

# Surface Drifters:

## Global Science, Monitoring and Rapid Response



**Martha Schönau, Luca Centurioni,  
Terri Paluszkiwicz, Lance Braasch**



**Lagrangian Drifter Laboratory, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, CIMEAS**

# DRIFTER SCIENCE AT THE AIR-SEA INTERFACE

- Wave conditions
- Ocean surface velocity

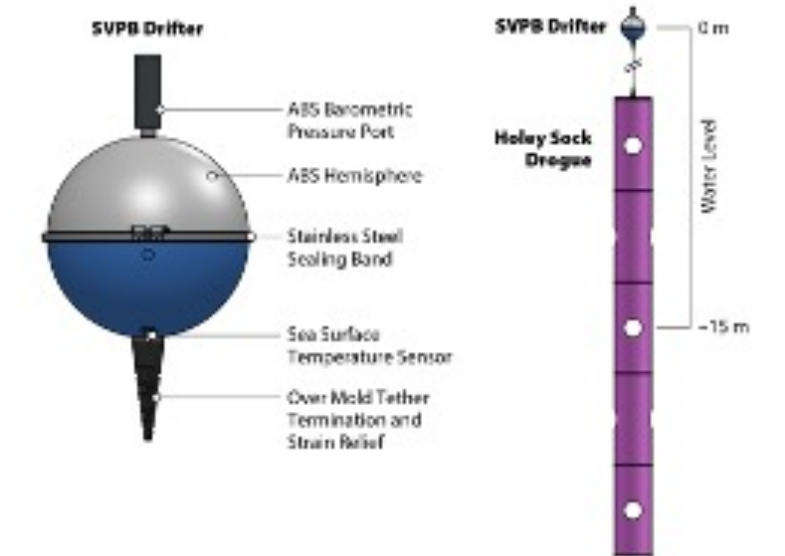
- Mixed-layer structure
- Sea level pressure

- Surface winds and
- Sea surface temperature

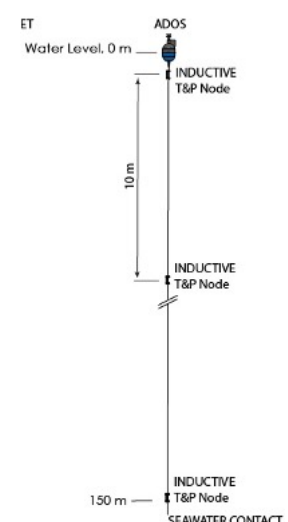
Plot Legend: = SVP (SST only), = SVPB (SST and SLP), = MiniMet (SST, SLP and Wind), = DWS (SST and Waves), = DWSB (SST, SLP and Waves)



