

# Tiny creatures essential to our foodweb

The role of zooplankton in transferring nutrients

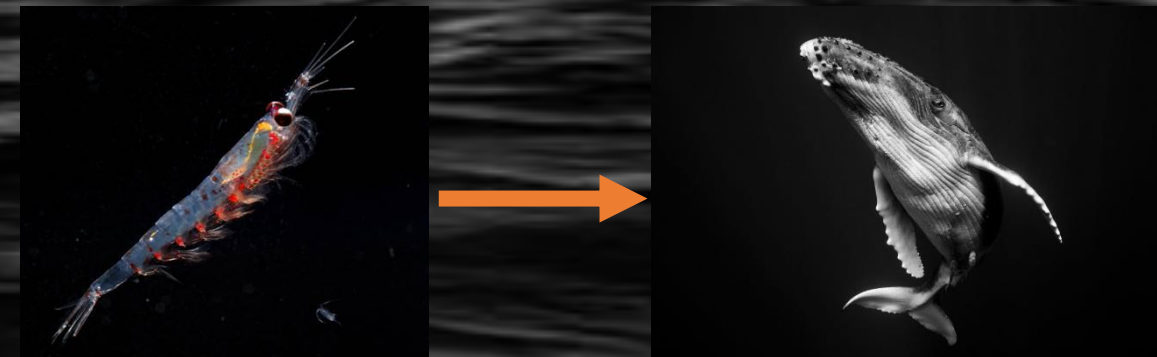
## Zooplankton

- Zooplankton are small animals or larvae that live drifting in the oceans
- During the day they stay in deep waters, but at night they come up to the surface to feed on phytoplankton (microscopic algae)



## What and Why

- Zooplankton is almost at the bottom of the foodweb, but does it make nutrients more available for phytoplankton?
- Do zooplankton transfer nutrients between surface and deep waters?
- If we know what happens at the bottom of the foodchain we can better protect the animals at the top



## Method

- Catch zooplankton with nets at day and night
- Use advanced chemistry techniques to measure nutrients in zooplankton
- ID and determine community structure in zooplankton



## Did You Know?

*Phronima* is a terrifying-looking crustacean that gave inspiration to the movie "Alien"



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