using Optimum Multi-parameter Analysis to calculate the
483 fractional water masses in each sample show that 48% of measured intermediate and deep
484 samples associated with the AMOC water masses are within experimental error of predicted ϵ_{Nd} -
485 values and 84% are within ± 0.9 ϵ_{Nd} -units (3-times the analytical error). Substantial non-
486 conservative behavior is observed only in samples dominated by AAIW in the northern portion
487 of the transect ($\sim 25^\circ S$ to the equator). With the exception of this region, in the surface layer
488 above the pycnocline, terrigenous sources of Nd locally modify ϵ_{Nd} but this signature is not
489 transferred detectably into the deep-ocean. Benthic pore water fluxes may add Nd to the bottom
490 waters in some locations where measured [Nd] is higher than predicted [Nd], however, in most
491 instances the bottom water ϵ_{Nd} -values do not show deviations from conservative behavior, and in
492 the SAMT deviations are observed only in the northern part of the transect. The presence of a
493 benthic nepheloid layer in the southern part of the SAMT has no impact on the conservative
494 behavior for ϵ_{Nd} and [Nd]. Major volcanic edifices in the SAMT associated with the Rio Grande
495 Rise and Vitória-Trindade Ridge have no impact on conservative behavior of ϵ_{Nd} . This study
496 confirms that, with some exceptions, ϵ_{Nd} effectively traces water mass mixing of the AMOC and
497 can be used to reconstruct present and past changes of the AMOC, potentially providing valuable

498 perspective to trace modern circulation, as well as to understand paleo-climate changes, as long
499 as appropriate sites are chosen for study.

500

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511 **Author contributions**

512 S.L.G. wrote the NSF proposal that primarily supported this study. Y.W., L.D.P., S.L.G.,
513 and R.F.A. designed the study. A.E.H. and L.D.P. participated in the cruise and collected the
514 samples. Y.W. and L.D.P. processed samples for Nd isotopes. Y.W. and L.D.P. measured Nd
515 isotopes with assistance from L.L.B. Y.W. processed samples and measured Nd concentrations
516 with assistance from L.L.B. Y.W., L.D.P., S.L.G., R.F.A., C.B., and J.K. participated in data
517 interpretation. L.L.B. kept the analytical instruments operating in top form. J.K. made significant
518 contributions to revisions while Y.W. was on maternity leave. M.J.A.R. and H.J.W.d.B. were the
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521

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808 **Figure 1. Station locations, and salinity and ϵ_{Nd} section profiles of the GEOTRACES GA02**
 809 **Southwest Atlantic Meridional Transect (SAMT).** (a) Map of the Southwest Atlantic with the
 810 numbered SAMT stations (white dots). Main pathways for the surface Brazil Current and
 811 Malvinas Current are shown in white. The ϵ_{Nd} signature of different South America regions is
 812 adapted from Jeandel et al., 2007; Robinson et al., 2021. (b) Salinity (S) section profile with S -
 813 contours (black) and neutral density contours (γ^n , yellow). The Optimum Multiparameter
 814 Analysis (*OMPA*) was performed along three neutral density bands defining the Upper, Middle,
 815 and Lower Layers ($\gamma^n = 27.1$ - 27.7 , 27.7 - 28.1 , and > 28.1 kg/m^3 , respectively) assuming
 816 isopycnal mixing. The water masses sourced in the north are Upper, Middle, and Lower North
 817 Atlantic Deep Water (*UNADW*, *MNADW*, *LNADW*, respectively); those sourced in the south are
 818 Antarctic Intermediate Water, Upper and Lower Circumpolar Deep Water, and Antarctic Bottom
 819 Water (*AAIW*, *UCDW*, *LCDW*, *AABW*, respectively). The Rio Grande Rise (*RGR*) and Vitória-
 820 Trindade Ridge (*VTR*) are labeled. (c) ϵ_{Nd} -section profile with ϵ_{Nd} contours, showing a striking
 821 resemblance to the S -section, except in the northern part of the Upper Layer, where *AAIW*
 822 continues to the equator in the S -profile but peters out in the ϵ_{Nd} -profile.

823
 824 **Figure 2. Neutral density (γ^n) versus other seawater parameters of SAMT samples and**
 825 **water mass end-members.** (a) Salinity (S). (b) Potential temperature (θ). (c) Oxygen (O_2). (d)
 826 PO_4^* . (e) ϵ_{Nd} . (f) Nd concentration ($[Nd]$). The grey diamonds are SAMT water mass end-
 827 members and listed in *Table 1a*. The legend gives the Station numbers from 1 in the south to 18
 828 near the equator.

829
 830 **Figure 3. Salinity (S), potential temperature (θ), and ϵ_{Nd} -values of SAMT samples ($\gamma^n > 27.1$**
 831 **kg/m^3).** (a) θ vs. S . (b) θ vs. ϵ_{Nd} . (c) ϵ_{Nd} vs. S . High- S NADW is characterized by low ϵ_{Nd} (-14 to
 832 -12). Low salinity *AAIW* and low- θ *AABW* are characterized by high ϵ_{Nd} (-9 to -8). *UCDW*
 833 and *LCDW* with relatively low O_2 concentration and high- S , respectively, in the southernmost
 834 stations are also characterized by high ϵ_{Nd} (-9 to -8). γ^n -isopycnals are shown in dashed curves.
 835 The *OMPA* water mass end-members are shown in grey diamonds. SAMT samples show
 836 systematic changes with latitude following red, grey, and blue curves from stations in the south
 837 to the equator. To a first order, seawater ϵ_{Nd} -values below the depths of *AAIW* reflect mixtures
 838 of the main water masses.

839
 840 **Figure 4. Section profiles of various Nd parameters:** (a) measured ϵ_{Nd} , (b) predicted ϵ_{Nd} , (c)
 841 $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ (measured ϵ_{Nd} – predicted ϵ_{Nd}), (d) measured $[Nd]$, (e) predicted $[Nd]$, and (f) $\Delta[Nd]$
 842 (measured $[Nd]$ – predicted $[Nd]$). The measured ϵ_{Nd} and predicted ϵ_{Nd} sections resemble each
 843 other except in the northern part of section at *AAIW* depths, right beneath the O_2 minimum zone
 844 (*OMZ*), where low measured ϵ_{Nd} -values are observed. The bottom water shows that measured
 845 $[Nd]$ values are higher than predicted values except in the benthic nepheloid layer (*BNL*).

846
 847 **Figure 5. ϵ_{Nd} of dust sources, marine sediments, river sediments, and SAMT surface and**
 848 **deep waters.** (a) ϵ_{Nd} of surface water (25 m) from the SAMT (circles) and ϵ_{Nd} signature of
 849 regions of South American and Africa (adapted from Jeandel et al., 2007; Robinson et al., 2021).
 850 Black arrows indicate directions of the westerlies (~ 60 - 35°S) and trade winds ($\sim 35^\circ\text{S}$ - 0°)
 851 (Hellerman and Rosenstein, 1983); the dashed line is the approximate boundary. Surface water
 852 ϵ_{Nd} -values are higher in the south and lower in the north, consistent with sediments eroded from
 853 South America ($\sim 50^\circ\text{S}$ - 0°) and eolian dust input from Africa ($\sim 35^\circ\text{S}$ - 0°). (b) ϵ_{Nd} vs. latitude of

854 dust sources, marine sediments, and river sediments from South America and Africa (small grey
 855 symbols) and SAMT water in the top 100m (grey symbols with colored marker lines), and at
 856 South Atlantic Central Water (SACW) depths, ~250-500m (symbols in red, orange, yellow, and
 857 blue). ϵ_{Nd} -values of marginal sediments are highest near Patagonia, intermediate at the La Plata
 858 estuary to Southern Brazil, and most negative adjacent to the Precambrian cratons in the north.
 859 The shallow water ϵ_{Nd} -values show the same general geographic trend but are offset from the
 860 sediments to more negative values. The cause of this offset is discussed in the main text.
 861 Sediment symbols: Patagonia marine sediment, grey squares; Patagonia top soil and dust, black
 862 circles; Rio de La Plata, grey circles; Southern Brazil, grey triangles; Parnaíba and Sao Francisco
 863 Rivers, grey diamonds; Amazon River and French Guiana, grey crosses; South Africa, empty
 864 squares; Namibia dust, empty circles; Congo River, empty triangles. Sediment data sources:
 865 Basile et al., 1997; Bayon et al., 2009; Bayon et al., 2016; de Mahiques et al., 2008; Dia et al.,
 866 1990; Gaiero et al., 2007; Gili et al., 2017; Gili et al., 2022; Goldstein et al., 1984; Goldstein and
 867 O’Nions, 1981; Henry et al., 1996; Höppner et al., 2018; Howe et al., 2018; Howe et al., 2016;
 868 Lantzsich et al., 2014; Pahnke et al., 2008; Pöppelmeier et al., 2019; Rousseau et al., 2015; Zhang
 869 et al., 2015. (c) ϵ_{Nd} vs. depth of selected SAMT stations 3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 18. The
 870 shallow water ϵ_{Nd} varies from -18 to -7 (in the grey area). The intermediate and deep water ϵ_{Nd}
 871 varies from -13 to -8 (between grey dashed lines). These diagrams indicate that the shallow
 872 water ϵ_{Nd} signature is not transferred to intermediate and deep water.

873
 874 **Figure 6. OMPA results: histograms of $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ (measured ϵ_{Nd} – predicted ϵ_{Nd}) and predicted**
 875 **vs. measured ϵ_{Nd} in three neutral density bands.** (a, b) $\gamma^n = 27.1-27.7 \text{ kg/m}^3$, (c,d) $\gamma^n = 27.7-$
 876 28.1 , (e,f) $\gamma^n > 28.1$. The solid 1:1 line represents equal measured to predicted ϵ_{Nd} . The diagonal
 877 lines represent equal $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ in 1 ϵ_{Nd} -unit intervals. The agreement between measured and predicted
 878 ϵ_{Nd} -values improves going down the water column.

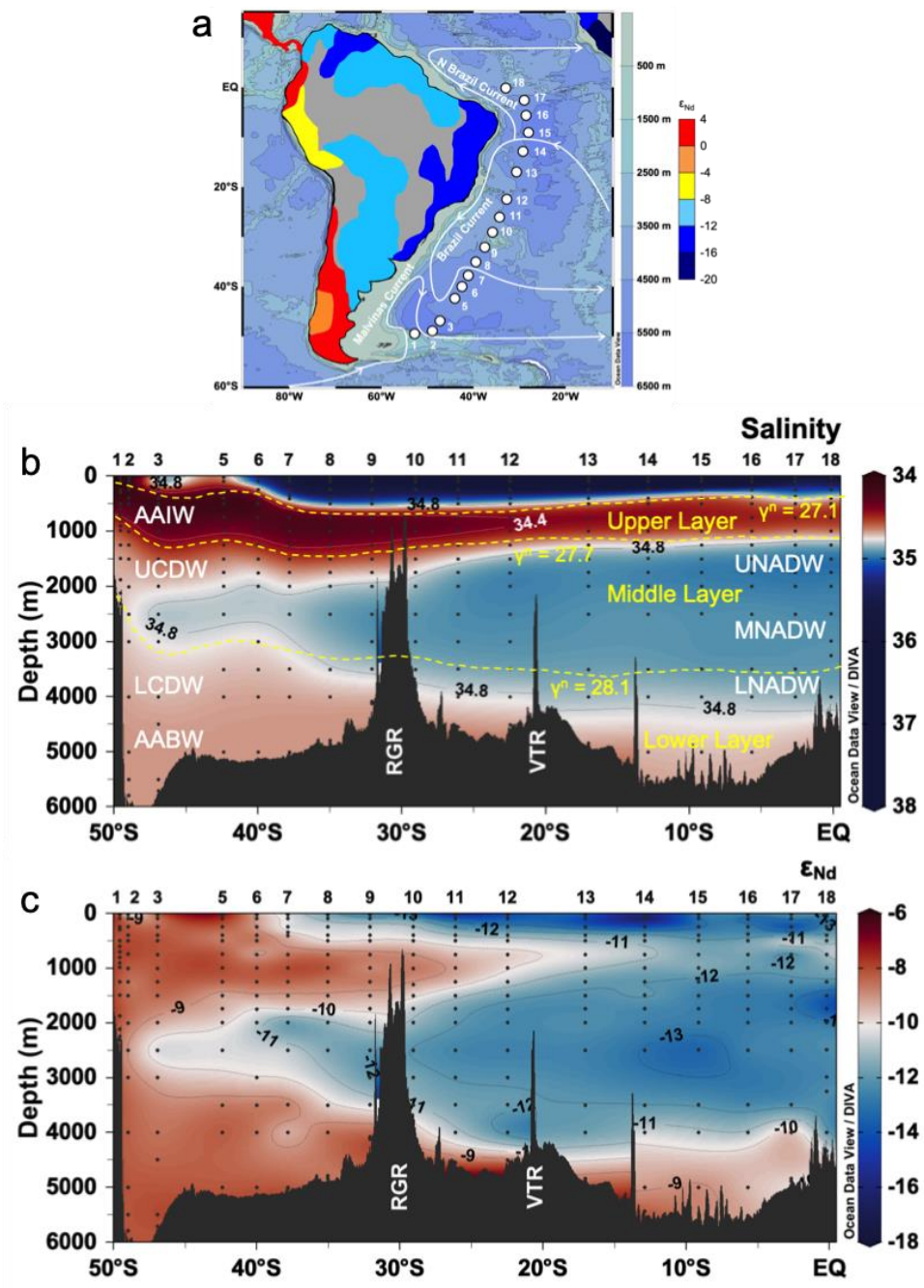
879
 880 **Figure 7. SAMT samples compared with published South Atlantic and Southern Ocean**
 881 **Atlantic Sector data.** (a) Map with sampling stations. (b) θ vs. S . (c) ϵ_{Nd} vs. S . Plotted samples
 882 are from $> 1000\text{m}$, $\theta < 6^\circ\text{C}$. Symbols: SAMT, grey diamonds; SE Atlantic from the Angola
 883 Basin, yellow triangles; other SE Atlantic, yellow triangles; South Central Atlantic, orange
 884 circles; SW Atlantic, red squares; SAMT end-members, large grey diamonds; water mass
 885 formation region end-members, large red and blue circles (southern- and northern-sourced water
 886 masses, respectively). Data sources: Garcia-Solsona et al., 2014; Jeandel, 1993; Rahlf et al.,
 887 2020; Rickli et al., 2009; Stichel et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2021.

