

The deep Arctic Ocean and Fram Strait in CMIP6 models

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8 ABSTRACT: Arctic sea ice loss has become a symbol of ongoing climate change, yet climate
9 models still struggle to reproduce it accurately, let alone predict it. A reason for this is the
10 increasingly clear role of the ocean, especially the "Atlantic layer", on sea ice processes. We
11 here quantify biases in that Atlantic layer and the Arctic Ocean deeper layers in 14 representative
12 models that participated in the Climate Model Intercomparison Project phase 6. Compared to
13 observational climatologies and a database of hydrographic profiles, the modelled Atlantic layer
14 core is too cold by on average -0.4°C and too deep by 400 m in the Nansen basin, in too thick a
15 layer that, in some models, extends to the seafloor. Deep and bottom waters are in contrast too
16 warm by 1.1 and 1.2°C . Furthermore, the properties hardly change throughout the Arctic. We
17 attribute these biases to an inaccurate representation of shelf processes: only three models seem to
18 produce dense water overflows, at too few locations, and these do not sink deep enough. No model
19 compensates with open ocean deep convection. Therefore, the properties are set by the inaccurate
20 fluxes through Fram Strait, biased low by up to 6 Sv, but coupled to a too-warm Fram Strait,
21 resulting in a somewhat accurate heat inflow. These fluxes are related to biases in the Nordic Seas,
22 themselves previously attributed to inaccurate sea ice extent and atmospheric modes of variability,
23 thus highlighting the need for overall improvements in the different model components and their
24 coupling.

25 SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT: Coupled climate models are routinely used for climate change
26 projection and adaptation, but they are only so good as the data used to create them. And in the deep
27 Arctic, those data are few. We determine how biased 14 of the most recent models are regarding
28 the deep Arctic Ocean and the Arctic's only deep gateway, Fram Strait (between Greenland and
29 Svalbard). They are very biased: too cold where they should be warm, too warm where they should
30 be cold, not stratified enough, not in contact with the surface as they should, moving the wrong
31 way around the Arctic, etc. The problem seems to come from out of the Arctic and/or out of the
32 ocean.

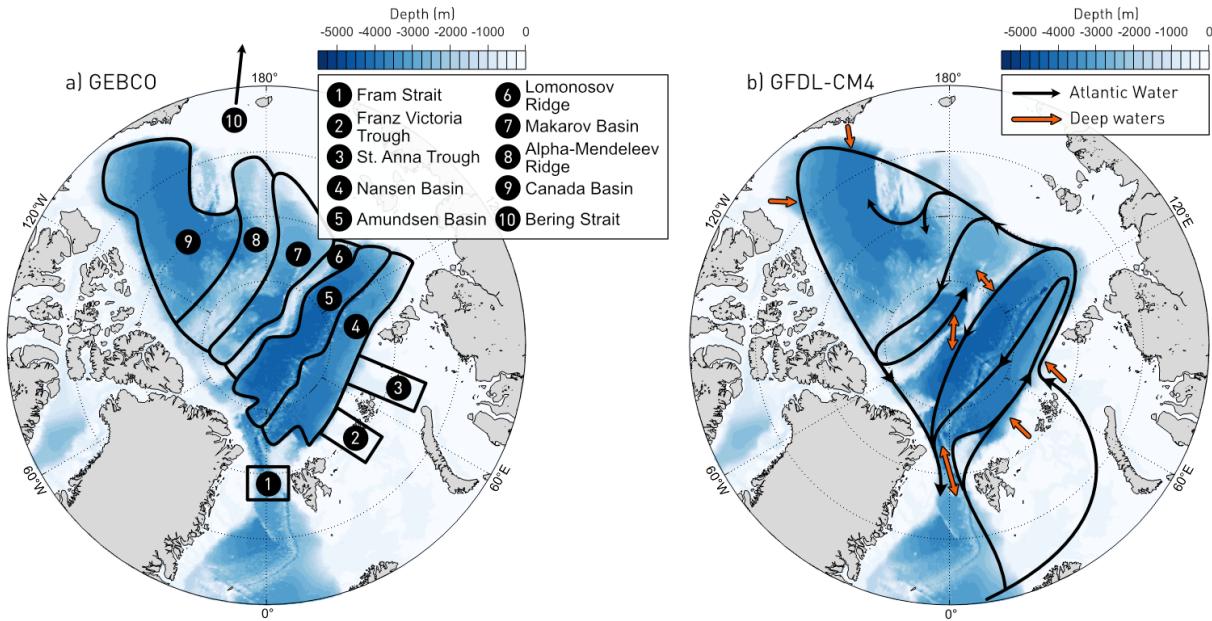
33 **1. Introduction**

34 The Arctic is one of the regions most affected by ongoing climate change (IPCC 2019), warming
35 2–3 times as fast as the global average (IPCC 2021) and consequently losing its sea ice cover.
36 Since the beginning of the satellite record, the sea ice extent has been reduced by more than 1 m²
37 per year per ton CO₂ in winter, and more than 3 m² per year per ton CO₂ in summer (Stroeve and
38 Notz 2018), while the sea ice thickness has been reduced by 66% (Kwok 2018). The multi-year
39 ice area has halved (Kwok 2018), and as a result the shelves have become seasonally ice free
40 (Onarheim et al. 2018). These changes are associated with changes in freshwater content in the
41 upper ocean (Solomon et al. 2021, and references therein), but more and more clearly seem to be
42 caused by and enhancing changes in the deeper layers (Årthun and Eldevik 2016), in particular
43 the Atlantic Water, via a process known as the "Atlantification" of the Arctic Ocean (Polyakov
44 et al. 2017). Climate models, however, fail to reproduce the sea ice evolution (Notz and SIMIP
45 Community 2020), notably because their upper Arctic Ocean representation strongly varies among
46 models (Ilicak et al. 2016; Lique and Thomas 2018; Zanowski et al. 2021). We here investigate
47 their representation of the deeper Arctic ocean layers, from the Atlantic Water to the seafloor.

48 The Arctic Ocean consists of four deep basins (Fig. 1): the Nansen and Amundsen basins
49 on the Eurasian side, and the Makarov and Canada basins on the Amerasian side, separated by
50 the Lomonosov Ridge. The Eurasian basin contains two water masses below 1000 m (Smethie
51 et al. 1988): the Eurasian Basin Deep Water (EBDW, down to 2500 m depth) and Eurasian Basin
52 Bottom Water (EBBW, from 2500 m to the seafloor). The denser deep and bottom waters are
53 primarily the result of sea ice formation on the Siberian shelf (Nansen, F. 1906): when sea ice

54 forms, brine is rejected, and the resulting dense water cascades off the shelf through troughs and
55 canyons (Aagaard 1981; Rudels et al. 1999). This cascading is often referred to as “overflow”, the
56 term we use in this manuscript. The only deep connection between the Arctic Ocean and the global
57 oceanic circulation is via Fram Strait (ca 2500 m deep), through which the comparatively warm
58 and salty Atlantic Water enters from the Nordic Seas. North of Fram Strait, the Atlantic Water
59 circulates cyclonically around the entire Arctic Ocean at depths no greater than 900 m (Rudels
60 et al. 1999; Aksenov et al. 2011). However, its properties impact the whole water column as it
61 can be entrained by the overflows (Smethie et al. 1988; Frank et al. 1998; Valk et al. 2020). At
62 the bottom of Fram Strait, the Eurasian Basin Deep Water flows out. Part of it mixes with fresh
63 Greenland Sea deep waters and flows back into the Arctic through Fram Strait (Frank et al. 1998;
64 Langehaug and Falck 2012; von Appen et al. 2015), below the Atlantic Water. In the Amerasian
65 basin, the deep water mass is the Canada Basin Deep Water (CBDW), the saltiest and warmest of
66 the Arctic deep waters (Aagaard et al. 1985), suspected to be modified Eurasian Basin Deep Water
67 that intruded through the Lomonosov Ridge. There is no agreement as to whether this intrusion
68 happens continuously (Timmermans and Garrett 2006), in pulses (Timmermans et al. 2005), or
69 whether it happened and stopped centuries ago (Schlosser et al. 1997). The higher salinity and
70 temperature of this Canada basin deep water compared to its Eurasian source is most likely caused
71 by shelf overflows in the Amerasian basin (Rudels 1986; Ivanov et al. 2004). Eventually, Canada
72 Basin Deep Water intrudes back into the Eurasian basin through canyons in the Lomonosov Ridge
73 (orange arrows on Fig. 1), as a very salty deep water (Björk et al. 2018).

74 To properly represent the deep Arctic circulation, models need to accurately simulate 1. sea ice
75 and upper Arctic Ocean processes, 2. flow through Fram Strait and upstream ocean properties,
76 and 3. bathymetry. Earlier studies suggest that this was challenging in the previous generation of
77 climate models (Shu et al. 2019) and will continue to be challenging for the models that participated
78 in the latest Climate Model Intercomparison Project, phase 6 (CMIP6, Eyring et al. 2016): their
79 Arctic sea ice (Notz and SIMIP Community 2020), Arctic solid and liquid freshwater storage and
80 fluxes (Zanowski et al. 2021), and properties and processes upstream in the Nordic Seas (Heuzé
81 2021) are inaccurate, or at least the models have a large range of behaviours. The vast majority
82 also fail to reproduce overflows in other parts of the world (Heuzé 2021). Khosravi et al. (2022)
83 recently published an overview of biases in the Atlantic Water; we here expand on their results
84



74 FIG. 1. Bathymetry of the Arctic north of 70°N in a) GEBCO (GEBCO Compilation Group 2021) and b) the
 75 CMIP6 model with the highest resolution in our study, GFDL-CM4 (Adcroft et al. 2019). Contours and numbers
 76 on a) highlight the regions discussed in this manuscript. Black arrows on b) indicate the known circulation of
 77 the Atlantic layer (e.g. Rudels 2009); orange arrows, the main features of the deep water circulation.

88 by assessing not only the Atlantic Water but also the deep and bottom waters, and by explaining
 89 the causes for all these biases, focussing on the models' mean historical state only. We start by
 90 describing the 14 CMIP6 models and methods that we use (Section 2) before quantifying the biases
 91 in all Arctic deep waters in all basins (Section 3a). We then assess the representation of overflows
 92 and circulation of the deep water masses within the Arctic (Section 3b) and finally evaluate the
 93 fluxes through Fram Strait and their relation to the biases in the Arctic (Section 3c). We finish with
 94 a discussion, notably on possible directions for CMIP7 (Section 4).

95 2. Data and Methods

96 a. The CMIP6 models

97 We use the output from 14 fully coupled models that participated in the Climate Model Intercom-
 98 parison Project phase 6 (CMIP6, Eyring et al. 2016), listed in Table 1. These models were selected
 99 following a preliminary study on the 35 CMIP6 models used in Heuzé (2021) as representative of

106 TABLE 1. Characteristics of the 14 CMIP6 models used in this study: horizontal grid type, which output if
 107 any are missing, horizontal resolution in the Arctic, type of vertical grid and number of vertical levels, ocean
 108 model component, ocean climatology used to initialise the model, and reference. The horizontal resolution in
 109 the Arctic (4th column) was calculated as the square root of the total area north of 70°N divided by the number
 110 of points the model has north of 70°N. For the vertical grids, ρ means isopycnic; σ terrain-following; and several
 111 symbols, hybrid.

Model	Grid type	Missing	Resolution	Vertical grid	Ocean model	Initialisation	Reference
BCC-CSM2-MR	Tripolar	agesc	54 km	z 40	MOM4-L40v2	WOA13	Wu et al. (2019)
CAMS-CSM1-0	Tripolar	agesc	54 km	z 50	MOM4	WOA2001	Rong et al. (2019)
CESM2	Rotated	/	41 km	z 60	POP2	PHC2(.0?)	Danabasoglu et al. (2020)
CanESM5	Tripolar	/	50 km	z 45	NEMO3.4.1	WOA09	Swart et al. (2019)
EC-Earth3	Tripolar	agesc	49 km	z^* 75	NEMO3.6	WOA13	Döscher et al. (2021)
GFDL-CM4	Tripolar	agesc	9 km	ρ - z^* 75	MOM6	WOA13	Adcroft et al. (2019)
GFDL-ESM4	Tripolar	agesc, uo, vo	18 km	ρ - z^* 75	MOM6	WOA13	Dunne et al. (2020)
GISS-E2-1-H	Regular	agesc	46 km	ρ - z - σ 32	Hycom	WOA13	Kelley et al. (2020)
IPSL-CM6A-LR	Tripolar	/	49 km	z^* 75	NEMO3.2	WOA13	Lurton et al. (2020)
MIROC6	Tripolar	/	39 km	z - σ 62	COCO4.9	PHC3	Tatebe et al. (2019)
MPI-ESM1-2-HR	Tripolar	/	36 km	z 40	MPIOM1.63	PHC3	Müller et al. (2018)
MRI-ESM2-0	Tripolar	/	39 km	z^* 60	MRI.COMv4	WOA13	Yukimoto et al. (2019)
NorESM2-LM	Tripolar	/	38 km	ρ - z 53	BLOM (MICOM)	PHC3	Seland et al. (2020)
UKESM1-0-LL	Tripolar	/	50 km	z^* 75	NEMO3.6	EN4(.2.1?)	Sellar et al. (2020)

100 their family, for diversity in vertical grid types, for comparison with those used in a companion
 101 paper (Mulwijk et al. *subm.*), and after eliminating the ones with the lowest resolution or poorest
 102 bathymetry. Most of the models we selected have a resolution of ~ 50 km in the Arctic (9 km for
 103 the highest resolution) and 50 levels or more in the vertical. No more than two models share the
 104 same ocean component with the same version, and these 14 models have been initialised using 6
 105 different ocean climatologies (Table 1).

112 We evaluate the last 30 years of the historical run, i.e. January 1985 - December 2014, and
 113 only one ensemble member for each model. The output we use are the monthly seawater salinity
 114 ‘so’, potential temperature ‘thetao’, eastward velocity ‘uo’, and northward velocity ‘vo’, except for
 115 GFDL-ESM4 for which uo and vo were not archived. For 8 models, we also use the seawater age
 116 since surface contact ‘agesc’, which we will hereafter refer to as the age of water. For the mixed
 117 layer depth, we used the ‘mlost’ output when available, and otherwise computed it as per the CMIP6

118 protocol by first computing the potential density σ_θ from the monthly salinity and temperature,
119 and then using a threshold of 0.125 kg m^{-3} referenced to 10 m depth. The ‘mlost’ and computed
120 values are not the same due to the non-linearity of the equation of state, but as shown in Heuzé
121 (2021), the difference is not significant for shallow mixed layers. With the exception of the mixed
122 layer computation, we use the density referenced to 2000 m depth σ_2 as a compromise considering
123 the wide range of depths covered. The diagnostics based on σ_2 differences were also done using
124 σ_0 and σ_4 (not shown), but no significant differences in our results were found. All densities
125 were computed using the TEOS10 equation of state as implemented in the Gibbs-SeaWater (GSW)
126 Oceanographic Toolbox (McDougall and Barker 2011).

127 All computations were performed on the models’ native grid with these two exceptions:

- 128 • The GISS-E2-1-H and NorESM2-LM native vertical grids were particularly challenging to
129 work with, so we instead show their regularised grid output. We nevertheless verified that our
130 key results still hold on the native grid;
- 131 • The comparisons to the climatology in section 3.a and 3.c were performed after interpolating
132 all the model temperature and salinity values onto the climatology’s grid.

133 *b. Observational data*

134 To quantify biases in the CMIP6 models, we first compare them to the Unified Database for
135 Arctic and Subarctic Hydrography (UDASH, Behrendt et al. 2018) by generating basin- 30-year-
136 average temperature and salinity profiles in the four deep basins of the Arctic Ocean (as defined on
137 Fig. 1). As the UDASH profiles are scattered, rather than interpolate them ourselves we use the
138 World Ocean Atlas 2018 (WOA18, Locarnini et al. 2018; Zweng et al. 2018) objectively analysed
139 annual fields at a 0.25° resolution for all computations where the model and observations had to
140 be colocated.

141 As we will show in this manuscript, the deep waters appear to not be ventilated and can be much
142 older than in observations (e.g. Tanhua et al. 2009). One hypothesis that we test is whether the
143 deep ocean is, in fact, still relaxing from its initialisation. To test this hypothesis, we needed to
144 know the climatology with which the model was initialised, which is often not indicated in the
145 model description, although several modelling centres did (Danabasoglu et al. 2020; Seland et al.
146 2020; Tatebe et al. 2019) or even produced a tuning-specific publication (Mignot et al. 2021). For

147 all other models listed in Table 1, we obtained information regarding the climatology after email
148 exchange with the modellers (see Acknowledgments).

149 Most models use an earlier version of the World Ocean Atlas as initialisation, with 7 out of 14
150 models using the version that was the latest as the models ran, i.e. WOA13. Two models use
151 an even earlier version from 2009 or even 2001. The main difference between the versions is the
152 amount of data ingested and the time period of the data; the reader will find more information about
153 the versions' differences in the WOA18 publications (Locarnini et al. 2018; Zweng et al. 2018).
154 The second most common climatology is the Polar science center Hydrographic Climatology
155 (PHC, Steele et al. 2001), which includes the WOA98 data and the Arctic Ocean Atlas (AOA,
156 Environmental Working Group 1997, 1998), gridded compilation of previously classified US and
157 Russian hydrographic data collected during the Cold War. One model uses the original PHC2
158 from 2001, while three models use the updated PHC3 from 2005. Finally, the Met Office Hadley
159 Centre model UKESM1-0-LL uses the Met Office Hadley Centre climatology EN4 (Good et al.
160 2013), which merges the World Ocean Database 2009 with many available Arctic observations and
161 Argo data (see Good et al. 2013, for more information). All these products have a $1 \times 1^\circ$ horizontal
162 resolution.

