

**MERIS detection of Sargassum in the Sargasso Sea for MBARI SOI research
cruise: biggest, brightest and best examples so far**
February 2011

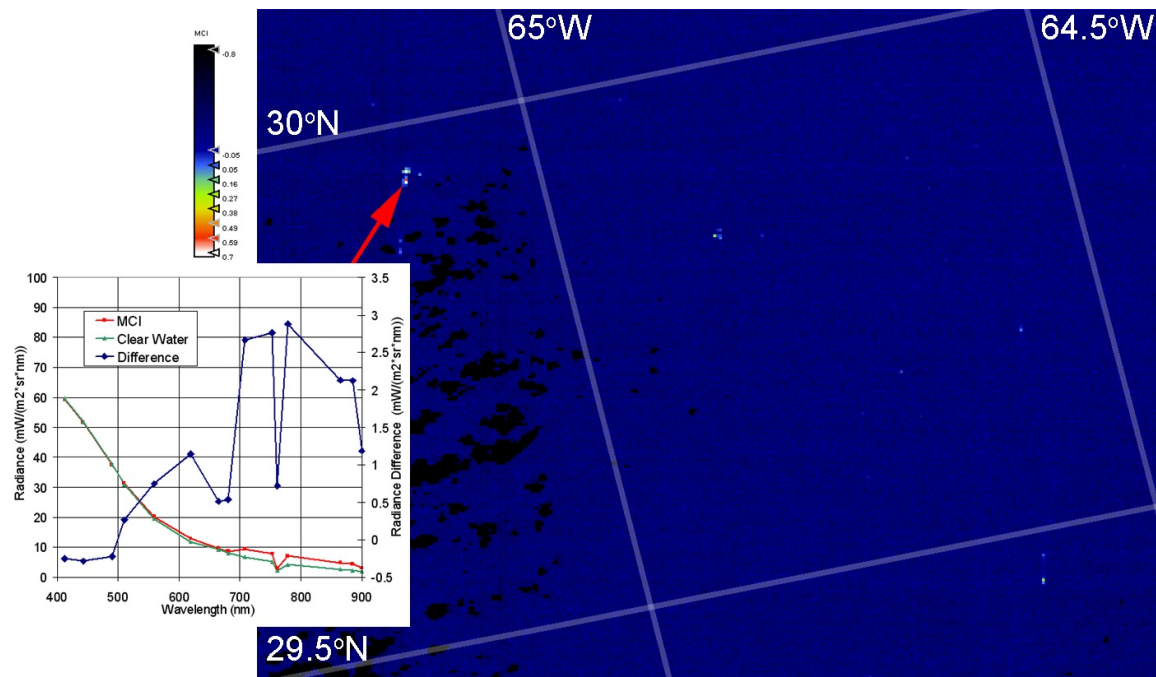


Figure 3. Unprojected MERIS FR for Jan 30 2011. A patch of Sargassum about 80km south of station 2 has one of the highest MCI for Jan 30 2011. Several fainter patches can be seen in the area. Pin 20 on the patch position text files.