888
 889 **Figure 8. SAMT samples compared with published North Atlantic data.** (a) Map with
 890 sampling stations. (b) θ vs. S . (c) ϵ_{Nd} vs. S . The published data are from south of $\sim 45^\circ\text{N}$, where
 891 NADW is fully formed. Plotted samples are from $> 1000 \text{ m}$, $\theta < 6^\circ\text{C}$. Symbols: SAMT, grey
 892 diamonds; NE Atlantic, blue triangles; North Central Atlantic, navy blue circles; NW Atlantic,
 893 purple squares; NW Atlantic data at 1000-2000 m, brown squares; Caribbean Sea, black squares;
 894 SAMT end-members, large grey diamonds; water mass formation region end-members, large red
 895 and blue circles (southern- and northern-sourced water masses, respectively). Data sources:
 896 Hartman, 2015; Huang et al., 2014; Lacan, 2002; Lambelet et al., 2016; Osborne et al., 2014;
 897 Stichel et al., 2015; Zieringer et al., 2019.

898
 899 **Figure 9. Salinity and ϵ_{Nd} transects in the West Atlantic between $60^\circ\text{N}-60^\circ\text{S}$.** (a) Map. (b) $S-$

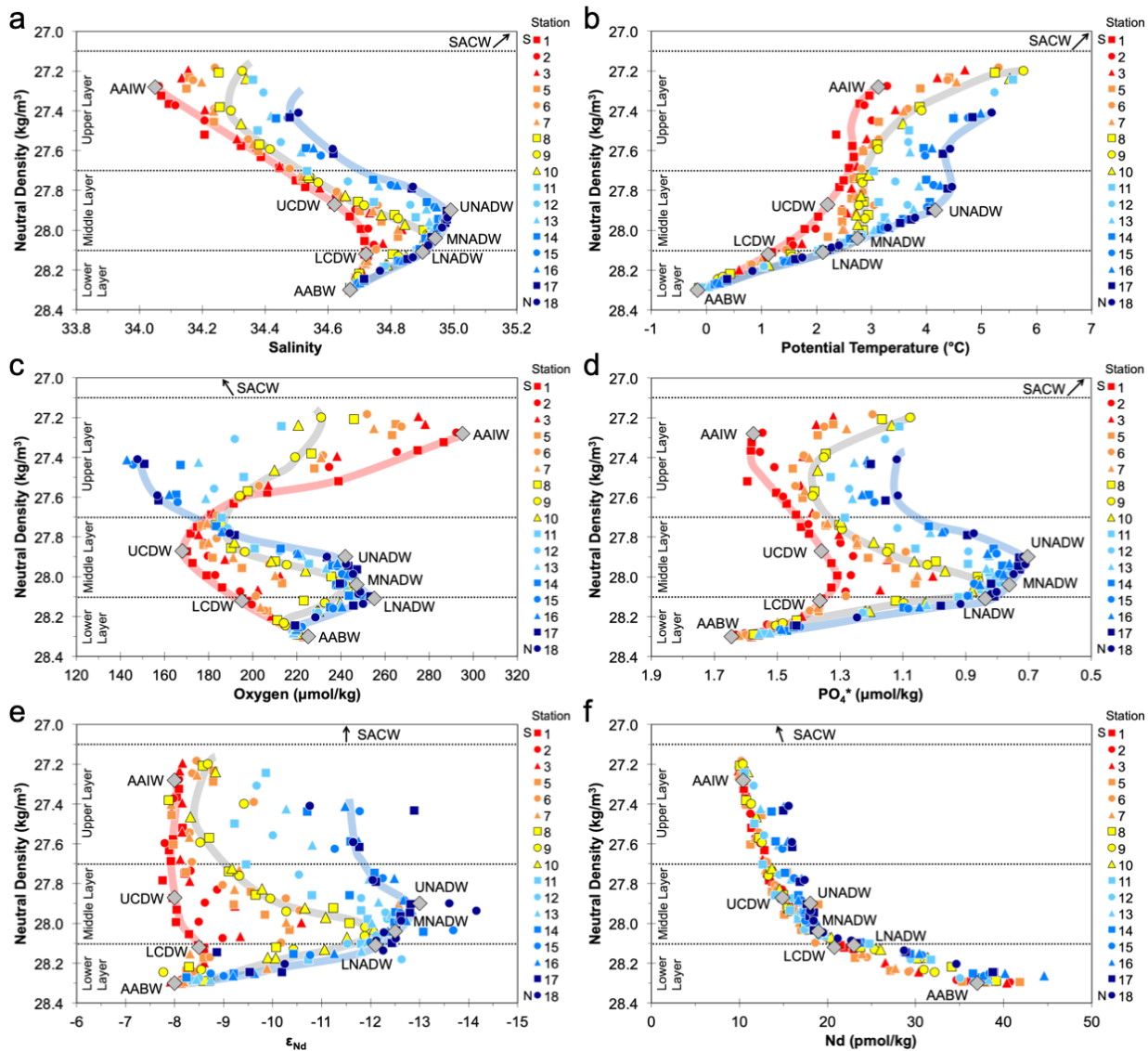
900 transect. (c) ϵ_{Nd} transect. The S- and ϵ_{Nd} -transects agree with each other very well with the
901 exception of AAIW north of $\sim 20^\circ\text{S}$. Data sources: Hartman, 2015; Lacan, 2002; Lacan and
902 Jeandel, 2004, 2005a; Lambelet et al., 2016; Piepgras and Wasserburg, 1980, 1982, 1987; Stichel
903 et al., 2012.

