

***The international multi-system  
OSEs/OSSEs by the UN Ocean Decade  
Project SynObs  
and its early results in JMA/MRI***

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A large, powerful ocean wave is shown crashing, with a massive wall of white foam and spray rising from the crest. The water below the wave is a deep blue-green color. The sky is a pale, clear blue. The overall scene is dynamic and captures the raw power of the ocean.

# 1. Introduction of SynObs



# Synergistic Observing Network for Ocean Prediction

*Led by OceanPredict OS-Eval TT*



## ◆ Objective

**SynObs** will seek the way to extract maximum benefits from the combination among various observation platforms, typically between satellite and in situ observation data, in ocean predictions.

## ◆ Strategy

**SynObs** aims to identify the optimal combination of different ocean observation platforms through observing system design/evaluation, and to develop assimilation methods with which we can draw synergistic effects.



SynObs

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# ★ Outline of SynObs Activity Plan

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## 1. Collaboration for evaluation and design

- Collaboration on a Multi-System OSE and OSSE (**SynObs flagship OSEs/OSSEs**)
- Establish the best practice based on the collaboration above.

## 2. Supporting DA scheme development

- Share the information on the development of DA schemes
- Planning of observation campaigns for DA scheme development If necessary

## 3. Framework to provide information from ocean prediction systems in real time

- Explore the methods to evaluate observing system status in real-time

## 4. OS-Eval showcase and reporting

- Introduce OS-Eval examples to demonstrate its potential (**E.g., Frontiers in Marine Science Special collection is on-going!**)
- Contributing to WMO Observation Impact workshop and Rolling Review of Requirement (RRR)



A large, powerful ocean wave is shown crashing, with white foam and blue water. The wave is the central focus of the image, with its crest curling over. The background is a clear blue sky.

## 2. SynObs Flagship OSEs

# ★ Request of OSEs and past achievements by ocean prediction community

## ◆ Request of OSEs for the new observing system designs

- The TPOS2020 report recommended to perform the new TPOS evaluation with S2S forecasting systems.
- The Argo community expects to evaluate the impacts of doubling Argo floats, and the new Argo array design.

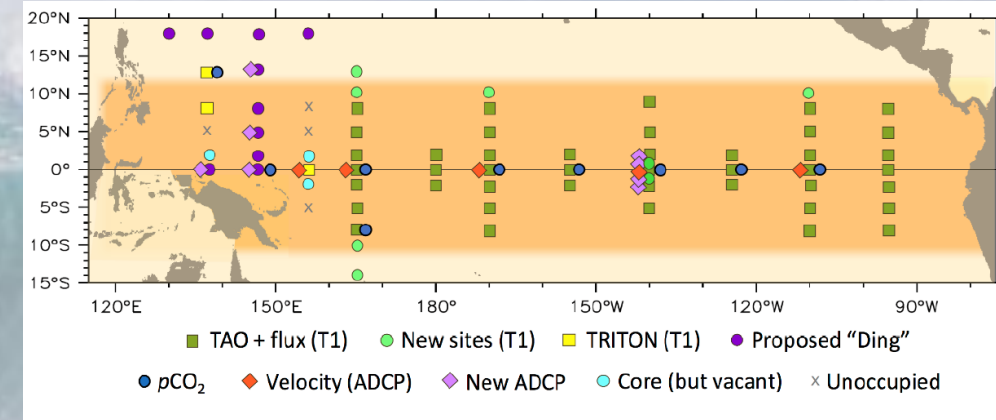
## ◆ Achievements of OceanPredict OS Evaluation Task Team

- Fujii et al. (2019). Front. Mar. Sci. (OceanObs'19 Community White Paper)
- Oke et al. (2015a,b). J. of Oper. Oceanogr. (In the GODAE OceanView Special Issue.)

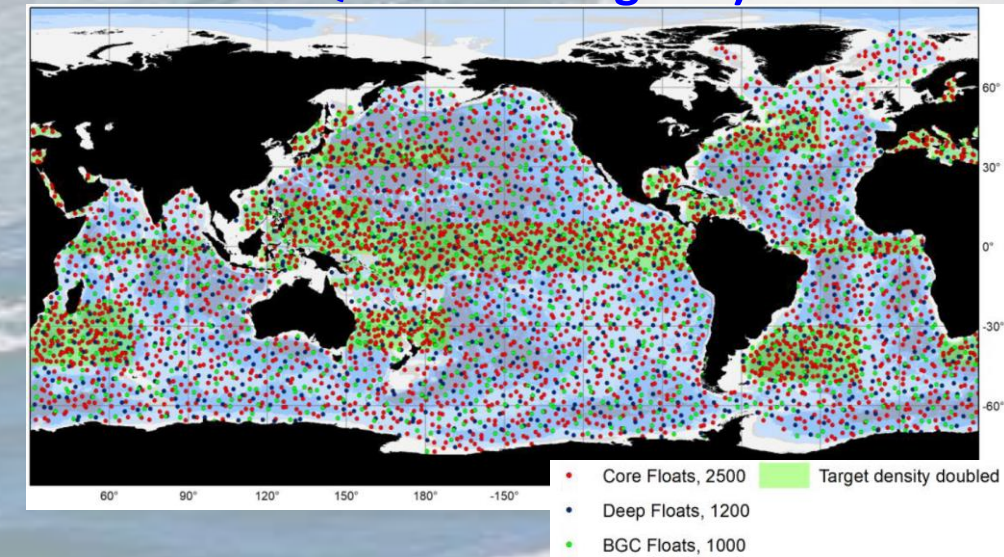
## ◆ Lessons Learnt from past activities

- Obs has various purposes (OSEs/OSSEs cannot evaluate all obs values)
- Data for calibration and validation are also important.
- Near-real-time evaluations are necessary.
- System dependency must be considered.

## The new tropical Pacific buoy array design (from TPOS2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Report Fig. 7.4b)



