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

# 2 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.

### 24 Abstract

25 Total dissolvable and dissolved aluminum (TDAl, DAl) and manganese (TDMn, DMn) 26 concentrations were measured at 12 stations in and around the Solomon Sea in 2012 as part of 27 the GEOTRACES GP-12 cruise. These data were used to determine the potential for the 28 Solomon Sea to act as a source of Al and Mn to the Equatorial Undercurrent (EUC). From a net 29 budget perspective, waters entering the Solomon Sea at the time of the cruise were already 30 enriched in Al and Mn, and as that water transited through the Solomon Sea, further net 31 enrichments were small compared to overall concentrations of these metals. Despite this overall 32 balance, on a local scale, we observed enrichment of Al and Mn at stations located near 33 coastlines, most likely caused by sediment scouring by strong currents. Calculated fluxes of DAl, 34 and TDAl out of the Solomon Sea relative to the EUC are large enough to account for about 35 three quarters of their respective budgets within the EUC, while the DMn and TDMn fluxes 36 exiting the Solomon Sea can only account for about half of their respective budgets in the EUC. 37 These fluxes are subject to high temporal variability and to uncertainty of the relative 38 contributions of Northern and Southern Hemisphere water mass to the EUC.

# 39 Keywords:

40 Aluminum, Manganese, Solomon Sea, Equatorial Undercurrent, GEOTRACES

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#### 43 **1. Introduction**

44 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), 45 and iron (Fe)) from the Western Pacific to the Eastern Pacific in less than a year (Tsuchiya et al., 46 47 1989). There, it shoals in the photic zone of the High Nutrient, Low Chlorophyll (HNLC) region 48 of the eastern equatorial Pacific—where ~20% of the world's new primary productivity takes 49 place (Coale et al., 1996). Understanding sources of trace elements to the EUC is thus important 50 to better understanding the factors that contribute to primary productivity in the eastern 51 equatorial Pacific and its contribution to the global carbon cycle.

52 Concentrations of Al, Mn, (and Fe) are elevated in the EUC, relative to open ocean values 53 (Coale et al., 1996; Gordon et al., 1997; Kaupp et al., 2011; Slemons et al., 2010, 2012) with 54 concentrations increasing westward. In the western equatorial Pacific, the major water sources to 55 the EUC are two low-latitude western boundary currents, the New Guinea Coastal Undercurrent 56 (NGCU) coming from the south and the Mindanao Current from the north, with the NGCU being 57 the more important of the two (e.g., Tsuchiya et al., 1989; Grenier et al., 2011, 2013). The 58 NGCU originates in the Solomon Sea (Fig. 1) where it comes in contact with the coastlines of 59 volcanic islands with abundant natural and anthropogenic runoff. As a result, the Solomon Sea is 60 considered to be an important source of trace metals, especially Al and Fe, to the NGCU and 61 thus the EUC. This conclusion is supported by both modeling studies and geochemical 62 measurements within the current (Lacan and Jeandel, 2001, 2005; Mackey et al., 2002a,b; 63 Slemons et al., 2009; Kaupp et al., 2011; Qin et al., 2015; Pham et al., 2019). Here we report on 64 dissolved and total dissolvable Al (DAl; TDAl) and Mn (DMn; TDMn) collected from seven 65 stations within the Solomon Sea and five stations just outside of it during the 2012 PANDORA 66 cruise (GEOTRACES GP-12). While several trace metal profiles have been collected within the 67 Solomon Sea and in the neighboring Bismarck and Coral Seas (Mackey et al., 2002a,b; Obata et 68 al., 2008), those studies were not part of a broader interdisciplinary study. The PANDORA 4

69 cruise discussed here included a major physical oceanographic component that examined the 70 major currents flowing through the Solomon Sea (Ganachaud et al., 2017). The combination of 71 these chemical and physical oceanographic data enables examination of the trace metal budget of 72 the Solomon Sea, and in turn, its importance to the trace metal budget of the EUC. The data 73 presented here suggest that the waters entering the Solomon Sea were enriched in trace metals 74 prior to entering the basin and that their transit through the basin resulted in only a minor net 75 increase of Mn and Al to these waters.

## 76 1.1 Geographic Setting: The Solomon Sea

77 The Solomon Sea is a semi-enclosed basin bounded by the islands of Papua New Guinea (PNG) 78 to the west, New Ireland and New Britain to the north, and the Solomon Islands to the east, and 79 is open to the southeast (Fig. 1). An important oceanographic characteristic of this region is the 80 flow of the New Guinea Coastal Current/ Undercurrent system (NGCC/NGCU) through the 81 basin. This large current system transports water into the Solomon Sea at depths of 0 - 1400 m 82 with the strongest transport (40-80 cm/s) being within the thermocline waters that feed the EUC, 83 at ~ 200 m (Lindstrom et al., 1987; Tsuchiya et al., 1989; Cravatte et al., 2011; Germineaud et 84 al., 2016; Alberty et al., 2019). The large transport and associated current speeds result in 85 relatively short residence time for waters in the Solomon Sea (e.g.,  $\sim 4$  months for thermocline 86 waters). The waters that make up the NGCU originate as the Southern Equatorial Current (SEC), 87 which flows west between ~5°N and 20°S. As the SEC encounters islands in the Coral Sea, it 88 branches into various currents, including the North Vanuatu Jet (NVJ) and the New Caledonia Jet (NCJ, Kessler and Cravatte, 2013; Germineaud et al., 2016). The NCJ further bifurcates 89 90 around 18°S into the North Queensland Current (NQC), which flows north through the northern 91 Coral Sea and the Gulf of Papua, and around the southern coast of PNG before joining the NVJ 92 to form the NGCU (Fig. 1; Sokolov and Rintoul, 2000). In the surface ocean (0 - 150 m), in 93 addition to the NGCU and NVJ, waters from the SEC flow into the Solomon Sea through gaps 94 between the Solomon Islands (Hristova and Kessler, 2012) and through the Solomon Strait

95 (Germineaud et al., 2016; Alberty et al., 2019). Most of the surface water exits through the 96 Vitiaz Strait, with some flowing through the St. George's Channel and/or the Solomon Strait (e.g., Alberty et al., 2019). The direction of flow through the Solomon Strait varies seasonally, 97 98 and on a net annual basis flows into the Solomon Sea (Alberty et al., 2019). The thermocline 99 waters of the NGCU flow at a depth of ~200 m along the eastern PNG coast and bifurcate south 100 of New Britain where northwestward flow exits through the Vitiaz Strait (Tsuchiya et al., 1989); 101 the remainder flows eastward as the New Britain Coastal Undercurrent (NBCU) (Melet et al., 102 2010). The NBCU bifurcates around New Ireland, with the western limb flowing out of Saint 103 George's Channel as the Saint George's Undercurrent (SGU), while the eastern limb exits out 104 the Solomon Strait as the New Ireland Coastal Undercurrent (NICU; Butt and Lindstrom, 1994). 105 The NICU then combines with the EUC (Fig. 1; Germineaud et al., 2016). The deeper sub-106 thermocline (450-1400m, 26.9-~27.5 $\sigma_{\theta}$ ) circulation in the Solomon Sea is also dominated by the 107 NGCU, however at much reduced levels of transport. Here, as the NGCU approaches the 108 Woodlark Archipelago it is pushed eastward over this depth range; below 1000 m it passes 109 through, over and around the submarine extension of the Woodlark Archipelago. This deep water 110 exits through the Vitiaz Strait (~65%) and Solomon Strait (~30%; Alberty et al., 2019), but with

111 some seasonal variability.