163 *c. Methods*

164 The primary objective of this paper is to quantify biases in the properties of the deep water
165 masses of the Arctic Ocean: the Atlantic Water (AW), the Eurasian Basin Deep Water (EBDW),
166 its counterpart the Canada Basin Deep Water (CBDW), and the Eurasian Basin Bottom Water
167 (EBBW). Traditionally, for observational datasets, the definition of these water masses is based
168 on temperature, salinity, or density values (e.g. Smethie et al. 1988; Rudels 2009; Korhonen et al.
169 2013). As we expect these properties to be biased in the models, we instead chose these three
170 definitions:

- 171 • the Atlantic Water core is the depth of the temperature maximum, between 100 and 2000 m
172 depth. This definition is similar to the real Arctic, but without imposing a constraint on the
173 value of the temperature maximum;

174 • deep water properties are those at 2000 m. In observations, EBDW sits between approx. 1000
175 and 2500 m depth in the Eurasian basin, and CBDW extends from approx. 1000 m all the
176 way to the seafloor;

177 • bottom water properties are those of the deepest grid cell with a value.

178 The upper ocean is not the topic of this paper. We nevertheless investigate whether biases in the
179 upper ocean and in the deep layers are related, and therefore computed the mean temperature,
180 salinity, and density in the top 100 m as a proxy for upper ocean properties. Similarly, a detailed
181 study of stratification is provided by Muilwijk et al. (subm.); we here only provide a simplified
182 definition of stratification, taken as the difference between the upper 100 m mean density and that
183 of the AW core.

184 We compare the properties of the different water masses in the four deep basins of the Arctic
185 north of 70°N (Fig. 1a), where “deep” is defined as deeper than 2000 m. The shelf is defined
186 as shallower than 1000 m. Throughout this manuscript, we use the short name “Siberian shelf”
187 to refer to the shelf along the Eurasian basin, i.e. from Fram Strait to 160°W. As we will show,
188 no deep water formation occurs on the shelf along the Canada basin, so we do not focus on this
189 region. Finally, to briefly investigate the deep outflows from the Arctic, we determine the biases
190 on the Greenland shelf, i.e. around Greenland but north of 70°N.

191 In the Arctic, dense waters cascading from the shelf to the deep basin, commonly referred to as
192 overflows, strongly modify the properties of all water masses (e.g. Aagaard 1981; Luneva et al.
193 2020). As summarised in Luneva et al. (2020), these overflows are bottom-trapped gravity currents
194 characterised by a comparatively high density, but also by a young age, as they sink off the shelf
195 within the same year that they sank from the surface to the shelf seafloor. Therefore, we detect
196 their presence in models by studying:

- 197 • the minimum age at the bottom grid cell, for the 8 models that provided the age of water output
- 198 • the maximum bottom density, for the other 6 models.

199 For both groups of models, we look for a continuity in this diagnostic on and off the shelf, in
200 maps of the bottom properties, and in sections along and across the troughs where we expect their
201 presence.

202 Finally, we determine the influence of Fram Strait on the deep Arctic Ocean properties by
 203 computing the volume, salt, and heat fluxes through that section as follows, where S is the salinity,
 204 θ is the potential temperature, ρ_2 is the potential density referenced to 2000 dbar ($\rho_2 = \sigma_2 + 1000$,
 205 with σ_2 defined previously), and $c_p = 3900 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$:

$$F_{volume} = \iint_A \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{n} dA \quad (1)$$

$$F_{salt} = \iint_A S \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{n} dA \quad (2)$$

$$F_{heat} = c_p \iint_A \rho_2 \theta \mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{n} dA \quad (3)$$

208 Note that strictly speaking, this is no true transport as this would require a closed volume budget
 209 across Fram Strait (Schauer and Beszczynska-Möller 2009). This method is nevertheless routinely
 210 used to compute “volume fluxes” and “heat fluxes” from observations, so we use it to enable
 211 comparison between models and the real Arctic and refer to it as fluxes (without quotation marks).
 212 Besides, each model’s heat flux should in theory be computed relative to a temperature representa-
 213 tive of the flow. That is, for each model, the shallow inflow, shallow outflow, deep inflow and deep
 214 outflow, if all clearly distinguishable, would each have a different reference temperature. To ease
 215 the across-model comparison, all heat fluxes are instead computed relative to 0°C (as done in e.g.
 216 Ilıcak et al. 2016; Muilwijk et al. 2018). Similarly, instead of computing a so-called freshwater
 217 flux, i.e. relative to a reference salinity which would, again, have to be meaningful for each specific
 218 model, we compute the flux of salt. As its value is rarely given in the literature, we focus our
 219 analysis on F_{volume} and F_{heat} .

220 As in Zanowski et al. (2021), the boundaries for Fram Strait were chosen by hand for each
 221 model and span 20°W - 12°E , 78°N - 80°N . For the rotated and tripolar grids, the northward velocity
 222 ‘vo’ does not correspond to velocities towards the true north 90°N but rather towards the model’s
 223 location of the North Pole. Therefore, for all models, $\mathbf{v} \cdot \hat{n}$ is the velocity into / out of the Arctic,
 224 normal to the model’s coast-to-coast section. All fluxes were computed on the models’ native
 225 horizontal grids. CMIP6 variable ‘thkcello’ (ocean model cell thickness) was used for those
 226 models with time-varying cell thicknesses, unless specific instructions were provided in the model

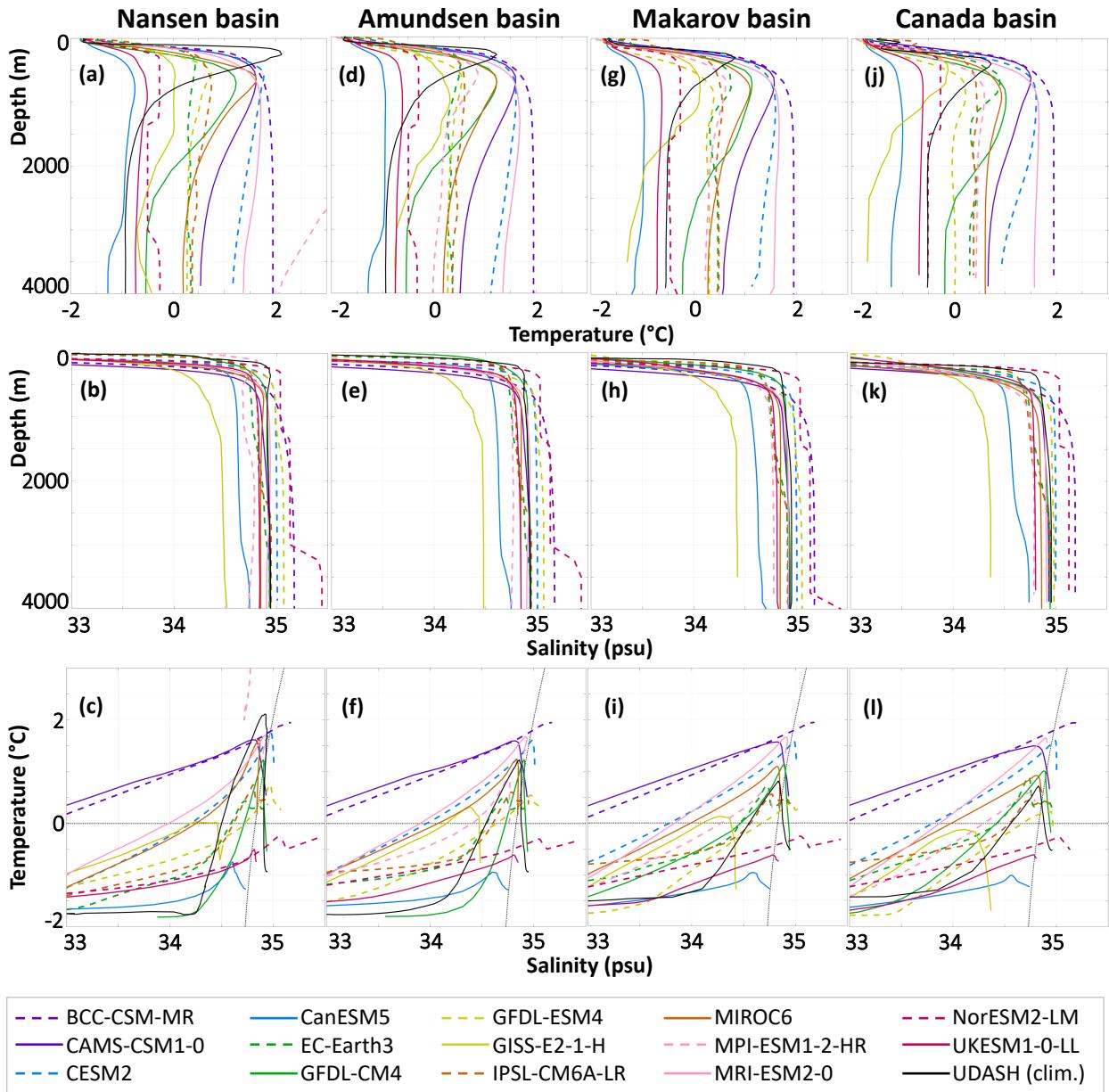
227 output for computing cell thickness (i.e., MIROC6, GFDL-CM4). The routines are freely available
228 on Zenodo (doi:10.5281/zenodo.4606856).

229 **3. Results**

230 In this section, we first quantify the biases in the properties of the Atlantic Water, deep, and bottom
231 water masses and their horizontal and vertical relationships. We then evaluate the representation of
232 the processes that set these properties, within the Arctic Ocean (subsection 3b) and at Fram Strait
233 (subsection 3c).

234 *a. Biases in water mass properties*

240 We start by quantifying biases in the mean temperature and salinity and their evolution with
241 depth in the four deep basins (Fig. 2 and individual values in supp. Tables A1 to A3). As the
242 Nansen basin lies closest to its inflow, in observations, the Atlantic Water, defined as the profile's
243 temperature maximum, is warm (black line, Fig. 2a), salty (Fig. 2b) and constrained to a narrow
244 shallow depth range, around 200 m depth. In the models in contrast (colours), the Atlantic Water
245 lies deeper (multimodel average of 395 m, ranging from 76 to 1321 m) and occupies a thicker
246 layer, which is in agreement with the findings of Khosravi et al. (2022) in CMIP6, and Ilıcak et al.
247 (2016) for CORE-II. In fact, had we used the standard definitions that the Atlantic Water is anything
248 warmer than 0°C (e.g. Korhonen et al. 2013) or lighter than 27.97 kg m⁻³ (e.g. Rudels 2009) (black
249 dotted lines on Fig. 2c), we would have found Atlantic Water all the way to the seafloor in half of the
250 models. Therefore, although on average the models are biased cold in the Atlantic Water (MMM
251 of -0.44°C), they are warmer than the climatology at 2000 m depth (MMM of 1.14°C) and at the
252 bottom of the Nansen basin (1.25°C). The salinity profile is also inaccurate: when in observations
253 the AW is the salinity maximum, in 10/14 models the salinity continues to increase with depth.
254 Consequently, the T-S diagram in the Nansen basin (Fig. 2c) is unrealistic for the majority of the
255 models. Most models have a shape somewhat resembling that of the observations (black), but
256 with peaks at the wrong temperature and/or salinity and of a largely inaccurate magnitude (see
257 e.g. CanESM5, plain blue line). The least inaccurate is GFDL-CM4 (plain green line), despite an
258 AW core lying on average 400 m too deep and the whole AW layer extending to 2000 m depth.
259 One of the most inaccurate is NorESM2-LM, which has "geometric" hydrographic profiles. This



235 FIG. 2. Area-weighted mean temperature (top) and salinity (middle) profiles with depth, and corresponding
 236 T-S diagram (bottom), for each CMIP6 model and the observations in UDASH (Behrendt et al. 2018), for each
 237 of the deep Arctic basins. MPI-ESM1-2-HR is not visible on panel a) as its temperature is biased too warm (over
 238 10°C in the upper ocean). On the T-S diagrams, the black dotted lines indicate the 0°C isotherm and 27.97 kg
 239 m⁻³ isopycnal.

260 is because on its native isopycnic grid (not shown), as the model is comparatively unstratified,
 261 some density classes occupy hundreds of metres. On average, the models are less stratified than

262 observations: they have a dense bias in the AW and a light bias in the deeper layers; this result will
263 be important in subsection 3b when investigating the ventilation.

264 All four deep basins exhibit the same biases: the Atlantic layer is too deep, too thick, and in
265 some cases occupies the entire depth of the basin (Fig. 2). This suggests that the biases throughout
266 the water column are linked, which they are (Fig. 3). For all basins, the across-model relationship
267 between any two properties of the different water masses in that basin is split in two distinct depth
268 levels:

- 269 • The biases in the upper 100 m are strongly correlated to each other: warm biases are associated
270 with salty biases, which are associated with dense biases, which are associated with a weak
271 stratification. These suggest that the wrong water mass is at the surface, but investigating this
272 is beyond the scope of this paper. What is relevant for this study is that the biases in the upper
273 100 m are not correlated to those of the other water masses (empty squares in the top four
274 lines, Fig. 3).
- 275 • From the Atlantic layer down, the biases in all properties and water masses are positively
276 correlated to each other. As our definitions artificially split the Canada Basin Deep Water
277 in two different water masses (2000 m depth and bottom), we expect a strong correlation
278 between these two depth levels in the Makarov and Canada basins. However, the correlations
279 are larger than 0.9 across all basins and depth levels (diagonal of deep red values, Fig. 3), and
280 the actual values nearly align along the unit line when plotted against each other (not shown).
281 As suspected from Fig. 2, most models in our study do not have distinct deep water masses,
282 but rather fill the deep basins with a similar water from the Atlantic Water level to the seafloor.

283 Note that Fig. 3 was created using the area-weighted means, but the same results were found if
284 using the area-weighted RMSE or the actual properties. Finally, the reader may have noticed that
285 the Atlantic Water core depth (AWCD) is not correlated to any other property – we will come back
286 to this finding later in the manuscript.

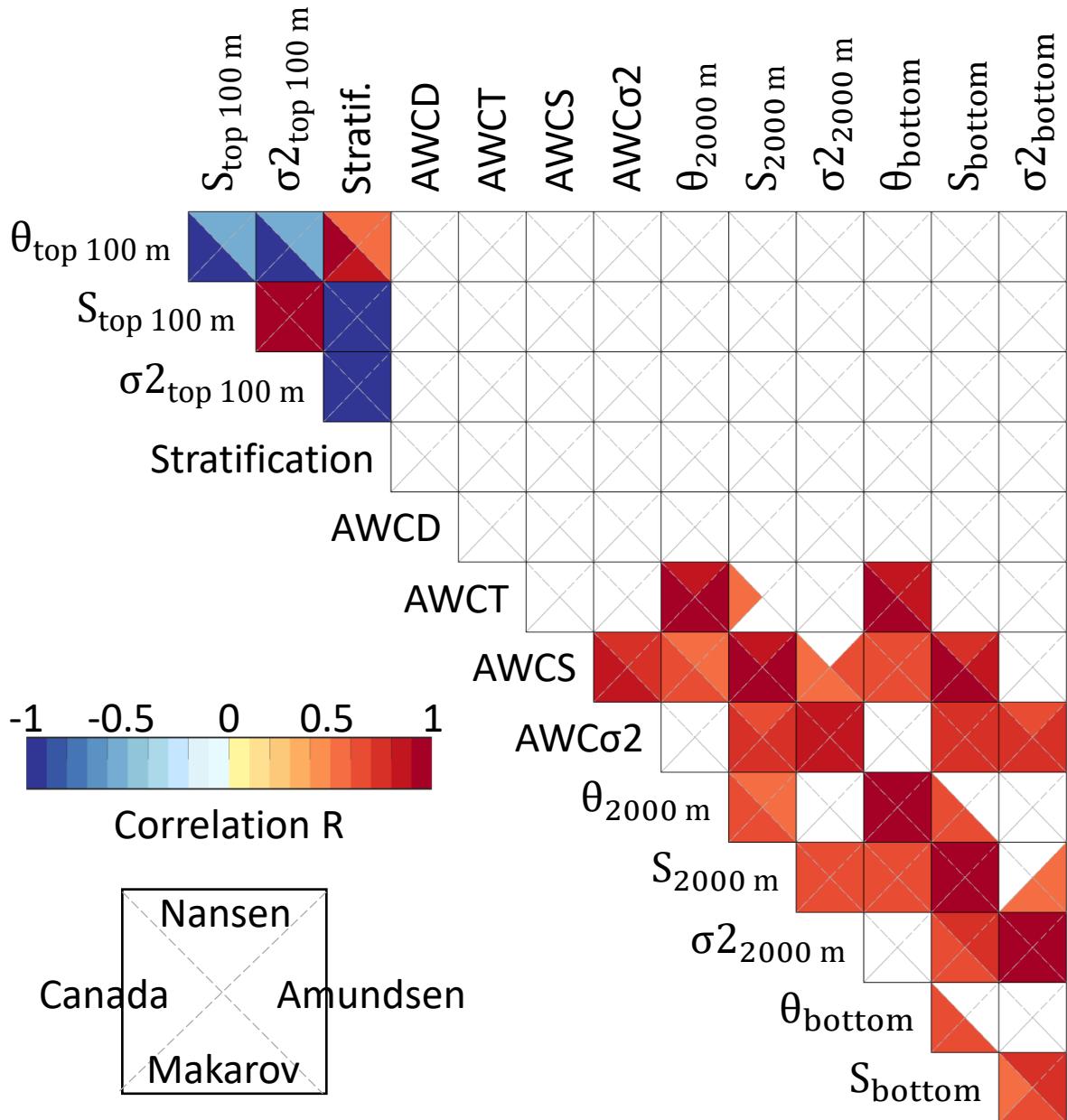
294 In observations, the properties of each water mass evolve not only with depth but also horizontally.
295 Most visibly, the Atlantic Water becomes colder, fresher, deeper and thicker, and consequently
296 results in a less pronounced peak on the T-S diagram as it travels from the Nansen basin to the
297 Canada basin (black lines, Fig. 2). We do not observe this in models. AW density and temperature
298 show little change across the Arctic. As a result, the biases (supp. Tables A1 to A3) change

299 primarily because the value in the reference climatology changes rather than the values in the
300 models. This is most visible when the properties are mapped (Fig. 4 and supp. Figs. A1 and
301 A2): the AW appears biased dense and cold the most in the Nansen basin, as it is the basin where
302 the density is lowest and temperature highest in the climatology. The maps reveal that no basin
303 is better represented than the others; rather, the difference is largest when comparing the different
304 water masses (RMSE, value on Fig. 4), and when comparing the deep basins to the shelves. No
305 model clearly outperforms the others, and instead the model with the lowest bias depends on the
306 depth and property considered (Fig. 4 and supp. Figs. A1 and A2, second row).

