Ocean Color Applications in Fisheries Science and Management in the Northeast U.S.

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Take Away Messages

The oceanographic conditions in the Northeast U.S. are changing and affecting all levels of the marine food web.

Changes in the **abundance**, **productivity**, **phenology and community composition of phytoplankton** can affect the marine food web and biogeochemical cycles.

The **long-term time series** of phytoplankton have multiple operational and fisheries management applications.





NOAA Fisheries is responsible for the stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy ecosystems.



- Productive and sustainable fisheries
- Safe sources of seafood
- Recovery and conservation of protected resources
- Healthy ecosystems



Northeast Fisheries Science Center conducts ecosystem-based research and assessments to understand and predict changes to marine ecosystems and their subsystems affecting:

- living marine resources
- fisheries
- habitats
- ecosystem condition
- productivity
- aquaculture





Why ocean color satellites?





rce/document/current-conditions-nort heast-us-shelf-ecosystem



Ecosystem Based Management







Project Overview

Primary goal: Comprehensively characterize the spatial and temporal variability of the phytoplankton community in the Northeast Shelf ecosystem over the 20+ year ocean color time series for operational fisheries applications.

Primary questions: Which algorithms perform best? Can they be regionally improved using local *in situ* observations? How do abundance and absorption-based algorithms compare?

Primary objectives: Collect *in situ* measurements of optical properties, phytoplankton imagery (IFCB), pigments (HPLC), and nutrients and evaluate and optimize the performance of satellite size class algorithms.





In situ Observations



Temperature/Salinity
Absorption/Attenuation/
Scattering/Backscattering
Chl, CDOM, Fluorescence

Depth (m)

100

1000

10000

Aug 2018 Nov 2018 May 2019 Aug 2019 Oct 2019

SeaBAS

Radiometry

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Optimization and assessment of phytoplankton size class algorithms for ocean color data on the Northeast U.S. continental shelf

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Check for updates

Next Steps



What are the **environmental drivers** of phytoplankton abundance and community size composition in the U.S. Northeast Continental Shelf?









Somang Song

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY



Fisheries Applications



Ecosystem Reports & Products









https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/ ecosystems/state-ecosystem-reports-northeast-us-shelf



Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profiles



Research Assessment



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Protected Species



Relationship between peak habitat use and regional temperature phenology



Western GOM spring onset

p < 0.001

p = 0.009

p = 0.219

2018





Photo credit: Brigid McKenna, Center for Coastal Studies under NOAA research permit #19315-01

WILEY

Decadal-scale phenology and seasonal climate drivers of migratory baleen whales in a rapidly warming marine ecosystem

145 150 155 160 165 170

Daniel E. Pendleton¹ | Morgan W. Tingley² | Laura C. Ganley¹ Kevin D. Friedland³ | Charles Mayo⁴ | Moira W. Brown⁵ | Brigid E. McKenna⁴ Adrian Jordaan⁶ Michelle D. Staudinger^{6,7}



Protected Species



ECOSPHERE

Macrosystems Ecology 🗈 Open Access 💿 🗿

Spatial ecology of long-tailed ducks and white-winged scoters

wintering on Nantucket Shoals

Timothy P. White 🔀, Richard R. Veit











Martha's Vineyard Nantucket E: Summer 2017-2019





Modeling

Planktivores









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Modeling



Regime shifts













2000

Aug Sept Oct

July

Nov Dec

GMRI

2020

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england -mid-atlantic/ecosystems/fisherles-habitat-n rtheast-us-shelf-ecosystem



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Fisheries Satellite Data Requirements

- Accurate, consistent, timely, climatological quality high-resolution ocean color data/products that can detect changes in the phytoplankton community
 - Merged (e.g. OC-CCI)/gap-filled (DINEOF) sensor agnostic products
- Hyperspectral data (i.e. PACE) for more accurate detection of phytoplankton functional groups
- High quality in situ validation data & optimized regional algorithms
- Near real-time data for dynamic ocean management
- High resolution geostationary imagery (GLIMER & GeoXO)
 - Aquaculture, HABs, Coastal Runoff



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Thank You

