Constraining the Solomon Sea as a Source of Al and Mn to the Equatorial Undercurrent

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18 **Highlights**

- 19 Al and Mn are not significantly enriched during transit through the Solomon Sea.
- 20 Fluxes of Al and Mn into and out of the Solomon Sea are almost equal.
- 21 Al and Mn are elevated near continental shelves and margins in the Solomon Sea.
- 22 Local enrichments must be balanced by boundary exchange and scavenging processes.
- 23 Water exiting the Solomon Sea accounts for ca. half the flux of Al and Mn in the EUC.

Abstract

Total dissolvable and dissolved aluminum (TDAI, DAI) and manganese (TDMn, DMn) concentrations were measured at 12 stations in and around the Solomon Sea in 2012 as part of the GEOTRACES GP-12 cruise. These data were used to determine the potential for the Solomon Sea to act as a source of Al and Mn to the Equatorial Undercurrent (EUC). From a net budget perspective, waters entering the Solomon Sea at the time of the cruise were already enriched in Al and Mn, and as that water transited through the Solomon Sea, further net enrichments were small compared to overall concentrations of these metals. Despite this overall balance, on a local scale, we observed enrichment of Al and Mn at stations located near coastlines, most likely caused by sediment scouring by strong currents. Calculated fluxes of DAI, and TDAI out of the Solomon Sea relative to the EUC are large enough to account for about three quarters of their respective budgets within the EUC, while the DMn and TDMn fluxes exiting the Solomon Sea can only account for about half of their respective budgets in the EUC. These fluxes are subject to high temporal variability and to uncertainty of the relative contributions of Northern and Southern Hemisphere water mass to the EUC.

Keywords:

Aluminum, Manganese, Solomon Sea, Equatorial Undercurrent, GEOTRACES

1. Introduction

The Equatorial Undercurrent (EUC) flows at ~200 m depth along the equator at a rate of 20-30 Sv, transporting water, nutrients, and trace elements (e.g., aluminum (Al), and manganese (Mn), and iron (Fe)) from the Western Pacific to the Eastern Pacific in less than a year (Tsuchiya et al., 1989). There, it shoals in the photic zone of the High Nutrient, Low Chlorophyll (HNLC) region of the eastern equatorial Pacific—where ~20% of the world's new primary productivity takes place (Coale et al., 1996). Understanding sources of trace elements to the EUC is thus important to better understanding the factors that contribute to primary productivity in the eastern equatorial Pacific and its contribution to the global carbon cycle.

Concentrations of Al, Mn, (and Fe) are elevated in the EUC, relative to open ocean values (Coale et al., 1996; Gordon et al., 1997; Kaupp et al., 2011; Slemons et al., 2010, 2012) with concentrations increasing westward. In the western equatorial Pacific, the major water sources to the EUC are two low-latitude western boundary currents, the New Guinea Coastal Undercurrent (NGCU) coming from the south and the Mindanao Current from the north, with the NGCU being the more important of the two (e.g., Tsuchiya et al., 1989; Grenier et al., 2011, 2013). The NGCU originates in the Solomon Sea (Fig. 1) where it comes in contact with the coastlines of volcanic islands with abundant natural and anthropogenic runoff. As a result, the Solomon Sea is considered to be an important source of trace metals, especially Al and Fe, to the NGCU and thus the EUC. This conclusion is supported by both modeling studies and geochemical measurements within the current (Lacan and Jeandel, 2001, 2005; Mackey et al., 2002a,b; Slemons et al., 2009; Kaupp et al., 2011; Qin et al., 2015; Pham et al., 2019). Here we report on dissolved and total dissolvable Al (DAI; TDAI) and Mn (DMn; TDMn) collected from seven stations within the Solomon Sea and five stations just outside of it during the 2012 PANDORA cruise (GEOTRACES GP-12). While several trace metal profiles have been collected within the Solomon Sea and in the neighboring Bismarck and Coral Seas (Mackey et al., 2002a,b; Obata et al., 2008), those studies were not part of a broader interdisciplinary study. The PANDORA

cruise discussed here included a major physical oceanographic component that examined the major currents flowing through the Solomon Sea (Ganachaud et al., 2017). The combination of these chemical and physical oceanographic data enables examination of the trace metal budget of the Solomon Sea, and in turn, its importance to the trace metal budget of the EUC. The data presented here suggest that the waters entering the Solomon Sea were enriched in trace metals prior to entering the basin and that their transit through the basin resulted in only a minor net increase of Mn and Al to these waters.

1.1 Geographic Setting: The Solomon Sea

The Solomon Sea is a semi-enclosed basin bounded by the islands of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to the west, New Ireland and New Britain to the north, and the Solomon Islands to the east, and is open to the southeast (Fig. 1). An important oceanographic characteristic of this region is the flow of the New Guinea Coastal Current/ Undercurrent system (NGCC/NGCU) through the basin. This large current system transports water into the Solomon Sea at depths of 0 - 1400 m with the strongest transport (40-80 cm/s) being within the thermocline waters that feed the EUC, at ~ 200 m (Lindstrom et al., 1987; Tsuchiya et al., 1989; Cravatte et al., 2011; Germaineaud et al., 2016; Alberty et al., 2019). The large transport and associated current speeds result in relatively short residence time for waters in the Solomon Sea (e.g., ~ 4 months for thermocline waters). The waters that make up the NGCU originate as the Southern Equatorial Current (SEC), which flows west between ~5°N and 20°S. As the SEC encounters islands in the Coral Sea, it branches into various currents, including the North Vanuatu Jet (NVJ) and the New Caledonia Jet (NCJ, Kessler and Cravatte, 2013; Germaineaud et al., 2016). The NCJ further bifurcates around 18°S into the North Queensland Current (NQC), which flows north through the northern Coral Sea and the Gulf of Papua, and around the southern coast of PNG before joining the NVJ to form the NGCU (Fig. 1; Sokolov and Rintoul, 2000). In the surface ocean (0 – ~150 m), in addition to the NGCU and NVJ, waters from the SEC flow into the Solomon Sea through gaps between the Solomon Islands (Hristova and Kessler, 2012) and through the Solomon Strait

(Germineaud et al., 2016; Albery et al., 2019). Most of the surface water exits through the Vitiaz Strait, with some flowing through the St. George's Channel and/or the Solomon Strait (e.g., Albery et al., 2019). The direction of flow through the Solomon Strait varies seasonally, and on a net annual basis flows into the Solomon Sea (Albery et al., 2019). The thermocline waters of the NGCU flow at a depth of ~200 m along the eastern PNG coast and bifurcate south of New Britain where northwestward flow exits through the Vitiaz Strait (Tsuchiya et al., 1989); the remainder flows eastward as the New Britain Coastal Undercurrent (NBCU) (Melet et al., 2010). The NBCU bifurcates around New Ireland, with the western limb flowing out of Saint George's Channel as the Saint George's Undercurrent (SGU), while the eastern limb exits out the Solomon Strait as the New Ireland Coastal Undercurrent (NICU; Butt and Lindstrom, 1994). The NICU then combines with the EUC (Fig. 1; Germineaud et al., 2016). The deeper sub-thermocline (450-1400m, $26.9\sim 27.5\sigma_\theta$) circulation in the Solomon Sea is also dominated by the NGCU, however at much reduced levels of transport. Here, as the NGCU approaches the Woodlark Archipelago it is pushed eastward over this depth range; below 1000 m it passes through, over and around the submarine extension of the Woodlark Archipelago. This deep water exits through the Vitiaz Strait (~65%) and Solomon Strait (~30%; Albery et al., 2019), but with some seasonal variability.

The western equatorial Pacific is temporally variable on both seasonal (monsoonal) and interannual (ENSO) scales. This variability leads to fluctuations in transport through the Solomon Sea and the EUC, and is accompanied by changes in river input and surface circulation (Cresswell, 2000; Melet et al., 2013; Delcroix et al., 2014). Seasonal differences in transport and circulation in the Solomon Sea have been studied during the PANDORA (austral winter 2012) and MOORSPICE (austral summer 2014) cruises. Both cruises occurred during a neutral El Niño phase, and demonstrated that the overall flow into and out of the Solomon Sea was enhanced during austral winter (PANDORA) (Germineaud et al., 2016). While overall transport through the Solomon Sea varies seasonally, modeling studies have shown that transport through the Vitiaz Strait exhibits less temporal variability, presumably because transport through the strait is

mainly controlled by bathymetry (narrow, 1200 m deep channel) which restricts water flow, while seasonality changes are a result of changes in flow of the NVJ and NQC upstream (Melet et al., 2010). These changes are observed further downstream, in strong temporal variability in the current flow through Saint George's Channel and the Solomon Strait. Historical observations, however, do show variation in the transport through the Vitiaz Strait, with intensification during positive El Nino phase (Lindstrom et al., 1987; Butt and Lindstrom, 1994; Murray et al., 1995). Modeling studies have also observed intensification of the NGCU during El Nino events, which creates eddies, causing increased contact with the PNG shelf (Ryan et al., 2006). While models predict intensification of the NGCU, during the El Nino event of 1991/1992, Murray et al. (1995) observed a weakening of the EUC, where the maximum velocity during neutral El Nino was observed at 90 cm/s, and then dropped to 20 cm/s during peak El Nino. The EUC also varies seasonally, and is stronger in austral winter and weaker in austral summer (Melet et al., 2010).

The waters that flow through the Solomon Sea are subject to many potential chemical inputs from the margins, rivers, runoff, mine tailings, and volcanic and hydrothermal activities; it is thus thought that the NGCU should undergo significant chemical enrichments as it passes through the Solomon Sea (Lacan and Jeandel, 2001, 2005). Islands in this region are young and easily eroded, leading to large lithogenic inputs via rivers (e.g., Milliman et al., 1999; Sholkovitz et al., 1999). Two very large rivers empty into the ocean along the pathway of the major currents flowing through the region: the Sepik River empties into the Bismarck Sea, thus contributing to the NGCU as it exits the Solomon Sea, and the Fly River empties into the northern Coral Sea where it alters the chemistry of the North Queensland Current (Fig. 1). The Sepik River and Fly River estuaries are two very different systems: The Sepik river system is located over a steep and narrow shelf, such that river sediments are discharged directly into the ocean (Milliman et al., 1999; Sholkovitz et al., 1999; Kineke et al., 2000). Sedimentation occurs on the shelf through the settling of sinking particles from the surface plume, as well as via hyperpycnal flows, which

transport sediment to intermediate depths along isopycnals (Kineke et al., 2000). The Fly River is a shallow estuary where sediment deposition and resuspension impacts the chemical makeup of the surface water. The Fly River has a high sediment load (85×10^9 kg/year) relative to its discharge (220 km^3 /year) (Salomons and Eagle, 1990). These sediments are dominated by resuspension due to intense tidal activity, and bioturbated muds in this region have been shown to have elevated Al, Mn, and Fe fluxes (Harris et al., 1993; Alongi et al., 1996).

