

## 9th EuroGOOS International Conference Advances in Operational Oceanography: Expanding Europe's ocean observing and forecasting capacity

# Phytoplankton *in vivo/in situ* observations by novel automated optical approaches in coastal and marine systems: towards a better integration into joint observatories

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Créach, V., Cabrera, P., Claquin, P., Gallot, C., Gómez, F., de Blok, R., Bigand A., Debusschere, E., Deneudt, K., Grassi K., Grégori, G., Eikrem, W., Epinoux, A., Hébert P.-A., Haraguchi, L., Hubert, Z., Houliez, E., Irsson, J.-O., Karlson, B., Kraft, K., Kromkamp, J., Lindh, M., Lefebvre, A., Lombard, F., Lizon, F., Louchart, A., Möller, K.O., Mortelmans, J., Poisson-Caillault, E., Rijkeboer, M., Rutten, T., Tamminen, T., Tyberghein, L., Thyssen, M., Ruhel, S., Seppälä, J., Stemmann, L., Veen, A., Wacquet, G., Wollschläger, J., Ylöstalo, P.



# Phytoplankton (EOV) monitoring challenges



As changes in **phytoplankton abundance, biomass and composition** usually occur at **short-time and fine spatial scales**, there is an increasing need for using **high resolution sensors** which could be implemented in **autonomous platforms** (buoys, automated stations, research vessels, ships of opportunity) integrated into standard, advances or supersite observatories (proofs of concept)

## Critical gaps :

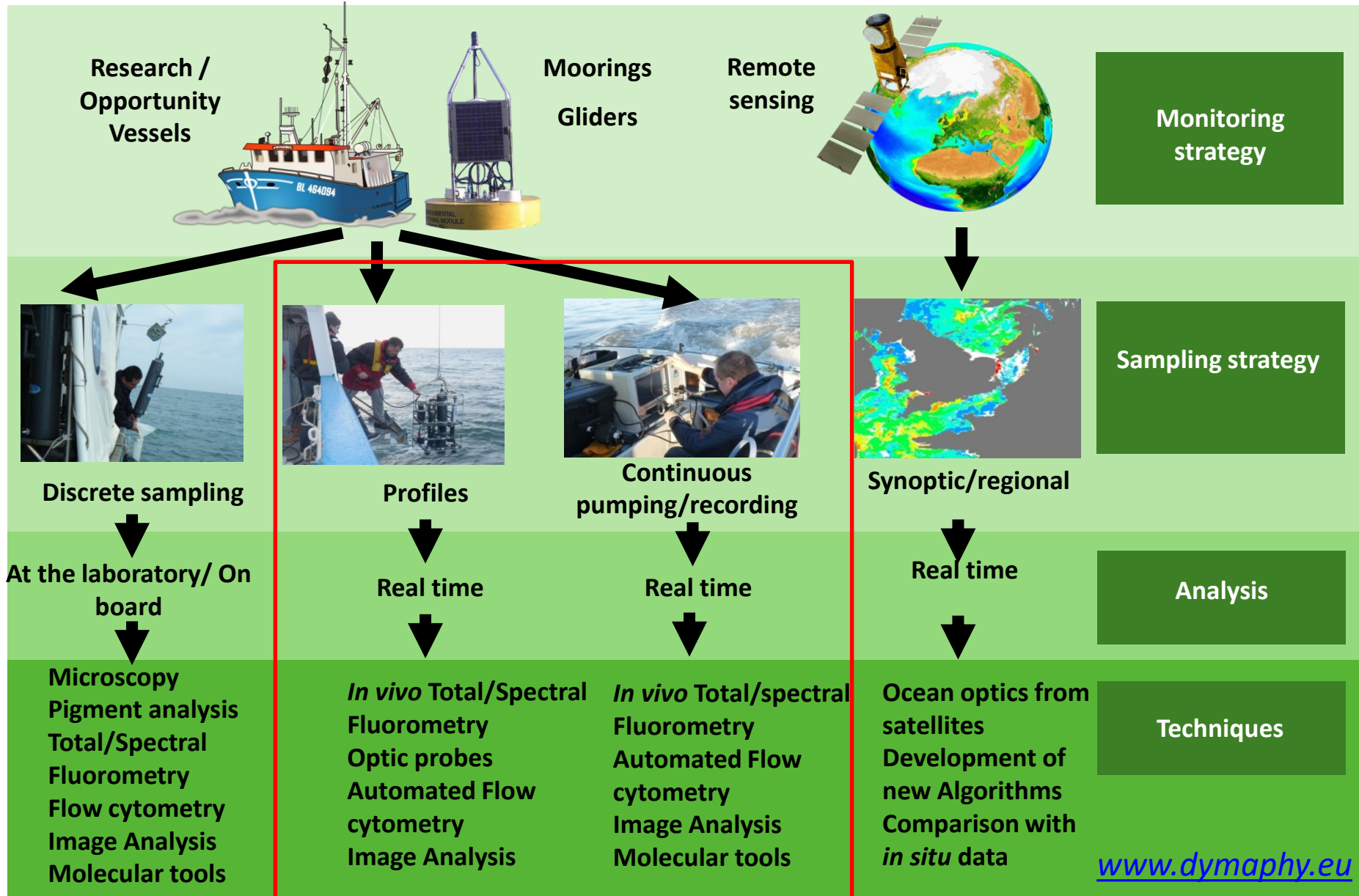
- lack of definition of the **most appropriate methodologies** and approaches (platforms)
- deficiencies in the **spatio-temporal distribution of observations**
- not adopting **FAIR principles in data distribution**, including using adequate QA/QC measures

