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1	A carbonate compensation depth overshoot in the aftermath of the
2	Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum
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18 19	During the Paleocene-Focene Thermal Maximum (PFTM ~56Ma) thousands of
15	During the Factocene-Elecene Therman Maximum (FETM, "Solvia), thousands of
20	petagrams of carbon were released into the atmosphere and oceans in just a few
21	thousand years (kyr), followed by gradual sequestration over ~200 kyr. Theory and
22	carbon cycle models predict that if silicate weathering is one of the key negative
23	feedbacks responsible for the removal of this carbon, a period of calcium carbonate
24	oversaturation (relative to pre-event levels) should have occurred during the event's
25	recovery. This could be reflected in the marine geological record as an over-
26	deepening of the calcite compensation depth (CCD). However, despite previous
27	evidence for enhanced calcium carbonate accumulation at shallow depths following
28	the PETM, no direct observations of this hypothesized CCD over-deepening have
29	yet been made. Here we present evidence from two new North Atlantic sections that
30	test this hypothesis. Consistent with existing records, we find higher calcite
31	accumulation during the PETM recovery phase compared to pre-event
32	accumulation at a mid-abyssal site (U1409), demonstrating intensified post-PETM







1 calcite preservation above the CCD. However, at a second, deeper (lower abyssal) 2 site (U1403) that comprises calcite-barren clay prior to the PETM, we observe a 3 transition to calcite-rich during the PETM recovery, providing the first 4 observational evidence of the posited post-PETM CCD over-deepening. We also find 5 an ~70 kyr lag between the PETM onset and CCD overshoot that is best explained 6 in our Earth system model experiments by prolonged low-level PETM carbon 7 emissions following a large initial carbon release. Our findings indicate that PETM 8 carbon sequestration was accomplished by both globally enhanced calcite burial 9 above the CCD and by an over-deepening of the CCD (at least in the North 10 Atlantic), advancing our understanding of how the Earth system recovers from 11 major carbon cycle perturbations.

12The Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM; ~56 Ma) represents one of the 13 largest and most abrupt greenhouse warming events in Earth history. Marine and terrestrial records document a global >2.5% negative carbon isotope excursion (CIE)<sup>1-3</sup> 14coincident with global mean surface ocean warming of  $>4^{\circ}C^{4}$  and geochemical and 15 sedimentological evidence for ocean acidification<sup>5,6</sup>. Collectively, these lines of evidence 16 17suggest a rapid (10<sup>3</sup>-10<sup>4</sup> years) and massive (~3,000-10,000 PgC) release of <sup>13</sup>C-depleted carbon into the ocean-atmosphere system<sup>7-9</sup>. The PETM thus offers the opportunity to 18 19 examine the response and recovery of the global carbon cycle and seawater carbonate 20 chemistry to an ancient CO<sub>2</sub> release similar in magnitude to ongoing anthropogenic fossil 21 fuel combustion<sup>10</sup>.

22 Current understanding of long-term carbon cycle processes suggests that large-23 scale carbon injection into the ocean-atmosphere should induce a two-phase response in

ocean carbonate saturation. Initially, rapid invasion of  $CO_2$  into the ocean lowers pH and carbonate saturation state ( $\Omega$ ) in tandem<sup>6,11,12</sup>, resulting in dissolution of both newly deposited and pre-existing carbonate sediments<sup>5</sup>. The result is a dramatic reduction in CaCO<sub>3</sub> burial in marine sediments globally and, in places, evidence for a shoaling of the calcite compensation depth (CCD, the depth below which no calcium carbonate, in the form of calcite, is preserved).<sup>5,13,14</sup>.

A second phase of carbonate saturation and burial response arises from elevated atmospheric  $pCO_2$  and increased global temperatures that are thought to drive an increase in the rate of terrestrial carbonate and silicate rock chemical weathering<sup>15,16</sup>, which can be generalized:

$$CaCO_3 + CO_2 + H_2O \rightarrow Ca^{2+} + 2HCO_3^{-}$$
(1)

12 
$$\operatorname{CaSiO}_3 + 2\operatorname{CO}_2 + 3\operatorname{H}_2\operatorname{O} \xrightarrow{} \operatorname{Ca}^{2+} + 2\operatorname{HCO}_3^- + \operatorname{H}_4\operatorname{SiO}_4$$
 (2)

Accelerating these reactions increases the delivery of  $Ca^{2+}$  (and thus total alkalinity) and 13 dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) to the oceans, elevating  $\Omega$ . An intensification of 14 15 continental weathering during the PETM is supported by a pronounced increase in the <sup>187</sup>Os/<sup>188</sup>Os of seawater<sup>17,18</sup> and an increase in kaolinite in marine sediments<sup>19</sup>. However, 16 17although the silicate weathering rate responds quickly to increased temperature/CO<sub>2</sub>, the rate of CO<sub>2</sub> drawdown from global weathering (~  $0.1 \text{ PgC/yr}^{11}$ ) is small in comparison to 18 estimates of initial carbon release (thousands of PgC)<sup>7-9</sup>, meaning that this feedback 19 should take  $>10^4$  years to gradually overcome the undersaturation associated with the 20 initial acidification phase<sup>20-22</sup>. On longer timescales (>10<sup>5</sup> years)<sup>22</sup>, this increased 2122 weathering-derived flux of TA and DIC to the oceans must be balanced by carbonate 23 production and burial to balance the ocean's alkalinity budget:

1 
$$\operatorname{Ca}^{2+} + 2\operatorname{HCO}_3^{-} \rightarrow \operatorname{CaCO}_3 + \operatorname{CO}_2 + \operatorname{H}_2O$$
 (3)

The long-term balance of carbonate weathering with carbonate burial has no permanent effect on the ocean's TA or DIC budgets (Equation 1 is simply the reverse of Equation 3). However, the long-term balance of silicate weathering (Equation 2) with carbonate burial (Equation 3) gives rise to a net consumption of CO<sub>2</sub> that is buried as CaCO<sub>3</sub> sediment – the long-term fate of carbon released during the PETM.

7 The assumption that net  $CO_2$  consumption (Equation 2+3) is responsive to a 8 perturbation in climate forms the basis of a proposed long-term negative (stabilizing) 9 feedback on climate, hypothesized to have been important in maintaining a habitable climate throughout Earth history<sup>15,16</sup> and specifically during the PETM recovery<sup>20</sup>. One 10 11 way in which global carbonate burial could respond to changing weathering flux is 12through fluctuations of the global sea-floor area of carbonate-free sediments (i.e the 13 CCD). In other words: during the initial acidification phase, carbonate undersaturation 14 leads to a reduced CaCO<sub>3</sub> sink and a short-term shoaling of the CCD, whereas on longer timescales (> $10^5$  years), faster weathering rates lead to carbonate oversaturation and 15 16 increased carbonate burial, which might be reflected in an over-deepening of the  $CCD^{10,20,23}$ . The interval of excess (compared to pre-PETM) CaCO<sub>3</sub> burial primarily 1718 reflects the removal of carbon released at the onset of the PETM by enhanced silicate 19 weathering, together with the quantity of  $CaCO_3$  dissolved during the initial carbonate 20 undersaturation phase and additional terrestrial weathering of carbonate rocks under 21 warmer temperatures (both of which will be some function of CO<sub>2</sub> release). The 22 characteristics of any post-PETM CCD overshoot hence potentially hold key information 1 regarding the magnitude of carbon release and the processes involved in the recovery 2 from an abrupt carbon cycle perturbation.

3 A carbonate burial overshoot is a predicted consequence of the silicate weathering 4 feedback. Indeed, the existence of a CCD over-deepening is predicted by several carbon cycle model simulations of the PETM that include such a feedback<sup>9,20</sup>. Yet no records 5 6 exist from deep sites below the pre-PETM CCD with which to detect possible CCD over-7 deepening. Deep-sea sedimentary records from above the CCD (Southern Ocean Site 690 <sup>24-27</sup> at ~1900m paleodepth and South Atlantic Sites 1263<sup>5,26,27</sup> at ~1500m paleodepth and 8 1266<sup>5,28</sup> at ~2500m paleodepth) show increases in CaCO<sub>3</sub> content and accumulation rate 9 during and after the PETM recovery<sup>25-27</sup>. These records are consistent with weathering 10 11 feedbacks prompting increased carbonate burial during the PETM recovery. These supra-12CCD records are important constraints because the long-term requirement to balance the 13elevated weathering flux only requires carbonate burial to increase globally (not 14necessarily buried at deeper depths), and it is theoretically possible to accommodate such 15 elevated global carbonate burial without substantial deepening of the CCD<sup>29</sup>. Nonetheless, some models<sup>9,10,20</sup> predict that a testable facet of the recovery process from 16 17massive carbon cycle perturbation involves an over-deepening of the CCD, and the 18 location of these sites above the pre-PETM CCD means that they cannot directly test for 19 this predicted CCD over-deepening. Direct observational evidence sites deep enough to 20 test for a post-PETM CCD overshoot has thus far remained elusive.

Here we present lithology, CaCO<sub>3</sub> content, and carbon isotope ( $\delta^{13}$ C) records 21 22 from recently recovered sediment cores in the North Atlantic (IODP Sites U1403, PETM 23 paleodepth  $\sim 4374$ m and U1409, paleodepth  $\sim 2913$ m<sup>30</sup>) that provide important constraints on the evolution of the CCD through the PETM, including the first evidence for CCD over-deepening during the PETM recovery. To explore the broader implications of these records for PETM carbon emissions scenarios, we present new carbon release experiments using two carbon cycle models – LOSCAR<sup>9,31</sup> and cGENIE<sup>32,33</sup> and discuss uncertainties in the representation of geological carbon cycling in current models.

