



ARABESQUE was an UK marine biogeochemistry programme that formed the main contribution to international JGOFS Process Studies in the Arabian Sea (1994-1997). Led by Plymouth Marine Laboratory, scientists from 10 organisations in Canada, Oman, Germany, UK and USA contributed their skills to work together on upper-ocean biogeochemistry in the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman.

ARABESQUE was conducted over two seasons: the SW Monsoon and the following intermonsoon-NE Monsoon period in 1994. Key topics addressed in the contrasting seasonal eutrophic upwelling and mesotrophic downwelling waters and a seasonal oligotrophic waters included assessment of the rates of, and controls on, phytoplankton production, the fate of phytothetic carbon through herbivory, DOC, bacteria and bacterivory, and sedimentation, the rates and mechanisms of formation of biogenic gas, DMS, N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub> and CO, ageing of water masses by CFC's.

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