

Estimating Chlorophyll Concentrations  
using MODIS Fluorescence: A  
Preliminary Evaluation in Coastal Waters

Ricardo Letelier, Mark Abbott,  
Jasmine Nahorniak

College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences  
Oregon State University



Acknowledgment: Robert Evans et al. University of Miami

# Natural (passive) Fluorescence

- ---

where  $F$  = fluorescence  
 $[chl]$  = chlorophyll concentration  
 $PAR$  = photosynthetically available radiation  
 $a^*$  = chlorophyll specific absorption  
 $\phi_F$  = fluorescence quantum yield
- Absorbed Radiation by Phytoplankton  
$$ARP = a^* \times [chl] \times PAR \text{ (calculated independently from [chl])}$$
- $F/ARP = \text{Chl Fluor. Efficiency (CFE)} \propto \phi_F$

If  $\Phi_p + \Phi_f + \Phi_h = 1$  &  $\Phi_h = \text{const.}$

then  $\Phi_p = \text{const.} - \Phi_f$

$\therefore$

$PP = [\text{chl}] \times (\text{PAR} \times a^*) \times (\text{const.} - \Phi_f)$

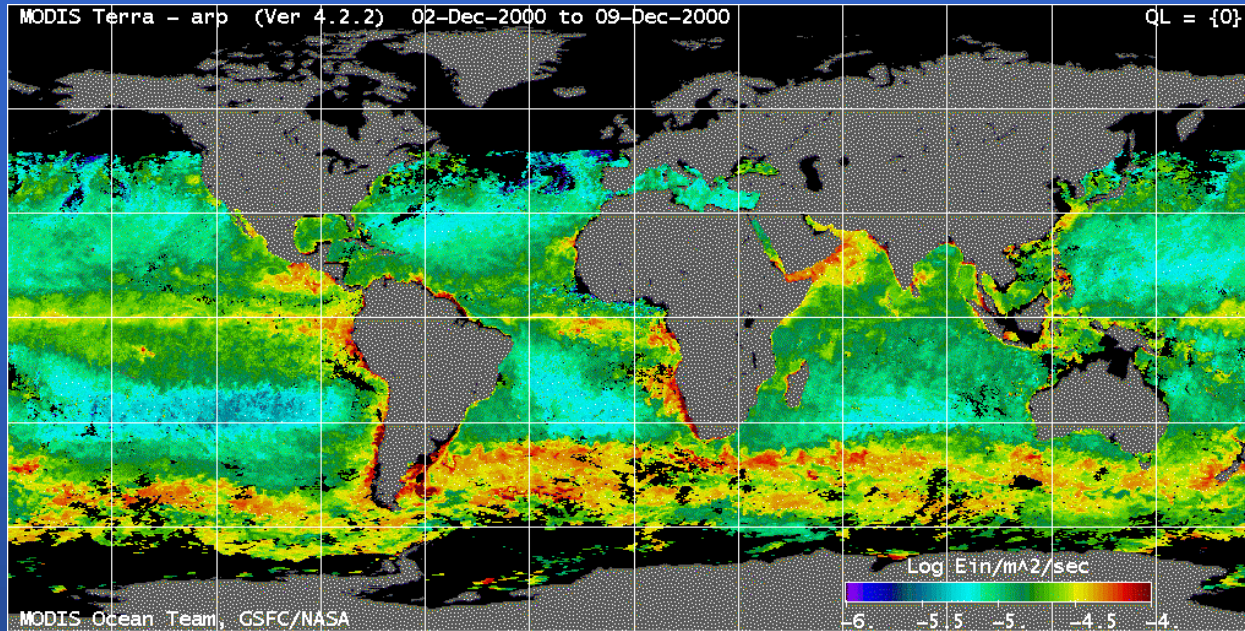
or  $PP \propto \text{ARP} \times (\text{const.} - \text{FLH}/\text{ARP})$

$\propto (\text{const.}/\text{ARP}) - \text{FLH}$

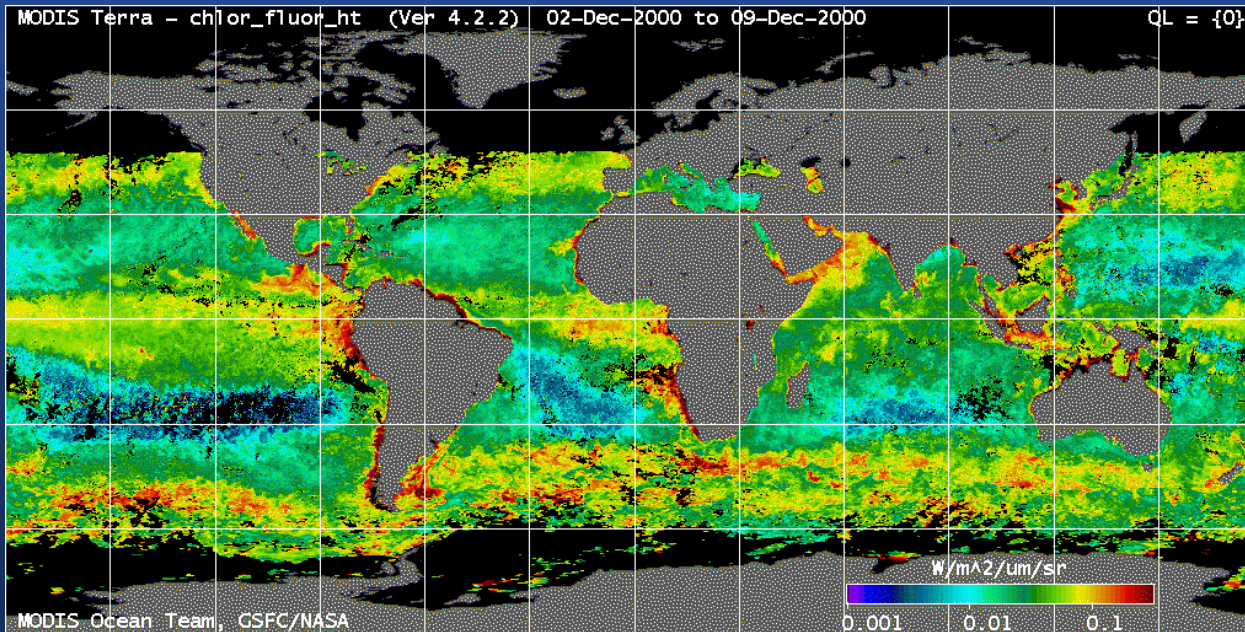
## Can we use FLH to tell us about chlorophyll?

- Absorption-based algorithms fail in waters where there are other materials that absorb and scatter and are not correlated with chlorophyll
  - Sediment
  - Dissolved organic matter
- Chlorophyll fluorescence is specific to chlorophyll
  - But it also depends on physiology

