

Hello,  
I am Wendy,  
a designer/anthropologist,  
an interdisciplinary  
researcher in the art-  
science and an educator.

こんにちは。  
私はウェンディです。  
デザイナー兼人類学者、  
芸術科学の学際的研究者、  
そして教育者です。



Making Sense of  
Beautiful Toxicities

美しい毒性  
を理解する



Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent   Andy Cundy   Irka Hajdas   Susan Schuppli   Colin Waters

# FINGERPRINTS OF THE NUCLEAR AGE

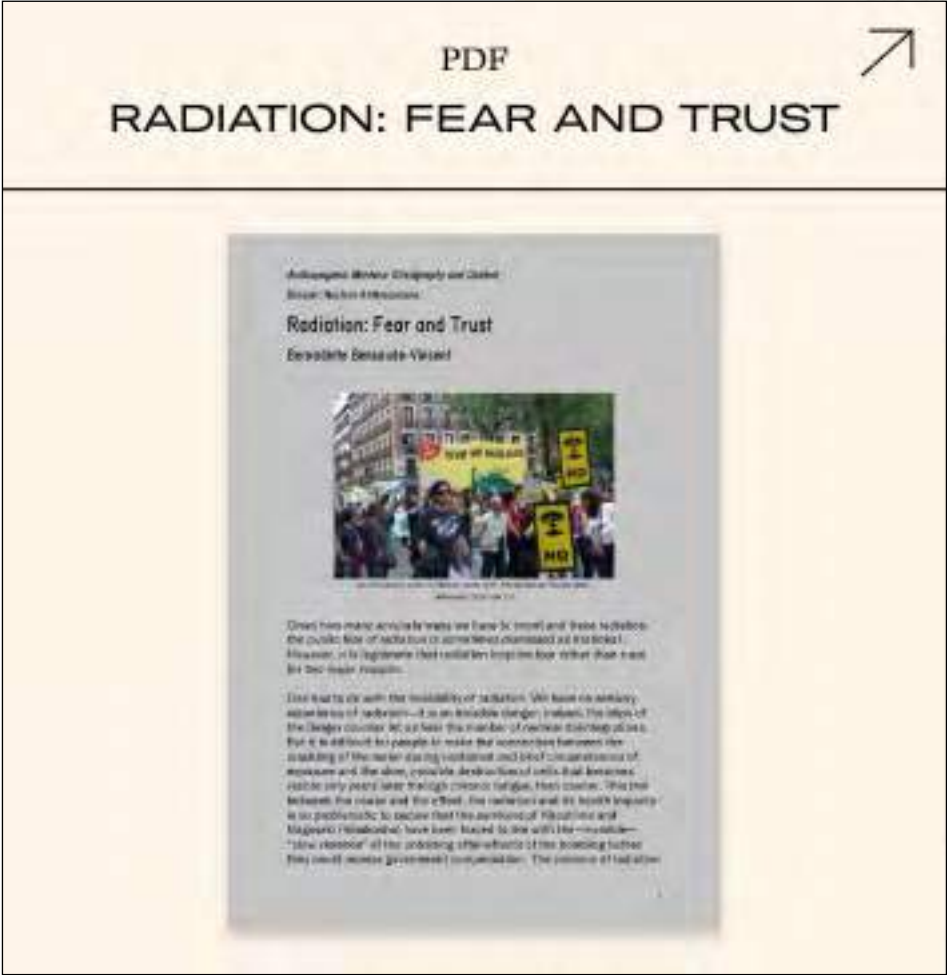
A seminar held during *Unearthing the Present*

AC-CS #49097

The spike in artificial radiation from nuclear bomb tests in the 1950s might mark the beginning of the Anthropocene. These radioactive products have left their residues in soil, sediment, ice, and even our bodies. How is it possible to measure, let alone visualize, these invisible, minuscule amounts of radiation that escape all sensory data? The materials gathered below are from the *Minor Fingerprints of the Nuclear Age*, which was held during *Unearthing the Present* in May 2022. The seminar explored how the (in)visibility of radiation is linked to the legacy of the nuclear age, histories of public fear, political secrecy, and counter-expertise.







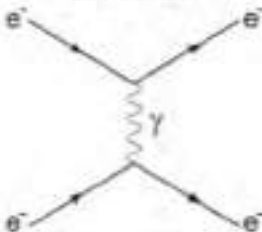

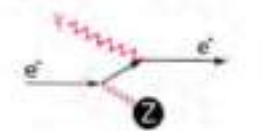

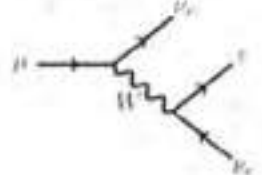
# Diffusion Cloud Chamber

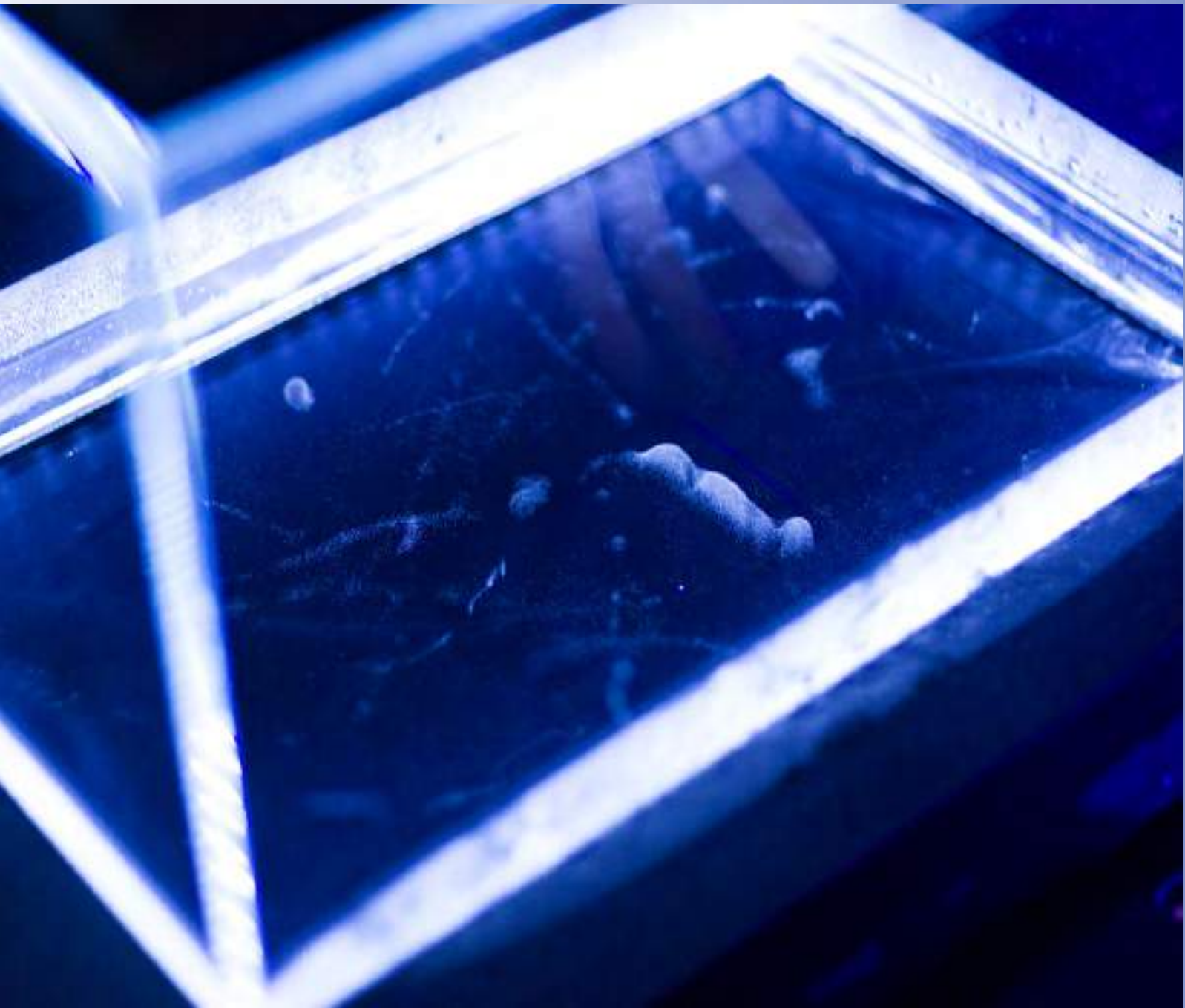


# Portable Gamma Camera

## TOSHIBA



	<b>muon or anti-muon</b>	<p>Thin straight tracks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- fast particles with high kinetic energy</li><li>- they ionise molecules without scattering</li><li>- high energy muons, electrons or their corresponding anti-particles</li><li>- source: secondary cosmic particles</li></ul>
	<b>electron or positron</b>	
	<b>α particle system</b>	<p>Thick straight tracks (approx. 5 cm):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- alpha particle systems (2p2n)</li><li>- massive particle systems with high "ionisation density" (for alpha: 1 MeV/cm)</li><li>- source: Radon-222 gas, natural radiation</li></ul>
	<b>electron</b> 	<p>Curly / curved tracks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- slow electrons scatter with other electrons via electromagnetic interaction - the lower the momentum of a particle, the easier it scatters</li><li>- Photoelectrons are low energy electrons set free by high energy photons (via Photoelectric effect)</li><li>- Source: muon transformation, beta emitters, photoelectric effect</li></ul>
	<b>photoelectron</b> 	
	<b>muon transformation</b> 	<p>Kinks:</p> <p>This could be a muon (or anti-muon) transforming into an electron (or positron), a neutrino and an anti-neutrino.</p>



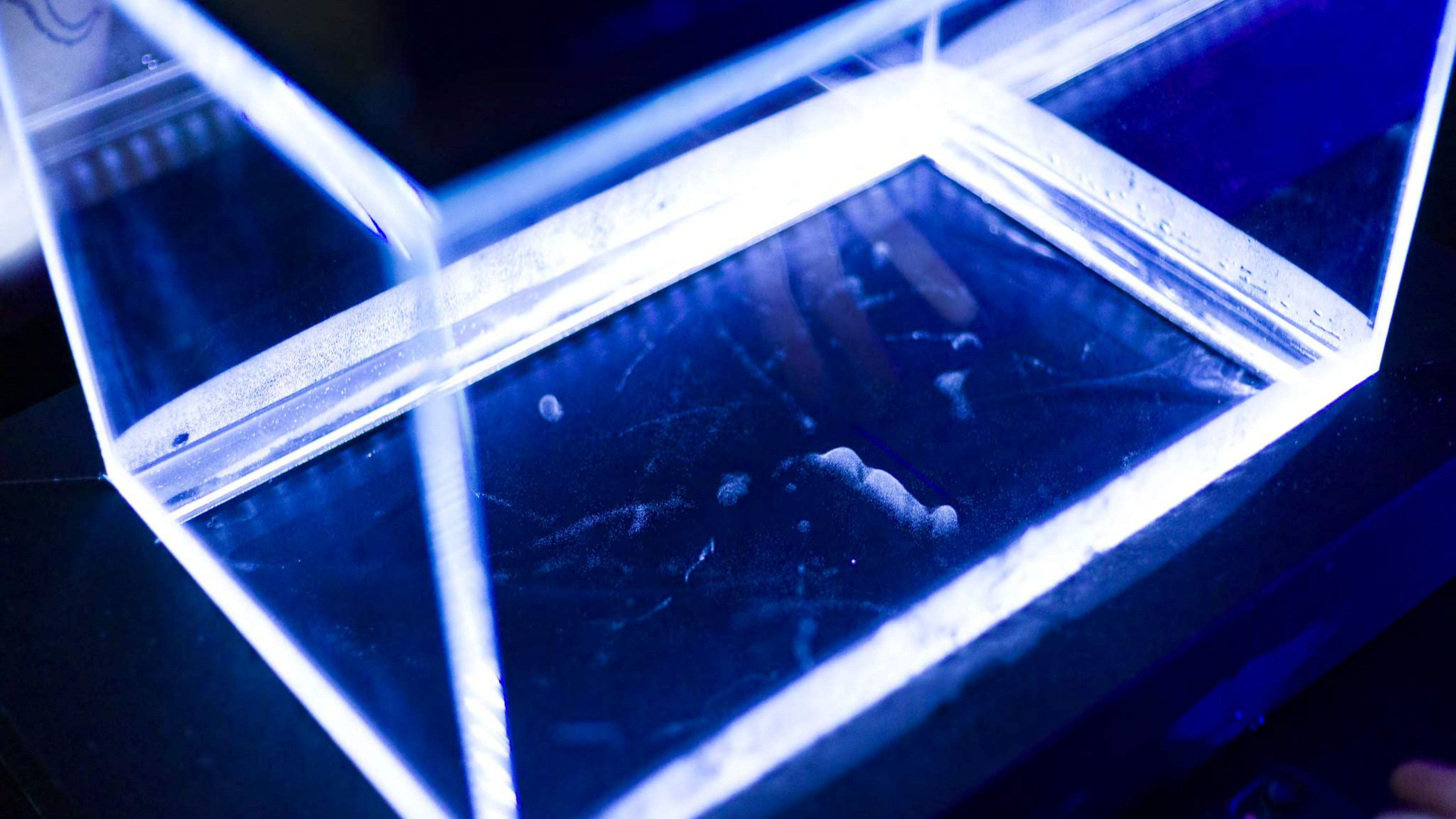
Cloud Traces  
[Humboldt Labor, Humboldt Forum](#) Berlin, 2022  
In collaboration with Andres Gatto,  
Belen Palacios, Julia Miele













