

## Arabian Gulf Harmful Algal Blooms Workshop

**DAY 1 (22 February, 12:00-15:00 UK time)**

**Understanding the susceptibility of the Arabian Gulf and adjoining sea areas to harmful algal blooms (HABs) and impacts on fish health and food safety**

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## **1) Welcome & aims of the workshop – Qusaie Karam (Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research)**

The virtual workshop explores existing knowledge and data on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and impacts on fisheries and finfish aquaculture in the Arabian Gulf. It is sponsored by the UK and Kuwait Governments and is endorsed by the Global Harmful Algal Blooms (GlobalHAB) Programme <http://www.globalhab.info/>.

### *Workshop aims:*

1) Evaluate global trends and identify environmental factors driving the risk of HAB events and impacts on fisheries and finfish aquaculture in different regions of the world. This involves exploration of existing information from *in situ* monitoring networks (e.g. aquaculture production sites, desalination plants and commercial ports), satellite monitoring platforms (e.g. MODIS, Sentinel), physical, biogeochemical and empirical models.

2) Explore the potential effects of eutrophication and climate warming on HABs and consequent impacts of HABs on aquaculture and fisheries in the ROPME Sea Area (RSA) i.e. the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman. HAB occurrences have been linked in some areas to extreme climatic events, such as heatwaves. The regular occurrence of extreme high temperatures in the Arabian Gulf makes this region an obvious focal point for research on this topic.

3) Identify tools and opportunities to develop early warning systems for HABs and support the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Arabian Gulf and elsewhere, contributing to achievement of the objectives of the UN Oceans Decade (<https://www.oceandecade.org/>) and helping to tackle the ensuing climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. More integrated approaches to aquatic food production have the potential to meet Sustainable Development Goals to improve nutrition (Goal 2), ensure sustainable consumption and production (Goal 12), and sustainably use marine resources (Goal 14) (IUCN, 2017).

## **2) Opening address – Sunny Ahmed (Deputy Ambassador for Kuwait)**

The UK and Kuwait governments are proud sponsors of this workshop which aims to better understand the susceptibility of the RSA to harmful algal blooms (HABs) and impacts on fish health and food safety.

Global aquaculture production from finfish, shellfish and seaweed is projected to grow by 32% from 2018-2030, helping to ensure food security and alleviate pressures on wild stocks from overharvesting and climate change (FAO, 2020). In the Arabian Gulf finfish aquaculture alone is projected to grow by over 7% between 2018 and 2024. However the growth of the aquaculture industry is threatened by HABs, which are being observed increasingly at aquaculture sites around the globe, with some HAB species causing mass fish mortalities. The recent global meta-analysis by Hallegraeff et al. highlighted the need for more data quantifying the occurrence and impacts on HABs in Arabian and Indian coastal waters. This workshop aims to identify and address these data needs, in order to provide early warning systems for HABs and to mitigate impacts on fisheries and aquaculture.

### **3) Global Perspective on HABs, Environmental Drivers & Impacts**

*Elisa Berdalet (Institut de Ciències del Mar, Barcelona, IOC SCOR GlobalHAB).*

[berdalet@icm.csic.es](mailto:berdalet@icm.csic.es)

#### *Abstract*

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) are natural events that can also be fostered by human pressures on aquatic ecosystems. Some HABs are caused by species producing phycotoxins associated to human health problems due to bioaccumulation in seafood, direct contact with the water or inhalation of aerosolized chemical compounds. Other HABs affect wild and cultured fish and marine fauna and the ecosystems, with subsequent impacts on economy and human wellbeing. In particular, HABs constitute a special threat to aquaculture, a key activity for protein supply to humans and the economy of local populations in different areas, including the Arabian Gulf. Massive fish kills can be caused by high microalgal biomass that limit oxygen availability and/or produce ichthyotoxins. Contamination of seafood with HAB phycotoxins forbids extraction and commercialization.

To prevent impacts on aquaculture, *in situ* monitoring of the causative organisms (and their toxins) is essential (combined with satellite observations if possible) and should allow elaboration of detailed and accessible databases. This information, along with fundamental multidisciplinary research about the main HAB occurring species in the area can help producing models to predict the occurrence of some blooms. Time series analyses suggest that some HABs may increase and intensify with climate change. The efforts to minimize HABs occurrence and mitigate their impacts should be parallel to the implementation of a sustainable aquaculture, in coordination to stakeholders and policy makers, to guarantee a healthy and productive ocean for the future generations.

### **4) Environmental mechanisms associated with algal blooms in the Arabian Gulf**

*Yousef Alosairi (Coastal Management Program, Environment and Life Sciences Research Center, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait).*

[yosairi@kISR.edu.kw](mailto:yosairi@kISR.edu.kw)

#### *Abstract*

The formation of harmful algal blooms (HABs) is not thoroughly understood in the Arabian Gulf (AG). A wide spectrum of bloom events occurs in the AG, at the deep sea such as Strait of Hormuz and the Arabian Sea, and the shallow coastal zones. Most vents are considered to have an adverse impact on the environment, leading to fish kills. The HABs involves various environmental conditions associated with river runoffs, human nutrient loadings, inter-annual ocean cycles, and meteorological conditions. Kuwait Bay has experienced several HAB events over the 30-40 years at an increasing trend. Historical records have shown that the events occur in different seasons, yet summer is lethal to many species. Given the environmental variability associated with the Bay's HABs numerical models have provided insight into the low dynamic zones where hypoxia could be computed and predicted in some cases. The study shed light on the fields where HABs are initiated and the environmental mechanisms triggering the blooms in the Bay. The finding may well serve other locations within the AG, particularly at the shallow western coast where the hydrographical features and human activities are alike. In addition, the finding shall act as the first step towards forecasting HABs and early warning systems for coastal management purposes in the region.

## **5) Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)**

*Suad Al-Bimani (Ministry of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries and Water Resources, Oman).*

[albimani2010@gmail.com](mailto:albimani2010@gmail.com)

### *Abstract*

Over the past decade, Oman has witnessed a massive outbreak of harmful algal blooms (HABs) that has been attributed to the trend of warming and the influx of hypoxic waters onshore. Field and satellite data from the past few years indicate that harmful algal blooms are becoming more widespread and intense in the Sea of Oman and Arabian Sea. What is particularly disconcerting being that these outbreaks are beginning to pose a significant threat to coastal resources, water quality, public health, tourism, and the operational capabilities of the many coastal industries that serve the energy, freshwater, and socio-economic needs of Oman, and of the countries bordering the Arabian Sea and Sea of Oman. HABs monitoring programs have been implemented and developed since long time using modern technologies, in order to predict its occurrence and limit its harmful effects. Recently, an operational Early Warning System was developed called Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO) for providing timely advisories to stakeholders, including coastal resource managers is needed. The main objectives of this system are:

- Provide information and future predictions about coastal fisheries resources, evaluate the effects of climate change and determine the ideal locations for fish farming activities on the Omani coasts.
- Provide real-time forecasts of atmospheric and sea state conditions using an outputs from an atmosphere/ocean/biogeochemical coupled model tailored for the coastal waters of Oman.
- Provide real-time forecasts of outbreaks of HABs based on a fusion of model outputs with satellite ocean color data.

In the future, DISCO could be used to serve the needs of a diverse range of infrastructure development activities in support of Oman's transition to a Blue Economy. It will be an effective monitoring and forecasting system that benefit various sectors such as desalination plants, fish farming and other relevant authorities. It also will create an integrated database that includes physical, biological and other environmental data. DISCO will contribute in several other applications such as: monitoring and prediction of hypoxia and fish kills. Tracking the path of harmful phytoplankton blooms, jellyfish multiplication, liquid waste, oil spills and hurricanes, and thus providing decision-makers with a comprehensive early warning system.

## **6) The status and trajectory of aquaculture in the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman**

*Patrick White (Consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Norway).*

[pwhitemobile@yahoo.com](mailto:pwhitemobile@yahoo.com)

### *Abstract*

Fish captured from the sea have traditionally been favoured more than farm-raised fish in Arab countries, because of the former's perceived greater health and taste benefits. Yet, aquaculture has been gaining more acceptance, and even popularity, in the Middle East. Some wealthy Gulf nations, such as Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Oman, have stepped up their efforts to cultivate aquaculture to meet the demand for fish, to reduce imports of seafood, and to maintain food security. Although it is a relatively new and small sector in these

countries, they have been heavily investing in fish farming. The governments of Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Oman provide favourable policies and numerous incentives to attract investments into fish farming. This has encouraged the development of a number of aquaculture projects in these countries. Aquaculture is often seen as an important sector for supply of seafood from their coastal resources for revitalization of coastal areas and supporting complementary businesses.

The main commercial marine aquaculture systems are saltwater ponds used for shrimp farming and circular cages used for fish culture in exposed environments. Marine spatial planning and/or ICZM is used for the selection of aquaculture sites and avoid conflict with other users of the coastline. The establishment of Aquaculture Zones ensures the full integration of aquaculture with other coastal activities and thus prevent and minimize possible conflicts. Oman, UAE and Saudi Arabia have prepared an aquaculture atlas identifying potential areas for aquaculture development. Most countries have developed hatchery facilities for a range of species. The main culture species include Barramundi, Gilthead seabream, Meagre, Sobaity seabream and Shrimp. Fish culture usually depends on the use of artificial feed. However, not all the nutrients in the feed are utilized for fish growth. Approximately 45% of nitrogen, and 18% of phosphorous contained in feed are excreted as dissolved inorganic nutrients and enter the water column. The impacts on the environment are most apparent in flow-through systems and cages, whereas the impacts in ponds are more complex as there is uptake of nutrients by primary production.

The Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman are prone to algal blooms which is a risk for fish cage culture. Blooms may kill fish in several ways. Densely concentrated algal bloom can deplete oxygen in the water due to the high respiration rate of the algae, or by bacterial respiration during their decay. Some algae cause damage to the gills of fish, with the result that they are unable to take in enough oxygen. There have been several bloom events that have affected aquaculture. In 1999 there was a red tide in Kuwait Bay that caused a fish kill due to elevated nutrient levels, potentially from aquaculture activities as well as industrial and sewage inputs. In Oman the bloom of the marine ichthyotoxic dinoflagellate *Cochlodinium polykrikoides* from August 2008 to May 2009 caused mortalities of wild and farmed fish (Qurayat, Oman) as well as extensive coral reef damage and restricted fishing activities. The pattern of subsequent recurrence of blooms may become a persistent problem for aquaculture development in the region.

### **7) Shrimp aquaculture: an overview, challenges, and accomplishments in Kuwait**

*Sherain Al-Subaie (Environment and Life Sciences Research Center, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait).*

[ssubiai@kisar.edu.kw](mailto:ssubiai@kisar.edu.kw)

Kuwaiti demand for seafood is rising rapidly, with high imports set to be the main source of supply, unless aquaculture expands greatly in Kuwait to ease fish and shrimp importation. A perusal of the world aquaculture industry reveals that the research efforts during the last few decades have been focused largely on the development of sustainable, biosecured and cost effective super-intensive production technology which resulted in developing re-circulating system (RAS) and Biofloc technology (BFT) for aquaculture system. These two systems have captured the attention of the investors and aquaculturists since it allows production at high stocking densities with limited energy, water and land use.

Worldwide shrimp culture is dominated by Pacific white leg shrimp, *Litopenaeus vannamei*, owing to the development of Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) stock and its large scale adoption in most of the shrimp producing countries. This species has excellent abilities to adapt to different salinities and temperature, and exhibits high growth and survival under high densities. Establishing shrimp aquaculture in KISR for farming this alien species is an urgent need to place Kuwait among the shrimp producing countries in the GCC. This species forms an ideal candidate for biofloc culture in land based facilities under controlled conditions.

Ion imbalance of the low salinity water is considered the biggest obstacle facing inland shrimp farming. Most of the underground water sources are deficient in magnesium and potassium, which cause reversed Mg/Ca or high/low Na/K compared to those in standard sea water. The ion imbalance of the brackish water has been extensively studied at KISR to develop sustainable production and culture of the non-native shrimp, *L. vannamei*, using brackish water.

## **8) Environmental extremes and additional pressures on marine ecosystems in the RSA**

*Michelle Devlin and Brett P. Lyons (Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, UK and Kuwait).*

[michelle.devlin@cefas.co.uk](mailto:michelle.devlin@cefas.co.uk)

### *Abstract*

The Gulf is facing unprecedented pressures from multiple sources, including climate change, marine pollution, coastal modification and increasing coastal burdens of population and expansion. The Gulf is already a unique place, experiencing extremes of temperature and salinity not seen elsewhere, with these extreme ranges predicted to increase with higher temperatures and salinities. These changes are happening alongside an expanding coastal environment with associated increases in marine pollution. The local and regional changes need to be considered in the context of the larger climate shifts when planning mitigation and recovery programs at a local and regional level. This talk briefly describes these climate and pollution pressures, using Kuwait as a case study to demonstrate some of the longer term water quality issues that are occurring across the ROPME Sea Area. These shifts are influencing and driving water quality issues including increase in algal blooms, toxicity events and HABs. Both national and regional programs need to consider this complexity of issues and shifting baselines when developing long term solutions to HABs in the Gulf region.

## **9) Linking environmental factors, HAB events and impacts on finfish and shellfish**

*Adam Lewis (Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, UK)*

*A. Ross Brown (Sustainable Aquaculture Futures, University of Exeter, UK)*

[adam.lewis@cefas.co.uk](mailto:adam.lewis@cefas.co.uk) [ross.brown@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ross.brown@exeter.ac.uk)

### *Abstract*

Around 300 HAB species have been identified globally. Some produce toxins that can accumulate in shellfish, and finfish and poison their consumers, while others cause harm to fish through gill clogging or via the production of fish toxins (ichthyotoxins) or via oxygen depletion affecting entire marine ecosystems. All these modes of action are represented in HAB species recorded in the Arabian Gulf. Different monitoring techniques are appropriate for different HAB species, depending on specific toxins/profiles and also algal bloom densities at which harmful effects are caused. Unbiased/catch-all techniques are required when effects

are unexpected (e.g. out of the normal seasonal and/or regional pattern) – here regular sampling and full characterisation of species assemblages is required and there is no substitute as yet for microscopic analysis, which provides anatomical and functional information as well as taxonomic data. Otherwise monitoring can be targeted on high risk species that are most likely to cause harmful effects, for example *Dinophysis* species that often form low biomass summer blooms in coastal waters of Europe, the Americas and Asia, and intoxicate wild and farmed shellfish with Diarrhetic Shellfish Toxins (DST). Safe thresholds for DST are often exceeded, even when *Dinophysis* cell counts are low, resulting in costly shellfish harvesting closures. Since these low biomass blooms are undetectable by satellite, predictive models are needed to reliably forecast *Dinophysis* blooms, in order to help target monitoring and shellfish testing, to avoid harvesting of intoxicated shellfish and to manage supply chains. Moving towards more “proactive” monitoring data collection to feed data-driven HAB models will be enabled by acquiring real-time data from *in situ* sensors capable of near real-time quantification of changing HAB toxin concentrations and HAB species abundance via automated algal cell imaging, cytometric or molecular-based methods.

### **10) Understanding impacts of HABs on fish farms based on lessons learned in Chile**

Jorge I. Mardones (Center for the Study of Harmful Algal Blooms (CREAN), Chilean Fisheries Development Institute (IFOP)). [jorge.mardones@ifop.cl](mailto:jorge.mardones@ifop.cl)

#### *Abstract*

The southern Chilean coast is widely known for suffering severe Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the last decade, especially those related to fish kills (Fish Killing Algae -FKA). Recent studies and observations have shown that these ecosystems are highly vulnerable to the effects of climatic (i.e., ENOS, SAM) and anthropogenic stressors (i.e., aquaculture), leading to a dramatic increment in the intensity and distribution of harmful algal blooms (HABs) in southern Chile. For instance, two massive HABs in the Patagonian fjords in 2016, due to severe droughts, produced the worldwide known “Godzilla-Red tide events”. First, the ichthyotoxic flagellate *Pseudochattonella verruculosa*, produced the most extensive fish farm mortality ever recorded worldwide (equivalent to an export loss of USD\$800 M) evidenced that the Chilean salmon industry was not prepared for this unexpected bloom; and second, an intense bloom of the PSP producer *Alexandrium catenella* led to a vast socio-environmental impact for the local shellfish industry. After this massive bloom in 2016, *A. catenella* has been observed migrating equator-ward reaching northern areas and producing extreme PSP events (i.e., a world-record of 143,130 µg STXeq. 100 g<sup>-1</sup> in 2018). The climatic anomalies have also recently triggered ‘super blooms’ of opportunistic cryptic toxic algal genera (i.e., *Karenia*, *Heterosigma*), especially affecting important aquaculture areas in southern Chile. Overall, HAB events in Chile have produced, for example, an estimated annual cost in microalgae and toxin monitoring of approximately 7M US\$ in 2019 and 93,000 US\$ due to hospitalizations in 2018.

Regular phytoplankton monitoring in southern Chile needs to be accompanied with new technology (i.e., molecular approaches, automated flow cytometry) to improve the detection of fragile FKA species (i.e. *Heterosigma*, *Pseudochattonella*, *Vicicitus*) and the quantification of ichthyotoxins (i.e., RTgill-W1 gill assay). Climate change is strongly affecting the southern Patagonian fjords. Further studies need to focus on how projected local-to-global scenarios will modulate scientific capabilities to monitor, model and mitigate future HAB events, and how HABs-environmental uncertainties would affect essential system functions and consequently ecosystems services and wellbeing of coastal communities.

### **11) Control of HABs in China using a modified clay approach**

Isaac Yongquan Yuan<sup>a,b</sup>, Xiuxian SONG<sup>a,b</sup>, Xihua Cao<sup>a,b</sup>, Zhiming Yu<sup>a,b</sup>,

*a CAS Key Laboratory of Marine Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Qingdao 266071, China*

*b Functional Laboratory of Marine Ecology and Environmental Science, Qingdao National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology, Qingdao 266237, China [ygyuan@qdio.ac.cn](mailto:ygyuan@qdio.ac.cn)*

#### *Abstract*

The concept “controlling Harmful algal blooms (HABs)” means the effective interruption to the matching relationship between biological factors representing its growth and environmental factors supporting its proliferation for a specific HAB occurrence. Clay flocculation is one of promising measures that has been used to control HABs in field but still has crucial bottlenecks for its popularizing in real-world cases, including insufficient efficiency for clay particles to flocculate HAB cells, great amount of clay in use and plenty deposit thereof. According to our research, surface modification is an effective way to increase the flocculation rate for natural clay, thus we proposed Modified Clay (MC) technology. By using MC in field, 70%-80% HAB organisms could be flocculated directly to the bottom while the growth of residual is inhibited and would be ultimately settled down by repetitive sprayings. There are 3 characteristics of such technology. Initially, it's safe and environment friendly. The raw material is the major component of nature soil. In the meantime, MC is proved safe to use in field after careful and plenty evaluations for its ecological effects on typical aquaculture, water quality, benthic, planktonic organisms, and so on. Secondly, it's highly efficient to control HABs in field. The water clarity could be visibly improved in 30 minutes while the removal rate of MC to different HAB organisms could reach 90% averagely. Meanwhile, the dosage of MC used in the open water is only 4-10 tons/km<sup>2</sup> averagely, which is adequately as 4-10 g/m<sup>2</sup>, with the purpose of effective control of HABs. Last but not least, it's such a technology being easy to use. The automatic specialized equipment for MC mixing and spraying has been developed in several types according to varied scale of waters. Since 2005, as a “fire extinguisher” for HAB emergencies, MC has been successfully applied in over 20 different waters of China, including cooling water of nuclear plants, typical aquaculture areas and waters for some important activities, such as Olympic sailing regatta, BRICs summit, etc. It has been listed in the National Standards of China for HAB control, and successfully introduced abroad. As a summary, MC technology is a reliable method to control HABs and has the potential to be widely used in ROPME sea area further.

### **12) Development of an Early Warning System for Harmful Algal Blooms, red tides, and fish kill incidents in Kuwait Territorial Waters**

*Qusaie Karam (Environment and Life Sciences Research Center, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait). [qkaram@kisir.edu.kw](mailto:qkaram@kisir.edu.kw)*

#### *Abstract*

Kuwait's marine environment receives numerous pollutants from multiple pollutions sources such as point source pollution of treated and untreated sewage. Those sources can contribute to the adverse effects load on the aquatic ecosystem, endangering native marine resources like fisheries, and shrimp which are of economic value. Elevated nutrients load in wastewater along with increasing water temperature and salinity can trigger algal blooms in marine waters which can be a precursor for subsequent red tide and fish kill incidents. Also, harmful algal bloom (HAB) species can be responsible for several marine mortality cases in Kuwait

Territorial waters, as it can consist of neurotoxic algal species. On these grounds, the Kuwait Environment Public Authority (KEPA) has requested from Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) to submit a research proposal to assess marine crises like HAB, red tides, and fish kills frequently occurring in Kuwait territorial waters. Consequently, the idea was consolidated to propose an integrated system to predict, forecast, and understand the reoccurring events which triggered us to propose the development of an early warning system (EWS) for such environmental phenomena. The EWS will incorporate various analytical tools of ecologically indicator systems to analyze HAB, red tide, and fish kill events. Proper prediction, response, and management of environmental crises are essential to assist decision-makers. As a follow-up study to the establishment of the EWS, a comprehensive review of historical observations of HAB, red tide, and fish kill events in Kuwait marine waters was developed to support an effective prediction and forecasting of those events. Major outcomes of the study are: HAB events frequencies are elevated in the summer season, Kuwait Bay is a hotspot for HAB events, and wastewater is the confirmed triggering factor for HAB, events.

### **13) Existing HAB observation and EWS in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman**

*Gilan Attaran Fariman (Chabahar Maritime University, Chabahar, Iran).*

[gilan.attaran@gmail.com](mailto:gilan.attaran@gmail.com) [g.attaran@cmu.ac.ir](mailto:g.attaran@cmu.ac.ir)

#### *Abstract*

Since the Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) catastrophe in 2008, HAB's research has become one of the most important types of research in the countries around Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf (ROPME Sea Area's; RSA). This was because the occurrence of that bloom was remarkable in terms of the area it spread, intensity and duration, and its mortality rate. Harmful algae bloom research is also important from social, economic and environmental points of view in the region. In recent decades, HAB incidents reported from Iran, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman waters. According to various research works, only 6% are potentially HABs former species from the total phytoplankton reported from the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf. However, these species have had destructive effects on marine organisms. Among these species, the common HAB former species include: *Peridinium quinquecorne*, *Gonyaulax polygramma*, *Karenia selliformis*, *Pyrodinium bahamense*, *Levanderina fissa* (= *Gyrodinium instriatum*), *Margalefidinium polykrikoides* (= *Cochlodinium polykrikoides*), *Scrippsiella trochoidea* *Noctiluca scintillans*, *Karlodinium sp.* and *Amphidinium carterae*.

One of the key issues in HAB research is the identification of the HAB species life cycle, which includes vegetative cells and the cyst stage, which is an essential step in management and planning to predict and reduce destructive effects of HAB. As far as research is concerned, HABs prediction, identification of key area, marine biodiversity, environmental awareness, and marine sample bank are the significant goals of research in the Sea of Oman. As a result, some researches that have been conducted in recent years on the abundance, distribution and identification of dinoflagellate cysts, in the sediment, increased our knowledge on the existence of some species that may have missed from plankton samples due to their short life in the water column. Accordingly, they have resulted in a little promotion of our knowledge on marine biodiversity of phytoplankton in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

#### **14) Development and Operations of Harmful Algae Warning Systems in the United States**

*Raphe Kudela (University of California Santa Cruz).*

[kudela@ucsc.edu](mailto:kudela@ucsc.edu)

##### *Abstract*

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) produce local impacts in nearly all freshwater and marine systems, resulting in ecological, economic, and human health damage. HABs are a global problem but generally require regional to local solutions tailored to the specific environment. Improved scientific understanding of HAB dynamics coupled with monitoring and ocean observations facilitates new prediction and prevention strategies. In the United States, several regional observing and forecasting systems have been developed, each with its own scope, methods, and application. Three examples of operational systems include the Pacific Northwest Harmful Algal Blooms Bulletin, the Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin, and the California Harmful Algae Risk Mapping (C-HARM) System. While there are many similarities in these programs, no two systems are identical since each was built to be fit for purpose. Common themes leading to operational success include: (1) scientifically vetted underlying observational and modeling tools; (2) attentiveness to end-user needs; (3) operational capacity; (4) frequent review and adaptation of new or improved methodologies. Lessons learned from these programs identify several key needs for existing and proposed operational forecasts. First, operational forecasts require sustained, preferably automated, near real-time information from nearshore and offshore sites to validate predictions and provide improved, advanced HAB warnings. Second, ecological knowledge and models are necessary to move beyond short-term (days) forecasts to seasonal and interannual forecasts. Third, sustained operations requires buy-in from stakeholders, meaning that the monitoring and forecasting system must provide enough value to end-users to justify the cost.

#### **15) Changes and complexity of HABs in Asia: Implications for early warning systems and future projections**

*Patricia M. Glibert (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Horn Point Laboratory, Cambridge, USA).*

[glibert@umces.edu](mailto:glibert@umces.edu)

##### *Abstract*

Harmful algal blooms are affecting fisheries and aquaculture throughout Asia, but different HAB taxa are common in different parts of the region. Increases in both nitrogen and phosphorus over the past decades have contributed to the proliferation of these blooms, as recently documented for three regions of China. The number of HAB events and affected HAB area for China are also highest under elevated nitrogen:phosphorus (N:P). Since the 1970s, nutrient pollution has increased largely due to river export. The largest fraction of nutrients from rivers comes from agriculture-derived nutrients, but river export of aquaculture nutrient sources and export of nutrients from marine aquaculture have also increased.

Prediction of HABs is rapidly advancing. New data streams and new models, including statistical, mechanistic and machine learning approaches are all being developed. To advance beyond prediction of chlorophyll and to predict growth of individual species, several approaches are suggested. In mechanistic models with multiple phytoplankton groups represented, a rhomboid strategy may be used, parameterizing the HAB taxa individually while modeling other species in functional groups. Habitat models may be useful in defining

a species niche, and therefore in producing risk maps, but such an approach cannot predict cell density. To improve parameterization of growth of many HAB taxa in developing mechanistic models, inclusion of mixotrophic nutrition (the ability to consume particulate food and to carry out photosynthesis in the same cell) will be required. Mixotrophy can increase growth rates, can prolong periods of growth, and at least for some taxa, increases under increased N:P conditions. A suite of coupled physical-biogeochemical-HAB-multi-trophic level models will be needed to test how current and emerging stressors (warming, nutrient changes, acidification, etc.) interact to project future HAB growth spatially and temporally and to project future risks to aquaculture and other fishery resources.

#### **16) HABreports: Online early warning of harmful algal and biotoxin risk for the Scottish shellfish and finfish aquaculture industries**

*Keith Davidson*‡, *Dmitry Aleynik*‡, *Gregg Arthur*†, *Solene Giraudeau-Potel*‡, *Steve Gontarek*‡, *Callum Whyte*‡ (†Shetland UHI, Scalloway Campus, Port Arthur, Scalloway, Shetland, UK). (‡Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, UK). [Keith.Davidson@sams.ac.uk](mailto:Keith.Davidson@sams.ac.uk)

##### *Abstract*

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) of biotoxin producing phytoplankton are monitored by light microscopy in Scottish waters to ensure shellfish safety. However, while protecting human health, this regulatory system provides little early warning of HAB events to aquaculture operators. Here we present an on-line early warning system ([www.HABreports.org](http://www.HABreports.org)) that has been developed for Scottish coastal waters that utilises HAB, biotoxin and other environmental data to provide risk assessments that minimize HAB the risk to humans and aquaculture businesses. The system includes both map and time-series based visualization tools. A “traffic light” index approach is used to highlight locations at elevated HAB/biotoxin risk. High resolution mathematical modelling of cell advection provides early warning of HAB transport by coastal water movements. Expert interpretation of HAB, biotoxin and environmental data in light of recent and historical trends is used to provide, on a weekly basis, a forecast of the risk from HABs and their biotoxins to allow mitigation measures to be put in place by aquaculture businesses, should a HAB event be imminent. Recently the UK’s first imaging FlowcytoBot (IFCB) has been deployed as part of the HABreports system and is currently being trained to identify and enumerate harmful species at a high temporal frequency to allow more rapid risk assessment of HAB development.

#### **17) “HABs and Early Warning System (EWS) in Chile”**

*Alejandro Clément*, *Francisca Muñoz*, *Nicole Correa*, *Stephanie Saez*, *Carmen Tellez*, *Bárbara Ramirez*, *Gustavo Contreras*, *Osvaldo Egenau*, *Alvaro Jorquera*, *Pablo Riquelme* & *Andrea Colifef*, *Puerto Varas*, *Roberta Crescini*, *Carlos Flores* y *Marcela Cárdenas*, *Castro*. *Carmen G. Brito*, *Coyhaique*. *Martin Contreras*, *Puerto Montt-Chile (Plancton Andino, Chile)*.

[AClement@plancton.cl](mailto:AClement@plancton.cl)

##### *Abstract*

The main objective of this work is to share the southern Chile experience of our group on HABs monitoring, research, and progress in Early Warning System (EWS), with focus on fish aquaculture.

There are several examples of EWS around the world, in USA we observe many cases; prediction, and Early Warning of the National Office for HABs, and the Great Lakes EWS. In

UK there is an Online EWS of Harmful Algal and Biotoxin Risk for the Scottish Shellfish and Finfish Aquaculture Industries (Davidson et al 2021). Also, we observe researchers using molecular biology and meta-coding data for HAB as EWS. McKenzie, et al is preparing a paper in relation with EWS for high biomass bloom and fish kills and other impacts. Devred et al 2018, development of a conceptual warning system for toxic levels of *A. fundyense* in the Bay of Fundy based on remote sensing data.

Our focus is to improve and progress in an EWS with an intense phytoplankton monitoring program on space (x, y & z) and time (t) called POAS (fish aquaculture) and PSMB (for shellfish). We complement with ecophysiology of HABs & bio-optics studies, such as *in vivo* analysis of photosynthesis of PSII using Fast Rate Repetition fluorometry (FRRf3). February results of photosynthetic parameters and abundance of *P. micans* & *L. danicus*, show clearly that dinoflagellate cells represent more photosynthesis activity than diatoms during the bloom. Dissolved oxygen levels are distinctly influenced by *P. micans*, in Reloncavi Sound section. In addition, using a linear model, there is a very high correlation ( $R > 96\%$ ) between  $F_o$ ,  $F_m$  and abundance of *P. micans*. Therefore, FRRf3 parameters is a proxy for HABs cells abundance and understanding ecophysiology conditions and improvement of decision-making process. On the analytic approach, we have developed of an algorithm for algal bloom risk for fish aquaculture, called the HABf INDEX (Clément et al 2020). In addition, we are analyzing FlowCam images, forecasting the HABf INDEX using data analytic and Machine Learning (see Link to YouTube in presentation). No doubt that smartphones are part of our lives, so we design an App for on-line visualization and automatic alerts messages after a critical threshold of an harmful algae (See in link to Youtube in presentation). Improving of SQL & Python codes, API, BI capabilities and data analytic is frequent work in the system. We are developing a system with Bio-Optical Aqua Sensors (BAS) to collect on real time water quality data. Remote Sensing, despite the limitation in Optically Complex Waters is used as tool. Climatic anomalies analysis, particularly radiation and rain fall is a part of our EWS.

As final remarks, a EWS is a practical and operational approximation to decrease the risk and mitigates HAB. However, bloom and cells conditions of *P. micans* (and probably most phototrophic flagellates) modulates the shape and fluxes of the oxygen and AOU layers in stratified waters. Local variability, patches, and vertical distribution (thin layers) complicate EWS and forecasting. The HAB of *Pseudochattonella* during January of 2022 in southern Chile was practically impossible to alert, due to a very small-scale distribution and occurred in an extreme short-term period (2 to 4 days). The message should be to increase frequency and the use several technologies to improved monitoring for early warning in isolated sites.

## 18) Discussion

### Day 1 – Discussion points

#### Understanding the susceptibility of the RSA (Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman) to harmful algal blooms and impacts on fish health and food safety

*The status of the environment and sea food production in the RSA is under threat from multiple pressures e.g. pollution & disturbance from agriculture, urban & coastal development, shipping & climate change.*

1. How are HABs responding to these pressures – what are the likely future trends?  
*The data presented at the workshop indicate a series of major HAB events in the RSA from the 1990s to present day. There is evidence of increasing frequency and intensity of blooms in the last decade in some Gulf Countries, including Kuwait and Oman.*
2. What are the biggest HAB impacts now and in the future?  
*HABs present a significant threat to coastal resources, water quality, public health and tourism, Historical impacts include major fish kills, seafood poisoning, impairment of drinking water quality and operation of desalination plants.*
3. How can we accelerate management of water quality issues to “buy” time for climate mitigation?
4. How else can Gulf Countries mitigate risks – e.g. through ROPME?  
*It would be advantageous for Gulf Countries to share monitoring data, and coordinate monitoring and modelling programs and early warning systems to better inform mitigation actions for HABs (e.g. use of bubble curtains, elevating or lowering fish cages, modified clays).  
Additional monitoring data relevant to aquaculture development and fisheries conservation could be obtained from: desalination plant monitoring; mussel watch programme.*
5. How can aquaculture be developed sustainably in the marine environment (and inland)?  
*Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and spatial planning – Several Gulf Countries including Oman, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have each produced an Aquaculture Atlas, which identifies favourable zones for aquaculture development.*
6. Do we have enough data?  
*The recent global meta-analysis by Hallegraeff et al. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-021-00178-8> highlighted the need for more data quantifying the occurrence and impacts on HABs in Arabian and Indian coastal waters. Data quantifying potential environmental drivers and HAB impacts, as well as HAB occurrences are needed.*
7. What should a monitoring and forecasting system look like in the RSA?  
*Integrated system, combining in situ and satellite monitoring data collection to feed HAB forecasting models. There are already examples of HAB early warning systems in Oman - Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO). As well as monitoring and predicting of hypoxia and fish kill events, DISCO can track liquid waste, oil spills and hurricanes, and thus provide decision-makers with a broad spectrum early warning system.*

## Day 2 – Discussion points

### Developing early warning systems (EWS) for HABs for mitigating impacts on fisheries and aquaculture

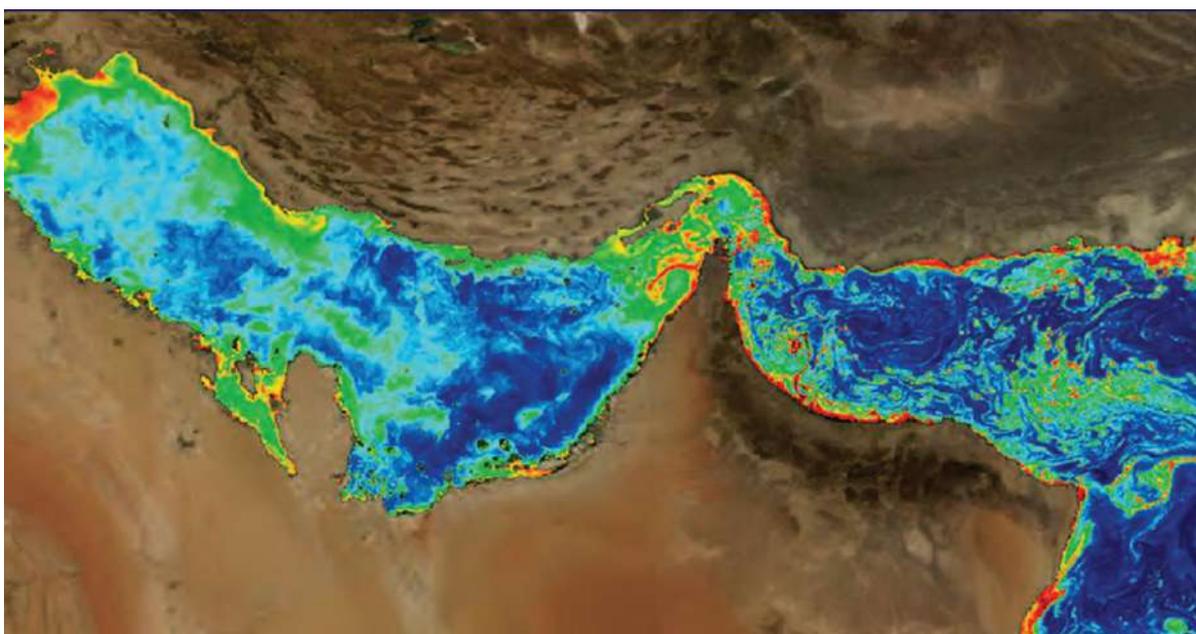
*Predicting HABs in a complex, changing world is difficult – there is no one solution for every situation, BUT all HAB monitoring & forecasting systems must be fit for purpose, sustainable, and useful to end-users*

1. How would we characterize the situation in the RSA both spatially and temporally?

*HAB risk varies throughout the RSA. Coastal margins are threatened and risk is greatest in embayed areas and areas of intense coastal development with prolonged water exchange (flushing) times and increased nutrient inputs. Nutrient and sewage inputs also contribute to increased eutrophication and hypoxia risk. The Arabian Gulf is connected to the Sea of Oman via the narrow Straits of Hormuz and the oceanography of these sea areas are different. Nevertheless HABs often extend into the Arabian Gulf from the Sea of Oman and the Arabian Sea (Al-Alawi, 2018; Attaran-Fariman, 2018). Therefore it is necessary for circulation models for predicting HABs to include oceanographical forcing over this extended area (El Kharraz, 2018).*

*Typical phytoplankton bloom patterns in the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman include low chlorophyll (dark blue, Figure 1) away from the coasts and high chlorophyll (orange and red), particularly around the Arabian Peninsula. The patterns are caused by surface transport and concentration of blooms that can disperse widely in response to surface currents and eddies (Anderson et al., 2017). The general circulation of the Gulf is counter-clockwise, and is mainly driven by halocline forces caused by the high evaporation rates (Reynolds, 1993). The northwesterly or “shamal” wind plays an important role in the large-scale circulation of the Gulf (Perrone, 1979).*

**Figure 1:** Chlorophyll concentrations captured by the MODIS Aqua sensor (NASA) representing a bloom of the harmful algae *Margalefidinium* (*Cochlodinium*) spp. (in Anderson et al., 2017; Courtesy of R. Kudela and NASA)



2. What could a monitoring and forecasting system look like in the RSA?

*There are examples of advanced HAB early warning systems in North and South America, Europe and Asia. Components of these systems could be implemented in early warning systems in the RSA, including: real-time in situ observation of HAB cell counts using imaging flow cytobots and sensors for monitoring environmental conditions. Molecular meta-barcoding could also be used to supplement microscopic analysis of water samples obtained on a regular basis to map changes in plankton community composition over time. Monitoring of HAB cysts in sediments could also be undertaken on a regular basis.*

3. Areas of method development highlighted in Day 2 presentations:

- *Monitoring data – moving beyond measuring algal blooms using chlorophyll to remote sensing of specific HAB forming species (via satellite imagery)*
- *Dinoflagellate cyst mapping*
- *Coupled physical-biogeochemical-HAB-multi-trophic level models*
- *Data and models quantifying HAB physiology and mixotrophy*
- *Cost/benefit of modelling versus high frequency sampling within early warning systems*

4. How can international efforts be best integrated?

In the first instance, RSA Countries could compile and share HAB monitoring data on a shared data platform. Suitable international platforms already in existence include Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) (<https://www.obis.org>) and Harmful Algae Event Database (HAEDAT) (<http://haedat.iode.org>). Other information and tools identified beyond this workshop could also be shared via GlobalHAB (<http://www.globalhab.info/>).

Knowledge concerning HAB events and environmental drivers (including finfish aquaculture) in the RSA, supported by information from other geographical areas (hotspots), are being collated in a workshop paper.

Ultimately the workshop paper will be used to develop a larger research proposal that will support the development of an integrated monitoring-modelling system for forecasting HABs and impacts in Kuwaiti waters and the wider Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) Sea Area (RSA), including the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman. This early warning system will support sustainable aquatic food production and will benefit other sectors (e.g. desalination and tourism) in the region. Research in this area will be applicable to other regions facing climate warming.

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- Attaran-Fariman G (2018). HABs and Phytoplankton Cysts in the ROPME Sea Area. Meeting of the Regional Task Force on Eutrophication and HABs Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 16-18 January 2018. ROPME/WG-176/4/.
- Perrone TJ (1979). Winter Shamal in the Persian Gulf, Tech. Rep., 79-06, 180 p., Nav. Environ. Predict. Res. Facil., Monterey, California.
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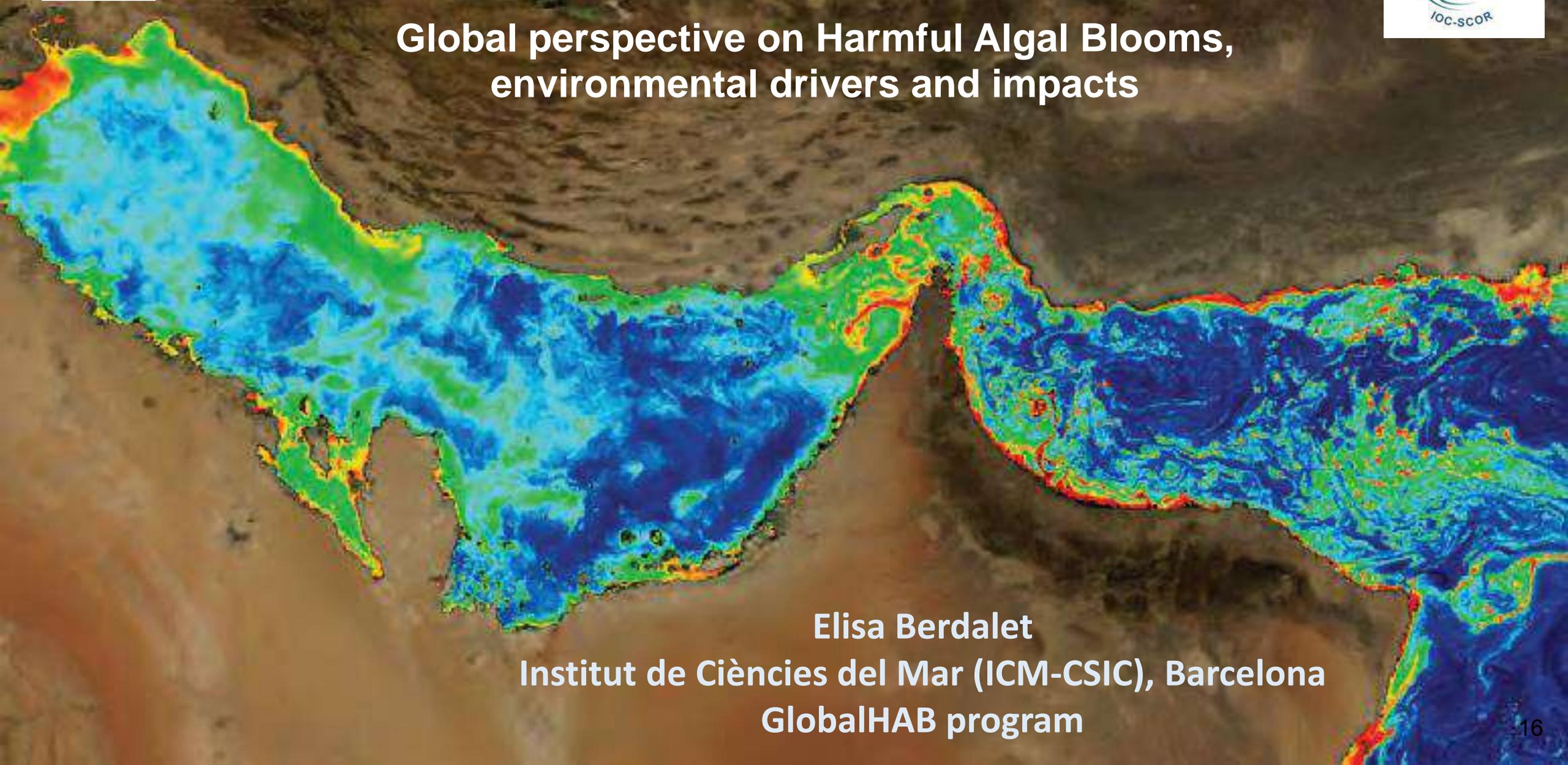
**Cefas**

SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE FUTURES



GlobalHAB  
IOC-SCOR

# Global perspective on Harmful Algal Blooms, environmental drivers and impacts



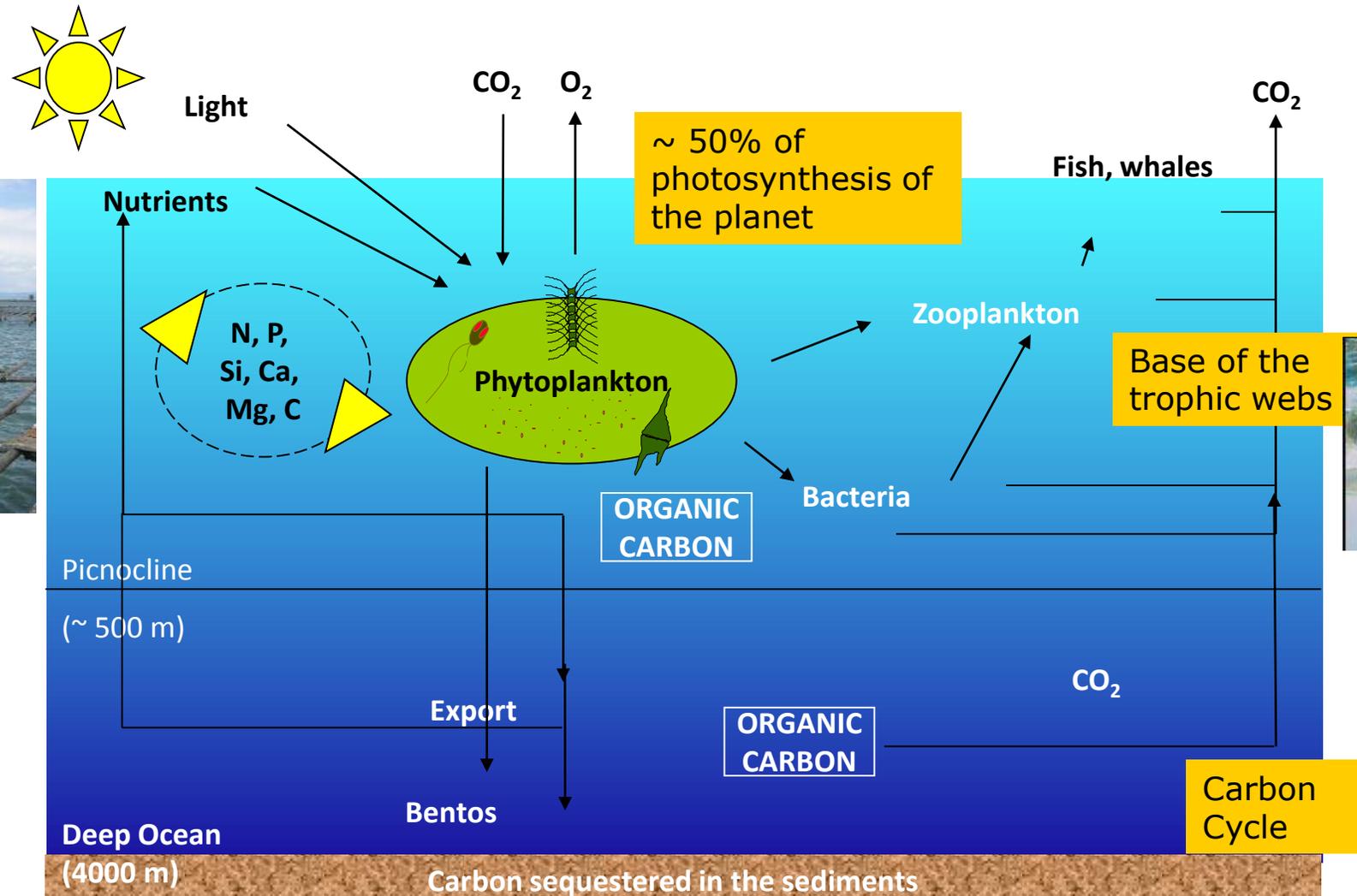
Elisa Berdalet

Institut de Ciències del Mar (ICM-CSIC), Barcelona

GlobalHAB program

# What are Harmful **Algal** Blooms (HABs)?

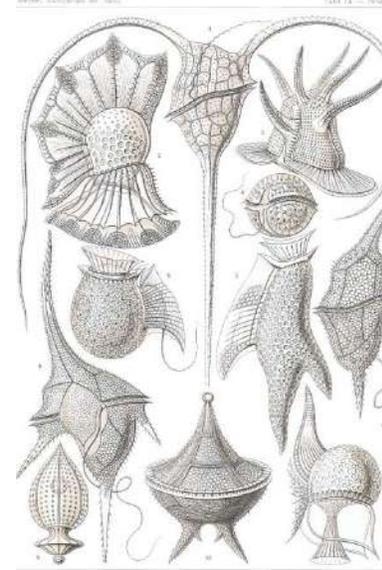
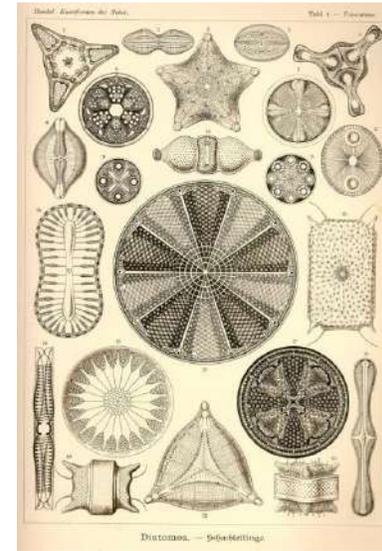
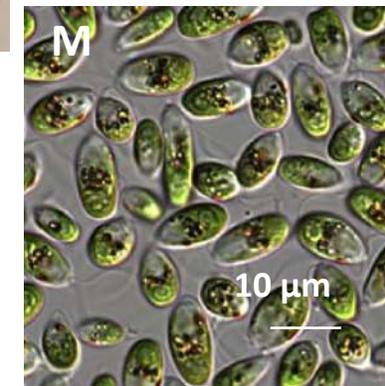
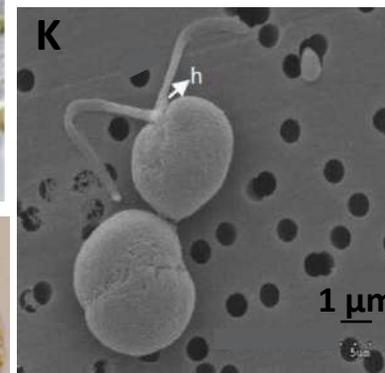
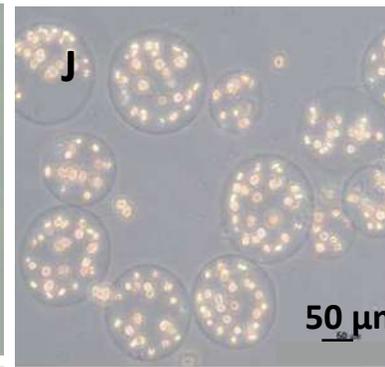
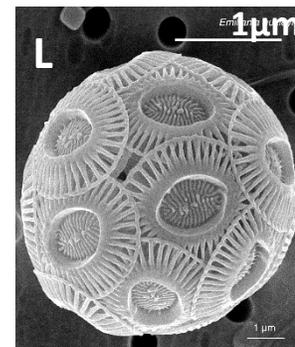
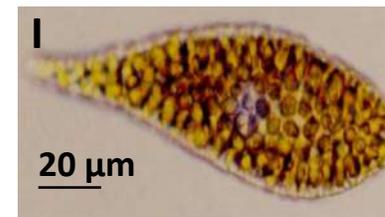
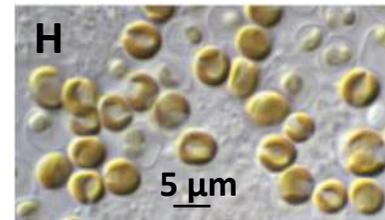
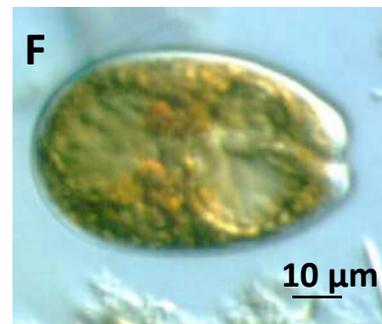
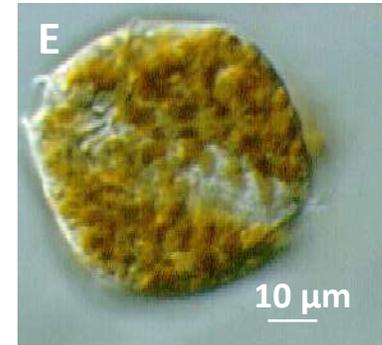
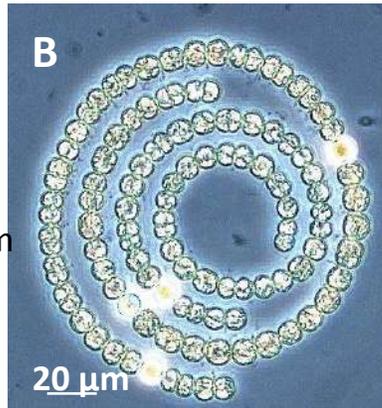
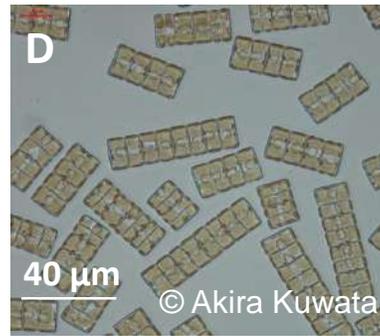
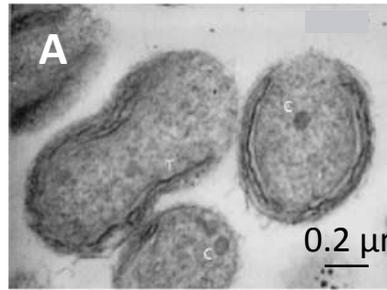
- “Algae” (senso lato):**
- photosynthetic organisms that produce  $O_2$ , consume  $CO_2$
  - constitute the base of the food webs
  - relevant role in the export of Carbon to the deep ocean



# Examples of "Algae" including cyanobacteria and macroalgae



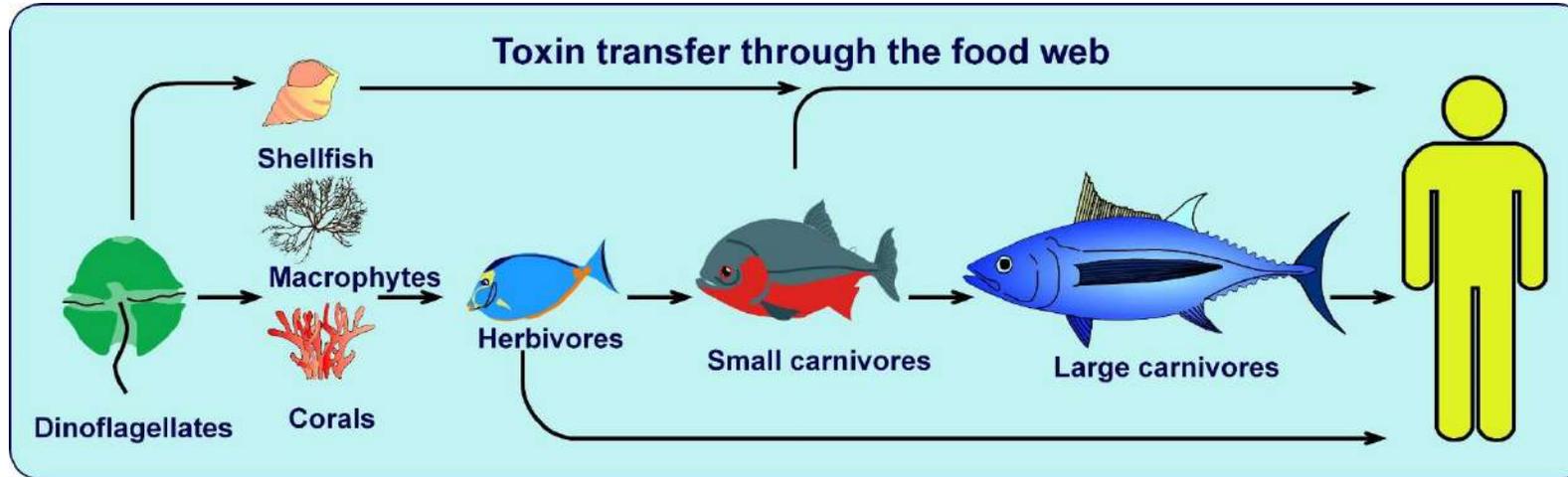
Plankton sample. Galician Rías.  
Sonsoles González-Gil



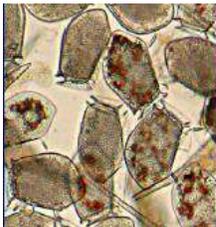
Haeckel, E. (1899-1904)  
Kunstformen der Natur

# Harmful Algal Blooms due to **impacts on human health and wellbeing**

Some microalgae produce toxic substances that are transferred through the foodwebs and ultimately affect humans and aquatic organisms, with associated socio-economic impacts



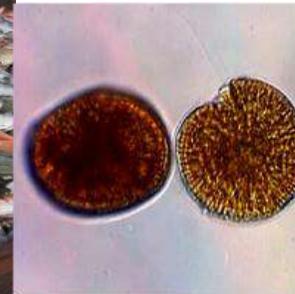
Institut de Ciències del Mar, CSIC



*Dinophysis*,  
Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning,  
Closure of shellfish harvesting



*Gambierdiscus*,  
Ciguatera fish poisoning  
Endemic in the tropics  
Incidence 1:4 people  
\$20 M loss p.a.



# Some images of HABs, low or high biomass, toxic or not, with different impacts



J Mardones. Sernapesca. IFP-CREAN, Chile

*K. brevis*, Charlotte Harbor, Charlotte Sun Herald, Paul Schmidt

Wiley et al. 2017.  
Desalination plant, Kuwait  
In: Anderson et al. 2017

# The term "Harmful" is anthropocentric: defined due to the perceived impacts on human health and wellbeing

The diagram illustrates the impacts of harmful algal blooms (HAB) on human health and the environment. It features several key elements:

- Human Health:** A photograph of a person's arm showing a red, itchy rash, with the text "Aeroallergenic transport may cause problems" next to it.
- Beach Pollution:** A photograph of a beach covered in dead fish, with the text "Foams on the beach" and "Accumulation of algae" nearby.
- Water Quality:** A photograph of a body of water with a thick green algal bloom, with the text "Algae may accumulate causing visual discolouration and may result in hypoxia or declines in submerged aquatic vegetation."
- Shellfish Contamination:** A photograph of a shellfish harvest area with a red sign that reads "CLOSED TO ALL SHELLFISHING" and "DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES". The sign also features a circular icon with a diagonal line through it, containing images of various shellfish. The text "Shellfish may become contaminated with algal toxins" is written below the sign.



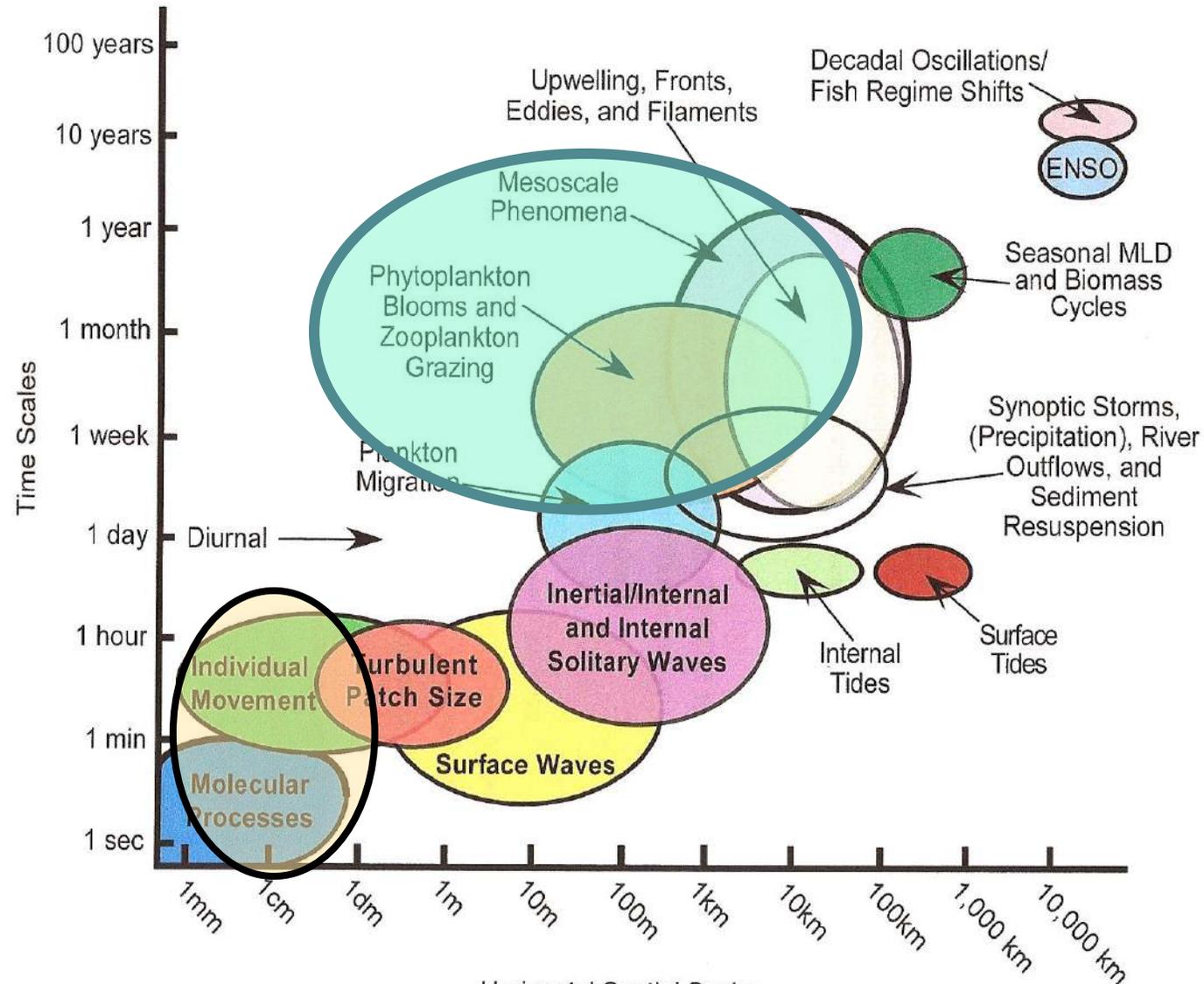
## HABs known by native populations

Margalef, Ramon 1998. "Red tides and ciguatera as successful ways in the evolution and survival of an admirable old phylum." In *Proceedings of the VIII International Conference on Harmful Algae, Vigo, Spain, 25-29 June 1997*, edited by Reguera, Beatriz, Juan M. Blanco, M<sup>a</sup> Luisa Fernández, and Timothy Wyatt, 3-7. Xunta de Galicia and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

"Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca (1490?-1564), in his *Naufragios* (Ship-wrecks, Ferrando, 1984) composed between 1537 and 1549, referred to a place along the north coast of the Gulf of Mexico, probably not far from the present Apalachee Bay. He wrote that the indigenous people there did not know how to relate the passage of time to the movements of the Sun and the Moon, and used neither months nor years, but *they understand and know about the different periods in nature by observing when the fruits mature and when the fish die*. That is, **native populations took as witness of the passage of time the return of the seasons marked by the death of fish**, a mortality that could have been caused, then as nowadays, by the **action of *Gymnodinium breve* (=Karenia brevis)**."

"To people making a living around the Galician Rías, red-tides ("purgas de mar") are familiar events, traditionally compared with menstruation, through which process the local waters would be cleansed from time to time, most notoriously in autumn. **It was general knowledge that it is not safe to eat shellfish gathered when the water has the reddish-brownish hue**. I suppose that when mass cultivation of mussels in the Galician Rías came to be in the hands of relatively inexperienced developers, regrettable events of dispersal of mussels became more frequent, with one particular instance of autumn of 1976."

# Factors controlling phytoplankton and HABs dynamics are the same



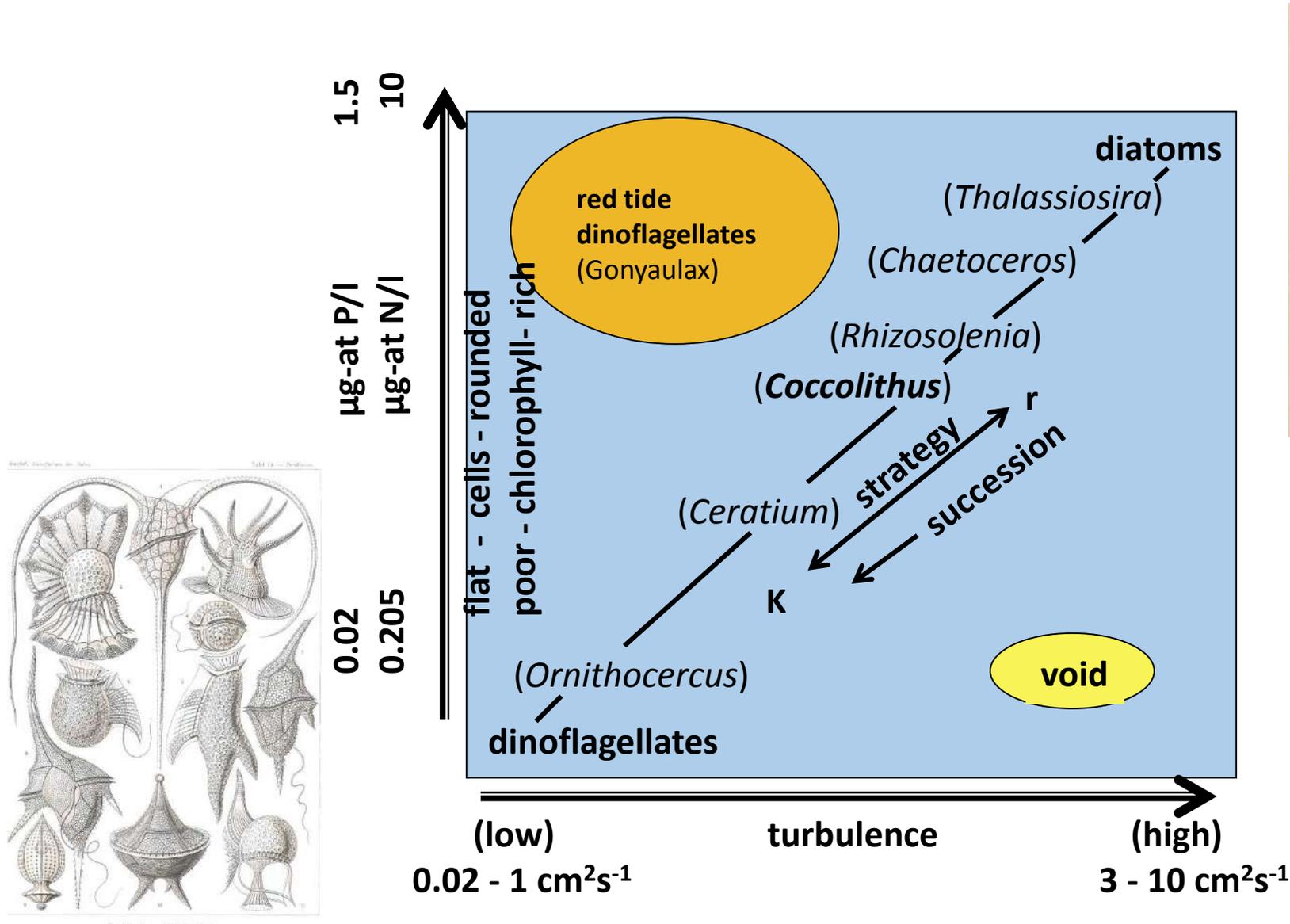
**Phytoplankton blooms result from the interactions of physical, chemical, ecological and biological processes that occur at different scales**

- \* Light & nutrients
- \* Water stability
- \* Reproduction capacity
- \* Competition capacity
- \* Few losses (death, predation)

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = mn - mn - \nabla(n\bar{v}) - \nabla(n\bar{u})$$

# HABs are a natural process occurring in all aquatic ecosystems

The phytoplankton mandala, Margalef 1978. *Oceanologica Acta* 1(4):493-509 - A tentative plot ...



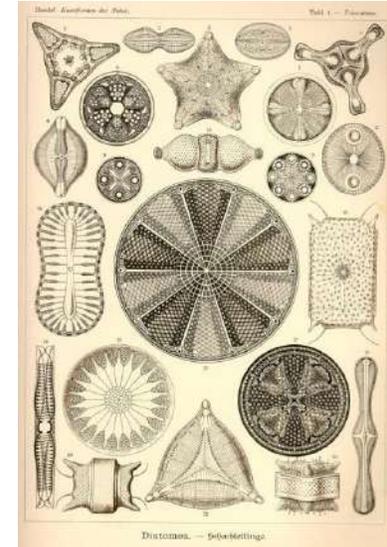
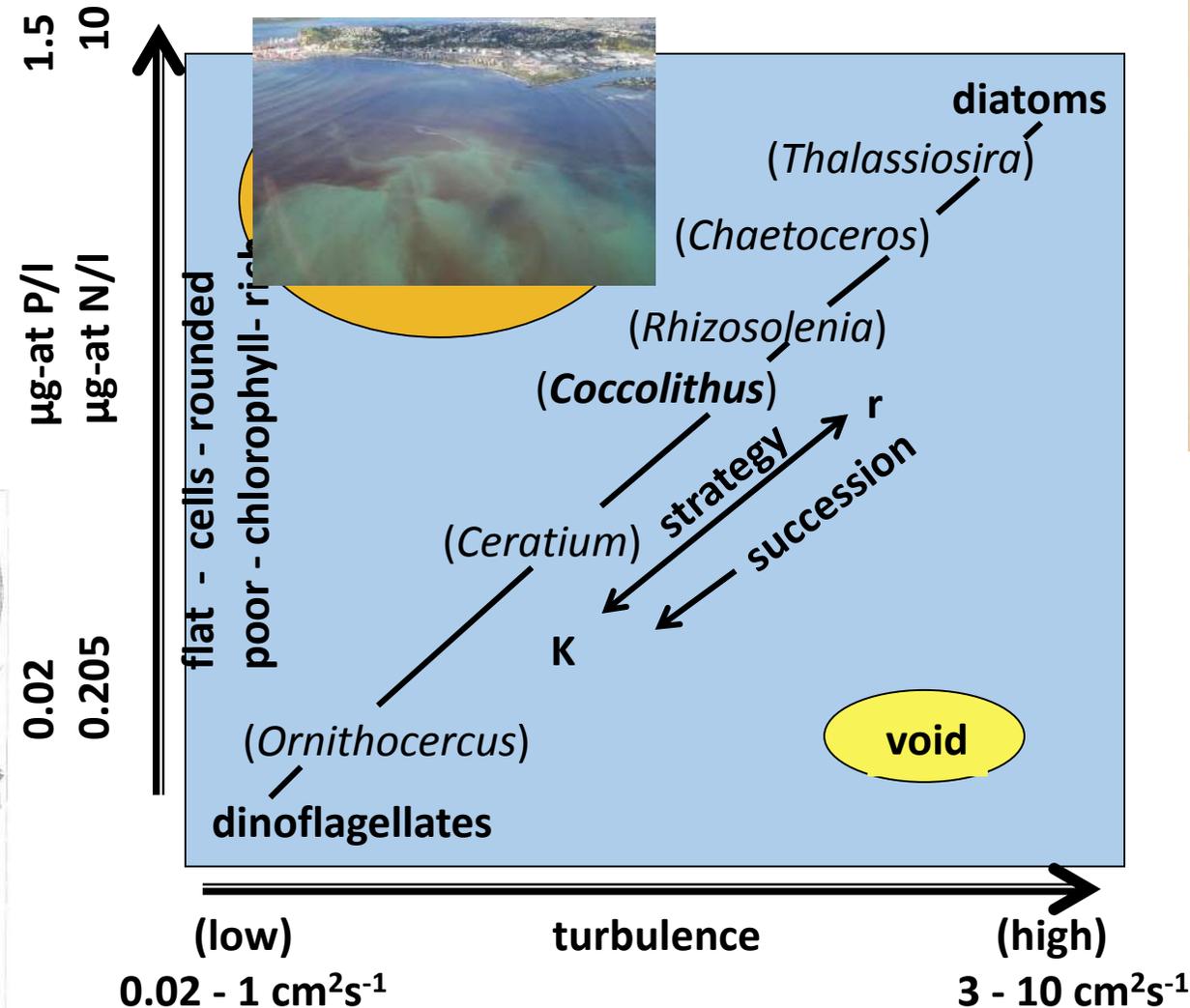
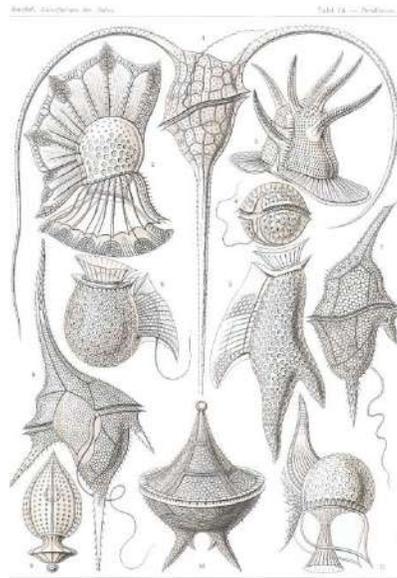
# HABs are a natural process occurring in all aquatic ecosystems

The phytoplankton mandala, Margalef 1978. *Oceanologica Acta* 1(4):493-509 - A tentative plot ...

## Harmful Algal Blooms

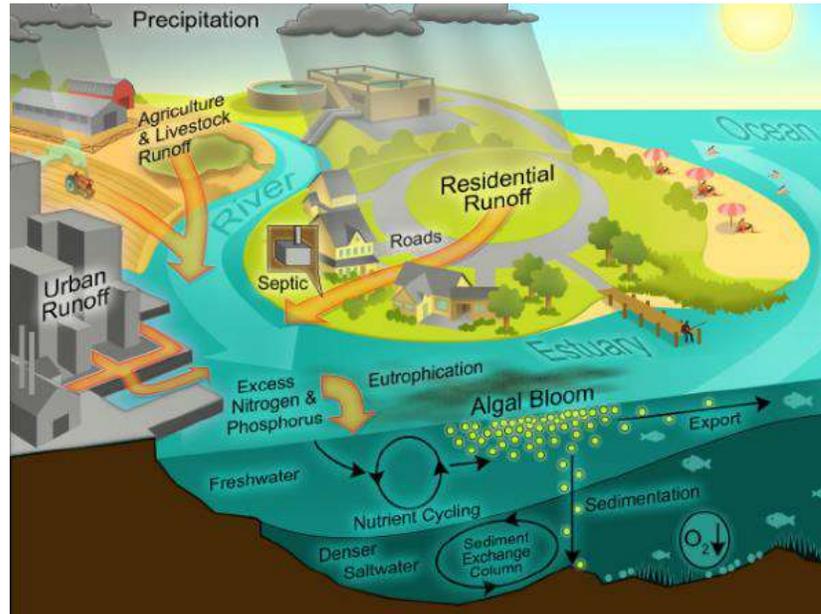
... are a particular situation within the phytoplankton succession ...

... a sort of illness, not completely ironed by evolution ...



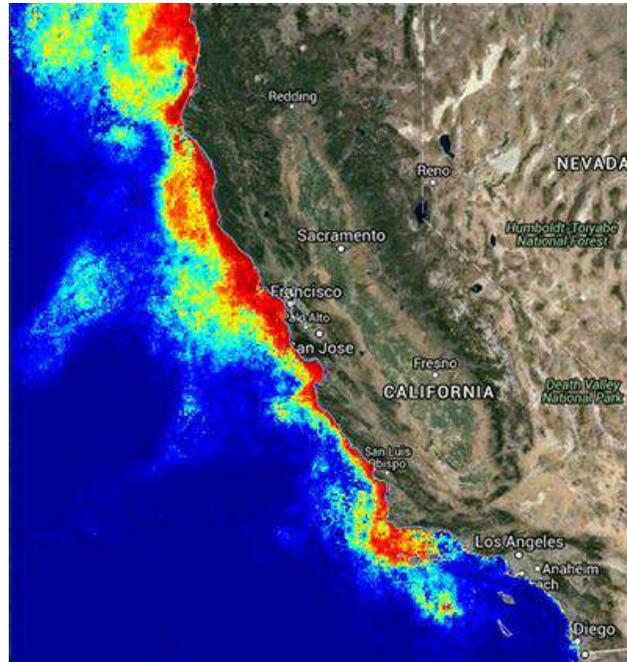
# Some human activities favour HABs

- **Eutrophication**: anthropogenic nutrient enrichment leading to excess phytoplankton production that can result in undesirable disturbance to water quality and the diversity of organisms
- **Alteration of water circulation** patterns by harbors and aquaculture facilities: retention areas that favor accumulation of vegetative and resting cell life forms
- **Spread of harmful organisms through ballast waters or transport of cultured organisms**: blooms in areas not previously affected by (certain) HABs



# Climate change, extreme HAB events

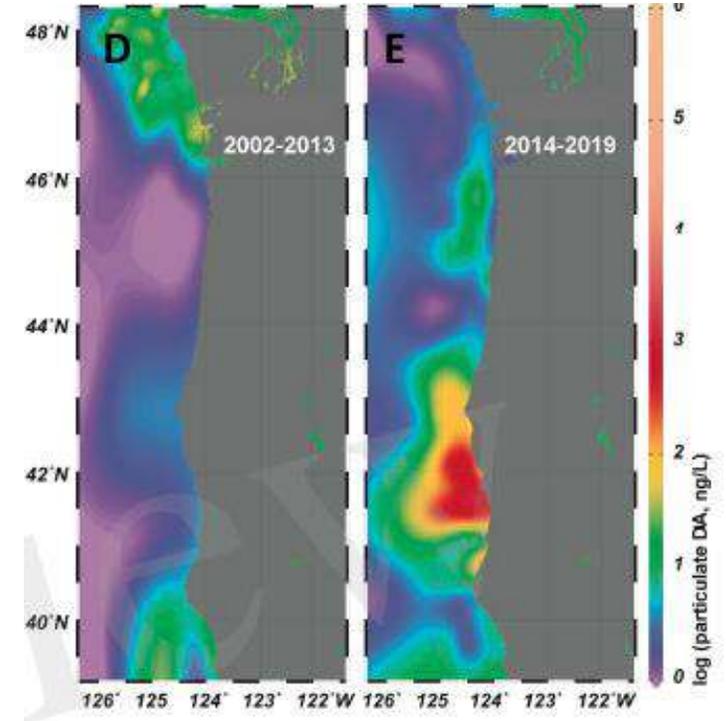
## 2015. Exceptional *Pseudo-nitzschia* bloom in the Pacific coast of America



### Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP) – domoic acid



*Pseudo-nitzschia* spp.  
Photo: M. Montresor, SZN



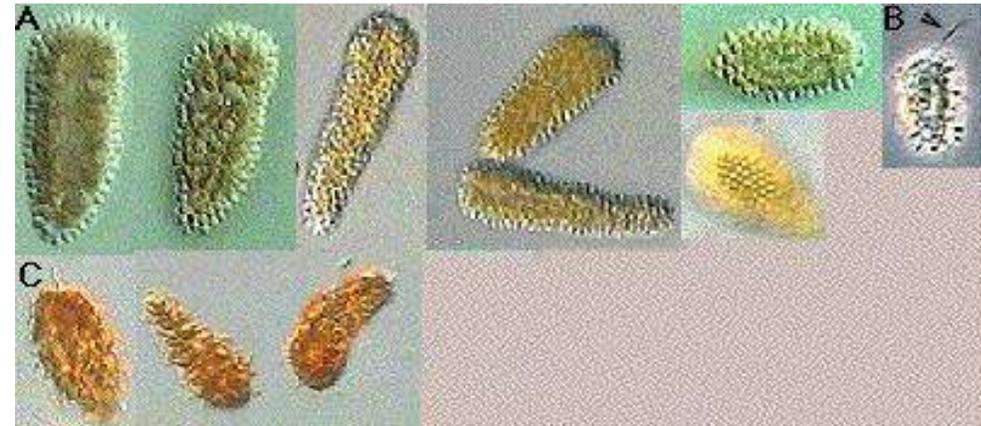
Trainer et al. 2020. Climate Extreme Seeds a New Domoic Acid Hotspot on the US West Coast. *Frontiers in Marine Science* doi: 10.3389/fclim.2020.571836

## 2016. Exceptional *Pseudo-chattonella* bloom in Chile

### Chile salmon farms lose 23 million fish due to toxic algae bloom

BY KAREN GRAHAM MAR 10, 2016 IN ENVIRONMENT

An ongoing and deadly toxic algae bloom off the coast of Chile, the world's second largest salmon exporter, has sent the country's salmon industry into a tailspin.



<http://nordicmicroalgae.org/taxon/Pseudochattonella>

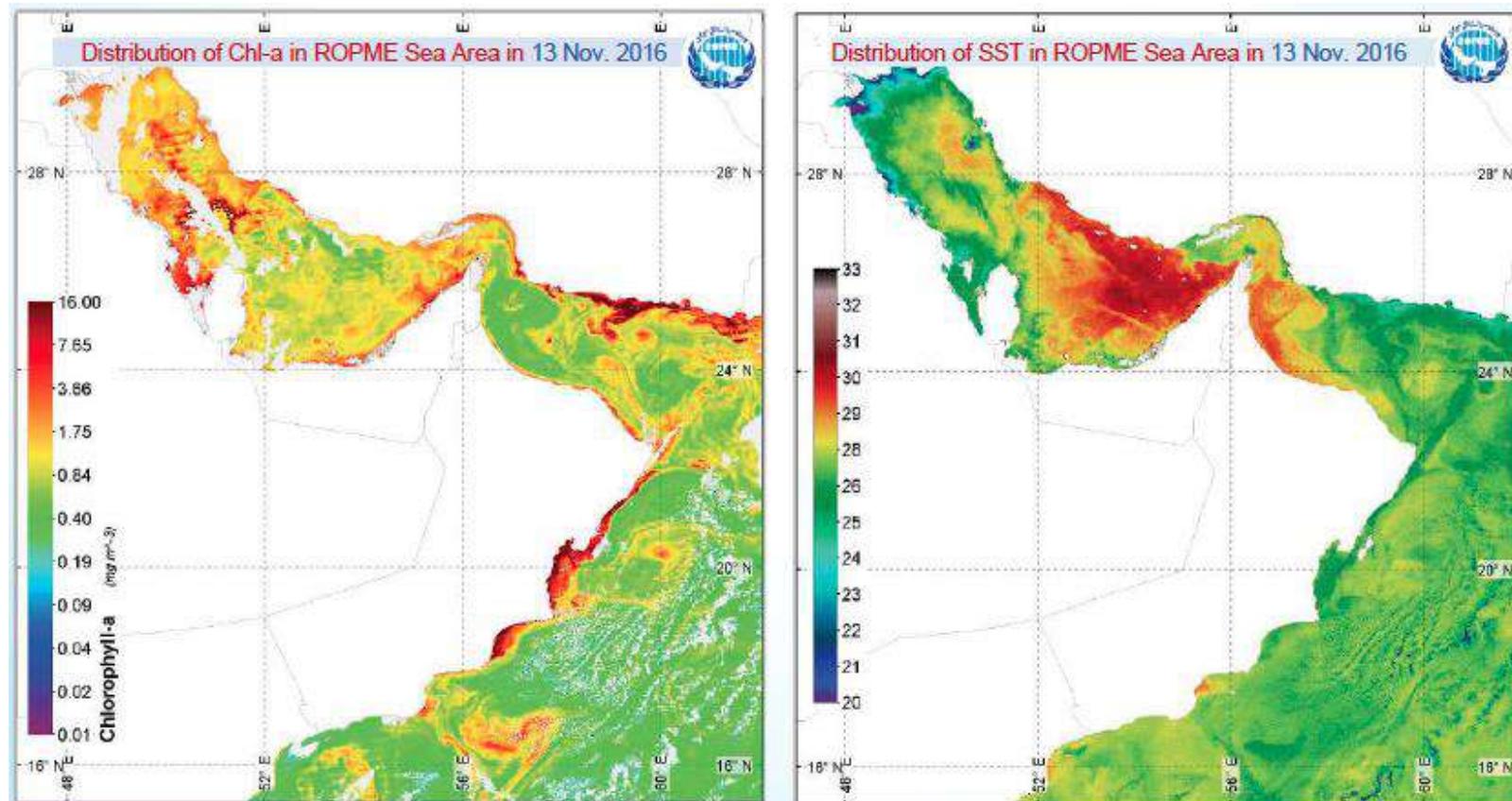
# Available tools for prevention and mitigation of HABs

- **Multidisciplinary, fundamental research. Integrated understanding of the links between nutrients, physiology of HABs/phytoplankton and physical dynamics**
- **MULTIPARAMETER TIME SERIES (basic MONITORING, in situ automated instruments) & DATA BASES**



# Available tools for prevention and mitigation of HABs

- **Multidisciplinary, fundamental research. Integrated understanding of the links between nutrients, physiology of HABs/phytoplankton and physical dynamics**
- **MULTIPARAMETER TIME SERIES (MONITORING) & DATA BASES + KNOWLEDGE = EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS**



# Available tools for prevention and mitigation of HABs

## ➤ Sustainable aquaculture



Tiger shrimp, *Penaeus monodon*, extensively cultured on the coast of Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. (Y. Fukuyo).

## ➤ International coordination: sharing knowledge

**Harmful Algal Blooms**  
A scientific summary for policy makers



**CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEA AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

# Questions for discussion

- **HABs events can not be realistically eliminated, but some causing factors can be controlled and their impacts can be alleviated**
  - *Which are the factors related to aquaculture that can foster HABs?*
  - *Which are the main impacts of HABs on the aquaculture sector?*
- **HABs are a global issue that requires international cooperation and local solutions**
  - *What are the lessons learnt in the different parts of the planet?*
  - *What can be implemented in the Arabian Gulf?*
- **HABs must be integrated with policy decisions**
  - *What are the priority strategies to be coordinated among scientists, stakeholders and end users?*



**EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS**

**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION**



**CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEA AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*Thanks for your attention  
and be involved with GlobalHAB!!!  
[www.globalhab.info](http://www.globalhab.info)*



# Environmental mechanisms associated with algal blooms in the Arabian Gulf: Kuwait Bay

Workshop: Early warning systems for Harmful Algal Blooms in the Arabian Gulf

Tuesday 22<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Yousef Alosairi**

Head of Coastal Numerical Modelling Unit

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

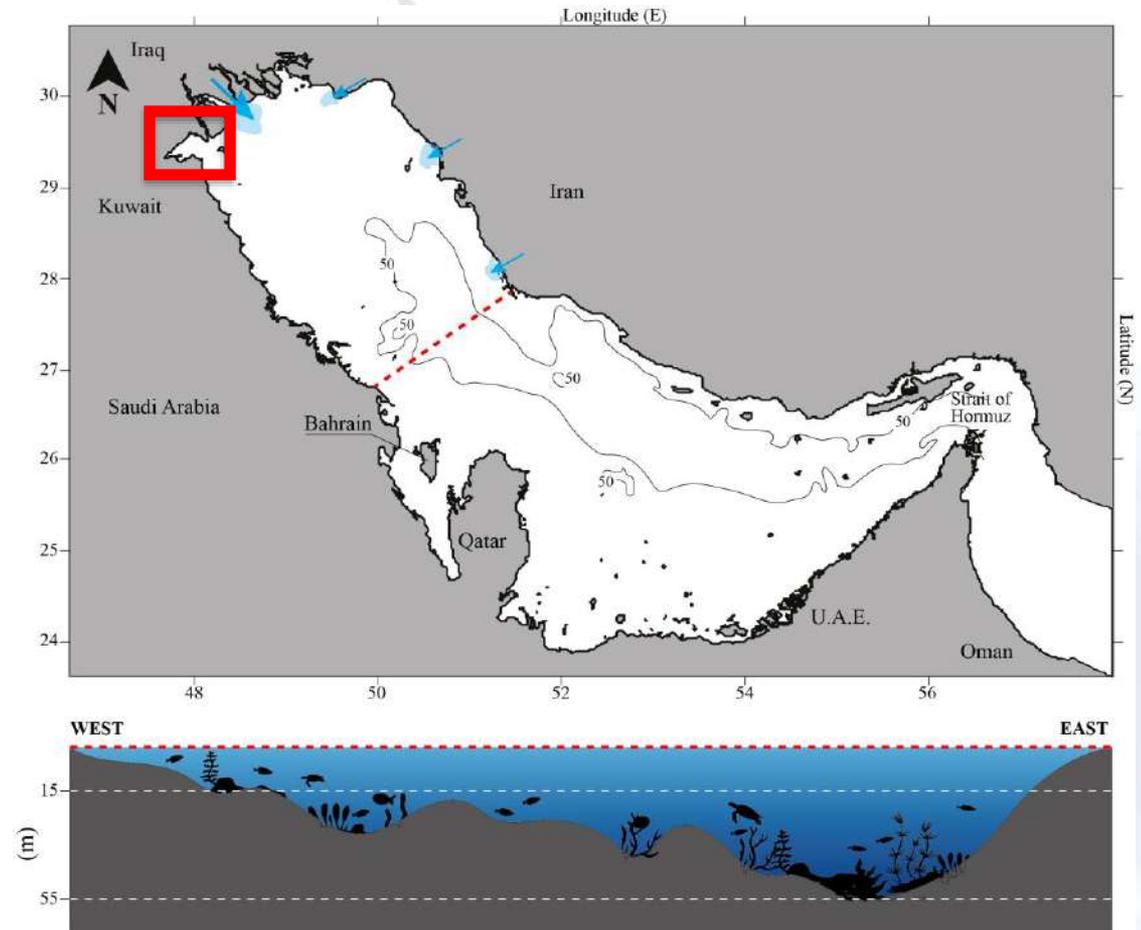
# Presentation Outline

1. Arabian Gulf and Kuwait Bay characteristics
2. Environmental Impacts in relation to algal blooms
3. Understanding algal blooms using numerical models
4. Requirements to forecast algal blooms in Kuwait Bay

# Introduction

## Hydrographical characteristics of the Arabian Gulf

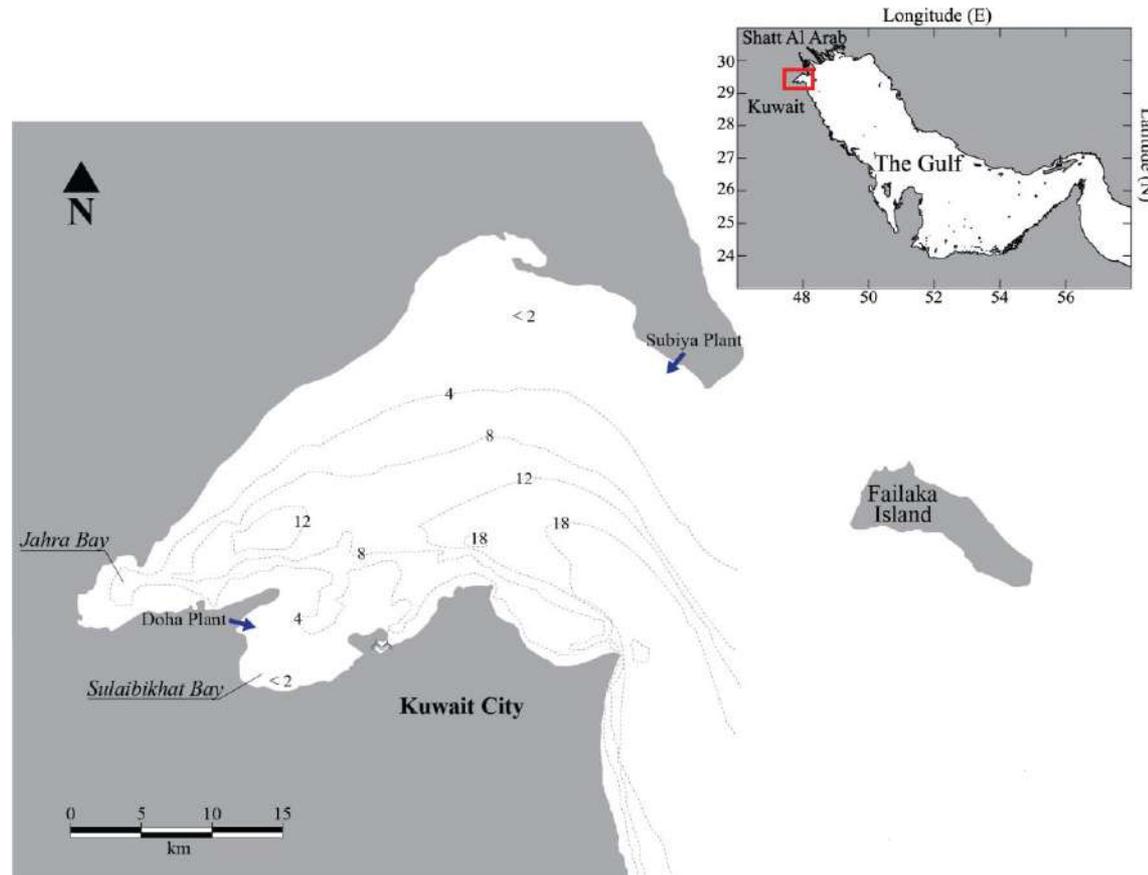
- 1,000 km along the main axis, 330 km in width.
- Limited river discharges (Shatt Al Arab being the highest)
- Relatively deeper water at the eastern coast. compared to the western coast.
- Horizontal scales (several km) are much larger than the vertical (several meters)
- Restricted by the Strait of Hormuz (56 km in width)
- High residence time (3-4 yrs)
- High evaporation
- Tides are mixed semi-diurnal
- Dominating winds blow from northwest.
- **Horizontal transport is much larger than the vertical**



# Introduction

## Hydrographical characteristics of Kuwait Bay

- 40 km along the main axis, 21 km in width.
- 2 desalination plants (3 discharges)
- Depth range 2-20 m
- Residence time 45-60 days
- High evaporation
- Tides are mixed semi-diurnal
- Tidal driven currents



# Coastal Human Activities

## Waterfront developments in the Arabian Gulf



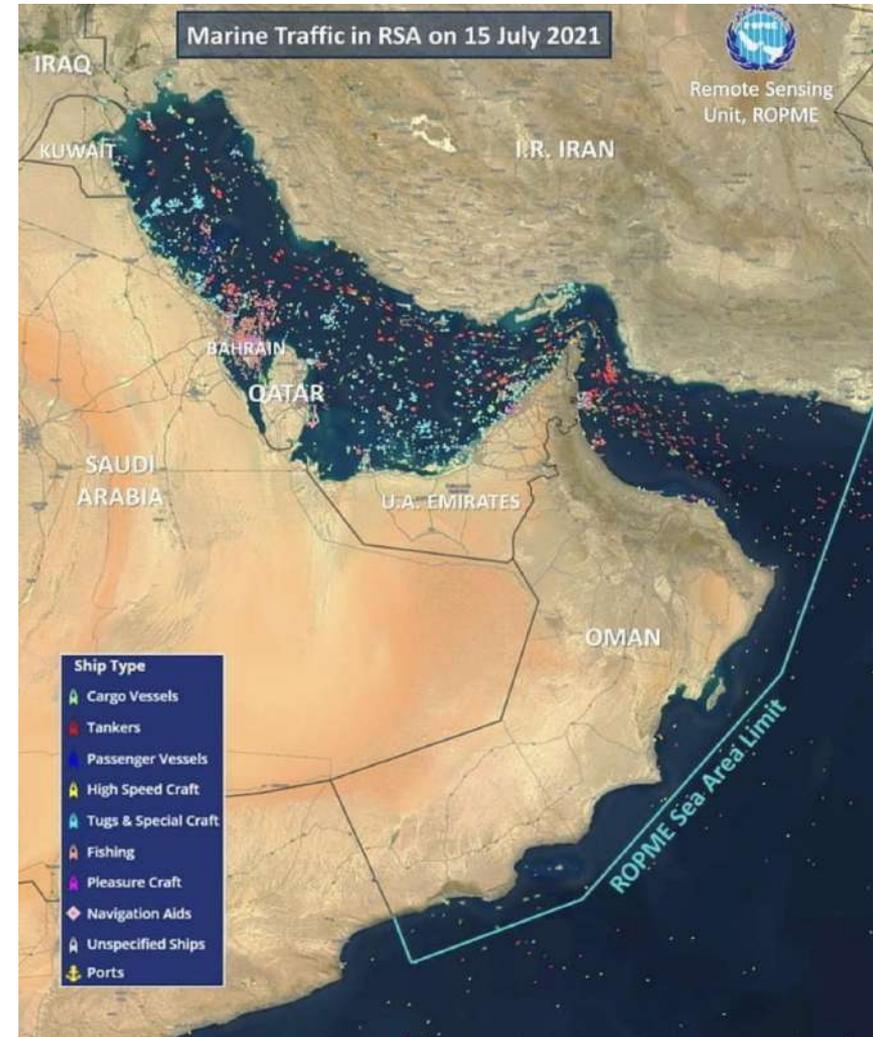
- Increase in water turbidity
- Reduced water quality
- Human nutrient loading
- Macro and micro plastics input
- Shift in the dynamic behavior

# Regional Environmental Impacts

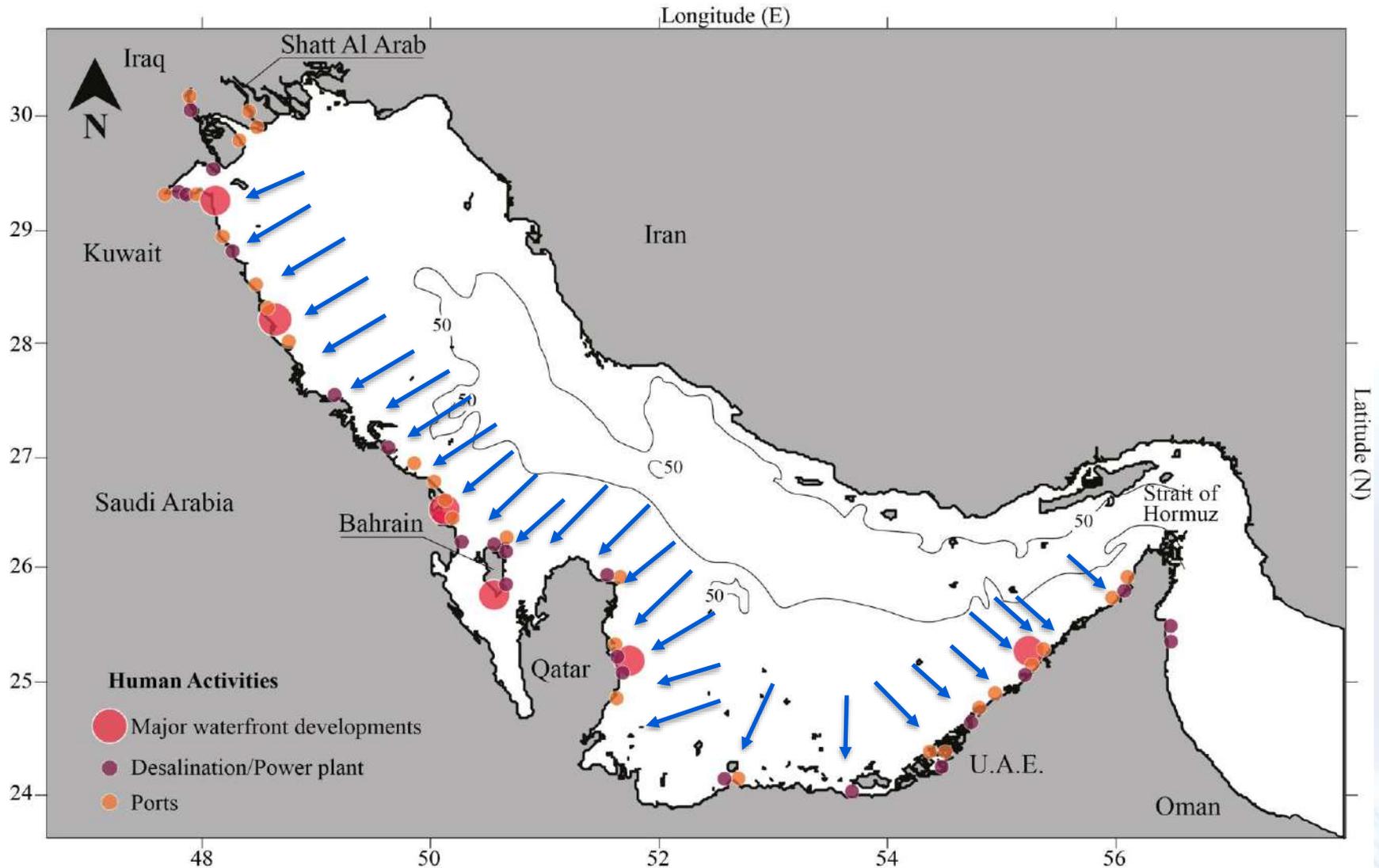
## Marine traffic on 15 July 2021

- The Arabian Gulf receives more than 50 thousand vessels/boats:
  - Oil related transport
  - Tourism
  - Commercial
  - Military
  - Fishing

**Invasive species !!**



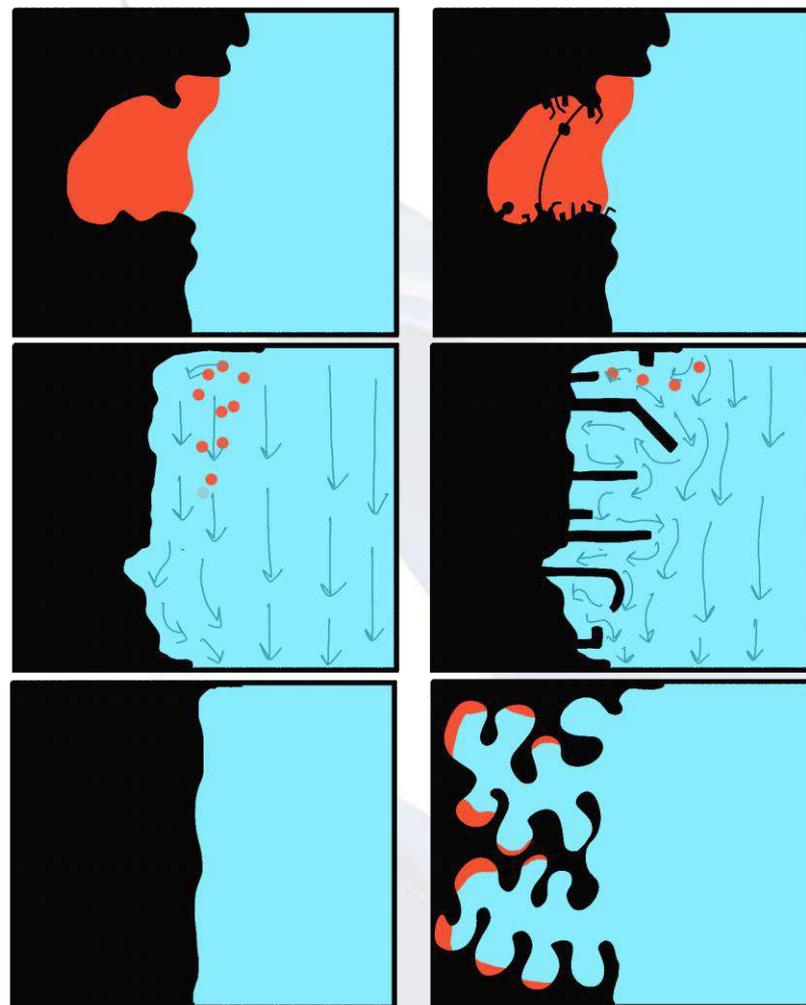
# Activities along the shoreline of the western coast of the Gulf



# Local Environmental Impacts

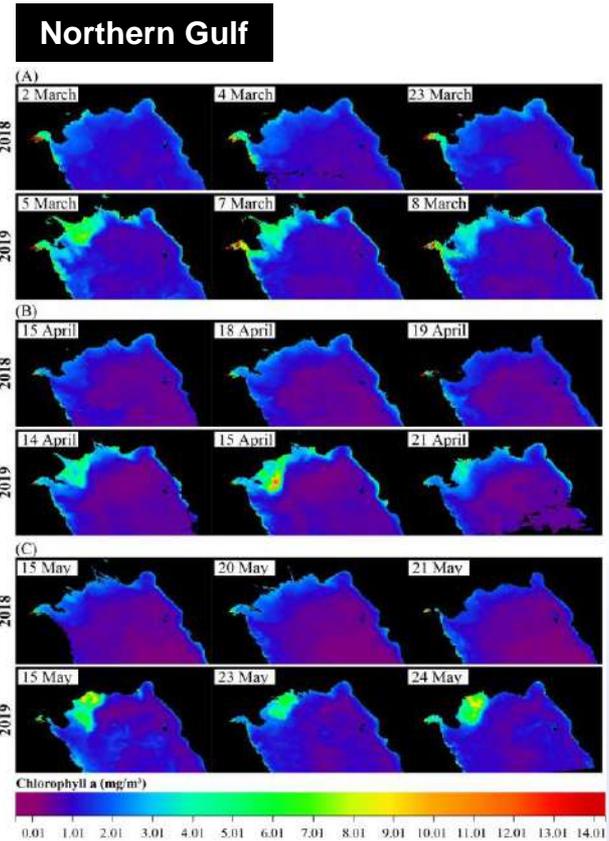
## Waterfront developments effects at the near fields

- High residence time
- Long transport time scales
- Entrapments and accumulation
- Low water exchange and renewal
- Shifts in mixing and dispersion regime
- **Sediment adsorption/desorption (nutrient fluxes)**

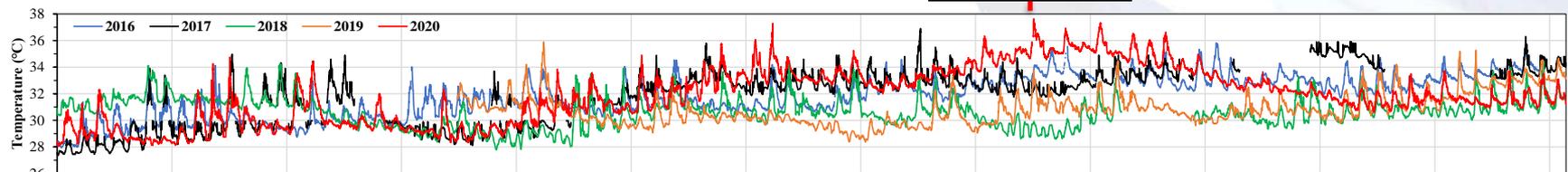


# Climate Change Impacts

- Increase in sea-surface temperature
- Extreme winds
- Reduction/shifts in runoffs (loss of species)
- Frequent and extensive dust storms
- **Shift in species communities**



**37.6 °C**



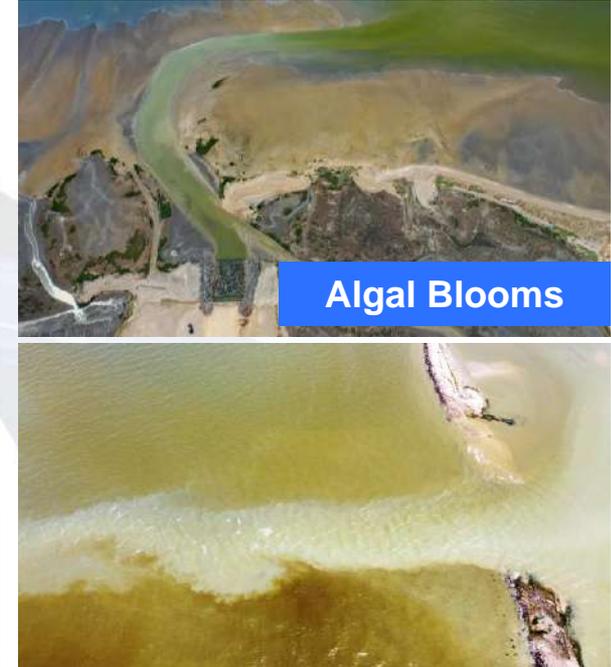
Source: Alosairi et al., 2020

# Algal blooms and fish kill events

Red Tide



Algal Blooms

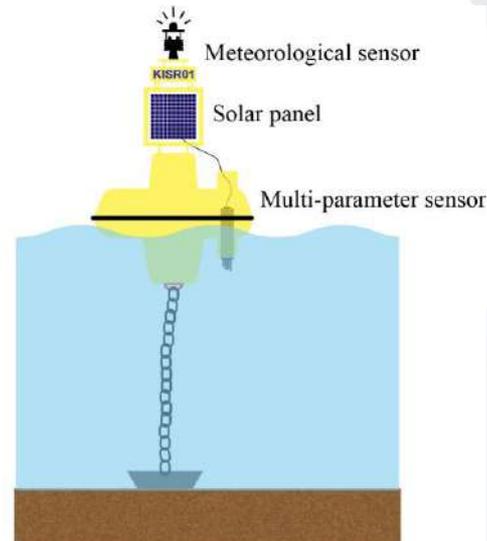


Fish Kill events



# Understanding the Environment-Hydrodynamics

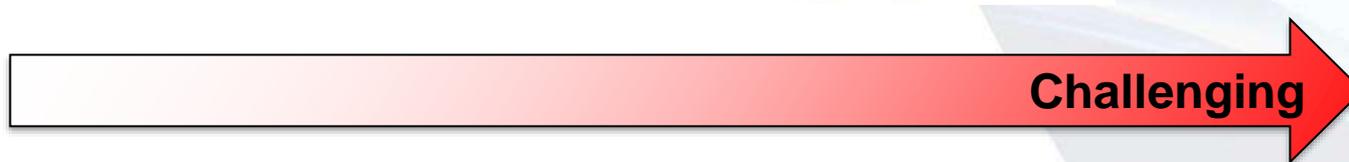
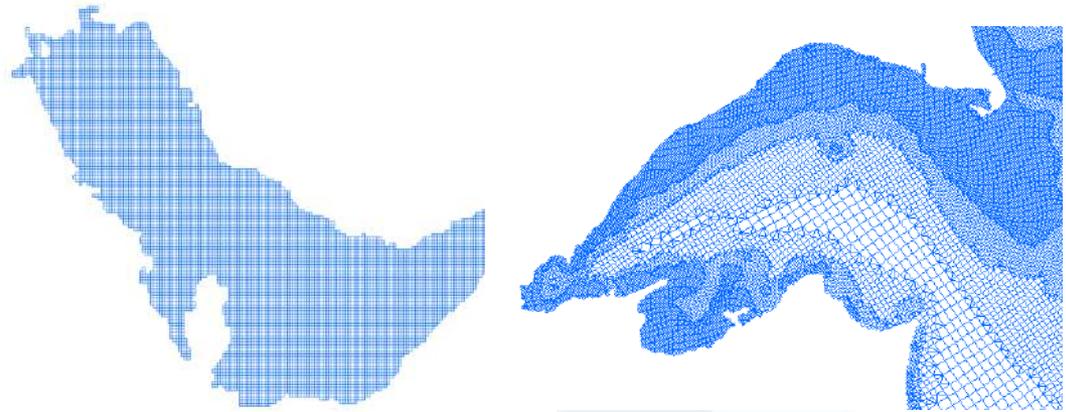
- Field measurements of the physical parameters using autonomous sensors
- Understanding the seasonal variations of the driving forces