# Goddard DACC weekly declouded 36 km starting 12/02/2000 (Quality=0 L2 V 4.2.2)

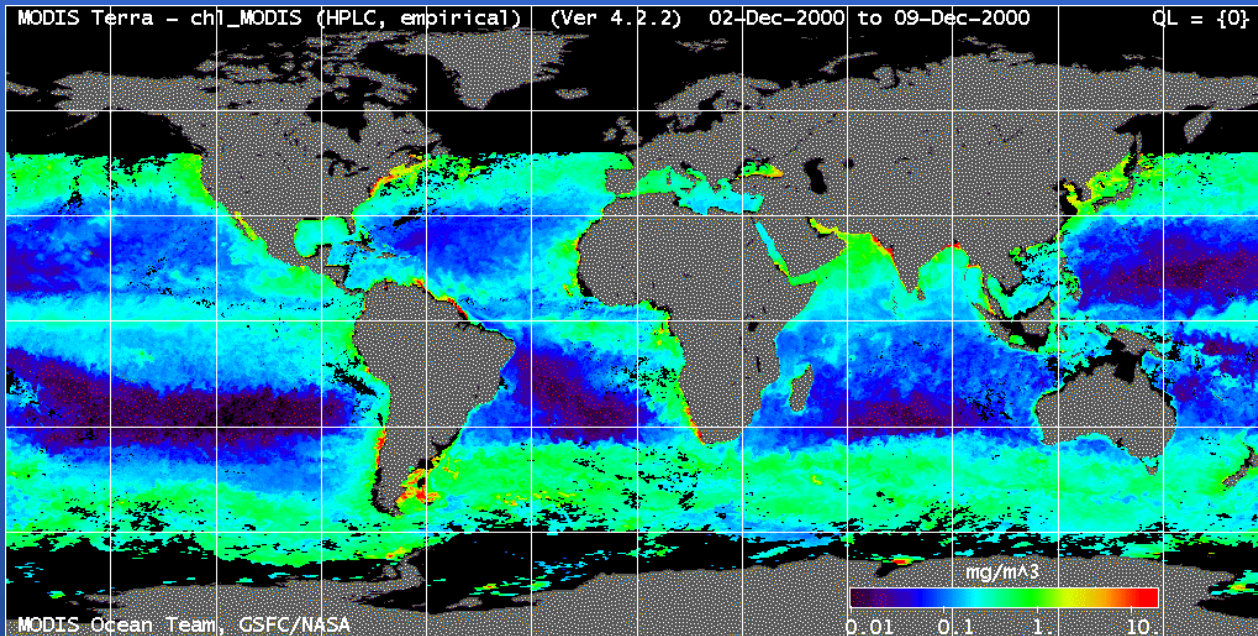


MODIS ARP

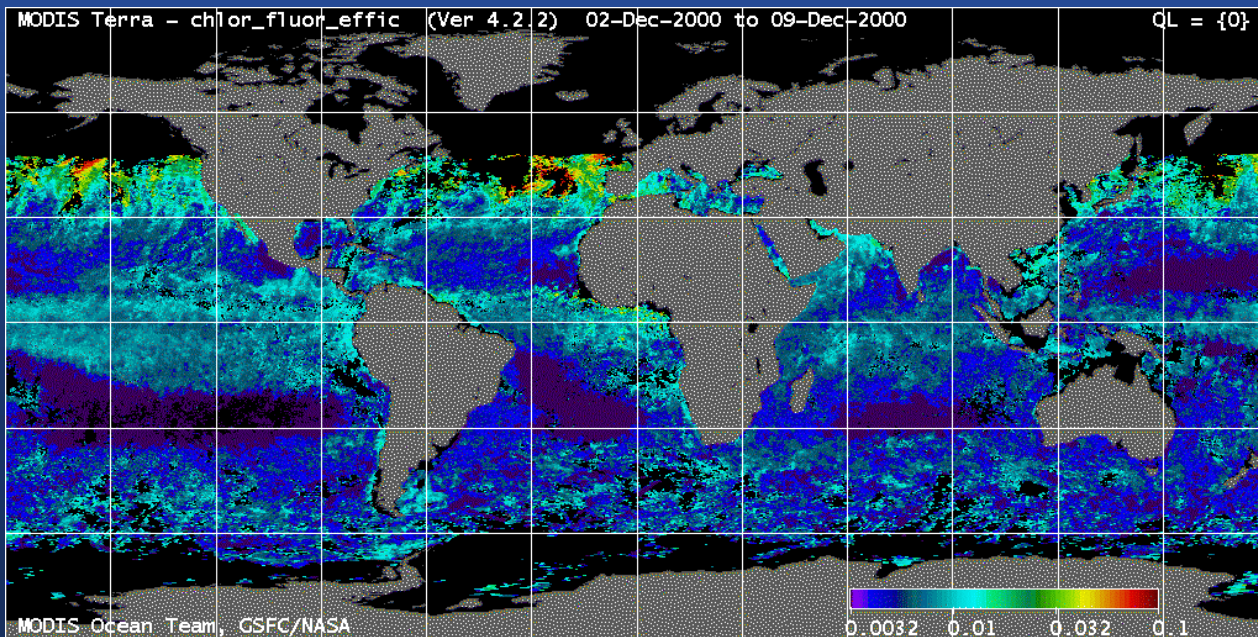


MODIS FLH

# Goddard DACC weekly declouded 36 km starting 12/02/2000 (Quality=0 L2 V 4.2.2)

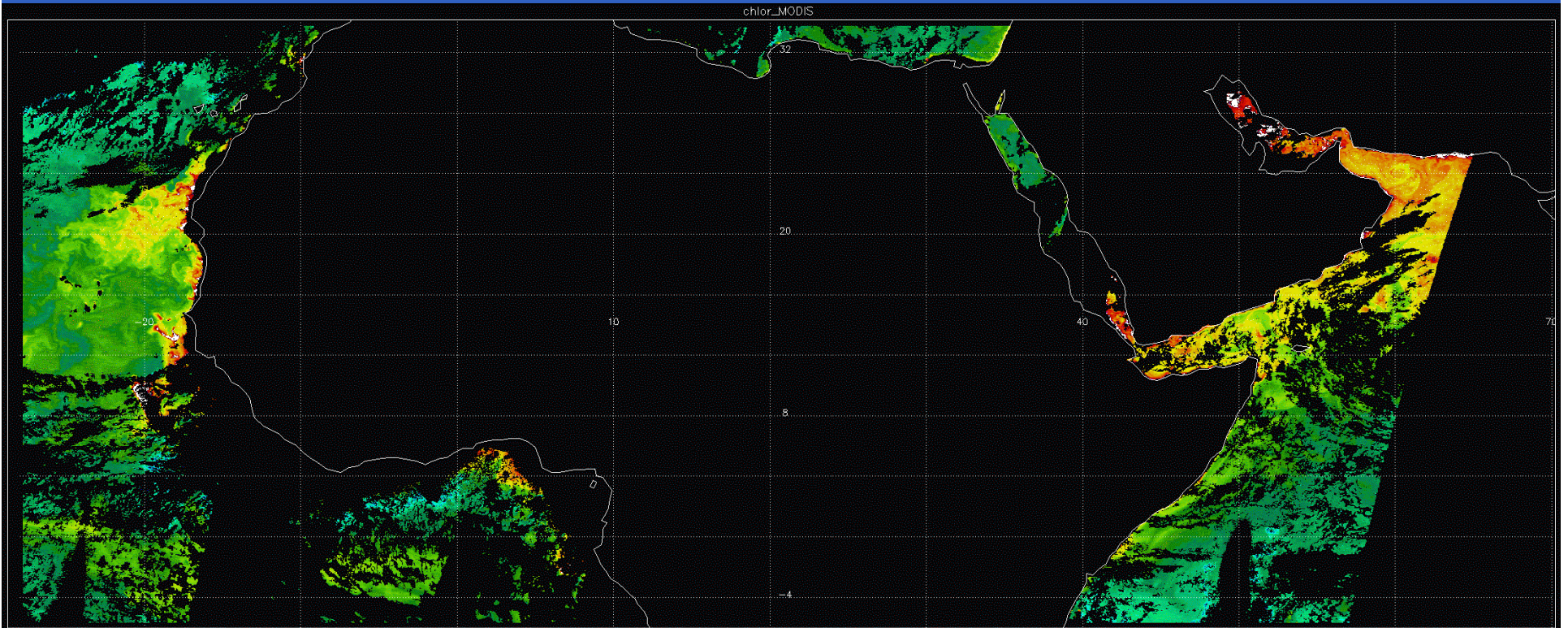


