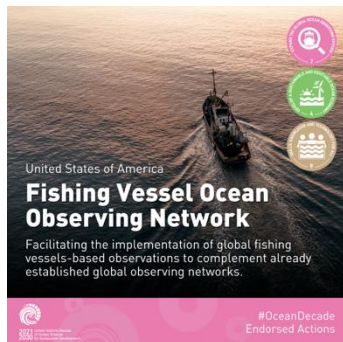




Fishing Vessels as Ships of Opportunity (FishSOOP)  
*Democratizing Coastal Ocean Observing Through  
Widespread, Low-Cost,  
(Robust, Research Quality, Real-Time, Reciprocal)  
Ocean Data Collection*



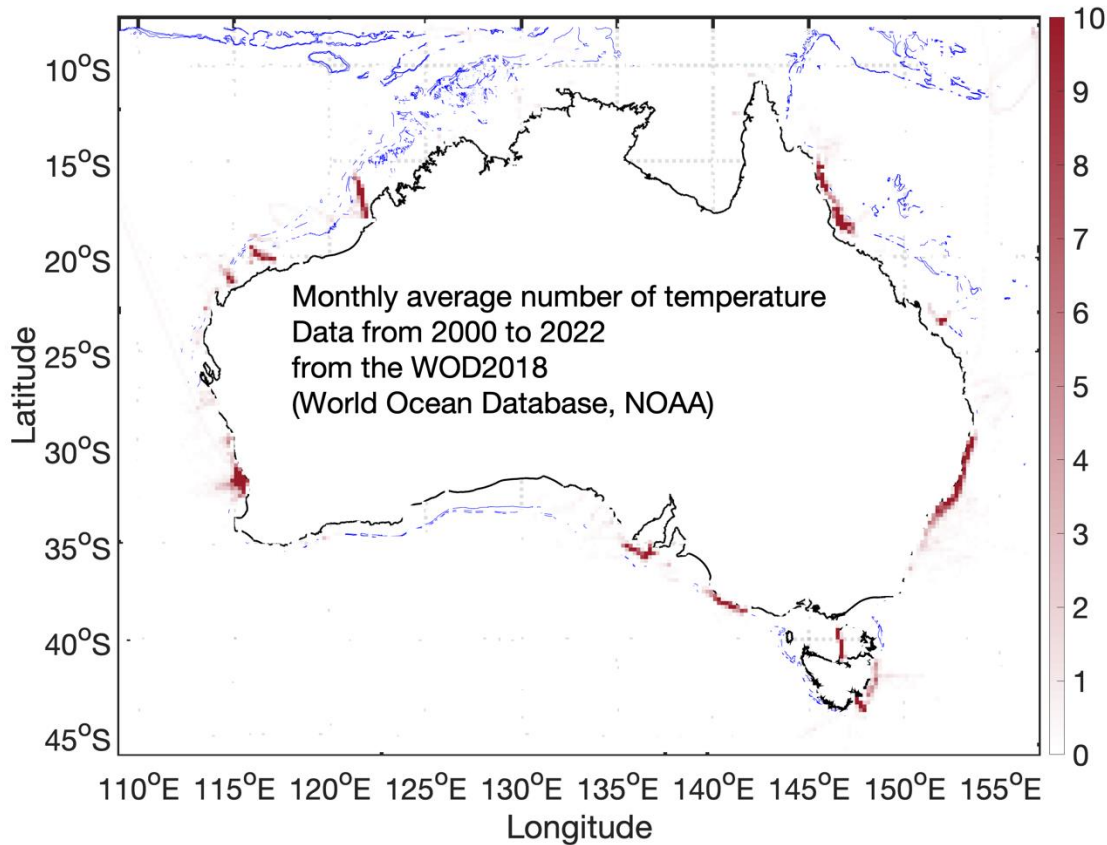
2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

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

mroughan@unsw.edu.au



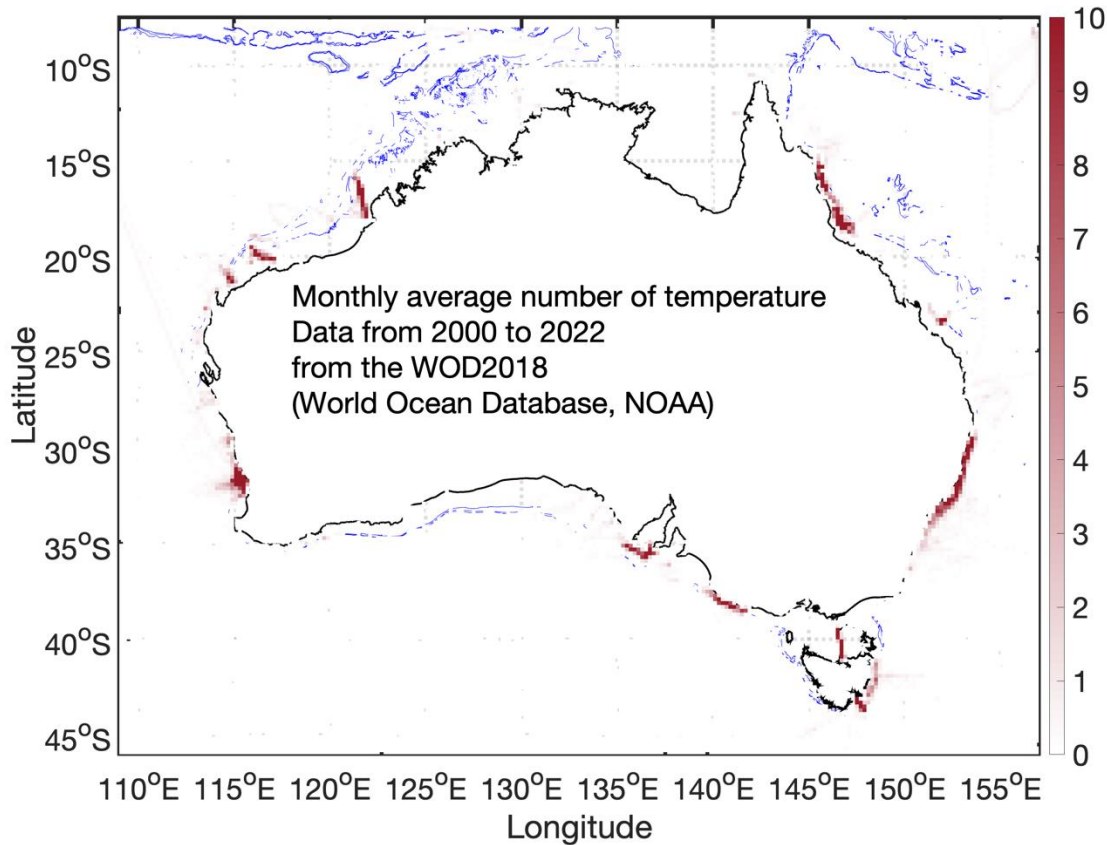
# Our Marine estate is largely under sampled



(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



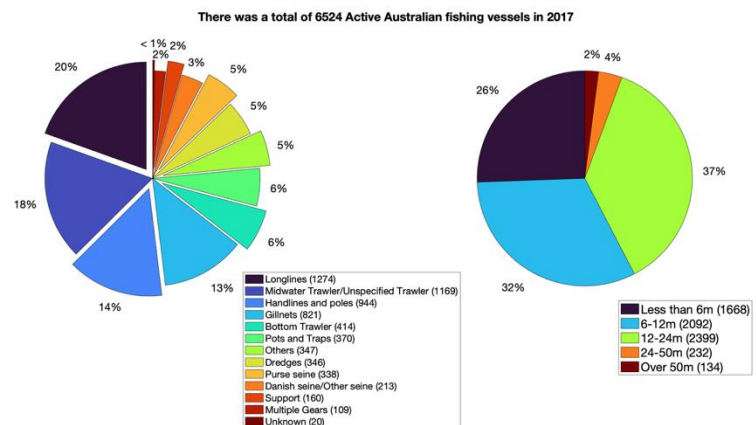
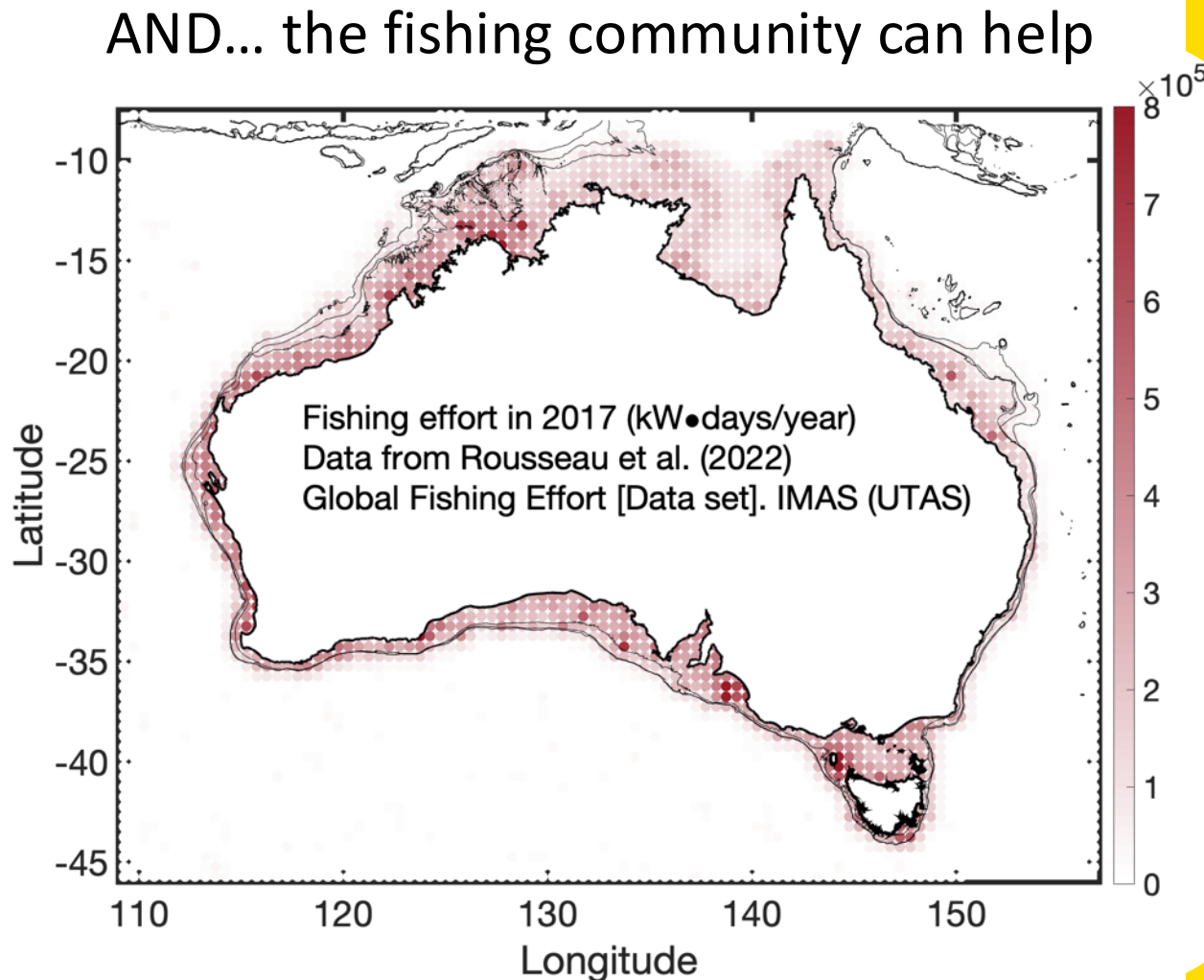
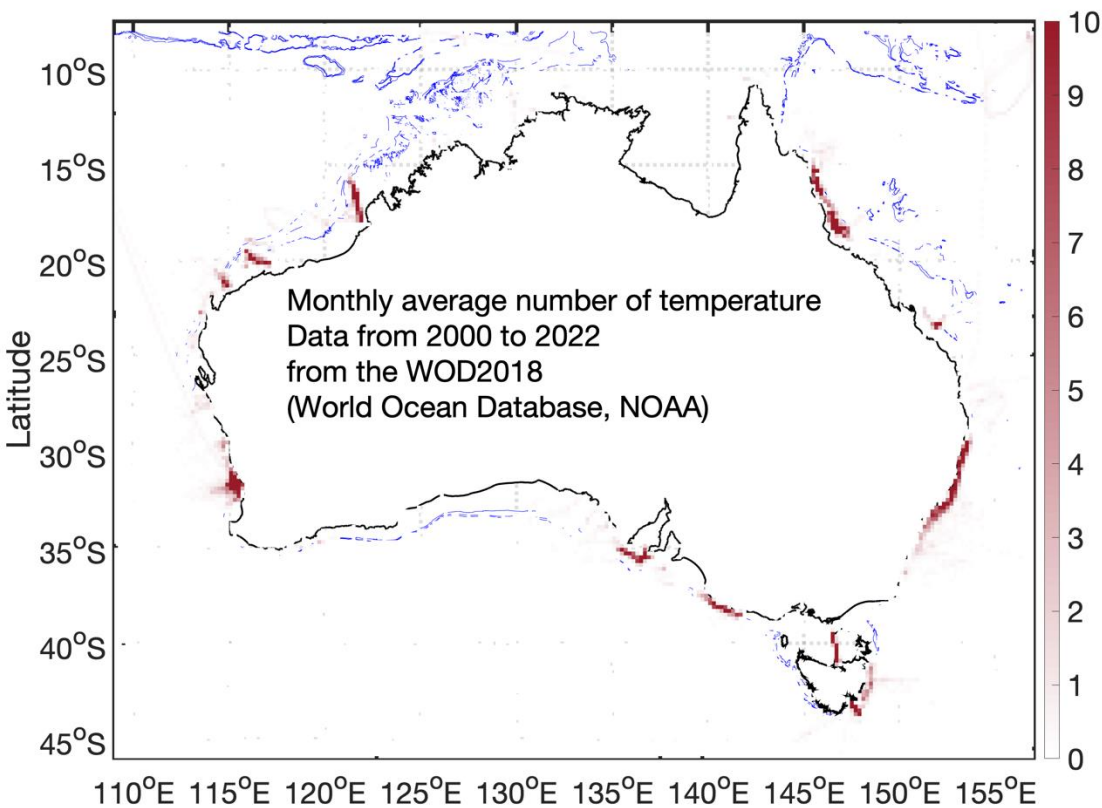
(even with the huge GOOS/ IMOS effort)

- 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.

