



# FlowCam for Freshwater Applications

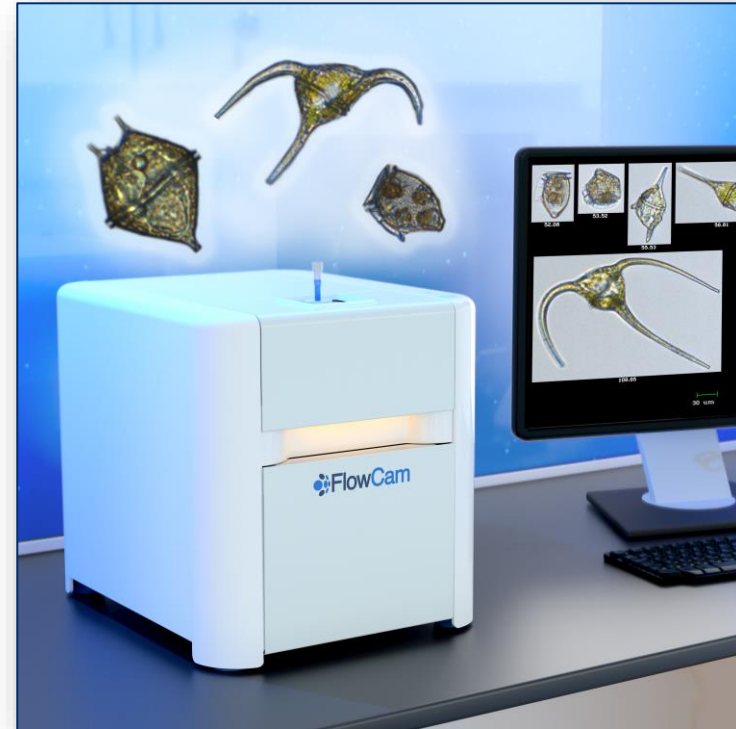
Bhushan Pandit

Yokogawa India Limited



# Outline

- ❖ FlowCam Overview
- ❖ What regulations say
- ❖ Applications in freshwater
- ❖ Instrument Types
- ❖ Example Data



FlowCam 8000 with  
marine dinoflagellates

# FlowCam Overview

- Flow Imaging Microscopy (FIM)
- Invented by biological oceanographers to:
  - Provide a faster alternative to manual microscopy, and
  - Add a visual component to flow cytometry
- Used today in a variety of fields, including marine research, Freshwater, aquaculture, microalgae cultivation, biopharmaceutical research, and more.

[Click here to watch a 3-minute FlowCam video](#)



# HABs

Freshwater and marine algal blooms can be called **harmful** because they lower dissolved oxygen concentrations, alter aquatic food webs, leave ugly scums along shorelines, produce taste-and-odor compounds that cause drinking water and fish flesh to taste bad, or produce toxins so potent they poison organisms in the water and on the land.

- Cyanobacteria
  - Toxin producers
  - Taste and odor producers
- Dinoflagellates
  - Taste and Odor producers
  - Toxin producers

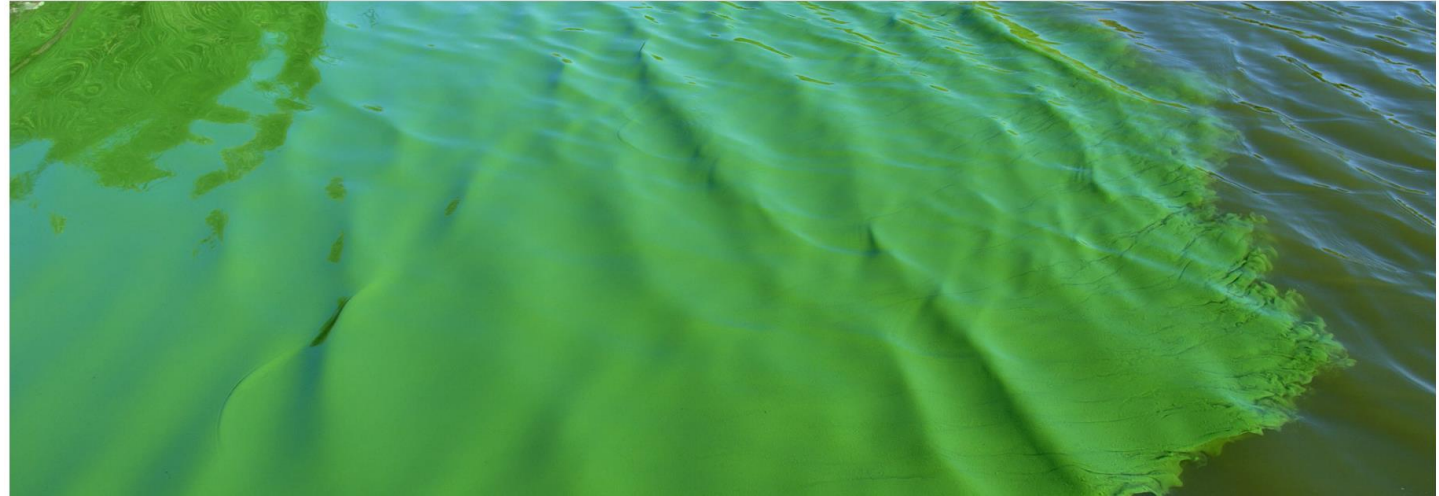
## Golden Algae

- Taste and odor producers
- Toxin producer

## Diatoms

- Filter cloggers
- Taste and Odor producers
- Toxin producers

- Euglenoids, cryptomonads...



- Why are customers choosing FlowCam vs. Microscope



Passive, rapid data acquisition (1 mL in 6 minutes)

Taxonomic training helpful but not required



Automated classification of Cyanobacteria and algae helps technicians quickly ID problems



Facilitates forecasting: statistically significant data sets



Method consistent regardless of staff turnover



Morphology (biovolume) automatically measured



Import data to LIMS

# HAB Monitoring Criteria- Regulations

- No Federal Standard
  - Most toxin based
- WHO 2003
  - Broad guidelines for total cyanobacteria (cells/mL)
- EPA 2015
  - **Cylindrospermopsin** 0.7 ug/L
  - **Microcystin** 0.3 ug/L
- State Specific Guidelines
  - OH: Microcystin action levels 0.3 ug/L for at risk individuals and 1.6 ug/L for all individuals. Increased monitoring required when detected followed by QPCR
- Utilities must develop their own plan

Relative Probability of Acute Health Effects	Cyanobacteria (cells/mL)	Chlorophyll a (µg/L)	Estimated Microcystin Levels (µg/L)
Low	< 20,000	< 10	< 10
Moderate	20,000 – 100,000	10 – 50	10 – 20
High	> 100,000 – 10,000,000	50 – 5,000	20 – 2,000
Very High	> 10,000,000	> 5,000	> 2,000

# BIS Regulations- IS 10500-2012

**ANNEX C**  
(Clause 4.3.10)

**ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF MICROSCOPIC ORGANISMS PRESENT IN WATER**

Sl No.	Classification of Microscopic Organism	Group and Name of the Organism	Habitat	Effect of the Organisms and Significance
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i)	Algae	a) Chlorophyceae:		
		1) Species of Coelastrum, Gomphospherium, Micractinium, Mougeotia, Oocystis, Euastrum, Scenedesmus, Actinastrum, Gonium, Eudorina Pandorina, Pediasstrum, Zygnema, Chlamydomonas, Careteria, Chlorella, Chroococcus, Spirogyra, Tetraedron, Chlorogonium, Stigeoclonium	Polluted water, impounded sources	Impart colouration
		2) Species of Pandorina, Volvox, Gomphospherium, Staurastrum, Hydrodictyon, Nitella	Polluted waters	Produce taste and odour
		3) Species of Rhizoclonium, Cladothrix, Ankistrodesmus, Ulothrix, Micrasterias, Chromulina	Clean water	Indicate clean condition
		4) Species of Chlorella, Tribonema, Clostrium, Spirogyra, Palmella	Polluted waters, impounded sources	Clog filters and create impounded difficulties
		b) Cyanophyceae:		
		1) Species of Anacystis and Cylandrospermum	Polluted waters	Cause water bloom and impart colour
		2) Species of Anabena, Phormidium, Lyngbya, Arthrospira, Oscillatoria	Polluted waters	Impart colour
		3) Species of Anabena, Anacystis, Aphanizomenon	Polluted waters, impounded sources	Produce taste and odour
		4) Species of Anacystis, Coelospherium, Aphanizomenon	Polluted waters	Toxin producing
		5) Species of Anacystis, Rivularia, Oscillatoria, Anabena	Polluted waters	Clog filters

ii) Zooplankton	a) Protozoa:		temperate waters	
	1) Amoeba, Giardia, Lamblia, Arcella, Diffugia, Actinophrys		Polluted waters	Pollution indicators
	2) Endamoeba, Histolytica		Sewage and activated sludge	Parasitic and pathogenic
	b) Ciliates:			
	Paramoecium, Vorticella, Stentor, Colpidium, Collops, Bodo	Carchesium, Euplotes,	Highly polluted waters, sewage and activated sludge	Bacteria eaters
	c) Crustacea:			
	1) Bosmina, Daphnia		Stagnant polluted waters	Indicators of pollution
	2) Cyclops		Step wells in tropical climate	Carrier host of guinea worm
iii) Rotifers	a) Rotifers:			
	Anurea, Rotaria, Philodina		Polluted and Algae laden waters	Feed on algae
	b) Flagellates:			
	1) Ceratium, Glenodinium, Dinobryon	Peridinium	Rocky strata, iron bearing and acidic waters	Impart colour and fishy taste
	2) Euglena, Phacus		Polluted waters	Impart colour

10

IS 10500 : 2012

Sl No.	Classification of Microscopic Organism	Group and Name of the Organism	Habitat	Effect of the Organisms and Significance
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
iv)	Miscellaneous Organisms	a) Sponges, Hydra	Fresh water	Clog filters and affect purification systems
		b) Tubifex, Eristalls, Chironomids	Highly polluted waters, sewage and activated sludge and bottom deposits	Clog filters and render water unaesthetic
		c) Plumatella	Polluted waters	Produces biological slimes and causes filter operational difficulties
		c) Dreissena, Asellus	Polluted waters	Harbour pathogenic organisms

# South African National Standard (SANS) 241

j	Microcystin only needs to be measured where algal bloom (>20000 cyanobacteria cells per millilitre) is present in a raw water source. In the absence of algal monitoring, an algal bloom is deemed to occur where the surface water is visibly green in the vicinity of the abstraction, or samples taken have a strong musty odour.
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- Microcystin producing organisms include but are not limited to:
  - Microcystis
  - Anabaenopsis
  - Aphanizomenon
  - Dolichospermum
  - Merismopedia
  - Nodularia
  - Nostoc
  - Oscillatoria
  - Planktothrix
  - Woronichinia
  - Gleotrachia