904 Figure 1.
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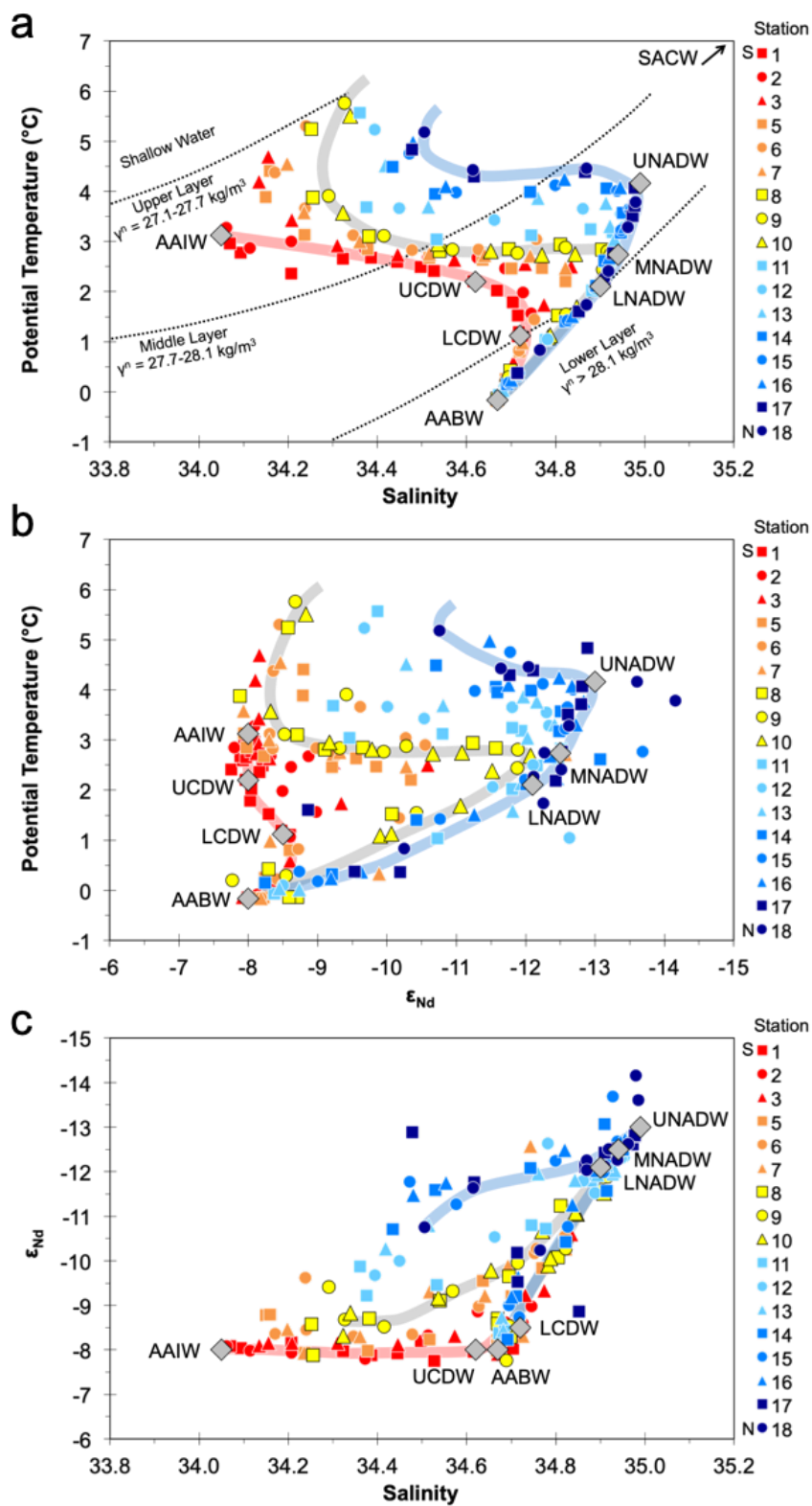
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908 Figure 2.
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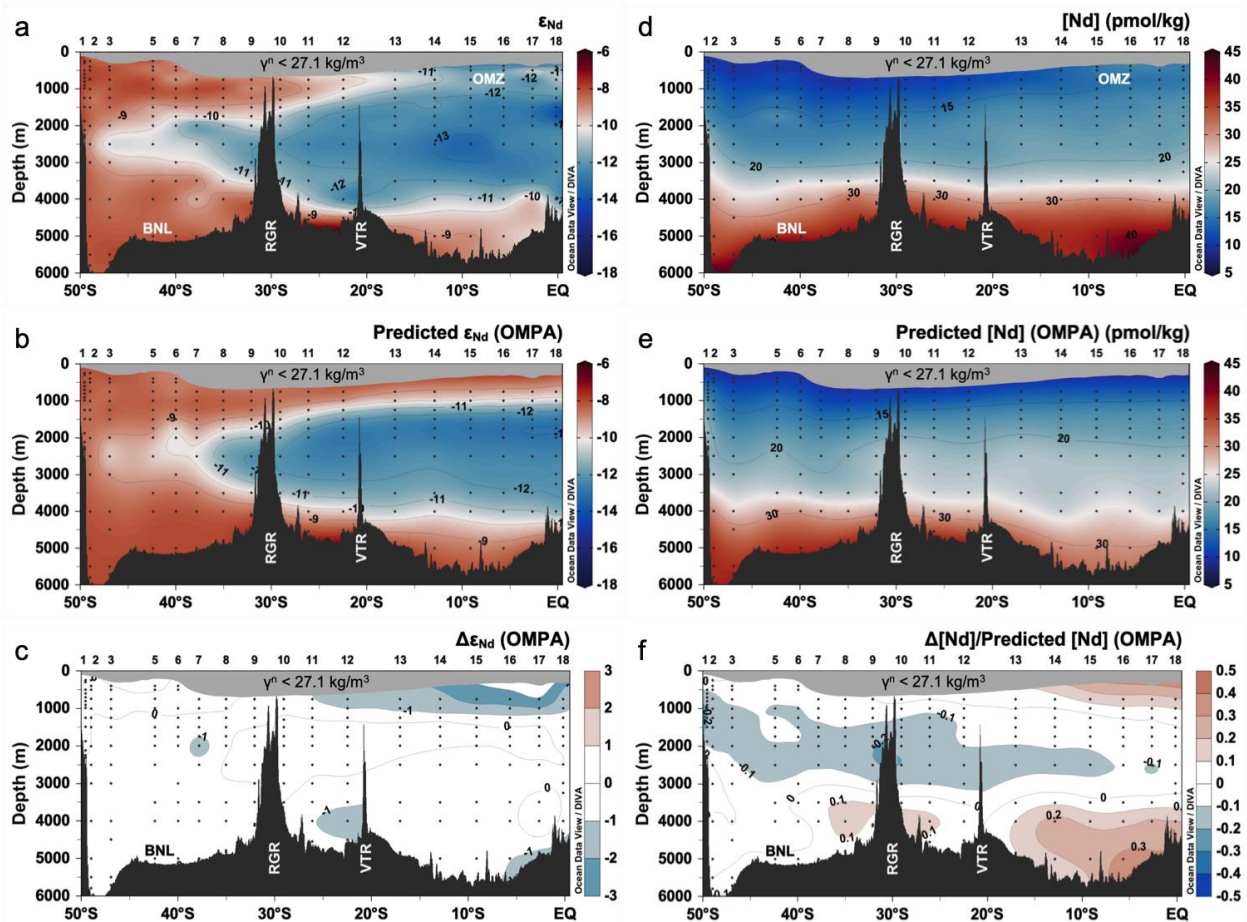
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912 Figure 3.
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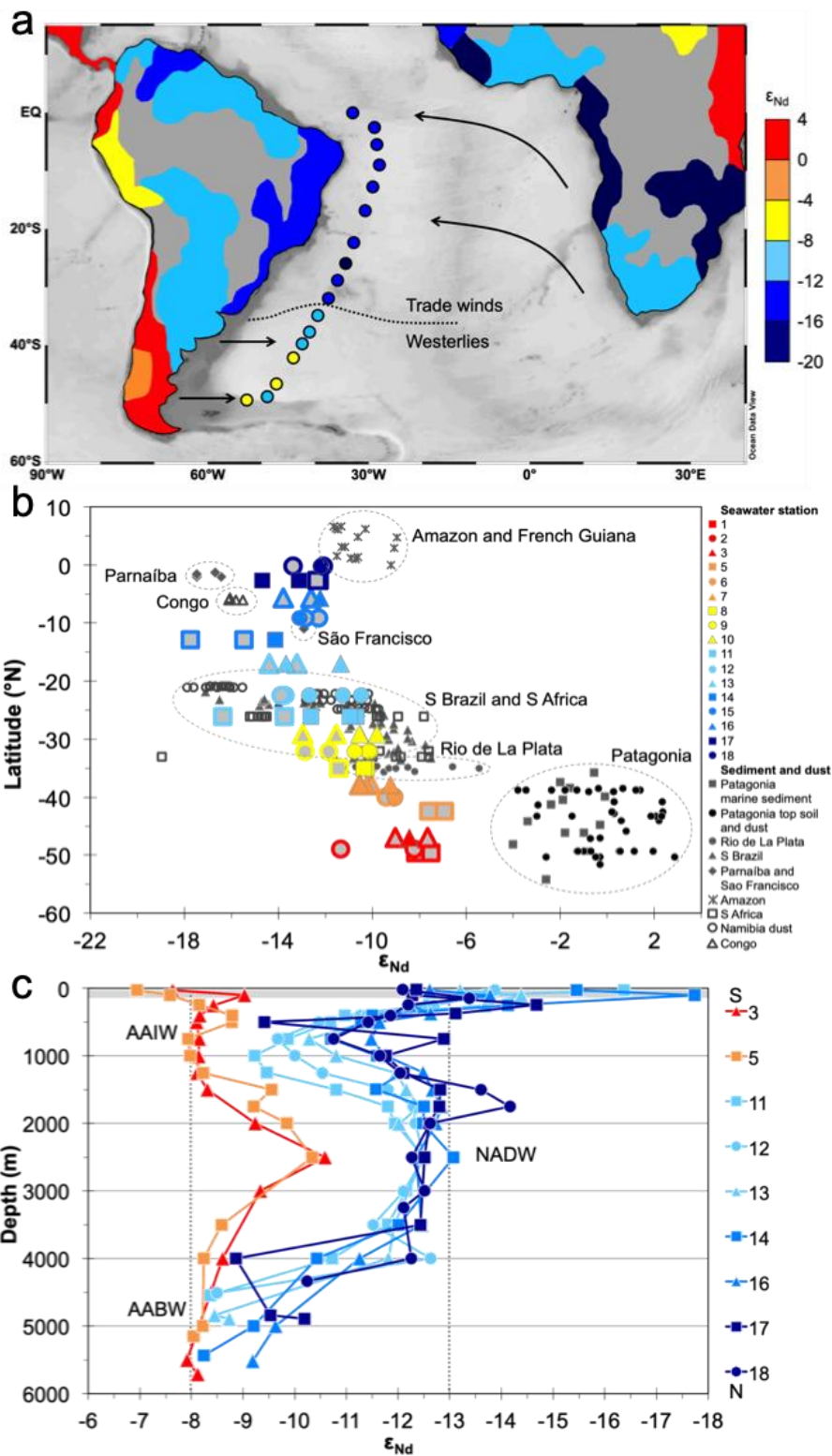
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916 Figure 4.
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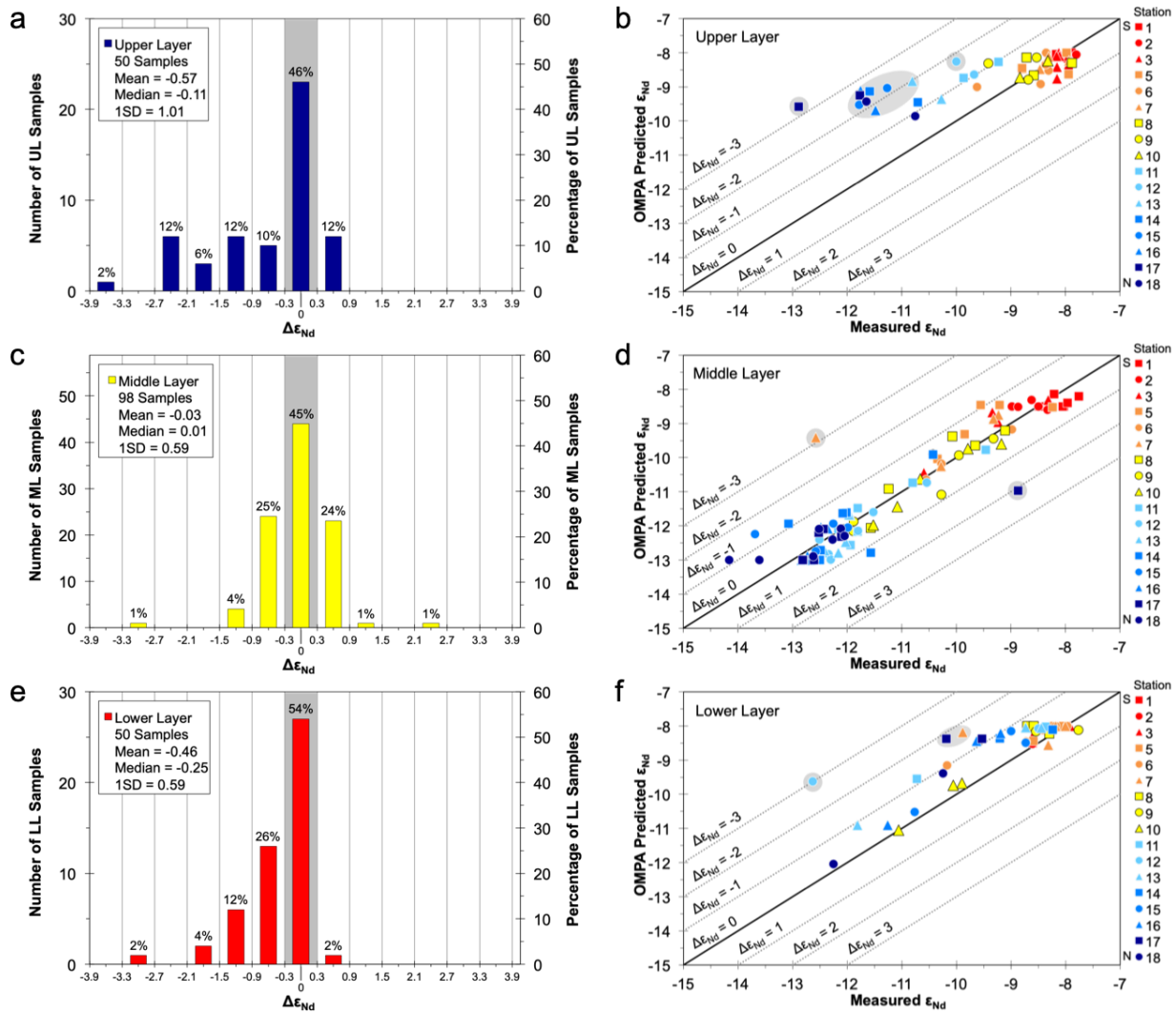
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920 Figure 5.
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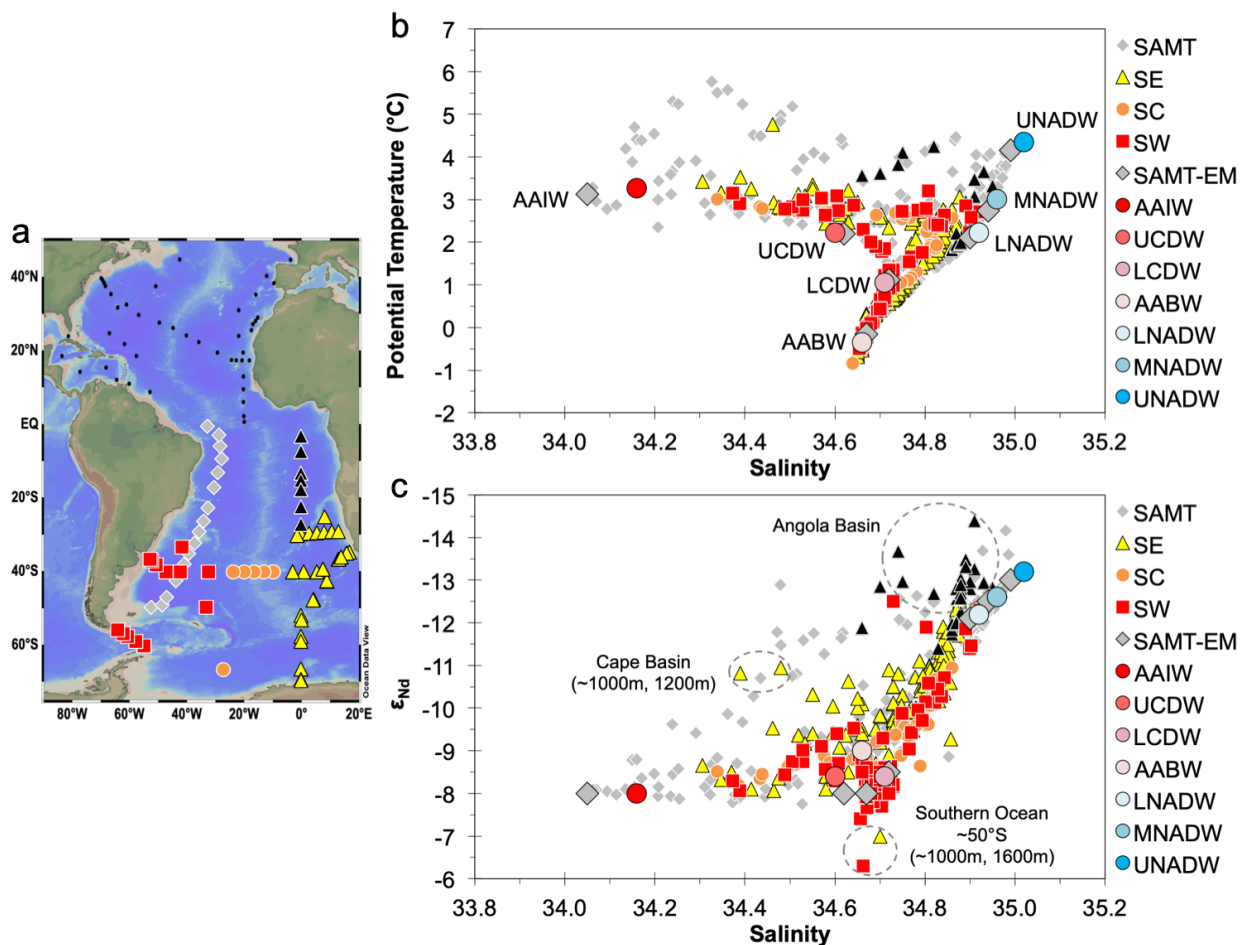
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924 Figure 6.
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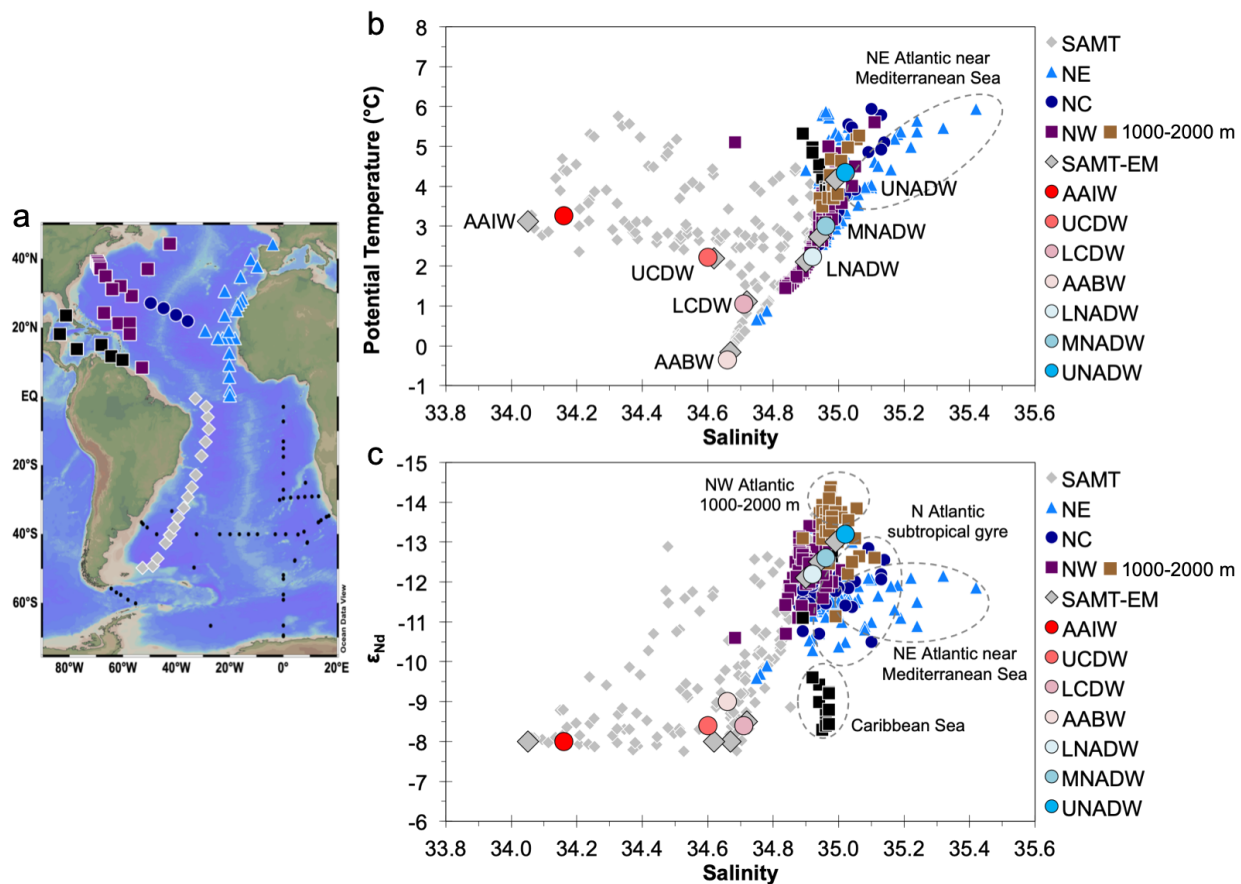
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928 Figure 7.
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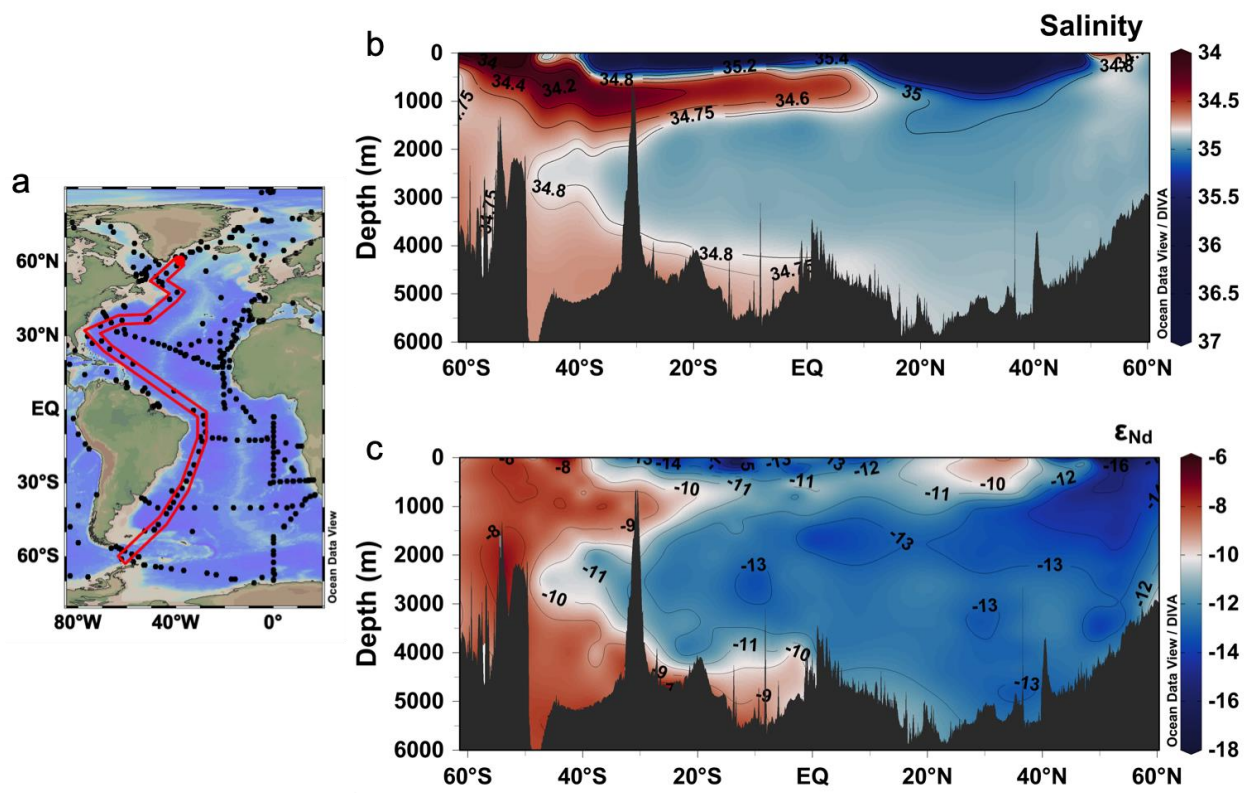
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932 Figure 8.
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 935

