MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR MARINE AND ANTARCTIC STUDIES

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Southern Ocean plankton surprise

It appears NASA satellites have not accurately estimated the important life-giving microscopic phytoplankton population that lives in the Southern Ocean and Antarctica.

Recently published research in the prestigious *Journal of Geophysical Research (Oceans)* by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), in Southern Ocean research bodies

more than 1000 Southern Ocean phytoplankton samples, collected across almost 10 years.

The majority of the samples used in this study were collected on the French Antarctic long-term monitoring program between the CSIRO, the Australian Antarctic program, and the French Antarctic Program.

"Much of our global scale science can now only be achieved through strong collaborative research teams that work together to do sustained and long term

Mr Johnson said this is especially true in the Southern Ocean - the most remote and important ocean on earth.

Assoc Prof Strutton said the improved satellite chlorophyll algorithms will be used to produce higher-accuracy observations on the vitally important phytoplankton of the Southern Ocean and Antarctica.

This improved data will be made freely available to the global research community through the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS). This will go a long way towards improving our understanding of how the Southern Ocean works and how the movement of carbon is changing in these remote waters,

The online paper in the *Journal of Geophysical Research - Oceans* can be viewed here: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jgrc.20270/abstract

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