





(Top) True color image captured by the Landsat satellite on November 17, 2014, of the coast of Northwestern Australia, east of Point Samson. *Trichodesmium* is known to bloom extensively in this region [[Creagh, 1985](#)] and the slicks are presumably due to accumulation of this organism in the surface microlayer. The slicks are dense enough to accumulate along the wake of a ship (north/south lines seen to top left of true color image). (Bottom Left) 30 m resolution chlorophyll map obtained from the Landsat data. The high albedo from the dense surface slicks trigger the cloud mask (white). The wake of the ship can be seen in this image to the top left. (Bottom Right) MODIS Aqua map of chlorophyll for the same day. The 1 km resolution image does not show any “clouds” since the fine structure of the surface slicks are averaged out with the intervening waters and the albedo is not high enough to trigger the cloud mask.