



14-17 MARCH 2022  
AZORES, PORTUGAL



# Copernicus for Business Innovation in Portugal Session: Ocean Monitoring

Tuesday March 15th (15:15 - 16:45)

# Copernicus for Business Innovation: Ocean Monitoring

## Success Cases

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15.15 : Copernicus Services, Data and Tools with relevance for Ocean Monitoring



**Muriel Lux**

Environmental Policies and Key Account Manager  
MERCATOR-OCEAN

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15.30 : Harmful Algae Bloom Monitoring



**Issah Nazif Suleiman**

Data Scientist  
EYECON Group Ltd.

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15.45 : SEAPODYM offers new insights into the behaviour of large whales and informs conservation efforts



**Monica A. Silva**

Senior Research Associate  
OKEANOS – University of Azores



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AZORES, PORTUGAL

# Copernicus for Business Innovation: Ocean Monitoring

## Success Cases

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16.00 : Ocean mesoscale eddies identification and tracking using Ocean Colour



**Ana Martins**

Auxiliary Professor Oceanography  
OKEANOS – University of Azores

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16.15 : How is Copernicus Data essential for the future of ocean observation with autonomous systems?



**Renato Mendes**

PhD, Physical Oceanography  
CoLab+Atlantic & University of Porto

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16.30 : Marine Heat Waves



**Ana Oliveira**

Remote Sensing Data Analyst  
CoLab+Atlantic



14-17 MARCH 2022  
AZORES, PORTUGAL

# Copernicus for Business Innovation: Ocean Monitoring

Workshop

## Workshops 1:

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Introduction to Marine Debris Detection with Sentinel-2 using Python



**Emanuel Castanho**

Project Developer

AIR Centre

## Workshops 2:

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On the use of Ocean Colour in the Western Iberia Coast



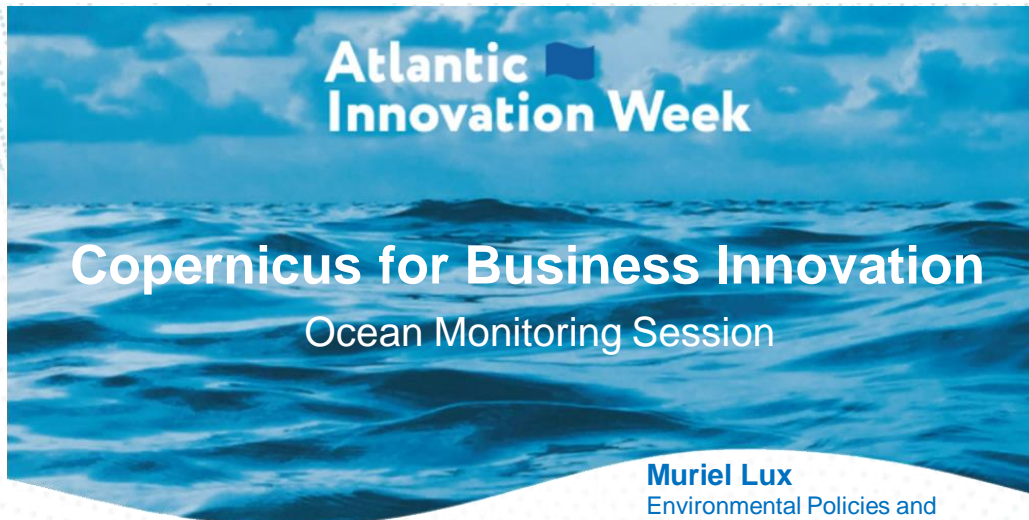
**Ana C. Brito**

Assistant Research

MARE-ULisboa



14-17 MARCH 2022  
AZORES, PORTUGAL



Atlantic   
Innovation Week

**Copernicus for Business Innovation**  
Ocean Monitoring Session

**Muriel Lux**  
Environmental Policies and  
Major Account Manager  
*Mercator Ocean international*



# How can the Copernicus Marine Service support the different marine sectors



## Copernicus Marine Service

Providing free and open marine data and services to enable marine policy implementation, support Blue growth and scientific innovation.

Access Data >

DATA

### OCEAN PRODUCTS

A robust ocean data catalogue, to download or visualise data including hindcasts, nowcasts and forecasts.

EXPERTISE

### OCEAN STATE REPORT

Extensive annual analysis on the state of the ocean over nearly 20 years and severe/notable annual events.

TRENDS

### OCEAN MONITORING INDICATORS

Essential variables monitoring the health of the ocean over the past quarter of a century.

EXPLORATION

### OCEAN VISUALISATION

Dive into our 4D digital oceans through our 3 visualisation tools for beginner, intermediate and advanced users

Online Catalogue

More than 300 scientifically qualified products

User-driven

Common format *Netcdf*

Spatial resolution from 25 km to 100 m

Temporal resolution from monthly to 15 min

Open & Free

The Copernicus Marine Service in a nutshell





Data providers all over Europe to build ocean products centralized in Copernicus Marine Portal



Feed thousands of users on all continents



And Support a wide range of markets and environmental policies

## Developing actions (instruments)

Training and  
WORKSHOPS

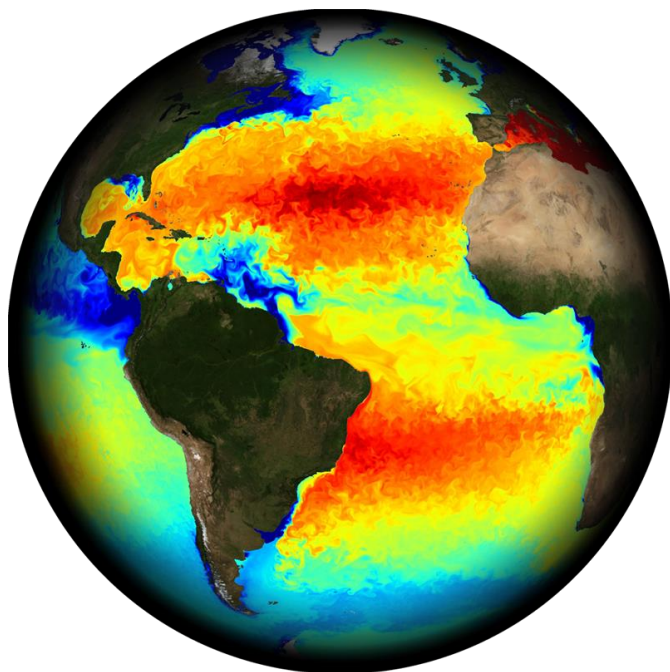
Practices and  
USE CASES

Sectorial  
PARTNERSHIPS

Marketing  
CAMPAIGNS

Responses to  
FEEDBACKS





Blue Ocean



White Ocean



Green Ocean

## Monitoring the Blue, the White and the Green Ocean



Blue Ocean

The Blue Ocean describes the physical state of the ocean. It is related to parameters such as sea surface temperature, sea surface height, ocean currents, waves, ocean heat content, salinity and mixed layers depth

Links to many videos on the blue ocean on [The Blue Ocean | CMEMS \(copernicus.eu\)](https://www.copernicus.eu/en/the-blue-ocean)



White Ocean

The White Ocean refers to the life cycle of any kind of ice floating at the surface of the ocean in the polar regions. Indicators for the White Ocean includes sea ice extent and volume in the Arctic, Antarctic and Baltic oceanic areas

Links to many videos on the white ocean on [The White Ocean | CMEMS \(copernicus.eu\)](https://www.copernicus.eu/en/the-white-ocean)



Green Ocean

The Green Ocean describes the biogeochemical processes in the ocean. The green ocean encompasses among other things, variations of chlorophyll-a concentrations, ocean nutrients, and primary production, as well as the ocean acidification and ocean deoxygenation

Links to many videos on the white ocean on [The Green Ocean | CMEMS \(copernicus.eu\)](https://www.copernicus.eu/en/the-green-ocean)

## DATA SOURCES

MODEL DATA

INSITU DATA

SATELLITE DATA

## TEMPORAL COVERAGE

REANALYSES  
>25 years

REAL-TIME  
Daily, hourly

FORECAST  
10 days

## GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

- 1 Global Ocean
- 2 Arctic Ocean
- 3 Baltic Sea
- 4 European North West Shelf Seas
- 5 Iberian Biscay Ireland Seas
- 6 Mediterranean Sea
- 7 Black Sea





The screenshot displays the 'User Corner' page of the Copernicus Marine Service website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Union flag, the Copernicus logo, and the Copernicus Marine Service logo. To the right of the logo, there are menu items: Services, Opportunities, Access Data, Use Cases, User Corner, and About. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image with the text 'User Corner' overlaid. The main content area is a grid of service tiles, each with an icon, a title, and a brief description:

- Getting started**: Are you new to our service? Find out everything you need to know to get operational.
- FAQ**: Have questions on the Copernicus Marine Service? Browse our frequently asked questions.
- User Notification Service**: Check or subscribe to learn about planned maintenance, updates and the latest developments.
- Help Center**: Have a question about our services? Find everything gathered in one intuitive place online.
- Product Road Map**: Need to plan ahead? Explore our timeline of upcoming service developments and improvements.
- User Learning Services**: Access our high-quality eLearning resources, workshops and trainings on how to use our services and data.
- Product Quality**: Explore our monthly performance and product quality information updates.
- Collaborative Forum**: Join the Copernicus Marine community forum to connect and share with other users as well as our experts.
- Login / Register**: Create your free account to access terabytes of ocean data from the world's largest Earth Observation programme.
- Get Inspired**: What can you do with our services? Browse our real-world use cases across our 12 Blue Markets.
- Contact Us**: If you still have unanswered questions, our team of experts just is one click away.
- Service Commitments & Licence**: Transparency is needed to create trust and value: see a summary of key points associated.

At the bottom right of the page, there is a search bar with the text 'Espace de Copernicus/MarineService' and 'Bonjour Vous cherchez des données, cartes, graphiques, indicateurs...'. There is also a small circular icon with a speech bubble and a red notification dot.



- ✓ Key variables used to monitor the oceanic trends in line with climate change
- ✓ Free downloadable data sets
- ✓ Covering more than 25 years





- ✓ A unique Service Desk
- ✓ FAQ & Collaborative forum
- ✓ Online visualization tool: MyOcean viewer
- ✓ More than 200 use cases online
- ✓ Elearning material available
- ✓ Online training workshops



**WORKSHOP**

## SAVE THE DATE

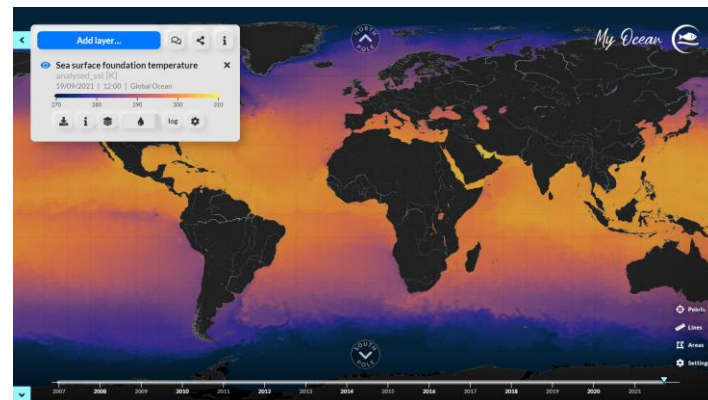
#MarineData4America

Powered By The Copernicus Marine Service

### Let's Go Further With The Copernicus Marine Data

2-Days Workshop **JUNE 29 & 30 - 04:00 PM (UTC)**

Logos for the European Union, Copernicus, and Mercator Ocean International are displayed at the bottom.





## Where to find us



[marine.copernicus.eu](https://marine.copernicus.eu)



Copernicus Marine Service



@CMEMS\_EU



Copernicus Marine Service





# HABTRAIL

An ML predictive model for the monitoring  
and tracing of Harmful Algal Bloom





### 1. Problem: HABs

- Environmental
- Social
- Economical
- Health (loss of lives)

**✗**

### 2. Existing Approach

- Traditional
- Remote Sensing

**LIMITATIONS**

- Expensive
- Time demanding
- Low Accuracy (Chl-a) Est.
- Prone calaboration Error
- Prone to Technical Error

**✓**

### 3. Improved Solution AI Application

- Higher accuracy (Chl\_a) Est.
- High AccU. (HABs) prediction
- Allow the Ass. of Var. Explo
- Cheap
- Near to real time prediction
- Allows room to address False alert (through hyperparameter tuning)

### Data (S2/3 MSI OLCI)

- S2/3 MSI DATA
- Public data

### 4. Model



Web & Mobile Application



Citizen Scientist Approach



Remote Sensing Approach



Fully Automated Data Pipelines



Deep Learning HAB Detection Model

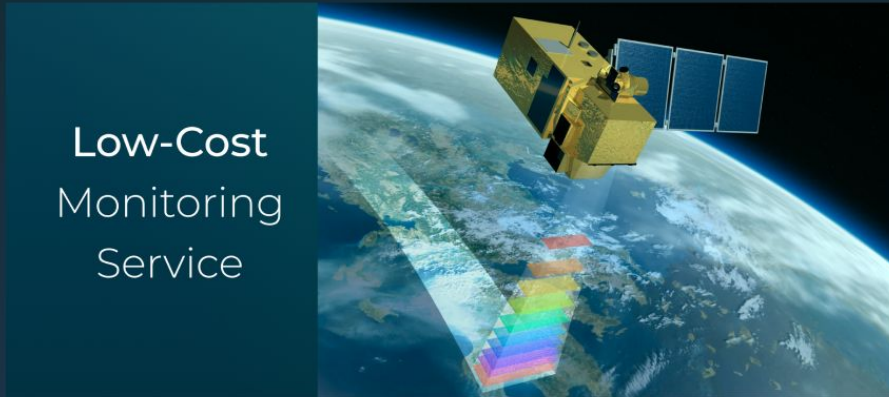


Early Warning System

Dashboard

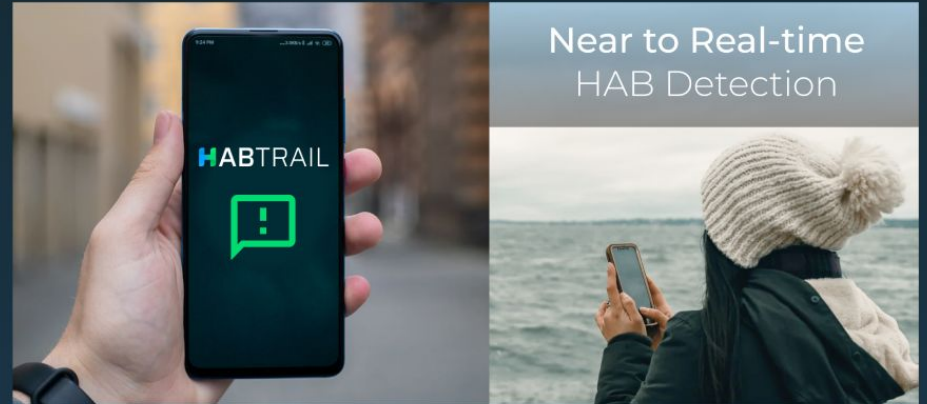
Mobile App

## Satellite Monitoring With Subscription Model



- Tackle Harmful algal blooms;
- Detect and monitor HABs expansion;
- Water quality Pigments;
- Sentinel 2 & 3.

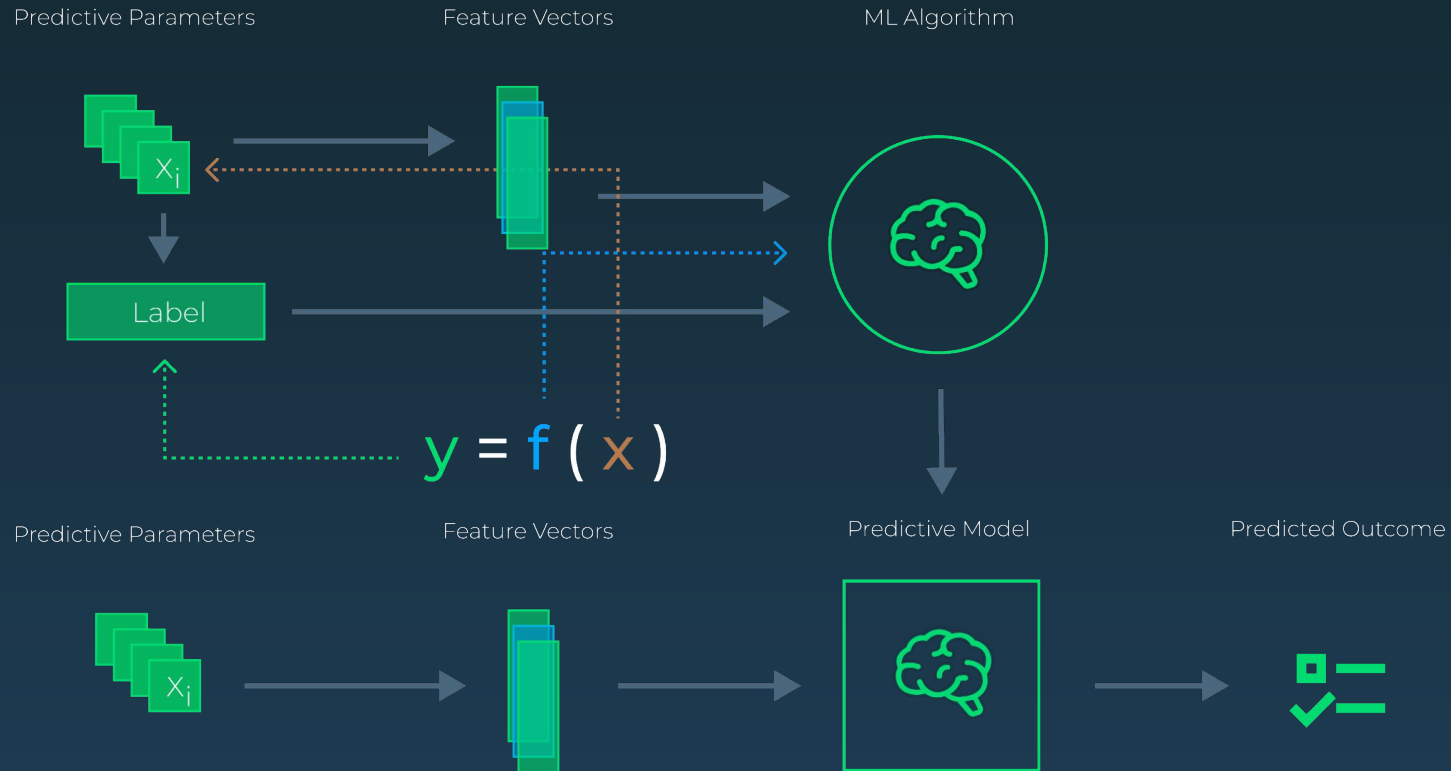
## Free mobile APP For the general public



- Upload picture of a suspicious water body;
- Quick results.

# Early Warning Modelling

## Machine Learning Algorithm Scheme



# HABtrail System Overview

A HAB Detection, Monitoring and Warning System

## HABTRAIL



Web & Mobile  
Application



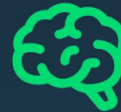
Citizen Scientist  
Data Interface



Remote Sensing  
Data Interface



Fully Automated  
Data Pipelines



Deep Learning  
HAB Detection  
Model



Early Warning  
System

# Citizen Scientist Data Interface



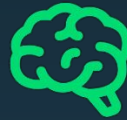
## User Input

Picture of a Water Body  
from Smartphone  
or Drone



## Data Pre-Processing

Fully Automated Data Pipeline



## HAB Prediction

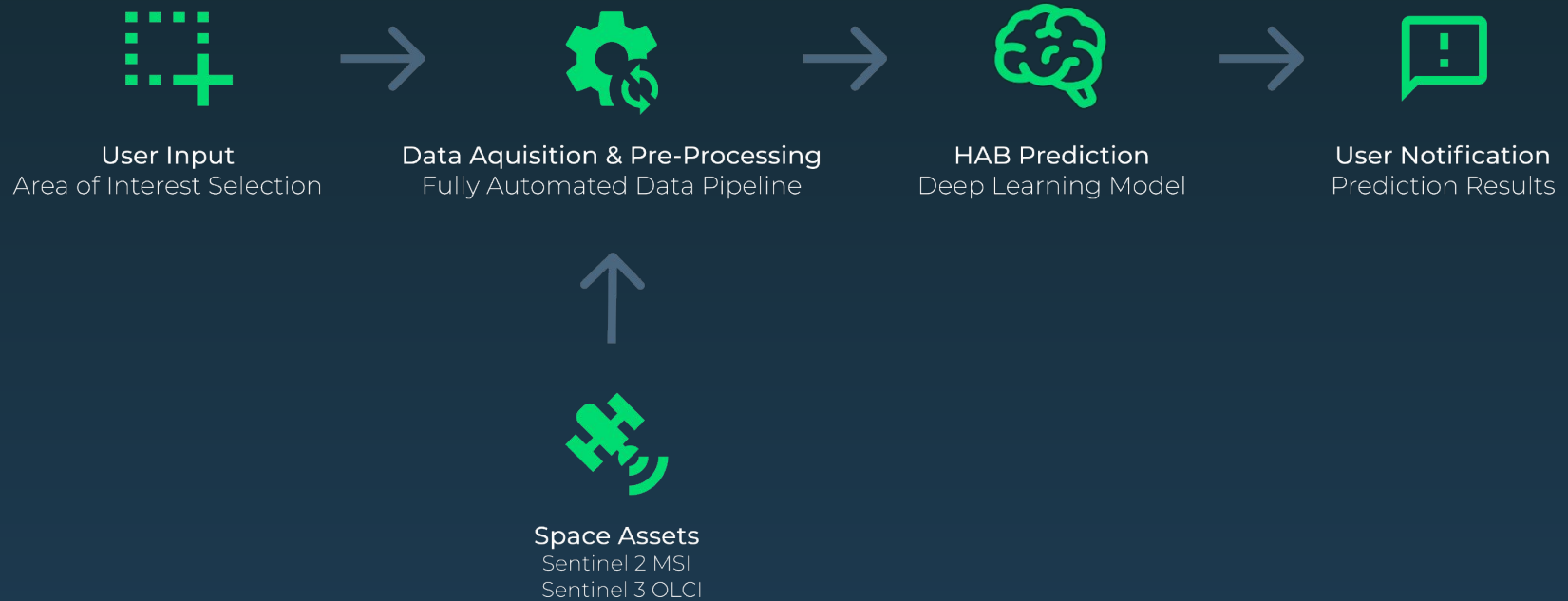
Deep Learning Model



## User Notification

Prediction Results

# Remote Sensing Data Interface

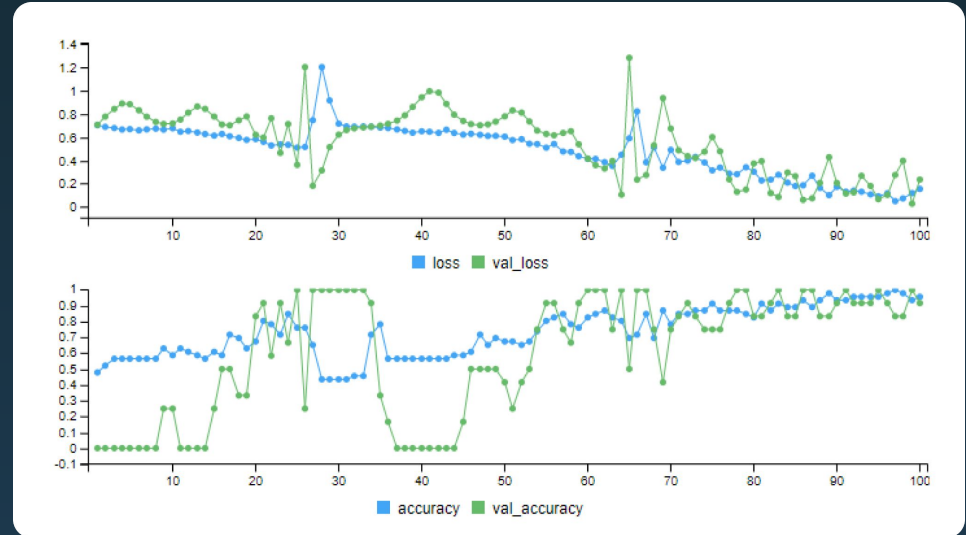


# Model Assessment - Preliminary Results

## Confusion Matrix and Statistics

Accuracy	0.9292
Precision	0.9231
Specificity	0.9796
Kappa Value	0.91038
P-Value	2.2e-16

## Predictive Plot with epoch/batch size = 100





# HABtrail Team



**Issah Sulemain**  
Data Scientist



**Ana Martins**  
Scientific Advisor



**João Gonçalves**  
Software Engineer

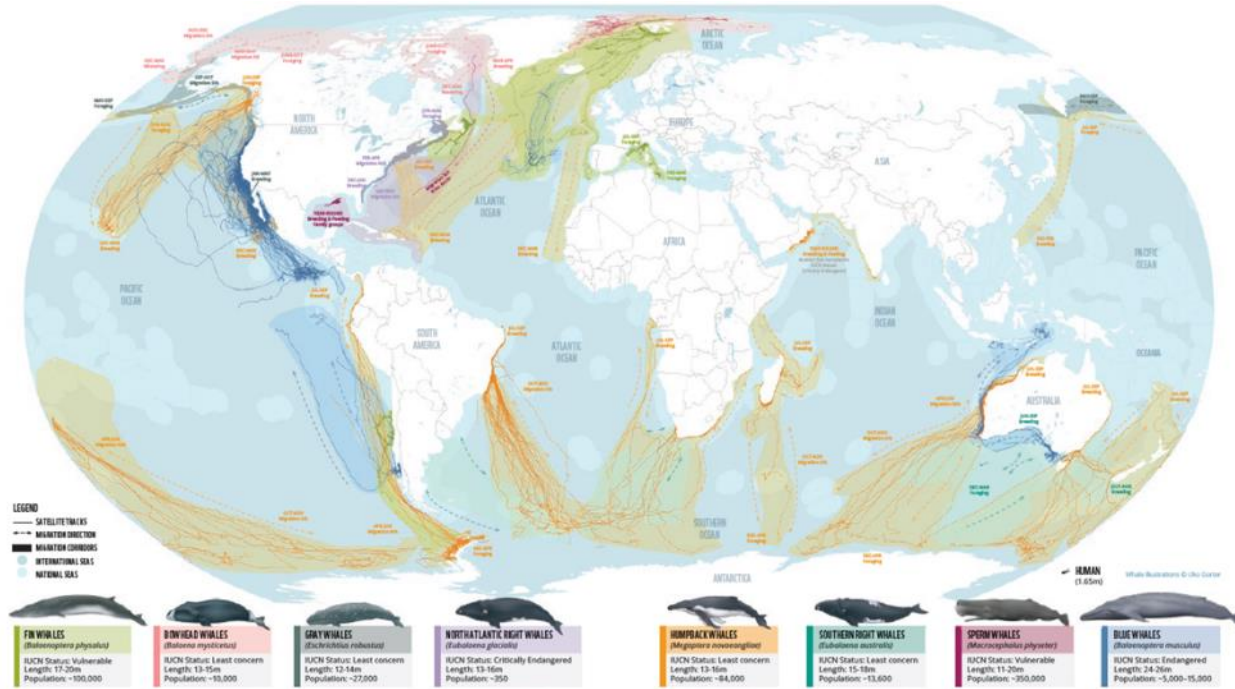


**Miguel Correia**  
Business Development



# SEAPODYM-MTL offers new insights into the behaviour of large whales and informs conservation efforts

Mónica A. Silva, Miriam Romagosa, Sergi Pérez-Jorge



Johnson et al. (2022)

Whales move across ocean basins as they travel between critical habitats used for feeding and breeding

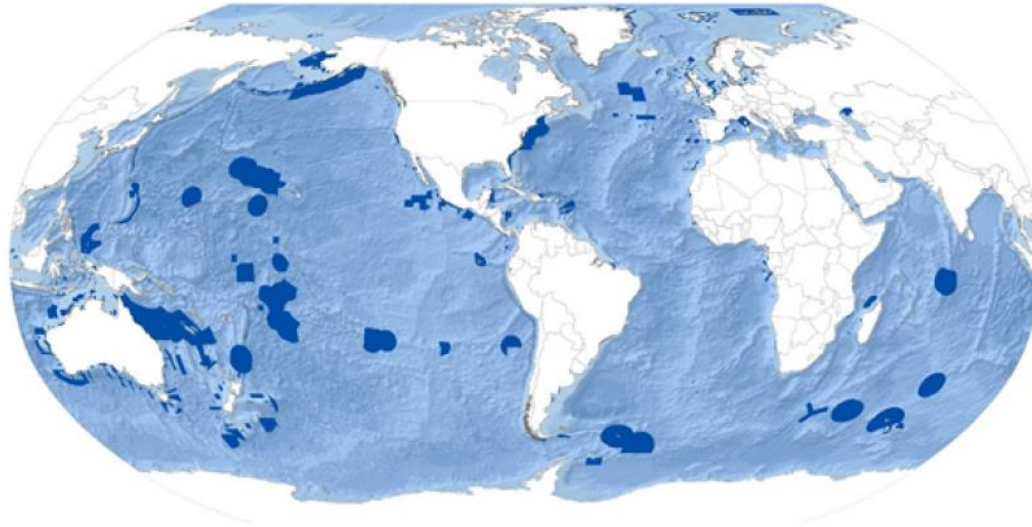
# Navigating uncertain waters



**Migrations are increasingly dangerous**



## Official MPA Map



Source: UNEP-WCMC AND IUCN (2017). Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WOPA) [On-line]. September, 2017, Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC. Available at [www.protectedplanet.net](http://www.protectedplanet.net)



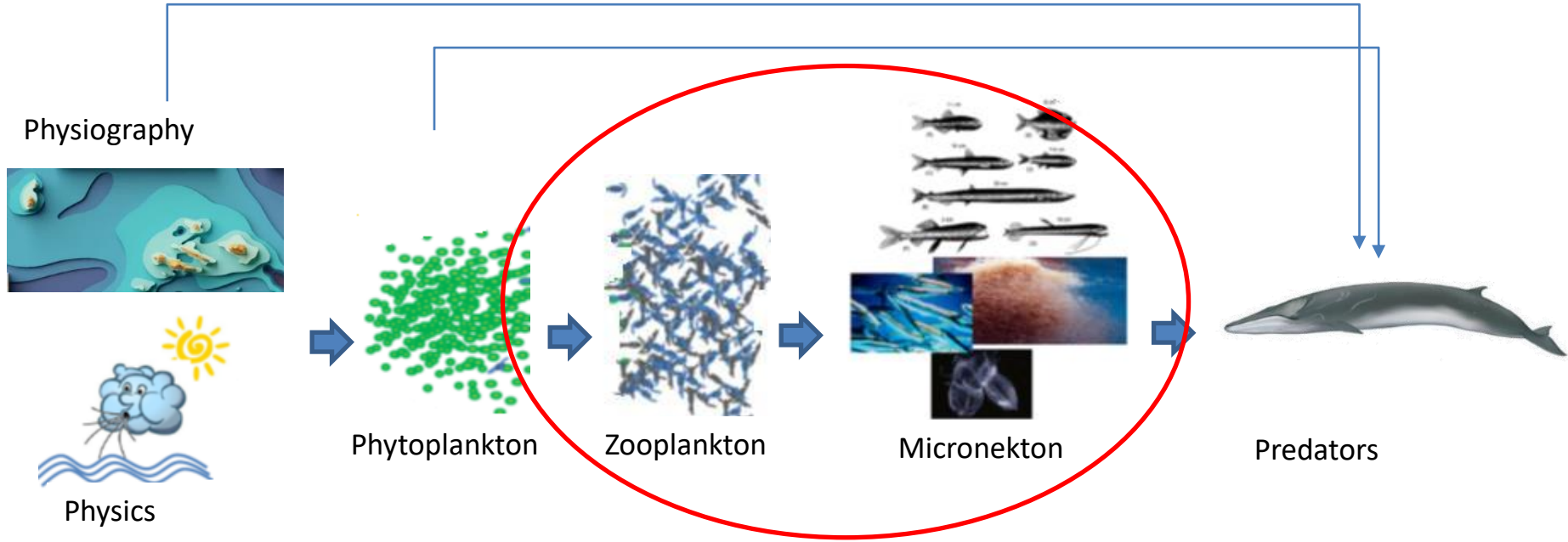
**6.35% of the Global Ocean covered by protected areas**  
**1.89% exclusively no-take.**



Conservation efforts largely based on static area-based management



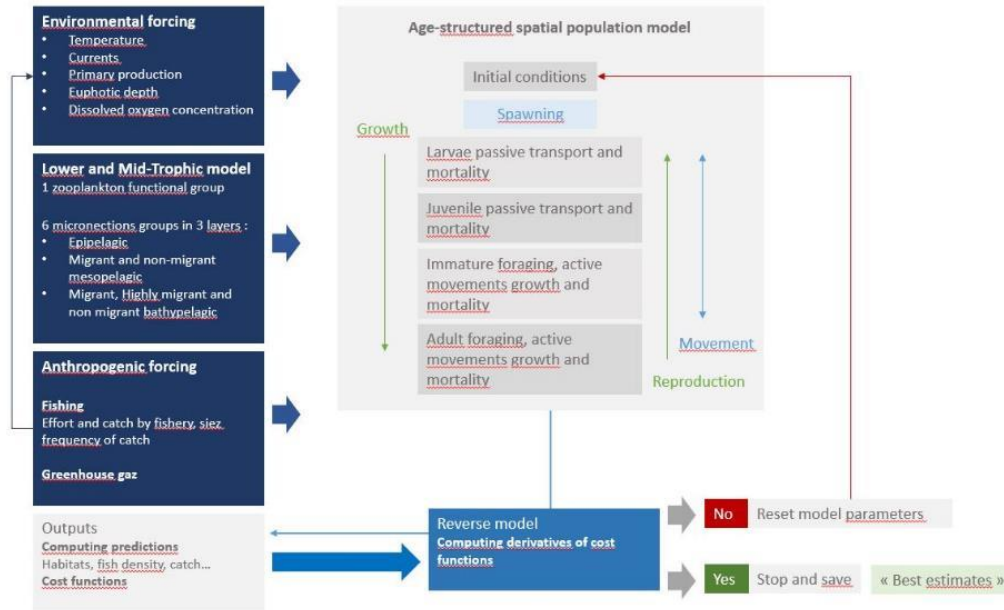
**Whale movements and distribution are closely tied with that of their prey... which is highly dynamic in time and space**



Zooplankton and Micronekton are the missing links to understand the distribution and behaviour of whales and other predators

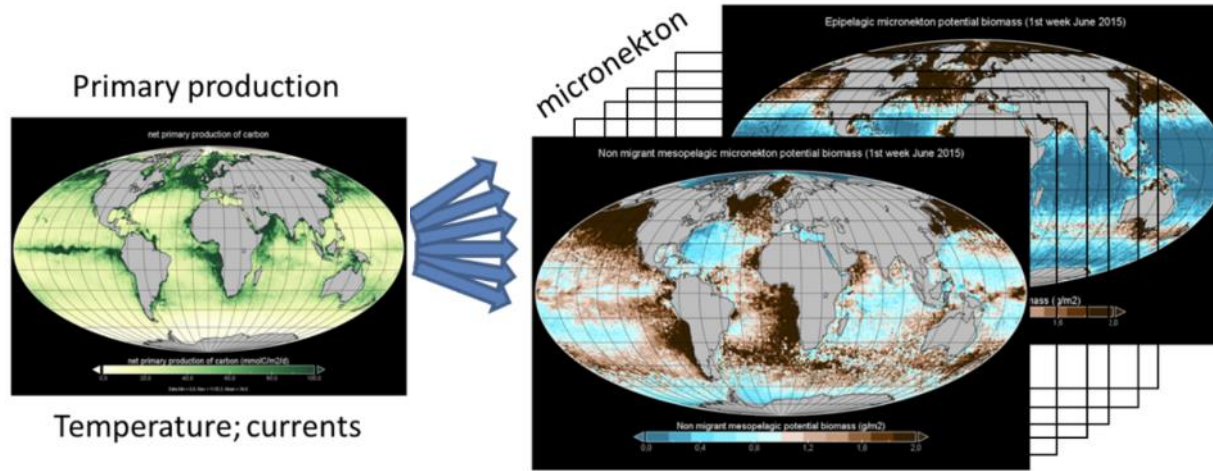


# SEAPOODYM (Spatial Ecosystem And Population DYnamics Model)



SEAPOODYM is a **numerical modelling framework** for the management of marine resources and ecosystems. It includes representations of **low and intermediate trophic levels** (zooplankton and micronekton), **age-structured fish populations**, and **fisheries**

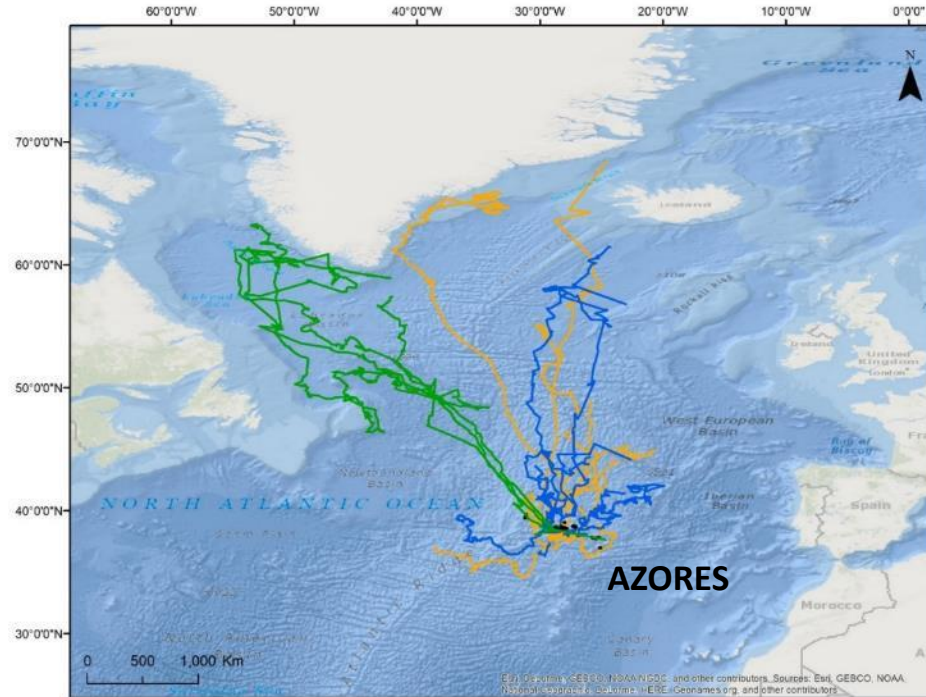
# SEAPODYM – LTL (low-trophic level) and MTL (mid-trophic level)



SEAPODYM-LTL and -MTL simulates **biomass distributions of 1 zooplankton and 6 micronekton functional groups**, according to their diel vertical migration behaviour and enables **hindcast and forecast simulations**

