



Fishing Vessels as Ships of Opportunity (FishSOOP)
*Democratizing Coastal Ocean Observing Through
Widespread, Low-Cost,
(Robust, Research Quality, Real-Time, Reciprocal)
Ocean Data Collection*



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Moninya Roughan, Ian Knuckey, Veronique Lago, Stella Caon, Matt Irwin, Bryce Nurnaitis

mroughan@unsw.edu.au



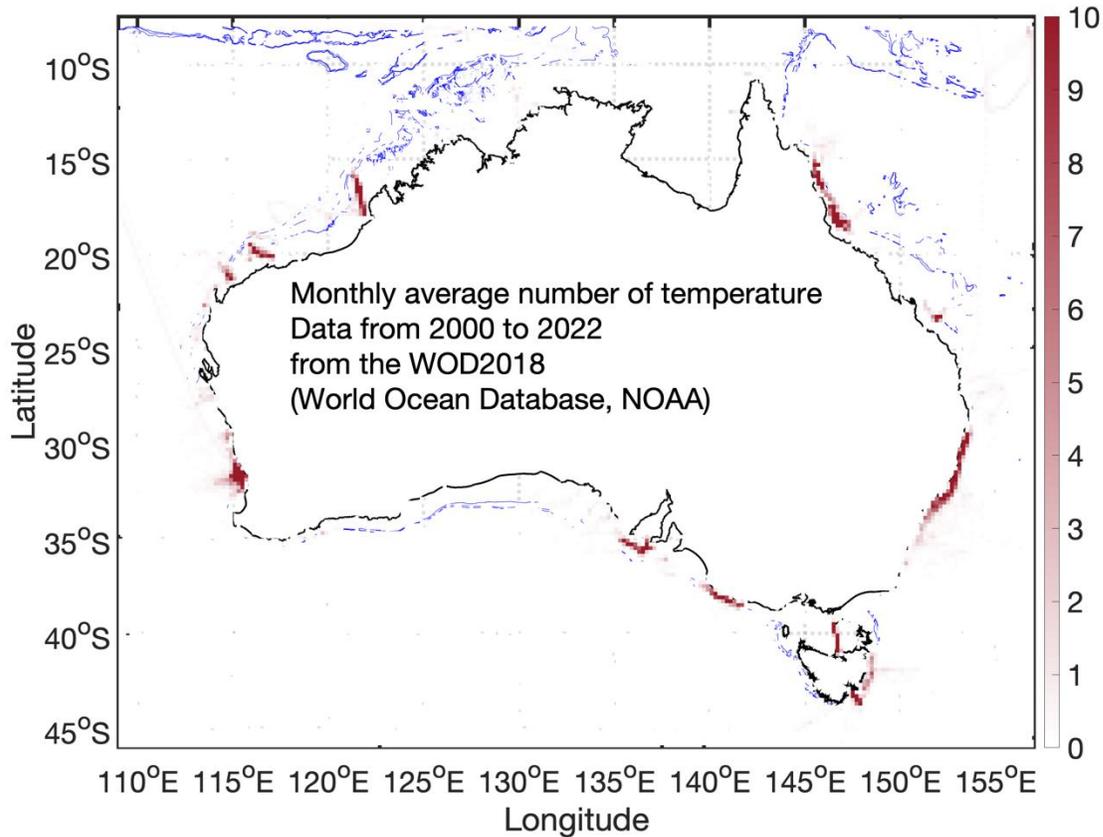
UNSW
SYDNEY



Integrated Marine
Observing System



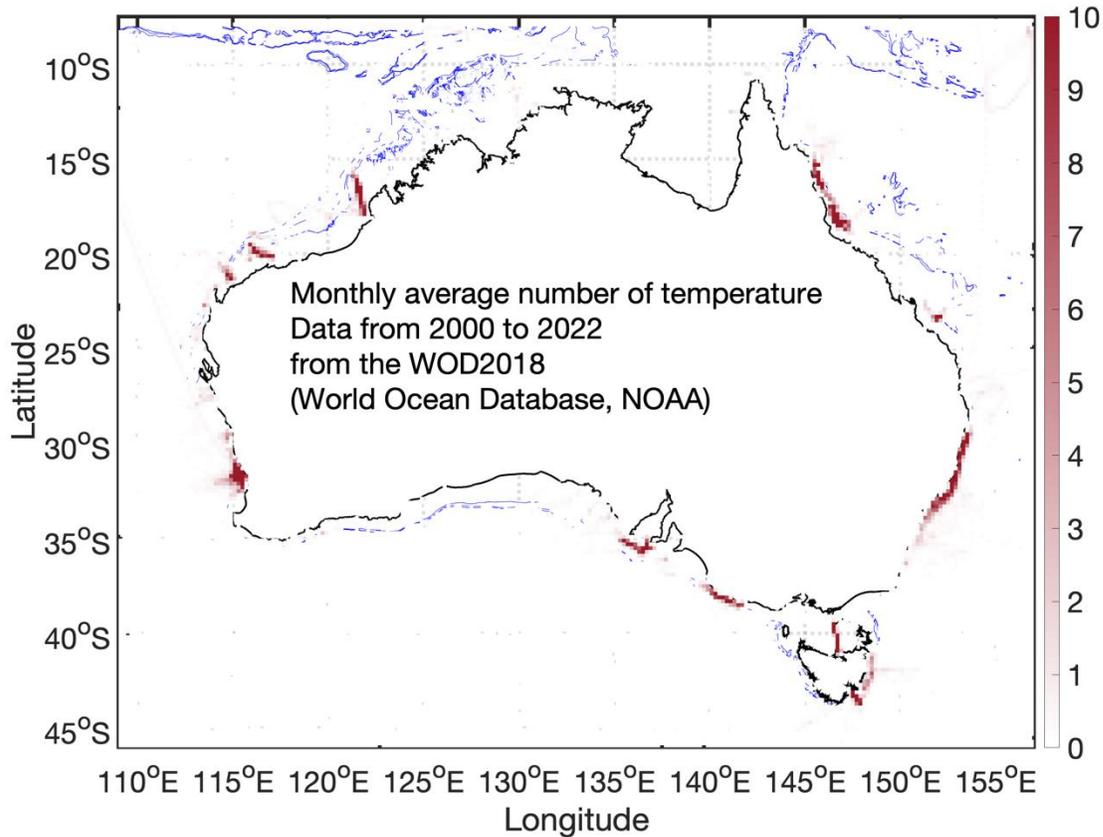
Our Marine estate is largely under sampled



(even with the huge GOOS/ IMOS effort)

- Shelf regions are under observed (below the surface), and regions of high variability.
- Shelf regions are the focal point of our blue economy
- Models are only as good as the data used to validate them.
 - Patchy observations → poor quality models.
- Most sub-surface data (e.g. moorings) are not real time.

Our Marine estate is largely under sampled

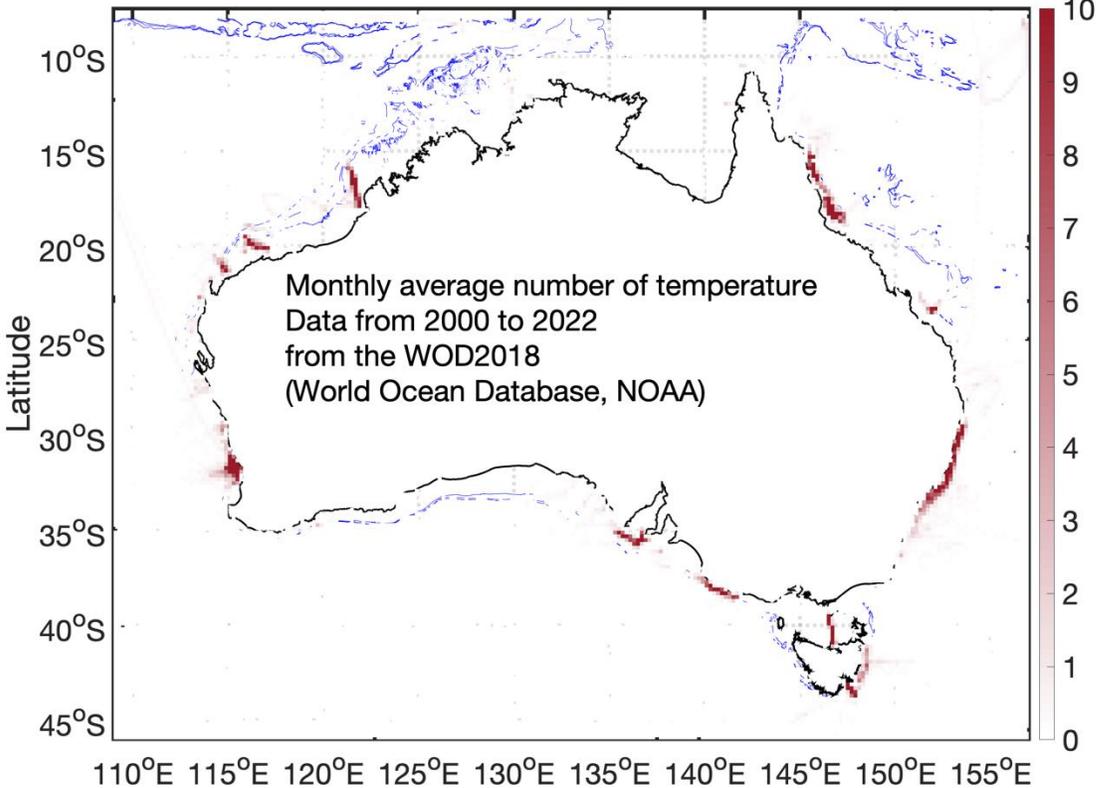


(even with the huge GOOS/ IMOS effort)

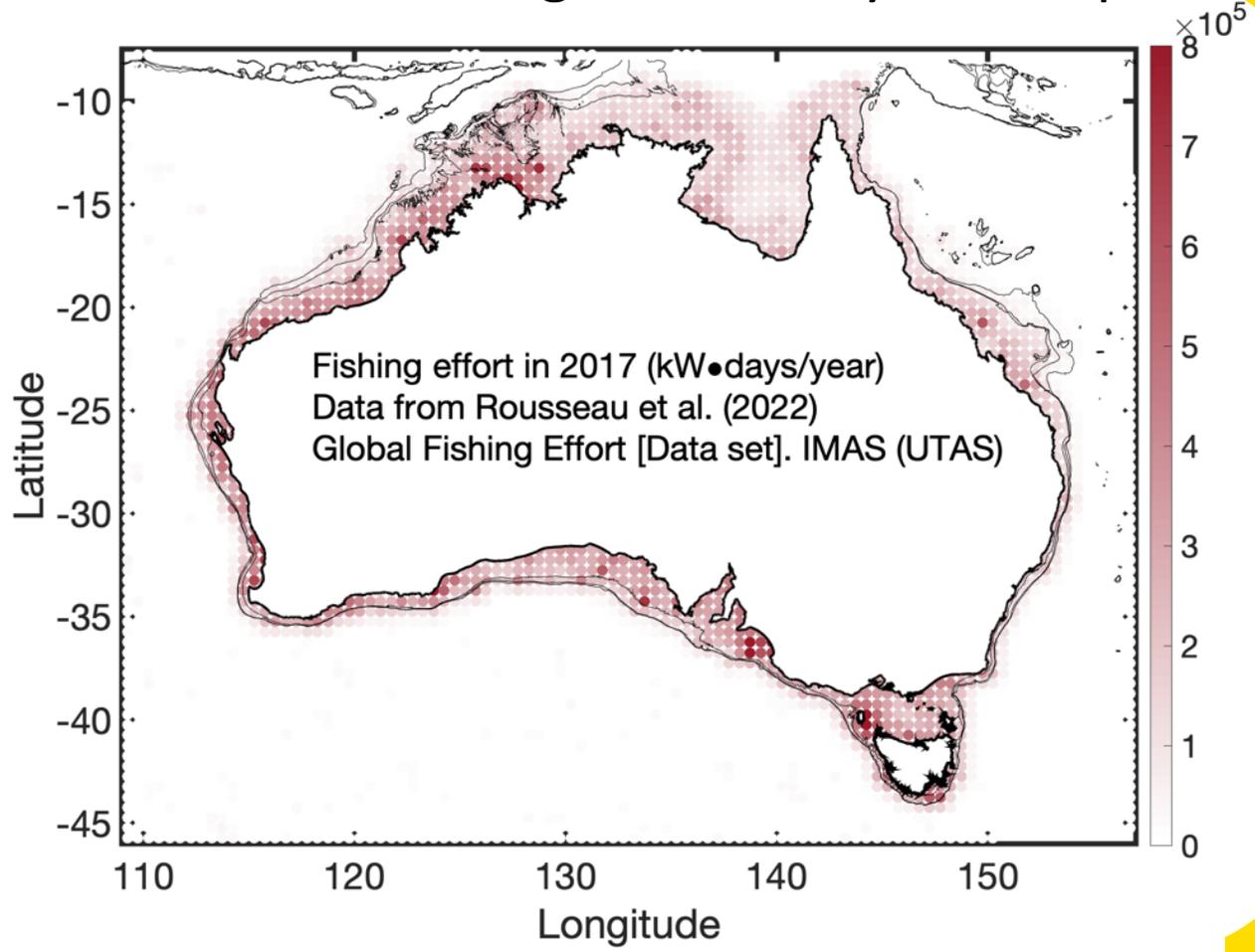
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We need
more real time
(sub surface) data.....

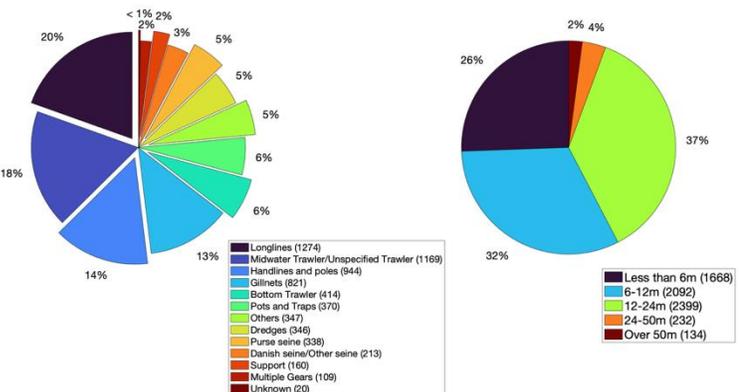
Our Marine estate is largely under sampled



AND... the fishing community can help



There was a total of 6524 Active Australian fishing vessels in 2017



The Challenge – To involve Fishers as Oceanographers!