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



# Our Marine estate is largely under sampled





# 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

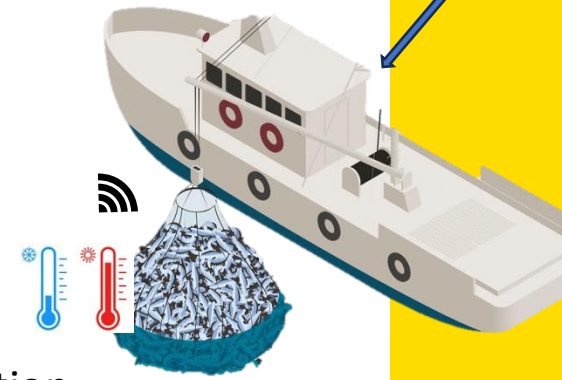
Research quality instruments for high quality science  
FAIR data  
Best practice QA/QC

### 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

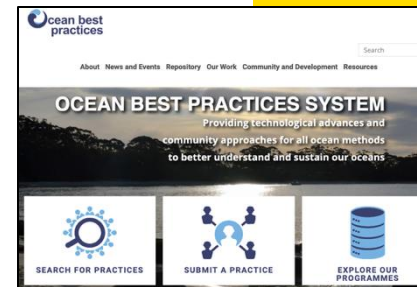
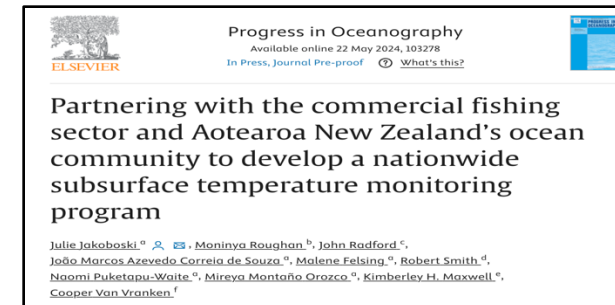
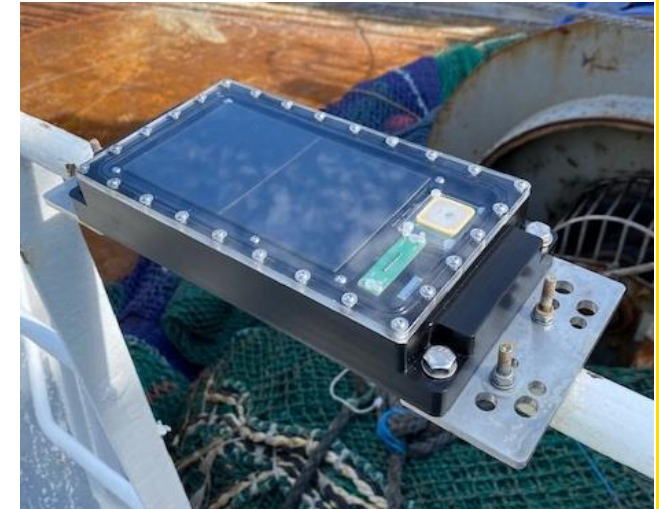
- No human intervention - for daily operations, fishers want to fish
- Pressure triggered start and stop variable sampling (1s profiling)
- Bluetooth offload in seconds, every set

## 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.

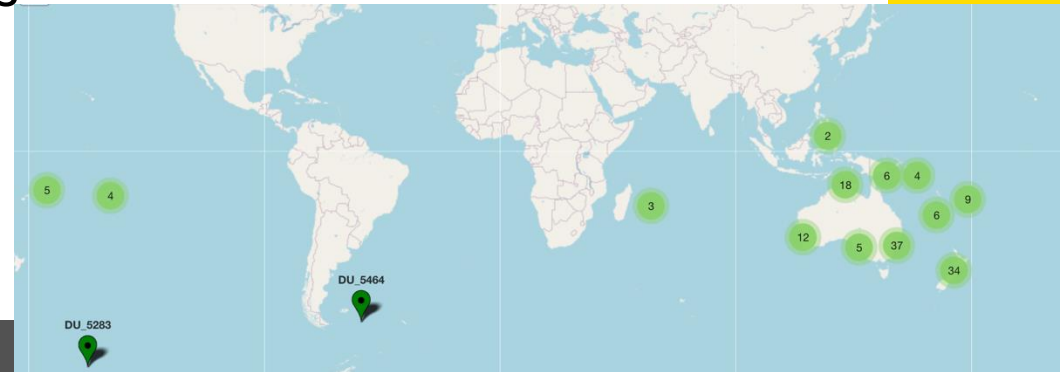
## Robust and low cost

- 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



SPC  
Secretariat  
of the Pacific  
Community



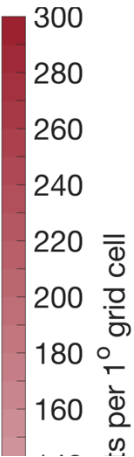
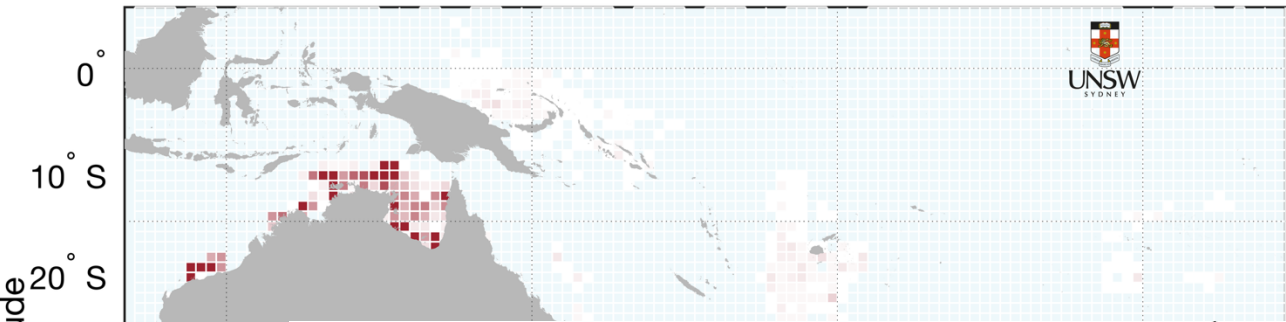
Chief Scientist  
& Engineer



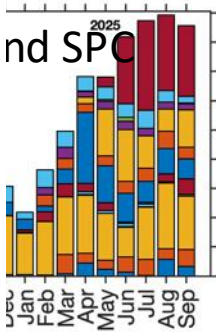
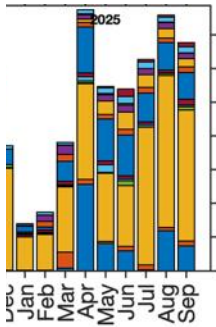
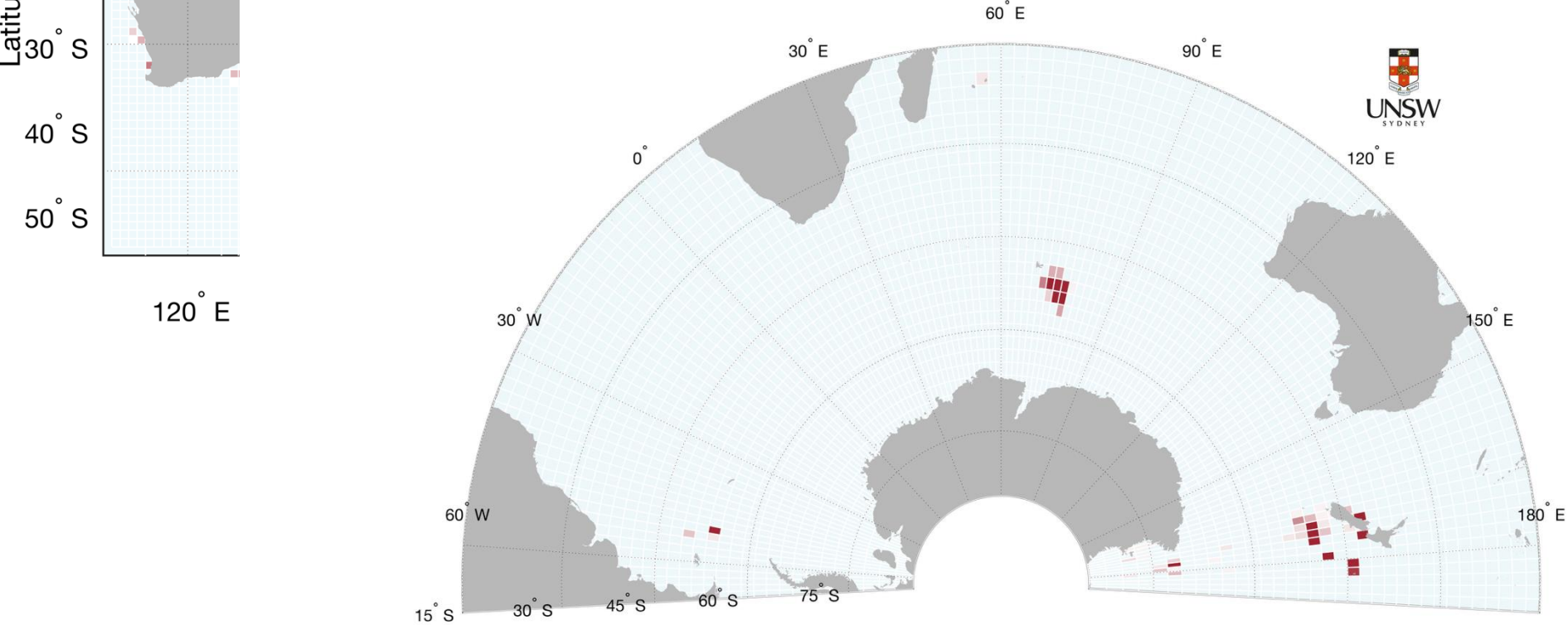