112 The western equatorial Pacific is temporally variable on both seasonal (monsoonal) and

113 interannual (ENSO) scales. This variability leads to fluctuations in transport through the

114 Solomon Sea and the EUC, and is accompanied by changes in river input and surface circulation

115 (Cresswell, 2000; Melet et al., 2013; Delcroix et al., 2014). Seasonal differences in transport and

116 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

118 phase, and demonstrated that the overall flow into and out of the Solomon Sea was enhanced

119 during austral winter (PANDORA) (Germineaud et al., 2016). While overall transport through

120 the Solomon Sea varies seasonally, modeling studies have shown that transport through the

121 Vitiaz Strait exhibits less temporal variability, presumably because transport through the strait is

122 mainly controlled by bathymetry (narrow, 1200 m deep channel) which restricts water flow, 123 while seasonality changes are a result of changes in flow of the NVJ and NQC upstream (Melet 124 et al., 2010). These changes are observed further downstream, in strong temporal variability in 125 the current flow through Saint George's Channel and the Solomon Strait. Historical observations, 126 however, do show variation in the transport through the Vitiaz Strait, with intensification during 127 positive El Nino phase (Lindstrom et al., 1987; Butt and Lindstrom, 1994; Murray et al., 1995). 128 Modeling studies have also observed intensification of the NGCU during El Nino events, which 129 creates eddies, causing increased contact with the PNG shelf (Ryan et al., 2006). While models 130 predict intensification of the NGCU, during the El Nino event of 1991/1992, Murray et al. (1995) 131 observed a weakening of the EUC, where the maximum velocity during neutral El Nino was 132 observed at 90 cm/s, and then dropped to 20 cm/s during peak El Nino. The EUC also varies 133 seasonally, and is stronger in austral winter and weaker in austral summer (Melet et al., 2010).

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135 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 136 137 thus thought that the NGCU should undergo significant chemical enrichments as it passes 138 through the Solomon Sea (Lacan and Jeandel, 2001, 2005). Islands in this region are young and 139 easily eroded, leading to large lithogenic inputs via rivers (e.g., Milliman et al., 1999; Sholkovitz 140 et al., 1999). Two very large rivers empty into the ocean along the pathway of the major currents 141 flowing through the region: the Sepik River empties into the Bismarck Sea, thus contributing to 142 the NGCU as it exits the Solomon Sea, and the Fly River empties into the northern Coral Sea 143 where it alters the chemistry of the North Queensland Current (Fig. 1). The Sepik River and Fly 144 River estuaries are two very different systems: The Sepik river system is located over a steep and 145 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 146 147 settling of sinking particles from the surface plume, as well as via hyperpychal flows, which

148 transport sediment to intermediate depths along isopycnals (Kineke et al., 2000). The Fly River

149 is a shallow estuary where sediment deposition and resuspension impacts the chemical makeup

150 of the surface water. The Fly River has a high sediment load  $(85 \times 10^9 \text{ kg/year})$  relative to its

151 discharge (220 km<sup>3</sup>/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).

154 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

156 contamination from the Ok Tedi mine. This ore deposit, and others in the area, are a result of

157 elevated tectonic and volcanic activity in the region. Over the life of the Ok Tedi mine it is

158 estimated that it was responsible for the input of 66 million tons per year of mine tailings,

159 including 24 million tons per year of mill fines (e.g., Hettler et al., 1997). Tailings from mines

160 throughout the region are delivered to the ocean through run off, smaller rivers, and erosion, and

161 a portion of this waste reaches the coastal ocean, where it might be entrained into the NQC.

162 A seafloor spreading-center in the Woodlark Basin in the eastern Solomon Sea hosts 163 hydrothermal vent systems at >2500m (e.g., Laurila et al., 2012) and undersea-volcanos in the 164 region are hydrothermally (McConachy et al., 2002; Laurila et al., 2012) and volcanically active 165 (McConachy et al., 2002); the eruption of Kavachi volcano in the surface ocean is notable (Baker 166 et al., 2002; Phillips et al., 2016). In the shallow ocean both diffuse and focused venting have 167 been observed at Tutum Bay on the northeastern side of the Solomon Sea, enriching the surface 168 waters in Fe and Mn, though these concentrations only persist near the vent sites (Pichler et al., 169 1999). In coastal regions, runoff from Rabaul volcano (4°14′25″S, 152°11′45″E, east of New 170 Britain) was measured to be high in Fe (Labatut et al., 2014), and ash from Rabaul's eruptions 171 are deposited onto the ocean surface with precipitation being slightly acidic from the volcanic 172 SO<sub>2</sub> (Ganachaud et al., 2017). The elevated tectonic and magmatic activity in this region 173 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).

## 176 1.2 Sampling locations

177 The PANDORA cruise (GEOTRACES GP-12) took place during austral winter 2012 (28 June-6 178 August) aboard the R/V l'Atalante and was led by the Laboratoire d'Etudes en Geophysique et 179 Oceanographie Spatiales (LEGOS, Chief Scientist G. Eldin). A more detailed description of 180 hydrographic data and geochemical sampling, as well as preliminary findings about this cruise, 181 can be found in Ganachaud et al. (2017). A total of 170 casts were collected at 83 stations in and 182 around the Solomon Sea. The 12 stations that are examined in this study (Fig. 1a) were sampled 183 using a trace-metal clean rosette according to GEOTRACES protocols. Five of these stations 184 were located outside of the Solomon Sea: three to the south of the entrance (stations 4, 10, and 185 82), one to the northeast near the Solomon Strait (station 43), and one northeast of the Solomon 186 Archipelago (station 13). Within the Solomon Sea, one station was located on the west side of 187 the Solomon Islands, off San Cristobal (station 21). Two stations were located within the flow 188 path of the NGCU near Trobriand Island (stations 39 and 71). In the northern Solomon Sea, 189 stations are located in the Vitiaz Strait (station 77), near the Solomon Strait (station 42), and 190 along the flow path of thermocline waters as they exit via Saint George's Channel (station 60). 191 One station is located at the southern entrance of the Solomon Sea, off the coast of Rossel Island, 192 PNG (station 34) and was only sampled to 350m.