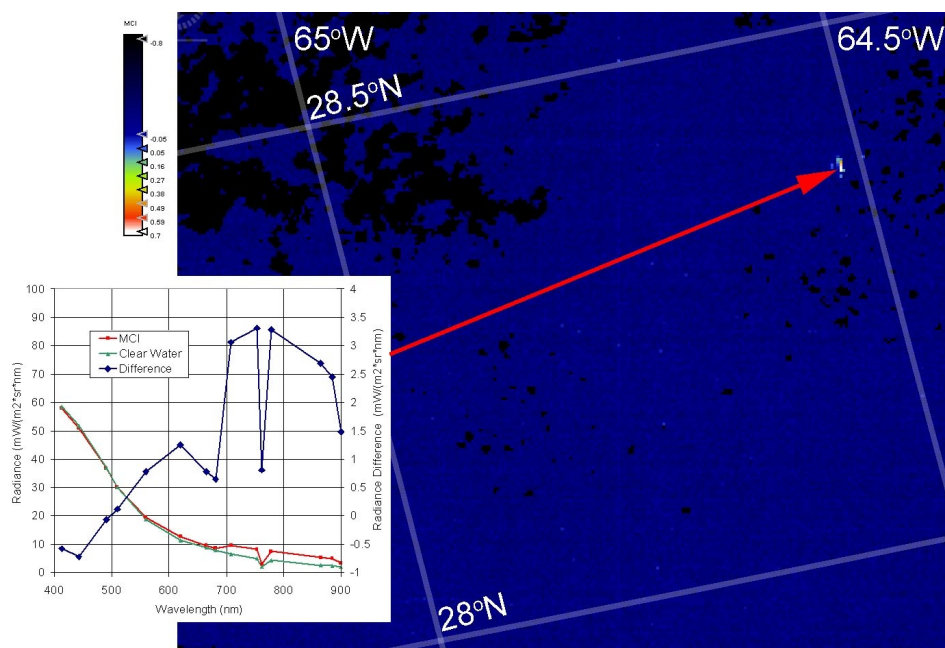


Figure 4. MERIS FR unprojected on Jan 30 2011. Brightest patch of Sargassum over 200 km to the southeast