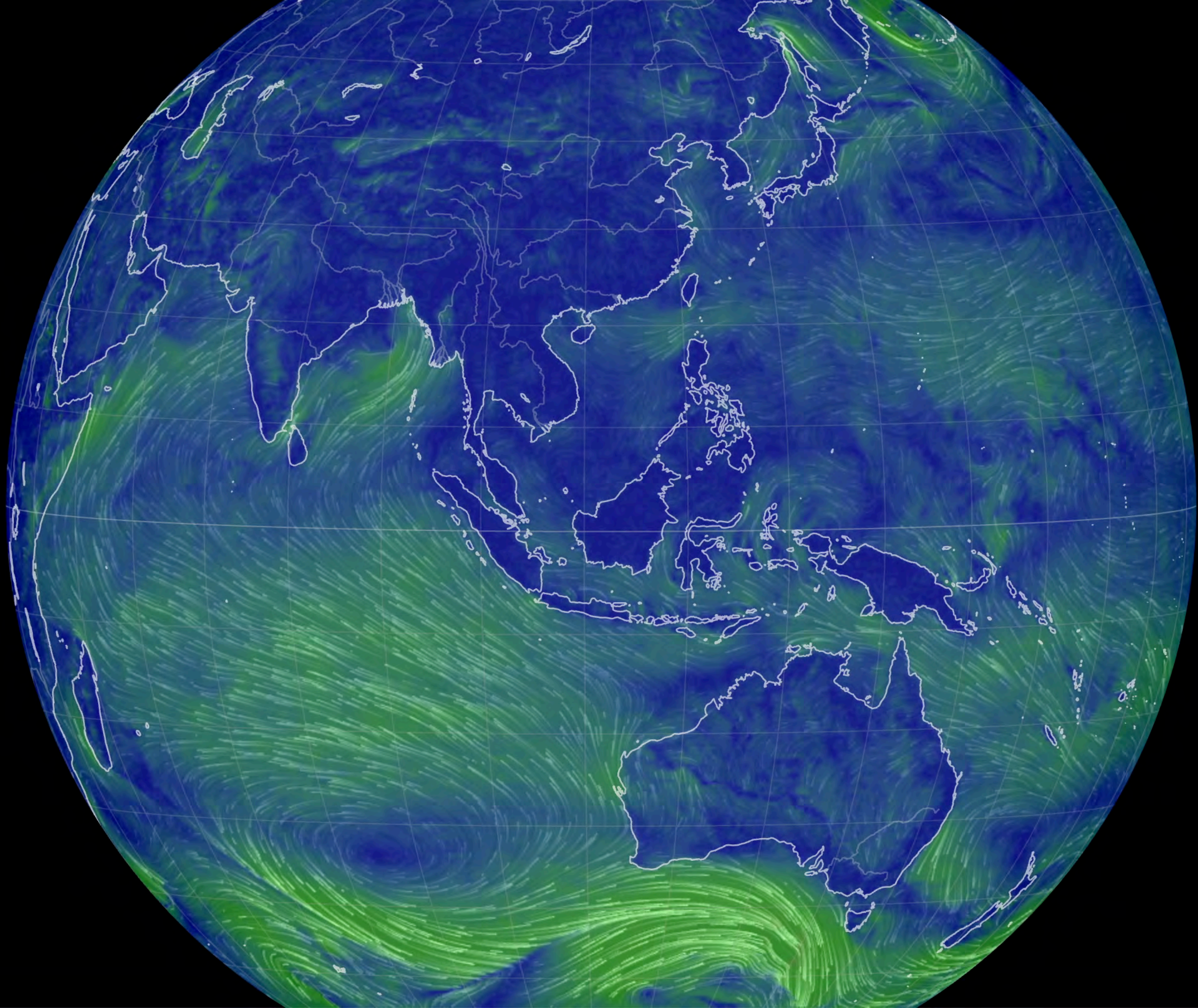


# BLOOMS

**Tieranatomisches Theater  
TA T, BERLIN**

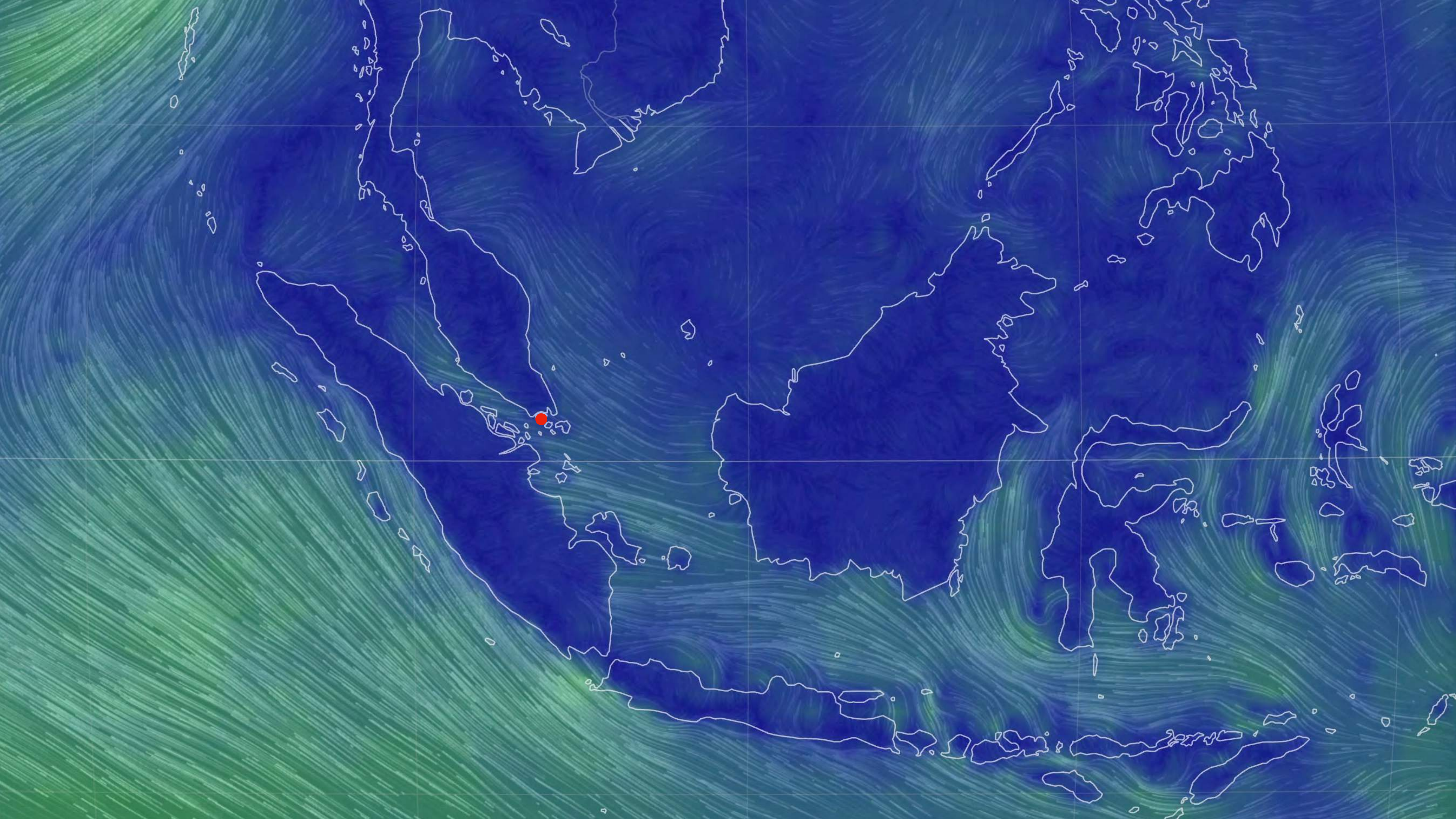
7 May – 28 June 2025





earth ≡













Ah Tee  
Floating fishery farmer





Milk Fish  
NTUC supermarket



## Fish deaths: Plankton bloom causing fish deaths 'likely to recur'

PUBLISHED 9 MAR 2015, 5:53 AM SGT

AVA and farmers must discuss best way to tackle challenge: Vivian

## Pasir Ris mass fish deaths may lead over \$1 million loss for farmers

PUBLISHED 11 FEB 2014, 8:31 AM SGT

### Sentosa Cove waters turn pink, smell rotten; one resident calls it an 'environmental disaster'

Published January 13, 2021



The Heron of the Green Barrels





# Beauty — Toxicities      美しさ — 毒性





A microscopic image showing a large, translucent, oval-shaped Noctiluca scintillans cell in the upper left. The rest of the field of view is filled with a dense population of much smaller, green, oval-shaped Pedinomonas noctilucae cells. The background is a light, hazy purple.

