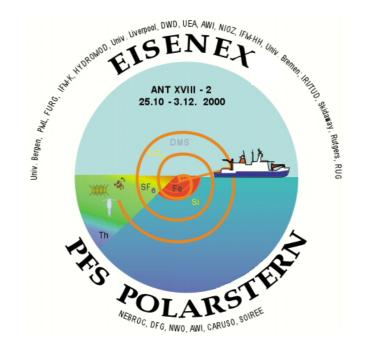
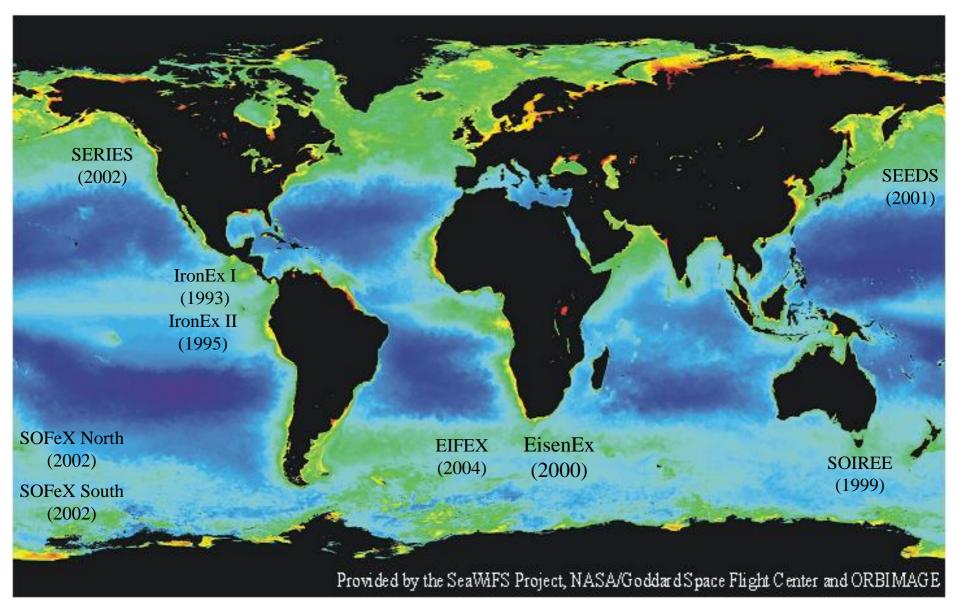
Species-specific growth performance and grazing mortality of the diatom assemblage during an *in situ* iron-induced bloom in the Southern Ocean



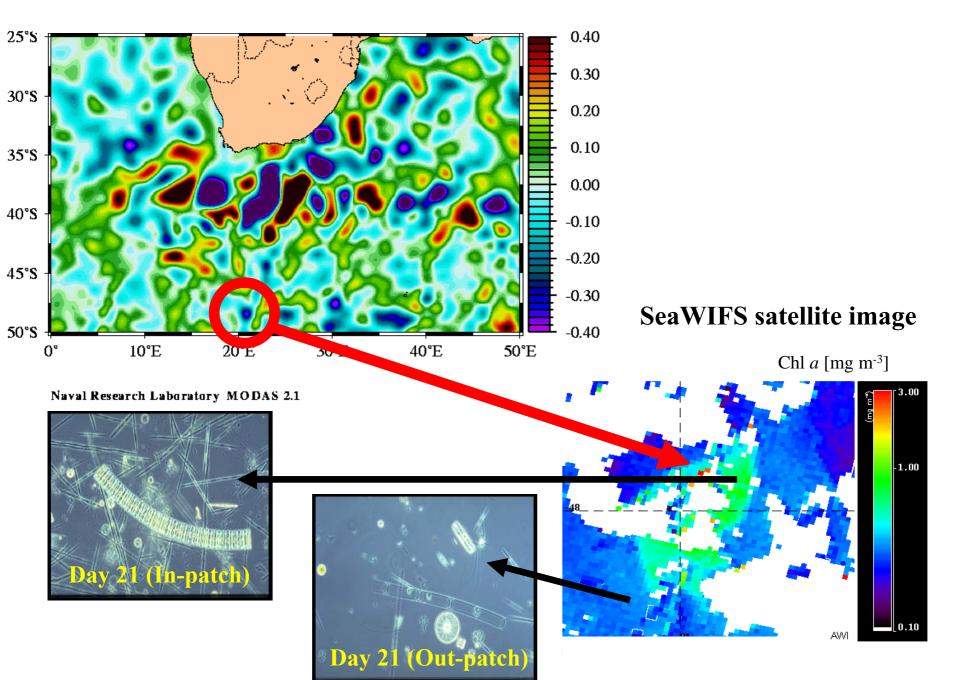
P. Assmy, J. Henjes, C. Klaas & V. Smetacek