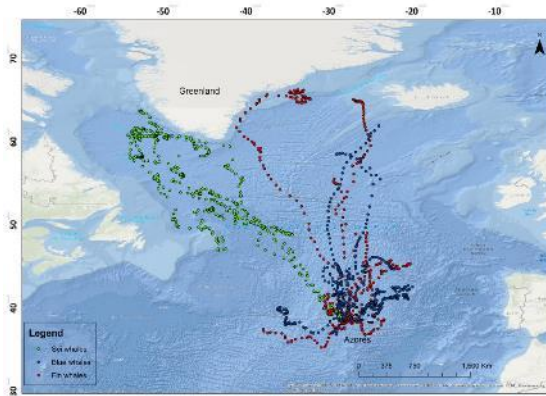
# *Whales Habitat Mapping*



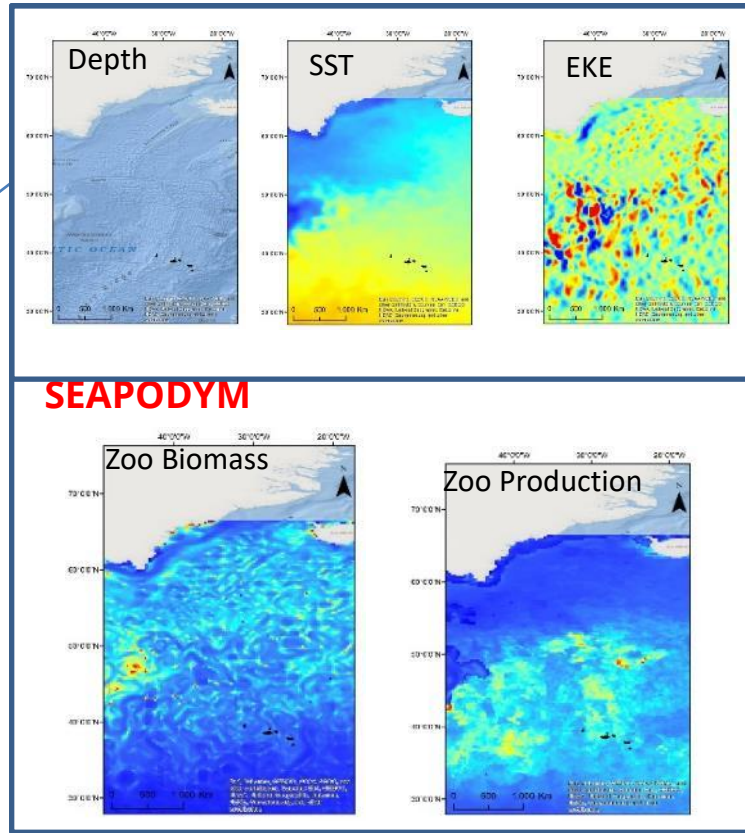


Silva et al. (2013). *PLOS One*; Prieto et al. (2014). *ESR*

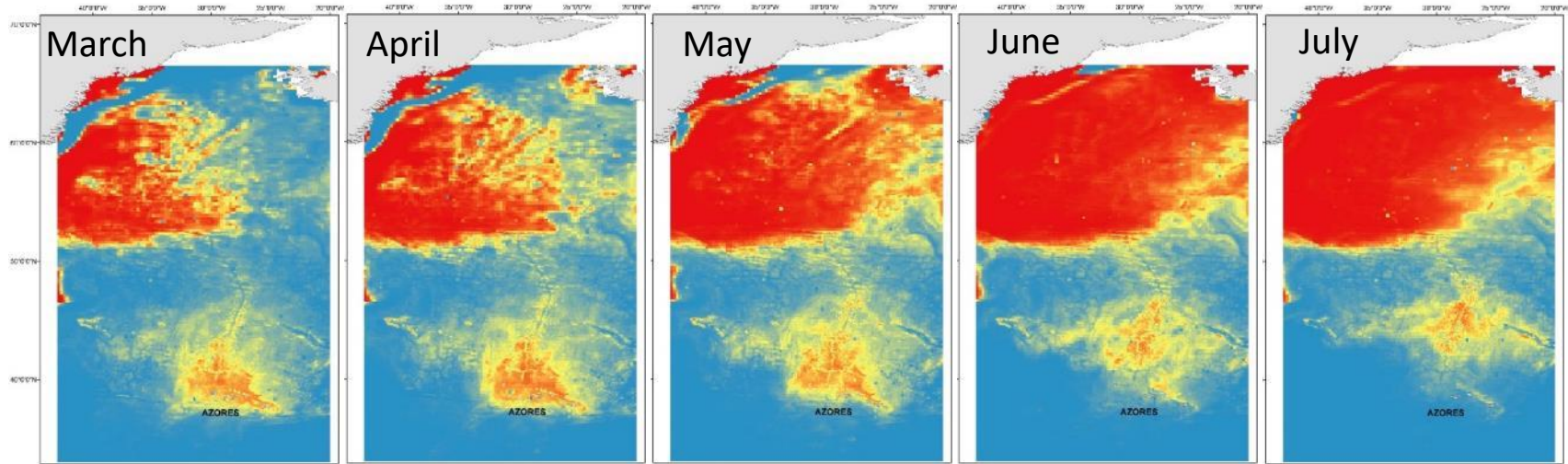
Satellite tracking data showed that the Azores is a feeding hotspot for migratory whales



Silva et al. (2013). *PLOS One*  
 Prieto et al. (2014). *ESR*

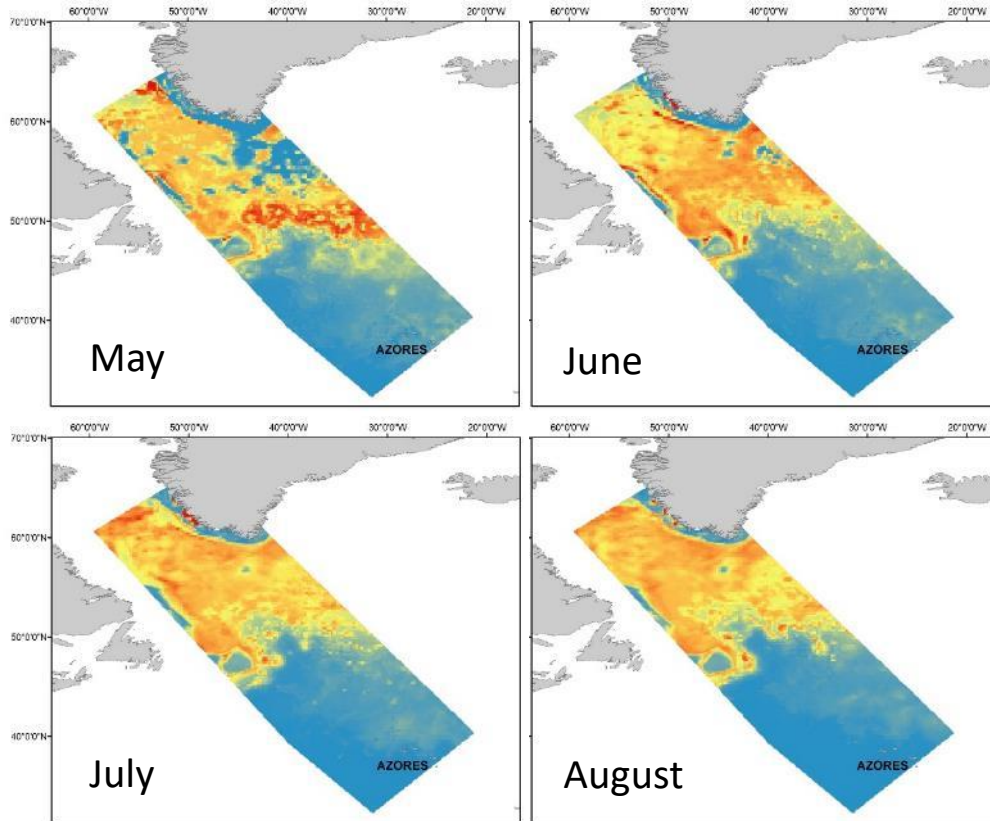


Prey variables significantly improved the model ability to accurately predict whale distribution and movements across the North Atlantic



Pérez-Jorge et al. (2020). *Diversity and Distributions*

Movements of blue and fin whales followed the northward progression of zooplankton biomass




Highest predicted distribution for sei whales is in the Charlie Gibbs Fracture and Labrador Sea

Azores is not an important feeding area and mainly serves as a migratory corridor

# SEAPODYM


ABOUT SEAPODYM **NEWS** RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS PARTNERSHIP REFERENCES CONTACT

## NEWS




Using Micronekton to Study Whales and Elephant Seals

[View More](#) May 13, 2020



Patrick Lehodey Awarded the 'Star of Europe' Prize

[View More](#) January 9, 2020



MEEEO: Researching Sustainable Mesopelagic Fisheries

[View More](#) October 31, 2019

Learn more about the Whales Habitat Mapping Use Case at <http://www.seapodym.eu/news/>

Copernicus Marine Service | **USE CASES** Version 2.1 16/04/2020

## TRACKING WHALES IN THE NORTH-ATLANTIC




### USE CASE OVERVIEW



Highly migratory species such as whales are often exposed to anthropogenic threats. A research led by the University of the Azores focussed on the migration pathways of three whales species from the North Atlantic Ocean: fin, blue and sei whales. They described their spatiotemporal distribution to understand their movement patterns and provide sustained data to protect them against ship collisions and noise disturbance.

To create an accurate tracking model, they used several data sets, including CMEMS data. Researchers modelled the whales' habitat preferences in light of certain environmental and prey-related variables. Potential prey biomass distributions were obtained from SEAPODYM ? a mid-trophic level spatial ecosystem and population dynamics model. This biomass distribution was provided by CMEMS micronekton product, which contained parameters such as zooplankton and micronekton. They are key explanatory variables for understanding the individual behaviour and population dynamics of larger oceanic predators.



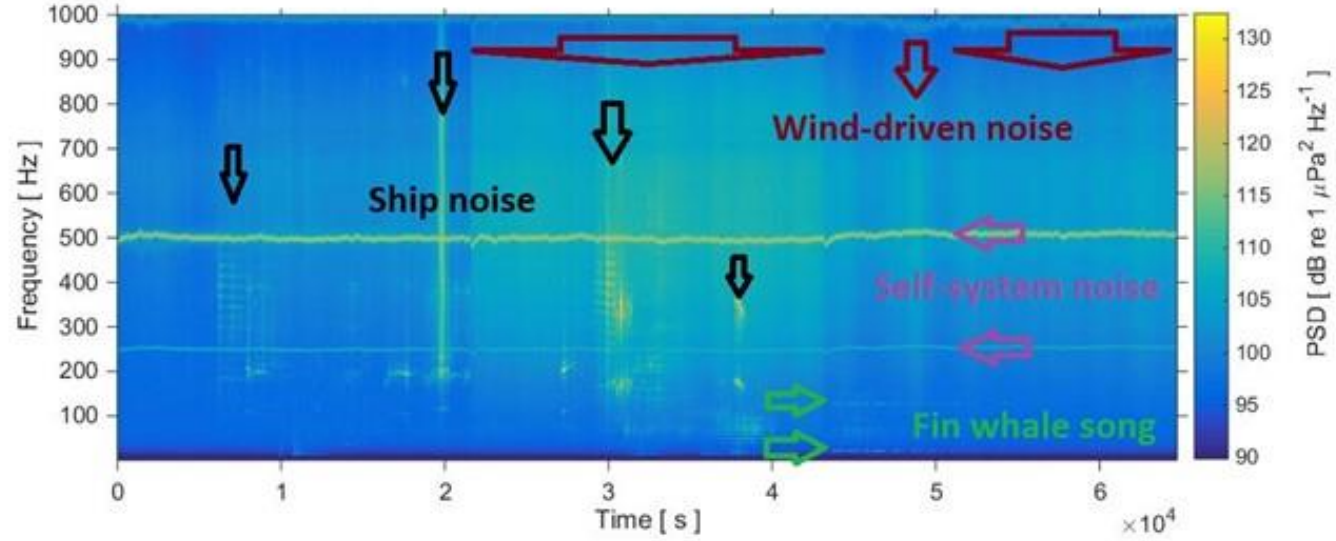
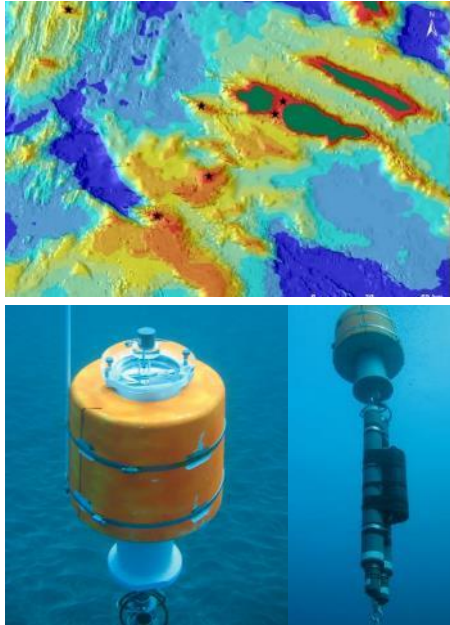
### BENEFITS FOR USER

- Levels of zooplankton and micronekton in the global ocean
- Lower trophic level biomass information to understand large species migrations

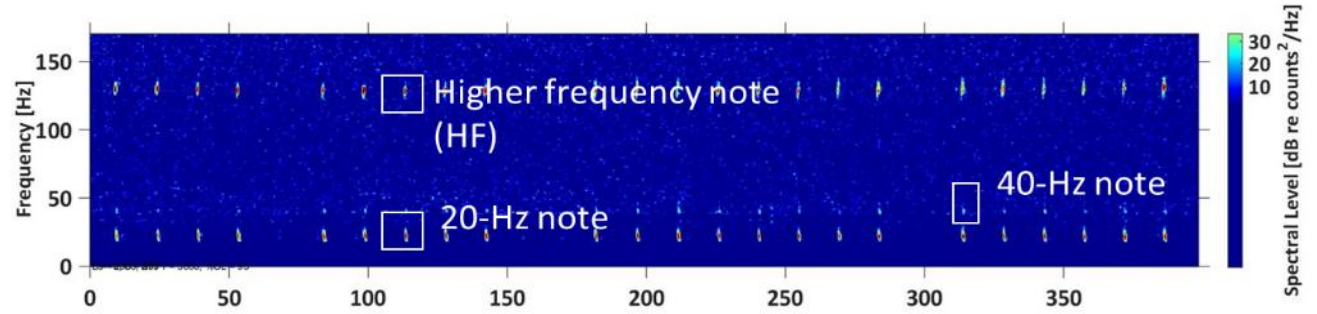


# *Determining the functional role of whale habitats*





Passive Acoustic Monitoring enables continuous monitoring of natural and man-made sounds



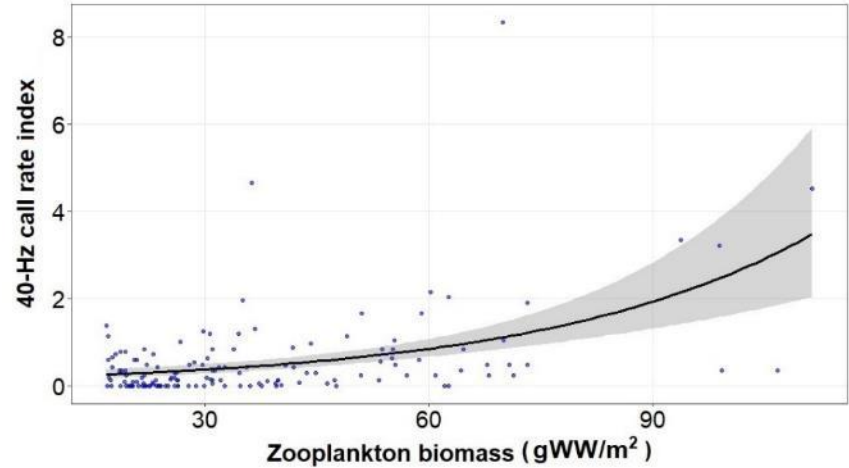
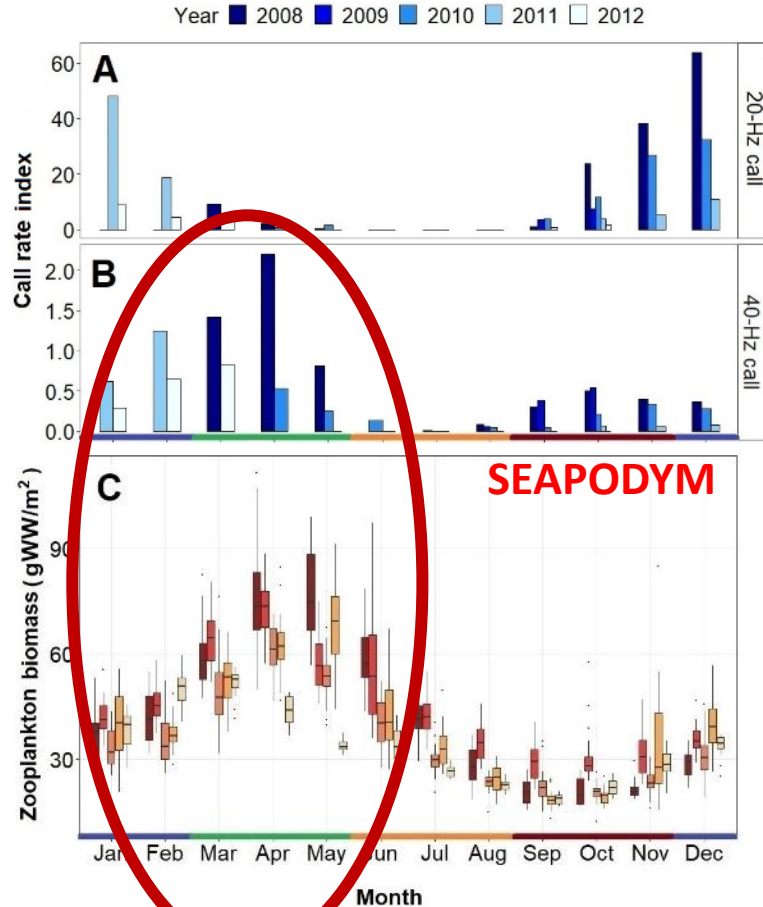
Romagosa et al. (2020). *Scientific Reports*



20-Hz Fin whale songs are believed to function as reproductive displays

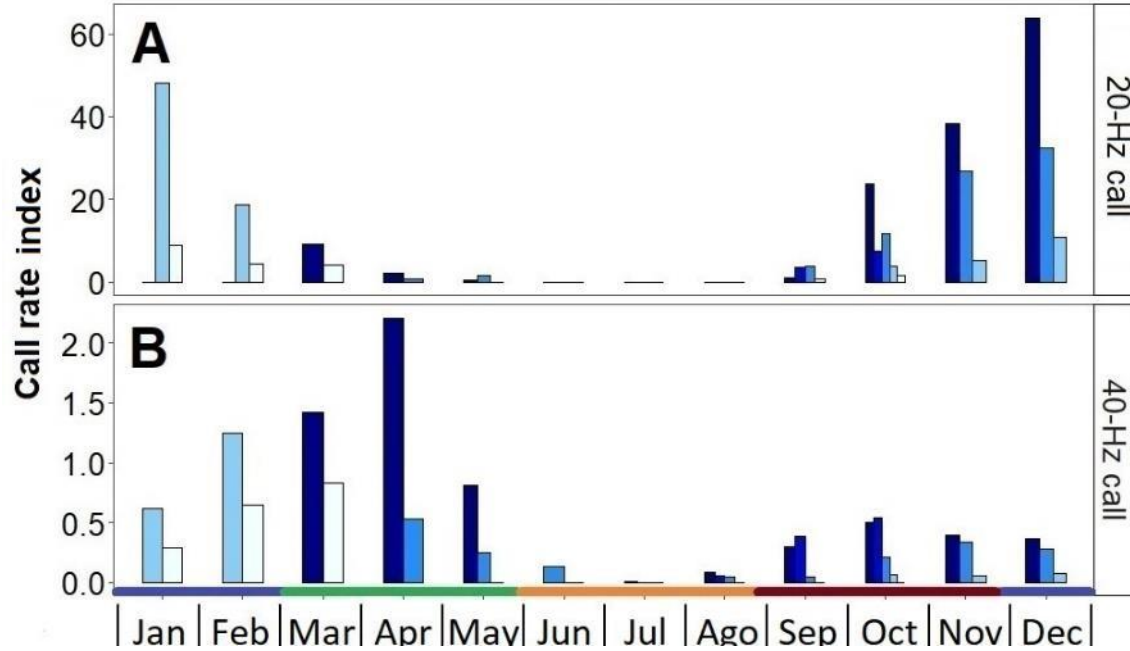


40-Hz Fin whale calls have been recorded from foraging and travelling whales



40-Hz Fin whale calls are related with prey biomass demonstrating a food-associated function of this call

Year ■ 2008 ■ 2009 ■ 2010 ■ 2011 ■ 2012



Breeding



Foraging



Breeding



Foraging



- SEAPODYM-LTL & MTL provides much needed information on lower and mid-trophic level prey to understand the behaviour of top predators
  - Integrating modelled prey biomass with satellite telemetry/sighting data in spatially-explicit models improves understanding of **drivers of movement** and **predictions of species distribution**
  - Unveil the **functional role of different habitats** within the species range
  - SEAPODYM-MTL and passive acoustic data can monitor cetacean usage of remote habitats (Romagosa et al. 2019)
  - Increased resolution of modelled prey now enables looking at fine-scale foraging behaviour of predators
  
- SEAPODYM-LTL & MTL can be used to forecast changes in prey availability under climate change scenarios and investigate effects on top predators and highly migratory species

Noise map

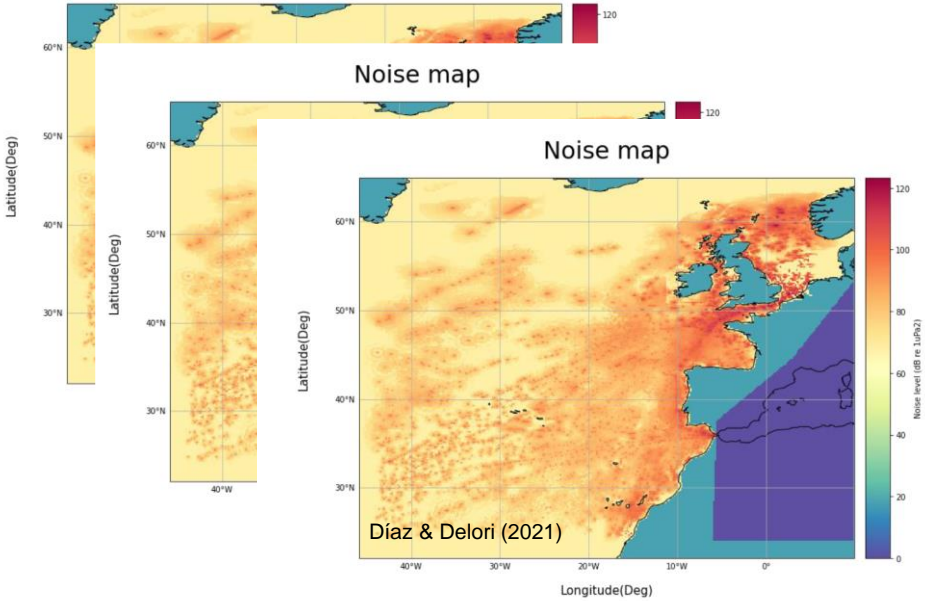
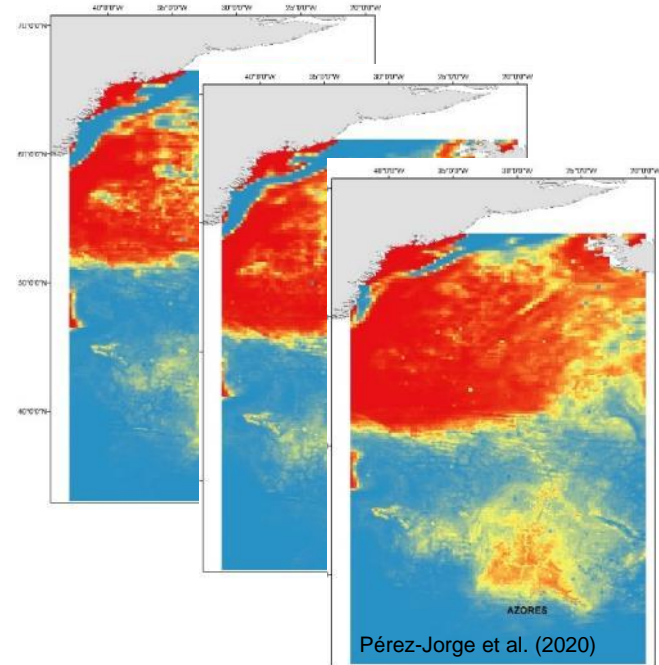


Figure 3. Noise map of the North-East Atlantic on Dec 10, 2019 at 125 Hz.

+



Dynamic Ocean Management: predict distribution and density hotspots for whales and probability of risk from human activities in near real-time

# Thanks

**AZORES WHALE LAB**

[www.whales.scienceontheweb.net](http://www.whales.scienceontheweb.net)



## Funding

Fund 01-0145-FEDER-000140- MarAZ Researchers of the EU  
TRACE-PTDC/MAR/74071/2006  
IF/00943/2013/CP1199/CT0001  
AWARENESS-PTDC/BIA-BMA/30514/2017  
MAPCET-M2.1.2/F/012/2011  
SUMMER-EU-H2020 GA 817806  
UIDB/05634/2020, UIDP/05634/2020  
M1.1.A/REEQ.CIENTÍFICO UI&D/2021/010



GOVERNO  
DOS AÇORES



MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO  
E CIÊNCIA



[monica.silva.imar@gmail.com](mailto:monica.silva.imar@gmail.com)



@MónicaSilva



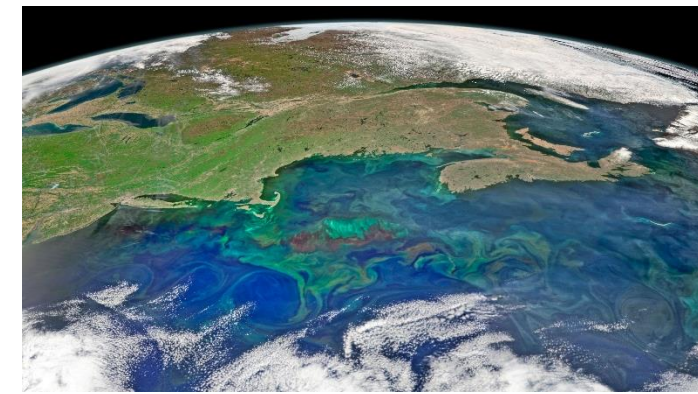
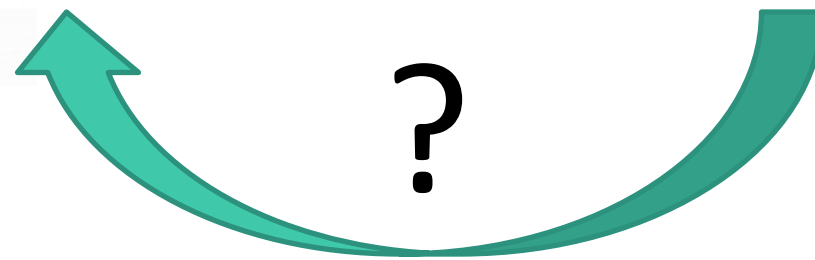
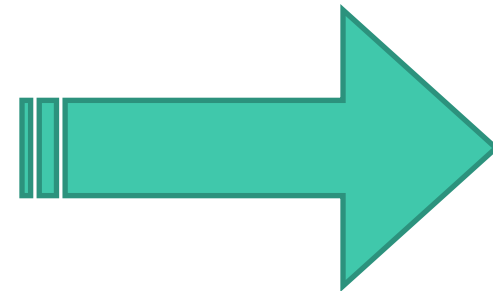
# How is Copernicus data essential for the future of ocean observation with autonomous systems?

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Renato Mendes



# Data Cycle?



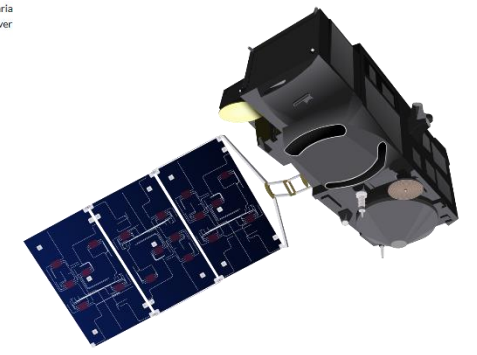
Phenomena  
Characterization

Ocean Databases



Forecast and  
Reanalysis Models

Cal & Val Satellite Data

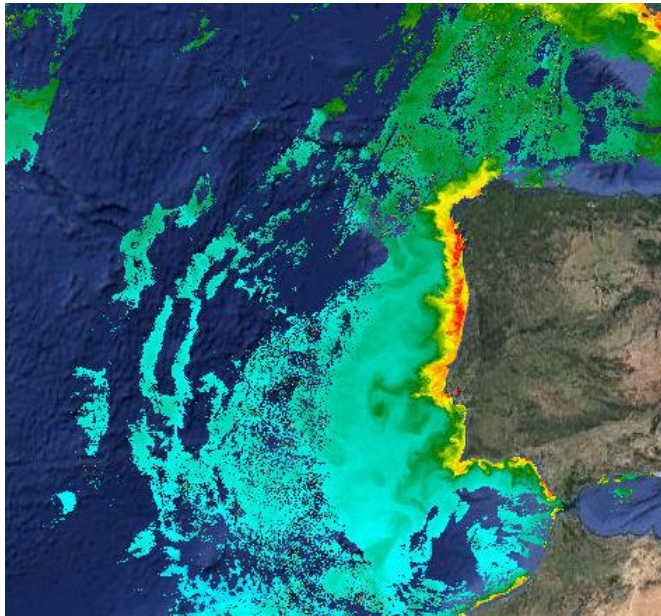


## How?

L3/L4 Satellite data, CMEMS Reanalysis model, etc

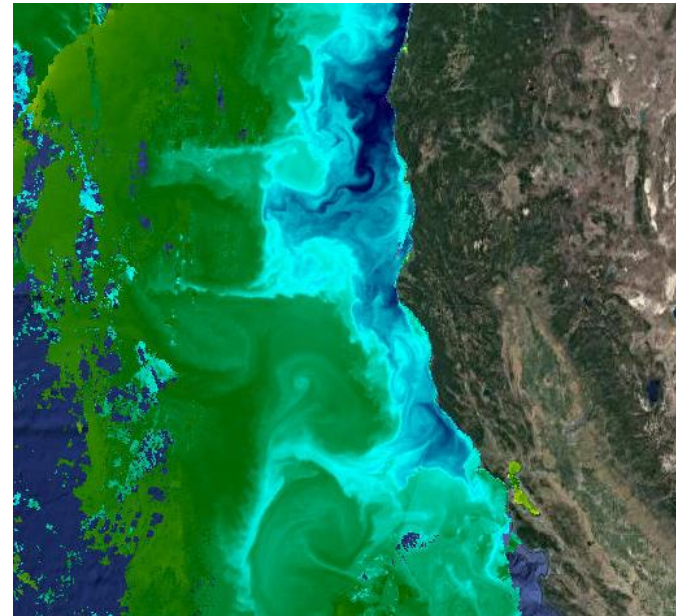
## Before fieldwork

### Where?



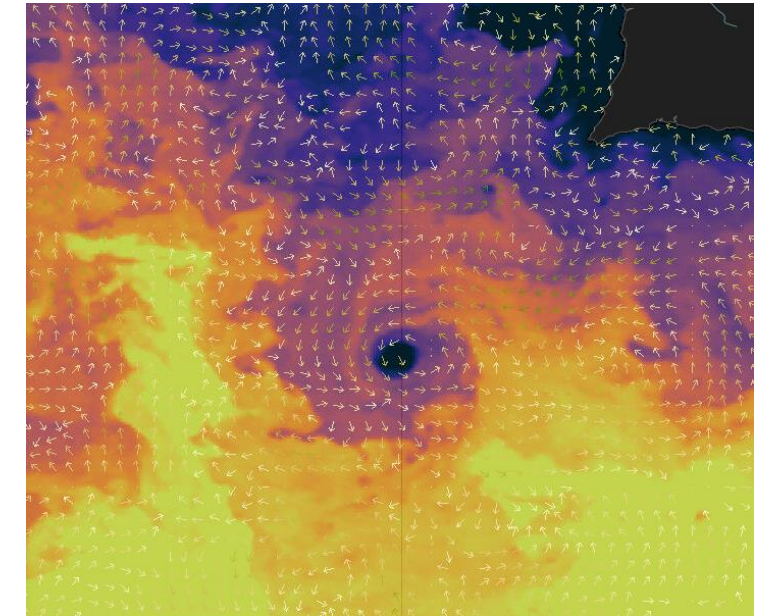
- Look for hotspot areas

### When?



- Study temporal variability
- Best logistical time-window

### How?



- Perform simulations
- Planning logistics
- Training the assets (ML, AI, etc)

<https://ovl.oceandatalab.com>

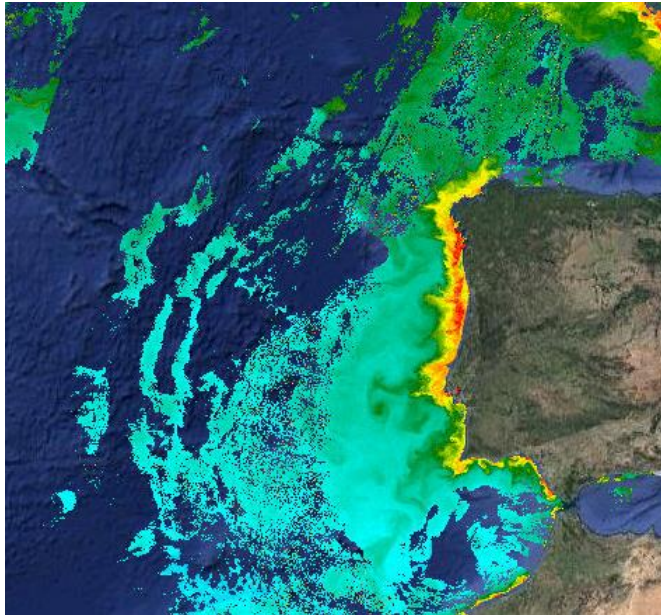
<https://myocean.marine.copernicus.eu>

## How?

### During fieldwork

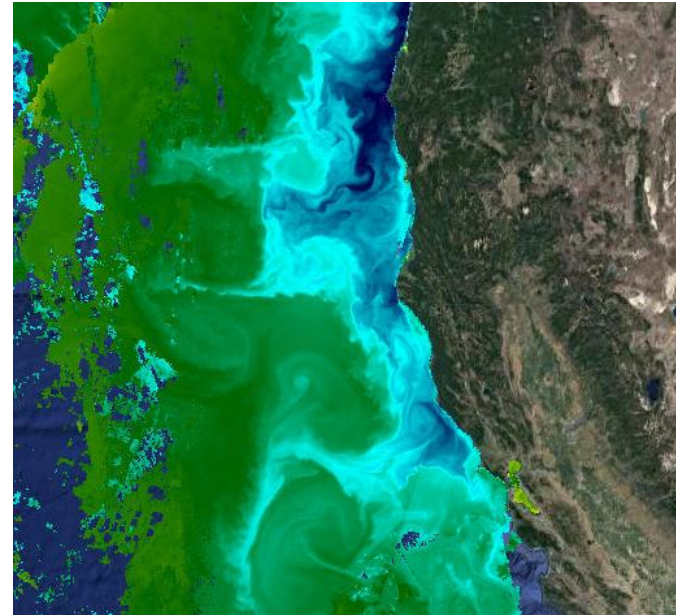
Near-real time Sat data, CMEMS forecast ocean model, Weather forecast etc

### Where?



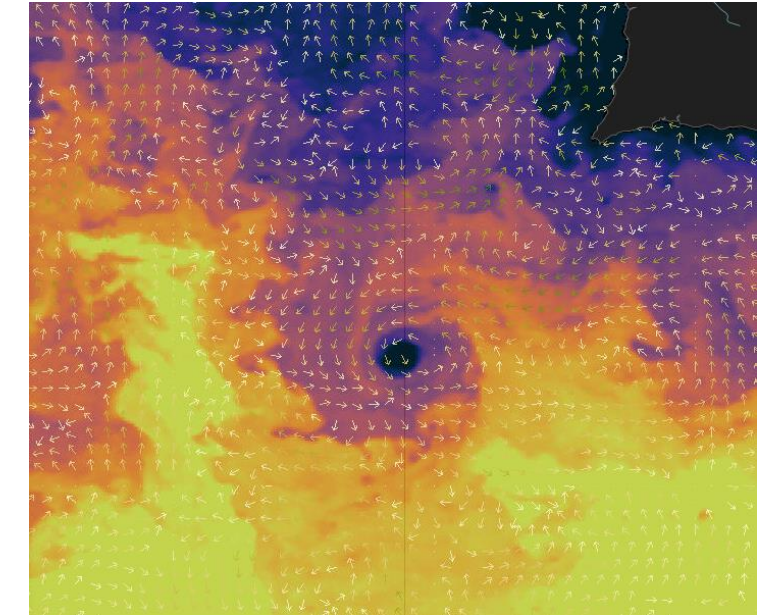
- Placing the assets in the best location to get the best data according to their capabilities and limitations

### When?



- Deploy the assets in the best time-frame to collect the best data

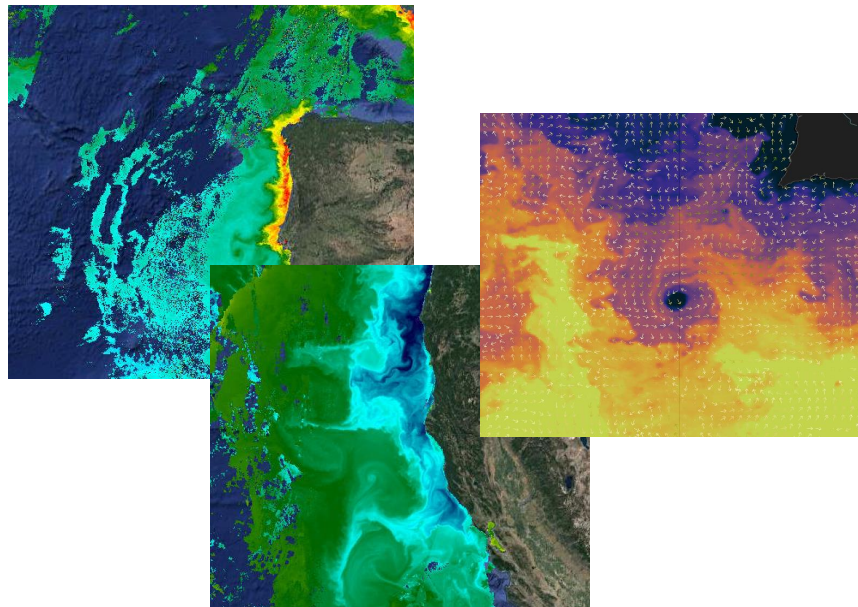
### How?