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

INVOLVING FISHERS AS 'USER-OBSERVERS'

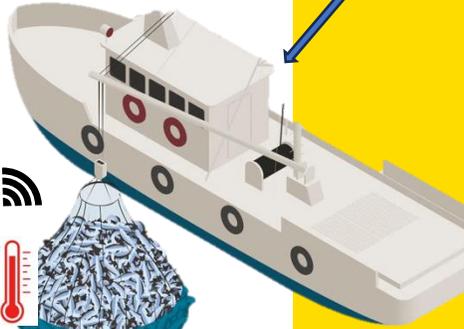
BENEFIT TO THE FISHERS

ESSENTIAL



Reciprocal

Mutual Benefit - -> Data user-observer
Autonomous – No human intervention
Anonymous – No Fishing / catch information



Rigorous

Research quality instruments for high quality science
FAIR data
Best practice QA/QC

Robust / Reliable

Harsh operating environment.
Easy to use – Attaches to fishing gear (set n forget)
Data offloads and is transmitted reliably

Real Time

Operational decision making
Ocean forecasting

Design and build 'fit for purpose' Temperature - Depth sensor

Rigorous, Research quality

- Temperature accuracy of **0.05°C (closer to 0.01°C)**
- Depth rated to 200m, 1000m, 2000m (new in 2024) accuracy 1%
- Returned to manufacturer for calibration and re-battery

Reliable

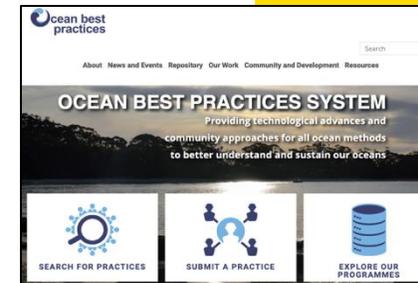
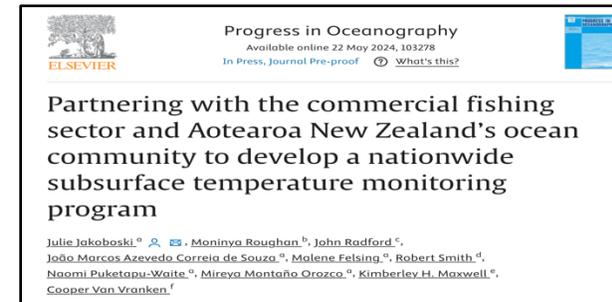
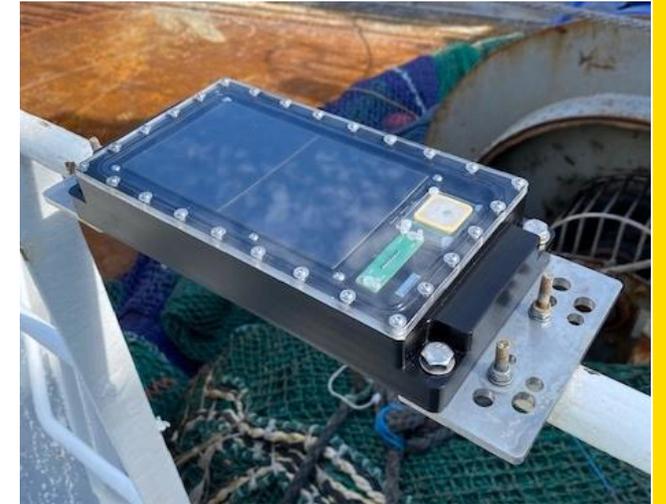
- No human intervention - for daily operations, fishers want to fish
- Pressure triggered start and stop variable sampling (1s profiling)
- Bluetooth offload in seconds, every set

Real Time - Hands off

- Autonomous Comms - Solar Powered deck unit for GPS position and communications
- Automated data offload and transfer to the cloud (cellular or satellite)
- Data returned in minutes to the fisher that collected it.

Robust and low cost

- T and P only,
- 2 year battery life



Growth since 2017 → ~ 180 vessels across the Indo Pacific

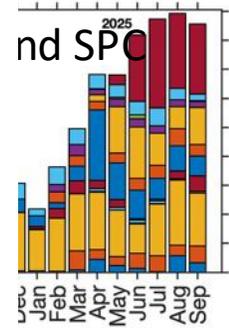
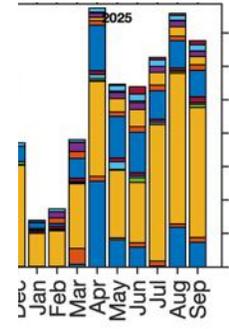
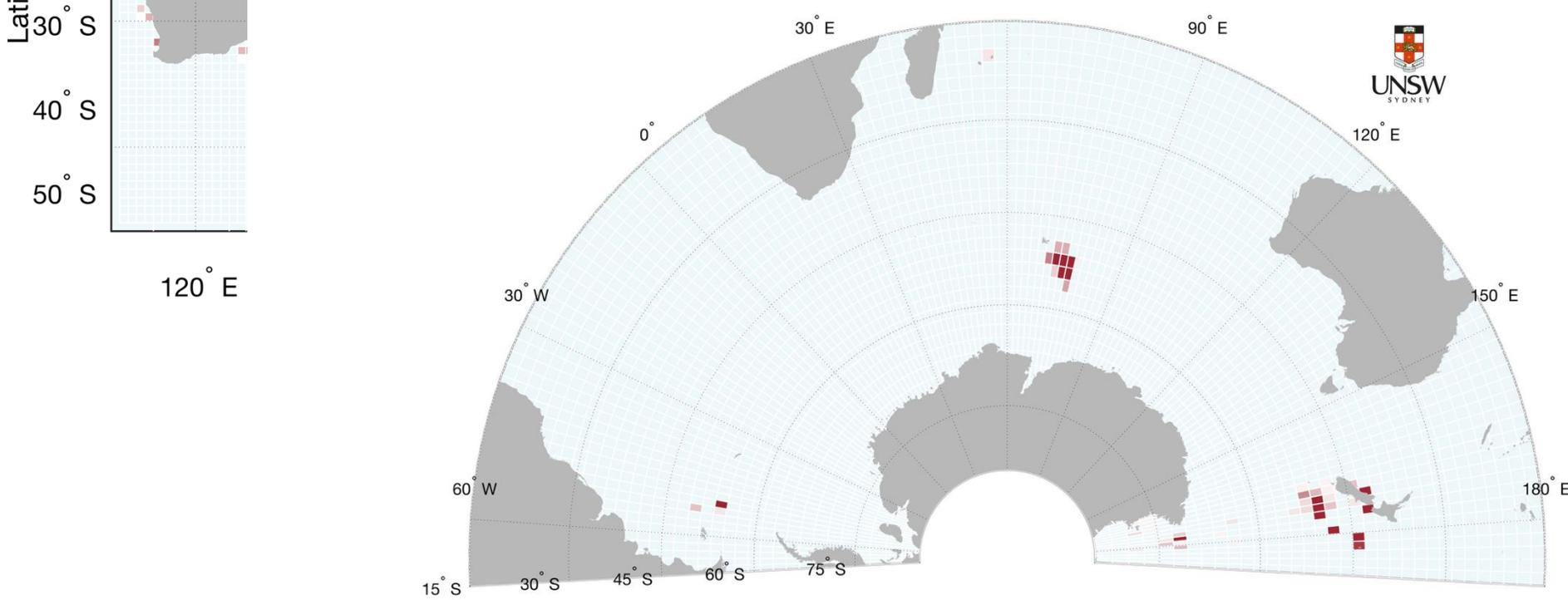
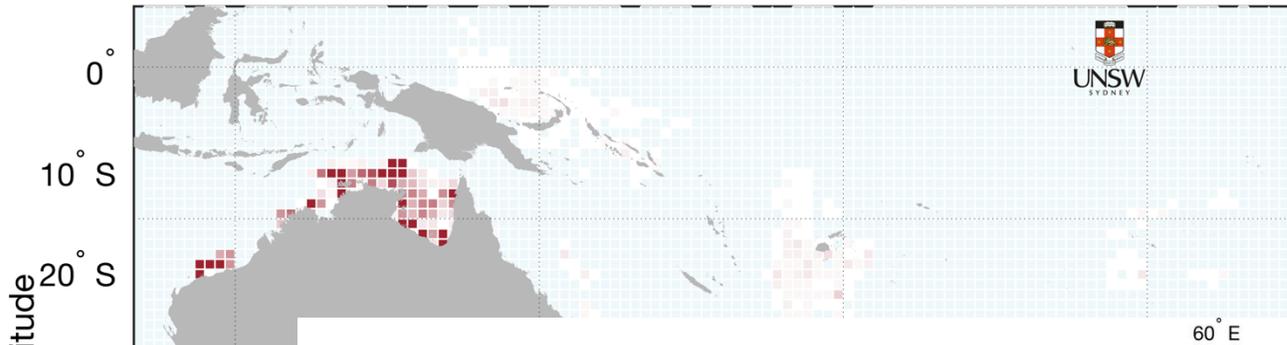
- Moana Project NZ (2017-2023) – 100 Vessels
- Pilot Project – in Eastern Australia (2023-2024) – 17 vessels
- Transition to IMOS + co-investment – 56+ active vessels
- SPC – 24/ 50 Vessels western Central pacific
- Colto – 5/ 6 Vessels southern ocean



Data Coverage

All data since 2020

Sub surface ocean temperature data
To depths of 2000m

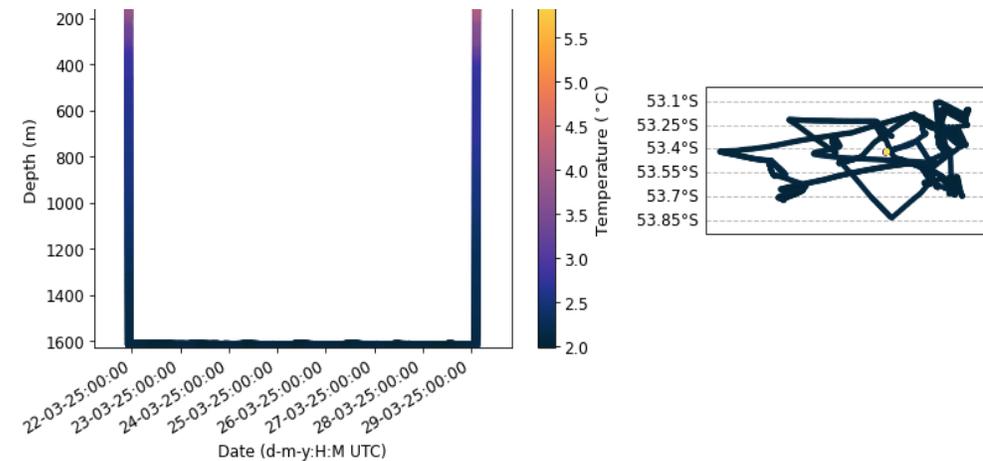
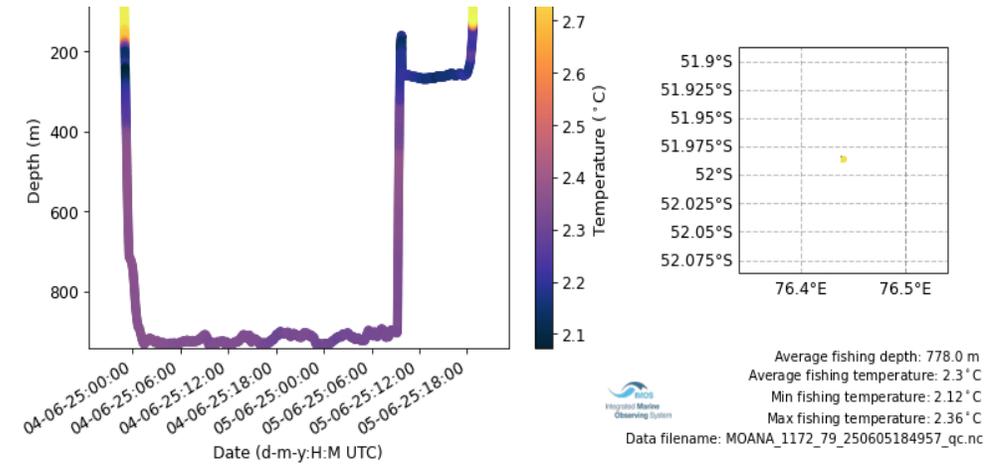
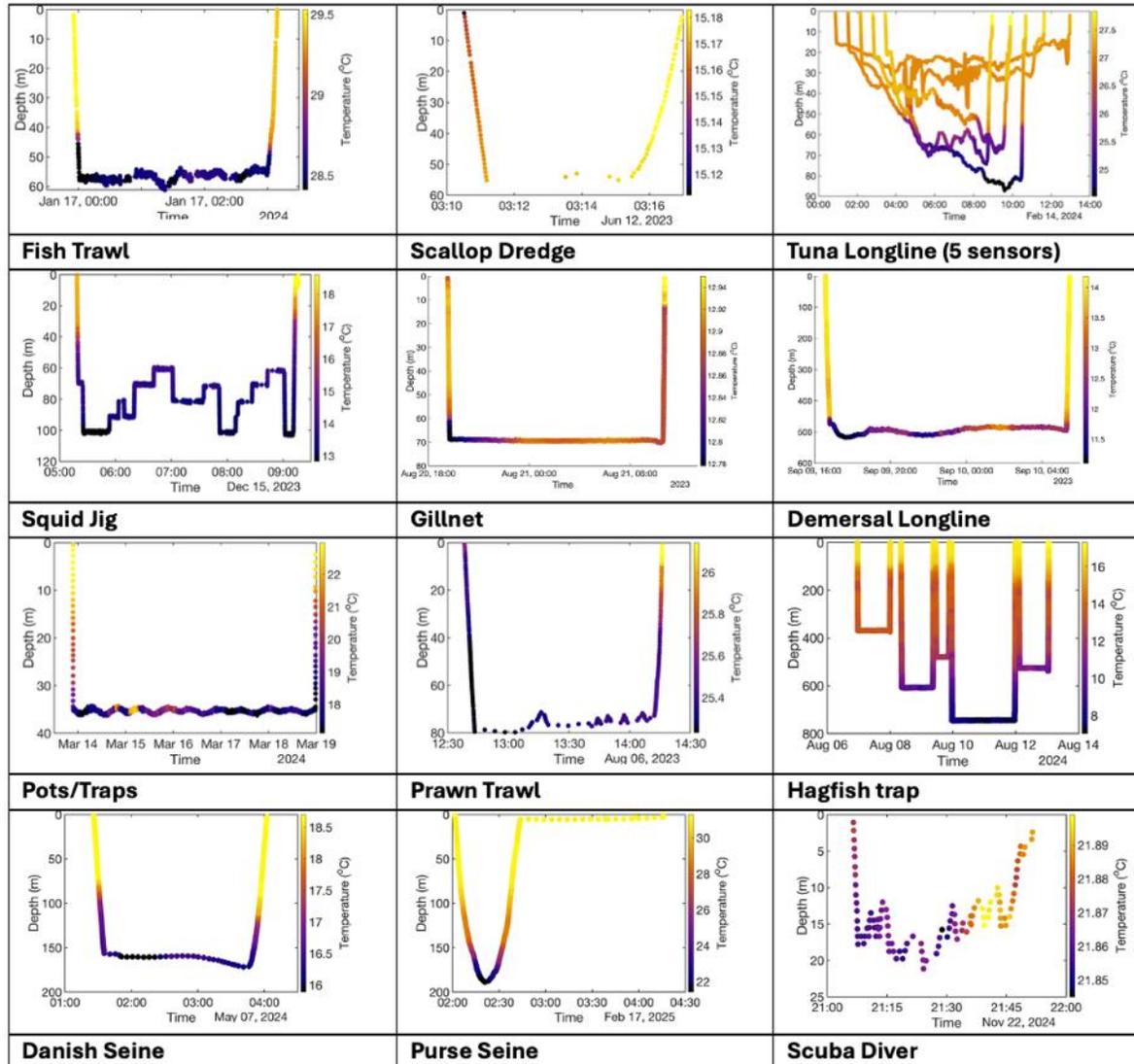