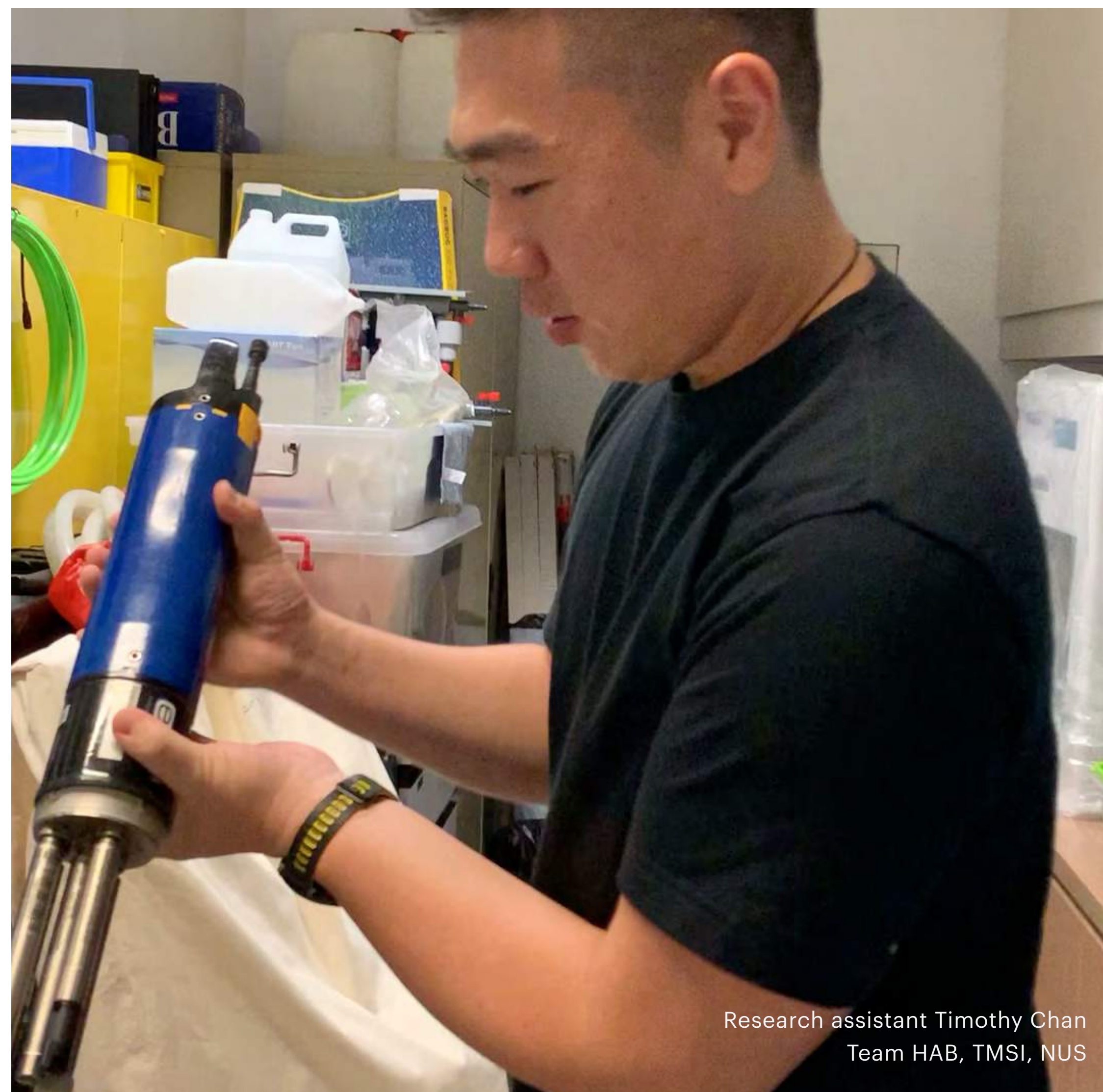
*Noctiluca scintillans*

*Pedinomonas noctilucae*



# Measuring Blooms

# 藻類ブルームの測定



Research assistant Timothy Chan  
Team HAB, TMSI, NUS



# Measuring Blooms

Fieldwork with Harmful  
Algal Bloom scientists  
in the Johor Strait

Credit: Team HABs, Tropical Marine Science Institute,  
National University of Singapore



# 藻類ブルームの測定

ジョホール海峡における有害藻類ブルームの研究者とのフィールドワーク







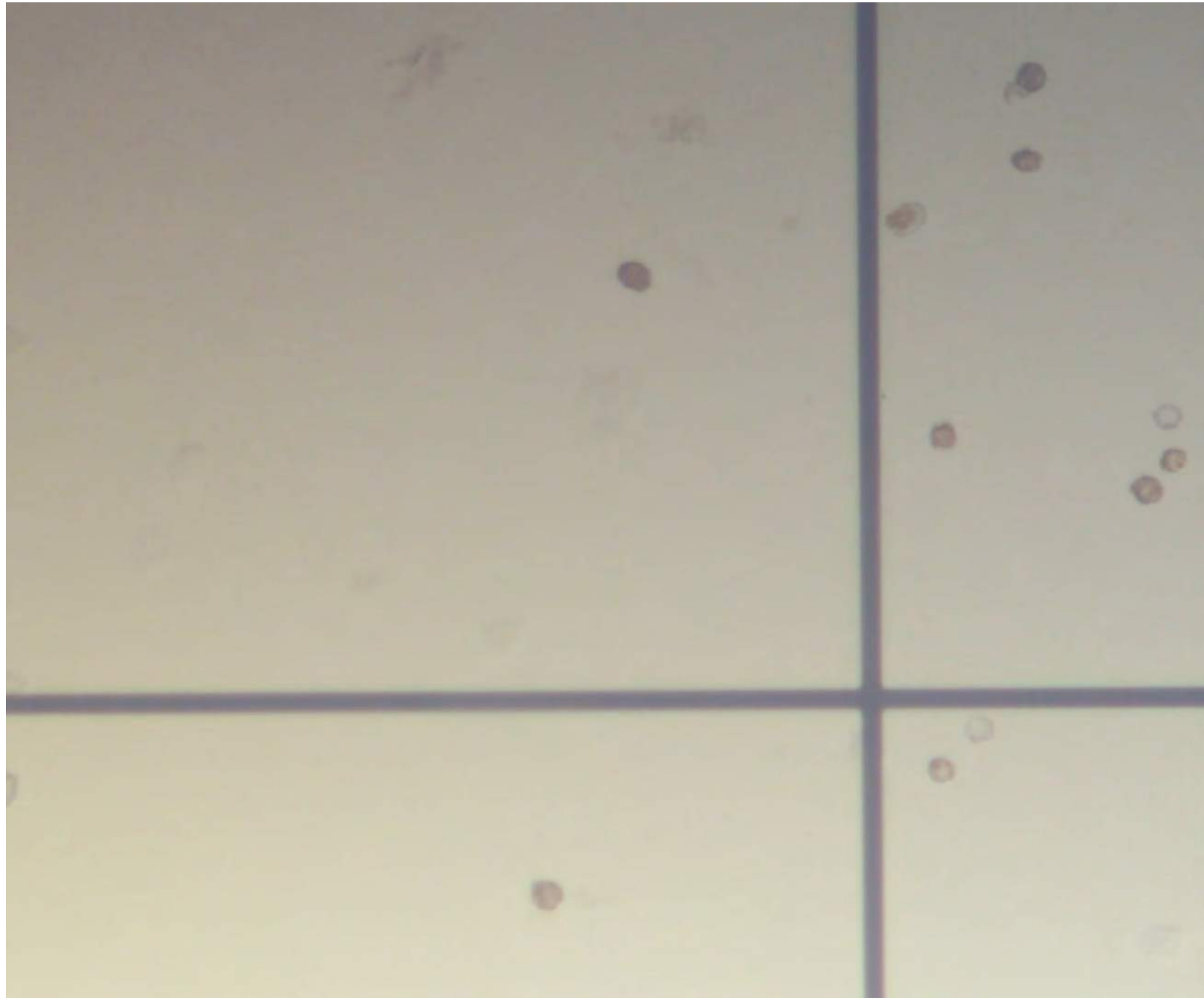


# Measuring Blooms

Saturation Thresholds

# 藻類ブルームの測定

飽和閾値



Lead researcher Dr Sandric Leong  
Team HAB, TMSI, NUS



# Measuring Blooms

## Temperature Thresholds

# 藻類ブルームの測定

## 温度閾値





# Measuring Blooms

## Temperature Thresholds of Algae in Marine Heatwaves

# 藻類ブルームの測定

## 海洋熱波における藻類の温度閾値

### Hypothesis

How would the toxic algal species *Gonyaulax spinifera* survive temperature spikes in marine heat waves?

#### Culture Strains:

Gonyaulax Spinifera  
10 ml preculture tubes x 4

#### Culture Medium

F2 filtered seawater (nutrients)

#### Lighting

Cool white, or cool/warm white mix, fluorescent tubes or bulbs with full spectrum of 400 -700 nm

#### Irradiance intensity

30-40 µmol m-2s-1 (CCAP culturing conditions)

100 µmol m-2s-1 to induce growth for incubation experiment

Avoid stressing or inhibit growth by keeping to a maximum of 100 µmol m-2s-1.

Avoid going beyond 2500 µmol m-2s-1 which is equivalent to sunlight.

#### Light Cycle

12h light : 12h dark (for faster growth try 16h:8h)

#### Temperature

15 - 20 °C (CCAP)

20 °C

#### Subculture Ratio

1:10 or 1:5

#### Culture Vessel

Conical flasks containing approx. 500ml culture

#### Culture Chamber

Each chamber measures 385 x 310 x 380 mm

Light bulb wired in chamber, set to timer.

#### ACDP Hazard Group 1

Non pathogenic / non hazardous. Unlikely to cause human disease.

Found to be a carrier of Yessotoxins in 2006<sup>1</sup> in New Zealand.

<sup>1</sup> Lesley Rhodes et al., “Yessotoxin Production by Gonyaulax spinifera,” *Algae* 5, no. 2 (2006): 148.

#### Acclimatization

24 May — 8 June 2023 (16 days)

**Aim: Keep culture alive and multiply, do not rush to grow cultures. Dino grow slower. Wait undisturbed 3-5 days.**

1. Upon arrival of cultures (4 tubes of 10ml), open and close caps.
2. Pour cultures (1-2ml) onto slides to check health.
3. Inoculate two tubes into fresh sterile medium in the ratio of 1:10 e.g. 5mls culture into no more than 50mls medium.
4. Place 2 culture tubes (2 x 10ml) and 2 inoculated flasks in the chamber at 20 °C (see table)
5. Light cycle of 12h:12h hours (10am – 10pm)
6. Adjust lighting to irradiance at 100 µmol m<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>
7. Provide air flow with foil cover
8. After 3 days, pipette 20-50 µL to observe. Leave it untouched until the cultures recovered (hundreds moving in 1 ml).
9. If all 4 tubes are healthy, combine into one stock culture of 1000 ml.
10. If cultures have recovered, subculture every 3 days to grow cultures to a cell density of 100 cells per ml.

#### NOTE

Use strict aseptic techniques throughout all subculturing within a laminar flow cabinet. Subculture cultures in fresh sterile medium after it arrives.

#### Experiment Procedure:

1. Once experiment begins, check cultures every 2 days on Monday, Wednesday, Friday at the same time (930am) each day.
2. Prepare four tube flasks mark them 1-4 to correspond to chamber #.
3. Take out flasks from chambers to pour approx. 10 ml into respective tubes
4. Protocol for extracting cultures without dilution
  1. Take out flask from chamber, swirl in gentle big circles.
  2. Pour 5 ml into tube and return flask to chamber
  3. Shake tube gently in big circles, in both directions (10 seconds) to remove aggregates
  4. Pipette 1ml/ 1000 µL from culture tube onto gridded rafter by moving in zig zag manner, maintain same action
  5. Slide slide cover to close rafter
  6. Place rafter in the fridge for 2-3 mins
  7. Remove rafter and place under microscope
  8. Observe under x5 to count live cells, brown cytoplasm. Do not count dead, transparent cells or green cysts
  9. Count cells based on counting protocol below
  10. Plot cells/ml every 2 days on Monday, Wednesday, Friday
  11. Plot growth curve
5. Counting Protocol: Counting cells by moving grid to grid
  1. Zig zag up and down, counting 10 columns of 200 squares. Count 3 different sets of columns to take an average.
  2. if the whole rafter < 400 cells, then count the entire rafter. Density is too low to take an average count.
6. Return flask back to the chamber
7. Wash gridded rafter for next count
  1. Discard used glass slide cover
  2. Pour it into a waste container
  3. Rinse with water
  4. Repeat 2 times
  5. Flush with tap water, wipe with a soft tissue
  6. Use clean rafter for next count and new glass slide cover
8. Repeat steps till Day 10 or 14



