

# Optical Remote Sensing for Marine applications

# Dr Bob Brewin

Lecturer in Physical Geography,  
University of Exeter,  
Penryn Campus, Cornwall, TR10 9FE, UK  
([r.brewin@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:r.brewin@exeter.ac.uk))



Additional contact information can also be found on my website  
[https://geography.exeter.ac.uk/staff/index.php?web\\_id=Bob\\_Brewin](https://geography.exeter.ac.uk/staff/index.php?web_id=Bob_Brewin).



# A bit about myself: my path



2003-  
2010



BSc Surf Science & Technology  
MSc Applied Marine Science  
PhD Marine Remote Sensing  
Associate lecturer and demonstrator  
Marine Remote Sensing



2010-  
2019



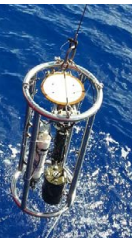
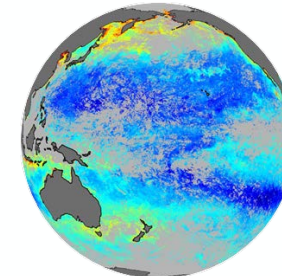
Research Scientist  
ESA post-doc fellow  
NCEO scientist



2019-  
present



Lecturer in Physical Geography

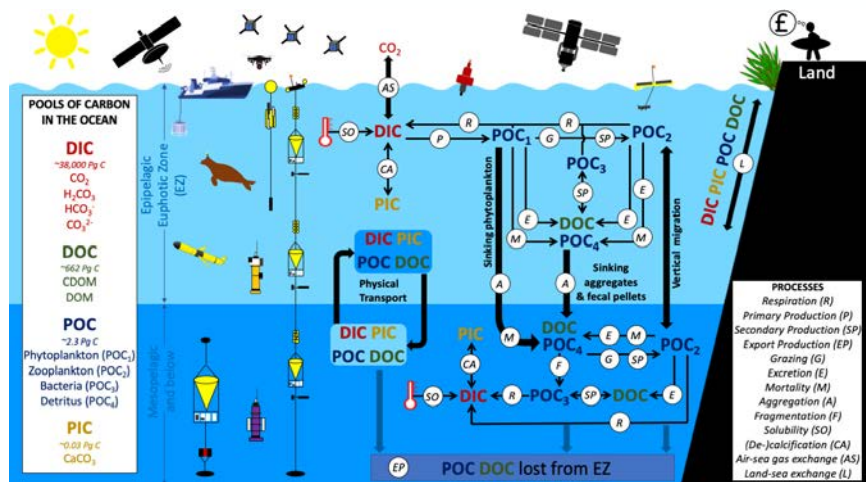
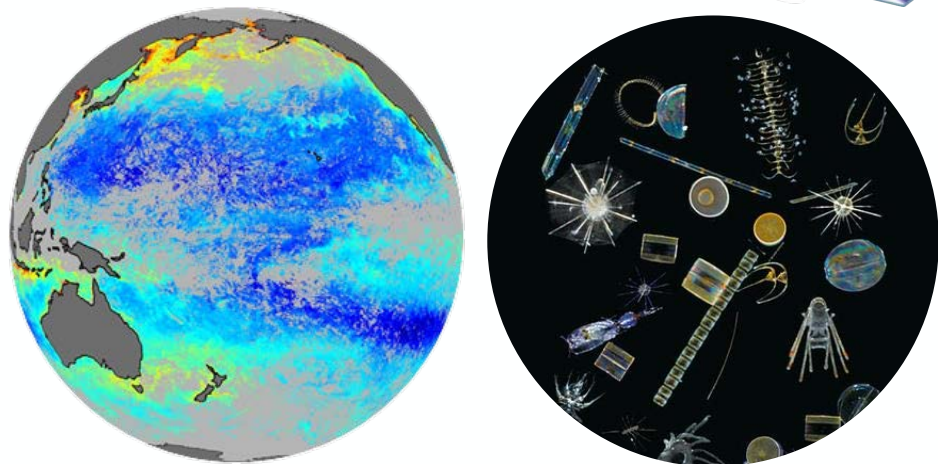




# A bit about myself: research interests



## Remote sensing

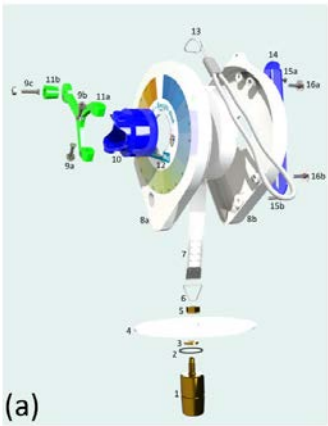
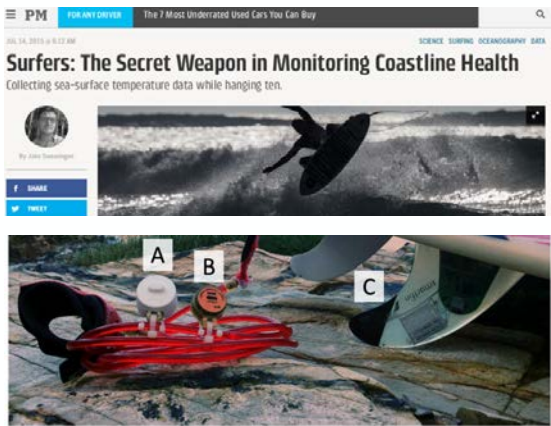


Sardet (2015) Plankton wonders of drifting world. Univ. Chicago Press

## Field work

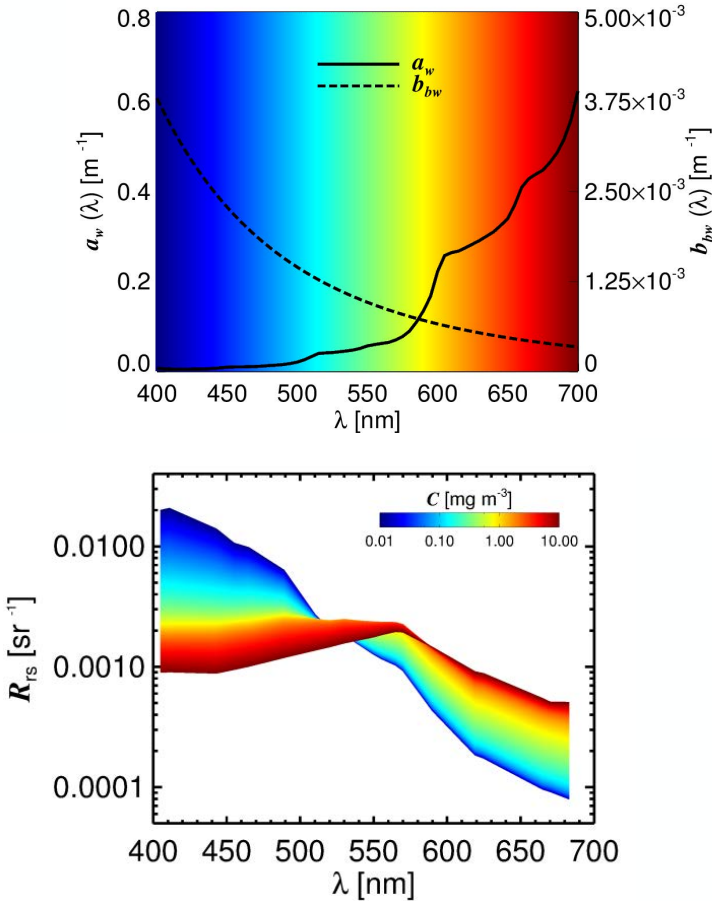


## Citizen Science

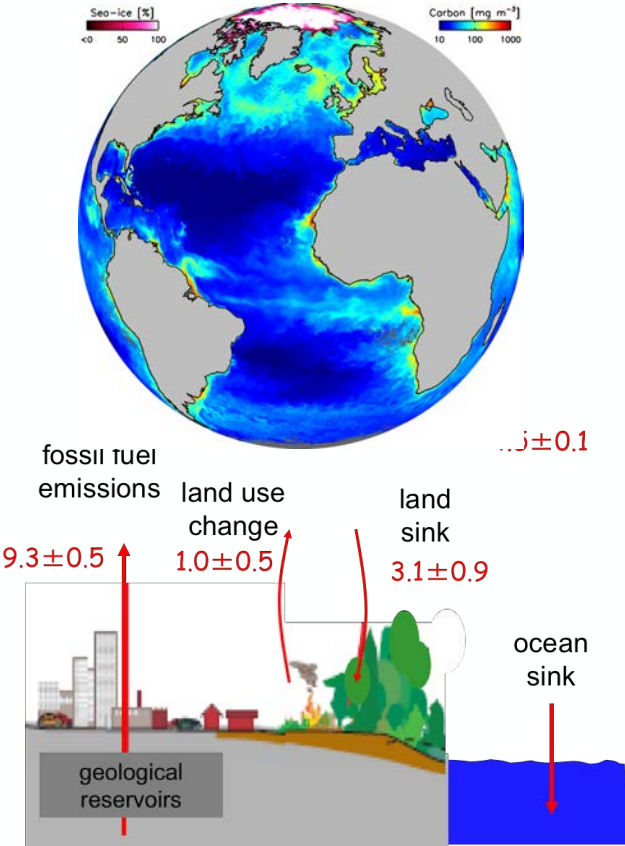




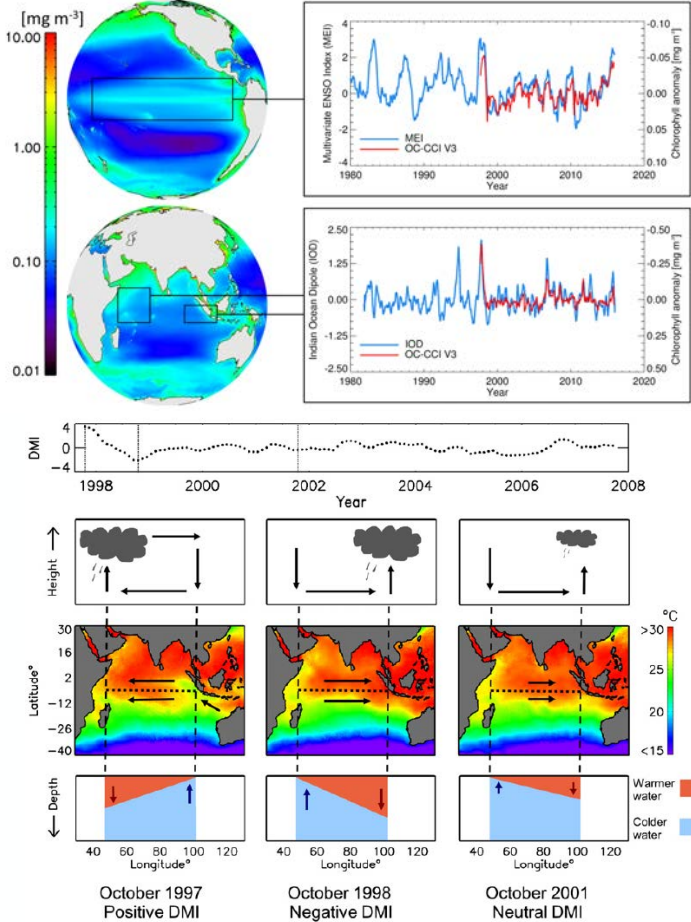
### Ocean Colour theory (Part 1)



### Ocean Colour applications: carbon cycle (Part 2)



### Ocean Colour applications: climate (Part 3)





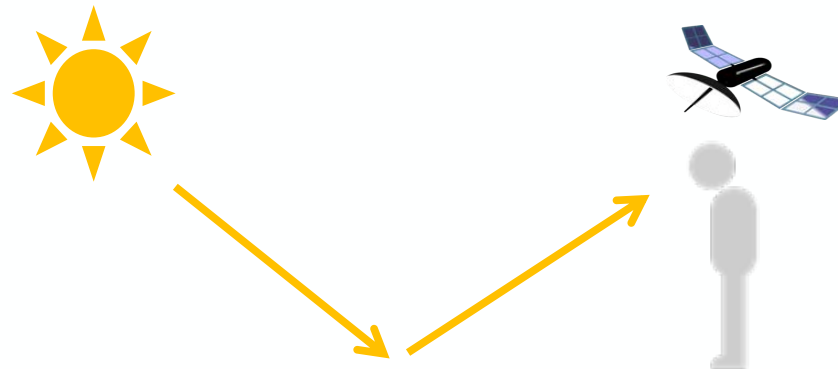
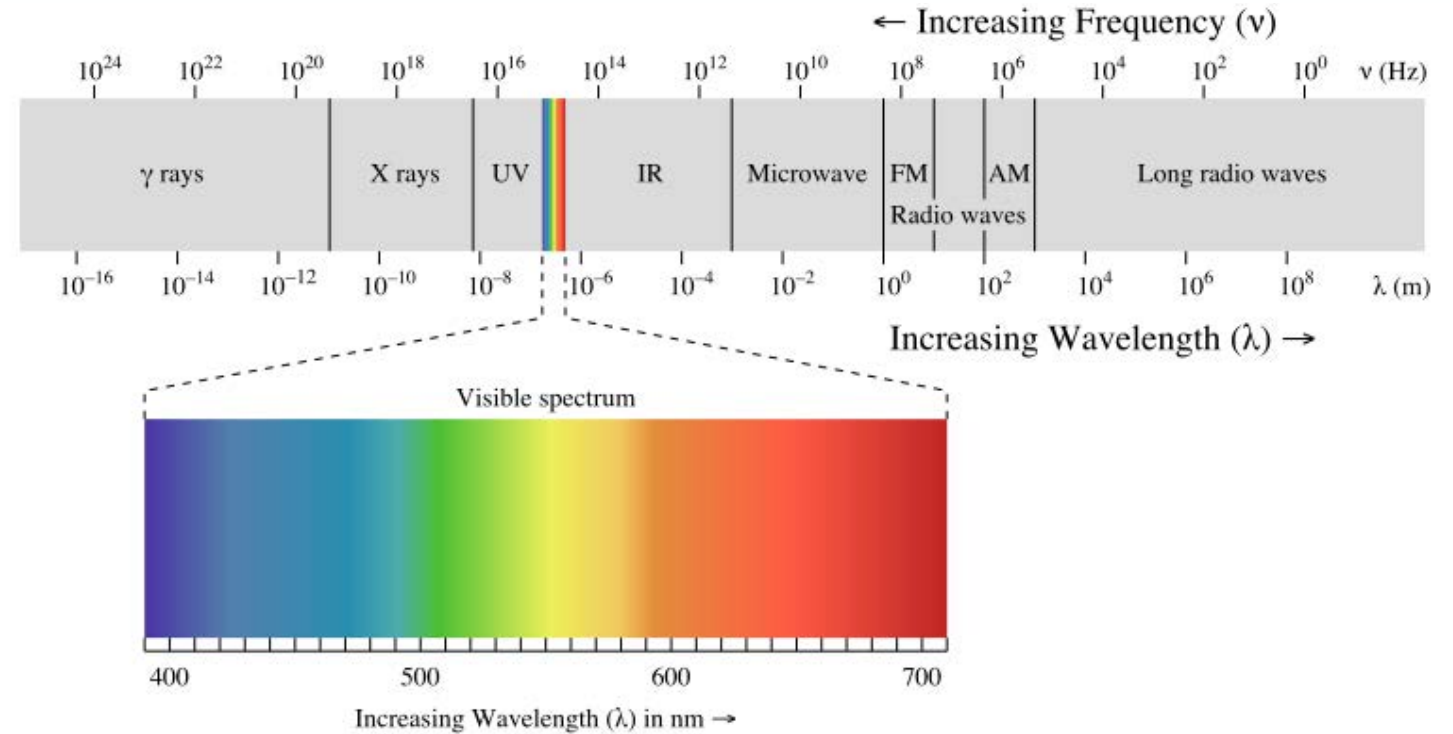
- 1) What is ocean colour?
- 2) History of ocean colour
- 3) Optical properties of water and its constituents
- 4) *In situ* measurements of ocean colour
- 5) Satellite remote-sensing of ocean colour



# 1) What is ocean colour?

Spectral variations in visible light reflected from water

Sunlight that enters the water and is absorbed, scattered and reflected by water and the constituents that make up the water. These processes vary with wavelength of light



Ocean Colour



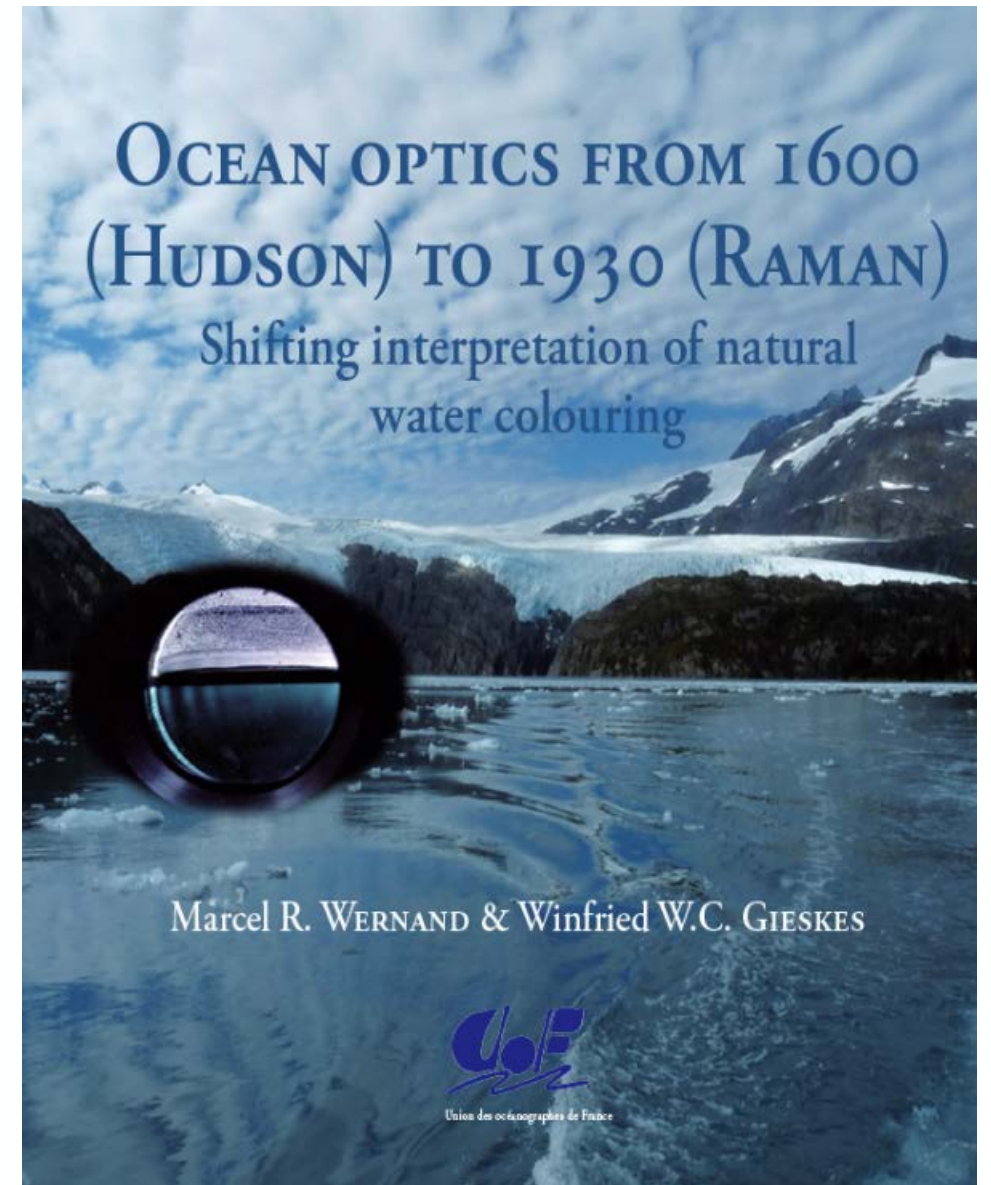
## 2) History of ocean colour

Inspired poets  
and artists



Paintings by Albert Bierstadt, Emil Nolde, Ivan Aivazovsky

Early navigation: bottom topography, presence of ice bergs, river discharge, occurrence of fish (e.g., H. Hudson, First voyage, 1607; W. Scoresby, 1820)



Wernand (2011) PhD Thesis  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/254886155\\_Poseidon%27s\\_paintbox\\_historical\\_archives\\_of\\_ocean\\_colour\\_in\\_global-change\\_perspective](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/254886155_Poseidon%27s_paintbox_historical_archives_of_ocean_colour_in_global-change_perspective)



## 2) History of ocean colour



- Everyday observation: colour of water changes with time and place
- What is responsible for these changes?
- Can we quantify the responsible agents?
- Why should we care?

From CEOS Report 2018, Images Courtesy CSIRO

*Slide kindly prepared by Shubha Sathyendranath*



## 2) History of ocean colour

*A sufficient deep layer of pure water exhibits by molecular scattering a deep blue colour more saturated than sky-light and of comparable intensity. The colour is primarily due to diffraction, the absorption only making it of a fuller hue. The theories hitherto advanced that the dark blue of the deep sea is reflected sky-light or that it is due to suspended matter are discussed and shown to be erroneous*

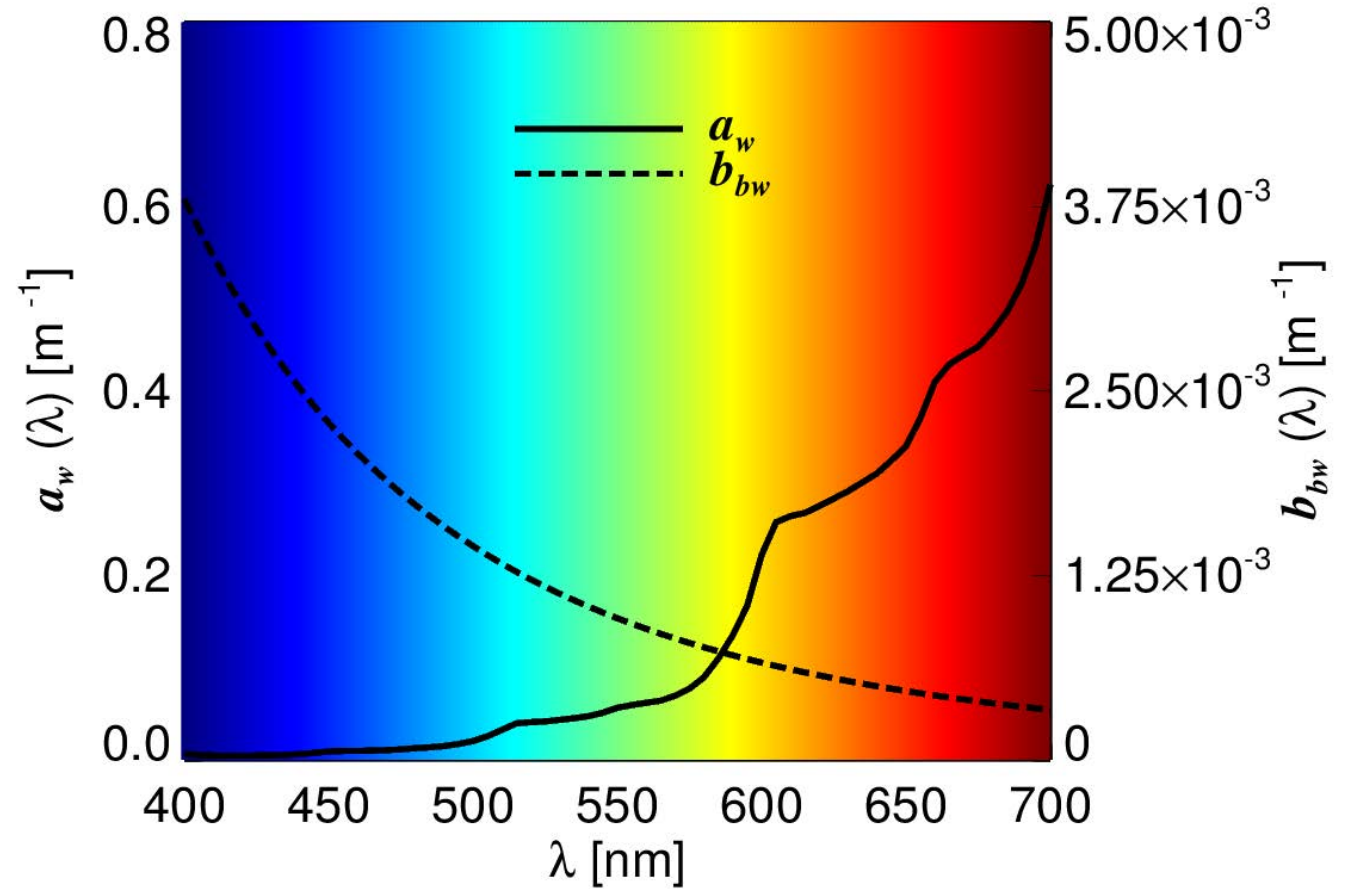
C. Raman, 1922

$$R(\lambda) = \frac{E_u(\lambda)}{E_d(\lambda)} \approx r \frac{b_b(\lambda)}{a(\lambda)}$$

$R$  = Reflectance

$E$  = Irradiance ( $u$  = upwelling,  $d$  = downwelling)

$a(\lambda)$  = absorption     $b_b(\lambda)$  = backscattering





## 2) History of ocean colour

*A sufficient deep layer of pure water exhibits by molecular scattering a deep blue colour more saturated than sky-light and of comparable intensity. The colour is primarily due to diffraction, the absorption only making it of a fuller hue. The theories hitherto advanced that the dark blue of the deep sea is reflected sky-light or that it is due to suspended matter are discussed and shown to be erroneous*

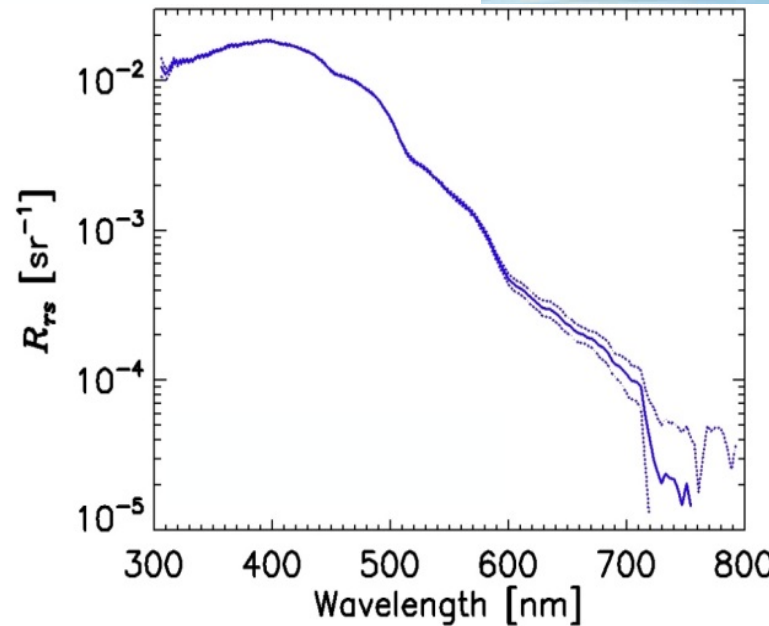
C. Raman, 1922

$$R(\lambda) = \frac{E_u(\lambda)}{E_d(\lambda)} \approx r \frac{b_b(\lambda)}{a(\lambda)}$$

$R$  = Reflectance

$E$  = Irradiance ( $u$  = upwelling,  $d$  = downwelling)

$a(\lambda)$  = absorption     $b_b(\lambda)$  = backscattering





## 2) History of ocean colour

*A sufficient deep layer of pure water exhibits by molecular scattering a deep blue colour more saturated than sky-light and of comparable intensity. The colour is primarily due to diffraction, the absorption only making it of a fuller hue. The theories hitherto advanced that the dark blue of the deep sea is reflected sky-light or that it is due to suspended matter are discussed and shown to be erroneous*

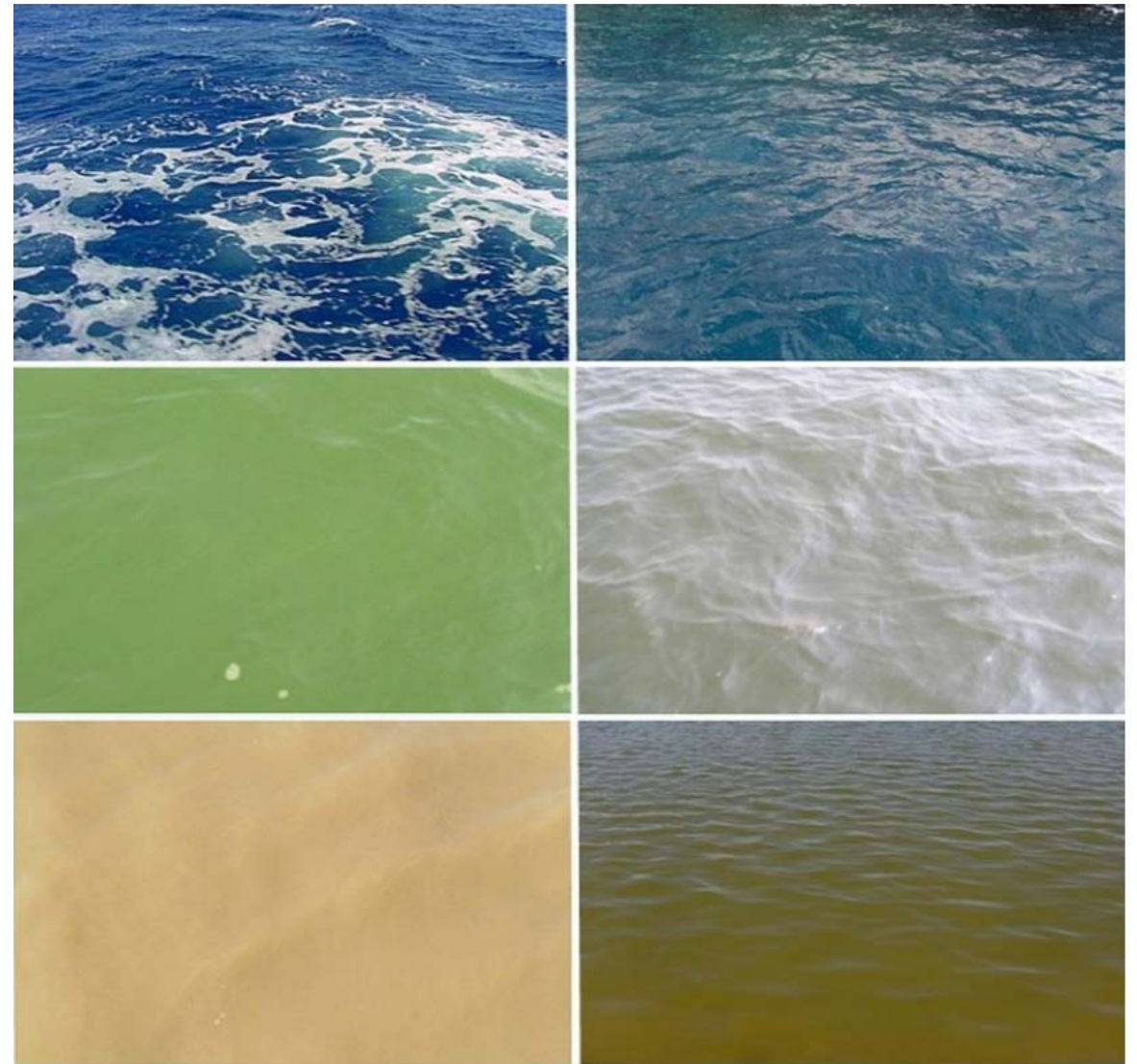
C. Raman, 1922

$$R(\lambda) = \frac{E_u(\lambda)}{E_d(\lambda)} \approx r \frac{b_b(\lambda)}{a(\lambda)}$$

$R$  = Reflectance

$E$  = Irradiance ( $u$  = upwelling,  $d$  = downwelling)

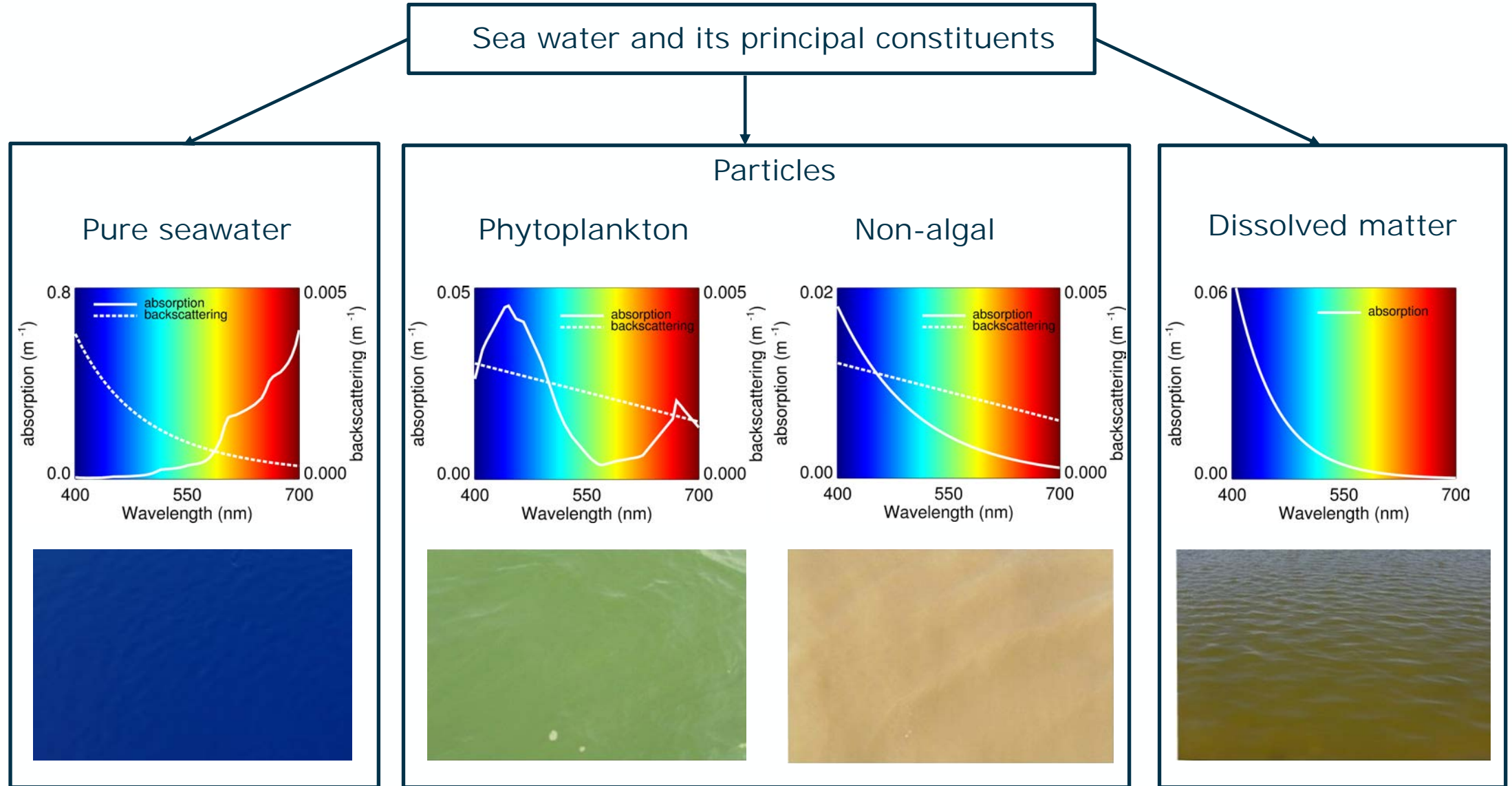
$a(\lambda)$  = absorption     $b_b(\lambda)$  = backscattering



Taken from Wernand (2011, see link to reference on earlier slide)



### 3) Optical properties of water and its constituents





### 3) Optical properties of water and its constituents

#### Apparent optical properties (AOPs)

Dependant on the inherent optical properties of the water, and the directional distribution of the light field in the sea (e.g., water leaving radiance, reflectance and diffuse attenuation coefficient of seawater)

#### Inherent optical properties (IOPs)

The optical properties of the water and its constituents independent of the directional distribution of the light field in the sea (e.g., absorption, backscattering, beam attenuation).



### 3) Optical properties of water and its constituents

#### Inherent Optical Properties

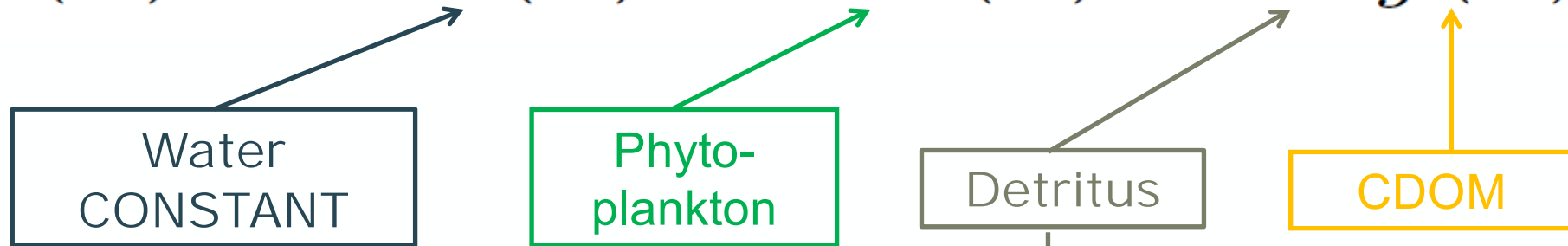
Specific inherent optical properties: the individual scattering and absorption components per unit concentration ( $a^*_B(\lambda) = a_B(\lambda)/B$ )

Bulk inherent optical properties: the individual scattering and absorption components per unit concentration multiplied by concentration ( $a_B(\lambda) = a^*_B(\lambda)B$ ). Will vary with variations in specific IOPs and concentration.



### 3) Optical properties of water and its constituents

$$a(\lambda) = a_w(\lambda) + a_B(\lambda) + a_{dg}(\lambda)$$

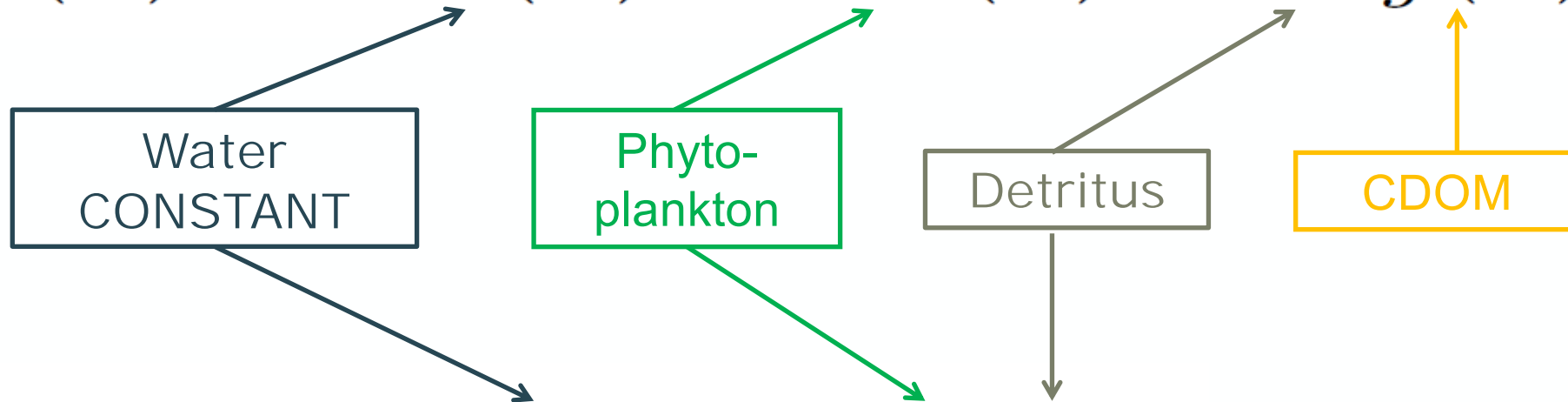


$$b_b(\lambda) = b_{bw}(\lambda) + b_{bp}(\lambda)$$



### 3) Optical properties of water and its constituents

$$a(\lambda) = a_w(\lambda) + a_B(\lambda) + a_{dg}(\lambda)$$



$$b_b(\lambda) = b_{bw}(\lambda) + b_{bp}(\lambda)$$

**Case-2: Phytoplankton biomass does not covary with detritus and CDOM**

Case-1: Phytoplankton biomass covaries with detritus and CDOM. IOPs can be tied with reasonable confidence to the chlorophyll concentration (C)



### 3) Optical properties of water and its constituents

$$a(\lambda) = a_w(\lambda) + a_B(\lambda) + a_{dg}(\lambda)$$

Water  
CONSTANT

$\propto$  Chlorophyll (C)

$$b_b(\lambda) = b_{bw}(\lambda) + b_{bp}(\lambda)$$

Case-2: Phytoplankton biomass does not covary with detritus and CDOM

Case-1: Phytoplankton biomass covaries with detritus and CDOM. IOPs can be tied with reasonable confidence to the chlorophyll (C)



### 3) Optical properties of water and its constituents

$$a(\lambda) = a_w(\lambda) + a_B(\lambda) + a_{dg}(\lambda)$$

Phytoplankton

Detritus

CDOM

- Total Chlorophyll-a
- Phytoplankton pigment composition
- Phytoplankton size structure
- Phytoplankton Chl for different groups
- Phytoplankton Carbon for different groups
- Light attenuation (heating of ocean and primary production)

- Sinking of material
- Coastal erosion of terrigenous sediments
- River deposition
- Dust / Volcanic / Cosmogenic deposition
- Recycling
- Light attenuation

- Dissolved organic carbon cycle
- Proportions of humic and fulvic acids
- Semi-labile and refractory fractions
- Photodegradation status
- Water mass change
- Light attenuation



### 3) Optical properties of water and its constituents

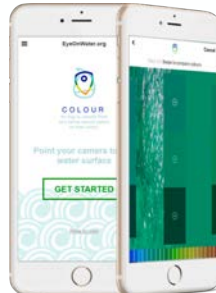
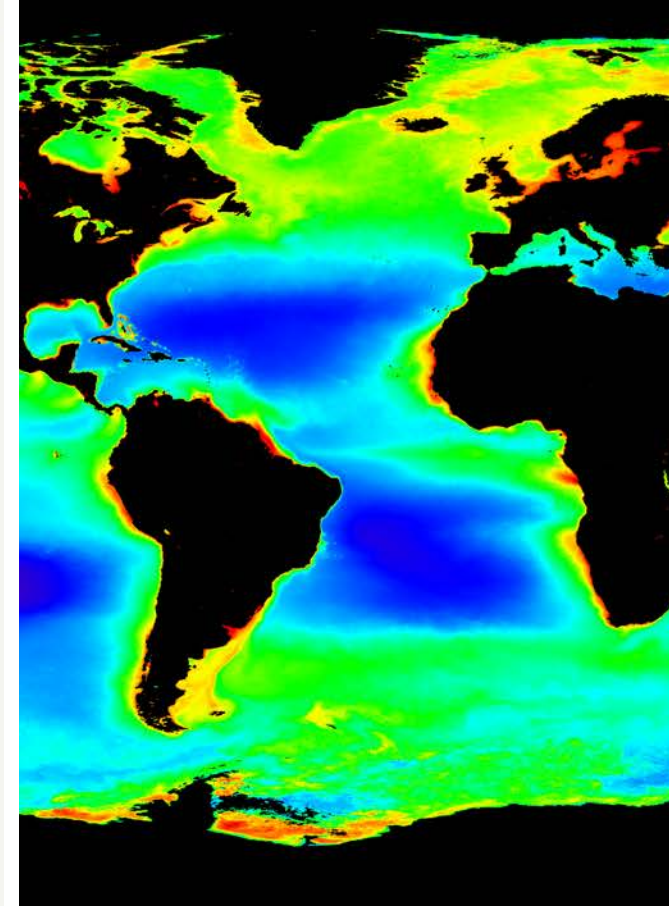
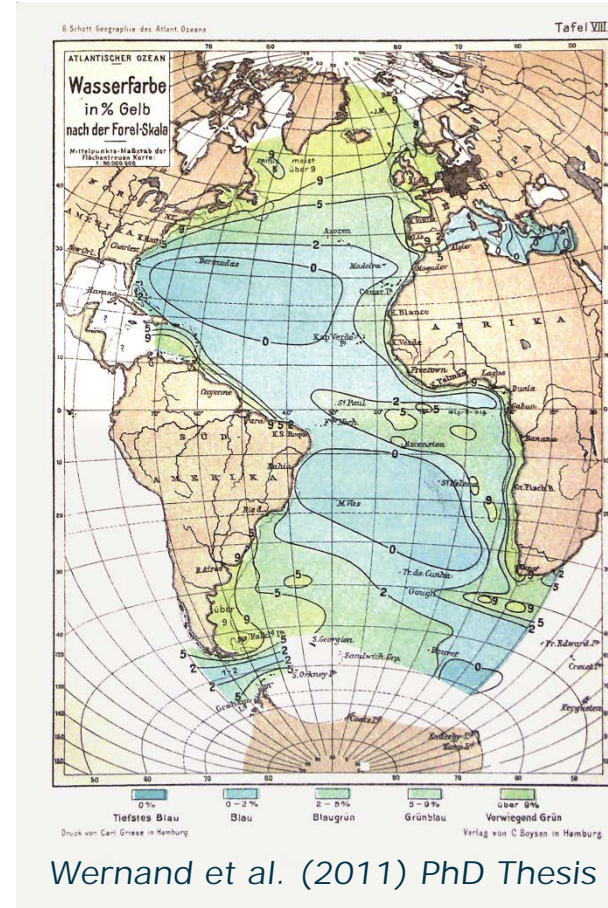
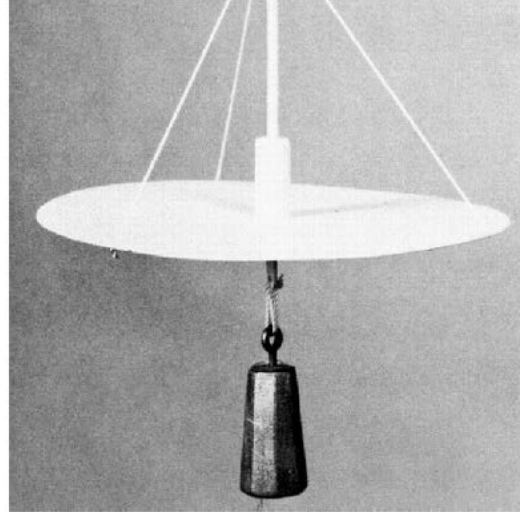
$$b_b(\lambda) = b_{bw}(\lambda) + b_{bp}(\lambda)$$

