

# Bio-optical regions of the southwestern South China Sea

<sup>1</sup>I. Hay, <sup>2</sup>A. Subramaniam

<sup>1</sup>*University of Maine*, <sup>2</sup>*Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University*

The southwestern South China Sea (SCS) otherwise known as the BIỂN ĐÔNG or East Sea, experiences seasonal influence from the summer southwest monsoon, localized upwelling and discharge from the Mekong River. On a cruise of the region during the pre-monsoon season in June, 2016, 22 stations were sampled and physical measurements were taken for temperature, salinity, beam transmittance and density using a CTD rosette. Physical and optical properties of surface waters were used to constrain several discrete surface water types. Consideration of satellite imagery of surface chlorophyll and sea surface temperature revealed a highly dynamic upper layer and distinct, migratory sinews of cold water and high chlorophyll.