

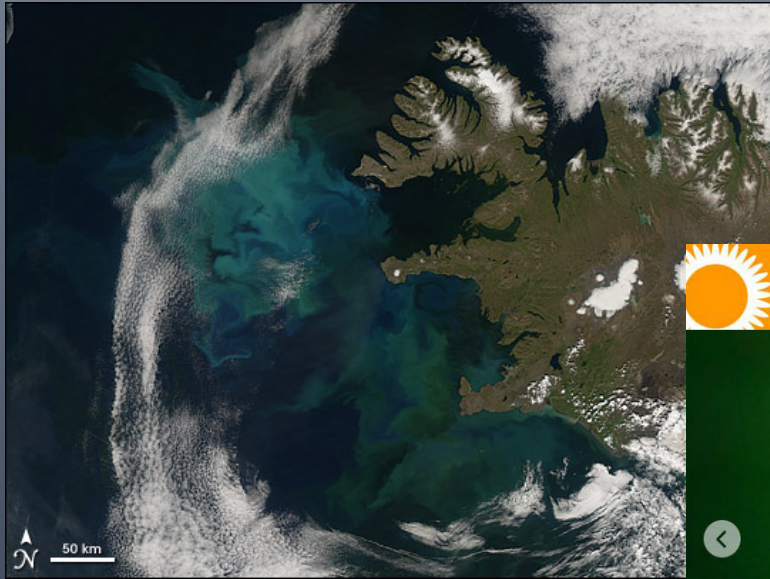
DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

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NEW TRANSITIONS – NEW OPPORTUNITIES



April Showers Bring... The Science of Spring



Early spring: Not good for butterflies

April showers bring May flowers. Roses are red, violets are blue. How do these flowers get their beautiful hues? Their petals hold clues. Another "greening" event—a bloom of microscopic marine plants, or phytoplankton—unfolds in the North Atlantic Ocean. Earth's soundscape, as scientists call it, changes from the stillness of winter burbling with snowmelt waters. Frogs begin to "sing," and skies are filled with migrating birds on-the-wing. But a darker side, April showers bring thunderstorms that spin up tornadoes. And danger lurks far below. A carpet of woodland wildflowers may hide the ticks that carry Lyme disease. From flowers' microscopic cells to thunderstorms called supercells, researchers funded by the National Science Foundation are studying the science of spring.