936 Figure 9.
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939

940 Table 1. Water mass end-member compositions based on data from (a) the SAMT and (b) water
 941 mass formation regions.
 942

| | Salinity | Potential Temperature | Oxygen | PO ₄ [*] | N [*] | Silicate | ε _{Nd} | [Nd] |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------|------------------------------|----------------|----------|-----------------|---------|
| | g/kg | °C | μmol/kg | μmol/kg | μmol/kg | μmol/kg | | pmol/kg |
| <i>a) SAMT</i> | | | | | | | | |
| UNADW | 34.99 | 4.16 | 242 | 0.70 | 2.03 | 16 | -13.0 | 18.00 |
| MNADW | 34.94 | 2.74 | 247 | 0.76 | 1.87 | 27 | -12.5 | 18.47 |
| LNADW | 34.90 | 2.11 | 255 | 0.84 | 1.11 | 32 | -12.1 | 22.69 |
| SACW _n | 35.16 | 12.30 | 186 | 0.12 | 1.22 | 5 | -13.8 | 15.80 |
| SACW _s | 35.16 | 12.30 | 186 | 0.12 | 1.22 | 5 | -10.4 | 11.13 |
| AAIW | 34.05 | 3.12 | 295 | 1.58 | 0.36 | 15 | -8.1 | 10.32 |
| UCDW | 34.62 | 2.20 | 168 | 1.36 | -2.05 | 81 | -8.0 | 14.85 |
| LCDW | 34.72 | 1.12 | 195 | 1.36 | 0.65 | 108 | -8.5 | 21.45 |
| AABW | 34.67 | -0.16 | 225 | 1.65 | 0.25 | 127 | -8.0 | 36.99 |
| <i>b) WMFR</i> | | | | | | | | |
| UNADW | 35.02 | 4.35 | 250 | 0.69 | 2.19 | 13 | -13.2 | 17.49 |
| MNADW | 34.96 | 3.01 | 263 | 0.78 | 1.72 | 19 | -12.6 | 18.27 |
| LNADW | 34.92 | 2.23 | 266 | 0.81 | 1.79 | 25 | -12.2 | 23.63 |
| AAIW | 34.16 | 3.27 | 285 | 1.52 | 1.22 | 22 | -8.0 | 10.79 |
| UCDW | 34.60 | 2.22 | 175 | 1.36 | 0.79 | 75 | -8.4 | 13.94 |
| LCDW | 34.71 | 1.05 | 198 | 1.37 | 0.58 | 109 | -8.4 | 22.50 |
| AABW | 34.66 | -0.35 | 235 | 1.65 | -0.22 | 122 | -9.0 | 26.07 |

943
 944 Table caption: (a) SAMT end-member compositions are determined from characteristics of this
 945 data set, and discussed in the Sections 2 and S1.3. (b) Determination of WMFR compositions is
 946 discussed in Section 4.3.1.
 947

1 **Supplementary Information for:**

2
3 **Assessing neodymium isotopes as an ocean circulation tracer in the Southwest Atlantic**

4
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20

21 **S1. Methods**

22 *S1.1. Nd isotopes, sample preparation and analyses*

23 A sub-sample of 50 mL was taken from each seawater sample for rare earth element (REE)
24 concentration measurements (see Section S1.2). For the remaining 5-10 L of seawater, REEs
25 were preconcentrated from each sample using C18 cartridges (Waters Corp., Sep-Pak classic,
26 360 mg, 55-105 μm) loaded with a complexing agent composed of a mixture of 2-ethylhexyl
27 hydrogen phosphate (HDEHP) and 2-ethylhexyl dihydrogen phosphate (H₂MEHP) mixture (first
28 proposed by Shabani et al., 1992). Our procedure is based on previously published methods
29 (Jeandel et al., 1998; Lacan and Jeandel, 2001; Pahnke et al., 2012). C18 cartridges were first
30 cleaned in a 0.5 N HCl bath overnight, then 10 mL of 6 N HCl was passed through them, and
31 then they were flushed with > 500 mL of Milli-Q water. Cartridges were stored in Milli-Q water
32 after cleaning. 300 μL of the complexing agent mixture was loaded on a clean cartridge for a 5 L
33 sample. Seawater samples were adjusted to pH \approx 3.5 by adding Optima[®] ammonium hydroxide
34 before being pumped through the cartridges at 20 mL/min by a peristaltic pump in the ultra-clean
35 chemistry laboratory at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) of Columbia University.
36 Cartridges were then eluted with 10 mL of 0.01 N HCl to remove barium. After barium elution,
37 cartridges were eluted with 35 mL of 6 N HCl at 10 mL/min by a peristaltic pump to collect
38 REEs. The REEs were dried and further purified by Eichrom RE-spec[®] column chemistry. Nd
39 fractions were extracted from REEs by LN-spec[®] column chemistry and dried. They were
40 redissolved in 0.5-1 mL of 3% nitric acid (HNO₃) for Nd isotope analysis depending on the Nd
41 amount in each sample (\sim 3 to \sim 75 ng, \sim 19 ng on average). To determine the Nd amount in each
42 sample, a small aliquot (1-2%) was taken from each sample and measured on a VG PlasmaQuad
43 ExCell[®] quadrupole ICP-MS. Based on these Nd amounts, samples were divided in groups for
44 Nd isotope analysis.

45 Nd isotope ratios were measured on a Thermo Scientific Neptune-Plus[®] multicollector-
46 inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometer (MC-ICP-MS) at LDEO. The instrument was
47 coupled with an Elemental Scientific Inc. (ESI) Apex[®] desolvating nebulizer sample introduction
48 system. All measured Nd isotopic compositions were corrected for mass fractionation using an
49 exponential law with $^{146}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.7219$. For each analytical session, standard JNdi-1 was
50 measured between every sample. For each sample, the measured $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratio was further

51 normalized to $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}_{\text{JNdi}} = 0.512115$ (Tanaka et al., 2000), using the average measured
52 JNdi-1 sample of a measuring session. For each group of samples with similar Nd amounts,
53 JNdi-1 was measured at the same concentration as the samples. JNdi-1 standards yielded long-
54 term external reproducibilities (2σ) as follows: $\pm 0.13 \epsilon_{\text{Nd}}$ units for 40 ppb, $\pm 0.23 \epsilon_{\text{Nd}}$ units for 20
55 ppb, $\pm 0.23 \epsilon_{\text{Nd}}$ units for 15 ppb, and $\pm 0.43 \epsilon_{\text{Nd}}$ units for 10 ppb samples. The $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios
56 are expressed as ϵ_{Nd} , the deviation in parts per 10,000 from average chondrite, which is an
57 estimate of the bulk Earth; this study uses $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.512638$ (Jacobsen and Wasserburg,
58 1980), in order to be consistent with decades of past data, rather than the updated value of
59 0.512630 (Bouvier et al., 2008); although the difference is small, only 0.16 ϵ_{Nd} units (and both
60 values are within analytical error).

61

62 ***SI.2. Nd concentrations***

63 For Nd concentrations, a multielement REE spike enriched in ^{138}La , ^{142}Ce , ^{145}Nd , ^{149}Sm ,
64 ^{153}Eu , ^{155}Gd , ^{161}Dy , ^{167}Er , ^{171}Yb , and ^{176}Lu (Wu et al., 2020) was added to each 10 ml-sized
65 sample. The sample-spike mixture was allowed to equilibrate for at least 24 hours and then was
66 purified and preconcentrated through an ESI seaFast[®] Automated Preconcentration System for
67 Undiluted Seawater (Elemental Scientific Inc. or ESI, Omaha, Nebraska, USA) (Wu et al.,
68 2020). The preconcentrated REEs were measured on a VG PlasmaQuad ExCell[®] quadrupole
69 ICP-MS, which was coupled to a CETAC Aridus[™] desolvating introduction system (that
70 minimized molecular oxide ion formation with a self-aspirated ESI Apex ST PFA micro flow
71 nebulizer. For quality control, we repeatedly analyze seawater samples from a GEOTRACES
72 intercalibration station Bermuda Atlantic Time Series (BATS; 31.7°N, 64.1°W) in the North
73 Atlantic at 20 m ($n = 18$) and 2000 m ($n = 16$) (Wu et al., 2020). For the BATS 20 and 2000 m
74 samples, long-term external reproducibility (2σ RSD%) for Nd is 1.9% and 1.6%, respectively,
75 using a two standard deviation filter on the data (Wu et al., 2020).

76

77 ***SI.3. Calculation of predicted Nd isotope ratios and concentrations***

78 We defined the AMOC water mass end-member compositions before calculating fractional
79 water mass contributions (Figs. 2, S4). We have used proximal end-member values (i.e., within
80 the transect, from our set of data) to define water mass compositions because using the global

81 end-member values would require accounting for potential mixing with other water masses and
 82 would be impacted by possible modifications to [Nd] along the transport path. Some of the
 83 Upper Layer samples had contributions from South Atlantic Central Water (SACW). The SACW
 84 end-member was defined using average values of samples in the Shallow Layer above the 27
 85 kg/m^3 isopycnal, and below the pycnocline, since samples above the pycnocline have very large
 86 natural variability. For the intermediate and deep water (discussed in the text as the Upper,
 87 Middle, and Lower Layers that are part of the AMOC), the neutral densities were defined
 88 according to the hydrographic characteristics of each water mass as follows (*Fig. 2*): the salinity
 89 (S) minimum for AAIW, the dissolved oxygen (O_2) minimum for UCDW, the S -maximum for
 90 UNADW, the O_2 -minimum for MNADW in the northernmost Stations 17 and 18, the O_2 -
 91 maximum for LNADW in Stations 17 and 18, the S -maximum for LCDW in the southernmost
 92 Stations 1 and 2, and the lowest potential temperature (θ) for AABW. Then the values for the
 93 other parameters (S , θ , O_2 , PO_4^* , N^* , and silicate (SiO_2) concentration) corresponding to the
 94 neutral densities of these water masses were used as end-member compositions (*Figs. 2, S4*).
 95 Here PO_4^* and N^* are the preformed phosphate ($\text{PO}_4^* = \text{PO}_4 + \text{O}_2/175 - 1.95$) and nitrate
 96 ($\text{N}^* = 0.87 * (\text{NO}_3 - 16\text{PO}_4 + 2.95)$) in the ocean, respectively, and are considered
 97 conservative water mass tracers (Broecker et al., 1991; Gruber and Sarmiento, 1997; Rae and
 98 Broecker, 2018). The values chosen for each end-member are listed in *Table 1a*. Section profiles
 99 of these tracers are shown in *Fig. S5*.