## An **international network of experts** is essential to work on :

- best suitable **combination of *in vivo* automated sensors** for each marine system considered
- harmonizing operational practices for defining common **best practices**
- **defining common vocabulary** and data quality control, **data charts & flows**

*National and regional marine & coastal programmes in Europe, including past projects INTERREG IVA « 2 Seas » **DYMAPHY** (2010-2014), H2020 **JERICO-Next** (2015-2019) & ongoing projects CPER **MARCO** (2016-2021), **JERICO S3** (Science, Service, Sustainability - 2020-2024), **JERICO DS**, amongst others, for building the **JERICO RI**.*

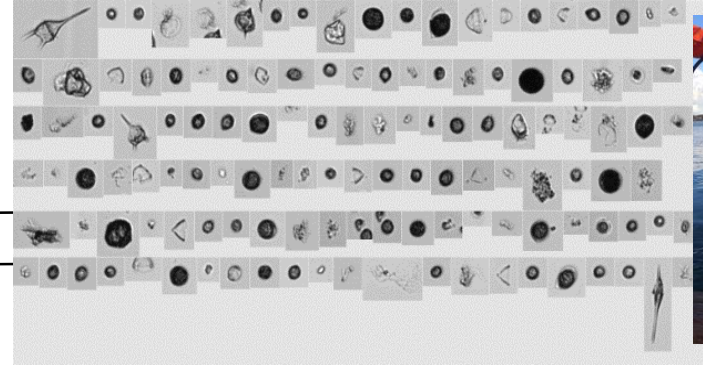
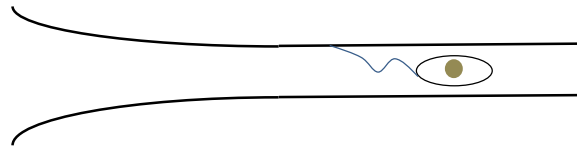
# Phytoplankton observation



# In vivo/in situ automated techniques for monitoring phytoplankton

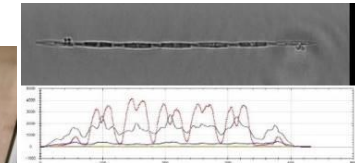
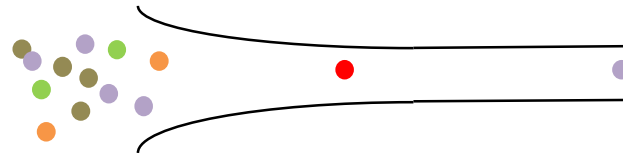
## Imaging/in flow

