



# Article Carbon Air–Sea Flux in the Arctic Ocean from CALIPSO from 2007 to 2020

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Abstract: Quantified research on the Arctic Ocean carbon system is poorly understood, limited by the scarce available data. Measuring the associated phytoplankton responses to air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes is challenging using traditional satellite passive ocean color measurements due to low solar elevation angles. We constructed a feedforward neural network light detection and ranging (LiDAR; FNN-LID) method to assess the Arctic diurnal partial pressure of carbon dioxide ( $pCO_2$ ) and formed a dataset of long-time-series variations in diurnal air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes from 2001 to 2020; this study represents the first time spaceborne LiDAR data were employed in research on the Arctic air-sea carbon cycle, thus providing enlarged data coverage and diurnal  $pCO_2$  variations. Although some models replace Arctic winter Chl-a with the climatological average or interpolated Chl-a values, applying these statistical Chl-a values results in potential errors in the gap-filled wintertime  $pCO_2$ maps. The CALIPSO measurements obtained through active LiDAR sensing are not limited by solar radiation and can thus provide 'fill-in' data in the late autumn to early spring seasons, when ocean color sensors cannot record data; thus, we constructed the first complete record of polar  $pCO_2$ . We obtained Arctic FFN-LID-fitted in situ measurements with an overall mean  $R^2$  of 0.75 and an average RMSE of 24.59 µatm and filled the wintertime observational gaps, thereby indicating that surface water  $pCO_2$  is higher in winter than in summer. The Arctic Ocean net  $CO_2$  sink has seasonal sources from some continental shelves. The growth rate of Arctic seawater  $pCO_2$  is becoming larger and more remarkable in sectors with significant sea ice retreat. The combination of sea surface partial pressure and wind speed impacts the diurnal carbon air-sea flux variability, which results in important differences between the Pacific and Atlantic Arctic Ocean. Our results show that the diurnal carbon sink is larger than the nocturnal carbon sink in the Atlantic Arctic Ocean, while the diurnal carbon sink is smaller than the nocturnal carbon sink in the Pacific Arctic Ocean.

Keywords: diurnal variation; air-sea carbon flux; CALIPSO; LiDAR; remote sensing

## 1. Introduction

The ocean is a vital sink for anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> and absorbed approximately 30% of our emissions between the beginning of the industrial revolution and the 1950s [1]. Currently, due to the lack of available data, there is a demand to assess the entire annual cycle of the partial pressure of carbon dioxide ( $pCO_2$ ) variabilities as a solution for understanding the onset and evolution of oceanic acidification [2]. For the modern ocean, the annual variations in  $pCO_2$  and related variables are generally well understood with nonthermal effects dominating in the subpolar regions, whereas the temperature-driven variations dominate the subtropics [3,4]. Sea surface  $pCO_2$  is increasing at a rate roughly equivalent to the increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in almost all parts of the global ocean [5–7]. However, recent global ocean carbon estimates still hide substantial interannual and regional fluctuations.



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**Copyright:** © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). Quantified research is needed, especially in regions with scarce available data, such as the Arctic Ocean (north of 65°N) and marginal seas, as these areas were excluded from many previous global surveys due to their limited data coverage [8–10].

The Arctic Ocean is changing in many aspects, with decreasing sea ice cover and increasing  $pCO_2$  being among the fastest-changing factors [11] (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2014). Over the past 3 decades, climate warming has induced remarkable changes in the Arctic ocean–ice–atmosphere system: increased sea ice losses [12,13], altered surface circulation [14–16], freshened surface water [17,18] and enhanced primary production [19]. In addition, ocean acidification is most pronounced in the Arctic, as CO<sub>2</sub> solubility increases at cold temperatures and a lower total alkalinity causes systems to become more sensitive to anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> [20,21]. Early observations indicated that the Arctic Ocean is a strong CO<sub>2</sub> sink with persistently low  $pCO_2$  values in the highly productive slope and shelf regions [22], while more recent studies have suggested that rapid air–sea gas exchanges and warming have led to high  $pCO_2$  values approaching atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations [23,24]; however, these studies were based on limited observations and thus may have been affected by uneven spatiotemporal coverage. Thus, the  $pCO_2$  trends in the Arctic Ocean are poorly understood due to observational limitations and the added complexity of sea ice melt [25].

Arctic air-sea carbon flux measurements have been performed from ships for more than 30 decades by measuring the difference in the partial pressure of  $CO_2$  within the surface ocean and the atmosphere [26–28]. In addition, eddy covariance methods have often been used in recent years, thus providing an independent estimate of sea-to-air fluxes [29,30]. However, measured observations are rare and expensive in the Arctic due to the presence of complex environments, such as frequent high-intensity storms and low winter temperatures. The key source of uncertainty is the lack of data from this remote region, as few long-term monitoring programs and experiments have been performed; only Alaska and parts of Canada and Scandinavia (Greenland) are better represented [31]. Arrigo et al., 2006 found the annual mean  $pCO_2$  was  $313 \pm 4.1 \mu$  atm before 2003 in Greenland [32]. Benefiting from the increasing density of in situ measurements of sea surface CO<sub>2</sub> fugacity and massive amounts of remote sensing data, a multitude of sea surface  $pCO_2$  reconstruction methods based on data interpolation approaches or machine learning have emerged [8]. Different artificial neural networks have succeeded in filling temporal and spatial data gaps [33–41]. However, passive remote sensing data quality is poor in Polar Regions and the coverage area is very limited, resulting in errors occurring in Antarctica or the Arctic among previous studies. Moreover, solar radiation-driven passive radiometers are greatly affected by polar night, resulting in large amounts of missing ocean color observations in the high-latitude region throughout wintertime, such as Chl-a measurements and their derivative  $pCO_2$  products. For example, chlorophyll-a concentrations, which are usually used to describe productivity, can be confounded by the presence of sea ice, clouds and solar radiation loss [26,39].

