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Spatiotemporal correlation analysis of noise-derived seismic body waves with ocean wave climate and microseism sources

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Key Points:

- Time variations of a noise-derived P -type phase are compared with those of the ocean wave heights and microseism sources.
- Do not equate a positive correlation with a causal relation when studying the links between noise sources and noise-derived signals.
- The derivation of seismic signals from ambient noise relies on the competition between the effective and ineffective sources.

Abstract

Seismic signals can be extracted from ambient noise wavefields by the correlation technique. Recently, a prominent P -type phase was observed from teleseismic noise correlations in the secondary microseism period band. The phase is named P_{dmc} in this paper, corresponding to its origin from the interference between the Direct P waves transmitting through the deep Mantle and the Core (P and $PKPab$ waves). We extract the phase by correlating noise records from two seismic networks in the northern hemisphere, and locate the microseism sources that are efficient for the P_{dmc} construction in the south Pacific. We investigate the spatiotemporal links of the P_{dmc} signal with global oceanic waves and microseism sources. Interestingly, the correlation with wave height is higher in several regions surrounding the effective source region, rather than in the effective source region. The P_{dmc} amplitude is highly correlated with the power of the effective microseism sources. Also, it is apparently correlated with ineffective sources in the southern hemisphere, and anti-correlated with sources in the northern hemisphere. We ascribe the correlation with the ineffective southern sources to the spatiotemporal interconnections of the southern sources. The anti-correlation with northern sources can be explained by the reverse seasonal patterns between the southern and northern sources, and by that the northern sources impede the signal construction. The signal construction from noise correlations relies on the

39 competition between the effective and ineffective sources, not just on the power of the effective
40 sources. This principle should be valid in a general sense for noise-derived signals.

41

42 **Plain Language Summary**

43 Earth is experiencing tiny but incessant movement induced by natural forces, particularly, storm-
44 driven ocean waves. While this ambient seismic noise (microseism) was deemed a nuisance in
45 the past, it can be turned into signals via the seismic correlation technique.

46 Recently, a new *P*-type phase was derived from the noise correlations between two regional
47 seismic networks. The noise-derived phase originates from the correlation between *P* waves that
48 propagate through the deep mantle and outer core of the Earth.

49 The temporal amplitude variations of the noise-derived signals are compared with the variations
50 of microseism sources in the oceans. We show that the signal emergence depends on the
51 competition between the sources in a specific region that contribute to the signals and sources in
52 other regions. The conclusion can be generalized to other noise-derived seismic phases.

53 We also analyze the links of the noise-derived signals to ocean waves. In our case, the ocean
54 waves in the contributing source region are dominated by wind seas forced by local winds,
55 whereas the excitation of microseisms is primarily owing to the freely traveling swells generated
56 by oceanic storms in surrounding regions.

57

58 **1 Introduction**

59 The incessant background vibrations of Earth had been observed as early as the birth of
60 seismometers in the later 19th century (Bernard, 1990; Dewey & Byerly, 1969; Ebeling, 2012).
61 They were termed “microseisms” due to their tiny amplitudes. With more apparatus deployed
62 worldwide, it was soon recognized that microseisms are ubiquitous and irrelevant to seismicity.
63 The observation of microseisms aroused interests from various disciplines. Researchers linked
64 the generation of microseisms to atmosphere processes and ocean wave activity. Meteorologists
65 tried to employ land observations of microseisms to track remote oceanic storms (e.g., Harrison,
66 1924). Since the mid-twentieth century, it has been well known that microseisms are excited by
67 storm-driven ocean waves. The most energetic microseisms that dominate the seismic noise
68 spectra, namely, the so-called secondary microseisms at seismic periods around 7 s (Peterson,
69 1993), are excited by the nonlinear interactions between nearly equal-frequency ocean waves
70 propagating in nearly opposite directions (Longuet-Higgins, 1950; Hasselmann, 1963). The
71 periods of the excited secondary microseisms are half those of the colliding ocean waves. The
72 excitation source is equivalent to a vertical pressure applied to the water surface, which is
73 proportional to the product of the heights of the opposing equal-frequency waves. Due to this
74 second order relation, moderate sea states can sometimes generate loud microseism noise
75 (Obrebski et al., 2012). Thus, the presence of a strong microseism event does not necessarily
76 imply a locally intense sea state.

77 By coupling the excitation theory of secondary microseisms proposed by Longuet-
78 Higgins (1950) with the ocean wave action model, Kedar et al. (2008) modeled the secondary
79 microseism excitations in the north Atlantic, and validated the numerical modeling by comparing
80 with inland seismological observations. Afterwards, more authors simulated the oceanic

81 microseism sources and some reported the consistency between predictions and observations
82 (e.g., Arduin et al., 2011, 2015; Hillers et al., 2012; Stutzmann et al., 2012; Nishida & Takagi,
83 2016). Stopa et al. (2019) compared the microseism simulations with real observations to
84 validate their corrections to the global reanalysis wind fields, which systematically reduced the
85 residuals in the wave hindcast over the past decades.

86 The seismic excitation by an oceanic microseism source is essentially akin to that by an
87 earthquake, in that the seismic wavefield recorded at any point is a convolution of the source
88 time function with the Green function of the propagating medium between source and receiver.
89 Their main difference lies in the source process. For earthquakes, the sudden rupture of faults
90 leads to short-duration, impulsive source time functions. Isolated seismic phases are generally
91 distinguishable from the seismograms. In contrast, the excitation of microseisms, approximated
92 as Gaussian random process by some authors (Peterson, 1993; Steim, 2015), is incessant, leading
93 to long, random-like source time functions. The convolution mixture signals are not directly
94 discernible from the seismograms. With array beamforming (Rost & Thomas, 2002) or
95 correlation technique (Campillo & Paul, 2003; Shapiro & Campillo, 2004), specific phases from
96 distant microseism sources have been identified from microseism noise records (e.g., Gerstoft et
97 al., 2008; Landès et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2010; Euler et al., 2014; Reading et al., 2014; Gal et
98 al., 2015; Liu et al., 2016; Nishida & Takagi, 2016; Meschede et al., 2017, 2018; Retailleau &
99 Gualtieri, 2019). The correlation technique is advantageous in that, by correlating the noise
100 records at two receivers, explicit seismic signals can be derived. Noise-derived surface waves
101 have been used to infer the azimuthal and seasonal changes of noise sources (e.g., Stehly et al.,
102 2006). Noise-derived body waves can provide better constrains in imaging the noise sources
103 (Landès et al., 2010). Recently, deep body waves that propagate through the mantle and core
104 have been extracted from ambient noise (e.g., Boué et al., 2013; Lin et al., 2013; Nishida, 2013;
105 Poli et al., 2015; Xia et al., 2016; Spica et al., 2017; Retailleau et al., 2020). The noise-derived
106 body waves are valuable for surveying the deep structure and for understanding the links
107 between seismological observations and atmospheric/oceanographic phenomena.

108 Hillers et al. (2012) made the first global-scale comparison between the oceanic
109 microseism sources derived from seismological observations and oceanographic modeling. The
110 seismologically derived data (time resolution: 13 days; spatial resolution: 2.5° latitude \times 5°
111 longitude) are the global back-projections of near-zero-lag P signals generated from the cross
112 correlations of microseism P waves at seismic array (Landès et al., 2010). The modeled data
113 (time resolution: 3 hours; spatial resolution: 1° latitude \times 1.25° longitude) are a global extension
114 of the numerical simulation by Kedar et al. (2008). The two datasets are resampled to common
115 resolutions for comparison. For the seismologically derived data, the back-projection is based on
116 the relationship between the source-receiver distance and the horizontal slowness of teleseismic
117 P wave. However, seismic phases that have common slownesses (e.g., P and PP waves) cannot
118 be discriminated in this method (Gerstoft et al., 2008; Landès et al., 2010). Thus, the imaged
119 sources are somewhat ambiguous. For the modeled data, coastal reflections of ocean waves, that
120 can play a role in the ocean wave-wave interactions at near-coast regions (Longuet-Higgins,
121 1950; Arduin et al., 2011), are neglected. Due to the resonance of seismic waves in the water
122 columns, bathymetry can have significant effect on the excitation of microseisms (Longuet-
123 Higgins, 1950; Kedar et al., 2008; Hillers et al., 2012). The importance to account for the
124 bathymetric effect on the microseism P -wave excitations has been addressed in several studies
125 (e.g., Euler et al., 2014; Gal et al., 2015; Meschede et al., 2017). Hillers et al. (2012) considered

126 the bathymetric effect, but using the amplification factors derived by Longuet-Higgins (1950) for
127 surface waves.

128 Rasche and Ardhuin (2013) established an oceanographic hindcast database that includes
129 global oceanic secondary microseism sources of a 3-hour time resolution and a 0.5° spatial
130 resolution. Coastal reflections were accounted for in the modeling (Ardhuin et al., 2011).
131 Regarding the bathymetric effect on microseism excitations, Gualtieri et al. (2014) proposed the
132 formulae for body waves based on ray theory. Concerning the localization of noise sources, Li et
133 al. (2020) developed a double-array method that can estimate the respective slownesses of the
134 interfering waves, and thereby, provide better constrains for the determination of the correlated
135 seismic phases. The microseism sources that are effective for the derivation of seismic signals
136 from noise records, can be mapped by back-projecting the noise-derived signals along the ray
137 paths of the correlated phases. The double-array configuration eliminates the ambiguity in
138 determining the effective source region (Fresnel zone). In this study, we integrate these new
139 progresses to survey the associations of noise-derived body waves to ocean wave activity and
140 microseism excitations.