The Fly river, in addition to having a large sediment load due to its strong relief, high rainfall, and easily erodible rock, (e.g., Harris et al., 1993) is impacted at its head waters by increased contamination from the Ok Tedi mine. This ore deposit, and others in the area, are a result of elevated tectonic and volcanic activity in the region. Over the life of the Ok Tedi mine it is estimated that it was responsible for the input of 66 million tons per year of mine tailings, including 24 million tons per year of mill fines (e.g., Hettler et al., 1997). Tailings from mines throughout the region are delivered to the ocean through run off, smaller rivers, and erosion, and a portion of this waste reaches the coastal ocean, where it might be entrained into the NQC.

A seafloor spreading-center in the Woodlark Basin in the eastern Solomon Sea hosts hydrothermal vent systems at >2500m (e.g., Laurila et al., 2012) and undersea-volcanos in the region are hydrothermally (McConachy et al., 2002; Laurila et al., 2012) and volcanically active (McConachy et al., 2002); the eruption of Kavachi volcano in the surface ocean is notable (Baker et al., 2002; Phillips et al., 2016). In the shallow ocean both diffuse and focused venting have been observed at Tutum Bay on the northeastern side of the Solomon Sea, enriching the surface waters in Fe and Mn, though these concentrations only persist near the vent sites (Pichler et al., 1999). In coastal regions, runoff from Rabaul volcano ($4^{\circ}14'25''\text{S}$, $152^{\circ}11'45''\text{E}$, east of New Britain) was measured to be high in Fe (Labatut et al., 2014), and ash from Rabaul's eruptions are deposited onto the ocean surface with precipitation being slightly acidic from the volcanic SO_2 (Ganachaud et al., 2017). The elevated tectonic and magmatic activity in this region suggests that other, undiscovered hydrothermal vent sites likely exist, and this region has been

extensively explored for deep-sea mining of hydrothermally-sourced minerals (e.g., Jankowski, 2011).

1.2 Sampling locations

The PANDORA cruise (GEOTRACES GP-12) took place during austral winter 2012 (28 June–6 August) aboard the R/V *l'Atalante* and was led by the Laboratoire d'Etudes en Geophysique et Oceanographie Spatiales (LEGOS, Chief Scientist G. Eldin). A more detailed description of hydrographic data and geochemical sampling, as well as preliminary findings about this cruise, can be found in Ganachaud et al. (2017). A total of 170 casts were collected at 83 stations in and around the Solomon Sea. The 12 stations that are examined in this study (Fig. 1a) were sampled using a trace-metal clean rosette according to GEOTRACES protocols. Five of these stations were located outside of the Solomon Sea: three to the south of the entrance (stations 4, 10, and 82), one to the northeast near the Solomon Strait (station 43), and one northeast of the Solomon Archipelago (station 13). Within the Solomon Sea, one station was located on the west side of the Solomon Islands, off San Cristobal (station 21). Two stations were located within the flow path of the NGCU near Trobriand Island (stations 39 and 71). In the northern Solomon Sea, stations are located in the Vitiaz Strait (station 77), near the Solomon Strait (station 42), and along the flow path of thermocline waters as they exit via Saint George's Channel (station 60). One station is located at the southern entrance of the Solomon Sea, off the coast of Rossel Island, PNG (station 34) and was only sampled to 350m.

2. Methods

Water sampled for Al and Mn was collected using an epoxy-coated titanium CTD Rosette with twelve 12-L Go-Flo bottles and described in more detail in Ganachaud et al. (2017). Go-Flo bottles spent minimal time on-deck, and after filling were transported to a clean-air environment for sub-sample removal and storage between casts. Total acid-soluble metal samples, which

includes the dissolved fraction plus the acid soluble portion of particles present in unfiltered samples (abbreviated as TD – total dissolvable, based on the terminology of Mackey et al. 2002a and Slemons et al. 2010) were collected directly from Go-Flo bottles into acid-cleaned 100 mL LDPE bottles (with LDPE caps). Dissolved metal (D) samples were collected from the Go-Flo bottles using slight overpressure of filtered N₂ for filtration through 0.2 µm Sartobran-300 capsule filters into acid-cleaned 100 mL LDPE bottles (with LDPE caps). All samples were acidified to 0.024 N using Optima HCl one month prior to Al analysis, and six months prior to Mn analysis.

Al was analyzed by flow injection analysis (FIA) using direct injection and fluorescent detection of the Al-lumogallion complex, following Resing and Measures (1994). This method had an average detection limit of 0.85 nM, which is 34% of the lowest concentration measured, and 7% of the average concentration of all samples. GEOTRACES GD (consensus $\pm$ 1 SD = 17.7 $\pm$ 0.2 nM) reference standard was run daily, with an average value of 19.49 $\pm$ 0.88 nM (1 SD, n = 17). We acknowledge that this value is higher than the reported consensus value, but we are not able to identify any blanks in our system based on the methodology that was used here. We note that the reference material is fairly old (GEOTRACES GD was collected 11 years prior to these analyses), and has been stored with HDPE caps, which are known to cause contamination for Al (Brown and Bruland, 2008). Other analysts have found consistently elevated Al values for the low nM level GEOTRACES standards (e.g. Resing et al., 2015; Singh et al., 2020). Daily precision for standards was on average 3.4% relative standard deviation (RSD) at 1 nM and 2.2% RSD at 20 nM.

Mn was analyzed by FIA using in-line preconcentration of Mn onto an 8-hydroxyquinoline column and spectroscopic detection of leucomalachite green, based on the method of Resing and Mottl (1992), with the addition of 4 g of nitrilo tri-acetic acid per liter to the ammonium acetate reaction buffer. This method had a detection limit of 0.027 nM, which is 14% of the lowest sample measured and 3% of the average concentration of all samples measured.

GEOTRACES GD (consensus ± 1 SD = 1.50 ± 0.11 nM) standards were run at least once a day and measured to be 1.80 ± 0.19 (1 SD, $n = 17$). Daily precision for standards was on average 3.0% RSD at 0.1 nM and 2.0% RSD at 1.0 nM. An internal consistency standard was run at least twice daily and found to be $0.32 \text{ nM} \pm 0.02 \text{ nM}$ (1 SD, $n = 94$).

2.1 Calculation of a trace metal budget in the Solomon Sea

To examine the net impact on water passing through the Solomon Sea, we construct a budget to evaluate the fluxes into and out of the Solomon Sea at three density intervals, based on transport estimates calculated for the PANDORA cruise by Gernineaud et al. (2016): Surface layer (surf – $24\sigma_\theta$), Thermocline layer or NGCU ($24\text{--}26.9\sigma_\theta$), and Deep layer ($>26.9\sigma_\theta$; our maximum sampled σ_θ is $27.54/1300$ m). For the thermocline layer ($24\sigma_\theta\text{--}26.9\sigma_\theta$), we can also compare these fluxes to the flux of the trace metals at the Equatorial Undercurrent to evaluate the contribution of the Solomon Sea trace metal pool to that of the EUC (section 4.2).

The depth-weighted average concentration over each density interval is calculated using a trapezoidal integration over the depth range corresponding to potential density for each station and is reported in Table 1. The corresponding depths for each density interval can be found in Table S1 and the full dataset can be found in Table S2. Errors reported in the text and in the tables represent one standard deviation calculated using the analytical error on each measurement.

This budget considers that there is a background flux of Al and Mn entering the Solomon Sea over each of the three potential density ranges, referred to here as the Solomon Sea Inflow. The outflow budget considers outputs through the Vitiaz Strait (station 77), St. George's Channel (station 60) and the Solomon Strait (station 42), which we refer to collectively as the Solomon Sea Outflow. Gernineaud et al. (2016) reported outflow values for the Vitiaz Strait and the sum

of the outflow for the water leaving via the Solomon Strait and St. George's Channel. Because they do not report individual outflows for these two straits, we assume their outflows to be equal. While Alberty et al. (2019) estimate transport through each channel, it is on an annual basis and not over shorter time intervals. This is important because the flows are seasonally variable with water flowing both into and out of the Solomon Strait based on season. During PANDORA, surface water was flowing out of the Solomon Sea via Solomon Strait, rather than into it, as it does on a net annual basis (Alberty et al., 2019). For these reasons, we find that the estimates provided by Germaineaud et al. (2016) are the best to use for this budget.

Chemical influx and efflux are calculated by considering transport and the concentrations of each DA1, DMn, TDA1, and TDMn at appropriate stations as follows:

$$\text{Flux (moles/s)} = \text{volume transport (m}^3\text{/s)} \times [\text{element}] \text{ (moles/m}^3\text{)}$$

For the efflux, transport out of the Solomon Sea is considered for each of the exit straits combined with the depth-weighted average concentration at stations closest to them.

The specific assumptions and processes used to determine average concentration for each flux are described below.

2.1.1 Inflow

We assume the Al and Mn concentrations at stations 10 and 82 to be representative of those flowing into the Solomon Sea. Station 10 is located where water flows across the Vanuatu Archipelago via the North Vanuatu Jet, while station 82 is located in the middle of the Coral Sea, farther away from potential shelf inputs, and likely is dominated by water flowing via the NQC. Station 34, which is the station likely to be most representative of the NGCU inflow, was not

sampld through the potential density range of the EUC due to bad weather, and also shows elevated Al relative to other profiles within the Solomon Sea, suggesting shelf input, and we have therefore chosen not to consider it as a background profile. While a full profile of trace metal samples was not collected for station 34, a standard CTD-rosette package collected a full depth CTD profile, which shows that temperature, salinity, oxygen, and potential density profiles at this station appear to be intermediate between stations 10 and 82. Station 82 generally has lower concentrations of Mn and Al (by ~0.2 nM Mn and up to 5 nM Al) than Station 10. To calculate influx, the average Al and Mn concentrations over each density interval for station 82 and 10 were calculated and multiplied by transport rate. Error was determined using the combined analytical error (1SD) of the measurements used to calculate the average.

2.1.2 Outflow

The depth-weighted average concentrations of DAl, TDAI, DMn, and TDMn over each density interval for each strait/station were multiplied by water transport rate (Eq. 1). The chemical distributions at station 77 (Vitiaz Strait), station 60 (St. George's Channel), and station 42 (Solomon Strait) are assumed to be representative of the water leaving the Solomon Sea. Station 60 is not located within St. George's Channel; however we assume that it is representative of water leaving the Solomon Sea via this channel for two reasons. First, the temperature-salinity profile of other stations sampled using the standard CTD rosette in Saint George's Channel are similar to Station 60 (Germineaud et al., 2016). Second, ADCP data at station 60 show that currents flow toward both Saint George's Channel and the Solomon Strait, meaning that at least some portion of the water that flows across station 60 must ultimately be directed out of the Solomon Sea (Germineaud et al., 2016).