## Argo 2020 Design (doubling floats in EQ and WBC regions)



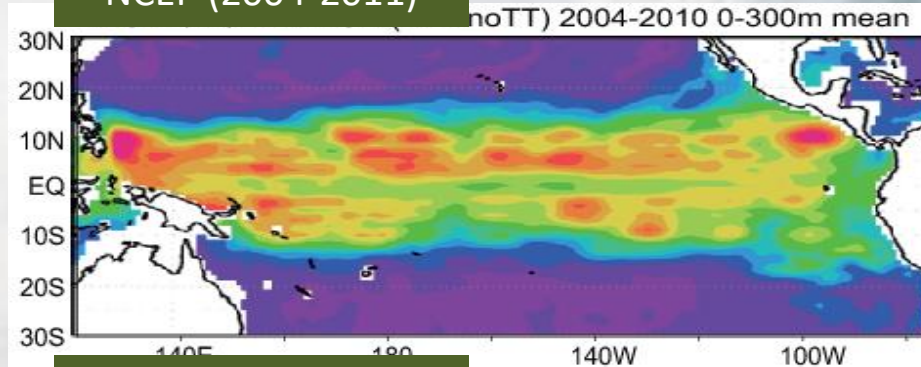


# ★ System Dependency of Observation Impacts

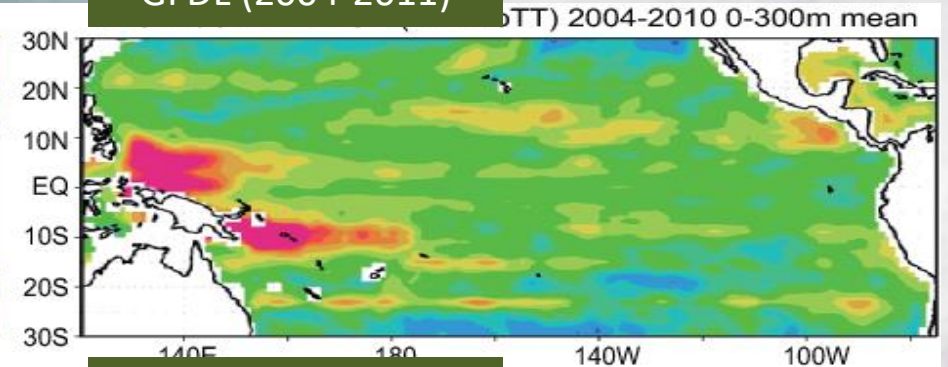
- ◆ Evaluation results inevitably depends on the prediction system.
  - ✓ Systematic errors often hide impacts of ocean observation data.
  - ✓ The dependency is significant in the S2S predictions, but it cannot be ignored in ocean reanalysis and predictions.
- ◆ Therefore, multi-system efforts are indispensable to remove the system dependency and to make a robust and reliable evaluation

0-300m averaged  
RMSD of temperature  
(°C) between the  
regular ODA runs and  
OSE without  
assimilating tropical  
mooring buoys

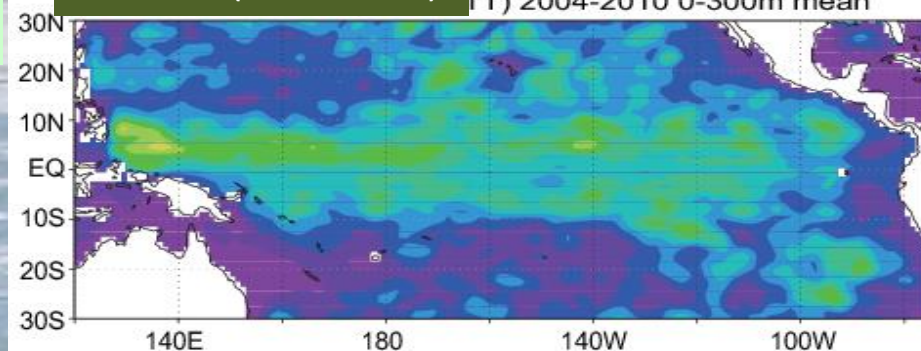
NCEP (2004-2011)



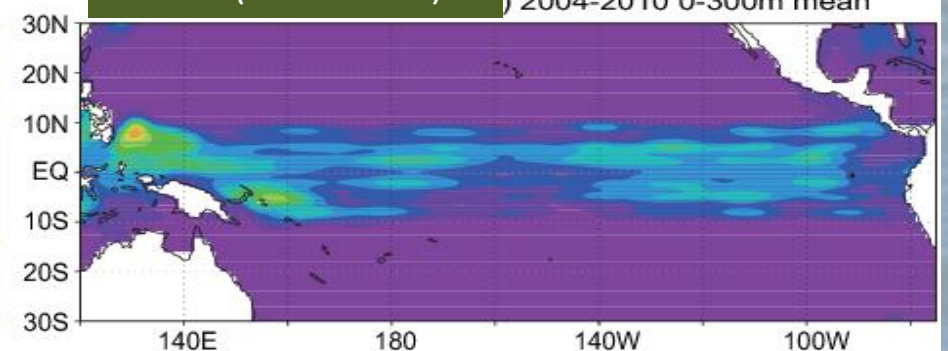
GFDL (2004-2011)



ECMWF (2004-2010)



JMA (2004-2010)



0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.25 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9

From Fujii et al., 2015 QJRMS

# ★ Plan of SynObs Flagship OSEs/OSSEs

- ❑ SynObs is currently conducting OSEs/OSSEs using various ocean and S2S prediction systems with a common setting, and named it as SynObs flagship OSE.
  - More than 10 systems are participating in the flagship OSE/OSSE project

## ◆ OP (Ocean Prediction) OSEs

- Use higher-resolution ocean DA and prediction systems.
- Assimilation run for 2020-2022 (at least for 2020)
- 10-day predictions: Started from every pentad

## ◆ S2S (Subseasonal-to-seasonal) OSEs

- Use coupled prediction systems including lower-resolution ocean DA for initialization
- Reanalysis run for 2003-2022 (2023?)
- Subseasonal (1-month) predictions: Once a month
- Seasonal (4-month) predictions: from May and Nov.

## ◆ OP (Ocean Prediction) OSSEs

- Planned for evaluating SWOT, glider observations in coastal and shelf seas, satellite ocean velocity. etc.
- 1-year assimilation run and 10-day predictions from every pentad

Systems participating in the OP OSEs

Center	System	Area	Res. (Deg.)
UK MetOffice	FOAM	Global	1/12
NOAA/NCEP	RTOFS-DA	Global	0.08
ECMWF	ORAS5/6	Global	1/4
NASA/GMAO	GEO-S2S V3	Global	1/4
JMA/MRI	MOVE-G3F	Global	1/4
ECCC	GIOPS	Global	1/4
NOAA/NCEP	GLORe	Global	1
NOAA/QUOSAP	MOM6	Global	?
JAMSTEC-APL	JCOPE-FGO	Semi-glob.	0.1
JMA/MRI	MOVE-NP	N Pac.	1/10x1/11
Pukyong Uni.	KOOS-OPEM	N. Pac	1/24
REMO-UFBA	HYCOM-RODAS	S. Atl.	1/12
MetService, NZ	MetService, NZ	S. Pac.	1/24



# ★ SynObs flagship OSEs (OSE settings and the schedule)

## □ OSE Settings for OP and S2S OSEs

### ◆ Control Run (CNTL)

- Basically, regular observation data are assimilated
- 20% of Argo data are withhold and used as reference.
- Other observation data regularly assimilated in each system will be assimilated.

### ◆ OSEs

- Data of a targeted observation type are excluded (e.g., NoArgo, NoMoor, NoAlt etc.)

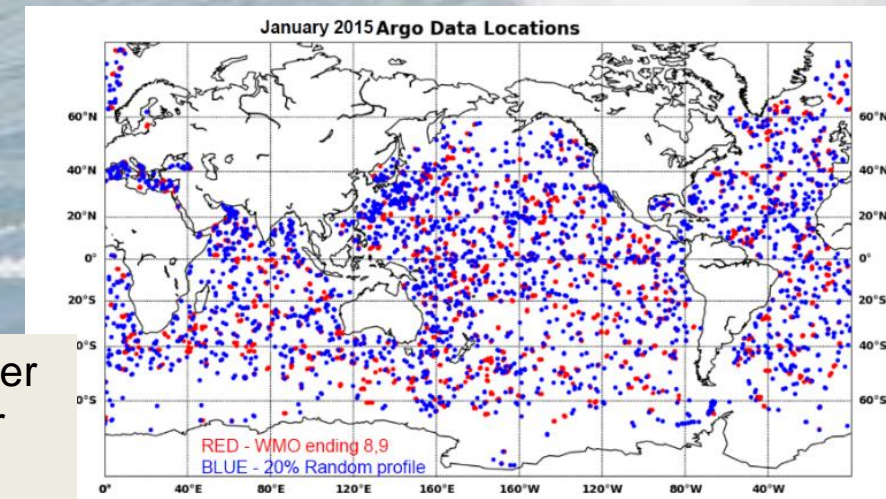
## □ OP OSSE setting is now being discussed.