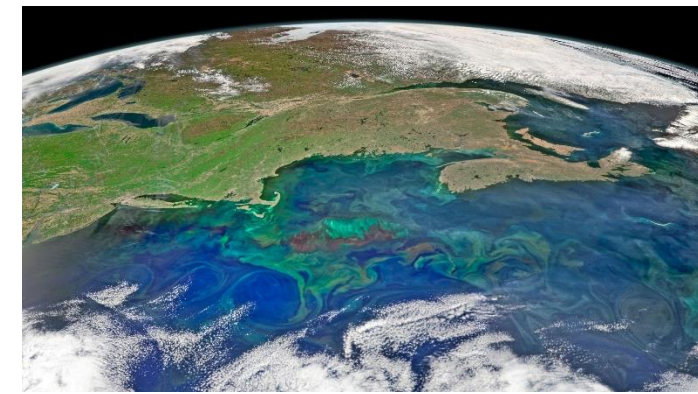
- Using forecast and near-real-time data to gain more autonomy in the assets
- Trajectory optimization, energy harvesting, adaptive sampling, avoiding bad metoc conditions, etc

How?

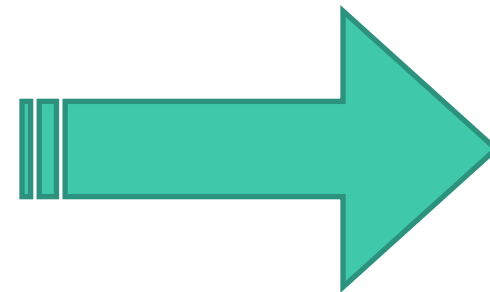
## After fieldwork



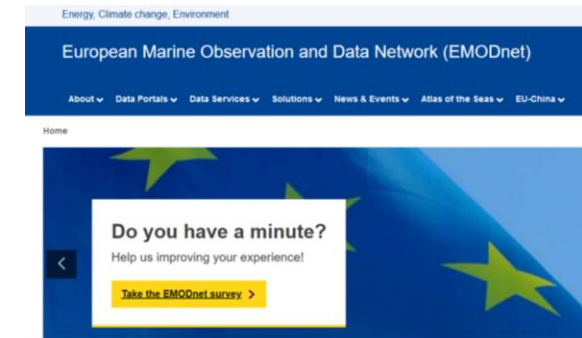
- Lessons-Learned
- New Simulations
- New Case-studies



Phenomena  
Characterization

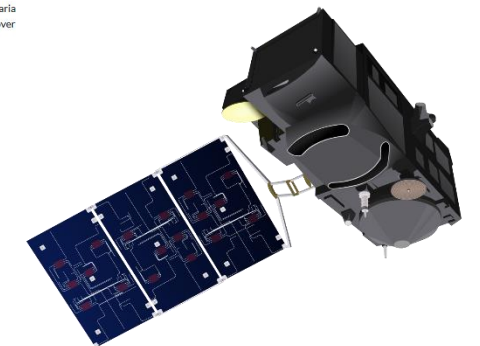


## Ocean Databases

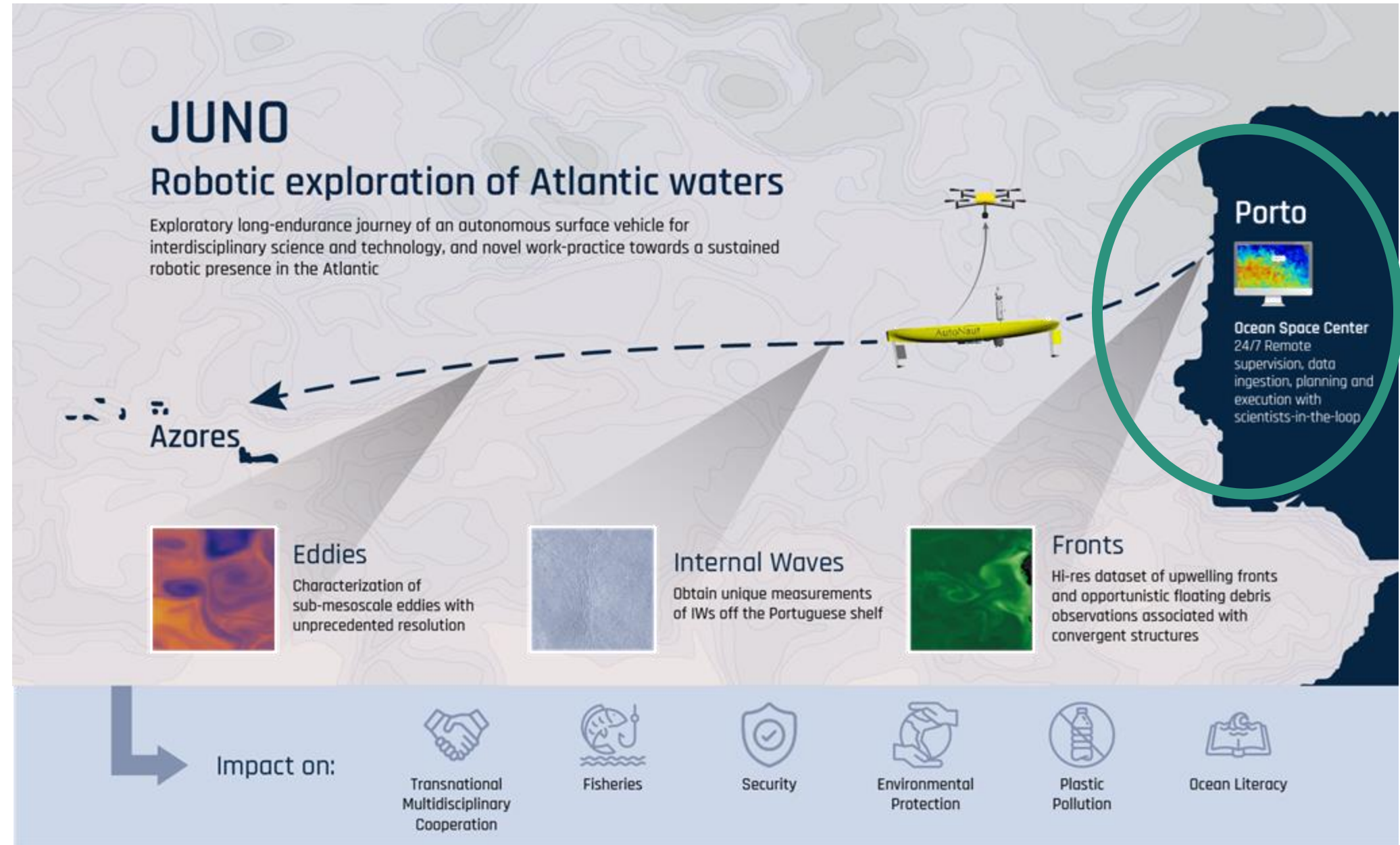


Forecast and  
Reanalysis Models

## Cal & Val Satellite Data



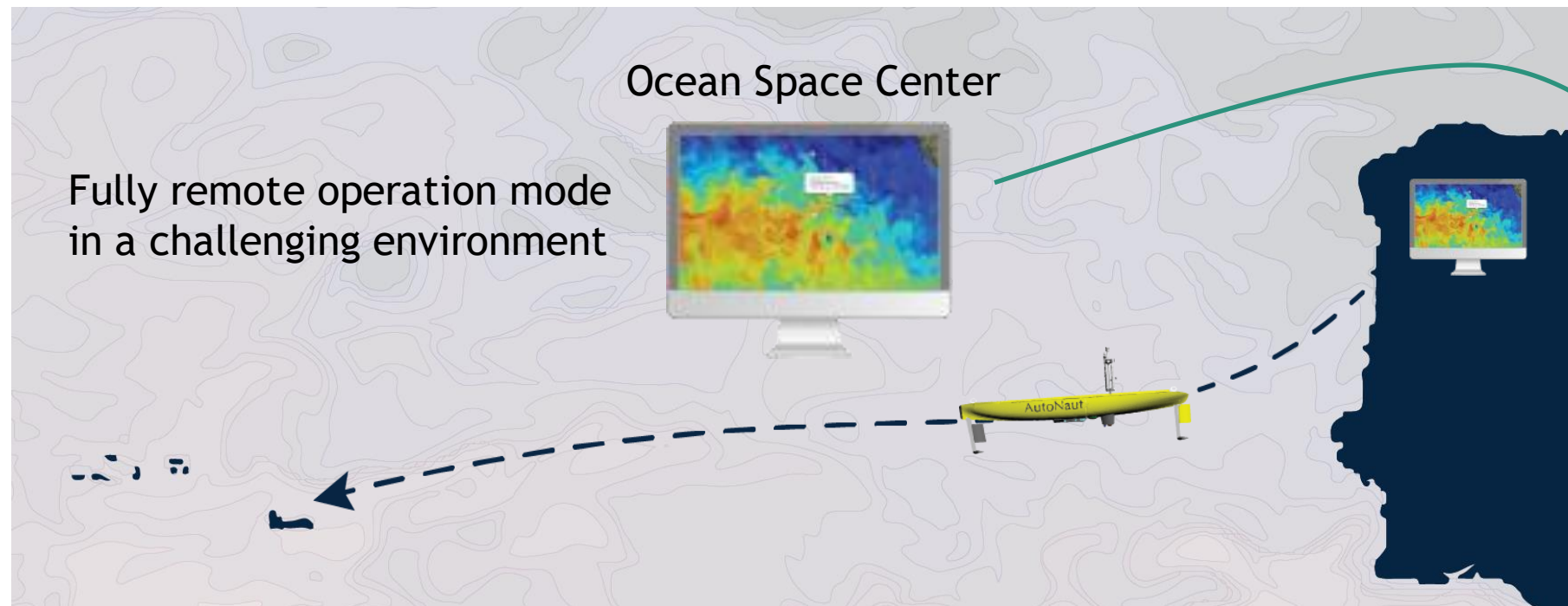
# Projects



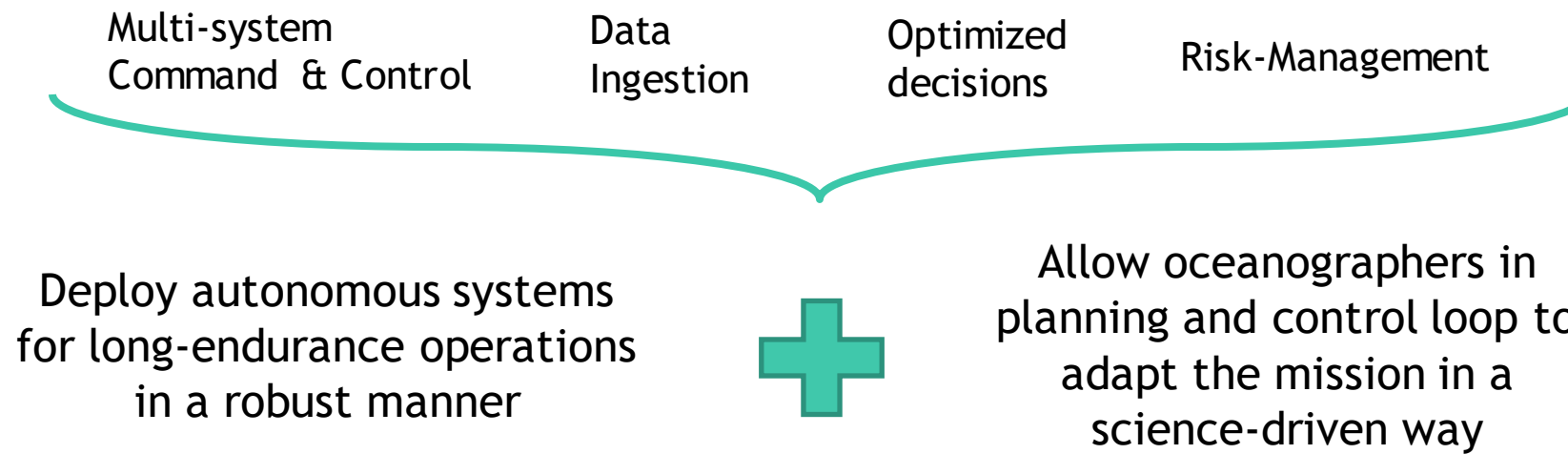
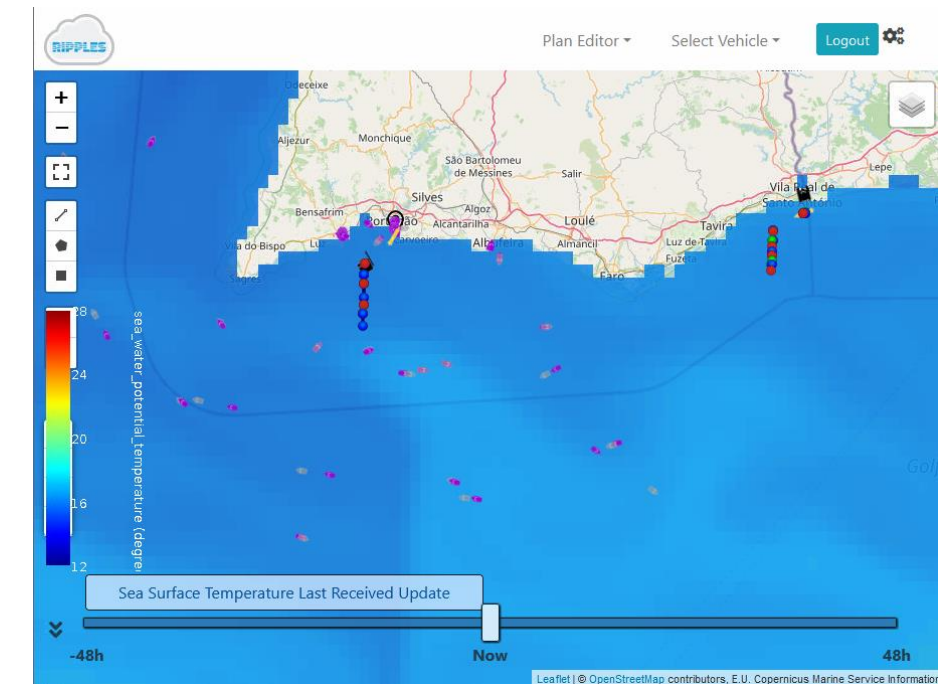
Example of *Data Cycle* concept



# Projects



**Ripples.lsts.pt** – web infrastructure that is used for improving the situational awareness of operators as well as keeping external collaborators in the loop.



**Most of the Information layers are derived from COPERNICUS data**

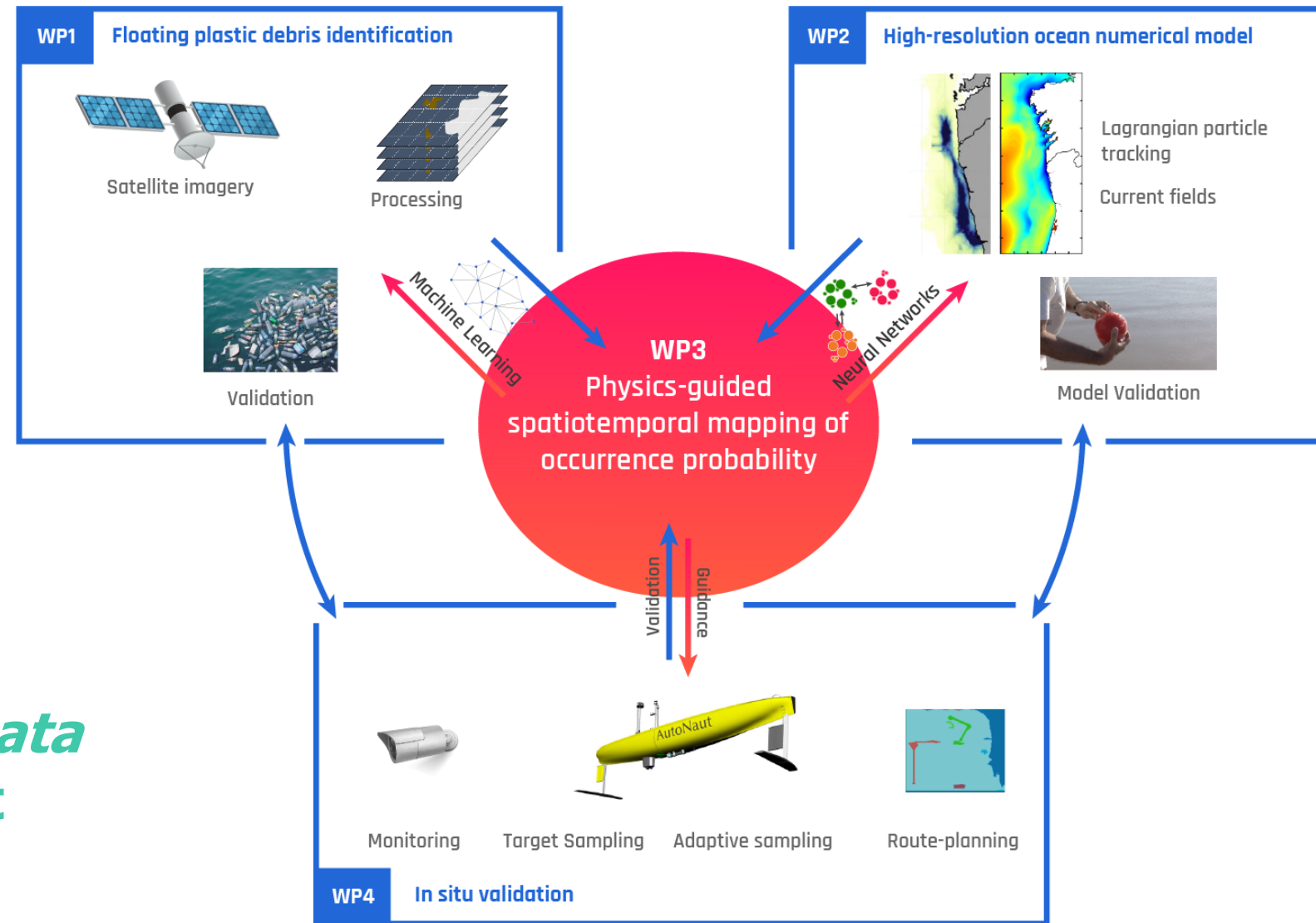
# Projects

## SMART - diStributed AI systeM for mARine plastic debRis moniToring

Winner of AI Moonshot  
2020 Edition

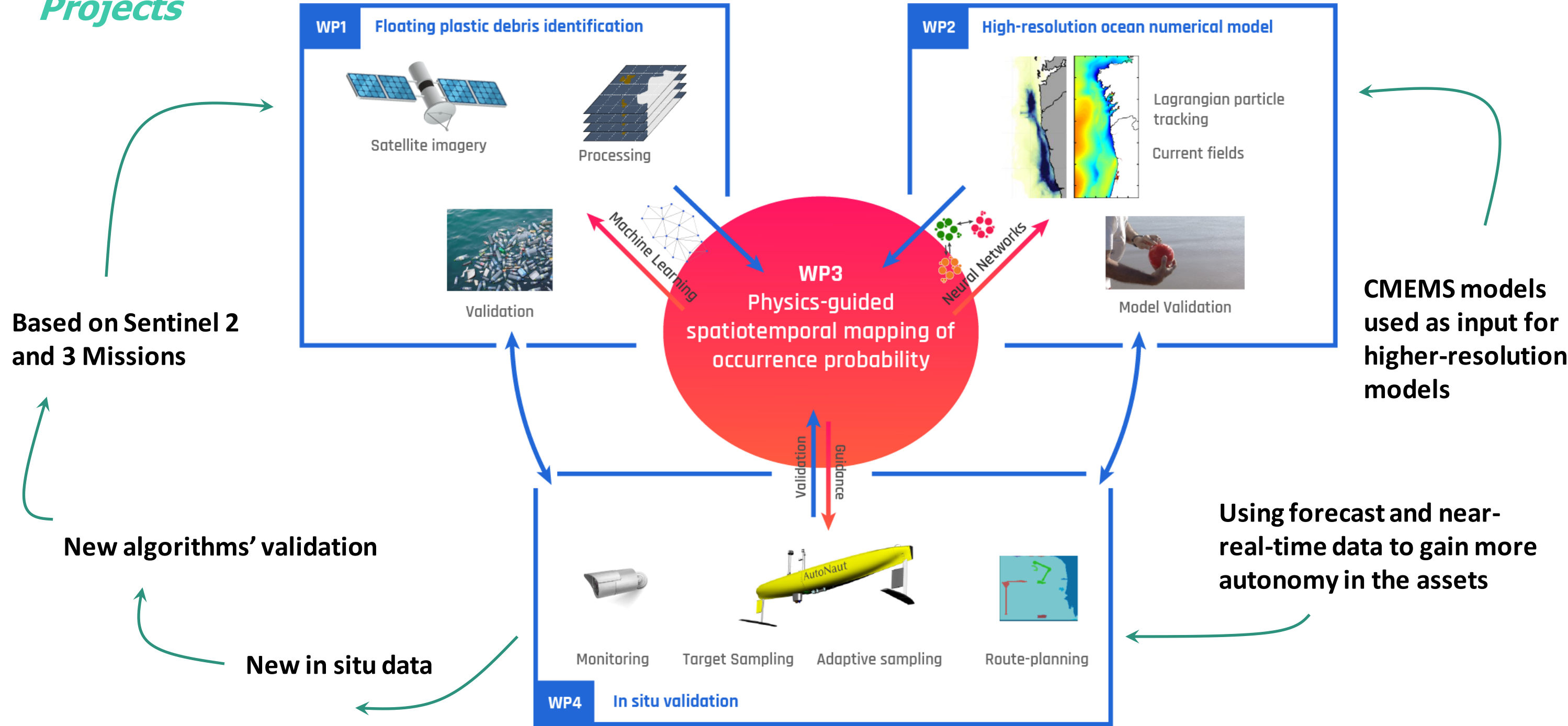


Example of *Data Cycle* concept



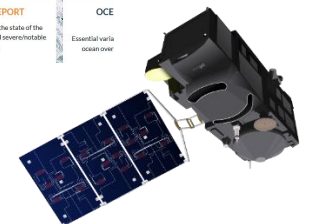
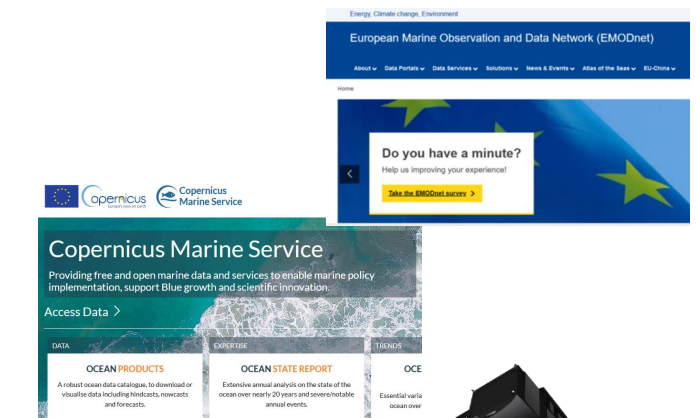
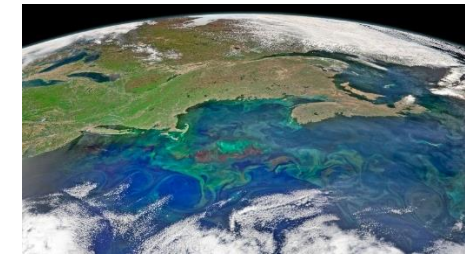
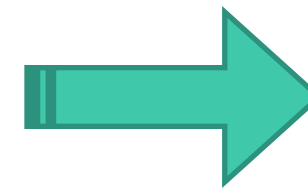


# Projects



# Take home message

- Autonomous vehicles are not only data providers.
- Copernicus data are essential to optimise their missions
- Data managers and providers should also pay attention to the Autonomous Vehicles Community's needs.
- More optimised and safer missions can increase the quality of data from the ocean.





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# North Atlantic Marine Heatwaves: climatology and trends

---

Atlantic Innovation Week

Ana Oliveira | [ana.oliveira@colabatlantic.com](mailto:ana.oliveira@colabatlantic.com)

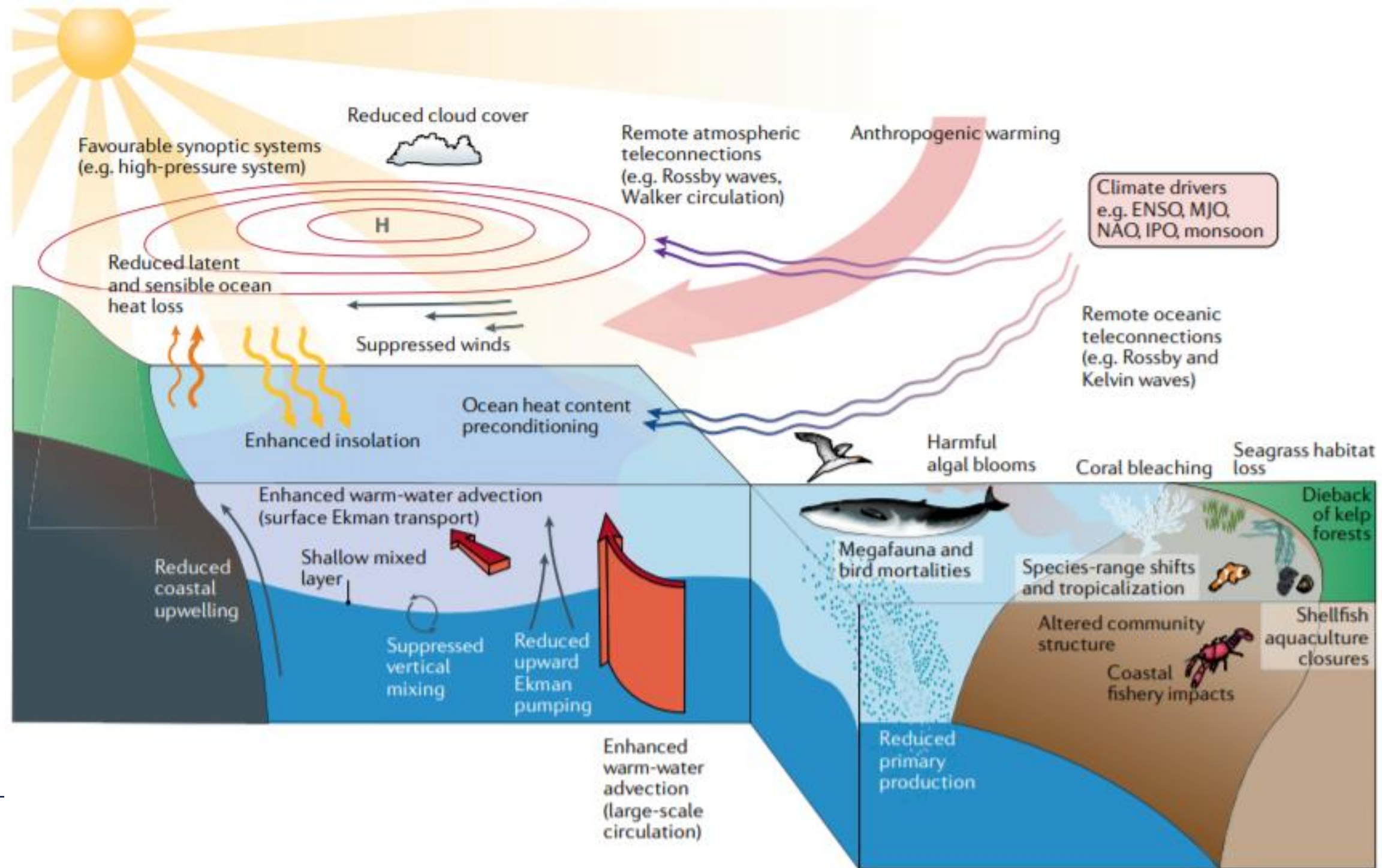
14-17 March 2022  
Azores, Portugal



# + DEFINITIONS

## Marine Heatwaves (MHWs) Definition

“prolonged discrete anomalously warm water event that can be described by its duration, intensity, rate of evolution, and spatial extent”  
(Hobday et al., 2016).



# + DEFINITIONS

## Atmospheric

### Contributors:

1-2 weeks or season ahead

Extends to 1000 km

Vertical propagation within mixed-layer

(up to 10s of meters)

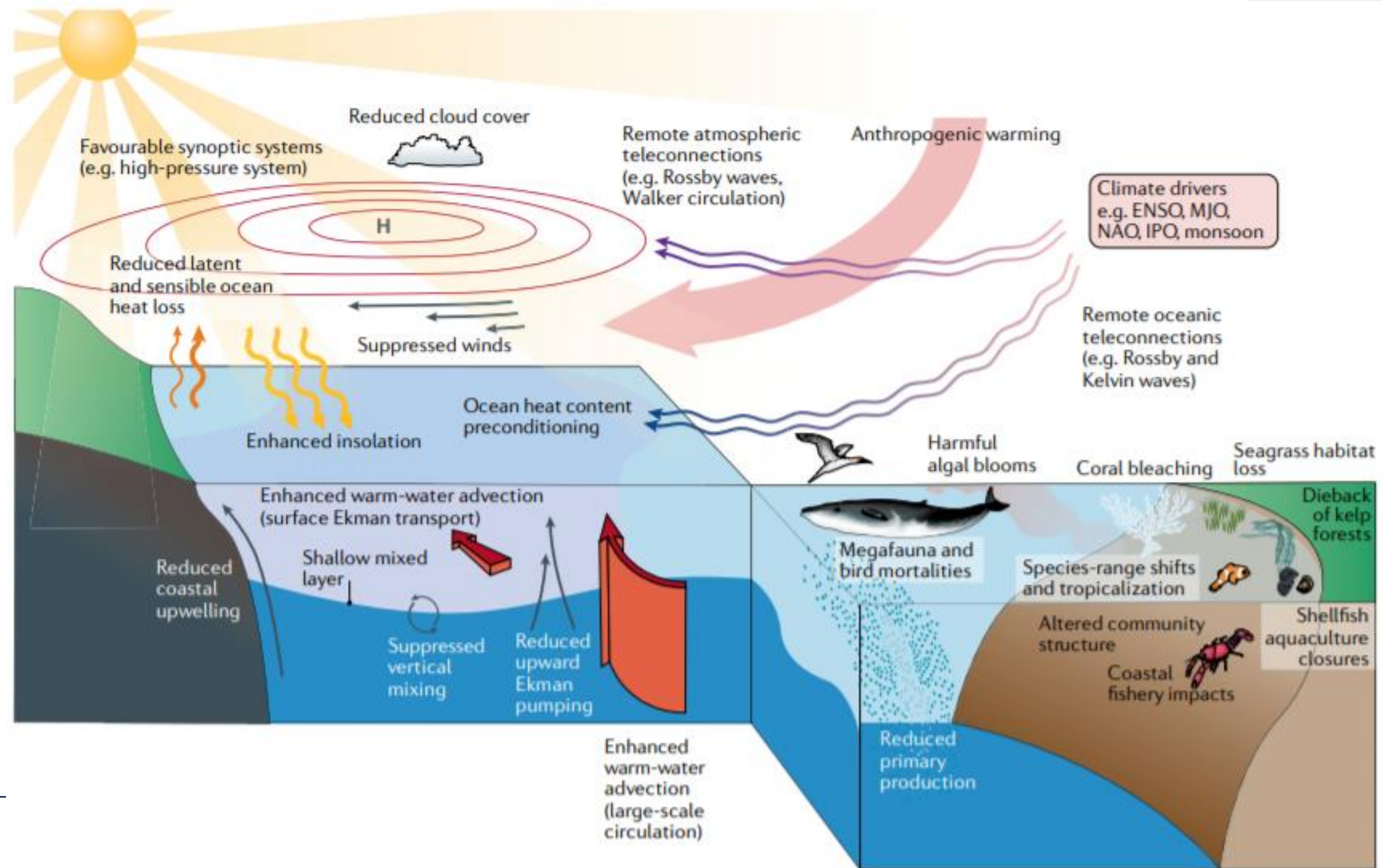
### Oceanic Contributors:

Months to years

Extends to 100 km

Vertical propagation from surface to benthic

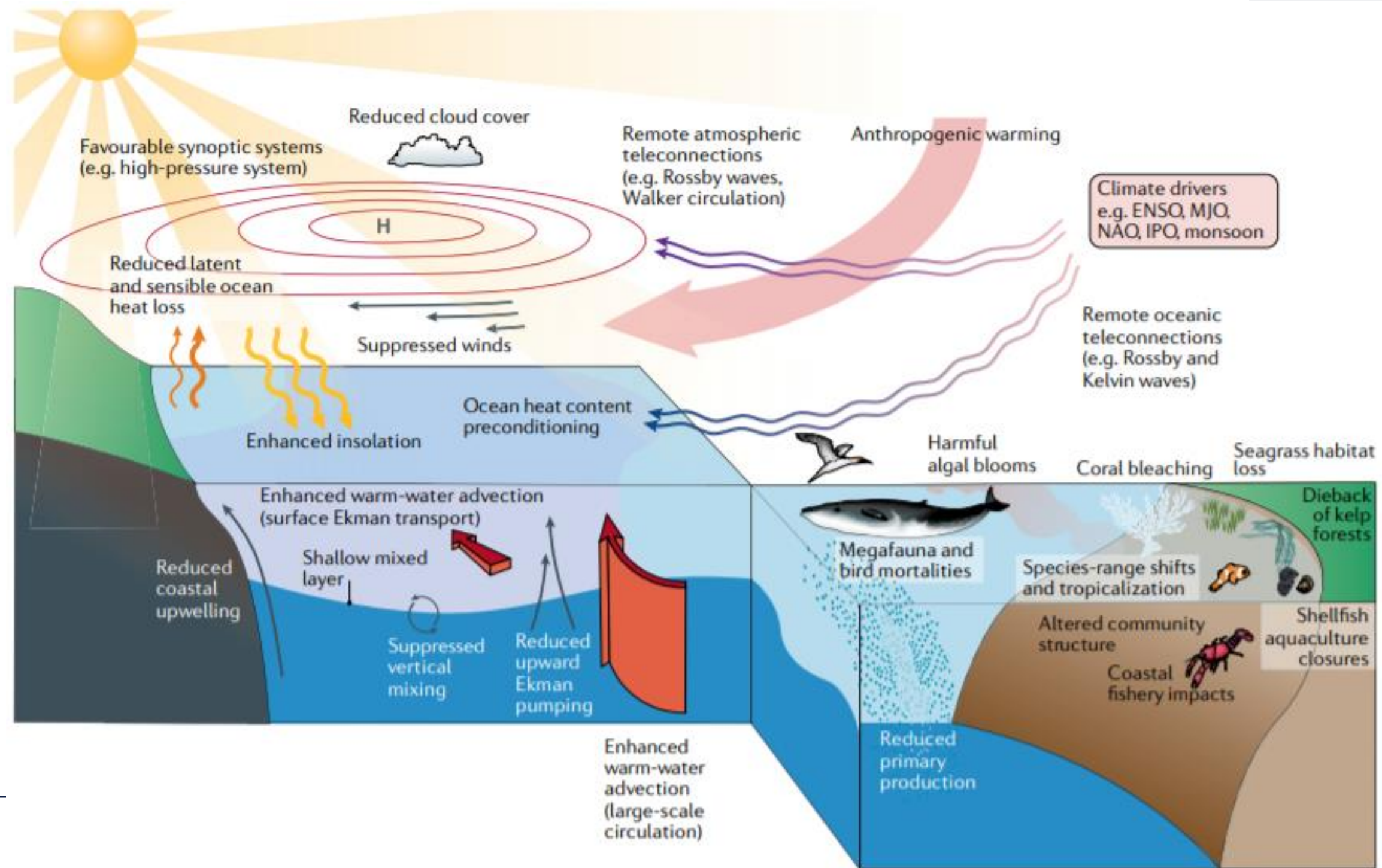
(up to 100s of meters)



# + DEFINITIONS

## Impacts:

- Species-range shifts
- Coral Bleaching
- HAB's
- Megafauna mortality
- Seabirds mortality
- Fishery losses
- Aquaculture/shellfish reduced production
- Kelp mortality



# + DATA & METHODS



OISST: observations-based SST

1982-2019 climatology

1982-2019 90th percentile anomaly

Discrete identification of MHW events (yes/no)

Annual statistical summaries of MHW events (frequency, duration, intensity)

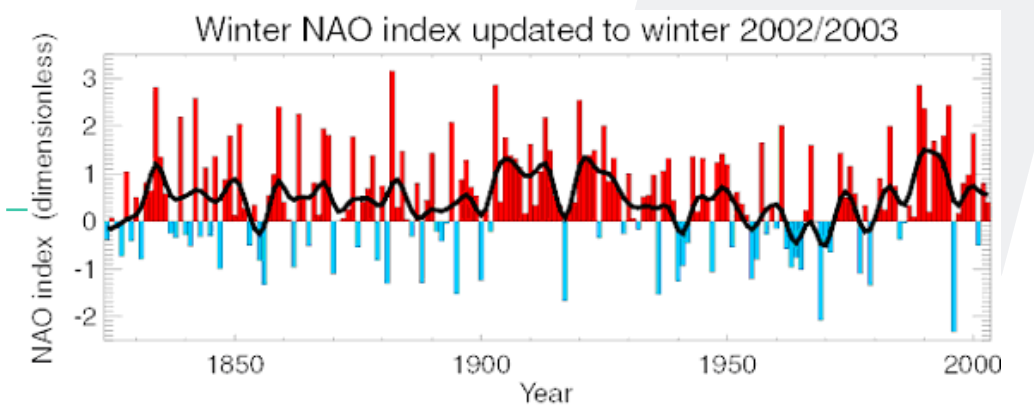
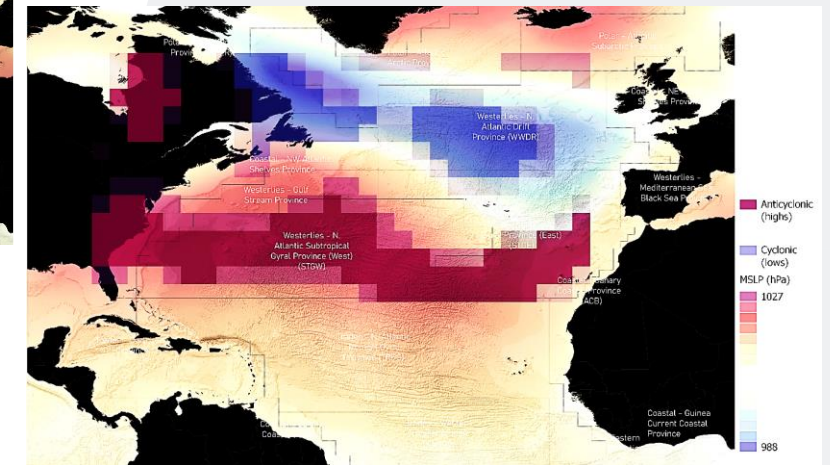
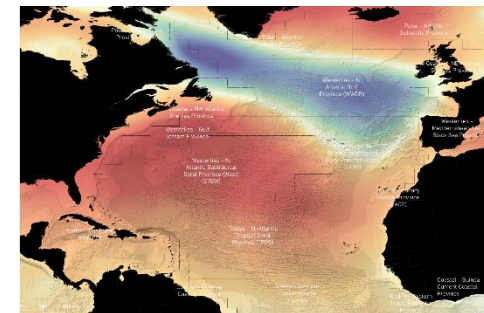
Linear trend analysis

Relation?

Impacts?

