Abrupt episode of mid-Cretaceous ocean acidification triggered by massive

2 volcanism

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Abstract

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Large igneous province volcanic activity during the mid-Cretaceous approximately 94.5 million years ago triggered a global-scale episode of reduced marine oxygen levels known as Oceanic Anoxic Event 2. It has been hypothesized that this geologically rapid degassing of volcanic carbon dioxide altered seawater carbonate chemistry, affecting marine ecosystems, geochemical cycles, and sedimentation. Here, we report on two sites drilled by the International Ocean Discovery Program offshore of southwest Australia that exhibit clear evidence for suppressed pelagic carbonate sedimentation in the form of a stratigraphic interval barren of carbonate, recording ocean acidification during the event. We then use the osmium isotopic composition of bulk sediments to directly link this protracted ~600kiloyear shoaling of the marine calcite compensation depth to the onset of volcanic activity. This decrease in marine pH was prolonged by biogeochemical feedbacks in highly productive regions that elevated heterotrophic respiration of carbon dioxide to the water column. A compilation of mid-Cretaceous marine stratigraphic records reveals a contemporaneous decrease of sedimentary carbonate content at continental slope sites globally. Thus, we contend that changes in marine carbonate chemistry are a primary ecological stress and important consequence of rapid emission of carbon dioxide during many large igneous province eruptions in the geologic past.

Main Text

Introduction

Episodes of ocean acidification in Earth history provide context for predicting the future consequences of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions. Potential geologic acidification events have been identified during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM), end-Permian mass extinction, Triassic-Jurassic boundary, and Mesozoic oceanic anoxic events^{1–5}. However, some geologic episodes of prolific volcanic CO₂ release may have occurred too slowly to significantly decrease marine pH⁶ given that emission rates must outpace fluxes of alkalinity from silicate weathering and seafloor carbonate dissolution, which buffer ocean carbonate chemistry on timescales of 10's of kiloyears. Therefore, precisely resolved stratigraphic records are key to assessing candidate ocean acidification events. Here, we evaluate the long-standing hypothesis that ocean acidification accompanied the mid-Cretaceous Oceanic Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2, ~94 Ma), ultimately resulting in turnover of marine fauna and altered marine geochemical cycles^{7–9}.

Ocean acidification's first order effects on marine carbonate chemistry are well understood due to the relationship between pH, alkalinity, carbonate speciation, and carbonate mineral saturation states $(\Omega_{mineral})^{10}$. However, erosive carbonate dissolution and sediment burndown commonly occur during ocean acidification events, obscuring direct chemostratigraphic proxy records of changes in Ω and pH^{5,11}. The stratigraphic record does, however, robustly preserve an alternative marker of ocean acidification in the form of the calcite compensation depth (CCD) – the depth below which pelagic sediments contain low carbonate contents (<20 wt.%) due to calcite undersaturation and dissolution in colder CO₂-rich bottom waters. Rapid addition of CO₂ to the marine realm decreases calcite saturation and forces the CCD to shallow, as is occurring in the modern ocean due to uptake of anthropogenic

CO₂¹². Thus, paleoacidification events may be identified from punctuated carbonate-barren intervals in pelagic marine strata^{1,10,13}.

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During OAE2, widespread anoxia and euxinia in marine bottom waters led to the deposition of black shales in many, though not all, marine basins globally^{14,15}. The organic carbon burial event is defined in stratigraphic records by a positive carbon isotope excursion lasting at least 600 kiloyears across the Cenomanian-Turonian stage boundary ^{16,17}. A volcanic trigger for OAE2 is suggested by increased contents of volcanogenic elements in marine sediments, and isotopic excursions indicate enhanced activity from large igneous provinces (LIPs) emplaced around the time of the event, such as the Caribbean and/or High Arctic LIPs^{7,18} (**Fig. 1a**). Particularly strong evidence for this trigger is a shift to unradiogenic (i.e., mantle-like juvenile volcanic) initial osmium isotope ratios (Osi) in sediments at many marine sites tens of thousands of years prior to the beginning of OAE2^{17,19,20}. Kerr (1998) hypothesized that the Caribbean LIP could have influenced marine carbonate chemistry based on the volume of basalts emplaced (~4x10⁶ km³) and a recent estimate of the total CO₂ degassed during OAE2 ranges from 14,000 to 46,000 Pg of carbon ²¹. Additionally, pioneering sedimentological observations of deep-sea cores through the OAE2 interval also noted carbonate barren intervals at many pelagic sites, portending a shallowed CCD^{22–25}. Although OAE2 has been implicated in general considerations of acidification through geologic time^{4,8}, only one recent Ca isotope study has offered direct geochemical evidence for altered calcite saturation states during OAE29. To comprehensively test the OAE2-ocean acidification hypothesis, here we report osmium geochemical proxy evidence for the timing and magnitude of LIP volcanic activity in relation to changes in the CCD preserved in sediment cores from the Mentelle Basin offshore southwest Australia. These osmium data are combined with a

compilation of carbonate content records from marine sites to resolve global trends in the CCD during OAE2.

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CCD shoaling in the Mentelle Basin. Expedition 369 of the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) cored two relatively conformable pelagic successions of OAE2 at Sites U1513 and U1516 in the Mentelle Basin in 2017^{26,27} (Fig. 1a, Extended Data Fig. 1). At the time of OAE2, these sites were located at ~60°S in the southeastern Tethys Ocean on the subsiding eastern flank of the Naturaliste Plateau at an estimated water depth of ~1100 m²⁸. At Site U1516, changing carbonate content²⁶ and Ca XRF core scanning data reveal a shoaling of the CCD between 471.0-467.3 m rCCSF (revised core composite depth below sea floor) (Fig. 2). This 3.7 m thick darker and carbonate-free stratigraphic interval corresponds to much of the encompassing OAE2 interval as constrained by microfossil biostratigraphy and bulk carbonate carbon isotope ($\delta^{13}C_{carb}$) chemostratigraphy²⁷. The absence of carbonate minerals means some details of the δ^{13} C_{carb} excursion (CIE) through the event are not preserved. However, the base and termination of the event's CIE are apparent in the bracketing carbonate-bearing intervals (Extended Data Fig. 2). Based on a floating orbital timescale derived from bandpass filtering of Fe XRF core scanning data, the duration of the carbonate compensation event is approximately six short eccentricity cycles, or ~600 kiloyears, which approaches the total duration of the OAE2 CIE at Site U1516 of approximately seven short eccentricity cycles, or ~700 kiloyears [see Methods and **Extended Data Figs. 3-4**].

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Extremely unradiogenic Os_i values (<0.2) and high ¹⁹²Os contents in strata across the base of the OAE2 interval at Site U1516 provide evidence for volcanic activity (**Fig. 2**). The main unradiogenic Os_i excursion (to juvenile volcanic end-member values) and spike in ¹⁹²Os contents to ~1,800 parts per

trillion at Site U1516 both culminate between 471-470 m rCCSF, marking major LIP volcanic activity associated with the onset of OAE2 (**Fig. 2**). This timing is notable because the initial shoaling of the CCD in the Mentelle Basin directly coincides with the geologically rapid intensification of LIP volcanism (**Fig. 3**). Based on inverse modeling of the Os_i and ¹⁹²Os profiles, the LIP Os flux to the marine reservoir exceeded pre-event baseline mantle/volcanic fluxes by at least 30x during peak intensity and lasting at least 60 kiloyears through the onset of OAE2 [see Methods and **Extended Data Tables 1-2**]. If continental weathering fluxes increased as much as 80% during OAE2 as has been suggested recently²⁹, the additional radiogenic osmium flux would necessitate an even greater LIP volcanic Os flux approaching 50x baseline levels to recreate the trends in observed Os_i curves (**Extended Data Fig. 5**). Combined, these observations link the emission of volcanically derived CO₂ to the initial shoaling of the CCD at Site U1516 and ocean acidification during OAE2.

