

**The Oceanic Twilight Zone – Joint NOC Workshop with the Universities of Liverpool and Southampton, Liverpool, 6-7<sup>th</sup> October 2011.**

The twilight zone (TZ) is that stratum of the water column below the seasonal pycnocline where sunlight diminishes to zero (~100 – 1000 m) and is a region of great significance from the perspective of biogeochemical cycling. It is here that most of the biogeochemical processing of sinking particulate organic matter (POM) occurs before the flux reaches the abyssal sea floor.

In the summer of 2009, a cruise on the *RRS Discovery* (D341) sailed to the Porcupine Abyssal Plain, south west of the UK, to carry out an intensive study of processes occurring in the TZ using state of the art and novel techniques in order to assess the influence of the TZ the carbon cycling. Two years later, many of the researchers (PhD students and PDRAs) are finalising their data and therefore, the purpose are in a position to develop a synthesis of the results.

Dr Richard Saunders and Professor George Wolff led the workshop, which was funded by the RCMSCC. POM flux determination, POM pools and sinking speeds and the influence of zooplankton on POM dynamics and composition were discussed in detail.