MODIS CHL

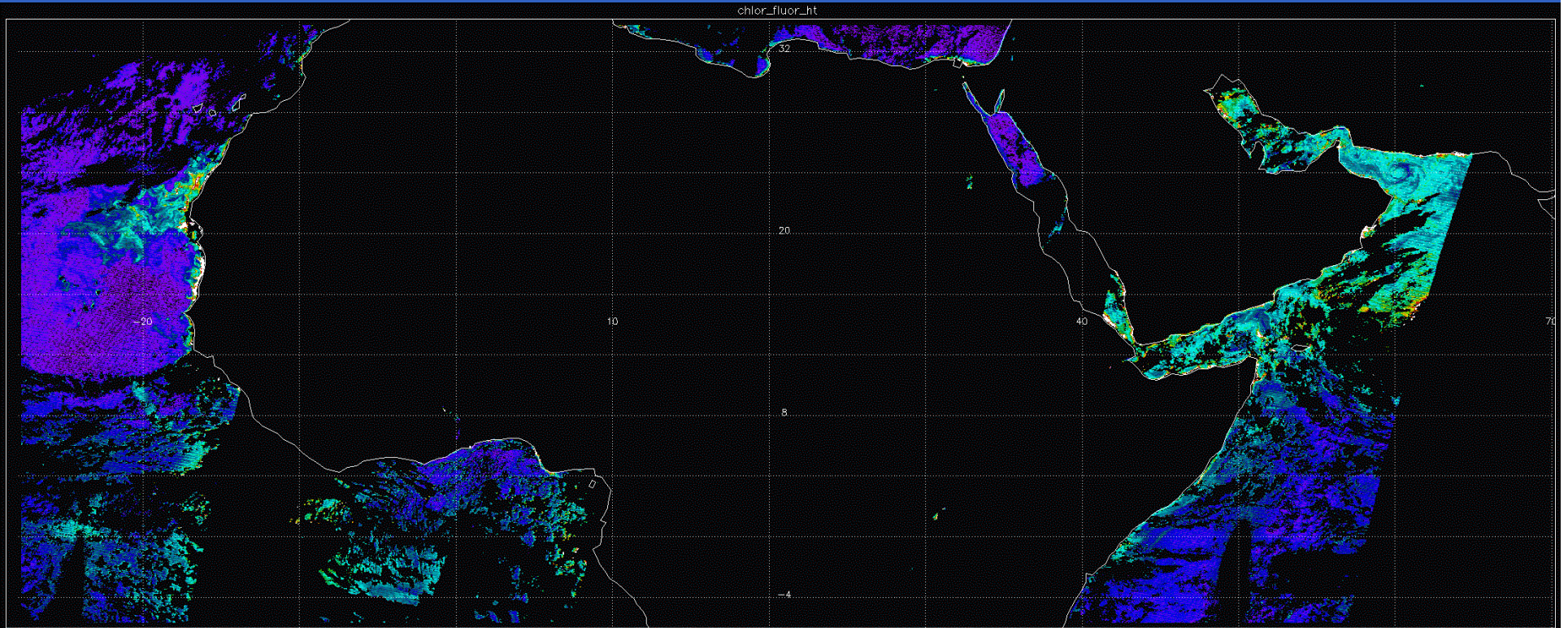


MODIS CFE

# Chlorophyll December 4, 2000

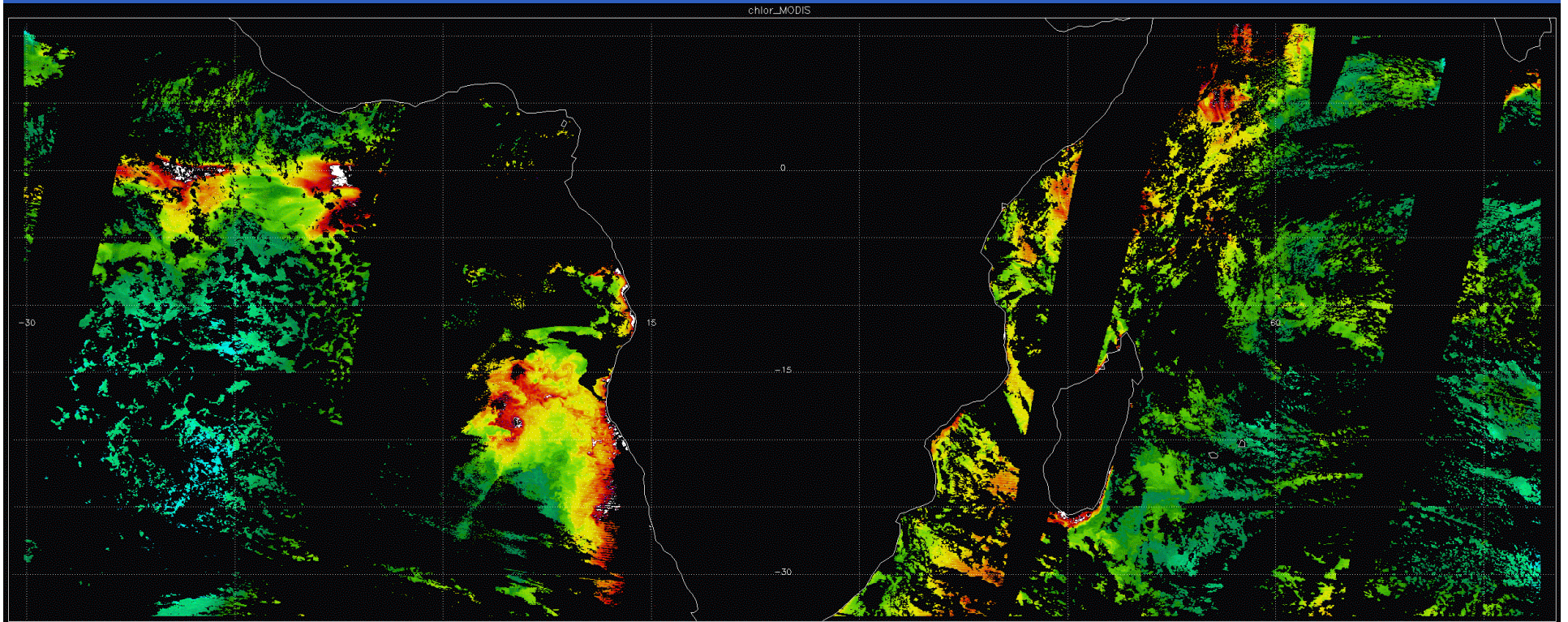


# FLH December 4, 2000

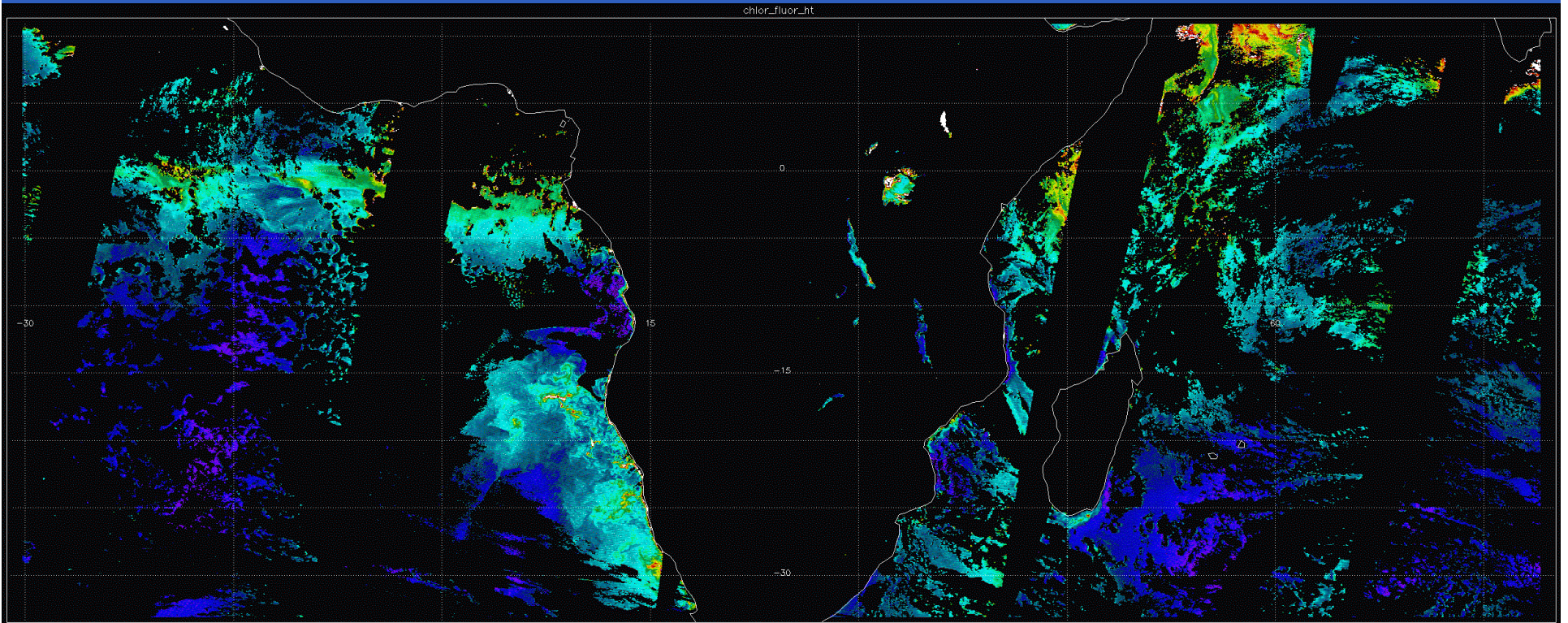


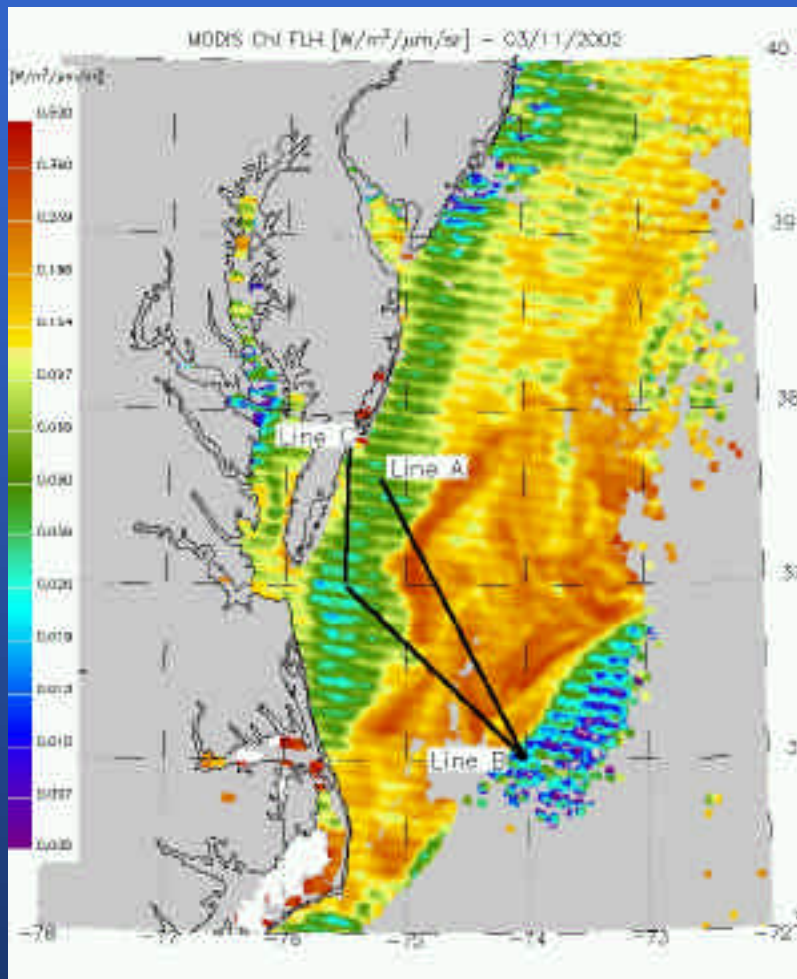


