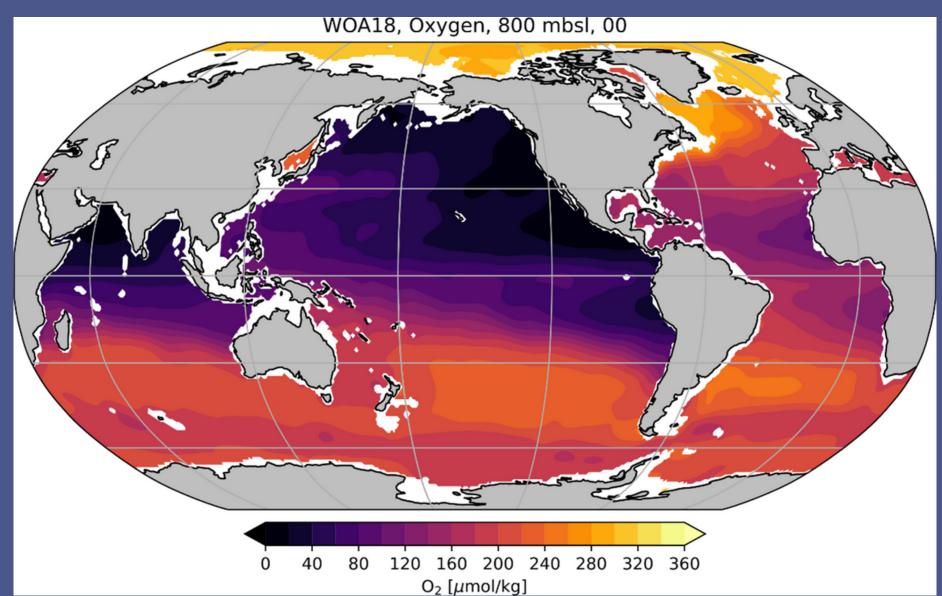
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## COLLOQUIUM SEMINAR SERIES

## OCEAN CHEMISTRY IN A WARMING WORLD



Ulrich Georg Wortmann, PhD Associate Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Toronto St. George



The ocean absorbs large amounts of carbon dioxide, buffering much of the anthropogenic CO2 release. The ocean's buffering capacity depends on the interaction of biological and chemical processes, e.g., photosynthesis and organic matter decomposition. These are processes understood well enough to create computer models that accurately describe, e.g., ocean acidification in response to the anthropogenic CO2 release.

Current ocean models typically assume that there is always enough oxygen to facilitate organic matter decomposition. However, increasing temperatures will reduce marine oxygen concentrations, possibly to the point of complete oxygen loss. Earth's history is full of examples where this process resulted in large ocean areas devoid of oxygen, inhospitable to all higher life forms. The transition from oxygen-bearing to oxygen-free waters affects not only life but also the ocean's ability to absorb CO2.

## **COLLOQUIUM SEMINAR SERIES**

featuring

Dr. Ulrich Georg Wortmann

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 | 3:30pm

Location: CCT2150