



Centre d'études  
biologiques de  
**Chizé**



# 20 ans d'observations de l'Océan Austral par les éléphants de mer tout en étudiant leur écologie.

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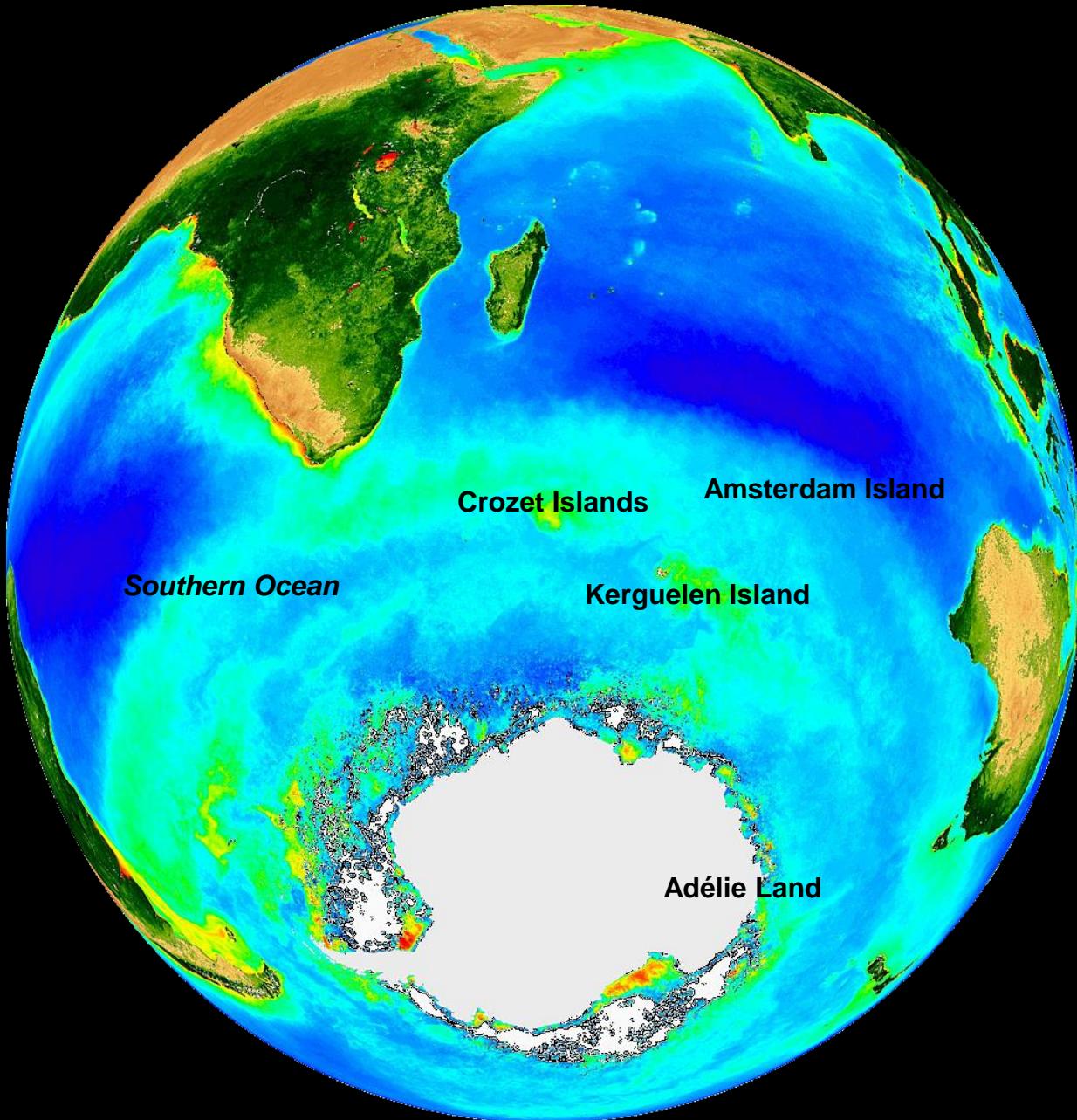
UIA, Niort le 10 octobre 2024

