



# OPERATIONAL OCEAN OBSERVING FOR OFFSHORE CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE

The value of legacy data and  
potential of new observing  
platforms

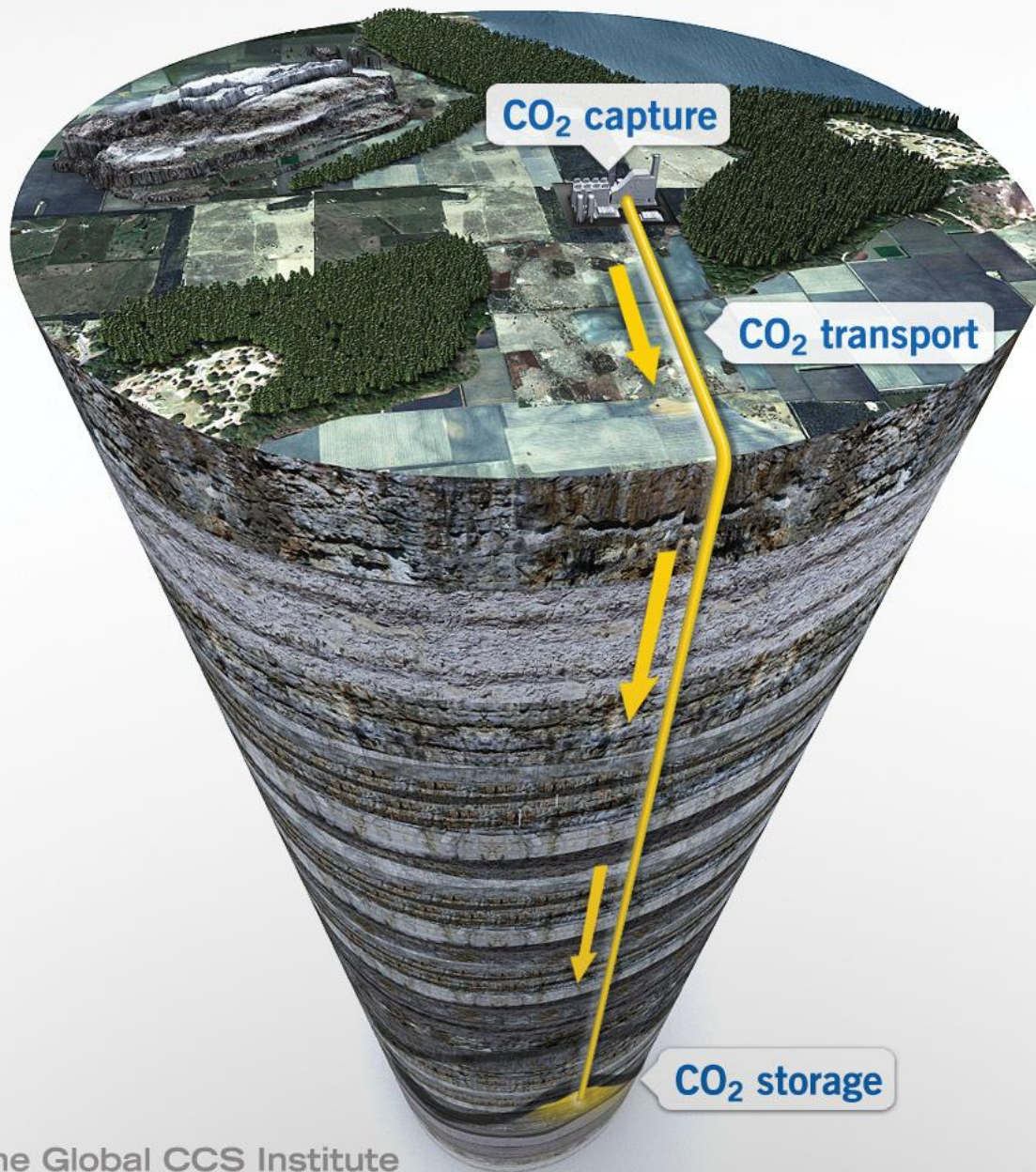
OCEANS & ATMOSPHERE  
[www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au)



Nick Hardman-Mountford, Charles Jenkins, Jim Greenwood,  
Bronte Tilbrook, Rudy Kloser, Phil de Boer & Andreas Marouchos



# THE CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE PROCESS



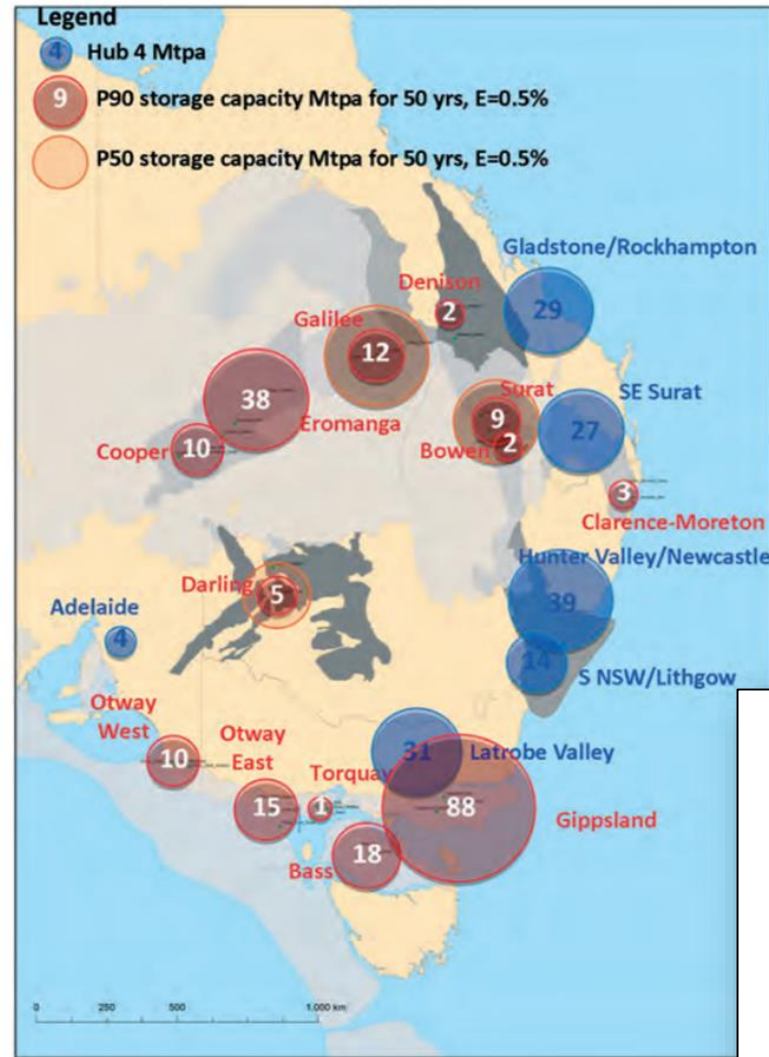
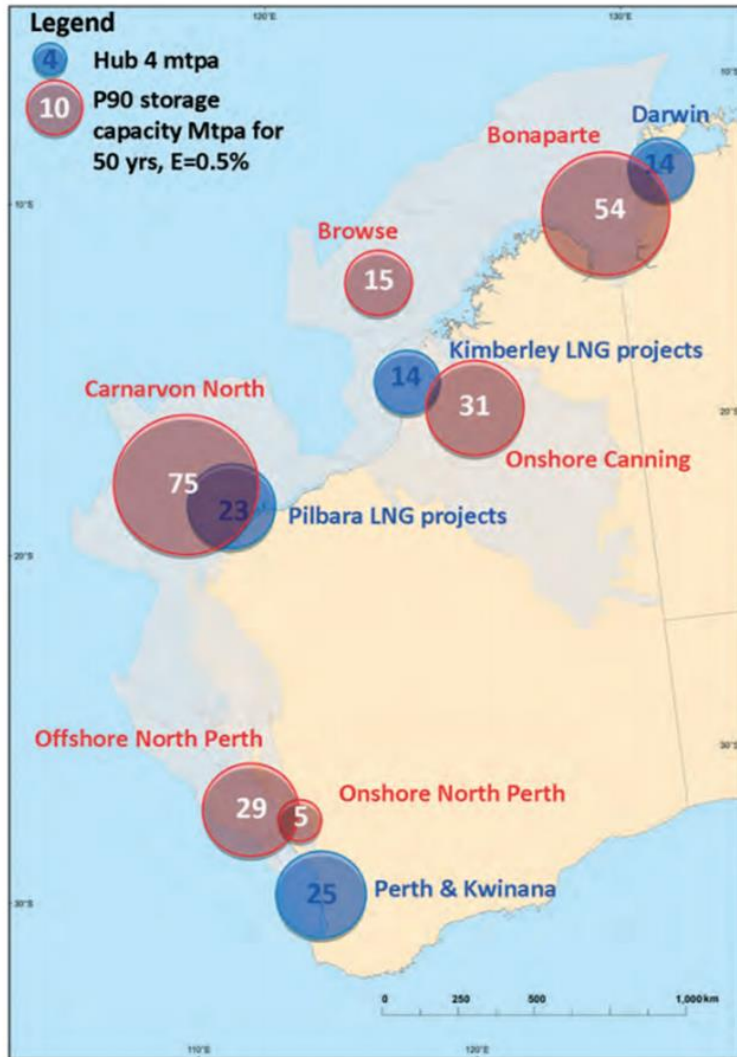
# Key approved CCS projects 2016