3. Results

DAI, TDAI, DMn, and TDMn in and around the Solomon Sea from the 2012 PANDORA cruise are shown versus potential density in Figures 2-5, and versus depth (supplemental Fig. S2-S5). Here we define the surface layer as being from the surface ($\sim 21\sigma_\theta$) to $24\sigma_\theta$ (0- ~ 150 m), the thermocline layer from ~ 150 - ~ 450 m (24 - $26.9\sigma_\theta$), and deep waters at depths $>\sim 450$ m- 1300 m ($>26.9\sigma_\theta$). Each plot includes a profile of the average of stations 10 and 82, which are considered to be representative of water entering the Solomon Sea at its southern entrance. However, we note that these profiles are not representative of all surface water entering the Solomon Sea, as there is additional inflow through the Solomon Islands or through the Solomon Strait (e.g., Hristova and Kessler, 2012; Albery et al., 2019).

Table 1a. Depth-weighted average DAI and TDAI concentrations. Values are calculated by integrating concentration data over the depth interval corresponding to the potential density range of each station. Reported error represents one standard deviation calculated from the analytical error of each measurement.

	Station	Surface layer Surf – $24\sigma_\theta$		Thermocline layer /NGCU 24 – $26.9\sigma_\theta$		Deep layer $<26.9\sigma_\theta$	
		DAI (nM)	TDAI (nM)	DAI (nM)	TDAI (nM)	DAI (nM)	TDAI (nM)
Inflow	82	12.7 $\pm$ 0.6	12.7 $\pm$ 0.6	6.2 $\pm$ 0.8	7.8 $\pm$ 0.8	6.8 $\pm$ 0.8	7.3 $\pm$ 0.8
	10	10.4 $\pm$ 0.7	10.1 $\pm$ 0.8	5.8 $\pm$ 0.8	5.1 $\pm$ 0.8	8.0 $\pm$ 0.9	7.5 $\pm$ 0.9
	Average	11.4$\pm$1.3	11.2$\pm$1.5	6.0$\pm$0.8	6.5$\pm$1.5	7.5$\pm$0.7	7.4$\pm$0.7
NGCU Flow path	34	12.5 $\pm$ 0.6	12.5 $\pm$ 0.6	10.5 $\pm$ 0.6	11.5 $\pm$ 0.5		
	39	13.3 $\pm$ 0.5	13.2 $\pm$ 0.5	6.5 $\pm$ 0.8	6.4 $\pm$ 0.8	8.3 $\pm$ 0.7	7.9 $\pm$ 0.7
	71	12.5 $\pm$ 0.8	12.6 $\pm$ 0.8	6.0 $\pm$ 1.3	8.0 $\pm$ 1.3	6.0 $\pm$ 1.4	9.6 $\pm$ 1.4
Outflow/ Straits	77	15.5 $\pm$ 0.7	19.1 $\pm$ 0.8	9.0 $\pm$ 0.7	10.8 $\pm$ 0.5	8.1 $\pm$ 0.8	11.5 $\pm$ 0.8
	42	11.0 $\pm$ 0.7	13.0 $\pm$ 0.7	8.9 $\pm$ 0.7	9.5 $\pm$ 0.7	9.3 $\pm$ 0.7	12.9 $\pm$ 0.8
	60	12.3 $\pm$ 0.7	12.3 $\pm$ 0.7	6.6 $\pm$ 0.7	7.5 $\pm$ 0.7	6.1 $\pm$ 0.7	9.3 $\pm$ 0.7
Outside of Solomon Sea	43	6.3 $\pm$ 0.5	5.7 $\pm$ 0.7	6.0 $\pm$ 1.0	4.7 $\pm$ 1.1	5.9 $\pm$ 1.0	6.0 $\pm$ 0.7
	13	9.6 $\pm$ 1.0	9.2 $\pm$ 0.9	5.6 $\pm$ 1.2	5.6 $\pm$ 1.2	8.6 $\pm$ 1.1	7.6 $\pm$ 1.1
	21	14.4 $\pm$ 0.7	23.5 $\pm$ 0.8	9.4 $\pm$ 0.8	15.0 $\pm$ 1.1	10.2 $\pm$ 0.7	15.3 $\pm$ 1.1
	4	11.9 $\pm$ 0.5	11.5 $\pm$ 0.5	10.2 $\pm$ 0.8	10.1 $\pm$ 0.8	7.7 $\pm$ 0.8	8.8 $\pm$ 0.9

Table 1b. Depth-weighted average DMn and TDMn concentrations. Values are calculated by integrating concentration data over the depth interval corresponding to the potential density range of each station. Reported error represents one standard deviation calculated from the analytical error of each measurement.							
		Surface layer Surf – 24 σ_θ		Thermocline layer/NGCU 24 – 26.9 σ_θ		Deep layer <26.9 σ_θ	
	Station	DMn (nM)	TDMn (nM)	DMn (nM)	TDMn (nM)	DMn (nM)	TDMn (nM)
Inflow	82	1.52±0.11	1.61±0.11	0.27±0.02	0.41±0.03	0.23±0.02	0.41±0.03
	10	1.21±0.11	1.30±0.09	0.27±0.02	0.39±0.02	0.37±0.02	0.56±0.05
	Average	1.32±0.22	1.43±0.19	0.27±0.02	0.40±0.02	0.30±0.07	0.48±0.07
NGCU Flow path	34	0.59±0.12	0.84±0.06	0.30±0.04	0.48±0.04		
	39	1.32±0.09	1.51±0.10	0.25±0.05	0.43±0.05	0.27±0.04	0.53±0.05
	71	1.05±0.06	1.15±0.06	0.24±0.03	0.40±0.04	0.34±0.04	0.63±0.06
Outflow/ Straits	77	1.22±0.10	1.45±0.12	0.26±0.01	0.49±0.02	0.51±0.04	0.88±0.07
	42	0.77±0.06	1.07±0.09	0.27±0.05	0.49±0.05	0.46±0.06	0.81±0.06
	60	1.26±0.10	1.35±0.11	0.28±0.02	0.44±0.03	0.43±0.03	0.74±0.06
Outside of Solomon Sea	43	0.72±0.05	0.79±0.05	0.32±0.14	0.42±0.04	0.33±0.03	0.50±0.05
	13	0.70±0.05	0.80±0.06	0.29±0.10	0.40±0.09	0.39±0.08	0.60±0.05
	21	0.93±0.07	1.38±0.11	0.31±0.09	0.56±0.04	0.38±0.08	0.68±0.05
	4	1.54±0.09	1.58±0.09	0.38±0.02	0.54±0.05	0.36±0.02	0.63±0.06

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303 In the surface layer, average DA_I and TDA_I inflowing water are 11.4 ± 1.4 nM and 11.2 ± 1.3
304 nM, respectively. Within the Solomon Sea (stations 34, 39, 71) and in St. George's Channel
305 (station 60), average DA_I and TDA_I in the surface layer are ~1-2 nM greater than in the
306 inflowing water. The Solomon Strait (station 42) shows a decrease in DA_I (~0.5 nM), but an
307 enrichment of ~1nM in TDA_I. By contrast the Vitiaz Strait (station 77), shows a much greater
308 enrichment in both DA_I and TDA_I (~4 nM and ~8 nM, respectively). Outside of the Solomon
309 Sea to the north and northeast (stations 13 and 43; Figs. 2,3 j,k) DA_I and TDA_I are ~2-5 nM
310 lower than the waters entering the Solomon Sea. Station 21, which is just outside of the eastern
311 opening of the Solomon Sea and south of the Solomon Islands, is fed by waters from north of the
312 Solomon Islands (e.g., from station 13) that flows through gaps in the islands, resulting in
313 average concentrations at station 21 being enriched by 5 nM for DA_I and 13 nM for TDA_I
314 relative to their concentrations at station 13.

315 In the thermocline layer which, within the Solomon Sea, is largely made up of the NGCU (~150-
316 450 m; 24-26.9 σ_θ), DA_I and TDA_I generally decrease from surface concentrations to lower
317 values, often reaching mid-depth minima at different depths for different stations (Fig. 2 and Fig.
318 S2). Over this density range, the inflowing waters have depth-weighted average DA_I and TDA_I
319 concentrations of 6.0 ± 0.8 nM, and 6.5 ± 1.5 nM, respectively. Along the flow path of the
320 NGCU (stations 39 and 71), concentrations remain roughly constant relative to inflow, with
321 slight enrichments of DA_I (~0.5 nM) at station 39 and TDA_I (~1.6 nM) at station 71. In the exit
322 straits (stations 42, 60, and 77) DA_I and TDA_I are enriched relative to the inflow by ~0.65 nM –
323 4 nM. To the north and northeast of the Solomon Sea (station 13 and 43) DA_I is similar to the
324 inflowing water, while TDA_I is less at station 13 (~1 nM) and station 43 (~2 nM; however, it
325 should be noted that DA_I at station 43 exceeds TDA_I, suggesting that these samples may be
326 slightly contaminated). Stations 4 and 21, which are close to local bathymetry (e.g., sills, straits)
327 are enriched in DA_I at both stations by ~4 nM, and in TDA_I by ~4 nM and ~8 nM at station 4
328 and 21, respectively.

329 In the deep layer (>450 m; >26.9 σ_θ) the depth-weighted average inflowing DA_I is 7.5 ± 0.7 nM,
330 and TDA_I is 7.4 ± 0.7 nM. Within the basin (stations 39 and 71), in the Vitiaz Strait (station 77),
331 as well as outside the Solomon Sea (station 13), depth-weighted average DA_I concentrations are
332 within the observed variability of the inflowing water. There is slight enrichment in DA_I (~2-3
333 nM) in the Solomon Strait (station 42) and near the Solomon Islands (station 21). There are
334 small (2-3 nM) enrichments of TDA_I within the basin at station 71 and in St. George's channel at
335 station 60, and larger enrichments relative to the inflow (4-5 nM) in Vitiaz (station 77) and
336 Solomon (station 42) Straits, as well ~8 nM enrichment at station 21 on the eastern edge of the
337 basin, again reflecting the proximity to local bathymetry. Northeast of the Solomon Sea (station
338 43), both DA_I and TDA_I are depleted by ~1 nM, relative to the waters flowing into the Solomon
339 Sea.

340 Mn has a scavenged distribution at all stations, with the highest concentrations at the surface and
341 generally decreasing with depth. From the surface to $24\sigma_\theta$, the depth-weighted average
342 concentration of inflowing waters for DMn is 1.32 ± 0.22 nM, while TDMn is 1.43 ± 0.19 nM.
343 Within the Solomon Sea, DMn and TDMn at most stations do not vary from these inflow values
344 (stations 39, 60, 77), or are depleted relative to the inflowing waters by $\sim 0.3 - 0.7$ nM along the
345 flow path of the NGCU (stations 34, 42). Station 21 is also depleted in DMn by ~ 0.4 nM relative
346 to inflowing waters. Outside the Solomon Sea (stations 13, 43), DMn and TDMn are depleted by
347 ~ 0.6 nM relative to inflowing water, while south of the Solomon Sea at station 4, DMn and
348 TDMn concentrations are ~ 0.2 nM higher than the waters flowing into the Solomon Sea.