More radiogenic (higher) Os_i datapoints and low ¹⁹²Os contents occur above 469.6 m rCCSF at Site U1516, signaling a waning of LIP volcanic activity in the upper interval of OAE2 roughly 180±60 kiloyears after the start of the event (**Figs. 2-3**). Five unradiogenic Os_i datapoints are intermittently present in this interval (469.4-466.0 m rCCSF) and could possibly represent punctuated renewed LIP eruptions. However, this seems unlikely as the horizons do not record concomitant spikes in ¹⁹²Os contents and no previously published marine Os_i chemostratigraphic records (n>15) document global-scale LIP volcanic activity in the upper OAE2 or post-OAE2 intervals^{17,19,20,30} (**Extended Data Fig. 2**). Thus, it seems more likely these upper unradiogenic Os_i points reflect either seafloor reworking of continental slope sediments or record a localized source of volcanic activity, such as the Kerguelen Plateau, with a smaller Os flux that did not mix on a global scale³¹.

Global carbonate sedimentation during OAE2. Trends in marine carbonate sedimentation during OAE2 from a global compilation fall into several categories (Fig. 1b). Eight sites from abyssal, continental rise, or lower continental slope settings preserve less than 20 wt.% CaCO3 before, during, and after the OAE2 interval, indicating they remained consistently below or near the CCD. Thirteen sites almost exclusively from epicontinental seas preserve 40-95% CaCO3 prior to and during OAE2 and are therefore interpreted to have remained consistently above the CCD. Of those sites, seven record increases in carbonate content during OAE2. Finally and notably, carbonate contents at thirteen sites mainly from continental slope settings decrease to sub-CCD wt.% CaCO3 values during OAE2 indicating a pronounced shoaling of the CCD in multiple basins globally. The OAE2 interval is relatively condensed at a majority of these shoaled pelagic sites, reflecting reduced carbonate accumulation³².

Ocean Acidification during OAE2. The observations from our osmium and compiled sedimentological data for OAE2 suggest that ocean acidification was an additional fundamental paleoceanographic response to this episode of LIP volcanism. Acidification resulted in a shoaling of the CCD recorded at continental slope sites globally. In shallower settings through OAE2 though, carbonate deposition progressed and many carbonate platforms persisted ³³ despite partial drowning and stress from nutrient loading ³⁴ (Fig. 1b). Increases in carbonate content were particularly substantial in epicontinental seaways like the North American Western Interior Seaway, where a pronounced global transgression decreased the relative contribution of siliciclastic sedimentation ³⁵ (Fig. 1a). Arthur et al. (1987) attributed carbonate barren deep sea intervals during OAE2 to a shift in carbonate sedimentation from the pelagic realm to the vastly expanded epicontinental seaways. Models invoking sea level rise have successfully recreated prolonged shifts in the CCD through the Middle Eocene

Climatic Optimum "MECO", a rare geologic example of a long-lasting (~500 kiloyears) carbonate compensation event similar to OAE2³⁶. Increased shallow marine calcification and consequent decreased alkalinity would have worked in concert with LIP CO₂ emissions to promote shoaling of the CCD during OAE2 in slope marine settings like Site U1516.

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The ~600-kiloyear shoaling of the CCD observed during OAE2 at Site U1516 is much longer than predictions of conventional models for marine carbonate chemistry tailored to other geological episodes of voluminous CO₂ release⁴. During the PETM for example, the delivery of alkalinity from seafloor carbonate dissolution and silicate weathering ends surface ocean acidification events within 10s of kiloyears⁴. To reconcile model results and observational data for OAE2, we hypothesize that the remineralization of ample organic carbon sinking from highly productive surfaces waters produced a significant flux of dissolved CO₂ to marine bottom waters. In the lower OAE2 interval at Site U1516, geochemical proxies—such as biogenic Si³⁷ and Si enrichment factor (Si_{EF}) values—increase near three thin laminated black shale beds (4-12 cm-thick beds labeled "a" "b" "c" in Fig. 2), indicating intermittently enhanced primary productivity. In the upper OAE2 interval, more sustained increases in biogenic silica³⁷, Sief, and Baef, and abundant radiolaria²⁷, indicate consistently higher productivity levels, which would have led to higher heterotrophic respiration rates and increased dissolved CO₂ in the water column as has been noted previously at OAE2 sites with high total organic carbon (TOC)^{38,39}. An intense CO₂ flux from LIP volcanism appears to have triggered ocean acidification, but marine biogeochemical feedbacks that enhanced primary productivity appear to have sustained a shallower CCD for hundreds of kiloyears during OAE2. Differences between model and observation may also reflect that models employ a combination of burndown and continental chemical weathering (chemical compensation) as the dampening mechanism to ocean acidification, whereas Ca isotope data for OAE29

and for the older OAE1a⁴⁰ point to additional influence from reduced carbonate production (biological compensation)⁴¹.

These marine biogeochemical factors, along with epicontinental carbonate deposition discussed above, would explain the longer duration CCD anomaly during OAE2 and possibly other OAEs², especially in comparison to the PETM, an event without pervasive black shale deposition and a positive CIE¹. Notably, the Site U1516 carbonate record also exhibits a recovery of carbonate deposition following OAE2 (**Fig. 2**). This final deepening of the CCD was likely linked to the factors that ultimately terminated the event, such as alkalinity buildup from reduced carbonate production, increased continental weathering, and/or a decline in global primary productivity, as is observed locally at Site U1516 in waning biogenic silica and Ba_{EF} values above ~467.3 m rCCSF.

Os flux relation with CO₂ release. The relationship between an increasing flux of Os and the emission of CO₂ as LIP activity progressed is poorly constrained and to some degree depends upon the lithology of the intruded host rock⁴². However, if the volcanic Os and C fluxes scaled linearly, a >30x increase in CO₂ emission above background mantle/volcanic degassing rates would begin to approach modern anthropogenic CO₂ emission rates, which are ~80-270x above background volcanic fluxes and are rapidly altering marine carbonate chemistry^{12,43}. In the mid-Cretaceous, a scenario of even lower CO₂ release, though of similar order of magnitude and rate, would have strongly affected ocean chemistry due to lower carbonate ion concentrations¹⁰, and would have likely decreased pH and carbonate mineral saturation, as is inferred from Ca isotope records⁹ and the shoaled CCD.

Typically, negative CIEs occur during candidate ocean acidification events in the geologic record (e.g., PETM or OAE1a) due to the release of CO₂ with low δ^{13} C values from volcanogenic carbon reservoirs (~-5% PDB or biogenic (<-20% PDB - Peedee Belemnite scale)) ^{1,44}. Near the onset of OAE2, some sites record a negative CIE, possibly reflecting the emission of CO₂ that shoaled the CCD during the event ^{18,21}. These records are somewhat rare though and could alternatively be explained by local environmental changes in depositional settings that also influence δ^{13} C values. Somewhat puzzlingly and despite exhibiting a shoaling of the CCD and one of the most severe volcanogenic Os₁ excursions of the Phanerozoic, OAE2 is dominantly characterized by a positive CIE ²⁵. Recently, Mason et al. (2017)⁴⁵ showed that volatile-rich volcanic settings which assimilate crustal carbonate also release CO₂ with high δ^{13} C values (~-1% PDB). Thus, if the volcanism associated with OAE2 erupted in a carbonate-rich setting like the Caribbean (**Fig. 1a**), we hypothesize that CO₂ would have been released from an isotopically heavy pool of C, generating the observed carbonate compensation event independent of a pronounced negative CIE.

Biotic effects of acidification. Marine deoxygenation is hypothesized to have accelerated marine macro- and micro-faunal turnover rates during OAE2^{46,47}. Suppressed calcite and aragonite saturation states due to LIP volcanism would also have been a compounding stressor to marine ecosystems. Laboratory studies of modern calcifying organisms record significant declines in calcification rates at $\Omega_{\text{aragonite}}$ less than three⁴⁸. Such conditions, where surface waters were not undersaturated and would not experience outright dissolution, but where Ω had declined, are consistent with the epicontinental carbonate sedimentation trends of OAE2. Biotic indicators of ocean acidification, such as dwarfing, thinning, and fragmentation of foraminifera and calcareous nannofossils, occur strikingly during the PETM¹¹. Some, but not all, of these features occur during OAE2, in particular, the dwarfing of calcitic

microfossils^{49,50}, which correlates with Ca isotope evidence for reduced precipitation rates⁵¹. These morphological shifts, along with the extinction of the deep-dwelling, keeled foraminifera *Rotalipora* cushmani early in OAE2, are consistent with a scenario of LIP volcanic CO₂ emission, decreased Ω , global warming, and biotic extinctions⁵². Similarly, records of demise in the mid-Cretaceous rudist reefs⁵³ along with turnover of aragonitic ammonite⁴⁶ and calcitic microfossil⁴⁷ taxa may in part record selection following changes in marine carbonate chemistry during OAE2.