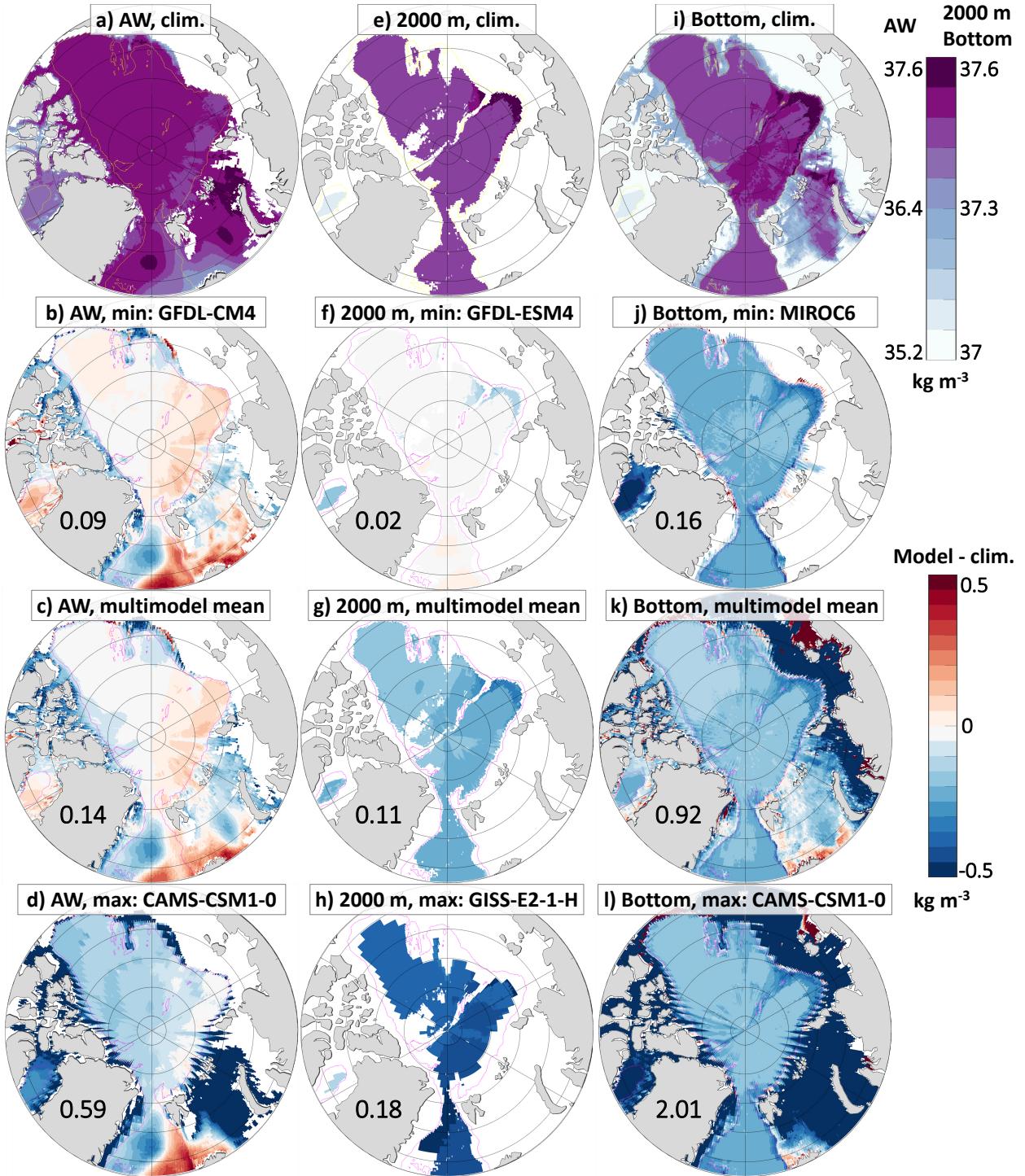
312 As for the evolution with depth, we verify that for each water mass its biases are consistent
313 throughout the Arctic as suggested by Fig. 4 by computing the across model correlations between
314 the basins (Fig. 5). For the four deep basins, the temperature and the salinity, and the three water
315 masses, the correlations often exceed 0.9 (dark red on Fig. 5). There are two exceptions:

- 316 • On the Siberian shelf, there are no correlations with the deep basins. This suggests that the
317 majority of models do not accurately represent the connection between the Siberian shelf and
318 the deep basin via dense water overflows. We investigate this further in the next subsection.
- 319 • On the Greenland shelf, there are no significant correlations in salinity but strong correlations
320 in temperature, especially with the AW in the deep basins. This suggests that the flow
321 of Atlantic Water from the deep basins southward through Fram Strait may be accurately
322 represented. We investigate this further in the next two subsections.

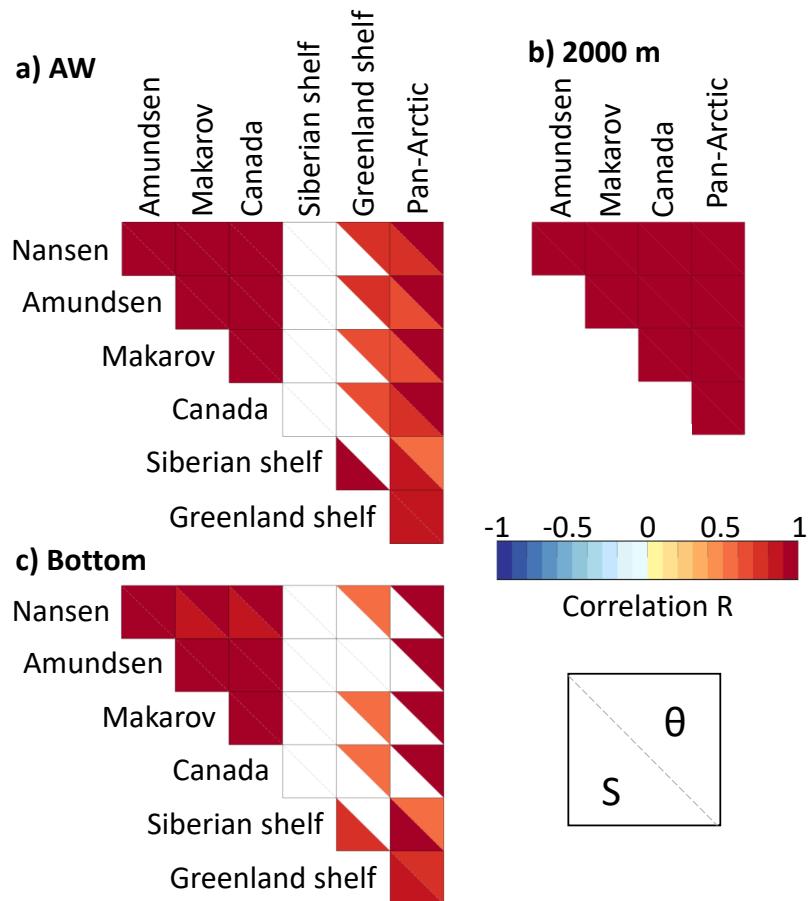
327 In summary, across CMIP6 models the Atlantic layer is biased cold, fresh, and dense when
328 compared to observations, while the deep and bottom waters are biased warm, fresh, and light.
329 The biases between water masses are strongly correlated to each other, and coupled with the fact
330 that the AW occupies nearly the entire water column in most models, suggest that the different water
331 masses are not significantly different from each other. The biases are also consistent throughout
332 the Arctic. In the next subsection, we investigate whether this lack of variation with depth and with
333 distance is caused by inaccurate ventilation and circulation of these waters within the Arctic.



287 FIG. 3. Across-model correlation between the biases in water mass properties throughout the water column,
 288 for each deep basin (individual triangles): Mean temperature, salinity and density of the upper 100 m as proxies
 289 for the halocline; stratification, i.e. density difference between the halocline and the Atlantic Water core; Atlantic
 290 Water core depth (AWCD), temperature (AWCT), salinity (AWCS) and density (AWC σ_2); temperature, salinity
 291 and density at 2000 m depth as proxies for the deep water; and temperature, salinity and density at the bottom.
 292 See methods for more information. Only correlations significant at 95% level shown (non-significant correlations
 293 are white).



307 FIG. 4. Density σ_2 in the WOA18 climatology (top row) and bias when compared to this climatology for
 308 the least biased model (second row), the multimodel mean (third row) and the most biased model (last row),
 309 for the Atlantic Water core (first column), 2000 m depth (second column), and the bottom (last column). The
 310 numbers are the respective Pan-Arctic area-weighted root mean square errors. See supp. Figs A1 and A2 for the
 311 temperature and salinity.



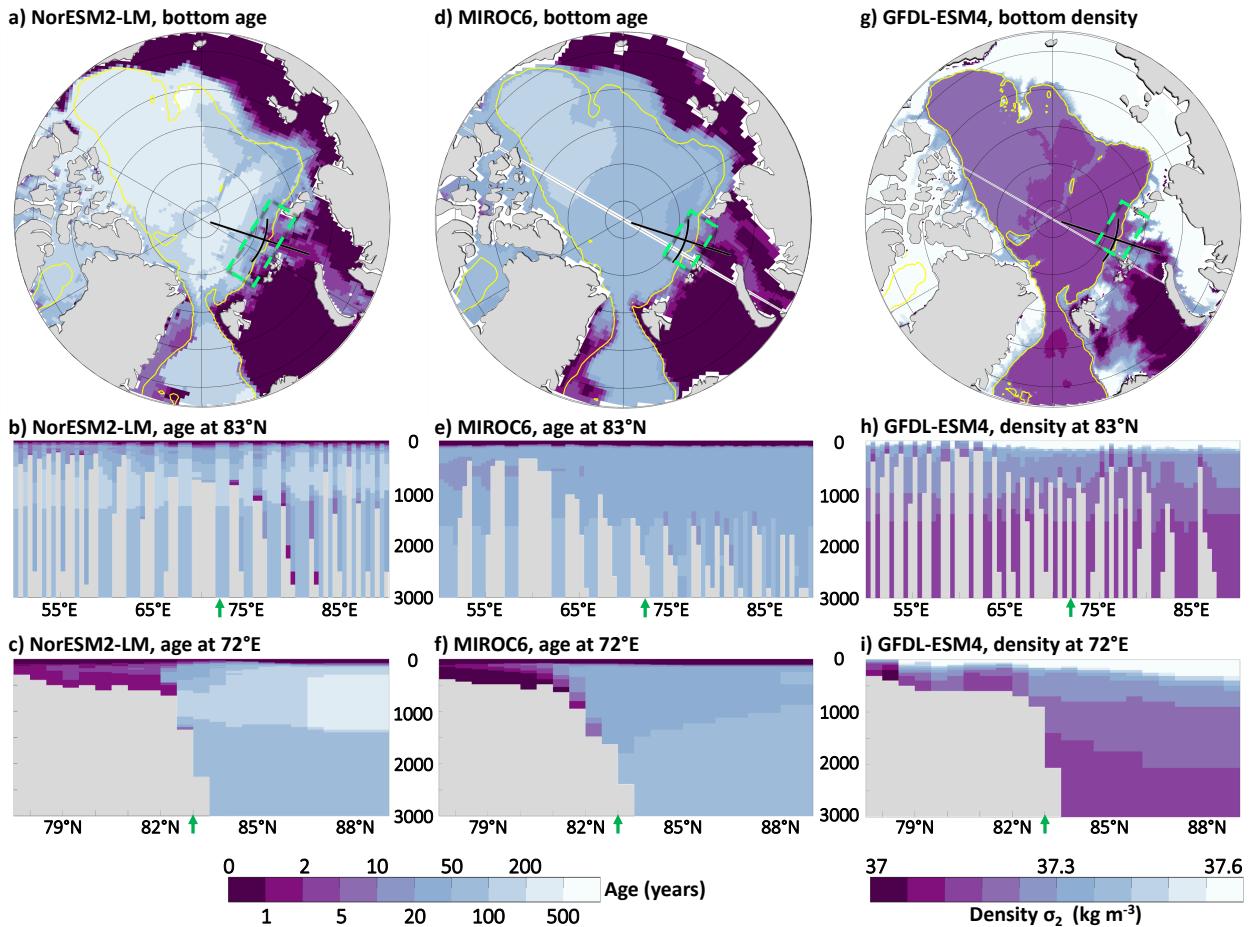
323 FIG. 5. Across-model correlation in the biases in each water mass temperature θ and salinity S between regions,
 324 for a) the Atlantic Water core, b) the deep water at 2000 m depth (no value on the shelves as per shelf definition),
 325 and c) the bottom. See methods for more information, in particular for the regions' definitions. Only correlations
 326 significant at 95% level shown.

334 *b. Ventilation and circulation of deep water masses within the Arctic*

335 We just showed that there is no across-model correlation between the Atlantic Water and deeper
336 ocean biases and those in the upper ocean. This means that the deep biases may come from an
337 inaccurate representation of the processes that normally form or modify those deep waters. We start
338 with the processes that take place within the Arctic, and in particular with dense water overflows.

339 Of the 8/14 models that provided the age of water as a parameter, only two appear to simulate
340 overflows at the Arctic shelf break (Fig. 6a and d, regions highlighted with green boxes): NorESM2-
341 LM, through Franz-Victoria Trough and St Anna Trough; and MIROC6, through St Anna Trough
342 only. For both these models, the overflow is visible as a continuous 0 to 1 year age on either side
343 of the 1000 m isobath. We attempt to track these overflows as they travel off the shelf break, but
344 both in animations (not shown) and in sections across (Fig. 6b and e) and along (c and f) the shelf
345 break, we can only detect the occasional grid cell with a low age and not a clear flow. These suggest
346 that NorESM2-LM may ventilate down to 3000 m depth occasionally, and MIROC6 to 2000 m.
347 These two models also have the least biased deep and bottom waters for the entire Arctic (see
348 previous section). One of the reasons for these models' relatively good performance may be their
349 different vertical grids than the other 6 models in this subsample (isopycnic and terrain-following,
350 respectively), which should be particularly well-suited to represent a density-driven flow along a
351 slope.

352 For the remaining 6/14 models, we use bottom density as a proxy for ventilation. Only GFDL-
353 ESM4 may have a dense water overflow, in St Anna Trough (Fig. 6g), but tracking its progression
354 down the shelf (Fig. 6h,i) is not trivial. Referencing the density to different depth levels did not
355 make the result clearer. As GFDL-ESM4 is the model that we previously found to have the least
356 biased 2000 m salinity and density, it is possible that it has overflows. Besides, GFDL-ESM4 and
357 NorESM2-LM are able to simulate overflows on the Antarctic shelf break (Heuzé 2021), which
358 suggests the potential for them to do the same in the Arctic. Either way, previous studies have shown
359 that overflows occur at several other locations, including at the Canadian shelf break (Luneva et al.
360 2020). Of the 14 models we study here, however, only 3 models show indications of simulating
361 overflows, all in the same troughs. This leads us to a natural follow up question: How do the other
362 models ventilate their deep waters, if at all?



363 FIG. 6. For the three models that appear to have overflows, top: For the whole Arctic, map of the minimum age
 364 of water / maximum density σ_2 at the deepest grid cell (shading) and 1000 m isobath (yellow line), where a low
 365 age / high density on either side of this isobath suggests overflowing at the shelf break. Green boxes highlight
 366 the location of such overflow; black lines, the location of the sections on the other panels. Centre and bottom:
 367 Sections along (83°N) and across (72°E) St Anna Trough of the age of water / density σ_2 . Note the logarithmic
 368 colour scale for the age.

369 The Arctic Ocean is too stratified for open ocean deep convection to occur (Rudels and Quadfasel
 370 1991). However, using the high resolution climate model HiGEM and a four times increase in CO₂
 371 scenario, Lique and Thomas (2018) found that open ocean deep convection can start in the central
 372 Arctic. Considering that the models in this study are less stratified than observations (subsection
 373 3a), we verify whether they ventilate the deep Arctic via open ocean deep convection. The only
 374 model with deep mixed layers in this study is GFDL-CM4, which reaches a maximum of 1815

375 m in the Nansen basin (supp Fig. A3 - note the logarithmic colour scale). The second deepest is
376 EC-Earth3, with a maximum of 536 m. All the other models have mixed layers shallower than 100
377 m on average over the deep Arctic basins, never exceeding 250 m. Considering that we found a
378 deep bias in the Atlantic layer, this means that GFDL-CM4 and EC-Earth3 are the only two models
379 whose mixed layers can reach below the halocline. As previously discussed, GFDL-CM4's Atlantic
380 layer extends deeper than 2000 m, so its comparatively deep mixed layer still cannot ventilate the
381 deep and bottom waters.