100 We used a modified version of Optimum Multiparameter Analysis (OMPA) (Poole and
 101 Tomczak, 1999) to identify the fractional contributions to each sample from the AMOC water
 102 masses. The method is a constrained non-negative least squares solution to the fraction of water
 103 masses for a given depth and location based on observed conservative hydrographic properties
 104 and the assignment of the “end-member” characteristics of each individual water mass. This
 105 prevents calculation of negative fractional water mass contributions. Given the relatively large
 106 number of water types present along the section we need to apply additional constraints to the
 107 calculation to over-determine the solution. For this purpose we use neutral density surfaces to
 108 break the analysis into three vertical domains that we call the Upper, Middle, and Lower Layers
 109 ($\gamma^n = 27.1\text{-}27.7$, $\gamma^n = 27.7\text{-}28.1$, and $\gamma^n > 28.1$ kg/m^3 , respectively). Given the presence of a
 110 relatively intense O_2 -minimum zone in the northern part of the Upper Layer, we decided to split
 111 this domain into two. In the northern part O_2 was not used as its behavior deviates from

112 conservative mixing. The following equations were used in the OMPA:

$$113 \quad \sum_{i=1}^n f_i \times x_i^j = x$$

$$114 \quad \sum_{i=1}^n f_i = 1$$

115 where f_i is the fractional contribution (> 0) of water mass i , x_i^j is the value of water mass i for the
 116 tracer j , and x is the measured value. Because not all tracers are measured equally well, and
 117 because the defined end-member values also present some uncertainty, we need to weigh the
 118 equations differently, thereby adjusting the contribution of each tracer equation (and the
 119 conservation equation) to the least squares constraint. The weights for each tracer equation are
 120 calculated considering the deviation of property values from their average and the largest source
 121 water variance among the end-members, following Frants et al., 2013. Within reasonable limits,
 122 the exact choice of weights does not strongly affect the outcome (Jenkins et al., 2015). The
 123 weighting of the mass conservation equation denotes the degree to which the sum of the water
 124 type contributions may not be exactly 1. We chose a weighting factor of 500, that is, a constraint
 125 of 0.5% in the summation equation. Distributions of each intermediate and deep water mass are
 126 shown in section profiles (*Fig. S3*). For samples close to the boundary of the three vertical
 127 domains, we included them in both domains above and below the boundary in the OMPA. For
 128 example, samples at 1000 m north of Station 12 ($\gamma^n = 27.56$ - 27.62 kg/m³, depending on location)
 129 were calculated in both upper and middle layers and samples within $\gamma^n = 28.05$ - 28.15 kg/m³ (at
 130 ~2100 m to ~4000 m, depending on location) were calculated in both middle and lower layers.

131 After the fractional water mass contributions were calculated based on the OMPA, the
 132 predicted ϵ_{Nd} and Nd concentration [Nd] values were calculated as:

$$133 \quad \epsilon_{Nd_{\text{predicted}}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_{Nd_i} \times [Nd]_i \times f_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n [Nd]_i \times f_i}$$

134

$$[\text{Nd}]_{\text{predicted}} = \sum_{i=1}^n [\text{Nd}]_i \times f_i$$

135 where ϵNd_i , $[\text{Nd}]_i$ and f_i are the Nd isotopic composition, Nd concentration, and mass fractional

136 contribution of water mass i , respectively. The ϵNd and $[\text{Nd}]$ deviations were calculated as:

137

$$\Delta\epsilon\text{Nd} = \epsilon\text{Nd}_{\text{measured}} - \epsilon\text{Nd}_{\text{predicted}}, \text{ and } \Delta[\text{Nd}] = [\text{Nd}]_{\text{measured}} - [\text{Nd}]_{\text{predicted}}.$$

138

139 **Supplementary Figures**

140

141 **Figure S1. Vertical profiles of ϵ_{Nd} and [Nd] for each SAMT station.**

142

143 **Figure S2. Section profile of beam attenuation coefficient along the SAMT.** High beam
144 attenuation coefficient values indicate nepheloid layers with high particulate concentrations. The
145 nepheloid layer in the SAMT is shown within 500 m of the seafloor from $\sim 50^\circ\text{S}$ to $\sim 20^\circ\text{S}$.

146

147 **Figure S3. Section profiles showing percentages of each intermediate and deep water mass.**
148 Results are from the OMPA, the water masses are AAIW, UCDW, LCDW, AABW, UNADW,
149 and LNADW and residuals along the SAMT.

150

151 **Figure S4. Neutral density (γ^n) plotted against N^* and silicate of samples and the water**
152 **mass end-members from the SAMT.** (a) N^* . (b) Silicate (SiO_2). The grey diamonds are water
153 mass end-members defined from the SAMT and listed in *Table 1a*. The legend numbers are
154 station numbers from Station 1 in the south to Station 18 at the equator.

155

156 **Figure S5. Section profiles of tracers used in the OMPA.** (a) Salinity (S). (b) Potential
157 temperature (θ). (c) Dissolved oxygen (O_2). (d) PO_4^* . (e) N^* . (f) Silicate (SiO_2).

158

159 **Figure S6. Potential temperature vs. salinity for SAMT samples.** (a) All samples. (b) Data
160 within the rectangle in (a), limited by $S < 34.5\text{g/kg}$, $\theta < 14^\circ\text{C}$. Isopycnals of neutral density
161 defining the Upper, Middle, and Lower Layers are shown in dashed curves. The grey diamonds
162 are water mass end-members defined from the SAMT, listed in *Table 1a*, and used in the OMPA
163 calculation.

164

165 **Figure S7. Histogram of $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$, based on the OMPA.** $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd} = (\text{measured } \epsilon_{Nd} - \text{predicted } \epsilon_{Nd})$.
166 The y-axis on the left is the number of calculated samples, and on the right is the percentage of
167 calculated samples. $\Delta\epsilon_{Nd}$ -values are shown for the three neutral density layers (Upper Layer in
168 blue, Middle in yellow, and Lower in red, explained in the text). Samples from the “Shallow
169 Layer” above the pycnocline are not used. The numbers above the columns are percentage values
170 within each interval.

171

172 **Figure S8. The Malvinas and Brazil Currents, and the Brazil-Malvinas Confluence.** As
173 represented by the Mariano Global Surface Velocity Analysis (MGSVA) (Gyory et al., 2001-
174 2013). Along with the main currents, the arrows also show northward and southward return flow.

175

176 **Figure S9. Histograms of published ϵ_{Nd} -values for Rio Grande Rise and Vitória-Trindade**
177 **Ridge volcanic rocks.** (a) Rio Grande Rise (RGR); data are from Gibson et al., 2005; Hoernle et
178 al., 2015. (b) Vitória-Trindade Ridge (VTR); data are from Bongiololo et al., 2015; Halliday et al.,
179 1992; Kogarko et al., 2003; Marques et al., 1999; Peyve and Skolotnev, 2014; Siebel et al., 2000.

180

181 **Figure S10. Salinity and ϵ_{Nd} transects in the East Atlantic.** (a) Map showing available data,
182 the transect used in (b) and (c) are outlined in red. (b) and (c) Salinity and ϵ_{Nd} transects.
183 Published ϵ_{Nd} data are from Garcia-Solsona et al., 2014; Hartman, 2015; Jeandel, 1993; Rahlf et
184 al., 2020; Rickli et al., 2009; Stichel et al., 2012; Stichel et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2021; Zieringer

185 et al., 2019. The East Atlantic S- and ϵ_{Nd} -transects resemble each other, particularly in the far
186 south boundary between the NADW wedge (generally blue) and the Southern Ocean waters
187 (generally brown). Like the Upper Layer in the SAMT, the AAIW signal can be observed north
188 of 30°S in the S-transect, but is not observed in the ϵ_{Nd} -transect. The effect of input from Nd
189 sources with highly negative ϵ_{Nd} -values in the Angola Basin (Rahlf et al., 2020) is also clearly
190 seen, mainly between the surface and ~3500 meters, along with the loss of that negative ϵ_{Nd} -
191 signal south of ~30°S.
192