*Gonyaulax spinifera* cultures in chamber



#1 – 20 °C

Forest & Whale

#2 – 25 °C



# Measuring Blooms

## Temperature Thresholds of Algae in Marine Heatwaves

- Results
- 20 °C

Constant growth
- 25 °C

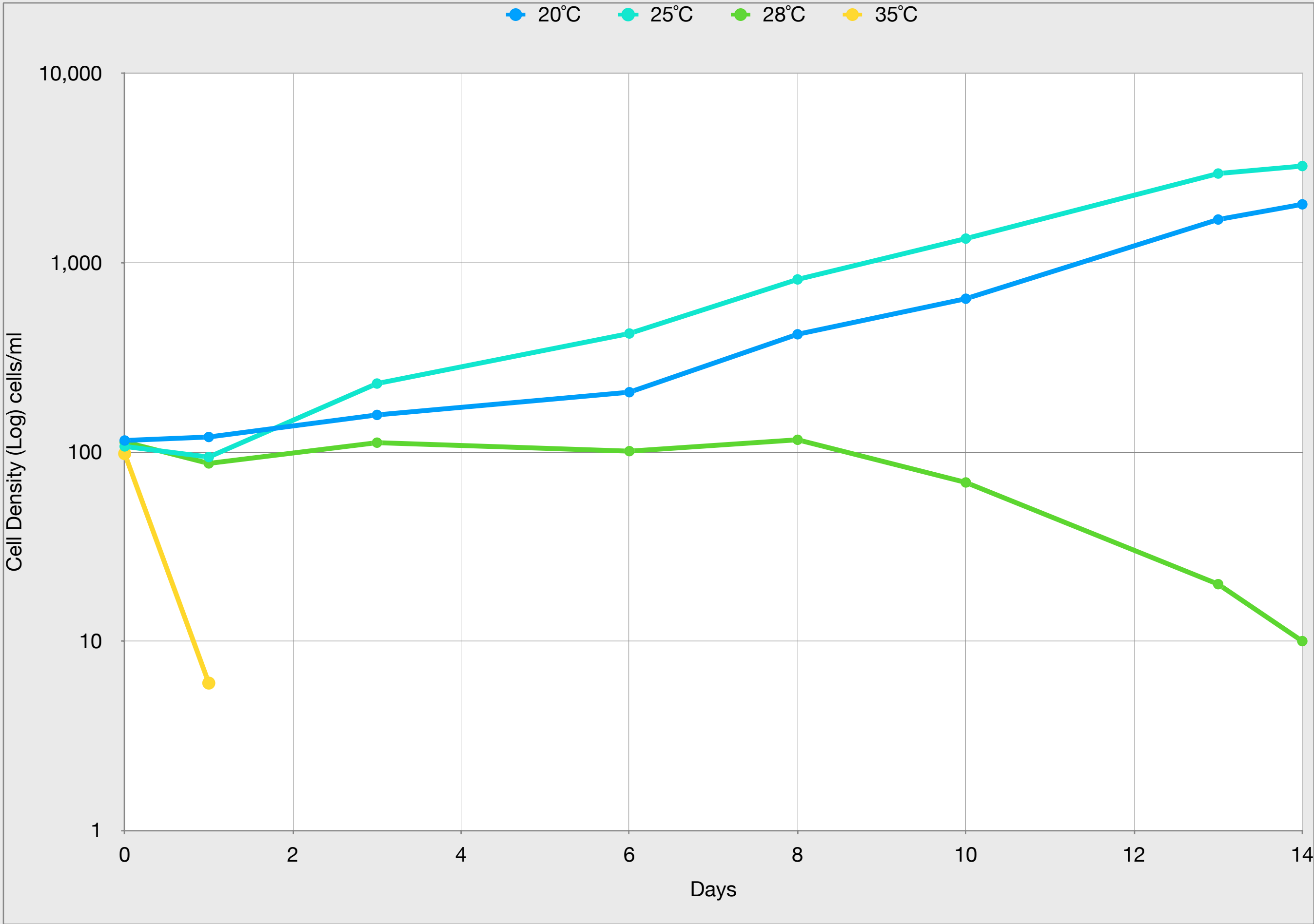
Initial dip then pre-bloom trends as growth spikes under optimum conditions
- 28 °C

Shock to algal communities, slow cell death
- 35 °C

Shock and catastrophic death

# 藻類ブルームの測定

## 海洋熱波における藻類の温度閾値





As invisible wild fires  
rage unseen, we ask:  
*What are we not hearing?*

目に見えない山火事が猛威  
を振るう中、私たちは問い  
かけます。私たちは何を聞いて  
いないのでしょうか？

## 'Unheard of' marine heatwave off UK and Irish coasts poses serious threat

Sustained high temperatures over summer could trigger mass mortality of fish and oysters, say scientists



00:03:14

What you need to know about the 'extreme' heatwave hitting our oceans - video explainer

Helena Horton Environment reporter

Mon 19 Jun 2023 12:21 CEST



A humpback whale, nicknamed Festus, who died near Glacier Bay in June 2016 during a marine heatwave in the north-east Pacific. Starvation was given as the primary cause of death. Photograph: Craig Murdoch, taken under authority of NOAA Marine Mammal Health and Stranding

### The age of extinction

## Did a marine heatwave cause 7,000 humpback whales to starve to death?

Populations were recovering, but a new study reveals that numbers dropped by 20% coinciding with a period of record temperatures in the North Pacific

The age of extinction is supported by

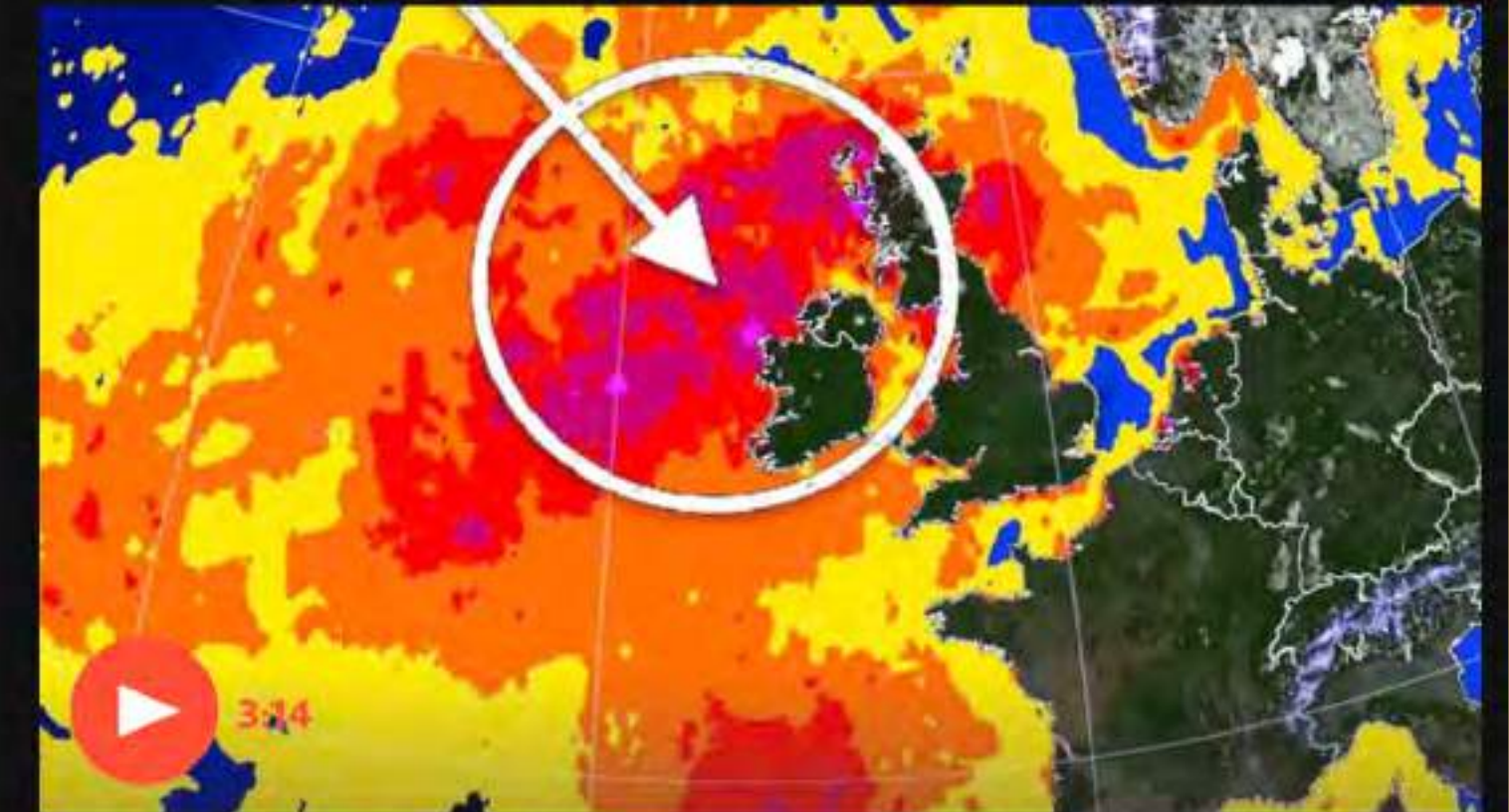
the  
guardian  
.org

About this content

Brianna Randall

Wed 28 Feb 2024 08:01 CET

## What you need to know about the 'extreme' heatwave hitting our oceans - video explainer



Scientists have warned that a marine heatwave off the coasts of the UK and Ireland poses a serious threat to species. Sea temperatures, particularly off the north-east coast of England and the west of Ireland, are several degrees above normal, breaking records for late spring and early summer. The Met Office has said that according to records dating to 1850, global sea surface temperatures in April and May reached an all-time high, and June is likely to follow suit. A professor of Earth sciences, Daniela Schmidt, said 'the extreme and unprecedented temperatures show the power of the combination of human-induced warming and natural climate variability like El Niño'. Experts said marine heatwaves have a similar impact on the environment as wildfires on land, destroying organisms that store carbon such as kelp. The damage caused is also harmful to humanity, which relies on oceans for oxygen, storm protection and food

### ● 'Unheard of' marine heatwave off UK and Irish coasts poses serious threat

Helena Horton Bryony Moore Monika Čvorak, Source: The Guardian / As credited; Thumbnail image: Scott Duncan

