

The manganese and iron shuttle in a modern euxinic basin and implications for molybdenum cycling at euxinic ocean margins

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Abstract

A meaningful application of Mo as a paleo-redox proxy requires an understanding of Mo cycling in modern reducing environments. Stagnant euxinic basins such as the Black Sea are generally regarded as model systems for understanding euxinic systems during early Earth history. However, drawing direct parallels between the Black Sea and open-marine euxinic margins is somewhat complicated by differences in the seawater residence time between these two environments. We report sediment and pore water Mo, U, Mn and Fe data for a euxinic basin with a short seawater residence time; the weakly restricted Gotland Deep in the Baltic Sea. Here, prolonged periods of euxinia alternate with brief inflow events during which well-oxygenated, saline water penetrates into the basin. During these inflow events, dissolved Mn and Fe that has accumulated within the euxinic deep water can be oxidized and precipitated. Co-variations of Mo and U within the sediment suggest that these inflow and oxygenation events may favor Mo accumulation in the sediment through adsorption to freshly oxidized Mn and Fe

solid phases. Once Mo is sequestered within the deeper euxinic water and sediments, Mo retention can be further facilitated by conversion to thiomolybdate species and interactions with organic matter and metal sulfides. By comparing our data with those from previous studies where a Mn and Fe “shuttle” for Mo has been demonstrated, we identify two prerequisites for the occurrence of this mechanism. First, there must be a water column oxic-anoxic redox-boundary; this provides a solubility contrast for Mn and Fe. Second, the residence time of seawater in the system has to be short (weeks to a few years). The latter criterion can be met through regular inflow in weakly restricted basins or upwelling in oxygen minimum zones at open-marine continental margins. Based on prior work, we suggest that similar conditions to those currently represented by the Gotland Deep may have prevailed at euxinic ocean margins during the Proterozoic. A boundary between euxinic and oxic water masses overlying the continental shelf may have resulted in accelerated Mo transport through the water column with Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides. We propose that this mechanism, along with Mo isotope fractionation during adsorption, could contribute to the light Mo isotope composition observed in open-marine euxinic sediment facies of the Proterozoic.

Keywords: Molybdenum, manganese, iron, shuttle, paleo-redox, Baltic Sea.

1. Introduction

The bulk concentration and isotope composition of Mo in sediments or sedimentary rocks are commonly used proxies for characterizing the redox state of ancient marine systems. Their applications range from the detection of reducing conditions in the bottom water or sediment pore water (e.g., Zheng et al., 2000; McManus et al., 2006; Cartapanis et al., 2011) to the identification of sulfidic conditions within the water column (typically referred to as euxinia) on a global scale (Arnold et al., 2004; Scott et al., 2008; Kendall et al., 2009; Dahl et al., 2011). The ability of Mo to serve as a redox indicator is related to its contrasting behavior under oxic or non-sulfidic versus sulfidic conditions. In

well oxygenated waters, like those prevailing throughout most of the contemporary ocean, Mo is present as molybdate (MoO_4^{2-}). Because Mo behaves conservatively under oxic conditions, its seawater concentration ($\sim 115 \text{ nM}$ at $S = 35$) and oceanic residence time ($\sim 800 \text{ ka}$; Bruland, 1983) are high compared to other transition metals. In the presence of dissolved sulfide, MoO_4^{2-} is converted to thiomolybdate ($\text{MoO}_x\text{S}_{4-x}^{2-}$, $1 < x < 4$) (Helz et al., 1996; Erickson and Helz, 2000). Beyond a threshold $\text{H}_2\text{S}_{\text{aq}}$ activity ($[\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{\text{aq}}$) of approximately $11 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$ (at typical seawater pH) and provided that enough time is available to attain thermodynamic equilibrium, sulfidation may be complete (Helz et al., 1996). Owing to the proclivity of thiomolybdate species for reactive surfaces, Mo is readily scavenged from sulfidic waters by forming bonds to Fe sulfides and sulfur-rich organic molecules (Emerson and Huested, 1991; Huerta-Diaz and Morse, 1992; Zheng et al., 2000; Vorlicek and Helz, 2002; Bostick et al., 2003; Tribovillard et al., 2004; Vorlicek et al., 2004; Poulson Brucker et al., 2012). As a consequence of Mo removal under sulfidic conditions, the water column in isolated euxinic basins is often depleted in Mo relative to its salinity-normalized concentration (Algeo and Lyons, 2006; Nägler et al., 2011). In a recent study, Helz et al. (2011) expanded the above concept of Mo removal from sulfidic water by emphasizing the role of pH in controlling the solubility of a nanoparticulate Fe-Mo-S mineral. According to this revised model, Mo concentrations in the water column reach a constant value once equilibrium with this nanoparticulate Fe-Mo-S mineral is attained (Helz et al., 2011).

The Mo isotope composition of modern seawater ($\delta^{98}\text{Mo} \approx 2.3 \text{ ‰}$) is predominantly controlled by the input flux through river discharge and an isotopically light oxic sink associated with Mn-rich deposits in the deep-sea ($\delta^{98}\text{Mo} \approx -0.5 \text{ ‰}$) (Barling et al., 2001; Siebert et al., 2003). Under persistently euxinic conditions, like those in the Black Sea below 400 m water depth, the sediment records the Mo isotope composition of seawater because Mo is quantitatively converted to MoS_4^{2-} and largely removed without fractionation from the dissolved phase (Arnold et al., 2004; Neubert et al., 2008). By analogy, if large parts of the ocean remained euxinic for a prolonged period of time (theoretically implying a global Mo

drawdown without isotope fractionation) the isotope composition of seawater would reach a new steady state value that lies closer to the isotope value of the Mo input flux from rivers. Following this concept and assuming removal of Mo into the sediments without isotope fractionation, $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ values intermediate between seawater and river input in euxinic sediment facies of the Proterozoic have been interpreted as an indicator for more extended euxinia during this interval of Earth history (Arnold et al., 2004; Archer and Vance, 2008; Kendall et al., 2009; Dahl et al., 2011).

The reliability of Mo isotopes as a proxy for the extent of euxinia on a global scale is dependent upon two alternative fractionation mechanisms. If $[\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{\text{aq}}$ does not reach the threshold value required for complete sulfidation of molybdate (e.g., in weakly or intermittently euxinic basins), intermediate thiomolybdate species (i.e., $\text{MoO}_3\text{S}_1^{2-}$, $\text{MoO}_2\text{S}_2^{2-}$, $\text{MoO}_1\text{S}_3^{2-}$) may fractionate towards lighter values compared to the isotope composition of seawater (Tossel et al., 2005; Dahl et al., 2010; Nägler et al., 2011). Partial scavenging of intermediate thiomolybdate thus produces sedimentary $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ values intermediate between riverine input and contemporary seawater. An alternative mechanism for Mo removal is related to the affinity of molybdate for particulate Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides. Laboratory experiments and field studies have both demonstrated that Mo adsorption to Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides results in an isotope fractionation ($\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{seawater-adsorbed}}$) of +2.8 ‰ for Mn (Siebert et al., 2003; Barling and Anbar, 2004; Wasylenki et al., 2008; Poulson Brucker et al., 2009) and +1.0 to +2.6 ‰ for Fe (Goldberg et al., 2009, 2012). Precipitation of Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides at the interface between euxinic and oxic water masses may scavenge Mo that is then shuttled into the deep water or to the sediment surface (Berrang and Grill, 1974; Dellwig et al., 2010). Even though the final burial phase in the sediments after reductive re-dissolution of Mn and Fe might be similar to that of permanently euxinic basins, the Mn and Fe shuttle could potentially alter the Mo isotope composition of the deep water and sediment. Indeed, a number of studies have recognized that such a Mn and Fe shuttle enhances Mo accumulation in weakly restricted, euxinic basins (Algeo and Lyons, 2006; Algeo and Tribouillard, 2009).

92 However, its quantitative contribution to the Mo burial flux and influence on the Mo isotope
93 composition of the sediments has yet to be developed. Moreover, the actual transfer mechanism from
94 the metastable Mn or Fe (oxyhydr)oxide carrier to the final Mo burial phase has not been addressed.

95 The two removal mechanisms outlined above are particularly important where water masses with
96 contrasting redox conditions and spatially variable boundaries co-exist. Modern examples for this kind
97 of environment are intermittently euxinic basins (e.g., Cariaco Basin, Saanich Inlet; Algeo and
98 Tribovillard, 2009) or sediments underlying open-marine oxygen minimum zones at continental margins
99 (e.g., off California and Peru; Zheng et al., 2000; Scholz et al., 2011). In these environments, dynamic
100 redox interfaces between oxic and anoxic or euxinic conditions favor intense Mn and Fe redox cycling
101 with potentially important implications for the vertical transport of Mo through the water column and
102 its burial within the sediment. This same Mo shuttling could have operated in ancient oceans. For
103 instance, a number of recent studies presented evidence for localized euxinic conditions at continental
104 margins in the late Archean (Reinhard et al, 2009; Kendall et al., 2010) and the Proterozoic (e.g., Poulton
105 et al., 2010; Li et al., 2010; Johnston et al., 2010; Poulton and Canfield, 2011).

106 The Gotland Deep in the Baltic Sea is a prime locality for investigating the behavior of Mo in a dynamic
107 redox environment where both euxinic conditions and intense Mn and Fe redox cycling favor Mo
108 accumulation in the sediment. Here, extended periods of euxinia are interrupted by inflow events during
109 which saline and well-oxygenated water from the North Sea penetrates the basin (Matthäus et al.,
110 2008). These inflow and oxygenation events are accompanied by a pulsed deposition of Mn
111 (oxyhydr)oxides at the basin floor (Huckriede and Meischner, 1996; Neumann et al., 1997). In the
112 present article, we combine new pore water and sediment data for Mo and ancillary parameters with
113 data from previous studies to evaluate (1) the mechanism of Mo transfer from the water column to the
114 sediment surface and into the final burial phase (2) how the frequency of inflow events impact Mo

burial and (3) how the Mn and Fe shuttle might affect the Mo isotope composition of sediments in dynamic euxinic environments.

2. Study area

The Baltic Sea (Fig. 1A) is one of the ocean's largest brackish water basins. The estuarine circulation pattern and semi-enclosed character of the Baltic Sea promote vertical stratification and oxygen depletion below the pycnocline (Zillén et al., 2008). Owing to the characteristic seafloor topography of the Baltic Sea, euxinic conditions are largely limited to a number of sub-basins (so-called "Deeps") among which the Gotland Deep is the largest by area (Fig. 1B). The Gotland Deep has an aerial extent of ~4600 km² below the 150 m isobath and a maximum water depth of ~250 m (Seifert et al., 2001). The intensity and aerial extent of anoxia in the Baltic Sea has progressively increased since the industrial revolution (Zillén et al., 2008; Conley et al., 2009). This trend is generally attributed to large-scale changes in land use and eutrophication.