Figure 1 Key CCS project developments and milestones





# Australian hub emissions and GHG storage capacity



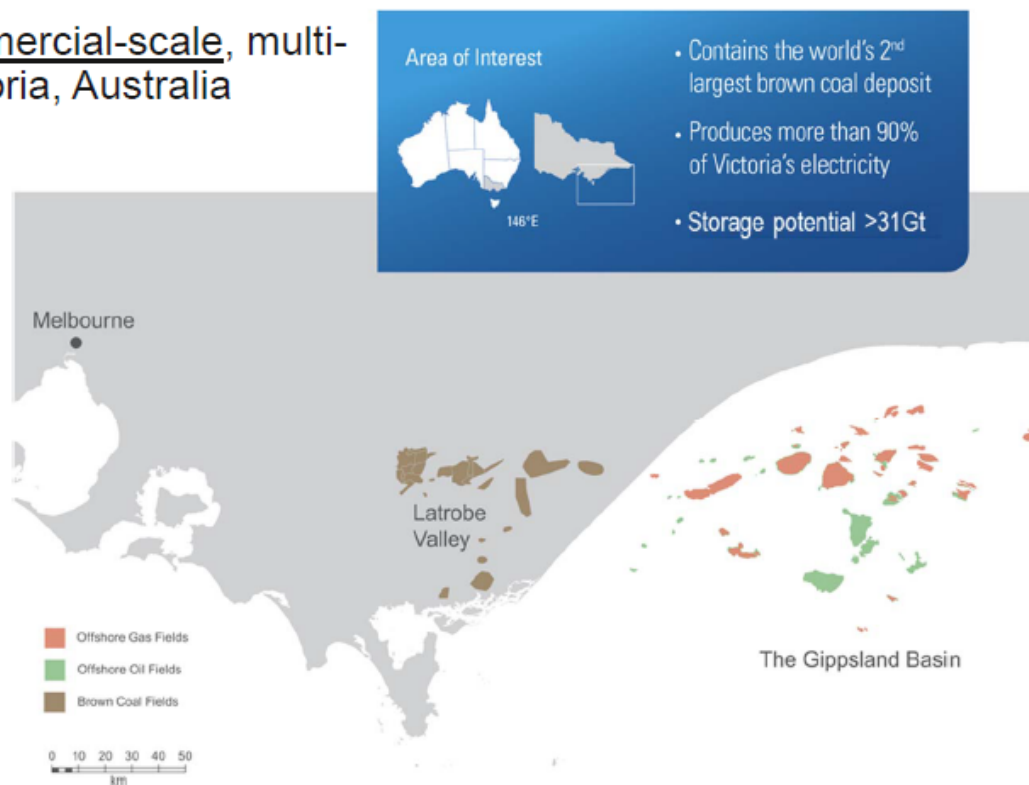
NATIONAL CARBON MAPPING  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN  
- AUSTRALIA

FULL REPORT

CARBON STORAGE TASKFORCE  
SEPTEMBER 2020

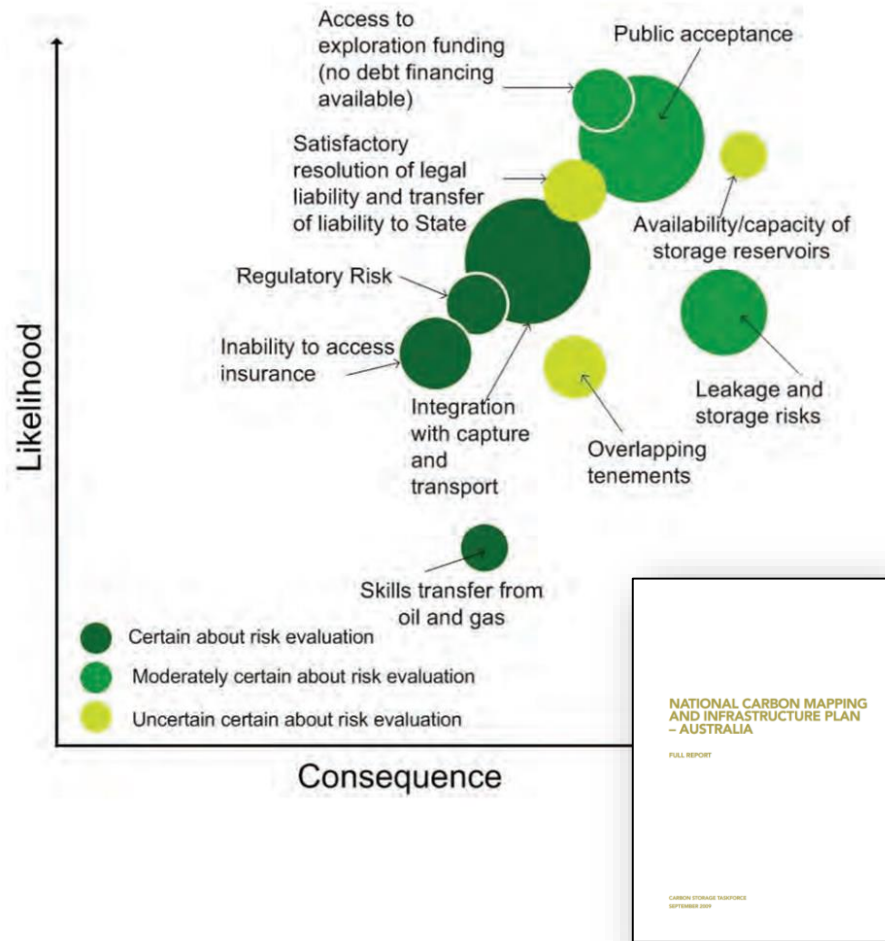
# THE CARBONNET PROJECT

- Investigating the feasibility for a commercial-scale, multi-user CCS network in Gippsland, Victoria, Australia
- Jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments to 2020
- Significant research investment to support CarbonNet eg ANLEC R&D
- CO2CRC is CarbonNet's lead research organisation eg Commonwealth EIF assets
- Knowledge sharing via GCCSI
- Working collaboratively with industry to secure customers and investors in a **CCS service**