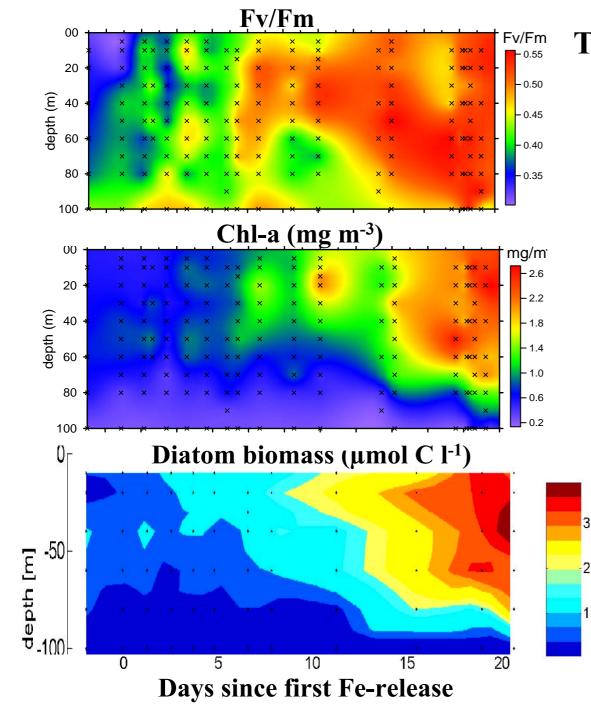
Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Bremerhaven, Germany