Recent advanced observations, such as spaceborne light detection and ranging (Li-DAR) data, are filling these critical data needs. Lu et al., 2014 provided global Chl-*a* and particulate organic carbon concentrations and Behrenfeld et al., 2017 measured the annual cycles of phytoplankton biomass in polar regions [42,43]. A high-resolution LiDAR dataset containing both diurnal and nocturnal measurements (taken at approximately 13:40 and 01:40 local time, respectively), has also recently been employed to develop a retrieval approach for diurnal Chl-*a* and wind speed data. Hu estimated the wind speed and wave slope variance at the global scale and found that high-spatial-resolution (70-m) wind data from the CloudSat and Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation (CALIPSO) platform can help reduce uncertainties in air–sea exchanges [44,45]. Compared to traditional satellite ocean color remote sensing, LiDAR measurements provide new measurements of ocean phytoplankton properties at both daytime and nighttime, including in polar regions, thus improving our understanding of Arctic phytoplankton primary productivity and carbon fluxes [46–49]. In Section 2, we described and introduced the datasets we used in this study, including the methods of diurnal chlorophyll-a concentration (Chl-*a*) and wind speed retrieval from the Cloud-Aerosol Lidar with Orthogonal Polarization (CALIOP) and the preprocessing of observation data and other remote sensing environmental data. Then, in Sections 3 and 4, we compared the retrieved feedforward neural network-LiDAR (FNN-LID)  $pCO_2$  with the observations, estimated the long-time-series variations in the surface  $pCO_2$  and C-flux in the Arctic Ocean and analyzed the climatological diurnal variations. Finally, in Section 5, we summarized the developed approach and the main results achieved and provided recommendations for future biogeochemical studies using active LiDAR remote sensing measurements.

#### 2. Materials and Methods

## 2.1. Arctic Sectors

The Arctic was divided into 10 sectors: Baffin Bay, Greenland Sea, Barents Sea, Kara Sea, Laptev Sea, East Siberian Sea, Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea, Canadian Arctic Archipelago and central Arctic Ocean. These subregions were then delineated using a region mask provided by the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC, available online: https://masie\_web.apps.nsidc.org/pub/DATASETS/NOAA/G02135/seaice\_analysis/ (accessed on 11 September 2022)); this mask has been used in many Arctic studies and consists of 3912 pixels per scene in the polar stereographic projection centered on the North Pole. We selected the high latitudes north of 60°N and regridded the mask to a spatial resolution of  $1 \times 1^{\circ}$  (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** A regional mask of the Arctic region provided by the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC). The map includes the Baffin Bay, Greenland Sea, Barents Sea, Kara Seas, Laptev Sea, East Siberian Sea, Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea, Canadian Arctic Archipelago and central Arctic Ocean sectors. Land areas are shown in gray.

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## 2.2. Data

## 2.2.1. Observations

The Surface Ocean CO<sub>2</sub> Atlas (SOCAT) (available online: http://www.socat.info/ (accessed on 20 August 2022)) community provides a key dataset of gridded monthly CO<sub>2</sub> fugacity (fCO<sub>2</sub>) with data available since 2011 [50,51]. The latest SOCAT version, SOCATv2022, contains 33.7 million quality-controlled fCO<sub>2</sub> observations from moorings, ships and drifters recorded over the period from 1957 to 2022 with an accuracy better than 5 µatm [52], including 2,534,512 observations in the Arctic (Figure 2). The gridded fCO<sub>2</sub> estimates were converted to pCO<sub>2</sub> values using the following formulation (see, e.g., [53]):

$$pCO_2 = fCO_2 \cdot \exp\left(p\frac{(B+2\delta)}{RT}\right)^{-1},\tag{1}$$

where  $pCO_2$  and  $fCO_2$  are in microatmospheres ( $\mu$ atm), p is the total atmospheric surface pressure (in Pa), B and  $\delta$  are viral coefficients [54], R is the gas constant and T is the absolute temperature.

The Global Ocean Data Analysis Project (GLODAP) v2.2020 is a synthesis effort agglomerating chemical water analysis data from more than 1.2 million water samples collected on 946 global cruises [55,56]. The GLODAP dataset encompasses 135,389 quality-controlled and normalized chemical water measurements in the Arctic, providing 29,305 discrete  $fCO_2$  values over 42 years of scientific exploration, and we used the coastal East Siberian data from GLOADP as a complementary (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** The distributions of in situ  $fCO_2$  from SOCATv2022 and GLODAPv2.2020 in the Arctic Ocean. The observations of  $pCO_2$  including all the SOCAT data (north of 65°N) and the coastal East Siberian data from GLOADP as a complementary.

#### 2.2.2. CALIPSO Datasets

We used the active remote sensing data developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) (available online: http://orca.science.oregonstate.edu/lidar\_nature\_2019.php (accessed on 19 August 2022)), including CALIPSO Level-1B V4.10 data products, Aerosol, LiDAR Level-2 Cloud and Merged Layer V4.20 products [57,58]. The CALIOP LiDAR is an active sensor producing simultaneous laser pulses with dual polarization at 532 nm, and the measured signal is corrected for after-pulse and polarization-

crosstalk effects before being processed [59]. After correcting the influences of transient crosstalk and response,  $b_{bp}$  was calculated from the vertical-parallel ratio [60–62], and Chl-*a* was estimated using the following formula [43]:

$$b_{bp}$$
 (532)  $\approx \frac{2K_d \ \beta_{w+}}{0.32 * \ 0.98^2} \ \frac{1}{2K_d} \approx \ \frac{\beta_{w+}}{0.32 * \ 0.98^2}$ , (2)

Chl-
$$a = \log_{0.17} \frac{b_{bp}}{2.0 \times 10^{-4}},$$
 (3)

where  $\beta_{w+}$  is the subsurface column-integrated backscatter of the perpendicular component,  $K_d$  is the diffuse attenuation coefficient at 532 nm (where  $K_d$  is 1.76, see Behrenfeld et al., 2017; 2019) and  $\delta_p$  is the particulate depolarization ratio. Hence, Chl-*a* can be estimated based on the relational formula of  $b_{bp}$ .