# The operational oceanography challenge

Figure 39: Risk Analysis – Storage

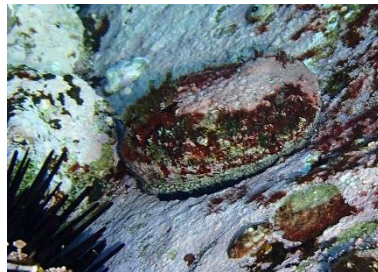


- Leakage risk is minimised through good planning and reservoir characterisation
  - Primary methods for containment and conformance monitoring are not oceanographic but geological (downwell, 4D seismic, etc.)
  - **But over the lifetime of storage there will almost certainly be significant environmental change from a range of pressures (e.g. climate change, coastal development, etc.)**
- ➔ Assurance monitoring challenge



# Gippsland: subsea environment

- Marine parks and reserves
- High biodiversity and endemism
- Charismatic species: whales, sea lions, sharks
- Valuable commercial fisheries
- Recreational value, e.g. fishing
- Oil and gas activity



# Assurance monitoring: research challenge

**GOAL: Establishing robust criteria, thresholds and approaches for assurance monitoring of CCS operations in shallow-coastal seas**

## 1. Signal-to-Noise

Can we separate the signature of a CO<sub>2</sub> release (the “signal”) from similar naturally occurring signals in the marine environment (the environmental “noise”)?



## 2. Defining environmental impact

Can we determine the level of CO<sub>2</sub> release that would be associated with environmental impact at a range of scales?



## 3. Attributing environmental impact

Can we distinguish changes resulting from other drivers and pressures in multiple-use zones from the activities of CCS operations



# Understanding CO<sub>2</sub> variability in Bass Strait



- Collaboration: CSIRO (Aus) & NIES (Japan)
- 6 weekly transects through Bass Strait
- Time series: 2006 - Date
- Measures: Temp, Sal,  $p\text{CO}_2$ , DIC, TA

Atmospheric monitoring lab

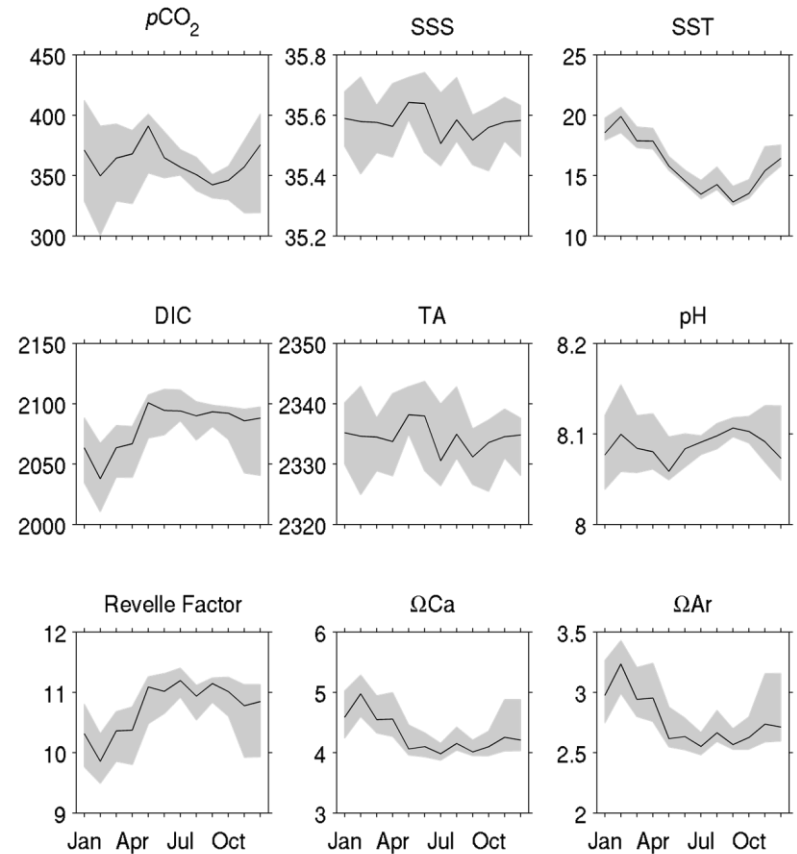
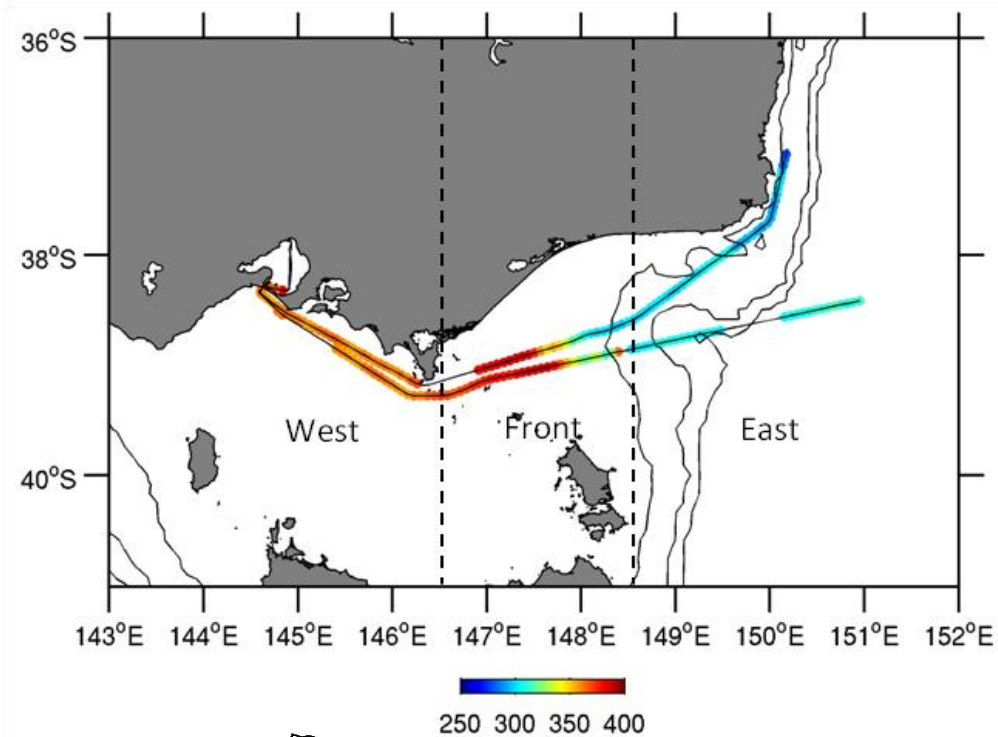