of station 3. Pin 14 on the patch position text files.

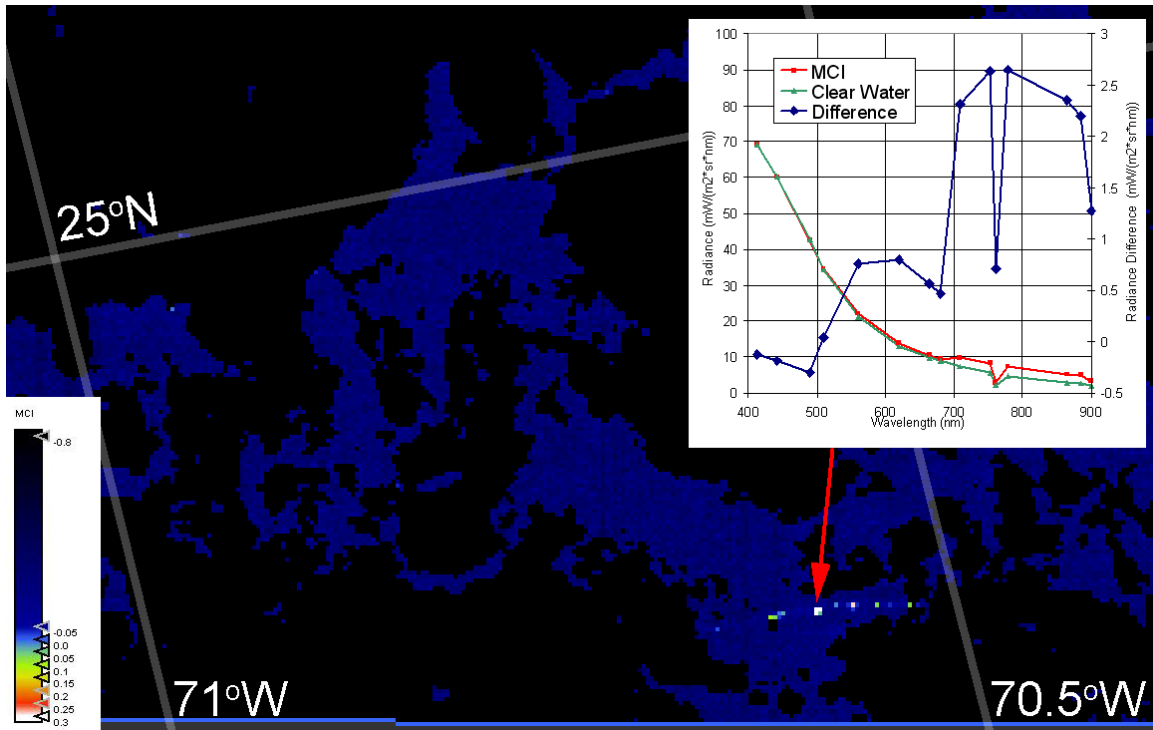
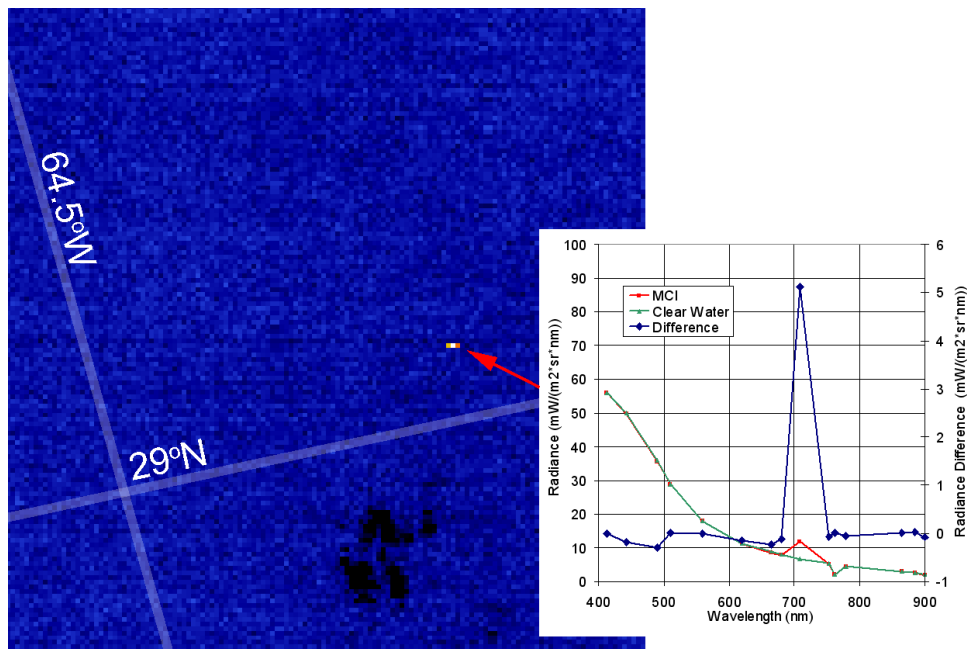