- WRL
- UNSW
- SPC-Solomon
- SPC-PNG
- SPC-Fiji
- SCU
- NT Fisheries
- NSW Fisheries
- MP NT
- MP NSW
- MP NI
- IMOS
- COLTO
- AFMA/FRDC

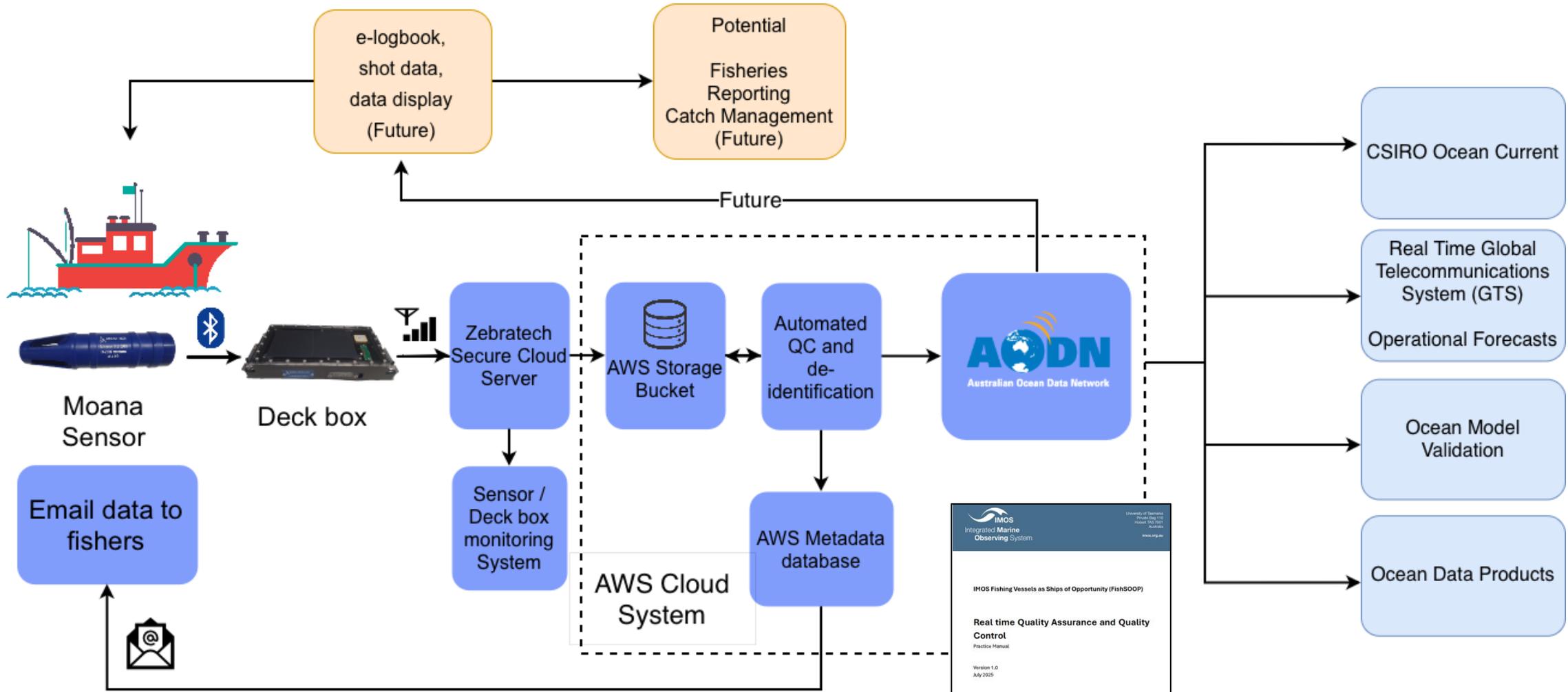


What do the data look like – LOTS of sub surface/ bottom temp data.

- Different Fishing methods have different profiles.



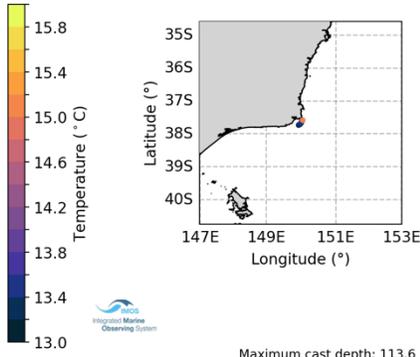
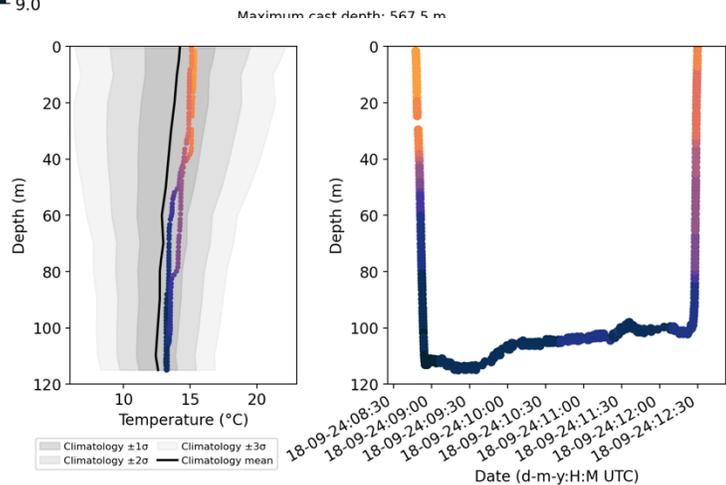
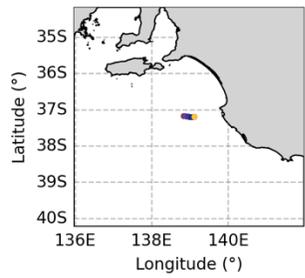
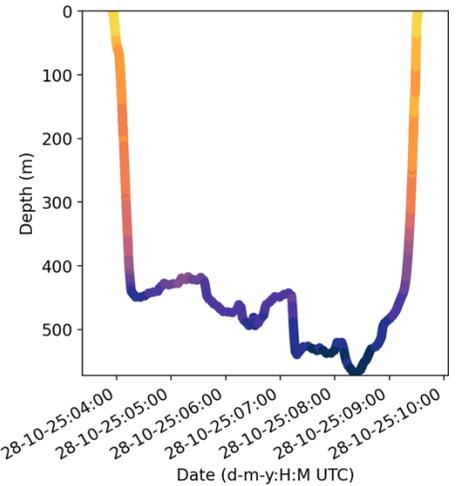
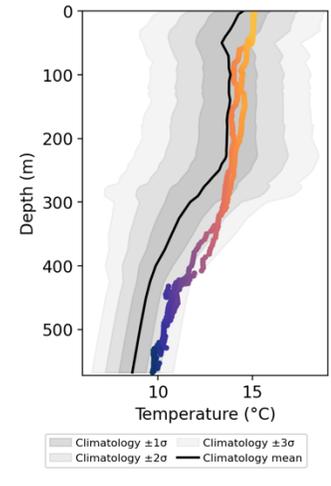
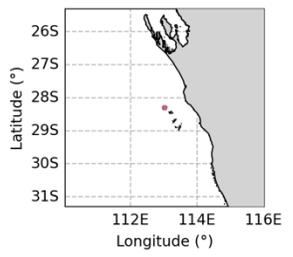
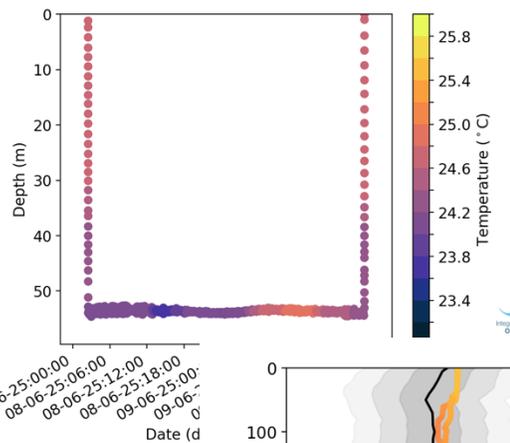
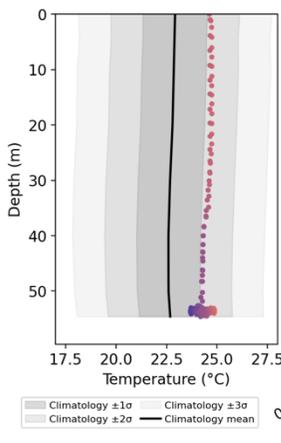
Data pathway – Rigorous, Research Quality Data



Data delivery – User Observers get their data first

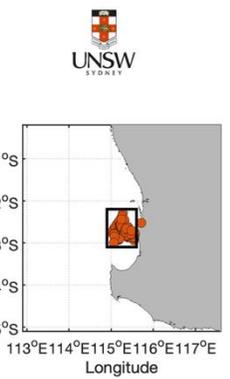
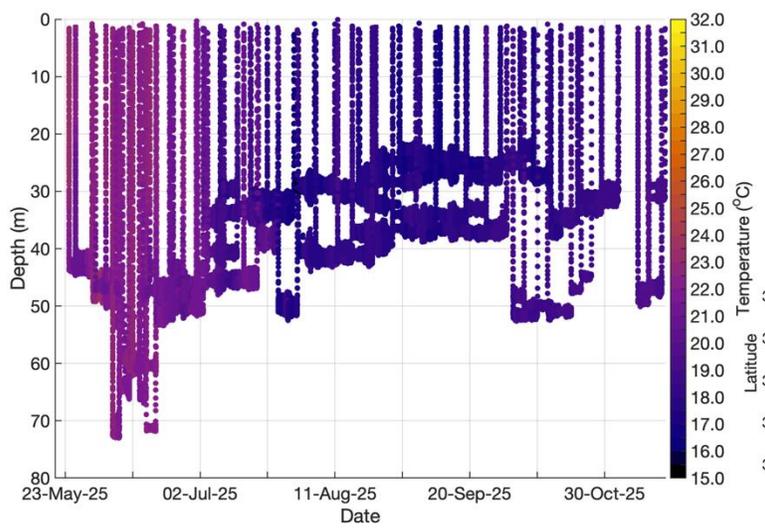
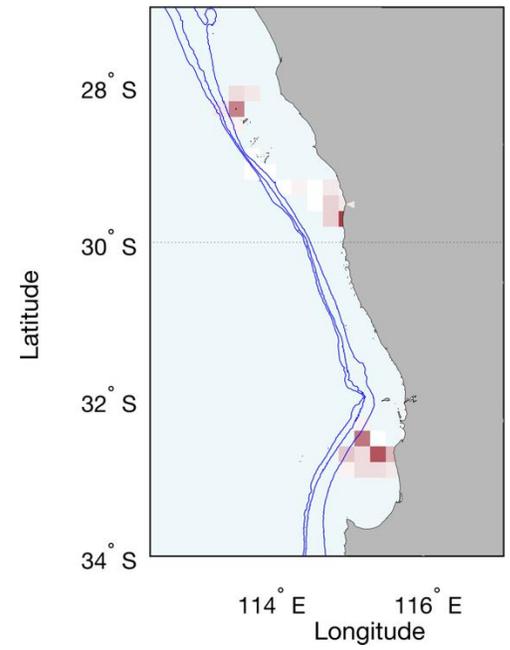
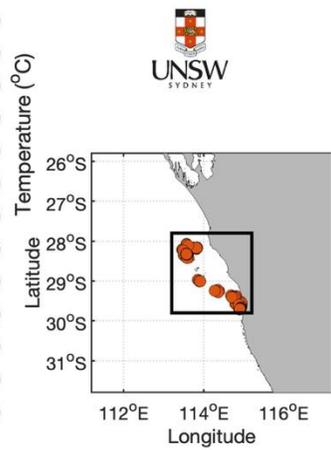
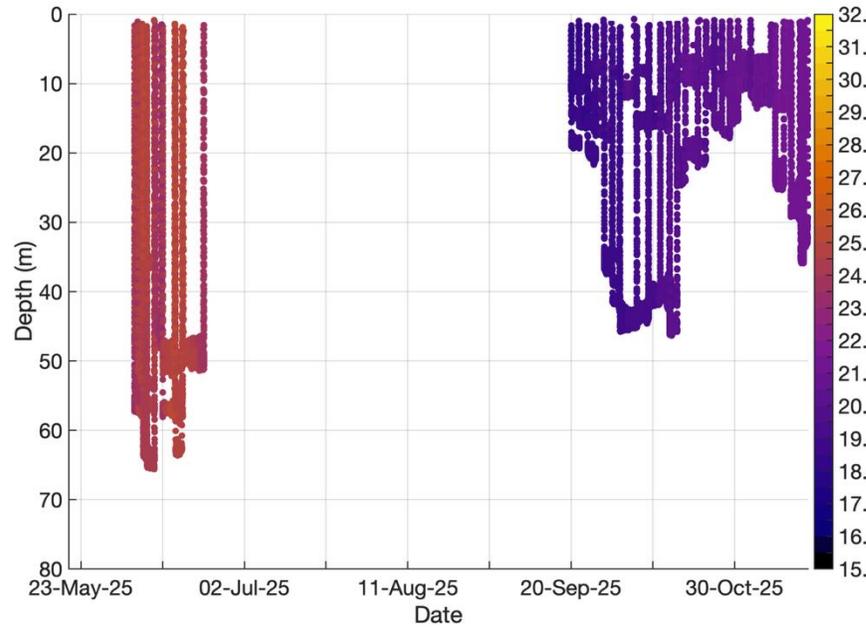
Plot of the profile map and context against CARS climatology
 Data as CSV (with QC flags)
 Brief statistics