In situ iron fertilization experiments in "HNLC"-areas



EisenEx target area





Temporal evolution of the iron-stimulated phytoplankton bloom

Fv/Fm and Chl-a provided by M.Gorbunov



Growth performance of different diatom species during EisenEx

Thalassiosira lentiginosa

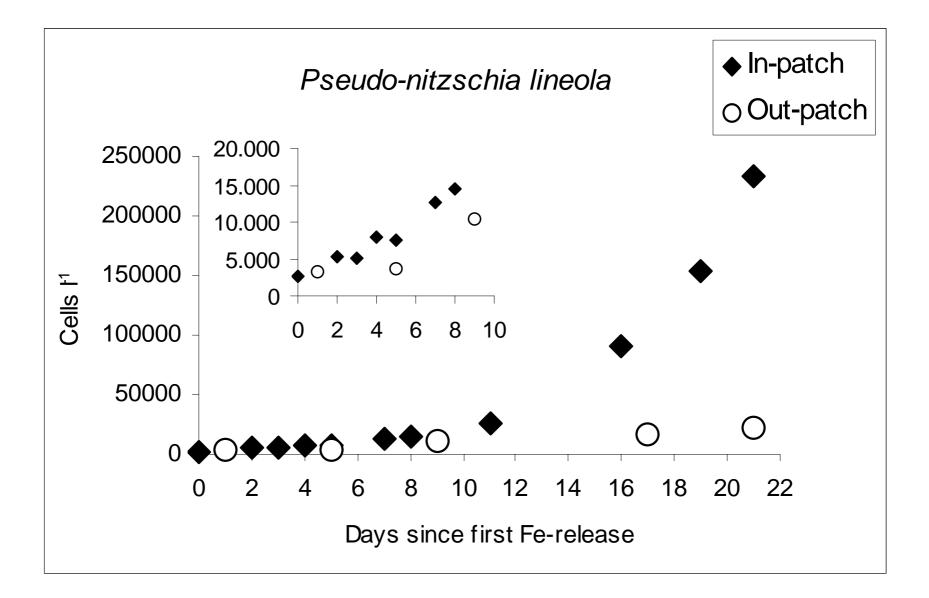
Corethron pennatum

Fragilariopsis kerguelensis

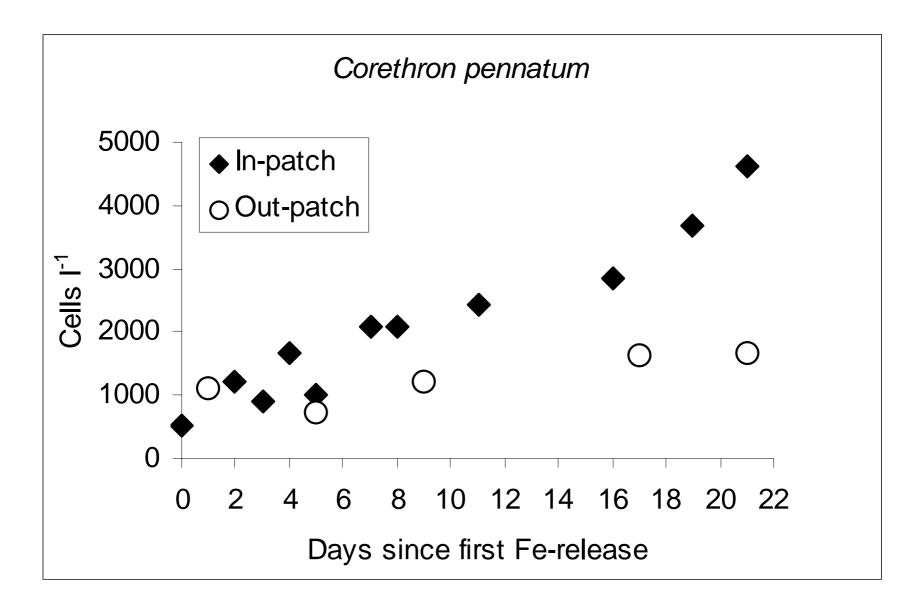
10 µm

1<u>0 µ</u>m

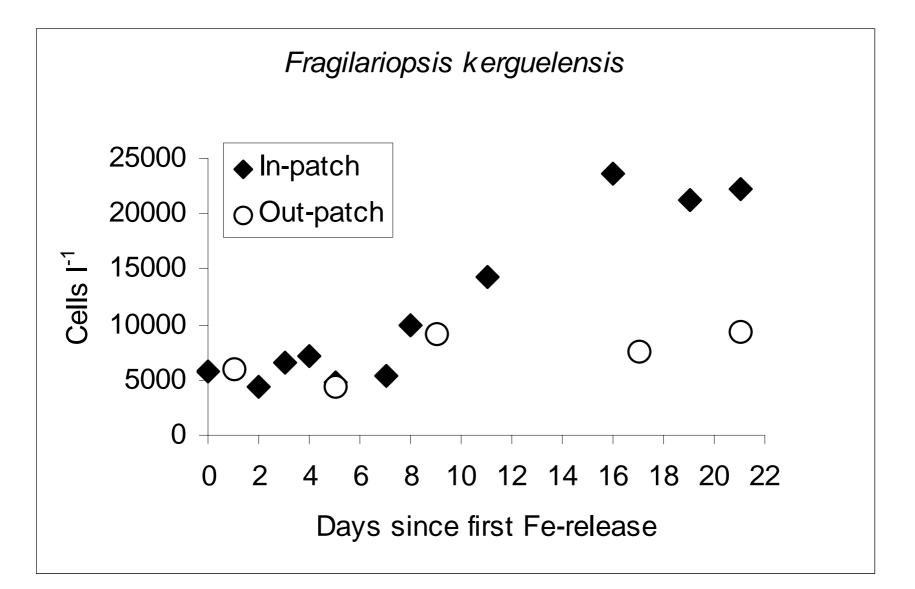
Exceptionally high growth rates throughout the experiment