The water column redox structure of the Gotland Deep is affected by occasional inflow events of saline and well-oxygenated water from the North Sea. During such "Major Baltic Inflows" (MBI; Matthäus und Franck, 1992; Matthäus et al., 2008), North Sea water penetrates the Baltic Sea through the Danish Straits and, depending on the pre-existing density stratification, progressively propagates into the more distal Baltic Deeps (Fig. 1C) (Matthäus et al., 2008). After the Gotland Deep has been flushed with saline and well-oxygenated water, the deep water remains oxic for a period of several months before anoxia and eventually euxinia re-establishes (Matthäus et al., 2008). The occurrence, intensity and velocity of inflow events chiefly depend on the balance between the favoring effect of westerly winds and the impeding effect of freshwater runoff from the Baltic Sea drainage area (Schinke and Matthäus, 1998). In the long-term, both of these factors are controlled by the mean climate mode over the North Atlantic, i.e., the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO). The NAO index is defined by the variability of the longitudinal

pressure gradient across the North Atlantic, which exerts first-order control on the intensity of westerly winds and the rainfall pattern over Northern Europe (Hurrell, 1995; Hurrell and Van Loon, 1997). Through the late 1970s, MBIs occurred frequently, either as single events (e.g., 1960, 1965; Fig. 1D) or groups of events (e.g., 1931-1938, 1948-1956, 1968-1978; Fig. 1D) (Matthäus and Franck, 1992; Matthäus et al., 2008). Since then, only a few isolated events (chiefly 1993 and 2003) have been observed, which is attributed to a shift from negative to predominantly positive NAO conditions (Hanninen et al., 2001). It has been proposed that some of the recent NAO trend is related to anthropogenic climate forcing (Visbeck et al., 2001). This relationship would link the deep water salinity and redox evolution in the Baltic Sea to global climate change.

3. Methods

Sediment and water samples were collected during Cruise AL355 of RV Alkor in May and June 2010. The water column was sampled using a CTD equipped with Niskin bottles. Short sediment cores were taken with a multiple coring device (MUC) equipped with PVC liners (inner diameter of 10 cm) (Table 1). Only sediment cores with an undisturbed sediment-water interface and at least 10 cm of bottom water overlying the sediment surface were accepted for pore water recovery. After core recovery, core liners were capped and transferred into a cooled lab container that was kept at ~6 °C. The bottom water was siphoned with a plastic tube and then filtered through cellulose acetate syringe filters. Pore water samples were obtained from parallel cores by two different methods. One core was sliced into 1 to 5 cm thick disks and the pore water was extracted with a sediment squeezer, which was operated with argon gas at pressures up to 2.5 bar. Upon squeezing, pore waters were filtered through 0.2 µm cellulose acetate membrane filters. The pore water samples obtained by this method were used for the analysis of dissolved chloride (Cl⁻), sulfate (SO₄²⁻) and total sulfide (TH₂S). A subsample of each sediment slice was stored in air-tight and pre-weighed polyethylene cups for determination of porosity as well as for acid digestions and elemental analysis after the cruise. The pore water of a second core was recovered with

Rhizons (obtained from Rhizosphere Research Products, Netherlands). To remove any oxygen prior to deployment, rhizons were preconditioned in an oxygen-free water bath. The pore water samples obtained by this technique were used for the analysis of redox-sensitive metals (Mn, Fe, Mo and U). Sub-aliquots for metal analysis were stored in acid-cleaned low-density polyethylene vials and acidified with concentrated HNO_3 (suprapur).

Analyses of dissolved oxygen (water column) and H_2S (water column, bottom and pore water) were performed onboard shortly after sample recovery. Oxygen concentrations were determined by Winkler titration and total $\text{H}_2\text{S}_{\text{aq}}$ ($\text{TH}_2\text{S}=\text{H}_2\text{S}+\text{HS}^-+\text{S}^{2-}$) was analyzed photometrically by applying the methylene blue method (Grasshoff et al., 2002). Concentrations of Cl^- and SO_4^{2-} were measured at GEOMAR by ion chromatography (METROHM 761 Compact). Pore water salinity was calculated from Cl^- assuming a conservative Cl^- concentration of 560 mM at $S = 35$. Concentrations of Mn and Fe in pore water were analyzed at GEOMAR by inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES, VARIAN 720-ES). Samples with Mn or Fe concentrations below the detection limit of the ICP-OES method ($\sim 5 \mu\text{M}$ for Fe and $\sim 1 \mu\text{M}$ for Mn) were analyzed by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) at Oregon State University (see below). The total carbon (TC), total organic carbon (TOC) and total sulfur (TS) content of freeze-dried and ground sediment samples was determined at GEOMAR using a Carlo Erba Element Analyzer (NA1500). Carbon bound to carbonates was removed by adding 1 M HCl prior to TOC analysis and total inorganic carbon (TIC) was calculated by subtracting TOC from TC. A detailed description of the above procedures may be found on the following web page: <http://www.geomar.de/en/research/fb2/fb2-mg/benthic-biogeochemistry/mg-analytik/>.

All of the following chemical analyses were performed at Oregon State University. Pore water samples with low concentrations of Mn and Fe were analyzed by ICP-MS (THERMO X-Series 2). A collision cell was used to minimize polyatomic interferences. Calibration standards were prepared in metal-free seawater and cobalt was used as an internal standard for mass bias correction. The Fe concentration in

common seawater standards (e.g., NASS-5; National Research Council Canada) is below the detection limit of our method. To check the reproducibility of the pore water Fe and Mn analyses, artificial pore water standards were prepared by spiking trace metal-clean seawater with an appropriate amount of Mn and Fe. Repeated analysis of samples and the artificial pore water standard (3 μ M Mn and Fe) yielded a reproducibility of 1 % for both Mn and Fe. Pore water Mo and U concentrations were determined by isotope dilution (ID) ICP-MS. The Mo and U concentrations obtained for the seawater standard NASS-5 (National Research Council Canada) were 94.4 ± 0.8 nM ($n=4$) (certified Mo concentration: 100 ± 10 nM) and 11.6 ± 0.1 (information value for U concentration: 10.9 nM). Major and trace elements in sediments were determined after microwave-assisted digestion in an acid mix consisting of HF, HCl and HNO₃ (Muratli et al., 2012). Certified Reference Materials (SDO-1: Devonian Ohio Shale, USGS; PACS-2: Marine Sediment, National Research Council Canada), an in-house standard (RR9702A-42MC: Chilean margin sediment), sample duplicates and method blanks were run on a regular basis to monitor the reproducibility and accuracy of the digestion procedure. Concentrations of Al, Ca, Mn and Fe in digestion solutions were determined by ICP-OES (Teledyne Leeman Prodigy). Mo and U analyses were done by ICP-MS (THERMO X-Series 2) using rhodium as an internal standard. Isotope dilution was used to verify the Mo concentrations of external standards. The reproducibility and precision of the digestion method is summarized in Table 2.

To account for dilution with detrital material, solid phase concentrations of Mn, Fe, Mo and U are reported as metal to Al or metal to TOC ratios (10^2 wt.% wt.%⁻¹ for Mn, wt.% wt.%⁻¹ for Fe, 10^4 wt.% wt.%⁻¹ for Mo and U). Excess metal concentrations (Me)_{XS} and metal enrichment factors (ME_{EF}) are both reported with respect to the detrital background and were calculated as follows (subscripts: T=total, detr=detrital):

$$(Me)_{XS} = (Me)_T - \left(\frac{Me}{Al} \right)_{detr} \cdot (Al)_T \quad (1)$$

$$Me_{EF} = \frac{\left(\frac{Me}{Al}\right)_T}{\left(\frac{Me}{Al}\right)_{detr}} \quad (2)$$

The upper continental crust, as defined by McLennan (2001), was chosen as the detrital background ((Mo/Al)_{detr} = 0.19, (U/Al)_{detr} = 0.35)). The Mo burial flux (F_{burial}, in nmol m⁻² yr⁻¹) was calculated by multiplying the sediment mass accumulation rate (MAR, in g m⁻² yr⁻¹) by (Mo)_{xs} (in nmol g⁻¹).

Concentrations and activities of aqueous species, ionic strength and saturation indexes for amorphous iron monosulfide were calculated using the geochemical model PHREEQC by Parkhurst and Appelo (1999). Equilibrium constants and solubility products were taken from the built-in WATEQ4F database and water column pH data were taken from Ulfso et al. (2011). These authors measured a near-constant pH of 7.3 in the deep water of the Gotland Deep (i.e., below the halocline) over a period of one year during both euxinic and anoxic but non-sulfidic periods.

4. Results

During our sampling campaign in 2010, the salinity in the Gotland Deep water column was roughly constant in the upper 50 m (S₇) and transitioned below this to near-constant values below 150 m (S_{12.5}) (Fig. 2A). Oxygen was present to roughly 100 m and dissolved sulfide was detected below 120 m (Fig. 2B, C). The boundary between non-sulfidic and sulfidic waters is hereafter referred to as the chemocline. Thermodynamic equilibrium calculations using PHREEQC reveal that the threshold activity necessary for complete sulfidation of molybdate was reached below about 150 m water depth. The density stratification and redox structure found in this study are in good agreement with those reported in previous studies for euxinic periods in the Gotland Deep (Neretin et al, 2003; Dellwig et al, 2010; Ulfso et al., 2011; Meyer et al., 2012)).

229 We present data from five cores that were retrieved along a depth transect between 65 and 223 m (Fig.
 230 1B and Table 1). Three of these sediment cores were located above the chemocline and the remaining
 231 two sediment cores were located below the chemocline. Pore water data were obtained for the upper
 232 15 cm for Cl^- , SO_4^{2-} and TH_2S and 9 cm for Mn, Fe, Mo and U (Fig. 3; see Electronic Supplement Table 1
 233 for all pore water data). Pore water salinity generally increases with increasing water depth. The
 234 shallowest core (MUC02, 65 m) is the only one where SO_4^{2-} concentrations are not depleted. The
 235 remaining cores show downcore decreasing SO_4^{2-} concentrations. Concentrations of TH_2S increase in the
 236 order MUC02 ($\text{TH}_2\text{S} \leq 15 \mu\text{M}$) < MUC01 < MUC04 < MUC11 \approx MUC05 ($\text{TH}_2\text{S} \leq 838 \mu\text{M}$), i.e., there is no
 237 clear relationship between pore water H_2S and water depth. Pore water Mn shows a transient peak in
 238 cores above the chemocline and steadily increasing concentrations with depth in cores below the
 239 chemocline. Relatively high concentrations of dissolved Fe are observed in pore waters of the shallowest
 240 core ($\leq 107 \mu\text{M}$) whereas the deeper cores display dissolved Fe concentrations $< 3 \mu\text{M}$. Above the
 241 chemocline and below a sediment depth of 1 - 3 cm, pore waters are depleted in Mo and U with respect
 242 to their conservative values. In the shallowest core Mn, Fe and Mo display increasing concentrations
 243 below 5 cm sediment depth. Below the chemocline, pore waters are generally less depleted in Mo and U
 244 and some samples are enriched in Mo and U with respect to salinity.

