

# Size-fractionated zooplankton gut fluorescence for determination of grazing from R/V Atlantis, R/V Knorr, R/V Melville AT21-04, KN197-08, MV1110 in the Amazon River plume; NE coast of South America from 2010-2012 (ANACONDAS project)

**Website:** <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/473491>

**Version:** (tbd)

**Version Date:** 2013-12-26

## Project

» [Amazon iNfluence on the Atlantic: CarbOn export from Nitrogen fixation by DiAtom Symbioses](#) (ANACONDAS)

## Programs

» [Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research -US](#) (IMBER-US)

» [Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry](#) (OCB)

» [Emerging Topics in Biogeochemical Cycles](#) (ETBC)

» [Marine Microbiology Initiative](#) (MMI)

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## Dataset Description

Zooplankton Gut Fluorescence - Size-fractionated zooplankton gut fluorescence for determination of grazing

## Methods & Sampling

### Sampling and Analytical Methodology:

Zooplankton tows were performed using a 1-m<sup>2</sup>, 202-micron mesh MOCNESS (Multiple Opening/Closing Net and Environmental Sensing System) towed through the upper 150 m or occasionally the upper 500 m of the water column. Only depth intervals 150 m and shallower were used for determination of gut fluorescence. The following discrete depth intervals were sampled on the upcast for the upper 150m: 0-25 (or 0-10 and 10-25), 25-50, 50-100, and 100-150 m. Occasionally at shallow depth stations, a double oblique tow using a rectangular frame (0.8 x 1.2 m) single net with 202-micron mesh was performed in surface waters (within top 25 m). Both day and night tows were performed, and occasionally paired day/night tows at the same station. One-quarter of each sample was used for the determination of gut fluorescence. Each sample was size-fractionated by wet sieving through nested sieves of 0.2 mm, 0.5 mm, 1 mm, 2 mm, and 5 mm mesh.

Zooplankton in each size class were transferred onto pre-weighed disks of 0.2-mm nitex mesh, rinsed with deionized water, and frozen at sea (-80°C).

At our home laboratory, gut fluorescence for each size fraction was determined by the gut fluorescence method similar to Decima *et al.* 2011. For the 0.2-0.5 mm, 0.5-1.0 mm, 1.0-2.0 mm, and 2.0-5.0 mm size fractions, replicate 1/8 or 1/4 sections of the filter were analyzed. On some occasions with very low biomass the entire 2.0-5.0 mm size fraction was analyzed. For the >5mm size fraction the entire sample was processed. The samples were sonicated in 90% acetone and allowed to extract for at least two hours. Samples were then centrifuged to remove particulate and concentrations of chlorophyll a (Chl a) and phaeopigments (Phaeo) were measured on either a TD-700 or Turner Trilogy fluorometer. The post-acidification phaeopigment values (*pig*) were used to determine the gut pigment content (GPC).

The GPC (mg m<sup>-3</sup>) for each net was calculated by:

$$\text{GPC} = \frac{\text{pig} * \left(\frac{1}{\text{split}}\right) * \left(\frac{1}{f}\right)}{\text{vol}}$$

where *pig* is the measure pigment value (mg) *split* is the fraction of total tow, *f* is the fraction of filter analyzed and *vol* is the volume of water filtered through the net. Grazing rate (G; mg *pig* /m<sup>3</sup>/d) = GPC \* K where GPC is gut pigment content from above and K (69.12/d) is the gut evacuation rate constant (Huskin et al 2002).

#### **Related files and references:**

Décima, M., Landry, M.R., and Rykaczewski, R.R. (2011). Broad scale patterns in mesozooplankton biomass and grazing in the eastern equatorial Pacific. *Deep Sea Res. Part II Top. Stud. Oceanogr.* 58, 387-399.

Huskin, I., Anadón, R., Medina, G., Head, R.N., and Harris, R.P. (2001). Mesozooplankton Distribution and Copepod Grazing in the Subtropical Atlantic Near the Azores: Influence of Mesoscale Structures. *J. Plankton Res.* 23, 671-691.