# Data Coverage

All data since 2020



Sub surface ocean temperature data  
To depths of 2000m

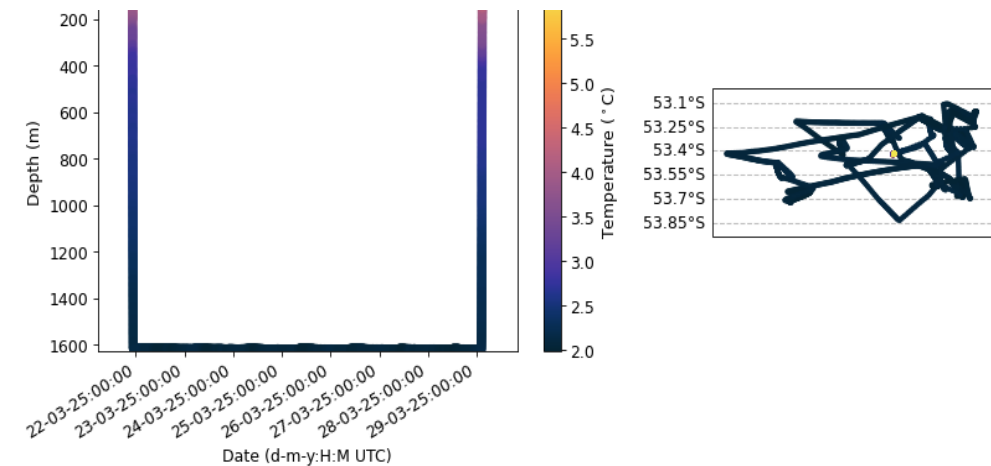
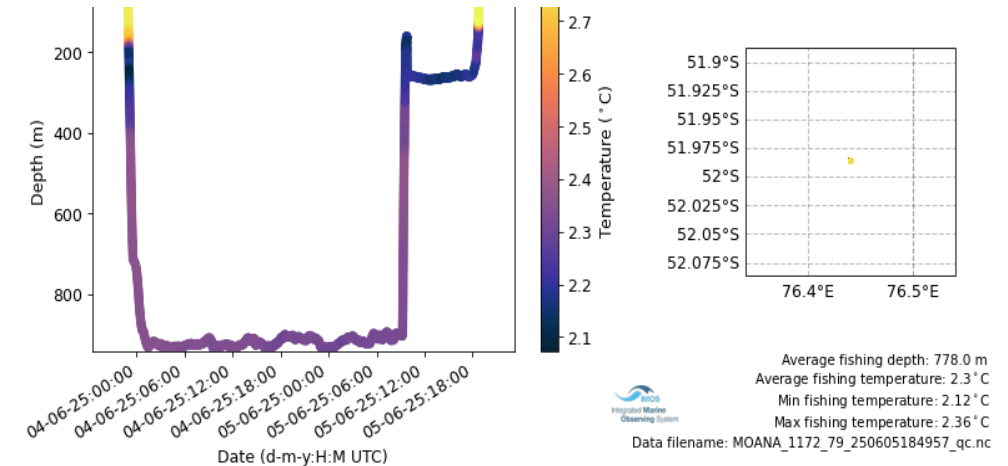
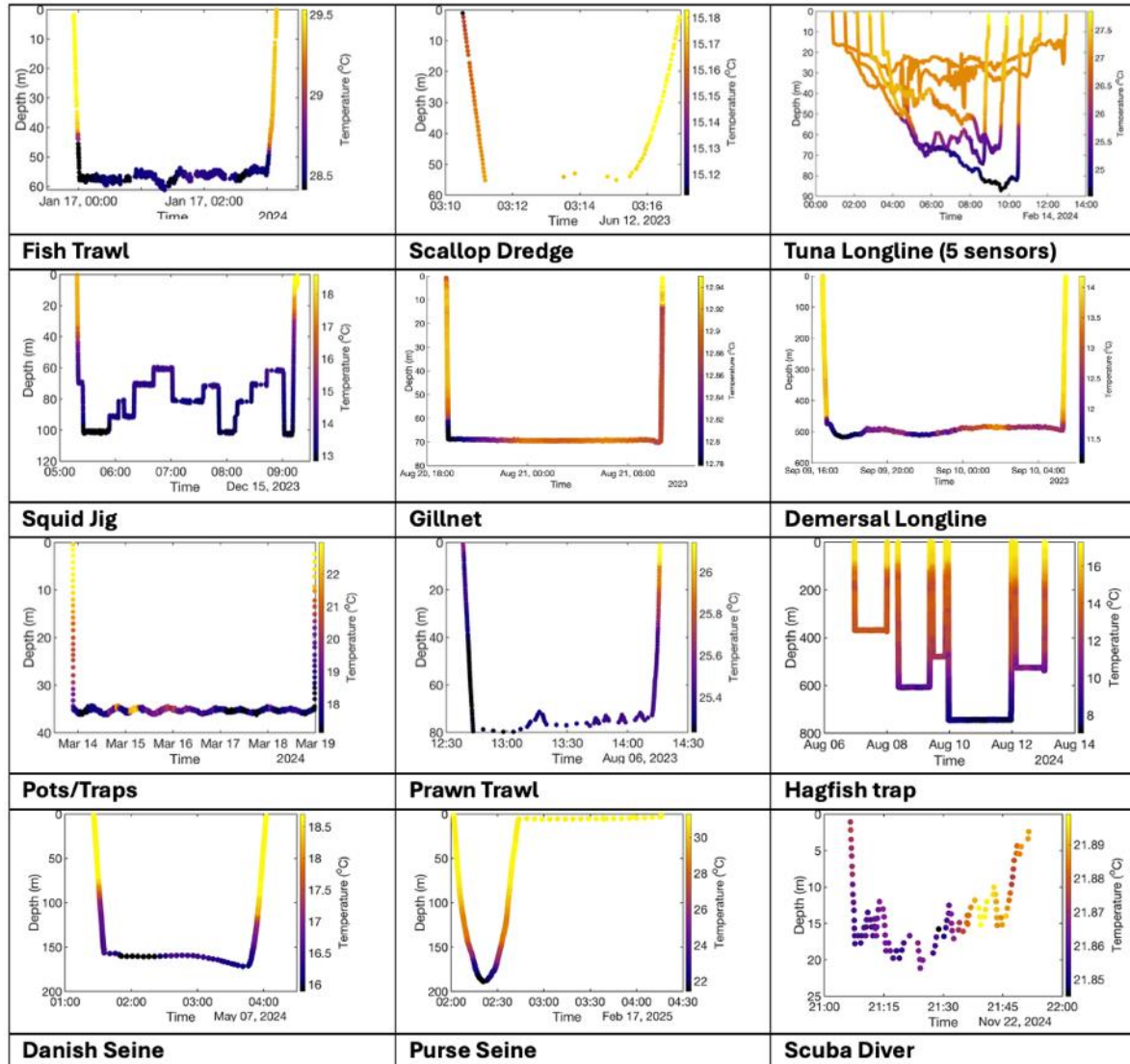


- WRL
- UNSW
- SPC-Solomon
- SPC-PNG
- SPC-Fiji
- SCU
- NT Fisheries
- NSW Fisheries
- MP NT
- MP NSW
- MP NI
- IMOS
- COLTO
- AFMA/FRDC

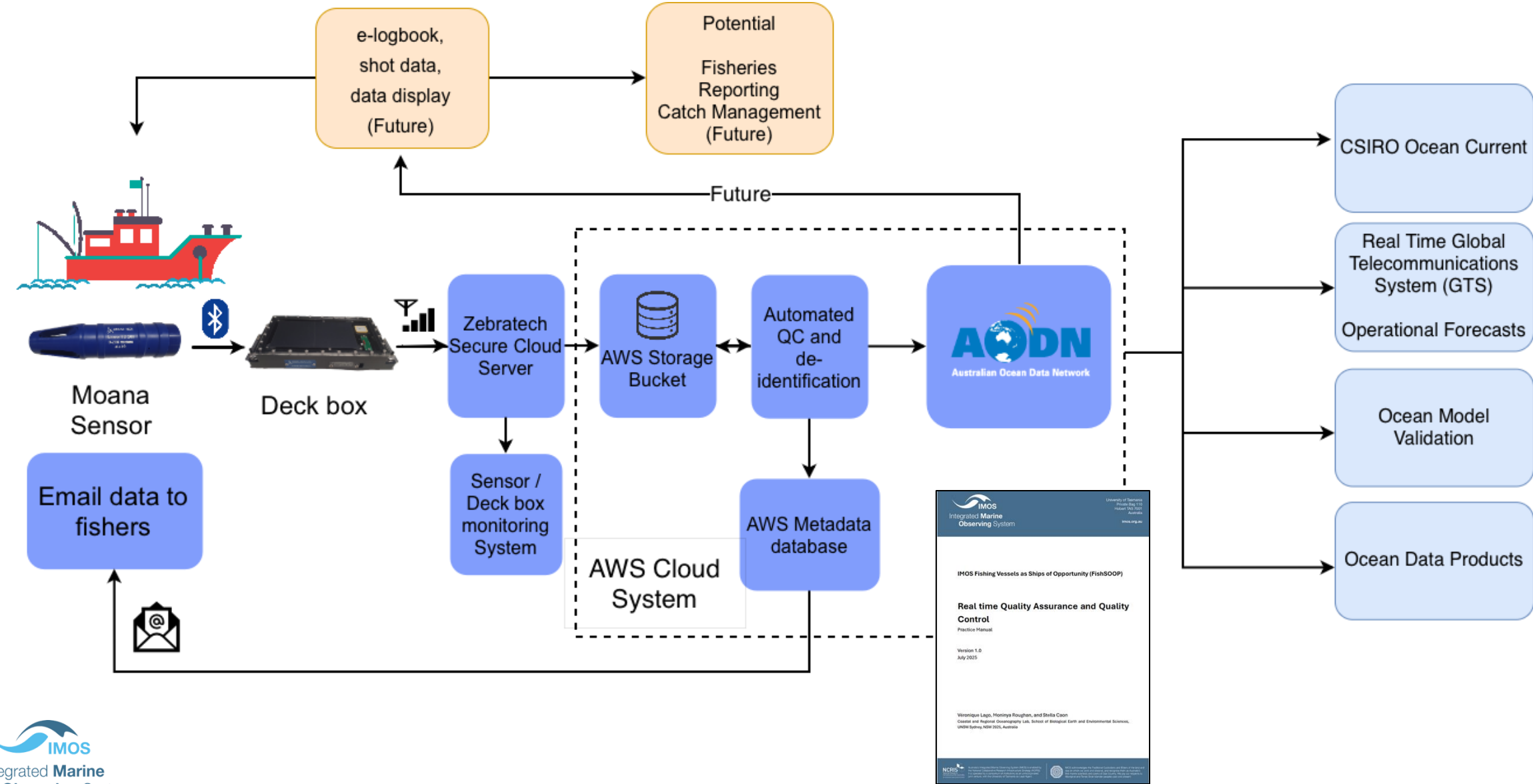


# What do the data look like – LOTS of sub surface/ bottom temp data.

- Different Fishing methods have different profiles.

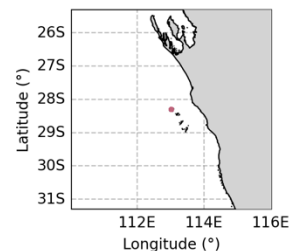
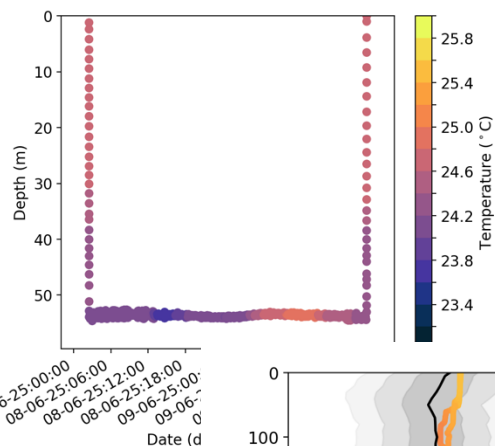
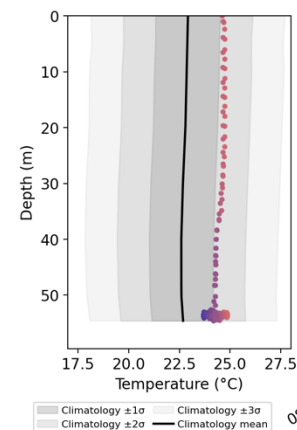


# Data pathway – Rigorous, Research Quality Data

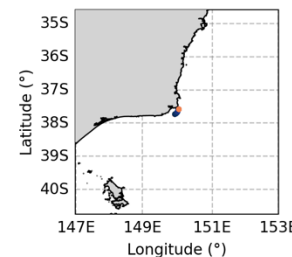
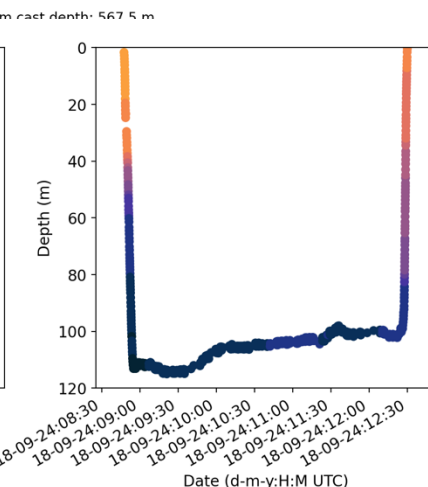
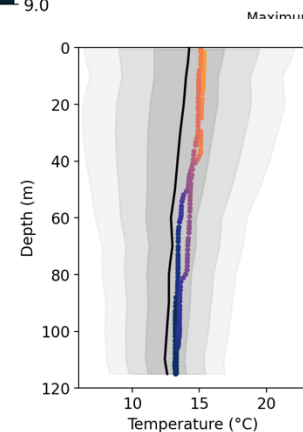
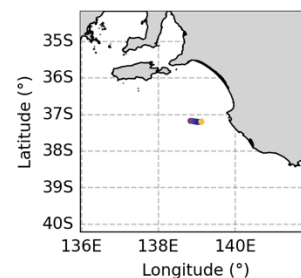
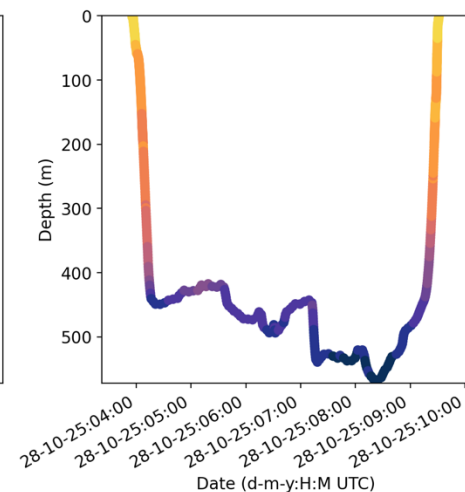
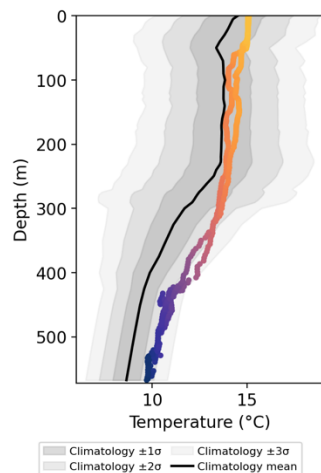