Seawater monitoring lab



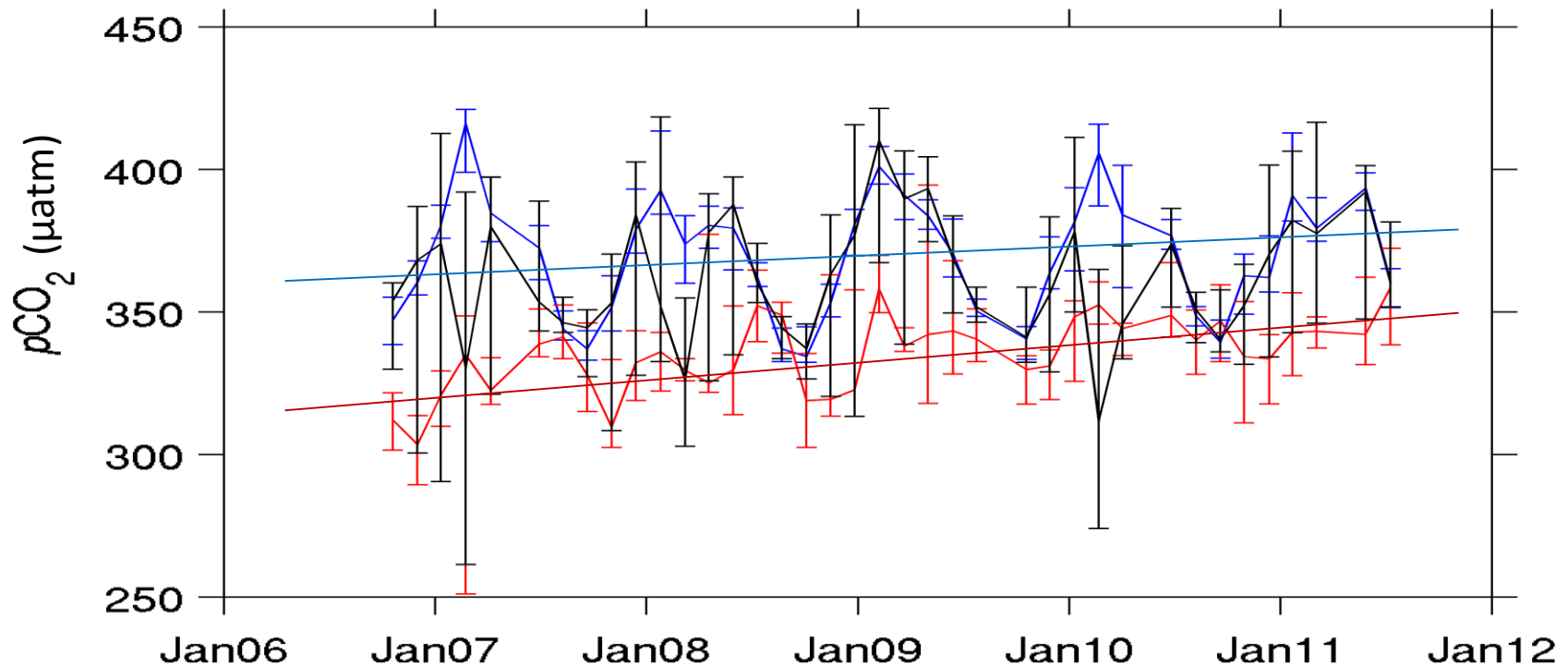
# Bass Strait: climatology of CO<sub>2</sub> system and hydrology

Average along-track  $p\text{CO}_2$  distribution





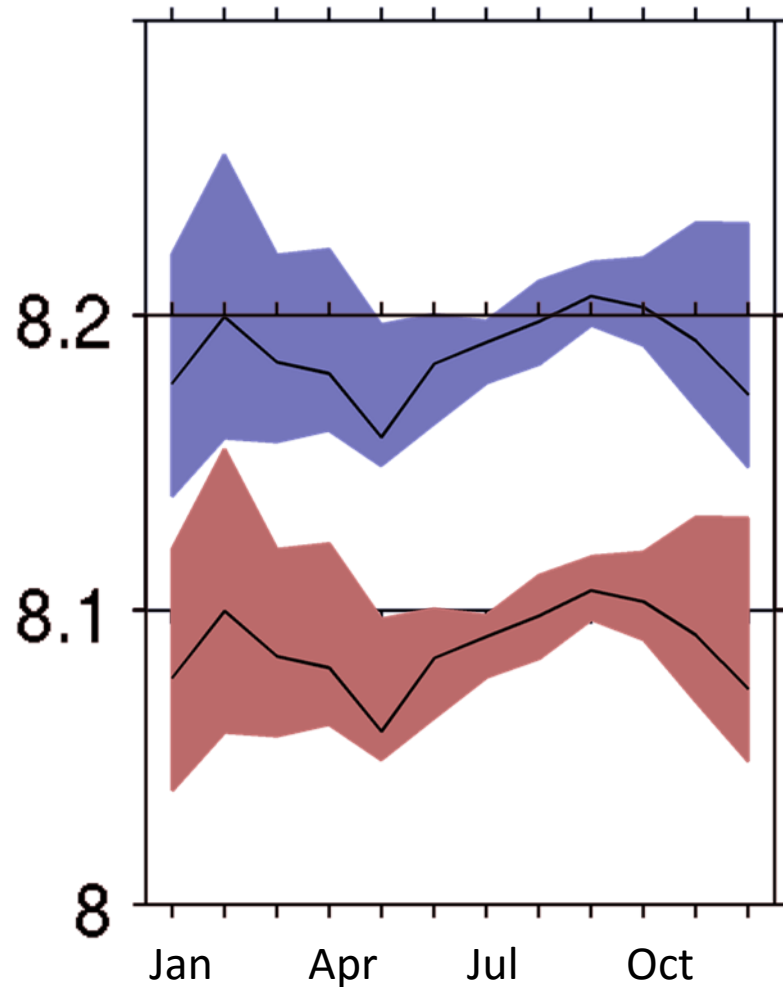
# Spatially-averaged $p\text{CO}_2$ timeseries



BSW  $\sim 2 \mu\text{atm/y}$   
TSSW  $\sim 6 \mu\text{atm/y}$

— West (Bass Strait)  
— East (Tasman Sea)  
— Front (mixed)