#### **Data Processing Description**

##### **Data Processing:**

Gut fluorescence data were corrected for sample split size, and divided by volume filtered (from MOCNESS flow meter, or from General Oceanics flow meter for single net)

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#### **Parameters**

Parameter	Description	Units
cruise	ANACONDAS cruise name	text
event	ANACONDAS event number	text
lat	average latitude during tow	degree
lon	average longitude during tow	degree
date	date (UTC) at start of tow	yyyymmdd
time	time (UTC) at start of tow	hhmm
depth_end	depth at end of tow	m
depth_begin	depth at beginning of tow	m
vol_filt	volume filtered by net	m <sup>3</sup>
gutflour_200	zooplankton grazing; 200 to 500 microns	mg pig /m <sup>3</sup>
gutflour_500	zooplankton grazing; 500 to 1000 microns	mg pig /m <sup>3</sup>
gutflour_1000	zooplankton grazing; 1000 to 2000 microns	mg pig /m <sup>3</sup>
gutflour_2000	zooplankton grazing; 2000 to 5000 microns	mg pig /m <sup>3</sup>
gutflour_5000	zooplankton grazing; gt 5000 microns	mg pig /m <sup>3</sup>
gutflour_total	zooplankton grazing; total	mg pig/m <sup>3</sup>
grazing_200	zooplankton grazing; 200 to 500 microns	mg pig /m <sup>3</sup> /d
grazing_500	zooplankton grazing; 500 to 1000 microns	mg pig /m <sup>3</sup> /d
grazing_1000	zooplankton grazing; 1000 to 2000 microns	mg pig /m <sup>3</sup> /d
grazing_2000	zooplankton grazing; 2000 to 5000 microns	mg pig /m <sup>3</sup> /d
grazing_5000	zooplankton grazing; gt 5000 microns	mg pig /m <sup>3</sup> /d
grazing_total	zooplankton grazing; total	mg pig/m <sup>3</sup> /d

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## Instruments

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	Flow Meter
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	Flow Meter
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	MOCNESS flow meter
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	General term for a sensor that quantifies the rate at which fluids (e.g. water or air) pass through sensor packages, instruments, or sampling devices. A flow meter may be mechanical, optical, electromagnetic, etc.

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	Flow Meter
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	Flow Meter
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	General Oceanics flow meter for single net
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	General term for a sensor that quantifies the rate at which fluids (e.g. water or air) pass through sensor packages, instruments, or sampling devices. A flow meter may be mechanical, optical, electromagnetic, etc.

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	MOCNESS
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	MOCNESS
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	Zooplankton tows were performed using a 1-m <sup>2</sup> , 202-micron mesh MOCNESS (Multiple Opening/Closing Net and Environmental Sensing System) towed through the upper 150 m or occasionally the upper 500 m of the water column.
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	The Multiple Opening/Closing Net and Environmental Sensing System or MOCNESS is a family of net systems based on the Tucker Trawl principle. There are currently 8 different sizes of MOCNESS in existence which are designed for capture of different size ranges of zooplankton and micro-nekton. Each system is designated according to the size of the net mouth opening and in two cases, the number of nets it carries. The original MOCNESS (Wiebe et al, 1976) was a redesigned and improved version of a system described by Frost and McCrone (1974). (from MOCNESS manual) This designation is used when the specific type of MOCNESS (number and size of nets) was not specified by the contributing investigator.

<b>Dataset-specific Instrument Name</b>	Neuston Net
<b>Generic Instrument Name</b>	Neuston Net
<b>Dataset-specific Description</b>	Occasionally at shallow depth stations, a double oblique tow using a rectangular frame (0.8 x 1.2 m) single net with 202-micron mesh was performed in surface waters
<b>Generic Instrument Description</b>	Neuston Nets are nets that collect zooplankton that live in the top few centimeters of the sea surface (the neuston layer). This specialized net has a rectangular mouth opening usually 2 or 3 times as wide as deep, i.e. 1 meter by 1/2 meter or 60 cm by 20 cm, with sometimes hollow piping construction to aid in flotation. They are generally towed half submerged at 1-2 kts from the side of the vessel on a boom to avoid the ship's wake.

