Biodiversity and biogeochemistry applications of biooptical data in the Northern California Current: Marine Biodiversity Observation Network





OOI Bio-optics Course: July 18, 2023

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Seascape ecologist, biological oceanographer

Plankton biodiversity, biogeography Satellite remote sensing, machine learning







- Biodiversity is a key indicator of ocean health and provides insight to food abundance, quality, and safety. But baselines are sparse.
- As climate changes, how systems and communities will respond/reorganize to multiple, overlapping stressors is unknown.
- The ocean moves and species responses to environmental changes are complex and non-constant.
- Coastal conditions exacerbate these challenges (space/time, remote sensing, regional inputs).
- OOI assets monitor these shifts and assist with validation and scaling



Muller Karger et al., 2017

RCP8.5 - 2090s, changed from 1990s



Bopp et al., 2013

# A grand challenge





### Marine Biodiversity Observation Network

50°

National Ocean Partnership funded: 2014, 2019, 2022, 2024

- Integrate and synthesize existing information from • monitoring programs: IOOS, OOI, fisheries surveys, LTER, Sanctuaries
- Define minimum criteria for observing biodiversity ٠
- Develop/Apply technology for autonomous sampling •
- Detect and track biophysical/biogeographic change • through advanced remote sensing
- Embed organismal information into ocean 20% observatories through *meaningful biodiversity*<sup>E</sup> ٠ indicators
  - Informative, mechanistic, scaleable





Context and biogeographic change: distributions and patterns across seascape habitat patches that scale up





Regionally-tuned plankton community composition contribute to MBON and PACE Applications

Size, dominance, and community composition
IOPs (ac-s, Hyper-bb) and imaging underway
Future: link OOI data (see also lan's work!)



Particle size distribution model from Rrs (Kostadinov et al. 2009) evaluated for Newport Hydrographic Line 2002-2016



Size distribution of phyto vs. microheterotrophs-detritus

## Ac-s: phytoplankton absorption

• Different phytoplankton have different ecological and biogeochemical roles/functions. Important for fisheries, tracking carbon, predicting harmful algal blooms.



Phytoplankton taxa have evolved different accessory pigments that absorb and scatter light in different wavelengths (Bricaud et al., 2002).



Blooms of dominated by different phytoplankton groups have different spectra (from Catlett and Siegel, 2018)

Seascapes have different average spectra and are dominated by different phytoplankton (diatoms vs cyanobacteria).

Seascapes have different (phyto)plankton

Microscopy and pigments confirm different communities across seascapes. (Montes et al. 2020; Kavanaugh et al. 2014)









Particles abundance, size, shape, and chemical makeup affect several important processes:

- Food availability for higher trophic levels (fish, us)-- abundance
- Sinking rates and food chain transfer efficiency-size
- Growth rates, grazing rates and sinking rates—shape
- Primary production rates, nutrient cycling, toxicity -- chemical makeup



### Total attenuation and Backscattering: POC

Particulate organic carbon can be derived from backscattering and attenuation. Lots of regional variability





# Particle abundance and size

- Size structure can indicate trophic state, sinking rates.
- Particle size slope important parameter



From Davies et al., 2021, Scientific Reports



From Slade et al., 2015. Applied Optics Lots of efforts to calculate spectral slopes and ratios from back scatter, total scatter, and total attenuation. **Challenge: algorithms assume spherical shapes**  Particles can range in size and function from microbes to fish: In-situ Ichthyoplankton Imaging System (ISIIS)



**Fig. 1.** Example images of plankton taken by ISIIS. Imaged taxa range from larger protists & phytoplankton to larval fish & gelatinous zooplankton.



**Fig. 2.** ISIIS being prepared for deployment on NOAA Ship *Shimada* as part of NCC MBON sampling.

Bio-optical measurements across trophic levels enable testing ecological hypotheses:

Does lower trophic level slope correlate to fish?

Does multitrophic level size structure (diversity, and abundance) vary as a function of upwelling regime and interannual variability?



Christian Briseno-Avena & Moritz Schmid

### Bio-optical data can inform fisheries management!



Northern Copepod anomalies

Proposed through MBON: PSD (within and across trophic levels) Diatoms: Dinoflagellate (ac-s absorption, IFCB) Table SF-01. Ocean ecosystem indicators of the Northern California Current. Colored squares indicate positive (green), neutral (yellow), or negative (red) conditions for salmon entering the ocean each year. In the two columns to the far right, colored dots indicate the outlooks for adult returns based on ocean conditions in 2018 (coho salmon) and 2017 (Chinook salmon).

	Juvenile Migration Year				Adult Return Outlook	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	coho 2019	Chinool 2019
arge- scale ocean and atmospheric indicators						
DO (May - Sept)					•	•
<u> NI (Jan - Jun)</u>					•	•
ocal and regional physical indicators						
ea surface temperature					•	٠
Deep water temperature					٠	•
Deep water salinity					٠	٠
ocal biological indicators						
Copepod biodiversity					•	٠
lorthern copepod anomalies					٠	•
biological spring transition					٠	٠
Vinter ichthyoplankton biomass					•	•
Vinter ichthyoplankton community					•	٠
uvenile Chinook salmon catch – June					•	٠
uvenile coho salmon catch – June					•	٠



### Summary

• Bio-optical observations provide insight: planktonic diversity to ecosystem functioning

 Ideal observations are high resolution (space, time, taxa) that scale up

• Ideal platforms allow for concurrent physical, chemical, and rate measurements

• Support ecosystem science AND the development of multi-scale, synoptic indicators to inform Ecosystem-based management

## Thank you!

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# Chl-a, PE, PC fluorescence

Accessory pigments can perform both photosynthesis and photoprotective duties.



