

Activities of ^{210}Po and ^{210}Pb on particles in two size classes obtained by in situ pumping on Leg 1 (Seattle, WA to Hilo, HI) of the US GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Transect (PMT) cruise (GP15, RR1814) on R/V Roger Revelle from September to October 2018

Website: <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/892348>

Data Type: Cruise Results

Version: 1

Version Date: 2023-03-23

Project

» [US GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Transect \(GP15\)](#) (U.S. GEOTRACES PMT)

» [Collaborative Research: Lead-210 and Polonium-210 as tracers for scavenging and export: GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Section](#) (PMT Lead-210 and Polonium-210)

Program

» [U.S. GEOTRACES](#) (U.S. GEOTRACES)

| Contributors | Affiliation | Role |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Cochran, J. Kirk | Stony Brook University - SoMAS (SUNY-SB SoMAS) | Principal Investigator |
| Stephens, Mark | Florida International University (FIU) | Co-Principal Investigator |
| Rauch, Shannon | | BCO-DMO Data Manager |

Abstract

This project is part of the international GEOTRACES program, which was created to allow a comprehensive, coordinated study of trace elements and isotopes (TEIs) in the oceans. This project uses the radionuclide pair Lead-210 (^{210}Pb) and its grand-daughter Polonium-210 (^{210}Po) to provide important biogeochemical rate information pertinent to the TEIs that were measured during the US GEOTRACES Meridional Transect in the Pacific from Alaska to Tahiti in late 2018. Many processes in the ocean cannot be directly observed and, as such, tracers such as ^{210}Po and ^{210}Pb can be used to provide important constraints on their rates and pathways. ^{210}Po (half-life = 138 days) and ^{210}Pb (half-life = 22.3 years) decay on timescales that are useful to study 1) atmospheric deposition of trace elements, 2) scavenging of particle-reactive trace elements, 3) export of particulate organic carbon (POC) from the photic zone, and 4) the fate of hydrothermal plumes dispersed from the mid-ocean ridge system. Data reported here are activities of ^{210}Po and ^{210}Pb on particles in two size classes obtained by in situ pumping. Sampling was conducted in 2018 at various depths through the water column at eleven stations along the GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Transect (GP15). Particulate samples were collected by Phoebe Lam's group using McLane in-situ pumps (Lam et al., 2015). Two particle sizes were collected by pumping: a large particle fraction collected on a 142-millimeter (mm) 51-micrometer (μm) polyester mesh prefilters (Sefar 07-51/33) and a small particle fraction collected on paired 0.8- μm polyethersulfone Pall Supor 800 membrane filters. The filters were dried on board in a laminar flow hood, split, and placed in a polyethylene bag. Aliquots sent to Stony brook comprised 28-280 liters (L) (average ~100L) filtered for the small particle fraction and 60-330L (average ~250L) for the large particle fraction.

Table of Contents

- [Coverage](#)
- [Dataset Description](#)
 - [Methods & Sampling](#)
 - [Data Processing Description](#)
- [Data Files](#)
- [Supplemental Files](#)
- [Related Publications](#)
- [Related Datasets](#)
- [Parameters](#)
- [Instruments](#)
- [Deployments](#)
- [Project Information](#)
- [Program Information](#)
- [Funding](#)

Coverage

Spatial Extent: N:56.058 E:-152 S:19.681 W:-156.962
Temporal Extent: 2018-09-26 - 2018-10-21

Methods & Sampling

Sampling was conducted in 2018 at various depths through the water column at eleven stations along the GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Transect (GP15), carried out on R/V Roger Revelle (cruises RR1814 and RR1815). Particulate samples were collected by Phoebe Lam's group using McLane in-situ pumps (Lam et al., 2015). Two particle sizes were collected by pumping: a large particle fraction collected on a 142-millimeter (mm) 51-micrometer (μm) polyester mesh prefilters (Sefar 07-51/33) and a small particle fraction collected on paired 0.8- μm polyethersulfone Pall Supor 800 membrane filters. The filters were dried on board in a laminar flow hood, split, and placed in a polyethylene bag. Aliquots sent to Stony Brook comprised 28-280 liters (L) (average $\sim 100\text{L}$) filtered for the small particle fraction and 60-330L (average $\sim 250\text{L}$) for the large particle fraction. More details on pump operation can be found in the GP15 Cruise Report (see Supplemental Files section).