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## Deployments

AT21-04

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/58944">https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/58944</a>
<b>Platform</b>	R/V Atlantis
<b>Start Date</b>	2012-07-13
<b>End Date</b>	2012-07-29
<b>Description</b>	ANACONDAS: Amazon iNfluence on the Atlantic: CarbOn export from Nitrogen fixation by DiAtom Symbioses ROCA: River Ocean Continuum of the Amazon WHOI cruise planning synopsis Original data are available from the NSF R2R data catalog Cruise Track over Salinity Climatology (Image from Dr. Ajit Subramaniam)

#### KN197-08

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/58043">https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/58043</a>
<b>Platform</b>	R/V Knorr
<b>Report</b>	<a href="http://bcodata.whoi.edu/ANACONDAS/ANACONDAS1-FullCruiseReport.pdf">http://bcodata.whoi.edu/ANACONDAS/ANACONDAS1-FullCruiseReport.pdf</a>
<b>Start Date</b>	2010-05-22
<b>End Date</b>	2010-06-24
<b>Description</b>	ANACONDAS: Amazon iNfluence on the Atlantic: CarbOn export from Nitrogen fixation by DiAtom Symbioses ROCA: River Ocean Continuum of the Amazon WHOI cruise planning synopsis Cruise information and original data are available from the NSF R2R data catalog. Cruise Track over Salinity Climatology (Image from Dr. Ajit Subramaniam)

#### MV1110

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/58945">https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/58945</a>
<b>Platform</b>	R/V Melville
<b>Start Date</b>	2011-09-03
<b>End Date</b>	2011-10-08
<b>Description</b>	ANACONDAS: Amazon iNfluence on the Atlantic: CarbOn export from Nitrogen fixation by DiAtom Symbioses ROCA: River Ocean Continuum of the Amazon Original data are available from the NSF R2R data catalog Cruise Track over Salinity Climatology (Image from Dr. Ajit Subramaniam)

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## Project Information

### Amazon iNfluence on the Atlantic: CarbOn export from Nitrogen fixation by DiAtom Symbioses (ANACONDAS)

**Website:** <http://amazoncontinuum.org/>

**Coverage:** Amazon River plume; NE coast of South America; Western Tropical North Atlantic - 15N-Equator and 60W to 45W - Region surrounding the Amazon River Plume

ANACONDAS is an IMBER endorsed project.

[View list of all IMBER endorsed projects](#)

View the ANACONDAS project [GCMD DIF record](#)

The ANACONDAS project was funded as part of the US National Science Foundation (NSF) Emerging Topics in Biogeochemical Cycles (ETBC) program (Directorate for Geosciences, NSF 07 -049, September 19, 2007) explicitly intended to support emerging areas of interdisciplinary research. The ETBC program aimed to foster transformational advances in the quantitative or mechanistic understanding of biogeochemical cycles that integrated physical-chemical-biological processes over the range of temporal and/or spatial scales in Earth's environments. The program especially sought proposals that addressed emerging topics in biogeochemical cycles, the water cycle or their coupling, across the interfaces of atmosphere, land, and oceans.

The ANACONDAS investigators hypothesize that large tropical river plumes with low N: P ratios provide an ideal niche for diatom-diazotroph assemblages (DDAs). They suggest that the ability of these organisms to fix N<sub>2</sub> within the surface ocean is responsible for significant C export in the Amazon River plume. Their previous observations in the Amazon River plume helped reveal that blooms comprised of the endosymbiotic N<sub>2</sub>-fixing cyanobacterium *Richelia* and its diatom hosts (e.g. *Hemiaulus*) were a significant source of new production and carbon export. The previous work focused largely on the sensitivity of DDAs to external forcing from dust and riverine inputs, so the ecology of these organisms and the fate of their new production were largely unstudied. It is now known that DDAs are responsible for a significant amount of CO<sub>2</sub> drawdown in the Amazon River plume, and floating sediment traps at 200 m measured 4x higher mass fluxes beneath the plume than outside the plume. This led the researchers to hypothesize that this greater export is due either to aggregation and sinking of DDAs themselves or to grazing of DDAs by zooplankton.