## □ Analysis

- ◆ **SynObs asked some volunteer groups to analyze the OSE/OSSE results generally in their own way.**
- ◆ Results are planned to be **stored as netCDF files in a public database on a JAMSTEC-APL server** and shared with the analysis groups.

## Suggested OSE Settings

1	CNTL	Ocean Model		SST	Argo 80%	Mooring	Other TS	Alt. (optional)
2	NoAlt	Ocean Model		SST	Argo 80%	Mooring	Other TS	
3	NoArgo	Ocean Model		SST		Mooring	Other TS	Alt. (optional)
4	NoMoor	Ocean Model		SST	Argo 80%		Other TS	Alt. (optional)
5	NoSST	Ocean Model			Argo 80%	Mooring	Other TS	Alt. (optional)
6	NoInsitu	Ocean Model		SST				Alt. (optional)
7	SSTonly	Ocean Model		SST				
8	Free	Ocean Model						
9	HalfArgo	Ocean Model		SST	Argo 40%	Mooring	Other TS	Alt. (optional)
10	Oper	Ocean Model	Oper. Setting	SST	Argo 100%	Mooring	Other TS	Nadir Altimeter



Distributions of Argo floats whose last digits of WMO number is 8 or 9 (red) and 20% random profiles (blue). Example for January 2015 (Thanks to Li Ren, NASA/GMAO.)

A large, powerful ocean wave is shown crashing, with a massive plume of white foam rising from the crest. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the sky is a clear, light blue. The wave is the central focus of the image, with its base extending across the lower half of the frame.

### 3. OSEs conducted in JMA/MRI for the SynObs flagship OSE activity

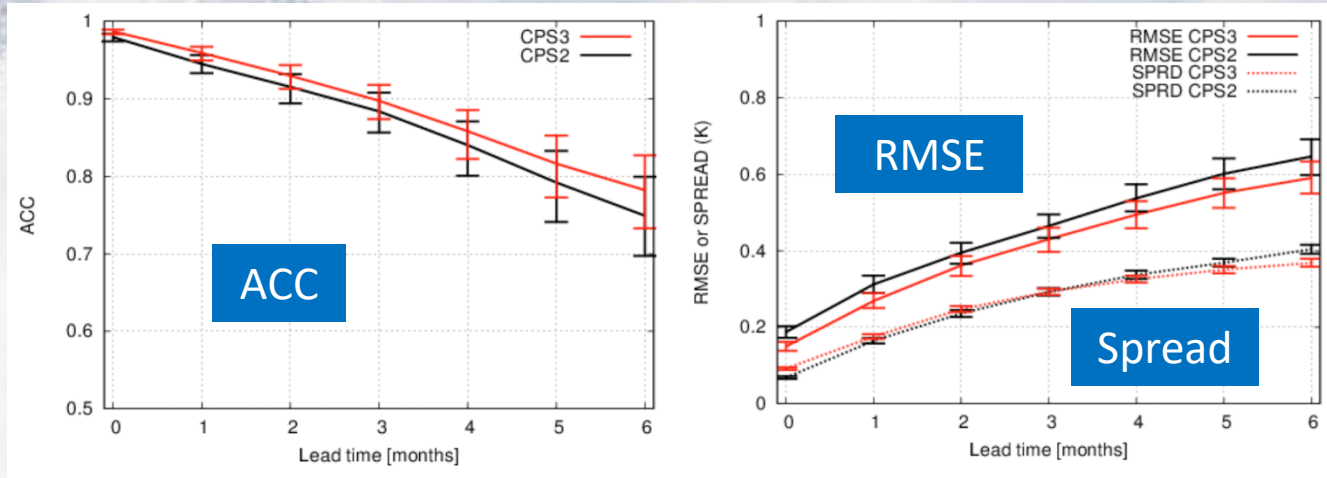
# Specifications of Coupled Prediction System (CPS) in JMA

		CPS2 (June 2015)	CPS3 (February 2022)
Atmospheric model	Model version	GSM1011C	GSM2003C
	Horiz. resolution	TL159 (~110 km)	TL319 (~55 km)
	Vertical levels	60 levels	100 levels
Ocean model	Model version	MRI.COM v3.2	MRI.COM v4.6
	Horiz. resolution	1° (longitude) × 0.3-0.5° (latitude)	0.25°
	Vertical levels	52 levels with a bottom boundary layer	60 levels
Initial conditions	Atmosphere	JRA-55	Global Analysis (GA)
	Ocean/Sea ice	MOVE-G2 (3D-Var)	MOVE-G3 (0.5°x1°, 4D-Var)
Ensemble generation	Size and Frequency	13 members per 5 days	5 members per day
	Perturbation	Stochastic physics in the atmosphere Breeding for the atmosphere	Stochastic physics in the atmosphere Breeding for the atmosphere New ocean perturbations

MRI.COM: Meteorological Research Institute Community Ocean Model.



# ★ Improvement of S2S forecasts skills by introducing CPS3



← Anomaly correlation, RMSE, and Spread of NINO 3.4 SST for different lead time. Based on 360 instances from hindcast (1991-2020).

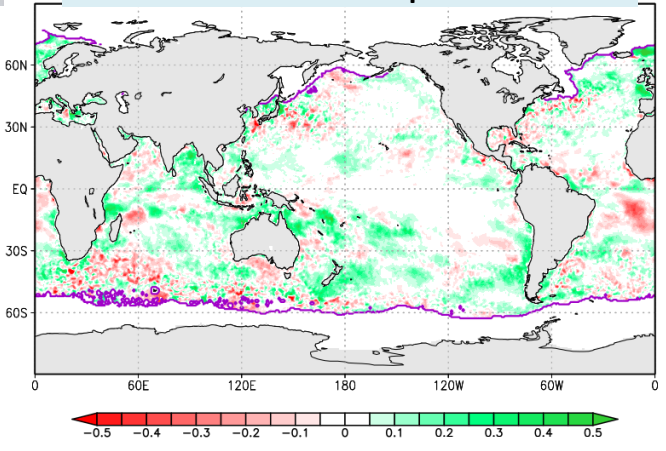
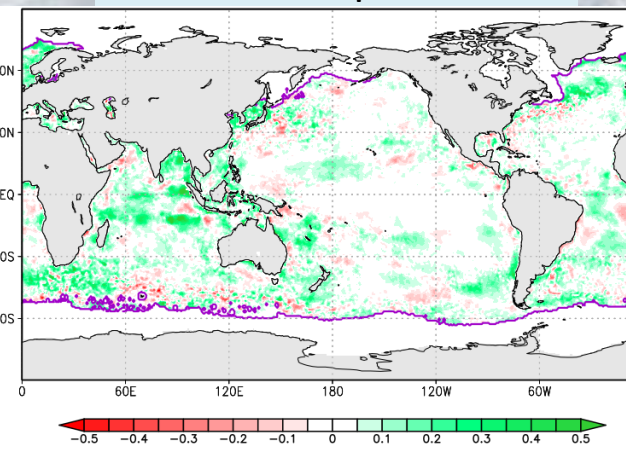
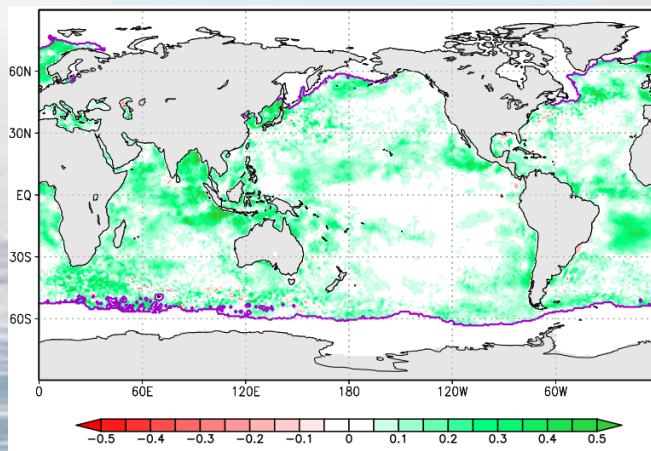
Black: CPS2      Red: CPS3