Particles

- Suspended particulate material
- Light attenuation
- Particle size structure
- Phytoplankton Carbon
- Phytoplankton Carbon for different groups
- Particulate Organic Carbon
- Particulate Inorganic Carbon



## 4) *In situ* measurements of ocean colour



Siegel & Franz (2010) <https://doi.org/10.1038/466569a>

Seafarers et al. (2017) <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0186092>

Brewin et al (2019) <https://doi.org/10.3390/s19040936>

Garaba et al (2015) <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph121215044>

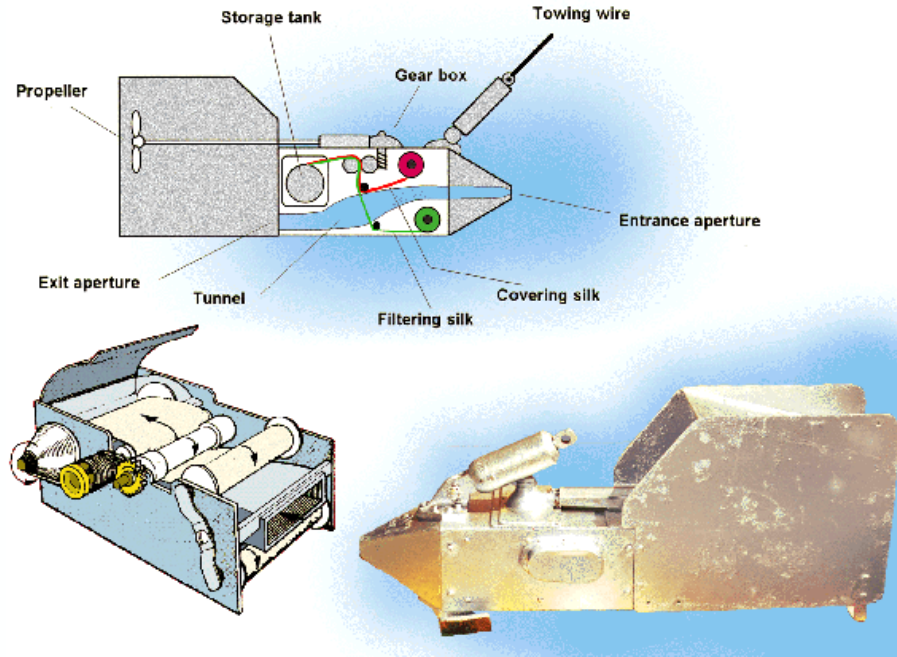
Ceccaroni et al. (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0230084>



# 4) *In situ* measurements of ocean colour

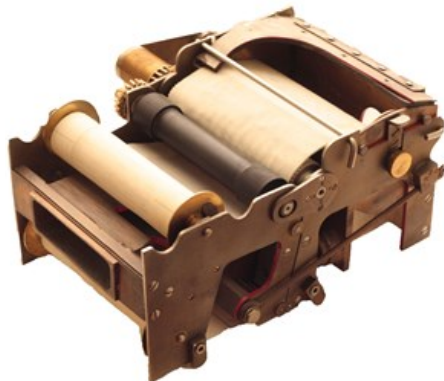


Sir Alister  
Clavering Hardy  
(1896- 1985)

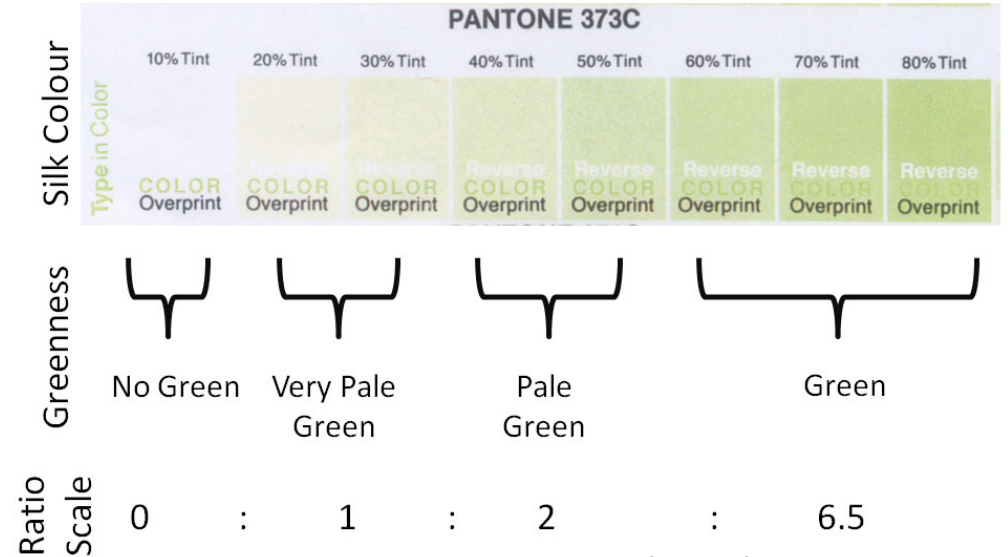


Richardson et al. (2006)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pocean.2005.09.011>

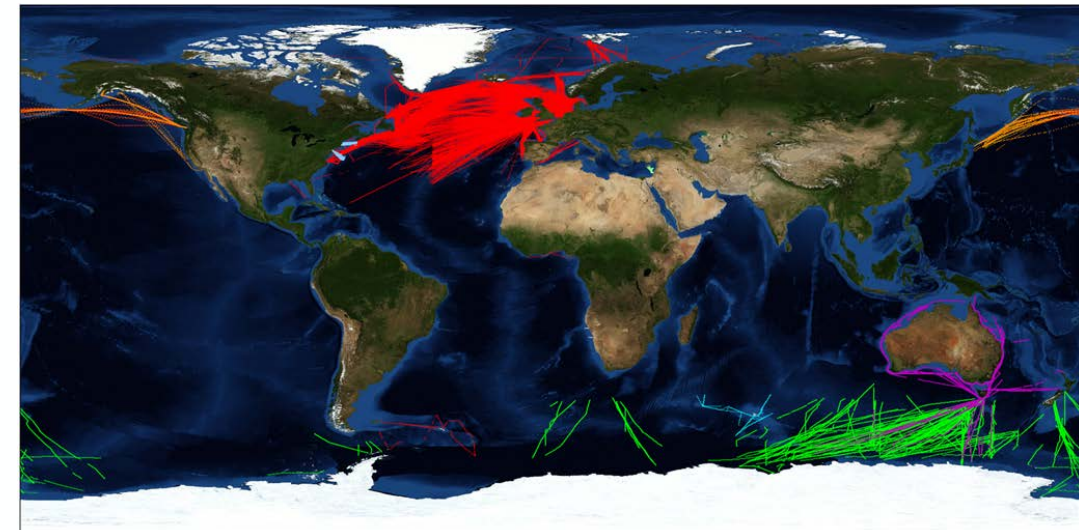


<https://www.cprsurvey.org/services/the-continuous-plankton-recorder/>



McQuatters-Gollop (2019)

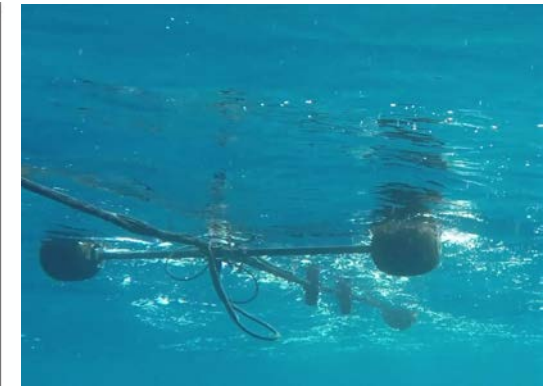
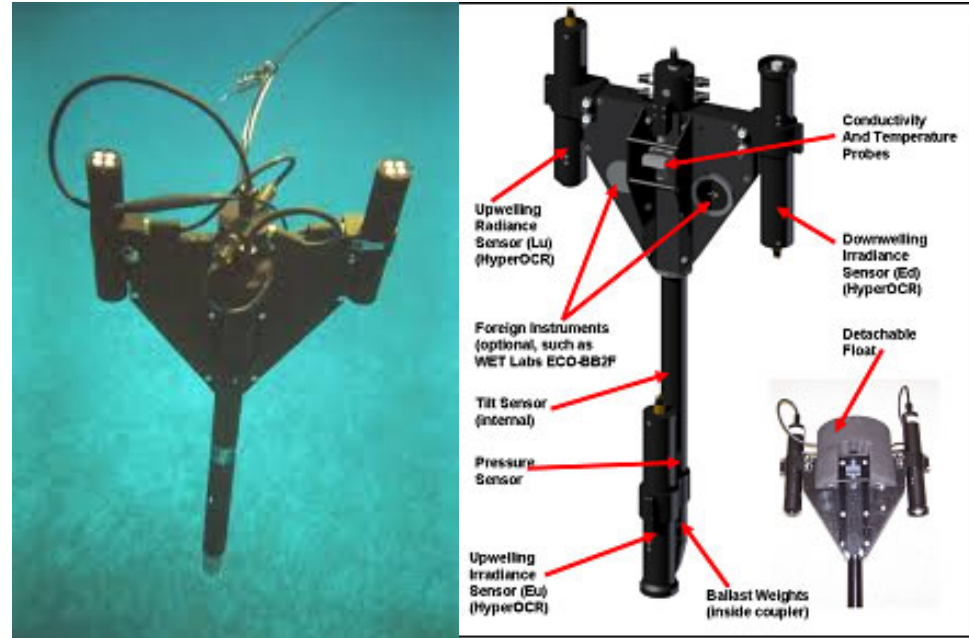
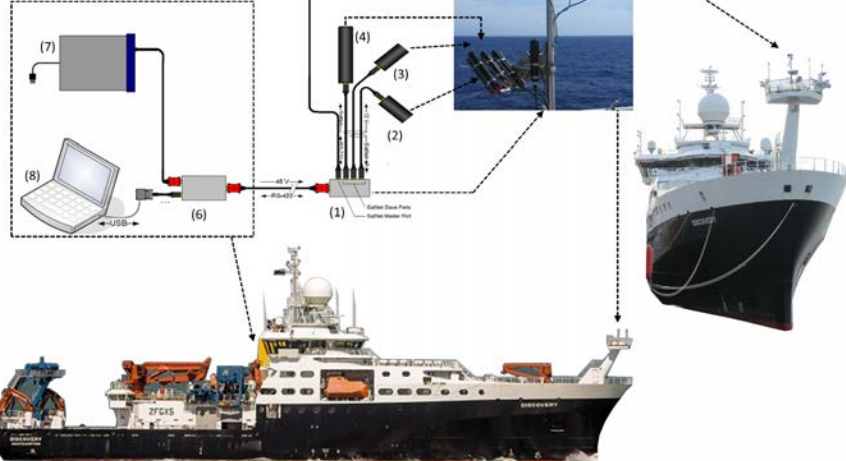
<https://www.goesfoundation.com/references/posts/2019/january/are-marine-phytoplankton-in-decline/>



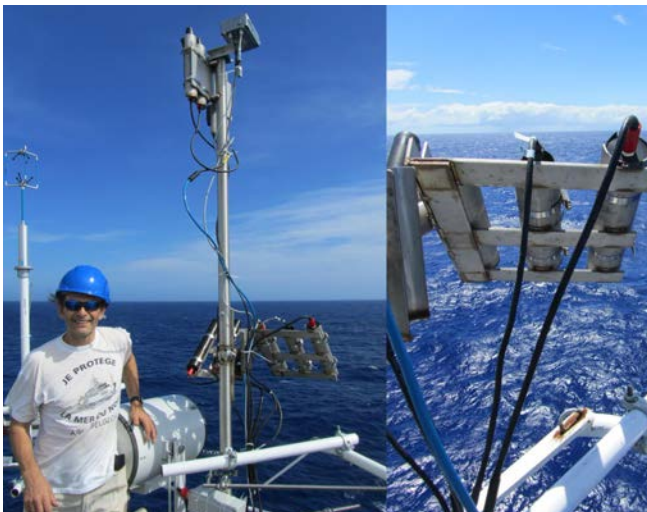


# 4) *In situ* measurements of ocean colour

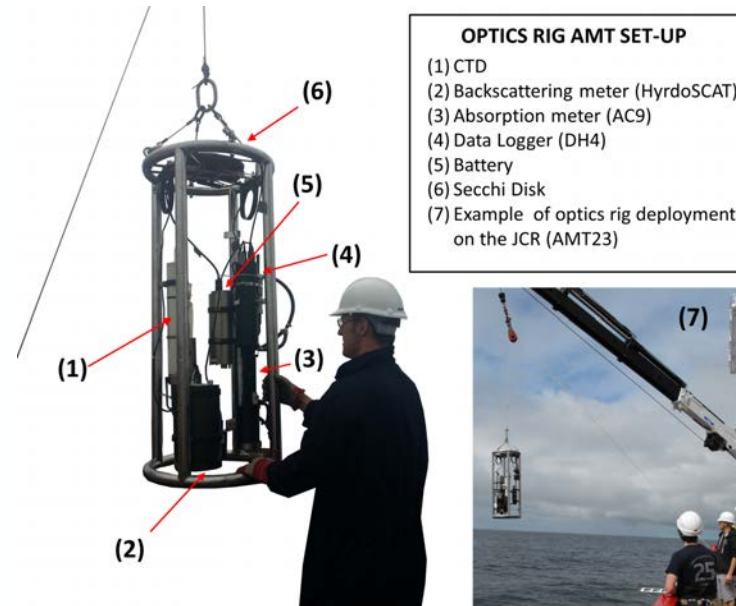
- HYPERSAS AMT SET-UP**
- (1) HYPERSAS Junction Box
  - (2) Lt Sensor
  - (3) Li Sensor
  - (4) Tilt & Heading Sensor
  - (5) Es Sensor
  - (6) Miniature Deck unit
  - (7) DC power supply
  - (8) Logging computer



In water  
radiometry  
Measurements of  
apparent optical  
properties



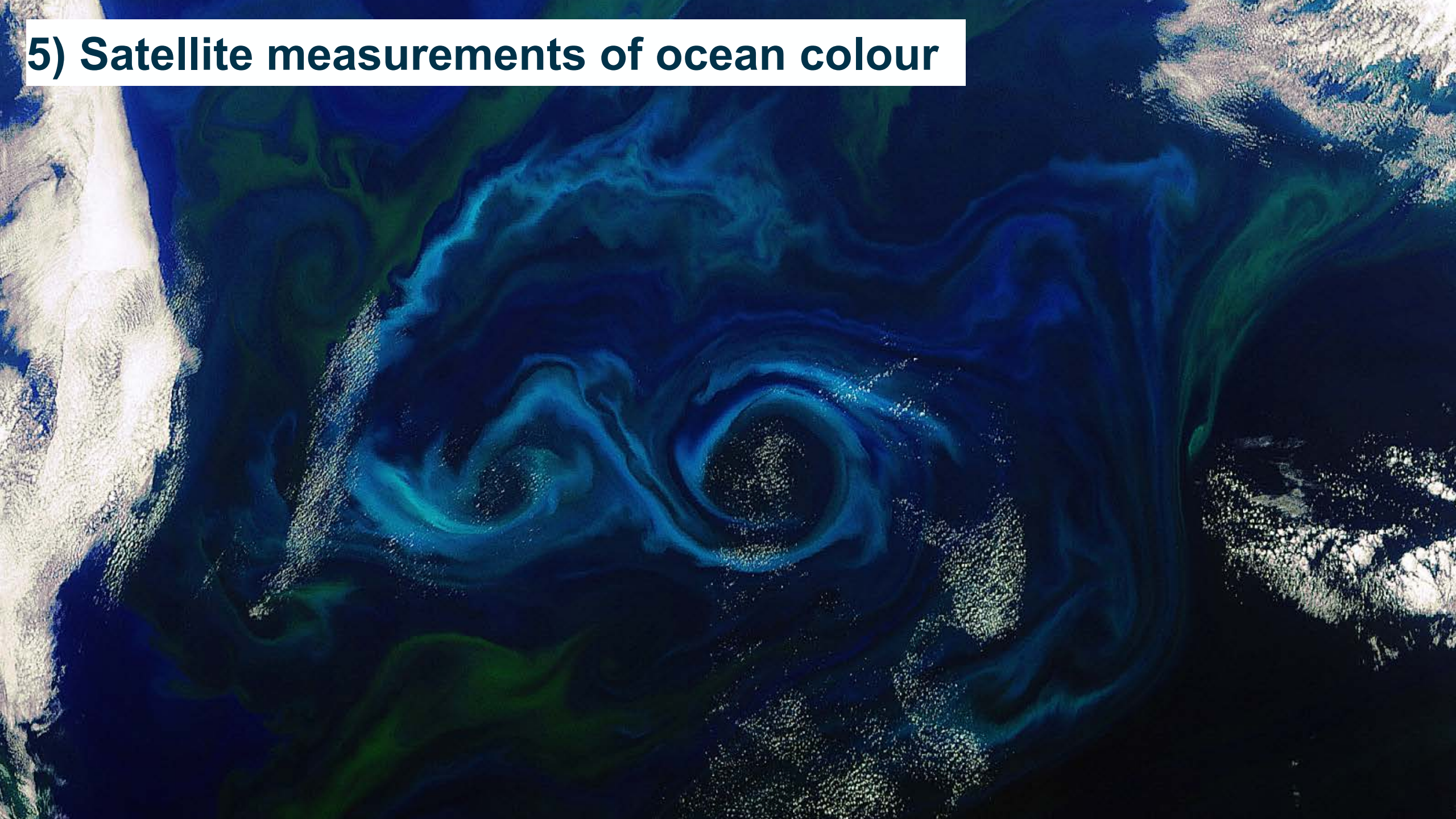
Above-  
water  
radiometry  
Measurements of  
apparent optical  
properties



In water  
measurements  
of inherent  
optical  
properties



## 5) Satellite measurements of ocean colour



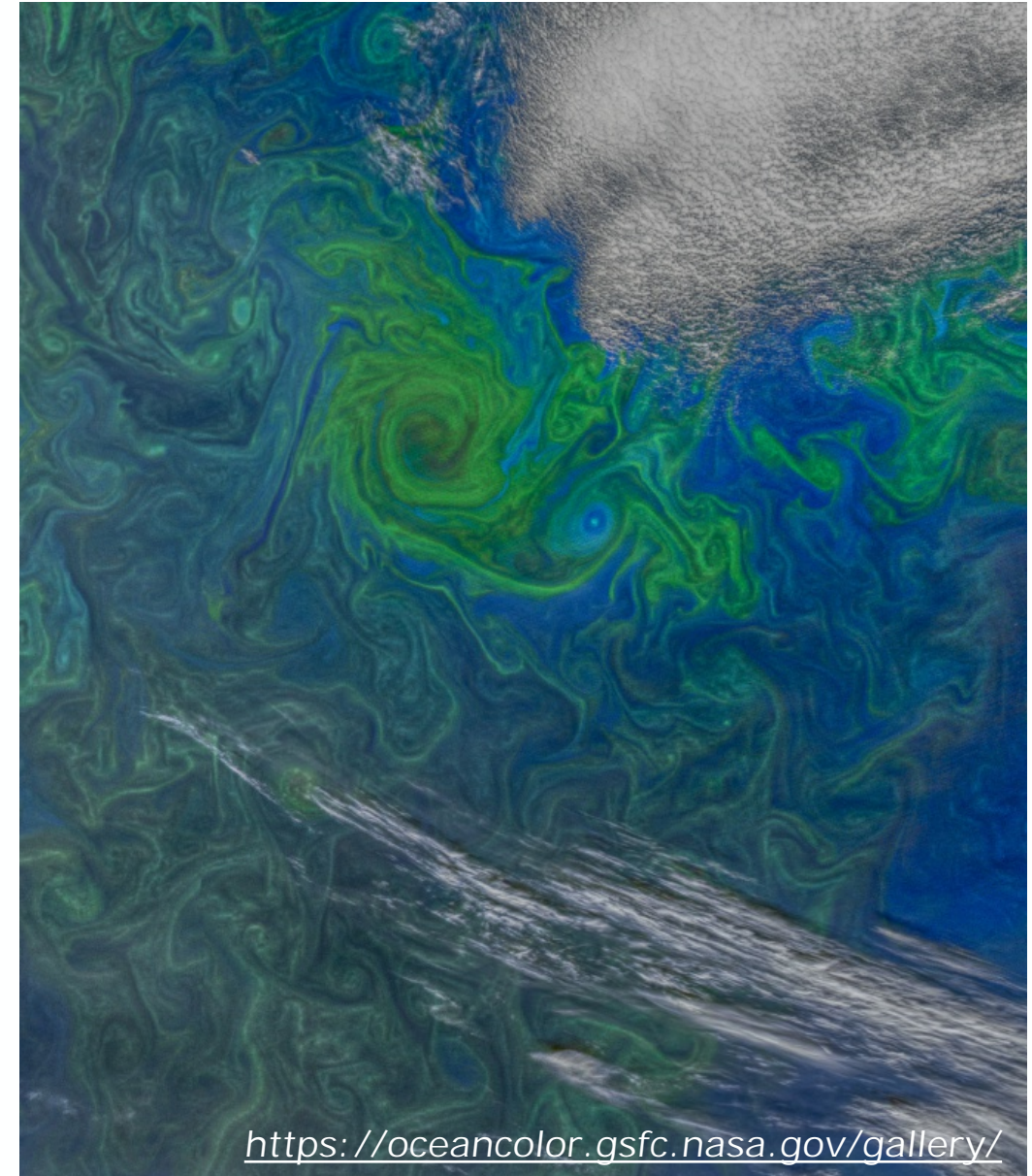


## 5) Satellite measurements of ocean colour

Considered among the biggest achievements in biological oceanography in the 20<sup>th</sup> century  
(Barber & Hilting 2000)

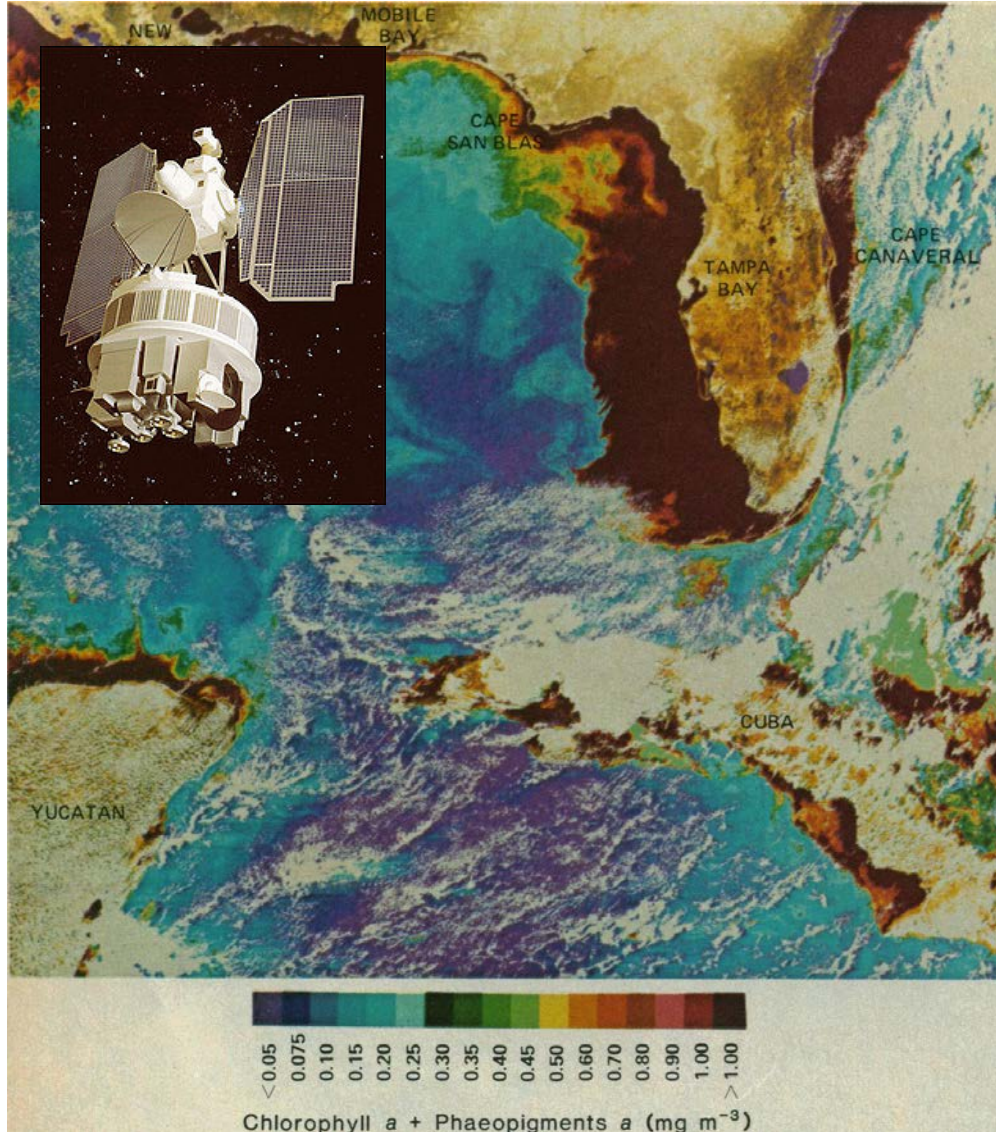
Revealed:

- (1) Oceanography's chronic problem of undersampling;
- (2) Dominance of mesoscale physical processes in determining the spatial distribution of phytoplankton;
- (3) Effect of topography on biomass;
- (4) Complexity of the seasonal progression of phytoplankton blooms
- (5) Magnitude of interannual variability.



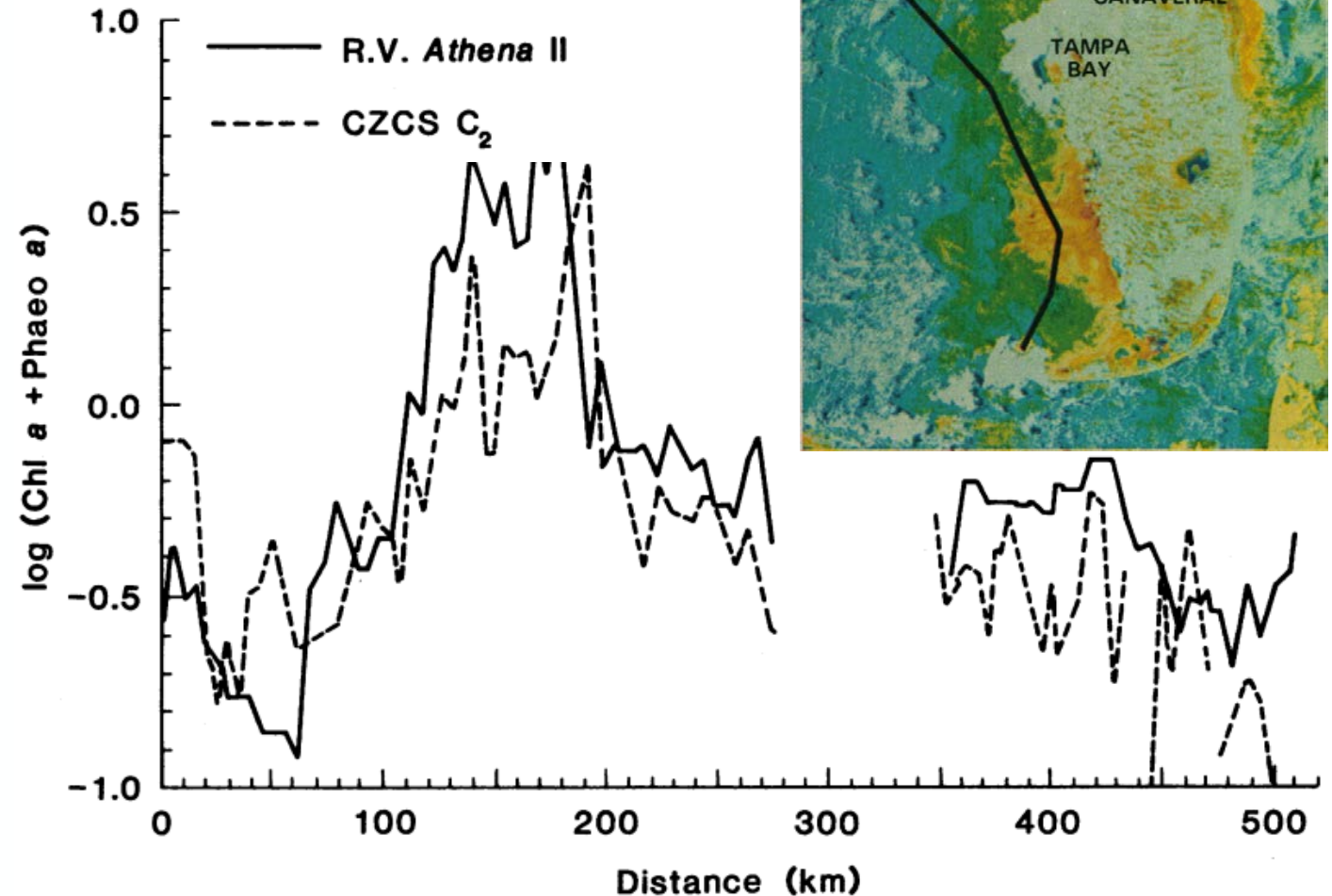


## 5) Satellite measurements of ocean colour



Hovis et al. (1980) Science

<http://doi.org/10.1126/science.210.4465.60>

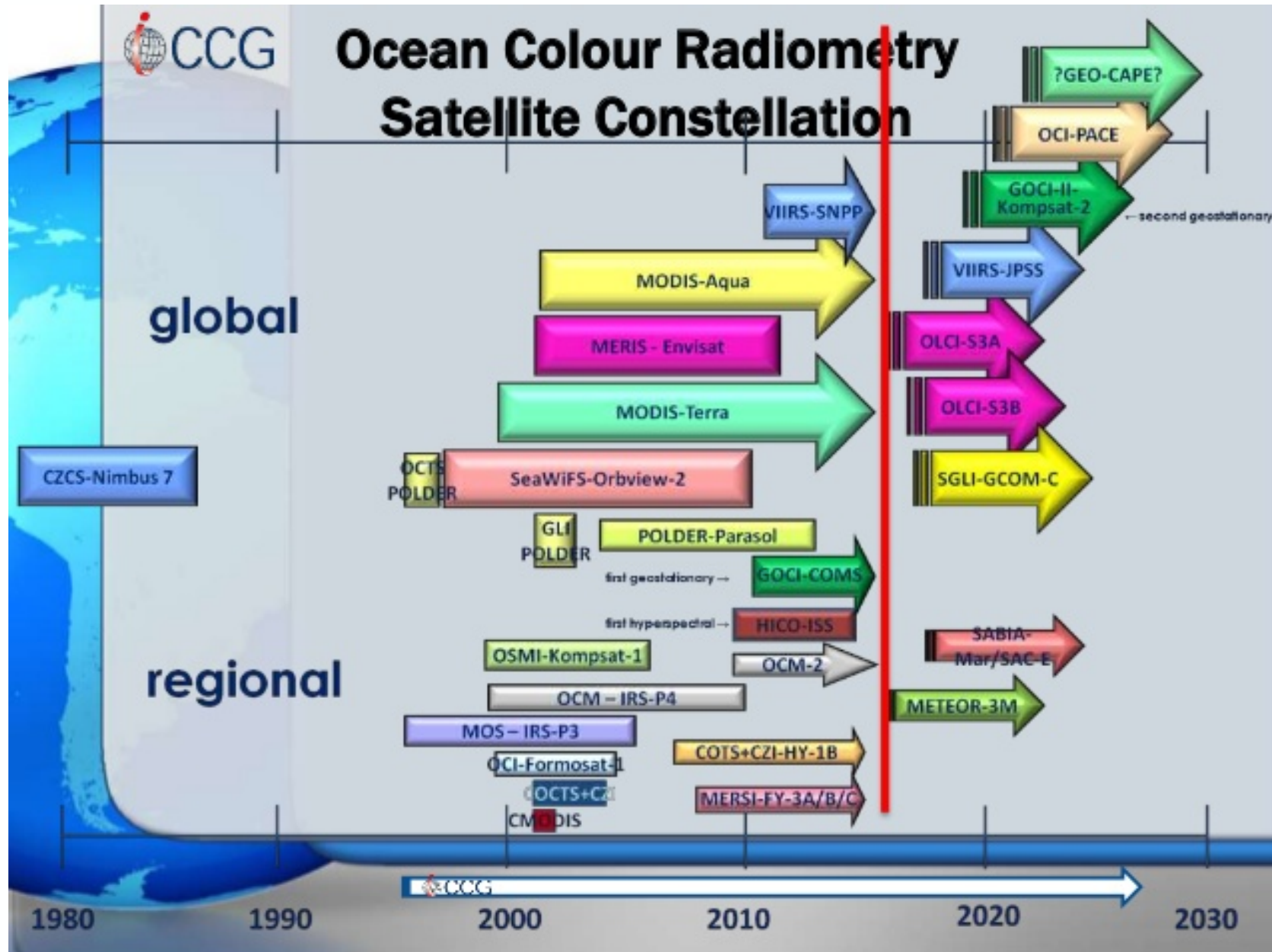


Gordon et al. (1980) Science

<http://doi.org/10.1126/science.210.4465.63>

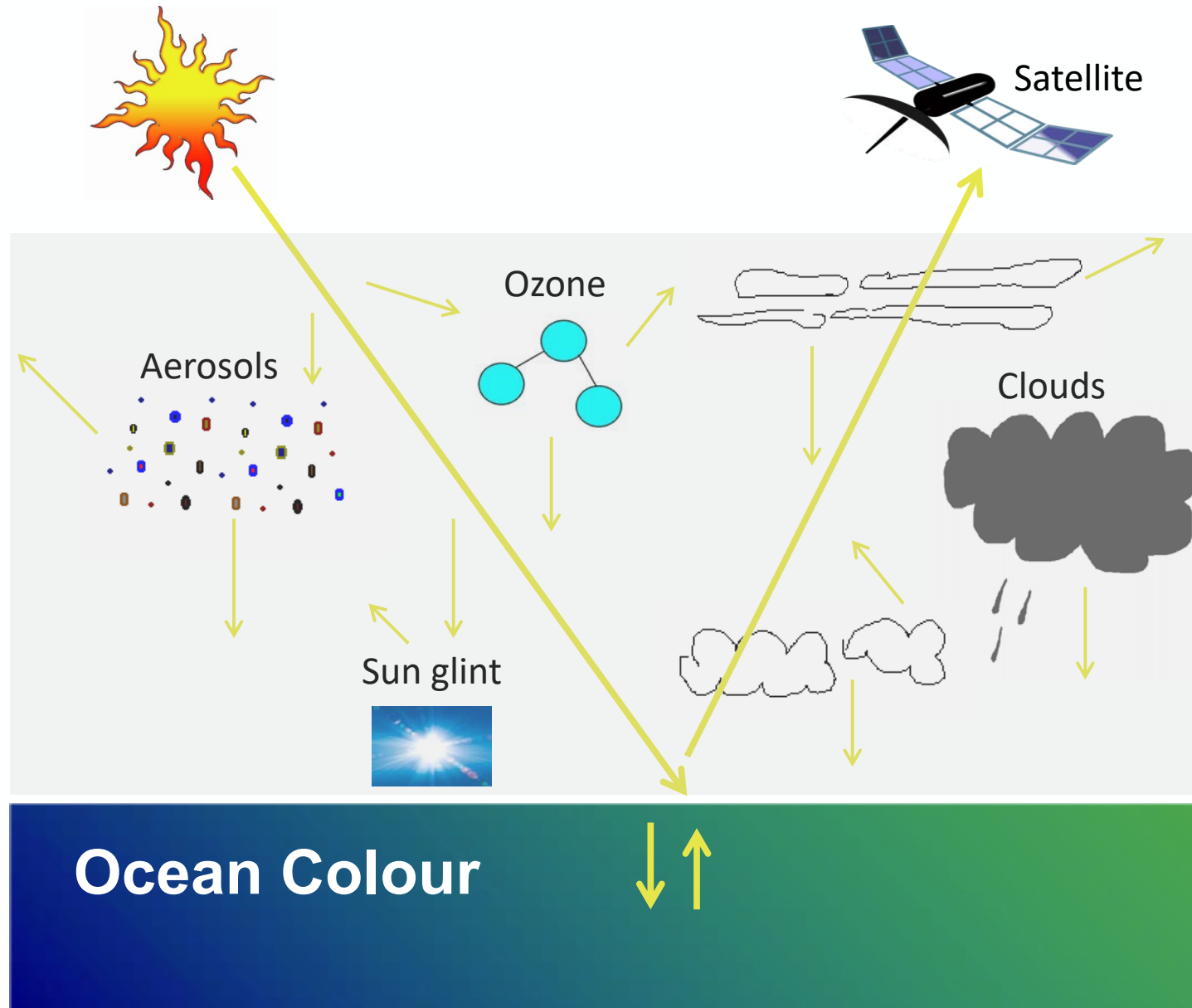


## 5) Satellite measurements of ocean colour





## 5) Satellite measurements of ocean colour



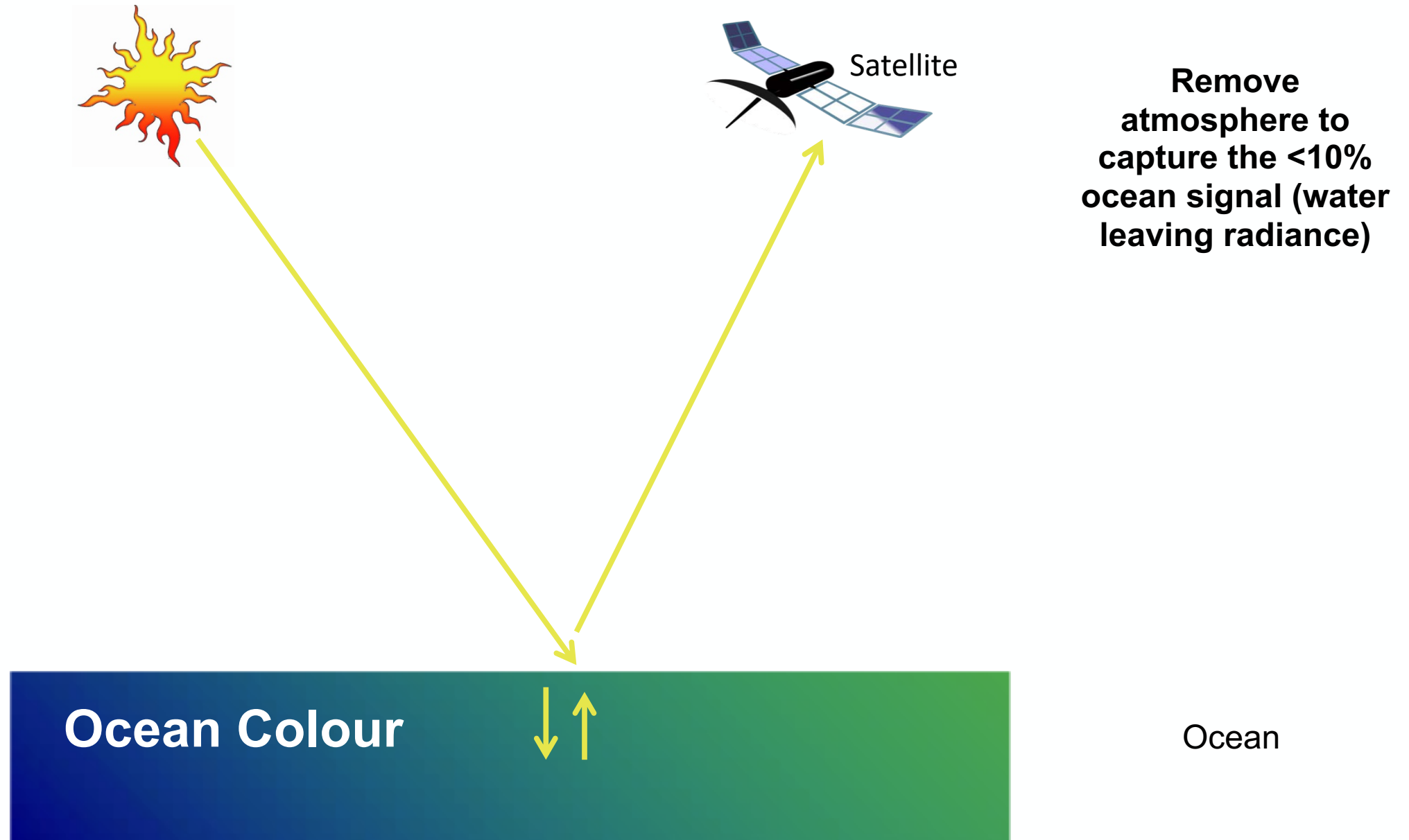
**Atmosphere  
responsible for  
>90% of the satellite  
signal, the ocean  
only <10%**