141 This paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we review the main results of Li et al.
142 (2020) who reported the observation of a prominent P -type phase from the noise correlations
143 between two regional seismic networks at teleseismic distance. The noise-derived phase has its
144 spectral content concentrated in the period band of the secondary microseisms that are excited by
145 the nonlinear ocean wave-wave interactions. In this paper, we denote the phase as P_{dmc} ,
146 corresponding to the fact that the phase originates from the correlation between the Direct P
147 waves that transmit through the deep Mantle and the outer Core (microseism P and $PKPab$
148 waves). In section 3, we estimate the temporal variations in the P_{dmc} amplitude and refute the
149 associations to seismicity. In section 4, correlation analysis is used to unveil the spatiotemporal
150 links of the P_{dmc} signal with the global oceanic wave climate and microseism sources. Last, we
151 discuss the significance of this study in seismology, oceanography and climate science.

152 **2 Noise-derived P_{dmc} phase**

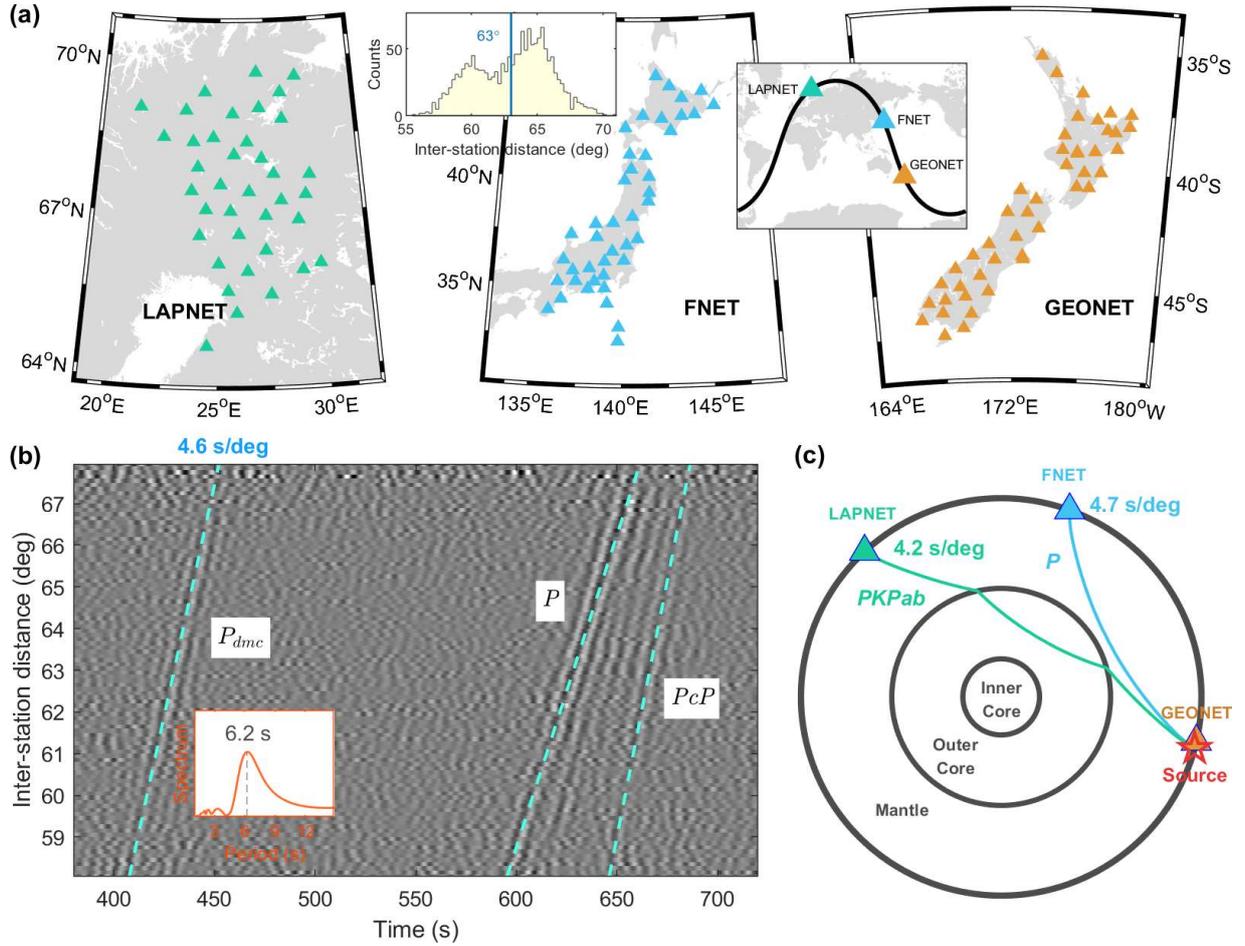
153 Li et al. (2020) correlated the seismic noise records from two regional seismic networks
154 at teleseismic distance: the FNET array in Japan and the LAPNET array in Finland (Fig. 1a). The
155 continuous seismograms were divided into 4 h segments and whitened in the frequency domain.
156 Segments with large spikes (like earthquakes) were discarded. The available segments of each
157 FNET-LAPNET station pairs were correlated. For more technical details, see section 2 of Li et
158 al. (2020). From the vertical-vertical components of the FNET-LAPNET noise correlations, they
159 observed coherent spurious arrivals (the P_{dmc} phase named in the previous section) that emerged
160 ~ 200 s earlier than the direct P waves (Fig. 1b). By estimating the respective slownesses of the
161 interfering waves and their time delay, it is unveiled that a quasi-stationary phase interference
162 between the teleseismic P waves at FNET and the $PKPab$ waves at LAPNET, emanating from
163 noise sources in the ocean south of New Zealand (NZ), lead to the noise-derived P_{dmc} phase (Fig.
164 1c). The quasi-stationary phase condition refers to that the interfering waves have no common
165 path or common slowness, but the stack of correlation functions over a range of sources can still
166 be constructive as an effect of finite frequency. This observation contrasts with the strict
167 stationary phase condition that has been employed by Pham et al. (2018) to explain the spurious
168 body phases in the earthquake coda correlations. The strict condition implies the existence of
169 sources in the stationary-phase region, or say, the correlated waves have common ray paths or

170 common slownesses. Li et al. (2020) substantiates the explanation of quasi-stationary phase for
 171 the observed P_{dmc} signals with numerical experiments based on ray theory and based on spectral-
 172 element modeling, and highlighted the discrepancies between (microseism) noise correlations
 173 and coda correlations.

174 The P_{dmc} phase has an apparent slowness of 4.6 s/deg, while the slownesses of the
 175 interfering P and $PKPab$ waves are 4.7 s/deg and 4.2 s/deg, respectively. The dominant period of
 176 the P_{dmc} phase is 6.2 s, typical for secondary microseisms. The observation of the P_{dmc} phase is
 177 time-asymmetric (Fig. S1a). Its absence from the mirror side is ascribed to the faintness of the
 178 corresponding source in the low-latitude Atlantic (Fig. S1b).

179 There are several advantages to investigating the links between noise-derived signals and
 180 microseism sources with the P_{dmc} phase. First, the correlated P and $PKPab$ waves are both
 181 prominent phases in the ballistic microseism wavefields. The P_{dmc} phase is easily observable
 182 from noise correlations, even between some single station pairs and on some single days (Fig.
 183 S2). Second, the isolation of P_{dmc} signals avoids potential bias caused by other prominent
 184 signals. Third, the effective sources are confined in a limited, unique region (Fresnel zone). In
 185 contrast, noise-derived surface waves have a broad Fresnel zone around the line across the
 186 correlated stations, and noise-derived P waves can have multiple Fresnel zones (see fig. 5 of
 187 Boué et al., 2014 for instance). The uniqueness of the effective source region can facilitate the
 188 study on the correlation between the noise-derived signals and the effective sources. Fourth, the
 189 correlated FNET and LAPNET networks are next to the northern Pacific and Atlantic,
 190 respectively, while the effective source region locates in the southern Pacific. The northern
 191 oceans have consistent seasonal variation pattern distinct from (reverse to) that of the southern
 192 oceans (Stehly et al., 2006; Stutzmann et al., 2009; Landès et al., 2010; Hillers et al., 2012;
 193 Reading et al., 2014; Turners et al., 2020). These geographical configurations make the
 194 observations easier to interpret. Last, there happens to be a seismic array (GEONET) in NZ next
 195 to the effective source region for the P_{dmc} phase. The seismic data from GEONET provide extra
 196 support to our study.

197



198

199 **Figure 1.** (a) Three regional broadband seismic networks used in this study: left, the LAPNET
 200 array in Finland (38 stations); center, the FNET array in Japan (41 stations); right, the GEONET
 201 array in New Zealand (46 stations). The histogram inset shows the distribution of the separation
 202 distances between the 1558 FNET-LAPNET station pairs. The center-to-center distance is 63°
 203 between LAPNET and FNET, and 85° between FNET and GEONET. The global inset shows the
 204 geographical locations of the three networks that are aligned on a great circle (dark line). (b)
 205 Annual FNET-LAPNET noise correlations that are filtered between 5 s and 10 s and stacked
 206 over time and in 0.1° inter-station distance bins. The spectrum inset indicates that the P_{dmc} phase
 207 has a 6.2 s peak period. (c) Ray paths of the interfering waves that generate the P_{dmc} phase. The
 208 effective source region is close to GEONET.

