



# Observations of extreme events on the continental shelf regions of Australia using ocean gliders

**IUGC2024**

**INTERNATIONAL UNDERWATER  
GLIDER CONFERENCE 2024**

11 / June / 2024

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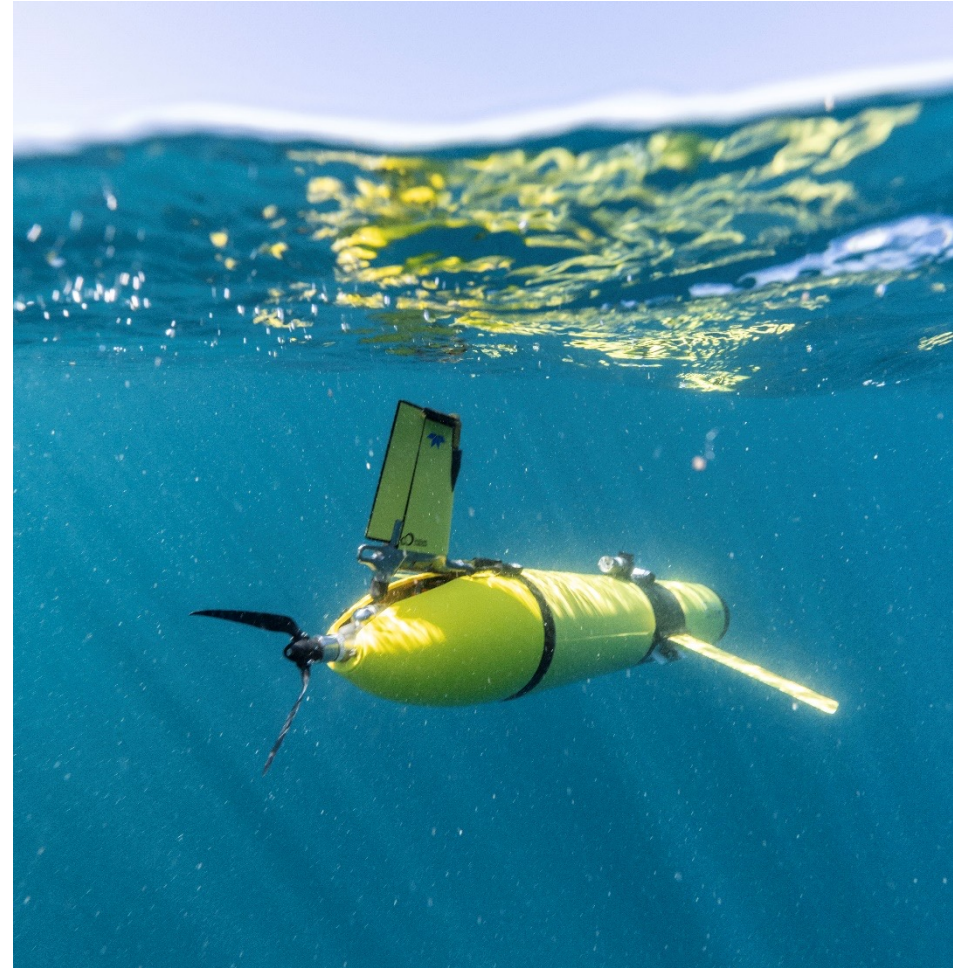
**Coastal Oceanography**

# Acknowledgements



UWA Ocean Glider Team:  
Dennis Stanley  
Paul Thomson  
Mun Woo  
Sarath Wijeratne

IMOS Event based sampling  
Steering Committee:



A multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional approach to enhance the observation and understanding of the oceans around Australia



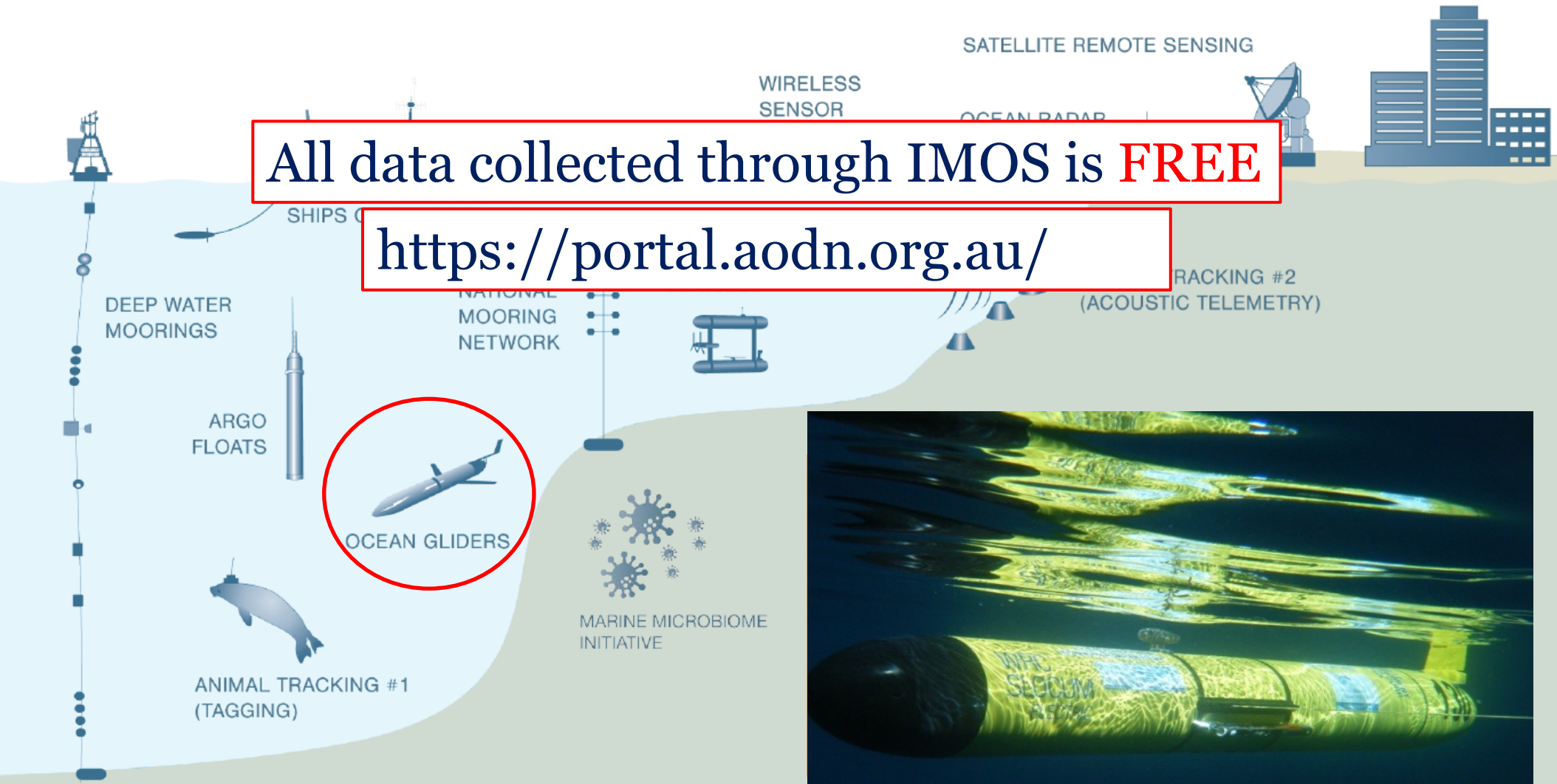
Overarching goal: **‘sustained’** observations



# The Integrated Marine Observing System++ AUSTRALIAN OCEAN DATA NETWORK

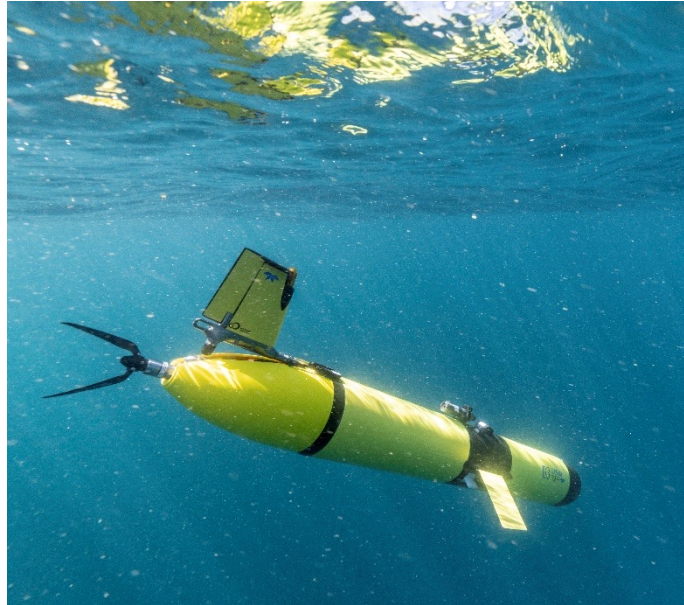
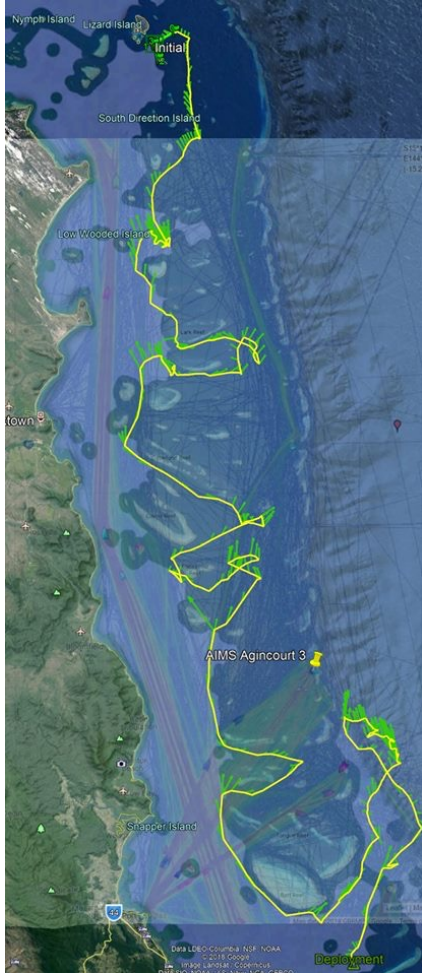
All data collected through IMOS is **FREE**

<https://portal.aodn.org.au/>





# Glider deployments







370+ glider missions on AODN Portal

2009-2024

9289 glider days  
( > 25 years)

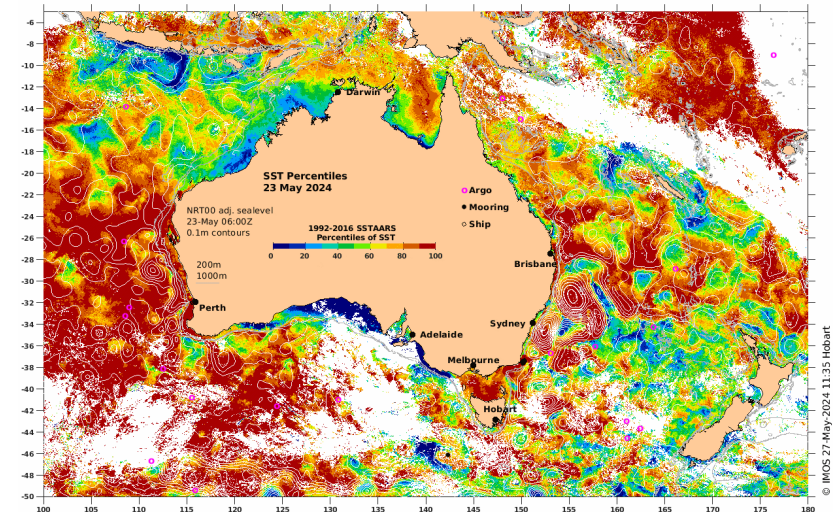
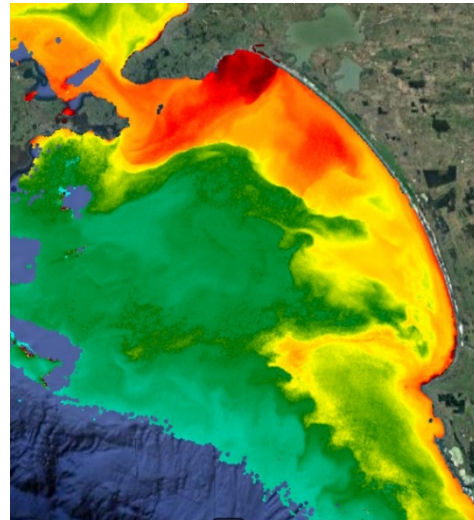
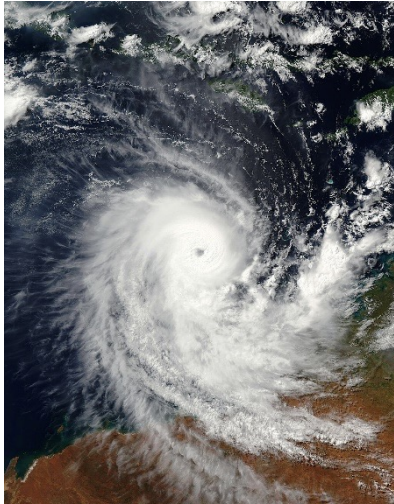
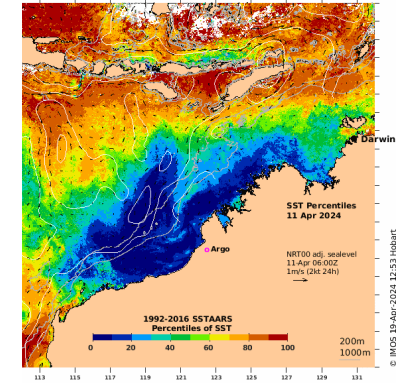
201152 km



