

1 **A dissolved cobalt plume in the oxygen minimum zone of the Eastern Tropical South**
2 **Pacific**

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36 **Abstract.** Cobalt is a nutrient to phytoplankton, but knowledge about its biogeochemical cycling
37 is limited, especially in the Pacific Ocean. Here, we report sections of dissolved cobalt and labile
38 dissolved cobalt from the US GEOTRACES GP16 transect in the South Pacific. The cobalt
39 distribution is closely tied to the extent and intensity of the oxygen minimum zone in the eastern
40 South Pacific with highest concentrations measured at the oxycline near the Peru margin. Below
41 200 m, remineralization and circulation produce an inverse relationship between cobalt and
42 dissolved oxygen that extends throughout the basin. Within the oxygen minimum zone, elevated
43 concentrations of labile cobalt are generated by input from coastal sources and reduced
44 scavenging at low O₂. As these high cobalt waters are upwelled and advected offshore,
45 phytoplankton export returns cobalt to low-oxygen water masses underneath. West of the Peru
46 upwelling region, dissolved cobalt is less than 10 pM in the euphotic zone and strongly bound by
47 organic ligands. Because the cobalt nutricline within the South Pacific gyre is deeper than in
48 oligotrophic regions in the North and South Atlantic, cobalt involved in sustaining phytoplankton
49 productivity in the gyre is heavily recycled and ultimately arrives from lateral transport of
50 upwelled waters from the eastern margin. In contrast to large coastal inputs, atmospheric
51 deposition and hydrothermal vents along the Eastern Pacific Rise appear to be minor sources of
52 cobalt. Overall, these results demonstrate that oxygen biogeochemistry exerts a strong influence
53 on cobalt cycling.

54
55 **Keywords.** Cobalt, oxygen minimum zone, scavenging, GEOTRACES, hydrothermal vents,
56 manganese oxides, phytoplankton, South Pacific, Peru Upwelling, micronutrient

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58 **1. Introduction**

59 Cobalt is one of the least abundant inorganic nutrients in seawater and its scarcity may affect
60 phytoplankton growth in certain regions (Moore et al., 2013). In the high macronutrient waters of
61 the Costa Rica upwelling dome, for instance, Co and iron (Fe) amendments to surface seawater
62 increased phytoplankton production more than Fe alone, promoting growth of the
63 cyanobacterium *Synechococcus* (Ahlgren et al., 2014; Saito et al., 2005). While eukaryotic
64 phytoplankton mainly use cobalt to compensate for insufficient zinc (Sunda and Huntsman,
65 1995), populating the same enzymes with either metal (Yee and Morel, 1996), marine
66 cyanobacteria have an absolute growth requirement for Co that cannot be substituted, which
67 suggests they may be more prone to limitation (Saito et al., 2002). Yet, the extent to which their

68 growth *in situ* is affected by cobalt scarcity ultimately depends on the processes that add Co to,
69 or remove it from, the surface ocean relative to other limiting nutrients.

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71 Biological cycling of dissolved cobalt (dCo) is apparent in vertical profiles, showing uptake and
72 export in the surface and regeneration in the thermocline (Bown et al., 2011; Dulaquais et al.,
73 2014a; Noble et al., 2012). While dCo in the euphotic zone can be entirely bound by strong
74 organic ligands, a substantial portion (10–50 %) of subsurface dCo is unbound and labile (LCo,
75 Bown et al., 2012; Ellwood and van den Berg, 2001; Saito and Moffett, 2001; Saito et al., 2005)
76 and therefore vulnerable to scavenging (Moffett and Ho, 1996). The similar ionic radii and redox
77 potentials of cobalt and manganese (Mn) cause dCo to be incorporated into authigenic Mn-
78 oxides, which sink from the water column and accumulate in marine sediments (Cowen and
79 Bruland, 1985; Moffett and Ho, 1996; Swanner et al., 2014). Below the euphotic zone, the
80 persistence of labile dissolved cobalt throughout the Atlantic indicates that scavenging of dCo,
81 unlike Fe, is slow (Noble et al., 2012). On timescales of ocean circulation, however, scavenging
82 is responsible for decreasing dCo concentrations with depth and for the low ratio between dCo
83 and macronutrients in deep waters relative to phytoplankton biomass (Moore et al., 2013). As
84 these deep waters are repackaged into thermocline water masses and eventually brought to the
85 surface (Sarmiento et al., 2011), the upper ocean would become depleted in cobalt – as well as
86 other hybrid metals like Fe and Mn – without external sources that keep pace with scavenging
87 (Bruland and Lohan, 2003; Noble et al., 2008).

88

89 Yet, the nature of marine cobalt sources is uncertain. In zonal sections of the North and South
90 Atlantic, sources appear to be concentrated along continental margins (Noble and Saito, in prep;

91 Noble et al., 2012). In the western Atlantic, dCo concentrations exceeding 100 pM were
92 associated with the flow of Upper Labrador Seawater, likely gained through intense sediment
93 resuspension along the shelf or input prior to subduction (Noble and Saito, In prep). dCo in fresh
94 and estuarine waters can be 100–1000x greater than seawater (Gaillardet et al., 2003; Knauer et
95 al., 1982; Tovar-Sánchez et al., 2004) and Co is less prone to flocculation in estuaries than other
96 metals (Sholkovitz and Copland, 1982). Terrigenous inputs from the American continent can be
97 clearly seen in lower salinity surface waters influenced by the Gulf Stream (Noble and Saito, in
98 prep; Saito and Moffett, 2002) and Amazon discharge (Dulaquais et al., 2014b). Yet, in both the
99 North and South Atlantic, a much larger dCo plume was associated with the oxygen minimum
100 zones along the Mauritanian and Namibian coasts (Noble and Saito, in prep, Noble et al., 2012).
101 Although these waters are not anoxic, the dCo plumes imply that O₂ over the continental shelf is
102 sufficiently low that reductive dissolution of Mn and Fe oxides in sediments releases a large flux
103 of dCo to the water column (Heggie and Lewis, 1984; Sundby et al., 1986). Drawing from large
104 inventories in the Atlantic OMZs, upwelling along eastern margins provides a large dCo flux to
105 the surface ocean. While surface dCo maxima from atmospheric deposition generally do not
106 appear in vertical profiles, this process may be important for regions that are isolated from
107 continental input or receive very high levels of dust (e.g. the Sargasso Sea, Dulaquais et al.,
108 2014a; Shelley et al., 2012).

109

110 To date, sectional datasets for dCo have been confined to the Atlantic and, as such, our
111 understanding of cobalt cycling may be biased by the dominant processes occurring there. In
112 comparison, the South Pacific receives considerably less dust deposition and river input
113 (Mahowald et al., 2005; Milliman and Farnsworth, 2011), but hosts a much larger and more

114 reducing oxygen minimum zone. Surface transects off Peru and the Costa Rica Dome suggest a
115 large source from upwelling (Ahlgren et al., 2014; Saito et al., 2004, 2005); however, profiles in
116 the tropical Pacific are sparse (Noble et al., 2008; Saito et al., 2014). We measured the
117 concentration of dissolved cobalt and labile dissolved cobalt in over 750 samples collected
118 onboard the 2013 US GEOTRACES GP16 expedition across the South Pacific along 12° S,
119 intersecting coastal upwelling along the Peru margin, hydrothermal venting over the East Pacific
120 Rise, and oligotrophic conditions near Polynesia (Fig. 1). Across this section, the distribution of
121 dCo and LCo follow the intensity of the oxygen minimum zone, with highest concentrations near
122 the South American shelf and low concentrations in both deep waters and oligotrophic surface
123 waters, matching OMZ-associated plumes observed in the Atlantic.

124

125 **2. Methods**

126 **2.1 Sample collection and handling**

127 Sampling on GP16 was conducted with a 24-position trace metal clean titanium rosette attached
128 to a non-metallic Kevlar cable designed for the U.S. GEOTRACES program (Cutter and
129 Bruland, 2012). An additional sample was collected from a surface towfish at each station.
130 Subsamples were collected in a Class-100 sampling van from 12 L Go-Flo bottles (General
131 Oceanics) and passed through 0.2 µM Acropack filters (Pall). All bottles were rinsed 3x with
132 sample seawater before being filled entirely, leaving no headspace. For samples analyzed at sea,
133 both dissolved and labile cobalt were analyzed from the same bottle. All samples were kept
134 refrigerated at 4° C until analysis in a HEPA filtered clean van. All of the LCo samples and more
135 than 90 % of dCo samples were analyzed at sea. Samples not analyzed at sea were preserved for
136 dCo immediately after sampling using metal-free gas adsorbing satchels (Mitsubishi Gas

137 Chemical, model RP-3K), using 3–4 satchels per 6 seawater samples. Gas-impermeable plastic
138 bags (Ampac) were heat sealed and were hand carried directly to Woods Hole at 4° C following
139 disembarkation.

140

141 **2.2 Cobalt determination by cathodic stripping voltammetry**

142 dCo and LCo were measured using a cathodic stripping voltammetry (CSV) method optimized
143 for organic speciation by Saito and Moffett, 2001. This method relies on the complexation of
144 inorganic Co species by a strong synthetic ligand, dimethylglyoxime (DMG, $K^{\text{cond}} = 10^{11.5 \pm 0.3}$),
145 which forms a bis-complex, $\text{Co}(\text{DMG})_2$, with Co^{2+} that readily adsorbs to a hanging mercury
146 drop (Saito and Moffett, 2001). The $\text{Co}(\text{DMG})_2$ complex is measured following a fast, 10 V s^{-1}
147 sweep that reduces both the $\text{Co}(\text{II})$ to $\text{Co}(0)$ and the DMG to 2,3-bis(hydroxylamino)butane,
148 producing an 8–10 electron decrease in current for each $\text{Co}(\text{DMG})_2$ complex (Baxter et al.,
149 1998). The height of the $\text{Co}(\text{DMG})_2$ reduction peak at -1.15 V is directly proportional to the Co
150 concentration.

151

152 Triplicate scans of the seawater sample were followed by four standard cobalt additions (25 pM
153 per addition) and the slope of their linear regression (mean $R^2 = 0.998$) was used to calculate the
154 sample specific sensitivity (in nA pM^{-1}). The cobalt concentration was determined by dividing
155 the mean of the three baseline peaks by the sensitivity, and correcting for reagent volume. The
156 average deviation for these triplicate scans was 1.5 pM.

157

158 dCo analyses were conducted after a 1-hour UV oxidation procedure to remove strong organic
159 ligands that prevent DMG from binding Co. UV digestion was performed in 15 mL quartz glass

160 tubes using a Metrohm 705 UV digester (Metrohm USA). Temperature was maintained below
161 20° C to minimize evaporation losses. After UV digestion, 11 mL of sample was pipetted into 15
162 mL polypropylene tubes and DMG and a buffering agent, EPPS, were added to final
163 concentrations of 400 μ M and 3.8 mM, respectively. 8.5 mL of sample solution was added to a
164 Teflon analysis cup and mixed with 1.5 mL of 1.5 M NaNO₂, making a final analysis volume of
165 10 mL.

166

167 LCo was measured after >8 hour incubation of 11 mL of seawater with 400 μ M DMG in a
168 Teflon vial. LCo is therefore the concentration that will readily exchange with DMG. After this
169 time, the sample was poured into an autosampler-compatible 15 mL poly-propylene tube
170 (separate from those used for dCo analyses) and EPPS was added to 3.8 mM.

171

172 **2.2.1 Preparing reagent and blanks**

173 All bottles and sample tubes were soaked for >1 week in the acidic detergent Citranox, rinsed
174 thoroughly with 18.2 M Ω water (Millipore), filled with 10 % trace metal grade HCl (J.T. Baker)
175 to soak for 10 days, and rinsed thoroughly with ~10 mM TM-grade HCl. DMG (Sigma-Aldrich)
176 was purified by recrystallization in a 1 mM EDTA solution (Sigma-Aldrich). Crystals were
177 filtered, dried, and dissolved in HPLC grade methanol to a concentration of 0.1 M (Saito and
178 Moffett, 2001). EPPS (Fischer) and Sodium Nitrite (Millipore) were both dissolved in 18.2 M Ω
179 water to 0.5 M and 1.5 M, respectively, and treated with separate batches of thoroughly cleaned
180 Chelex-100 beads (Bio-Rad) to remove background Co and Ni (Price et al., 1989). Standard
181 additions of cobalt were generated by diluting a 1 ppm certified reference standard (SPEX

182 Certiprep) with 10 mM HCl to a concentration of 5.00 nM. 50 μ l of this solution was added to
183 the 10mL sample volume for each standard addition (25 pM addition).

184

185 To determine reagent blanks, Co-free seawater was generated by treating UV-seawater with
186 cleaned Chelex-100 beads. The seawater was then UV digested a second time to remove any
187 ligands leached during Chelex treatment. Any dCo measured in the Chelexed seawater derives
188 from addition of Co from analytical reagents. The mean blank for at sea analysis was
189 consistently low: 3.7 ± 1.2 pM ($n = 28$). For analyses at Woods Hole, mean blank was 4.7 ± 1.4
190 pM ($n = 12$). Blanks were subtracted from all measured values. Detection limits were calculated
191 as triple the standard deviation of the blank: 3.6 pM for at-sea analyses and 4.2 pM for samples
192 measured in Woods Hole.

193

194 **2.2.2 Automated cobalt analyses**

195 To accommodate a greater number of samples, our previous workflow (Noble et al., 2008) was
196 modified to incorporate fully automated sample analyses using the Metrohm 858 Sample
197 Processor autosampler. All measurements were performed using an Eco-Chemie μ AutolabIII
198 system connected to a Metrohm 663 VA stand. A hanging drop mercury electrode (Metrohm)
199 was set to semi-hanging drop mode and accompanied by a 3 M KCl/AgCl reference electrode
200 and glassy carbon auxiliary electrode. Scheduling and data acquisition were controlled using
201 NOVA 1.8 software (Metrohm Autolab B.V). Automated delivery of seawater, sodium nitrite,
202 and Co standard to the analysis cup was accomplished by three dedicated Dosino 800 burettes
203 (Metrohm). Sample volume was increased to allow ~ 2 mL for conditioning tubing and analysis
204 cup prior of sample delivery.