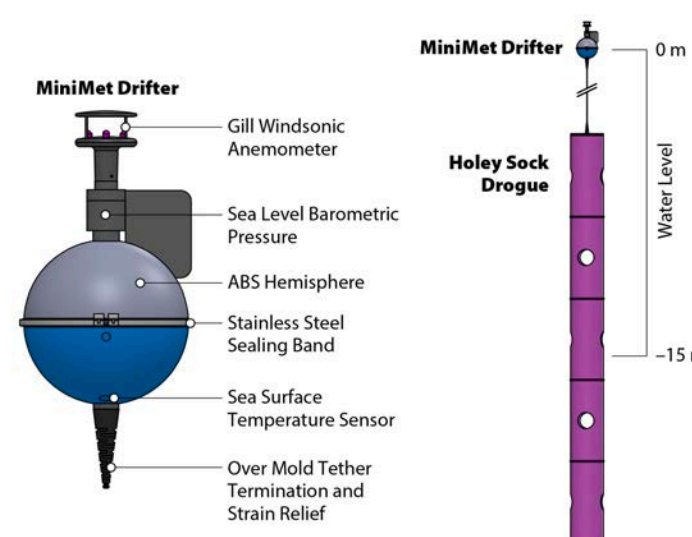
## SVP and SVP-B



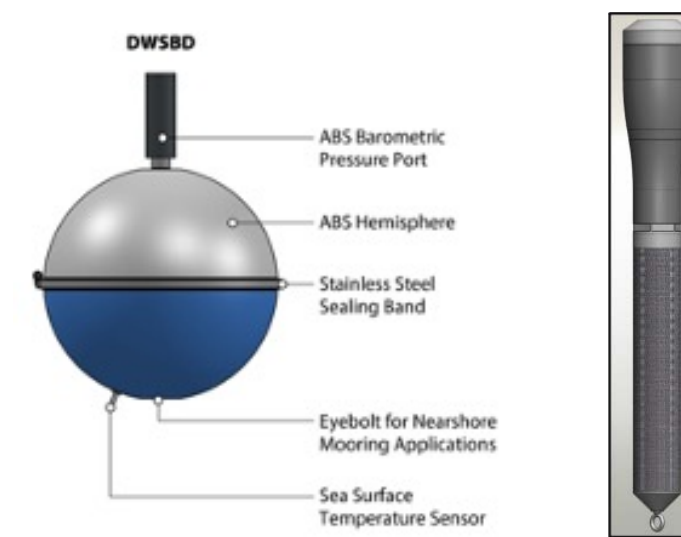
Atmospheric data and currents



**ADOS**  
Atmospheric and Upper Ocean Heat Content

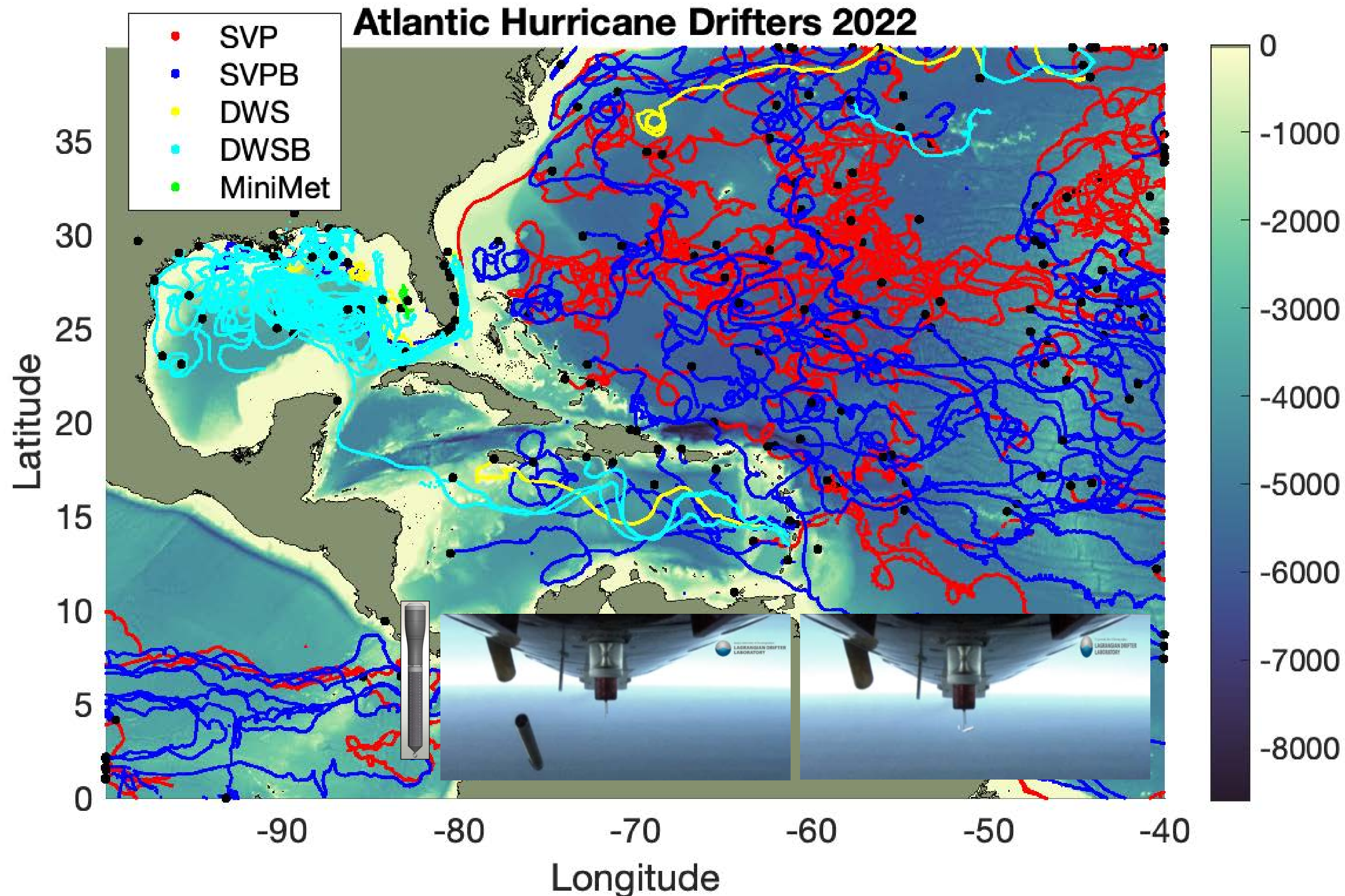


**MiniMet**  
Atmospheric data (SLP and winds)



**DWSB-B and A-DWS**  
Atmospheric data and waves

*+ MORE*

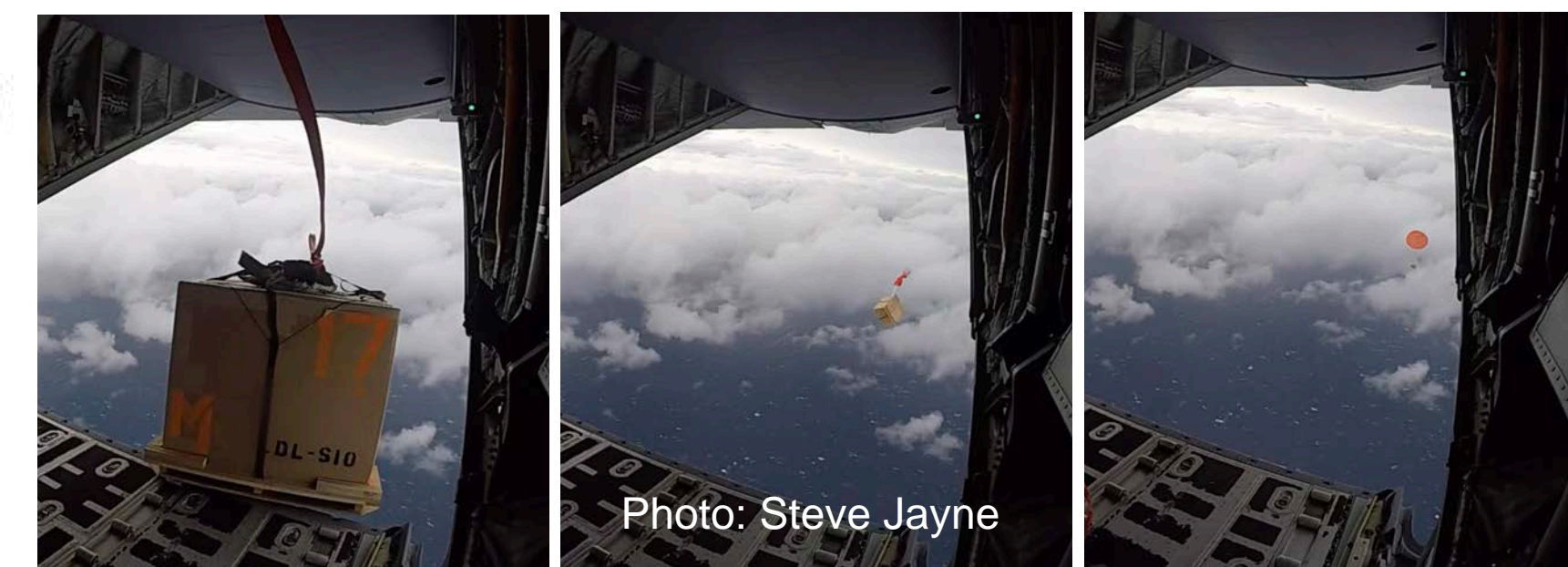


- Further our understanding of **ocean, atmosphere and climate** by studying surface physical processes of the global ocean