# Sampling of extreme events

Within prediction time scale for glider deployment

- Marine heatwaves and cold spells
- (Ex-) Tropical cyclones, severe storms, east coast lows
- River plumes and coastal discharge

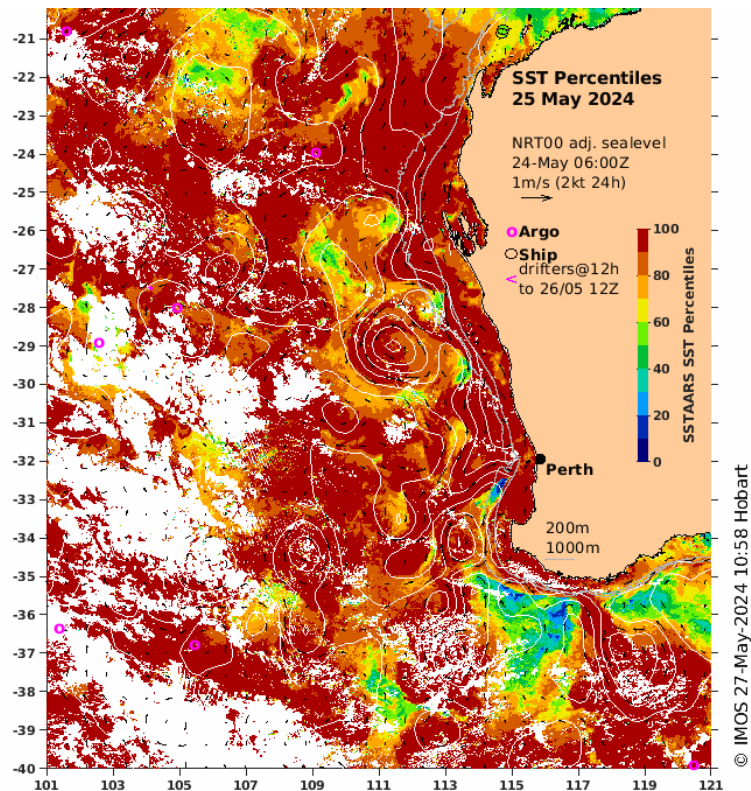




# Sampling of extreme events

25 May 2024

1d L3S Percentiles, 1992-2016 clim period



Identify extreme events by monitoring existing data sources and tools:

- IMOS OceanCurrent – temperature anomalies and percentiles,
- BoM RAMSSA SST (regional SST product),
- BoM ACCESS-S1 (seasonal outlook), BoM OceanMAPS (operational short-term forecast),
- Near real time temperature observations
- Other products: NOAA Coral Reef Watch, Marine heatwave tracker ([www.marineheatwaves.org/tracker.html](http://www.marineheatwaves.org/tracker.html)),

Collate, review and evaluate evidence and indicators:

- assess the likelihood of events and geographic regions to be impacted.

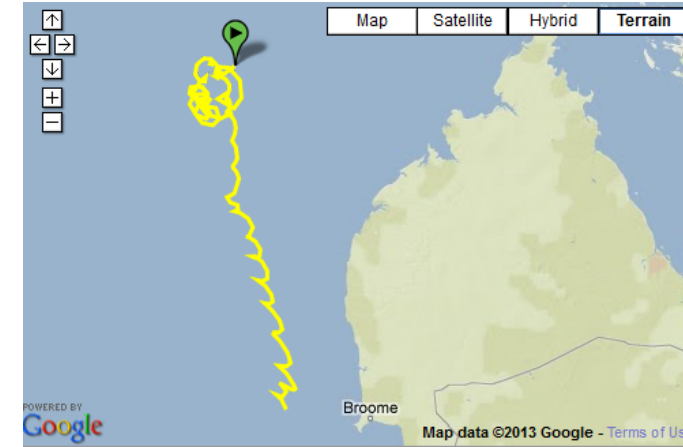
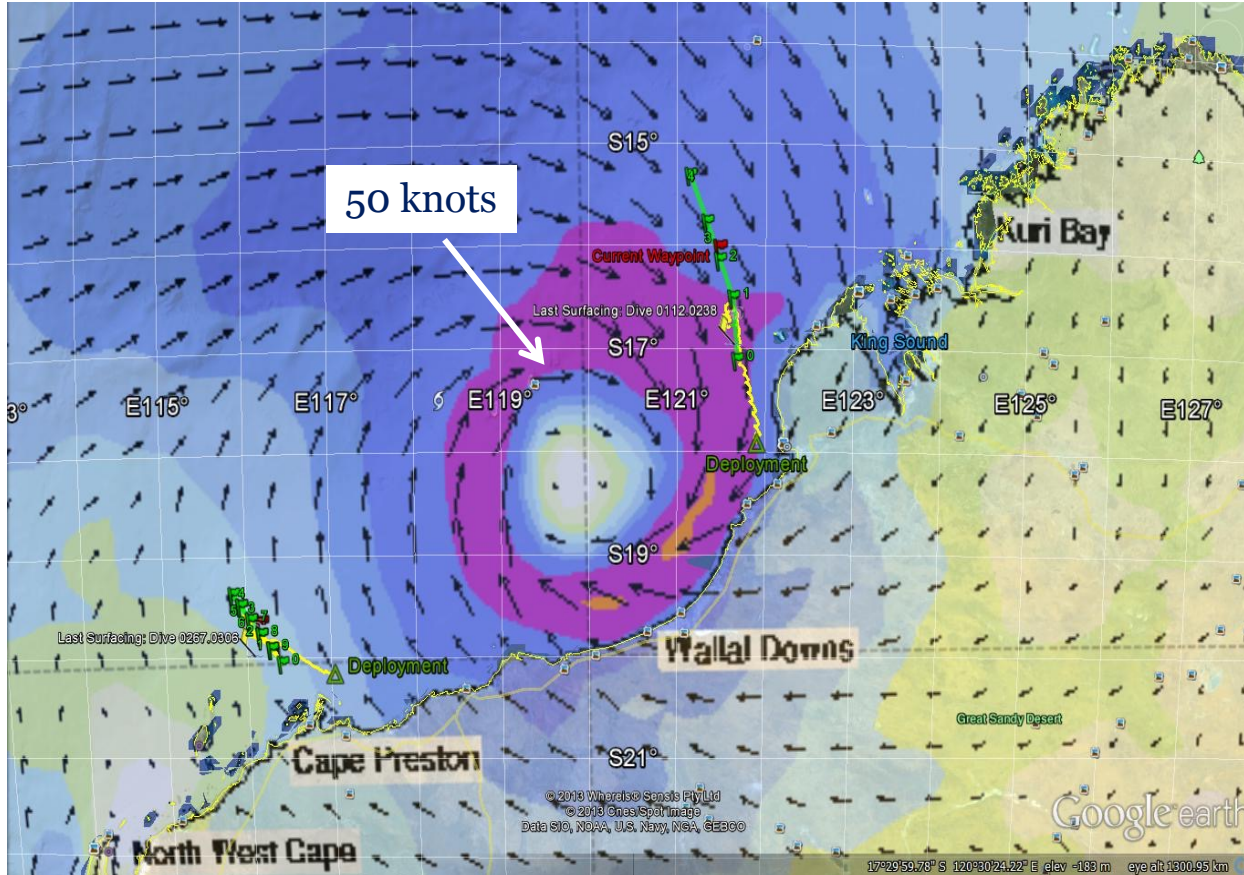
Develop a deployment plan:

- the geographic location and timing of sequential deployments,
- capture phases of development, maintenance and deterioration.

Prioritise deployment locations based on criteria including:

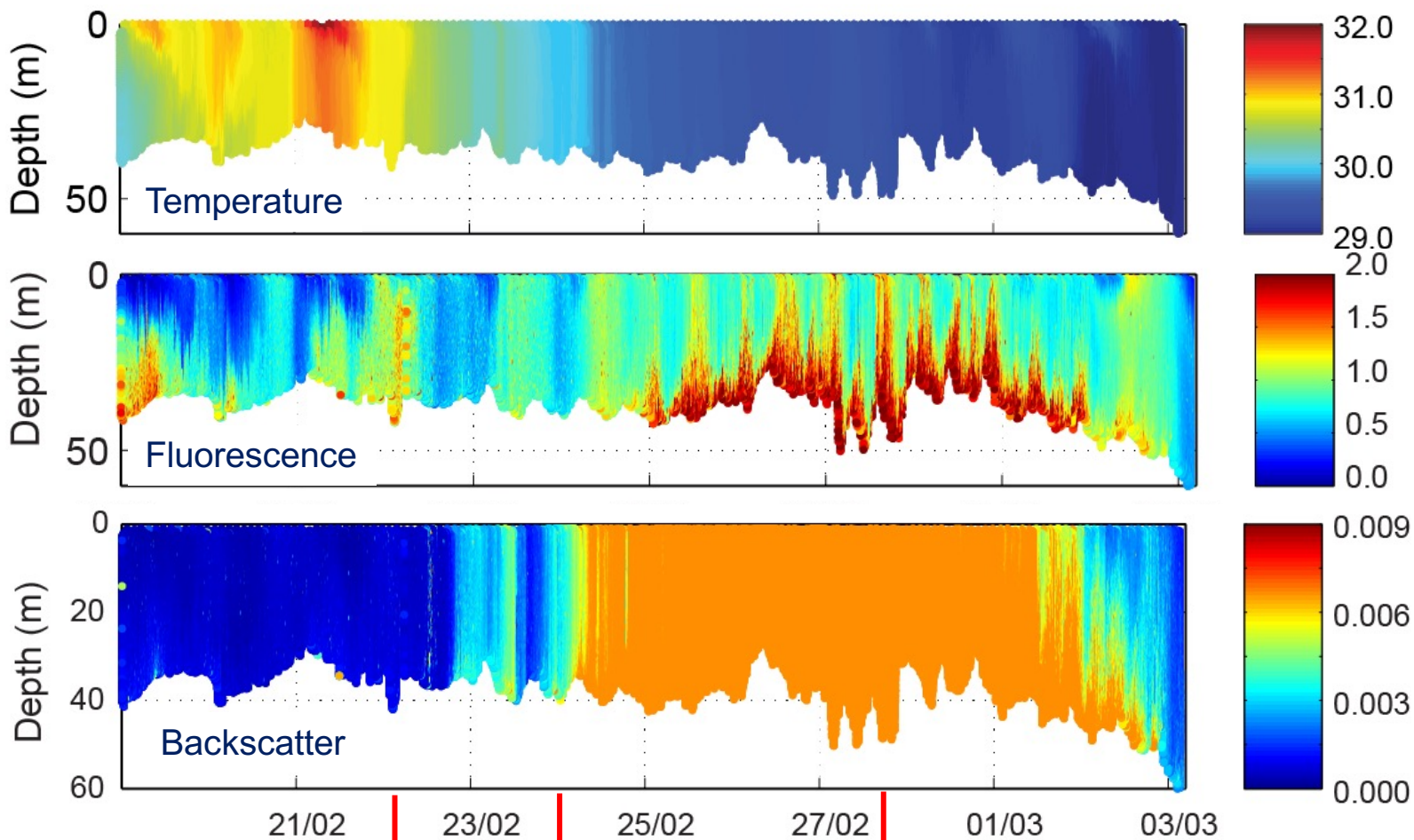
- scientific novelty of the extreme event,
- predicted impacts including ecological consequences,
- the availability of supporting meteorological and oceanographic observations and ocean models.