245 Sediments above the chemocline are depleted in Mn whereas sediments below the chemocline are
 246 generally enriched in Mn with respect to the detrital background (Fig. 4; see Electronic Supplement
 247 Table 2 for all solid phase data). Cores below the chemocline display major and coincident peaks of
 248 Mn/Al ($\text{Mn} \leq 7.6 \text{ wt.}\%$) and TIC. Ratios of Fe/Al ($\text{Fe} \leq 6.9 \text{ wt.}\%$), Mo/Al ($\text{Mo} \leq 216 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$), U/Al ($\text{U} \leq 32.5$
 249 $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$) and Mo/TOC generally increase with increasing water depth. Maxima of Fe/Al and TS occur at
 250 approximately the same sediment depth as the Mn/Al and TIC peaks. The downcore profiles of Mo/Al
 251 and U/Al are different from those of Fe/Al and TS but closely follow the depth distribution of TOC.
 252 Profiles of Mo/TOC resemble those of Mo/Al.

5. Discussion

5.1. Redox-controlled manganese and iron shuttle

The enrichments of Mn and Fe in sub-chemocline sediments of the Gotland Deep (MUC04 and MUC05) (Fig. 4) are consistent with a net transfer of detrital and diagenetically derived Mn and Fe into the euxinic basin, a so-called shuttle mechanism (e.g., Raiswell and Andersen, 2005; Lyons and Severmann, 2006; Fehr et al., 2010; Jilbert and Slomp, 2013). Sediments above the chemocline are generally depleted in Mn with respect to the detrital background, suggesting that shallower sediments are a net Mn source to the deeper basin. By contrast, the shallowest core at 65 m is the only one that is at least partly depleted in Fe and whose pore water Fe profile indicates a diffusive efflux into the water column (Fig. 3). The other cores from above the chemocline reveal pore water Fe concentrations near zero and Fe/Al ratios similar to or slightly higher than the detrital background. These observations indicate that the boundary between Fe sources and sinks is located at shallower water depths compared to that of Mn. The higher escape efficiency of Mn compared to Fe is typically observed in aquatic systems because of its higher solubility in sulfidic and slower oxidation kinetics in oxic water (e.g., Froelich et al., 1979; Canfield et al., 1993; Scholz and Neumann et al., 2007).

Sediments below the chemocline are generally enriched in Mn and Fe. However, downcore variations in Mn/Al and Fe/Al (Fig. 4) suggest that the delivery of Mn and Fe to the basin floor is not temporally uniform. The pronounced peaks of Mn/Al and inorganic carbon are a well-known phenomenon in the Baltic Deep and their occurrence has been attributed to inflow and oxygenation events (Suess, 1979; Huckriede and Meischner, 1996; Neumann et al., 1997). Most of the Mn that enters the Gotland Deep is reductively dissolved while transiting the euxinic water column (Neretin et al., 2003; Dellwig et al., 2010). This process allows dissolved Mn to accumulate in the deep water during stagnant periods. During (oxic) inflow events, much of this Mn is re-oxidized and deposited at the basin floor. As anoxia

reestablishes, dissolved Mn and bicarbonate accumulate in the sediment pore water, thus promoting precipitation of Ca-rich rhodochrosite (MnCO_3) (Huckriede and Meischner, 1996; Sternbeck and Sohlenius, 1997; Neumann et al., 2002). The linear Mn-Ca relationship observed in sub-chemocline cores (Fig. 5) suggests that most of the conversion of Mn (oxyhydr)oxide to rhodochrosite takes place at or close to the sediment surface. However, the shallower two Mn peaks in sub-chemocline cores (8.5 cm in MUC05 and 7.5 cm in MUC05) plot above the general Mn-Ca relationship. This observation could indicate that a fraction of the Mn (oxyhydr)oxides does not form rhodochrosite at the sediment surface. Moreover, earlier studies have demonstrated that Ca-rich rhodochrosite is metastable and undergoes re-crystallization during burial (Jakobsen and Postma, 1989; Sternbeck and Sohlenius, 1997; Jilbert and Slomp, 2013). This notion is consistent with the linear pore water Mn gradient in sediments below the chemocline (Fig. 3). The deep-sourced Mn flux implied by this gradient could mask any shallower Mn dissolution.

Previous studies assigned Fe enrichments in sediments of the Gotland Deep to syngenetic pyrite formation in the euxinic water column (Boesen and Postma, 1988; Sternbeck and Sohlenius, 1997; Fehr et al., 2010). This scenario is supported by the general co-variation between Fe/Al and TS in sub-chemocline cores (Fig. 4). However, we suspect that syngenetic pyrite formation during euxinic periods is unlikely to be the only mode of Fe delivery to Gotland Deep sediments. Coincident excursions of Fe/Al and Mn/Al suggest that delivery of both elements is intensified during oxygenation events. Because Fe is poorly soluble in both oxic and sulfidic waters, the sediments will more effectively trap Fe relative to Mn and the difference between solid phase Fe maxima and minima can be less pronounced compared to that of Mn. Nonetheless, the solubility of Fe in sulfidic water is about three orders of magnitude higher than in oxic water (Saito et al., 2003), which is why dissolved Fe accumulates in the Gotland Deep water during euxinic periods (1 - 2 μM in 2010; Meyer et al., 2012; Pohl and Fernández-Otero, 2012). Oxidation and precipitation of this dissolved Fe pool during inflow events is a logical explanation for the coinciding

Fe and Mn peaks in the sediments. In contrast to Mn, Fe does not form abundant sedimentary carbonates but rather sulfide minerals in anoxic-sulfidic environments (Suess, 1979; Burdige, 1993; Sternbeck and Sohlenius, 1997). In agreement with this general observation, the coupling between Fe/Al and TS (Fig. 4) suggests that Fe sulfides represent the primary burial phase for Fe after re-dissolution of (oxyhydr)oxides. The Fe peaks at the deepest site (MUC05) are located at slightly shallower depth than the corresponding Mn peaks (Fig. 4). This observation could be explained by a shift in the ratio between marginal source to basin sink area after inflow and oxygenation events (Raiswell and Andersen, 2005). Consistent with such a scenario, Jilbert and Slomp (2013) noted accelerated accumulation of authigenic phosphorous in the deepest part of the Baltic Deep during times of spatially more limited anoxia throughout the Holocene. Repeated dissolution and re-precipitation of Fe(oxyhydr)oxides prior to burial and conversion to Fe sulfides may further contribute to the broadening and upward shift of the Fe peaks relative to the Mn peaks.

5.2. Age constraints from the manganese and carbon record

To obtain and approximate age model and sediment mass accumulation rate within the basin we utilize the vertical succession and previously defined timing of Mn- and TIC-rich layers in the deepest core (MUC05) (Neumann et al., 1997). These authors identified three major rhodochrosite layers in the topmost 20 cm of a sediment core from 243 m water depth in the Gotland Deep. ^{210}Pb and ^{137}Cs dating suggest that these layers are a result of the inflow periods of 1931-1939, 1948-1956 and 1968-1978 (Fig. 1D; Neumann et al., 1997). The Mn and TIC peaks at 6-8 cm in MUC05 likely correspond to the last one of these extended inflow periods. Because of compaction and the comparably low sample resolution below 10 cm sediment depth, we suspect that the rhodochrosite layers corresponding to the earlier two inflow periods (Fig. 1D) are merged in MUC05. As erosion and re-dissolution prior to final burial impede the preservation of rhodochrosite layers after single and short-lived inflow events (Heiser et al., 2001), the small Mn and TIC peaks close to the sediment surface of MUC05 (1.5 cm sediment depth) could be

related to the inflow events of 1993 or 2003. Additional age information for MUC05 is obtained by comparing its TOC profile (Fig. 4) with those reported in earlier studies (Hille et al., 2006). Organic carbon accumulation in the Gotland Deep has increased from about 4 to 10 wt.% since 1900 (Hille et al., 2006). This TOC increase is located above 20 cm sediment depth in MUC05. Considering the high porosity (>0.9) and low dry bulk density ($<0.5 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$; Leipe et al., 2011) of surface sediments in the Gotland Deep, the sediment MAR resulting from this age estimate is in good agreement with the average MAR reported for the Gotland Deep ($129 \pm 112 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ below 150 m water depth; Hille et al., 2006).

5.3. Controls on molybdenum accumulation

Given the well-established connection between the delivery of particulate Mn, Fe and Mo to marine sediments (Berrang and Grill, 1974; Shimmied and Price, 1986; Shaw et al., 1990; Morford et al., 2005; Scholz et al., 2011; Goldberg et al., 2012), it may be anticipated that the Mn and Fe shuttle operating in the Gotland Deep enhances the burial flux of Mo as well. Such interaction between Mn, Fe and Mo cycling has been demonstrated in other weakly restricted basins based on cross plots of Mo and U enrichment factors (e.g., Fig. 6; Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009). U removal from pore water is mediated by Fe- and sulfate-reducing bacteria through reduction of U(VI) to U(IV) and subsequent adsorption or precipitation of uraninite (UO_2) (Klinkhammer and Palmer, 1991; Lovley et al., 1991; Zheng et al., 2002; Liger et al., 2005; Suzuki et al., 2005). As sulfate reduction (and thus Mo removal as thiomolybdate) succeeds Fe reduction during early diagenesis, sedimentary $(\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{XS}}$ ratios increase with decreasing benthic redox potential (Fig. 6; Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009). Moreover, U has less affinity for adsorption to metal (oxyhydr)oxides compared to Mo (Klinkhammer and Palmer, 1991). Therefore, a high flux of Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides across an oxic-anoxic interface in the water column (i.e., a Mn and Fe shuttle) may lead to a preferential accumulation of Mo relative to U ($(\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{XS}} > (\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{seawater}}$) (e.g., Cariaco Basin, Fig. 6; Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009). Finally, in permanently euxinic basins, where intense

scavenging of thiomolybdate and sluggish deep water renewal have led to a preferential depletion of Mo over U in the water column (i.e., $(\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{aq}} < (\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{seawater}}$), sediments may be enriched in U relative to Mo ($(\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{XS}} < (\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{seawater}}$) (e.g., the Black Sea, Fig. 6; Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009). Consistent with the former two scenarios, pore water and sediment data in the Gotland Deep show an inverse pattern with decreasing $(\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{porewater}}$ and increasing $(\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{XS}}$ with increasing water depth (Fig. 7). Moreover, sub-chemocline sediments of the Gotland Deep plot on the trend defined by settings where a Mn and Fe shuttle has been identified (Fig. 6; Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009). This observation suggests that scavenging of Mo by Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides is at least one major vector for Mo delivery to the sediment surface. As noted in Section 5.1, most of the Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides arriving at the seafloor are converted to other authigenic phases during early diagenesis. The result of these phase changes and different reaction pathways during diagenesis means that both the pore fluid and solid phase Mo profiles will likely differ from those of Mn and Fe, particularly below the chemocline.