205

206 Tubes containing 11 mL seawater, DMG, and EPPS were inverted several times and placed onto
207 a sampling rack where 8.5 mL of the mixture was dosed into the Teflon analysis cup. 1.5 mL of
208 1.5 M sodium nitrite was added directly to the sample cup. Samples were purged with high-
209 purity N₂ (>99.99 %) for 180 s and then conditioned for 90 s at -0.6 V. Scan sweeps were run at
210 10 V s⁻¹ from -0.6 V to -1.4 V. Before each analysis, the sample cup was rinsed fully with Milli-
211 Q water and 1 mL sample before measurement. Between uses, autosampler tubes, quartz vials,
212 and Teflon cups were rinsed with 10 mM HCl, 18.2 MΩ water, and 1-2 mL of new sample. The
213 autosampler uptake line was rinsed with 10 mM HCl and 18.2 MΩ water when transitioning
214 from LCo analyses to dCo analyses.

215

216 We noticed a decrease in sensitivity of preserved samples relative to those analyzed at sea,
217 possibly caused by an increase in the sample pH during storage. Sensitivity was restored by
218 doubling the concentration of our buffering agent, EPPS, in the sample to a final concentration of
219 7.6 mM. We tested a broad range of EPPS additions in UV seawater and found the cobalt
220 concentration unchanged while the variance between triplicate scans was reduced markedly by
221 the increase in sensitivity (data not shown). We tentatively attribute this decrease in sensitivity in
222 preserved samples to CO₂ adsorption by gas satchels, which would increase sample pH.

223

224 **2.2.3 Signal processing**

225 Analyses conducted at sea were characterized with a mild to moderate electrical interference that
226 mandated additional processing before peak height could be reliably measured (Fig. 2). We
227 opted for a simplified least squared fitting routine included in the NOVA software package that

228 conducts a 15-point weighted moving average – equivalent to a 36.9 mV window – according to
229 a 2nd order polynomial. This method did not distort measured peak height when noise was low
230 (Fig. 2a, b). A small fraction of scans (~3 %) were not adequately fit using this routine and were
231 instead smoothed using a 9-point linear moving average (22.1 mV window, Fig. 2c), also
232 included in NOVA. For all samples, peak height was measured manually to minimize peak
233 distortion due to added noise.

234

235 Subsequent analyses in the laboratory at Woods Hole were able to remove this signal by
236 increasing the current sampling step from 2.46 mV (341 points between -0.6V to -1.4V) to 4.88
237 mV (174 points) which eliminated the need for smoothing prior to sample analysis. We observed
238 good agreement between samples analyzed at sea and in the lab, indicating that the smoothing
239 procedures applied at sea did not bias the data and that gas adsorbing satchels preserved original
240 concentrations (Noble and Saito, in prep).

241

242 **2.2.4 Intercalibration and internal laboratory standard**

243 All data reported in this manuscript have been submitted to the Biological and Chemical
244 Oceanography Data Management Center (BCO-DMO, [http://www.bco-](http://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/647250)
245 [dmo.org/dataset/647250](http://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/647250)). Our laboratory continues to participate in international intercalibration
246 efforts through the GEOTRACES program in anticipation of the release of the 2nd Intermediate
247 Data Product, Summer 2017. The sampling scheme for GP16 included 2 overlapping samples
248 per full depth profile where the shallowest sample of the deep cast matched the deepest sample
249 for the mid cast, and the shallowest sample from the mid cast matched the deepest sample from
250 the shallow cast (i.e. a 36-point profile is composed of 34 discrete depths and 2 overlapping

251 depths). Comparing overlapping samples collected at the same depth and location on separate
252 hydrocasts provides a measure of reproducibility. The average difference between dCo analyses
253 across 40 overlapping depth samples was 5.7 pM with a median difference of 3.5 pM. For labile
254 cobalt, average deviation was 2.1 pM (median of 2.0 pM, $n = 41$). Least-squares regression of
255 these samples yielded slopes close to 1 (0.98 for dCo and 0.96 for LCo; y-intercept forced to 0),
256 indicating good reproducibility. Furthermore, comparisons with other groups measuring dCo in
257 the same samples reported here suggest strong agreement between groups despite major
258 methodological differences (C. Parker and K. Bruland, personal communication).

259
260 Because acidified community reference materials such as the SAFe standards require a delicate
261 neutralization to pH 7.5–8 prior to analysis, a large batch of UV oligotrophic seawater was
262 generated prior to the cruise and used to assess instrument performance during at-sea analysis.
263 This consistency seawater standard was run $\sim 3x$ per week, as were blanks, and values were
264 stable over several reagent batches for the duration of the cruise (4.5 ± 2.1 pM, $n = 28$). SAFe
265 standard D1 was measured at sea (48.5 ± 2.4 pM, $n = 3$) and fell within 1 SD of the consensus
266 value (46.6 ± 4.8 pM). SAFe standard D2 and GEOTRACES standard GSP were run at higher
267 frequency for analyses at Woods Hole. Our measurements of D2 (46.9 ± 3.0 pM, $n = 7$) agreed
268 with consensus values (45.7 ± 2.9 pM) and concentrations from our lab published previously
269 (Noble et al., 2012). While the GSP standard does not have a consensus value, our
270 determinations (2.5 ± 2.0 pM, $n = 10$) are within the range for SAFe S (4.9 ± 1.2 pM), which was
271 collected at the same offshore location as GSP. Acidified SAFe and GEOTRACES standards
272 were neutralized with concentrated ammonium hydroxide (Seastar), mixing the entire sample
273 between drops, prior to UV digestion. When base was added more quickly, measured dCo was

274 halved, presumably due to adsorption or co-precipitation onto magnesium hydroxides formed
275 during base addition. For analysis of neutralized standards, we found a ~6:1 EPPS:NH₄OH
276 (M:M) buffer improved pH stability during analysis and removed significant baseline drift
277 observed with samples solely buffered with EPPS.

278

279 **2.3 Particulate metal analyses**

280 Particulate material collected from Go-Flo bottles was filtered onto acid-cleaned 0.45 µm
281 polyethersulfone filters (25 mm). Digestion protocol and analyses are identical to those used to
282 measure particulate metal concentrations during the North Atlantic GA03 cruise, described in
283 Twining et al., 2015. After filtration, filters were halved, digested at 135° C in sealed Teflon
284 vials containing 4 M HCL, 4 M HNO₃, and 4 M HF; digests were then dried, and re-dissolved in
285 0.32 M HNO₃ before analysis. pCo, pMn and pP concentrations were measured by ICP-MS
286 (Element 2, Thermo Scientific), calibrated using external multi-element standard curves, and
287 corrected for instrument drift and sample recovery by In and Cs internal standards. More detailed
288 methods for this dataset can be found elsewhere (Ohnemus et al., In Press).

289

290 **3. Results**

291 We report 680 determinations of dissolved cobalt (dCo) and 783 determinations of labile
292 dissolved cobalt (LCo) measured at sea, onboard the GP16 expedition in October–December
293 2013, as well as an additional 140 measurements of dCo measured from preserved samples on
294 land. In this section, we describe the distributions of dCo, particulate cobalt (pCo), and LCo in
295 the South Pacific Ocean.

296

297 **3.1 Dissolved Cobalt**

298 Throughout the GP16 transect, nutrient uptake and scavenging result in a hybrid-type profile for
299 dissolved cobalt (dCo, Fig. 3), similar to dCo profiles from the Atlantic (Bown et al., 2011;
300 Dulaquais et al., 2014b; Noble et al., 2012; Noble and Saito, in prep) and North Pacific (Ahlgren
301 et al., 2014; Knauer et al., 1982; Saito et al., 2014). dCo ranged from <3 pM (below detection) in
302 the South Pacific Gyre (e.g. Stations 23, 36) to 210 pM beneath the oxycline near the Peru
303 Margin (Station 1). In the deep Pacific, concentrations fell between 20–40 pM but increased
304 slightly at deepest stations below 4500 m. These values are much less than those observed in
305 zonal transects surveying the North and South Atlantic (Noble et al., 2012; Noble and Saito, in
306 prep) but are similar to measurements in the Southern Ocean (Bown et al., 2011), indicating that
307 dCo is scavenged in the deep ocean along meridional overturning circulation. Below 3000 m,
308 dCo is somewhat lower east of the Eastern Pacific Rise (EPR), and matches less oxygenated,
309 older waters than in the western portion of the transect (Fig. 4). While many profiles west of the
310 EPR show considerable variation between 2000–3000 m suggestive of hydrothermal influence,
311 the range is small (<10 pM) relative to background concentrations (30–40 pM) and unlike the
312 50-fold excess of hydrothermal dFe and dMn above background seawater measured at Station 18
313 (Resing et al., 2015).

314

315 dCo peaks in the mesopelagic, typically between 300–500 m. Towards the Peru shelf, this
316 maximum shoals and increases, following the position and intensity of the oxygen minimum
317 zone (OMZ, defined here as <20 $\mu\text{M O}_2$). Although the OMZ is several hundred meters thick
318 near the eastern margin (Fig. 3), dCo concentrations >100 pM are restricted to samples collected
319 just below the oxycline. Despite this narrow depth range, >100 pM dCo extends as far as 100°

320 W. For all depths below 200 m, dCo follows a negative linear relationship with O₂ (Fig. 5a).
321 Over the Peru shelf, maximum dCo was measured at the top of the OMZ and dCo decreased with
322 depth (except for the shallowest and most shoreward Station 2). Only at the western edge of the
323 section do dCo and O₂ decouple: the dCo maximum at Station 36 is deeper (500–1000 m) than
324 the oxygen minimum (300–500 m), seemingly independent of the influence of the South Pacific
325 OMZ (Fig. 3).

326

327 All profiles show a surface or near-surface minimum that indicates biological uptake and export.
328 As a result, dCo is well traced by dissolved phosphate, PO₄, in the upper 200 m of the ETSP
329 (Fig. 5c). This relationship holds despite sharp transitions to high dCo in the oxycline near the
330 Peru shelf. Upwelling of O₂-depleted, PO₄-rich waters contributes to high dCo in the surface
331 ocean along the eastern margin with concentrations decreasing westward due to mixing and
332 export. A secondary surface dCo maximum marked a cyclonic eddy sampled at 89° W (Station
333 9, V. Sanial, personal communication), which appeared to transport a shelf-like dCo and LCo
334 signature for the upper 300 m into the offshore OMZ (Figs. 6a, b). In the South Pacific gyre, dCo
335 in the euphotic zone falls below 10 pM. While the lowest PO₄ was found in low salinity surface
336 waters west of 140° W, minimum dCo and deepest nutriclines corresponded to a southwestward
337 excursion in the transect between Stations 17–23 (109–120° W), which were accompanied by
338 high salinities (>36) associated with the eastern part of the subtropical gyre. In contrast to the
339 deep, smooth dCo nutricline further to the east, stations at the western edge of the section
340 (Stations 32, 34, and 36) contained 20 pM Co until ~50 m where concentrations decrease sharply
341 surfaceward, resembling profiles in the North Atlantic (Fig. 3; Noble and Saito, in prep).

342

343 **3.2 Particulate Cobalt**

344 The surface minimum in dCo is mirrored by a near-surface maximum in particulate cobalt (pCo)
345 from biological uptake throughout the GP16 section. The distribution of pCo (Fig. 6c) resembles
346 particulate phosphorus (pP), chlorophyll, and other indicators of phytoplankton biomass. Very
347 high pCo (>10 pM) was measured in the highly productive waters in the Peru upwelling
348 ecosystem while lower concentrations (2–4 pM) were found in oligotrophic surface waters. West
349 of 100° W on the GP16 transect, a secondary pCo maximum between 300–500 m overlaps with
350 high particulate Mn (pMn), reflecting Co incorporation into Mn-oxides in oxygenated
351 thermocline waters (Fig. 6c). Elevated pCo was also found at the top of the OMZ in the eastern
352 half of the transect, corresponding with high dCo from remineralization. High pP and low pMn
353 in these samples suggest that pCo may be present as biomass in anoxic bacterial and archaeal
354 communities (Ohnemus et al., In Press), rather than incorporation into bacterial Mn-oxides by
355 co-oxidation. pMn increases sharply west of 100° W, implying that pCo here is present as an
356 authigenic phase (Ohnemus et al., In Press; Moffett and Ho, 1996).

357

358 **3.3 Labile Dissolved Cobalt**

359 dCo can be bound by extremely strong organic ligands that affect its reactivity (Ellwood and van
360 den Berg, 2001; Saito and Moffett, 2001). These ligands may be composed of degradation
361 products of the cobalt-bearing cofactor vitamin B₁₂ and may be stabilized following oxidation of
362 Co(II) to Co(III) (Baars and Croot, 2015). Unlike other metals such as Fe, dCo bound to natural
363 ligands is kinetically inert to ligand exchange (although some forms may still be bioavailable)
364 and strong Co(II) ligands are not in excess of dCo, largely due to binding competition with
365 nanomolar levels of labile nickel (Saito and Moffett, 2001; Saito et al., 2005). These properties

366 can result in a significant fraction of labile dissolved cobalt (LCo) that can be measured without
367 the UV-oxidation procedure necessary to measure dCo, especially in the mesopelagic (Noble et
368 al., 2012).

369

370 On GP16, the distribution of LCo is similar to that of dCo (Figs. 3, 4, 6). Except for samples
371 from the upper 50 m, dCo and LCo form a linear relationship ($R^2 = 0.88$) whose slope indicates
372 that ~33 % of dCo is labile (Fig. 7a). Major exceptions are confined to the highly productive
373 waters over the Peru shelf (Stations 1–6) where LCo is much lower than expected from dCo. In
374 these waters, LCo decreases in step with silicate (Fig. 7c). As in the North and South Atlantic
375 (Noble et al., 2012; Noble and Saito, in prep), LCo is undetectable in the surface ocean outside
376 of the waters influenced by upwelling (beyond 100° W, Fig. 6b). The absence of LCo from the
377 upper 300 m of the water column is deeper than corresponding gradients in the Atlantic,
378 suggesting cobalt depletion is more intense in the South Pacific.