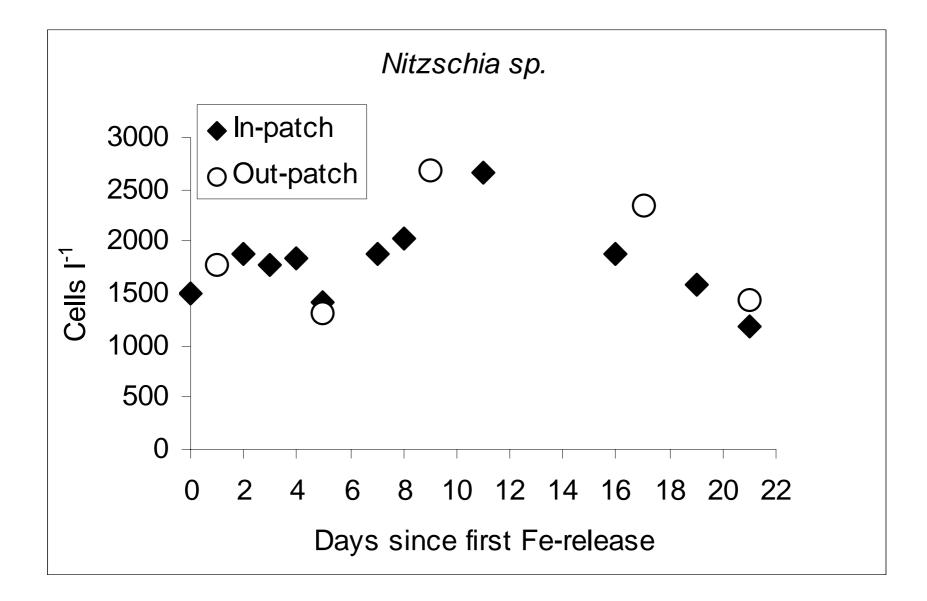
Continuous increase albeit linearly



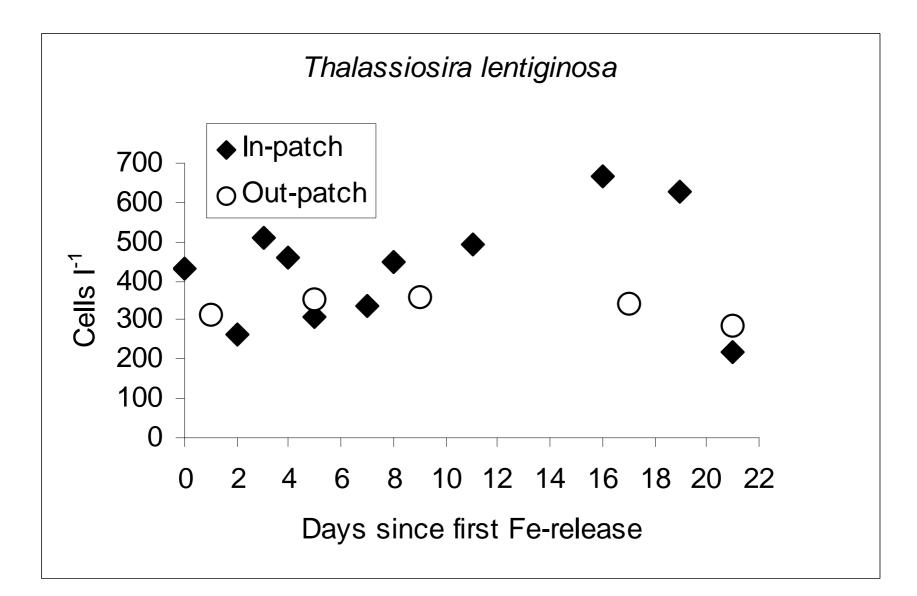
Linear increase but for only a short spurt phase