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Implications and unresolved aspects of mid-Cretaceous ocean acidification. In summary, osmium chemostratigraphic data and compiled sedimentological observations of carbonate content from OAE2 indicate that CO₂ emitted from intense LIP volcanic activity triggered a shoaling of the CCD, which was likely prolonged by subsequent marine biogeochemical feedbacks and sea level transgression. We conclude that ocean acidification represented a notable component of environmental deterioration during OAE2, and perhaps other Mesozoic OAEs, with volcanogenic and biogeochemical fluxes of C to the global ocean that exceeded thresholds for buffering from silicate weathering. In particular, these results raise questions about the temporal relation between shifts in surface water carbonate chemistry and longer duration changes in the CCD during LIP episodes in Earth history. More quantitative depth constraints on the shift of the CCD during OAE2 may help refine the total mass of pelagic carbonate dissolved and, in turn, the amount of CO₂ emitted from LIP sources. However, the relative roles of dissolution versus lower calcification rates⁴⁰ in driving the CCD shallower during OAEs must still be quantitatively discerned. As to the source of the CO₂, observations of carbon isotope profiles may fingerprint which volcanic province or provinces were linked to the event, yet the geochronology and eruptive tempo of many mid-Cretaceous LIPs is still coarsely resolved⁵⁴ compared with LIPs from other intensely studied intervals, such as the Deccan Traps at the Cretaceous-Paleogene Boundary⁵⁵. Insitu verification of the precise setting and timing of volcanic flows associated with ocean acidification during OAE2 remains a grand challenge in paleoceanography.

These deep-time findings highlight the role that marine nutrient loading, along with elevated productivity and subsequent anoxia, play in exacerbating and prolonging carbonate mineral undersaturation in marine settings. Continued study of how benthic and planktic communities responded to a decrease in calcite saturation state during OAE2 should provide predictive insights into the vulnerabilities and resiliencies of modern ecosystems as marine pH continues to decline. Additional investigations employing existing ocean acidification-sensitive isotope proxies, such as B⁴, and emerging ones, including Ca⁹ and stable Sr⁴⁰, may further critically test for surface water fluctuations in pH, calcite/aragonite saturation, and calcification stress.

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Author Contributions

Study conceptualization – M.M.J., B.B.S., A.D.J.; geochemical analyses – M.M.J., D.S., S.J.B., L.R.,

K.G.M., K.A.B.; field work and core collection – B.T.H., R.W.H., K.A.B., M.L.G.T., J.K., S.J.B., L.R.,

K.G.M., M.M.J.; original manuscript draft – M.M.J., B.B.S., D.S., A.D.J., K.G.M., S.J.B., L.R.;

modeling analyses – M.M.J., S.J.B., M.L.G.T., J.K.; manuscript editing – all.

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Figure 1: A – Late Cretaceous paleomap of sites compiled for carbonate sedimentation through Oceanic Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2). See Extended Data Table 3 for data sources. Marker colors correspond to paleobathymetric setting and red rings denote sites where a shoaling of the calcite compensation depth (CCD) is observed. Yellow star denotes IODP Site U1516. Purple regions represent Caribbean (CLIP), High Arctic (HALIP), and Kerguelen (KLIP) large igneous provinces.

Map adapted from²⁰. WIS – Western Interior Seaway. B – A global compilation of trends in sedimentary carbonate contents (wt.%) prior to and during Oceanic Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2). Text color corresponds to paleobathymetric setting. Sites with a precipitous decrease in carbonate during the event record a shoaling CCD (bottom center). Shallow water sites (bottom right) remained above the CCD throughout OAE2 with some increasing in carbonate contents in contrast to deeper water sites (see text for discussion).

Figure 2: Chemostratigraphy and core photos of the Oceanic Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2) interval at IODP Site U1516 (eastern Indian Ocean). LIP volcanism is recorded by a decrease in initial osmium isotope ratios (Osi; red, panel D) and spike in ¹⁹²Os contents (ppt=parts per trillion; purple, panel E) near the

base of OAE2. A positive carbonate carbon isotope (δ¹³C_{carb}, panel C) excursion and nannofossil biostratigraphy ²⁷ confirm this correlation (see **Extended Data Figure 4** for more details). A ~600-kiloyear shoaling of the calcite compensation depth (CCD) is preserved by the near-complete absence of carbonate minerals from ~471-467.3 m rCCSF (revised core composite depth below sea floor) based on shipboard carbonate content data²⁶ (black dots –panel A) and Ca 10 kV XRF scanning data (blue, panel A). XRF scanning data plotted from cores 3R-5R in Hole D. The bandpass filter of Fe 10 kV XRF scanning data records the short eccentricity orbital cycle of ~100 kyr and forms a floating timescale (panel B). Elemental proxies at right (Si_(EF) - silicon enrichment factors, panel F; biogenic Si – biogenic silica³⁷, panel F; Ba_(EF) - barium enrichment factor, panel G) show evidence for increased productivity during OAE2, especially in the upper interval of the event. Together, these data are consistent with a volcanic trigger for ocean acidification and the shoaling of the CCD, which was prolonged by elevated productivity during OAE2.

Figure 3. Inverse modeling results of large igneous province (LIP) volcanic activity during Oceanic Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2; gray shading) based on Os_i (red) and ¹⁹²Os (purple) data from IODP Site U1516 (circles, panel B). At peak intensity in the OAE2 onset interval, input fluxes of Os from LIP sources (panel A) must be >30 times greater than the global background level of the mid-Cretaceous mantle/volcanic Os flux. The Site U1516 Os_i record is consistent with smaller, yet still significant volcanic activity preceding OAE2 by several hundred kiloyears (kyr). Also plotted is a coeval Os timeseries from the Angus Core in the Western Interior Basin of North America¹⁷ (triangles) for a shallow marine comparison (panel B). See Methods for full modeling details.

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441 Methods

Astrochronologic time scale construction

The Cenomanian–Turonian sediments at IODP Site U1516 display a rhythmic banding pattern of dark and light lithologies (see Core Photos) that is particularly well expressed around 477 m²⁶. Here, the darker bands occur at a scale of ~20 cm, and vary in darkness on a scale of 80 cm to 1 m. This may reflect the influence of eccentricity-modulated precession, with individual (~20 cm scale) alternations corresponding to precession cycles and the bundling corresponding to the influence of the short eccentricity (~100 kyr) cycle.

REDFIT power spectra⁵⁶ of the Fe core-scanning XRF data of three stratigraphic intervals (the carbonate-free interval and the intervals above and below) confirm the detection of these periodicities (**Extended Data Figure 3**). Additionally, they exhibit a decrease in sedimentation rate over the carbonate-free interval attributed to the shoaling of the CCD. Dominant periodicities were extracted by band-pass filtering in AnalySeries⁵⁷, with a frequency of 1.24 cycles/m and a bandwidth of 0.41 for the intervals above and below the carbonate-free interval, and with a frequency of 1.90 cycles/m and a bandwidth of 0.63 for the carbonate-free interval.

Osmium isotope modeling of volcanic activity

Principles: To quantitatively assess the magnitude and rate of LIP volcanic activity during OAE2, we implemented an osmium isotope box model following the approach of Tejada et al. $(2009)^{58}$. The marine Os isotopic reservoir is highly sensitive to changes in unradiogenic volcanic fluxes ($^{187/188}$ Os = 0.126) relative to radiogenic fluxes of continental weathering ($^{187/188}$ Os = ~ 1.4 , global average)⁵⁹.