Figure 5. The unprojected MERIS FR for Feb 4 2011 shows many small Sargassum patches. This patch, 100km to the southeast of station 6, consists of a line of several high pixels. The reception of MERIS FR data cuts off just to the south of this patch.



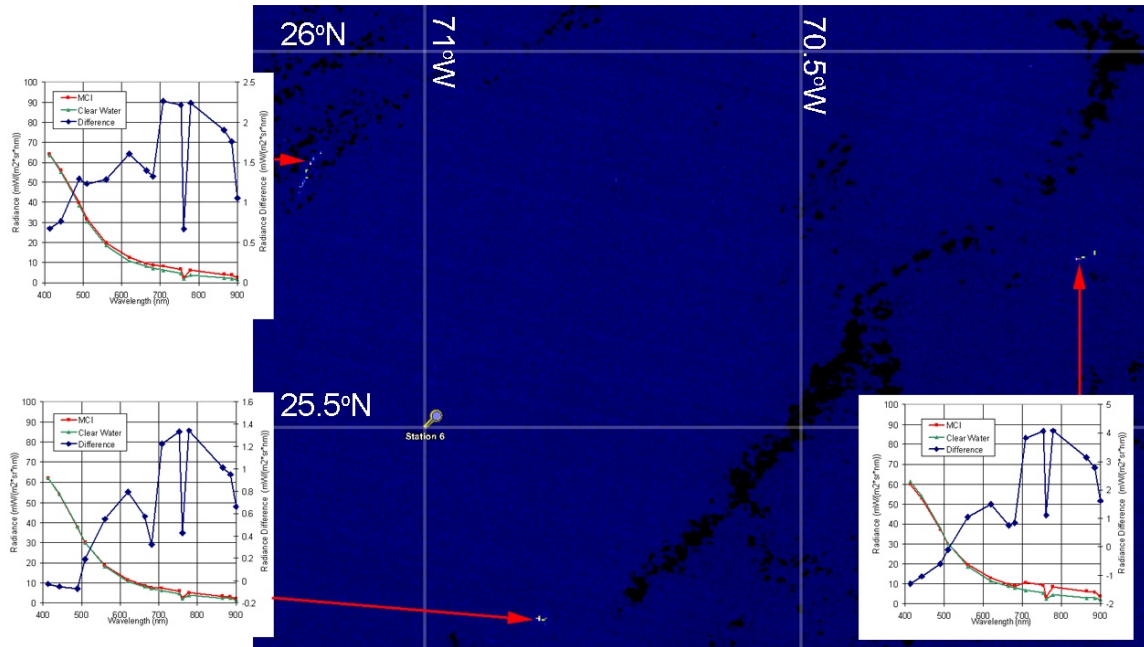


Figure 6. The projected MERIS FR for February 12 shows patches of Sargassum near station 6 with different densities and shapes.

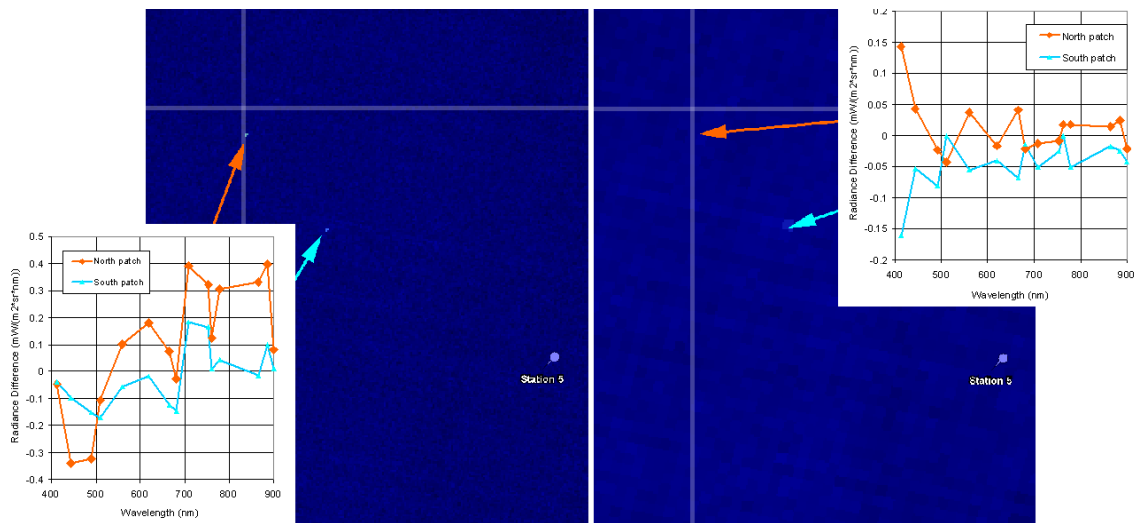


Figure 7. MERIS full resolution (left) and reduced resolution (right) data for February 12 2011. Two patches of Sargassum can be seen in the FR image with spectra plots showing a red edge typical of Sargassum. The patches are not seen in the RR image and spectra for the same positions show no sign red-edge. The two patches in the FR image correspond with the positions of pins 9 (south patch) and 10 (north patch) which were sent to the ship on February 13. The ship arrived at the north patch (pin 10) on February 15 and noted windrows of Sargassum.