To validate the Chl-*a* results, we compared the global Chl-*a* values in the regions where ocean observations are available throughout the year from both CALIOP and the Moderate Resolution Imagining Spectrometer (MODIS) passive ocean color sensor. The MODIS data used in this study are Level-3 products with a spatial resolution of 9 km (available online: http://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov (accessed on 16 July 2022)). At the global scale, we found excellent agreement (north  $r^2 = 0.75$ , n = 12,775, p < 0.001) between the Chl-*a* values from the two sensors, thus lending confidence to the CALIOP retrievals (Figure 3A). In the polar zones, however, CALIOP continued to characterize Chl-*a* distributions right up to the ice edge throughout the extended periods when MODIS data were entirely absent (as shown, for example, in Figure 3B,C). This advantage of active LiDAR sensing allowed CALIOP to 'fill in' data in the late autumn to early spring seasons that have never been unlocked by other satellites due to solar radiation constraints and thus allowed CALIOP to construct a complete record of polar phytoplankton annual cycles [42].



**Figure 3.** (**A**) Comparisons between Lidar estimates and Modis Chl-*a*. The color representing the number of observations (color) of collocated CALIOP and MODIS Chl-*a* data; (**B**) MODIS Chl-*a* retrievals for December 2010 poleward of the 40°N latitude line; (**C**) CALIOP Chl-*a* retrievals poleward of the 40°N latitude line (white: no data) for northern latitudes (December 2010). The light-gray shading indicates ice cover in panels (**B**,**C**); all values are in units of  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>.

The LiDAR backscatter signal is proportional to the probability that the surface of the capillary-gravity waves is perpendicular to the line of sight of the laser beam [63]. As for the CALIOP measurements, we first averaged every 30 profiles to smooth the noise then estimated the wind speed and finally the final wind speed was monthly 1° by 1° averaged and gridded for estimating  $pCO_2$ . Murphy indicated that the neural network ocean surface wind speed retrieval method is a skillful method that can help retrieve ocean surface wind data from CALIPSO LiDAR measurements [44,63]. In this study, we retrieved wind speed data from the Version-4 CALIPSO LiDAR level-1 data (Vaughan et al., 2019) together with collocated ocean surface wind speed data from Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer for Earth Observing Satellite (AMSR-E) measurements. The MATLAB

functional fitting neural network was adopted with the 7 inputs listed in Table 1. To match the AMSR-E footprint size, the input CALIOP variables were averaged 40 km in the alongtrack direction, with a matching window of 40 km along the AMSR-E track. The CALIOP LiDAR measurements and ocean surface wind speed measurements from AMSR-E in 2008 were used to train the neural network CALIOP ocean surface wind speed model.

Tabl	e 1.	The	CAL	lop	data	used	to	retrieve	sea	surface	e winc	l speed	data
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	Components	Wavelength	Polarization
1	Ocean surface and subsurface LiDAR backscatter	532 nm	Total
3	Ocean surface and subsurface LiDAR backscatter	532 nm	Perpendicular
5	Ocean surface and subsurface LiDAR backscatter	1064 nm	-
2	Column integrated atmospheric LiDAR backscatter	532 nm	Total
4	Column integrated atmospheric LiDAR backscatter	532 nm	Perpendicular
6	Column integrated atmospheric LiDAR backscatter	1064 nm	-
7	Latitude	-	-

#### 2.2.3. Gridded Datasets

We used gridded sea surface temperature (SST), sea surface salinity (SSS), sea surface height (SSH), atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> mole fraction xCO<sub>2</sub> (xCO<sub>2</sub>), Chl-*a* and mixed layer depth (MLD) datasets to train the FNN-LID model and reconstruct the *p*CO<sub>2</sub> series (Table 2). The 0.25° monthly SST, SSS, SSH and MLD data were provided by the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS). The xCO<sub>2</sub> data were acquired from the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) global atmospheric composition forecasts. In addition to the predictors listed in this table, the climatological *p*CO<sub>2</sub> [5], latitude and longitude information were also used as predictors in the reconstruction. Furthermore, the sea ice concentration (percentage of the ocean area covered by sea ice concentration (SIC), sea level pressure, 10 m wind speed and total pressure were exploited to obtain the air-sea carbon flux. The SIC data were obtained from the NSIDC Climate Data Record at a spatial resolution of 25 km and a monthly temporal resolution [64]. The sea level pressure and 10 m wind speed data were derived from CALIOP (Section 2.2.2). We used the monthly total sea surface pressure data from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) with a 1° spatial resolution.

Table 2. Details of the satellite and reanalysis input fields.

Satellite and Reanalysis Environmental Datasets for Reconstructing Ocean Surface $p$ CO <sub>2</sub> and Air–Sea Carbon Flux							
Component	Dataset	Temporal Scale	Website				
Sea surface temperature Sea surface salinity Sea surface height Mixed layer depth	CMEMS	Monthly	https://resources.marine.copernicus.eu/ product-detail/SST_GLO_SST_L4_REP_ OBSERVATIONS_010_011/DATA- ACCESS (accessed on 10 September 2022)				
Chl-a	GlobColour	Monthly	https://www.globcolor.info/products_ description.html (accessed on 10 September 2022)				
	CALIPSO	Monthly/diurnal	CALIPSO retrievals				
Atmospheric CO <sub>2</sub> mole fraction	ECMWF	Monthly/diurnal	https://ads.atmosphere.copernicus.eu (accessed on 10 September 2022)				
Climatological pCO <sub>2</sub>	Takahashi et al., 2009	Monthly	-				

Satellite and reanalysis environmental datasets for reconstructing the air-sea Carbon flux							
Component	Dataset	Temporal Scale	Website				
	CALIPSO	Monthly/diurnal	CALIPSO retrievals				
10 m wind speed	ССМР	Monthly	https://www.remss.com/measurements/ ccmp/ (accessed on 10 September 2022)				
Pressure	ECMWF Monthly/diurnal		https://ads.atmosphere.copernicus.eu (accessed on 10 September 2022)				
Sea ice concentration	CMEMS	Monthly	https://resources.marine.copernicus.eu/ product-detail/SST_GLO_SST_L4_REP_ OBSERVATIONS_010_011/DATA- ACCESS (accessed on 10 September 2022)				

Table 2. Cont.