# Centre d'Études Biologiques de Chizé

## Ecologie et Evolution des vertébrés

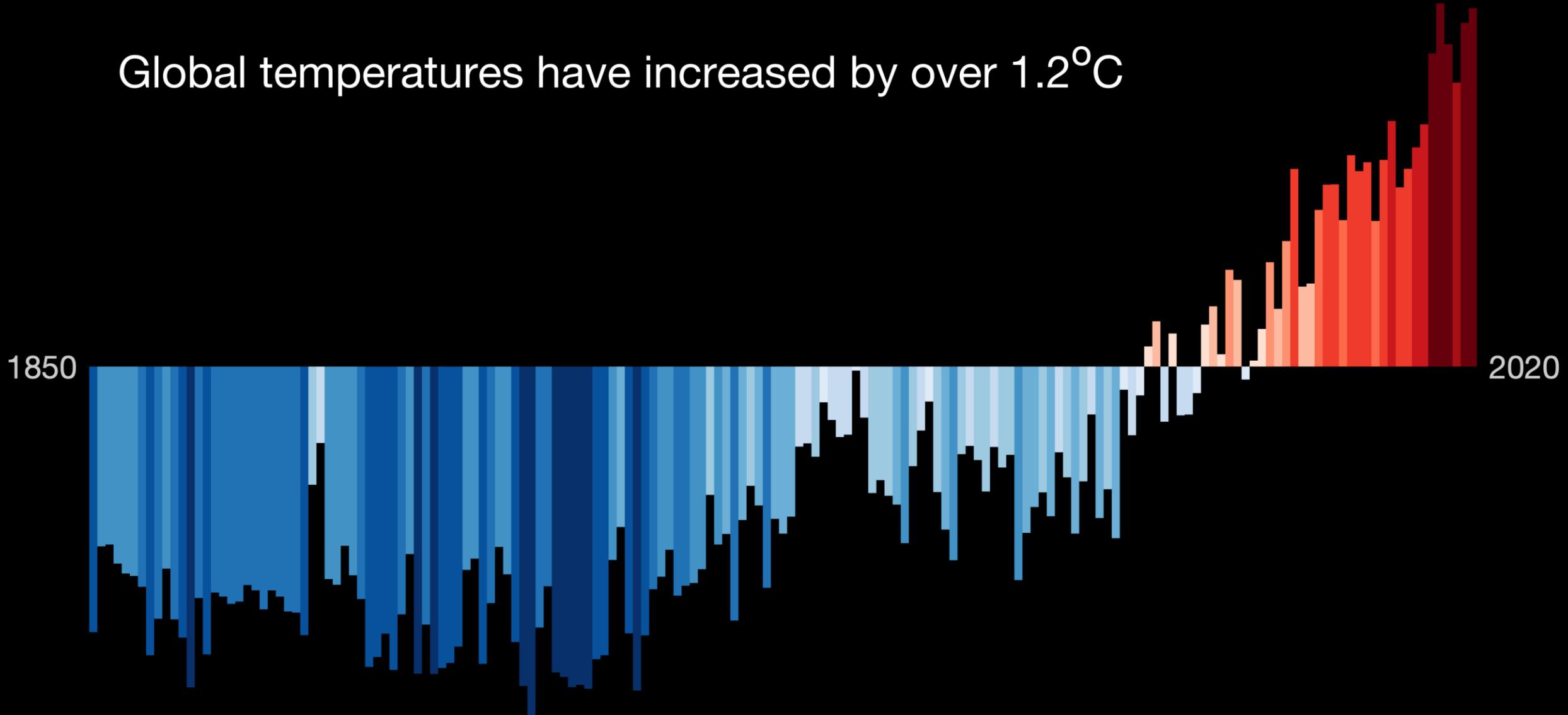
La Rochelle

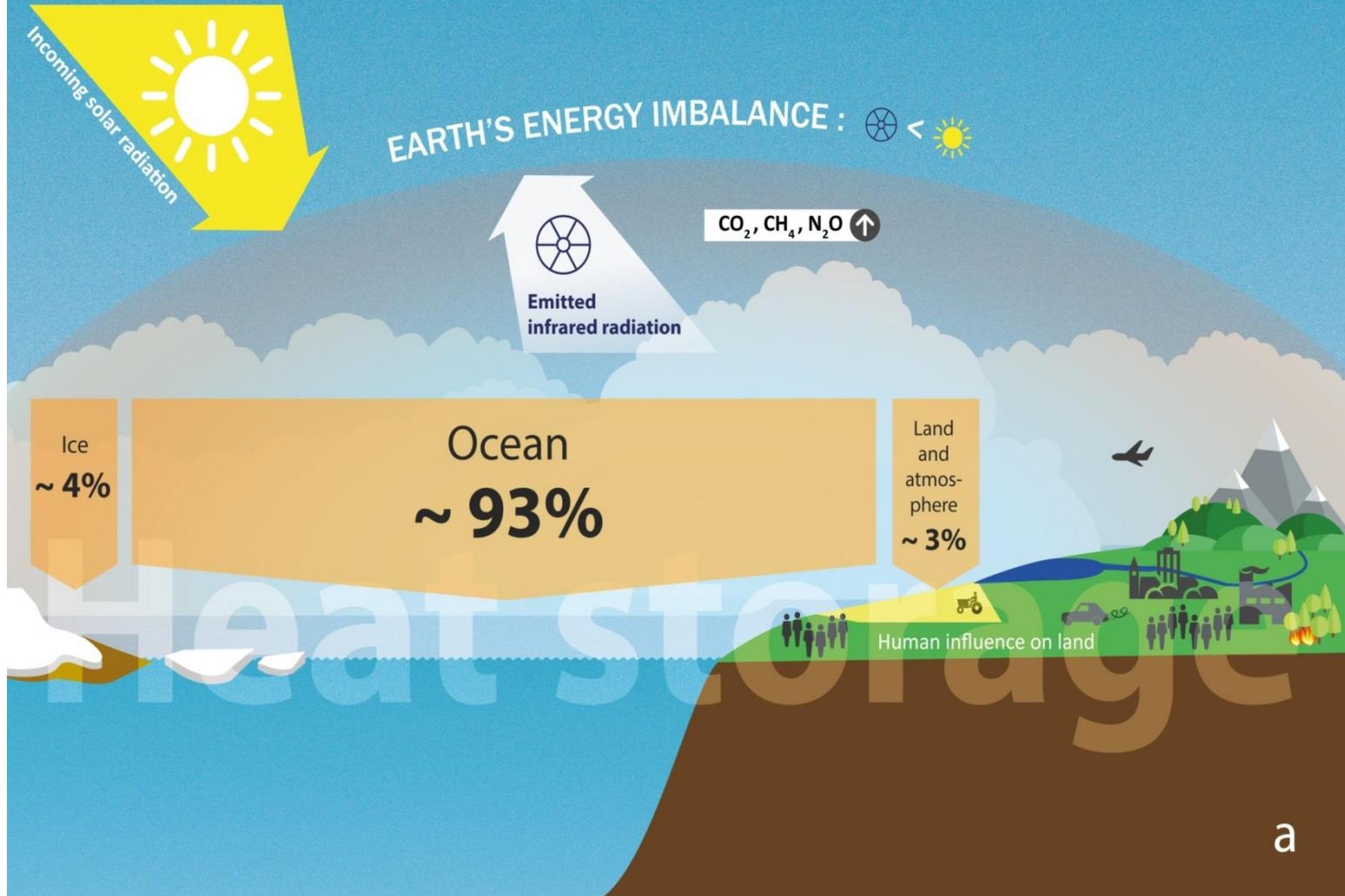




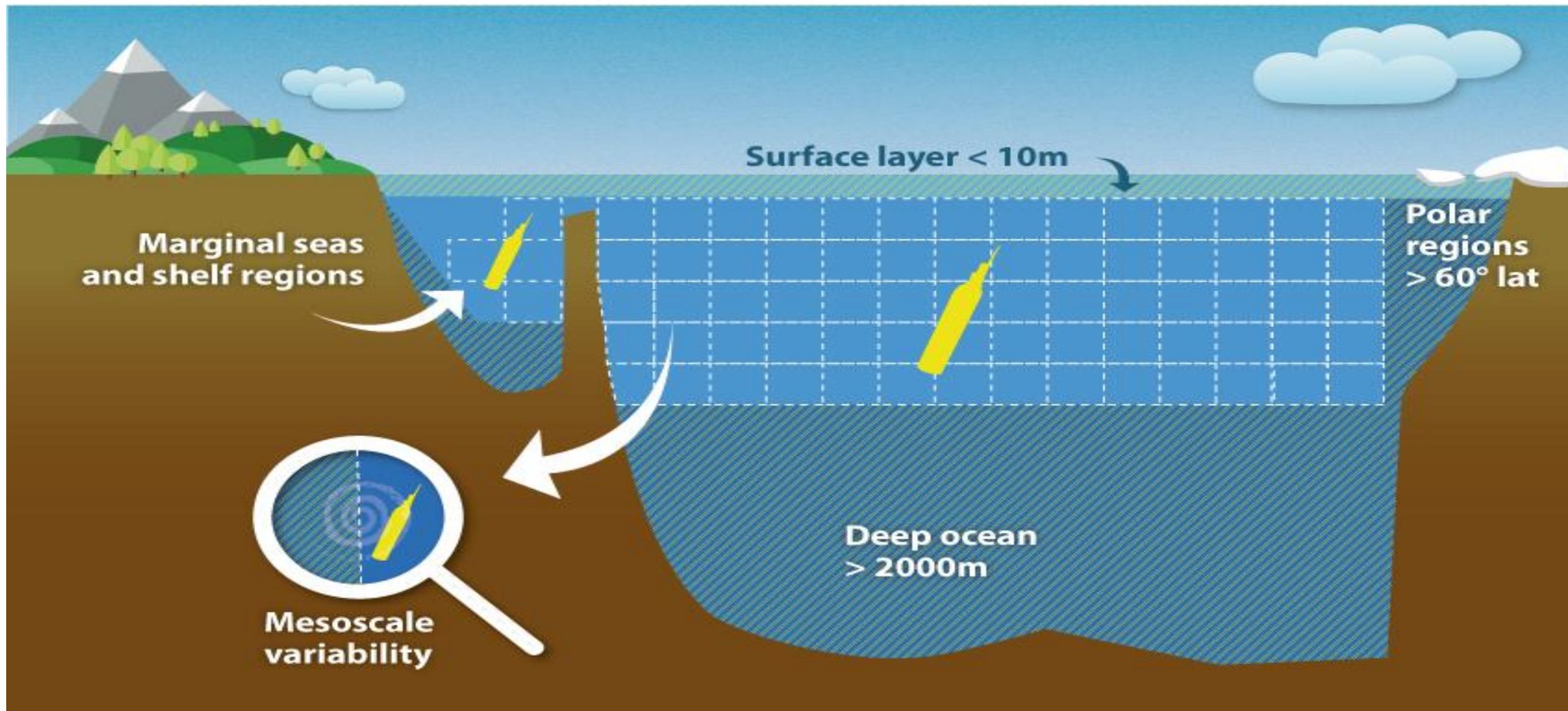


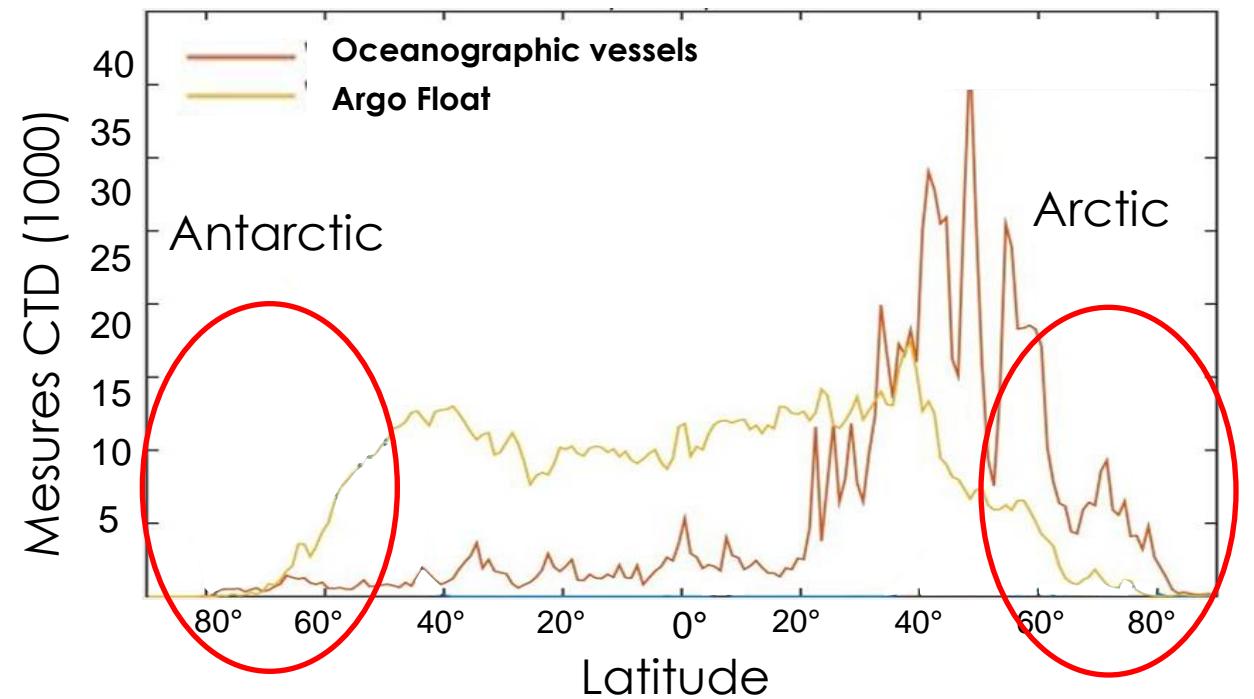
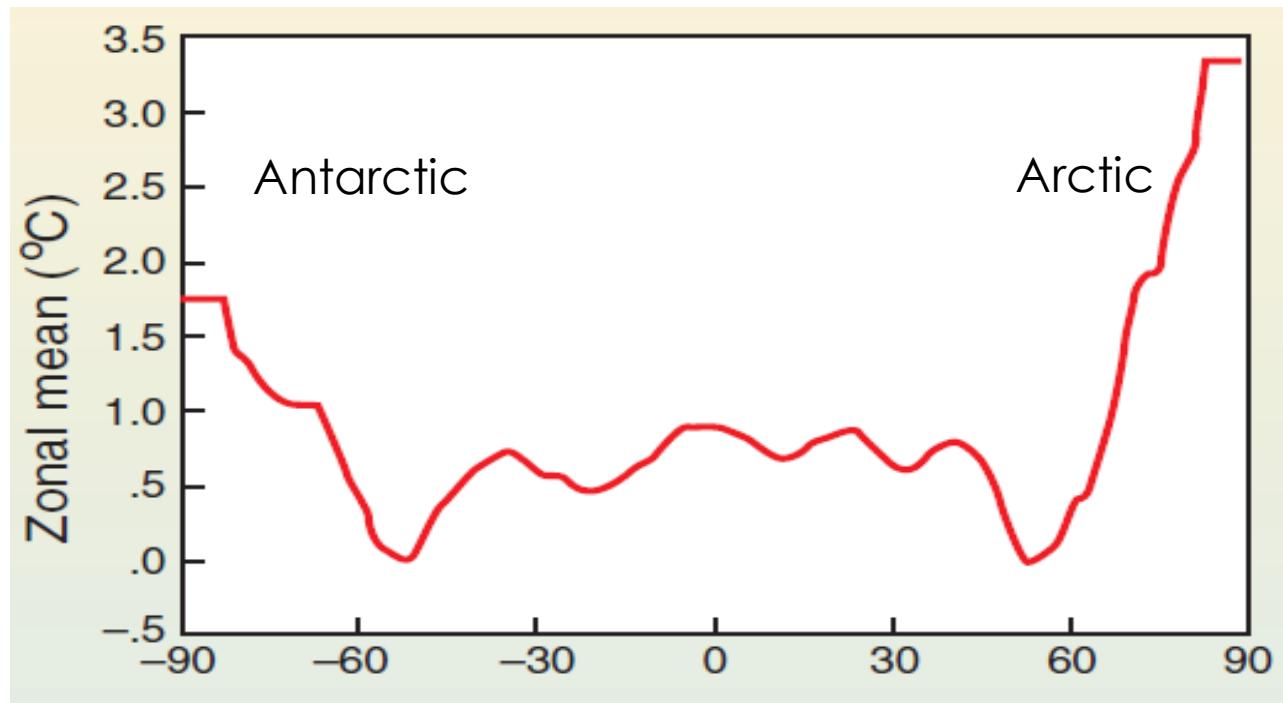
Global temperatures have increased by over 1.2°C





# L'Océan Global: Des zones sous observées



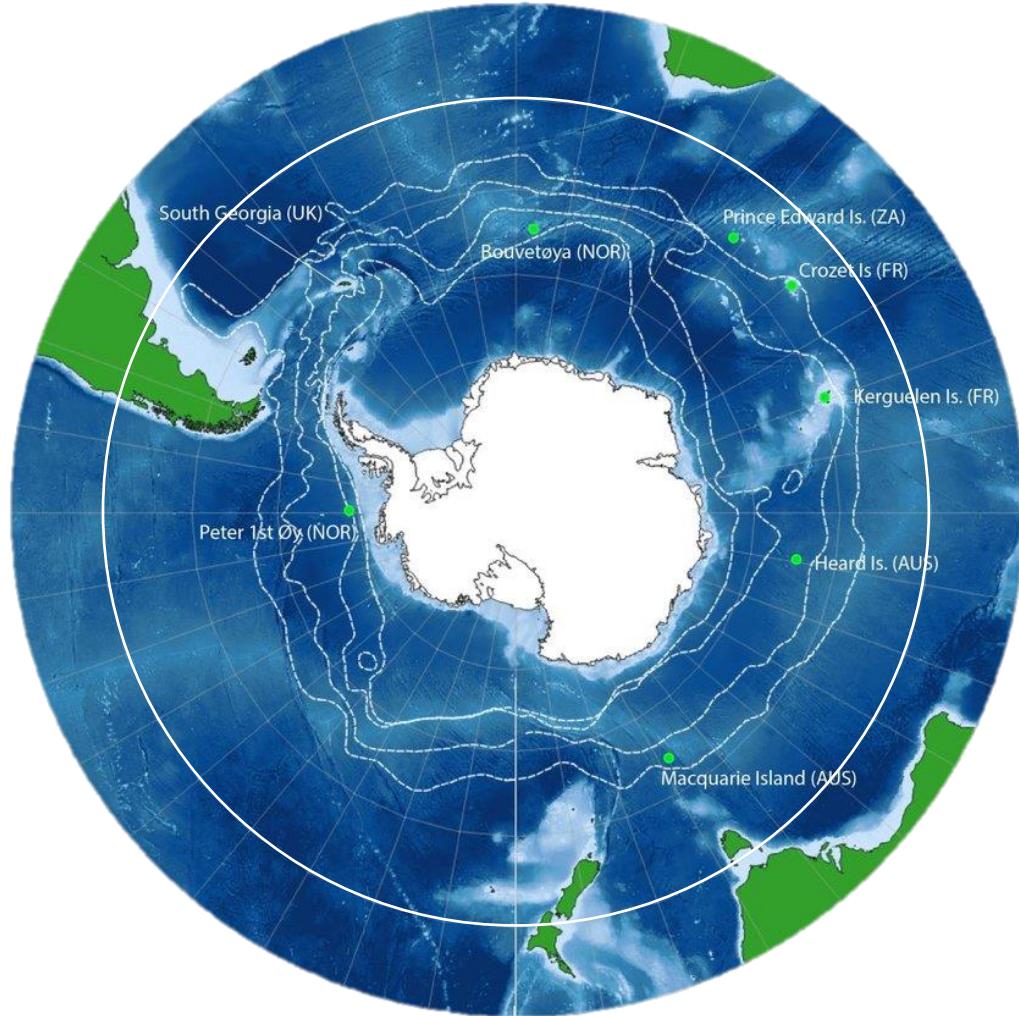


## Dans un contexte de changements rapides :

Les animaux marins deviennent de nouveaux auxiliaires pour:

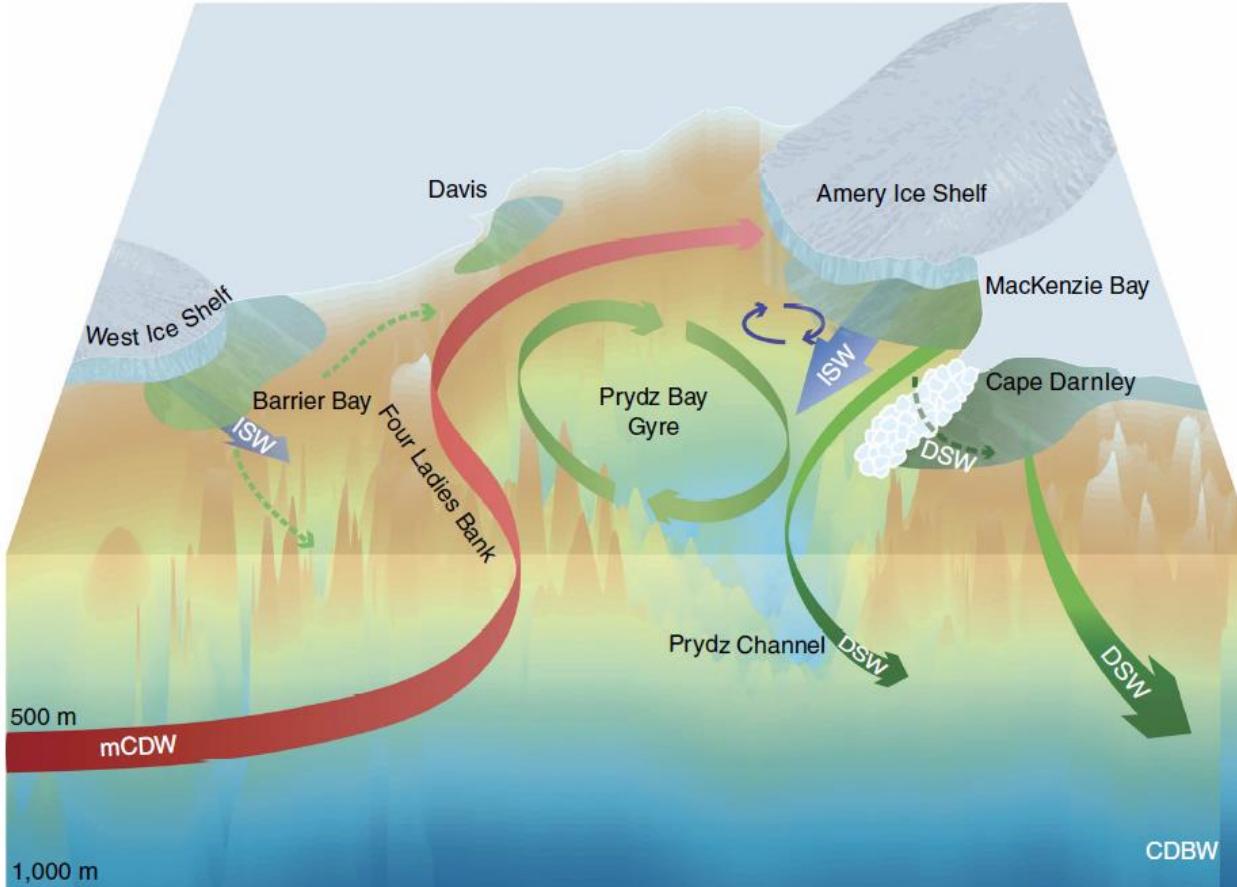
- observer les changements la physiques et la biologie de l'Océan
- évaluer les conséquences écologiques de ces changements.

# L'océan austral



Par rapport à l'Océan global,  
l'océan austral c'est :

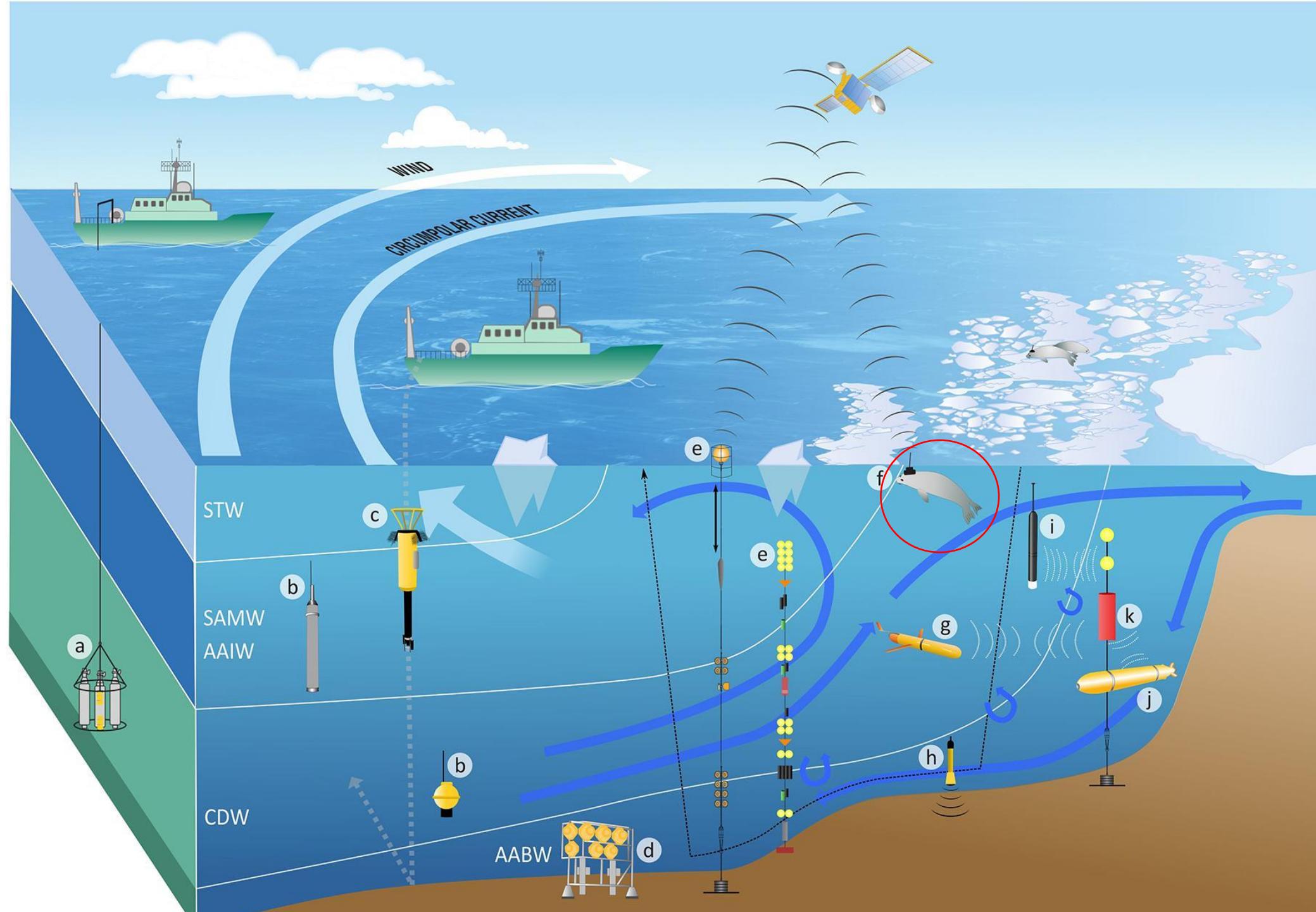
- 10% de sa surface
- 25% de la production primaire
- 40 % du puit de carbone
- 70% du stockage de l'excès de chaleur

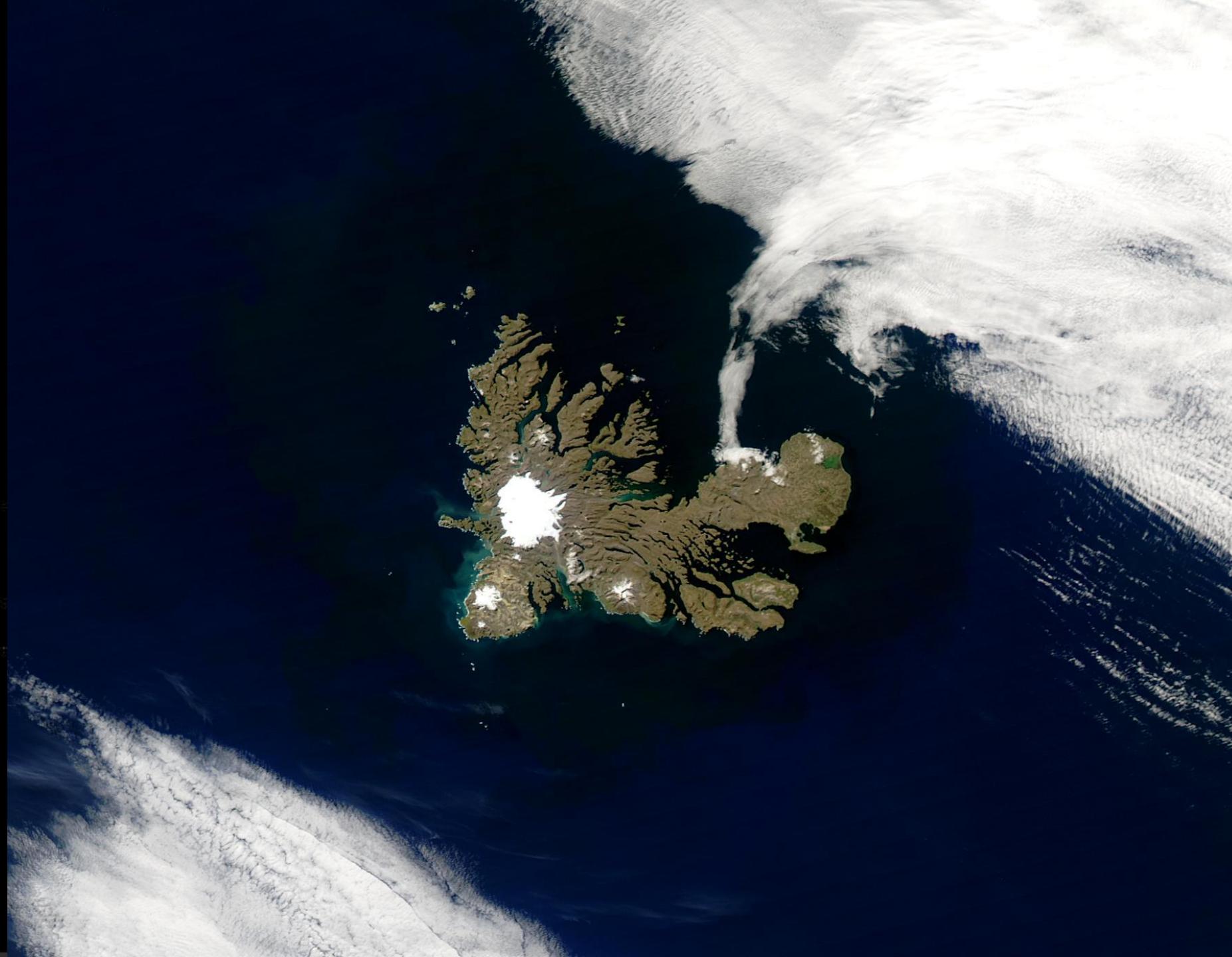


DSW= cold Dense Shelf Water  
 mCDW: modified Circumpolar Deep Water

Williams, G. D., Herraiz-Borreguero, L., Roquet, F., Tamura, T., Ohshima, K. I., Fukamachi, Y., Fraser, A. D., Gao, L., Chen, H., McMahon, C. R., Harcourt, R., and Hindell, M., 2016. The suppression of Antarctic bottom water formation by melting ice shelves in Prydz Bay. *Nature Communication*, 7. doi: 10.1038/ncomms12577