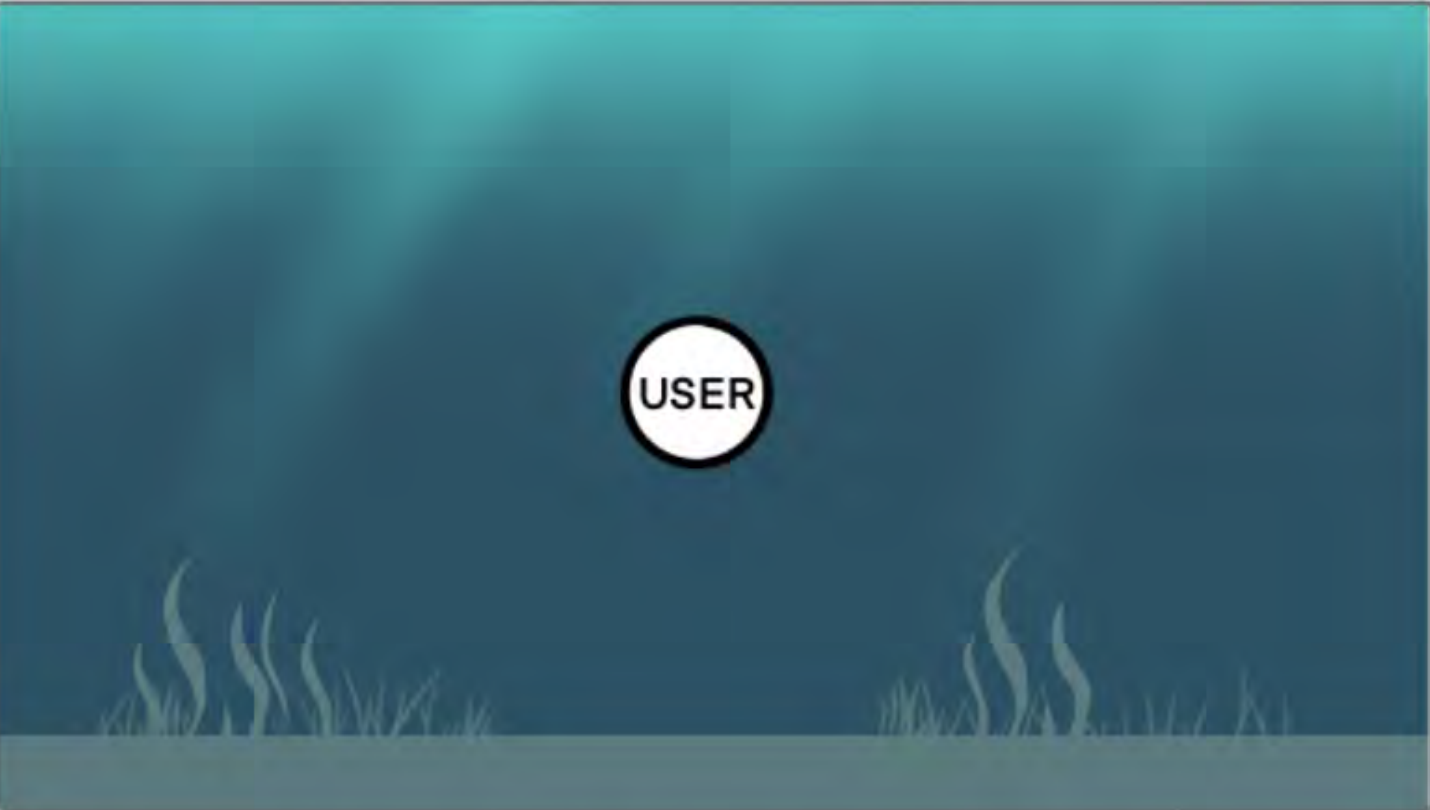
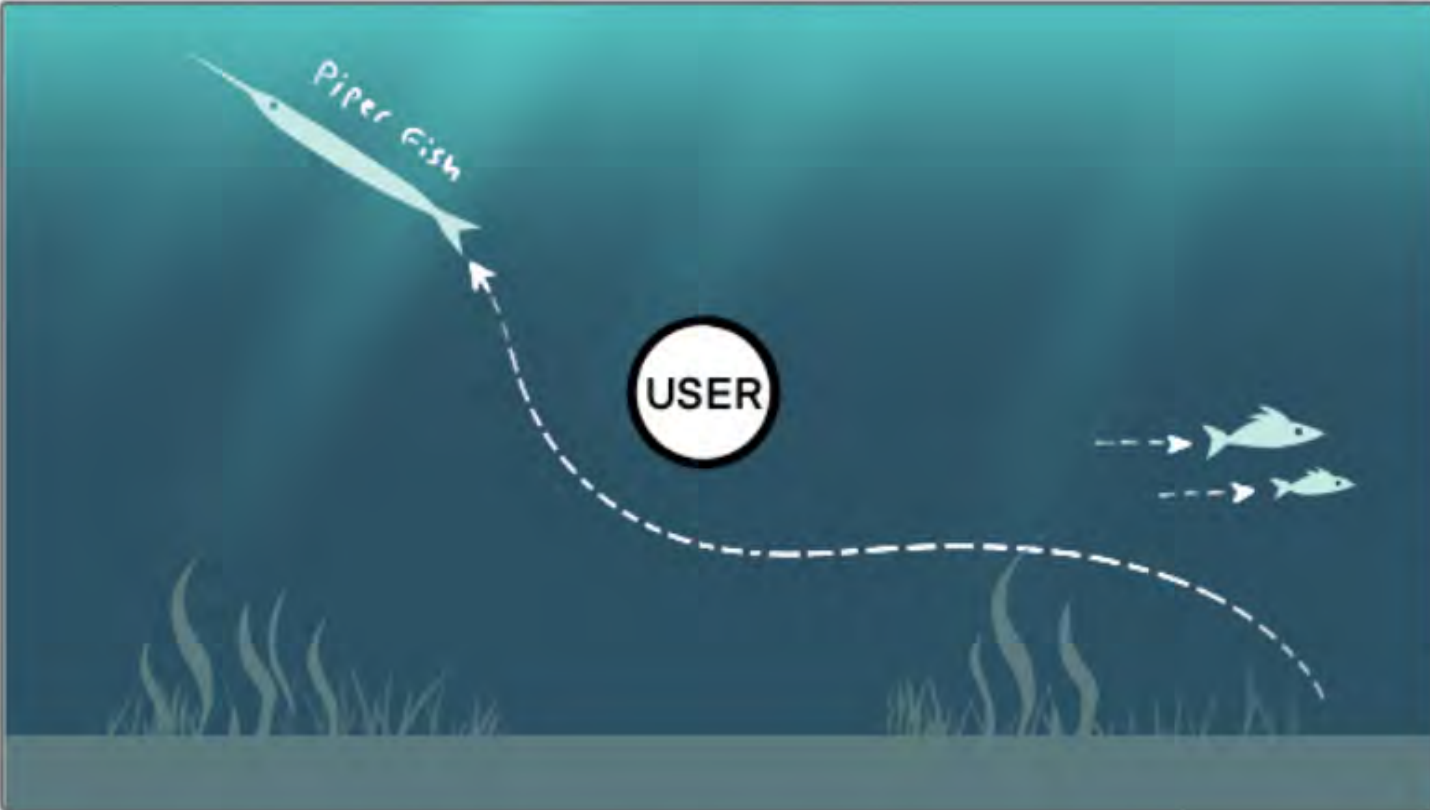
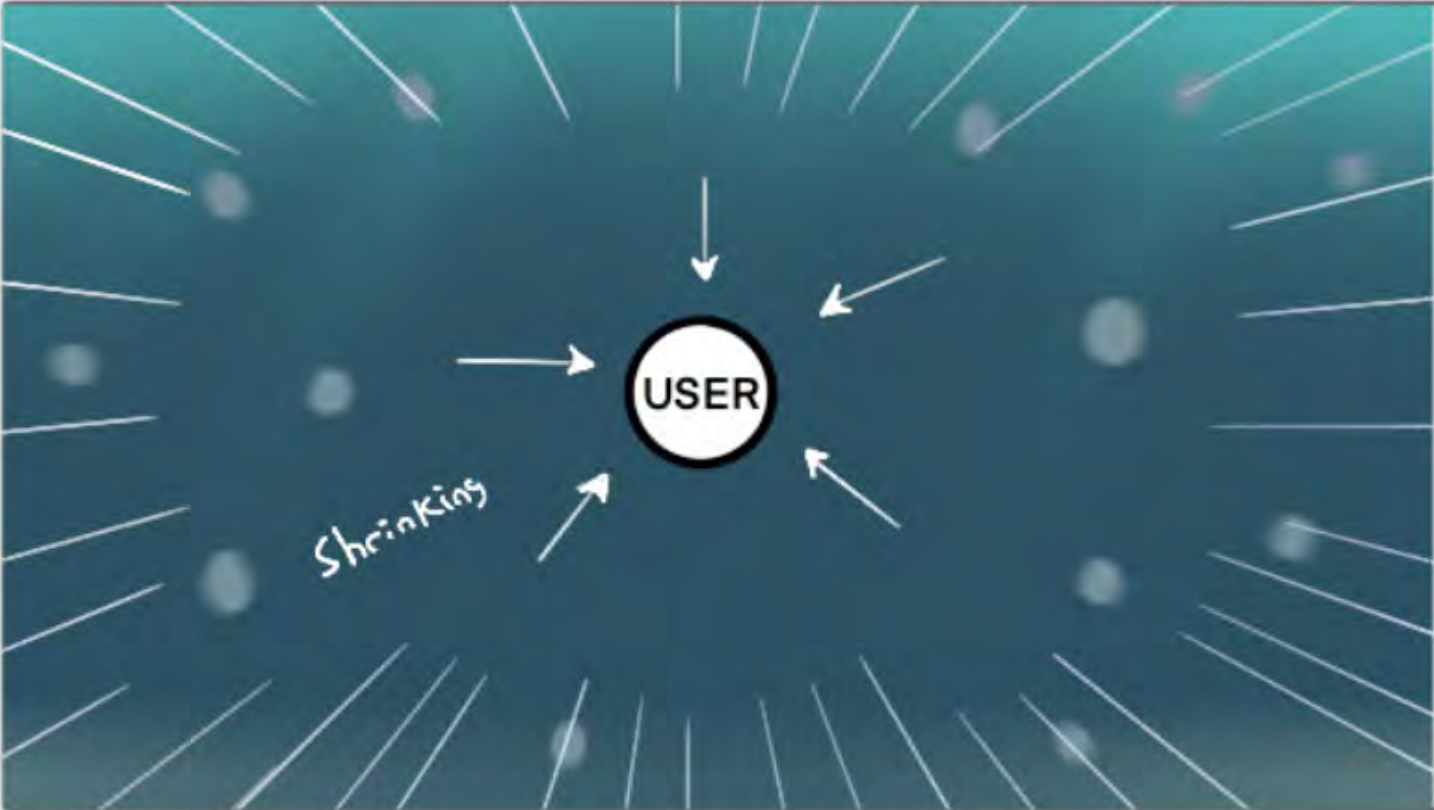
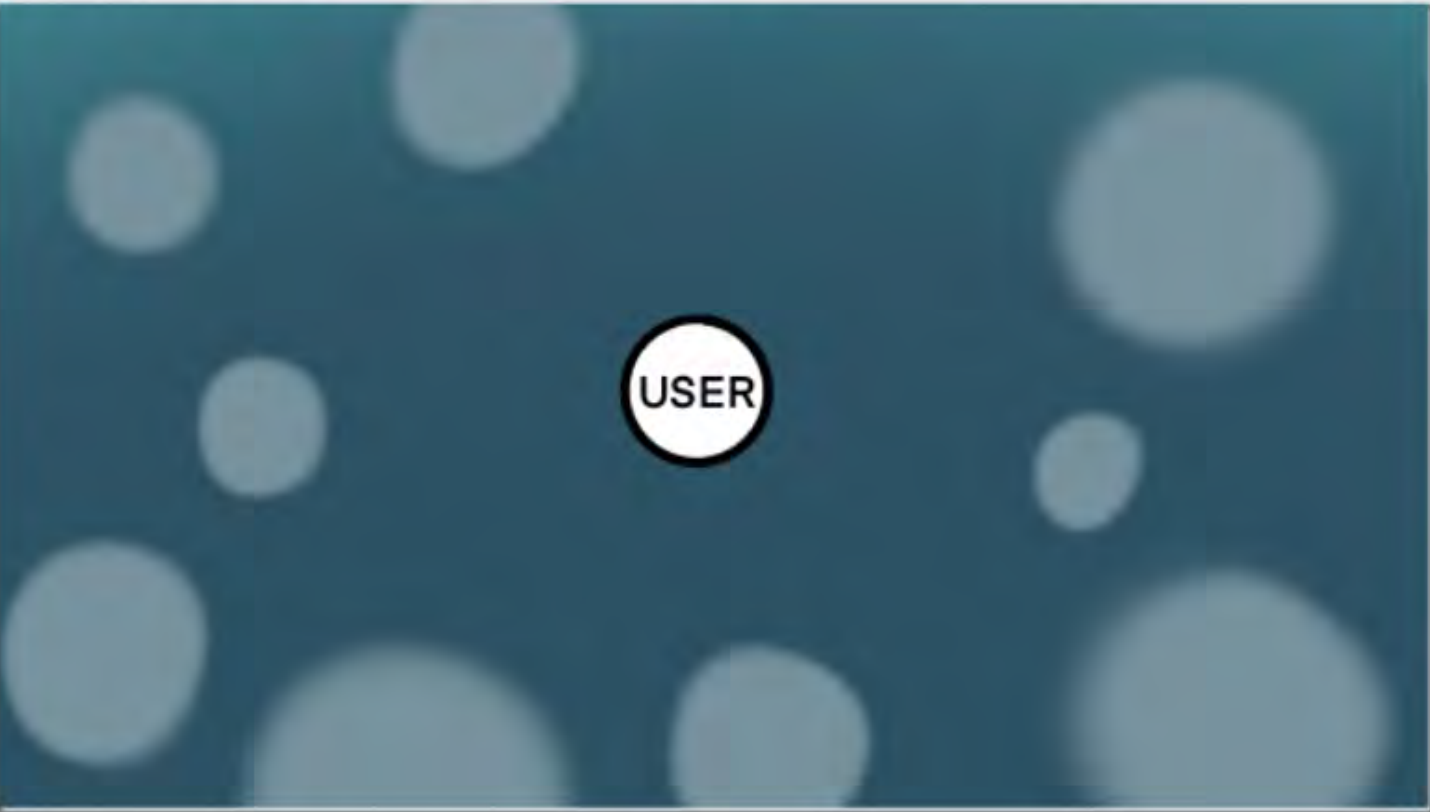