# Slocum: TC Rusty



Maximum predicted  $H_s = 6.5\text{m}$

# TC Rusty: Kimberley Transect





# Temperature anomalies (2010-2011)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA**

**December**

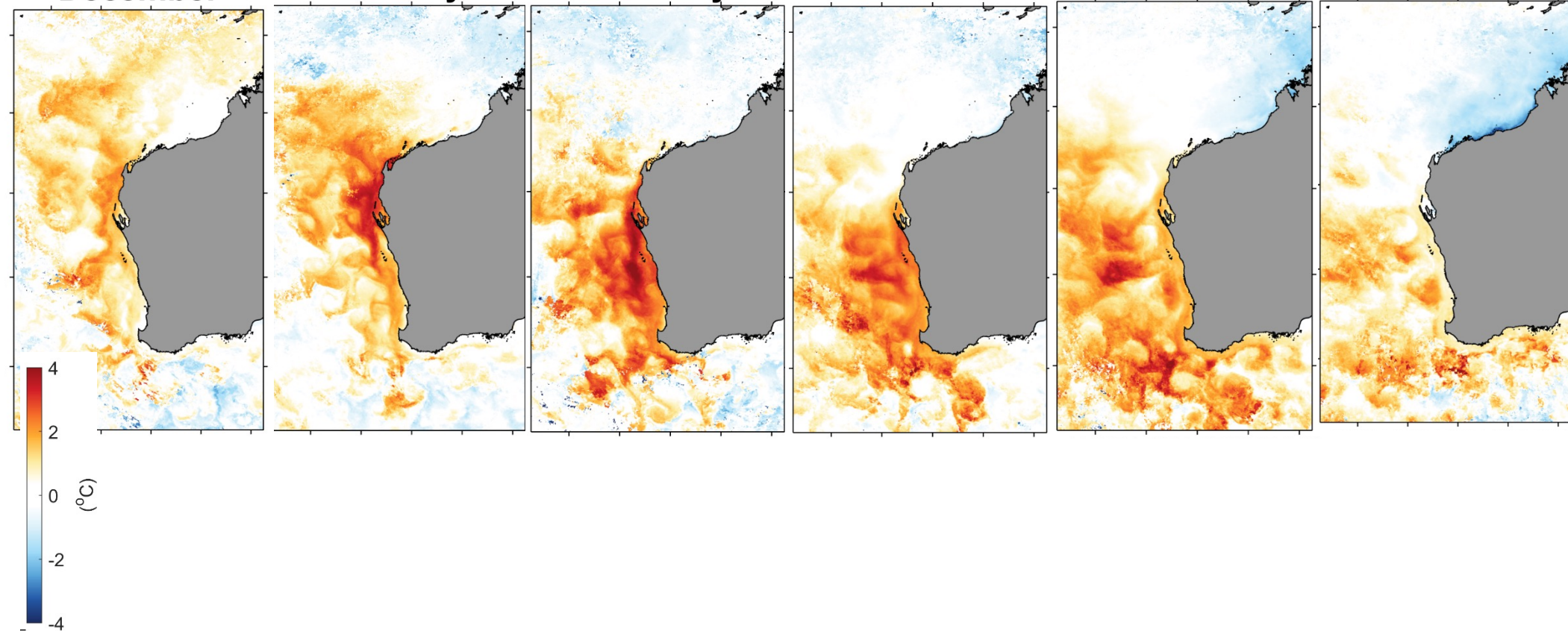
**January**

**February**

**March**

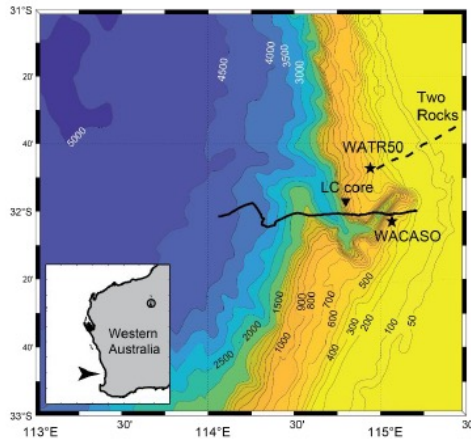
**April**

**May**



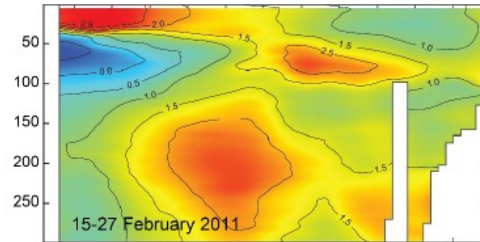
# Ningaloo Nino: Feb 2011

## Seaglider Tracks

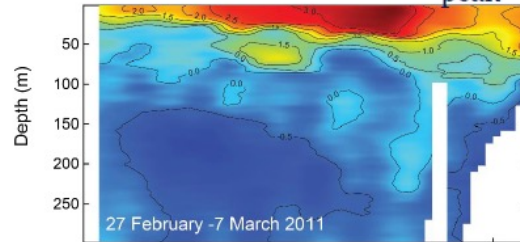


## Temperature anomaly

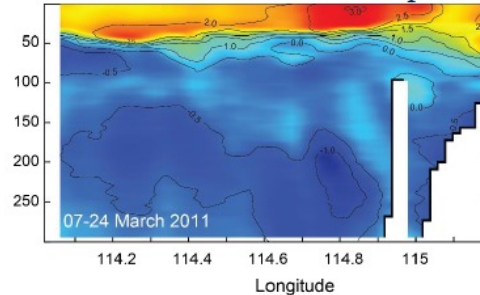
Before peak



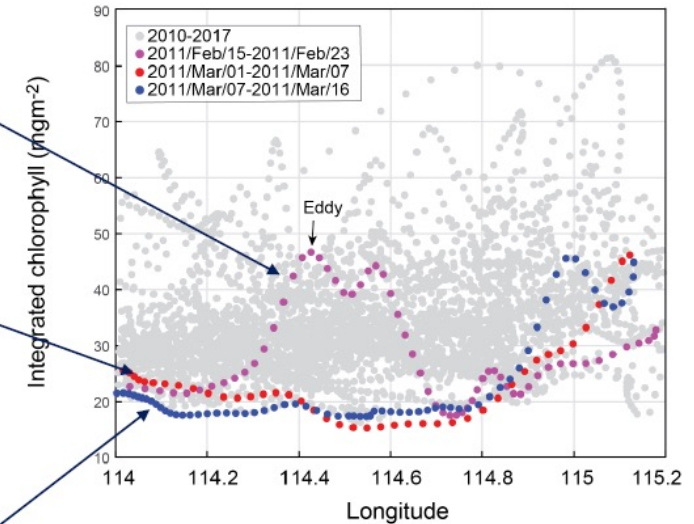
peak



After peak

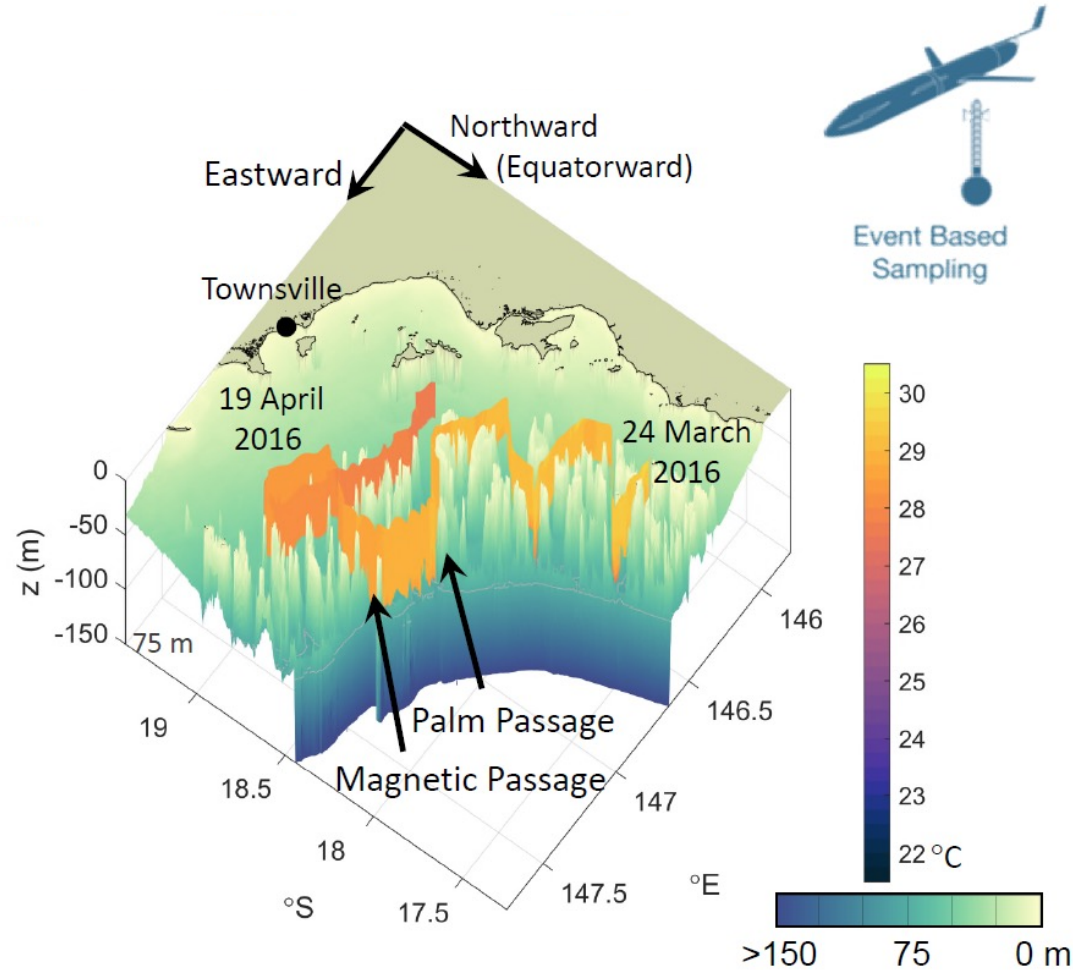


## Lowest integrated chlorophyll over 8 years of measurements



Anomaly calculated using 2010-2017  
Seaglider data

# Great Barrier Reef: March 2016

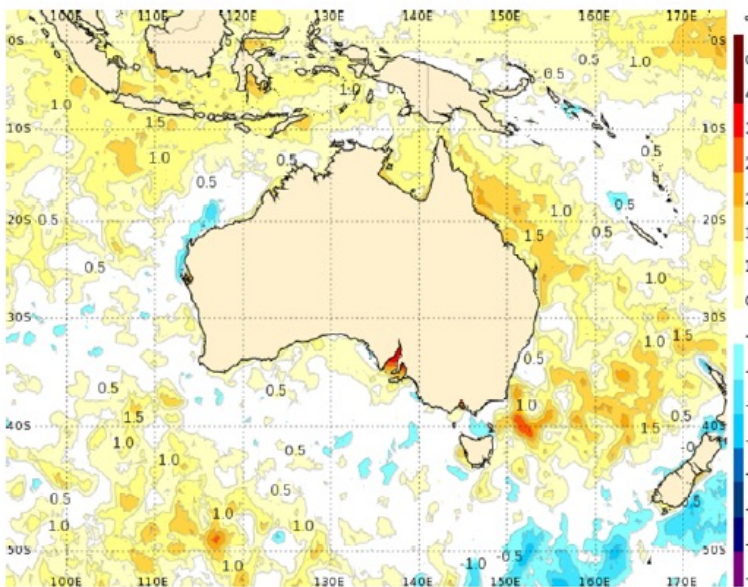




# Evaluating marine heatwave conditions

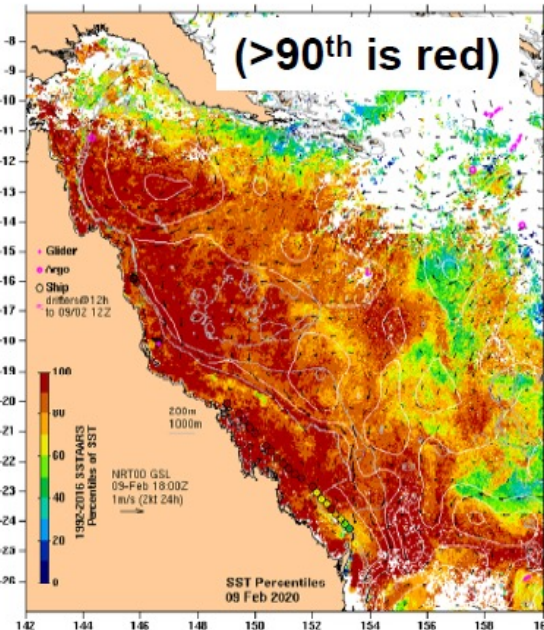


**SST Anomaly**  
**12 Feb 2020**

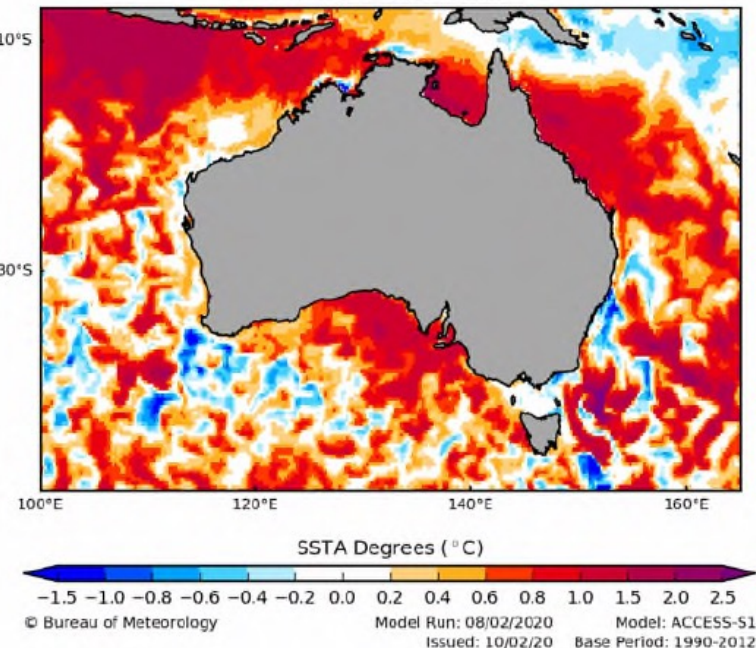