382 In summary, we found three models that show indications of dense water overflows in St. Anna
383 Trough that may penetrate below the Atlantic Water, and two models that ventilate the Atlantic layer
384 via open ocean deep convection. Our last hypothesis was that deep and bottom waters may not be
385 ventilated at all, and simply relaxing from the climatology they were initialised with (listed in Table
386 1). We tested this hypothesis by computing the biases in water mass properties when compared
387 to each model's climatology rather than WOA18: if the biases had been reduced, the hypothesis
388 could have been correct. Unfortunately, the changes in the biases are not consistent across models
389 or across parameters (not shown), and only reflect the differences between the climatologies. This
390 result was to be expected, as changing even the deepest waters is the reason why models are spun
391 up for hundreds to thousands of years (e.g. Stouffer et al. 2004; Bernsen et al. 2008, and references
392 listed in Table 1).

393 We leave for now the partially-unresolved question of the ventilation and instead investigate the
394 representation of exchanges across the Arctic below the surface, first for the subset of models that
395 provided the age of water output. Tanhua et al. (2009) estimated the age of water in the Arctic Ocean
396 from transient tracer measurements (Fig. 7a). The age of water in the models looks drastically
397 different. In the upper ocean (top panels of Fig. 7), the models can be split in two groups:

- 398 • Most models seem to "spill over", i.e. below 200 m depth, the age gradually increases from the
399 shallow levels of the Nansen basin by the Kara Sea (to the right) towards the deep parts of the
400 Canada basin by Alaska (to the left). These models are IPSL-CM6A-LR (Fig. 7d), MIROC6
401 (e), MPI-ESM1-2-HR (f), MRI-ESM2-0 (g), UKESM1-0-LL (i), and to some extent CESM2
402 (b).
- 403 • The other two models CanESM5 (c) and NorESM2-LM (h), and to some extent again CESM2
404 (b), have waters that are much older than the observations between 200 and 1000 m depth

405 throughout most of the deep Arctic (up to 500 years older for CanESM5), albeit with a mild
406 doming of young waters deeper over the Mendeleev Ridge - opposite to the observations.

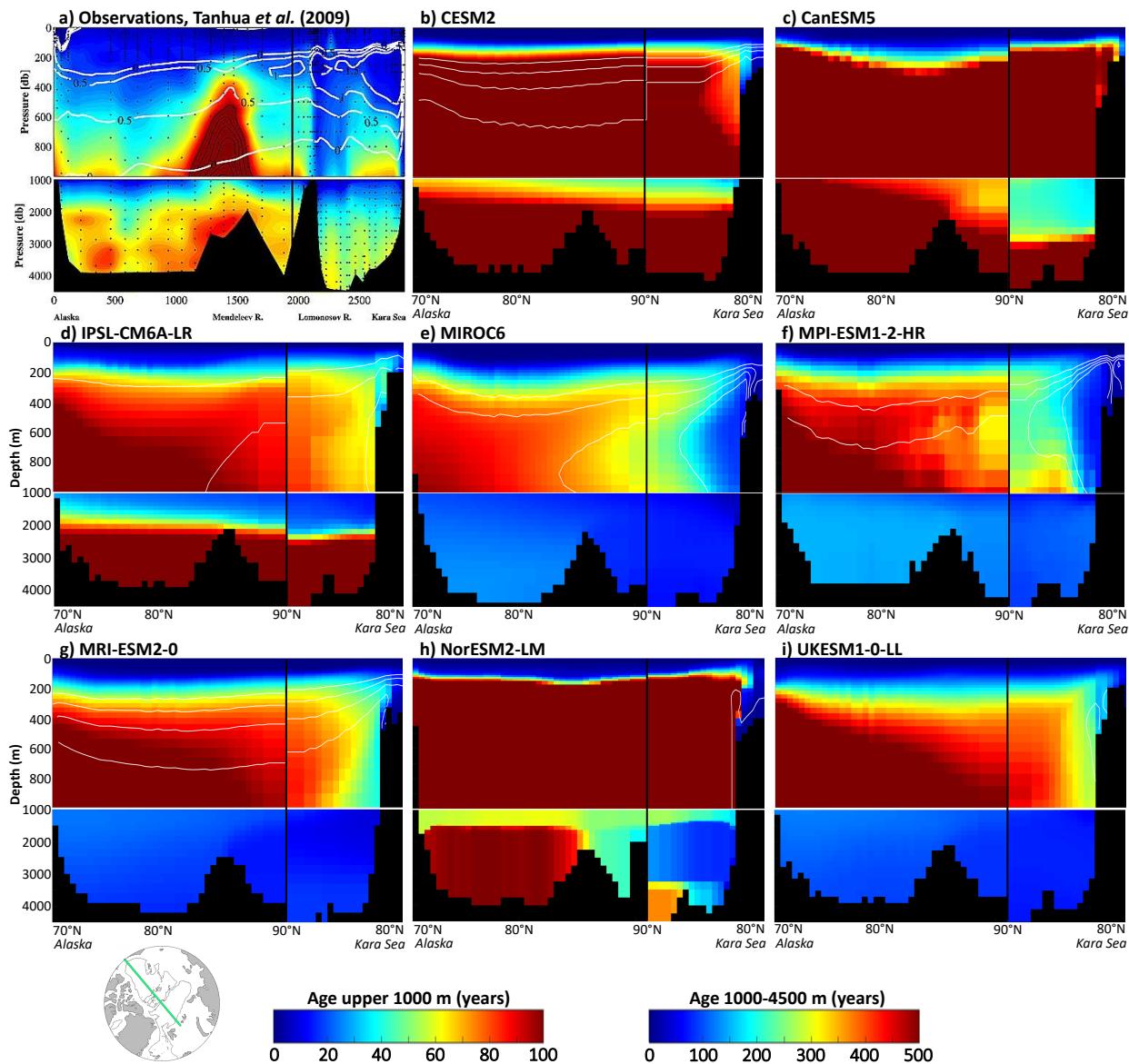
407 In the deeper levels, most models are either uniformly younger (MIROC6, MPI-ESM1-2-HR,
408 MRI-ESM2-0, and UKESM1-0-LL) or older than the observations (CESM2, CanESM5, IPSL-
409 CM6A-LR). The oldest waters in MRI-ESM2-0, the model with the largest young-bias, are 122
410 years old; in CanESM5, the model with the largest old-bias, 1946 years old. One important
411 caveat is that the OMIP protocol recommended the model age be reset to 0 at the beginning of
412 the historical run (Griffies et al. 2016). This recommendation was followed in the four “young”
413 models (MIROC6, MPI-ESM1-2-HR, MRI-ESM2-0, and UKESM1-0-LL), while in the four “old”
414 models (CESM2, CanESM5, IPSL-CM6A-LR, NorESM2-LM) instead the age was set to 0 before
415 the spin-up began and not reset since (personal communication with the modellers listed in the
416 acknowledgments, March 2022). Note that for the study we conduct here, the latter method is
417 most desirable. Three out of the four models whose age was reset in 1850 have an oldest age
418 lower than 165 years old, i.e. lower than the duration of the historical run (MIROC6, 139 years;
419 MRI-ESM2-0, 122 years; UKESM1-0-LL, 129 years), suggesting that these models have true fast
420 processes and that this is not simply an effect of the reset.

421 The models at least all reproduce the contrast between the Eurasian basin (Fig. 7, right) and the
422 Canada basin (left): in the deep Eurasian basins, waters are younger to a deeper level than in the
423 Canada basin. The one model that sticks out for its relative accuracy is NorESM2-LM (Fig. 7h),
424 with young AW overlaying older water in the Amundsen basin, 200 year old waters in the Makarov
425 basin, and the oldest waters in the Canadian basin, potentially again a result of its vertical grid
426 that allows the isopycnals to wrap over the Lomonosov Ridge. What these ages suggest is that
427 the circulation in the upper levels is inaccurate: instead of looping in the Eurasian basin (visible
428 in the observations as a band of young waters from the surface to 1000 m), the models seem to
429 flow across that basin and into the Canada basin. This was also shown by Muilwijk et al. (2019),
430 who used passive tracers in a coordinated study of 9 ocean models and found large discrepancies
431 in the Atlantic Water flow pattern in the Arctic Ocean. The circulation in the deeper levels also
432 appears to be inaccurate, not so much in its route, but rather in its speed. The strong significant
433 correlation between the age of the Atlantic Water on the Greenland shelf and the age of that water
434 (-0.71, i.e. older water is colder) also suggests that the circulation may be inaccurate. That is, in

435 the models with the older and colder water, the flow may be slower than in the models with younger
436 and warmer waters, or the flow may be taking different routes. We therefore now investigate the
437 velocity fields of the models.

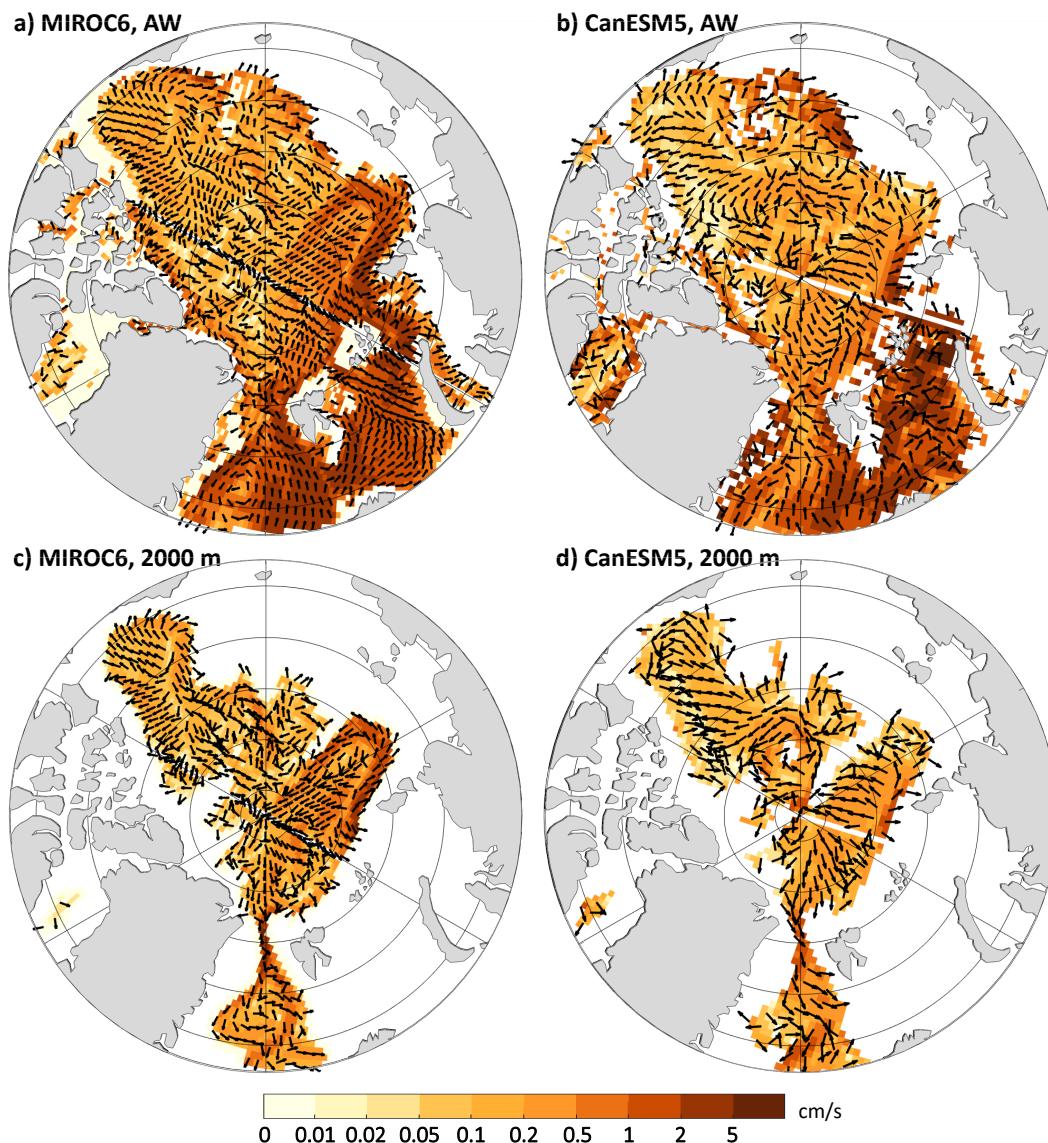
444 We compare one of the “young” models, MIROC6, and the “oldest”, CanESM5, in Fig. 8. These
445 two models were chosen because their horizontal grids are not significantly rotated compared to the
446 Cartesian reference, therefore the velocity components ‘uo’ and ‘vo’ are meaningful on the models’
447 grids. The value of the velocity is shown for all other models on supp. Figs. A4 and A5. As
448 expected, these two models differ significantly both in the magnitude of their ocean velocity and in
449 its direction. In MIROC6 (Fig. 8a), the Atlantic Water flows in an orderly loop around the Eurasian
450 basin at 2 cm/s or faster, i.e. the same order of magnitude as measured by the Eastern Eurasian
451 Basin moorings of Woodgate et al. (2001) and Pnyushkov et al. (2015). The flow in CanESM5
452 (Fig. 8b) is four times slower and less orderly, with a lot of recirculation within the Eurasian basin.
453 The AW also recirculates more in the Makarov basin in CanESM5 than in MIROC6, but in the
454 Canada basin, they look somewhat similar, although again MIROC6 is twice as fast. At 2000 m,
455 the circulation in the Eurasian basin is very similar to that of the AW for both models (Fig. 8c
456 and d), probably because as discussed previously, the same water mass is found at the depth of
457 the AW core as at 2000 m in most models. In MIROC6 it is no issue for the water to flow from
458 the Makarov basin towards the Canadian shelf, but in CanESM5 the water loops around a shallow
459 feature, most likely the model’s interpretation of the Alpha Ridge. Aside from that loop, MIROC6
460 shows again velocities twice as high as CanESM5. The absolute velocity does not seem to be the
461 key element for ventilation though; for example, CESM2 and UKESM1-0-LL (supp. Fig. A4c
462 and l) have similar velocities in each basin, yet very different ages, even taking UKESM1-0-LL’s
463 age reset into account. IPSL-CM6A-LR and NorESM2-LM in contrast have similar ages but very
464 different velocities both in the Atlantic layer and at 2000 m depth (supp. Figs A4 and A5, h and
465 k), with NorESM2-LM being up to 100 times as fast as IPSL-CM6A-LR locally. In summary, the
466 age difference on Fig. 7 likely is the result of a more organised flow rather than flow speed only,
467 both in the Atlantic layer and deeper.

473 What causes these differences in circulation? We find significant, negative across-model cor-
474 relations between the depth of the Atlantic Water core and its velocity in each basin (-0.47 in
475 the Nansen basin; -0.62 Amundsen; -0.46 Makarov; -0.42 Canada). That is, the slower the core,



438 FIG. 7. Age of water across the deep Arctic basins a) as reported by Tanhua et al. (2009) (reproduced with
 439 permission from John Wiley and Sons, license number 5239230975302) and b)-i) for the 8 CMIP6 models of our
 440 study that provided this output. See Tanhua et al. (2009) for exact locations of their measurements; in CMIP6
 441 models, section goes along 140°W to the North Pole, then along 40°E (green line on the map, bottom left corner).
 442 Black vertical line marks the Canadian-Eurasian basins separation. White lines on top panels, the 0, 0.5, 1, and
 443 1.5°C isotherms.

476 the deeper. It is unclear however what the causality is, i.e. whether the flow is slower because
 477 it is deeper or deeper because it is slower. Another thing we notice is the impact of horizontal



468 FIG. 8. Velocity (shading) and direction of the flow (arrows) for one of the models with the youngest waters,
 469 MIROC6 (left), and the one with the oldest, CanESM5 (right), at the Atlantic Water core (top) and 2000 m depth
 470 (bottom). Note the logarithmic scale for the velocity. For increased readability, the velocity vectors have been
 471 normalised, so all arrows are of the same length. The velocity norm is provided for all the other models in supp.
 472 Figs A4 and A5.

478 resolution, notably when comparing the very high resolution GFDL-CM4 (9 km) to the others
 479 (40-50 km): at this resolution, the meanders and recirculations can be clearly represented (supp.
 480 Fig. A4e). The effect of resolution on Arctic circulation was also investigated by previous studies:

481 for example, Docquier et al. (2019) and Docquier et al. (2020) show that higher ocean resolution
482 intensifies the Atlantic Water currents and allows to better resolve the different oceanic pathways
483 into the Arctic. Docquier et al. (2020) further note that eddy-permitting ocean resolution results
484 in improved circulation in comparison to observations, as we see with GFDL-CM4. Roberts et al.
485 (2016) also found that a higher ocean resolution leads to stronger boundary currents. Furthermore,
486 differences in model diffusivity may result in different flow speeds – some models might be more
487 diffuse than others, meaning they can have similar overall volume transports but large biases in
488 velocity as the currents are less confined to the coastal boundaries due to excessive mixing (as
489 was found for the North Atlantic by Talandier et al. 2014). Atmospheric biases is another likely
490 explanation for differences in Atlantic Water flow speeds and patterns, as recently demonstrated
491 by Hinrichs et al. (2021) whose realistic Atlantic Water circulation worsened after coupling to a
492 biased atmospheric model. Finally, Karcher et al. (2007) showed that for early versions of Arctic
493 Ocean models, the balance of potential vorticity is also important and closely linked to the intensity
494 and the pattern of Atlantic Water flow. Steep topographic features such as the Lomonosov Ridge
495 can create a potential vorticity barrier, thus differences in the momentum advection schemes and
496 momentum closure schemes might also lead to differences among the models.

