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Reiner Schlitzer is senior scientist at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven and Professor for Environmental Physics at the University Bremen. For more than two decades he has been studying the biogeochemical cycles of oxygen, nutrients, carbon and other tracers in the ocean. He began as an observationalist measuring radiocarbon in the East Atlantic and then focused on numerical modeling aiming at exploiting multi-tracer observations for the quantification of marine production, carbon uptake and transport. He developed the *Ocean Data View* software as well as the *eWOCE* and *eGEOTRACES* electronic atlases.