Initial linear increase and decline thereafter

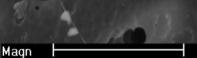


No consistent trend in response to Fe-addition



Intact empty and broken diatom frustules as mortality indicators

Fragilariopsis kerguelensis

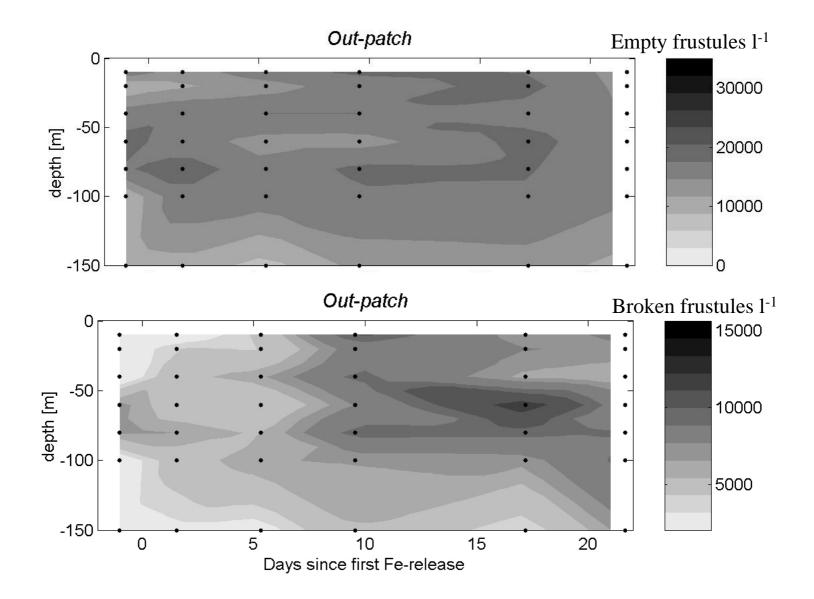


6500x

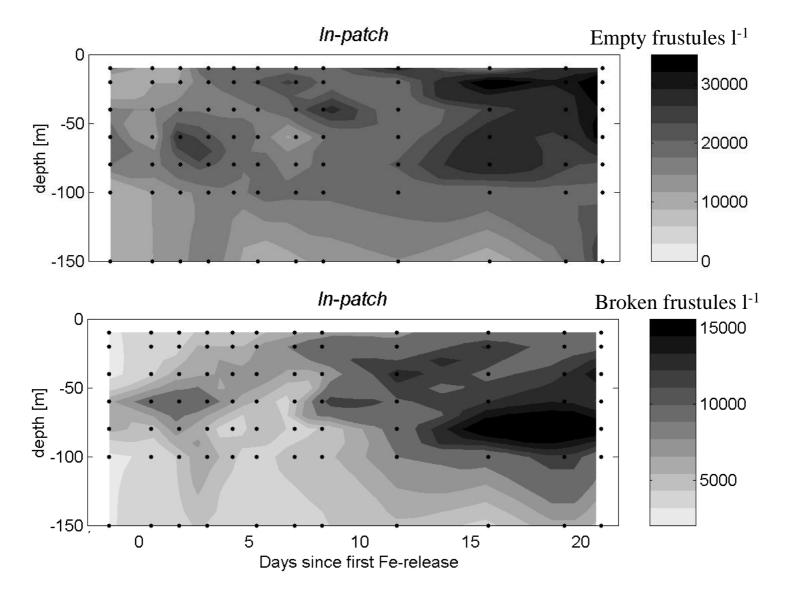
10 µm

Discoid diatoms

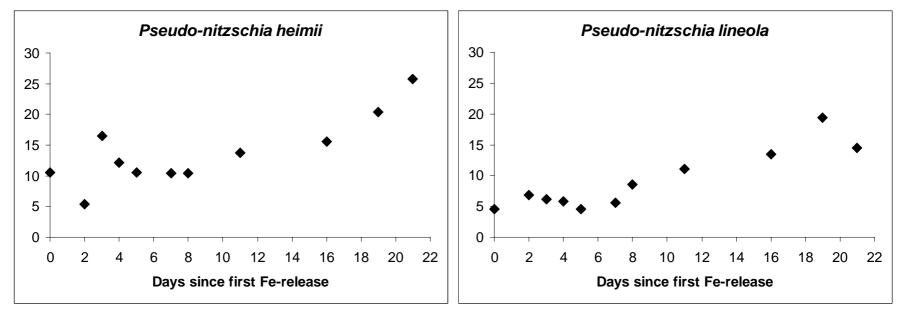
Vertical distribution of intact empty and broken diatom frustules outside the patch

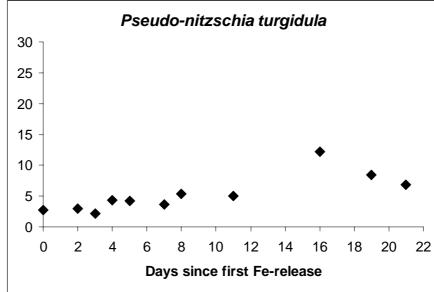


Vertical distribution of intact empty and broken diatom frustules inside the patch