209 3 Temporal variations

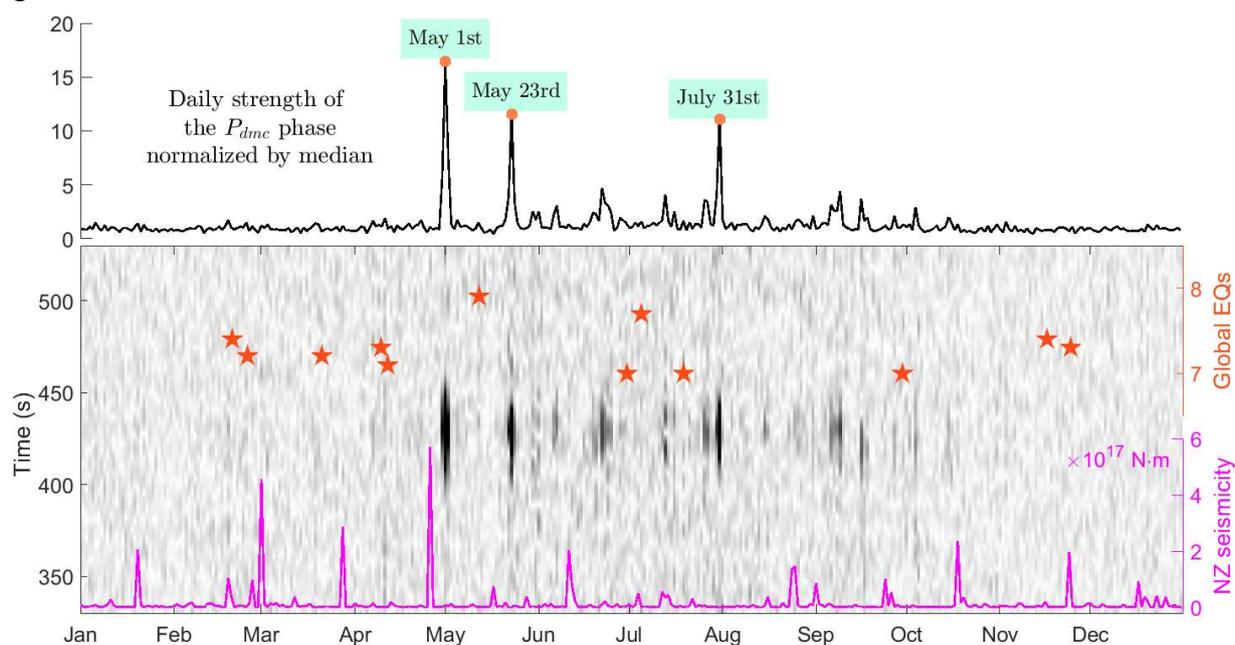
210 We extract the temporal variations of the P_{dmc} signals by beamforming the FNET-
 211 LAPNET noise correlations on a daily basis. The daily noise correlations are shifted and stacked
 212 by

$$213 B(t) = \langle C_{ij}(t + (d_{ij} - d_0) \cdot p) \rangle, \quad (1)$$

214 with $\langle \cdot \rangle$ the mean operator, C_{ij} and d_{ij} the correlation function and the distance between the i th
 215 FNET station and the j th LAPNET station, d_0 the reference distance (63°), p the apparent

216 slowness of the P_{dmc} phase (4.6 s/deg), and t the time. The image in Fig. 2 shows the envelopes
 217 of the daily beams computed from the Hilbert transform of Eq. (1), with the daily P_{dmc} strength
 218 by averaging the envelope amplitudes plotted in the top panel. The strength of daily P_{dmc} signals
 219 varies strikingly, extremely strong on some single days (see the labeled dates in the P_{dmc} strength
 220 curve for examples), but indiscernible on most other days.

221 Considering that the region of effective source is tectonically active, one should
 222 investigate the plausible connection between the P_{dmc} signals and seismicity. From Fig. 2, it is
 223 obvious that P_{dmc} is decorrelated with the NZ seismicity. Also, it shows no connection with
 224 global large earthquakes as has been observed for coda-derived core phases at periods of 20 to 50
 225 s (Lin & Tsai, 2013; Boué et al., 2014). That again demonstrates the substantial difference
 226 between ambient noise correlations and earthquake coda correlations, as emphasized by Li et al.
 227 (2020). The P_{dmc} strength exhibits an obvious pattern of seasonal variation. The seasonal pattern
 228 does not favor a tectonic origin because of the lack of a seasonal pattern in seismicity. Instead, an
 229 oceanic origin is more favored because of the well-documented fact that oceanic wave activity
 230 and microseism excitations show similar seasonal pattern: more powerful during the local winter
 231 (e.g., Stehly et al., 2006; Stutzmann et al., 2009; Landès et al., 2010; Hillers et al., 2012; Reading
 232 et al., 2014). Next, we analyze the correlations between P_{dmc} signals and oceanographic data at a
 233 global scale.



234
 235 **Figure 2.** Temporal variations in the strength of daily P_{dmc} signals, in comparisons with the daily
 236 cumulative seismic moments in NZ (pink line at bottom; for earthquake magnitudes above 2.0 in
 237 GEONET catalogue) and global large earthquakes (stars; magnitudes above 7.0 in USGS
 238 catalogue; see Table S1 for a full list of earthquakes in 2008 above magnitude 5.5). The
 239 background image is composed of columns of daily envelopes of beamed FNET-LAPNET noise

240 correlations. Darker color represents larger amplitude. The curve on the top shows the daily P_{dmc}
 241 strength derived from the daily envelopes. Dates of the three largest peaks are labeled.

242 **4 Correlation analysis**

243 The sea state is composed of ocean waves at various frequencies and propagation
 244 directions. The nonlinear interaction between nearly equal-frequency ocean waves traveling in
 245 nearly opposite directions is equivalent to a vertical random pressure applied to the ocean surface
 246 (Longuet-Higgins, 1950; Hasselmann, 1963), so that microseisms are generated. Figure 3(a)
 247 shows a global map of average Power Spectral Density (PSD) of the equivalent surface pressure
 248 for a seismic period of 6.2 s, during the northern winter months of 2008. The hindcast PSD data
 249 are simulated by Arduin et al. (2011) and Rasclé & Arduin (2013), based on the microseism
 250 excitation theory of Longuet-Higgins (1950) and Hasselmann (1963). The most energetic
 251 microseism excitations occur in the northern Atlantic south of Greenland and Iceland (near
 252 LAPNET), and in the northern Pacific between Japan and Alaska (near FNET). Figure 3(b)
 253 shows the map for the austral winter months, with the strongest excitations occurring between
 254 NZ and Antarctic (near GEONET). The seasonal pattern of oceanic microseism excitations
 255 results from the same pattern of global wave climate (Figs 3e-f). The seasonal pattern of the P_{dmc}
 256 strength agrees with that of the microseism excitation and wave climate in the effective source
 257 region south of NZ.

258 We compute the correlation coefficient (denoted as r) between the P_{dmc} strength and the
 259 source PSDs at each grid point, and thereby obtain a global correlation map (Fig. 3c). The largest
 260 r value for P_{dmc} and source PSD arises at [47°S, 177°E] in the effective source region (E in Fig.
 261 3c). The corresponding time series of daily source PSDs is plotted in Fig. 4, in parallel with the
 262 P_{dmc} strength. Large peaks in the P_{dmc} series have good correspondence with large peaks in the
 263 source PSD series. From Fig. 3(c), one can observe a broad region of positive r values (red
 264 colors; roughly, south Atlantic, south Pacific, and Indian ocean). However, the positive
 265 correlation does not imply a causality between the P_{dmc} phase and the sources outside the
 266 effective region E . We ascribe the apparent positive correlation to the spatial correlation of the
 267 time-varying microseism excitation. As shown in Fig. 3(d), the source at [47°S, 177°E] in region
 268 E exhibits a similar pattern of apparent correlations with global sources as in Fig. 3(c). Despite
 269 the microseism excitations at varying locations are independent (Hasselmann, 1963), we note
 270 that the independence refers only to the phase information. The time variations of microseism
 271 source power are spatially associated. That is not surprising since the interacting ocean waves
 272 that excite microseisms could be driven by the same storms and swells can propagate freely over
 273 thousands of kilometers away (Arduin et al., 2009). We also notice there are high- r regions that
 274 may not be fully explained by the spatial association. These regions are characterized by low
 275 intensity of microseism excitations in Figs 3(a-b). A striking example is around [12°N, 88°E] in
 276 the Bay of Bengal (F in Fig. 3c). From Fig. 4, it can be seen that the source PSD series for
 277 [12°N, 88°E] is dominated by a single peak around May 1st, coincident with the largest P_{dmc}
 278 peak. This coincidence leads to a high value of correlation coefficient. However, the Bay of
 279 Bengal is far away from the FNET-LAPNET great circle, which is inconsistent with the source
 280 imaging shown later in Fig. 5. Thus, the high correlation is spurious and does not imply a
 281 causality relationship between the microseism sources in the Bay of Bengal and the P_{dmc} signals.
 282 Figures 3(g-h) show the correlation maps for h_s , which will be discussed later.