In addition, the original data were interpolated into  $1 \times 1^{\circ}$  cells. To create the diurnal  $pCO_2$  field and calculate the air–sea carbon flux in polar nighttime, we used all data available at diurnal resolution, including the wind speed, Chl-*a*, sea surface pressure, temperature and  $xCO_2$  data. These diurnal data have the same spatial resolution as the monthly average results. As for the satellite launched in 2006, there were no available CALIOP data for the 2001–2006 period. Thus, wind speeds extracted from the Cross-Calibrated Multi-Platform (CCMP) dataset and the Chl-*a* data from GlobColour were used to replace LiDAR data during 2001–2006.

#### 2.3. FNN-LID Method

We combined novel FNN methods based on active and passive remote sensing data (FNN-LID) collected during the period from January 2001 to December 2020 at a monthly  $1 \times 1^{\circ}$  resolution and reconstructed the diurnal *p*CO<sub>2</sub> series since 2007 (Figure 4). We used Keras (available online: https://keras.io (accessed on 6 September 2022)), a high-level neural network Python library, for the training and evaluation of the FNN. The complexity of the problem and the number of data used for training jointly determines the number of neurons and FNN layers. We followed the empirical rule of a factor of 10 between the number of data and the connections to avoid overfitting [65].



**Figure 4.** Illustration of the FNN-LID model: schematic description of the methodological flow for deriving diurnal ocean surface  $pCO_2$  products. The arrows indicate the flow of the FNN approach, and the green arrows indicate the product estimation procedures. The global data are used to build the model: FNN-LID. The bottom part means the Arctic data; we use this FNN-LID method and environmental parameters of the Arctic to generate the Arctic  $pCO_2$ .

We used a two-part method to establish nonlinear relationships between a suite of independent environmental predictors and  $pCO_2$ . To improve the accuracy of the reconstruction, the two parts were both built separately for each month. First, we derived the relationships between the  $pCO_2$  climatology ( $pCO_2$ -clim) series and environmental predictors (SST, SSS, SSH, Chl-a, MLD, longitude and latitude) based on the FFN method using the monthly climatology [5] data as the standard output. We developed an FFNN model with 5 layers. In the second part, the target was to reconstruct the  $pCO_2$  anomalies ( $pCO_2$ -anom) series using another FFN method and the target sea surface  $pCO_2$ -anom was computed as the differences between SOCATv2022 observations and monthly climatological pCO<sub>2</sub> from the first step ( $=pCO_2$ -SOCAT  $- pCO_2$ -clim). During the second step, normalized pCO<sub>2</sub>-anom were reconstructed as a nonlinear function of normalized SST, SSS, SSH, Chl-a, MLD, xCO<sub>2</sub>, longitude and latitude. The SST, SSS, Chl-*a* are from the same datasets (see in Table 2); however, the roles of these datasets played in the two steps are different. In the first step, it is desired to reconstruct more desirable high spatial resolution  $pCO_2$ -clim data ( $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ ) by environmental parameters, as the Takahashi's climate state data have the problem of low spatial resolution ( $4^{\circ} \times 5^{\circ}$ ). In the second step, the same datasets were used to capture the  $pCO_2$ -anom by using the limited amount of measured data and the matching environmental data. Finally, we obtained  $pCO_2$  by adding anomalies to climate state.

In these two steps, the training datasets were expanded by combining data representing the previous month and the next month to cluster the seasonal cycle and increase the amount of data considered in this step. In addition, we divided the dataset into 3 parts for the FNN training (50%), evaluation (25%) and model validation (25%) processes. We trained the model separately for each month to improve the accuracy of the reconstruction results. K-fold cross-validation (K = 4) was used for the evaluation and validation of the FFNN. Five FNN tests were performed per month for each sampling fold, and each of these five runs was characterized by a different initial value chosen at random. From these five results, the best result was selected. Hence, we constructed 12 FNN models with 5 layers sharing a common architecture but trained on different data; the validation process is detailed in Section 3.1.

On this basis, we updated the input data to the diurnal CALIPSO sea surface Chl*a* data collected from 2007 to 2020 and the diurnal xCO<sub>2</sub> data from ECMWF. Thus, we reconstructed the diurnal and nocturnal  $pCO_2$  series from 2007 to 2021 at a monthly  $1 \times 1^{\circ}$  resolution.

#### 2.4. Global Air–Sea CO<sub>2</sub> Flux Estimates

The global air–sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux is often estimated by the bulk method:

$$flux = k_w \times sol \times \left( pCO_{2_{water}} - pCO_{2_{air}} \right) \times (1 - SIC), \tag{4}$$

where flux (mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) is the air–sea CO<sub>2</sub> *flux*,  $k_w$  is the gas transfer velocity, *sol* is the solubility of CO<sub>2</sub> in seawater (mol m<sup>-2</sup> µatm<sup>-1</sup>),  $pCO_{2_{water}}$  (µatm) and  $pCO_{2_{air}}$  (µatm) are the partial pressure of ocean surface CO<sub>2</sub> and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in the marine boundary layer and *SIC* is the ice fraction of ocean area covered by sea ice.

The gas exchange rate is often estimated using the following equation:

$$k_w = 0.251 \times U_{10} \times \left(\frac{Sc}{660}\right)^{-0.5},$$
(5)

where  $U_{10}$  is the wind speed 10 m above sea level and *Sc* denotes the Schmidt number calculated from the SST and SSS based on the equation proposed by Wanninkhof (2014).

The CO<sub>2</sub> solubility at the air–sea interface is calculated from the seawater temperature and salinity [27]. Although several equations have been proposed to parameterize  $k_w$  as a function of  $U_{10}$ , we used Equation (5), which has been widely used to estimate CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in Arctic studies (e.g., [66]). Throughout this study, the flux is defined as positive when CO<sub>2</sub> is released from the ocean to the atmosphere and negative when CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed by the ocean from the atmosphere. The *SIC* is used because ice acts as an imperfect barrier to gas exchange [67–69]. However, whether the effect of sea ice on gas exchange is linear [68,70] or nonlinear [67,71] is still under debate; for simplicity, only a linear ice correction is used in this work. In addition, when SIC is larger than 99%, we use 99% to allow air–sea CO<sub>2</sub> exchanges through fractures, leads and brine channels [72]. The sources of all data used here are provided in Section 2.