Moana serial number	784					
Download time	03/10/2023 08:47:49					
Deck unit serial number	5328					
Moana calibration date	21/02/2023					
Moana Battery	3.52 (V)					
Date quality controlled	2023-07-04T21:01:09 +0000					
Vessel Name	Saxon Onwards					
Vessel ID	418699					
Calculated position	N/A					
Deck unit battery voltage	3.66					
QC_FLAG Key	1=good 2=probably good 3=probably bad 4=bad					
DATEIME (UTC)	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	TEMPERATURE [degC]	DEPTH [m]	QC_FLAG	
0	2023-07-03T04:55:07	-43.93118	150.46223	12.76	1.9	I
1	2023-07-03T04:55:11	-43.93119	150.46204	12.76	3.0	I
2	2023-07-03T04:55:13	-43.93119	150.46204	12.76	4.5	I
3	2023-07-03T04:55:16	-43.93119	150.46204	12.76	5.6	I
4	2023-07-03T04:55:19	-43.93116	150.46193	12.76	6.3	I
5	2023-07-03T04:55:22	-43.93116	150.46193	12.76	9.8	I
6	2023-07-03T04:55:24	-43.93116	150.46193	12.76	11.1	I
7	2023-07-03T04:55:26	-43.93116	150.46193	12.76	12.3	I
8	2023-07-03T04:55:28	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	14.0	I
9	2023-07-03T04:55:29	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	15.3	I
10	2023-07-03T04:55:32	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	17.0	I
11	2023-07-03T04:55:34	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	18.2	I
12	2023-07-03T04:55:35	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	19.1	I
13	2023-07-03T04:55:37	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	20.1	I
14	2023-07-03T04:55:38	-43.93103	150.46167	12.76	21.2	I
15	2023-07-03T04:55:40	-43.93103	150.46167	12.76	23.0	I
16	2023-07-03T04:55:42	-43.93103	150.46167	12.76	24.2	I
17	2023-07-03T04:55:44	-43.93103	150.46167	12.76	25.8	I
18	2023-07-03T04:55:46	-43.93103	150.46167	12.76	26.9	I
19	2023-07-03T04:55:49	-43.93102	150.46131	12.76	28.3	I
20	2023-07-03T04:55:51	-43.93102	150.46131	12.76	30.1	I
21	2023-07-03T04:55:54	-43.93102	150.46131	12.76	32.0	I
22	2023-07-03T04:55:57	-43.93102	150.46131	12.76	33.5	I
23	2023-07-03T04:55:58	-43.93093	150.46140	12.76	34.5	I
24	2023-07-03T04:56:00	-43.93093	150.46140	12.76	35.6	I
25	2023-07-03T04:56:02	-43.93093	150.46140	12.76	37.1	I
26	2023-07-03T04:56:04	-43.93093	150.46140	12.76	39.1	I
27	2023-07-03T04:56:06	-43.93093	150.46140	12.76	40.3	I
28	2023-07-03T04:56:08	-43.93095	150.46127	12.76	41.6	I
29	2023-07-03T04:56:11	-43.93095	150.46127	12.76	42.7	I
30	2023-07-03T04:56:15	-43.93095	150.46127	12.75	44.6	I
31	2023-07-03T04:56:17	-43.93095	150.46127	12.75	46.7	I
32	2023-07-03T04:56:20	-43.93095	150.46116	12.74	48.0	I



Maximum cast depth: 113.6 m
 Average cast temperature: 13.34 °C
 Min cast temperature: 13.24 °C
 Max cast temperature: 13.41 °C
 Data filename: MOANA_0480_432_240918123115_qc.csv

Western Rock Lobster – Collaboration (2/10 vessels)



More from Chris King Tomorrow – WRL digital strategy and data uptake

Operational Benefits: Transport of live Hagfish

- Use Case
 - Temperature is measured at 500-800m depth on the trap where fish are caught
 - Live fish are returned to the surface and held in a holding tank
 - Operational Action
 - Fisher receives data (email) in real time
 - Adjusts temperature in the holding tank to that at catch depth
 - Outcome
 - Reduced animal stress
- Improved fish quality at market (\$)

“Transformative”



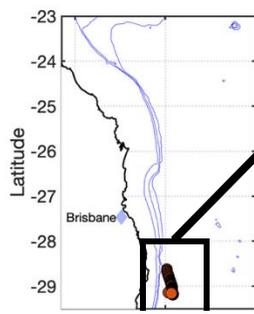
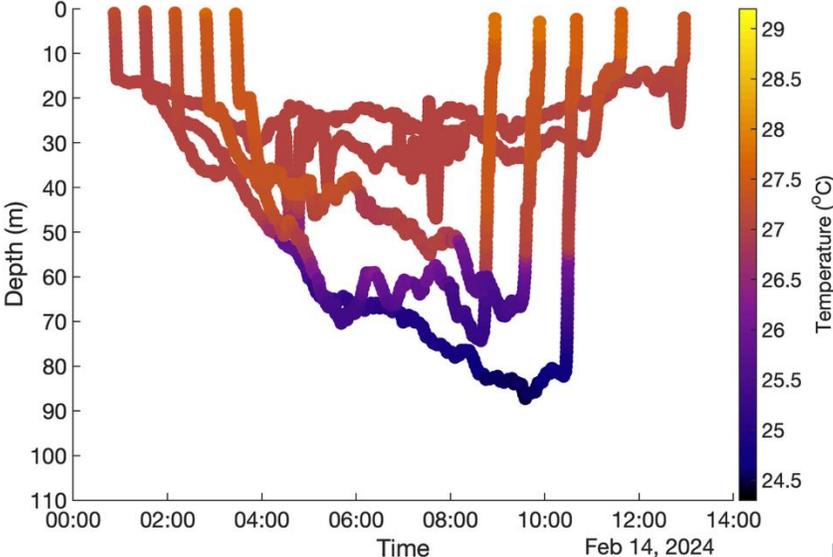
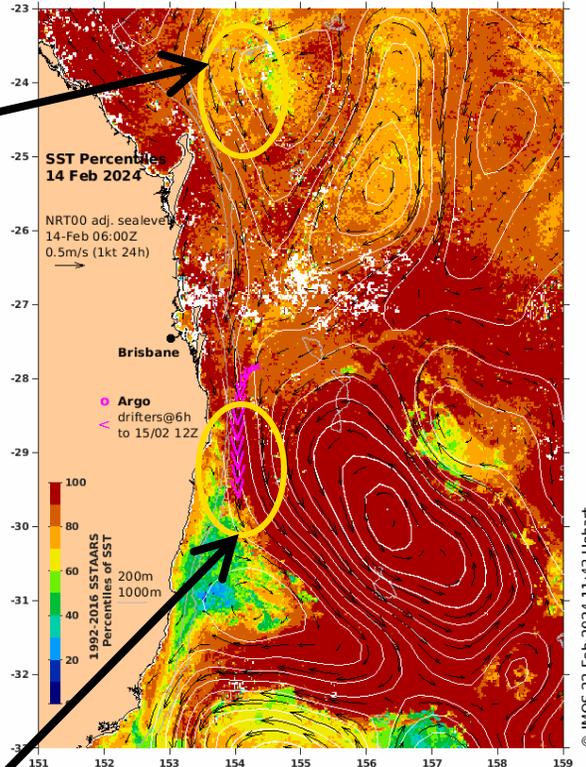
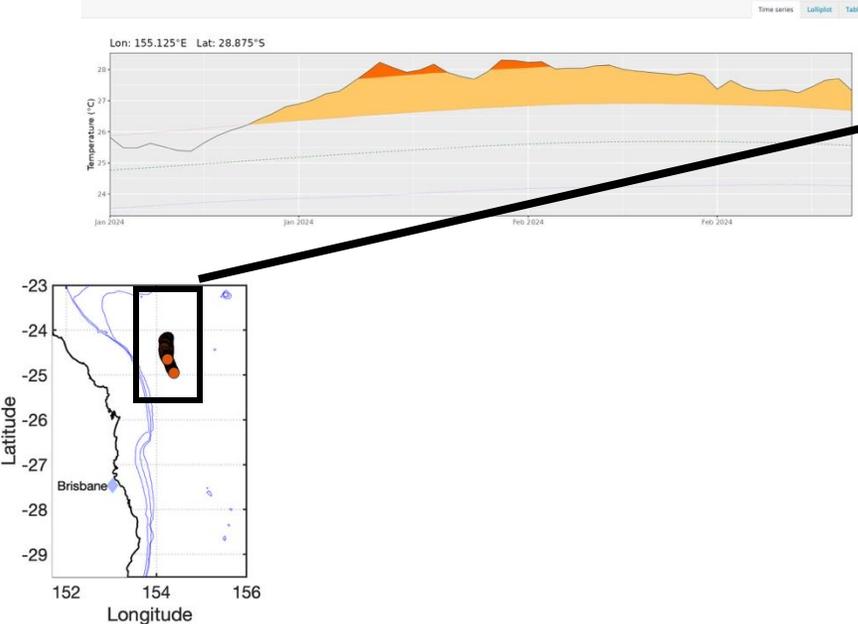
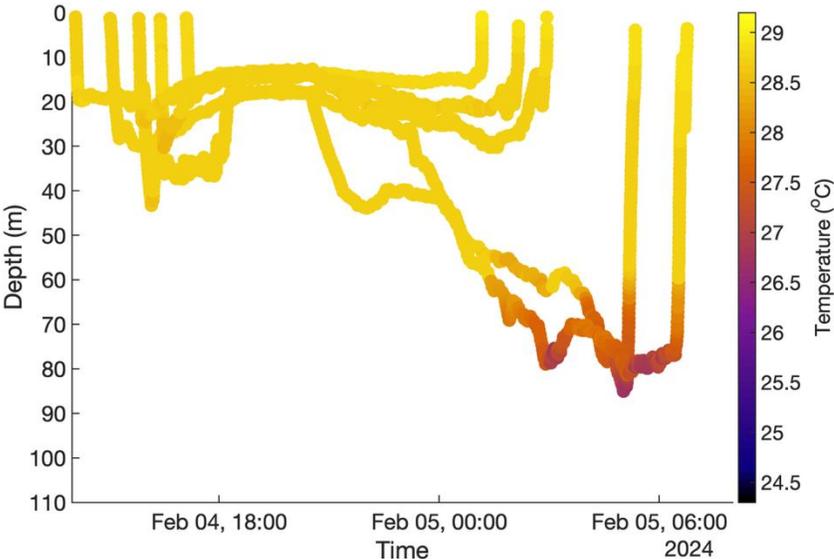
Photo credit: [Australian Museum](#)