Measurement acceptance angle of 140°. Chl-a ex= 470nm em=695nm, phycoerythrin ex= 520nm , em 595nm, and phycocyanin ex =630nm em=680nm. All raw counts are converted into corresponding units using the scale factor derived during calibration ( $\mu$ g Chl/L for CHL and ppb for PE and PC). Cyanobacteria are important phytoplankton in some ecosystems: nitrogen fixation, primary production





# The interaction of light and stuff in the water can tell us a lot about the stuff

- Attenuation is the loss of light along a path. Related to transmission.
- Light is attenuated by stuff in the water that **absorbs** light or **scatters** it off the path
- Backscatter is equivalent to reflectance (but doesn't require a surface).
- Fluorescence is the emission of absorbed light (comes with energy change).



Attenuation(c) = absorption (a) + scattering (b)

# Particles will scatter light based on their abundance, size, shape, and chemical makeup

- We all have practical first-hand experience of the first two.
- Rain (large drops in thunderstorm >1000 $\mu$ m) vs fog (small drops, 10s  $\mu$ m)



### AC-S Absorption and attenuation.



Multiple spectra (~120) for each tube Collected in slow descent through depth (Flow through would be similar through time).



Spectra are time-binned and an appropriate dissolved blank is subtracted. Automatic filtration 10 min every hour Linear interpolation between blanks?

# Ocean color satellites measure reflectances at multiple wavelengths to infer in water properties



$$\operatorname{Rrs}(\lambda,0^{+}) \cong C \frac{b_{b}(\lambda)}{a(\lambda) + b_{b}(\lambda)} = \frac{L_{w}(\lambda)}{E_{d}(\lambda,0^{+})}$$

Inherent Optical Properties a = absorption b = scattering

Apparent Optical PropertiesAffect $L_w$  = water leaving radianceangle $L_u$  = upwelling radiancequal $E_d$  = downwelling irradianceof lig $R_{rs}$  = remote sensing (rs) reflectance

Affected by amount/quality of stuff

Affected by angle, sea state, quality/quantity of light

Optical oceanographers calculate IOPs from AOPs and visa versa using radiative transfer theory and algebra (inversions)

# Algorithms continue to improve to separate various optically active constituents



QUESTION: What happens to data quality as the sensor moves from land to water?

Sherry Palacios: NASA ARSET and BAERI

## Biodiversity from space?

#### Size Structure



Kostadinov et al., 2010

Scattering (b- slide 25) varies by size of particle (cell)



Habitat Diversity

Habitats can represent unique assemblages

Nano. Prochl. SLC Diatoms Phaeo. Accessory pigments of different functional types have different absorption/reflection spectra

Phytoplankton

Functional Diversity Dominant phytoplankton groups maps from PHYSAT Climatology over 1997–2008 period (SeaWiFS)

June

January

30

 $0^{\circ}$ 

-30

30

-30

How do phytoplankton functional type algorithms work? Single species case: diatoms in Antarctica



Small cells scatter more Large cells scatter less

Log<sub>10</sub> [fuco]= 1.49- 0.67 R<sub>412</sub> + 1.98 R<sub>443</sub> – 2.33 R<sub>488</sub> Where R=  $\text{Rrs}_{\lambda}$ /  $\text{Rrs}_{555}$ 

## Diurnal cycles in fluorescence can lead to error (~2 fold).

Cells will shunt more photons to heat dissipation to protect cell from damage under sustained high light (e.g. noonday sun).

Helpful to know, and to compare to values based on other properties (e.g. absorption). See ac-s.







From Carberry et al., 2021

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## ACS-Optical Absorption (A) /Beam Attenuation (C)

- Units of 1/m.
- Describe the optical characteristics of particles in the water.
- Can be used as proxies for other data products (sanity checks for fluorometric chl-a, e.g.)

*Chlorophyll-a Roesler and Barnard 2013* 

$$CHL_{ALH} = \frac{A676 - \frac{A715 - A650}{715 - 650} * (676 - 650) + A650}{0.0104}$$

*Particulate Organic Carbon Gardner et al, 2006* 

POC = C660 \* 380



MBON utilizes multiple platforms at multiple scales, advances B/E remote sensing in four ways:

#### OPEN ACCESS

Satellite Remote Sensing and the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network: Current Science and Future Steps

Maria T. Kavanaugh X, Tom Bell, Dylan Catlett, Megan A. Cimino, Scott C. Doney, Willem Klajbor, Monique Messié, Enrique Montes, Frank E. Muller-Karger, Daniel Otis, Jarrod A. Santora, Isaac D. Schroeder, Joaquin Triñanes, David A. Siegel





View Issue TOC Volume 34, No. 2 Pages 62 - 79 Pelagic seascape ecology : framework to relate organisms to dynamic habitat for global marine biodiversity observing network

Multiplatform Integration Machine Learning: Satellite remote sensing, ecosystem models



Physics: e.g. SSS, SST, sea ice, SSHa



Biology: Chl-a, nFLH, CDOM

#### Multiscale classification

Seascape Classification/Prediction



Hierarchical, non-linear, dynamic

#### **Regional habitat associations**

**GEO B** 

biogeochemistry, diversity, fisheries habitat





Photo Credit: Lisa Dillin CINMS Image Library