6 At Site U1409, the PETM CIE occurs in an interval of variously silicified 7 sediments (siliceous claystones, siliceous limestones and cherts) at 178.9-179.2 mcd 8 (Figure 1A), contrasting with the nannofossil chalk that characterizes much of the Paleogene at this site<sup>30</sup>. Although likely somewhat condensed, the  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  record bears 9 the typical<sup>27</sup> PETM CIE pattern of an abrupt decrease (here of  $\sim 2\%$ ) followed by a 10 plateau of low values and then gradual recovery (Fig. 1). Bulk  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  over the PETM 11 12 CIE interval sampled a heterogeneous mixture of lithology (clay, carbonate-rich burrows 13 within that clay, and siliceous sediments), with all three lithologies revealing significantly lower  $\delta^{13}$ C within the CIE than pre-event values. The integrity of the bulk  $\delta^{13}$ C carb record 14 15 is also supported by the close structural similarity between it and the equivalent bulk  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  records from the Southern Ocean and Walvis Ridge (Fig. 1, 2A). The Site U1409 16 17 $\delta^{13}$ C record from benthic foraminifera is discontinuous owing to silicification accross the 18 onset and initial recovery, but minimum values within the CIE show a large (~3‰) excursion, similar to that seen in benthic records from the Southern Ocean<sup>34</sup> and South 19 20 Atlantic<sup>35</sup>. Below the CIE, carbonate content is between 60-70 wt%, decreases to a 21 minimum of ~40 wt% at the CIE onset, and rebounds to ~70% following the CIE. This pattern is similar to other pelagic PETM sections<sup>14</sup> and implies that the local CCD was 22 23 always deeper than the paleodepth of Site U1409, while the decrease in carbonate during

1 the PETM can be interpreted as a transient decrease in the calcite saturation state,  $\Omega$ . 2 consistent with shoaling of the CCD. The absence of near-0 wt% CaCO<sub>3</sub> sediment at Site 3 U1409 contrasts with records from the South Atlantic Ocean<sup>5</sup> where cores even shallower 4 than U1409 are barren of carbonate within the CIE. Although this observation could 5 imply that CCD shoaling in the North Atlantic was less dramatic than that in the South 6 Atlantic, hiatuses, bioturbation by burrowing, or incomplete recovery of this silicified 7 interval could have obscured or resulted in the loss of the interval containing the lowest 8 wt% CaCO<sub>3</sub> values. Regardless, carbonate content and accumulation rate at Site U1409 9 were higher during the PETM recovery than before the event, similar to other sites at mid-ocean depths or shallower<sup>5,24-26,28</sup>, thus providing support for elevated saturation 10 11 states and increased carbonate burial above the CCD during the recovery phase.

12Lower abyssal Site U1403 features a prominent transition (over ~5 cm) from 13 carbonate-poor (<0.5 wt%) claystone in the Upper Paleocene (extending from the P-E boundary to at least ~61  $Ma^{30}$ ) to carbonate-bearing (~20-30 wt%) nannofossil claystone 1415 in the lower Eocene (Figure 1B). This carbonate-rich interval contains calcareous 16 nannofossils of zone NP9B, including PETM excursion taxa Discoaster araneus and *Rhomboaster* spp<sup>30</sup>. Bulk  $\delta^{13}C_{org}$  reveals a negative CIE between 200.7 and 201.5 mcd 1718 that is superimposed on comparatively high amplitude orbital timescale variability in the late Paleocene. The  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  record necessarily begins at the onset of carbonate 19 20 sedimentation with low values of ~0.6‰, followed by a gradual 1.4‰ increase over the next ~1.6 m, parallel to the recovery in  $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ . Given the simultaneous trends to higher 21 values in both  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  and  $\delta^{13}C_{org}$  within zone NP9B, this  $\delta^{13}C$  increase can be 22 unambiguously assigned to the PETM CIE recovery. The magnitude of the  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ 23

increase (1.4‰) is close to the full amplitude of the PETM CIE recovery observed in
bulk carbonates globally<sup>27</sup> and at Site U1409 (Figure 2A), so we confidently assign the
onset of carbonate sedimentation at Site U1403 to early in the PETM recovery phase.

We construct age models by correlating the  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  records to a compilation of 4 bulk and fine-fraction  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  on an orbitally calibrated age model<sup>27</sup> (Figure 2A and 2C). 5 6 This age model, based on several PETM sites, produces a shorter duration of the PETM CIE than extraterrestrial <sup>3</sup>He-based estimates,<sup>24,28</sup> so durations here may represent 7 8 minima. On this timescale, carbonate sedimentation begins at Site U1403 ~70kyr after 9 the PETM onset and is followed by a period of elevated (20-40) wt% CaCO<sub>3</sub> that persists 10 for a further ~150kyr. Fluctuations between 5 and 25 wt% CaCO<sub>3</sub> continue throughout 11 the lower Eocene. Although the CIE onset at Site U1403 as defined by the somewhat noisy  $\delta^{13}C_{org}$  record introduces some uncertainty around the placement of the P-E 1213 boundary, this does not affect the relative timing of the initial appearance of carbonate at 14 this lower abyssal site, which is unambiguously assigned to the PETM recovery interval based on  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  and the occurrence of PETM excursion-interval calcareous 15 16 nannofossils.