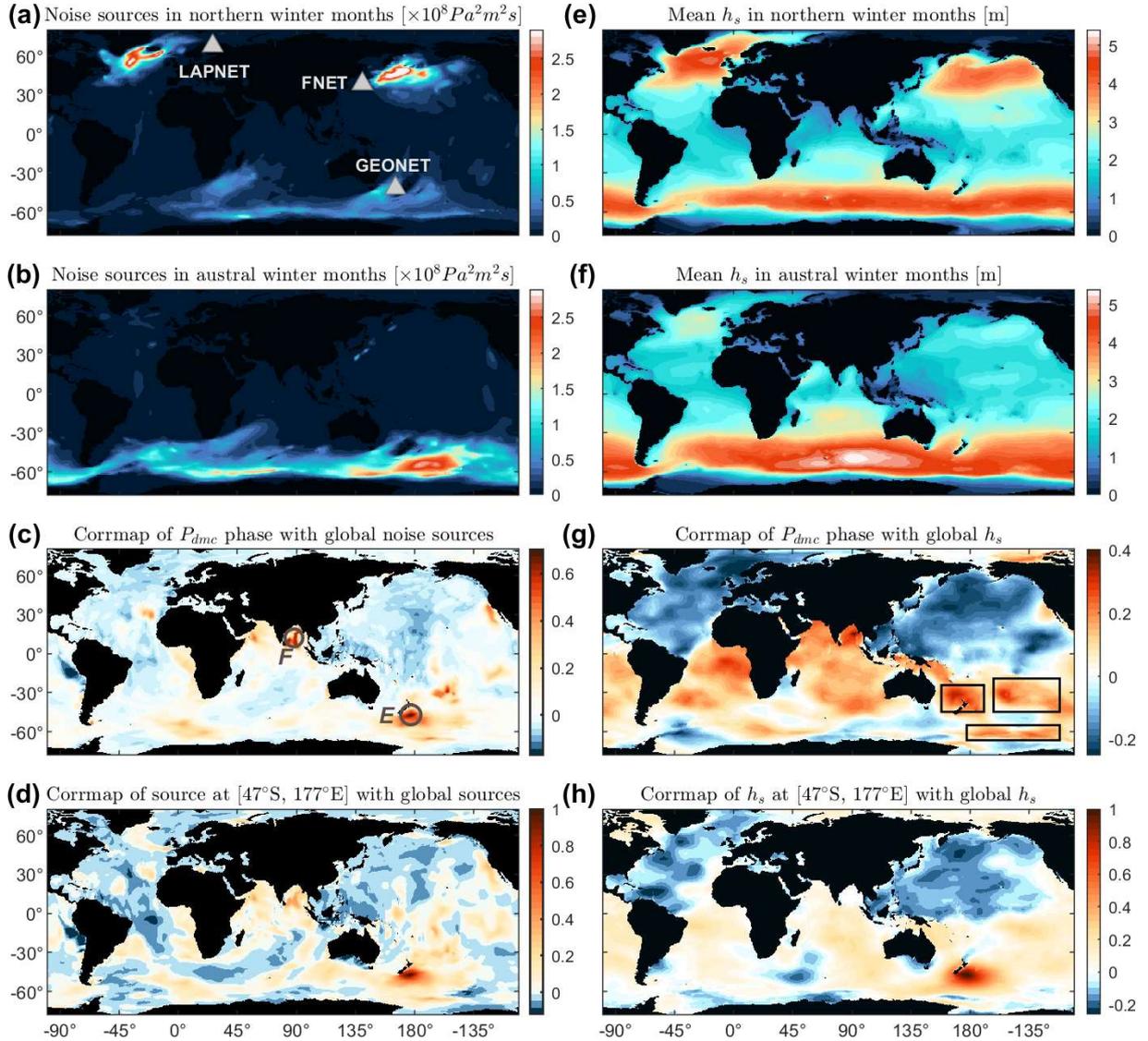
283 As shown in Fig. 4, prominent peaks in the P_{dmc} series have correspondence in the source
284 PSD series for the effective source at [47°S, 177°E]. However, there are some peaks in the latter
285 without correspondence in the former (see the labeled dates in Fig. 4b for examples). Note that
286 here the P_{dmc} strength is compared to the microseism source PSD at single point in Fig. 4,
287 whereas the effective sources spread over a region. One needs to verify if the peak disparities
288 observed from Figs 4(a-b) can be ascribed to the neglect of the spreading of the effective source
289 region. To evaluate an overall microseism excitation in the effective source region, the
290 bathymetric effect on P -wave excitation should be considered (in the previous analysis for single
291 point locations, the consideration of bathymetric effect is unnecessary because a scaling over the
292 source PSD series does not change the value of the correlation coefficient between P_{dmc} and
293 source PSD). Using the equations proposed by Gualtieri et al. (2014) and the bathymetry around
294 NZ (Fig. 5a), we compute the bathymetric amplification factors for P waves at a period of 6.2 s
295 (Fig. 5b; see Fig. S3 for comparisons between the factors calculated following Longuet-Higgins,
296 1950 and Gualtieri et al., 2014). The factors vary largely with locations. Also, note that the P_{dmc}
297 phase has different sensitivity to the sources in the effective region, or say, the sources make
298 varying contributions to the P_{dmc} signal. The power of sources should be weighted in the
299 averaging. We obtain the weights by back-projecting the beam power of noise correlations onto a
300 global grid (Fig. 5c; see Supplementary for technical details). Figure 5(d) shows the map of
301 annually averaged source PSDs surrounding NZ and Fig. 5(e) shows the map after the
302 modulation of the bathymetric amplification factors in Fig. 5(b). The spatial patterns are altered
303 significantly, indicating the importance to account for the bathymetric effect. The final source
304 imaging that has been weighted by Fig. 5(c), is plotted in Fig. 5(f). It agrees well with the
305 effective source region E determined from the correlation map in Fig. 3(c). Replacing the annual
306 PSD map in Fig. 5(d) with daily PSD maps, we obtain maps like Fig. 5(f) for each date.
307 Averaging over the map leads to the time series of daily intensity in the effective source region
308 (labeled as effective source intensity in Fig. 6). Averaging over a wide region has the advantage
309 that the effects of potential source location errors due to the simplification of Earth model for fast
310 travel time calculation, which have been addressed in some single array back-projection studies
311 (e.g., Gal et al., 2015; Nishida & Takagi, 2016), can be largely reduced. From Fig. 6, one can see
312 that the new effective source intensity series has almost the same peaks as the source PSD series
313 for [47°S, 177°E] in Fig. 4(b), suggesting that the observed peak disparities are caused by other
314 reasons. Next, we investigate if the disparities are caused by errors in the simulation of hindcast
315 data or if there are other physical explanations.

316 The microseism source PSD data are simulated from the hindcast data of ocean wave
317 directional spectra base on the excitation theory of Longuet-Higgins (1950) and Hasselmann
318 (1963), which have no constrains from seismological observations. One should consider the
319 accuracy of the simulation: can we ascribe the peak disparities in Fig. 4 to the simulation error or
320 not? The seismic noise records from the GEONET array adjacent to the effective source region
321 provide the opportunity to validate the simulation. To obtain the daily microseism noise levels at
322 GEONET, we apply the Hampel filter, a variant of the classic median filter, to the continuous
323 seismograms to discard earthquakes and anomalous impulses. The filter replaces outliers with
324 the medians of the outliers' neighbors and retains the normal samples. Technical details are
325 provided in section S4 of the Supplementary. The resultant GEONET noise level exhibits a good
326 correlation with the effective source intensity ($r = 0.7$). We thus deem that the numerical
327 simulations are statistically reliable. When the effective source intensity is high, the GEONET
328 noise level should also be high (see the peaks marked by dots in Fig. 6 for examples). However,

329 due to the great spatiotemporal variability of noise sources in the effective region and the
330 complexity of seismic waves propagating from ocean to land (Ying et al., 2014; Gualtieri et al.,
331 2015), a larger peak in the source intensity series does not necessarily imply a larger peak in the
332 noise level time series (e.g., see diamonds in Fig. 6 for examples). We also emphasize that a high
333 GEONET noise level does not need to always have a correspondence in the source intensity (see
334 squares in Fig. 6 for example), because the GEONET stations record microseisms emanating
335 from noise sources all around, not only from the effective source region.

336 The above analysis explains the observed disparities between the P_{dmc} strength and the
337 effective source intensity. From Fig.6, one can see that the disparities primarily emerge in the
338 shaded period when dominant microseism sources shift to the north hemisphere. The shading
339 roughly separates the northern winter from the austral winter. The correlation between P_{dmc}
340 strength and effective source intensity is low in the shaded period ($r = 0.16$), in contrast to the
341 high correlation during the unshaded period ($r = 0.74$). Large P_{dmc} peaks always emerge on dates
342 during the austral winter when the effective source intensity is much higher than its median, and
343 meanwhile, noise levels at FNET and LAPNET are below their respective medians (see dots in
344 Fig. 6 for examples). The seasonal variations of oceanic sources in the southern hemisphere are
345 less strong than in the northern hemisphere (Fig. 3). On some dates (see triangles in Fig. 6 for
346 examples), the effective source intensity can be considerable, but relevant P_{dmc} peaks are still
347 missing. We notice that the corresponding microseism levels at FNET and LAPNET are
348 obviously above their medians. Intensive ocean activity and microseism excitations in the north
349 Pacific and Atlantic, lead to increased microseism noise levels at FNET and LAPNET. The P_{dmc}
350 strength is anti-correlated with microseism noise levels at FNET ($r = -0.12$) and LAPNET ($r = -$
351 0.18). We hereby conjecture that the microseism energy from the distant effective source region
352 is dwarfed by the energetic microseisms excited by oceanic sources closer to the correlated
353 FNET and LAPNET arrays, and consequently, P_{dmc} signals are overwhelmed by the background
354 noise in the FNET-LAPNET cross-correlations. Last, we mention that the median threshold in
355 Fig. 6 separates the major features of the time series described above, but there is no guarantee
356 that it is a perfect threshold due to the nonlinear relationships between the P_{dmc} strength and the
357 noise levels at the arrays.