# Bass Strait already outside pre-industrial pH range

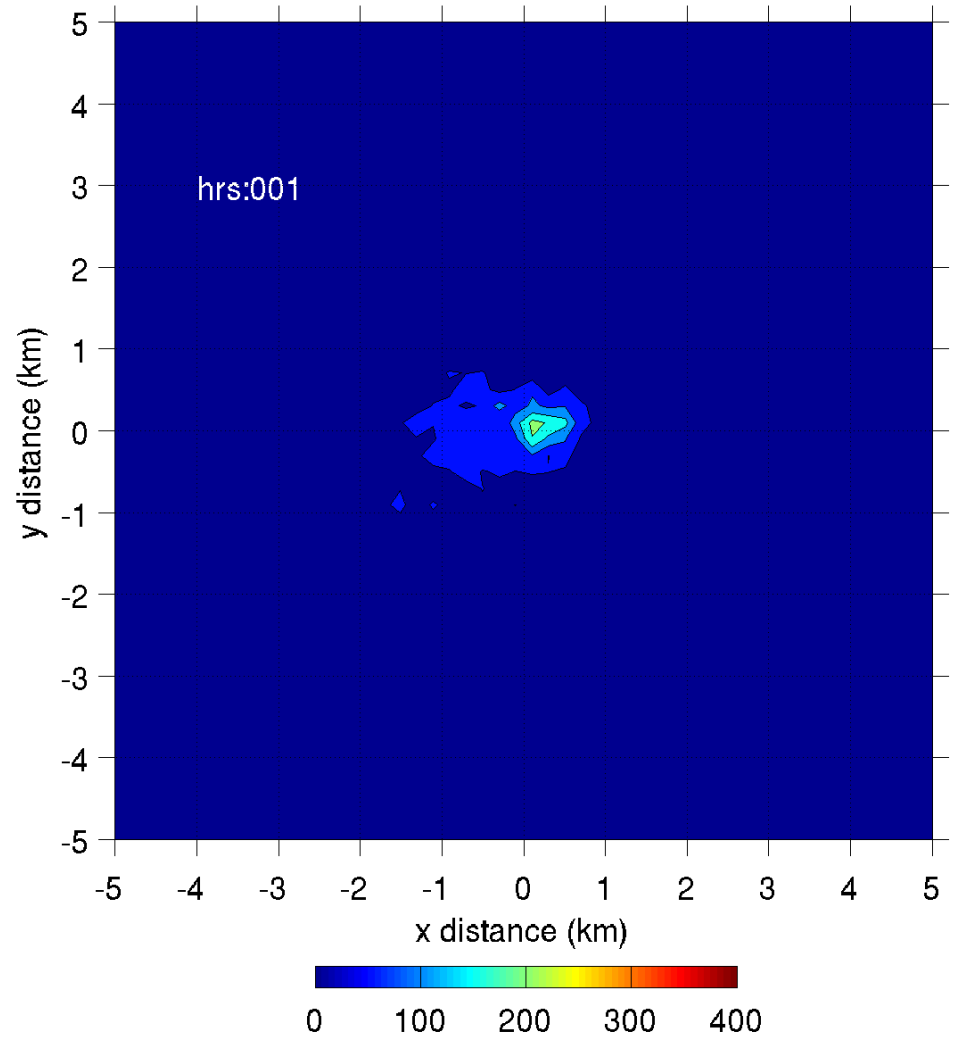
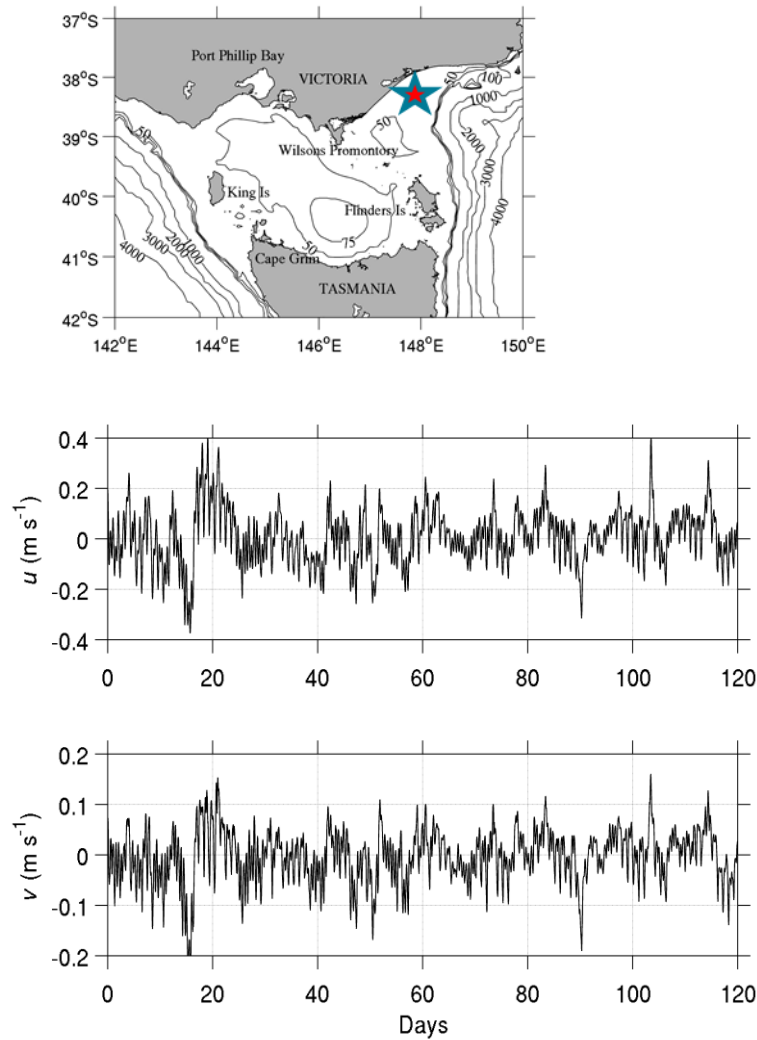


- Seasonal pH range of 0.1
  - CO<sub>2</sub> uptake consistent with global rates
  - Same range as global mean increase
- Bass Strait is likely outside pre-industrial range