Atmosphere

Ocean

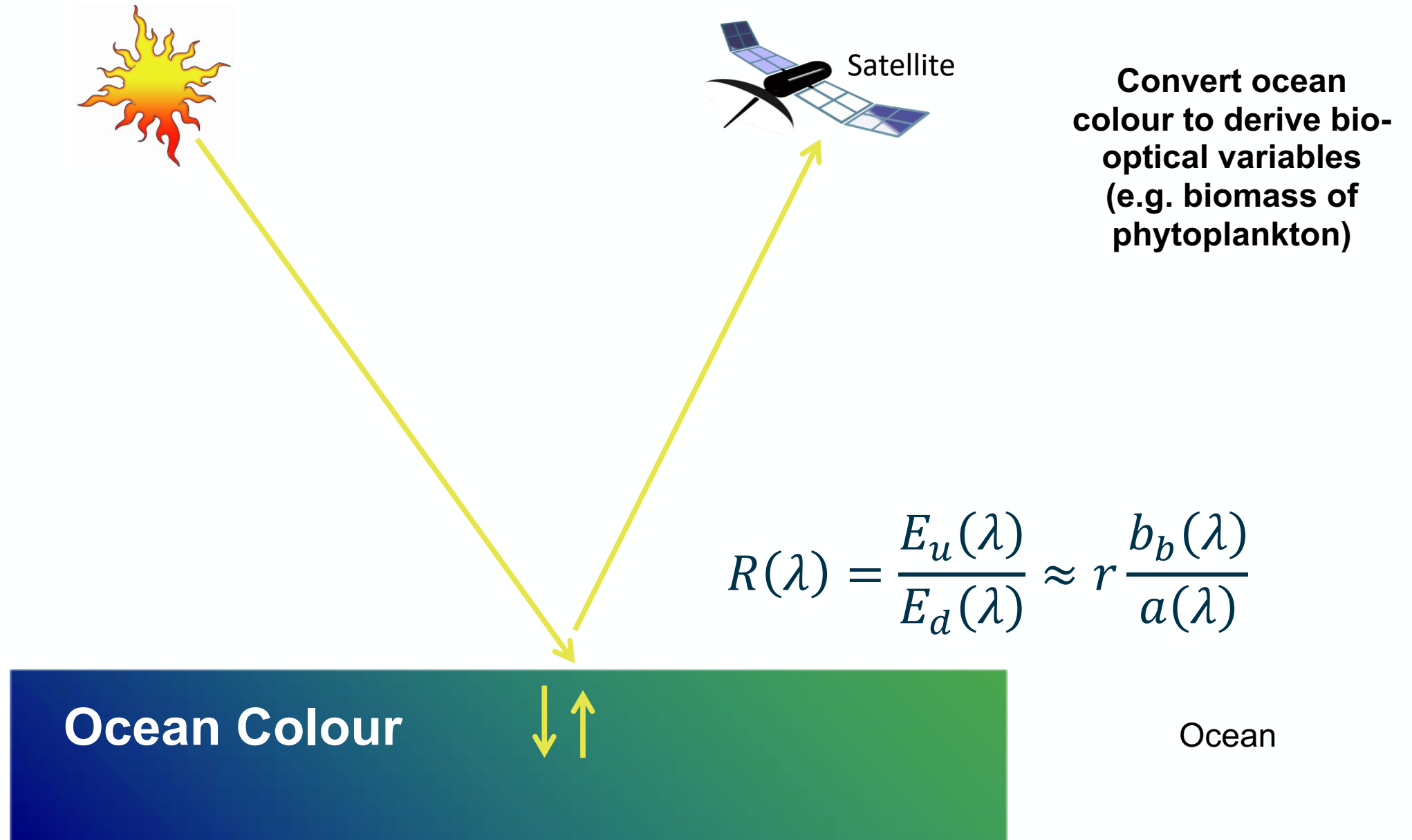


## 5) Satellite measurements of ocean colour





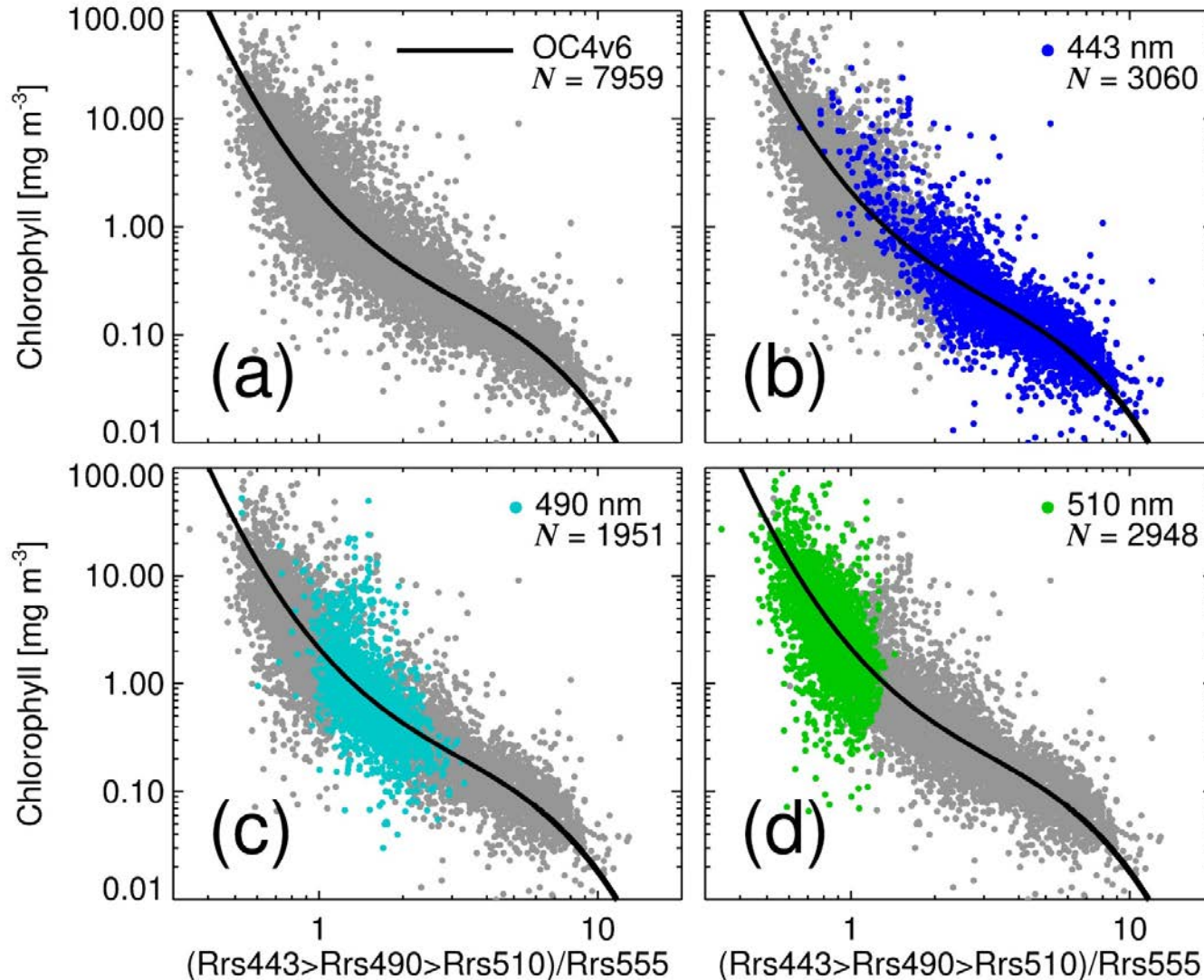
## 5) Satellite measurements of ocean colour





# 5) Satellite measurements of ocean colour

## Empirical algorithms



Sathyendranath et al. (2017) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2017.04.017>

## Semi-analytical algorithms

$$R(\lambda) = \frac{E_u(\lambda)}{E_d(\lambda)} \approx r \frac{b_b(\lambda)}{a(\lambda)}$$

$$a(\lambda) = a_w(\lambda) + a_B(\lambda) + a_g(\lambda) + a_d(\lambda)$$

$$b_b(\lambda) = b_{bw}(\lambda) + b_{bp}(\lambda)$$

$$a_B(\lambda) = a_B^*(\lambda) + B$$

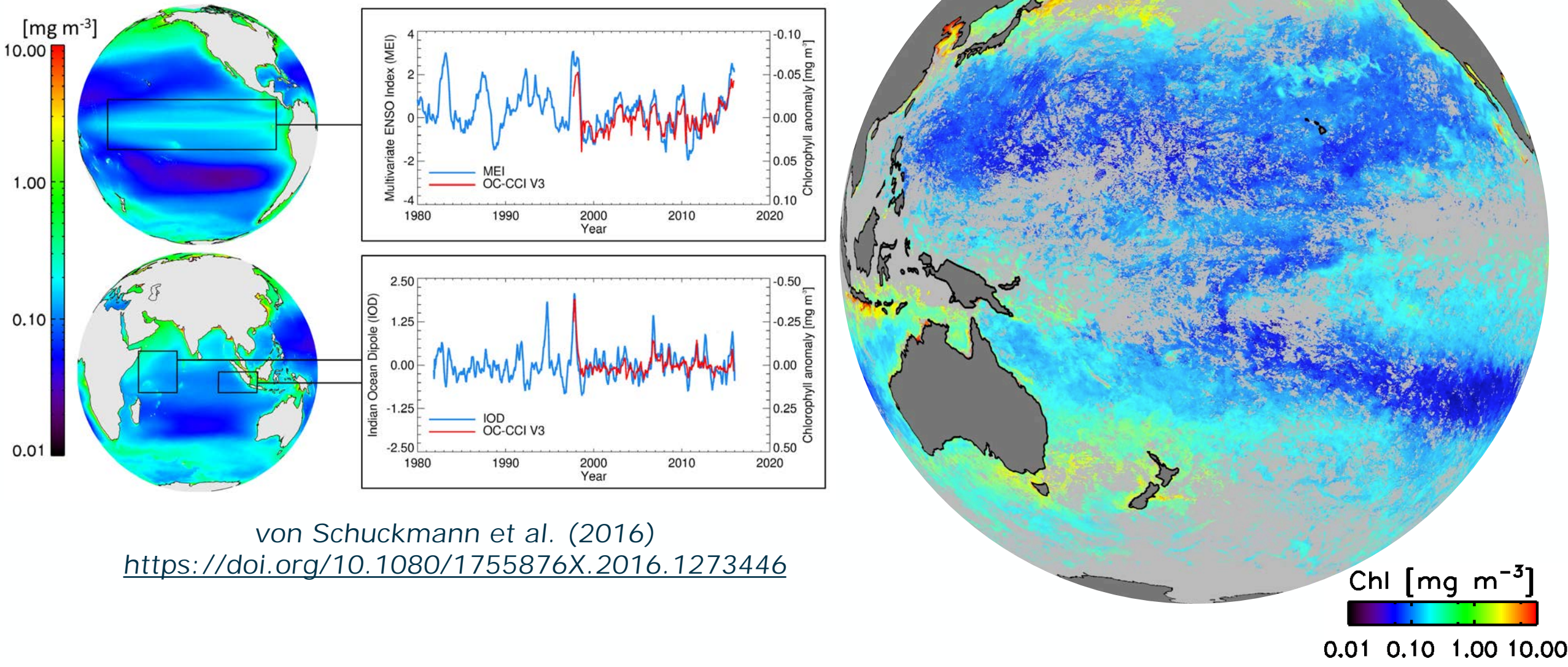
$$b_{bp}(\lambda) = b_{bp}^*(\lambda) + SPM$$

$$a_g(\lambda) = a_g^*(\lambda) + CDOM$$

IOCCG (2006) <https://ioccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ioccg-report-05.pdf>



# 5) Satellite measurements of ocean colour

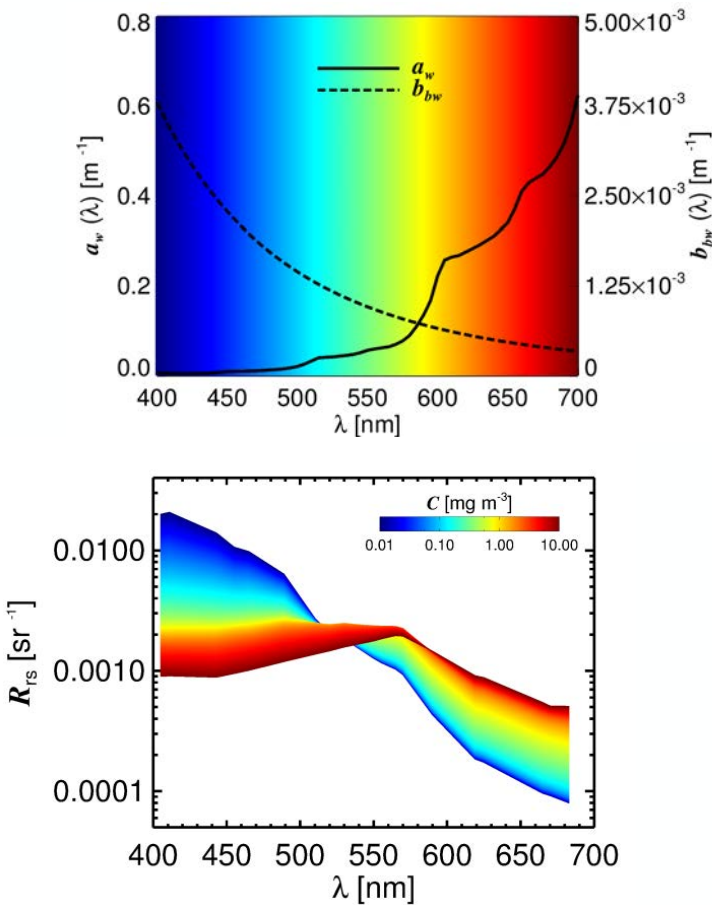




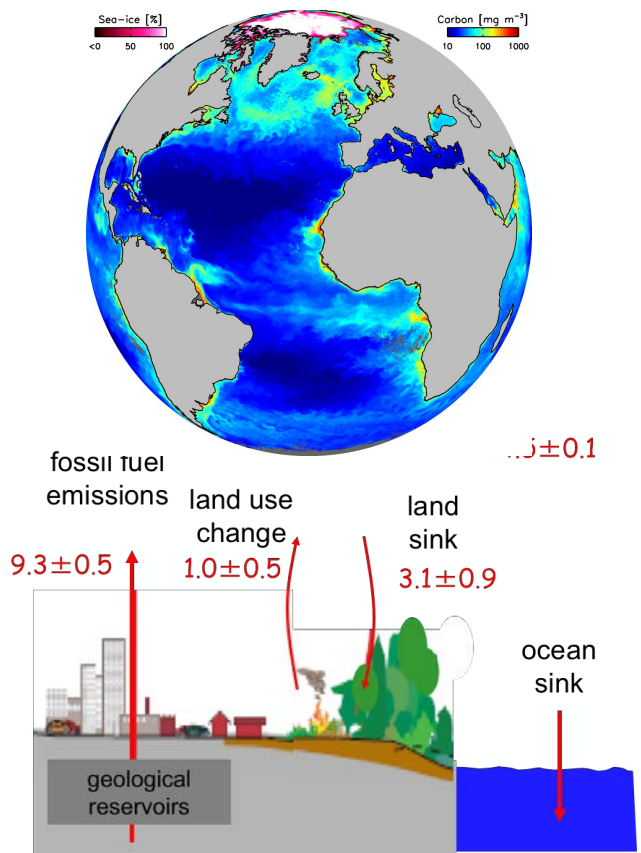
- 1) What is ocean colour?
- 2) History of ocean colour
- 3) Optical properties of water and its constituents
- 4) *In situ* measurements of ocean colour
- 5) Satellite remote-sensing of ocean colour



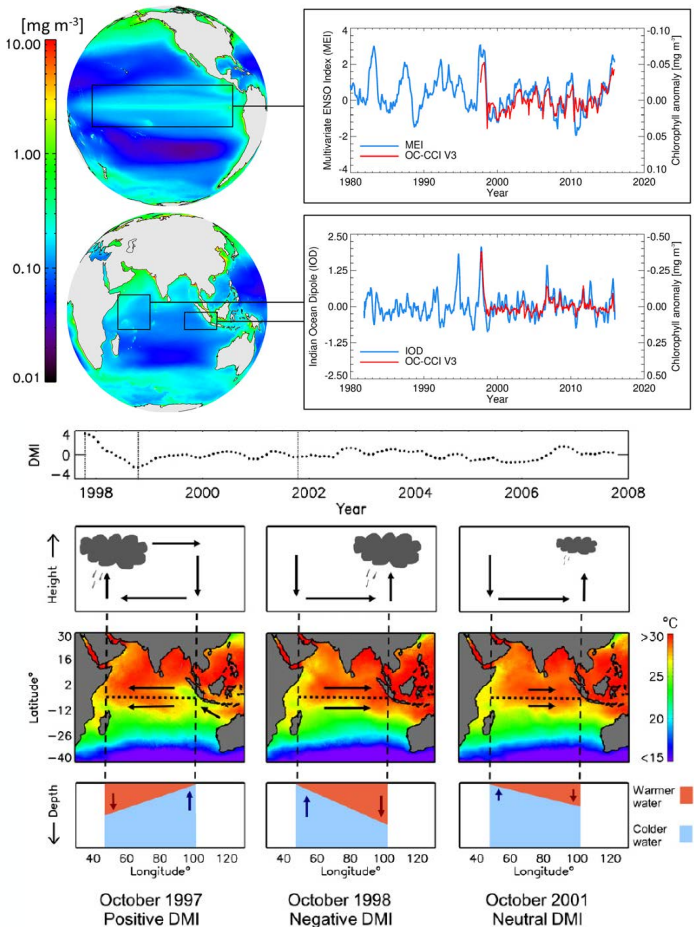
## Ocean Colour theory (Part 1)



## Ocean Colour applications: carbon cycle (Part 2)



## Ocean Colour applications: climate (Part 3)

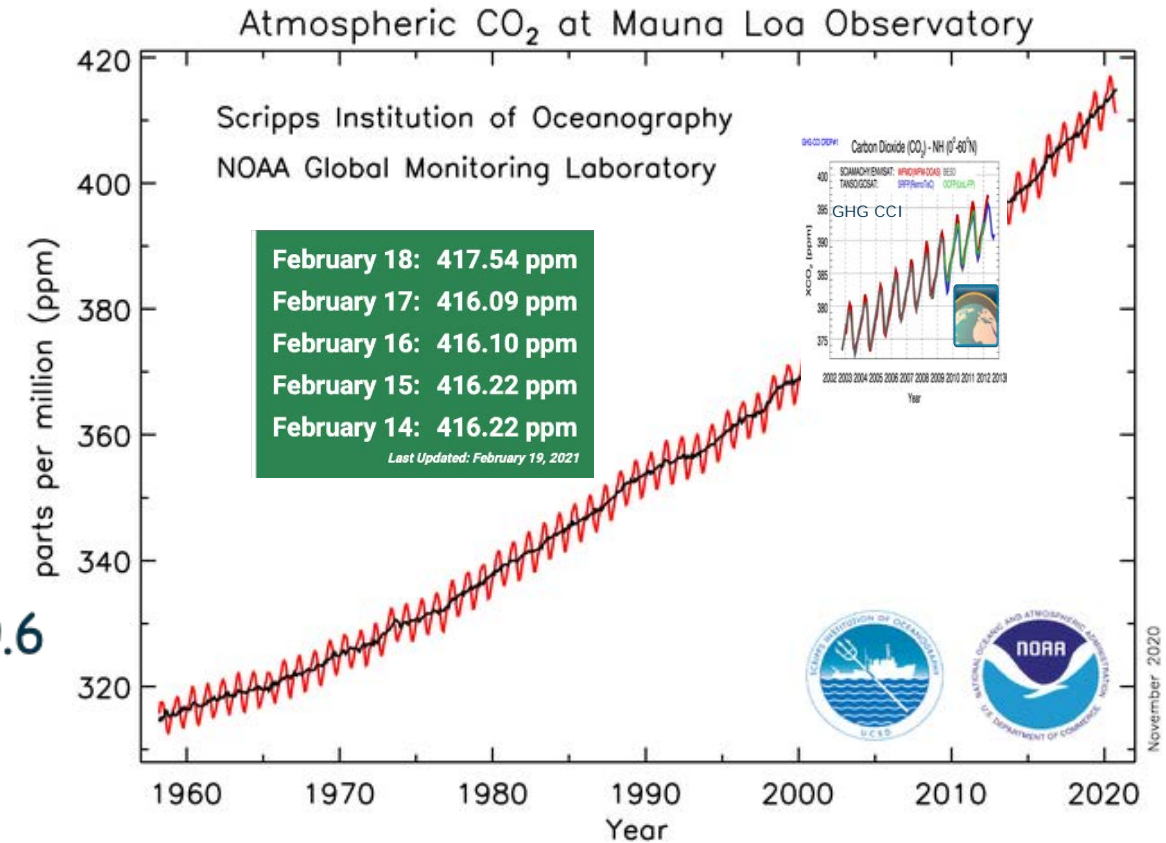
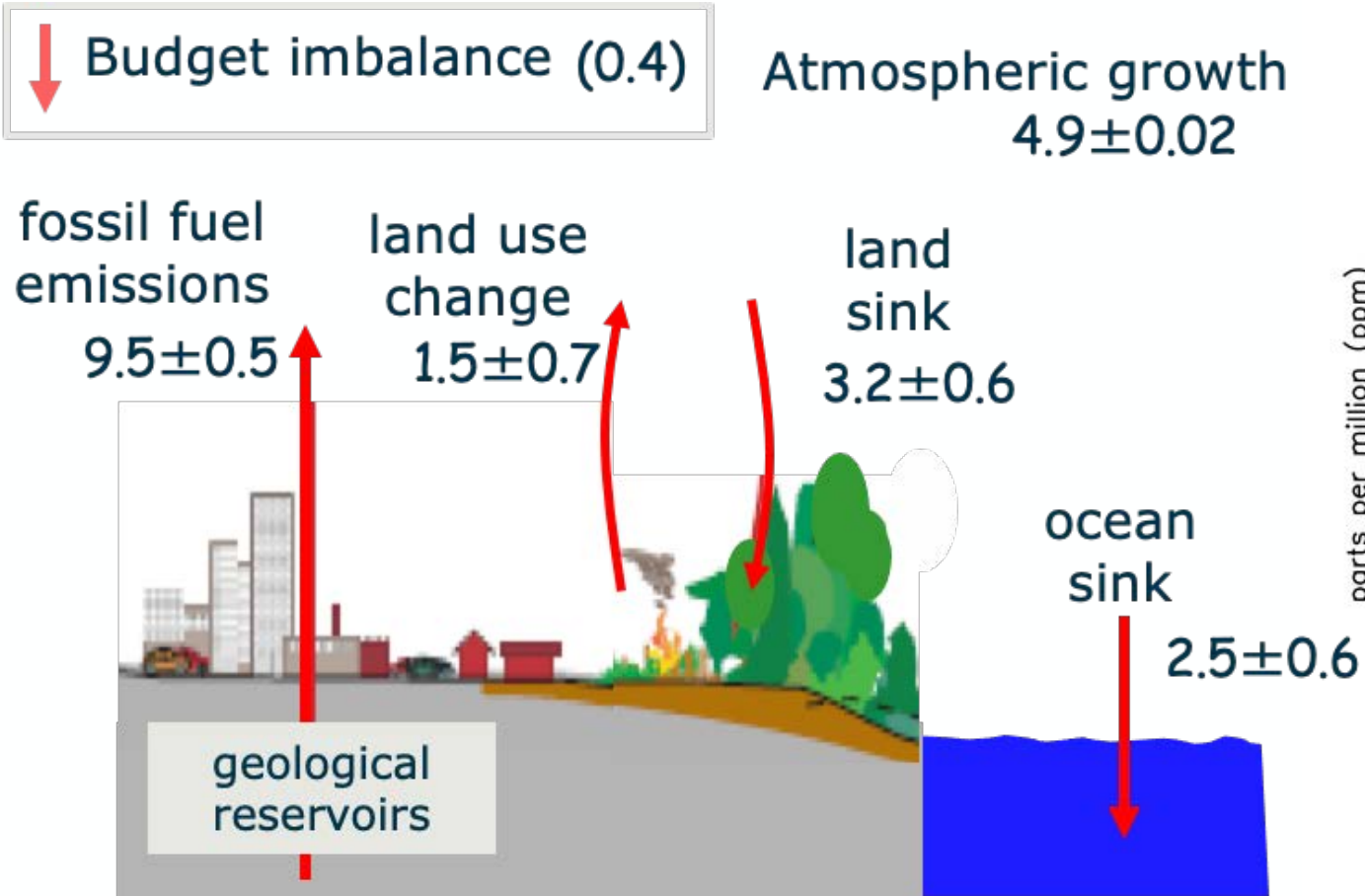




- 1) Earth's Carbon Cycle
- 2) Ocean Carbon Cycle
- 3) Ocean carbon satellite products
- 4) Integration with robotic platforms
- 5) Integration with models



# 1) Earth's Carbon Cycle

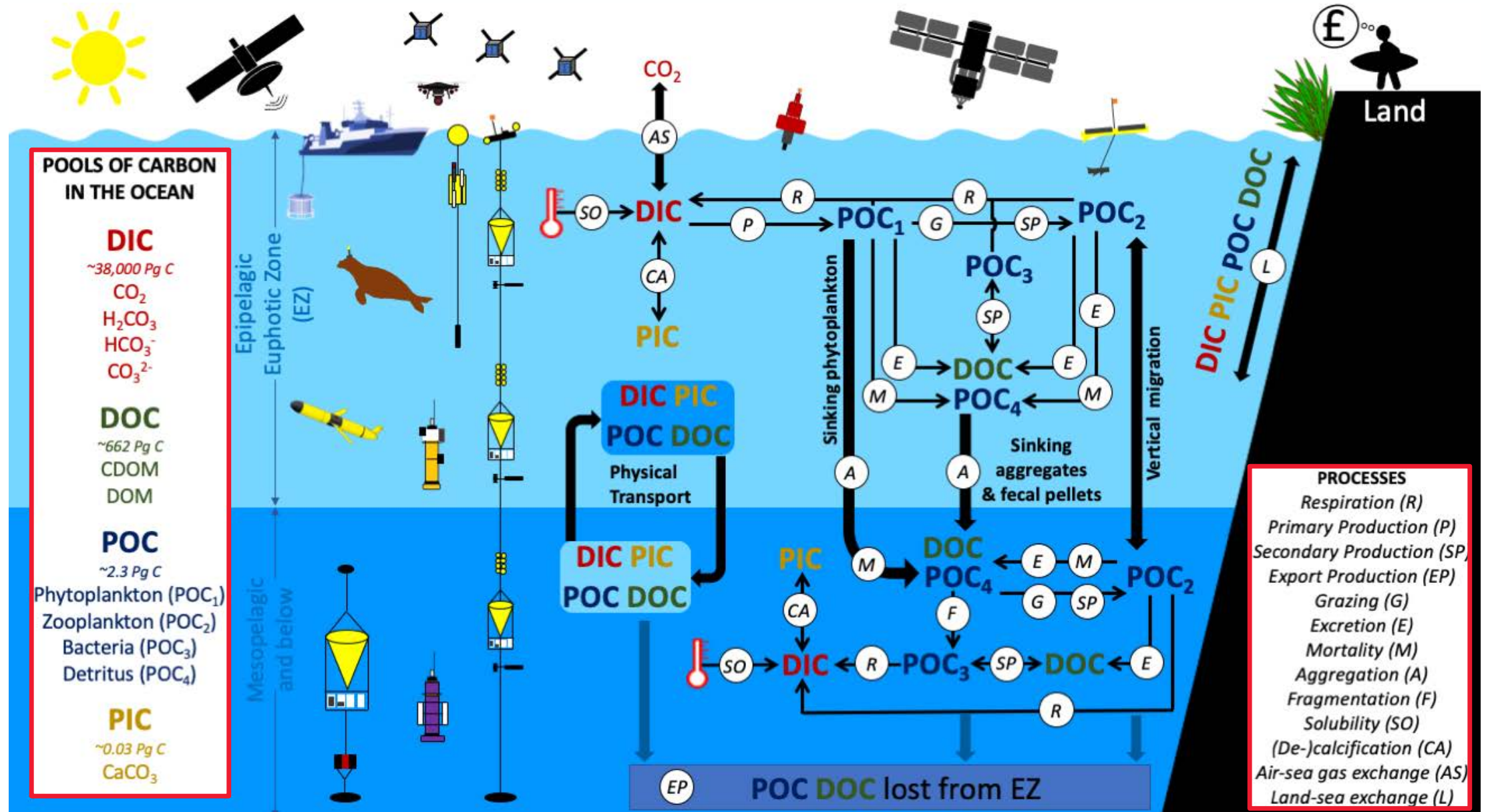


<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/mlo.html>

Friedlingstein et al. (2019) Global Carbon Budget (2019) Earth Syst. Sci. Data, 11, 1783–1838, <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-11-1783-2019>

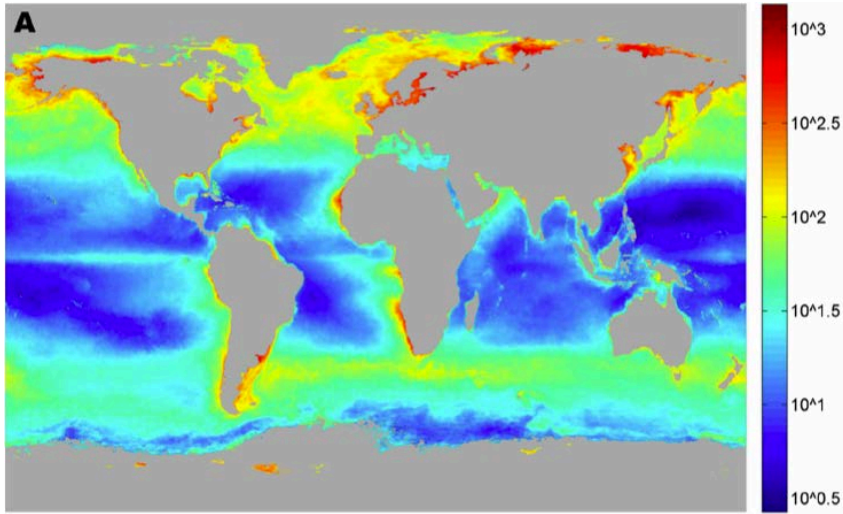


## 2) Ocean Carbon Cycle



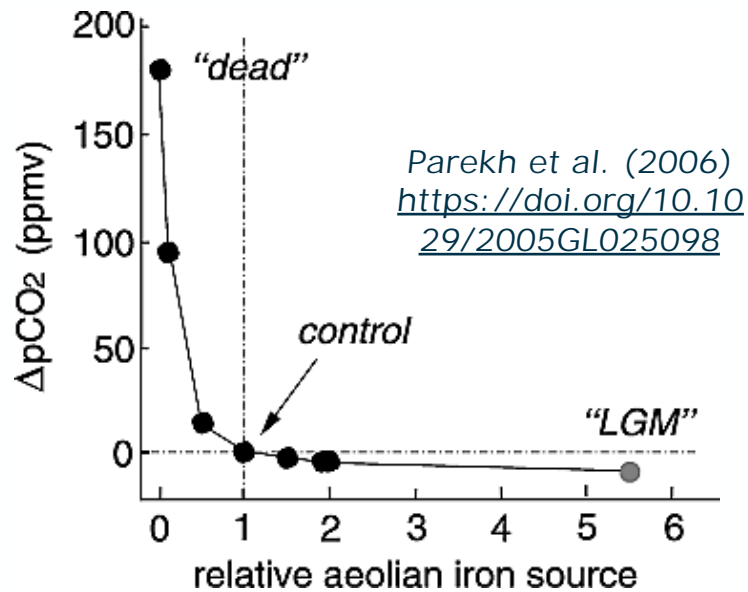


## 2) Ocean Carbon Cycle



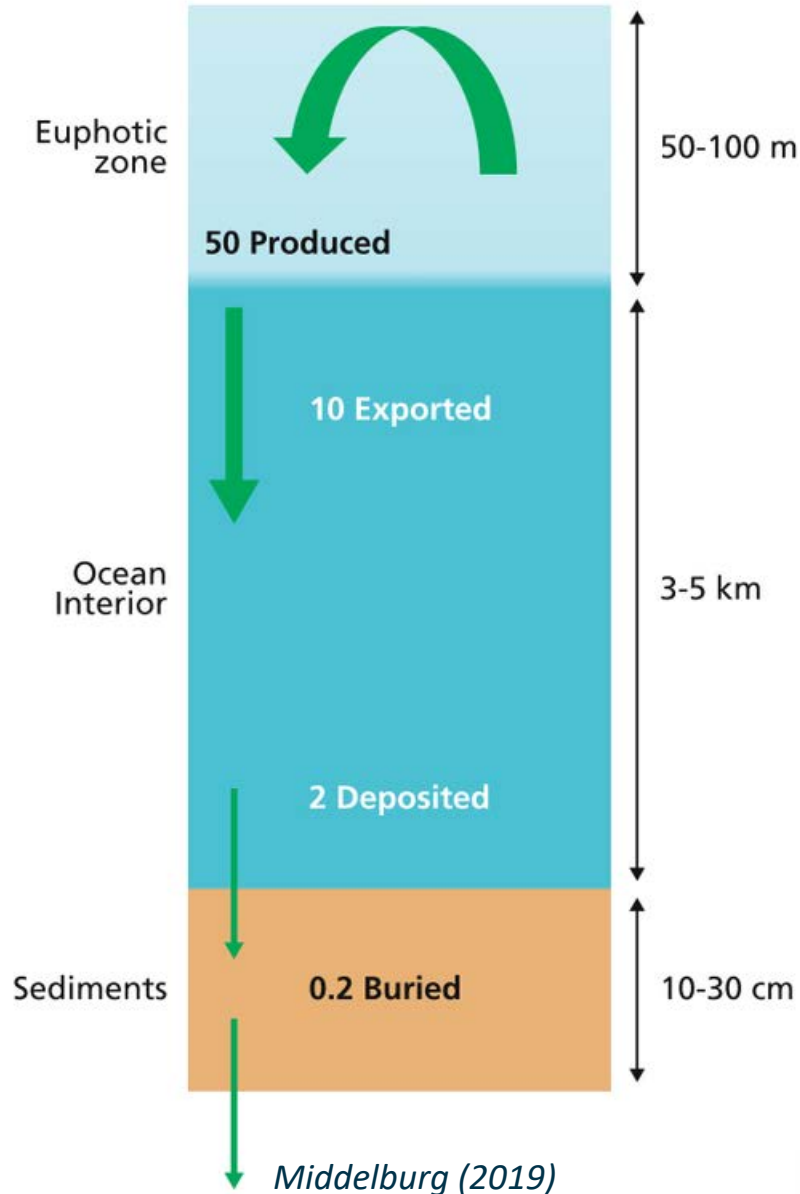
Laws et al. (2011)

<https://doi.org/10.4319/lom.2011.9.593>



Parekh et al. (2006)

<https://doi.org/10.1029/2005GL025098>



Middelburg (2019)

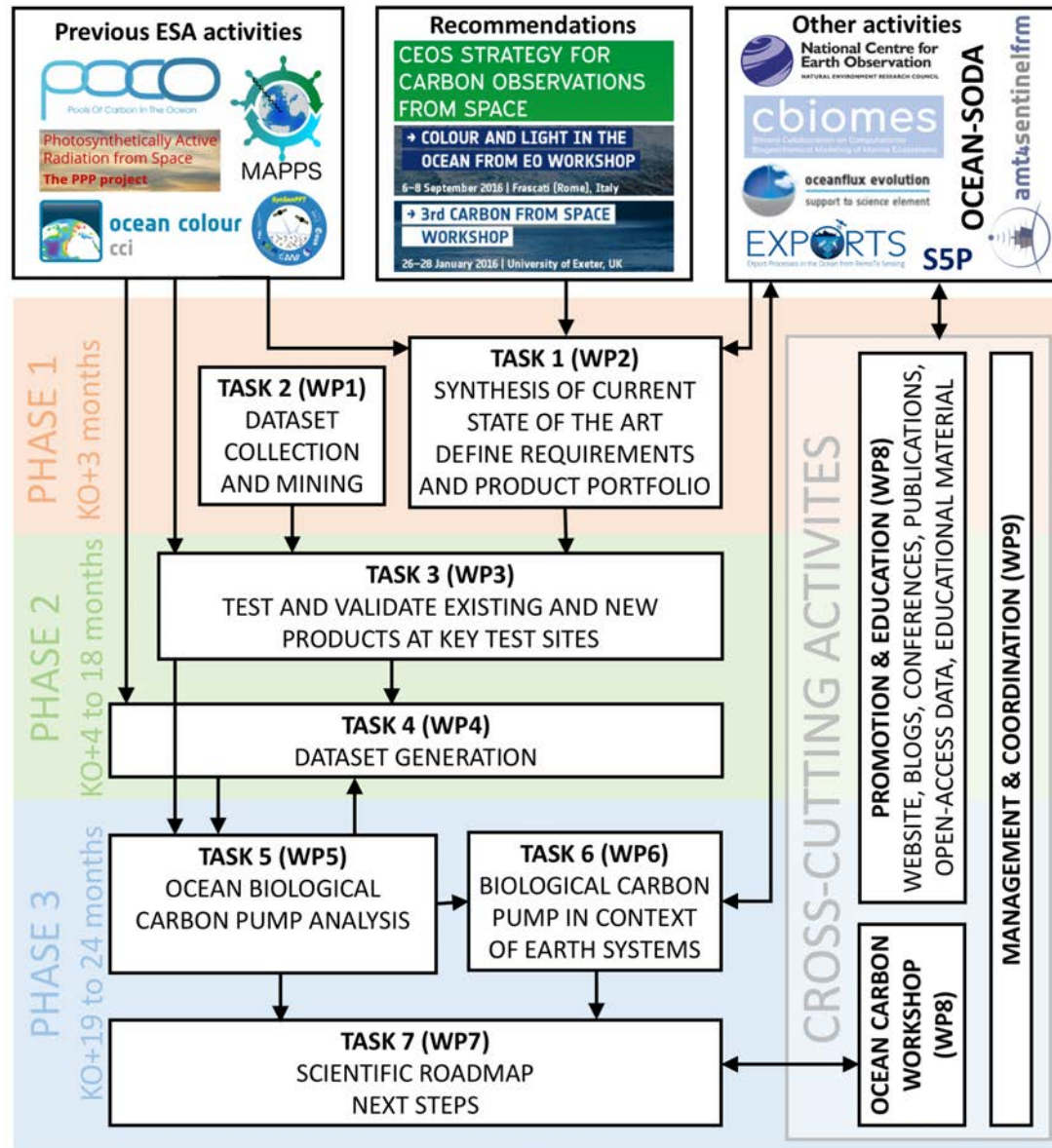
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-10822-9>

Ocean Biological Carbon pump exports between 9-12 Gt C y<sup>-1</sup> (Laws et al. 2011)

If the OBCP were to be switched off, it has been estimated that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations would be 50% higher than they are today



## 2) Ocean Carbon Cycle



<https://bicep-project.org/Home>





### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Phyto carbon

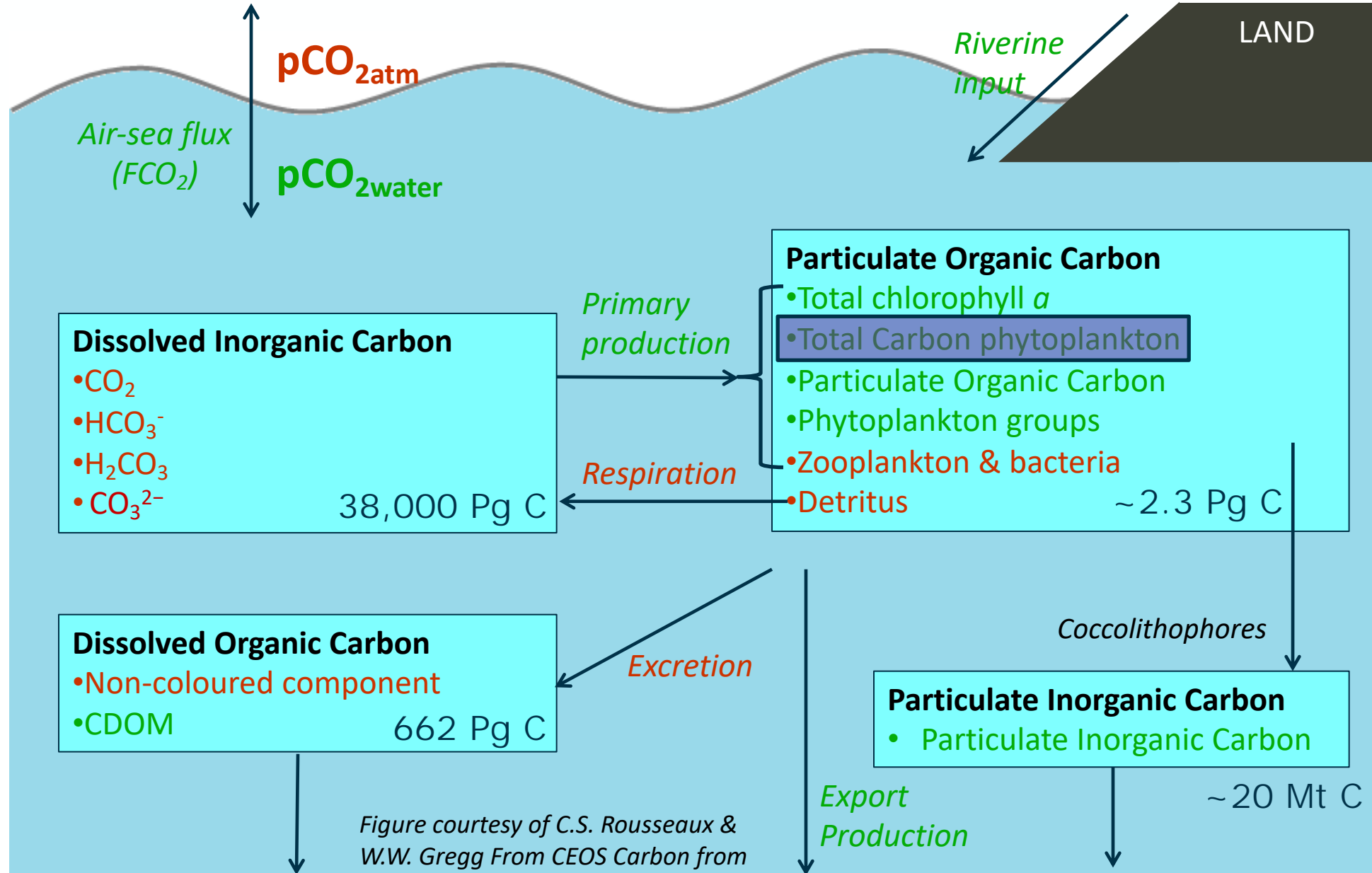
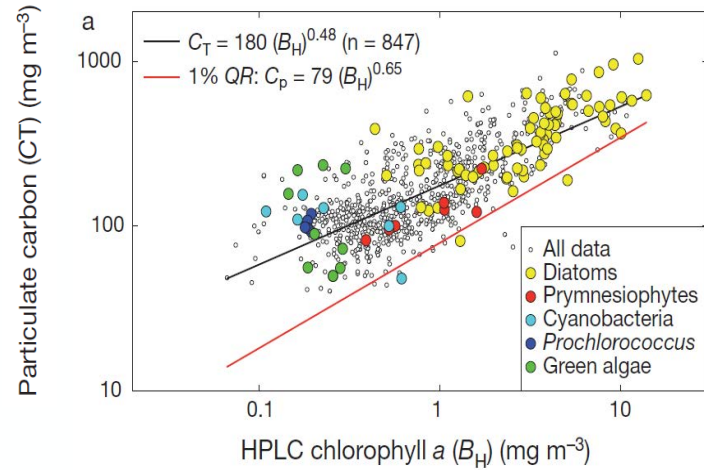


Figure courtesy of C.S. Rousseaux & W.W. Gregg From CEOS Carbon from Space Report (COES 2014)



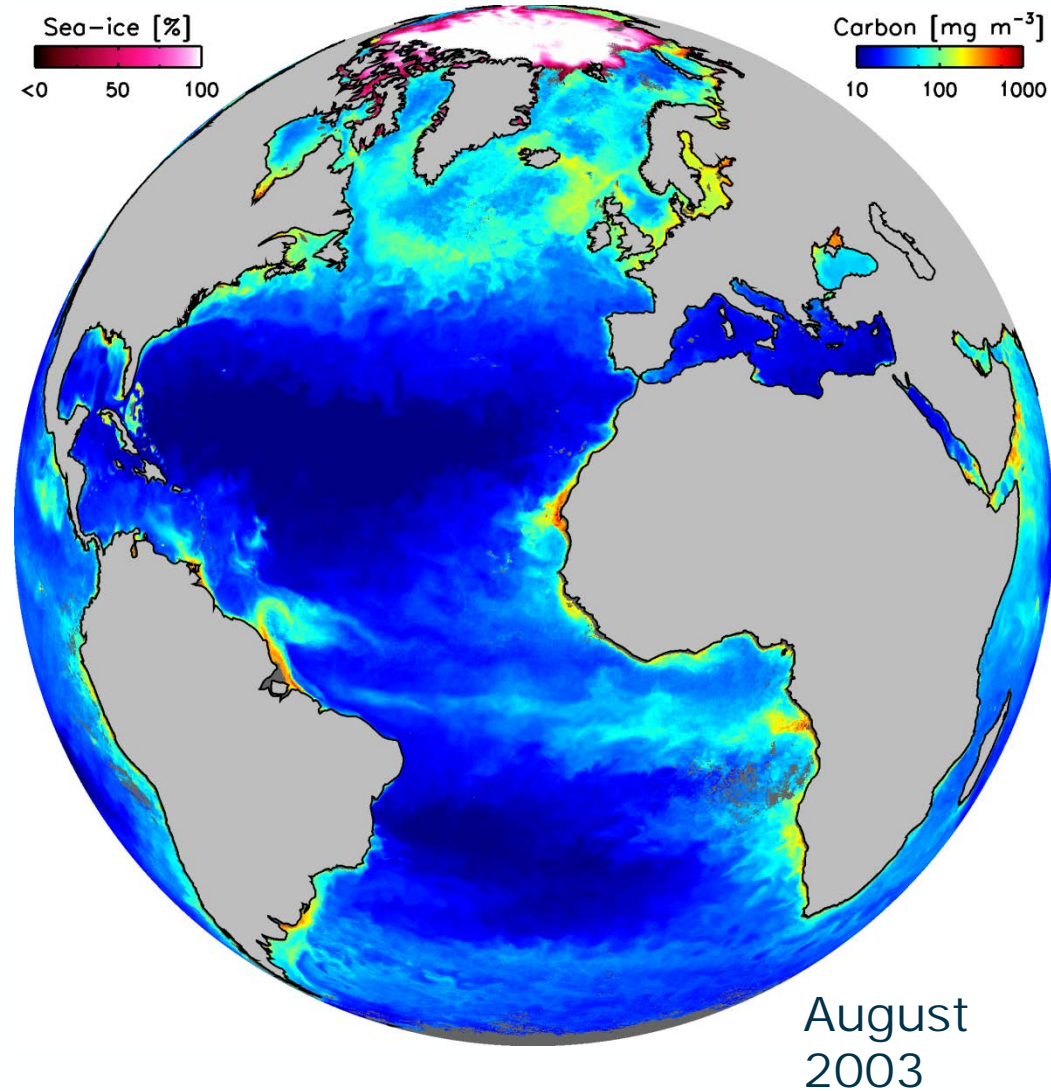
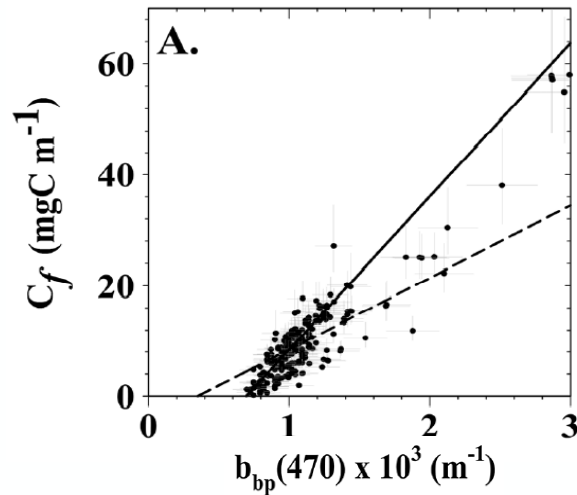
### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Phyto carbon