# 193 **2. Methods**

194 Water sampled for Al and Mn was collected using an epoxy-coated titanium CTD Rosette with

195 twelve 12-L Go-Flo bottles and described in more detail in Ganachaud et al. (2017). Go-Flo

196 bottles spent minimal time on-deck, and after filling were transported to a clean-air environment

197 for sub-sample removal and storage between casts. Total acid-soluble metal samples, which 9

198 includes the dissolved fraction plus the acid soluble portion of particles present in unfiltered

199 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

201 LDPE bottles (with LDPE caps). Dissolved metal (D) samples were collected from the Go-Flo

202 bottles using slight overpressure of filtered N<sub>2</sub> for filtration through 0.2 µm Sartobran-300

203 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

205 Mn analysis.

206 Al was analyzed by flow injection analysis (FIA) using direct injection and fluorescent detection 207 of the Al-lumogallion complex, following Resing and Measures (1994). This method had an 208 average detection limit of 0.85 nM, which is 34% of the lowest concentration measured, and 7% 209 of the average concentration of all samples. GEOTRACES GD (consensus  $\pm 1$  SD = 17.7  $\pm 0.2$ 210 nM) reference standard was run daily, with an average value of  $19.49 \pm 0.88$  nM (1 SD, n = 17). 211 We acknowledge that this value is higher than the reported consensus value, but we are not able 212 to identify any blanks in our system based on the methodology that was used here. We note that 213 the reference material is fairly old (GEOTRACES GD was collected 11 years prior to these 214 analyses), and has been stored with HDPE caps, which are known to cause contamination for Al 215 (Brown and Bruland, 2008). Other analysts have found consistently elevated Al values for the 216 low nM level GEOTRACES standards (e.g. Resing et al., 2015; Singh et al., 2020). Daily 217 precision for standards was on average 3.4% relative standard deviation (RSD) at 1 nM and 2.2% 218 RSD at 20 nM.

219 Mn was analyzed by FIA using in-line preconcentration of Mn onto an 8-hydroxyquinoline

220 column and spectroscopic detection of leuchomalachite 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.

- 224 GEOTRACES GD (consensus  $\pm 1$  SD =  $1.50 \pm 0.11$  nM) standards were run at least once a day
- and measured to be  $1.80 \pm 0.19$  (1 SD, n = 17). Daily precision for standards was on average
- 226 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).

## 228 2.1 Calculation of a trace metal budget in the Solomon Sea

229 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 Germineaud et al. (2016): Surface layer (surf –
- 232  $24\sigma_{\theta}$ ), Thermocline layer or NGCU (24-26.9 $\sigma_{\theta}$ ), and Deep layer (>26.9 $\sigma_{\theta}$ ; our maximum
- sampled  $\sigma_{\theta}$  is 27.54/1300 m). For the thermocline layer  $(24\sigma_{\theta}-26.9\sigma_{\theta})$ , 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
- 241 measurement.

242 This budget considers that there is a background flux of Al and Mn entering the Solomon Sea

243 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

245 (station 60) and the Solomon Strait (station 42), which we refer to collectively as the Solomon

246 Sea Outflow. Germineaud 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.
- 249 While Alberty et al. (2019) estimate transport through each channel, it is on an annual basis and
- 250 not over shorter time intervals. This is important because the flows are seasonally variable with
- 251 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
- 254 provided by Germineaud et al. (2016) are the best to use for this budget.
- Chemical influx and efflux are calculated by considering transport and the concentrations of eachDAI, DMn, TDAI, and TDMn at appropriate stations as follows:
- 257 Flux (moles/s) = volume transport ( $m^3$ /s) × [element] (moles/ $m^3$ )
- 258 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.
- 260 The specific assumptions and processes used to determine average concentration for each flux261 are described below.

# 262 <u>2.1.1 Inflow</u>

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

268 sampled through the potential density range of the EUC due to bad weather, and also shows 269 elevated Al relative to other profiles within the Solomon Sea, suggesting shelf input, and we 270 have therefore chosen not to consider it as a background profile. While a full profile of trace 271 metal samples was not collected for station 34, a standard CTD-rosette package collected a full 272 depth CTD profile, which shows that temperature, salinity, oxygen, and potential density profiles 273 at this station appear to be intermediate between stations 10 and 82. Station 82 generally has 274 lower concentrations of Mn and Al (by ~0.2 nM Mn and up to 5 nM Al) than Station 10. To 275 calculate influx, the average Al and Mn concentrations over each density interval for station 82 276 and 10 were calculated and multiplied by transport rate. Error was determined using the 277 combined analytical error (1SD) of the measurements used to calculate the average.

## 278 <u>2.1.2 Outflow</u>

279 The depth-weighted average concentrations of DAl, TDAl, DMn, and TDMn over each density 280 interval for each strait/station were multiplied by water transport rate (Eq. 1). The chemical 281 distributions at station 77 (Vitiaz Strait), station 60 (St. George's Channel), and station 42 282 (Solomon Strait) are assumed to be representative of the water leaving the Solomon Sea. Station 283 60 is not located within St. George's Channel; however we assume that it is representative of 284 water leaving the Solomon Sea via this channel for two reasons. First, the temperature-salinity 285 profile of other stations sampled using the standard CTD rosette in Saint George's Channel are 286 similar to Station 60 (Germineaud et al., 2016). Second, ADCP data at station 60 show that 287 currents flow toward both Saint George's Channel and the Solomon Strait, meaning that at least 288 some portion of the water that flows across station 60 must ultimately be directed out of the 289 Solomon Sea (Germineaud et al., 2016).

### **3. Results**

- 291 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).
- 293 Here we define the surface layer as being from the surface (~21 $\sigma_{\theta}$ ) to 24  $\sigma_{\theta}$  (0- ~150 m), the
- thermocline layer from ~150- ~450m (24-26.9  $\sigma_{\theta}$ ), and deep waters at depths >~450m-1300m
- 295 (>26.9  $\sigma_{\theta}$ ). Each plot includes a profile of the average of stations 10 and 82, which are
- 296 considered to be representative of water entering the Solomon Sea at its southern entrance.
- 297 However, we note that these profiles are not representative of all surface water entering the
- 298 Solomon Sea, as there is additional inflow through the Solomon Islands or through the Solomon
- 299 Strait (e.g., Hristova and Kessler, 2012; Alberty et al., 2019).

<b>Table 1a.</b> 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.									
Surface layer         Thermocline layer /NGCU         Deep layer									
		Surf -	- 24 σθ	24-2	.6.9 σ <sub>θ</sub>	<26	.9 σθ		
	Station	DAl (nM)	TDA1 (nM)	DAl (nM)	TDA1 (nM)	DAl (nM)	TDAl (nM)		
	82	12.7±0.6	12.7±0.6	6.2±0.8	7.8±0.8	6.8±0.8	7.3±0.8		
Inflow	10	10.4±0.7	10.1±0.8	5.8±0.8	5.1±0.8	8.0±0.9	7.5±0.9		
iiiio w	Average	11.4±1.3	11.2±1.5	6.0±0.8	6.5±1.5	7.5±0.7	7.4±0.7		
NCCU	34	12.5±0.6	12.5±0.6	10.5±0.6	11.5±0.5				
NGCU Flow path	39	13.3±0.5	13.2±0.5	6.5±0.8	6.4±0.8	8.3±0.7	7.9±0.7		
Flow path	71	12.5±0.8	12.6±0.8	6.0±1.3	8.0±1.3	6.0±1.4	9.6±1.4		
Qutflow/	77	15.5±0.7	19.1±0.8	9.0±0.7	10.8±0.5	8.1±0.8	11.5±0.8		
Outflow/	42	11.0±0.7	13.0±0.7	8.9±0.7	9.5±0.7	9.3±0.7	12.9±0.8		
Straits	60	12.3±0.7	12.3±0.7	6.6±0.7	7.5±0.7	6.1±0.7	9.3±0.7		
	43	6.3±0.5	5.7±0.7	6.0±1.0	4.7±1.1	5.9±1.0	6.0±0.7		
Outside of	13	9.6±1.0	9.2±0.9	5.6±1.2	5.6±1.2	8.6±1.1	7.6±1.1		
Solollioli	21	14.4±0.7	23.5±0.8	9.4±0.8	15.0±1.1	10.2±0.7	15.3±1.1		
Sca	4	11.9±0.5	11.5±0.5	$10.2 \pm 0.8$	10.1±0.8	7.7±0.8	8.8±0.9		