349 Over $24-26.9 \sigma_\theta$, the depth-weighted average DMn of inflowing water is 0.27 ± 0.02 nM and
350 TDMn is 0.40 ± 0.02 nM. In this density interval, most stations have DMn and TDMn
351 concentrations that are within the variability of the inflow. There are a few stations where there
352 is enrichment (~ 0.1 nM) of TDMn – along the flow path of the NGCU at station 34, in the Vitiaz
353 (station 77) and Solomon (station 42) Straits. TDMn is enriched ~ 0.2 nM near the Solomon
354 Islands (station 21). South of the Solomon Sea (station 4) DMn and TDMn are higher than those
355 waters entering the Solomon Sea by ~ 0.1 nM and ~ 0.2 nM respectively.

356 In the deeper ocean (>450 m; $>26.9 \sigma_\theta$), on average, DMn and TDMn generally increase with
357 depth at all stations. Below $26.9 \sigma_\theta$, the inflowing waters have a depth-weighted average DMn
358 concentration of 0.30 ± 0.07 nM and TDMn concentration of 0.48 ± 0.07 nM. In the straits,
359 (stations 77, 60, and 42), enrichments in DMn and TDMn relative to the inflow are on the order
360 of $0.1-0.2$ nM and $0.3-0.4$ nM, respectively. Within the basin (stations 34, 39, 71) the average
361 concentrations of DMn are generally similar to those in the inflow, while smaller enrichments
362 (~ 0.1 nM) of TDMn are found at stations 4, 10, 13, 71, and of 0.2 nM at station 21.

4. Discussion

4.1 Al and Mn enrichments within the Solomon Sea

4.1.1 Surface Layer (surf - $24\sigma_\theta$)

Over this potential density interval, average Al and Mn concentrations are lowest in the surface ocean at the two stations (13 and 43) located in the westward flowing South Equatorial Current (SEC) north and east of the Solomon Islands just outside of the Solomon Sea, relative to concentrations elsewhere in the Solomon Sea basin. This must reflect their westward transport from the open ocean. This is consistent with the Al values observed at the eastern entrance of the Solomon Sea (station 10; Table 1a, Table S2). Within the Solomon Sea and the straits, average concentrations over this density interval tends to be higher.

The elevated surface concentrations (Table 1) that are observed in Mn and Al within the Solomon Sea could be derived from riverine, aeolian, or coastal/margin sources. Based on salinity, our data reveal no large inputs of fresh water to the Solomon Sea during this cruise and consequently no correlation between salinity and trace metals is observed. This means either that at the time of the cruise, trace metal inputs to the Solomon Sea via rivers were small or that trace metal inputs were large relative to freshwater input, which is more consistent with observations of high sediment loads, relative to fluvial discharge in this region (e.g., Milliman et al., 1999). Dust input to the Solomon Sea can be predicted using the MADCOW model (Measures and Brown, 1996) based on regional dust fluxes and empirical dust solubilities. Using a dust flux of $1.0 \text{ g m}^{-2} \text{ y}^{-1}$ to the Solomon Sea (Shank and Johansen, 2008), an empirical dust solubility of 6.0% (Buck et. al., 2006), a residence time of surface water in the Solomon Sea of 0.6-2 months (estimated based on an average velocity of $20\text{-}60 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ over the $\sim 1000 \text{ km}$ distance between the inflow and outflow, and consistent with literature estimates (Melet et al., 2011, Hristova and

Kessler, 2012; Alberty et al., 2019)) and a mixed layer depth <100 m (based the definition of de Boyer Montégut et al., 2004), it can be estimated that DAl added from dust deposition accounts for only 0.30 nM to 1.14 nM of the DAl added to the surface waters as they transit through the Solomon Sea which is only $\sim 5.4\% \pm 2.5\%$ (1SD) of DAl present there. Thus, dust is a relatively small source of DAl to the waters in this region. A similar estimation for DMn can be made using a fractional solubility of Mn in dust of 45.1% from Buck et al. (2013), and a crustal abundance of Mn of 954 ppm from Taylor, (1964) to be consistent with the reference used by Measures and Brown (1996). We estimate that DMn added from dust deposition as the waters transit through the Solomon Sea to be only 0.01 nM to 0.05 nM or $\sim 1.9\% \pm 0.9\%$ (1SD) of DMn present in the surface Solomon Sea.

Elevated Al and Mn concentrations in the surface ocean within the straits and Solomon Sea, relative to inflowing waters or stations outside the Solomon Sea, suggest that these elements become enriched when waters interact with local bathymetry as they enter the basin. The SEC transports surface waters into the Solomon Sea passing through both the Solomon Strait and other gaps in the Solomon archipelago ultimately exiting through the Vitiaz strait (Cravatte et al., 2011; Hristova and Kessler, 2012). TDAI of the surface samples in both the Solomon Strait (station 42 – 18.7 ± 0.4 nM) and Vitiaz Strait (station 77 – 38.7 ± 0.4 nM) are enriched compared to DAl (13.5 ± 0.3 nM, 28.7 ± 0.4 nM respectively) suggesting the input of sediments or rapid removal of DAl by scavenging. A similar but muted effect is seen for Mn at these stations. The high Mn (2.5 nM) and Al (>20 nM) in the surface waters that exit through the Vitiaz Strait (station 77) must result from scouring and entrainment of local sediments into the water column due to rapid geostrophic current velocities (20-60 cm/s; e.g. Hristova and Kessler 2012) coupled with the narrow strait. A maximum in Rare Earth Elements (REE), including dissolved Cerium (Ce), was also observed in the surface waters at station 77 during the PANDORA cruise (Pham et al., 2019). At the eastern end of the Solomon archipelago, where waters flow from the SEC (station 13) through the islands to station 21, Mn and Al concentrations are also greater than those in the SEC (see results) reflecting input from the islands and the scouring of coastal sediments. This is

also largely consistent with enrichments in REEs observed during PANDORA (Pham et al., 2019). The surface water flowing through the Solomon Sea has a residence time of ~ 53 -103 days (Melet et al., 2011), so input and removal processes for Mn and Al must be both strong and rapid to produce the changes in concentrations observed here.

Using transport estimates reported in Germaineaud et al. (2016) and the average concentrations of metals at stations in/near the straits, we can estimate the fluxes entering the Solomon Sea from the southern entrance and exiting via the three straits. However, transport estimates (Germaineaud et al., 2016) are unbalanced with a transport entering the Solomon Sea via the southern entrance of 3.3 ± 0.4 Sv, and exiting the Solomon Sea of 6.9 ± 0.6 Sv (4.5 ± 0.4 Sv through the Vitiaz Strait and a combined 2.4 ± 0.3 Sv through St. George's Channel, and the Solomon Strait). The missing flow likely enters through the gaps in the Solomon Islands. As a result, in the surface layer, our budget is unbalanced, and the larger exit fluxes reflect the differences in flow. Table 2 reports the flux in through the southern entrance and out through the straits. While we cannot calculate a balanced flux value for the inflow, the depth-weighted average concentrations at the exit straits all suggest that water leaving the Solomon Sea is within the variability of, or enriched in, Al and Mn relative to the inflowing surface layer (Table 1).

Trace metal fluxes based on transport in the surface layer are reported in Table 2. This budget does not consider diapycnal/vertical mixing between layers, because vertical mixing does not appear to be reflected in the chemical profiles that we see in Al and Mn in the upper NGCU. While diapycnal mixing in the Solomon Sea is important (Melet et al., 2011), based on the erosion of the salinity maximum in the thermocline between the entrance and the exit of the Solomon Sea and the salinity of the surface layer, we calculate that no more than 33% of water is mixed between our density intervals. Additionally, several water masses converge upon entrance into the Solomon Sea (e.g., Kessler et al., 2019) and there is evidence of vertical mixing due to internal tides in the region (e.g., Melet et al., 2011), making diapycnal mixing in the surface layer hard to resolve.

Table 2: Transport and trace metal flux estimates for the surface (surf-24) in the Solomon Sea. Transport estimates from Germaineaud et al. (2016). Solomon Strait and St. George's Channel transport are estimated based on total transit through the two outflow straits. Errors represent the combined error from the transport estimate and the analytical error (1 SD) of the average concentration.

Station	Transport (Sv)	DAI (mol/s)	TDAI (mol/s)	DMn (mol/s)	TDMn (mol/s)
Inflow	3.3 ± 0.4	38 ± 6	37 ± 7	4.4 ± 0.9	4.71 ± 0.8
Vitiaz Strait (station 77)	4.5 ± 0.1	70 ± 4	86 ± 4	5.5 ± 0.5	6.5 ± 0.5
Solomon Strait (station 42)	1.2 ± 0.3	13 ± 3	15.6 ± 4.0	0.9 ± 0.2	1.3 ± 0.3
St. George's Channel (station 60)	1.2 ± 0.3	15 ± 4	14.7 ± 3.8	1.5 ± 0.4	1.6 ± 0.4
Total Outflow	6.9 ± 0.3	98 ± 11	116 ± 12	7.9 ± 1.1	9.4 ± 1.3

440

441

442 4.1.2 Thermocline layer – ~150-450 m and 24-26.9 σ_θ

443 The water between ~150-450 m and 24-26.9 σ_θ is dominated by the core of NGCU, which
 444 originates from the south and east of the Solomon Sea (see section 1.1). At this depth/density
 445 range, dissolved and total dissolvable Al and Mn are lower than in the surface ocean (see Table 1
 446 and results), however there are enrichments in DAI, TDAI, and TDMn (but not DMn) relative to
 447 the water flowing into the Solomon Sea (Sta. 10 and 82). The pattern of enrichments is similar,
 448 in part, to those in the surface layer with enrichments in DAI, TDAI, and TDMn in the Solomon
 449 (station 42) and Vitiaz (station 77) straits. At station 21 where water flows roughly from station
 450 13 to 21 through the gaps in the Solomon Islands (Hristova and Kessler, 2012) and near a
 451 shallow sill, enrichments in DAI, TDAI, DMn, and TDMn are observed (Figures 2-5, k and l).