379

380 In the deep Pacific (>3000 m), where dCo is low, LCo is undetectable. LCo remains low (<15
381 pM) in the mesopelagic, except where the OMZ is most intense (Fig. 4). Within the OMZ, LCo
382 maxima coincide with dCo maxima (Stations 1–15), but further to the west these LCo maxima
383 are much less pronounced and occur deeper than dCo maxima (Fig. 3). The LCo plume from the
384 OMZ also extends deeper (below 2000 m) than the corresponding dCo (<2000 m), suggesting
385 that remineralization and scavenging affect these quantities in different ways. Slight secondary
386 maxima between 1500–2000 m (10–15 pM) appear in the center of the section on $\sigma_\theta = 27.7\text{--}8$ kg
387 m^{-3} isopycnal layers (Fig. 4c, 105° W– 115° W), perhaps tracing transport of LCo remineralized
388 in the eastern basin as these waters flow over the mid ocean ridge.

389

390 **4. Discussion**

391 The most striking aspect of the dCo distribution in the ETSP is the very high concentrations
392 present in the OMZ (Figs. 3–5). Similar distributions have been observed in both the North and
393 South Atlantic, where >100 pM dCo plumes corresponded to low oxygen waters underneath the
394 Benguela and Mauritanian upwelling systems (Noble et al., 2012; Noble and Saito, in prep). In
395 the North Pacific, profiles from the Costa Rica Dome (Ahlgren et al., 2014), the California
396 margin (Biller and Bruland, 2013; Knauer et al., 1982), and the Central Pacific along 155° W
397 (Saito et al., 2014) support an OMZ-cobalt plume there as well. Based on measurements from
398 these four OMZs, oxygen biogeochemistry seems to exert a major control on cobalt cycling
399 throughout the oceans. It is interesting to note that the magnitude of the observed dCo plumes
400 does not appear to scale with minimum O₂ between Atlantic and Pacific OMZs. While minimum
401 O₂ in the Atlantic OMZs exceeds 20 μM, much of the ETSP is anoxic (Karstensen et al., 2008;
402 Ulloa et al., 2012). Yet, dCo in the ETSP occupies a similar 100–200 pM range reported for the
403 North and South Atlantic OMZs (Noble et al., 2012; Noble and Saito, in prep). Clearly, other
404 factors besides O₂ alone contribute to large scale plumes of dissolved cobalt in the oceans.

405

406 In the following, we describe the oceanographic processes that lead to elevated dCo and LCo
407 concentrations in low-oxygen waters (Section 4.1). At the basin scale, the combined effects of
408 remineralization and circulation link dCo with O₂ throughout the water column in the ETSP
409 (Section 4.1.1). The cobalt plume in the OMZ, however, is more than an extrapolation of these
410 mechanisms, requiring a large coastal source (Section 4.1.2), and suppression of dCo scavenging
411 at very low O₂ (Section 4.1.3). The mechanism, magnitude, and redox sensitivity of the coastal

412 Co source are then examined in greater detail (Section 4.2). Finally, we highlight the scarcity of
413 dCo – a critical micronutrient to phytoplankton – in the surface ocean of the South Pacific and
414 the dependence of surface ocean dCo supply on coastal sources (Section 4.3).

415

416 **4.1. Processes generating the OMZ cobalt plume in the Eastern South Pacific Ocean**

417 **4.1.1 Basin-scale remineralization and circulation couple dCo with O₂**

418 In the ETSP, tight coupling between dCo and O₂ is evident in the strong, inverse relationship that
419 describes all samples below 200 m (Fig. 5a). In light of the nutrient-like dCo depletion in the
420 surface of the ETSP and elsewhere (Fig. 6, Ahlgren et al., 2014; Dulaquais et al., 2014b; Noble
421 et al., 2012), this negative correlation might be attributed to remineralization: dCo is returned to
422 the dissolved phase from a sinking biogenic phase following respiration (i.e. O₂ consumption).
423 The slope of the dCo:O₂ line ($-0.33 \mu\text{M M}^{-1}$, $R^2 = 0.75$ for 200–5500 m) would then represent the
424 biological stoichiometry of the exported organic material in the ETSP. However, Co:P ratios in
425 particulate material collected in the upper 50 m on GP16 indicate greater phytoplankton cobalt
426 utilization (median pCo:pP of $140 \mu\text{M M}^{-1} \div 118 \text{O}_2:\text{P M M}^{-1} = 1.2 \text{Co}:\text{O}_2 \mu\text{M M}^{-1}$; DeVries and
427 Deutsch, 2014). If the dCo:O₂ trend is borne solely from remineralization, a greater slope would
428 be expected, implying removal of dCo by scavenging. The linearity in the dCo:O₂ relationship is
429 also not reproduced upon conversion of O₂ to apparent oxygen utilization ($\text{AOU} = \text{O}_{2,\text{saturation}} -$
430 $\text{O}_{2,\text{measured}}$, Fig. 5b, $R^2 = 0.49$), further suggesting that other factors besides remineralization
431 (such as circulation and scavenging) shape the subsurface dCo distribution as well.

432

433 In the deep ocean, near-conservative mixing of low O₂/high dCo water masses with high O₂/low
434 dCo water masses probably contributes to the observed dCo:O₂ relationship. The enormous

435 depth range (>5000 m) described by the linear dCo:O₂ relationship contrasts with the near-
436 exponential decrease in remineralization rates with depth (e.g. Karstensen et al., 2008). It is
437 likely that deep Pacific circulation acts to spread signals of local dCo remineralization
438 throughout the water column, aggregating a multitude of export stoichiometries and
439 remineralization processes into a single, coherent relationship across the basin. LCo is
440 undetectable below ~2500 m and the shallower slope of the LCo:O₂ trend ($-0.11 \mu\text{M M}^{-1}$, $R^2 =$
441 0.67 , not shown) implies that the dCo:O₂ relationship is driven mostly by strongly complexed
442 species, which are less vulnerable to co-oxidation by Mn-oxidizing bacteria in the water column
443 (Moffett and Ho, 1996). Since the deep Pacific can be broadly regarded as a mixture of
444 oxygenated circumpolar waters and OMZs (especially from the North Pacific), the linear dCo:O₂
445 relationship between 200 and 5500 m may reflect mixing of a dCo pool that is largely inert to
446 losses by scavenging.

447

448 In the upper 200 m, dCo is not well coupled with O₂ and almost all samples fall above the line
449 established by deeper samples (Fig. 5a). Near the South American margin, the dCo maximum in
450 the upper OMZ is more than twice the dCo concentration expected by extrapolation of the basin-
451 scale dCo:O₂ relationship to the 0 μM O₂ intercept (77 pM, Fig. 5a). The similarity of dCo
452 profiles to profiles of excess N₂ from denitrification from this region (e.g. Chang et al., 2010)
453 implies that both the dCo maximum in the OMZ and its decrease with depth are driven by
454 factors that also affect nitrogen loss: namely in-situ remineralization of sinking biogenic particles
455 and lateral transport of coastal waters that experience high rates of denitrification and are also
456 rich in dCo (DeVries et al., 2012).

457

4.1.2 Distinct surface and mesopelagic Co:P relationships

458 In the upper ocean (0–200 m), dCo is linearly related to PO₄ (Figs. 5c), indicating that the
459 processes controlling PO₄ in the surface – upwelling, mixing, biological uptake and export – are
460 the main drivers of dCo as well. In the upper 50 m, the dCo:PO₄ slope (69 μM:M, R² = 0.89, Fig.
461 7b) may describe export stoichiometry throughout the Eastern Pacific. That the surface dCo:PO₄
462 slope intercepts the highest dCo concentrations (below the 50 m depth range of the regression,
463 Fig. 5c, cyan line) indicates that new cobalt sourced from the shelf is rapidly incorporated into
464 the biological cycle and that the capacity for phytoplankton Co uptake is not overwhelmed by the
465 order of magnitude higher dCo in coastal waters relative to the open ocean. Culture experiments
466 with model diatoms and coccolithophores demonstrate this capacity (Shaked et al., 2006; Sunda
467 and Huntsman, 1995; Yee and Morel, 1996), deploying Co to zinc enzymes to maintain activity
468 when Zn becomes scarce. When Zn is limiting, Co quotas, as observed in open ocean
469 phytoplankton, are 10–100x greater than Co quotas when Zn is replete (Sunda and Huntsman,
470 1992; Twining and Baines, 2013). Therefore, minor substitution of Zn quotas by Co (~10 %) can
471 double cellular Co levels in eukaryotes, resulting in nearly complete uptake of dCo from the
472 surface ocean.

474

475 A separate nutrient-like dCo:PO₄ trend arises from gradients of both elements in the open ocean
476 nutricline (Fig. 5c). The slope of the mesopelagic trend (16 μM:M, for 200–1000 m, red line in
477 Fig. 5c) is much less than that measured for the upper 50 m (69 μM:M, cyan line). Due to
478 considerable preformed PO₄ in deep waters, as well as elevated dCo:PO₄ ratios in the OMZ, the
479 mesopelagic dCo:PO₄ regression is less robust than in the surface (R² = 0.21), though the slope
480 does reflect dCo and PO₄ covariation in this depth range when PO₄ is <2 μM (Fig. 5c, red line).

481 Regardless, there seems to be a fundamental mismatch between $dCo:PO_4$ from the upper water
482 column (0–200 m) and that observed deeper (200–1000 m).

483

484 In the eastern margin, the surface and mesopelagic $dCo:PO_4$ vectors are joined at $2.6 \mu M PO_4$ by
485 a near-vertical line that makes the $dCo:PO_4$ domain triangular. Interpretation of this line depends
486 largely on its perceived direction: a downward vector can be a fingerprint of scavenging while an
487 upward vector describes a cobalt source (Noble et al., 2008; Saito et al., 2010). This ambiguity is
488 clarified by examining $dCo:PO_4$ gradients within isopycnal surfaces, which strongly indicate a
489 source at low O_2 . In the ETSP, σ_θ 26.2 and 26.4 isopycnals host the upper OMZ and the
490 oxygenated thermocline waters west of $100^\circ W$. Water masses on these surfaces can be
491 distinguished on the basis of salinity; from the GP16 dataset, mixing between salty and
492 deoxygenated equatorial sub-surface waters (ESSW or $13^\circ C$ water) with fresher, ventilated Sub-
493 Antarctic waters is apparent (Fiedler and Talley, 2006; Toggweiler et al., 1991). Oxygenated
494 waters on $\sigma_\theta = 26.2$ and 26.4 show a tight coupling between dCo and PO_4 from remineralization
495 of both elements (Fig. 8a). For samples with $<20 \mu M O_2$, however, deviation from the oxic
496 $dCo:PO_4$ trend is always positive, indicating a dCo source within the OMZ. When oxygen is
497 low, dCo follows salinity (Fig. 8b). Mixing of high salinity (34.9–35.0), high dCo ESSW from
498 the northeast with low salinity, low dCo Subantarctic waters explains the $dCo:salinity$
499 covariation on these isopycnal surfaces. While ESSW is fed by the equatorial undercurrent
500 (EUC), which originates near Papua New Guinea and transports a large Fe and Al source
501 eastward (Slemons et al., 2010), it is low in dCo (as measured at $155^\circ W$, Hawco and Saito,
502 unpublished; Saito et al., 2014). When the EUC bifurcates near the Galapagos, it mixes with

503 coastal waters north and south of the equator (Fiedler and Talley, 2006; Stramma et al., 2010),
504 where its high dCo signature is likely acquired.

505

506 **4.1.3 Suppression of cobalt scavenging in the OMZ**

507 The isopycnal dCo:salinity relationship implies cobalt scavenging in the OMZ is low (Fig. 8b).

508 This is not surprising given the slower rates of MnO_2 formation at low O_2 (Johnson et al., 1996;
509 von Langen et al., 1997) and very low particulate Mn measured in the ETSP OMZ (Ohnemus et
510 al. In Press). In the OMZ, both pCo:pP and pMn:pP ratios in the OMZ are consistent with
511 micronutrient use by microbial communities and resemble biomass collected in the euphotic
512 zone on GP16 (Co:P = $0.5\text{--}4 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M M}^{-1}$, Mn:P $\sim 10^{-3} \text{ M M}^{-1}$; Fig. 9, pink and cyan lines).

513 These low, biomass-like pCo:pP and pMn:pP signatures in the ETSP OMZ are consistent with
514 thermodynamic and kinetic barriers to Mn oxidation at very low O_2 (Ohnemus et al., In Review).

515

516 Crossing the anoxic/oxic transition at 100° W in the thermocline (σ_θ 26.2–27.0, centered at 300
517 m) results in a factor of ten higher pMn concentrations and implies a redox threshold to Mn
518 oxidation in the mesopelagic (Fig. 9, blue circles). Heterotrophic Mn-oxidizing bacteria are
519 known to incorporate Co by enzymatic co-oxidation into the Mn-oxide lattice and are prevalent
520 throughout the water column (Cowen and Bruland, 1985; Moffett and Ho, 1996). While
521 particulate Co profiles in the ETSP have a near-surface maximum from biological uptake (Fig.
522 6c), pCo attenuates much less with depth than pP in oxic thermocline waters. Very high pCo:pP
523 ratios (up to 10^{-3} M M^{-1}) are found in the oxygenated thermocline but not in the OMZ (Fig. 9,
524 pink circles). The coincidence of high pCo:pP and high pMn throughout the mesopelagic is
525 consistent with pCo being present in an authigenic Mn-oxide phase, marking an important

526 transition between nutrient-like cobalt cycling in the surface ocean (where pCo is almost entirely
527 biogenic) to Mn-oxide driven scavenging at depth.

528

529 The stimulation of cobalt scavenging across the anoxic/oxic transition at 100° W was also
530 reflected in a sharp decrease in LCo:PO₄ as scavenging removed LCo from the water column

531 (Fig. 9, black circles). Indeed, the same oxygenated thermocline samples with high pMn and

532 pCo:pP are responsible for the gradual slope in dCo:PO₄ space (16 μM M⁻¹, Fig. 5c, red line).

