

Large-scale Estimates of Primary Production and Export Production: The JGOFS Legacy

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It was during the JGOFS years that the satellite-derived methods for estimating primary production and export production became an established tool in biological oceanography. It is now essential to consolidate continuity of data, analyses and interpretation, to address questions related to long-term trends and variations in these processes. Such analyses would only be possible well after the sunset years of JGOFS, when many years of data become available. But the foundation for such studies has to be established now. If successful, it will become an invaluable legacy of JGOFS. Some of these efforts will be carried out as part of new research programmes that emerge in the wake of JGOFS. However, some complementary efforts can be made under initiatives that would have a longer life span than individual research programmes. In this presentation, the efforts of two organisations, the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO) and the International Ocean-Colour Co-ordination Group (IOCCG) are discussed. The IOCCG strives to ensure continuity of satellite ocean-colour data, the quality of the data, and the availability of the data to the research community. POGO has recently turned its attention to enhancing biological observations in general, and observations related to phytoplankton dynamics in particular. These efforts by organisations have to be matched by complementary efforts from the research community to improve the models and the quality of the products that are derived from the observations, especially as the technology advances.