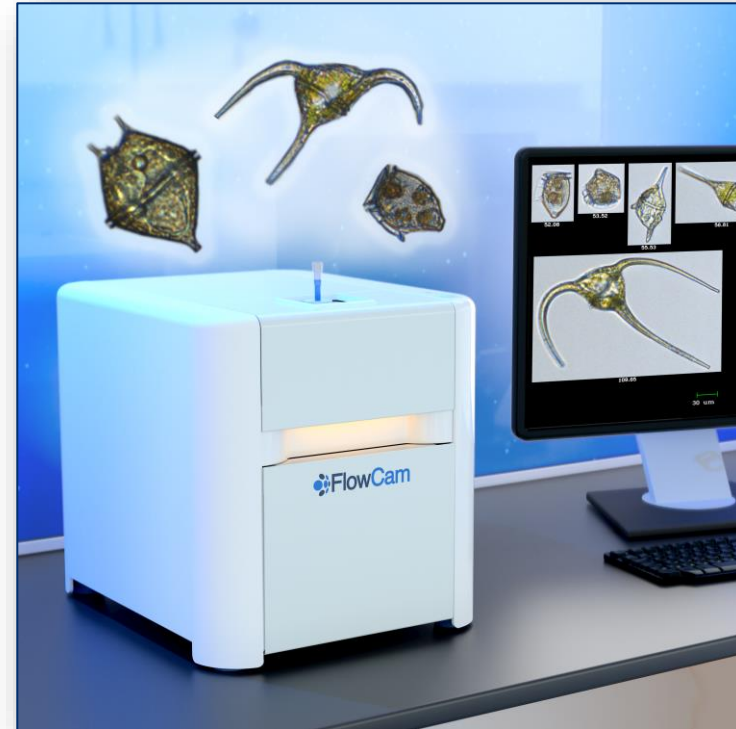
# Outline

FlowCam Overview

Applications in Fresh water

Instrument Types

Example Data



FlowCam 8000 with  
marine dinoflagellates

# Monitoring Programs

## Why Monitor

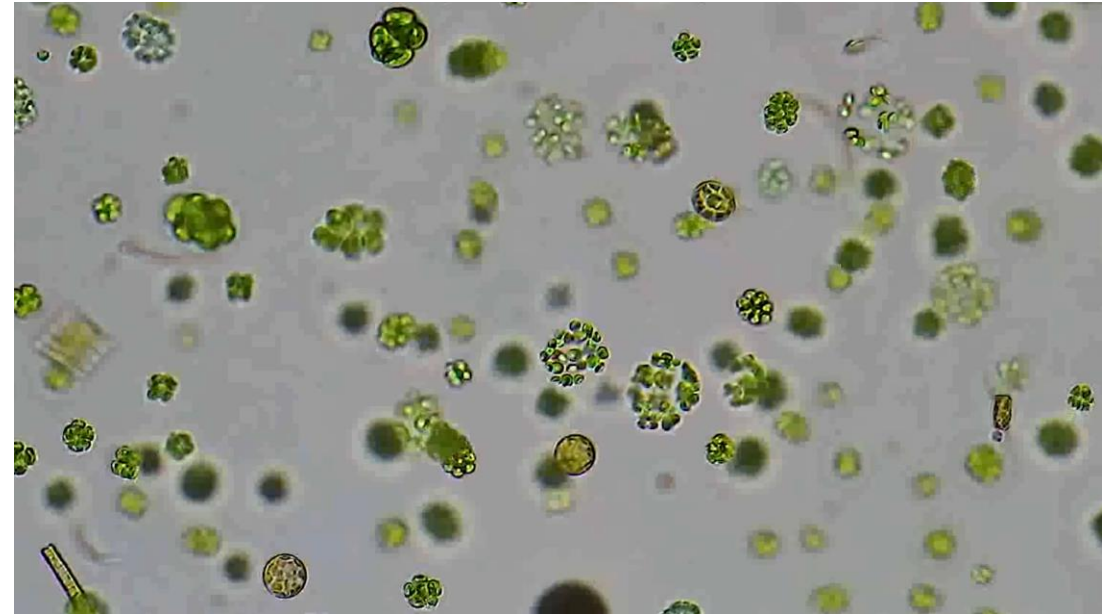
- Drinking Water Aesthetics (Taste and Odor)
- Public Health
- Bloom Mitigation Research

## What to Monitor

- Full community composition
- Cyanobacteria
- Taste and odor producers
- Filter cloggers
- Zooplankton
- Other particles

# Baseline Levels

- Understand algal diversity and abundance
- Unique to each waterbody
- Challenging
  - Population changes over time
    - Seasonally
    - Diurnally
    - Lake stratification
    - Nutrient availability



# Trigger Levels

- The point at which the concentration of one genus of phytoplankton reaches a number that prompts further sampling and/or treatment.
- Developed from Baseline levels
  - Use monitoring goals to determine organisms of interest

The City of Wichita Falls Cypress Environmental Laboratory (CEL) set trigger levels low to minimize taste and odor (T&O) issues.

Genus	Trigger Count— organism/mL	Type	Reason
<i>Dolichospermum</i>	100*	Cyanobacteria	T&O- and cyanotoxin-producer
<i>Microcystis</i>	150	Cyanobacteria	T&O- and cyanotoxin-producer
<i>Aphanizomenon</i>	150	Cyanobacteria	T&O- and cyanotoxin-producer
<i>Peridinium</i>	400	Dinoflagellate	T&O-producer
<i>Melosira</i>	200	Diatom	T&O-producer
<i>Cyclotella</i>	No limit	Diatom	Abundant but has not been shown to cause an issue in CEL's source water
<i>Pediastrum</i>	No limit	Green algae	Abundant but has not been shown to cause an issue in CEL's source water

\*chains/mL

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority increases monitoring if early warning levels are exceeded for algal abundance.

Genus	Early Warning Trigger Count— ASU/mL	Treatment Con- sideration Trigger Count—ASU/mL	Type	Reason
<i>Dolichospermum</i>	>15	>25	Cyanobacteria	T&O- and cyanotoxin-producer
<i>Chrysophaerella</i>	>100	>500	Chrysophyte	T&O-producer
<i>Synura</i>	>10	>12	Chrysophyte	T&O-producer
<i>Dinobryon</i>	>200	>500	Chrysophyte	T&O-producer
<i>Uroglenopsis</i>	>200	>750	Chrysophyte	T&O-producer

ASU—areal standard unit, T&O—taste and odor

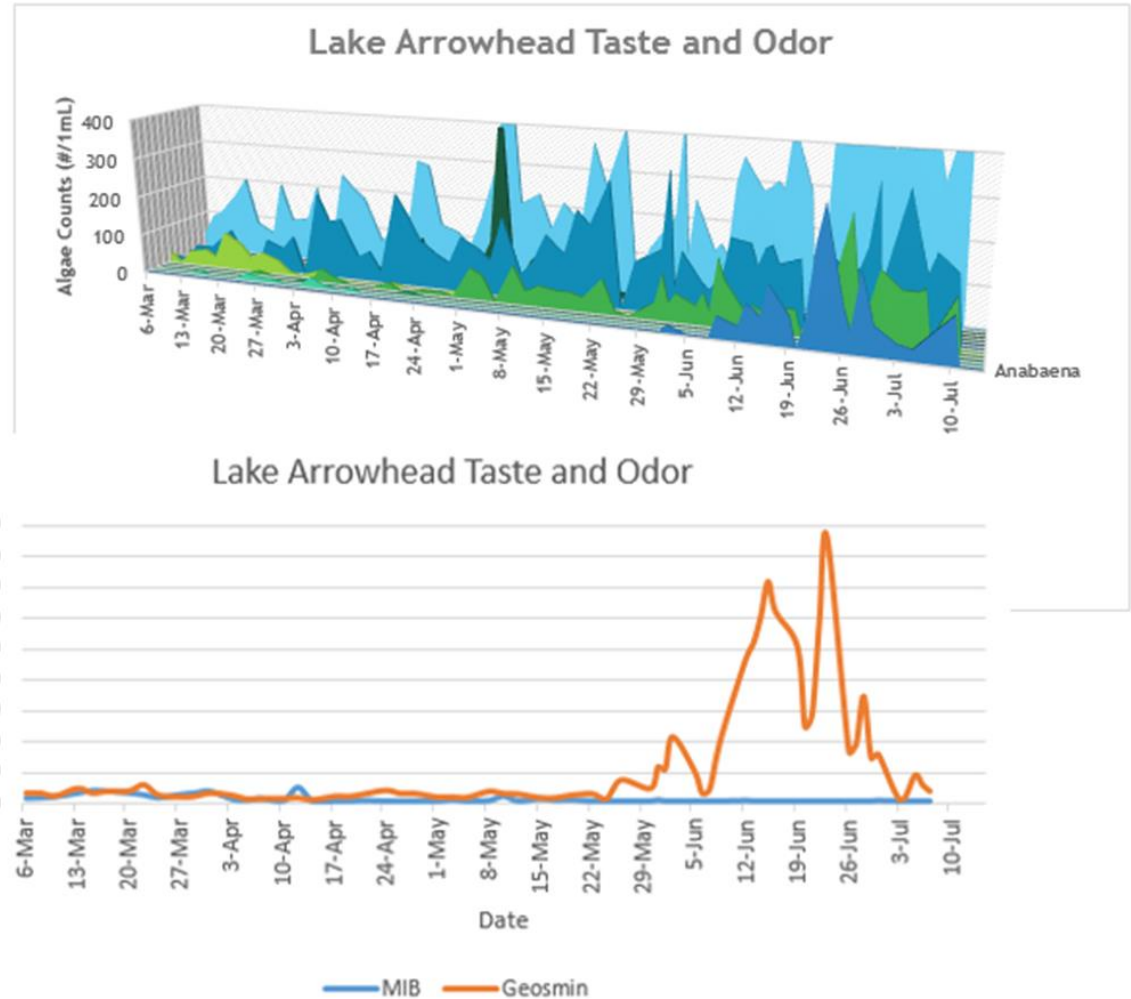
# Monitoring Criteria Plan

ROUTINE MONITORING				
Sampling Frequency	Alternate plants weekly			
Sampling Location	Raw Plant Influent		Finished	
Cyanobacteria Counts	Cells/mL		µm <sup>3</sup> /mL	
	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX
	0	20,000	0	8,000,000
Monitor for changes in dissolved oxygen levels, turbidity, chlorophyll-a, total phosphorous, surface scums or blooms.				
ALERT LEVEL I				
Sampling Frequency	Weekly for elevated source			
Cyanobacteria Counts	Cells/mL		µm <sup>3</sup> /mL	
	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX
	20,001	50,000	8,000,001	20,000,000
Monitor for elevated nutrients, pigment, or any other visual observations.				
ALERT LEVEL II				
Sampling Frequency	Weekly for elevated source			
Cyanobacteria Counts	Cells/mL		µm <sup>3</sup> /mL	
	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX
	50,001	100,000	20,000,001	40,000,000
Toxin Screening	<del>Microcystins</del>	Saxitoxin	<del>Cylindrospermopsin</del>	Anatoxin-a
Toxins Present?	Yes		No	
	All positive toxin results must be confirmed by a contract lab.		Request genetic testing from a contract lab to determine if the cyanobacteria have toxin producing genes.	
	Implement Cyanotoxin Treatment Response Plan			
	Continue weekly toxin screening at Raw Plant Influent and Finished Water sample sites.			
ALERT LEVEL III				
Sampling Frequency	Weekly for elevated source			
Cyanobacteria Counts	Cells/mL		µm <sup>3</sup> /mL	
	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX
	100,001	undefined	40,000,001	undefined
Toxin Screening	<del>Microcystins</del>	Saxitoxin	<del>Cylindrospermopsin</del>	Anatoxin-a
Toxins Present?	Yes		No	
	All positive toxin results must be confirmed by a contract		Request genetic testing from a contract lab to determine if the cyanobacteria have toxin producing genes	
	Implement Cyanotoxin Treatment Response Plan			
	Enumerate toxin-specific cyanobacteria			
	Determine intracellular/extracellular ratios			
	Continue daily toxin screening			
Notify Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department if toxins exceed threshold limit in Lake Eucha or Lake Spavinaw				

Table 1. Current alert levels and subsequent actions included in the City of Tulsa's Cyanobacteria Early Warning Plan.