Species-specific ratios of live cells vs. empty and broken frustules in three *Pseudo-nitzschia* species

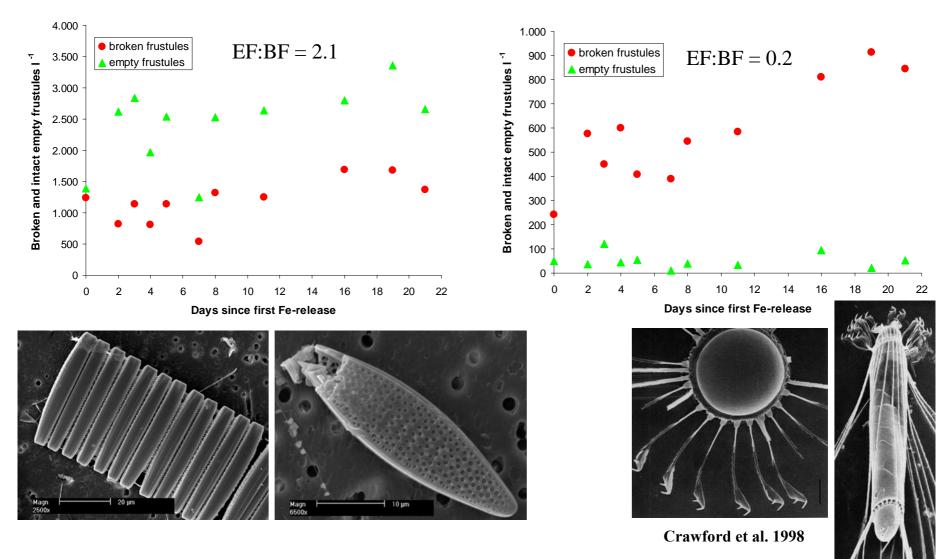




Species-specific grazing pressure

Fragilariopsis kerguelensis

Corethron pennatum



Conclusions

Species-specific growth performance

• *Pseudo-nitzschia lineola* maintained exceptionally high growth rates throughout the experiment and contributed 25% of total biomass.

• Most other species were growing below or well below these rates.

→ The population size of the majority species to survive and evolve is well below that achieved by bloom-forming species.

Species-specific grazing selection

• Pseudo-nitzschia lineola dominated despite heavy grazing pressure because

of its exceptionally high growth rates

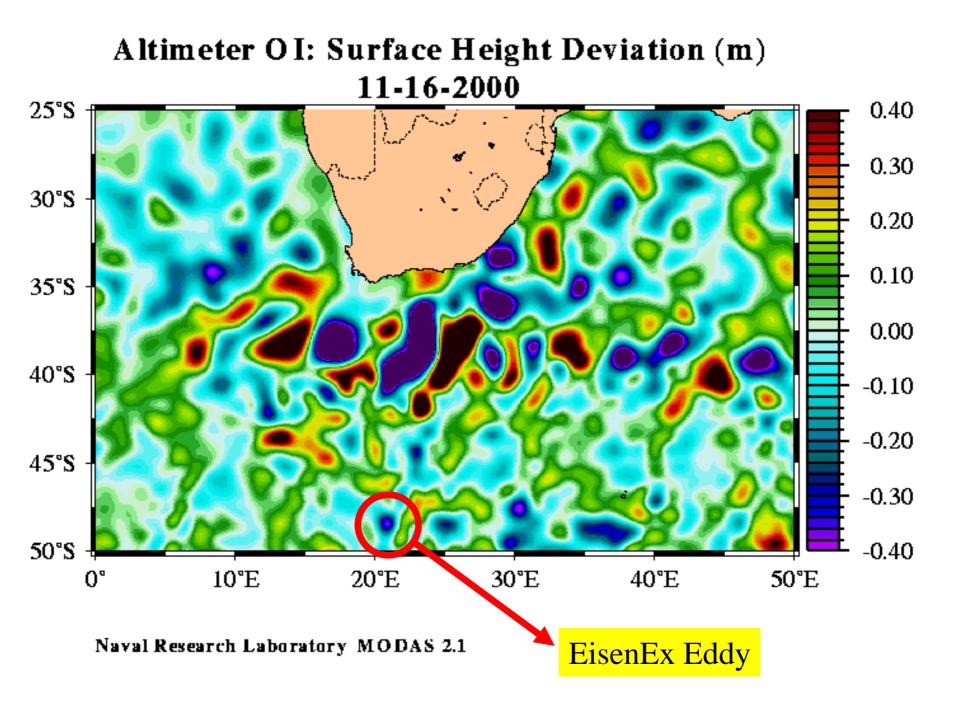
• Grazers discriminated between morphological similar species of the same genus (*Pseudo-nitzschia*)

