

Professor Cindy Pilskaln is a geochemical oceanographer specializing in the field of particulate biogeochemistry and sedimentation dynamics. After receiving her Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1985, she held professorships and research scientist positions at Duke University, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, the University of Maine and the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. In 1989 she received the “Innovative Use of New Technology Award” from The Oceanography Society, and in 1993 was awarded “Woman of the Year and Maritime Woman Explorer Award” from the State of California, with both awards citing her marine particle research involving remote operated vehicles.

Cindy has worked in all major oceans of the world as well as the Black Sea, the Rift Valley Lakes of East Africa, Lake Baikal in Siberia, and the Antarctic. Currently, she has two NOAA-funded Gulf of Maine research projects examining particle export and resuspension dynamics in relation to nutrient cycling and the formation of toxic dinoflagellate blooms; an NSF-funded project with UMass-Amherst colleagues focused on machine learning techniques for automatic image analysis of marine particles; and a Southern Ocean carbon modeling project funded by the Australian Antarctic Division.