

Guidelines for group project report –2 students (40% final mark)

This Project is based on the selection of one (1) published article on a topic chosen by the students in consultation with the instructors. The selected project may be related with work being developed within other courses if it includes phytoplankton as a topic. The students will present an oral report (15 min) followed by a short discussion period with colleagues and instructors (10 min). Both students must be involved in the oral presentations. Presentations will take place on November 29. Although graphical aspects are attractive and help communicate, it will be the scientific communication skills that will be valued most (accuracy).

An abstract on the project of up to two pages is also due. It may be delivered until the end of the semester (13th December).

As a guideline, the presentation and the abstract should briefly introduce the problem/question/hypothesis investigated, refer the choice of methods that were essential for investigating it, highlight the relevance of the results of the selected study, and if it is the case, refer questions raised by the work that you would like to further investigate or think should be further investigated.

The oral presentation and the written abstract will contribute 50% each to the final project grade. The objective of the project work is to show that you can understand and summarize the main findings of a scientific article based on critical reading.

Below are a few ideas of general topics from where to select more specific questions. Feel free to come up with other proposals.

1. Our favorite phytoplankton group because...
2. Phytoplankton and climate change
3. Iron fertilization of the oceans
4. Ocean acidification: impacts on phytoplankton
5. The role of virus infections in phytoplankton dynamics
6. Phytoplankton as a source of bioactive compounds
7. Phytoplankton for food and feed
8. Fossil phytoplankton groups, the key to the past
9. Harmful algal blooms
10. The origin of chloroplasts
11. New trends understanding the functioning of aquatic ecosystems: phytoplankton and mixoplankton
12. Phagotrophy in dinoflagellates
13. Diatoms, living in glass houses

