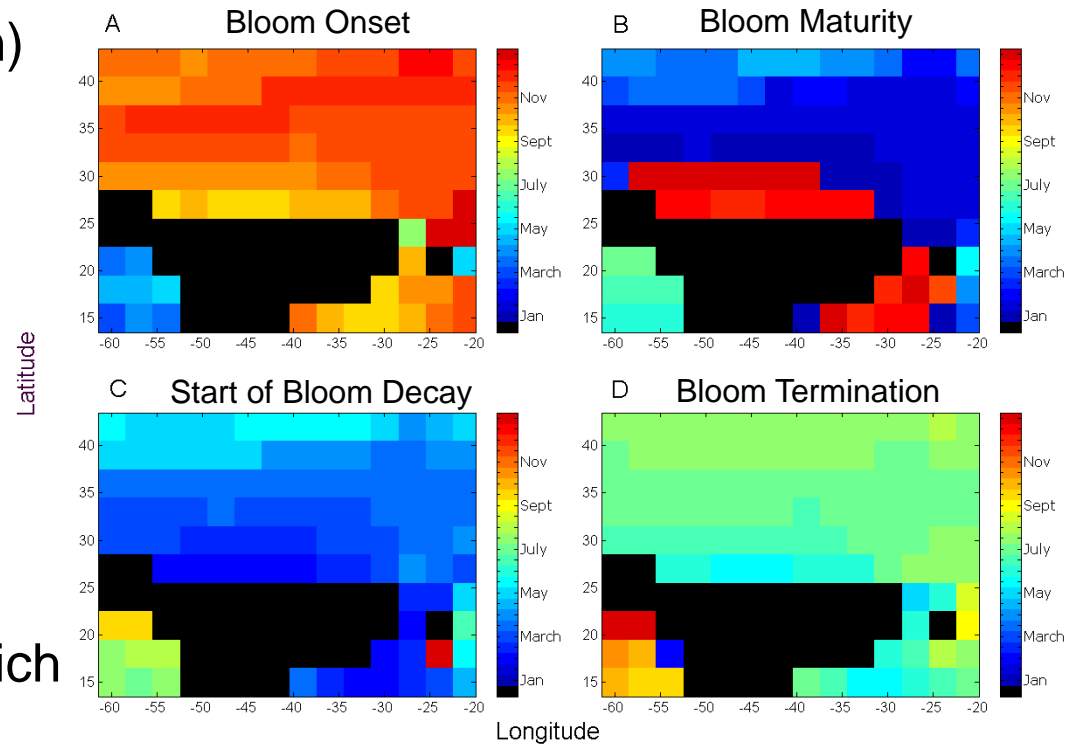


Monitoring Phytoplankton Variability

- Marine algae (= phytoplankton) are ideal indicators of environmental change
- Monitoring several phytoplankton characteristics
 - Magnitude
 - Composition
 - Distribution
 - Seasonality
 - Phenology (= timing)
- Establishing baseline from which to assess future changes
- Relating changes to environmental changes
- Providing a better understanding of factors linking response of marine ecosystems to climate change



Spatial distribution of average (A) bloom onset, (B) bloom maturity, (C) start of bloom decay, and (D) bloom termination in the central North Atlantic (42° N-15° N, 60° W-21° W). Mapping of phenology on a global scale was recently funded by NASA.