The pattern of carbonate sedimentation at Site U1403 (carbonate-barren in the Paleocene with carbonate appearing during the PETM recovery) has not previously been observed in sediments spanning the PETM. The absence of carbonate in the Upper Paleocene and into the earliest Eocene indicates the CCD lay shallower than Site U1403 before the PETM and through the CIE onset and body. The onset of carbonate sedimentation ~70kyr after the PETM onset indicates that the CCD over-deepened to below the ~4400 m lower abyssal paleo-water depth of Site U1403 during the early phase

of PETM recovery – direct evidence for a post-PETM CCD overshoot. The ~150kyr period of elevated carbonate deposition at Site U1403 represents the main phase of the CCD over-deepening, and is coeval with enhanced carbonate accumulation and preservation at shallower paleodepths documented here at Site U1409 and elsewhere<sup>5,25,26,28</sup> (Figure 2D). These observations strongly implicate elevated wholeocean saturation state as the cause of enhanced carbonate burial at all water depths and from the North Atlantic to the Southern Ocean.

8 To explore the implications of a CCD overshoot and its timing, and the CCD 9 over-deepening at U1403 in particular, we tested a variety of PETM carbon emissions 10 scenarios using the models LOSCAR and cGENIE. Rather than carry out an extensive 11 sweep of all combinations of plausible size and duration of carbon release, our emissions scenarios are based on ref.<sup>9</sup>, characterized by an initial C input ( $\delta^{13}C = -50\%$ ) of 3000 1213 PgC over 5 kyr, followed by 1480 PgC over 50 kyr, and originally developed to best match records of carbonate dissolution (particularly in the South Atlantic<sup>5</sup>). However, we 1415 explored a number of variations on this basic emissions trajectory (Figs. S4-S15) such as doubling the total mass with half the isotopic composition ( $\delta^{13}C = -25\%$ ). In order to 16 17isolate the response of carbonate burial dynamics from circulation effects that might 18 diverge in the two models, we ran cGENIE with radiative forcing (and thus ocean 19 circulation) fixed, and for direct comparison with cGENIE (Figure 3) we omitted the 20 prescribed circulation changes of ref. 9 in LOSCAR. We tracked the evolution of global 21 sedimentary wt% CaCO<sub>3</sub> preserved, and simulated the expected marine sediment record 22 in modeled 'cores' at North Atlantic depths approximating Sites U1409 and U1403.

1 The configurations of both LOSCAR and cGENIE models used here include a 2 CO<sub>2</sub>-dependent silicate weathering feedback (see methods). Both models simulate a 3 global CCD and wt% CaCO<sub>3</sub> overshoot which occurs between 20 and 45 kyr after the 4 onset of carbon emissions and peaks between 65 and 97 kyr after the onset, depending on the emissions schedule and model (Figure 3 and Figure S3) $^{9,20}$ . The carbonate overshoot 5 6 begins earlier when the carbon pulse occurs over a shorter interval of time (Figures S6, 7 S12). The long delay (~70kyr) in the onset of carbonate sedimentation at Site U1403 that 8 we infer from our age model is hence difficult to reconcile with only a short "spike" of 9 carbon released at the onset of the PETM. Rather, the delay is better explained by a 10 sustained release of carbon lasting many tens of kyr after an initial spike (Figure 3, S1), consistent with the conclusions of refs. <sup>9</sup> and <sup>6</sup>. Such sustained carbon release might arise 11 as a feedback response to initial warming<sup>36,37</sup> or represent prolonged North Atlantic 1213 volcanism. Our experiments also demonstrate that the timing of the overshoot is not 14 particularly sensitive to the mass of carbon released – doubling the mass of carbon results 15 in < 2 kyr delay in overshoot timing (e.g. Figure S4 vs. Figure S5).

16 While both models generate a whole-ocean carbonate burial overshoot during the 17recovery interval, the spatial distribution of  $CaCO_3$  content in sediments shows 18 differences both between the models and in comparison to Sites U1403 and U1409 19 (Figure 3). Because LOSCAR has much coarser spatial resolution (e.g. it represents the 20 deep Atlantic as a single box), regional patterns need to be interpreted with greater 21 caution. Nevertheless, LOSCAR generates a deep (4500m) %CaCO<sub>3</sub> overshoot 22 comparable to that seen at Site U1403, but in shallow sediments (3000m) generates a 23 larger %CaCO<sub>3</sub> decrease (to near-zero) and smaller overshoot than seen at Site U1409. In 1 contrast, cGENIE closely matches the Site U1409 record, but at 5000m, sediments 2 overshoot their pre-event %CaCO<sub>3</sub> levels by only ~1%, in conflict with the Site U1403 3 record. It appears that in response to enhanced weathering-driven elevated saturation 4 states, LOSCAR accommodates greater global carbonate burial with higher %CaCO<sub>3</sub> in 5 deep sediments (an over-deepening of the CCD), whereas cGENIE accommodates greater 6 global carbonate burial predominantly within and above the lysocline. Observational 7 evidence (in the form of new and previous carbonate accumulation rate records) suggest 8 that in the real world (at least in the case of the PETM), both of these processes may 9 operate.