In this study, the air–sea carbon flux is commonly described through a bulk formula [27,73]. Therefore, we discuss the impacts of considering different carbon flux mechanisms in terms of day-night ratios as follows:

$$k_{kw} = \frac{kw_{day}}{kw_{night}},\tag{6}$$

$$k_{dp} = \frac{p_{water\_day} - p_{air\_day}}{p_{water\_night} - p_{air\_night}} = \frac{dp_{day}}{dp_{night}},$$
(7)

$$\frac{flux_{day}}{flux_{night}} = \frac{kw_{day}}{kw_{night}} \times \frac{dp_{day}}{dp_{night}} = k_{sol} \times k_{kw} \times k_{dp},\tag{8}$$

where  $k_{kw}$  and  $k_{dp}$  represent the ratios of the air–sea exchange rate and the different components of the day and night durations, respectively. When this ratio is less than 1, it means that the parameter is higher during the night than during the day; when the ratio is greater than 1, it means that lower values appear at night.

#### 2.5. Interpretation of Statistics

The root mean square error (*RMSE*), bias and Pearson correlation coefficient (R) were used in this work as standard statistical metrics to measure the model performance. The *RMSE* was calculated for the dataset as follows:

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(Obs - Est)_{i}^{2}},$$
(9)

$$Bias = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (Est - Obs)_{i},$$
(10)

where *n* is the sample index, *Obs* is the observation measurement and *Est* is the model estimate.

#### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Validation of FNN-LID pCO<sub>2</sub>

The  $pCO_2$  values simulated by the fitted FFN-LID model were compared to the measurements extracted from SOCATv2022, with an overall mean R<sup>2</sup> of 0.79 and an *RMSE* of 17.76 µatm (Figure 5A). The average difference between the observed and simulated  $pCO_2$  was almost null (overall bias = 0.1 µatm) globally and was -0.08 in the Arctic region (Figure 5B). The comparison of our Arctic FFN-LID results with the observations shows an average *RMSE* of 24.59 µatm and an overall mean R<sup>2</sup> of 0.75; these values are comparable with the recent SOCAT-based global  $pCO_2$  fields in the Arctic Ocean (Table 3).

Compared to other datasets, we obtained a generally similar spatial distribution with spatially random residuals of  $-0.14 \pm 15.98$  µatm (Figure 5C), which is overestimated in the costal Beaufort Sea and the north of the Novaya Zemlya Island and slightly underestimated in the melted ice zone east of Greenland Island (Figure 5D). However, we found higher  $pCO_2$  (>400 µatm) values in the costal East Siberian and the Laptev Sea throughout the summer season; these values were higher than those provided by most global coverage models and were more consistent with other observation-based studies than the outputs of previous models.



**Figure 5.** Observations of (**A**) global and (**B**) Arctic ocean surface  $pCO_2$  (µatm) and FNN-LID estimates. The color code represents the occurrence density. The red line is the 1:1 line. (**C**) Histogram of  $pCO_2$  (µatm) difference and (**D**) spatial distribution of mean bias (µatm) between FNN-LID  $pCO_2$  and girded SOCAT  $pCO_2$ .

**Table 3.** The comparison of seven different SOCAT-based  $pCO_2$  fields and the SOCAT observations in the Arctic Ocean.

	RMSE (µatm)	R <sup>2</sup>	<i>Bias</i> (µatm)	Number	Original Coverage Area
CMEMS	31.22	0.64	0.27	12,402	Global
IBP	29.36	0.68	-1.21	15,445	Global
JMA	26.71	0.63	1.01	6412	Global
IOCAS	29.65	0.61	-4.52	11,255	Global
FNN-LID	25.59	0.75	-0.14	10,266	Global
Yasunaka et al., 2016	32	0.8	-	-	Arctic Ocean
Yasunaka et al., 2018	30	0.82	-	-	Arctic Ocean

As the East Siberian Sea is a blank area in the SOCAT datasets, we used the independent Global Ocean Data Analysis Project (GLOBDAP) dataset, an agglomerating chemical water analysis dataset with vertical information, to validate the high  $pCO_2$  we found in the FNN-LID outputs. Two consecutive GLOBDAP cruises passed through the region measured in August and September 2008, showing that the  $pCO_2$  of the continental shelf was high, even higher than that of the atmosphere (approximately 400 µatm) (Figure 6A,E). Compared to the IBP (Figure 6C,G) and CMEMS (Figure 6D,H) model outputs, we can clearly find that the  $pCO_2$  values retrieved by the FNN-LID model (Figure 6B,F) are closer to the summertime in situ spatial distribution, reconstructing the high- $pCO_2$  waters in the continental shelf area.



**Figure 6.** Maps of observed *p*CO<sub>2</sub> from GLODAP in (**A**) August and (**E**) September 2008. Maps of sea surface *p*CO<sub>2</sub> from (**B**) FNN-LID, (**C**) IBP and (**D**) CMEMS in August 2008 and from (**F**) FNN-LID, (**G**) IBP and (**H**) CMEMS in September 2008.

## 3.2. Sea Surface pCO<sub>2</sub> during Polar Night and Seasonal Variations

Polar night is a period of continuous twilight or nighttime; polar night lasts approximately 11 weeks at the poles, and the North Pole experiences this period from November to January. During this time, the Arctic Ocean receives less radiation, and for more than one month the sun never rises at this pole during the whole 24 h of the day.