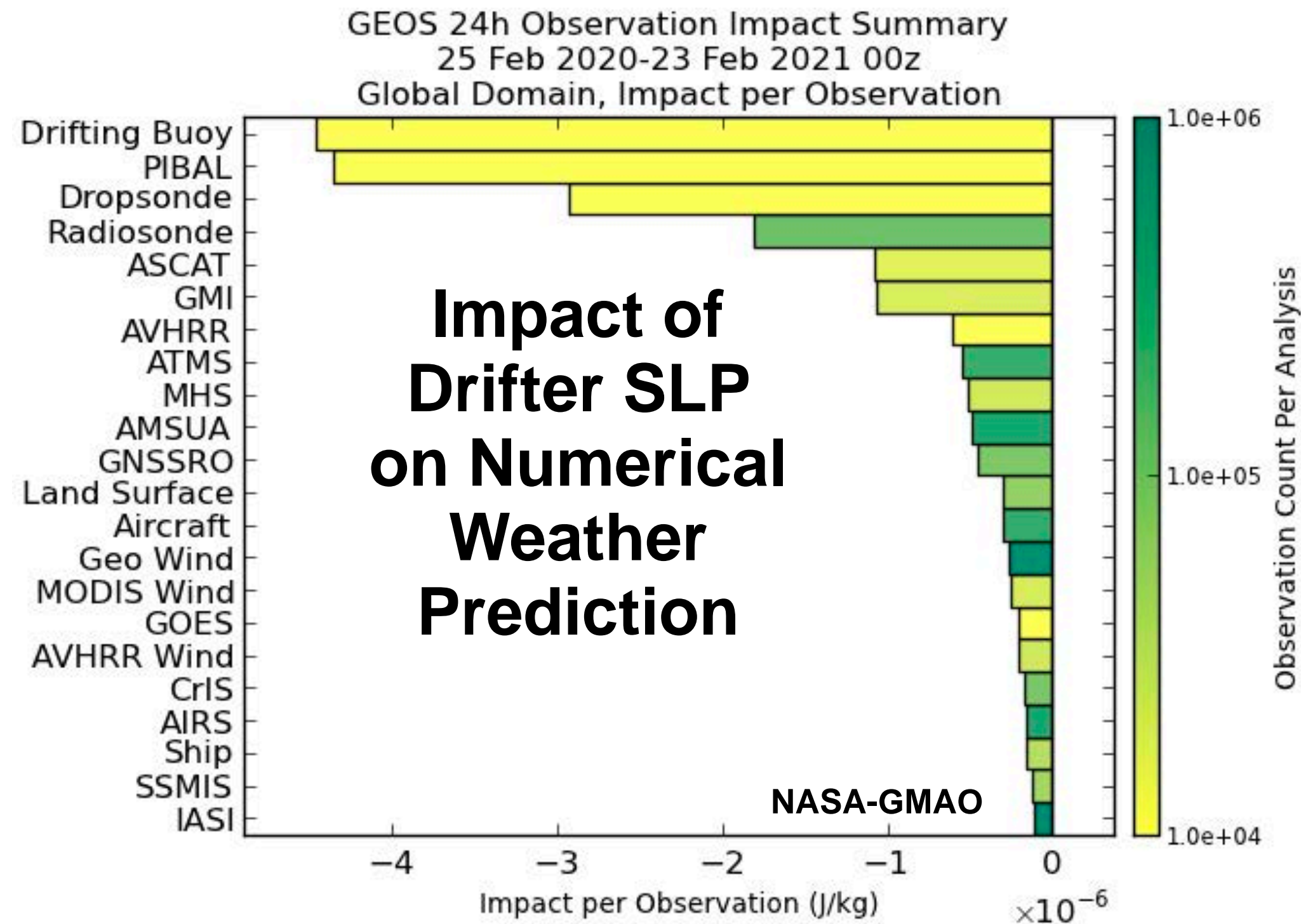


- **Maintain** a  $5^{\circ} \times 5^{\circ}$  array of drifters providing real-time data to the GTS with quality-controlled data archive

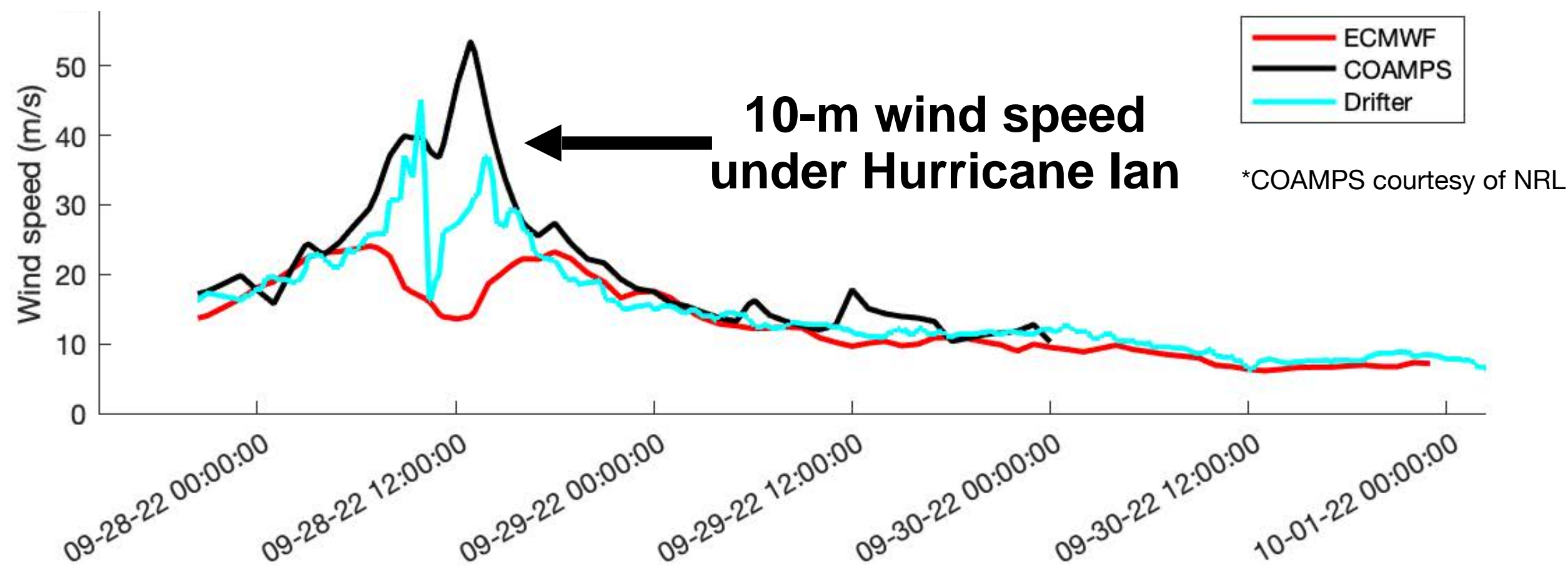
- **Adaptively sample and target** extreme events with air-deployable drifters