10 The differences between the models' predictions for the locus of intensified 11 carbonate burial result from of how the models represent sedimentary processes. In 12cGENIE, the respiration of organic carbon in sediments reduces porewater saturation 13 state and dissolves CaCO<sub>3</sub> even in shallow sediments well above the carbonate saturation 14 horizon. Because of this, those shallow sediments have greater potential to accommodate 15 an increase in  $CaCO_3$  content in response to higher bottom water saturation state such as 16 that seen in the aftermath of the PETM. cGENIE thus balances enhanced weathering flux 17via elevated carbonate burial mostly in shallow sediments (within and above the lysocline)<sup>29</sup>. Conversely, %CaCO<sub>3</sub> in sediments above the lysocline in LOSCAR is set by 18 19 the ratio of clay to CaCO<sub>3</sub> in the sediment rain (81% CaCO<sub>3</sub> in the present 20  $configuration)^{31}$ , so when saturation state increases those shallow sediments cannot 21 accommodate higher CaCO<sub>3</sub> contents (they are already at a maximum). Hence, LOSCAR 22 balances an increase in weathering flux via enhanced carbonate burial within the 23 lysocline and below the (pre-event) CCD.

1	A notable aspect of the Site U1403 carbonate record is that following the main
2	phase of the CCD over-deepening featuring the highest carbonate contents, wt% CaCO <sub>3</sub>
3	does not return to 0% (its pre-event level) before the next major hyperthermal (ETM-2,
4	~2Myr later <sup>30</sup> ) (Fig. 1, 2). Hence, the North Atlantic CCD did not return to its pre-PETM
5	state. Two possible explanations exist for this observation. First, negative feedbacks on
6	carbonate undersaturation could have been very slow to re-establish equilibrium. This is
7	unlikely, given that all other records of environmental and carbon-cycle perturbation
8	during the PETM (such as temperature <sup>4</sup> , pH <sup>38</sup> , and the CIE <sup>27</sup> ) recovered in hundreds of
9	thousands of years, not millions. Second, the carbon cycle might have transitioned to a
10	new equilibrium state featuring a deeper CCD. Several mechanisms may help explain a
11	deeper post-PETM equilibrium CCD in the North Atlantic. First, the PETM CCD
12	evolution may have been superimposed on a long-term (multi-million year) global CCD
13	deepening trend <sup>39-42</sup> . Increasing $pCO_2$ on multi-million year timescales across the Late
14	Paleocene-Early Eocene from greater volcanic CO2 release or an imbalance between
15	terrestrial $C_{\text{org}}$ oxidation and marine $C_{\text{org}}$ burial could have strengthened weathering rates,
16	thus increasing seawater carbonate saturation and driving a gradual CCD deepening from
17	~58 to ~52Ma, independently of the PETM <sup>39</sup> . Indeed, LOSCAR simulations of carbon
18	release superimposed on gradual long-term CCD deepening (Figure S2) agree well with
19	observations from Site U1403, including the persistence of the overshoot.
~ ~	

A second possibility is that changing ocean circulation or regional carbonate export across the PETM affected the regional North Atlantic CCD (i.e. the observed CCD over-deepening was not necessarily global). Weakened North Atlantic-sourced overturning during the acidification phase followed by strengthened overturning during

1	the oversaturation phase could have produced the initial large CCD shoal documented at
2	Walvis Ridge <sup>5</sup> (South Atlantic) and the later CCD over-deepening at Site U1403 (North
3	Atlantic). If such circulation changes persisted for several Myr, they could have produced
4	a persistently deeper post-PETM North Atlantic CCD. Spatial benthic $\delta^{13}$ C gradients can
5	shed light on circulation changes <sup>34</sup> , because the accumulation of respired $C_{org}$ reduces the
6	$\delta^{13}$ C of deep water DIC as it ages. Owing to its location in the lower abyss, Site U1403 is
7	unfortunately nearly barren of benthic foraminifera throughout the PETM and its
8	recovery. However, Site U1409 benthic $\delta^{13}C$ values overlap with those of South
9	Atlantic <sup>35</sup> and Southern Ocean <sup>34</sup> during intervals immediately prior to the PETM and
10	during the later stages of the recovery, including the time interval (>110kyr after the
11	event) during which Site U1403 documents a CCD overshoot (Figure 2). Benthic
12	gradients between the South and North Atlantic therefore do not show any evidence for
13	large-scale changes in Atlantic overturning circulation during the PETM recovery that
14	could have contributed to a localized CCD over-deepening.

15 It is also possible that the CCD over-deepening was influenced by other carbon 16 sequestration processes operating during the PETM recovery that removed carbon from 17the ocean/atmosphere and increased seawater pH and saturation state (in a sense, the 18 opposite of the PETM acidification phase), and hence influence the CCD. In particular, 19 studies have suggested that the pace of the CIE recovery, which is complete within  $\sim$ 150kyr<sup>24,28</sup>, is too rapid to be explained by enhanced weathering and carbonate burial 20 alone. Instead, the preferential removal of <sup>12</sup>C via enhanced burial of organic carbon 21 (Corg) has been proposed to explain the CIE recovery timing<sup>43</sup>. This is consistent with 22 23 evidence of increased marine productivity during the PETM from elevated biogenic barium accumulation rates<sup>44,45</sup> and coccolith Sr/Ca<sup>46</sup>. Our model experiments focus on the
long-term inorganic carbon cycle and silicate weathering and hence cannot exclude a role
for enhanced organic carbon burial.

