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Optical Observations and Visible Remote Sensing of Lake Superior

lean Tach

NASA Ocean Color Image Gallery http://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov





Constituents - Water



Dutkiewicz et al., 2014

Constituents – NAP & CDOM



Constituents - Phytoplankton





- Pigment composition
- Taxonomic composition
- Physiological status
- Cell size



Fundamental Elements of Satellite Remote Sensing



Components of Aquatic Color Remote Sensing



Lake Superior – Optics



- High CDOM absorption (>75%)
- Oligotrophic, small chlorophyll dynamic range in the open lake (0.4 – 0.8 mg m⁻³)

a_{CDOM} is 10x greater

Mouw et al., 2013 Effler et al. 2010

Evaluation and optimization of bio-optical inversion algorithms for remote sensing of Lake Superior's optical properties

Colleen B. Mouw,^{1,4} Haidi Chen,² Galen A. McKinley,² Steven Effler,³ David O'Donnell,³ — Mary Gail Perkins,³ and Chris Strait³

Retrieval of chlorophyll concentration from an inversion algorithm approach was unsuccessful. The very large contribution of absorption due to CDOM to total absorption and the error in derived CDOM absorption being greater than phytoplankton absorption values make the deconvolution of absorption due to phytoplankton and consequently chlorophyll concentration from $R_{rs}(\lambda)$ difficult.

CDOM Absorption Imagery

Spatial / temporal understanding of a_{CDOM} lends insight into carbon inputs and cycling within the lake as well as optical limitations for satellite retrievals of other biogeochemical parameters.



Buffer zones based on the distance from shore: <10 km, 10 to 25 km, and >25 km Mouw et al., 2013

Imagery Example



CDOM Corrected [Chl]



SeaWiFS, August 31, 2006

Mouw et al., in prep

a_{CDOM} & [Chl] Time Series



- **a**_{CDOM} bimodal annual distribution: Greatest peak in fall smaller peak in spring
- Mixing deep CDOM reservoirs back into the surface
- Summer: Photochemical degradation and microbial utilization.
- [Chl] bimodal annual distribution: Greatest peak in spring smaller peak in fall
- Looking into drivers of interannual bloom variability.

Mouw et al., 2013; Mouw et al., in prep

Optical Water Types



Trochta, Mouw & Moore, submitted



Highest to lowest constituent composition HEAVIEST HEAVIER MODERATE CLEARER CLEAREST

Temporal Evolution



Trochta, Mouw & Moore, submitted



Deep Chlorophyll Layer



Comparison of [Chl] profiles between a very cold high ice year (1979, dotted line; Fahnenstiel and Glime, 1983) and a warm year (2013, solid line)

Optical Observations

Full characterization of optical properties needed for algorithm development and validation



- $E_{d}(\lambda), L_{u}(\lambda) \rightarrow R_{rs}(\lambda)$
- $a(\lambda), a_g(\lambda), c(\lambda)$
- b_b(λ)
- Chl, CDOM, PC fluor.
- CTD





Optical Sampling Locations



solid symbols - stations sampled more than once in a given year **open symbols** - stations sampled once in a given year









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- Ice: National Snow and Ice Data Center



Photo credit: Chris Strait

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