Sathyendranath et al. (2009)  
<https://doi.org/10.3354/meps07998>

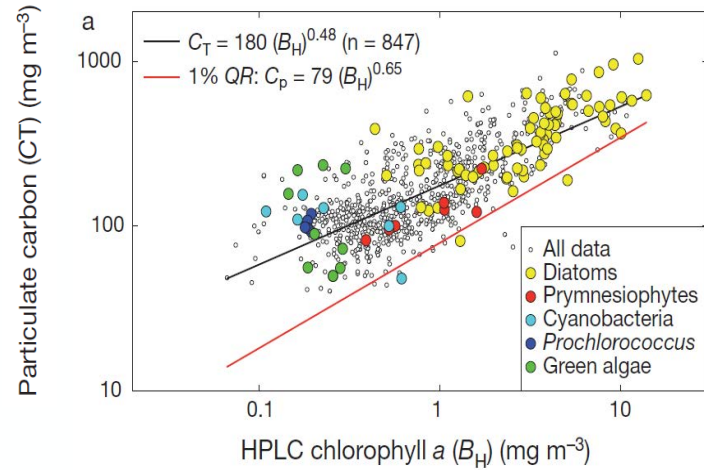
Martinez-Vicente  
et al. (2013)  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/grl.50252>

Kostadinov et al.  
(2016)  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/os-12-561-2016>





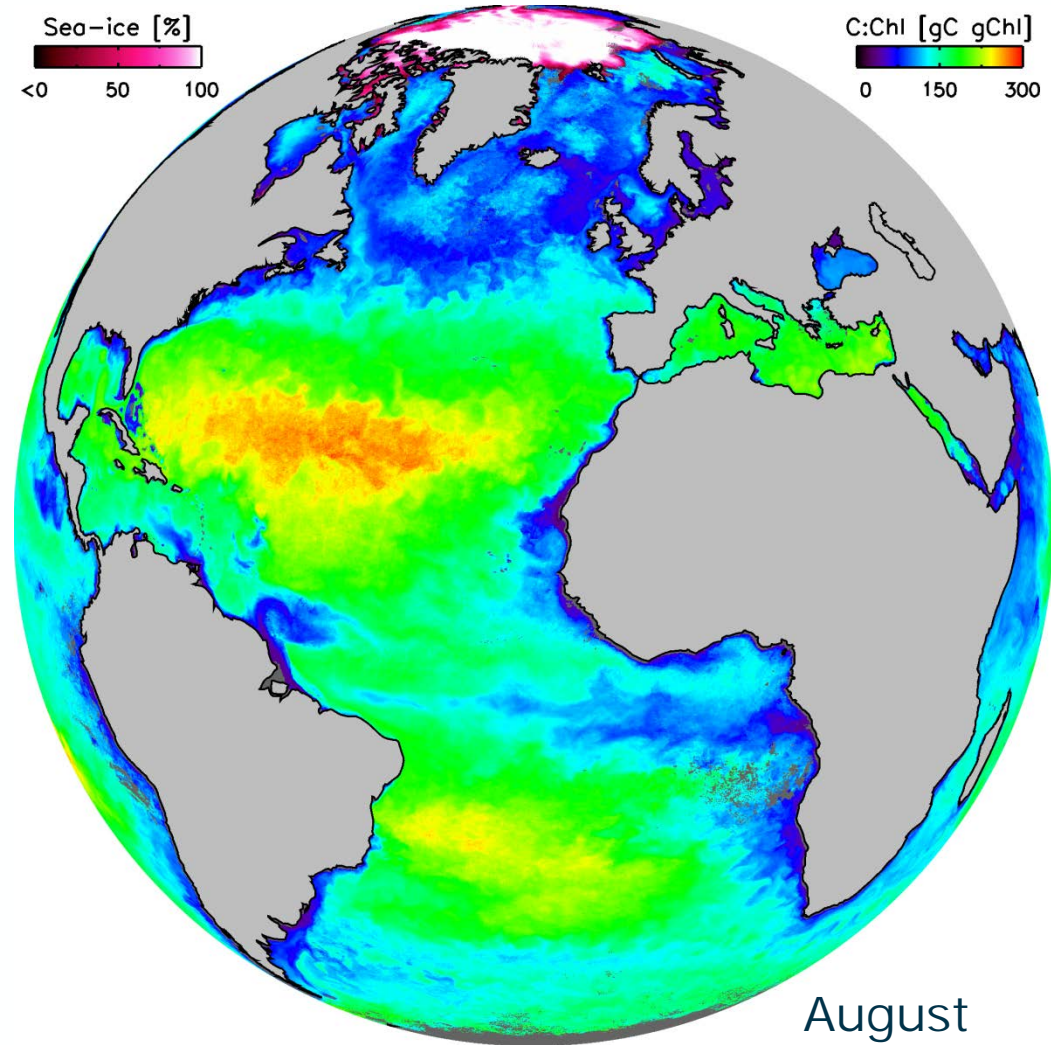
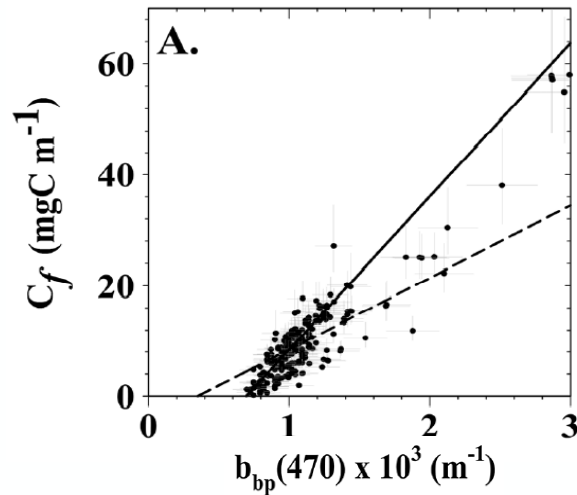
### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Phyto carbon



Sathyendranath et al. (2009)  
<https://doi.org/10.3354/meps07998>

Martinez-Vicente  
et al. (2013)  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/grl.50252>

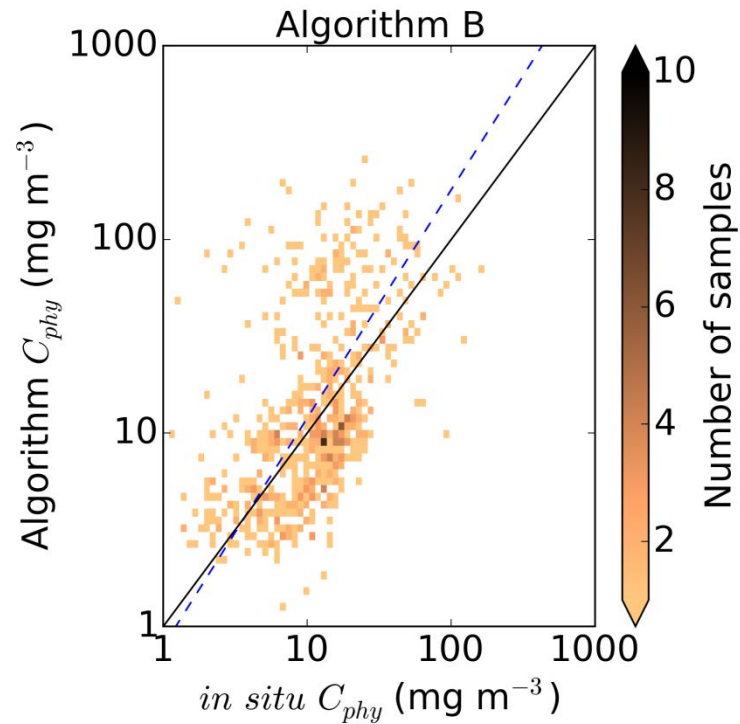
Kostadinov et al.  
(2016)  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/os-12-561-2016>



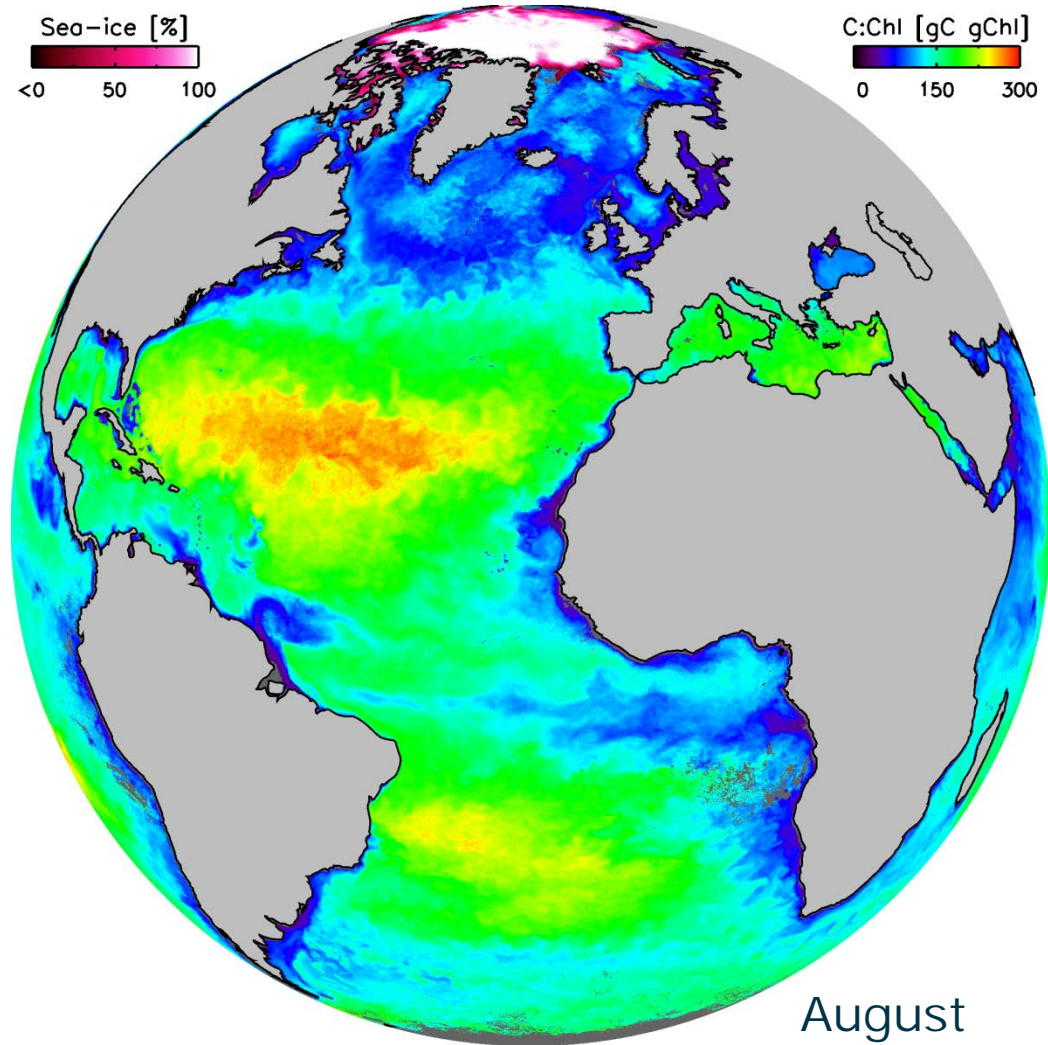


### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Phyto carbon

#### Validation

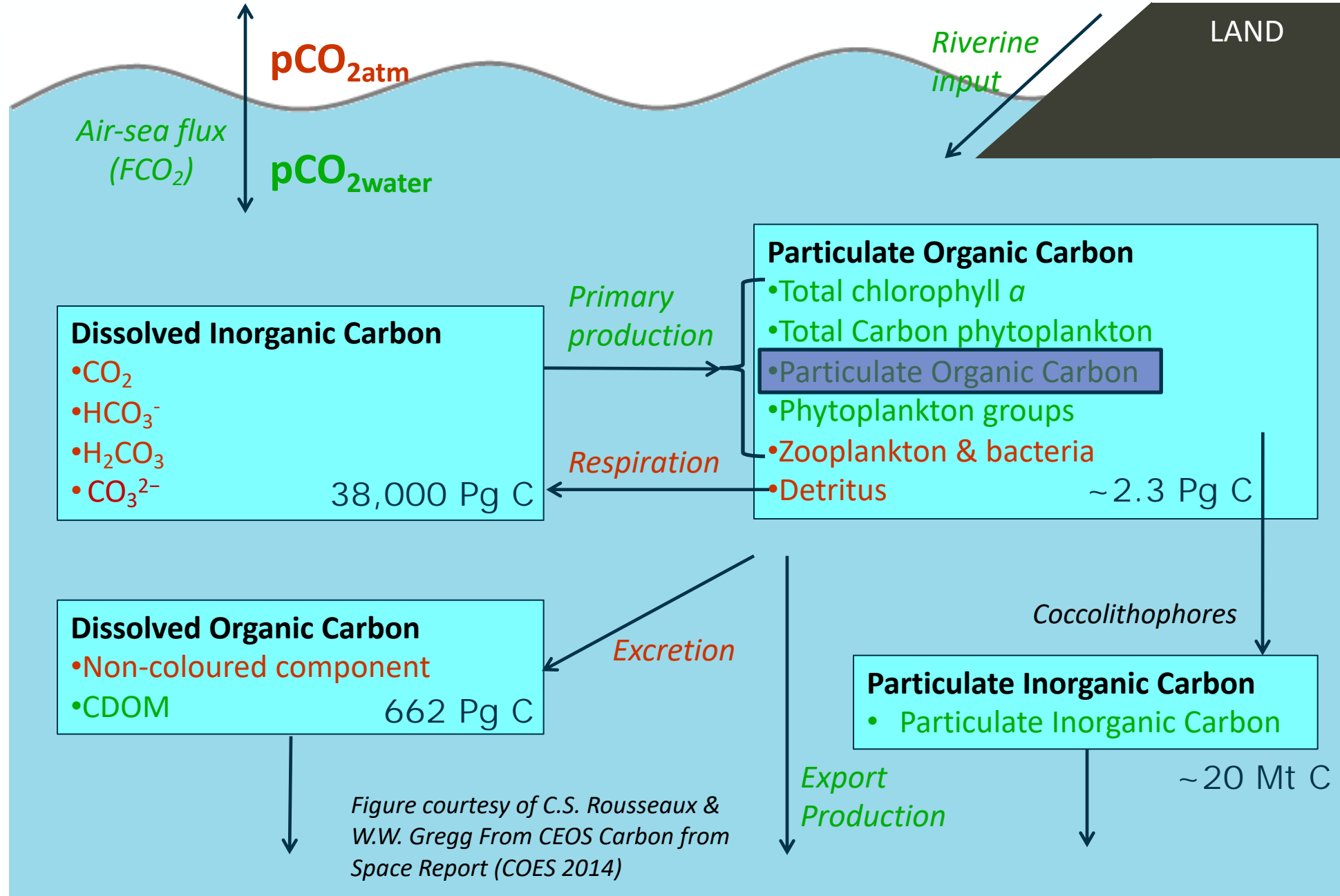


Martinez-Vicente et al. (2017)  
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2017.00378>





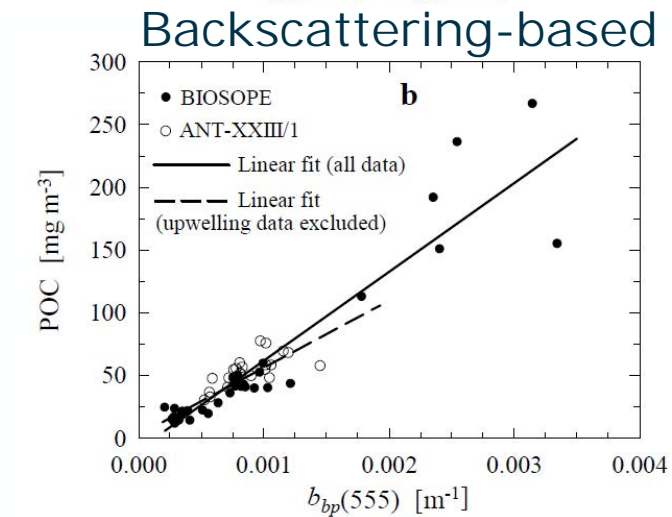
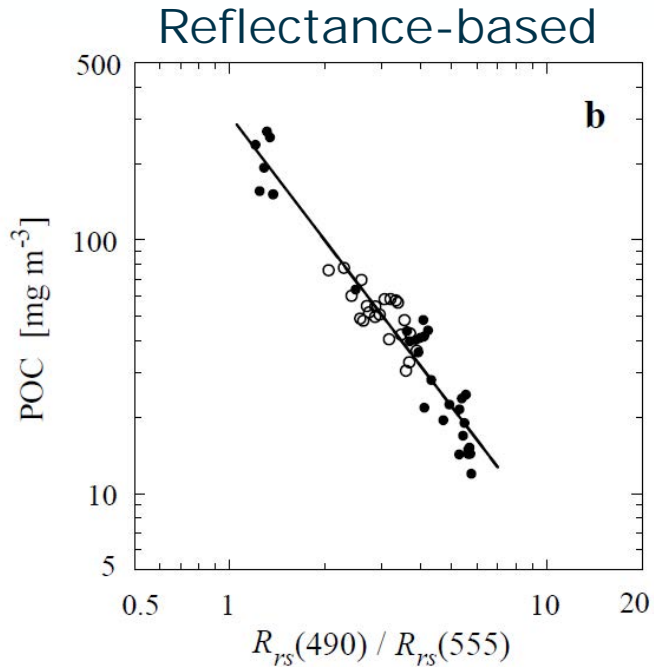
### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: POC





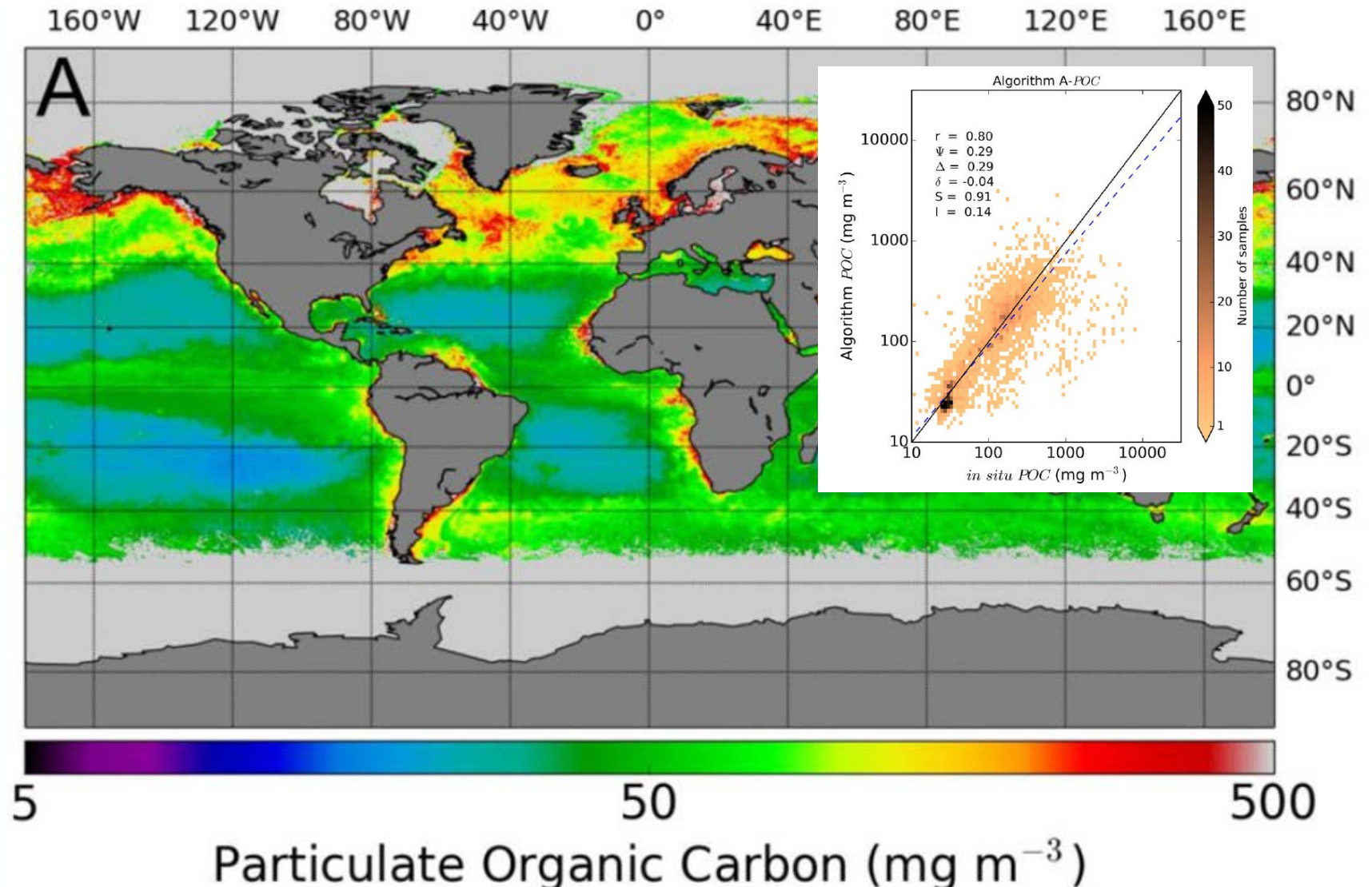
### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: POC

Validation



Stramski et al. (2008)

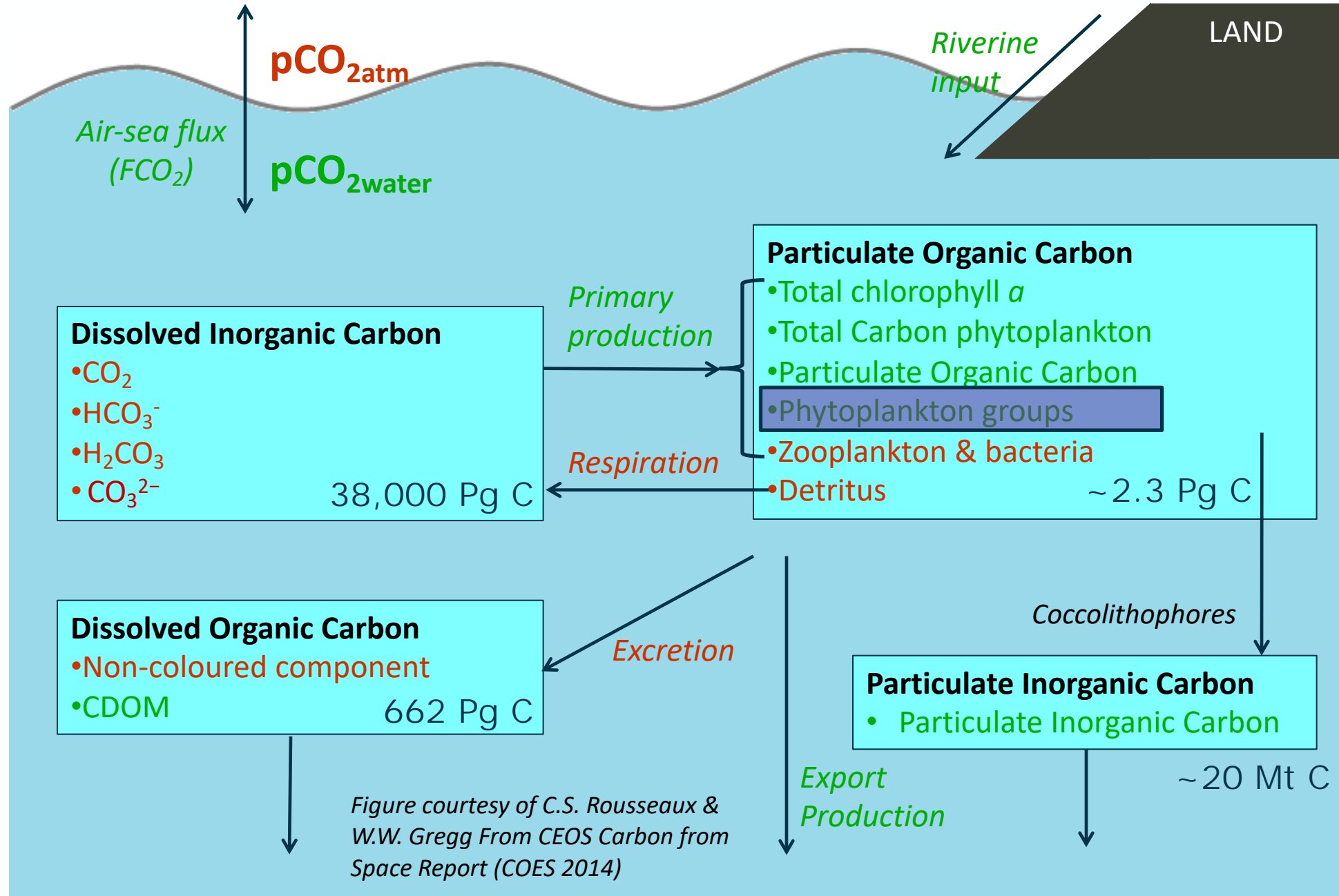
<https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-5-171-2008>



Evers-King et al. (2017) <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2017.00251>

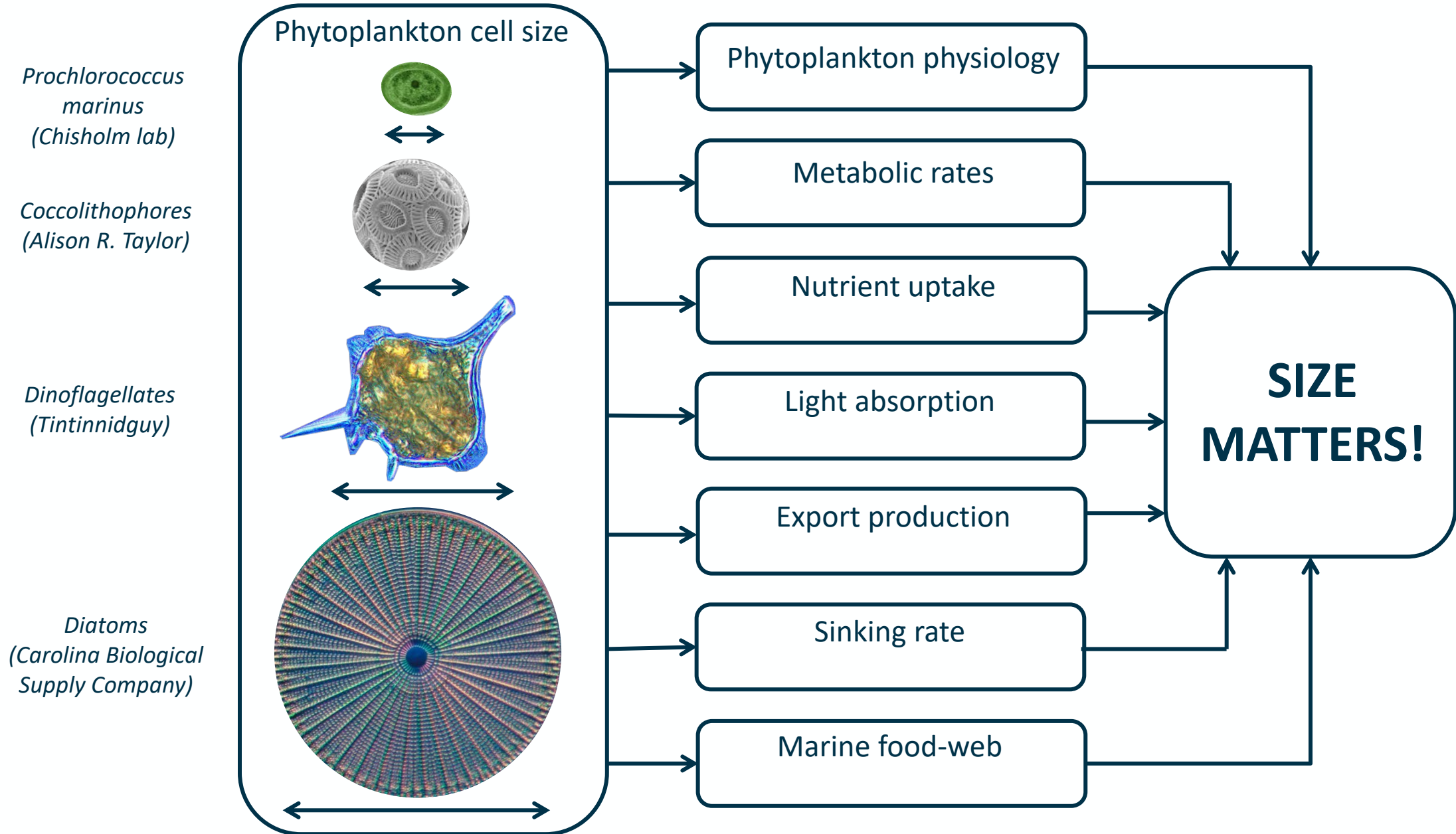


### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Phyto- groups





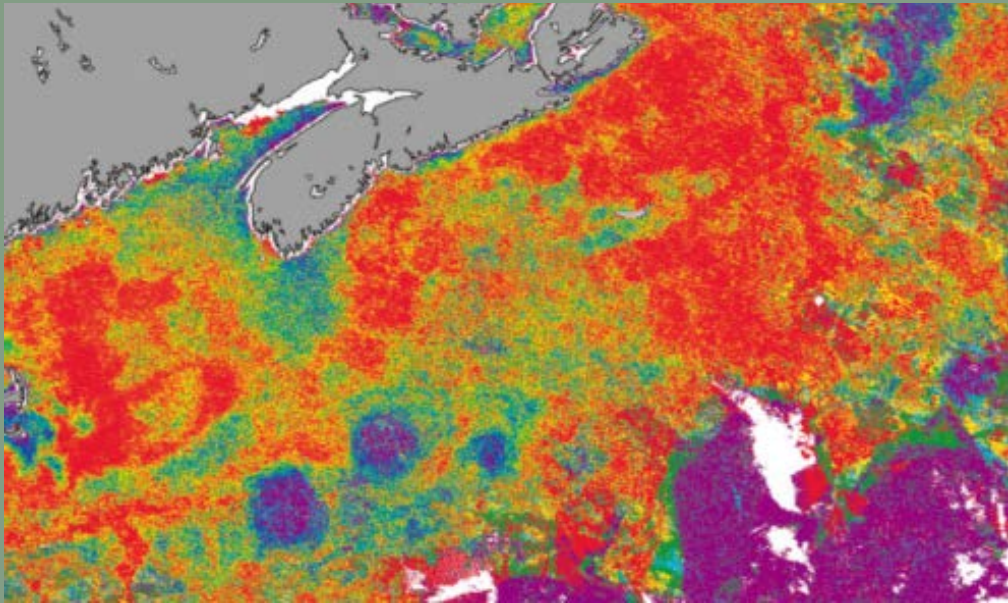
### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Phyto- groups





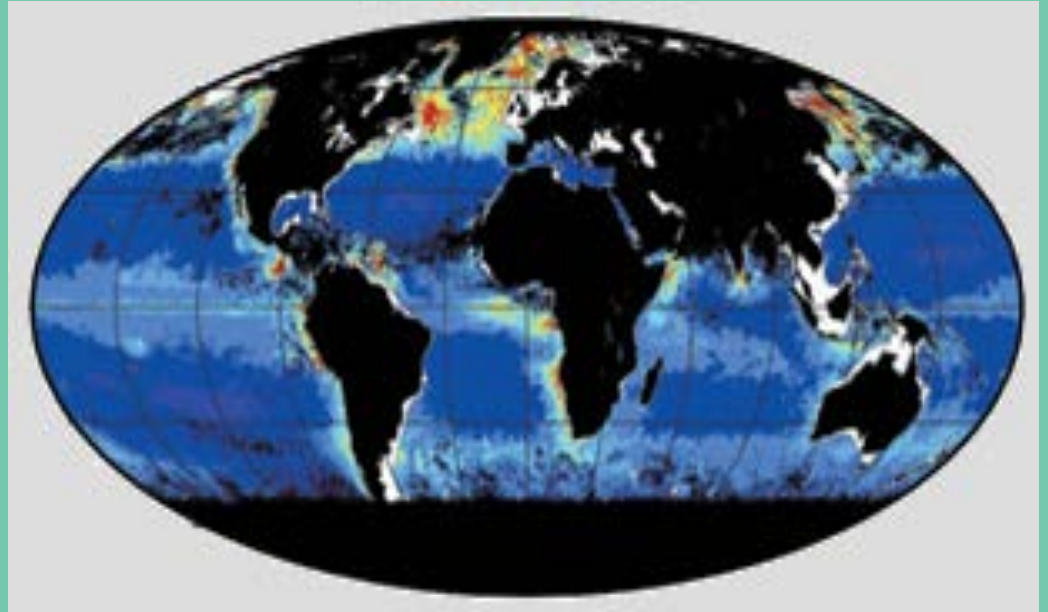
### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Phyto- groups

#### Detection-based



Sathyendranath et al. (2004) MEPS

#### Extrapolation-based

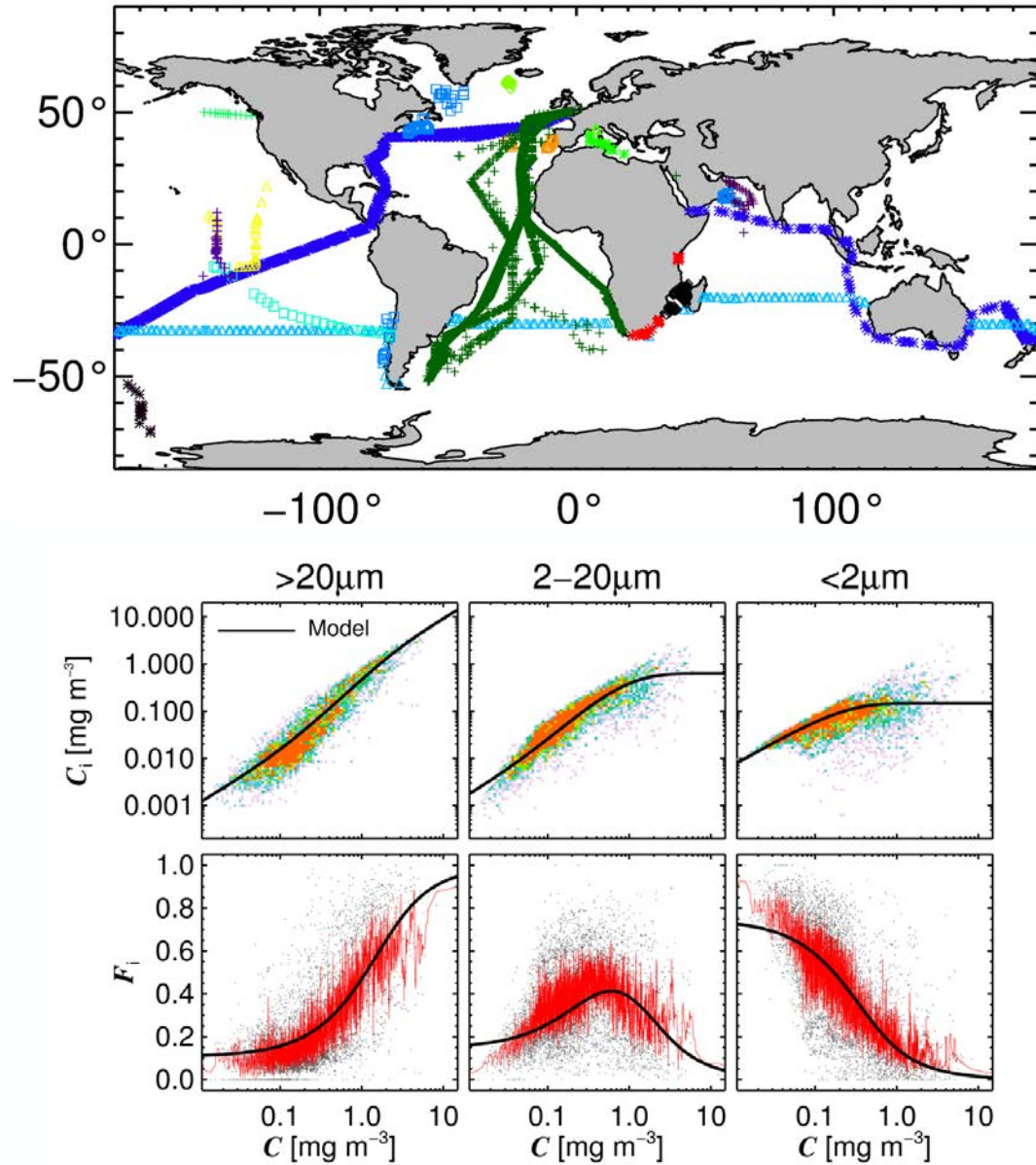


Uitz et al. (2006) J. Geophys. Res.

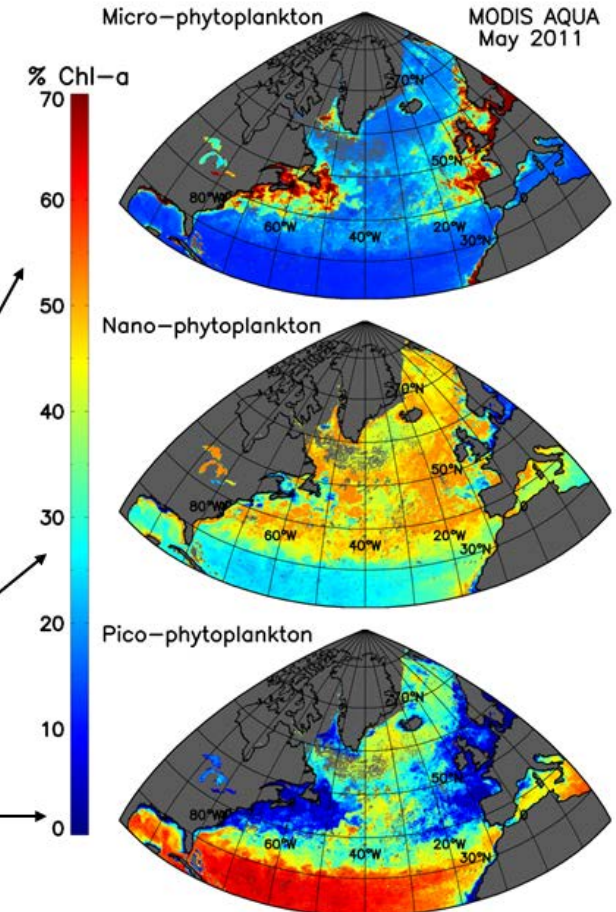
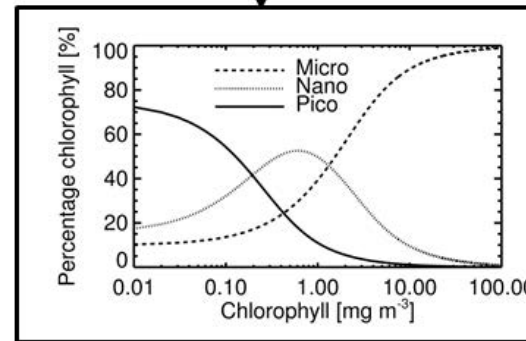
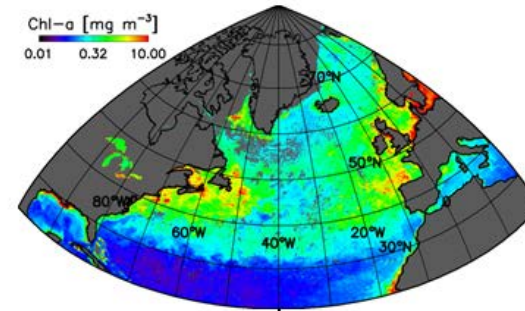


### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Phyto- groups

An example of an  
extrapolation-based approach



INPUT: Satellite total chlorophyll



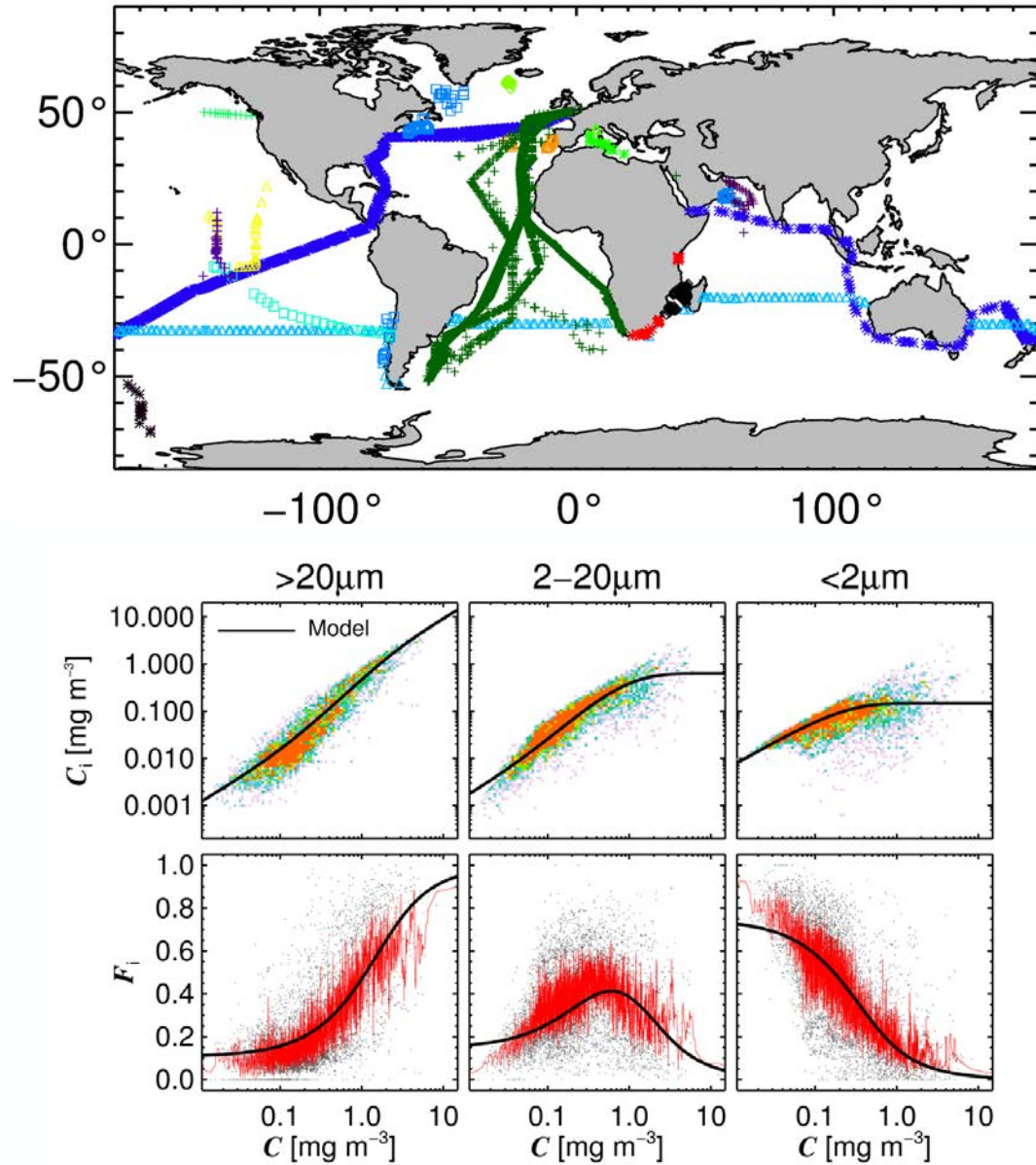
Brewin et al. (2010) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2010.02.014>

Brewin et al. (2015) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2015.07.004>