2006-11  
Pre-Industrial

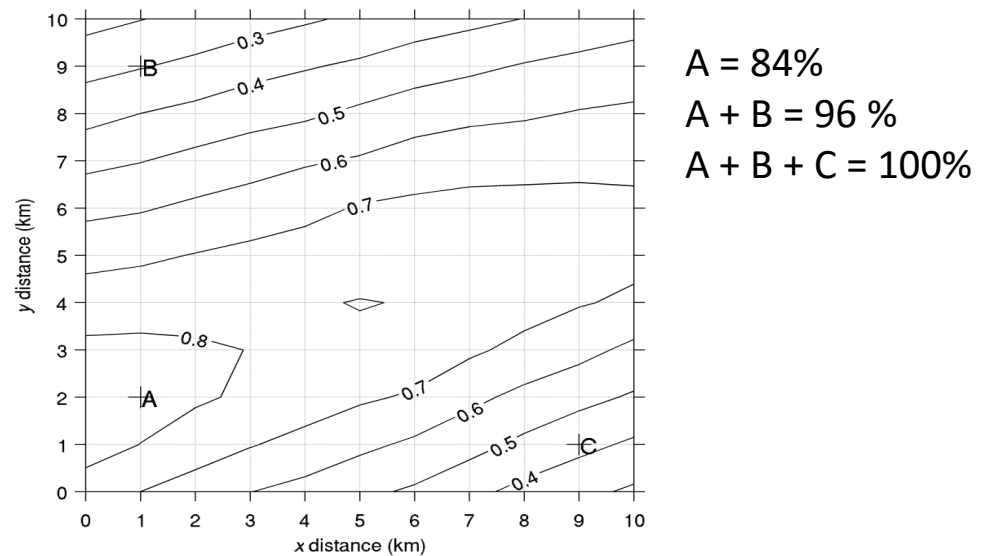
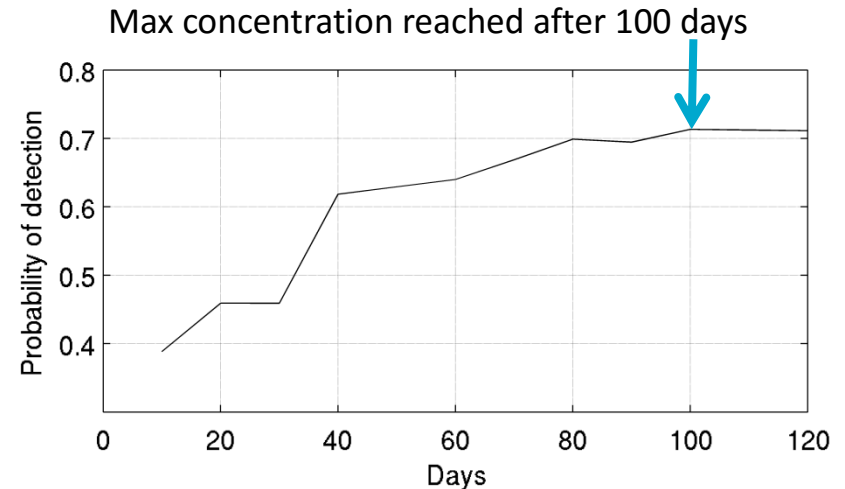
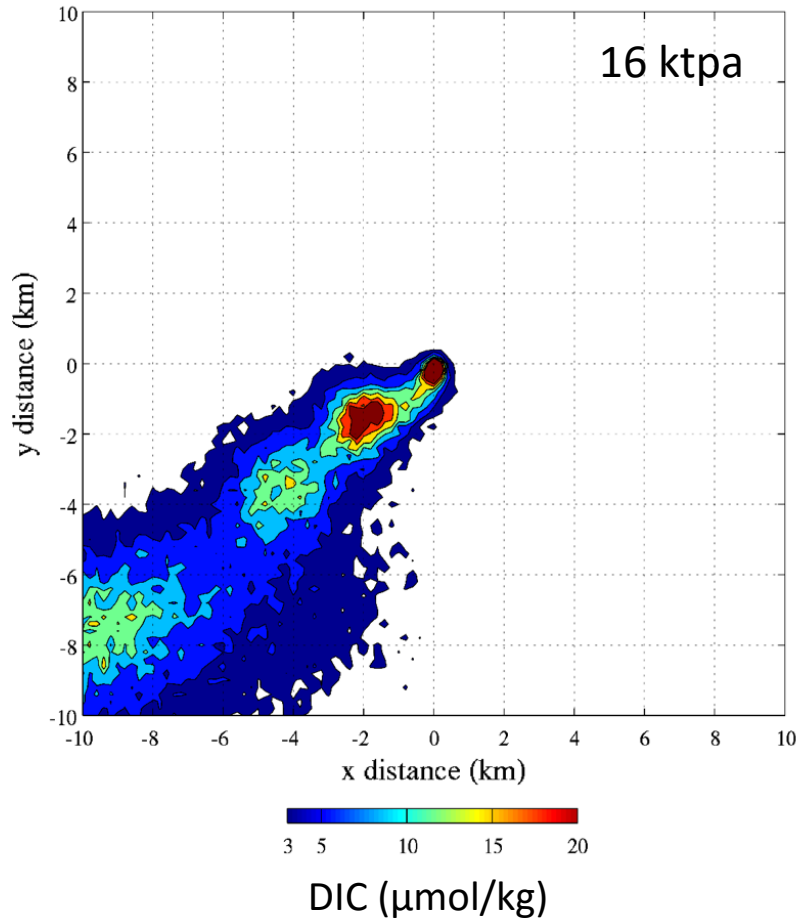


# Understanding plume dynamics



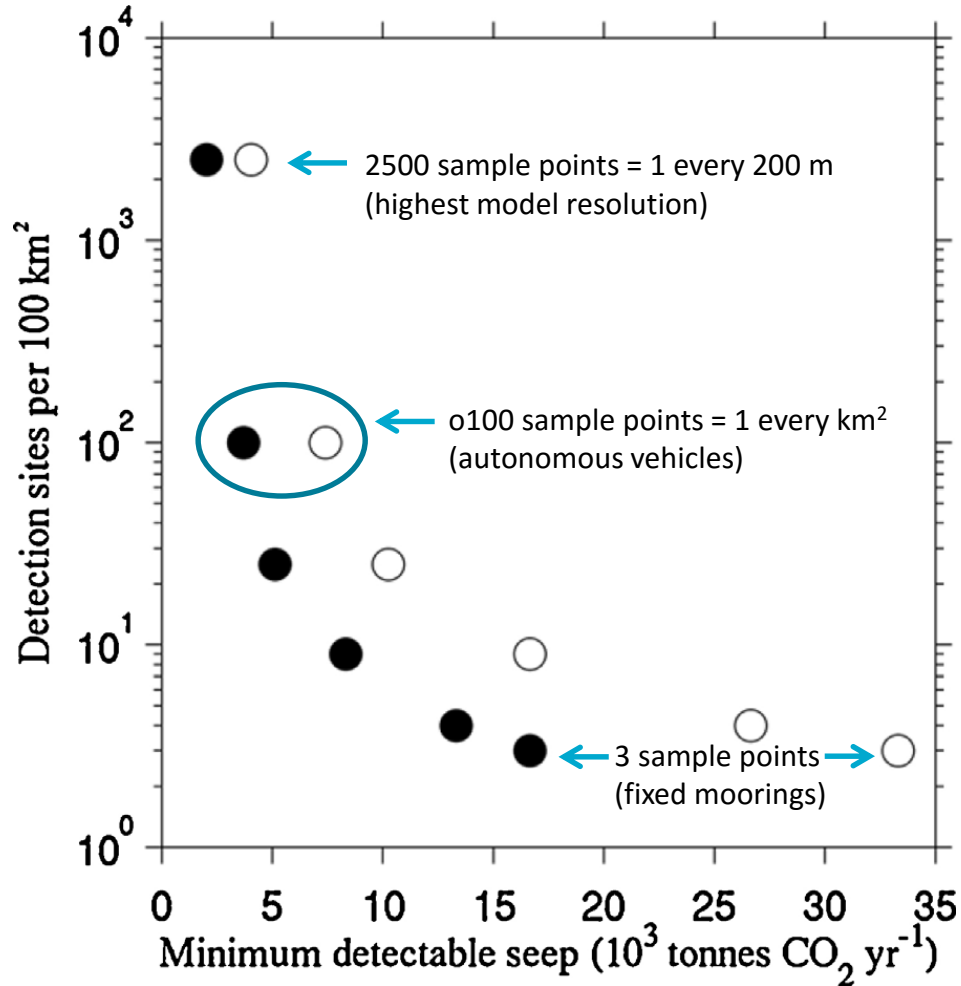
# 2D Plume modelling related to seasonal variability

## Maximum cell concentration





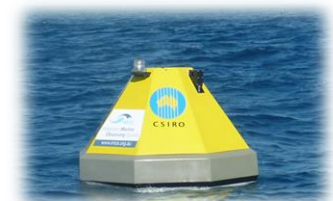
# Sampling density vs. detectable leak rate



