



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Mean chlorophyll-a concentrations and anomalies (1997–2016)

Title	Mean chlorophyll-a concentrations and anomalies (1997–2016)
Publisher	New Zealand's Environment Reporting Series: The Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand
Description	Measured oceanic chlorophyll-a (chl-a) concentrations as an indicator of marine primary productivity. Phytoplankton are primary producers of biomass (mass of living organisms) and form the main basis of marine food chains. They use the chl-a pigment to capture the sun's energy through the process of photosynthesis. Phytoplankton growth is affected by the availability of nutrients and light, which in turn are affected by the structure of the surface water column. The surface water column structure is affected by oceanographic and climate processes; large-scale changes to climate and oceanographic conditions can lead to changes in phytoplankton growth and chl-a concentrations.
Source	NIWA
Rights	Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand
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Coverage	1997 – February 2016; Exclusive Economic Zone
Identifier	https://data.mfe.govt.nz/table/53509-mean-chlorophyll-a-concentrations-and-anomalies-19972016/
Type	Dataset
Language	eng-nz