# Data delivery – User Observers get their data first

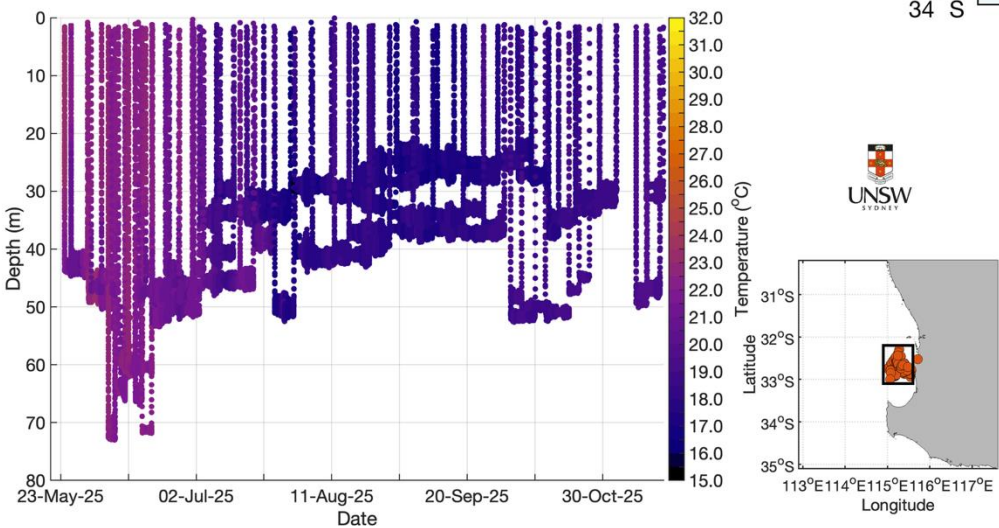
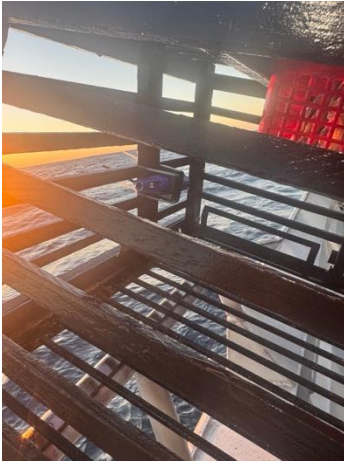
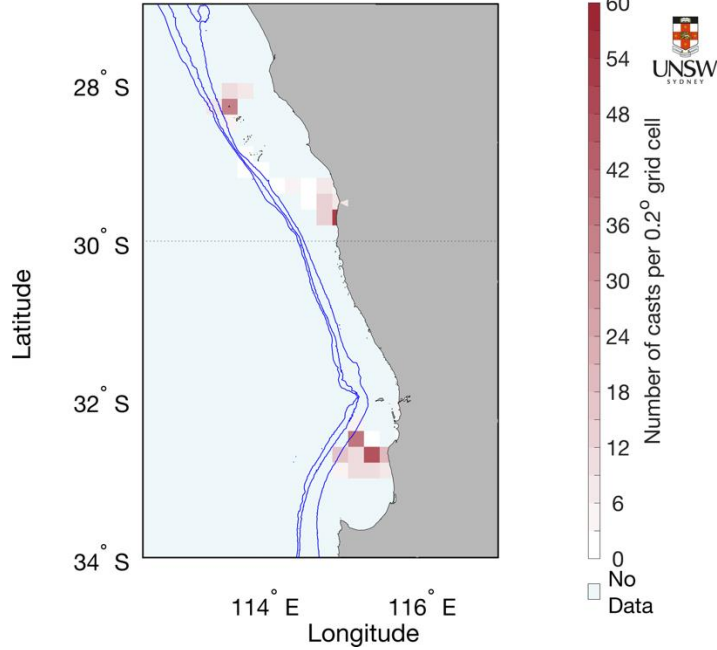
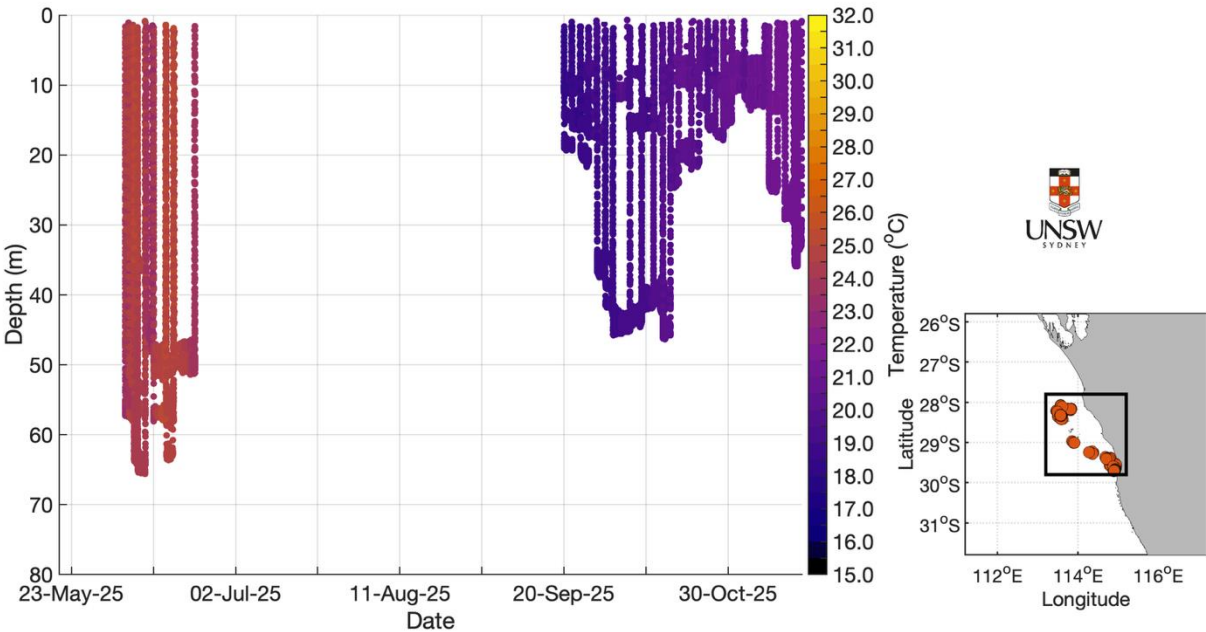


Plot of the profile map and context against CARS climatology  
Data as CSV (with QC flags)  
Brief statistics



MOANA_0784_36_230703054749_qc.csv		Open with Microsoft Excel				
Moana serial number	784					
Download time	03/07/2023 05:47:49					
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					
Cellular upload position	NA					
Deck unit battery voltage	3.66					
QC_FLAG Key	1=good 2=probably good 3=probably bad 4=bad					
	DATE TIME (UTC)	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	TEMPERATURE (degC)	DEPTH (m)	QC_FLAG
0	2023-07-03T04:55:07	-43.93118	150.46223	12.76	1.9	1
1	2023-07-03T04:55:11	-43.93119	150.46204	12.76	3.0	1
2	2023-07-03T04:55:13	-43.93119	150.46204	12.76	4.5	1
3	2023-07-03T04:55:16	-43.93119	150.46204	12.76	5.6	1
4	2023-07-03T04:55:19	-43.93116	150.46193	12.76	8.3	1
5	2023-07-03T04:55:22	-43.93116	150.46193	12.76	9.8	1
6	2023-07-03T04:55:24	-43.93116	150.46193	12.76	11.1	1
7	2023-07-03T04:55:26	-43.93116	150.46193	12.76	12.3	1
8	2023-07-03T04:55:28	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	14.0	1
9	2023-07-03T04:55:29	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	15.3	1
10	2023-07-03T04:55:32	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	17.0	1
11	2023-07-03T04:55:34	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	18.2	1
12	2023-07-03T04:55:35	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	19.1	1
13	2023-07-03T04:55:37	-43.93111	150.46183	12.76	20.1	1
14	2023-07-03T04:55:38	-43.93103	150.46167	12.76	21.2	1
15	2023-07-03T04:55:40	-43.93103	150.46167	12.76	23.0	1
16	2023-07-03T04:55:42	-43.93103	150.46167	12.76	24.2	1
17	2023-07-03T04:55:44	-43.93103	150.46167	12.76	25.8	1
18	2023-07-03T04:55:46	-43.93103	150.46167	12.76	26.9	1
19	2023-07-03T04:55:49	-43.93102	150.46151	12.76	28.3	1
20	2023-07-03T04:55:51	-43.93102	150.46151	12.76	30.1	1
21	2023-07-03T04:55:54	-43.93102	150.46151	12.76	32.0	1
22	2023-07-03T04:55:57	-43.93102	150.46151	12.76	33.5	1
23	2023-07-03T04:55:58	-43.93093	150.46143	12.76	34.5	1
24	2023-07-03T04:56:00	-43.93093	150.46143	12.76	35.6	1
25	2023-07-03T04:56:02	-43.93093	150.46143	12.76	37.1	1
26	2023-07-03T04:56:04	-43.93093	150.46143	12.76	39.1	1
27	2023-07-03T04:56:06	-43.93093	150.46143	12.76	40.3	1
28	2023-07-03T04:56:08	-43.93095	150.46127	12.76	41.8	1
29	2023-07-03T04:56:11	-43.93095	150.46127	12.76	42.7	1
30	2023-07-03T04:56:15	-43.93095	150.46127	12.75	44.6	1
31	2023-07-03T04:56:17	-43.93095	150.46127	12.75	46.7	1
32	2023-07-03T04:56:20	-43.93093	150.46114	12.74	48.0	1

# 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 (\$)

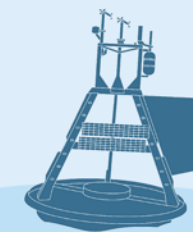
**“Transformative”**



Photo credit: [Australian Museum](#)