497 While we can speculate on the reasons for these different flow speeds and paths, their study
498 would require that

- 499 • The ocean velocities be archived for all models;
- 500 • The necessary information to reproject the velocities onto the Cartesian grid be included in
501 the output files, e.g. via an angle parameter that for each grid cell gives its rotation compared
502 to the true north;
- 503 • The age of water be archived for all models;
- 504 • The age has the same definition for all models. In particular, resetting the age to 0 at the
505 beginning of the historical run seriously impacts any study of the deep ocean.

506 In summary, in this subsection we have shown that a minority of models ventilate their Atlantic
507 Water, and one potentially its deep waters, via exchanges with the surface within the Arctic. Half
508 of the models, however, have deep and bottom waters that are biased young. This is linked to a
509 more structured flow that efficiently transports the water from the Nansen to the Canada basins,

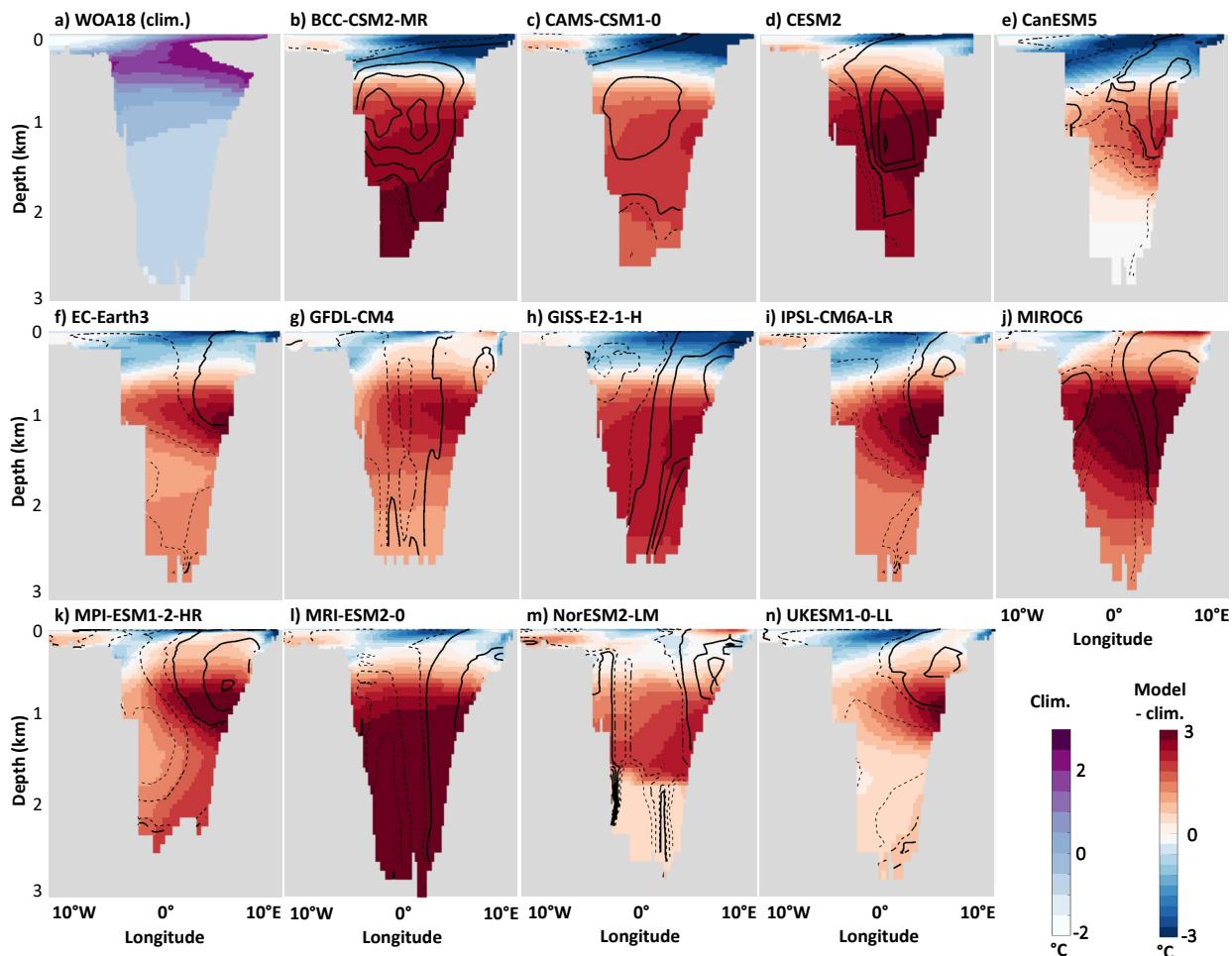
510 suggesting that what enters the Arctic through Fram Strait controls the properties in the whole deep
511 Arctic. In the following subsection, we therefore investigate these flows through Fram Strait.

512 *c. Exchanges through Fram Strait*

513 The representation of Fram Strait in our selection of CMIP6 models itself is quite biased, be
514 it in properties or in fluxes. When compared to WOA18 (Fig. 9), most models are biased cold
515 in the upper ocean where WOA18 is warm, and biased warm in the deeper layer where WOA18
516 is cold. In other words, their temperature contrast between the upper and deeper ocean is too
517 small. We observe the same pattern in salinity to some extent (supp. Fig. A6), with strong
518 saline biases in the upper ocean towards Greenland (left of the panels) where WOA18 is freshest,
519 but in the rest of the strait there is no across-model consistent bias. The biases in Fram Strait
520 have a strong and significant across-model correlation to the property biases in the Nansen basin
521 described previously: 0.84 between the Fram Strait inflow and the Nansen basin Atlantic Water
522 core for the salinity and 0.74 for the temperature, reduced to 0.78 and 0.56 respectively when
523 comparing the Fram Strait inflow to the Nansen basin bottom properties. The Nansen basin biases
524 are also strongly correlated to the bottom property biases in the Nordic seas from Heuzé (2021),
525 the largest correlation being 0.81 (0.83) between the Nordic Seas bottom salinity (temperature) and
526 that in the Nansen basin at 2000 m depth, suggesting that the biases are advected from the south
527 (upstream of Fram Strait) and into the Arctic. We verify this hypothesis below.

528 The location of the inflows and outflows is also inconsistent across models (black contours, Fig.
529 9). Using the moorings deployed across Fram Strait, Beszczynska-Möller et al. (2012) showed the
530 presence of a strong outflow, i.e. flow out of the Arctic, to the west, a strong inflow to the east,
531 and several recirculations in the centre of the strait. Although in- and outflows are in fact flows
532 of different water masses (von Appen et al. 2015), the patterns are nonetheless quite consistent
533 through depth. The models show instead a large range of behaviours, for example:

- 534 • BCC-CSM2-MR and CAMS-CSM1-0 do not simulate a separation by longitude but by depth,
535 where the upper ocean is an outflow, intermediate depths (the majority of the water column)
536 is an inflow, and anything below 2000 m is again an outflow;
- 537 • CanESM5, EC-Earth3, IPSL-CM6-A-LR, MPI-ESM1-2-HR and UKESM1-0-LL simulate an
538 inflow that is limited to a strong core along the east coast, extending no deeper than 1000 m;



542 FIG. 9. a) Potential temperature across Fram Strait in WOA18; b)-n) difference between each model's potential
 543 temperature and that of WOA18 across Fram Strait (shading), along with their volume flux as black lines (0.02
 544 Sv contours, where $1 \text{ Sv} = 10^6 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$; plain means positive, into the Arctic; dashed negative, out of the Arctic).
 545 Salinity biases are shown in supp. Fig. A6

- 539 • GFDL-CM4, GISS-E2-1-H and MRI-ESM2-0 simulate a binary circulation, with an outflow to
 540 the west and inflow to the east, which is correct. They however lack the observed recirculations
 541 (i.e. alternation of in- and outflows) to be deemed accurate.

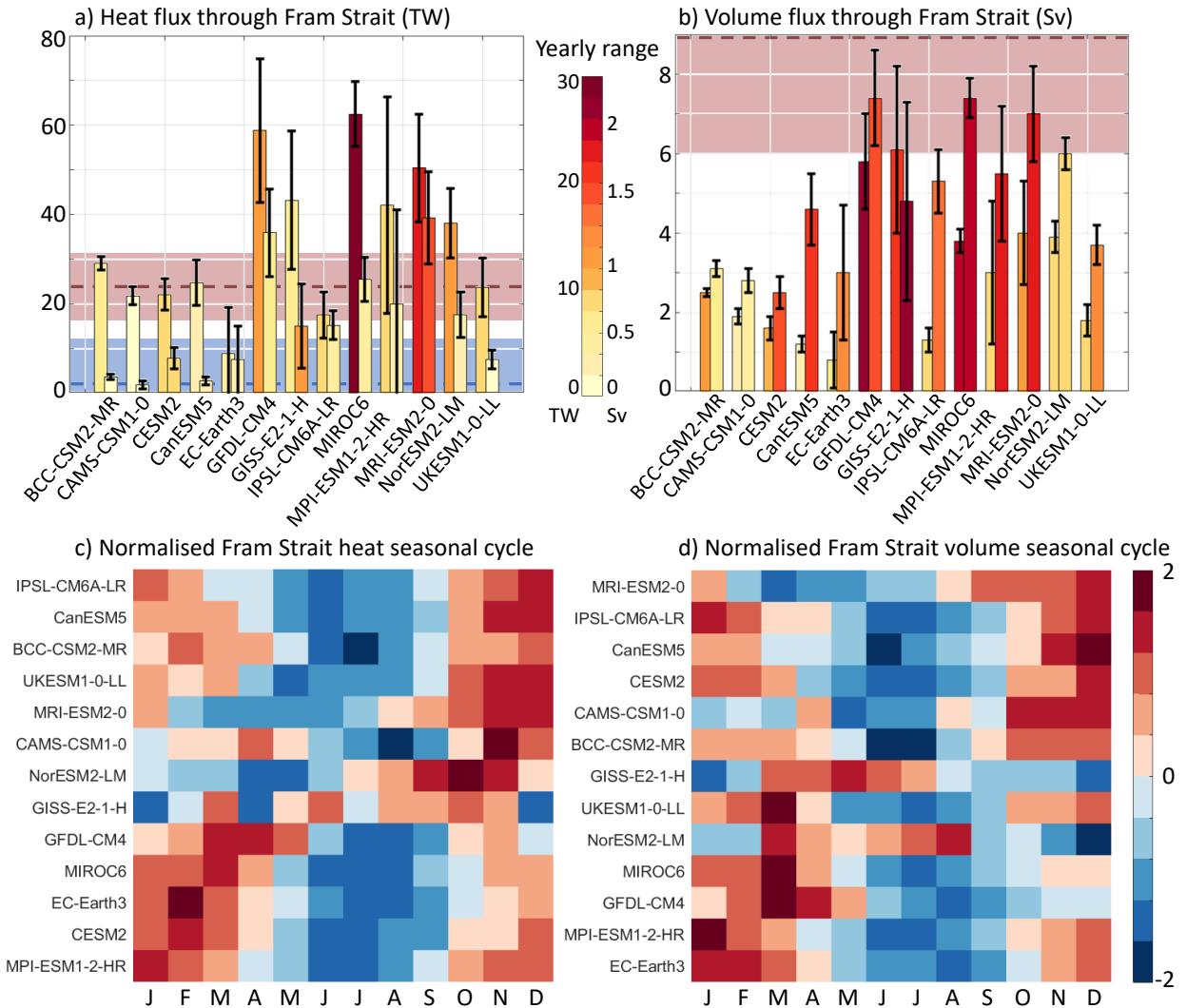
546 Fram Strait is biased warm and the location of the in- and outflows is inaccurate in all models, at
 547 least when compared to the mooring data of Beszczynska-Möller et al. (2012). It is therefore not
 548 surprising that the heat and volume fluxes through Fram Strait are inaccurate as well. Note that as
 549 the salt fluxes strongly resemble the volume fluxes and uncertain observational values were only

550 mentioned in Marnela et al. (2016), we limit our discussion to the heat and volume fluxes. Besides,
551 in contrast to observational data, the models do not have distinct east/west and upper/deeper fluxes.
552 We therefore discuss here the full-depth net fluxes into and out of the Arctic, i.e. the sum of the
553 positive and negative fluxes, respectively. For the heat flux (Fig. 10a), most models are within
554 the observational range, except for GFDL-CM4, MIROC6 and MRI-ESM2-0 who overestimate
555 both the inflow and outflow. For example with a 30-year mean value of 62.5 TW, the inflow in
556 MIROC6 is nearly twice as large as that computed by Schauer et al. (2004) over 1997/1998 (31.8
557 TW). All models correctly simulate that the inflow of heat is larger than the outflow (difference
558 of height between the bars), but this difference ranges from 1.4 TW for EC-Earth3 to 37.0 TW
559 for MIROC6. One caveat is that where observational values are computed relative to different
560 reference temperatures, we here computed them all relative to 0°C in order to easily compare the
561 models to each other. We argue that as all the models of this study are biased warm in Fram Strait
562 (Fig. 9), and that the across-model correlation between heat flux and temperature bias is only
563 0.49, i.e. explains only 24% of the variance, choosing a common reference temperature is not the
564 leading reason for the differences between models.

565 Unlike the heat flux, the volume flux is underestimated in the majority of our models (Fig. 10b).
566 Only the inflow of GFDL-CM4 and GISS-E2-1-H are within the observational range (averaged
567 from Beszczynska-Möller et al. 2012; Marnela et al. 2016; De Steur et al. 2014; Schauer et al. 2004),
568 and no model reaches the outflow observational range (11 ± 2 Sv, same references). Although
569 all models except GISS-E2-1-H correctly have larger outflow than inflow, this difference is nearly
570 twice the observational average (ca. 2 Sv) in CanESM5, IPSL-CM6A-LR and MIROC6 (3.5, 4,
571 and 3.5 Sv on average, respectively), and less than half in BCC-CSM2-MR, CAMS-CSM1-0 and
572 CESM2 (<1 Sv). We wonder whether these inaccurate differences between inflow and outflow
573 through Fram Strait are compensated by the flows through the other straits and/or the solid fluxes,
574 and therefore compare our results to those of Zanowski et al. (2021) for the five models we have in
575 common. These suggest that:

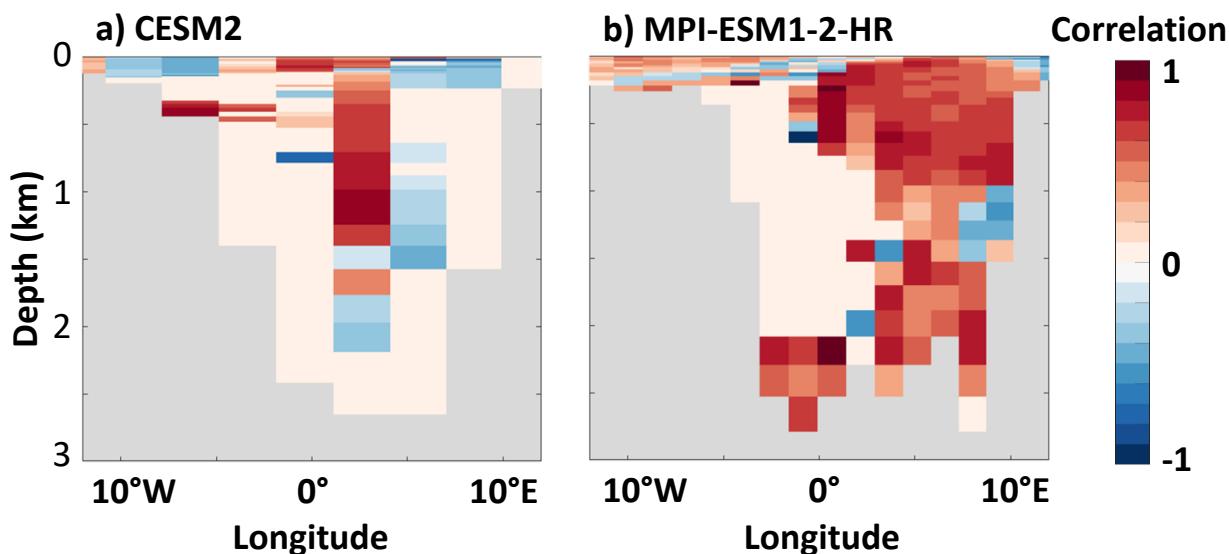
- 576 • the more total solid freshwater flux out of the Arctic, the smaller our heat and volume outflows;
- 577 • the more total liquid freshwater flux out of the Arctic, the stronger our volume inflow.

578 Although these results would be logical, they should be investigated in a larger group of models;
579 doing this here is however beyond the scope of this paper.



580 FIG. 10. For each model that provided the velocity outputs, a) Bars: 30-year mean heat flux, in TW, into the
 581 Arctic (left, backward) and out of the Arctic (right, forward); black error bars: interannual variability, i.e. spread
 582 in the yearly means; shading: difference between the yearly maximum and minimum; pink and blue boxes: range
 583 of the observational values (see text), with mean as dashed line, for the in- and out-flows, respectively. b) Same
 584 as a) but for the volume flux, in Sv ($1 \text{ Sv} = 10^6 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$); the observational outflow values are off-screen at $11 \pm$
 585 2 Sv . c) and d), normalised seasonal cycle in heat and volume inflow, respectively, where the models are there
 586 ordered by month of their maximum value.

587 Could the biases in fluxes through Fram Strait explain the biases that we found in the deep water
 588 masses of the Arctic? At first glance, no: there is no across-model relationship between any of the
 589 biases described in subsection 3a and the net in- or outflows. We investigate the models individually



599 FIG. 11. For two exemplary models, correlation between the time series of yearly means in Atlantic Water core
 600 temperature in the Nansen basin and the heat flux into Fram Strait of each grid cell, allowing for a lag of up to
 601 5 years. Only significant (at 95%) correlations shown. Note that this calculation was performed on the model's
 602 native grid, hence the difference in bathymetry from Fig. 9.