Single cell-size and morphology of organisms: taxa

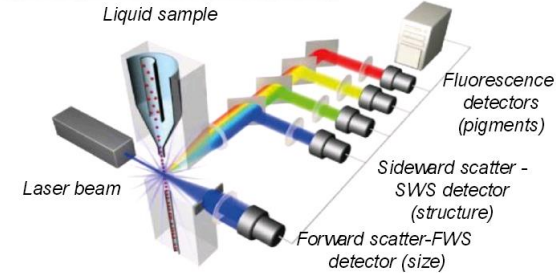


## Automated flow cytometry (pulse shape-recording)

Single cell-fluorescence – pigment content and scattering (size, shape): functional groups



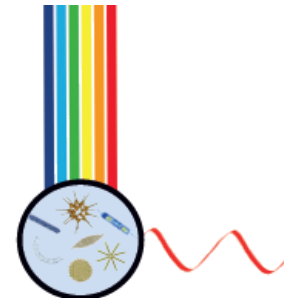
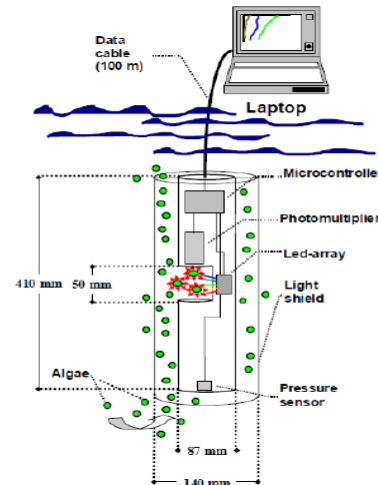
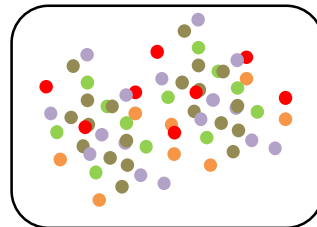
Recovery of the signal




## Fluorescence and absorption (multi-spectral)

Pigment based methods – bulk properties – pigmentary groups

**Variable (active) fluorescence :** photosynthetic parameters, primary productivity




# Platforms for phytoplankton automated observation



CytoSense–  
Fluoroprobe  
FRRF  
continuous +  
profiler



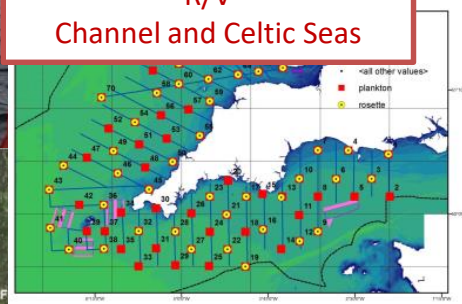
Fluorometer +  
FRRF



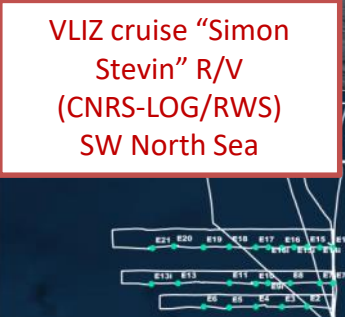
Ifremer/CNRS-  
BOREA  
Smile Buoy  
Bay of Seine



Fluorometers,  
Imaging Cytobot



Cefas cruises « Endeavour »  
R/V  
Channel and Celtic Seas



VLIZ cruise “Simon  
Stevin” R/V  
(CNRS-LOG/RWS)  
SW North Sea




SMHI Tangesund  
observatory  
Skagerrak



FB + CytoSense

Some field implementation  
within JERICO-NEXT  
(May 2016-August 2018)