Sampling during PANDORA included measurements of Rare Earth Elements, and our data is consistent with increases in dissolved Lanthanum (La), Neodymium (Nd), Europium (Eu), and Ytterbium (Yb) between stations 13 and 21, reported by Pham et al. (2019). Dissolved Ce and the Ce anomaly are not modified between stations (Pham et al., 2019), which suggests that the water mass is the same between the two stations, but that particle inputs are recent and modifications do not cause changes in dissolved Ce, because it is insoluble. The best explanation for these observations is sediment resuspension which is supported by larger enrichments (~9 nM TDAI, 0.2 nM TDMn) in total dissolvable metals versus dissolved metals (~4 nM DAI, ~0 nM DMn). Coincident enrichment of Mn and Al also occurs in the Vitiaz Strait (station 77), similarly suggesting sediment resuspension, rather than reductive release from shelf sediments or hydrothermal input at these stations, as these other two processes would impact Mn distributions to a greater extent than Al distributions. This is also consistent with Ce anomaly data, which shows decreasing solubility, rather than remineralization in the Vitiaz Strait (Pham et al., 2019). Physical resuspension/non-reductive dissolution is implicated for the enrichment of Fe in the Vitiaz Strait and the NICU based on Fe isotope measurements (Labatut et al., 2014). These Fe enrichments reflect particulate iron transported from the continent across shelves and slopes, followed by release of DFe from suspended particles (Labatut et al., 2014). This has also been observed for Al and Mn in other regions. Al remobilized from benthic nepheloid layers is an important source for Al in the deep waters of the North Pacific (Moran and Moore, 1991). Lateral transport of Mn remobilized from shelves has been observed off the coast of California (Martin et al., 1987) who show that major sub-surface maxima and minima in the Mn distributions are controlled primarily by sedimentary release combined with water mass movement and physical mixing, rather than through scavenging and remineralization processes.

The NGCU is expected to flow from station 34 to 39 and then to 71 after which it bifurcates, going WNW to the Vitiaz strait (station 77) and NE to station 60 and then on to the Solomon strait (station 42) (Fig. 1). Two of the stations along the predicted flow path of the NGCU (34 and 71) show enrichments in DAI, TDAI, and TDMn that exceed the variability of the average

inflow profile, while station 39 shows no enrichments in either Al or Mn (see Table 1 and results). At station 71, the coherence between DAl and TDAI provides confidence in sample quality and thus the lack of a mid-depth enrichment at station 39 indicates that this station is either not in the NGCU, or that local trace metal input and removal are highly dynamic and variable. Based on transport and current speeds, the NGCU/NBCU is estimated to take 2-4 months to transit through the Solomon Sea, which is also consistent with model estimates of residence times (Melet et al., 2011). This is much shorter than reported residence times of Al in the open ocean. Because this region has large coastal influence, it is possible that input and removal of Al are rapid, and riverine inputs and coastal sediments must release and scavenge Al on shorter timescales than the residence time of NGCU waters in the Solomon Sea. If station 34 is not in the flow path of the NGCU, then the enrichments seen at station 39 are local. However, if station 39 is not in the flow path of the NGCU, then the enrichments at station 71 might be sourced from the upstream waters coming from station 34. In either case, the small increases in TDAI without enrichments in DAl and Mn at station 60 may be sourced from station 71.

In the thermocline layer, observations show that water transport into and out of the Solomon Sea was roughly equal at the time of the PANDORA cruise with transport into the Solomon Sea at its southern entrance $\approx 23.6 \pm 0.8$ Sv, and transport out of the Solomon Sea through the exit straits $\approx 22.8 \pm 1.0$ Sv (Germineaud et al., 2016). This allows us to construct a steady state budget with regard to transport over this density interval. Despite strong seasonal and interannual variability in flow through the Solomon Sea, (e.g., Germaineaud et al., 2016; Albery et al., 2019), estimates of the transport of the EUC (e.g., Grenier et al., 2011; Lindstrom et al., 1987; Tsuchiya et al., 1989) are similar to the Solomon Sea transport over this density interval (22-23 Sv) observed by Germaineaud et al. (2016) during PANDORA. In our steady state model, chemical influx is thus calculated by multiplying the depth-weighted average inflow profile for the Solomon Sea by 22.8 ± 1.0 Sv. We also consider that DAl, TDAI, DMn, and TDMn distributions in the Vitiaz Strait (station 77), St. George's Channel (station 60), and Solomon Strait (station 42) are

505 representative of the water leaving the Solomon Sea via the NGCU, SGU, and NICU,
 506 respectively.

507 The inflow, outflow, and EUC trace metal fluxes are reported in Table 3.

Table 3. Transport and trace metal flux estimates for the thermocline layer (24-26.9 σ_θ) in the Solomon Sea. Transport estimates are from Germaineaud et al. (2016). Solomon Strait and St. George's Channel transport are estimated based on total transit through the two outflow straits. Errors represent the combined uncertainty from the transport estimate and the analytical error (1 SD) of the average concentration.

	Transport (Sv)	Dal mols/s	TDAI mols/s	DMn mols/s	TDMn mols/s
Inflow* (mol s ⁻¹)	22.8 ± 1.0	136 ± 19	147 ± 35	6.1 ± 0.5	9.1 ± 0.6
Vitiaz Strait (station 77)	10.3 ± 0.3	93 ± 8	111 ± 5	2.7 ± 0.1	5.0 ± 0.3
Solomon Strait (station 42)	6.25 ± 0.4	56 ± 6	59 ± 6	1.7 ± 0.3	3.1 ± 0.4
St. George's Channel (station 60)	6.25 ± 0.5	42 ± 5	47 ± 4	1.7 ± 0.2	2.7 ± 0.3
Outflow (mol s ⁻¹)	22.8 ± 1.0	190 ± 19	217 ± 16	6.1 ± 0.6	10.8 ± 1.0

508

509 These data show that at the time of the PANDORA cruise, fluxes of DAi, TDAi, and TDMn out
 510 of the Solomon Sea in the thermocline waters were only slightly higher (8-90 mol/s DAi, 7-130
 511 mol/s TDAi, 0.3-2.4 mol/s TDMn) than fluxes into the Solomon Sea, and that DMn fluxes
 512 remained constant through the basin.

4.1.3 Deep layer – 450-1400 m; $>26.9 \sigma_\theta$

In the deeper ocean (450m – 1300m; $26.9 \sigma_\theta$ - $\sim 27.5 \sigma_\theta$) Al and Mn generally show enrichment within the straits or near local bathymetry, which is similar to what was observed in the thermocline layer, with some exceptions. The enrichments in TDAI and TDMn relative to background concentrations that are observed in the Vitiaz and Solomon Straits (stations 77 and 42) reflect the proximity of these stations to local bathymetry, combined with flow through these straits by the NGCU (station 77) and NICU (station 42). Similarly at station 21, increases in DAI, TDAI, and TDMn relative to concentrations at station 13 reflect enrichments due to scouring as the SEC flows through the Solomon Islands.

Other factors, such as accumulation of sinking particles may be responsible for the enrichments in Mn and Al at stations 39, 71, and 60, which lie deep within the Solomon Sea and are isolated from local features. The Woodlark Rise, extending 250 km NE from the Woodlark Island Archipelago to within ~ 60 km from the Solomon Archipelago, is a ridge line of bathymetric highs that reach ≤ 1000 m with gaps between highs reaching ~ 1500 m. This feature creates a semi-enclosed basin below ~ 1000 m that encompasses stations 71 and 60 in the NE Solomon Sea. Below 400m, the NGCU (Alberty et al., 2019) transits from the Coral Sea and flows around the Louisiade Archipelago and then around, through, and/or over the Woodlark Rise; below 1000 m it likely passes through the channel between the Woodlark Rise and the Solomon Islands (Fig. 1b). At stations 42 and 60, enrichments in TDAI and TDMn, the HCl-labile portion of the particulate fraction, likely represent sinking particles accumulating along the flow path of the NGCU/NBCU and within the semi-enclosed basin due to longer residence time for waters there. The residence time of water in the basin between ~ 450 and ~ 1400 m is estimated to be <1 year based on models (Melet et al., 2011) or transport estimates, however transport (and current speed) significantly decreases with depth below 450m (Alberty et al., 2019; Gasparin et al., 2012) resulting in increased residence times with depth.

The relative increases in TDAI and TDMn also arise from the scavenging of dissolved phases sourced along the flow path or from particles resuspended as water flows over the Woodlark rise and other bathymetry. Through the Vitiaz Strait (station 77), there is likely sediment resuspension from the bottom and walls of the channel (~ 1100 m/ $27.4 \sigma_\theta$) as water passes through. The larger enrichments in the exit straits may also be due to accumulation of sinking particles, or other local, shorter-lived phenomena (e.g., increased river runoff), though we do not have enough information to say this definitively. It is possible that at these deeper depths, especially through the Solomon Strait (station 42), decreased current speeds lessen the likelihood of scouring and sediment resuspension, supporting a role for sinking particles from shallow sources. Additional measurements in this region would help better constrain this hypothesis.

The straits in the Solomon Sea also exhibit increases in DMn with depth, which, in the deep layer, generally indicates recent inputs from sedimentary and/or hydrothermal sources but can also be associated with oxygen deficient zones. Prior to reaching the Woodlark Rise, within the Woodlark basin, hydrothermal activity is present at >2500 m (Laurila et al., 2012) with shallower hydrothermal activity inferred at Kana Keoki seamount at 650 m near the Solomon Archipelago (InterRidge Database: <https://vents-data.interridge.org/>). These are unlikely to be the source of the Mn enrichments between 700 and 1350 m, however. Given the highly tectonic and magmatic character of the region, hydrothermal hot springs likely exist throughout the basin. Diffusion from or resuspension of sediments are also possible source mechanisms for DMn whose input coincides with transport through and along the Woodlark Rise. Dissolved oxygen remains relatively elevated throughout the basin at these depths, suggesting that particle remineralization does not play a large role in maintaining DMn levels. This is supported by dissolved Ce concentrations (Pham et al., 2019), which decrease as water flows through the basin, and Ce anomalies in the deeper ocean that do not indicate any shifts towards either remineralization or increased solubility due to changes in redox chemistry. The increase in DMn concentrations between stations 71 and 60 versus those in the straits suggest that sediments may be the predominant sources of DMn in the regional deep layer. The absence of an enrichment in

DMn, DAi, and TDAi at station 39 (and small TDMn enrichment) suggests that there is little to no Mn input as the NGCU transits through and around bathymetry prior to reaching station 39 at these depths. While it is possible that the NGCU is bathymetrically steered away from station 39, it seems more likely that Mn and/or Al are added after passing this station. The presence of DMn at this station suggests that the TDMn is sourced at depth from the oxidation and scavenging of DMn. Station 21 also shows enrichments in TDMn, TDAi, and DAi relative to stations outside of the Solomon Sea suggesting the accumulation of dissolved metals and sediments as water flows through the Solomon Archipelago. While various small enrichments are observed at stations outside of the Solomon Sea, it is not possible to evaluate background values for these stations. However, we do note that the SEC flows past many shallow seamounts en route to the Solomon Sea.