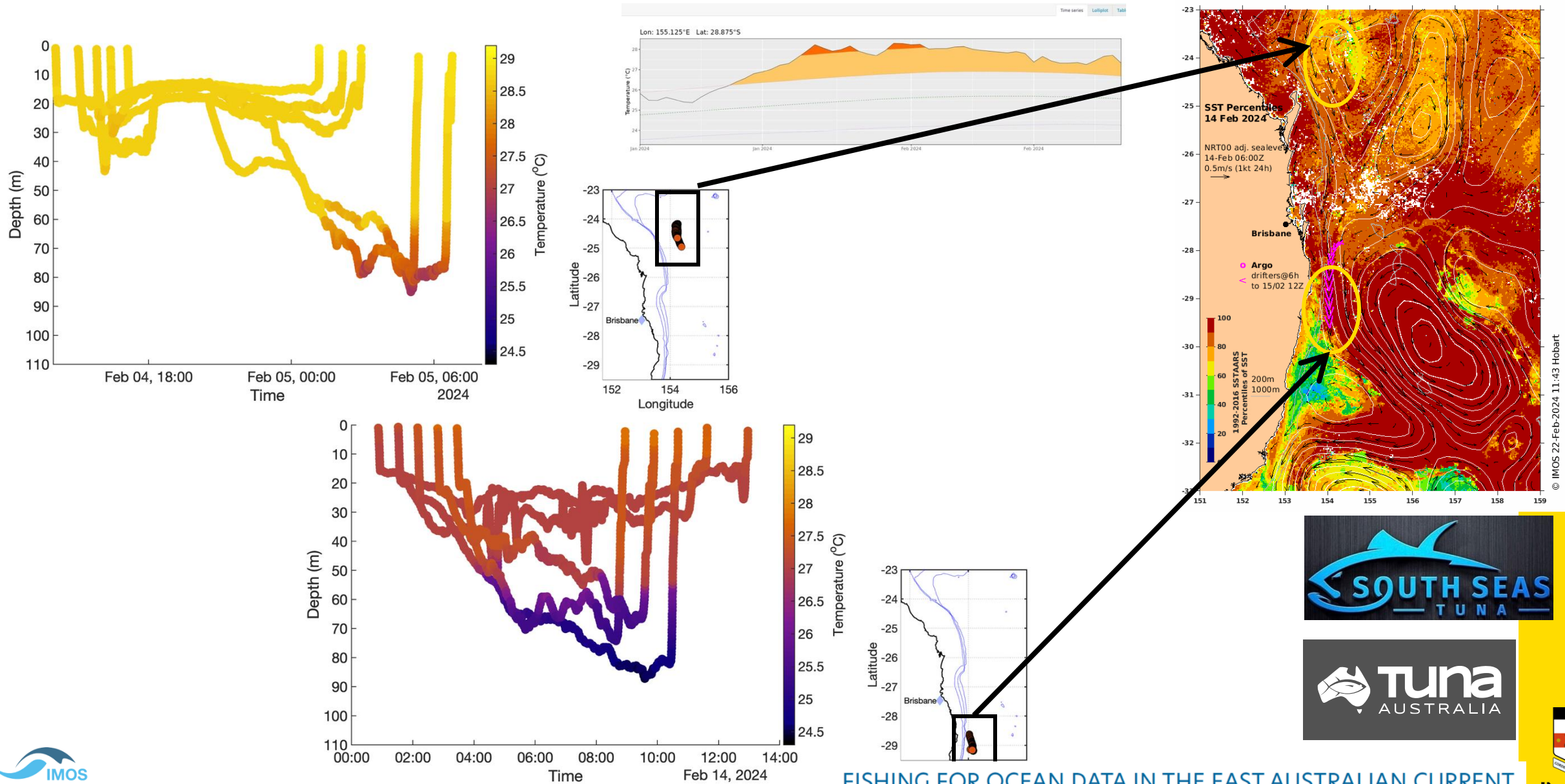


Photo credit: Bryce Nurnaitis, Fishwell

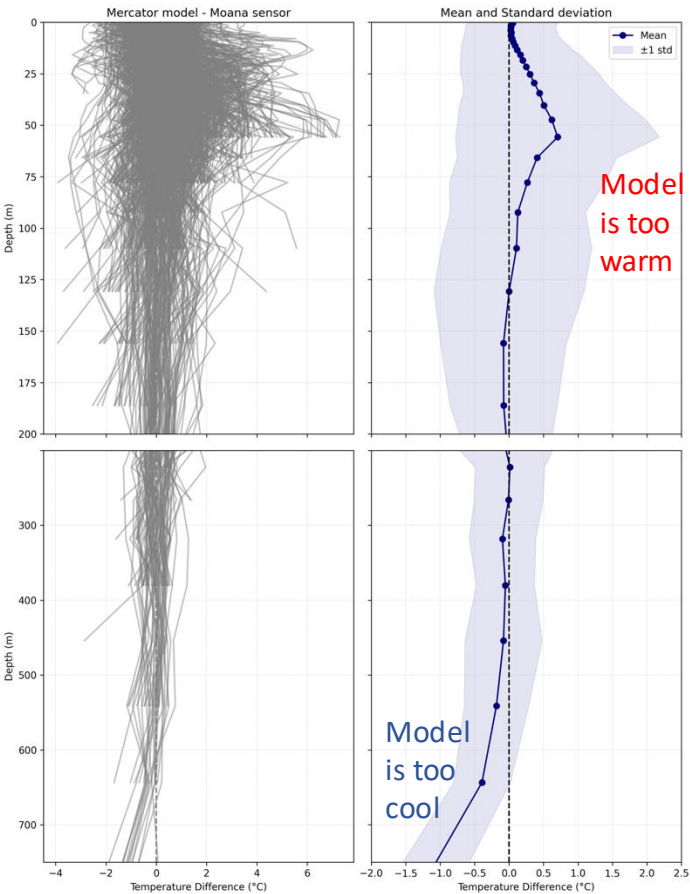
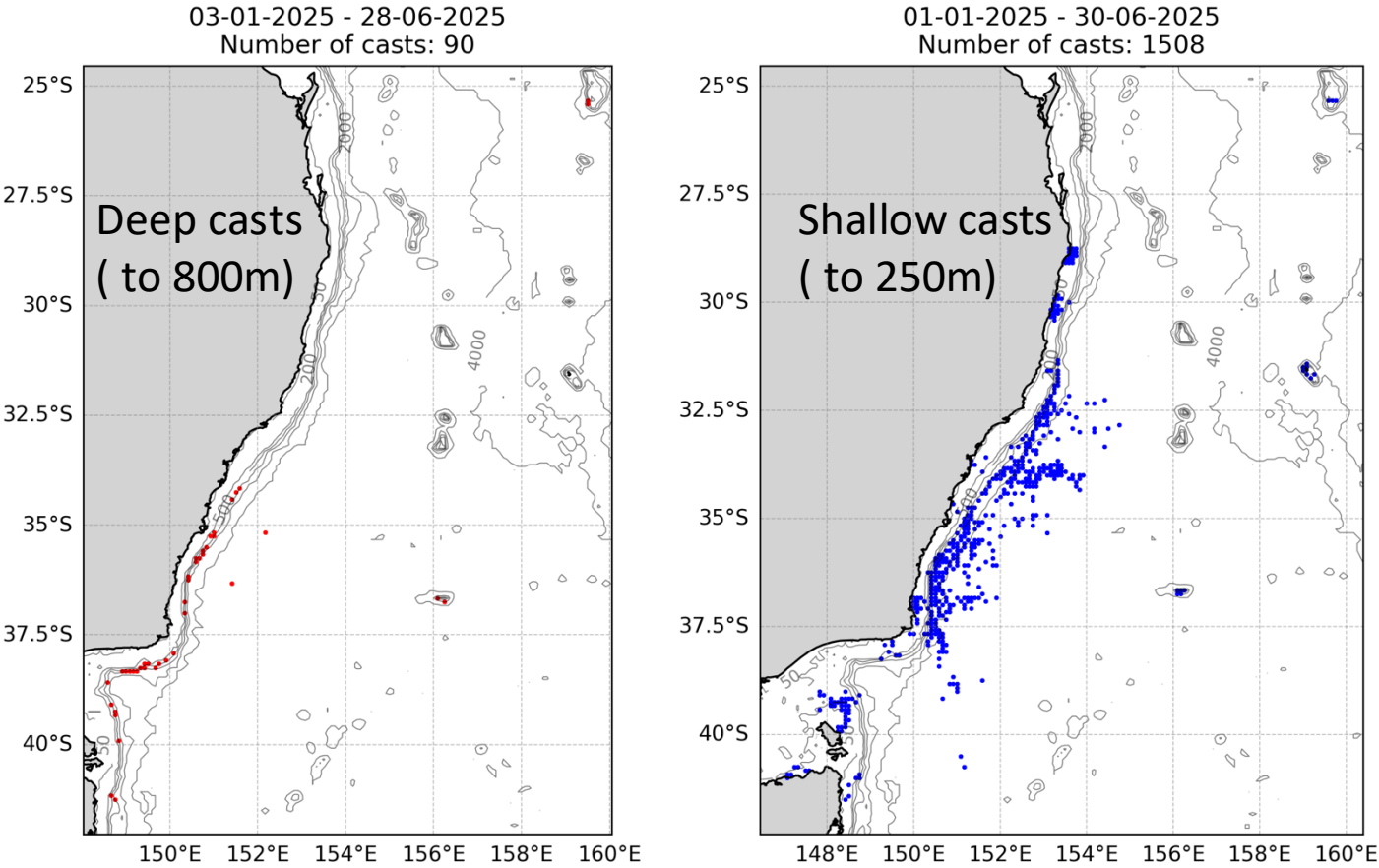




# Application – observing subsurface MHWs where fishing occurs



# Model - Data Comparisons European (Mercator) Ocean Forecasts



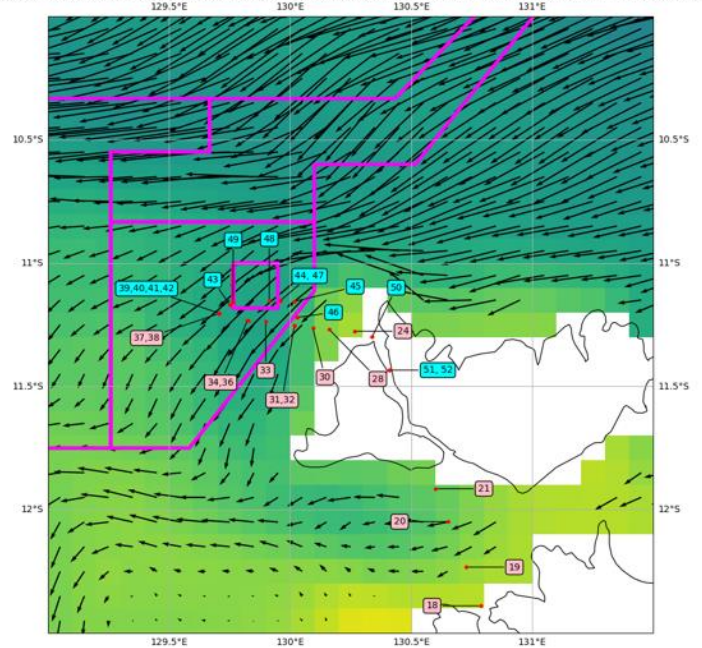
Model minus sensor,  
Positive - Model is too warm (25-100m)  
Negative - Model is too cold (650-800m)



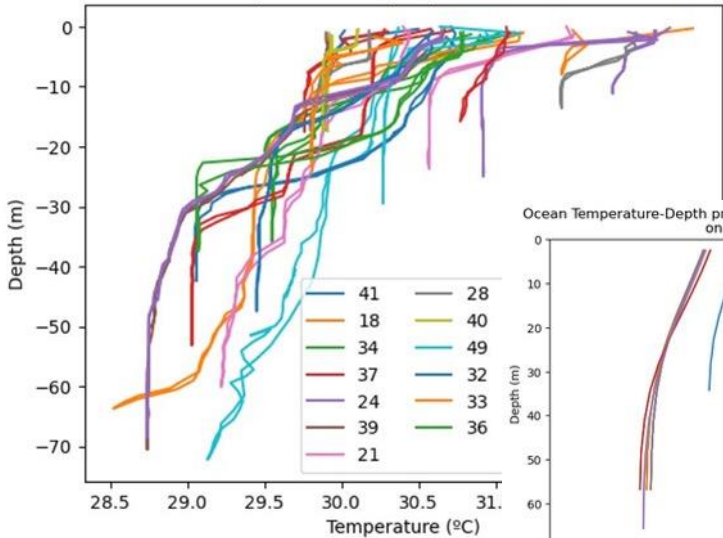
# Citizen Scientists - Model Evaluation - Data Comparisons



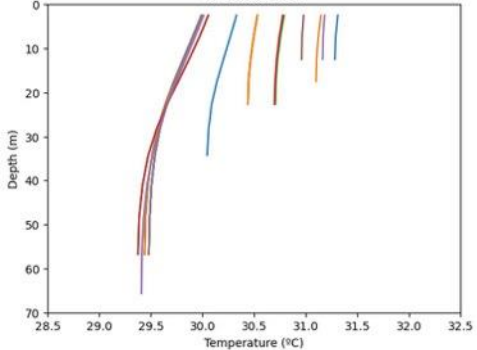
Map of Timor Temperature, Currents and Measurement locations using the model from 26/10/2024 for 12:00:00 on 28/10/2024



Ocean Temperature-Depth profile of observations

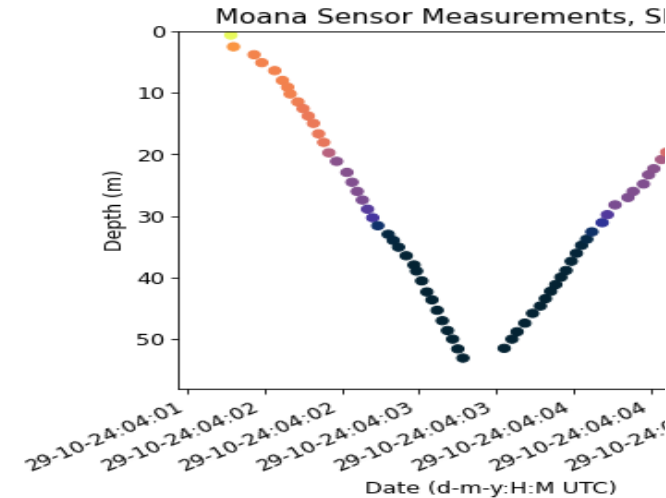


Ocean Temperature-Depth profile from Predicted Models (Monday) on 28/10/2024

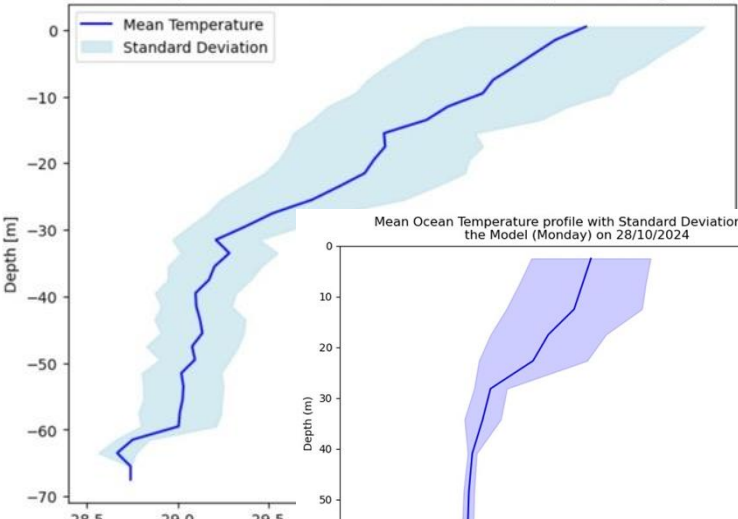


## Ocean Maps

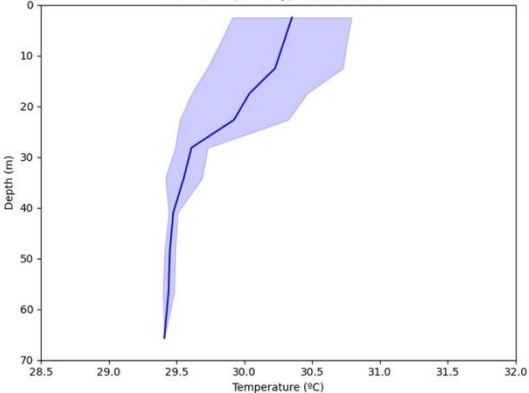
- Ocean Forecasts for NT from BoM (G. Brassington)
- Comparisons against data for model evaluation
- Stratification, UOHC for MHWs, and TC predn.