590 and compare their fluxes to the biases in Atlantic Water core temperature, in the Nansen basin only,
 591 as we previously showed that all property biases in all water masses and all deep basins were
 592 strongly correlated with each other. We find for all models, strong positive correlations between
 593 the fluxes and time series of the biases (see two exemplary models on Fig. 11), but no across model
 594 consistency. First, some have their strongest correlation with the heat flux, while others with the
 595 volume flux. But more importantly, for all models the whole inflow is not consistently correlated
 596 to the biases: some have a jet-like correlation, where a specific longitude has most of the positive
 597 correlation (Fig. 11a); others have distinct patches, similar to what is expected from observations
 598 (Fig. 11b, note the upper and lower patches, separated at approximately 1500 m depth).

603 In summary, for all models, we find strong positive correlations between at least part of the
 604 inflow and the biases in properties in the deep Arctic. The volume fluxes are biased low in most
 605 models, which coupled with the fact that Fram Strait is biased warm results in seemingly accurate
 606 heat fluxes through Fram Strait. Nevertheless, it would be desirable to understand why the volume
 607 fluxes are inaccurate. In observations, heat and volume fluxes have their largest values in winter,

608 typically February/March, and lowest values in spring/summer, typically June (Schauer et al. 2004;
609 Beszczynska-Möller et al. 2012; De Steur et al. 2014). In our models, the majority follow this
610 pattern of maximum in winter and minimum in summer, although the maximum can be found in
611 any month. The exceptions are GISS-E2-1-H and NorESM2-LM, who have their lowest values in
612 winter for both heat (Fig. 10c) and volume (Fig. 10d). The yearly range can be large in some models
613 (up to 32.4 TW for the heat inflow in MIROC6, and 2.3 Sv for the volume inflow in GFDL-CM4),
614 but so can it in observations (10-50 TW and 4-6 Sv Schauer et al. 2004; Beszczynska-Möller et al.
615 2012; De Steur et al. 2014).

616 The reason why the fluxes through Fram Strait are highest in winter can be found in the processes
617 that cause them. In models (Årthun and Eldevik 2016; Muilwijk et al. 2019) as in observations
618 (Wang et al. 2020), regardless of the depth level considered (von Appen et al. 2015; Chatterjee et al.
619 2018), the heat and volume fluxes through Fram Strait are driven at least in part by the gyre and/or
620 winter convective activity in the Nordic Seas (Smedsrud et al. 2022). The convective activity values
621 in CMIP6 models were recently published by Heuzé (2021): they showed that all the models that
622 we consider here largely overestimate it. In particular, all models but CAMS-CSM1-0 had mixed
623 layers deeper than 1000 m every year over 1985-2014 over an extensive region, which is visible on
624 supp. Fig. A3; CAMS-CSM1-0 did so only 24 out of 30 years. Comparing our fluxes with their
625 mean deep mixed volume, i.e. sum of the cell area multiplied by the mixed layer depth (MLD) for
626 all cells where that MLD is deeper than 1000 m, we find significant across-model correlations (at
627 90%) with the heat inflow through Fram Strait (0.48) and the volume outflow (0.42). That is, as
628 in observations, a stronger convective activity in the Nordic Seas is associated with a stronger heat
629 inflow into the Arctic, but also with a stronger volume outflow from the Arctic. These results do
630 not prove causality but suggest a possible chain of biases:

- 631 1. The Nordic Seas have biased properties and a biased representation of convective activity
632 (Heuzé 2021);
- 633 2. The stronger the volume flux out of the Arctic, the stronger the convective activity in the
634 Nordic Seas;
- 635 3. The stronger the convective activity, the stronger the volume transport northward, through
636 Fram Strait and into the Arctic;

- 637 4. That volume transport advects the biases in properties from the Nordic Seas to Fram Strait,
638 so that the stronger the volume transport, the more Fram Strait is biased warm. Another
639 possibility is that the convective activity directly sets the properties of the advected water, as
640 has been found in observations before (Langehaug and Falck 2012);
- 641 5. The stronger the warm bias, the stronger the heat flux into the Arctic.

642 This would explain why the “worst” models for the heat fluxes are the “least bad” for the volume
643 fluxes.

644 **4. Discussion and conclusions**

645 In this study, we first quantified biases in the Atlantic Water in all deep basins of the Arctic. In
646 agreement with Khosravi et al. (2022), we find that its core is too cold by 0.4°C on average, too
647 deep by 400 m, and in half of the models the Atlantic layer extends all the way to the seafloor,
648 i.e. the properties do not evolve with depth as they do in the real ocean. CMIP5 models were
649 found to somewhat correctly reproduce the cooling and deepening of the Atlantic Water core as the
650 water travels away from Fram Strait (Shu et al. 2019). In CMIP6, our results show the opposite,
651 that in most models the properties do not change from basin to basin. The circulation was not
652 further investigated in CMIP5, so we cannot say which modelling change made the result worse; in
653 CMIP6, we here attribute it to a lack of shelf overflows in most models, a result previously found
654 in ocean-only simulations (Ilıcak et al. 2016), and an inaccurate flow through Fram Strait. To the
655 best of our knowledge, no study was performed on CMIP5 models to quantify biases in deep and
656 bottom water properties in the Arctic; we here determine that they are too warm by more than
657 1°C as multi-model average. Our findings reveal a strong decoupling between the upper layer and
658 the rest of the deep Arctic (below 200 m), which is quite homogeneous in depth and between the
659 basins.

660 We linked these biases to processes both within and out of the Arctic. Within the Arctic, the
661 main issue is the absence of ventilation: only three models appear to have dense water overflows,
662 and these are taking place at only two locations (compare e.g. to the list in Luneva et al. 2020), and
663 do not seem to ventilate the deepest layers. Our results are limited by the fact that too few models
664 provide the age of water output, and that a monthly resolution may be too coarse to effectively track
665 overflows as they cascade off the shelf. Nevertheless, this finding comes as no surprise considering

666 that the models suffer from the same overflow-issue in the rest of the world (Heuzé 2021), but
667 this issue is particularly acute in the Arctic where no other process can replace overflows (Peralta-
668 Ferriz and Woodgate 2015), and where open ocean deep mixing is rather indicative of inaccurate
669 stratification (Lique and Thomas 2018). The higher resolution of CMIP6 models compared to
670 CMIP5 was not enough to improve the overflows; in fact, it seems unlikely that such processes can
671 ever become explicitly represented in global climate models (Fox-Kemper et al. 2019). Instead,
672 one can notice that the three models that seem to have overflows also have isopycnal or terrain-
673 following grids (Table 1). Another solution could be the widespread implementation of overflow
674 parameterisations (e.g. Danabasoglu et al. 2010).

675 The biases are also related to the circulation: within the Arctic, the age of the oldest waters in the
676 CMIP6 models studied here ranges from 122 to 1946 years (Fig. 7). Despite the models following
677 different protocols for the age calculation, we could attribute the age difference not primarily to
678 different flow velocities, but rather to more coherent flows. The highest resolution model had the
679 most coherent and detailed flow, probably thanks to its eddy-permitting resolution and accurate
680 representation of bathymetry, as discussed above. At Fram Strait, we found that all models
681 underestimate the volume fluxes in and out of the Arctic, i.e. all models are biased slow. The heat
682 flux however appears accurate or even biased high, as the low volume fluxes are compensated by
683 warm temperature biases at Fram Strait. We found across-model relationships between Fram Strait
684 biases and fluxes, and inaccurate properties and deep convective activity in the Nordic Seas: as in
685 observations (e.g. Langehaug and Falck 2012), deep convection is enhanced by the deep outflow
686 from the Arctic and enhances the deep inflow, but also modifies the properties of the water advected
687 through Fram Strait. The inaccurate Nordic Seas convective activity was previously blamed on
688 inaccurate sea ice (Heuzé 2021) and atmospheric (Heuzé 2017) representations, suggesting that
689 detecting the cause for biases in the individual components, for example via SIMIP (Notz et al.
690 2016) or AMIP (Eyring et al. 2016), may be a necessary first step towards accurately modelling
691 the coupled Arctic system.

692 Higher resolution, parameterisations and dedicated MIPs can however only go so far when there
693 are virtually no observations to constrain the models. In the database UDASH (Behrendt et al.
694 2018), there are fewer than 700 full-depth hydrographic profiles in the entire Arctic north of 82°N,
695 and only 40 of them are in winter. Consequently in their recent review, Solomon et al. (2021) did

696 not even try to investigate the deep Arctic Ocean as there were too few observations; even for the
697 upper ocean, they could not close the freshwater budget as Arctic river discharge timeseries were
698 few and poor. There is an urgent need for more multi-disciplinary and multi-scale (both in time and
699 space) observation campaigns, similar to the recently completed MOSAiC expedition (Rabe et al.
700 2022), across the entire Arctic, or at least for more coordination and cooperation between different
701 expeditions to properly investigate processes and their interaction, instead of the traditional local
702 component-specific studies.

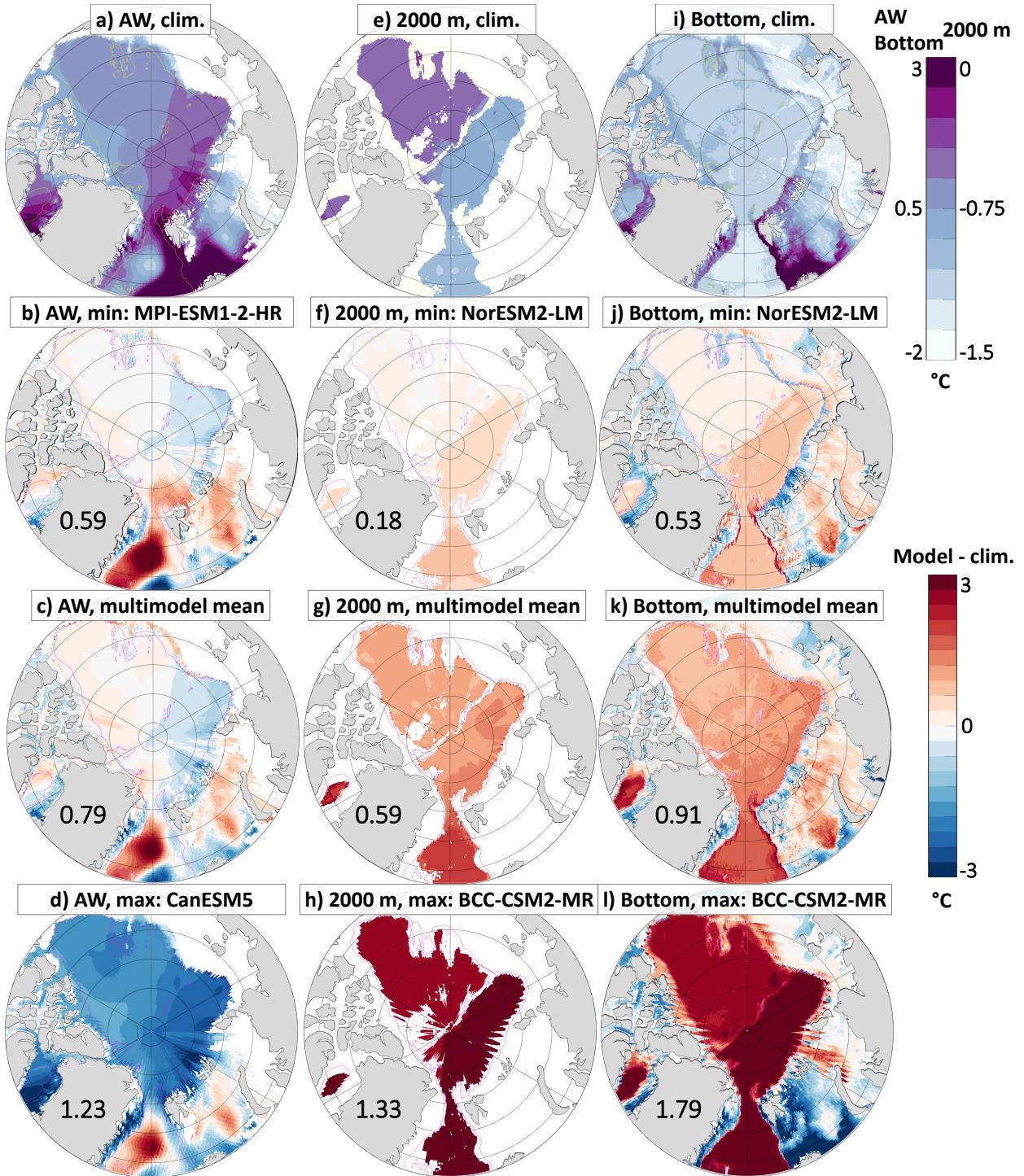
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705 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101003826 via project CRiceS.
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707 Coupled Modelling, coordinated and promoted CMIP6. We thank the climate modeling groups for
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710 and ESGF. We are grateful to Jianglong Li (BCC-CSM2-MR), Xinyao Rong (CAM5-CSM1-0),
711 Gary Strand (CESM2), Andrew Shao and Neil Swart (CanESM5), Thomas Reerink (EC-Earth3),
712 the GFDL Climate Model Info Team (GFDL-CM4 and -ESM4), Gavin Schmidt (GISS-E2-1-
713 H), Olivier Boucher (IPSL-CM6A-LR), Hiroaki Tatebe and Yoshiki Komuro (MIROC6), Johann
714 Jungclaus (MPI-ESM1-2-HR), Shogo Urakawa (MRI-ESM2-0), Øyvind Seland and Mats Bentsen
715 (NorESM2-LM), and Andrew Yool and Colin Jones (UK-ESM1-0-LL), for their prompt replies to
716 our questions regarding their respective models, indicated in parentheses.

717 *Data availability statement.* All CMIP6 data are freely available via the Earth Grid System
718 Federation. For this paper, we used the German Climate Computing Centre (DKRZ) node:
719 <https://esgf-data.dkrz.de/search/cmip6-dkrz/> and the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics
720 Laboratory (GFDL) node: <https://esgdata.gfdl.noaa.gov/search/cmip6-gfdl/>.

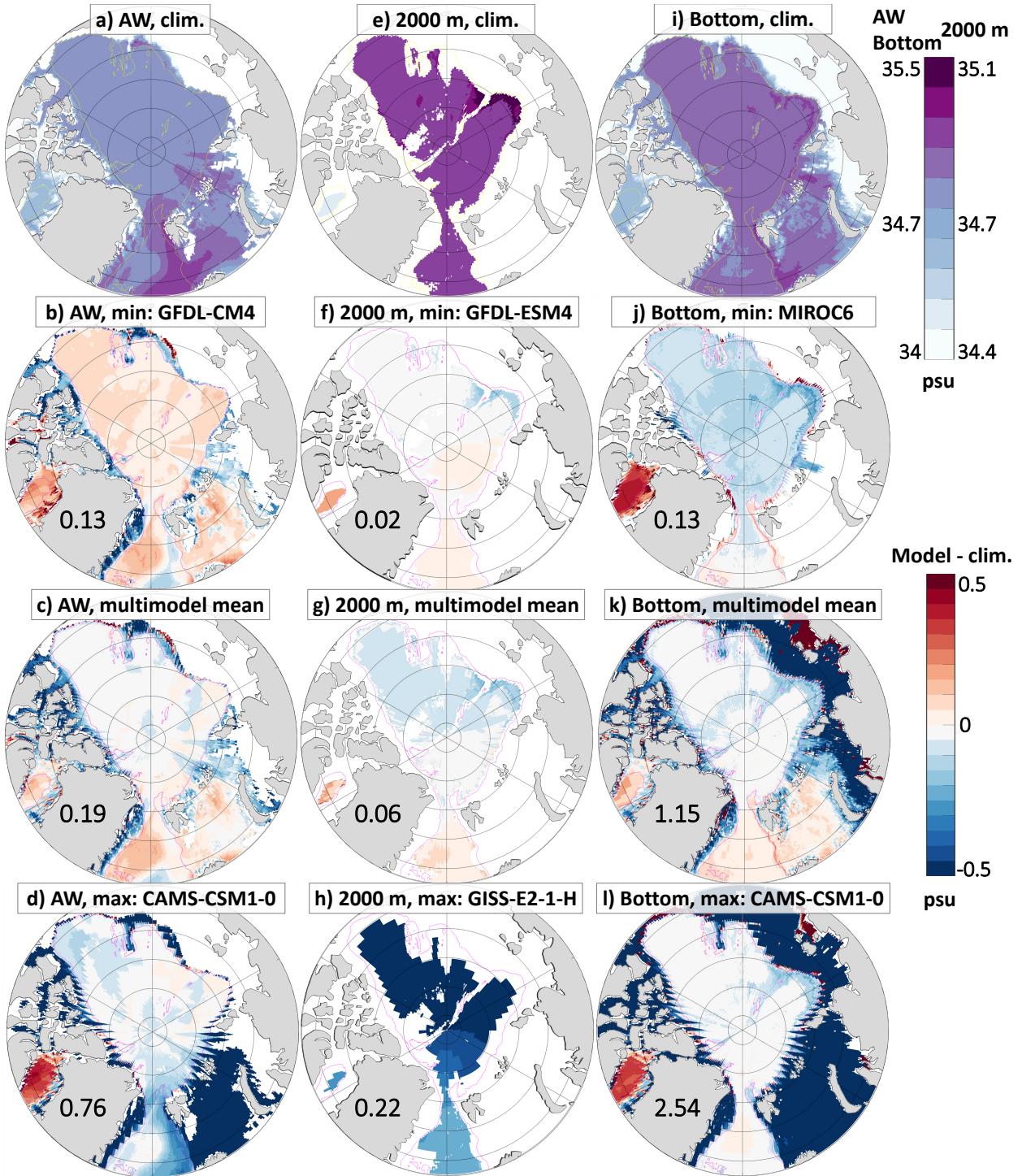
721 The Unified Database for Arctic and Subarctic Hydrography is freely available via <https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.872931>. All versions of the World Ocean Atlas climatol-
722 ogy are freely available via <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/world-ocean-atlas>.
723 All versions of the Polar science center Hydrographic Climatology are freely available via http://psc.ap1.washington.edu/nonwp_projects/PHC/Climatology.html. The EN4 clima-
724 tology is freely available via <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/hadobs/en4/>. The gridded
725 bathymetry GEBCO is freely available via [https://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/
726 gridded_bathymetry_data/](https://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/gridded_bathymetry_data/).