PelicheroV., Sallée J.B., Chapman C.C., Downes S.M. 2018 The southern ocean meridional overturning in the sea-ice sector is driven by freshwater fluxes. *Nature Communication*







MARION DUFRESNE  
Marseille

















73-2 ESTA











Mirounga leonina:  
un phoque d'exception

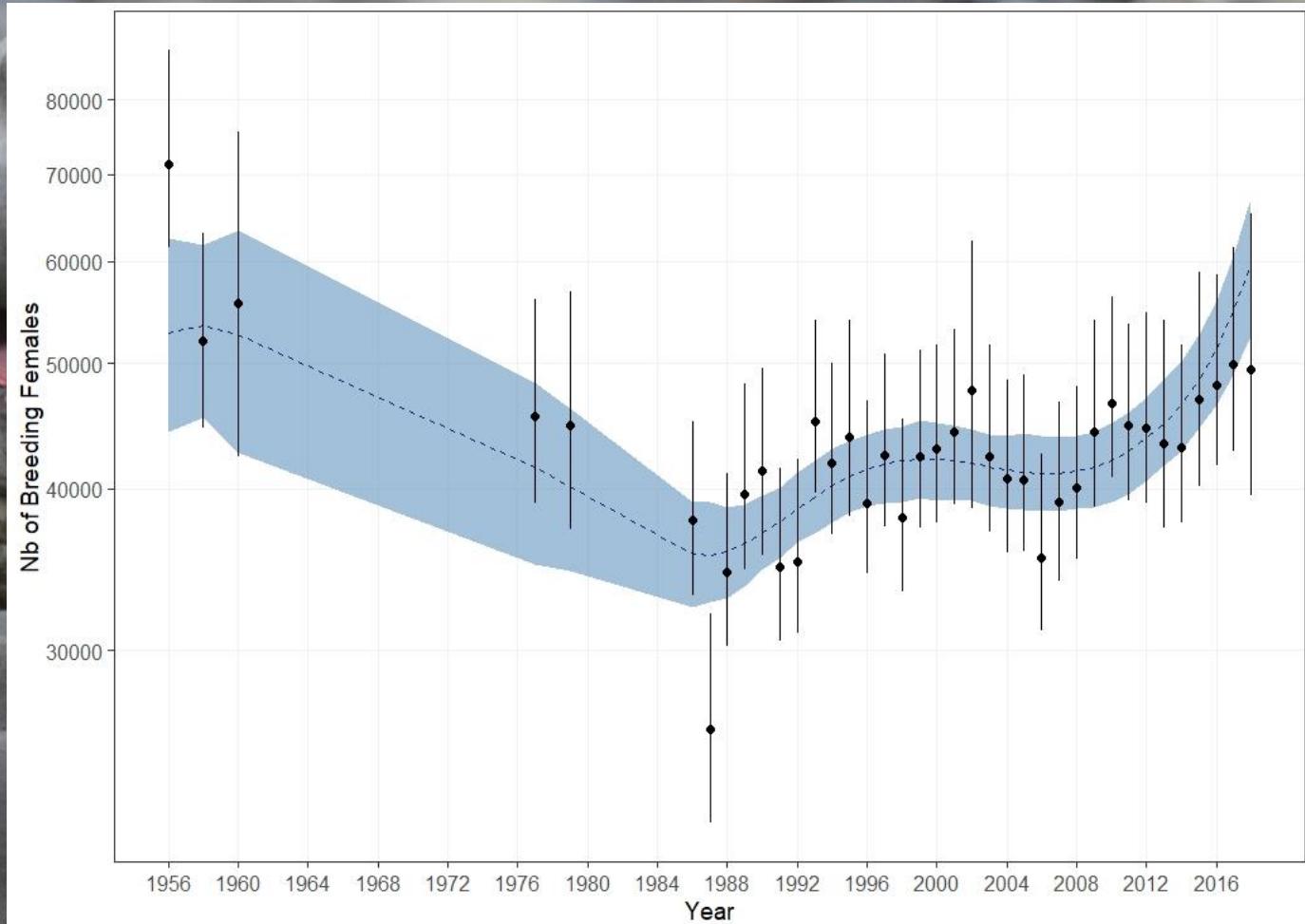
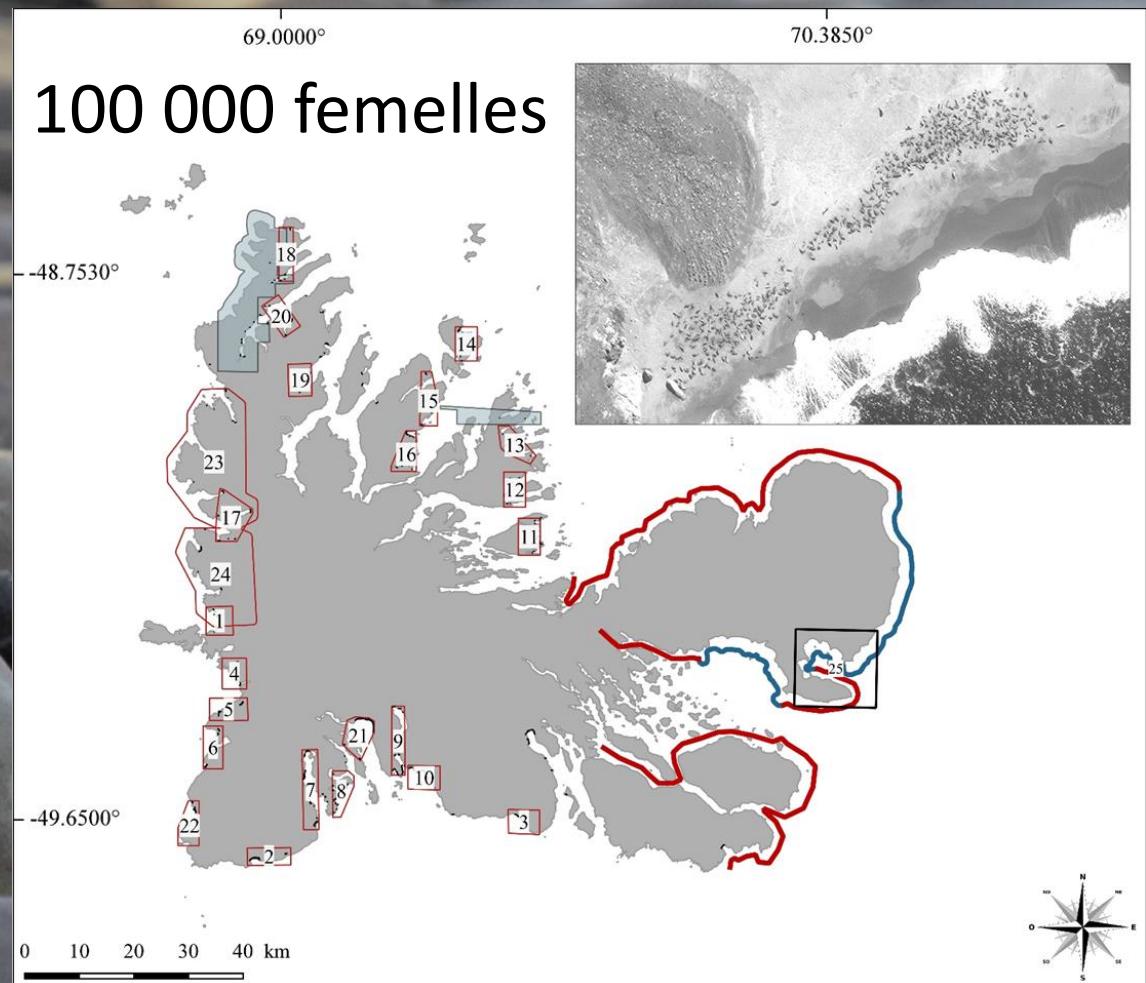
## L'éléphant de mer le plus grand des phoques

- male 2-3 tonnes pour 4,3 m, 10-11 ans, 14 ans
- femelles 300-600 kg pour 2,3 m, 3-4 ans, 18 ans







































**Biotelemetry** : Argos Transmitted  
(2-4 profiles/day), Real time

- Depth
- Temperature (0.02°C)
- Salinity (1Hz, 0.03 PSU)
- (Fluorescence)
- Dissolved oxygen

**Biologging** : Archived (the tag  
need to be recovered)

- Depth (1Hz)
- Temperature (1Hz, 0.02°C)
- Salinity (1Hz, 0.03 PSU)
- Fluorescence, (1Hz 4/profiles per day)
- Dissolved oxygen (1 Hz, 4 profiles per day)
- Light (1 Hz)
- Accelerometer (12Hz)