# DRIFTERS BENEFIT THE PUBLIC AND RESEARCH



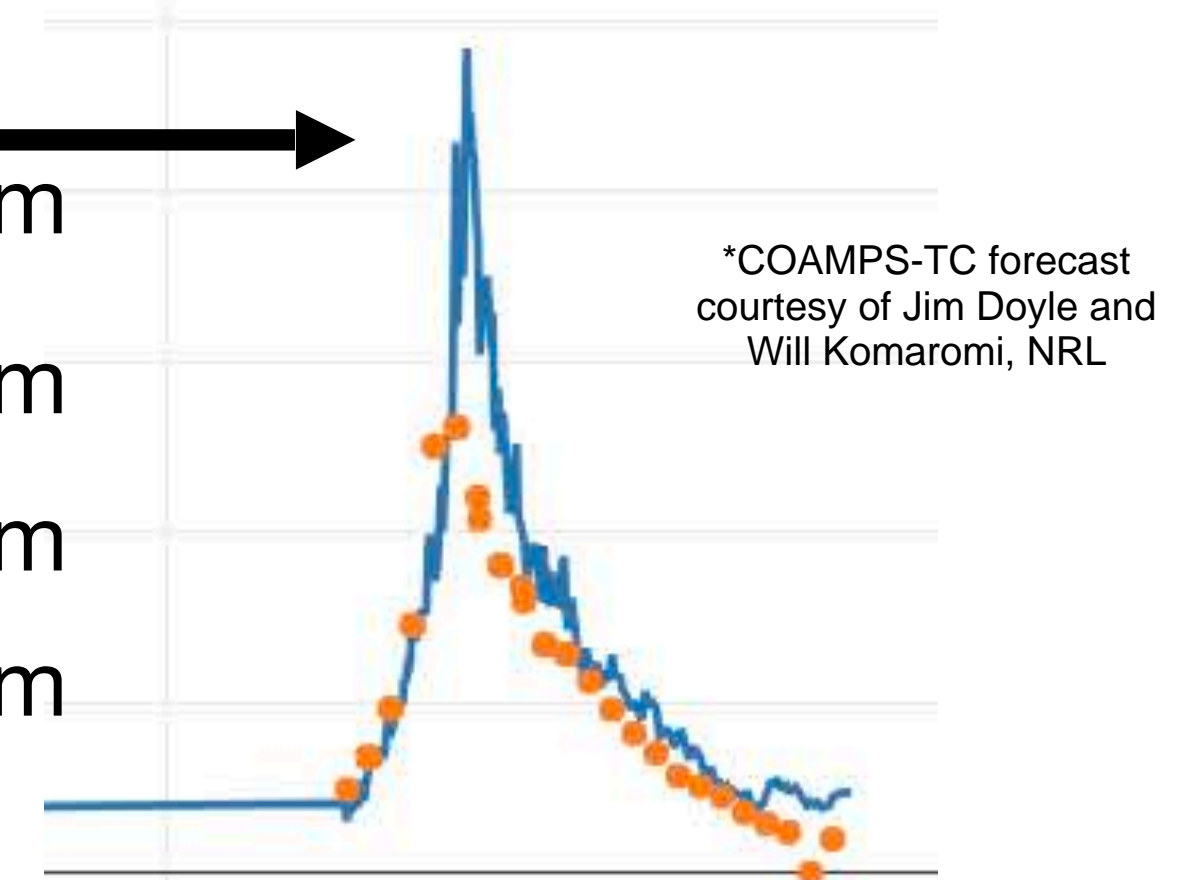
- Real-time observations delivered to Global Telecommunication System (GTS) to improve weather forecasts
- Feed into observational products and climate indices (e.g., surface currents, CalCOFI)
- Calibration and validation of models and satellites (SST, wind, waves, currents), and data assimilative studies
- Active research and instrument development