The particulate filters were dried on board the ship in a laminar flow hood, split, and placed in a polyethylene bag. Aliquots sent to Stony Brook comprised 28-280 liters (L) (average $\sim 100\text{L}$) filtered for the small particle fraction and 60-330L (average $\sim 250\text{L}$) for the large particle fraction. Due to the equipment limitations and potential hazards when doing acid digestions at sea, on-board treatment was not possible for these samples. Instead, filter aliquots from Leg 1 were sent to the lab during the port stop in Hilo, Hawaii on 21 October. Leg 2 filters were sent back from Papeete, Tahiti at the conclusion of the cruise on 24 November.

In the laboratory, filters were placed in microwave digestion vessels and spiked with Polonium-209 (^{209}Po) tracer (1.76 disintegrations per minute (dpm)) and 10 milligrams (mg) stable lead (Pb). 5 milliliters (mL) each of concentrated HCl, HNO_3 , and HF were then added to the vessel. The mixture was microwave-digested for 1 hour at 180°C . After digestion, the resulting solution was decanted into a 25 mL Falcon tube, and the digestion vessels were rinsed with small aliquots of deionized (DI) water. The Falcon tubes were centrifuged for 10 minutes at 2000 rotations per minute (rpm) and the supernatant was pipetted into 50 mL Teflon beakers. The beakers were heated to almost complete dryness before 10 mL of concentrated HCl was added. This process was repeated to ensure that the HCl was the only acid present. 20 mL of 6 molar (M) HCl was added, the solution was decanted into a glass beaker and the Teflon beaker was rinsed with two aliquots of 30 mL DI water. The beakers were labeled, and ascorbic acid was added to the solution to reduce any Fe(III) to Fe(II) and prevent its plating. A silver planchet embedded in a Teflon stirring magnet was added to each sample, which was then plated at 80°C for 3 hours (Flynn, 1968; Lee et al., 2014), rinsed with DI water and acetone and counted in a Canberra/Mirion Quad Alpha spectrometer to determine initial ^{210}Po . Residual Po was removed from solution by adding scrap silver for ~ 5 days and then transferring the samples to 125 mL polycarbonate bottles for storage and ingrowth of additional ^{210}Po . The second plating was carried out after 6 to 8 months of storage. Data reduction was carried out using the methods reported in Rigaud et al. (2013).

Known Problems/Issues:

Calculation of the particulate ^{210}Pb activity requires measurement of the concentration of stable Pb added during sample dissolution to determine the recovery of ^{210}Pb from dissolution through plating. The sample solutions were stored for 6 to 8 months after the initial Po plating and removal of residual Po to permit ingrowth of additional ^{210}Po from ^{210}Pb decay. At the time of the second plating, aliquots were taken to measure the stable Pb. A discrete number of samples were completed in late 2019 to early 2020 and Pb recoveries were determined. However, Stony Brook University closed for an extended period starting in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Upon reopening, measurement of stable Pb in the stored aliquots showed losses in storage. As well, analytical instrumentation used to measure Pb (Element 2 ICP-MS) was no longer functioning and required extensive maintenance and repair. Because of these problems, it was decided to use average Pb recoveries for these samples, based on the Pb recoveries of samples analyzed before the shutdown.

Data Processing Description

Data Processing:

Calculation of radioactivities (disintegrations per minute (dpm) or Becquerels (Bq)) from count rates (counts per minute) measured in the alpha spectrometers were made using the procedure outlined in Rigaud et al. (2013).

Quality flags were applied following the GEOTRACES flag definitions where 1 = "good data". The Quality Flag Policy is available at <https://www.geotraces.org/geotraces-quality-flag-policy/> or via the attached Supplemental File.

The following notation is used in the dataset: NS = not sampled; NC = not calculated.

BCO-DMO Processing:

- moved rows for station 18.3 from the RR1815 file to the RR1814 file;
- renamed fields to comply with BCO-DMO naming conventions;
- converted dates and times to ISO 8601 format (UTC);

- added the following columns/values from the RR1814 Bottle File (v6): Cast_number, Event_ID. Data were joined to the bottle data using the GEOTRACES sample number (Sample_ID).

