



WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION

Dr. Mak Saito, *Assistant Scientist, Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry Department*
MS 25, Clark 448, Woods Hole, MA 02543
Tel: 508-289-2393; Fax: 508-457-2193; msaito@whoi.edu

Dear Educator,

September 26, 2006

I am a scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution about to depart on a 38 day research cruise to Antarctica. This cruise has scientists participating from Universities from around the world and is funded by the US National Science Foundation (NSF). In recent years NSF has been encouraging scientists to develop outreach programs to help communicate federally funded science to the public. As a result we are running a website during our cruise to allow students to learn about Antarctica and our activities. We are studying the influence of nutrients on the algal plant growth in Antarctic ocean waters, focusing on the influence of carbon dioxide and iron on two major phytoplankton groups. Because phytoplankton take up significant carbon dioxide, our study has implications for our understanding of climate change and global warming.

We would like to encourage you and your students to participate. We have daily satellite uplinks where we can transfer emails and photos. We will post updates on our activities including photos and movies, there will be descriptions of the science experimentation we are conducting, and there will be a question and answer section where we can respond to questions about science and life in Antarctica. Our aim is to make the science accessible and encourage student's interest not only in science but also in life as a scientist. If you are interested or have questions please drop an email to Sheila Clifford - sclifford@whoi.edu with the subject line "Antarctica Outreach". Please use Sheila's address since I won't be able to access my home institution email once the cruise begins. This outreach site is a continuation of last year's program (December 2005 cruise), and the website is www.whoi.edu/sites/corsacs.

Sincerely,

Mak Saito