ETOILE cruise “Côtes de la  
Manche” R/V  
Bay of Biscay  
IFREMER/AZTI/CNRS LOG



FB + pCO<sub>2</sub> +  
CytoSense



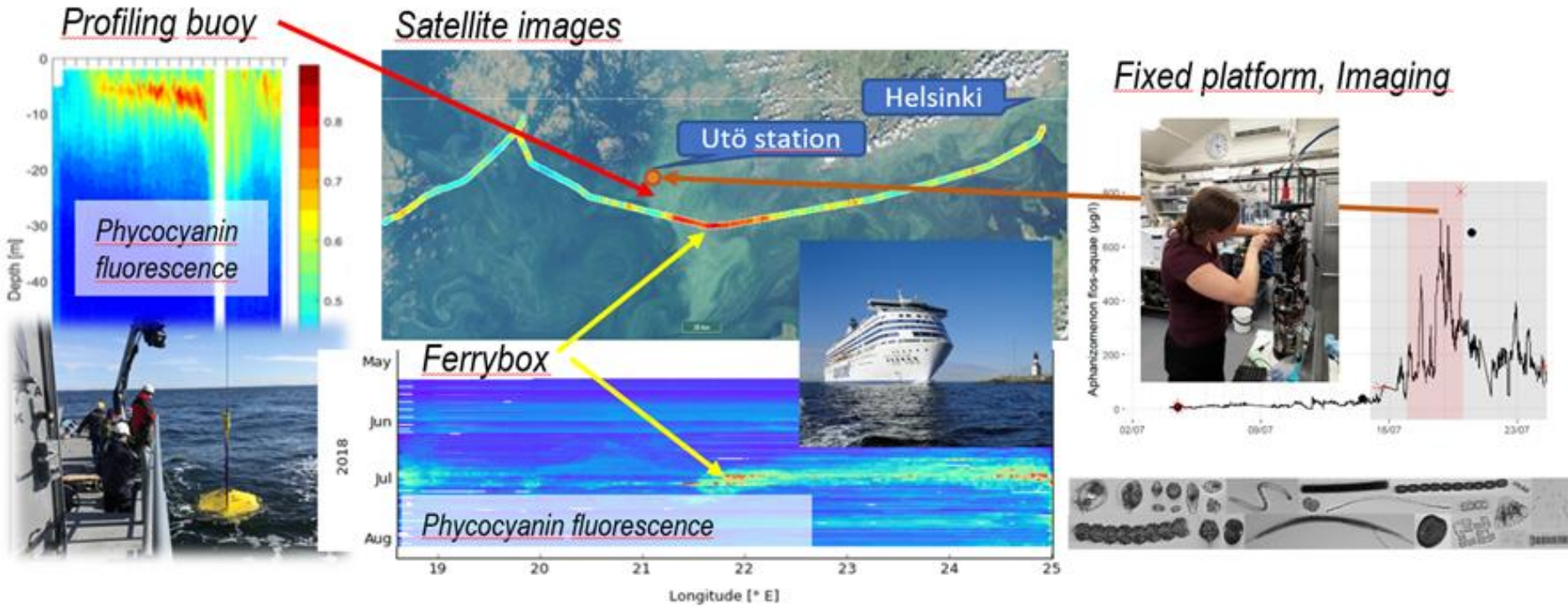
Fluoroprobe  
CytoSense

PhytoPAM,  
CytoSense,  
AOA, FRRF

PHYCO cruise  
“Côtes de la Manche” R/V  
CNRS-LOG/IFREMER  
Eastern English Channel

“Le Carthage” Ferry  
line CNRS-MIO - NW  
Mediterranean

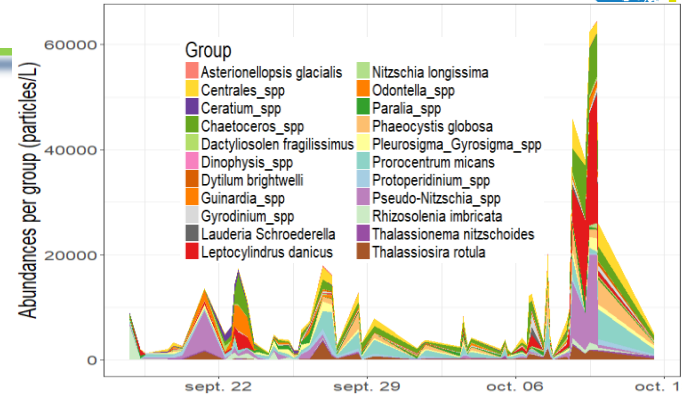
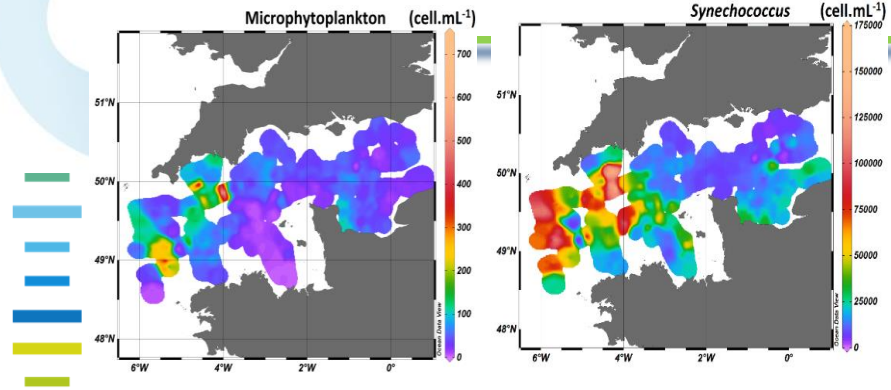
# Example of proof of concept: the Gulf of Finland Pilot Supersite