# Chlorophyll June 25, 2002

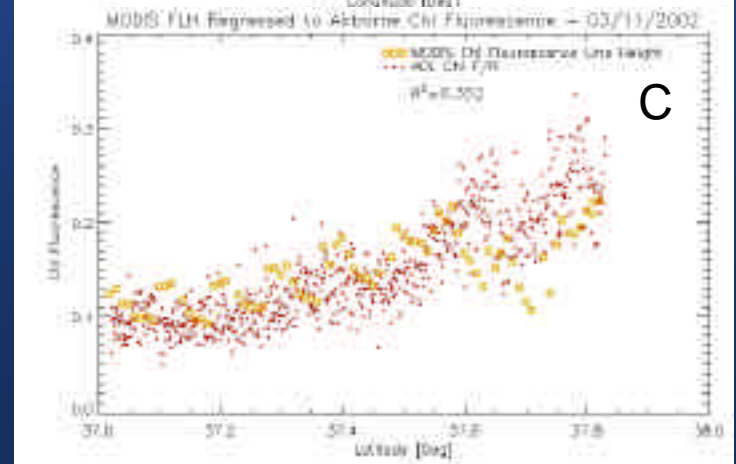
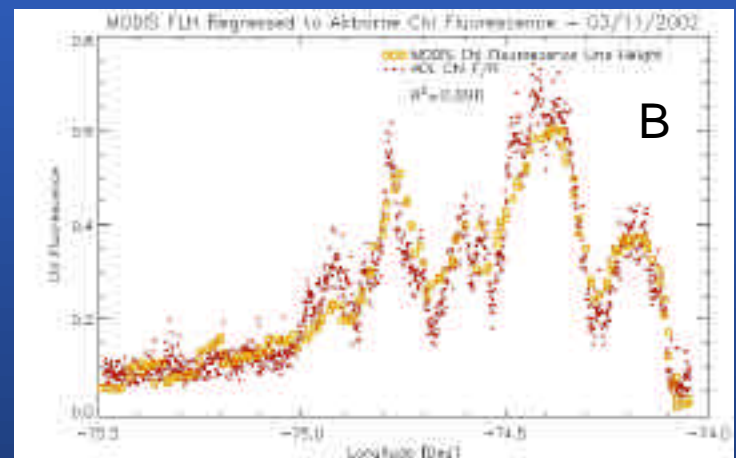
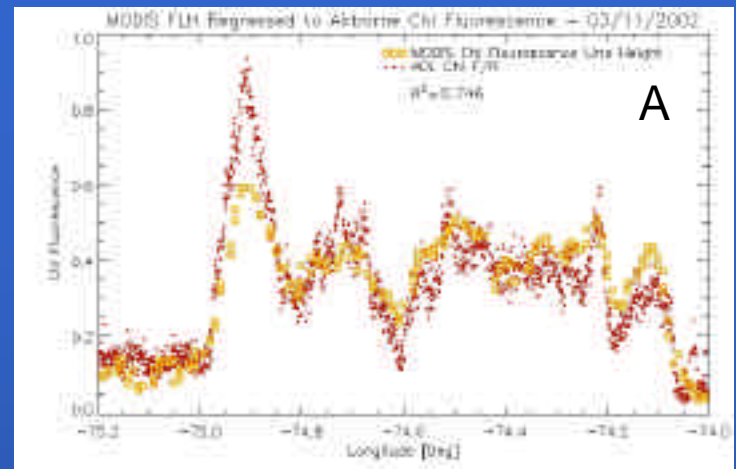


# FLH June 25, 2002

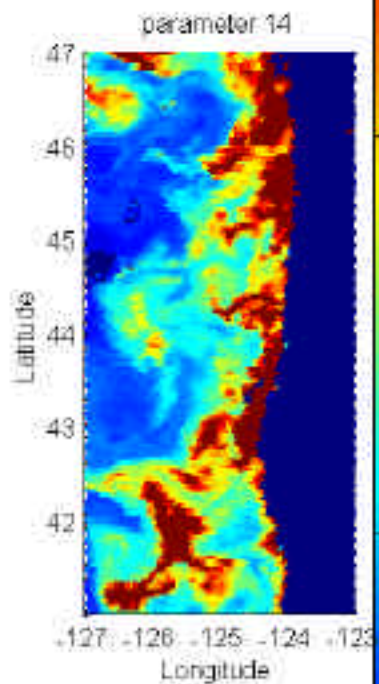




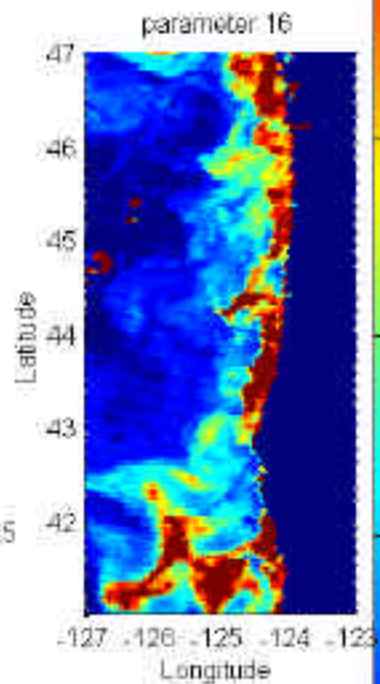
(From Frank Hoge)



