Authigenic and detrital neodymium isotopic compositions of surface sediments in Svalbard fjords: preliminary results

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The Svalbard Archipelago is located in the eastern Arctic Ocean near the Fram Strait. This region is characterized by several fjords formed during the retreat/advance of glaciers. The behavior of glaciers exerts a strong influence on the sediment transport system and hydrology in Svalbard, and hence tracing of the change in sediment provenance and seawater composition is important to understand the ice dynamics and history. Here we tentatively measured detrital and authigenic Nd isotopes (143 Nd/ 144 Nd; ε_{Nd}) of surface sediments in Svalbard fjords - Dicksonfjorden, Hornsund, Isfjorden, Van Mijenfjorden, Wijdefjorden and Woodfjorden - to reconstruct spatial variation in lithological sediment provenance and water mass composition at present. Detrital ε_{Nd} fluctuates widely from -10.1 to -24.9, indicating a large spatial variation in the provenance of Svalbard sediments at present. As expected from various and different rocks surrounding Hornsund area, ϵ_{Nd} values of detrital sediments are mostly variable in Hornsund. On the contrary, detrital ε_{Nd} values in Dicksonfjorden and Woodfjorden are relatively constant with average value of -13.6. Considering the geological setting and overall reddish sediments in Dicksonfjorden and Woodfjorden, Devonian red sandstone seems to be a dominant source for both fjords at present. Authigenic ε_{Nd} values in Svalbard are also variable ranging from -9.0 to -14.5 and well correlated with detrital ε_{Nd} (r = 0.62, n = 45), probably resulting from local Nd fluxes such as meltwaters draining rocks and/or sediment-seawater interaction. Again, the oscillation in authigenic ε_{Nd} is mostly prominent in Hornsund, but the variation in authigenic ε_{Nd} has a smaller amplitude compared to detrital ε_{Nd} , indicating that seawater composition in Hornsund is also influenced by the N. Atlantic inflow as well as local fluxes. Likewise, northward increase in authigenic ε_{Nd} from coastal to pelagic area in Wijdefjorden seems to be an example to show the interplay between local terrestrial input and N. Atlantic inflow.



Arctic gateway connecting the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans

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