

Press Release



44/2016

How small marine particles affect our climate Scientists investigate the composition of the sea-surface microlayer of melting ice

20 July 2016/Kiel. When sea ice melts a thin biofilm layer is left on the sea surface. The air-sea interface is important as it provides a direct link between the ocean and the atmosphere. Researchers from GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel and the Alfred- Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research studied the organic compounds in the surface film such as algae and bacteria. To withstand these extreme conditions these organisms adopt smart survival strategies, for example by releasing a protective layer of extracellular polymers that includes carbohydrates and proteins.