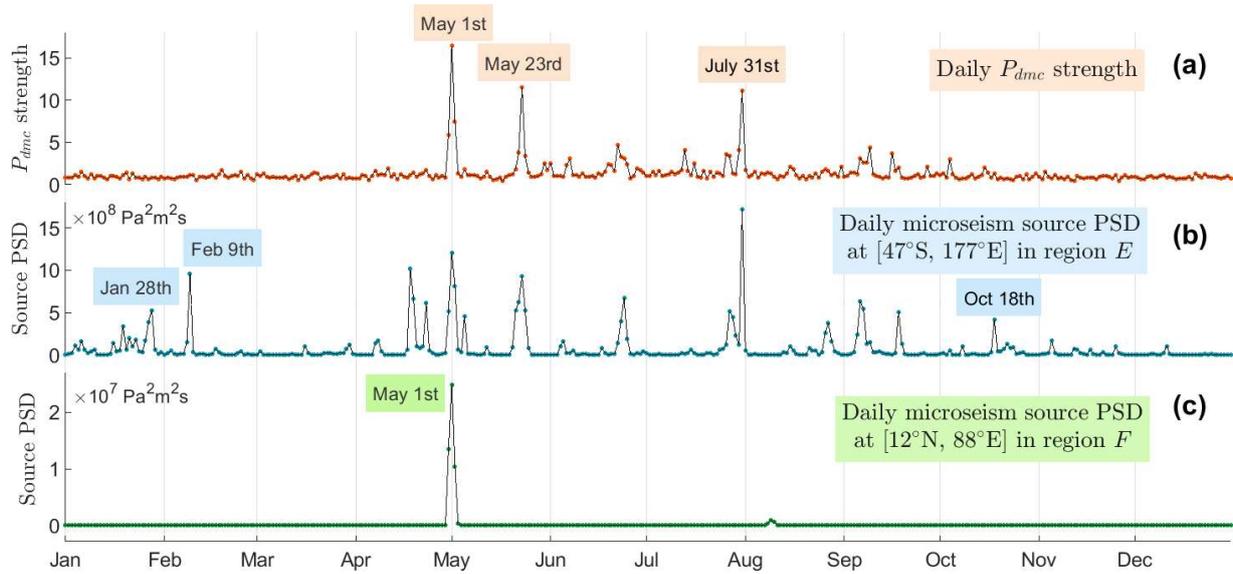
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359

360 **Figure 3.** (a) Global map of average PSD of oceanic microseism sources in 2008 northern winter
 361 months (Jan. to Mar. and Oct. to Dec.), for a seismic period of 6.2 s. (b) Similar to (a) but for
 362 2008 austral winter months (Apr. to Sep.). (c) Correlation map (corrmap) for the P_{dmc} strength
 363 and global microseism noise sources. Circles mark two regions with highest correlation
 364 coefficients: *E*, effective source region surrounding $[47^\circ\text{S}, 177^\circ\text{E}]$ south of NZ; *F*, fake highly-
 365 correlated region surrounding $[12^\circ\text{N}, 88^\circ\text{E}]$ in the Bay of Bengal. (d) Correlation map for the
 366 source at $[47^\circ\text{S}, 177^\circ\text{E}]$ and global sources. (e) Mean significant wave height (h_s ; four times the
 367 square root of the zeroth-order moment of ocean-wave frequency spectrum) in northern winter
 368 months. (f) Similar to (e) but for austral winter months. (g) Correlation map for the P_{dmc} strength
 369 and global wave heights. (h) Correlation map for wave heights at $[47^\circ\text{S}, 177^\circ\text{E}]$ and global wave
 370 heights. The oceanographical hindcast data are provided by the IOWAGA products (Rascle &
 371 Ardhuin, 2013).

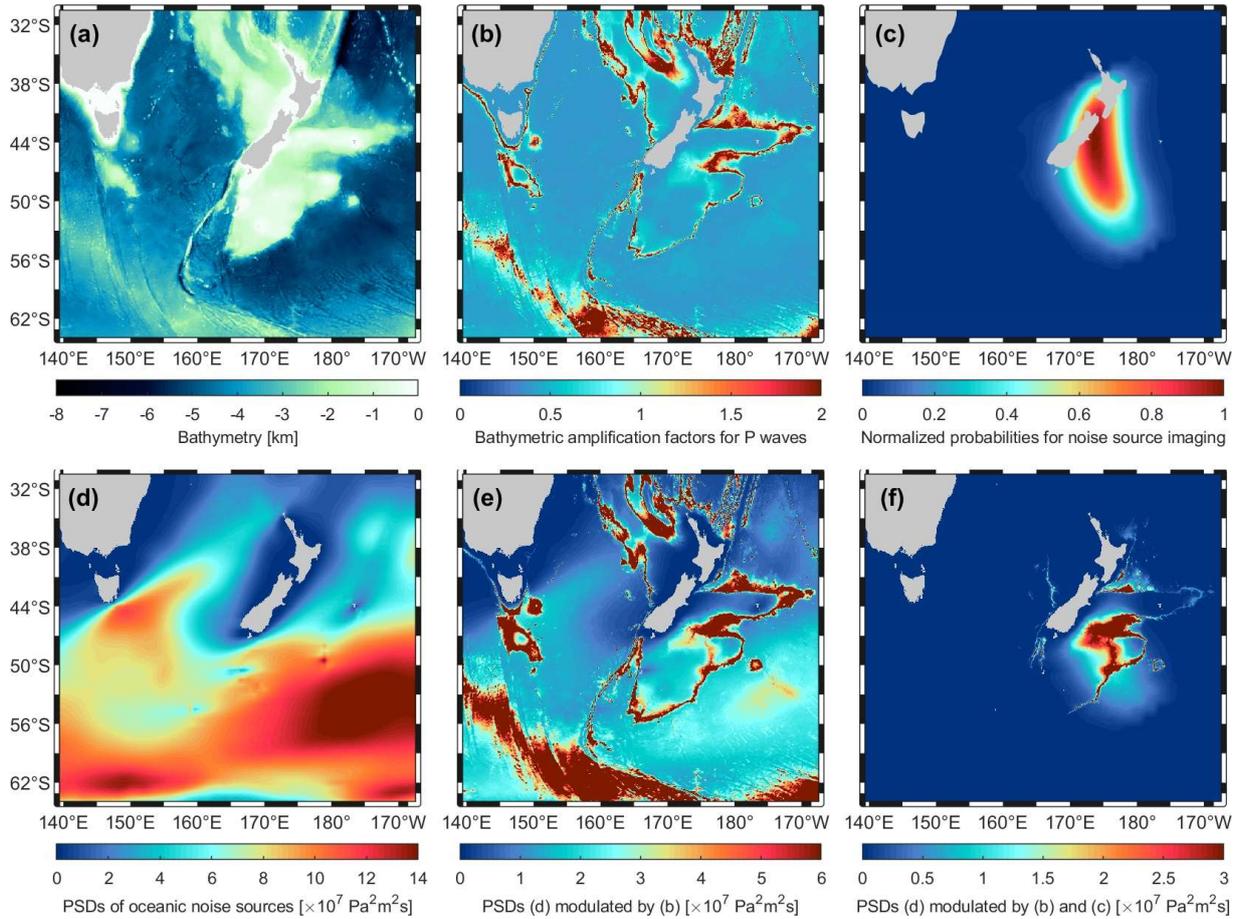
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373

374 **Figure 4.** True correlation ($r = 0.73$) between (a) the P_{dmc} strength from Fig. 2 and (b) the power
 375 of source at $[47^\circ\text{S}, 177^\circ\text{E}]$ in the effective source region (E in Fig. 3c), and spurious correlation
 376 ($r = 0.71$) between P_{dmc} and (c) the power of source at $[12^\circ\text{N}, 88^\circ\text{E}]$ in the Bay of Bengal (F in
 377 Fig. 3c).

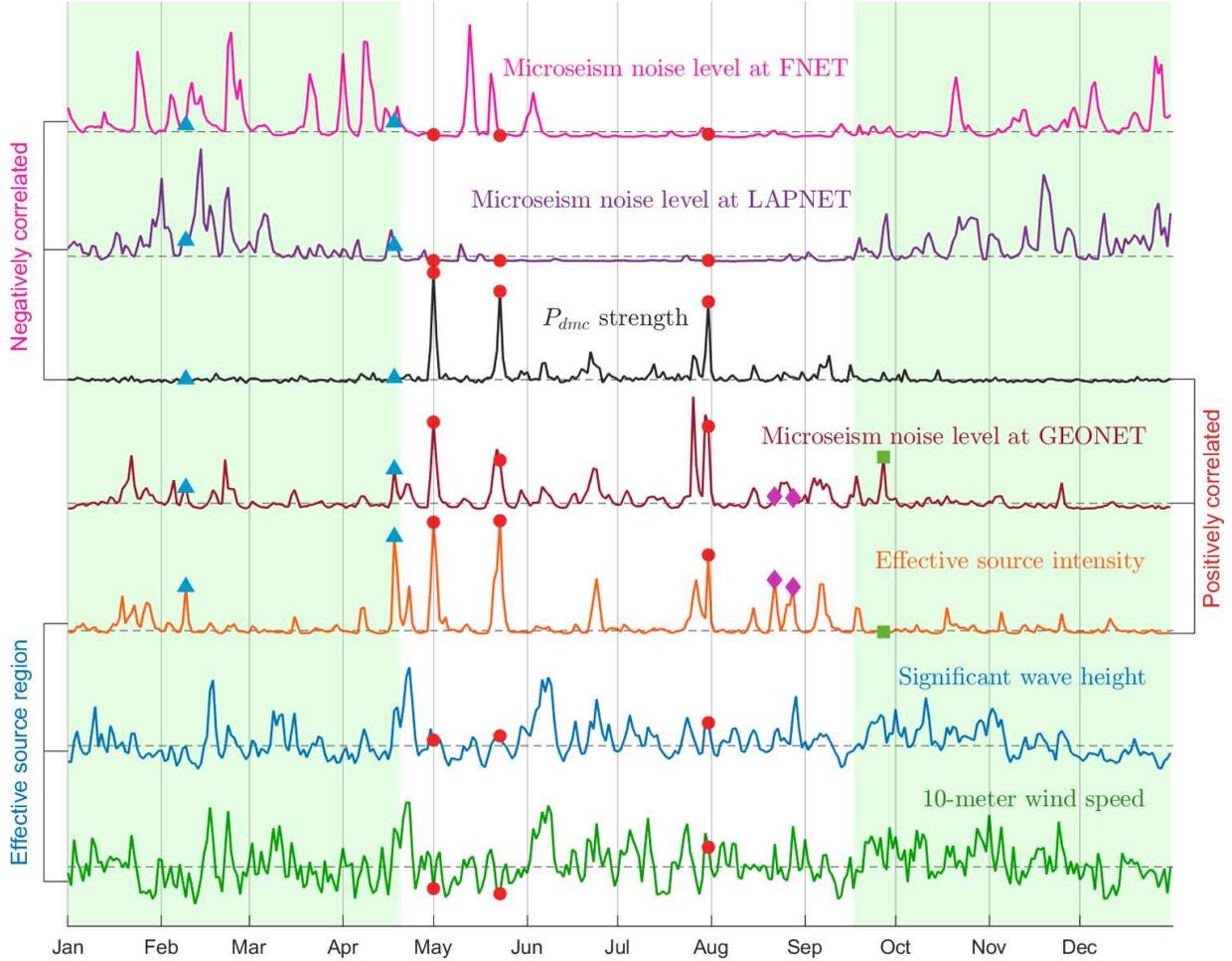
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379

380 **Figure 5.** (a) Bathymetry around NZ. (b) Bathymetric amplification factors for *P*-type waves.
 381 (c) Imaging of effective sources obtained from the back-projection of the FNET-LAPNET noise
 382 correlations. (d) Annual average of source PSDs in 2008. (e) Source PSDs in (d) modulated by
 383 the factors in (b). (f) Source PSDs in (e) further modulated by the weights in (c).