Photo credit: Bryce Nurnaitis, Fishwell



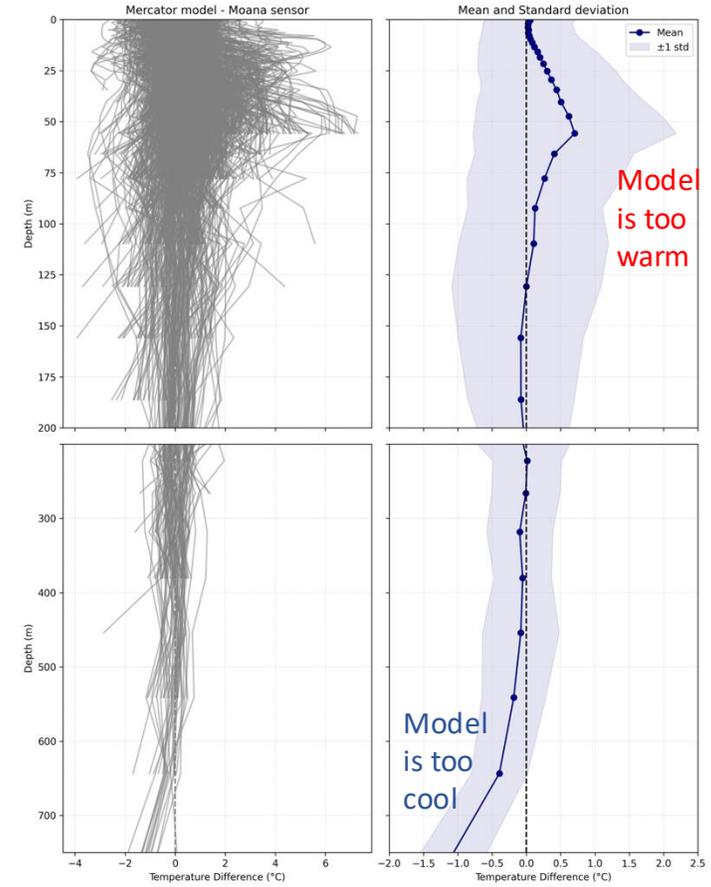
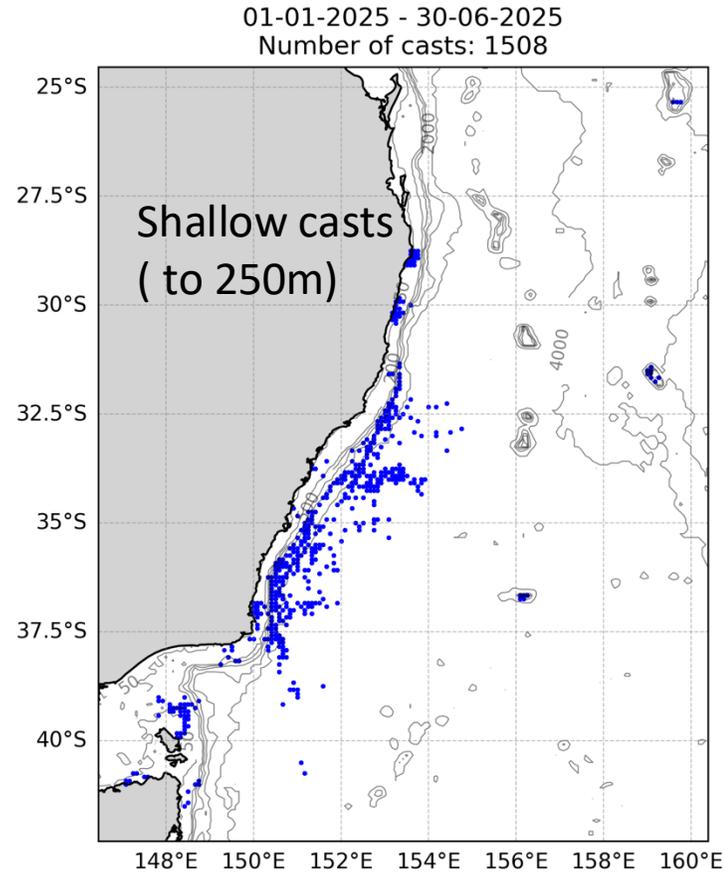
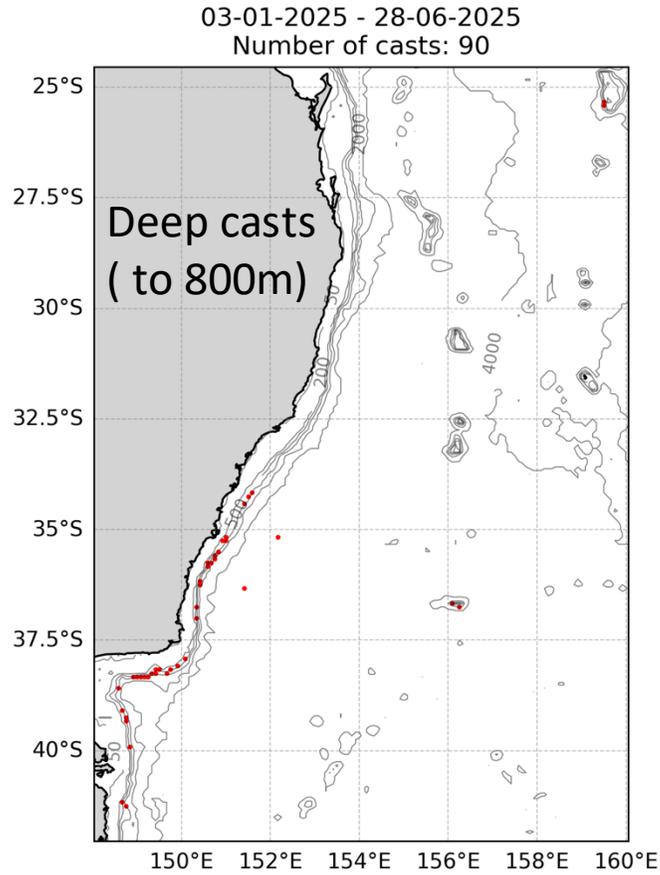
Application – observing subsurface MHWs where fishing occurs



FISHING FOR OCEAN DATA IN THE EAST AUSTRALIAN CURRENT

By Véronique Lago, Moninya Roughan, Colette Kerry, and Ian Knuckey

Model - Data Comparisons European (Mercator) Ocean Forecasts

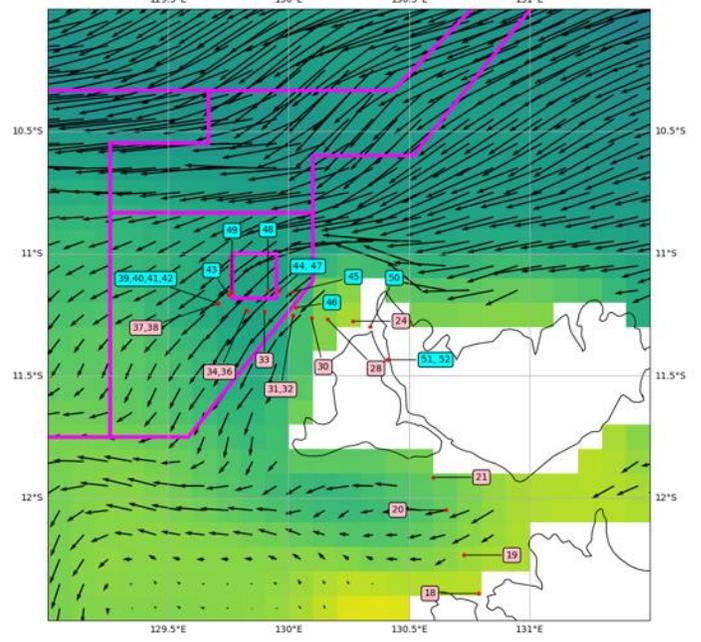


Model minus sensor,
Positive - Model is too warm (25-100m)
Negative - Model is too cool (650-800m)

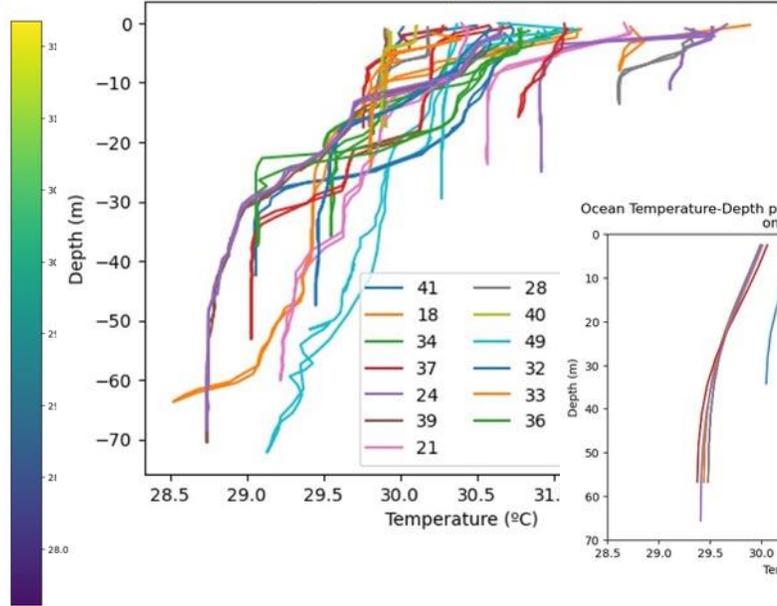
Citizen Scientists - Model Evaluation - Data Comparisons



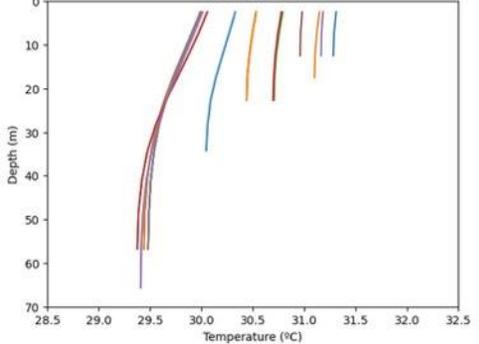
Map of Timor Temperature, Currents and Measurement locations using the model from 26/10/2024 for 12:00:00 on 28/10/2024



Ocean Temperature-Depth profile of observations



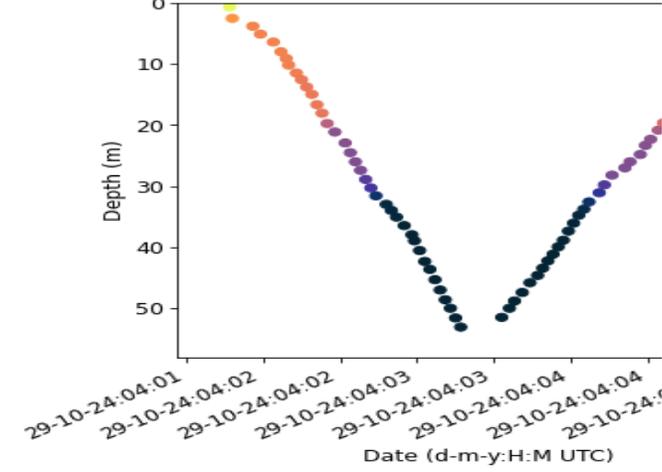
Ocean Temperature-Depth profile from Predicted Models (Monday) on 28/10/2024



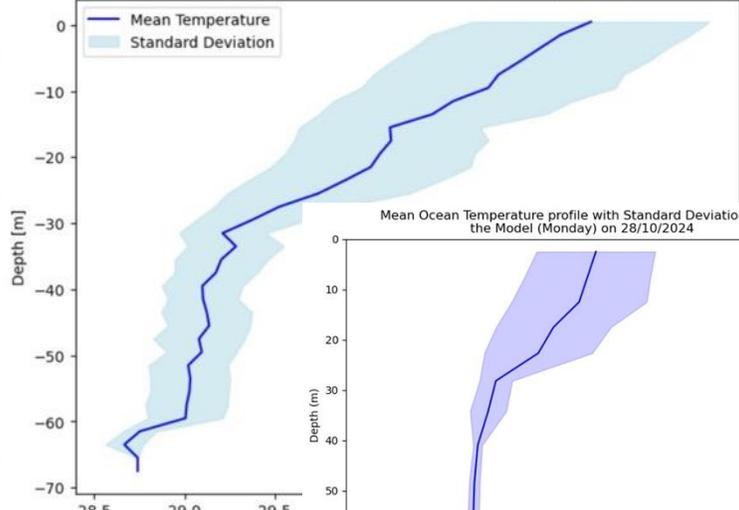
Ocean Maps

- Ocean Forecasts for NT from BoM (G. Brassington)
- Comparisons against data for model evaluation
- Stratification, UOHC for MHWs, and TC predn.

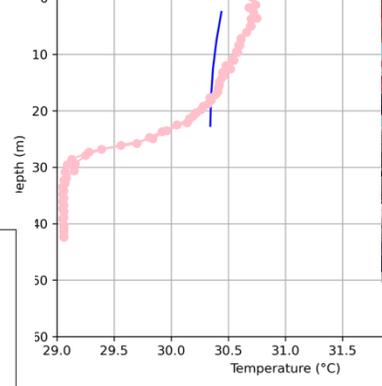
Moana Sensor Measurements, S



Mean Temperature Profile with Standard Deviation (Binned every 2 m)



Profile of Temperature vs. Depth at 28/10/2024

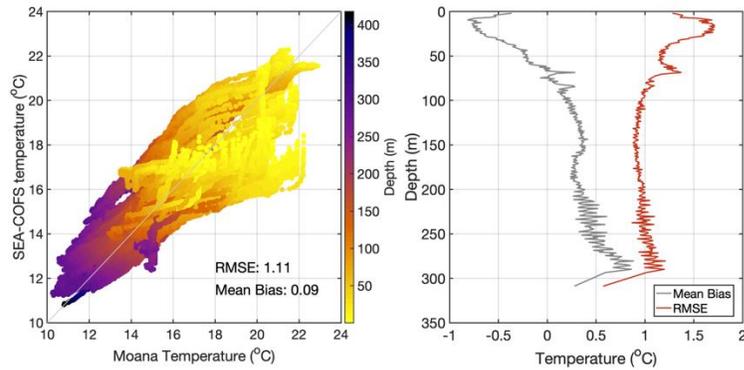
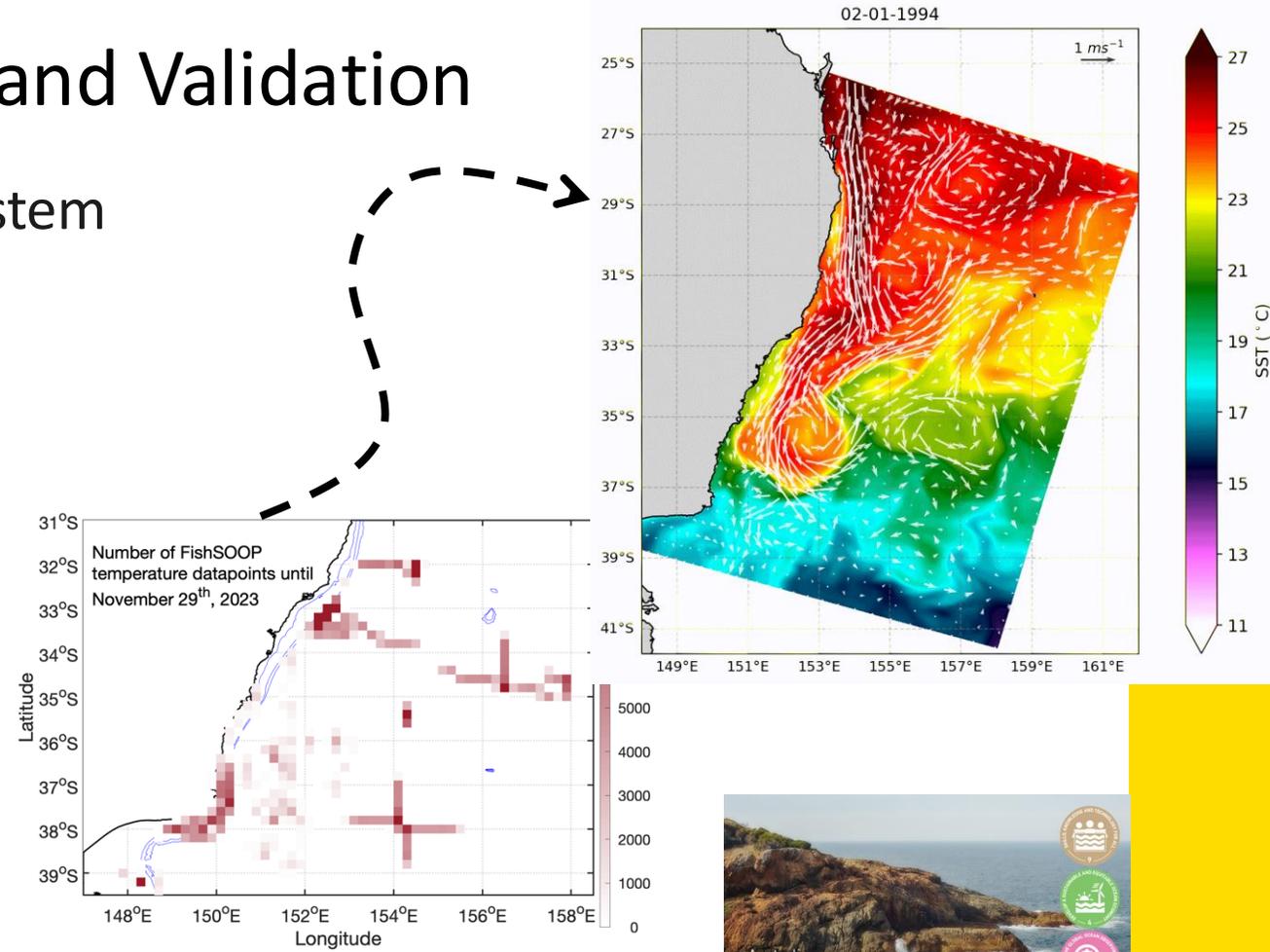