727
728
729 The volume, heat, and salt flux time series will be submitted to PANGAEA during the peer-review
730 process; we will add their DOI here latest during copy-editing.

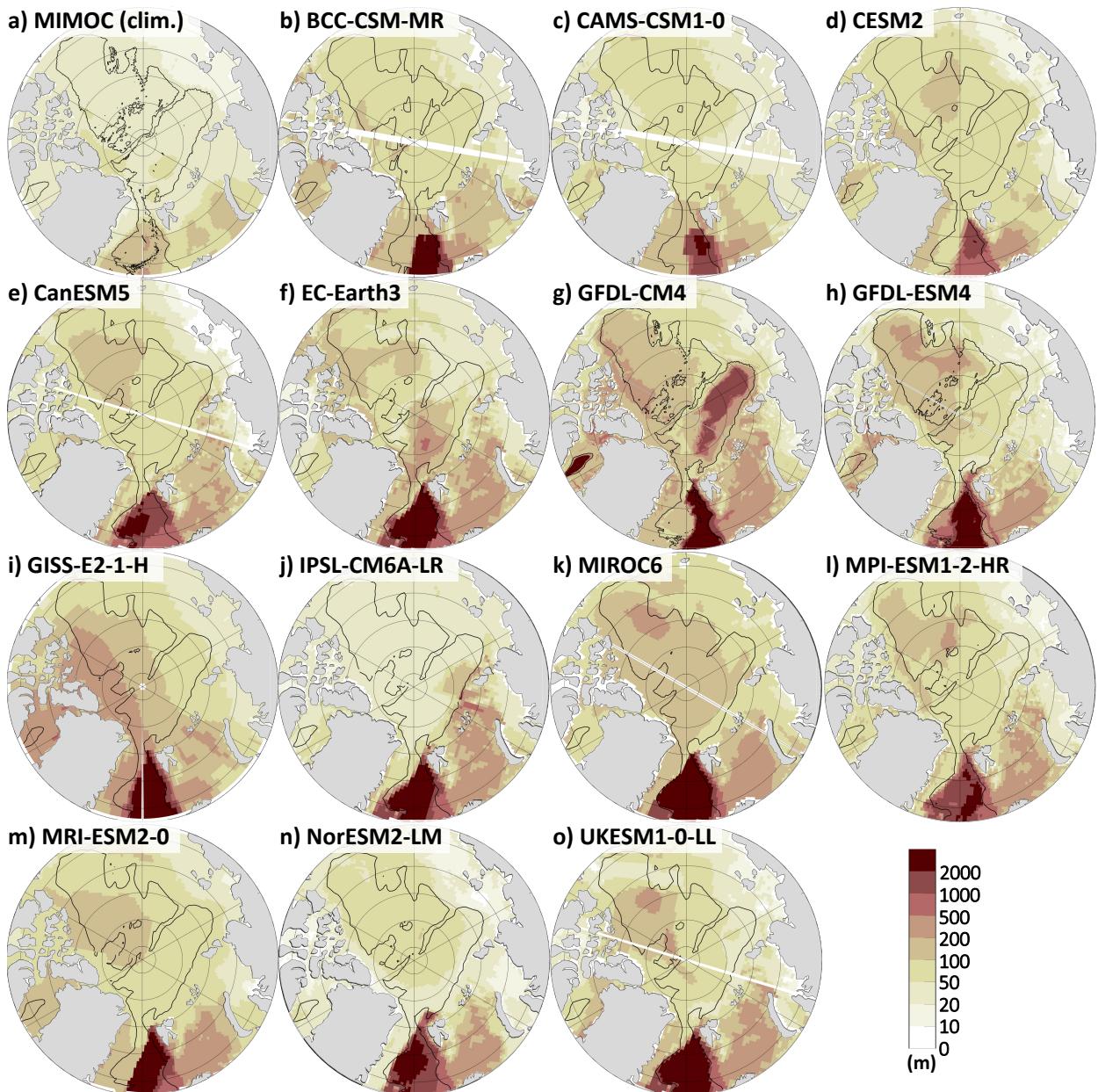
731 APPENDIX



732 FIG. A1. Potential temperature in the WOA18 climatology (top row) and bias when compared to this clima-
 733 tology for the least biased model (second row), the multimodel mean (third row) and the most biased model (last
 734 row), for the Atlantic Water core (first column), 2000 m depth (second column), and the bottom (last column).
 735 The numbers are the respective Pan-Arctic area-weighted root mean square errors. See Fig. 4 and supp. Fig. A2
 736 for the density and salinity.



737 FIG. A2. Salinity in the WOA18 climatology (top row) and bias when compared to this climatology for the
 738 least biased model (second row), the multimodel mean (third row) and the most biased model (last row), for the
 739 Atlantic Water core (first column), 2000 m depth (second column), and the bottom (last column). The numbers
 740 are the respective Pan-Arctic area-weighted root mean square errors. See Fig. 4 and supp. Fig. A1 for the
 741 density and temperature.



742 FIG. A3. a) Maximum of the monthly climatological mean mixed layer depth (MLD) from MIMOC (Schmidtke
 743 et al. 2013); b)-o) Maximum mixed layer depth over the period January 1985 - December 2014 for each CMIP6
 744 model. Note the logarithmic colour scale. On each panel, the black contour is the 2000 m isobath from a)
 745 GEBCO and b)-o) the individual models.

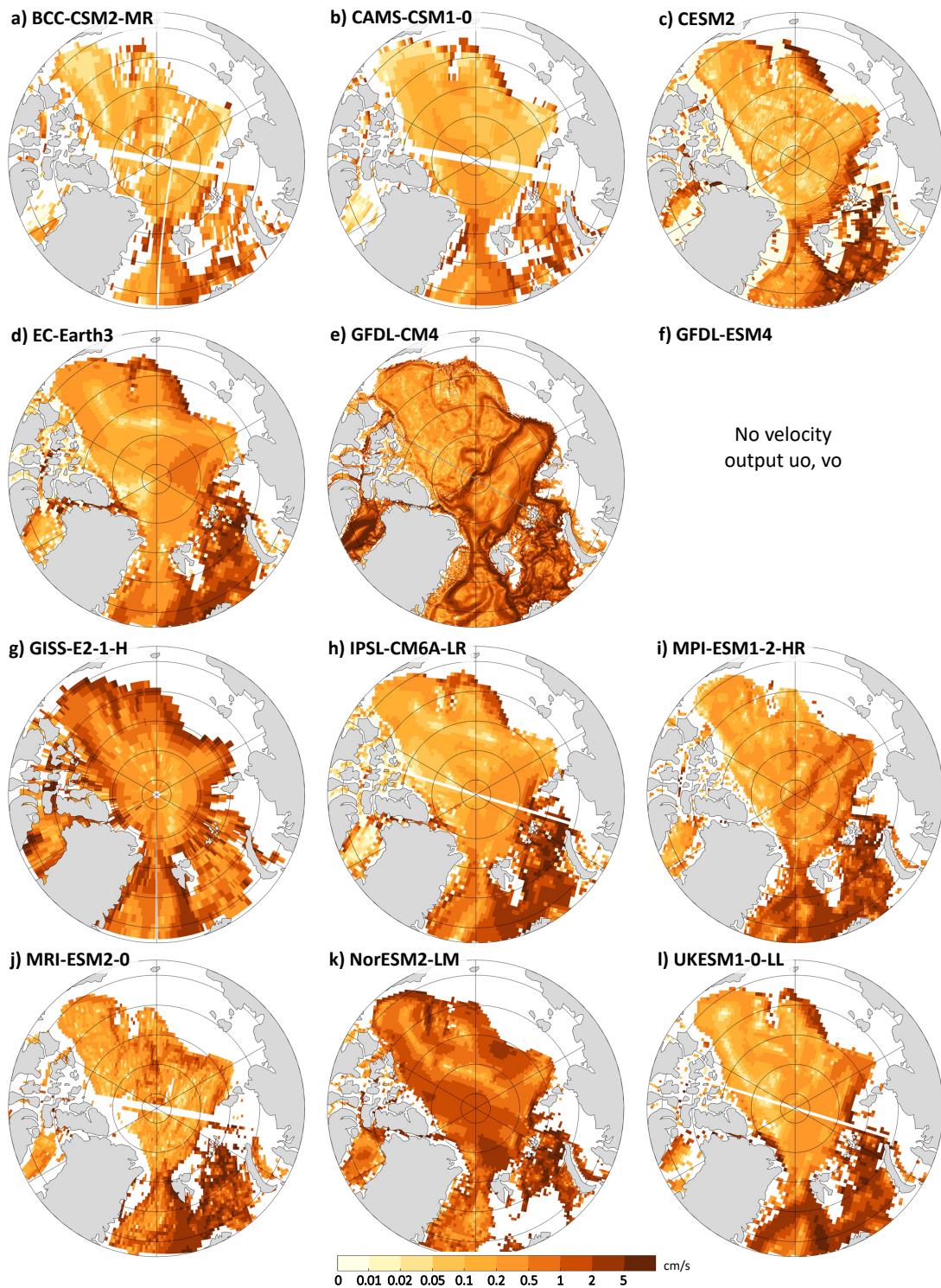


FIG. A4. Velocity of the Atlantic Water core for the models not shown on Fig. 8. Note the logarithmic scale.

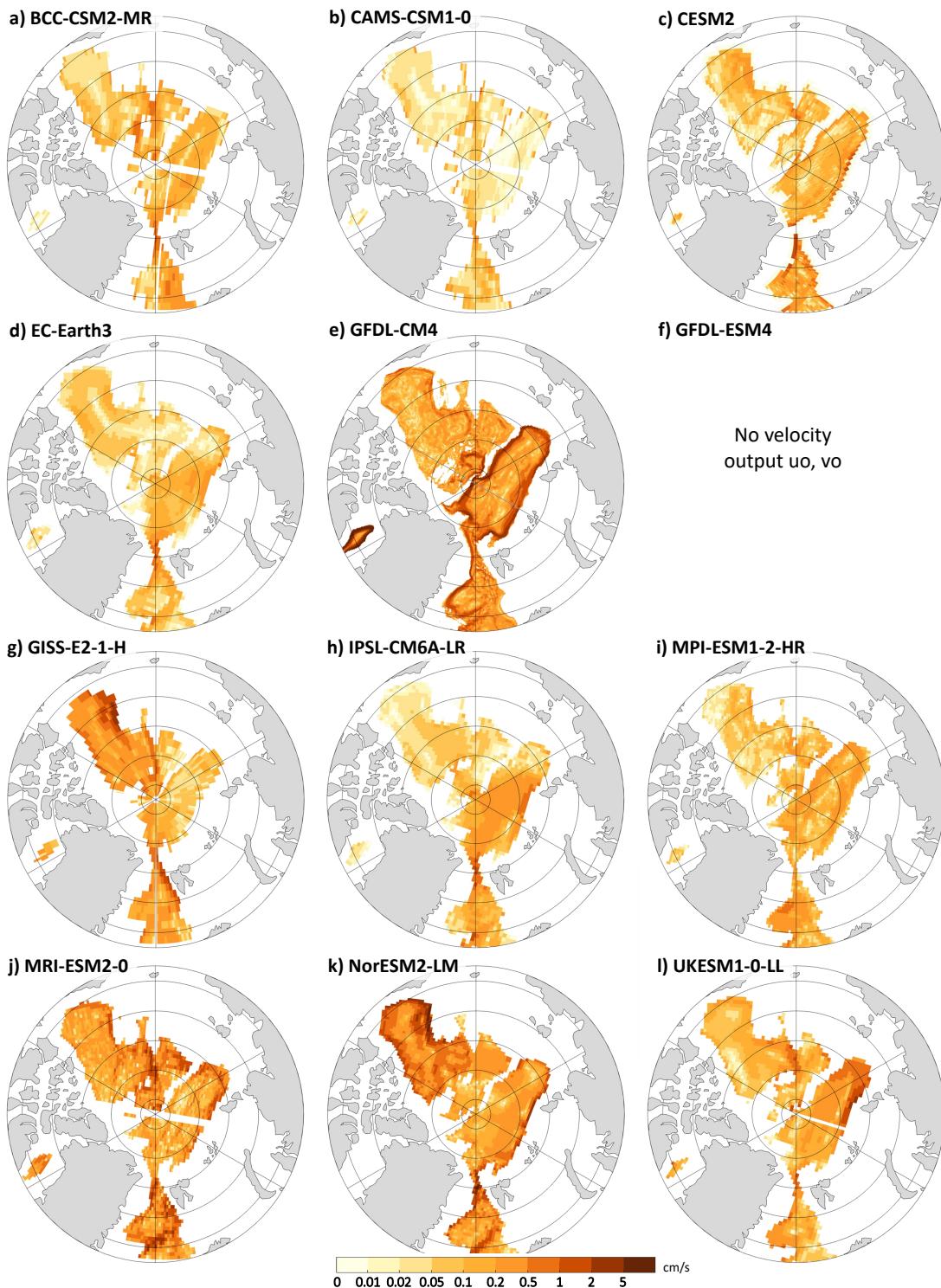
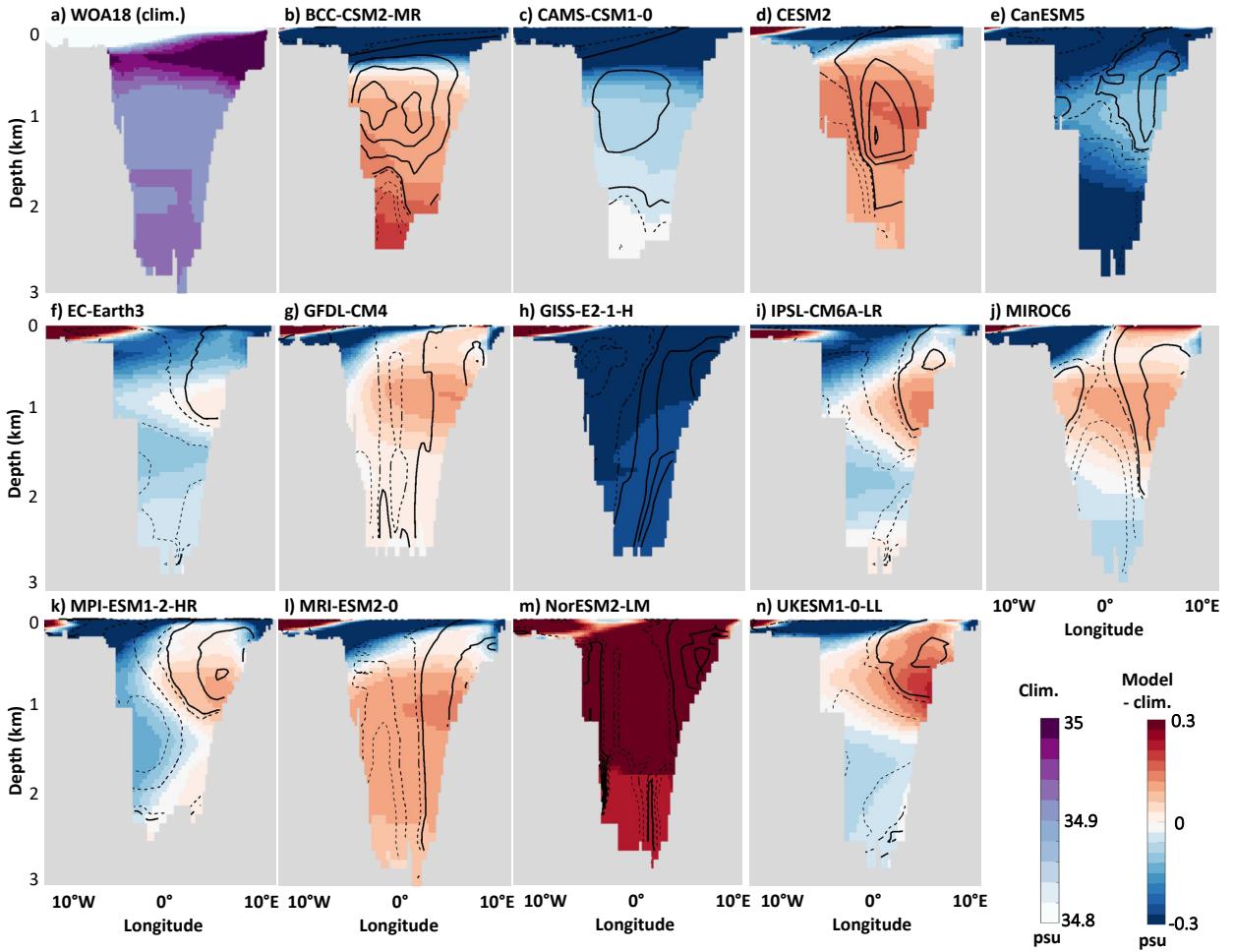


FIG. A5. Velocity at 2000 m depth for the models not shown on Fig. 8. Note the logarithmic scale.