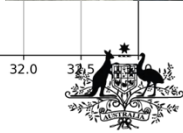
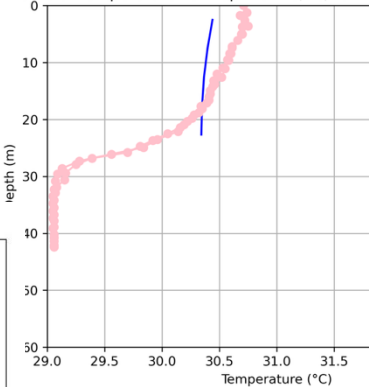
Mean Temperature Profile with Standard Deviation (Binned every 2 m)



Mean Ocean Temperature profile with Standard Deviation from the Model (Monday) on 28/10/2024



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



Australian Government  
Director of National Parks



Australian Marine Parks

Funded by UNSW and Parks Australia



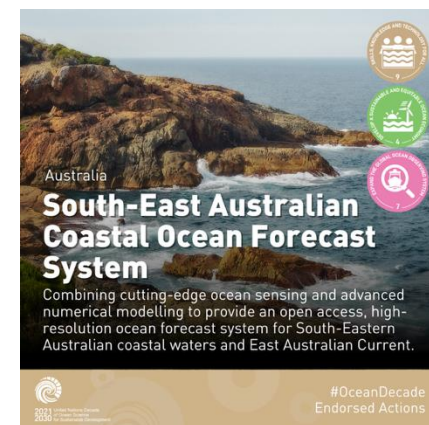
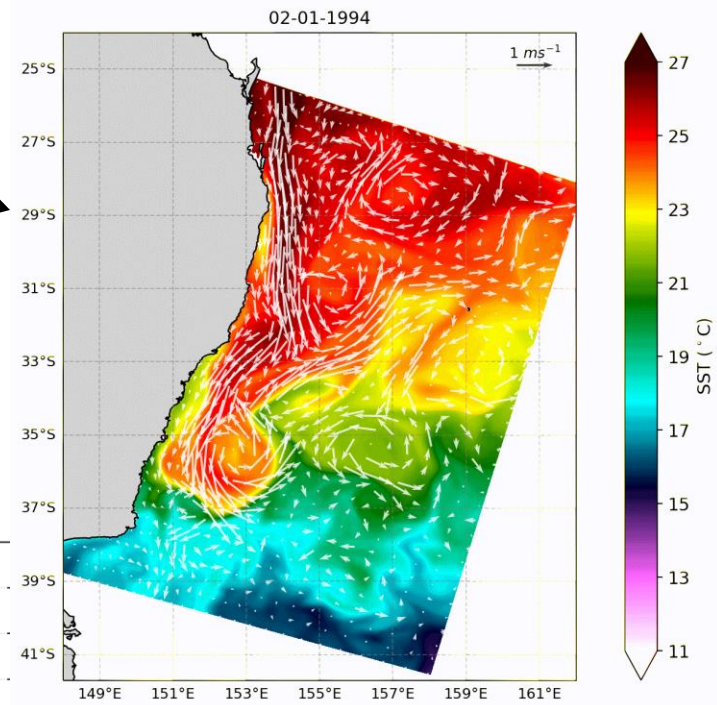
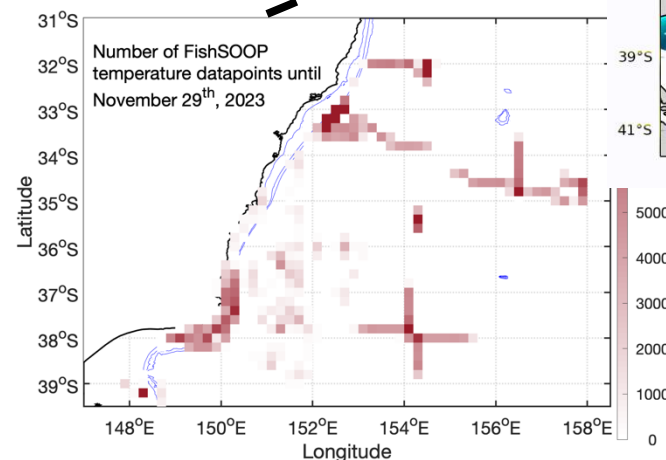
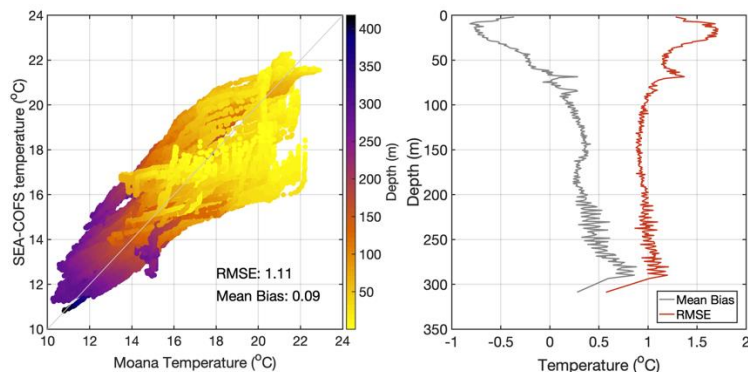
UNSW  
SYDNEY



# 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!)

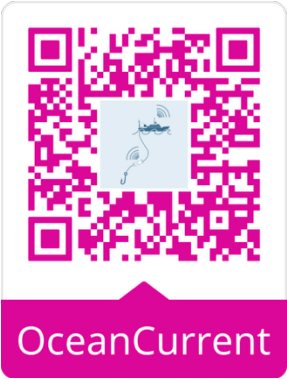
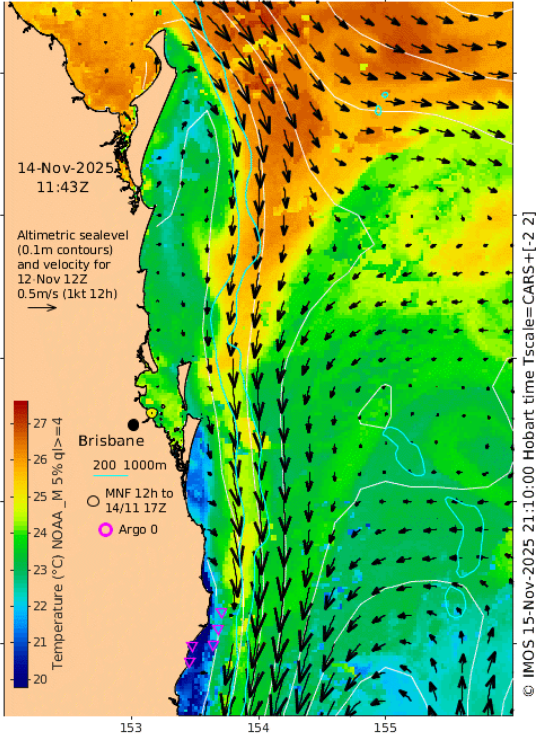
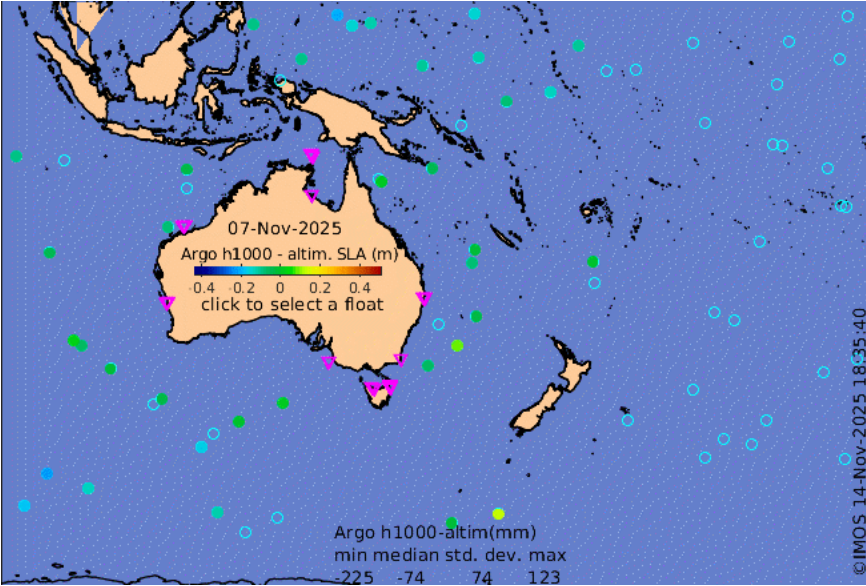
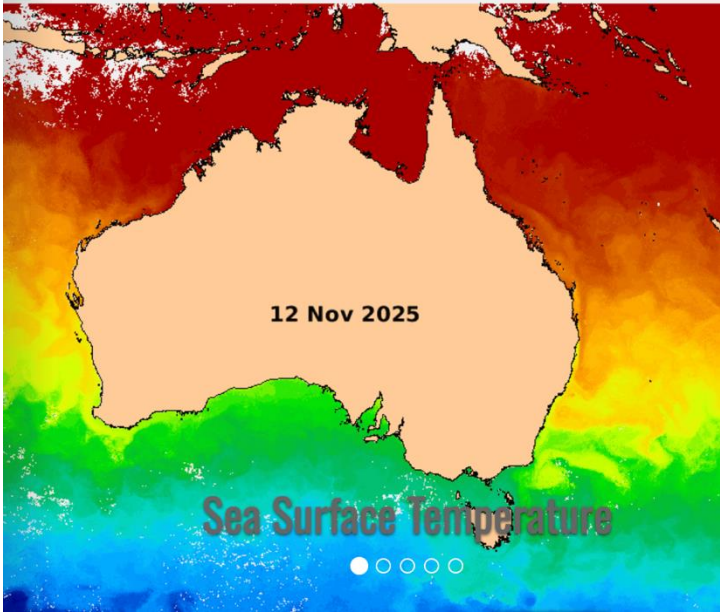


## IMOS OceanCurrent

Surface Currents and Temperature

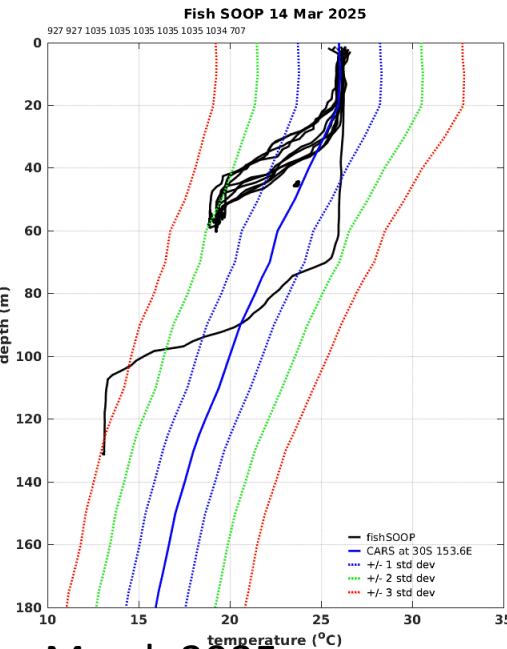
Up to date ocean information around Australia.

[Maps](#) [In-water](#) [News](#) [Guided Tour](#)

