1
00:00:00,020 --> 00:00:04,000
Oceans in the Northern Hemisphere have become a little less

2
00:00:04,020 --> 00:00:08,020
crowded. A new study led by NASA researchers has found

3
00:00:08,040 --> 00:00:12,090
populations of the microscopic marine plants, phytoplankton, have

4
00:00:12,110 --> 00:00:16,150
decreased in recent years. Individual phytoplankton are

5
00:00:16,170 --> 00:00:20,200
invisible to the human eye but they can be detected from space by looking at the

6
00:00:20,220 --> 00:00:24,230
color of the oceans. Using a NASA model in combination with

7
00:00:24,250 --> 00:00:28,260
ocean satellite data, scientists observed in the Northern Hemisphere

8
00:00:28,280 --> 00:00:32,310
a one percent decrease of phytoplankton per year between

9
00:00:32,330 --> 00:00:36,360
1998 and 2012. Phytoplankton

10
00:00:36,380 --> 00:00:40,650
are the first level of the food chain. So they feed fish but also

11
00:00:40,670 --> 00:00:44,760
larger mammals including whales. Plus phytoplankton are just like trees,

12
00:00:44,780 --> 00:00:48,760
absorb carbon dioxide and emit oxygen. So

13
00:00:48,780 --> 00:00:52,770

there is a constant exchange between the ocean and the atmosphere of gas.

14
00:00:52,790 --> 00:00:56,850
In fact, the ocean absorbs about 25% of the carbon

15
00:00:56,870 --> 00:01:01,000
dioxide that is emitted by humans. We don't know whether the decrease

16
00:01:01,020 --> 00:01:05,180
will keep on going but what we know is that this decrease could