Thu 22 Jun 2023 16:22 CEST



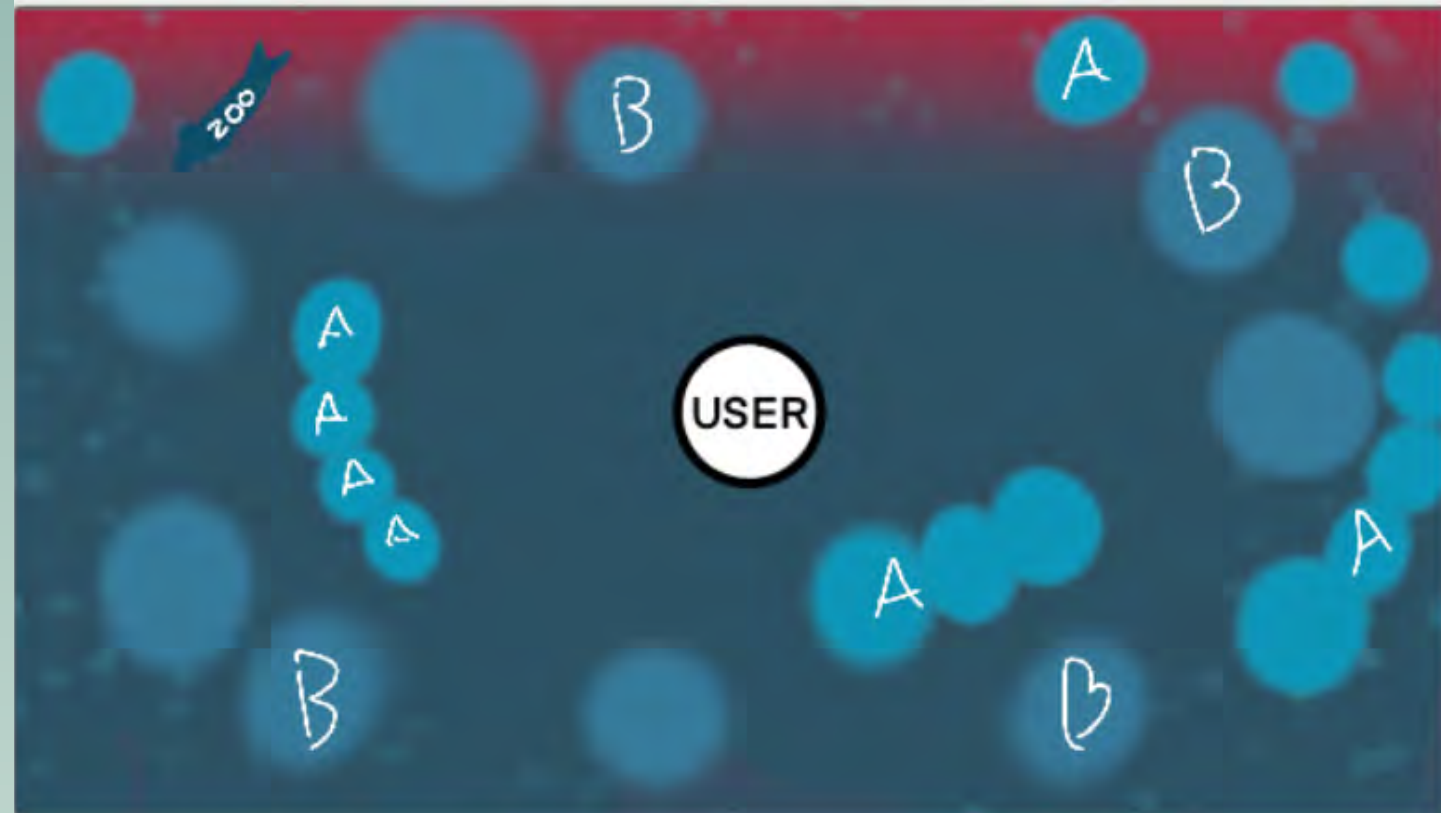


Gustavo Maggio, Joyce Koh, Christian Stein, Valentin Hanau, Marco, Romina, Andres Gatto



<div>Act 2<div>[01:01] Act 2.1</div>2.1</div> <div></div> <div><div>You are under the water now, looking from below to the water surface. Sunlight flickers at the water surface. #sea-wave simulation</div></div>	<div>Act 2<div>01:20</div>2.2</div> <div></div> <div><div>Fishes swimming around you that can return to you at a larger size size <u>Pipefish</u></div></div>	<div>Act 2<div>2.3</div></div> <div></div> <div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Microalgae Particles appear</li></ul><div>[Change Scale to Microalgae]</div></div></div>
<div>Act 2<div>[02:20]</div>2.4</div> <div></div> <div><div>We might aim at 5 microplankton species<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Camera setting effects where only central area is in focus, the peripheral becomes blurred</li><li>You are at microscopic scale</li></ul><div>Fish Eye Effect</div></div></div>	<div>Act 2<div>2.5</div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>Act 2<div>[02:30] Act 2.x - [03:30]</div>2.6</div> <div></div> <div><div>some swim or dance, some move in long chains moving to the sea currents (possible?) Sometimes a larger fish/ zooplankton brush past and we know we are in a micro scale</div></div>

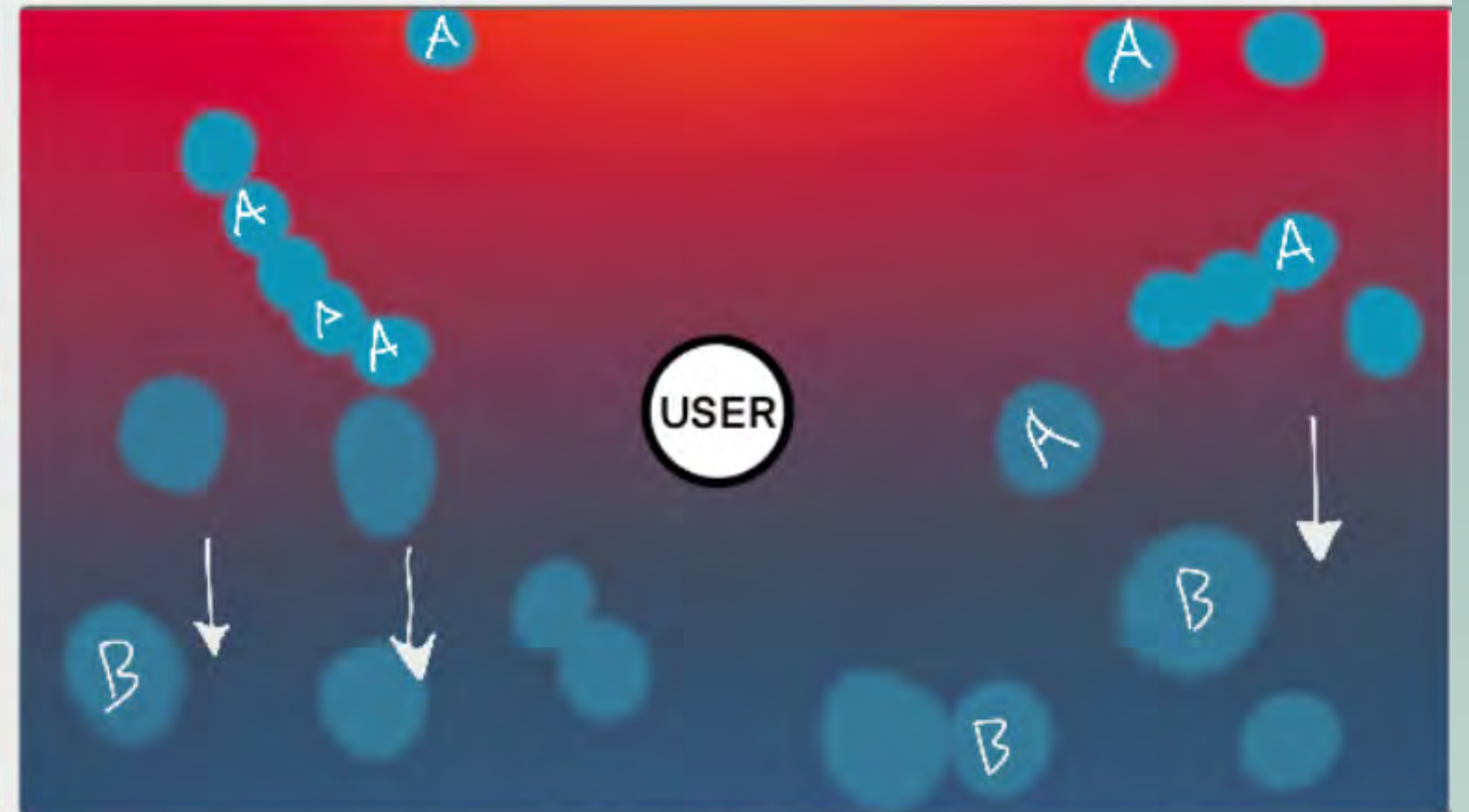


**Act 3** [03:30] Act 3.1 MHW Heat Transition

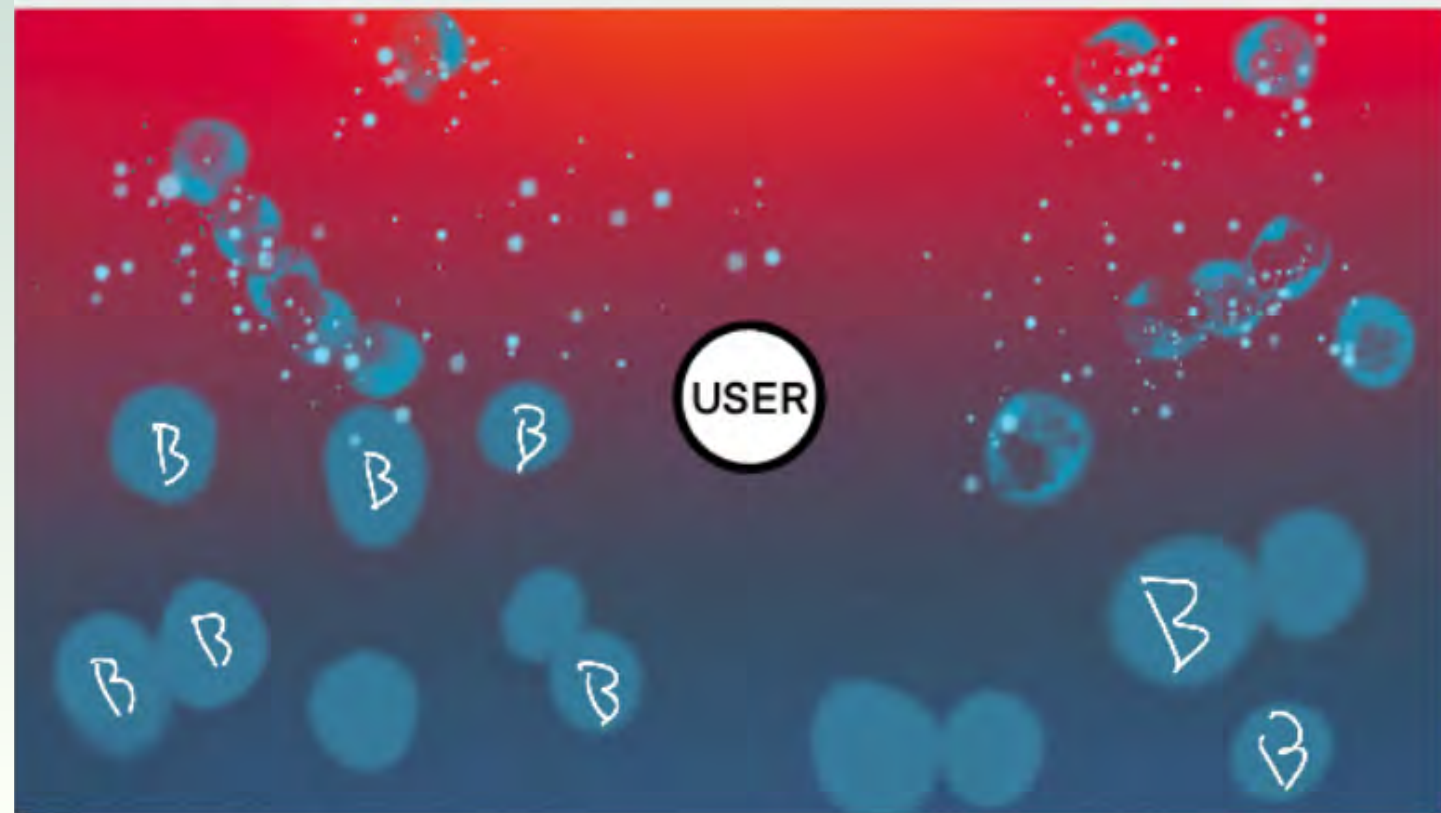
- [VR] Red gradient glow from surface and fade downwards
  - [VR] heat haze effect
  - [Global env] infra red light shining — heat to feel it
- All the dinos and zooplankton freeze