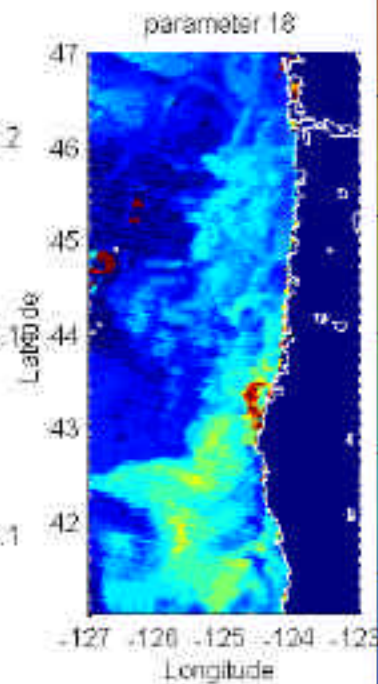
MODIS\_Ch1



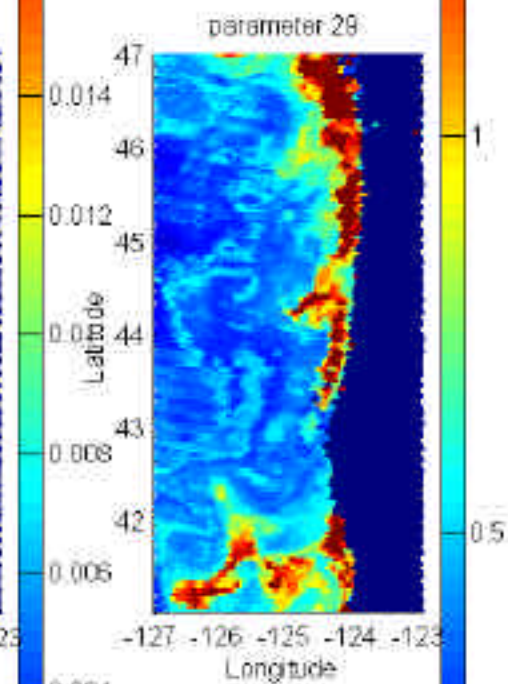
MODIS\_FLH



MODIS\_CFE



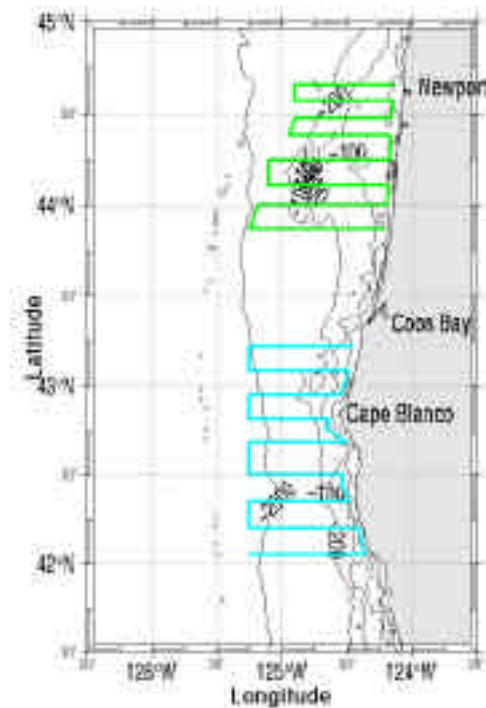
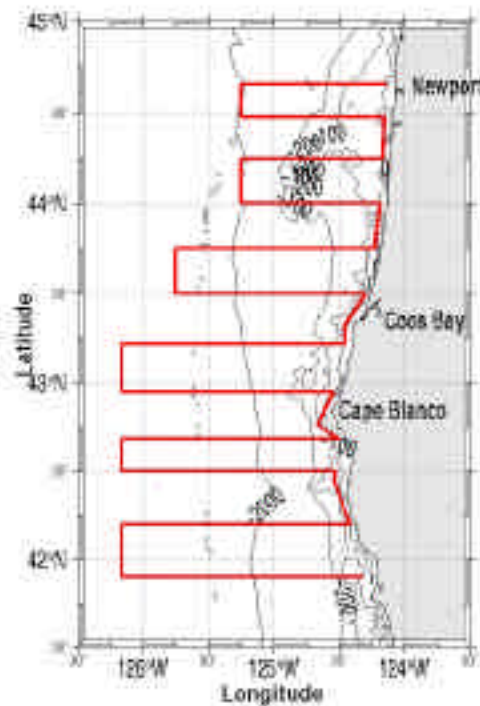
MODIS\_ARP



OSU Direct Broadcast October 04, 2001

# Field Approach

- Mesoscale Surveys (Cowles/Barth)



# Some Survey Measurements

- Continuous from Flow-through system
  - Temperature/ Salinity
  - Active Fluorometry
  - Fast Repetition Rate Fluorometry
  - Total and dissolved absorption and attenuation

## -Discrete

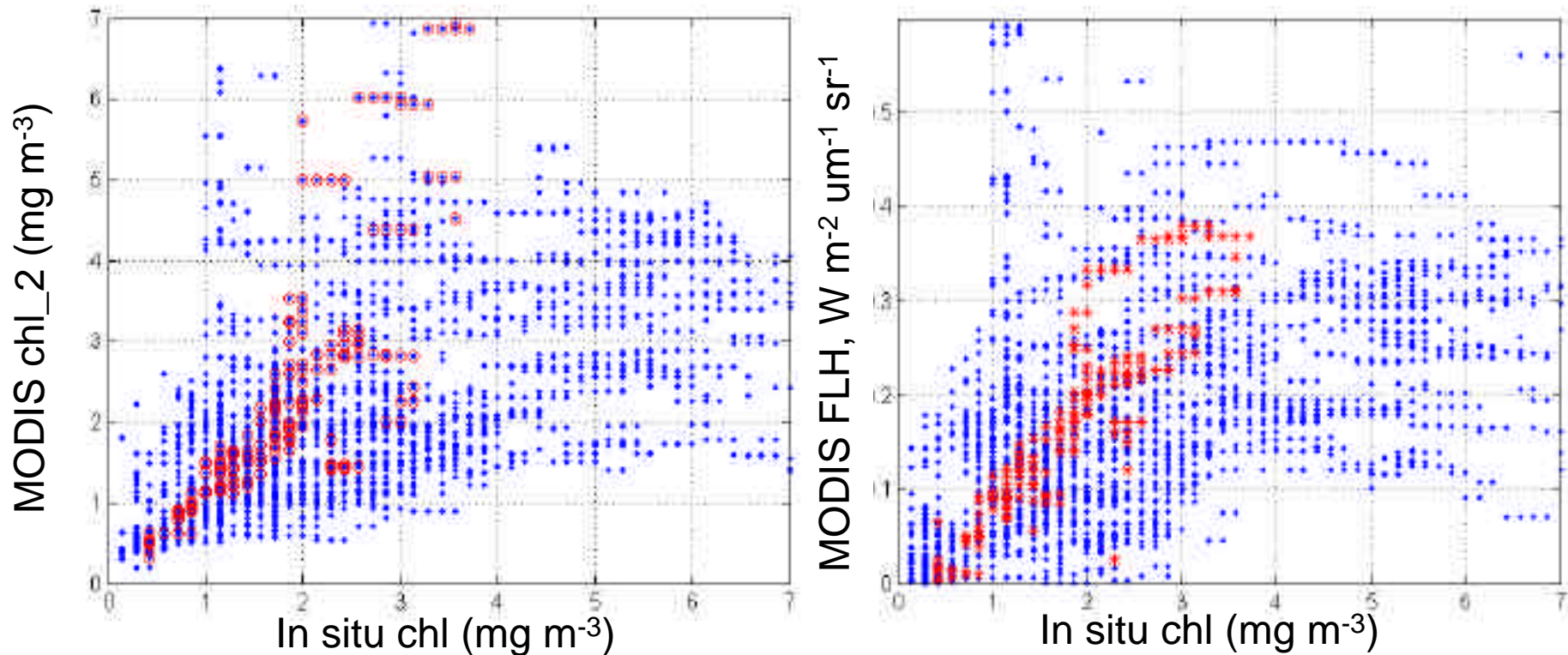
- Pigments (Fluor/HPLC)
- Nutrients (autoanalyzer)
- Particulate absorption

## - Other Platforms

- Optical Drifters, tethered buoys
- Moorings
- Satlantic MicroSAS underway reflectance



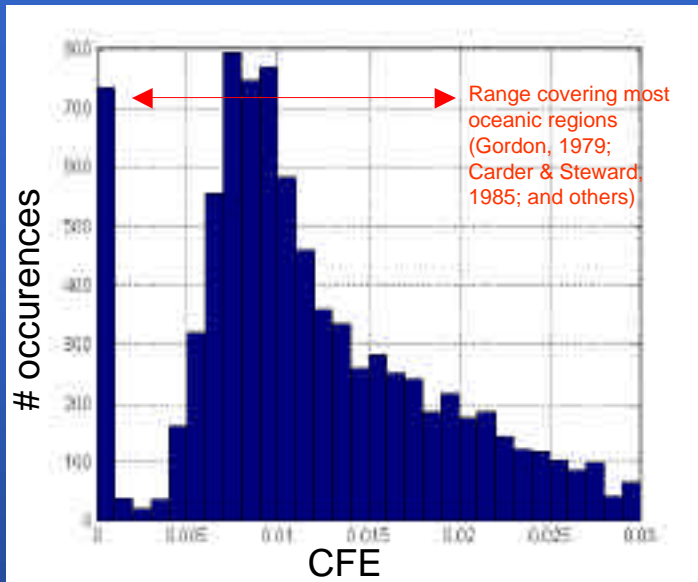
Comparison between field measurements  
and Remote Sensing data  
(Mesoscale Survey August 2000  
And MODIS Image from August 2<sup>nd</sup>)