Sea surface temperature anomaly (deg C): Daily analysis for **Wed 12 Feb 2020**  
(c) Copyright Australian Bureau of Meteorology | **RAMSSA** | Climatology 1961-1990

**SST Percentiles**  
**9 Feb 2020**



**SST Anomaly outlook**  
**8 – 22 Feb 2020**



BoM ACCESS-S1 seasonal outlook,  
Issued 10 Feb 2020

<http://www.bom.gov.au/oceanography/oceantemp/sst-outlook-map.shtml>

RAMSSA – Reynolds SST climatology  
(1961-1990)

<http://www.bom.gov.au/marine/sst.shtml>

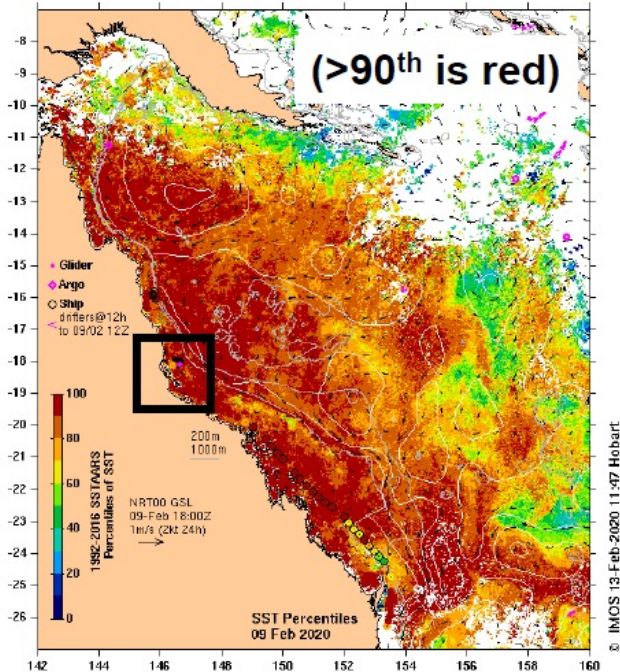
IMOS 3-day night Multi-sensor  
L3S percentiles, using the  
SSTAARS climatology (1992-2016)

<http://oceancurrent.imos.org.au/>



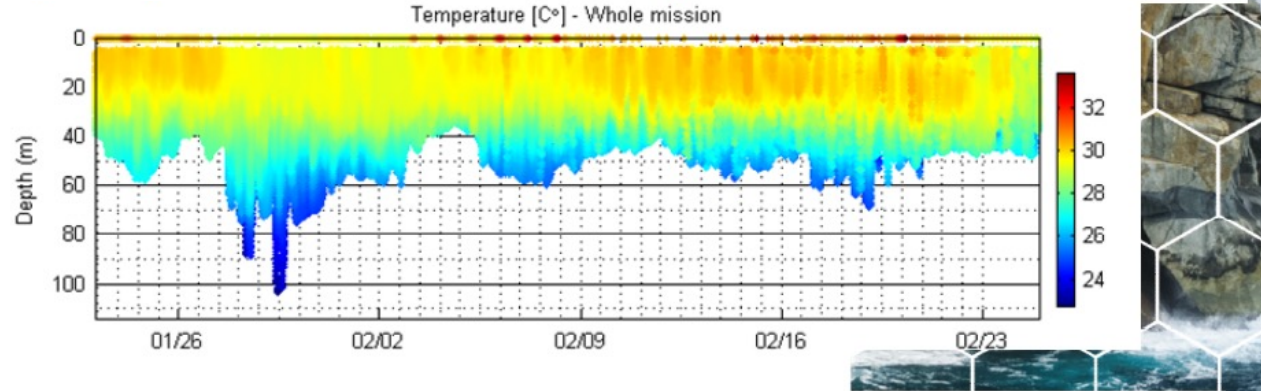
# Great Barrier Reef: Jan-March 2020

## SST Percentiles - 9 Feb 2020

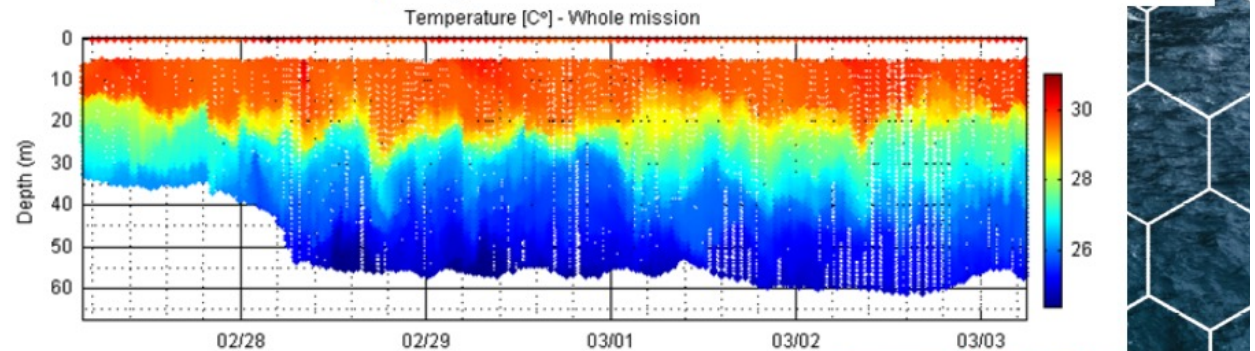


© IMOS 13 Feb 2020 11:47 Hobart

## Central GBR glider: 23 Jan – 25 Feb 2020



## Event Based Sampling #1 for 2020: 27 Feb – 27 March 2020

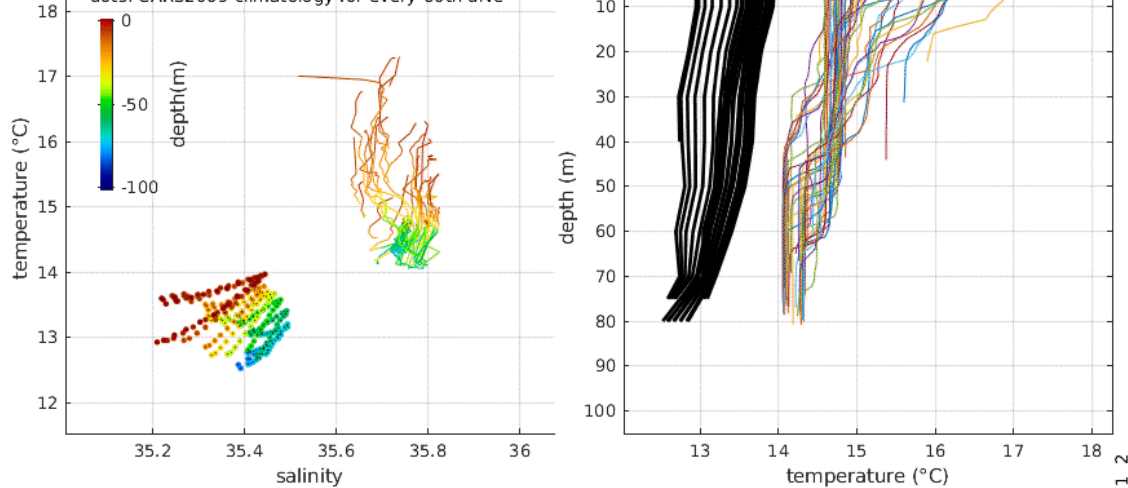


Note change in colour axis and vertical scale.