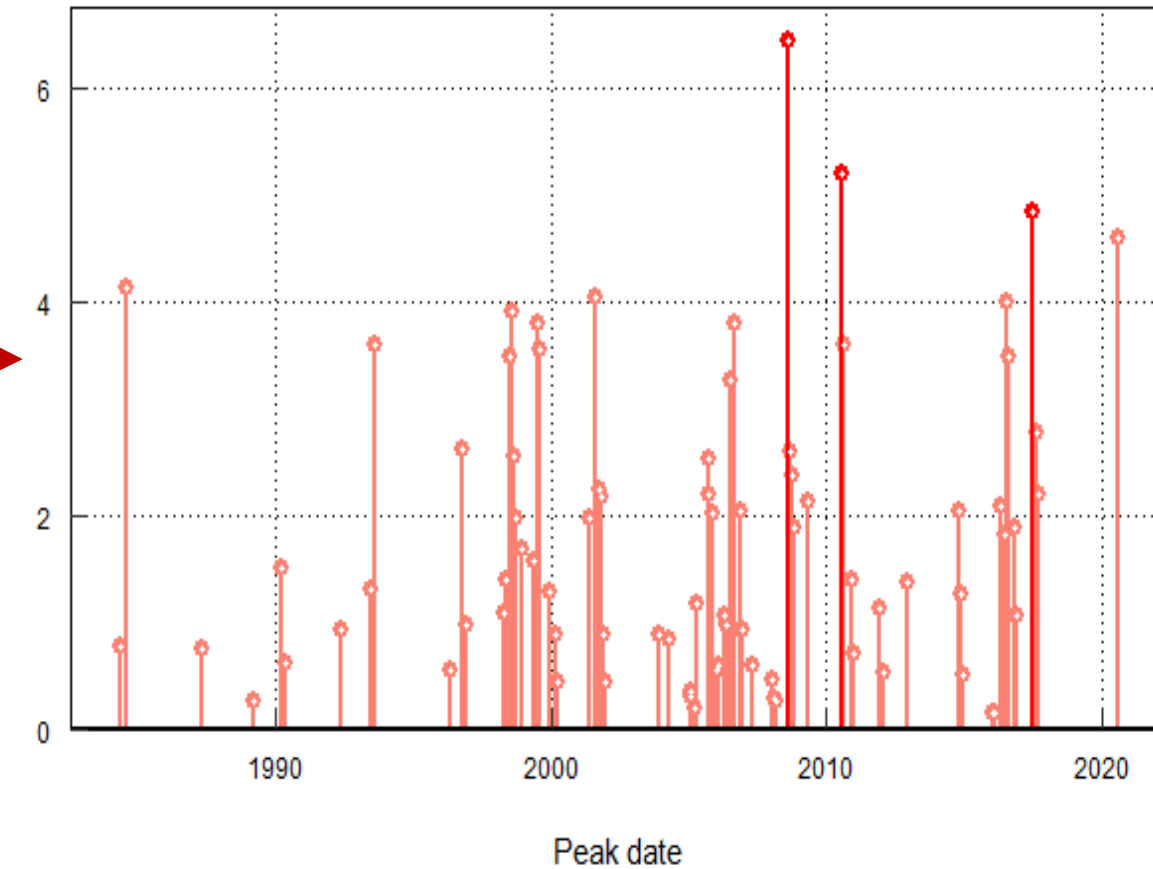
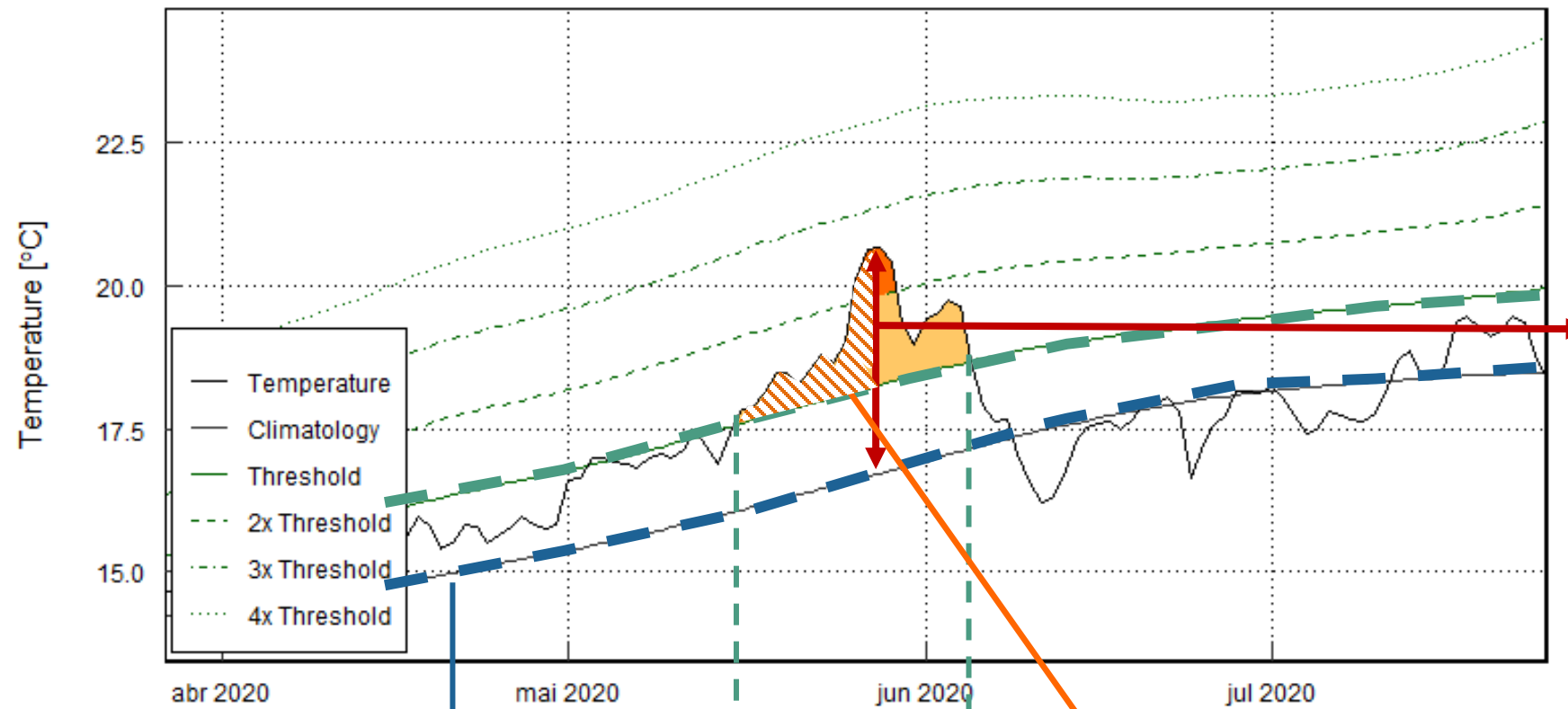


ERA5: mean surface level pressure reanalysis





# + DATA & METHODS



Threshold = Climatological Mean SST (1982-2019) (30-days moving window)

#1 event  
#22 days

Max. Intensity = Max. (STT - Climatological Mean SST (1982-2020))

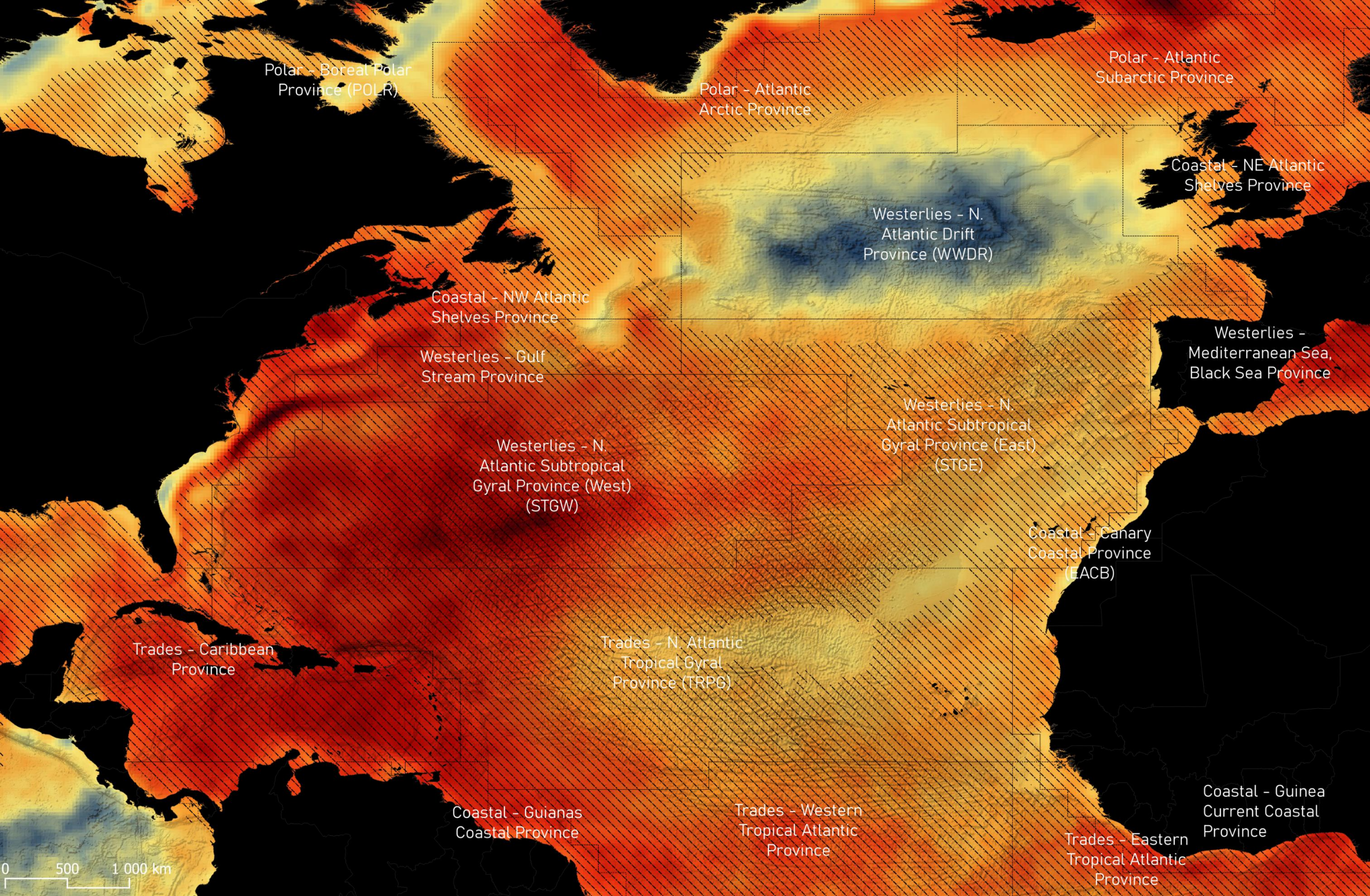
Mean Intensity = Mean (STT - Climatological Mean SST (1982-2020))

Cumulative Intensity =  $\int_s^{e-1} (STT - Climatological SST)$

## MHW

- lasts for five or more days
- temperatures warmer than the 90th (30-year baseline period)

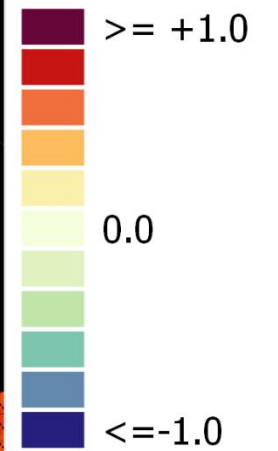
# + RESULTS

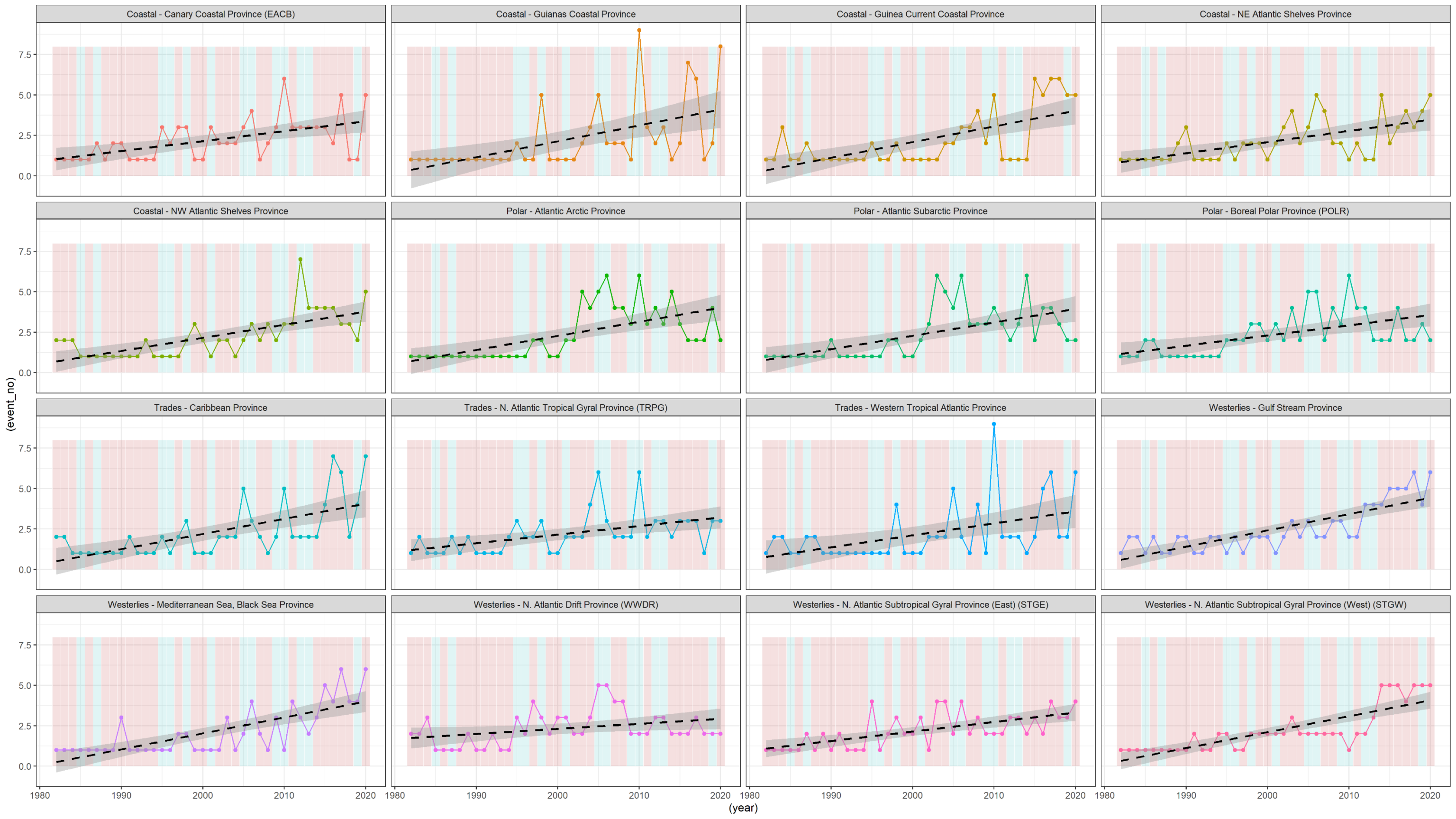


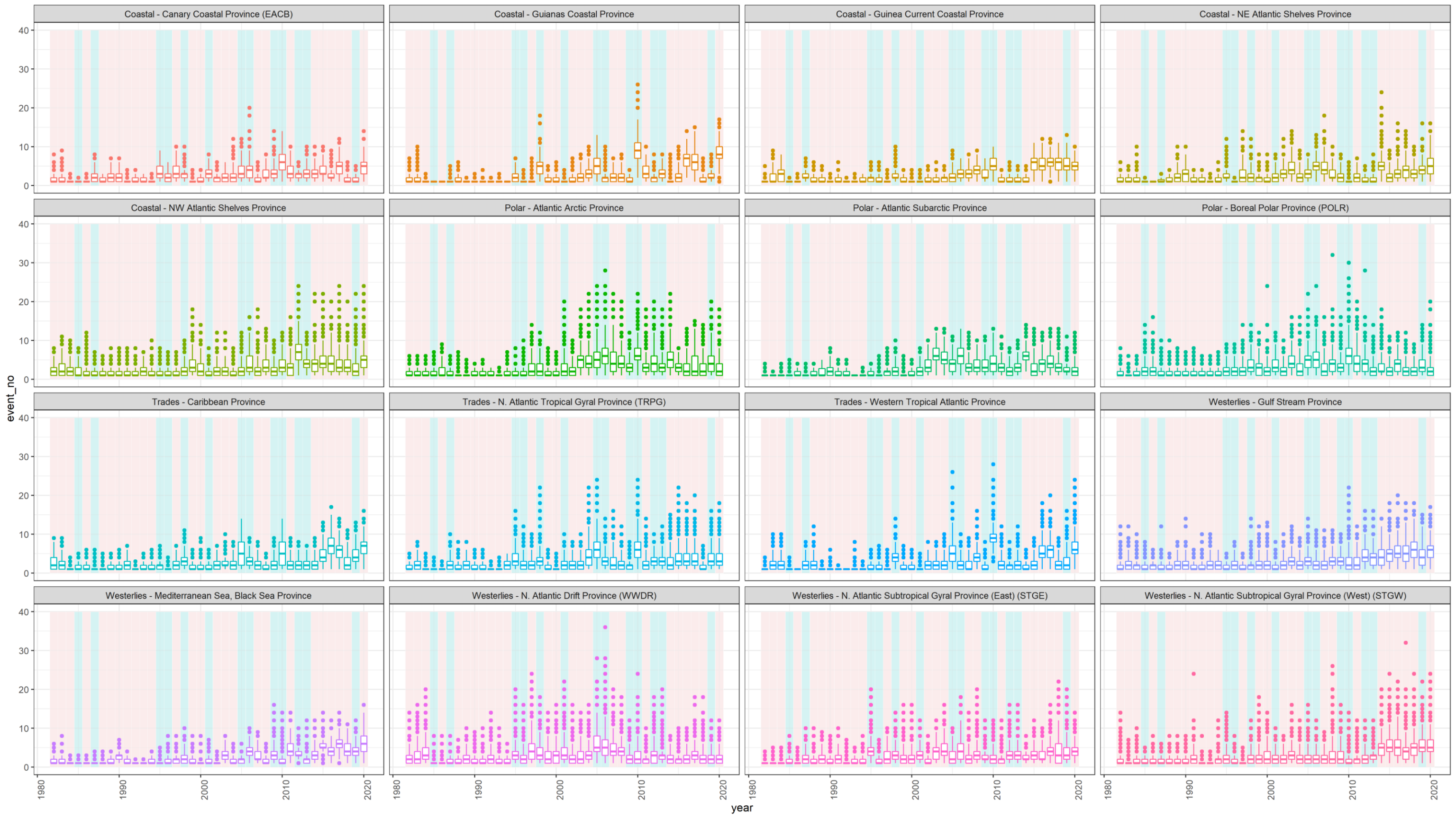
## Significance Level

95%

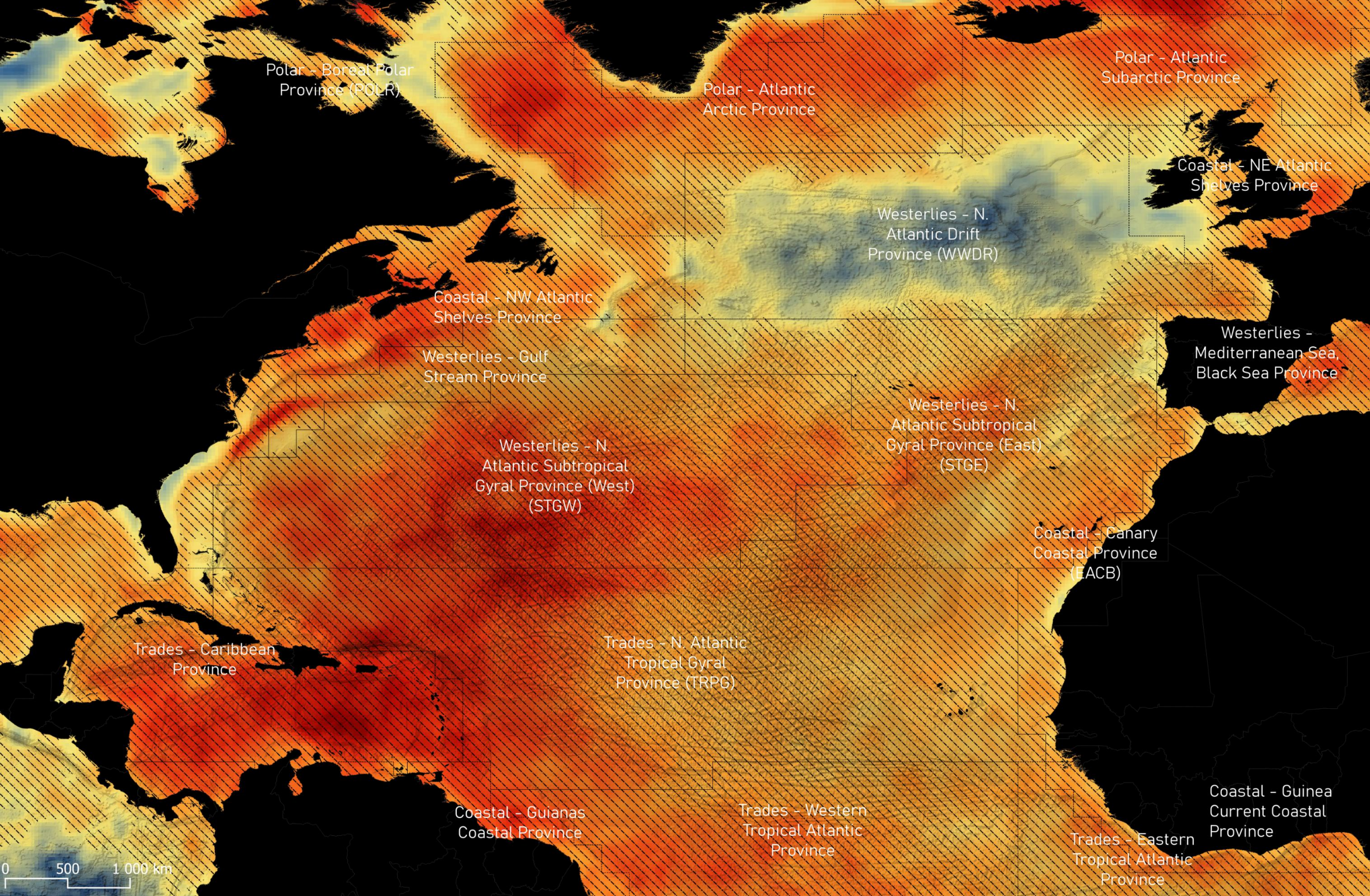
## HW number trend (events/decade)







# + RESULTS



## Significance Level

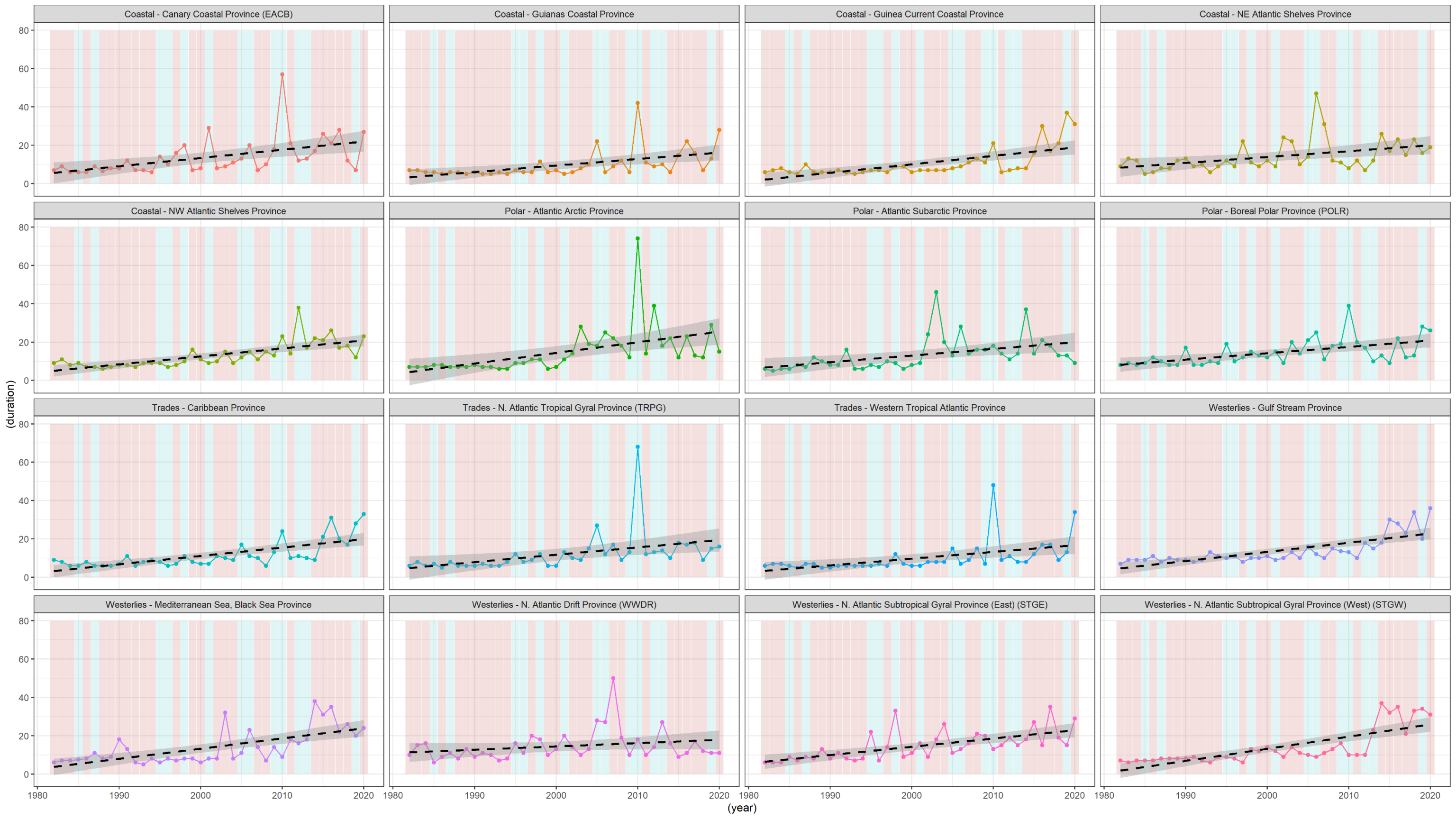
95%

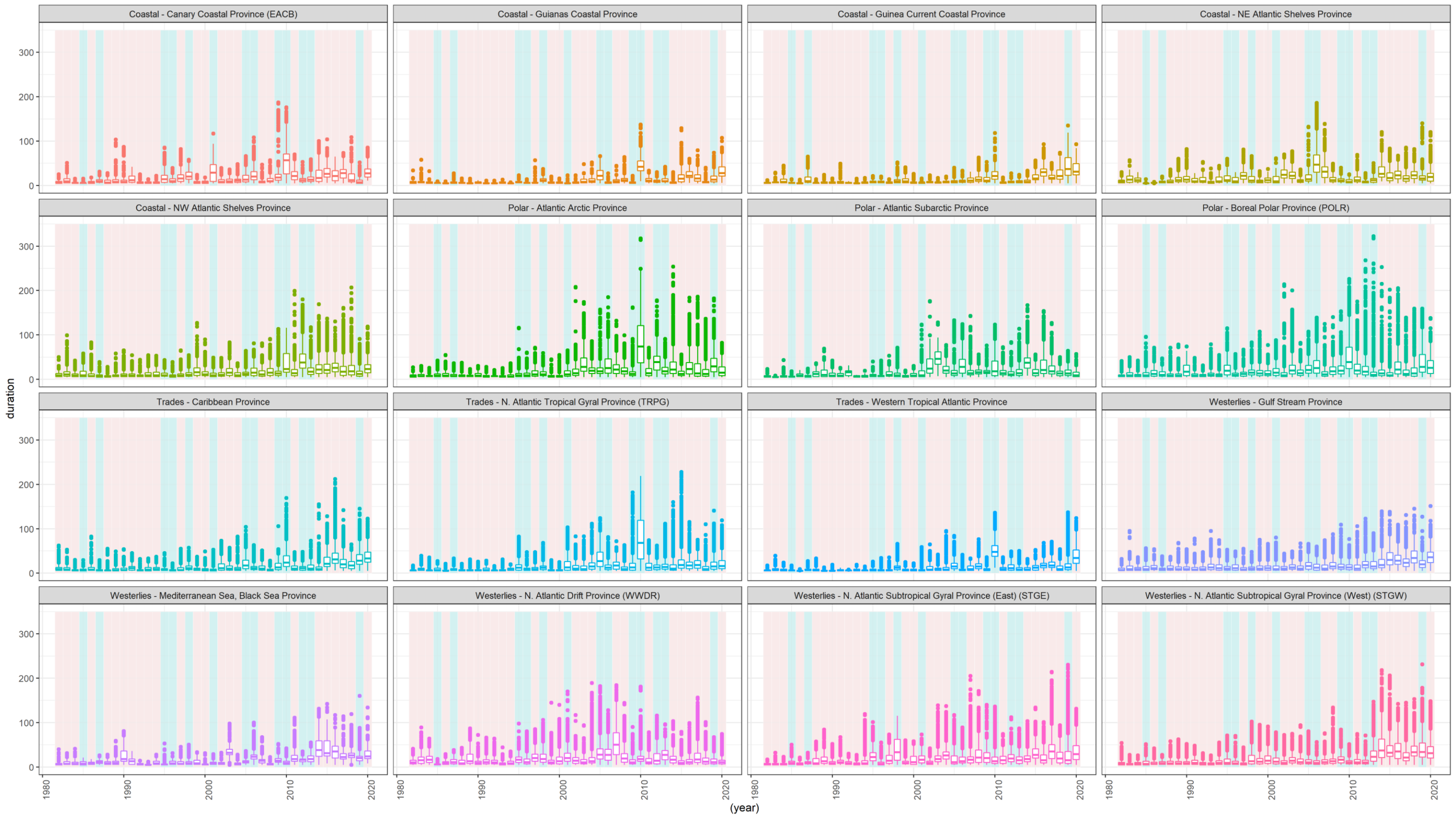
## HW duration trend (days/decade)

≥ +1.0

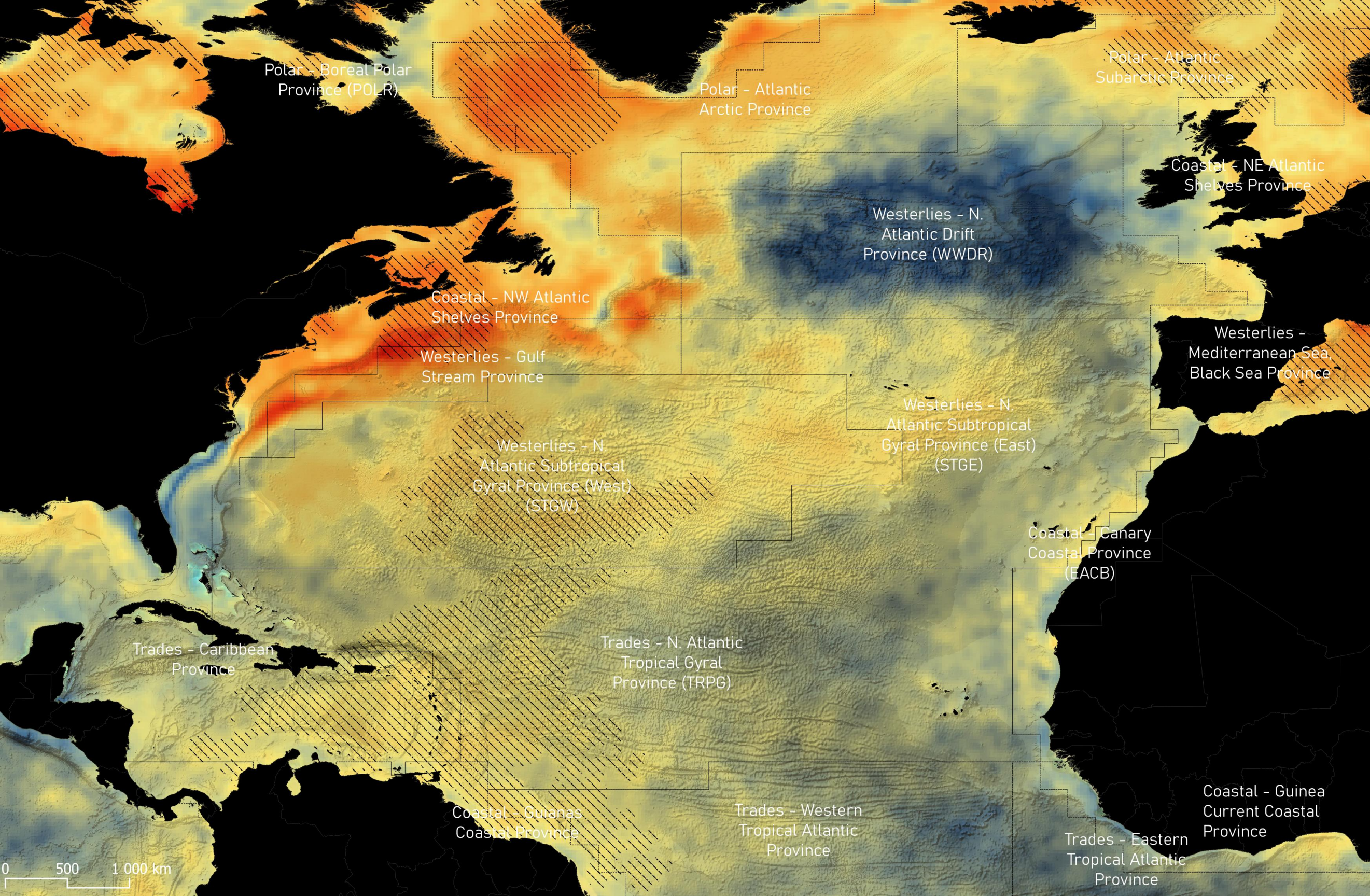
0.0

≤ -1.0





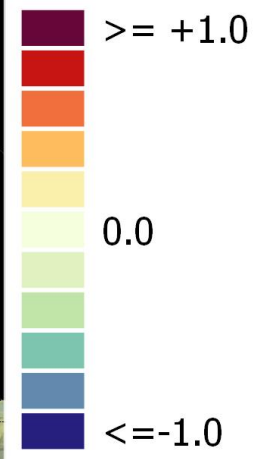
# + RESULTS



Significance Level

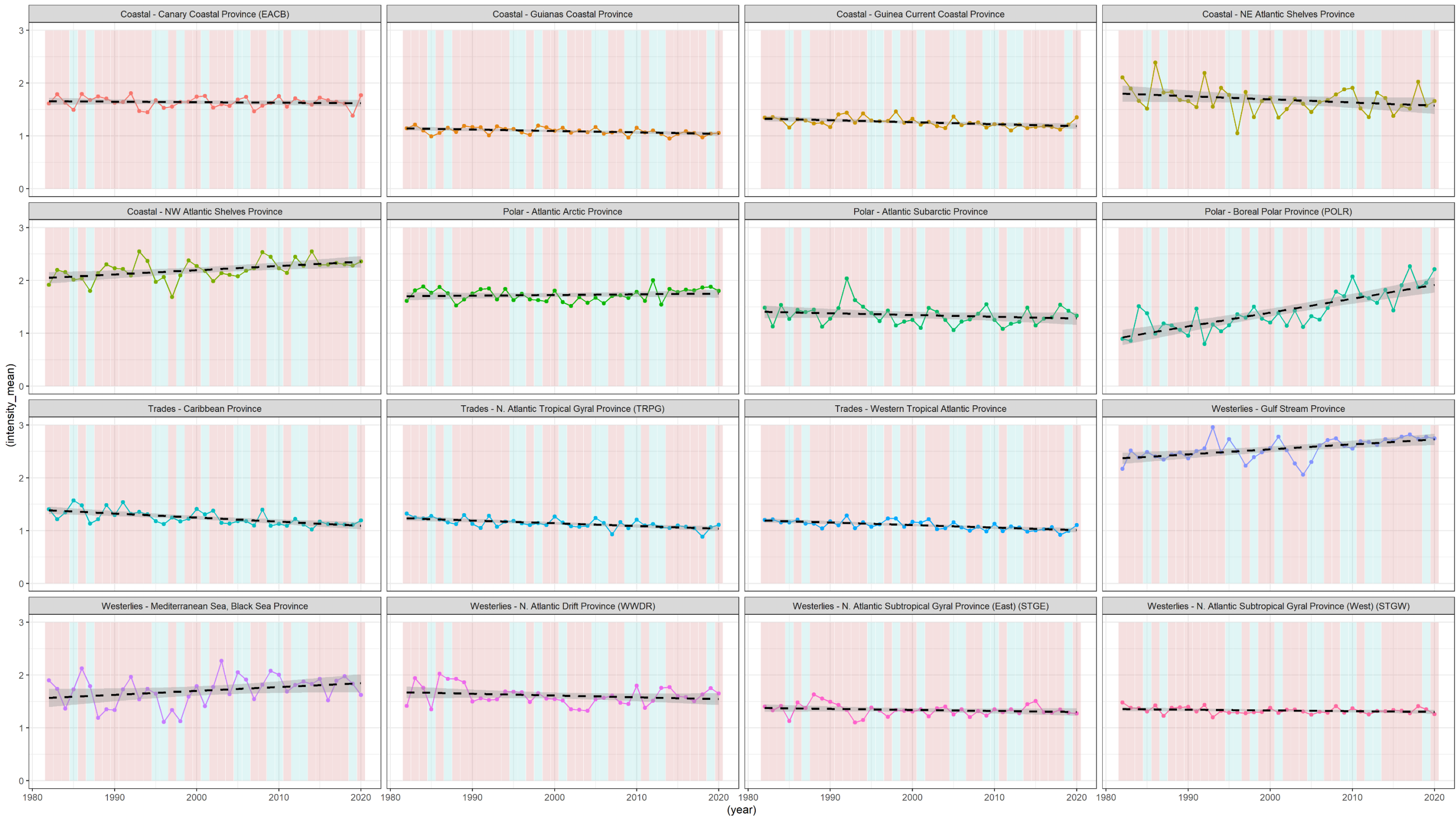
95%

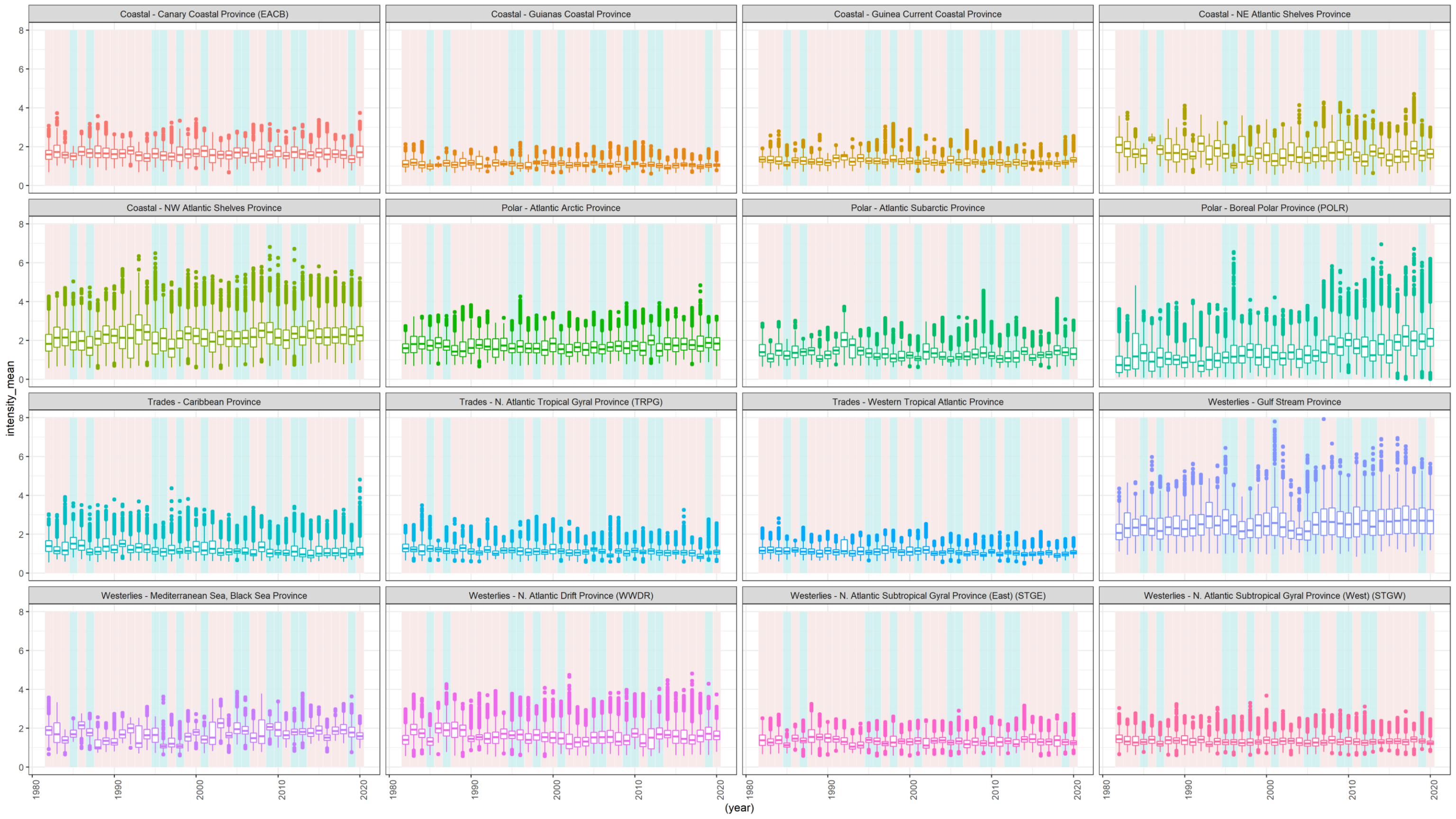
HW mean intensity trend (°C/decade)