Funded by UNSW and Parks Australia

Data Uptake - Model Assimilation and Validation

Sth East Australian Coastal Ocean Forecast System (SEA-COFS)

- Near real time data streams for model data assimilation
- Collaborating with Coastal ocean modelling Commons (ACCESS-NRI)
- Developing tools & case studies



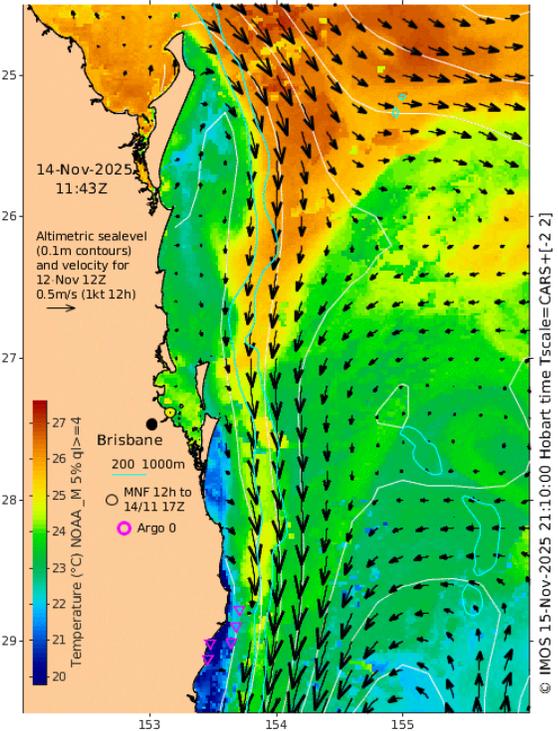
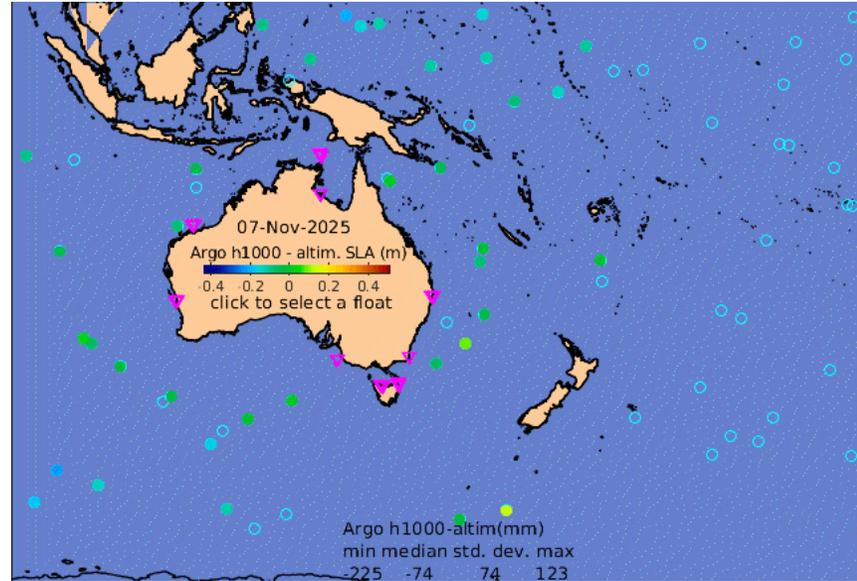
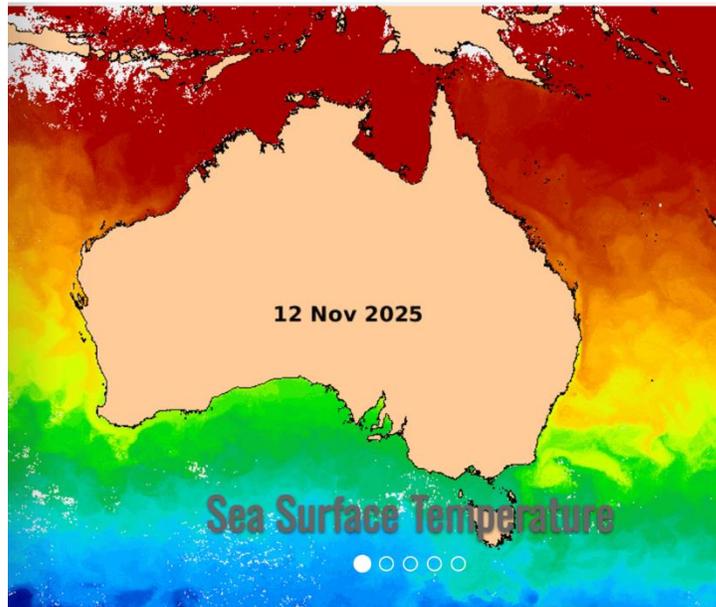
Fish SOOP Data - live on Ocean Current (soon!)



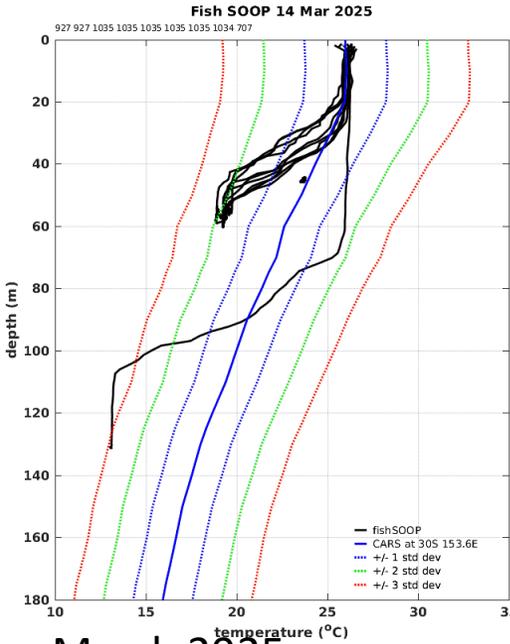
IMOS OceanCurrent
Surface Currents and Temperature

Up to date ocean information around Australia.

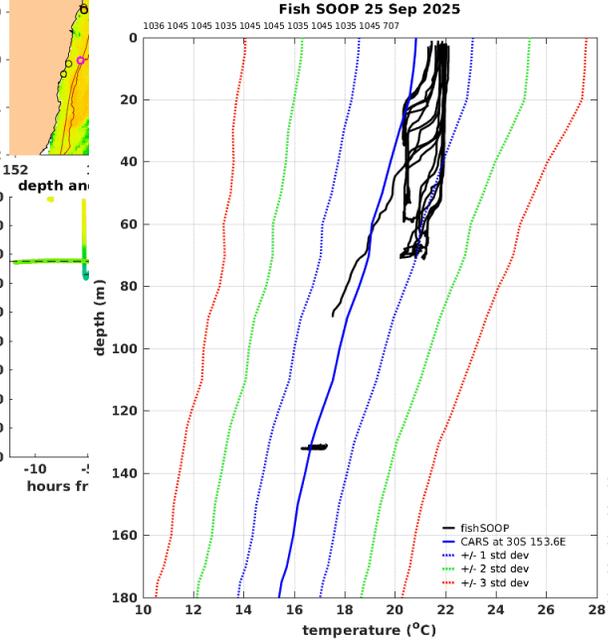
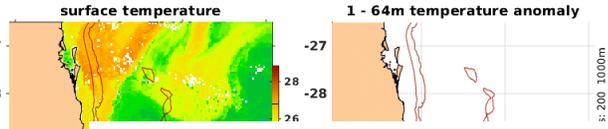
Maps ▾ In-water ▾ News Guided Tour



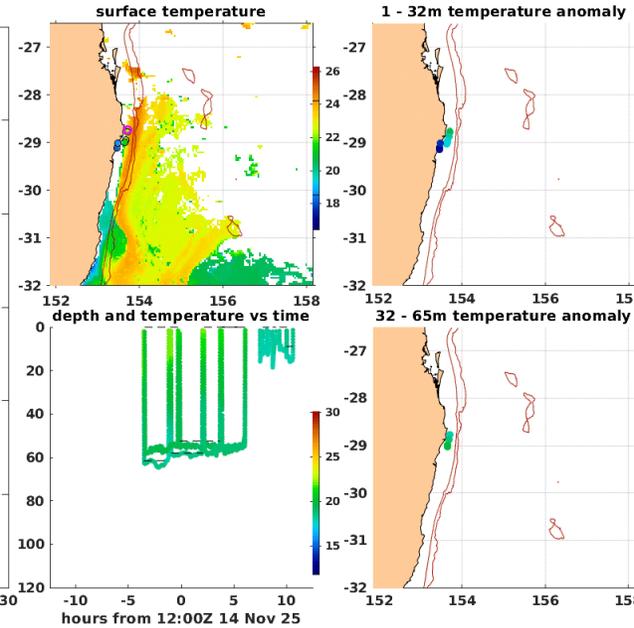
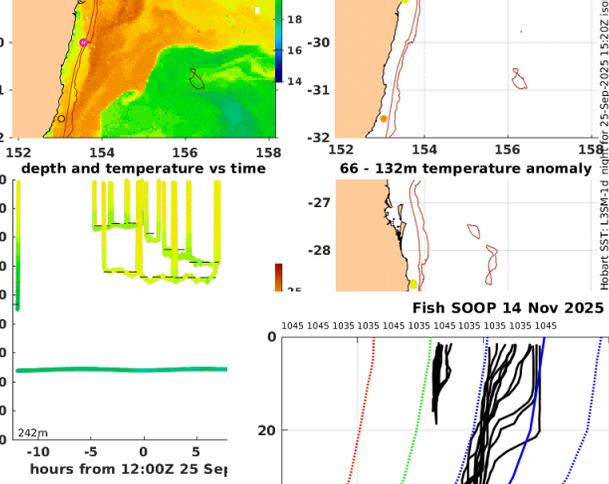
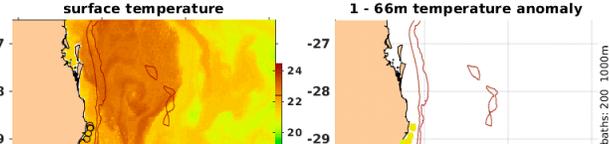
Fish SOOP Data - live on Ocean Current (soon!)