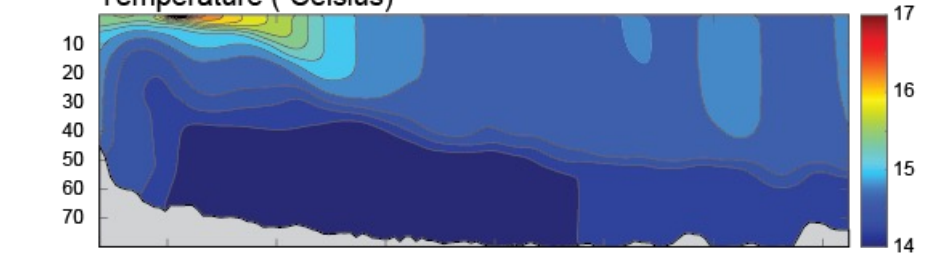
# Bass Strait: Nov 2023

IMOS slocum\_glider SL286 BassStrait20231109 147 147 -41 -40

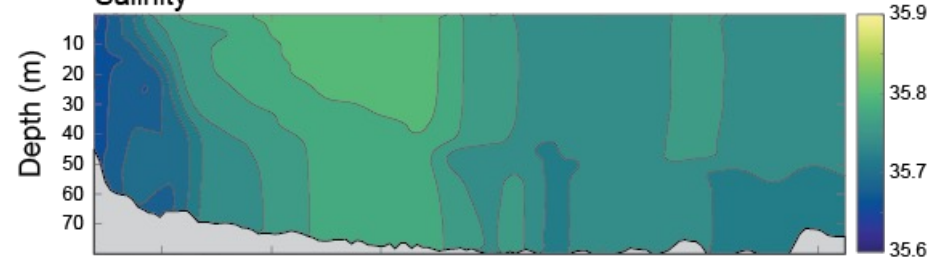
lines: glider T&S (every 30th dive)  
dots: CARS2009 climatology for every 60th dive



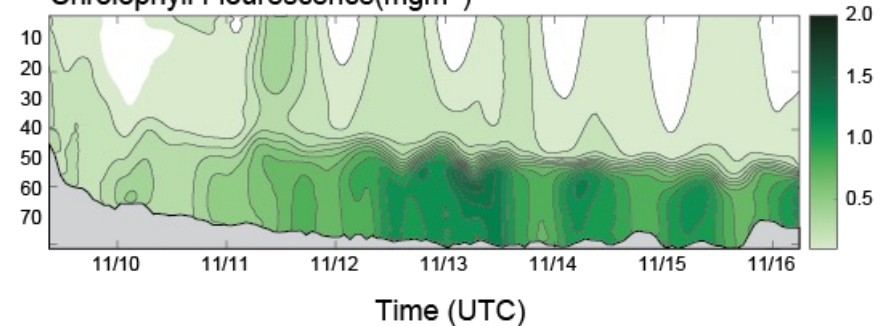
Temperature (°Celsius)



Salinity

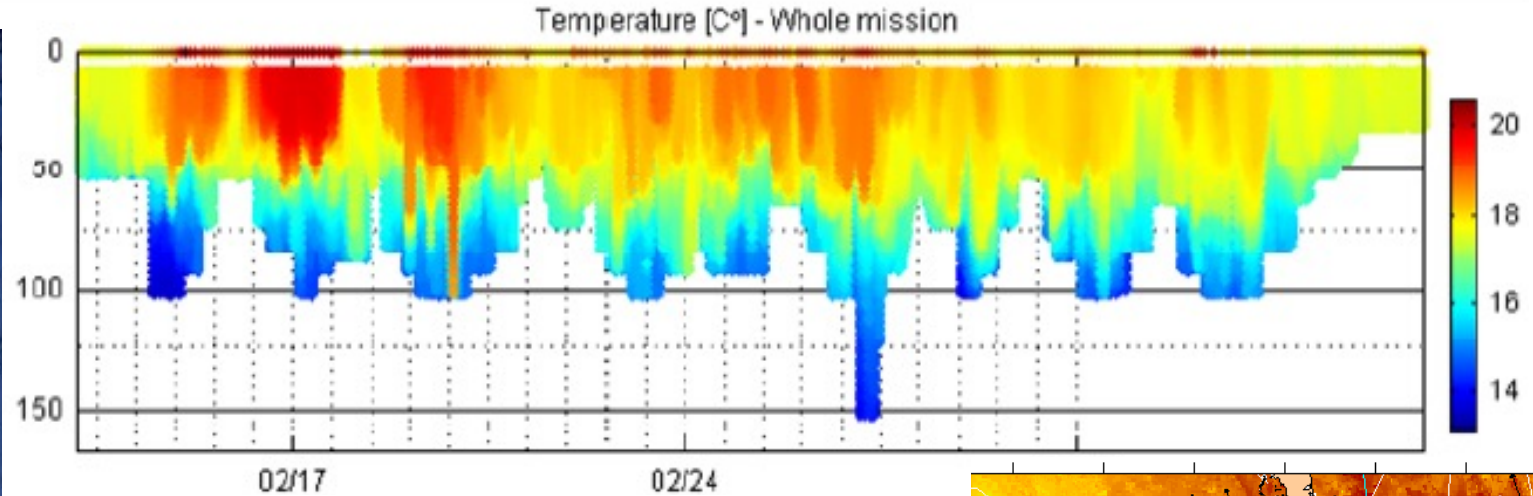


Chlorophyll Fluorescence( $\text{mgm}^{-3}$ )



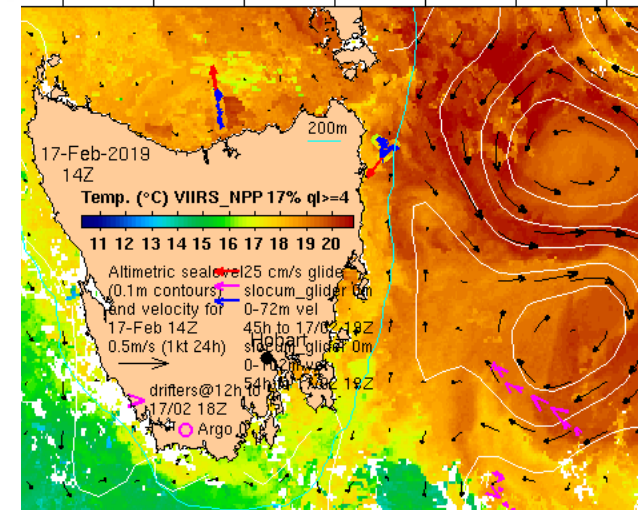
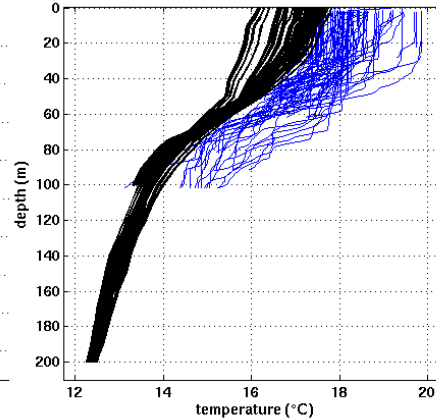
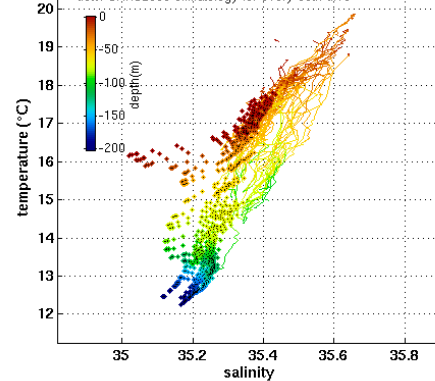


# East Tasmania: Feb 2019



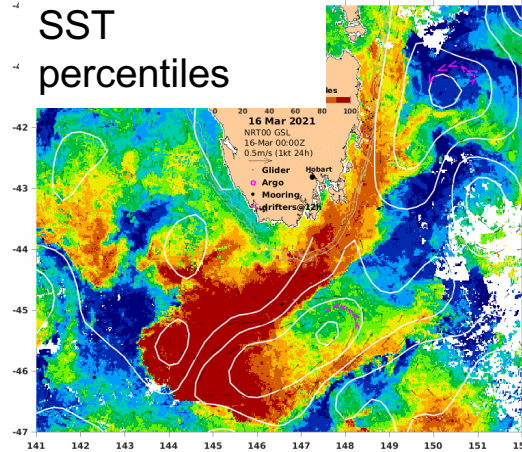
IMOS slocum\_glider SL281 TasEastCoast20190213 148 149 -43 -41

lines: glider T&S (every 30th dive)  
dots: CARS2009 climatology for every 60th dive

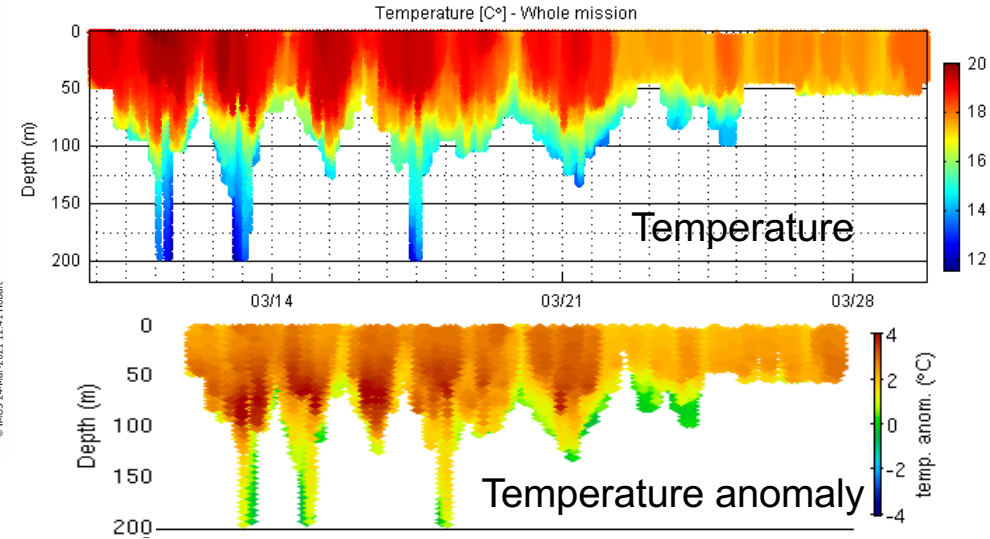
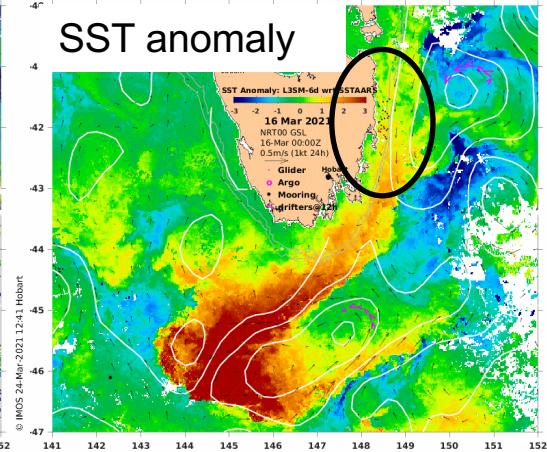


# East Tasmania: March 2021

SST  
percentiles



SST anomaly



The glider sampled waters off eastern Tasmania, where SST was 1-2 deg C warmer than usual,

Temperature anomalies were greater at depth (reaching 4 deg C) than near the surface, as the warm water extended down between 50 to 100 m depth.