- Regional, combined multiplatform observation to create data-products for phytoplankton
    - *Imaging FlowCytobot, Cytosense, Pigment fluorescence, Fluorescence induction, Spectral absorption*
    - *Development of near-real time analysis of image data*
  - Harmonization of transnational observations
    - *Joint workshops for calibration and best practices*
- Kraft et al., 2021 – FMARS <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fmars.2021.594144>

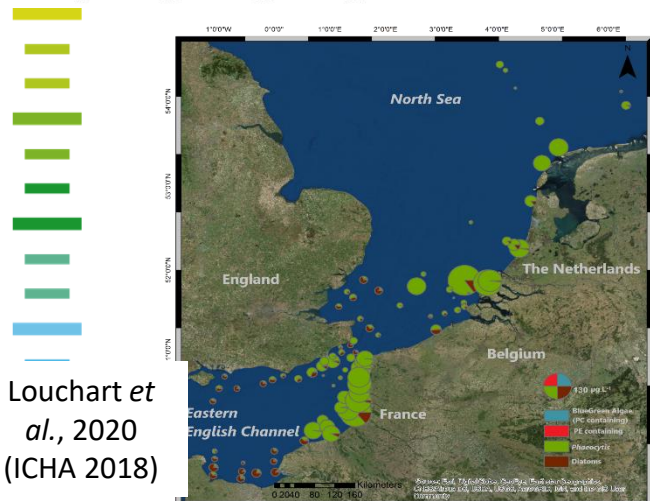
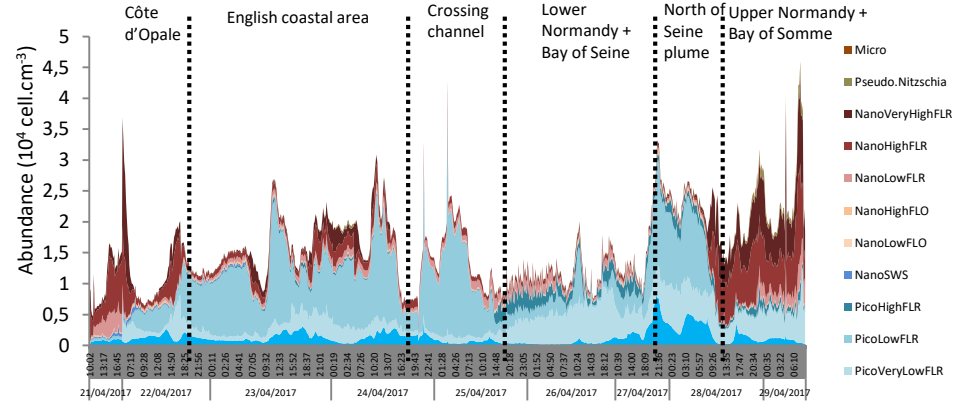
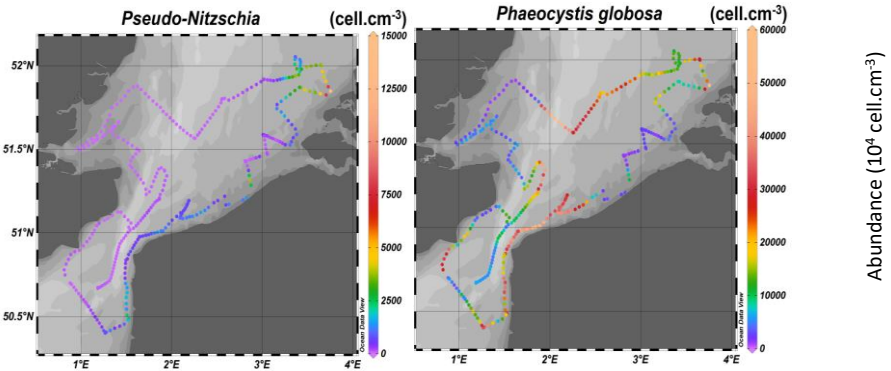
# Automated monitoring in the Channel-North Sea