Although some models replace Arctic winter Chl-*a* values with the climatological average or interpolated Chl-*a* values, these statistical Chl-*a* values fill the wintertime  $pCO_2$  maps with potential errors. Due to the wintertime Chl-*a* values usually being lower than the climatological average values, such interpolation methods fail when edge data are missing. However, as CALIPSO measurements collected via active LiDAR sensing are not limited by solar radiation, the FNN-LID model can provide 'fill-in' values from the late autumn to early spring seasons to supplement the data hidden from ocean color sensors and thus construct the first complete record of polar  $pCO_2$ . The December  $pCO_2$  data reconstructed using GlobColour Chl-*a* and LiDAR Chl-*a* data are shown in Figure 7A,B. Both these data sources can successfully reproduce the  $pCO_2$  distribution, but the LIDAR-based product has a clearly superior spatial coverage. Moreover, if the Arctic carbon sink were estimated directly using these relatively small-coverage data, the resulting Arctic carbon sink values would be underestimated.



**Figure 7.** December  $pCO_2$  maps constructed with (**A**) GlobColour Chl-*a* and (**B**) LiDAR Chl-*a* data. (**C**) June  $pCO_2$  map constructed with LiDAR Chl-*a* data and (**D**) seasonal variation between June and December based on LiDAR Chl-*a*.

In this framework, we assessed the complete seasonal cycle variations in the Arctic Oceans. Similar seasonal patterns and driving mechanisms are extracted by the Climate

Model Intercomparison Project Version-5 (CMIP5) models under modern forcing conditions [74,75]. However, the modeled seasonal variations do not include the Arctic Ocean due to the sparsity of seasonal observations in this region. Thus, we exploited the FNN-LIDderived observation-based product to fill this observational gap. The results indicate that surface water  $pCO_2$  is higher in winter than in summer, suggesting that nonthermal effects dominate here, as in the subarctic region (Figure 7D). Taking the Greenland Sea and Barents Sea as examples, the seasonal variation (from June to December) in  $pCO_2$  in the Arctic Ocean seawater is found to be approximately 81.1 (±39.16) µatm; this seasonal variation is prevalent throughout the Arctic Ocean. In addition, seasonal amplitude maxima can be observed in the Bering Strait and along the shelf edge of the White Sea.

#### 3.3. Distributions of Arctic Ocean pCO<sub>2</sub> and Flux

Due to the coverage of sea ice in winter, year-round  $pCO_2$  data are not available for some sea ice-covered months, as sea ice can interfere with radiative transfer, causing the quality of remote sensing data to degrade. Thus, we used SIC to select the sea surface  $pCO_2$ rather than the subglacial  $pCO_2$ ; the resulting long-term monthly  $pCO_2$  series are shown in Figure 8. Based on the FNN-LID-derived  $pCO_2$ , we found that the spatial pattern shows higher seasonal variations in the regions dominated by Pacific waters (e.g., the Chukchi Sea and the Greenland Sea), as illustrated in Figure 8B,G. In the Chukchi sector (Figure 8G), the sea surface  $pCO_2$  was higher than that in the western Beaufort Sea (Figure 8H); this finding is consistent with observations by Bates [22].

In addition, we found that there is little spatial variability in atmospheric  $pCO_2$  over the Arctic Oceans, with seasonal variations of ~4 µatm, reaching the highest value in summer (Figure 8). The seasonal variation in seawater  $pCO_2$  is nearly 20 times greater than that in atmospheric  $pCO_2$ . The magnitude and direction of the release or uptake of  $CO_2$ across the sea surface are determined by the air–sea difference in  $pCO_2$ . Over the last 20 years, atmospheric  $pCO_2$  has been experiencing a steady rise (2.0611 ± 0.03 µatm yr<sup>-1</sup>), with the annual average increase from 361.31 µatm to 402.12 µatm. Meanwhile, most Arctic Ocean surface  $pCO_2$  has been lower than the atmospheric  $pCO_2$  and has thus acted as a stable carbon sink, except in the Kara Sea, where seasonally high  $pCO_2$  occurs in winter (Figure 8D).



**Figure 8.** The long-time-series monthly  $pCO_2$  values in 10 sectors in the Arctic Ocean: (**A**) Baffin Bay, (**B**) Greenland Sea, (**C**) Barents Sea, (**D**) Kara Sea, (**E**) Laptev Sea, (**F**) East Siberian Sea, (**G**) Chukchi Sea, (**H**) Beaufort Sea, (**I**) Canadian Arctic Archipelago and (**J**) central Arctic Ocean. The light color represents atmospheric  $pCO_2$  and the dark color represents seawater  $pCO_2$ .

The 20-year annual CO<sub>2</sub> sink per m<sup>2</sup> was strong in the Greenland/Norwegian Seas  $(>4.45 \text{ mol m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1})$ , the Barents Sea (2.04 mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>), Baffin Bay (2.75 mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) and the Chukchi Sea (2.38 mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) (Figure 9A). In contrast, it was weak (<1 mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) in the Kara Sea, the Beaufort Sea, the East Siberian and Canada Arctic Archipelago (Figure 9A). The annual mean  $CO_2$  flux distribution shows that most areas of the Arctic Ocean and its adjacent seas served as net  $CO_2$  sinks over the study period, showing a significant increase from 2001 to 2005 and remaining at  $0.15 \pm 0.01$  TgC yr<sup>-1</sup> over the next 15 years (Figure 9B). The SIC is the most fundamental element controlling the carbon flux magnitude, forcing a small carbon flux in the central Arctic Ocean. Both the Barents Sea and the Greenland Sea have very low sea ice cover and large sea gas pressure gaps, but the Greenland Sea has higher surface wind speeds that cause greater air-sea exchange rates; thus, the Greenland Sea has become the largest carbon flux partition zone in the Arctic (Figure 9C). Regarding the fluxes of individual sectors, the primary controlling factor for the monthly  $CO_2$  sink is the ice-covered area (equivalent to the ice%), and the secondary factor is the wind speed. In addition, the carbon flux is nearly null or even seasonally within uncertainty in the Laptev Sea (~approximately 0.20 mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) and East Siberian Sea (approximately 0.36 mol m<sup>-2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). Previous measurement-based research has also indicated that the Laptev Sea and the East Siberian Arctic Shelf are sources of atmospheric  $CO_2$  [76–78]. These high  $pCO_2$  values could be explained by the increasing load of humid acids delivered to shelf waters, while more nutrients, as products of eroded organic carbon transformation and river transport, are delivered to the Arctic Ocean [79]. Meanwhile, due to the impacts of complex factors (such as river runoff, coastal erosion, and primary production/respiration), the year-to-year dynamics of  $pCO_2$  as well as the air-sea carbon flux vary substantially [80]. As the sampling frequency of the measured data receive restrictions to access  $pCO_2$  with high spatiotemporal coverage, the FNN-LID complements the seasonal lack of measurement and, once again, confirms this sector to be the seasonal source of atmospheric  $pCO_2$ .