• Large spiny *Corethron pennatum* were eaten mainly by copepods

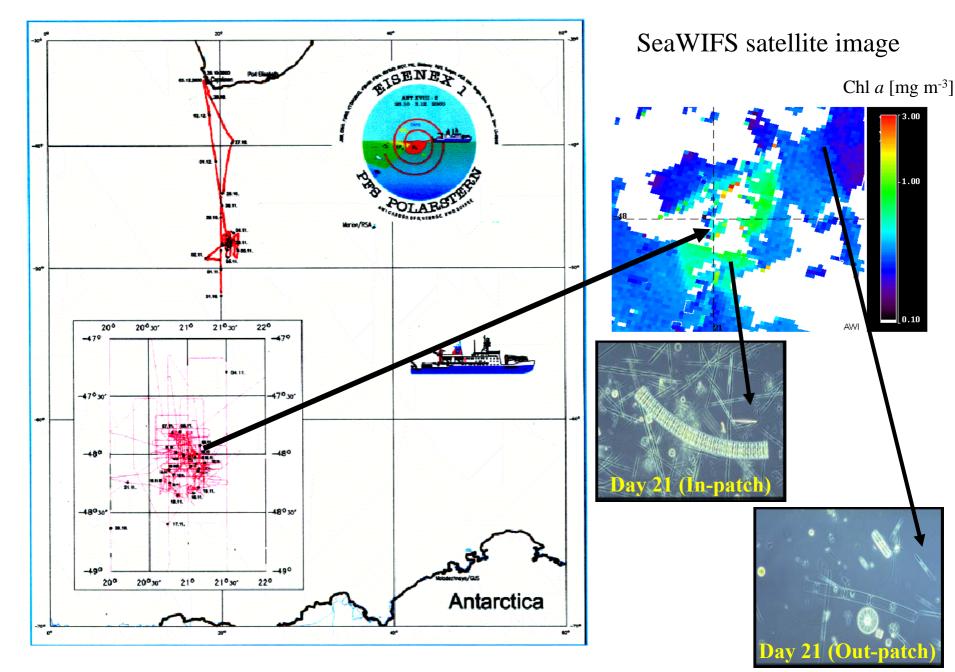
• The heavily silicified *Fragilariopsis kerguelensis* withstands grazing by copepods and showed no clear trend