Louchart et al., CSR 2020 - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csr.2020.104056>



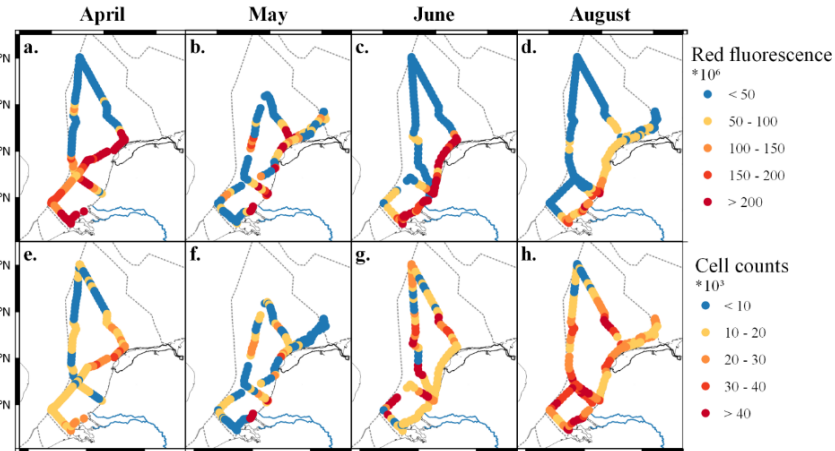
Wacquet et al.,  
2020 (ICHA  
2018)

Louchart, 2020  
(PhD)



Louchart et  
al., 2020  
(ICHA 2018)

Aardema et al. 2019  
Ocean Sci., 15, 1267–  
1285, 2019  
<https://doi.org/10.5194/os-15-1267-2019>