300

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 Thermocline layer/NGCU Deep layer								
		Surf –	$24 \sigma_{\theta}$	24-20	6.9 σ <sub>θ</sub>	<26.	9 σ <sub>θ</sub>	
	Station	DMn (nM)	TDMn	DMn (nM)	TDMn	DMn (nM)	TDMn	
			(nM)		(nM)		(nM)	
	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	
Inflow	10	1.21±0.11	1.30±0.09	$0.27 \pm 0.02$	$0.39 \pm 0.02$	$0.37 \pm 0.02$	$0.56 \pm 0.05$	
	Average	$1.32 \pm 0.22$	1.43±0.19	0.27±0.02	$0.40 \pm 0.02$	0.30±0.07	0.48±0.07	
NCCL	34	0.59±0.12	$0.84 \pm 0.06$	0.30±0.04	$0.48 \pm 0.04$			
NGCU Flow path	39	1.32±0.09	1.51±0.10	$0.25 \pm 0.05$	$0.43 \pm 0.05$	$0.27 \pm 0.04$	$0.53 \pm 0.05$	
Flow path	71	1.05±0.06	1.15±0.06	0.24±0.03	$0.40 \pm 0.04$	$0.34 \pm 0.04$	$0.63 \pm 0.06$	
Oratificant	77	1.22±0.10	1.45±0.12	0.26±0.01	$0.49 \pm 0.02$	0.51±0.04	$0.88 \pm 0.07$	
Stroits	42	0.77±0.06	$1.07\pm0.09$	$0.27 \pm 0.05$	$0.49 \pm 0.05$	$0.46 \pm 0.06$	0.81±0.06	
Straits	60	1.26±0.10	1.35±0.11	$0.28 \pm 0.02$	$0.44 \pm 0.03$	0.43±0.03	$0.74 \pm 0.06$	
	43	0.72±0.05	0.79±0.05	0.32±0.14	$0.42 \pm 0.04$	0.33±0.03	$0.50\pm0.05$	
Outside of	13	$0.70 \pm 0.05$	$0.80\pm0.06$	0.29±0.10	$0.40 \pm 0.09$	$0.39 \pm 0.08$	$0.60 \pm 0.05$	
Solomon	21	0.93±0.07	1.38±0.11	0.31±0.09	$0.56 \pm 0.04$	0.38±0.08	$0.68 \pm 0.05$	
500	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	

302

303 In the surface layer, average DAl and TDAl inflowing water are  $11.4 \pm 1.4$  nM and  $11.2 \pm 1.3$ 304 nM, respectively. Within the Solomon Sea (stations 34, 39, 71) and in St. George's Channel 305 (station 60), average DAl and TDAl in the surface layer are ~1-2 nM greater than in the 306 inflowing water. The Solomon Strait (station 42) shows a decrease in DAI (~0.5 nM), but an enrichment of ~1nM in TDAl. By contrast the Vitiaz Strait (station 77), shows a much greater 307 308 enrichment in both DAl and TDAl (~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) DAI and TDAI 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 DA1 and 13 nM for TDA1 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  $\sigma_{\theta}$ ), DAl and TDAl 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 DAI and TDAI 319 concentrations of  $6.0 \pm 0.8$  nM, and  $6.5 \pm 1.5$  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 DAI (~0.5 nM) at station 39 and TDAI (~1.6 nM) at station 71. In the exit 322 straits (stations 42, 60, and 77) DAI and TDAI 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) DAl is similar to the 324 inflowing water, while TDAl is less at station 13 (~1 nM) and station 43 (~2 nM; however, it 325 should be noted that DAl at station 43 exceeds TDAl, 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 DAl at both stations by ~4 nM, and in TDAl by ~4 nM and ~8 nM at station 4 328 and 21, respectively.

329 In the deep layer (>450 m; >26.9  $\sigma_{\theta}$ ) the depth-weighted average inflowing DAl is 7.5±0.7 nM, and TDAl is 7.4±0.7 nM. Within the basin (stations 39 and 71), in the Vitiaz Strait (station 77), 330 331 as well as outside the Solomon Sea (station 13), depth-weighted average DAl concentrations are 332 within the observed variability of the inflowing water. There is slight enrichment in DAI ( $\sim 2-3$ 333 nM) in the Solomon Strait (station 42) and near the Solomon Islands (station 21). There are 334 small (2-3 nM) enrichments of TDAl within the basin at station 71 and in St. George's channel at station 60, and larger enrichments relative to the inflow (4-5 nM) in Vitiaz (station 77) and 335 336 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 DAl and TDAl 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  $1.32 \pm 0.22$  nM, while TDMn is  $1.43 \pm 0.19$  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 ~0.3 – 0.7 nM along the

flow path of the NGCU (stations 34, 42). Station 21 is also depleted in DMn by ~0.4 nM relative

to inflowing waters. Outside the Solomon Sea (stations 13, 43), DMn and TDMn are depleted by

<sup>347</sup> ~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  $0.40 \pm 0.02$  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 ~0.2nM respectively.

In the deeper ocean (>450m; >26.9  $\sigma_{\theta}$ ), on average, DMn and TDMn generally increase with

depth at all stations. Below 26.9  $\sigma_{\theta}$ , the inflowing waters have a depth-weighted average DMn

358 concentration of  $0.30 \pm 0.07$  nM and TDMn concentration of  $0.48 \pm 0.07$  nM. In the straits,

359 (stations 77, 60, and 42), enrichments in DMn and TDMn relative to the inflow are on the order

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.

#### 363 **4. Discussion**

#### 364 4.1 Al and Mn enrichments within the Solomon Sea

## 365

# <u>4.1.1 Surface Layer (surf - $24\sigma_{\theta}$ )</u>

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.

373 The elevated surface concentrations (Table 1) that are observed in Mn and Al within the 374 Solomon Sea could be derived from riverine, aeolian, or coastal/margin sources. Based on 375 salinity, our data reveal no large inputs of fresh water to the Solomon Sea during this cruise and 376 consequently no correlation between salinity and trace metals is observed. This means either that 377 at the time of the cruise, trace metal inputs to the Solomon Sea via rivers were small or that trace 378 metal inputs were large relative to freshwater input, which is more consistent with observations 379 of high sediment loads, relative to fluvial discharge in this region (e.g., Milliman et al., 1999). 380 Dust input to the Solomon Sea can be predicted using the MADCOW model (Measures and 381 Brown, 1996) based on regional dust fluxes and empirical dust solubilities. Using a dust flux of 1.0 g m<sup>-2</sup> y<sup>-1</sup> to the Solomon Sea (Shank and Johansen, 2008), an empirical dust solubility of 382 383 6.0% (Buck et. al., 2006), a residence time of surface water in the Solomon Sea of 0.6-2 months 384 (estimated based on an average velocity of 20-60 cm s<sup>-1</sup> over the  $\sim$ 1000 km distance between the 385 inflow and outflow, and consistent with literature estimates (Melet et al., 2011, Hristova and

386 Kessler, 2012; Alberty et al., 2019)) and a mixed layer depth <100 m (based the definition of de 387 Boyer Montégut et al., 2004), it can be estimated that DAI 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 388 389 Solomon Sea which is only  $\sim 5.4\% \pm 2.5\%$  (1SD) of DAl present there. Thus, dust is a relatively 390 small source of DAl to the waters in this region. A similar estimation for DMn can be made 391 using a fractional solubility of Mn in dust of 45.1% from Buck et al. (2013), and a crustal 392 abundance of Mn of 954 ppm from Taylor, (1964) to be consistent with the reference used by 393 Measures and Brown (1996). We estimate that DMn added from dust deposition as the waters 394 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 395 present in the surface Solomon Sea.

