

Editorial

In marine systems, turbulence seems to be a major driving force for small organisms with little or no motility in their maintenance in the mixed layer. Turbulence also influences numerous biological processes, including photosynthesis, encounter and grazing rates, and even community composition. High fluorescence values forming a deep chlorophyll maximum (DCM) are often located in weakly stratified portions of the upper water column, just below layers with maximum rates of turbulent energy dissipation. In the vicinity of the DCM, a significant negative relationship between fluorescence and turbulent energy dissipation has been found.

In this issue of *Scientia Marina*, we feature the paper “Turbulence as a driver for vertical plankton distribution in the subsurface upper ocean” by Macias and coauthors. This article discusses the mechanisms that may explain the observed patterns of planktonic biomass distribution within the ocean mixed layer, including a vertically variable diffusion coefficient and the alteration of the cells’ sinking velocity by turbulent motion. These findings provide further insight into the processes controlling the vertical distribution of the pelagic community and the position of the DCM. We think that this article furthers knowledge of the interaction between physical and biological features in the Ocean.

Editorial Board

News

Scientia Marina goes on line

As reported in the CSIC Editorial, from now on *Scientia Marina* will publish only the online edition of the journal, starting with the first issue of volume 78 (January-March 2014). The printed edition and its associated subscriptions will therefore be discontinued. Like many other scientific journals, *Scientia Marina* is adapting to the new technologies and online forms of publishing with a view to greater dissemination of content and economic sustainability.