Las proliferaciones de microalgas en el litoral Mediterráneo: Un problema ambiental de proporciones crecientes.

G. Basterretxea Depto. Ecología y Recursos Marinos IMEDEA (UIB-CSIC)

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Cátedra FACSA de innovación en el ciclo integral del agua UNIVERSITAT JAUME·I





MINISTERIO DE ECONOMÍA, INDUSTRIA Y COMPETITIVIDAD





Una manara de hacar Europa Promoveral desarrollo tecnológico, la nnovación y una invostigación de calidad





General circulation patterns



Interactions in the marine environment



Phytoplankton blooms in the open ocean depend on a relatively large range of interacting physical, chemical and biological processes.

Complex and sophisticated models are required to simulate the dynamics of phytoplankton blooms, implying the parameterization of a large number of unknown components.

Phytoplankton biomass



Phytoplankton biomass is generally concentrated in shelf areas and particularly at regions of freshwater influence (ROFI).

Two main nutrient sources: (1) vertical transport, (2) Terrestrial sources

Bottom-up primary production regulation



The phenology of open ocean waters



The phenology of open ocean waters



What happens near the coast?



- Dynamics of coastal marine ecosystems are driven by a multiplicity of anthropogenic, atmospheric, terrestrial and oceanic forces.
- This multiplicity implies episodic inputs of fresh water, sediments and nutrients into the coastal zone with large variability across and within ecosystems.
- Time scales are generally shorter than in open ocean conditions
- As a result of episodic events, coastal marine ecosystems exhibit a high complexity with irregular and unpredictable dynamics, including HABs.

What happens near the coast?



Tendency of nutrient inputs in the Mediterranean Sea



Mediterranean rivers suffer from a significant reduction in freshwater discharge (20 %, 1960- 2000)

A similar decrease has been observed for the fluxes of dissolved silica butwhat are the dynamics in the fluxes of N and P?

Ludwig et al. 2009

Karst areas and coastal and submarine springs in the Mediterranean



Bakalowicz et al., WWW Stockholm 2008

Interstitial nutrients



Concentrations of nutrients in the shallow groundwater greatly exceed those in seawater, suggesting the importance of benthic flow to the coastal nutrient budget.

Pressure variations can deliver nutrients

- Tides
- CTW
- Storm waves
- Seiches



Exchanges of interstitial waters

Processes enhancing exchanges with overlying waters have notable implications for the biochemistry of littoral areas and may sustain phytoplankton blooms.

Flux is controlled by advective movements and by molecular diffusion.

- Advection: depends on pressure gradients and sediment porosity/conductivity (fast process).
- Diffusion: Is a molecular process regulated by chemical gradients. (slow)



%° Lower nutrient concentration

Evidendes of submarine groundwater discharges (SGD)

- Traditional areas of surgences
- Airborne surveys revealed areas of thermal anomalities
- Radium isotopes
- Flow-meter measurements

Groundwater is an important source of nutrients and other elements to the coast in the Mediterranean sea







Coastal enrichment





Distance (m) water S

50

Cross-shore distribution of water properties



Coastal enrichment and HABs

- In low energy environments, phytoplankton biomass is frequently enhanced in nearshore waters.
- Biomass can build up generating intense blooms with deleterious environmental effects and impacts on local economy.
- Effects span from foams, discolorations and hypoxia to toxicity for marine fauna and humans.







What is a HAB?



What is a HAB?

- Algal blooms occur when single algal species multiply and accumulate into dense patches near the sea surface. Cell concentrations become so high (i.e. > 10^5 cells/L) that water appears discolored.
- These blooms are often called red tides but can also appear green, yellow, or brown, depending on the type of algae.
- Harmful algal blooms (HABs) include not only toxic microscopic algae but also nontoxic macroalgae which can grow out of control and cause such ecological impacts as displacing indigenous species, altering habitat suitability, and depleting oxygen.



Un problema global y en expansión

Hay más PANs o simplemente las percibimos más?

- Incremento en frecuencia e intensidad de los episodios.
- Hay más y nuevos tipos.
- Ocurren en más zonas

Razones

- Influencia humana en los HABs. Aumento de la población costera
- Artificialización del litoral: pérdida de zonas vegetadas, diques, etc.
- Variación de la hidrología costera. Renovación de las aguas, temperatura, estratificación
- Introducciones: aguas de lastre, cultivos
- Eutrofización

Otras causas

- Cambio climático.
- Episodios meteorológicos anómalos

Un problema global y en expansión

- Changes in ocean temperature and salinity new distribution boundaries
- Variations in biogeochemical tracers caused by cultural eutrophication
- Increased sources of nutrients 7
- Variation in nutrient ratios

favor growth

competitive changes



A growing problem ...



marrón podrían servir también para otras Así lo explicó ayer el concejal de Medi An iten e principios de eño propues e los er

de luz solar.

El baño en unas aquas que son de color amarillo en buena parte de la costa del Port ha hecho desistir a más de

TIN 1,292%

Etimetra

agua

remover

Finca en

ensa, el científico ha destacado el buen estado de las aguas analizadas y ha dicho

HAB typology in the Mediterranean sea

- Small-scale nearshore blooms are the most commonly observed bloom type in the Mediterranean.
- Generally, HABs in the Mediterranean Sea are produced by slow growing flagellates.
- Blooms in these areas have very tight linkage in time and space to prevailing environmental conditions.
- Nearshore nutrient enrichment, reduced water renewal and mild summer conditions favor bloom development.

HAB classification

In terms of the harmful effects, we can consider two types of causative organism:

- high-biomass producers (water discoloration, anoxia).
- toxic producers (PSP, DSP, ASP, Ciguatera)

Problems associated with high biomass blooms and toxic events are different:

- High biomass blooms cause great ecological problems, and also great economic problems connected to the deterioration of the coastal waters (unpleasant aspect of the water because of discoloration, odour etc.)
- toxic events can be produced by a very low concentration of the causative organism.



HABs as a budget of in situ+transport processes



Importancia del ciclo de vida



Life cycle diagram of *Alexandrium* tamarense.From Anderson 1998



Una perspectiva ecológica



Una perspectiva ecológica



CONCENTRACIÓN DE NUTRIENTES

Una perspectiva ecológica



CONCENTRACIÓN DE NUTRIENTES

Conclusiones

- HABs are indicative of disequilibria in the rates of biogeochemical transformations in the coastal systems
- Not only biogeochemistry but also life cycle strategies are necessary to understand coastal blooms
- From an ecological perspective a bloom is a transition stat from one equilibrium system to another
- HAB triggering the result of interacting physical, chemical, trophic and life history processes

Gracias !!