Moreover, the marine osmium reservoir has a short residence time (10's of kyr) and was relatively well-mixed during Mesozoic OAEs. As a result, the Os_i chemostratigraphic records of OAE2 from marine sites globally exhibit rapid perturbations from mantle-sourced Os originating from LIPs^{17,19,20,30,60-62}.

We use a simple inverse model to reconstruct the first-order trends in the OAE2 Osi excursion and ¹⁹²Os concentration time-series at IODP Site U1516 (Figure 3). The Site U1516 Osi and ¹⁹²Os time-series were generated from the site's short-eccentricity bandpass astronomical time scale, using the 'tune' function in R-package 'Astrochron' ⁶³. In addition we plot the densely sampled, conformable, and astronomically-tuned Os time series from the Angus Core in the Western Interior Seaway of North America¹⁷ for comparison. Model calculations were performed using MATLAB and R scripts available upon request.

Parameterization: The box model calculates the mass (M_o) and isotopic composition (R_o) of the Late Cretaceous global oceanic osmium reservoir through OAE2 based on input and output fluxes of Os with different isotopic compositions, represented in the following equations:

$$dM_o = F_{riv} + F_{mantle} + F_{cosmic} + F_{LIP} - F_{sed}$$

$$dR_o = \frac{\left[\left(F_{riv}*(R_{riv}-R_O)\right)+\left(F_{mantle}*(R_{mantle}-R_O)\right)+\left(F_{LIP}*(R_{LIP}-R_O)\right)+\left(F_{cosmic}(R_{cosmic}-R_O)\right)\right]}{M_O}$$

Guided by values in⁵⁸, the model establishes background input of Os to the ocean from fluxes of unradiogenic cosmic (F_{cosmic}), unradiogenic volcanic/mantle (F_{mantle}), and radiogenic continental weathering/riverine (F_{riv}), along with an output sedimentary flux (F_{sed}) (**Extended Data Table 1**).

Osmium isotopic compositions are from ⁶⁴. To reconstruct the pre-OAE2 Os_i steady-state value of ~0.75 at Site U1516 in the mid-Cretaceous, F_{mantle} is set at 352 tonnes/kyr (15% less than⁵⁸ and F_{riv} is

set at 339 tonnes/kyr (15% higher than Tejada et al., 2009^{58}). Given likely changes in marine Os cycling between the modeled Early Cretaceous data⁵⁸ and the Late Cretaceous data modeled in this study, the minor offsets of our flux values with those in Tejada et al. $(2009)^{58}$ are considered reasonable. The model runs for 3000 kyr at a step of 1 kyr. For the purpose of comparing the model results to the measured sedimentary Os_i datasets, time zero (t=0) is aligned to the datapoint in each chemostratigraphic record that is prior to the earliest extremely unradiogenic Os_i value $Os_i < 0.3$ indicative of intense LIP activity. The model is permitted to run for several hundred kiloyears prior to the oldest measured $Os_i < 0.3$ datapoint to reach a steady state.

Large igneous province perturbation: The model also incorporates a perturbation flux representing the flux of unradiogenic Os to the global ocean from LIP volcanic activity (FLIP) during OAE2, presumably from a submarine setting. In an inverse approach and holding all background Os input fluxes constant (Friv, Fmantle, Fcosmic), the FLIP was iteratively adjusted at 11 control points through time to generate a marine ^{187/188}Os composition that approximated the general trends in U1516 Os time-series (Fig. 3; **Extended Data Table 2**). FLIP values were linearly interpolated between these control points using the 'interp1' function in MATLAB to create a continuous perturbation scenario, varying through time. Highly unradiogenic Os_i datapoints in the upper OAE2 to post-OAE2 intervals at Site U1516 were interpreted as likely unrepresentative of a globally correlative increase in FLIP for several reasons (see main text). Therefore, iterative modeling of LIP volcanic activity did not attempt to recreate these anomalies.

Re-Os analytical methods

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Samples from IODP Site U1516 were analyzed for rhenium-osmium geochemistry (n=28; 463.00 – 480.04 m rCCSF) to establish chemostratigraphic markers of LIP volcanic activity associated with OAE2. Sampling depth resolution ranged from 17-205 cm/sample spanning the Cenomanian-Turonian boundary stratigraphic interval, with higher sampling density in the OAE2 interval. Data are reported in **Supplementary Table 1**.

Prior to analysis at Durham University, samples were powdered in ceramic containers using high-purity crushing techniques at Northwestern University and the University of Michigan. The ceramic containers were cleaned using Ottawa sand, then washed and finally rinsed with ethanol. The prepared powders were analyzed in the Source Rock and Sulfide Geochronology and Geochemistry Laboratory at Durham University utilizing isotope dilution negative ion mass spectrometry⁶⁵. In brief, sample powders (0.3–1.0 g) were spiked with a mixed ¹⁸⁵Re+¹⁹⁰Os tracer solution and digested in sealed Carius tubes with 8 mL of 0.25 g/g CrO₃ in 4N H₂SO₄ for ~48 hours at 220°C, principally leaching hydrogenous Re and Os (i.e., carbonates and organic matter). The Os fraction was isolated and purified via chloroform extraction with back reduction into HBr and CrO₃·H₂SO₄-HBr microdistillation. The Re fraction was isolated via NaOH-acetone extraction and anion chromatography. Isotopic ratios of samples and solution standards (Re STD and DROs) were measured on a Thermo Triton thermal ionization mass spectrometer (TIMS) in negative ionization mode in the Arthur Holmes Laboratory at Durham University. Running average values for ¹⁸⁷Os/¹⁸⁸Os and ¹⁸⁷Re/¹⁸⁵Re solution standards to the time of these analyses (10/2019) were 0.16094 ± 0.00050 (1 σ ; n = 700) and 0.59861 ± 0.00159 (1 σ ; n = 506), respectively. Total procedural blanks during this study were 15.5 \pm 3.5 pg and 0.08 \pm 0.03 pg (1 σ S.D., n = 3) for Re and Os, respectively, with an average 187 Os/ 188 Os value of 0.21 ± 0.01 (n = 3). Present-day measured ¹⁸⁷Os/¹⁸⁸Os values of samples were corrected to initial osmium ratios (Os_i) by

accounting for post-depositional beta decay of 187 Re ($\lambda = 1.666 \times 10^{-11} \text{yr}^{-1}$ 66) using an age of 94.0 Ma for the Cenomanian-Turonian stage boundary 17.

XRF core scanning methods

Split section halves of cores from Site U1516 were analyzed on two Avaatech X-ray fluorescence (XRF) scanners in the XRF Core Scanning Facility at the IODP Gulf Coast Repository in College Station, Texas in 2018. Section halves spanning the OAE2 stratigraphic interval were scanned from Hole C and Hole D (Cores 2R-5R). Emission of secondary fluoresced X-rays characteristic to a suite of elements were generated from scanning at excitation energy levels of 10, 30, and 50 kV. These scans measured chemostratigraphic records of semi-quantitative elemental concentrations in units of counts per second at a median depth sampling resolution of 1.5 cm. Counts of Ca, Fe, and Si are reported from the 10 kV scan (no filter, 0.160 mA). Counts of Ba are reported from the 50 kV scan (Cu filter, 0.75 mA). Full details on XRF scanning methods are presented in Bogus et al. (2019)⁶⁷. Processed scanning data can be accessed at the IODP online repository (https://web.iodp.tamu.edu/LORE/). We interpret Ca XRF scanning data to primarily reflect the relative carbonate mineral (calcite) contents of cores given its correlation with shipboard wt. percent carbonate content data (Figure 2).

Major and minor element analytical methods

Prior to analysis, bulk-rock samples were powdered to ~10 μm using a ring and puck mill at Sorbonne University's ISTeP laboratory (Paris, France). Concentration of Si and Ba were determined respectively

with an ICP-OES (Thermo Fisher iCap 6500) and an ICP-MS (7700X Agilent) at the spectrochemical laboratory of the Service d'Analyse des Roches et des Minéraux (SARM) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS; Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy, France). Sample powder preparation consisted of fusion with LiBO₂, followed by acid digestion in HNO₃ (2%) ⁶⁸. Precision and accuracy are both better than 1% for Si and 5% for Ba, respectively.