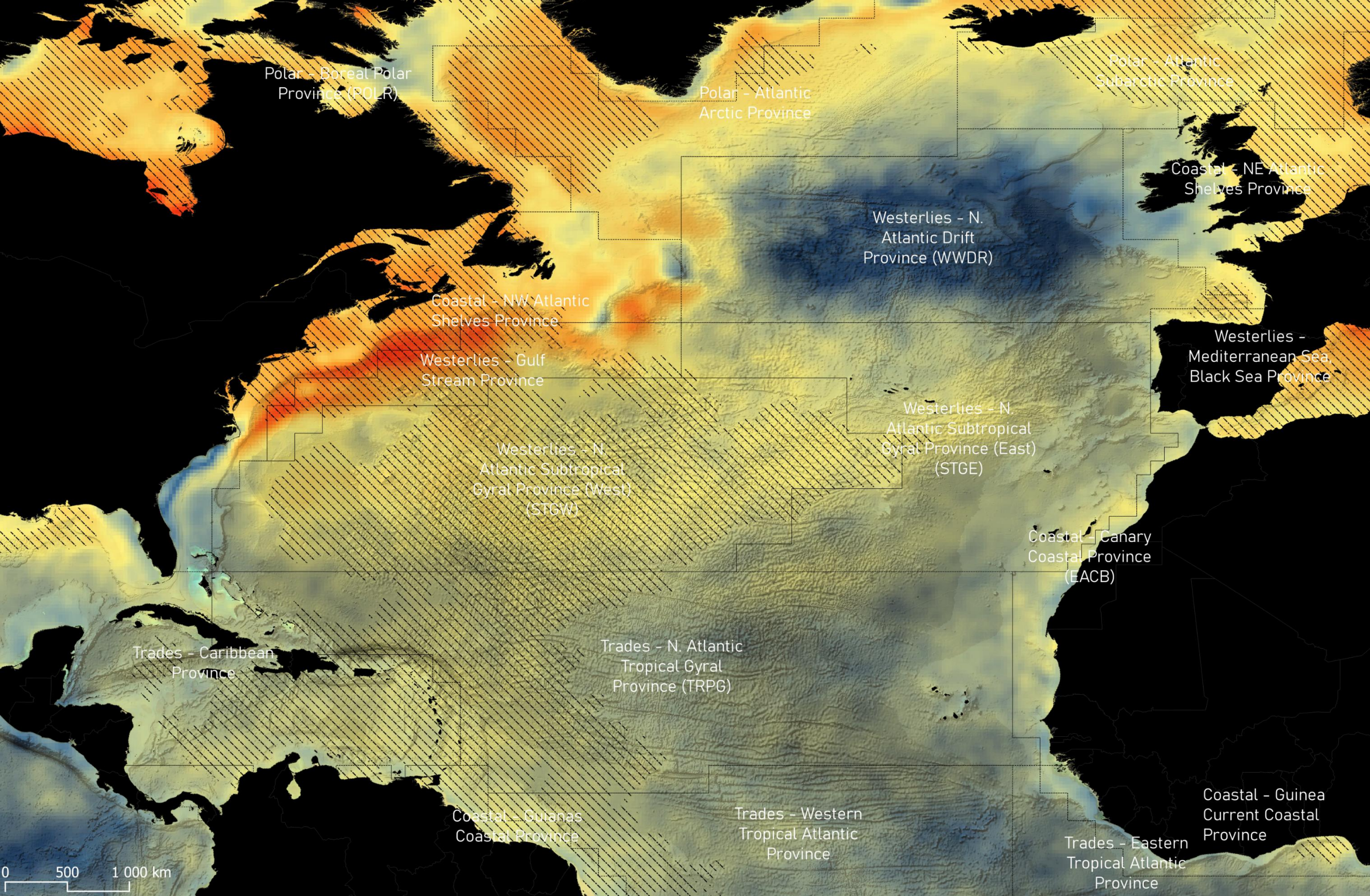
0 500 1 000 km







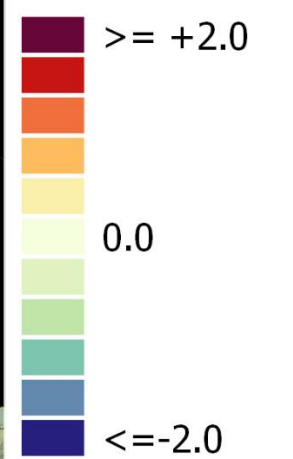
# + RESULTS

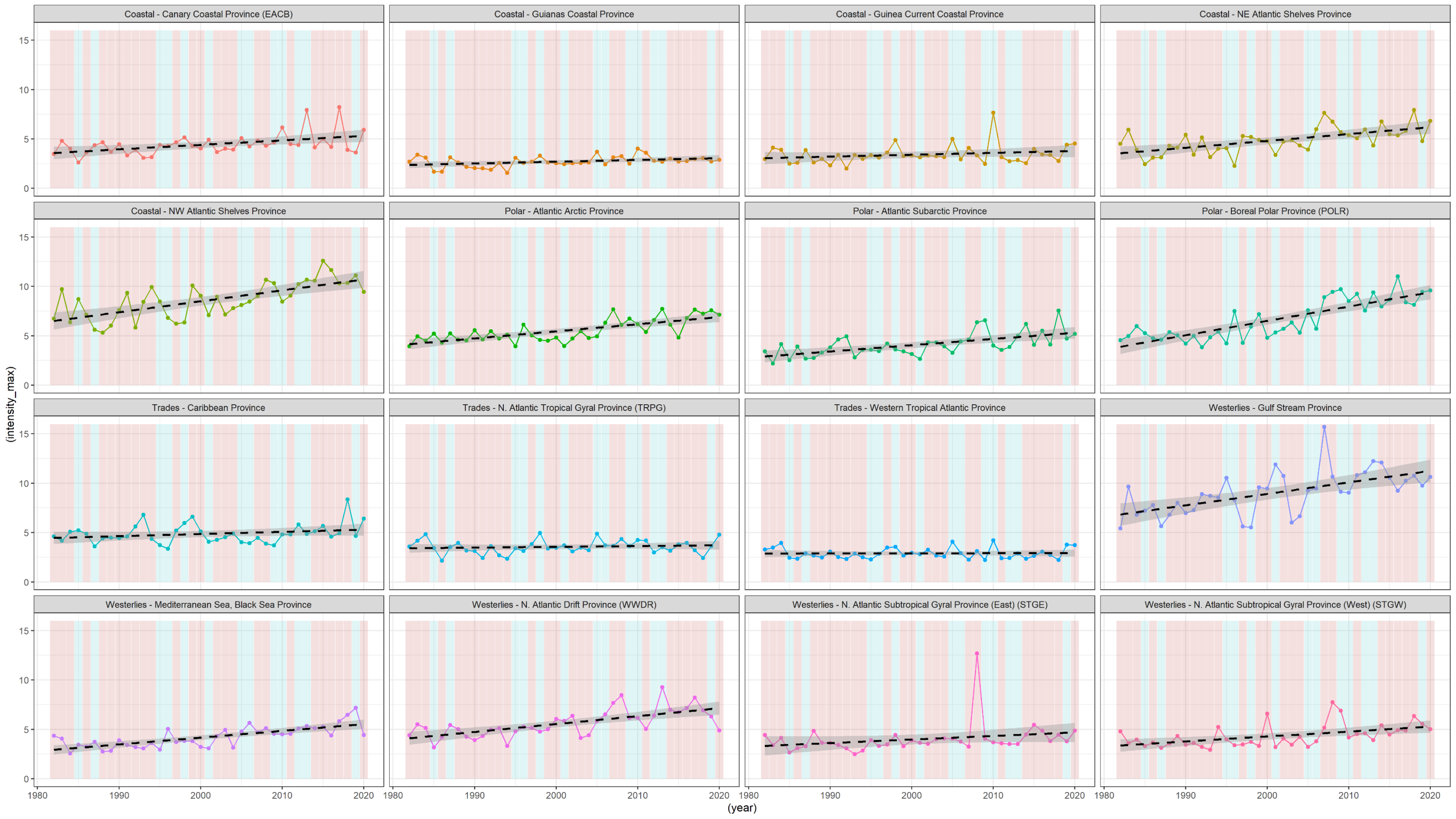


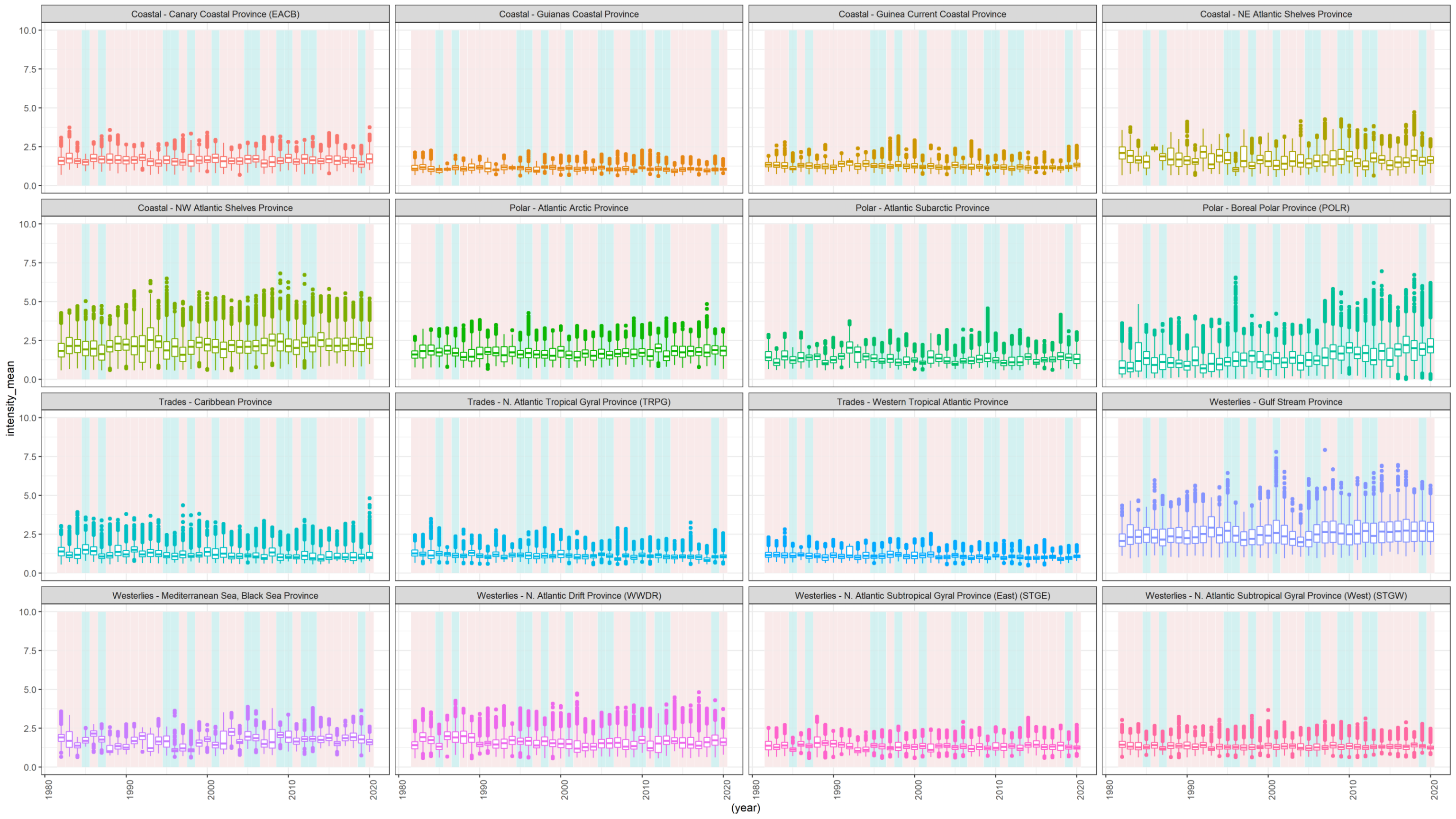
## Significance Level

95%

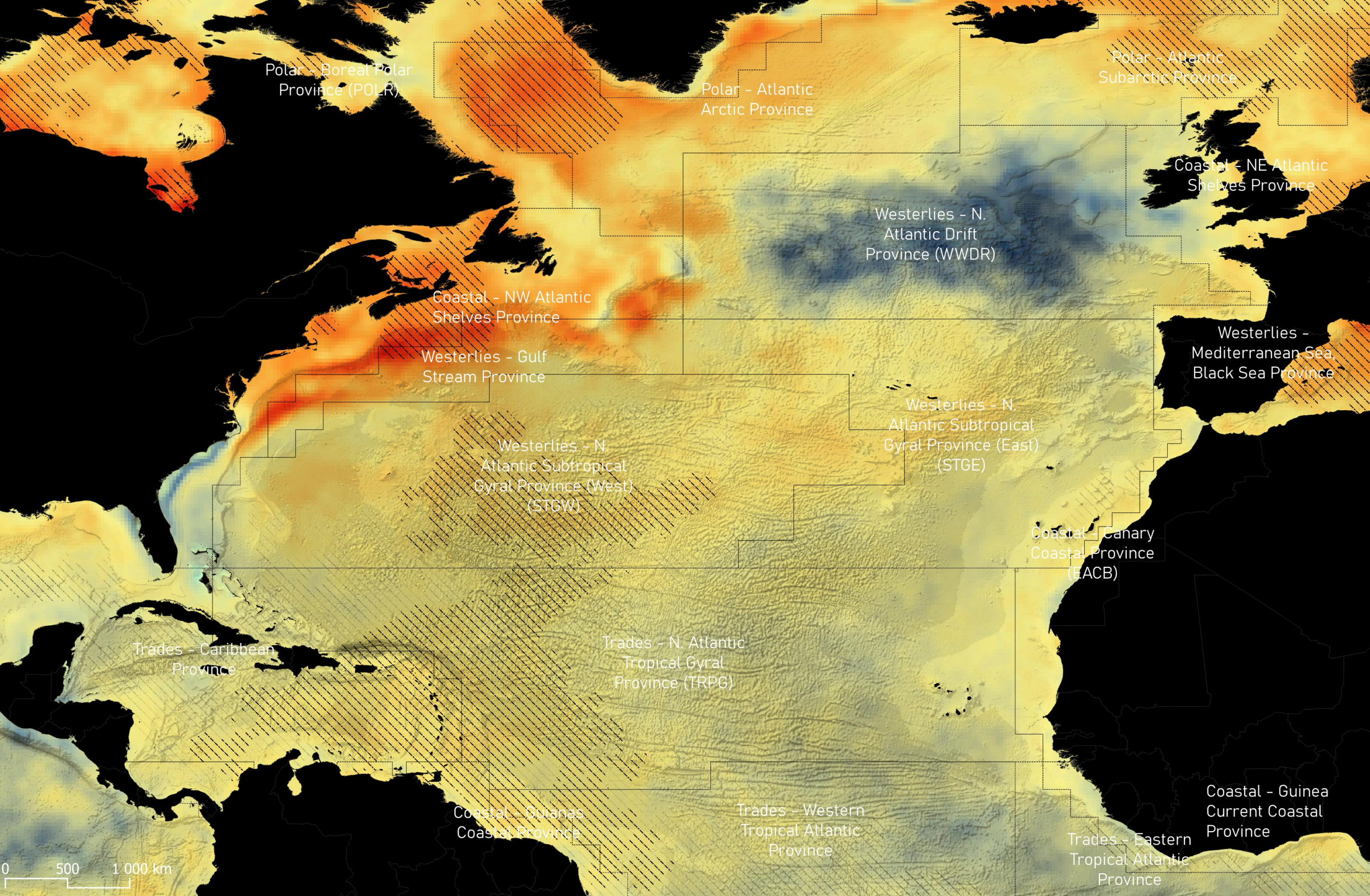
HW maximum intensity trend (°C/decade)







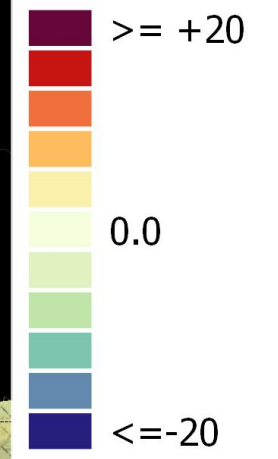
# + RESULTS



## Significance Level

95%

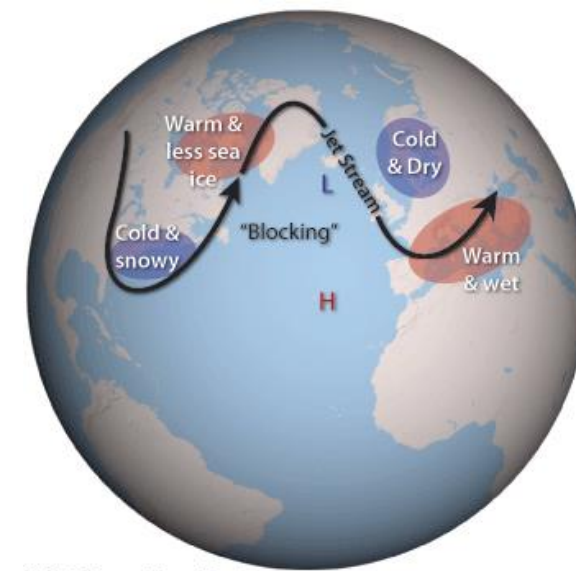
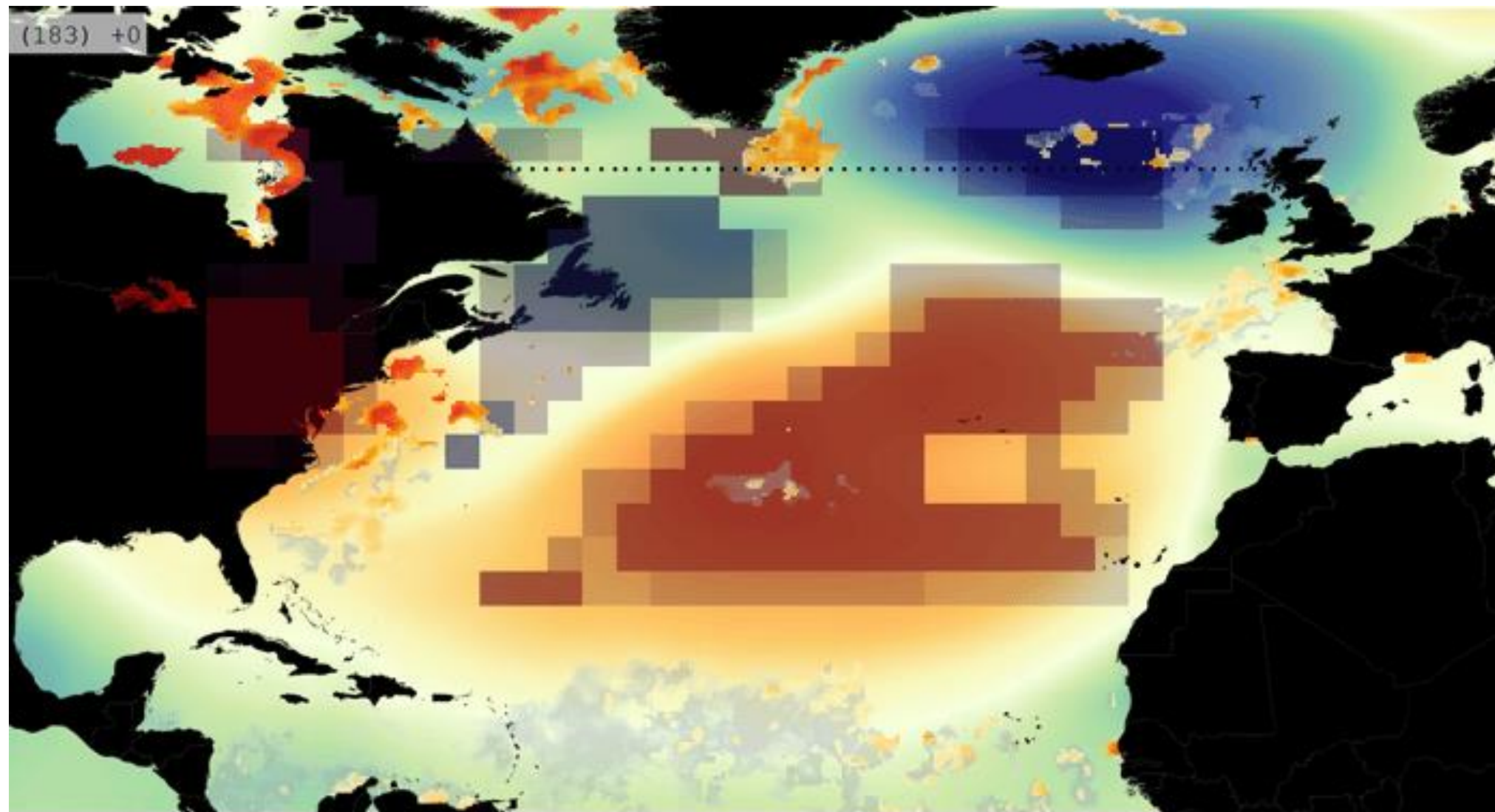
## HW cumulative intensity trend (°C/decade)





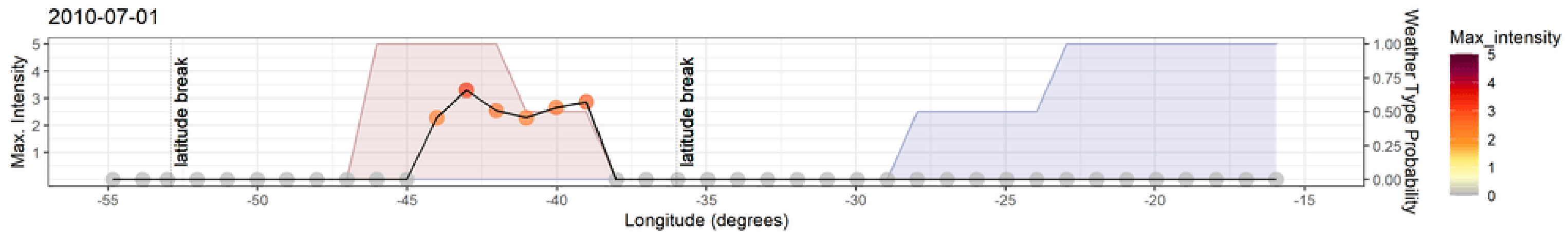


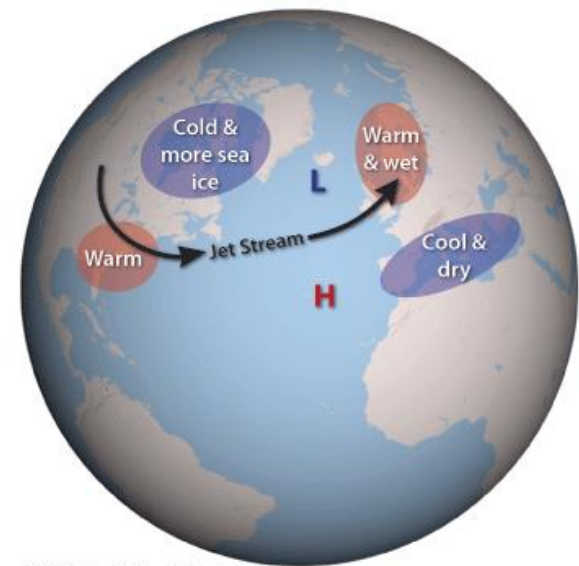
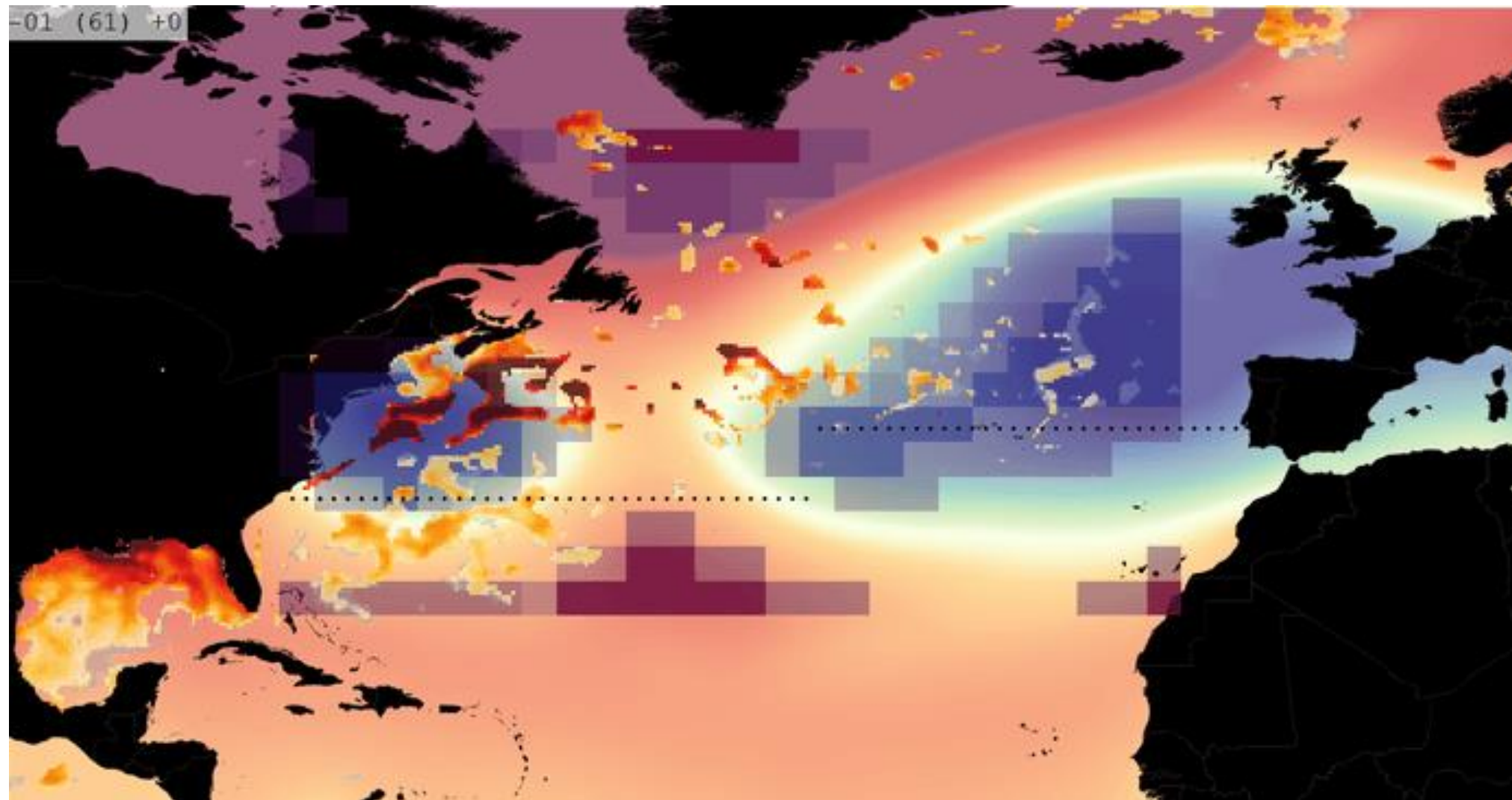




NAO Negative Mode

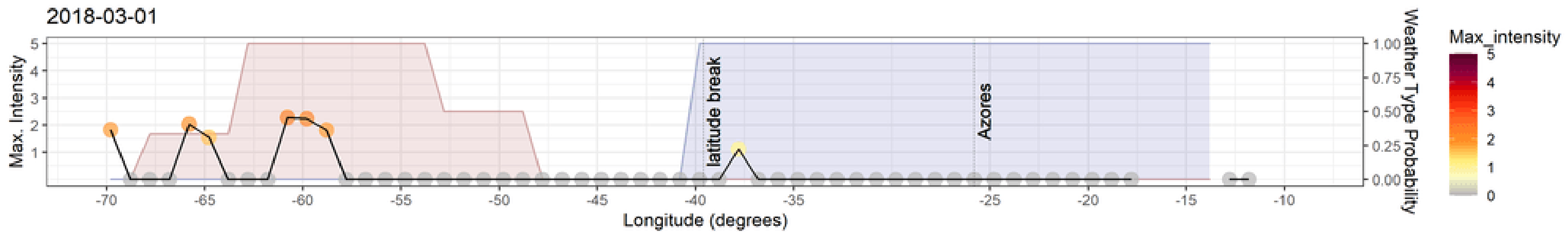
2010-07-01



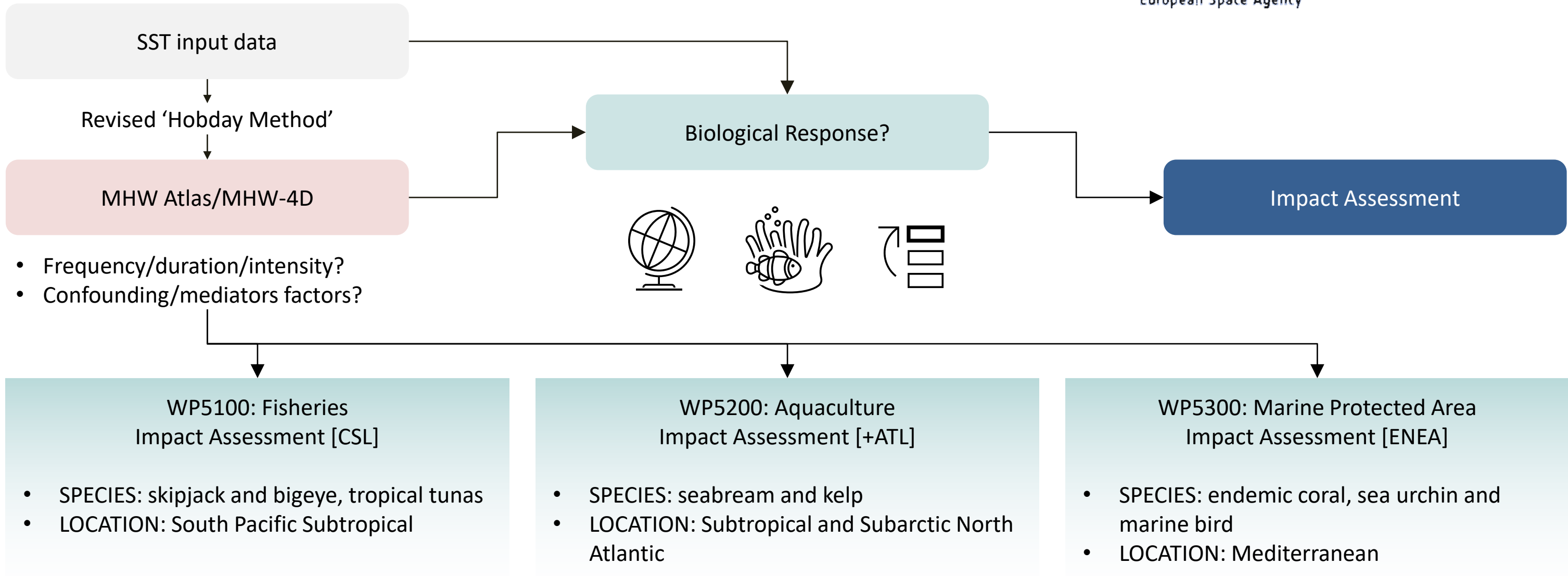


NAO Positive Mode

2018-03-01



# + FUTURE WORK







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Cascais, Portugal

## Workshops 1:

---

### Introduction to Marine Debris Detection with Sentinel-2 using Python



Emanuel Castanho

Project Developer

AIR Centre

### Workshop Material :

[https://github.com/EmanuelCastanho/Atlantic\\_Innovation\\_Week-Workshop](https://github.com/EmanuelCastanho/Atlantic_Innovation_Week-Workshop)



14-17 MARCH 2022  
AZORES, PORTUGAL



**Ciências  
ULisboa**

Faculdade  
de Ciências  
da Universidade  
de Lisboa



**COASTNET**  
COASTAL MONITORING NETWORK



# On the use of Ocean Colour in the Western Iberia Coast

---

**Atlantic Innovation Week**

Terceira, 15 de março 2022

**Ana C Brito**



## On the use of Ocean Colour in the Western Iberia Coast

---

Importance of Phytoplankton & Primary Production

---

Introduction to Ocean Colour Remote Sensing

---

Online Platforms & Demo

---

Case Studies: Phytoplankton in the WIC

---

Conclusions

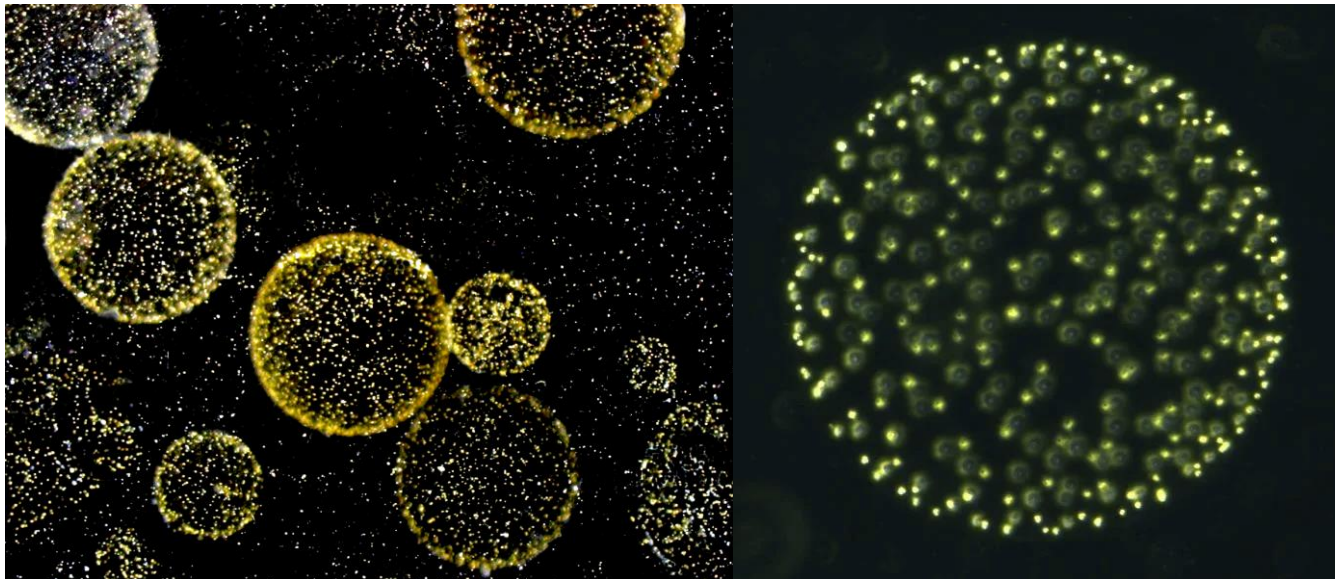


## What is Phytoplankton?

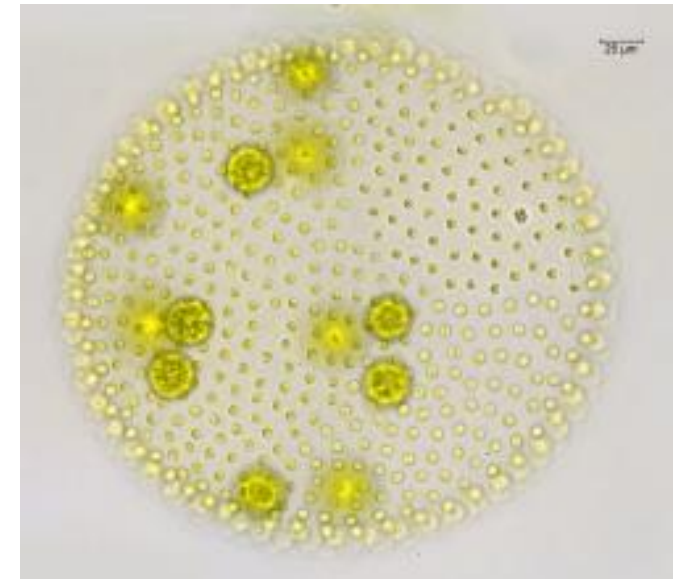
Microscopic organisms that live in the aquatic environment

*Phyto* (refers to the Greek word for plant) + *Plankton* (that drift in the water column)

Unicellular .. But can be colonial !