The three pore water profiles from above the chemocline exhibit Mo removal within the upper few cm, with apparent removal being shallower in the sediment column as the cores progress to greater water depth (Fig. 3). This pattern of removal generally follows that of TH_2S with almost complete Mo depletion in MUC01 (94 m) and MUC11 (111 m) being observed where TH_2S exceeds a few tens of μM (roughly corresponding to a $[\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{\text{aq}}$ of 11 μM). This observation is consistent with the model of Mo scavenging from sulfidic solutions after transformation of MoO_4^{2-} to MoS_4^{2-} (Helz et al., 1996; Erickson and Helz, 2000). In contrast, pore waters of the shallowest core do not reach the $[\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{\text{aq}}$ threshold ($\text{TH}_2\text{S} \approx 3 \mu\text{M}$ at the Mo minimum) and Mo depletion is limited to values of about half the bottom water concentration (Fig. 3). One mechanistic rationale for this observation is that MoO_4^{2-} or intermediate thiomolybdate species dominate in the slightly sulfidic pore water of this core (Helz et al., 1996; Dahl et al., 2010). Oxythiomolybdates are thought to have a smaller affinity for reactive surfaces compared to MoS_4^{2-} (Dahl et al., 2010), which might explain the inefficient Mo removal from pore fluids. In addition, pore waters

of the shallowest core display relatively high dissolved Mn and Fe concentrations and the Mo increase in pore water coincides with a slight increase in dissolved Mn and Fe. Therefore, release of Mo from a Mn- and Fe-rich sediment layer is another possible mechanism limiting Mo depletion in the pore water of this core.

The pore water of cores below the chemocline are the least depleted or even enriched in Mo in certain depth intervals, despite high TH_2S concentrations (Fig. 3) as well as high Mo/Al ratios (Fig. 4). This observation is consistent with an additional source of Mo, possibly associated with Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides. Following prior work (Huckriede and Meischner, 1996; Sternbeck and Sohlenius, 1997; Neumann et al., 1997), we suspect that there is significant Mn as well as some Fe (see section 5.1) supplied to Gotland Deep sediments during oxidation events. Mn- and Fe oxide-rich particles that precipitate at the chemocline of the Gotland Deep are indeed highly enriched in Mo ($263 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$; Dellwig et al., 2010) whereas carbonate minerals are generally believed to not incorporate substantial amounts of Mo ($\ll 1 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$; Voegelin et al., 2009). We therefore suspect that the conversion of Mn to rhodochrosite after an inflow event is initially accompanied by the transfer of Mo into solution. Under this scenario, a perhaps significant fraction of the Mo released from Mn (oxyhydr)oxides at the sediment surface is likely to diffuse into the overlying bottom water (see also section 5.4). However, the isolated peaks in dissolved Mo in sub-chemocline cores (Fig. 3) suggest that another fraction of the shuttled Mo is initially buried and some of this Mo is also released into the pore water during early diagenesis. A portion of the Mo released at depth may derive from Fe and Mn (oxyhydr)oxides that have escaped shallow dissolution and transformation to rhodochrosite (Fig. 5), respectively. Moreover, some of the Mo released from Mn (oxyhydr)oxides at the sediment surface might be re-adsorbed by Fe (oxyhydr)oxides (e.g., Scholz et al., 2011; Goldberg et al., 2012) and later released into the pore water upon conversion of Fe (oxyhydr)oxides to Fe sulfides through reaction with H_2S .

We also note that elevated pore water Mo concentrations in sub-chemocline cores coincide with elevated concentrations of dissolved U (Fig. 3). As U delivery with metal (oxyhydr)oxides is thought to be of minor importance (Klinkhammer and Palmer, 1991), additional explanations are necessary to explain their co-variation. Although both U and Mo show a trend towards higher pore water concentrations below the chemocline, the $(\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{aq}}$ ratio in pore water decreases from the shallower sites into the deep basin (Fig. 7). This observation implies greater mobility of U relative to Mo under the conditions prevailing at the deepest site (MUC05). Such mobility is consistent with prior work showing that in environments with fluctuating redox conditions, authigenic U is highly susceptible to re-mobilization (Zheng et al., 2002; Morford et al., 2009; Scholz et al., 2011) whereas Mo accumulation might be favored by the occasional occurrence of oxidizing conditions (Scholz et al., 2011; Dahl et al., 2013). The latter assumption is grounded on the experimental observation that zero-valent sulfur compounds (chiefly S_8), e.g., forming through incomplete re-oxidation of $\text{S}(-\text{II})$ (Rickard and Morse, 2005) at a mobile oxic-anoxic interface, favor the transformation of Mo(VI)OS_3^{2-} to highly particle-reactive $\text{Mo(IV)-polysulfide}$ complexes (Vorlicek et al., 2004; Dahl et al., 2013). Preferential delivery of Mo with Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides and preferential remobilization of U are difficult to differentiate as both processes occur during inflow and oxygenation events. Scholz et al. (2011) reported a similar trend of gently increasing Mo and strongly increasing U concentrations in pore water on a sediment core transect across the Peruvian margin. The lowest pore water $(\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{aq}}$ ratios were observed at the shallowest sites where sediments are most sulfidic but also subject to occasional re-oxidation. Scholz et al. (2011) attributed this observation to enhanced Mo delivery by a Mn and Fe shuttle and preferential remobilization of U during occasional oxic events. A similar mechanism could be anticipated for sub-chemocline sediments of the Gotland Deep.

In general, either organic matter or metal sulfides are considered the final burial phases for Mo in anoxic marine sediments (e.g., Huerta-Diaz and Morse, 1992; Algeo and Lyons, 2006; Helz et al., 2011). The

correlation between Mo/Al and Fe/Al or TS is poor ($R^2 = 0.001$ below the chemocline) suggesting that pyrite or other Fe sulfide minerals are of subordinate importance for Mo burial. In agreement with sediments from many other euxinic basins (Algeo and Lyons, 2006), however, Mo concentrations are well correlated with TOC (MUC04: $R^2 = 0.71$, $n = 15$; MUC05: $R^2 = 0.83$, $n = 15$). Organic carbon accumulation and preservation is generally more intense under anoxic or euxinic conditions. As a result, TOC concentrations are highest adjacent to the rhodochrosite layers. Much of the Mo bound to organic matter might have been scavenged as thiomolybdate in the water column during euxinic periods (Näglér et al., 2011). However, given the high Mo and H_2S concentrations in the pore water, ongoing sequestration of Mo by organic matter is likely to occur after deposition and during burial. We therefore assume that a significant portion of the Mo delivered by Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides is ultimately buried in association with organic matter.

According to the above discussion, the burial flux of Mo is controlled by the following factors: (1) the mass of Mo scavenged by Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides during inflow events; (2) the H_2S concentration in pore water and availability of appropriate organic compounds for the retention of Mo after release from Mn and Fe carrier phases; and (3) the mass of Mo scavenged as thiomolybdate during euxinic periods. The latter two factors have likely become more favorable for Mo accumulation since the late 19th century because of expanding anoxia in the Baltic Deep (Hille et al., 2006; Zillén et al., 2008; Conley et al., 2009). The progressive shoaling of euxinia over the last century is reflected in the steady increase of Mo/Al and Mo/TOC ratios above 8 cm in the shallower sub-chemocline core (MUC04, 169 m water depth, Fig. 4). The mass of Mo shuttled by Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides should depend on the balance between Mn and Fe accumulation in the deep water during euxinic periods and the frequency of inflow events for re-precipitation and Mo scavenging. In agreement with this hypothesis, Mo/Al and Mo/TOC ratios in the deepest core (MUC05, 223 m) are highest between 12 and 3.5 cm (Fig. 4), i.e., in the depth interval corresponding to the time span between the 1940s to the 1970s. The regular alternation of

stagnation and inflow during this period (Fig. 1D) seems to have been most favorable for Mo accumulation in the deepest part of the Gotland Deep. Decreasing Mo/Al and Mo/TOC ratios above 3.5 cm might reflect the development of more permanent euxinia since the late 1970s. We also note that sediment profiles of U/Al display essentially the same pattern as Mo/Al below the chemocline. As U does not take part in the Mn and Fe shuttle, decreasing solid phase concentrations of U and Mo since the 1970s could also be attributed to a drawdown of these elements in the water column, i.e. the so-called “basin reservoir effect” (Algeo and Lyons, 2006).

5.4. Mechanisms driving the molybdenum inventory of the water column

In 2006, the Gotland Deep water column was depleted in Mo with respect to its conservative distribution ($(\text{Mo})_{\text{conserv}} - (\text{Mo})_{\text{aq}} \approx 8 \text{ nM}$ below $\sim 80 \text{ m}$ water depth; Nägler et al., 2011). Assuming that inflow of Mo-replete seawater is the primary source and burial in the sediment the primary sink for Mo, Emerson and Huested (1991) predicted the extent of Mo depletion in the water column of euxinic basins with the following mass balance equation:

$$(\text{Mo})_{\text{ss}} = (\text{Mo})_{\text{conserv}} - F(\text{Mo})_{\text{XS,burial}} \cdot \frac{\tau_{\text{salinity}}}{z} \quad (3)$$

In this equation $(\text{Mo})_{\text{ss}}$ is the Mo concentration at steady state, $(\text{Mo})_{\text{conserv}}$ is the conservative Mo concentration normalized to salinity, $F(\text{Mo})_{\text{XS,burial}}$ is the Mo burial flux, τ_{salinity} is the residence time of conservative seawater constituents (equals the mean deep water age) and z is the average thickness of the anoxic water column. The average thickness of the anoxic water column in the Gotland Deep is about 90 m (taking the 150 m isobath as the boundary of the Gotland Deep; Table 3 and Fig. 1B,C). τ_{salinity} for the Baltic deep water is estimated to be $\sim 20 \text{ yr}$ (Reissmann et al., 2009). To account for decreasing sedimentary Mo concentrations with decreasing water depth (Fig. 4), we calculated an area-weighted burial flux that is based on the average MAR below 150 m water depth of Hille et al. (2006) and discrete

465 Mo concentrations for the seafloor areas between 150 and 200 m and >200 m water depth (Table 3, Fig.
 466 4). Based on these input values we calculate a $(\text{Mo})_{ss}$ of 9.2 nM.

467 As an alternative to the budgetary approach of Emerson and Husted (1991), a thermodynamic model
 468 of Helz et al. (2011) predicts constant deep water Mo concentrations once equilibrium with respect to a
 469 nanoparticulate Fe-Mo-S mineral is attained (the proposed stoichiometry equals $\text{Fe}_5\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_{14}$).
 470 Prerequisite for the applicability of this model is oversaturation with respect to amorphous Fe
 471 monosulfide (Helz et al., 2011). Assuming oversaturation with respect to Fe monosulfide, which is
 472 consistent with the environmental state of the Gotland Deep water in 2010 ($S = 12.5$, $\text{pH} = 7.3$ (Ulfssbo et
 473 al., 2011), $(\text{TH}_2\text{S})_{aq} = 50 \mu\text{M}$, $(\text{Fe})_{aq} = 1.3 \mu\text{M}$ (Meyer et al., 2012)), we predict a deep water Mo
 474 concentration $((\text{Mo})_{pred})$ of $\sim 1.5 \text{ nM}$ (based on the model of Helz et al., 2011). During the sampling
 475 campaign of Nägler et al. (2011), the Gotland Deep was less sulfidic than in 2010, which likely limited
 476 oversaturation with respect to Fe monosulfide to water depths below 200 m. The $(\text{Mo})_{aq}$ measured at
 477 this depth was 34 nM (Nägler et al., 2011), i.e., the Mo concentrations predicted by the two models are
 478 very different and neither equals the observed $(\text{Mo})_{aq}$.