Detection limit

● 3 μmol/kg

○ 6 μmol/kg



# Acoustic measurement capabilities

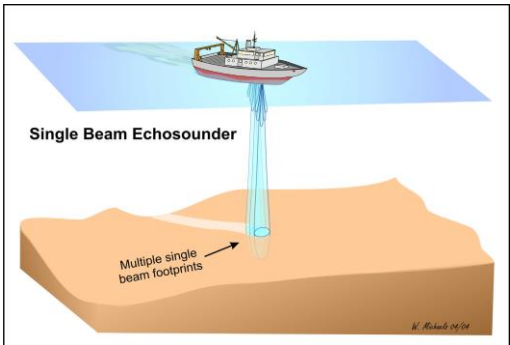
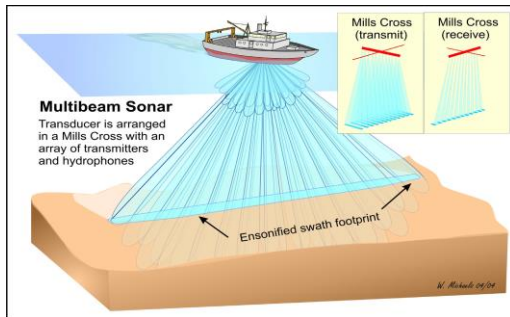
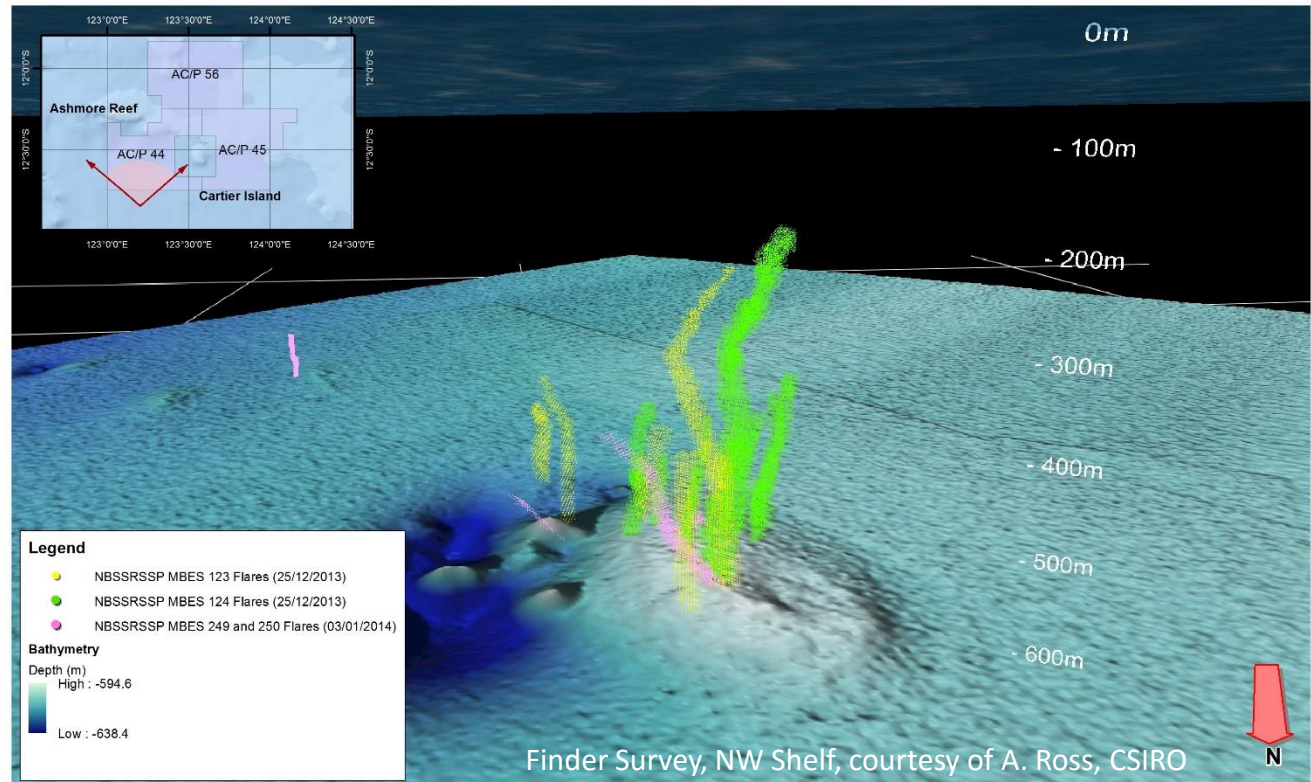


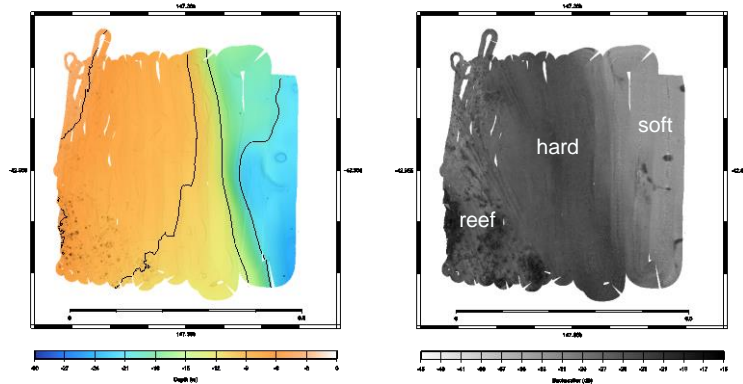
Figure 5: 3D View of the NSSB 01 (Flares 123, 124, 249 and 250)