1<sup>st</sup> week of prediction

2<sup>nd</sup> week of prediction

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> weeks of prediction

ACC difference of forecasted SST between CPS3 – CPS2 in the subseasonal range.



Degraded

Improved

✓ This improved SST is used in the monthly uncoupled atmospheric forecasting system (i.e., 2-tiered SST) from the 6th day in the tropics.

# ★ Setting of the S2S Analysis OSEs for the flagship OSEs in JMA/MRI

MOVE-G3 Ocean RA for the calibration of operational Seasonal Forecasts

1992 2003 2022

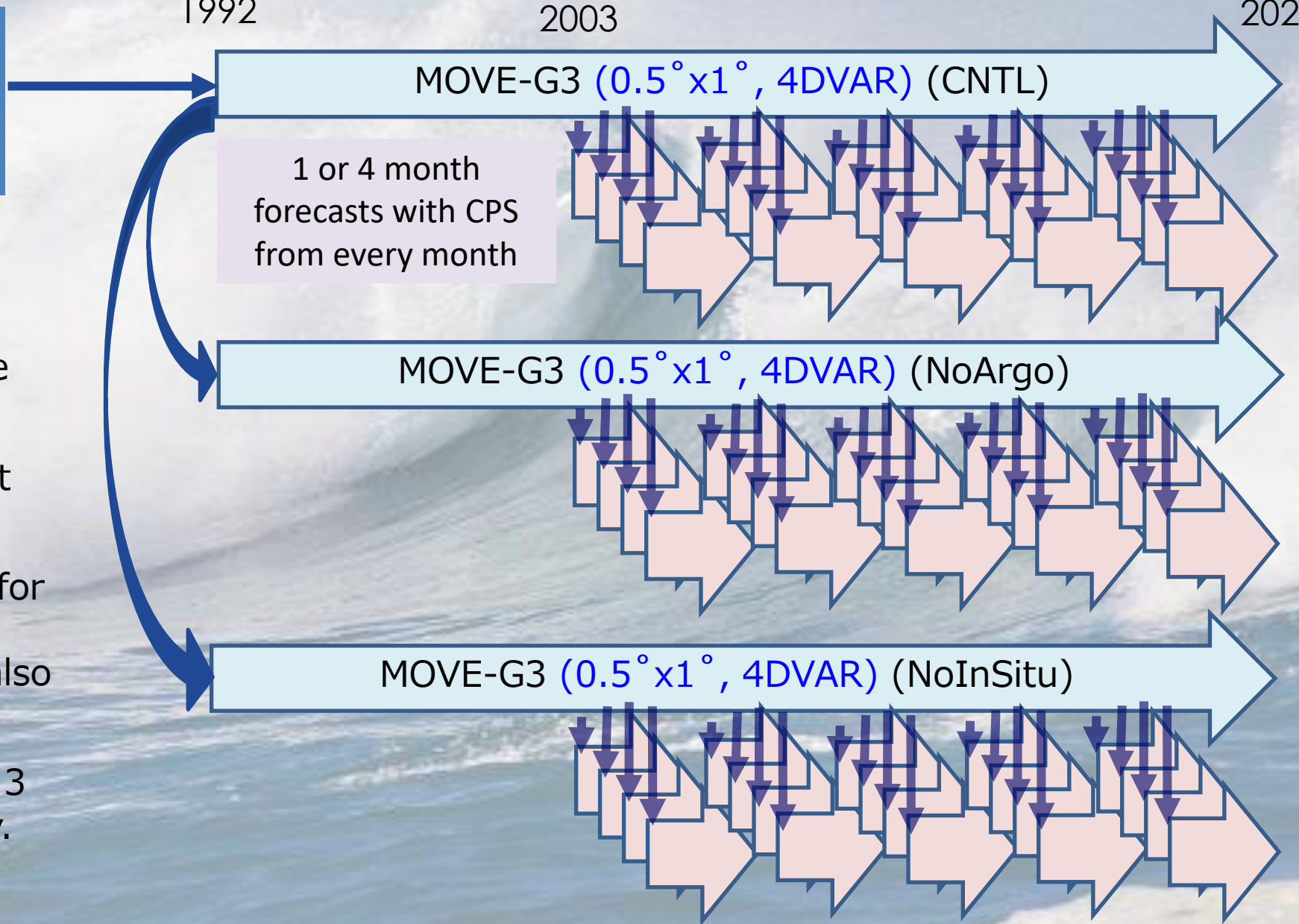
MOVE-G3 ( $0.5^\circ \times 1^\circ$ , 4DVAR) (CNTL)

1 or 4 month forecasts with CPS from every month

MOVE-G3 ( $0.5^\circ \times 1^\circ$ , 4DVAR) (NoArgo)

MOVE-G3 ( $0.5^\circ \times 1^\circ$ , 4DVAR) (NoInSitu)

- ✓ All RA runs except for CNTL and NoInSitu are still on-going.
- ✓ Forecast runs have not started yet.
- ✓ RA and Forecast runs for OP OSEs using higher resolution model are also planned.
- ✓ Only RA runs of these 3 OSEs are shown today.

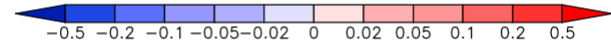
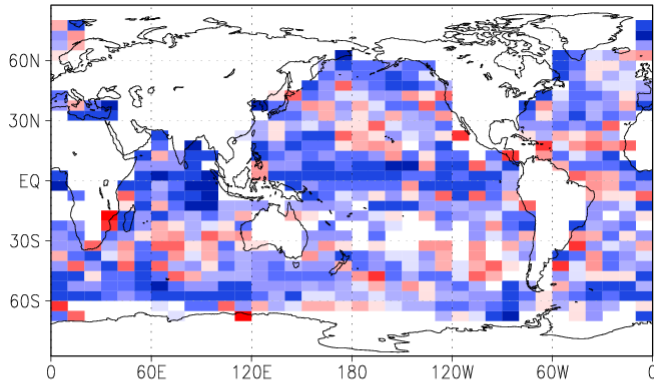




