



Assessing the Requirements for Sustained Ocean Color Research and Operations (Paperback)

By Committee on Assessing Requirements for Sustained Ocean Color Research and Operations, Ocean Studies Board, Space Studies Board

National Academies Press, United States, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The ocean is a fundamental component of the earth s biosphere. It covers roughly 70 percent of Earth s surface and plays a pivotal role in the cycling of life s building blocks, such as nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, and sulfur. The ocean also contributes to regulating the climate system. Most of the primary producers in the ocean comprise of microscopic plants and some bacteria; and these photosynthetic organisms (phytoplankton) form the base of the ocean s food web. Monitoring the health of the ocean and its productivity is critical to understanding and managing the ocean s essential functions and living resources. Because the ocean is so vast and difficult for humans to explore, satellite remote sensing of ocean color is currently the only way to observe and monitor the biological state of the surface ocean globally on time scales of days to decades. Ocean color measurements reveal a wealth of ecologically important characteristics including: chlorophyll concentration, the rate of phytoplankton photosynthesis, sediment transport, dispersion of pollutants, and responses of oceanic biota to long-term climate changes. Continuity of satellite ocean color data and associated climate research...



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