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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Micro-scale variability enhances trophic transfer and potentially sustains biodiversity in plankton ecosystems

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• Highlights:

- A new NPZ closure model is developed using the moment closure approach, which considers mean and a fluctuating components
- Micro-scale variability enhances trophic transfer from phytoplankton to zooplankton
- There exists a minimum threshold micro-scale variability for biologically feasible solutions
- The coefficient of variation (CV_P) of phytoplankton is greater than 1 for stable solutions
- The parameter domain of stability, and hence potential biodiversity, increases with the level of micro-scale variability

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