4 In summary: our finding of a post-PETM CCD overshoot in the North Atlantic 5 Ocean constitutes the first evidence for post-PETM variations in carbonate burial from 6 sediments deeper than the pre-PETM CCD. It thus represents an important constraint on 7 the vertical extent of the CCD's response to carbon release during the PETM and 8 consequently, the processes responsible for restoring the carbon cycle to steady state. It is 9 tempting to use this constraint to directly calculate the mass of carbon released during the 10 PETM because the excess carbonate burial should scale with the mass of carbon released. 11 However, we recognize that one site does not fully constrain the global extent of the 12overshoot, nor its absolute magnitude. Further constraints on the CCD over-deepening 13 from even deeper water depths and additional ocean basins are therefore an essential 14target for future scientific drilling. Additionally, uncertainty in the parameterization and strength of the silicate weathering feedback (Figure S2)<sup>47</sup> as well as the potential 15 influences of initial carbon cycle conditions, circulation changes, Corg burial, and 16 changing clay flux preclude explicit calculation of the total carbon release<sup>10</sup>. Indeed, the 1718 differing responses of the two different global carbon cycle models we have tested 19 against the observations underscore the lack of consensus on how the marine carbonate 20 carbon sink responds in detail (and particularly in the depth distribution of CaCO<sub>3</sub> burial) 21 to perturbation. Multiple combinations of mass and rate of carbon release, weathering feedback strength, and Corg burial are consistent with the new observations described 22 23 here. Our findings nevertheless provide an important constraint on how carbon was

1	sequestered in the aftermath of the PETM, an event that continues to guide our
2	understanding of Earth system processes and feedbacks during large-scale carbon cycle
3	perturbations.
4	
5	Author Contributions: DP, SKT, PS, RN, and SB conceived the study and participated
6	in IODP Expedition 342 that recovered and described the sediments used here. DP
7	generated carbonate stable isotope analyses in the lab of JZ, and AD generated organic
8	carbon stable isotope and Coulormat %CaCO3 analyses. XRF records were generated by
9	SKT at Scripps, and AC, PS, TW, and UR at MARUM. DP and SKT performed the
10	carbon cycle modeling with guidance from RZ and AR. DP drafted the manuscript, SKT
11	contributed cGENIE modeling text, and all authors edited the manuscript.
12	
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16	
17	METHODS
18	Geochemical analyses
19	During IODP Expedition 342, drilling operations penetrated the P-E boundary at
20	Sites U1403 (39°56.5997N, 51°48.1998W, 4946m depth) and U1409 (41°17.7501N,
21	49°13.9996W, 3502m depth). Shipboard investigation described lithology, identified the
22	approximate positions of the P-E boundary by nannofossil biostratigraphy, and provided
23	coarse-resolution records of wt% CaCO <sub>3</sub> . The surface of core archive halves spanning the

1	PETM were scanned at 1-2 cm-resolution at the MARUM – Center for Marine
2	Environmental Sciences, University of Bremen and at Scripps Institution of
3	Oceanography using Avaatech X-ray fluorescence (XRF) core scanners. Estimates of the
4	total abundance of calcium (Ca) and iron (Fe) were obtained by scanning cores at an
5	energy level of 10kV, current of 500 uA, count time of 20 sec, and measurement area of
6	10 x 12 mm. Estimated wt% CaCO3 records were generated by regressing shipboard wt%
7	CaCO <sub>3</sub> measurements <sup>30</sup> against the natural logarithm of XRF-derived Ca/Fe ratios. For
8	stable isotope analyses, samples were collected at ~5cm resolution from Site U1409 and
9	10cm resolution from Site U1403, freeze dried, homogenized with mortar and pestle, and
10	analyzed for $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ on a ThermoFisher MAT 253 stable isotope mass spectrometer
11	coupled to a Kiel IV carbonate device using standard dual-inlet techniques. In addition,
12	samples from Site U1409 were washed and sieved, and specimens of the benthic
13	foraminifera Nuttalides truempyi were picked from the 150-200 and 212-300µm size
14	fraction. Where possible, 3-8 of these specimens from each sample were run using the
15	$\delta^{13}C_{carb}$ methods described above. For $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ analysis of Site U1403, homogenized
16	sample powders were de-carbonated in 1M HCL and washed in de-ionized water. $\delta^{13}C_{\text{org}}$
17	was measured using a Thermo-Finnegan MAT 253 mass spectrometer coupled to a
18	Thermo Scientific 2000 HT elemental analyzer via a Conflo IV interface optimized for
19	the measurement of samples with low organic carbon abundances. Analytical
20	reproducibility was monitored using analyses of IAEA CH-6 sucrose and was $< \pm 0.1$ %
21	(1 S.D). All $\delta^{13}$ C data are expressed relative to V-PDB. Additional Site U1403 wt. %
22	CaCO <sub>3</sub> was measured using a Strohlein Coulormat.
0.0	

