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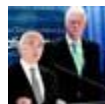
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Plan to alter ocean chemistry hits rough seas

U.S. agency tries to halt 'seeding' of the Pacific Ocean with iron dust to reduce global warming

Kelly Patterson, CanWest News Service

Published: Tuesday, June 19, 2007

That claim is disputed by Chris Field of the Carnegie Institution's Department of Global Ecology, who says that the absorption of increasing amounts of carbon dioxide is the main cause of ocean acidification in the first place.

"It may be possible to store excess carbon in the ocean, but you'll be acidifying the ocean when you do it, and causing a dramatic change in the the ocean's ecology, with no known effects," Mr. Field said.

Ken Caldeira, also of the Carnegie Institution, says "there's no practical way to verify" that ocean seeding would sequester any additional carbon -- and if it did, "it would exacerbate ocean acidification."

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Caldeira was co-author of a section of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report that dealt with ocean-carbon capture.

"It's far-fetched to claim you help ocean ecosystems by disturbing them," he said.

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