396 Elevated Al and Mn concentrations in the surface ocean within the straits and Solomon Sea, 397 relative to inflowing waters or stations outside the Solomon Sea, suggest that these elements 398 become enriched when waters interact with local bathymetry as they enter the basin. The SEC 399 transports surface waters into the Solomon Sea passing through both the Solomon Strait and 400 other gaps in the Solomon archipelago ultimately exiting through the Vitiaz strait (Cravatte et al., 401 2011; Hristova and Kessler, 2012). TDAl of the surface samples in both the Solomon Strait 402 (station  $42 - 18.7 \pm 0.4$  nM) and Vitiaz Strait (station  $77 - 38.7 \pm 0.4$  nM) are enriched compared to 403 DAI (13.5±0.3nM, 28.7±0.4nM respectively) suggesting the input of sediments or rapid removal 404 of DAI by scavenging. A similar but muted effect is seen for Mn at these stations. The high Mn 405 (2.5 nM) and Al (>20 nM) in the surface waters that exit through the Vitiaz Strait (station 77) 406 must result from scouring and entrainment of local sediments into the water column due to rapid 407 geostrophic current velocities (20-60 cm/s; e.g. Hristova and Kessler 2012) coupled with the 408 narrow strait. A maximum in Rare Earth Elements (REE), including dissolved Cerium (Ce), was 409 also observed in the surface waters at station 77 during the PANDORA cruise (Pham et al., 410 2019). At the eastern end of the Solomon archipelago, where waters flow from the SEC (station 411 13) through the islands to station 21, Mn and Al concentrations are also greater than those in the 412 SEC (see results) reflecting input from the islands and the scouring of coastal sediments. This is 19

- 413 also largely consistent with enrichments in REEs observed during PANDORA (Pham et al.,
- 414 2019). The surface water flowing through the Solomon Sea has a residence time of ~ 53-103

415 days (Melet et al., 2011), so input and removal processes for Mn and Al must be both strong and

- 416 rapid to produce the changes in concentrations observed here.
- 417 Using transport estimates reported in Germineaud et al. (2016) and the average concentrations of
- 418 metals at stations in/near the straits, we can estimate the fluxes entering the Solomon Sea from
- 419 the southern entrance and exiting via the three straits. However, transport estimates
- 420 (Germineaud et al., 2016) are unbalanced with a transport entering the Solomon Sea via the
- 421 southern entrance of  $3.3\pm0.4$  Sv, and exiting the Solomon Sea of  $6.9\pm0.6$  Sv ( $4.5\pm0.4$  Sv
- 422 through the Vitiaz Strait and a combined  $2.4 \pm 0.3$  Sv through St. George's Channel, and the
- 423 Solomon Strait). The missing flow likely enters through the gaps in the Solomon Islands. As a
- 424 result, in the surface layer, our budget is unbalanced, and the larger exit fluxes reflect the
- 425 differences in flow. Table 2 reports the flux in through the southern entrance and out through the
- 426 straits. While we cannot calculate a balanced flux value for the inflow, the depth-weighted
- 427 average concentrations at the exit straits all suggest that water leaving the Solomon Sea is within
- 428 the variability of, or enriched in, Al and Mn relative to the inflowing surface layer (Table 1).

429 Trace metal fluxes based on transport in the surface layer are reported in Table 2. This budget 430 does not consider diapycnal/vertical mixing between layers, because vertical mixing does not 431 appear to be reflected in the chemical profiles that we see in Al and Mn in the upper NGCU. 432 While diapycnal mixing in the Solomon Sea is important (Melet et al., 2011), based on the 433 erosion of the salinity maximum in the thermocline between the entrance and the exit of the 434 Solomon Sea and the salinity of the surface layer, we calculate that no more than 33% of water is 435 mixed between our density intervals. Additionally, several water masses converge upon entrance 436 into the Solomon Sea (e.g., Kessler et al., 2019) and there is evidence of vertical mixing due to 437 internal tides in the region (e.g., Melet et al., 2011), making diapycnal mixing in the surface layer 438 hard to resolve.

**Table 2**: Transport and trace metal flux estimates for the surface (surf-24) in the Solomon Sea. Transport estimates from Germineaud 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)	DA1 (mol/s)	TDA1 (mol/s)	DMn (mol/s)	TDMn (mol/s)
Inflow	$3.3 \pm 0.4$	$38 \pm 6$	$37 \pm 7$	$4.4 \pm 0.9$	$4.71 \pm 0.8$
Vitiaz Strait (station 77)	$4.5 \pm 0.1$	$70 \pm 4$	$86 \pm 4$	$5.5 \pm 0.5$	$6.5 \pm 0.5$
Solomon Strait (station 42)	$1.2 \pm 0.3$	$13 \pm 3$	15.6 ±4.0	0.9 ±0.2	1.3 ±0.3
St. George's Channel (station 60)	$1.2 \pm 0.3$	$15 \pm 4$	$14.7 \pm 3.8$	$1.5 \pm 0.4$	$1.6 \pm 0.4$
Total Outflow	$6.9 \pm 0.3$	98 ± 11	$116 \pm 12$	7.9 ±1.1	9.4 ±1.3

440

441

#### 442

# <u>4.1.2 Thermocline layer – ~150-450 m and 24-26.9 $\sigma_{\theta}$ </u>

443 The water between ~150-450 m and 24-26.9  $\sigma_{\theta}$  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 and results), however there are enrichments in DAl, TDAl, and TDMn (but not DMn) relative to 446 447 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).

452 Sampling during PANDORA included measurements of Rare Earth Elements, and our data is 453 consistent with increases in dissolved Lanthanum (La), Neodymium (Nd), Europium (Eu), and 454 Ytterbium (Yb) between stations 13 and 21, reported by Pham et al. (2019). Dissolved Ce and 455 the Ce anomaly are not modified between stations (Pham et al., 2019), which suggests that the 456 water mass is the same between the two stations, but that particle inputs are recent and 457 modifications do not cause changes in dissolved Ce, because it is insoluble. The best explanation 458 for these observations is sediment resuspension which is supported by larger enrichments ( $\sim 9$ 459 nM TDAl, 0.2 nM TDMn) in total dissolvable metals versus dissolved metals (~4 nM DAl, ~0 460 nM DMn). Coincident enrichment of Mn and Al also occurs in the Vitiaz Strait (station 77), 461 similarly suggesting sediment resuspension, rather than reductive release from shelf sediments or 462 hydrothermal input at these stations, as these other two processes would impact Mn distributions 463 to a greater extent than Al distributions. This is also consistent with Ce anomaly data, which 464 shows decreasing solubility, rather than remineralization in the Vitiaz Strait (Pham et al., 2019). 465 Physical resuspension/non-reductive dissolution is implicated for the enrichment of Fe in the 466 Vitiaz Strait and the NICU based on Fe isotope measurements (Labatut et al., 2014). These Fe 467 enrichments reflect particulate iron transported from the continent across shelves and slopes, 468 followed by release of DFe from suspended particles (Labatut et al., 2014). This has also been 469 observed for Al and Mn in other regions. Al remobilized from benthic nepheloid layers is an 470 important source for Al in the deep waters of the North Pacific (Moran and Moore, 1991). 471 Lateral transport of Mn remobilized from shelves has been observed off the coast of California 472 (Martin et al., 1987) who show that major sub-surface maxima and minima in the Mn 473 distributions are controlled primarily by sedimentary release combined with water mass 474 movement and physical mixing, rather than through scavenging and remineralization processes.

