

ACCESS TO THE PACIFIC REGION HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM (PACHAB) DATA THROUGH THE NATIONAL HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

*Michelle C. Tomlinson & +Vera L. Trainer

*National Oceanographic Data Center/NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA.

+National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NWFC/2, 2725 Montlake Boulevard E., Seattle, WA 98112, USA.

The U.S. National Oceanographic Data Center is developing a system to synthesize data from monitoring and research programs in order to assist in Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) management and research. Data sets suitable for understanding HABs must include information on biological, chemical, and physical components of the ecosystem which contribute to the temporal and spatial distribution of these events. The HAB-Data Management System (HAB-DMS) will provide access to physical, chemical, and biological data acquired from many disparate sources. A prototype has been developed in coordination with the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Bloom (ECOHAB) Program and NOAA's Monitoring and Event Response of Harmful Algal Blooms (MERHAB) Program

Suitable data for understanding HABs are frequently dispersed among state and academic laboratories, and are generally inaccessible or difficult to interpret. Data are often stored in various formats, with inadequate documentation. Many historical data sets are also unavailable in a digital form. Therefore, the NODC is collaborating with scientists in Pacific Rim countries that experience HABs (PACHAB) to provide a system that facilitates the flow of data into the HAB-DMS by providing tools for managing data locally. The HAB-DMS will initially include biological, chemical and physical oceanographic parameters from *in situ* and laboratory derived measurements. In addition, reports of regional HAB events will be provided in conjunction with oceanographic data, to allow for the integration of information regarding the nature of individual HAB events in the PACHAB region and to better understand the initiation, transport and demise of HABs in the region.