# Numerical Modelling

## Limitations and Challenges

- Computational time/capacity
- Numerical assumption
- Model calibration and validation
- Horizontal and vertical resolution
- **Model schematization**



### Hydrodynamics

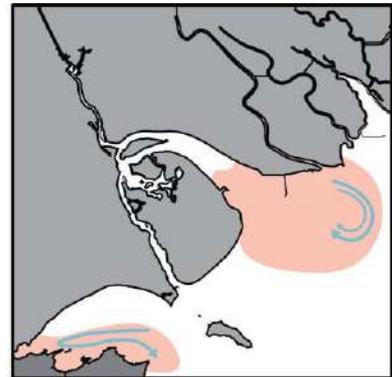
- Data availability
- Well defined mathematically
- Data available for boundary forcing (e.g. global models, satellite)
- Sensitivity assessments involve limited parameters

### Water quality/algal blooms

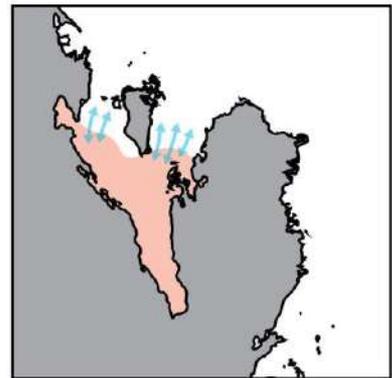
- Data scarcity
- Complex kinematics
- Difficult to force boundary conditions (many unknown sources/sinks)
- Sensitivity assessment involve many parameters

# Water Circulation

## Numerical modelling and field survey

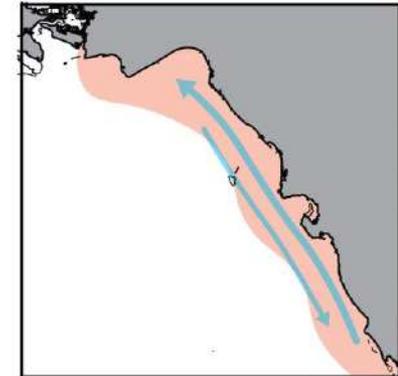
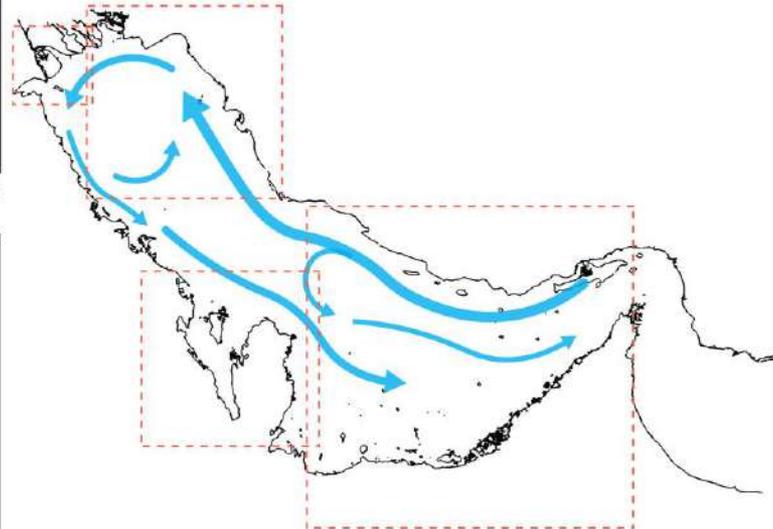


Estuarine VS Reverse-Estuarine fields

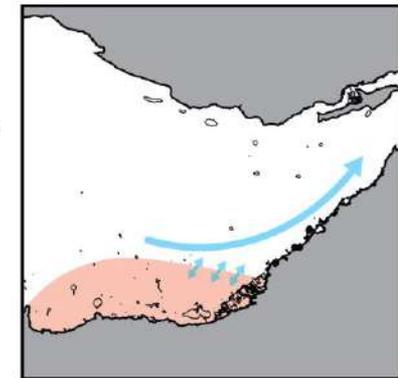


Horizontal Density Gradients (Enclosed)

### Arabian Gulf Estuarine Processes



Alongshore currents (vertically)

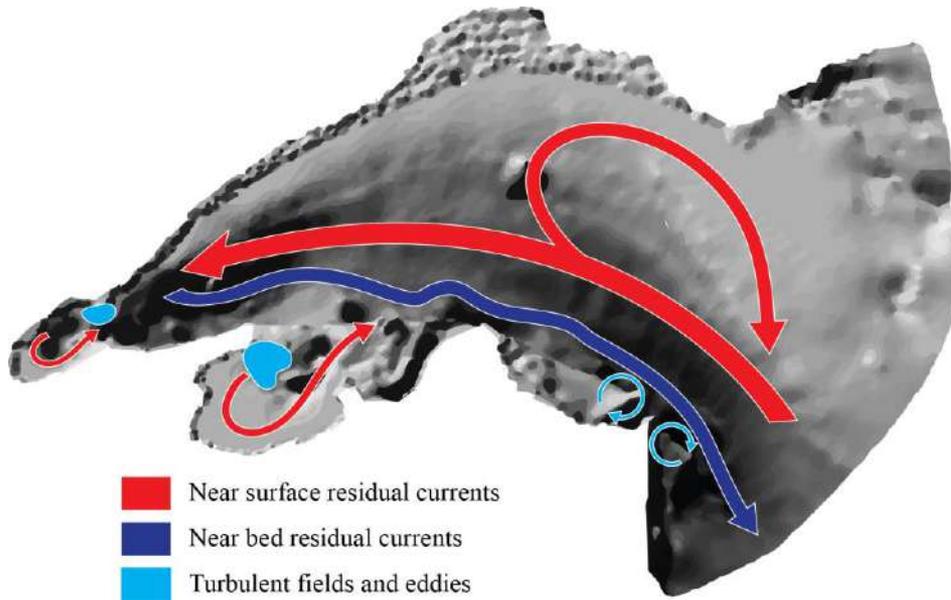
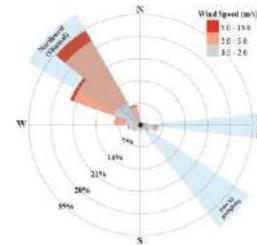


Horizontal Density Gradients (open)

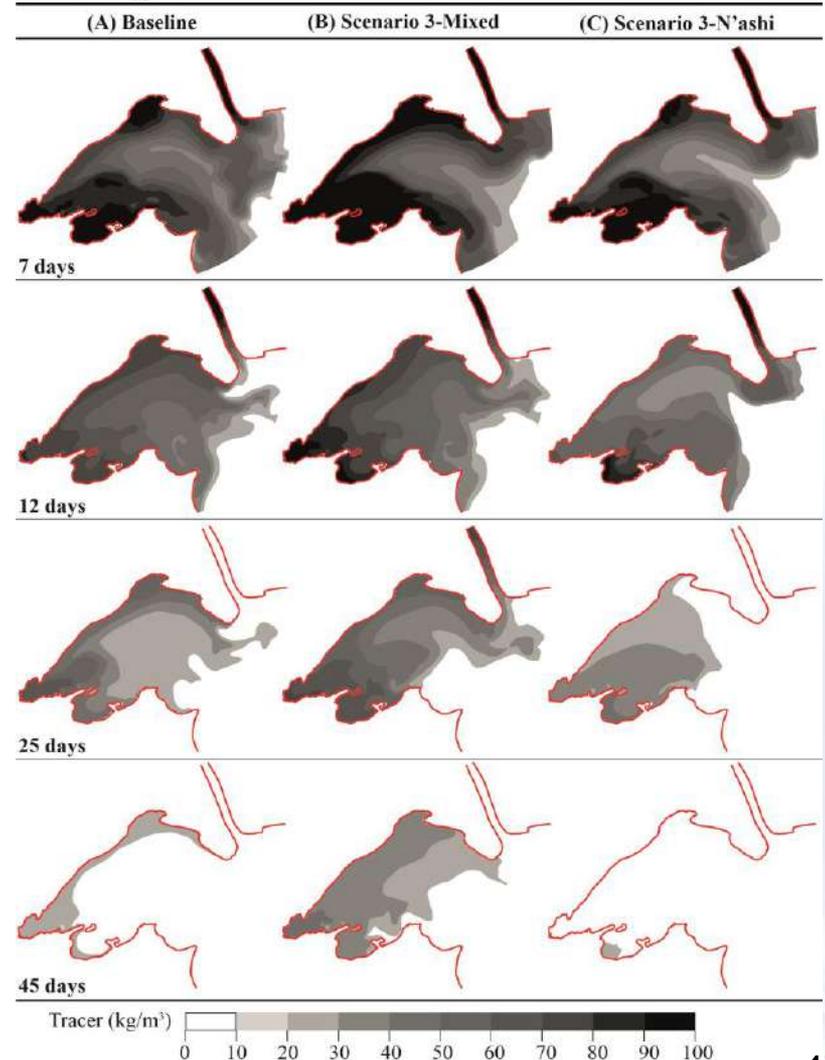
**Understanding the mixing and transport regime**

# Kuwait Bay Hydrodynamics

## Residual circulations and residence time



- Reverse estuarine circulations at the relatively deep areas
- Internal areas experience high residence time
- Winds play significant role in flushing the system



# Algal blooms in Kuwait Bay

## Residual circulations and residence time

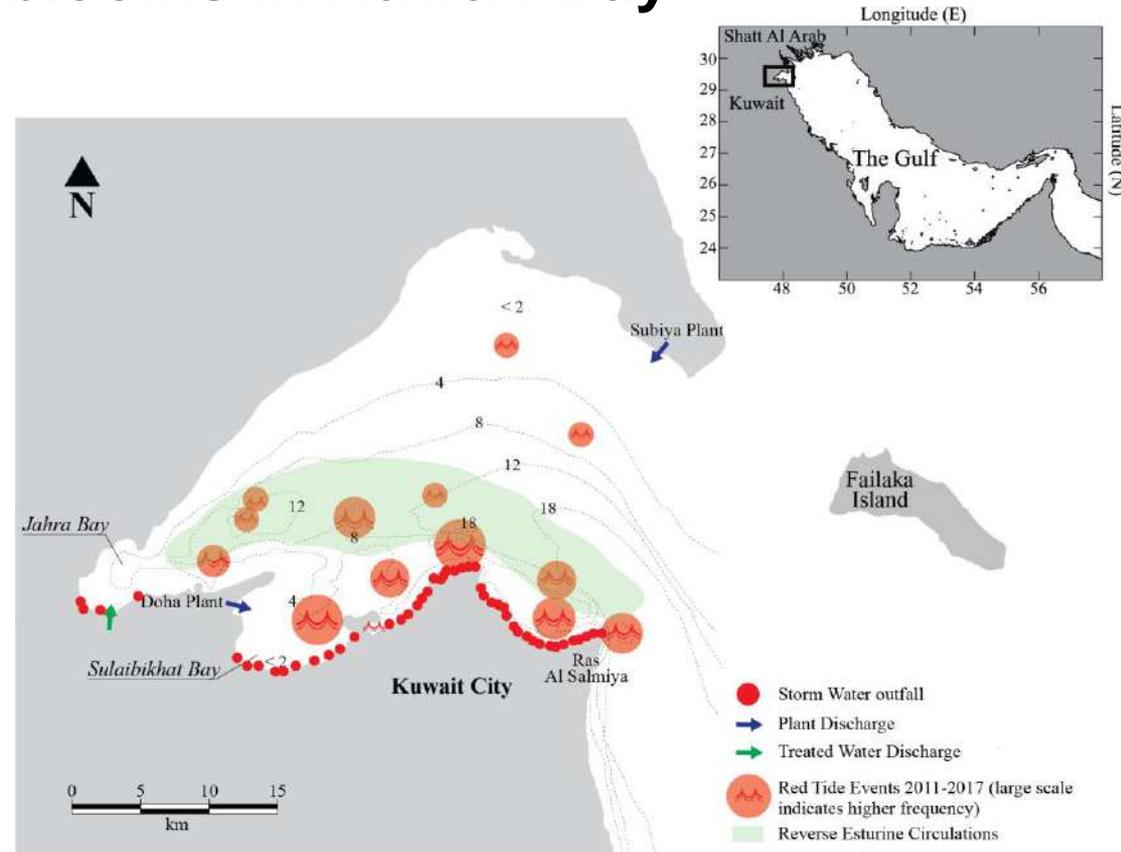


- General patterns of the bloom follow the residual currents of the Bay
- Algal blooms occurs closer to the southern coast (lower dynamic zones)

# Understanding Algal blooms in Kuwait Bay

## Nutrient loadings

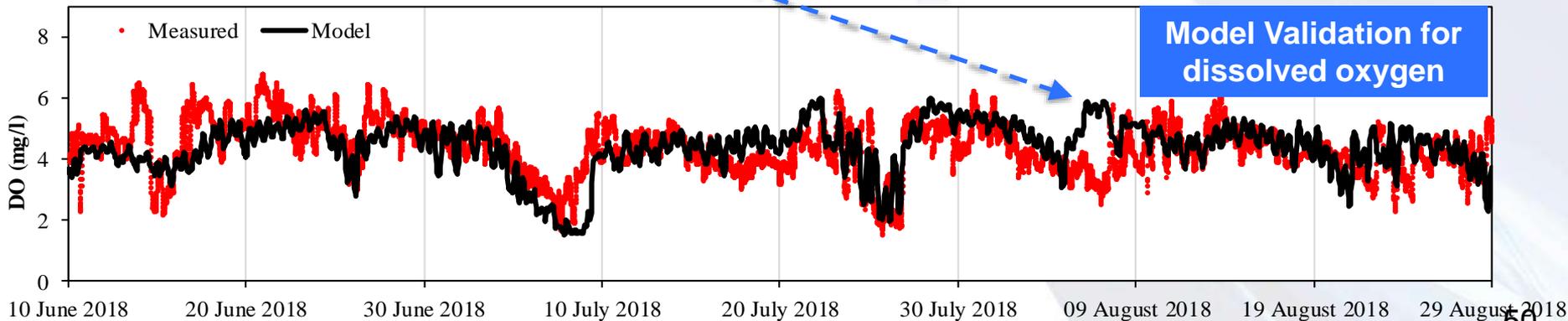
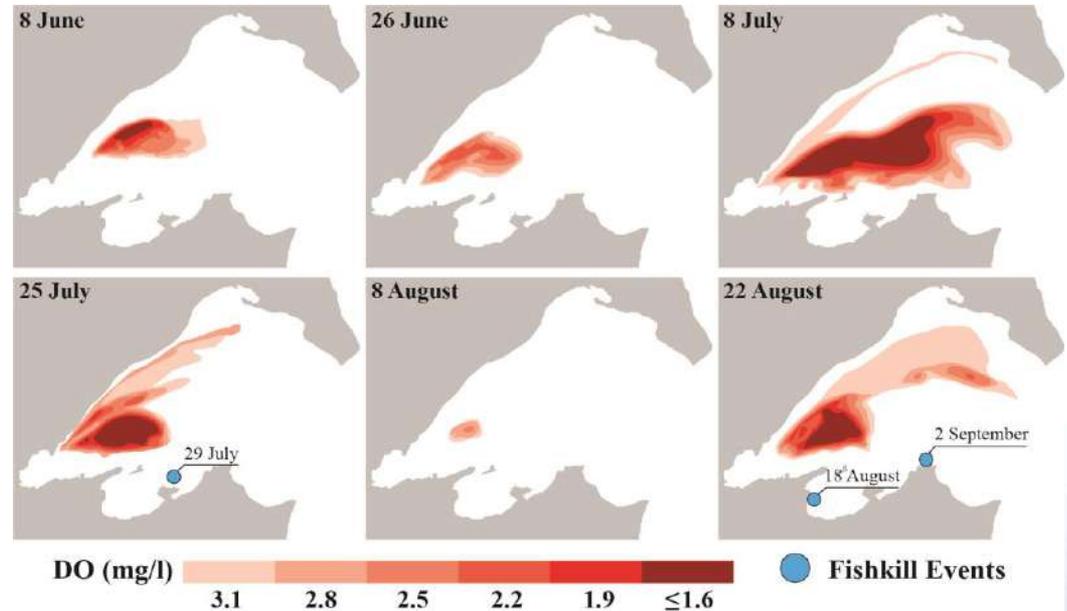
- Unsystematic discharges are continuous and increasing (74 outfalls from 1970s up to date)
- Algal blooms and fish kill events vary in scales but within the same vicinity
- Summer blooms are associated with fish kill events
- Hypoxic waters are found in the internal semi-enclosed zones



# Kuwait Bay-Water quality modelling

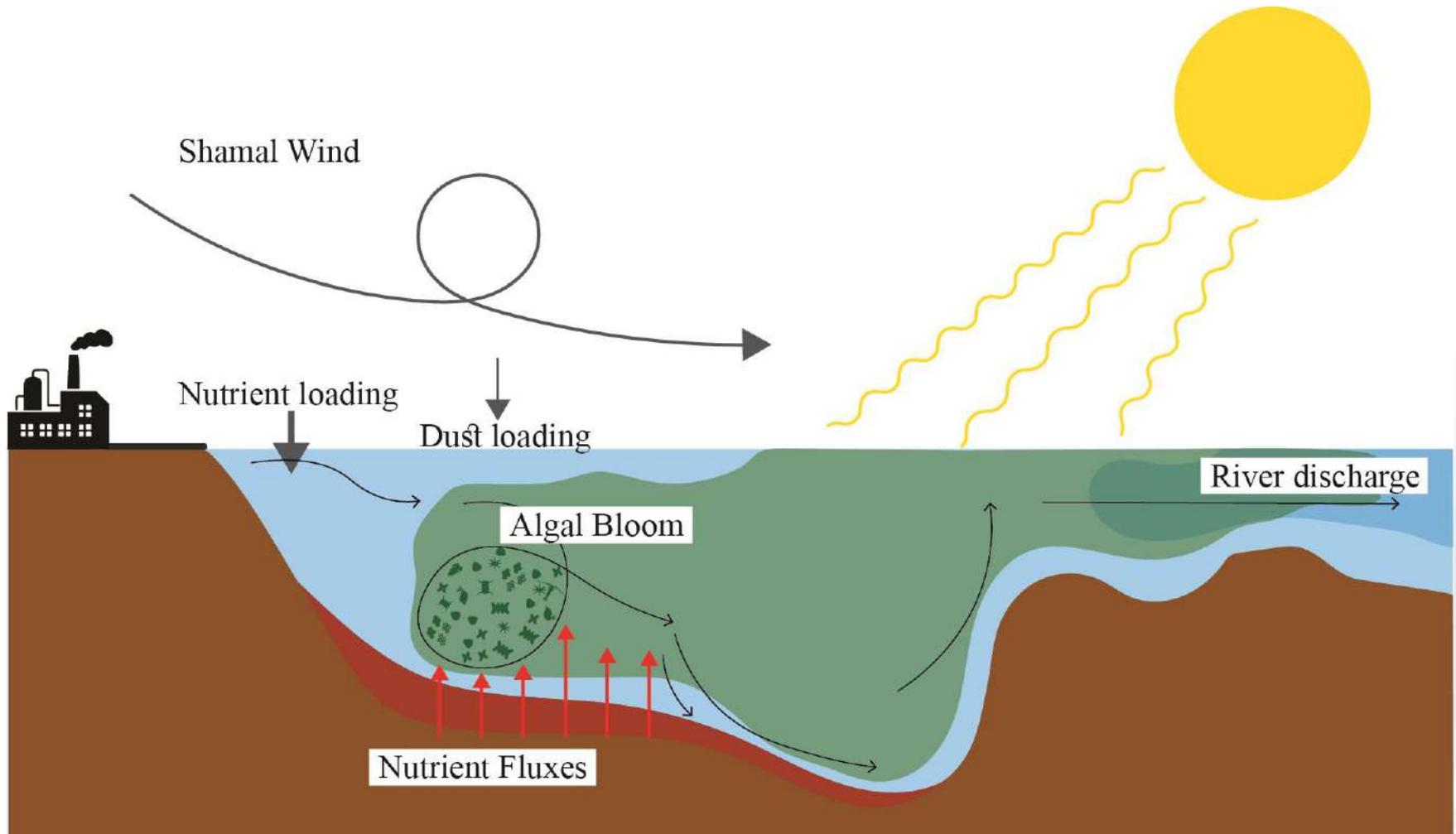
## Simple model configurations

- Modelling dissolve oxygen dynamics
- Validate with field measurements
- Identifying the hypoxic zones and relate them with algal blooms
- **Several incidents could not be captured**

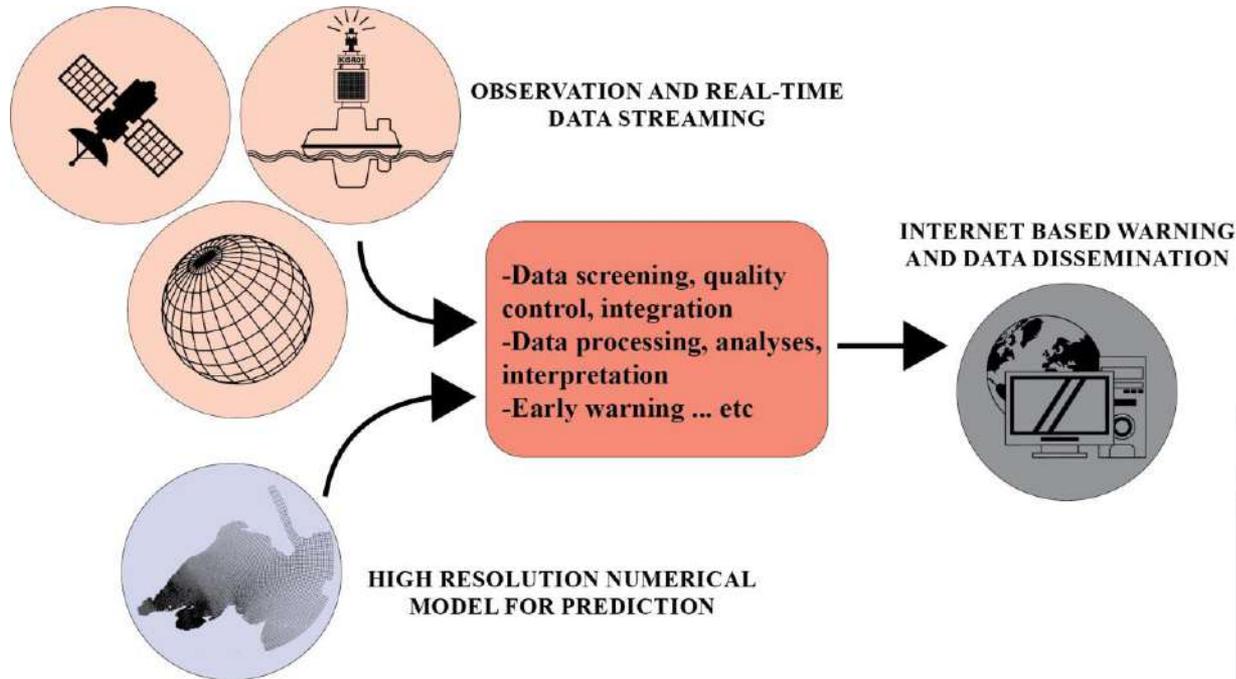


# Numerical Modelling Improvements

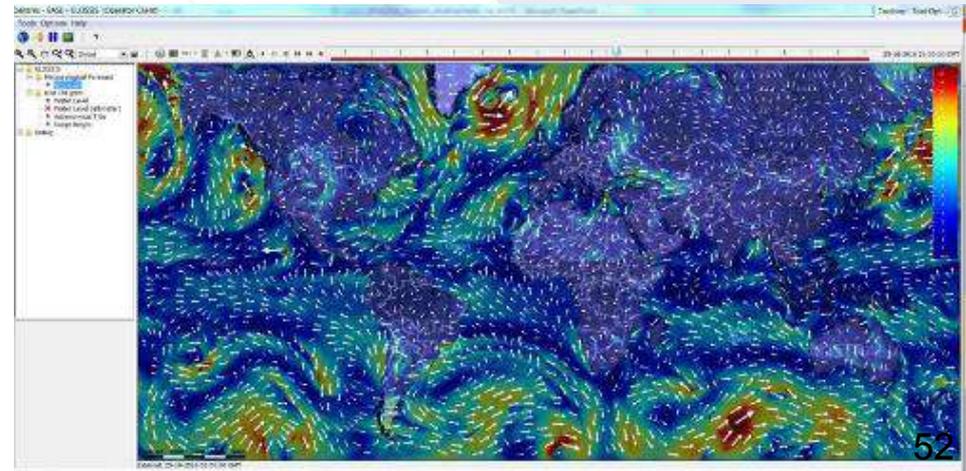
## Sediment-water interactions



# Developments of forecasting system



- What is the best configuration for an operational numerical system for Kuwait Bay?
- How could the knowledge of an operating system be utilized for coastal management purposes?
- What it requires, numerically, to develop a fully integrated system including water quality and sediment transport for algal bloom forecasting.
- Can an operational system assist in understanding the potential risks and challenges on the current and future waterfront development of the Bay?



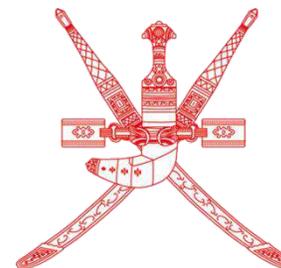
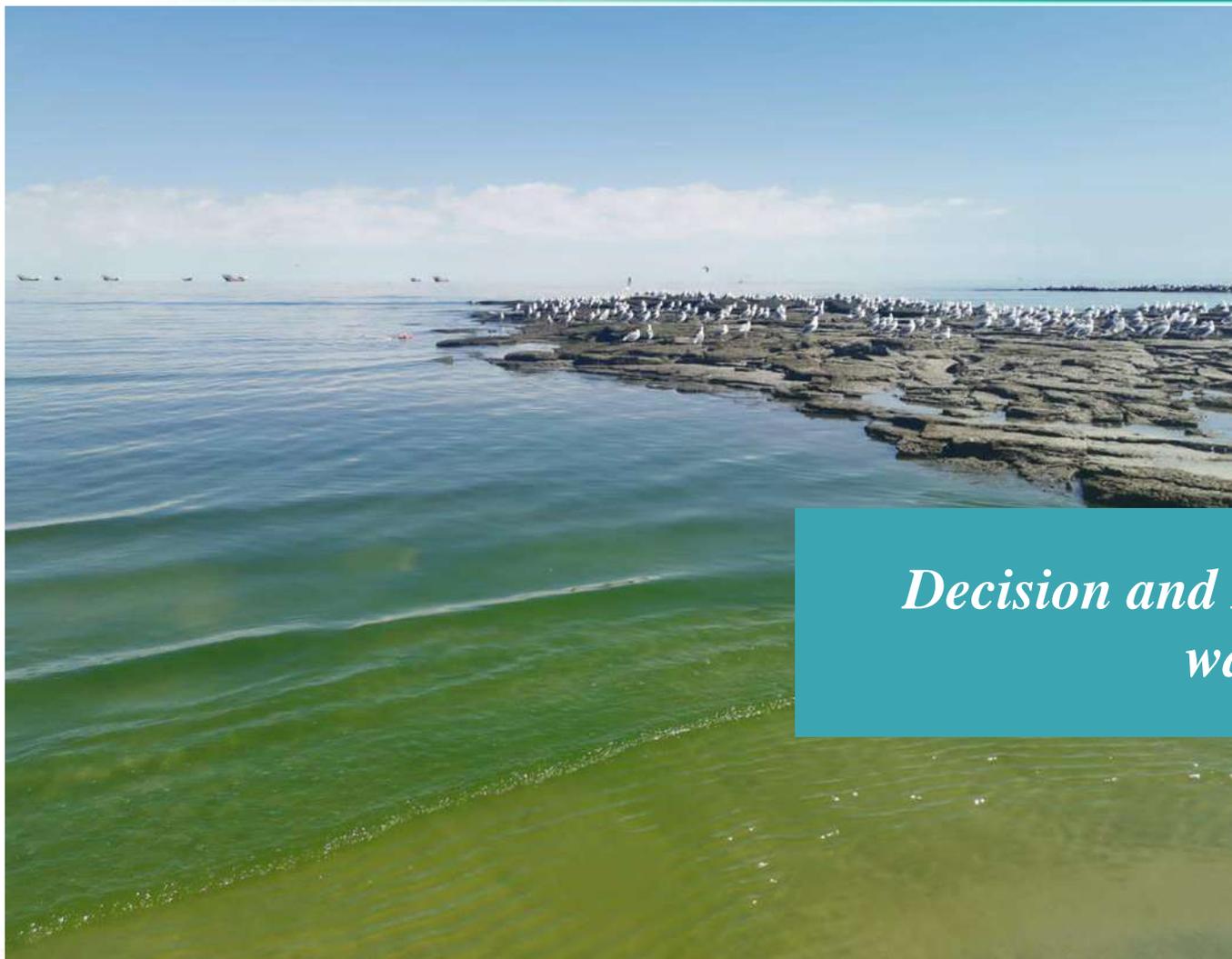
# Discussion Points

- Understanding and synchronizing the timescales of the algal blooms and the different hydrodynamics conditions.
- Continuous measurements of nutrients to facilitate for numerical modelling of algal blooms.
- Establishment for empirical formulations to express the nutrient sediment fluxes at the critical zones

# References

- Alosairi, Y., Alsulaiman, N., Rashed, A., & Al-Houti, D. (2020). World record extreme sea surface temperatures in the northwestern Arabian/Persian Gulf verified by in situ measurements. *Mar Pollut Bull*, 161(Pt B), 111766. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2020.111766>
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- Alosairi, Y., Alsulaiman, N., Rashed, A., & Al-Houti, D. (2020). World record extreme sea surface temperatures in the northwestern Arabian/Persian Gulf verified by in situ measurements. *Mar Pollut Bull*, 161(Pt B), 111766. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2020.111766>

# Thank You



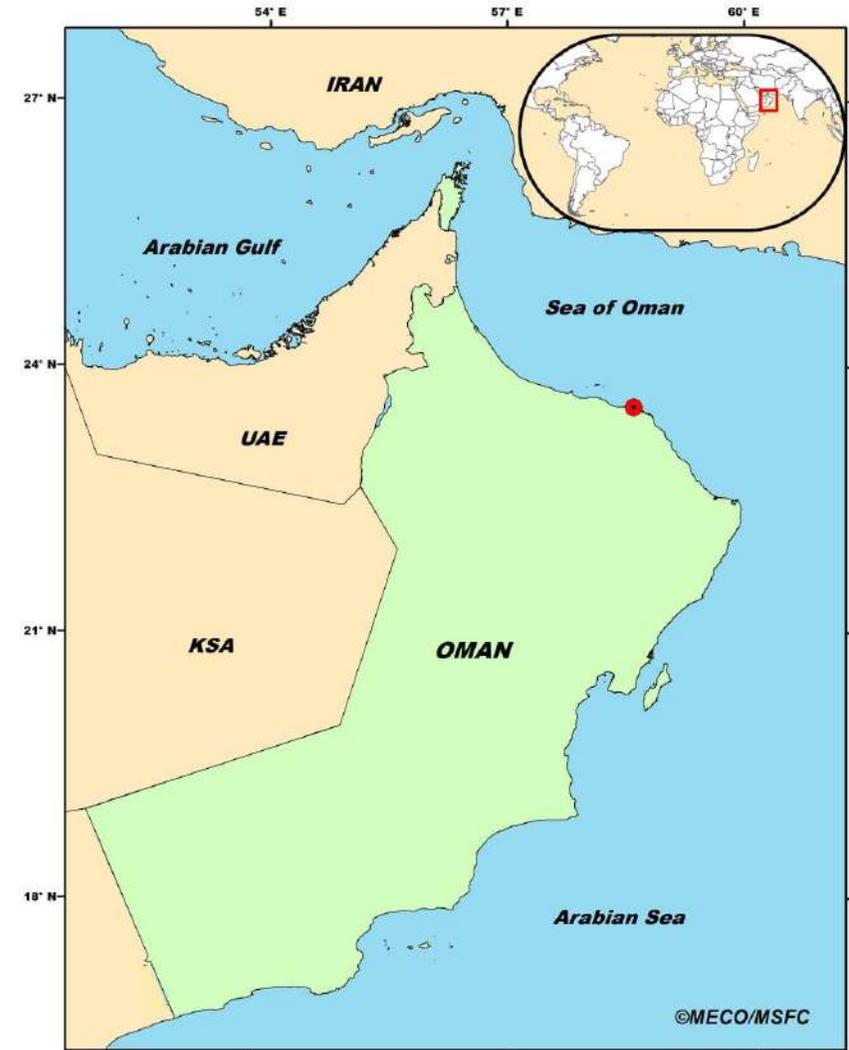
**Ministry of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries  
and Water Resources**

*Decision and Information System for the Coastal  
waters of Oman (DISCO)*

Suad Al Bimani  
Marine Ecologist  
Marine Science and Fisheries Center

## General demographic country information

- 3165 km-long coastline
- Surrounded by the Arabian Sea, Sea of Oman, and Arabian Gulf.
- Extremely rich fishing grounds
- Fisheries play significant role of Oman Income
- Marine Science and Fisheries Center is a research center that belong to General Directorate of Fisheries Research/ Ministry of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries and Water Resources.



## Cooperation with the National institutions in HABs



## Cooperation with the International organizations in HABs

Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission of  
UNESCO (IOC),

National Aeronautics  
and Space  
Administration  
(NASA)



International Atomic  
Energy Agency (IAEA)

National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric  
Administration  
(NOAA)

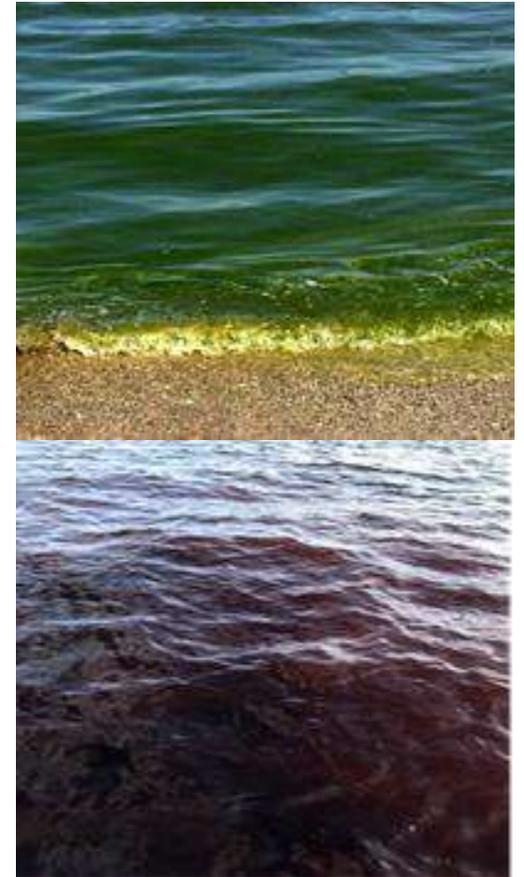
Regional Organization for  
the Protection of the Marine  
Environment (ROPME)

## Why Oman need an Early Warning System for Harmful Algal Blooms?



# Why Oman need an Early Warning System for Harmful Algal Blooms?

- Over the past decade, the Sultanate of Oman has been experiencing massive outbreaks of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).
- Field and satellite data from the last few years indicate that HABs are becoming more widespread and intense in the northern Arabian Sea and Sea of Oman.
- These outbreaks are beginning to pose a significant threat to coastal resources, water quality, public health, tourism, and the operational capabilities of many coastal industries that serve the energy, freshwater, socio-economic needs of Oman, and of countries bordering the Arabian Sea.
- An operational Early Warning System for providing timely advisories to stakeholders, including coastal resource managers is needed.



## How Harmful Algal Bloom is managed in Oman?

- 1. Monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms in Omani waters**
- 2. Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)**

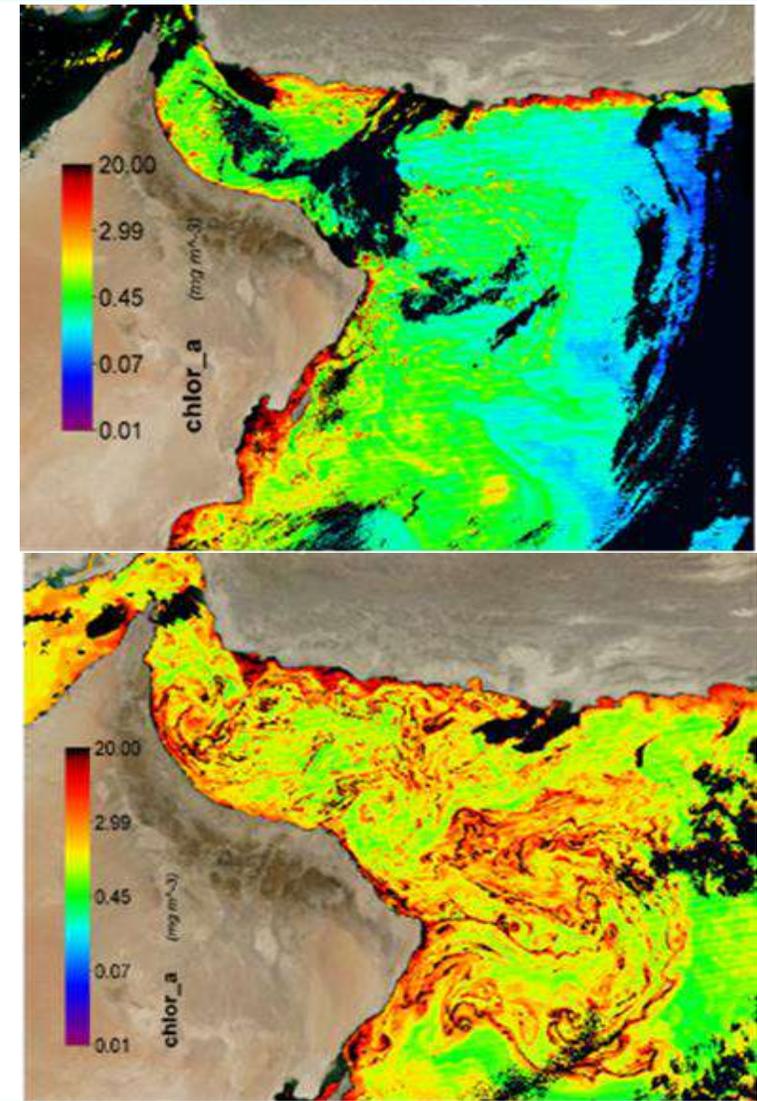
## Monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms in Omani waters

- The first record of Harmful Algal Blooms in the Arabian Sea was in August 1976 along the coast of Salalah and it caused the death of thousands of tons of fish.
- The events of this phenomenon in the Omani coasts have been regularly monitored and recorded at close intervals since 1988.
- Most of the species are non-toxic, and the recorded cases of marine organisms mortality are either due to a lack of dissolved oxygen levels, an excess of ammonia, or clogging of fish gills then suffocation.
- A huge bloom was recorded in late 2008 as it extended from Musandam on the east coast of Oman to the Arabian Sea in the west and lasted for about 8 months, and had strong effects on fisheries, aquaculture, tourism and the environment.



# Monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms in Omani waters

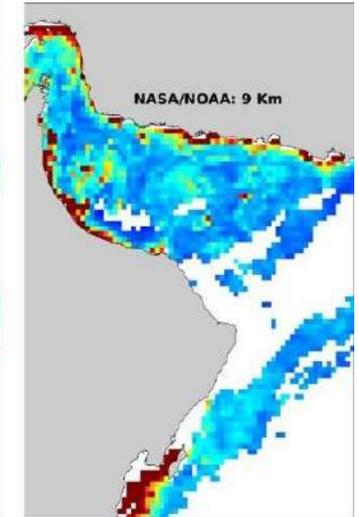
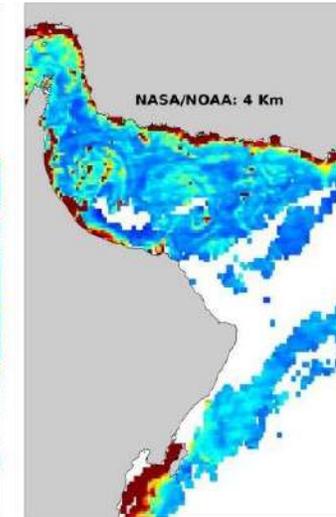
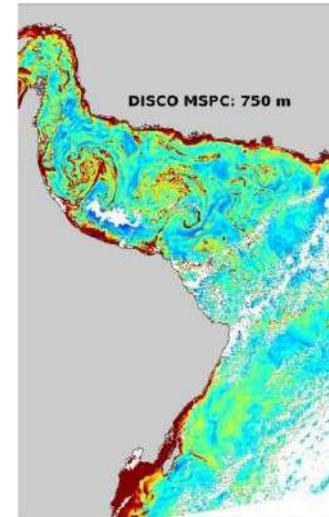
- Monitoring of this phenomenon continues until now, using the latest modern technologies, in order to predict its occurrence and limit its harmful effects.
- Preparing monitoring programs along the coasts of Oman in addition to awareness programs before, during and after HABs events.
- Creating a team to ensure rapid response to HABs event and to make the necessary procedures for the sampling and analysis.
- Tracking blooms using remote sensing, identifying affected locations and alerting affected communities and fishing villages.



# Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)

## DISCO's background

- Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO) is an operational HAB forecasting and decision support system.
- In 2016, the system was operated in Oman in collaboration with Columbia University with funding from NASA, USA. In 2022, the system will be developed as an Omani operational early warning system.



# Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)

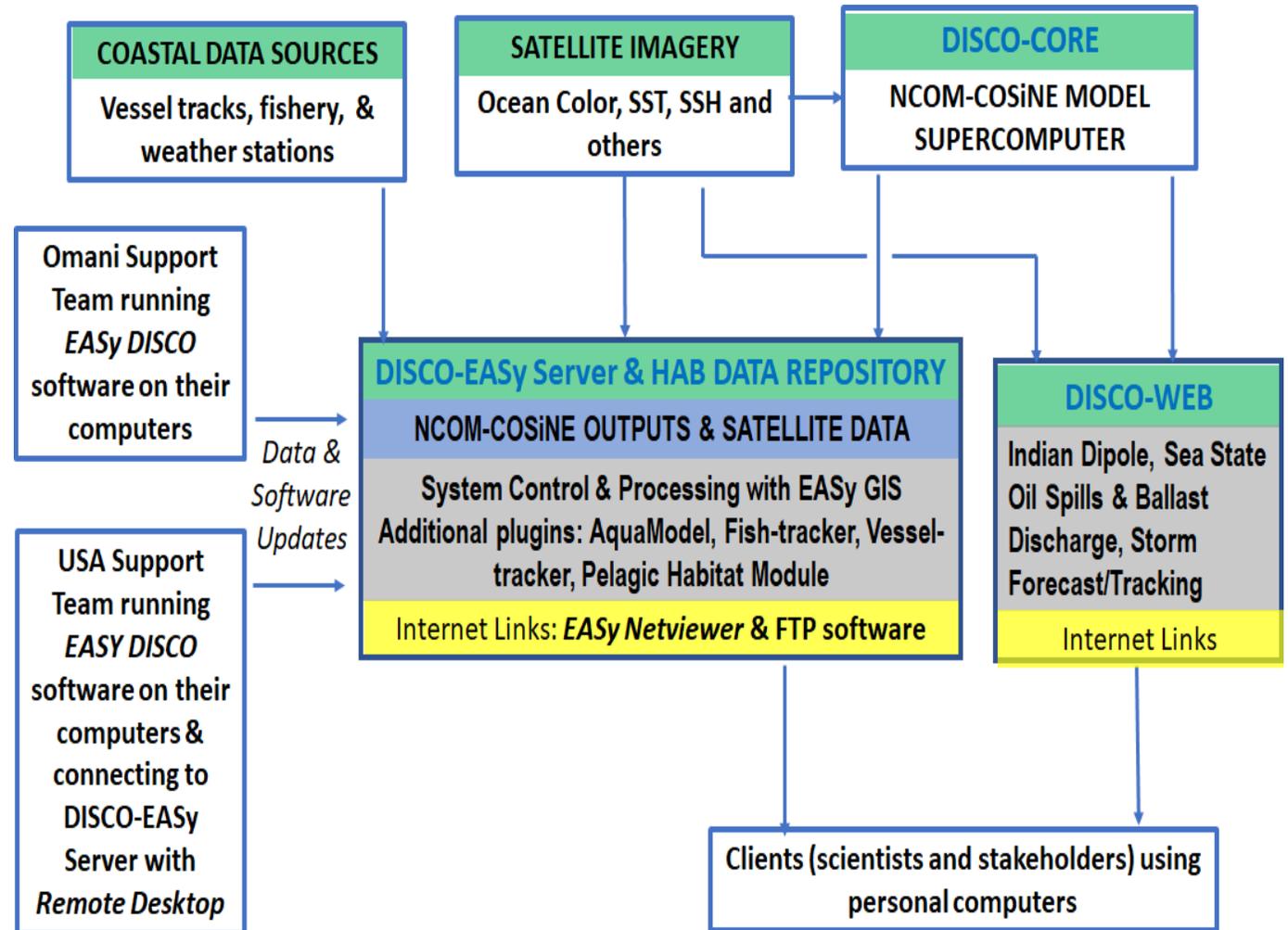
## DISCO's aim

- Provide information and future predictions about coastal fisheries resources, evaluate the effects of climate change and determine the ideal locations for fish farming activities on the Omani coasts using modern technologies such as remote sensing systems and numerical modeling.
- Provide real-time forecasts of atmospheric and sea state conditions using an outputs from an atmosphere/ocean/biogeochemical coupled model tailored for the coastal waters of Oman.
- Provide real-time forecasts of outbreaks of HABs based on a fusion of model outputs with satellite ocean color data.

# Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)

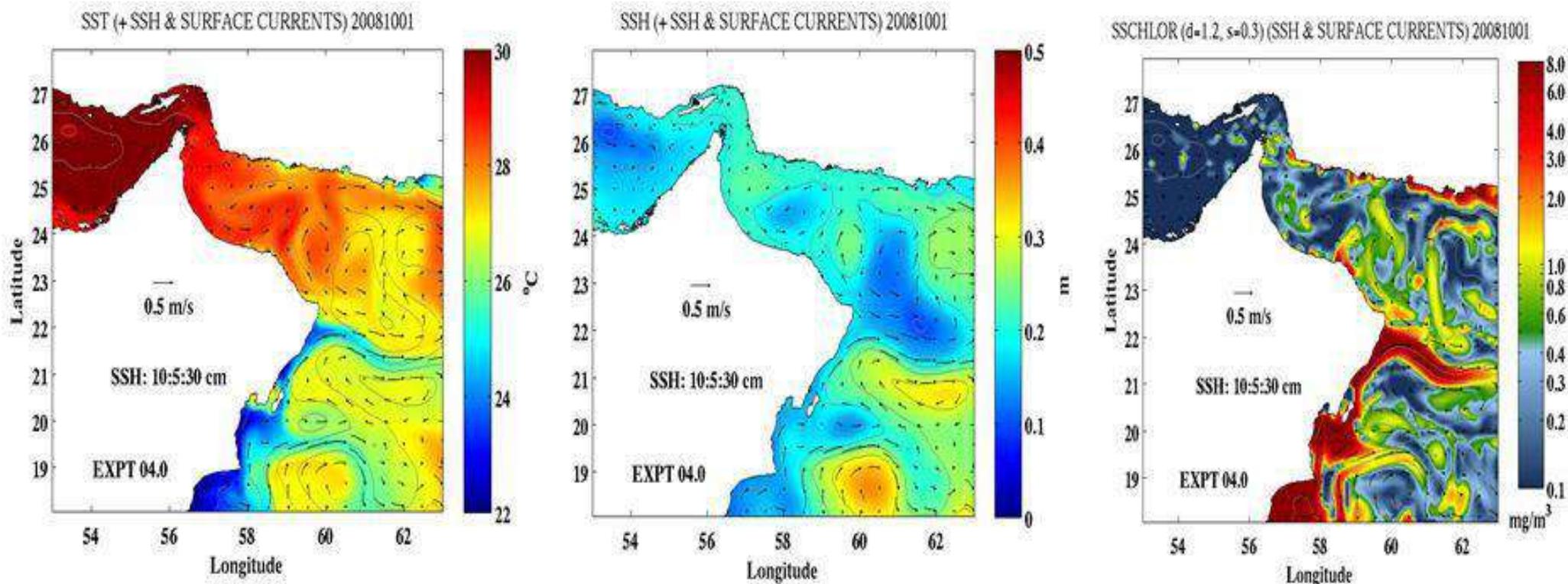
## DISCO's architecture (Platforms)

1. DISCO-CORE, which is responsible for ingesting, producing, and archiving data.
2. DISCO-WEB, for web-page product delivery (front-end clients).
3. DISCO-EASy (Environmental Analysis System) for highly interactive and in-depth analysis via a sophisticated graphical user interface.

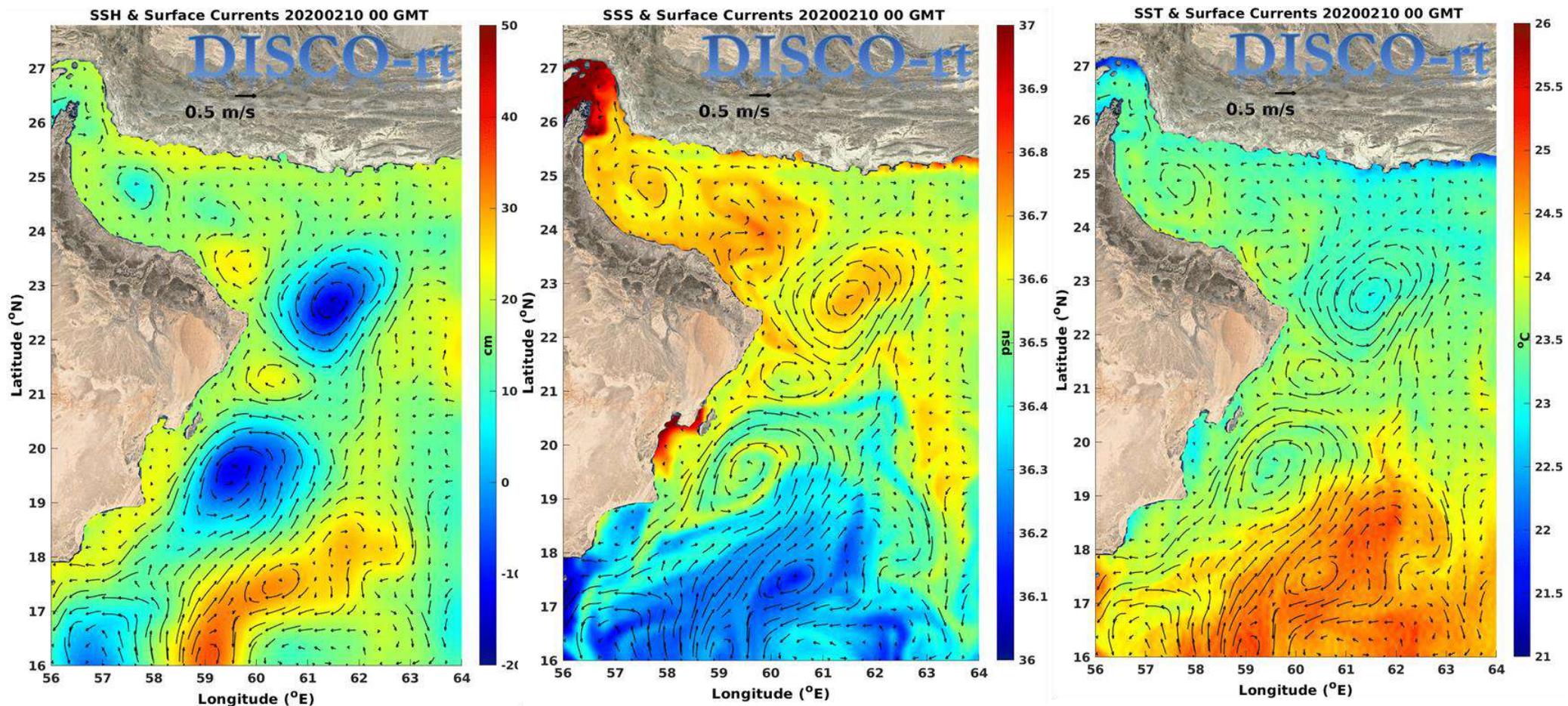


# Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)

Real time outputs and forecasts generated every 12 hours by DISCO-CORE (Supercomputer)

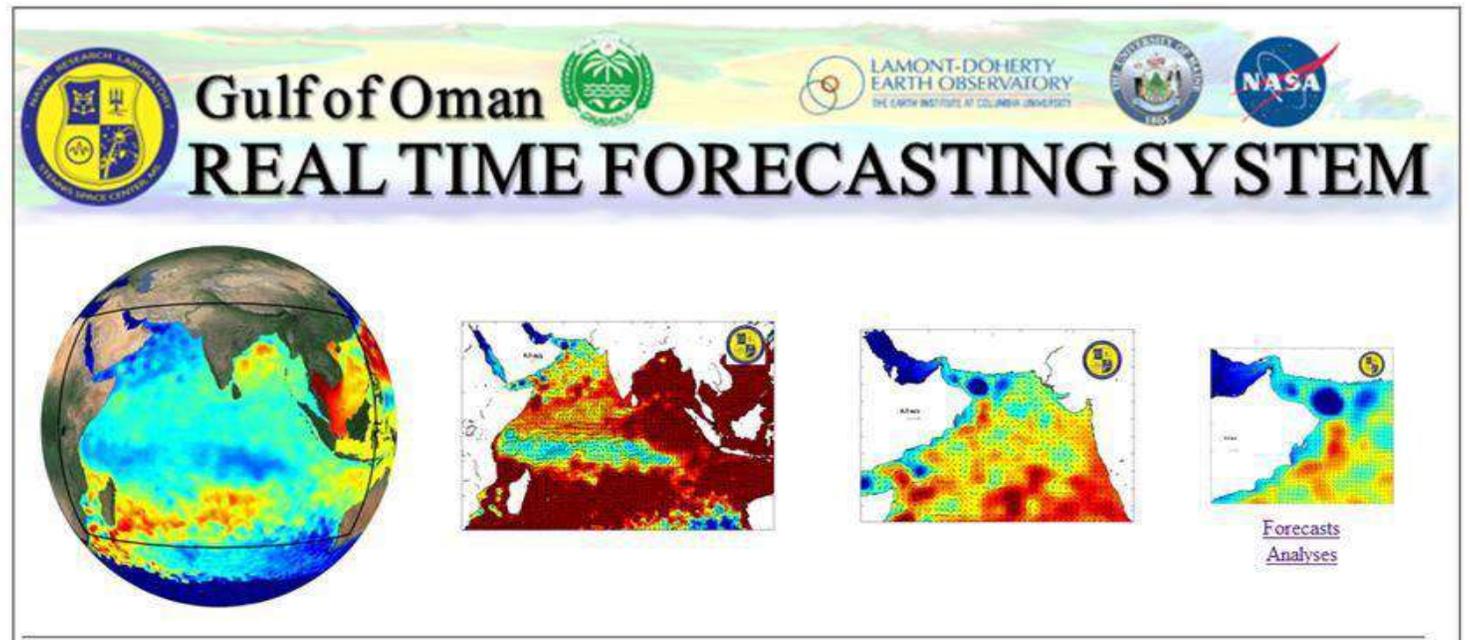


# Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)



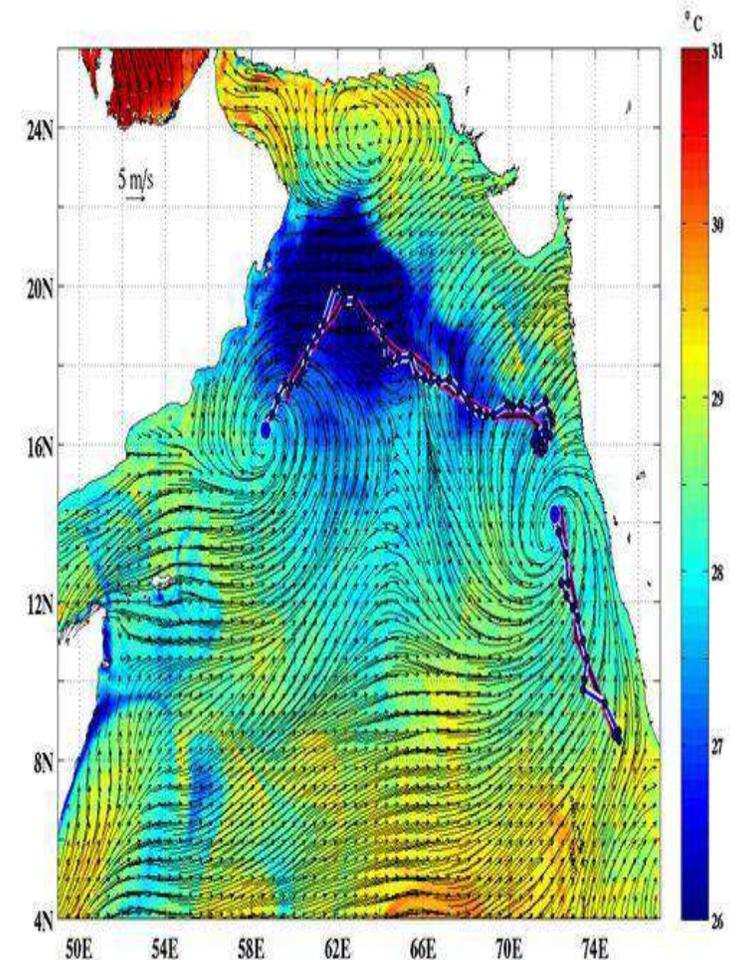
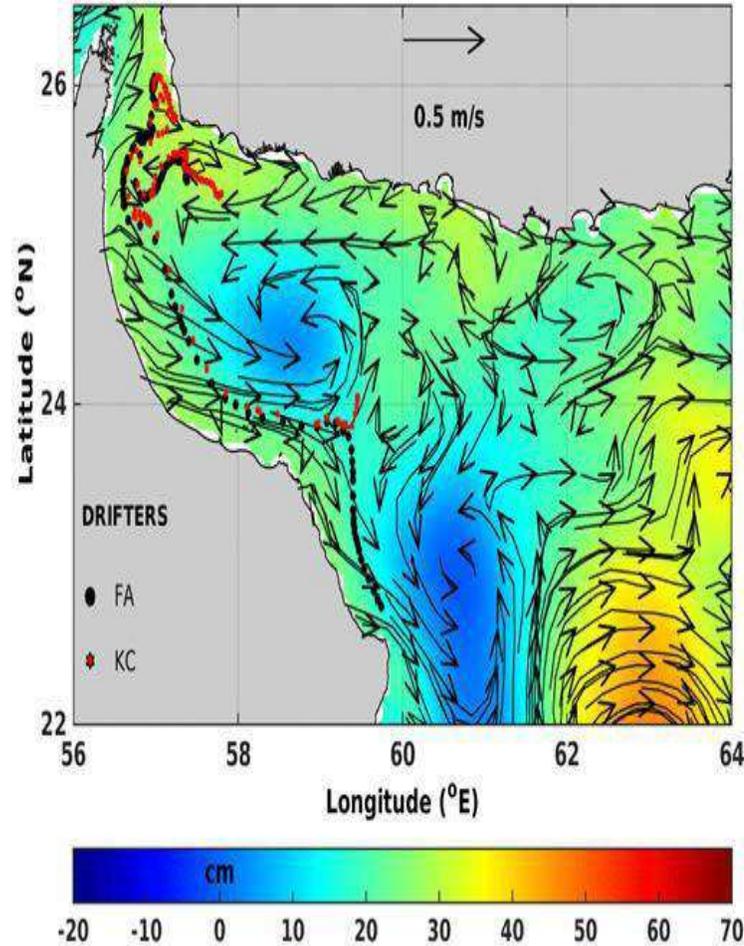
# Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)

DISCO-WEB: gives users centralized access to automated near-real-time analysis products such as figures of sea-state, animations of forecasts, comparisons and validations of model simulations, historical time-series, up-to-date climate-index analyses, as well as direct access to all DISCO data.



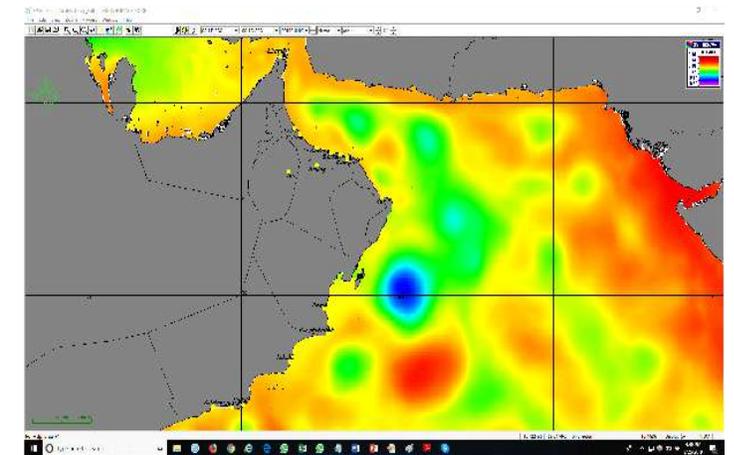
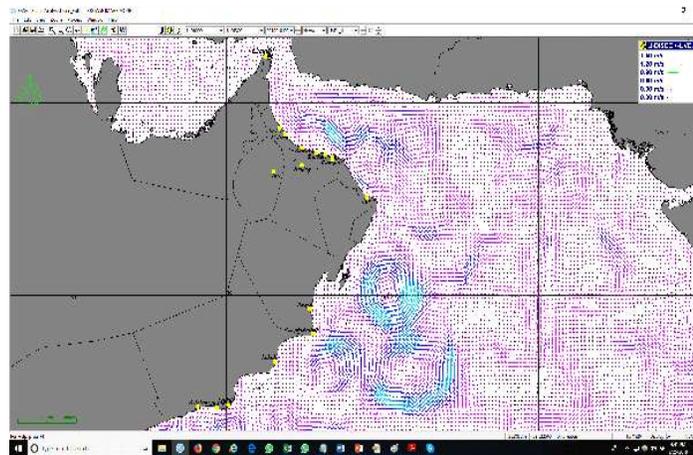
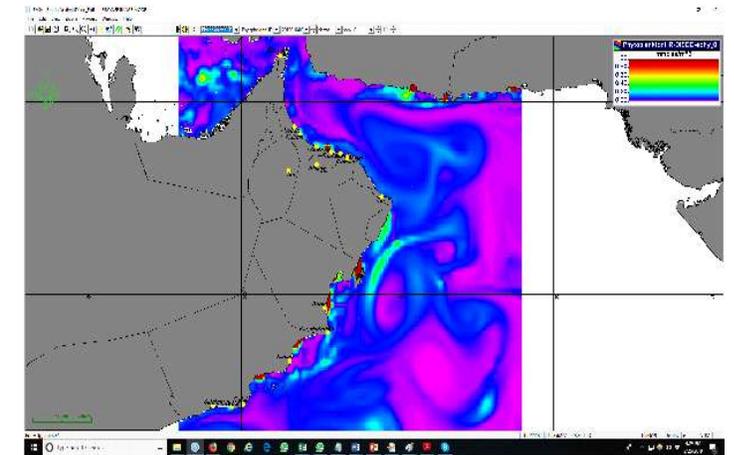
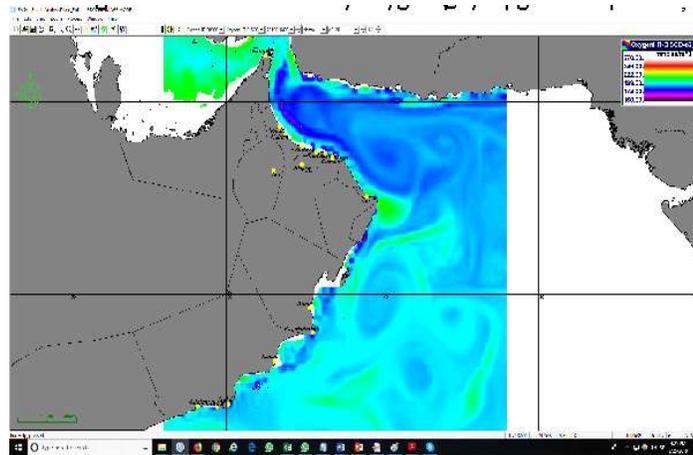
# Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)

- Example of DISCO being used to: a) tracking the fate of the oil spill from the two tanker incidents (FA=Front Altair, KC=Kokuka Courageous) on June 13, 2019; and
- b) track the path and intensity of cyclone Kyarr, and the ocean-response (simulated SST) to cyclone Kyarr in late October 2019, followed by cyclone Maha.
- The forecasting model provided an early warning to Oman and predicted the strong south westerly turn Kyarr took, sparing the Omani coast of a direct hit.



# Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)

- **DISCO-EASy** is the third major component of the DISCO platform, providing a state-of-the-art hardware-software solution that combines a powerful server with customized GIS software.
- Four snapshots of output from the DISCO-MODEL for January 04, 2019. Upper left panel shows concentration of oxygen at 20 m depth; upper right shows the concentration of chlorophyll at the sea surface; lower left shows surface current vectors; lower right shows sea surface height.



# Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)

## Current Capabilities within DISCO

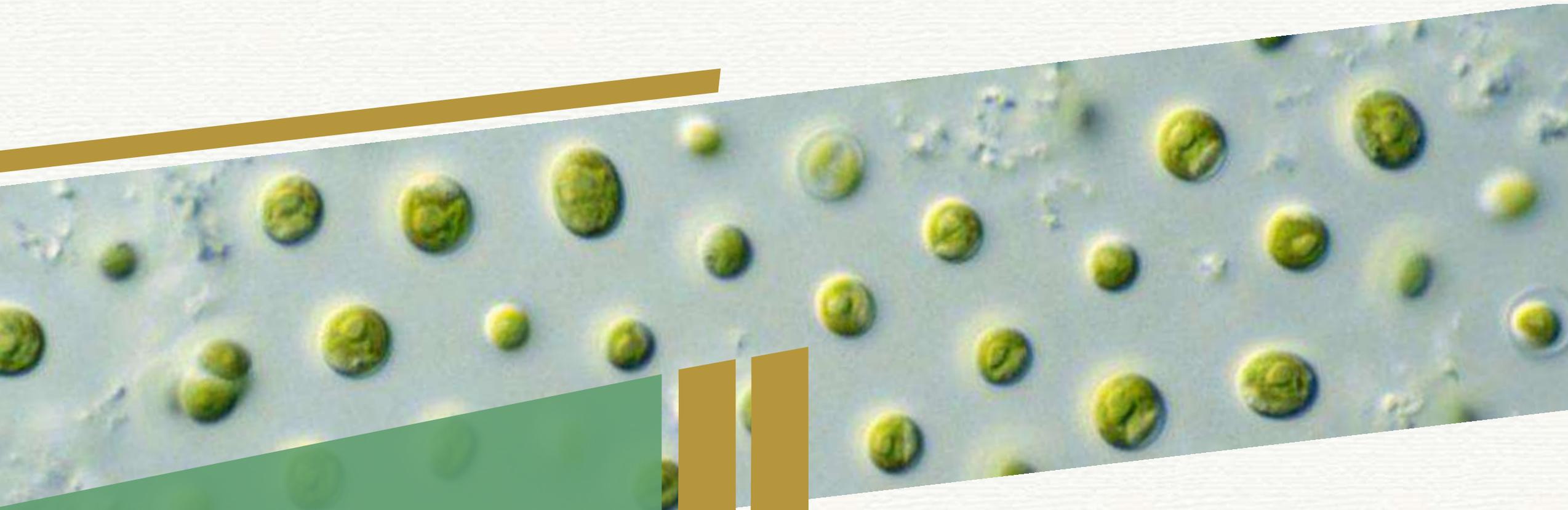
DISCO provides a continuous stream of products that rely on data from environmental sources (e.g. NOAA's World Ocean Atlas), operational global models (e.g. U.S. Navy Global Operational Forecasting System), satellites (e.g. MODIS-Aqua, NPP-VIIRS, AVISO+ altimetry products, etc.), and inputs to/outputs from the DISCO-MODEL that can be used for the following:

1. Historical (DISCO data-archive presently holds 7 years of historical environmental data), present-day, and up to 10-day advance forecasts of atmospheric and oceanic sea-state conditions, including information of approaching storms and cyclones.
2. Monitoring of HAB outbreaks in the coastal areas of Oman, including the evolution in space over time to guide realistic mitigation strategies that minimize risks to coastal marine resources and coastal activities.

# Decision and Information System for the Coastal waters of Oman (DISCO)

## Significant benefits

- DISCO could be used to serve the needs of a diverse range of infrastructure development activities in support of Oman's transition to a Blue Economy.
- DISCO has the capabilities for coastal aquaculture and fisheries management applications.
- The ability of DISCO to predict hypoxia and HABs opens up the possibility for not only forecasting fish kill events, but the ensued analysis of their cause.
- Existence of effective monitoring and forecasting systems that benefit various sectors such as desalination plants, fish farming and other relevant authorities.
- Create an integrated database that includes physical, biological and other environmental data.
- Using the system in several other applications:
  - 1) Monitoring and prediction of hypoxia and fish kills
  - 2) Tracking the path of harmful phytoplankton blooms, jellyfish multiplication, liquid waste, oil spills and hurricanes, and thus providing decision-makers early warning system.

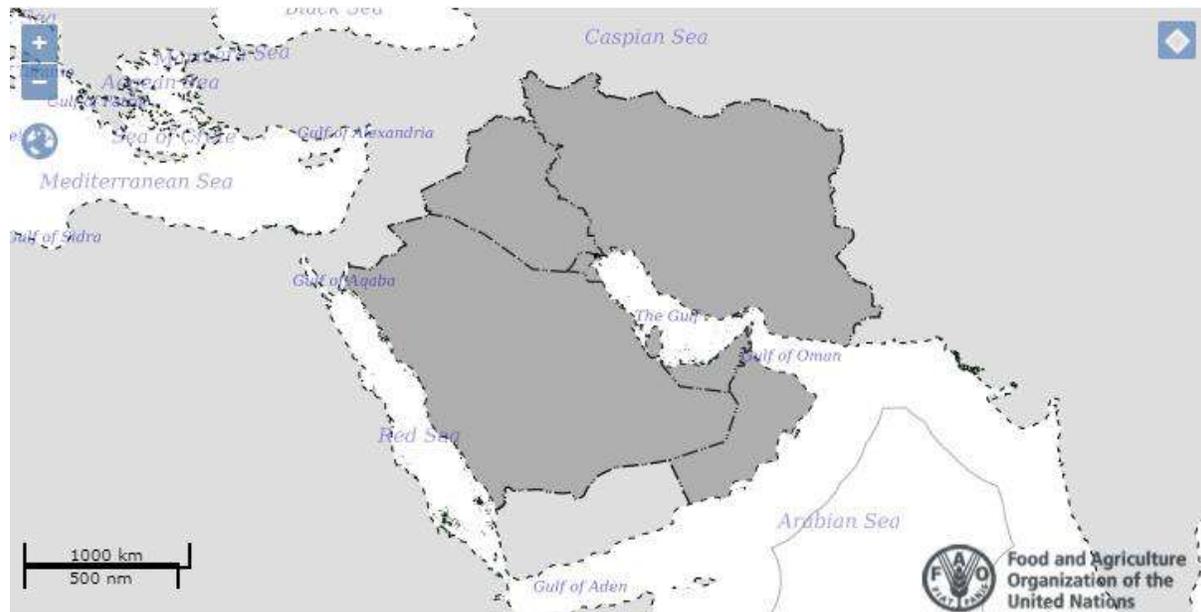


**Thank You !**

# The status and trajectory of aquaculture in the Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman

Patrick White

FAO Consultant



# Suitability for aquaculture

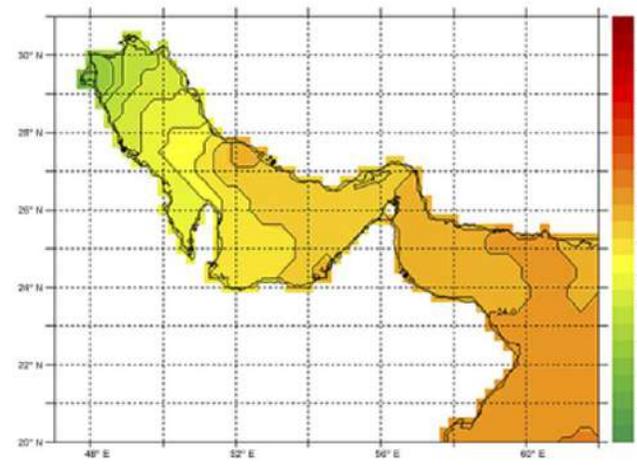
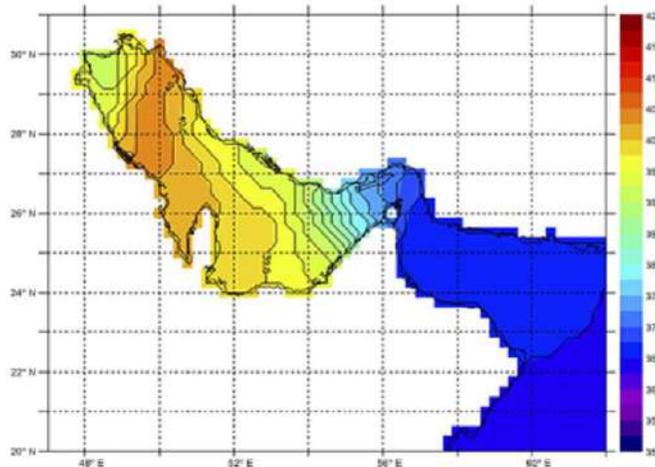
Salinity

Temperature

Residual currents

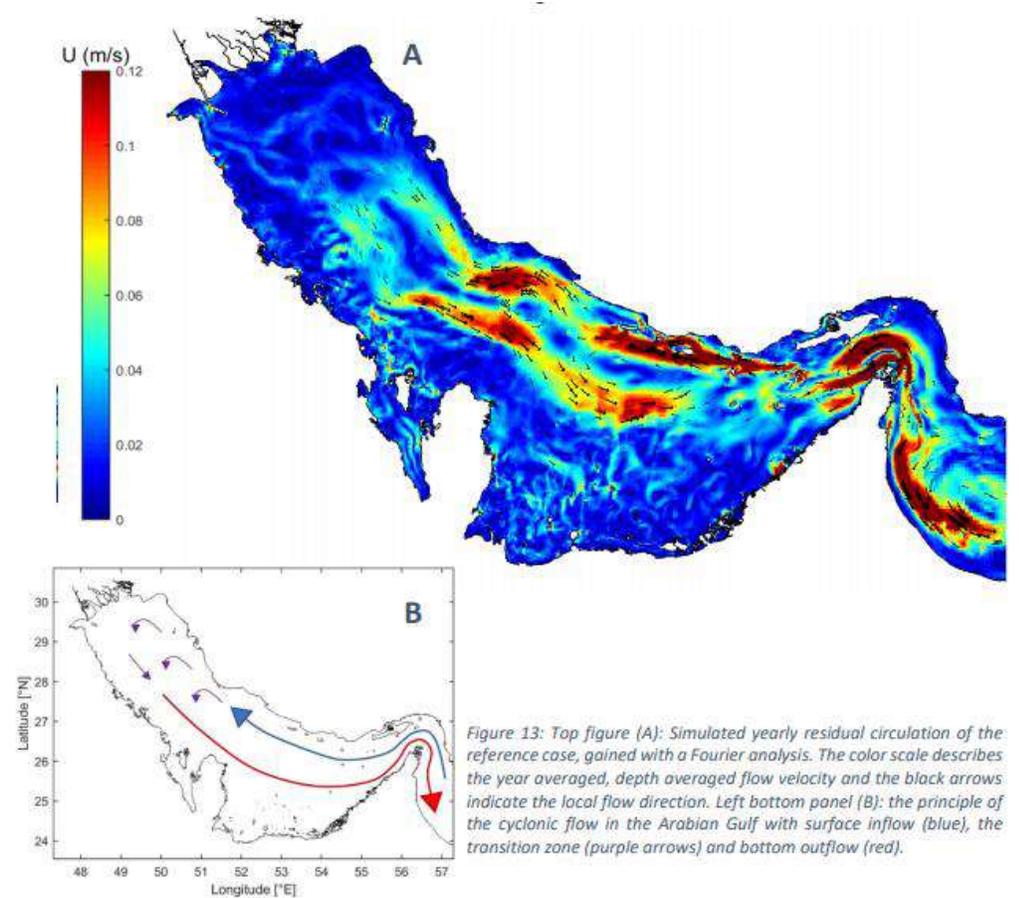
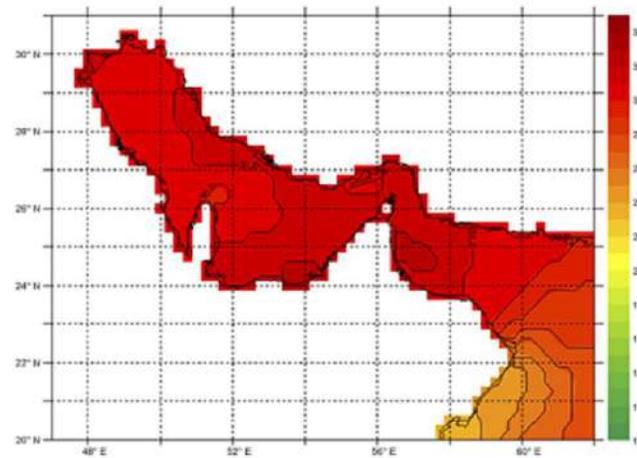
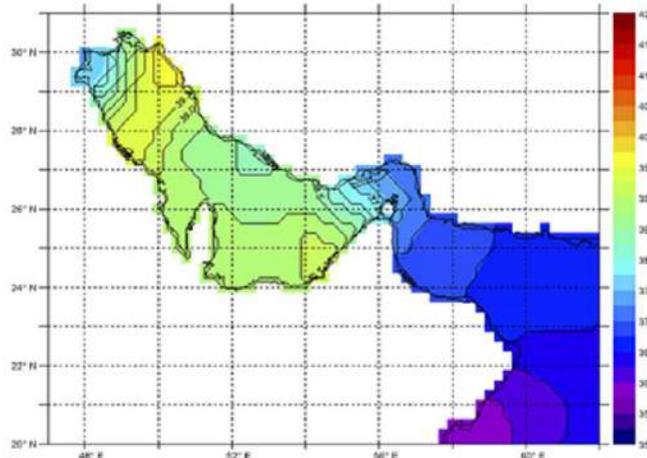
January Sea Surface Salinity (psu)

January Sea Surface Temperature (°C)

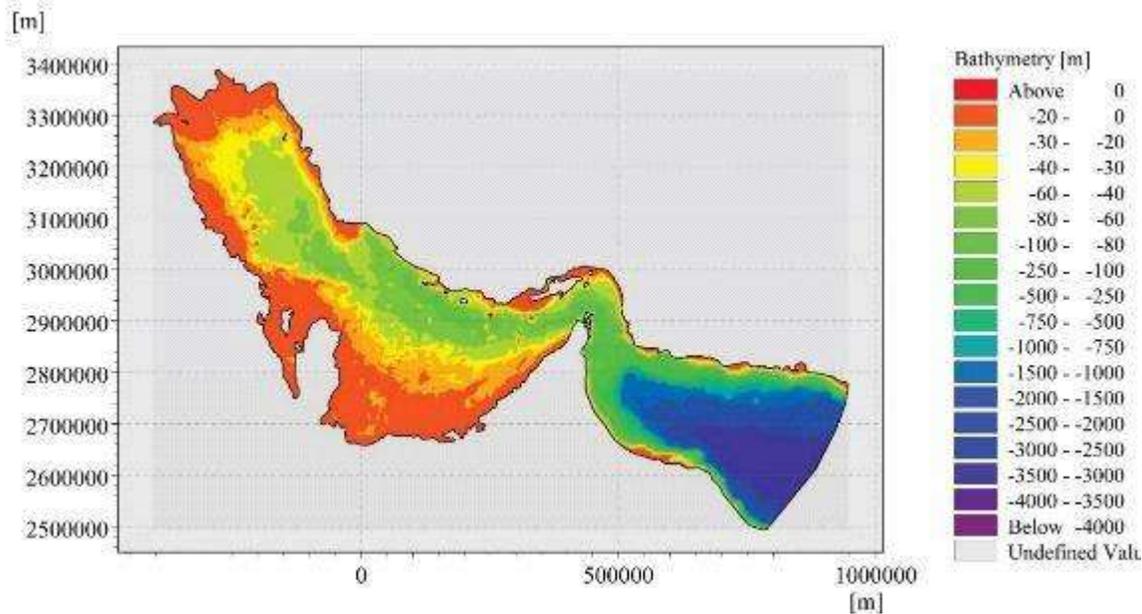


July Sea Surface Salinity (psu)

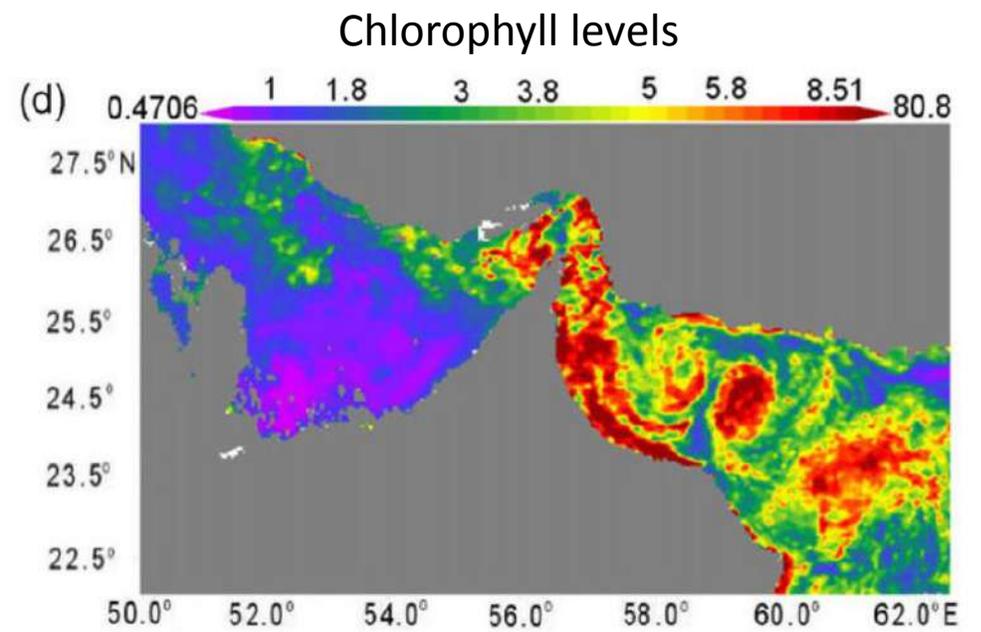
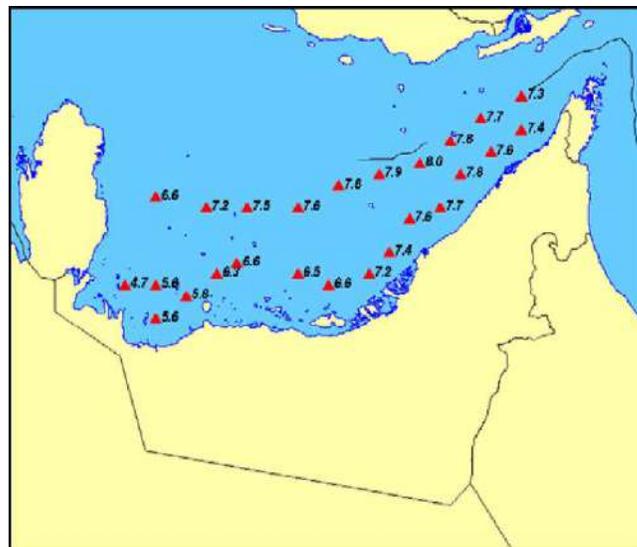
July Sea Surface Temperature (°C)



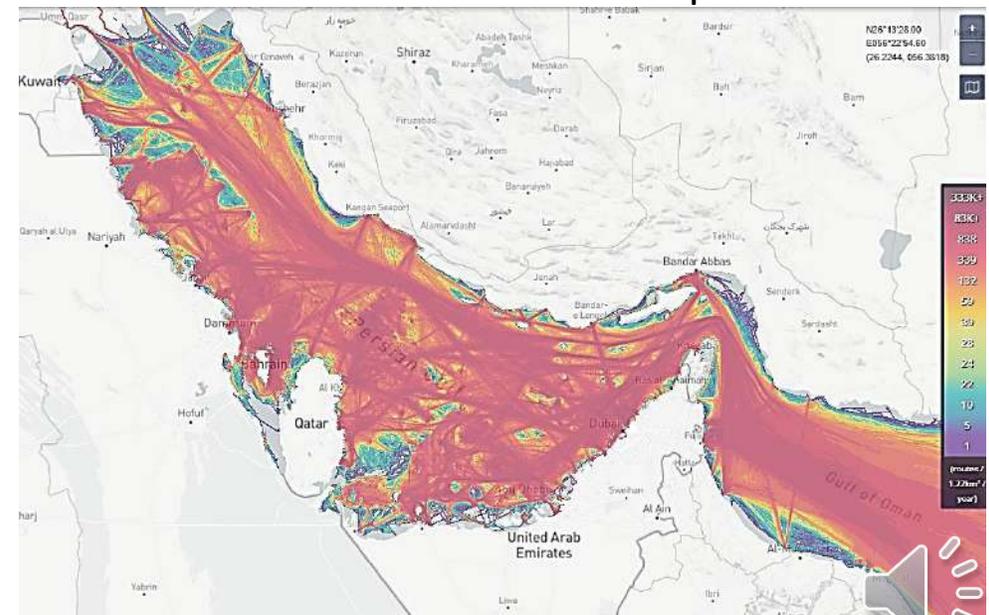
# Constraints to aquaculture



Significant wave height (m)



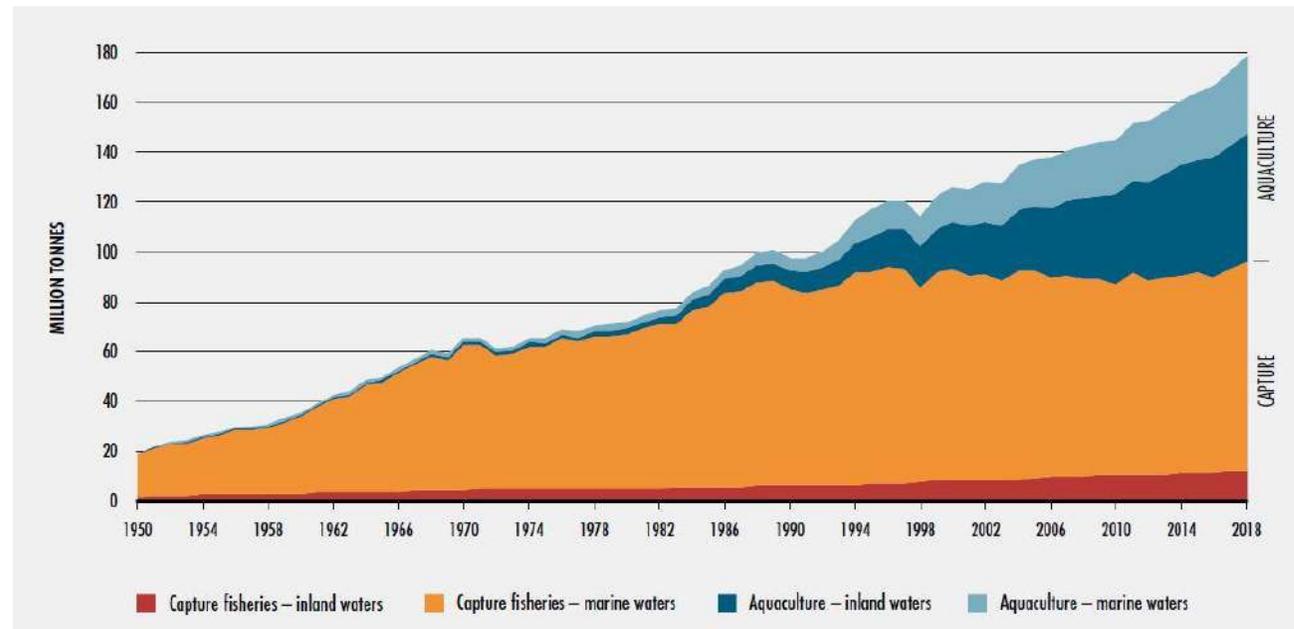
Marine traffic heat map



<https://www.marinetraffic.com/>

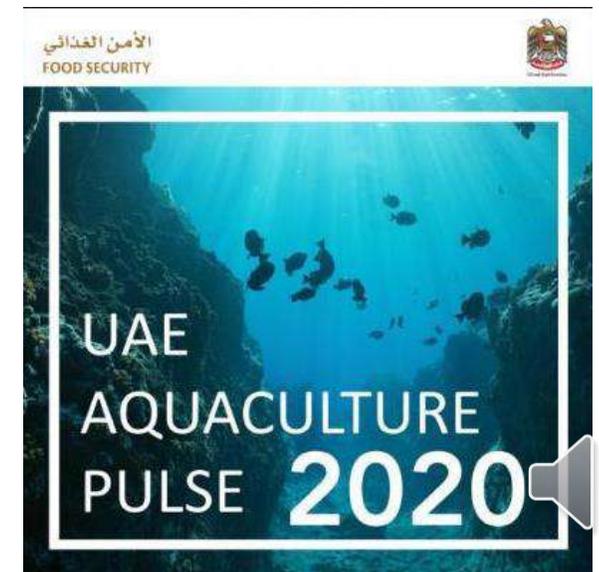
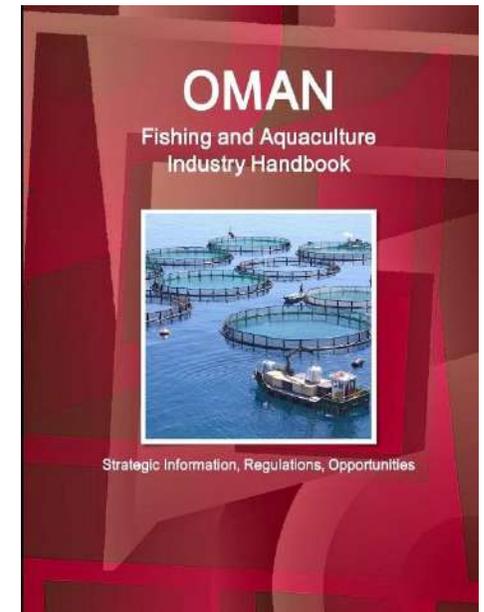
# Importance of aquaculture

- Fish captured from the sea have traditionally been favoured more than farm-raised fish in Arab countries, because of the former's perceived greater health and taste benefits.
- Yet, aquaculture has been gaining more acceptance, and even popularity, in the Middle East.
- Some wealthy Gulf nations, such as Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Oman, have stepped up their efforts to cultivate aquaculture to meet the demand for fish, to reduce imports of seafood, and to maintain food security
- Although it is a relatively new and small sector in these countries, they have been heavily investing in fish farming.



# Policy towards aquaculture development

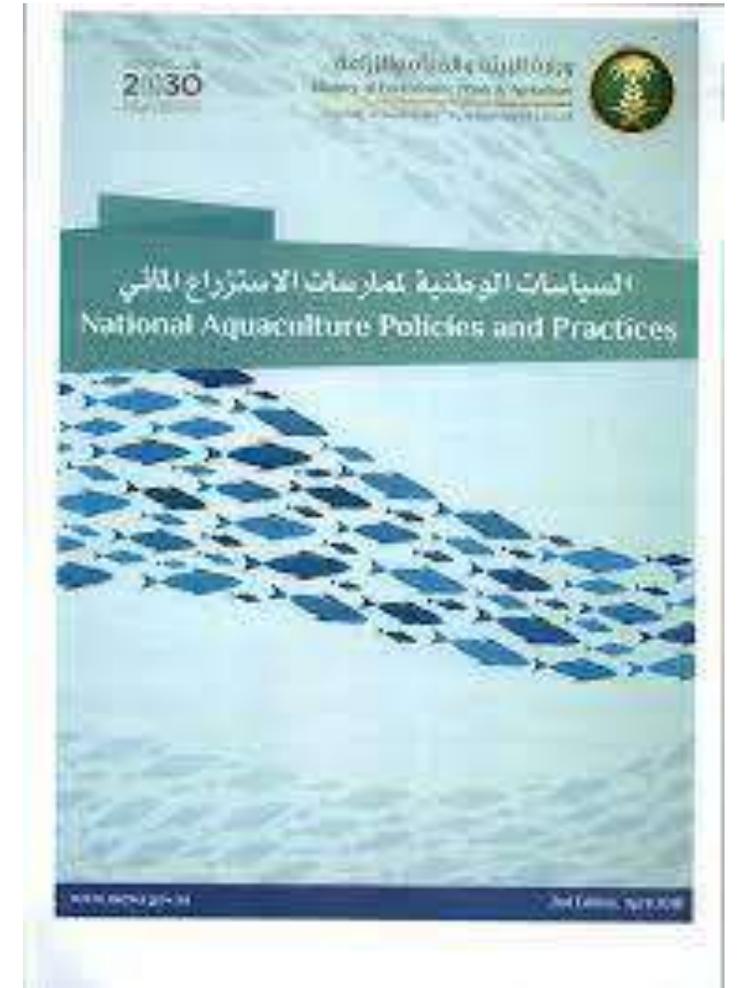
- The governments of Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Oman provide favorable policies and numerous incentives to attract investments into fish farming
- This has encouraged the development of a number of aquaculture projects in these countries.
- In 2018, the contribution of aquaculture towards total GDP was
  - 0.07 percent in Saudi Arabia,
  - 0.06 percent in Iraq,
  - less than 0.01 percent in the other countries.



# Policy towards aquaculture development

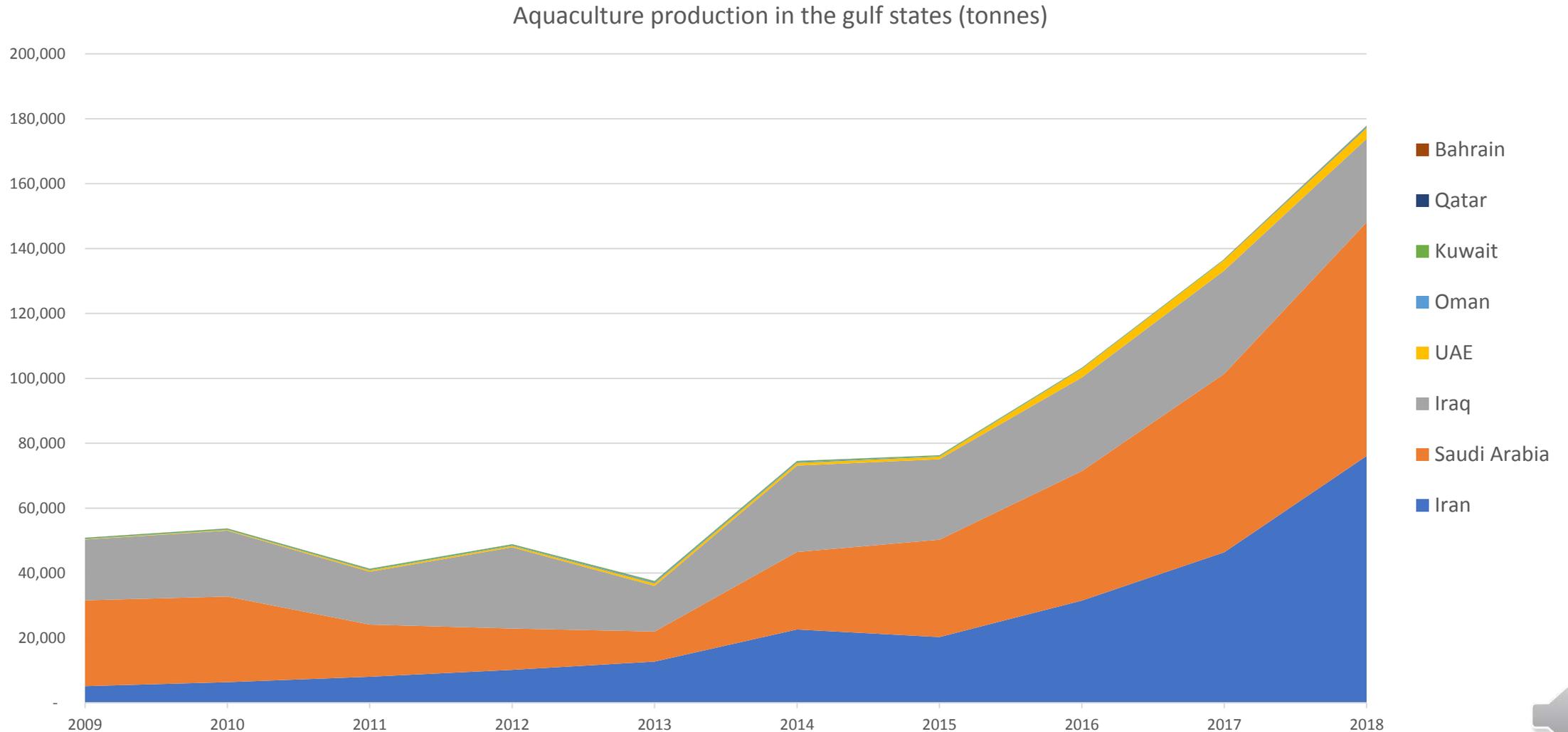
Aquaculture is often seen as an important sector for

- Supply of seafood from their coastal resources
- Revitalization of coastal areas
- Supporting complementary businesses
  - input supply (e.g. feed)
  - processing
  - transport
  - marketing
  - research, technological development and innovation
  - education and training.



# Aquaculture production in the Gulf States

Freshwater, Brackish and Marine.



# Present status of aquaculture (tonnes in 2018)

Country/Territory	Production environment		
	Freshwater (t)	Brackishwater (t)	Marine (t)
<b>Bahrain</b>	0	0	0
<b>Iraq</b>	25,737	0	0
<b>Kuwait</b>	0	187	11
<b>Oman</b>	101	0	350
<b>Palestine</b>	279	470	0
<b>Qatar</b>	10	0	0
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	7,600	280	64,120 (Red Sea)
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	258	0	3,092
<b>Iran</b>	3,636	54,159	21,900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,621</b>	<b>55,096</b>	<b>89,473</b>

25,000 tonnes)



# Main culture systems

The main commercial marine aquaculture systems are;

- Saltwater ponds used for shrimp farming. Smaller units such as shrimp nursery ponds are normally lined makes them easier to clean, which can be important for biosecurity. Larger ponds are constructed in sabkha areas.
- Circular cages used for fish culture in exposed environments. These range in size from 20 m to 80 m diameter depending on the size of the farm, exposure and depth of the farm site.



# Main culture systems - hatcheries

Hatchery facilities for fish and shrimp seed production and have developed or are developing for a range of species.

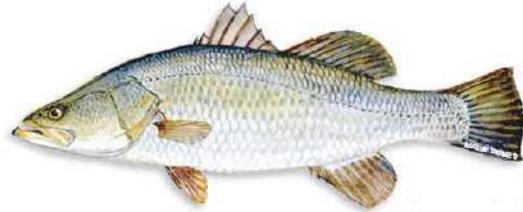
- Oman
- United Arab Emirates
- Qatar
- Bahrain
- Saudi Arabia (ARAMCO)
- Kuwait
- Iran



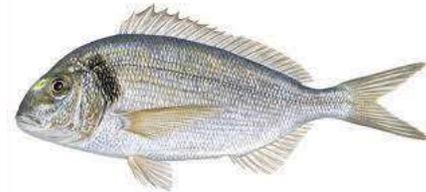
# Culture species

## Main species

- Barramundi



- Gilthead seabream



- Meagre



- Sobaity seabream

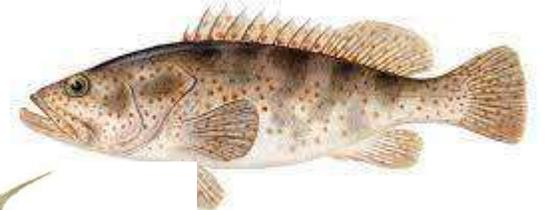


- Shrimp

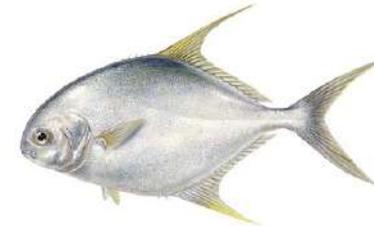


## Potential species

- Grouper



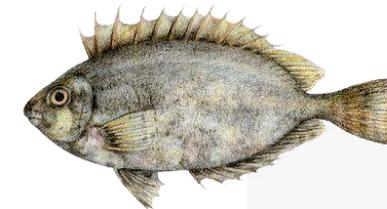
- Pompano



- Cobia



- Rabbitfish

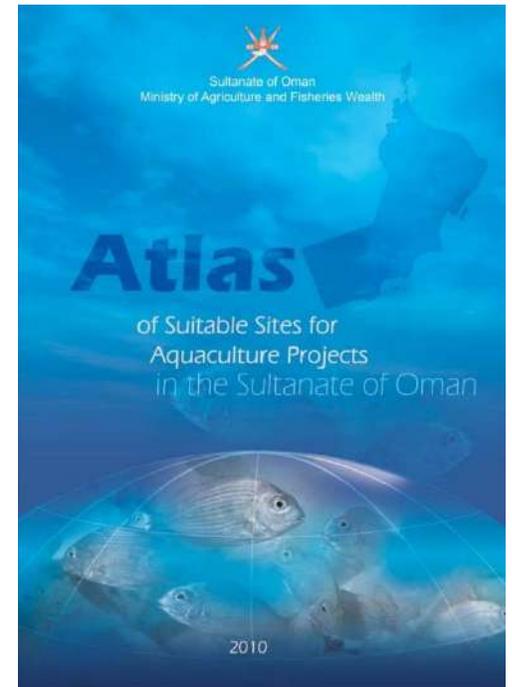


- Oyster

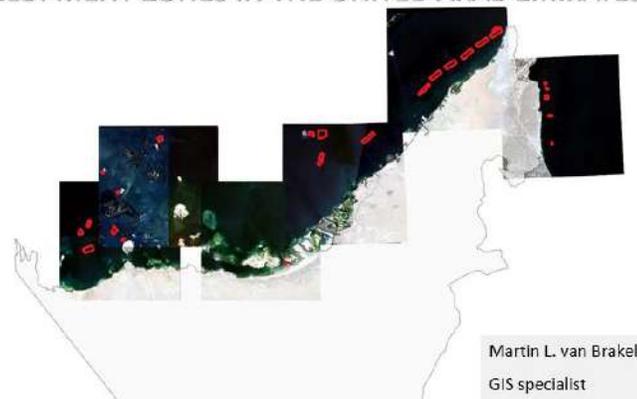


# Aquaculture Planning

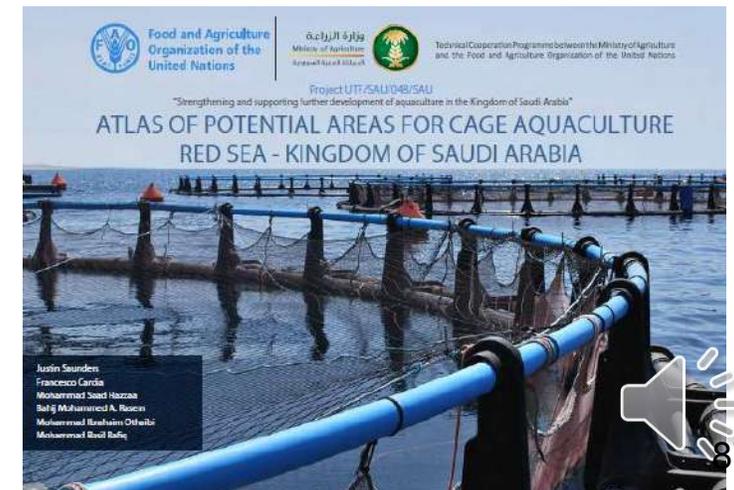
- Marine spatial planning and/or ICZM is used for the selection of aquaculture sites and avoid conflict with other users of the coastline
- The establishment of Aquaculture Zones to ensure the full integration of aquaculture with other coastal activities and thus prevent and minimize possible conflicts.
- Development of Aquaculture Atlas
  - Oman,
  - UAE
  - Saudi Arabia



ATLAS OF POTENTIAL OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT ZONES IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Martin L. van Brakel  
GIS specialist



# Status of aquaculture development



# Oman

- Since 2013, Oman's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has been creating essential infrastructure to boost aquaculture as wild fisheries began to decline.
- There are currently 23 tilapia farms, one shrimp farm and a marine cage farm producing European seabass and gilthead seabream.
- The country's authorities hope to produce more than 200,000 tonnes of fish and create jobs for 11,000 people between 2030 and 2040.
- It pledged more than 1 billion USD to develop this sector and is providing nearly 15,000 hectares of land for that purpose.



# United Arab Emirates

- Fish farming is important to the UAE because of strong seafood demand, increasing dietary preferences for fish, and a nearly 70 percent rate of importation for seafood
- There are five commercial farms (Abu Al Abyad, Al Jaraf Fisheries LLC, Fish Farm LLC, Emirates Fish Farms and Dibba Bay Farm) with a plans to build a specialized feed mill for aquaculture.
- The country's Ministry of Climate Change and Environment is promoting local and foreign investments into aquaculture by easing the permitting process for fish farming projects and supporting scientific research to boost this industry.



# Bahrain

- Bahrain also intends to develop its aquaculture sector.
- Commercial marine aquaculture began in 2014, when Asmak Bahrain Company started producing marine finfish.
- In 2015, the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning allocated six investment land plots.
- Each plot has a surface of 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> with the aim of producing a minimum 250 to 300 tonnes of fish in recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS).
- The current priority is to modernize the National Mariculture Centre of Ras Hayan and upgrade its capacity to supply fry and fingerlings of local species to local and regional aquaculture farms.



# Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia has a more developed aquaculture industry as it has been investing in this sector since the 1980s.
- The Saudi Ministry of Environment ,Water and Agriculture plays a central role in establishing aquaculture across the country strategy.
- Fish and shrimp production reached 60,000 tons in 2017 and Saudi Arabia has an ambitious plan to produce 600,000 tons by 2030.
- Because growing demand for fish has pushed up Saudi Arabia's imports of fish to 60 percent, the Kingdom aims to cut its dependence on imports by making farmed fish its main source of seafood.
- Saudi Aramco has built a large fish hatchery on the Gulf coast.



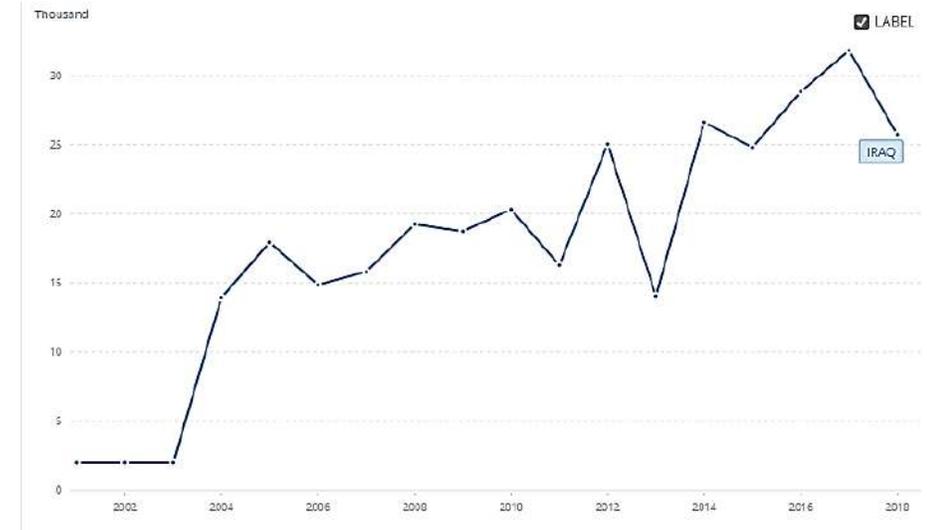
# Kuwait

- Kuwait's Aquaculture Program aims to develop feasible technologies to help Kuwait's aquaculture industry become more commercially viable and to improve food security.
- The Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR) aquaculture program is focused on research and development for breeding and fry production, improved feed formulation and disease control.



# Iraq

- Iraq has a large freshwater aquaculture production but very little marine aquaculture production
- The main species cultured are freshwater species such as common carp, grass and silver carp and Barbus sp.
- There is hatchery production of common carp.
- The coastline is only 20.5 km and so there is limited scope for marine aquaculture production. However, there are studies to develop aquaculture in the marsh areas along the banks of the Euphrates.