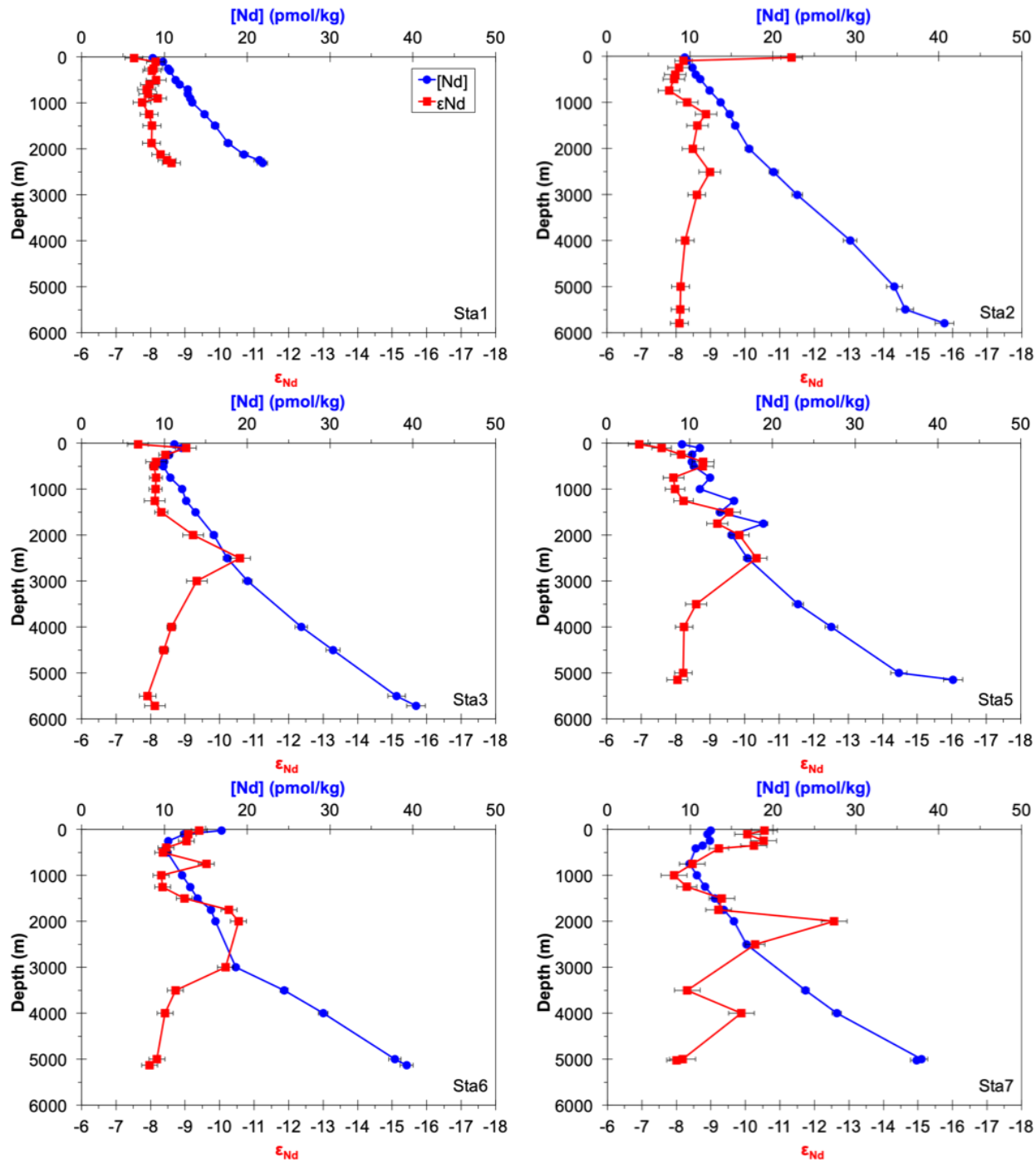
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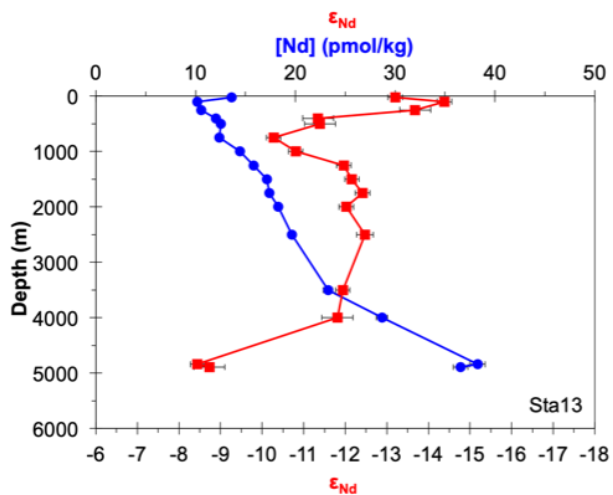
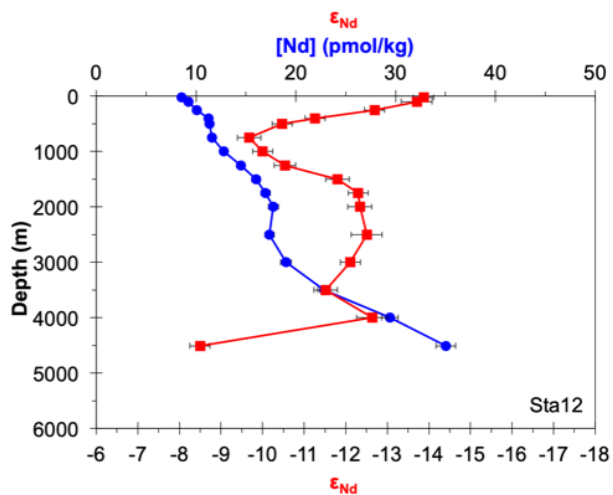
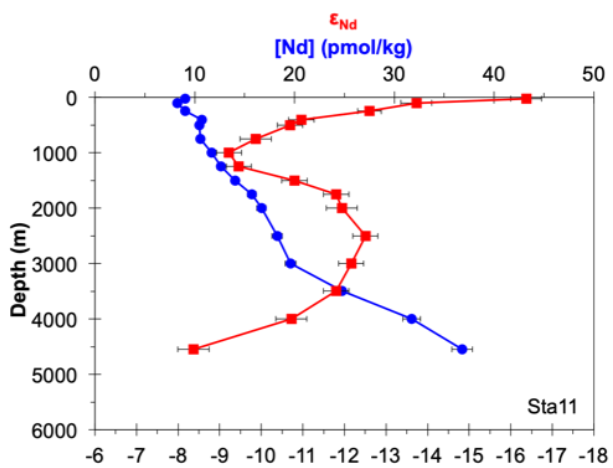
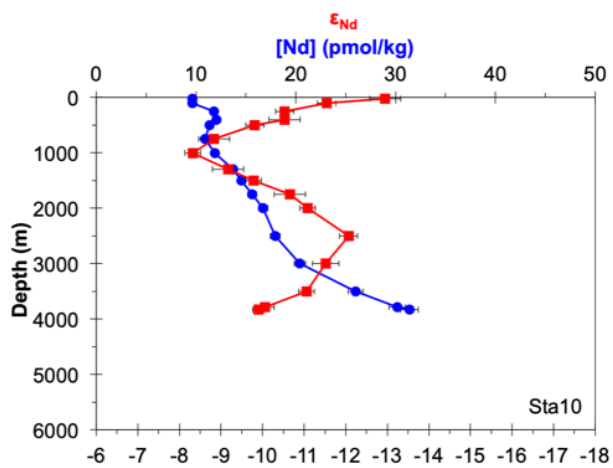
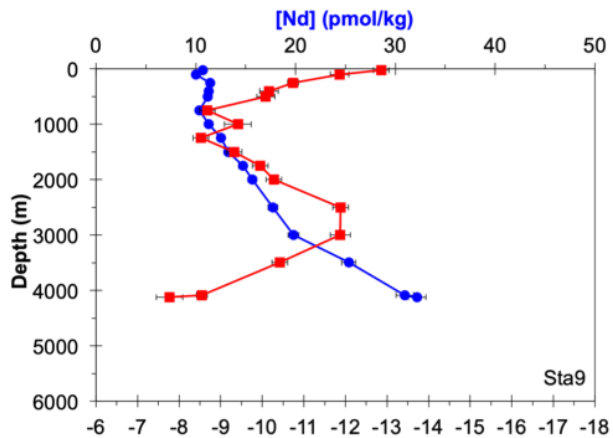
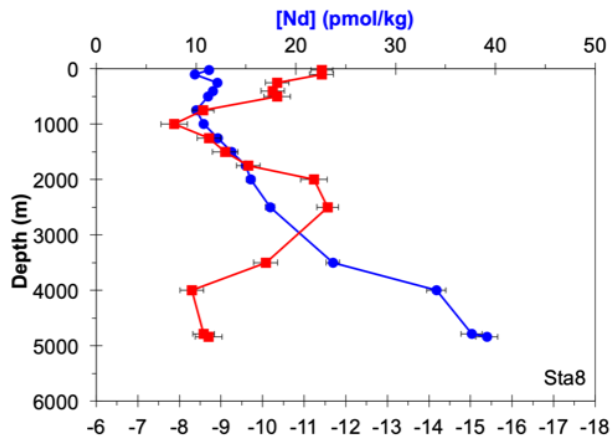
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290 Figure S1.
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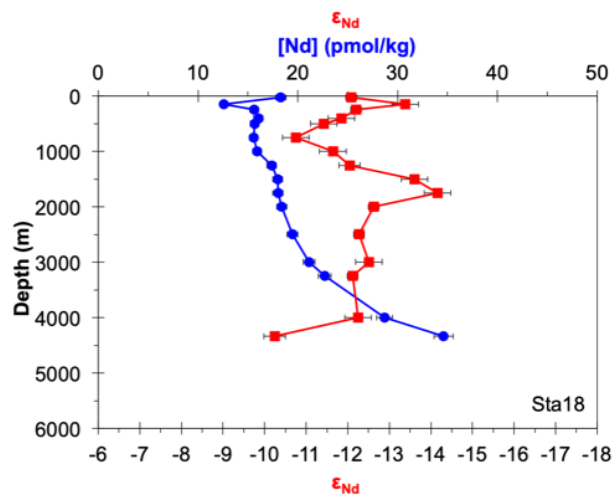
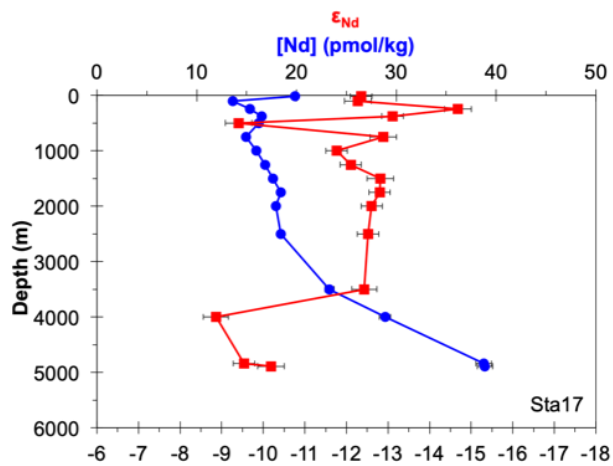
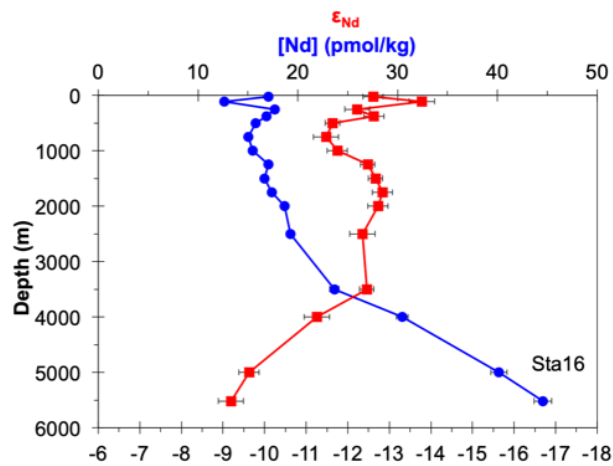
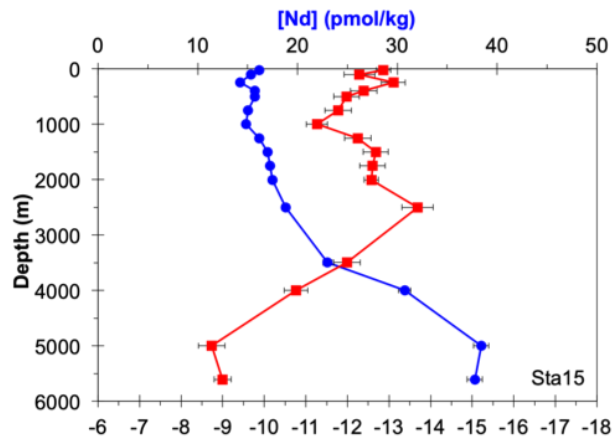
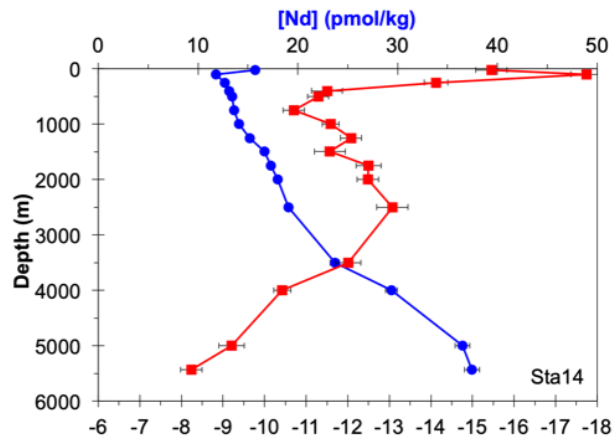
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294 Figure S1. Continued
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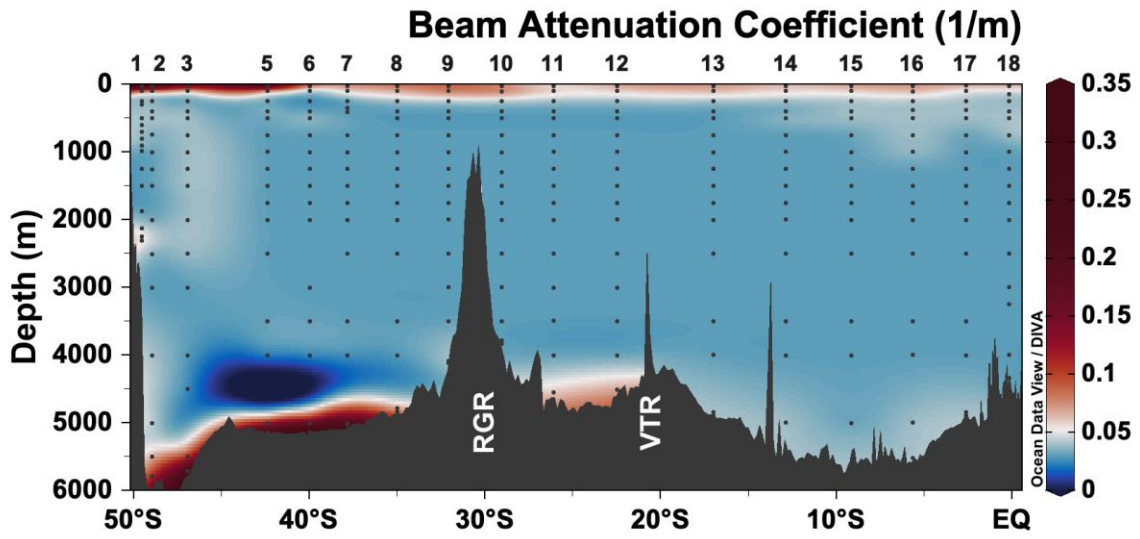
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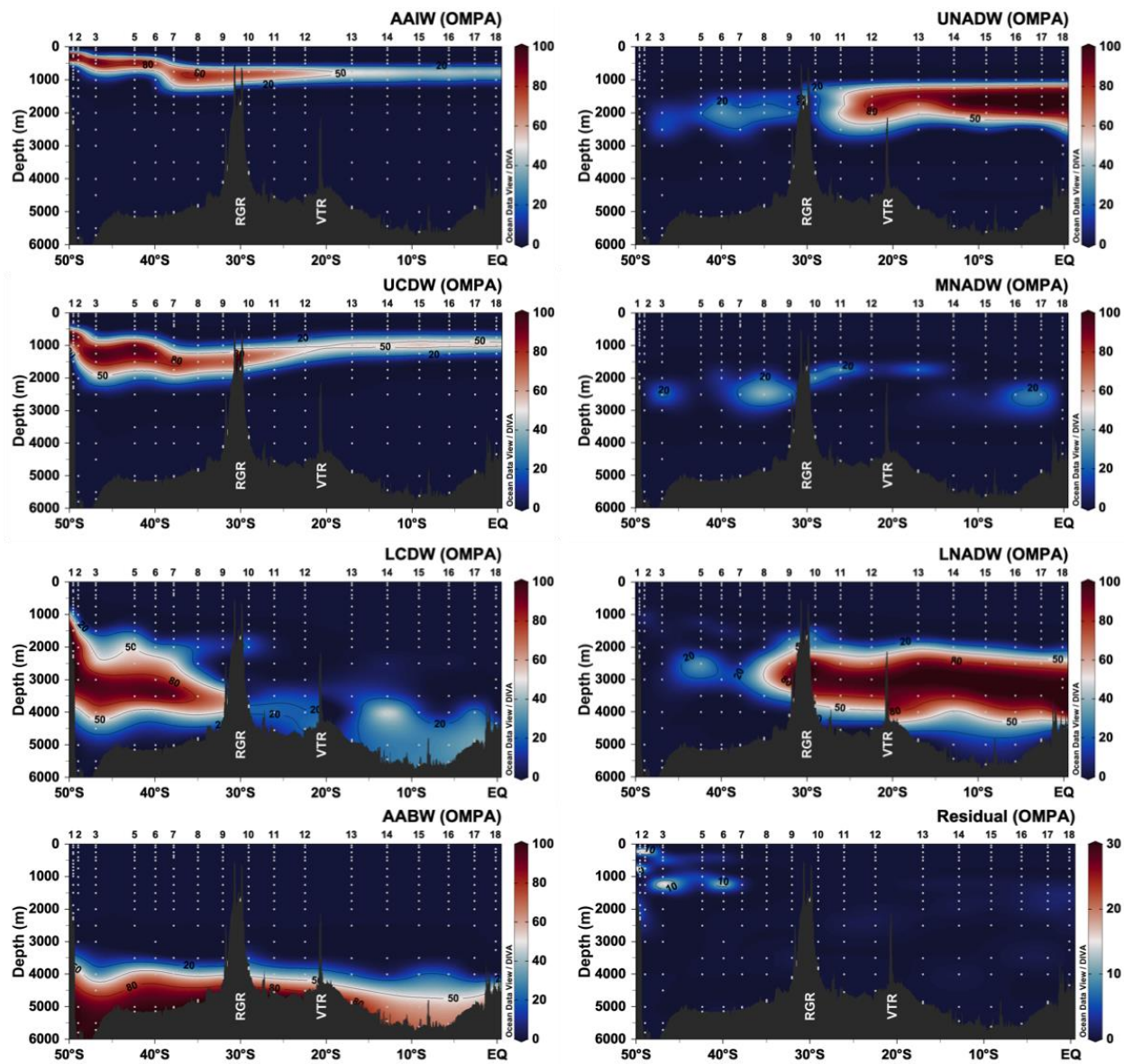
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302 Figure S2.
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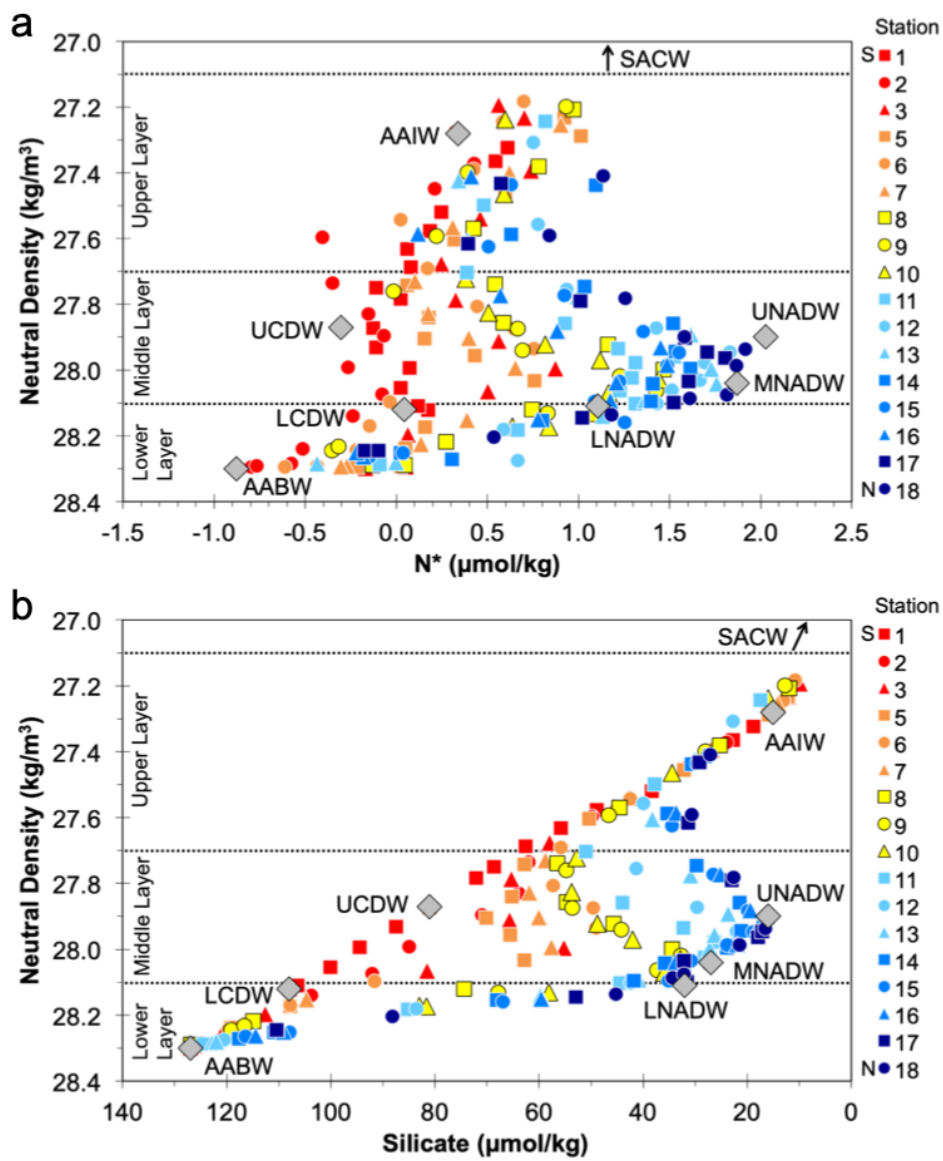
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306 Figure S3.
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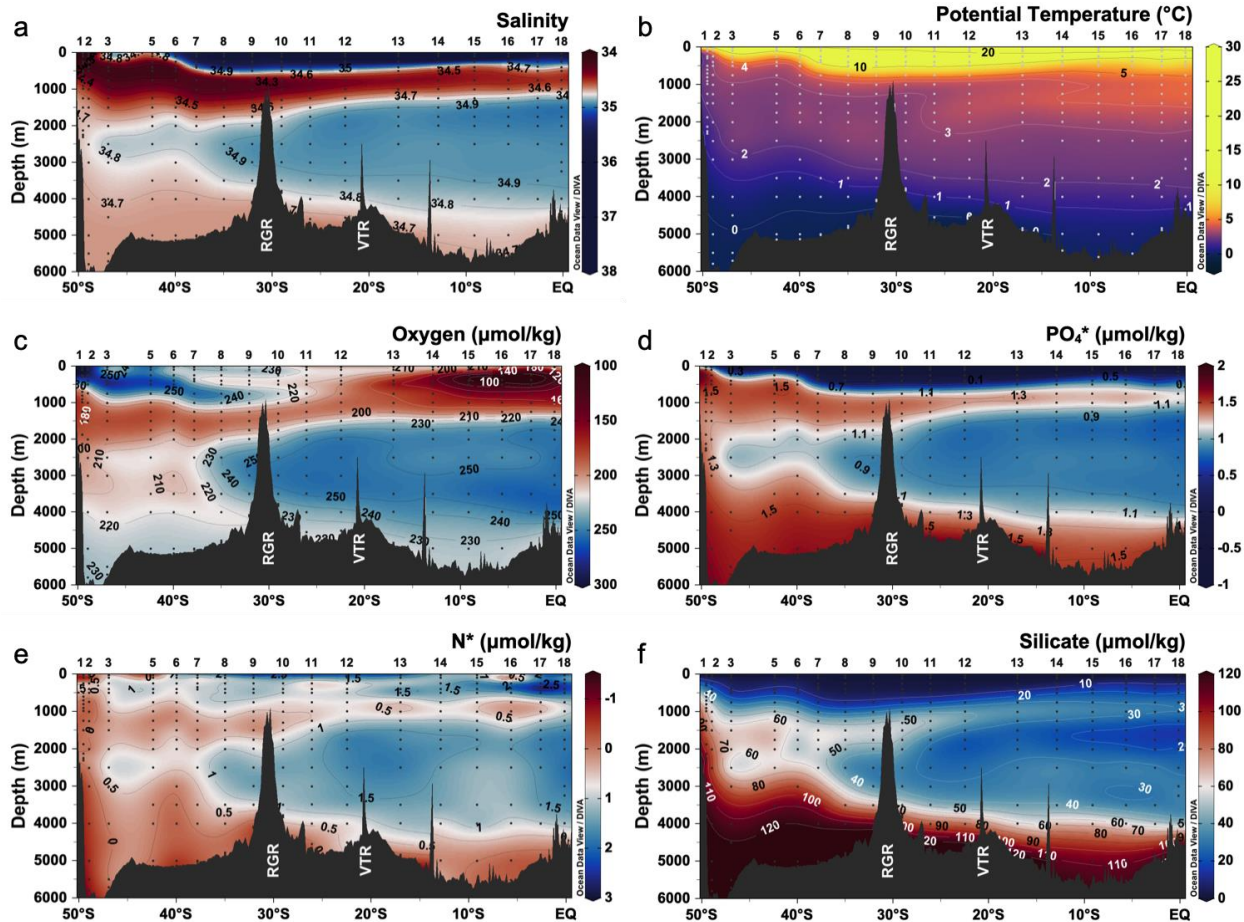
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310 Figure S4.
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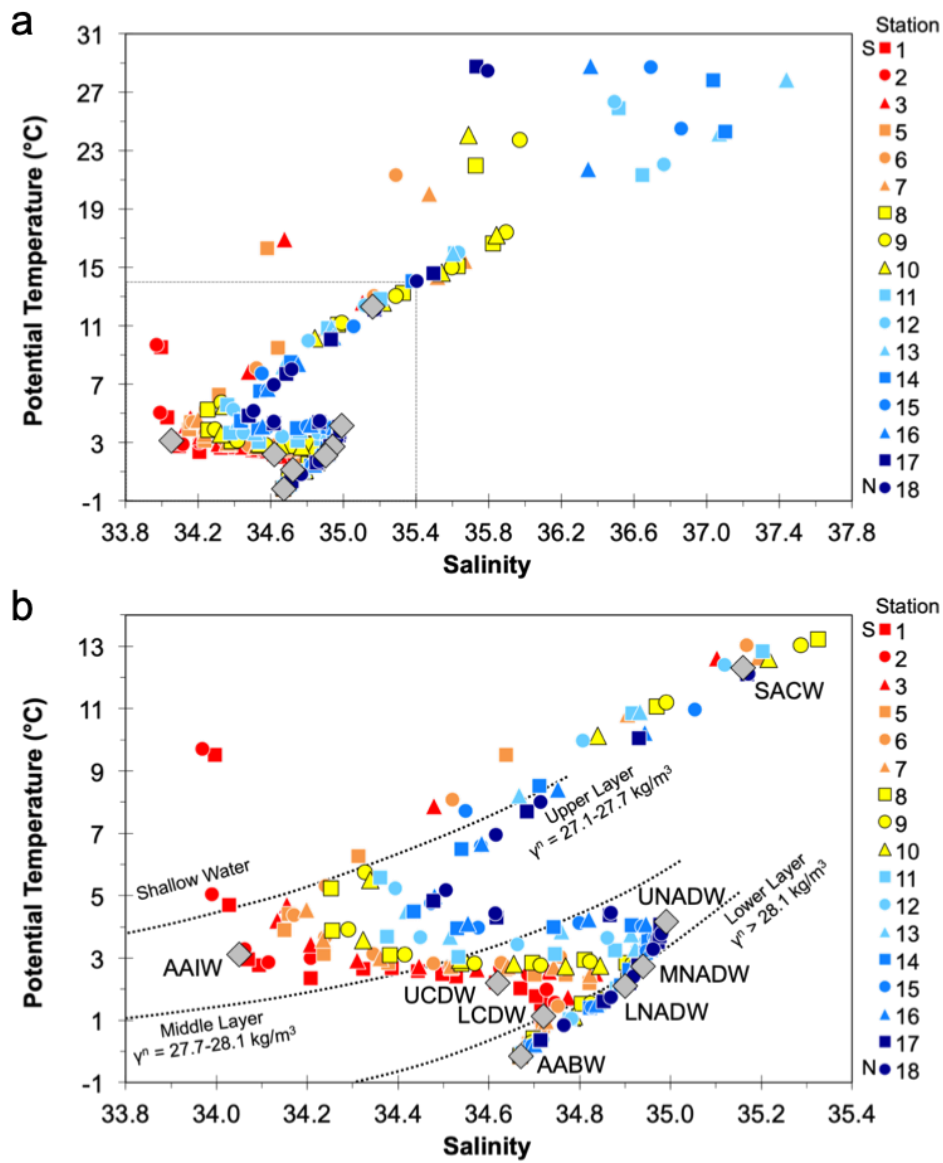