Estimated fluxes of trace metals in the deep layer are determined based on transport estimates for the PANDORA cruise calculated by Germaineaud et al. (2016) and are reported in Table 4. Because there is less mixing deeper in the ocean, transport estimates are more consistent between the inflow (9.3 ± 1.4 Sv) and outflow (8.4 ± 2.6 Sv) than they are in the surface layer, but there are still large uncertainties on transport estimates deeper in the water column, as well as a slight imbalance between inflowing and outflowing water transport. Fluxes reported here for total outflow show that trace metal modifications are minimal relative to inflowing water, despite regions of local enrichment observed in profile data.

Table 4: Transport and trace metal flux estimates for the deep layer ($>26.9\sigma_\theta$) in the Solomon Sea. Transport estimates from Germaineaud et al. (2016). Solomon Strait and St. George's Channel transport are estimated based on total transit through the two outflow straits. The combined error from the transport estimate and the analytical error (1 SD) of the average concentration.

Station	Transport (Sv)	DAI (mol/s)	TDAI (mol/s)	DMn (mol/s)	TDMn (mol/s)
Inflow	9.3 ± 1.4	69.6 ± 12.1	68.6 ± 12.0	2.76 ± 0.78	4.51 ± 0.96
Vitiaz Strait (station 77)	4.6 ± 0.2	37.3 ± 4.0	53.0 ± 4.2	2.33 ± 0.20	4.05 ± 0.37
Solomon Strait (station 42)	1.9 ± 1.2	17.7 ± 11.6	24.5 ± 15.5	0.87 ± 0.56	1.54 ± 0.98
St. George's Channel (station 60)	1.9 ± 1.2	11.6 ± 7.5	18.9 ± 12.0	0.81 ± 0.51	1.40 ± 0.89
Total Outflow	8.4 ± 2.6	66.61 ± 22.7	96.3 ± 31.7	4.01 ± 1.27	6.99 ± 2.24

4.2 Constraining the Solomon Sea Flux to the EUC

The EUC is largely composed of water originating from the NGCU/thermocline waters (24-26.9 σ_θ), and so we can compare the flux of trace metals out of the Solomon Sea (Table 3) in this layer to the flux of trace metals in the EUC over the same density interval by using average DAI, TDAI, DMn, and TDMn concentrations from the EUC collected at 0°, 156 °E by Slemons et al. (2010; Station 22). At this longitude, water exiting the Solomon Sea would have been entrained in the EUC. These measurements were collected six years before the PANDORA cruise, but during the same season, and in a similar ENSO phase. The implicit assumption in the comparison of flux out of the Solomon Sea and the flux into the EUC is that everything leaving the Solomon Sea at that depth range enters the EUC, as shown in Fig. 6. This is clearly not the case, but this assumption establishes an upper bound for trace metals contributed from the Solomon Sea to the EUC. For flux estimates several additional assumptions are made: the Solomon Sea is in steady state and not temporally variable; stations in the straits are representative of water leaving the Solomon Sea; and that the two profiles used for inflow waters

are, on average, representative water entering the Solomon Sea. The trace metal fluxes of the Solomon Sea Inflow, Outflow, and flux at the EUC are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Average metal fluxes into and out of the Solomon Sea at 24-26.9°S compared to metal fluxes in the EUC 156°E. This assumes that transport in and out of the Solomon Sea is $22.8 \text{ Sv} \pm 1.0 \text{ Sv}$. Errors are calculated using uncertainty reported on transport estimates (1SD) by Germaineaud et al. (2016) and analytical error of the concentration data (1SD)

	DAI	TDAI	DMn	TDMn
Inflow (mol s^{-1})	136 ± 19	147 ± 35	6.1 ± 0.5	9.1 ± 0.6
Outflow (mol s^{-1})	190 ± 19	217 ± 16	6.1 ± 0.6	10.8 ± 1.0
In EUC (mol s^{-1})	160 ± 9	177 ± 10	7.8 ± 0.4	17 ± 0.9

4.2.1 Sources of water to the EUC

It is important to note that the EUC does not receive its water solely from the Solomon Sea, and the breakdown of how much water comes from the Solomon Sea versus from other Southern and Northern Hemisphere sources is still unclear. Hydrographic parameters measured during the Western Equatorial Pacific Ocean Study (WEPOCS, 1985/1986) (e.g., Lindstrom et al., 1987; Tsuchiya et al., 1989) show the EUC was fed predominantly by water from the Southern Hemisphere with $\sim 2/3$ from southern low latitude western boundary currents, including the NGCU (Tsuchiya et al., 1989) and $\sim 1/4$ of the water originating in the Northern Hemisphere (Lindstrom et al., 1987; Tsuchiya et al., 1989). However, this study also observed a seasonally variable NGCU, including one season in which it flowed at the same rate as the EUC. Since then, other studies have investigated the relative importance of water from northern and southern sources and have come to differing conclusions about the proportion of water from the north and south. Grenier et al. (2011) estimate about 58% of the water in the EUC at 156°W passed through the Solomon Sea, and about 33% comes from the Mindanao Current in the north, with

the remainder coming from other sources south of the EUC. A modeling study by Izumo et al. (2002) indicates roughly equal contributions from the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, while other studies suggest the dominance of a southern source (Liu and Huang, 1998). Most recently, biogeochemical tracer data indicate that the nutrients in the EUC are primarily derived from Southern Hemisphere water: based on isotopic tracers (^{15}N and ^{18}O measured in nitrate) and oxygen measurements combined with the nutrient data (silicic acid and nitrate), the fraction of water in the EUC derived from the Mindanao Current (in the Northern Hemisphere) is estimated to be much smaller than that from the Southern Hemisphere (Lehmann et al., 2018).

The relative contributions of trace metals from the Solomon Sea to the EUC trace metal pool can then be estimated for the different estimates of northern versus southern water contribution to the EUC (Table 6). Averaging these estimates, our data suggest that about 70% of the DA_I, 80% of the TD_{Al}, 50% of DM_n, and 40% of the TD_{Mn} in the EUC must come from waters exiting the Solomon Sea. It is also important to note that there is seasonal variability in these estimates, and that as the EUC flows east, it entrains additional water, and the relative importance of the waters originally feeding the EUC diminishes during its eastward transit (Qin et al., 2015). Our results indicate that the Solomon Sea can supply a majority of the required Al to the EUC. However, relative to Al, there is proportionally less Mn in the EUC coming from the Solomon Sea, suggesting other sources to the EUC must be more enriched in Mn and have higher Mn/Al ratio.

Because there are other sources of water to the EUC, there are other potential sources of trace metals to the EUC that are not accounted for with these Solomon Sea data. Waters exiting the Solomon Sea through the Vitiaz Strait pass along the PNG coast/shelf and through the Bismark Sea. However Mn data collected at stations just beyond the Vitiaz Strait along the PNG coast by Slemons et al. (2010) are remarkably consistent with Mn concentrations reported here. By comparison Al concentrations along the coast vary greatly, especially in the surface, but are generally lower by ~2-5 nM (and in the surface up to 35 nM) compared to the data for the Solomon Sea reported here. These findings indicate that the PNG coastline does not provide the

missing Mn and may be a sink for Al. This is consistent with the findings of Mackey et al. (2002a) who show that while concentrations of Fe and Mn are high off the coast of PNG especially near the outflow of the Sepik River, this riverine source of Mn and Fe to the Bismarck Sea is insufficient to produce the concentrations of these elements observed in the EUC. Just beyond the Solomon Strait, enrichments observed for Rare Earth Elements indicate hydrothermal and/or lithogenic inputs to the waters along the flow path of the NICU (Behrens et al., 2020) between the Solomon Sea and EUC, however there are no Al and Mn data in this region and thus, while we might anticipate inputs of Al and Mn to the NICU, conclusions about their inputs to the NICU are not possible. As noted above, the EUC is derived from waters originating both from the south and north of the equator and the balance of Al and Mn required to balance the trace metal budget of the EUC may have their source there.

Table 6. Contribution of the Solomon Sea contribution to EUC trace metal pool based on variations in source waters. The flux of each trace metal out of the Solomon Sea is multiplied by the percentage of water contributed by the Solomon Sea to the EUC at 156°E based on different studies.

Reference	% of EUC derived from Southern Hemisphere	Method of Estimate	% trace metals contributed to EUC based on magnitude of source			
			DAI	TDAI	DMn	TDMn
	100%	Upper Bound	119	123	79	64
Grenier et al., 2011 ¹	59%	Model	70	72	47	38
Tsuchiya et al., 1989	67%	WEPOCS	80	82	53	43
Izumo et al., 2002	52%	Model	62	64	41	33
Lehman et al., 2018 ²	<70%	O ₂ , Si, N isotopes	83	86	55	45
Qin et al., 2015 ³	63%	Model	75	77	50	40
Average			74	76	49	40

¹ Fluxes are contribution from Solomon Sea, specifically, ² Looks at upper and lower EUC, ³40% Solomon Strait, 23% Vitiaz Strait at 165°E

5. Conclusions

Our data show that water exiting the Solomon Sea is important in supplying aluminum, and to a lesser degree, manganese, to the Equatorial Undercurrent. However, from a net budget perspective, the amount of Al and Mn enrichment that occurs within the basin is small, relative to the inflow concentrations, indicating that most of the Al and Mn was acquired prior to reaching the Solomon Sea or that inputs are approximately balanced by scavenging within the basin. This is also true for deeper water in the Solomon Sea. The trace metal pool in the surface layer does appear to be enriched relative to inflowing waters, but because of large seasonal variability and disparities in water transport between entrance and exit, more studies are needed to conclude this definitively.

Our work is consistent with previous studies and supports the idea that boundary exchange through sediment resuspension, non-reductive release of dissolved species from suspended particles, and scavenging onto these suspended particles are the dominant processes providing additional metals to the Solomon Sea (e.g., Lacan and Jeandel, 2005; Grenier et al., 2013; Labatut et al., 2014; Jeandel, 2016). These highly localized input processes indicate that a higher resolution study is required to better understand these boundary processes, and in particular, their potential to impact larger-scale cycling.

The importance of the Solomon Sea as a source of trace nutrients to the EUC is heavily influenced by the proportion of water in the EUC that is derived from the Southern Hemisphere. Improving our estimates of the EUC water mass breakdown from important regions of input in the Northern Hemisphere (e.g., North Equatorial Current, Mindanao Current) will be valuable in better constraining these fluxes. Higher sampling resolution (spatial and temporal) within the region, including within the EUC, at potential source regions south of the Solomon Sea (including near Vanuatu, and in the Coral Sea), and from the SEC will be important in constraining the impact of the waters passing through the Solomon Sea on the chemistry of the

EUC. This increased resolution would allow for a more thorough understanding of trace metal and nutrient dynamics in the western Pacific and their impact on the HNLC eastern equatorial Pacific.