**WAVEWATCH III underestimated peak wave conditions under Ian**

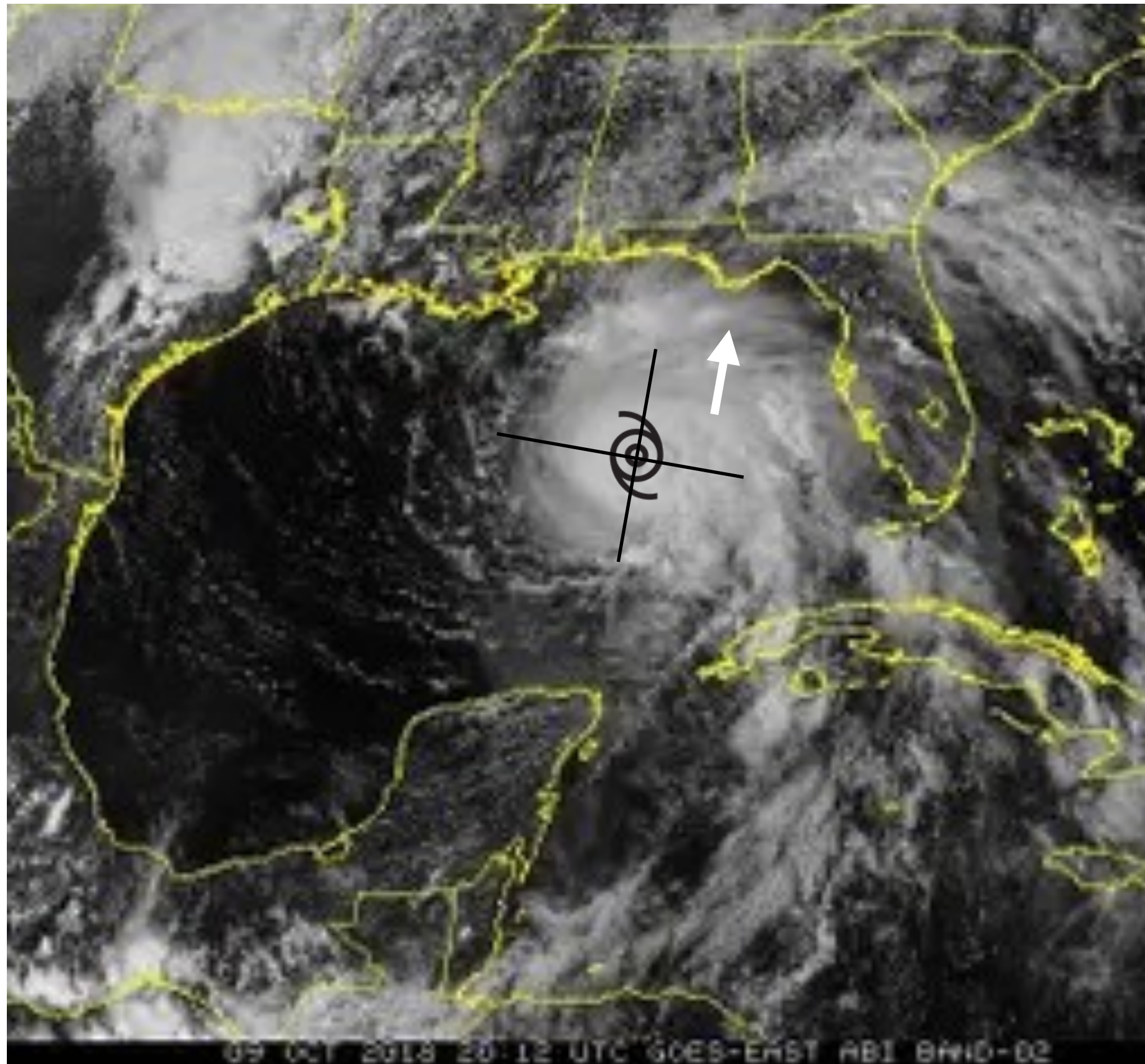
**We support FAIR-O DATA!**

8 m  
6 m  
4 m  
2 m

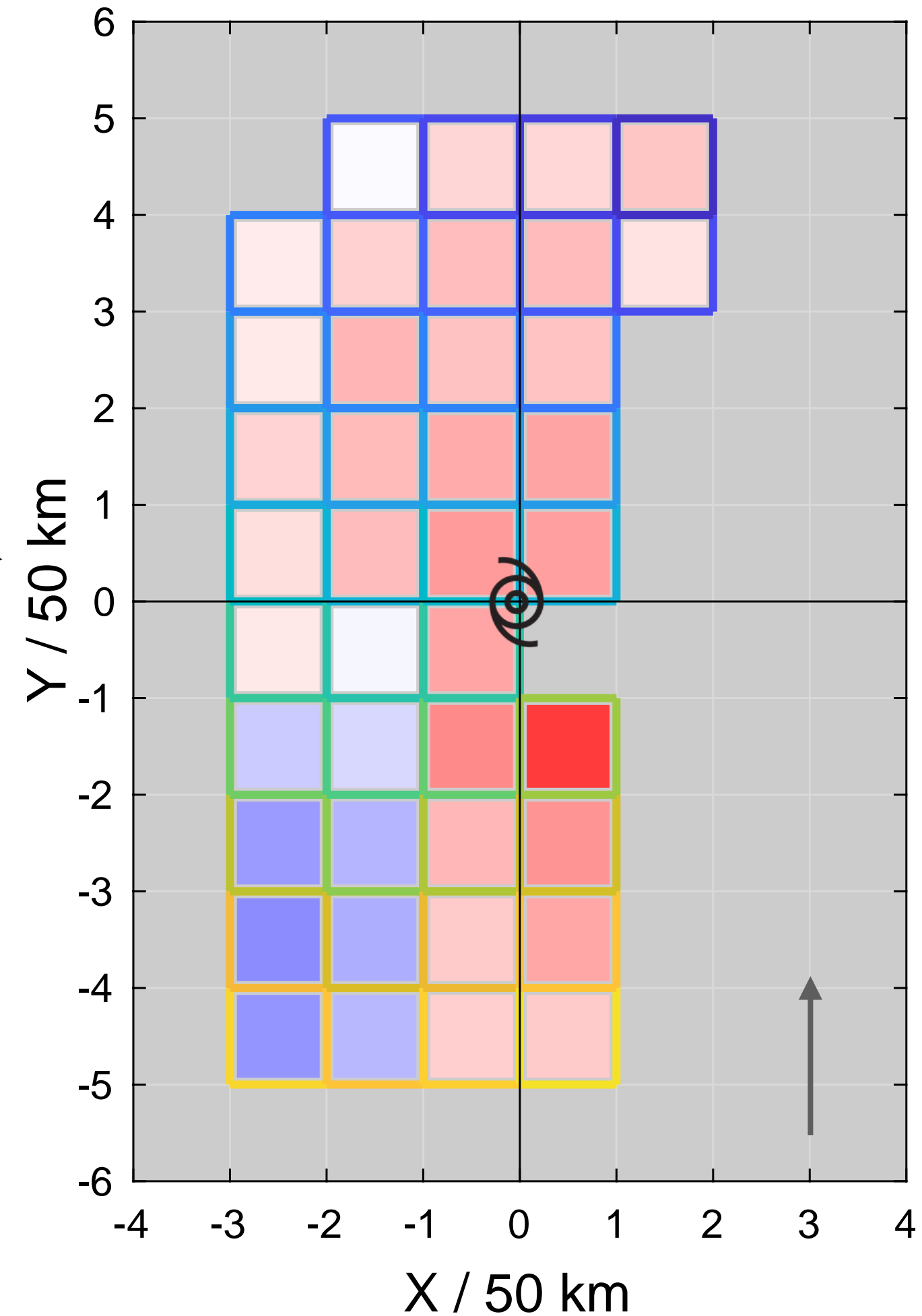


# DRIFTERS BENEFIT THE PUBLIC AND RESEARCH

## Hurricane Michael (Satellite)



## Wave energy (0.12-0.16 Hz) in each quadrant of the storm

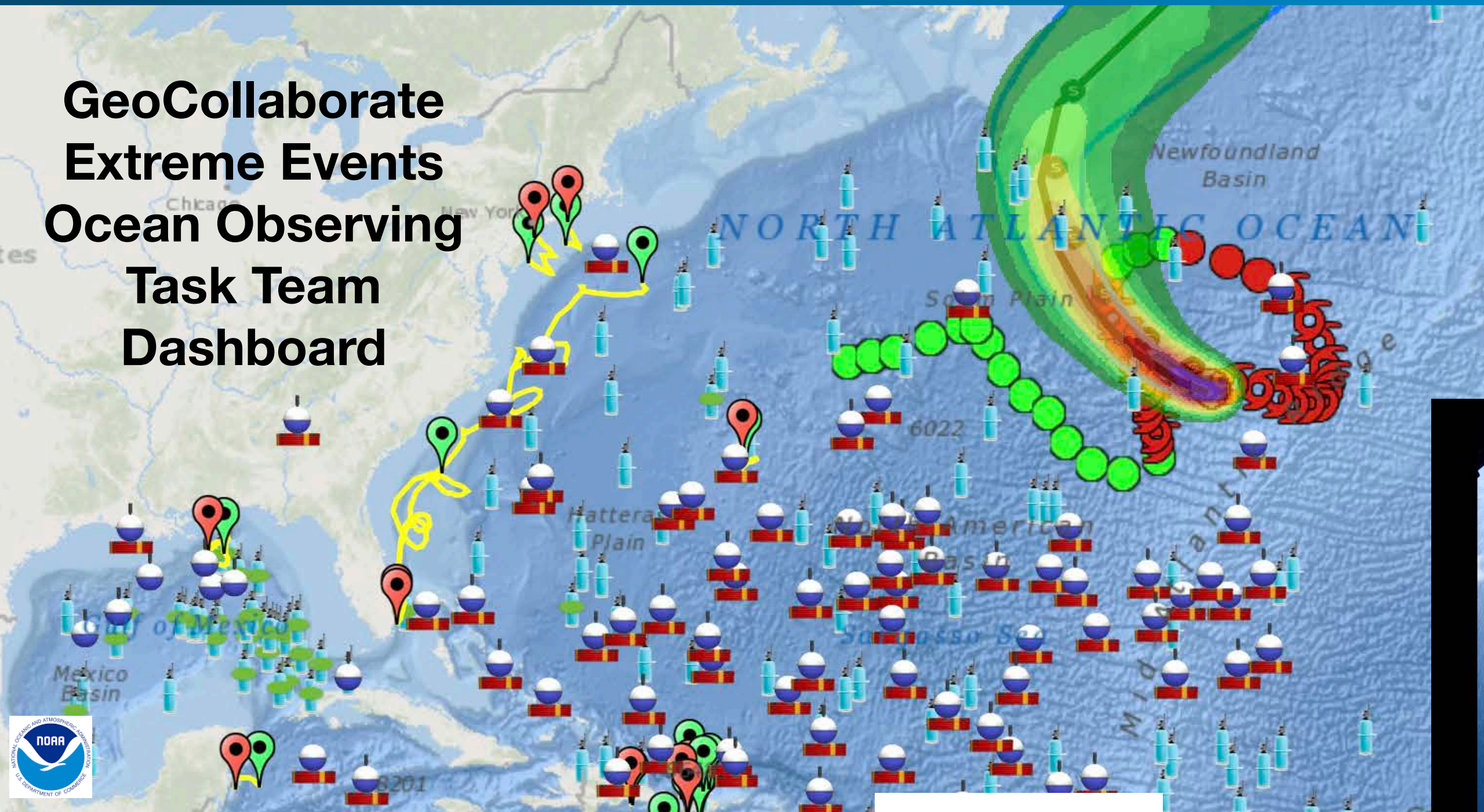


## Hurricane Storm Surge Predictions

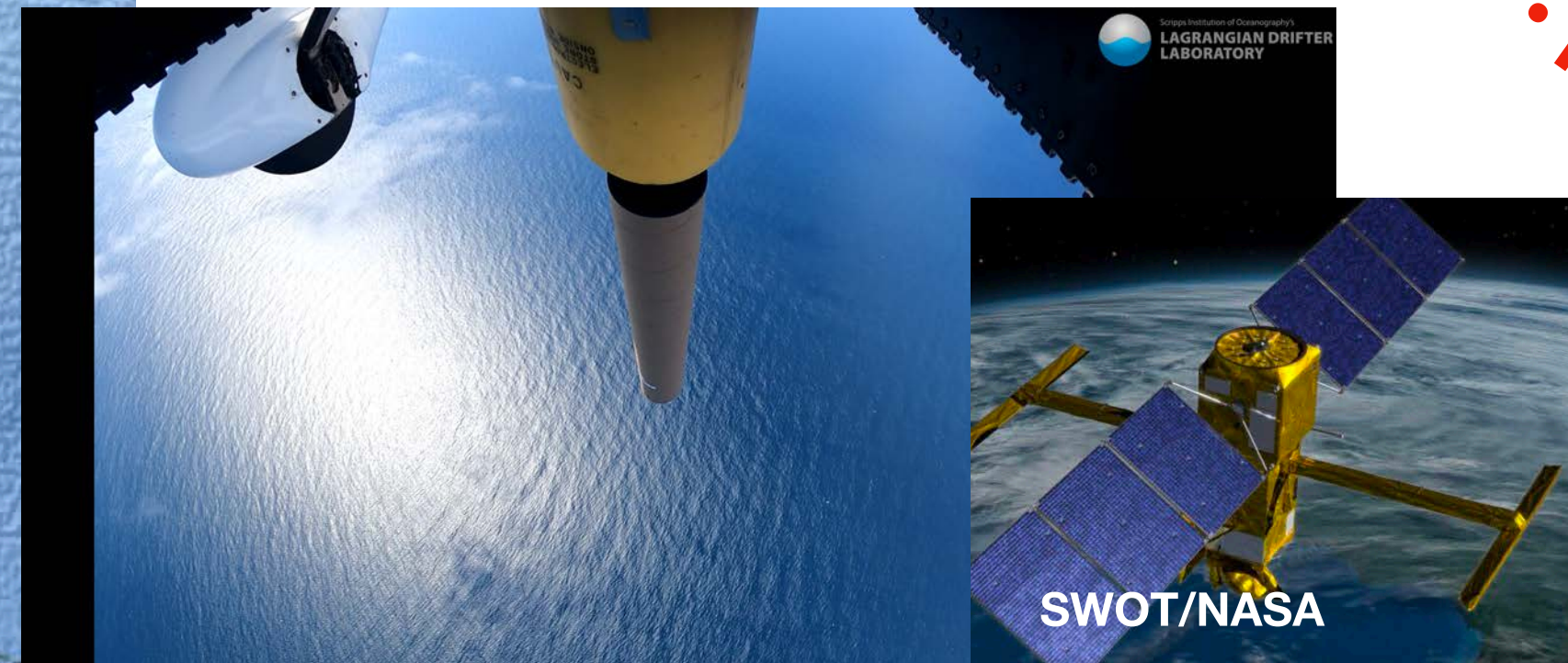


# COLLABORATION AND VOLUNTEERING

**GeoCollaborate  
Extreme Events  
Ocean Observing  
Task Team  
Dashboard**



- Tropical cyclones
- Atmospheric Rivers
- Monsoons
- Buoy intercomparison
- Satellite validation
- High-latitude studies
- Regional process studies



SWOT/NASA

**ATMOSPHERIC RIVER RECONNAISSANCE**  
Filling Gaps in Pacific Weather Observations



A. Wilson

**INCOIS**  
ESSO- Indian National  
Centre for Ocean  
Information Services



Pat Colin; CRRF

**SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT**  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT AND METEOROLOGY

• Participation and leadership in the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel, the buoy component of GOOS