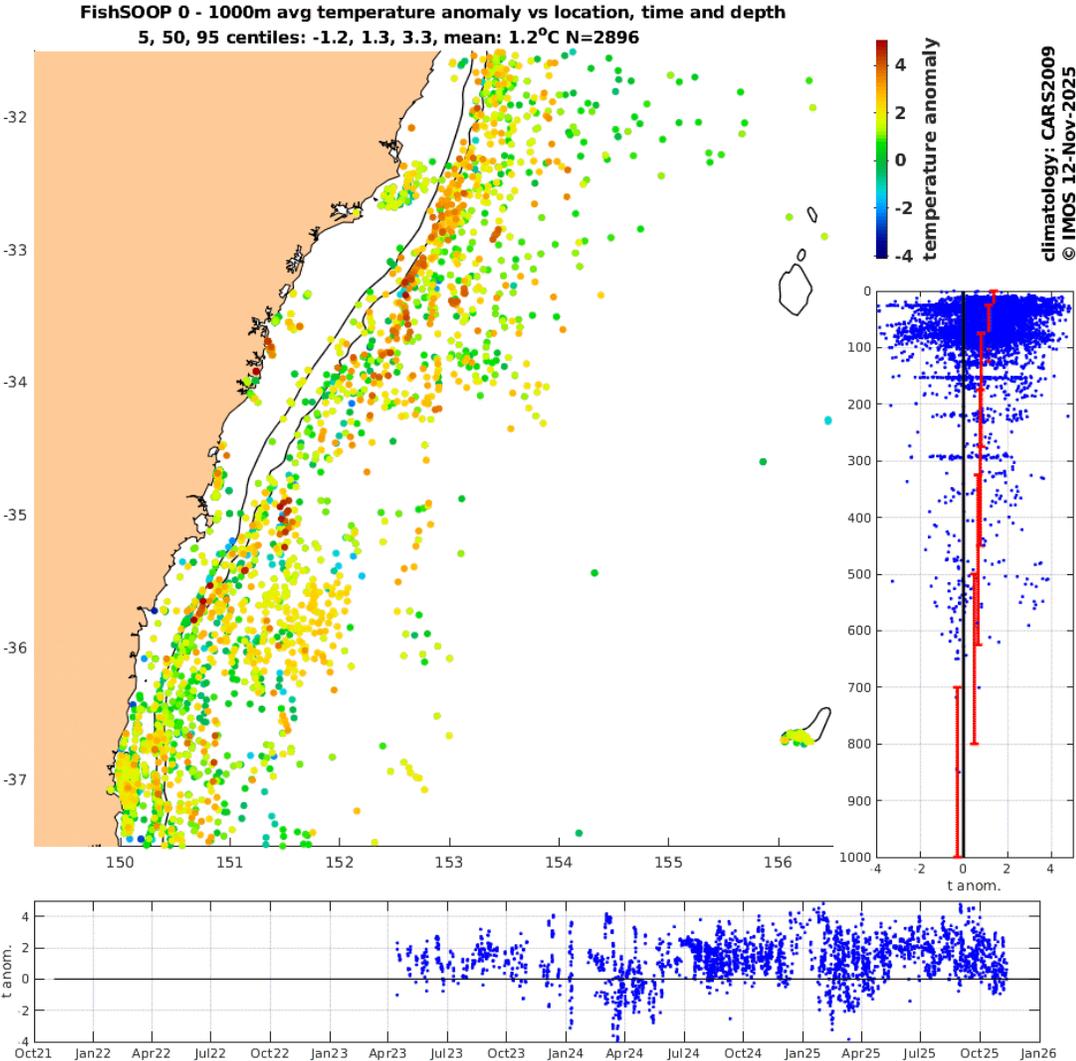
March 2025



Sept 2025



Fish SOOP Data - live on Ocean Current (soon!)



Anomaly plots through depth and time
Compared to CARS2009



Capacity Building across the South Pacific with SPC – 2025 PI-FVON PI GOOS



Tuna is a \$5B Industry

Growth:

- 50 Vessel trial
- Began in January 2025
- Successful Installations on 24 vessels:
 - Papua New Guinea (6)
 - Solomon Islands (2)
 - Fiji (10)
 - French Polynesia (5)
 - Samoa (1)
- Further expansion in the coming months
- Tonga, FSM, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia etc.



Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

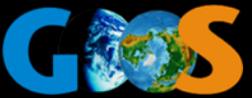




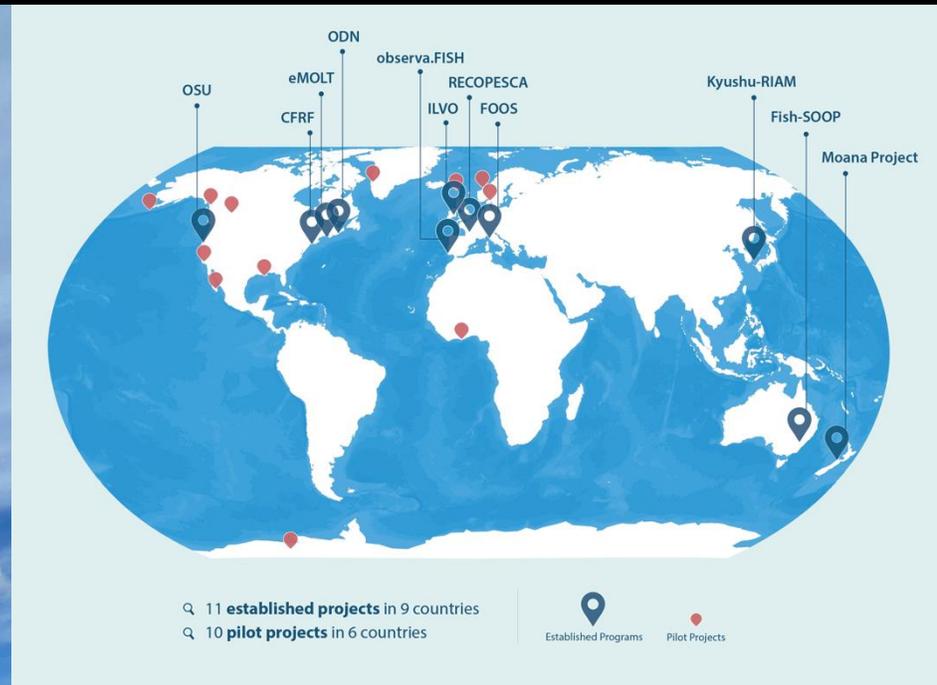
THE FISHING VESSEL OCEAN OBSERVING NETWORK

Steering Committee: Cooper Van Vranken, A. Miguel Piecho-Santos, Julie Jakoboski, Christopher Cusack, Patrick Gorringer, Michela Martinelli, Moninya Roughan, João de Souza, Peter McComb, George Maynard, Shinichiro Kida, Hassan Moustahfid

Secretariat: Aubrey Taylor, Emilie Brévière, Rita Esteves, Matt Irwin, Dustin Colson Leaning

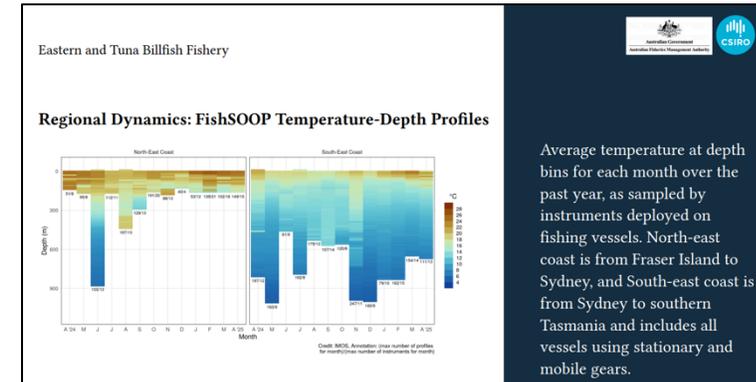
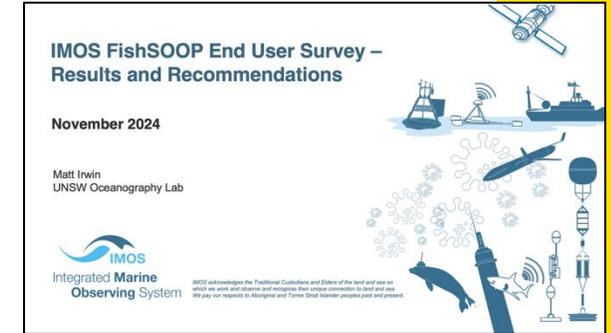
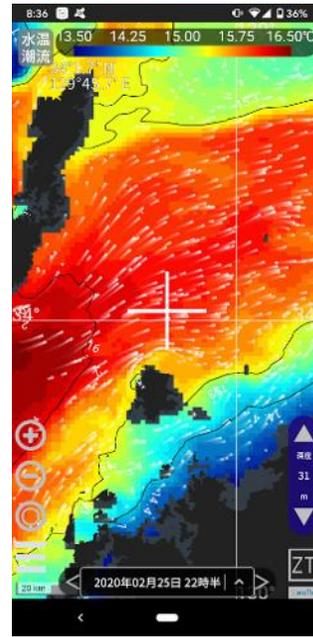
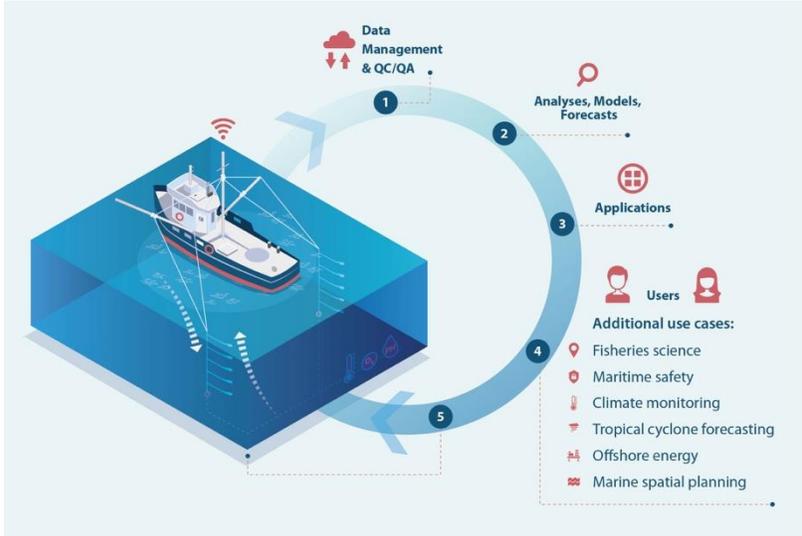


2021 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2030



~600 Vessels
~ 15 countries

Data Uptake, Use and Impact - Data Products for better Operational outcomes



Dashboard with data products

- Thermocline depth
- Mixed Layer depth
- Bottom temp
- Climatologies + anomalies
- Sink rates

Data integration into existing products

- E-log Books
- Time Zero
- Ocean Current
- Fish-Ops (WRL)

Data integrated into management reports (AFMA)

Data layers from models / forecasts

- Currents – Subsurface
- Mixed layer depth
- Thermocline depth
- Specific isotherm depth
- Bottom temperature

Thanks to all the collaborators, co-investors, participants and data users



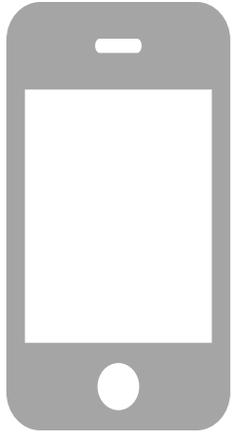
Ocean Observing by communities for communities

Expression of Interest

Newsletter

Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) – IMOS is a national collaborative research infrastructure supported by Australian Government.

Questions?



Take a picture to
access our EAC
papers



www.oceanography.unsw.edu.au



FRDC

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BRAN2020 - is provided by the Bluelink project, a partnership between CSIRO, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the Australian Department of Defence

Many thanks to the Coastal and Regional oceanography Team



Australian Government
Australian Research Council



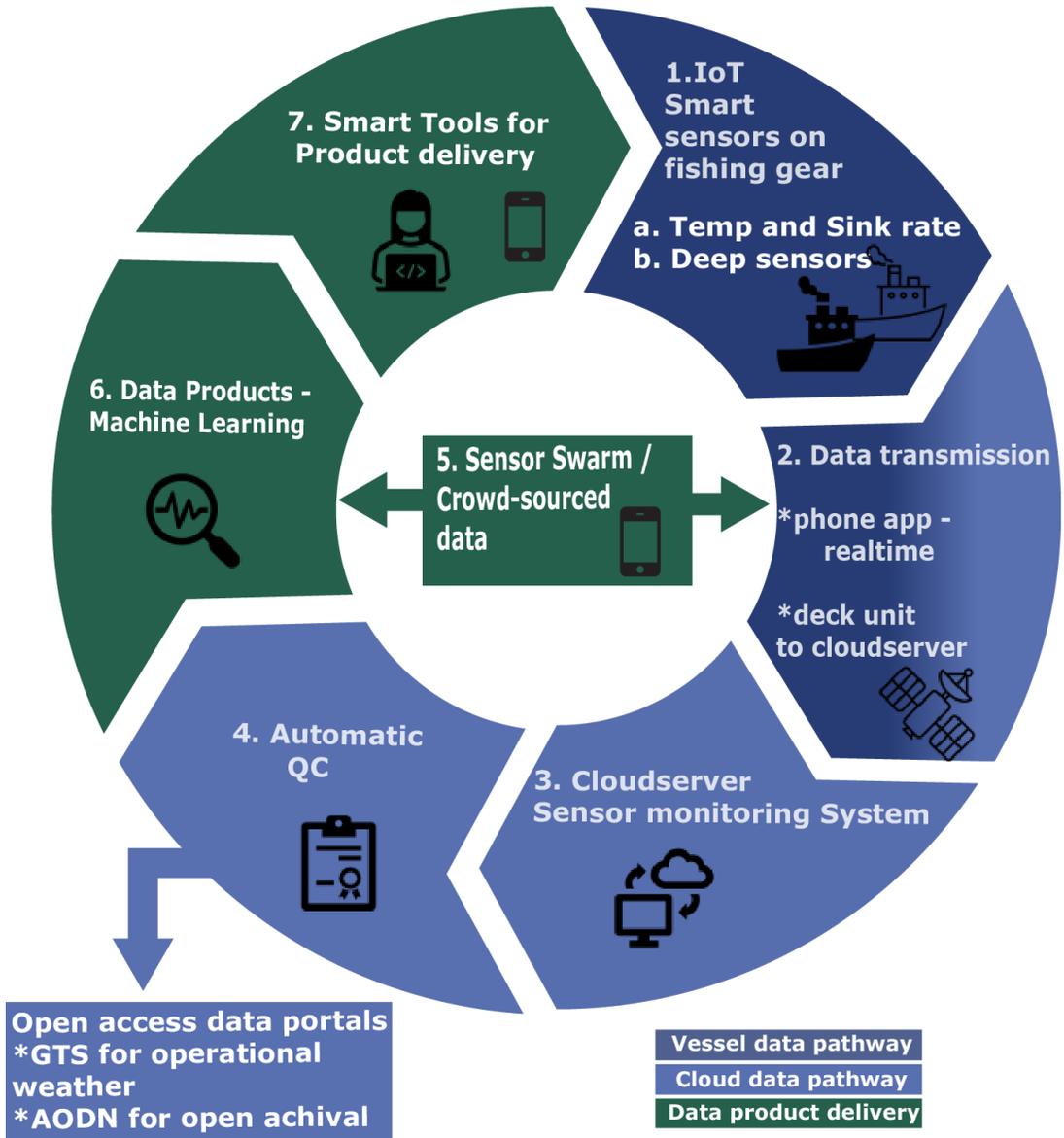
Australian Government
Department of Industry, Innovation,
Climate Change, Science, Research
and Tertiary Education



Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

The full circle data pathway – Smart Tools for Product delivery

Further Opportunity



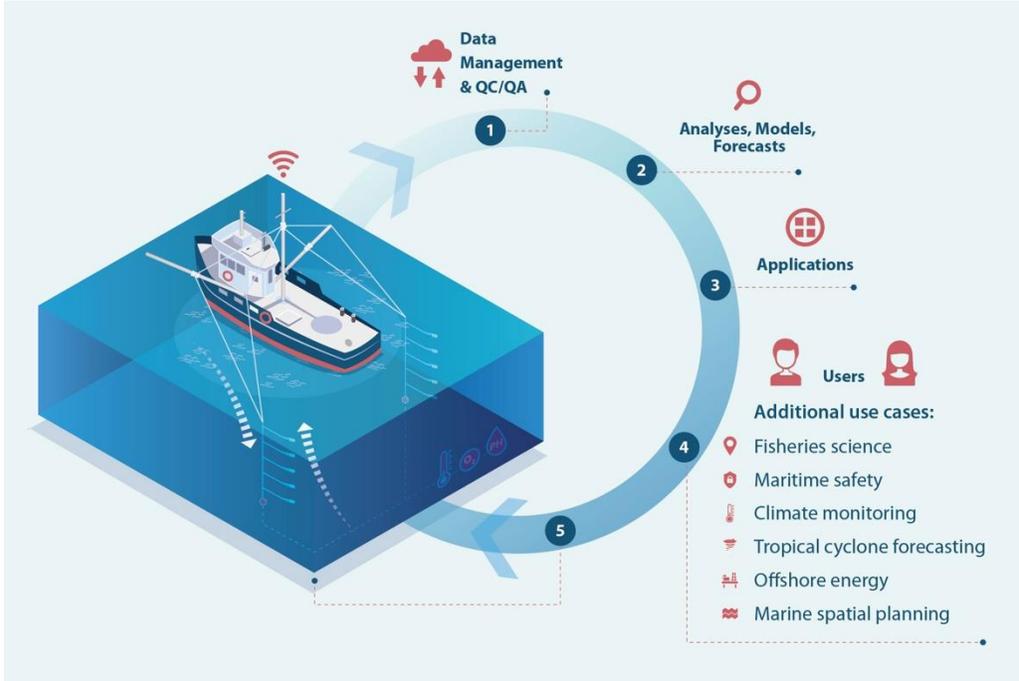
Open access data portals
*GTS for operational weather
*AODN for open achival

Vessel data pathway
Cloud data pathway
Data product delivery

Future Opportunities

- Data Use and Impact - Fisheries Management applications
- Increase the fleet size to fill spatio-temporal data gaps (WA, SA, QLD, Southern ocean)
- Development of data products
 - Ocean data products and data delivery tools.
- Remote data delivery options out of cellular / starlink
 - Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data integration for remote data delivery – CLS (Lord Howe / Norfolk / NT / Tuna Australia)
 - SpaceX SIM to Satellite in remote regions
- Navigation software integration
 - Time Zero?
 - Windy?
- E-log book integration
 - Olrac, FishServ, other

Data Uptake, Use and Impact - Data Products for Operational benefit



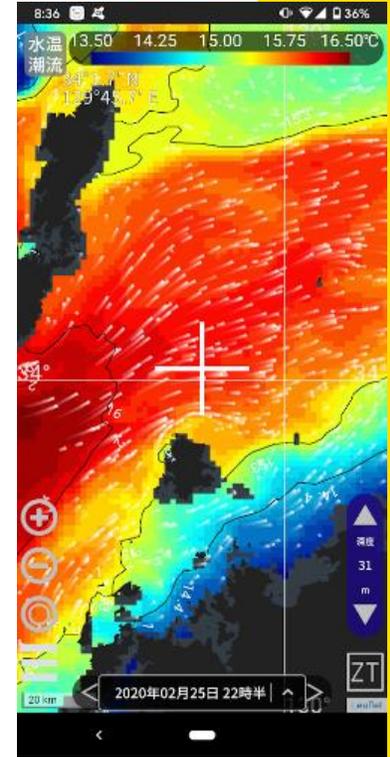
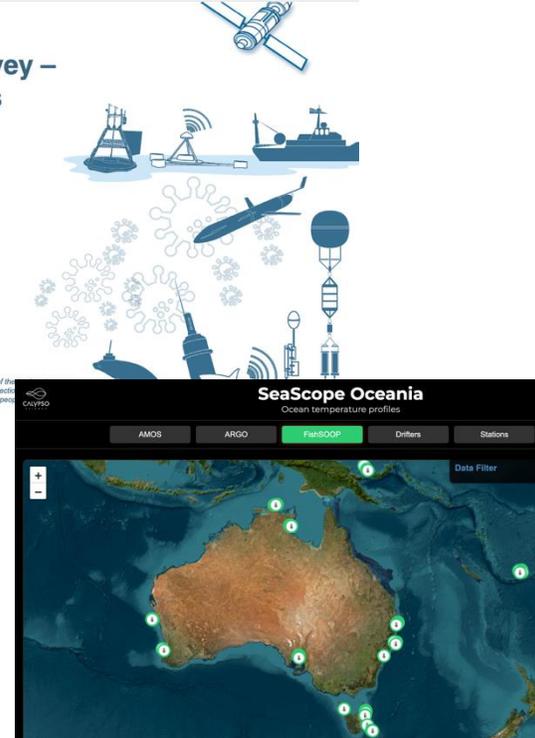
IMOS FishSOOP End User Survey – Results and Recommendations

November 2024

Matt Irwin
UNSW Oceanography Lab



IMOS acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and Elders of the land on which we work and observe and recognise their unique connection. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Data products from profiles

- Thermocline depth
- Mixed Layer depth
- Bottom temp
- Climatologies + anomalies
- Sink rates

Data integration into existing products

- E-log Books
- Time Zero
- Ocean Current
- Fish-Ops (WRL)

Data layers from models / forecasts

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- Mixed layer depth
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Data Uptake

Prof Kylie Scales U Sunshine Coast Collaboration with Tuna Australia

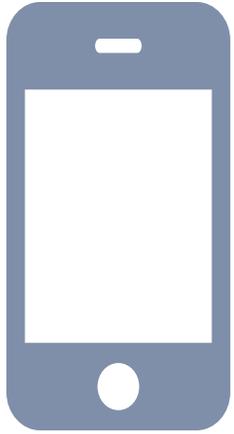
- Improve understanding of the physical drivers of catchability of commercially valuable tuna
- Understand climate impacts and risks to the Australian tuna fishing industry.
- Build ecological data products and near-term forecasts to inform industry and management authorities.
- Provide industry and management authorities with new information regarding the catchability of key species
- Contribute to the development of sustainability initiatives in the Australian tuna longline fishery.



National Industry PhD Program

Josh Easman
PhD Student
2026-2029

Questions?



Take a picture to
access our EAC
papers



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FRDC

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Australian Government
Australian Research Council



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Innovation,
Climate Change, Science, Research
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UNSW
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES



New South Wales Integrated Marine
Observing System (NSW-IMOS)



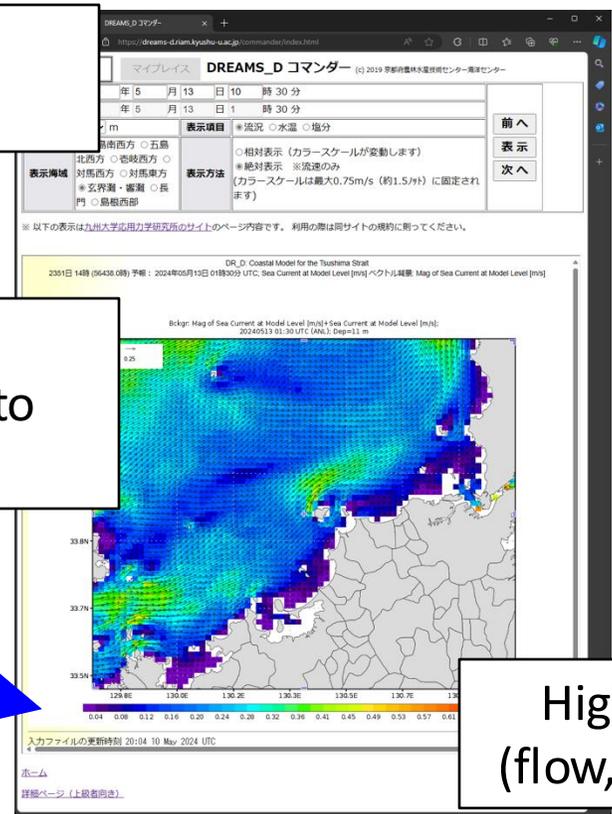
Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

SFiN (Smart Fishing Network) FVON Japan

Naoki Hirose, Shin Kida and Colleagues



CTD obs by fishers
using compact CTD



Viewer App for
fishers to use on site
"Smart" fisheries

Upload data
Automatically to
cloud

High Res ocean forecast
(flow, temperature, salinity)

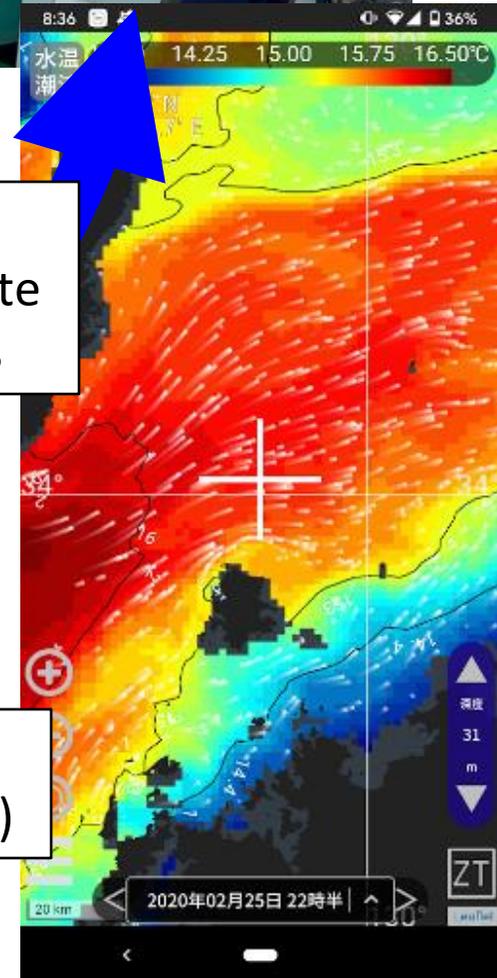
Affordable CTD for coastal ocean

Tegaru-CTD

Robust, compact and low cost



- Easy data visualization during field work
- Operation via tablet or smartphone
- Data transfer via Bluetooth® wireless technology
- Wireless charging



Technical Specs for the sensors

Moana specifications and requirements

Temperature Range	-2 °C to 35 °C
Temperature Accuracy	0.05°C
Temperature Resolution	0.001 °C
Temperature Response Rate	1 second
Pressure accuracy	0.5% of rated pressure range
Battery life and calibration duration	2 years
Weight with protective tough jacket	100g
Memory capacity	31,146 data records
Communication range	30 meters

Deck-box specifications and requirements

Battery endurance without solar charge	4 weeks
Power sources	Solar and/or USB-C
Transmission	Cellular or Wi-Fi
Position accuracy	6.3 m error with 95% confidence interval of 13.8 m
Position logging rate	15 seconds
Memory capacity	8GB



IMOS Integrated Marine Observing System

New South Wales Integrated Marine
Observing System (NSW-IMOS)



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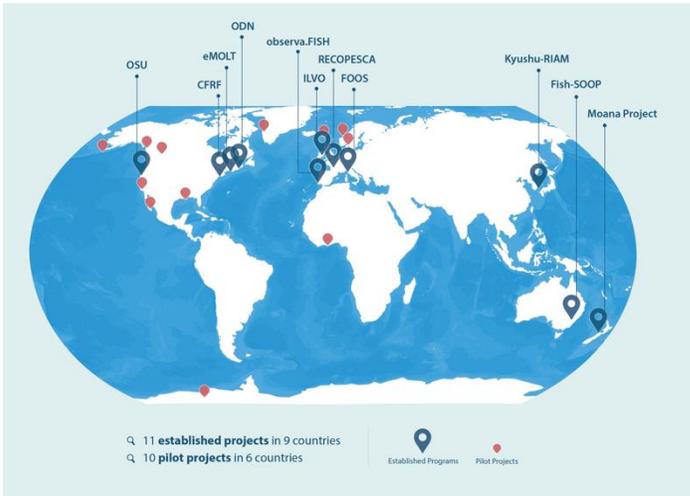
Global Ocean Observing System -

FVON International Endorsed as emerging network

International group
Best practices, coordination, data and equipment standards
Data hubs / Data Assembly centers
Become part of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)



The Global Ocean Observing System



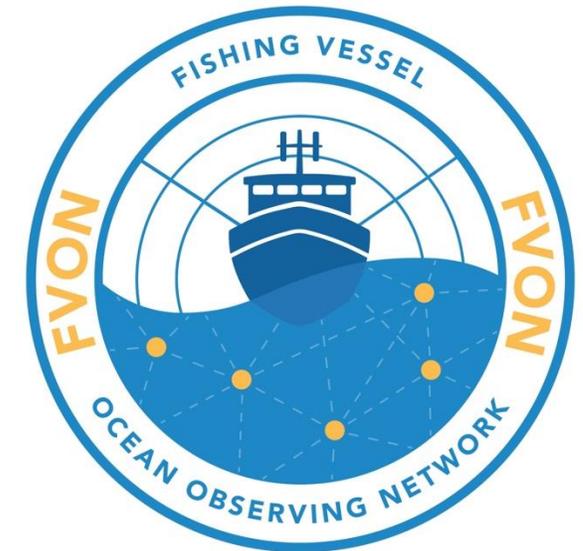
2021 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
2030 for Sustainable Development



UNSW
SYDNEY

FVON International Steering Committee

- FVON International Steering committee meeting held at 2024
- Governance and
- Self funding growth models
 - Steering Committee – MR
 - Secretariate – MI
 - Data Quality Control - VL



Van Vranken et al. (2023).
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2023.1176814/>