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314 Figure S5.
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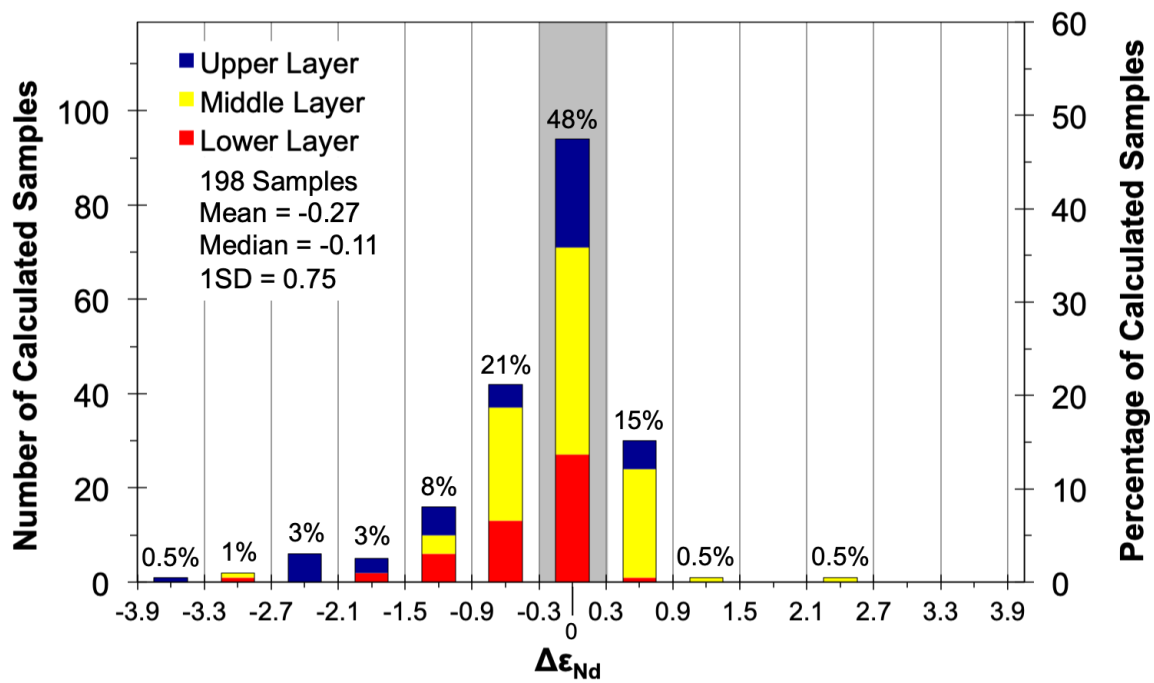
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318 Figure S6.
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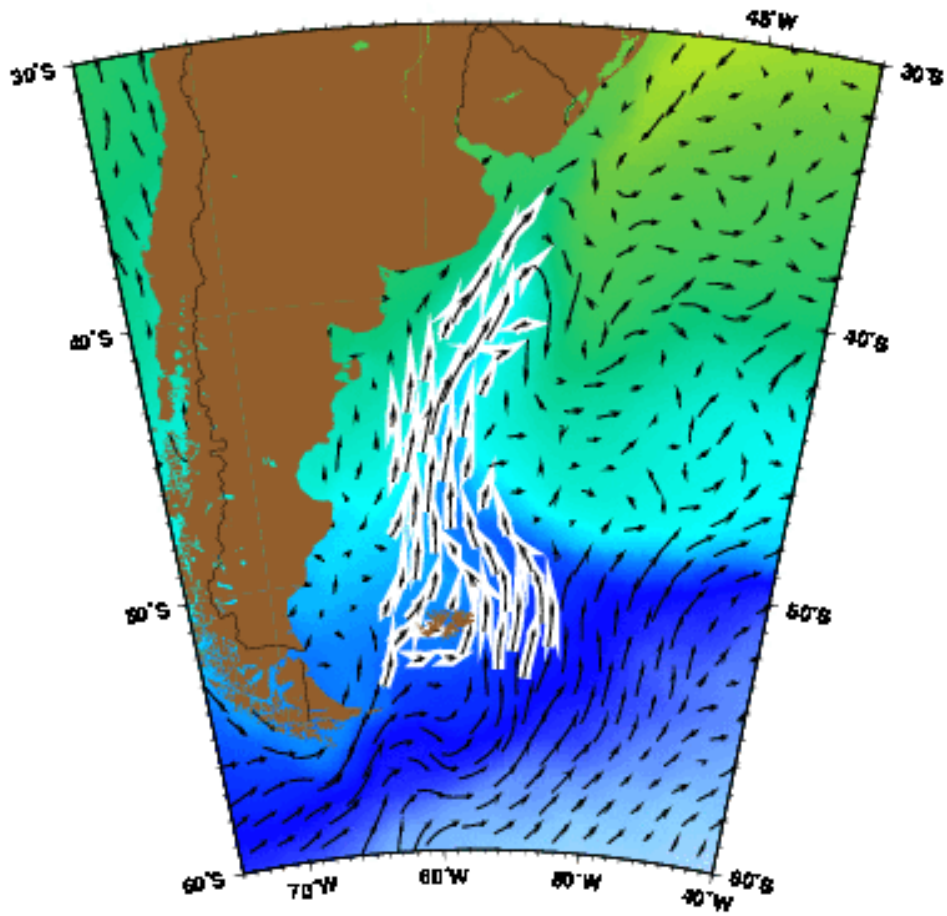
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322 Figure S7.
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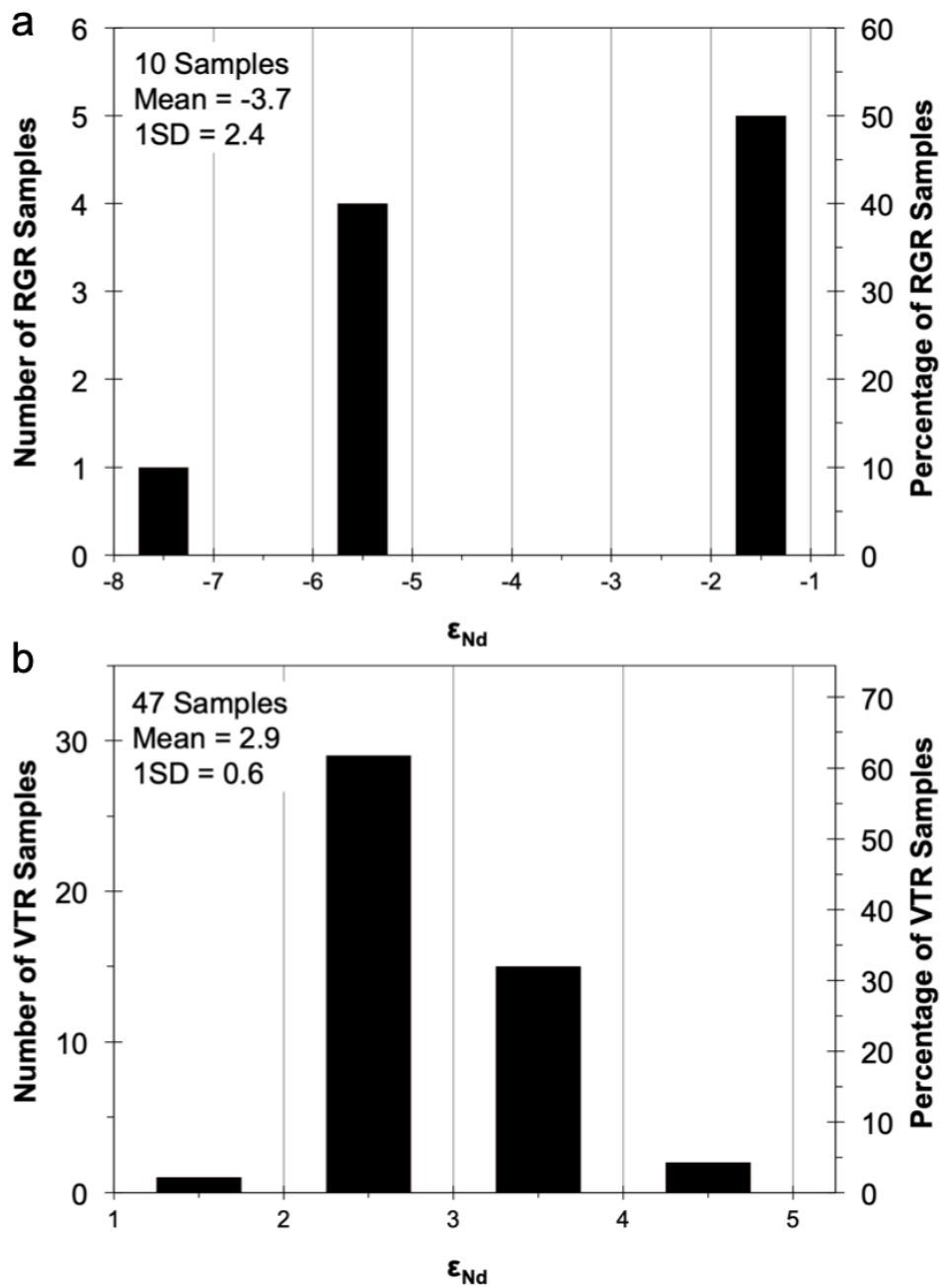
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326 Figure S8.
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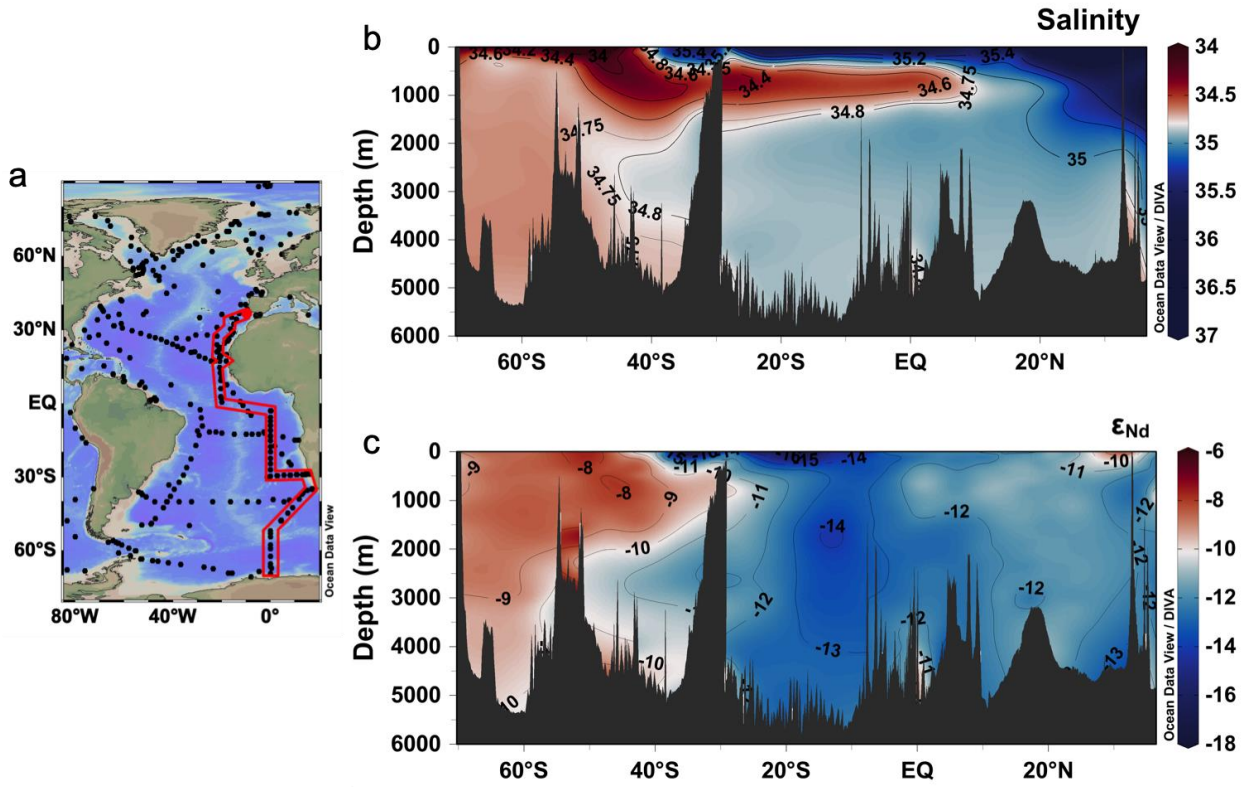
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330 Figure S9.
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334 Figure S10.
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338 Table S1. Data for the 17 seawater profiles collected from the SAMT. Sampling location, depth,
339 salinity, potential temperature, neutral density, oxygen concentration, silicate concentration,
340 nutrient concentration, PO_4^* , N^* , ϵ_{Nd} , external 2 standard deviation of ϵ_{Nd} , Nd concentration,
341 external 2 standard deviation of Nd concentration, fractional contributions of water masses
342 calculated based on the OMPA, predicted ϵ_{Nd} based on water mass mixing calculations, and
343 $\Delta\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}$ -value (= measured ϵ_{Nd} – predicted ϵ_{Nd}).