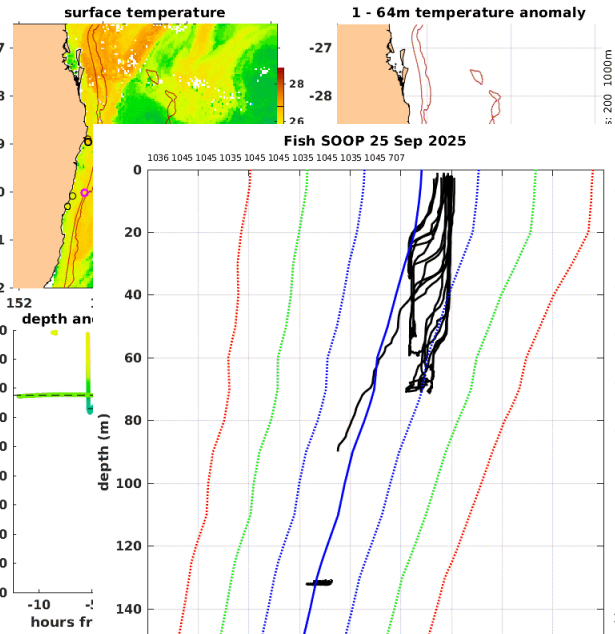




# Fish SOOP Data - live on Ocean Current (soon!)



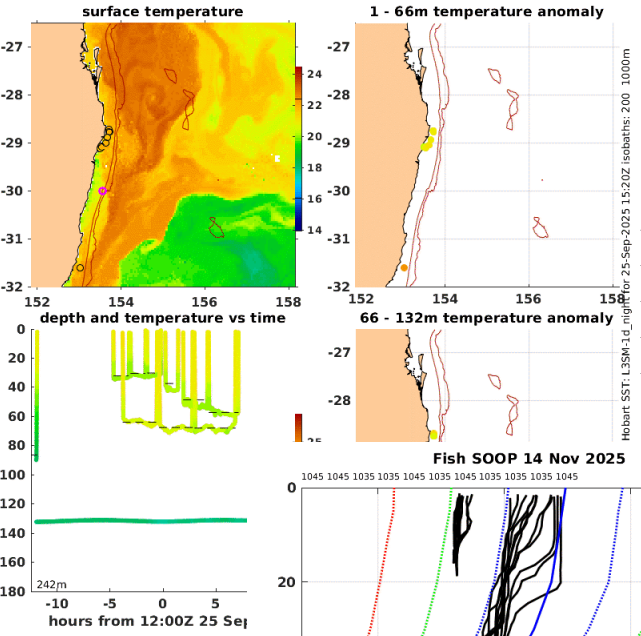
March 2025



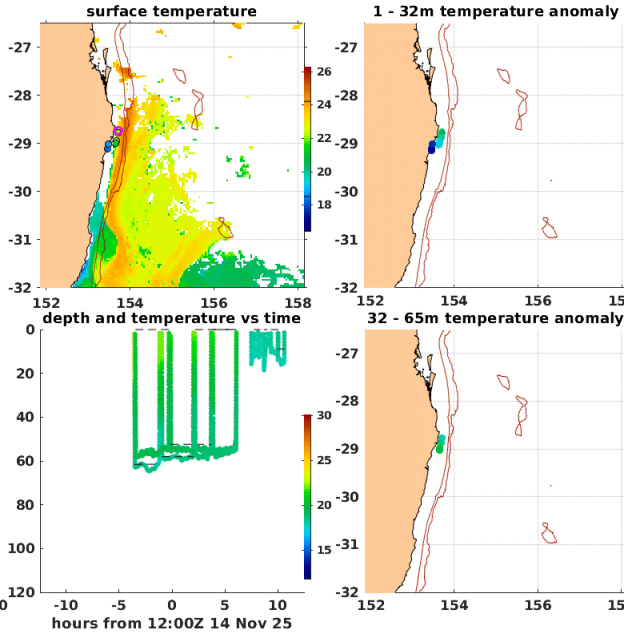
Sept 2025



OceanCurrent

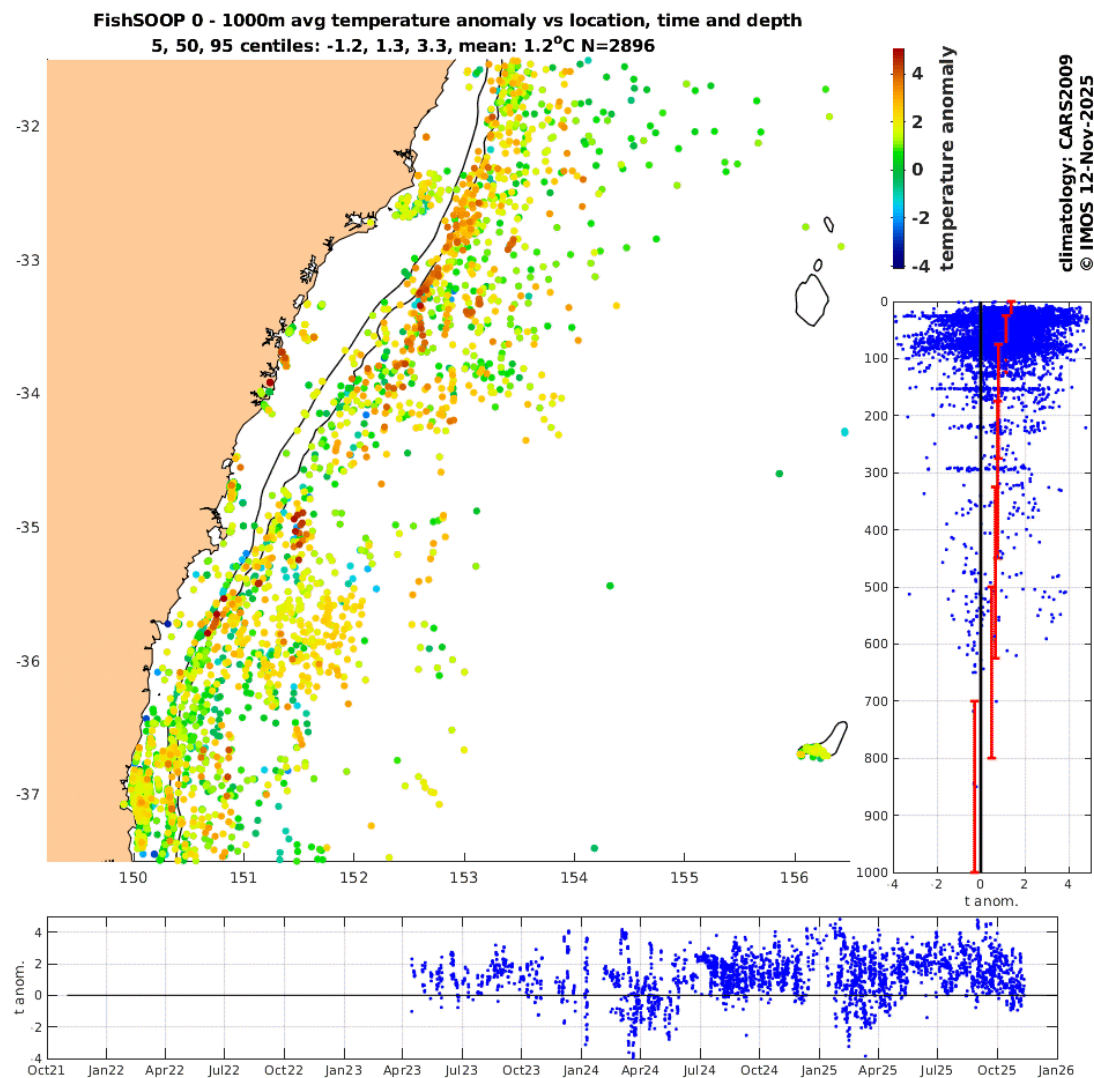


temperature (°C)

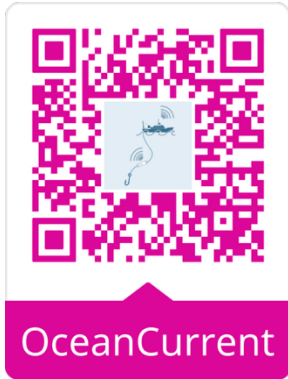




# Fish SOOP Data - live on Ocean Current (soon!)



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



UNSW  
SYDNEY

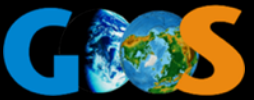




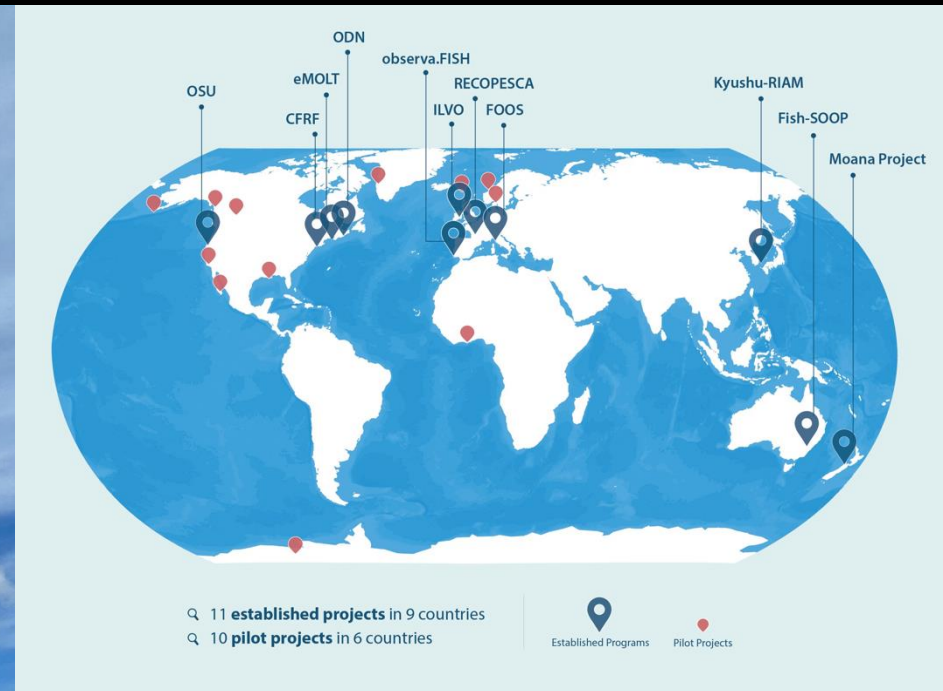
# THE FISHING VESSEL OCEAN OBSERVING NETWORK

**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



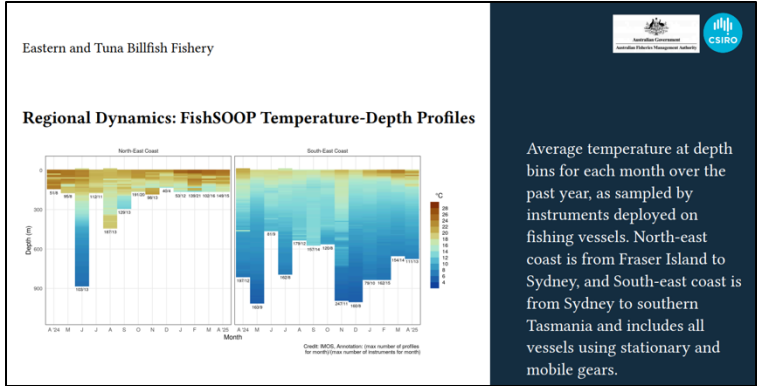
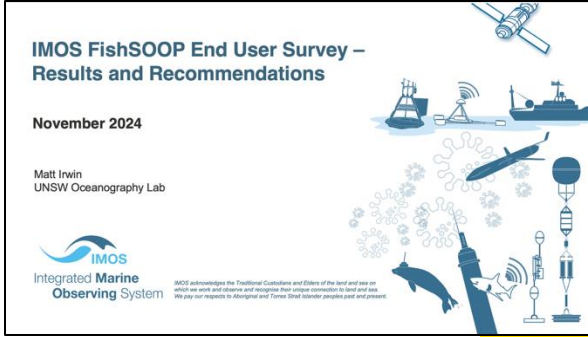
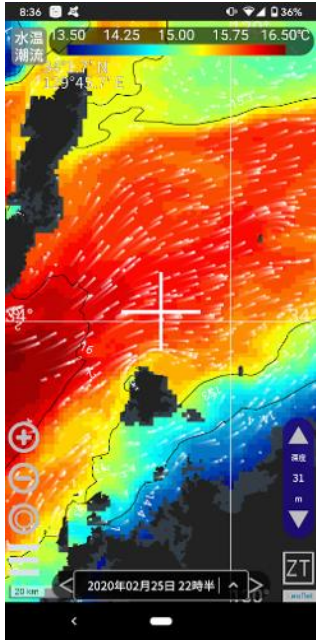
2021 United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



~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



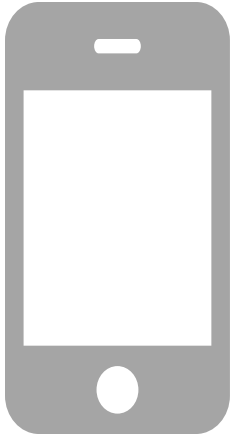
Expression of Interest



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](http://www.oceanography.unsw.edu.au)



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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