746 FIG. A6. a) Salinity across Fram Strait in WOA18; b)-n) difference between each model's salinity and that of
 747 WOA18 across Fram Strait (shading), along with their volume flux as black lines (0.02 Sv contours; plain means
 748 positive, into the Arctic; dashed negative, out of the Arctic). Temperature biases are on Fig. 9

749 TABLE A1. Area-weighted mean bias model minus WOA18 climatology in potential temperature (first line,
750 left), salinity (first line, right; unit: psu), depth (second line, left) and density σ_2 (second line, right; unit: kg
751 m⁻³) of the Atlantic Water core for each model and the multi-model mean "MMM" in the four deep basins and
752 on the two shelf regions of interest.

Model	Nansen	Amundsen	Makarov	Canada	Sib. Shelf	Gre. Shelf
BCC-CSM2-MR	0.27 °C; 0.22	0.72 °C; 0.27	1.12 °C; 0.31	1.27 °C; 0.35	-0.52 °C; -0.39	-0.74 °C; -0.63
	1321 m; $\sigma = 0.14$	1374 m; $\sigma = 0.12$	1332 m; $\sigma = 0.1$	1255 m; $\sigma = 0.11$	57 m; $\sigma = -0.24$	42 m; $\sigma = -0.42$
CAM5-CSM1-0	-0.03 °C; -0.07	0.38 °C; -0.04	0.75 °C; -0.02	0.81 °C; -0.05	-0.29 °C; -0.53	0.39 °C; -0.56
	368 m; $\sigma = -0.05$	376 m; $\sigma = -0.08$	363 m; $\sigma = -0.11$	206 m; $\sigma = -0.14$	44 m; $\sigma = -0.37$	33 m; $\sigma = -0.51$
CESM2	0.11 °C; 0.11	0.39 °C; 0.12	0.77 °C; 0.14	0.93 °C; 0.16	0.28 °C; 0.01	1.05 °C; 0.11
	515 m; $\sigma = 0.08$	726 m; $\sigma = 0.04$	792 m; $\sigma = 0.01$	571 m; $\sigma = 0.01$	39 m; $\sigma = -0.02$	90 m; $\sigma = -0.06$
CanESM5	-2.31 °C; -0.26	-2.12 °C; -0.25	-1.78 °C; -0.26	-1.68 °C; -0.26	-0.34 °C; -0.10	-1.67 °C; -0.46
	591 m; $\sigma = 0.07$	1020 m; $\sigma = 0.04$	999 m; $\sigma = -0.01$	979 m; $\sigma = -0.02$	28 m; $\sigma = -0.04$	45 m; $\sigma = -0.17$
EC-Earth3	-1.13 °C; -0.12	-0.65 °C; -0.14	-0.06 °C; -0.12	0.24 °C; -0.09	0.04 °C; -0.02	-0.9 °C; -0.10
	390 m; $\sigma = 0.05$	178 m; $\sigma = -0.03$	349 m; $\sigma = -0.09$	322 m; $\sigma = -0.10$	14 m; $\sigma = -0.02$	50 m; $\sigma = 0.03$
GFDL-CM4	-0.29 °C; 0.04	0.03 °C; 0.04	0.31 °C; 0.04	0.35 °C; 0.05	-0.05 °C; -0.01	-0.08 °C; -0.11
	370 m; $\sigma = 0.07$	371 m; $\sigma = 0.03$	388 m; $\sigma = 0.00$	502 m; $\sigma = 0.00$	8 m; $\sigma = 0.00$	26 m; $\sigma = -0.08$
GFDL-ESM4	-0.59 °C; 0.12	-0.59 °C; 0.10	-0.43 °C; 0.12	-0.40 °C; 0.10	0.04 °C; 0.03	0.19 °C; -0.01
	256 m; $\sigma = 0.17$	337 m; $\sigma = 0.16$	655 m; $\sigma = 0.15$	408 m; $\sigma = 0.12$	14 m; $\sigma = 0.02$	48 m; $\sigma = -0.03$
GISS-E2-1-H	-1.55 °C; -0.58	-1.07 °C; -0.57	-0.82 °C; -0.66	-0.75 °C; -0.72	-0.37 °C; -0.33	-1.21 °C; -0.54
	399 m; $\sigma = -0.27$	416 m; $\sigma = -0.32$	280 m; $\sigma = -0.42$	63 m; $\sigma = -0.48$	21 m; $\sigma = -0.21$	66 m; $\sigma = -0.28$
IPSL-CM6A-LR	-0.80 °C; -0.05	-0.56 °C; -0.07	-0.26 °C; -0.08	-0.22 °C; -0.09	0.34 °C; -0.02	-0.77 °C; -0.09
	477 m; $\sigma = 0.06$	467 m; $\sigma = 0.01$	681 m; $\sigma = -0.03$	574 m; $\sigma = -0.04$	28 m; $\sigma = -0.06$	67 m; $\sigma = 0.03$
MIROC6	0.05 °C; 0.00	0.09 °C; -0.02	0.27 °C; -0.03	0.25 °C; -0.02	0.01 °C; -0.05	1 °C; -0.08
	338 m; $\sigma = -0.01$	390 m; $\sigma = -0.03$	473 m; $\sigma = -0.05$	517 m; $\sigma = -0.04$	20 m; $\sigma = -0.04$	135 m; $\sigma = -0.21$
MPI-ESM1-2-HR	-0.11 °C; -0.07	-0.32 °C; -0.11	-0.18 °C; -0.13	-0.08 °C; -0.09	0.04 °C; -0.09	-0.28 °C; -0.27
	213 m; $\sigma = -0.04$	271 m; $\sigma = -0.05$	448 m; $\sigma = -0.08$	507 m; $\sigma = -0.06$	19 m; $\sigma = -0.08$	33 m; $\sigma = -0.17$
MRI-ESM2-0	0.13 °C; 0.06	0.51 °C; 0.06	0.86 °C; 0.06	0.98 °C; 0.07	0.27 °C; -0.01	0.62 °C; 0.00
	756 m; $\sigma = 0.03$	891 m; $\sigma = -0.01$	1029 m; $\sigma = -0.06$	868 m; $\sigma = -0.07$	54 m; $\sigma = -0.04$	209 m; $\sigma = -0.08$
NorESM2-LM	-1.78 °C; 0.18	-1.46 °C; 0.18	-1.06 °C; 0.19	-0.93 °C; 0.21	-0.14 °C; 0.14	-0.54 °C; 0.06
	77 m; $\sigma = 0.36$	116 m; $\sigma = 0.31$	123 m; $\sigma = 0.28$	3 m; $\sigma = 0.27$	7 m; $\sigma = 0.13$	1 m; $\sigma = 0.12$
UKESM1-0-LL	-1.93 °C; -0.04	-1.78 °C; -0.05	-1.43 °C; -0.06	-1.28 °C; -0.05	-0.21 °C; 0.01	-1.02 °C; -0.07
	589 m; $\sigma = 0.20$	702 m; $\sigma = 0.17$	645 m; $\sigma = 0.11$	454 m; $\sigma = 0.11$	21 m; $\sigma = 0.04$	36 m; $\sigma = 0.06$
MMM	-0.44 °C; -0.02	-0.44 °C; -0.03	-0.12 °C; -0.02	0.08 °C; -0.03	-0.02 °C; -0.02	-0.41 °C; -0.09
	395 m; $\sigma = 0.06$	403 m; $\sigma = 0.02$	559 m; $\sigma = -0.02$	504 m; $\sigma = -0.03$	21 m; $\sigma = -0.04$	46 m; $\sigma = -0.08$

753 TABLE A2. Area-weighted mean bias model minus WOA18 climatology in potential temperature (first line,
754 left), salinity (first line, right; unit: psu) and density σ_2 (second line) of the Arctic deep water, defined here as
755 properties at 2000 m depth, for each model and the multi-model mean "MMM" in the four deep basins.

Model	Nansen	Amundsen	Makarov	Canada
BCC-CSM2-MR	2.50 °C; 0.19	2.75 °C; 0.21	2.17 °C; 0.18	2.31 °C; 0.22
	-0.15 kg m ⁻³	-0.17 kg m ⁻³	-0.12 kg m ⁻³	-0.10 kg m ⁻³
CAM5-CSM1-0	1.57 °C; -0.02	1.72 °C; -0.03	1.28 °C; -0.04	1.35 °C; -0.03
	-0.19 kg m ⁻³	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.18 kg m ⁻³	-0.18 kg m ⁻³
CESM2	2.20 °C; 0.07	2.27 °C; 0.06	1.83 °C; 0.04	1.83 °C; 0.05
	-0.20 kg m ⁻³	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.19 kg m ⁻³	-0.18 kg m ⁻³
CanESM5	-0.04 °C; -0.28	-0.12 °C; -0.30	-0.38 °C; -0.31	-0.51 °C; -0.35
	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.23 kg m ⁻³	-0.20 kg m ⁻³	-0.22 kg m ⁻³
EC-Earth3	1.16 °C; -0.07	1.14 °C; -0.09	0.86 °C; -0.09	0.88 °C; -0.09
	-0.18 kg m ⁻³	-0.20 kg m ⁻³	-0.17 kg m ⁻³	-0.17 kg m ⁻³
GFDL-CM4	0.86 °C; 0.00	0.82 °C; -0.02	0.90 °C; -0.04	0.92 °C; -0.04
	-0.10 kg m ⁻³	-0.10 kg m ⁻³	-0.13 kg m ⁻³	-0.13 kg m ⁻³
GFDL-ESM4	1.13 °C; 0.13	1.13 °C; 0.12	0.75 °C; 0.06	0.50 °C; 0.03
	-0.02 kg m ⁻³	-0.03 kg m ⁻³	-0.04 kg m ⁻³	-0.03 kg m ⁻³
GISS-E2-1-H	0.28 °C; -0.29	0.29 °C; -0.42	-0.45 °C; -0.41	-0.72 °C; -0.47
	-0.26 kg m ⁻³	-0.37 kg m ⁻³	-0.28 kg m ⁻³	-0.30 kg m ⁻³
IPSL-CM6A-LR	1.23 °C; -0.09	1.21 °C; -0.11	0.88 °C; -0.13	0.87 °C; -0.13
	-0.21 kg m ⁻³	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.20 kg m ⁻³	-0.20 kg m ⁻³
MIROC6	1.32 °C; -0.08	1.30 °C; -0.09	1.08 °C; -0.11	1.11 °C; -0.09
	-0.21 kg m ⁻³	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.21 kg m ⁻³	-0.20 kg m ⁻³
MPI-ESM1-2-HR	1.09 °C; -0.13	0.99 °C; -0.16	0.74 °C; -0.15	0.89 °C; -0.15
	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.24 kg m ⁻³	-0.20 kg m ⁻³	-0.22 kg m ⁻³
MRI-ESM2-0	2.45 °C; 0.01	2.45 °C; -0.01	2.13 °C; -0.03	2.13 °C; -0.04
	-0.28 kg m ⁻³	-0.29 kg m ⁻³	-0.28 kg m ⁻³	-0.29 kg m ⁻³
NorESM2-LM	0.39 °C; 0.20	0.33 °C; 0.19	0.07 °C; 0.16	0.00 °C; 0.17
	0.12 kg m ⁻³	0.12 kg m ⁻³	0.12 kg m ⁻³	0.14 kg m ⁻³
UKESM1-0-LL	0.22 °C; -0.09	0.15 °C; -0.11	-0.10 °C; -0.14	-0.14 °C; -0.15
	-0.10 kg m ⁻³			
MMM	1.14 °C; -0.04	1.14 °C; -0.06	0.87 °C; -0.07	0.89 °C; -0.07
	-0.20 kg m ⁻³	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.18 kg m ⁻³	-0.18 kg m ⁻³

756 TABLE A3. Area-weighted mean bias model minus WOA18 climatology in potential temperature (first line,
757 left), salinity (first line, right; unit: psu), and density σ_2 (second line) of the bottom water, defined as the deepest
758 grid cell with values, for each model and the multi-model mean "MMM" in the four deep basins and on the two
759 shelf regions of interest.

Model	Nansen	Amundsen	Makarov	Canada	Sib. Shelf	Gre. Shelf
BCC-CSM2-MR	2.88 °C; 0.18	2.91 °C; 0.21	2.55 °C; 0.21	2.46 °C; 0.23	-0.47 °C; -1.79	-0.62 °C; -0.70
	-0.20 kg m ⁻³	-0.18 kg m ⁻³	-0.14 kg m ⁻³	-0.12 kg m ⁻³	-1.37 kg m ⁻³	-0.49 kg m ⁻³
CAM5-CSM1-0	1.63 °C; -0.05	1.52 °C; -0.03	1.39 °C; -0.05	1.26 °C; -0.03	-0.06 °C; -3.07	0.53 °C; -0.89
	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.19 kg m ⁻³	-0.19 kg m ⁻³	-0.17 kg m ⁻³	-2.42 kg m ⁻³	-0.79 kg m ⁻³
CESM2	2.24 °C; 0.05	2.14 °C; 0.05	2.00 °C; 0.04	1.62 °C; 0.04	0.39 °C; 0.02	1.34 °C; 0.16
	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.21 kg m ⁻³	-0.21 kg m ⁻³	-0.16 kg m ⁻³	-0.06 kg m ⁻³	-0.05 kg m ⁻³
CanESM5	-0.19 °C; -0.25	-0.25 °C; -0.24	-0.42 °C; -0.34	-0.66 °C; -0.26	-0.31 °C; -0.93	-1.52 °C; -0.51
	-0.18 kg m ⁻³	-0.17 kg m ⁻³	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.14 kg m ⁻³	-0.73 kg m ⁻³	-0.24 kg m ⁻³
EC-Earth3	1.30 °C; -0.04	1.31 °C; -0.04	1.04 °C; -0.07	0.86 °C; -0.02	0.30 °C; 0.51	-0.72 °C; -0.05
	-0.17 kg m ⁻³	-0.17 kg m ⁻³	-0.17 kg m ⁻³	-0.11 kg m ⁻³	0.36 kg m ⁻³	0.04 kg m ⁻³
GFDL-CM4	0.59 °C; -0.02	0.50 °C; -0.02	0.74 °C; -0.04	0.49 °C; -0.02	0.04 °C; -0.83	0.13 °C; -0.11
	-0.08 kg m ⁻³	-0.07 kg m ⁻³	-0.11 kg m ⁻³	-0.07 kg m ⁻³	-0.68 kg m ⁻³	-0.11 kg m ⁻³
GFDL-ESM4	1.27 °C; 0.11	1.24 °C; 0.11	0.87 °C; 0.07	0.57 °C; 0.03	0.18 °C; -1.24	0.35 °C; -0.02
	-0.05 kg m ⁻³	-0.05 kg m ⁻³	-0.04 kg m ⁻³	-0.04 kg m ⁻³	-1.01 kg m ⁻³	-0.07 kg m ⁻³
GISS-E2-1-H	0.08 °C; -0.20	0.07 °C; -0.37	-0.52 °C; -0.40	-0.83 °C; -0.43	-0.17 °C; -0.24	-1.01 °C; -0.39
	-0.16 kg m ⁻³	-0.30 kg m ⁻³	-0.26 kg m ⁻³	-0.26 kg m ⁻³	-0.17 kg m ⁻³	-0.19 kg m ⁻³
IPSL-CM6A-LR	1.29 °C; -0.02	1.28 °C; -0.03	1.03 °C; -0.07	0.89 °C; -0.03	0.75 °C; 0.36	-0.52 °C; -0.05
	-0.16 kg m ⁻³	-0.16 kg m ⁻³	-0.17 kg m ⁻³	-0.13 kg m ⁻³	0.18 kg m ⁻³	0.03 kg m ⁻³
MIROC6	1.22 °C; -0.11	1.18 °C; -0.11	1.04 °C; -0.12	1.14 °C; -0.10	0.08 °C; 0.00	1.22 °C; 0.10
	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.22 kg m ⁻³	-0.21 kg m ⁻³	-0.21 kg m ⁻³	-0.01 kg m ⁻³	-0.10 kg m ⁻³
MPI-ESM1-2-HR	1.18 °C; -0.17	1.01 °C; -0.20	0.92 °C; -0.19	0.96 °C; -0.17	0.09 °C; -1.34	-0.14 °C; -0.37
	-0.26 kg m ⁻³	-0.26 kg m ⁻³	-0.25 kg m ⁻³	-0.24 kg m ⁻³	-1.09 kg m ⁻³	-0.28 kg m ⁻³
MRI-ESM2-0	2.39 °C; -0.05	2.33 °C; -0.05	2.20 °C; -0.04	2.10 °C; -0.05	0.45 °C; 0.31	0.53 °C; -0.06
	-0.31 kg m ⁻³	-0.31 kg m ⁻³	-0.30 kg m ⁻³	-0.29 kg m ⁻³	0.18 kg m ⁻³	-0.11 kg m ⁻³
NorESM2-LM	0.66 °C; 0.41	0.60 °C; 0.42	0.12 °C; 0.17	0.02 °C; 0.17	-0.03 °C; -0.82	-0.35 °C; 0.16
	0.25 kg m ⁻³	0.27 kg m ⁻³	0.12 kg m ⁻³	0.13 kg m ⁻³	-0.66 kg m ⁻³	0.18 kg m ⁻³
UKESM1-0-LL	0.26 °C; -0.11	0.22 °C; -0.12	-0.08 °C; -0.15	-0.15 °C; -0.16	-0.16 °C; -0.31	-0.87 °C; -0.06
	-0.12 kg m ⁻³	-0.12 kg m ⁻³	-0.11 kg m ⁻³	-0.11 kg m ⁻³	-0.25 kg m ⁻³	0.05 kg m ⁻³
MMM	1.25 °C; -0.04	1.21 °C; -0.03	0.98 °C; -0.06	0.88 °C; -0.03	0.06 °C; -0.57	-0.24 °C; -0.06
	-0.18 kg m ⁻³	-0.18 kg m ⁻³	-0.18 kg m ⁻³	-0.13 kg m ⁻³	-0.45 kg m ⁻³	-0.10 kg m ⁻³

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