384



385

386 **Figure 6.** Temporal variations of daily P_{dmc} strength, microseism noise levels at three networks,
 387 and average wind speeds, wave heights and microseism excitations in the effective source
 388 region. The curves are normalized by their own maximums. Dashed horizontal lines denote their
 389 respective medians. Symbols mark some dates cited in the main text. When computing the
 390 effective source intensity, the bathymetric factors in Fig. 5(b) and weights in Fig. 5(c) are used.
 391 When computing the average wind speeds and wave heights, weights in Fig. 5(c) are used.

392 5 Discussions and conclusions

393 In this study, we explore the relations between the noise-derived P_{dmc} signals and global
 394 oceanic microseism sources using spatiotemporal correlation analysis. The effective source
 395 region E for the P_{dmc} phase is successfully identified from the correlation map in Fig. 3(c), which
 396 is consistent with that determined from the seismological back-projection in Fig. 5(c). The
 397 correlation map provides a convenient way to identify the effective sources of noise-derived
 398 seismic signals.

399 In our case, the seismic networks used for noise correlation are located in the northern
 400 hemisphere, while the effective source region is in the southern hemisphere. Ideally, we expect a
 401 correlation map with the following features: positive correlation with sources in the effective
 402 region, and negative or insignificant correlations with other inefficient sources. Positive

403 correlation indicates a contribution to the construction of P_{dmc} signal from noise correlations,
 404 negative correlation implies an adverse impact, and insignificant correlation (decorrelation)
 405 means a negligible effect on the signal construction. However, we obtained a correlation map
 406 roughly showing that, the P_{dmc} signal is correlated with the southern sources and anti-correlated
 407 with the northern sources. The correlation with southern sources outside the effective region can
 408 be interpreted with the spatiotemporal correlation of the power of the microseism sources in the
 409 southern oceans, due to the large span of ocean storms and the long-range propagation of swells.
 410 The anti-correlation with the northern sources, can partly be explained by the well-known
 411 reverse seasonal patterns of oceanic microseism excitations in the south and north hemispheres
 412 (Stutzmann et al., 2009; Landès et al., 2010; Hillers et al., 2012; Reading et al., 2014). Another
 413 important reason is that compared to the remote effective sources in the south hemisphere, the
 414 northern sources closer to the correlated stations have larger impacts on the microseism noise
 415 levels at stations. Strong energy flux from the northern sources outshines the microseism energy
 416 coming from the distant effective sources. That deteriorates the construction of the P_{dmc} phase.
 417 The noise-derived P_{dmc} signals are primarily observable in the austral winter. That can be, on one
 418 hand, attributed to the stronger effective source intensity during that period, and on the other
 419 hand, to the relative tranquility in the northern oceans.

420 In Fig. 7, we summarize the classification of noise sources, the decomposition of
 421 wavefields, and the associations to the constituents of the inter-receiver noise correlation
 422 function. The diagram of Fig. 7(a) explains the relationships using the case study of the P_{dmc}
 423 phase discussed above. We generalize Fig. 7(a) to the derivation of an arbitrary signal (referred
 424 to as the target signal for convenience) from ambient noise wavefields (Fig. 7b). The noise
 425 correlation function is composed of the target signal, any other signals and background noise. A
 426 source or a wave is called effective if it contributes to the construction of the target signal from
 427 noise correlations. Otherwise, it is called ineffective. The construction of the target signal is
 428 exclusively ascribed to the interference between the effective waves. Stronger effective sources
 429 (relative to ineffective sources) imply more effective waves in the total wavefield, and thereby, a
 430 better quality for the noise-derived target signal. Note that not all waves emanating from the
 431 effective sources, but only those following specific ray paths, are effective. There might be
 432 multiple pairs of seismic phases that could contribute to the construction of the target signal.
 433 However, their relative strength matters. As for the case of the P_{dmc} phase, the effective waves
 434 are P and $PKPab$, which are both prominent phases in the ballistic wavefield. Li et al. (2020)
 435 showed that the PcP - $PKPab$ correlation and the PcS - $PcPPcP$ correlation, could also lead to a
 436 signal at around the P_{dmc} emerging time. However, the PcP , PcS , and $PcPPcP$ waves are weak
 437 phases in the ballistic wavefield, and thereby have minor contributions to the P_{dmc} signals. We
 438 emphasize that the sketch in Fig. 7(b) is only suitable for the ambient noise wavefields that are
 439 dominated by ballistic waves.

440 From Fig. 6, one can observe a high correlation between wind speed and wave height in
 441 region E ($r = 0.74$). It indicates that the ocean waves in region E are likely dominated by the
 442 waves forced by local winds. The correlation between wave height and microseism excitation is
 443 low ($r = 0.25$), implying a dominant role of the freely propagating swells in exciting the
 444 microseisms. Extreme sea state does not guarantee strong microseism excitation. That is not
 445 surprising according to the microseism excitation theory (Hasselmann, 1963; Longuet-Higgins,
 446 1950): the excitation is proportional to the product of the heights of the colliding equal-frequency
 447 ocean waves. In lack of equal-frequency waves coming from opposite directions, even extreme
 448 wave climate cannot incite strong secondary microseisms. In contrast, for large peaks in the

449 microseism excitation, the corresponding wave heights are generally moderate (e.g., on May 1st
450 and 23rd). On these two dates, the low wind speeds but moderate wave heights in region *E*
451 suggest that the ocean waves are dominantly the freely travelling swells from elsewhere, as also
452 illustrated in the supplementary movie S1. Oppositely propagating equal-frequency swells
453 collide with each other and incite strong microseisms. Our analysis and observations agree with
454 those of Obrebski et al. (2012), who investigated a specific case that small swells from two
455 storms meeting in the eastern Pacific generate loud microseism noise. There are also examples
456 showing that wind waves can play a role in the excitation of microseisms, for instance, around
457 July 31st when the local winds, wave height, and microseism excitations are all strong. Such
458 examples are few. The good consistency between the temporal variations in the P_{dmc} strength, the
459 effective source intensity and the NZ microseism noise level (Fig. 6), provides extra supports to
460 the analysis of the P_{dmc} observations and the quasi-stationary phase arguments proposed by Li et
461 al. (2020). It also gives credits to the validity of the numerical modeling of oceanic microseism
462 sources by Arduin et al. (2011) and Rascle & Arduin (2013).

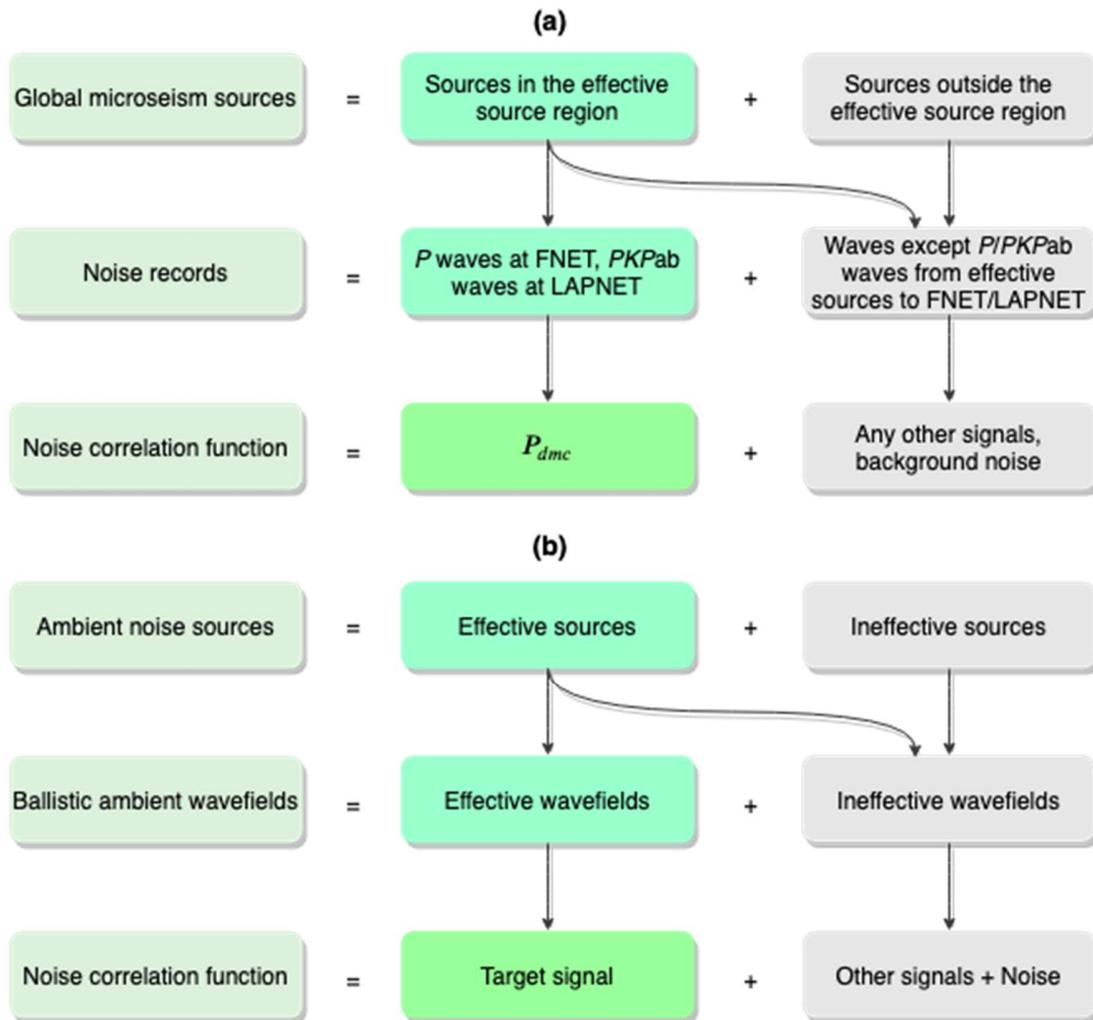
463 We have described above the implications of this study in seismology and in
464 understanding the process of microseism excitation. Now, we discuss the significance in
465 oceanography and climate science. Well-documented historical ocean storms and wave climate
466 are valuable for improving our understanding of climate change and global warming (Ebeling
467 2012). However, modern satellite observations of ocean waves and storms have a history of
468 merely decades. Microseisms are induced by storm-driven ocean waves (Arduin et al., 2015;
469 Hasselmann, 1963; Longuet-Higgins, 1950). The records of microseisms contain the imprint of
470 climate (Aster et al., 2010; Stutzmann et al., 2009). Instrumental observation of microseisms has
471 an over-century history, and started much earlier than the modern observations of ocean waves
472 and storms. It has been a long-lasting effort for the seismological community to digitalize the
473 historical analog seismograms (Bogiatzis & Ishii, 2016; Lecocq et al., 2020). Researchers expect
474 that past seismic records can be used to recover undocumented historical ocean storms and wave
475 climate (Ebeling 2012; Lecocq et al., 2020).