23 Carbon cycle modeling

1	LOSCAR is a numerically-efficient geochemical box model of the marine carbon
2	cycle with realistic interaction with sediments, capable of multi-million year simulations
3	of carbon cycle processes including CCD depth. All runs use Paleogene LOSCAR
4	setup <sup>31</sup> . cGENIE is an intermediate-complexity Earth system model including a 3-D
5	dynamic ocean model with biogeochemical cycling of key elements and isotopes and a
6	spatially resolved sediment model capable of generating virtual sediment cores –
7	synthetic stacks of deep-sea sediments <sup>32,33,48</sup> . We use the late Paleocene/early Eocene
8	configuration of ref. <sup>12</sup> . For this study, we evaluate virtual sediment core results from a
9	depth transect in the North Atlantic ranging from 5000-3000 m water depth and at
10	locations corresponding to Expedition 342 sites.
11	Both models include carbonate and silicate weathering feedbacks. In LOSCAR,
12	weathering is parameterized as $F_w = F_{eq} \ast ([CO_2]_{atm}  /  [CO_2]_{eq})^{Nsi}$ , where $F_{eq}$ and
13	$[CO_2]_{eq}$ are equilibrium weathering flux and atmospheric pCO <sub>2</sub> at which volcanic carbon
14	emissions are perfectly balanced by silicate weathering and carbonate burial <sup>31</sup> . $N_{Si}$ sets
15	the strength of the silicate weathering feedback (default $N_{Si} = 0.2$ ). We implement the
16	same formulation for a CO <sub>2</sub> -dependent carbonate and silicate weathering feedback in
17	cGENIE using a model for terrestrial rock weathering <sup>49</sup> . Following ref. <sup>50</sup> , we assume
18	carbonate weathering proportional to the square root of $[\text{CO}_2]_{\text{atm}}$ / $[\text{CO}_2]_{\text{eq}}$ and silicate
19	weathering proportional to $[CO_2]_{atm}$ / $[CO_2]_{eq}$ raised to the power of 0.3. We assume a
20	50:50 split between carbonate and silicate weathering in order to match total carbonate
21	burial, and balance silicate weathering with volcanic outgassing. We utilize the cGENIE
22	and LOSCAR models in this study in order to qualitatively demonstrate what

1 mechanisms are consistent with the new data, not in an attempt to reconstruct exactly a

2 PETM scenario.

## 3 FIGURE CAPTIONS

**Figure 1**: Lithology and  $\delta^{13}$ C over the PETM at Sites U1409 (top) and U1403 (bottom) 4 5 plotted against composite depth (mcd). Each panel shows core photo (Site U1403 6 vertically compressed), lithologic description, calcareous nannofossil biostratigraphy, wt. %CaCO<sub>3</sub> estimated by XRF (black line), and bulk  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  (blue line). Bulk  $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ 7 8 (green line) and wt. % CaCO<sub>3</sub> measured with a Coulormat device (black X's) are also shown for Site U1403, and benthic foraminifer *Nuttalides truempyi*  $\delta^{13}$ C (red squares) is 9 10 shown for Site U1409. Depth intervals representing the Paleocene, CIE, Recovery, and post-PETM based on  $\delta^{13}$ C stratigraphy are highlighted with grey, red, orange, and white 11 12 shaded bars, respectively. PETM phases nomenclature from ref. 32.

13

Figure 2: A: Bulk  $\delta^{13}C_{carb}$  records from Sites 690<sup>25</sup>, 1263<sup>27</sup>, U1403, and U1409 plotted 14 15 on the age model used in this study. B: Weight %CaCO<sub>3</sub> of Sites U1403 and U1409 (this study), 690<sup>25</sup>, and 1263<sup>5</sup>. C: Linear sedimentation rates used in age models constructed by 16 this study for Sites U1403 and U1409, and Sites 690 and 1263 from Röhl, et al. <sup>27</sup> D: 1718 Carbonate mass accumulation rate calculated from dry bulk density, sedimentation rates (C), wt. % CaCO<sub>3</sub> (B). E: Comparison of benthic foraminifer  $\delta^{13}$ C from South Atlantic 19 Site 1263,<sup>35</sup> Southern Ocean Site 690,<sup>34</sup> and U1409 demonstrating small and constant 20 21 North-South aging gradient during the CCD overshoot. Green bars indicate silicified 22 intervals at Site U1409 which precluded measurement of benthic foraminifers. In (B), (D) 23 and (E), the silicified interval of U1409 is marked with a dashed line to reflect potential hiatuses or incomplete recovery which may have resulted in an incomplete %CaCO<sub>3</sub>
record (see text).