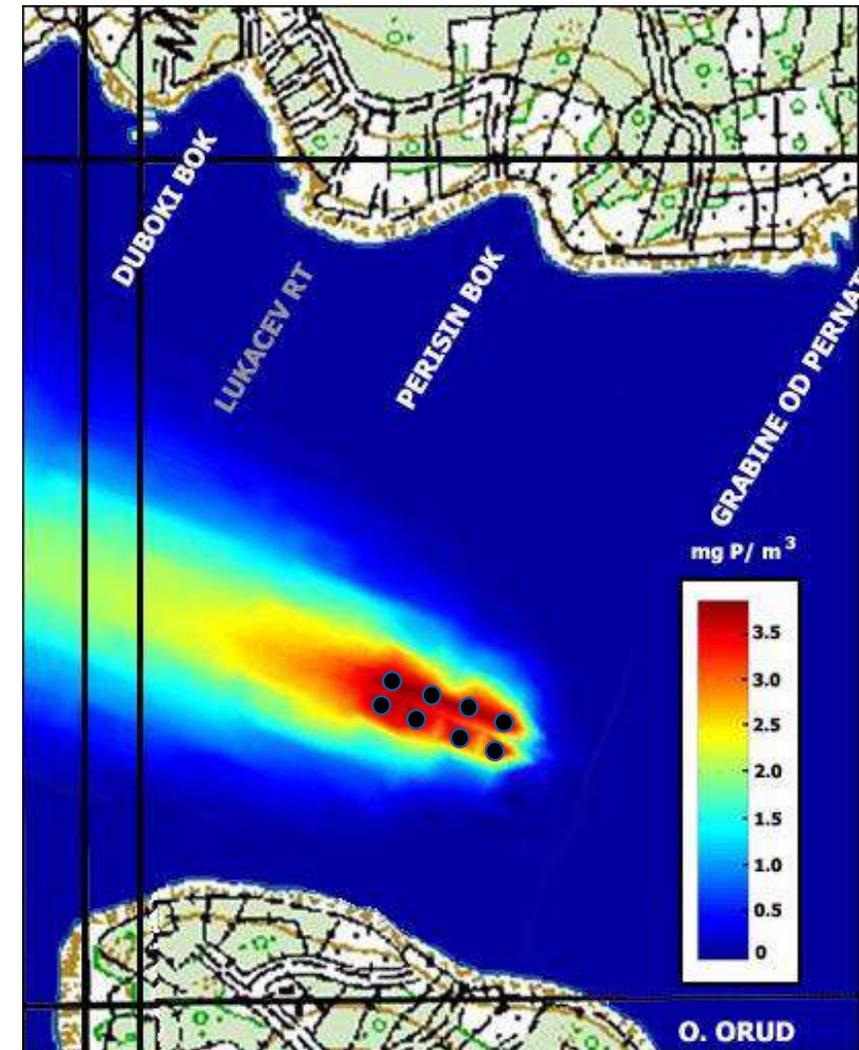
# Iran

- Aquaculture in Iran is primarily Rainbow Trout in freshwater and shrimps grown in brackish and marine ponds.
- The total shrimp farming area covers 9,259 ha and produced 32,331 tonnes in 2017.
- Most of the production is taking place in the southern provinces, and shrimp are produced by around 680 small, family-owned farms.
- Production levels are yet to realize their full potential.



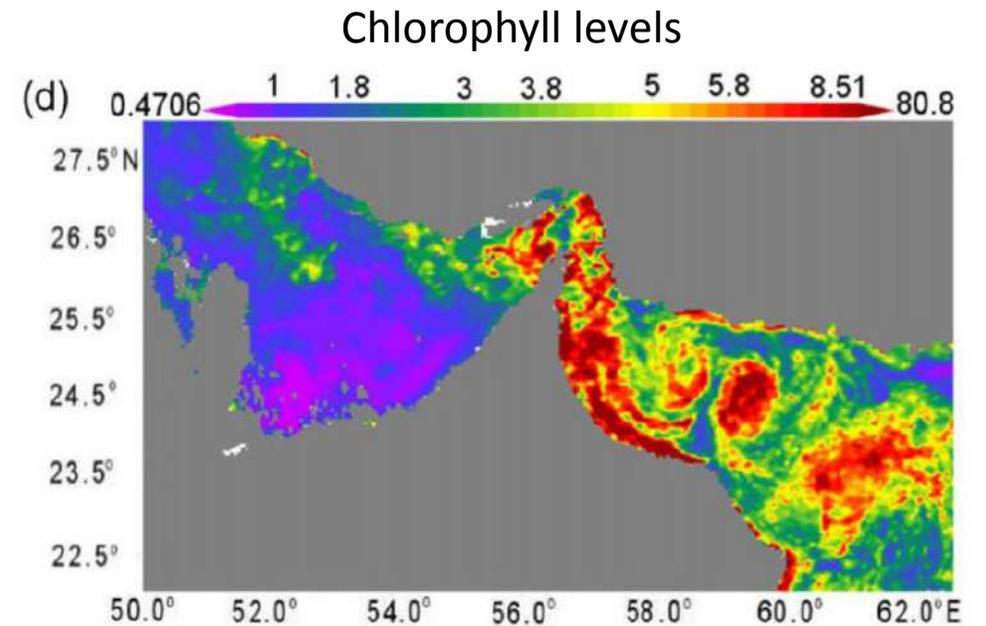
# Environmental impact - nutrients

- Fish culture usually depends on the use of artificial feed. However, not all the nutrients in the feed are utilized for fish growth.
- Approximately 45% of nitrogen, and 18% of phosphorous contained in feed are excreted as dissolved inorganic nutrients and enter the water column.
- The impacts on the environment are most apparent in flow-through systems and cages, whereas the impacts in ponds are more complex as there is uptake of nutrients by primary production.



# Algal blooms

- The Arabian Gulf and Sea of Oman are prone to algal blooms which is a risk for fish cage culture.
- Blooms may kill fish in several ways.
  - Densely concentrated algal bloom can deplete oxygen in the water due to the high respiration rate of the algae, or by bacterial respiration during their decay.
  - Some algae cause damage to the gills of fish, with the result that they are unable to take in enough oxygen.



# Harmful Algal Blooms

- There have been several bloom events that have affected aquaculture.
- 1999 red tide in Kuwait Bay indicated caused a fish kill due to elevated nutrient levels, potentially from aquaculture activities as well as industrial and sewage inputs
- The bloom of the marine ichthyotoxic dinoflagellate *Cochlodinium polykrikoides* from August 2008 to May 2009 caused mortalities of wild and farmed fish (Qurayat, Oman) as well as extensive coral reef damage and restricted fishing activities.
- The pattern of subsequent recurrence of blooms may become a persistent problem for aquaculture development in the region.

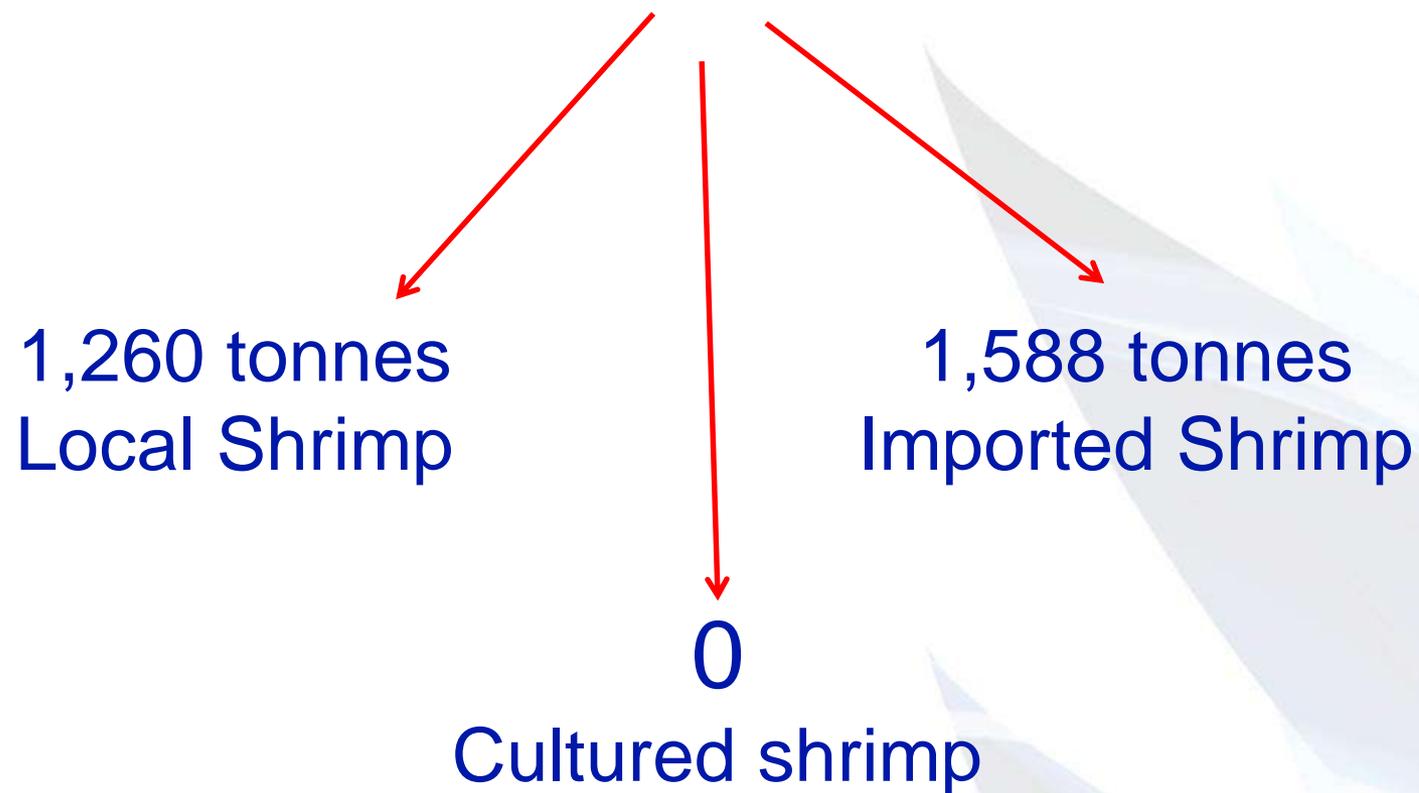


# Shrimp Aquaculture: An Overview, Challenges and Accomplishments in Kuwait

**Dr. Sherain Al-Subiai**  
**Aquaculture Program/ELSRC**  
**Kuwait**

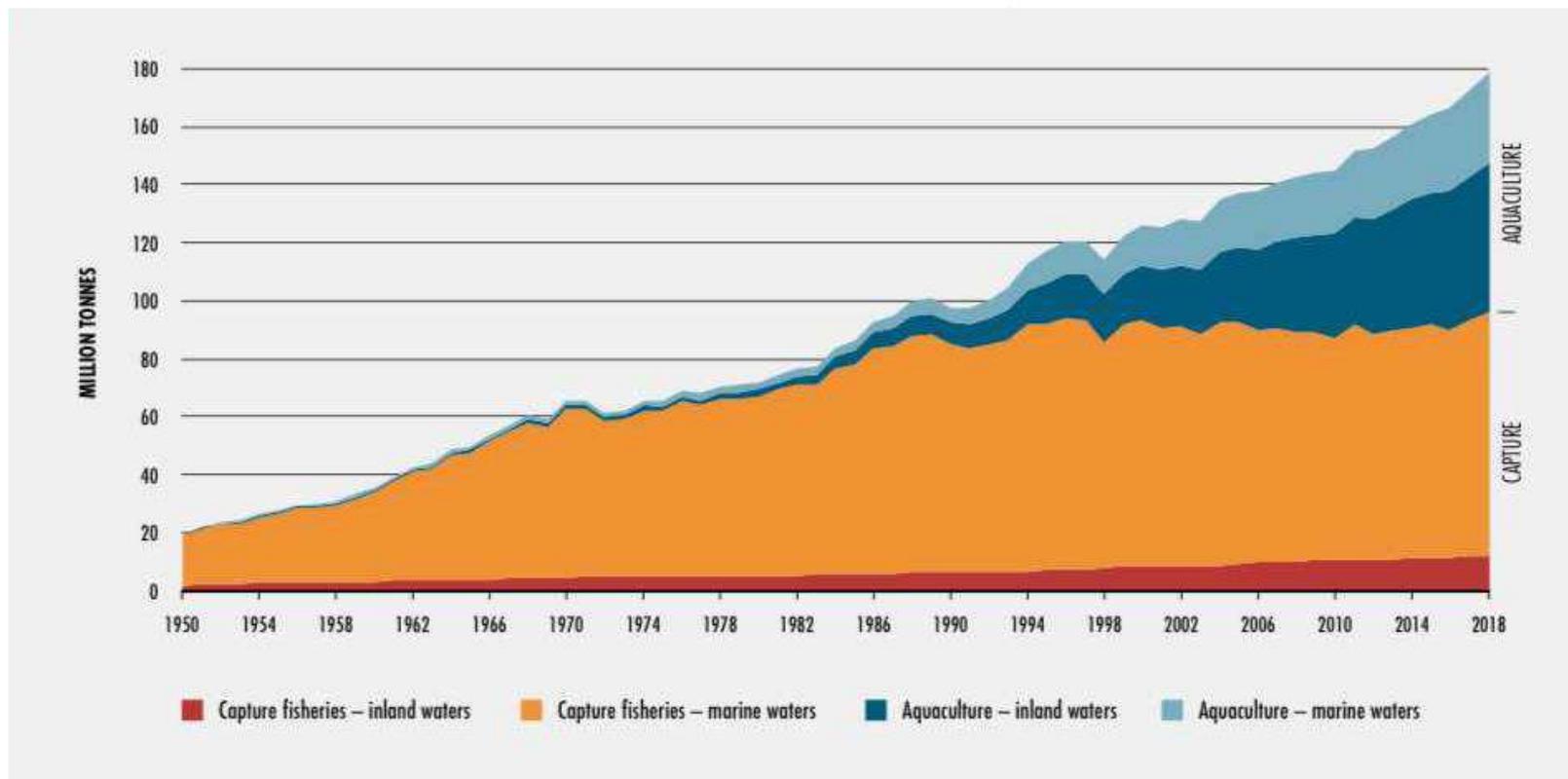


- Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has initiated aquaculture research in 1983
- KISR has earlier studied the hatchery seed production and tank rearing of *P.semisulcatus* and achieved encouraging results
- 2015, Government Initiative on technology development and application of shrimp culture for commercial production
- Development of the seed production and culture of the second most common local species *M. affinis* using Biofloc system



# Shrimp Production in Kuwait

Year	Imported			Local Captured			Total		
	Value (KD)	Price(KD)	Quantity (Kg)	Value (KD)	Price(KD)	Quantity (Kg)	Value (KD)	Price(KD)	Quantity (Kg)
2005	2,175,922	1.588	1,370,080	3,531,471	1.868	1,890,255	5,707,396	1.751	3,260,335
2007	1,900,943	1.502	1,265,750	2,718,744	1.766	1,539,857	4,619,687	1.647	2,805,607
2009	1,846,289	1.447	1,275,715	3,272,483	1.871	1,749,307	5,118,773	1.692	3,025,022
2010	1,726,646	1.543	1,118,700	4,050,478	1.926	2,102,721	5,777,125	1.793	3,221,421
2011	1,697,312	1.807	939,360	3,453,970	2.4	1,439,142	5,151,282	2.166	2,378,502
2012	2,720,531	1.759	1,546,270	3,112,314	2.119	1,468,478	5,832,845	1.935	3,014,748
2013	2,701,744	2.073	1,303,550	3,650,223	2.417	1,510,080	6,351,966	2.258	2,813,630
2014	3,547,041	2.234	1,588,060	4,245,471	2.854	1,487,551	7,792,512	2.534	3,075,611
2015	4,497,361	2.119	2,122,200	4,088,554	2.831	1,444,309	8,584,587	2.407	3,566,509
2016	5,040,498	2.079	2,427,760	4,916,388	3.023	1,626,319	9,956,886	2.456	4,054,079



FAO, 2020

# Shrimp Culture Systems

## 1. Traditional or extensive

Size: 3-20 hectare

Stocking density: 3,000-5,000/ha



Yield is very  
low

## 2. Improved traditional or semi-intensive



Size: 1–3 hectares

Water depth: 0.80 - 1.2 meters

Stocking density: 20,000-50,000/ha

### 3. Intensive method



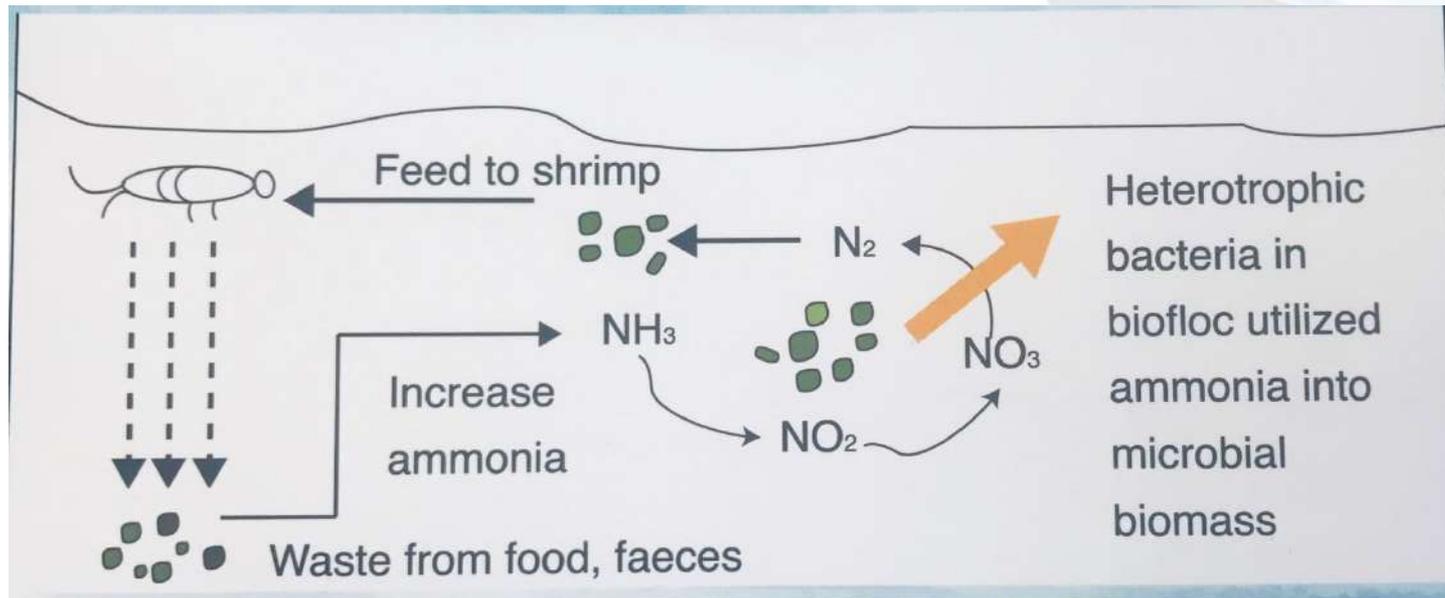
Earthen or concrete pond  
Size: 500-5000 m<sup>2</sup>  
Stocking density: 200-250/m<sup>2</sup>

# Biofloc Raceway

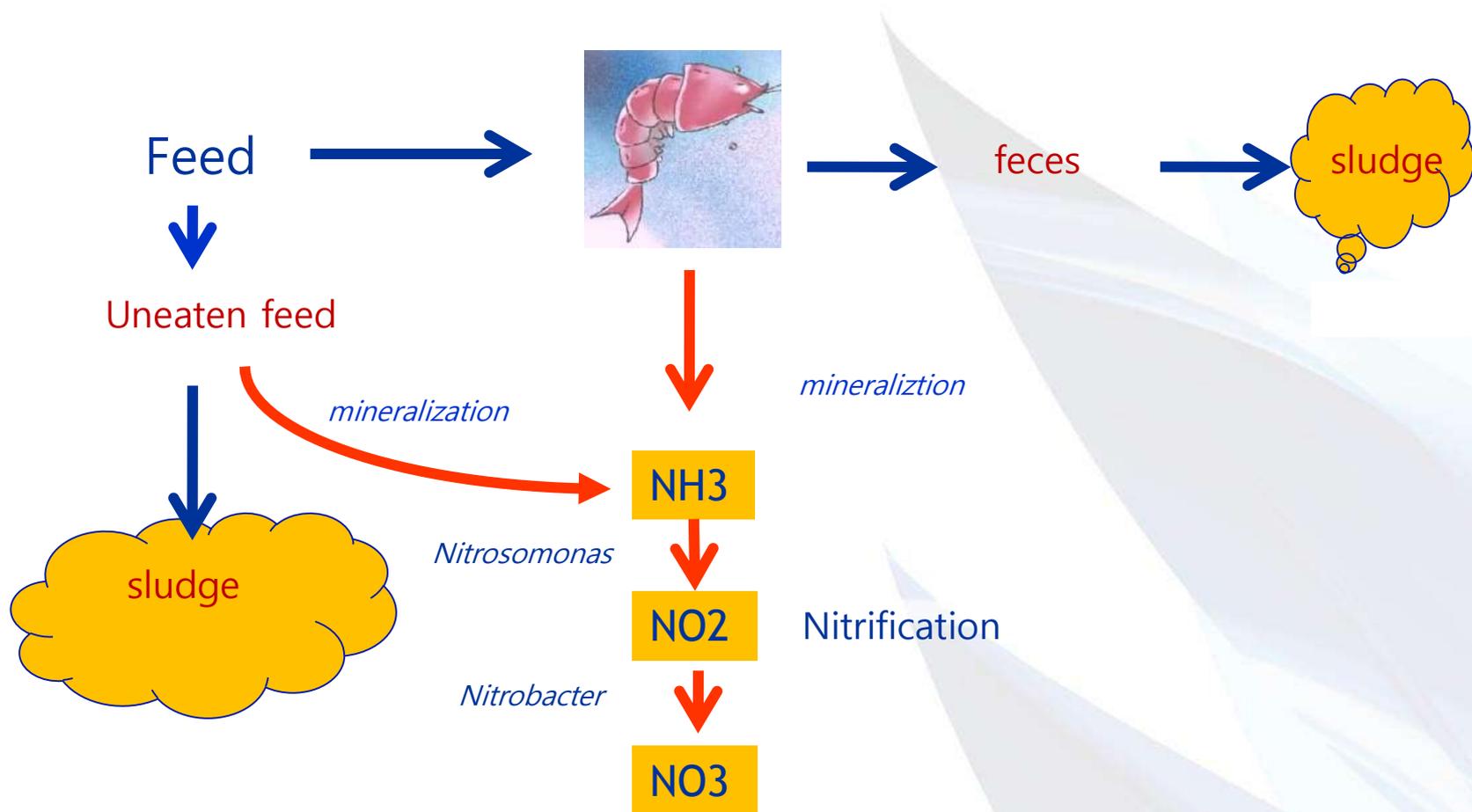


# Biofloc?

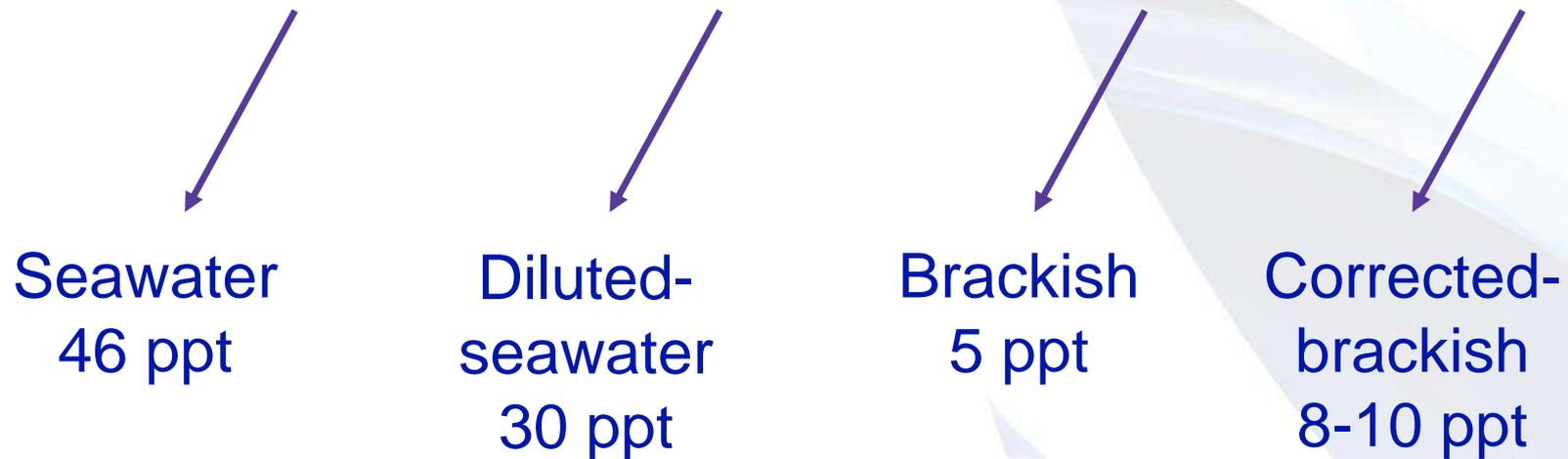
- The Biofloc system is a recent innovative aquaculture technology, very promising for stable and sustainable production as the system has self-nitrification process within culture ponds/tanks/raceways with zero water exchange



# Nitrification cycle (Chemoautotrophic pathway)



- Optimizing shrimp biofloc culture condition on SPF *L. vannamei* using seawater, diluted seawater and brackish water



- 
- Inland shrimp farming has relatively a short history, due to the fact that ground water is unsuitable for shrimp farming
  - KISR has overcome this problem through scientific research at experimental scale
  - The hard success of such a unique technology has raises the bar to test the production at semi-commercial scale at Kabd site



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10 Kg for 60\$ to make  
333L of 30 ppt

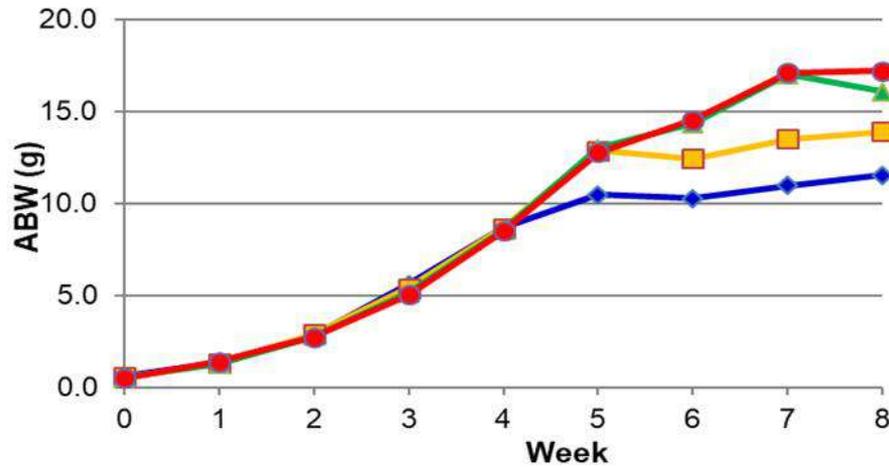
300 Kg to make 10  
tons of water to start  
up small raceway



No.	Water	Salt	Amount	Salinity (ppt)	Price (KD/kg)
1	DW 500ml	Indian Artificial Sea Salt	5g	10	2.0
2	DW 500ml	KSA salt-1 (red pack)	5g	10	0.2
3	DW 500ml	KSA salt-2 (livestock)	5g	10	0.1
4	DW 500ml	KISR salt (desalination)	7g	11	0.0
5	DW 500ml	Vietnamese salt	6g	10	0.7

W.Q Source (mg/L)	1. Indian salt	2. KSA salt-1	3. KSA salt-2	4. KISR salt	5. Viet salt
pH	5.4	5.5	6.6	9.3	8.2
Sal (ppt)	10.5	10.1	10.3	11.2	11.4
Ec(25°C, us/cm)	16,670.0	16,330.0	16,420.0	17,430.0	18,080.0
Na	3,890.0	3,618.0	3,801.0	3,827.0	4,092.0
K	0.01	0.01	2.4	48.6	13.7
Mg	0.01	0.01	9.0	176.5	85.0
Ca	0.01	0.01	0.01	44.0	50.0
Cl <sup>-</sup>	6,439.0	6,322.0	6,316.0	6,746.0	6,927.0
Na:K	389,000	361,800	1,590	79	299
Mg:Ca	1.0	1.0	900.0	4.0	1.7

## Shrimp weekly growth



Addition of Mg-salt

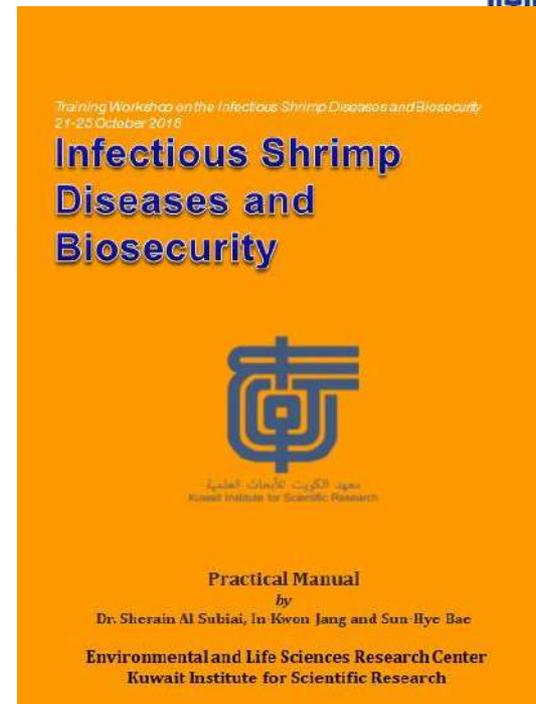
Without Mg-salt



Tank	Tank Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Water volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	Stocking Density (/m <sup>2</sup> )	Stocking Density (/m <sup>3</sup> )	Days	Initial ABW (g)	Final ABW (g)	Total Production (g)	Yield (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	Survived shrimp (INDS)	Survival Rate (%)	FCR	ADG (g/day)	
GW 1	Mean	1	0.8	200	250	56	0.55	13.9	1,650	2,063	120	59.8	1.32	0.24
	STD						0.02	1.0	147	184	19	9.4	0.13	0.02
GW 2	Mean	1	0.8	200	250	56	0.53	16.1	1785	2231	111	55.5	1.24	0.28
	STD						0.06	0.3	68	84	6	3.04	0.05	0.01
GW 3	Mean	1	0.8	200	250	56	0.49	17.2	1608	2010	94	47.2	1.36	0.30
	STD						0.03	1.7	87	109	15	7.3	0.07	0.03



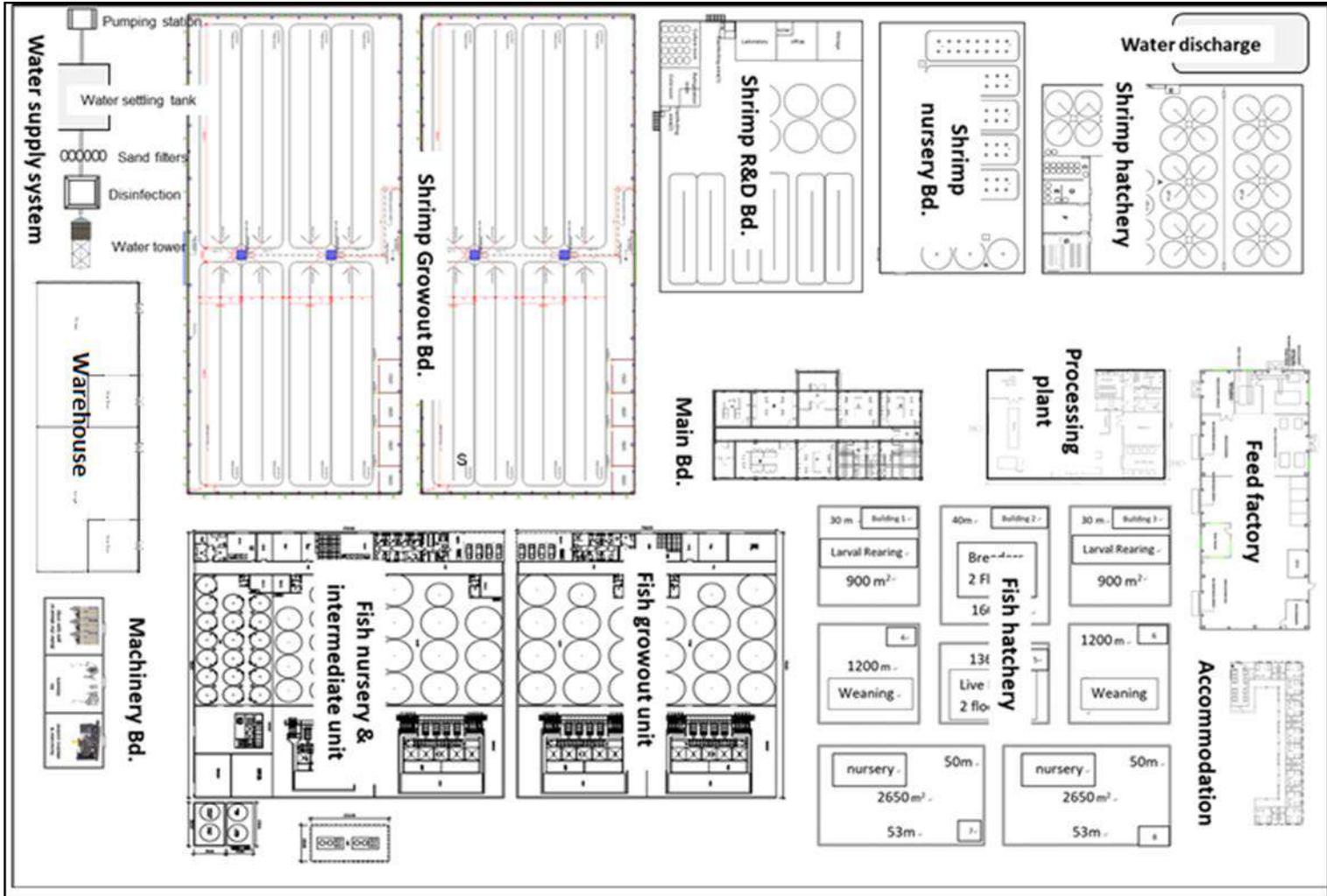






# Established Inland Shrimp Farm

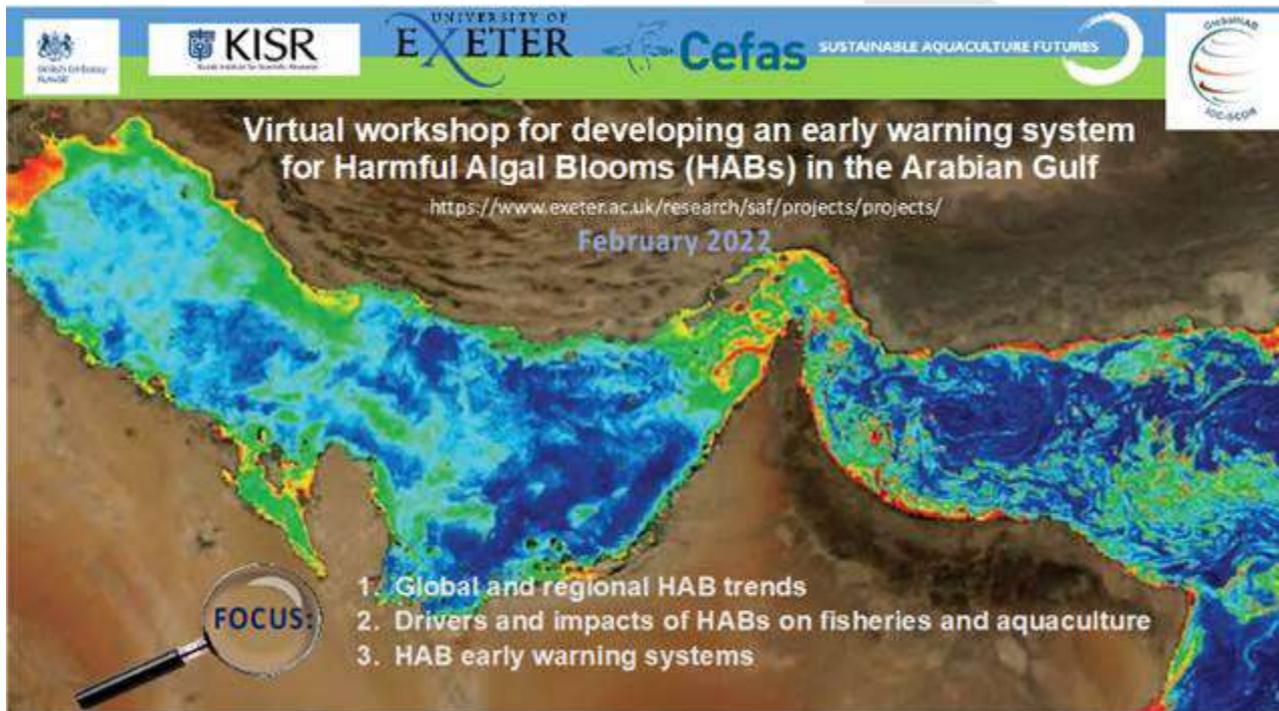




## Key Discussion Points

- Hatchery seed production of local shrimp species was attempted in Kuwait
- In general, shrimp aquaculture industry is in nascent stages in Kuwait
- Mg/K-salt improve shrimp performance for inland shrimp farming but, was not enough to make satisfactory profits for commercial farms
- Shrimp still probably needs other trace metals from sea water
- Further advancement leading to commercial shrimp culture is wanting in Kuwait

# • Thank You !



The banner features a satellite-style map of the Arabian Gulf with a color-coded overlay representing Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). The colors range from blue (low concentration) to red (high concentration). The map is framed by a blue and green border containing logos for the University of Exeter, Cefas, and Sustainable Aquaculture Futures. A magnifying glass icon is positioned over the word 'FOCUS' in the bottom left corner.

**Virtual workshop for developing an early warning system  
for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the Arabian Gulf**

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/saf/projects/projects/>

**February 2022**

**FOCUS:**

1. Global and regional HAB trends
2. Drivers and impacts of HABs on fisheries and aquaculture
3. HAB early warning systems

# *Environmental extremes and additional pressures on marine ecosystems in the RSA*

Michelle Devlin and Brett P. Lyons



Centre for Environment  
Fisheries & Aquaculture  
Science



**Cefas**

# Gulf's marine environment

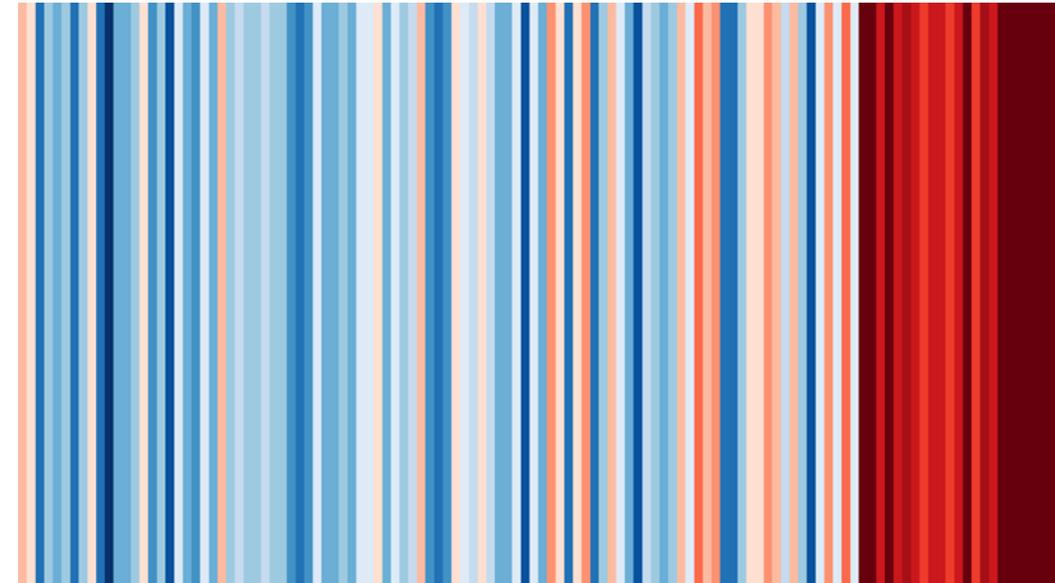
- Maximum depth approx. 90m.
- Iranian side of Gulf tends to have steeper gradient with more gradual slope along the Arabian shoreline.
- High temperatures and dry winds = 1-2 m equivalent of evaporation per year.
- Salinity >39psu across most Gulf waters.
- General circulation pattern via Strait of Hormuz, along Iranian coast in counter-clockwise direction.
- Low flushing rates lead to salinities > 70psu in embayments (e.g. Gulf Salwah, south of Bahrain).



# The world's hottest sea...



- The Gulf has been identified as the warmest water body world-wide.
- Recent satellite imagery indicated that the Gulf frequently experiences the highest SST globally, exceeding 36.0 °C.
- Extreme sea surface temperatures reached 37.6 °C, on 30th July 2020 in Kuwait Bay (at an offshore station).



Bahrain air temperature (1901-2020)

# Hot, salty, sour and breathless!

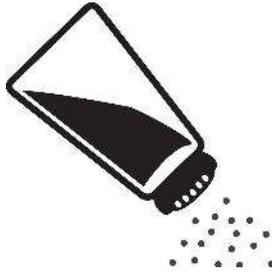
## Temperature



Gulf already one of warmest seas (>36°C)

SST could increase by 2.8–4.2 °C

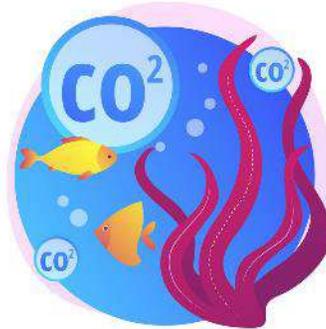
## Salinity



High evaporation leads to very saline waters

Salinity increased by 0.5–1.0% over the past 60 years

## Ocean acidification



pH in the Gulf could decrease by ~ 0.25 units by 2050

## Low oxygen



Areas of low oxygen concentration (OMZs) are expected to become larger and more persistent

## Cyclones & storms



The number of severe tropical cyclones in the may increase by the end of this century (Arabian Sea)

## Monsoon



Projections for 2100 suggest a weakening of the Indian winter monsoon in the Arabian Sea

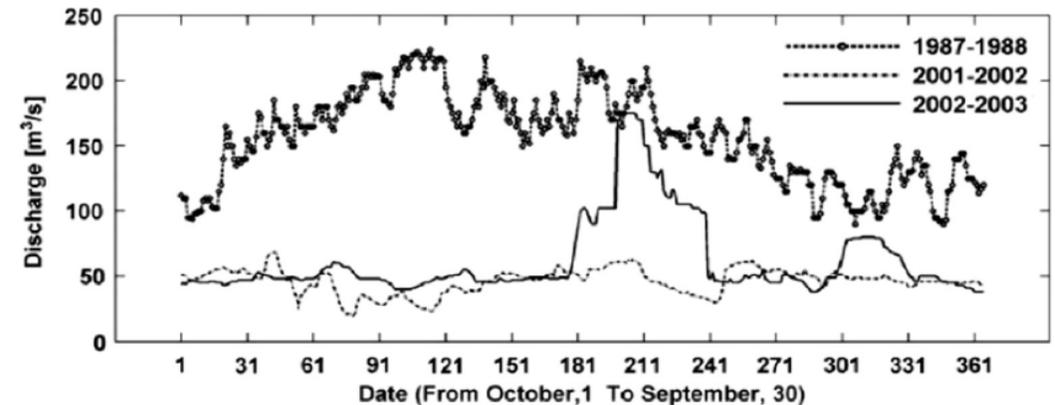
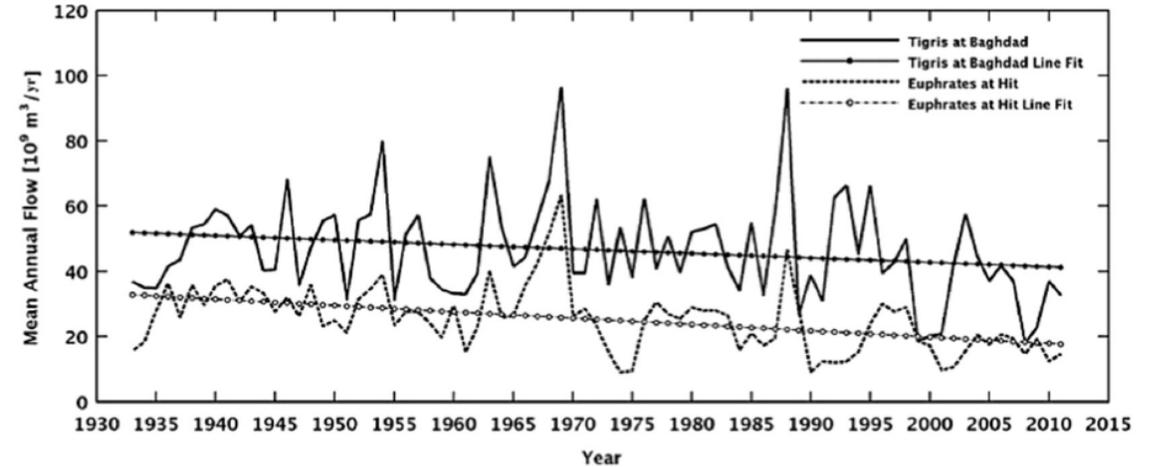
## Sea level rise



Sea-level rise of 2.2 mm per year has been estimated for the Gulf

# Other pressures are impacting the Gulf

- Fresh water flow from the North (Tigris, Euphrates and Karun estimated to be 35-133 km<sup>3</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>.
- Net evaporation 350 – 800 km<sup>3</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>.
- Inflow to the south from the Arabian Sea via the Strait of Hormuz.
- Discharge of brine from desalination plants.

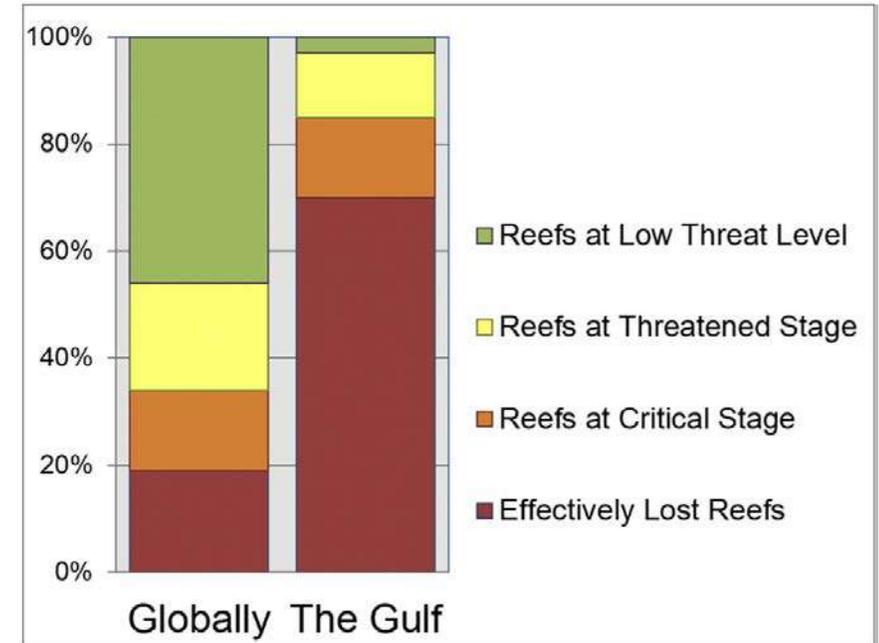
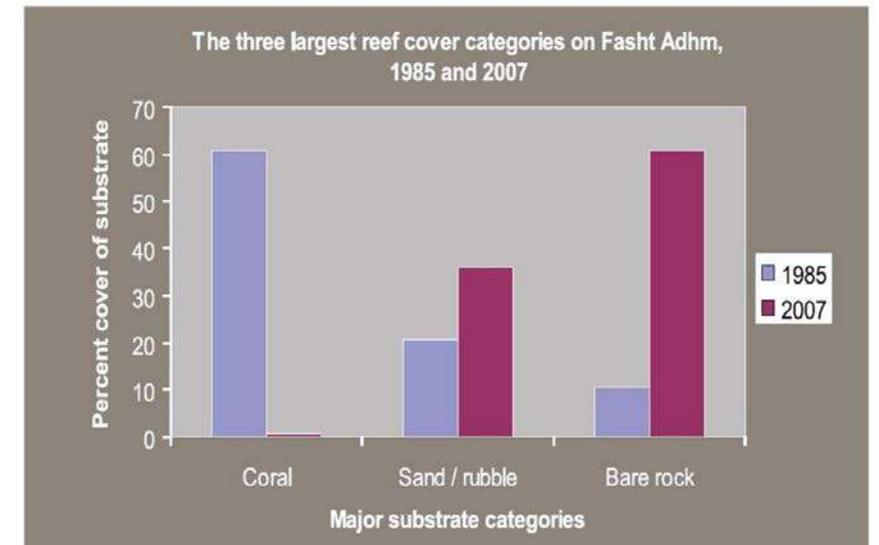


Alosairi and Pokavanich, Mar Pol Bul (2015)

Abdullah et al., (2015). Int. J. River Basin Manag. 13, 215–227.

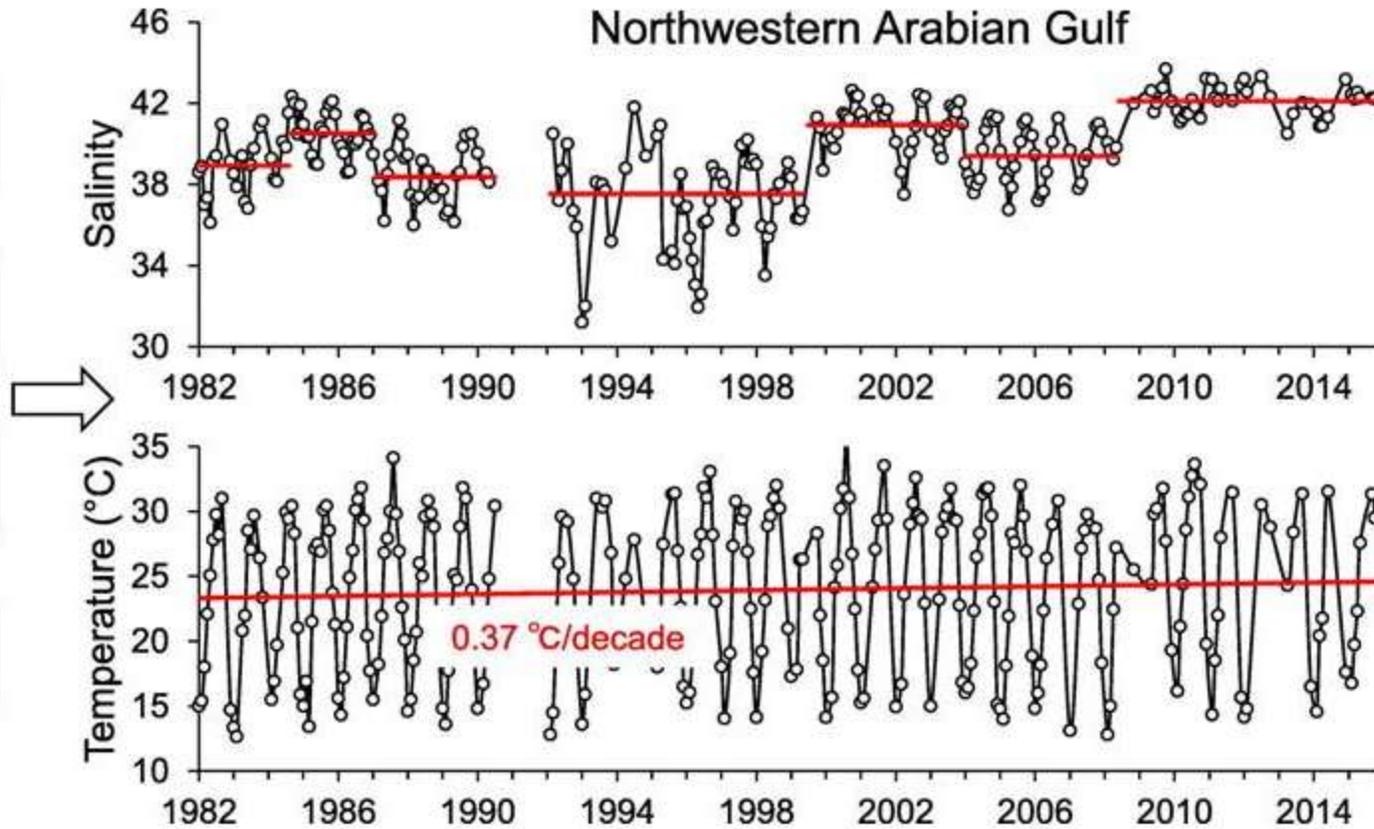
# The Gulf - a ecosystem in trouble

- Evidence to suggest that a significant decline is happening across all marine systems (coral reefs, sea grass beds, fisheries etc), to the extent its been termed a 'young sea in decline' (Sheppard et al., 2010).
- Estimated that 70% loss of coral reef cover from the historic 3800 km<sup>2</sup> of cover.
- Economic impact associated with decline.
- Equates to an annual loss of \$94 billion to the regional economy (Costanza et al., 2014; Burt et al., 2014; Sheppard et al., 2015).



Burt et al., (2014). . Ocean Chall., 20, 49-56  
 Costanza et al., (2014). Glob. Environ. Chang., 26, 152-158  
 Sheppard et al., (2010). Mar. Pollut. Bull., 60, 13-18  
 Sheppard et al., (2015). Mar. Pollut. Bull., 105, 593-598

- Water exchange
- River discharge
- Climate change
- Wastewater (brine)



Baseline

Dynamic hydrographic variations in northwestern Arabian Gulf over the past three decades: Temporal shifts and trends derived from long-term monitoring data

Faiza Al-Yamani, Takahiro Yamamoto\*, Turki Al-Said, Aws Alghunaim

*Ecosystem Based Management of Marine Resources Program, Environment and Life Sciences Research Center, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait*

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:  
 Salinity  
 Temperature  
 Level shift  
 Freshwater inflow  
 Kuwait water

ABSTRACT

Hydrographic variables were monitored in northwestern Arabian Gulf over the past three decades and the time-series data were statistically analyzed. The results show that while salinity has undergone several shifts, seawater temperature exhibited a steady increasing trend since the 1980s. The observed salinity shows strong correlation with Shatt Al-Arab River discharge in dictating primary contribution of freshwater to salinity among other factors (evaporation and desalination effluent). Recent data show that salinity is at its highest level in the last 30 years with less pronounced seasonal variability in response to severe decline in the freshwater runoff into the northwestern Arabian Gulf. The changes in hydrographic conditions may have significant implications on hydrodynamics, water quality, and ecosystems in the Gulf. Thus, cooperation among the concerned countries - both coastal and riparian nations - would be essential for prevention of further major changes in the Gulf.

Al Yamani et al., (2017). Mar. Pollut. Bull., 122, 488-499

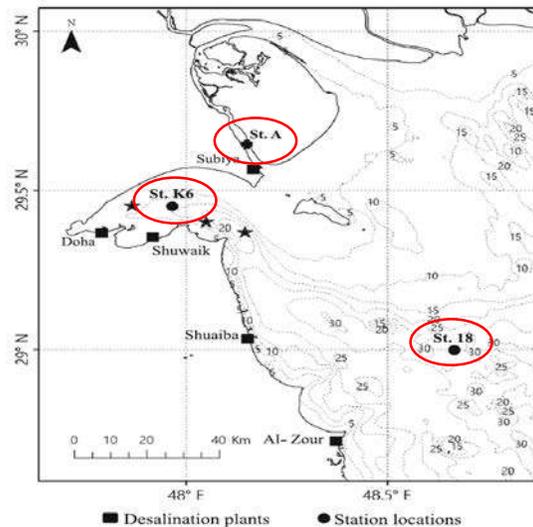
# Water Quality issues

- Urbanisation, sewage outfalls
  - Elevated nutrient concentrations
  - Phytoplankton –shift in plankton community?
  - Increase incidence of HABs?
  - Increasing turbidity inshore
  - Dissolved Oxygen sags
  - Microbial (bathing water) issues
  - Human health concerns
- 
- Water quality issues can impact on resilience.



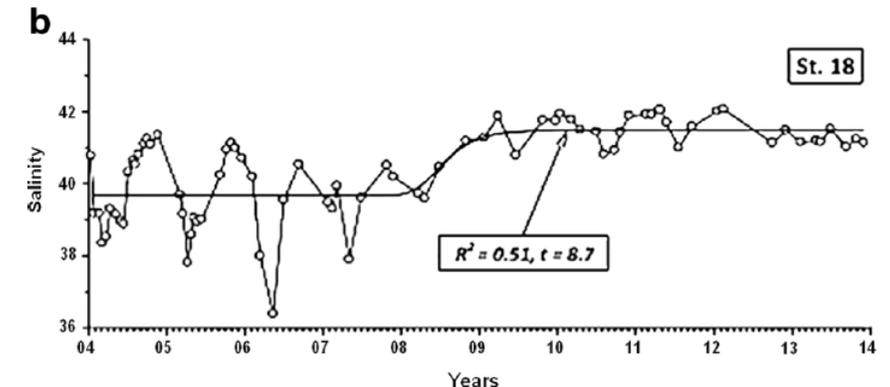
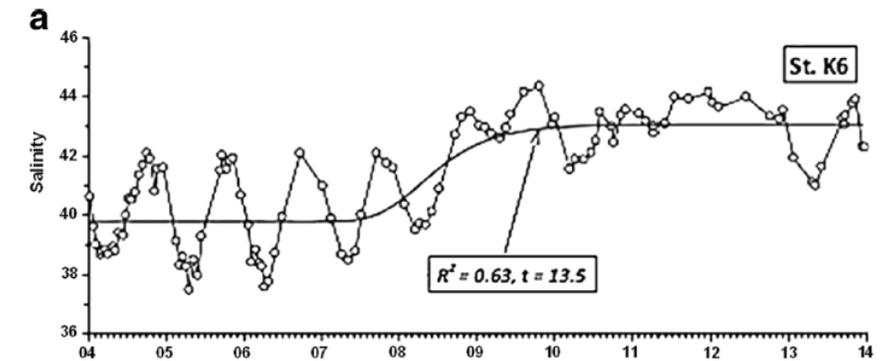
# Case Study - Kuwait

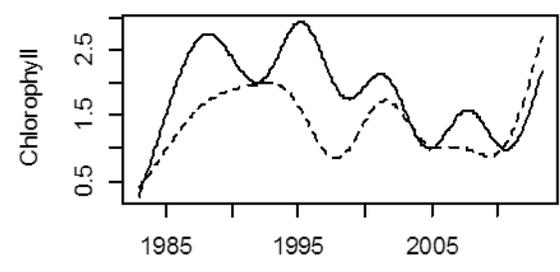
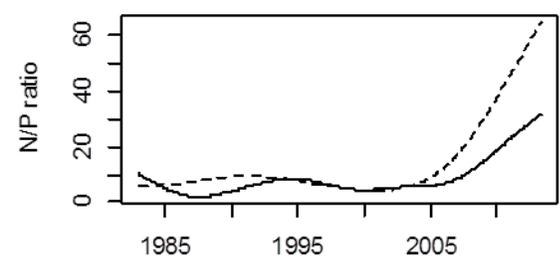
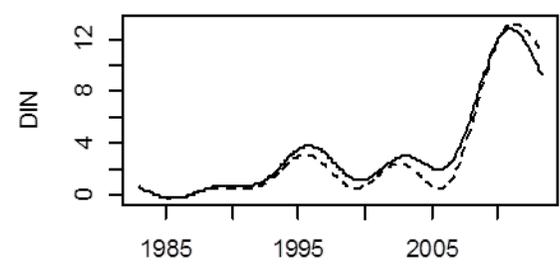
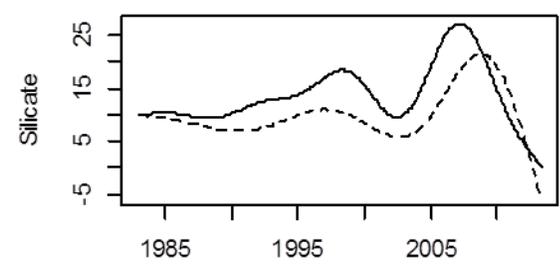
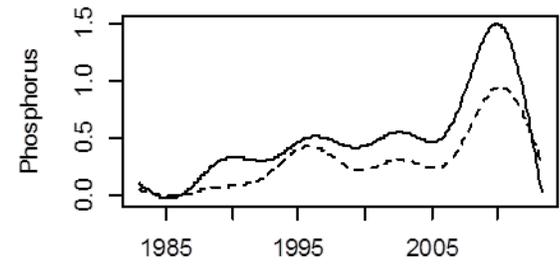
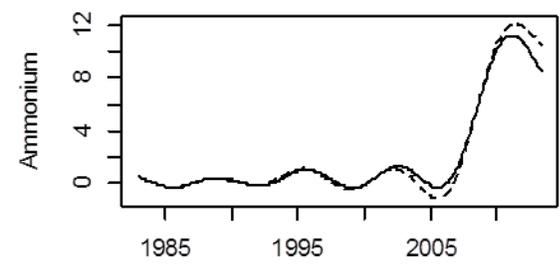
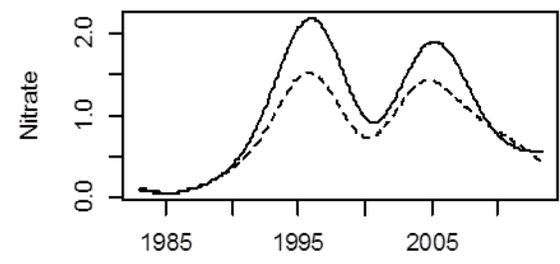
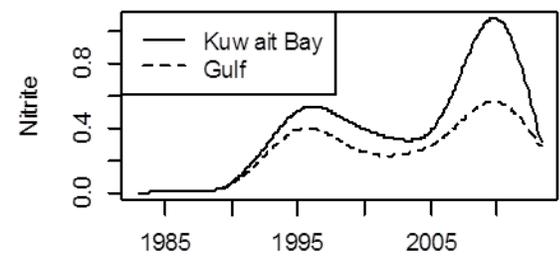
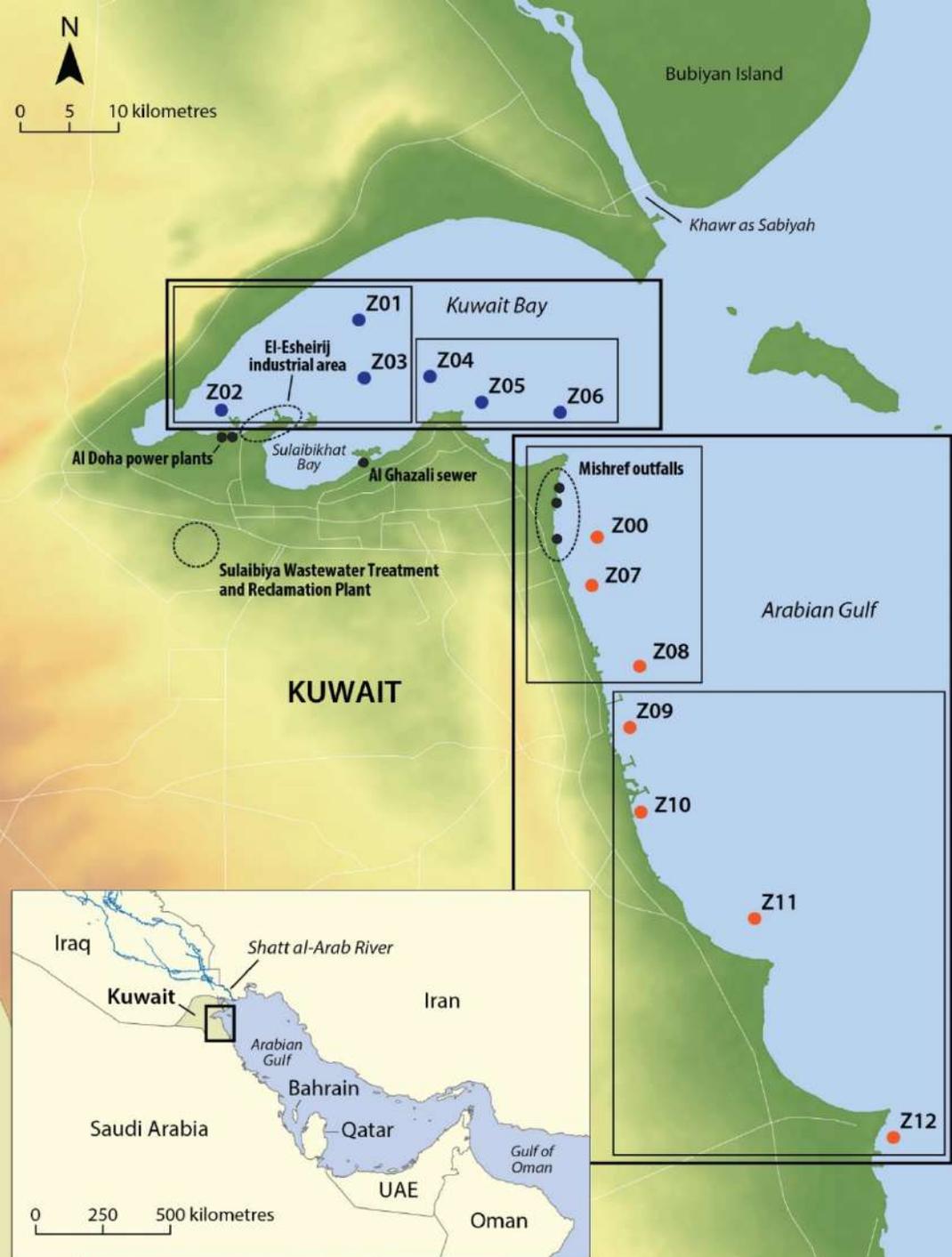
- The Shatt al-Arab River responsible for diffuse nutrient runoff from late 1980s
- Changing land use patterns – Shatt Al Arab River – higher salinity
- Human intervention (1970s) related to water mining, marsh drainage, damming policies and limited bilateral water management resulting in reductions in water flow and increased salinity levels in receiving waters – shifting baseline represents much of the Gulf



**St A:** % freshwater  
**1997 = 25.6 – 42.5 %;**  
**2012-2013 = 0.8 – 4.6%**

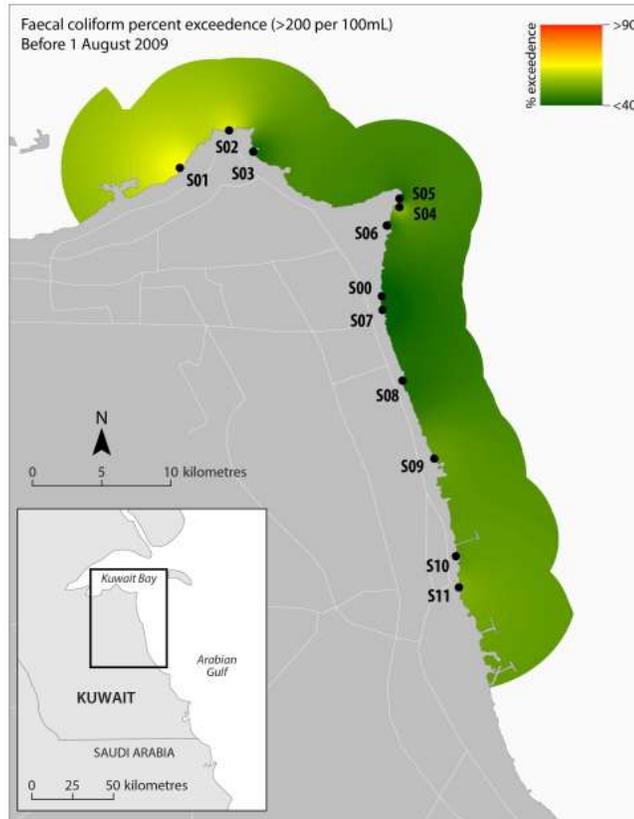
Abdullah et al., (2015).  
 Int. J. River Basin Manag.  
 13, 215–227.



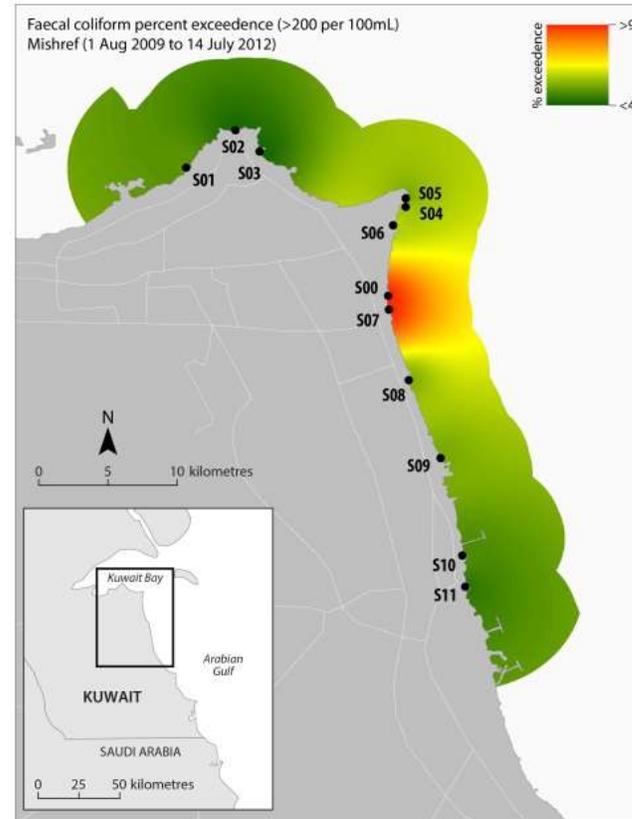


# Kuwait

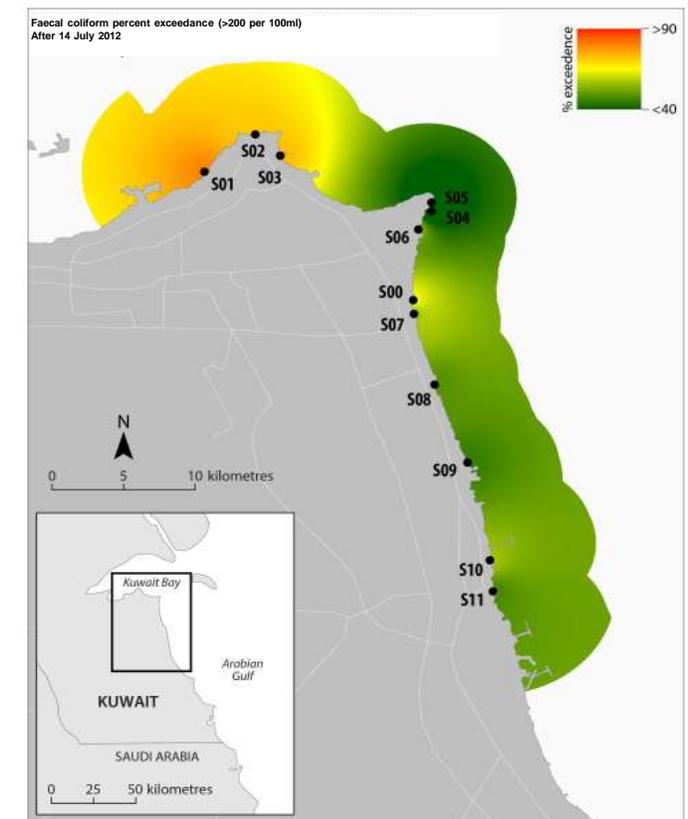
## Pre – chronic event



## Chronic event



## Post Chronic event (to late 2013)





- ❖ A combination of chronic and diffuse nutrient loads has had a major impact on the status of the water quality indicators – dissolved nutrients have increased over last 30 years
- ❖ Chlorophyll-a data shows a significant reduction in the phytoplankton biomass associated with seasonal blooms
- ❖ DO sags
- ❖ Increased turbidity in Kuwait Bay
- ❖ Analysis of phytoplankton lifeforms shows community shifts

Devlin et al., 2012, Devlin et al., 2012, Lyons et al., 2012  
Al-Said et al. 2018



**Kuwait**

The State of Kuwait is situated at the north-western corner of the Arabian Gulf and provides for a unique and valuable marine ecosystem. The marine waters of Kuwait range along a coastline of approximately 500 km and out into the Northern Arabian Gulf. Kuwait's marine environment is characterized by variety of habitats and wildlife, particularly in the northern part of Kuwait's waters and Kuwait Bay, one of the most prominent features of Kuwait's marine environment.

Kuwait has a diverse marine environment comprising a range of marine and coastal habitats including coral reefs, seagrass beds, salt marshes and nine islands with important coastal habitats.



Figure 1. DIN water quality and confidence monitoring sites in Kuwait Bay and the Arabian Gulf.

**CONCLUSION**

- This report identifies major concerns around Food and Water Quality for Human Health, Eutrophication, Biodiversity and Commercial Fisheries (Figure 3). Based on current information, the trajectories for future status are predicted to decline for all themes other than environmental pollution.
- Indicators for environmental pollution show low levels of contamination and are not thought to be declining. However, there are concerns with contamination associated with sewage discharge
- In conclusion, there are many significant environmental issues that are occurring in Kuwait's marine waters. Continued coastal development, urban runoff and environmental pollution are the most important issues, and with climate change, will continue to impact on the marine environment unless fundamentally addressed through the national plan which is currently being drafted by the EPA.

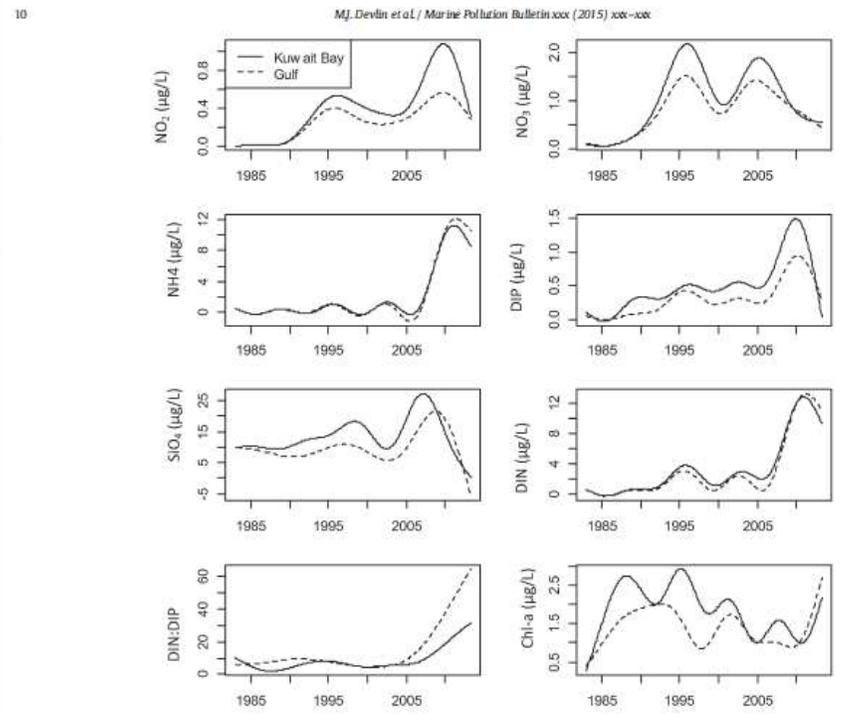
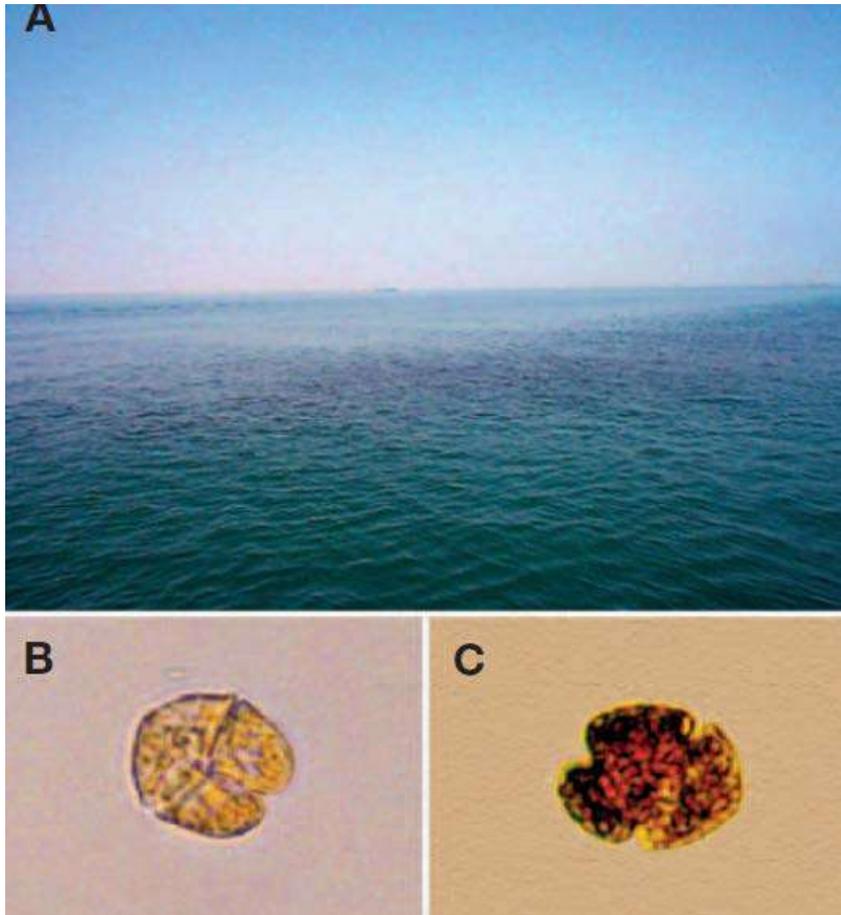
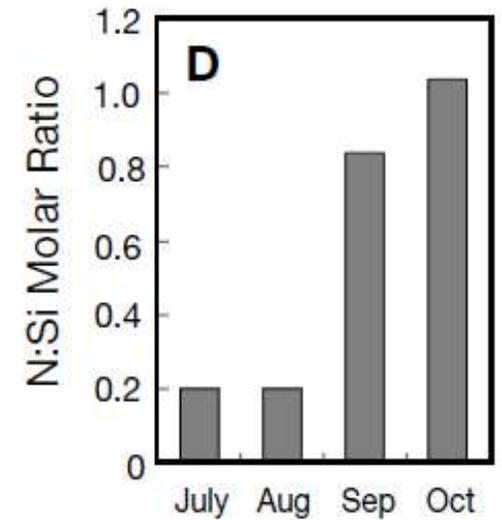
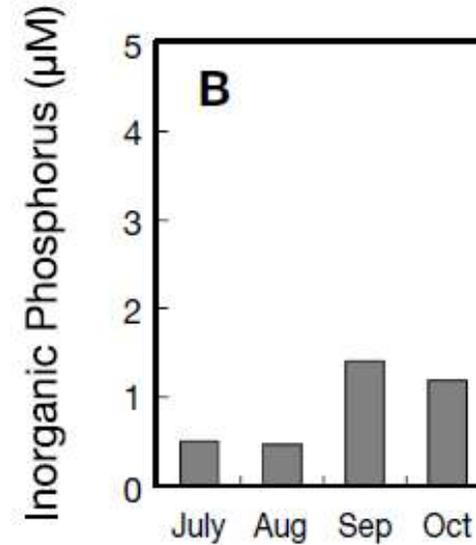
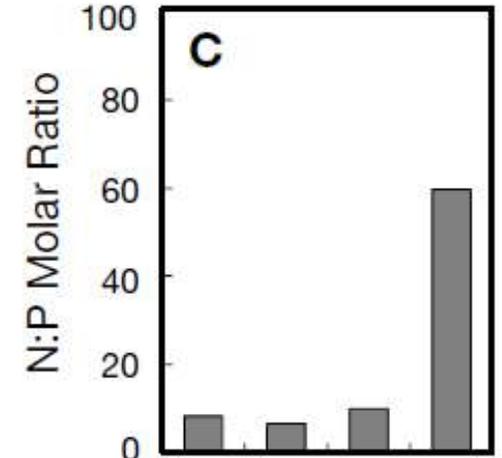
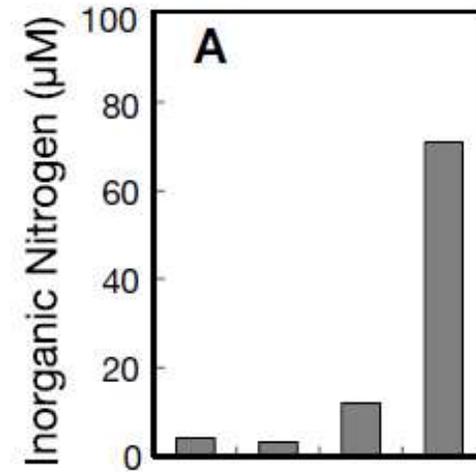


Fig. 6. Long-term trends for each of the nutrients for Kuwait Bay and Arabian Gulf. The trends are fitted using Generalised Additive Models. WQ variables are modelled over the length of the time series (1984-2012). Water quality parameters include NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub>, PO<sub>4</sub>, silicate, DIN (NO<sub>2</sub> + NO<sub>3</sub> + NH<sub>4</sub>), DIN:DIP (DIN:DIP only) ratio and chlorophyll-a. Units of measure for all nutrient species and chlorophyll-a are µg/L.

# 1999 HAB event Kuwait Bay



Heil et al., 2001



# EUTROPHICATION AND HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS



## Strategic goals

- To minimise human-induced eutrophication and its consequences
- To reduce the frequency of human-induced harmful algal bloom (HAB) consequences of HABs.

## Key findings

Status = MODERATE

Trajectory = DECLINE

- Status assessment is MODERATE
- Future trajectory of status is predicted to continue to decline.

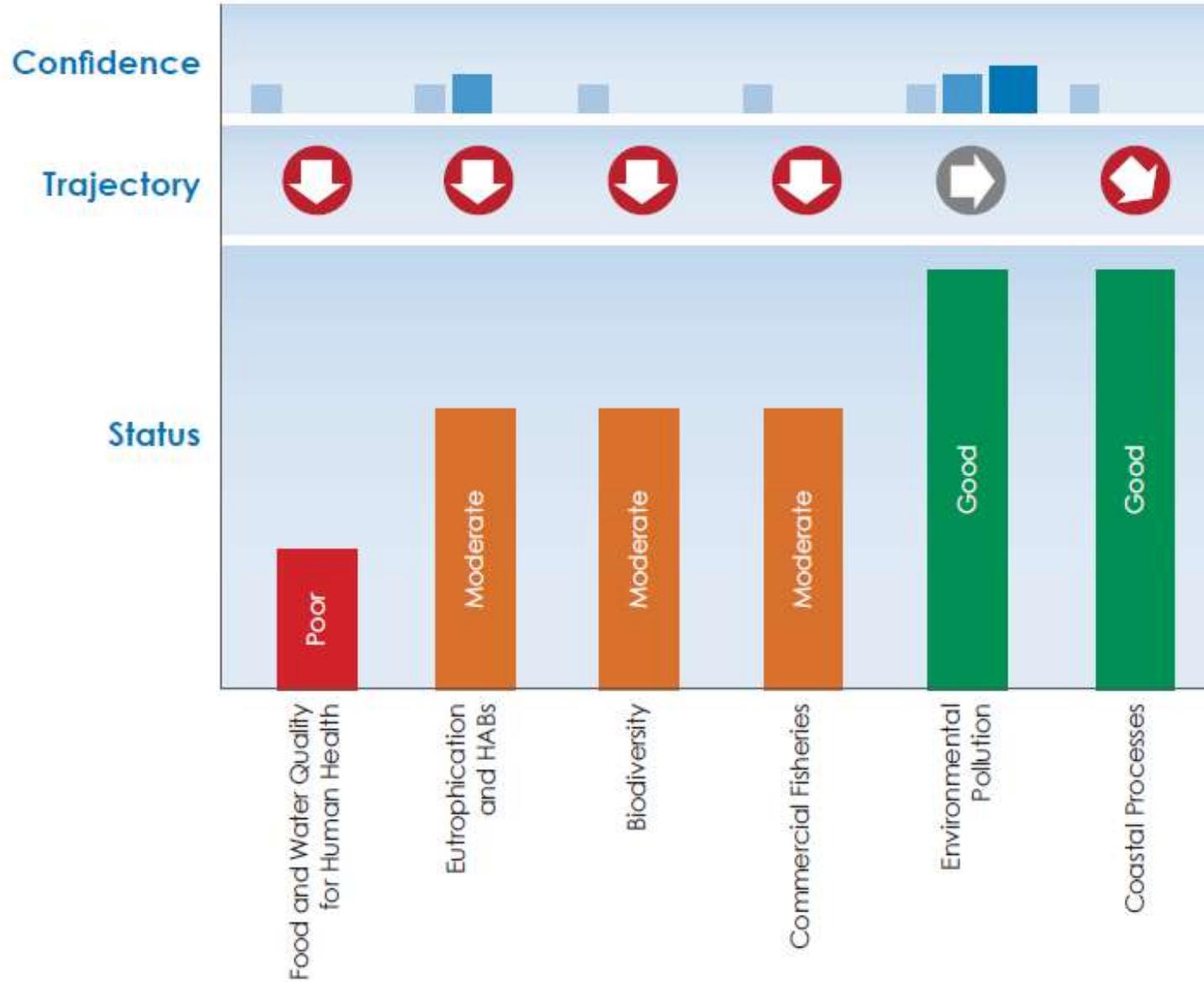
## Indicator outcomes

Attribute	Component	OUTCOMES		
		Status	Future trajectory	Confidence of assessment
<b>Eutrophication and HABs</b>				
	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)	●	⬇️	■ ■ ■
	Dissolved Inorganic Phosphorus (DIP)	●	⬇️	■ ■ ■
Eutrophication	Phytoplankton—Chlorophyll-a	●	⬇️	■ ■
	Phytoplankton—Community composition	?	?	■
	Dissolved oxygen	●	⬆️	■
	Water quality index	●	⬇️	■ ■
HABs	Harmful Algal Blooms	●	?	■

\* Water Quality (WQ) index reports nutrients, phytoplankton, turbidity and dissolved oxygen as a single eutrophication index.

# SOMER - Kuwait

- Major concerns around Food and Water Quality for Human Health, Eutrophication, Biodiversity and Commercial Fisheries
- Trajectories for future status are predicted to decline for all themes other than environmental pollution



# Wider Gulf

- Many similar issues
- Chronic coastal pollution related to urban expansion, unregulated infrastructure, unregulated, illegal discharges
- Reduce flow, increasing salinity having profound impact on plankton community in Northern Gulf
- Decline is happening across all marine systems (coral reefs, sea grass beds, fisheries etc),

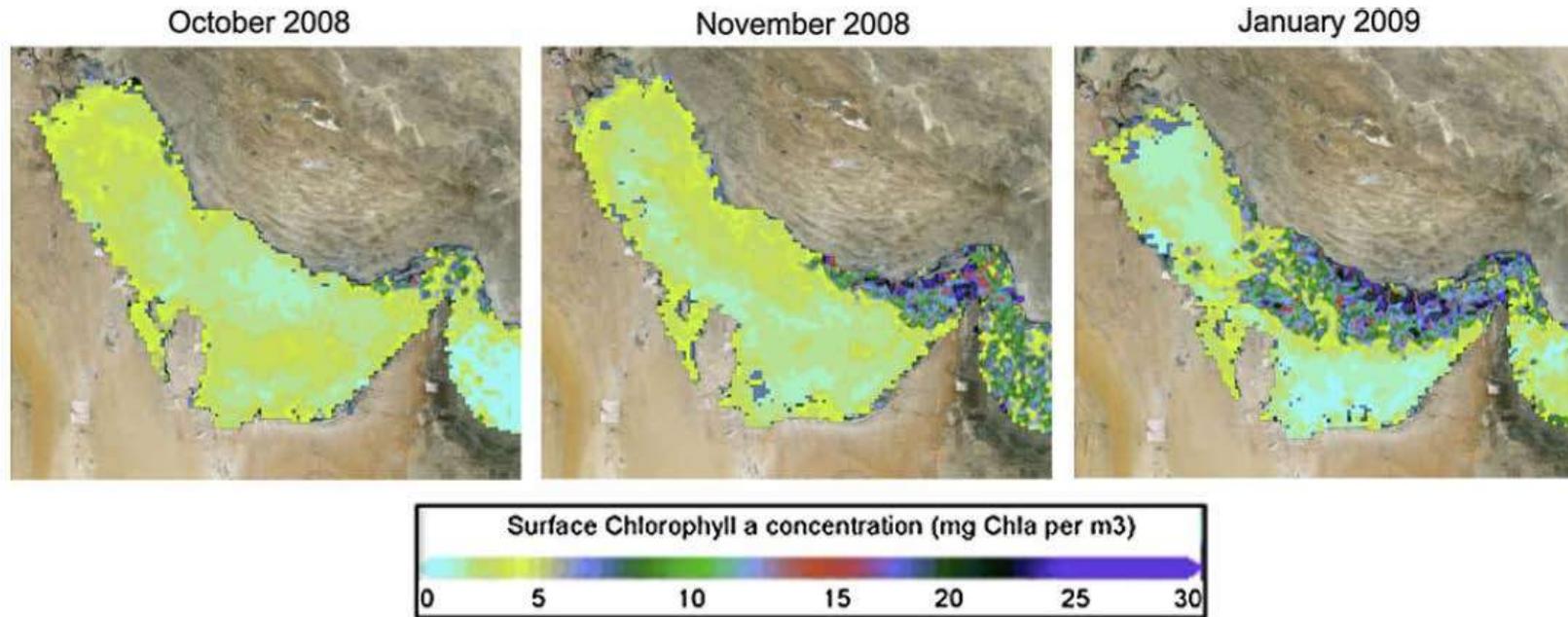
Ben-Hasen et al., 2018 MPB  
AlO Said et al., Env Mon Ass  
Shepard et al., 2010 MPB

- Salinity-related environmental changes - coincidental decrease in species diversity and significant changes in phytoplankton community
- Corresponding decline in fish catch for commercial species
- Major concerns with HABS issues
- Significant declines in coral reefs
- Climate change interactions



# HABS in the Gulf

- Low DO during algal blooms -primary causes of benthic mortality
- Smothering – coral mortality
- Death of large quantities of fishes and crustacean
- Impact on human health by causing respiratory irritation
- Impacts on desalination plants



Large-scale HAB event (> 500 km<sup>2</sup>) of the dinoflagellate *Cochlostinium polykrikoides* caused the complete loss of the branching corals, *Pocillopora* and *Acropora* spp., and substantial reductions in the abundance, richness and trophic diversity of the associated coral reef fish communities

Kuwait (Gilbert et al., 2002), Oman and UAE (Al-Azri et al., 2014, Al Gheilani et al., 2011, Al Shehhi et al., 2014, Claereboudt et al., 2001, Richlen et al., 2010) and UAE; (Guzmán et al., 1990), (Sellner et al., 2003, Tomlinson et al., 2009); Richen et al., 2010      Sale et al., 2011

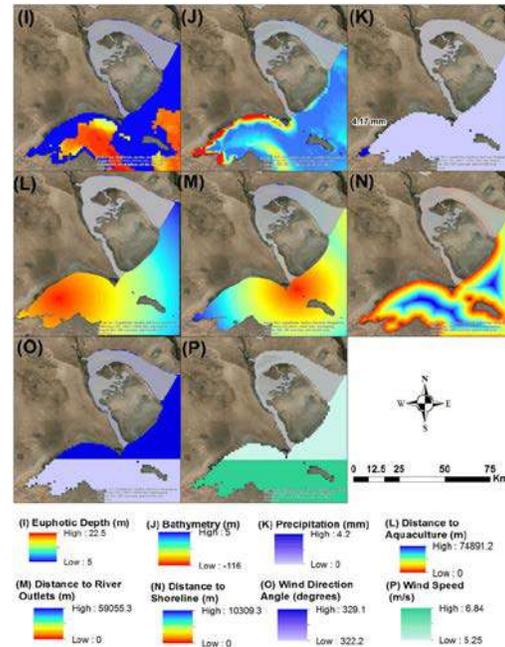
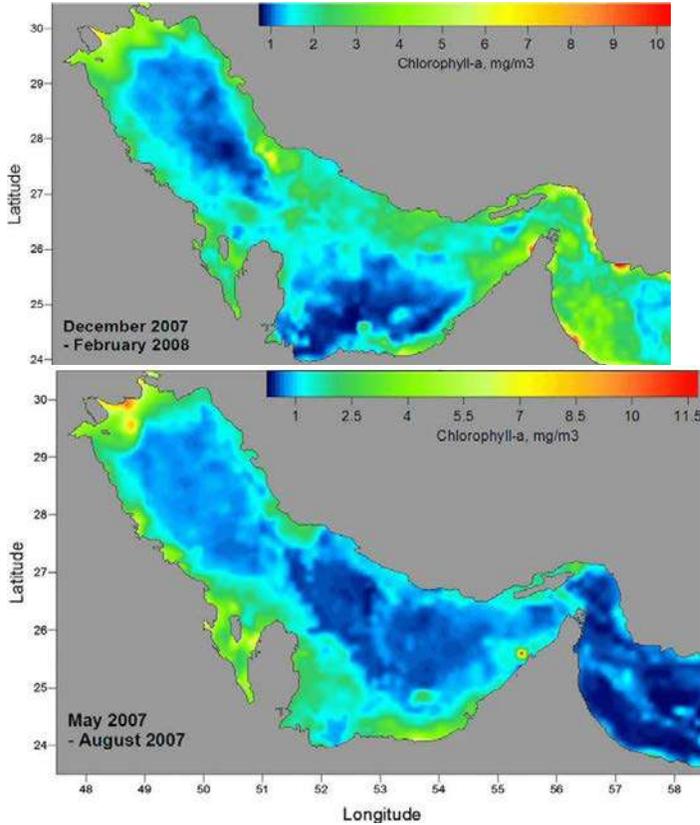
# Gulf solutions

## Positives

- Growing awareness of coastal water quality issues
- Development of strategic environmental goals via national ministries and regional bodies
- Organisations – such as ROPME – recognising the transboundary issues must be solved through a common approach.
- Many other national and regional programs underway
- Several Gulf countries developing national and regional frameworks – recognising the uniqueness of the Gulf environment and high biodiversity values.
- Move towards global frameworks (SDGs, Aichi targets)



# Gulf scale



## Challenges

- Unique habitats – in decline.
- Coastal expansion continues – lack of coastal planning
- Climate change – multiple stressor framework required.
- No single driver or solution.
- HABS issues not resolved
- Human health concerns
- Complex relationships with changing river flows not resolved

Need for Gulf wide approach aligned with national priorities

- **Take home question**
- How to accelerate management of water quality issues to “buy” time for climate mitigation

# Linking environmental factors, HAB events and impacts on fish and shellfish

Adam Lewis  
Ross Brown

22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

Workshop: Early warning systems for Harmful Algal Blooms in the Arabian Gulf



Centre for Environment  
Fisheries & Aquaculture  
Science

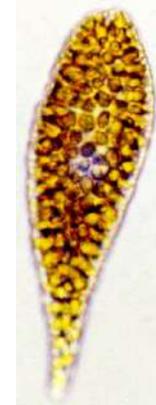
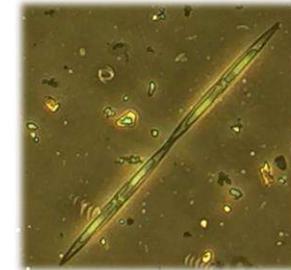
UNIVERSITY OF  
**EXETER**



**Cefas**

# Harmful Algal Blooms and the Environment

- ~300 Harmful microalgal species
  - Dinoflagellates\*
  - Diatoms, Raphidophytes, Haptophytes
- Diverse impacts at diverse concentrations
  - Toxic
  - Mechanical
  - Hypoxia
- Local Environmental drivers vary
  - Recurrent Vs Transient
  - Physical & chemical
  - Anthropogenic



# HABS and One Health



Turner *et al.* 2021

# HABs and the Arabian Gulf

Harmful species	Toxins	Impact
<i>Alexandrium minutum</i>	Paralytic shellfish toxins (PST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shellfish intoxications.</li> <li>• Can lead to human consumption and subsequent poisonings.</li> <li>• Present in a wide range of marine organisms at different trophic levels.</li> </ul>
<i>Alexandrium tamarense</i> *	PST	
<i>Alexandrium affine</i>	PST	
<i>Gymnodinium catenatum</i>	PST	
<i>Pyrodinium bahamense</i>	PST	
<i>Protoceratium reticulatum</i>	Yessotoxins (YTX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No human poisoning known.</li> <li>• Has been implicated in mass marine mortalities.</li> </ul>
<i>Lingulodinium polyedra</i>	YTX	
<i>Chatonella sp.</i>	Ichthyotoxins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often poorly or undescribed.</li> <li>• May impact finfish in a variety of ways depending on the nature of the toxin.</li> <li>• Can be fast acting with high levels of mortality or cause longer term sublethal effects.</li> </ul>
<i>Polykrikos hartmani</i>	Ichthyotoxins	
<i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i>	Ichthyotoxins	
<i>Cochlodinium polykrikoides</i>	Ichthyotoxins	
<i>Scropsiella trochoidea</i>	Anoxia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High biomass can result in mass marine mortalities.</li> </ul>
<i>Fukuyoia yasumotoi</i>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Related to Ciguatera producing species.</li> </ul>

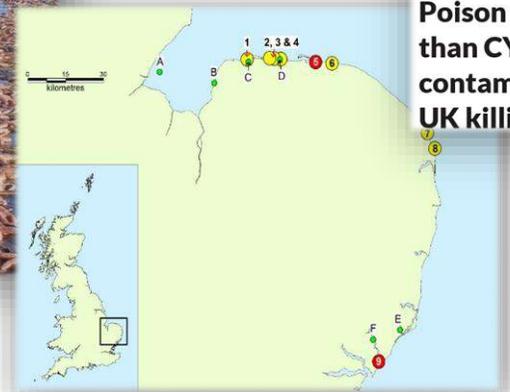
# Identification of Bloom species & Toxins

- Range of techniques
  - In-situ or off site.
- Different techniques may be suited to different species
  - Preservation/detection issues
- Morphological and/or Molecular taxonomy
- Quantitative and Qualitative methods
- Targeted and untargeted methods



# Ecological impacts in the UK

- Winter storms 2017/18
  - Mass marine strandings.
- Dog sickness and death following consumption
  - Analysis of clinical material and stranded organisms revealed Paralytic Shellfish Toxins (PST) as the cause.
- Prevalence of PST in marine organisms
  - Two independent analytical techniques used.
  - Multiple trophic levels.
  - Unexpected region and season.
  - More questions than answers.



Turner et al. 2018

# Data-driven models for predicting



# HAB impacts on shellfish aquaculture

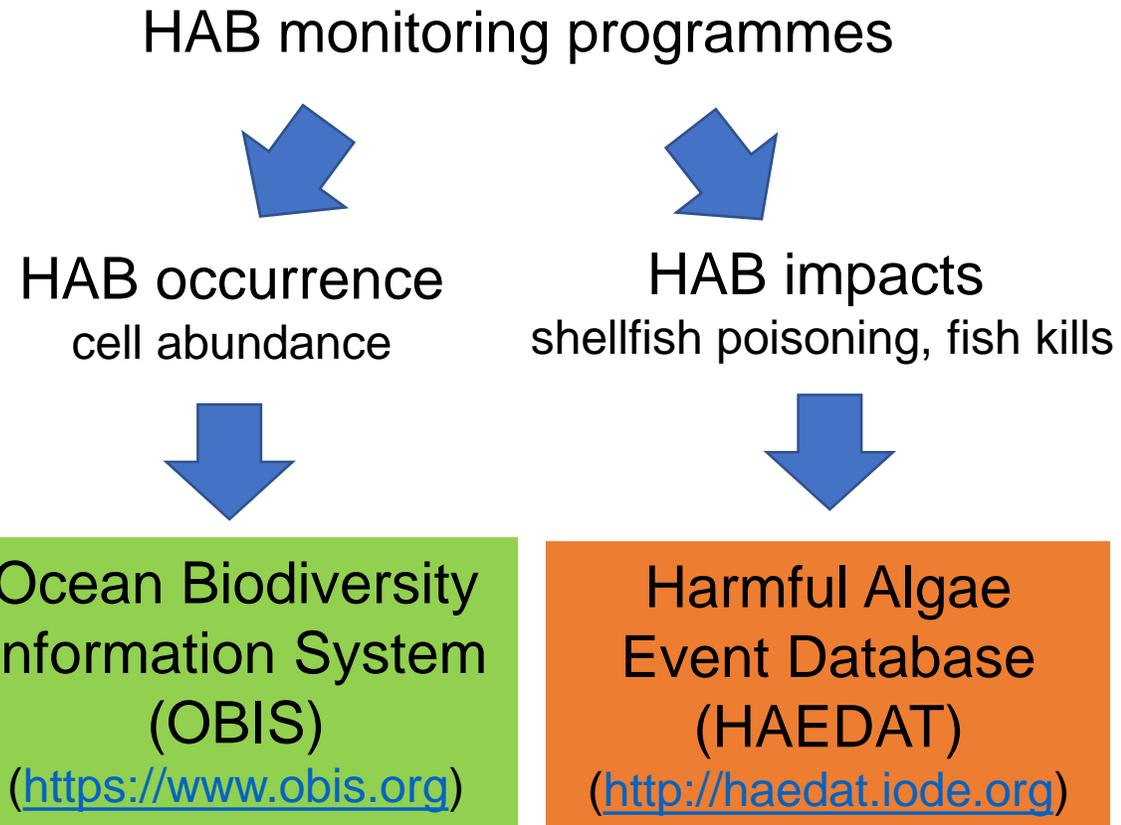
Ross Brown (University of Exeter)



# Recording and accessing HAB monitoring data



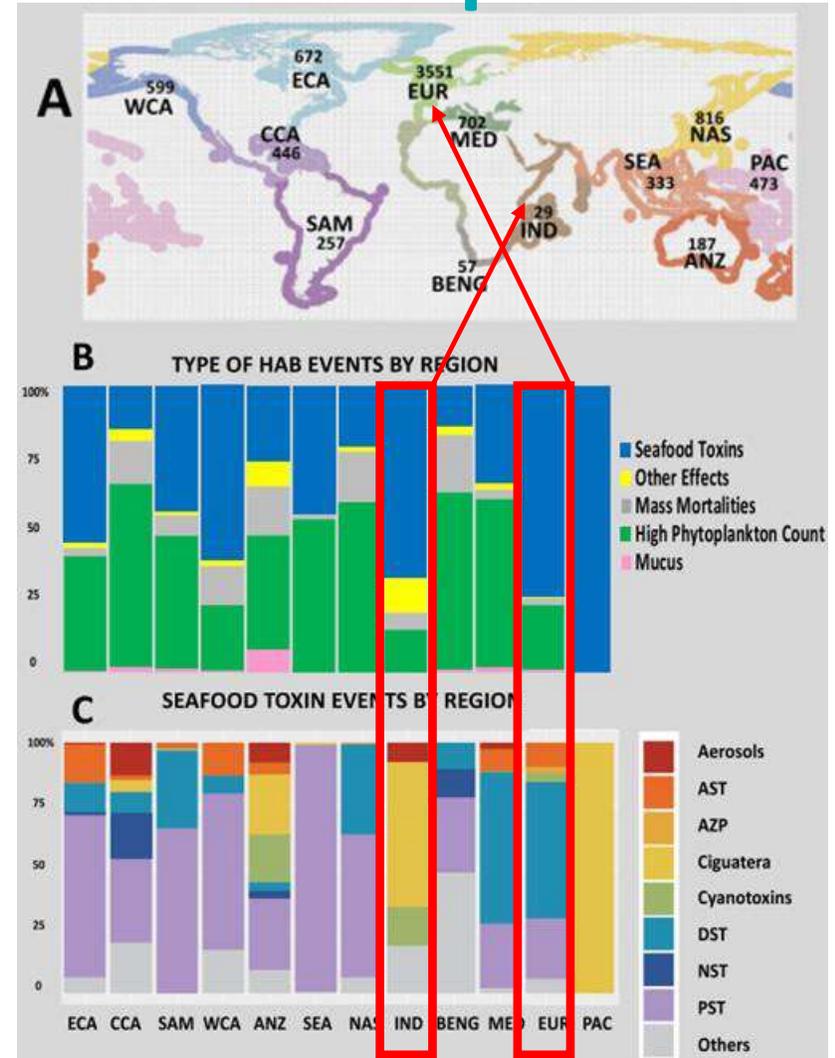
Datasets	Records
<a href="#">Network Monitoring phytoplankton (France)</a>	5,457
<a href="#">ICES Phytoplankton Community dataset</a>	5,247
<a href="#">SHARK - Monitoring of phytoplankton (Sweden)</a>	4,444
<a href="#">National Monitoring Programme Aquaculture Production Areas Netherlands</a>	4,397



# HAB monitoring has increased with aquaculture expansion

- Perceived increase in harmful algae events
- Increasing global trends not supported
- Indian Ocean (incl. Arabian Gulf) excluded from trend analysis
- **HAB trends should be analysed regionally at the species level**
- **HAB impacts are conspicuous in all regions**

Gustaaf M. Hallegraeff, Donald M. Anderson et al. (2021)

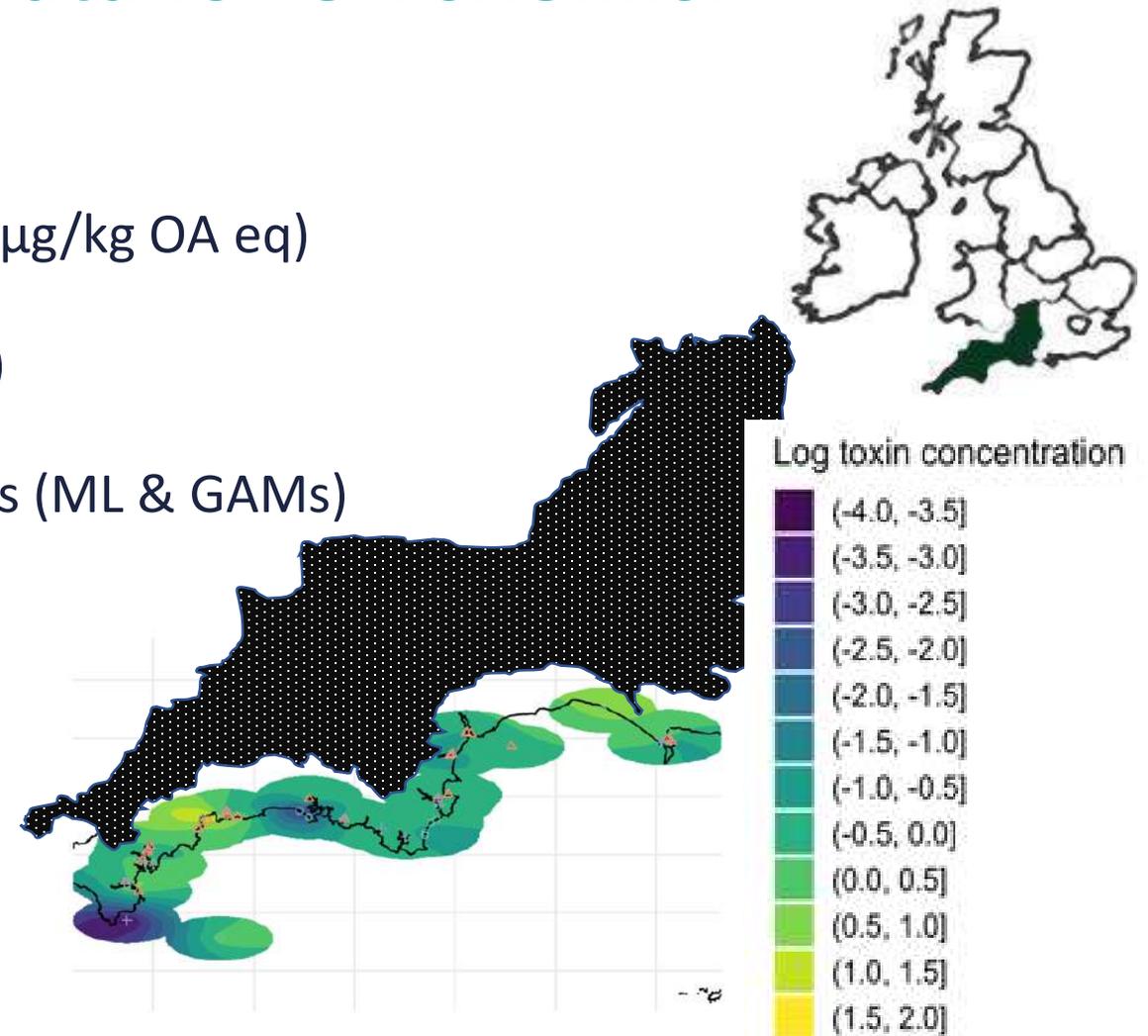


# Interrogating HAB monitoring data for UK shellfish sites

- *Dinophysis* spp. abundance ( $\geq 100$  cells/L)
- Dinophysis toxin concentrations in shellfish ( $\geq 160$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  OA eq)
- Environmental data (e.g. sea surface temperature)
- Data-driven analysis of spatial and temporal trends (ML & GAMs)
- Predict hotspots for *Dinophysis* spp.
- Predict future impacts on shellfish farms



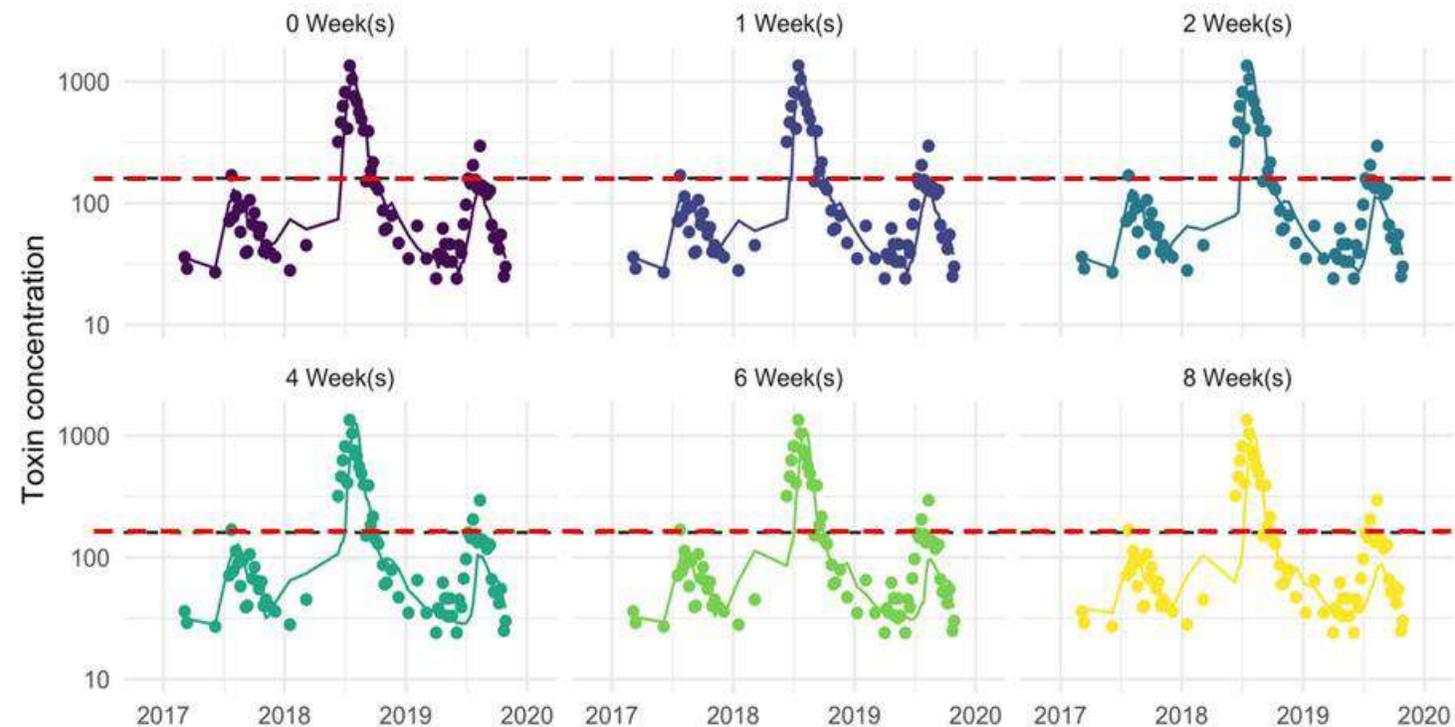
Oliver Stoner and Theo Economou et al. (2021).