- INCOIS, Solomon Islands, Fiji, CRRF
- USACE, ONR, NOPP

# TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Salinity Drifters



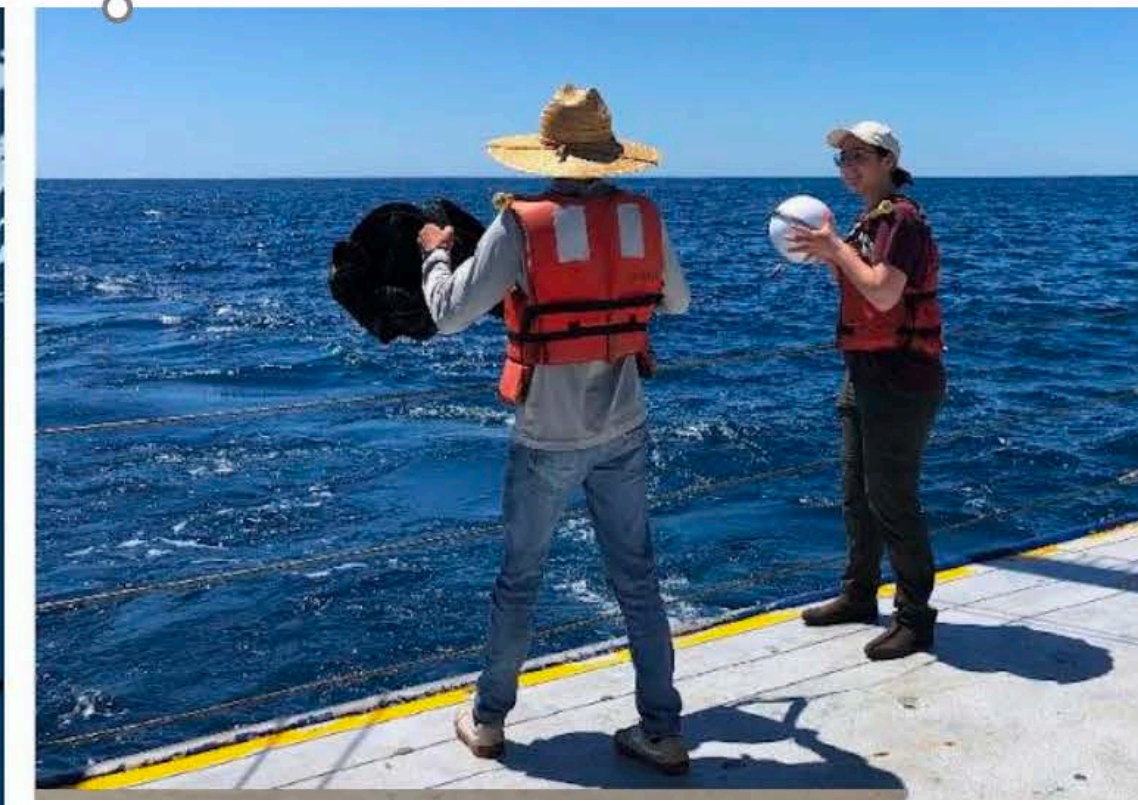
Precipitation Drifter with Met Sensors



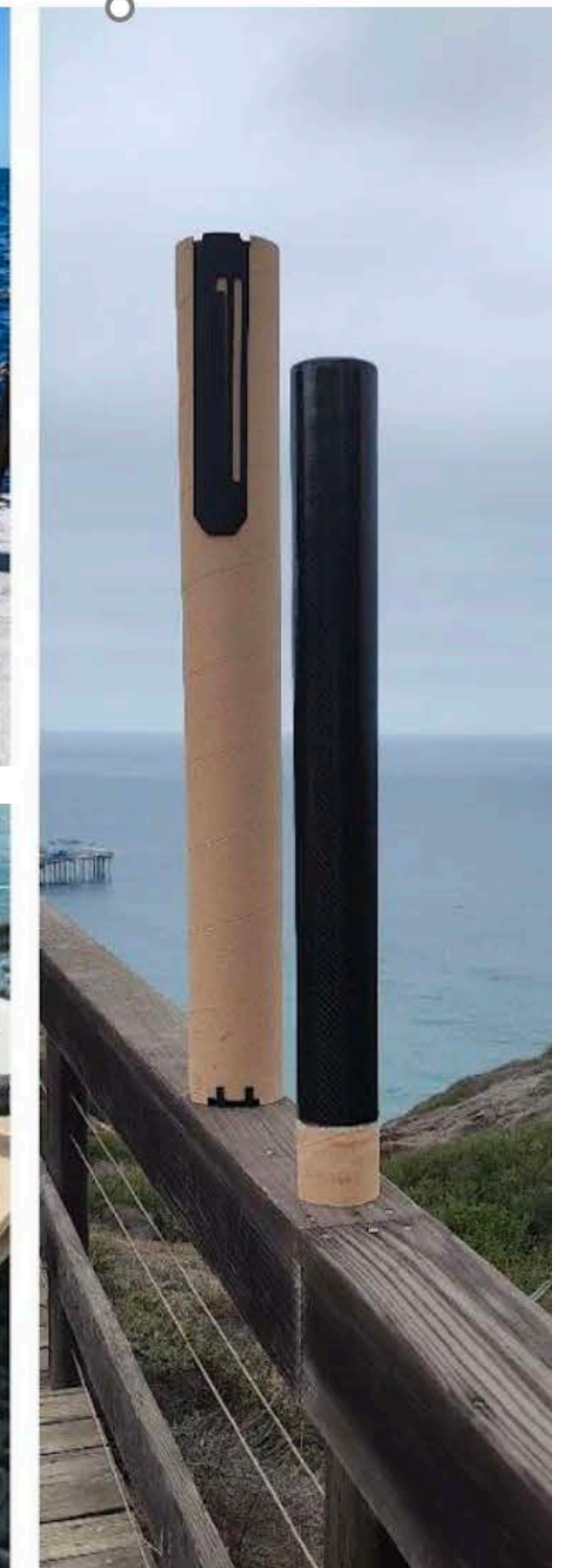
Debris Tracker



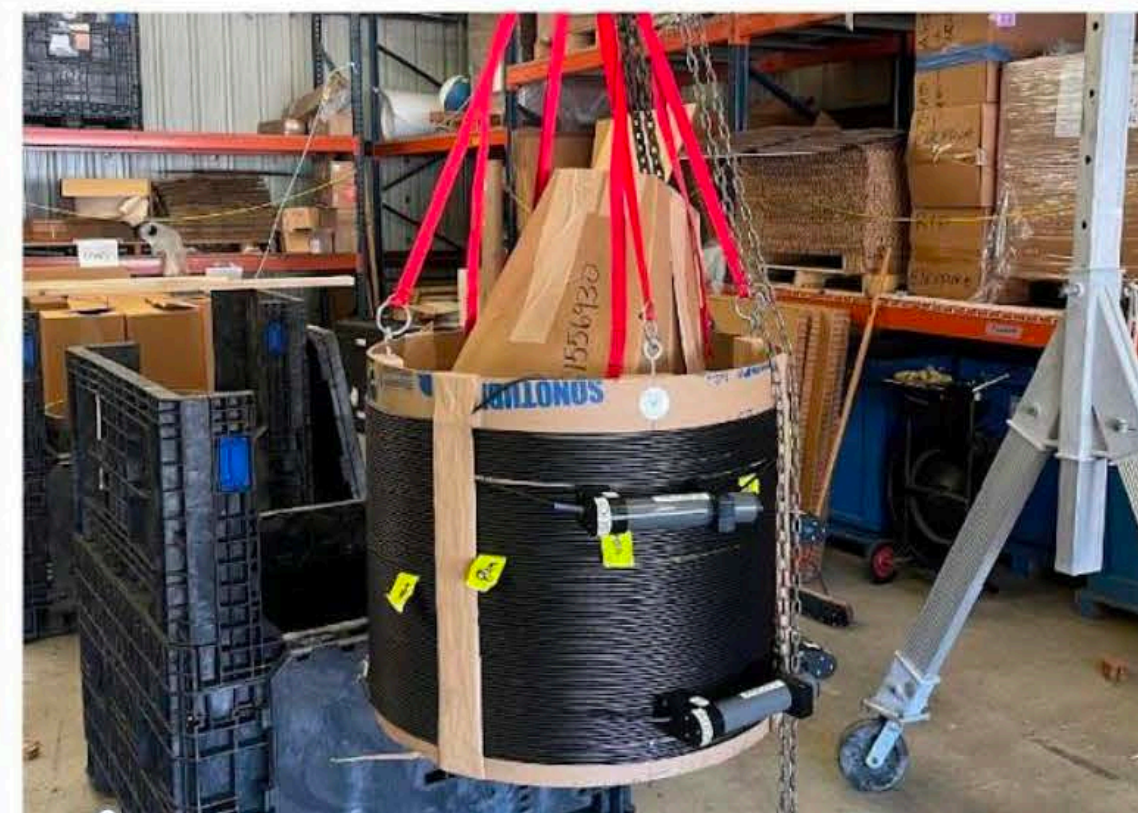
MICRO-SVP



A-DSWD



ADOS Drifter



TpPod Depth Profile Drifter



DWSBD with Mooring Kit

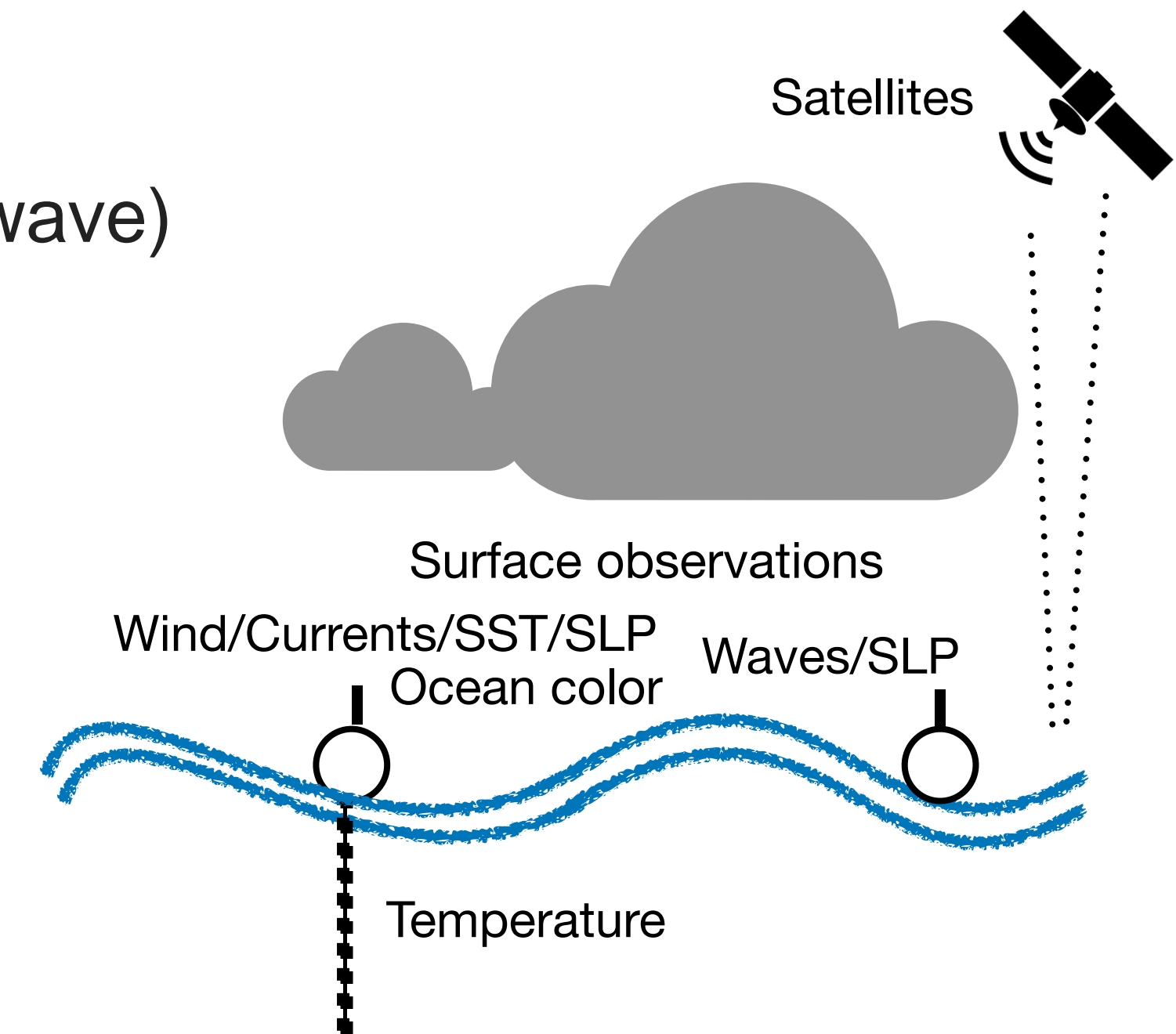
• Innovation for new science

• Maximizing deployment opportunities

# COMMUNITY DATA SHARING

- Real-time observations delivered to Global Telecommunication System (GTS) to improve weather forecasts
- Data available from LDL ERDDAP server to include diverse drifter data (wind, wave)  
<https://drifterdata.ucsd.edu/erddap/index.html>

Grid DAP Data	Sub-set	Table DAP Data	Make A Graph	W M S	Source Data Files	Title	Summary	FGDC, ISO, Metadata	Background Info	RSS	E mail	Institution	Dataset ID
	set	data	graph			* The List of All Active Datasets in this ERDDAP *	?	M	background			UCSD SIO LDL	allDatasets
		data	graph			Lagrangian Drifter Laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography 2019 MISO-BOB Drifter Data	?	F I M	background	RSS		UCSD SIO	LDL_MISOBOB2019
	set	data	graph		files	Lagrangian Drifter Laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography 2022 CALYPSO DWS Drifter Data	?	F I M	background	RSS		UCSD SIO, OGS	CMRE_CALYPSO22_DWSD
	set	data	graph		files	Lagrangian Drifter Laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography 2022 CALYPSO SVP Drifter Data	?	F I M	background	RSS		UCSD SIO, OGS	CMRE_CALYPSO22