476 This study confirms that it is possible to detect remote microseism events (burst of
477 microseism energy) with land observation of microseisms. We demonstrate that the noise-
478 derived P_{dmc} signals can be employed to monitor microseism events in a specific ocean region
479 (Fig. 5). The remote monitoring of microseisms is promising as an aid to improving wave
480 hindcast, in similar manners as demonstrated by Stopa et al. (2019). The comparative analysis in
481 Fig. 6 indicates that the remote event detection could be effective in the absence of strong
482 sources near the stations, otherwise the detection could fail. Stations at low latitudes where wave
483 climate and microseism excitation are relatively mild, or inland stations far from oceans, should
484 have better performance in remote monitoring.

485 Energetic microseism excitation does not always need extreme in situ wave heights, and
486 extreme wave heights do not necessarily produce powerful microseisms (Obrebski et al., 2012;
487 and this study). It imply that secondary microseism events are not a perfect proxy for the
488 extremal in situ wave climate. However, it does not mean the long-lasting attempt to monitor
489 remote sea state and ocean storms with land observation of secondary microseisms is futile. In
490 the $P_{\text{dmc}}-h_s$ correlation map (Fig. 3g), the largest r values do not fall in the effective region *E* as
491 in the P_{dmc} -source correlation map (Fig. 3c), but in surrounding regions with moderate to high
492 ocean wave activity (the bounded areas in Fig. 3g). We speculate that these regions could be the
493 birthplaces of the colliding swells that generate the secondary microseisms in region *E*, or the

494 ocean waves in these regions are driven by the same storms as the colliding waves in region *E*
 495 (see the spatial links of h_s from Fig. 3h and supplementary movie S1). The detection of a
 496 microseism event could affirm the existence of the causative storms that generated the ocean
 497 waves propagating to the location of the microseism event, although the storms could be distant
 498 from the events.

499



500

501 **Figure 7.** (a) Sketch explanation for the relationships between microseism noise sources and the
 502 noise-derived P_{dmc} signal. (b) Generalization of diagram (a) for an arbitrary signal derived from
 503 ambient noise wavefields that are dominated by ballistic waves.

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510 access: June 2018). The global earthquake catalogue was provided by the U.S. Geological
 511 Survey (<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/>; last access: June 2018). The wind hindcast data were
 512 provided by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
 513 (<https://www.ecmwf.int/>; last access: June 2018). The hindcast data of wave heights and
 514 microseism source PSDs were provided by the IOWAGA products (Rascle & Ardhuin, 2013).
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[*Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*]

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Supporting Information for

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**Spatiotemporal correlation analysis of noise-derived seismic body waves with ocean wave
climate and microseism sources**

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Text S1. FNET-LAPNET noise correlations

703

The correlation function C_{AB} between two seismograms (S_A and S_B) is given by

704

$$C_{AB}(\tau) = \frac{\sum_i S_A(i) S_B(i-\tau)}{\sqrt{\sum_i S_A^2(i) \sum_i S_B^2(i)}} \quad (\text{S1})$$

705

The resultant C_{AB} consists of an acausal part and a causal part, that correspond to the negative lags ($\tau < 0$) and the positive lags ($\tau > 0$), respectively. For efficiency, it is routine to compute the correlation function with the Fast Fourier Transform:

708

$$C_{AB}(\tau) = \frac{\mathcal{F}^{-1}[\mathcal{F}(S_A)\mathcal{F}^*(S_B)]}{\sqrt{\sum_i S_A^2(i) \sum_i S_B^2(i)}} \quad (\text{S2})$$

709

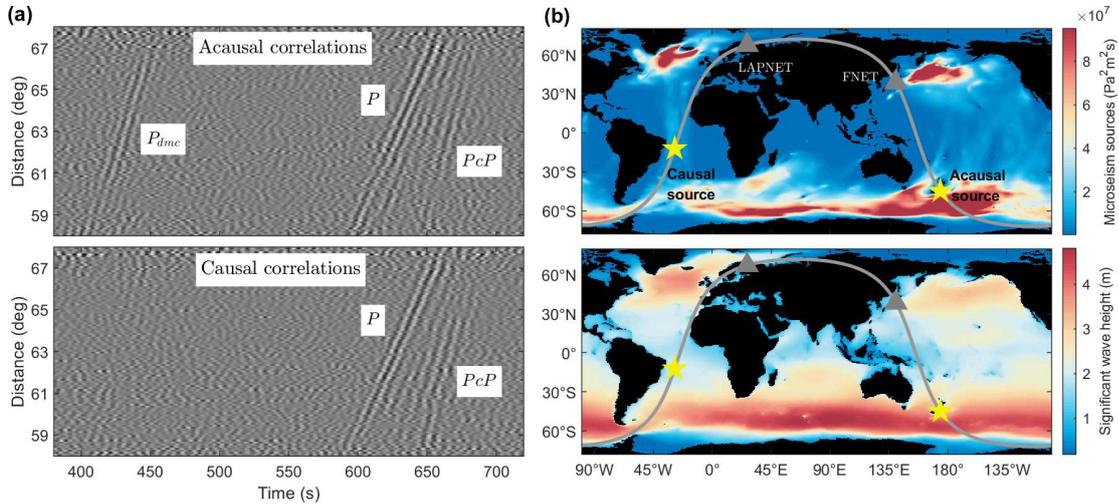
Figure S1(a) shows the acausal and causal sections of FNET-LAPNET noise correlations in 2008 that are filtered between 5 s and 10 s and binned in distance intervals of 0.1°. The acausal section is flipped to share the time axis with the causal section. The expected locations of the acausal and causal noise sources are marked by stars on the maps of global microseism source PSDs and

710

711

712

713 ocean wave heights in Fig. S1(b). The ocean wave activities and microseism excitations at the
 714 acausal source region are intense, while those in the causal source region are fainter.
 715 Consequently, the P_{dmc} phase is only observable from the acausal noise correlations.
 716



717 **Figure S1.** (a) Acausal and causal sections of FNET-LAPNET noise correlations in 2008. (b)
 718 Global maps of 6.2 s period secondary microseism sources and significant wave heights in 2008.
 719

720

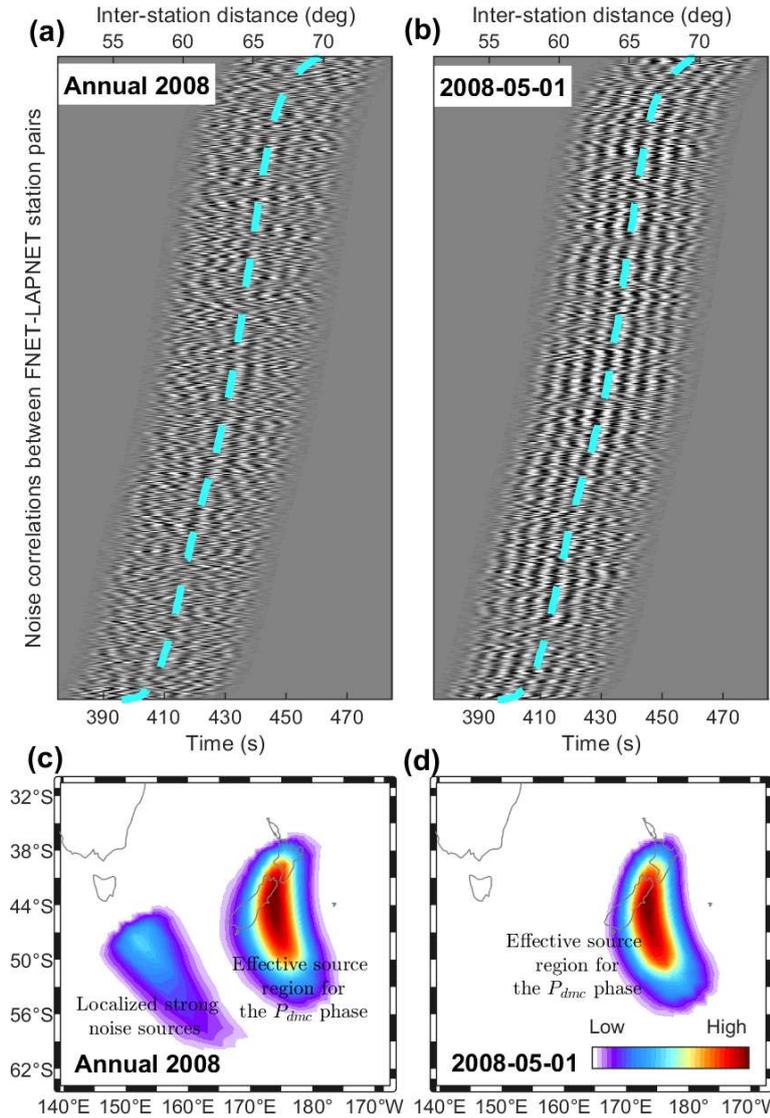
721 Text S2. Noise source imaging by back-projection