479 The difference between the observed Mo concentration and the limiting Mo concentration calculated
 480 after Helz et al. (2011) may be explained by the short seawater residence time in the Gotland Deep.
 481 Relatively fast exchange of the deep water and associated oscillation between oxic and sulfidic
 482 conditions may prevent thermodynamic equilibrium with respect to nanoparticulate Fe-Mo-S.
 483 Consistent with this rationale, a similarly large offset between $(\text{Mo})_{pred}$ and $(\text{Mo})_{aq}$ has been reported for
 484 other weakly restricted euxinic systems, e.g. in the Cariaco Basin and Saanich Inlet (Helz et al., 2011).
 485 Similarly, some of the offset between the observed Mo concentration and the steady state Mo
 486 concentration (Eq. (3)) could be related to the relatively recent inflow event of 2003 (Fig. 1D). The
 487 majority of deep water renewal in the Gotland Deep takes place during inflow events rather than
 488 through continuous vertical exchange (without inflow events $\tau_{salinity}$ would be on the order of 100 yr;

Feistel et al., 2006). As a result, most seawater constituents whose concentrations decrease during stagnant periods because of microbial metabolism or other biogeochemical processes experience a linear drawdown between inflow events (Matthäus et al., 2008). In the case of Mo, the mean slope or velocity of this drawdown is given by $((\text{Mo})_{\text{ss}} - (\text{Mo})_{\text{conserv}}) / \tau_{\text{salinity}}$ (in nmol yr^{-1}). According to this equation, a linear drop in the deep water Mo concentration by 8 nM (Nägler et al., 2011) requires a stagnant period of ~ 4.7 yr. This result would imply that the isolated inflow event of 2003 was accompanied by an almost complete exchange of the Gotland Deep water, which appears to be unlikely. Instead we propose that the Mo inventory of the deep water is buffered by two additional recharge mechanisms that are not considered in Eq. (3). As pointed out by Dellwig et al. (2010), the continuous cycle of Mn (oxyhydr)oxide precipitation at the chemocline and reductive dissolution in the euxinic water mass is likely to maintain a constant Mo flux into the deep water. Furthermore, our pore water and sediment results suggest that Mo removal and burial does not only take place during euxinic periods but also during inflow events. As mentioned earlier, much of the Mo scavenged during inflow events is likely to become recycled into the bottom water thus buffering its Mo inventory. Further evidence for Mo recycling in the aftermath of an inflow event is provided by water column Mo data from Prange and Kremling (1986). These data were obtained in 1979, i.e. shortly after the extended period of inflows from 1968 to 1978 (Fig. 1D). At this time, the Mo concentration in the Gotland Deep water was conservative (41.6 nM) up to 200 m water depth but as high as 46 nM below (Prange and Kremling, 1986). Using a modified version of Eq. (3), we can estimate the backflux of Mo that is required to achieve this concentration within the time elapsed since the last inflow event:

$$F(\text{Mo})_{\text{back}} = ((\text{Mo})_{\text{conserv}} - (\text{Mo})_{\text{aq},1979}) \cdot \frac{z}{\tau_{1979-1978}} \quad (4)$$

In this equation, z is the average thickness of the water column below 200 m water depth (~ 18 m; Table 3) and $\tau_{1979-1978}$ is the time span between the last inflow event in 1978 and the sampling campaign in

1979 (~1.5 yr). The resulting $F(\text{Mo})_{\text{back}}$ of $-0.53 \cdot 10^5 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (the negative sign indicates an upward flux) is in good agreement with published benthic Mo fluxes from manganoous or ferruginous sediments that were calculated based on pore water concentration gradients (e.g., $\geq 2.5 \cdot 10^5 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ in the Santa Barbara Basin; Zheng et al., 2000; $\geq 2.0 \cdot 10^5 \text{ nmol m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ on the Peruvian shelf; Scholz et al, 2011). Recycling of shuttled Mo after inflow events could be particularly important for buffering the Mo inventory of the deepest water layer where Mo scavenging during euxinic periods is likely to be most intense.

5.5. Further implications for the use of molybdenum as an ocean redox proxy

Published $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ data for sediments in the Gotland Deep range between +0.4 and +0.6 ‰ (Neubert et al., 2008). These isotope values differ from the modern seawater isotope composition ($\delta^{98}\text{Mo} = 2.3 \text{ ‰}$), which is consistent with the idea that there is incomplete removal of a fractionated Mo pool from the water column. One likely mechanism contributing to the isotopic offset between sediment and seawater ($\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{seawater-sediment}} \approx +1.8 \text{ ‰}$) is the scavenging of intermediate thiomolybdate species during euxinic periods (e.g., Nägler et al., 2011). Nägler et al. (2011) hypothesized that occasional inflow of oxic seawater perturbs the transformation of MoOS_3^{2-} to MoS_4^{2-} . As the progressive transformation of MoO_4^{2-} to MoS_4^{2-} is accompanied by isotope fractionation (Tossel, 2005), scavenging of intermediate thiomolybdate species should result in a greater isotopic offset between seawater and sediment than scavenging of MoS_4^{2-} alone (Nägler et al., 2011). Both previous (Dellwig et al., 2010) and our new findings on Mo cycling in the Gotland Deep suggest that a portion of the sedimentary Mo is shuttled by Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides. The isotopically light Mo pool resulting from this transport mechanism is likely to contribute to the Mo isotopic offset between sediments and seawater (see also Nägler et al., 2011).

As observed in the Gotland Deep (Näglér et al., 2011), sediments of weakly restricted or intermittently euxinic basins often display an isotopic offset with respect to the Mo isotope composition of seawater (e.g., Cariaco Basin; Arnold et al., 2004). A common explanation for this offset is lower H_2S concentrations and thus less efficient conversion of MoO_4^{2-} to MoS_4^{2-} compared to the strongly and permanently sulfidic Black Sea (Neubert et al., 2008; Dahl et al., 2010). In addition, Dahl et al. (2010) pointed out that a short seawater residence time limits the progress of the MoO_4^{2-} to MoS_4^{2-} conversion and thus increases the isotopic offset between scavenged and dissolved Mo. Our work further emphasizes the role of Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides in generating a light Mo isotope signature in euxinic systems with a short seawater residence time. Repeated inflow of oxic water or continuous mixing of oxic and anoxic water increases the frequency of Mn and Fe precipitation and re-dissolution (see sketch in Fig. 8A). The high Mo burial rates that are typically observed in weakly restricted euxinic basins with a short seawater residence time (i.e., Saanich Inlet, Cariaco Basin) have been assigned to this shuttle mechanism (Algeo and Lyons, 2006).

We further suggest that accelerated Mo burial in association with a Mn and Fe shuttle is not necessarily restricted to isolated basins, but may operate on open-marine continental margins as well, provided that an oxic-anoxic interface for Mn and Fe redox cycling is available. For instance, intense Mo burial and $(\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{XS}} > (\text{Mo}/\text{U})_{\text{seawater}}$ (Fig. 6) in shelf sediments underlying the Peruvian oxygen minimum zone have been attributed to such a mechanism (Scholz et al., 2011). Furthermore, it is possible that such a shuttle operated at euxinic ocean margins in early Earth history. By analogy to the oxygen minimum zones of coastal upwelling areas in the modern ocean, a number of recent studies inferred localized euxinia underneath oxic surface waters for ocean margins in the late Archean (Reinhard et al., 2009; Kendall et al., 2010) and the Proterozoic (Poulton et al., 2010; Li et al., 2010; Poulton and Canfield, 2011). Euxinic water masses are generally enriched in Mn and Fe compared to oxic water masses (Saito et al., 2003) and it has been suggested that redox boundaries in the Proterozoic were subject to

considerable fluctuation (Johnston et al., 2010; Poulton et al., 2010). These factors, along with the short seawater residence time at open-marine margins, likely favored the rapid redox cycling of Mn and Fe. Euxinic conditions in the water column overlying the continental shelf (Poulton et al., 2010; Li et al., 2010) should thus have promoted a Mn and Fe shuttle that efficiently transported Mo from the chemocline to the sediment (see sketch in Fig. 8B). By analogy to modern weakly restricted basins or continental margin environments (Siebert et al., 2006; Poulson Brucker et al., 2009), the Proterozoic Mn and Fe shuttle would have likely generated an offset in $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ between the sediment and contemporary seawater.

At the same time, the short seawater residence time likely limited the potential for Mo depletion within the local water column; for example, typical wind-driven upwelling rates on continental shelves are on the order of meters per day corresponding to seawater residence times (τ_{salinity}) of tens of days (Bowden, 1977). Applying a τ_{salinity} of 50 days and an average OMZ thickness of 150 m (e.g., Keeling et al., 2011) to Eq. (3) yields a $(\text{Mo})_{\text{ss}}$ of 41.5 nM, which is analytically indistinguishable from $(\text{Mo})_{\text{conserv}}$. Importantly, the relative extent of Mo depletion at steady state is largely independent of $(\text{Mo})_{\text{conserv}}$ and, within the limits defined by modern euxinic environments (Algeo and Lyons, 2006), of $F(\text{Mo})_{\text{XS,burial}}$. This result implies that localized euxinic water bodies at ocean margins were unlikely depleted in Mo with respect to contemporary seawater or that in contrast to the deep Black Sea, residual Mo in the water column could likely escape precipitation along open-marine euxinic systems. Moreover, the short seawater residence time likely prevented the complete conversion of MoO_4^{2-} to MoS_4^{2-} (Dahl et al., 2010). The ultimate prerequisite for open-marine euxinic sediments to record the $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ of seawater thus seems to be widespread euxinia in the deep-ocean, which results in complete sulfidation of molybdate prior to upwelling on the continental shelf. However, the concept of persistent deep-ocean euxinia in the Proterozoic is increasingly superseded by the notion of euxinic intermediate waters sandwiched between ferruginous deep water and oxic surface water (Li et al., 2010; Poulton et al., 2010; Dahl et al.,

2011; Poulton and Canfield, 2011). We suggest that this “oxygen minimum zone-type” redox-structure may not allow for a $\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{seawater-sediment}}$ of zero. By contrast, the occurrence and intensity of the Mn and Fe shuttle at euxinic continental margins is independent of the redox state of the deep-ocean. Accordingly, continental margin sediment facies with a light Mo isotope signature ($\delta^{98}\text{Mo} < 2.3\text{‰}$) and independent evidence for euxinia (e.g., from Fe proxies) does not necessarily reflect Mo depletion on a global scale, but could instead result from Mo transport via a Mn and Fe shuttle.