In this study the researchers will undertake a suite of field, satellite and modeling studies aimed at understanding the ecology and tracing the fate of C and N fixed by DDAs and other phytoplankton living in the plume. By examining C and silicate (Si) export from offshore surface waters, through the upper oceanic food web, the mesopelagic, and down to the deep sea floor, they will quantify the impact of the Amazon River on biological processes that control C sequestration and the implications of these regional processes on C, N and Si budgets. The study will go beyond previous research because they will quantify 1) the distribution, nutrient demands, and activity of DDAs in the context of phytoplankton species succession, 2) the sensitivity of the CO<sub>2</sub> drawdown to the mix of phytoplankton, 3) the grazing and aggregation processes contributing to the sinking flux, 4) the composition of this flux, and 5) the proportion of this material that reaches the seafloor. This effort truly represents a measure of C sequestration and pump efficiency. Ecological modeling will be used to place observational results from field studies and satellites into the context of the larger Atlantic basin with tropical climate variability on interannual and longer time scales.

Three cruises were carried out during the ANACONDAS project:

AN10/KN197-08 - R/V KNORR - May/June 2010 - [Cruise Track over Salinity Climatology](#) (Image: Yager, et al, 2007)

AN11/MV1110 - R/V MELVILLE - September/October 2011 - [Cruise Track over Salinity Climatology](#) (Image: Yager, et al, 2007)

AN12/AT21-04 - R/V ATLANTIS - July/2012 - [Cruise Track over Salinity Climatology](#) (Image: Yager, et al, 2007)

The ANACONDAS project builds on observations made by MANTRA/PIRANA in 2001 and 2003 (RV Knorr and Seward Johnson I cruises to the same region) to address specifically 1) how carbon cycling and sequestration in the western tropical North Atlantic (WTNA) is influenced by the Amazon River through its impact on pelagic ecosystem dynamics and 2) the sensitivity of this ecosystem to anthropogenic climate change. PIRANA revealed the importance of both riverine and atmospheric inputs for driving the high productivity of the WTNA through N<sub>2</sub>-fixation, and demonstrated the significance of the region to basin-wide biogeochemistry and C cycling. ANACONDAS will now focus on what drives phytoplankton community succession through the plume, light and nutrient requirements, factors limiting productivity, and the fate of production. These components are critical to understand the role of the plume in the regional C cycle, and to predict its response to climate variability and change.

The NSF-funded ANACONDAS project will also serve as a platform for additional measurements supported by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation's Marine Microbiology Initiative. ROCA (River-Ocean Continuum of the Amazon) brings additional focus on marine microbial community structure and activities, along with high-resolution measurements of organic matter along the river-ocean continuum.

**ANACONDAS:** Amazon influence on the Atlantic: CarbOn export from Nitrogen fixation by DiAtom Symbioses  
**ROCA:** River Ocean Continuum of the Amazon

The project is funded by NSF-OCE-0934095 and NSF-OCE-0934036: Collaborative Research: ETBC: Amazon influence on the Atlantic: CarbOn export from Nitrogen fixation by DiAtom Symbioses and by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation through GBMF-MMI-2293: River Ocean Continuum of the Amazon.

## Planned Cruise Sampling

### **Water Column Characterization (hydrographic sampling with CTD/Rosette):**

Nutrient (NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>3</sub>, PO<sub>4</sub>, SiO<sub>4</sub>) concentrations  
Chlorophyll a and pigments concentrations  
Inorganic carbon (discrete DIC, ALK, underway pCO<sub>2</sub>)  
Organic carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus  
Phytoplankton and Diazotroph Abundance (using rosette and also small nets to collect)  
Carbon and Nitrogen Fixation by plankton  
Kinetic and Physiological Measurements of phytoplankton  
Stable Isotopic Measurements of particulate material  
Microbial heterotrophy  
Microbial community structure and gene expression  
Organic carbon and biomarker characterization

### **MOCNESS tows for zooplankton**

Zooplankton collection for abundance and biomass  
Zooplankton grazing and POC flux measurements

### **Multicorer for deep sea sediment analyses**

Solid phase analysis  
Pore water chemistry  
Isotopic composition (Pb, Th, C)

### **Other instrumentation over the side:**

The in-water light field will be characterized with a free-falling 14 channel spectroradiometer  
Two "Carbon Explorers" - autonomous Sounding Oceanographic Lagrangian Observer profilers  
Sediment Trap Studies (using 48h deployments of floating Particle Interceptor Traps; PITs)  
Surface water pumps - directly bring large volumes of surface water to the deck of the ship for processing.