# Forecasting Dinophysis toxin concentrations

- Account for time-lagged temperature and abundance (26 variables)
- Account for different shellfish species
- Long-term seasonal smoothing
- Forecast exceedance of threshold up to **8 weeks ahead (87% accuracy)**
- **Inform design of future monitoring**

Oliver Stoner and Theo Economou et al. (2021).



# Summary

- Linking cause and impact can be difficult
- Differences between aquaculture and wild capture
  - Motile Vs Sessile
- Disparate nature of blooms
- Monitoring to inform data driven models
- Emergency response capacity

**Take home message** • Holistic monitoring, broad, consistent

# References

- Hallegraeff GM., Anderson DM. et al. (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-021-00178-8>
- Stoner O., Economou T. et al (2021). <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-668820/v1>
- Turner et al. (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jip.2021.107555>
- Turner et al. (2018). <https://doi.org/10.3390/toxins10030094>

# Understanding impacts of HABs on fish farms based on lessons learned in Chile

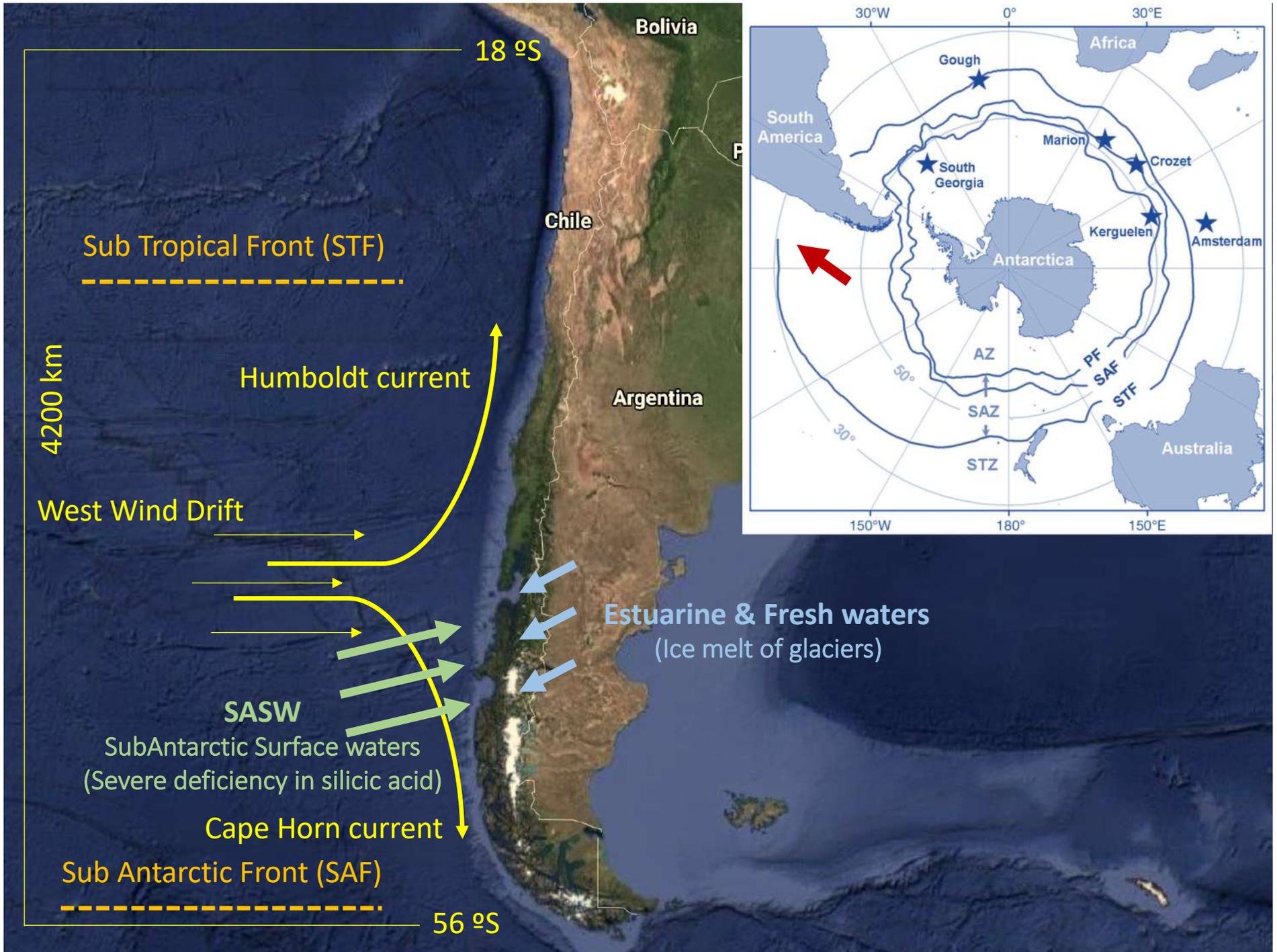


**Jorge I. Mardones, PhD**

Center for the Study of Harmful Algal Blooms (CREAN)  
Chilean Fisheries Development Institute (IFOP)



[jorge.mardones@ifop.cl](mailto:jorge.mardones@ifop.cl)



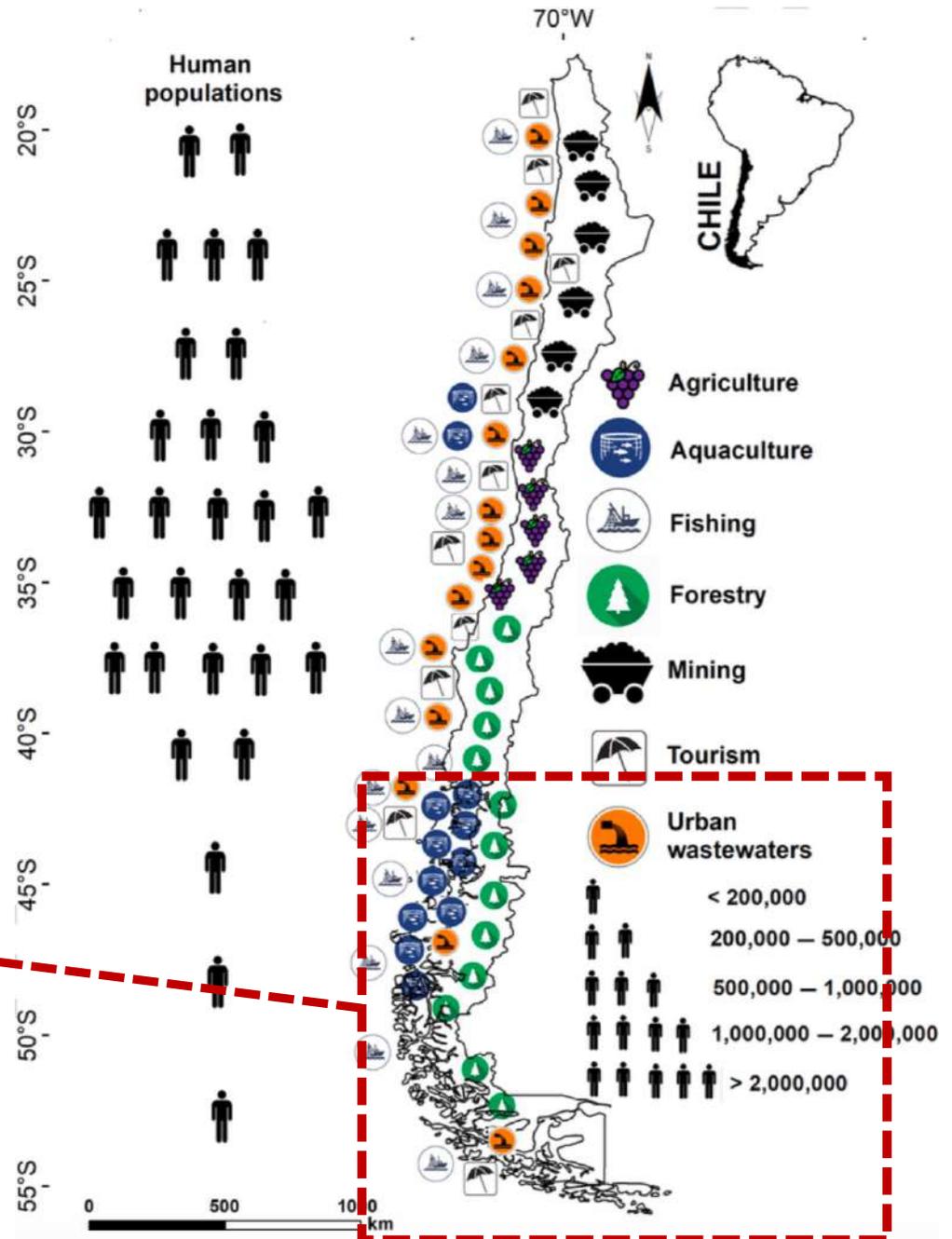
# Overview of socio-economic activities along the Chilean coast.

(Aguilera et al., 2018)

Shellfish



Salmon



CHILE

## SALMON INDUSTRY IN CHILE

(Started in 1982)

(25% of the world's supply)

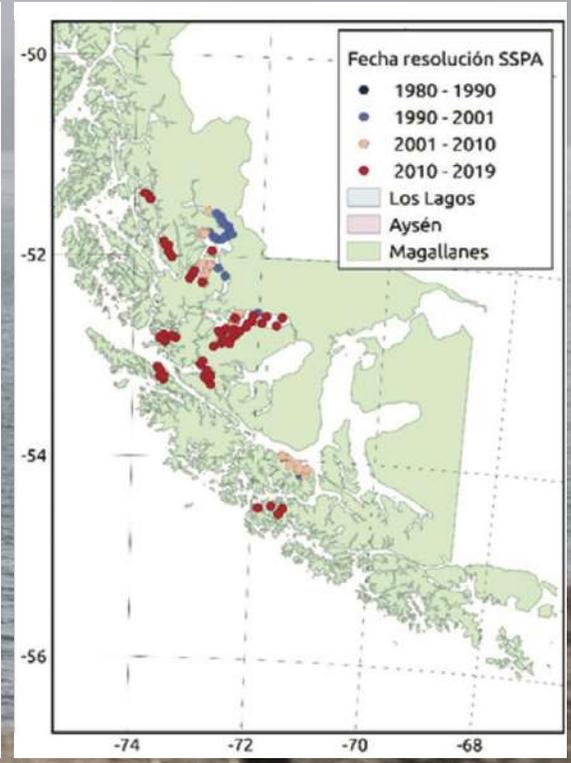
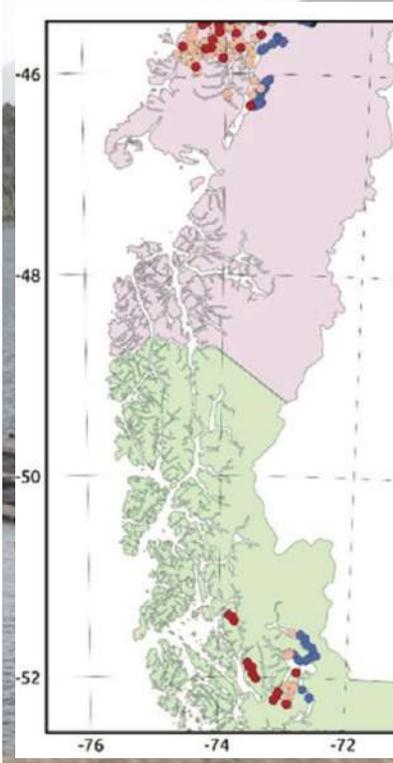
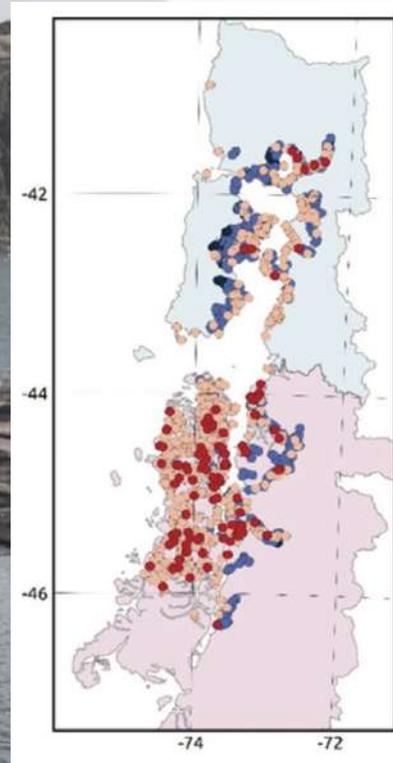
**Atlantic salmon**  
(*Salmo salar*)



**Coho salmon**  
(*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)



**Rainbow trout**  
(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)



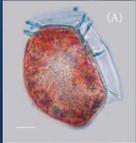
(400 salmon farms in operation)

Buschmann et al., 2021

# Harmful Algal Blooms in Chile

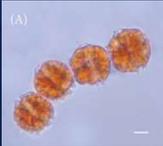
## SOME WORLD RECORDS

Blooms that affect Human health  
(true phycotoxins)



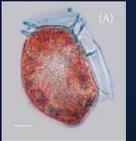
**1970**

First massive intoxication with DST (>250 people)



**2018**

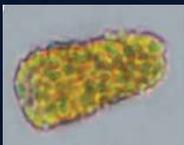
Highest worldwide PST concentration ever recorded 143,130 ug STXeq. /100g of product



**2018**

Highest worldwide *Dinophysis acuta* cell conc. ever recorded (Aysén 118,700 cell L<sup>-1</sup>)

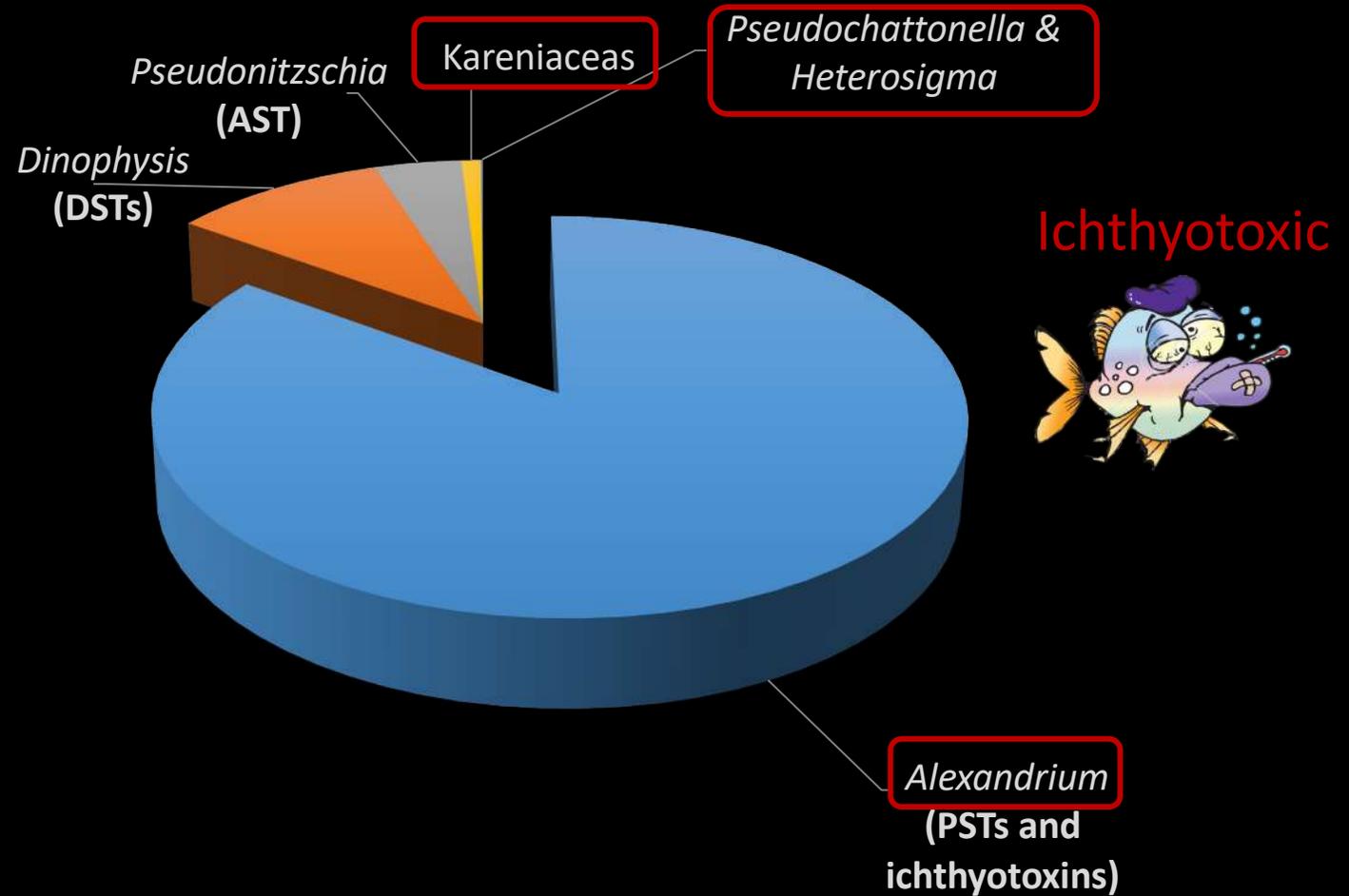
Fish killing Algal Blooms  
(ichthyotoxins)



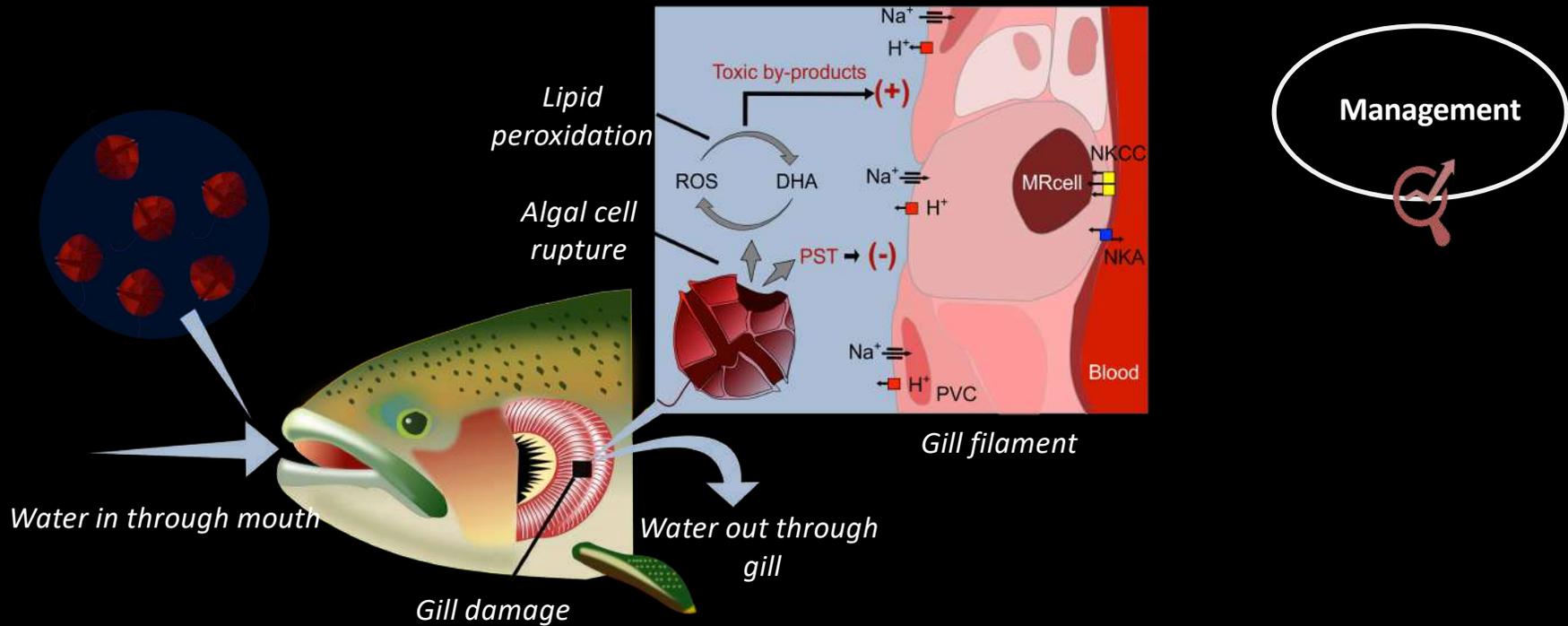
**2016**

US\$800 M losses for the salmon industry

# RESEARCH IN CHILE



“Microalgae species that produce true phycotoxins (PSTs, DSTs, ASTs) are not the same species reported to produce fish- kills due to gill damage”



Harmful Algae 49 (2015) 40–49

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Harmful Algae**

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

Fish gill damage by the dinoflagellate *Alexandrium catenella* from Chilean fjords: Synergistic action of ROS and PUFA

Jorge I. Mardones<sup>a,\*</sup>, Juan José Dorantes-Aranda<sup>a</sup>, Peter D. Nichols<sup>a,b</sup>, Gustaaf M. Hallegraeff<sup>a</sup>

(Mardones et al., 2015)

Harmful Algae 80 (2018) 55–63

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Harmful Algae**

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

Fish gill damage by harmful microalgae newly explored by microelectrode ion flux estimation techniques

Jorge I. Mardones<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Lana Shabala<sup>c</sup>, Sergey Shabala<sup>c</sup>, Juan José Dorantes-Aranda<sup>a</sup>, Andreas Seger<sup>d</sup>, Gustaaf M. Hallegraeff<sup>a</sup>

(Mardones et al., 2018)

- **PSTs do not produce gill damage but rather this damage is (in part) attributed to the synergistic reaction between ROS and PUFAs**
- **Ichthyotoxic activity may increase after cell lysis (mitigation strategies)**

# Fish Killing Algal Blooms in Chile

## Causes



Climate change



High temperature &  
Low precipitations

Fjord's  
Flushing capacity



Intensive  
aquaculture

Eutrophication



## Impacts



Socio-economic



Ecosystem

## Management



Mitigation strategies

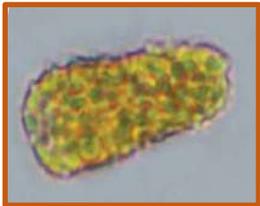
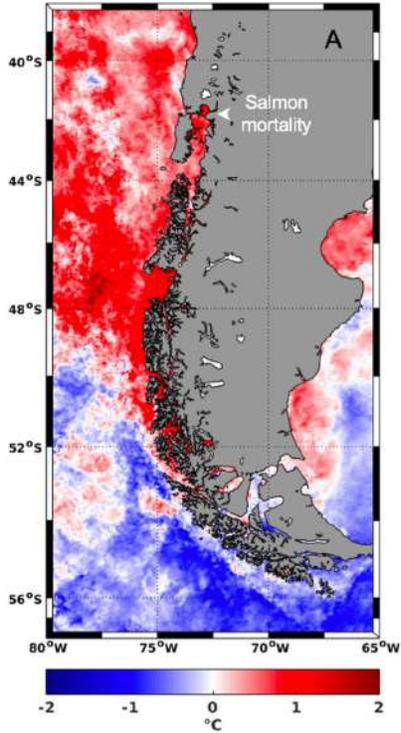


Monitoring

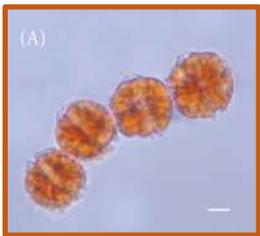


Analytical methods for  
ichthyotoxin detection

Mardones et al., 2021

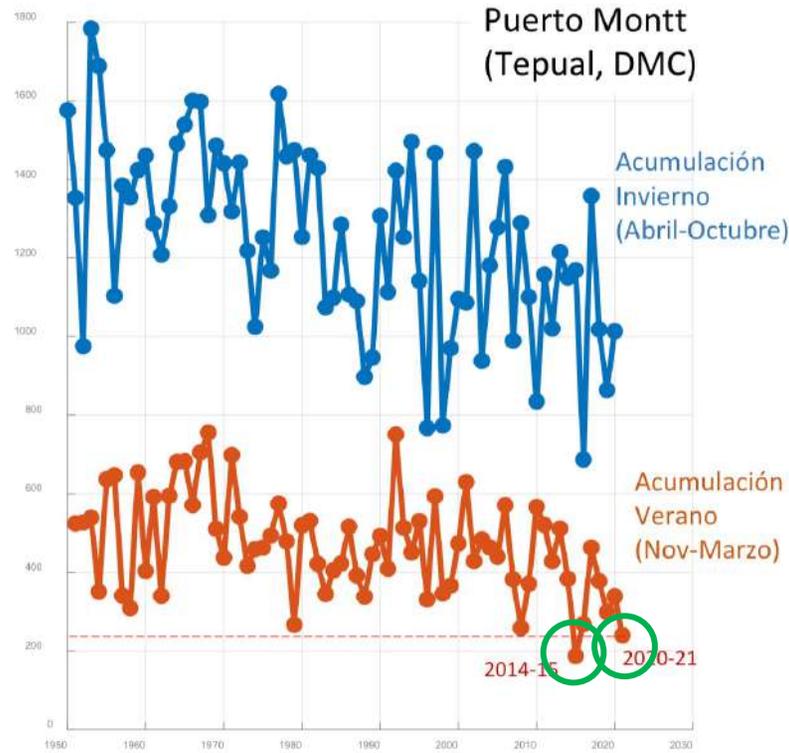


*Pseudochattonella*



*Alexandrium*

Garraud, 2021

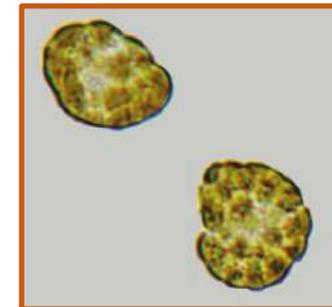
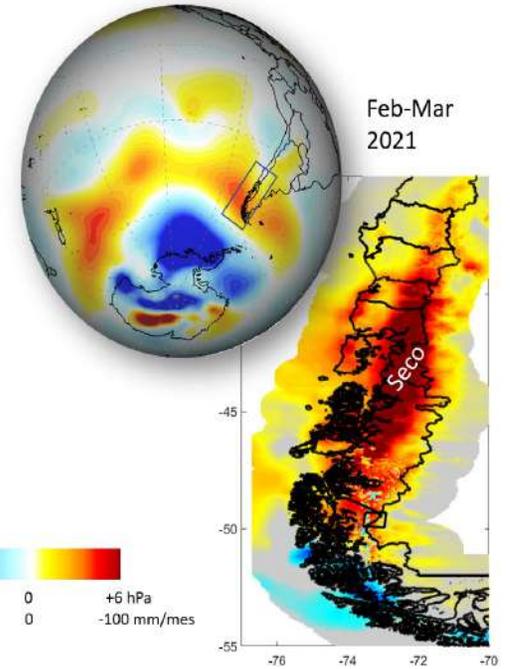


Mardones et al., 2022, *in press*

Causes

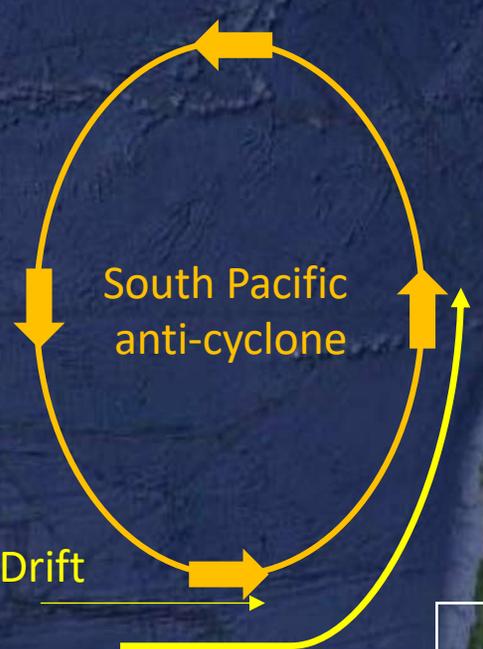


Climate change



*Heterosigma*

Positive temperature anomalies with very dry summer-fall seasons

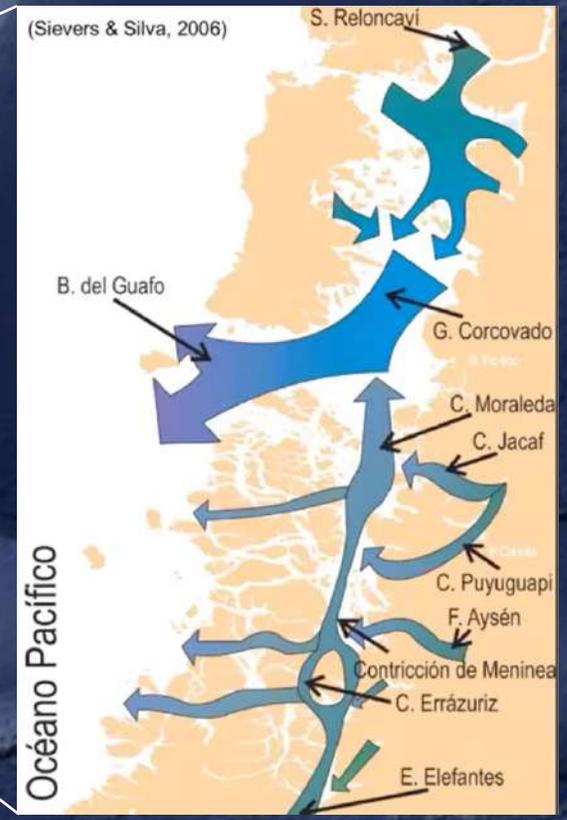


West Wind Drift

SASW

Estuarine & Fresh waters

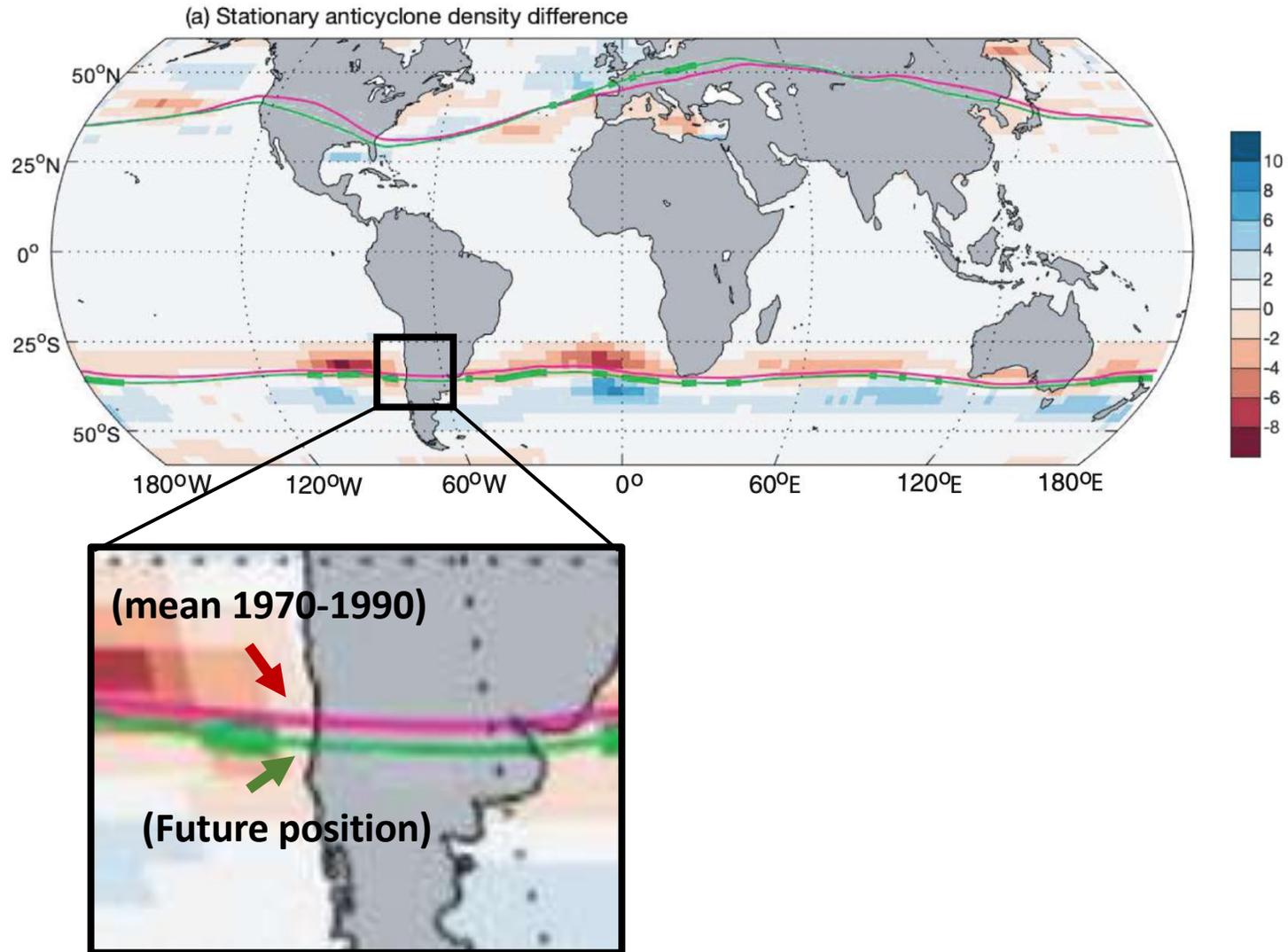
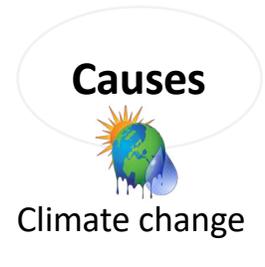
Bolivia  
Paraguay  
Chile  
Argentina  
Uruguay



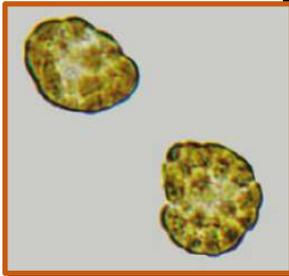
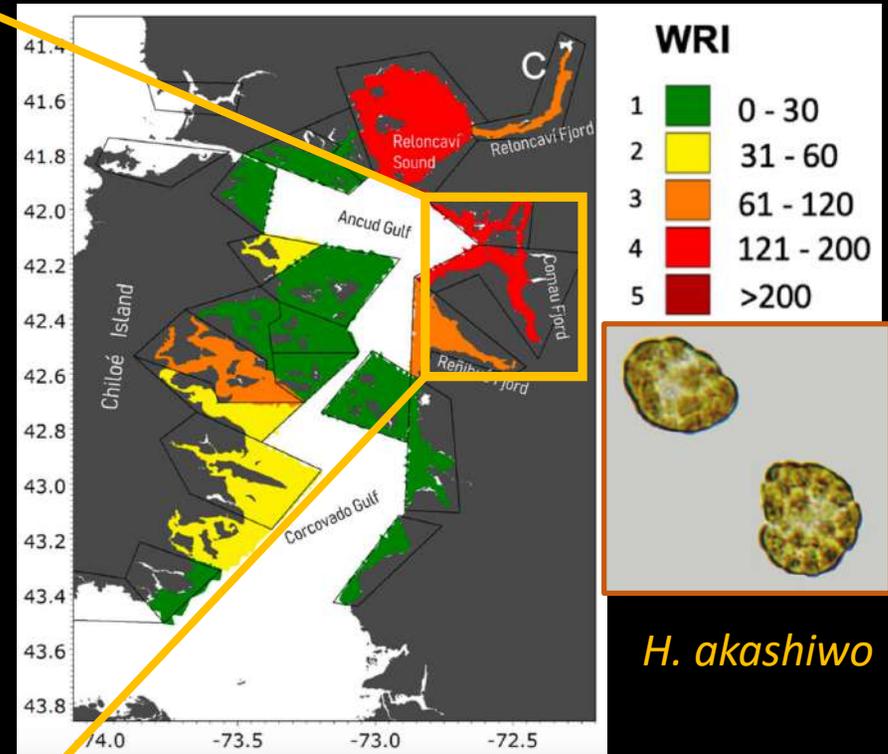
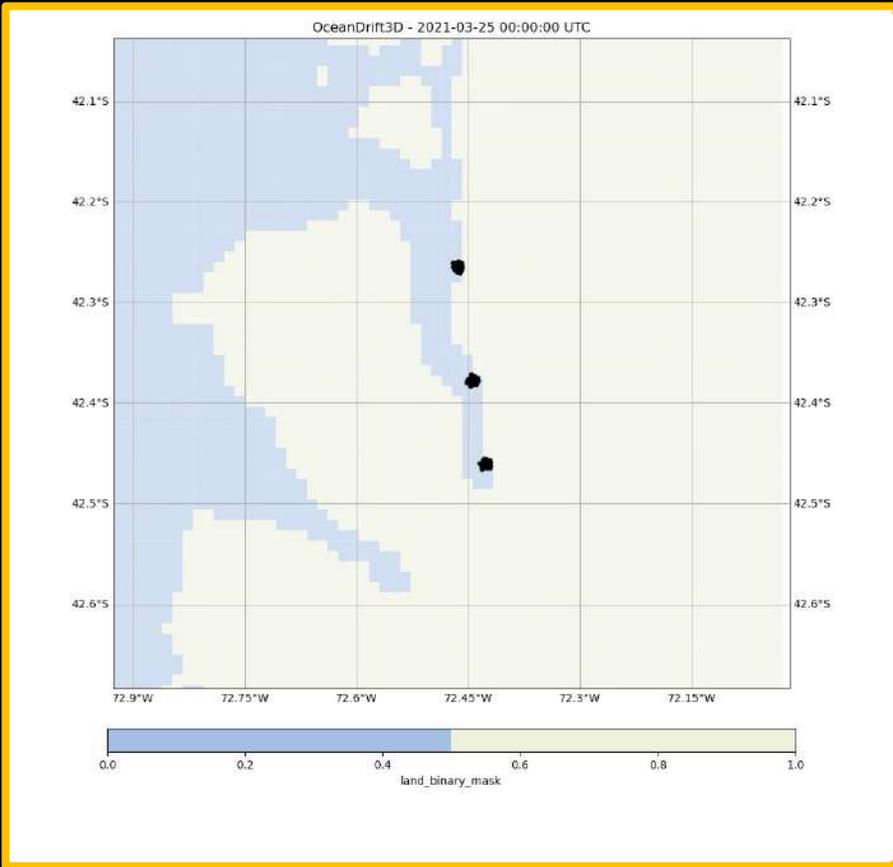
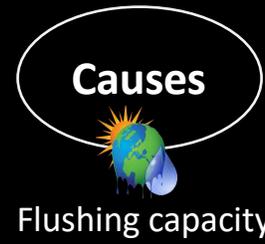
ARTICLE OPEN

# Role of synoptic activity on projected changes in upwelling-favourable winds at the ocean's eastern boundaries

Catalina Aguirre<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Maisa Rojas<sup>1,4</sup>, René D. Garreaud<sup>1,4</sup> and David A. Rahn<sup>5</sup>



# Modeling particle dispersion using Parti-MOSA



*H. akashiwo*

Mardones et al., 2020

# *Heterosigma akashiwo*

Impacts



Socio-economic



# *Heterosigma akashiwo*

Impacts



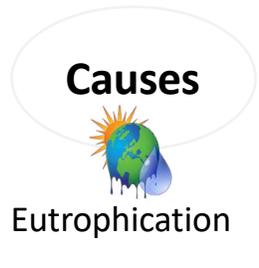
Socio-economic

**Salmon mortality  
> 6 tons**



Mardones et al., *in press*

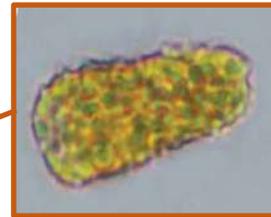
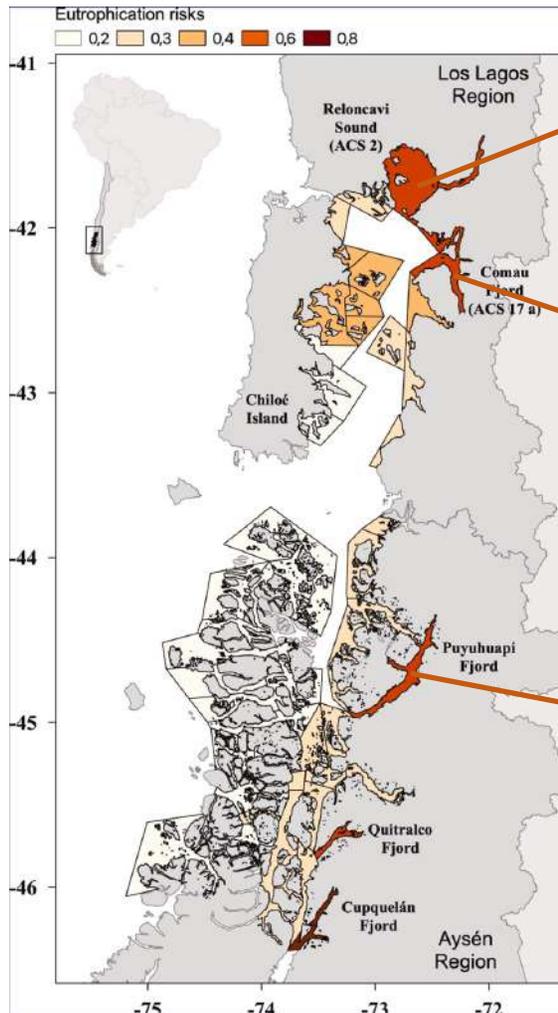




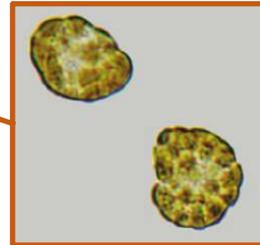
Short communication

### Scientific warnings could help to reduce farmed salmon mortality due to harmful algal blooms

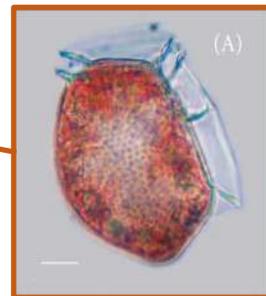
Doris Soto<sup>a,\*</sup>, Jorge León-Muñoz<sup>a,b</sup>, René Garreaud<sup>c,d</sup>, Renato A. Quiñones<sup>a,e</sup>, Francisco Morey<sup>f</sup>



*P. verruculosa*  
**2016**



*H. akashiwo*  
**2021**



*D. acuta*  
**2018**

# Southern Chile



**Impacts**



**Ecosystem**



*Lepidodinium chlorophorum*  
(Mardones & Clément, 2016)



*Tetraselmis* sp  
Summer 2022



*Prorocentrum micans*  
Summer 2022



2017

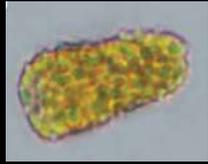
# Southern Chile (Kareniaceae)

Impacts



Ecosystem





*P. verruculosa*



*A. catenella*

## 'Godzilla-red tide event'

Impacts



Socio-economic

SCI & TECH



**CHILE'S CATASTROPHIC RED TIDE  
IS KILLING THE FISHING INDUSTRY**



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Science of the Total Environment

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



**Impacts**

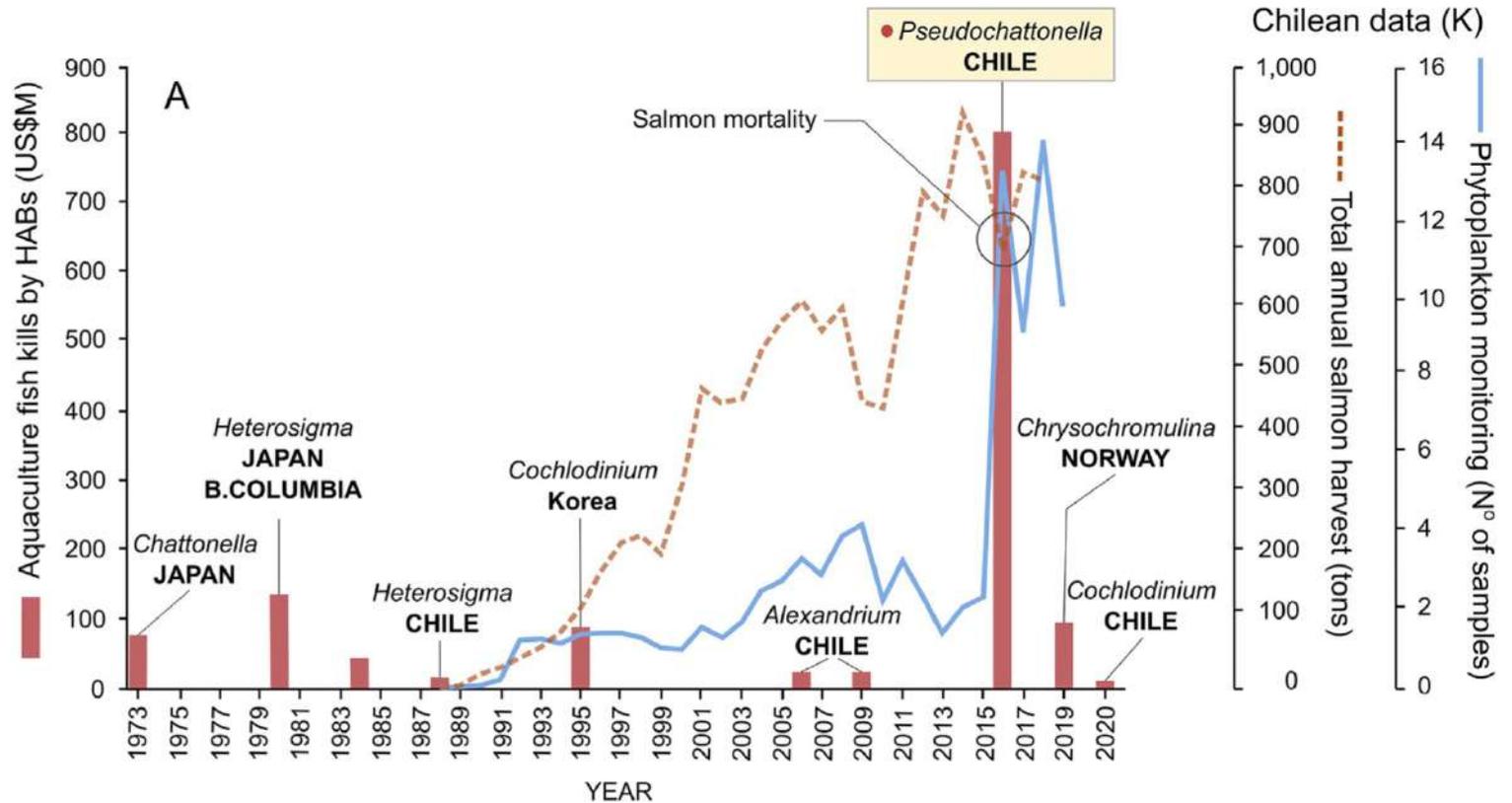
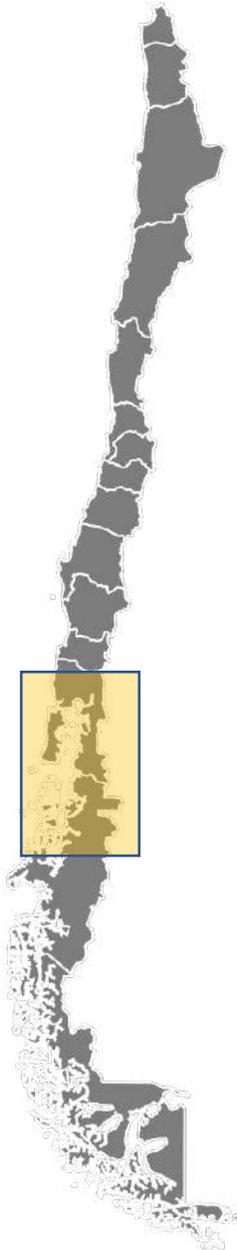


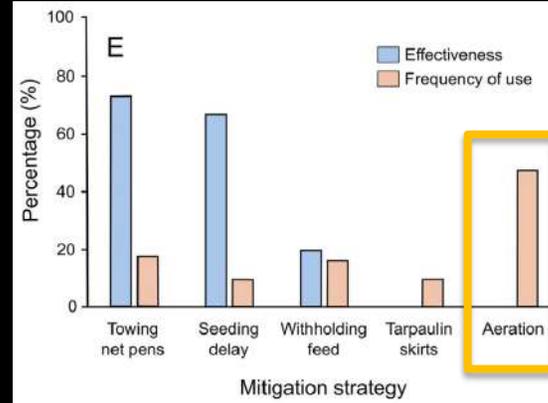
 Socio-economic

### Disentangling the environmental processes responsible for the world's largest farmed fish-killing harmful algal bloom: Chile, 2016



Jorge I. Mardones<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Javier Paredes<sup>a</sup>, Marcos Godoy<sup>c,d,e</sup>, Rudy Suarez<sup>c,d,f</sup>, Luis Norambuena<sup>a</sup>, Valentina Vargas<sup>a</sup>, Gonzalo Fuenzalida<sup>a</sup>, Elias Pinilla<sup>g</sup>, Osvaldo Artal<sup>g</sup>, Ximena Rojas<sup>h</sup>, Juan José Dorantes-Aranda<sup>i</sup>, Kim J. Lee Chang<sup>j</sup>, Donald M. Anderson<sup>k</sup>, Gustaaf M. Hallegraeff<sup>i</sup>



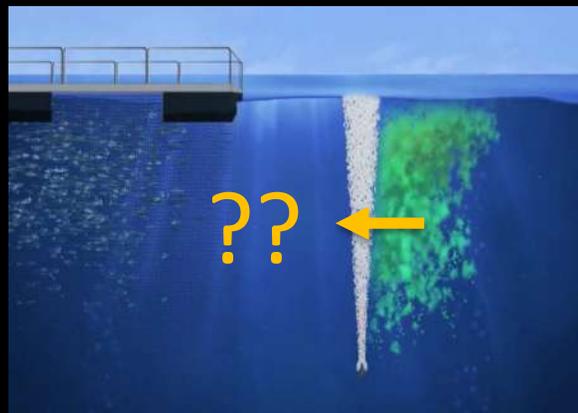
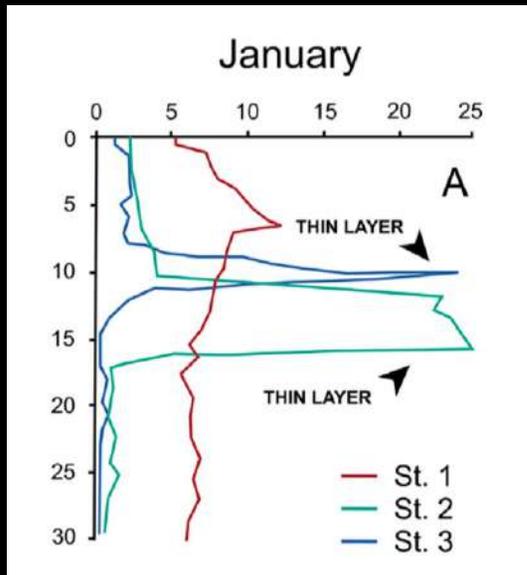


Management

Upwelling systems  
Bubble curtains



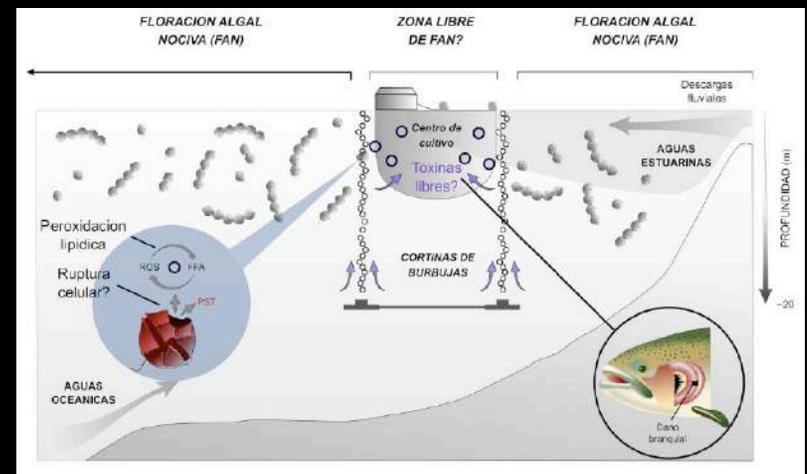
Mitigation strategies



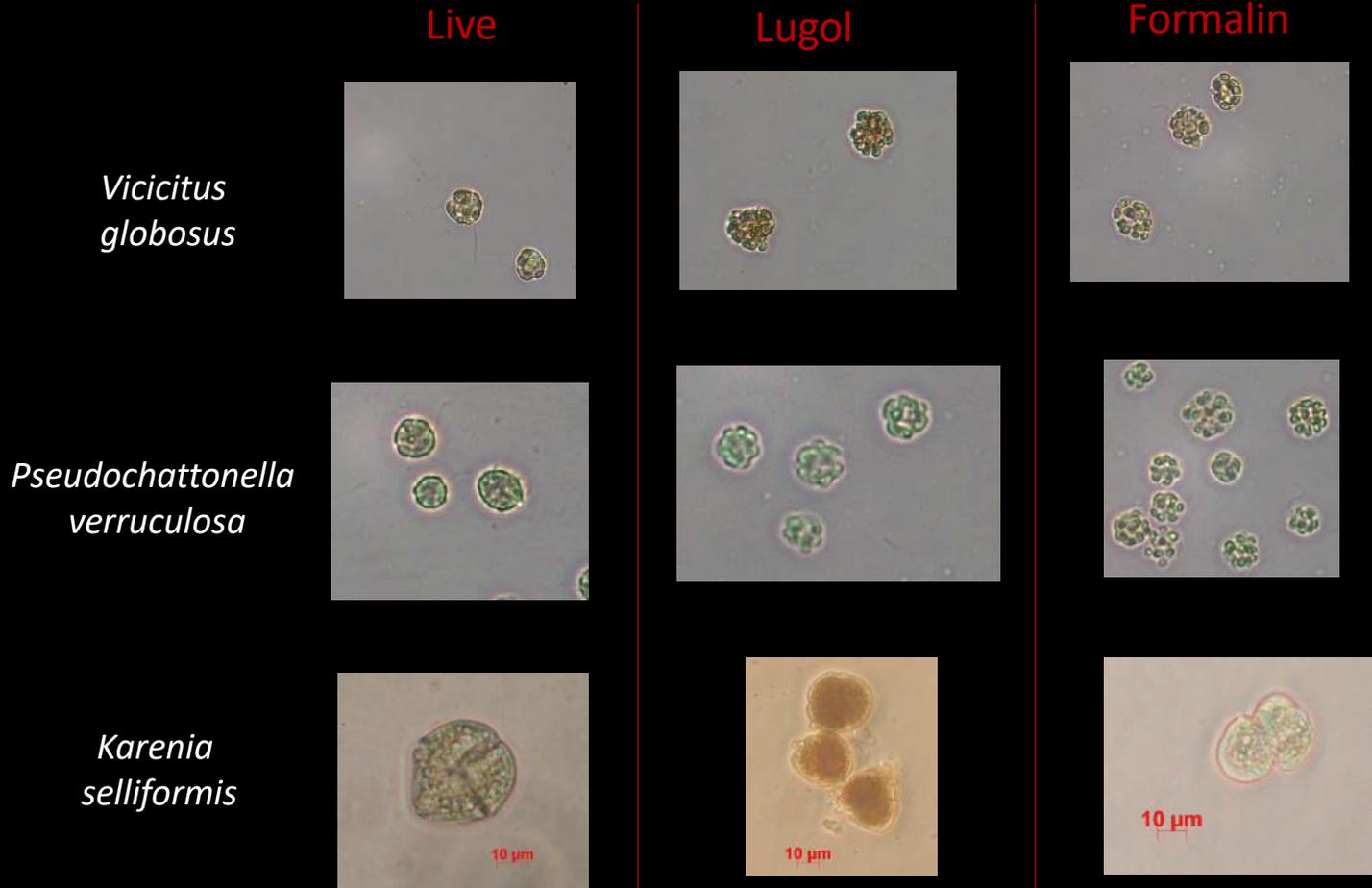
Can these systems prevent ichthyotoxic cells from entering salmon culture cages?

Can these systems prevent cell destruction due to mechanical action?

Mardones et al., unpublished

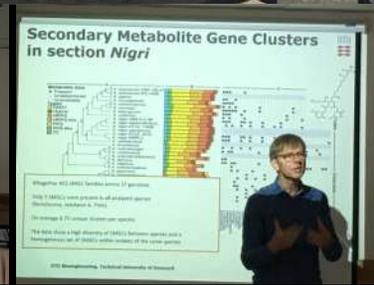
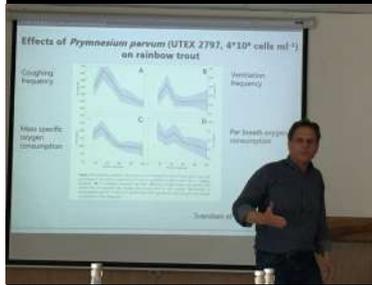
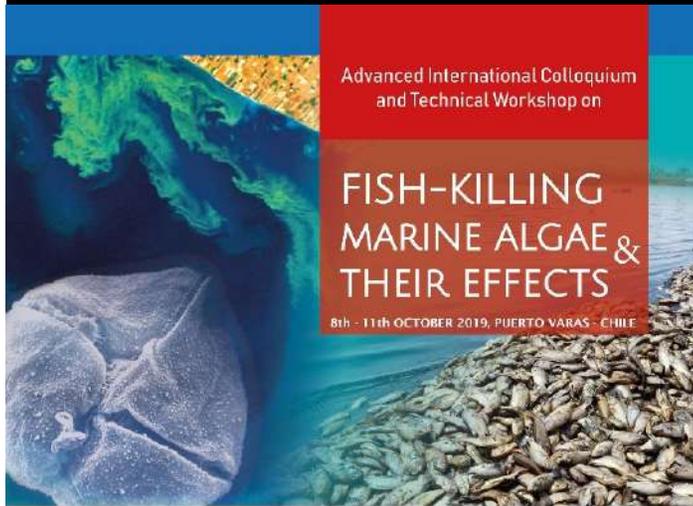


# Complex life cycles, Pleiomorfism, fragile cells



New technology is needed for fish killing algae:

- Molecular approaches
- Automated flow cytometry (allows analysis of live samples)



Management



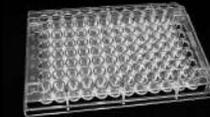
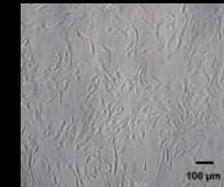
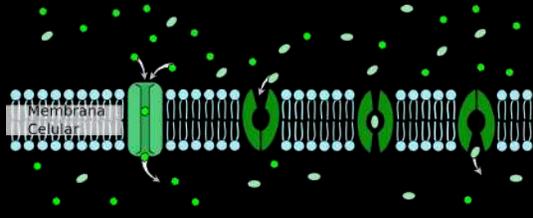
**PST**  
(Paralytic Shellfish Toxins)



**RTgill-W1**  
Gill cell lines



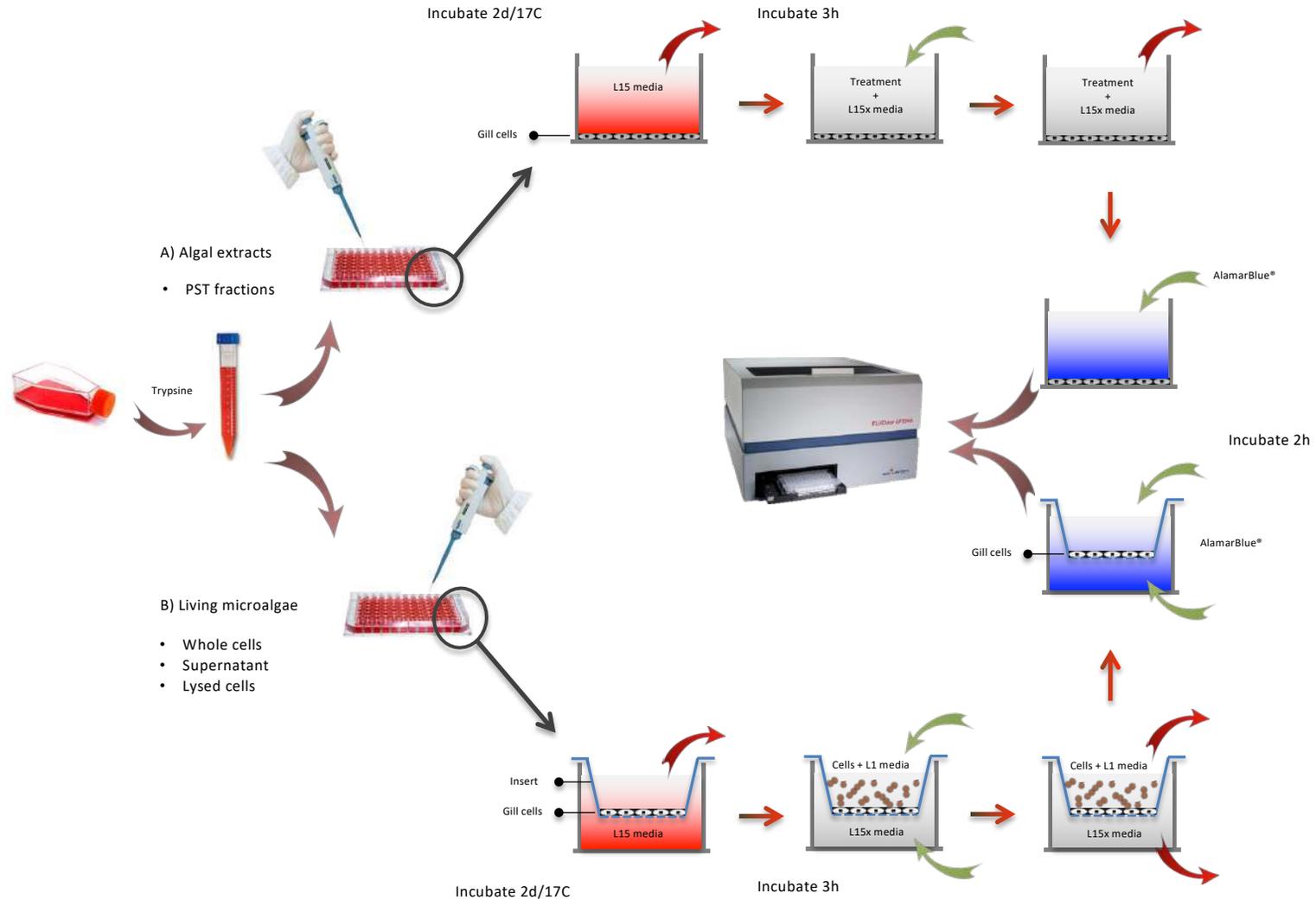
Management



Ventajas:

- Menor volumen de muestra
- Más replicas
- No uso de animales
- Ahorro de tiempo

**Management**

**Mardones et al., 2022**

## Take home messages

The use of existing HABs mitigation strategies currently used at salmon farms need to be reassessed based on new studies.

Regular monitoring of FKA needs to be accompanied with new technologies to improve detection resolution (real biogeography).

It is necessary to standardize a common method for the detection of ichthyotoxins (I.e., Gill cell assay)

Finally, climate change is strongly affecting the southern Patagonia fjords in recent years and is adding much uncertainty about future HABs events.

# Understanding impacts of HABs on fish farms based on lessons learned in Chile



**Jorge I. Mardones, PhD**

Center for the Study of Harmful Algal Blooms (CREAN)  
Chilean Fisheries Development Institute (IFOP)

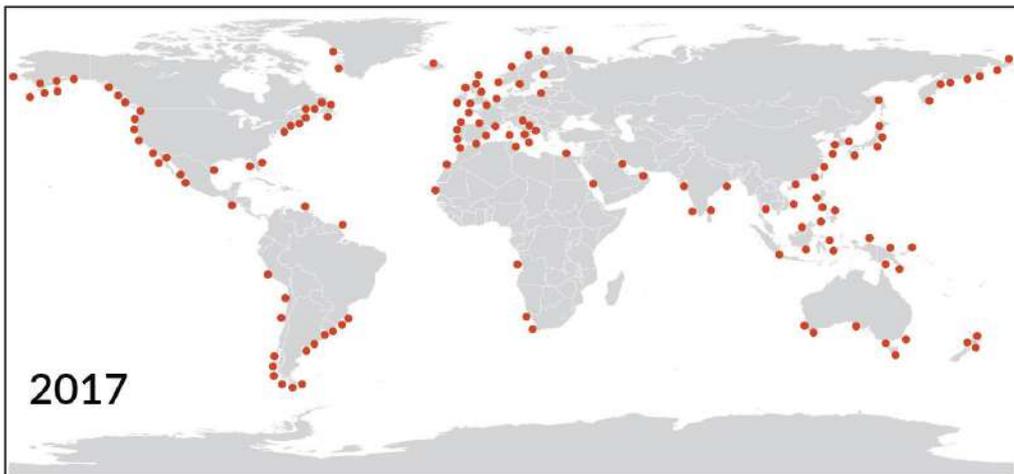


[jorge.mardones@ifop.cl](mailto:jorge.mardones@ifop.cl)

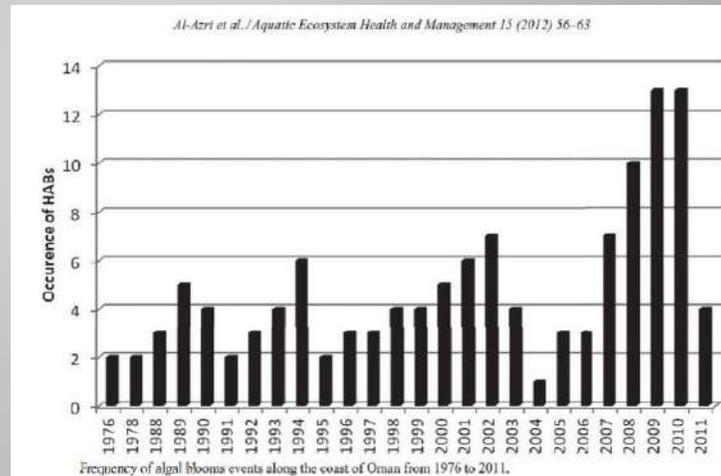


# Control of Harmful Algal Blooms in China: a Modified Clay approach

Isaac Y. Yuan, Xiuxian Song, Xihua Cao, Zhiming Yu  
Institute of Oceanology, CAS



Global distribution of PSP toxins recorded in 2017 compared with 1970, downloaded from website of U. S. National office for HABs.



**Beyond a global ecological disaster, the HAB has become a regional challenge to ROPME countries that attentions should be paid necessarily.**

*As a disaster like a fire, HABs need to be controlled in emergency by a “Fire Extinguisher”.*



Physical Measures  
e.g. ultrasonic



**Difficulty**

In  
Open Sea



Chemical Measures  
e.g. algaecide



**Prohibit**

2<sup>nd</sup>  
pollution



Biological Measures  
e.g. bacterium



**Slow**

No  
emergency

# Flocculating control

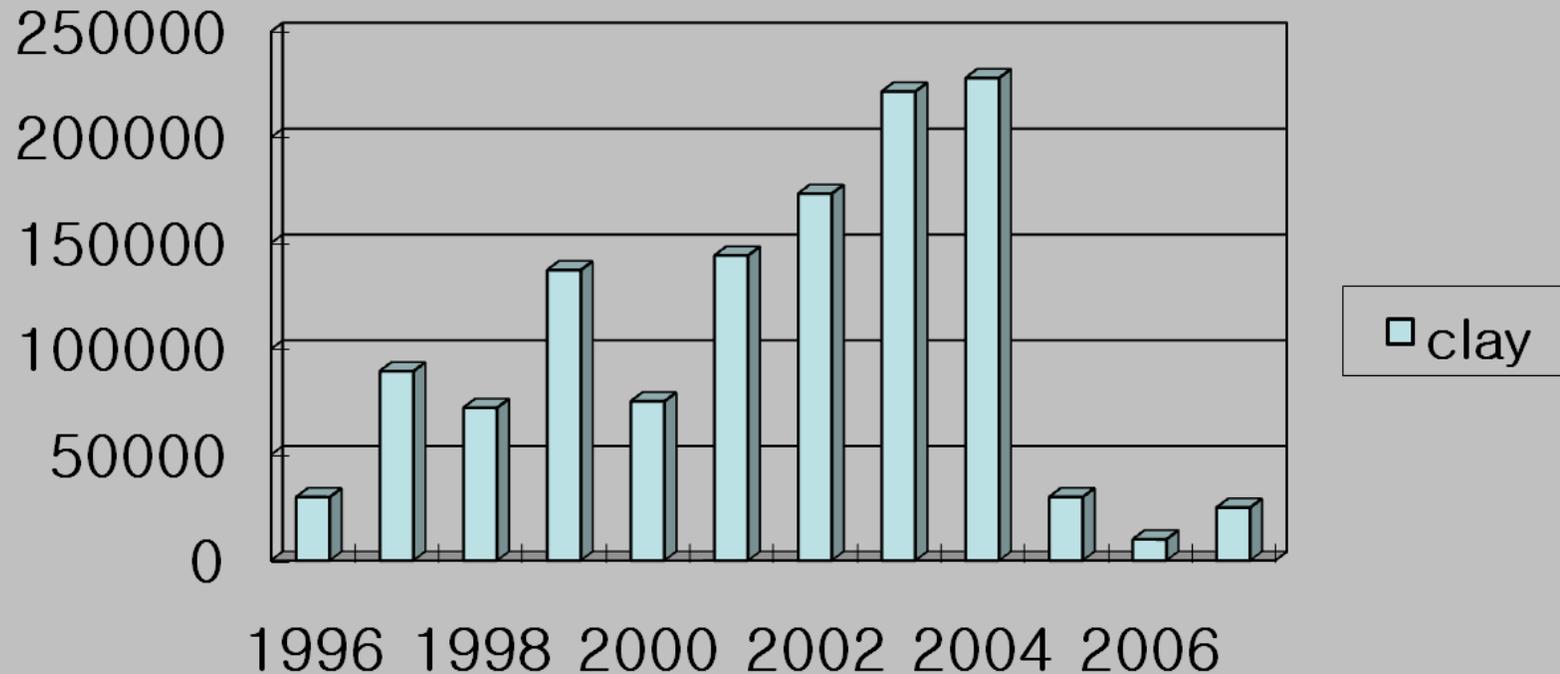
- Removal of cells using clay dispersal



- This remains the most practical and acceptable large-scale bloom control strategy to date.

## South Korea - clay dispersal now routine as a HAB mitigation strategy at fish farms

The amount of clay dispersed (tons) to fight *Cochlodinium* blooms in Korean waters since 1996.



“Numerous HAB mitigation methods have been examined in Korea, including yellow clay, marine bacteria, microscreen filtration and ozone, ultraviolet radiation, parasitic dinoflagellates, and microzooplankton predators of bloom species. Nevertheless, no other control methods have been used extensively in the sea except clay.” Park et al. 2013.

Spray of clay particles to red tide by *Chattonella*

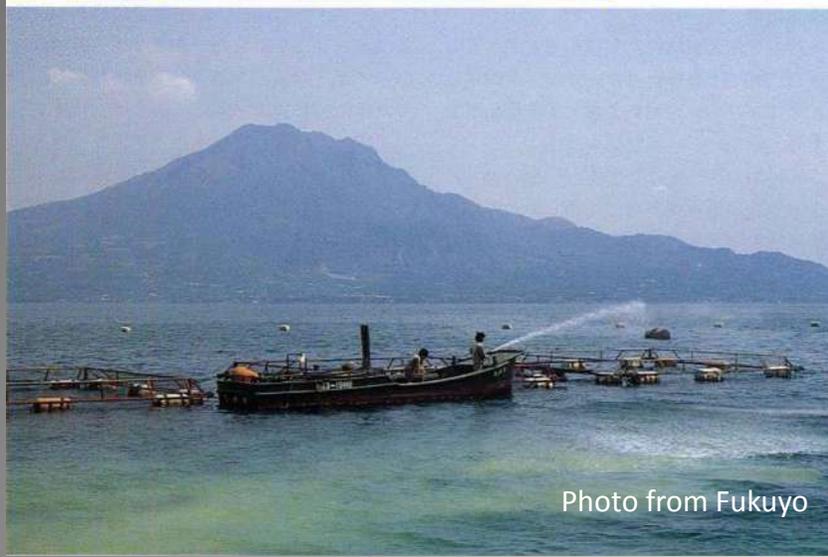


Photo from Fukuyo

Japan



Photo by Jim Culter

U. S.



Photo from M. Mortazavi

Iran

# Application of modified clays in open waters - the Chinese approach



# Application of modified clays in aquaculture area - the Chinese approach

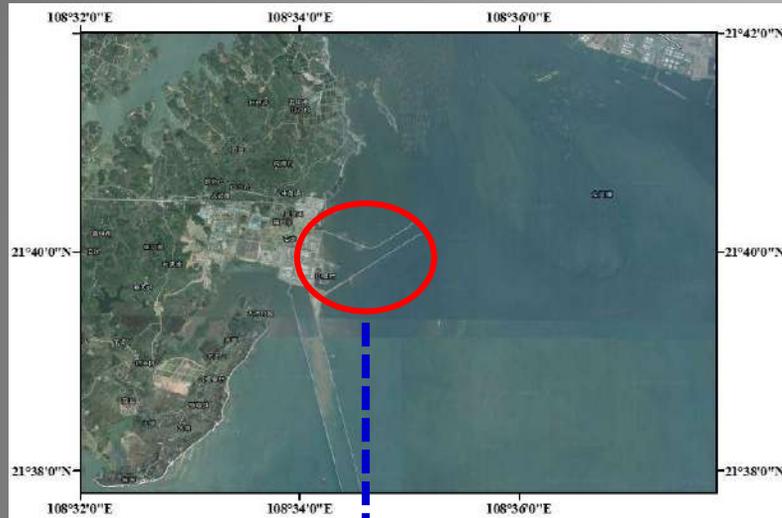


**Shrimp culture ponds**



**Abalone culture sites**

# Application of modified clays in cooling pond of NPP - the Chinese approach



# Why can MC technology control HABs?

- Direct function

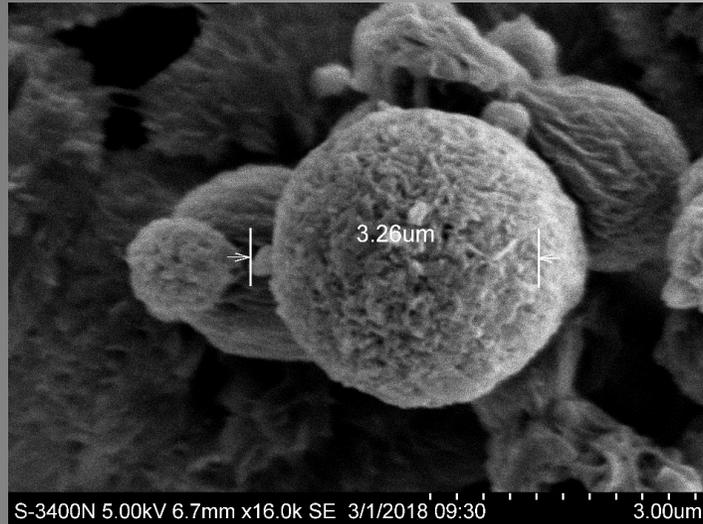
Settling HAB cells to sediment by flocculation

Resulting in mortality of HAB cells and the decrease of HAB biomass.



- Only 70%-80% HAB cells could be settled down to sediment once, but no blooms any more

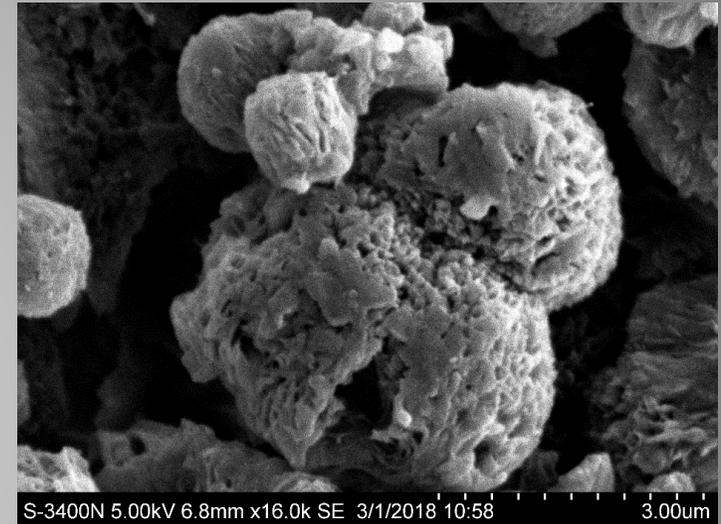
## For the residual cells



Normal cells



The residual cell

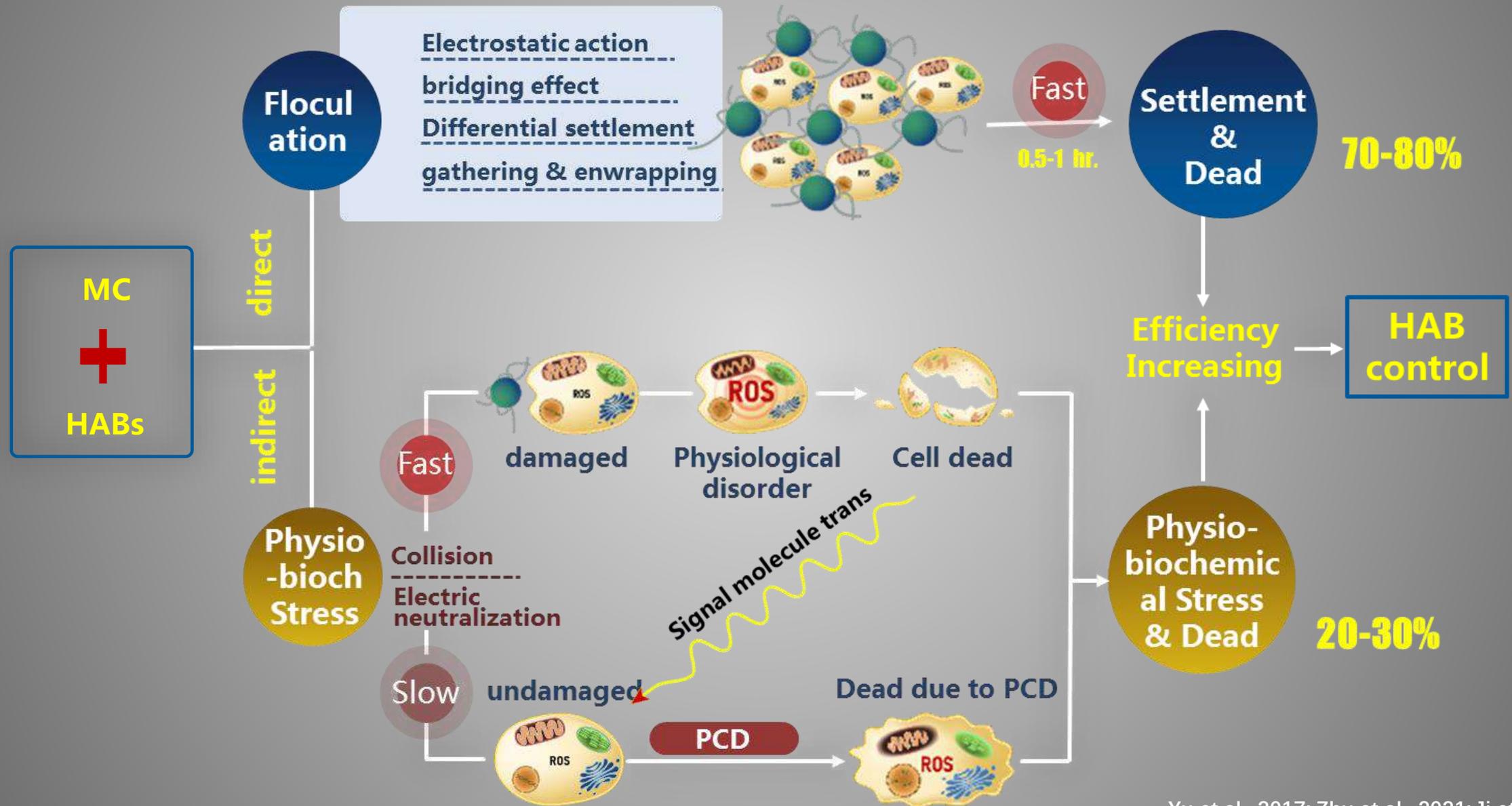


A broken cell

SEM examination of *Aureococcus anophagefferens* that was not flocculated

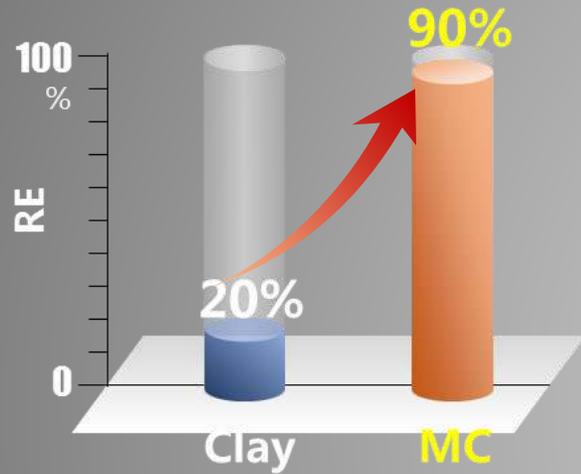
- The physiological & biochemical characteristics of the residual cell (unfloculated) are impacted by collision & electric neutralization. Physio-biochemical stresses result in cellular growth and division arrest.

# Mechanism of MC controlling HABs

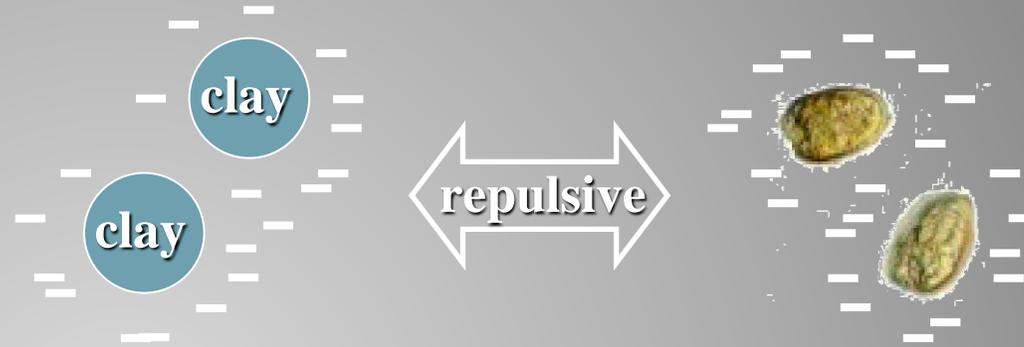
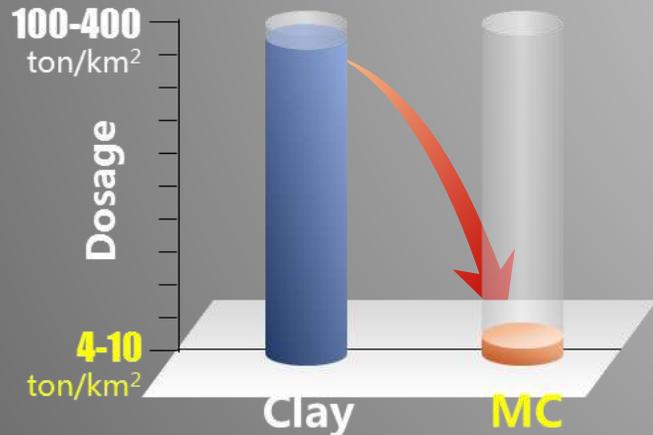


# MC: A highly efficient technology

Control efficiency increasing

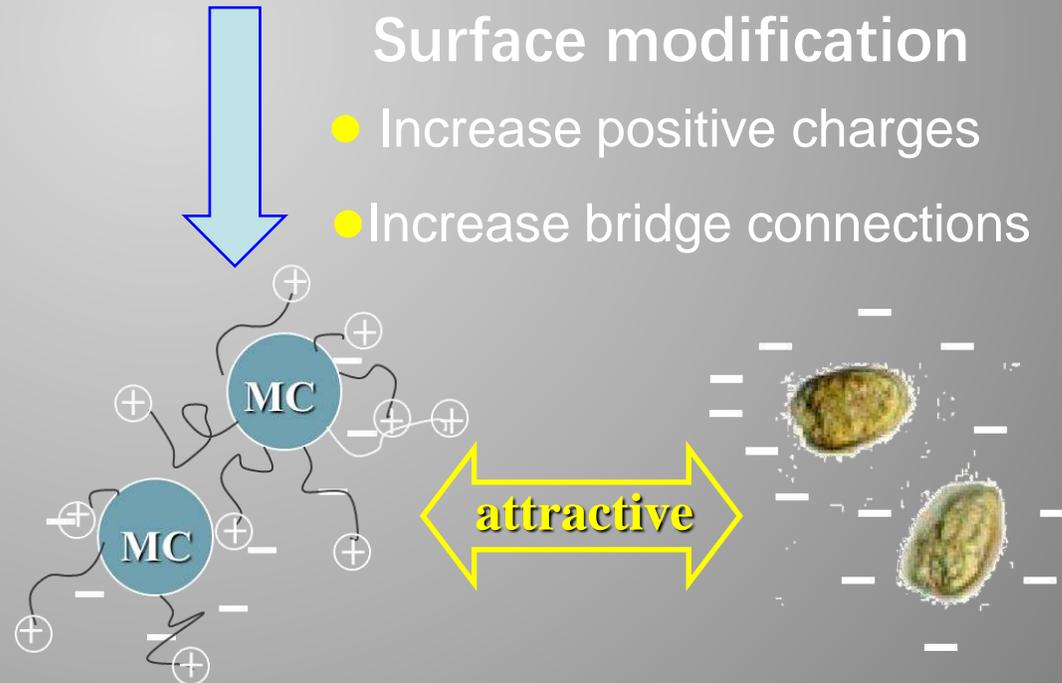


Dosage decreasing

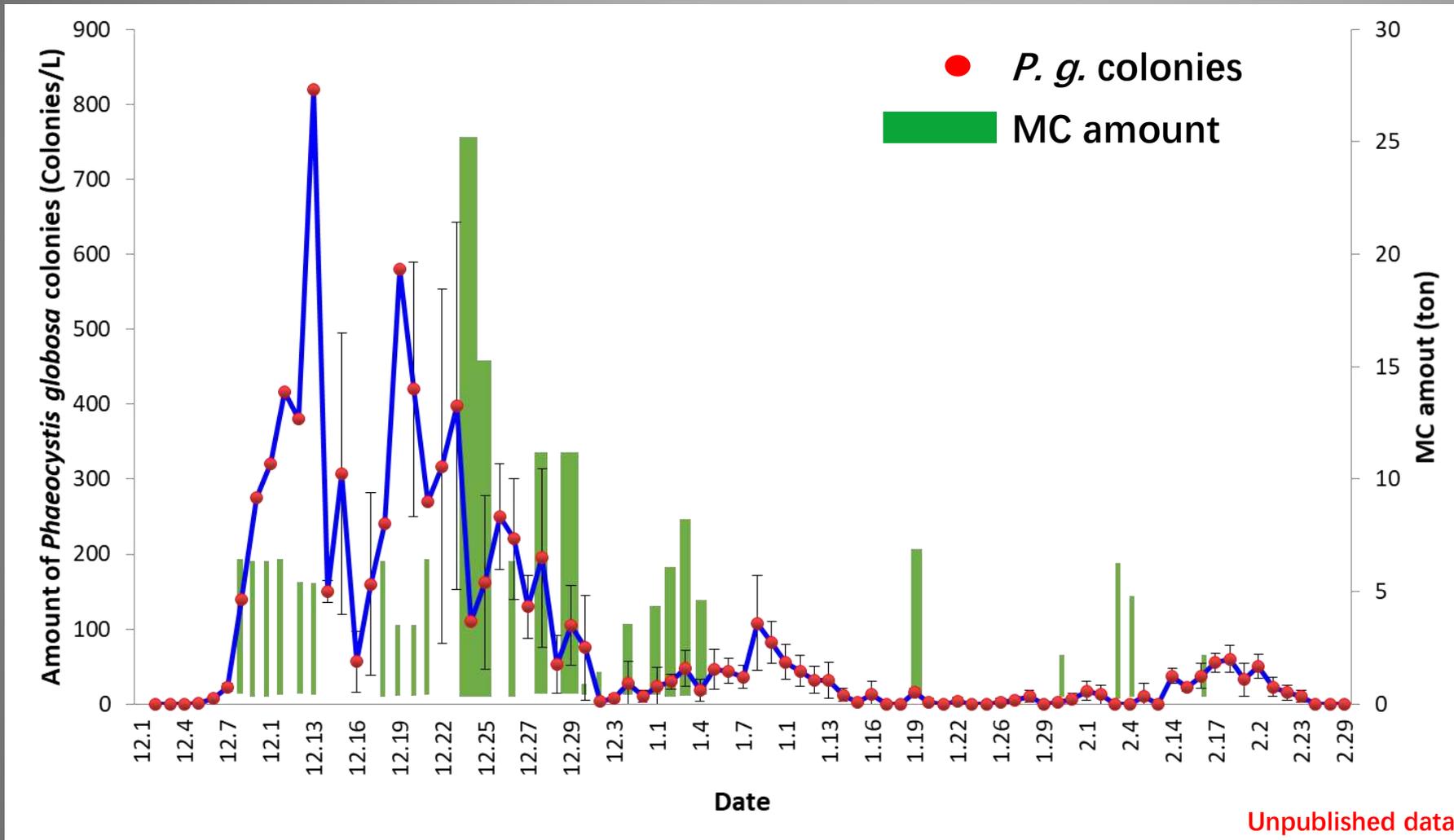


Surface modification

- Increase positive charges
- Increase bridge connections



# Effective control of *P. g.* bloom in NPP

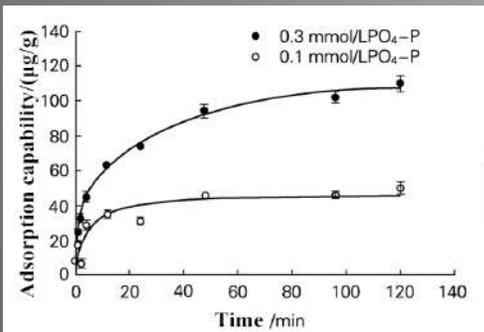


- The *P. g.* bloomed several times, peaked as 8 millions/m<sup>3</sup> in the mid-Dec.
- By using MC, the density declined to less than 0.5 millions and was kept till Mar.

# MC: An environment-friendly technology

<b>Water quality</b>	Prevent POM back to the water, Absorb P & ammonia, Decrease COD	<b>Improve</b>
<b>Aquaculture</b>	Fish, Shrimp, Sea Cucumber, Shellfish (Scallop, Abalone, etc.)	<b>Harmless</b>
<b>Toxins</b>	Decrease toxin, Mitigate toxicity, Decrease toxin acceleration	<b>Decline</b>
<b>Cysts (Seeds)</b>	Inhibit germination of cysts ( <i>A. pacificum</i> , <i>S. trochoidea</i> , etc.)	<b>Inhibit</b>
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Adjust the community structure, Improve biodiversity	<b>Optimize</b>

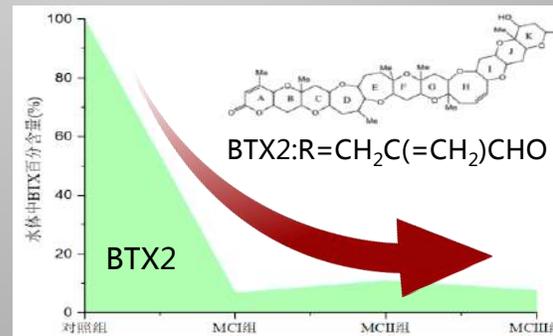
**Absorb PO<sub>4</sub>-P over 80%**



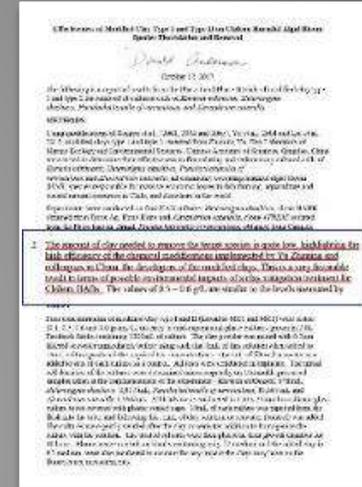
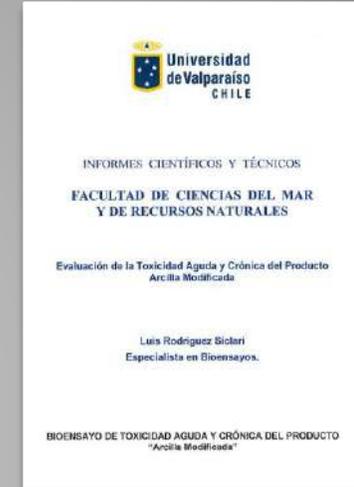
**No harm to cultured organisms**



**Decline toxins up to 80%**



**Evaluated by third parties**



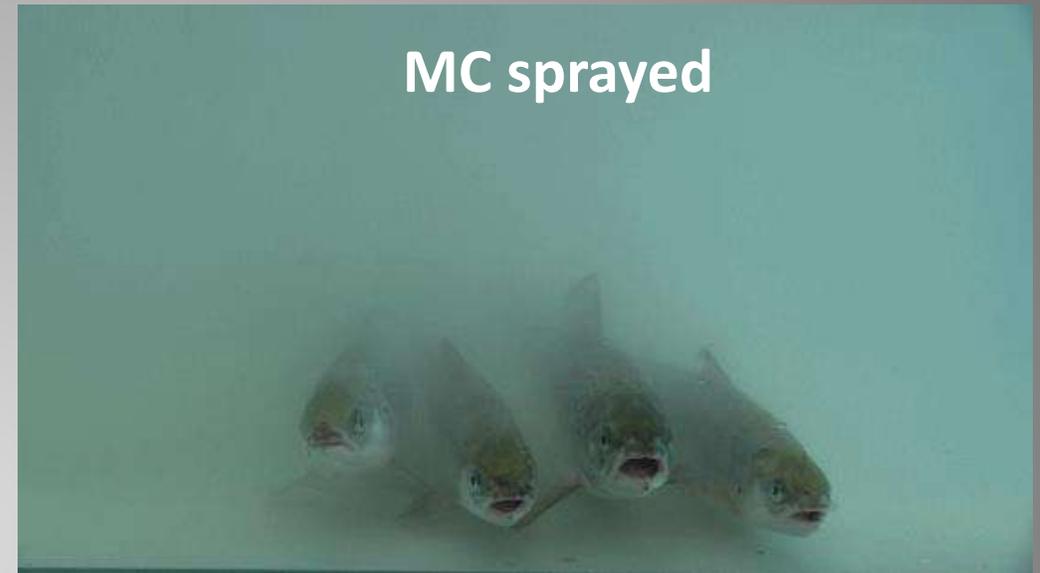
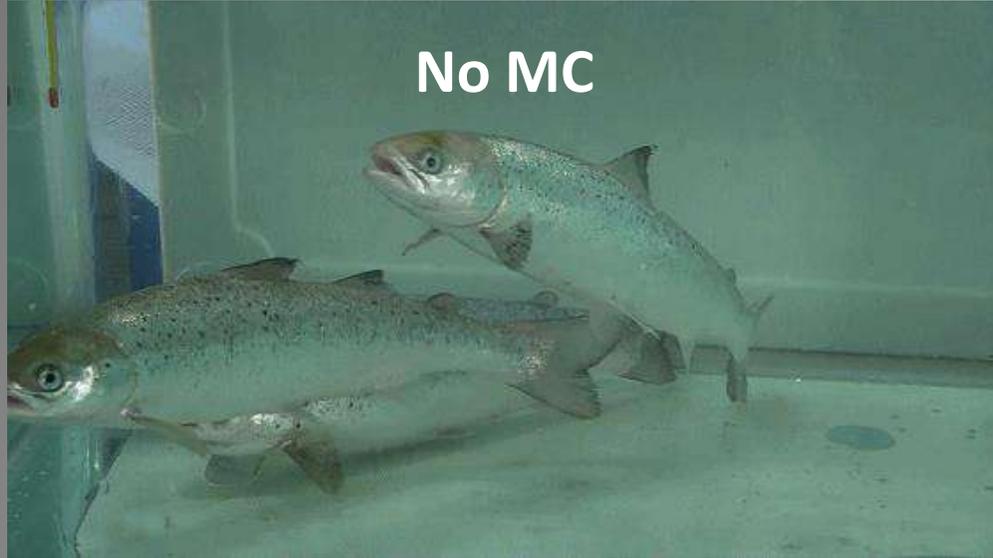
**“No harm to other organisms”**

**“Favorable impacts to the environment”**

# Effect of MC on different typical aquatic organisms

MC Types	MC (g/L)	Experimental organisms	Co-culture with HAB organisms	The response of the experimental organism	Reference
Inorganic-MC	1.0	<i>Penaeus japonicus</i> (shrimp, 1~1.5 cm)	—	MR decreased from 80% (in control) to 40% in 96 h	(Song et al., 2003)
Organic-MC	0.03	<i>Penaeus japonicus</i> (shrimp, ~1 cm)	<i>P. donghaiense</i>	SR kept 100% in 48 h	(Cao et al., 2004)
	0.09		<i>H. akashiwo</i>		
Organic-MC	0.05	<i>Neomysis awatschensis</i> (shrimp)	<i>A. carterae</i> Hulburt	MR decreased from 33.3% (in control) to 16.7% in 48 h	(Wu and Yu, 2007)
			<i>P. donghaiense</i>	SR kept 100% in 48 h	
Complex-MC	0.1	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i> (oyster, ~0.2 cm)	—	No negative effects on gill and digestive gland super microstructure in 56 d	(Gao et al., 2007a)
			<i>P. donghaiense</i> ;	SR increased 16%-26% compared with control in 12 d	
Inorganic-MC	0-0.5	<i>Patinopecten yessoensis</i> (scallop, 0.5 mm)	—	No impact on SR, shell length and height within 8 weeks	(Wang et al., 2014a)
			<i>P. donghaiense</i>	SR increased from 22% (in control) to 38% in 10 d	
Inorganic-MC	0-0.5	<i>Apostichopus japonicas</i> Selenka (sea cucumber, 1~2 cm)	—	No significant changes on GR, SR, in 60 d	(Wang et al., 2014b)
			<i>P. donghaiense</i>	MR decreased from 100% (in control) to 3.33%-6.67% in 10 d	

# Effects of MC on *Atlantic salmon*



## Behavior

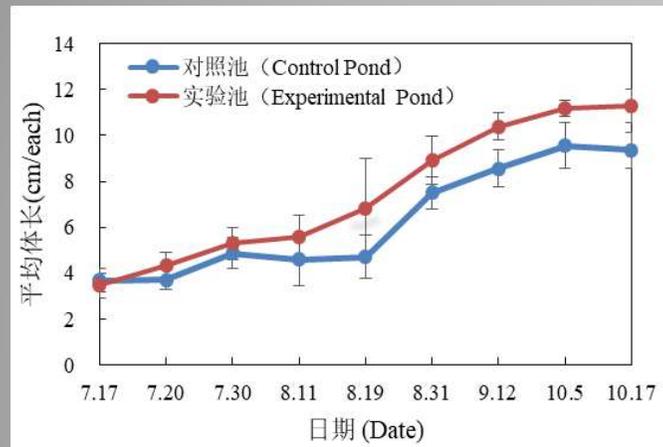
- Respiratory rate: **Normal**
- Swimming ability: **Normal**
- Cough: **Normal**

## Survival

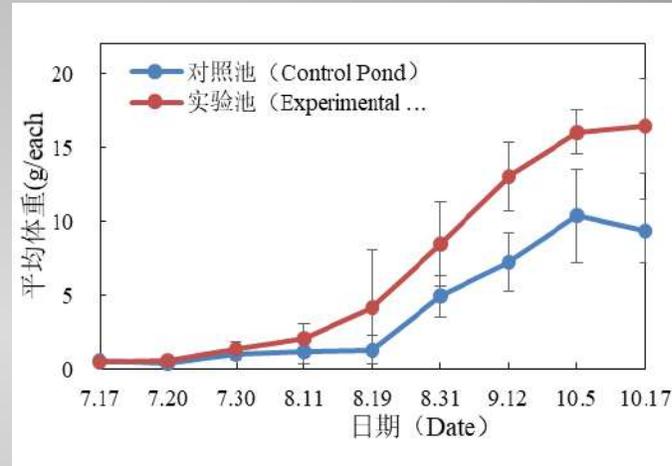
- **No fish died** in **MC** spray group, but **died fish** were found in no MC spray group.

# Amazing Results used in the shrimp culture ponds

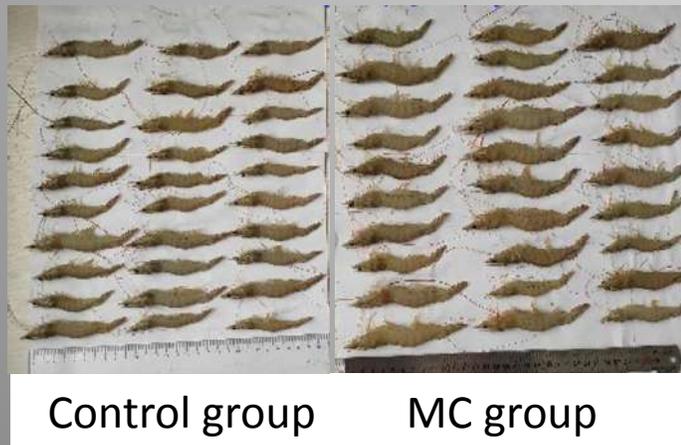
MC was used to improve the water quality for shrimp culture in ponds in 2020. Shrimp production increased by **2-3 times** and greatly improved in **nutritional quality and taste** of the shrimp.



Body length increased by 21%



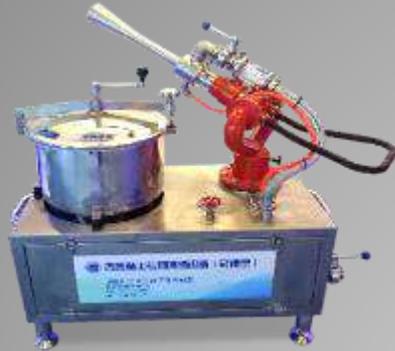
Body weight increased by 76%



# MC: Easy to use



Portable model



small movable type



medium movable type



Movable type used in culture ponds



medium automatic model



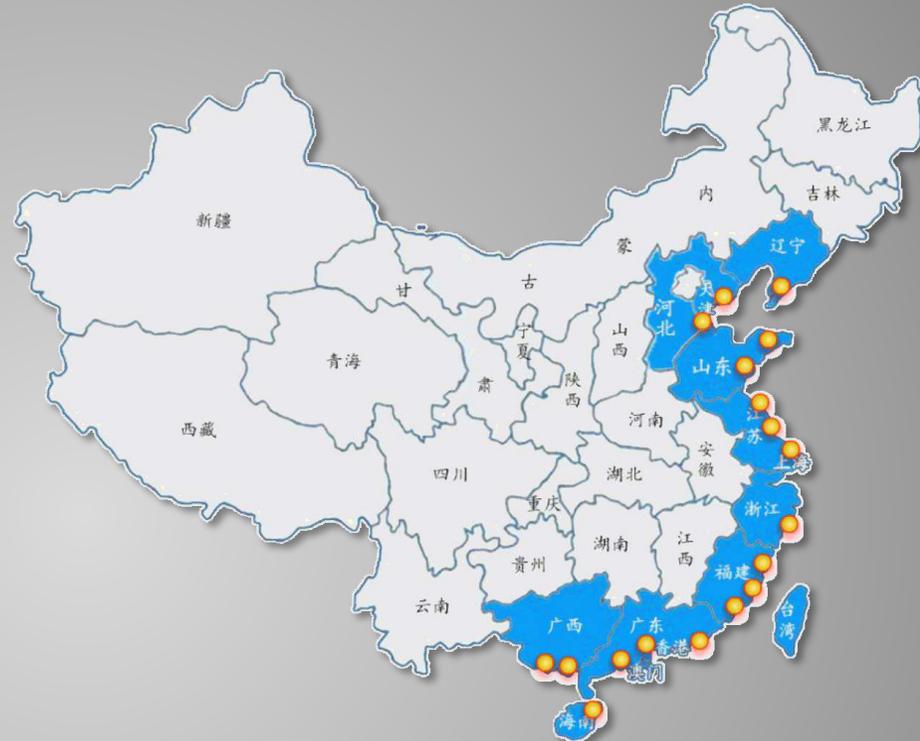
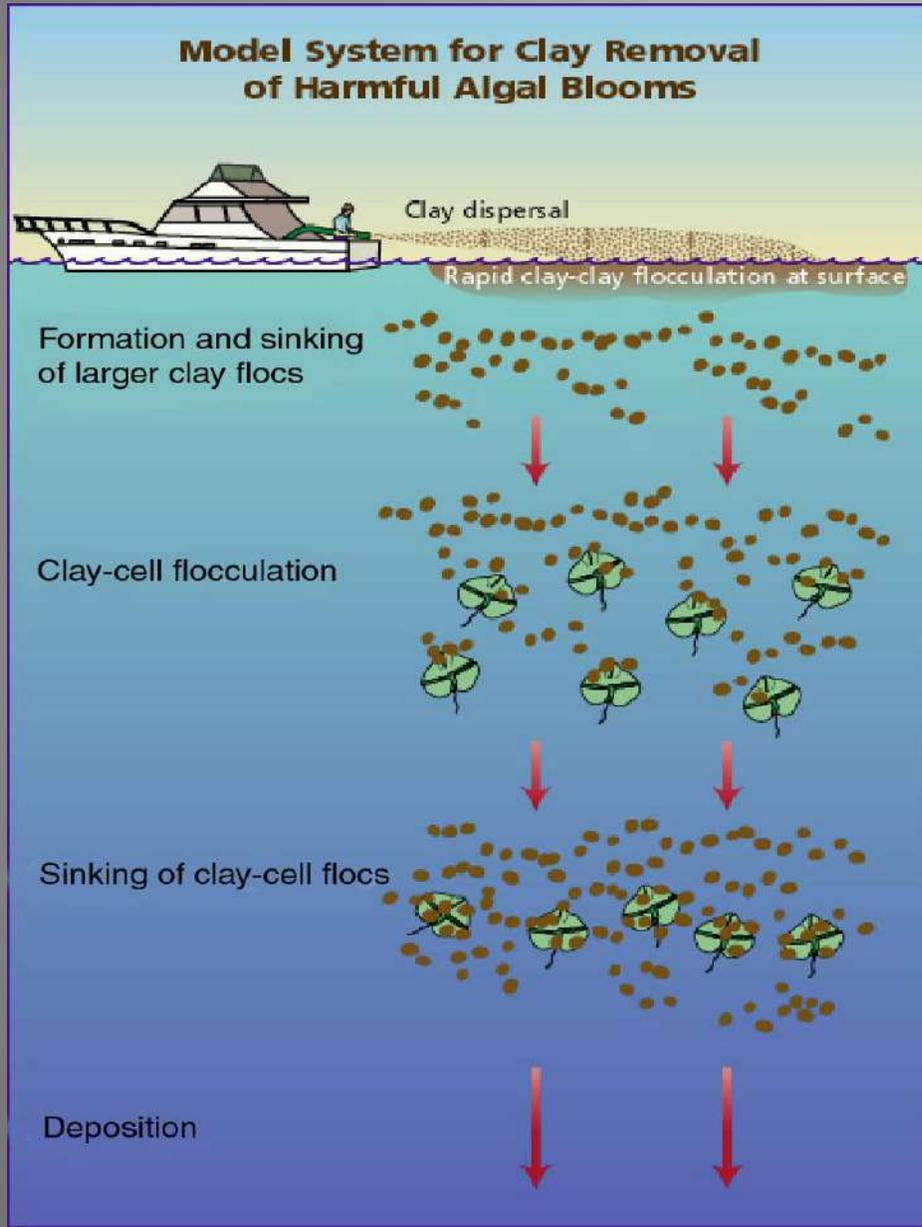
MC vessel for HAB control

Developed special equipments for MC spraying in the field.



MC vessel for HABs control

# Modified Clay (MC), a reliable approach developed by IOCAS for HABs control



Beidaihe, 2012



Qingdao, 2008



Shenzhen, 2011



Culture pond, 2021



Nuclear plant, 2020



Xiamen, 2017

As the “First Aid” to HABs, MC has been used over 20 waters along China coast.

## *Final thoughts*

- Many HABs are disasters and should be treated as such.
- The public, authorities, and the aquaculture industry in most countries want some level of HAB control.
- There are promising bloom control strategies that are in use in other countries, one of which is clay dispersal.
- MC is widely used for bloom control in China and has the **potential to be used in RSA (Take home message)**.