475 The NGCU is expected to flow from station 34 to 39 and then to 71 after which it bifurcates,

476 going WNW to the Vitiaz strait (station 77) and NE to station 60 and then on to the Solomon

477 strait (station 42) (Fig. 1). Two of the stations along the predicted flow path of the NGCU (34

478 and 71) show enrichments in DAl, TDAl, and TDMn that exceed the variability of the average

479 inflow profile, while station 39 shows no enrichments in either Al or Mn (see Table 1 and 480 results). At station 71, the coherence between DAI and TDAI provides confidence in sample 481 quality and thus the lack of a mid-depth enrichment at station 39 indicates that this station is 482 either not in the NGCU, or that local trace metal input and removal are highly dynamic and 483 variable. Based on transport and current speeds, the NGCU/NBCU is estimated to take 2-4 484 months to transit through the Solomon Sea, which is also consistent with model estimates of 485 residence times (Melet et al., 2011). This is much shorter than reported residence times of Al in 486 the open ocean. Because this region has large coastal influence, it is possible that input and 487 removal of Al are rapid, and riverine inputs and coastal sediments must release and scavenge Al 488 on shorter timescales than the residence time of NGCU waters in the Solomon Sea. If station 34 489 is not in the flow path of the NGCU, then the enrichments seen at station 39 are local. However, 490 if station 39 is not in the flow path of the NGCU, then the enrichments at station 71 might be 491 sourced from the upstream waters coming from station 34. In either case, the small increases in 492 TDAl without enrichments in DAl and Mn at station 60 may be sourced from station 71.

493 In the thermocline layer, observations show that water transport into and out of the Solomon Sea 494 was roughly equal at the time of the PANDORA cruise with transport into the Solomon Sea at its 495 southern entrance  $\approx 23.6 \pm 0.8$  Sv, and transport out of the Solomon Sea through the exit straits 496  $\approx$ 22.8 ±1.0 Sv (Germineaud et al., 2016). This allows us to construct a steady state budget with 497 regard to transport over this density interval. Despite strong seasonal and interannual variability in flow through the Solomon Sea, (e.g., Germineaud et al., 2016; Alberty et al., 2019), estimates 498 499 of the transport of the EUC (e.g., Grenier et al., 2011; Lindstrom et al., 1987; Tsuchiya et al., 500 1989) are similar to the Solomon Sea transport over this density interval (22-23 Sv) observed by 501 Germineaud et al. (2016) during PANDORA. In our steady state model, chemical influx is thus 502 calculated by multiplying the depth-weighted average inflow profile for the Solomon Sea by 503  $22.8 \pm 1.0$  Sv. We also consider that DAl, TDAl, DMn, and TDMn distributions in the Vitiaz 504 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  $(24-26.9\sigma_{\theta})$  in the Solomon Sea. Transport estimates are from Germineaud 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	Dal	TDA1	DMn	TDMn
	(Sv)	mols/s	mols/s	mols/s	mols/s
Inflow* (mol s <sup>-1</sup> )	$22.8 \pm 1.0$	136 ± 19	$147 \pm 35$	$6.1 \pm 0.5$	9.1±0.6
Vitiaz Strait	$10.3 \pm 0.3$	$93 \pm 8$	111±5	$2.7 \pm 0.1$	$5.0 \pm 0.3$
(station 77) Solomon Strait (station 42)	6.25±0.4	56 ± 6	59±6	$1.7 \pm 0.3$	$3.1 \pm 0.4$
St. George's Channel (station 60)	6.25±0.5	$42 \pm 5$	47±4	$1.7 \pm 0.2$	$2.7\pm0.3$
Outflow (mol s <sup>-1</sup> )	22.8±1.0	$190 \pm 19$	$217 \pm 16$	$6.1 \pm 0.6$	$10.8 \pm 1.0$

- 509 These data show that at the time of the PANDORA cruise, fluxes of DAl, TDAl, and TDMn out
- 510 of the Solomon Sea in the thermocline waters were only slightly higher (8-90 mol/s DA1, 7-130
- 511 mol/s TDAl, 0.3-2.4 mol/s TDMn) than fluxes into the Solomon Sea, and that DMn fluxes
- 512 remained constant through the basin.

## 513 <u>4.1.3 Deep layer – 450-1400 m; >26.9 $\sigma_{\theta}$ </u>

In the deeper ocean (450m - 1300m;  $26.9 \sigma_{\theta} - ~27.5\sigma_{\theta}$ ) 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 TDAl 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 DAl, TDAl, and TDMn relative to concentrations at station 13 reflect enrichments due to to

scouring as the SEC flows through the Solomon Islands.

522 Other factors, such as accumulation of sinking particles may be responsible for the enrichments 523 in Mn and Al at stations 39, 71, and 60, which lie deep within the Solomon Sea and are isolated 524 from local features. The Woodlark Rise, extending 250 km NE from the Woodlark Island 525 Archipelago to within ~60 km from the Solomon Archipelago, is a ridge line of bathymetric 526 highs that reach  $\leq 1000$  m with gaps between highs reaching  $\sim 1500$  m. This feature creates a semi-527 enclosed basin below  $\sim 1000$  m that encompasses stations 71 and 60 in the NE Solomon Sea. 528 Below 400m, the NGCU (Alberty et al., 2019) transits from the Coral Sea and flows around the 529 Louisiade Archipelago and then around, through, and/or over the Woodlark Rise; below 1000 m 530 it likely passes through the channel between the Woodlark Rise and the Solomon Islands (Fig. 531 1b). At stations 42 and 60, enrichments in TDAI and TDMn, the HCl-labile portion of the 532 particulate fraction, likely represent sinking particles accumulating along the flow path of the 533 NGCU/NBCU and within the semi-enclosed basin due to longer residence time for waters there. 534 The residence time of water in the basin between  $\sim$ 450 and  $\sim$ 1400m is estimated to be <1 year 535 based on models (Melet et al., 2011) or transport estimates, however transport (and current 536 speed) significantly decreases with depth below 450m (Alberty et al., 2019; Gasparin et al., 537 2012) resulting in increased residence times with depth.

