Eric D'Asaro, Craig Lee, Mary Jane Perry, Mark Benfield, + others

Autonomous studies of the subpolar North Atlantic

New focus: annual cycle of plankton, nutrients, carbon. Builds on past success: 3-month study of 2008 spring bloom.

Recent papers suggest enhanced winter primary production, including Raitsos et al. 2005. Extending the SeaWiFS chlorophyll data set back 50 years in the northeast Atlantic. Geophysical Research Letters 32.

What really goes on during the late autumn and winter?

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Proposed Time Line

ackscatter at 470, 532 and 700 m

- Submit NSF proposal February 2011.
- NSF decision summer 2011; if successful, then
- Go in the water ~ April 2013 for ~ 15 months to study annual cycle bracketed with two spring blooms
- Floats and gliders with physics (CT), chemistry (O₂ and NO₃⁻), optics (chlorophyll fluorescence, optical backscatter, attenuation, PAR), zooplankton (acoustics new addition).
- Ships for calibrating sensors and validating proxies
 - deployment and servicing cruises for floats and gliders
 - process cruises for more biological & chemical measurements