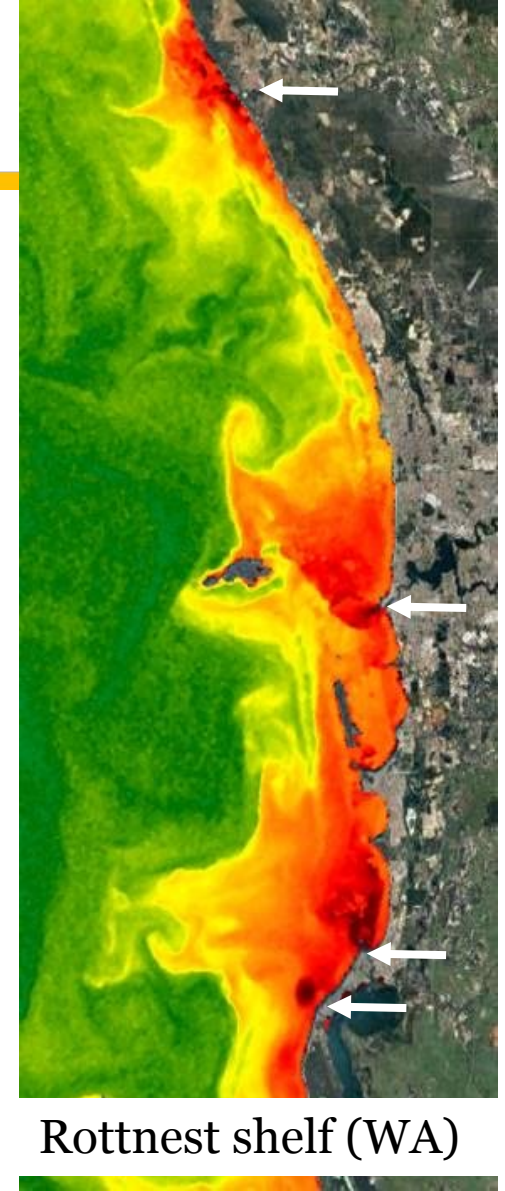
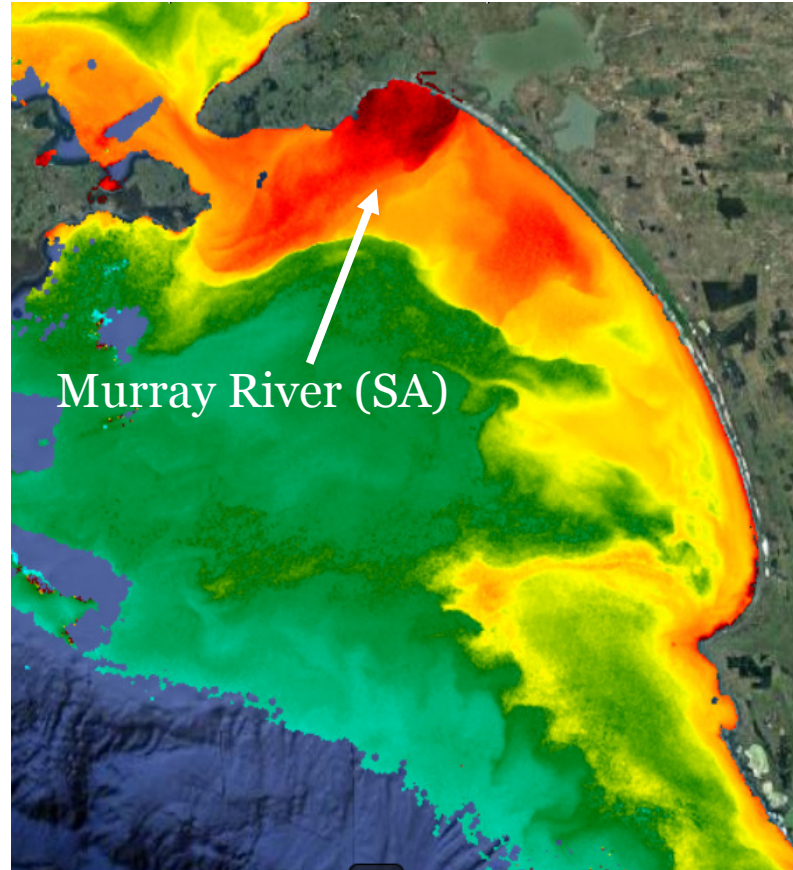
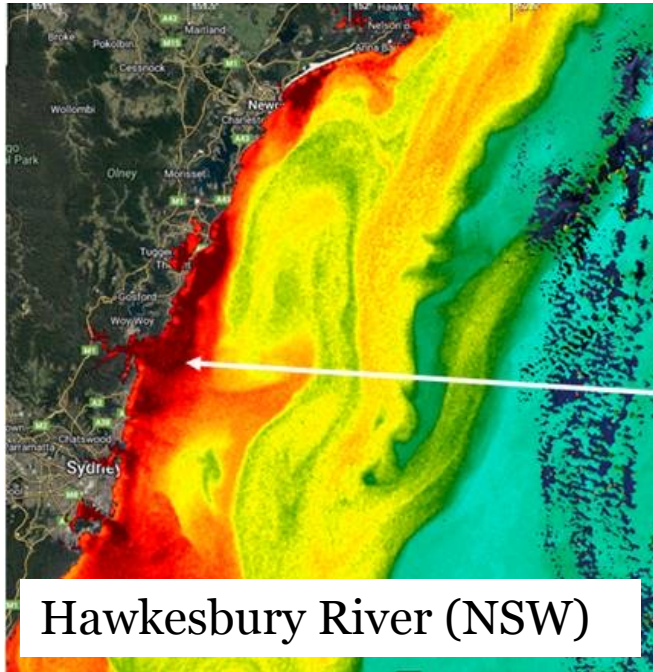
# Exceptional rainfall 2021-23

- In 2021, Perth region recorded a total rainfall of 892 mm, more than 150 mm above the annual average. **It was the second-wettest July on record.**
- The Sydney region received **highest ever daily rainfall at some stations** on 7-8 April 2022 resulting in large freshwater flows into the ocean
- The 2022-23, River Murray flood event occurred between November 2022 and February 2023. **This event was the largest since 1956**, and the third highest flood ever recorded in South Australia