**Figure 9.** (**A**) The mean climatological  $pCO_2$  in the Arctic Ocean, with the sources shown in red and the sinks shown in blue. (**B**) The annual air–sea flux (TgC yr<sup>-1</sup>) of the Arctic Ocean from 2001 to 2020. (**C**) The air–sea  $pCO_2$  differences, gas exchange rates and SICs in different sectors. (**D**) The air–sea carbon fluxes (TgC yr<sup>-1</sup>) in different sectors of the Arctic Ocean from 2001 to 2020.

## 4. Discussion

## 4.1. Long-Time-Series Variations in Arctic pCO<sub>2</sub>

We used long-time-series  $pCO_2$  values for individual months to calculate interannual trends, which allows us to reduce the impact of specific events that occur in particular months, such as abrupt changes due to surges in primary productivity in ice melt regions. The computed trends of the 20-year monthly values were approximately  $1.41 \pm 0.015 \mu$  atm yr<sup>-1</sup> from 2001 to 2010 and  $2.16 \pm 0.019 \mu$  atm yr<sup>-1</sup> for the next decade, indicating that the growth rate of Arctic seawater  $pCO_2$  is increasing (Figure 10). Accompanied by an almost unchanged growth rate of atmospheric  $pCO_2$  (2.17  $\pm$  0.21  $\mu$ atm yr<sup>-1</sup>), the trend in Arctic seawater has gradually become flatter than that in the atmosphere over the past 20 years, thus allowing the Arctic to be maintained as a stable carbon sink based on the perspective of sea–air interactions.



**Figure 10.** The 20-year mean monthly Arctic  $pCO_2$  for the period from 2001 through 2020. Red represents atmospheric  $pCO_2$  and blue represents seawater  $pCO_2$ . The fitted line was calculated every decade, with purple representing 2001–2020 and gray representing the second decade.

In addition, we also statistically estimated the trends of the spatial distributions of  $pCO_2$  and SIC declines (Figure 11A,B). We found that the growth rates of sea surface  $pCO_2$  were remarkable in regions with significant sea ice retreat, such as the East Siberian Sea and the Kara Sea. Based on years of observation measurements, Qi et al., 2022 summarized that when sea ice is lost, the well-buffered seawater with relatively high alkalinity and low  $pCO_2$  near the sea ice is diluted by the meltwater with relatively low alkalinity, high  $pCO_2$  and a low buffer capacity [81]. Thus, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> invasion would result in greater overall declines in the pH and buffer capacity metrics in seawater diluted by meltwater compared to the original water. This ice-melt-driven mechanism can explain the amplified rapid increase in  $pCO_2$  observed in the Arctic Ocean over the past two decades.



**Figure 11.** The annual growth rates of (**A**) pCO<sub>2</sub> (µatm yr<sup>-1</sup>) and (**B**) SIC (% yr<sup>-1</sup>) from 2001 to 2020. Gray indicates a nonsignificant trend.

#### 4.2. Diurnal Carbon Fluxes and Mechanism Analysis in the Arctic

It is well known that near-equal day and night durations occur only in spring and autumn in extremely high latitudes. The March and September equinoxes mark the two days of each year when day and night are of equal length, with 12 h of daylight and 12 h of darkness at all points on the Earth's surface. Therefore, for simplicity, we discuss only March and June data when studying the intraday diurnal variations in carbon fluxes in the Arctic Ocean.

Based on the data retrieved from CALIPSO, the distribution of chlorophyll in the Arctic Ocean quite clearly reveals diurnal variations, and the spatial distribution of surface Chl-a is marked by high values on the continental shelf ranging from 0.7 to >3.0  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup>, reflecting higher nutrient concentrations and rates of primary production, while the Chl-a values generally range from 0.05 to 0.3  $\mu$ g L<sup>-1</sup> in the deep central Arctic Ocean (Figure 12A–D) [82]. The day/night ratio is higher than 1 in these regions, implying that the water column at 50 m above the sea surface has higher Chl-a during the day (Figure 12E,F). This area is influenced by several large rivers, and the low latitude zone located in the Arctic Ocean experiences relatively high insolation. Both in spring (March) and autumn (September), Chl-*a* is higher during the day than at night. It is of note that the Carbon C:Chl-a model of Behrenfeld et al., 2016, which represents an upper end model of the photo acclimation response, and the regression analyses of phytoplankton division from the Standard Model and values from any of the Alternative Models give coefficients of determination of  $r^2 = 0.99$ for both the North and South Polar Zones, indicating that the model variations slightly impact the amplitude of phytoplankton division values but have negligible impact on the annual cycles [83]. By contrast, the model of Westberry et al. (2008) assigns a very conservative fraction of C:Chl-a variability to photo acclimation and thus represents a lower end response model [84]. In the future, we will seek to study and establish a direct relationship between the LiDAR signal and chlorophyll using a machine learning method to avoid the spatio-temporal variability of C: Chl-a.



**Figure 12.** The (**A**) diurnal and (**B**) nocturnal climatological Chl-*a* of the Arctic Ocean in March and the (**C**) diurnal and (**D**) nocturnal climatological Chl-*a* of the Arctic Ocean in September. The ratios of the daytime Chl-*a* to the nighttime Chla-*a* in (**E**) March and (**F**) September.