533 The offset between high surface and low mesopelagic dCo:PO₄ is mirrored by the lower surface

534 and higher mesopelagic pCo:pP. While scavenging is often presumed to draw chiefly from

535 metals in the dissolved phase, the heterotrophic nature of Mn-oxidizing bacteria and their

536 abundance in sediment traps hint that Mn-oxidizing bacteria may access biogenic metal pools

537 within sinking particles (Cowen and Bruland, 1985). In such a case, pCo may be shunted directly

538 from a biogenic to an authigenic phase without being truly remineralized, preventing the equal

539 return of dCo at depth relative to that exported from the surface, as documented here by the

540 disparity between deep and shallow dCo:PO₄ slopes (Fig. 5c). An important consequence of

541 mesopelagic scavenging is that ventilation of these waters by upwelling without an exogenous

542 source (e.g. the continental margin) would create conditions whereby dCo, relative to PO₄, is not

543 supplied to the same extent it is presently utilized and exported. Because these scavenged waters

544 are relatively shallow and have short ventilation ages (Fiedler and Talley, 2006), fluxes of cobalt

545 to the South Pacific from margin sources must be large enough to balance these scavenging

546 losses.

547

548 **4.2 A major cobalt source from the Peruvian margin**

549 **4.2.1 Water column signatures of a dCo source**

550 The strong covariation between high dCo and low O₂ in the ETSP and the intersection of the
551 OMZ with the South American margin suggests that the continental shelf may be an important
552 cobalt source. Sections from the North and South Atlantic (Noble et al., 2012; Noble and Saito,
553 in prep) and profiles from the North Pacific (Ahlgren et al., 2014; Knauer et al., 1982) have
554 resulted in similar assertions, but the coincidence of high phytoplankton productivity along
555 eastern margins also imprints signals from elevated remineralization. This is certainly the case
556 for the ETSP, where Stations 2 and 3 on the Peru shelf featured >1.5 µg chlorophyll L⁻¹ in the
557 euphotic layer, and >4 µM nitrite throughout the OMZ from intensified anoxic remineralization.
558 As a result, the dCo profile in Peru shelf waters strongly resembles PO₄ and other nutrients
559 above the oxycline (Fig. 10). Unlike PO₄, however, these shelf stations show a dCo maximum at
560 the oxycline and decreasing concentrations with depth that more strongly resembles the Mn
561 profile (Fig. 10), implying that additional process contribute to the dCo profile over the shelf.

562
563 Positive correlations between dCo, LCo and dMn within the OMZ on the Peru shelf reflect a
564 shared source (Fig. 11). The slope of the LCo:dMn relationship ($18 \pm 2 \text{ mM M}^{-1} R^2 = 0.76$) is
565 nearly identical to that in upper continental crust and Andesite ($21\text{--}26 \text{ mM M}^{-1}$, McLennan,
566 2001; Taylor and McLennan, 1995), matching expectations that mineral dissolution should
567 provide labile Co. However, the steeper slope for the dCo:dMn relationship ($42 \pm 5 \text{ mM M}^{-1} R^2$
568 $= 0.67$) exceeds crustal endmembers. Addition of a second, Co-enriched component is needed to
569 explain the observed relationship. Given the massive productivity over the Peru shelf, biological
570 export and remineralization of dCo and dMn in the OMZ is a reasonable cause for the high
571 Co:Mn ratio in the shelf OMZ. From particulate material in the upper 40 m of shelf stations (1–

572 5), the average Co:Mn ratio in local biomass is between 100 and 110 mM M⁻¹ (median and
573 mean), roughly 5 times higher than continental crust, and falling within the range reported for
574 single cell analysis of phytoplankton cells from other regions (70–400 mM M⁻¹, Twining and
575 Baines, 2013). The combination, then, of a high biotic Co:Mn and a lower ratio from a
576 sedimentary source can produce the slope observed in the water column, but requires
577 remineralized dCo to be chiefly ligand-bound in order to preserve the near-crustal LCo:Mn
578 slope. The higher Co:Mn ratio in biomass relative to their shared sedimentary source also results
579 in a nutrient trap that returns upwelled dCo to the OMZ more efficiently than dMn and implies
580 that input of dCo from the shelf is rapidly followed by biological utilization, evident in the
581 immediate transition from a dMn-like profile below the oxycline to a PO₄-like profile above it
582 (Fig. 10).

583

584 Water column observations of a large dCo source are also mirrored in the depleted Co contents
585 of continental shelf sediments along the Peru margin. A survey of continental shelf sediments
586 underlying the Peru OMZ found low Co/Al ratios ($1.2 \pm 0.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ g g}^{-1}$, Böning et al., 2004)
587 relative to Andesitic and upper continental crusts (2.63 and $2.11 \times 10^{-4} \text{ g g}^{-1}$ respectively,
588 McLennan, 2001; Taylor and McLennan, 1995), requiring that about half of the Co delivered to
589 the continental shelf from crustal sources dissolved prior to long-term burial on the shelf. The
590 only other element to have a similar depletion was Mn, which covaried with Co across all
591 samples in the Böning et al. study, consistent with release of both metals by reductive
592 dissolution. Yet the exact mechanism for dCo release is unclear: mass balance calculations for
593 Mn indicate that diffusive fluxes from sediment porewaters on the Peru Shelf are much too slow
594 to account for solid-phase Mn/Al deficits that accumulate in the sediment column (Scholz et al.

595 2011). Therefore, most Mn is released prior to sedimentation on the margin, either by dissolving
596 directly in the water column or through upstream release in estuaries. Since Co covaries with Mn
597 in both dissolved and sediment phases (Fig. 11, Böning et al., 2004), the ultimate source of the
598 dCo plume in the Peruvian OMZ may not be generated by diffusion from margin sediments
599 either.

600

601

602 **4.2.2 Potential redox sensitivity of coastal cobalt sources**

603 The Co/Al ratio in buried sediments on the continental shelf can provide a coarse measure of
604 how much Co has been released to the ocean. Sub-crustal Co/Al ratios in Peruvian sediments
605 between 9–14° S (Böning et al., 2004) match similar measurements in Chilean OMZ sediments
606 at 36° S (Table 2, Co/Al = $1.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ g g}^{-1}$, Böning et al., 2009) and the Gulf of California ($1.4 \times$
607 10^{-4} g g^{-1} , Brumsack, 1989). The deficit between these values and continental crust ($2.11 \times 10^{-4} \text{ g}$
608 g^{-1}) implies that dissolution of crustal materials along the eastern margin provides a large source
609 of dCo and LCo to the Pacific. In the absence of large hydrothermal inputs (see Section 4.2.5,
610 Swanner et al. 2014), burial of Co depleted sediments on the margin is needed to balance
611 extremely high Co/Al ratios in Pacific pelagic sediments, which collect Co scavenged from the
612 water column (e.g Dunlea et al., 2015; Goldberg and Arrhenius, 1958).

613

614 In contrast to depleted Co along the South American shelf, the Co/Al ratio in shelf sediments
615 from the western margin of the Pacific appears crustal (Table 2). Holocene records from the
616 Pearl River delta and shelf slope in the South China Sea ~20° N (Hu et al., 2012, 2013) show
617 mean Co/Al ratios of 2.2 and $2.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ g g}^{-1}$, respectively, similar to sediments from the Gulf of

618 Papua at 9° S ($2.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ g g}^{-1}$, Alongi et al., 1996). Crustal Co/Al in these sedimentary systems
619 implies that most of the Co provided from fluvial sediment delivery either does not dissolve or is
620 quickly reburied by water column Mn oxidation, rates of which can be very high in estuaries and
621 coastal seas (Moffett and Ho, 1996; Moffett, 1994; Sunda and Huntsman, 1987; Sunda and
622 Huntsman, 1990).

623

624 It is likely that oxidizing conditions in the water column and surface sediments limit the release
625 of cobalt on the western margin, leading to crustal Co/Al ratios in shelf sediments, while suboxic
626 conditions on the eastern margin mobilize Co, evident in depleted Co/Al ratios observed there.
627 Although sedimentary anoxia releases Co bound in Mn oxides, even a thin layer of O₂
628 penetration into sediments results in a near-zero diffusive flux into the water column (Heggie and
629 Lewis, 1984). Indeed, El Niño-driven oxygenation events on the Peru shelf are associated with
630 deposition of Mn-oxides in shallow sediments (Scholz et al. 2011). Bottom water deoxygenation
631 restores Co fluxes to the water column (Johnson et al., 1988, Sundby et al., 1986), but Co is also
632 incorporated into sulfide minerals, analogous to the ‘Goldilocks’ mechanism for benthic Fe
633 release where flux is maximized when redox conditions are low enough to promote oxide
634 dissolution but still high enough to avoid pyrite burial (into which cobalt is incorporated; Morse
635 and Luther, 1999, Scholz et al., 2014). Cobalt burial in pyrite is evident in high Co/Al content of
636 Black Sea sediments (Brumsack, 2006) and sulfide-rich pockets of Namibian sediments near
637 Walvis Bay ($2.9 \times 10^{-4} \text{ g g}^{-1}$, Borchers et al., 2005), despite more widespread Co/Al depletion in
638 suboxic (but not sulfidic) terrigenous sediments underneath the Benguela upwelling region
639 (Bremner and Willis, 1993). Prevailing suboxic conditions along the Namibian coast ultimately
640 lead to an extensive dCo plume that reaches across the South Atlantic basin (Noble et al., 2012).

641 Similarly, depleted sedimentary Co/Al on the Peruvian margin and high dCo in the water column
 642 perhaps reflect sustained anoxia that, in the present, is unlikely outside the domain of OMZs.
 643
 644 Altogether, the accumulating evidence that the oceans' major OMZs harbor dCo plumes (Noble
 645 et al., 2012, Alhgren et al., 2014, Noble et al., in prep) indicates a strong chemical connection
 646 between the efficiency of dCo sources and local redox conditions where these OMZs interact
 647 with the continental margin. While reductive dissolution is the most likely mechanism at play,
 648 whether this process predominantly occurs in estuaries, the OMZ water column, or margin
 649 sediments is presently unclear, but will ultimately dictate how the dCo source (and the resulting
 650 OMZ plumes) are affected by climate-driven changes in the size and intensity of OMZs (e.g.
 651 Scholz et al. 2011, 2014). As such, there is a significant need for future experimental and field
 652 studies that address the redox sensitivity of dCo and other metal fluxes from coastal
 653 environments.

654

655 **4.2.3 Comparing coastal sources with the OMZ cobalt plume**

656 Can a terrigenous cobalt source account for the observed OMZ plume? Because lithogenic
 657 sediments along the Peru margin are delivered primarily by rivers (Scheidegger and Kressek,
 658 1982), we can estimate a dCo flux to OMZ waters as the product of the fluvial sediment delivery
 659 to the continental shelf and the difference in Co/Al ratios between original rocks and buried shelf
 660 sediments:

$$661 \quad \text{Co flux}_{\text{suboxic}} = \left(\frac{\text{Co}}{\text{Al}}_{\text{crust}} - \frac{\text{Co}}{\text{Al}}_{\text{suboxic sediments}} \right) * \% \text{ Al} * F_{\text{fluvial}} \quad (1)$$

662 where F_{fluvial} is the riverine flux of terrigenous sediments from Ecuador, Peru and Northern Chile
 663 to oxygen-depleted coastlines in the ETSP. If this supply is approximately 200 MT year⁻¹ (Lyle,

664 1981; Milliman and Farnsworth, 2011), the Co deficit in Peruvian sediments from Böning et al.,
665 2004 corresponds to a $2.5\text{--}4.6 \times 10^7$ mol per year flux from the South American shelf, depending
666 on the crustal endmember applied (upper continental crust vs. andesite, Table 2). When scaled to
667 the size of the ETSP OMZ (2.2×10^6 km³ defined at 20 μM O₂, Fuenzalida et al., 2009) a
668 terrigenous cobalt supply of 11–21 pM year⁻¹ would be expected.

669

670 The extent to which the coastal flux and dCo inventory are in agreement depends on the
671 residence time of OMZ waters. Models and CFC distributions from WOCE imply an
672 approximately decadal recirculation time in OMZ waters relative to mesopelagic gyre circulation
673 in the ETSP (Deutsch et al., 2001, 2011). Integrating our terrigenous Co flux estimate over 10
674 years yields an expected concentration of 120–230 pM within the OMZ. This is of similar
675 magnitude, but greater than the concentrations measured on the GP16 transect (mean of 100 ± 30
676 pM). The difference between estimated and actual dCo inventories in the OMZ is probably due
677 to upwelling and advection by surface currents, readily seen in the dCo section (Fig. 6), which
678 carries the remainder to the gyre.

679

680 **4.2.4 Comparison to atmospheric deposition**

681 We can compare the calculated sedimentary flux to an expected flux from aerosol dust
682 dissolution. Aeolian deposition is extremely low over the South Pacific basin (Mahowald et al.,
683 2005), except immediately offshore of Peru, where dust from the Altiplano interacts with the
684 prevailing northward winds (Prospero and Bonatti, 1969; Scheidegger and Krissek, 1982). Model
685 results (Mahowald et al., 2005) suggest that deposition does not exceed $0.5 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, except
686 very close to the coastline. Using this estimate, crustal cobalt abundances, and the aerial extent of

687 the OMZ ($9.8 \times 10^6 \text{ km}^2$, Fuenzalida et al., 2009), we estimate the aerial flux of cobalt from dust
688 to be $1.4 \times 10^6 \text{ mol}$ per year. A 10% fractional solubility for cobalt (Shelley et al., 2012)
689 indicates a soluble cobalt flux from dust of $0.065 \text{ pM dCo year}^{-1}$, $\sim 0.5 \%$ of the expected
690 sedimentary flux. Over a decade, dust deposition accounts $<1 \text{ pM}$ of the OMZ dCo plume. dCo
691 profiles also lack surface maxima near shore despite corresponding features for dissolved Al and
692 Mn at Stations 1 and 5 (Fig. 10, Resing et al., 2015). Fluvial sediment delivery to the margin,
693 therefore, is a much more plausible source for the elevated dCo in the ETSP OMZ.