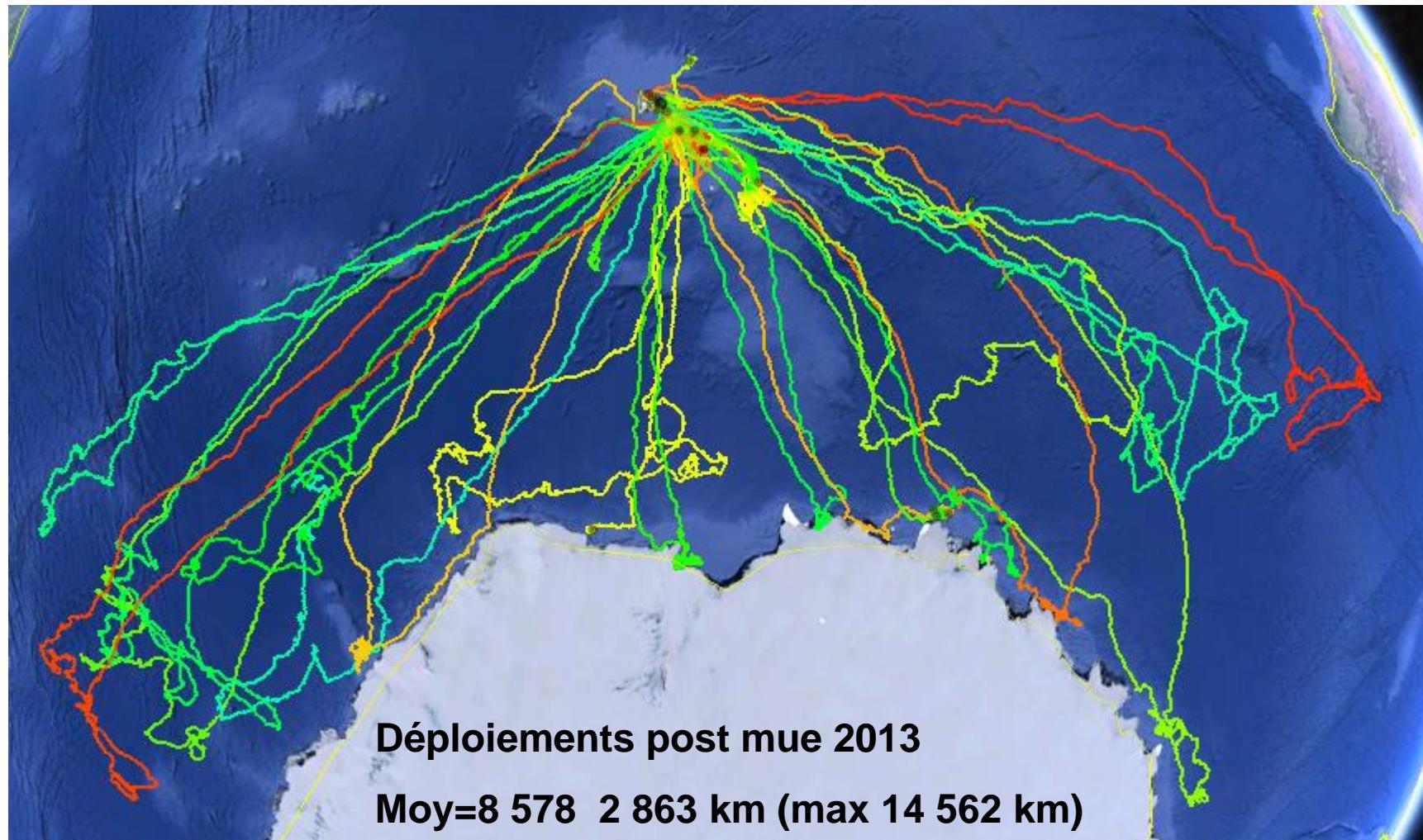


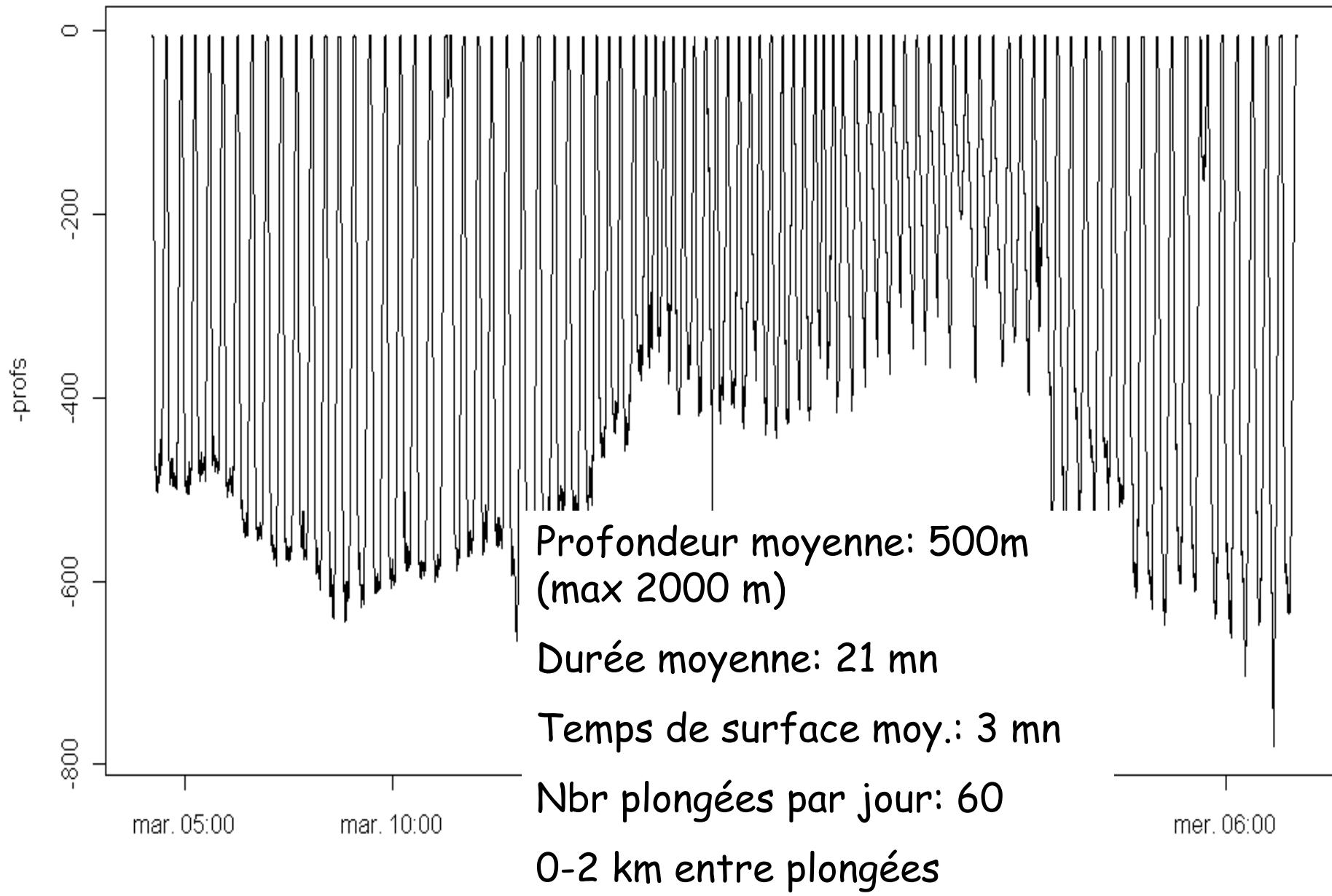
Mue

Reproduction

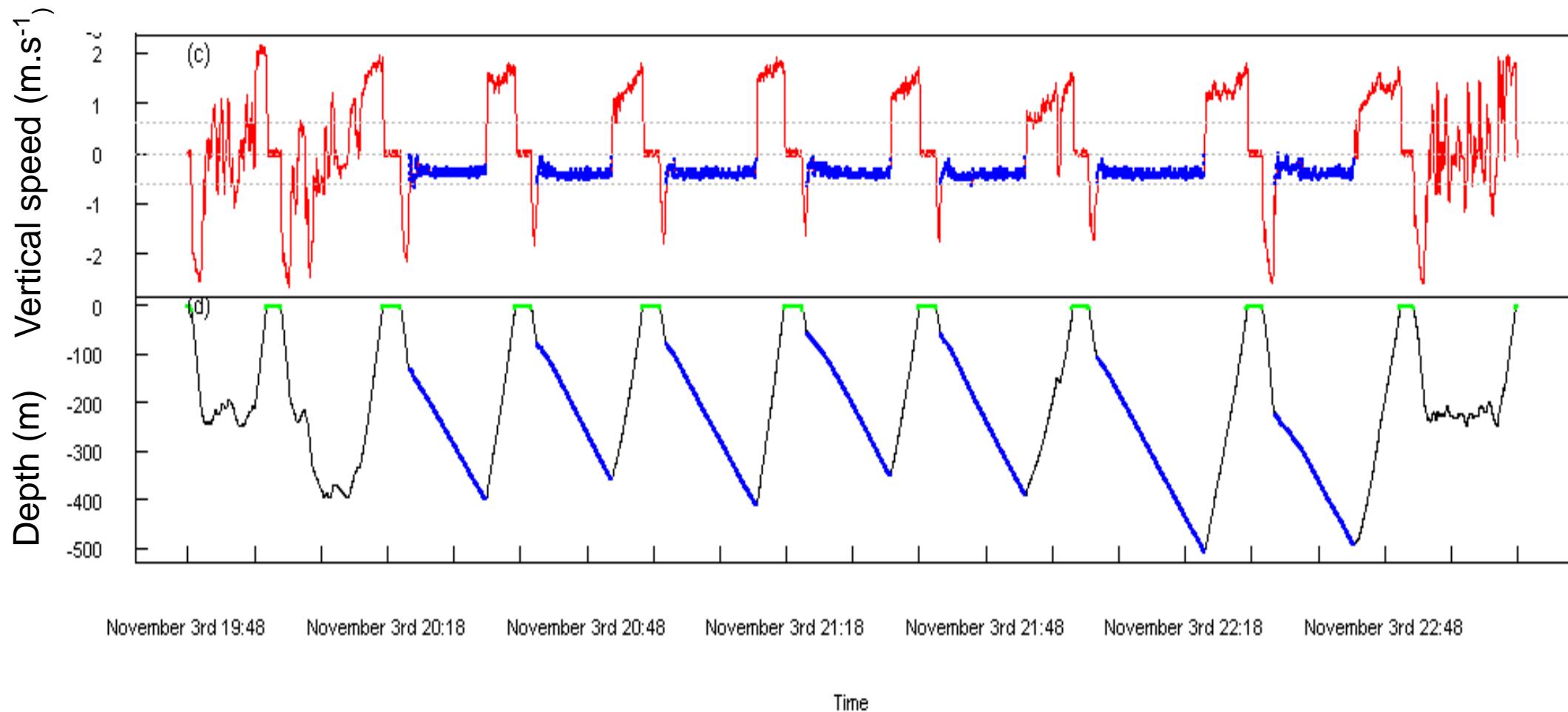
- 10 mois en mer

- 2 mois à terre pour se reproduire et muer



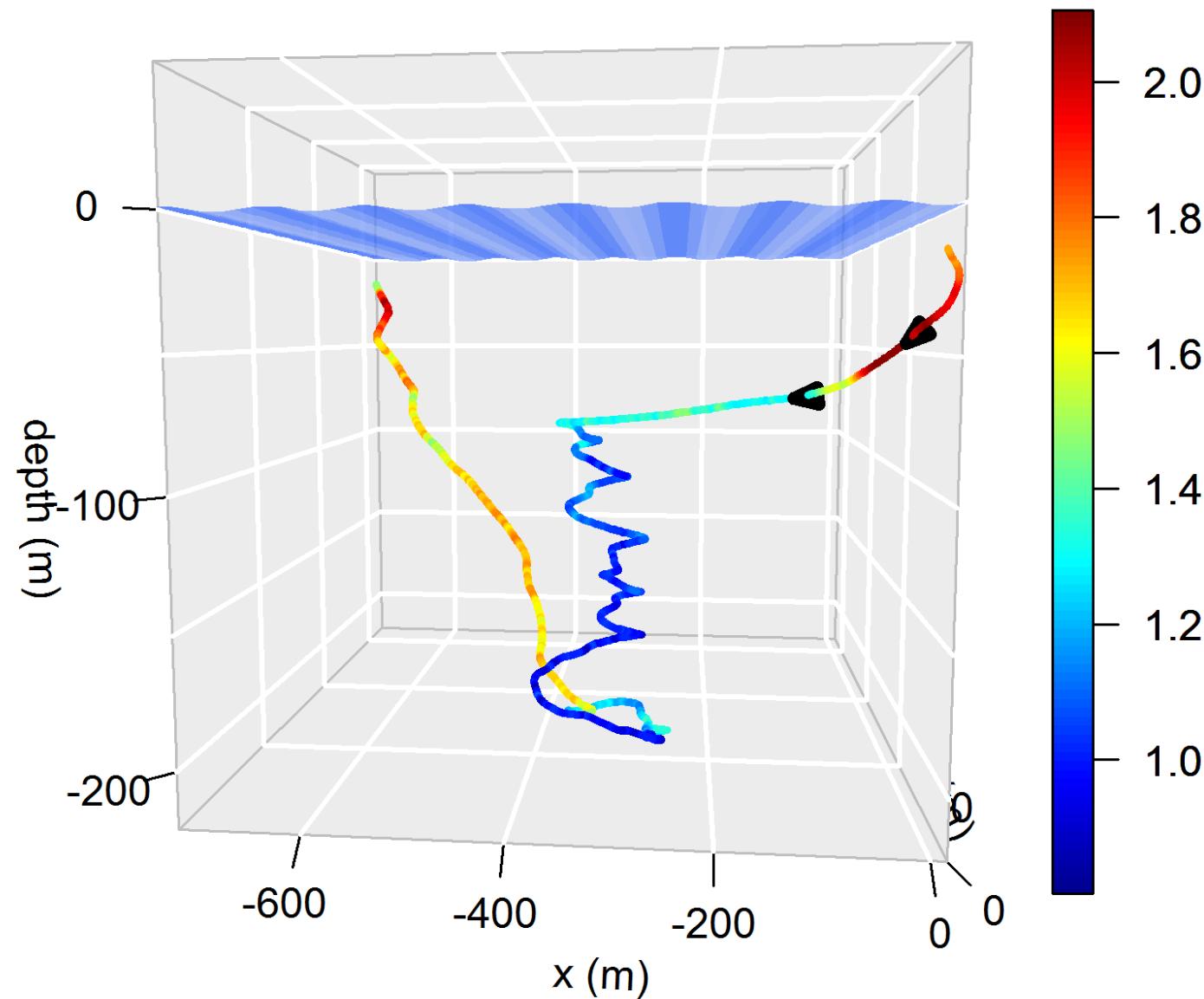


# Evaluer le changement de la flottabilité (condition) des éléphants de mer Les plongées de dérive passive



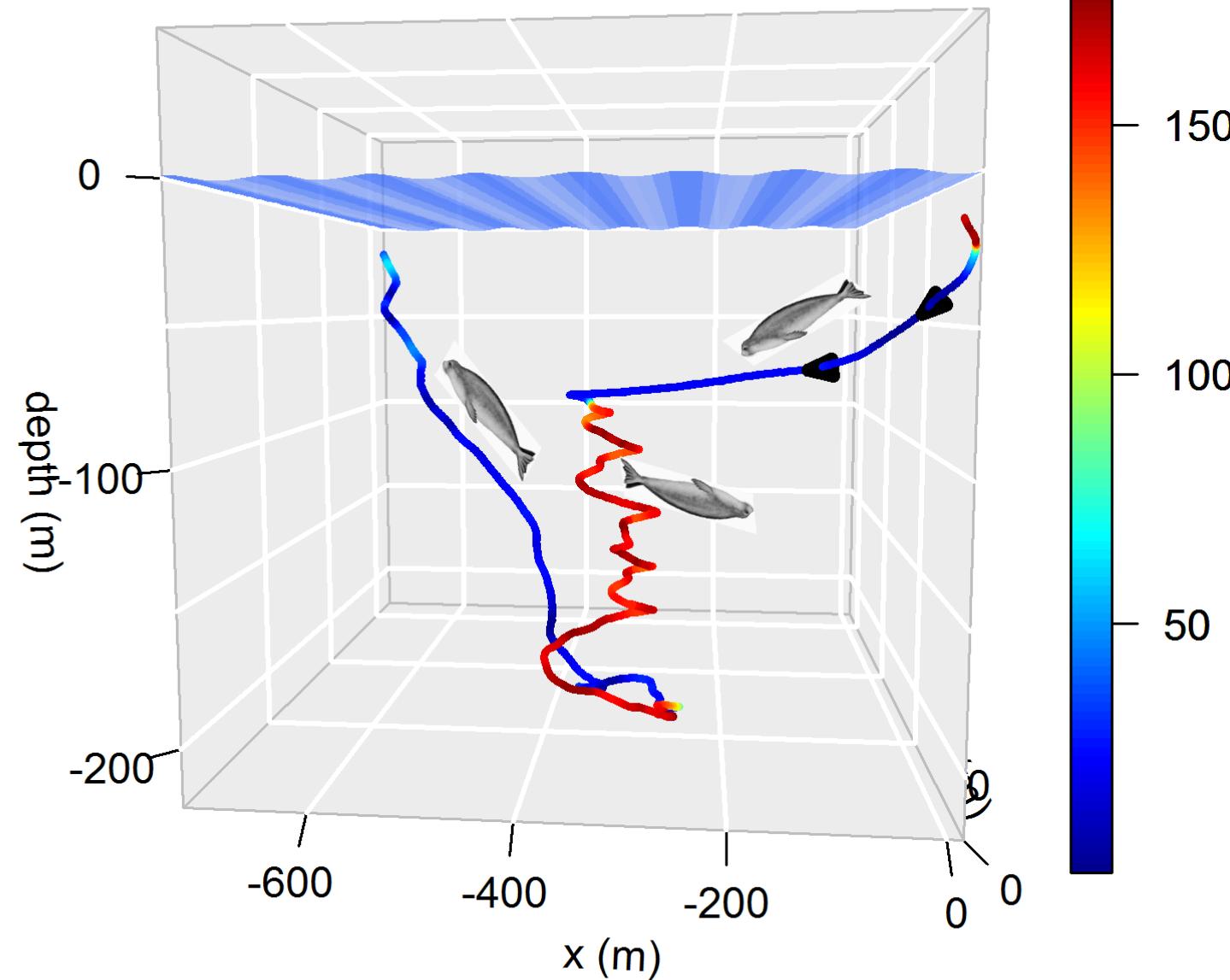