Sedimentary Si and Ba contents are considered paleoproductivity proxies in many marine settings^{37,69}. To account for the influence of carbonate non-deposition on elemental abundances during OAE2, enrichment factors (EF) were calculated for the elements Si and Ba at Site U1516. For a given element of interest, enrichment factors calculate the ratio of a sample's elemental content to its Al content and normalize that ratio to a reference value, using the following equation⁶⁹:

 $EF = \frac{\left(\frac{element}{Al}\right)_{sample}}{\left(\frac{element}{Al}\right)_{average \, shale}}$ Various reference datasets exist. For this work, the EFs were calculated using the Upper Continental Crust (UCC) reference shale⁷⁰.

Global OAE2 carbonate content compilation

Values for sedimentary weight percent carbonate contents in the pre-OAE2 and OAE2 intervals reported in the global compilation are estimated averages from studies with quantitative data ^{22,26,71–107}.

Code Availability Statement: Matlab and R codes for inverse box modeling of isotopic records are available as a Zenodo data repository item (10.5281/zenodo.7182186).

- Data Availability Statement: All geochemical data measured for this study are available as a Zenodo
- data repository item (10.5281/zenodo.7182186). Core scanning X-ray fluorescence (XRF) data for Site
- 566 U1516 are available through the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) at
- web.iodp.tamu.edu/LORE/.
- **Correspondence and request for materials** should be directed to M.M.J.

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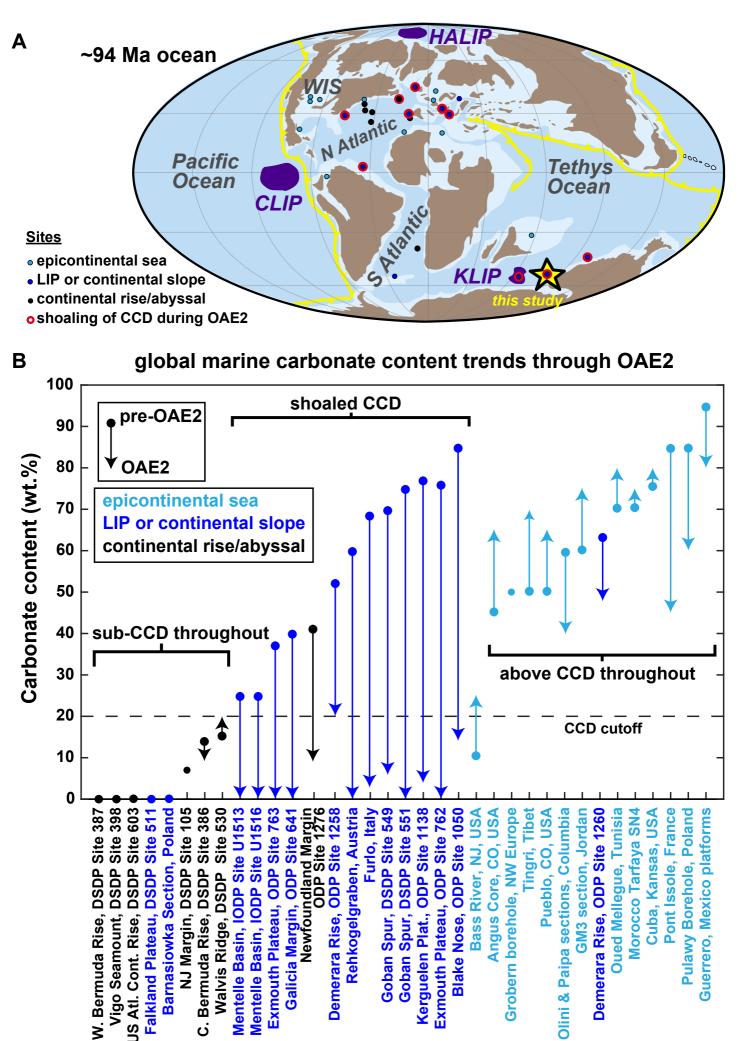
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- 722 Extended Data Figure 1. Map of International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) Site U1516
- 723 (yellow circle). Additional sites cored during IODP Expedition 369 in the Mentelle Basin offshore
- southwest Australia are displayed (modified from ¹⁰⁸). Bathymetric contour interval of 500 meters.
- 725 DSDP = Deep Sea Drilling Program.
- 726 Extended Data Figure 2. Stratigraphic correlation of the Cenomanian-Turonian boundary
- 727 interval at IODP Site U1516 to the Portland Core near the base Turonian Global Stratotype
- 728 Section and Point (GSSP) in Colorado, USA. Oceanic Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2) is defined by a
- positive carbon isotope (δ^{13} C) excursion (grey shading). The correlation is based on: 1) the base and
- termination of the δ^{13} C excursion²⁷, 2) the anomalously high ¹⁹²Os abundance interval (light purple
- dashed line) linked to large igneous province (LIP) volcanic activity¹⁹, 3) the base of the initial osmium
- 732 isotope (187/188Os_i) excursion associated with LIP volcanism at the base of OAE2¹⁹, and 4) bandpassed
- ~100 kyr-short eccentricity cycles. Calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy independently supports the
- correlation as the CC10a/CC10b subzone boundary, approximated by the last occurrence (LO) of
- Axopodorhabdus albianus, falls in the carbonate barren interval at Site U1516²⁷ and lower OAE2
- interval in Portland Core¹⁰⁹. Site U1516 data sources: δ^{13} C data²⁷. Os data and and cyclostratigraphy
- 737 (this study). Portland Core data sources: Os data²⁰, δ^{13} C data¹⁶ (figure adapted from¹⁷). kcps =

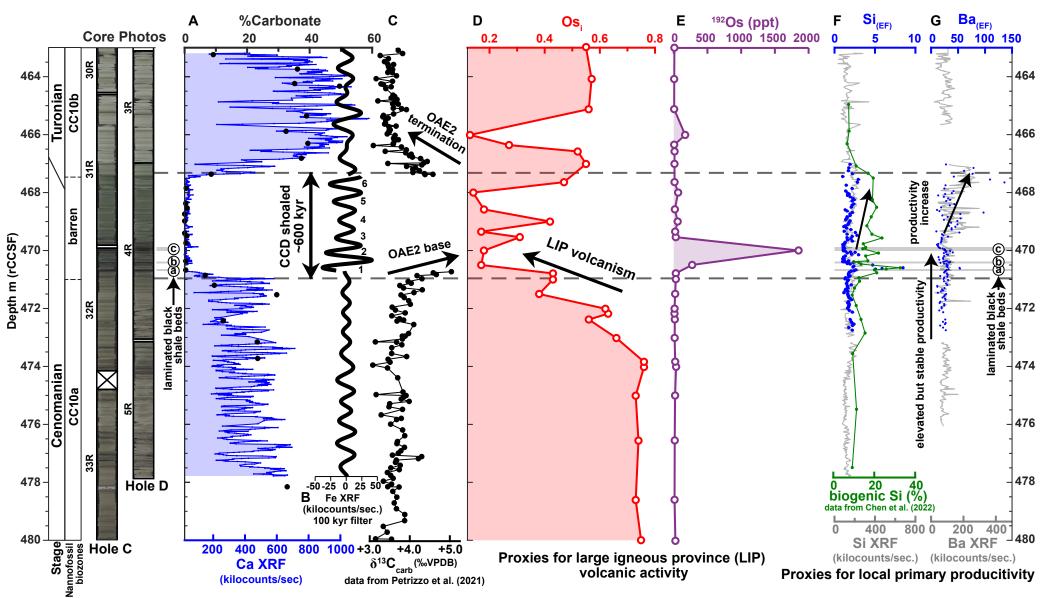
738 kilocounts per second; VPDB = Vienna Peedee Belemnite scale; ppt = parts per trillion; CCD = calcite compensation depth. 739 740 Extended Data Figure 3. REDFIT power spectra of Fe XRF scanning data from IODP Site 741 **U1516.** Plots span intervals of A: 455.2–467.4 m rCCSF; B: 467.4–470.7 m rCCSF and C: 470.7–481.8 m rCCSF, using a Welch window with 80%, 90%, 95% and 99% confidence levels, and main 742 743 periodicities indicated. Extended Data Figure 4. Floating astrochronology for the Cenomanian-Turonian boundary 744 interval at IODP Site U1516. This is based on a short eccentricity bandpass ~100-kyr filter of the 745 cyclic Fe XRF scanning data from Hole D. Squares in right pane show sedimentation rate estimates 746 from the bandpass filter and dashed line shows an average sedimentation rate of 0.8 cm/kyr for the 747 general interval from shipboard nannofossil biostratigraphy²⁶. The unradiogenic Os_i excursion marks 748 the onset of LIP volcanism several tens of kiloyear before the initiation of the OAE2 carbon isotope 749 excursion in most conformable sites 17,19,20,60,61 . The base of the Os_i excursion has been dated to $94.55 \pm$ 750 0.1 Ma¹⁷ and ~94.9 Ma⁶², providing scenarios for absolute numerical age tie points for the Site U1516 751 record. 752 Extended Data Figure 5. Additional plot of box modeling results for marine 187/188Os. This 753 includes the scenario of large igneous province (LIP) volcanism (top panel, A) and a second scenario 754 (bottom panel, B) where fluxes of radiogenic osmium from continental weathering (Friv) are set to 755 increase by 80% for 500 kiloyears through Ocean Anoxic Event 2 (OAE2)²⁹. An increase in F_{riv} 756 necessitates an even larger increase in the flux of unradiogenic osmium from large igneous province 757 sources (F_{LIP}) by as much as 50x larger than background mantle/volcanic fluxes. Model outputs are 758