344

345 Table S2. ϵ_{Nd} of volcanic rocks from the RGR (Gibson et al., 2005; Hoernle et al., 2015) and
346 VTR (Bongiolo et al., 2015; Halliday et al., 1992; Kogarko et al., 2003; Marques et al., 1999;
347 Peyve and Skolotnev, 2014; Siebel et al., 2000).

348

Table S2.

| Sample ID | Latitude | Longitude | ϵ_{Nd} | Reference |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | $^{\circ}N$ | $^{\circ}E$ | | |
| RGR volcanic rocks | | | | |
| DSDP072-0516F-128R-001/122-126 | -30.28 | -35.29 | -1.2 | 3 |
| DSDP072-0516F-128R-002/130-135 | -30.28 | -35.29 | -1.4 | 3 |
| 74-516F-128-2,130-135 | -30.28 | -35.29 | -1.4 | 3 |
| 74-516F-128-1,122-126 | -30.28 | -35.29 | -1.2 | 3 |
| DSDP072-0516F-128R-002W/063-084 | -30.28 | -35.29 | -1.9 | 4 |
| CON0016-011-001 | -30.43 | -36.02 | -5.6 | 4 |
| CON0016-011-002 | -30.43 | -36.02 | -5.5 | 4 |
| CON0016-011-002 | -30.43 | -36.02 | -5.7 | 4 |
| CON0016-012-001 | -30.43 | -36.02 | -5.8 | 4 |
| CON0016-012-003 | -30.43 | -36.02 | -7.1 | 4 |
| VTR volcanic rocks | | | | |
| TD3 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.4 | 5 |
| TD4 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.6 | 5 |
| TD5 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.1 | 5 |
| 91TR80 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.0 | 6 |
| 91TR93 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 4.5 | 6 |
| 91TR98 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.7 | 6 |
| 91TR101A | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.6 | 6 |
| 91-MV-2 | -20.50 | -28.80 | 4.7 | 6 |
| 10745 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.9 | 7 |
| 10759 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.5 | 7 |
| 10761 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.2 | 7 |
| 10763 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.7 | 7 |
| 10764 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.8 | 7 |
| 10769 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.1 | 7 |
| 10770 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.4 | 7 |
| 10771 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.7 | 7 |
| 10773 | -20.50 | -28.80 | 2.9 | 7 |
| 10774 | -20.50 | -28.80 | 2.9 | 7 |
| HIT-4 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.9 | 7 |
| 91-TR-7 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.3 | 8 |
| 91-TR-23 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.2 | 8 |
| 91-TR-31 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.7 | 8 |
| 91-TR-51 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.5 | 8 |
| 91-TR-57 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.7 | 8 |
| 91-TR-79 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.6 | 8 |
| 91-TR-88 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.6 | 8 |
| 91-TR-90 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.9 | 8 |
| 91-TR-97 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.7 | 8 |

Table S2. Continued

| Sample ID | Latitude | Longitude | ϵ_{Nd} | Reference |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| | °N | °E | | |
| VTR volcanic rocks | | | | |
| 91-TR-98 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.1 | 8 |
| 91-TR-103 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.4 | 8 |
| 91-TR-106 | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.8 | 8 |
| 91-MV-2 | -20.50 | -28.80 | 2.9 | 8 |
| V2403/2 | -20.85 | -34.05 | 2.2 | 9 |
| V2403/4 | -20.85 | -34.05 | 2.6 | 9 |
| V2403/12 | -20.85 | -34.05 | 1.6 | 9 |
| V2410/5 | -20.79 | -34.92 | 3.9 | 9 |
| V2410/12 | -20.79 | -34.92 | 2.2 | 9 |
| V2414/1 | -20.40 | -35.80 | 2.6 | 9 |
| EMB-02 A | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.5 | 10 |
| EMB-04 A | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.4 | 10 |
| EMB-06 A | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.6 | 10 |
| EMB-09 A | -20.50 | -29.30 | 3.0 | 10 |
| EMB-11 A | -20.50 | -29.30 | 4.0 | 10 |
| EMB-15 A | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.4 | 10 |
| EMB-16 A | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.5 | 10 |
| EMB-19 A | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.6 | 10 |
| XEN-02 A | -20.50 | -29.30 | 2.1 | 10 |