# Develop Trends

- Dolichospermum
  - Spike in organisms in June
  - MIB/Geosmin levels also spike
- CUSO applied in response
- Levels of cyanobacteria drop back to normal



# Phytoplankton Monitoring Goals

Common  
Taste & Odor Algae

Taste & Odor Algae	Sampling Site		
	1	2	3
Species	Count per mL	Count per mL	Count per mL
<i>Anabaena</i>			
<i>Aphanizomenon</i>			
<i>Ceratium</i>			
<i>Cylindrospermopsis</i>			
<i>Mallomonas</i>			
<i>Melosira</i>			
<i>Microcystis</i>			
<i>Oscillatoria</i>			
<i>Pandorina</i>			
<i>Peridinium</i>			
<b>Total</b>			

Common  
Filter Clogging Algae

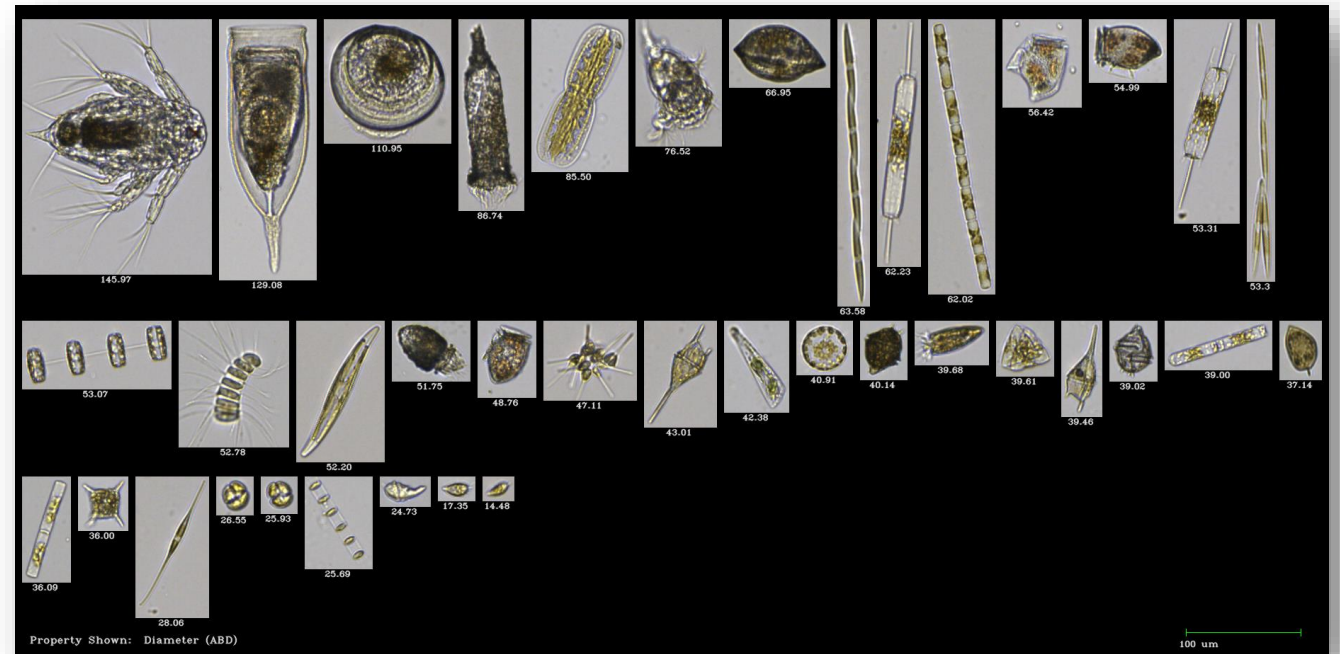
Filter Clogging Algae	Count per mL	Count per mL	Count per mL
Species	Count per mL	Count per mL	Count per mL
<i>Closterium</i>			
<i>Cyclotella</i>			
<i>Diatoma</i>			
<i>Fragillaria</i>			
<i>Navicula</i>			
<i>Synedra</i>			
<b>Total</b>			

Common  
Toxin producing Algae

Toxin producing algae	Count per mL	Count per mL	Count per mL
Species	Count per mL	Count per mL	Count per mL
<i>Microcystis</i>			
<i>Dolichospermum</i>			
<i>Planktothrix</i>			
<i>Lyngbya</i>			
<i>Phormidium</i>			
<i>Aphanizomenon</i>			
<b>Total</b>			

# General FlowCam Use Cases

- Concentration (particles/mL)
- Size distribution
- Morphology
- Classification
- Biovolume

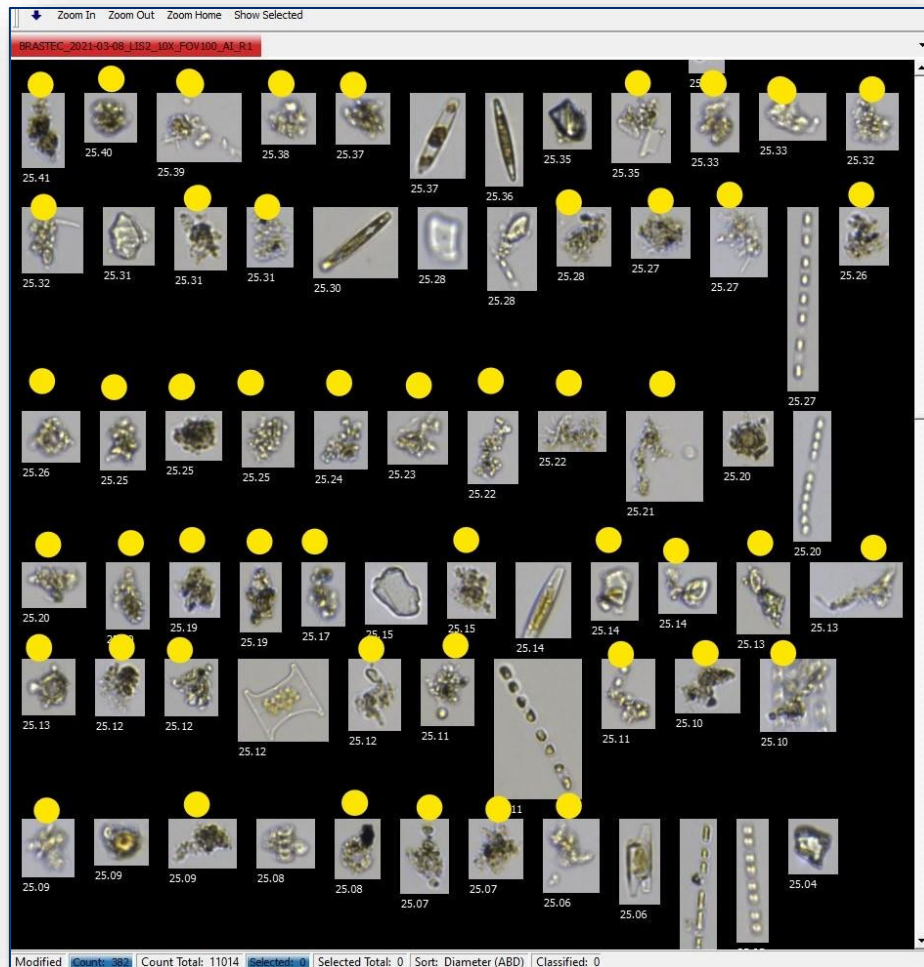


Plankton assemblage from the Gulf of Maine imaged with FlowCam at 10X in Autoimage Mode.