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905 **Figure Captions**

906 **Fig. 1. a)** Sub-surface currents [dark blue; after Germaineaud et al. (2016)], rivers (blue text),
907 straits (purple text) and potential point sources (yellow) to the Solomon Sea. These currents are:
908 Equatorial Undercurrent (EUC); South Equatorial Current (SEC); New Guinea Coastal
909 Undercurrent (NGCU); New Ireland Coastal Undercurrent (NICU); Saint George's Undercurrent
910 (SGU); North Queensland Current (NQC); New Caledonia Jet (NCJ); North Vanuatu Jet (NVJ);
911 East Australian Current (EAC)
912 Red dots and numbers represent stations sampled for Al and Mn. Orange dot shows the
913 location of station 22 from Slemons et al. (2010). **b)** Bathymetry of the Woodlark
914 Basin and Trobriand Islands.

915 **Fig. 2.** Dissolved Al (DAI) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Light
916 blue circles show measured DAI concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DAI
917 profile, while grey shading represents the bounds of the average profile. Green box represents the
918 density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. **(a–c)** waters that are
919 located south of the Solomon Sea; **(d–f)** profiles found along the NGCU; **(g–i)** profiles that are at
920 the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; **(j–l)** located outside the Solomon Sea.

921 **Fig. 3.** Total Dissolvable Al (TDAI) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA
922 cruise. Dark blue circles show measured TDAI concentrations. Orange line represents average
923 inflow TDAI profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green
924 box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. **(a–**
925 **c)** waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; **(d–f)** profiles found along the NGCU; **(g–i)**
926 profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; **(j–l)** located outside the Solomon Sea.

Fig. 4. Dissolved Mn (DMn) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Pink diamonds show measured DMn concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DMn profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Fig. 5 Total Dissolvable Mn (TDMn) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Red diamonds show measured TDMn concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow TDMn profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which the mass balance is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Fig. 6. Budget for thermocline waters ($24\text{--}26.9\ \sigma_\theta$), showing the flux of DA1, TDA1, DMn, TDMn at the inflow, the outflow via currents (NGCU, NICU, and SGU), and the flux out of the EUC at 156°E , as well as the average concentration of the Solomon Sea, calculated from stations most representative of the Solomon Sea. Red dots represent stations used to calculate concentrations at each exit strait over the potential density range of the EUC

Supplemental Fig. 1. Implied labile particle concentrations of aluminum (PA1) and manganese (PMn). Where values are not reported, the dissolved (D) concentration exceeded the total dissolvable (TD) concentration, but within the standard deviation of the measurement. $P = TD - D$.

Supplemental Fig. 2. Dissolved Al (DAI) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Light blue circles show measured DAI concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DAI profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Supplemental Fig. 3. Total Dissolvable Al (TDAI) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Dark blue circles show measured TDAI concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow TDAI profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Supplemental Fig. 4. Dissolved Mn (DMn) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Pink diamonds show measured DMn concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DMn profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Supplemental Fig. 5. Total Dissolvable Mn (TDMn) profiles versus depth from the PANDORA cruise. Red diamonds show measured TDMn concentrations. Orange line represents average inflowing TDMn profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is

973 calculated. (**a–c**) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (**d–f**) profiles found along the
974 NGCU; (**g–i**) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (**j–l**) located outside the
975 Solomon Sea.

Fig. 1. a) Currents [dark blue; after Germineaud et al. (2016)], rivers (blue text), straits (purple text), and potential point sources (yellow text) to the Solomon Sea. These currents are: Equatorial Undercurrent (EUC); South Equatorial Current (SEC); New Guinea Coastal Undercurrent (NGCU); New Ireland Coastal Undercurrent (NICU); Saint George's Undercurrent (SGU); North Queensland Current (NQC); New Caledonia Jet (NCJ); North Vanuatu Jet (NVJ); East Australian Current (EAC). Red dots and numbers represent stations sampled for Al and Mn.

b) Bathymetry of the Woodlark Basin and Trobriand Islands

Fig. 2. Dissolved Al (DAI) profiles versus potential density from the Pandora cruise. Light blue circles show measured DAI concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DAI profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Fig. 3. Total Dissolvable Al (TDAI) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Dark blue circles show measured TDAI concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow TDAI profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Fig. 4. Dissolved Mn (DMn) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Pink diamonds show measured DMn concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DMn profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Fig. 5. Total Dissolvable Mn (TDMn) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Red diamonds show measured TDMn concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow TDMn profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Fig. 6. Budget for 24-26.9 σ_θ , showing the flux of DAI, TDAI, DMn, TDMn at the inflow, the outflow via currents (NGCU, NICU, and SGU), and the flux out of the EUC at 156°E, as well as the average concentration of the Solomon Sea, calculated from stations most representative of the Solomon Sea. Red dots represent stations used to calculate concentrations at each exit strait over the potential density range of the EUC.

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Supplemental Fig. 2. Dissolved Al (DAI) profiles versus depth from the PANDORA cruise. Light blue circles show measured DAI concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DAI profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Supplemental Fig. 3. Total Dissolvable Al (TDAI) profiles versus depth from the PANDORA cruise. Blue circles show measured TDAI concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow TDAI profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Supplemental Fig. 4. Dissolved Mn (DMn) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Pink diamonds show measured DMn concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DMn profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Supplemental Fig. 5. Total Dissolvable Mn (TDMn) profiles versus depth from the PANDORA cruise. Red diamonds show measured TDMn concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow TDMn profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (a–c) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; (d–f) profiles found along the NGCU; (g–i) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

Table S1: Potential density thresholds and corresponding depths used to calculate average concentrations over each depth range.

Station	Surface (m)	24 σ_θ (m)	26.9 σ_θ (m)	Deep ($\sim 27.5\sigma_\theta$) (m)
4	18	87	525	1321
10	31	150	490	1303
13	34	152	430	1299
21	26	170	415	1302
34	47	130	*	
39	26	137	430	1299
42	25	150	420	1301
43	25	152	405	1302
60	23	145	420	1300
71	23	105	515	1300
77	25	173	435	999
82	24	158	530	1298

*Profile collected only to 353 m (26.4 σ_θ)

Table S2: PANDORA Al and Mn dataset. Error reported is 1 standard deviation of the measurement

Latitude	Longitude	STATION	Depth (m)	DAI (nM)	DAI_1SD_(nM)	TDAI_nM	TDAI_1SD_nM	DMn (nM)	DMn_1SD_(nM)	TDMn (nM)	TDMn_1SD_(nM)
-17.00	163.00	4	18	11.2	0.4	11.2	0.4	1.72	0.07	1.74	0.07
-17.00	163.00	4	50	13.1	0.4	12.1	0.4	1.63	0.07	1.66	0.07
-17.00	163.00	4	88	10.3	0.4	10.7	0.4	1.21	0.05	1.28	0.05
-17.00	163.00	4	139	11.5	0.4	10.6	0.4	0.51	0.02	0.72	0.03
-17.00	163.00	4	198	11.0	0.4	10.2	0.4	0.26	0.00	0.44	0.02
-17.00	163.00	4	298	11.6	0.4	9.9	0.4	0.29	0.00	0.40	0.02
-17.00	163.00	4	448	8.2	0.4	9.8	0.4	0.33	0.00	0.53	0.02
-17.00	163.00	4	619	6.5	0.4	10.3	0.4	0.34	0.00	0.51	0.02
-17.00	163.00	4	780	6.0	0.4	8.8	0.4	0.29	0.00	0.51	0.02
-17.00	163.00	4	1000	9.0	0.4	7.1	0.4	0.39	0.02	0.67	0.03
-17.00	163.00	4	1300	8.7	0.4	10.3	0.4	0.42	0.02	0.82	0.03
-17.00	163.00	4	1321	8.2	0.4	6.9	0.4	0.37	0.00	0.65	0.03
-12.00	163.00	10	31	11.1	0.4	11.1	0.4	1.59	0.06	1.65	0.07

-12.00	163.00	10	95	11.9	0.4	12.7	0.4	1.33	0.05	1.50	0.06
-12.00	163.00	10	135	7.6	0.4	5.4	0.4	0.53	0.02	0.70	0.03
-12.00	163.00	10	175	5.4	0.4	4.2	0.4	0.37	0.02	0.47	0.02
-12.00	163.00	10	224	5.1	0.4	4.3	0.4	0.28	0.00	0.39	0.00
-12.00	163.00	10	301	4.7	0.4	4.3	0.4	0.24	0.00	0.35	0.00
-12.00	163.00	10	399	6.6	0.4	5.9	0.4	0.24	0.00	0.37	0.00
-12.00	163.00	10	500	7.2	0.4	7.0	0.4	0.24	0.00	0.37	0.01
-12.00	163.00	10	501	6.2	0.4	5.1	0.4	0.28	0.00	0.37	0.01
-12.00	163.00	10	700	7.6	0.4	6.8	0.4	0.32	0.00	0.47	0.02
-12.00	163.00	10	1002	8.9	0.4	8.8	0.4	0.39	0.00	0.57	0.02
-12.00	163.00	10	1303	8.3	0.4	7.5	0.4	0.49	0.02	0.83	0.03
-9.00	163.00	13	34	6.9	0.5	10.2	0.5	1.02	0.04	1.02	0.04
-9.00	163.00	13	74	9.3	0.5	8.6	0.5	0.85	0.03	0.96	0.04
-9.00	163.00	13	125	11.3	0.5	9.7	0.5	0.47	0.02	0.60	0.02
-9.00	163.00	13	179	7.1	0.5	6.5	0.5	0.33	0.05	0.43	0.02
-9.00	163.00	13	181	6.9	0.5	5.9	0.5	0.40	0.05	0.44	0.02
-9.00	163.00	13	225	5.8	0.5	4.9	0.5	0.28	0.05	0.38	0.05
-9.00	163.00	13	298	3.8	0.5	4.7	0.5	0.29	0.05	0.38	0.05
-9.00	163.00	13	400	6.0	0.5	6.4	0.5	0.25	0.05	0.38	0.05
-9.00	163.00	13	501	7.7	0.5	7.8	0.5	0.28	0.05	0.44	0.02
-9.00	163.00	13	700	9.6	0.5	8.4	0.5	0.40	0.05	0.63	0.03
-9.00	163.00	13	1000	8.5	0.5	6.1	0.5	0.42	0.02	0.63	0.03
-9.00	163.00	13	1299	8.2	0.5	9.2	0.5	0.43	0.02	0.67	0.03
-10.01	160.36	21	26	17.9	0.4	19.1	0.4	2.15	0.09	2.28	0.09
-10.01	160.36	21	45	17.2	0.4	18.1	0.4	1.97	0.08	2.24	0.09
-10.01	160.36	21	89	13.8	0.4	17.8	0.4	0.54	0.02	0.95	0.04
-10.01	160.36	21	140	13.6	0.4	35.9	0.4	0.48	0.02	1.22	0.05
-10.01	160.36	21	198	7.3	0.4	9.6	0.5	0.32	0.05	0.50	0.02
-10.01	160.36	21	202	7.2	0.4	11.3	0.4	0.33	0.05	0.54	0.02
-10.01	160.36	21	303	10.3	0.4	15.1	0.5	0.30	0.02	0.51	0.02
-10.01	160.36	21	401	10.3	0.4	17.5	0.4	0.28	0.05	0.60	0.02
-10.01	160.36	21	504	8.6	0.4	18.6	0.6	0.30	0.02	0.62	0.02
-10.01	160.36	21	700	10.1	0.4	10.9	0.5	0.25	0.05	0.49	0.02
-10.01	160.36	21	1002	10.7	0.4	17.1	0.5	0.55	0.02	0.86	0.03
-10.01	160.36	21	1302	10.7	0.4	15.1	0.5	0.34	0.02	0.71	0.03
-11.45	154.67	34	47	14.3	0.3	13.4	0.3	0.93	0.18	1.24	0.05
-11.45	154.67	34	79	13.7	0.3	13.8	0.3	0.51	0.02	0.83	0.03
-11.45	154.67	34	129	9.6	0.3	8.2	0.3	0.51	0.02	0.60	0.02
-11.45	154.67	34	181	12.9	0.3	12.7	0.3	0.31	0.02	0.48	0.02
-11.45	154.67	34	249	10.7	0.3	10.8	0.3	0.24	0.02	0.42	0.02