**Dr. Isaac Y. Yuan**

**E-mail: [yqyuan@qdio.ac.cn](mailto:yqyuan@qdio.ac.cn)**



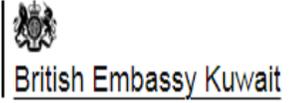
Thanks for your attention!

Dr. Isaac Y. Yuan

E-mail: [yqyuan@qdio.ac.cn](mailto:yqyuan@qdio.ac.cn)



Government of Kuwait



# Development of Early Warning System for Harmful Algal Blooms, Red Tide, and Fish Kills Incidents in Kuwait Territorial Waters

**Dr. Qusaie Karam**

Co-Chair

Associate Research Scientist

Crises Management & Decision Support Program

Environment & Life Science Research Center

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

# Virtual workshop for developing an early warning system for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the Arabian Gulf

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/saf/projects/projects/>

22-23 February 2022



**FOCUS:**

1. Global and regional HAB trends
2. Drivers and impacts of HABs on fisheries and aquaculture
3. HAB early warning systems

# Introduction

- Multiple pollution sources impact Kuwait marine environment.
- Point source pollution of treated and untreated sewage can contribute to the adverse effects load on the marine ecosystem.
- Elevated nutrients load in wastewater along with increasing water temperature and salinity can trigger algal blooms in marine waters which can be a precursor for subsequent red tide and fish kill incidents.
- Also, harmful algal bloom (HAB) species can responsible for selected marine mortality in Kuwait Territorial waters.
- On these grounds, the Kuwait Environment Public Authority (KEPA) has requested from Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) to submit a research proposal to assess marine crises like HAB, red tides, and fish kills frequently occurring in Kuwait territorial waters with possible funding opportunities.

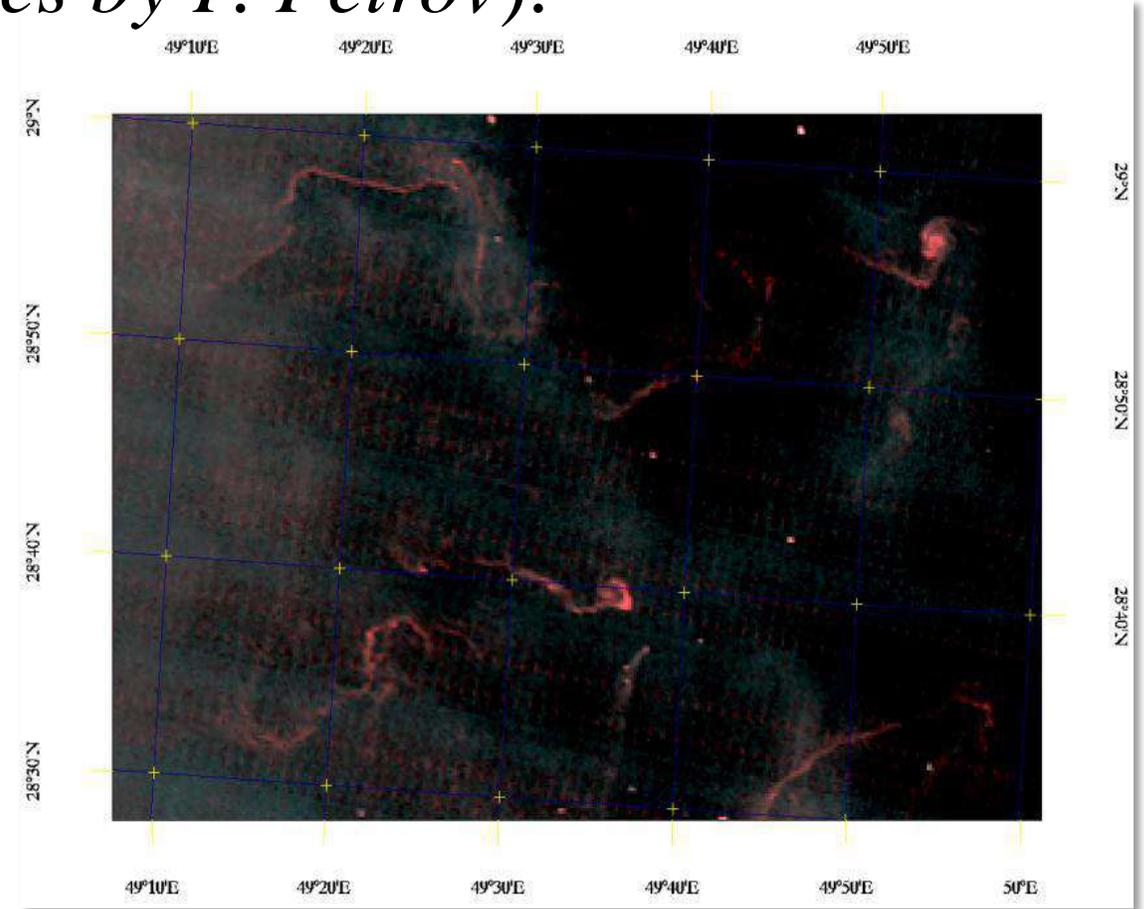
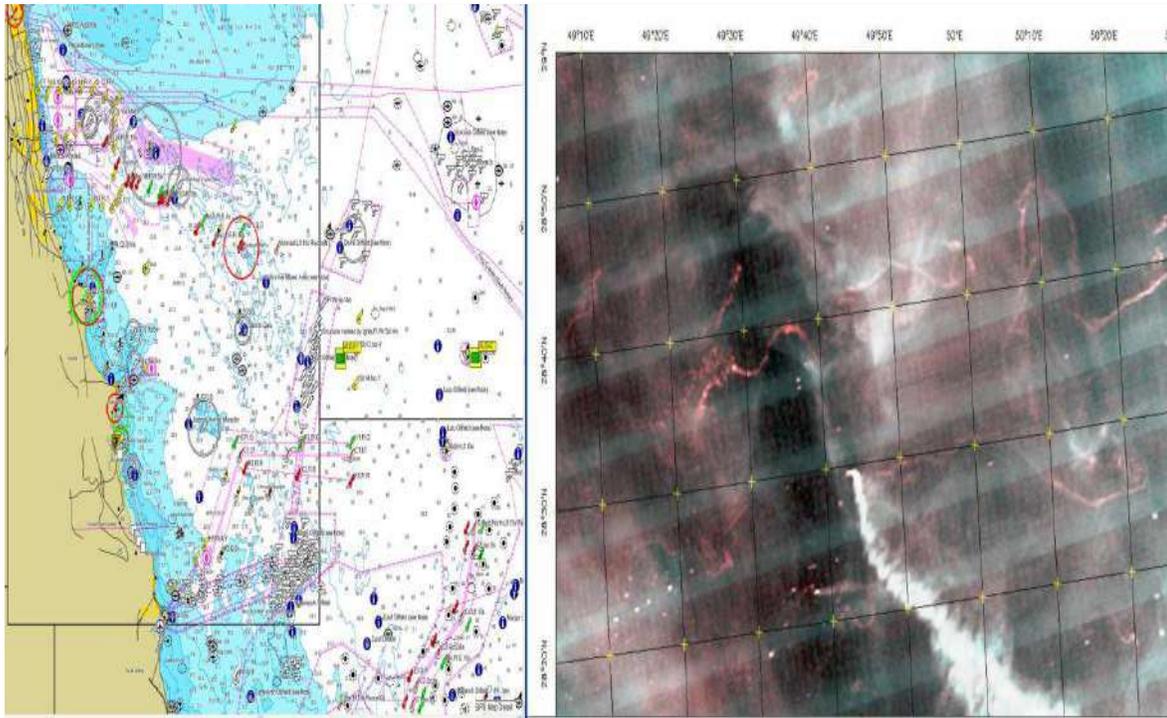


- Consequently, the idea emerged for an integrated system to predict, forecast, & understand the reoccurring events which triggered us to propose the development of an **Early Warning System (EWS)** for such environmental phenomena.
- The **EWS** will incorporate various analytical tools of ecologically indicator systems to analyze HAB, red tide, & fish kill events.
- Proper prediction, response, & management of environmental crises are essential to assist decision-makers.
- The suggested duration of the project will be 12 months.



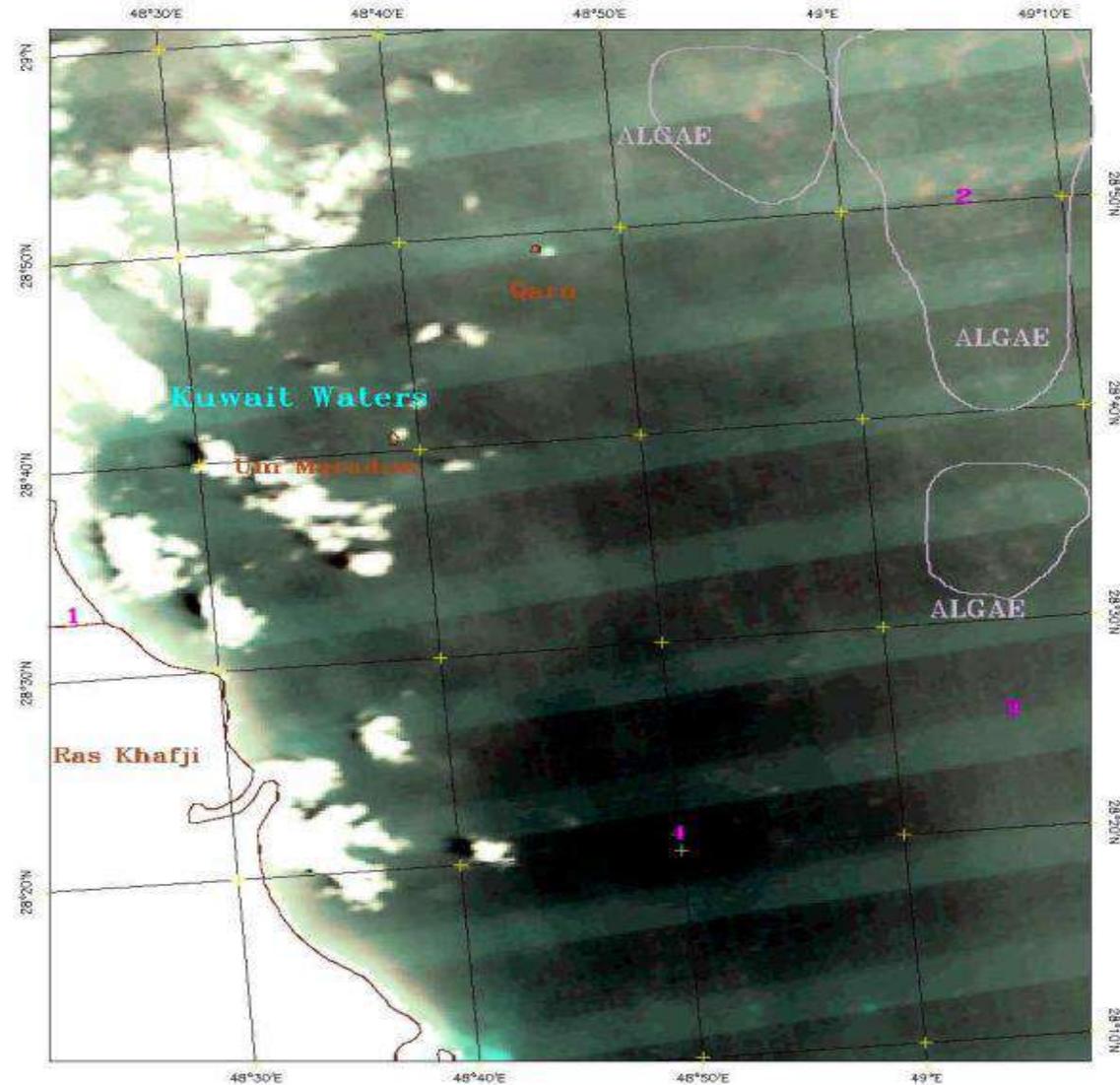
Algal bloom.

Floating algal patches near Kuwaiti waters.  
Terra MODIS (*Images by P. Petrov*).

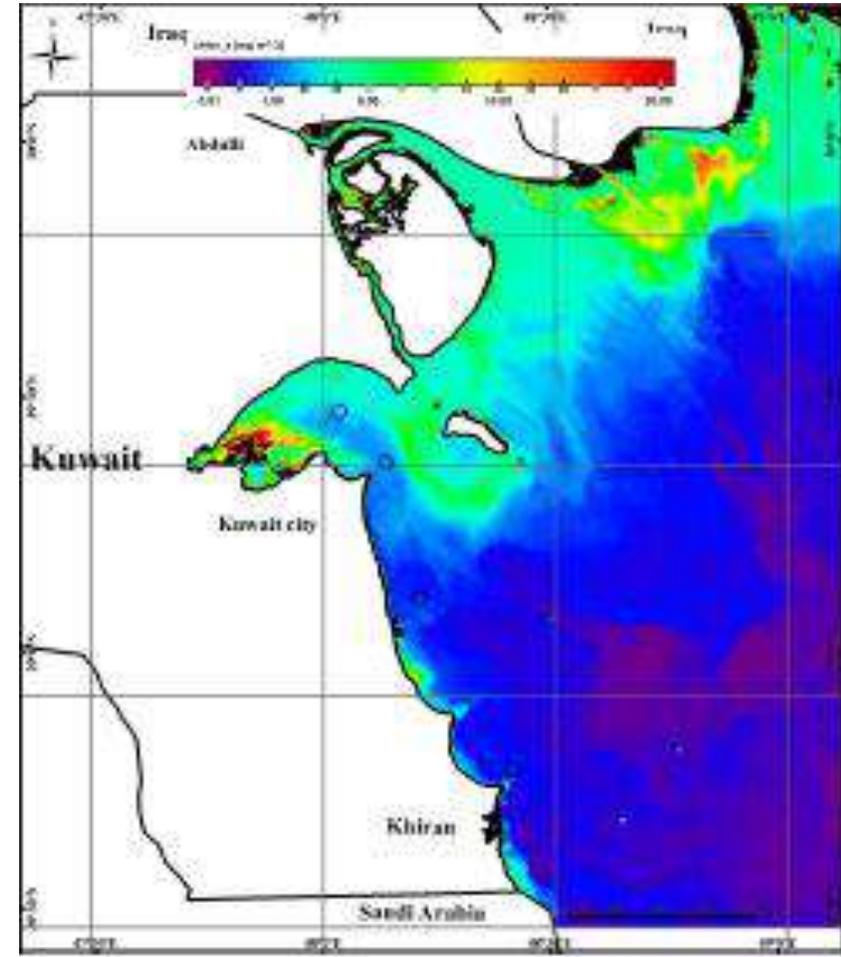
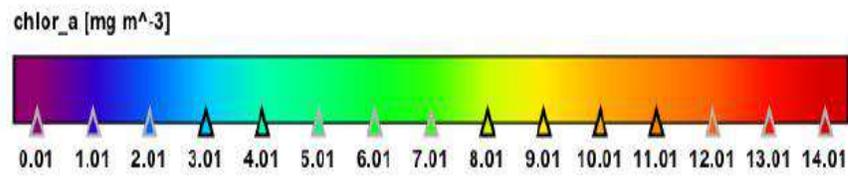
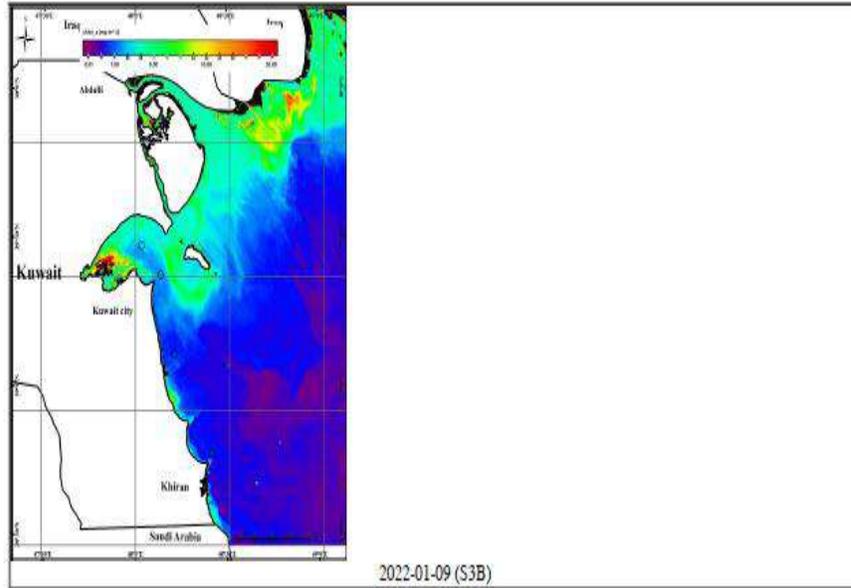


## Algal bloom

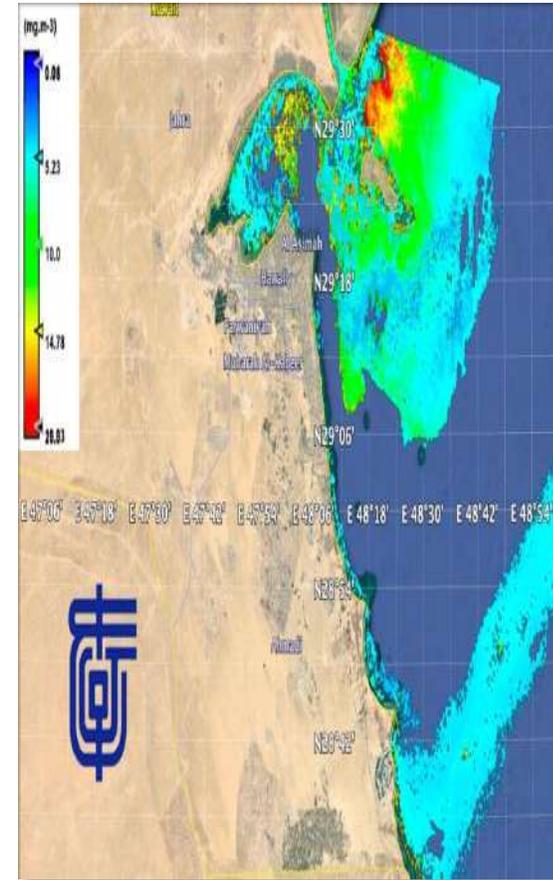
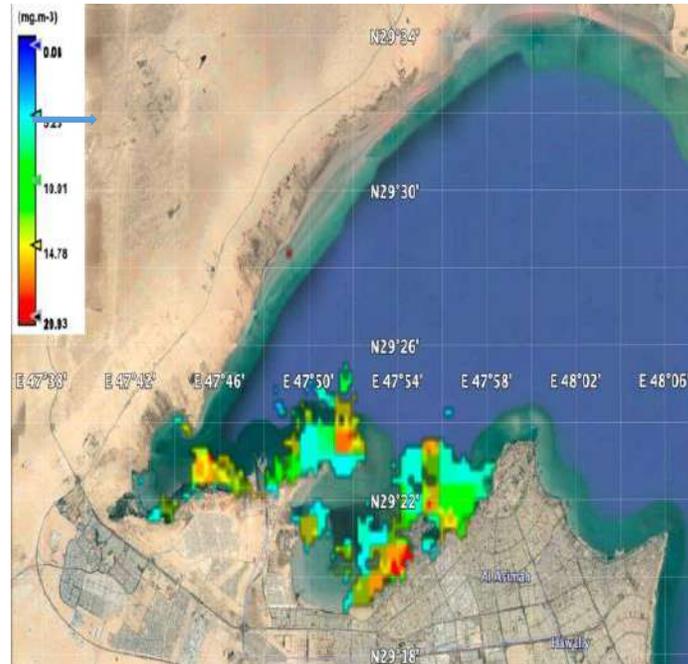
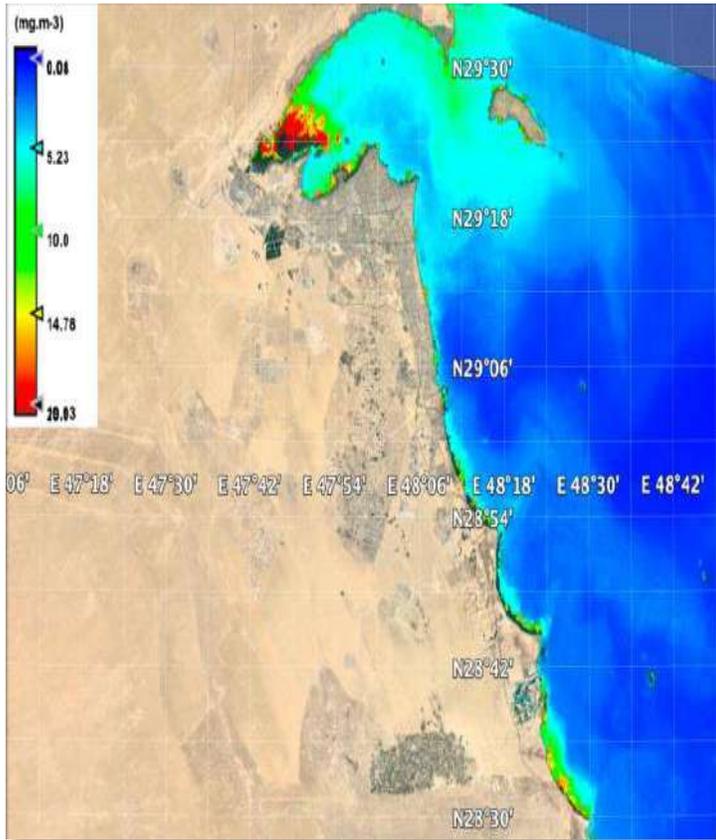
Floating filaments as reddish patches in Northern Gulf near Kuwait waters, Terra MODIS  
(*Images by P. Petrov*).



*Remote Sensing Bulk Report for chlorophyll concentration (mg.m-3)*



# Algae Blooming



## HABs, Red Tides, & Fish Kills in Kuwait:

- Discharges of untreated sewage to Kuwaiti waters can increase nutrients load in the water column triggering the eutrophication process leading to harmful algal blooms (HABs).
- As a consequence, red tides form which can cause major fish kill events devastating marine life.
- The outbreak of HAB in 1999 & 2001 lead to a fish kill event of mullet *Liza macrolepis* locally named meid; in Kuwait Bay and discoloration of seawater.
- It was estimated that in 1999, 25-30 tonnes of mullet fish were lost, and 2,500 tonnes in 2001

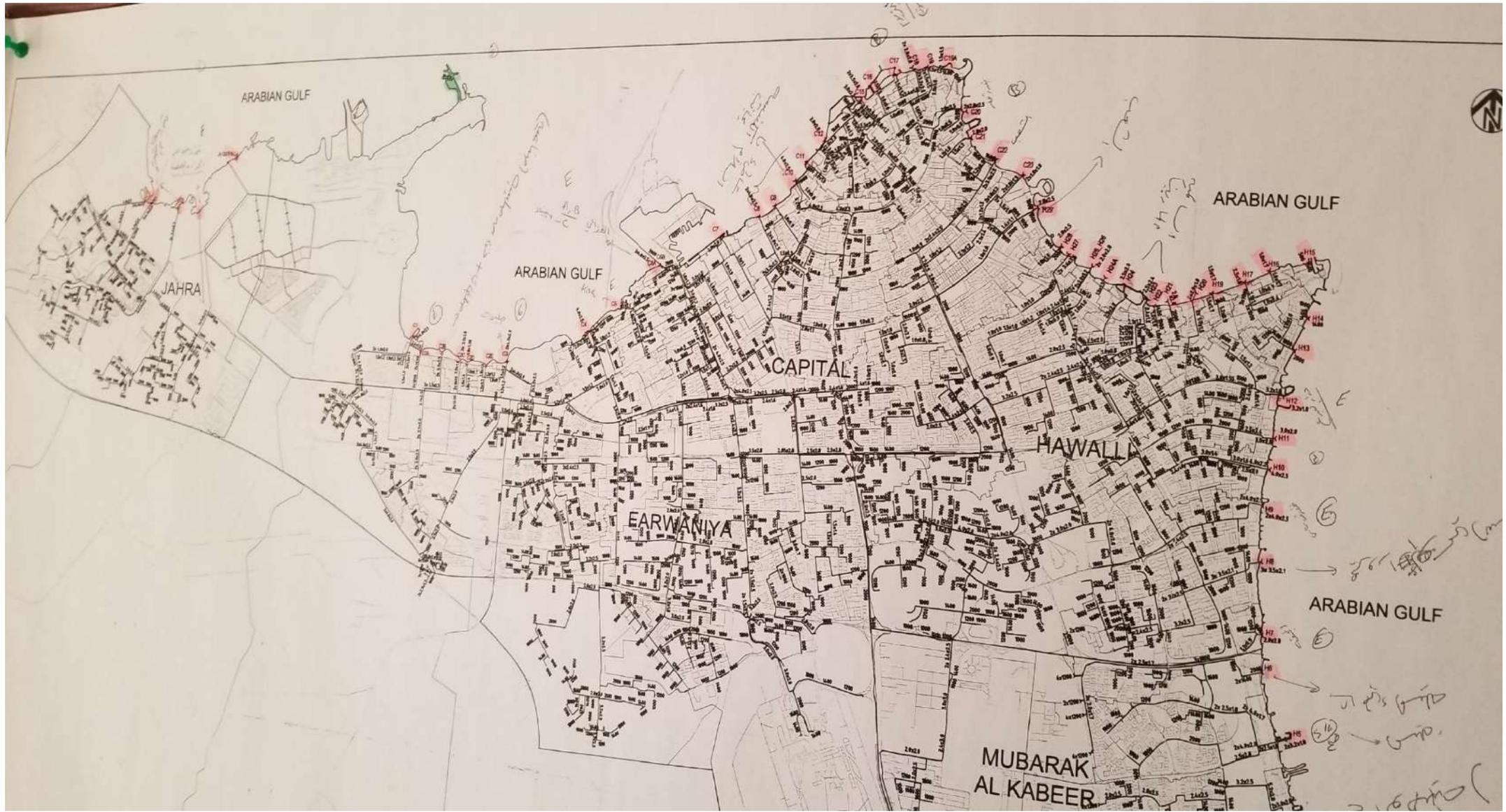


9 May, 2017

Fish Kill  
Incident

Kuwait

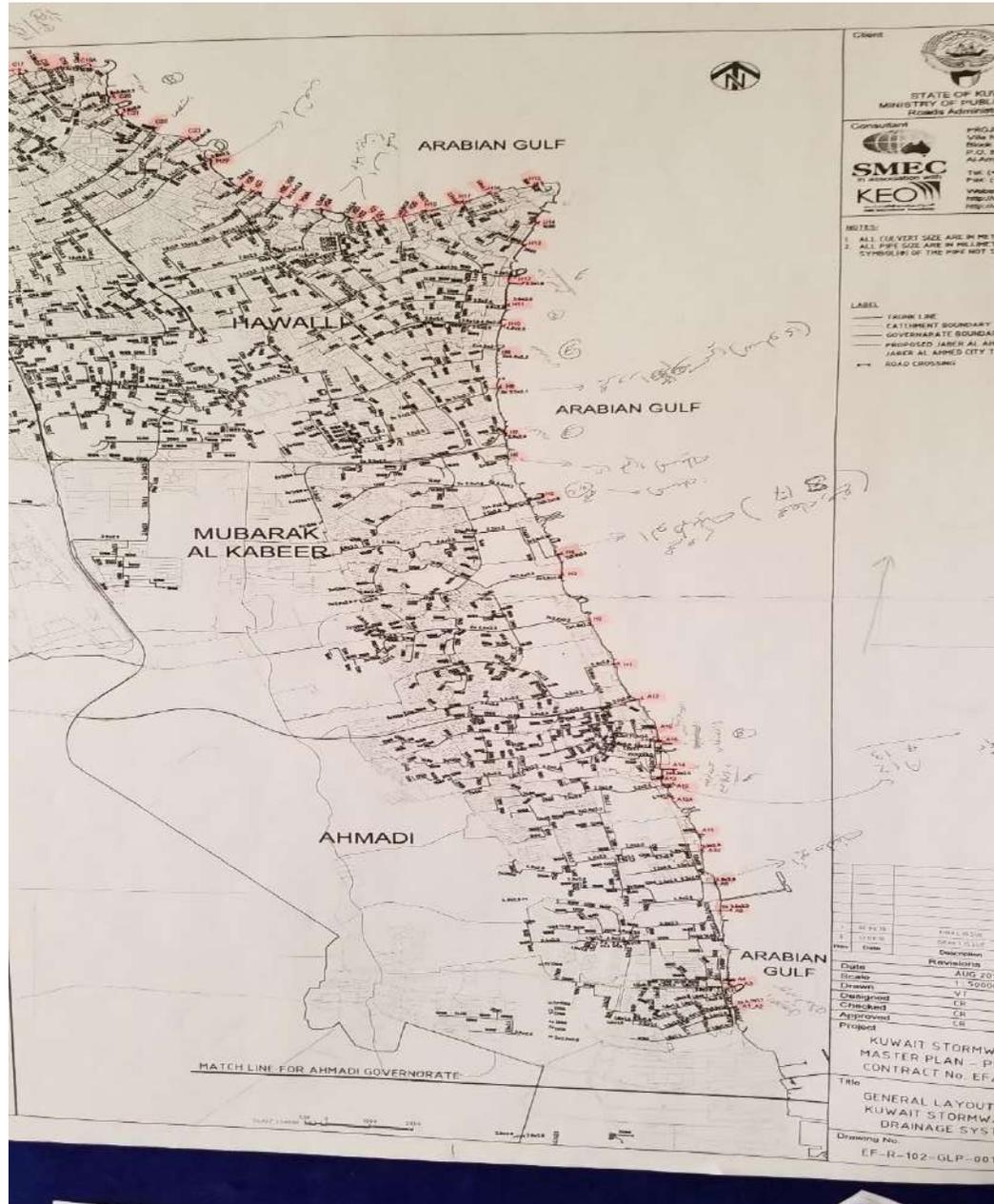




Source: Al-Osairi, Y.

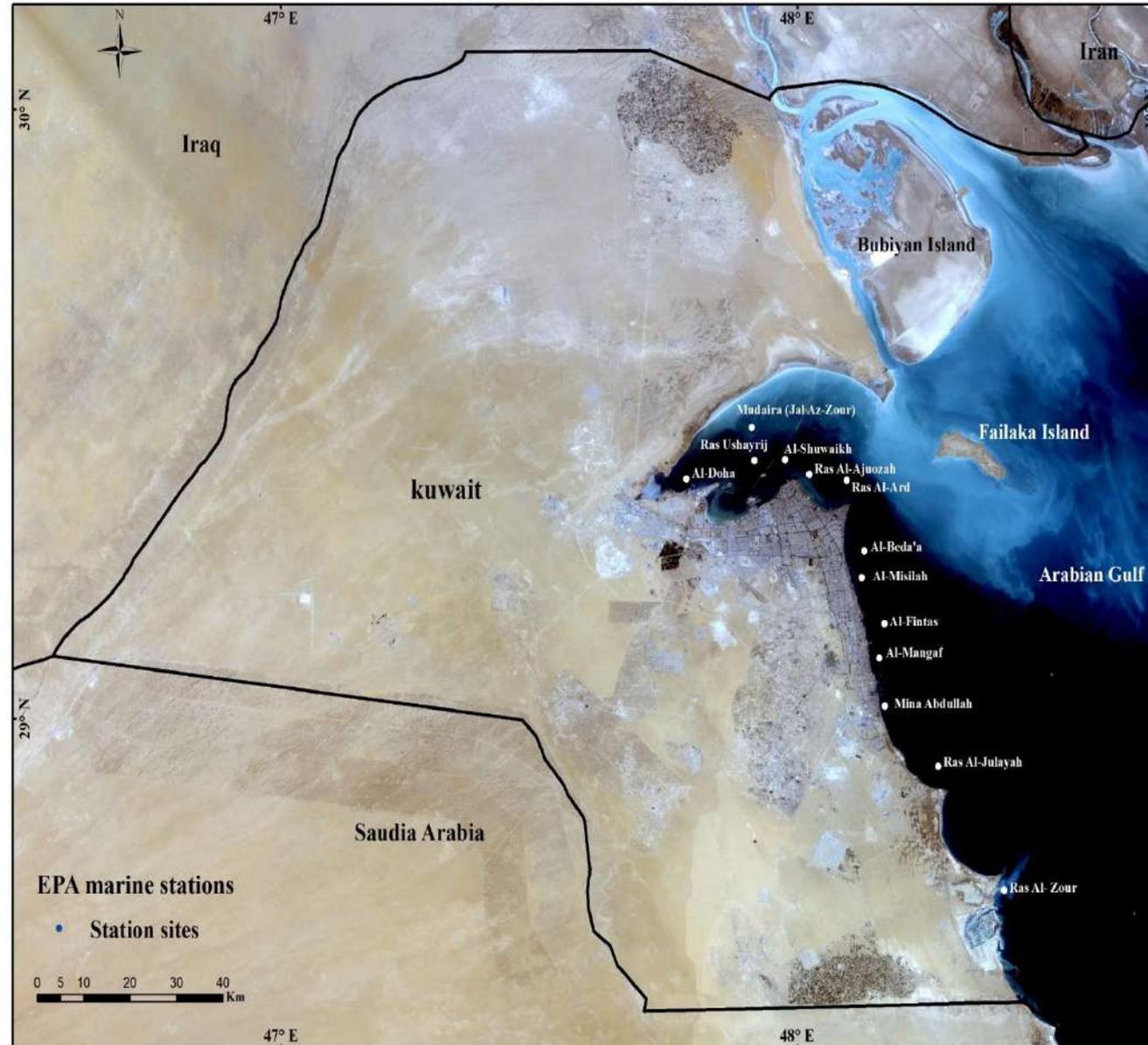
2/23/2022

@Arabian Gulf HAB Workshop Feb. 22-23, 2022, Karam, 2022.



Source: Al-Osairi, Y.

**KEPA  
 Monitoring  
 Stations**



## Historical Observations of Changes in Water Quality, Harmful Algal Blooms, and Fish Kills Incidents in North-Western Arabian Gulf Sea Area: A Review Study

	<b>Chlorophyll (µg/L)</b>	<b>Nutrients</b>	<b>Biological Species</b>	<b>Sample Type</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>HAB Events</b>	14.3 µg/L- bloom site 1.4 µg/L - non- bloom sites		Dinoflagellate <i>Karenia selliformis</i> <i>Prorocentrum rathymum</i> <i>Scropsiella spinifera</i>	Water & sediment (mudflats)	1999 2001 2007 2008 2020
<b>Fish Kill Events</b>	14.3 µg/L- bloom site 1.4 µg/L - non- bloom sites	Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Orthosilicic acid	Dinoflagellate		1999 2001
					Covid-19 Period-2020 Kuwait Bay

**Table 1.** List of potentially harmful species in Kuwait's marine environment and known harmful effects described for these species.

CLASS/Taxon†
DINOPHYCEAE
<i>Akashiwo sanguinea</i> (K. Hirasaka) G. Hansen & Ø. Moestrup [surfactant-producing]
<i>Alexandrium catenella</i> (Whedon & Kofoid) Balech [PSP]
<i>A. leei</i> Balech [PSP]
<i>A. minutum</i> Halim [PSP]
<i>A. pseudogonyaulax</i> (Biecheler) Horiguchi ex Kita & Fukuyo [PSP?]
<i>A. tamarense</i> (Lebour) Balech [PSP]
<i>A. tamiyavanichii</i> Balech [PSP]
<i>Amphidinium carterae</i> Hulburt [Haemolysins]*
<i>A. gibbosum</i> (L. Maranda & Y. Shimizu) M. Flø Jørgensen & S. Murray [Cytotoxins]
<i>A. operculatum</i> Claparède & Lachmann [Haemolysins]
<i>Ceratium furca</i> (Ehrenberg) Claparède & Lachmann
<i>C. fusus</i> (Ehrenberg) Dujardin
<i>Cochlodinium fulvescens</i> Iwataki, Kawami & Matsuoka [Ichthyotoxicity]
<i>Dinophysis acuminata</i> Claparède & Lachmann [DSP]
<i>D. acuta</i> Ehrenberg [DSP]
<i>D. caudata</i> Saville-Kent [DSP]
<i>D. miles</i> Cleve [DSP]
<i>D. norvegica</i> Claparède & Lachmann [DSP]
<i>D. tripos</i> Gourret [DSP]
<i>Gonyaulax polygramma</i> Stein
<i>G. spinifera</i> (Claparède & Lachmann) Diesing [Yessotoxin]
<i>Gymnodinium catenatum</i> H.W. Graham [PSP]
<i>Karenia mikimotoi</i> (Miyake & Kominami ex Oda) G.Hansen & Ø.Moestrup [Ichthyotoxicity]
<i>K. papilionacea</i> A. Haywood & K. Steidinger [NSP]
<i>K. selliformis</i> A. Haywood, K. Steidinger & L. MacKenzie [NSP]*
<i>Lingulodinium polyedrum</i> (F. Stein) J.D. Dodge [Yessotoxin]
<i>Noctiluca scintillans</i> (Macartney) Kofoid & Swezy
<i>Ostreopsis ovata</i> Fukuyo [CFP]
<i>O. cf siamensis</i> Schmidt [CFP]
<i>Peridinium quinquecorne</i> Abé*
<i>Phalacroma mitra</i> F. Schütt [DSP]
<i>P. rapa</i> Jørgensen [DSP]
<i>P. rotundatum</i> (Claparède & Lachmann) Kofoid & Michener [DSP]
<i>Proocentrum concavum</i> Fukuyo [OA, DTX-1, CFP]
<i>P. emarginatum</i> Fukuyo [Haemolytic activity]
<i>P. lima</i> (Ehrenberg) F. Stein [DSP]
<i>P. micans</i> Ehrenberg
<i>P. minimum</i> (Pavillard) J. Schiller [NT]
<i>P. rhathymum</i> Loeblich, Shirley & Schmidt [Haemolytic activity]*
<i>Protoceratium reticulatum</i> (Claparède & Lachmann) Butschli [Yessotoxin]
<i>Pyrodinium bahamense var. compressum</i> (Böhm) Steidinger, Tester & Taylor [PSP]
<i>Scrippsiella trochoidea</i> (Stein) Balech ex Loeblich III
<i>Takayama cf pulchella</i> (Larsen) de Salas, Bolch & Hallegraeff [Ichthyotoxicity]

**Table 1.** List of potentially harmful species in Kuwait's marine environment and known harmful effects described for these species.

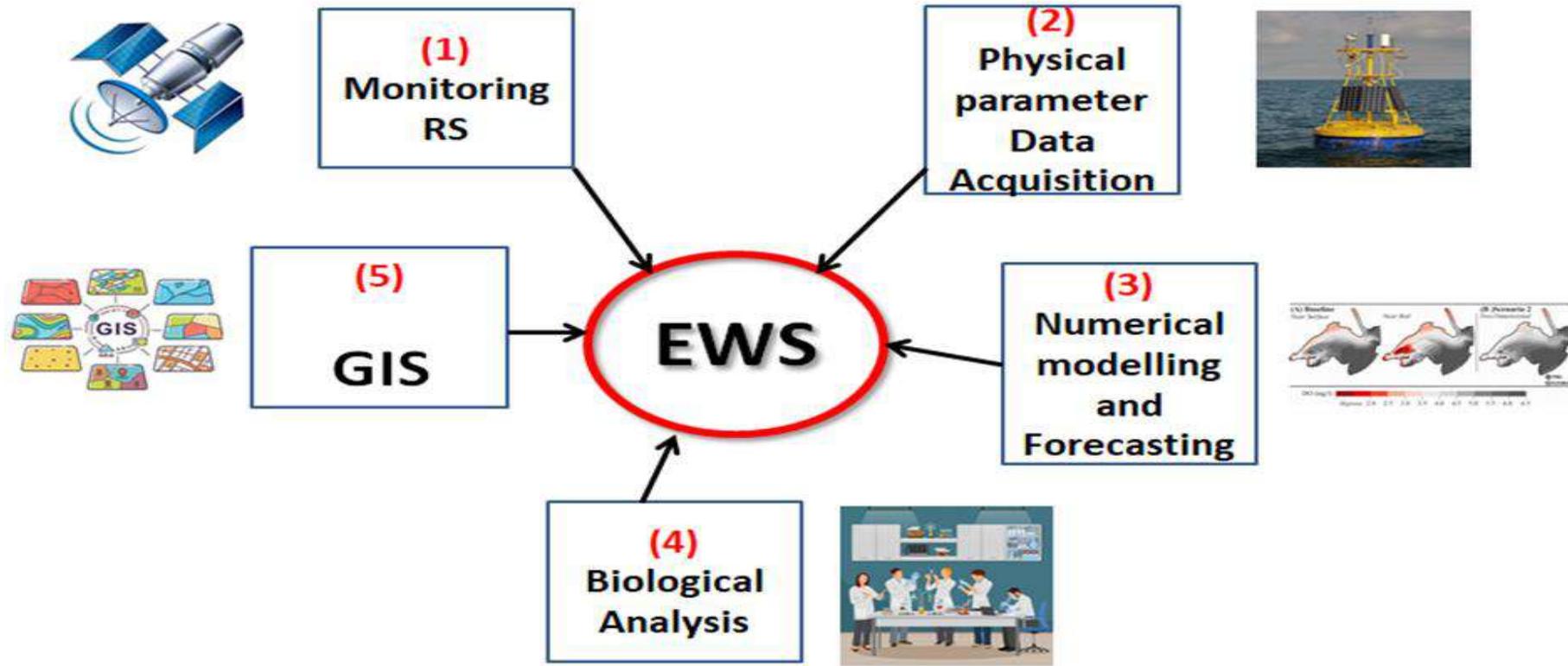
(Continued).

CLASS/Taxon†
BACILLARIOPHYCEAE
<i>Amphora coffeaeformis</i> (C. Agardh) Kütz [DA, ASP?]
<i>Chaetoceros curvisetus</i> Cleve*
<i>C. pseudocurvisetus</i> Mangin*
<i>C. socialis</i> H.S.Lauder*
<i>Cyclotella</i> sp.*
<i>Cylindrotheca closterium</i> (Ehrenberg) Reimann & J.C.Lewin*
<i>Eucampia zodiacus</i> Ehrenberg*
<i>Guinardia flaccida</i> (Castracane) H.Peragallo*
<i>Nitzschia laevis</i> Hustedt*
<i>Pseudo-nitzschia pungens</i> (Grunow ex Cleve) G.R.Hasle [ASP]
<i>Pseudo-nitzschia delicatissima</i> group [ASP]
DICTYOCOPHYCEAE
<i>Dictyocha fibula</i> Ehrenberg
<i>D. speculum</i> Ehrenberg
CRYPTOPHYCEAE
<i>Teleaulax</i> sp.*
RAPHYDOPHYCEAE
<i>Chattonella marina var. antiqua</i> (Y.Hada) M.Demura & F.Kawachi [Superoxides, NT]
<i>Heterosigma akashiwo</i> (Y.Hada) Y.Hada ex Y.Hara & M.Chihara [NT]*
PRYMNESIOPHYCEAE
<i>Phaeocystis cf globosa</i> Scherffel (Haemolysins)*
CYANOPHYCEAE
<i>Trichodesmium erythraeum</i> Ehrenberg ex Gomont (NT, HT)*
Phylum CILIOPHORA
<i>Myrionecta rubra</i> Lohmann*

†species names were verified using the AlgaeBase website (Guiry and Guiry, 2012).

Harmful effect is indicated as above: 1 – *Toxic species* [Toxin, Syndrome]; **PSF** – Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning; **NT** – Neurotoxic; **HT** – Hepatotoxic; **ASP** – Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning; **DSP** – Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning; **NSP** – Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning; **CFP** – Ciguatera Fish Poisoning; **OA** – okadaic acid; **DTX** – dinophysistoxin; **DA** – domoic acid; 2 – *Harmful species*: those species that are known to produce blooms associated with fish mortality elsewhere; 3 – *Bloom-forming species*\*: bloom or close to bloom abundance ( $10^5$ – $10^6$  cells  $l^{-1}$ ) was detected in Kuwait.

Al-Yamani & Polikarpov, 2012.

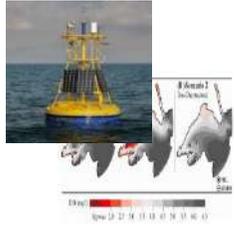


**EWS: Early Warning System.**  
**RS: Remote sensing.**  
**GIS: Geographic Information System.**



**(1)**  
**Monitoring  
Remote Sensing**

Spectral reflectance of various plankton species, harmful algal blooms (HAB), and red tide events will be assessed. A hyperspectral camera will be used to measure the spectral signatures of the features within fieldwork measurements. Chlorophyll-a concentration will be estimated through MODIS-Aqua (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) sensor.



**(2)**  
**Numerical  
modelling and  
Forecasting**

Numerical model Delft3D will be used based on field measurements like salinity, water levels, temperature, and dissolved oxygen (DO). Also, meteorological aspects will be evaluated to support the hydrodynamic Delft3D-FLOW Model. The model will be coupled with a water quality model, Delft3D-WAQ.



**(3)**  
**Biological  
Analysis**

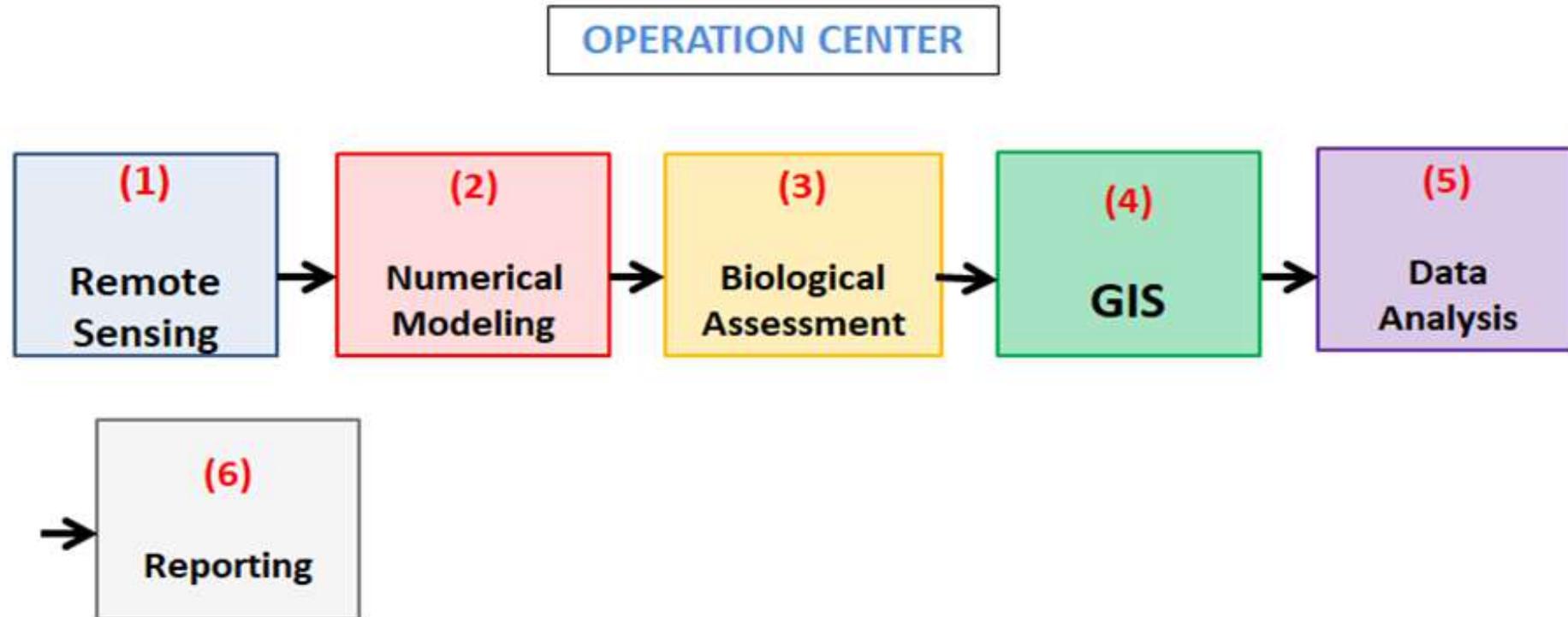
Seawater samples will be carried out by team in the biodiversity department, KEPA. HAB species taxonomical identification, and classification into harmful/ non-harmful will be done. Common HAB species amongst others which will be identified as toxic or non-toxic in this study like *Cochlodinium polykrikoides*, toxic dinoflagellate *Gymnodinium* sp., and the non-toxic ciliate *Mesodinium rubrum*.



**(5)**  
**GIS**

several analyses will be performed on the obtained data from Remote Sensing, field observations, HAB species, water quality parameters, numerical modelling, and others. For instance, water quality range, red tides spatial distribution, red tides intensity range will be produced. Also, a thematic map of red tide hazard degree assessment will be developed using the interpolation method, and the spatial distribution of hazard degree grades as indicated in previous studies

## Early Warning System (EWS) for HAB, Red Tides, and Fish Kill Incidents in Kuwait Territorial Waters

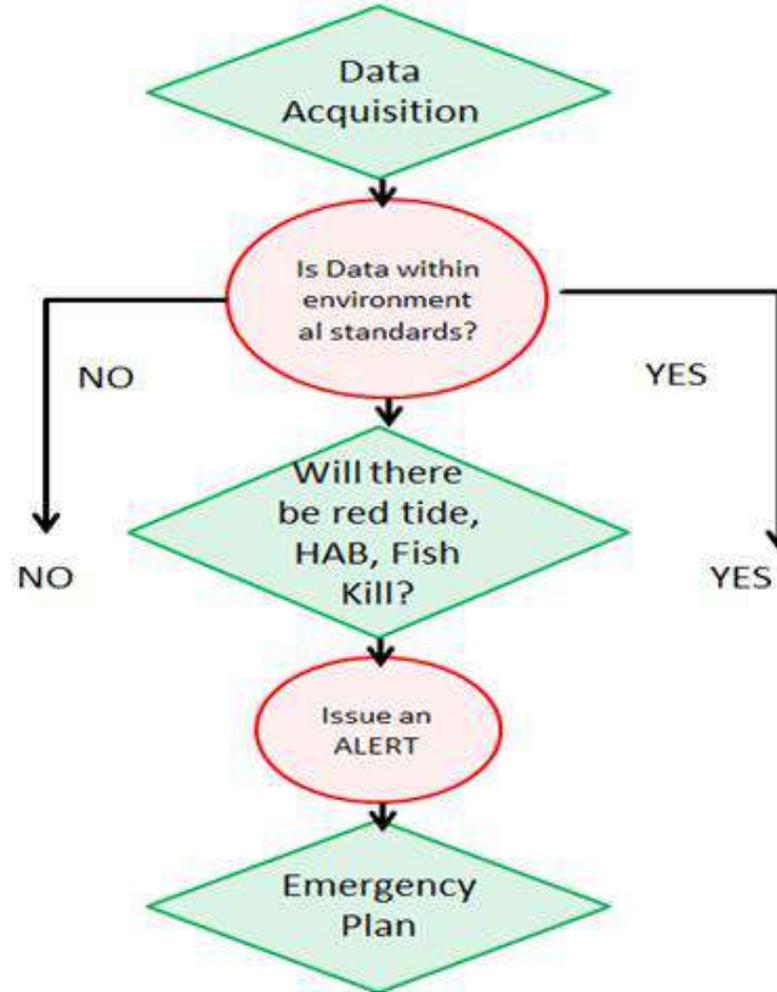


**Monitoring**

**Forecasting**

**Warning**

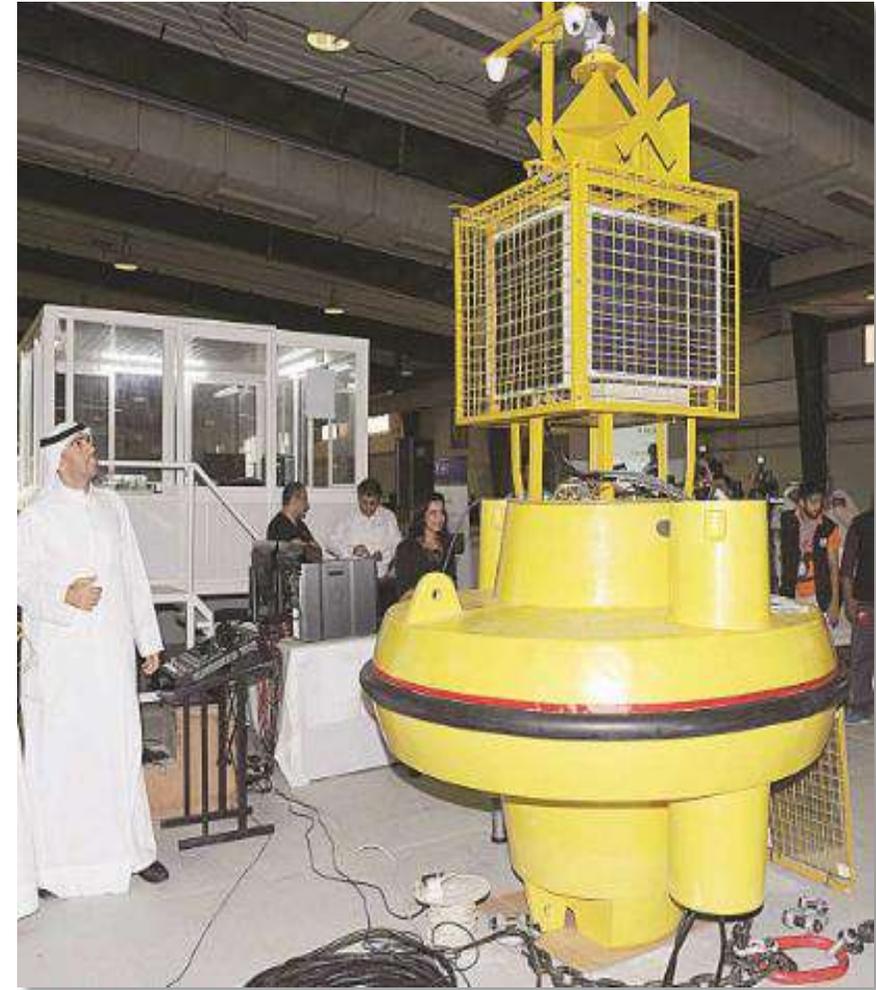
**Response**



# Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

## Marine Buoy

**“KISR-01”**



# Key Discussion Points

- HAB incidents in Kuwaiti waters consist of toxic and non-toxic species.
- Reoccurrence of specific neurotoxic HAB species over the years.
- Emergence of new species in RSA.
- HAB events frequencies are elevated in the summer season.
- Kuwait Bay in the northern Arabian gulf is a hotspot for HAB, and red tide events.
- Wastewater is the confirmed causative agent, and triggering factor for HAB, red tide, and fish kills events.

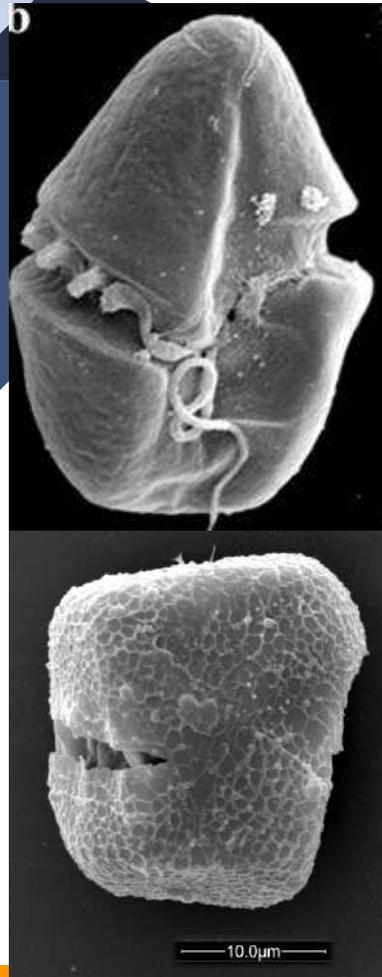
**THANK  
YOU**



## Harmful Algal Blooms Workshop

Sponsor by UK and Kuwait Governments endorsed by the  
Global Harmful Algal Blooms (GlobalHAB) Programme

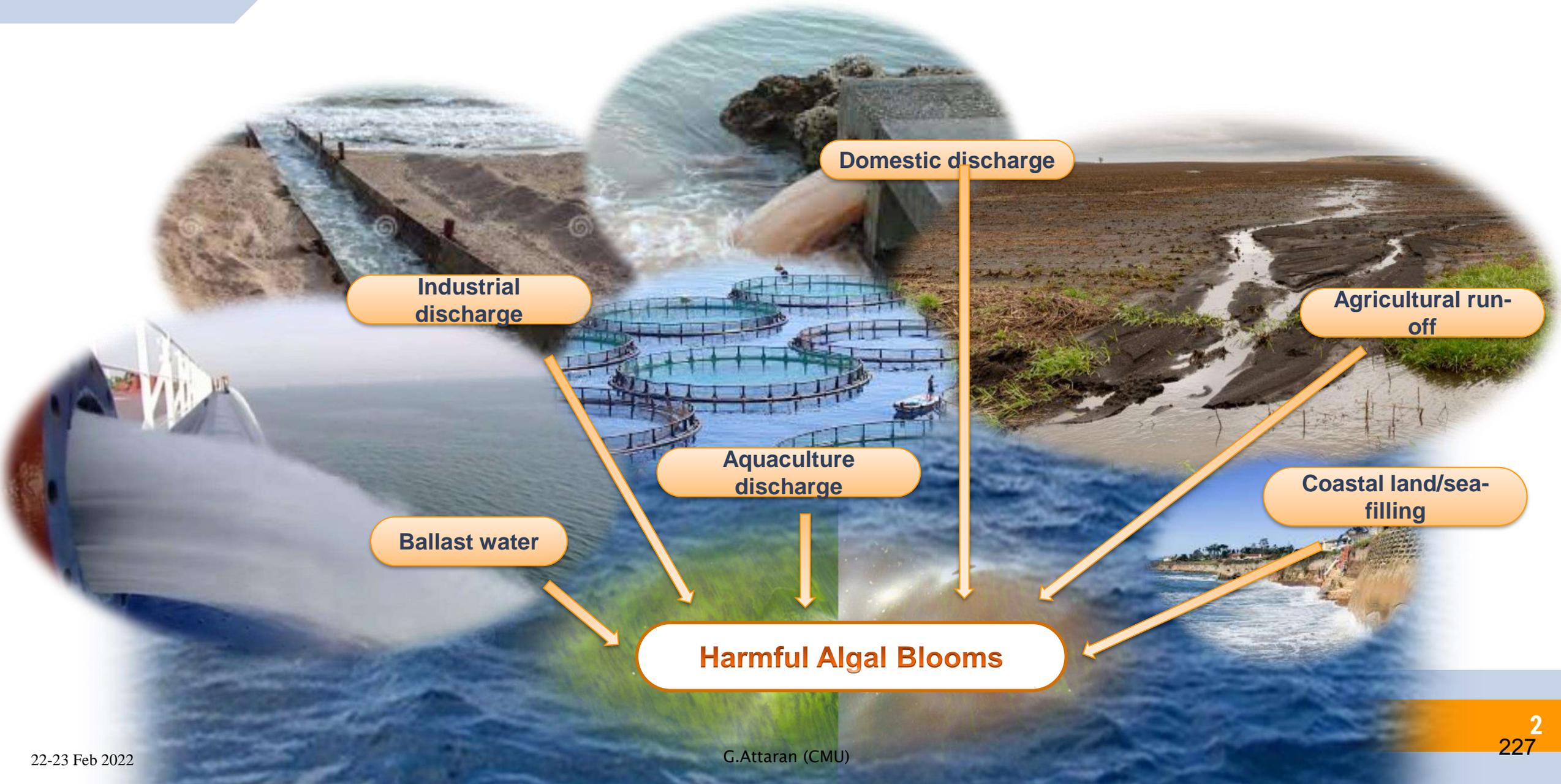
# Existing HAB observation and EWS in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman



Gilan Attaran-Fariman  
(Chabahar Maritime University, Iran)

22-23 February 2022

# ANTHROPOGENIC SOURCES INDUCING HABs



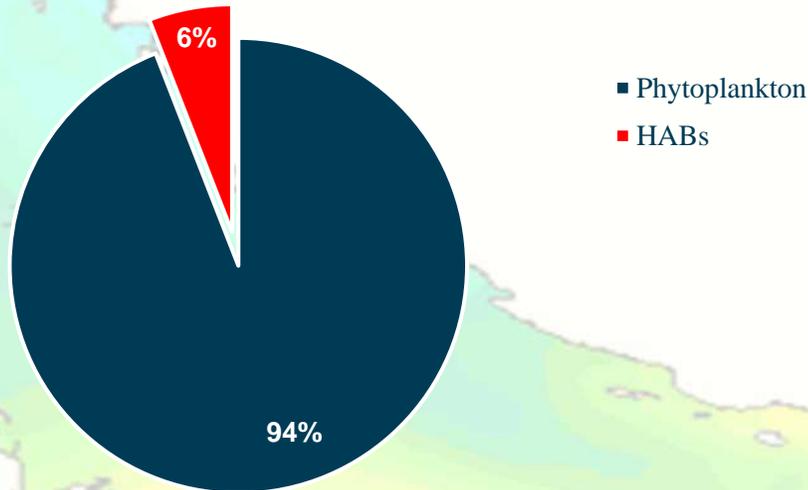


# HAB species recorded in the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf

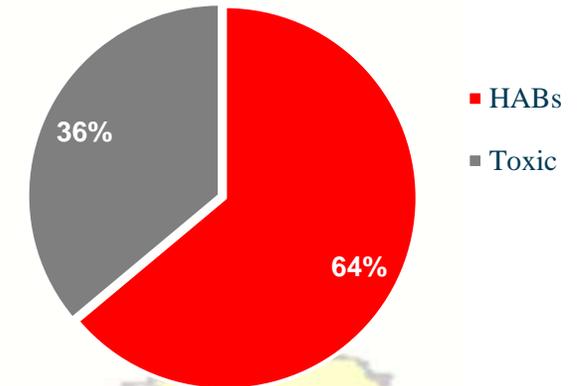
## HAB species:

- a) **Toxin producer** contaminant sea food and kill marine organism
- b) **High biomass producer**  
Hypoxia, anoxia, unselective mortality of marine organism
- c) **Some HAB species have characteristic of both**

HABs in total phytoplankton



Toxic species in HABs



Source :Attaran Fariman and Asefi (2022)



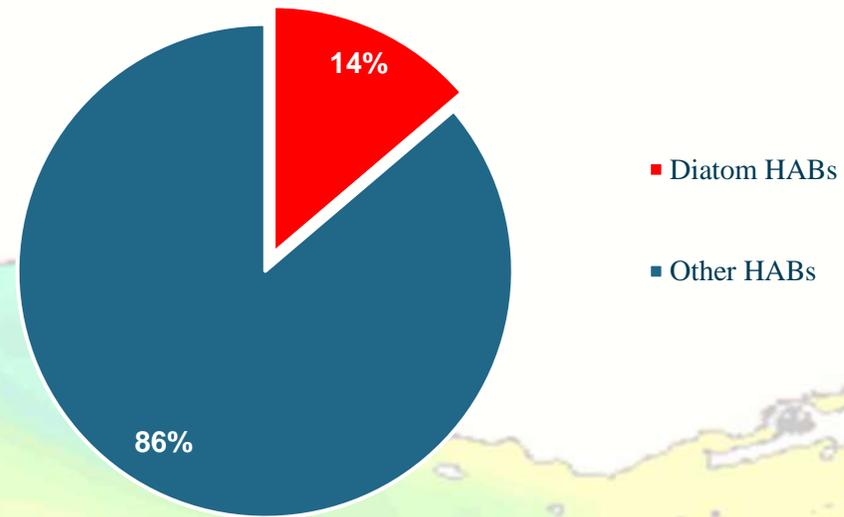
# HAB species recorded in the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf

Source :Attaran Fariman and Asefi (2022)

## Diatoms HAB's

- Halamphora coffeaeformis*
- Nitzschia delicatissima*
- Pseudo-nitzschia spp*

## HABs





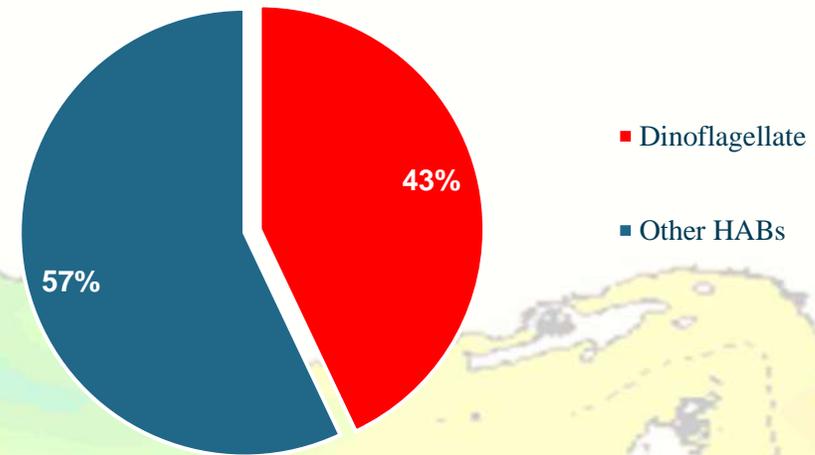
# HAB species recorded in the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf

## Dinoflagellates HAB's 52 species

Source :Attaran Fariman and Asefi (2022)

- Karlodinium gentienii*
- Karlodinium veneficum*
- Lingulodinium polyedra*
- Margalefidinium polykrikoides*
- Ostreopsis lenticularis*
- Ostreopsis ovata*
- Protoceratium reticulatum*
- Pyrodinium bahamense*
- Pyrodinium bahamense var. compressum*
- Gonyaulax polygramma*
- Gymnodinium catenatum*
- Karenia brevis*
- Karenia longicanalis*
- Karenia mikimotoi*
- Karenia papilionacea*
- Karenia selliformis*
- lavendaria fissa (Gyrodinium instriatum)*

### HABs



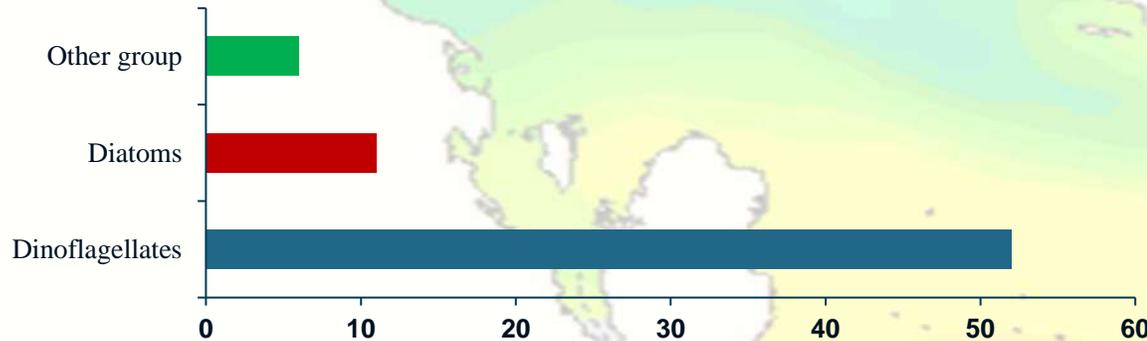


# HAB species recorded in the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf

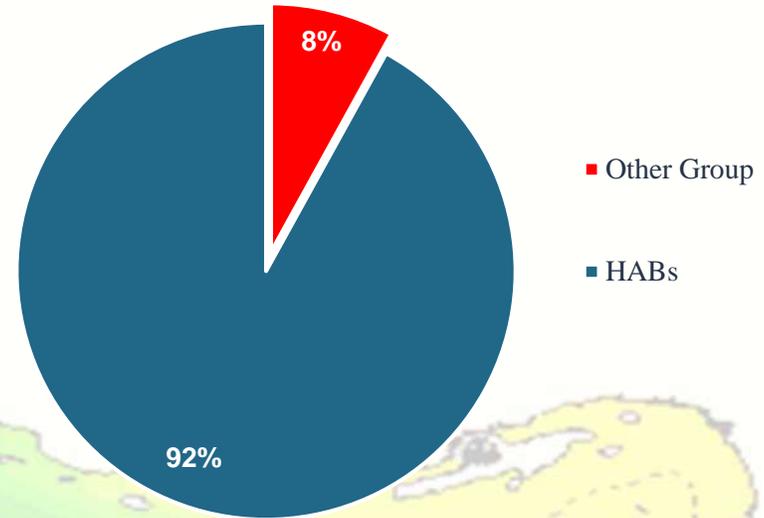
## Other Group HAB's 6 species

- Chattonella antiqua*
- Chattonella marina*
- Chattonella subsalsa*
- Heterosigma akashiwo*
- Phaeocystis globosa*
- Phaeocystis pouchetii*

Source :Attaran Fariman and Asefi (2022)



## Other Group HABs



## Marine Mortality due to different groups of Algal Blooms in Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman (ROPME: 1988-2020)



## Key points

**Dinoflagellate are most important HAB former species in the Area**

**Most dinoflagellate HAB former species produce resting cyst**

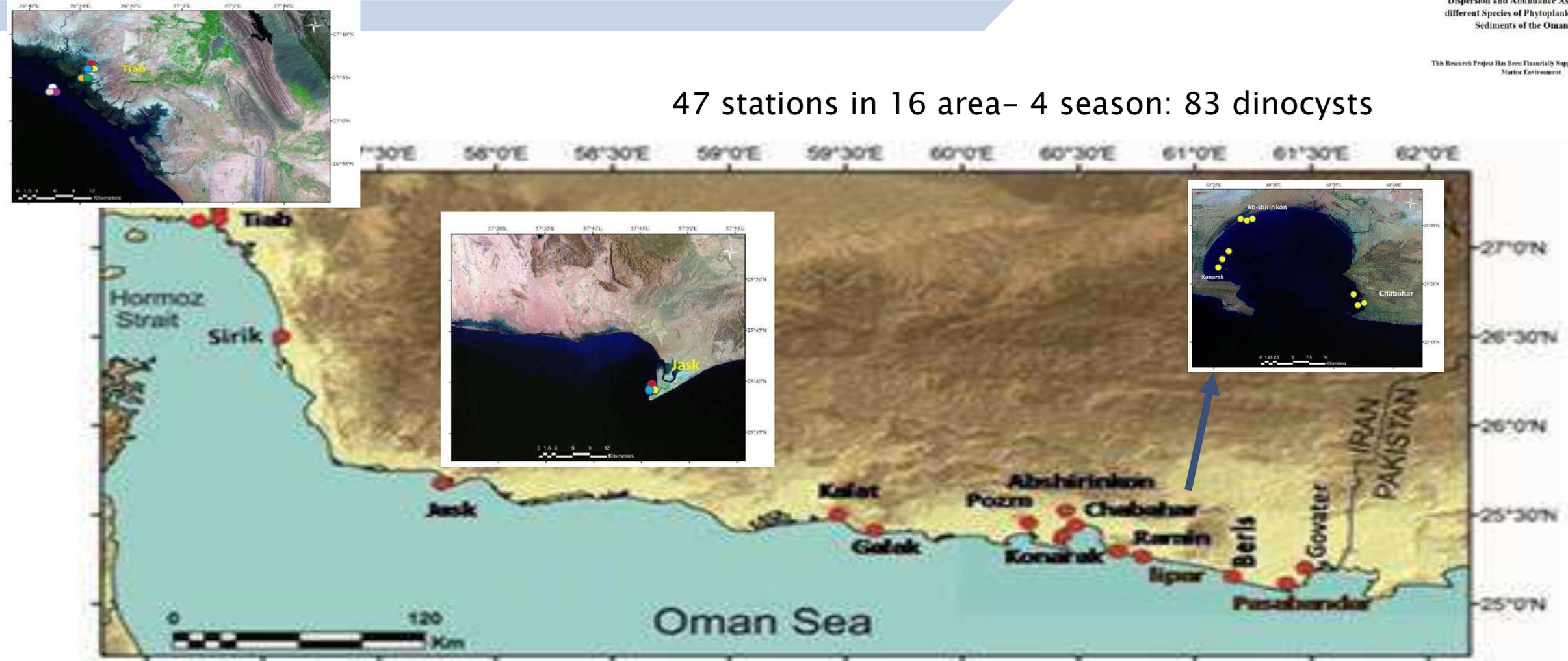
**It estimates species in the water column**

# Cysts act as seed population

Cysts, as the seed bank, play an important role in the onset of plankton blooms that may occur, and therefore provide early warnings of the presence of toxic species in a particular area.

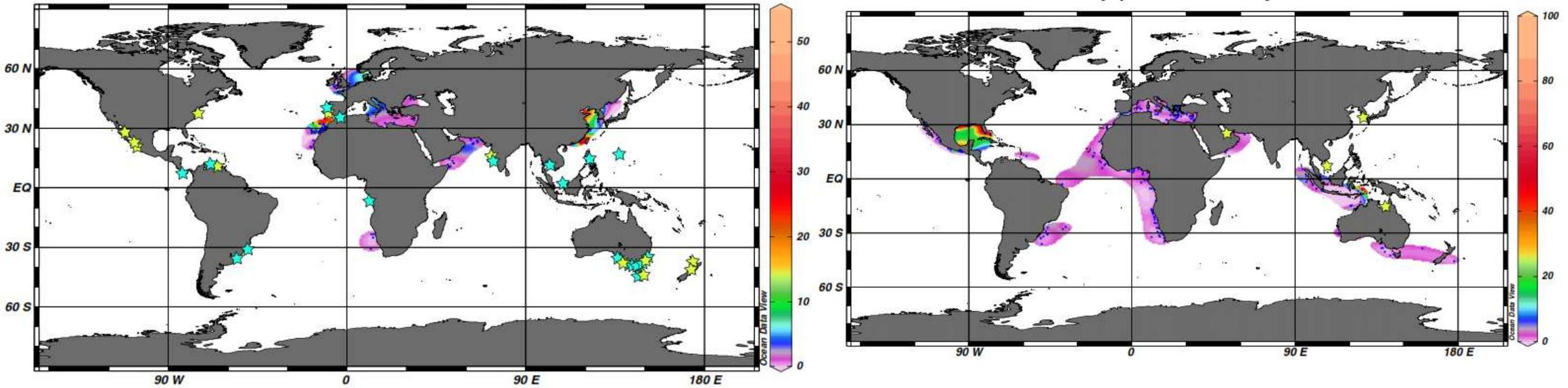
# Dispersion and Abundance Assessment of different Species of Phytoplankton Cysts in Sediments of the Oman Sea (Attaran Fariman, 2016)

47 stations in 16 area- 4 season: 83 dinocysts



## HABs Cyst distribution in the area

Cyst of *Gymnodinium catenatum*



Source: Zonneveld et al., 2013

*G. catenatum* 2.3%

*P. bahamense* 2.7 %

*M. polykrikoides* 1.3%

(Attaran Fariman, 2016)

# Identification and Distribution of Phytoplankton Cysts in Sediments from ROPME Winter 2006 Oceanographic Cruise (Attaran Fariman 2020)

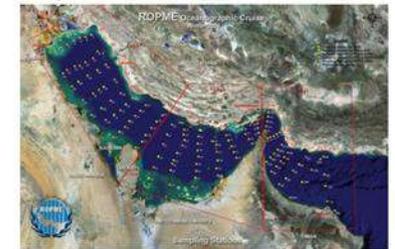


ROPME/GC-14/7  
Dist.: RESTRICTED



Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment

## ROPME Oceanographic Cruise – Winter 2006



Monograph Series

Monograph: No. 3

ROPME/GC-14/12  
Dist.: RESTRICTED



Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment

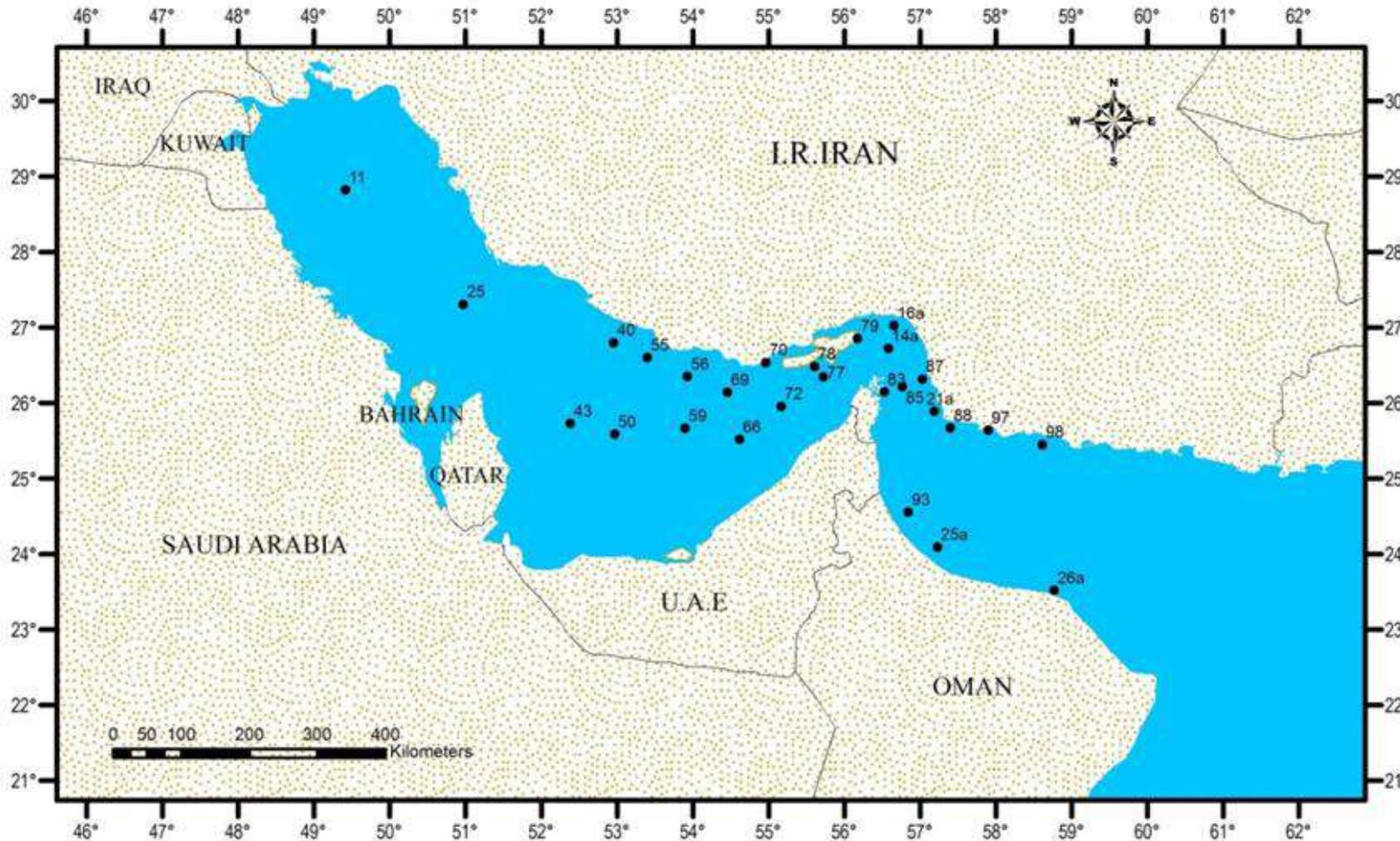
## ROPME Oceanographic Cruise - Winter 2006



Technical Report Series

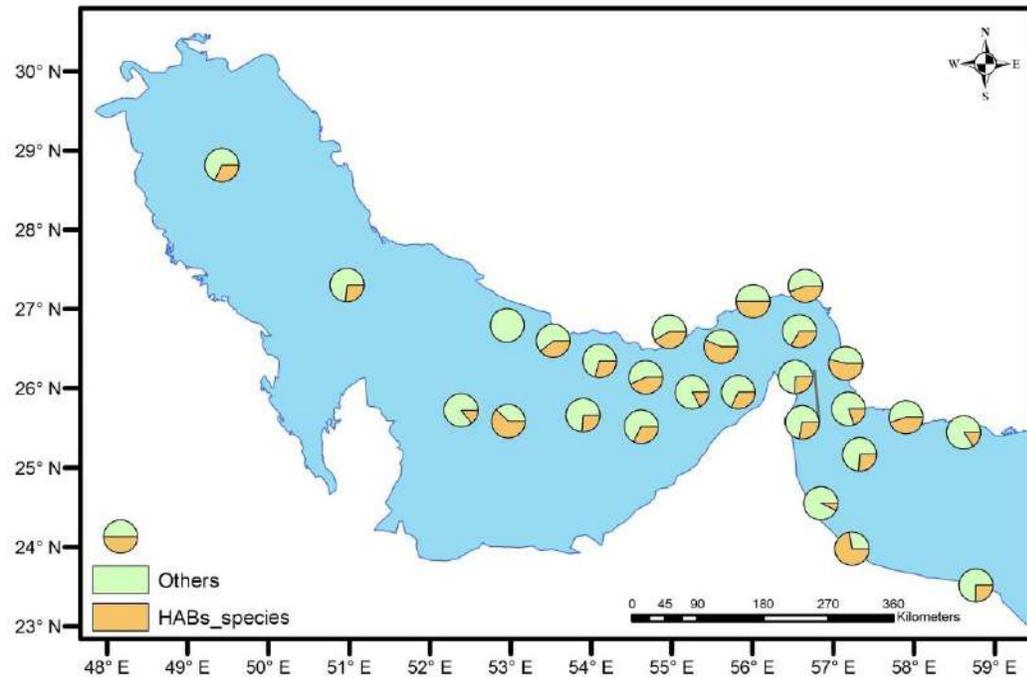
Technical Report : No. 12

Phytoplankton Cysts in the ROPME Sea Area

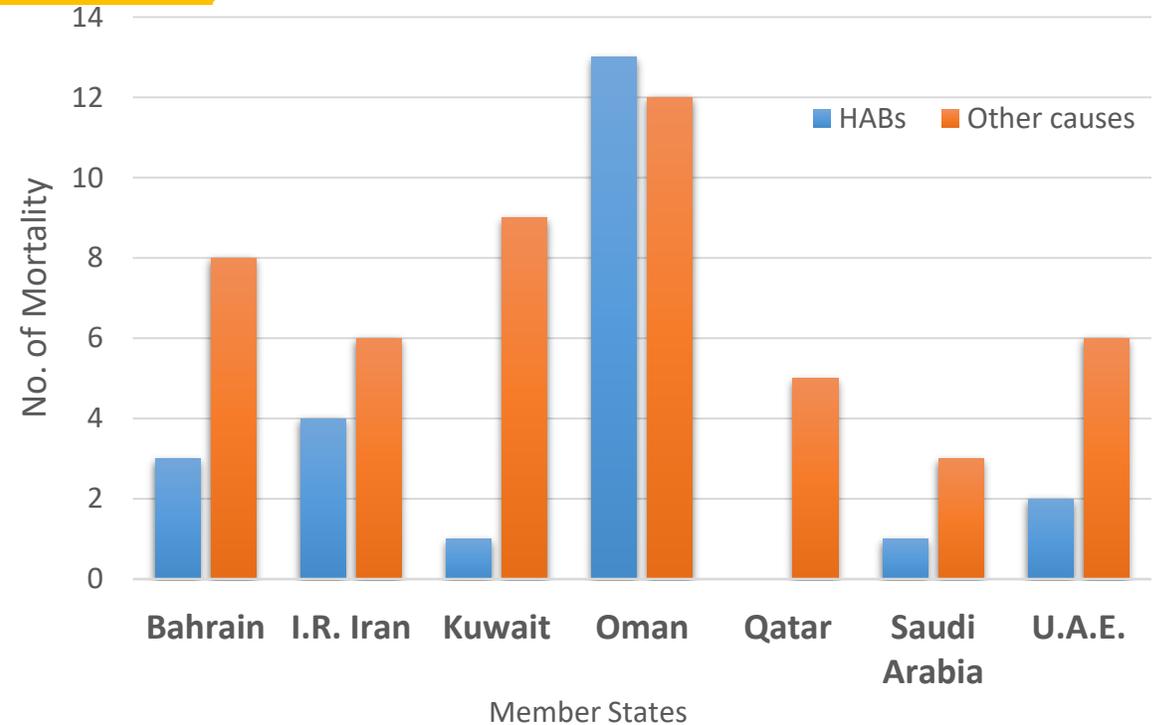


The highest abundance with 73% was recorded in station in the southern part of the Oman Sea along **Oman coast**

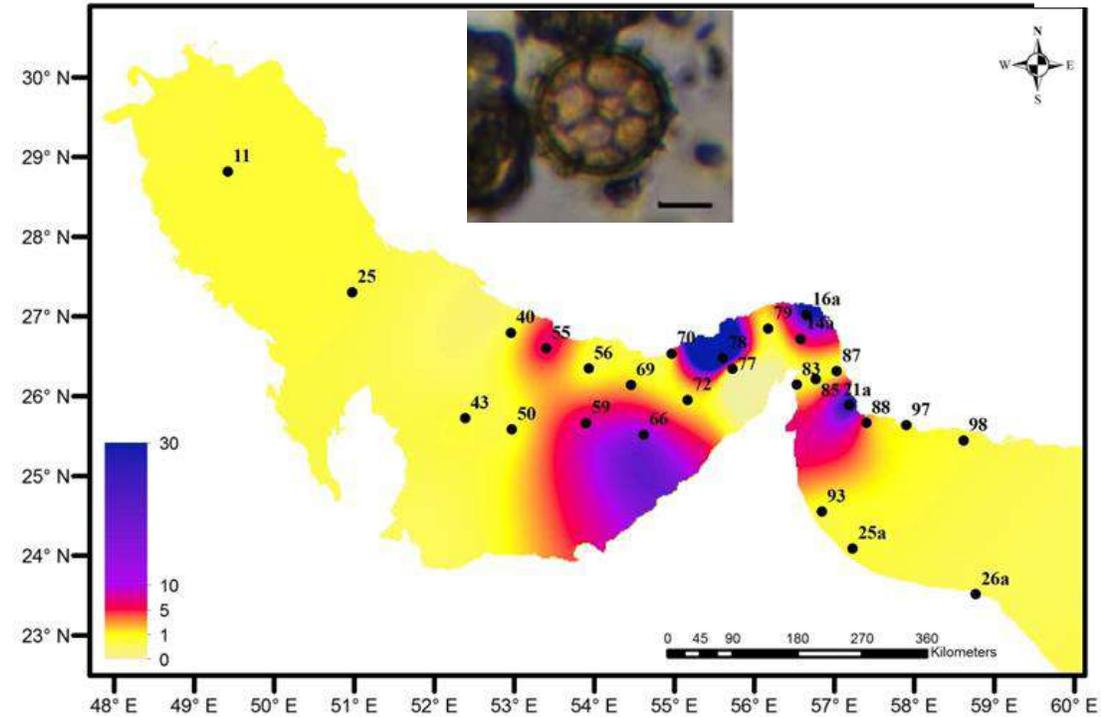
Phytoplankton cyst	Abundance (%)
Diatom	0.64
Dinoflagellate	99.06
Raphidophyte	0.39



**Distribution of HABs former cyst stage to others in different stations, winter 2006 (Source; Attaran Fariman2020)**

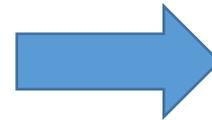


**Number of Marine Mortality incidents in coastal waters of Member States (Source ROPME;1988-2008)**



*M. Polykrikoides* cyst concentration (Cyst g<sup>-1</sup> dws)

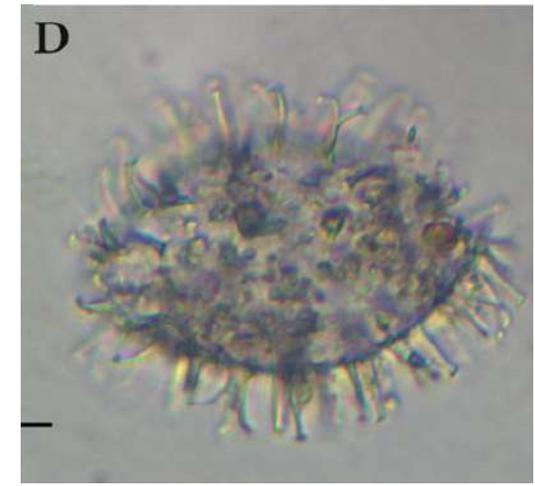
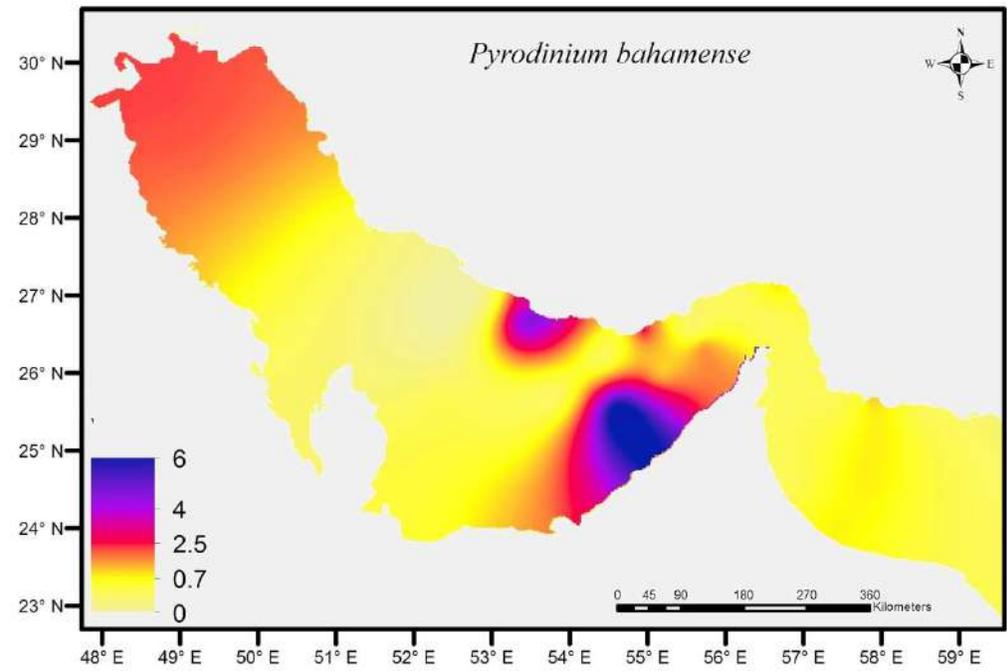
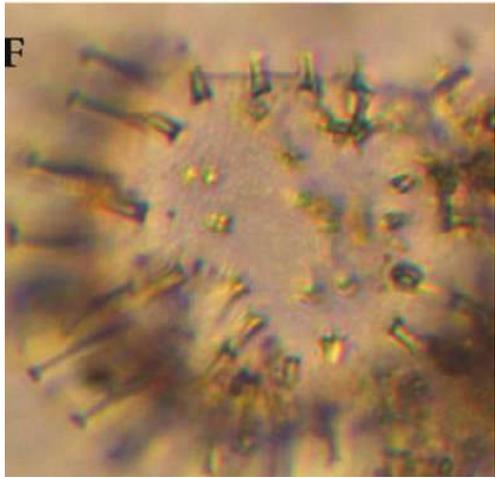
- **2008 incident of HABs: *Margalefidinium polykrikoides*=*Cochlodinium polykrikoides* coastal waters of UAE and Iran**



**High cyst abundance in stations located in U.A.E and Strait of Hormuz**

(Source; Attaran Fariman2020)

Bloom former and a typical warm water species  
(previously dominant) distributed in the tropical and  
subtropical regions from Indian Ocean to Pacific



*P. bahamense* cyst concentration (Cyst g<sup>-1</sup> dws)  
(Source; Attaran Fariman2020)

# Algae bloom observation In the Sea of Oman (2017)

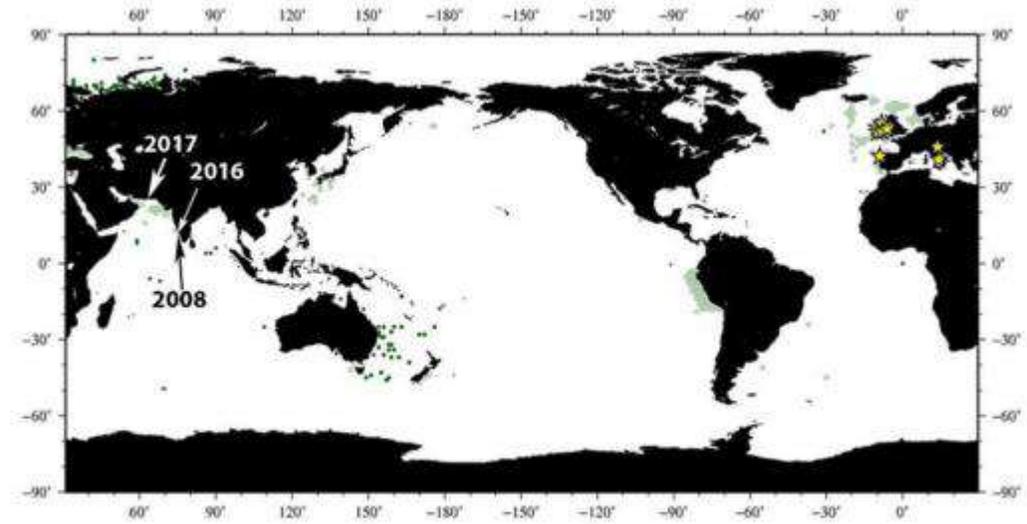
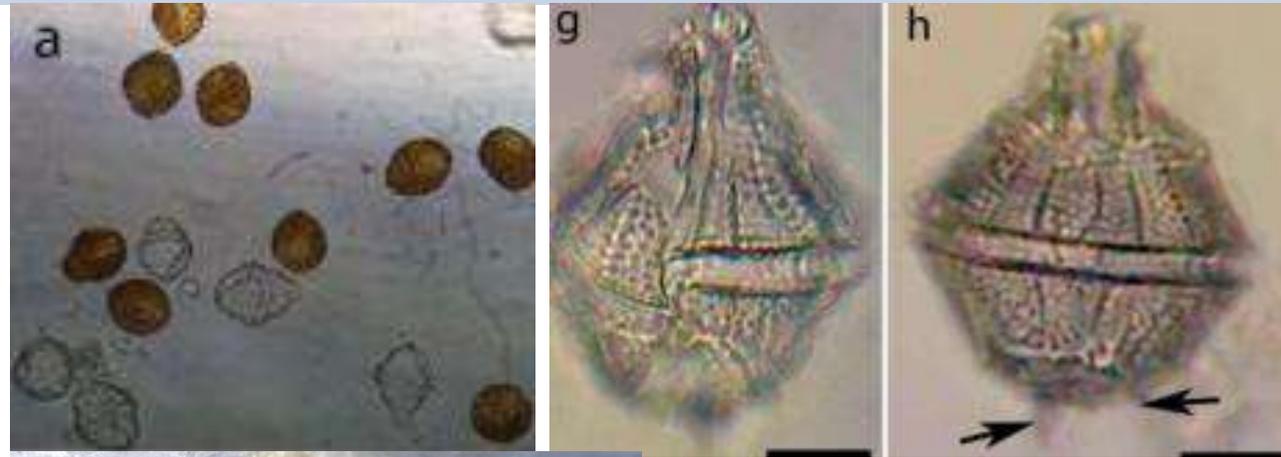
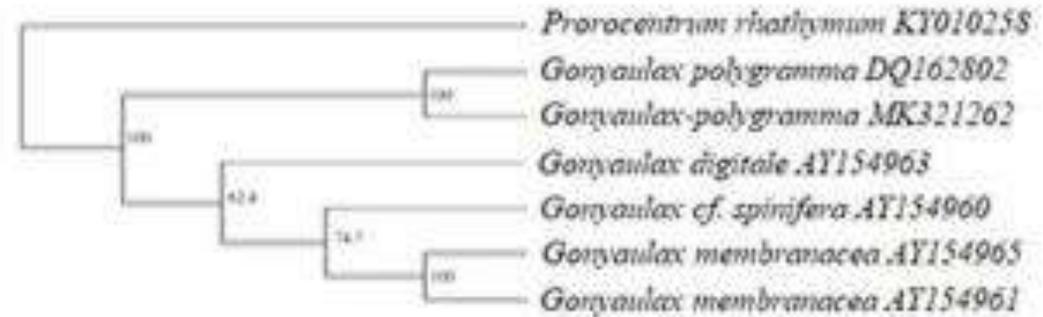


Figure 6: Global distribution of *G. polygramma* (in green) with years of red tide events in the



(Source: Dolatabadi et al. 2021)

# Macroalgae bloom (2018)



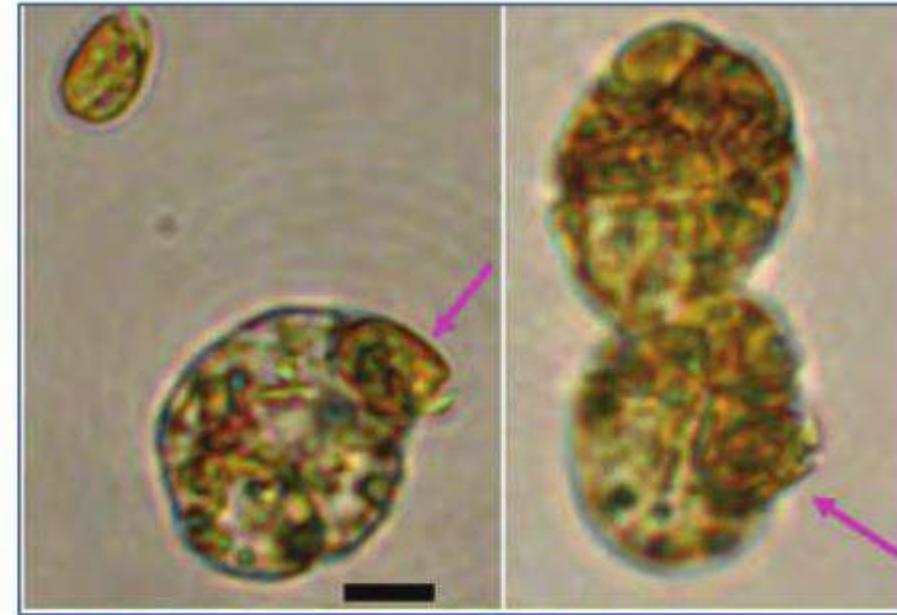
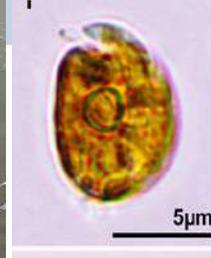
22-23 Feb 2022



G.Attaran (CMU)

Algal Blooms North part of Sea of Oman,  
Iran, March 2018  
(Source; Asefi and Attaran Fariman, 2022)

# Algae bloom observation In the Sea of Oman(2019)



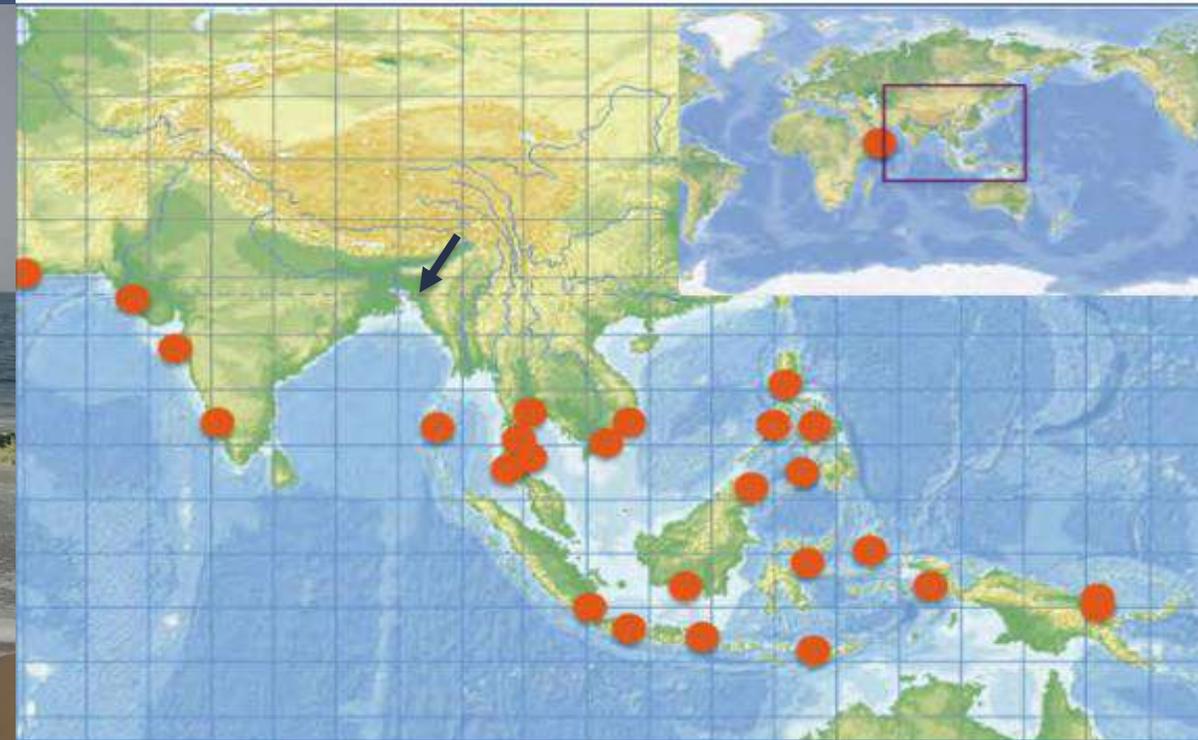
Feeding by *Cochlodinium polykrikoides* on the dinoflagellate *Amphidinium carterae* (arrows). Scale bar = 5 mm. From H.J. Jeong.

Many HAB species appear to grow faster when prey is available rather than in organic nutrient (Jeong et al, 2005 )

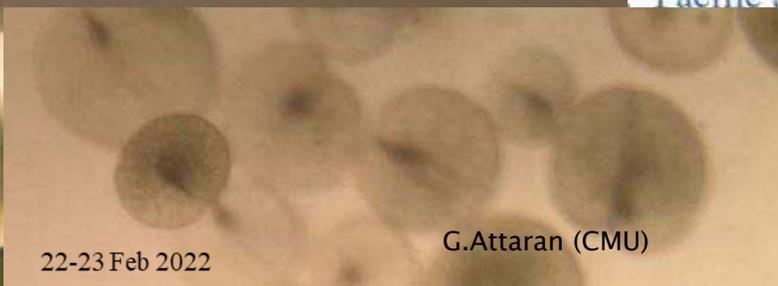
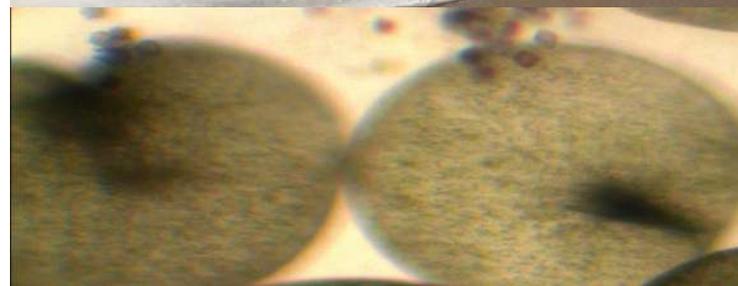


# Algae bloom observation In the Sea of Oman

Bloom every year after SWM



Green *Noctiluca* is distributed in tropical coastal waters of the western Pacific and the Indian Oceans. Modified from Saito and Furuya (2006).



## Algae bloom observation In the Kish Island, Persian Gulf (2021-22)



The photos were taken using a GoPro camera by Dr. Bargahi and pilot Etemadfar (2021-2022)

# Pigment as a Chemical marker in HAB's research

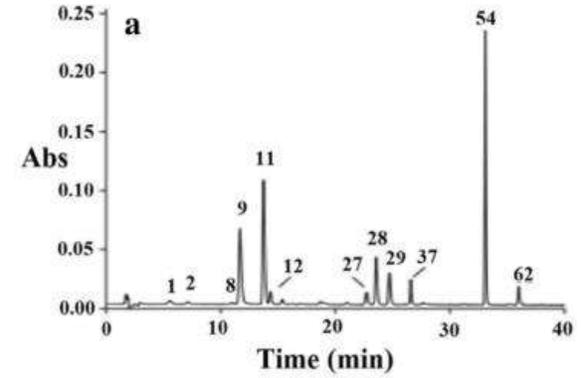
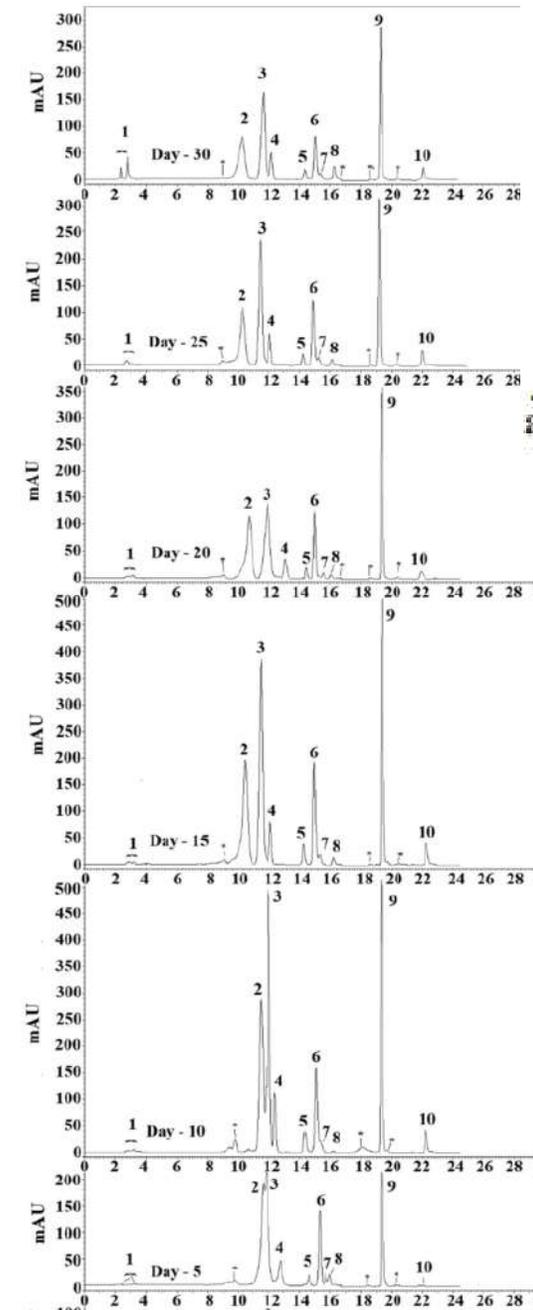
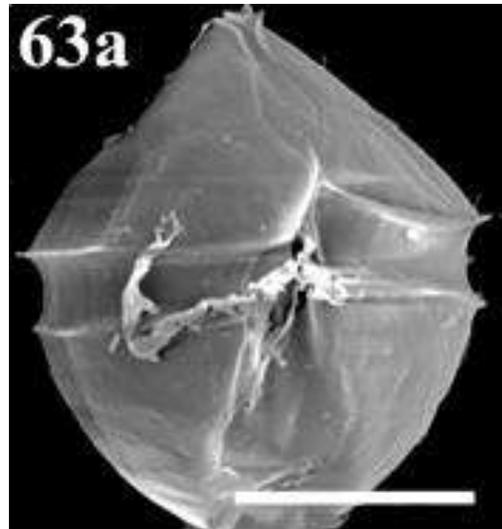
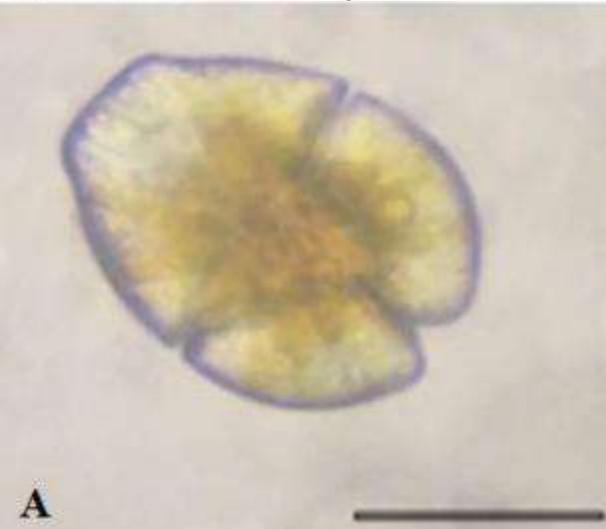
Journal of Applied Phycology  
https://doi.org/10.1007/s10811-020-02331-w



## Pigment content analysis in two HAB forming dinoflagellate species during the growth period

Somayeh Zahedi Dizaji<sup>1</sup> · Gilan Attaran Fariman<sup>1</sup> · Mir Mahdi Zahedi<sup>2</sup>

Received: 17 June 2020 / Revised and accepted: 8 November 2020



*Alexandrium margalef* (Zapata et al. 2012)

## ***Recommendation and* key discussion point**

- **Dinoflagellate cyst mapping in the ROPME Sea Area Provides Evidence of the Global Spreading or Recession of HABs Species**
- **Characterisation of HAB species in the region**
  - ▶ **“phylogenetically describe all major HAB species by conventional molecular technique”**
- **To integrate and adopt selected methods for detection, identification, enumeration and monitoring of HABs**
- **Taking international cooperation seriously and carrying out a joint project and integrate techniques in sampling and data analysis**

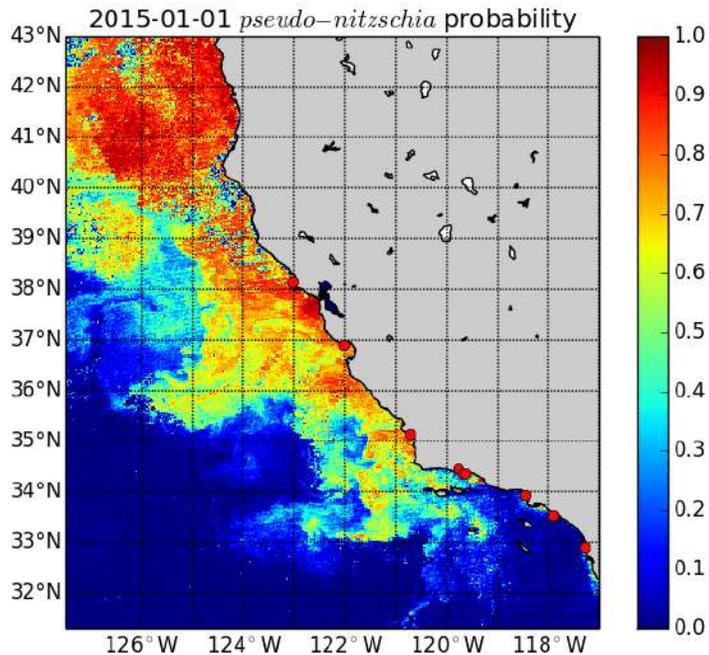
## References

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- ❑ Asefi, M.A. and Attaran Fariman, G. (2022). Environmental pollution of municipal waste disposal on the health of the marine ecosystem on the Kharchang beach, Konarak, Chabahar Bay. *Environ. Water Eng.*, 8(1), 12–11. DOI: 10.22034/JEWE.2021.287149.1570
- ❑ Zahedi Dizaji, S., Attaran Fariman, G. & Zahedi, M. Pigment content analysis in two HAB forming dinoflagellate species during the growth period. *J Appl Phycol* 33, 807–817 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10811-020-02331>
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- ❑ Attaran-Fariman, G. (2016). Project “Dispersion and abundance assessment of different species of phytoplankton cysts in sediment of the Sea of Oman.” *final report, division of the marine environment/Chabahar Maritime University*, 126pp.
- ❑ Attaran Fariman G(2020). Project “Phytoplankton Cysts in the ROPME Sea Area, **Monograph: No. 3**; Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, 250pp
- ❑ Attaran Fariman G(2020). Project: “Phytoplankton Cysts in the ROPME Sea Area, **Technical Report : No. 12**; Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment ,100pp
- ❑ Zonneveld, K. A., Marret, F., Versteegh, G. J., Bogus, K., Bonnet, S., Bouimetarhan, I., ... & Esper, O. (2013). Atlas of modern dinoflagellate cyst distribution based on 2405 data points. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*, 191, 1-197.

