

## An effective abstract

Context		In the oceans, ubiquitous microscopic phototrophs (phytoplankton) account for approximately half the production of organic matter on Earth, thus affecting the abundance and diversity of marine organisms and strongly influencing climate processes.
Need	<i>what we have</i>	Analyses of the satellite-derived phytoplankton concentration (available since 1979) have suggested decadal fluctuations linked to climate forcing, but the length of this record is insufficient to resolve longer-term trends.
	<i>what we want</i>	To estimate the time dependence of phytoplankton biomass since the beginning of oceanographic measurements in 1899,
Task		we combined available ocean transparency measurements and in situ chlorophyll observations.
Object of the document		This paper presents the trends we identified at local, regional, and global scales.
Findings		We observed declines in eight out of ten ocean regions, and estimated a global rate of decline of ~1% of the global median per year. Our analyses further revealed interannual to decadal phytoplankton fluctuations superimposed on long-term trends. These fluctuations are strongly correlated with basin-scale climate indices, whereas the long-term declining trends are related to increasing sea surface temperatures.
Conclusion		In conclusion, global phytoplankton concentration has definitely declined over the past century;
Perspectives		this decline will need to be considered in future studies of marine ecosystems, geochemical cycling, ocean circulation, and fisheries.

With just under 200 words, this abstract can convey the motivation for and outcome of the work with some accuracy, without intimidating readers by its length. Still, it is ideally typeset in two paragraphs (as shown above) instead of a single one, when allowed by the journal.