# Dive 85

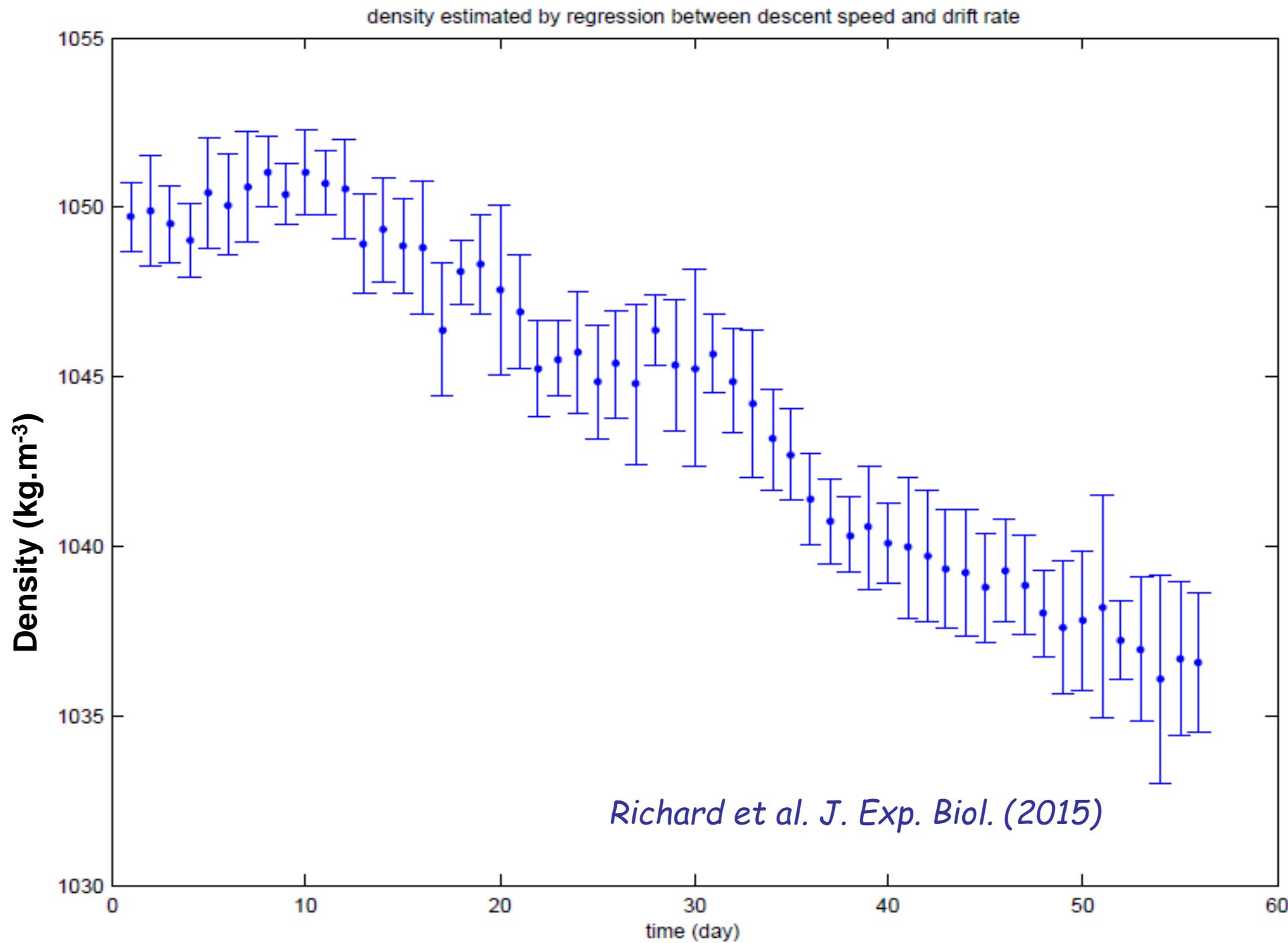
Speed ( $\text{m/s}^2$ )



# Dive 85

Roll ( $^{\circ}$ )







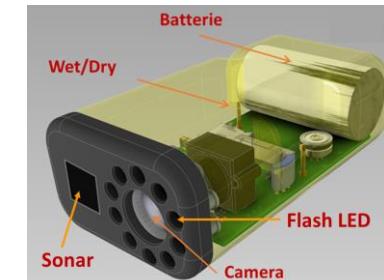
CTD-Fluo + lumière



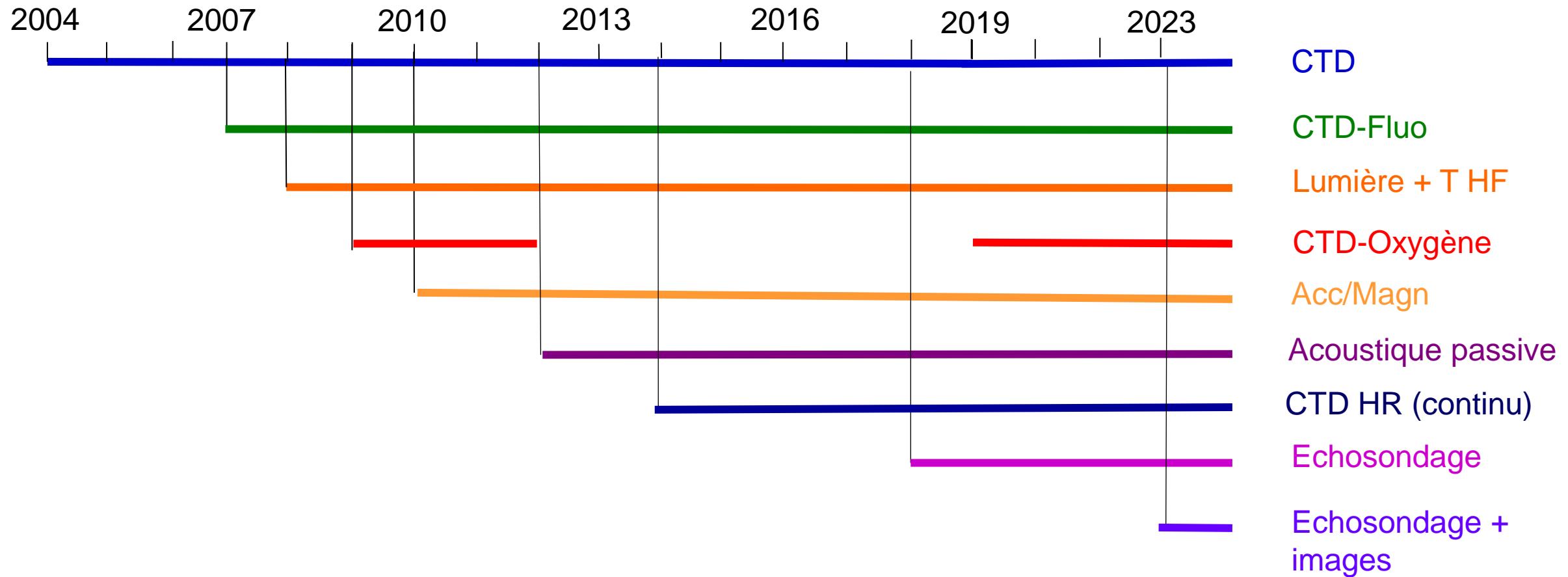
CTD-Oxygène



CTD-acoustique  
passive



Echosondage +  
images



Ice-edge feeding April-May



Outward : June 2004

Inward : March 2004 (2000 km)



