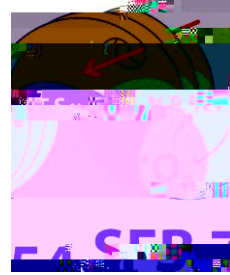
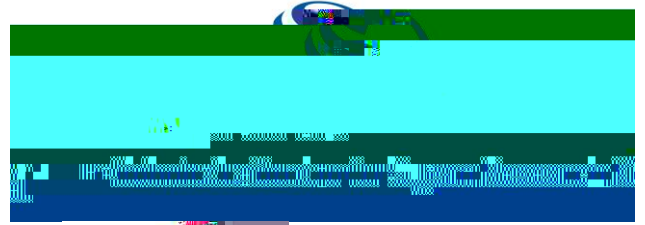


Press Release



29/2014

Does the Release of Iron from Sediments Promote Oxygen Depletion in the Tropical Ocean?

Scientists in Kiel identify additional



low oxygen concentration, very little iron was released from the sediment. For it is precisely during these phases that many sulphur compounds are present in the upper layers of the sediment with which the iron can form iron sulfide minerals, before ever being released into the water. "Therefore the iron is not available for the microorganisms in the water", explains Dr. Scholz.

This result is of particular importance, since observations and modelling studies show the oxygen minimum zones in the tropical oceans to expand as a result of climate change and their intensity to increase. "Our research shows that a further expansion of the oxygen minimum zone off Peru does not automatically lead to greater availability of iron and thus to a self-reinforcing cycle", states Dr. Florian Scholz,