538 The relative increases in TDAl and TDMn also arise from the scavenging of dissolved phases 539 sourced along the flow path or from particles resuspended as water flows over the Woodlark rise 540 and other bathymetry. Through the Vitiaz Strait (station 77), there is likely sediment 541 resuspension from the bottom and walls of the channel (~1100 m/27.4  $\sigma_{\theta}$ ) as water passes 542 through. The larger enrichments in the exit straits may also be due to accumulation of sinking 543 particles, or other local, shorter-lived phenomena (e.g., increased river runoff), though we do not 544 have enough information to say this definitively. It is possible that at these deeper depths, 545 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 546 547 sources. Additional measurements in this region would help better constrain this hypothesis.

548 The straits in the Solomon Sea also exhibit increases in DMn with depth, which, in the deep 549 layer, generally indicates recent inputs from sedimentary and/or hydrothermal sources but can 550 also be associated with oxygen deficient zones. Prior to reaching the Woodlark Rise, within the 551 Woodlark basin, hydrothermal activity is present at >2500 m (Laurila et al., 2012) with 552 shallower hydrothermal activity inferred at Kana Keoki seamount at 650 m near the Solomon 553 Archipelago (InterRidge Database: https://vents-data.interridge.org/). These are unlikely to be 554 the source of the Mn enrichments between 700 and 1350 m, however. Given the highly tectonic 555 and magmatic character of the region, hydrothermal hot springs likely exist throughout the basin. 556 Diffusion from or resuspension of sediments are also possible source mechanisms for DMn 557 whose input coincides with transport through and along the Woodlark Rise. Dissolved oxygen 558 remains relatively elevated throughout the basin at these depths, suggesting that particle 559 remineralization does not play a large role in maintaining DMn levels. This is supported by 560 dissolved Ce concentrations (Pham et al., 2019), which decrease as water flows through the 561 basin, and Ce anomalies in the deeper ocean that do not indicate any shifts towards either 562 remineralization or increased solubility due to changes in redox chemistry. The increase in DMn 563 concentrations between stations 71 and 60 versus those in the straits suggest that sediments may 564 be the predominant sources of DMn in the regional deep layer. The absence of an enrichment in 26

DMn, DAl, and TDAl at station 39 (and small TDMn enrichment) suggests that there is little to 565 566 no Mn input as the NGCU transits through and around bathymetry prior to reaching station 39 at 567 these depths. While it is possible that the NGCU is bathymetrically steered away from station 568 39, it seems more likely that Mn and/or Al are added after passing this station. The presence of 569 DMn at this station suggests that the TDMn is sourced at depth from the oxidation and 570 scavenging of DMn. Station 21 also shows enrichments in TDMn, TDAl, and DAl relative to 571 stations outside of the Solomon Sea suggesting the accumulation of dissolved metals and 572 sediments as water flows through the Solomon Archipelago. While various small enrichments 573 are observed at stations outside of the Solomon Sea, it is not possible to evaluate background 574 values for these stations. However, we do note that the SEC flows past many shallow seamounts 575 en route to the Solomon Sea.

576 Estimated fluxes of trace metals in the deep layer are determined based on transport estimates for

577 the PANDORA cruise calculated by Germineaud et al. (2016) and are reported in Table 4.

578 Because there is less mixing deeper in the ocean, transport estimates are more consistent between

579 the inflow  $(9.3\pm1.4 \text{ Sv})$  and outflow  $(8.4\pm2.6 \text{ Sv})$  than they are in the surface layer, but there are

580 still large uncertainties on transport estimates deeper in the water column, as well as a slight

581 imbalance between inflowing and outflowing water transport. Fluxes reported here for total

582 outflow show that trace metal modifications are minimal relative to inflowing water, despite

583 regions of local enrichment observed in profile data.

584

**Table 4**: Transport and trace metal flux estimates for the deep layer(> $26.9\sigma_{\theta}$ ) in the Solomon Sea. Transport estimates from Germineaud 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	DAl	TDA1	DMn	TDMn

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

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# 587 4.2 Constraining the Solomon Sea Flux to the EUC

588 The EUC is largely composed of water originating from the NGCU/thermocline waters (24-26.9 589  $\sigma_{\theta}$ ), and so we can compare the flux of trace metals out of the Solomon Sea (Table 3) in this 590 layer to the flux of trace metals in the EUC over the same density interval by using average DAI, 591 TDAl, DMn, and TDMn concentrations from the EUC collected at 0°, 156 °E by Slemons et al. 592 (2010; Station 22). At this longitude, water exiting the Solomon Sea would have been entrained 593 in the EUC. These measurements were collected six years before the PANDORA cruise, but 594 during the same season, and in a similar ENSO phase. The implicit assumption in the 595 comparison of flux out of the Solomon Sea and the flux into the EUC is that everything leaving 596 the Solomon Sea at that depth range enters the EUC, as shown in Fig. 6. This is clearly not the 597 case, but this assumption establishes an upper bound for trace metals contributed from the 598 Solomon Sea to the EUC. For flux estimates several additional assumptions are made: the 599 Solomon Sea is in steady state and not temporally variable; stations in the straits are 600 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

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

	DAI	TDAI	DMn	TDMn
Inflow (mol s <sup>-1</sup> )	136 ± 19	147±35	6.1±0.5	9.1±0.6
Outflow (mol s <sup>-1</sup> )	$190 \pm 19$	$217 \pm 16$	$6.1 \pm 0.6$	$10.8 \pm 1.0$
In EUC (mol s <sup>-1</sup> )	160±9	$177 \pm 10$	$7.8 \pm 0.4$	$17 \pm 0.9$

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It is important to note that the EUC does not receive its water solely from the Solomon Sea, and 605 606 the breakdown of how much water comes from the Solomon Sea versus from other Southern and 607 Northern Hemisphere sources is still unclear. Hydrographic parameters measured during the 608 Western Equatorial Pacific Ocean Study (WEPOCS, 1985/1986) (e.g., Lindstrom et al., 1987; 609 Tsuchiya et al., 1989) show the EUC was fed predominantly by water from the Southern 610 Hemisphere with ~2/3 from southern low latitude western boundary currents, including the NGCU (Tsuchiya et al., 1989) and ~1/4 of the water originating in the Northern Hemisphere 611 612 (Lindstrom et al., 1987; Tsuchiya et al., 1989). However, this study also observed a seasonally 613 variable NGCU, including one season in which it flowed at the same rate as the EUC. Since then, 614 other studies have investigated the relative importance of water from northern and southern 615 sources and have come to differing conclusions about the proportion of water from the north and 616 south. Grenier et al. (2011) estimate about 58% of the water in the EUC at 156°W passed 617 through the Solomon Sea, and about 33% comes from the Mindanao Current in the north, with

<sup>602</sup> Solomon Sea Inflow, Outflow, and flux at the EUC are shown in Table 5.

618 the remainder coming from other sources south of the EUC. A modeling study by Izumo et al.

- 619 (2002) indicates roughly equal contributions from the Northern and Southern Hemispheres,
- 620 while other studies suggest the dominance of a southern source (Liu and Huang, 1998). Most
- 621 recently, biogeochemical tracer data indicate that the nutrients in the EUC are primarily derived
- 622 from Southern Hemisphere water: based on isotopic tracers (<sup>15</sup>N and <sup>18</sup>O measured in nitrate) and
- 623 oxygen measurements combined with the nutrient data (silicic acid and nitrate), the fraction of
- 624 water in the EUC derived from the Mindanao Current (in the Northern Hemisphere) is estimated
- 625 to be much smaller than that from the Southern Hemisphere (Lehmann et al., 2018).