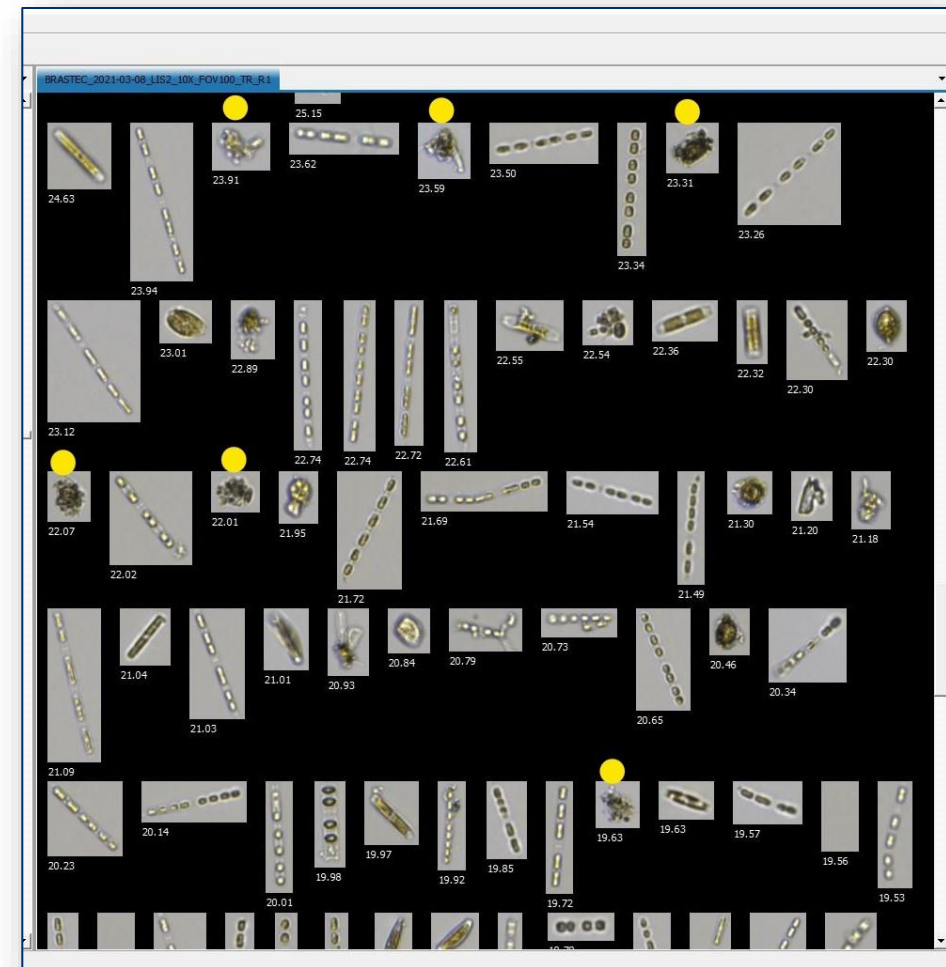


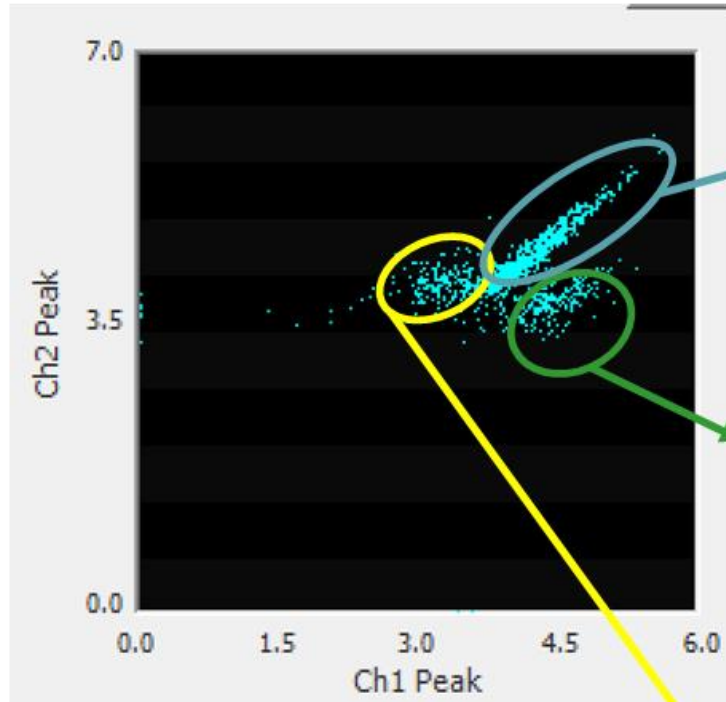
● = Detritus

# Autoimage Mode



# Trigger Mode

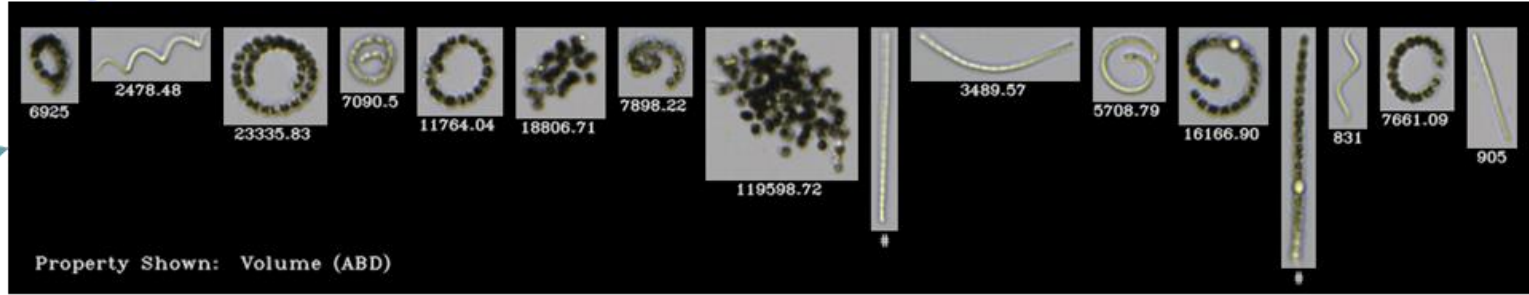




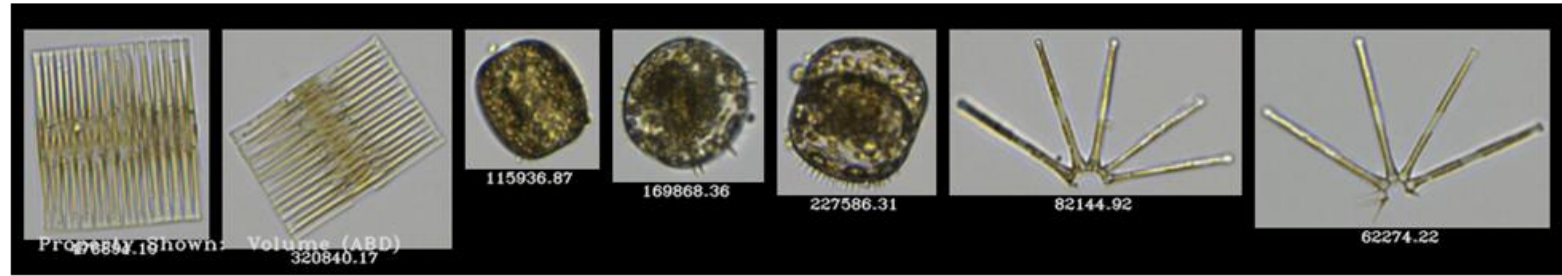
Count	1372 of 1373	Efficiency
Particles / ml	2976	PPUI

Summary Stats		Filters	Context Summary
Filter		Count	
Cyanobacteria		754	
Detritus, Decomposing		159	
Diatoms, Other Algae		462	

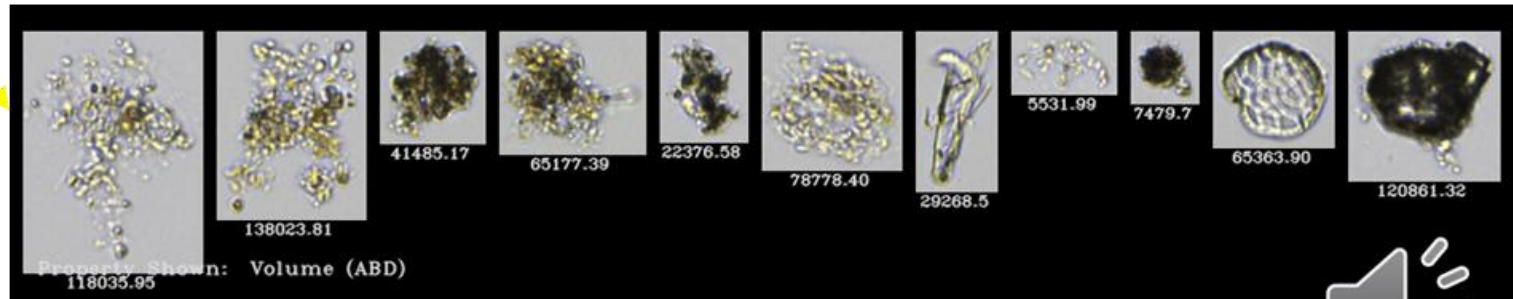
## Cyanobacteria



## Diatoms & Other Algae



## Detritus & Decomposing Algae





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FlowCam 8000 with  
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# FlowCam Through the Years



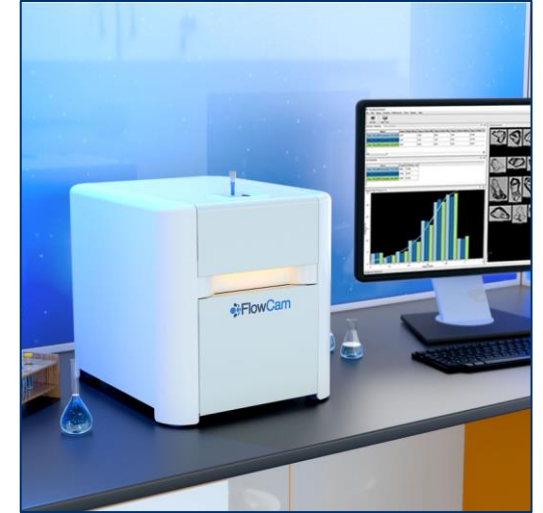
1999



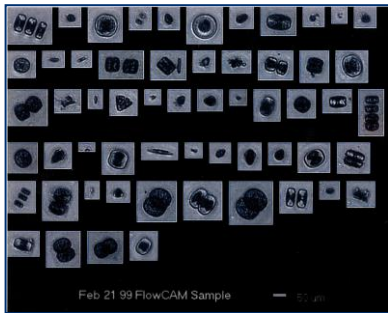
2006 to 2010



2010 to 2016

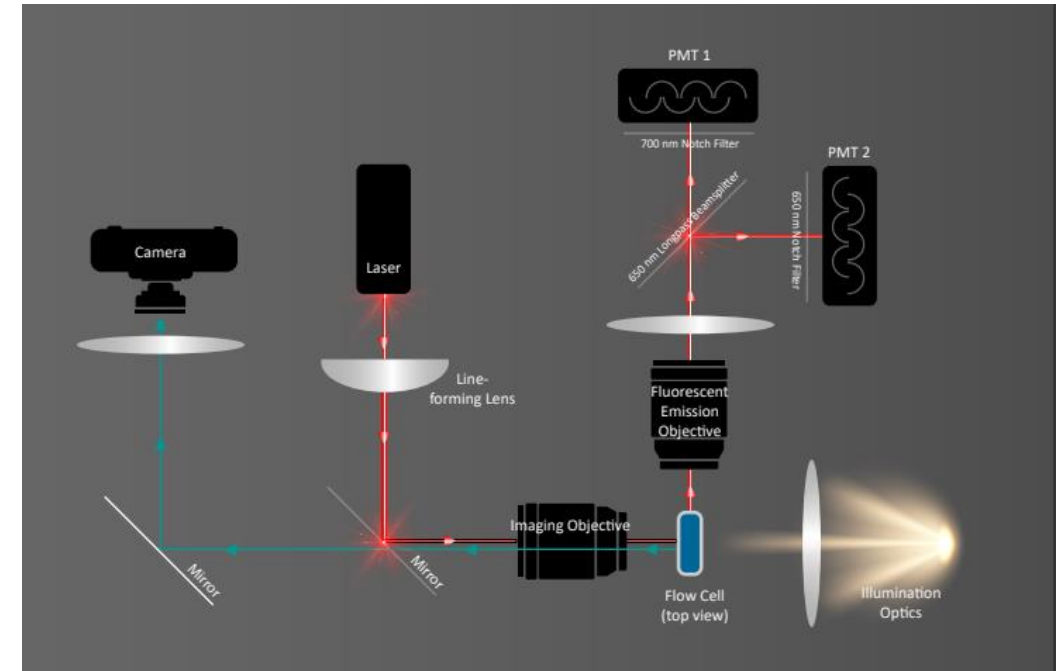


2016 to 2024



# Trigger Mode- FlowCam

- Instead of the LED light flashing at a pre-defined rate, a **laser** triggers the camera to take a picture.
- When a particle gets excited, it emits light at a higher wavelength.
- 2 channels of detection.
  - Channel 1 is always for chlorophyll
- Best for turbid environments.



Laser Excitation Wavelength	Laser Detector Bands (Photomultiplier Tube Filters, PMTs)	
	CH1 Emission Wavelength	CH2 Emission Wavelength
488 nm (Blue)	650 LP (Chlorophyll)	525±30 (Green, FITC)
532 nm (Green)	650 LP (Chlorophyll)	575±30 (Orange, Phycoerythrin)
633 nm (Red)	700±10 (Chlorophyll)	650±10 (Red, Phycocyanin)

# FlowCam<sup>®</sup> Product Portfolio for Aquatic Applications

Subvisible Imaging Particle Analysis



## FlowCam 8100

Size, concentration, and morphology  
from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  - 1 mm



## FlowCam Cyano

For quick cyanobacteria detection and  
enumeration using pigment fluorescence.  
Particle size range: 2  $\mu\text{m}$  - 1 mm



## FlowCam 8400

Isolate phytoplankton images from other  
particles using fluorescence  
Particle size range: 2  $\mu\text{m}$  - 1 mm



## FlowCam Macro

Analysis of large particles and zooplankton  
from 300  $\mu\text{m}$  - 5 mm



## FlowCam 5000

Optimized for your application; our most  
affordable instrument.  
Particle size range: 2  $\mu\text{m}$  - 300  $\mu\text{m}$

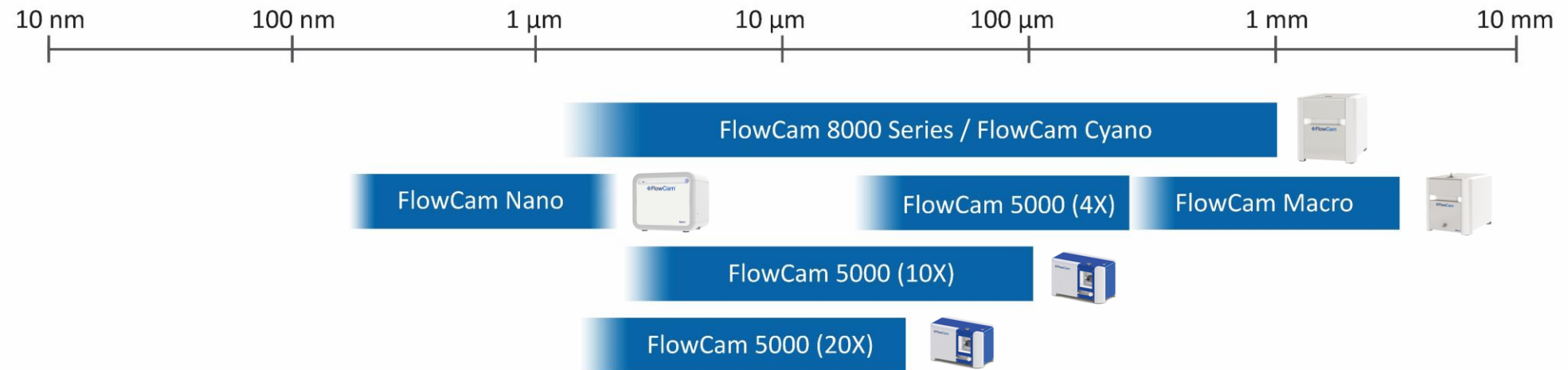


## VisualSpreadsheet<sup>®</sup>

Powerful software to analyze images and  
visualize your results

YOKOGAWA  | Yokogawa Fluid Imaging Technologies | [www.flowcam.com](http://www.flowcam.com) | [info@fluidimaging.com](mailto:info@fluidimaging.com)