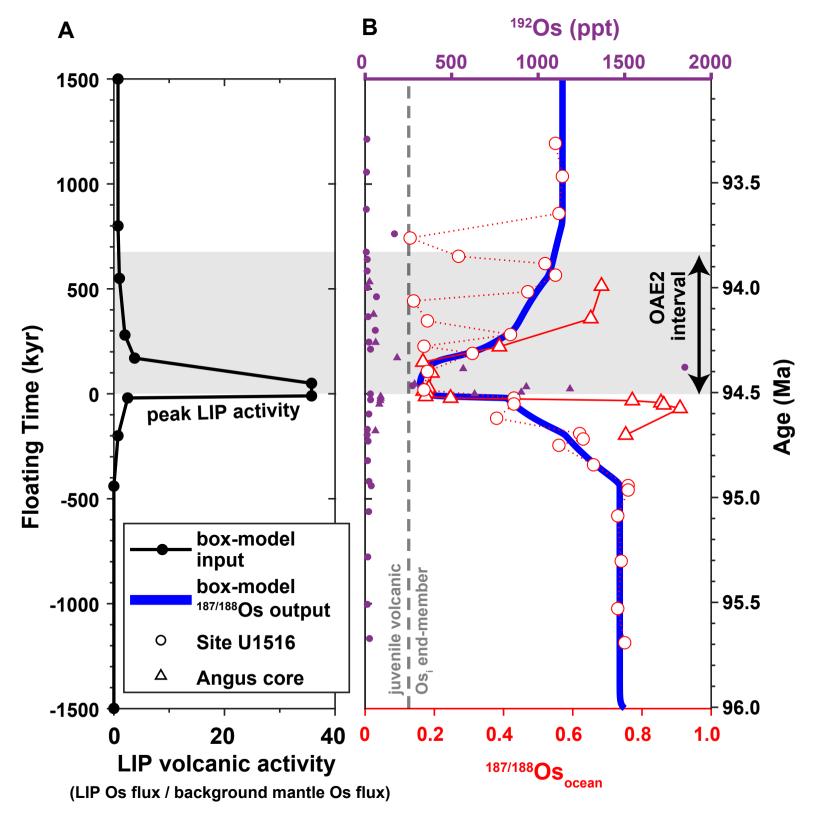
plotted against initial osmium isotope ratio data (Osi) through OAE2 from IODP Site U1516 in the

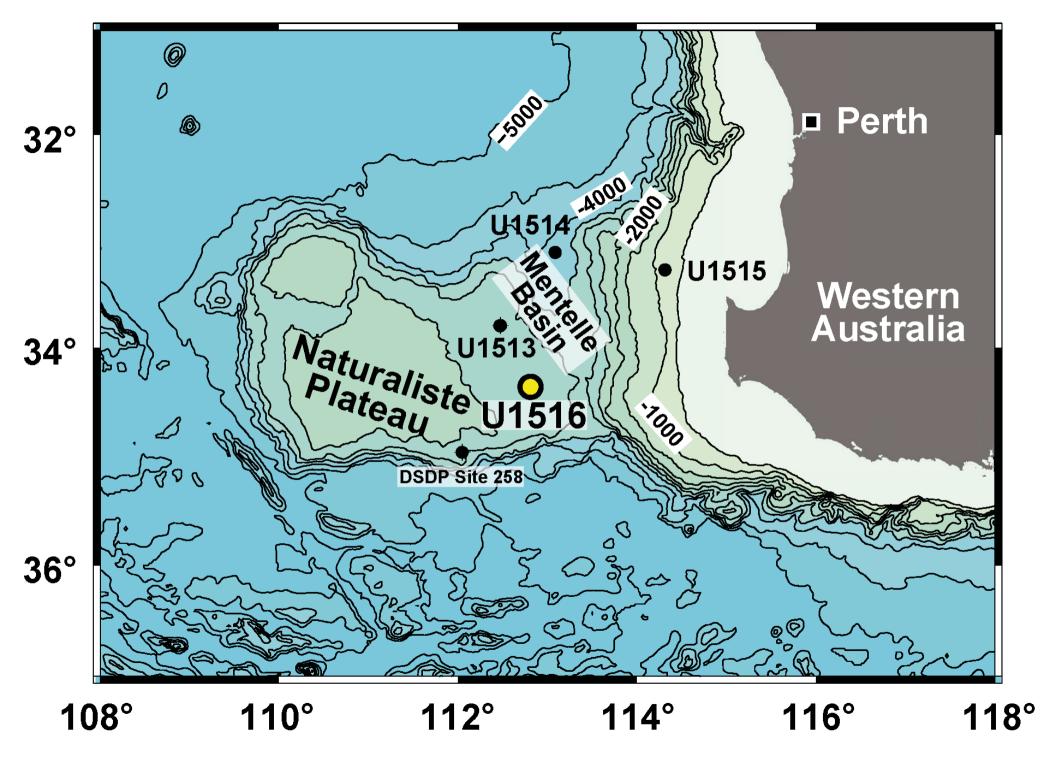
759

Indian Ocean (circle symbols and dotted line, this study) and the Angus Core in the Western Interior 760 Basin of North America¹⁷. 761 762 Extended Data Table 1. Model parameters for Late Cretaceous marine Os fluxes and model initial conditions. See Extended Data Table 2 for final modeled FLIP values through time. 763 Extended Data Table 2. Modeled large igneous province Os flux (F_{LIP}) values through time used 764 to perturb the marine Os reservoir during OAE2. FLIP values are reported as a ratio to the 765 background global volcanic/mantle flux (F_{mantle}) (i.e., F_{LIP}/F_{mantle}). For example, a F_{LIP} value of 1.0 766 represents a large igneous province Os flux as large as the pre-event background volcanic/mantle Os 767 flux. 768 769 Extended Data Table 3. A global compilation of carbonate contents (wt.% CaCO3) pre-OAE2 770 and during OAE2 from 46 sites. Sites in compilation are mapped in Figure 1a.