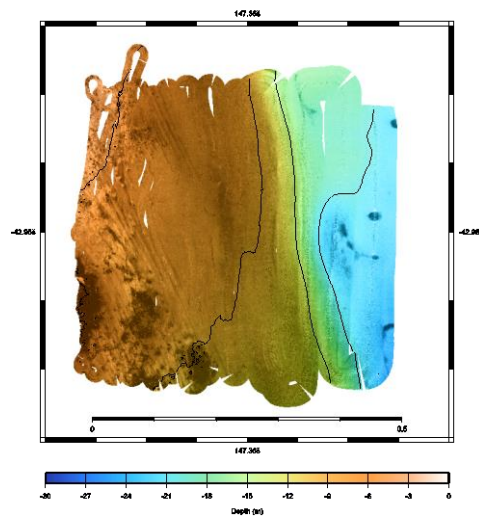
# Acoustic signals and false alarms

Bathymetry

Backscatter

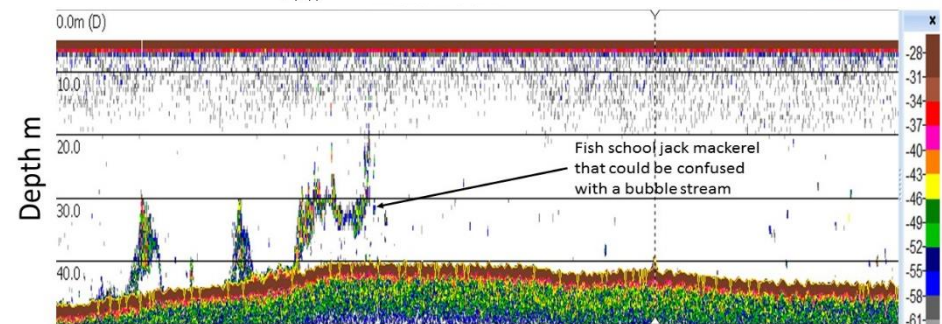
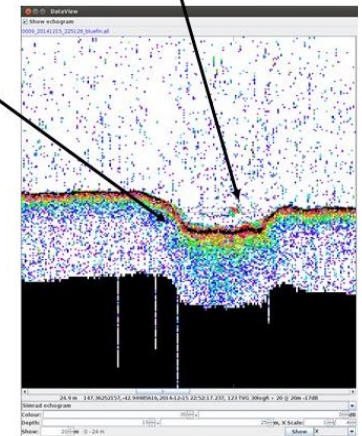
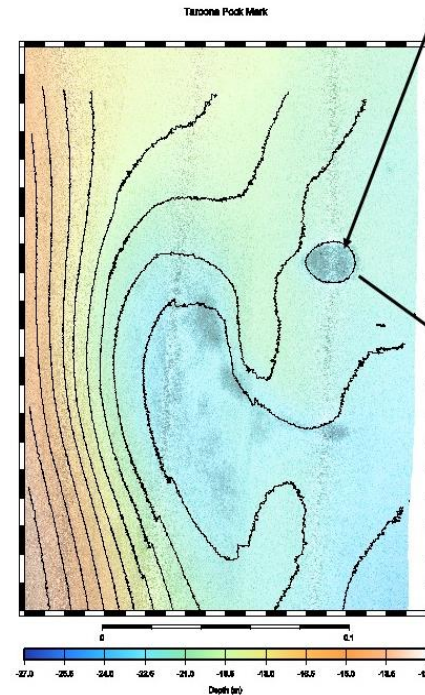


EM2040 Survey Taronea



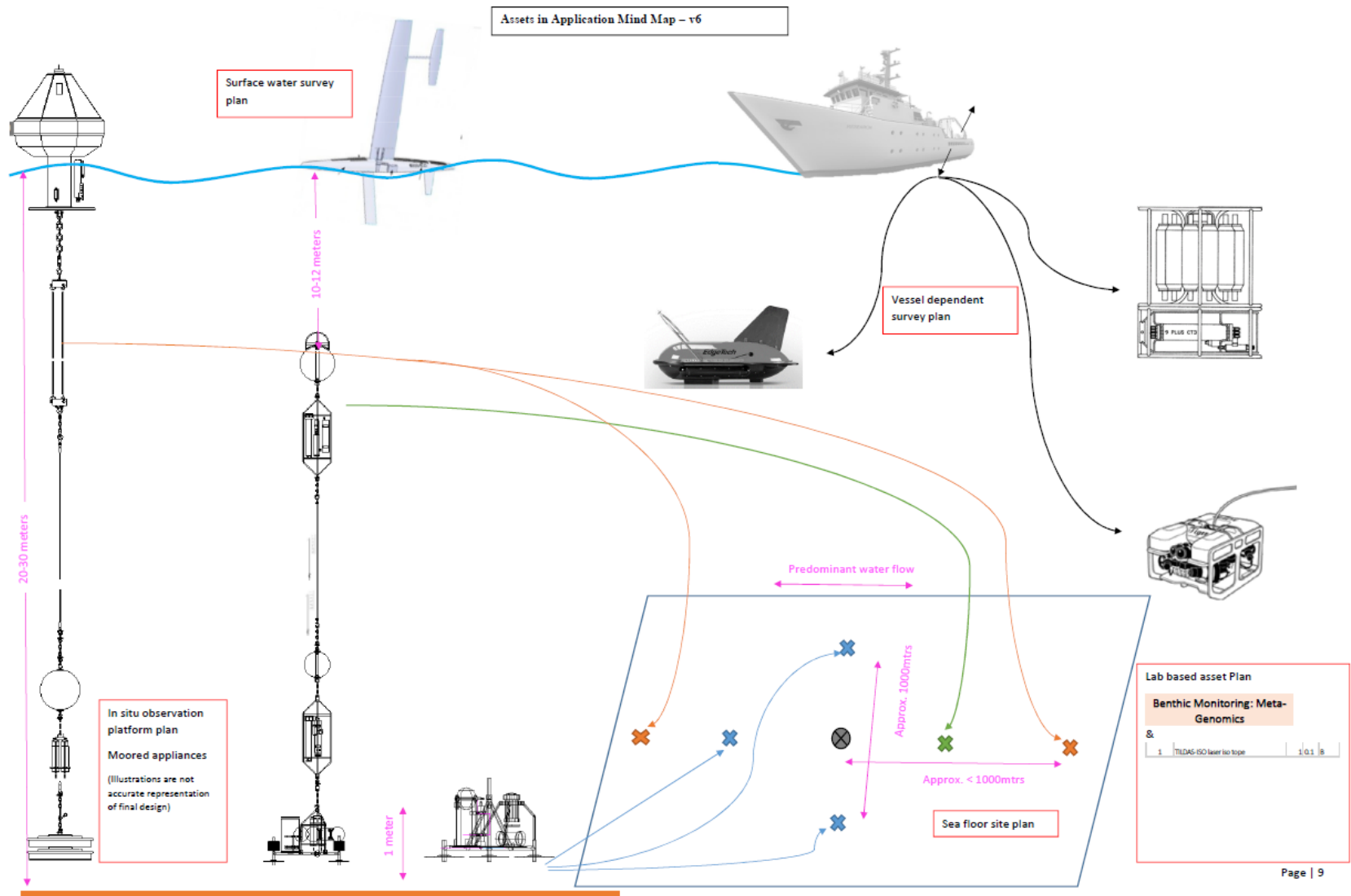
Potential site of gassy sediments in a depression

Cross section of the depression using central beam and suspected fish





# Gipsland Monitoring Network (GipNet): Marine



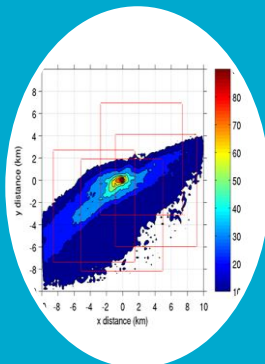


# Program of work



## Design

- 1. Experimental investigation of optimal sensor configurations within a monitoring network design



## Model

- 2. Numerical investigation of 3D plume structure using a coupled hydrodynamic-carbonate system model



## Sensors

- 3. Investigate natural variability in monitoring targets using **fixed sensor network** (moored buoys, landers)



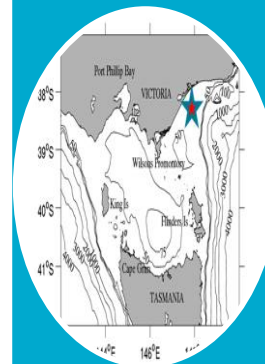
## ASV

- 4. Investigate natural variability in monitoring targets from integrating **Autonomous Surface Vehicle (ASV)** with fixed network



## Bio

- 5. Investigate natural variability in biological indicators of impact



## IEA

- 6. Integrated assessment of operating environment and monitoring solutions



# Thank you Questions?

## Acknowledgments:

CSIRO  
ANLEC R&D  
CO2CRC  
Australian Government  
CarbonNet  
ACCSP  
NIES (Japan)  
TransFuture5 crew



Australian Government  
Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science



Australian Government  
Department of Education and Training



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment and Energy



Economic Development,  
Jobs, Transport  
and Resources



OCEANS & ATMOSPHERE  
[www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au)

[nick.hardman-mountford@csiro.au](mailto:nick.hardman-mountford@csiro.au)