## Flow Imaging Microscopy from 300 nm to 5 mm





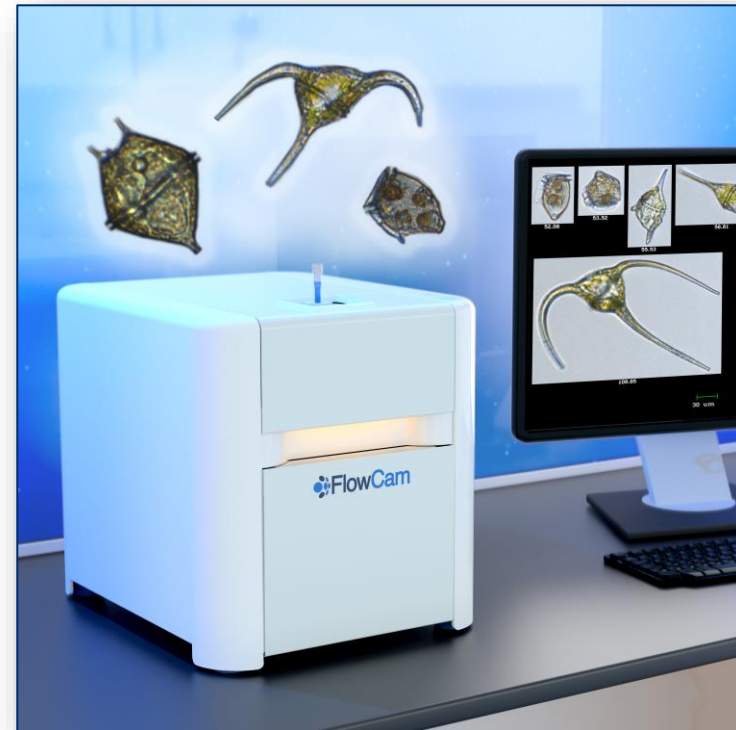
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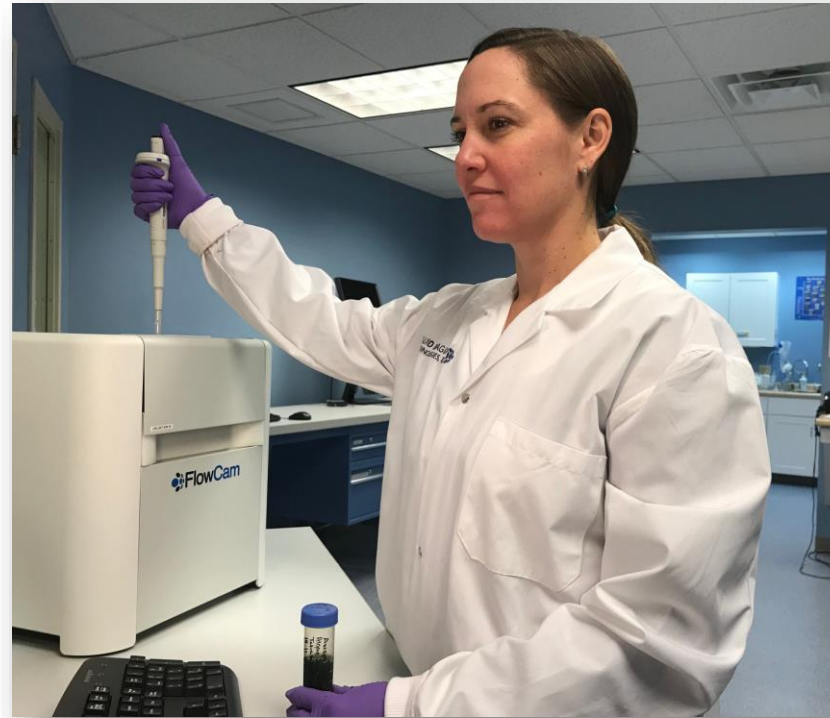
Example Data



FlowCam 8000 with  
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# FlowCam 8000

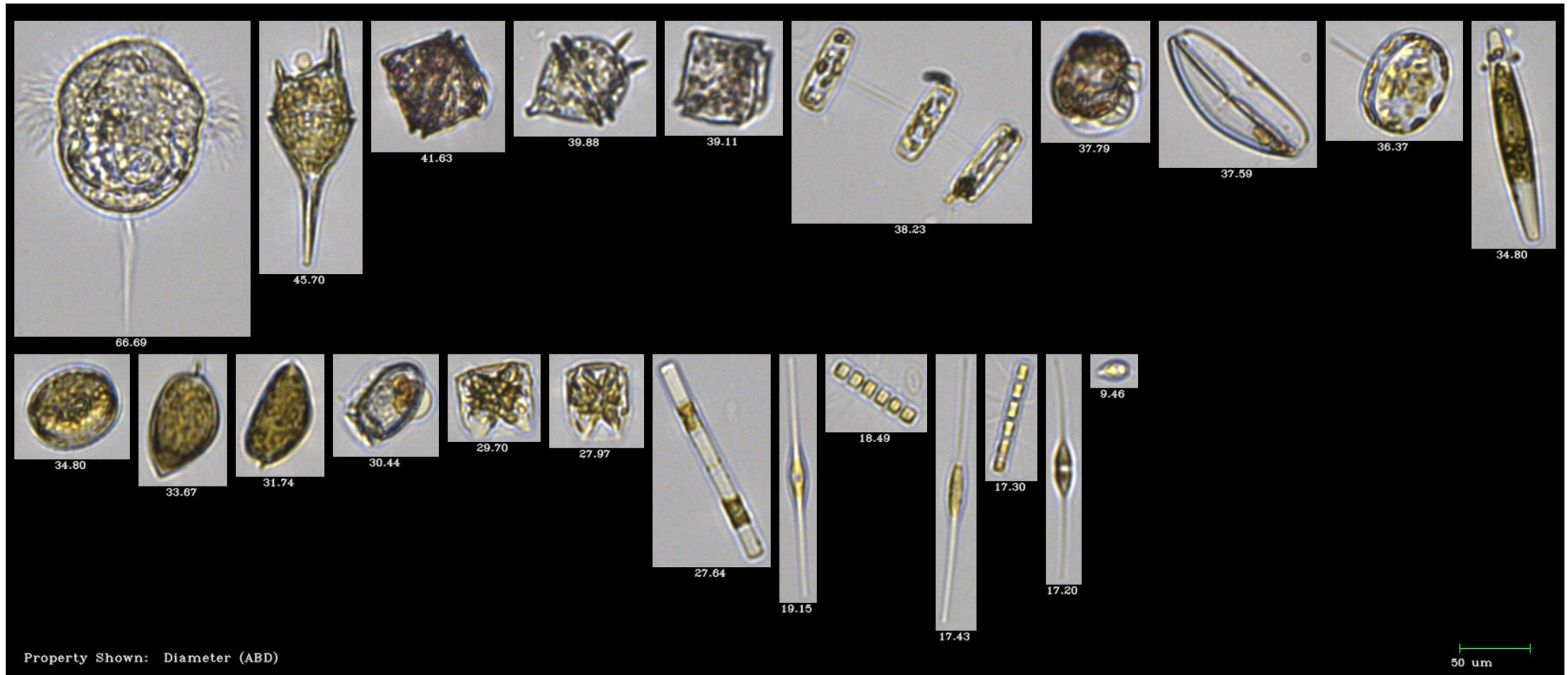
2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1 mm





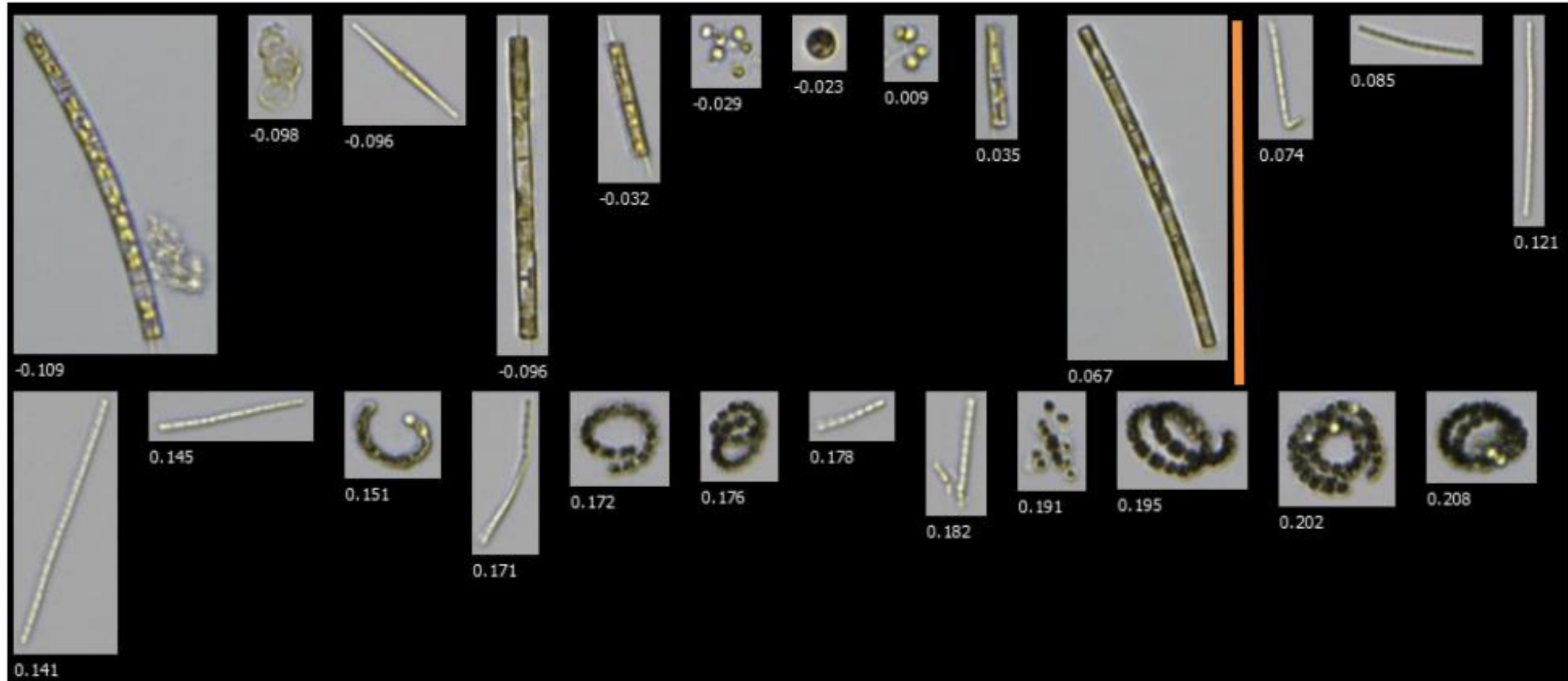
# 20X, FOV50

Casco Bay (Maine USA), Live sample imaged with FlowCam 8100 (Autoimage Mode)