**Thanks for your attention**

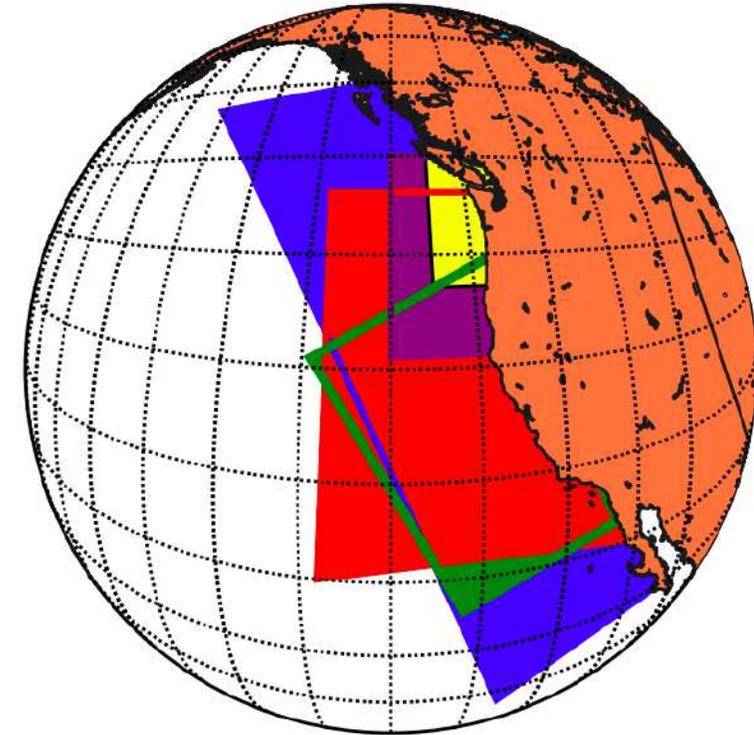
**Gilan.Attaran@gmail.com**

# Development and Operations of Harmful Algae Warning Systems in the United States



**Raphael Kudela**

University of California Santa Cruz



With Credit to Clarissa Anderson, Don Anderson, Daniele Bianchi, Ryan McCabe, Rick Stumpf, Rubao Ji, CeNCOOS, SCCOOS

# From Research to Operations

Three case studies from the US:

- Pacific Northwest
- California
- Lake Erie

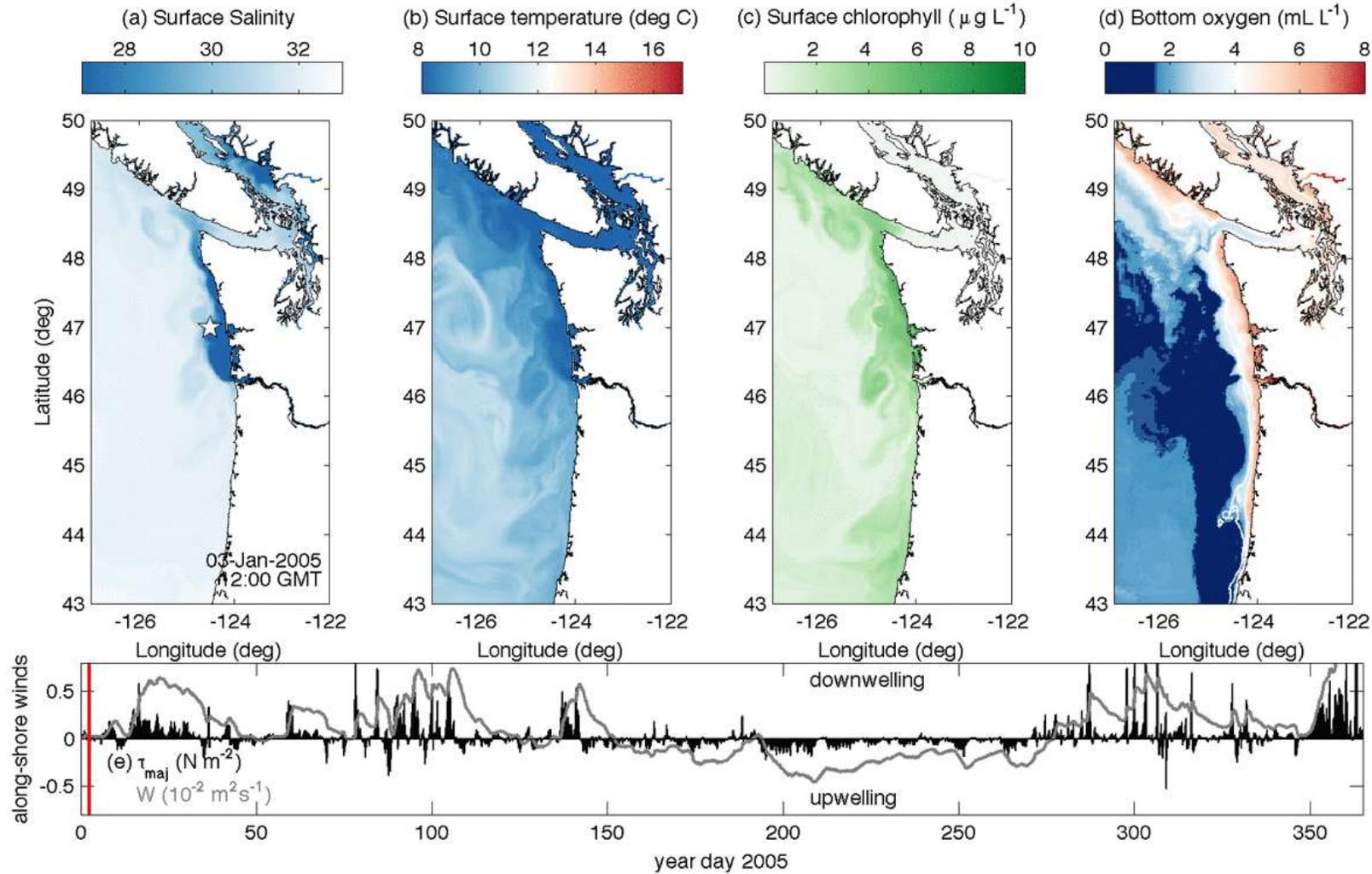


YSI Water Quality Monitoring buoy on Dubai Creek.

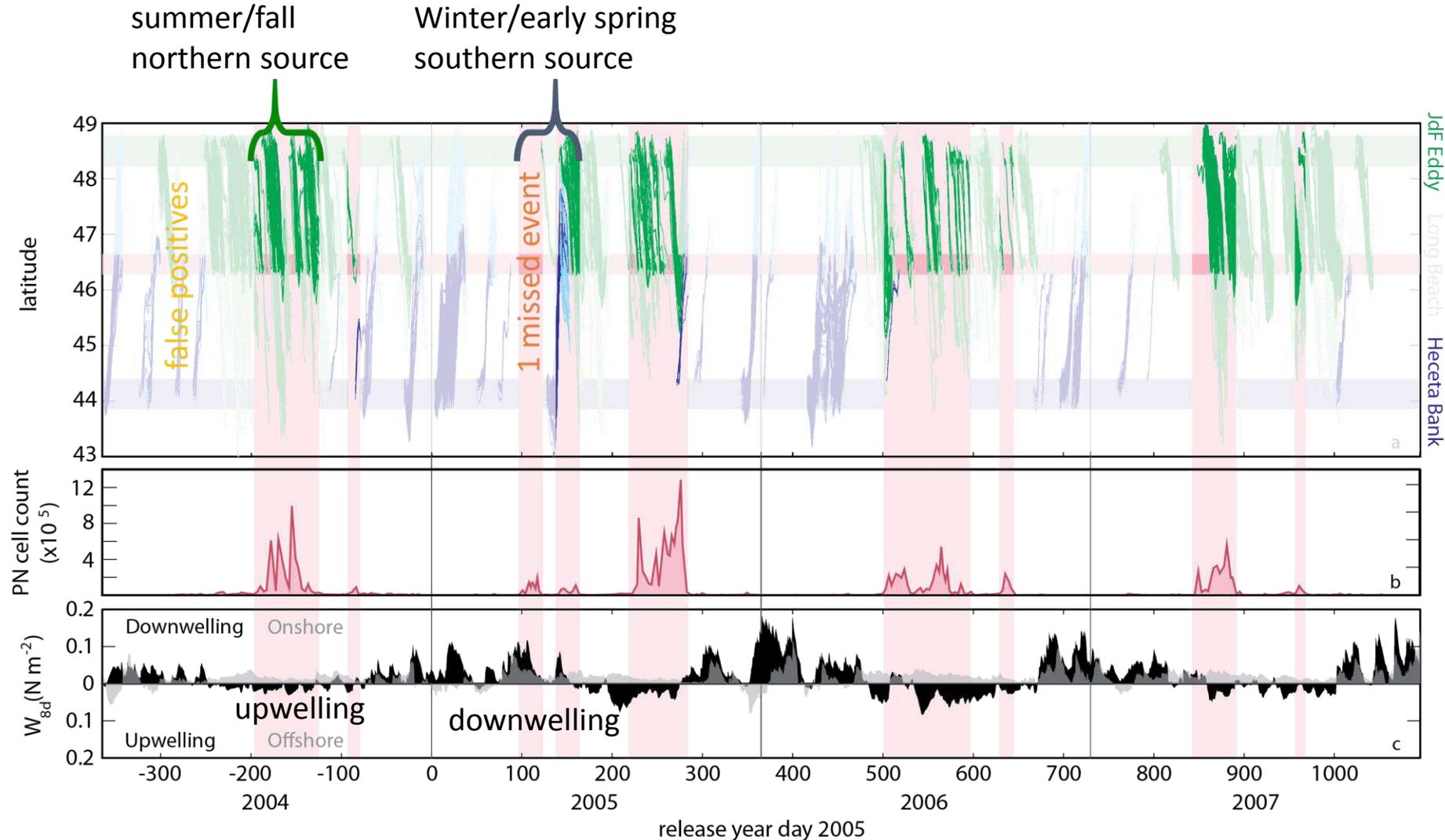




# Physical-biogeochemical Simulations



# How well does the model predict HAB transport?

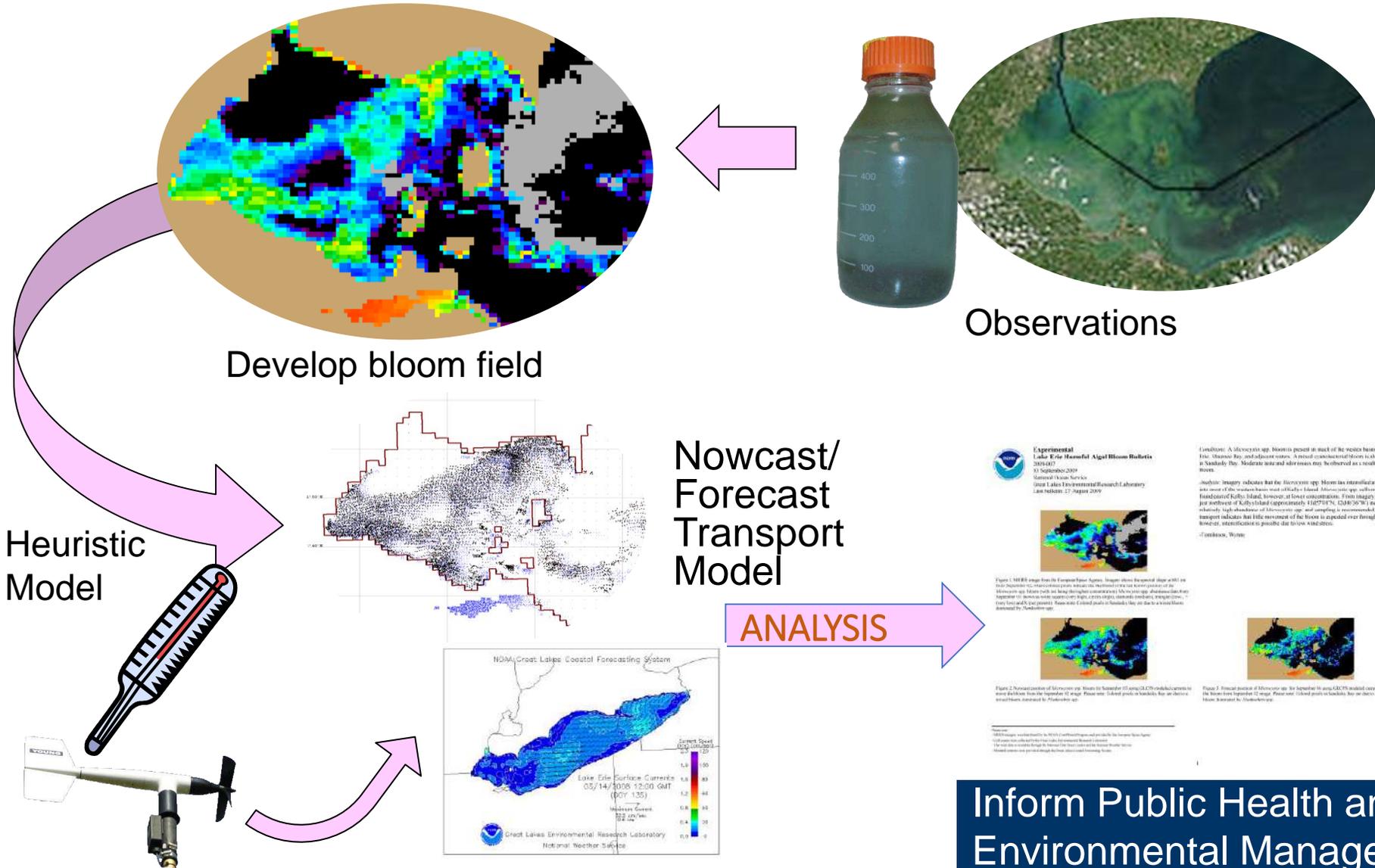


2011, the worst bloom in decades

# Forecasting cyanobacteria in Lake Erie



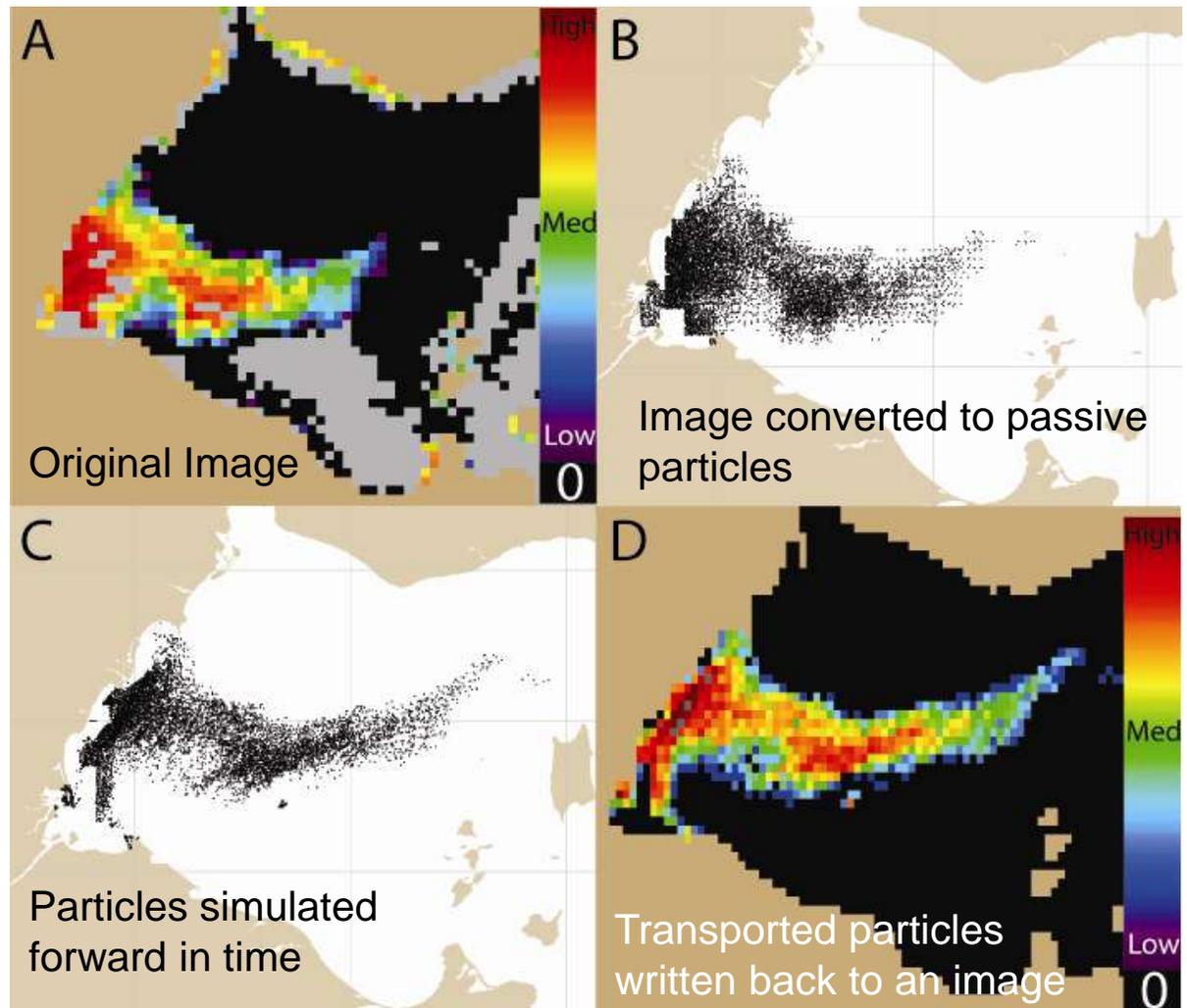
# forecast



**Inform Public Health and Environmental Managers**

# Image edited and formed to particles; modeled, and reformed to concentration

# Product is an interpreted dataset providing guidance



**Experimental**  
**Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin**  
 2011-014  
 08 September 2011  
 National Ocean Service  
 Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory  
 Last bulletin: 01 September 2011

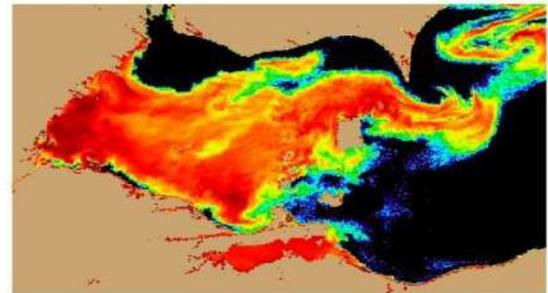


Figure 1. MERIS image from the European Space Agency. Imagery shows the spectral shape at 681 nm from September 03, where colored pixels indicate the likelihood of the last known position of the *Microcystis* spp. bloom (with red being the highest concentration). *Microcystis* spp. abundance data from shown as white squares (very high), circles (high), diamonds (medium), triangles (low), + (very low) and X (not present).

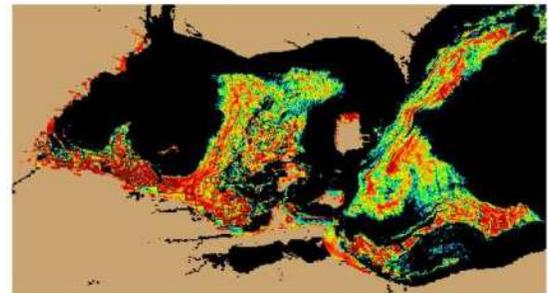
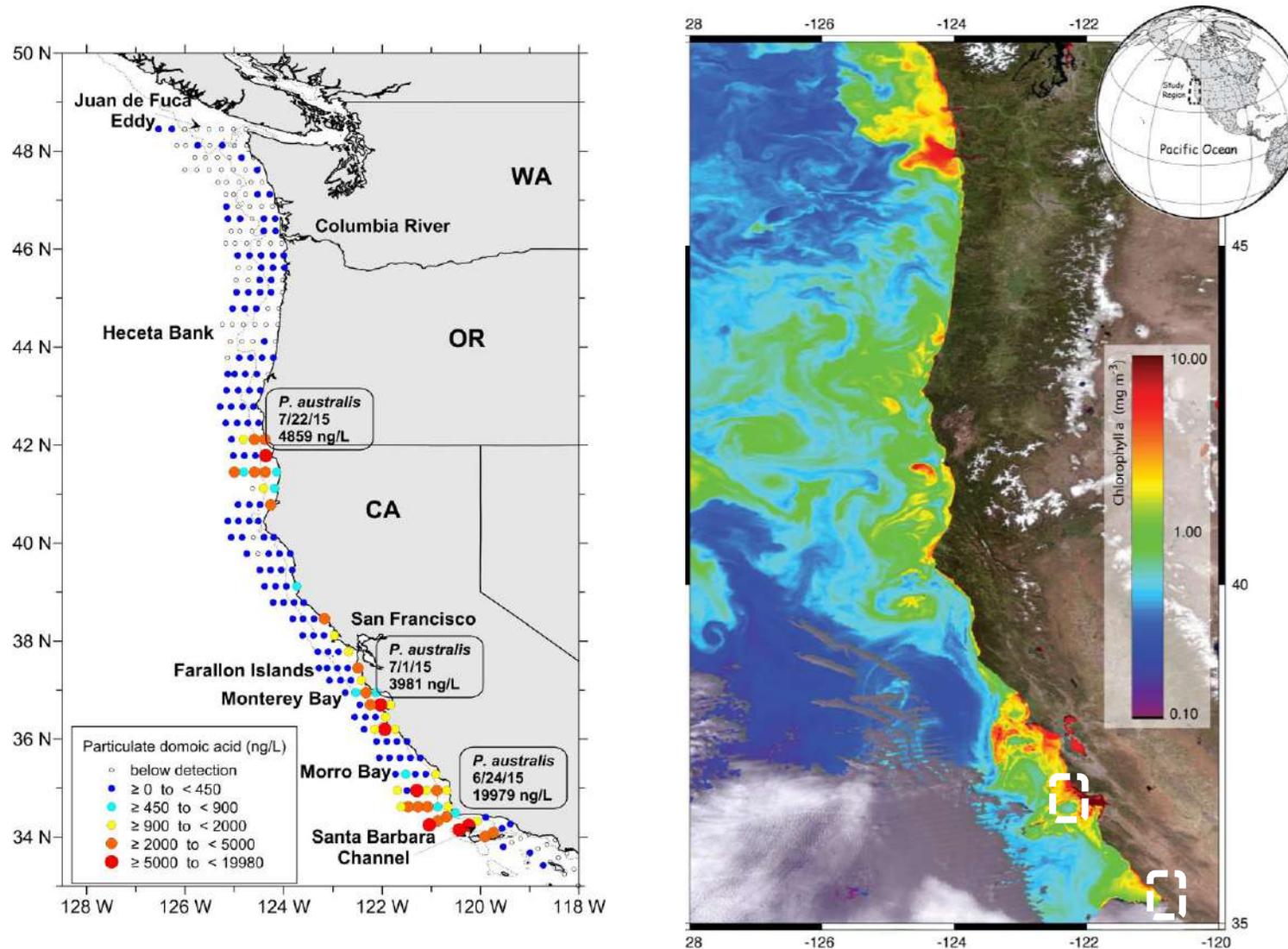
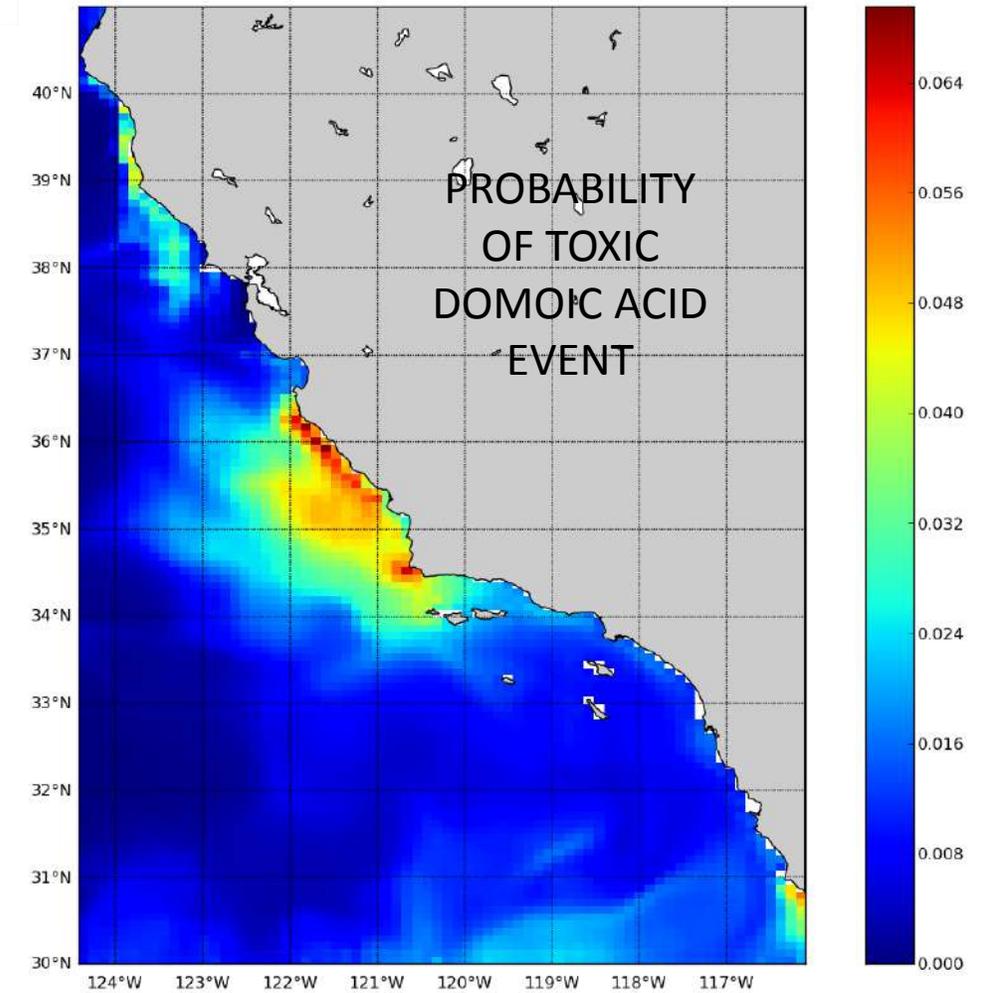
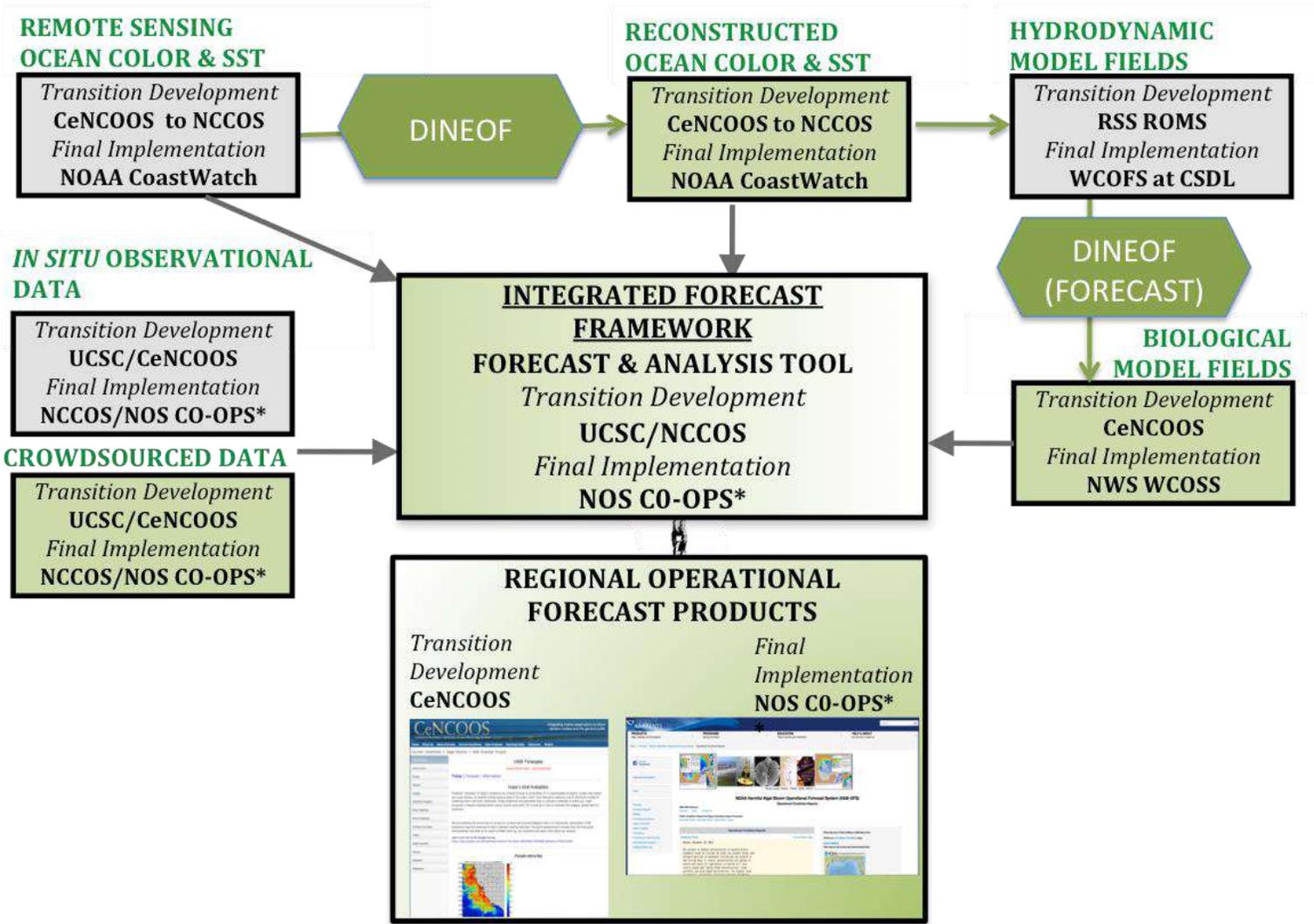


Figure 2. Nowcast position of *Microcystis* spp. bloom for September 08 using GLCFS modeled currents to move the bloom from the September 03 image.

# California Harmful Algae Risk Mapping System (C-HARM)



# Operational Model Structure



Nowcast, 3-day forecast, seasonal hindcast<sub>259</sub>

# California HAB Bulletin

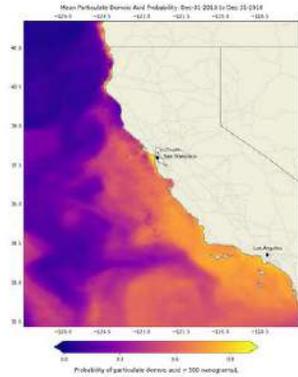
## What is the CA HAB Bulletin?

The purpose of this experimental product is to give the public and resource managers a quick outlook of recent toxic (marine) algal blooms in coastal California from models and aggregate data sets. Monthly reports synthesize model output, near real-time observations, animal strandings, and public health alerts to provide a more complete picture of the regional variability in harmful algal blooms for stakeholders.

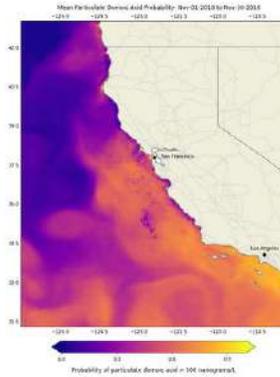
## CA HAB Bulletin Archives

Please subscribe to [CA HAB Bulletin listserv](#) to receive the monthly CA HAB Bulletin.

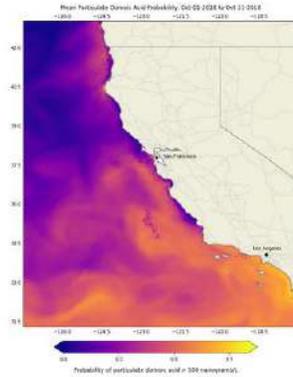
December 2018



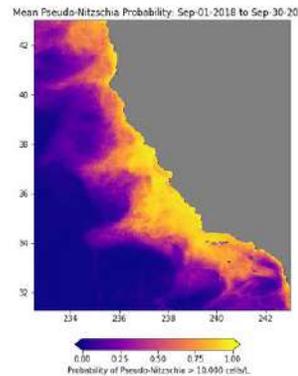
November 2018



October 2018



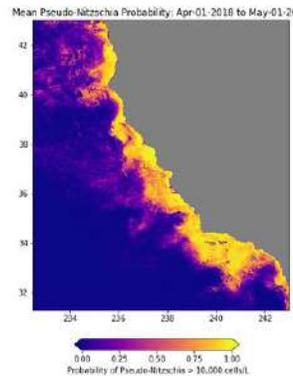
September 2018



August 2018



July 2018



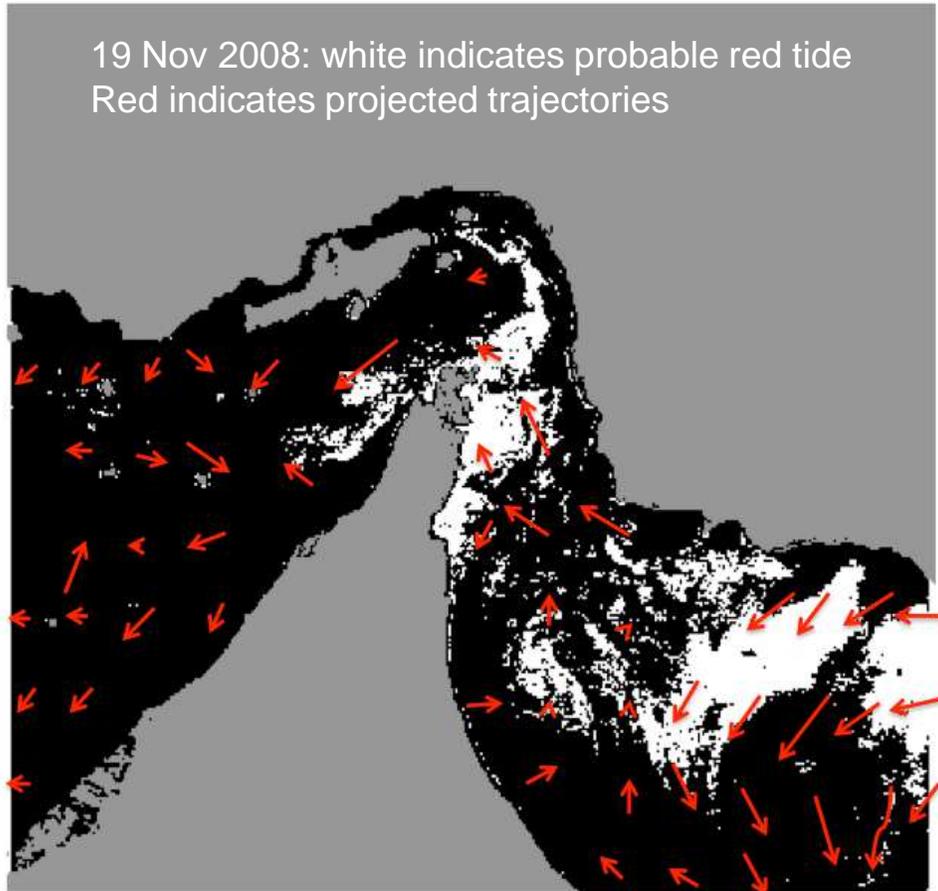
June 2018

May 2018

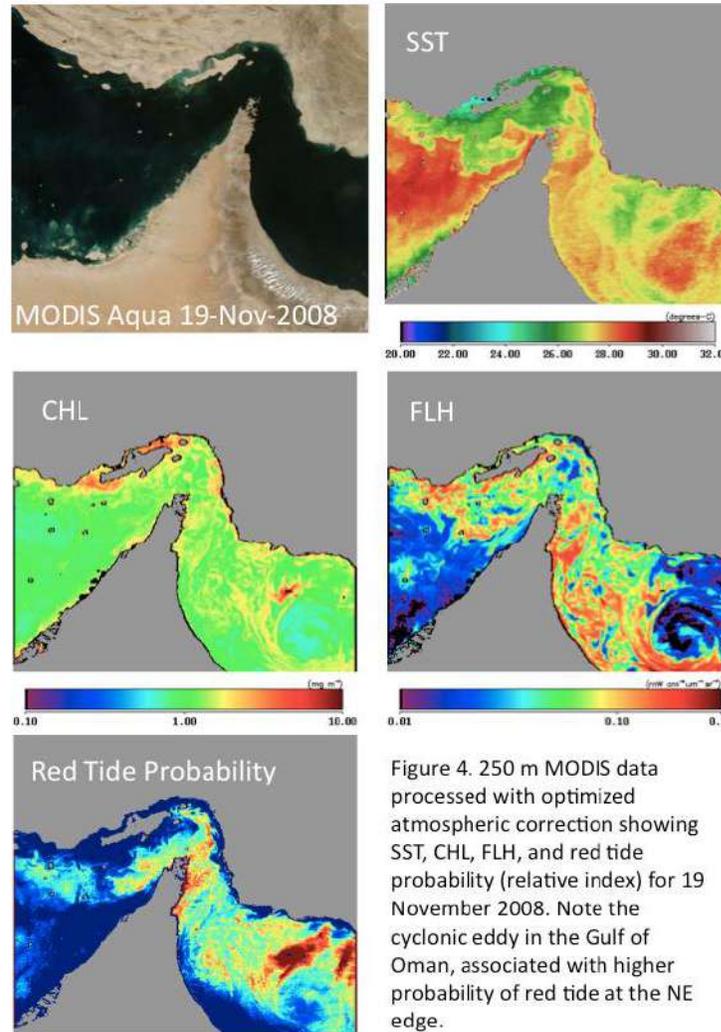
April 2018



# What Would A Red Tide Prediction Look Like?

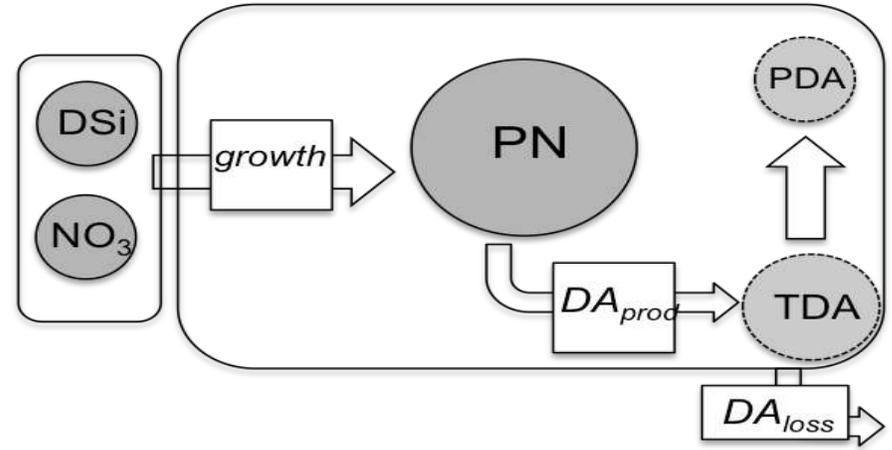


**ALERT:** satellite imagery indicates formation of a red tide associated with a cyclonic eddy in the Gulf of Oman. It will likely be carried onshore in northern Oman, and is being transported through the Strait of Hormuz where it is staying offshore of the UAE coastline. Based on satellite spectra, the bloom is not *Trichodesmium* or *Noctiluca*.

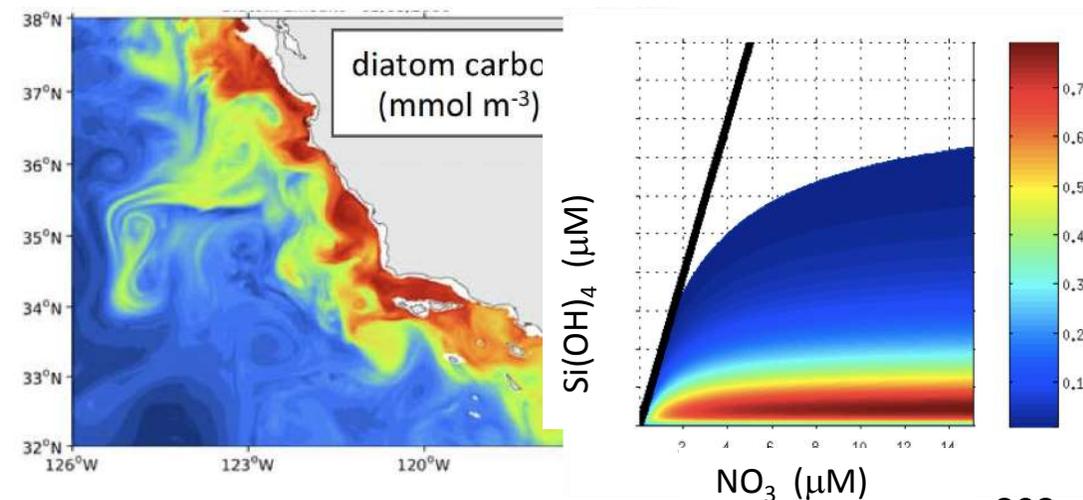
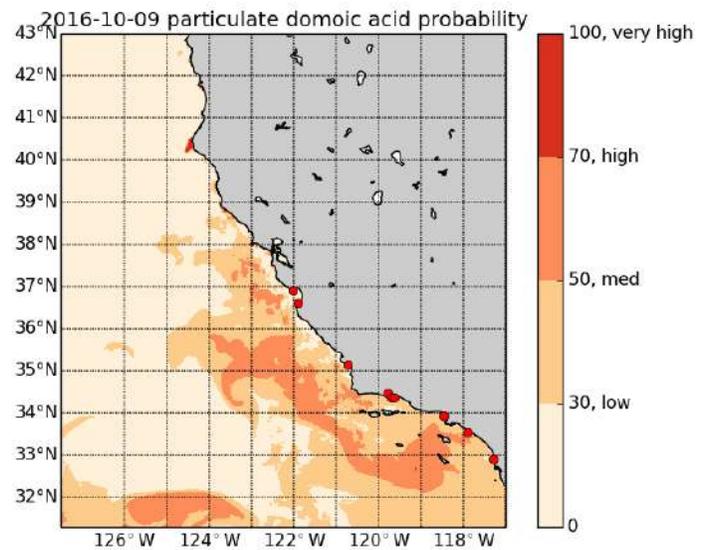


End Users need an interpreted product that provides useful information, **NOT** a science product.

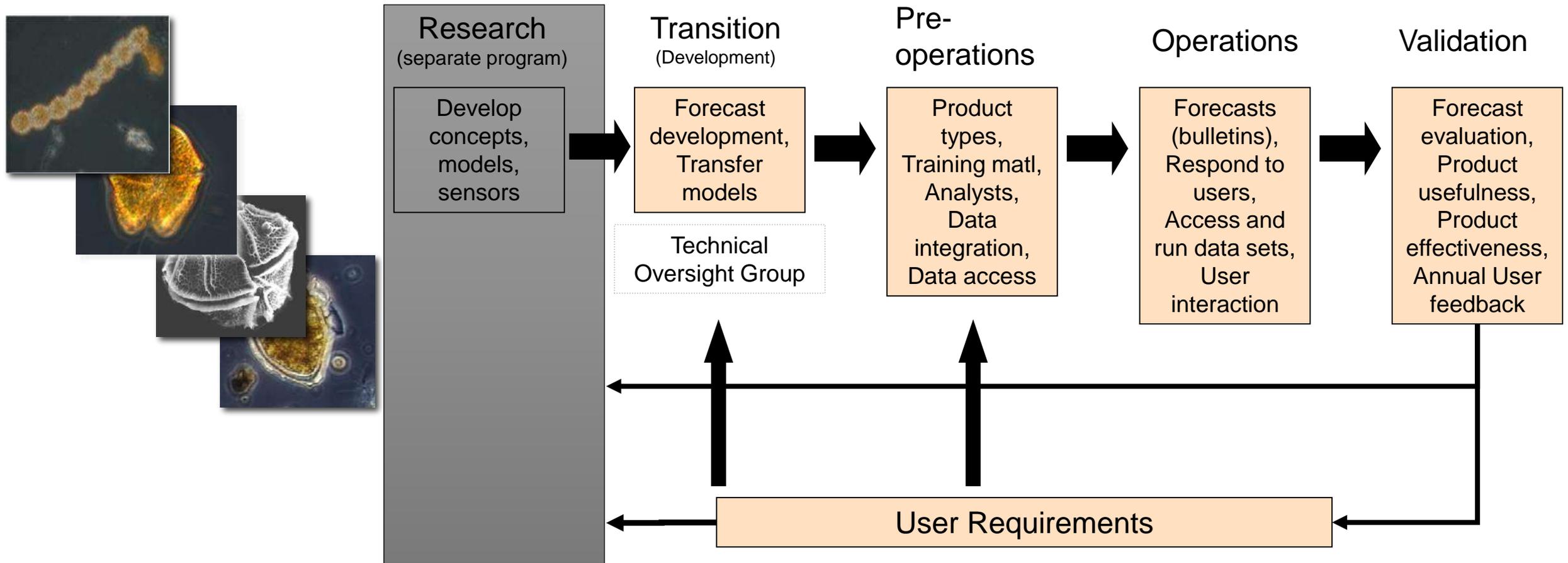
# Operational Does *Not* Mean Static



**Mechanistic Model Embedded in ROMS-BEC**



# Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast System: Concept of Operations



# Take-Home Message:

**An HAB Monitoring and Forecast system must be fit for purpose, sustainable, and useful to end-users. A successful system will be:**

- *Scientifically vetted*
- *User vetted*
- *Not reliant on a single entity or person*
- *Adaptive to user needs*



**IOOS**  
Integrated Ocean  
Observing System



# Changes and complexity of HABs in Asia: *Implications for early warning systems and future projections*



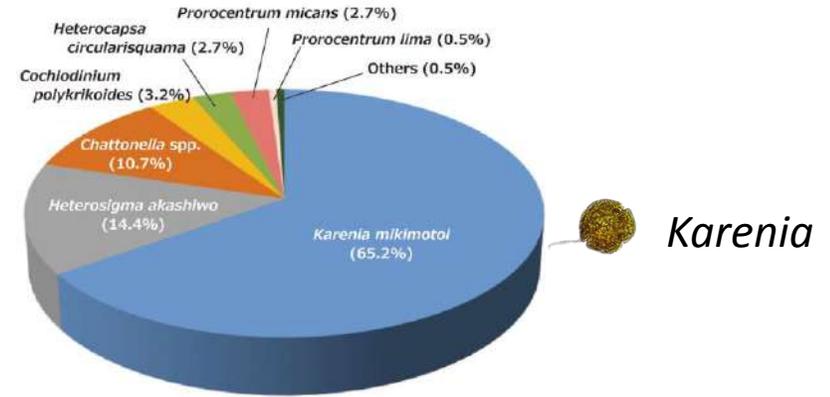
Patricia M. Glibert



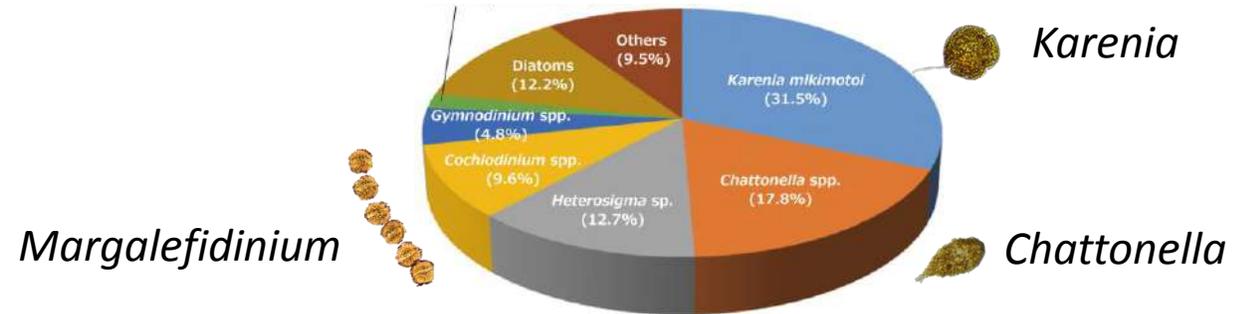
University of Maryland  
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
HORN POINT LABORATORY  
Cambridge, MD, USA

# Harmful algal bloom species associated with fisheries damages.

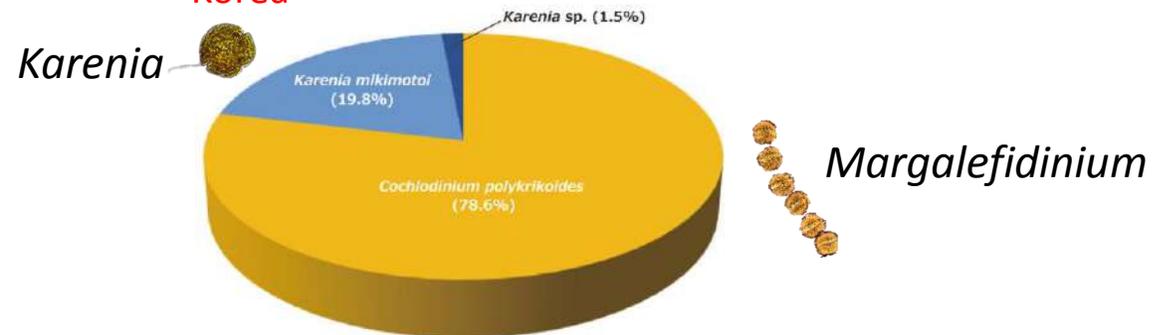
## China



## Western Japan



## Korea



Harmful Algae  
Volume 102, February 2021, 101787



Harmful algal blooms and associated fisheries damage in East Asia: Current status and trends in China, Japan, Korea and Russia

Setsuko Sakamoto <sup>a</sup>, Weol Ae Lim <sup>b</sup>, Douding Lu <sup>c</sup>, Xinfeng Dai <sup>c</sup>, Tatiana Orlova <sup>d</sup>, Mitsunori Iwataki <sup>e</sup>

Distributions of toxic HAB PSP species

and

fish killing species around Southeast Asia.

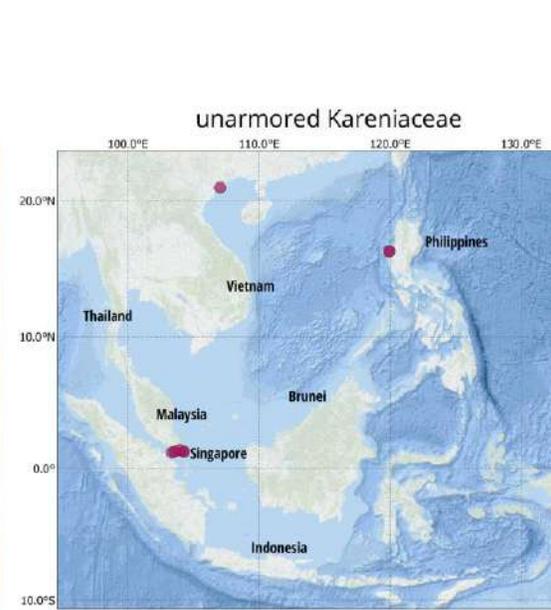
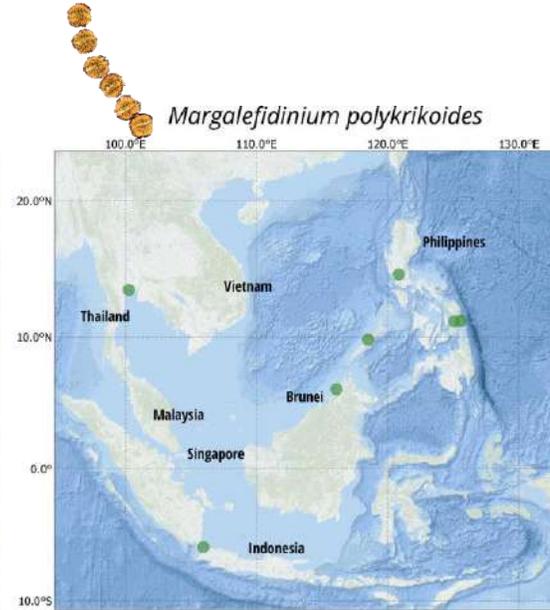
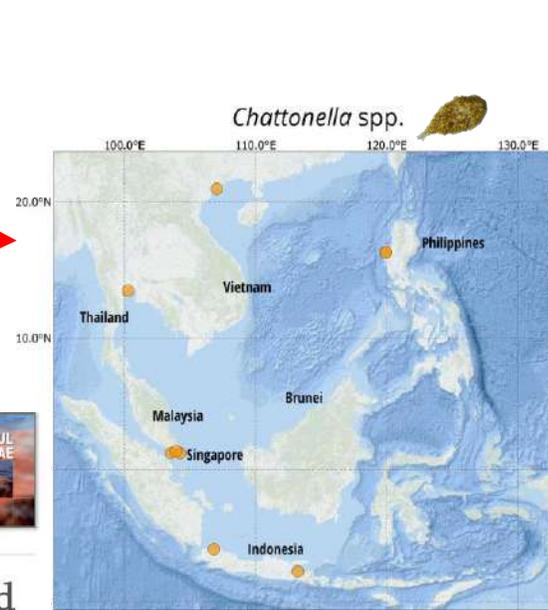
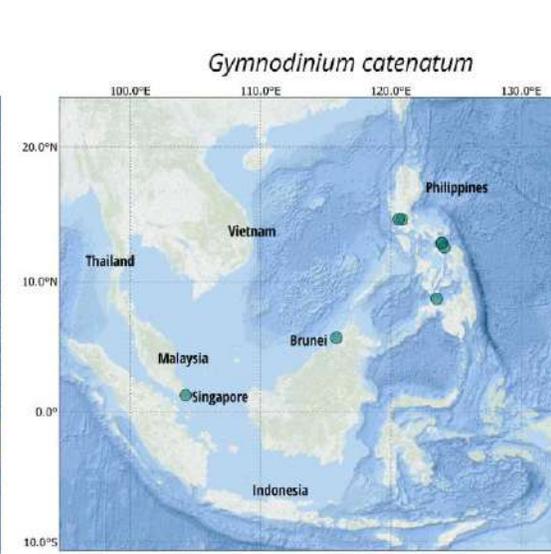
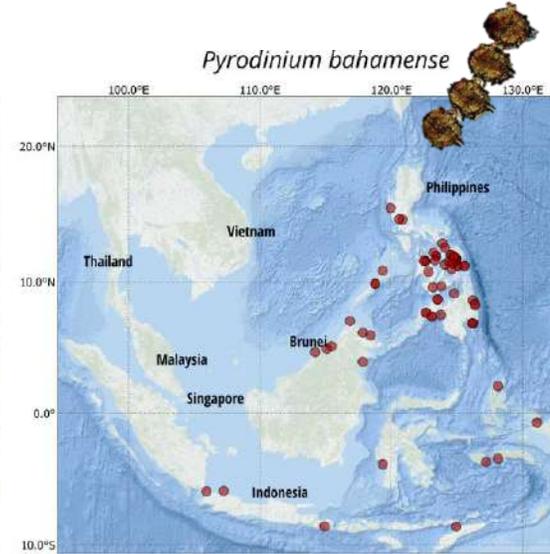
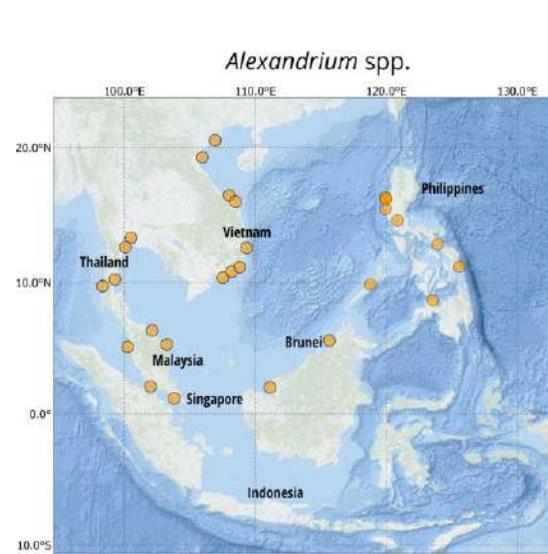


Harmful Algae  
Volume 102, February 2021, 101776



Over 30 years of HABs in the Philippines and Malaysia: What have we learned?

Aletta T. Yñiguez<sup>a</sup>, Po Teen Lim<sup>b</sup>, Chui Pin Leaw<sup>b</sup>, Steffiana J. Jipani<sup>c</sup>, Mitsunori Iwataki<sup>d</sup>, Garry Benico<sup>d</sup>, Rhodora V. Azanza<sup>a</sup>

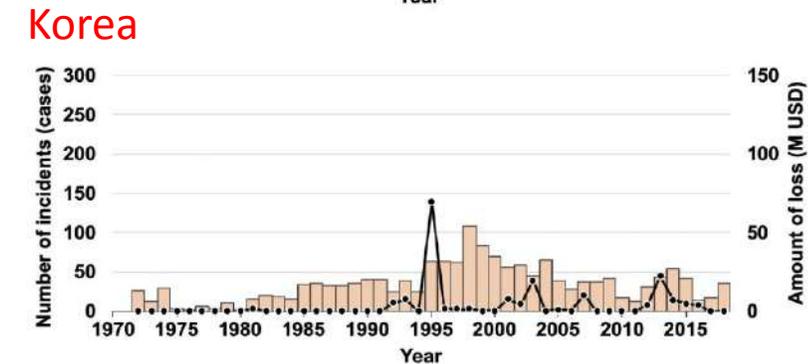
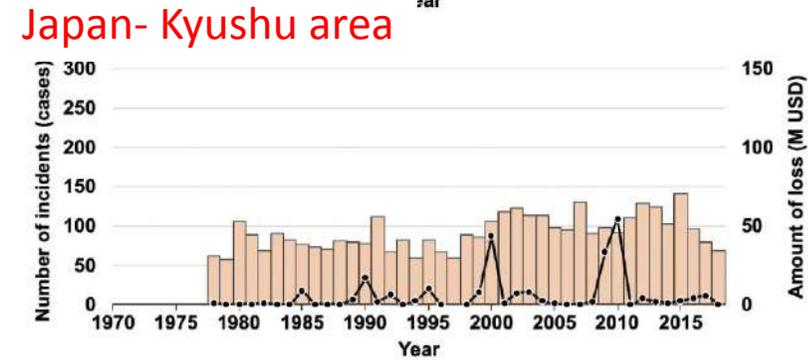
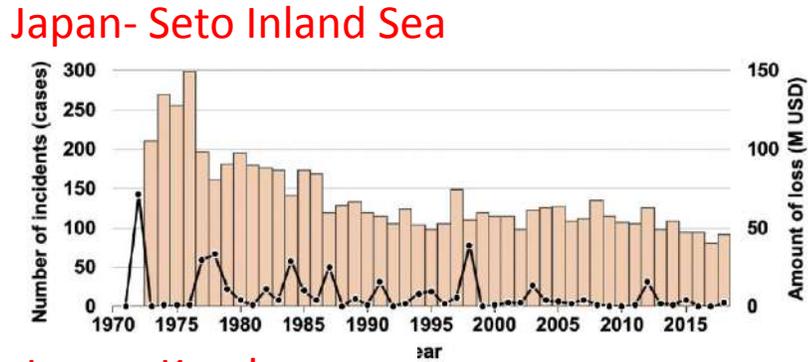
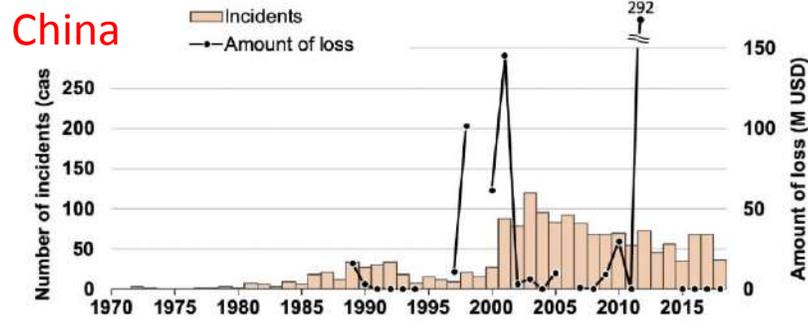


# Recorded red tide incident numbers and amount of economic losses



## Harmful algal blooms and associated fisheries damage in East Asia: Current status and trends in China, Japan, Korea and Russia

Setsuko Sakamoto <sup>a</sup>, Weol Ae Lim <sup>b</sup>, Douding Lu <sup>c</sup>, Xinfeng Dai <sup>c</sup>, Tatiana Orlova <sup>d</sup>, Mitsunori Iwataki <sup>e</sup>



# Some potentially good news

Recorded red tide incident numbers and amount of economic losses:

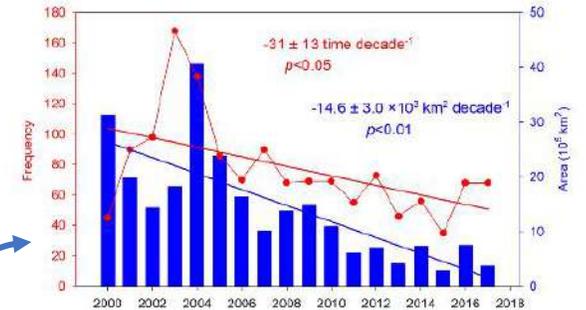
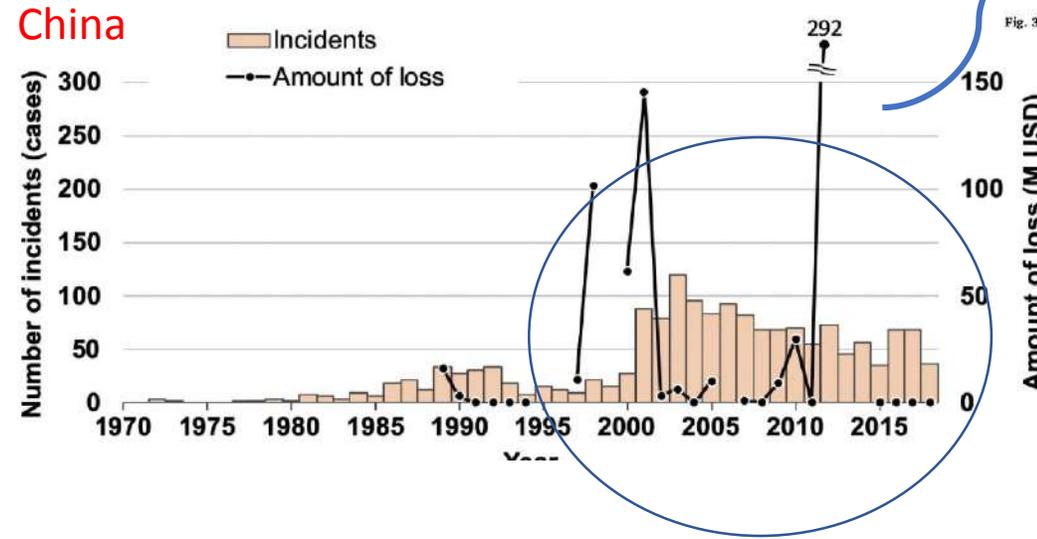


Fig. 3. Temporal changes in the annual frequency and coverage area of HAB events in China Seas from 2000 to 2017.



## Harmful algal blooms and associated fisheries damage in East Asia: Current status and trends in China, Japan, Korea and Russia

Setsuko Sakamoto <sup>a</sup>, Weol Ae Lim <sup>b</sup>, Douqing Lu <sup>c</sup>, Xinfeng Dai <sup>c</sup>, Tatiana Orlova <sup>d</sup>, Mitsunori Iwataki <sup>e, f, g</sup>

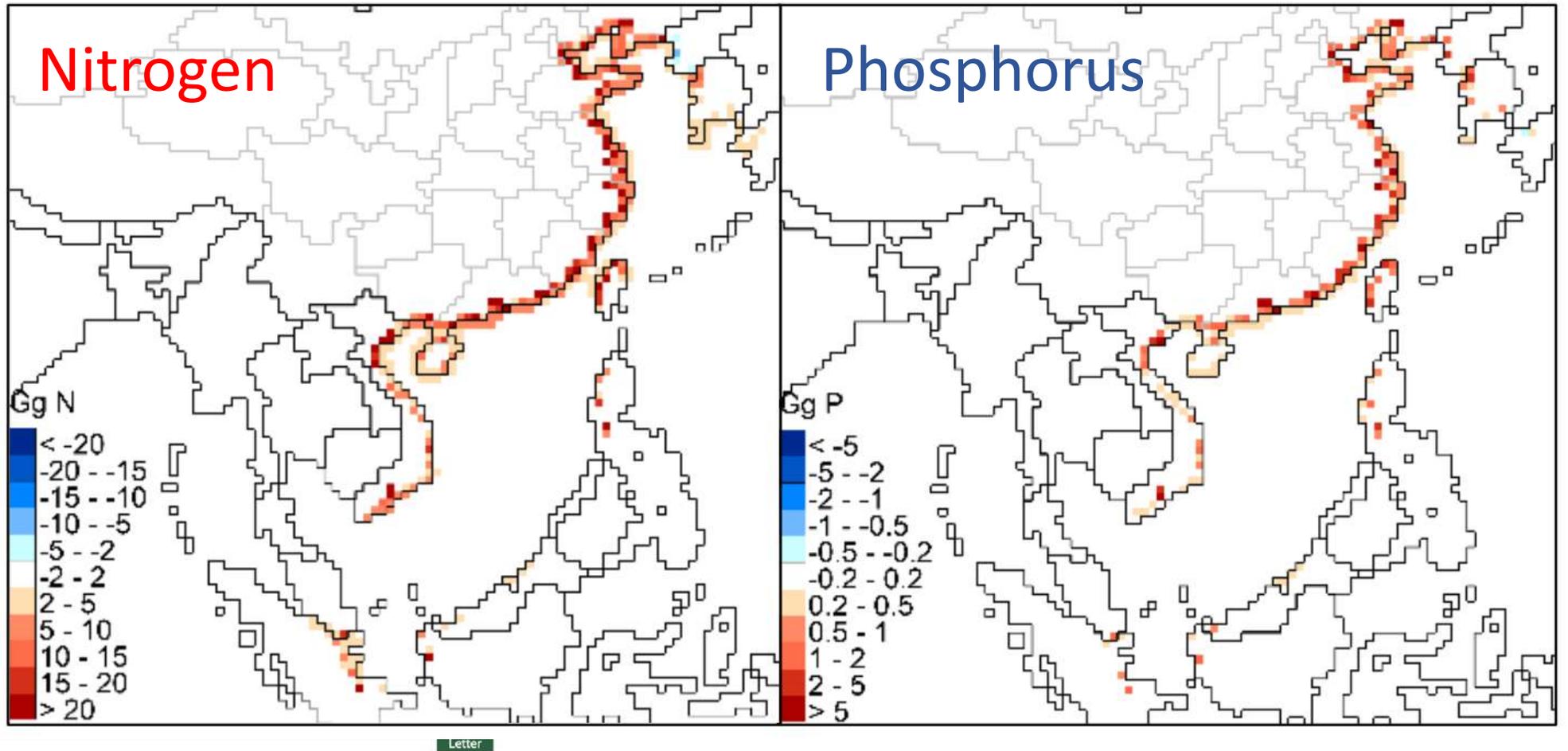


Significantly decreasing harmful algal blooms in China seas in the early 21st century

Jing Zeng <sup>a, b</sup>, Baoling Yin <sup>a</sup>, Yetang Wang <sup>a, \*</sup>, Baojuan Huai <sup>a</sup>



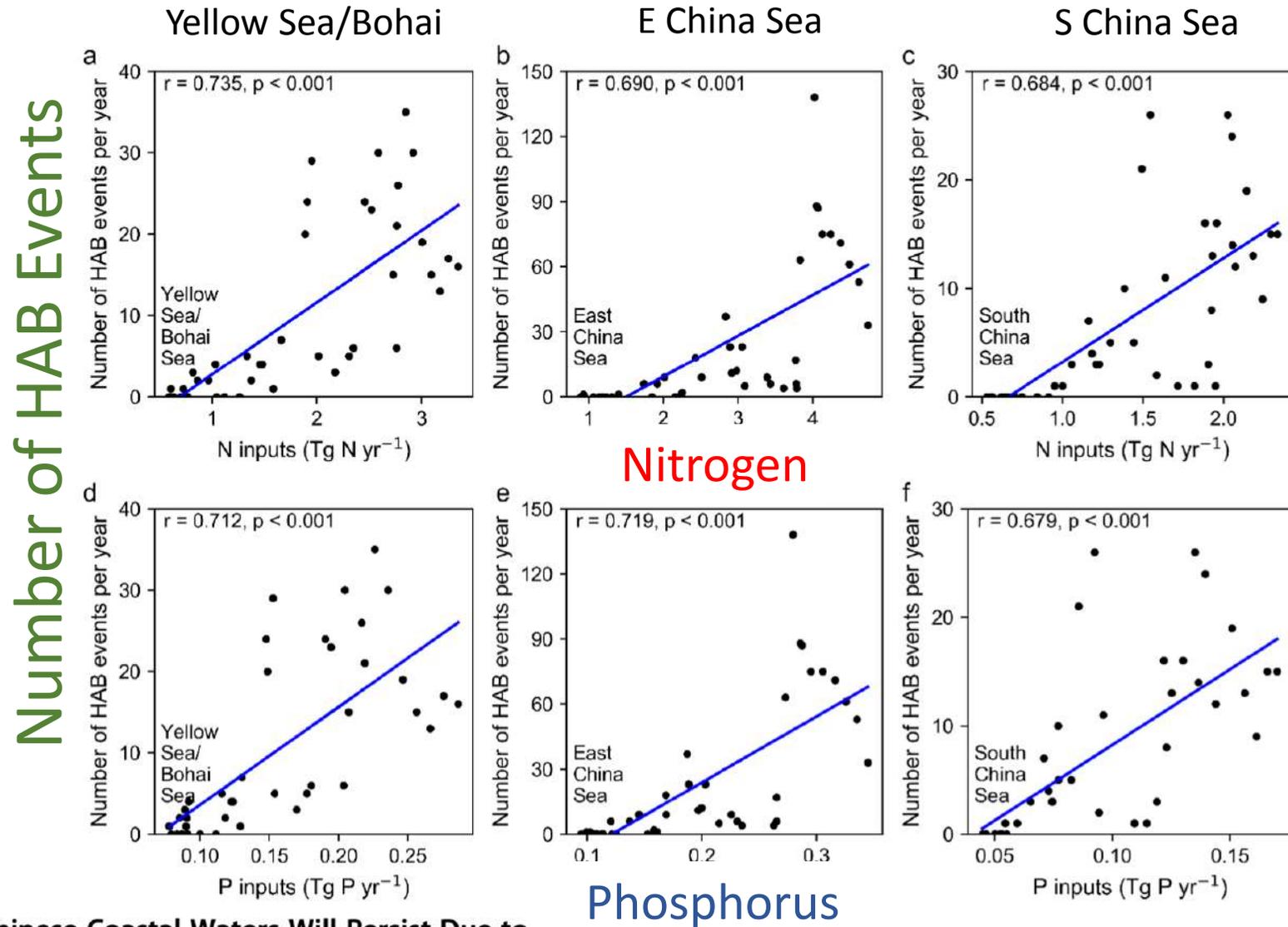
# Changes in **nitrogen** and **phosphorus** inputs 1970-2010



## Harmful Algal Blooms in Chinese Coastal Waters Will Persist Due to Perturbed Nutrient Ratios

Junjie Wang, Alexander F. Bouwman,\* Xiaochen Liu, Arthur H.W. Beusen, Rita Van Dingenen, Frank Dentener, Yulong Yao, Patricia M. Glibert, Xiangbin Ran, Qingzhen Yao, Bochao Xu, Rencheng Yu, Jack J. Middelburg, and Zhigang Yu

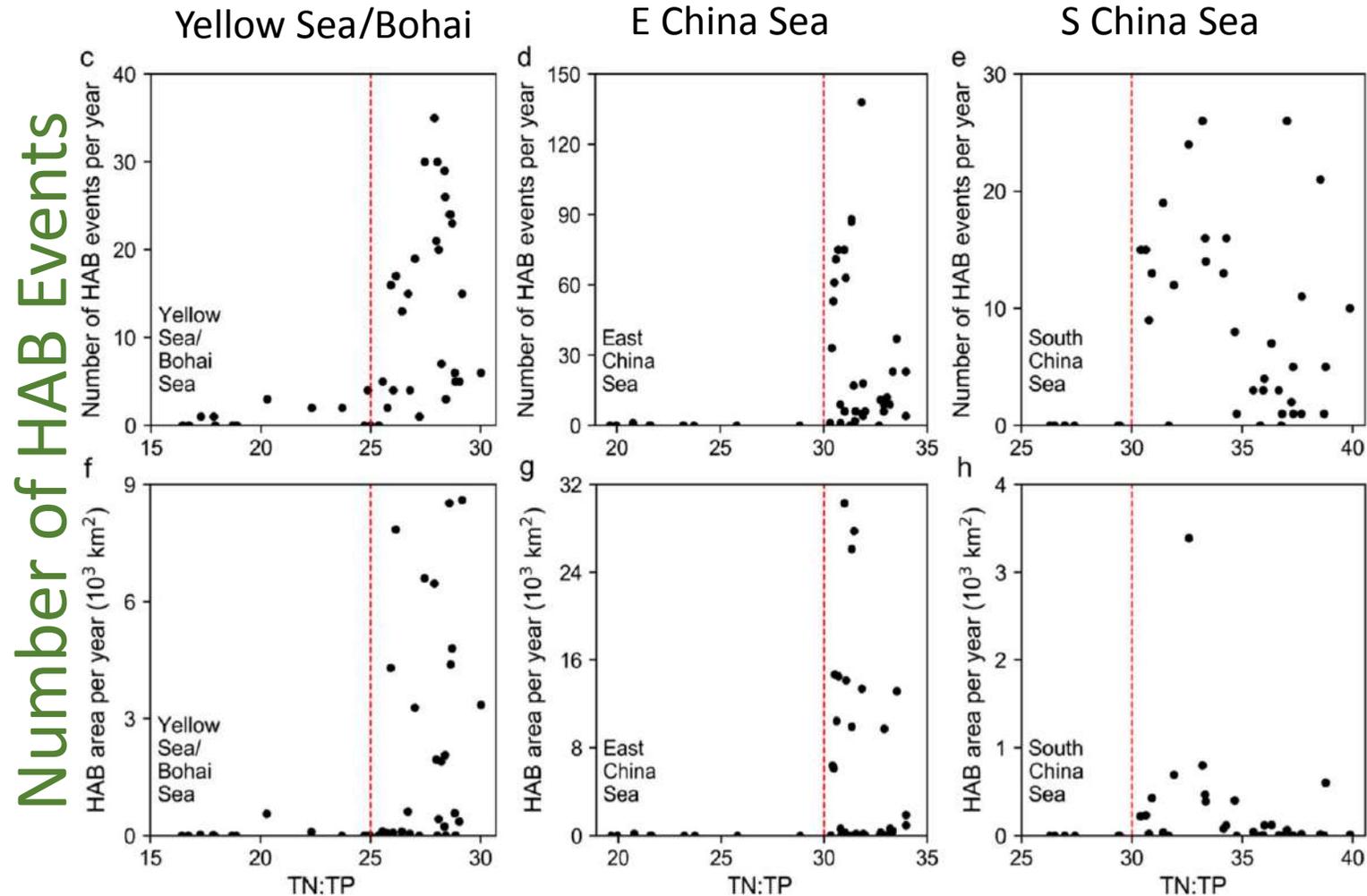
# Relationship between HAB events and nutrient inputs 1970-2010



## Harmful Algal Blooms in Chinese Coastal Waters Will Persist Due to Perturbed Nutrient Ratios

Junjie Wang, Alexander F. Bouwman,\* Xiaochen Liu, Arthur H.W. Beusen, Rita Van Dingenen, Frank Dentener, Yulong Yao, Patricia M. Glibert, Xiangbin Ran, Qingzhen Yao, Bochao Xu, Rencheng Yu, Jack J. Middelburg, and Zhigang Yu

# Relationship between HAB events and N:P inputs 1970-2010



pubs.acs.org/journal/estlcu 2021 8:276-284.

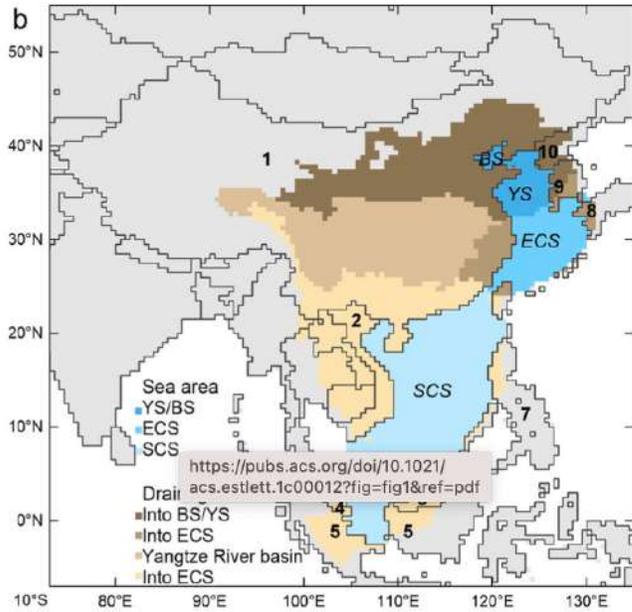
Nitrogen: Phosphorus

**Harmful Algal Blooms in Chinese Coastal Waters Will Persist Due to Perturbed Nutrient Ratios**

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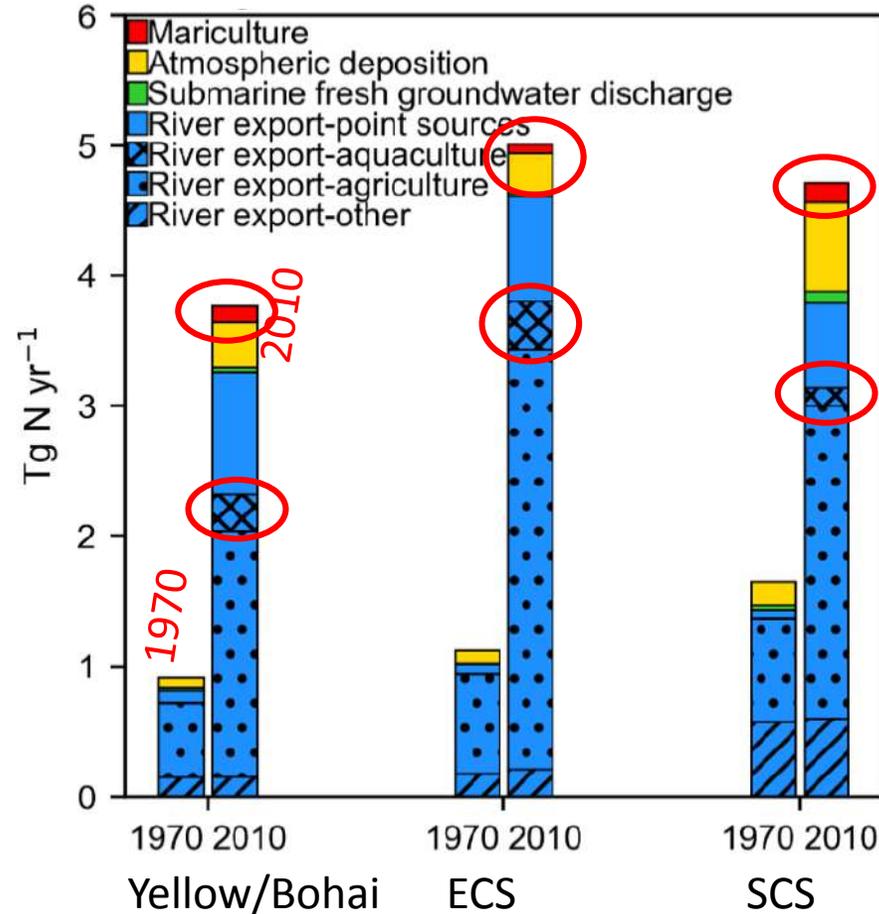
*Nutrient ratios matter!*

# Sources of N and P to Yellow Sea/Bohai, E. China Sea and S. China Sea

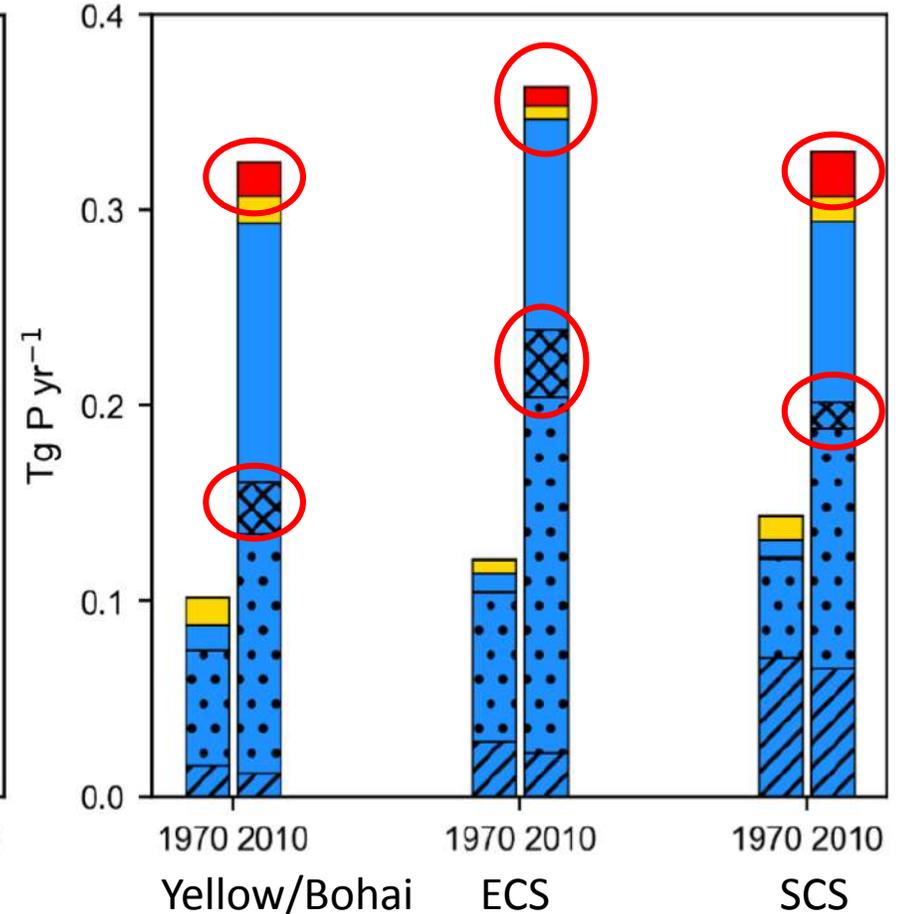


[pubs.acs.org/journal/estlct](https://pubs.acs.org/journal/estlct) 2021 8:276-284.

## Nitrogen

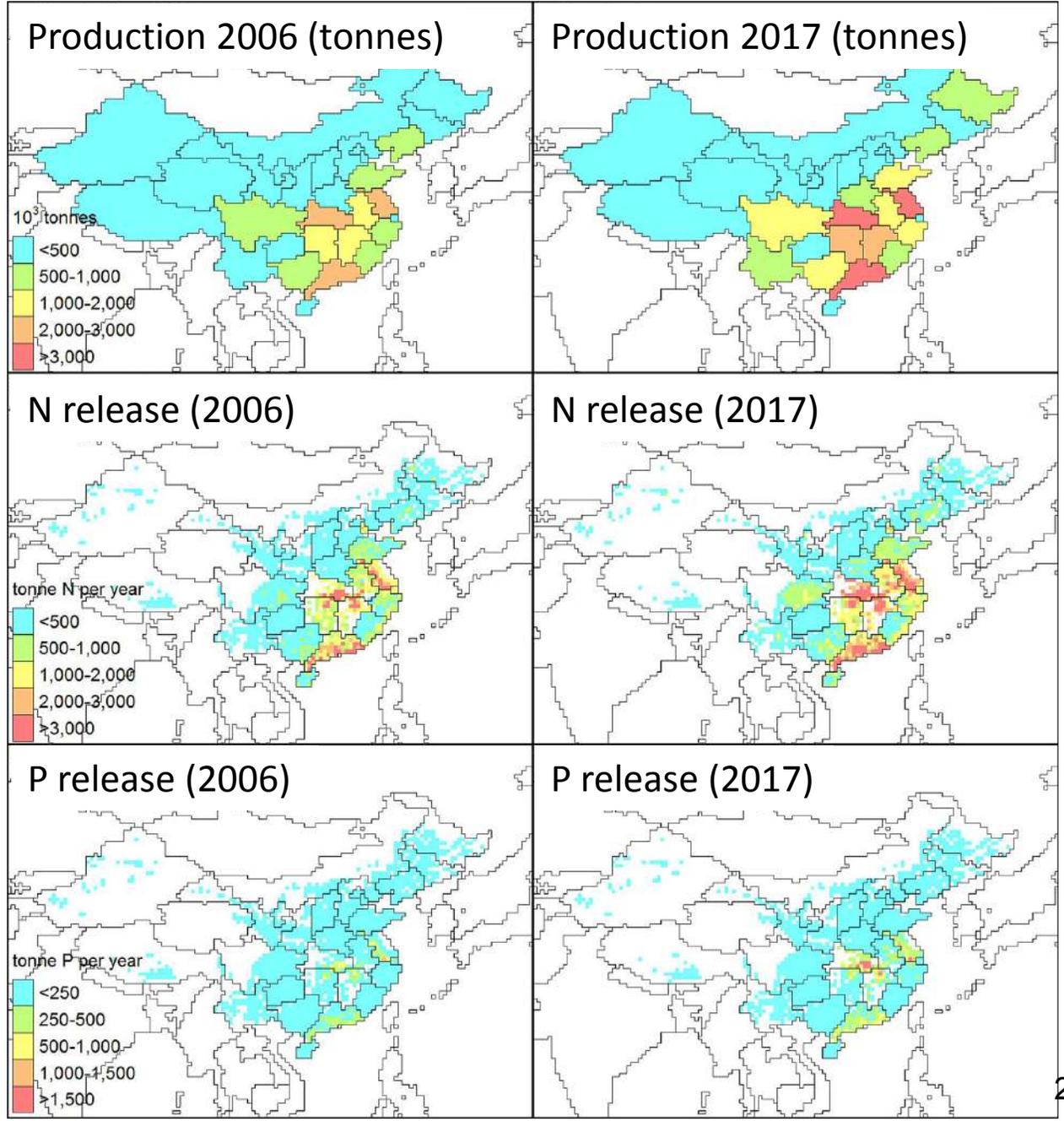
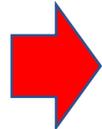
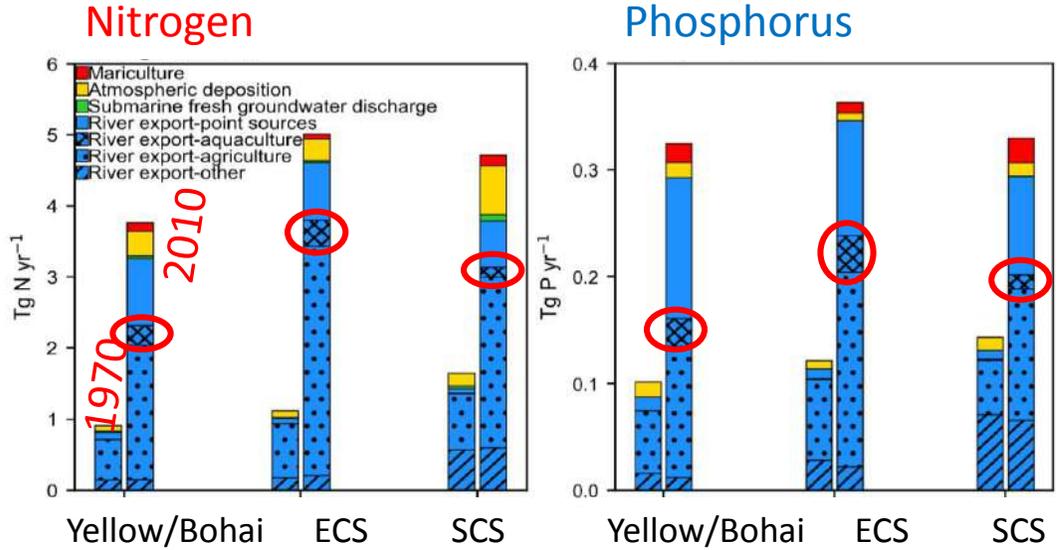


## Phosphorus



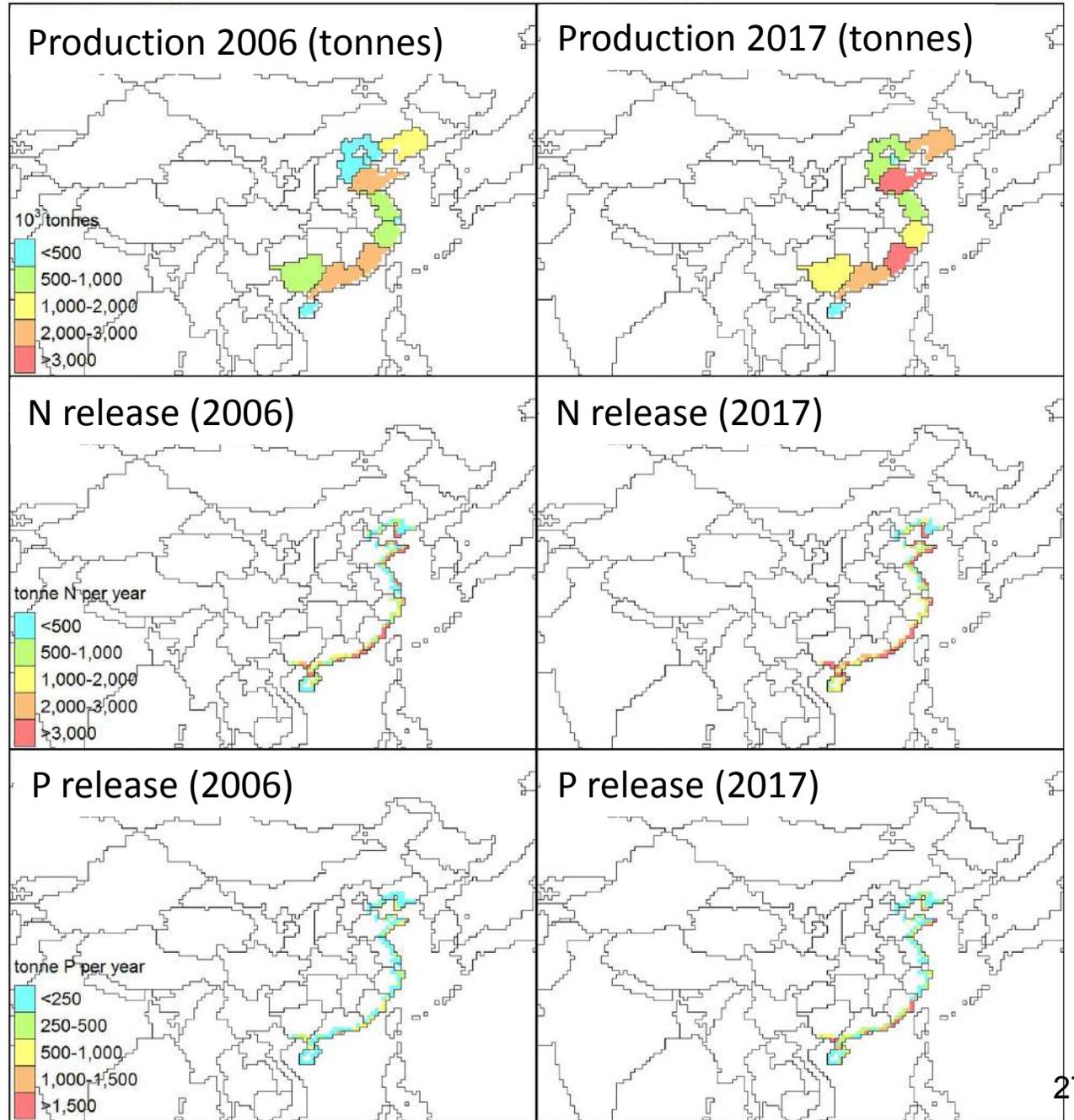
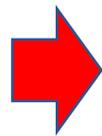
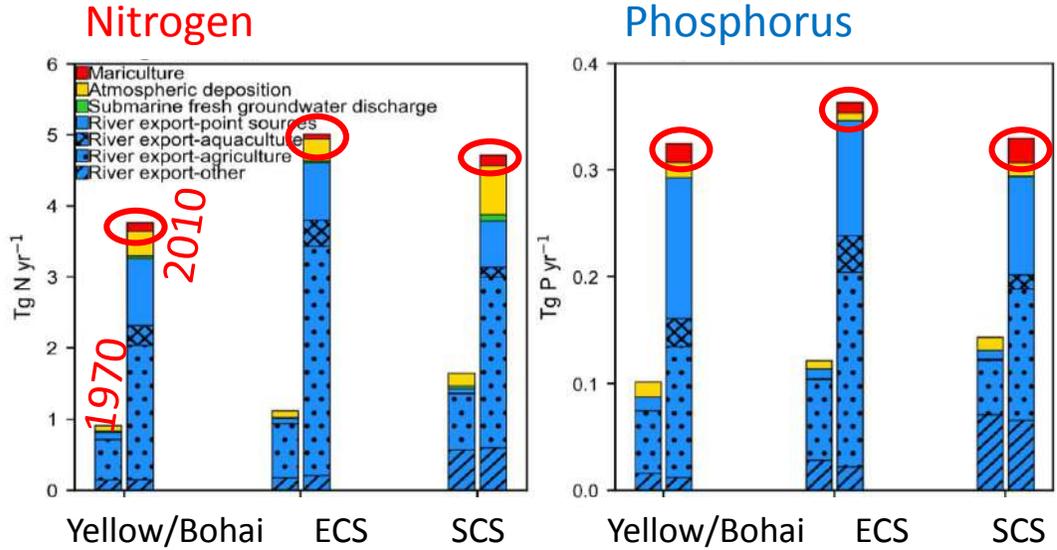
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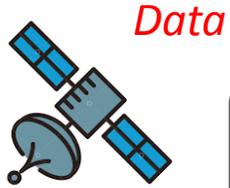


**Harmful Algal Blooms in Chinese Coastal Waters Will Persist Due to Perturbed Nutrient Ratios**

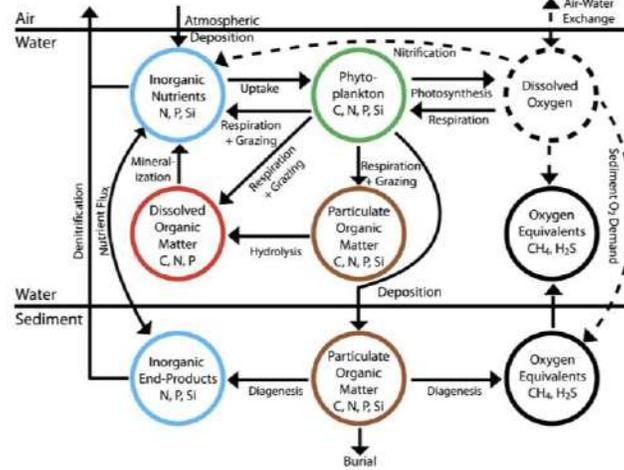
Junjie Wang, Alexander F. Bouwman,\* Xiaochen Liu, Arthur H.W. Beusen, Rita Van Dingenen, Frank Dentener, Yulong Yao, Patricia M. Glibert, Xiangbin Ran, Qingzhen Yao, Bochao Xu, Rencheng Yu, Jack J. Middelburg, and Zhigang Yu

# Advancing prediction

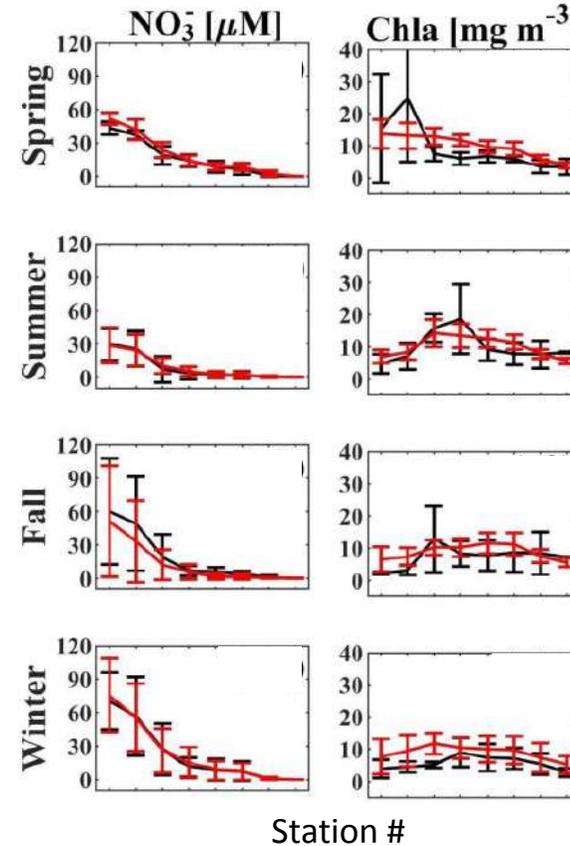
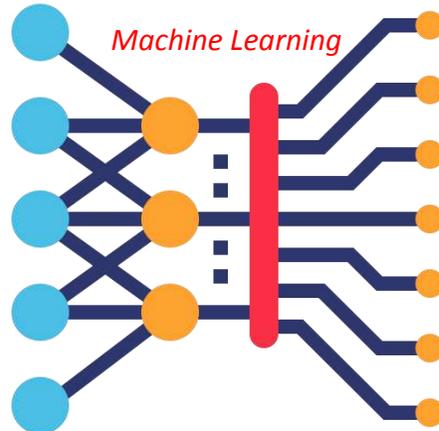
Advancing data acquisition  
Advancing models



*Mechanistic models*

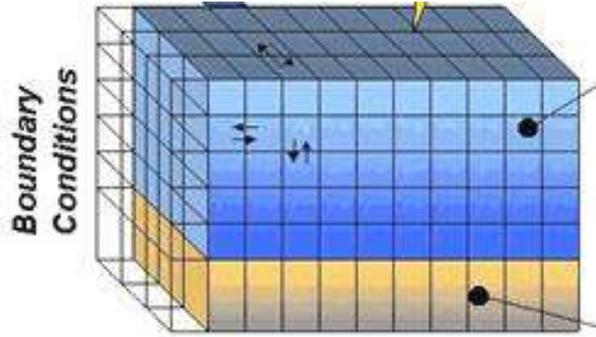


*Machine Learning*



Station #

Models are rapidly advancing and predicting chlorophyll with high fidelity

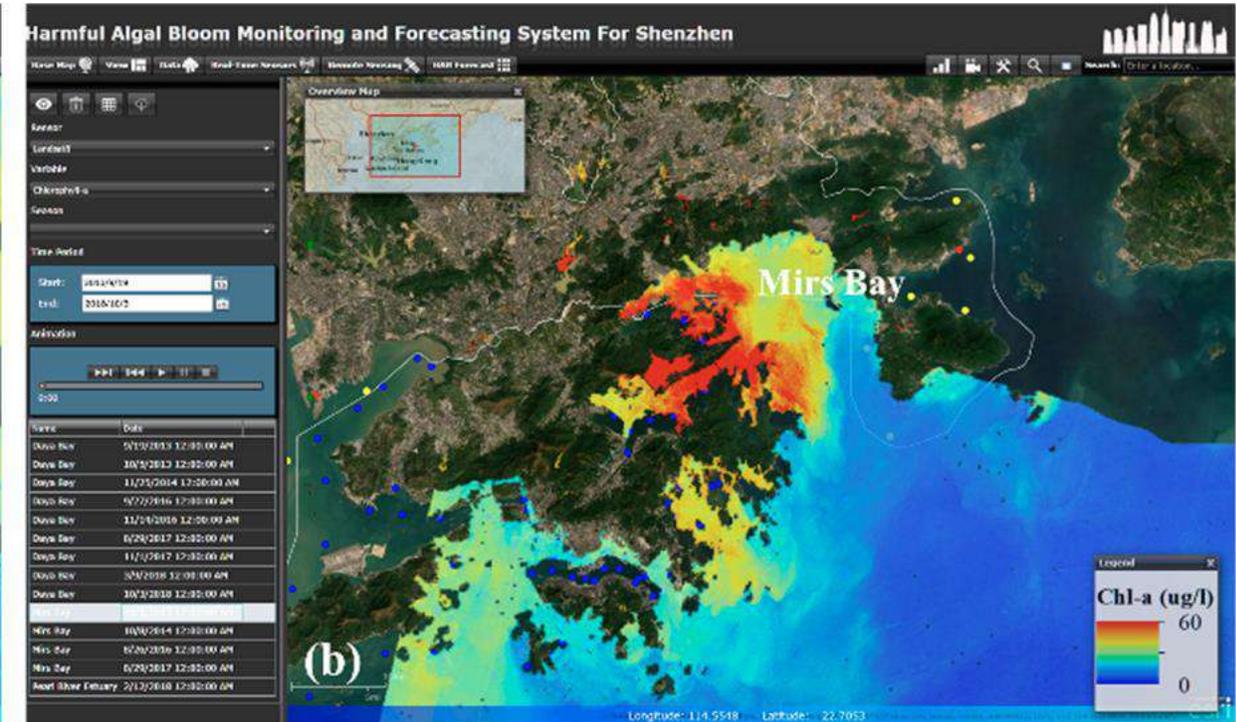
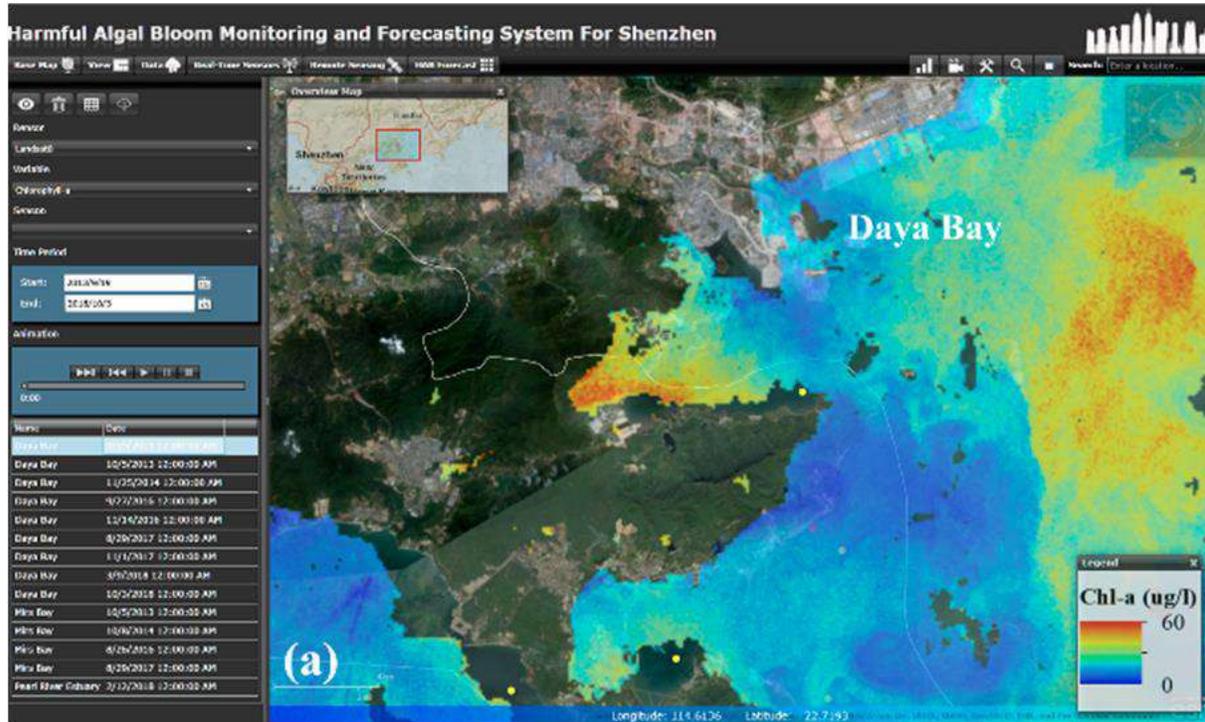


Physical Model

# Forecasting HABs as **Chlorophyll** is advancing

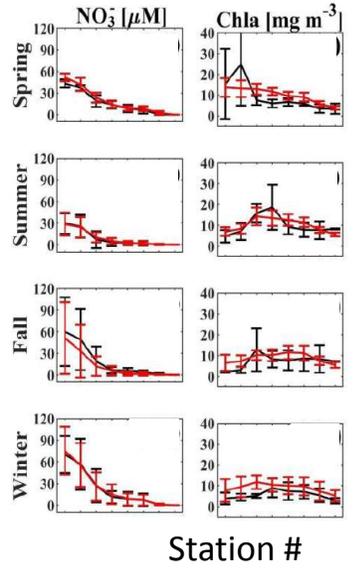
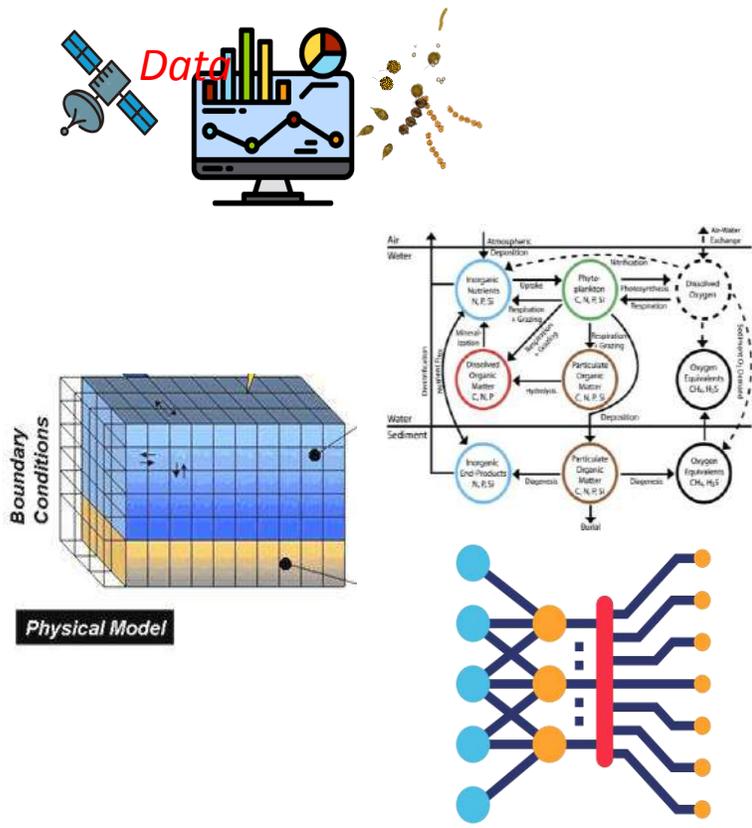
## An Integrated Web-Based System for the Monitoring and Forecasting of Coastal Harmful Algae Blooms: Application to Shenzhen City, China

by Yong Tian<sup>1,2</sup> and Mutao Huang<sup>3,\*</sup>



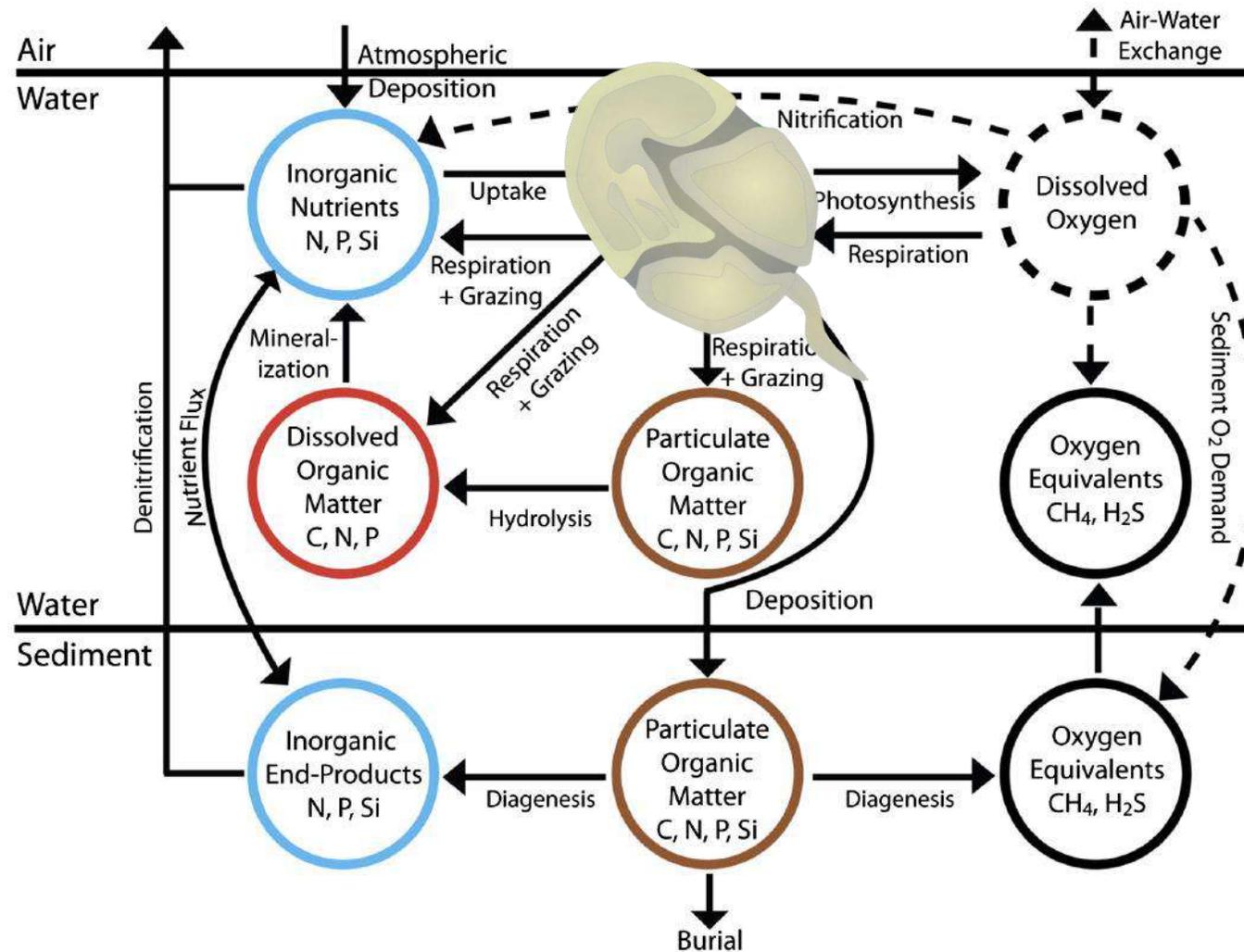
Chl-a concentration map of the harmful algal bloom (HAB)-affected areas using the support vector regression model: (a) HAB occurred on 25 November 2014 in the Daya Bay; and (b) HAB occurred on 29 August 2017 in the Mirs

# Predicting **species** is more challenging



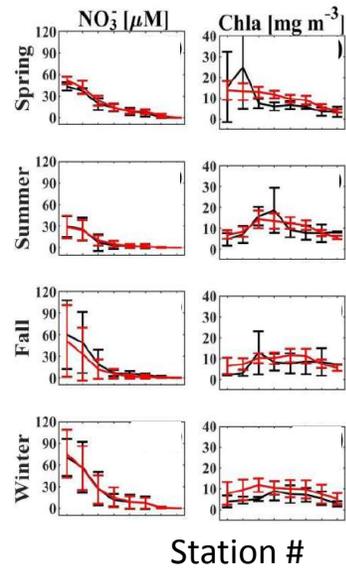
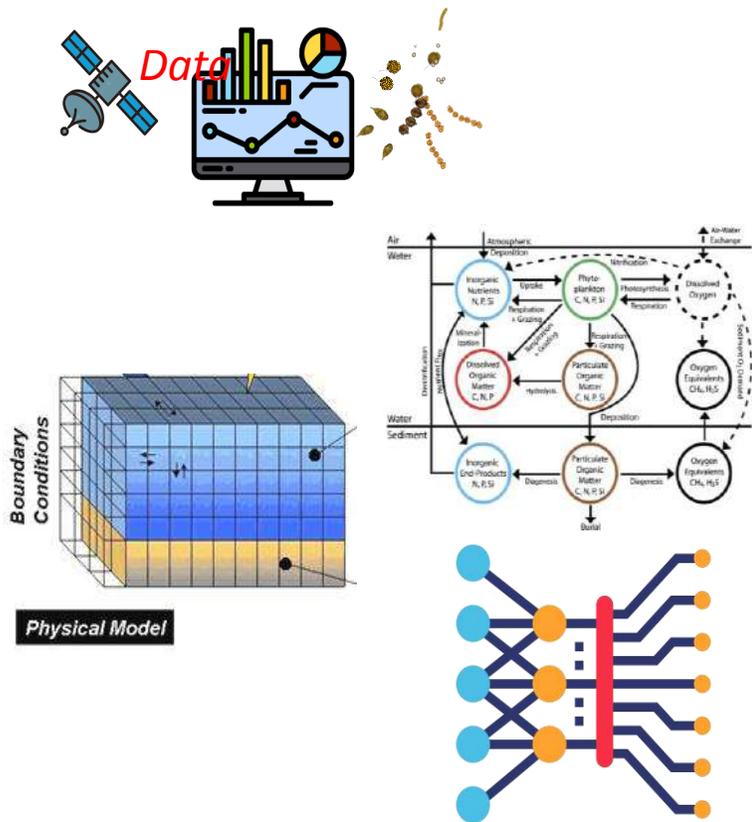
Rhomboid strategy  
(characterize one species  
against a background of  
functional groups)

# Biogeochemical model with 3 phytoplankton groups



*HAB taxa is modeled "on top of" generic phytoplankton functional groups (e.g., diatom group and nanoflagellate group)*

# Predicting **species** is more challenging



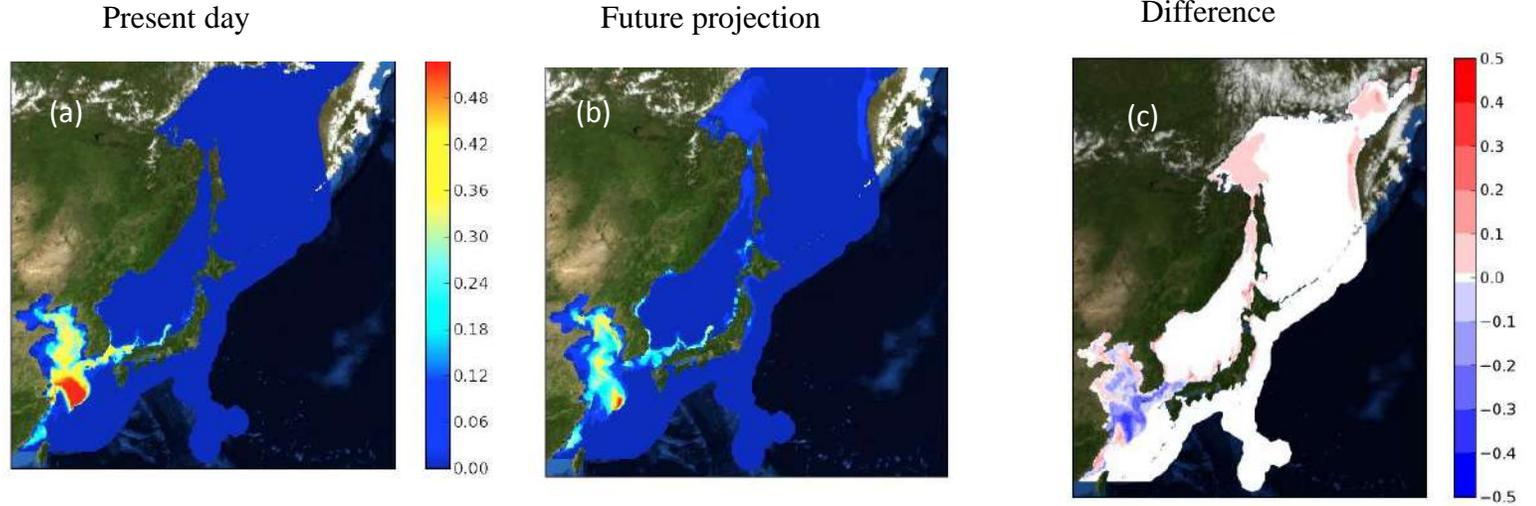
Rhomboid strategy  
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Habitat modeling-  
Define a species niche  
(not abundance of species)

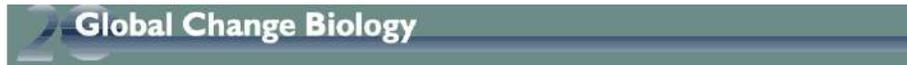
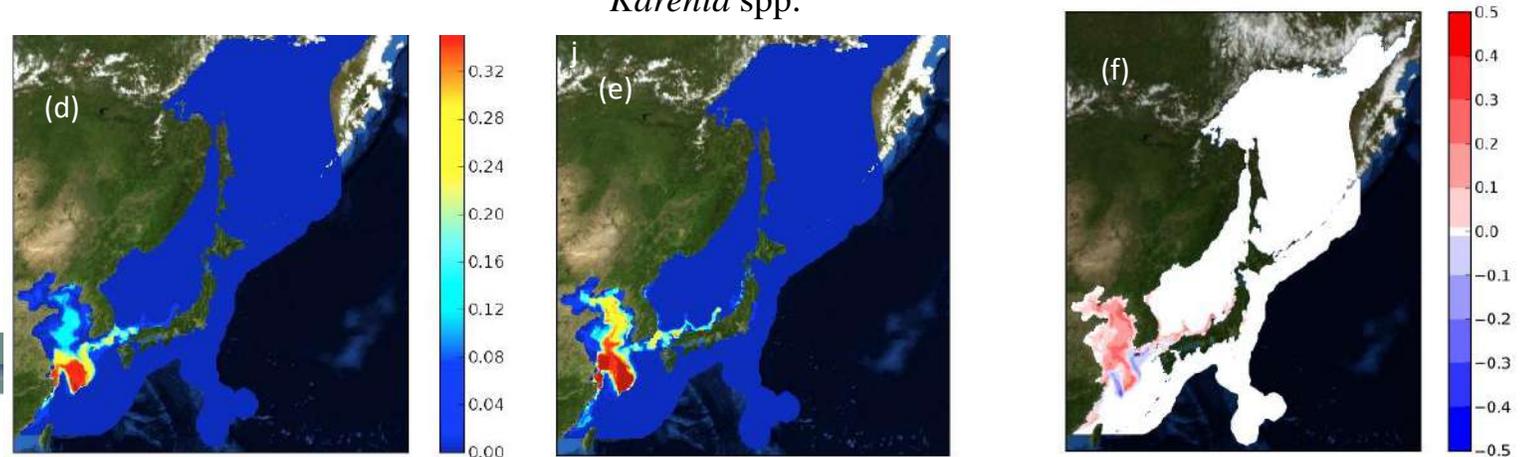
# Example of habitat modeling for *Prorocentrum* and *Karenia* spp.