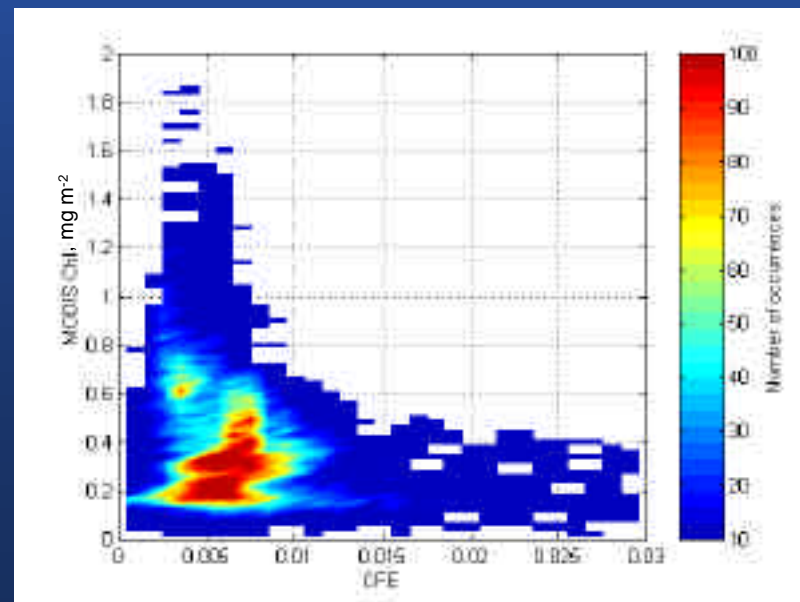
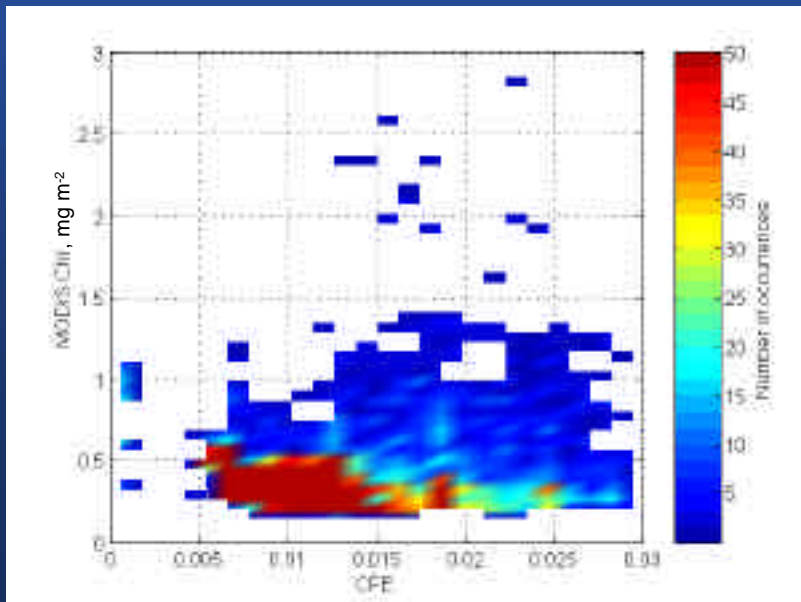
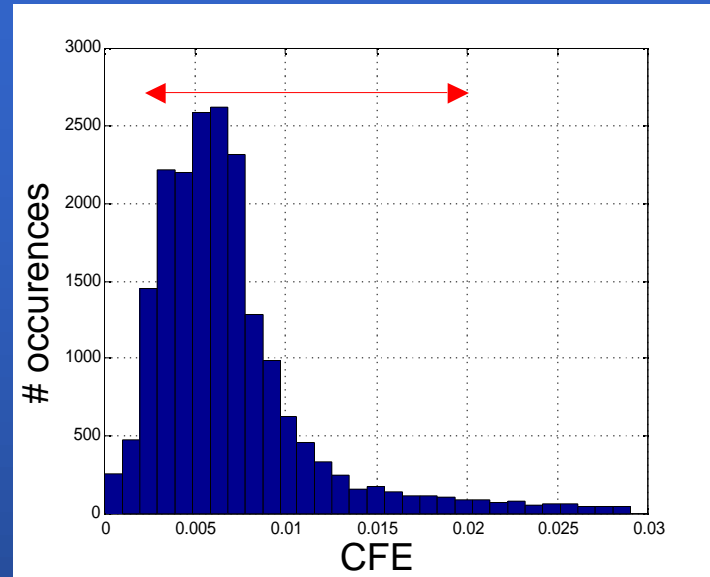
(In situ chl derived from the calibration of the flow through fluorometer with HPLC chlorophyll determinations )

-Blue = all mesoscale survey data (July 31<sup>st</sup> - August 7<sup>th</sup>)

## Oregon Coast DB Image 2001150



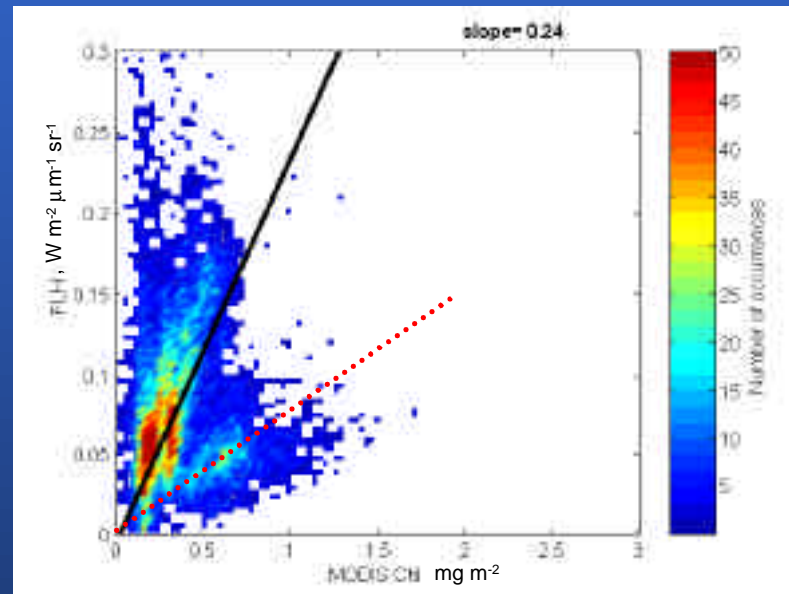
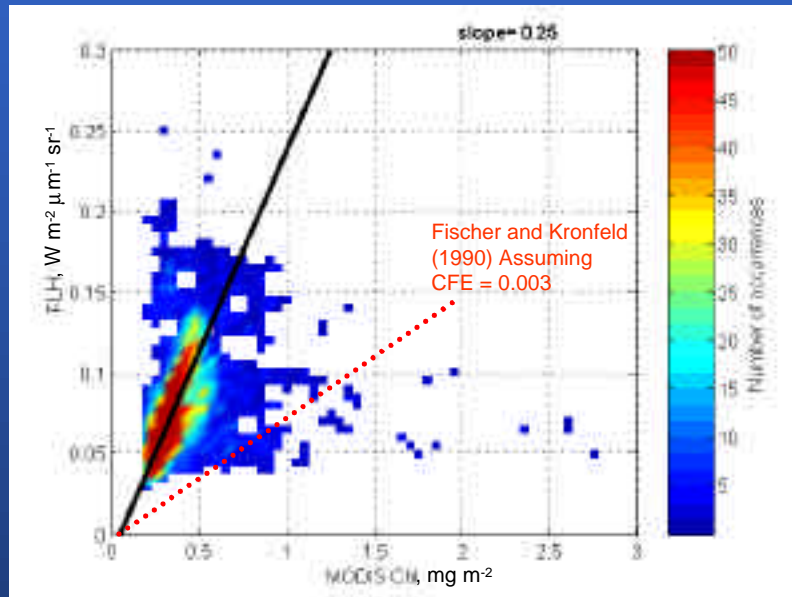
## East Coast Image 2001095.1605