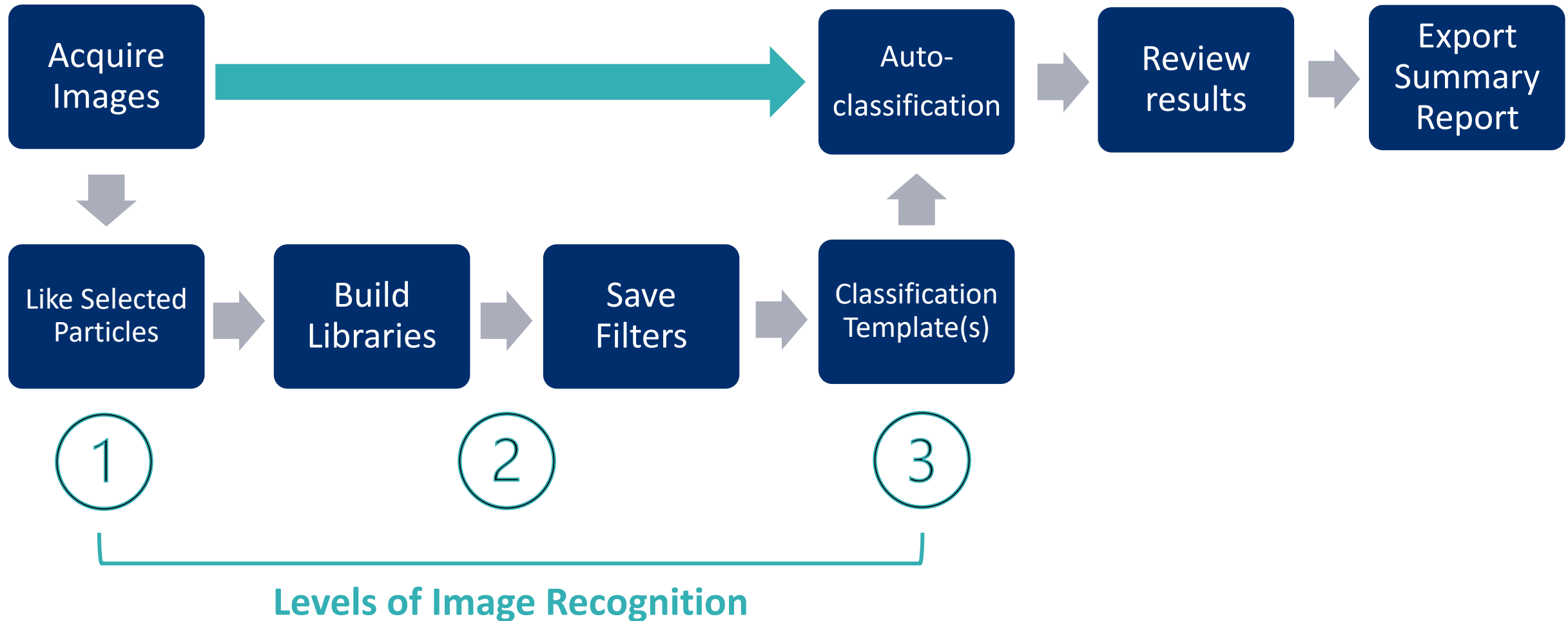
# Trigger Mode: FlowCam Cyano

*Primarily Diatoms & Other Algae*



*Primarily Cyanobacteria*

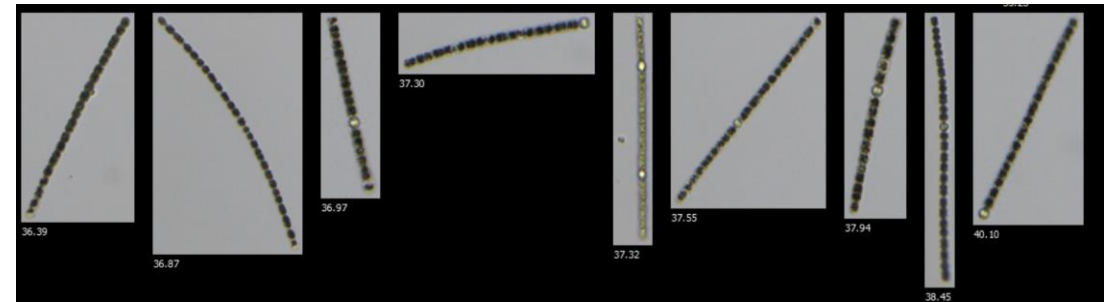
# Example Classification Workflow



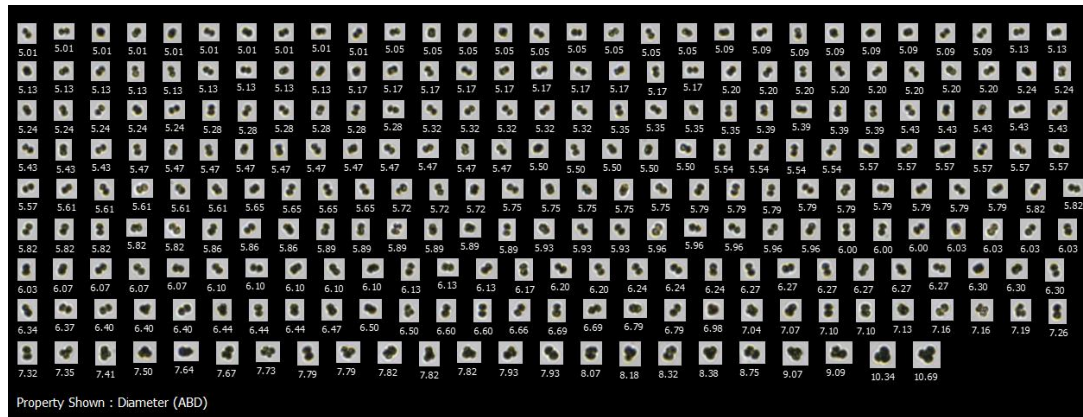
# Dolichospermum (coiled)



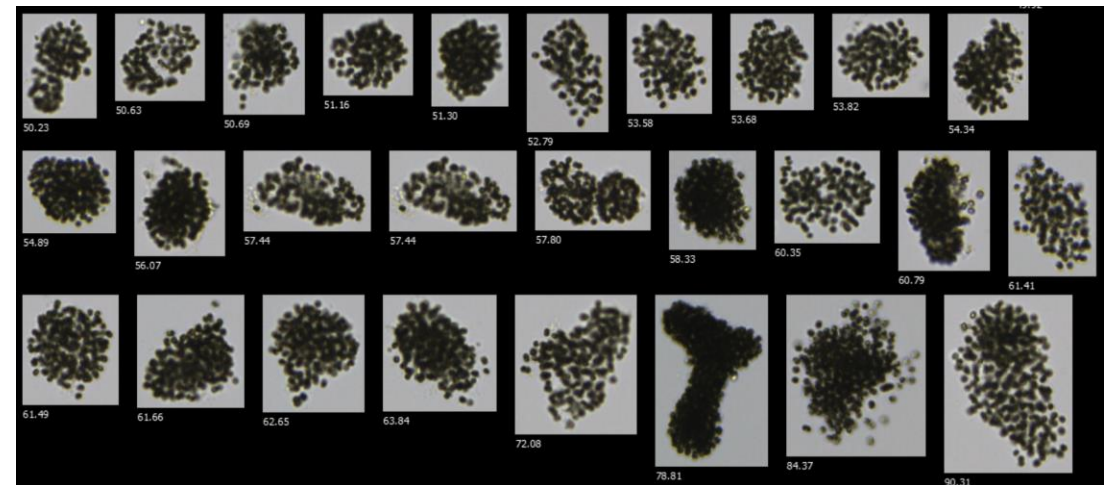
# Dolichospermum (straight)



