

Using the Earth as an Engine

DC Climate Week

4/21/26

University of Maryland



The Good Pirate John Martin

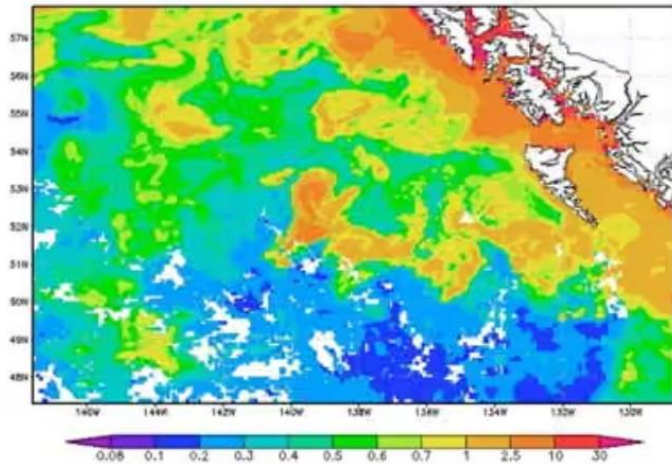
Give me a half tanker of
iron and I'll give you an ice
age.

The Bad Pirates

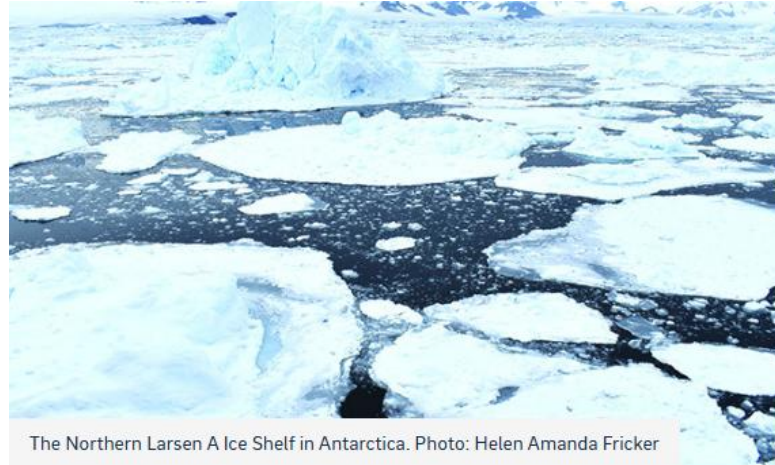
World's biggest geoengineering experiment 'violates' UN rules

Controversial US businessman's iron fertilisation off west coast of Canada contravenes two UN conventions

- [What is geoengineering?](#)
- [Canadian government 'knew of plans to dump iron into the Pacific'](#)



Yellow and brown colours show relatively high concentrations of chlorophyll in August 2012, after iron sulphate was dumped into the Pacific Ocean as part of a controversial geoengineering scheme. Photograph: Giovanni/Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center/NASA



The Northern Larsen A Ice Shelf in Antarctica. Photo: Helen Amanda Fricker

Sep 09, 2025

EXPERTS WARN AGAINST FIVE POLAR GEOENGINEERING IDEAS

Proposals will not help and could harm, according to new assessment

Shopify Funding Bad Ocean Geoengineering With Antacids

Milk of magnesia soothes the stomach but its lifecycle carbon debt is somewhat nausea-inducing as a drawdown technique



Michael Barnard

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Thank you! Questions?



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Exploring responsible uses of the ocean to address our climate crisis

Every year, humans pump about 40 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The heat from this greenhouse gas is disrupting planetary systems and reshaping life on Earth. The ocean may be able to help us reverse this trend, but we need to proceed with caution.

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