**Act 3** [04:00] Act 3.2 Blooming begins Main Act: Competing Blooms

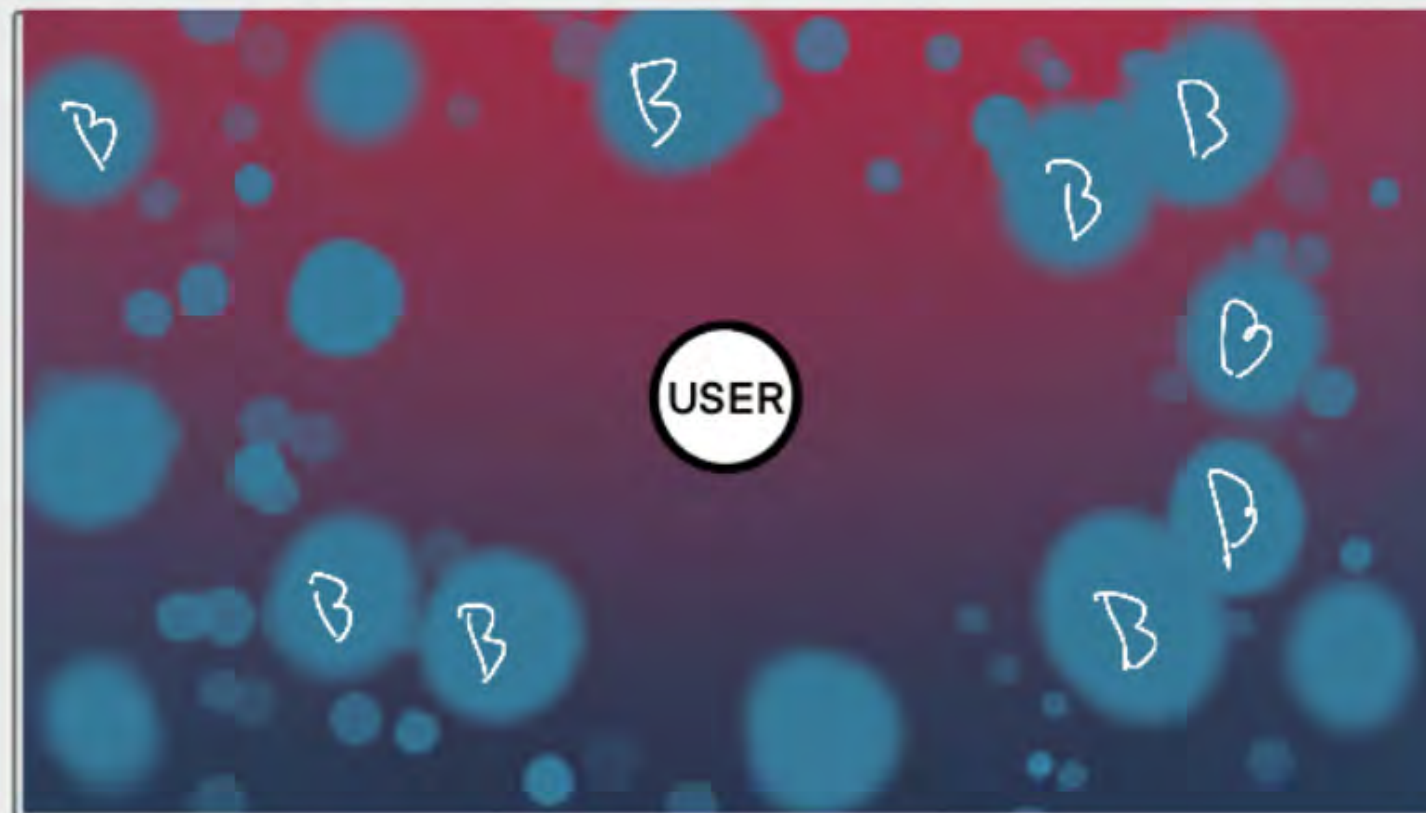
- We see crowding of species into the frame — pairs of cells in cell-division process, multiplying
- We don't need to see the actual cell division unfolding but cells in the divided states appearing around you
  - Density of cells is increasing. = Reducing the visible space in the field of view
  - Space for participant feels slowly enclosing
  - Cells come closer to the camera

**Act 3** 3.3

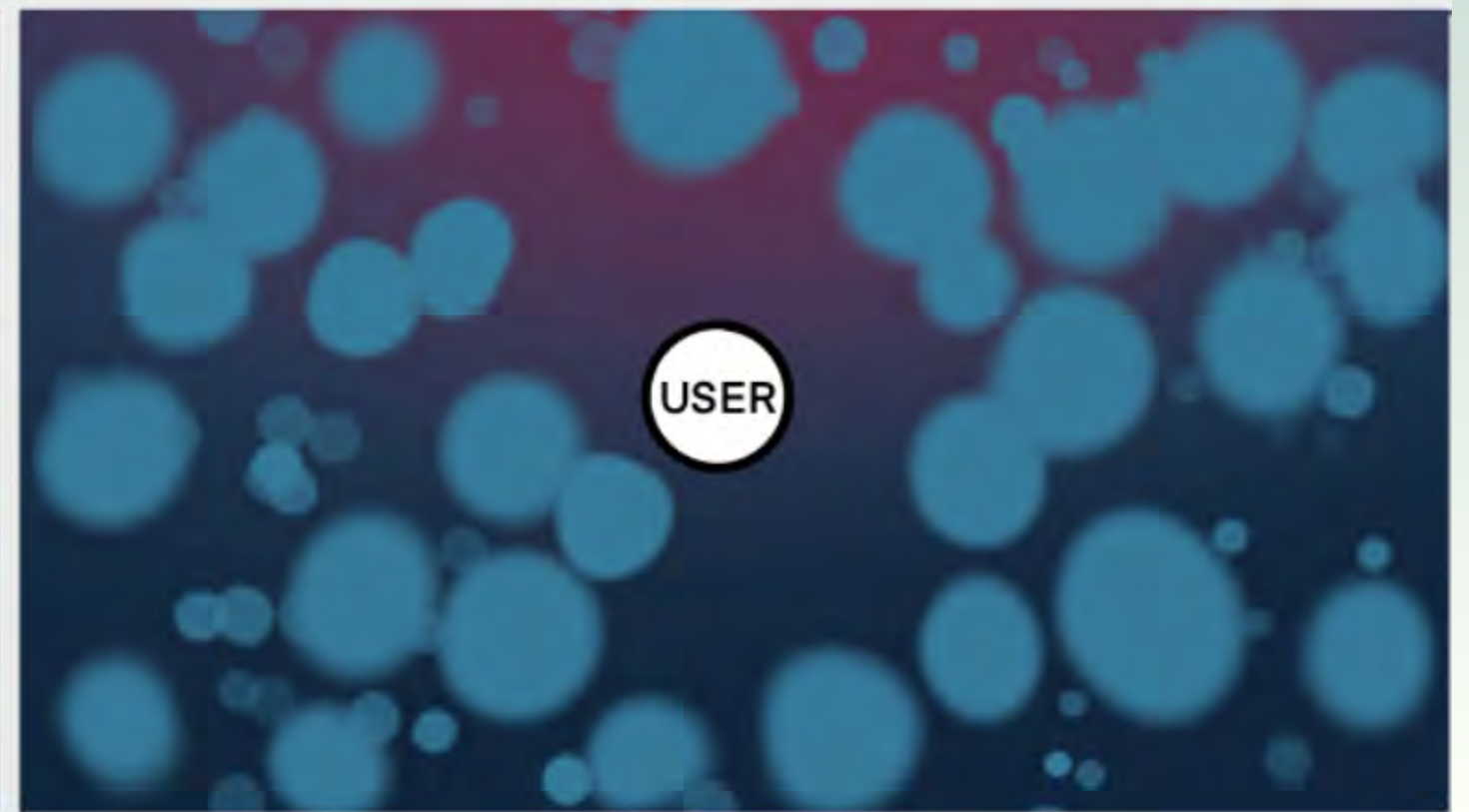
B can swim down (towards the cold). A stays in place

**Act 3** 3.4

A dies and B survives.  
Bloom #1 slowly die out, long chains start to detach and die off  
The diatom turn from green to grayscale crystalline structures  
They slowly break into smaller chunks with X's  
The crystalline cells fall gently as marine snow

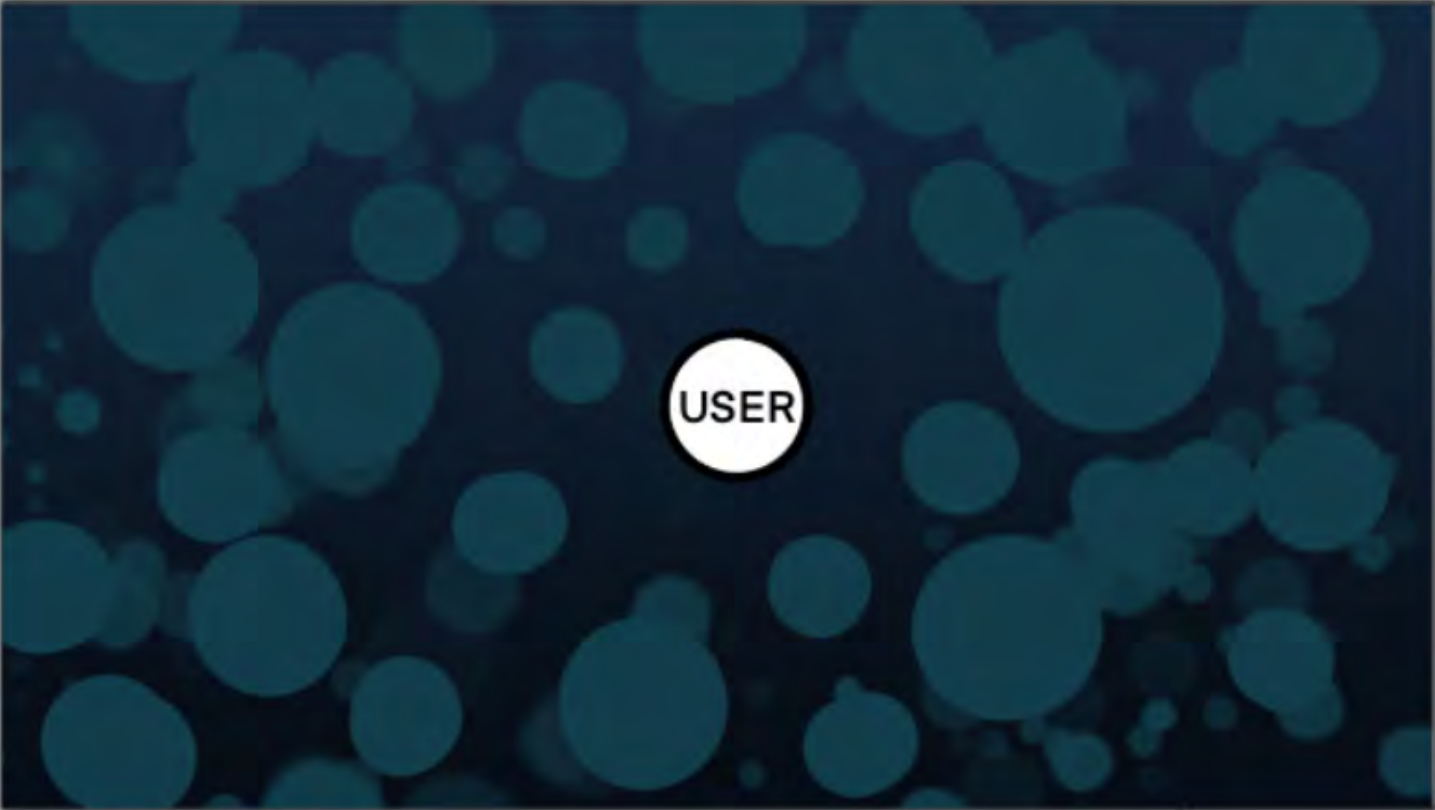





**Act 3** 3.5

- Bloom #2 is starting to take over, and fill the screen
- They cannot form chains but their density increase
  - They swim and proliferates and enter the field with the drift through the opacity change.