### **Shipboard Instrumentation:**

ADCP 75 kHz  
Bathymetry System 12 kHz  
Bathymetry System 3.5 kHz  
Deionized Water System  
Fume Hood  
HiSeasNet  
Multibeam  
Uncontaminated Seawater System  
CTD/Water Sampling: 911+ Rosette 24-position, 10-liter bottle Rosette with dual T/C sensors  
Biospherical underwater PAR (1000m depth limit)  
SBE43 oxygen sensor  
Wet Labs C\*Star transmissometer (660nm wavelength)  
Wet Labs ECO-AFL fluorometer  
Dissolved Oxygen Titration System (Portable modified Winkler titration system)

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## **Program Information**

### **Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research -US (IMBER-US)**

**Website:** <http://www.imber.info/>

**Coverage:** global

The BCO-DMO database includes data from IMBER endorsed projects lead by US funded investigators. There is no dedicated US IMBER project or data management office. Those functions are provided by US-OCB and BCO-DMO respectively.

The information in this program description pertains to the Internationally coordinated IMBER research

program. The projects contributing data to the BCO-DMO database are those funded by US NSF only. The full IMBER data catalog is hosted at the Global Change Master Directory (GCMD).

**IMBER Data Portal:** The IMBER project has chosen to create a metadata portal hosted by the NASA's Global Change Master Directory (GCMD). The GCMD IMBER data catalog provides an overview of all IMBER endorsed and related projects and links to datasets, and can be found at URL <http://gcmd.nasa.gov/portals/imber/>.

IMBER research will seek to identify the mechanisms by which marine life influences marine biogeochemical cycles, and how these, in turn, influence marine ecosystems. Central to the IMBER goal is the development of a predictive understanding of how marine biogeochemical cycles and ecosystems respond to complex forcings, such as large-scale climatic variations, changing physical dynamics, carbon cycle chemistry and nutrient fluxes, and the impacts of marine harvesting. Changes in marine biogeochemical cycles and ecosystems due to global change will also have consequences for the broader Earth System. An even greater challenge will be drawing together the natural and social science communities to study some of the key impacts and feedbacks between the marine and human systems.

To address the IMBER goal, four scientific themes, each including several issues, have been identified for the IMBER project: Theme 1 - Interactions between Biogeochemical Cycles and Marine Food Webs; Theme 2 - Sensitivity to Global Change: How will key marine biogeochemical cycles, ecosystems and their interactions, respond to global change?; Theme 3 - Feedback to the Earth System: What are the roles of the ocean biogeochemistry and ecosystems in regulating climate?; and Theme 4 - Responses of Society: What are the relationships between marine biogeochemical cycles, ecosystems, and the human system?

## **Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry (OCB)**

**Website:** <http://us-ocb.org/>

**Coverage:** Global

The Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry (OCB) program focuses on the ocean's role as a component of the global Earth system, bringing together research in geochemistry, ocean physics, and ecology that inform on and advance our understanding of ocean biogeochemistry. The overall program goals are to promote, plan, and coordinate collaborative, multidisciplinary research opportunities within the U.S. research community and with international partners. Important OCB-related activities currently include: the Ocean Carbon and Climate Change (OCCC) and the North American Carbon Program (NACP); U.S. contributions to IMBER, SOLAS, CARBOOCEAN; and numerous U.S. single-investigator and medium-size research projects funded by U.S. federal agencies including NASA, NOAA, and NSF.

The scientific mission of OCB is to study the evolving role of the ocean in the global carbon cycle, in the face of environmental variability and change through studies of marine biogeochemical cycles and associated ecosystems.

The overarching OCB science themes include improved understanding and prediction of: 1) oceanic uptake and release of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases and 2) environmental sensitivities of biogeochemical cycles, marine ecosystems, and interactions between the two.

The OCB Research Priorities (updated January 2012) include: ocean acidification; terrestrial/coastal carbon fluxes and exchanges; climate sensitivities of and change in ecosystem structure and associated impacts on biogeochemical cycles; mesopelagic ecological and biogeochemical interactions; benthic-pelagic feedbacks on biogeochemical cycles; ocean carbon uptake and storage; and expanding low-oxygen conditions in the coastal and open oceans.