694

695 **4.2.5 An inefficient cobalt source in hydrothermal vents**

696 Hydrothermal venting along the Eastern Pacific Rise (EPR) provides a major source of dFe and
697 dMn to the deep South Pacific (Resing et al., 2015) where nanomolar concentrations of both
698 metals were measured between 2000–3000 m at the ridge crest and concentrations exceeded
699 background values for several thousand kilometers westward. In contrast, dCo concentrations are
700 only slightly elevated at the ridge crest (Station 18, Fig. 3), reaching 36 pM at 2400m (against a
701 background of $\sim 25 \text{ pM}$); at the same station, dFe and dMn both exceeded 15 nM (background <1
702 nM , Fig. 12a). Unambiguous hydrothermal input is evident from the LCo profile, which peaks at
703 14 pM at the dCo maximum (Fig. 12b), roughly consistent with a 10,000-fold dilution of high
704 temperature endmember sources containing $100\text{--}1000 \text{ nM dCo}$ (Lupton et al., 1985; Metz and
705 Trefry, 2000).

706

707 However, both dCo and LCo maxima are offset from dFe and dMn plumes. At Station 18, dFe
708 and dMn peak at 2500–2600 m. At this depth, LCo is undetectable and dCo values are at – or
709 slightly lower than – background levels (Fig. 12b), suggesting that Mn and/or Fe scavenging in

710 the heart of the hydrothermal plume has removed most of the hydrothermal Co from the water
711 column before being transported away from the ridge crest. Indeed, Co is strongly associated
712 with Mn phases in near-axis metalliferous sediment in the EPR at 14° S (Dunk and Mills, 2006).
713 The position of the LCo maximum above the dMn and dFe maxima probably reflects lower
714 scavenging rates outside the main plume, which may spare a fraction of the hydrothermal Co
715 source from an otherwise immediate and total removal. Even without scavenging losses, global
716 hydrothermal Co fluxes (2.2 Mmol year⁻¹; Swanner et al., 2014) are 10–25x less than our
717 estimated source from the Peru Shelf alone, highlighting the importance of upper ocean sources
718 in maintaining the dCo inventory.

719

720 **4.3 Cobalt scarcity in the euphotic zone**

721 **4.3.1 The South Pacific Gyre**

722 The combination of eastern boundary upwelling and a continental source produces large dCo
723 gradients across the surface of the South Pacific Ocean (Fig. 6a). Westward, decreasing surface
724 dCo results from phytoplankton uptake and export, reflected in strong correlations with PO₄, as
725 well as mixing with low dCo waters from the subtropical gyre. It is interesting to note that the
726 intercept for the dCo:PO₄ relationship is negative ($-12.8 \pm 2.6 \mu\text{M M}^{-1}$, Fig. 7b); cobalt was
727 depleted before PO₄. This is opposite to what was observed in the Sargasso Sea, where extreme
728 PO₄ scarcity results in a positive dCo:PO₄ intercept (Jakuba et al., 2008). The dCo nutricline in
729 the South Pacific gyre (~200 m, Fig. 6) is also deeper than corresponding features in the North
730 and South Atlantic (Noble et al., 2012; Noble and Saito, in prep). Because winter mixed layers in
731 the tropical South Pacific generally does not exceed 100 m and strong haloclines separate the
732 oxygen minimum layer from the surface (Fiedler and Talley, 2006), convective overturn does not

733 reach the dCo nutricine at 150–250 m. Low vertical cobalt supply makes the South Pacific gyre
734 an interesting counterpart to the Sargasso Sea, which experiences deep winter mixing and higher
735 dCo (10–30 pM, Dulaquais et al., 2014b; Jakuba et al., 2008; Noble and Saito, in prep), and
736 emphasizes the importance of lateral supply mechanisms, especially eastern boundary upwelling,
737 in maintaining the surface dCo inventory of the tropical Pacific (Saito et al., 2004).

738

739 While productivity in the South Pacific is thought to be limited by scarcity of iron and nitrogen
740 (Moore et al., 2013; Saito et al., 2014), the extremely low dCo measured here implies that it may
741 be important as well. Because marine cyanobacteria such as *Prochlorococcus* and
742 *Synechococcus* have an absolute Co requirement (Saito et al., 2002; Sunda and Huntsman, 1995),
743 they are vulnerable to limitation. Indeed, a *Synechococcus* bloom in the Costa Rica Dome was
744 found to be co-limited by both iron and cobalt (Saito et al., 2005). Despite dCo concentrations
745 below 10 pM (sometimes below the 3 pM detection limit), the South Pacific gyre contains a
746 significant *Prochlorococcus* population – evident in the high proportion of divinyl chlorophyll A
747 to total chlorophyll (Fig. 13a). As LCo was undetectable beyond 100° W, biological uptake must
748 occur either by accessing strongly bound dCo or through fast recycling of LCo at very low
749 steady-state concentrations. On GP16, particulate Co concentrations in the upper 50 m were
750 steady (3.5 ± 1.2 pM) and mostly reflect Co bound in biomass (Ohnemus et al., In Press),
751 sometimes rivaling dissolved cobalt concentrations (Fig. 13b). Compared to low pCo:dCo ratios
752 observed in the South Atlantic (<1:12, Noble et al., 2012), the high ratio in the South Pacific
753 gyre (~1:3, Fig. 13b) indicates that resident *Prochlorococcus* are extremely well-adapted to
754 widespread dCo scarcity and that efficient recycling of biogenic pCo may be crucial to survival

755 of *Prochlorococcus* and other cyanobacteria (e.g. *Synechococcus*, Ahlgren et al. 2014) in the
756 face of widespread dCo scarcity.

757

758 **4.3.2 Depletion of labile dissolved cobalt in the Peru Upwelling Ecosystem**

759 Unlike its near uniform relationship with dCo in the underlying OMZ, LCo measured on GP16 is
760 low relative to dCo in the surface ocean (0–50 m), especially along the Peru Margin (Figs. 7a,
761 13c). This might result either from microbial production of cobalt ligands – as observed in a
762 *Synechococcus*-dominated community in the Costa Rica Dome (Saito et al., 2005) and with
763 cultured *Prochlorococcus* strains (Saito et al. 2002) – or if LCo is the preferred species for
764 uptake. The latter has been demonstrated in culture with model eukaryotic algae (Sunda and
765 Huntsman, 1995), where free Co ion is acquired by high affinity Zn-transporters. Because the
766 Peru upwelling region is dominated by diatoms (Bruland et al., 2005), preferential uptake of free
767 Co ion by these organisms is realistic and is corroborated by a strong correlation between LCo
768 and dissolved silicate (Si) in the upper 50 m of the section ($R^2 = 0.90$, Fig. 7c). As a result of
769 diatom-driven export, LCo in shelf surface waters is nearly depleted (1–12 pM) despite high
770 concentrations of dCo (40–80 pM, Fig. 13c). Very low surface LCo at 12° S on GP16 contrasts
771 with previous observations showing high concentrations of LCo in the Peru upwelling region
772 during August–September 2000 (Saito et al., 2004). Between 5–10° S, much higher surface dCo
773 was measured in freshly upwelled waters (up to 315 pM) and dCo was >50 % labile in surface
774 transects (Saito et al., 2004). Surface dFe during August–September 2000 was also higher
775 between 5–10° S than on GP16 at 12° S (Bruland et al., 2005; Resing et al., 2015). Decreasing
776 surface dFe from North to South followed decreasing gradients in shelf width and fluvial
777 sediment supply (Bruland et al., 2005; Milliman and Farnsworth, 2011), implying that the high

778 dFe was due to stronger benthic sources to the North. Because coastal sources are expected to
779 provide labile cobalt (e.g. Fig 11), the high concentrations of LCo measured between 5–10° S
780 during August–September 2000 indicate a similar gradient in coastal dCo input and LCo
781 availability in surface waters.

782

783 Spatial and temporal variability of margin dCo sources may ultimately affect carbon flow
784 through the Peru upwelling ecosystem. Considering the very low dissolved Zn in surface waters
785 on GP16 (<100 pM east of 90° W, S. John personal communication) and that >95 % of the dZn
786 is typically complexed by organic ligands (Bruland, 1989), coastal diatoms in the Peru
787 upwelling region may be subject to diffusion limitation when free Zn ion falls below a 1–10 pM
788 threshold (Sunda and Huntsman, 1992). Because Co can replace Zn in carbonic anhydrase
789 enzymes (Sunda and Huntsman, 1995; Yee and Morel, 1996), LCo supplied from the margin
790 may maintain fast rates of carbon fixation and export in the Peru Upwelling region despite low
791 dZn. The relatively low concentrations measured on GP16, however, imply that the LCo supply
792 may not always be sufficient.

793

794 **5. Conclusions**

795 A schematic of the cobalt cycle in the Eastern Tropical South Pacific Ocean – and how these
796 processes lead to covariation of dissolved cobalt with O₂ and PO₄ – is shown in Figure 14. High
797 dCo and LCo on the Peru shelf match depleted Co content reported in Peru shelf sediments and
798 indicate a large source to the water column (Böning et al., 2004). Correlations between dMn and
799 LCo in anoxic shelf waters, and crust-like Co/Al ratios in oxic western boundary sediments
800 suggest that margin cobalt sources are redox sensitive and that the sustained presence of the

801 OMZ on the Peru margin amplifies coastal Co fluxes. The high dCo within the OMZ leads to a
802 large flux to the surface ocean by upwelling along the Peru margin, where it is readily accessed
803 by phytoplankton. The significance of cobalt as a micronutrient is emphasized by strong
804 correlations with phosphate throughout the surface ocean.

805

806 The basin scale association between high dCo and low O₂ throughout the GP16 section testifies
807 to the importance of remineralization in maintaining the dCo distribution in the Eastern South
808 Pacific (Fig. 14). Additionally, low oxygen suppresses particulate Mn accumulation and Co
809 scavenging, contributing to the OMZ cobalt plume. Scavenging in oxic mesopelagic waters
810 limits the full return of Co to the dissolved phase during remineralization, resulting in low
811 dissolved Co:P ratios relative to biomass exported from the euphotic zone. Oxidative scavenging
812 also seems to limit the flux of Co from hydrothermal venting over the East Pacific rise, further
813 emphasizing the Peru margin as the most important Co source to the South Pacific. Given that
814 deep nutriclines in the South Pacific Gyre limit dCo supply from vertical mixing outside of the
815 upwelling zone, phytoplankton Co nutrition depends largely on lateral supply from the Eastern
816 Margin.

817

818 Ultimately, the dCo inventory in the South Pacific – and its availability to surface phytoplankton
819 – may be changing considerably as the size of the OMZ fluctuates. Recent warming and
820 stratification appear to have expanded the volume of low oxygen waters in the tropics (Stramma
821 et al., 2008, 2010). As such, dCo inventories may increase as lower O₂ hinders mesopelagic Mn
822 oxide production and scavenging. However, decreased wind-driven upwelling and carbon export
823 may cause anoxic waters along the shelf to contract (Deutsch et al., 2011, 2014) and decrease the

824 efficiency of the coastal dCo source. Changes in the dCo inventory then depend on the relative
825 redox sensitivities of margin Co sources versus offshore scavenging in the mesopelagic, neither
826 of which is well understood. Considering the 100–200 year residence time of Co in the ocean
827 (Saito and Moffett, 2002), feedbacks on the surface dCo supply may manifest more quickly than
828 for other nutrients and may alleviate or exacerbate any existing Co limitation. Improved
829 definition of biological Co limitation thresholds and efforts to reconstruct the Co cycle in past
830 climates may resolve whether future changes in OMZ structure will have meaningful impacts on
831 phytoplankton nutrition in the coming century.

832

833 **Author Contributions**

834 NJH, DCO and JAR participated on the EPZT cruise. NJH measured dCo and LCo. JAR
835 measured dMn; DCO and BST measured particulate Co, Mn, and P. NJH and MAS prepared the
836 manuscript with contributions from all authors.

837

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851

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1110

1111

1112

1113 **Table 1.** Blanks and standards used during analyses.

		dCo, pM	+/-	n	Consensus
At sea	Blank	3.7	1.2	28	
Oct – Dec,	Lab SW*	4.5	2.1	28	
2013	D1	48.5	2.4	3	46.6 +/- 4.8
At WHOI,	Blank	4.7	1.4	12	
Sept – Nov,	GSP	2.5	2.0	10	4.9 +/- 1.2**
2014	D2	45.0	2.7	7	46.9 +/- 3.0
	GSC	77.7	2.4	4	***

1114 * South Pacific surface seawater, collected Nov. 2011

1115 **Refers to SAFe standard S, collected at the same location as GSP

1116 ***No consensus

1117

1118

1119 **Table 2.** Co/Al ratios in sediments from different redox regimes.

Location	Co/Al x 10 ⁻⁴ (g g ⁻¹)		Reference
Crust			
Upper continental crust	2.11		McLennan 2001
Andesitic crust	2.63		Taylor and McLennan 1995
Eastern Boundary sediments			
Peru Upwelling Sediments	1.2 ± 0.3	9–14° S	Boning et al. 2004
Chile upwelling Sediments	1.3 ± 0.1	36° S	Boning et al. 2009
Gulf of California	1.4	22–30° N	Brumsack 1989
Namibian Shelf	1.0 ± 0.3	17–25° S, ‘Terrigenous’	Bremner and Willis 1993
Sulfidic Sediments			
Namibian diatom belt	2.9 ± 0.7	Near Walvis Bay, 22.5° S	Borchers et al. 2005
Black Sea	3.8–6.2		Brumsack 2006
Western Boundary Sediments			
Papua New Guinea	2.3	8° S, Gulf of Papua	Alongi et al. 1996
Pearl River Delta	2.2 ± 0.4	22° N, (10–0 ka)	Hu et al. 2013
South China Sea Shelf Slope	2.1 ± 0.2	20° N, 2037m (14–0 ka)	Hu et al. 2012
Deep Ocean Sediments			
South Pacific Gyre	35 (2.9–101)	22° S–32° S, 100–0 Ma	Dunlea et al. 2015
Pelagic Pacific	17 (2–58)	50° N–20° S	Goldberg and Arrhenius 1958

1120

1121 **Figure Captions**1122 **Figure 1.** The GP16 transect in the tropical South Pacific. Red circles indicate sampling stations.