**Act 3** 3.6

It gets darker and darker. It's getting dark

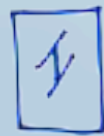


Act 44.1	Act 44.2	Act 44.3
		
	<p>A zooplankton copepod is swimming through close proximity and activates the luminescence - this teaches the user they can do it too through movement Wave currents movement creates a wave-like rhythm for the bioluminescent light, in the background</p>	
Act 44.4	Act 44.5	Act 44.6
		
	<p>Heightening Discomfort</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sound gets heavier and intense Haptics greater frequency Visual density of cells increase, fish eye, chromatic aberration and blur intensify</li></ul> <p>Sound, Haptics and Visuals Intensify to a discomfort</p>





Research assistant Elisha  
Team HAB, TMSI, NUS



天(云) 上 (WE J) C.L.R

雨 圆 模 distant 近 to 远

风 双箭头 吹 1 base. 3 monos in cycle L.R

城 中 城 POV. POL 近 to 远

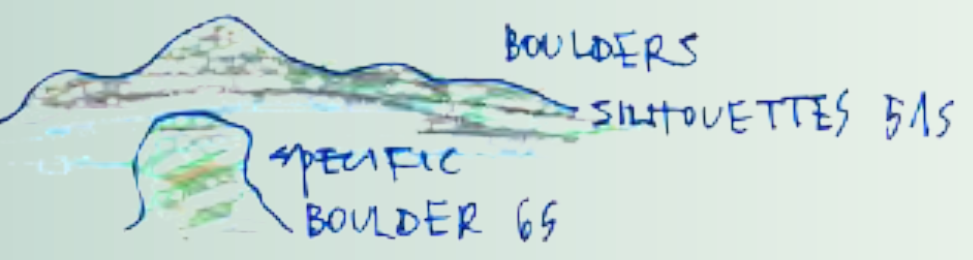
海(浪) 下  
~ NGEW ~



SNELL'S luminous 40.5  
WINDOW by the ear (Pizz) bubbles  
• IN WATER: breathing quality of being in the water  
• 还是人 Pizz

BLACK SPECKS (particle system) 5 trail 64  
5 tremelo 45

NOCTILUCA: (14-54)  
VLA  
WVN  
Pizz!  
@1:38 3F.27  
@1:57 4F.27  
@2:15 5F.27  
@2:33 5F.27



"SURVIVOR"  
NOCTILUCA  
Invisible Geometry  
(4by5) FROZEN SET (L.R) 1m 46s  
@3:17 pizz...

1  
> COSINODISCUS  
SPLASH!!!  
melodina 45 (34-55)

"BRUSH"  
CHAETOCEROS [size = PITCH ↓] 14-35  
allegro 35

HELIOTHECA temple blocks 45. 23-45  
rattle  
DITYLUM high metal glass flickering 45. 23-55

2  
L R  
@2:20 humming 2m 32s  
(4by5) melodina glass begins @3:26  
DISTANT  
mp  
@3:23  
BLUE FABRIC  
HEAT WAVE (L.R)  
1.

Composition by sound artist  
Joyce Koh



# BLOOMS



Tieranatomisches Theater  
TA T, BERLIN

7 May – 28 June 2025







# Field Sampling Feldprobenahme

Site Name Sitename	Depth Tiefe m	Temperature Temperatur °C	Salinity Salzgehalt psu	Chlorophyll ug/L	Optical Dissolved Oxygen optisch gelöster Sauerstoff mg/L	Turbidity Trübung NTU
Sa5	0.003	29.609	29.34	0.38	3.64	2.08
Sa5	0.003	29.609	29.34	0.34	3.64	2.07
Sa5	0.004	29.607	29.34	0.36	3.64	2.07
Sa5	0.008	29.599	29.34	0.38	3.63	2.05
Sa5	0.013	29.587	29.35	0.34	3.63	2.05
Sa5	0.019	29.578	29.35	0.36	3.63	2.06
Sa5	0.037	29.571	29.35	0.34	3.63	2.06
Sa5	0.062	29.562	29.36	0.35	3.63	2.09
Sa5	0.086	29.554	29.36	0.34	3.62	2.09
Sa5	0.11	29.543	29.36	0.36	3.62	2.1
Sa5	0.14	29.533	29.37	0.41	3.62	2.12
Sa5	0.176	29.522	29.37	0.48	3.62	2.17
Sa5	0.232	29.511	29.38	0.45	3.61	2.19
Sa5	0.284	29.498	29.39	0.42	3.61	2.21
Sa5	0.339	29.485	29.4	0.42	3.61	2.24
Sa5	0.391	29.471	29.4	0.46	3.61	2.24
Sa5	0.433	29.461	29.41	0.49	3.6	2.24
Sa5	0.507	29.445	29.42	0.45	3.6	2.23
Sa5	0.556	29.434	29.43	0.51	3.6	2.24
Sa5	0.605	29.423	29.44	0.52	3.6	2.23
Sa5	0.651	29.412	29.45	0.52	3.6	2.23
Sa5	0.699	29.4	29.46	0.49	3.6	2.21
Sa5	0.735	29.386	29.46	0.53	3.6	2.23
Sa5	0.769	29.37	29.48	0.59	3.61	2.27
Sa5	0.802	29.348	29.49	0.61	3.61	2.31
Sa5	0.835	29.325	29.51	0.57	3.62	2.35
Sa5	0.876	29.295	29.52	0.55	3.63	2.39
Sa5	0.911	29.269	29.54	0.55	3.64	2.45
Sa5	0.951	29.225	29.57	0.51	3.65	2.52
Sa5	0.989	29.183	29.6	0.54	3.67	2.6
Sa5	1.029	29.117	29.64	0.52	3.69	2.65
Sa5	1.078	29.086	29.67	0.53	3.71	2.71
Sa5	1.12	29.026	29.7	0.53	3.73	2.74

# Columnal Data Spaltendaten

MULTI PARAMETRIC  
SONDE









Make Science  
great again

Dysmorphia  
me?

Who the hell is this?  
1925-1928: How did they do it?  
Shame!



I AM  
Okay

GET  
AB!

Sometimes  
people choose  
not to listen  
Thank you!

WAMBO

What does  
it mean to be  
a person?

The  
Ocean



Dancing on  
water and  
fire, fire and  
water.



VIVA  
LOS  
GRELOS

Calm  
down

Minor & Deep  
Listening als  
poetics of  
listening to  
(un)sound



WAS IT  
DESIGNED?



SCIENCE IS  
BEAUTIFUL  
Thanks for  
showing



HOW CAN  
WE TEACH THE  
ART OF THE  
OCEANS IN  
SCHOOL?

HALLO  
ich Bin  
Lily

HOW ARE WE  
COLOUR?

UN  
OBVIOUSLY  
ENGAGING  
SLOW?  
DANGER



For those making the  
ocean, we must be very  
careful not to destroy  
things back and forth  
between...



WAS  
horen  
nicht?

NO  
Schande??



WHAT  
ARE WE  
NOT  
HEARING?



Was  
horen  
nicht?







# BLOOMS

Base Milano  
9 – 22 October 2025



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101070278.

**S+T+ARTS**



**playersjourney**

**TAT**

Cluster of  
Excellence **Matters  
of Activity**

Image  
Space  
Material

Funded by  
**DFG**



**TMSI**  
*Tropical Marine Science Institute*  
National University of Singapore





Ah Tee and research assistant Amily from Team HAB





# Measuring Blooms



# 藻類ブルームの測定





Ismail Tan  
Indigenous boat captain

Research assistants Shaun and Elisha  
Team HAB, TMSI, NUS



Ah Tee  
Floating fishery farmer



# International Conference on Harmful Algae (ICHA) 2023

## Hiroshima 広島市



福代 康夫 Yasuwo Fukuyo  
東京大学 名誉教授 Professor Emeritus,  
The University of Tokyo.



My longtime question to myself is:  
There must be no microalga that  
wishes to harm to others.

Maybe the micro algae have specific  
abilities to survive in the struggle  
for life among plankton world. The  
abilities are fast uptake of organic  
substances, fast growth rate ...  
it means the algae behave naughty  
in finding good condition for  
themselves then they can bloom.

Yasuwo Fukuyo  
Professor Emeritus,  
The University of Tokyo.

長年、私はこう自問しています。  
他の生物に害を及ぼそうとする微細藻類は  
存在しないはずだ。

もしかしたら、微細藻類はプランクトン界での  
生存競争を生き抜くために、特別な能力を持っ  
ているのかもしれませんが。その能力とは、有機  
物の吸収速度の速さ、成長速度の速さなど  
です。つまり、藻類は自分にとって良い環境を見  
つけるために、いたずら好きな行動をとること  
で、繁殖できるのです。

福代 康夫  
東京大学名誉教授



To people, the bloom shows unusual scenery, but it is not harm, unless people utilise coastal area and coastal seafoods. It means people change the (lovely) naughty algae to the one that has harm for others, becoming harmful algae.

Microalgae are friends struggling in the sea, in the same way as I do on land.

Yasuwo Fukuyo  
Professor Emeritus,  
The University of Tokyo.

人間にとって、藻類のブルームは異様な光景ですが、沿岸地域や沿岸の魚介類を利用しない限り、害にはなりません。つまり、人間が（愛らしい）いたずら好きな藻を、他者に害を及ぼす有害藻に変えてしまうのです。

微細藻類は、私が陸上で闘うのと同じように、海の中で闘う仲間なのです。

福代 康夫  
東京大学名誉教授





## DANCE OF THE DIATOMS

Sound Composition by sound artist Joyce Koh

Microscopy of Noctiluca Scintillans by Team HAB, TMSI, NUS

Film edited by Andres Gatto



## BLOOMS TEAM

**Wendy Chua** Research and art direction

**Joyce Koh** Sound artist

**Gustavo Maggio** Product/ Space designer

**Andres Gatto** Media artist

**Christian Stein** VR creative director

**Valentin Hanau** VR project manager

**Julian Dietz** VR developer

**Arthur Melzow** VR developer

**Marco Garcia** VR developer

**Romina Valdivia Sanz** 3D artist

**Dr Sandric Leong** Marine Scientist

**Audrey Lee** Marine Science Researcher

**Timothy Chan** Marine Science Researcher

**Manuel Cirauqui** EU S+T+ARTS ReSilence curator

**Berta Gutierrez** EU S+T+ARTS ReSilence curator

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