## **Emerging Topics in Biogeochemical Cycles (ETBC)**

**Website:** <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf07049/nsf07049.jsp>

**Coverage:** global



The original call for proposals for Emerging Topics in Biogeochemical Cycles (ETBC) was issued in September 2007 by the US NSF Directorate for Geosciences (NSF 07-049).

The Geosciences Directorate (GEO) is substantially augmenting our past funding sources to explicitly support emerging areas of interdisciplinary research. We seek to foster transformational advances in our quantitative or mechanistic understanding of biogeochemical cycles that integrate physical-chemical-biological processes over the range of temporal and/or spatial scales in Earth's environments. We encourage submission of proposals that address emerging topics in biogeochemical cycles, the water cycle or their coupling, across the interfaces of atmosphere, land, and oceans. Proposals must cross the disciplinary boundaries of two or more divisions in Geosciences (e.g. ATM, EAR, OCE) or of at least one division in Geosciences and a division in another NSF directorate.

Although funding programmatic disciplines continues to provide a robust and adaptable framework to build our understanding of the geosciences and the earth as a system, there are classes of emerging and challenging problems that require integration of concepts and observations across diverse fields. Our goal is to enhance such integration. Successful proposals need to develop intellectual excitement in the participating disciplinary communities. Also encouraged are proposals that have broader educational, diversity, societal, or infrastructure impacts that capitalize on this interdisciplinary opportunity.

### **Marine Microbiology Initiative (MMI)**

**Website:** <https://www.moore.org/initiative-strategy-detail?initiativeld=marine-microbiology-initiative>

A Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Program.

Forging a new paradigm in marine microbial ecology:

Microbes in the ocean produce half of the oxygen on the planet and remove vast amounts of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere. Yet, we have known surprisingly little about these microscopic organisms. As we discover answers to some long-standing puzzles about the roles that marine microorganisms play in supporting the ocean's food webs and driving global elemental cycles, we realized that we still need to learn much more about what these organisms do and how they do it—including how they evolved and contribute to our ocean's health and productivity.

The Marine Microbiology Initiative seeks to gain a comprehensive understanding of marine microbial communities, including their diversity, functions and behaviors; their ecological roles; and their origins and evolution. Our focus has been to enable researchers to uncover the principles that govern the interactions among microbes and that govern microbially mediated nutrient flow in the sea. To address these opportunities, we support leaders in the field through investigator awards, multidisciplinary team research projects, and efforts to create resources of broad use to the research community. We also support development of new instrumentation, tools, technologies and genetic approaches.

Through the efforts of many scientists from around the world, the initiative has been catalyzing new science through advances in methods and technology, and to reduce interdisciplinary barriers slowing progress. With our support, researchers are quantifying nutrient pools in the ocean, deciphering the genetic and biochemical bases of microbial metabolism, and understanding how microbes interact with one another. The initiative has five grant portfolios:

Individual investigator awards for current and emerging leaders in the field.

Multidisciplinary projects that support collaboration across disciplines.

New instrumentation, tools and technology that enable scientists to ask new questions in ways previously not possible.

Community resource efforts that fund the creation and sharing of data and the development of tools, methods and infrastructure of widespread utility.

Projects that advance genetic tools to enable development of experimental model systems in marine microbial ecology.

We also bring together scientists to discuss timely subjects and to facilitate scientific exchange.

Our path to marine microbial ecology was a confluence of new technology that could accelerate science and an opportunity to support a field that was not well funded relative to potential impact. Around the time we began this work in 2004, the life sciences were entering a new era of DNA sequencing and genomics, expanding possibilities for scientific research - including the nascent field of marine microbial ecology. Through conversations with pioneers inside and outside the field, an opportunity was identified: to apply these new sequencing tools to advance knowledge of marine microbial communities and reveal how they support and influence ocean systems.

After many years of success, we will wind down this effort and close the initiative in 2021. We will have invested more than \$250 million over 17 years to deepen understanding of the diversity, ecological activities and evolution of marine microbial communities. Thanks to the work of hundreds of scientists and others involved with the initiative, the goals have been achieved and the field has been profoundly enriched; it is now positioned to address new scientific questions using innovative technologies and methods.

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## Funding

Funding Source	Award
<a href="#">NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)</a>	<a href="#">OCE-0934036</a>

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