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Data Files

| File | |
|---|--|
| gp15_1814_particulate_po_pb.csv | (Octet Stream, 11.25 KB) MD5:cf7d2e315a1f4d1a5eba5c249ed3dbd4 |
| Primary data file for dataset ID 892348 | |

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Supplemental Files

| File | |
|--|--|
| GEOTRACES Quality Flag Policy | (Octet Stream, 1,020.15 KB) MD5:15bdace93b45a09ff523f154e70f7b75 |
| filename: GEOTRACES_Quality_Flag_Policy.pdf GEOTRACES Quality Flag Policy; obtained from https://www.geotraces.org/geotraces-quality-flag-policy/ on 2023-03-23. | |
| GP15 Cruise Report | (Portable Document Format (.pdf), 3.89 MB) MD5:9685af1941935ff0c248193fe0472a14 |
| filename: GP15_Cruise_Report_with_ODF_Report.pdf US GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Transect GP15 Cruise Report (cruise IDs: RR1814 and RR1815) | |

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Related Publications

Flynn, W. W. (1968). The determination of low levels of polonium-210 in environmental materials. *Analytica Chimica Acta*, 43, 221–227. doi:10.1016/s0003-2670(00)89210-7 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0003-2670\(00\)89210-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0003-2670(00)89210-7)
Methods

Lam, P. J., Ohnemus, D. C., & Auro, M. E. (2015). Size-fractionated major particle composition and concentrations from the US GEOTRACES North Atlantic Zonal Transect. *Deep Sea Research Part II: Topical Studies in Oceanography*, 116, 303–320. doi:[10.1016/j.dsr2.2014.11.020](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr2.2014.11.020)
Methods

Lee, H. M., Hong, G. H., Baskaran, M., Kim, S. H., & Kim, Y. I. (2014). Evaluation of plating conditions for the recovery of 210Po on a Ag planchet. *Applied Radiation and Isotopes*, 90, 170–176.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apradiso.2014.03.025>
Methods

Rigaud, S., Puigcorbé, V., Cámara-Mor, P., Casacuberta, N., Roca-Martí, M., Garcia-Orellana, J., ... Church, T. (2013). A methods assessment and recommendations for improving calculations and reducing uncertainties in the determination of 210Po and 210Pb activities in seawater. *Limnology and Oceanography: Methods*, 11(10), 561–571.
doi:[10.4319/lom.2013.11.561](https://doi.org/10.4319/lom.2013.11.561)
Methods

Wei, Z., Cochran, J. K., Horowitz, E., Fitzgerald, P., Heilbrun, C., Kadko, D., Stephens, M., Marsay, C. M., Buck, C. S., & Landing, W. M. (2022). 210Pb and 7Be as Coupled Flux and Source Tracers for Aerosols in the Pacific Ocean. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*, 36(8). Portico. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2022gb007378>
Results

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Related Datasets

References

Casciotti, K. L., Cutter, G. A., Lam, P. J. (2021) **Bottle file from Leg 1 (Seattle, WA to Hilo, HI) of the US GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Transect (PMT) cruise (GP15, RR1814) on R/V Roger Revelle from September to October 2018.** Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office (BCO-DMO). (Version 6) Version Date 2021-05-05 doi:10.26008/1912/bco-dmo.777951.6 [[view at BCO-DMO](#)]
Relationship Description: Cast_number, Event_ID, BTLNBR, and BTLNBR_FLAG were obtained from the bottle file and added to dataset 892348

IsContinuedBy

Cochran, J. K., Stephens, M. (2023) **Activities of 210Po and 210Pb on particles in two size classes obtained by in situ pumping on Leg 2 (Hilo, HI to Papeete, French Polynesia) of the US GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Transect (PMT) cruise (GP15, RR1815) on R/V Roger Revelle from Oct-Nov 2018.** Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office (BCO-DMO). (Version 1) Version Date 2023-03-23 doi:10.26008/1912/bco-dmo.892360.1 [[view at BCO-DMO](#)]