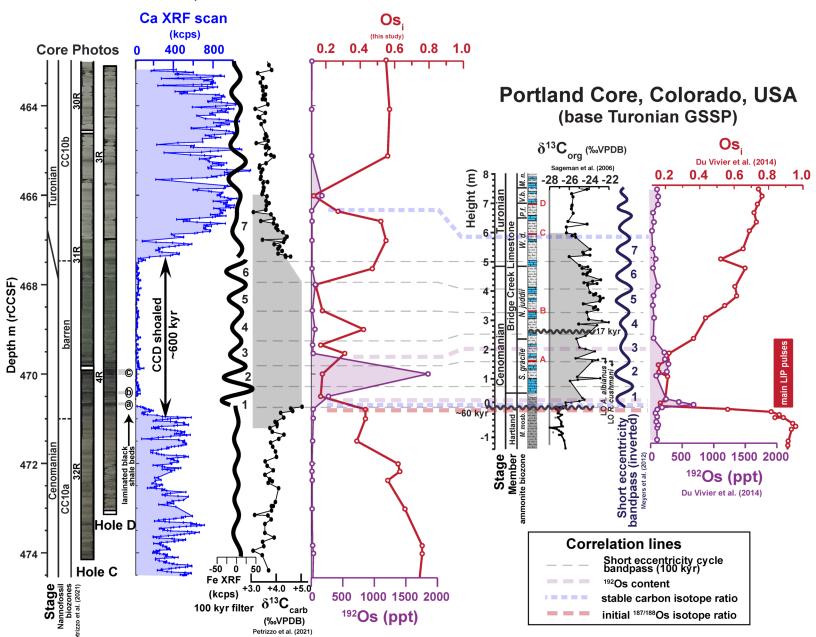


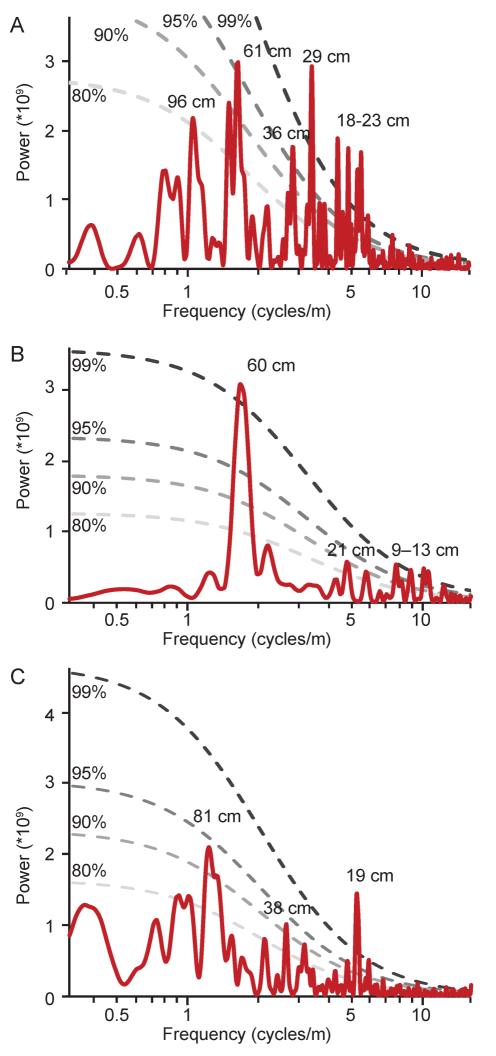


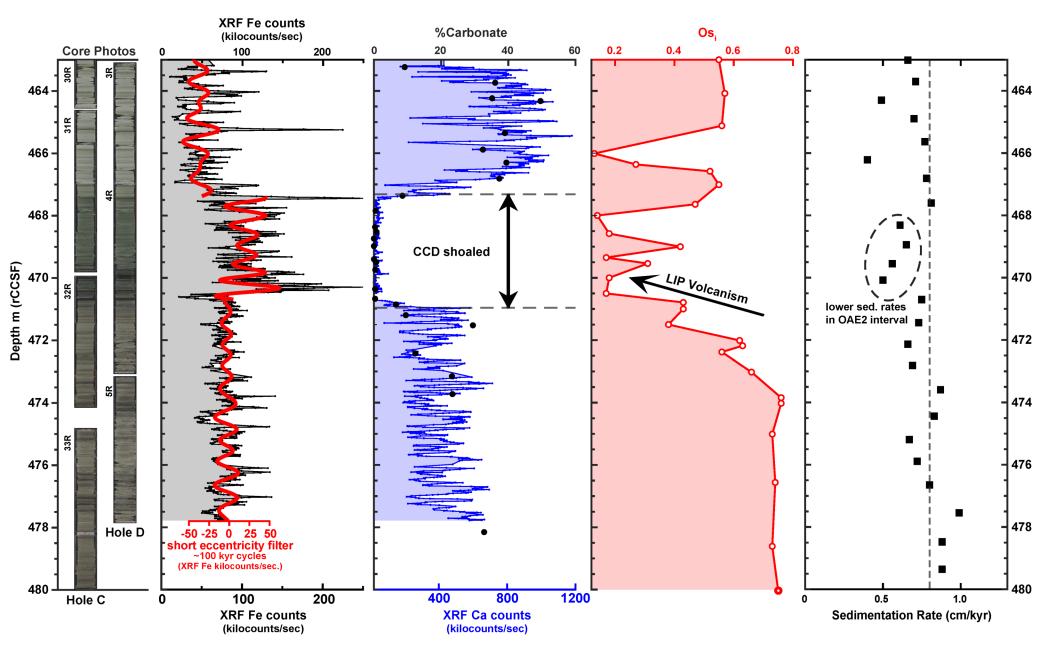




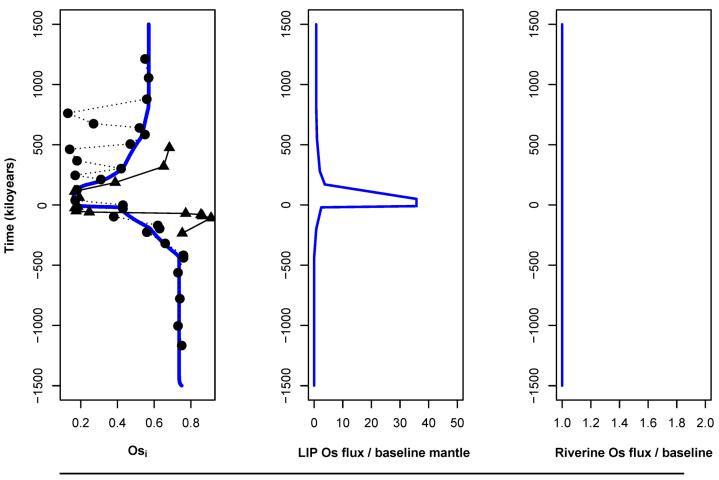
IODP Site U1516
Mentelle Basin, southeast Indian Ocean

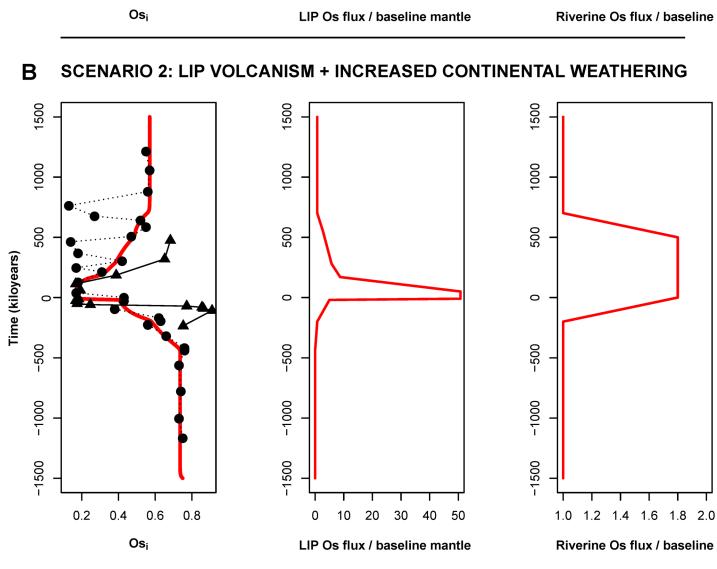






SCENARIO 1: LIP VOLCANISM





| Marine Os Source/Sink | 187/188 Os (isotopic composition) | Flux (tonnes Os/kyr) | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| Riverine (F _{riv}) | 1.4 | 339 | | |
| Mantle/volcanic (F _{mantle}) | 0.126 | 352 | | |
| Cosmic (F _{cosmic}) | 0.126 | 17.6 | | |
| Large igneous province (F _{LIP}) | 0.126 | iteratively varied* | | |
| Sedimentation (F _{sed}) | Ro(t) | $M_{o}(t)/\tau$ | | |
| Model Initial Conditions (t=0) | Symbol | Value | | |
| marine ^{187/188} Os ratio | $R_o(0)$ | 0.9 | | |
| mass of marine Os reservoir | $M_0(0)$ | 13,000 tonnes | | |
| marine Os residence time | τ | 20,000 years | | |