# Microcystis (single)

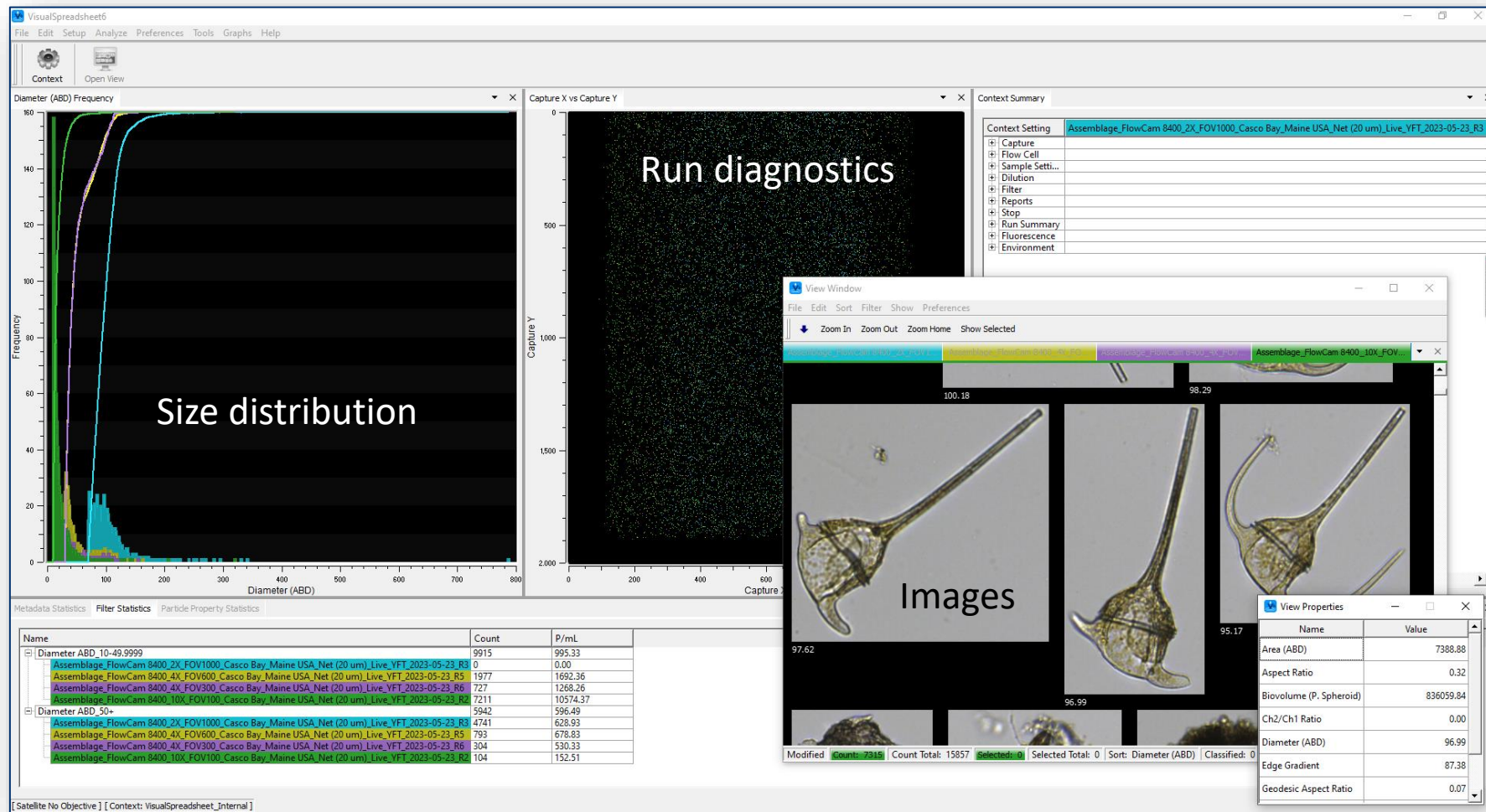


# Microcystis (colonial)





# VisualSpreadsheet

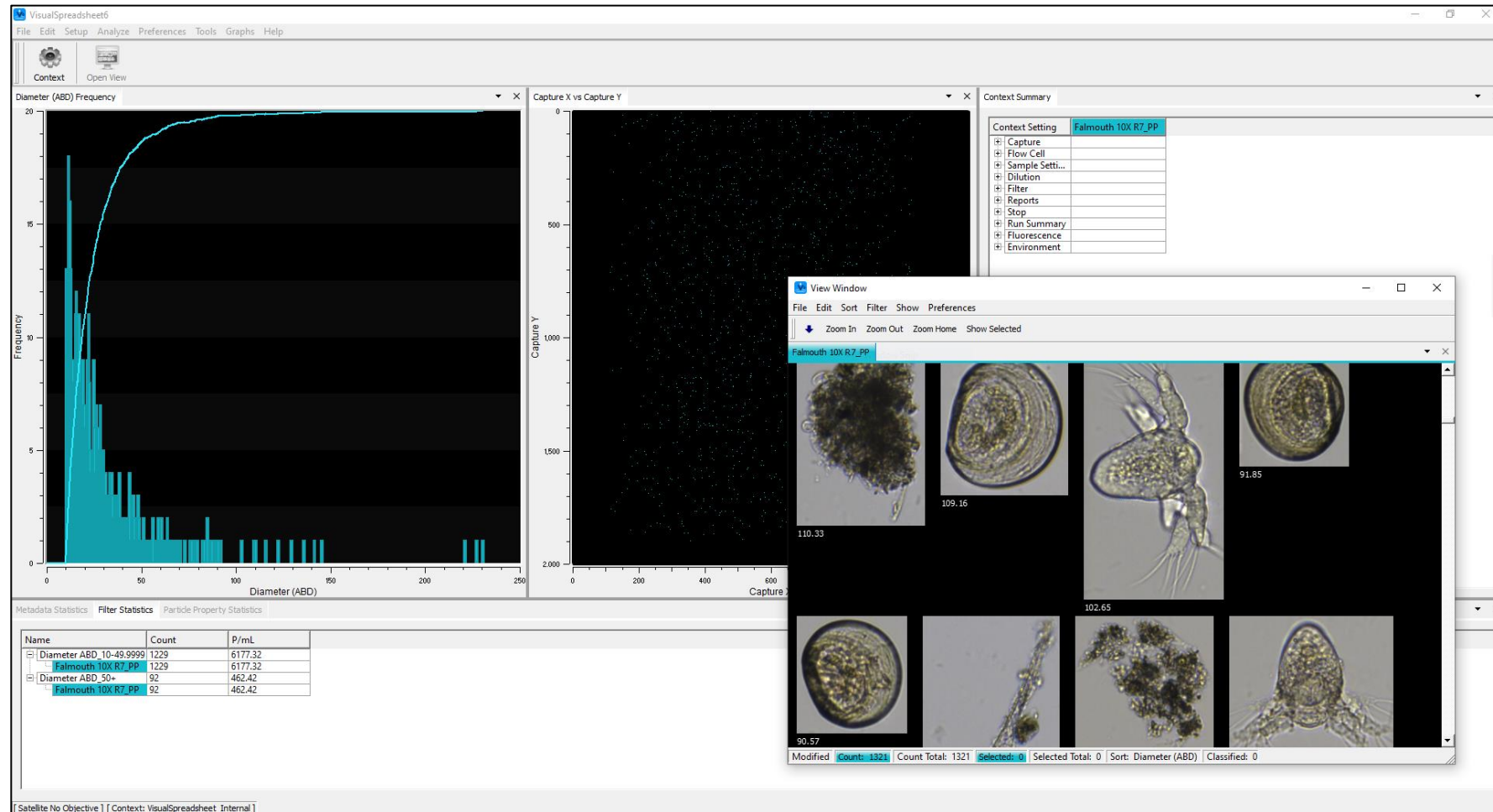


Customizable  
filters

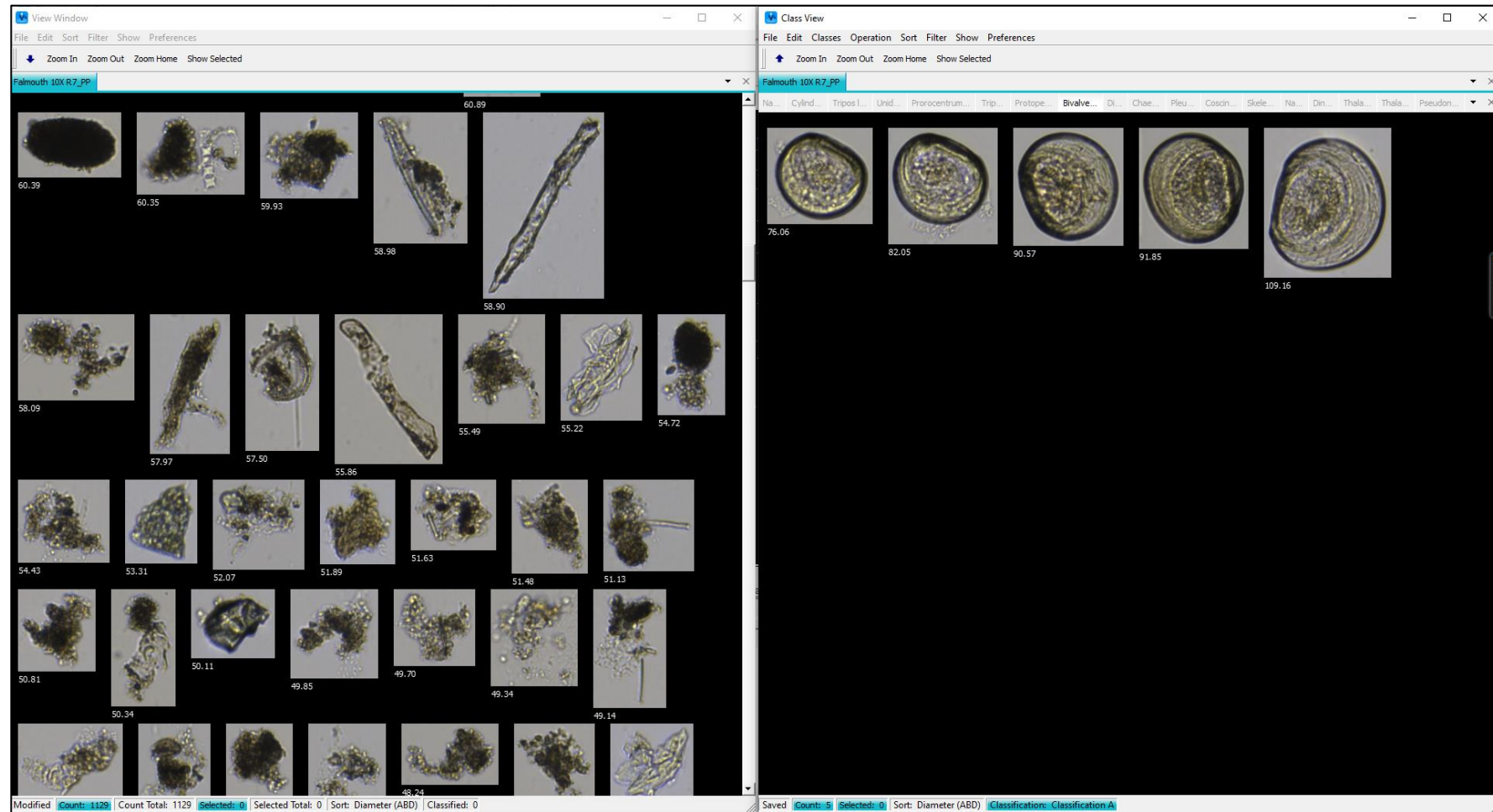
Metadata

Particle  
properties for  
every image

# Acquire Images

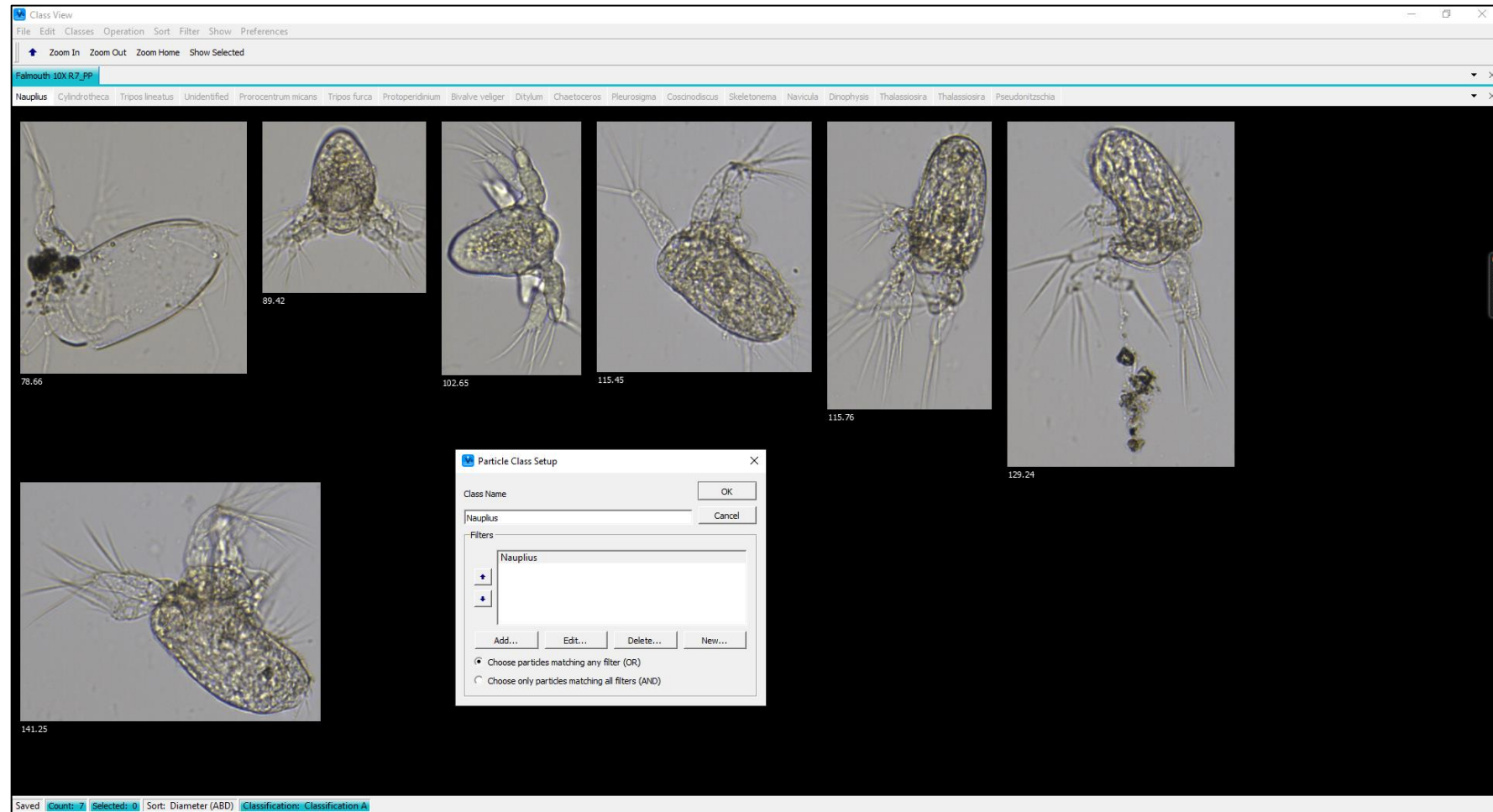


# Manual Classification

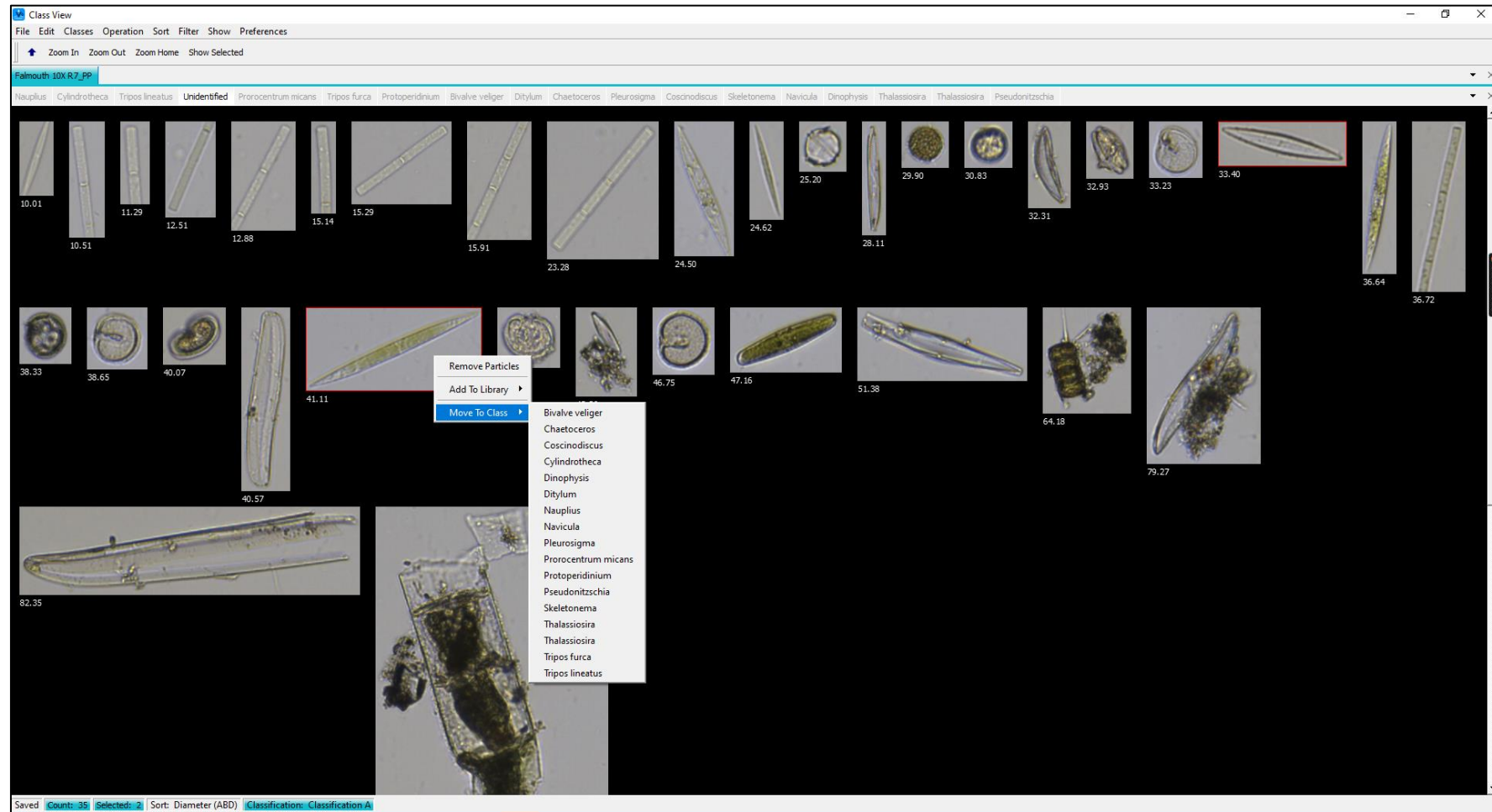




# Autoclassification



# Review Results



# Export Summary Report

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	===== Metadata Statistics =====									
2										
3	Name	Count	Particles / mL							
4	Nauplius	7	35.1841							
5	Cylindrotheca	0	0							
6	Tripos lineatus	13	65.3419							
7	Unidentified	35	175.9204							
8	Prorocentrum micans	2	10.0526							
9	Tripos furca	1	5.0263							
10	Protopteridium	2	10.0526							
11	Bivalve veliger	5	25.1315							
12	Ditylum	3	15.0789							
13	Chaetoceros	30	150.7889							
14	Pleurosigma	10	50.263							
15	Coscinodiscus	5	25.1315							
16	Skeletonema	71	356.8671							
17	Navicula	0	0							
18	Dinophysis	0	0							
19	Thalassiosira	4	20.1052							
20	Thalassiosira	2	10.0526							
21	Pseudonitzschia	2	10.0526							
22	===== End Metadata Statistics =====									
23										
24	===== Particle Property Statistics =====									
25										
26	Name	Area (ABD) Mean	Aspect Ratio Mean	Biovolume (P. Spheroid) Mean	Ch2/Ch1 Ratio Mean	Diameter (ABD) Mean	Edge Gradient Mean	Geodesic Aspect Ratio Mean	Length Mean	Width Mean
27	Nauplius	9885.3118	0.6436	1423726.034	0	110.3474	60.2737	0.02	228.8713	144.1884
28	Cylindrotheca	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Tripos lineatus	936.4887	0.3527	20592.9812	0	34.1273	86.9849	0.1045	86.4826	27.0874
30	Unidentified	2260.5758	0.3932	157954.5963	0	39.3559	66.3953	0.2849	108.5939	28.6398
31	Prorocentrum micans	582.7098	0.4777	7001.8964	0	27.1367	103.385	0.4092	43.2813	18.6975
32	Tripos furca	6410.2004	0.1392	181306.2907	0	90.3422	71.8224	0.0369	282.8863	49.5138
33	Protopteridium	1375.1412	0.8026	47788.0997	0	41.6433	87.1947	0.3309	60.94	41.55
34	Bivalve veliger	6451.5999	0.8681	384911.8677	0	89.9378	152.7038	0.6832	101.8667	85.3853
35	Ditylum	1467.0366	0.1948	41062.6018	0	39.443	65.444	0.0297	186.1671	23.8912
36	Chaetoceros	617.7108	0.2887	31036.586	0	26.1976	56.6074	0.0322	83.4924	24.653
37	Pleurosigma	2630.1559	0.2303	99090.2202	0	56.8839	97.4703	0.1103	156.9898	33.6555
38	Coscinodiscus	1694.3512	0.8154	48440.4771	0	46.2932	111.5285	0.8898	53.8072	41.4808
	export classification summary									

- Concentration (particles per mL)
- Particle Properties
- Cumulative Statistics