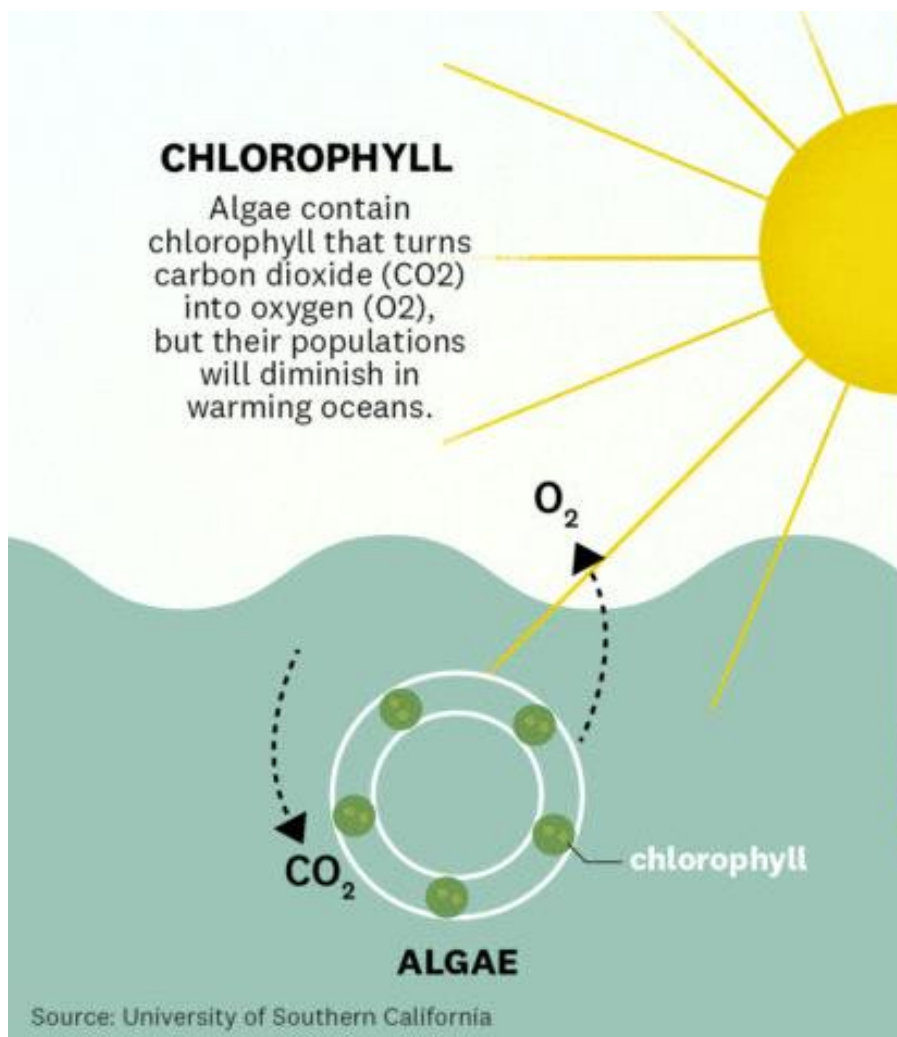


*Phaeocystis* sp.



*Volvox* sp.

## What is Phytoplankton?



They are able to do photosynthesis...!

They use the light energy (from the sun) to produce their own organic matter, by assimilating CO<sub>2</sub> and releasing O<sub>2</sub>.

The pigment chlorophyll *a* is essential to capture sunlight

## What is Phytoplankton?

Who are they ... ?

1. Size Classification – Micro- (20-200  $\mu\text{m}$ ), Nano- (2-20  $\mu\text{m}$ ) & Picophytoplankton (0.2-2 $\mu\text{m}$ )
2. Classification based on filogenetic relationships
3. Classification based on their functional role - PFT

cyanobacteria



diatom



dinoflagellate



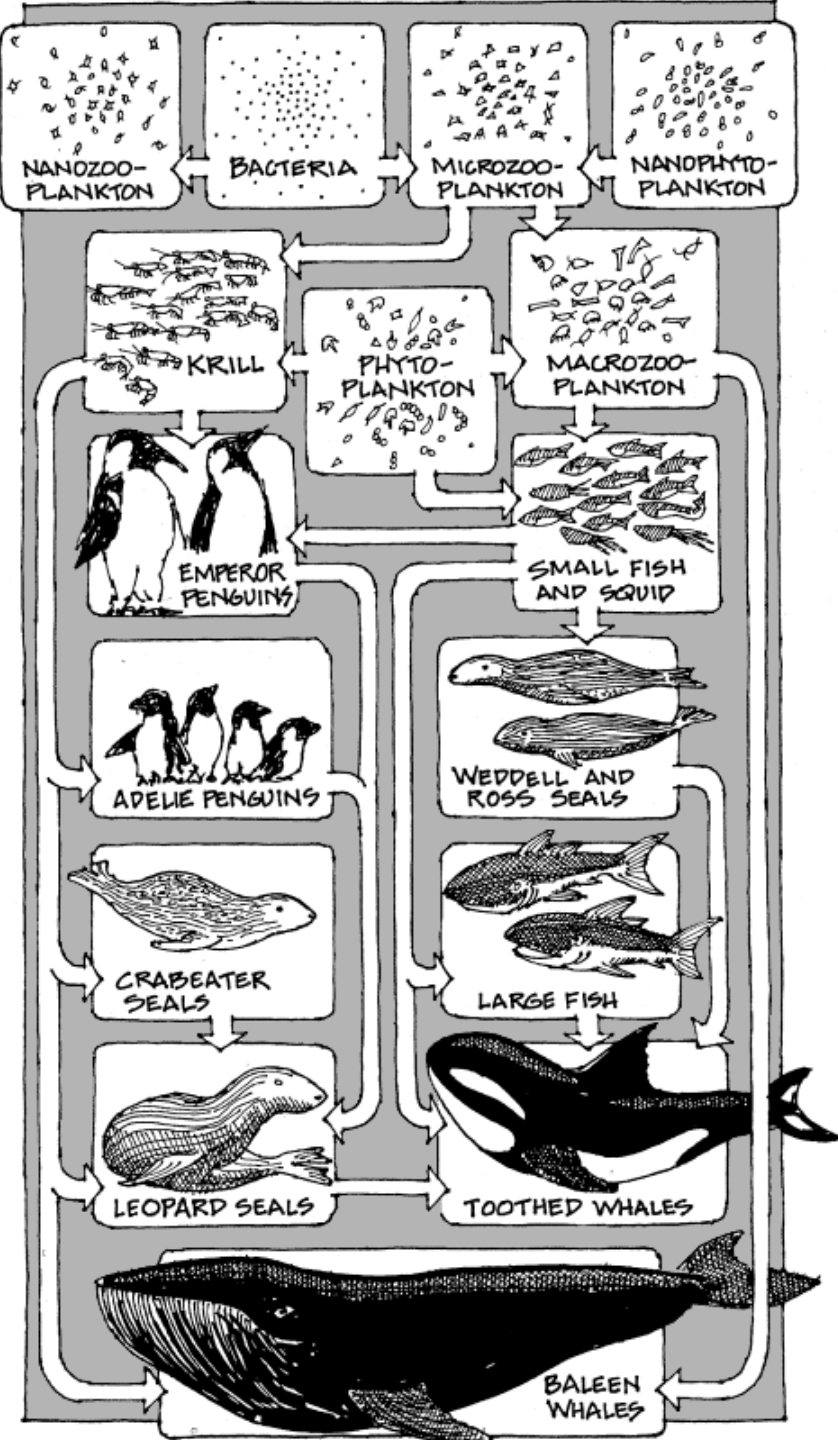
green algae



coccolithophore

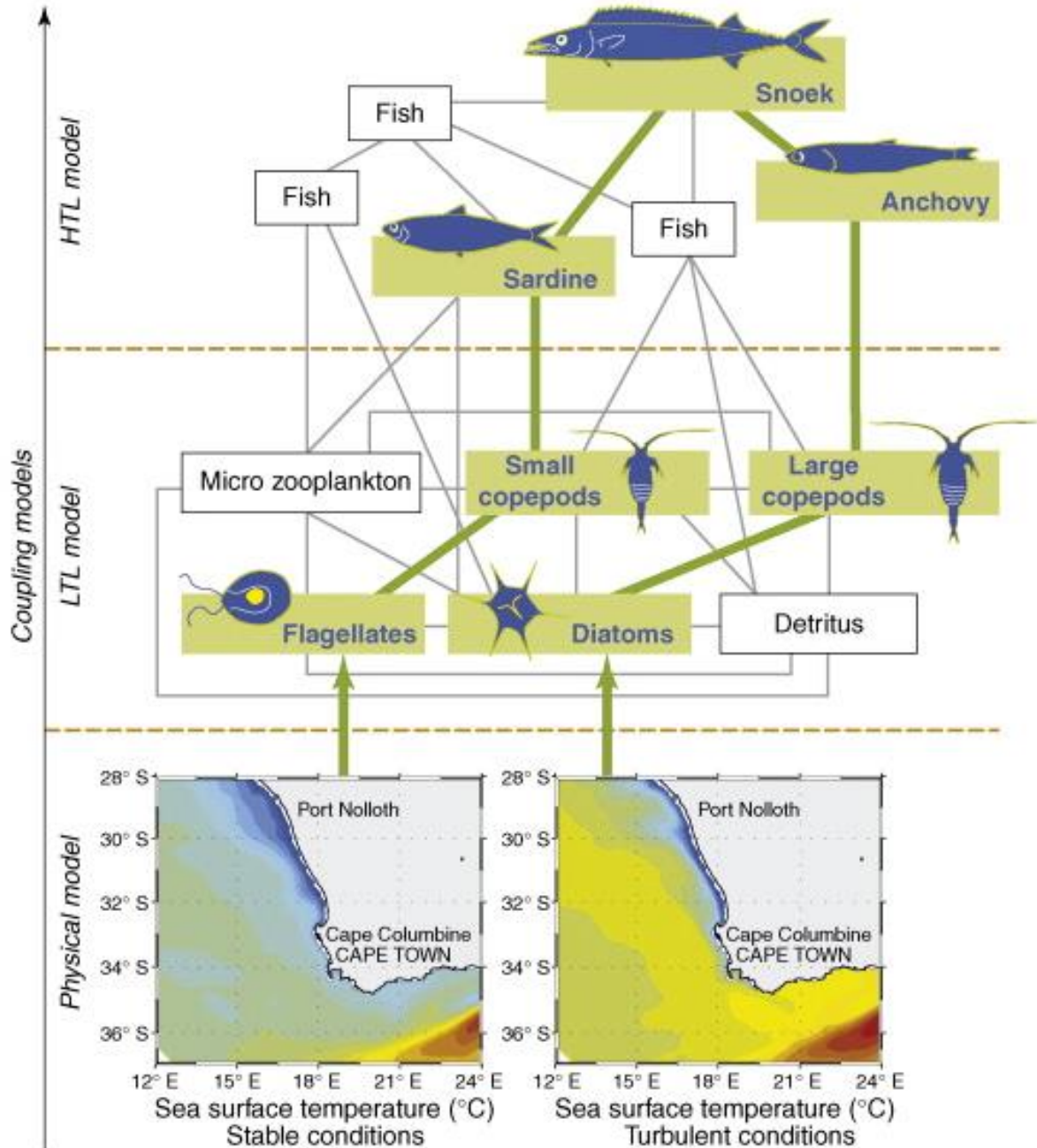


## Importance of Phytoplankton



They form the base of the aquatic food webs

They are eaten by primary consumers like zooplankton, small fish and crustacean

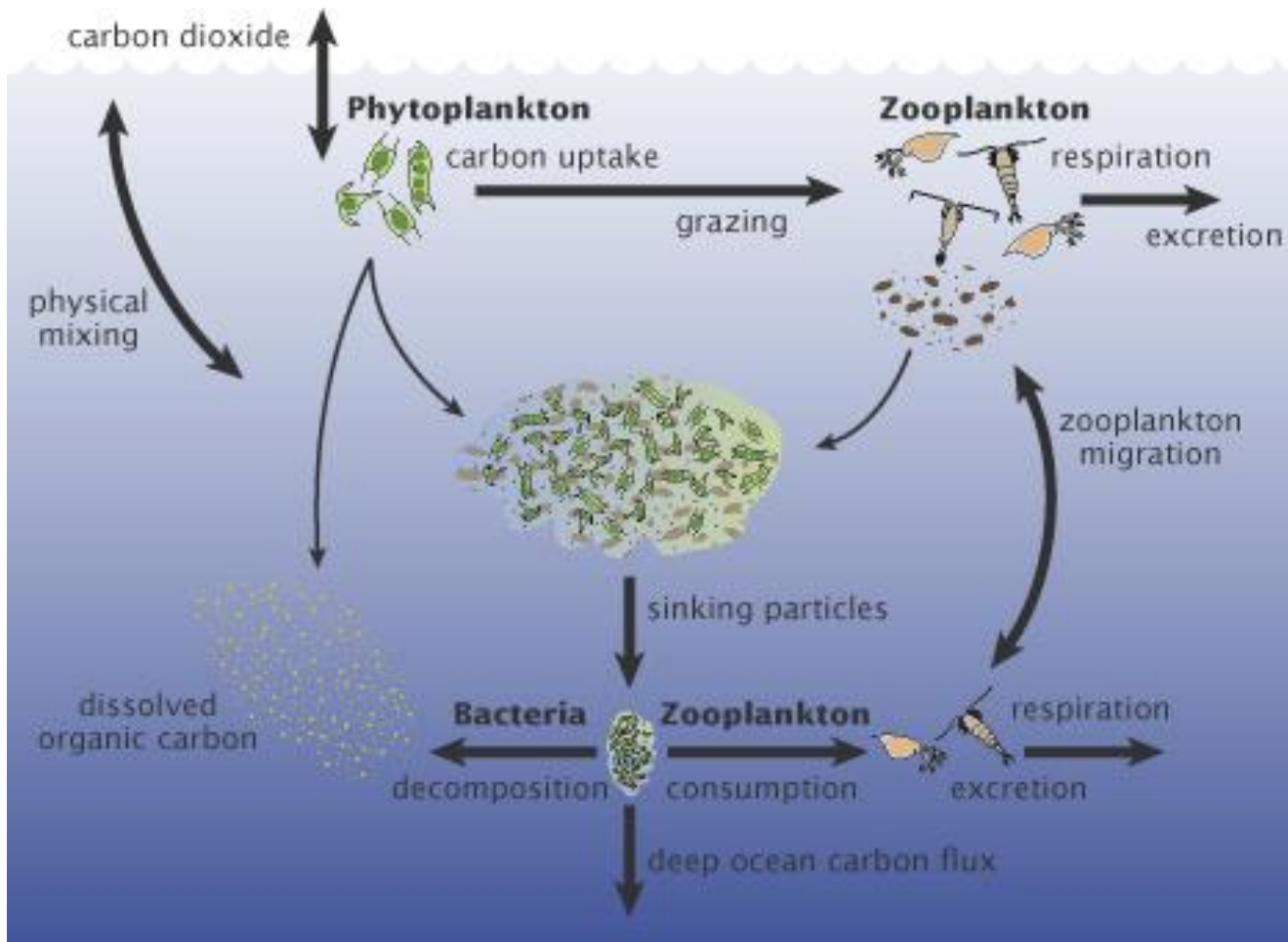


of Phytoplankton

Changes in the relative dominance of phytoplankton groups can have huge implications in food chain

Thus, implications for the overall ecosystem functioning..!

## The importance of Phytoplankton



Phytoplankton has a great importance to the Earth's carbon cycle, through the biological pump

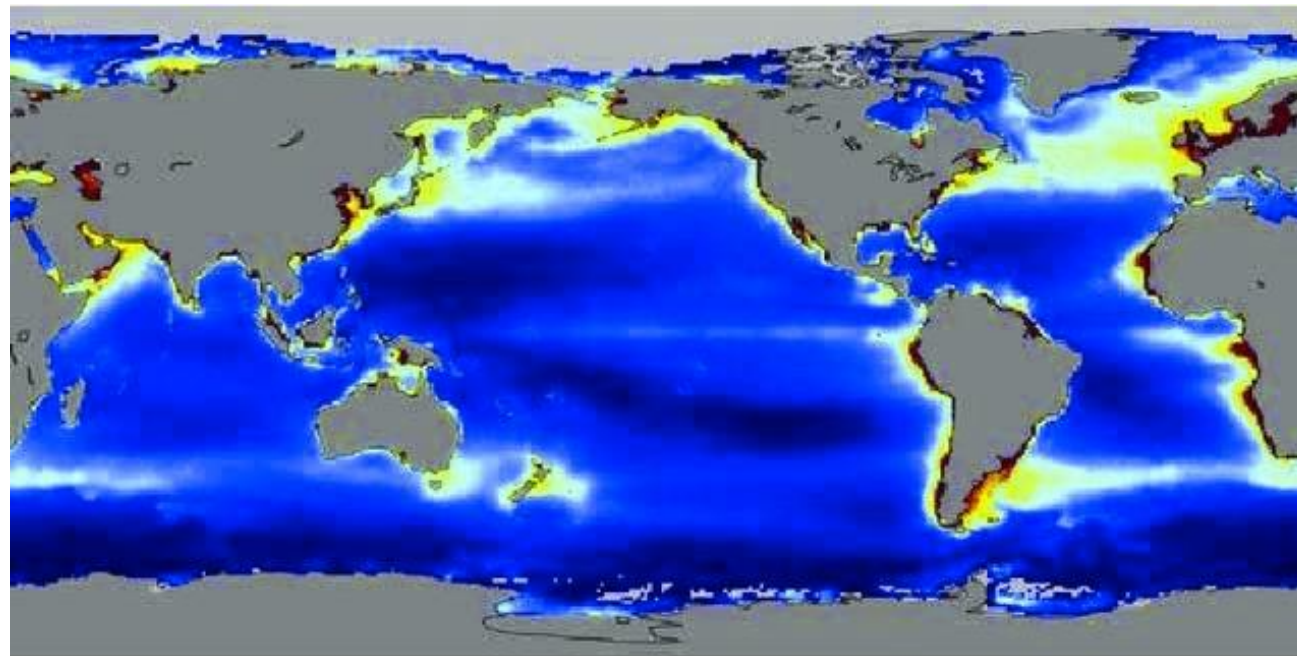
Carbon is carried to the deep ocean!

Illustration adapted from A New Wave of Ocean Science, U.S. JGOFS.)

## The importance of Phytoplankton

Marine Primary Production represents ~ **50% of Earth's Primary Production**

50% Marine vs 50% Terrestrial



Net Primary Productivity (grams Carbon per m<sup>2</sup> per year)



## What is Ocean Colour Remote Sensing ?



**OBSERVAÇÃO  
DA TERRA**

uso de imagens de temperatura  
da superfície do mar e cor  
do oceano para a monitorização  
de águas costeiras e oceânicas



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Guia 2 - Observação da Terra: uso de  
imagens de temperatura da superfície  
do mar e cor do oceano para a moni-  
torização de águas costeiras e oceânicas.  
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### Título

Observação da Terra: uso de imagens de temperatura da superfície do mar e cor do oceano para a monitorização de águas costeiras e oceânicas

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### Coordenação do Projeto SOPHIA na FCUL

Ana C. Brito

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Pedro Ribeiro, Renata Farinha, Rita Oliveira)

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Sutcliffe, A., Brito, A.C., Sá, C., Sousa, F., Boutov, D., Brotas, V., (2016).  
Observação da Terra: uso de imagens de temperatura da superfície do mar e cor do oceano para a monitorização de águas costeiras e oceânicas. DGRM, Lisboa, Portugal. E-book disponível em [www.sophia-mar.pt](http://www.sophia-mar.pt).

### ISBN

978-989-99801-4-5

Documentação de apoio ao módulo de formação SOPHIA – Detecção remota: temperatura da superfície do mar e cor do oceano

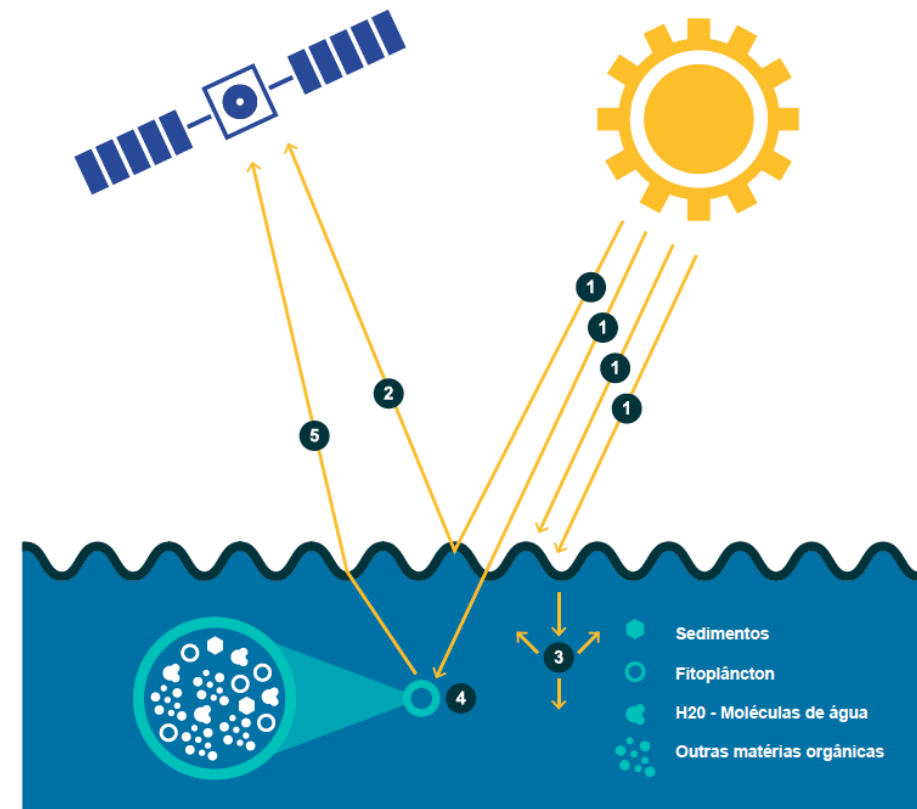
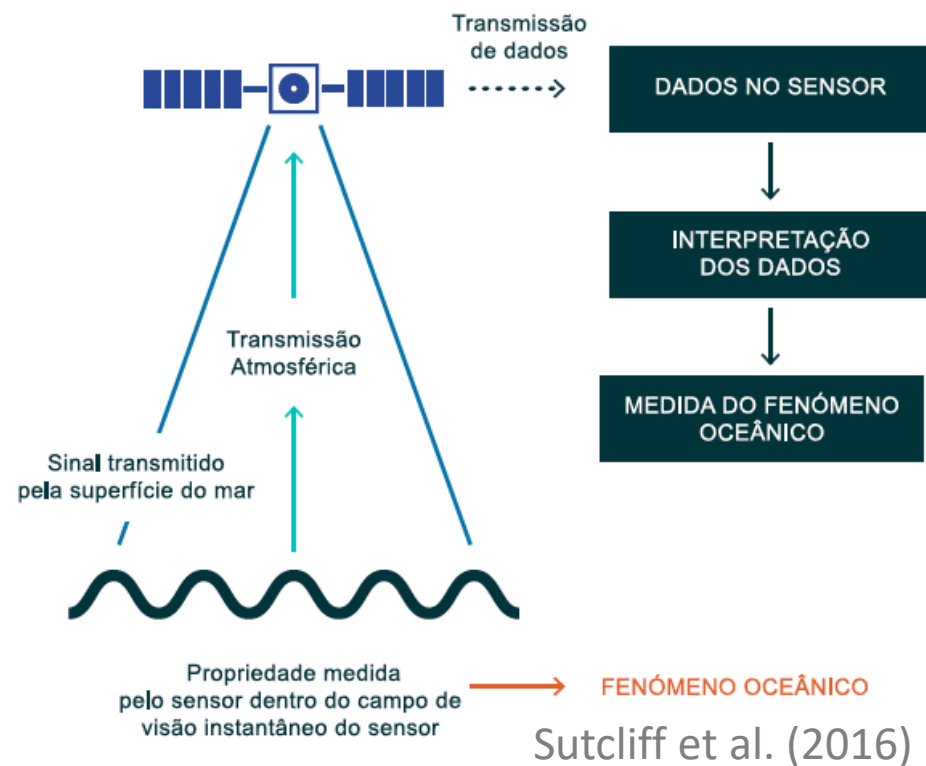
**Technical Guide available at:**

[www.sophia-mar.pt](http://www.sophia-mar.pt)

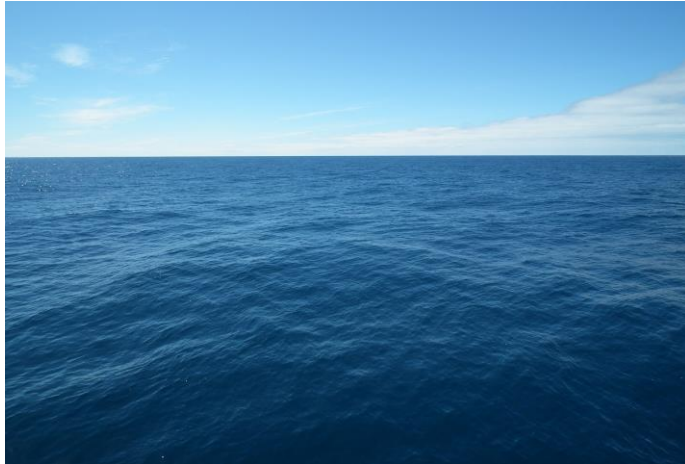


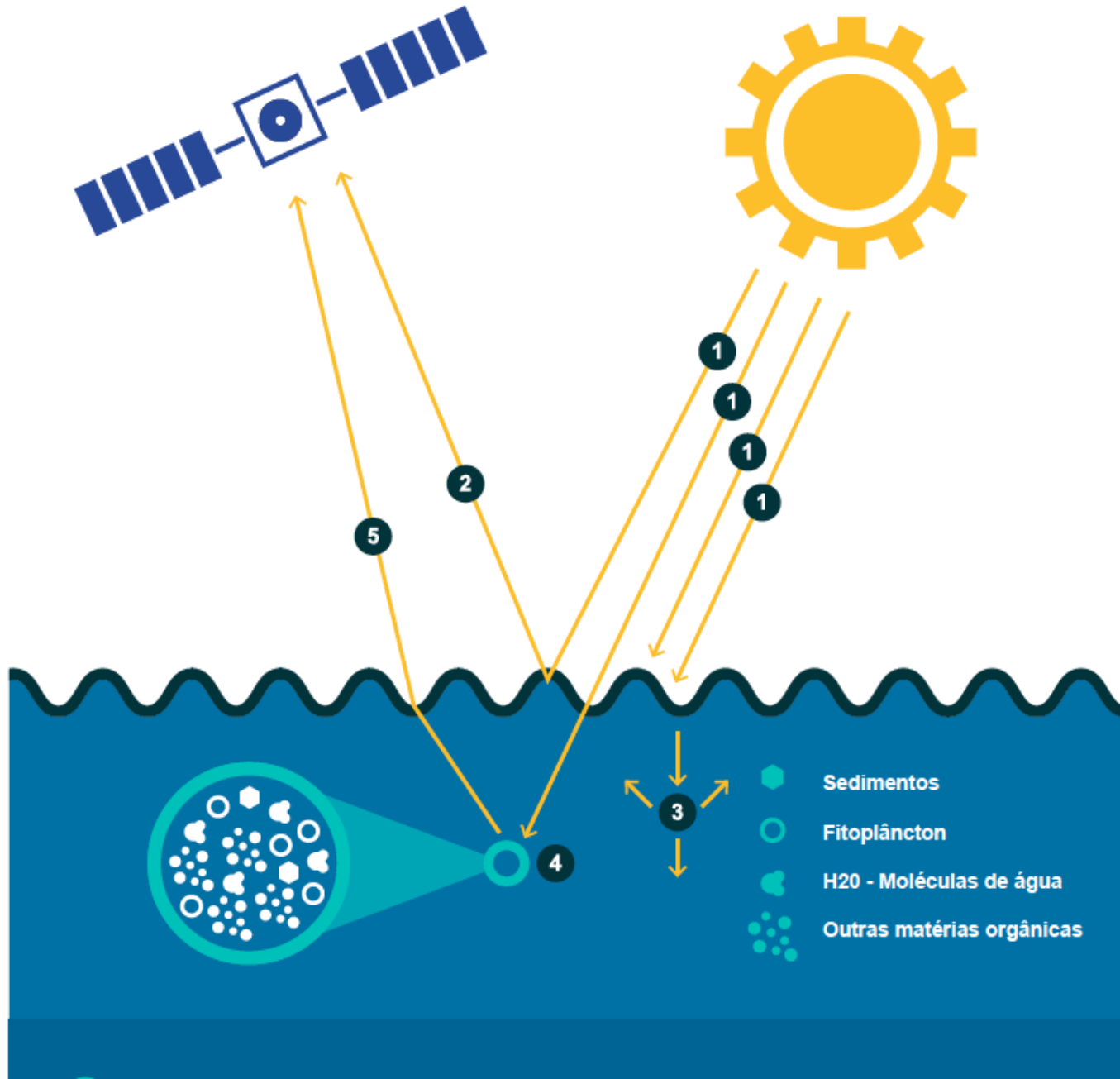
## What is Ocean Colour Remote Sensing ?

Remote Sensing is the remote technique for data acquisition on objects or processes, through an instrument that is not in direct contact.



## What is Ocean Colour Remote Sensing ?



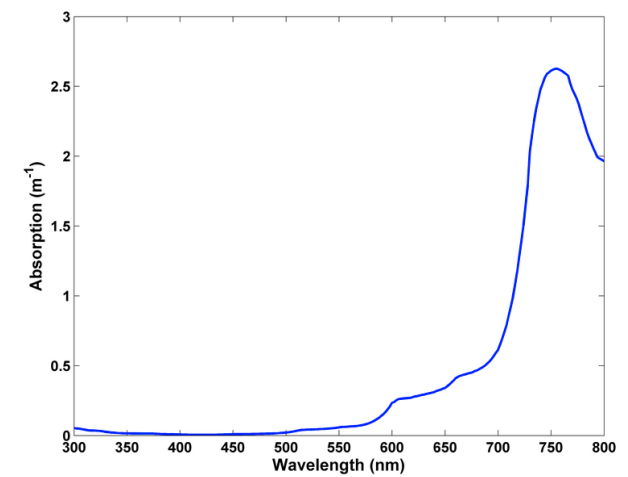
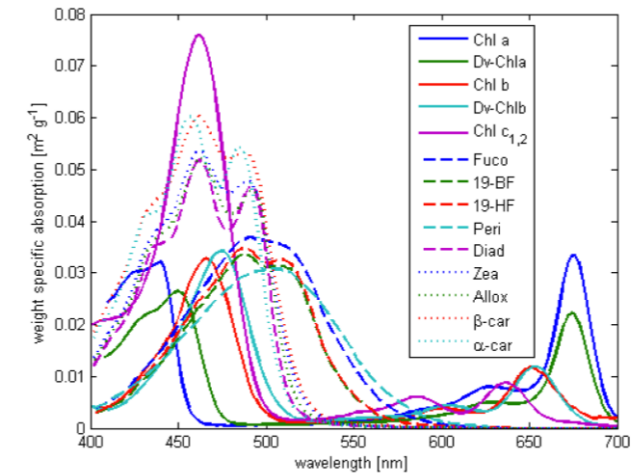
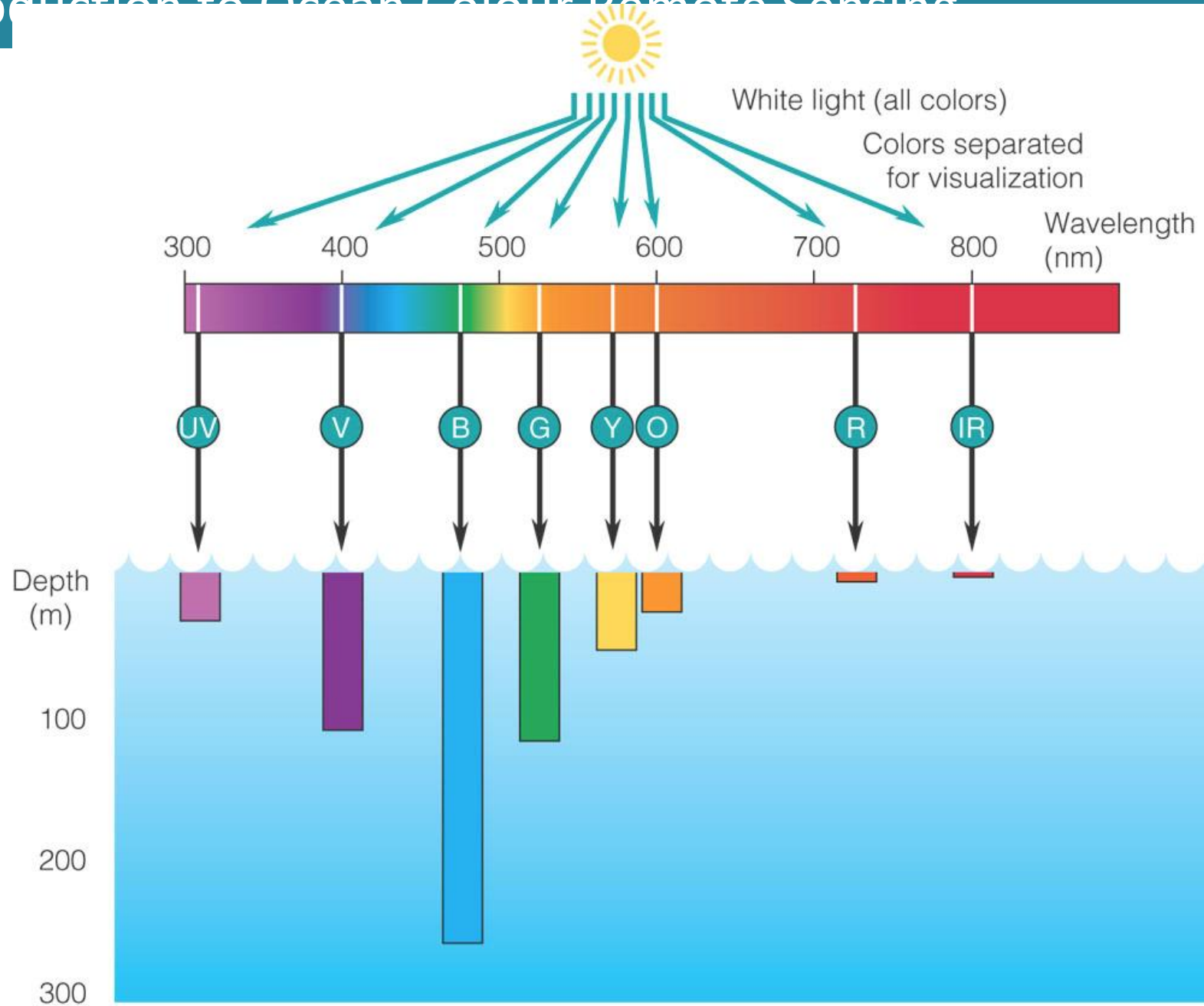


Sensing ?

## Optically Active Components (OACs):

- i. Phytoplankton
- ii. Inorganic particles
- iii. Coloured Dissolved Organic Matter (CDOM)

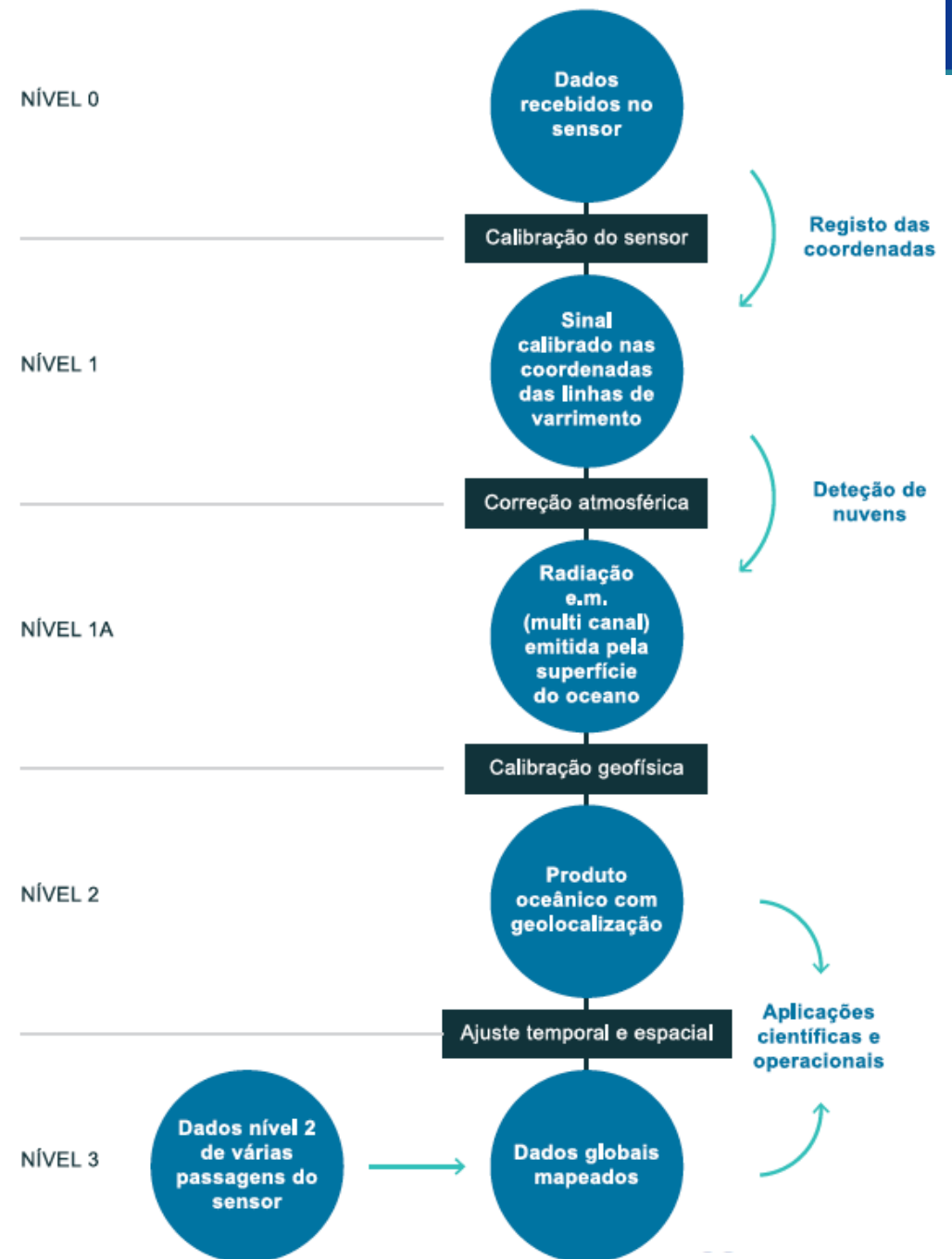
?