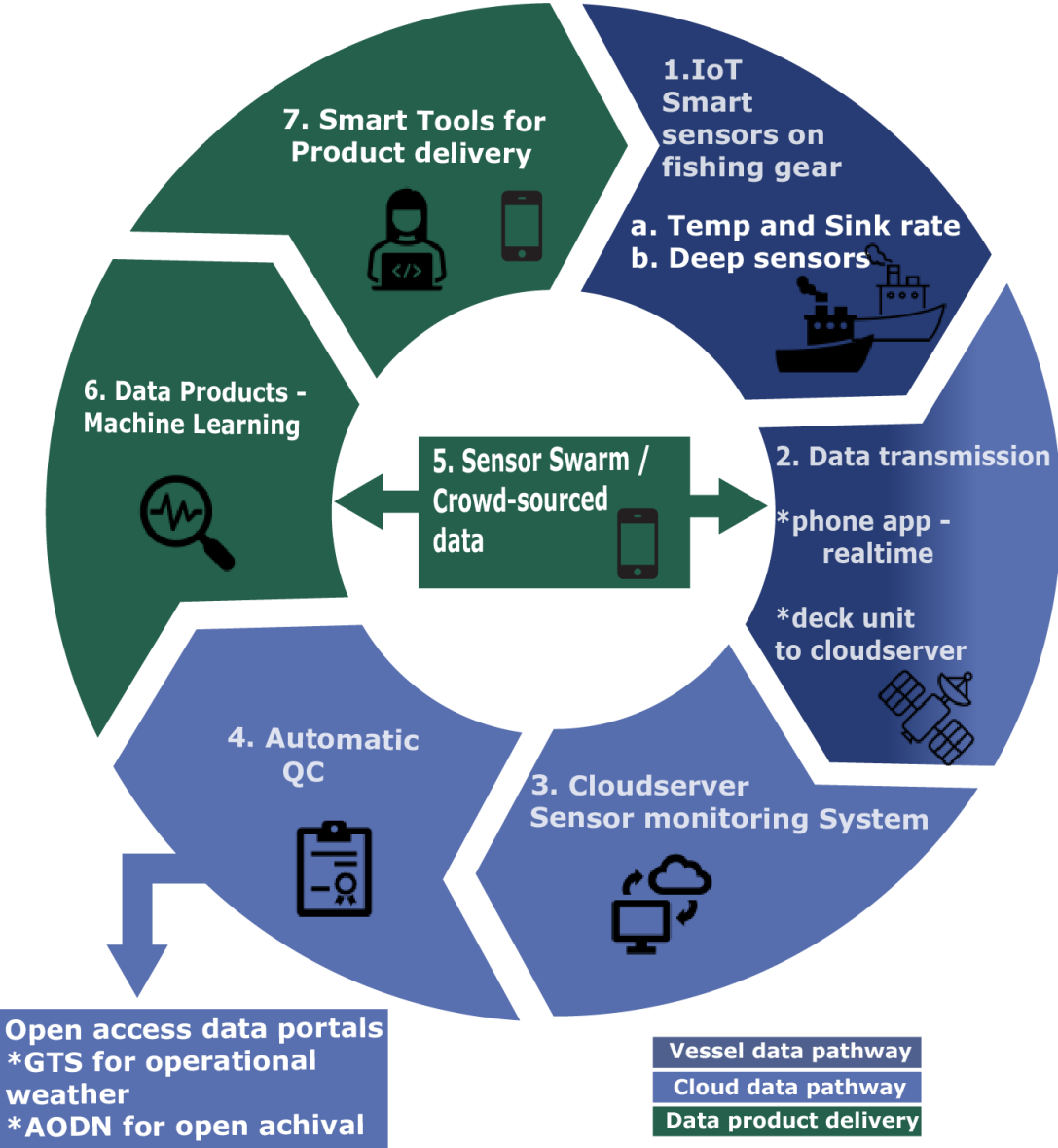


Australian Government  
Australian Fisheries Management Authority



# The full circle data pathway – Smart Tools for Product delivery

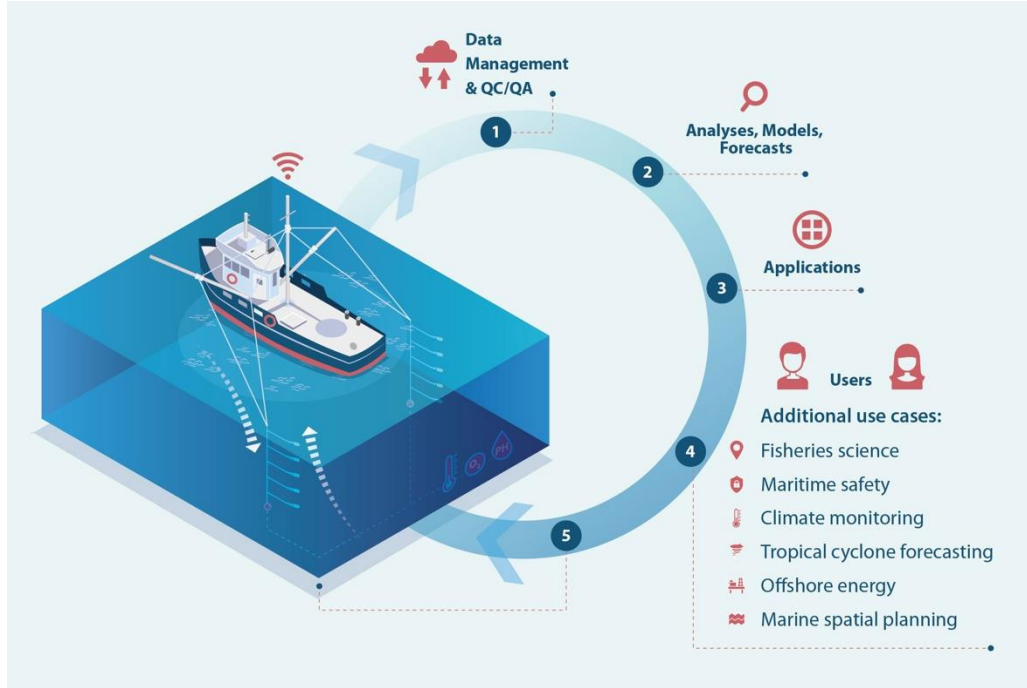
Further Opportunity



# 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



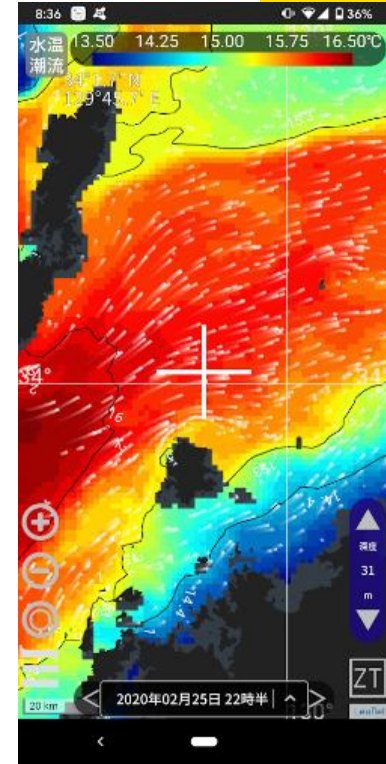
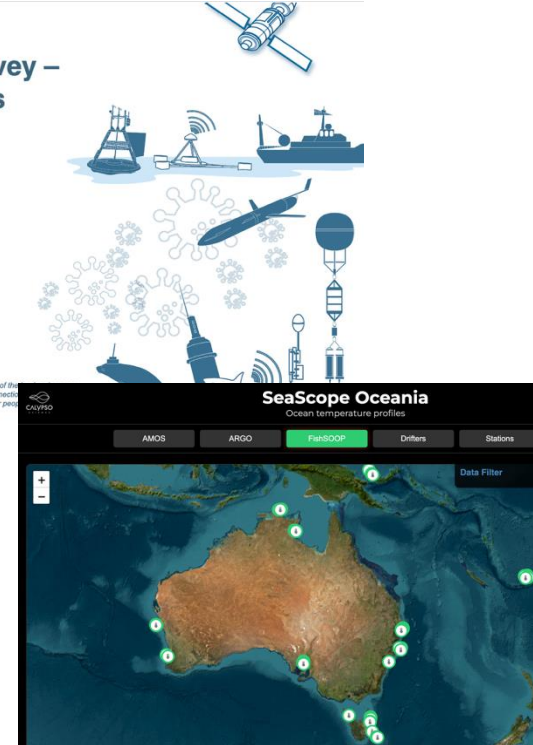
## IMOS FishSOOP End User Survey – Results and Recommendations

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 to the land and sea. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



## Data products from profiles

- Thermocline depth
- Mixed Layer depth
- Bottom temp
- Climatologies + anomalies
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# Data Uptake

## Prof Kylie Scales U Sunshine Coast Collaboration with Tuna Australia

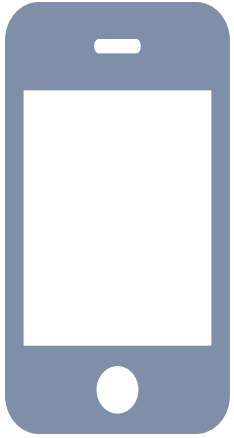
- Improve understanding of the physical drivers of catchability of commercially valuable tuna
- Understand climate impacts and risks to the Australian tuna fishing industry.
- Build ecological data products and near-term forecasts to inform industry and management authorities.
- Provide industry and 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  
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papers .....



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IMOS Integrated Marine Observing System

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



Australian Government  
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

# SFiN (Smart Fishing Network) FVON Japan

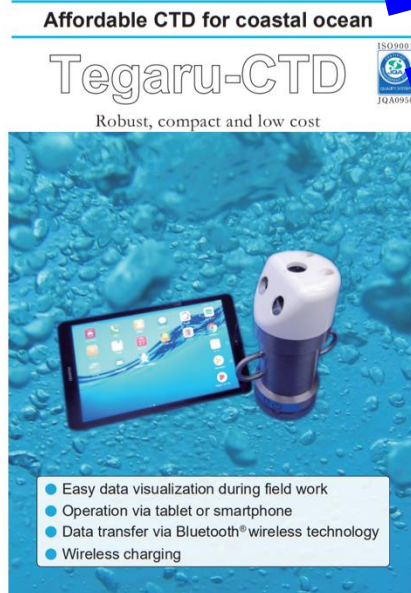
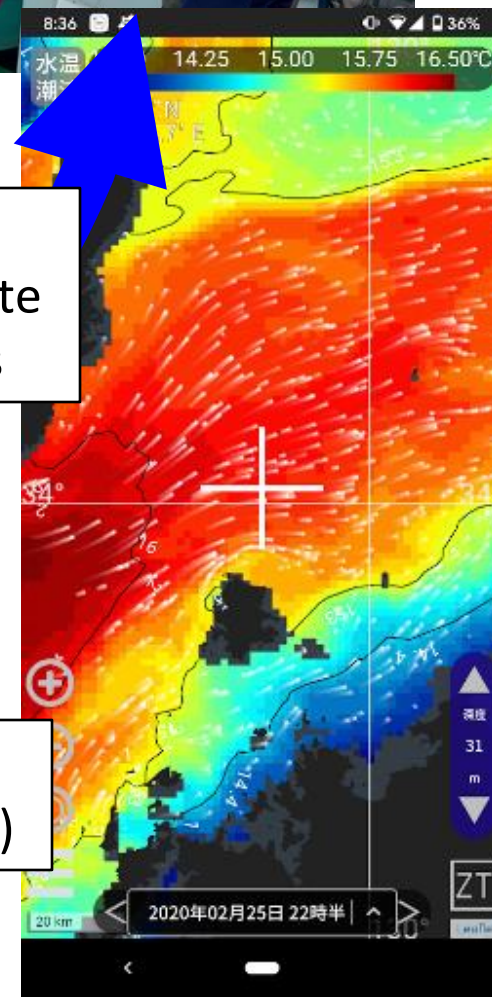
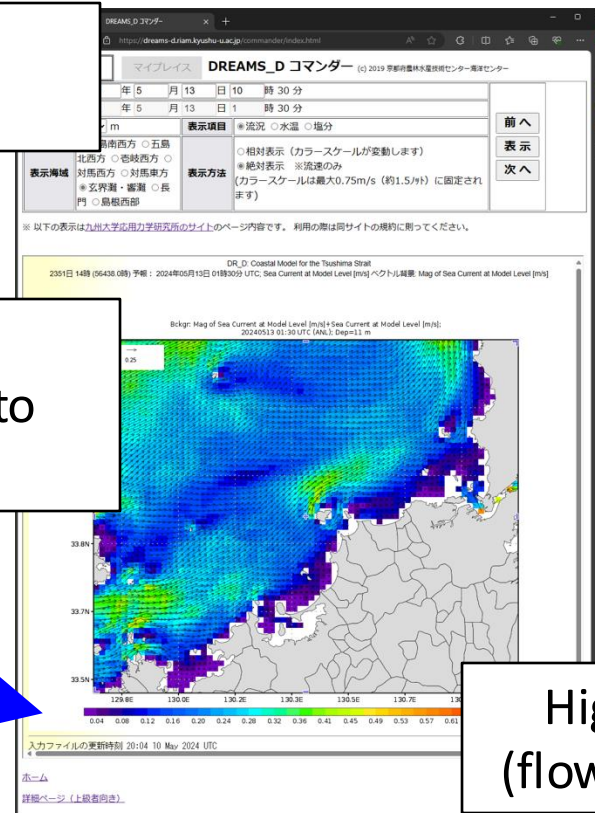
Naoki Hirose, Shin Kida and Colleagues

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)





# 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)



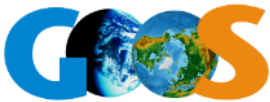
**UNSW**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES



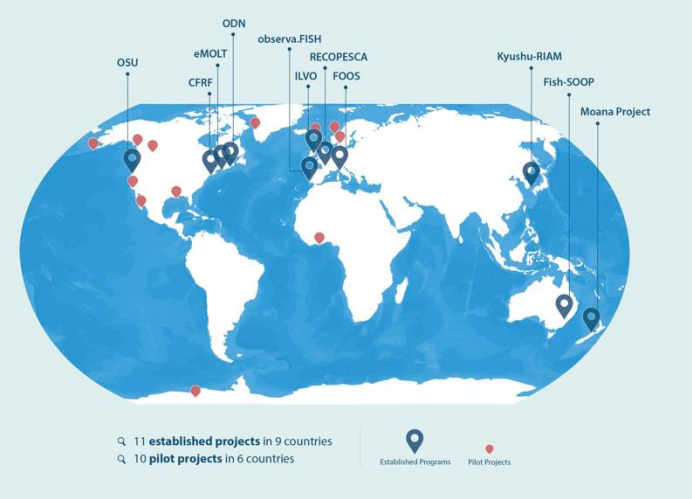
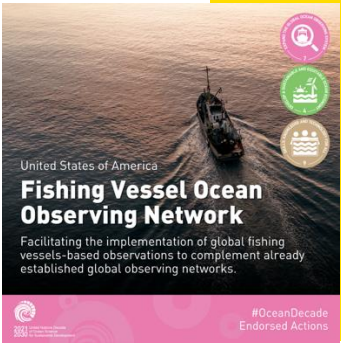
# Global Ocean Observing System -

## 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

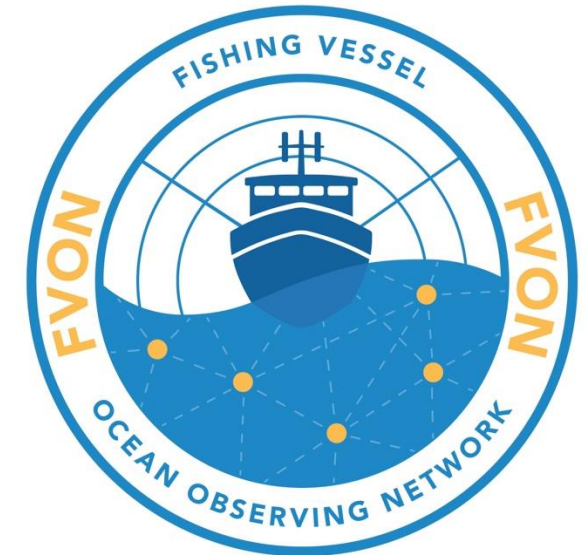


2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



# 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/>