| Floating time (kiloyears) | LIP Os flux (F _{LIP}) (ratio: F _{LIP} /F _{mantle}) | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 1500 | 0.75 | | | |
| 800 | 0.75 | | | |
| 550 | 1 | | | |
| 280 | 2 | | | |
| 170 | 3.75 | | | |
| 50 | 35.75 | | | |
| -10 | 35.75 | | | |
| -20 | 2.5 | | | |
| -200 | 0.75 | | | |
| -440 | 0 | | | |
| -1500 | 0 | | | |

| Site | Basin | Setting | pre-OAE2 %CaCO3 | OAE2 %CaCO3 | % change | CCD classification | Resolution of %carb record | References |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| W Bermuda Rise (DSDP Site 387) | proto-North Atlantic | Abyssal Plain | 0 | 0 | 0% | sub-CCD | coarse | Tucholke et al. (1979) |
| Vigo Seamount (DSDP Site 398) | proto-North Atlantic | Seamount | 0 | 0 | 0% | sub-CCD | coarse | Arthur (1979) |
| eastern N American Rise (DSDP Site 603) | proto-North Atlantic | Abyssal Plain | 0 | 0 | 0% | sub-CCD | coarse | Meyers (1987) Dean and Arthur (1987) |
| New Jersey Margin (DSDP Site 105) | proto-North Atlantic | Continental Rise | 7 | 7 | 0% | sub-CCD | high | Herbin et al. (1987) |
| Central Bermuda Rise (DSDP Site 386) | proto-North Atlantic | Continental Rise | 15 | 9 | -40% | sub-CCD | coarse | <u>Cameron (1979)</u> van Helmond et al. (2014) |
| Walvis Ridge (DSDP Site 530) | proto-South Atlantic | Abyssal Plain | 15 | 20 | 33% | sub-CCD | high | Forster et al. (2008) |
| Falkland Plateau (DSDP Site 511) | proto-South Atlantic | Continental Slope | ~0 | ~0 | 0% | sub-CCD | coarse | <u>Huber et al. (1995)</u> |
| Poland - Barnasiowka Section | Tethys? | Continental slope? | ~0 | ~0 | 0% | sub-CCD | n/a | Uchman et al. (2008) |
| Mentelle Basin (IODP Site U1516) | proto-Indian Ocean | Continental Slope | 25 | 0 | -100% | shoaled CCD | high | Huber et al. (2019) Site U1516 |
| Mentelle Basin (IODP Site U1513) | proto-Indian Ocean | Continental Slope | 25 | 0 | -100% | shoaled CCD | high | Huber et al. (2019) Site U1513 |
| Exmouth Plateau (ODP Site 763C) | Tethys | Continental Slope | 38 | 0 | -100% | shoaled CCD | high | Thurow et al. (1992) Rullkötter et al. (1992) |
| Galicia Margin (ODP Site 641) | proto-North Atlantic | Continental Slope | 40 | 0 | -100% | shoaled CCD | high | Thurow et al. (1988) van Helmond et al. (2014) |
| Newfoundland Margin (ODP Site 1276) | proto-North Atlantic | Continental Rise | 42 | 9 | -79% | shoaled CCD | high | Shipboard Sci. Party (2004) Sinninghé Damste et al (2010) |
| Demerara Rise (ODP Site 1258) | proto-North Atlantic | Continental Slope | 52 | 20 | -62% | shoaled CCD? | high | Arnaboldi and Meyers (2006) Hetzel et al. (2009) |
| Austria - Rehkogelgraben Section | Tethys | Continental Slope | 60 | 0 | -100% | shoaled CCD | high | Wagreich et al. (2008) |
| Italy - Furlo section | Tethys | Continental Slope? | 67 | 3 | -97% | shoaled CCD | high | Turgeon & Burmsack (2006) |
| Goban Spur (DSDP Site 549) | proto-North Atlantic | Continental Slope | 70 | 6 | -91% | shoaled CCD | high | de Graciansky et al. (1985) Waples & Cunningham (1985) Linnert et al. (2011) |
| Goban Spur (DSDP Site 551) | proto-North Atlantic | Continental Slope | 75 | 0 | -100% | shoaled CCD | high | de Graciansky et al. (1985) Waples & Cunningham (1985) Linnert et al. (2011) |
| Exmouth Plateau (ODP Site 762) | Tethys | Continental Slope | 76 | 0 | -100% | shoaled CCD | coarse | Exon et al. (1992) |
| Kerguelen Plateau (ODP Site 1138) | proto-Indian Ocean | LIP Slope | 77 | 4 | -95% | shoaled CCD | high | Meyers et al. (2009) Dickson et al. (2017) |
| Blake Nose (ODP Site 1050) | proto-North Atlantic | Continental Slope | 85 | 14 | -84% | shoaled CCD | coarse | Huber et al. (1999) |
| Bass River, New Jersey (ODP Leg 174x/) | proto-North Atlantic | Epicontinental | 10 | 25 | 150% | above CCD? Siliciclastic- rich, proximal | high | Bowman and Bralower (2005) |
| Colorado, USA Angus Core, Denver Basin | Western Interior Seaway | Epicontinental | 45 | 65 | 44% | above CCD | high | <u>Joo & Sageman (2014)</u> |
| northwest Europe (Grobern borehole) | European Shelf Seas | Epicontinental | 45 | 55 | 22% | above CCD | high | <u>Voigt et al. (2006)</u> |
| Gongzha, Tingri Tibet | Tethys | Epicontinental | 50 | 70 | 40% | above CCD | high | Bomou et al. (2013) |
| Colorado, USA (Rock Canyon Anticline) | Western Interior Seaway | Epicontinental | 50 | 65 | 30% | above CCD | high | Sageman et al. (2014) |
| Jordan (GM3 Section) | Tethys | Epicontinental | 60 | 75 | 25% | above CCD | high | Wendler et al. (2010) |
| Columbia Olini & Paipa sections | La Luna Sea | Epicontinental | 60 | 50 | -17% | above CCD | high | Paez-Reyes et al. (2021) |
| Demerara Rise (ODP Site 1260) | proto-North Atlantic | Continental Slope | 63 | 48 | -24% | above CCD | high | Hetzel et al. (2009) |
| Tunisia Oued Mellegue area | Tethys | Epicontinental | 70 | 80 | 14% | above CCD | high | Nederbragt & Fiorentino (1999) |
| Morocco (SN4 Core, Tarfaya Basin) | proto-North Atlantic | Epicontinental | 70 | 75 | 7% | above CCD | high | Beil et al. (2018) |
| Kansas, USA (Cuba section) | Western Interior Seaway | Epicontinental | 75 | 80 | 7% | above CCD | high | Bowman and Bralower (2005) |
| France (Lambruisse Section) | European Shelf Seas | Epicontinental | 85 | 45 | -47% | above CCD | high | Takashima et al. (2009) |
| Poland (Pulawy Borehole) | European Shelf Seas | Epicontinental | 85 | 60 | -29% | above CCD | coarse | Peryt & Wyrwicka (1993) |
| Guerrero state, Mexico carbonate platforms | Epicontinental Sea | Epicontinental | 95 | 80 | -16% | above CCD | high | Elrick et al. (2009) |