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Parameters

| Parameter | Description | Units |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Station_ID | Station number | unitless |
| Start_ISO_DateTime_UTC | Date and time (UTC) at start of sample collection in ISO8601 format | unitless |
| Start_Latitude | Latitude at start of sample collection | degrees North |
| Start_Longitude | Longitude at start of sample collection | degrees East |
| Cast_number | Cast number; added by BCO-DMO from GP15 Bottle File version 6 | unitless |
| Event_ID | Event number; added by BCO-DMO from GP15 Bottle File version 6 | unitless |
| Sample_ID | GEOTRACES sample number | unitless |
| Sample_Depth | Sample depth | meters (m) |
| Po_210_LPT_CONC_PUMP_pcwnn5 | 210Po activities in large particle size fraction (>51 um); NS = not sampled | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| SD1_Po_210_LPT_CONC_PUMP_pcwnn5 | Propagated 1 sigma uncertainty on large particle 210Po activity; NS = not sampled | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| Flag_Po_210_LPT_CONC_PUMP_pcwnn5 | Quality flag for Po_210_LPT_CONC_PUMP_pcwnn5 (1 = "good data") | unitless |
| | | |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Po_210_SPT_CONC_PUMP_xtpcdc | 210Po activities in small particle size fraction (0.8 - 51 um) | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| SD1_Po_210_SPT_CONC_PUMP_xtpcdc | Propagated 1 sigma uncertainty on small particle 210Po activity | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| Flag_Po_210_SPT_CONC_PUMP_xtpcdc | Quality flag for Po_210_SPT_CONC_PUMP_xtpcdc (1 = "good data") | unitless |
| Po_210_TP_CONC_PUMP_xwns6p | Total particulate 210Po activities (sum of small and large size fractions); NC = not calculated | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| SD1_Po_210_TP_CONC_PUMP_xwns6p | Propagated 1 sigma uncertainty on total particle 210Po activity; NC = not calculated | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| Flag_Po_210_TP_CONC_PUMP_xwns6p | Quality flag for Po_210_TP_CONC_PUMP_xwns6p (1 = "good data") | unitless |
| Pb_210_LPT_CONC_PUMP_a5kv2i | 210Pb activities in large particle size fraction (>51 um); NS = not sampled | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| SD1_Pb_210_LPT_CONC_PUMP_a5kv2i | Propagated 1 sigma uncertainty on large 210Pb particle activity; NS = not sampled | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| Flag_Pb_210_LPT_CONC_PUMP_a5kv2i | Quality flag for Pb_210_LPT_CONC_PUMP_a5kv2i (1 = "good data") | unitless |
| Pb_210_SPT_CONC_PUMP_tjdk1 | 210Pb activities in small particle size fraction (>51 um) | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| SD1_Pb_210_SPT_CONC_PUMP_tjdk1 | Propagated 1 sigma uncertainty on small particle 210Pb activity | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| Flag_Pb_210_SPT_CONC_PUMP_tjdk1 | Quality flag for Pb_210_SPT_CONC_PUMP_tjdk1 (1 = "good data") | unitless |
| Pb_210_TP_CONC_PUMP_w6razf | Total particulate 210Pb activities (sum of small and large size fractions); NC = not calculated | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| SD1_Pb_210_TP_CONC_PUMP_w6razf | Propagated 1 sigma uncertainty on total particle 210Pb activity; NC = not calculated | milliBecquerels per kilogram of water (mBq/kg) |
| Flag_Pb_210_TP_CONC_PUMP_w6razf | Quality flag for Pb_210_TP_CONC_PUMP_w6razf (1 = "good data") | unitless |