MERCATOR  
OCEAN  
INTERNATIONAL



CENTRE NATIONAL D'ÉTUDES SPATIALES

Kerguelen

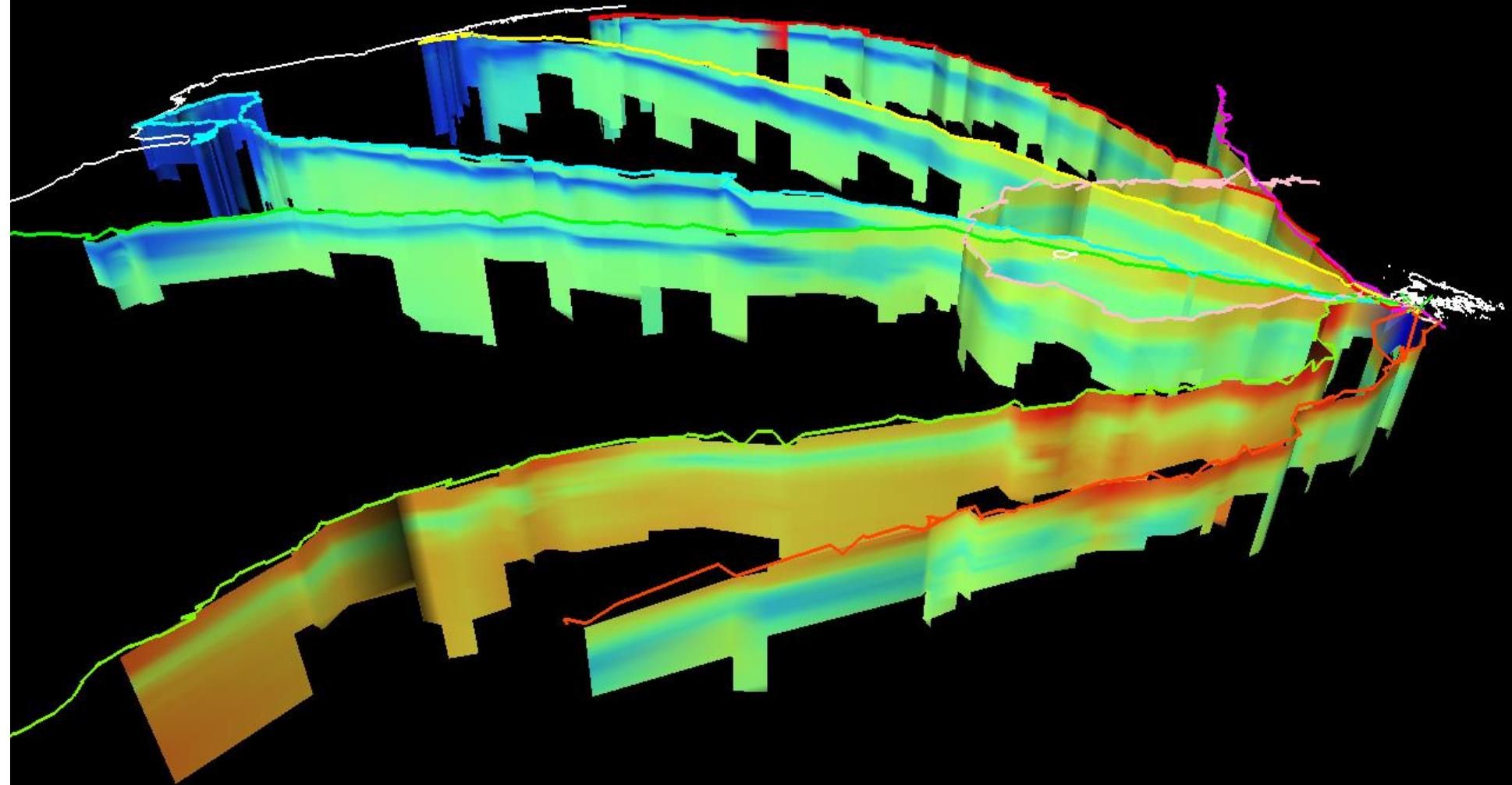
Temperature Section Kerguelen to Antarctica  
March-June 2004 Seal 9934 (Guillaume)

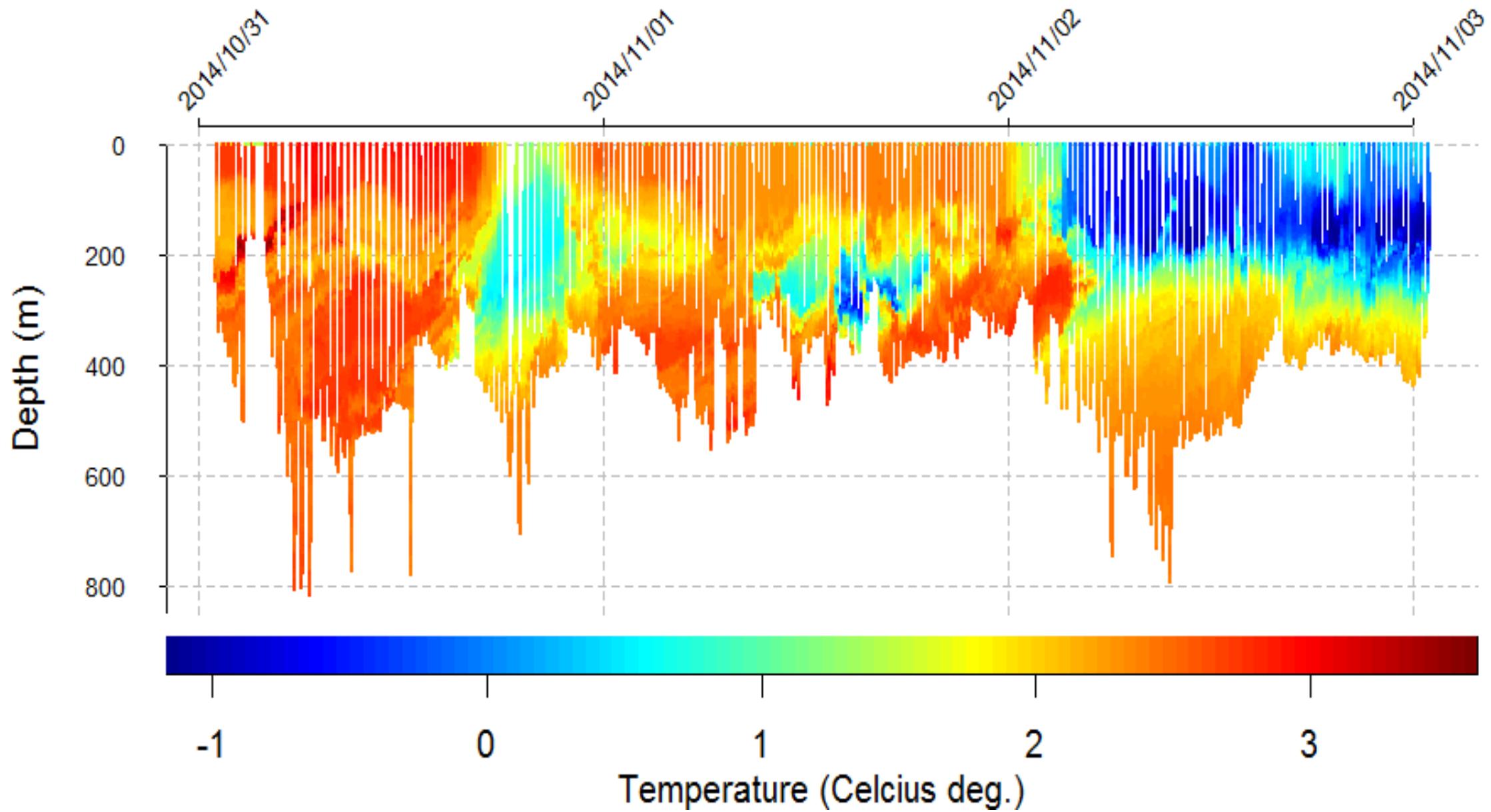
-1.8

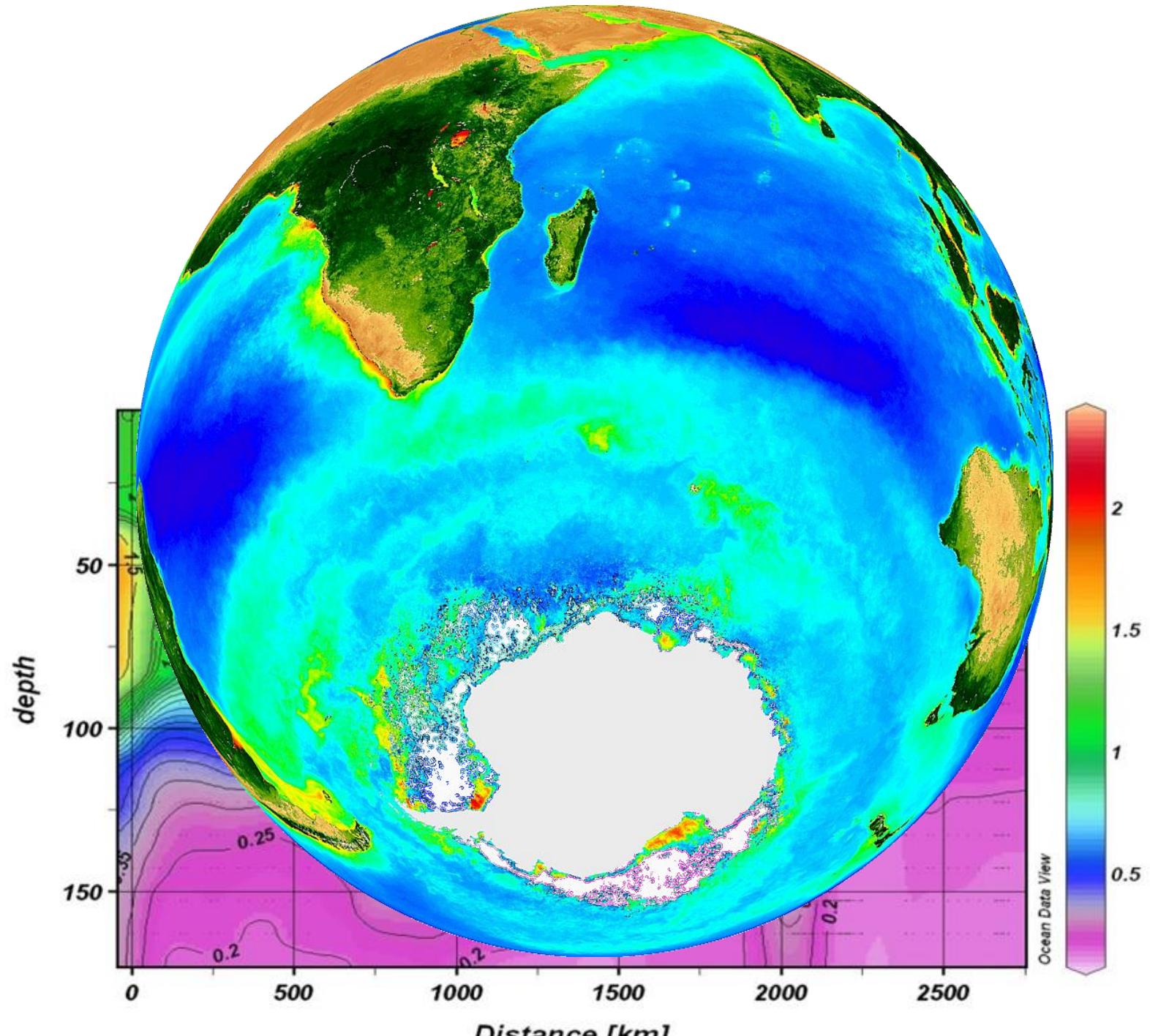
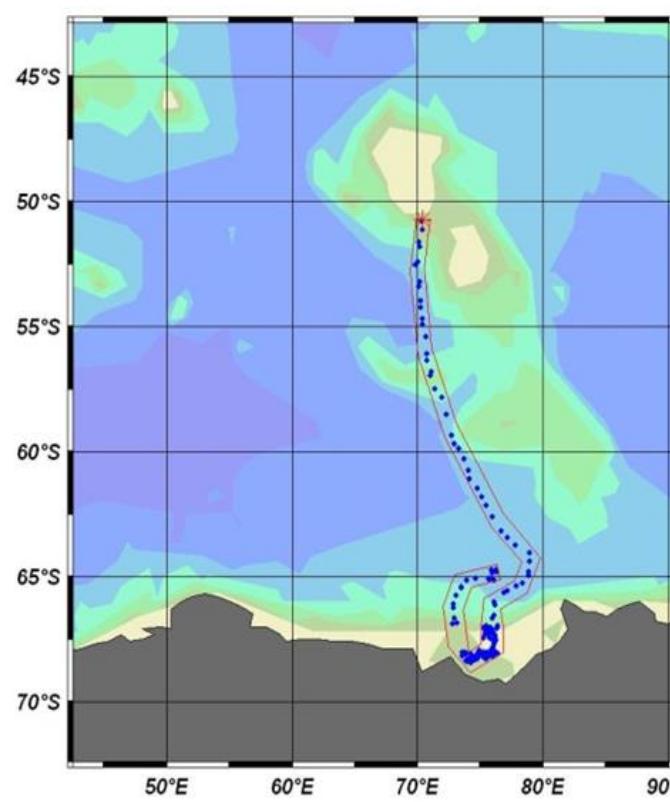
Temperature :

