



The Ocean Colour Essential Climate Variable: Advances, Applications and Aspirations

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Message from the Guest Editors

Ocean colour (OC) is recognised as an Essential Climate Variable (ECV) by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). The global record of ocean colour is now continuous for more than 20 years and the most recent generation of ocean colour satellites provide enhanced and novel capabilities. Ocean colour is primarily utilised to observe and interpret spatiotemporal variability of phytoplankton, which support the marine food web, can act as sentinels of larger scale ecosystem change, and produce harmful algal blooms. Ocean colour can also be used in other oceanographic studies on topics such as suspended sediment, water quality, solar-induced heat in the upper layers of the ocean, oil spills, and sea ice. Recent increases in spectral, spatial, and temporal resolution, and a longer continuous record, mean that new insights and applications are possible. This Special Issue is devoted to recent and ongoing advances in the development and utilisation of the ocean colour ECV.





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