6. Conclusions

Euxinic sediments of the Gotland Deep in the Baltic Sea were investigated with the aim of characterizing geochemical processes that lead to Mo accumulation. Our data reveal that multiple mechanisms are likely contributing to Mo burial, including scavenging of thiomolybdate (or other Mo-sulfide-complexes) or Fe-Mo-S nanoparticles by organic matter during euxinic periods and adsorption of molybdate by Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides during more oxic periods. The latter mechanism is primarily driven by inflow and oxygenation events during which dissolved Mn and Fe that has accumulated within the euxinic deep water is oxidized and deposited at the basin floor. This Mn and Fe shuttle is a common feature in weakly restricted basins. We suggest that Mo isotope fractionation associated with adsorption of Mo onto Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides contributes to the Mo isotopic offset from seawater that is commonly observed in the sediments of these systems

The occurrence of a Mn and Fe shuttle requires a water column redox boundary separating water masses with differing solubility of Mn and Fe as well as rapid turnover of water (corresponding to a short seawater residence time) to maintain intense redox cycling of Mn and Fe. These requirements are not only met in weakly restricted basins but also at the oxygen minimum zones of modern continental margins and, possibly, at sulfidic ocean margins during Earth history. A Mn and Fe shuttle, along with

Mo isotope fractionation during adsorption, could thus contribute to the light Mo isotope composition recorded in Proterozoic black shales.

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Figure captions

Figure 1. (A) Bathymetric map of the Baltic Sea (bathymetric data from Seifert et al., 2001). (B) Close-up showing the Gotland Deep and the location of coring sites (red stars). (C) Bathymetric cross section through the Baltic Sea from the Danish Straits to the Gotland Deep (see solid line in (A)). (D) Record of Major Baltic Inflows (MBI) from 1930 till present. Groups of events are depicted by gray areas and single events are depicted by gray lines. Red stars in (D) represent the time of sampling campaigns in the Gotland Deep that are relevant to this study.

Figure 2. Profiles of salinity, oxygen and TH_2S in the water column of the Gotland Deep during May and June 2010 (A. Noffke, unpublished data). The location of the chemocline and coring sites are depicted on the right-hand side.

Figure 3. Pore water profiles of salinity (calculated from Cl^-), SO_4^{2-} (black circles), TH_2S (open circles), Mn (black circles), Fe (open circles), Mo and U. The uppermost value of each profile (depth = 0 cm) indicates bottom water concentrations. Vertical dashed lines represent conservative SO_4^{2-} , Mo and U concentrations as calculated from Cl^- . The horizontal arrow between MUC11 and MUC04 indicates the location of the chemocline. The very high Mo and U concentration in sub-chemocline cores (3.5 cm in MUC04 and 9.5 cm in MUC05) are given as numerical values to avoid obscuring the shape of the pore water profile at lower concentrations. Note the differing concentration scales for Mn, Mo and U above and below the chemocline.

Figure 4. Solid phase profiles of Mn/Al, TIC (shaded area), Fe/Al, TS (shaded area), Mo/Al, TOC (shaded area), U/Al and Mo/TOC. Vertical dashed lines represent average Mn/Al, Fe/Al and Mo/Al ratios of the upper continental crust ($(\text{Mn/Al})_{\text{detr}} = 0.75$, $(\text{Fe/Al})_{\text{detr}} = 0.44$, $(\text{Mo/Al})_{\text{detr}} = 0.19$, $(\text{U/Al})_{\text{detr}} = 0.35$; McLennan, 2001). The horizontal arrow between MUC11 and MUC04 indicates the location of the chemocline. Note differing concentration scales for Mn/Al (logarithmic for MUC04 and MUC05), Mo/Al and U/Al above and below the chemocline. Vertical arrows in the Mo/Al diagrams of sub-chemocline cores depict the depth range and mean Mo/Al ratio used for the calculation of $(\text{Mo})_{\text{XS}}$ and Mo burial fluxes (see Table 3).

Figure 5. Plot of Mn concentrations versus Ca concentrations for sediments above and below the chemocline.

Figure 6. Plot of Mo_{EF} versus U_{EF} for sediments above and below the chemocline. Note logarithmic scale of both axes. The solid lines depict the mass ratio of Mo/U in seawater (~ 3.2) times 1.0 and 0.3. The dashed gray lines are adopted from Algeo and Tribovillard (2009) and illustrate (1) increasing sedimentary $(\text{Mo/U})_{\text{XS}}$ ratios with decreasing benthic redox potential; (2) sedimentary $(\text{Mo/U})_{\text{XS}}$ ratios $>$ seawater related to accelerated Mo accumulation associated with a Mn and Fe shuttle; (3) sedimentary $(\text{Mo/U})_{\text{XS}}$ ratios $<$ seawater related to Mo depletion in the water column of permanently euxinic basins. The shaded area depicts the range of $(\text{Mo/U})_{\text{XS}}$ ratios of sediment on the Peruvian continental shelf (data from Scholz et al., 2011).

Figure 7. Plot of molar Mo/U ratios in pore water and sediment versus water depth. Note logarithmic scale of x-axis. The vertical dashed line depicts the molar ratio of Mo/U in seawater (~ 7.5).

Figure 8. Model for accelerated Mo accumulation associated with a Mn and Fe shuttle in (A) a weakly restricted basin with a short deep water residence time or regular inflow events (cf. Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009) and (B) at a euxinic continental margin in the Proterozoic (cf. Poulton and Canfield,

886 2011). Abbreviations are as follows: [] = dissolved species in the water column or pore water; Mo-
887 MnFeOx = Mo absorbed to Mn and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides ($\text{MoO}_x\text{S}_{4-x}^{2-}$, $1 < x < 4$); MnCO_3 = Mn carbonates;
888 FeS_x = Fe sulfides; Mo-S-OM = Mo associated with sulfur and organic matter. Note that scavenging of Mo
889 by organic matter or Fe sulfides in the water column is likely to occur in both (A) and (B).