Thank you for your attention

Thanks to the crew we survived these conditions



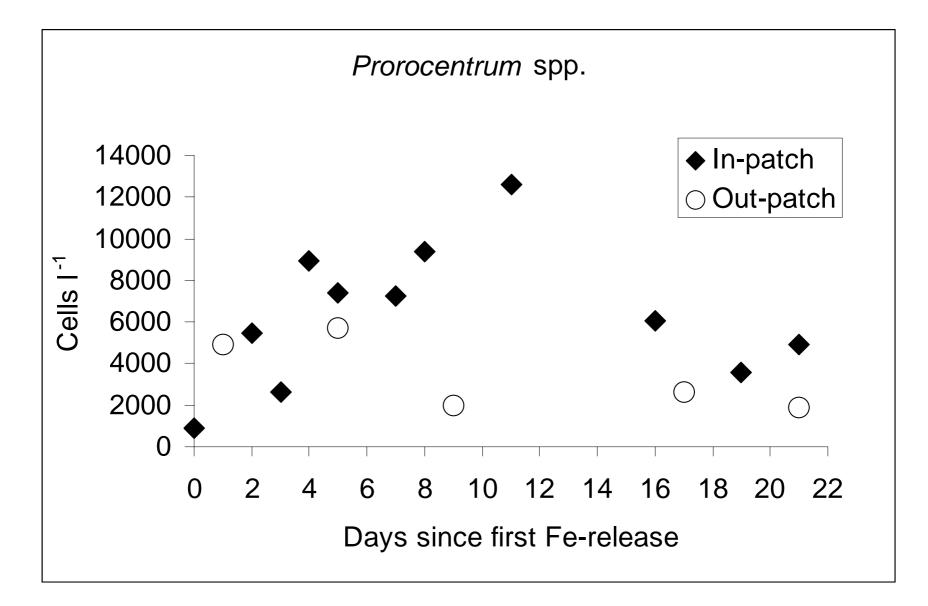
Experimental site of EisenEx



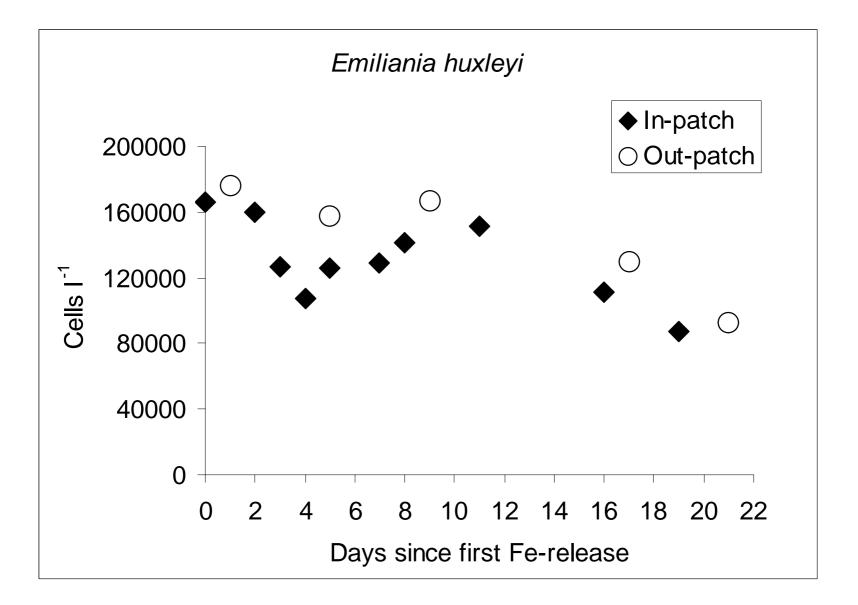
Marked differences in the growth behaviour of the species populations present during EisenEx were identified:

- 1. Exceptionally high growth rates throughout the experiment
- 2. Slow growth, albeit continuously
- 3. Rapid growth for short periods
- 4. Initial increase and decline thereafter
- 5. No response
- 6. Continuous decline

Category IV

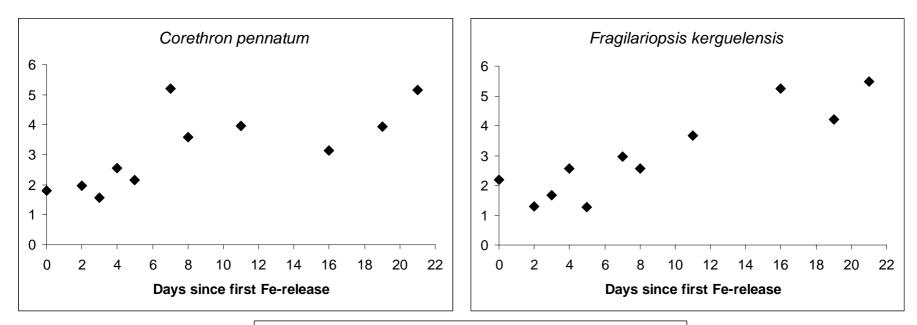


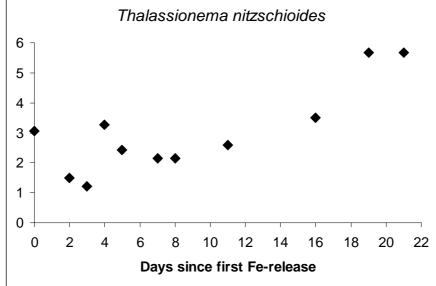
Category VI



The accumulation of intact empty and broken diatom frustules indicate how mortality acted on individual species populations:

Species-specific ratios of live cells vs. empty and broken frustules in three other significant diatom species





Emiliania huxleyi