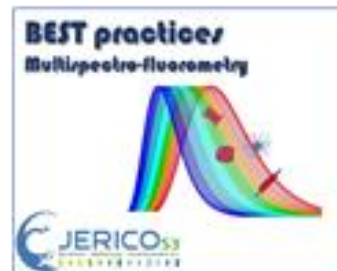


# Integration, validation, archives and long-term accessibility of biological (plankton) data

*NEED TO GO* **F**indable **A**ccessible **I**nteroperable **R**eusable



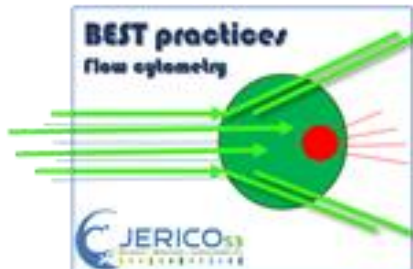
Multispectral  
fluorometry



Automated  
imagery

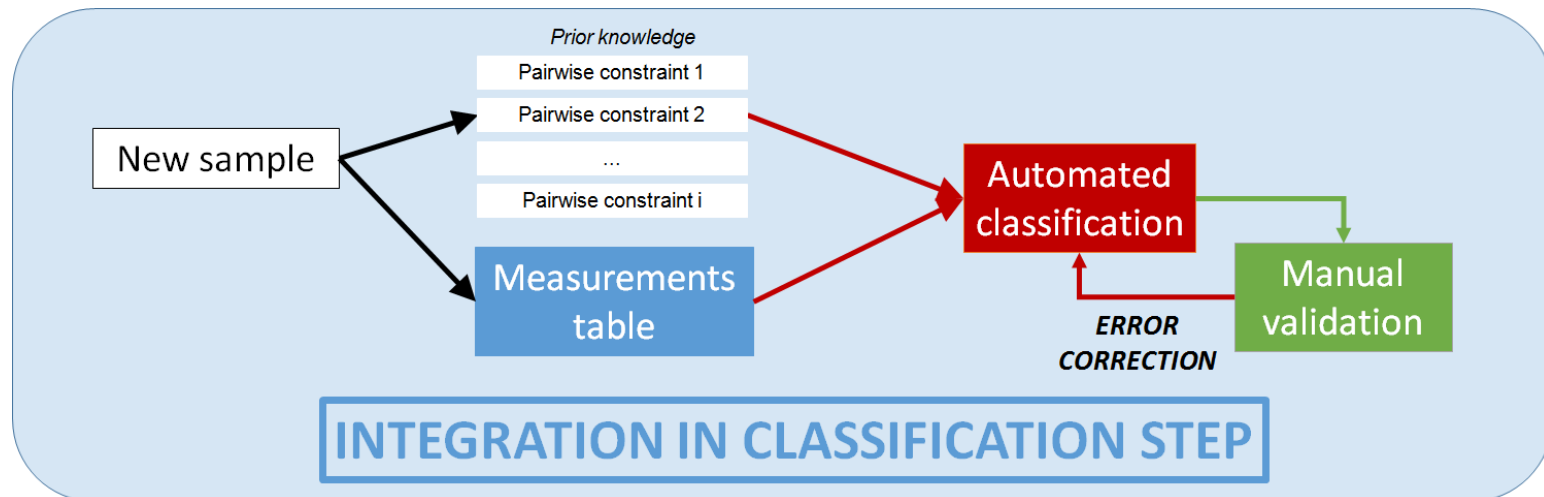
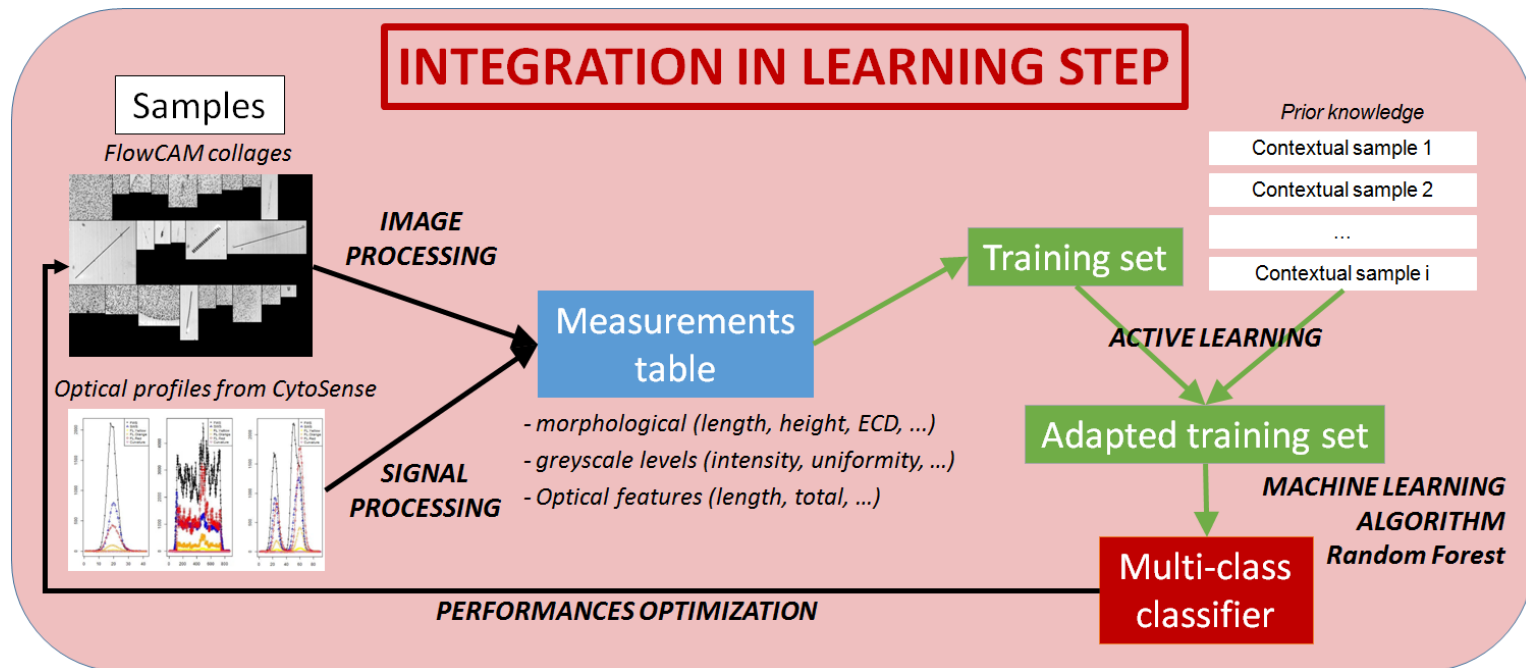


