



## Carbon-Plankton Dynamics Virtual Laboratory

A Virtual Laboratory to analyse the **relative contribution** of the drivers in **phytoplankton** dynamics in the Belgium Part of the **North Sea** and the northern **Adriatic Sea**.

**This Virtual Laboratory contributes to the Mission by** simulating how plankton communities absorb carbon and regulate marine ecosystems under changing climate conditions:

- **Modelling Marine Ecosystems:** Simulating interactions between nutrients, phytoplankton, zooplankton, and detritus, helping assess nutrient availability, productivity, and carbon cycling – key for ecosystem health and resilience.
- **Predicting Biomass:** Forecasting phytoplankton and zooplankton biomass based on environmental conditions, aiding biodiversity monitoring and climate impact assessments.
- **Enabling Data-Driven Decisions:** Using carbon units and integrating diverse datasets, the Virtual Lab provides actionable insights for pollution control, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable resource management.
- **Supporting the Digital Twin of the Ocean:** Contributing data and models to simulate and predict the effects of human activities and climate change, aligning with the Mission's digital transformation goal.