(future is end of century)

*Prorocentrum* spp.



*Karenia* spp.



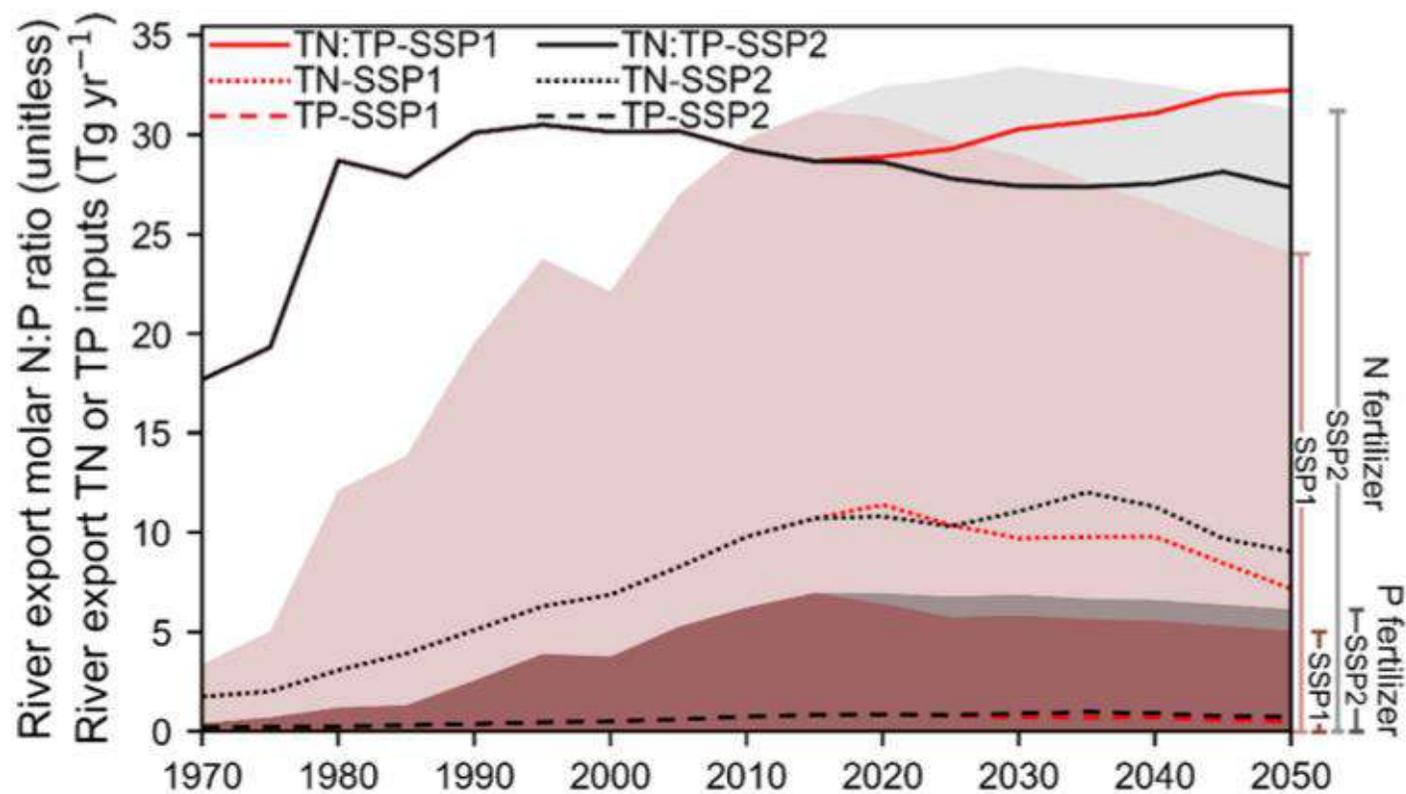
Global Change Biology (2014), doi: 10.1111/gcb.12662

## Vulnerability of coastal ecosystems to changes in algal bloom distribution in response to climate change: projections based on model analysis

PATRICIA M. GLIBERT<sup>1</sup>, J. ICARUS ALLEN<sup>2</sup>, YURI ARTIOLI<sup>2</sup>, ARTHUR BEUSEN<sup>3</sup>, LEX BOUWMAN<sup>3,4</sup>, JAMES HARLE<sup>5</sup>, ROBERT HOLMES<sup>2</sup> and JASON HOLT<sup>5</sup>

A habitat model only defines the available niche- It does not project frequency or cell density (risk map)

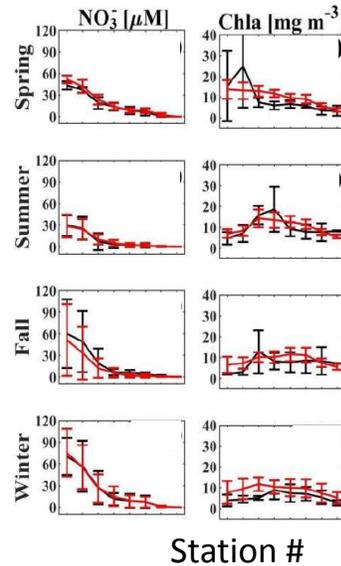
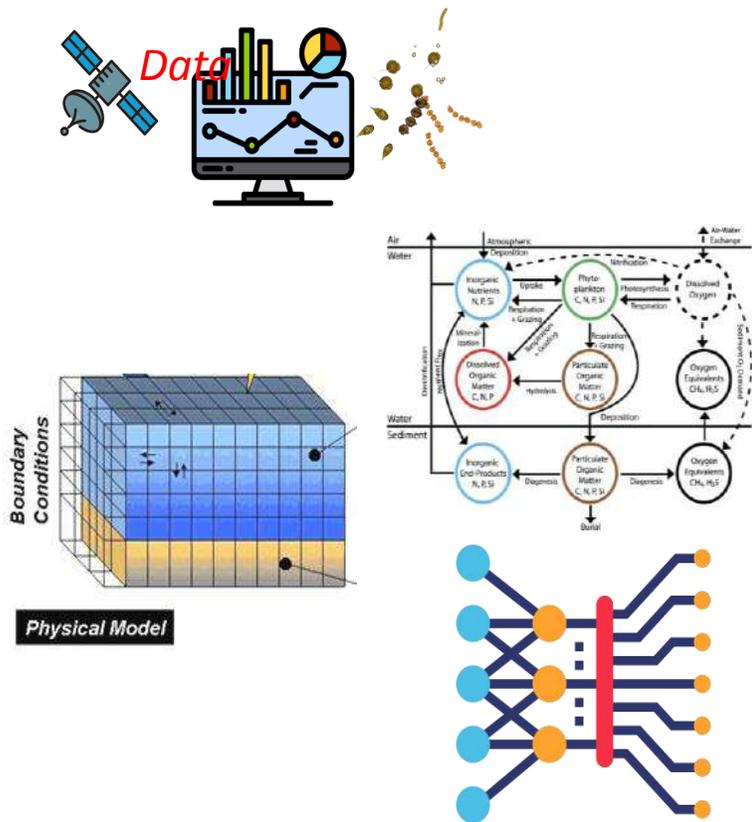
Projecting HABs will persist based on predicting scenario changes in TN:TP



## Harmful Algal Blooms in Chinese Coastal Waters Will Persist Due to Perturbed Nutrient Ratios

Junjie Wang, Alexander F. Bouwman,\* Xiaochen Liu, Arthur H.W. Beusen, Rita Van Dingenen, Frank Dentener, Yulong Yao, Patricia M. Glibert, Xiangbin Ran, Qingzhen Yao, Bochao Xu, Rencheng Yu, Jack J. Middelburg, and Zhigang Yu

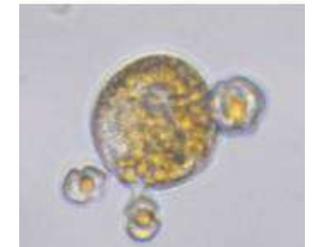
# Predicting **species** is more challenging



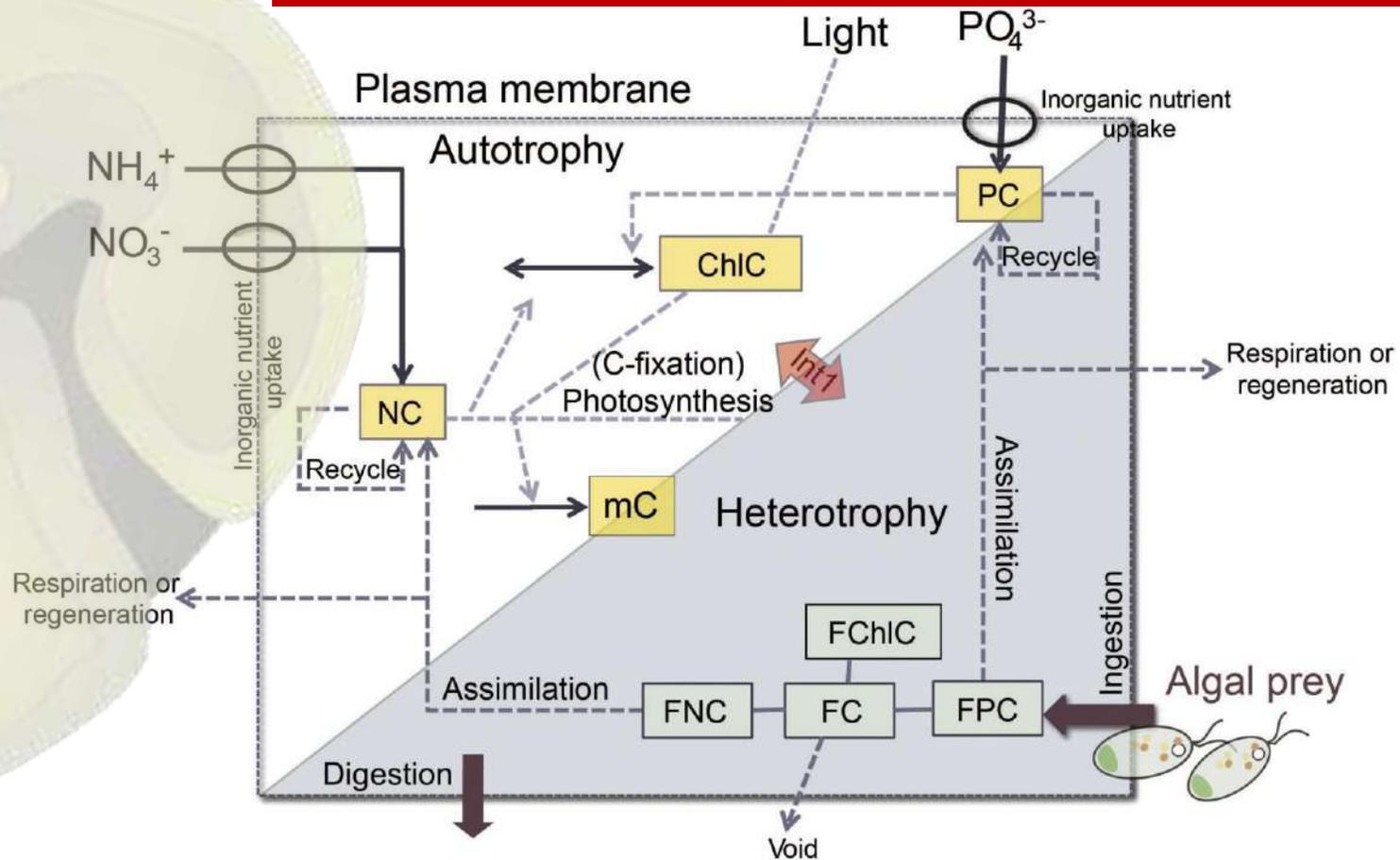
Rhomboid strategy  
(characterize one species  
against a background of  
functional groups)

Habitat modeling-  
Define a species niche  
(not abundance of species)

Improving mechanistic  
characterization of species-  
include mixotrophic nutrition



# MIXO trophic HAB model: the "perfect beast"



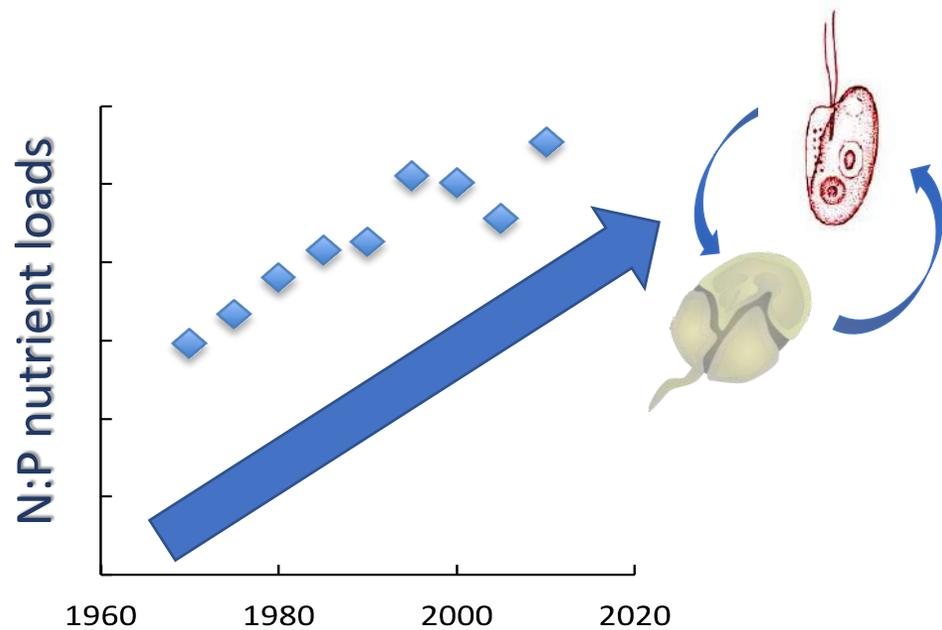
MIXO has 8 state variables describing C, N and P and chlorophyll (Chl) associated with the core mixotroph (m) biomass and those associated with the contents of the food (F) vacuole after the mixotroph has fed on algal prey.

ORIGINAL RESEARCH  
published: 10 September 2018  
doi: 10.3389/fmars.2018.00320

frontiers  
in Marine Science

**Simulating Effects of Variable Stoichiometry and Temperature on Mixotrophy in the Harmful Dinoflagellate *Karlodinium veneficum***

Chih-Hsien Lin<sup>1</sup>, Kevin J. Flynn<sup>2\*</sup>, Aditee Mitra<sup>2</sup> and Patricia M. Gilbert<sup>1</sup>

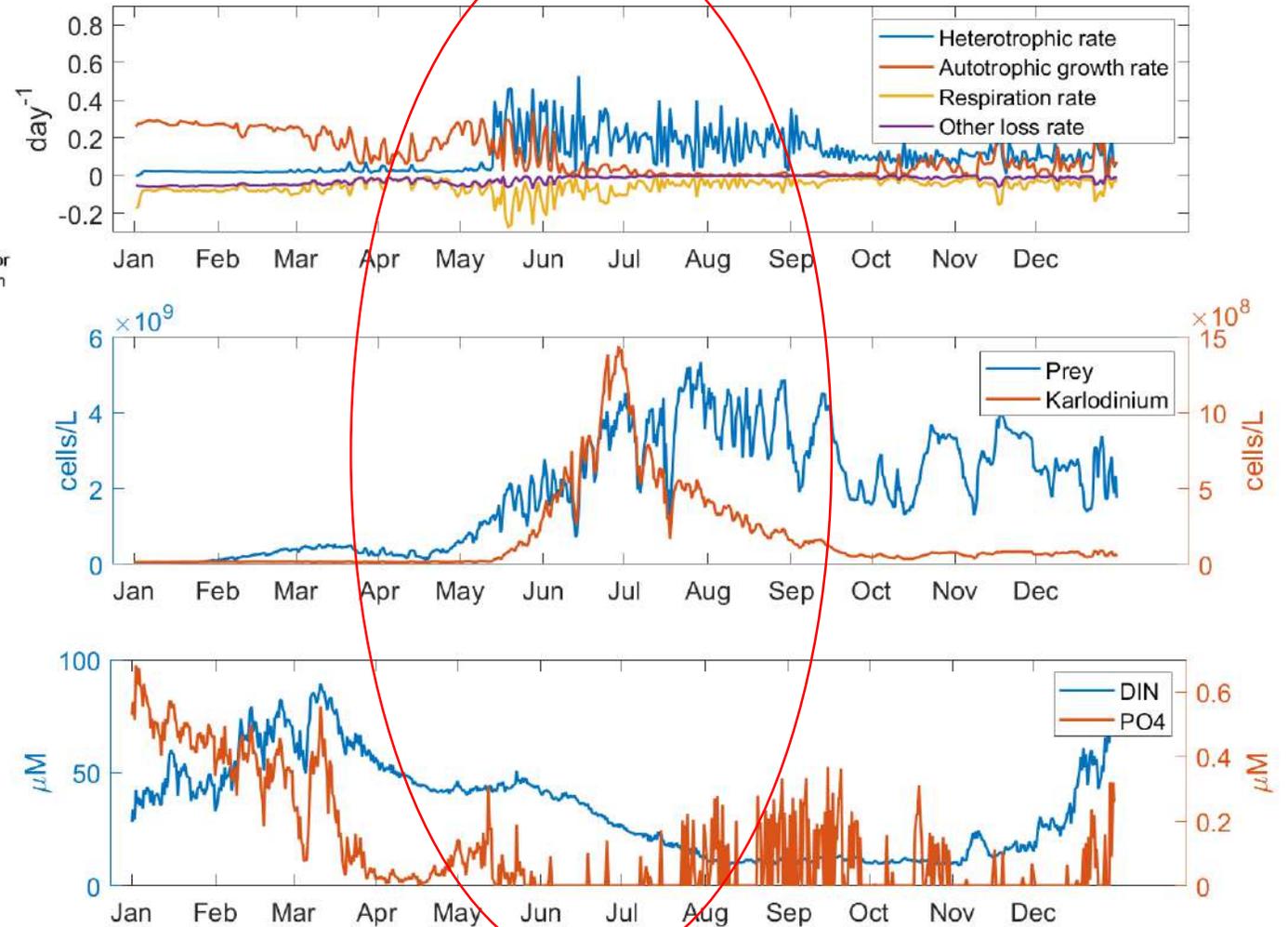
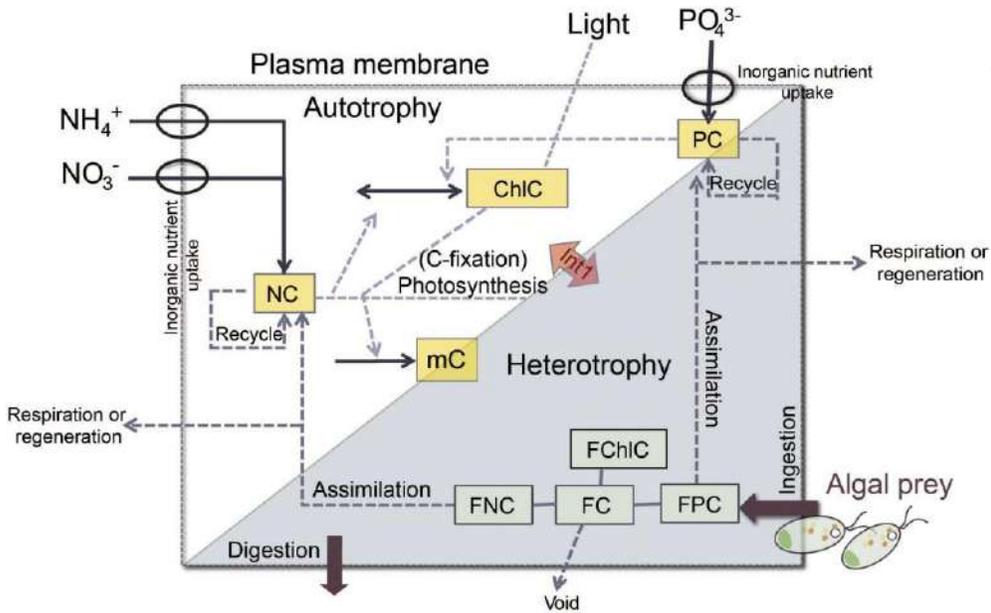


Mixotrophy increases growth rate and sustain growth longer

Mixotrophy often increases with increasing N:P

Mixotrophy and toxicity may be synergistic; Release of toxins harms prey, releasing dissolved nutrients or makes the prey easier to capture

# Modeling mixotrophy by *Karlodinium* in Chesapeake Bay, USA



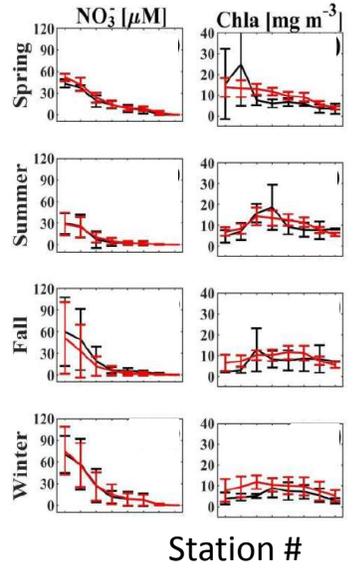
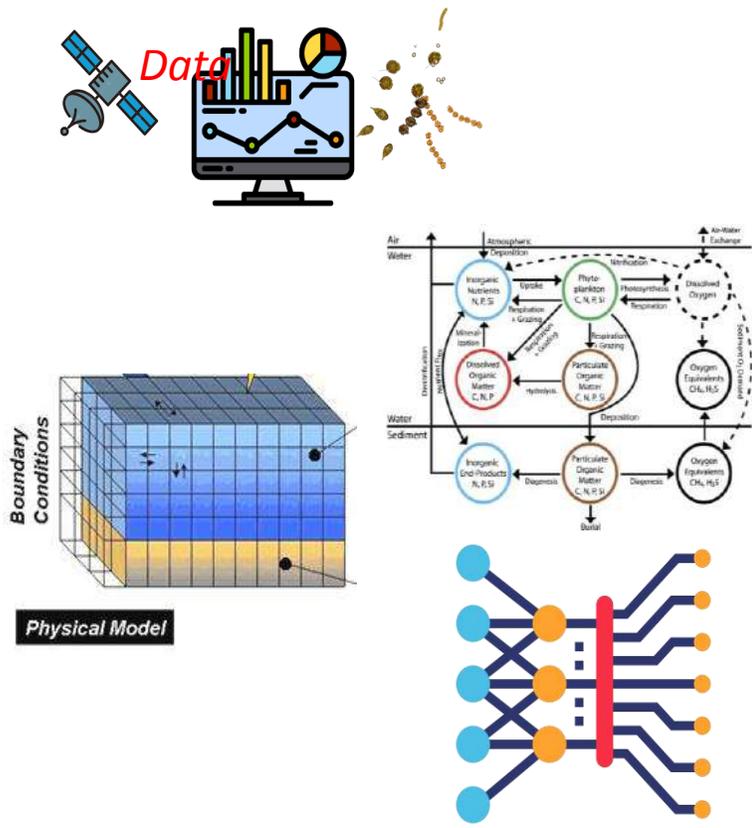
2022: in press

A Three-Dimensional Mixotrophic Model of *Karlodinium veneficum* Blooms for a Eutrophic Estuary

Ming Li\*, Yuren Chen, Fan Zhang, Yang Song, Patricia M. Glibert, Diane K. Stoecker

Mixotrophy increases when P limitation increases as waters warm and when prey increases

# Predicting **species** is more challenging



Rhomboid strategy  
(characterize one species  
against a background of  
functional groups)

Habitat modeling-  
Define a species niche  
(not abundance of species)

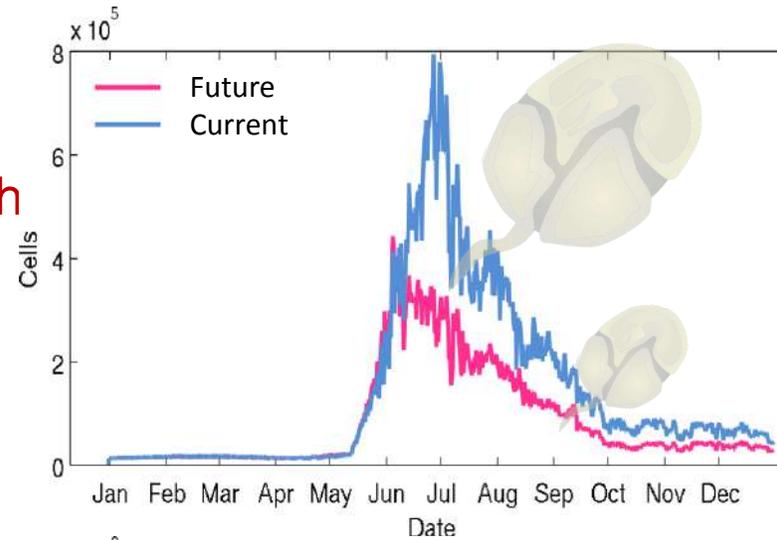
Improved mechanistic  
characterization of species-  
include mixotrophic nutrition

In silico experiments with  
multiple stressors  
(warming, nutrients, CO<sub>2</sub>,  
pH, hypoxia, etc)

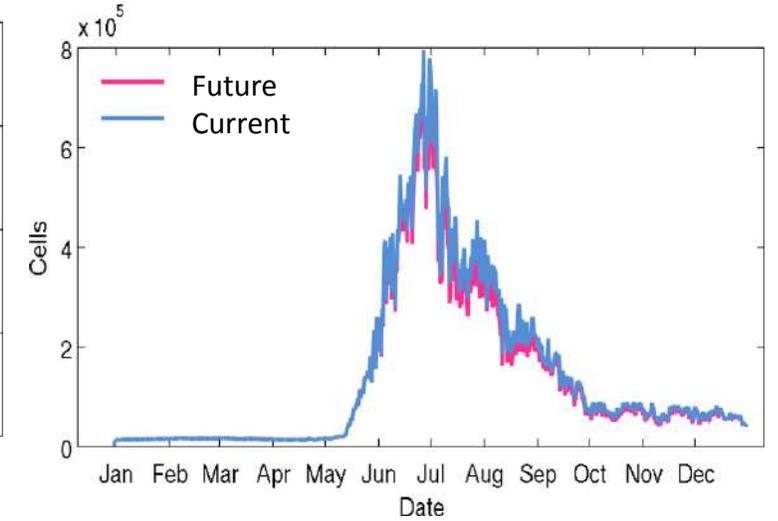
# Testing future effects in silico

## Effects of Warming

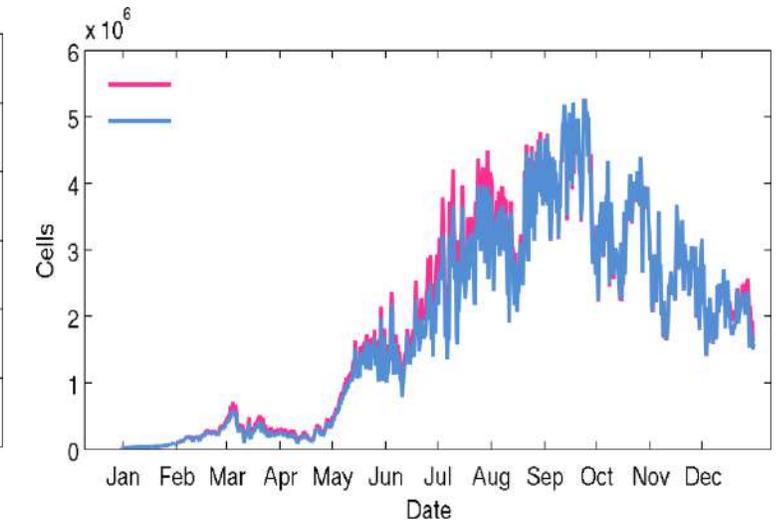
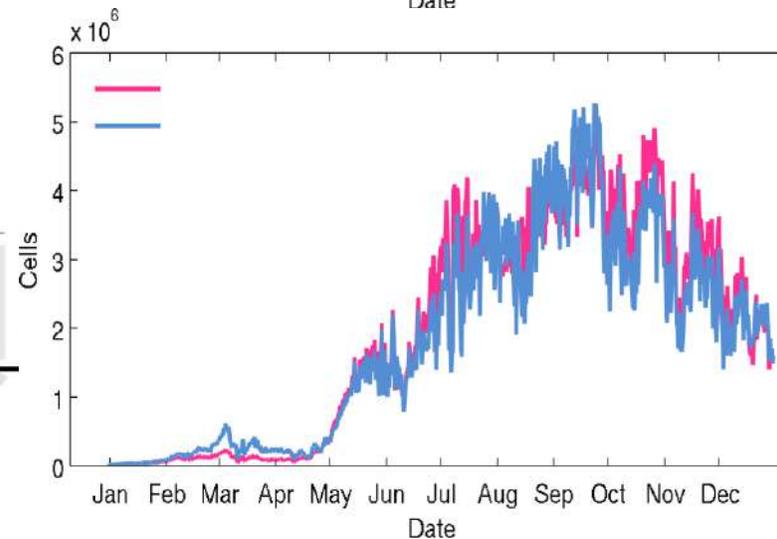
Mixotroph



## Effects of climate-induced changes in riverine $\text{NO}_3$ and $\text{PO}_4$ loading



Prey



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Harmful Algae

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

2022: in press

A Three-Dimensional Mixotrophic Model of *Karlodinium veneficum* Blooms for a Eutrophic Estuary

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## Take Home Lessons and Grand Challenges:

- ✓ Nutrient pollution remains a grand challenge. Some regional progress and potentially good news- but more reductions needed, especially N
- ✓ Aquaculture continues to be threatened by HABs, but also contributes to the nutrients supporting them
- ✓ Regional and early warning models are advancing but largely based on chlorophyll
- ✓ In order to predict HAB changes in a complex changing world, more attention to HAB physiology and mixotrophy is needed (which will require new data in many cases)
- ✓ A suite of coupled physical-biogeochemical-HAB-multi-trophic level models will be needed to test how stressors interact to project
  - future HAB growth spatially and temporally
  - future risks to aquaculture and other fishery resources

*Thank you!*  
*To the organizers,*  
*and my co-authors,*  
*and other researchers*  
*credited above*



# HABreports: Online early warning of harmful algal and biotoxin risk for the Scottish shellfish and finfish aquaculture industries

Keith Davidson,  
Dmitry Aleynik, Gregg Arthur,  
Solene Giraudeau-Potel, Steve Gontarek,  
Callum Whyte



[Keith.davidson@sams.ac.uk](mailto:Keith.davidson@sams.ac.uk)

# Regulatory Monitoring for Toxin Producing Microplankton in Scottish Waters



Since 2005 SAMS Enterprise has monitored **40 active** shellfish growing sites **weekly** – analysing approximately **1250 samples** during the year

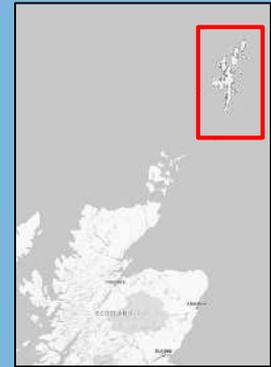
## Shetland suspends mussel harvesting after food poisoning

70 people report symptoms consistent with having consumed shellfish toxins, some in restaurants owned by Belgo chain

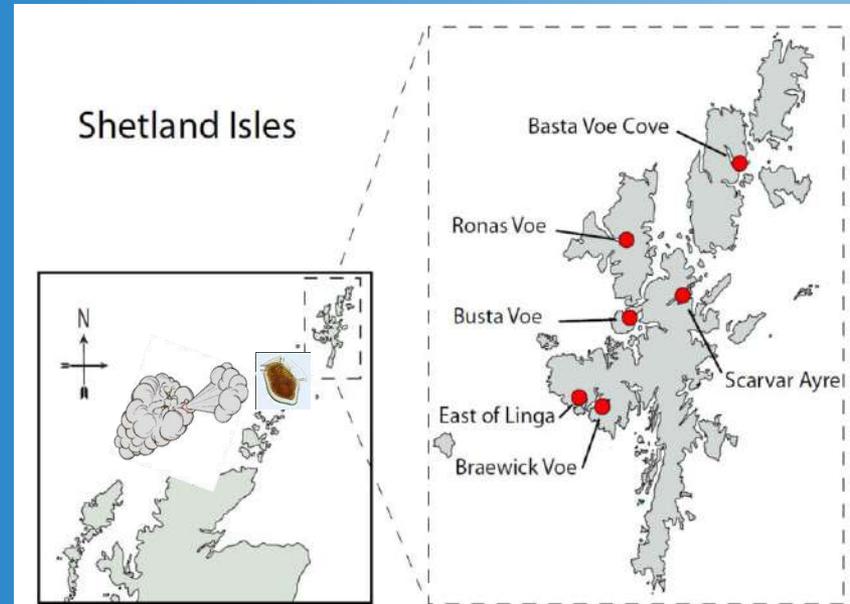
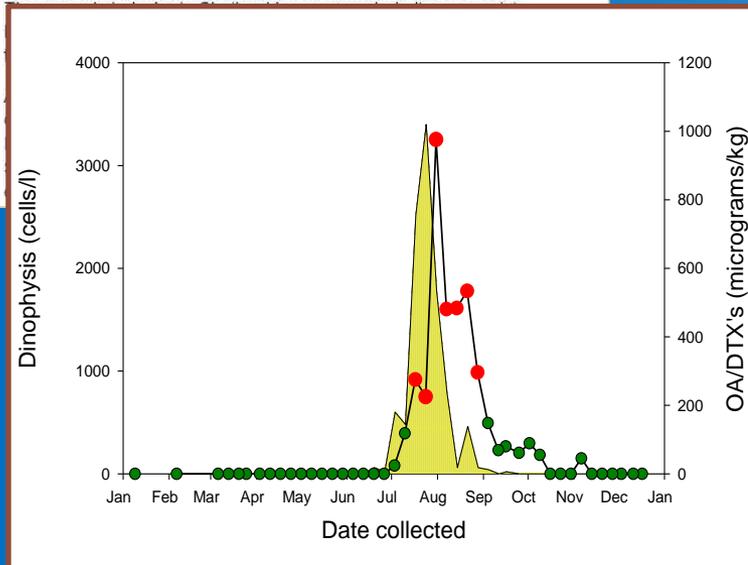
James Meikle  
The Guardian, Thursday 25 July 2013 18:42 BST



Shetland Mussels says all the mussels from the affected batch have either been eaten or disposed off. Photograph: Jerry Lampen/EPA



**UK has a robust monitoring scheme** however in **2013** 70 people reported symptoms of **Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning** after eating in the Belgo chain of restaurants in London and South East England





SO  
MUCH  
TO SEA...



**SeafoodShetland**  
incorporating Shetland Fish Processors and Shellfish Growers



FSA in UK | FSA in Scotland | FSA in Wales | FSA in Northern Ireland

Business & industry | Enforcement & regulation | Science & policy | About us

Home > Centre > Shellfish poisoning outbreak

### Shellfish poisoning outbreak

Last updated: 25 July 2013

Following detection by the FSA of unusually high levels of toxins, various shellfish harvesting sites in Scotland have been closed. These toxins, which occur naturally, especially during the summer months, can cause acute food poisoning.



In addition, the FSA has been informed that approximately 70 people in south east England have reported symptoms consistent with diarrhetic shellfish poisoning (see 'Science behind the story' below). The vast majority of cases occurred between 13 and 15 July.

The cases have been linked to the consumption of mussels originating from a particular harvesting area in Shetland, Scotland. After these mussels were harvested, an unusually high toxin level was detected by the FSA's weekly monitoring programme. The area has been closed, and as a precautionary measure the industry has voluntarily suspended all commercial harvesting from the waters around Shetland until toxin levels subside.

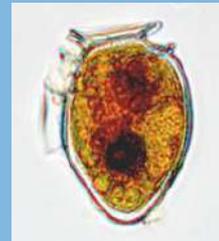
The business that supplied the shellfish, Shetland Mussels, has contacted its customers and advised the FSA that all of the mussels from this batch have either been consumed or disposed of. The local authority is investigating and liaising closely with the FSA.

The mussels had been supplied to a number of restaurants, some through a number of intermediary suppliers. Customers reports of illness after eating at: Delgo in Covent Garden, Holborn, Clapham and Bromley; Zero Degrees in Bloomsbury and Reading; The Phoenix near Hook, Hampshire; Boulevard Brasserie in Covent Garden, and Pig's Ears in Richmond. These premises acted appropriately by notifying the relevant authorities when the cases of illness were identified.

**Business responsibilities**

It is the legal responsibility of all food businesses to put in place appropriate controls to ensure that only food safe for consumption is placed on the market. The FSA is reminding all UK companies involved in the sale of shellfish to ensure that biotoxin

Annual losses due to Dinophysis toxicity events alone to the Scottish shellfish industry are estimated at 15% of total production (equivalent to £1.37m/year)

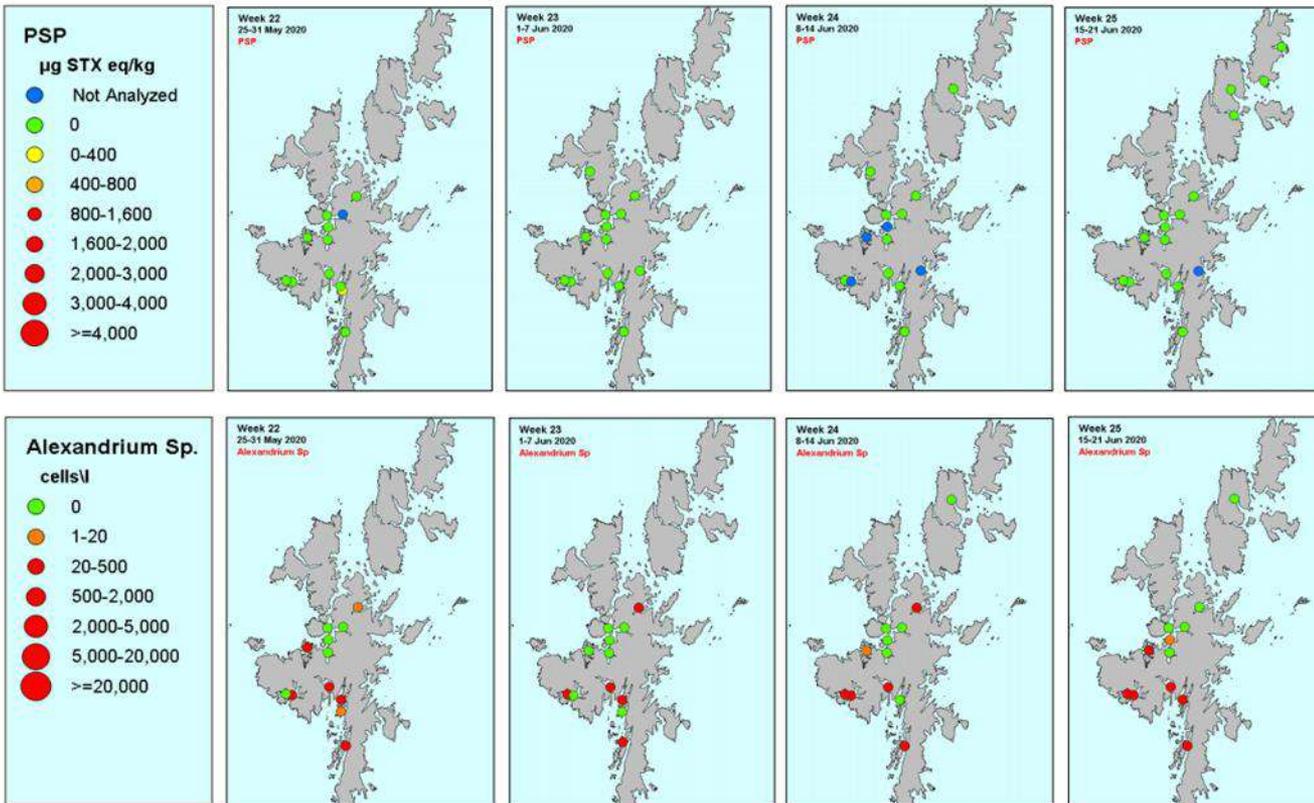


Martino et al. (2020) Harmful Algae 99 101912

Costs to the finfish aquaculture industry can run into £/million

# Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 25, 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Jun 2020

## Paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton



PSP



Maps of Sites with toxin and phytoplankton concentrations in this example the toxin is Saxitoxin and the causative species is *Alexandrium*.

*Alexandrium*



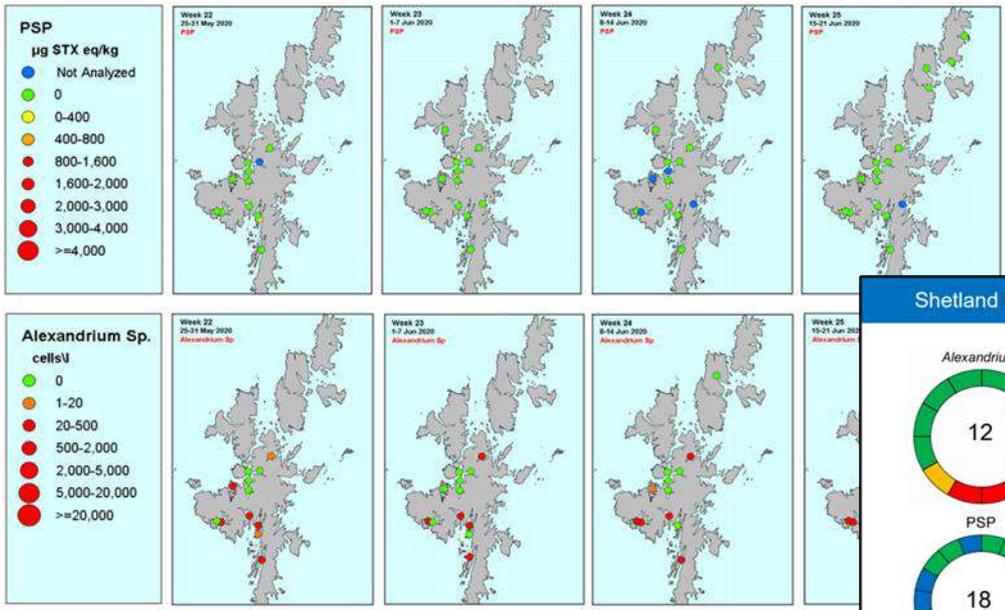
Preceding three weeks

Current week

# Initial pdf based weekly report for Seafood Shetland

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 25, 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Jun 2020

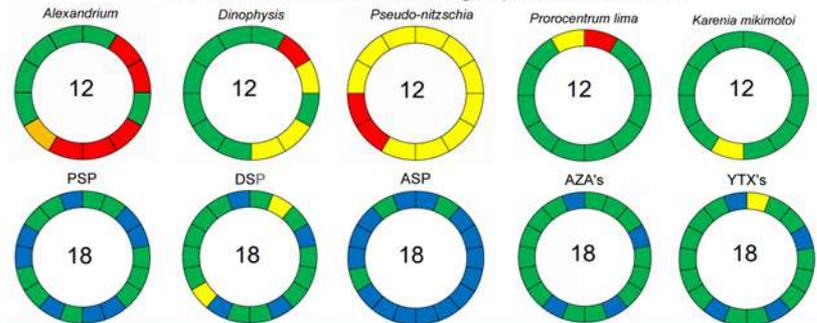
Paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins & causative phytoplankton



Blended approach: Same information but presented as an infographic

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 24, 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Jun 2020

Status of biotoxins & harmful algae present in Shetland



Segments - no of individual sites, Colours: Green, red, amber and yellow as per key. Blue - not analysed. Coloured segment indicates approximate position of site in Shetland

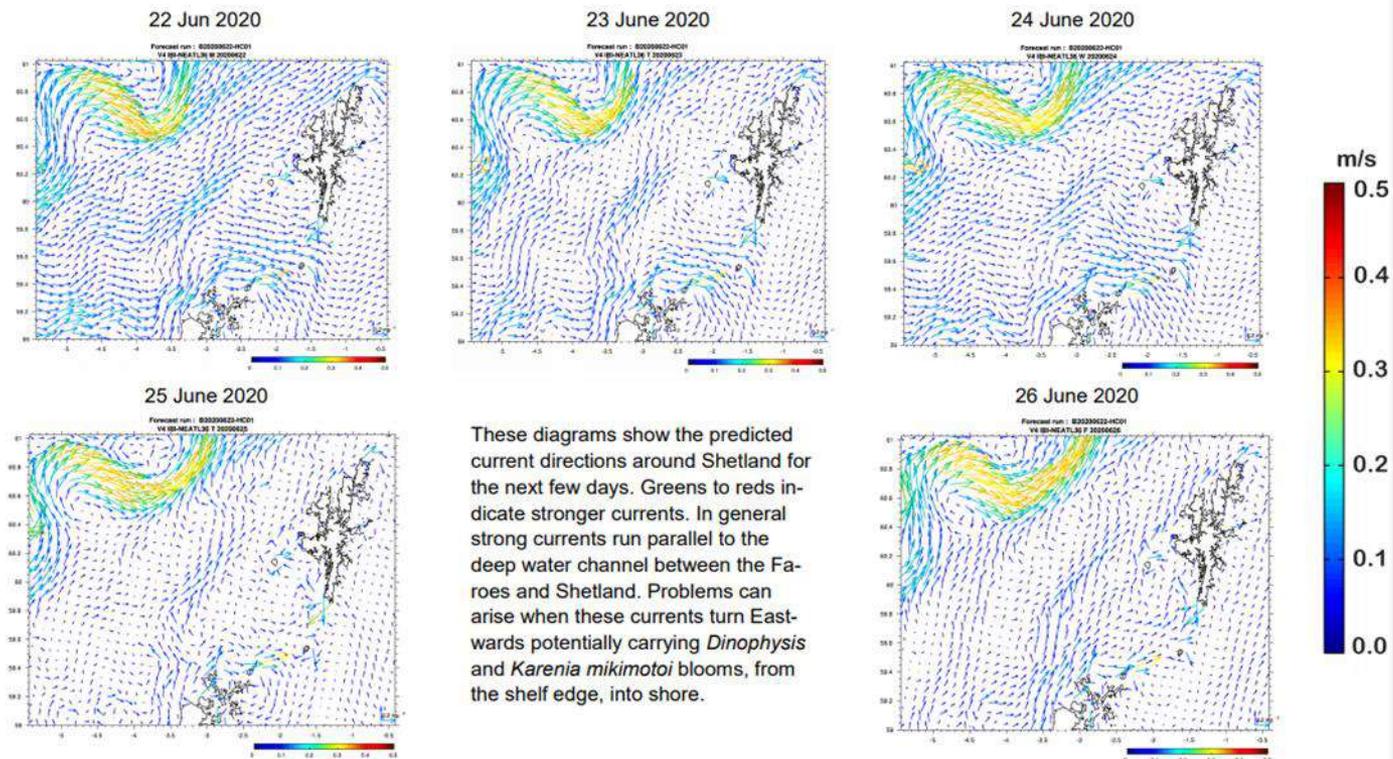
Biotoxin & Species	Green	Red	Amber	Yellow
PSP	<RL	RL - 200 µg/kg	400 - 800 µg/kg	>800 µg/kg
OA/STX/PTX	<RL	1 - 75 µg/kg	80 - 160 µg/kg	>160 µg/kg
ASP	<LOQ	LOQ - 9.9 mg/kg	10 - 20 mg/kg	>20 mg/kg
YTX	<RL	1 - 1.7 mg/kg	1.8 - 3.75 mg/kg	>3.75 mg/kg
AZA	<RL	1 - 75 µg/kg	80 - 160 µg/kg	>160 µg/kg
Alexandrium	<20 cells/l	n/a	20 cells/l	≥ 40 cells/l
Dinophysis	<20 cells/l	20 - 79 cells/l	80 - 99 cells/l	≥100 cells/l
Pseudo nitzschia	<20 cells/l	20 - 39,999 cells/l	40,000 - 49,999 cells/l	≥50,000 cells/l
Prorocentrum lima	<20 cells/l	20 - 79 cells/l	80 - 99 cells/l	≥100 cells/l

**NOTE:**  
This page is intended as a quick overview of the situation in the Shetland Islands. If the status for a particular species or biotoxin is amber or red please check the relevant pages in the bulletin for more details and specific locations.

RL - reporting limit;  
LOQ - Limit of quantification

# Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 25, 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Jun 2020

## Forecasted Sea Surface currents for the next few days



These diagrams show the predicted current directions around Shetland for the next few days. Greens to reds indicate stronger currents. In general strong currents run parallel to the deep water channel between the Faroes and Shetland. Problems can arise when these currents turn Eastwards potentially carrying *Dinophysis* and *Karenia mikimotoi* blooms, from the shelf edge, into shore.

Forecasted sea surface currents for 3 - 4 days

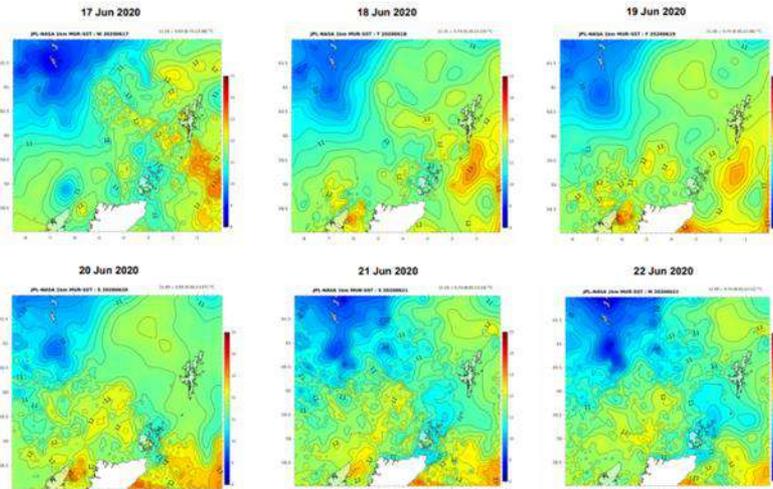
Forecast provided by the model-NEATL-PHY-1/36<sup>o</sup>-AF-D-PGS (IBI36QV4R1-PGS) courtesy of Mercator.



# Sea surface temperatures

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 25, 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Jun 2020

Sea Surface temperature (°C) in preceding 6 days in the Shetland Islands



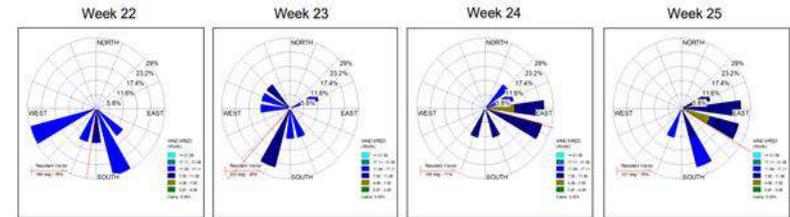
Maps provided courtesy of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA



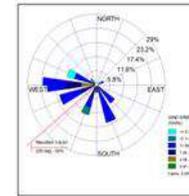
# Wind direction and speed

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 25, 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Jun 2020

Mean wind direction observed in Shetland for current and three preceding weeks



May



Mean wind direction and speed observed in Shetland over the past four weeks. Higher wind speeds are shown in lighter shades. The percentage of time the wind blew from any particular direction is shown by the length of the triangle. The resultant vector, represented by the red or blue line, shows the average wind direction for the week. It is based on wind direction only and includes periods of calm which are not indicated on the diagram. The data used is a combination of wind direction and speed taken from the weather stations at Sumburgh and Scatsa.

For information the mean wind direction for the month of May is also shown.

### Predictions:

The risk of wind blown *Dinophysis* blooms in Shetland is **moderate** this week.

### Why do we think this?

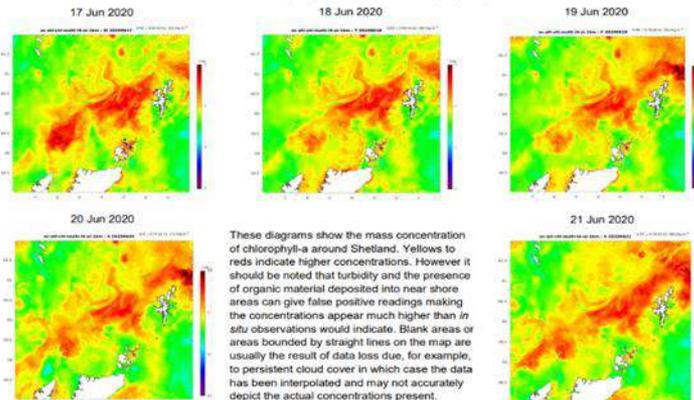
During the summer *Dinophysis* can bloom out at sea and at shelf fronts found off the West of Shetland. Westerly winds can then blow these blooms into shore. Westerly winds may also retain *Dinophysis* cells in Westerly facing voes and inlets where their numbers may increase. Wind for the past week has been predominantly from the South East. It is very unlikely that there will be a **wind blown** bloom of *Dinophysis* this week. However *Dinophysis* numbers are on the increase and these winds can hold them in the eastern Voes allowing them to grow *in situ*.

### Status:

Over the past week the average wind direction has been from the South East

Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 25, 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Jun 2020

Chlorophyll concentrations (mg/m<sup>3</sup>)



These diagrams show the mass concentration of chlorophyll-a around Shetland. Yellows to reds indicate higher concentrations. However it should be noted that turbidity and the presence of organic material deposited into near shore areas can give false positive readings making the concentrations appear much higher than *in situ* observations would indicate. Blank areas or areas bounded by straight lines on the map are usually the result of data loss due, for example, to persistent cloud cover in which case the data has been interpolated and may not accurately depict the actual concentrations present.

Images provided by the Ocean Colour at-CH-L-L4 NRT-Observations-009-037dataset, courtesy of Copernicus



# Chlorophyll concentrations

# Summary Page: Toxins, Phytoplankton Trends, Risk assessment

## Shetland Bulletin on the status of harmful & toxic algae Week 24, 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Jun 2020

### Biotoxin report:

**PSP toxins:** Ten sites were tested this week. Toxins were not detected.

**DSP toxins:** Fourteen sites were tested this week. Toxins were detected in low concentrations in Braewick Voe and Scarvar Ayre.

**ASP toxins:** Three sites were tested this week. No toxins were detected.

**YTX toxins:** Fourteen sites were tested this week. Toxins were detected in low concentrations in Inner Site 1—Thomason.

**AZA toxins:** Fourteen sites were tested this week. No toxins were detected.

### Harmful algae report:

**Alexandrium:** Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Alexandrium* was detected at/above trigger in Stream Sound, Scarvar Ayre, Sandsound Voe, East of Linga and Braewick Voe and at warning level in Seggi Bight.

**Dinophysis:** Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Dinophysis* was detected at above trigger level in Scarvar Ayre. It was found in low numbers in Stream Sound, Braewick Voe and Sandsound Voe.

**Pseudo-nitzschia:** Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Pseudo-nitzschia* was found above trigger level in Seggi Bight and Slyde. It was found in low numbers in all other sites.

**Prorocentrum lima:** Twelve samples were analysed this week. *P. lima* was detected above trigger level in Inner Site 1—Thomason and in low numbers in Parkgate.

**Karenia mikimotoi;** Twelve samples were analysed this week. *Karenia* was detected in low numbers in East of Linga.

### Shetland: trends and forecast

**Alexandrium/PSP:** *Alexandrium* is at/above trigger levels in many sites and while toxins have not been detected, care should be taken in those sites.

**Dinophysis/DSP:** We are coming into the season for *Dinophysis* and they are beginning to appear in our samples. Low levels of toxins are also being detected and we would advise caution.

**Pseudo-nitzschia/ASP:** While *Pseudo-nitzschia* numbers are high in two sites, it is unlikely that there will be a toxic bloom of *Pseudo-nitzschia* this week.

**AZA and YTX:** It is highly unlikely that these toxins will exceed threshold levels this week. However, large numbers of *Protoceratium reticulatum* have resulted in low concentrations of Yessotoxins in one site.

Risk for PSP: Moderate

Risk for DSP: Moderate

Risk for YTX: Low

Risk for ASP: Low

Risk for AZA: Low

While this bulletin is based on our expert opinion, SAMS cannot accept responsibility for harvesting or husbandry decisions. Those remain the responsibility of the industry.



Toxin concentrations provided courtesy of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science



European Union  
European Structural  
and Investment Funds



The Scottish  
Government  
Riaghaidh na h-Alba



Funding for these bulletins is kindly provided by EMFF

#### Warning/Threshold Levels

<i>Alexandrium</i> (PSP causative)	Warning 20 cells/l Threshold 40 cells/l
<i>Pseudo nitzschia</i> (ASP causative)	Warning: 40,000 cells/l Threshold: 50,000 cells/l
<i>Dinophysis</i> (DSP causative)	Warning : 80 cells/l Threshold:100 cells/l
<i>Prorocentrum lima</i> (DSP causative)	Warning: 80 cells/l Threshold: 100 cells/l

The maximum permitted levels of biotoxins in shellfish are:

**PSP:** 800 µg/kg

**ASP:** 20 mg/kg

**Lipophilic toxins** (tested by LC-MS):

**OA/DTXs/PTXs:** 160 µg/kg of Okadaic acid equivalents

**YTXs:** 3.75 milligram of yessotoxin equivalent/kilogram

**AZAs:** 160 micrograms of azaspiracids equivalents/kilogram

Primary data for biotoxins and biotoxin producing phytoplankton available at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/shellfish/algaltoxin/#.UY0TkqTQ60>

Available online at: [www.HABreports.org](http://www.HABreports.org)

**HAB Reports**  
Harmful Algal Bloom, Biotoxin Monitoring and Risk Assessment

Home Gallery Login

Reports  (show all) Shetland Bulletin 2020 week 24.pdf

Forecasts  (show all) <Select Forecast to view>

Sites within current map extent:  
AB 029 008 04: Kildalloig Bay (Campbeltown Loch) [zoom to site]

**AB 029 008 04**  
FSS TOXIN ALERT STATUS  
**Red**  
Week 24/2020 [Mon Jun 08 - Jun 14]  
ACTION REQUIRED

Dinophysis Sp  
 Alexandrium Sp  
NOT Latest week. Click button for Latest [Latest]

8 Week history from current on map  
(Click on parameter name for a long term chart history)

Parameter	year/wk ->	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	FSS Status
Karenia mikimotoi	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		N/A
Pseudo-nitzschia Sp.										Green
Alexandrium Sp.										Amber
Dinophysis Sp.										Red
Prorocentrum lima										N/A

2020 Wk 24 (Jun 08-Jun 14)

FSA Alert Status 0

- All Samples OK
- Some Samples at Amber
- Some Samples at Red

United Kingdom

London Derry Newcastle upon Tyne

SAMS Food Standards Scotland European Union The Scottish Government Cefas BBSRC NERC

Toxin concentrations provided courtesy of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science.

Select Reports

Select Models

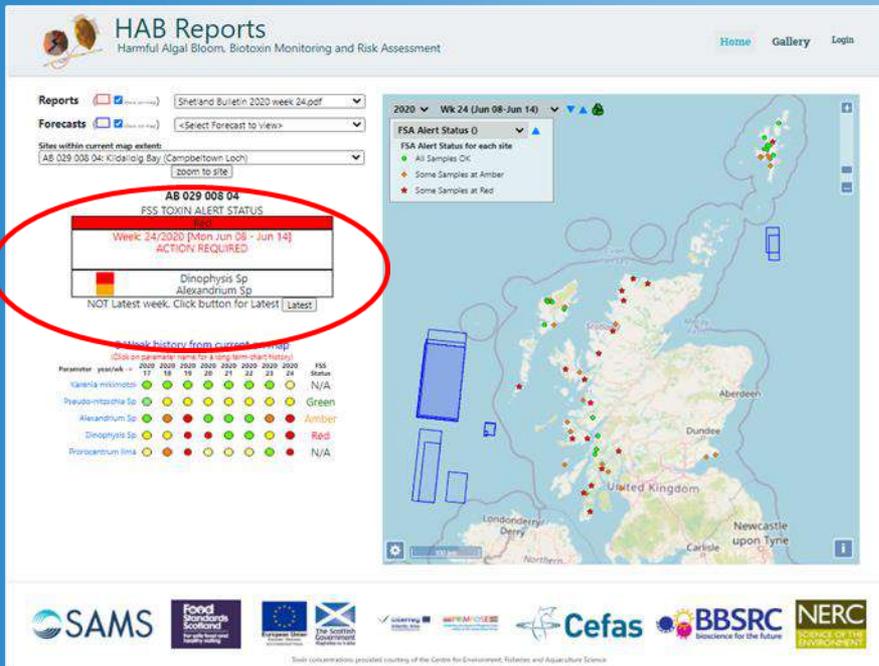
Alert level For site

Select phytoplankton or toxin For plot of historic events

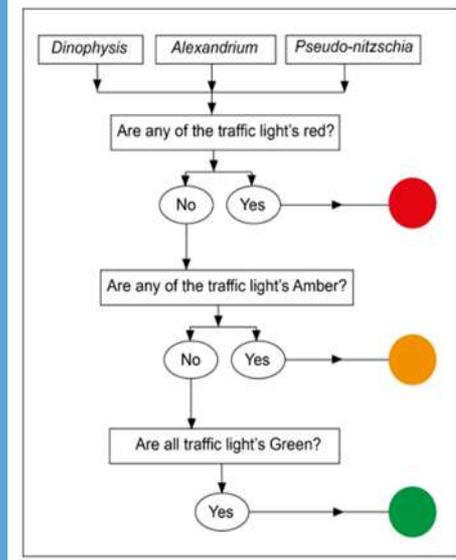
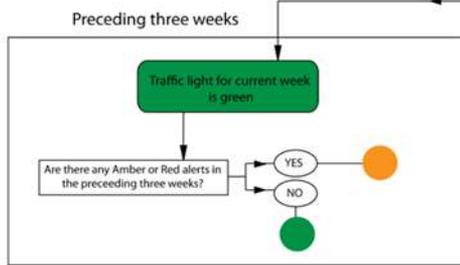
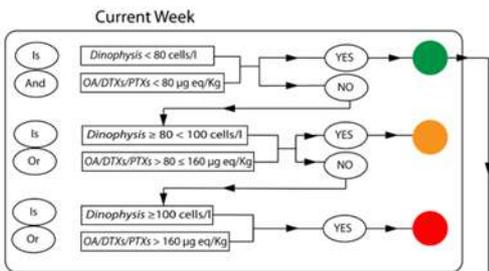
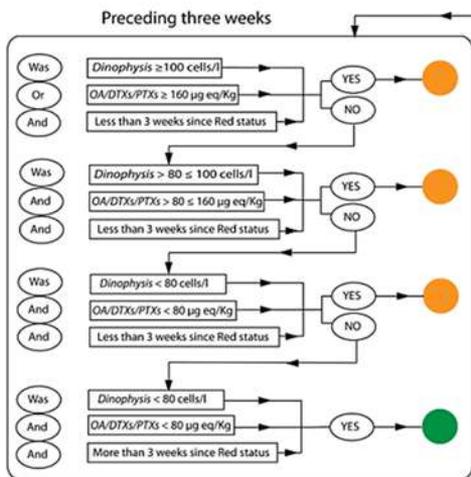
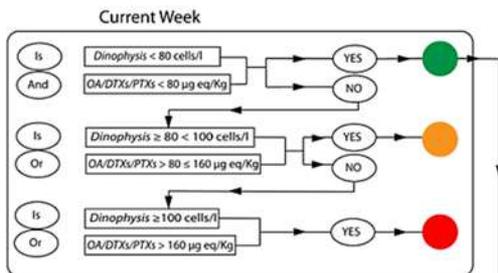
Interactive map with several layers selected from drop down menus

Available Model boundaries

# Traffic Light Alert System



Operational Instrument - Determining the traffic light status for a site.





## HAB Reports

Harmful Algal Bloom, Biotoxin Monitoring and Risk Assessment

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[Gallery](#)
[IFCB Data](#)
[About](#)
[Login](#)

**Reports**  [show on map](#) <Select to download>

**Forecasts**  [show on map](#) <Select Forecast to view>

Sources:  FSS-Toxin  FSS-Phyto

Sites within current map extent: [\*\*\* indicates not on map for selected week/parameter]

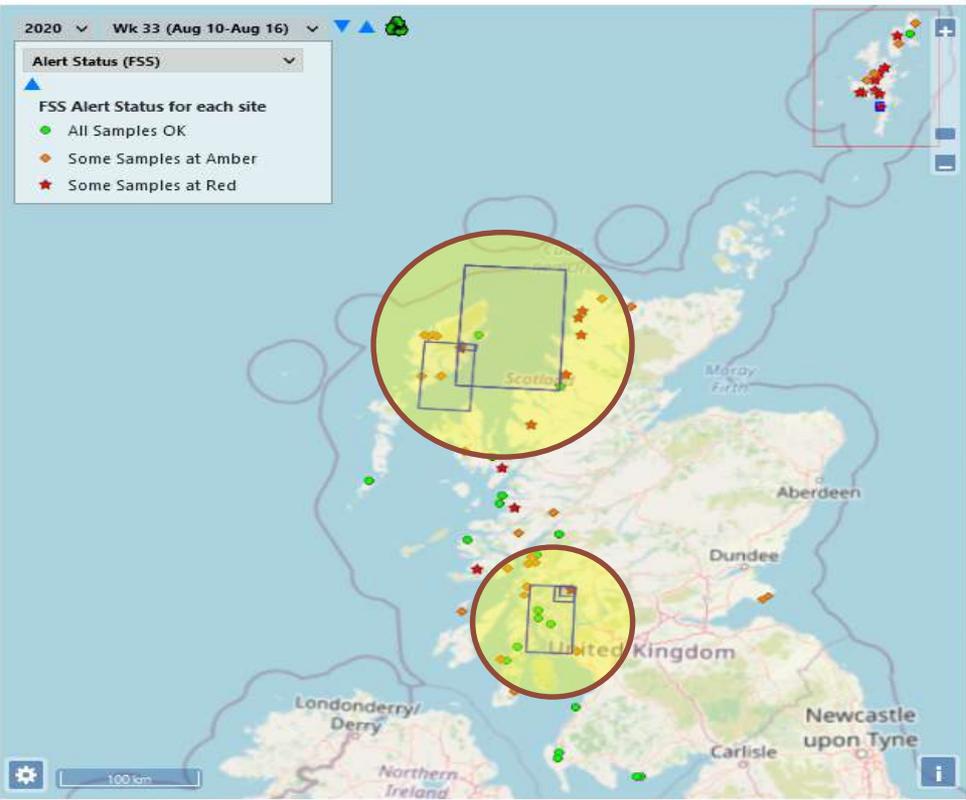
SL 137 281 08: Drumfearn (Loch Eishort)

[zoom to site](#) [locate site](#)

2020
Wk 33 (Aug 10-Aug 16)

**Alert Status (FSS)**

- All Samples OK
- Some Samples at Amber
- ★ Some Samples at Red



**SL 137 281 08**

FSS TOXIN ALERT STATUS

Red

Week: 33/2020 [Mon Aug 10 - Aug 16]

**ACTION REQUIRED**

 OA/DTXs/PTXs/Dinophysis Sp

NOT Latest week. Click button for Latest [Latest](#)

8 Week history from current on map

(Click on parameter name for a long term chart history)

Parameter	2020 26	2020 27	2020 28	2020 29	2020 30	2020 31	2020 32	2020 33	FSS Status
<a href="#">Karenia mikimotoi</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	N/A
<a href="#">Pseudo-nitzschia Sp</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Green
<a href="#">ASP</a>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(Green)
<a href="#">Alexandrium Sp</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Green
<a href="#">PSP</a>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(Green)
<a href="#">Dinophysis Sp</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Amber
<a href="#">OA/DTXs/PTXs</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Red
<a href="#">AZAs</a>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green
<a href="#">YTXs</a>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green
<a href="#">Prorocentrum lima</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	N/A







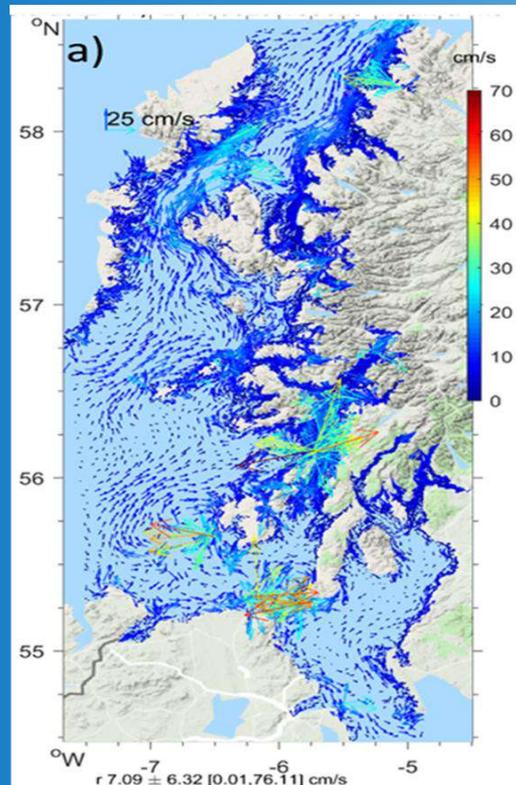


Toxin concentrations provided courtesy of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

Full list of funders/Contributors for this website

The model “WESTCOMS” developed at SAMS is a finite volume community ocean model (FVCOM) unstructured grid, hydrostatic model.

Modelled parameters include surface elevation, temperature, salinity, velocity and turbulence intensity.



Aleynik et al. (2016)  
Harmful Algae 53:102-117





# HAB Reports

Harmful Algal Bloom, Biotoxin Monitoring and Risk Assessment

[Home](#)

[Gallery](#)

[Login](#)

Reports (show on map) Select to download

Forecasts (show on map) Karenia PML-03 [2/19/2021-2/24/2021]

Sites within current map extent:  
AB 112 017 13: Inner Deep Site (Loch A Chumhainn: Inner Deep Site)

**Karenia PML-03 03k**

**Fri Feb 19th 2021 12am to Wed Feb 24th 2021 12am**

**Total steps: 31 @ 4.0 hr(s) each**

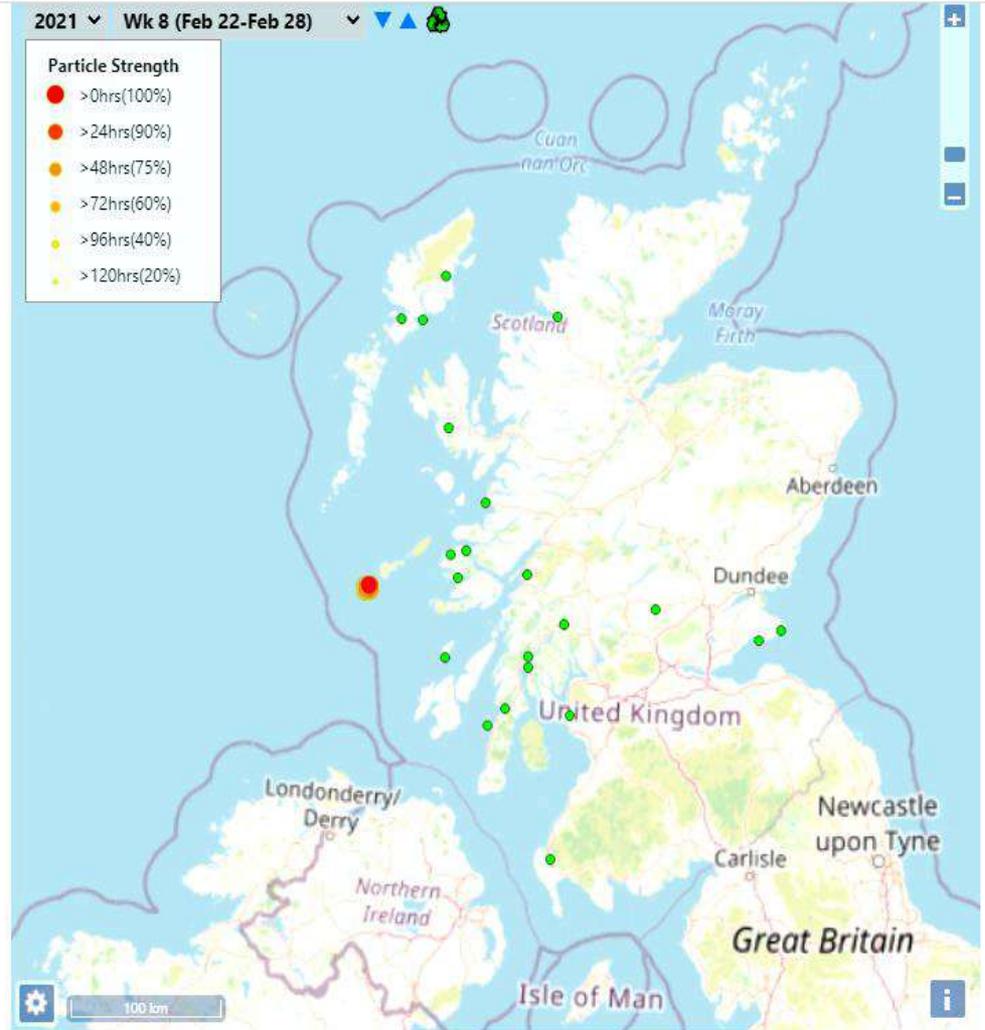
Run Forecast Animation Speed: Fast

Fri Feb 19th 2021 12am [0 hrs]

Zoom to Model

Test mode only:  
Show model trail (will slow down animation)   
Do NOT ignore points after hitting land   
Display ALL points (if on land or not)

Close



Colours change and size of points diminish with time

# Work under way - Mobile Phone App



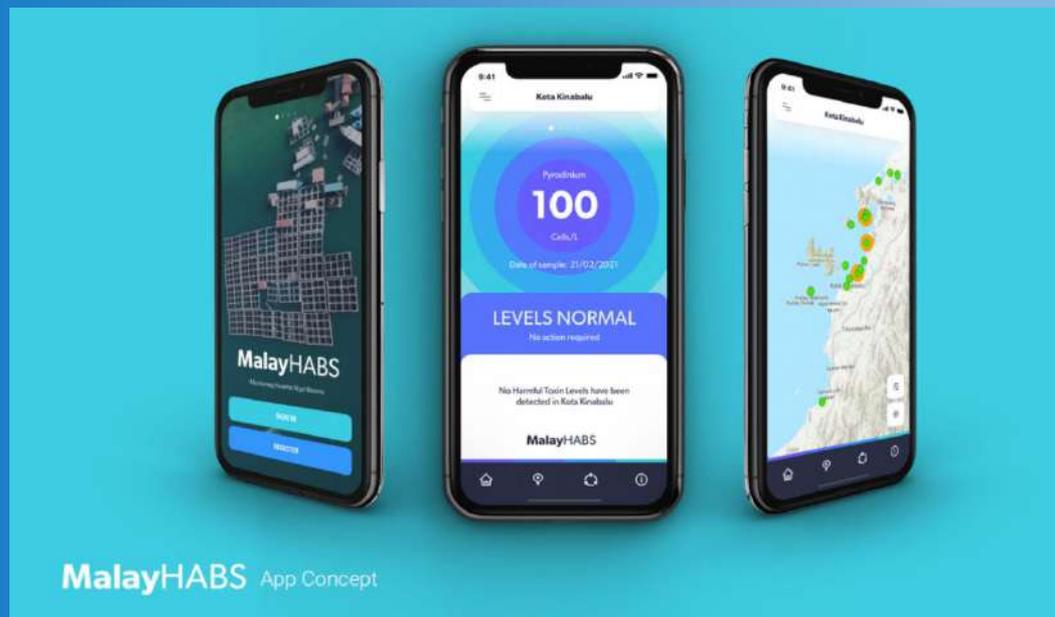
Pyrodinium  
**2,100**  
Cells/L  
Date of sample: 02/02/2021

**TOXIN ALERT**  
Action required

**All trading of seafood must cease immediately.**

Contact the Department of Fisheries for further information

**MalayHABS**



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[About](#)
[Login](#)

**Reports**   show on map

**Forecasts**   show on map

**Sources:**  FSS-Toxin  FSS-Phyto

**Sites within current map extent:** [\*\*\*\* indicates not on map for selected week/parameter]

**SL 137 281 08**

FSS TOXIN ALERT STATUS

Red

Week: 33/2020 [Mon Aug 10 - Aug 16]

ACTION REQUIRED

---

OA/DTXs/PTXs/Dinophysis Sp

NOT Latest week. Click button for Latest

8 Week history from current on map

(Click on parameter name for a long term chart history)

Parameter	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	FSS Status
Parameter year/wk->	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	
<a href="#">Karenia mikimotoi</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	N/A
<a href="#">Pseudo-nitzschia Sp</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Green
ASP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(Green)
<a href="#">Alexandrium Sp</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Green
PSP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(Green)
<a href="#">Dinophysis Sp</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Amber
<a href="#">OA/DTXs/PTXs</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Red
AZAs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green
YTXs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green
<a href="#">Prorocentrum lima</a>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	N/A

2020 Wk 33 (Aug 10-Aug 16)

Alert Status (FSS)

- ▲ FSS Alert Status for each site
- All Samples OK
- ◆ Some Samples at Amber
- ★ Some Samples at Red



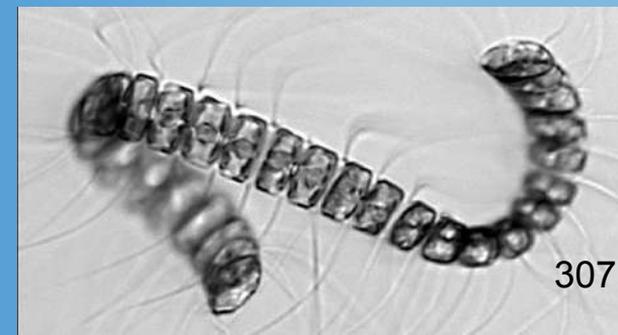
**Shetland Islands Council**

Toxin concentrations provided courtesy of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science  
 Full list of funders/Contributors for this website

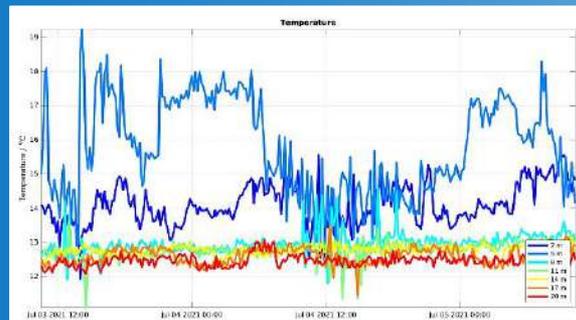
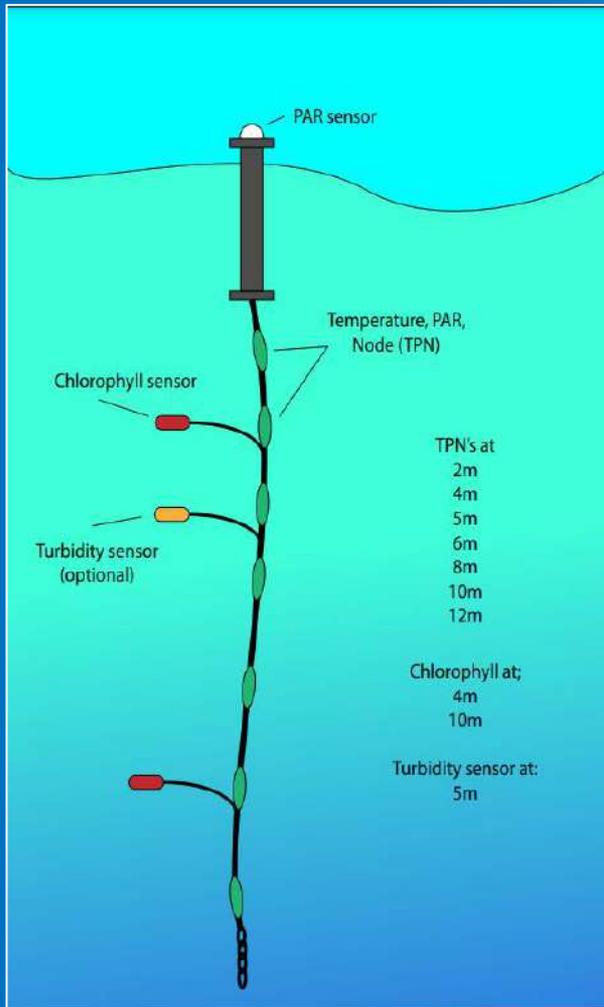
# First Imaging FlowCytoBot (IFCB) in UK



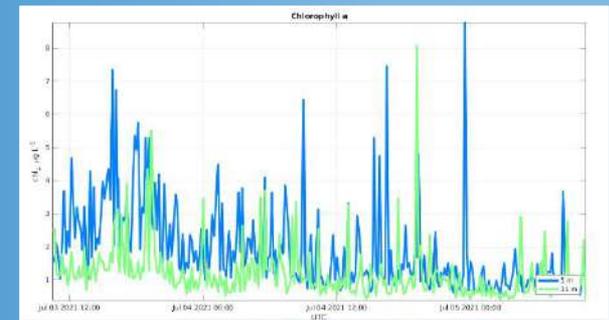
- 2 samples per hours (5ml)
- 10 to 150µm particles
- Scalloway – Shetland
- Land based – along peristaltic pump



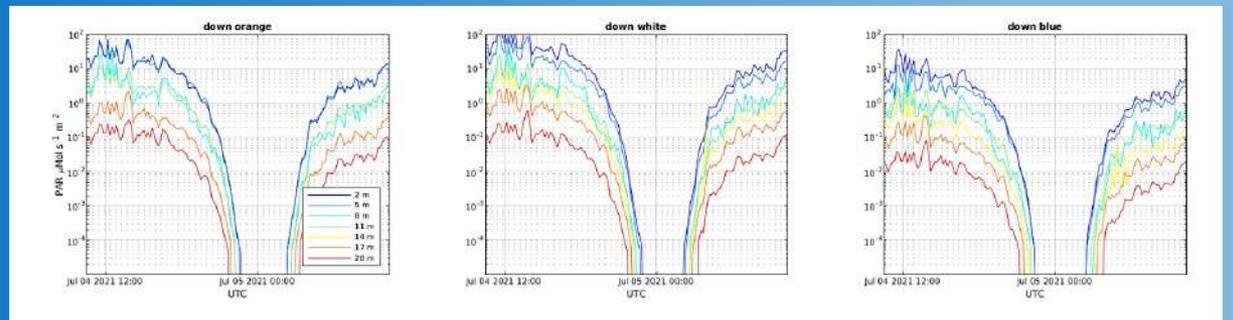
# OptiCAL sensor chains relaying real-time Temperature, Chlorophyll a and PAR at 6 different depths



Temperature



Chlorophyll a



PAR



# HABreports: Online Early Warning of Harmful Algal and Biotoxin Risk for the Scottish Shellfish and Finfish Aquaculture Industries

Keith Davidson<sup>1\*</sup>, Callum Whyte<sup>1</sup>, Dmitry Aleynik<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Dale<sup>1</sup>, Steven Gontarek<sup>1</sup>, Andrey A. Kurekin<sup>2</sup>, Sharon McNeill<sup>1</sup>, Peter I. Miller<sup>2</sup>, Marie Porter<sup>1</sup>, Rachel Saxon<sup>1</sup> and Sarah Swan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Association for Marine Science, Oban, United Kingdom, <sup>2</sup> Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Plymouth, United Kingdom

OPEN ACCESS

We present an on-line early warning system that is operational in Scottish coastal waters to minimize the risk to humans and aquaculture businesses in terms of the human health

Discussion point: cost/benefit to high frequency sampling  
Within early warning systems

# “HABs and Early Warning System in Chile”

Alejandro Clément [aclement@plancton.cl](mailto:aclement@plancton.cl)

Roberta Crescini, Carlos Flores y Marcela Cárdenas, Castro

Carmen Gloria Brito, Coyhaique

Francisca Muñoz, Nicole Correa, Stefi Saez, Carmen Tellez, Barbara Ramirez, Gustavo Contreras, Osvaldo Egenau, Alvaro Jorquera, Pablo Riquelme & Andrea Colifef, Puerto Varas-Chile.

Martin Contreras, Puerto Montt

23-feb-2022

POAS

[www.plancton.cl](http://www.plancton.cl)



British Embassy  
Kuwait



**KISR**

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

UNIVERSITY OF  
**EXETER**



**Cefas**

SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE FUTURES



# Virtual workshop for developing an early warning system for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the Arabian Gulf

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/saf/projects/projects/>

February 2022



**FOCUS:**

1. Global and regional HAB trends
2. Drivers and impacts of HABs on fisheries and aquaculture
3. HAB early warning systems

**Virtual Arabian Gulf HABs workshop, 22 and 23 February 2022.**



## General Objective:

To share the southern Chile experience of our group on HABs monitoring, research and progress in Early Warning System, with focus on fish aquaculture.

---



# Few examples of EWS:

Prediction and Early Warning. [U.S. National Office for Harmful Algal Blooms](#)

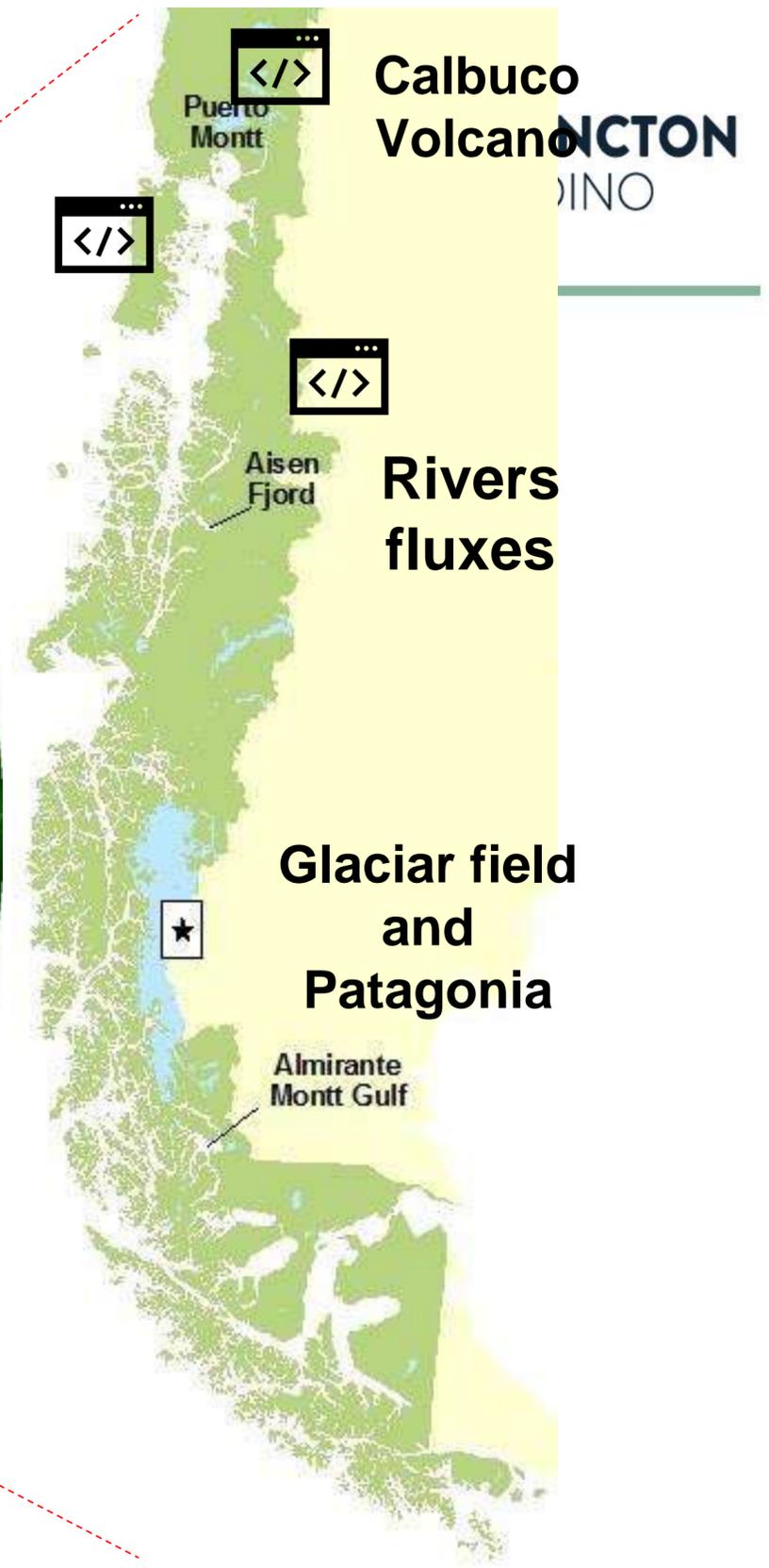
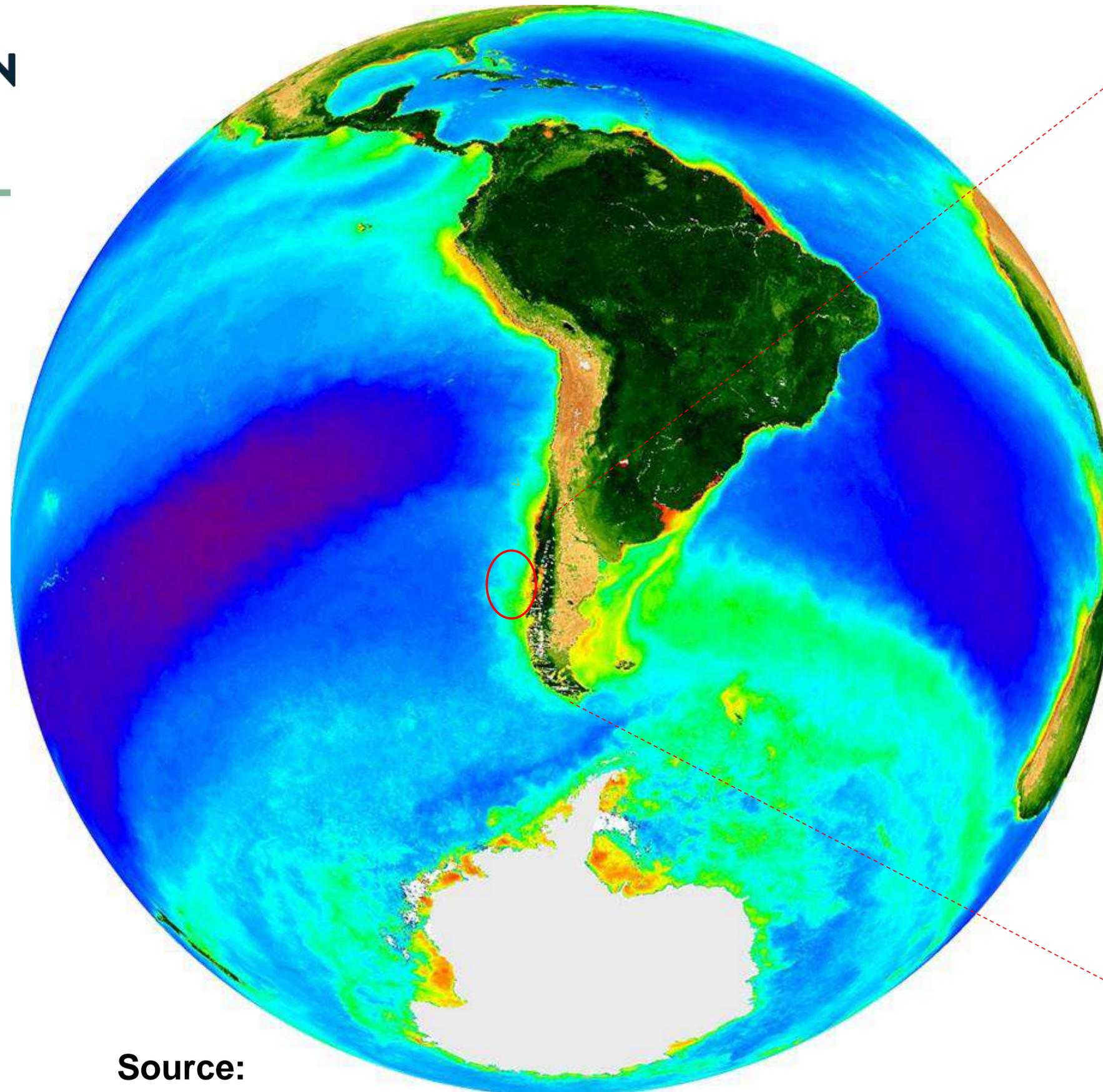
Great Lakes Early Warning system <https://glos.org/priorities/projects/habs/>

Online Early Warning of Harmful Algal and Biotoxin Risk for the Scottish Shellfish and Finfish Aquaculture Industries. Davidson K et al 202. <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fmars.2021.631732>

[Researchers Use Genes as HAB Early Warning System](#)

C.H. McKenzie, et al In prep. High biomass bloom and fish kills and other impacts.

Devred, E., et al 2018. Development of a conceptual warning system for toxic levels of *A. fundyense* in the Bay of Fundy based on remote sensing data. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2018.04.022>



Source:  
NASA/GSFC

# Introduction and Progress of EWS



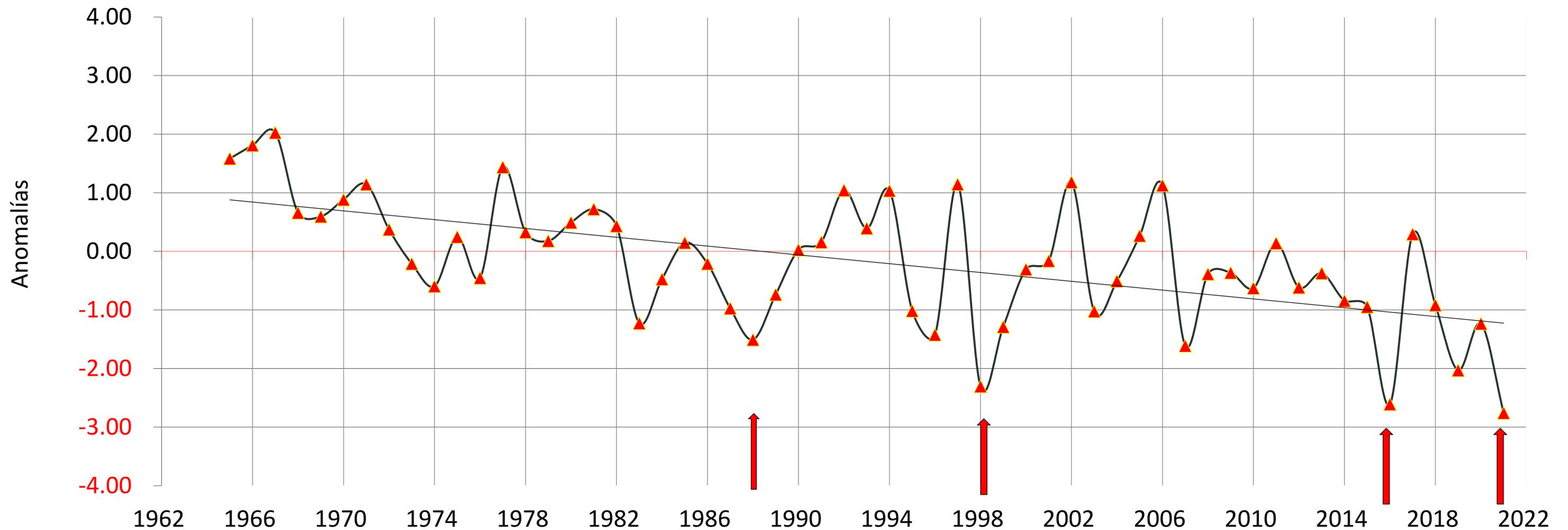
- 1) Intense monitoring on space (x , y & z) and time (t). See POAS, PSMB IFOP, Health service.
- 2) Molecular biology and Ecophysiology of HABs & Bio-optics, Photosynthesis of PSII . FRRf3
- 3) Development of an Algorithm of algal bloom for fish aquaculture, called the HABf INDEX (Clément et al 2020)  
Table of Critical values  
Modelling and forecast the HABf INDEX using data analytic, and Machine Learning see [Link](#)  
[in YouTube](#)
- 4) App on-line and automatic text or email message. See description [in link in Youtube](#)
- 5) Improving server, SQL & Python codes, API, BI capabilities and data analytic
- 6) Developing the Bio-Optical Aqua Sensors (BAS) connect to the app
- 7) Biogeochemical and nutrients on-line indicators. Future work.
- 8) Remote Sensing, Limitation in [Optically-Complex Waters](#) see link ([Clément et al 2019](#))
- 9) Climatic anomalies analysis.
- 10) Final Remark

# Precipitation Anomalies at Puerto Montt. 1965-2022 see extreme cases and HABs occurrence



$y = -0.0376x + 74.706$   
 $R^2 = 0.336$

**Anomalías de Precipitaciones Puerto Montt 1965-2021:**  
**3 FAN extremos 1988, 1998, 2016, 2021 timing**

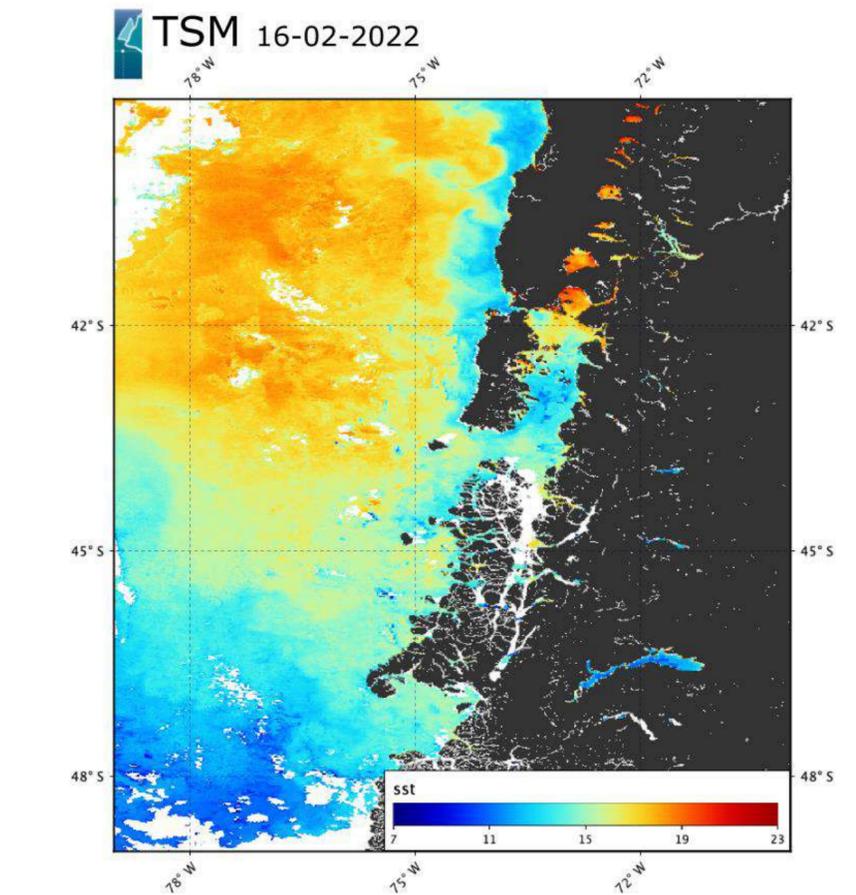
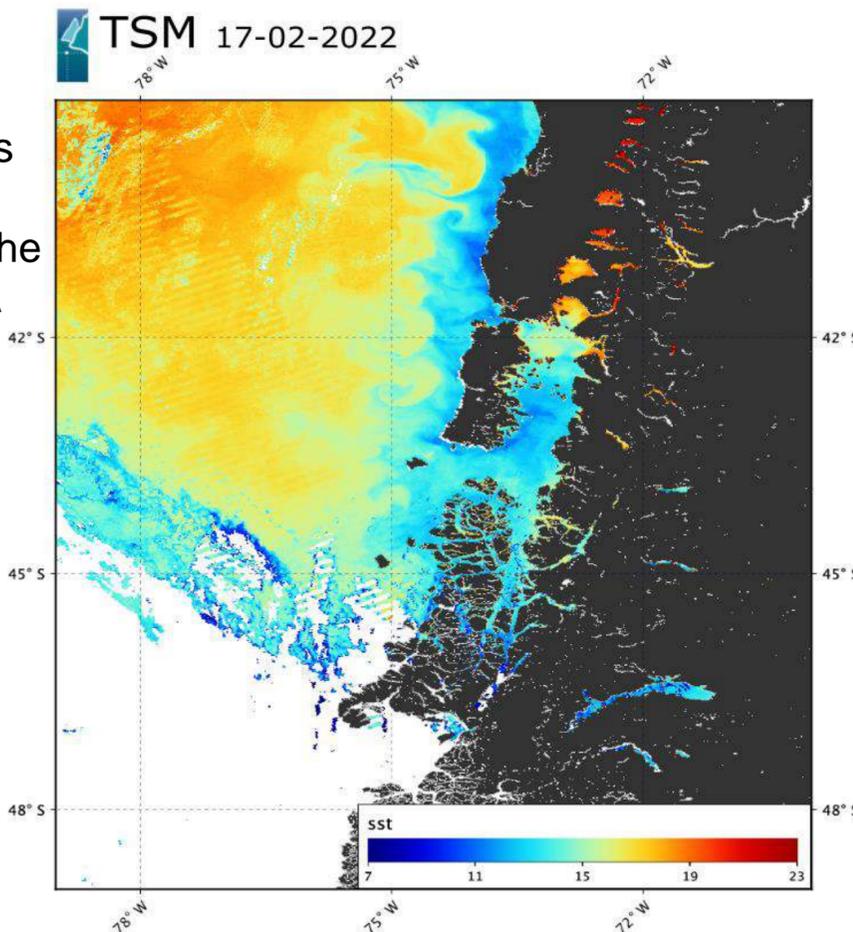
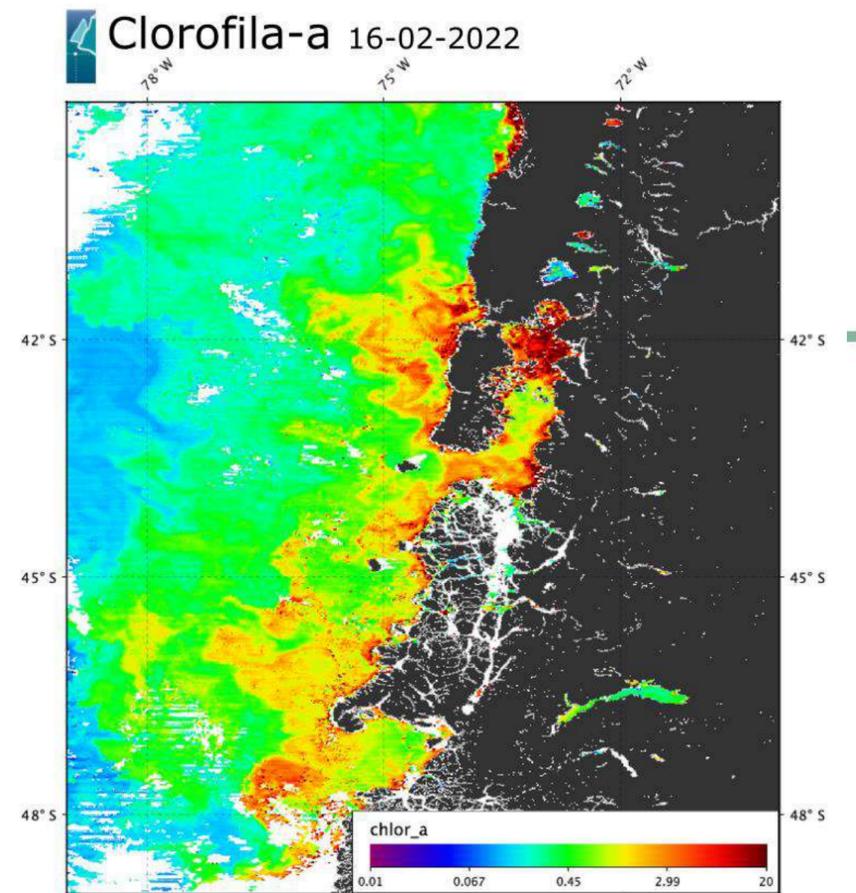
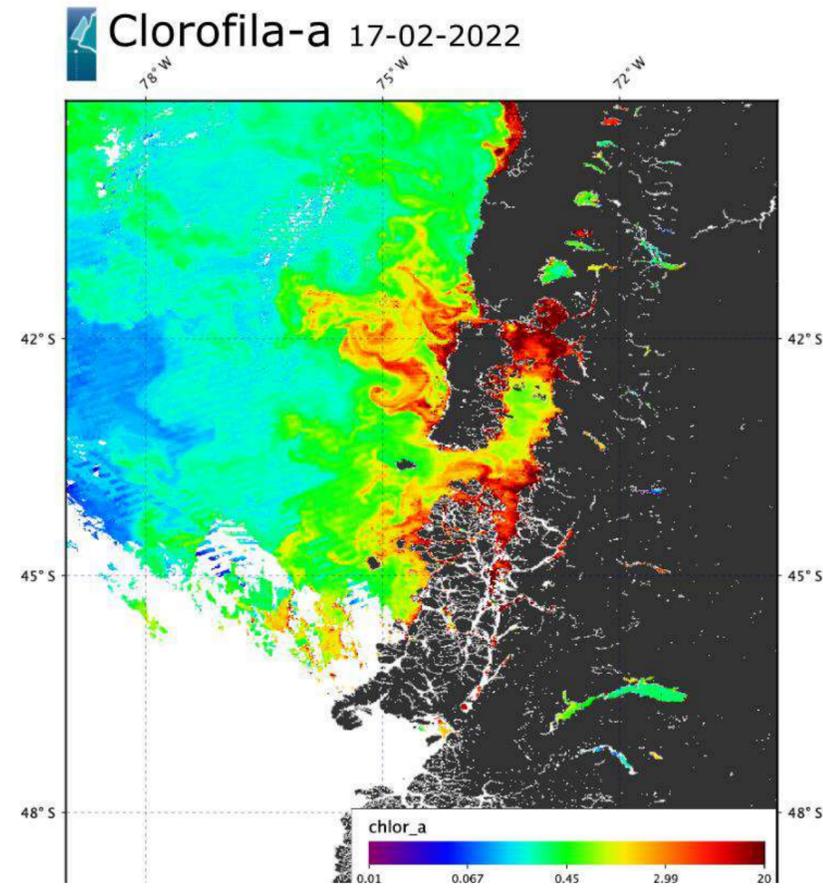


## Remote Sensing and Ocean Color

Satellites images from NASA.

