



Dr. Mathieu Ardyna

Stanford University /  
Laboratoire de Villefrance sur mer

## Letter of support and collaboration

**Dear Mathieu**

This letter expresses our interest in supporting your proposal and collaborating on your proposed project on the role of shelf-breaks on phytoplankton dynamics (i.e. phytoplankton productivity, structure and phenology). UiT has an MoU with the University of Laval based on a long history of collaboration on plankton dynamics, productivity and physical-biological coupling. Through several ongoing and planned projects, including the Nansen Legacy project, this is of great interest and fits well with our research focus.

A comparison between functionally different Arctic shelf regions is both of scientific importance and of mutual interest, and with your competence and experience from previous work both on the Barents Sea region and the Canadian Arctic, you would be an excellent candidate. UiT has shiptime both on the new icebreaker RV Kronprins Haakon and our older ice going vessel RV Helmer Hanssen, there will be research cruises to the Barents Sea and shelf break region in 2022, where participation could be possible to facilitate the research collaboration. This could be as part of the Nansen Legacy project and/or other projects within the UiT Arctic SIZE team.

There is a strong need to increase our knowledge on how the plankton communities respond to the changing conditions in different Arctic regions, and to merge our knowledge across the Arctic. We therefore strongly welcome and support this opportunity and proposal.

Sincerely,

Marit Reigstad  
Professor, PI Nansen Legacy

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