		data	graph			Lagrangian Drifter Laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography Drifter Data	?	F I M	background	RSS		UCSD SIO	LDL_DrifterData
		data	graph			Lagrangian Drifter Laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography GTS Atlantic Hurricane 2021 Data	?	F I M	background	RSS		UCSD SIO	LDL_AtlanticHurricane2021
		data	graph			Lagrangian Drifter Laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography GTS Atlantic Hurricane 2022 Data	?	F I M	background	RSS		UCSD SIO	LDL_AtlanticHurricane2022
		data	graph			Lagrangian Drifter Laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography GTS Atlantic Hurricane 2023 Data	?	F I M	background	RSS		UCSD SIO	LDL_AtlanticHurricane2023
		data	graph			Lagrangian Drifter Laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography Hurricane Michael (2018)	?	F I M	background	RSS		UCSD SIO	LDL_HurricaneMichael



- Data integrated into collaborative projects - GeoCollaborate, NOPP NHCI
- Quality Controlled / gridded product available from AOML ERDDAP server (to Feb. 2023)  
[https://erddap.aoml.noaa.gov/gdp/erddap/taledap/drifter\\_6hour\\_qc.html](https://erddap.aoml.noaa.gov/gdp/erddap/taledap/drifter_6hour_qc.html)

**In-situ observations in the open ocean are sparse.**

**The FAIR-O data policy is CRUCIAL for rapid advancement of science**



- **Ocean ecosystem health and resource management:** CalCOFI, Coral Reef Research Foundation, ocean color, debris tracker,
- **Ocean physics at the air-sea interface:** INCOIS, ONR process studies, kinematics
- **Weather and climate:** Numerical weather forecasting, Helheim (glaciology), AR RECON, Hurricanes research, NOAA Weather Program Office, JMA