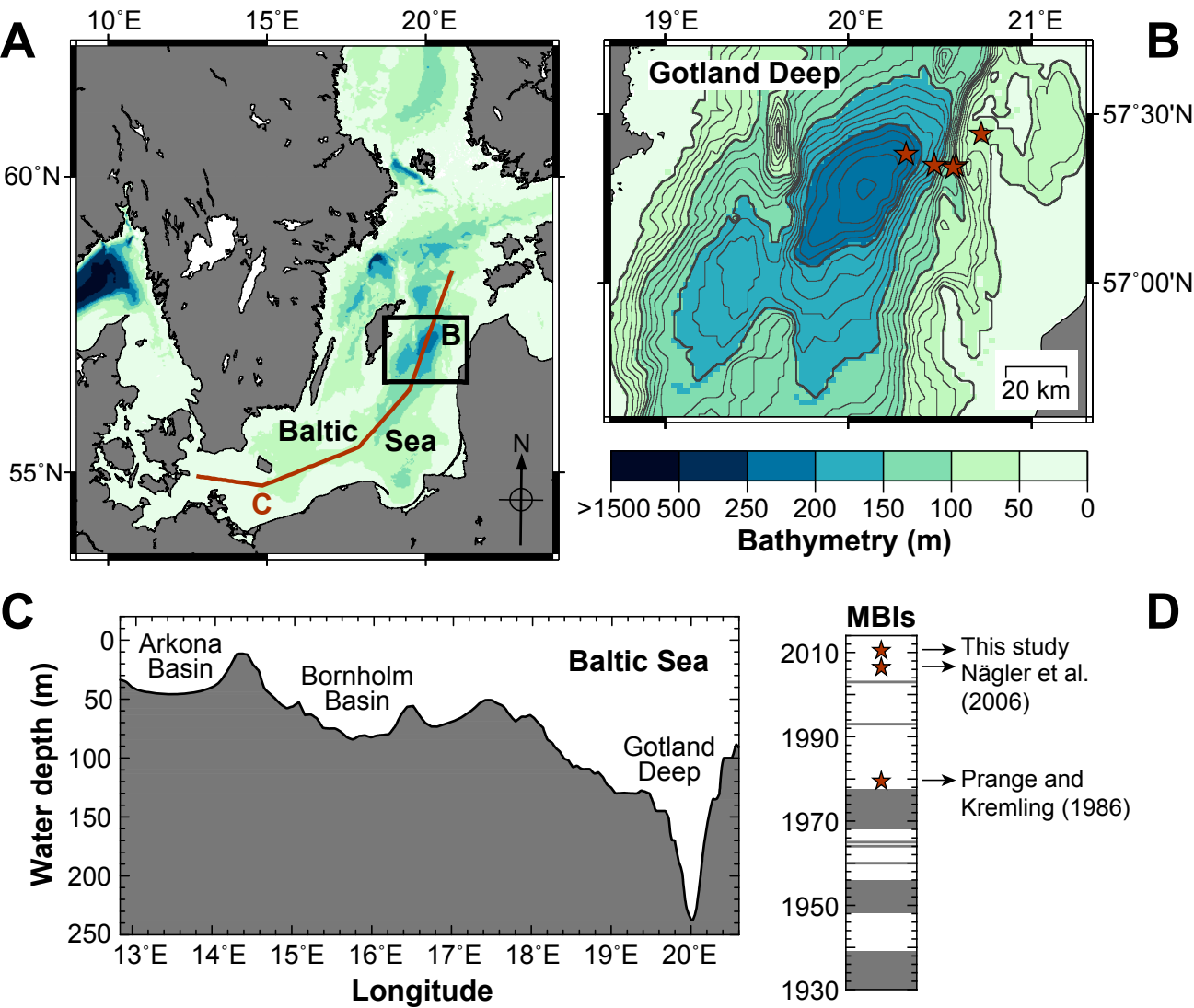


Figure 1

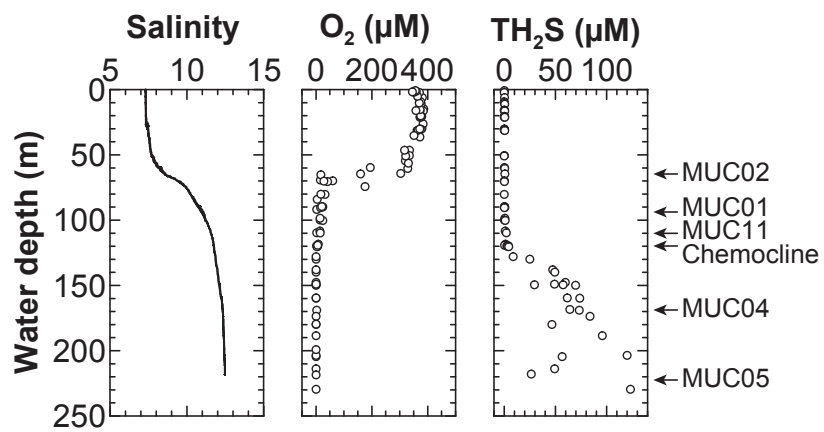


Figure 2

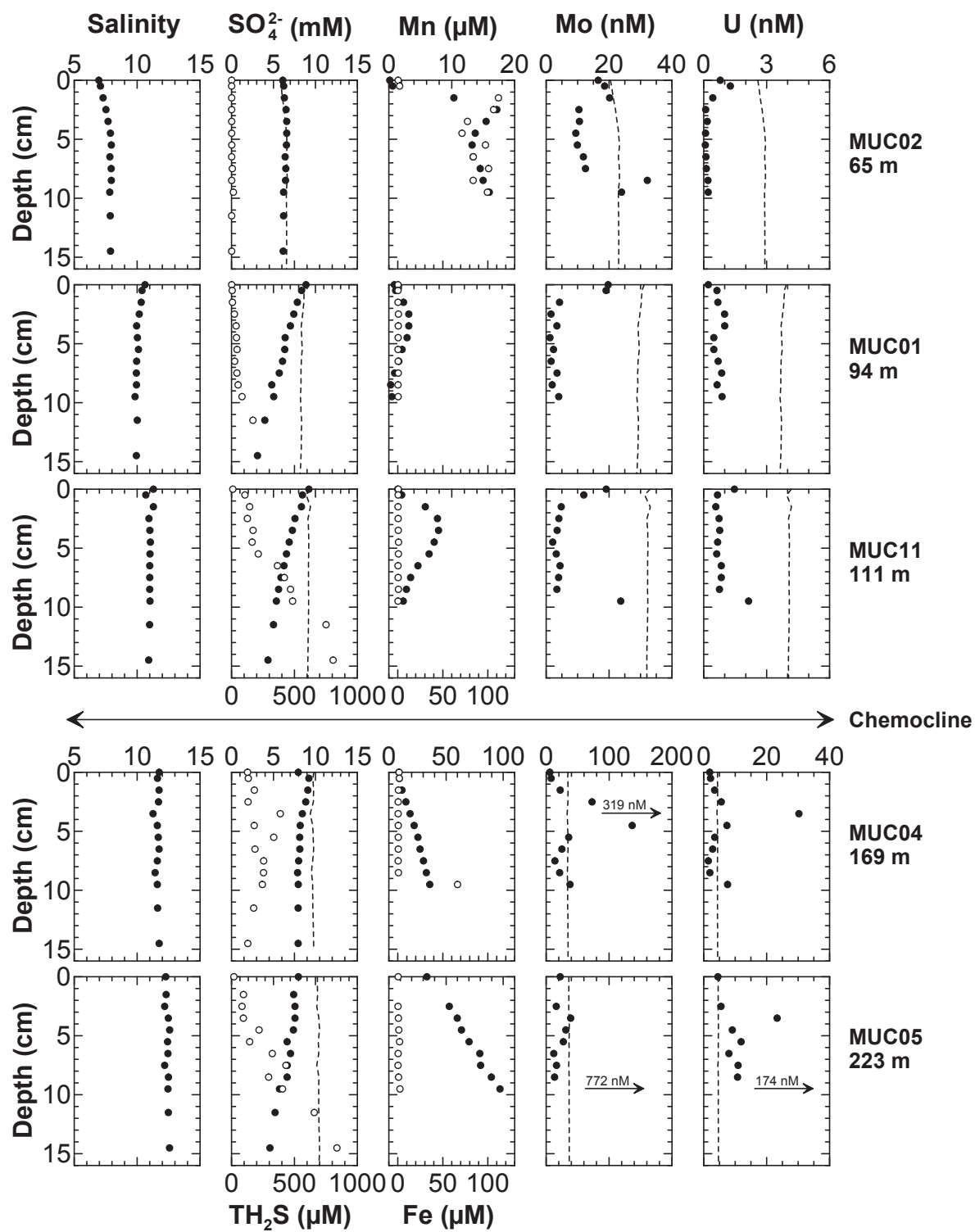


Figure 3

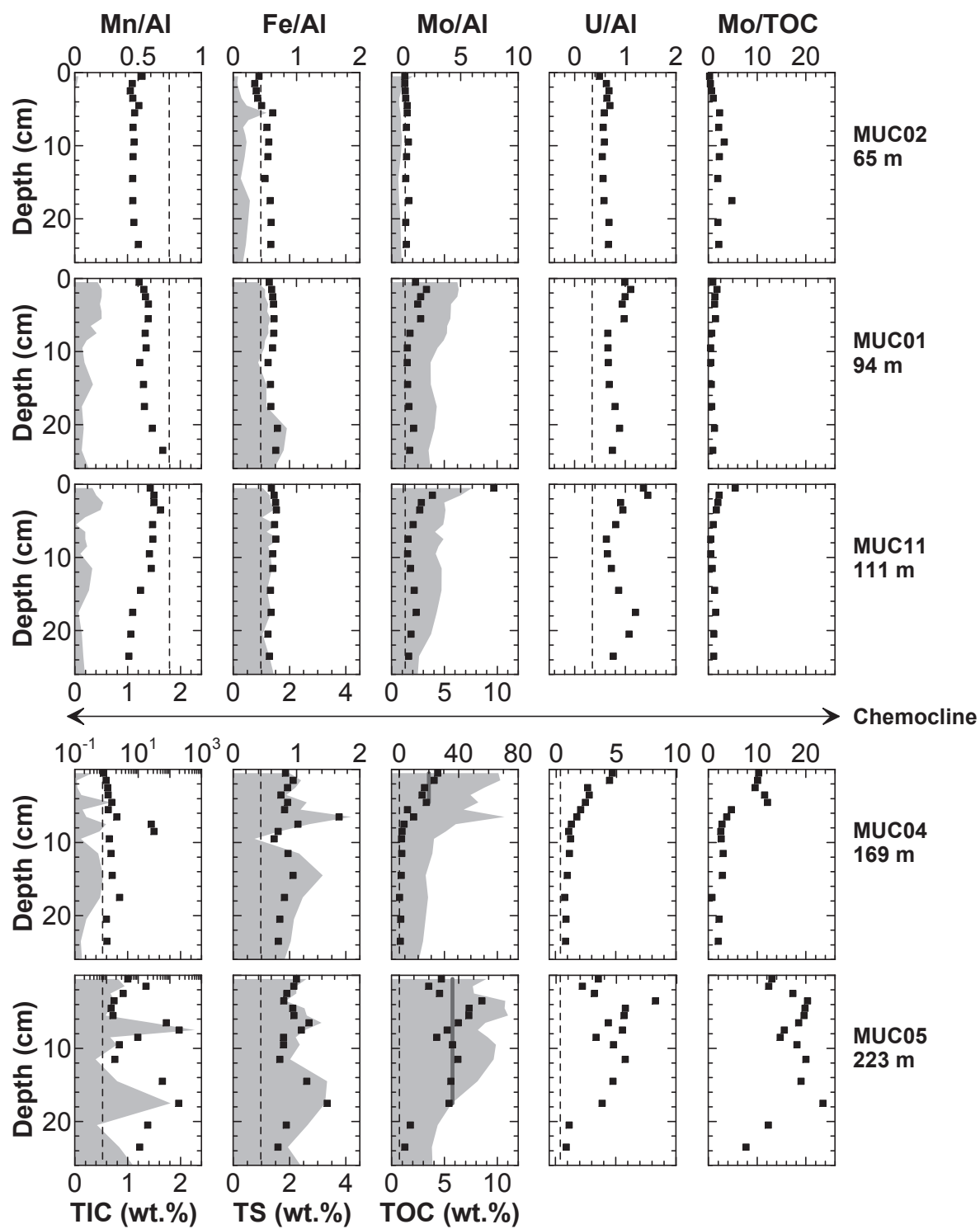


Figure 4

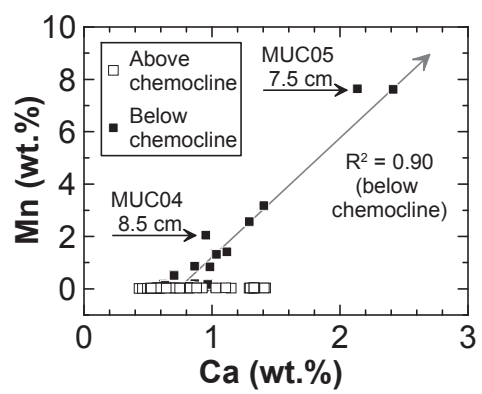


Figure 5

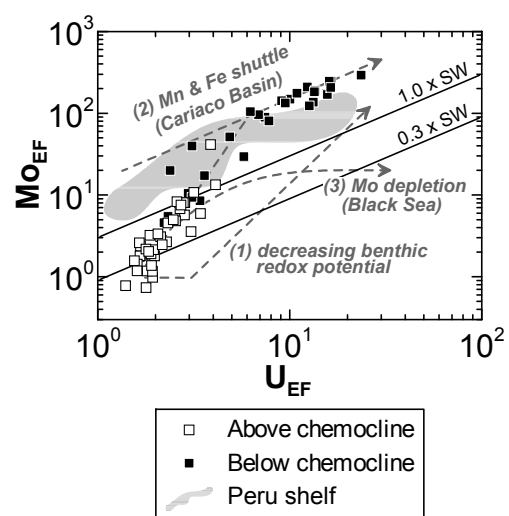


Figure 6

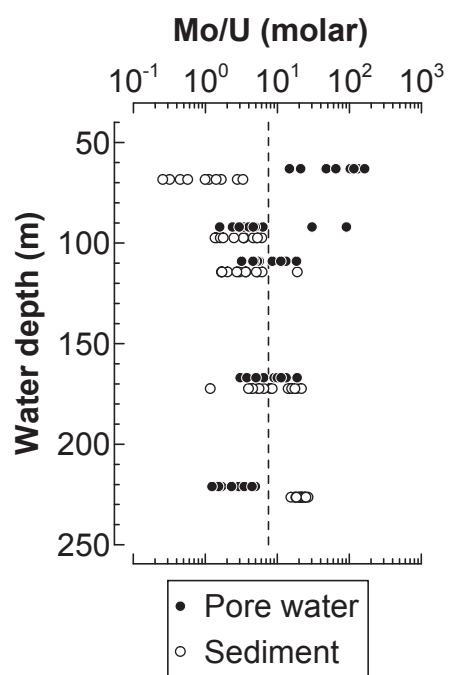


Figure 7

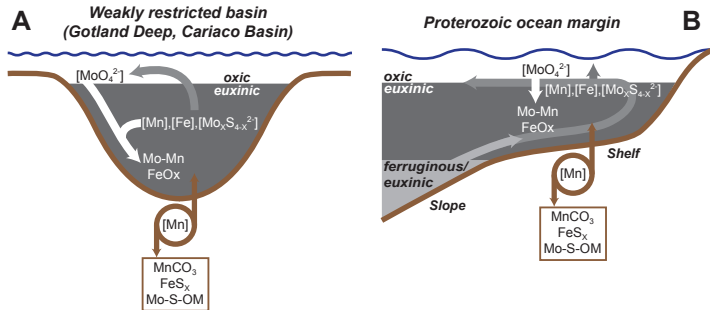


Figure 8

Table 1. Geographical coordinates and water depth of the sampling stations.
The stations are ordered according to increasing water depth and decreasing bottom water redox potential.