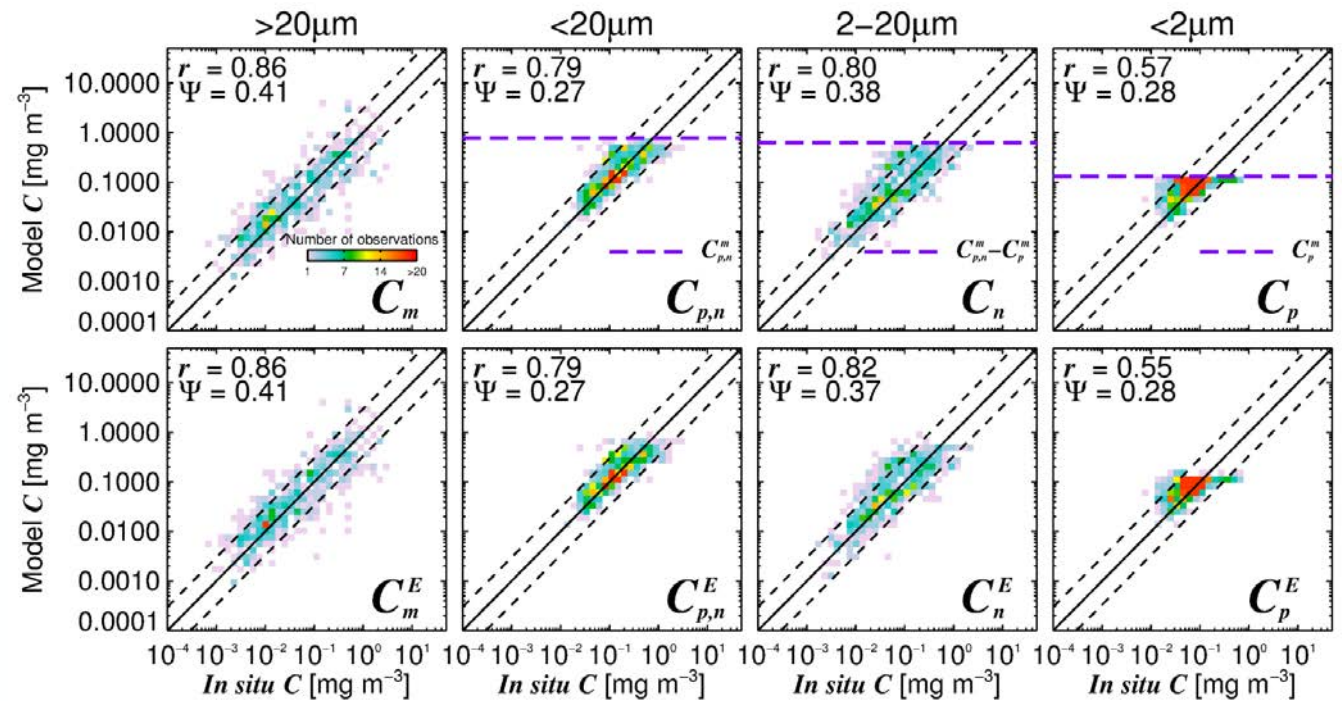


### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Phyto- groups

An example of an  
extrapolation-based approach



#### Validation

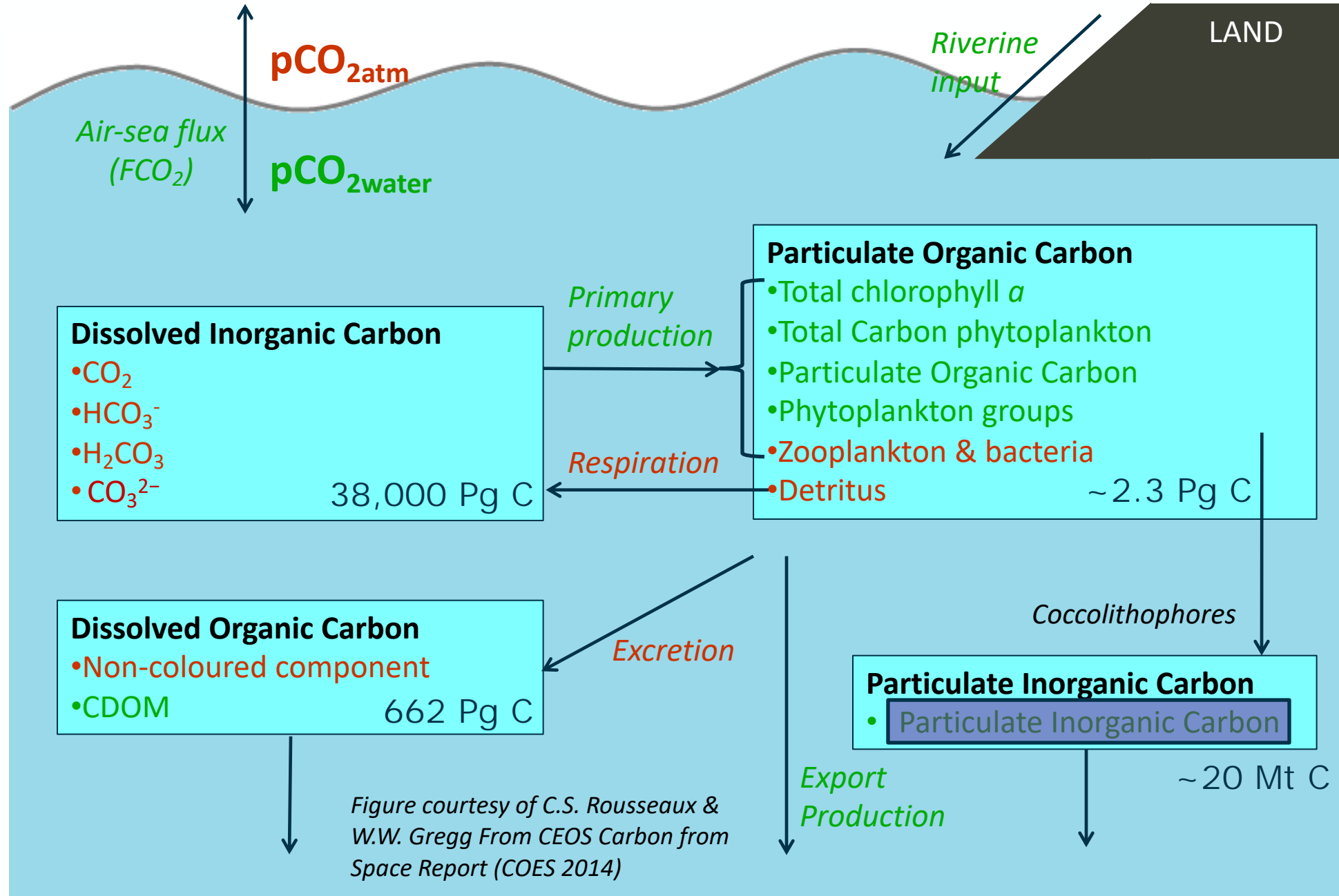


Brewin et al. (2010) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2010.02.014>

Brewin et al. (2015) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2015.07.004>

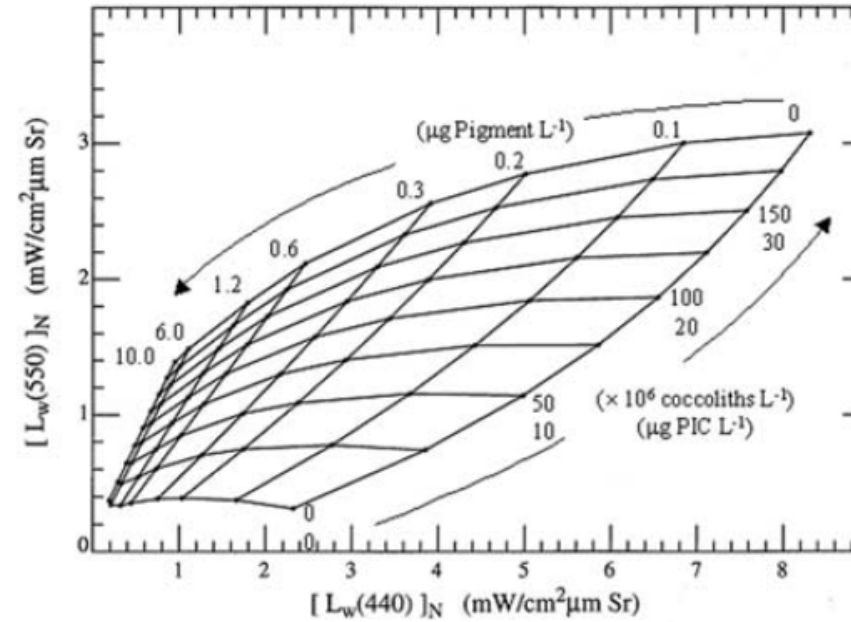
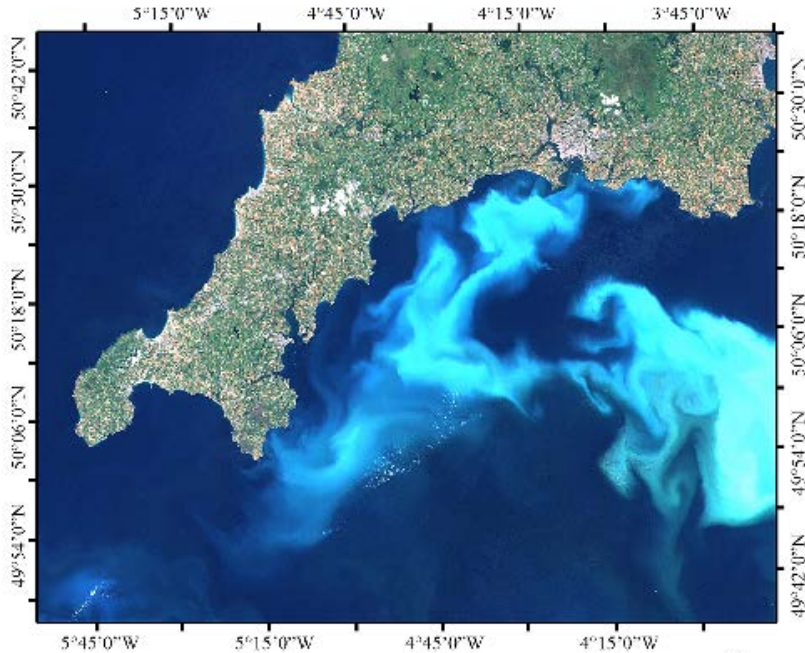


### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: PIC

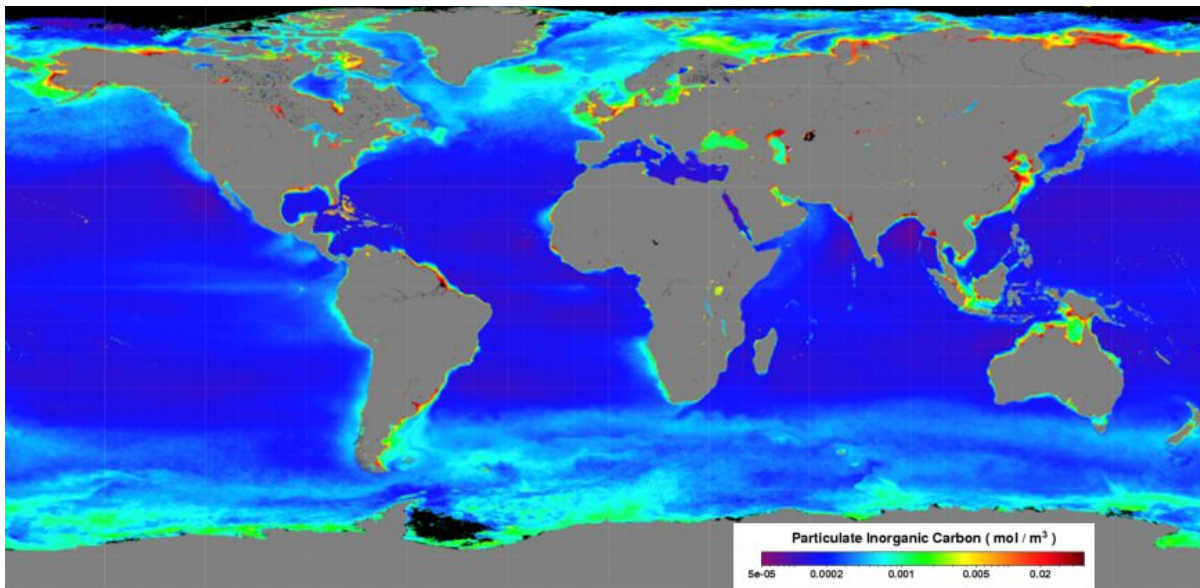




### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: PIC

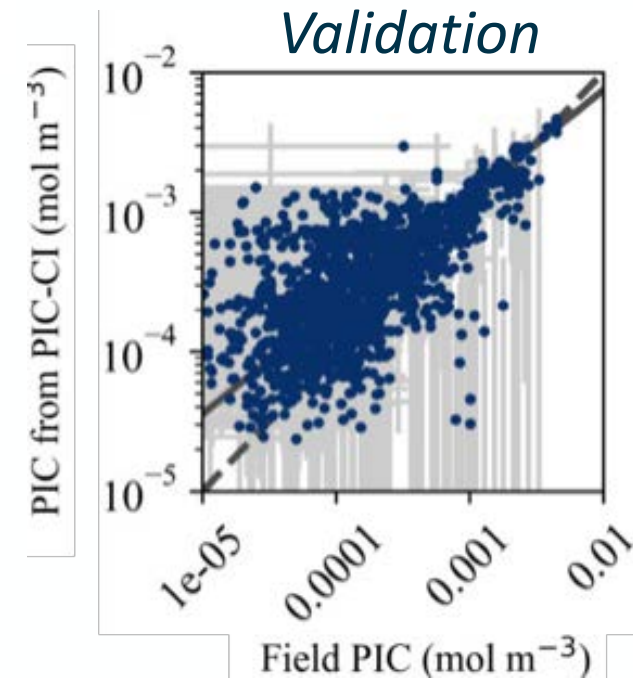


*Coccolithophores*  
(Alison R. Taylor)



Balch et al. (2005)  
<https://doi.org/10.1029/2004JC002560>

Mitchell et al. (2017)  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/2017JC013146>





### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Primary Production

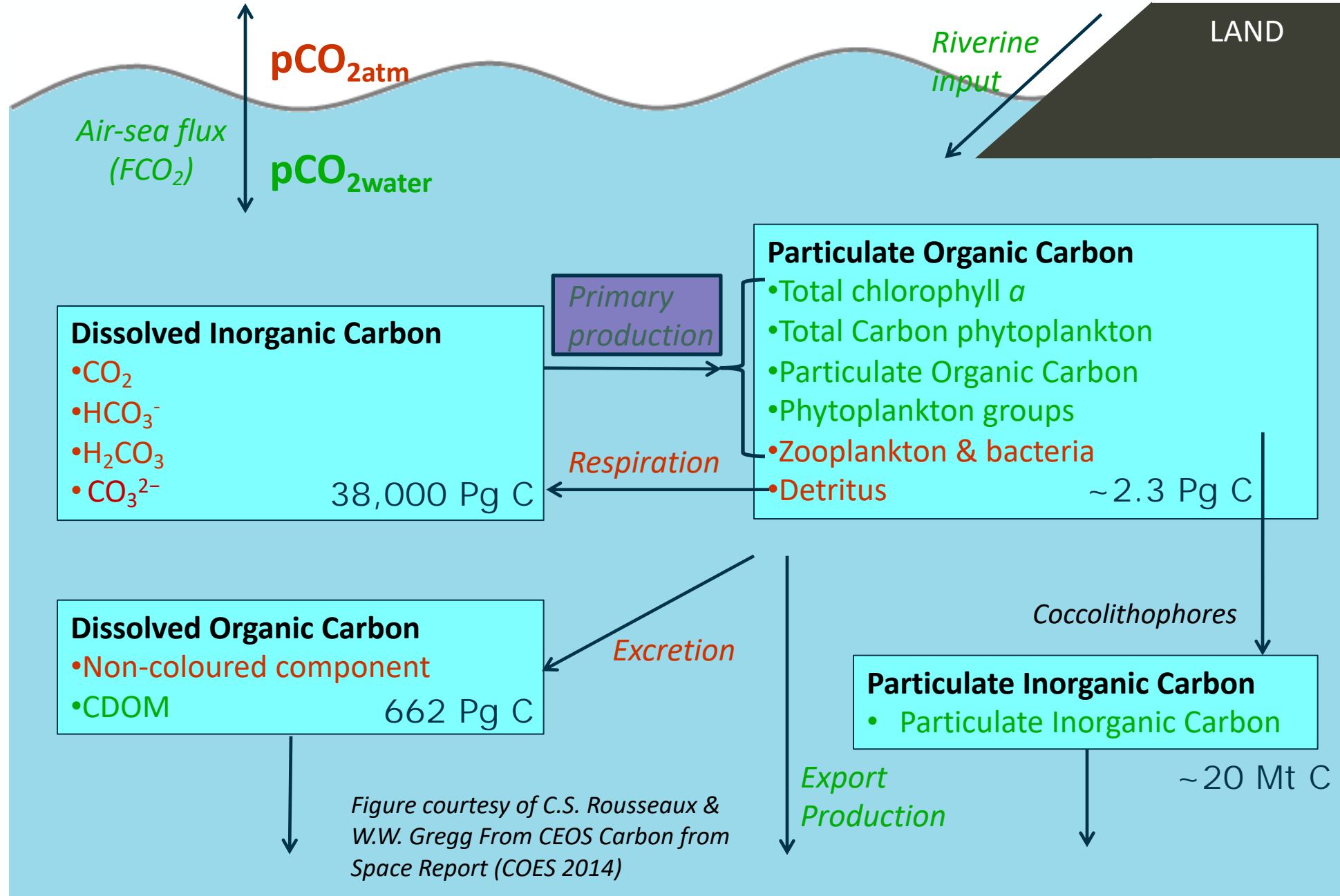
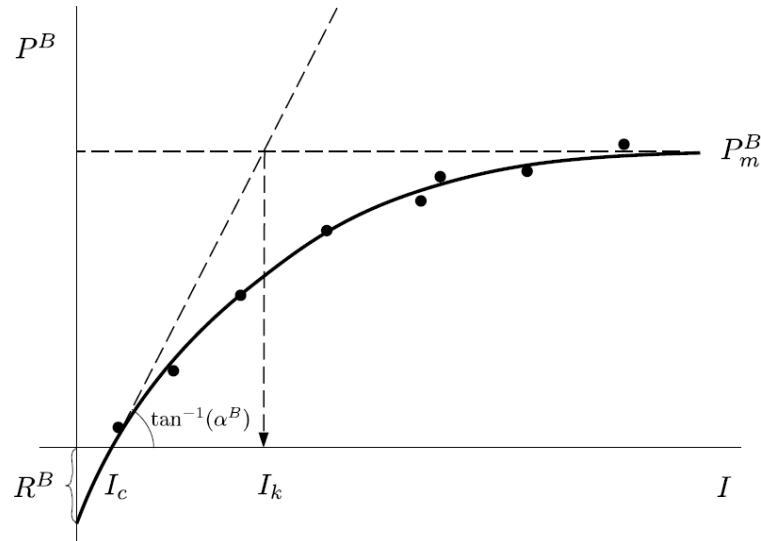


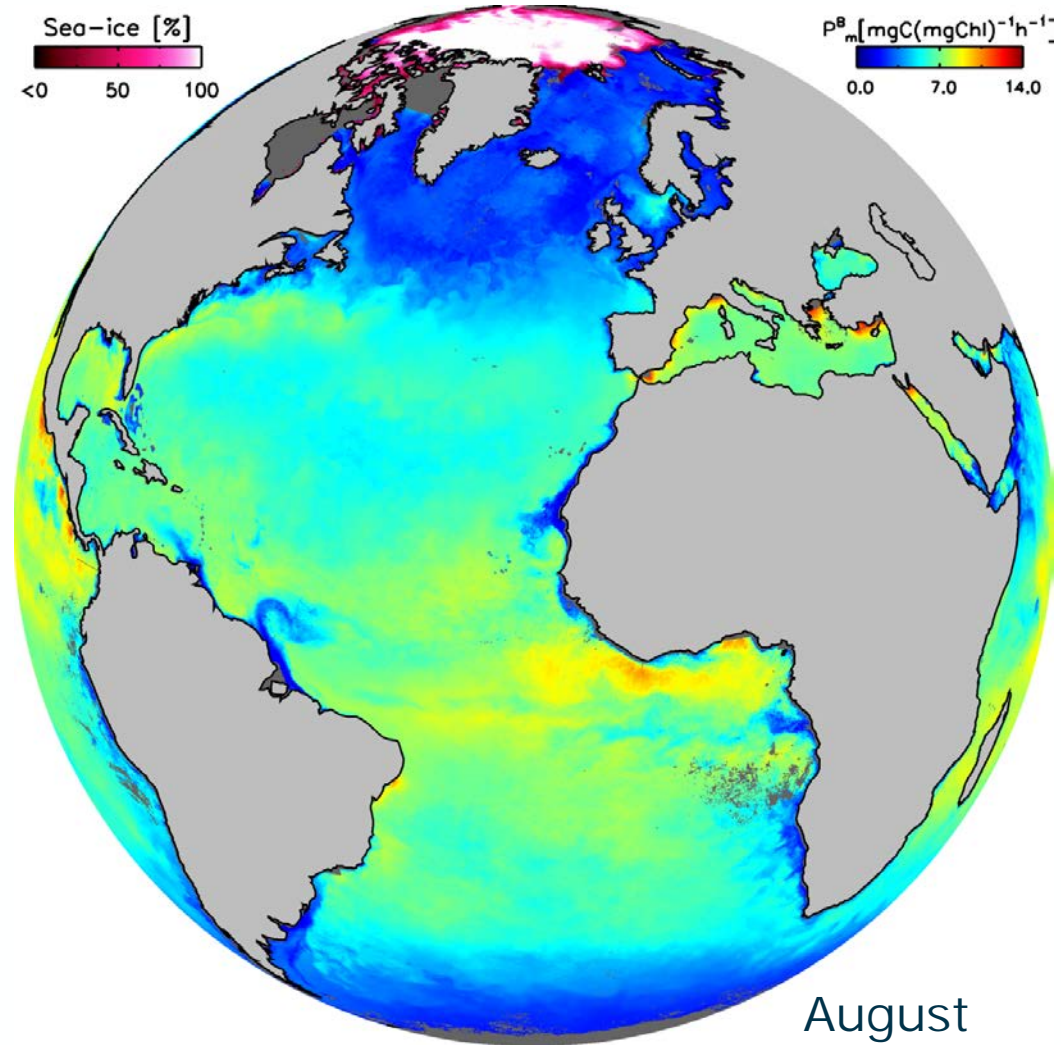
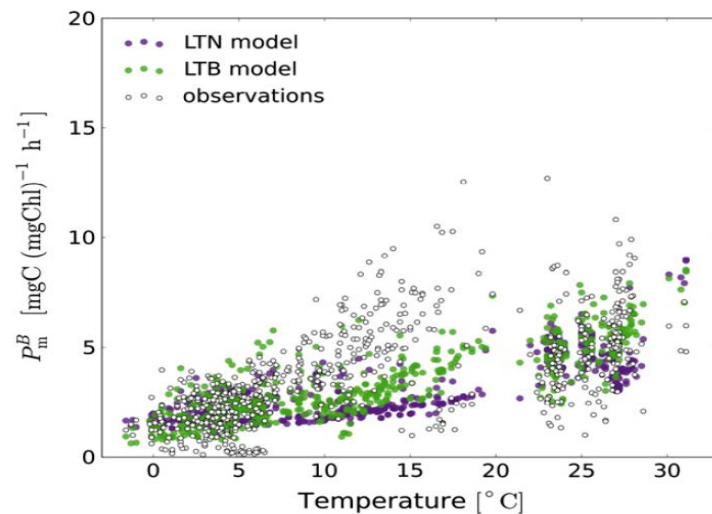
Figure courtesy of C.S. Rousseaux & W.W. Gregg From CEOS Carbon from Space Report (COES 2014)



### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Primary Production



Platt & Sathyendranath (2007)  
Modelling Primary production article Series.

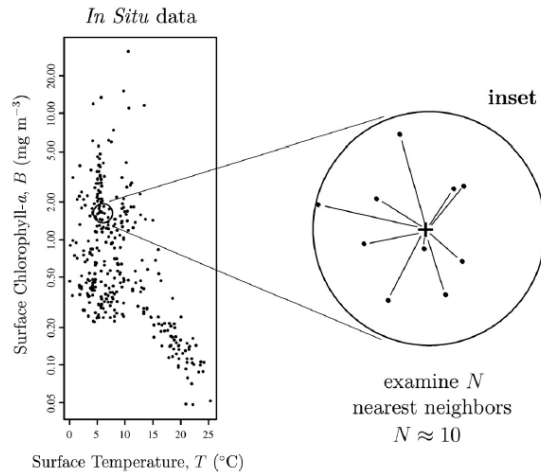


August  
2003

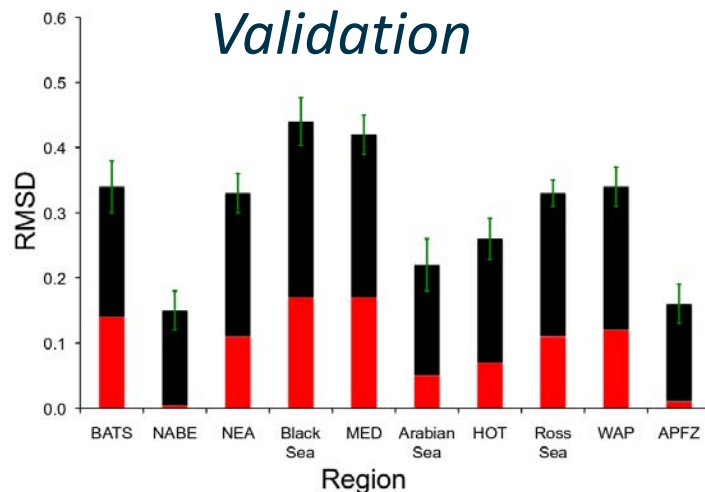
Saux Picart et al. (2014)  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2013.10.032>



### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Primary Production

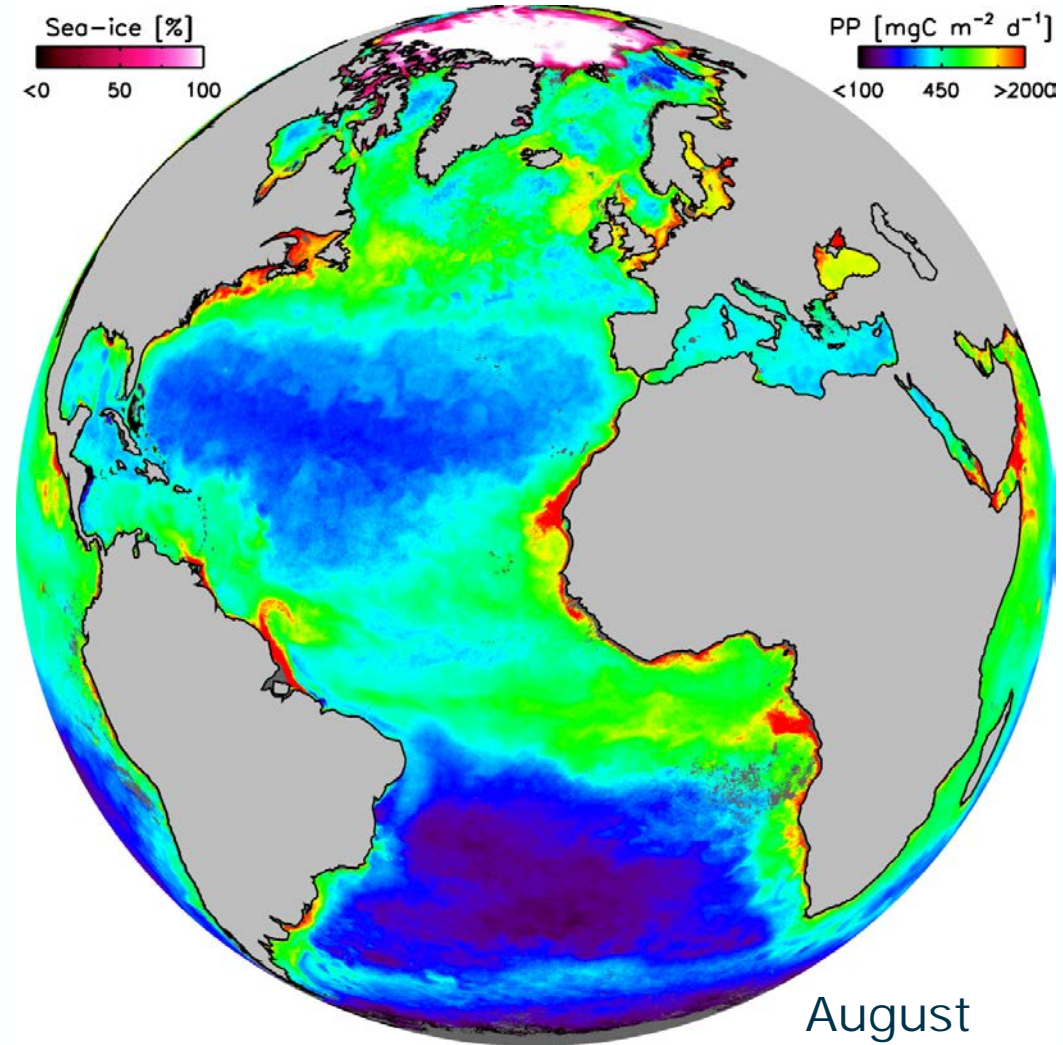


Platt et al. 2008  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2007.11.018>



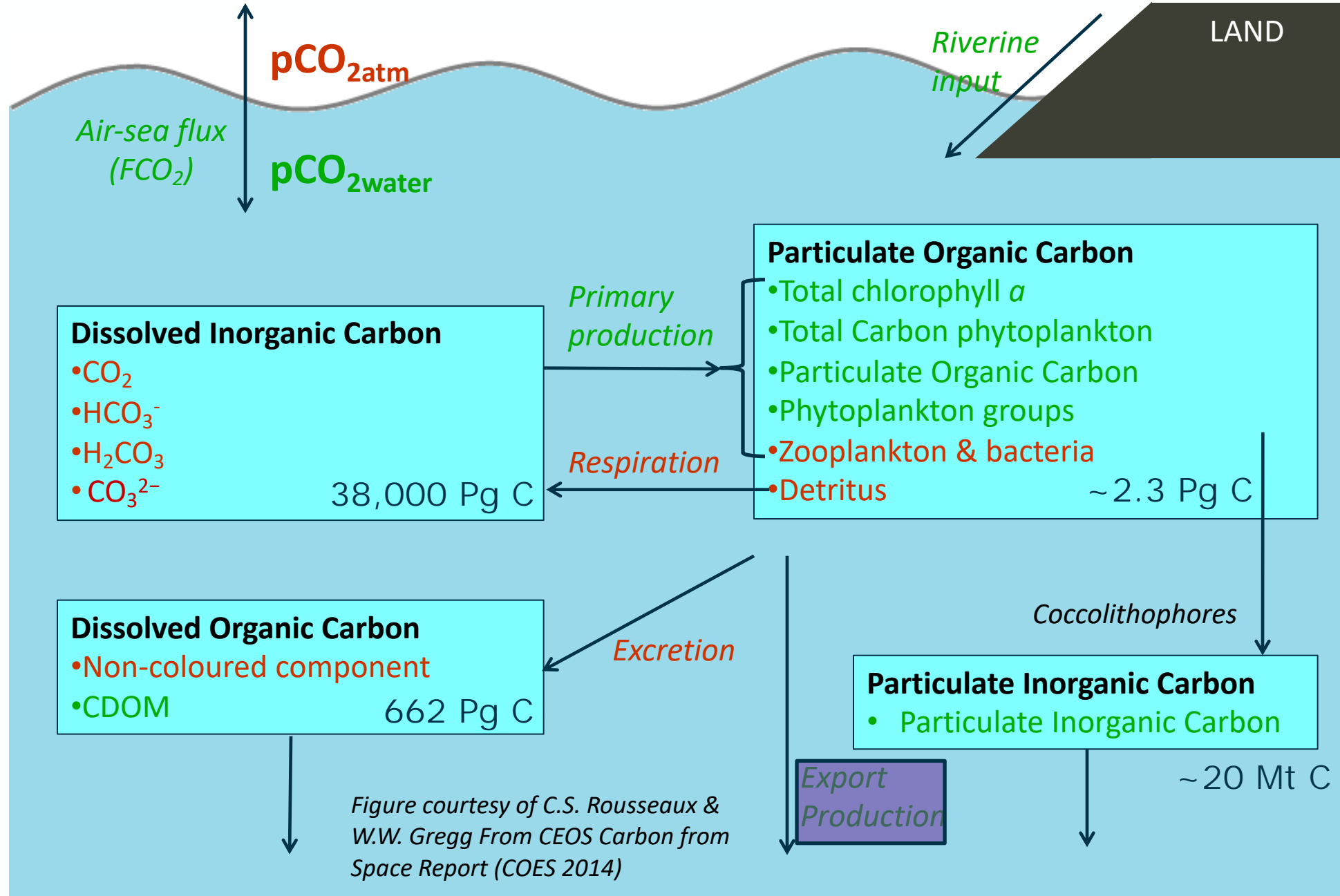
Saba et al. (2011)

<https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-8-489-2011>



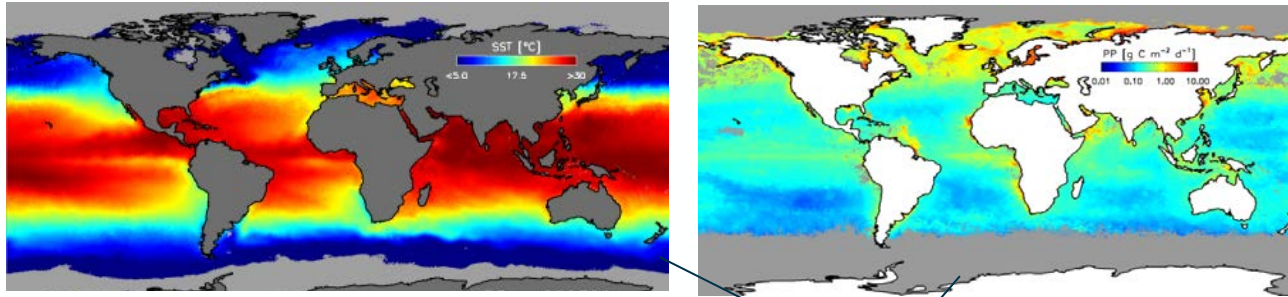


### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Export Production



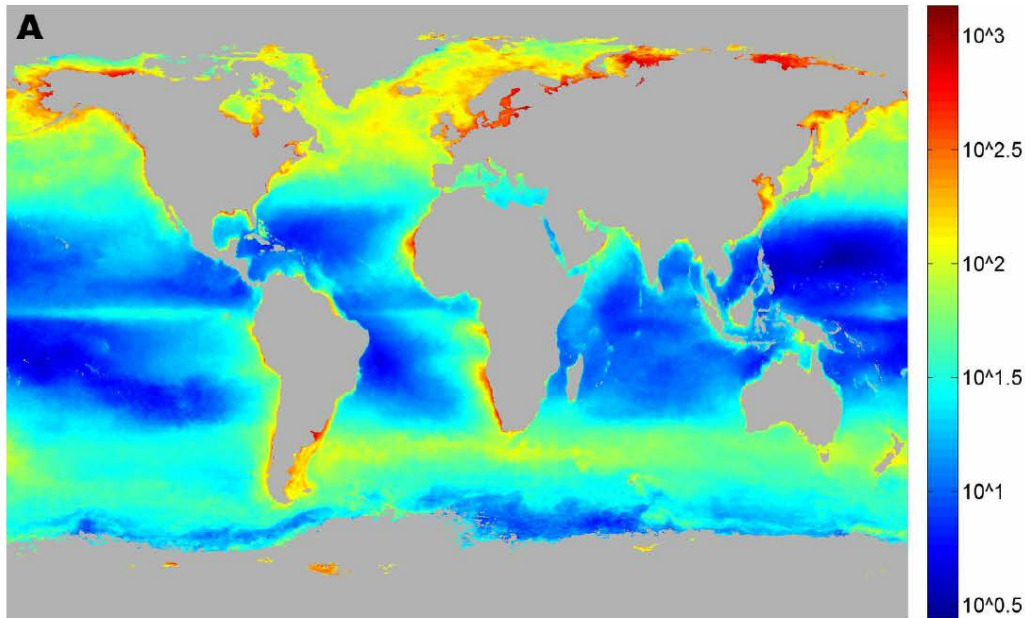


### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: Export Production



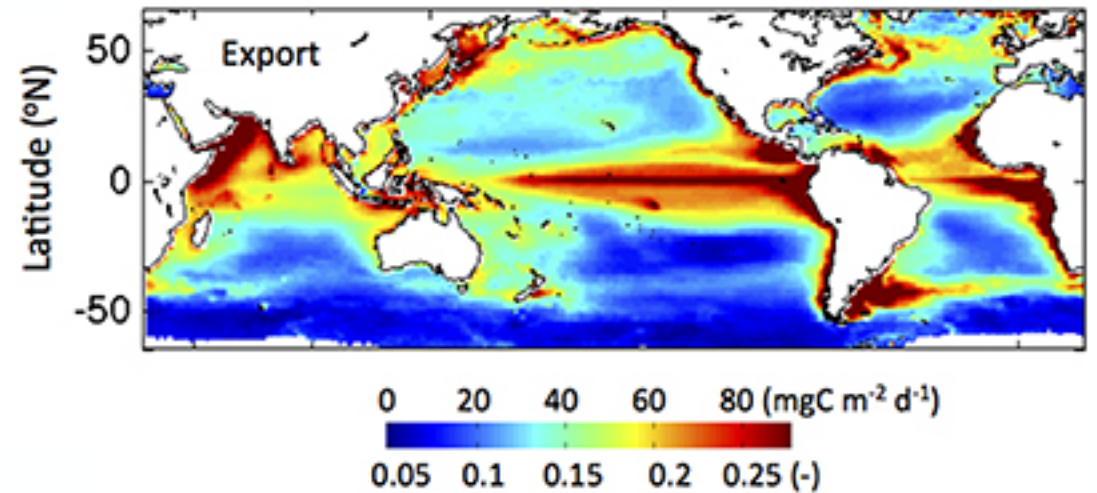
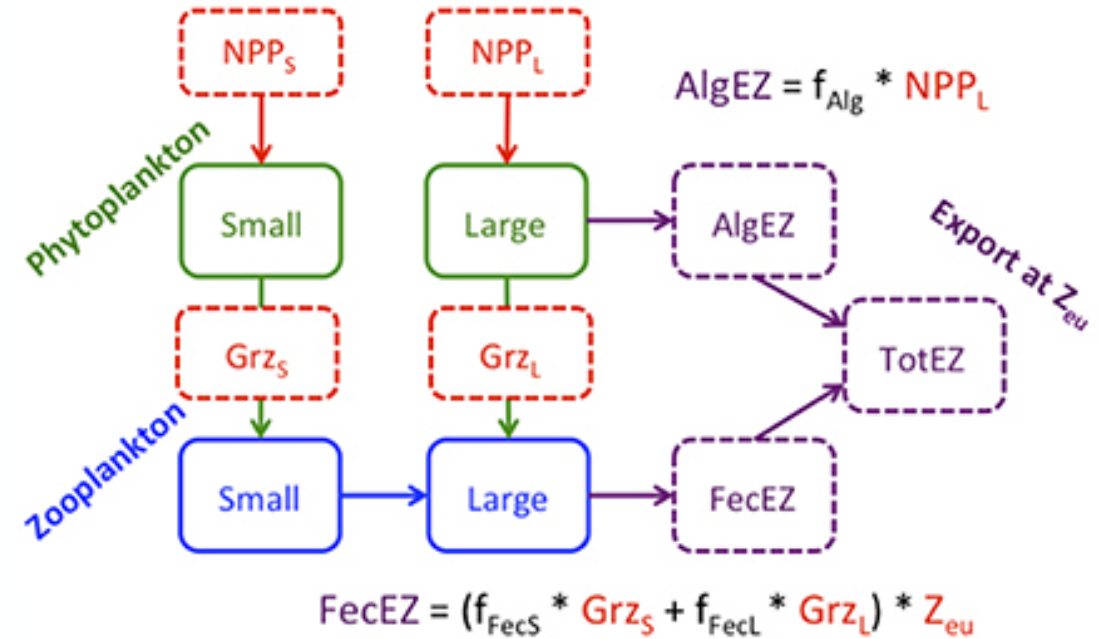
$$ef = 0.04756 \left( 0.78 - \frac{0.43T}{30} \right) tp^{0.307}$$

↓



Laws et al. (2011)

<https://doi.org/10.4319/lom.2011.9.593>



Siegel et al. (2016)

