#### Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) 2 methods



Remote Sensing for HAB Detection: Does the Bloom Change Water Color?

#### Yes? Optical techniques

Can distinguish some bloom types in case 1 water

Difficult in coastal areas due to sediment and CDOM Use absorption, backscatter, and spectral shape, relative patterns

Complements ecological detection techniques

Many blooms are not unique (Pn is a diatom in a diatom system)

Bloom Ecology techniques, Not just chl a

Does it dominate/correlate biomass?

Seasonality of blooms

Relationship to environmental conditions

#### No? Physical Forcing

Association between bloom and physical features, **use of SST** (e.g., fronts, upwelling, wind events)

Not direct bloom detection, difficult to view extent of bloom

*Karenia* can make strong blooms (major source of primary production on west Florida shelf). Pure *Karenia* blooms are great for Ocean Color Remote Sensing, gave illusion that "red tides" are easily solvable.



#### If you want a "red tide": *Nocticula*. Visually striking; usually harmless, sometimes causes fish kills



# **Cyanos in many areas**

Baltic Large lakes (e.g. Lake Erie) Small lakes





#### *Microcystis* as scum example

• Aug 2009, Lake Erie





#### Remote Sensing & Optical methods for detecting and monitoring HABs

Uniquely identify bloom by Optical technique **Non-Colored blooms** Identify feature associated with field ID of HAB Find physical factors (but no bloom ID) Wind events Upwelling Currents

# Chlorophyll

## Generally not useful simply as chlorophyll (Chlorophyll may be inferred from FLH)



Gower et al., 2005, MERIS FLH Exceptions, chlorophyll threshold is useful: "red tide" in some bays in Japan (various species) Brown tide in US, *Aureococcus, Aureoumbra* 



# Why not chl-a?



#### Chlorophyll is usually used in an anomaly or "delta" technique

Qualitative anomaly.

This area is a "red tide" because we infer concentration is much higher than normal.

Most "chlorophyll" HABs are interpreted anomalies



# Anomaly method can be quantified

Anomaly finds New Blooms

Demonstrated as effective for Karenia brevis

K. brevis dominates biomass in late summer

Better in case 2 water (with turbidity) than optical algorithms

Accuracy > 80% during summer and fall



#### **HAB Detection from SeaWiFS**



satellite provides full size

# Change in chlorophyll, example for Korea



# Persian Gulf during Cochlodinium bloom

MODIS Chlorophyll anomaly, Nov 2008

**FLH** anomaly





From: R. Kudela UCSC

#### Spectra: various pigments in algae



## **Analytical algorithms**

- Phycocyanin, from Simis, Gons and others
- QAA for absorption (Lee and others)
  - Solve for absorption at MODIS or SeaWiFS bands
- With good data, quite effective; demonstrated to work with radiometry; satellite depends on atmospheric correction

#### Analytical optics, example from cyanobacteria

100

0

△ IJsselmeer 10 Apr 2003

25

50

Measured PC (mg m<sup>-3</sup>)

75

10

• Simis et al. (L&O, 2005) Netherlands, MERIS

♦ IJsselmeer 24 Jun 2003 □ IJsselmeer 5 Aug 2003 Solve for *a<sub>pc</sub>(620)* from + IJsselmeer 9 Sep 2003 × + 75 × Loosdrecht Mar-Nov 2003 Retrieved PC (mg m<sup>-3</sup>) × R(709)/R(620) × 50 With **b**<sub>b</sub>, **a**<sub>w</sub>, **a**<sub>phi</sub> 25 ×  $a(620)_{pc}/a_{pc}^{*}(620)$ y = 0.99x + 0.53 $r^2 = 0.94$ 

#### Empirical, backscatter against absorption,

example from Karenia, less scatter from cells and from cellular detritus



## **Spectral shape algorithms**

MCI on MERIS (Gower 2005); (quantify by Binding 2011) CI on MERIS (Wynne et al., 2010) FLH MODIS (applied to a HAB, Hu et al., 2008) Other shape algorithms (SeaWiFS or MODIS; Tomlinson et al., 2010)

#### MCI determined at red-edge, related to chlorophyll



## CI/SS681, intense blooms, more cyano sensitive



MODIS 19 November 2008; Cocchlodinium bloom, Persian Gulf impacting water supply .

chlorophyll, FLH. Figures from Raphe Kudela





## **Other Optical Algorithms**



#### Bb/a (Cannizzaro/Carder

*Karenia* blooms scatter less than diatom & *Trichodesmium*.

Use Morel bb for reference. *Karenia* bloom when

(bb/a) < Morel bb/a).

bb from Rrs or Qaa, chl or FLH as surrogate for a.

Low is Karenia bloom.

### intense blooms in water



### Spectra of *Microcystis* "scum", bloom on water High in NIR, low in red



# Obtaining cell counts from satellite



Satellite against field cell counts (now working on field radiometry)



# MERIS spectral shapes, cyano & other bloom

MCI sensitive to lower chla, but also sensitive to high sediment concentration







## A side note, true color is valuable but hard to interpret: Find the scum, July 27, 2010



### NIR and red



## **Other sensors**

Cyanobacteria under high concentrations and low winds produce scum, high NIR reflectance

NIR assigned red color

False-color IR Landsat, Potomac River, 1982



Anabaena bloom, AVHRR (only red and NIR) Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, USA (Blue-green algae can produce surface scums) False Color infrared (pink indicates high NIR reflectance)

Cell counts  $< 10^3 \text{ mL}^{-1}$ 

 $> 10^5 \, mL^{-1}$ 



Extensive work done on blue-green blooms in the Baltic.

# HABs with extreme scattering

(Nodularia spumigena dominated blooms in the Baltic Sea)











Strong scattering enhanced by the vacuoles in Nodularia cells (M. Kahru)

Courtesy: M. Kahru

### **Visible anomalies**

#### Anoxic *Gymnodinium sangineum* HAB in Peru, turbidity anomaly *True-color "turbidity"*



# UV spectra, Mycosporine amino acids (MAAs) for dinoflagellates?

- Sunscreen for algae More common in dinoflagellates
- Increased UV absorption
- Relevant with future UV sensors
- Issues:
- **CDOM** areas
- Not stable, scene by scene classification



# **Common algorithms.**

- 1. Chl-a blue:green
- 2. Chl-a NIR:red
- 3. FLH
- 4. Chlorophyll anomaly
- 5. MCI (SS-708)

- 6. CI (SS-681)
- 7. Bb/a ratio
- 8. Brightness
- 9. Multi-band empirical relationship

# Exercise. Identify whether potential algal blooms occur. Feb and May images. CI, MCI, & OC4 chl