722 Assuming the interferometry between P waves at FNET and $PKPab$ waves at LAPNET, we
 723 image the effective noise sources through the back-projection of the FNET-LAPNET noise
 724 correlations. We beam the FNET-LAPNET noise correlations and assign the beam power

$$725 P_s = \langle \langle C_{ij}(t + t_{si} - t_{sj}) \rangle_{ij}^2 \rangle_t, \quad (\text{S3})$$

726 onto a $0.5^\circ \times 0.5^\circ$ grid as the probabilities of noise sources on the global surface. In the above
 727 equation, $\langle \cdot \rangle_x$ means the average over x , C_{ij} is the correlation function between the i -th FNET
 728 station and the j -th LAPNET station, t_{si} is the travelt ime of the P wave from the s -th grid point
 729 to the i -th FNET station, and t_{sj} is the travelt ime of the $PKPab$ waves from the s -th source to the
 730 j -th LAPNET station. The inter-station noise correlations are windowed before the beamforming
 731 (Fig. S2a). The noise source imaging for the annually stacked noise correlations is plotted in Fig.
 732 S2(c). Only the region surrounding NZ is shown. Outside the region, hardly can the P wave
 733 reach FNET or the $PKPab$ waves reach LAPNET. Besides a well-focused imaging of the
 734 expected source region in the ocean south of NZ, we notice a secondary spot to the west. In
 735 comparisons with the power map of oceanic microseism noise sources in Fig. 5(e), we ascribe it
 736 to the strong microseism excitation in the ocean south of Tasmania. We also back-project the
 737 daily noise correlations on 2008-05-01 (Fig. S2b), when the P_{dmc} phase reaches the largest
 738 strength through the year (Fig. 2). As shown in Fig. S2(d), an exclusive source region is imaged,
 739 which agrees with the dominant spot in Fig. S2(c).

740



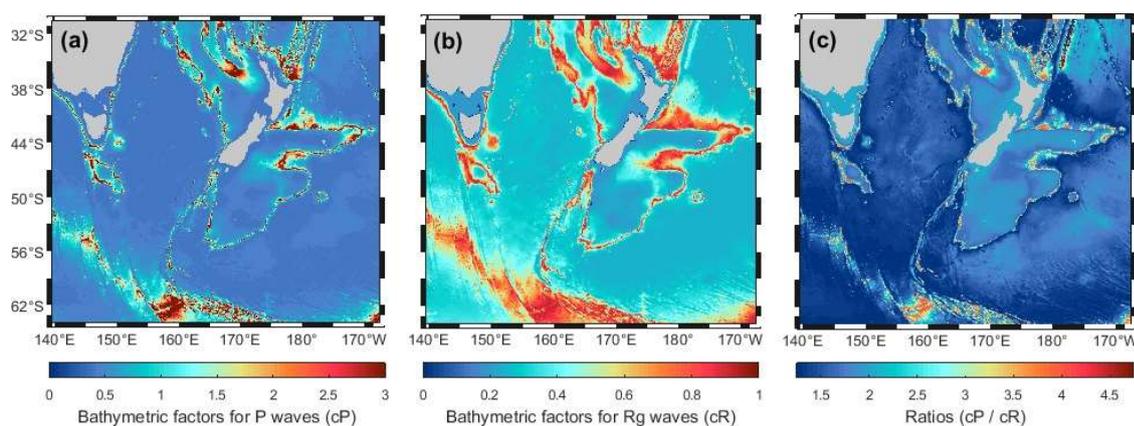
741
 742 **Figure S2.** Inter-receiver noise correlations for all FNET-LAPNET station pairs: (a) stacked
 743 over the year of 2008; (b) on single day of 2008-05-01. The waveforms are windowed around the
 744 P_{dmc} phase. Dashed lines indicate inter-station distances. Back-projection imaging of noise
 745 sources: (c) using data from (a); (d) using data from (b).

746

747 **Text S3. Bathymetric amplification factors**

748 Figure S3 compares the bathymetric amplification factors surrounding New Zealand for
 749 P waves and Rayleigh waves. The factors for P waves are computed using the equations
 750 proposed by Gualtieri et al. (2014), for a seismic period of 6.2 s and a slowness of 4.6 s/deg. The
 751 factors for 6.2 s period Rayleigh waves are obtained by interpolating the table given by Longuet-
 752 Higgins (1950).

753



754
 755 **Figure S3.** Bathymetric amplification factors for (a) *P* waves and (b) Rayleigh waves. (c) Ratios
 756 between the factors for *P* waves and for Rayleigh waves.

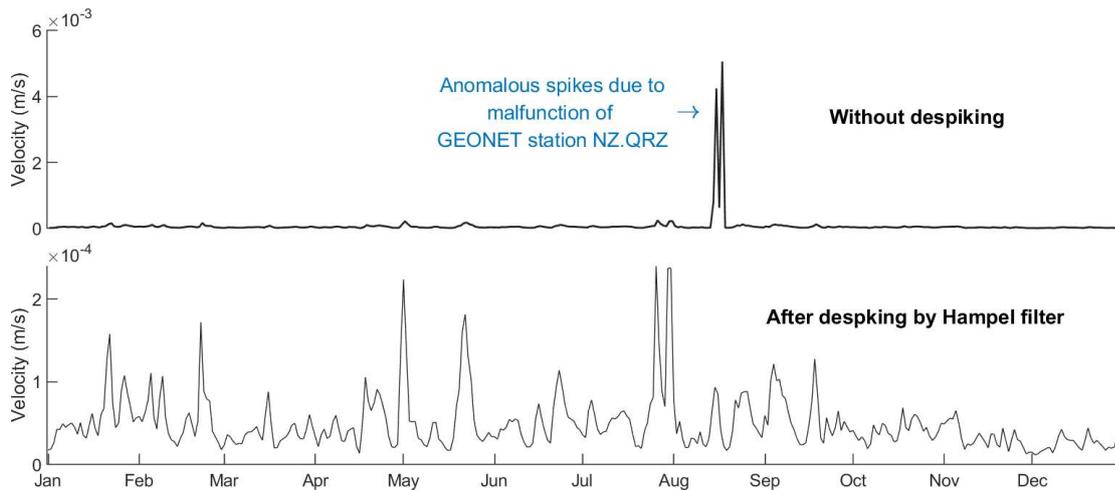
757

758 **Text S4. Microseism noise levels at seismic networks**

759 The continuous seismograms record not only the background vibrations of Earth, but also
 760 ground motions induced by seismicity or other events. Instrumental malfunction also leads to
 761 anomalous (e.g., nearly vanishing or extremely large) amplitudes in the records. These extreme
 762 amplitudes (outliers) could bias the estimates of microseism noise power. It is necessary to get
 763 rid of them from the ambient noise records before the computation of noise power. Mean and
 764 median filters are the common tools for this task. However, they modify all the samples. Here,
 765 we prefer to use a variant of the median filter called Hampel filter. In contrast to the median filter
 766 that replace all samples with local medians, the Hampel filter detects outliers by compare a
 767 sample with the neighboring samples. A sample is replaced by the local median if it deviates k
 768 times of the median absolute deviation (MAD) from the local median, or else, it is unchanged.

769 We filter the vertical components of the continuous seismograms around 6.2 s period. The
 770 seismograms are then divided into 15-min segments and the power of segments is computed. We
 771 apply the Hampel filter to the time series of noise power recursively. For each sample, we
 772 compute the local median and MAD of its eight neighbors (four before and four after). A sample
 773 is replaced by the median if it deviates from the median over three times of the MAD. The de-
 774 spiked time series is resampled from a 15-min interval to a 1-hour interval, by averaging over
 775 every four samples. Then, we apply the Hampel filter again and resample the time series to a 24-
 776 hour interval. The averaging of noise levels over all stations of a seismic network leads to the
 777 time series of array noise level. Before the averaging, the Hampel filter is applied again, to
 778 discard possible anomalous values at some stations (see Fig. S3 for the example of GEONET).
 779 The final time series of microseism noise levels for networks FNET, LAPNET and GEONET are
 780 shown in Fig. 6.

781



782
783 **Figure S4.** Comparison between the time series of daily GEONET noise levels with (lower) and
784 without (upper) despiking using the Hampel filter.

785

786

787 **Table S1.** List of earthquakes (magnitude above 5.5) in 2008 extracted from the USGS
788 catalogue, as a supplementary to the comparison between seismicity and P_{dmc} in Fig. 2 of the
789 main text. On some dates with earthquakes near the FNET-LAPNET great circle (e.g., events
790 2008-08-25T11:25:19.310 and 2008-11-21T07:05:34.940), no large P_{dmc} is present, indicating
791 that P_{dmc} is unrelated to earthquakes.

792

793 **Movie S1.** Daily evolutions of winds, ocean wave heights, and secondary microseism source
794 PSDs around New Zealand in 2008. The closed lines superposing the upper panels depict the
795 contour values of 0.1, 0.5, and 0.9 for the weights shown in Fig. 5(c). The source PSDs are
796 modulated by the bathymetric factors shown in Fig. 5(e). In the bottom panel, the time series for
797 the P_{dmc} strength and the weighted averages of the source PSD, wave height, and wind speed in
798 the effective source region, are the same as those in Fig. 6 in the main text. See captions of Figs
799 5 and 6 for more details.

800

801