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2016.00022>



### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: DOC

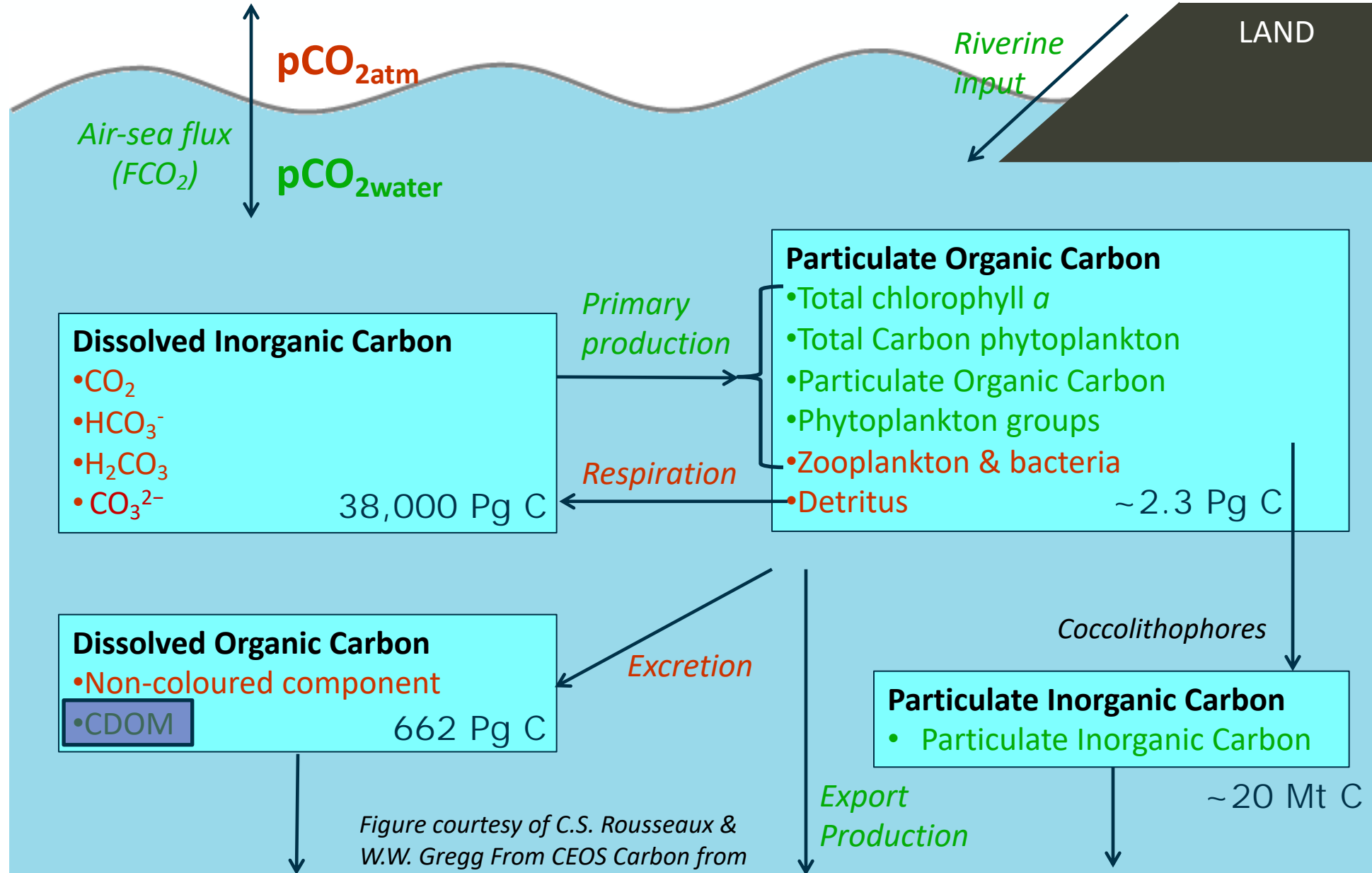
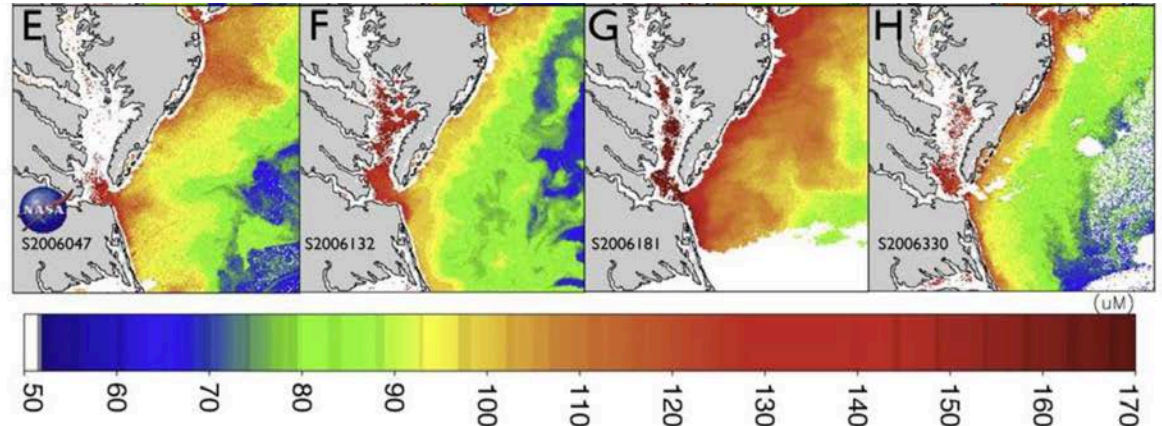
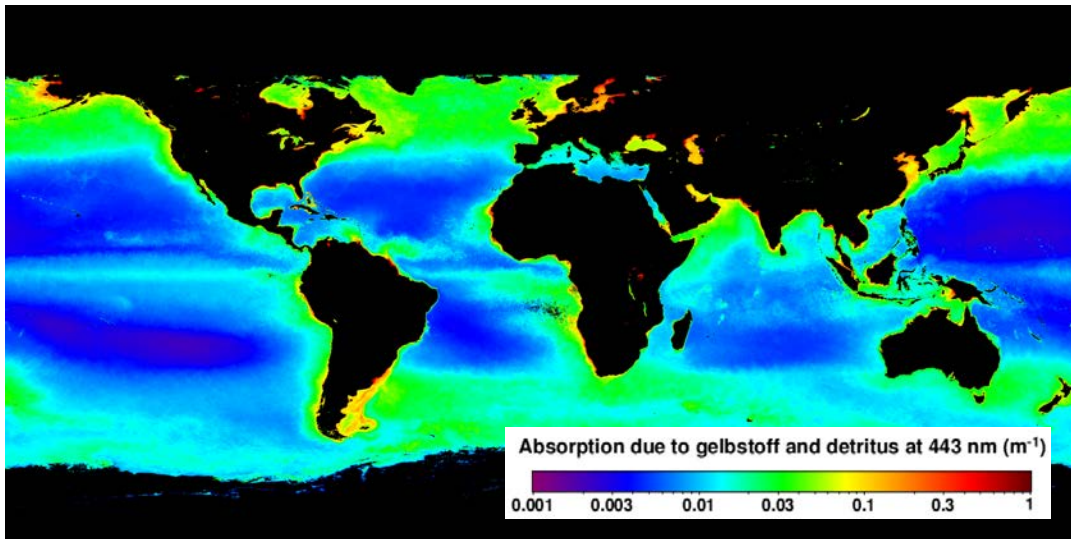
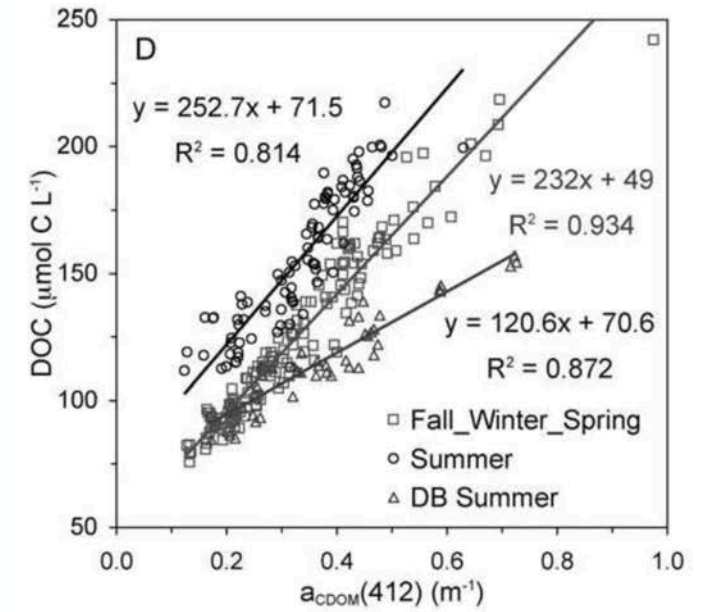
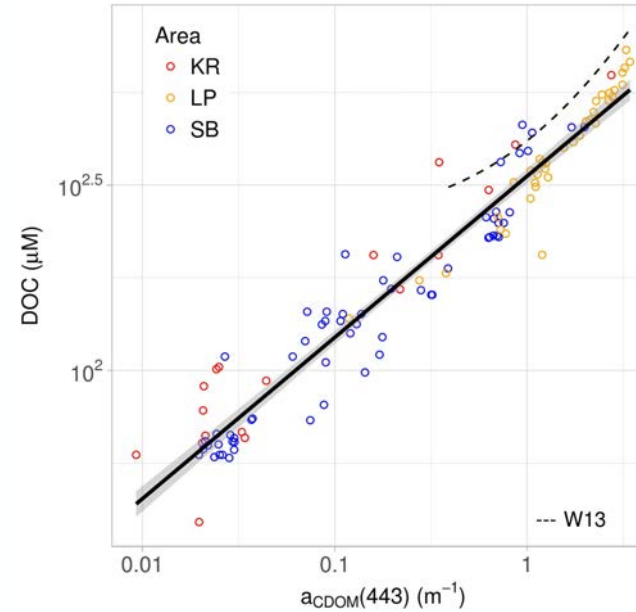
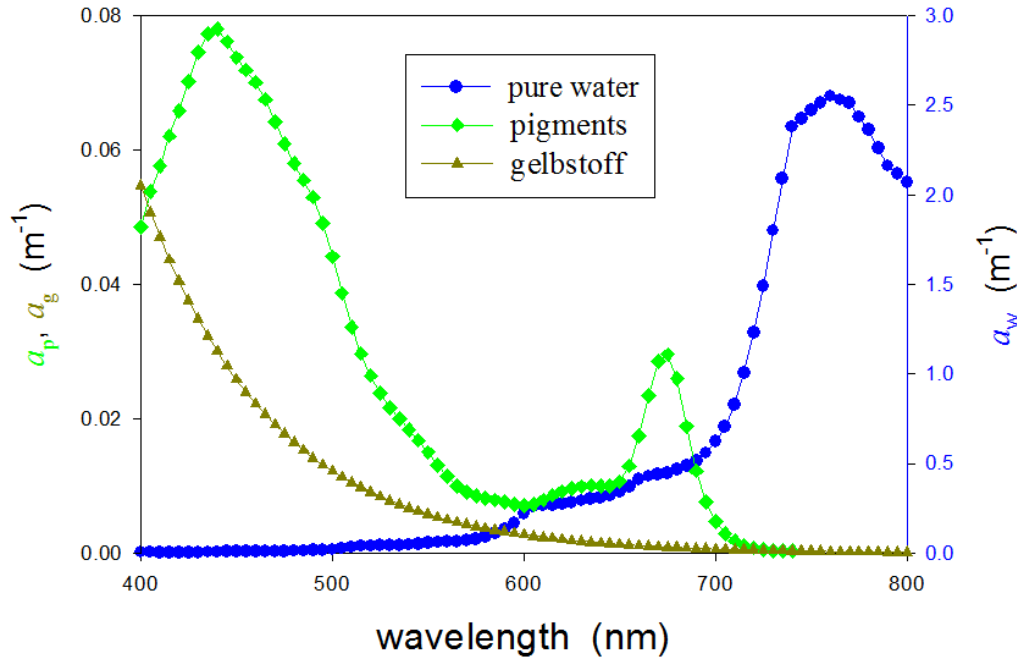


Figure courtesy of C.S. Rousseaux & W.W. Gregg From CEOS Carbon from Space Report (COES 2014)



### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: DOC

Arctic / Coastal

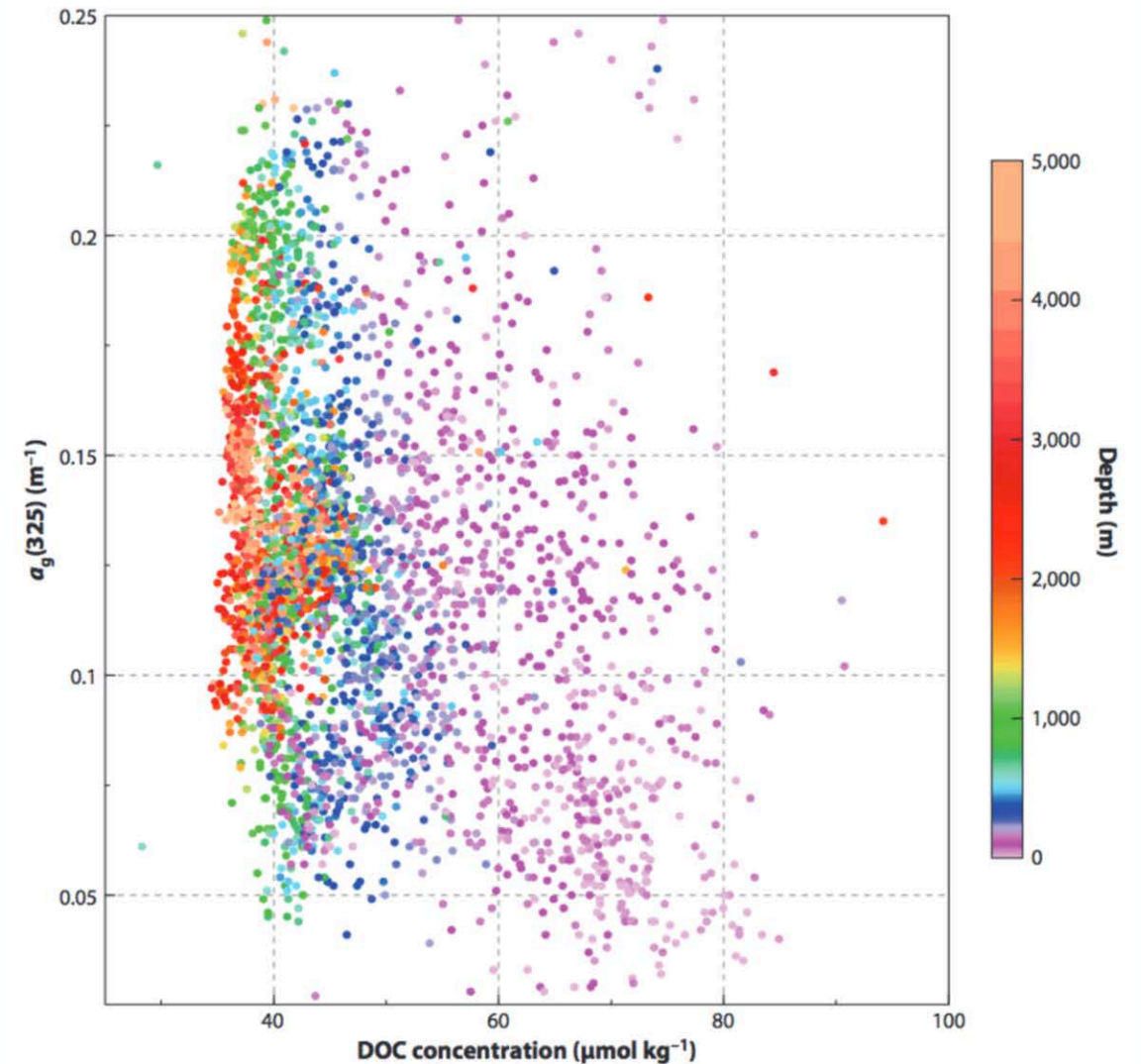
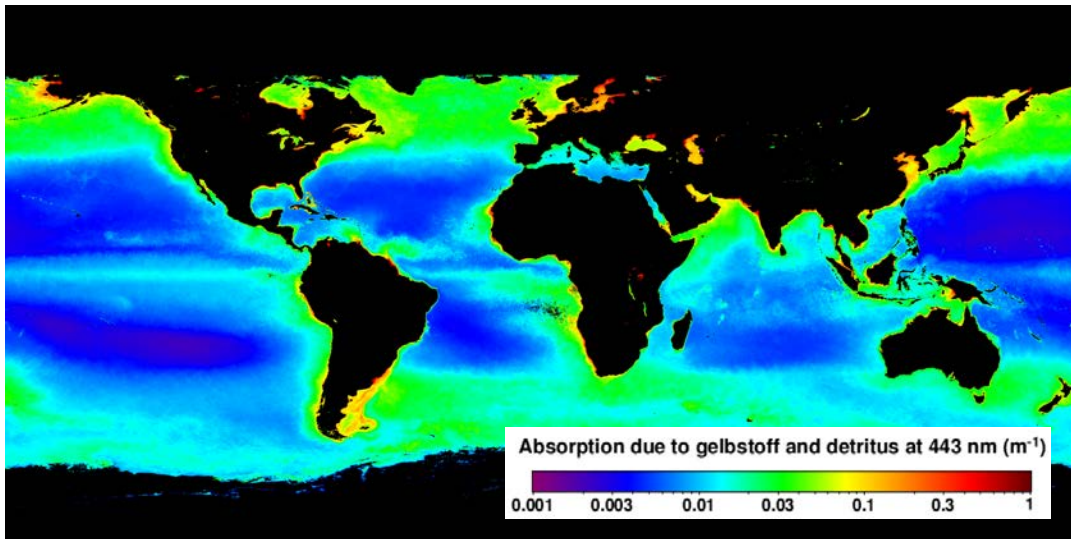
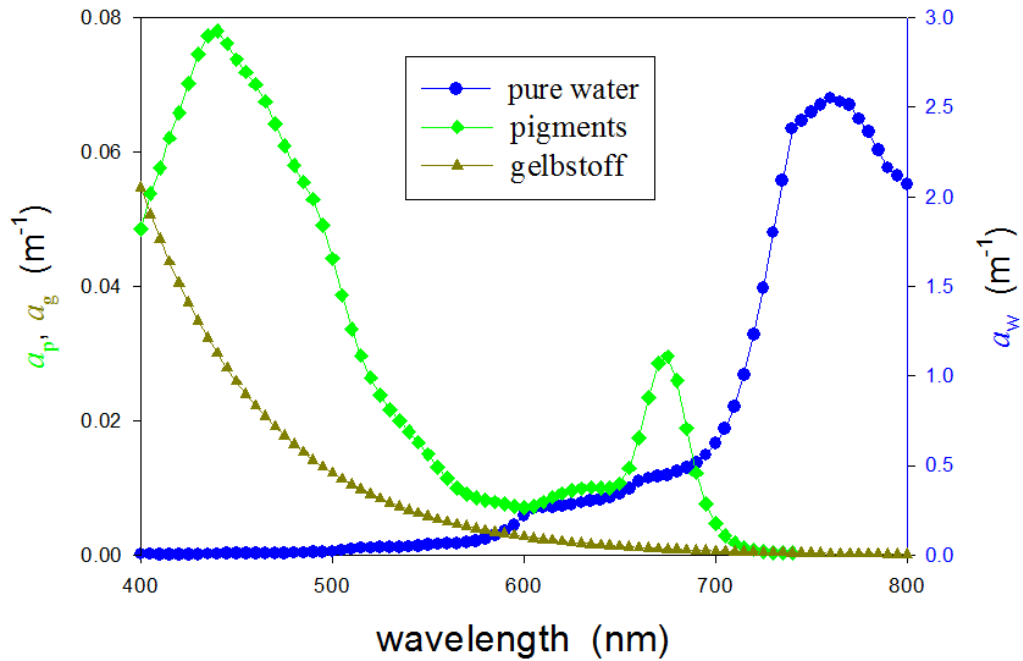


Mannino et al. (2008) <https://doi.org/10.1029/2007JC004493>  
 Matsuoka et al. (2017) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2017.08.009>



### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: DOC

Open ocean



Nelson and Siegel (2013)

<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-marine-120710-100751>



### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: $p\text{CO}_2$

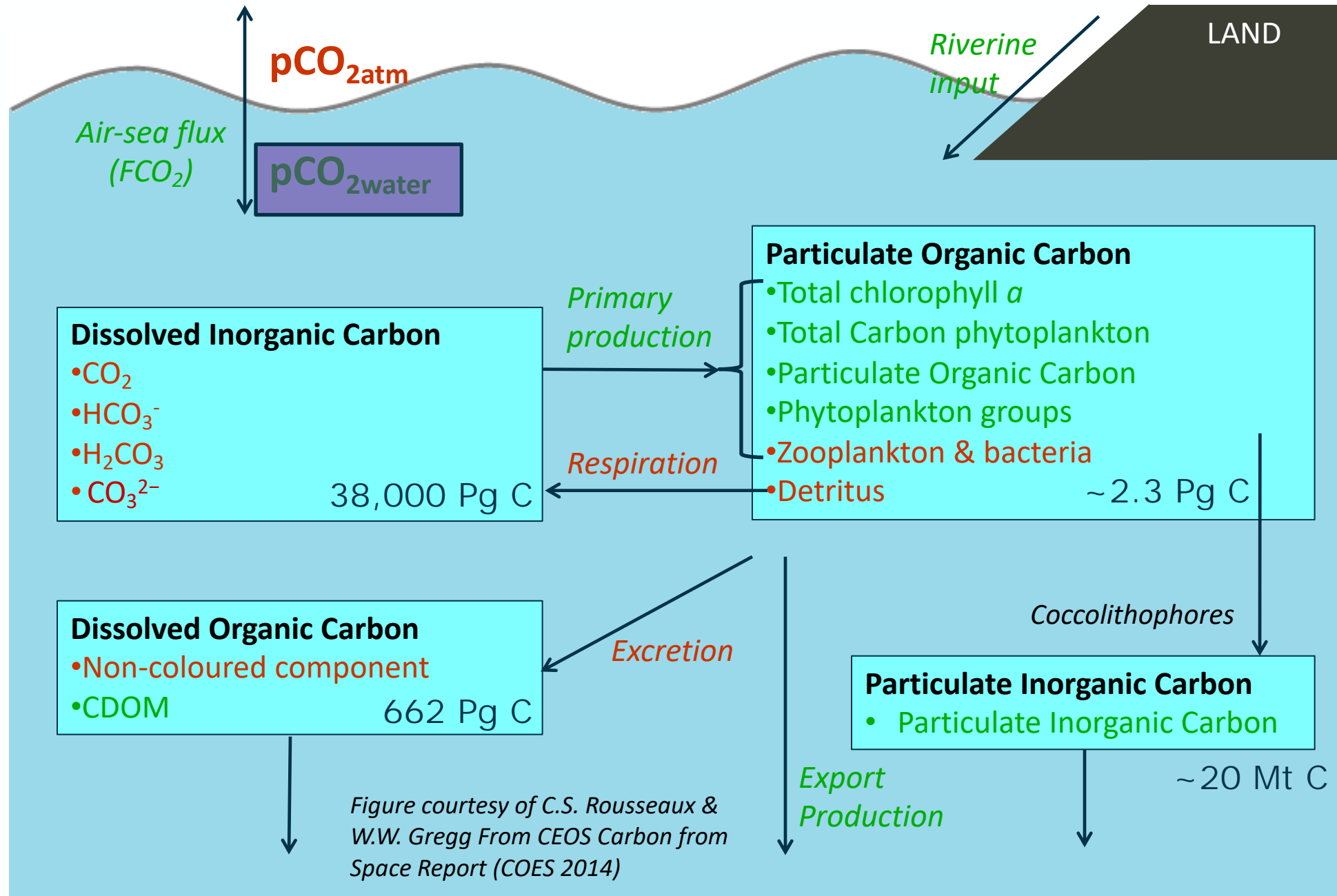
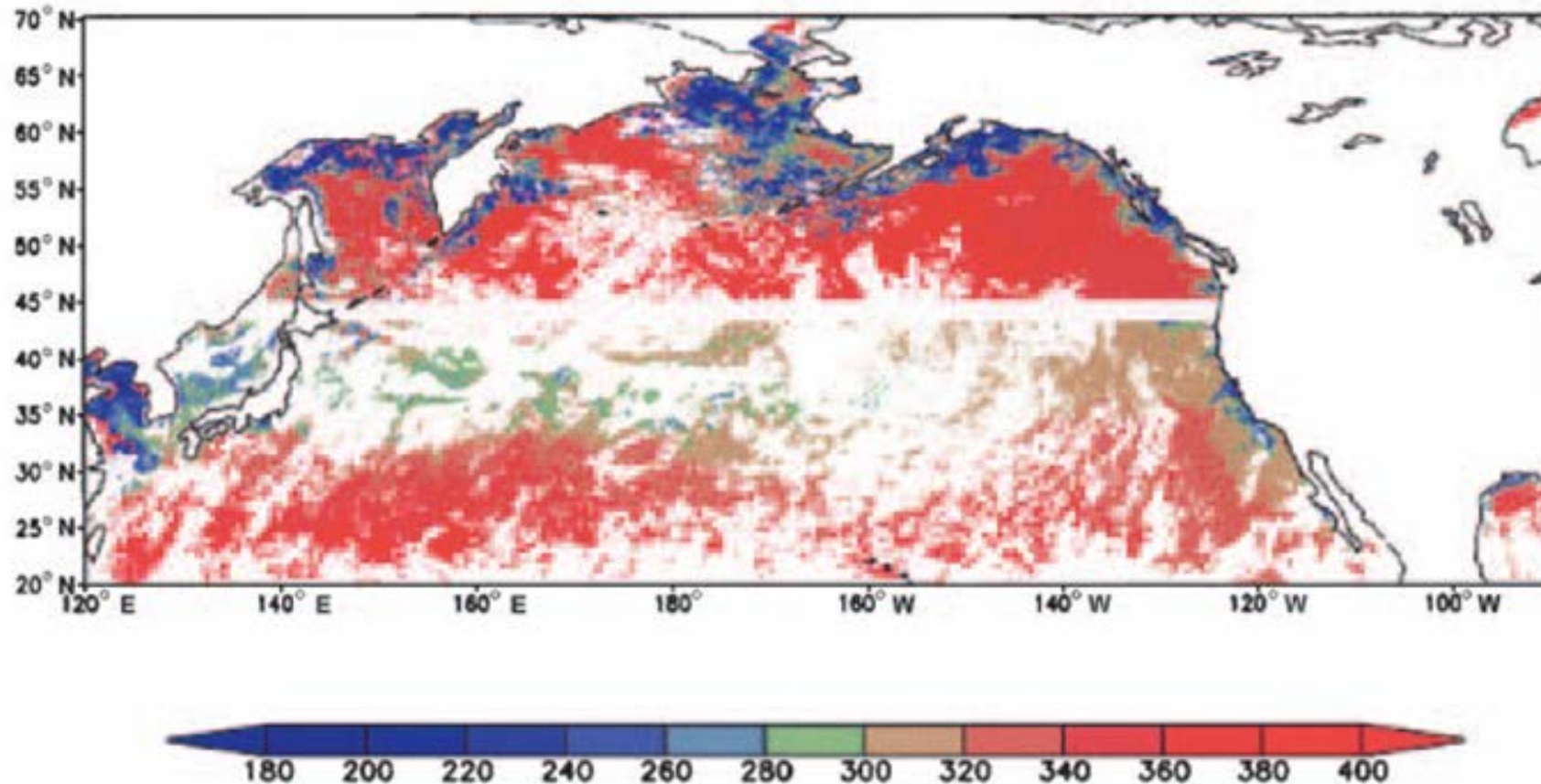


Figure courtesy of C.S. Rousseaux & W.W. Gregg From CEOS Carbon from Space Report (COES 2014)



### 3) Ocean carbon satellite products: pCO<sub>2</sub>

$$p\text{CO}_2 = AT + BT^2 + C\text{Chla} + D\text{Chla}^2 + E$$

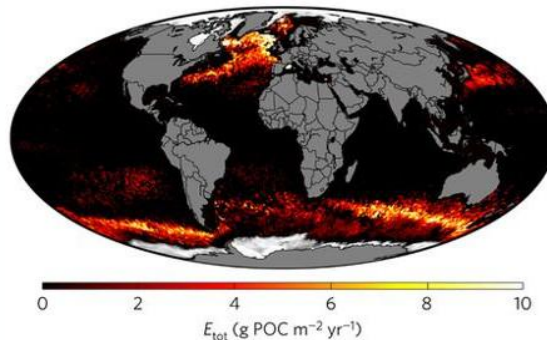
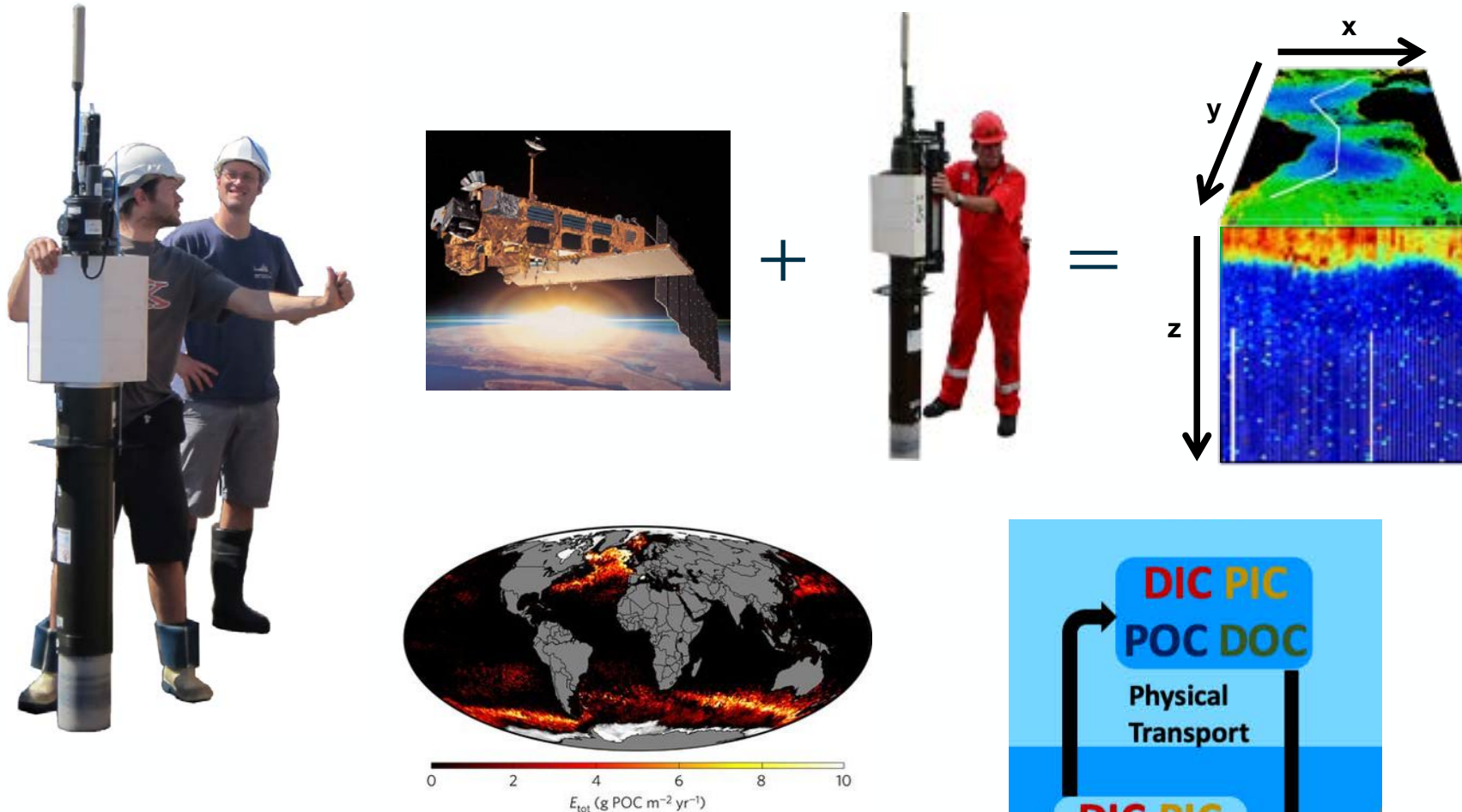


Ono et al. (2004)  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01431160310001657515>

Figure 4. The basin-scale pCO<sub>2</sub> field of the North Pacific in May 1997 obtained from the ADEOS/OCTS monthly-average SST and monthly-maximum Chla fields by using the multiple regression equations.



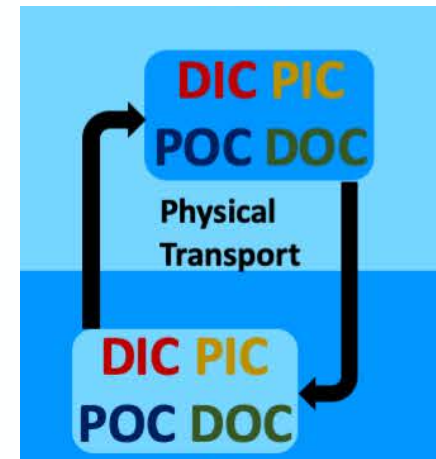
## 4) Integration with robotic platforms



Mixed-layer pump

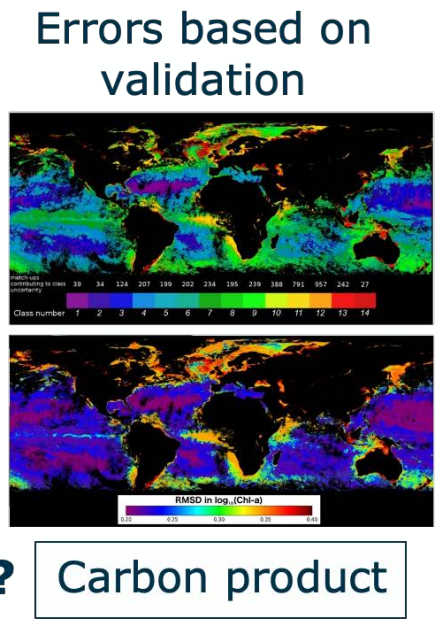
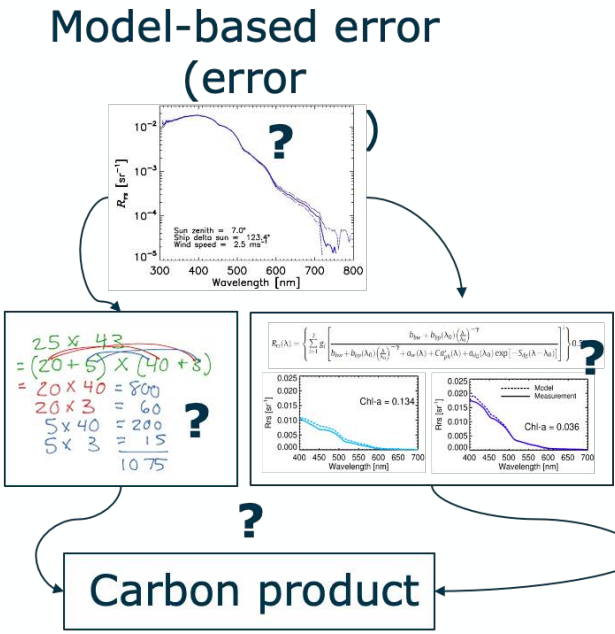
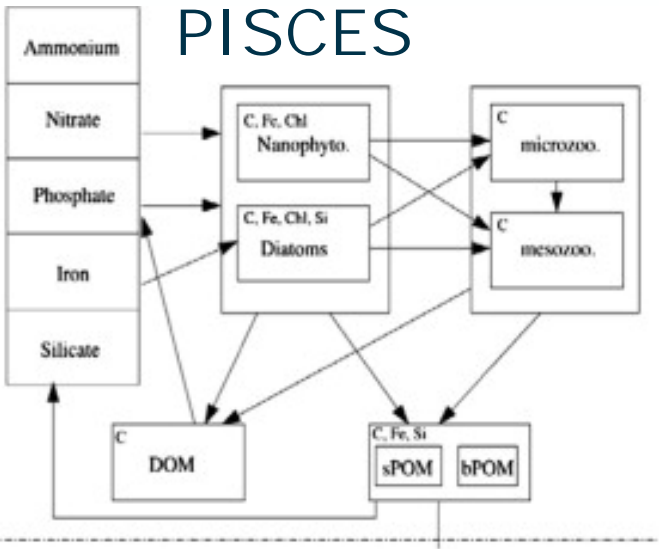
Dall'Olmo et al. (2016)

<https://doi.org/10.1038/ngeo2818>

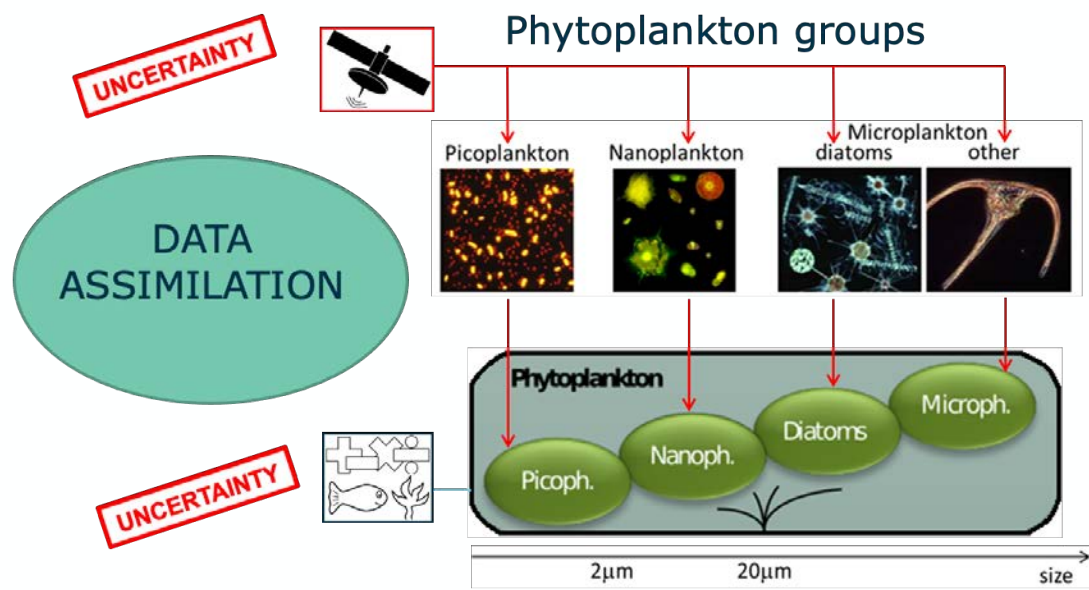
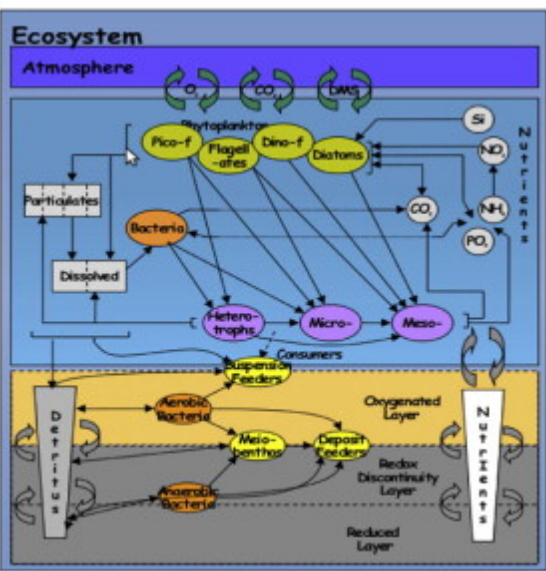




# 5) Integration with models



Improve understanding of pools and fluxes not seen from space



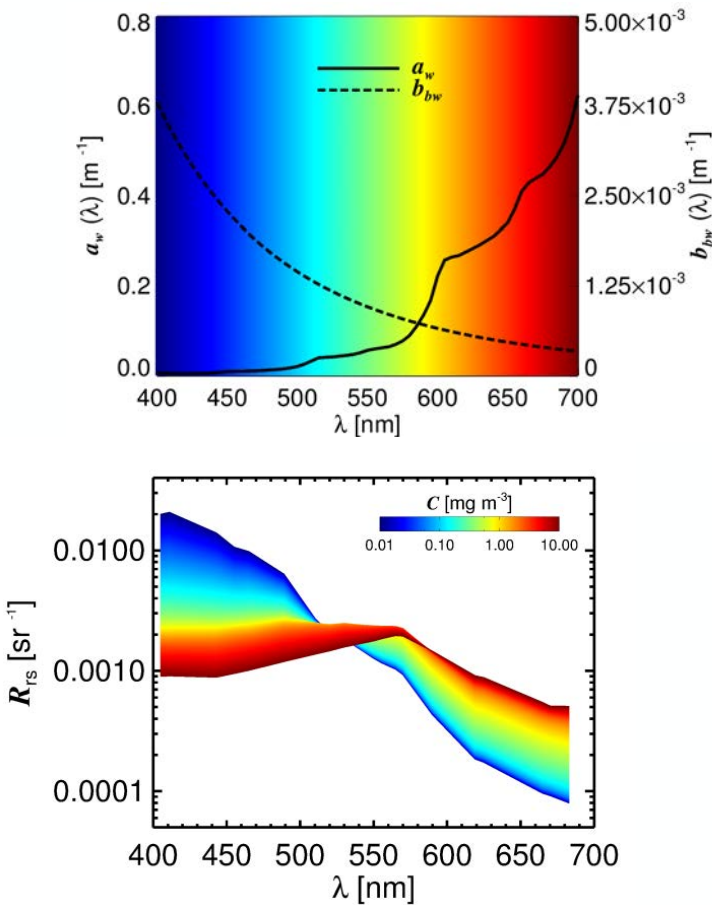
ERSEM



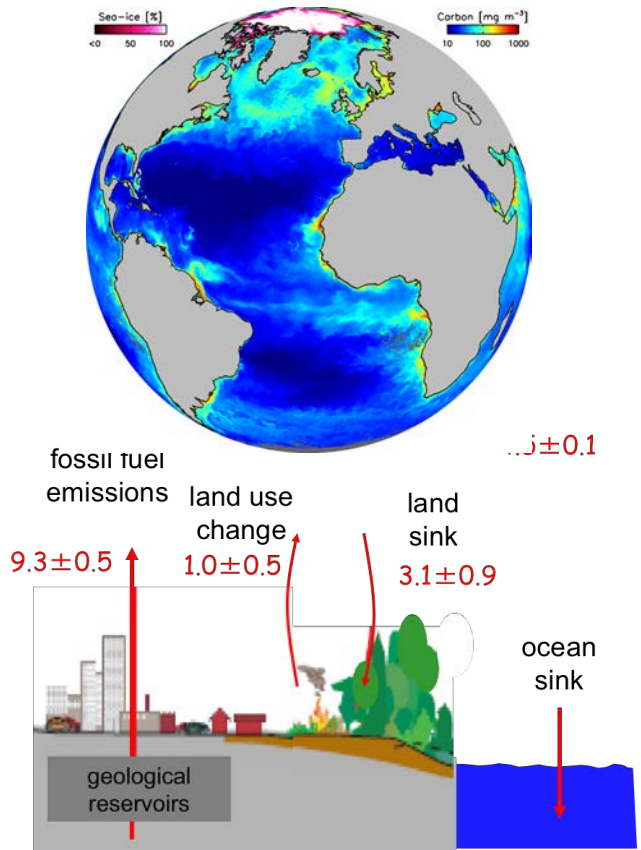
- 1) Earth's Carbon Cycle
- 2) Ocean Carbon Cycle
- 3) Ocean carbon satellite products
- 4) Integration with robotic platforms
- 5) Integration with models



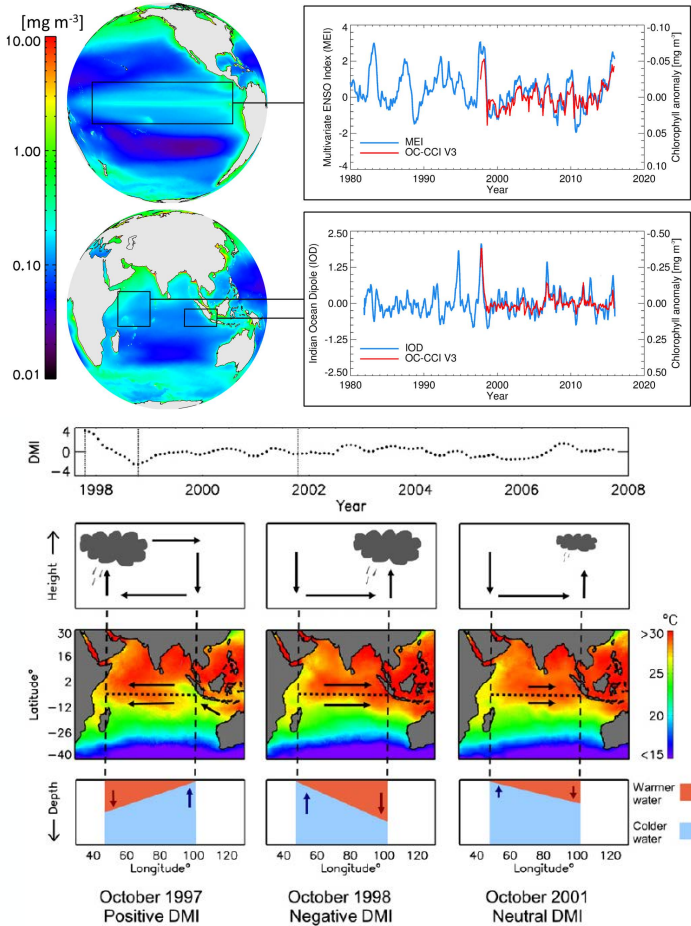
Ocean Colour theory  
(Part 1)



Ocean Colour applications:  
carbon cycle (Part 2)



Ocean Colour applications:  
climate (Part 3)

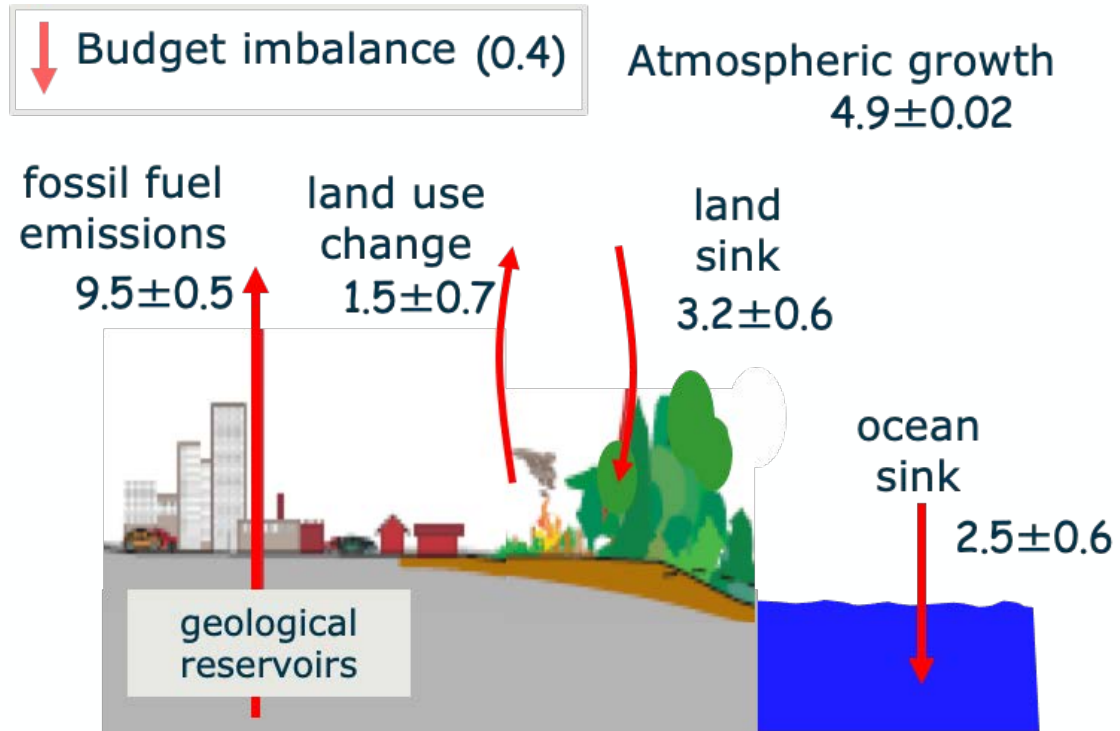




- 1) The Greenhouse effect
- 2) Essential Climate Variables
- 3) Ocean colour datasets requirements for climate
- 4) Responses of the marine ecosystem to climate change
  - Total phytoplankton biomass
  - Phytoplankton community structure
  - Phytoplankton phenology
  - Other responses
- 5) Other applications



# 1) The Greenhouse Effect



Friedlingstein et al. (2019) Global Carbon Budget (2019) Earth Syst. Sci. Data, 11, 1783–1838,  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-11-1783-2019>



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/climate-change-meaning/>



## 2) Essential Climate Variables

Established in 1992, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) identified 50 Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) to support the work of the intergovernmental expert group on the evolution of climate, the UNFCCC and IPCC.