1123 Dissolved oxygen at a depth of 300 m from the WOCE dataset is plotted in blue and 10 μM

1124 contours are shown between 0–60 μM O₂. Station number increases sequentially westward, with

1125 the exception of Station 1.

1126

1127 **Figure 2.** Signal processing of voltammetry scans. Varying instrumental noise imprinted

1128 negative current excursions during measurement and necessitated data smoothing to correctly

1129 measure the Co(DMG)₂ reduction peak at -1.15 V. For mild (a) and moderate (b) noise levels, a1130 2nd order, 17-point smoothing was applied (red line, 97 % of scans). Increases in noise caused

1131 this routine to overestimate peak height (c, red line) and a first order, 13-point smoothing was

1132 applied instead (~3 % of scans, blue line).

1133

1134 **Figure 3.** Profiles of dissolved cobalt (dCo, closed circles), labile dissolved cobalt (LCo, open
1135 circles) and O₂ (grey lines) across the South Pacific. Upper panels show a 0–1000 m depth range;
1136 bottom panel show full profiles. dCo and LCo are highest close to the Peru Margin (Station 1)
1137 and decrease westward. O₂ follows the opposite trend. The small peak at 2400 m at Station 18
1138 shows peak hydrothermal input from the East Pacific Rise. Note that the dCo and LCo scales in
1139 the upper panel are adjusted to highlight gradients and differ from the lower panels.

1140

1141 **Figure 4.** Dissolved oxygen (a), dissolved cobalt (b) and labile dissolved cobalt (c) sections
1142 along GP16, projected on a longitudinal axis. Note high dCo and LCo stem from the Peru margin
1143 and overlap with the low O₂. Interpolations were made using Ocean Data View with DIVA
1144 gridding, with negative gridded values suppressed. The signal to noise ratio was set to 15 for
1145 dissolved cobalt and labile dissolved cobalt. Signal to noise for O₂ was set to the default, 50.

1146

1147 **Figure 5.** Coupling between dissolved cobalt with O₂ (a), AOU (b), and PO₄ (c). Below 200 m
1148 (red circles), dCo shows a decreasing linear trend with dissolved oxygen that is obscured upon
1149 conversion of O₂ to apparent oxygen utilization, AOU, and a weak relationship with PO₄. In the
1150 surface ocean (0–50 m, cyan circles), dCo and PO₄ are strongly coupled but dCo shows no
1151 relationship with O₂ or AOU. Samples from 50–200 m are plotted in blue. Trend lines in (c)
1152 show least-squares regressions of dCo and PO₄. (0–50 m, cyan; 50–200 m, blue; 200–1000 m,
1153 red). Also plotted is the median particulate Co:P ratio for 0–50 m (146 μM M⁻¹, dotted line).
1154 Major processes affecting these plots are described in vector legends.

1155

1156 **Figure 6.** Dissolved cobalt (a), labile dissolved cobalt (b), and particulate cobalt (c) gradients in
1157 the upper 500 m of the ETSP. White lines in both panels show dissolved PO_4 contours at $0.5 \mu\text{M}$
1158 increments. Interpolation was conducted using weight averaged gridding with 40 and 46 %
1159 length scales in the x and y directions, respectively.

1160

1161 **Figure 7.** (a) The relationship between dissolved cobalt (dCo) and labile cobalt (LCo) in the
1162 South Pacific. LCo increases linearly with dCo with a slope of 0.33 (black dots, $R^2 = 0.88$),
1163 except for the upper 50 m (red dots), where samples fall below this trend due to preferential
1164 depletion of LCo by phytoplankton. (b) In the 0–50 m range, dCo strongly correlates with
1165 phosphate ($R^2 = 0.89$). (c) LCo is preferentially removed from surface waters (0–50 m) and
1166 tracks silicate ($R^2 = 0.90$).

1167

1168 **Figure 8.** Transition in dCo cycling at the OMZ boundary in the upper South Pacific
1169 thermocline. (a) Isopycnal windows centered at $\sigma_\theta = 26.2 \pm 0.1 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ (circles) and $\sigma_\theta = 26.4 \pm$
1170 0.1 kg m^{-3} (triangles) show PO_4 -coupled cycling in oxygenated waters (blue) but not in OMZ
1171 waters with $<20 \mu\text{M O}_2$ (red). (b) In the OMZ, dCo follows salinity, indicating mixing between a
1172 high dCo endmember at a salinity of 35.0 and a fresher water mass that is low in dCo.

1173

1174 **Figure 9.** Redox control of Co and Mn scavenging. Within mesopelagic waters ($\sigma_\theta = 26.2\text{--}27.0$
1175 kg m^{-3} , mean depth of 300 m), high O_2 in ventilating water masses result in a sharp redox
1176 boundary at the edge of the OMZ (red circles, scale in μM). Particulate Mn (pMn) increases
1177 across the oxic/anoxic boundary at 100°W (blue circles, in nM) and imply stabilization of Mn
1178 oxides. Both pMn:pP and pCo:pP (cyan and pink circles, respectively; units are M M^{-1}) increase

1179 across the OMZ boundary, exceeding predicted values from remineralization of biogenic
 1180 material from the surface ocean (1.26×10^{-3} mean pMn:pP and 1.57×10^{-4} pCo:pP for 0–50 m
 1181 (M M^{-1}), cyan and pink lines, respectively). Dissolved phase dCo:dPO₄ (black circles) and
 1182 LCo:PO₄ (white circles) also decrease west of the OMZ boundary show scavenging of the dCo
 1183 and LCo in the mesopelagic (units are M M^{-1}).

1184

1185 **Figure 10.** Profiles of dissolved cobalt (dCo, black), PO₄ (red) and dMn (blue) over the Peru
 1186 shelf at 12° S. The oxycline (grey bar, defined by the first sample where O₂ <10 μM) marks the
 1187 transition between the OMZ and oxygenated surface waters. Station 2 is the closest to the coast.
 1188 Note the similarity between dCo and PO₄ above the oxycline and the transition to a dMn-like
 1189 profile beneath.

1190

1191 **Figure 11.** Cobalt and Mn in the Peru shelf OMZ (GP16 Stations 1–5, O₂ <20 μM). Dissolved
 1192 cobalt (dCo, closed circled) and labile cobalt (LCo, white) follow positive linear relationships
 1193 with dMn. The LCo slope (18 mM M^{-1}) approximates the Co:Mn ratio in upper continental crust
 1194 and Andesite (red and pink lines 21 and 26 mM M^{-1} , respectively), suggesting it derives from a
 1195 crustal source. The mean pCo:pMn ratio from phytoplankton dominated particles collected in the
 1196 upper 40 m over the shelf (blue line, 105 mM M^{-1}) is greater than dCo:dMn slope (42 mM M^{-1}),
 1197 indicating that dCo and dMn concentrations in the Peru shelf OMZ represent a combination of
 1198 biomass remineralization and sedimentary input.

1199

1200 **Figure 12.** Profiles from Station 18 at the East Pacific Rise ridge crest at 113 °W, 15 °S. (a) dMn
 1201 (blue lines) and dFe profiles (red) replotted from Resing et al. 2015 clearly show hydrothermal

1202 input. Grey shading below 2250 m indicates area of hydrothermal influence where dFe and dMn
1203 are >1 nM. (b) Dissolved cobalt (dCo, black circles) and labile cobalt (LCo, white) in the East
1204 Pacific Rise hydrothermal plume.

1205

1206 **Figure 13.** (a) The ratio of divinyl chlorophyll A to total chlorophyll (green circles), an
1207 indication of *Prochlorococcus* abundance relative to other phytoplankton. (b) The particulate to
1208 dissolved ratio of cobalt (pCo:dCo, in $M M^{-1}$, pink circles) in near-surface samples (0–50m)
1209 measured on GP16; a value of 1 indicates equal concentrations in each phase. (c) The near-
1210 surface distribution of dissolved cobalt (dCo, black circles) and labile cobalt (LCo, white
1211 circles), showing higher concentrations near the Peru margin (<80° W) and very low dCo to the
1212 west.

1213

1214 **Figure 14.** Schematic cross-section of the cobalt cycle in the Eastern Tropical South Pacific.
1215 Black arrows describe idealized physical circulation, showing upwelling near the Peru margin,
1216 advection westward and subduction in the South Pacific gyre. Biological Co export is shown in
1217 the red-hashed arrows, and solid and dashed red arrows show remineralization and scavenging
1218 respectively. The margin source is shown as a red-outlined arrow. These vectors are also plotted
1219 on idealized oxygen and phosphate axes, using the same color scheme, to show how these
1220 processes appear in Co:O₂ and Co:PO₄ space.

