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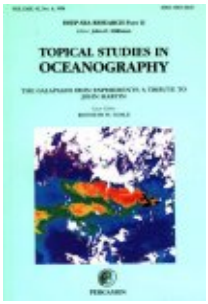
The Galapagos Iron Experiments: A Tribute to John Martin, Guest Edited by Kenneth H. Coale



The Iron Hypothesis has attracted substantial international attention, as well as controversy. Originally formulated by Dr. John Martin of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, the testing of this hypothesis has led to some of the most significant oceanographic experiments and findings of this decade.

This issue is a Tribute to John Martin who passed away just prior to the first open ocean iron enrichment experiment. The result of the IronEx I experiment, as well as the subsequent IronEx II experiment, demonstrate a direct and unequivocal biological response of the equatorial Pacific ecosystem to added iron. These experiments provide a preponderance of evidence in support of Martin's Iron Hypothesis', to the extent that many refer to iron limitation as the Iron Theory'. These experiments also demonstrate the feasibility of such in situ experiments, and therefore open ocean ecological studies are no longer limited to passive observations and bottle experiments.

This special issue focuses on the design, implementation and results of the original seminal experiments near the Galapagos Islands.