626 The relative contributions of trace metals from the Solomon Sea to the EUC trace metal pool can 627 then be estimated for the different estimates of northern versus southern water contribution to the 628 EUC (Table 6). Averaging these estimates, our data suggest that about 70% of the DA1, 80% of 629 the TDA1, 50% of DMn, and 40% of the TDMn in the EUC must come from waters exiting the 630 Solomon Sea. It is also important to note that there is seasonal variability in these estimates, and 631 that as the EUC flows east, it entrains additional water, and the relative importance of the waters 632 originally feeding the EUC diminishes during its eastward transit (Qin et al., 2015). Our results 633 indicate that the Solomon Sea can supply a majority of the required Al to the EUC. However, 634 relative to Al, there is proportionally less Mn in the EUC coming from the Solomon Sea, 635 suggesting other sources to the EUC must be more enriched in Mn and have higher Mn/Al ratio.

636 Because there are other sources of water to the EUC, there are other potential sources of trace 637 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 638 639 Sea. However Mn data collected at stations just beyond the Vitiaz Strait along the PNG coast by 640 Slemons et al. (2010) are remarkably consistent with Mn concentrations reported here. By 641 comparison Al concentrations along the coast vary greatly, especially in the surface, but are 642 generally lower by  $\sim 2-5$  nM (and in the surface up to 35 nM) compared to the data for the 643 Solomon Sea reported here. These findings indicate that the PNG coastline does not provide the

644 missing Mn and may be a sink for Al. This is consistent with the findings of Mackey et al.

- 645 (2002a) who show that while concentrations of Fe and Mn are high off the coast of PNG
- 646 especially near the outflow of the Sepik River, this riverine source of Mn and Fe to the Bismarck
- 647 Sea is insufficient to produce the concentrations of these elements observed in the EUC. Just
- 648 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	% of EUC Method of derived from Estimate Southern		% trace metals contributed to EUC based on magnitude of source				
	Hemisphere		DAl	TDA1	DMn	TDMn		
	100%	Upper Bound	119	123	79	64		
Grenier et al., 2011 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	<70%	O <sub>2</sub> , Si, N isotopes	83	86	55	45		
Qin et al., 2015 <sup>3</sup>	63%	Model	75	77	50	40		
Average			74	76	49	40		

<sup>1</sup> Fluxes are contribution from Solomon Sea, specifically, <sup>2</sup> Looks at upper and lower EUC, <sup>3</sup>40% Solomon Strait, 23% Vitiaz Strait at 165°E

#### 656 **5. Conclusions**

657 Our data show that water exiting the Solomon Sea is important in supplying aluminum, and to a 658 lesser degree, manganese, to the Equatorial Undercurrent. However, from a net budget 659 perspective, the amount of Al and Mn enrichment that occurs within the basin is small, relative 660 to the inflow concentrations, indicating that most of the Al and Mn was acquired prior to 661 reaching the Solomon Sea or that inputs are approximately balanced by scavenging within the 662 basin. This is also true for deeper water in the Solomon Sea. The trace metal pool in the surface 663 layer does appear to be enriched relative to inflowing waters, but because of large seasonal 664 variability and disparities in water transport between entrance and exit, more studies are needed 665 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.

673 The importance of the Solomon Sea as a source of trace nutrients to the EUC is heavily

674 influenced by the proportion of water in the EUC that is derived from the Southern Hemisphere.

675 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

677 better constraining these fluxes. Higher sampling resolution (spatial and temporal) within the

678 region, including within the EUC, at potential source regions south of the Solomon Sea

- 679 (including near Vanuatu, and in the Coral Sea), and from the SEC will be important in
- 680 constraining the impact of the waters passing through the Solomon Sea on the chemistry of the32

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
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#### 905 **Figure Captions**

- 906 Fig. 1. a) Sub-surface currents [dark blue; after Germineaud 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 location
- 913 of station 22 from Slemons et al. (2010). **b**) Bathymetry of the Woodlark Basin and Trobriand
- 914 Islands.
- 915 **Fig. 2.** Dissolved Al (DAl) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Light
- 916 blue circles show measured DAl concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DAl
- 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 (TDAl) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA
- 922 cruise. Dark blue circles show measured TDAl 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)
- profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

927 Fig. 4. Dissolved Mn (DMn) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Pink

- 928 diamonds show measured DMn concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DMn
- 929 profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green box represents
- 930 the density interval over which budget of the thermocline waters is calculated. (**a–c**) waters that
- 931 are located south of the Solomon Sea; (**d**–**f**) profiles found along the NGCU; (**g**–**i**) profiles that
- 932 are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.

933 Fig. 5 Total Dissolvable Mn (TDMn) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA

934 cruise. Red diamonds show measured TDMn concentrations. Orange line represents average

- 935 inflow TDMn profile, while grey shading represents the range of inflow concentrations. Green
- 936 box represents the density interval over which the mass balance is calculated. (**a-c**) waters that
- 937 are located south of the Solomon Sea; (**d–f**) profiles found along the NGCU; (**g–i**) profiles that
- 938 are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; (j–l) located outside the Solomon Sea.
- 939 Fig. 6. Budget for thermocline waters (24-26.9  $\sigma_{\theta}$ ), showing the flux of DA1, TDA1, DMn,
- 940 TDMn at the inflow, the outflow via currents (NGCU, NICU, and SGU), and the flux out of the
- 941 EUC at 156°E, as well as the average concentration of the Solomon Sea, calculated from stations
- 942 most representative of the Solomon Sea. Red dots represent stations used to calculate
- 943 concentrations at each exit strait over the potential density range of the EUC



**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 (DAl) profiles versus potential density from the Pandora cruise. Light blue circles show measured DAl concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DAl 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. ( $\mathbf{a-c}$ ) waters that are located south of the Solomon Sea; ( $\mathbf{d-f}$ ) profiles found along the NGCU; ( $\mathbf{g-i}$ ) profiles that are at the exit straits of the Solomon Sea; ( $\mathbf{j-l}$ ) located outside the Solomon Sea.



**Fig. 3**. Total Dissolvable Al (TDAl) profiles versus potential density from the PANDORA cruise. Dark blue circles show measured TDAl concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow TDAl 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.



Solomon Sea Average Concentration								
	DAl (nM)	7.2±1.17						
	TDAl (nM)	9.6±1.6						
	DMn (nM)	0.28±0.03						
	TDMn (nM)	0.48±0.04						



**Fig. 6**. Budget for 24-26.9  $\sigma_{\theta}$ , showing the flux of DAl, TDAl, 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 representive 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 (PAI) 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 (DAl) profiles versus depth from the PANDORA cruise. Light blue circles show measured DAl concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow DAl 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 (TDAl) profiles versus depth from the PANDORA cruise. Blue circles show measured TDAl concentrations. Orange line represents average inflow TDAl 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.

Station	Surface (m)	<b>24</b> $\sigma_{\theta}$ (m)	<b>26.9</b> $\sigma_{\theta}$ (m)	<b>Deep</b> (~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
*D	1	(2(1 - ))		

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

\*Profile collected only to 353 m (26.4  $\sigma_{\theta}$ )

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

Latitude	Longitude	STATION	Depth (m)	DAI (nM)	DAl_1SD_(nM)	TDAI_nM	TDAL_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