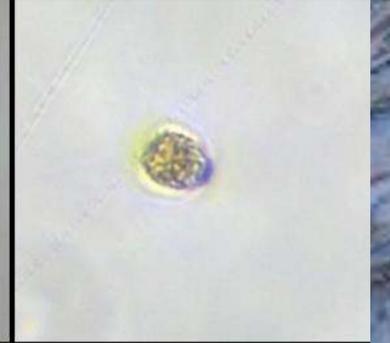
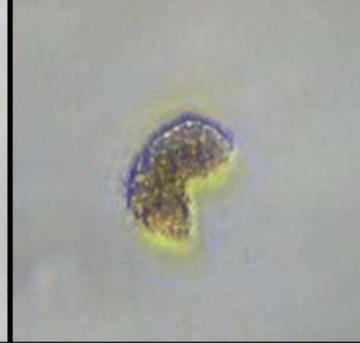
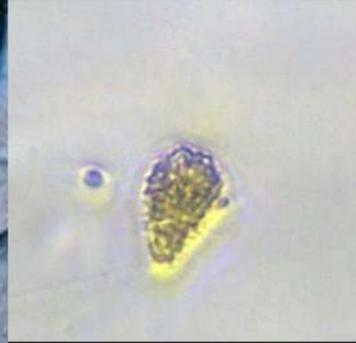
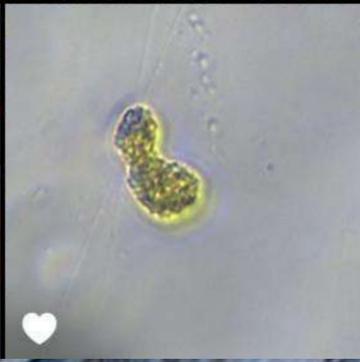
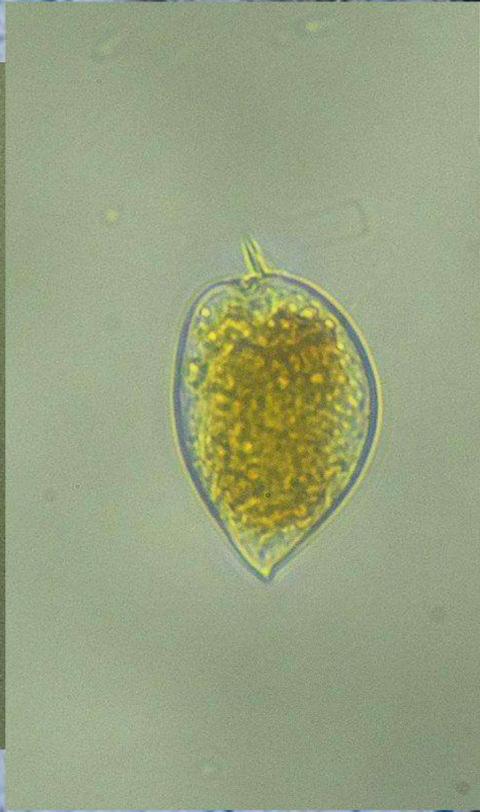
**Chlor a (mg/m<sup>3</sup>):** High biomass in the north and south of the inland sea. Reloncavi Sound, Ancud Gulf & Canal Moraleda.

**Sea Surface Temperature SST °C:** Oceanic colder waters in the eastern boundary coast due to upwelling.



Satellite images obtained with the MODIS and VIIRS sensors (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer & Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite respectively) mounted on the Aqua, Terra, Suomi-NPP & NOAA-20 satellites of the NASA Ocean Color project.

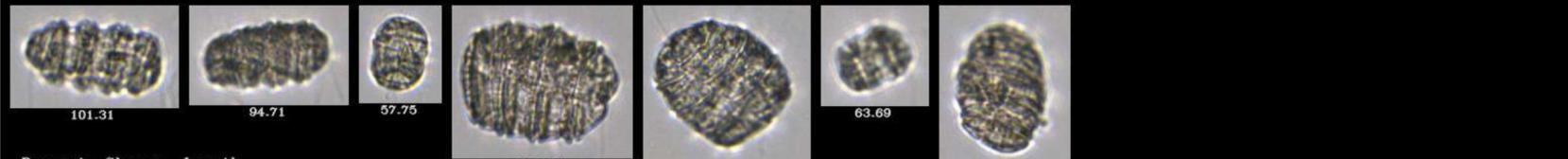
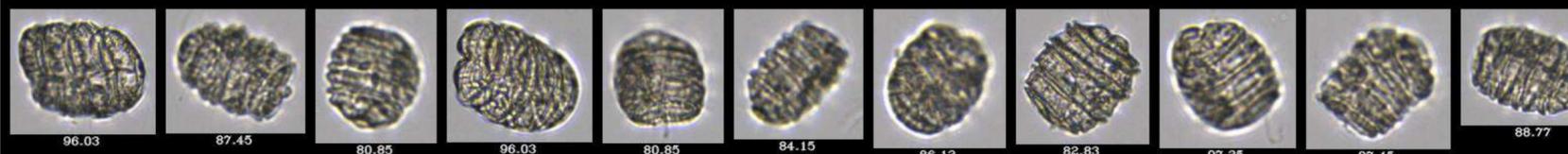
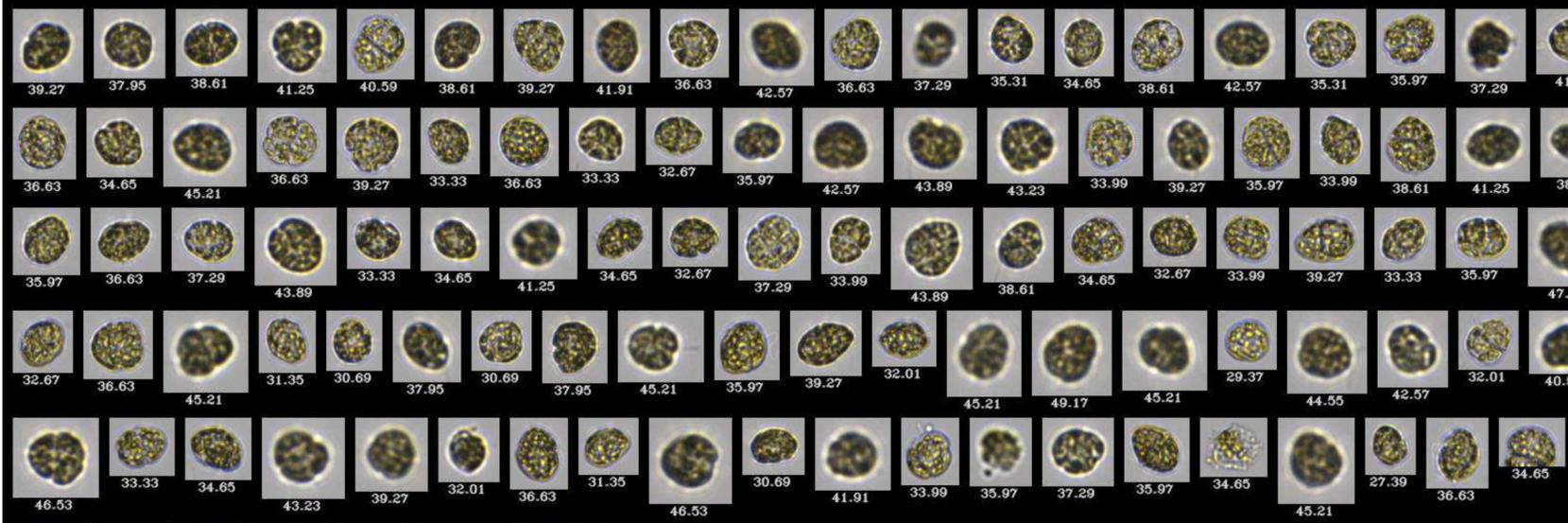
<https://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov/>



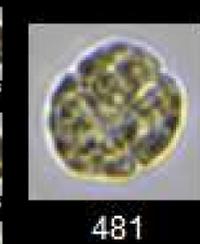
# Characterization and digital libraries of dinoflagellates cells using FlowCam from Chilean fjords



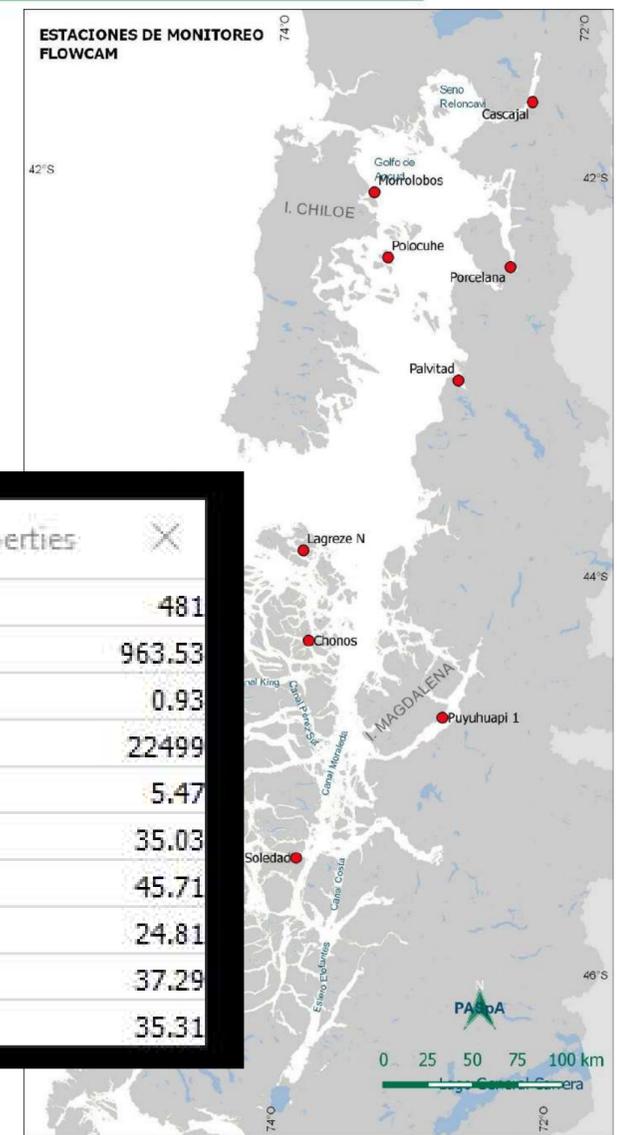
Property Shown: Length



Property Shown: Length

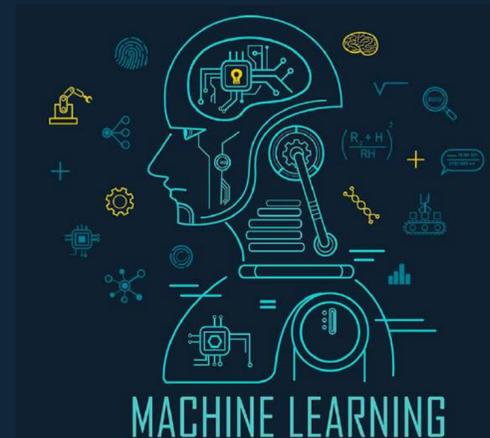


View Particle Properties	
Particle ID	481
Area (ABD)	963.53
Aspect Ratio	0.93
Biovolume (Sphere)	22499
Ch1 Peak	5.47
Diameter (ABD)	35.03
Geodesic Length	45.71
Geodesic Thickness	24.81
Length	37.29
Width	35.31





# HAB<sub>f</sub> INDEX MEETS MACHINE LEARNING AND FORECAST



> 90% of the project consists of analytics and data transformation. Once transformed, it is iterated in Machine Learning algorithms, tested and finally implemented.

```
predict(input_data)
```

```
0.1s
```

```
INFO:Logger:Loading Oceanographic data ...
```

```
|
```

# HAB<sub>f</sub> INDEX Rank for Early Warning



PLANCTON  
ANDINO

## Rango del FAN ÍNDEX y Alerta Temprana V1



PLANCTON  
ANDINO

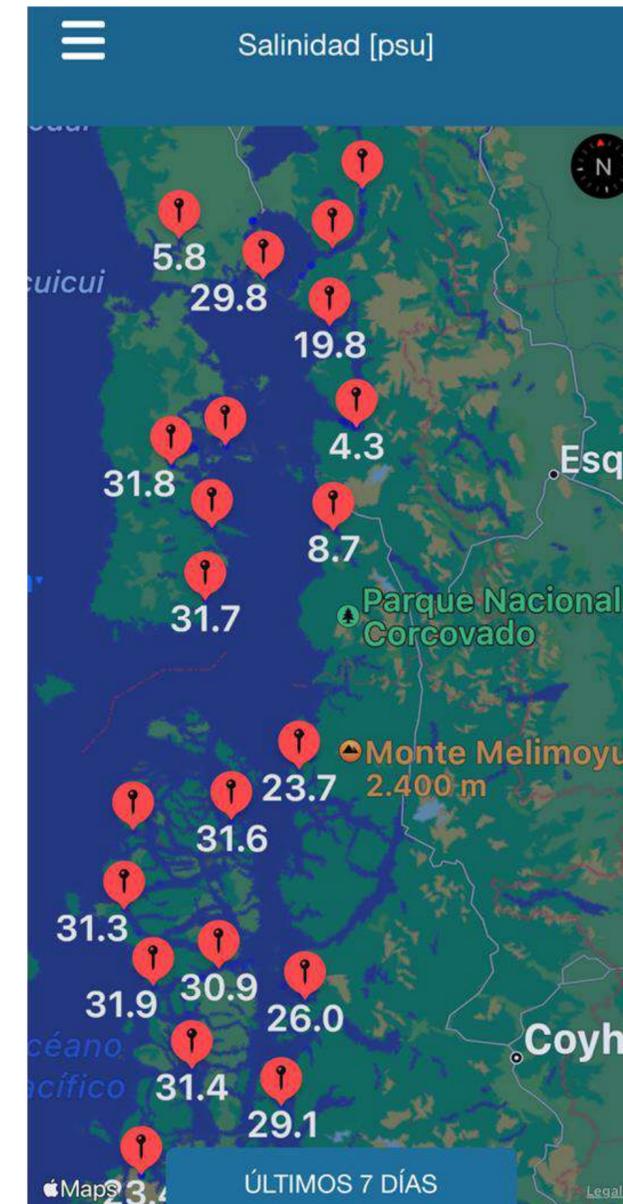
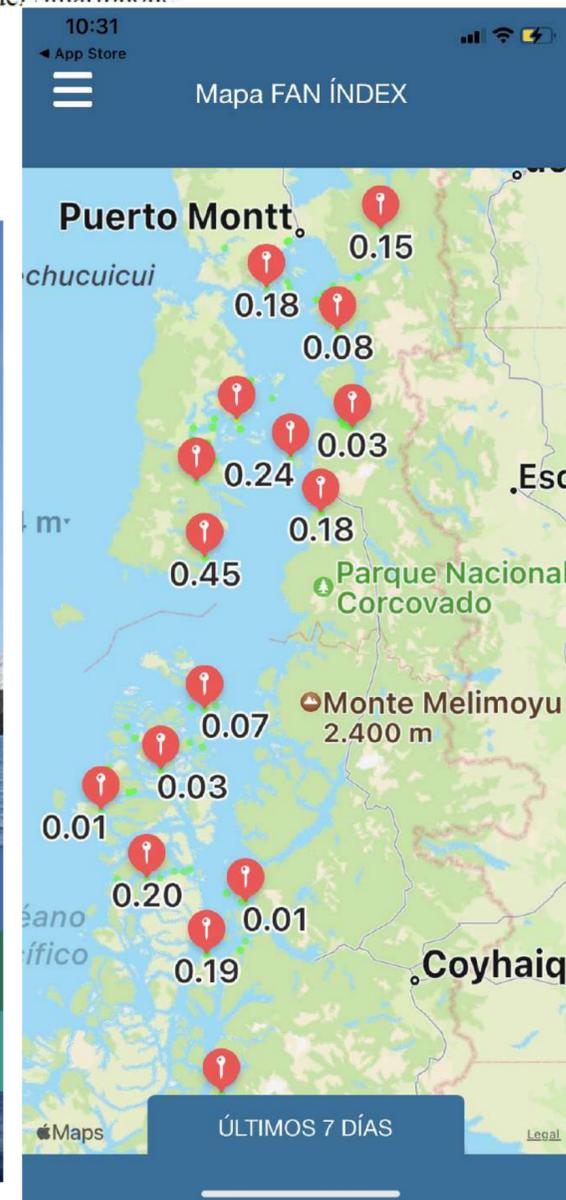
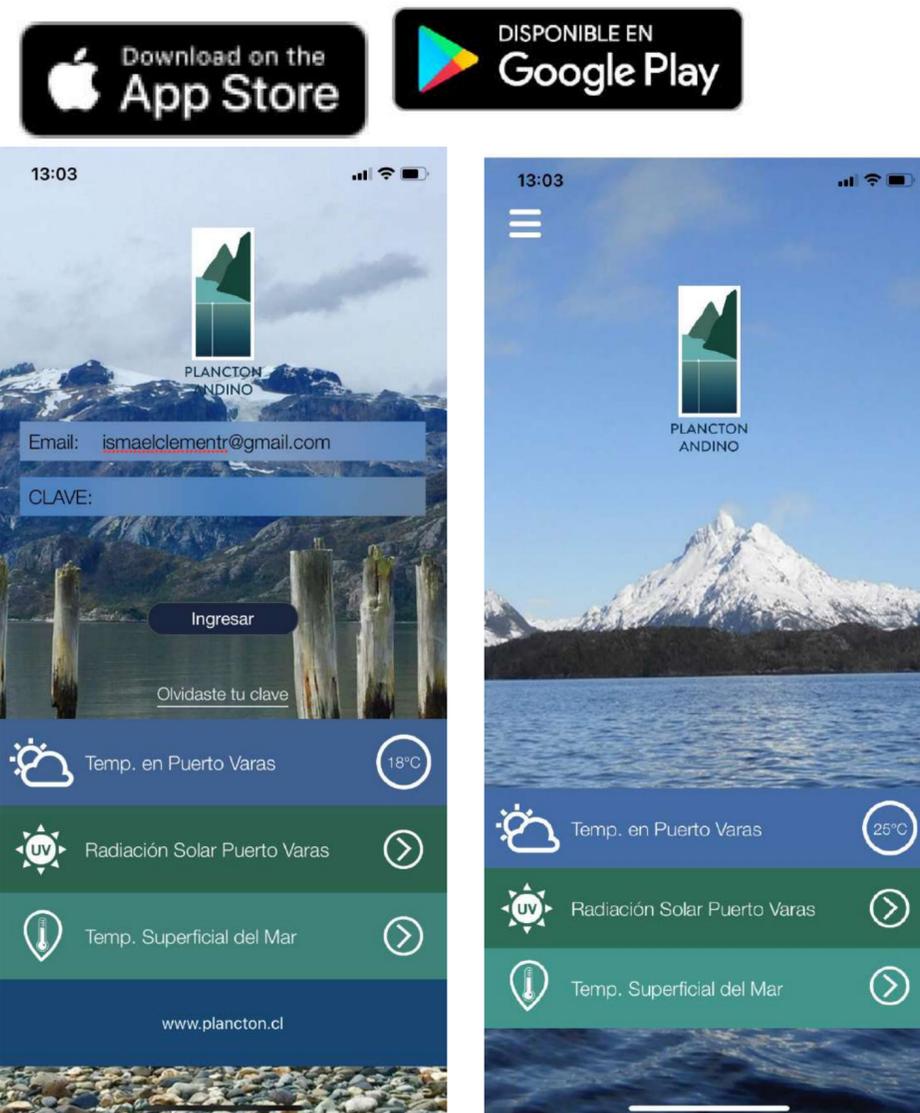
CÓDIGO	COLOR	RANGO	RIESGO
1	VERDE	0,00 - 1,00	<u>NULO</u>
2	AMARILLO	1,01 - 3,00	LEVE
3	NARANJO	3,01 - 25,00	MEDIO ALTO
4	ROJO	> 25,01	ALTO

# App on-line and database system with automatic text or emails as tool for an early warning message



Manual de la APP de Plancton Andino para usuarios PSMB y POAS.  
Puerto Varas, diciembre 9, 2020

1. Ir a AppleStore para iPhone/iOS o Google Play Store, para Android del Smartphone:  
Buscar: **Plancton Andino**



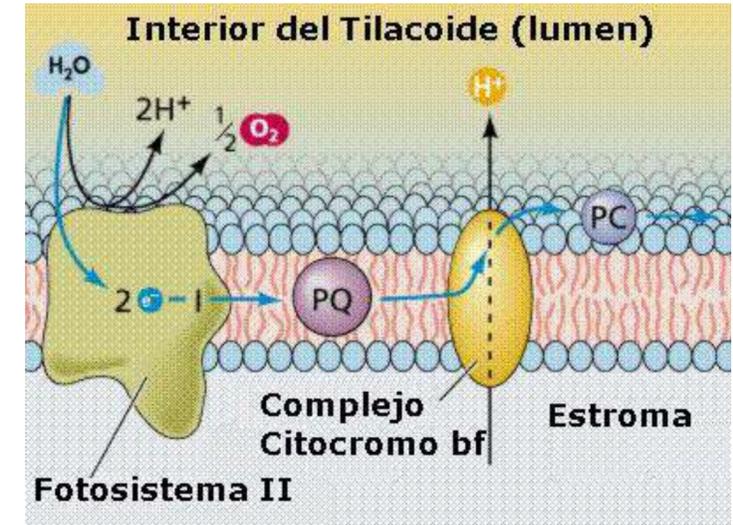
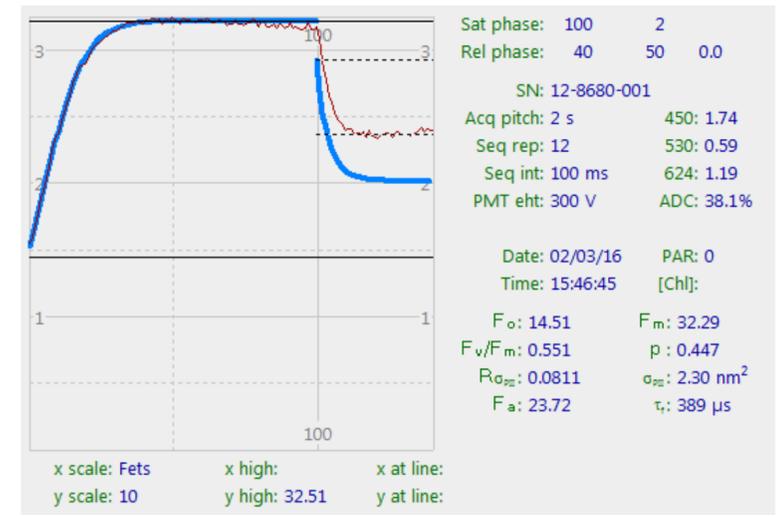
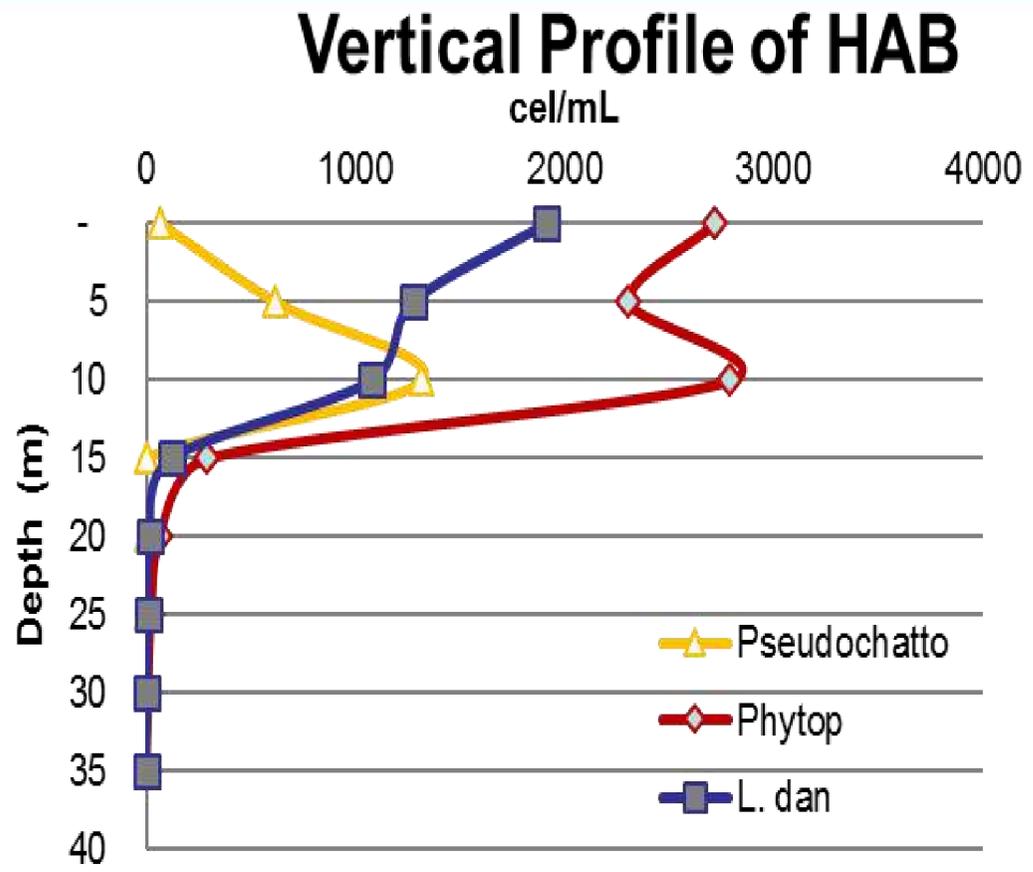
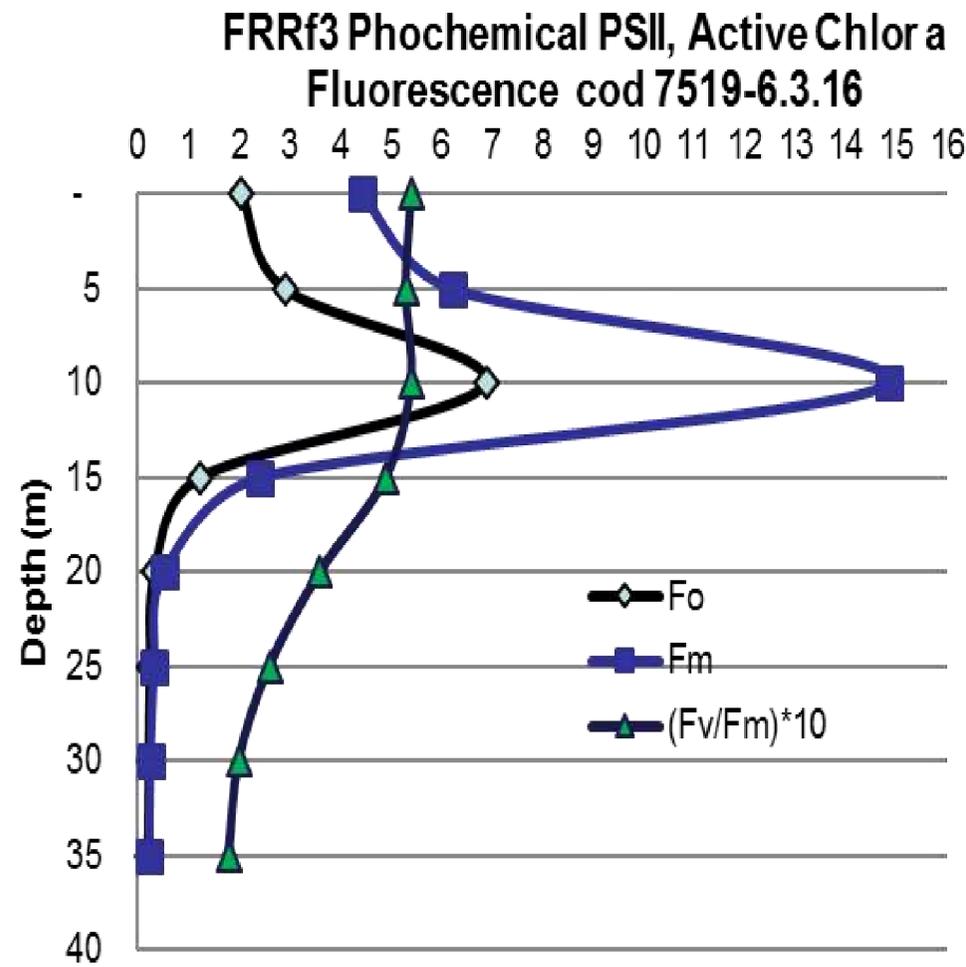
# Ecophysiology of HABs as tool for EWS

1. Thin layer and water column distribution of cells is a key issue in stratified water columns and niches
2. Data collection and interpretation of photosynthetic parameters has been an import tool for following of algae conditions during a bloom
3. Data analytic and modelling biological parameters (in vitro growth rate, photosynthesis, apoptosis, etc.
4. Ecological parameters; competition, niche occupation, among others



# Fast Repetition Rate Fluorometry Induction Curve.

## Photochemical parameters (PSII) during *Pseudochattonella* HAB of 2016

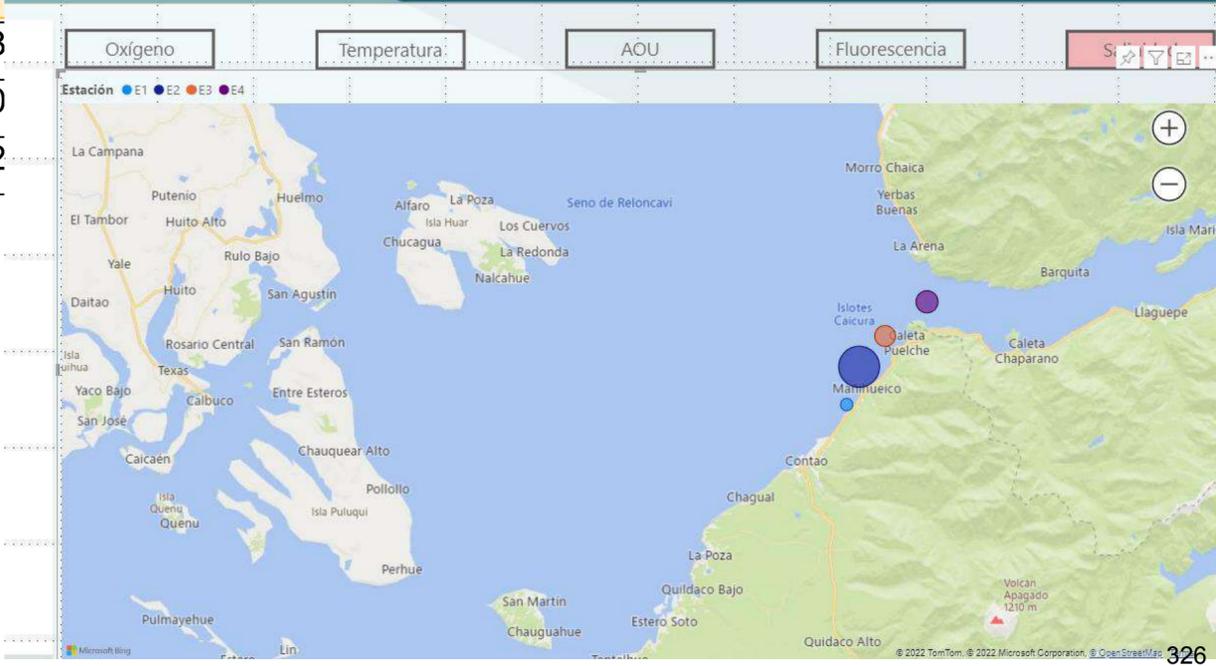
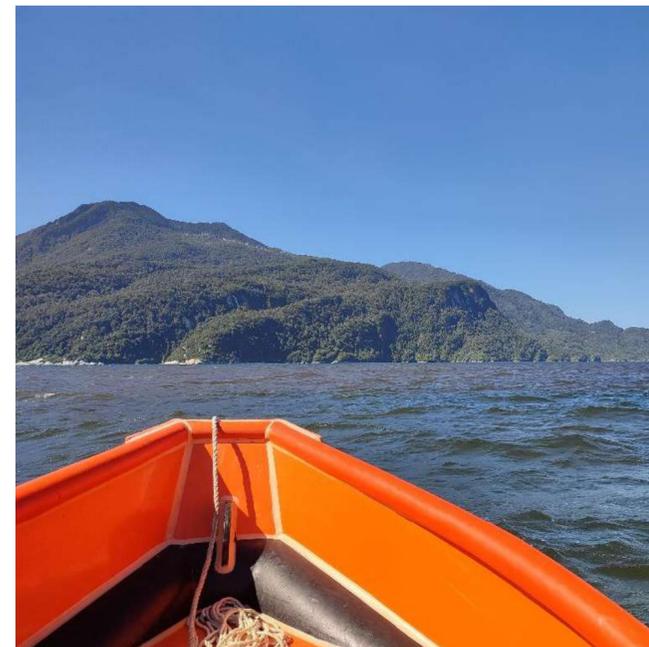


Oceanographic results of a bloom of *Procentrum micans*. We apply Fluorometry (FRRf3) in vitro technology as a tool. Mouth of Reloncavi Fjord on 17.2.22. Fo and Fm are Initial and Maximum Fluorescence,

See profiles in the [link](#)



ESTACION	PROF (m)	Fo	Fm	P.micas/ mL	Ldanicus/ mL	Fito total / mL	%
E1	0	2.16	3.69	25	76	142	17.6
E1	5	8.67	15.59	774	483	1319	58.7
E1	10	7.74	11.78	422	980	1560	27.1
E1	20	5.70	10.19	634	13	672	94.3
E2	0	4.37	6.58	304	226	577	52.7
E2	5	28.88	42.11	2726	685	3657	74.5
E2	10	6.95	11.51	398	349	851	46.8
E2	20	3.36	5.91	187	43	253	73.9
E3	0	2.44	4.04	114	254	435	26.2
E3	5	19.53	29.70	1743	448	2268	76.9
E3	10	7.40	12.81	814	116	1032	78.9
E3	20	3.07	5.35	542	20	571	94.9
E4	0	28.95	40.80	3141	98	3285	95.6
E4	5	6.87	10.42	848	490	1384	61.3
E4	10	3.79	6.47	463	362	1363	34.0
E4	20	3.37	6.08	46	40	885	5.2

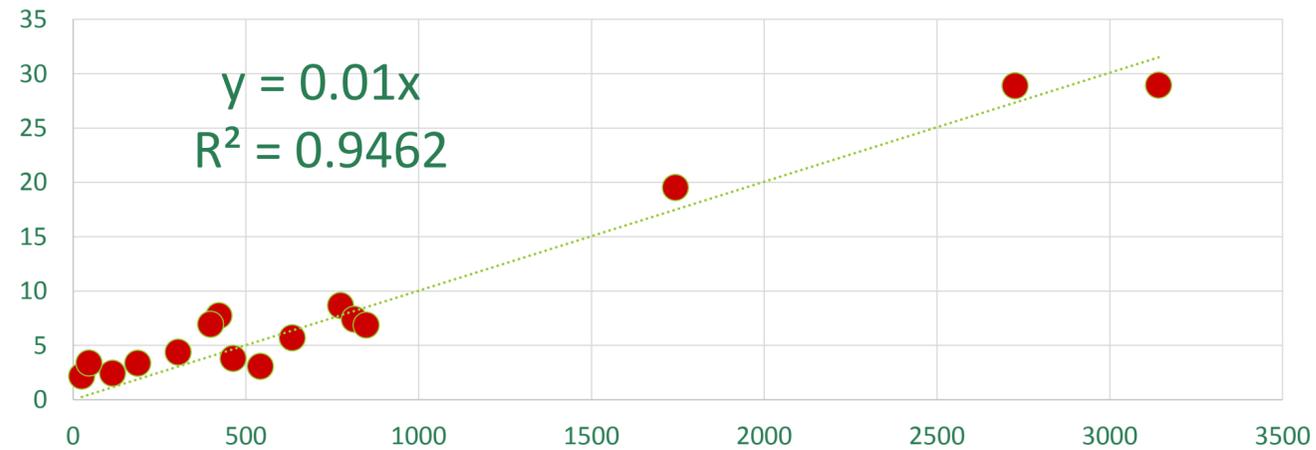


# In vitro photosynthetic parameters vs. Abundance of *P. micans* & *L. danicus*.

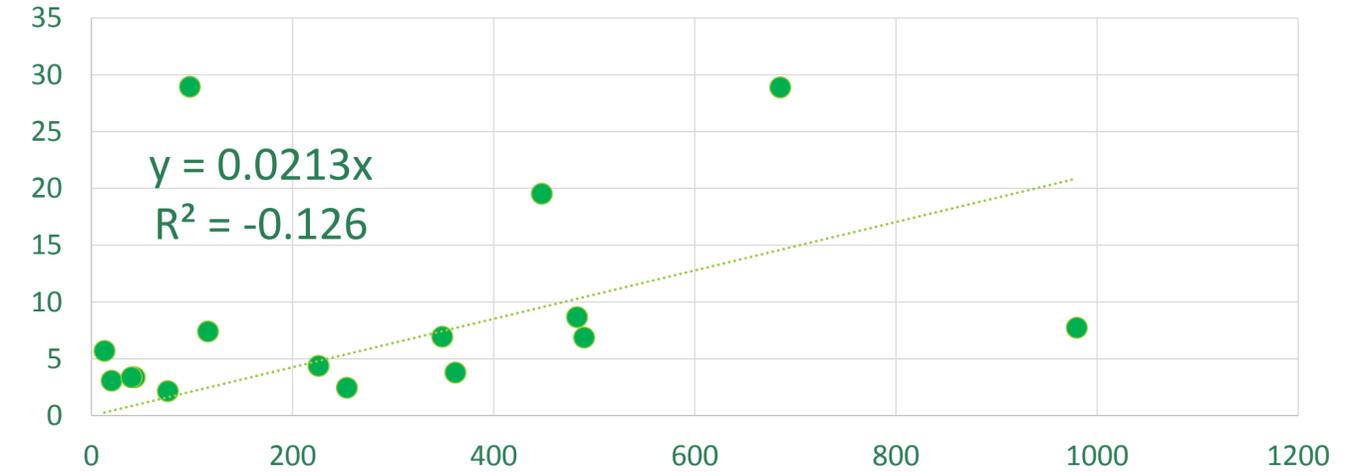
Dinoflagellate cells represent more photosynthesis than diatoms during the bloom. DO fluxes are influenced by *P. micans*. In addition, using linear model, there is a very high correlation ( $R > 96\%$ ) between  $F_o$ ,  $F_m$  and Abundance of *P. micans*. Therefore, we can be used FRRf3 as a proxy for HAB cell abundance and ecophysiology.



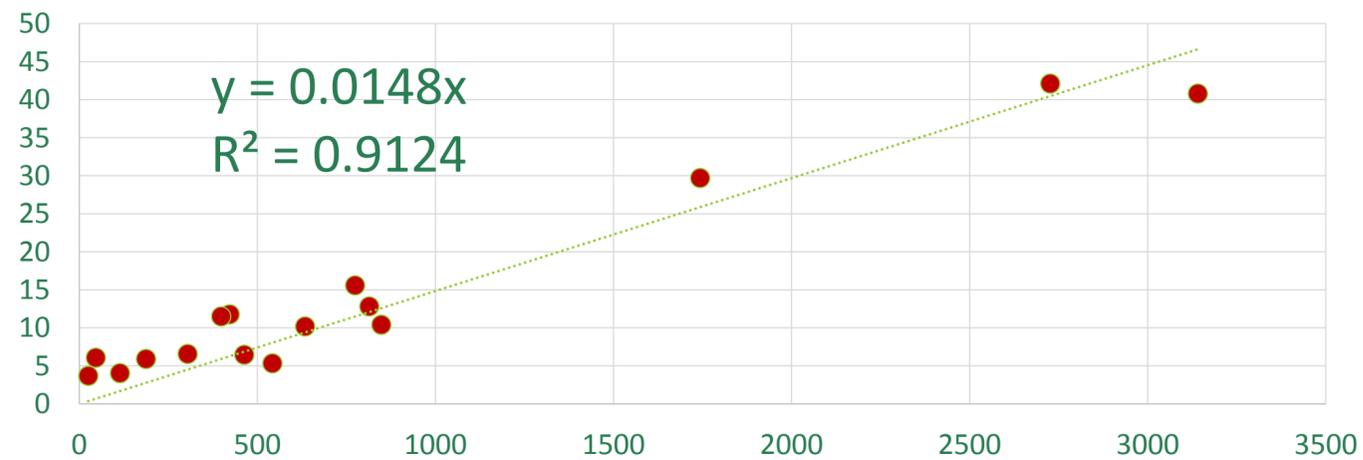
Abundancia *P. micans* (cel/mL) vs Fluorescencia Inicial ( $F_o$ )



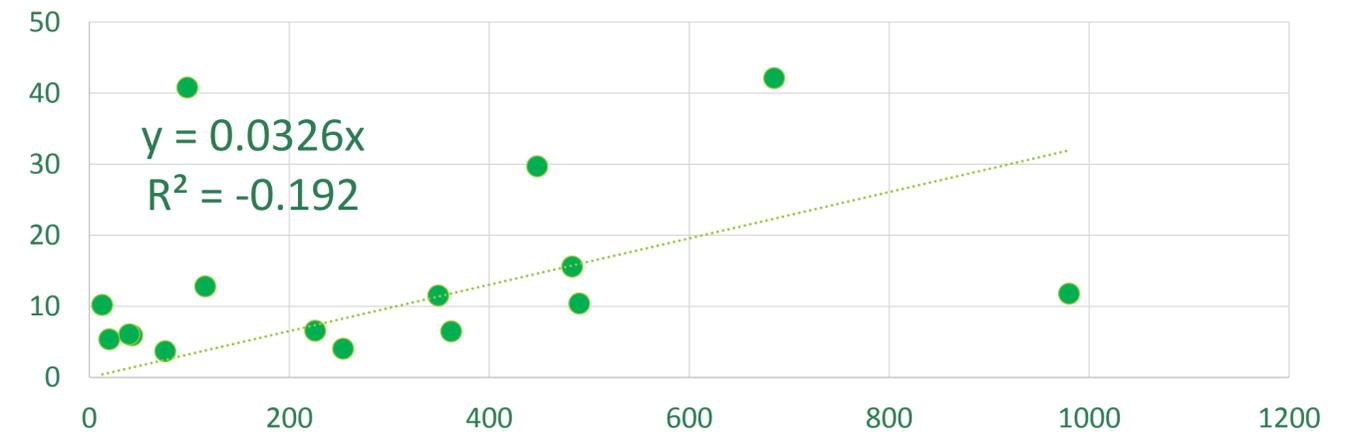
Abundancia *L. danicus* (cel/mL) vs Fluorescencia Inicial ( $F_o$ )



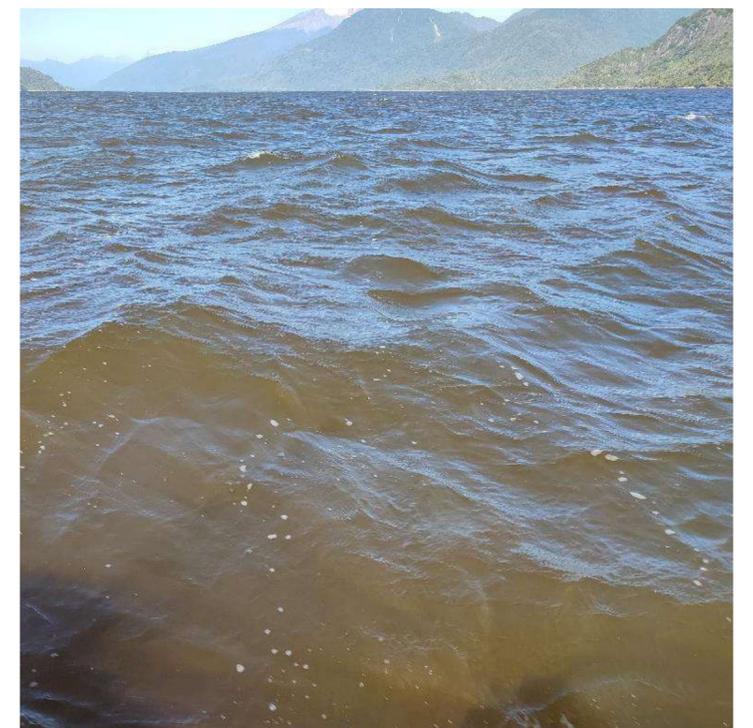
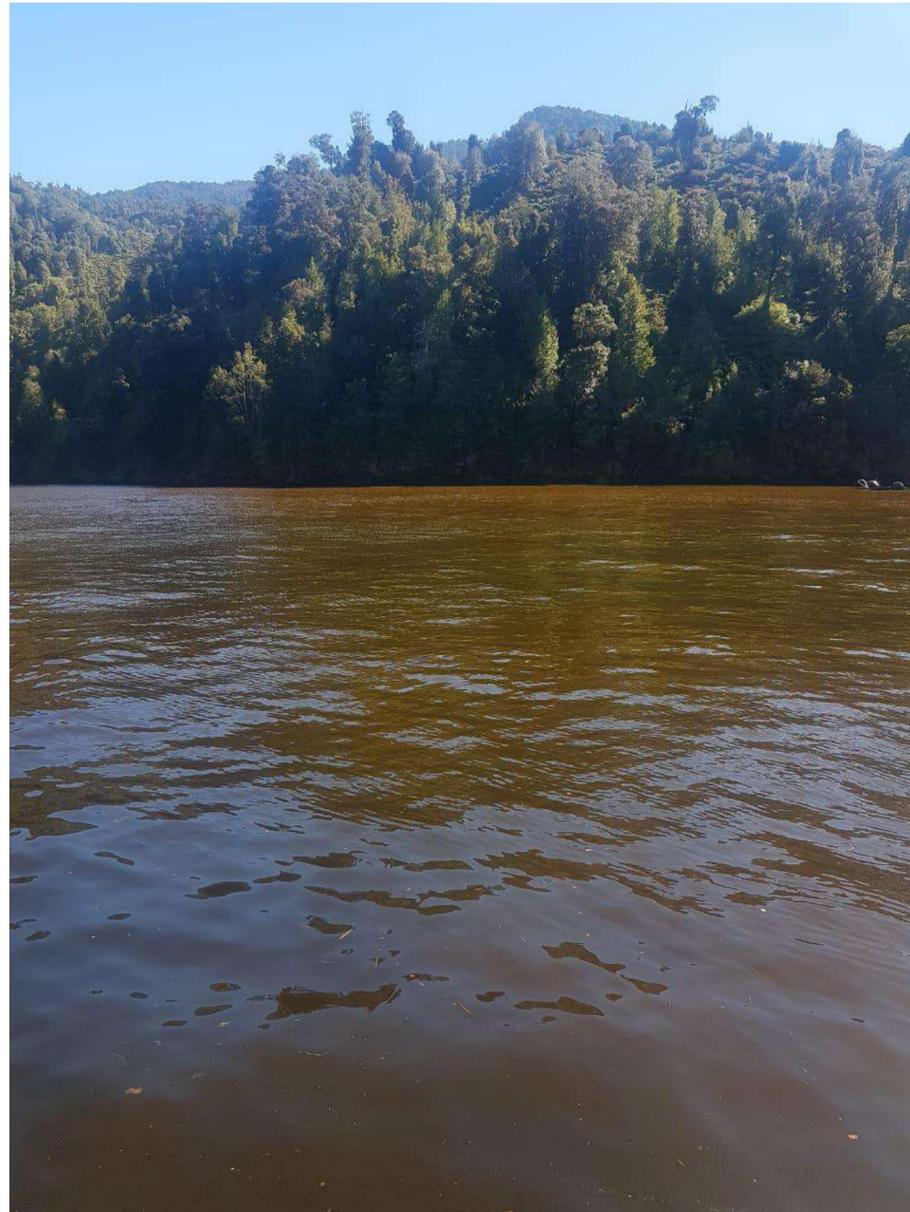
Abundancia *P. micans* (cel/mL) vs Fluorescencia maxima ( $F_m$ )



Abundancia *L. danicus* (cel/mL) vs Fluorescencia maxima ( $F_m$ )



# Recent Large biomass bloom during the season of 2021 and 2022, cause it by extreme climatic anomaly: **Heterosigma**, **Lepidodinium** and **Prorocentrum Pseudochattonella**



# Features of Blooms of Flagellates during this season; *P. micas*, *Pseudochattonella* & *L. chlorophorum*



	<b><i>Pseudochattonella</i></b>	<b><i>L. chlorophorum</i></b>	<b><i>P. micas</i></b>
DATES	8/1/2022	19/12022	17/2/2022
PLACES	DEVIA CHANNEL, 11	MARINE INLAND SEA, 10 Reñihue Fjord	RELONCAVI SOUND, 10
Cells max/mL	163	15255	3141
Impact on fish aquaculture	3000-ton aprox	none	None yet
CELLS CONDITIONS	Different cells forms, highly ichthyotoxic Low Abundance	Massive bloom large biomass and highly photosynthetic Nontoxic but probable decrease DO	large biomass, local .and highly photosynthetic Modulates Oxygen distribution on photic water column
Environmental conditions	WARM WEATHER AFTER RAIN	WARM WEATHER	WARM WEATHER
HABf INDEX MAX	39.58	0.35	1.75
EW	Unpredictable	It has frequent bloom in summer	Interannual Low frecuency

Oxígeno

Temperatura

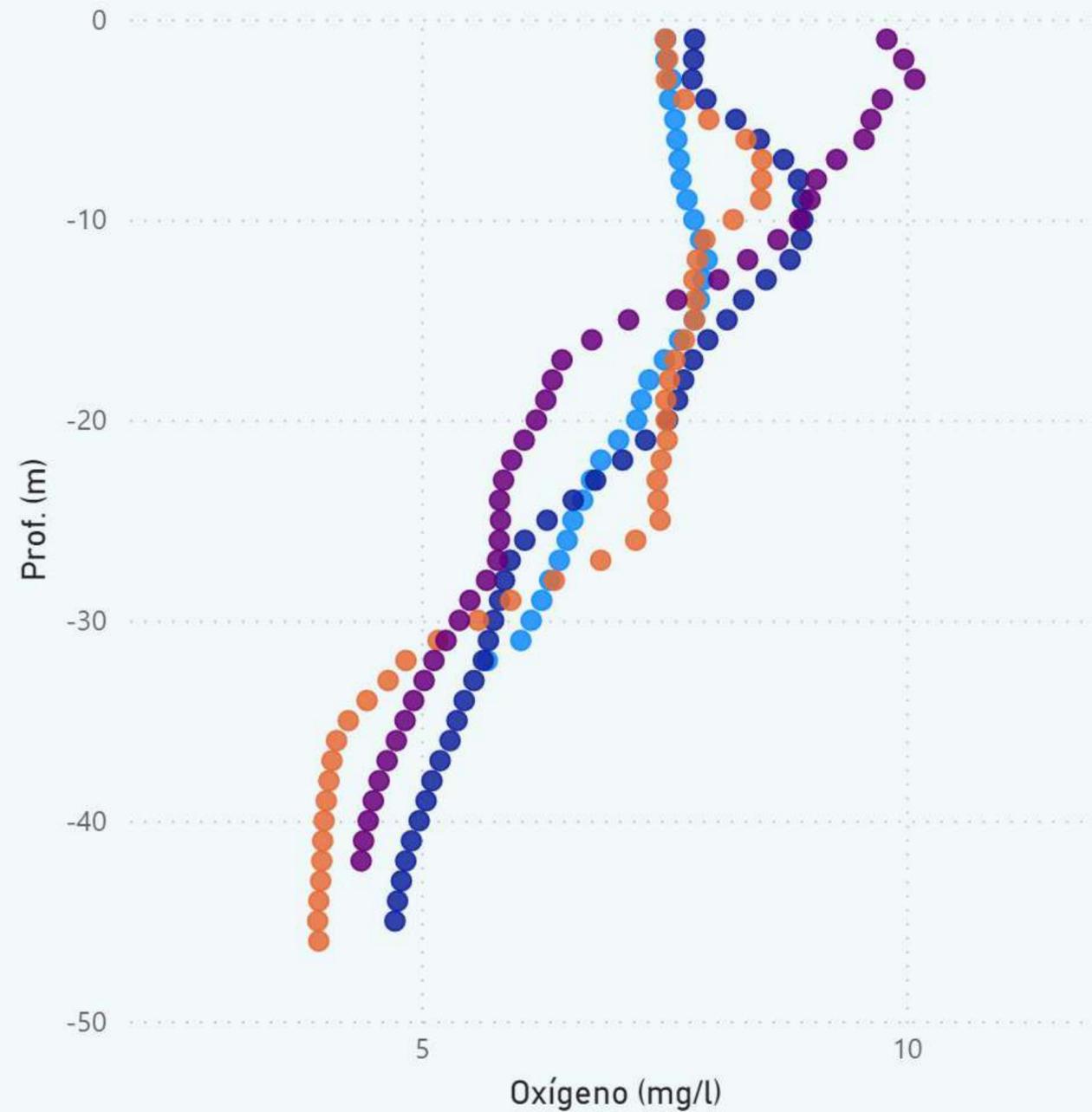
AOU

Fluorescencia

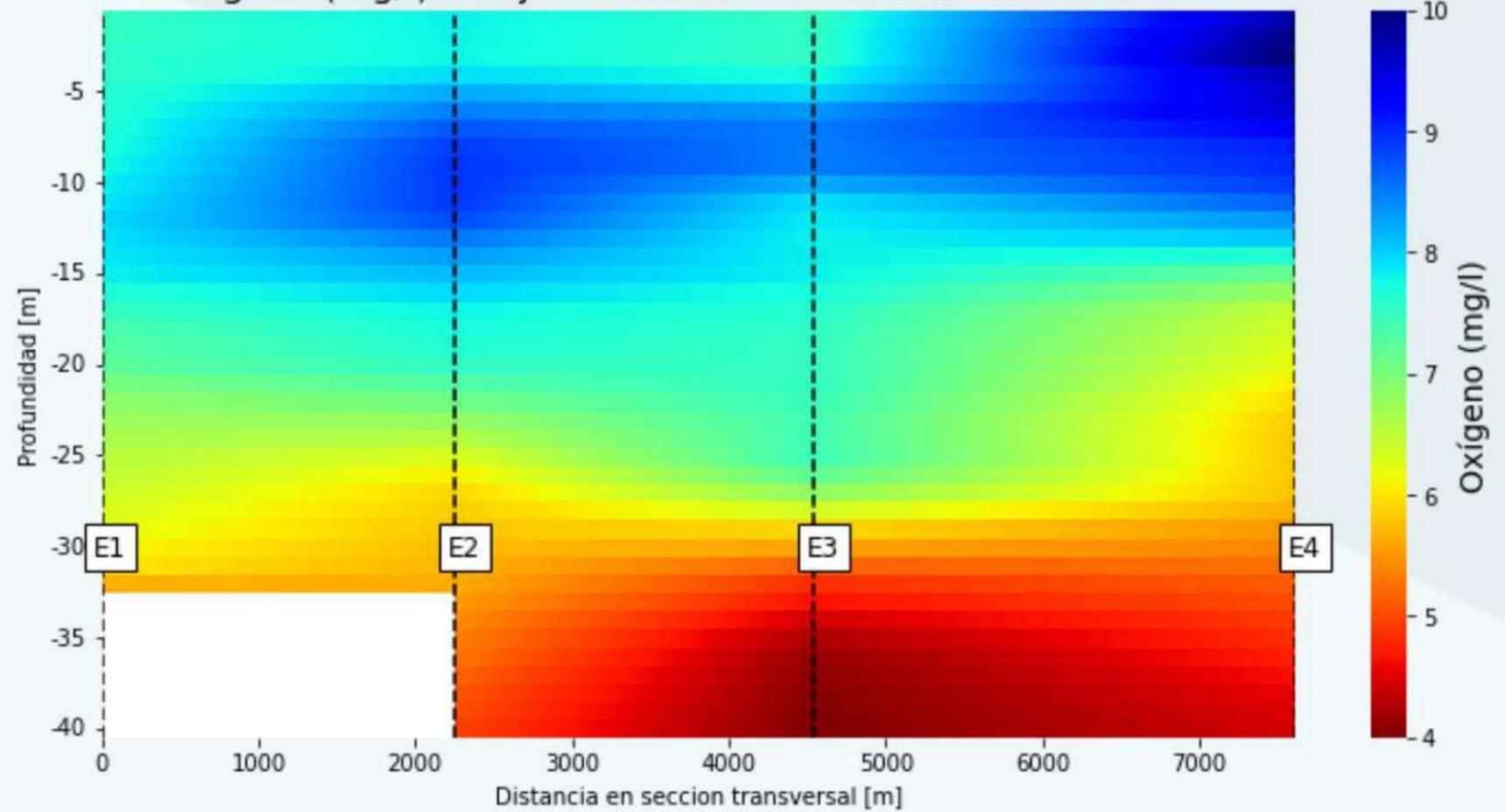
Salinidad

### Oxígeno [mg/l] por Estación

Estación ● E1 ● E2 ● E3 ● E4



### Oxígeno (mg/l) en eje Mañihueico - Estuario del 2022-02-17



Oxígeno

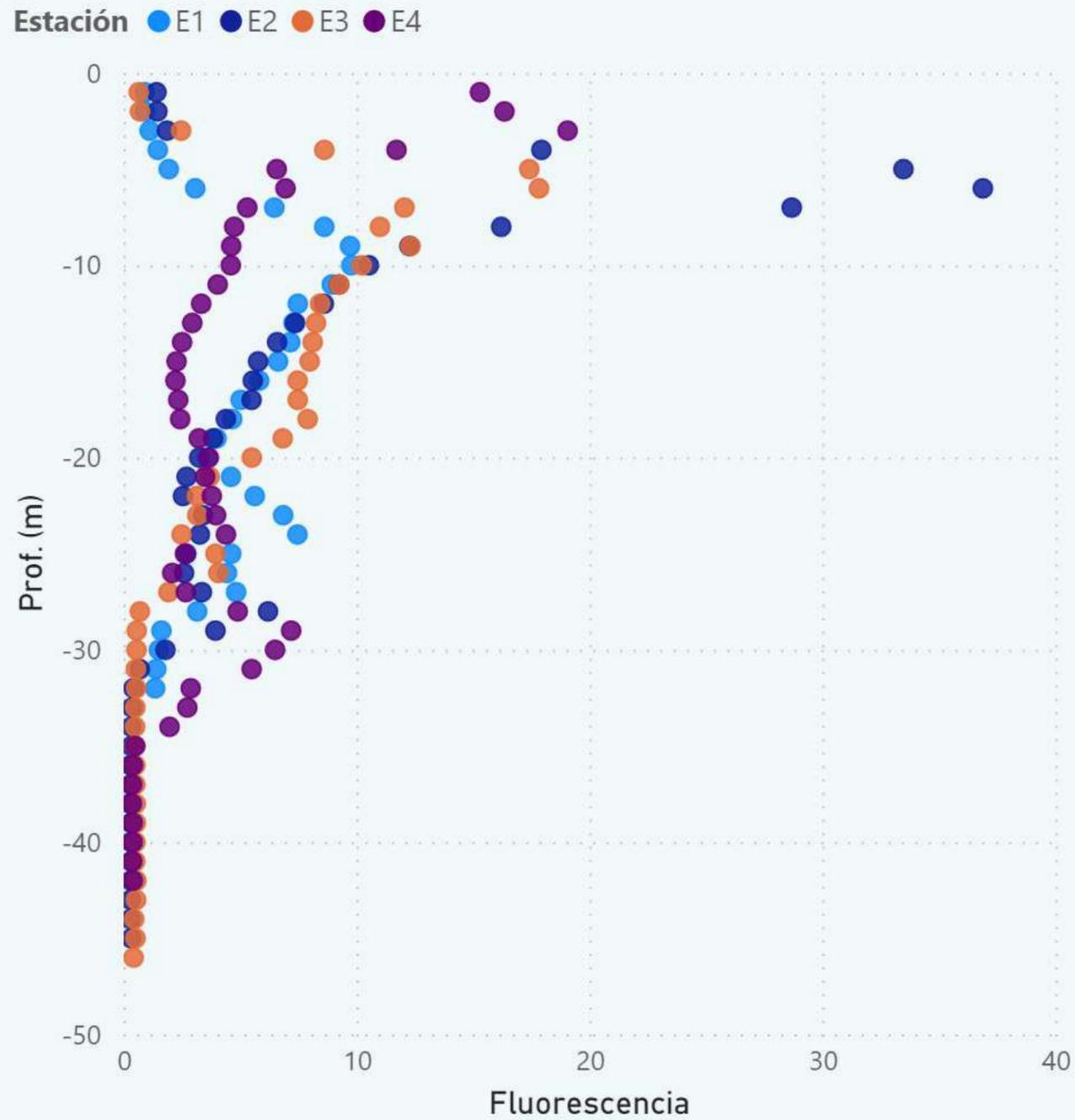
Temperatura

AOU

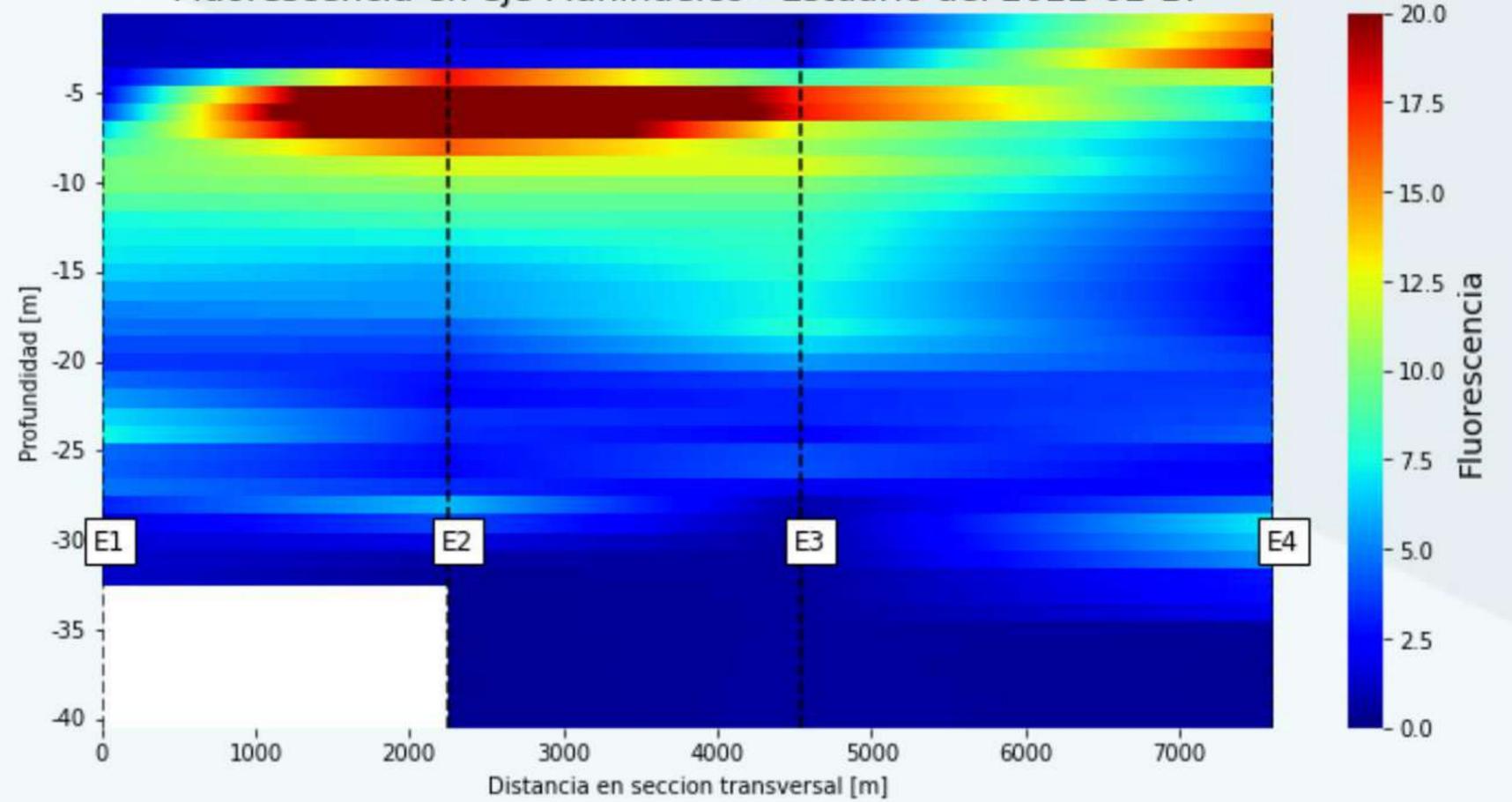
Fluorescencia

Salinidad

### Fluorescencia [mg/m<sup>3</sup>] por Estación



### Fluorescencia en eje Mañihueico - Estuario del 2022-02-17



Oxígeno

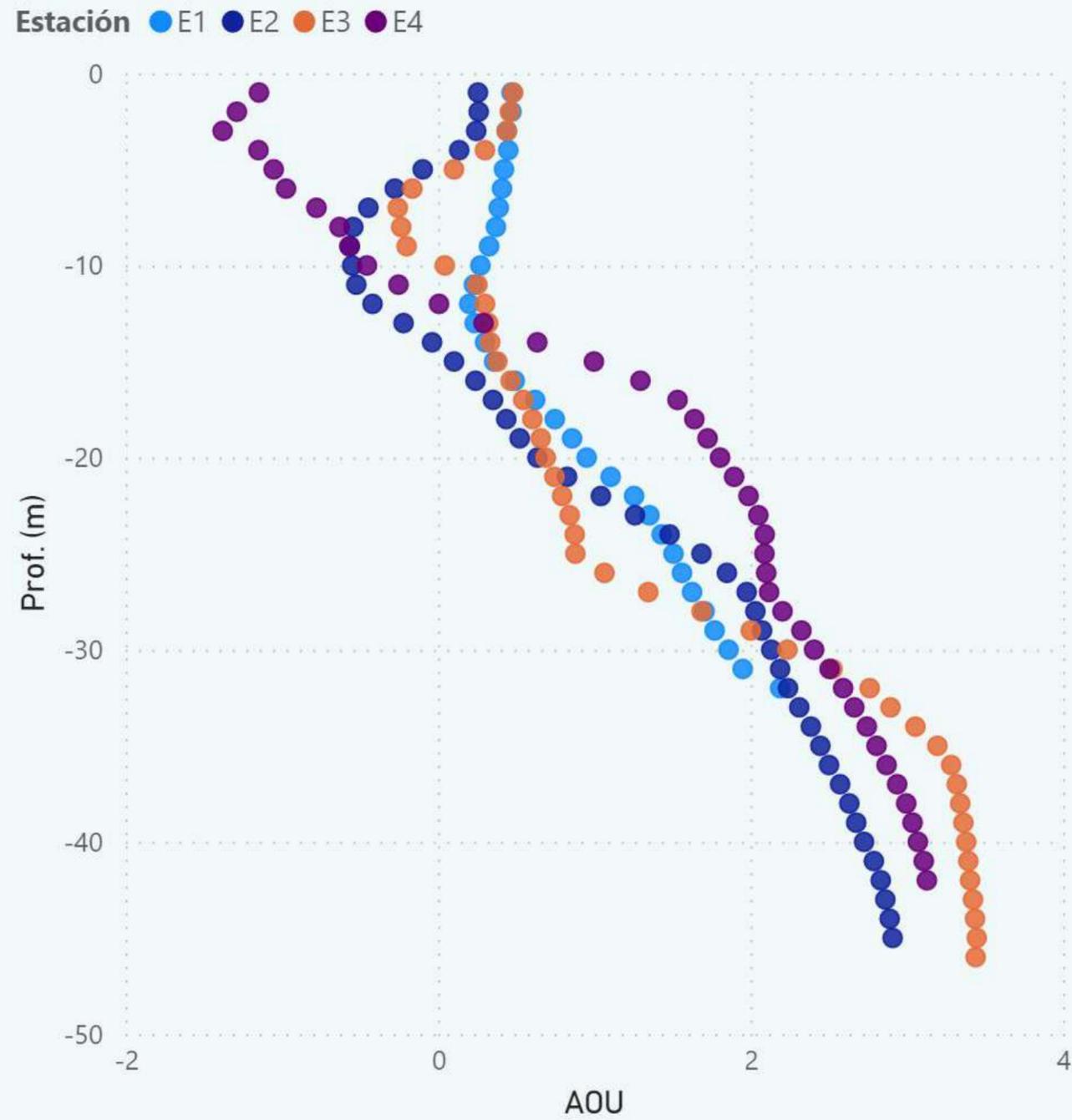
Temperatura

AOU

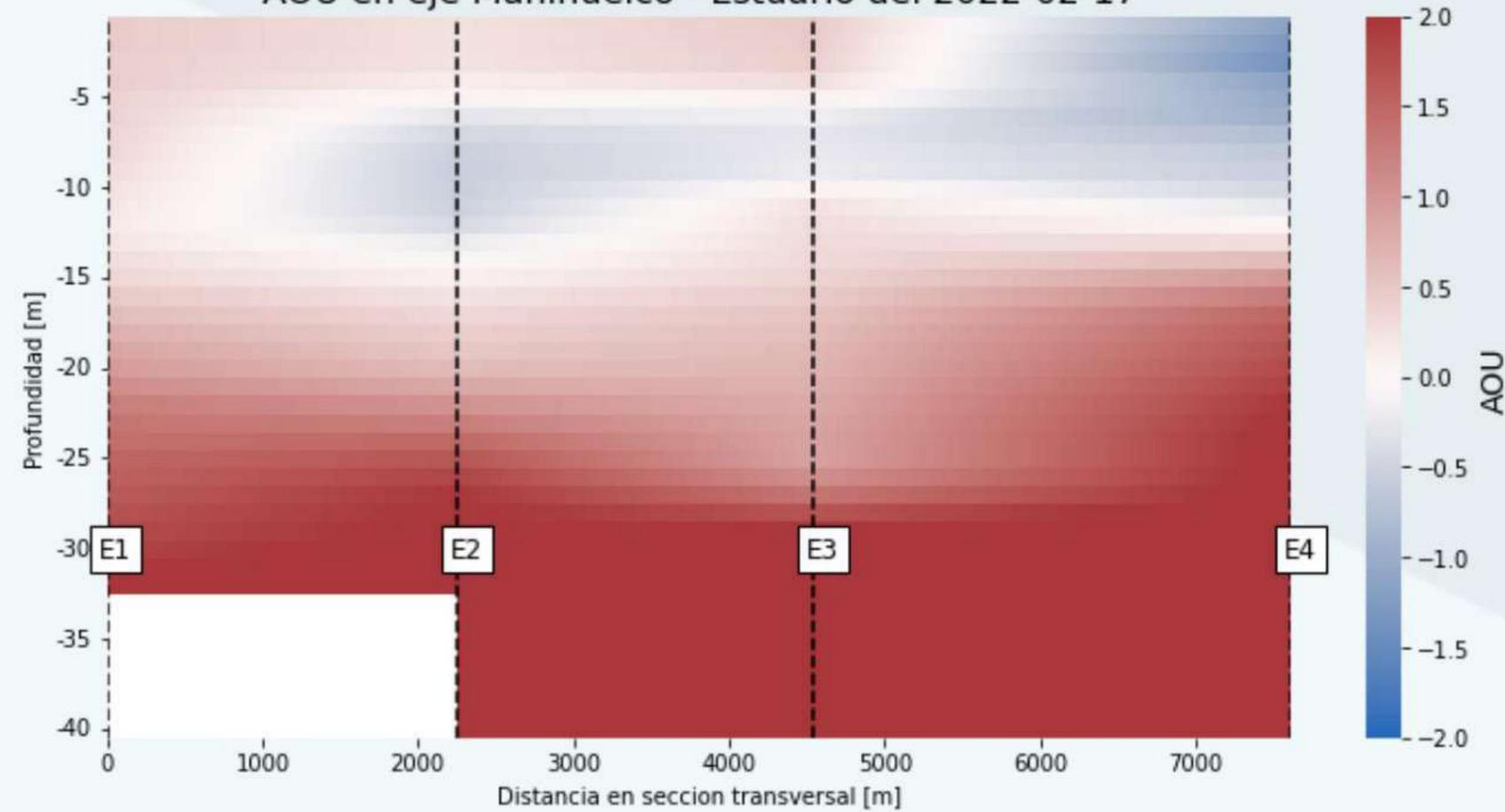
Fluorescencia

Salinidad

### AOU por Estación



### AOU en eje Mañihueico - Estuario del 2022-02-17



Oxígeno

Temperatura

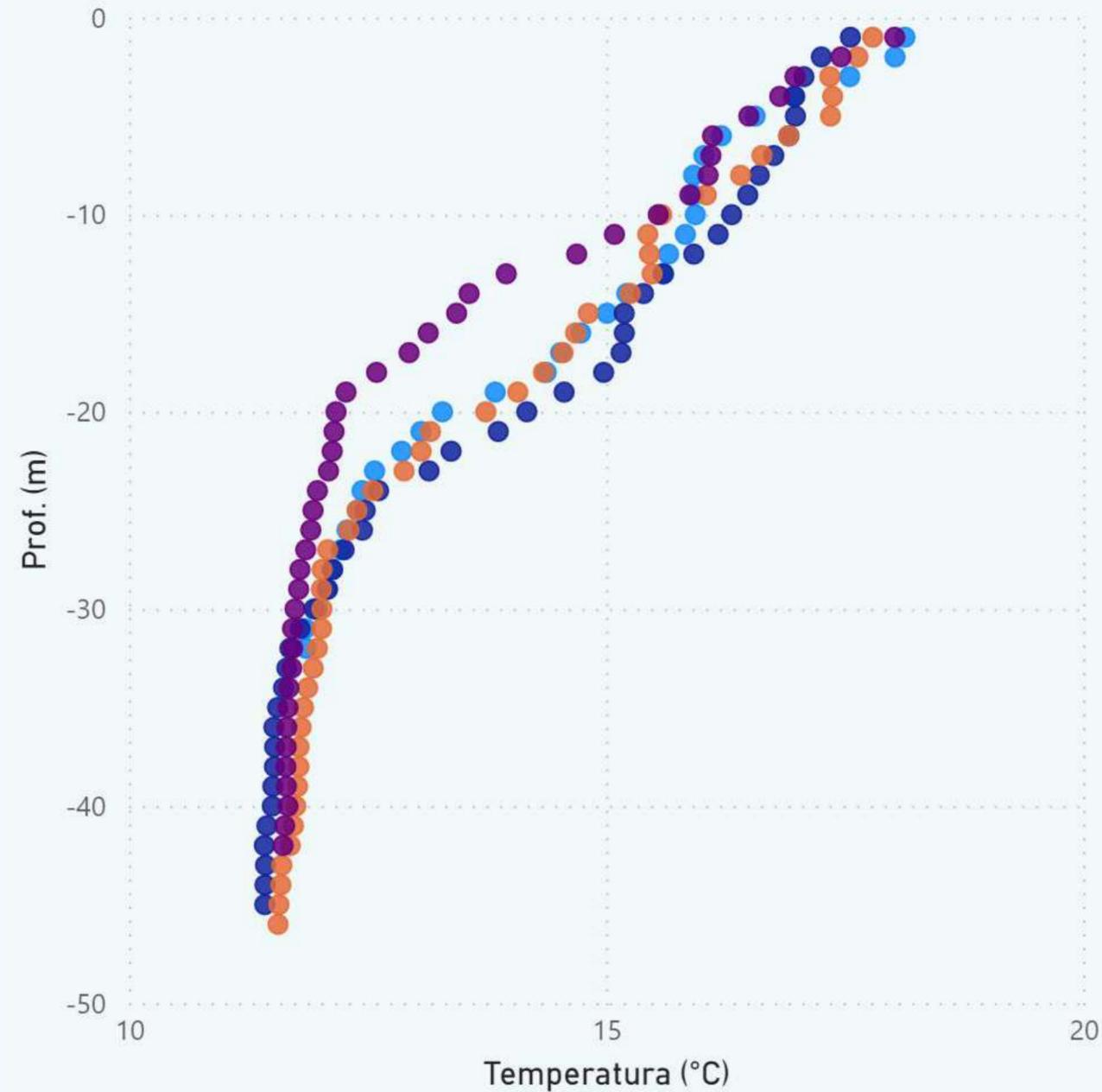
AOU

Fluorescencia

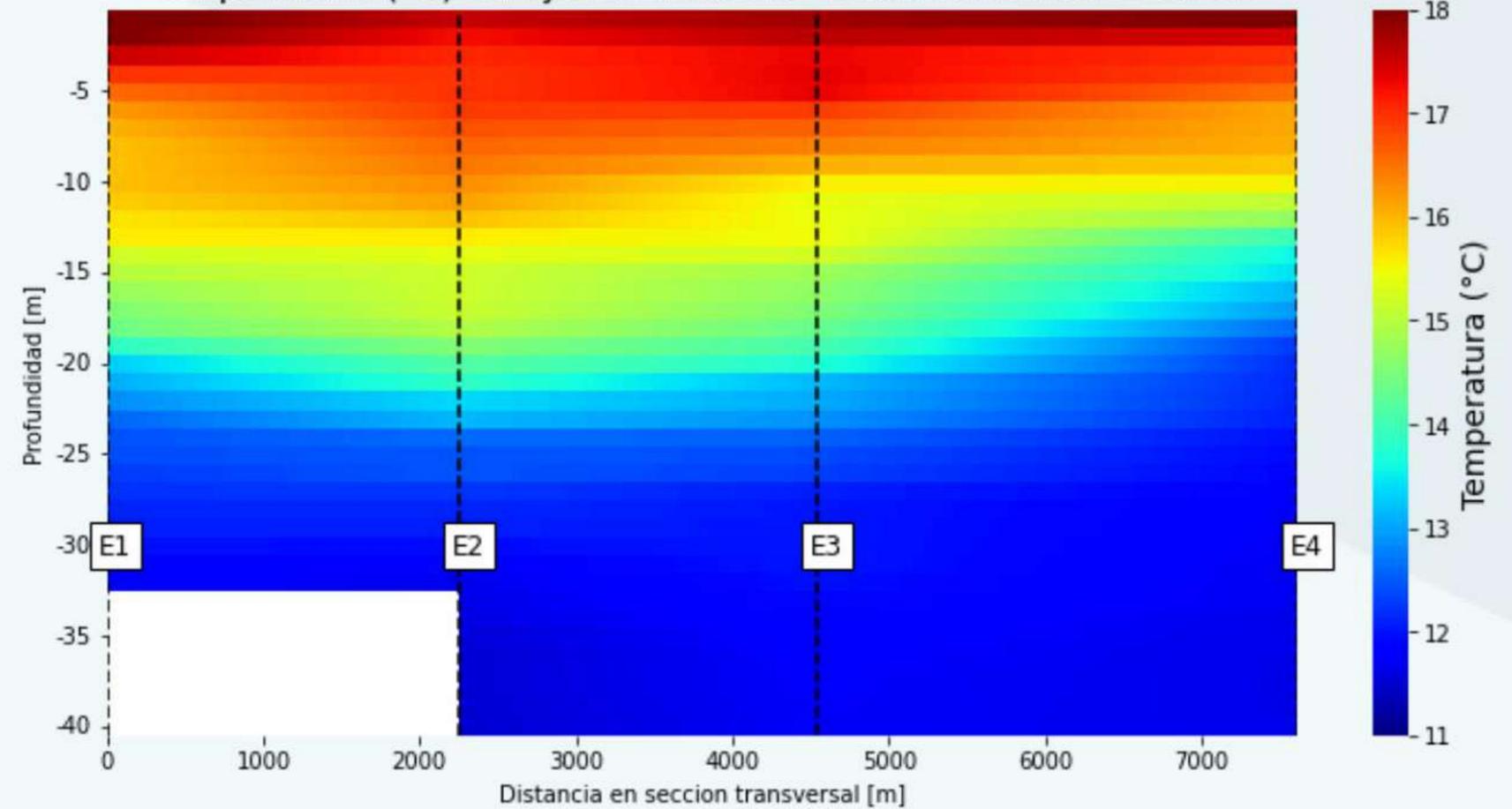
Salinidad

### Temperatura[°C] por Estación

Estación ● E1 ● E2 ● E3 ● E4



### Temperatura (°C) en eje Mañihueico - Estuario del 2022-02-17



# BIO-OPTICAL AQUA SENSORS (BAS)



## BAS ¿QUÉ ES?

BAS = Bio-optical Aqua Sensors, corresponde a una solución desarrollada por Plancton Andino para la medición de variables bio-ópticas *in situ*, en tiempo real y libres de reactivos químicos (pollution-free). El BAS considera una aplicación IOT para el envío de datos actualizados en tiempo real disponibles en la aplicación móvil de Plancton Andino, utilizando herramientas de Business Intelligence.

## ¿DE QUE SE TRATA EL SERVICIO?

El BAS mide señales ópticas de clorofila *a*, turbidez, ficocianina e hidrocarburos. Las variables pueden ser capturadas *in situ* y en tiempo real o para aplicaciones a largo plazo (estaciones de monitoreo).

El servicio e implementación del BAS incluye la creación de alertas tempranas automáticas frente a posibles episodios de FAN, derrames de hidrocarburos, alteraciones de calidad de agua potables, entre otros, avisando en línea a clientes y/o usuarios.

## BENEFICIOS DEL SERVICIO BAS

1. Obtener datos en línea y tiempo real.
2. Tomar decisiones oportunas frente a anomalías en la columna de agua.
3. Generar alertas tempranas para Floraciones de Algas Nocivas (FAN).
4. Sensores *in situ*, pollution-free.

Los sensores utilizados han sido corregidos y validados para las aguas chilenas mediante ensayos de laboratorio y experimentos en terreno. Además, el BAS considera el uso de modelos de detección de "outliers" para remover y corregir automáticamente datos y señales erróneas.

El monitoreo de variables bio-ópticas permite conocer en tiempo real el estado de las FAN en el agua, generando alertas tempranas para una rápida toma de decisiones, generando valor agregado a los servicios de Plancton Andino.



A



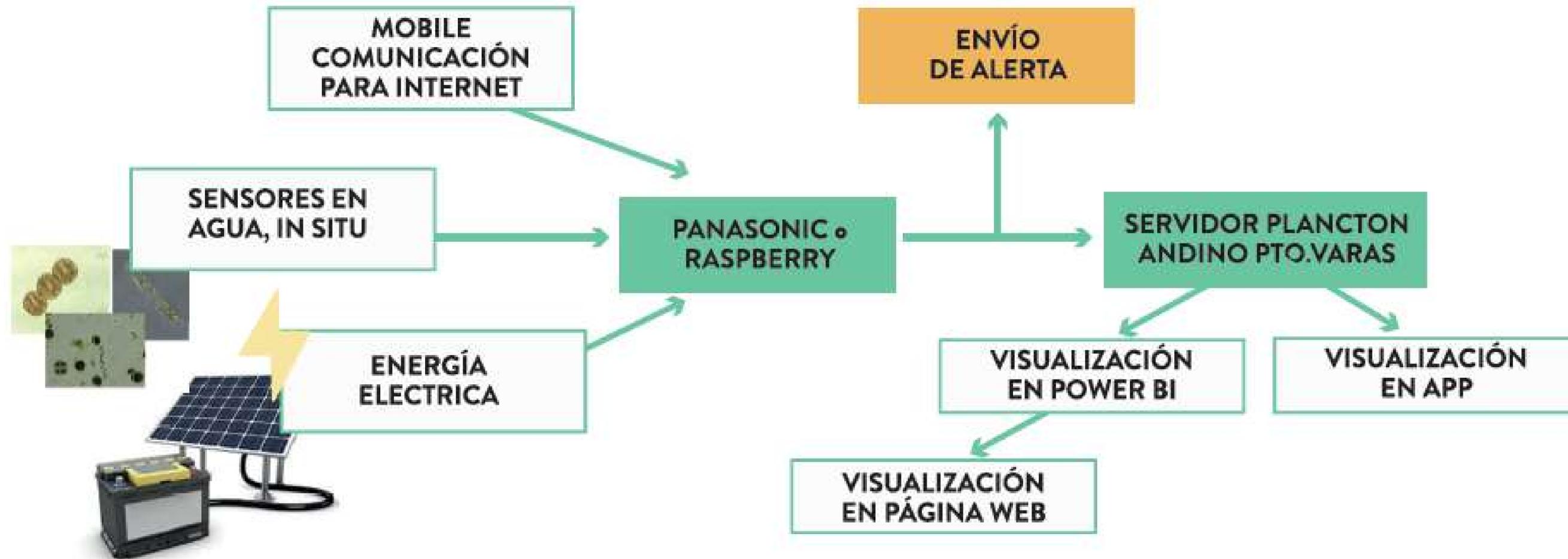
B



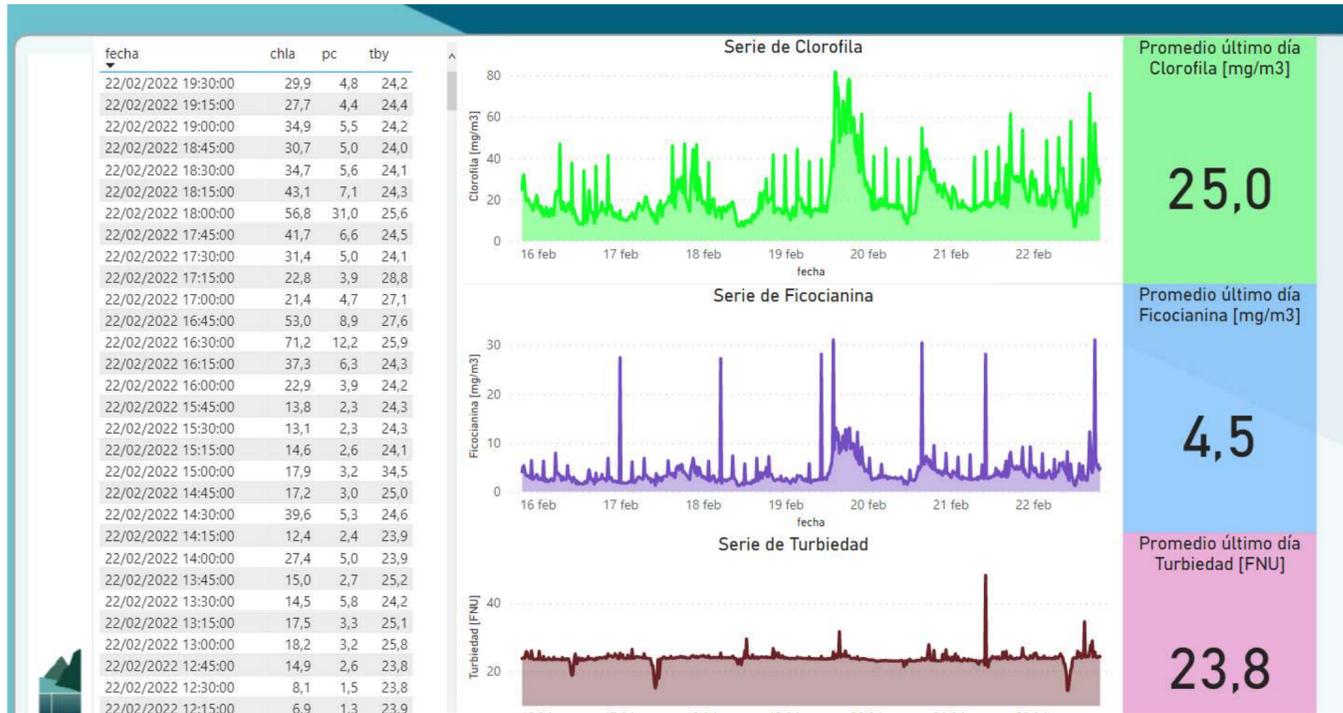
C



# BIO-OPTICAL AQUA SENSORS (BAS) IS A USEFUL SYSTEM FOR EARLY WARNING including *IN SITU* Hydrocarbons ON REAL TIME

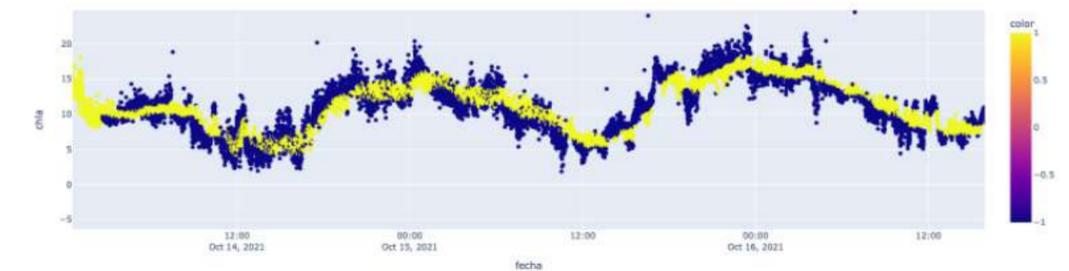


# DATA PROCESSING AND QUALITY CONTROL OF THE BIO-OPTICAL AQUA SENSORS (**BAS**)

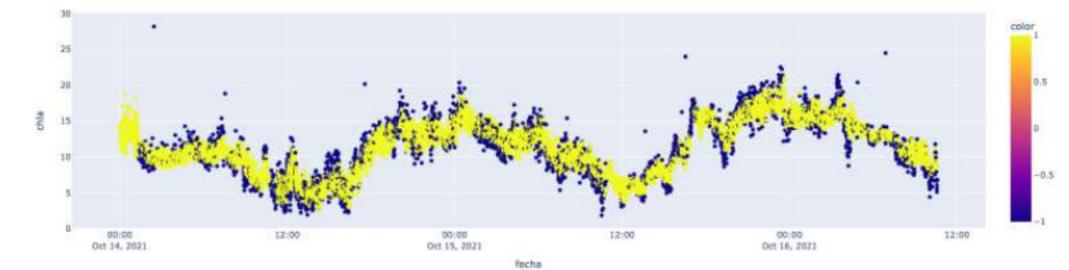


## Data Processing outliers:

De los métodos descritos en la sección 2, los algoritmos que mejor resultado tuvieron fueron One Class SVM y Isolation Forest, siendo el primero más estricto para detectar outliers, mientras que el segundo más flexible.



One Class SVM. Robusto y estricto.



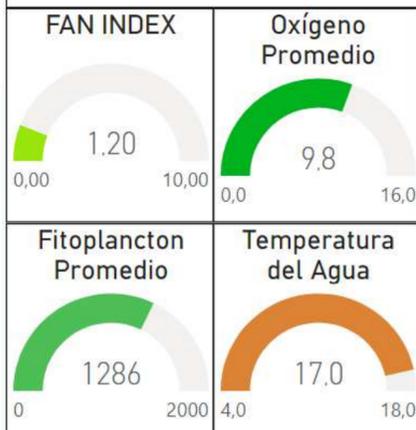
Isolation Forest. Algoritmo más flexible para detectar outliers

Ambos algoritmos son bastante rápidos en cuanto a procesamiento, lo que los hace buenos candidatos para usarlos en tiempo real.



## RESULTADOS ACOPIO SANTA CRUZ, ULTIMA FECHA

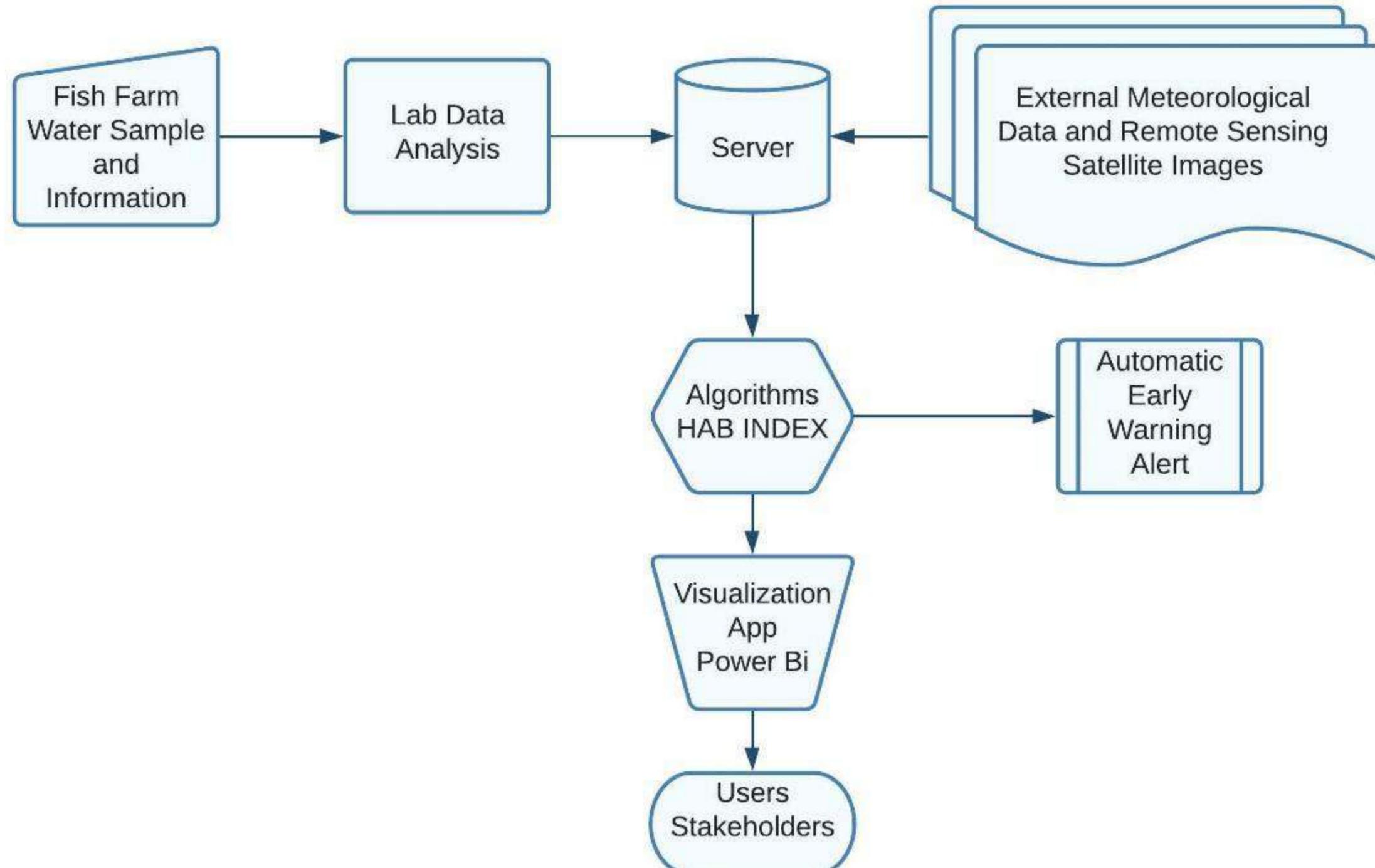
22/02/2022

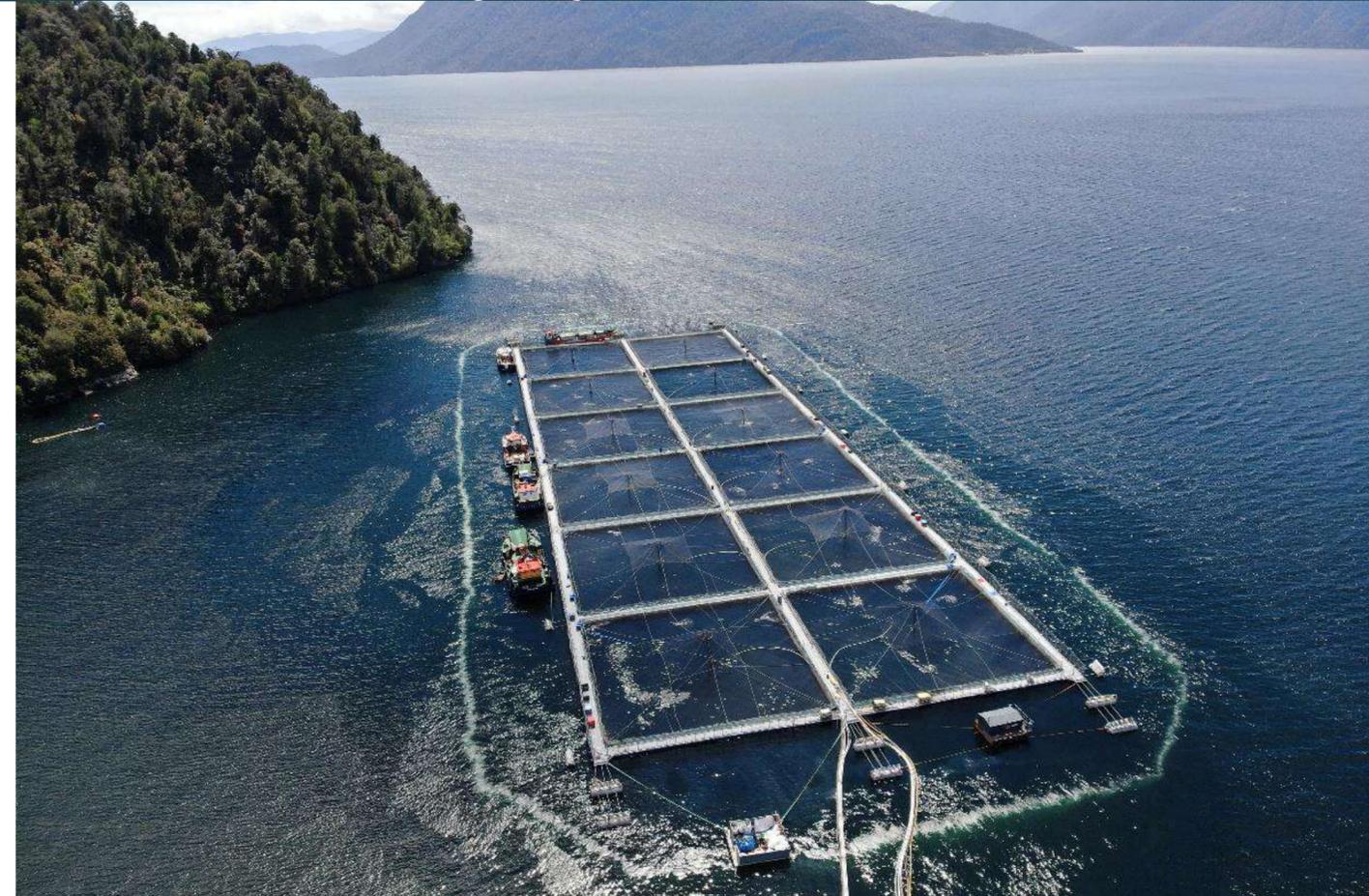
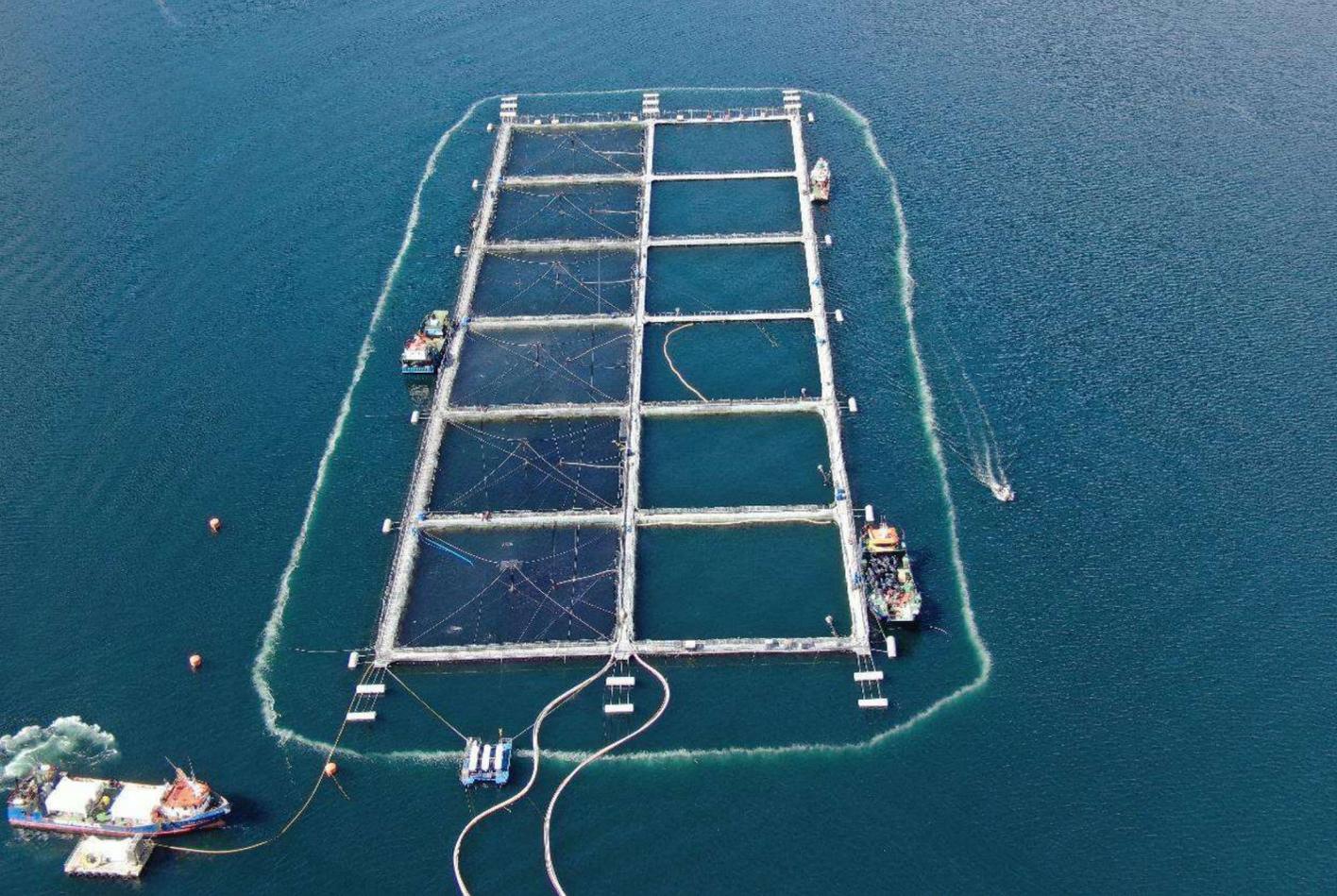


Clément A, Jorquera A, Muñoz F, Ramirez B, Colilef A. Saez S, Clément S, Tellez C, & Contreras M. 2022. Manual y Protocolos de Mediciones de propiedades bio-ópticas del agua; énfasis en control de calidad. Proyecto Corfo Código: 19CV-119268. Plancton Andino SpA., Puerto Varas-Chile.



# Early Warning System and Alert





**LOW**  
water aeration solutions



# FINAL REMARKS

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1. EWS is a practical and operational approximation to decrease the risk of HAB.
2. The bloom and cells conditions of *P. micas* ( and probably most phototrophic flagellates) modulates the shape and fluxes of the oxygen and OAU layers in stratified waters.
3. Local variability, patches and vertical distribution (thin layers) complicate EWS and forecasting.
4. The HAB of *Pseudochattonella* during January of 2022 in southern Chile was practically impossible to alert due to a very small-scale distribution and an extreme short-term period ( 2 to 3 days). The message should be; increase frequency or to use several technologies to improved monitoring in isolated sites. Difficult to forecasts

# References



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2. Alejandro Clément, Thomas Husak, Sofia Clément, Francisca Muñoz, Marcela Saldivia, Carmen G. Brito, Roberta Crescini, Nicole Correa, Karenina Teiguel, César Fernández, Gustavo Contreras, S. S. (2020). Contribution of the HABf INDEX for fish farm's risk analysis. Ph. Hess [Ed]. Harmful Algae 2018 – from Ecosystems to Socioecosystems. Proceedings of the 18th Intl. Conf. on Harmful Algae. Nantes, International Society for the Study of Harmful Algae. 214 Pages. ISBN: 978-87-990827-7-3., 149–153.
3. Devred, E., Martin, J., Sathyendranath, S., Stuart, V., Horne, E., Platt, T., Forget, M. H., & Smith, P. (2018). Development of a conceptual warning system for toxic levels of Alexandrium fundyense in the Bay of Fundy based on remote sensing data. Remote Sensing of Environment. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2018.04.022>
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6. Davidson, K., Whyte, C., Aleynik, D., Dale, A., Gontarek, S., Kurekin, A. A., McNeill, S., Miller, P. I., Porter, M., Saxon, R., & Swan, S. (2021). HABreports: Online Early Warning of Harmful Algal and Biotoxin Risk for the Scottish Shellfish and Finfish Aquaculture Industries . In *Frontiers in Marine Science* (Vol. 8). <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fmars.2021.631732>
7. [Researchers Use Genes as HAB Early Warning System](#)



¡Muchas Gracias!

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