Figure 1

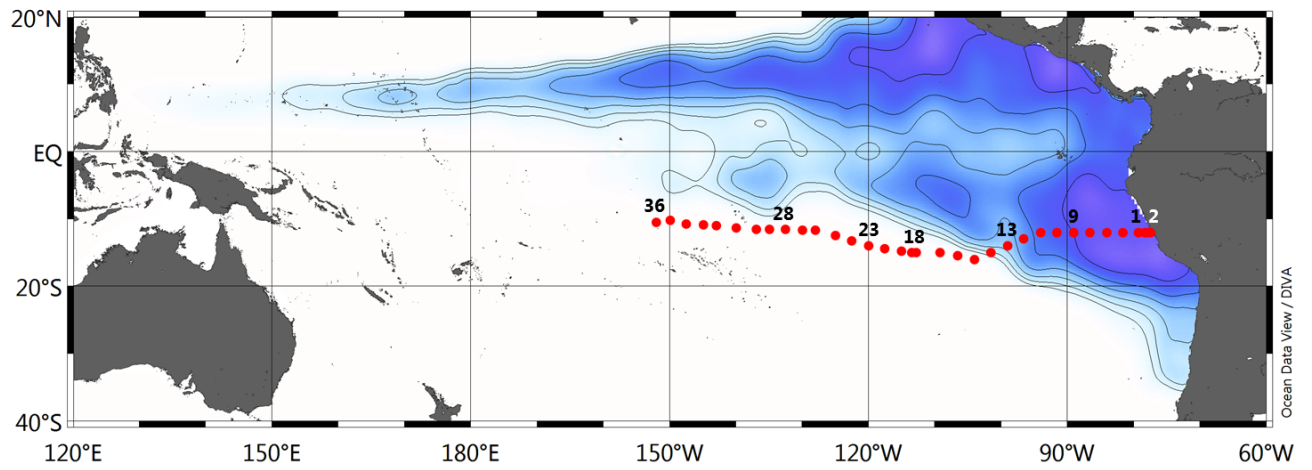


Figure 2

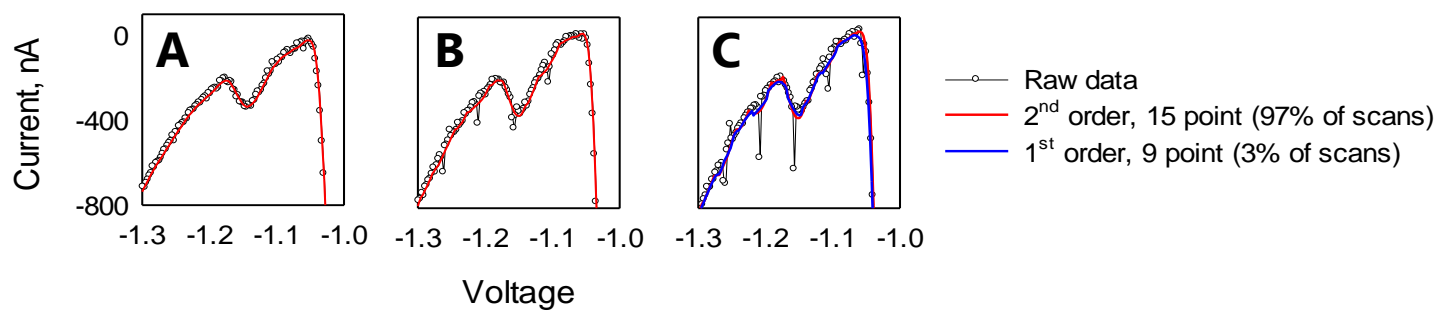


Figure 3

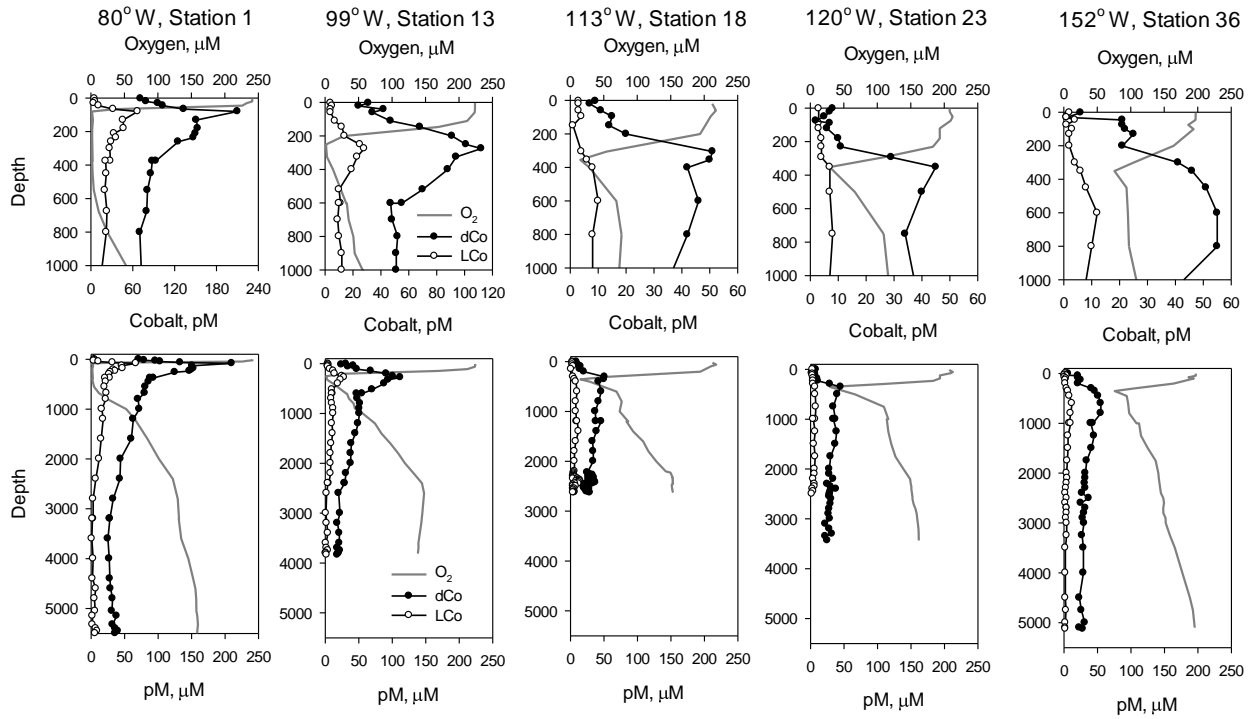


Figure 4

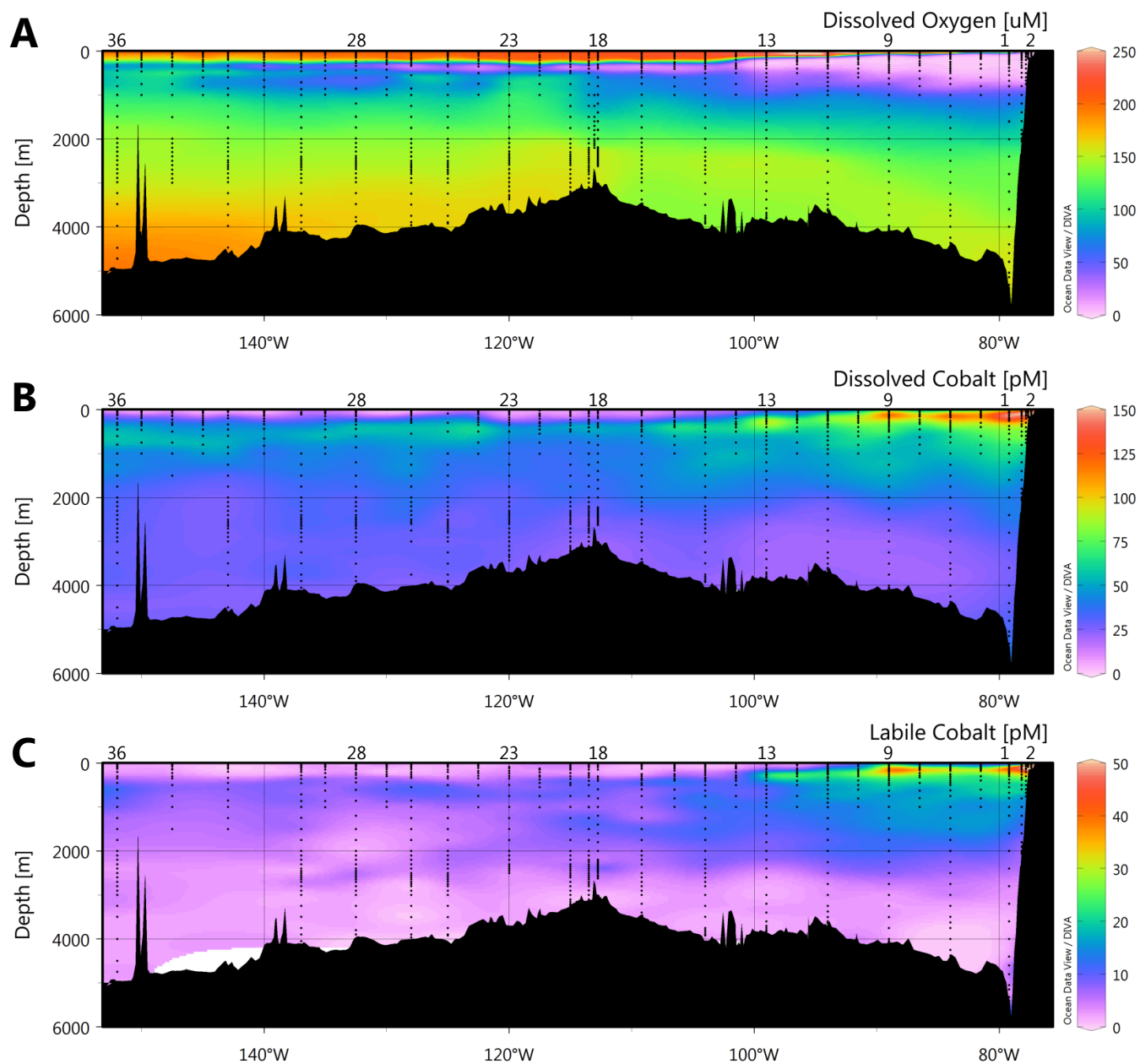


Figure 5

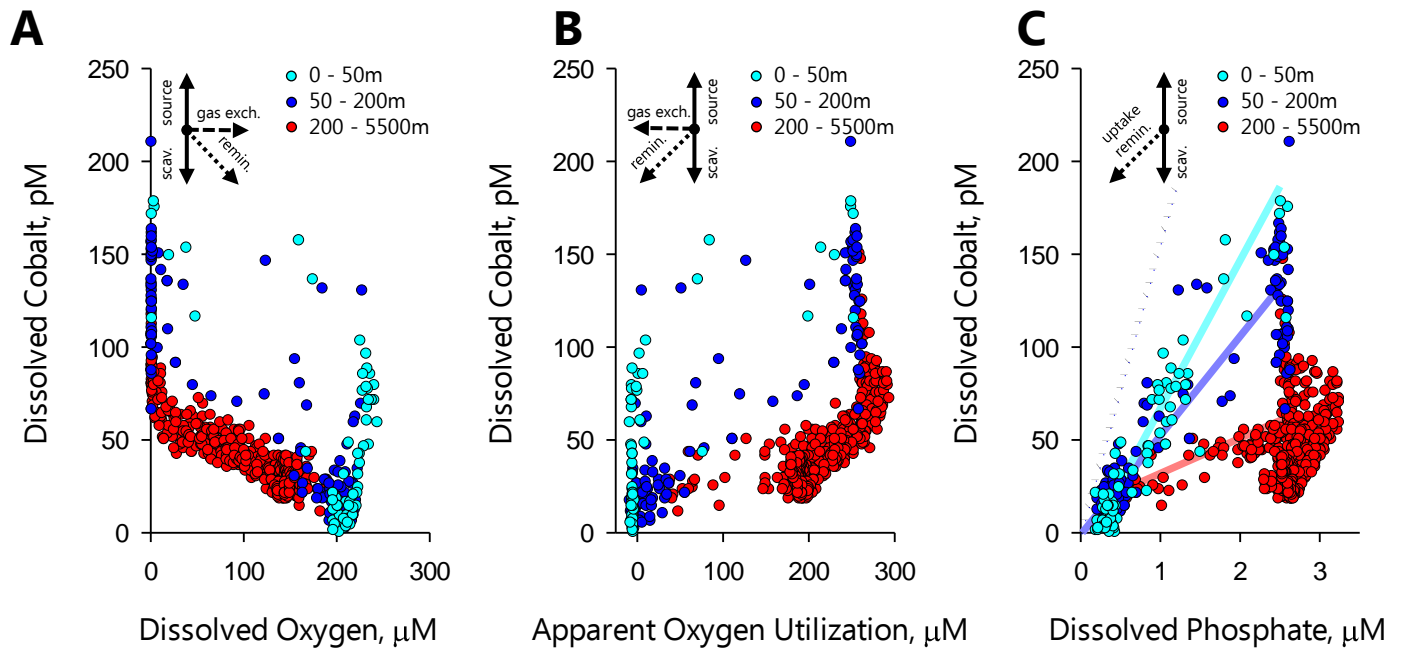


Figure 6

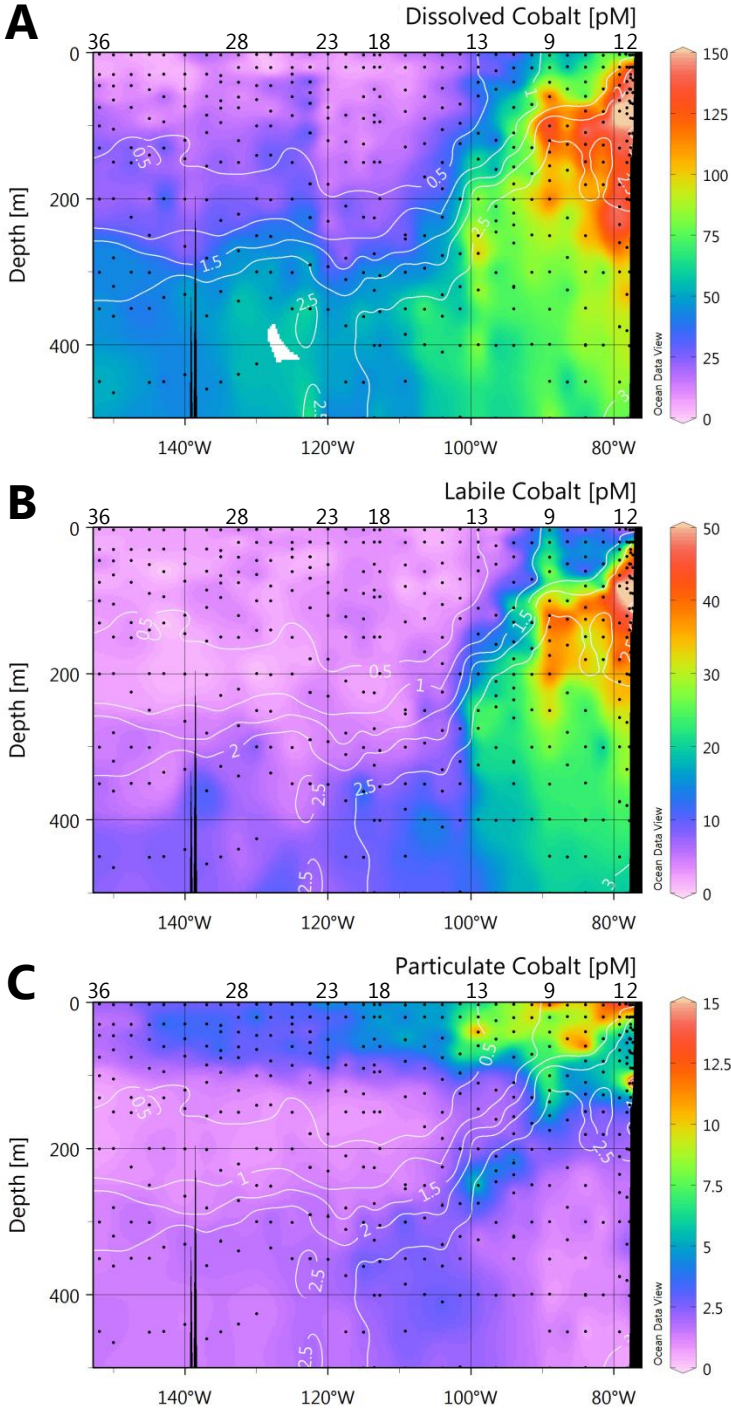


Figure 7

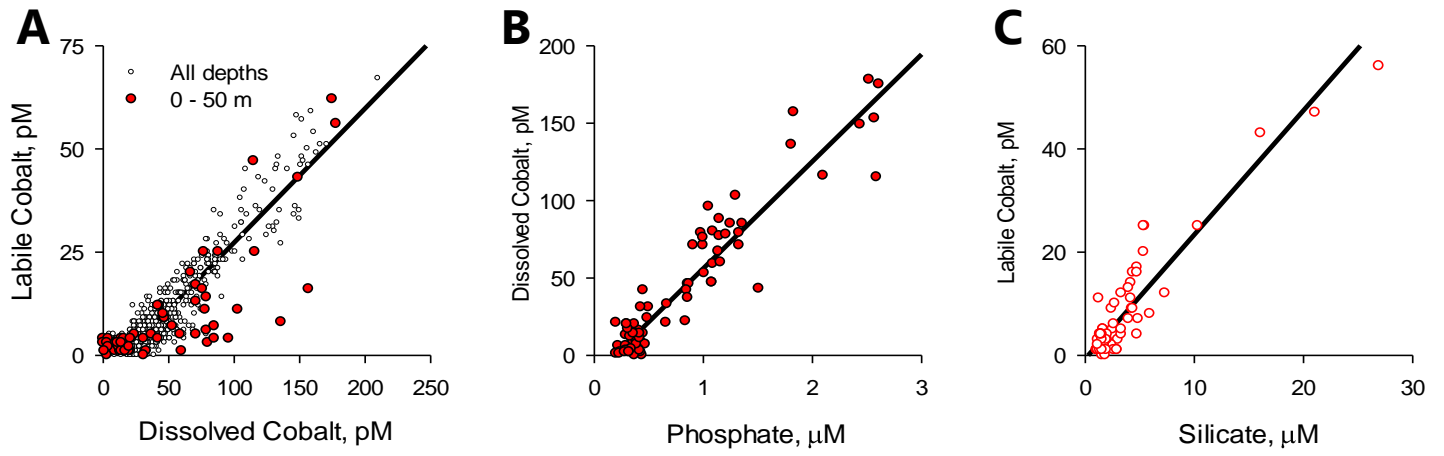