Station	Gear	No.	Latitude	Longitude	Water depth
AL355			N	E	
Bottom water O ₂ > 0 μM, H ₂ S = 0 μM:					
311	MUC	02	57°26.49′	20°43.49′	65
Bottom water O ₂ = 0 μM, H ₂ S = 0 μM:					
308	MUC	01	57°20.88′	20°35.25′	94
366	MUC	11	57°20.52′	20°34.22′	111
Bottom water O ₂ = 0 μM, H ₂ S > 0 μM:					
330	MUC	04	57°21.00′	20°28.13′	169
345	MUC	05	57°22.99′	20°18.98′	223

Table 2. Accuracy of the digestion protocol. Measured values are given as mean ± SD.

	SDO-1 ^a		PACS-2 ^b		RR9702A-42MC ^c	
	This study (n = 8)	Certified	This study (n = 5)	Certified	This study (n = 13)	Previous studies
Al (wt.%)	6.24 ± 0.12	6.49 ± 0.12	6.32 ± 0.14	6.62 ± 0.32	8.24 ± 0.22	8.40 ± 0.20
Ca (wt.%)	0.74 ± 0.02	0.75 ± 0.03	1.99 ± 0.04	1.96 ± 0.18	2.69 ± 0.07	2.66 ± 0.04
Mn (µg g ⁻¹)	304 ± 8	325 ± 39	437 ± 9	440 ± 19	527 ± 14	530 ± 15
Fe (wt.%)	6.46 ± 0.14	6.53 ± 0.15	4.16 ± 0.10	4.09 ± 0.06	4.83 ± 0.13	4.80 ± 0.10
Mo (µg g ⁻¹), ICP-MS	153 ± 4	134 ± 21	5.46 ± 0.13	5.43 ± 0.28	1.74 ± 0.09	1.90 ± 0.30
Mo (µg g ⁻¹), ID ICP-MS	152 ± 4	134 ± 21	5.61 ± 0.14	5.43 ± 0.28	1.81 ± 0.09	1.90 ± 0.30
U (µg g ⁻¹), ICP-MS	45.9 ± 1.0	48.5 ± 6.5	2.38 ± 0.04	3 ^d	3.09 ± 0.14	3.3 ± 0.15

^aDevonian Ohio Shale, USGS (Govindaraju, 1994).
^bMarine Sediment (National Research Council, Canada).
^cIn-house standard, Chilean margin sediment, n > 100 (Muratli et al., 2012).
^dInformation value only.

Table 3. Parameters and properties used for mass balance calculations.
The basin geometry was computed from bathymetric data (Seifert et al., 2001) by the aid of the Generic Mapping Tool (GMT).

Parameter	Value
<i>150-200 m water depth</i>	
Seafloor area (m ²)	3.61 · 10 ⁹
(Mo) _{conserv} (nM) ^a	41.6
F(Mo) _{xs,burial} (nmol m ⁻² yr ⁻¹) ^b	1.27 · 10 ⁵
<i>Below 200 m water depth</i>	
Seafloor area (m ²)	9.92 · 10 ⁸
F(Mo) _{xs,burial} (nmol m ⁻² yr ⁻¹) ^c	2.14 · 10 ⁵
Average thickness of water column , z (m)	18
(Mo) _{conserv} (nM) ^a	41.6
<i>Whole basin (defined by 150 m isobath)</i>	
Seafloor area (m ²)	4.60 · 10 ⁹
F(Mo) _{xs,burial} (nmol m ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	1.47 · 10 ⁵
Average thickness of anoxic water column, z (m)	90
(Mo) _{conserv} (nM) ^a	41.6
τ _{salinity} (yr) ^d	20

^aConservative Mo concentration based on typical salinity after inflow events (Matthäus et al., 2008).
^bCaclulated from the mean (Mo)_{xs} above 5 cm sediment depth of MUC04 (169 m water depth) and the mean MAR in the Gotland Deep (Hille et al., 2006).
^cCalulated from mean (Mo)_{xs} above 19 cm sediment depth of MUC05 (223 m water depth) and the mean MAR in the Gotland Deep.
^dReissmann et al. (2009).

Electronic Supplement Table 1. Bottom water (BW) and pore water data.

Station	Gear	No.	Depth, squeezer	Cl ⁻	SO ₄ ²⁻	TH ₂ S	Depth, rhizons	Mn ^a	Fe ^b	Mo	U
AL355-No.			(cm)	(mM)	(mM)	(μM)	(cm)	(μM)	(μM)	(nM)	(nM)
310	MUC	2	BW	111	6.11	1.1	BW	0.16	0.36	16.6	0.79
			0-1	113	6.22	1.3	0.5	0.61	1.83	18.6	1.27
			1-2	117	6.30	1.3	1.5	10.32	111.95	20.2	0.42
			2-3	120	6.51	1.3	2.5	17.17	106.57	10.4	0.09
			3-4	123	6.57	1.7	3.5	15.45	77.58	10.6	0.16
			4-5	126	6.57	1.4	4.5	13.72	71.32	9.4	0.09
			5-6	127	6.54	2.6	5.5	13.23	97.39	9.9	0.08
			6-7	125	6.40	1.2	6.5	13.40	84.02	11.8	0.10
			7-8	127	6.47	6.2	7.5	14.52	100.97	12.5	0.12
			8-9	127	6.43	1.2	8.5	14.98	83.82	32.2	0.20
			9-10	125	6.21	14.8	9.5	15.95	99.81	23.9	0.21
			10-13	126	6.21	1.3					
			13-16	126	6.16	1.1					
			16-19	125	6.03	1.1					
			19-22	124	5.58	1.3					
			22-25	123	5.46	1.1					
			25-28	123	5.52	1.1					
307	MUC	1	BW	170	8.86	1.5	BW	0.88	0.19	19.7	0.22
			0-1	166	8.34	4.5	0.5	1.08	0.21	19.1	0.63
			1-2	165	7.84	7.9	1.5	2.34	0.19	4.3	0.68
			2-3	163	7.43	22.5	2.5	3.18	0.64	1.6	0.99
			3-4	159	7.02	36.7	3.5	3.18	0.44	3.4	1.00
			4-5	160	6.39	40.6	4.5	2.89	0.40	1.2	0.48
			5-6	162	6.34	43.6	5.5	2.11	0.21	2.4	0.48
			6-7	159	6.07	24.7	6.5	1.57	0.37	1.6	0.68
			7-8	159	5.67	42.5	7.5	0.93	0.55	3.4	0.86
			8-9	159	4.81	53.0	8.5	0.30	0.15	1.9	0.64
			9-10	157	5.02	83.9	9.5	0.48	0.33	4.0	0.87
			10-13	160	3.97	171					
			13-16	159	3.09						
			16-19	155	2.40	197					
			19-22	158	1.90	233					
			22-25	154	1.51	178					
			25-28	155	1.36	223					
365	MUC	11	BW	181	9.22	10	BW	1.42	0.47	19.1	1.46
			0-1	171	8.46	106	0.5	2.05	0.28	11.9	0.65
			1-2	181	8.33	143	1.5	5.79	0.21	4.8	0.57

Electronic Supplement Table 2. Solid phase data.

Station	Gear	No.	Depth	TOC	TS	TIC	Al	Ca	Mn	Fe	Mo	U
AL355-No.			(cm)	(wt.%)	(wt.%)	(wt.%)	(wt.%)	(wt.%)	(wt.%)	(wt.%)	($\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$)	($\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$)
311	MUC	2	0-1	1.98	0.17	0.07	3.20	0.59	0.02	1.30	0.47	1.56
			1-2	1.12	0.15	0.04	3.21	0.50	0.01	1.09	0.45	2.01
			2-3	0.91	0.21	0.00	3.10	0.43	0.01	1.12	0.58	2.10
			3-4	0.73	0.29	0.01	3.23	0.46	0.01	1.24	0.72	2.04
			4-5	0.72	0.48	0.04	3.82	0.50	0.02	1.71	1.31	2.65
			5-6	0.84	1.19	0.00	5.65	0.54	0.03	3.51	1.94	3.28
			6-7	0.91	0.54	0.02						
			7-8	0.88	0.35	0.02	6.80	0.60	0.03	3.61	1.85	3.82
			8-9	0.95	0.43	0.01						
			9-10	0.96	0.47	0.00	6.86	0.58	0.03	3.84	3.11	4.01
			10-13	0.86	0.40	0.00	6.52	0.57	0.03	3.57	1.95	3.54
			13-16	0.63	0.27	0.01	5.40	0.52	0.02	2.72	1.22	3.03
			16-19	0.71	0.59	0.01	6.85	0.59	0.03	3.98	3.39	3.95
			19-22	0.84	0.52	0.02	7.35	0.57	0.03	4.39	1.62	4.96
			22-25	0.88	0.45	0.00	7.27	0.57	0.04	4.30	1.89	4.84
			25-28	0.94	0.32	0.01						
308	MUC	1	0-1	6.23	0.85	0.44	5.12	1.32	0.03	2.91	5.55	5.07
			1-2	6.36	1.13	0.51	5.49	1.29	0.03	3.33	11.23	6.07
			2-3	6.24	1.13	0.51	5.47	1.30	0.03	3.42	8.40	5.45
			3-4	5.64	1.24	0.48	5.51	1.42	0.03	3.51	7.09	5.17
			4-5	5.62	1.21	0.51						
			5-6	5.57	1.32	0.51	5.31	1.41	0.03	3.42	8.14	5.19
			6-7	5.28	1.24	0.30						
			7-8	5.25	1.25	0.41	5.72	1.33	0.03	3.67	3.50	3.75
			8-9	4.93	1.13	0.22						
			9-10	4.37	1.10	0.14	5.48	1.03	0.03	3.42	2.02	3.61
			10-13	3.71	0.88	0.19	5.12	0.82	0.03	2.83	1.85	3.40
			13-16	3.73	1.18	0.35	5.43	1.15	0.03	3.21	2.21	3.72
			16-19	4.29	1.18	0.14	5.64	0.74	0.03	3.35	2.87	4.51
			19-22	4.09	1.90	0.17	5.46	0.67	0.03	3.82	5.02	4.85
			22-25	3.52	1.79	0.13	5.32	0.92	0.04	3.58	3.13	3.97
			25-28	3.72	1.38	0.29						
366	MUC	11	0-1	7.61	1.05	0.33	5.30	1.33	0.03	3.20	41.71	7.19
			1-2	6.54	1.30	0.41	5.62	1.33	0.04	3.62	14.26	8.09
			2-3	4.99	1.33	0.54	6.18	1.33	0.04	4.13	9.72	5.60
			3-4	5.09	1.44	0.49	5.84	1.11	0.04	3.96	8.35	5.55
			4-5	5.01	1.03	0.20						