## Characterizing and Mitigating Cyanobacterial Blooms in Drinking Water Reservoirs

Hunter Adams, Stephanie A. Smith, Sam Reeder, Emily Appleton, Butch Leinweber, Steve Forbes, Polly Barrowman, Greg Ford, Keisuke Ikehata, and Mark Southard

### Key Takeaways

Successful detection and treatment of cyanobacterial blooms benefit from a thorough understanding of them.

The sooner a harmful algal bloom is detected and identified, the easier and less expensive it will be to eliminate it.

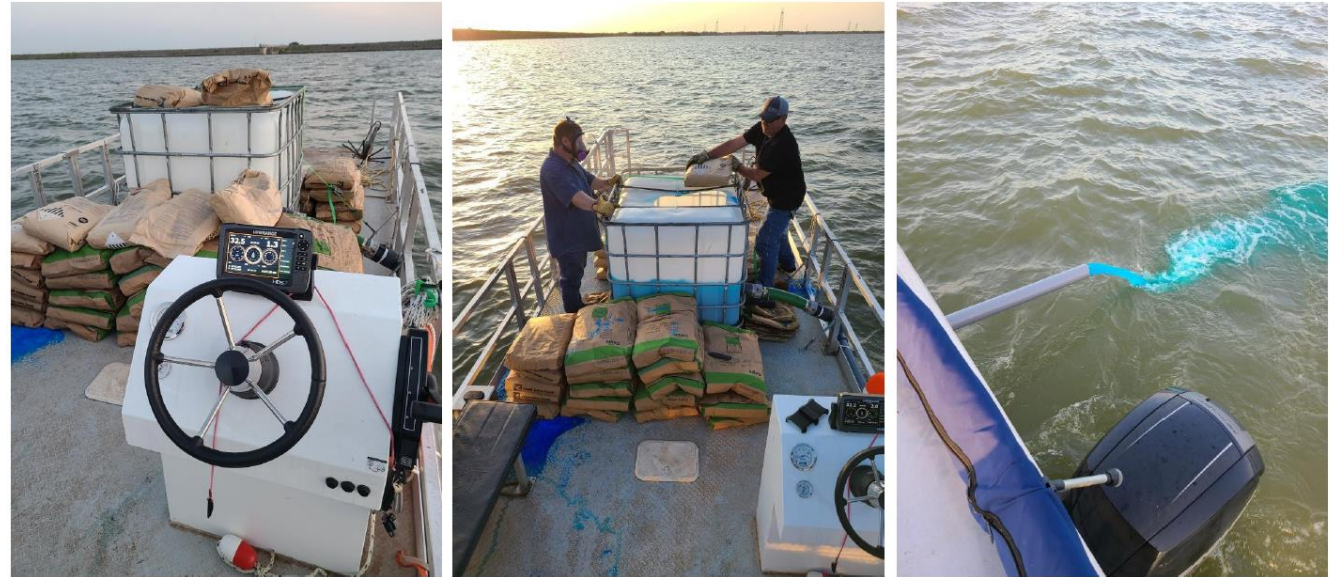
Many tools are available to refine monitoring and mitigation methods; research and technological advances continue to help support water utilities' efforts.

A laboratory in Wichita Falls, Texas, has developed a proactive, multifaceted approach to address the complexities of monitoring and mitigating blooms.

Layout imagery by mivod/Shutterstock.com

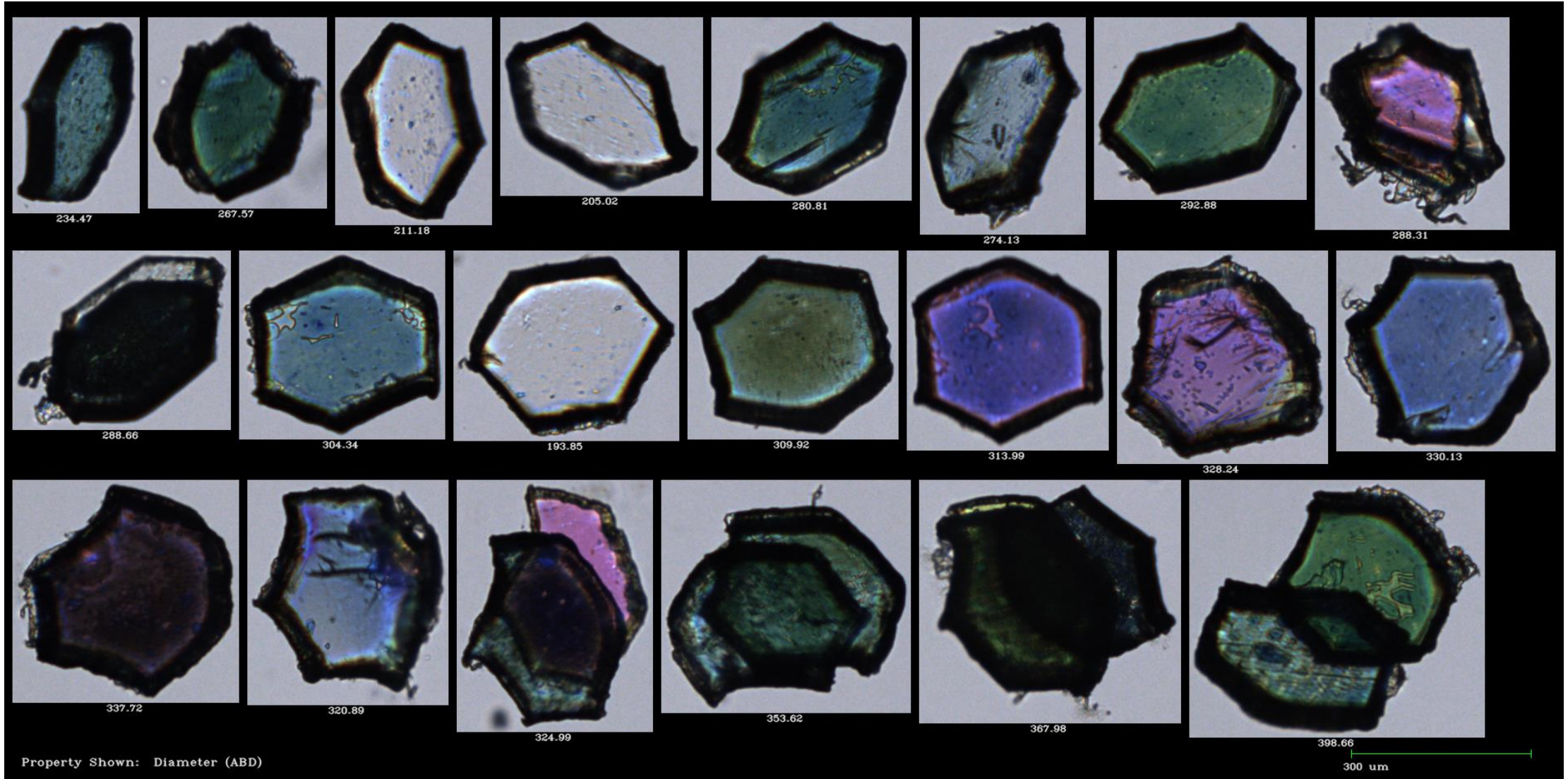
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### Lake Arrowhead Bloom Treated With Copper Sulfate and Citric Acid, June 2021





# “Plastic Glitter-Microplastics”



# Some of the installations across India and Globe

Annamalai University	Aquatic	India
APL Research Center-2 (A Division of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd)	Industrial	India
Syngene Ltd	Industrial	India
Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE)	Aquatic	India
CSIR Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI)	Aquatic	India
CSIR National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) - India (Goa)	Aquatic	India
Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research (IGCAR)	Aquatic	India
National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (NCAOR)	Aquatic	India
National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)	Aquatic	India
Reliance Industries, LTD.	Aquatic	India
National institute of oceanography (Goa)	Aquatic	India
National institute of oceanography (Goa)	Aquatic	India
National institute of oceanography (Kochi)	Aquatic	India
National institute of oceanography (Vizag)	Aquatic	India
National institute of oceanography (Goa)	Aquatic	India
National institute of oceanography (Goa)	Aquatic	India



# Summary



- Proactive monitoring means that programs are put in place before a lake experiences a problem.
- FIM is a powerful tool for HAB monitoring programs
  - Taste and Odor
  - Filter Cloggers
  - Toxin Producers
- FIM can reduce TAT from sample to results, meaning faster response time and reduced treatment cost.
- Standardization of FIM methodology
  - JTG has been formed
  - Inclusion in Standard Methods (AWWA) within 1-2 years

# Thank you!

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