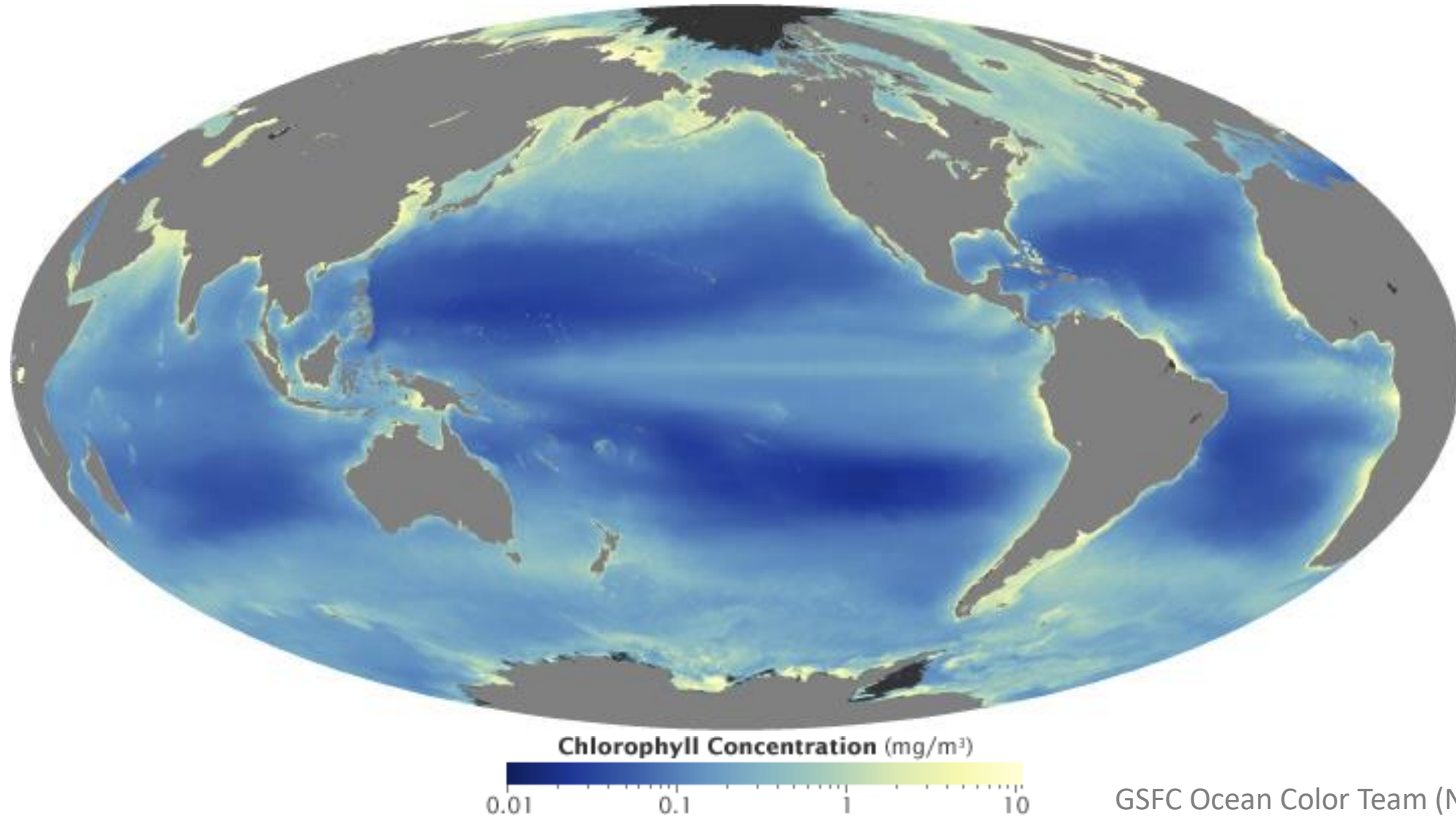
## What is Ocean Colour

There are several levels of satellite data processing:

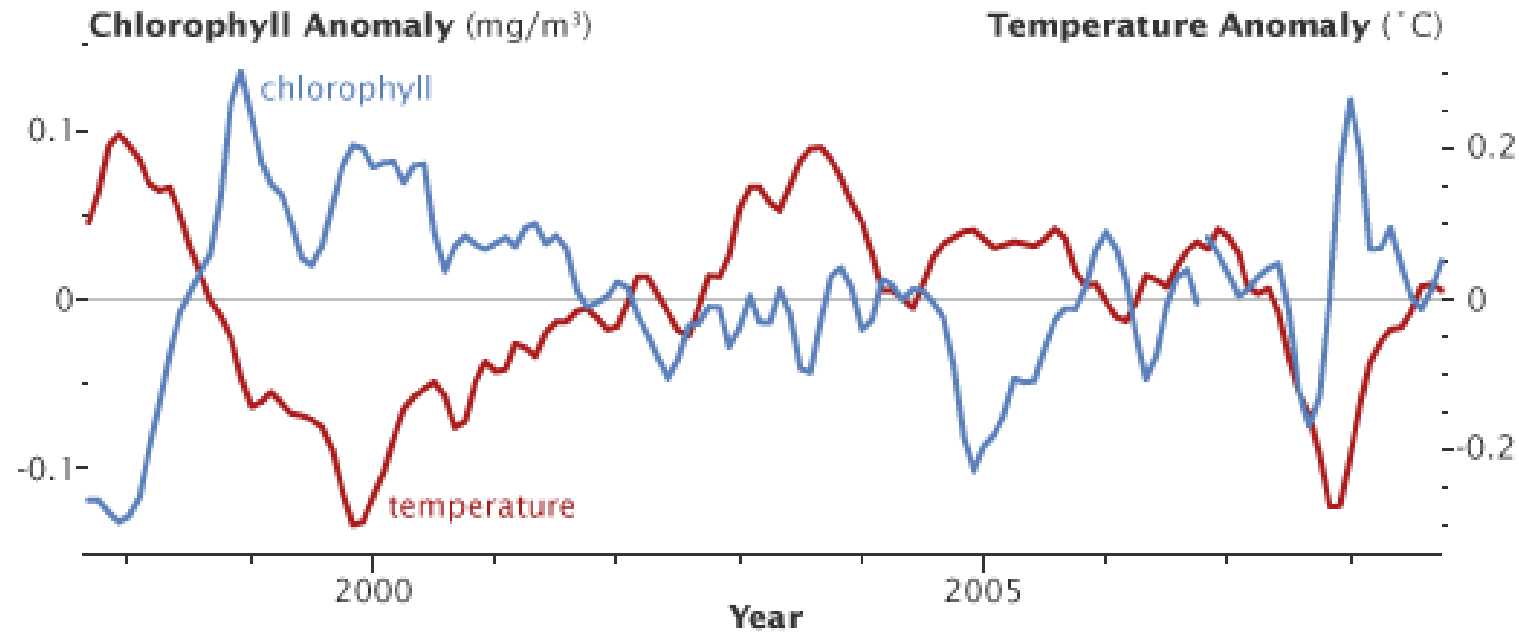
- i. Sensor calibration
- ii. Atmospheric correction
- iii. Geophysical calibration
- iv. Temporal and spatial integrations
- v. Integration of different sensors



## What is Ocean Colour Remote Sensing ?



## What is Ocean Colour Remote Sensing ?



Adapted from Behrenfeld et al. (2009)

## Advantages vs Disadvantages of OCRS

### Advantages of OCRS

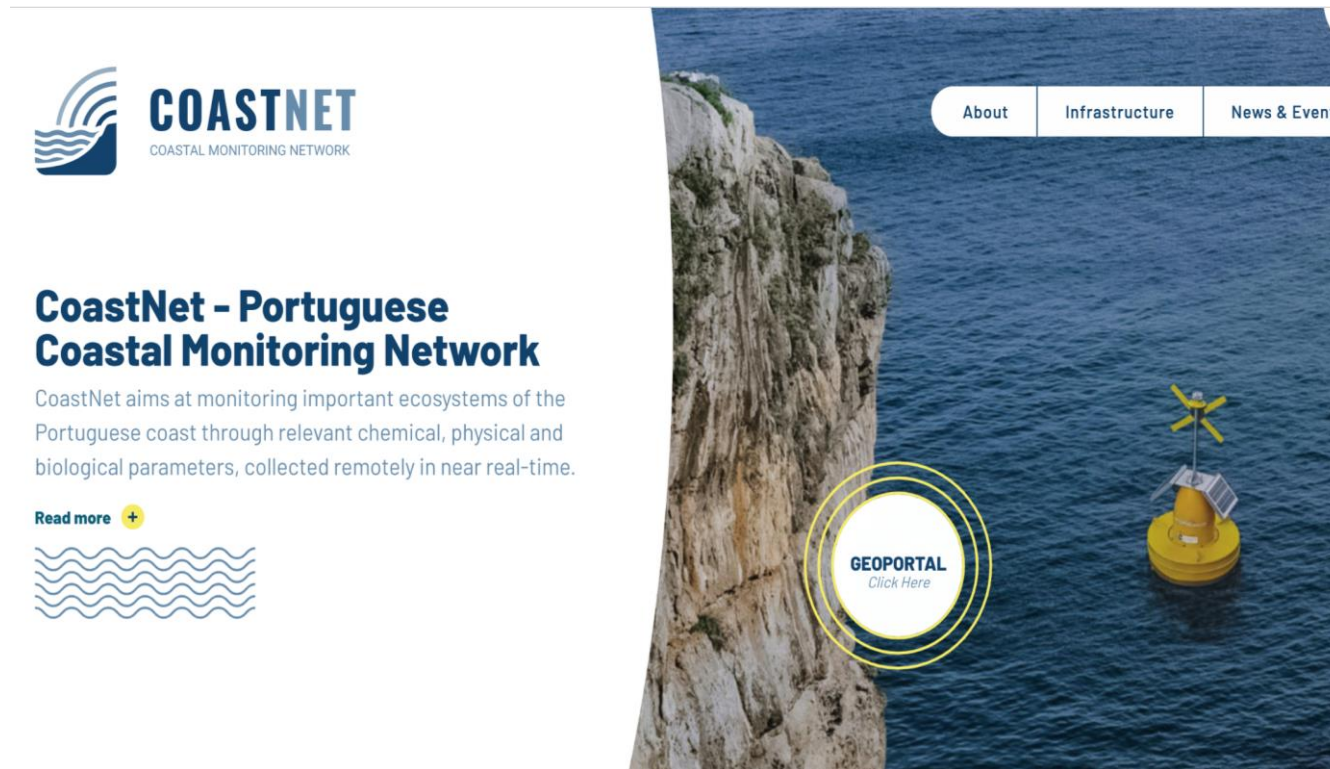
- i. high temporal resolution (daily?)
- ii. Coverage of large areas (global ocean)
- iii. Now, relatively high spatial resolution (~10-60 m)
- iv. Allows reaching inaccessible areas

### Disadvantages of OCRS

- i. Surface Waters
- ii. Can derive only few parameters
- iii. In-situ samples always required
- iv. Presence of clouds
- v. Cost of missions



## Examples of Online Platforms for OCRS



The screenshot shows the CoastNet website. On the left, there is a logo for COASTNET (COASTAL MONITORING NETWORK) and a heading "CoastNet - Portuguese Coastal Monitoring Network". Below this, a paragraph describes the network's mission: "CoastNet aims at monitoring important ecosystems of the Portuguese coast through relevant chemical, physical and biological parameters, collected remotely in near real-time." A "Read more +" link is present. The main content area features a background image of a rocky coastline and a yellow buoy. A circular "GEOPORTAL Click Here" button is overlaid on the image. At the top right, there are navigation tabs for "About", "Infrastructure", and "News & Events".

<http://geoportal.coastnet.pt>



The screenshot shows the OceanColour-CCI website. The top banner features a world map with a color scale overlay and the text "OceanColour-CCI". Below this is a section titled "References & Citation Information" with a link to the "Ocean Colour section of the ESA Climate website". The main content area is divided into three columns. The first column, "Composite Browser", includes a small image of a data browser interface and text: "Access a range of products composited in different periods. Data can be searched by time ranges, periods, products & wavelengths." The second column, "Web GIS Portal", includes a small image of a world map and text: "View, manipulate & analyse data." The third column, "OPeNDAP", includes a small image of the OPeNDAP logo and text: "A freely available framework that simplifies all aspects of scientific data networking, making local data available to remote locations regardless of storage format." Below this, the "FTP" section includes a small image of a terminal window and text: "Download large sets of data easily. Version 5.0 datasets available now."

<https://www.oceancolour.org>

## Examples of Online Platforms for OCRS



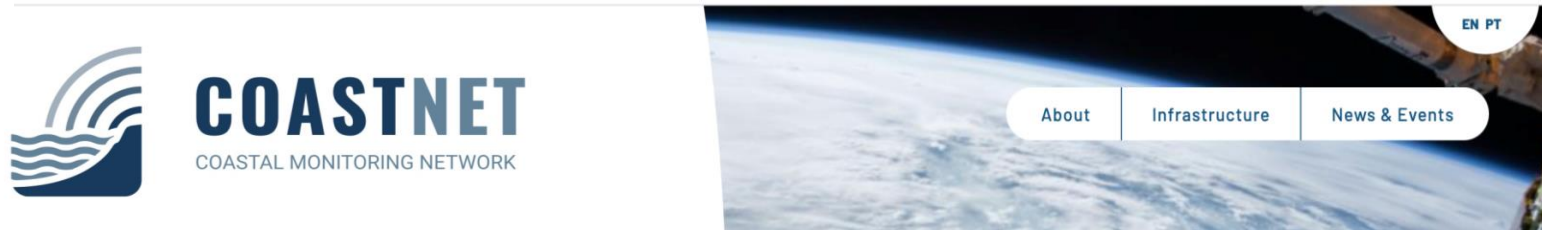
- i. Development and validation of consistent and stable satellite data products from multi-sensor data archives;
- ii. Data reprocessing paradigm utilising on-going research and developments in atmospheric correction, in-water algorithms, data merging techniques and bias correction;
- iii. Strengthen inter-disciplinary cooperation between Earth Observation, Climate research and modelling communities, in pursuit of scientific excellence.

## Examples of Online Platforms for OCRS



- i. Chlorophyll data: daily, 5-day, 8-day averages, monthly
- ii. Best spatial resolution: 1km
- iii. Water Turbidity indicators

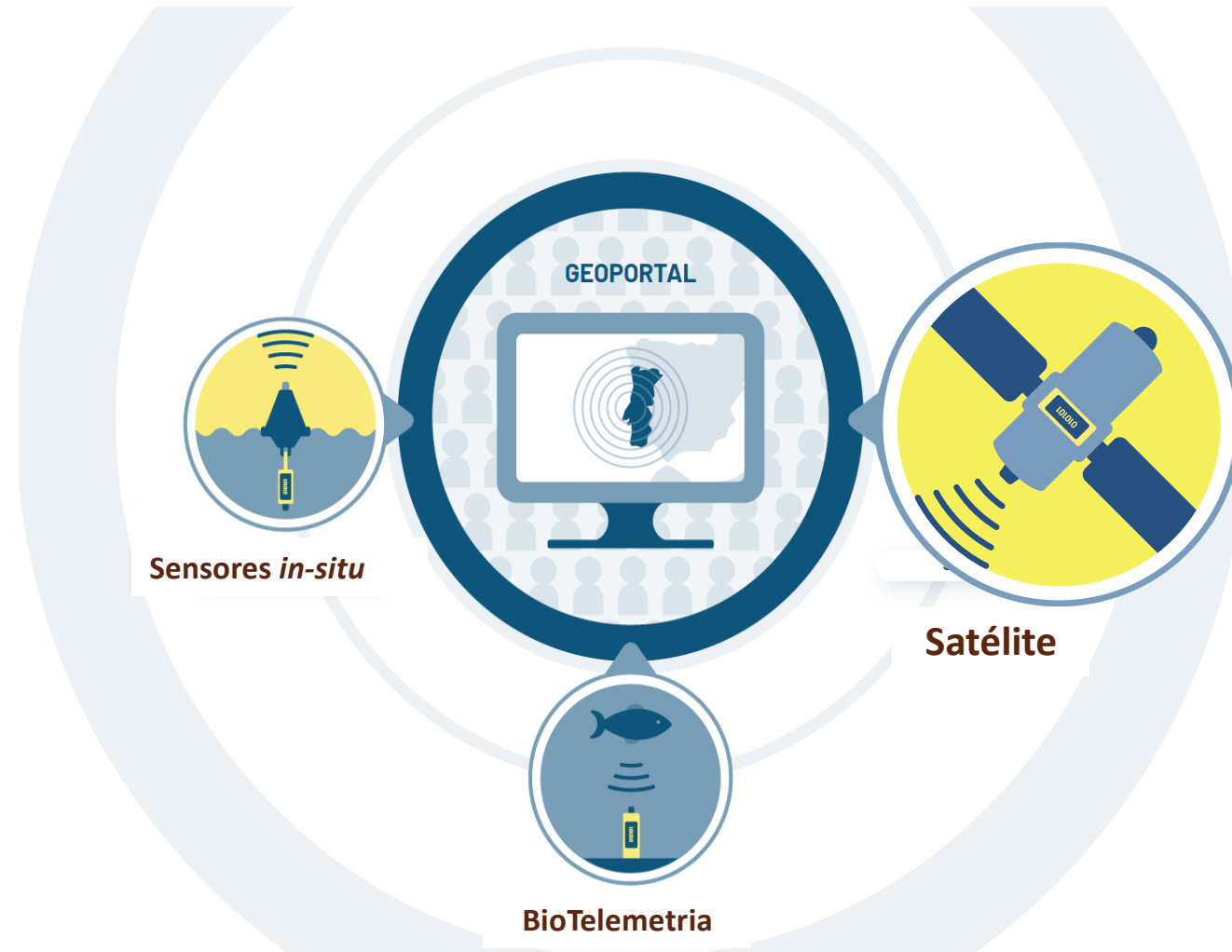
## Examples of Online Platforms for OCRS



Aims at monitoring important ecosystems of the Portuguese coast, integrating:

- i. A near real-time Earth Observation data centre
- ii. A set of sensors to collect in-situ data on environmental and biological parameters transmitted in near real-time to the data centre
- iii. An array of acoustic receivers to track marine fauna movements
- iv. A web-based platform, integrating the whole database and providing open access to the information.

## Examples of Online Platforms for OCS



## Examples of Online Platforms for OCRS

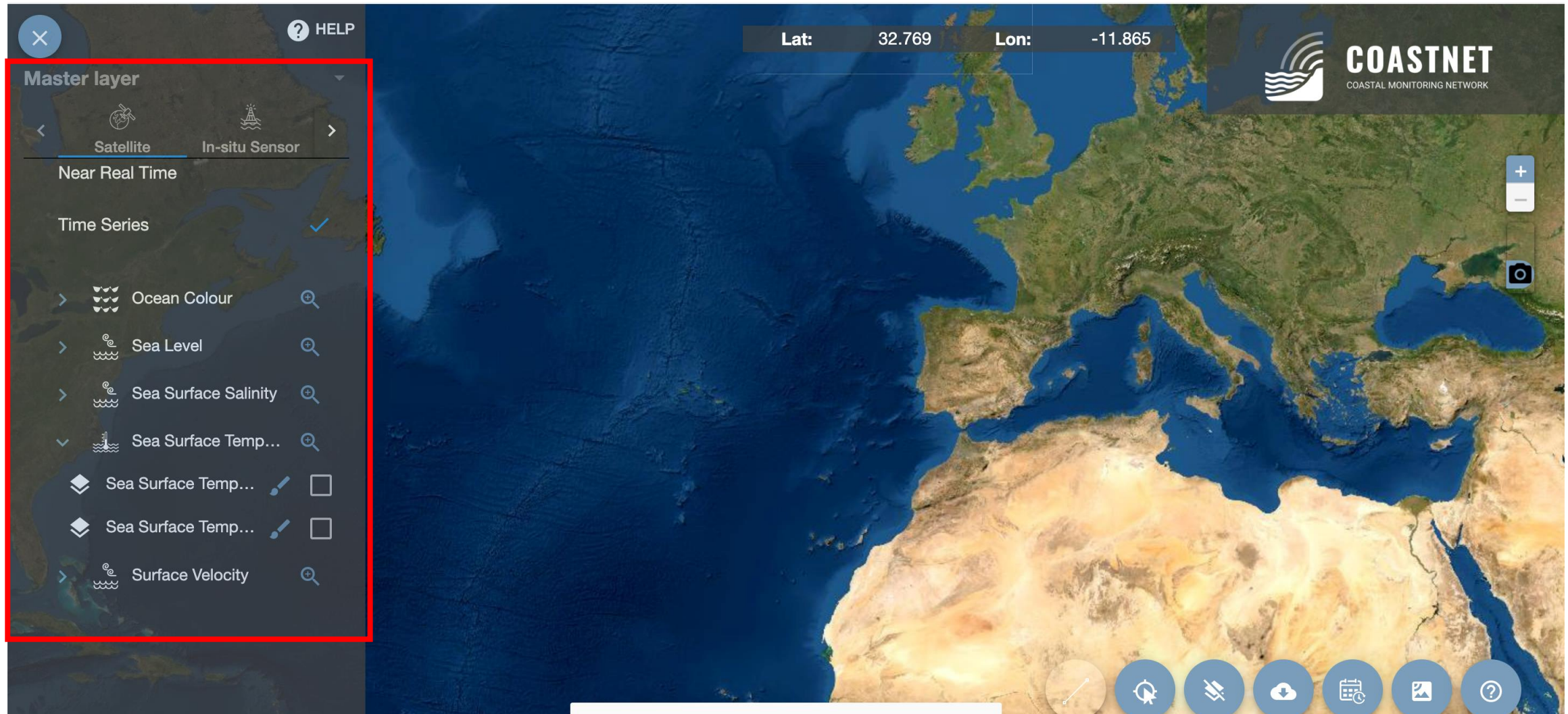


**COASTNET**  
COASTAL MONITORING NETWORK



- i. Chlorophyll – daily & monthly OC-CCI data, 1 & 4 km spatial resolution
- ii. Sea Surface Temperature (SST)
- iii. Sea Surface Salinity (SSS)
- iv. Wind Speed
- v. Surface Velocity
- vi. Wind Stress
- vii. Sea Level

## DEMO – CoastNet Geoportal



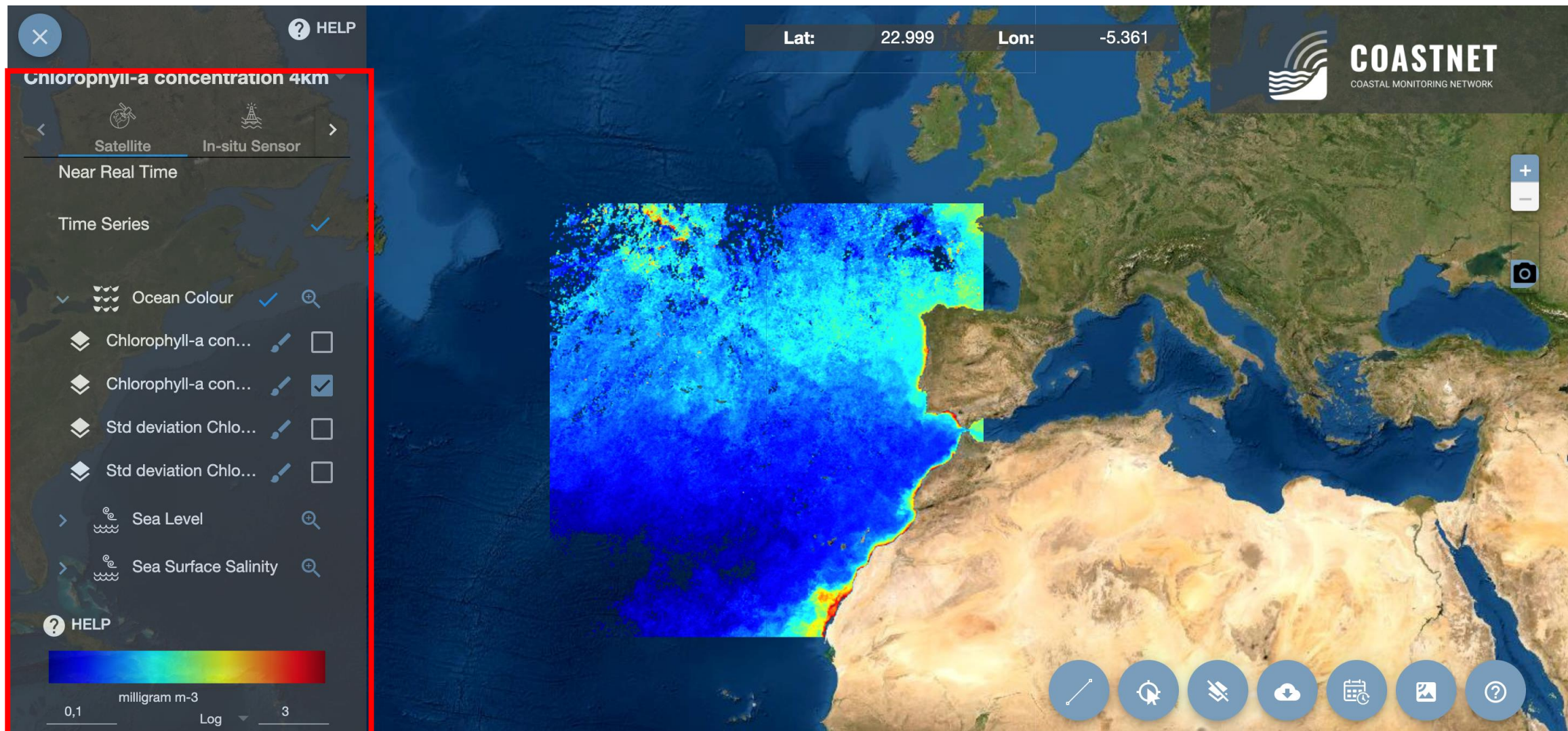
The screenshot displays the CoastNet Geoportal interface. The main map shows the Mediterranean Sea and surrounding landmasses. A data overlay at the top center displays coordinates: **Lat: 32.769** and **Lon: -11.865**. The **COASTNET** logo, with the tagline "COASTAL MONITORING NETWORK", is positioned in the top right corner of the map area.

On the left side, a "Master layer" menu is open, highlighted with a red border. It features a "Satellite" layer selected and an "In-situ Sensor" layer. Below these, the "Near Real Time" section is active. The "Time Series" section is checked with a blue checkmark and lists several data layers:

- Ocean Colour
- Sea Level
- Sea Surface Salinity
- Sea Surface Temp...
- Sea Surface Temp...
- Sea Surface Temp...
- Surface Velocity

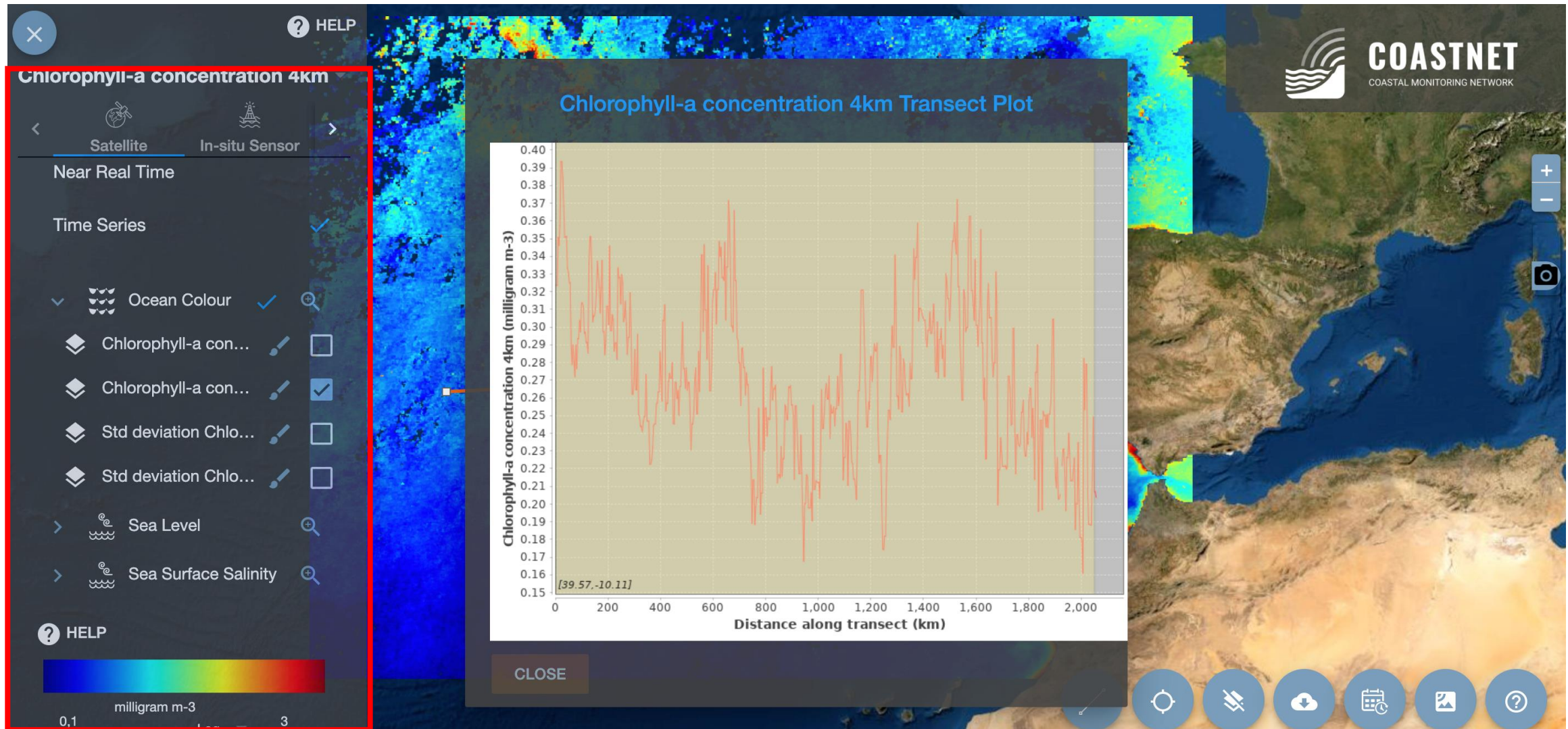
Each layer in the Time Series list includes a magnifying glass icon for zooming. At the bottom of the interface, a toolbar contains various navigation and tool icons, including a compass, a scale bar, and a help icon.

## DEMO – CoastNet Geoportal

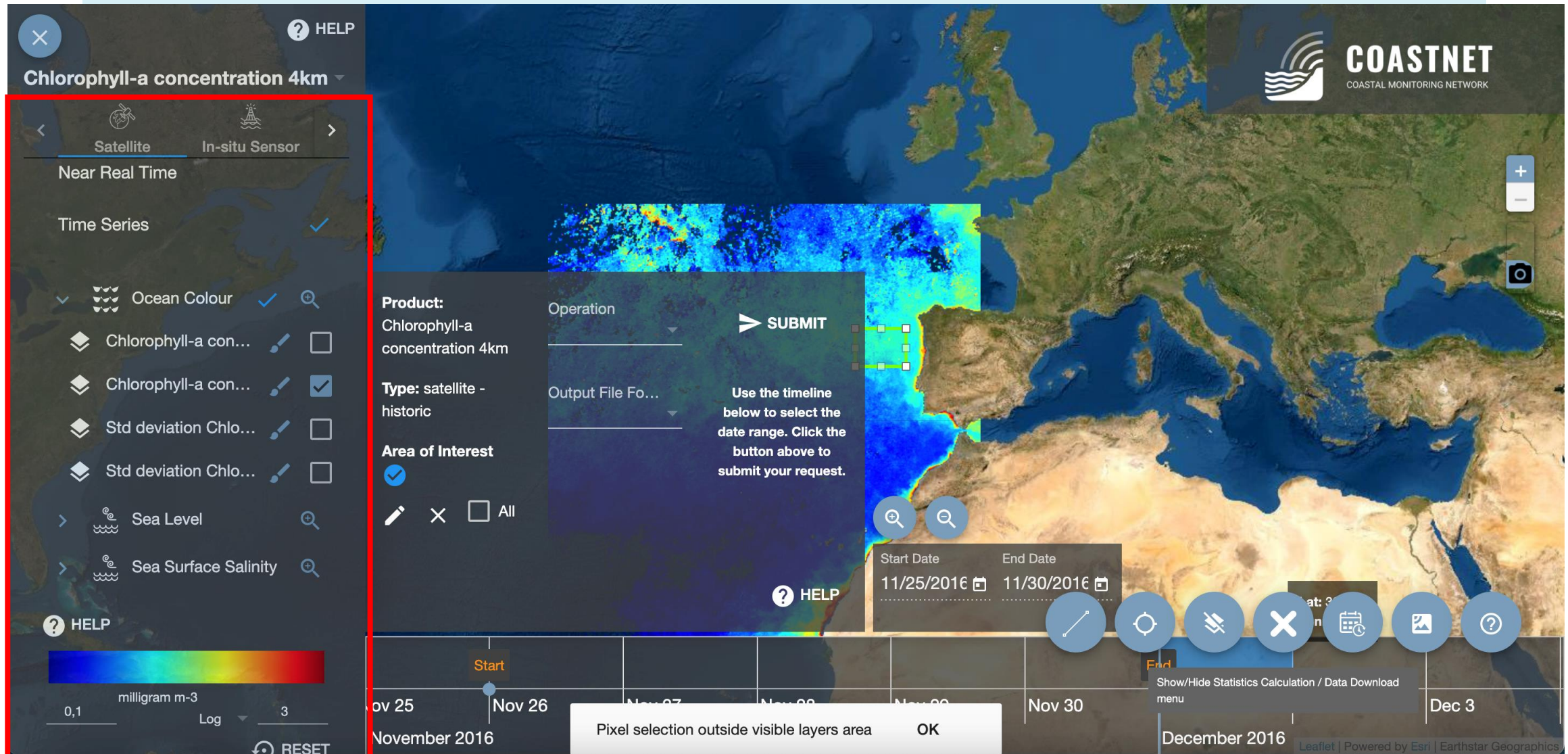




## DEMO – CoastNet Geoportal



## DEMO – CoastNet Geoportal



**Chlorophyll-a concentration 4km**

Satellite In-situ Sensor

Near Real Time

Time Series

- Ocean Colour
- Chlorophyll-a con...
- Chlorophyll-a con...
- Std deviation Chlo...
- Std deviation Chlo...
- Sea Level
- Sea Surface Salinity

HELP

0,1 milligram m<sup>-3</sup> Log 3

RESET

**Product:** Chlorophyll-a concentration 4km

**Type:** satellite - historic

**Area of Interest**

Operation

Output File Fo...

**SUBMIT**

Use the timeline below to select the date range. Click the button above to submit your request.

Start Date: 11/25/2016 End Date: 11/30/2016

Pixel selection outside visible layers area OK

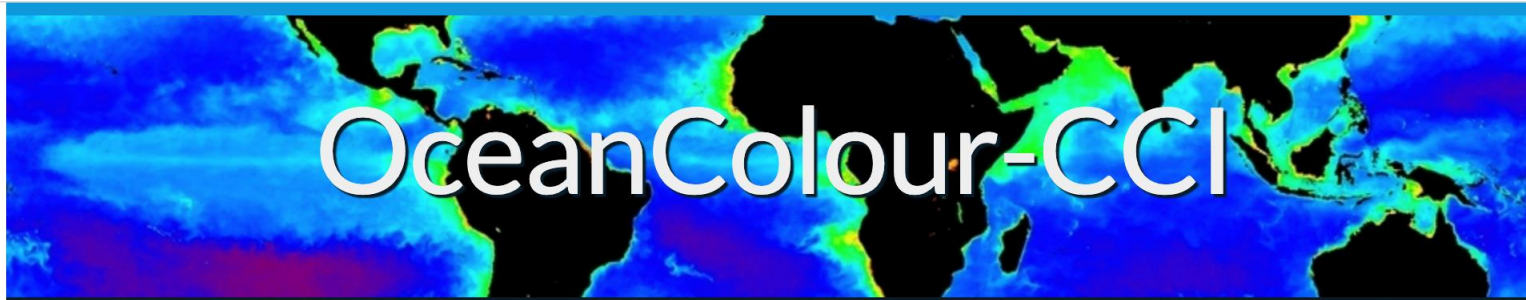
November 2016: Nov 25, Nov 26, Nov 27, Nov 28, Nov 29, Nov 30

December 2016: Dec 3

Show/Hide Statistics Calculation / Data Download menu

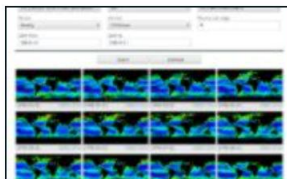
Leaflet | Powered by Esri | Earthstar Geographics

## DEMO – OC-CCI Geoportal



**References & Citation Information**

For complete details of relevant references, DOIs, and citation information please see the [Ocean Colour section of the ESA Climate website](#)



**Composite Browser**

Access a range of products composited in different periods. Data can be searched by time ranges, periods, products & wavelengths.



**OPeNDAP**

A freely available framework that simplifies all aspects of scientific data networking, making local data available to remote locations regardless of storage format.



**Web GIS Portal**

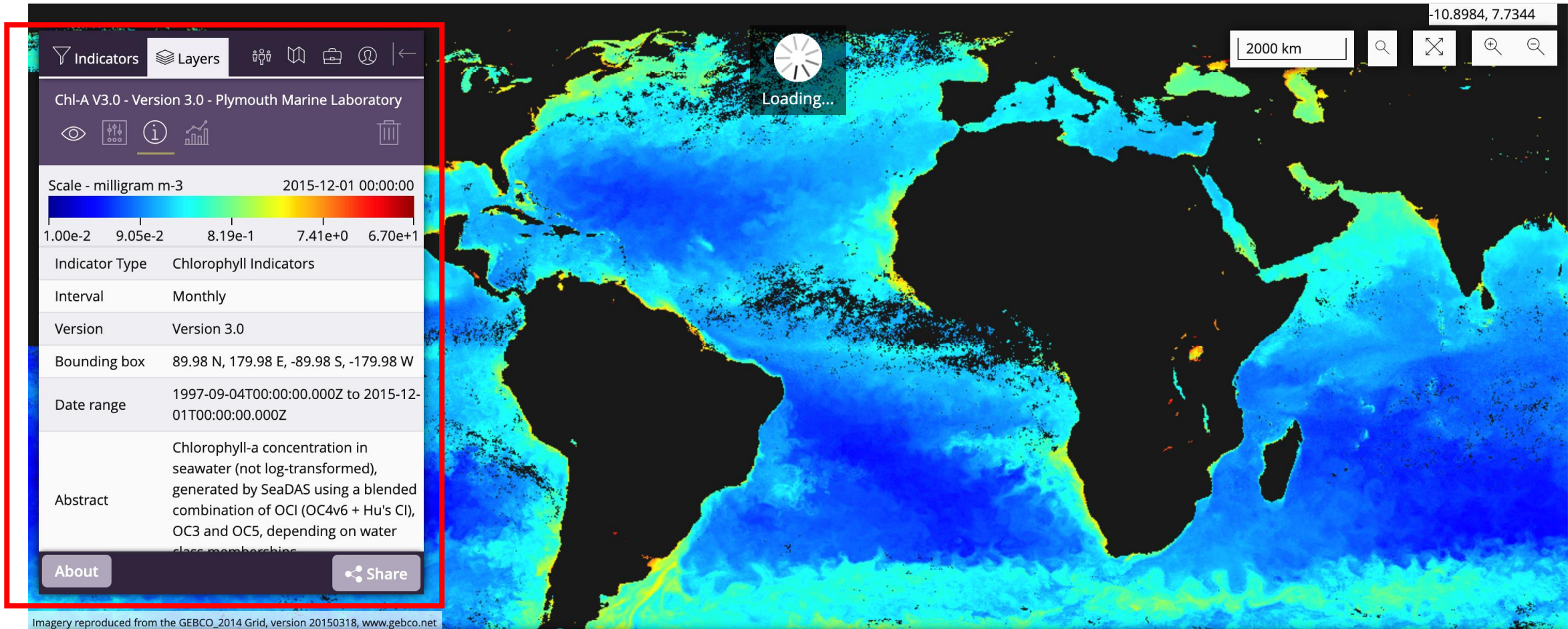
View, manipulate & analyse data.