Instruments

| | |
|---|---|
| Dataset-specific Instrument Name | modified WTS-LV-upright |
| Generic Instrument Name | McLane Large Volume Pumping System WTS-LV |
| Dataset-specific Description | Pump samples were collected using dual-flow battery-operated McLane pumps with two cartridge holders (modified WTS-LV-upright) |
| Generic Instrument Description | The WTS-LV is a Water Transfer System (WTS) Large Volume (LV) pumping instrument designed and manufactured by McLane Research Labs (Falmouth, MA, USA). It is a large-volume, single-event sampler that collects suspended and dissolved particulate samples in situ. Ambient water is drawn through a modular filter holder onto a 142-millimeter (mm) membrane without passing through the pump. The standard two-tier filter holder provides prefiltering and size fractioning. Collection targets include chlorophyll maximum, particulate trace metals, and phytoplankton. It features different flow rates and filter porosity to support a range of specimen collection. Sampling can be programmed to start at a scheduled time or begin with a countdown delay. It also features a dynamic pump speed algorithm that adjusts flow to protect the sample as material accumulates on the filter. Several pump options range from 0.5 to 30 liters per minute, with a max volume of 2,500 to 36,000 liters depending on the pump and battery pack used. The standard model is depth rated to 5,500 meters, with a deeper 7,000-meter option available. The operating temperature is -4 to 35 degrees Celsius. The WTS-LV is available in four different configurations: Standard, Upright, Bore Hole, and Dual Filter Sampler. The high-capacity upright WTS-LV model provides three times the battery life of the standard model. The Bore-Hole WTS-LV is designed to fit through a narrow opening such as a 30-centimeter borehole. The dual filter WTS-LV features two vertical intake 142 mm filter holders to allow simultaneous filtering using two different porosities. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Dataset-specific Instrument Name | |
| Generic Instrument Name | Spectrometer |
| Dataset-specific Description | 210Po and 210Pb activities were measured on Canberra passivated implanted planar silicon (PIPS) detectors coupled to a Mirion Alpha Analyst™ alpha spectrometer (Stony Brook University) or Ortec Alpha System (Florida International University). |
| Generic Instrument Description | A spectrometer is an optical instrument used to measure properties of light over a specific portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. |

Deployments

RR1814

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/776913 |
| Platform | R/V Roger Revelle |
| Report | https://datadocs.bco-dmo.org/docs/geotraces/GEOTRACES_PMT/casciotti/data_docs/GP15_Cruise_Report_with_ODF_Report.pdf |
| Start Date | 2018-09-18 |
| End Date | 2018-10-21 |
| Description | Additional cruise information is available from the Rolling Deck to Repository (R2R): https://www.rvdata.us/search/cruise/RR1814 |

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Project Information

US GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Transect (GP15) (U.S. GEOTRACES PMT)

Website: <http://www.geotraces.org/>

Coverage: Pacific Meridional Transect along 152W (GP15)

A 60-day research cruise took place in 2018 along a transect from Alaska to Tahiti at 152° W. A description of the project titled "*Collaborative Research: Management and implementation of the US GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Transect*", funded by NSF, is below. Further project information is available on the [US GEOTRACES website](#) and on the [cruise blog](#). A detailed [cruise report is also available](#) as a PDF.

Description from NSF award abstract:

GEOTRACES is a global effort in the field of Chemical Oceanography in which the United States plays a major role. The goal of the GEOTRACES program is to understand the distributions of many elements and their isotopes in the ocean. Until quite recently, these elements could not be measured at a global scale. Understanding the distributions of these elements and isotopes will increase the understanding of processes that shape their distributions and also the processes that depend on these elements. For example, many "trace elements" (elements that are present in very low amounts) are also important for life, and their presence or absence can play a vital role in the population of marine ecosystems. This project will launch the next major U.S. GEOTRACES expedition in the Pacific Ocean between Alaska and Tahiti. The award made here would support all of the major infrastructure for this expedition, including the research vessel, the sampling equipment, and some of the core oceanographic measurements. This project will also support the personnel needed to lead the expedition and collect the samples.

This project would support the essential sampling operations and infrastructure for the U.S. GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Transect along 152° W to support a large variety of individual science projects on trace element and isotope (TEI) biogeochemistry that will follow. Thus, the major objectives of this management proposal are: (1) plan and coordinate a 60 day research cruise in 2018; (2) obtain representative samples for a wide variety of TEIs using a conventional CTD/rosette, GEOTRACES Trace Element Sampling Systems, and in situ pumps; (3) acquire conventional CTD hydrographic data along with discrete samples for salinity, dissolved oxygen, algal pigments, and dissolved nutrients at micro- and nanomolar levels; (4) ensure that proper QA/QC protocols are followed and reported, as well as fulfilling all GEOTRACES intercalibration protocols; (5) prepare and deliver all hydrographic data to the GEOTRACES Data Assembly Centre (via the US BCO-DMO data center); and (6) coordinate all cruise communications between investigators, including preparation of a hydrographic report/publication. This project would also provide baseline measurements of TEIs in the Clarion-Clipperton fracture zone (~7.5°N-17°N, ~155°W-115°W) where large-scale deep sea mining is planned. Environmental impact assessments are underway in partnership with the mining industry, but the effect of mining activities on TEIs in the water column is one that could be uniquely assessed by the GEOTRACES community. In support of efforts to communicate the science to a wide audience the investigators will recruit an early career freelance science journalist with interests in marine science and oceanography to participate on the cruise and do public outreach, photography and/or videography, and social media from the ship, as well as to submit articles about the research to national media. The project would also support several graduate students.

