

Warnings about ocean acidification are misleading – and deliberately so

By Ross McLeod – August 2014

Indisputable facts

- carbon dioxide (CO₂), dissolved in pure water, makes a weak, unstable acid, whilst the ocean water is a very stable buffer with a pH averaging around 8, which means it is alkaline;
- there isn't enough CO₂ in the atmosphere to make much difference to the ocean's pH;
- the concentration of enough CO₂ to significantly reduce the ocean's pH will not come from the atmosphere;
- the mass of the oceans is 268 times the mass of the atmosphere;
- CO₂ is currently only 0.04% of that atmosphere.

Discussion about those facts

Besides the above chemical and physical facts, it is well known that an increase in water temperature will reduce the solubility of CO₂.

Leave any cold carbonated drink to warm up and see what happens to the fizz, which is CO₂ in case you didn't know.

It is therefore not rocket science to state with complete confidence that warm water naturally contains less CO₂ than cold water.

The oceans are outgassing CO₂ due to the slight warming trend since the end of the Mini Ice Age. The exact cause of this trend IS NOT known and remains the subject of much scientific debate! There is evidence that there is a gap of many centuries between planet-wide temperature swings and atmospheric CO₂ concentrations.

The Climate Alarmist's Case

Climate alarmists are stunningly contradictory and actually amusing if they didn't hold the world at ransom over this non-problem of a slight increase in CO₂ concentrations.

- They point out the slight increasing trend in temperatures as alarming!
- They point out the side effect of this slight increasing trend in temperatures – rising sea levels – as alarming!
- Then they claim man's CO₂ emissions will increase ocean acidification – as alarming!

*But you simply cannot have it both ways – **that** is an “Inconvenient Truth”!*

Summary and Conclusion

- ✓ Either the oceans are getting warmer and the CO₂ concentration in seawater is decreasing, which means that ocean acidification from man-made CO₂ from the atmosphere is nonsense.
- ✓ Or the oceans are getting cooler and the man-made CO₂ from the atmosphere *is* dissolving in those cooler oceans and causing – insignificant – ocean acidification, which means that warming oceans and the associated sea level rises are nonsense.

Take your pick – REAL SCIENCE says you can't have both.