Automated  
Flow  
cytometry






# Towards automated analysis of phytoplankton images/optical profiles



# Processing and storage of thousands of data (raw optical data, images and automated classification)

*ZooPhytoImage (U Mons-Ifremer-CNRS/LOG), RClusToolBox (LISIC/ULCO-CNRS/LOG), UhMM (Ifremer-LISIC/ULCO) EasyClus (TRP), EMODNET, SeaDataNet, EcoTaxa, other tools...*

ECOTAXA: A free collaborative tool for hosting, sorting, annotating taxonomically and sharing images.

- Explicit taxonomy
- Built-in automatic classification algorithms (random tree forest, CNN networks)

The screenshot displays the EcoTaxa 2.5 web interface. At the top, the title is "Planktoscope Tara Microbiomes P2/deck net : Lorient > Punta Arenas V2 (501, 0, 0, 0 / 501)". A filter is applied: "Taxo= Chaetoceros protuberans". The interface includes a "Taxonomy filter" on the left with a tree view showing the following counts:

Taxonomy	Count
Bacillariophyta	0
Bacillariophyceae	0
Coscinodiscophycidae	132
Asterolamprales	42
<b>Chaetoceros protuberans</b>	<b>501</b>
Climacodium	558
Diatoma	1206
chainthin	0
multiple < Diatoma	1
Fragilariopsis	0
Nitzschia	0
Pleurosigma	28
Pseudo-nitzschia	0
Thalassionematales	17
Corethron	2
Mediophyceae	0
Bacteriastrium < Mediophyceae	23
<b>Chaetoceros &lt; Mediophyceae</b>	<b>3116</b>
Chaetoceros danicus	56
Chaetoceros peruvianus	208

The main area shows a grid of microscopy images of Chaetoceros protuberans. Each image is labeled with the species name and its area. The visible areas are: 8864, 6958, 6203, 5866, 5647, 5617, 5595, and 5592.

<http://ecotaxa.obs-vlfr.fr/explore/>

Picheral M., Stemman L., MMV 2017

# Conclusion and perspectives

- Automated approaches provide **new insights into phytoplankton dynamics** at **fine spatial (horizontal and vertical) and temporal scales**
- Need to keep improving the **operability (procedures, best practices)** and related **discrimination (classification tools) capacity** of automated techniques addressing phytoplankton **dynamics & diversity** and **productivity**
- After implementing new **common vocabularies** per technique, **harmonizing metadata** and establishing **database formats**, we intend to establish **quality control annotations (QA/QC)** for the 3 approaches to use the data with confidence.
- Combining **high frequency biological data with physical and biogeochemical data** using complementary approaches is the key for an **integrated monitoring** and a better understanding of ecosystems changes.
- Better assessment of the **ecological meaning** of **new defined phytoplankton functional groups** and their contribution to primary productivity and biogeochemical cycles, for better integration into **models**, indicators, and **remote sensing products**
- Need to consider the **vertical component** of abundance, biomass, light and physiology in order to address properly the integrated **water column productivity** and the **pelagic-benthic coupling**



Thanks for  
your  
attention!