Collaborative Research: Lead-210 and Polonium-210 as tracers for scavenging and export: GEOTRACES Pacific Meridional Section (PMT Lead-210 and Polonium-210)

NSF Award Abstract:

The goal of the international GEOTRACES program is to understand the distributions of trace chemical elements and their isotopes in the oceans. These chemical species play important roles in the ocean as nutrients, tracers of current and past oceanographic processes, and as contaminants from human activity. Their biogeochemical cycling has direct implications for research in such diverse areas as the carbon cycle, climate change, and ocean ecosystems. This project will use measurement of two natural radionuclides -- lead-210 and polonium-210 -- to provide important information about the rates of processes that affect trace elements and isotopes (TEIs) that will be measured during a U.S. GEOTRACES expedition in the Pacific Ocean in 2018. The research proposed here will address key tasks formulated within the GEOTRACES Science Plan.

Many processes in the ocean cannot be observed directly but tracers such as polonium-210 (half-life = 138 days) and lead-210 (half-life = 22.3 years) that have unique chemical properties and relevant decay timescales can be used to provide important constraints on their rates and pathways. The goals of this research are to: 1) use Pb-210, along with another project measuring Be-7, in aerosols and precipitation to characterize aerosol and TEI sources, 2) determine scavenging rates of particle-reactive TEIs through the water column using Po-210 and Pb-210, 3) use Po-210 / Pb-210 disequilibrium in the upper water column as a proxy for the sinking flux of particulate organic carbon (POC), and 4) use Pb-210 as a tracer of the influence of hydrothermal processes on water column distributions of TEIs. This work will build on a database of Po/Pb distributions in the world ocean (and the Pacific Ocean, in particular) obtained through programs such as GEOSECS, GEOTRACES, and independent studies. A graduate student will be trained as part of this project. The lead investigator, Cochran, plans to incorporate information about GEOTRACES sampling strategies in the planning for a travelling exhibition on "The Oceans" through his adjunct appointment at the American Museum of Natural History (New York). Project partner Kadko plans to incorporate GEOTRACES work in an international graduate course through the Nippon Foundation, Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans Center of Excellence.

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Program Information

U.S. GEOTRACES (U.S. GEOTRACES)

Website: <http://www.geotraces.org/>

Coverage: Global

GEOTRACES is a [SCOR](#) sponsored program; and funding for program infrastructure development is provided by the [U.S. National Science Foundation](#).

GEOTRACES gained momentum following a special symposium, S02: Biogeochemical cycling of trace elements and isotopes in the ocean and applications to constrain contemporary marine processes (GEOSECS II), at a 2003 Goldschmidt meeting convened in Japan. The GEOSECS II acronym referred to the Geochemical Ocean Section Studies To determine full water column distributions of selected trace elements and isotopes, including their concentration, chemical speciation, and physical form, along a sufficient number of sections in each ocean basin to establish the principal relationships between these distributions and with more traditional hydrographic parameters;

- * To evaluate the sources, sinks, and internal cycling of these species and thereby characterize more completely the physical, chemical and biological processes regulating their distributions, and the sensitivity of these processes to global change; and

- * To understand the processes that control the concentrations of geochemical species used for proxies of the past environment, both in the water column and in the substrates that reflect the water column.

GEOTRACES will be global in scope, consisting of ocean sections complemented by regional process studies. Sections and process studies will combine fieldwork, laboratory experiments and modelling. Beyond realizing the scientific objectives identified above, a natural outcome of this work will be to build a community of marine scientists who understand the processes regulating trace element cycles sufficiently well to exploit this knowledge reliably in future interdisciplinary studies.

Expand "Projects" below for information about and data resulting from individual US GEOTRACES research projects.

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Funding

| Funding Source | Award |
|--|-----------------------------|
| NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE) | OCE-1736591 |
| NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE) | OCE-1736612 |

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]