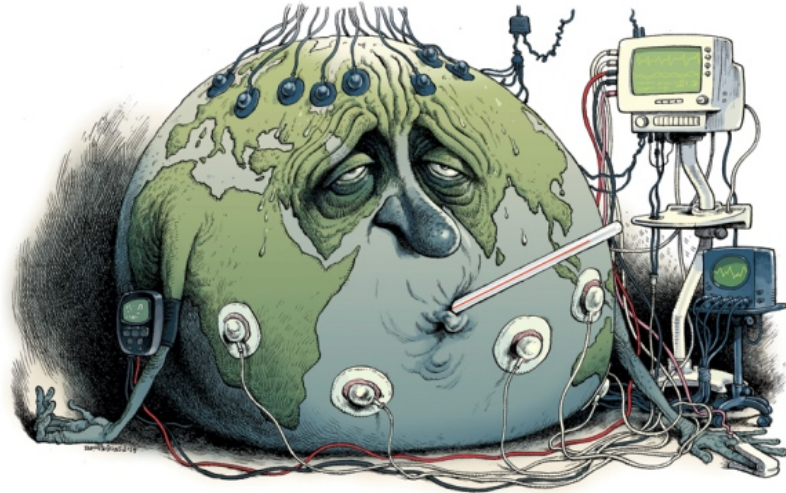
An ECV is a physical, chemical or biological variable, or a group of linked variables, that critically contributes to the characterisation of Earth's climate.



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change



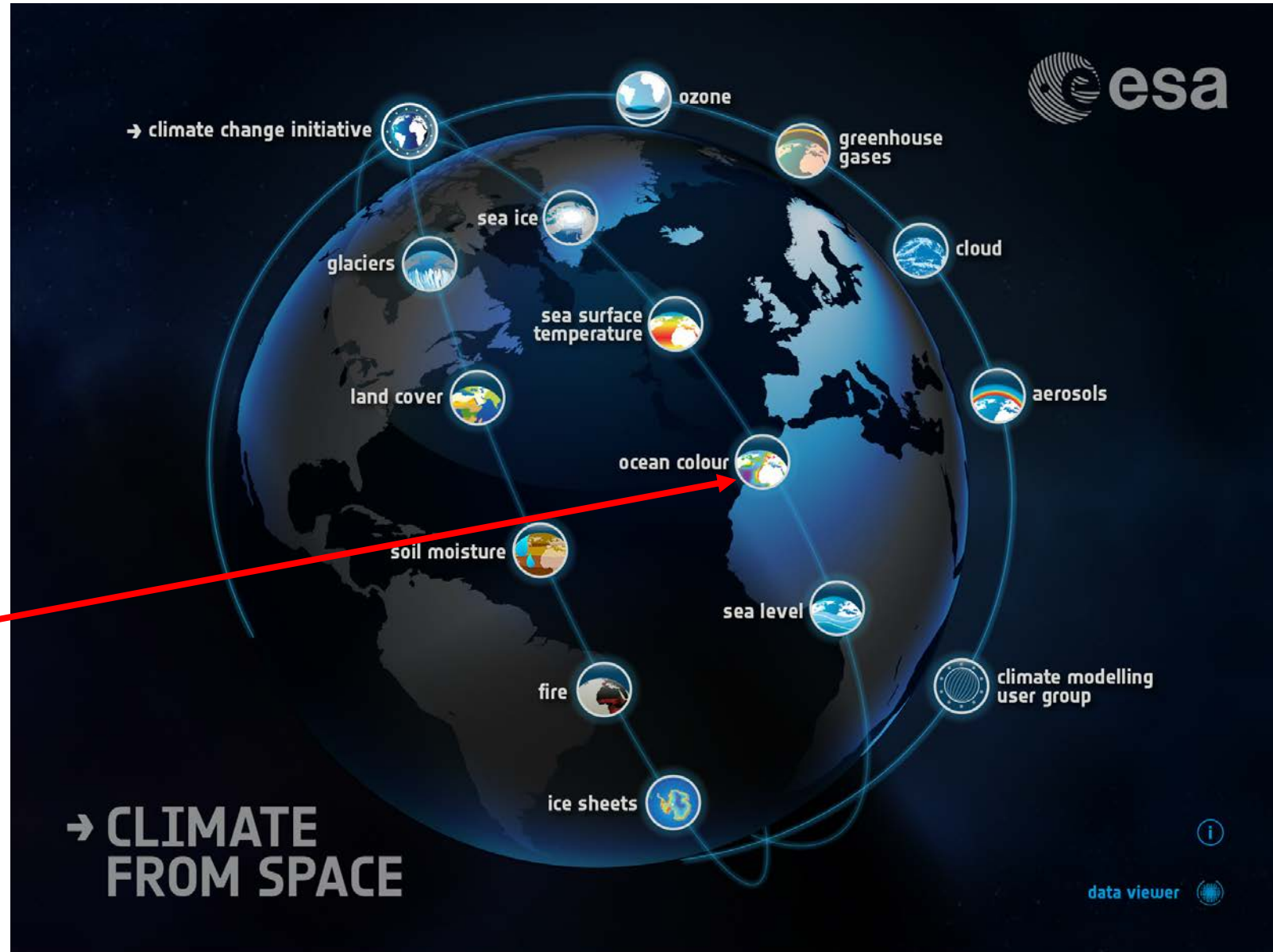
## 2) Essential Climate Variables



Victor & Kennel (2014) Nature

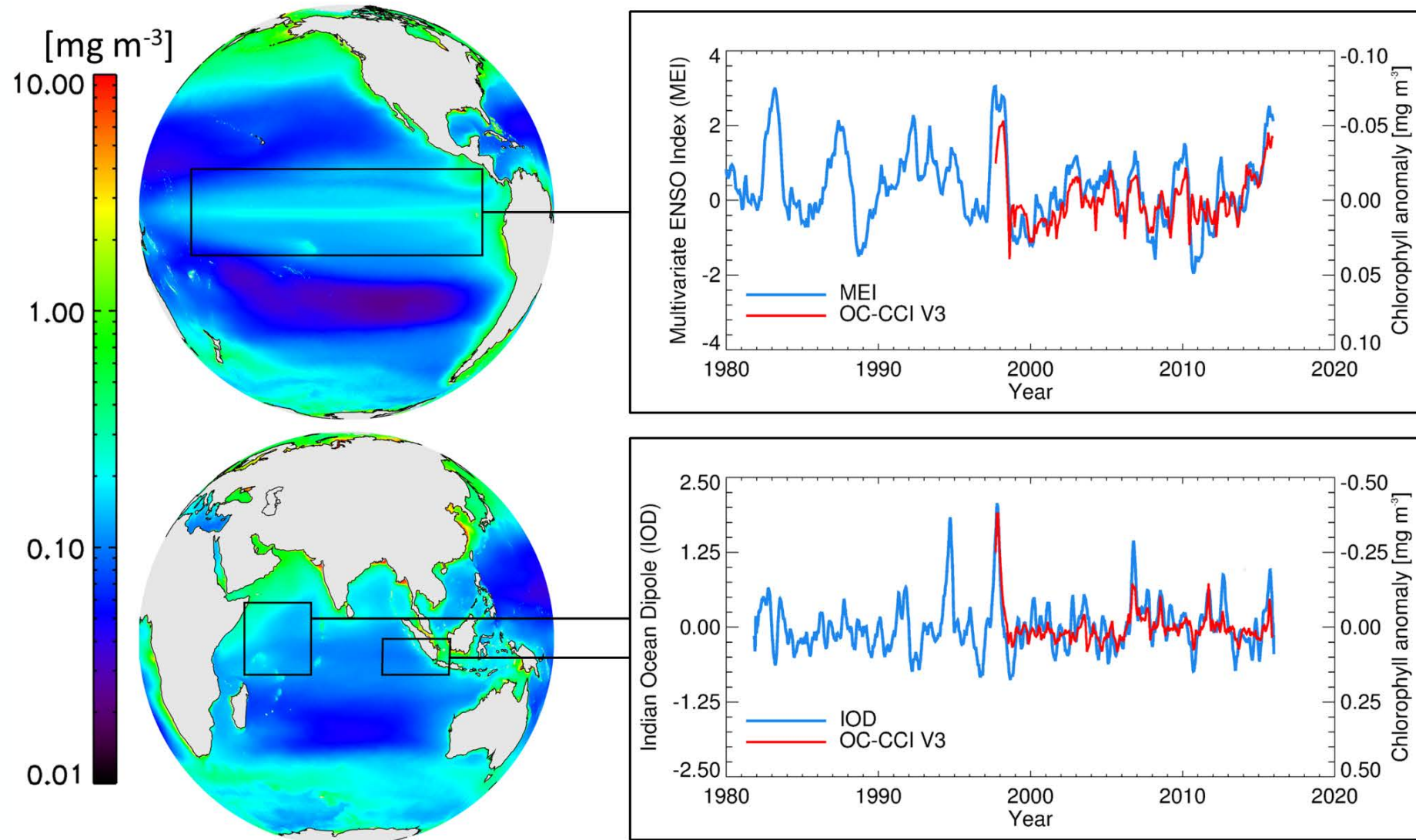


Water leaving radiance  
Chlorophyll-a concentration





## 2) Essential Climate Variables



von Schuckmann et al. (2016)

<https://doi.org/10.1080/1755876X.2016.1273446>

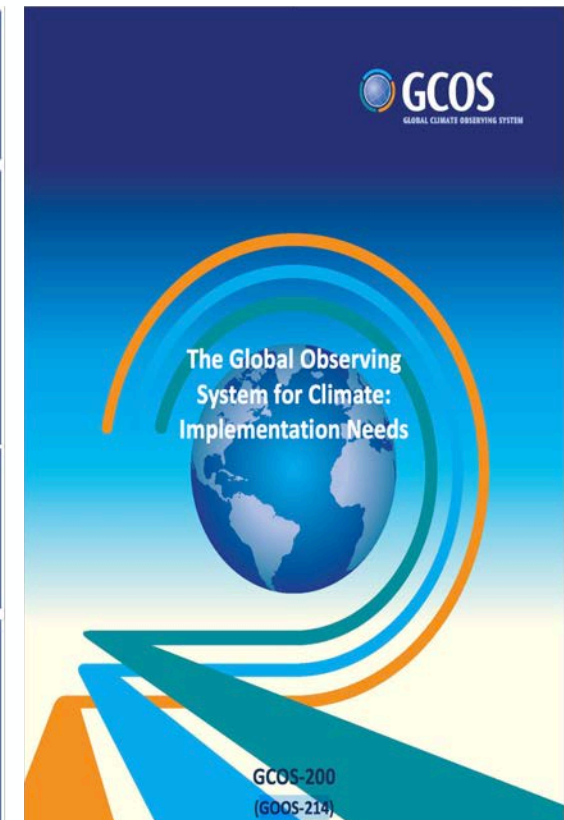


### 3) Ocean colour datasets requirements for climate

Goal: create the most complete and consistent, error- characterized time series of multi-sensor global satellite ECV products for climate research and modeling meeting GCOS requirements

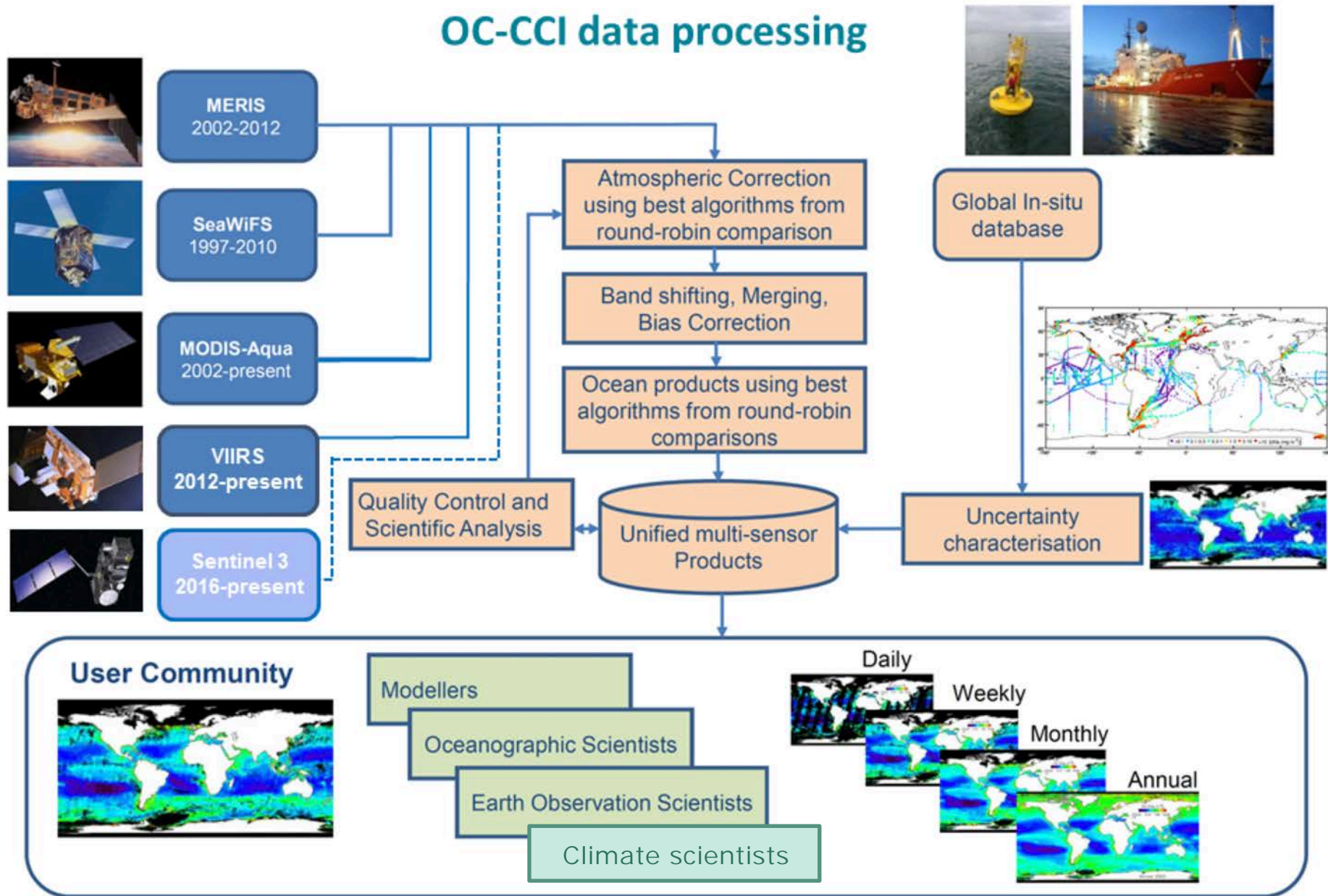
#### GCOS-200 October 2016

Variable/ Parameter	Horizontal Resolution	Vertical Resolution	Temporal Resolution	Accuracy	Stability
Water Leaving Radiance	4km	N/A	daily	5% (blue to green)	0.5%
Chlorophyll-a concentration	4km	N/A	weekly averages	30%	3%





### 3) Ocean colour datasets requirements for climate



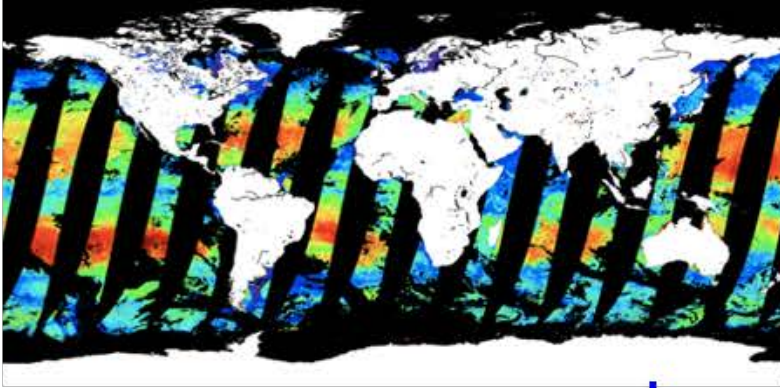
Sathyendranath et al. (2019)  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/s19194285>

<http://www.esa-oceancolour-cci.org>

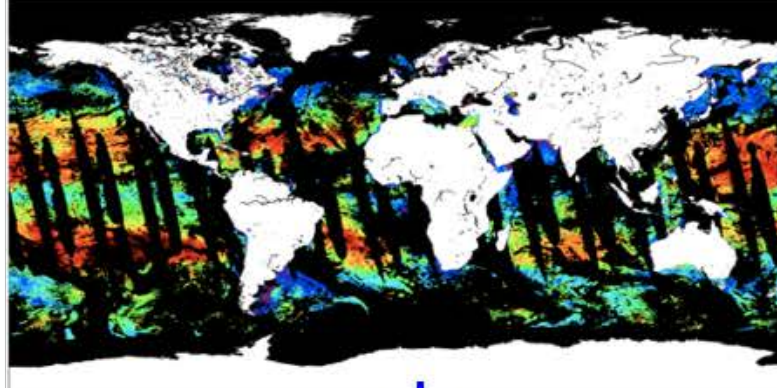


### 3) Ocean colour datasets requirements for climate

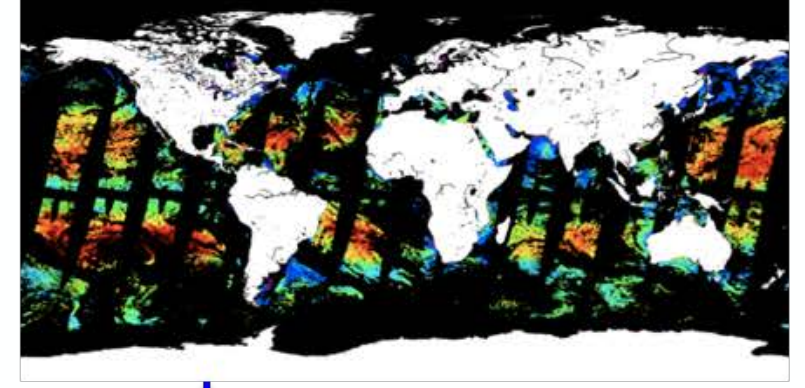
MERIS Radiance



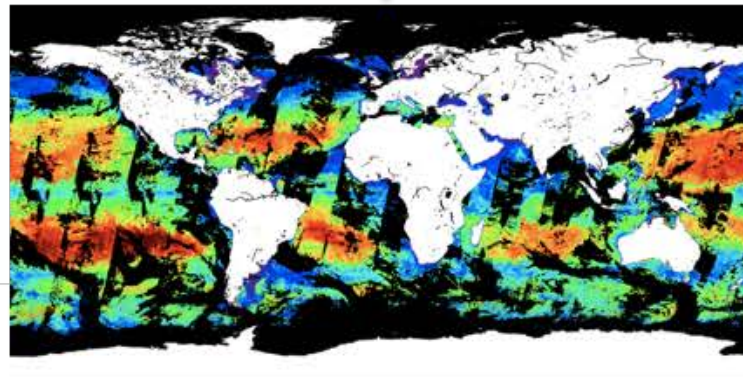
MODIS-A Radiance



SeaWiFS Radiance



Band-shifting, bias correction and merging

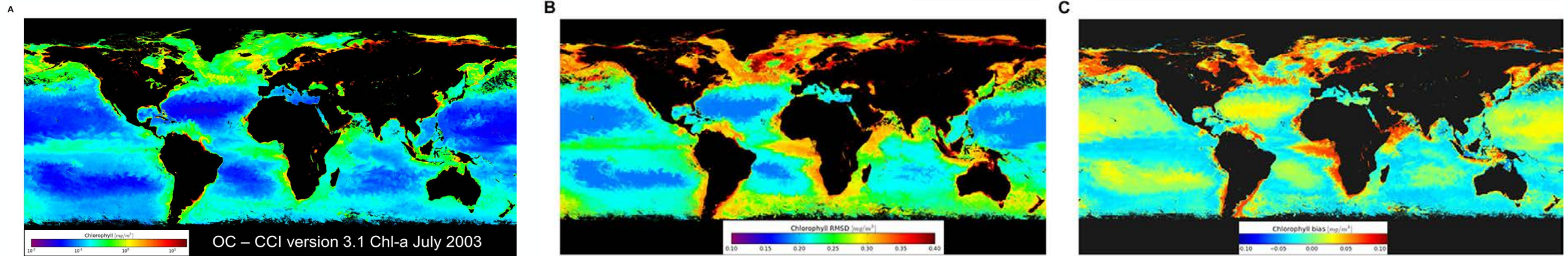


The  
Merged  
Product





### 3) Ocean colour datasets requirements for climate



Uncertainty according to a method that uses optical water classification

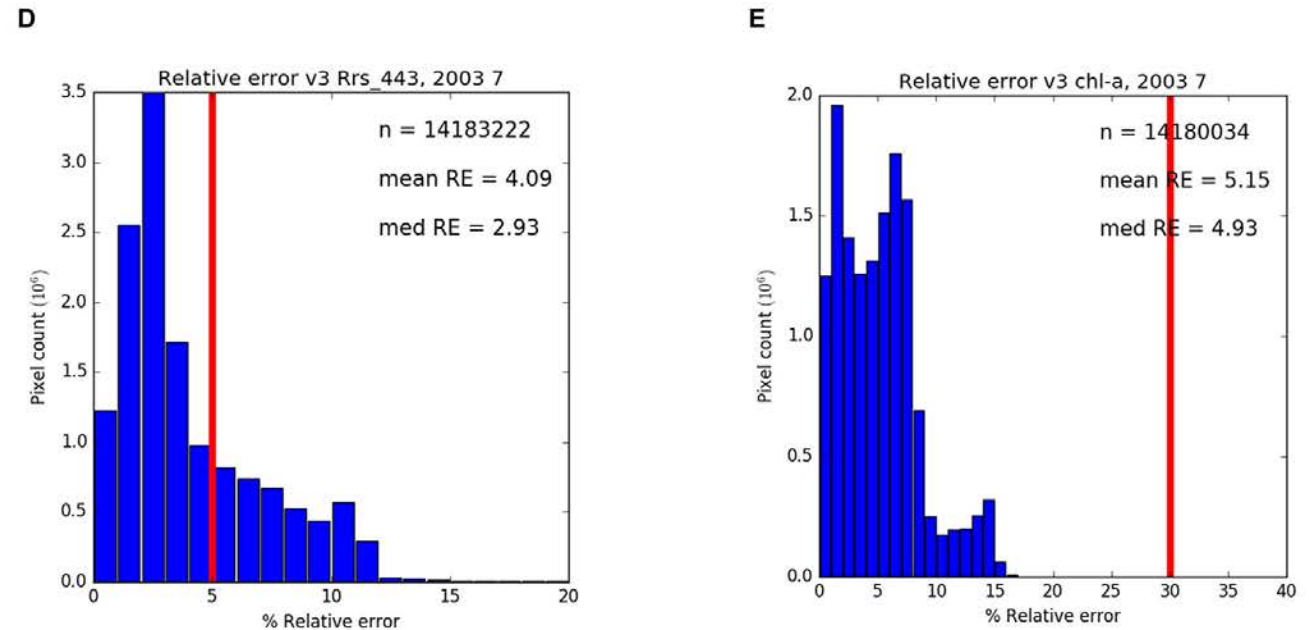
Moore et al. 2009

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2009.07.016>

Jackson et al. 2017

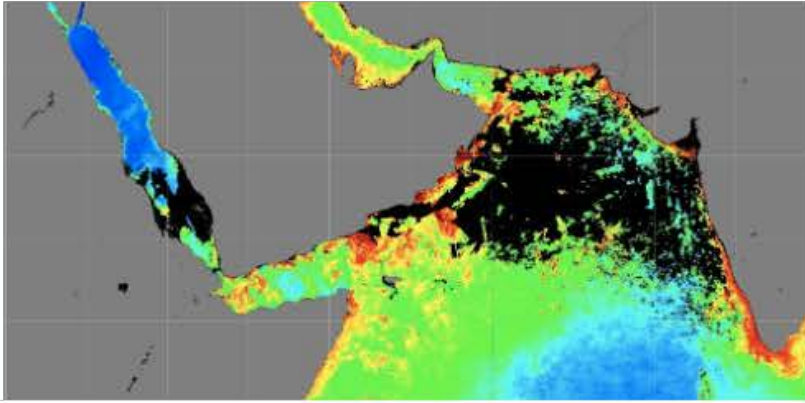
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2017.03.036>)

Meeting current GCOS requirements for majority of ocean

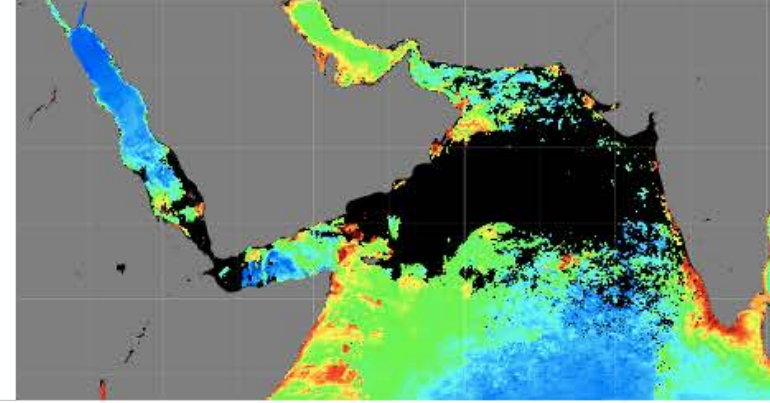




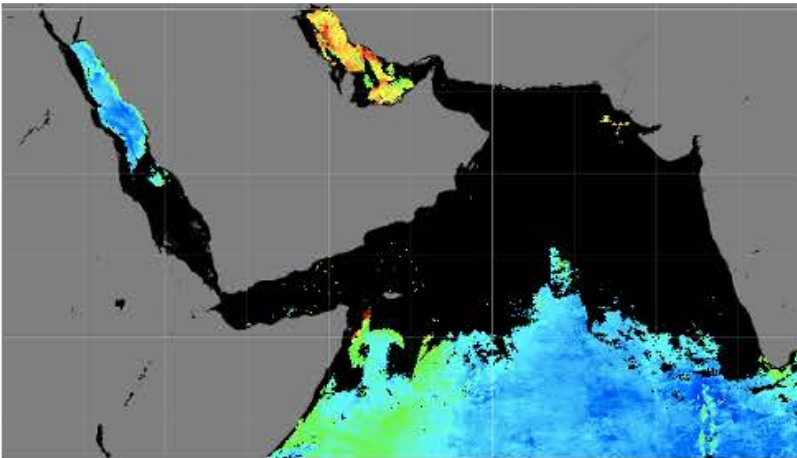
### 3) Ocean colour datasets requirements for climate



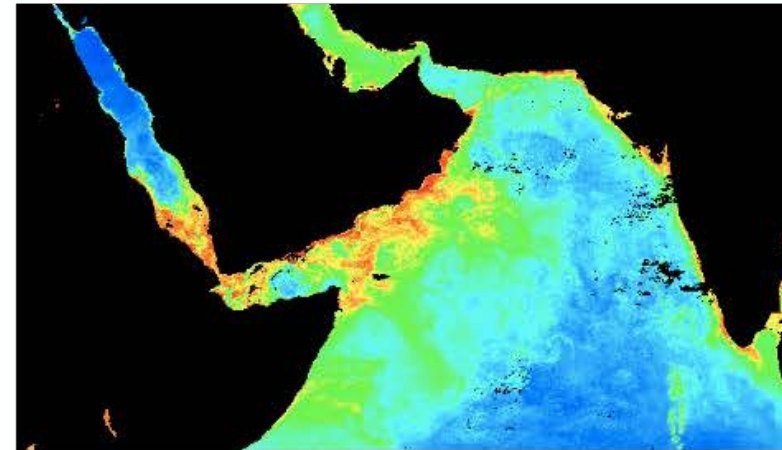
MODIS July Climatology from NASA



SeaWiFS July Climatology from NASA



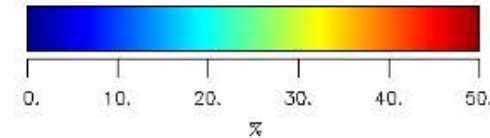
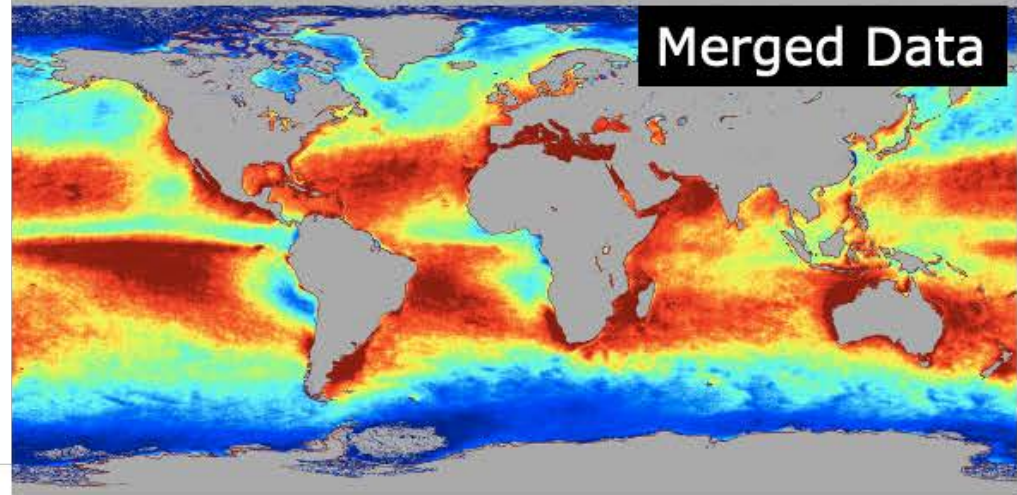
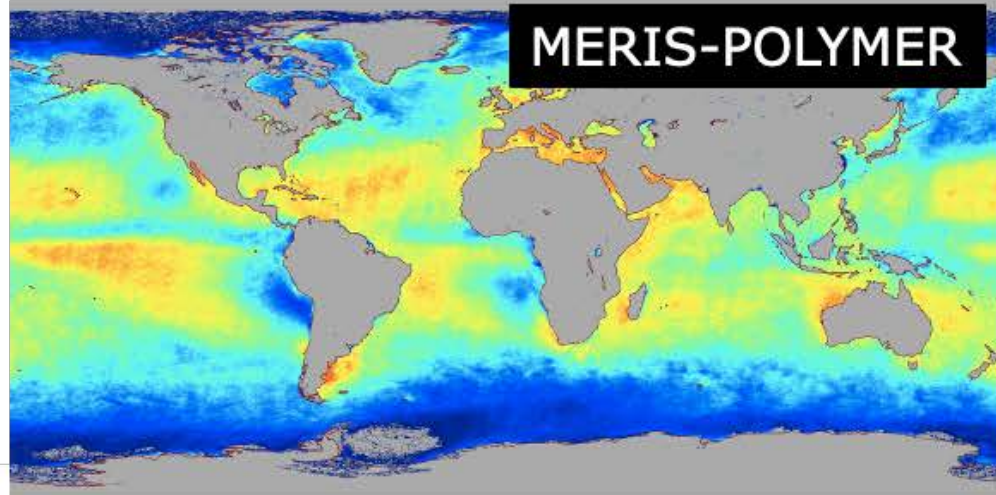
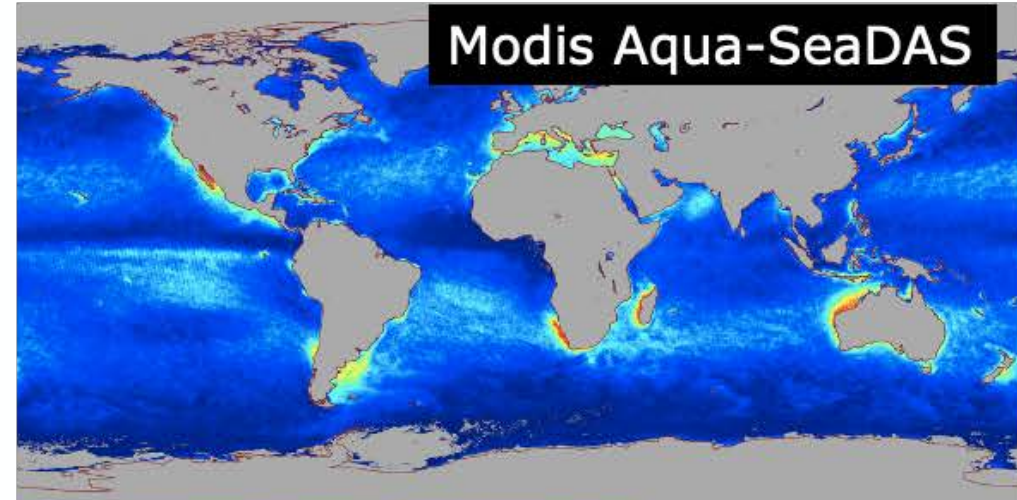
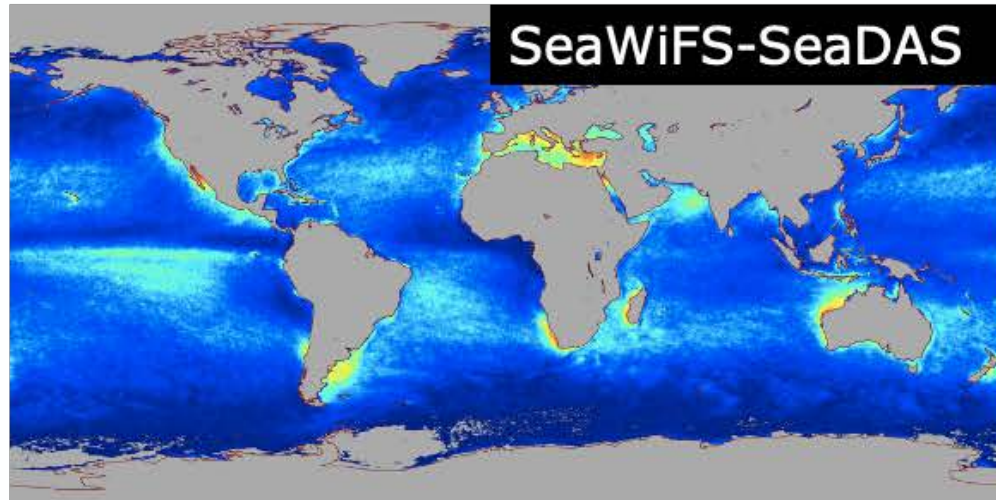
CZCS July Climatology from NASA



OC-CCI July 2003



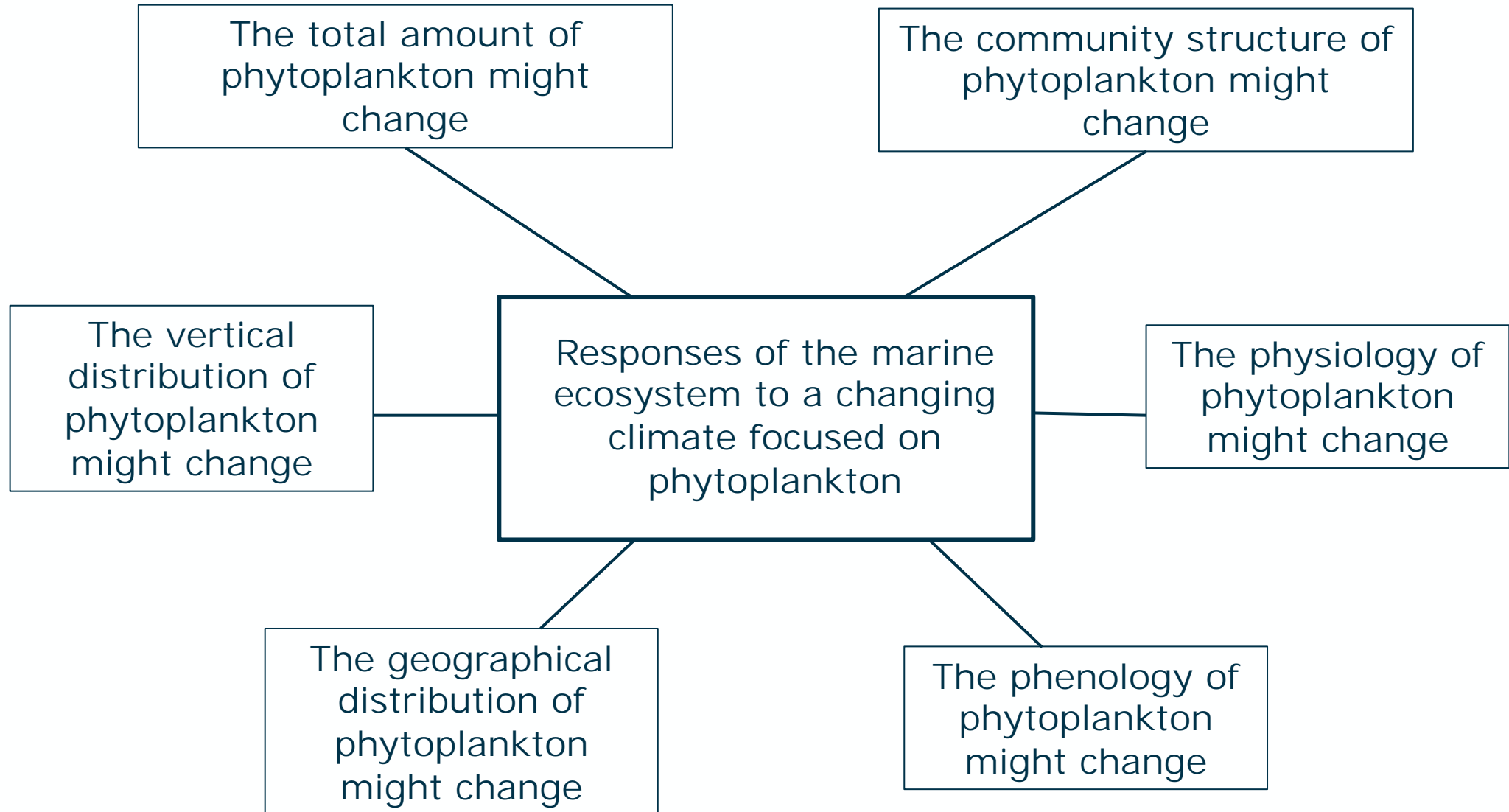
### 3) Ocean colour datasets requirements for climate



Daily coverage in %



## 4) Responses of the marine ecosystem to climate change





# 4) Responses: Total phytoplankton biomass may change

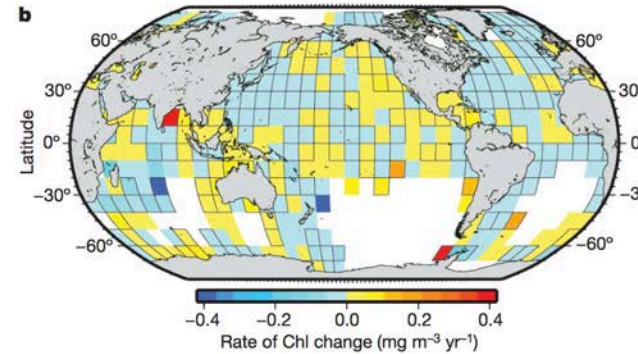
Vol 466 | 29 July 2010 | doi:10.1038/nature09268

nature

## ARTICLES

### Global phytoplankton decline over the past century

Daniel G. Boyce<sup>1</sup>, Marlon R. Lewis<sup>2</sup> & Boris Worm<sup>1</sup>



#### OCEANOGRAPHY

### Century of phytoplankton change

David A. Siegel and Bryan A. Franz

Phytoplankton biomass is a crucial measure of the health of ocean ecosystems. An impressive synthesis of the relevant data, stretching back to more than 100 years ago, provides a connection with climate change.

In 1865, Father Pietro Angelo Secchi was asked to map the clarity of the Mediterranean Sea for the Papal navy. He invented the simplest of oceanographic instruments: a 20-centimetre-wide white disk that is lowered until the observer loses sight of it, and for nearly 100 years determinations of Secchi depth were a routine part of oceanographic observations<sup>1,2</sup> (Fig. 1, overleaf). Secchi-depth determinations assess light penetration in the upper ocean, and can be related to phytoplankton abundance. Along with measurements of the upper-ocean concentration of chlorophyll, which is found in all phytoplankton, Secchi-disk depths provide the only data available for assessing changes in the global

© 2010 Macmillan Publishers Limited. All rights reserved

 **nature**  
International journal of science

Access provided by ESA-ESTEC European Space Agency

Brief Communications Arising | Published: 13 April 2011

#### Does blending of chlorophyll data bias temporal trend?

David L. Mackas 

Nature **472**, E4–E5 (14 April 2011) | Download Citation 

#### Abstract

ARISING FROM D. G. Boyce, M. R. Lewis & B. Worm [Nature 466](#), 591–596 (2010)10.1038/nature09268; Boyce et al. reply

 **nature**  
International journal of science

Access provided by ESA-ESTEC European Space Agency

Brief Communications Arising | Published: 13 April 2011

#### A measured look at ocean chlorophyll trends

Ryan R. Rykaczewski  & John P. Dunne

Nature **472**, E5–E6 (14 April 2011) | Download Citation 

#### Abstract

ARISING FROM D. G. Boyce, M. R. Lewis & B. Worm [Nature 466](#), 591–596 (2010)10.1038/nature09268; Boyce et al. reply

 **nature**  
International journal of science

Access provided by ESA-ESTEC European Space Agency

Brief Communications Arising | Published: 13 April 2011

#### Is there a decline in marine phytoplankton?

Abigail McQuatters-Gollop , Philip C. Reid, Martin Edwards, Peter H. Burkhill, Claudia Castellani, Sonia Batten, Winfried Gieskes, Doug Beare, Robert R. Bidigare, Erica Head, Rod Johnson, Mati Kahru, J. Anthony Koslow & Angelica Pena

Nature **472**, E6–E7 (14 April 2011) | Download Citation 

#### Abstract

ARISING FROM D. G. Boyce, M. R. Lewis & B. Worm [Nature 466](#), 591–596 (2010)10.1038/nature09268; Boyce et al. reply

## LIMNOLOGY and OCEANOGRAPHY: METHODS

Limnol. Oceanogr.  
© 2012, by the American Society of Limn



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

### Progress in Oceanography

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/pocean](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pocean)

### Integrating global chlorophyll data from 1890 to 2010

Daniel G. Boyce\*, Marlon Lewis, and Boris Worm

#### Abstract

Estimating global chlorophyll changes over the past century

Daniel G. Boyce<sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, Michael Dowd<sup>d</sup>, Marlon R. Lewis<sup>e</sup>, Boris Worm<sup>a</sup>

“The analyses of Boyce *et al.* document the historical record. Looking into the future, however, satellite measurements will be the main source of data for assessing change in pelagic ecosystems.”



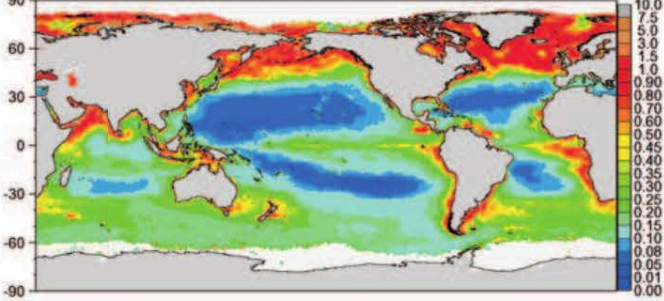
# 4) Responses: Total phytoplankton biomass may change

Global spatial distributions and seasonal variability of ocean chlorophyll were similar, but global means decreased over the two observational segments.

