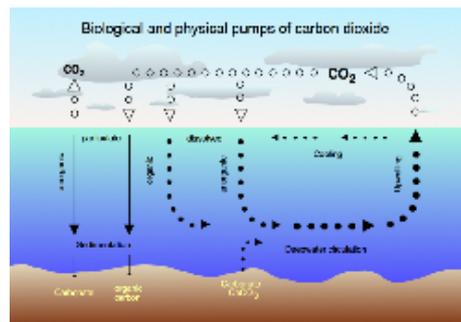


OCB Ocean Fertilization: Home

WELCOME TO THE OCB OCEAN FERTILIZATION WEBSITE

The [Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry \(OCB\) program](#) is a scientific community-driven coordinating body that promotes U.S. research and international cooperation to investigate the ocean's role in the global Earth system. Projected increases in atmospheric CO₂ levels and potential associated changes in the earth's climate have prompted scientists and engineers to devise strategies for removing some of this CO₂ from the atmosphere. Strategies involve the addition of micronutrients (e.g., iron) and/or macronutrients (e.g., urea) to the ocean surface or via artificial upwelling technologies (e.g., floating tubes, wave pumping) to stimulate phytoplankton activity, thus increasing photosynthesis and subsequent removal of atmospheric CO₂. Understanding the importance of keeping the OCB community connected to ocean fertilization science and policy activities, the OCB Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) recently identified the need for an ocean fertilization subcommittee. With oversight from this subcommittee, the OCB Project Office has developed this website as a clearinghouse of ocean fertilization news and informational resources to support the OCB community.



[Enlarge Image](#)

There is still great uncertainty surrounding ocean fertilization, or the addition of nutrients to the surface ocean to stimulate phytoplankton activity, thus increasing ocean CO₂ uptake. Much more research is needed to understand the implications of ocean fertilization for marine ecosystems. (Image Credit: [Hannes Grobe](#) 21:52, 12 August 2006 (UTC), Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Bremerhaven, Germany)

OCEAN FERTILIZATION NEWS

- National Research Council released pre-publication versions of two reports [Climate Intervention: Carbon Dioxide Removal and Reliable Sequestration](#) and [Climate Intervention: Reflecting Sunlight to Cool Earth](#) (4-page brief available [here](#))
- [Second round of iron dumping off coast of Haida Gwaii?](#)
- [New study](#) addresses geoengineering impact of open ocean dissolution of olivine on atmospheric CO₂
- [OCB statement](#) on 2012 iron dumping off west coast of Canada

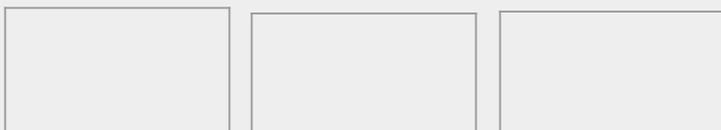
INFORMATION RESOURCES ON SUMMER 2012 HAIDA GWAII IRON DUMPING

In 2012, the [Haida Salmon Restoration Corporation \(HSRC\)](#) conducted a small scale Ocean Iron Fertilization (OIF) experiment in the North Pacific. 120 tons of iron compound were deposited in the migration routes of pink and sockeye salmon in the Pacific ocean West of Haida Gwaii over a period of 30 days. The project resulted in a [35,000 km² plankton bloom](#) that lasted for several months. The HSRC scientific team collected a wealth of [oceanographic data](#).

- [Dr. Peter Strutton](#) (Univ. of Tasmania) - [preliminary calculations and perspectives on the Haida Gwaii iron dumping](#) (Nov. 5)
- ["Satellite imagery of the rogue Canadian iron dumping experiment"](#) (Deep Sea News blog, Oct. 19)
- ["The First Geo-Vigilante"](#) (The New Yorker, Oct. 18)
- ["Iron Dumping In The Pacific Ocean Stirs Controversy Over Geoengineering"](#) (Huffington Post, Oct. 19)
- ["A Rogue Climate Experiment Outrages Scientists"](#) (NY Times, Oct. 18)
- Environment Canada [ocean fertilization fact sheet](#)

Disclaimer

The material posted on this website is for informational purposes only, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Ocean Carbon & Biogeochemistry (OCB) program, its federal agency sponsors, or the OCB Subcommittee on ocean fertilization.





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