**FTP**

Download large sets of data easily. Version 5.0 datasets available now.

## DEMO – OC-CCI Geoportals



Imagery reproduced from the GEBCO\_2014 Grid, version 20150318, www.gebco.net

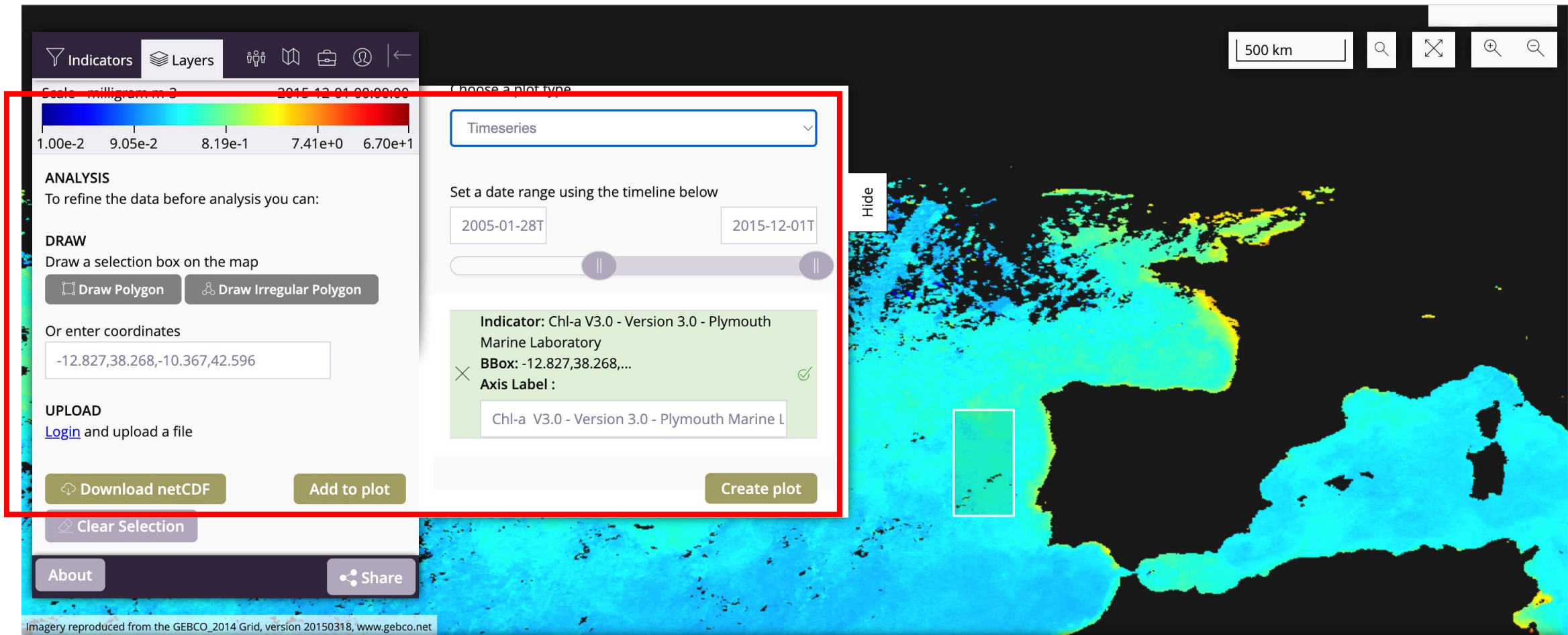
Timeline - Click and drag to move, use your mouse scroll wheel to zoom, click to select a date or enter your required date in the date field on the right

Chl-A V3.0



2015-12-01 00:00

## DEMO – OC-CCI Geoportals



The screenshot displays the OC-CCI Geoportals interface. On the left, a configuration panel is highlighted with a red border. It includes a color scale for Chl-a (1.00e-2 to 6.70e+1), an 'ANALYSIS' section with instructions, a 'DRAW' section with 'Draw Polygon' and 'Draw Irregular Polygon' buttons, a coordinate input field containing '-12.827,38.268,-10.367,42.596', and an 'UPLOAD' section with a 'Download netCDF' button and an 'Add to plot' button. The main map area shows a satellite image of the Atlantic Ocean with a cyan and yellow data overlay. A white box on the map indicates the selected area. A 'Hide' button is visible near the map. The top right of the interface shows a scale bar (500 km) and navigation icons. The bottom of the interface features a timeline for 'Chl-A V3.0' from 1998 to 2016, with a date selector set to '2015-12-01 00:00'.

Imagery reproduced from the GEBCO\_2014 Grid, version 20150318, www.gebco.net

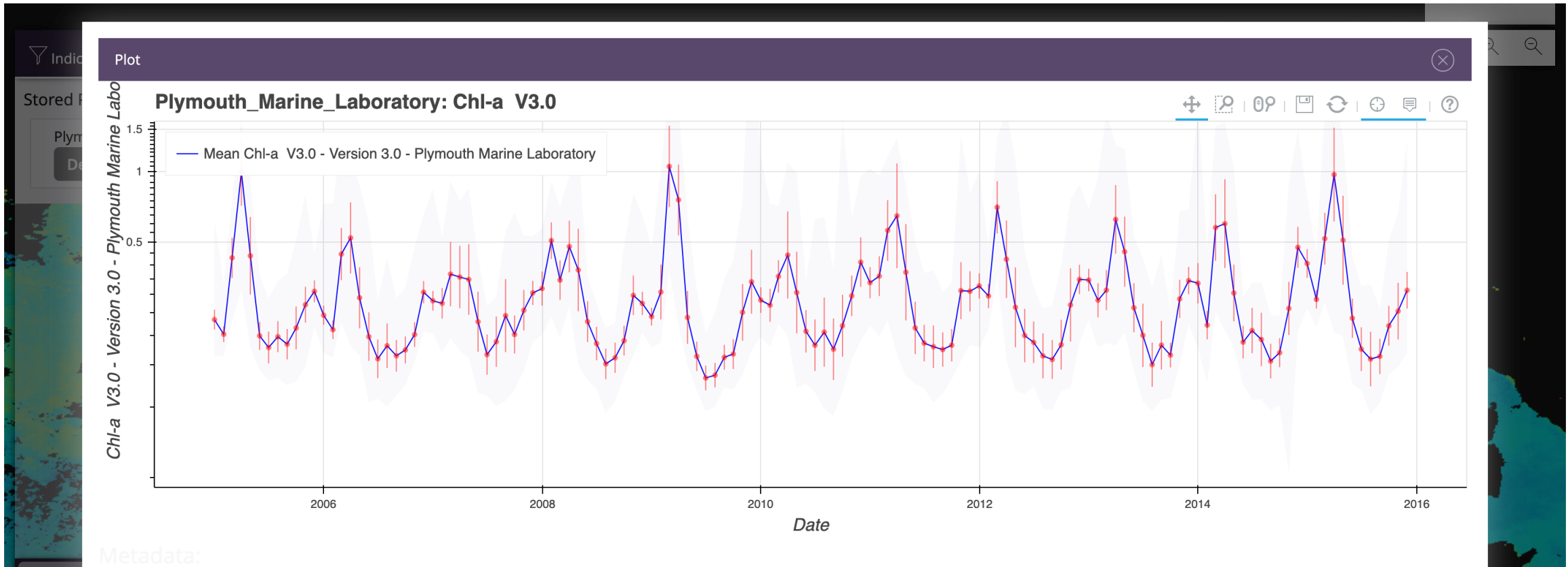
Timeline - Click and drag to move, use your mouse scroll wheel to zoom, click to select a date or enter your required date in the date field on the right

Chl-A V3.0



2015-12-01 00:00

## DEMO – OC-CCI Geoportals



## Case Study: Natural Variability of Phytoplankton

frontiers  
in Marine Science

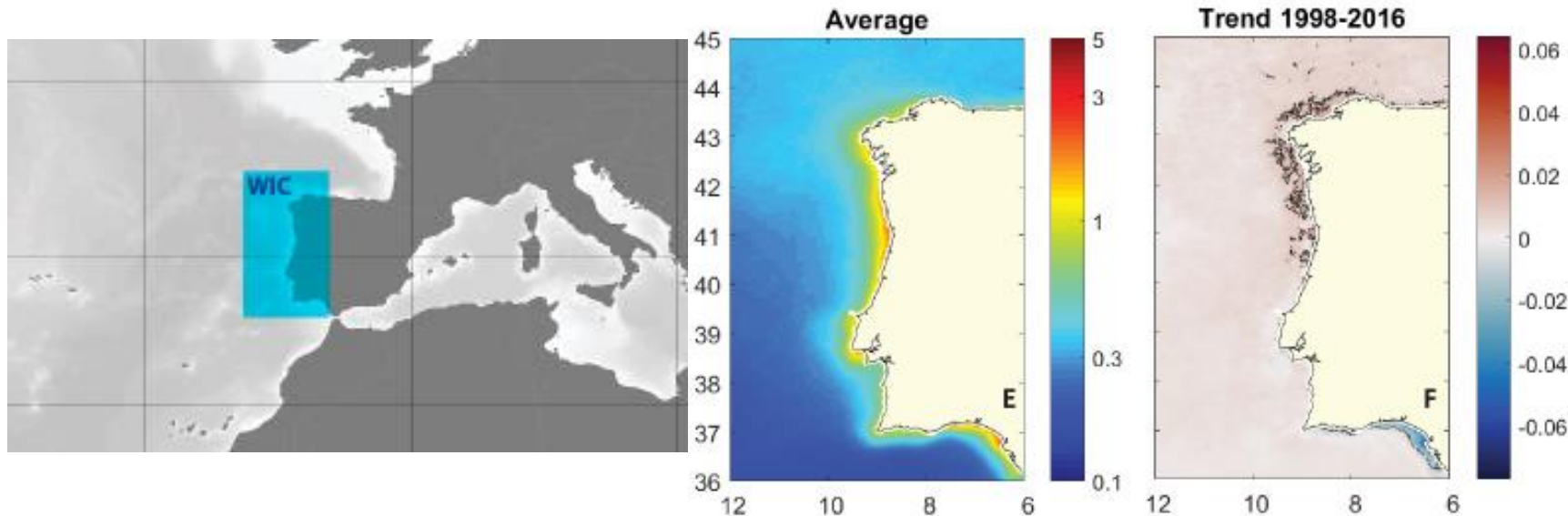
ORIGINAL RESEARCH  
published: 28 February 2019  
doi: 10.3389/fmars.2019.00044



### Disentangling Environmental Drivers of Phytoplankton Biomass off Western Iberia

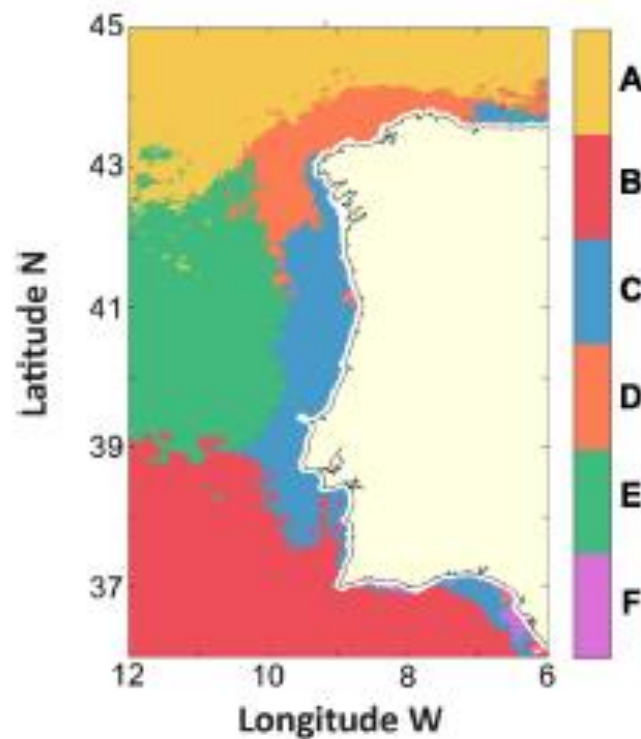
A. Ferreira<sup>1</sup>, P. Garrido-Amador<sup>1</sup> and Ana C. Brito<sup>1,2\*</sup>

Ferreira et al. (2019)



**OC-CCI Data**  
L4 (7-day) product  
1 km spatial resolution  
Years – 1998 to 2016

## Case Study: Natural Variability of Phytoplankton

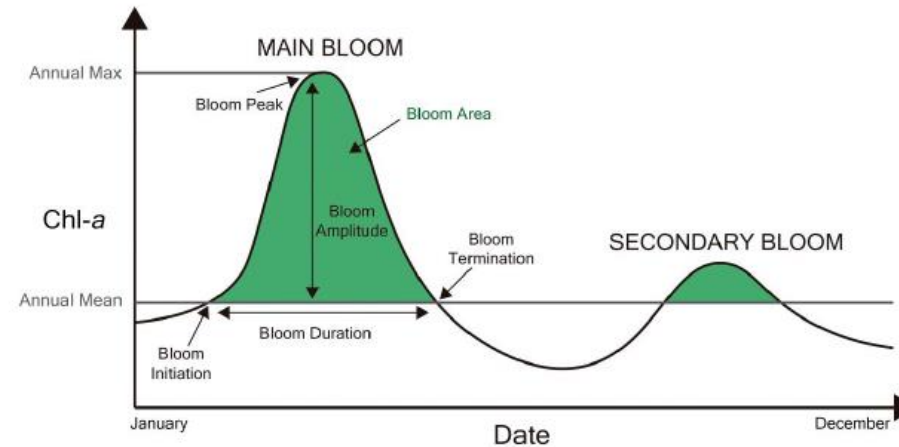


### GAM Analysis

Region	MEP (%)	$R^2$ (adj)	Model predictors
A	40.6	0.29	NAO***, MLD***, PAR***, SSH**, EA**, V*, $PO_4^{3-*}$
B	51	0.43	DIN***, MLD***, AMO***, SSH***, V**, WeMO*
C	36.1	0.29	AMO***, MLD***, SST**, V*, EA*, SAL*, U*
D	39.9	0.31	AMO***, EA***, V***, SSH**, NAO**, U**, SST*
E	22.8	0.16	AMO***, MLD**, U*
F	52.8	0.44	SAL***, V***, DIN***, MLD*, SST*, NAO*



## Case Study: Phenology of Phytoplankton




### OC-CCI Data

daily product  
4 km spatial resolution  
Years – 1997 to 2018



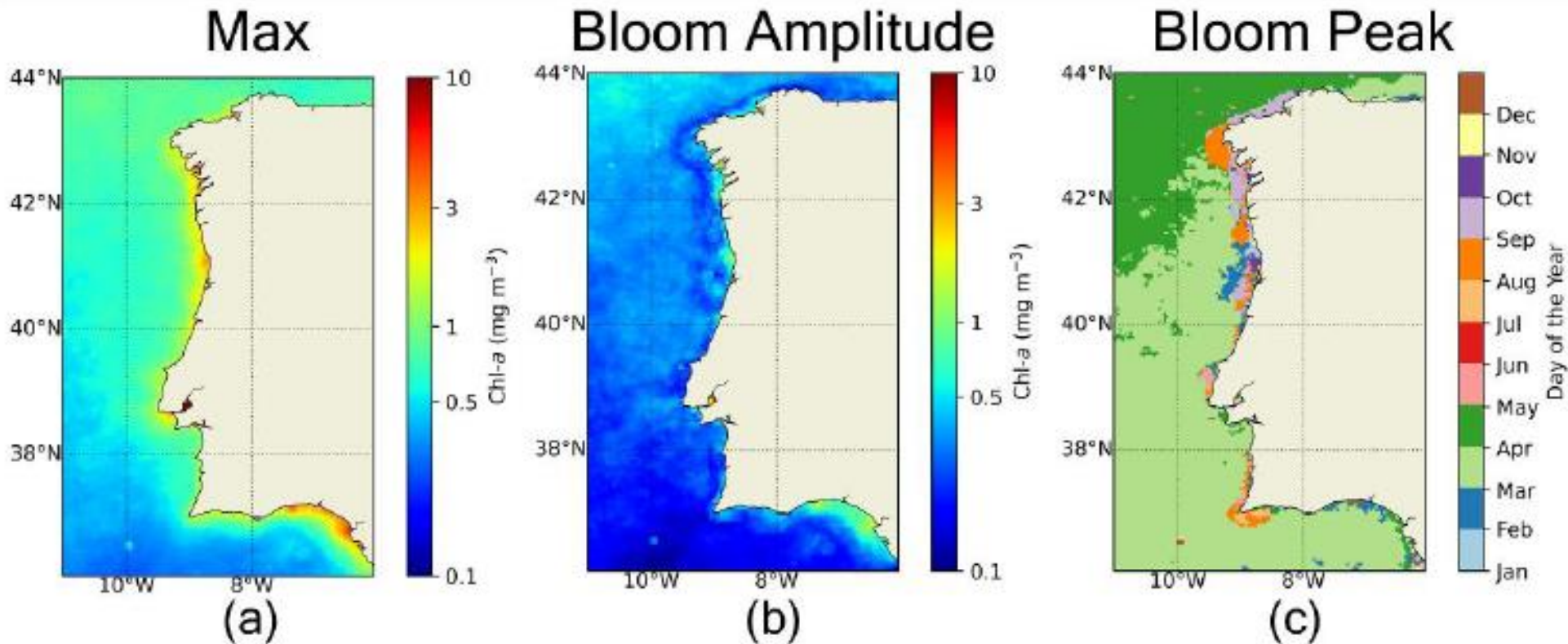
Article

## Assessing Phytoplankton Bloom Phenology in Upwelling-Influenced Regions Using Ocean Color Remote Sensing

Afonso Ferreira <sup>1,2,\*</sup> , Vanda Brotas <sup>1</sup>, Carla Palma <sup>2</sup>, Carlos Borges <sup>2</sup>  and Ana C. Brito <sup>1</sup> 

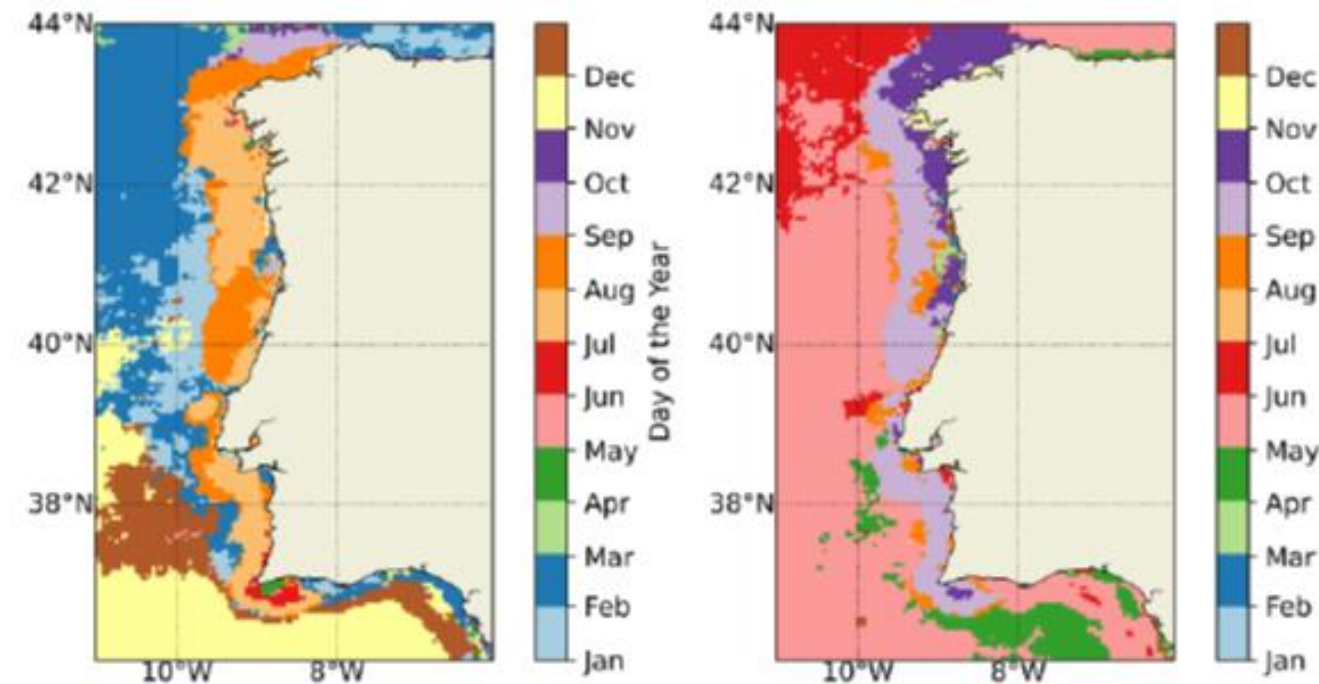
Ferreira et al. (2021)

## Case Study: Phenology of Phytoplankton



## Case Study: Phenology of Phytoplankton

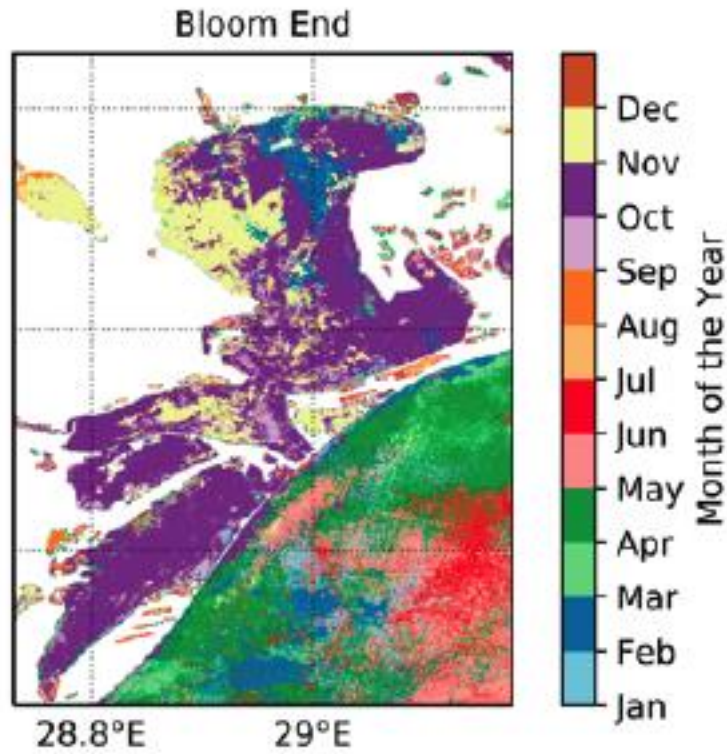
(a) Bloom Initiation (b) Bloom Termination



### Random Forest Analysis (~ GAM)

Metric	R <sup>2</sup>	RMSE	Model Predictors
Mean	0.75	0.01	DIN *, AMO, U <sub>o</sub> , MEI, Fe, NAO
Max	0.75	0.09	Si *, MLD, NAO, DIN, Sal, MEI, SSH
BAmp	0.76	0.08	Si *, NAO, MLD, DIN, Sal
BPeak	0.71	9.2	MLD *, Fe, V <sub>o</sub>
BInit	0.63	11.45	DIN *, V <sub>o</sub>
BTerm	0.8	8.39	AMO *, Fe, NAO, DIN, Sal, V <sub>o</sub>
BDur	0.73	9.33	AMO *, Si, U <sub>o</sub> , MLD
BArea	0.87	4.09	Si *, U <sub>o</sub>
YArea	0.77	4.3	DIN *, AMO, U <sub>o</sub>
BFreq	0.61	0.45	AMO *, MEI *, V <sub>o</sub> *

## Case Study: Phenology of Phytoplankton



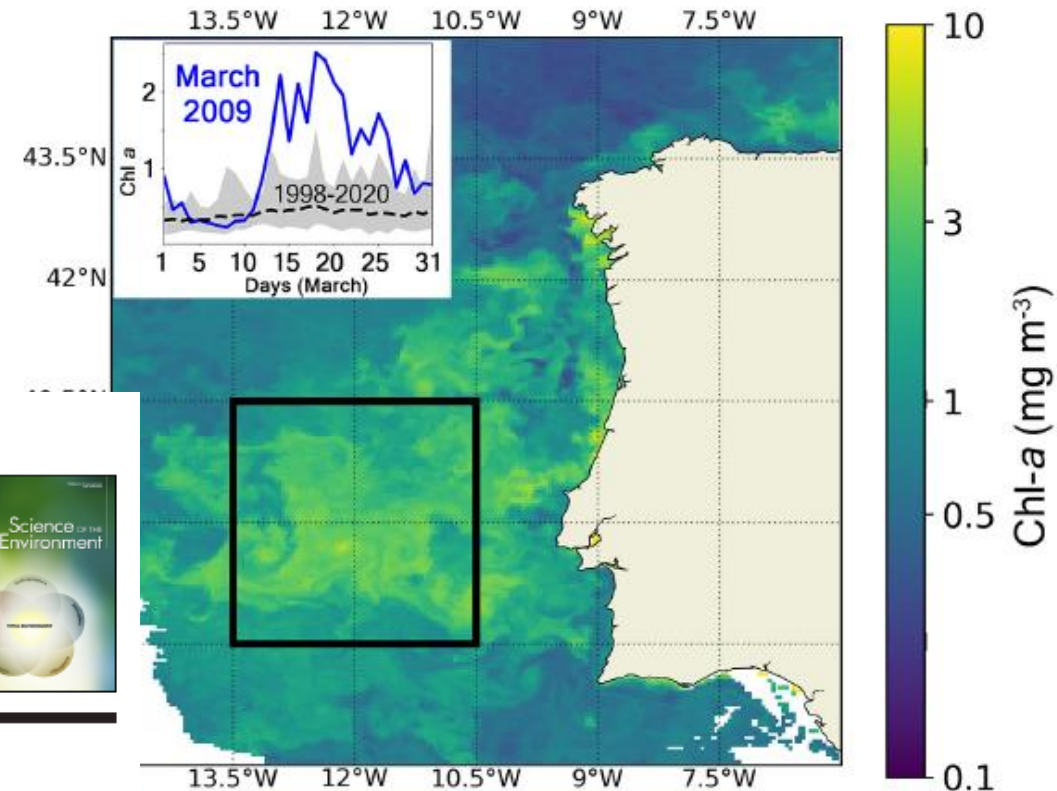
**Can we evaluate phenology in transitional systems?**

Using high resolution satellite data (Sentinel 2)

(H2020 CERTO Project)



## Case Study: Anomaly of Phytoplankton



Science of the Total Environment 806 (2022) 151253

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Science of the Total Environment

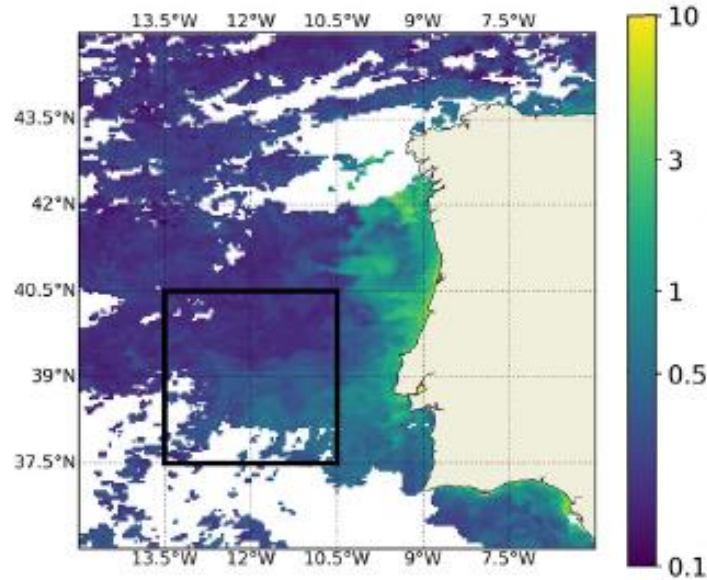
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv)



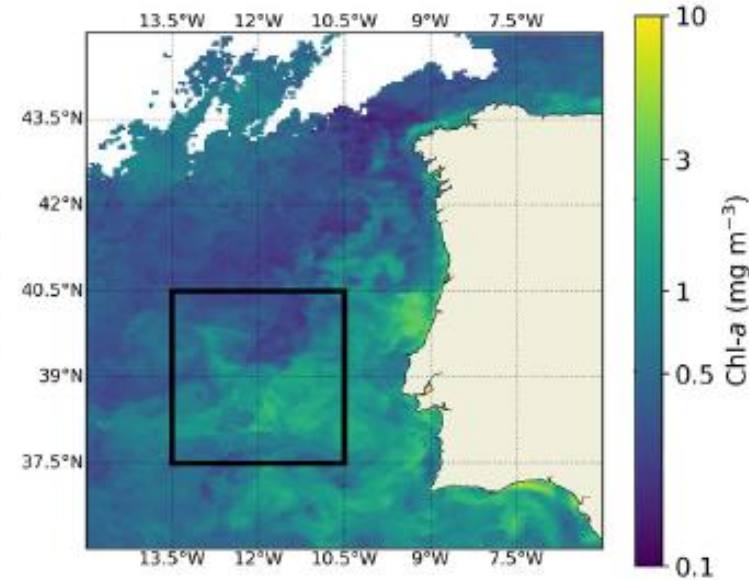
A perfect storm: An anomalous offshore phytoplankton bloom event in the NE Atlantic (March 2009)

Afonso Ferreira <sup>a,\*</sup>, Joaquim Dias <sup>a,b</sup>, Vanda Brotas <sup>a,c</sup>, Ana C. Brito <sup>a,c</sup>

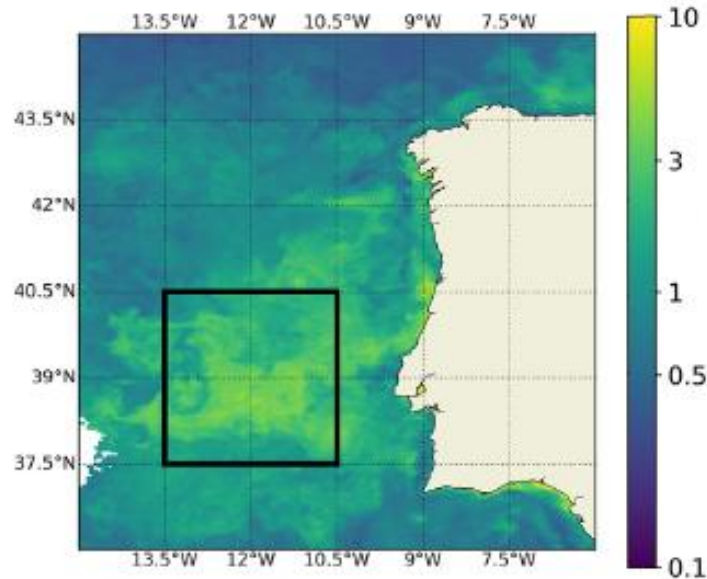
## March 4-9



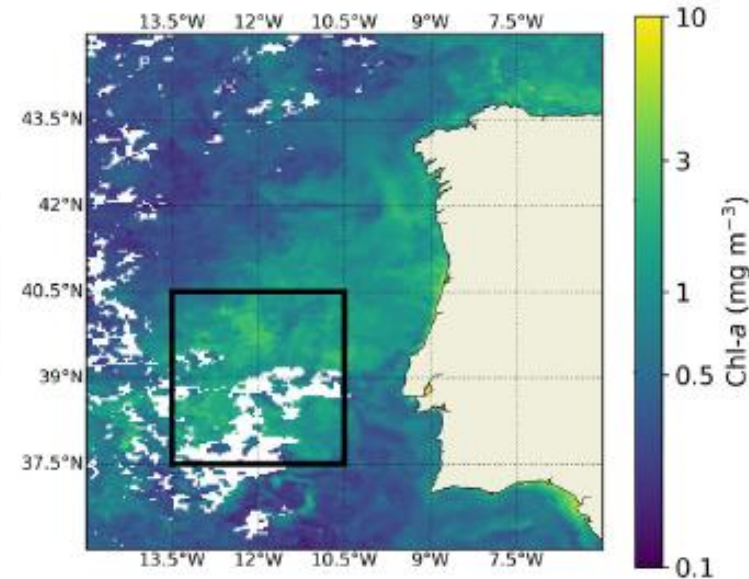
## March 10-13



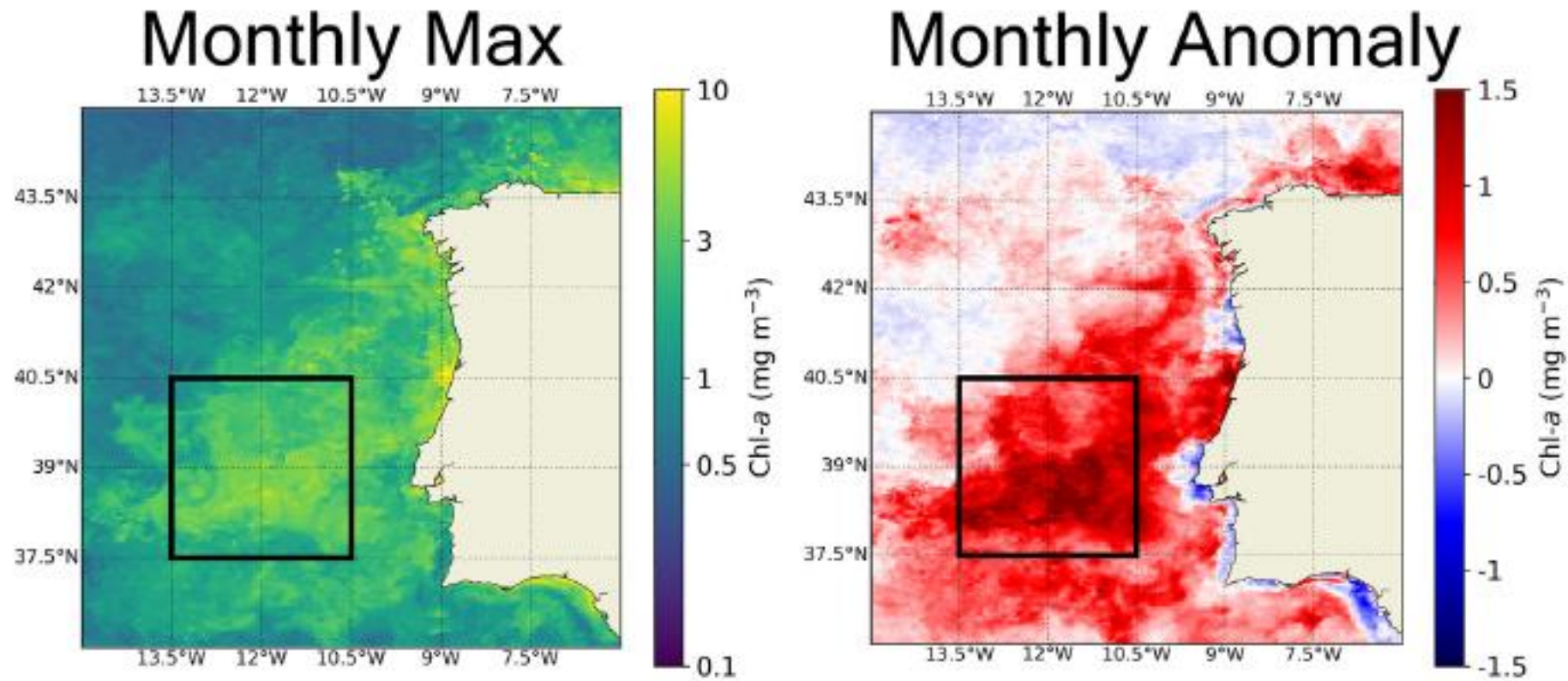
## March 14-20



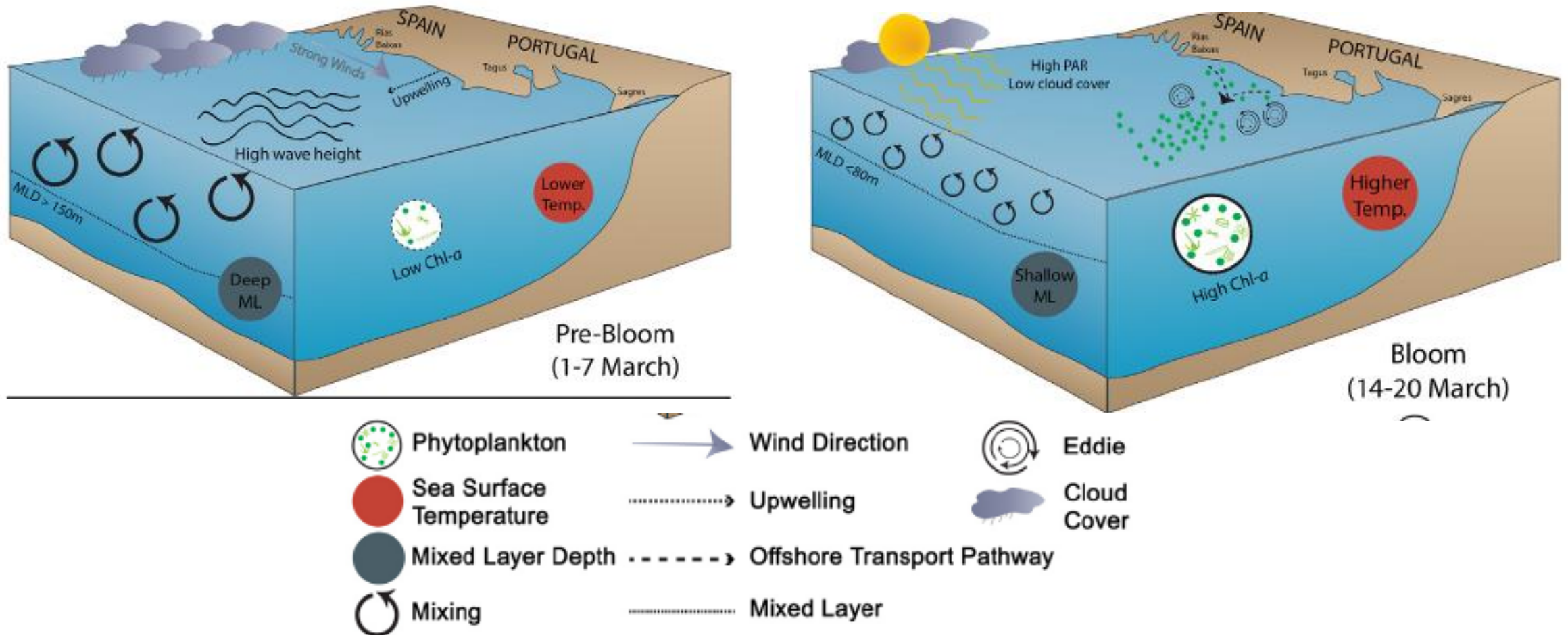
## March 25-31



## Case Study: Anomaly of Phytoplankton



## Case Study: Anomaly of Phytoplankton





## What is the Take-Home Message ?

- i. Ocean Colour Remote Sensing is a valuable tool to study the most important marine primary producer – phytoplankton
  - ii. The use of Ocean Colour Remote Sensing can be very simple
- iii. Data on chlorophyll can be obtained and visualised in simple platforms – e.g.  
CoastNet GeoPortal and OC-CCI Portal
- iv. Geoportals allow studying spatial, seasonal and long-term variability of phytoplankton.



**Thank you!**

Ana C. Brito  
acbrito@fc.ul.pt