3

Figure 3: Comparison of LOSCAR and cGENIE C release experiments using the
Emissions scenario of ref. 9 with radiative forcing (and thus circulation) fixed in
cGENIE, and no circulation changes in LOSCAR. Top panel: Emissions scenario. Middle
panel: modeled 3000m sediment core-top %CaCO<sub>3</sub> compared with Site U1409 %CaCO3
record. Bottom panel: modeled 4500m (LOSCAR) and 5000m (cGENIE) sediment coretop %CaCO<sub>3</sub> compared with Site U1403 %CaCO3 record. In middle and bottom panels,
thin, opaque traces mark pre-event %CaCO<sub>3</sub> for cGENIE and LOSCAR.

11

12Figure S1: LOSCAR modeling of the CCD overshoot. A: Carbon emissions forcing for 13 spike (0.6PgC/yr for 5kyr) and spike + leak (0.11PgC/yr for an additional 65kyr) 14 scenarios. B: Evolution of the modeled Atlantic CCD in response to spike and spike + 15 leak scenarios. Without a sustained leak, the CCD overshoots within ~15kyr, in contrast 16 to the Site U1403 record C: Large sensitivity of the CCD overshoot magnitude, timing, 17and duration to the strength of the weathering feedback, which is poorly constrained. Weathering flux is parameterized in LOSCAR as  $F_w = F_{eq} * ([CO_2]_{atm} / [CO_2]_{eq})^{Nsi}$ , 18 19 where  $F_{eq}$  and  $[CO_2]_{eq}$  are equilibrium weathering flux and atmospheric pCO<sub>2</sub> at which 20 volcanic carbon emissions are perfectly balanced by silicate weathering and carbonate burial  $\ ^{31}$  N  $_{Si}$  is a free parameter in the model which sets the strength of the silicate 21 22 weathering feedback (default  $N_{Si} = 0.2$ ). All scenarios are spike only.

Figure S2: Atlantic CCD evolution of a single 6 kyr 3000 GtC pulse superimposed on a
 long-term CCD deepening trend forced by increasing volcanic carbon flux by 15% over
 3 Ma.

5	Figure S3: Comparison of LOSCAR and cGENIE C release experiments using double
6	the emissions scenario of Zeebe et al., 2009. LOSCAR includes the circulation switch of
7	Zeebe et al., 2009, while cGENIE is run with radiative forcing (and thus circulation)
8	fixed. Top panel: Emissions scenario. Middle panel: modeled 3000m sediment %CaCO <sub>3</sub>
9	compared with Site U1409 %CaCO3 record. Bottom panel: modeled 4500m( LOSCAR)
10	and 5000m (cGENIE) sediment %CaCO3 compared with Site U1403 %CaCO3 record.
11	Modeled cGENIE wt% CaCO3 decreases appear to slightly precede emissions (Figs. 3 &
12	S3) as a result of the effects of mixing, sediment rain input, and dissolution on carbonate
13	age, which can thus deviate from current model time.
14	
15	Figures S4-S9: cGENIE model output of various mass and timing of C release, with
16	radiative forcing (and hence circulation) held constant (top panels) and radiative forcing
17	responding to $pCO_2$ (bottom panel). Plotted are virtual sediment cores from 5000 and
18	3000m depth with %CaCO <sub>3</sub> and carbonate $\delta^{13}$ C plotted against sediment age, global
19	mean sediment wt% CaCO <sub>3</sub> , and C emissions forcing plotted against model time.
20	S4: Emissions scenario of Zeebe et al., 2009
21	<b>S5:</b> Double the emissions scenario of Zeebe et al., 2009 and input $\delta^{13}C = -25\%$
00	
22	S6: The total mass of Zeebe et al., 2009 injected in one 10 kyr pulse

**S7:** Double the total mass of Zeebe et al., 2009 injected in one 10kyr pulse

1	S8: The total mass of Zeebe et al., 2009 injected in one 20 kyr pulse
2	<b>S9:</b> Double the total mass of Zeebe et al., 2009 injected in one 20kyr pulse
3	Figures S10-S15: LOSCAR model output of various mass and timing of C release.
4	Plotted are $\delta^{13}C$ of the surface Atlantic, atmospheric pCO <sub>2</sub> , CCD depth of each ocean
5	basin, and globally averaged, 3000m Atlantic, and 4500m Atlantic $\CaCO_3$ versus
6	model time.
7	S10: Emissions scenario of Zeebe et al., 2009
8	<b>S11:</b> Double the emissions scenario of Zeebe et al., 2009 and input $\delta^{13}C = 25\%$
9	S12: The total mass of Zeebe et al., 2009 injected in one 10 kyr pulse
10	S13: Double the total mass of Zeebe et al., 2009 injected in one 10kyr pulse
11	S14: The total mass of Zeebe et al., 2009 injected in one 20 kyr pulse
12	S15: Double the total mass of Zeebe et al., 2009 injected in one 20kyr pulse
13	Figure S16: Bulk carbonate and organic carbon isotope data and raw XRF intensity data
14	from Site U1403 plotted against composite depth (mcd).
15	Figure S17: Bulk carbonate carbon isotope data and raw XRF intensity data from Site
16	U1409 plotted against composite depth (mcd).
17	Table S1: Age model tie points for Sites U1403 and U1409, based on correlation of the
18	bulk carbon isotope records at both sites to the compilation of ref. 32.
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