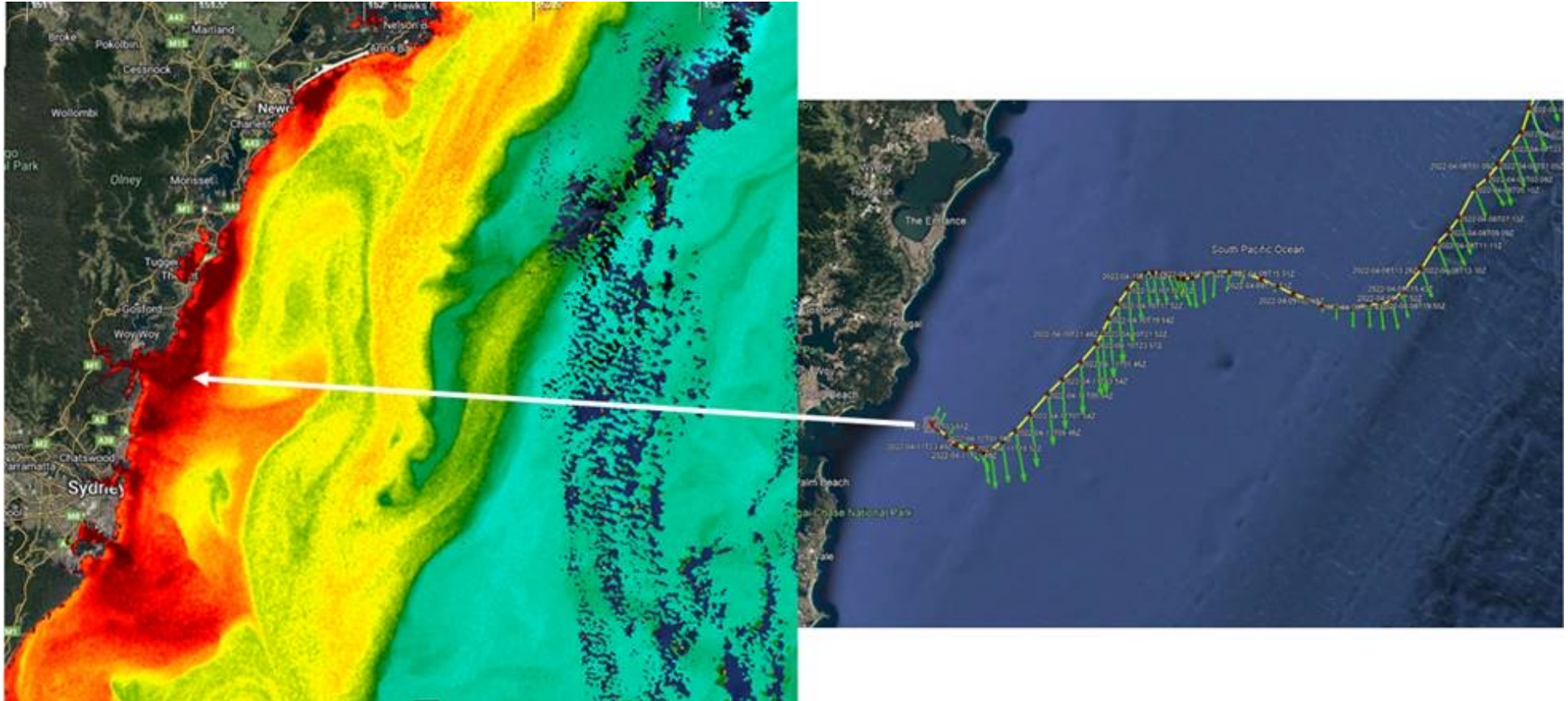




# River outflows



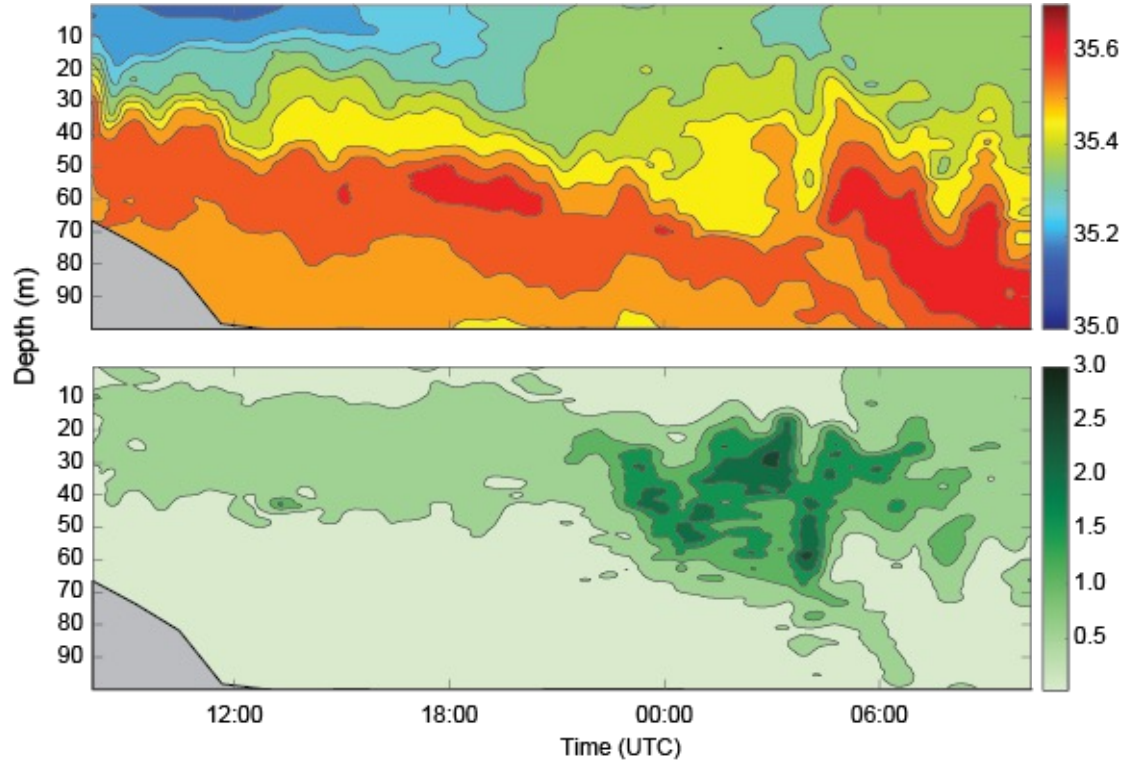
# River outflows: Hawkesbury River



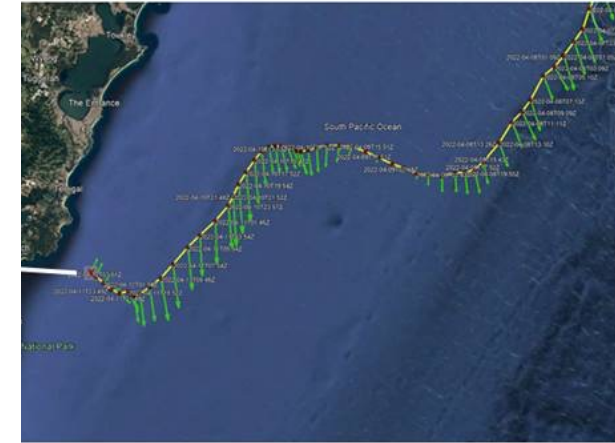


# River outflows: Hawkesbury River

Salinity



Chlorophyll





# River outflows: Murray

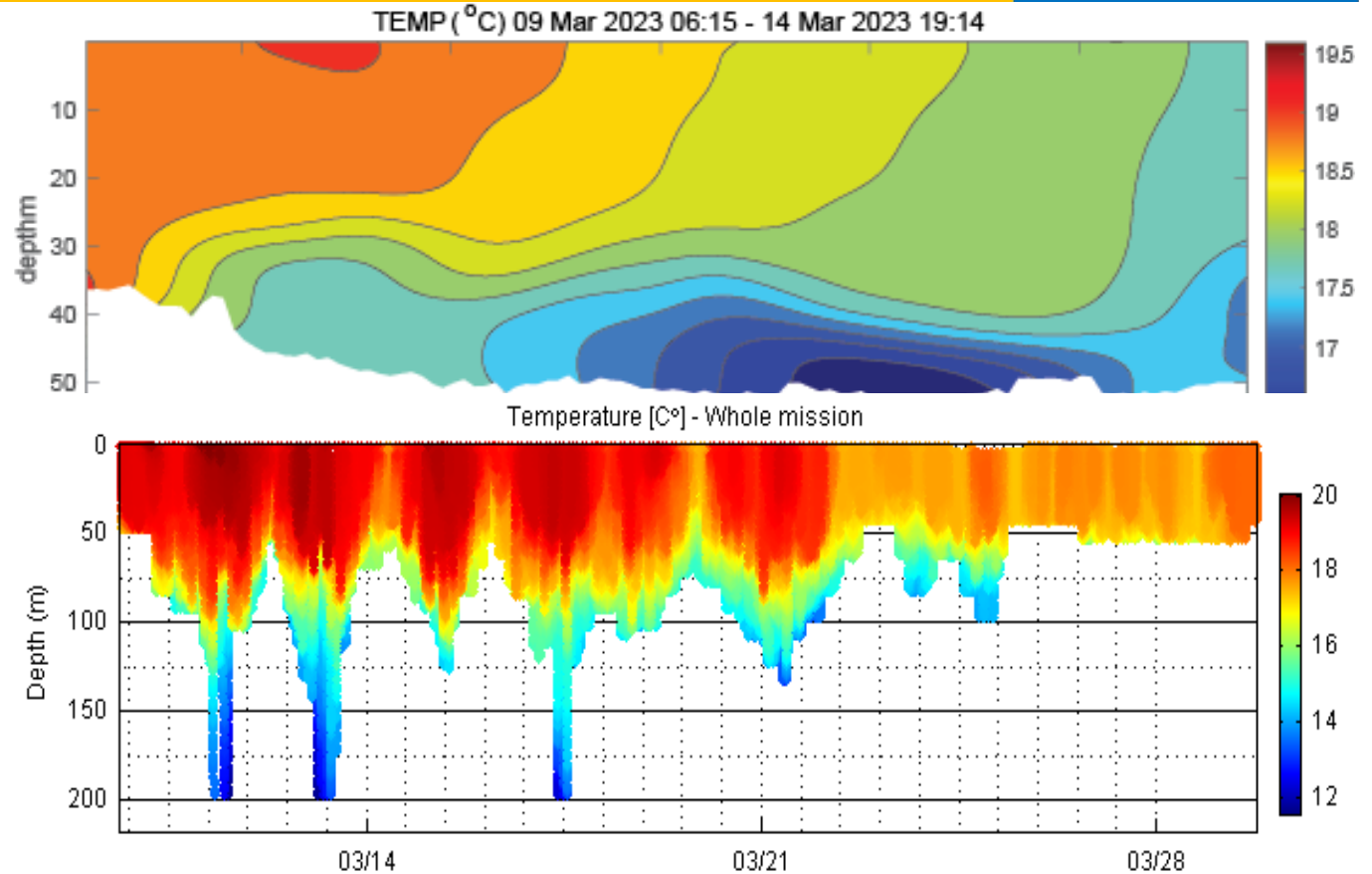
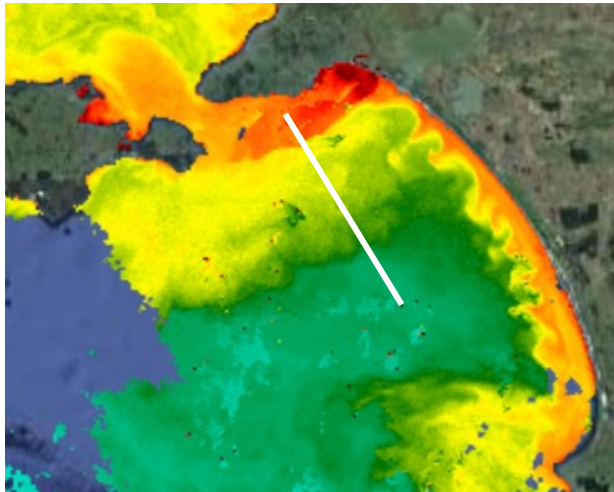
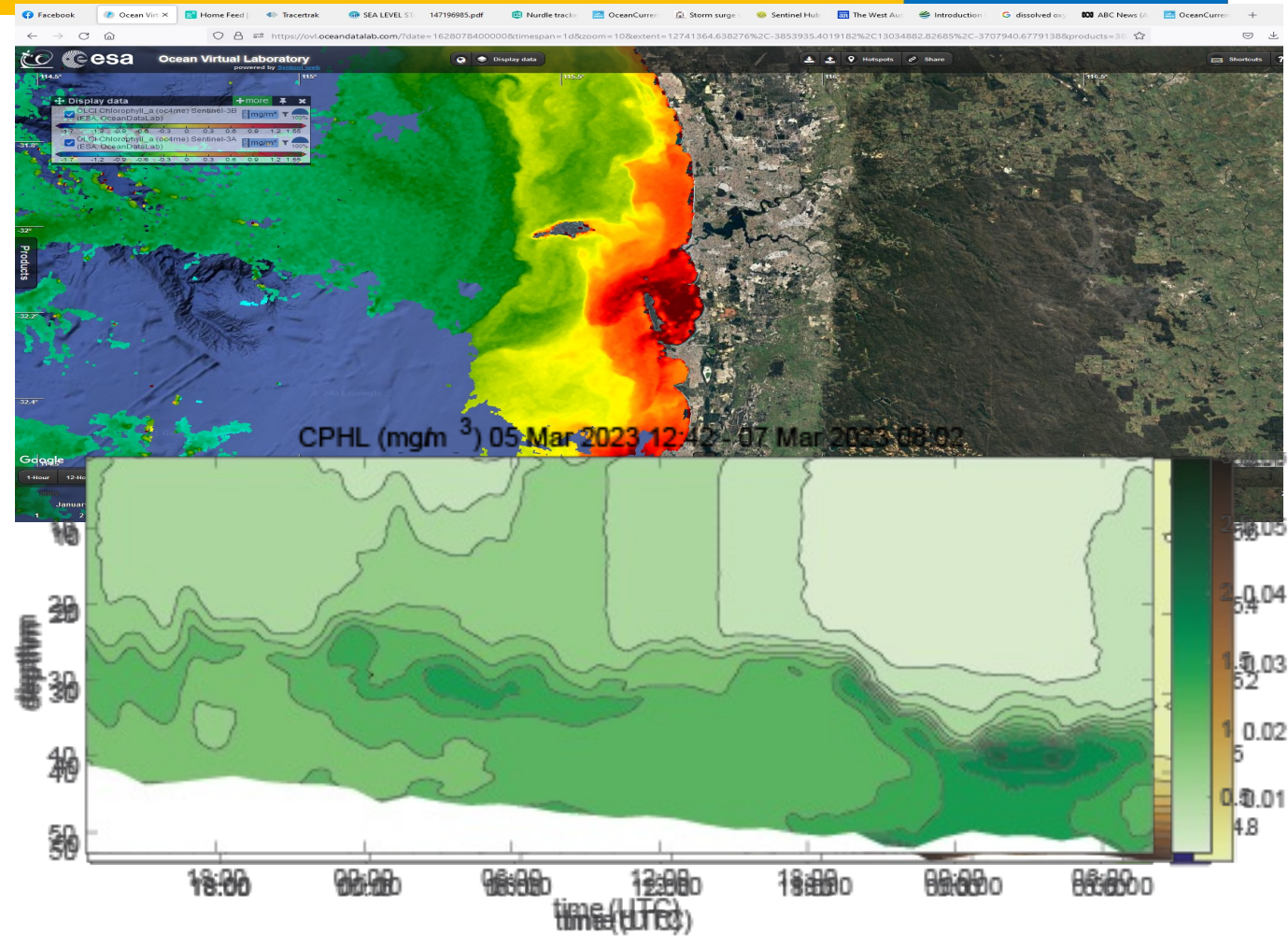
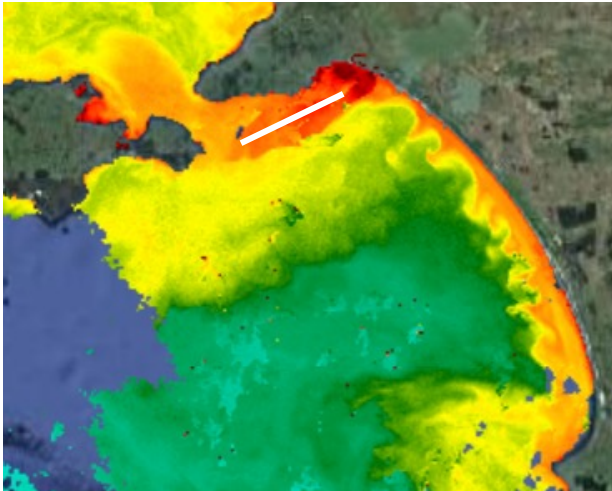


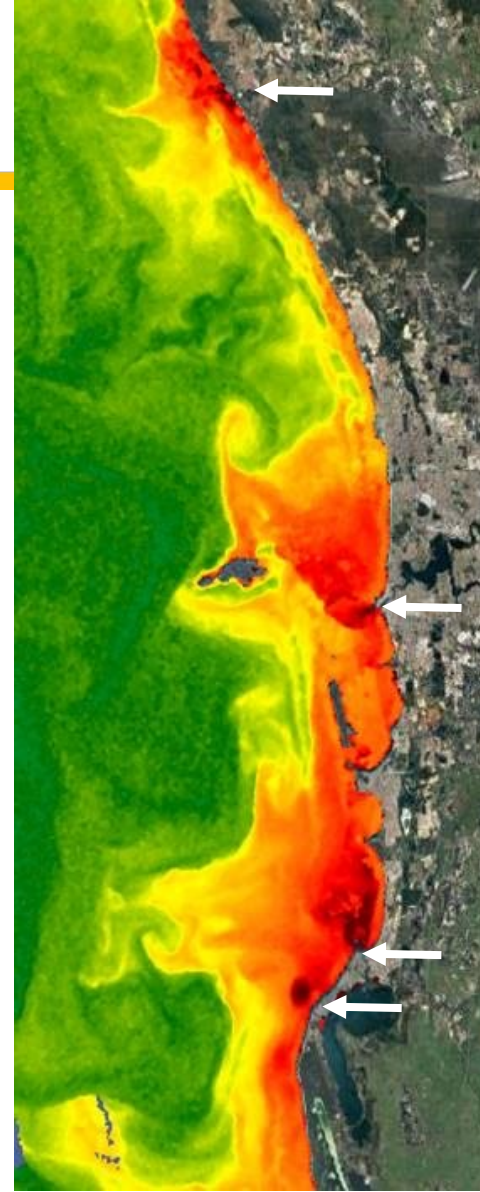
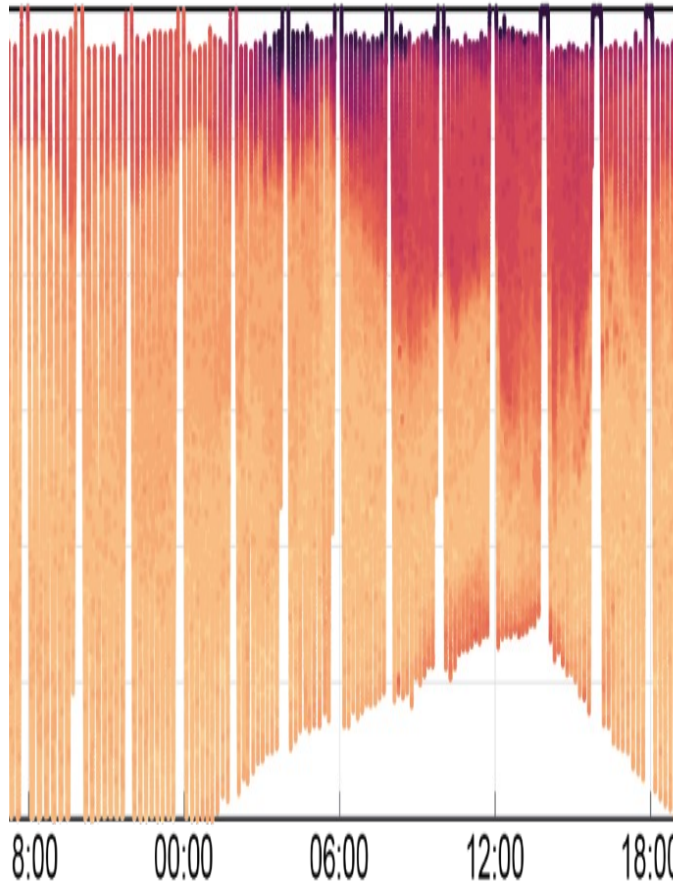
Figure created at 29-Mar-2021 19:50:36Z