Figure 8

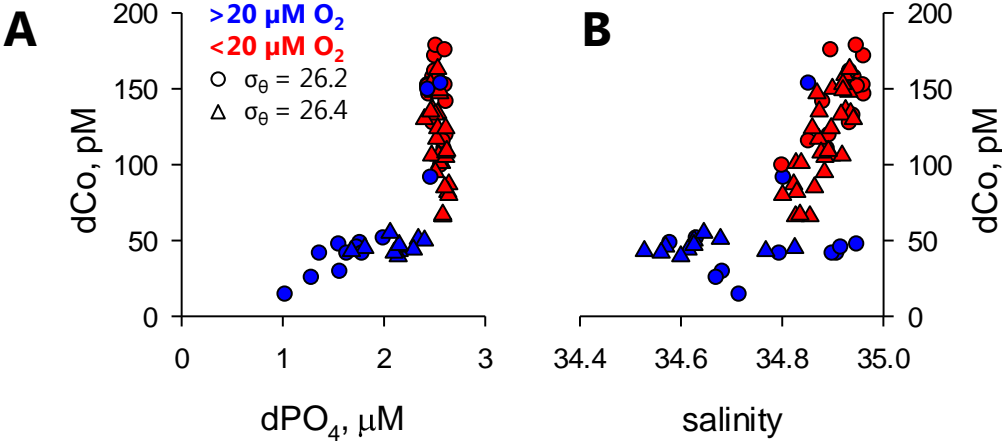


Figure 9

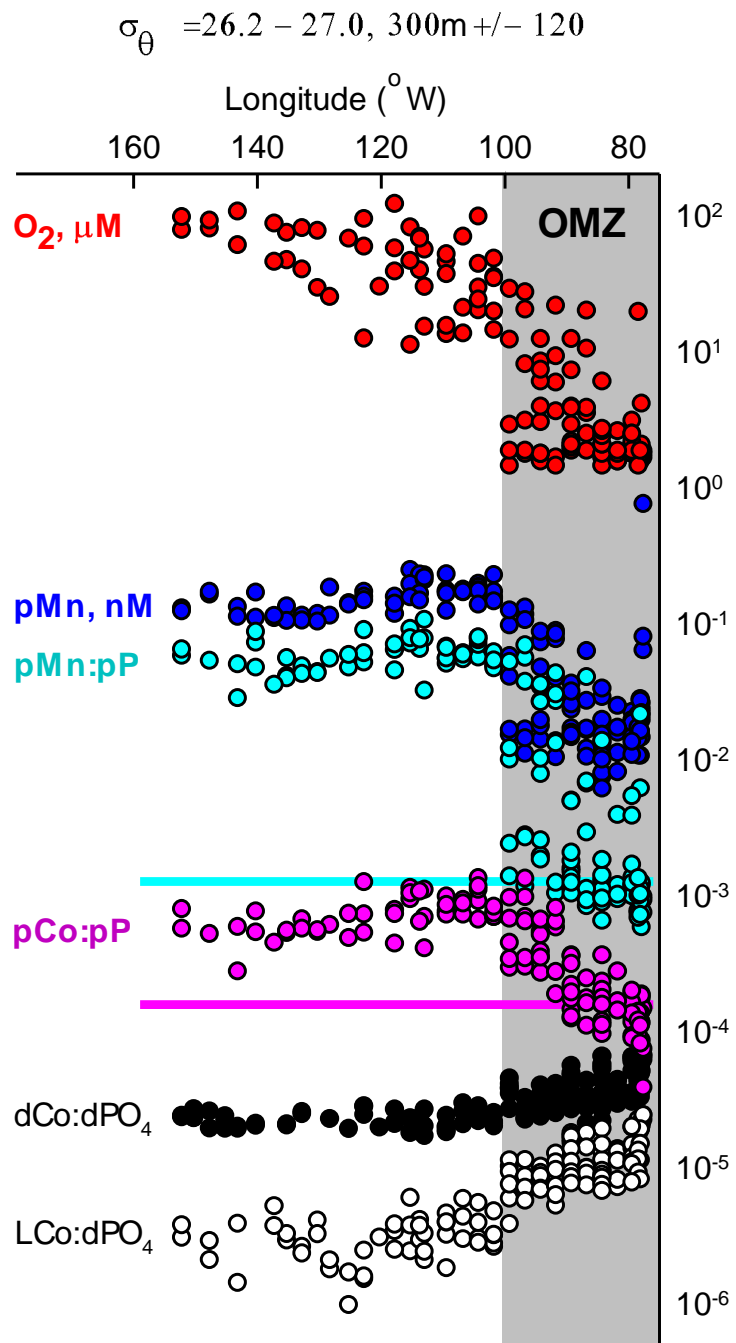


Figure 10

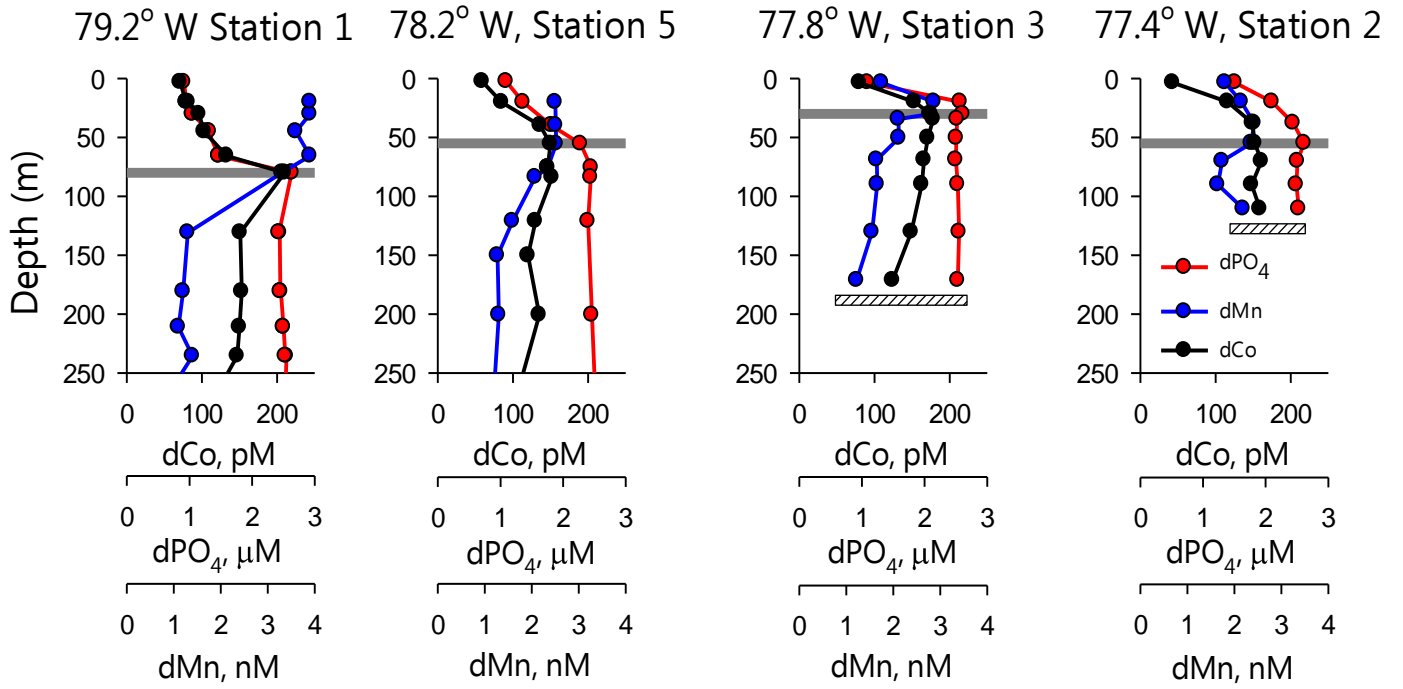


Figure 11

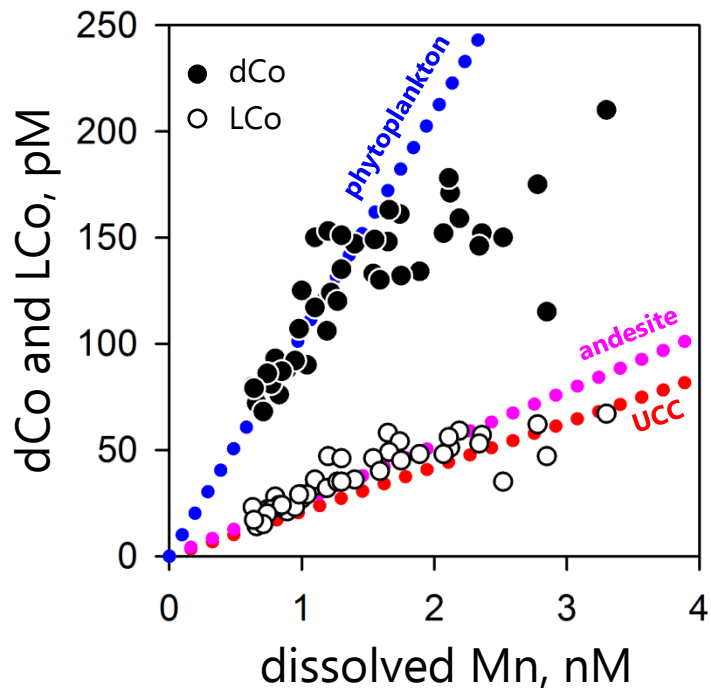


Figure 12

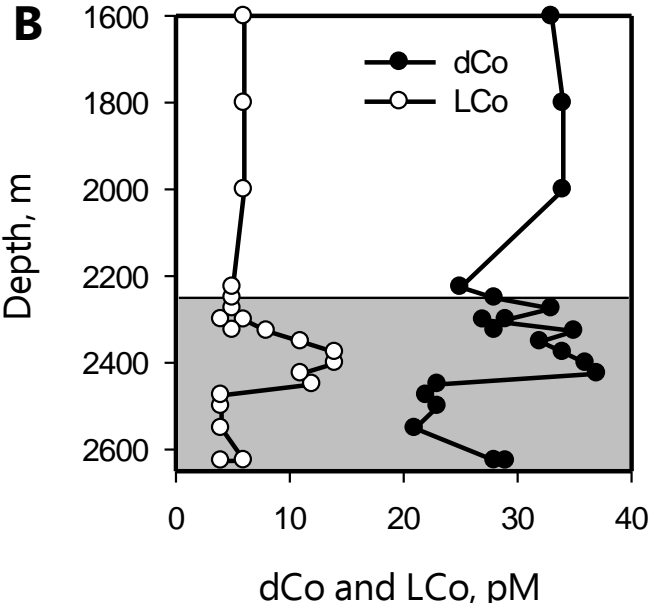
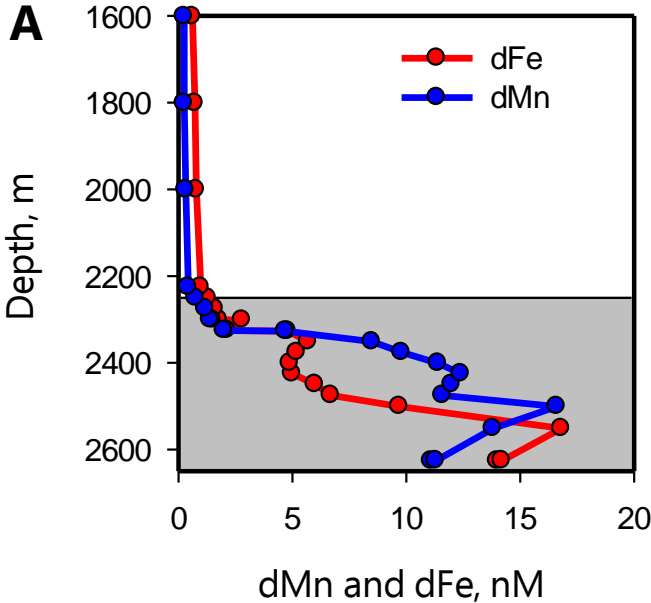


Figure 13

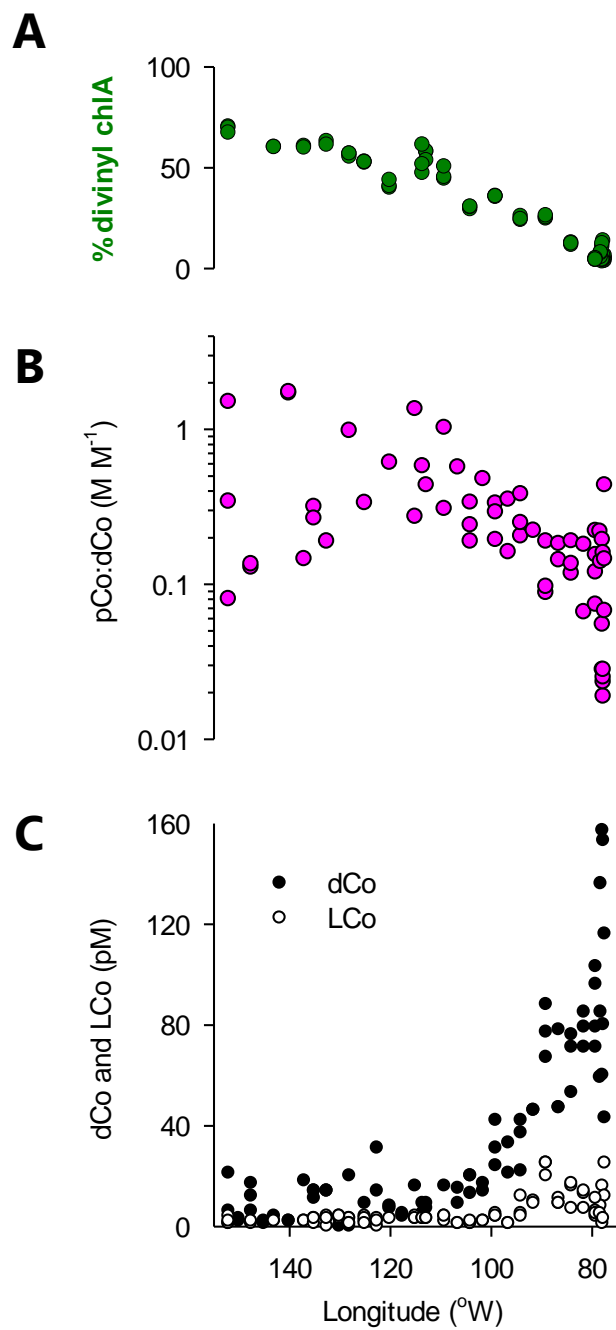


Figure 14