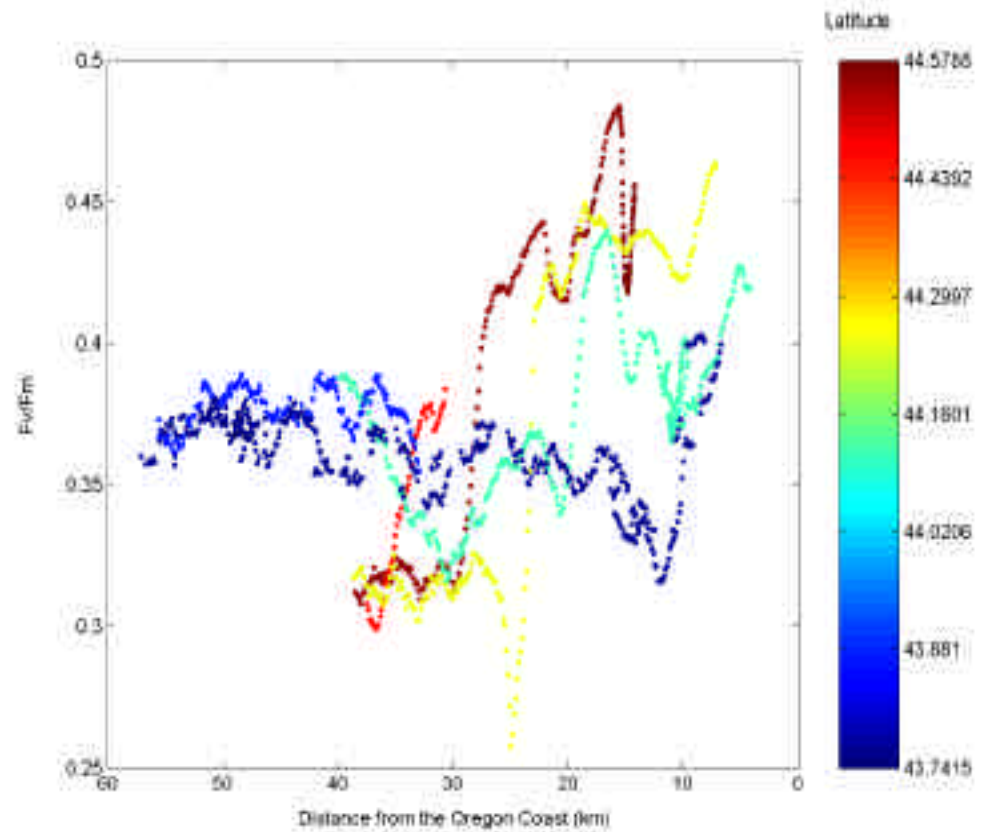
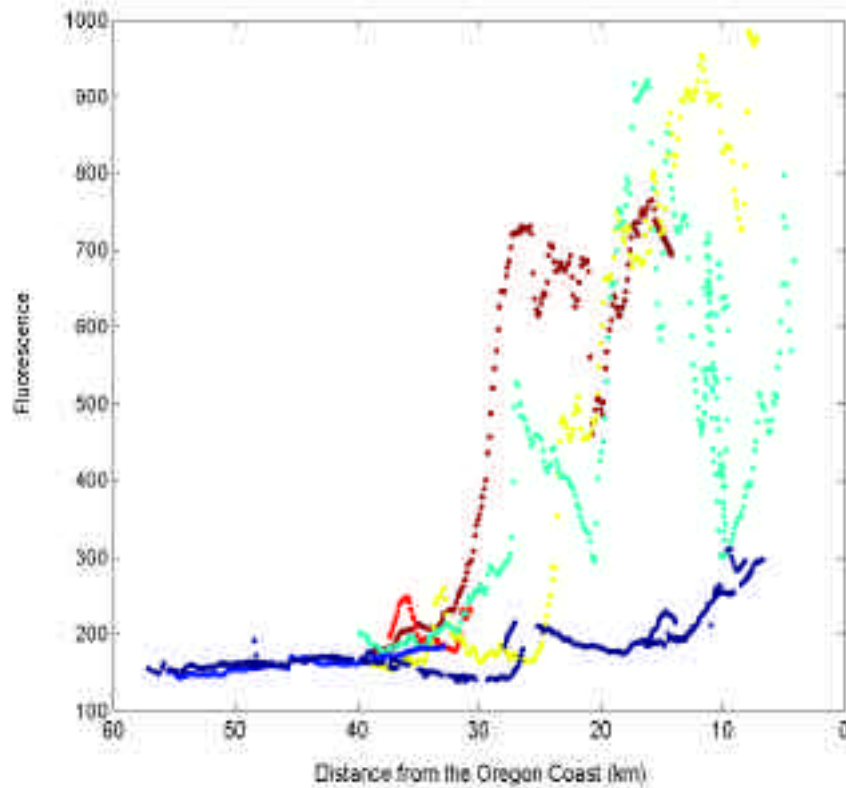
## Oregon Coast DB Image 2001150

## East Coast Image 2001095.1605



## Chlorophyll biomass proxy

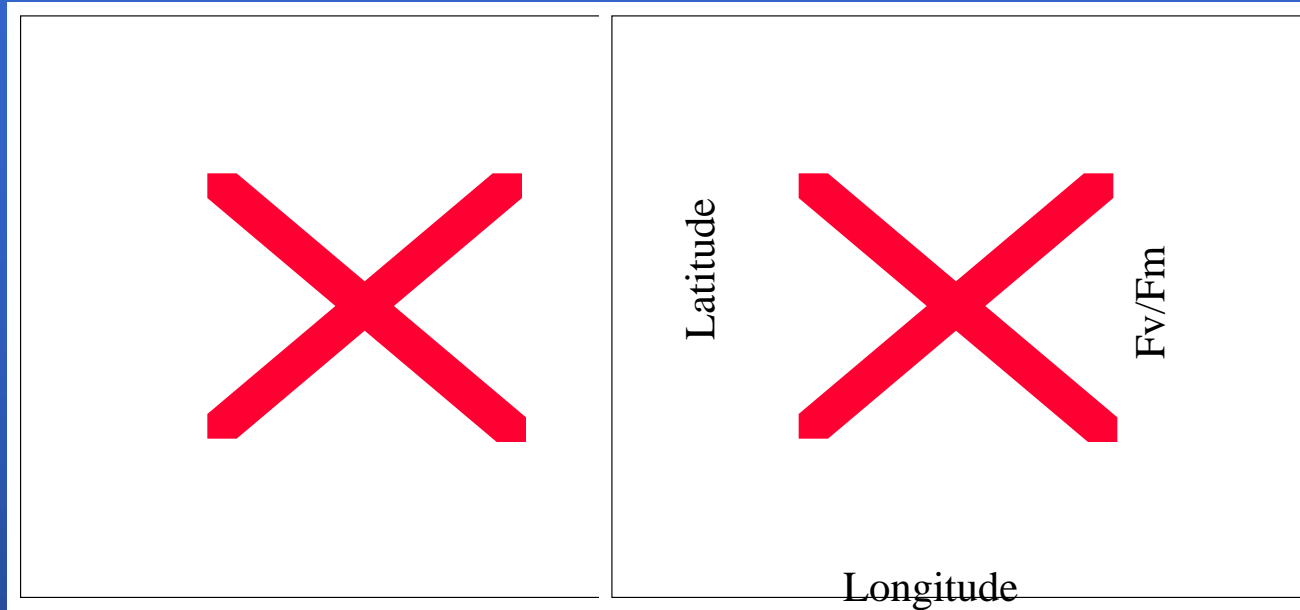
## Optimum photosynthesis max yield



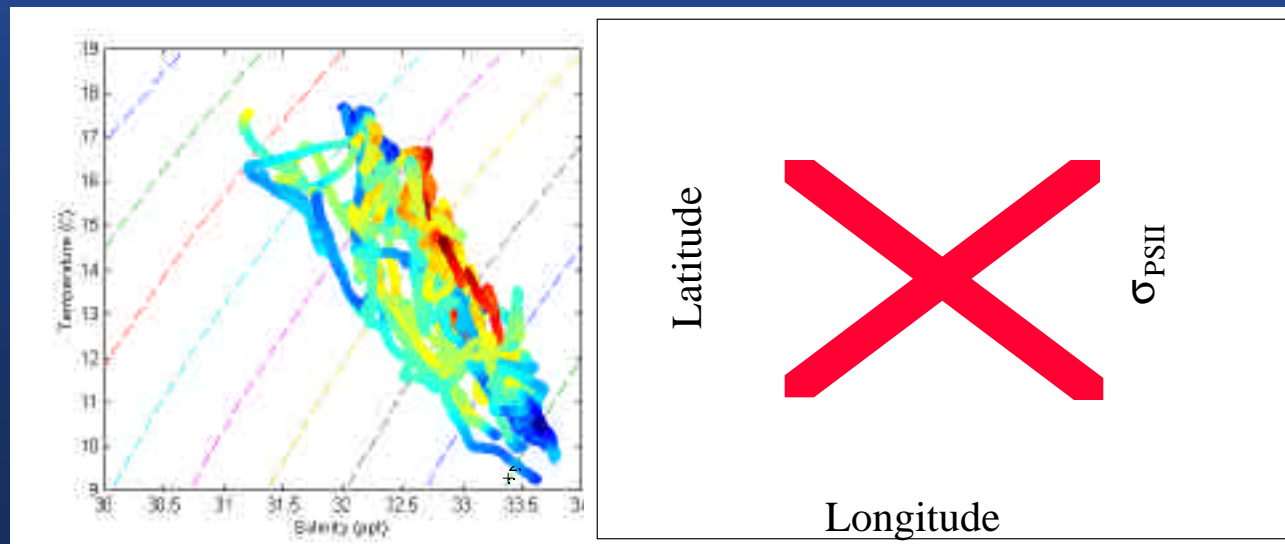
(From Rachel Sander's work)