# ★ Differences of RMSE wrt. Independent Argo between OSEs (2003-2010)

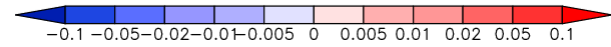
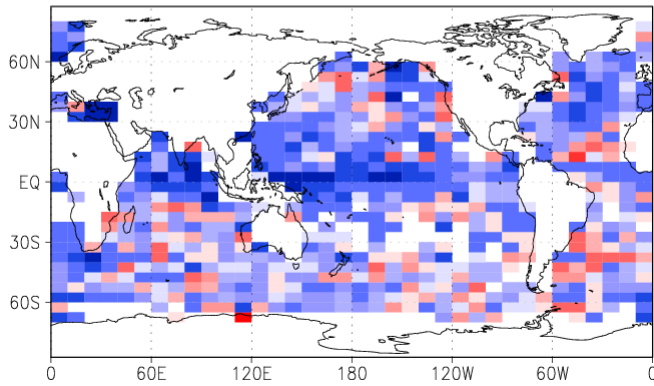
## RMSE(CNTL) – RMSE(NoInSitu)

100m T



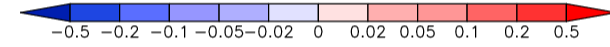
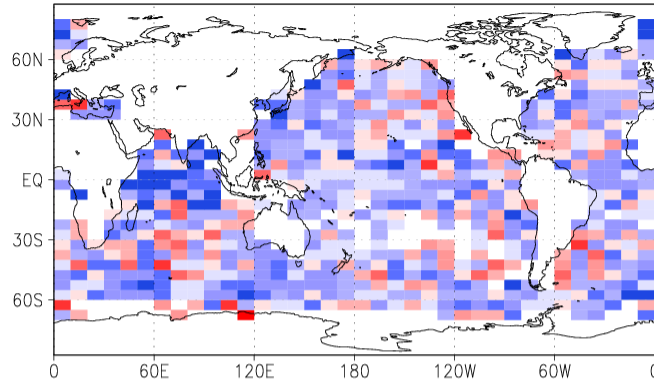
cntl-noinsitu S level:100m

100m S



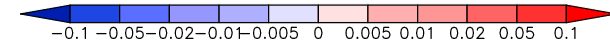
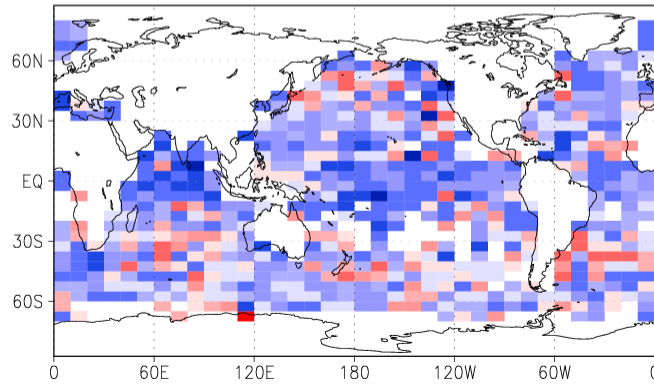
## RMSE(CNTL) – RMSE(NoArgo)

100m T



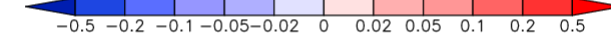
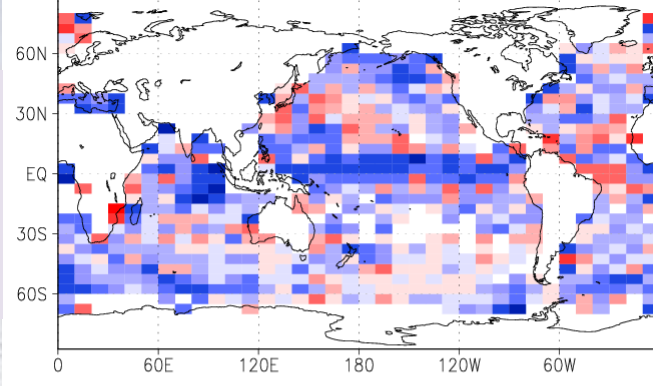
cntl-noargo S level:100m

100m S



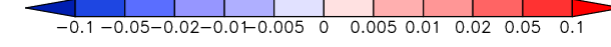
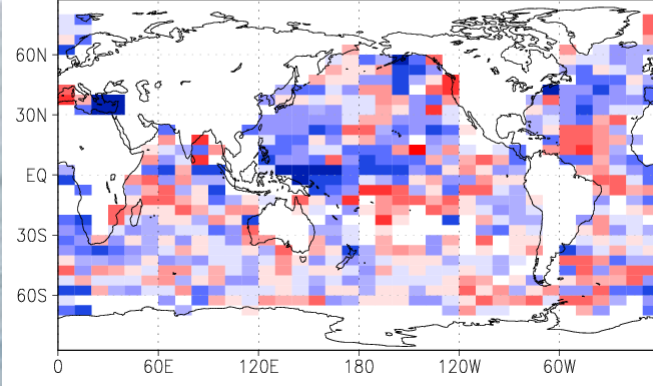
## RMSE(NoArgo) – RMSE(NoInSitu)

100m T



noargo-noinsitu S level:100m

100m S



➤ In situ observation impact is significant in a large part of the global ocean.

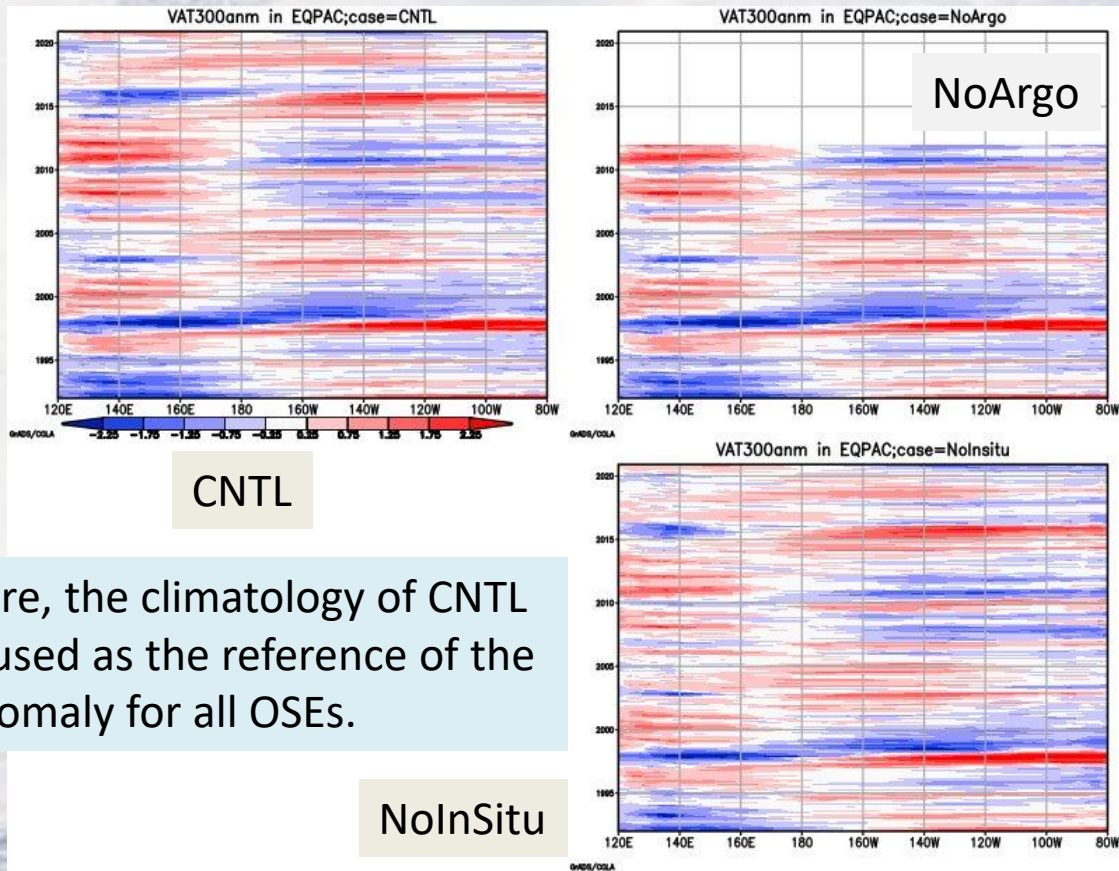
➤ Argo impact is spread over the entire global ocean.

