

Virginia Institute of Marine Science
College of William & Mary
Gloucester Point, VA 23062



Planktonic and Microbial Processes Research Group Dr. Kam W. Tang

Research focus: My research focuses on the roles of plankton in aquatic ecology and biogeochemistry. Plankton, which include viruses, bacteria, phytoplankton, protozoan and metazoan zooplankton, not only constitute the bulk of the marine biomass and the foundation of the marine food web, but also drive most of the biogeochemical processes in the ocean.

Interesting places: In addition to the Chesapeake Bay, which is the largest estuary in the U.S., my research has taken me to many interesting places, such as Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Turkey, Vietnam, Brazil, Antarctica and Greenland. Some of my research is done in freshwater systems.

Current projects: We are presently collaborating with molecular biologists to study the interactions between zooplankton and bacteria. Another project focuses on the life history of zooplankton, especially their mortality, in Chesapeake Bay. A third project is to study the physiology and ecology of the colony-forming phytoplankton genus *Phaeocystis* in Asian waters. I am also involved in education projects that bring marine science to the broader community.

The institute: The Virginia Institute of Marine Science is one of the largest coastal research and higher education institutions in the U.S. Our faculty and students conduct a wide range of research both locally and internationally. The campus is a short drive from the famed "Historic Triangle": James Town, Williamsburg, and York Town. A variety of student services and activities are available at the Gloucester Point campus and the College's Williamsburg campus.

Financial support: Students are supported by a combination of graduate assistantships, fellowships, and their major advisors' research grants. There are also a number of teaching assistantships available. In addition, special financial support is available via the Hall-Bonner program (for underrepresented minority students) and the NSF GK-12 Fellowship program.

A big adventure: Graduate school is a place where you learn to become an independent, professional researcher, and a scholar. It is a long journey that requires perseverance and diligence. It is an adventure that demands self confidence and discipline, a sense of humor, and a good dose of humility. Yet, the ultimate joy of success will make it all worthwhile.

To find out more:

My website:

http://www.vims.edu/people/tang_kw/index.php

VIMS graduate program:

<http://www.vims.edu/education/graduate/howtoapply/index.php>

Hall-Bonner program:

http://www.vims.edu/education/teaching/hall_bonner/index.php

VIMS GK-12:

<http://www.vims.edu/education/teaching/gk12/apply/index.php>

If you want to discuss graduate study opportunity further, please contact me by phone (804-684-7602), by email (kamtang@vims.edu), or come visit in person (Chesapeake Bay Hall S-227, VIMS, 1208 Great Road, Gloucester Point, VA 23062).