Community Announcement

Invitation for chl-a & IOP community round-robin assessment

The ESA Ocean Colour Climate Change Initiative (OC-CCI) will be performing a community round-robin activity to evaluate in-water bio-optical algorithms. The core aim is to identify the best-performing algorithms across the complete ocean colour satellite time series from 1997 to the present to be applied to the next version of the OC-CCI Essential Climate Variables. We extend an invitation to contribute by submitting details of the published algorithm(s) for consideration, and returning results to the evaluation team at CNR and PML for analysis.

In this activity, the OC-CCI team will provide participants with satellite remote sensing reflectance (R_rs) values, corresponding to in-situ matchups, in the six standard OC-CCI wavebands (412, 443, 490, 510, 560, and 665 nm). Candidate algorithms are those that retrieve, either a) chl-a, or b) spectrally, the three IOP variables that are part of the OC-CCI product suite (b_bp, a_dg, a_ph) and/or diffuse attenuation coefficient (K_d).

All submissions will be evaluated using the OC-CCI round-robin test software (Brewin et al 2015) within an Optical Water Type framework, as detailed in our published protocols. In alignment with OC-CCI's open science approach (Sathyendranath et al 2017), any algorithm submitted for external evaluation must be published in the peer-reviewed literature and be freely available for use.

To facilitate planning, please indicate your interest in participating by emailing, with information about your algorithm:

- **for chl-a**: Salem Salem (**sis@pml.ac.uk**)
- **for IOP/Kd**: Jaime Pitarch (**jaime.pitarch@cnr.it**) and Vittorio Brando (**vittorio.brando@cnr.it**)

Subsequently, we will distribute the matchup dataset to confirmed participants from **20 February 2026, onwards**. We then request that you provide your computed results by 1 April 2026. Looking ahead, the team also plans a future round-robin focused on an OLCI-based sensor series utilizing ten bands, which will be announced separately.

Sincerely,

Jaime Pitarch, Vittorio Brando, Salem Salem, and Steve Groom on behalf of the ESA OC-CCI Team.