➤ The large negative values in the tropical Pacific and Tropical Indian Ocean implies substantial impacts of the tropical moorings.



# ★ Lon-Time plots of 0-300m TS anomaly at the equator in the Pacific

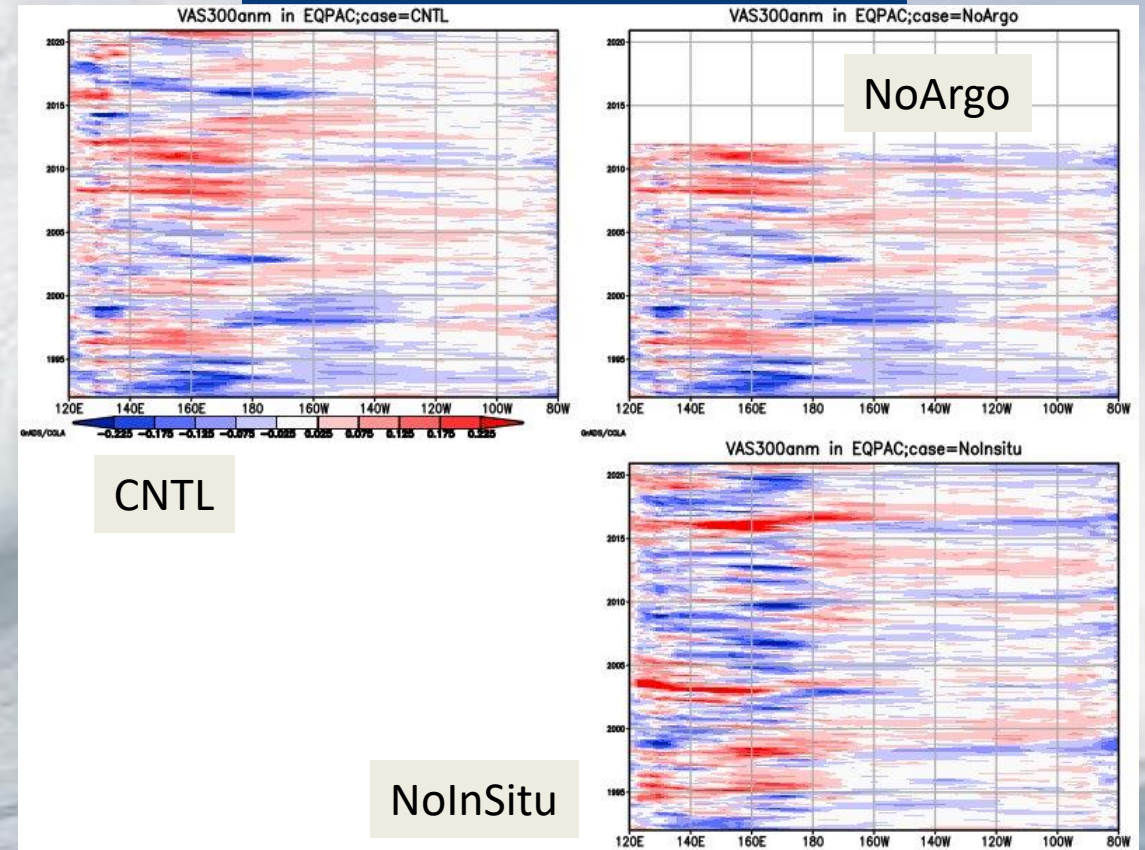
## 0-300m averaged Temperature



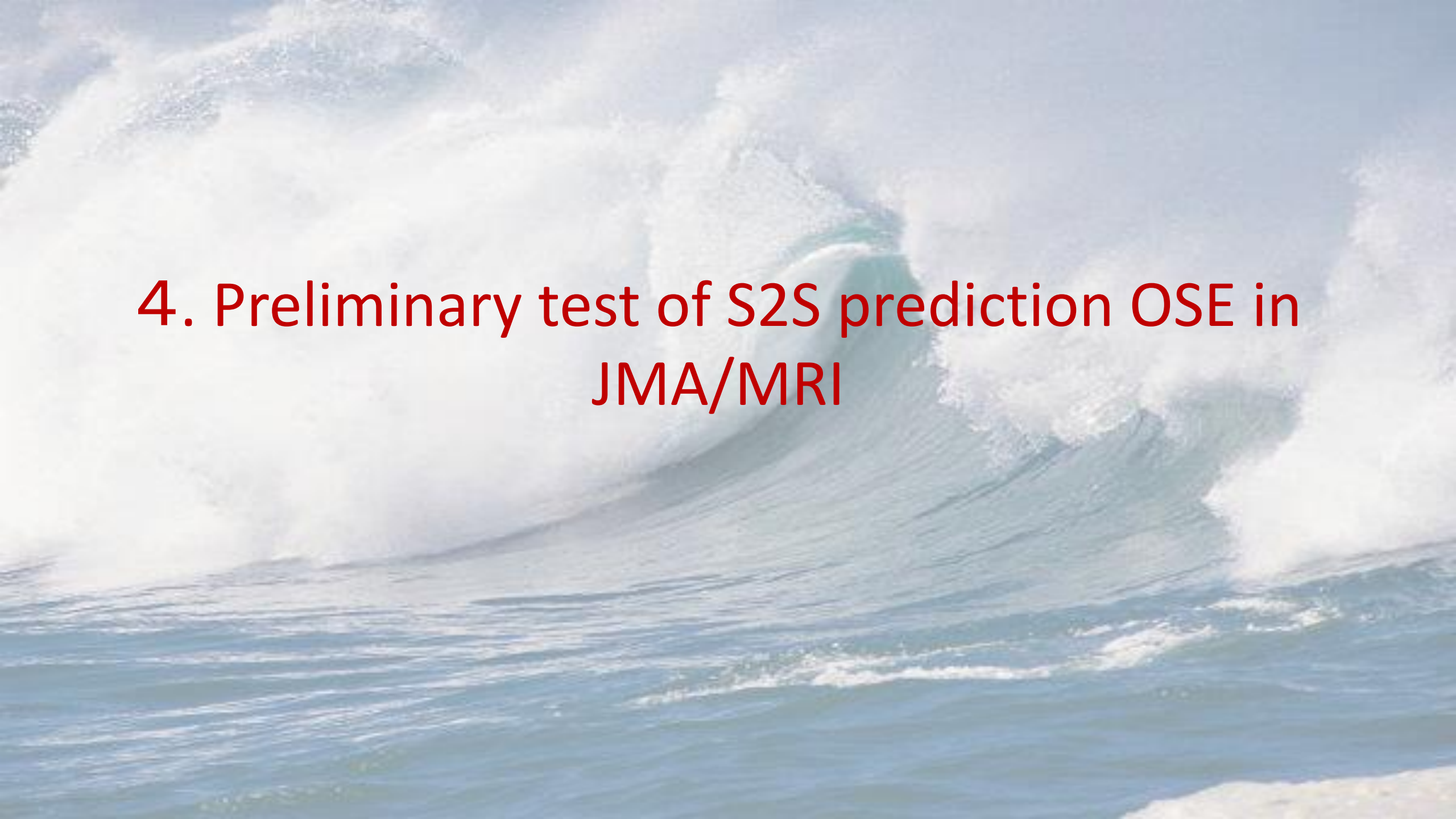
Here, the climatology of CNTL is used as the reference of the anomaly for all OSEs.