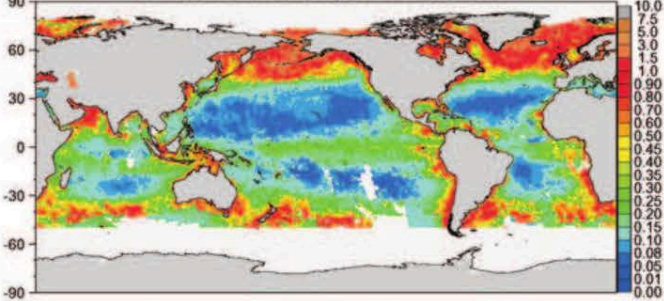
Gregg & Conkright (2002)

<https://doi.org/10.1029/2002GL014689>

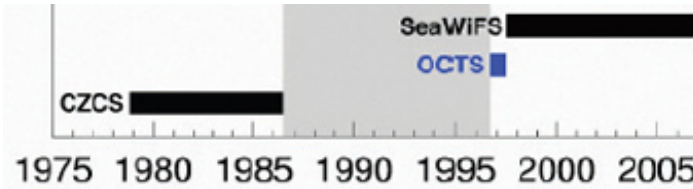
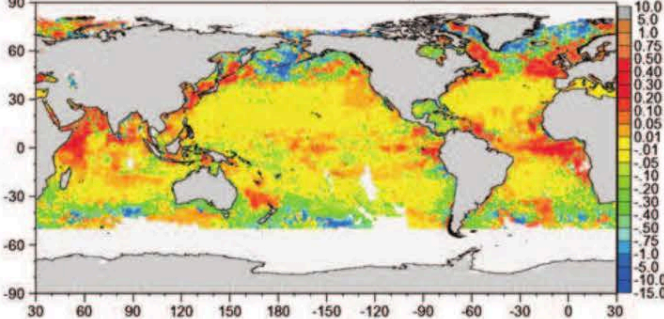
SEAWIFS BLENDED CHLOROPHYLL SUMMER (Jul-Sep)



CZCS BLENDED CHLOROPHYLL SUMMER



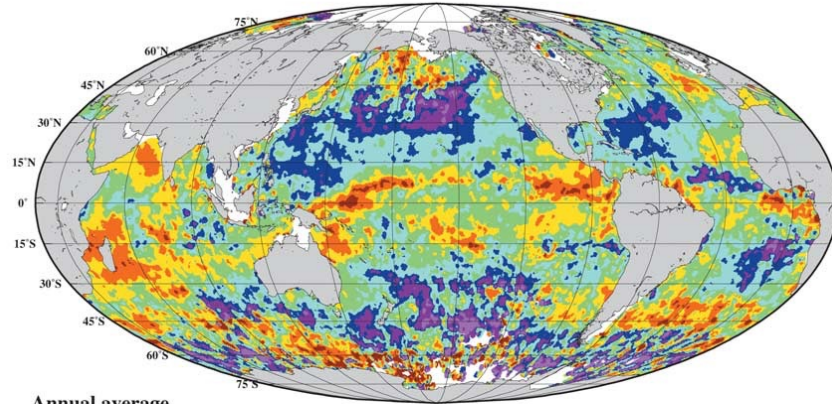
DIFFERENCE (SEAWIFS-CZCS) SUMMER



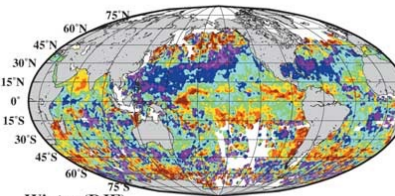
The analysis of decadal changes from the CZCS to the SeaWiFS era shows an overall increase of the world ocean average chlorophyll concentration by about 22%, mainly due to large increases in the intertropical areas

Antoine et al .(2005)

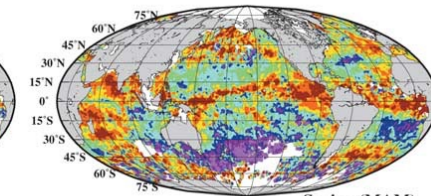
<https://doi.org/10.1029/2004JC002620>



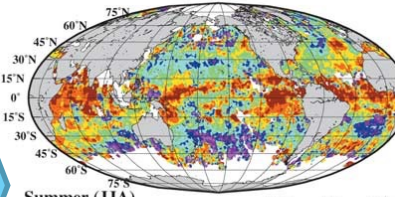
Annual average



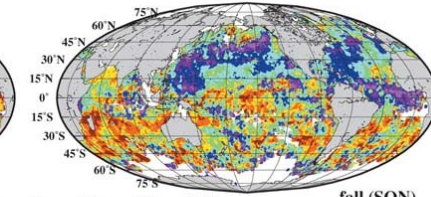
Winter (DJF)



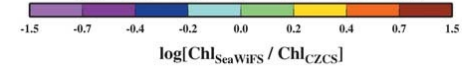
Spring (MAM)



Summer (JJA)

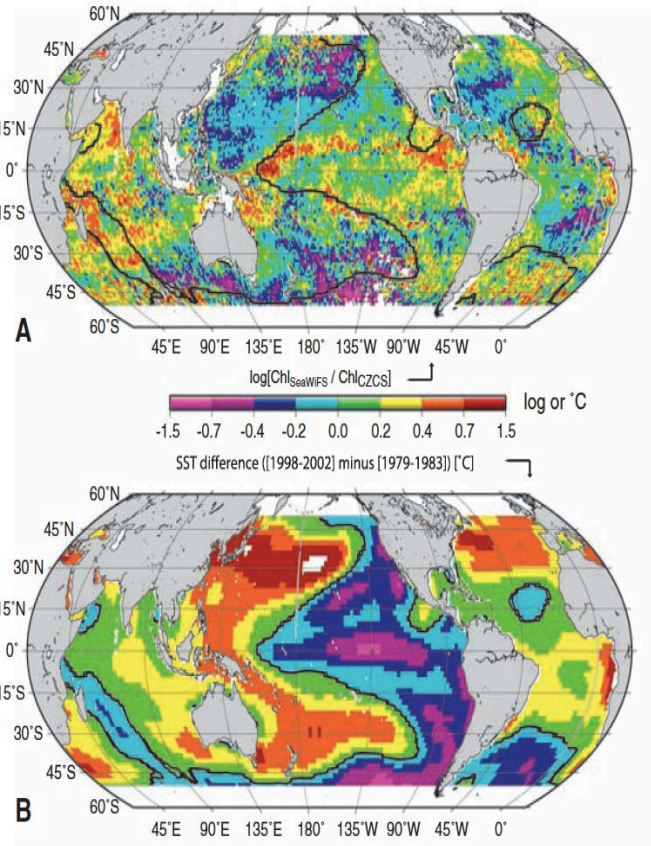


fall (SON)



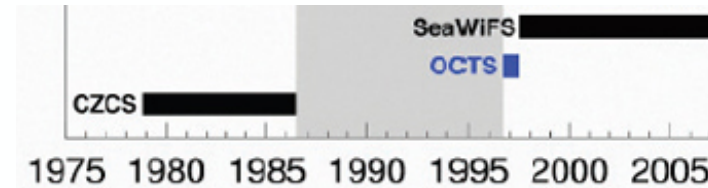


# 4) Responses: Total phytoplankton biomass may change



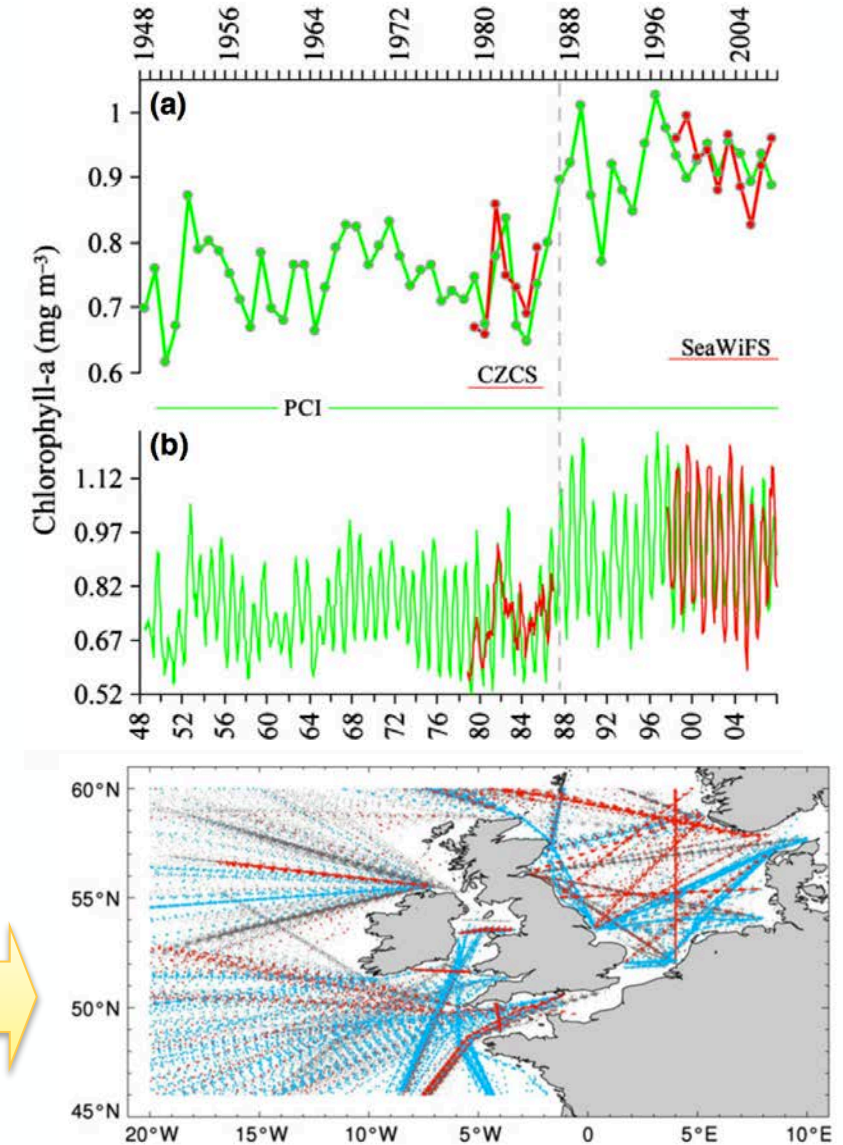
Multidecadal changes in global phytoplankton abundances are related to basin-scale oscillations of the physical ocean.

Martinez et al. (2009)  
<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1177012>



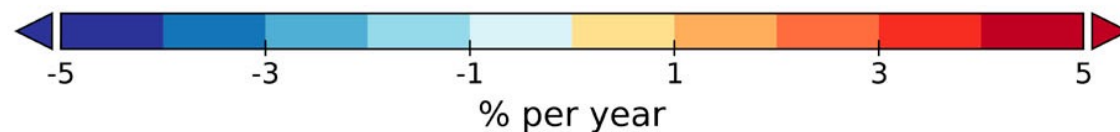
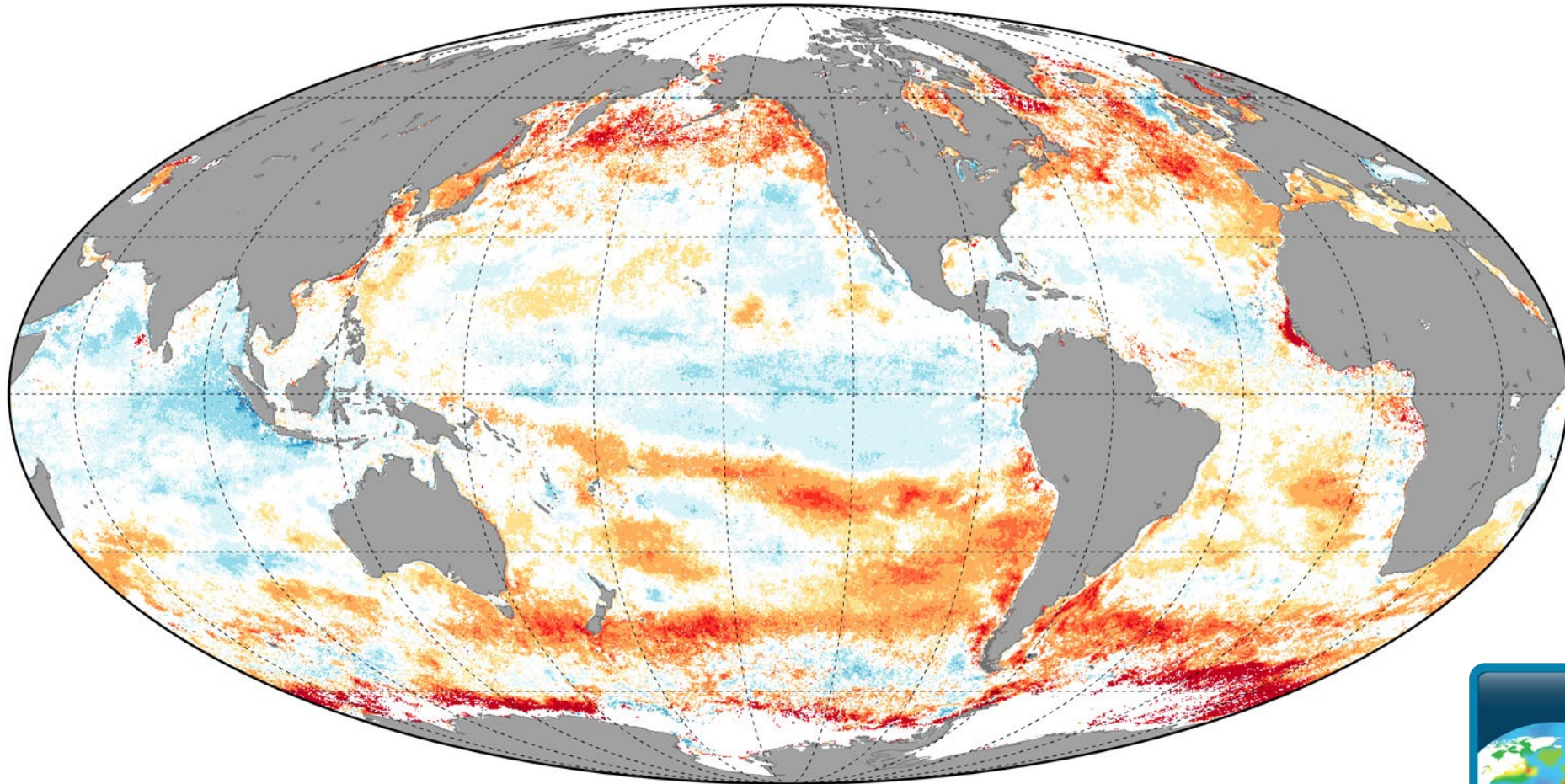
Results from merging CPR data with CZCS and SeaWiFS reflect a clear increasing pattern of Chl-a in the North East Atlantic

Raitsos et al. (2013)  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.12457>





## 4) Responses: Total phytoplankton biomass may change



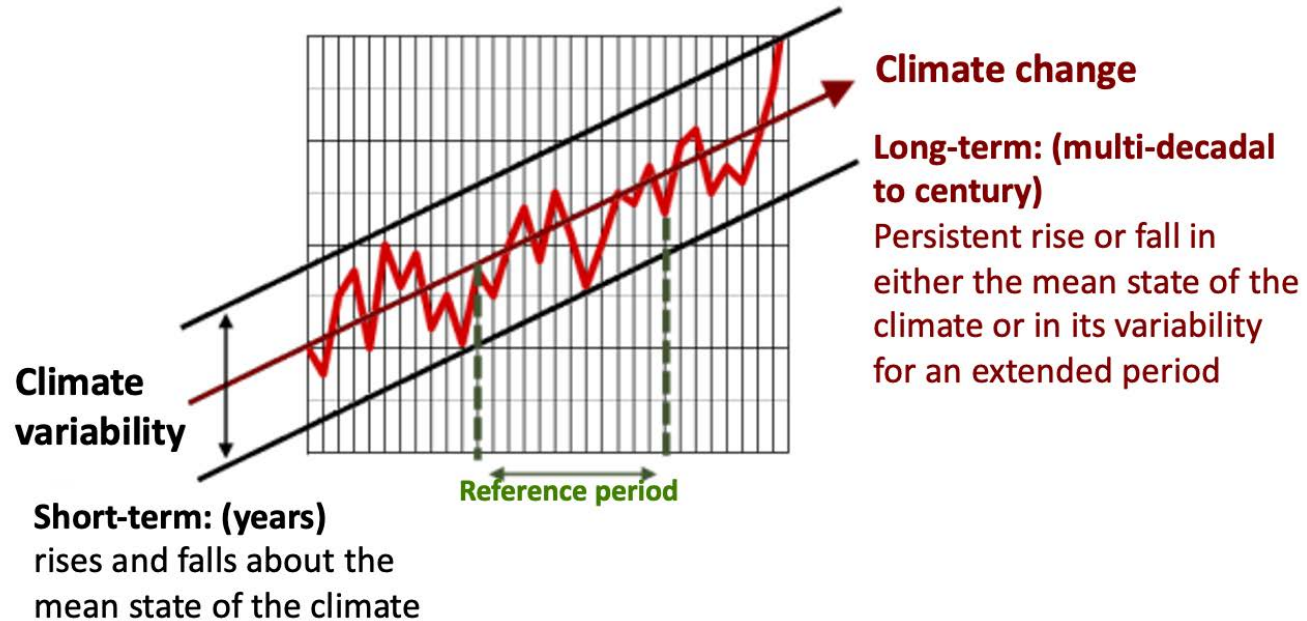
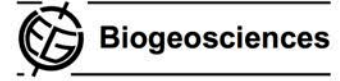
Global chlorophyll trend map (September 1997 to December 2016)

von Schuckmann et al. (2018) <https://doi.org/10.1080/1755876X.2018.1489208>



# 4) Responses: Total phytoplankton biomass may change

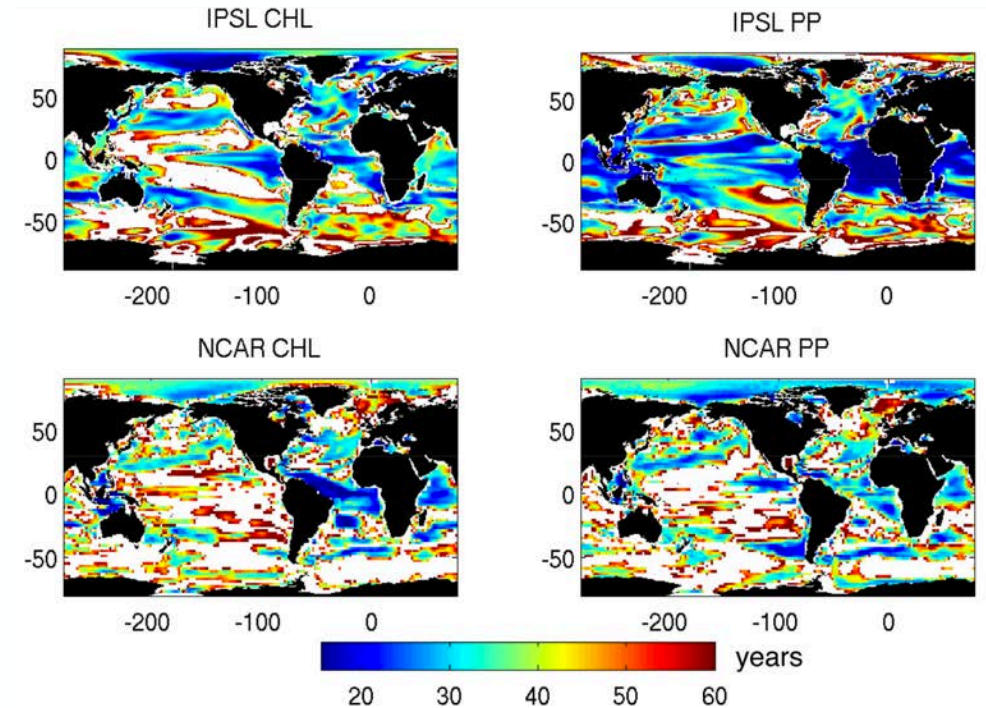
Biogeosciences, 7, 621–640, 2010  
www.biogeosciences.net/7/621/2010/  
© Author(s) 2010. This work is distributed under  
the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License.



Adapted from E. Barrow, <http://www.cccsn.ec.gc.ca>  
With help from Marie-Fanny Racault (PML)

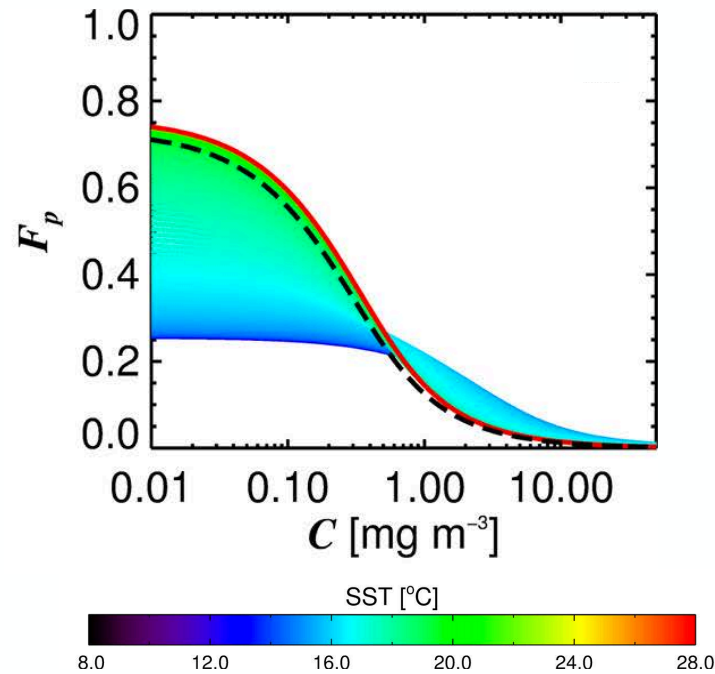
## Detection of anthropogenic climate change in satellite records of ocean chlorophyll and productivity

S. A. Henson<sup>1,\*</sup>, J. L. Sarmiento<sup>1</sup>, J. P. Dunne<sup>2</sup>, L. Bopp<sup>3</sup>, I. Lima<sup>4</sup>, S. C. Doney<sup>4</sup>, J. John<sup>2</sup>, and C. Beaulieu<sup>1</sup>



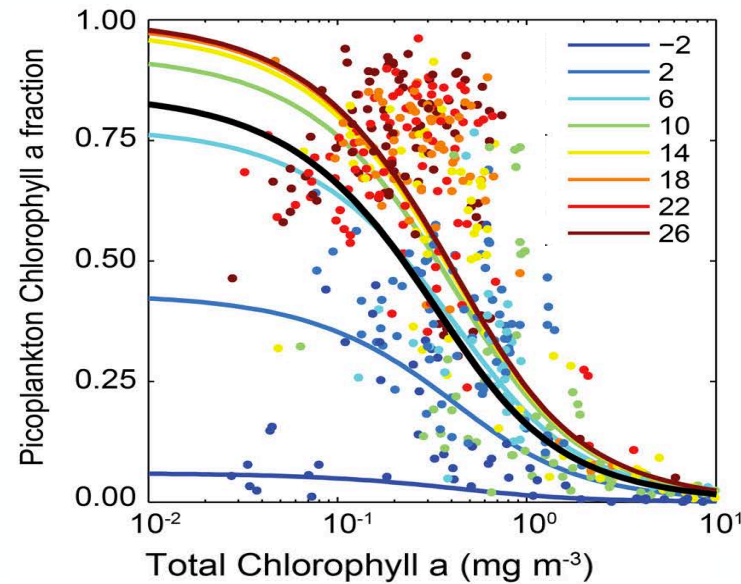


## 4) Responses: Total phytoplankton biomass may change



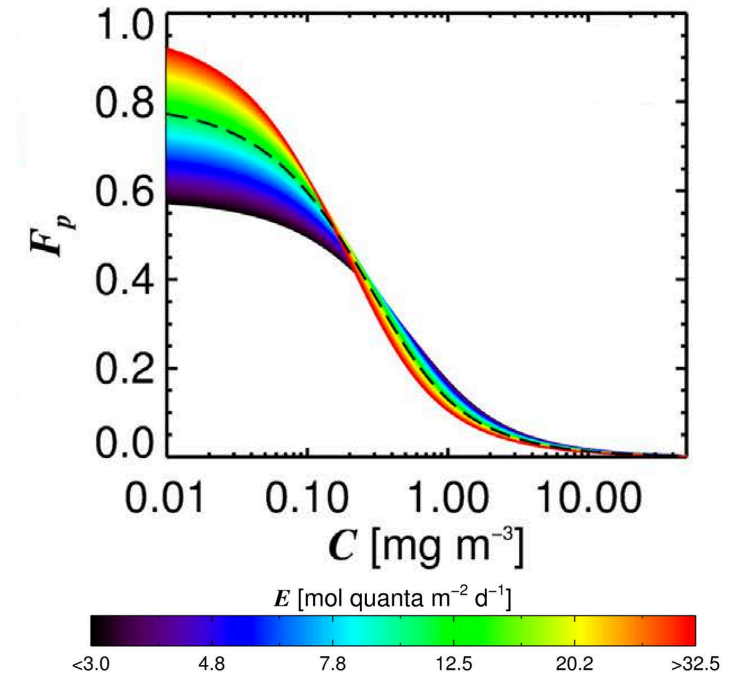
Fraction of picoplankton to total chl-a in the North Atlantic as a function of SST.

Brewin et al. (2017)  
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2017.00104>



Fraction of picoplankton to total chl-a in the Global Ocean as a function of SST.

Ward et al. (2015)  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0135581>

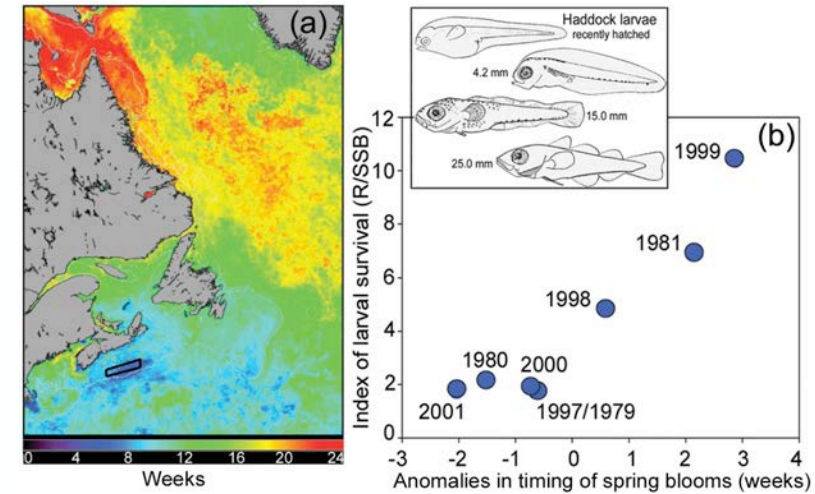
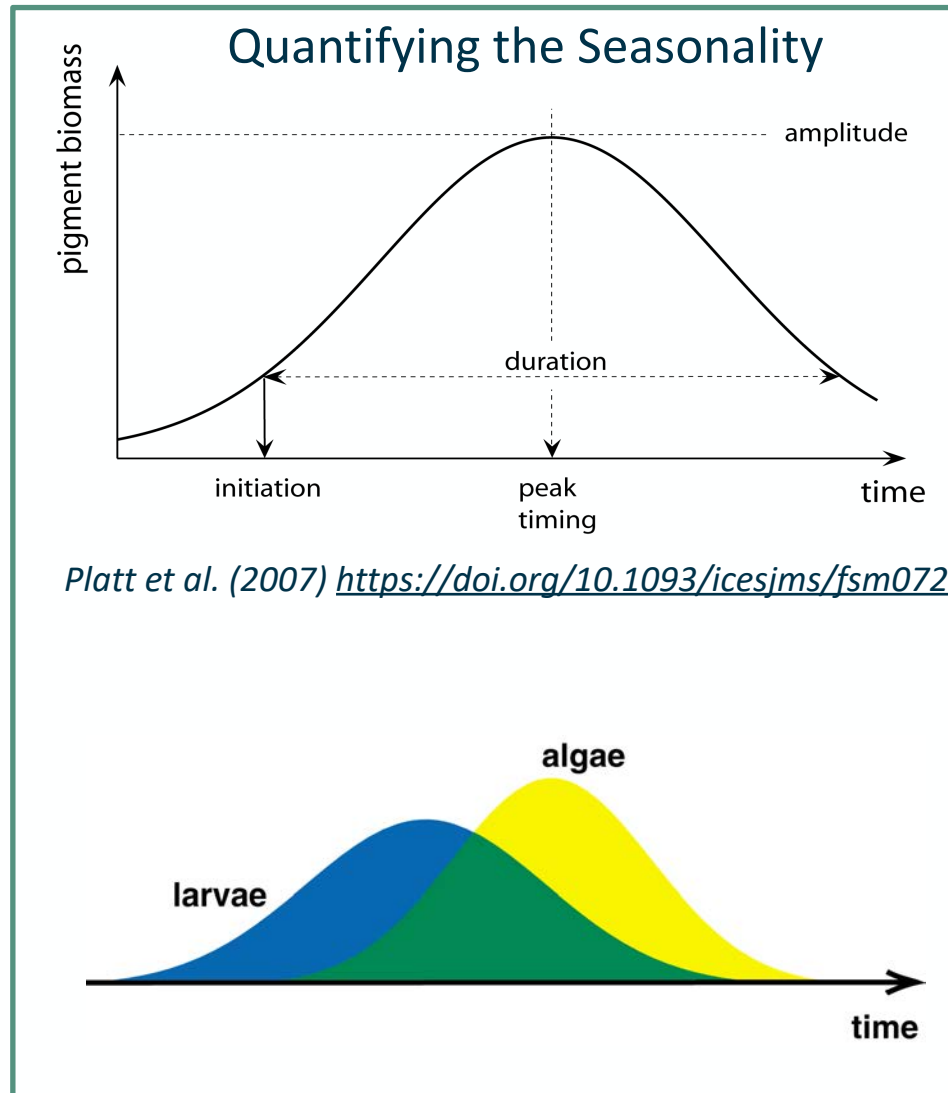


Fraction of picoplankton to total chl-a in the Global Ocean as a function of light

Brewin et al. (2015)  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2015.07.004>



## 4) Responses: Phytoplankton phenology



Inter-annual variations in the timing of the spring bloom impacts survival of larval fish

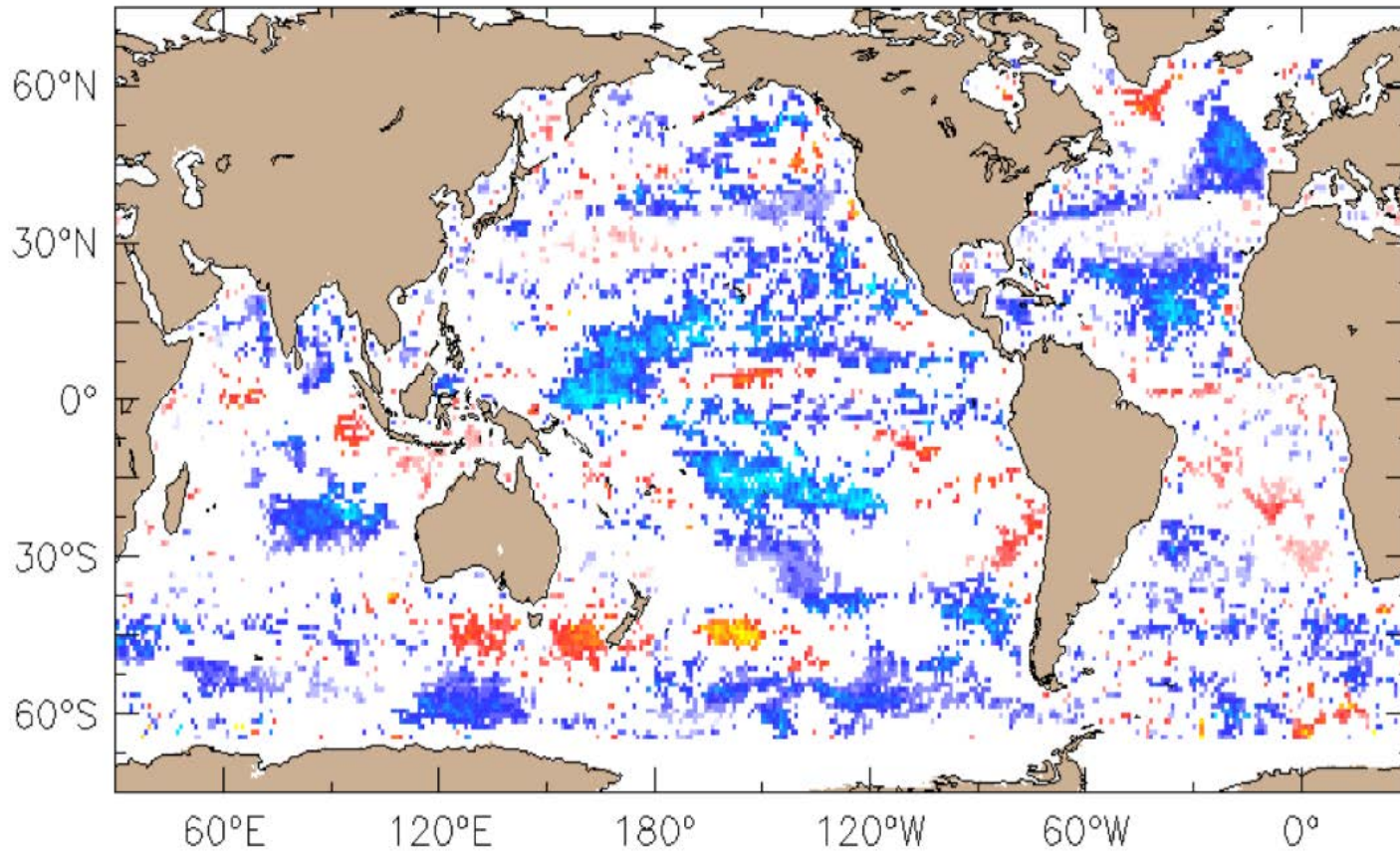
Platt et al. (2003)  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/423398b>

Koeller et al. (2009)  
<http://doi.org/10.1126/science.1170987>

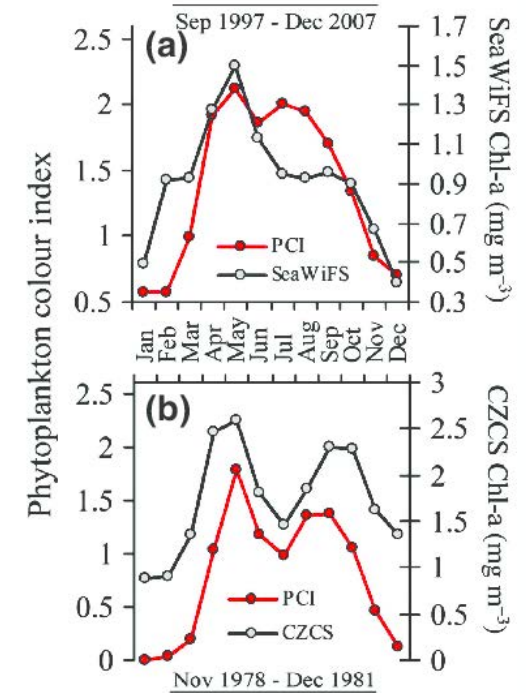
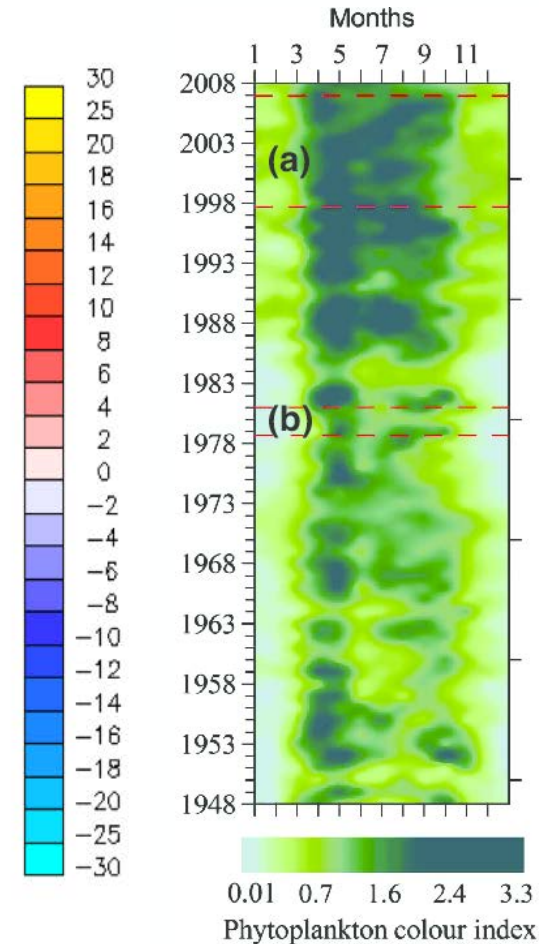


## 4) Responses: Phytoplankton phenology

Trend in anomalies of duration (% yr<sup>-1</sup>)



Racault et al. (2012) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2011.07.010>

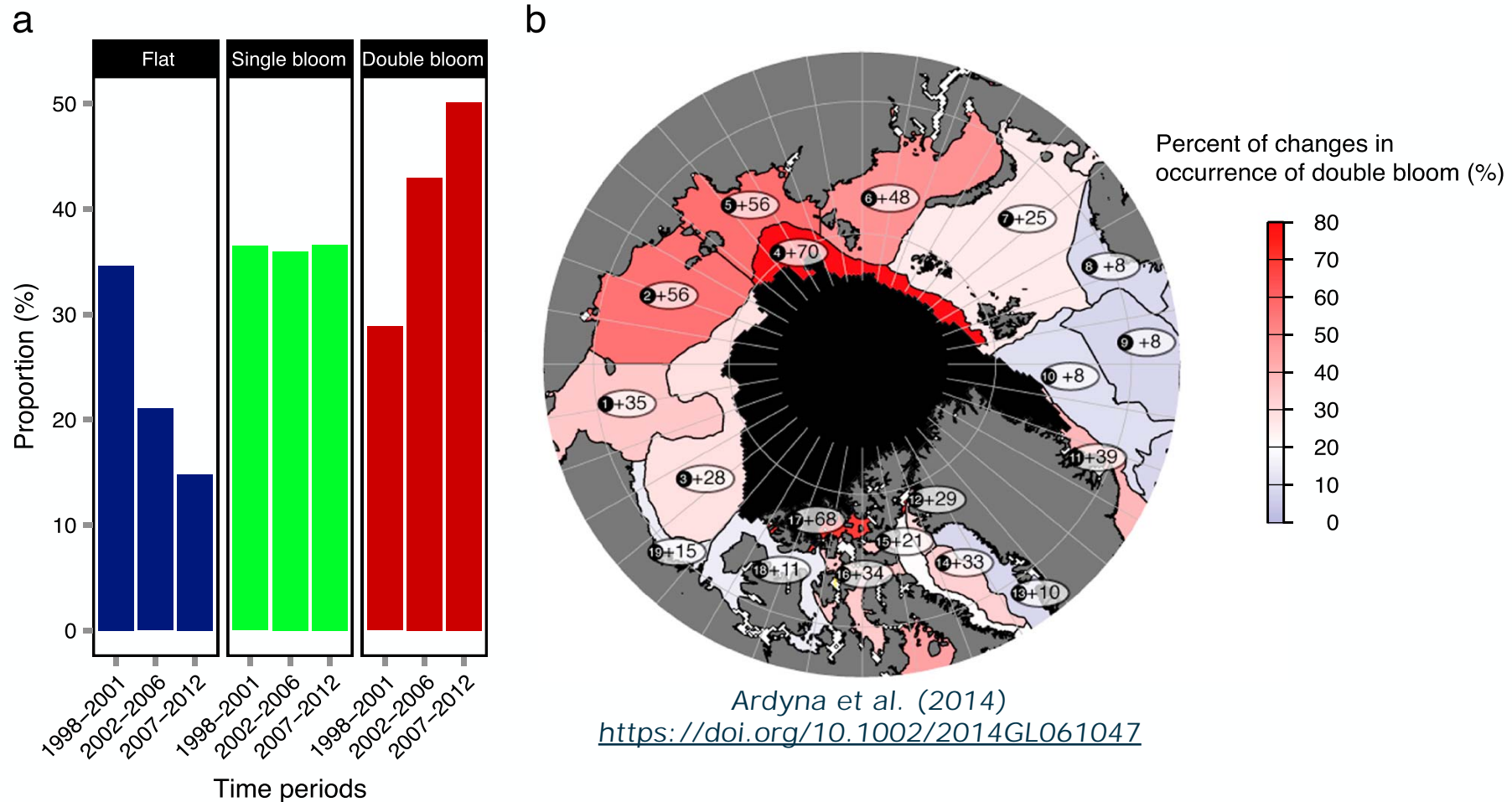


Raitsos et al. (2013)

<https://doi.org/10.1111/qcb.12457>



## 4) Responses: Changing polar regions

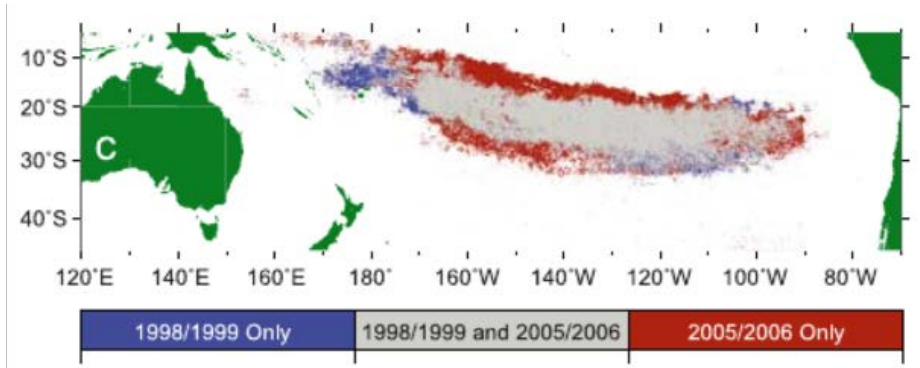


In a changing Arctic Ocean, a phenology of biological productivity with two phytoplankton blooms and two peaks of sedimentation may become prevalent.

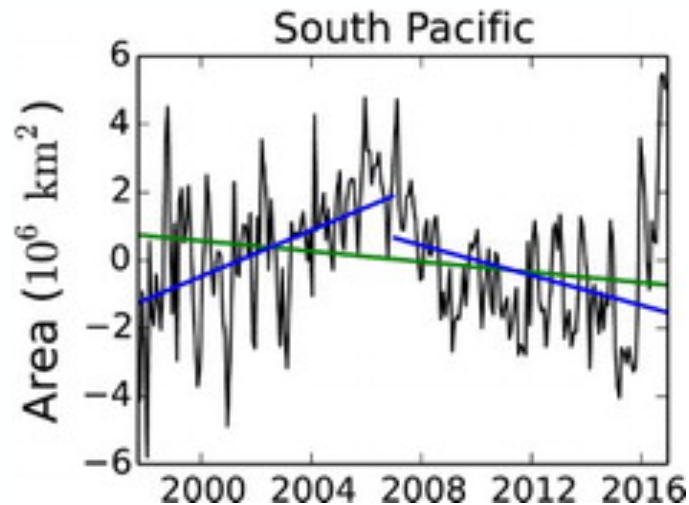


## 4) Responses: Other

### Oligotrophic regions

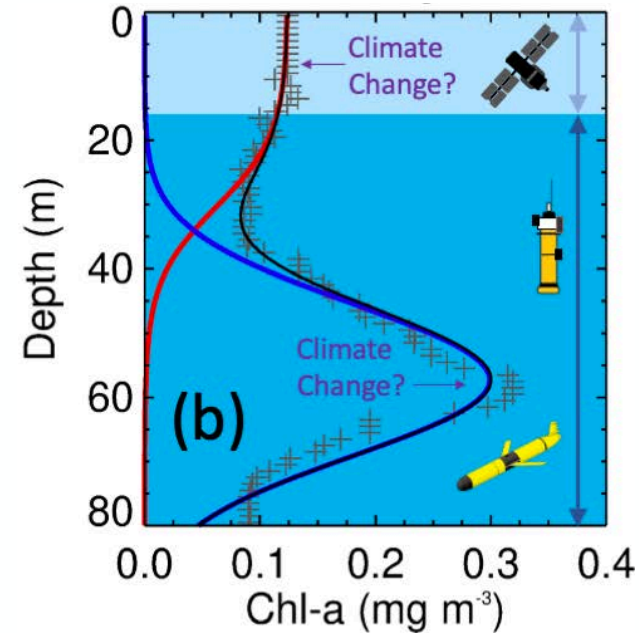


Polovina et al. (2008) *Geophys. Res. Lett.*  
<https://doi.org/10.1029/2007GL031745>



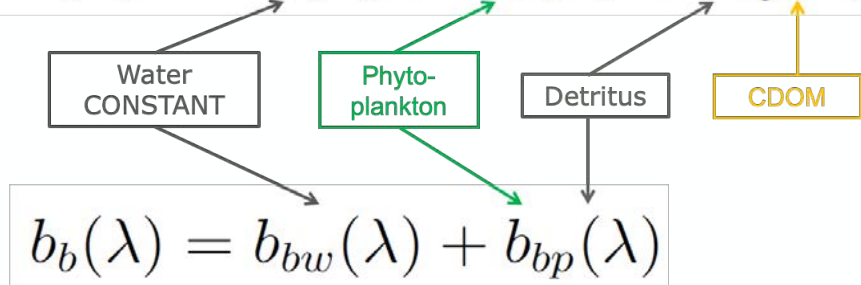
von Schuckmann et al. (2018)  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1755876X.2018.1489208>

### Vertical structure



### Changes in other optically-active substances

$$a(\lambda) = a_w(\lambda) + a_B(\lambda) + a_{dg}(\lambda)$$





## 5) Other applications

Fisheries

Water Quality

Harmful algal blooms

Aquaculture

Marine pollution

Bio-feedback mechanisms

Marine biodiversity and function



 **frontiers**  
in Marine Science



### Ocean Colour Bibliography

[Home](#) » [Resources](#) » [Ocean Colour Bibliography](#)

The IOCCG bibliography is updated periodically with new references submitted by readers. Another useful ocean colour bibliography is the searchable [Historic Ocean Colour Archive](#) assembled by Marcel Wernand, with articles and books written between the 17th and early 20th century.

<http://ioccg.org/what-we-do/ioccg-publications/>

<http://ioccg.org/resources/ocean-colour-bibliography/>

<http://ioccg.org/what-we-do/ioccg-publications/ioccg-reports/>

REVIEW  
published: 29 August 2019  
doi: 10.3389/fmars.2019.00485



### Satellite Ocean Colour: Current Status and Future Perspective

Steve Groom<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Shubha Sathyendranath<sup>1,2</sup>, Yai Ban<sup>3</sup>, Stewart Bernard<sup>4</sup>,

Groom et al. (2019)  
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2019.00485>



- 1) The Greenhouse effect
- 2) Essential Climate Variables
- 3) Ocean colour datasets requirements for climate
- 4) Responses of the marine ecosystem to climate change
  - Total phytoplankton biomass
  - Phytoplankton community structure
  - Phytoplankton phenology
  - Other responses
- 5) Other applications