# River outflows: Murray

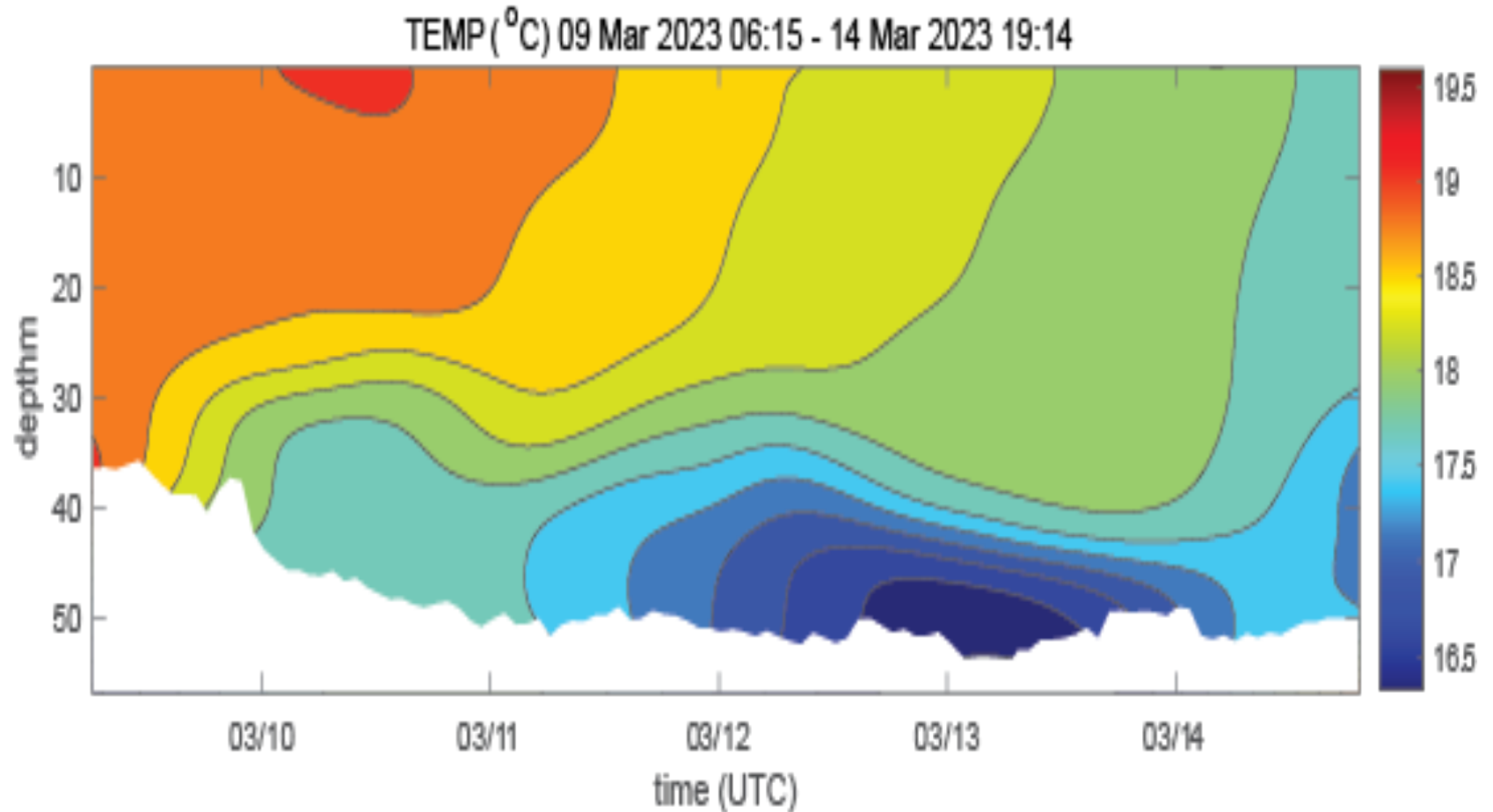




# River outflows: Rottnest CS

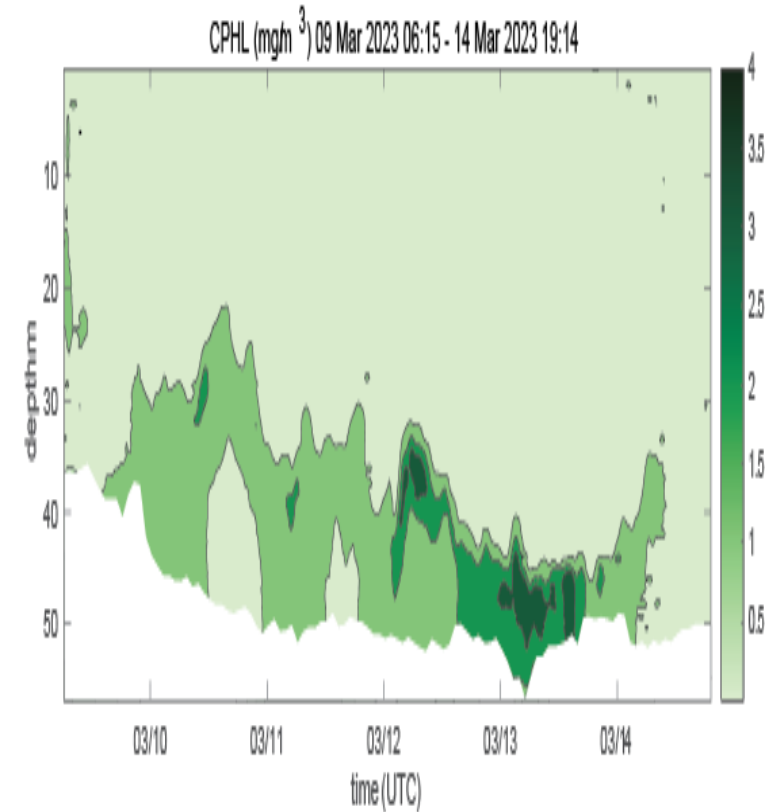
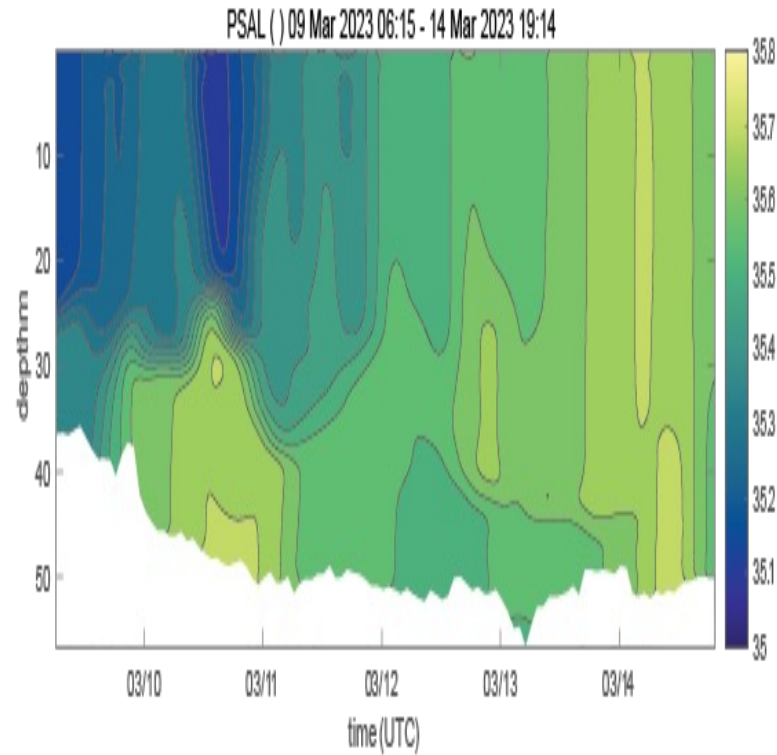


# Rottnest shelf

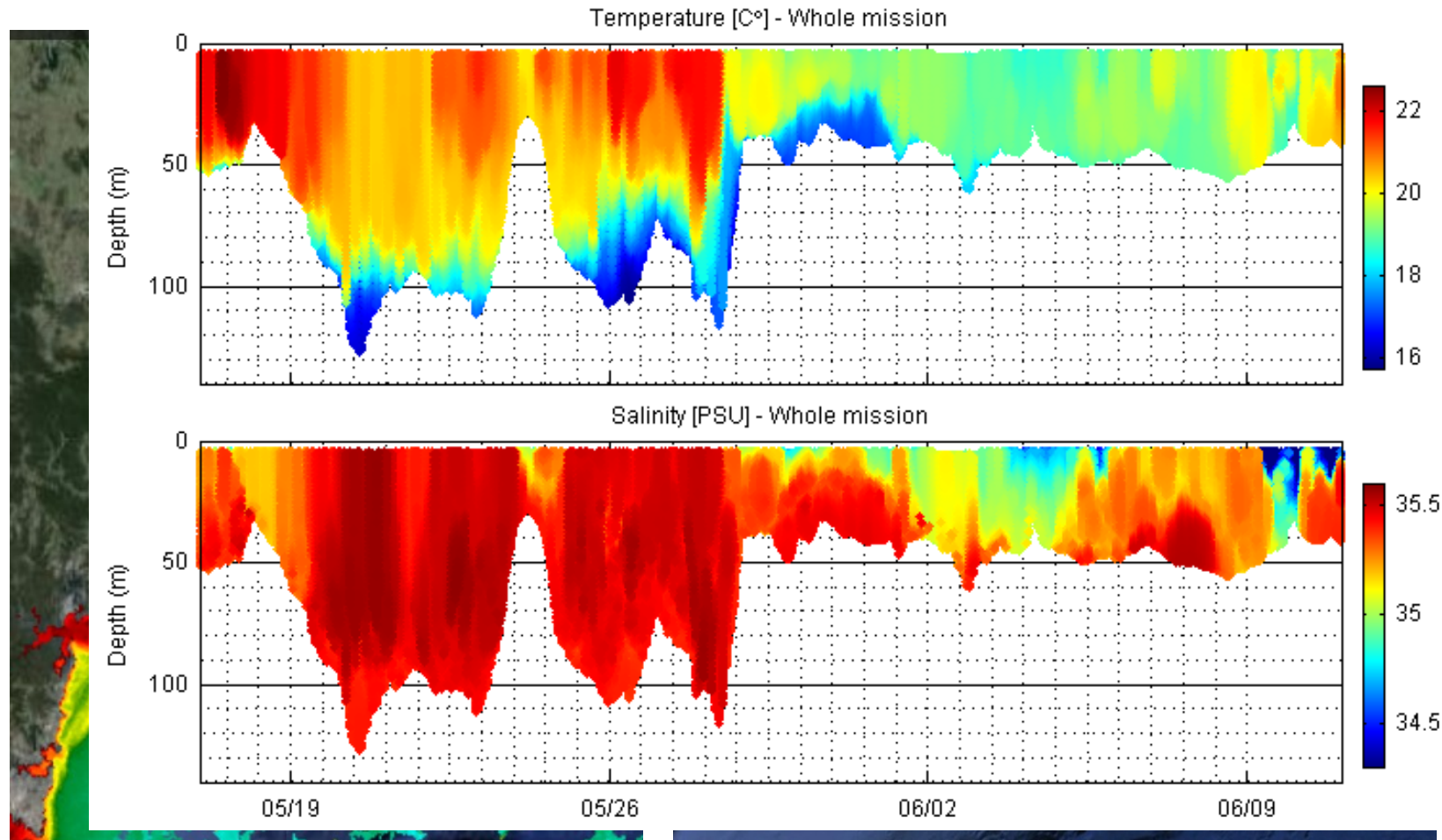




# Rottnest shelf



# Real time: NSW







Australia's Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) is enabled by the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). It is operated by a consortium of institutions as an unincorporated joint venture, with the University of Tasmania as Lead Agent. [www.imos.org.au](http://www.imos.org.au)

#### PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS



SIMS is a partnership involving four universities.

#### ASSOCIATE PARTICIPANTS