- The T plots of NoArgo and NoInSitu are very similar to the plot for CNTL. Satellite altimetry data, together with wind stress information are effective enough to capture the temperature variation in the equatorial Pacific.

## 0-300m averaged Salinity



- S plot of NoInSitu significantly differs from the plots of other OSEs. It indicates the necessity of the tropical mooring for reproducing the salinity variation.
- Similarity of the plot between CNTL and NoArgo shows the effectiveness of tropical moorings for reproducing salinity variations.



4. Preliminary test of S2S prediction OSE in  
JMA/MRI



# ★ Setting of the preliminary test

CPS3:TL159+G100

1989

Forced by the atmospheric reanalysis, JRA-3Q

2016

Ocean RA of MOVE-G3A for the calibration of operational Seasonal Forecasts

MOVE-G3 (**3D-Var Version**) (SSTonly)

MOVE-G3 (**3D-Var Version**) (CNTL)

MOVE-G3 (**No Assimilation**) (FREE)

1991

CPS3LL, 5-month forecasts (for each OSE)

CPS3LL: **Lower-resolution version of CPS3** (Atmos: TL159, Ocean:  $0.3-0.5^\circ \times 1^\circ$ )

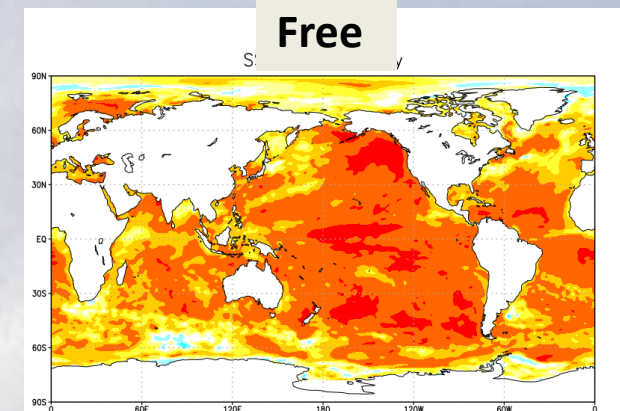
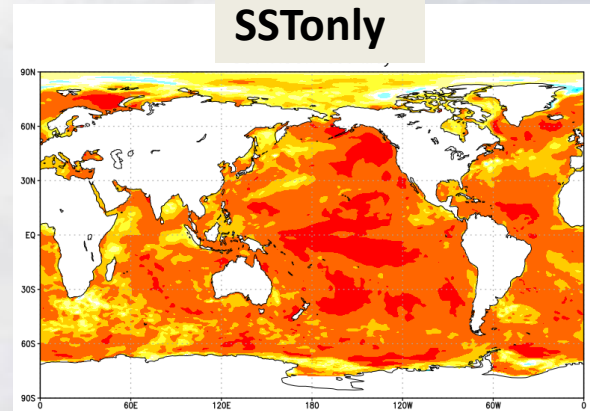
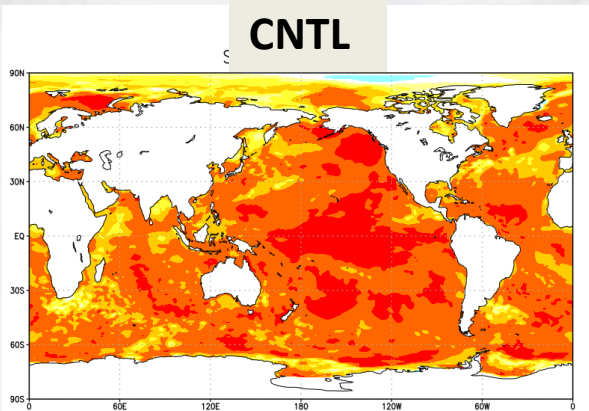
- ◆ Forecasts are started from Apr. 26<sup>th</sup> of every year
- ◆ Atmospheric Initial Condition: JRA-3Q



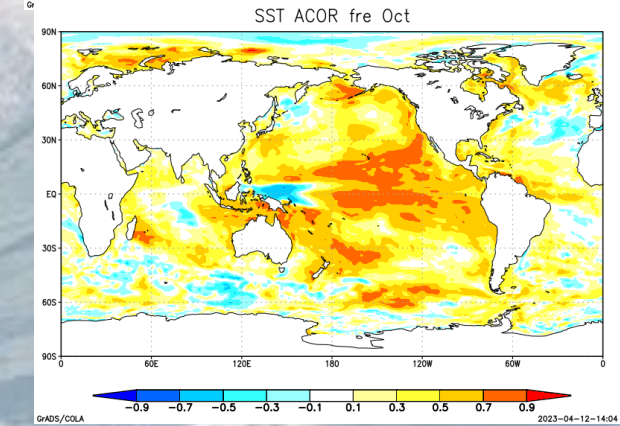
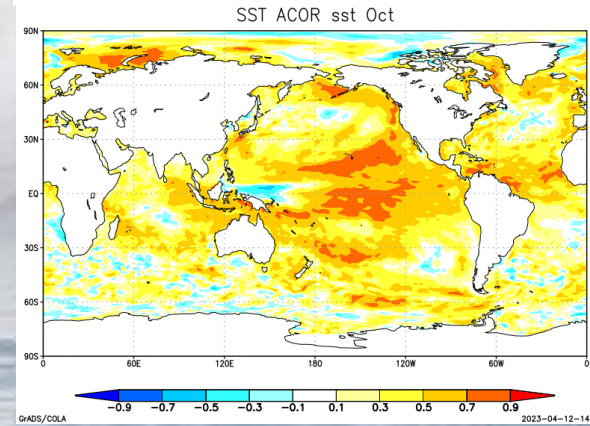
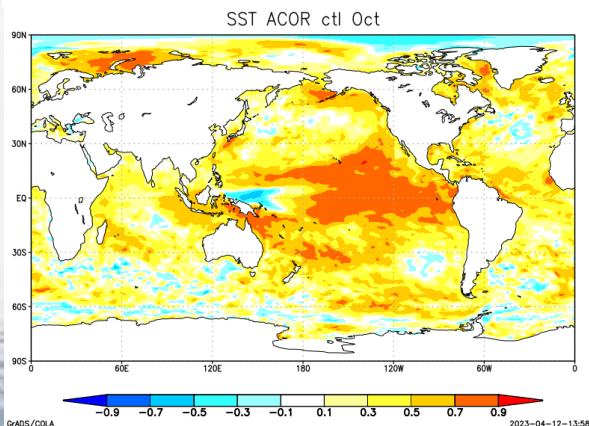
# ★ ACC of forecasted SST for the 1st and 6th Month