August 2000  
(Nighttime)

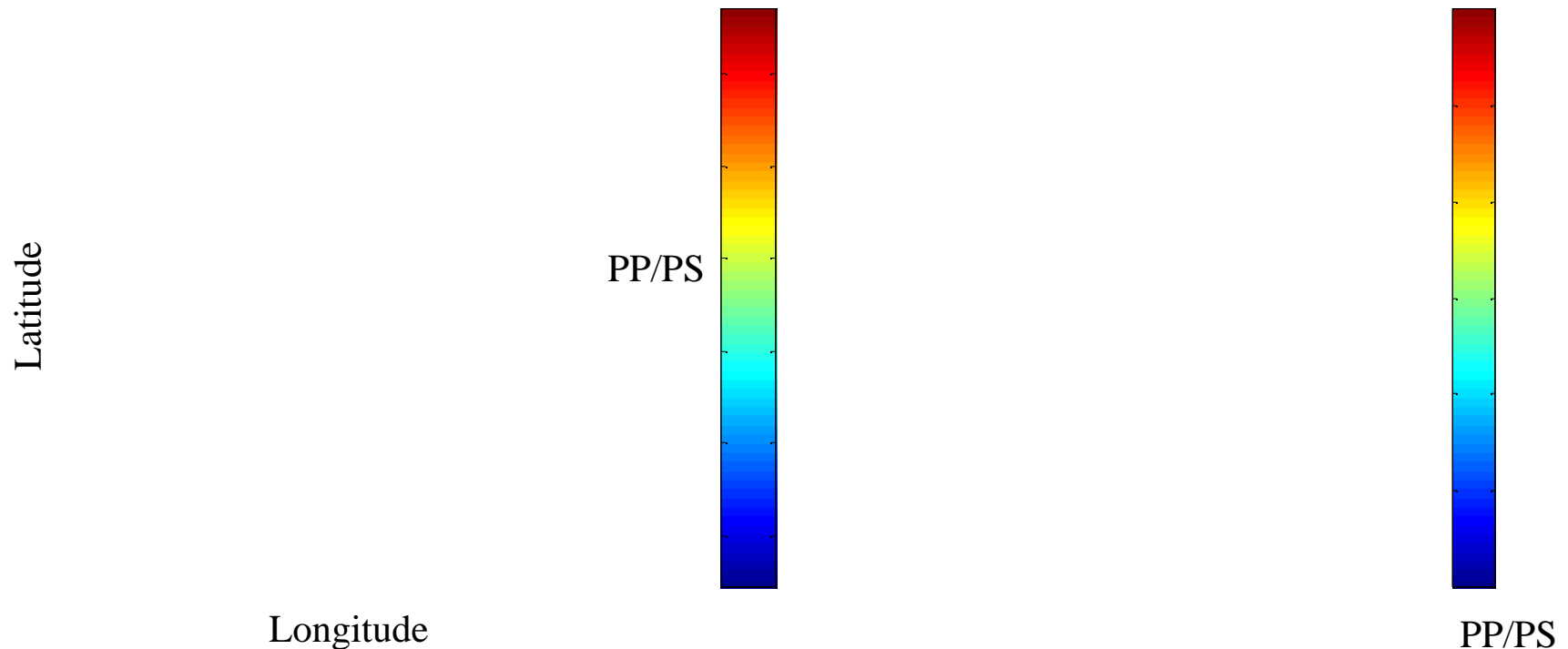
## Optimum Absorption Quantum Yield



## Absorption Cross-section of Photosystem II



# Photoprotective:Photosynthetic pigment ratio



## Other alternatives :

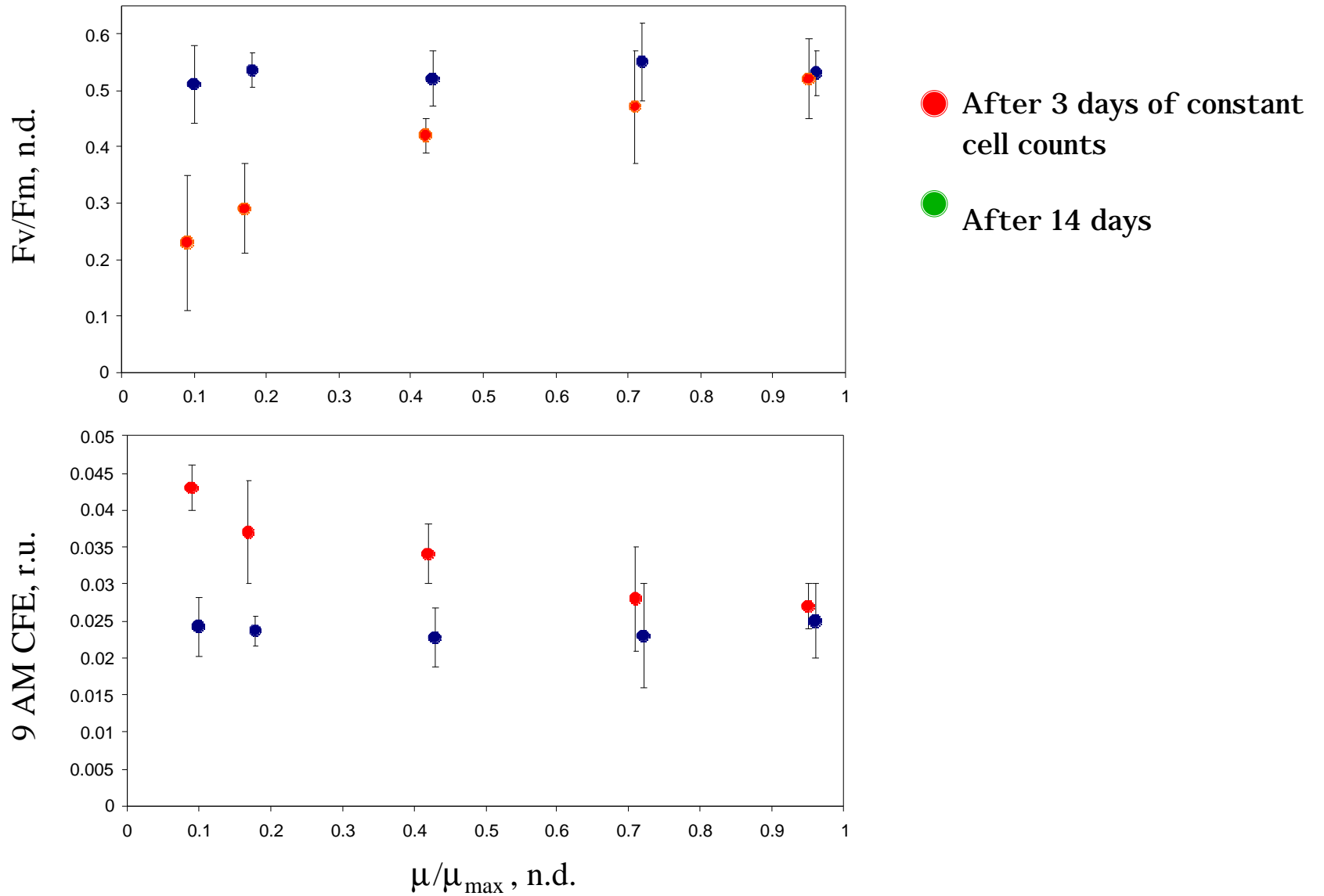
- Changes in ARP (We just finished analyzing the filter pad particulate absorption samples)
- Heat dissipation processes not accounted for

## However:

- FLH and CFE are very different MODIS products in terms of validation.
  - FLH is based on nLw at 678 nm after baseline correction
  - CFE is a proxy for  $\Phi_f$  (a physiological parameter) that requires the previous validation of ARP ( $[\text{chl}] \times a^*$ ).
  - Further use of  $\Phi_f$  to infer  $\Phi_p$  requires the characterization of the variability in energy distribution within the photosystem

# *Thalassiosira weissflogii*

## Chemostat results 2001-2002



# Summary

- Fluorescence and chlorophyll
  - Generally a linear relationship between absorption-based estimates and fluorescence-based estimates of chlorophyll
    - Exceptions are apparent, for example near the coast
  - Slope of line relating FLH to chl is related to CFE
- Can we estimate chlorophyll from FLH?
  - Challenge is that many processes affect  $\phi_F$ 
    - Photoprotective pigments, absorption cross-section
  - Appears, though, that CFE appears to fall into 2 clusters so problem may be tractable
  - High values of CFE appear to be associated with communities far from equilibrium