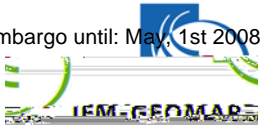


Under embargo until: May 1st 2008, 8:00 PM GMT

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Is the ocean losing oxygen?
- Oxygen in tropical oceans is declining -

Marine Scientists have made an alarming new discovery. In some regions of the world oceans , oxygen essential for marine organism s is declining. This process

in January 2008 in close cooperation with the University of Kiel. The SFB aims to better define the interactions between climate and biogeochemistry on a quantitative basis.

More Information:

The author Dr. Lothar Stramma is a senior scientist at IFM-GEOMAR and author of more than 50 scientific papers with major focus on water masses and currents in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. In SFB 754, he is leading a subproject that combines hydrographic and tracer measurements in the tropical southeast Pacific in order to investigate the mean distribution, variability and trends of the water mass distributions and current systems. In addition, he is coordinating the current and planned ship expeditions of the SFB. Main goals of the SFB 754 is to improve understanding of the coupling of tropical climate variability and circulation with the ocean's oxygen and nutrients balance, to quantitatively evaluate the nature of oxygen-sensitive tipping points, as well as to assess consequences for the ocean's future.

Scientific paper:

Stramma, L., G.C. Johnson, J. Sprintall und V. Mohrholz, 2008: Expanding oxygen-minimum zones in the Tropical Oceans. *Science*, 320, 655-658.

Collaborative Research Center 754 „Climate-Biogeochemistry Interactions in the Tropical Ocean“: <http://www.sfb754.de>

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Under <http://www.ifm-geomar.de/index.php?id=4151> material will become available for download (from May 2nd, 2008).

Figure caption:

Oxygen distribution in the Atlantic and time-depth section of the oxygen distribution in the eastern tropical Atlantic.

Water sampling in the eastern Atlantic. Photo: Klaus Scheurich