Phytoplankton and the diel vertical migration (DVM) of animals together determine diurnal  $b_{bp}$  changes; in the absence of any DVM, the biomass-normalized  $b_{bp}$  is expected to be greater in diurnal than nocturnal due to the increase in phytoplankton cell size and

organic carbon content during the day and cell division and metabolism at night [85–88]. These diurnal differences create a baseline diurnal cycle in the biomass-normalized  $b_{bp}$  with a maximum in the afternoon and a minimum at night [85]. However, the presence of DVM animals increases  $b_{bp}$  at night and therefore causes diurnal  $b_{bp}$  difference to become less negative than the phytoplankton-only signal. Thus, our diurnal difference from the CALIPSO signal may be underestimated, which means the actual Chl-*a* diurnal difference is larger than the current results.

In spring and autumn, in general, the daytime  $dpCO_2$  is slightly smaller than the nighttime  $dpCO_2$  (92.8% on average for the whole Arctic Ocean), while relatively large diurnal variations occur in a small range of coastal water masses, such as the Kara Sea estuary (the green region in Figure 13D). Compared to spring, autumn ice retreat is more widespread, and we can observe a significant amount of daytime Chl-*a* along the shores of the Laptev and East Siberian Seas. This phenomenon also causes higher autumn *p*CO<sub>2</sub> regionally, with values even higher than those in the atmosphere, thus resulting in a seasonal small-regional carbon source (the purple region in Figure 13F). In conclusion, except for some small nearshore estuarine regions, the Arctic Ocean is a stable carbon sink regardless of day and night.

In contrast, wind speeds show an interesting parahemispheric distribution bounded by Novaya Zemlya and Greenland, with higher daytime than nighttime winds in Baffin Bay, the Greenland Sea, the Barents Sea and the Kara Sea (with a mean diurnal ratio of approximately 101.1%) and higher nighttime winds in the Siberian Sea, the Chukchi Sea of the Lavetev Sea and the Canadian Arctic Archipelago (with a mean diurnal ratio of approximately 93.9%); this distribution pattern is not altered by seasonal changes (Figure 13B,E). Consequently, the spatial combination of the sea surface partial pressure and wind speed affects the diurnal carbon sink in the Arctic. On the Atlantic side, the partial pressure difference and the wind speed exert opposite effects, whereby the magnitude of the wind speed eventually becomes the main controlling mechanism, thus resulting in a larger absorption rate during the day than at night (Figure 13C,F). On the Pacific side, the partial pressure difference and wind speed are shown to be higher at night, and together, these conditions cause the diurnal absorption rate to be smaller in the daytime than at night (Figure 13F).



**Figure 13.** Ratios of daytime to nighttime (**A**) dpCO<sub>2</sub>, (**B**)  $k_w$  and (**C**) air–sea carbon fluxes in March and of daytime to nighttime (**D**) dpCO<sub>2</sub>, (**E**)  $k_w$  and (**F**) air–sea carbon fluxes in September.

#### 5. Conclusions

In this study, we foremost constructed an FFN-LID model to derive Arctic  $pCO_2$  and formed a long-time-series dataset containing variations in air–sea  $CO_2$  fluxes from 2001 to 2020 as well as diurnal products from 2007 to 2020.

Not only are the normal passive remote sensing products used in this work, but CALIPSO-recorded Chl-*a* and wind speed data are also added as inputs to build the FNN-LID model. This is the first time LiDAR has been employed in research on the Arctic air–sea carbon cycle. The CloudSat and Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation (CALIPSO) platform can provide data not only at a large coverage, including the polar regions, but can also provide a clearer understanding of global diurnal  $pCO_2$  variations. Although some models replace Arctic winter Chl-*a* data with the climatological average or interpolated Chl-*a* values, these statistical Chl-*a* values result in the gap-filled wintertime  $pCO_2$  map having potential errors. The CALIPSO measurements obtained through active LiDAR sensing are not limited by solar radiation and can thus provide 'fill-in' data for the late autumn to early spring seasons to compensate for data missing from ocean color sensors; in this way, we were able to construct the first complete record of polar  $pCO_2$ .

By analyzing the FNN-LID results, we found that the Arctic  $pCO_2$  exhibited different spatial characteristics during the day and night. The FFN-LID model fitted the measurements with an overall mean R<sup>2</sup> of 0.75 and an average RMSE of 24.59 µatm in the Arctic and could better reconstruct values in two high- $pCO_2$  sectors (the Laptev Sea and the East Siberian Sea) compared to other models. The FNN-LID observation-based product fills the observational gaps in wintertime, indicating that the surface water  $pCO_2$  is higher in winter than in summer (e.g., approximately 81.1 ± 39.16 µatm in the Greenland Sea and Barents Sea). The Arctic Ocean net  $CO_2$  sinks showed a significant increase from 2001 to 2005 and remained at  $0.15 \pm 0.01$  TgC yr<sup>-1</sup> over the next 15 years with seasonal sources on some continental shelves. The primary factor controlling the  $CO_2$  sink was the percentage of ice-covered areas. In addition, we found that the computed growth rate of Arctic seawater  $pCO_2$  was increasing over the study period and that the corresponding growth rates were remarkable in sectors with significant sea ice retreat.

The water column at 50 m above the sea surface has higher Chl-*a* values during the day than at night in spring and autumn. In addition, the spatial combination of the sea surface partial pressure and wind speed affects the diurnal carbon sink in the Arctic: the partial pressure difference and the wind speed exert opposite effects, whereby the magnitude of the wind speed eventually becomes the main controlling mechanism, thus resulting in a larger absorption rate during the day on the Atlantic side. However, on the Pacific side, the partial pressure difference and wind speed are shown to be higher at night, and together, these factors cause the diurnal absorption rate to be smaller in the daytime than at night.

The model constructed herein extends the study of remote sensing data with regard to polar research and diurnal variations. With the accumulation of remote sensing data, we plan to further extend our study of carbonate systems in other sea ice regions and to try to use higher-resolution spatial data to analyze carbonate systems in nearshore and coastal ecosystems. Meanwhile, both C: Chl-*a* variability and DVM affect the results of the model; our next step will be to analyze in more detail and try to clarify the contribution ratio of diurnal variation and DVM in the change of the  $b_{bp}$  signal for a better understanding and awareness of  $pCO_2$ .

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