-11.45	154.67	34	353	7.8	0.3	13.0	0.3	0.28	0.02	0.50	0.02
-9.17	154.19	39	26	14.2	0.3	14.6	0.3	2.16	0.09	2.38	0.10
-9.17	154.19	39	63	13.3	0.3	14.7	0.3	1.64	0.07	1.87	0.07
-9.17	154.19	39	111	13.7	0.3	12.4	0.3	0.80	0.03	0.93	0.04
-9.19	154.17	39	163	7.1	0.3	6.4	0.3	0.31	0.02	0.54	0.02
-9.19	154.17	39	221	5.4	0.3	5.4	0.3	0.25	0.02	0.44	0.02
-9.19	154.17	39	227	5.0	0.3	5.1	0.3	0.25	0.02	0.46	0.02
-9.19	154.17	39	295	5.5	0.3	6.7	0.3	0.21	0.02	0.40	0.02
-9.19	154.17	39	397	7.6	0.3	6.4	0.3	0.20	0.02	0.36	0.02
-9.19	154.17	39	500	9.5	0.3	7.1	0.3	0.21	0.02	0.39	0.02
-9.19	154.17	39	700	7.3	0.3	7.7	0.3	0.25	0.02	0.44	0.02
-9.19	154.17	39	998	8.0	0.3	8.2	0.3	0.26	0.02	0.64	0.03
-9.19	154.17	39	1299	9.2	0.3	8.3	0.3	0.37	0.02	0.64	0.03
-5.14	153.30	42	25	13.5	0.4	18.7	0.4	1.64	0.07	1.88	0.08
-5.14	153.30	42	83	8.0	0.4	9.9	0.4	0.51	0.02	0.84	0.03
-5.14	153.30	42	129	13.5	0.3	12.4	0.4	0.48	0.02	0.78	0.03
-5.14	153.30	42	130	12.9	0.4	13.9	0.4	0.55	0.02	0.86	0.03
-5.15	153.29	42	181	10.6	0.4	11.9	0.4	0.35	0.02	0.62	0.02
-5.15	153.29	42	227	7.7	0.4	10.5	0.4	0.24	0.02	0.46	0.02
-5.15	153.29	42	297	8.4	0.4	8.0	0.4	0.24	0.02	0.45	0.02
-5.12	153.33	42	401	9.1	0.3	8.4	0.4	0.24	0.02	0.45	0.02
-5.12	153.33	42	501	7.1	0.3	8.9	0.4	0.25	0.02	0.45	0.02
-5.12	153.33	42	700	8.8	0.3	10.7	0.4	0.26	0.02	0.49	0.02
-5.12	153.33	42	1000	9.5	0.3	14.6	0.4	0.54	0.02	0.94	0.04
-5.12	153.33	42	1301	11.9	0.3	17.9	0.4	0.88	0.04	1.53	0.06
-4.00	155.59	43	25	8.3	0.4	7.7	0.5	1.15	0.05	1.16	0.05
-4.00	155.59	43	56	7.2	0.4	7.9	0.5	0.99	0.04	1.07	0.04
-4.00	155.59	43	91	6.0	0.4	5.5	0.5	0.60	0.02	0.66	0.03
-4.00	155.59	43	160	4.5	0.5	2.5	0.3	0.37	0.01	0.49	0.02
-4.00	155.59	43	224	4.2	0.4	3.9	0.5	0.37	0.08	0.44	0.02
-4.00	155.59	43	300	8.0	0.4	5.8	0.5	0.31	0.08	0.39	0.02
-4.00	155.59	43	300	5.6	0.4	5.8	0.5	0.30	0.08	0.39	0.02
-4.00	155.59	43	401	8.4	0.5	5.6	0.3	0.24	0.01	0.40	0.02
-4.00	155.59	43	500	5.4	0.5	6.7	0.3	0.29	0.01	0.39	0.02
-4.00	155.59	43	701	5.5	0.5	6.4	0.3	0.28	0.01	0.45	0.02
-4.00	155.59	43	1002	6.7	0.5	5.3	0.3	0.37	0.01	0.54	0.02
-4.00	155.59	43	1302	4.7	0.5	6.4	0.3	0.42	0.02	0.68	0.03
-6.17	152.50	60	23	13.3	0.3	12.9	0.3	1.92	0.08	1.85	0.07
-6.17	152.50	60	29	13.3	0.3	12.9	0.3	2.01	0.08	1.83	0.07
-6.17	152.50	60	65	12.5	0.3	12.6	0.3	1.71	0.07	1.76	0.07

-6.17	152.50	60	127	11.9	0.3	12.0	0.3	0.48	0.02	0.73	0.03
-6.17	152.50	60	176	7.2	0.3	7.2	0.3	0.30	0.01	0.46	0.02
-6.17	152.50	60	220	6.4	0.3	7.7	0.3	0.29	0.01	0.48	0.02
-6.17	152.50	60	293	4.9	0.3	7.4	0.3	0.27	0.01	0.41	0.02
-6.17	152.50	60	401	8.0	0.3	7.1	0.3	0.23	0.01	0.38	0.02
-6.17	152.50	60	499	5.9	0.3	8.8	0.3	0.23	0.01	0.46	0.02
-6.17	152.50	60	699	5.5	0.3	8.4	0.3	0.28	0.01	0.50	0.02
-6.17	152.50	60	1000	6.3	0.3	10.9	0.3	0.56	0.02	0.92	0.04
-6.17	152.50	60	1300	6.6	0.3	12.2	0.3	0.63	0.03	1.10	0.04
-8.34	151.29	71	23	14.3	0.6	13.9	0.6	1.79	0.07	1.77	0.07
-8.34	151.29	71	69	12.0	0.6	12.3	0.6	0.84	0.03	0.94	0.04
-8.34	151.29	71	118	11.2	0.6	11.4	0.6	0.54	0.02	0.78	0.03
-8.34	151.29	71	168	5.8	0.6	6.7	0.6	0.30	0.01	0.46	0.02
-8.34	151.29	71	201	4.3	0.6	6.0	0.6	0.28	0.01	0.46	0.02
-8.33	151.29	71	299	8.3	0.6	11.5	0.6	0.26	0.01	0.46	0.02
-8.33	151.29	71	400	7.7	0.6	11.1	0.6	0.24	0.01	0.44	0.02
-8.33	151.29	71	551	5.5	0.6	7.9	0.6	0.21	0.01	0.38	0.02
-8.33	151.29	71	730	5.7	0.6	8.3	0.6	0.22	0.01	0.42	0.02
-8.33	151.29	71	860	6.2	0.6	10.0	0.6	0.34	0.01	0.69	0.03
-8.33	151.29	71	1000	6.0	0.6	10.2	0.6	0.38	0.01	0.70	0.03
-8.33	151.29	71	1300	6.5	0.6	11.2	0.6	0.51	0.02	0.90	0.04
-5.95	147.67	77	25	20.7	0.4	38.7	0.4	2.48	0.10	2.66	0.11
-5.95	147.67	77	75	15.3	0.4	15.7	0.4	1.31	0.05	1.42	0.06
-5.95	147.67	77	81	15.4	0.4	15.5	0.4	1.32	0.05	1.49	0.06
-5.95	147.66	77	142	14.4	0.4	15.6	0.4	0.70	0.03	1.10	0.04
-5.95	147.66	77	174	11.0	0.4	12.0	0.4	0.33	0.01	0.54	0.02
-5.95	147.66	77	220	9.9	0.4	11.8	0.4	0.30	0.01	0.52	0.02
-5.95	147.66	77	299	8.9	0.4	10.7	0.4	0.24	0.01	0.49	0.02
-5.95	147.66	77	398	8.0	0.4	9.9	0.4	0.25	0.01	0.45	0.02
-5.95	147.66	77	501	8.2	0.4	8.4	0.4	0.23	0.01	0.43	0.02
-5.95	147.66	77	702	9.3	0.4	10.4	0.4	0.40	0.01	0.71	0.03
-5.95	147.66	77	902	6.9	0.4	15.0	0.4	0.80	0.03	1.36	0.05
-5.95	147.66	77	999	6.8	0.4	15.8	0.4	1.02	0.04	1.65	0.07
-14.00	156.01	82	24	13.0	0.4	13.0	0.4	1.66	0.07	1.68	0.07
-14.00	156.01	82	80	13.5	0.4	13.4	0.4	1.63	0.07	1.72	0.07
-14.00	156.01	82	135	12.5	0.4	12.5	0.4	1.48	0.06	1.59	0.06
-14.00	156.01	82	174	7.1	0.4	7.3	0.4	0.34	0.01	0.45	0.02
-14.00	156.01	82	224	5.6	0.4	6.4	0.4	0.27	0.01	0.39	0.02
-14.00	156.01	82	300	7.2	0.4	7.8	0.4	0.23	0.01	0.37	0.01
-14.00	156.01	82	447	5.4	0.4	8.5	0.4	0.27	0.01	0.43	0.02

-14.00	156.01	82	651	5.9	0.4	7.9	0.4	0.21	0.01	0.38	0.02
-14.00	156.01	82	799	6.1	0.4	7.0	0.4	0.22	0.01	0.39	0.02
-14.00	156.01	82	1001	8.3	0.4	7.1	0.4	0.22	0.01	0.44	0.02
-14.00	156.01	82	1298	6.5	0.4	7.1	0.4	0.28	0.01	0.43	0.02