ACC: Anomaly Correlation Coefficient

May  
(1st Mon)



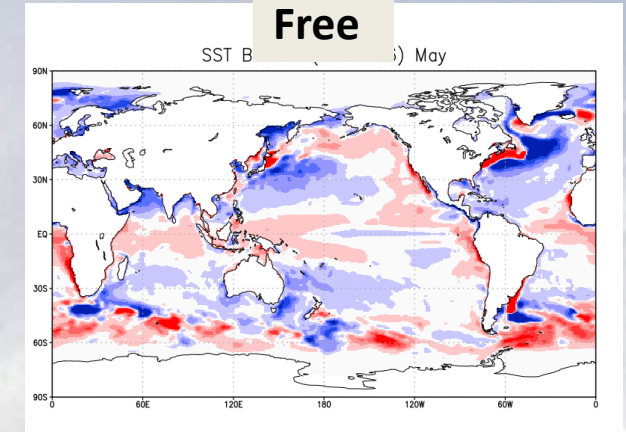
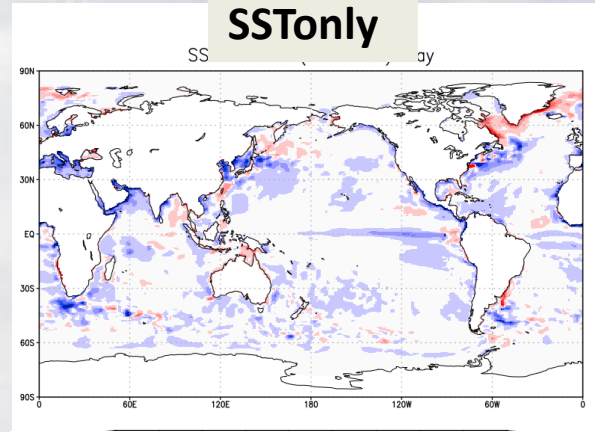
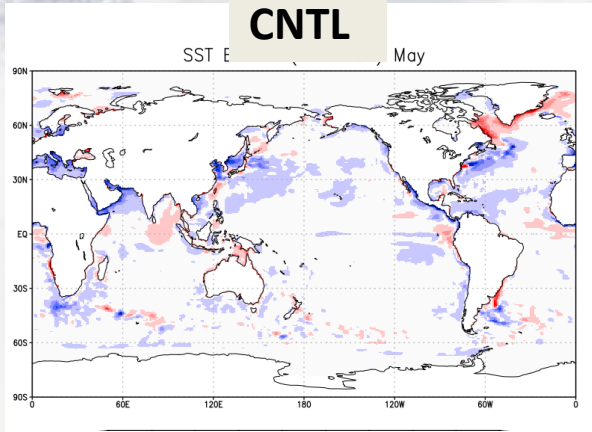
October  
(6th Mon)



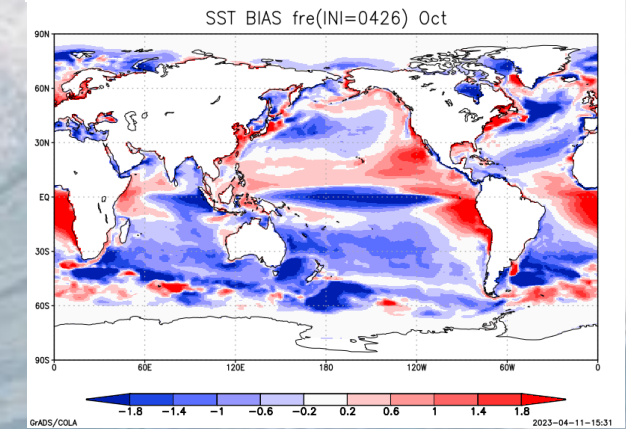
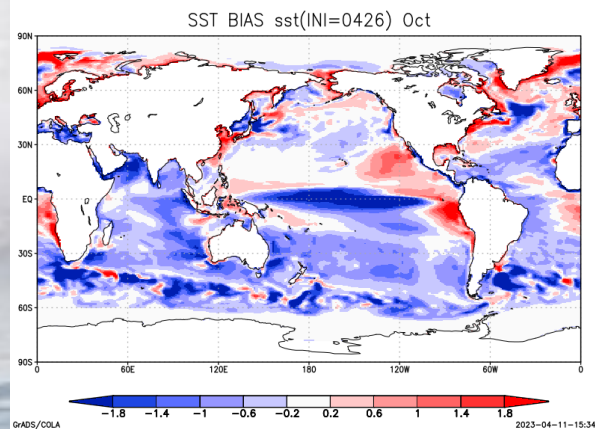
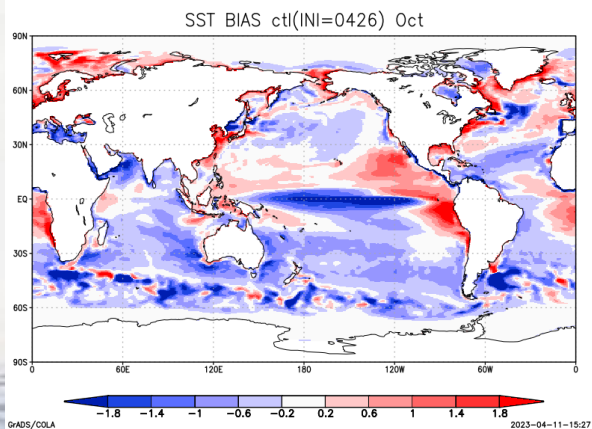
- In the 1st month, the difference is clear for the areas in which ACC is more than 0.8 in the tropical Pacific.
- In the 6th month, the improved ACC score in CNTL is significant. But, the difference between SSTonly and Free is not clear.

# ★ Bias of forecasted SST for the 1st and 6th Month

May  
(1st Mon)



October  
(6th Mon)



- The cold bias in the equatorial Pacific and the south hemisphere in SSTOnly in the 1st month is reduced by assimilating in-situ and satellite altimetry data in CNTL.
- Although the ACC difference is small between SSTOnly and Free in the 6th month, the SST bias is clearly reduced in the North Pacific in the range in SSTOnly.



A large, powerful ocean wave is shown crashing, with a massive wall of white foam and spray rising from the base of the wave. The water is a deep blue color, and the sky is a clear, light blue. The wave is moving from the left towards the right of the frame.

## 5. Summary

## ★ Summary and Concluding Remarks

- UN Ocean Decade Project SynObs is now implementing a multi-system OSE/OSSE collaborations, named the flagship OSEs/OSSEs.
- In the flagship OSEs/OSSEs, we try to remove system dependency by averaging OSE results of various systems and try to make fair evaluation and design.
- SynObs will share the OSE/OSSE results through a public web database prepared by JAMSTEC-APL.
- The flagship OSE/OSSE results will be analyzed several analysis groups.
- **The results of OSEs in JMA/MRI demonstrate impacts of Argo floats, tropical moorings, other in situ observations, and satellite altimetry data on the ocean reanalysis.**
- **Please mail to SynObs ([synobs@mri-jma.go.jp](mailto:synobs@mri-jma.go.jp)) to join the SynObs activities.** (We share the information on the activity through the SynObs mailing list and the SynObs web meetings.)



SynObs Webpage:  
<https://oceanpredict.org/un-decade-of-ocean-science/synobs-2/>

**Thank you!!**