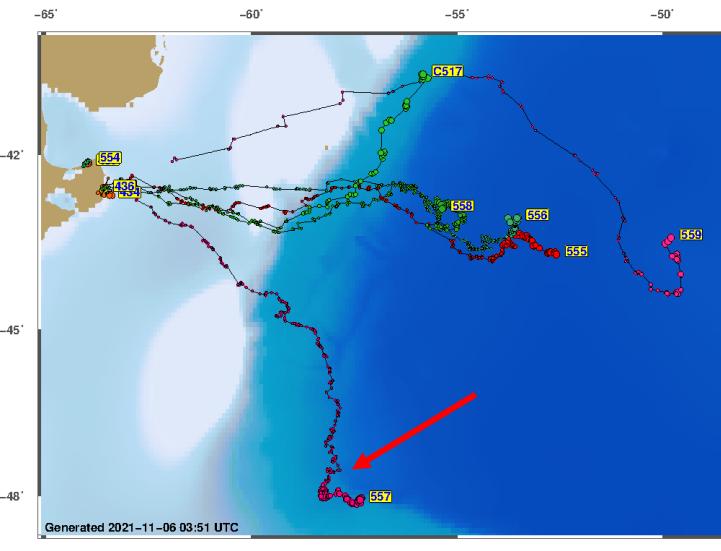
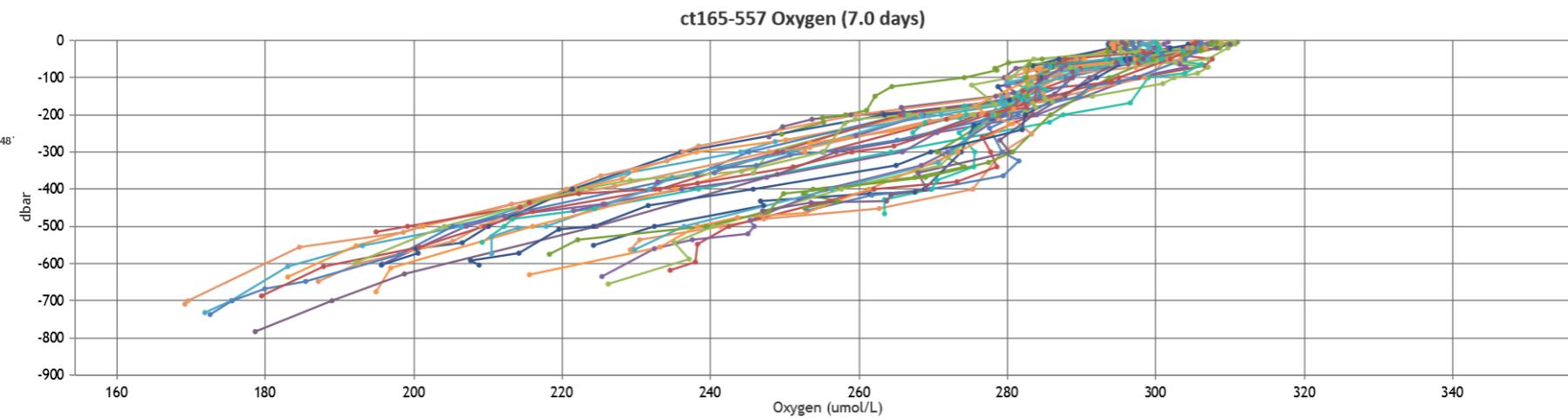
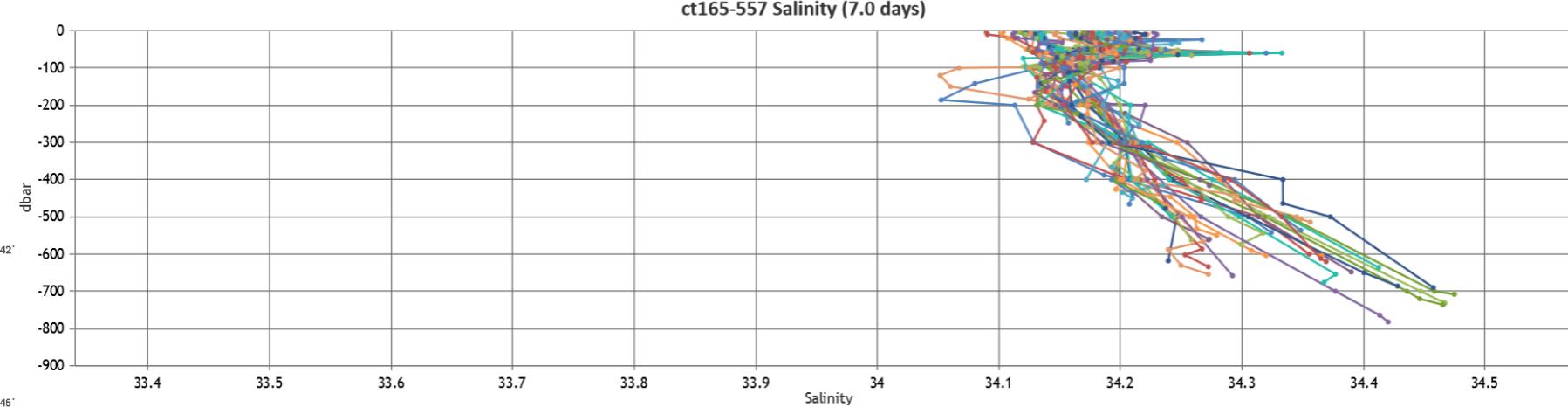
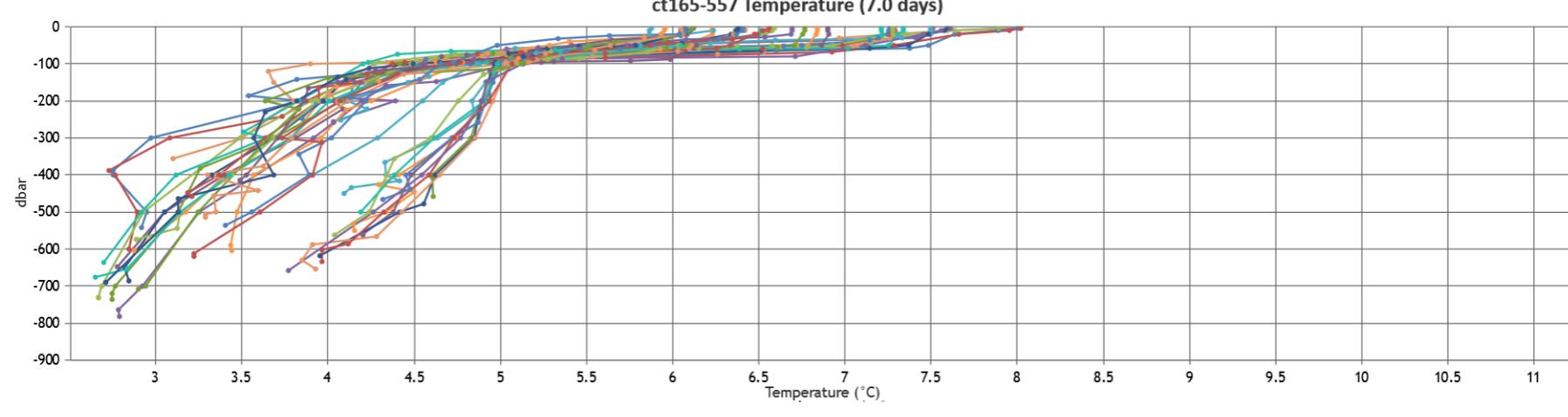
5.0











Horizon2020  
European Union Funding  
for Research & Innovation

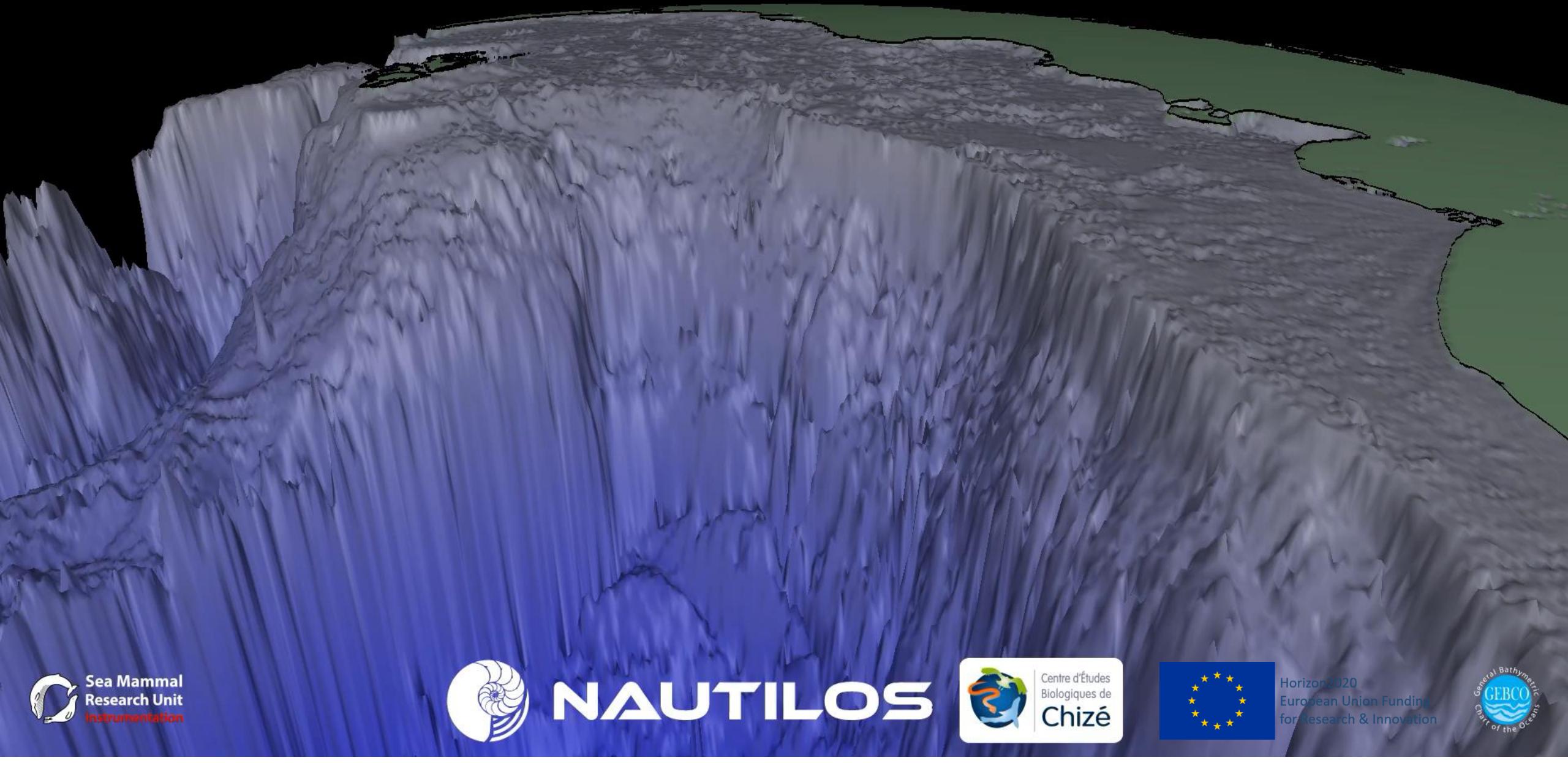
# Deployment ct165 Tags 557 & 559 2021/10/19 - 2022/01/07

Oxygen

100.0

$\mu\text{mol/l}$

400.0



Sea Mammal  
Research Unit  
Instrumentation



NAUTILOS

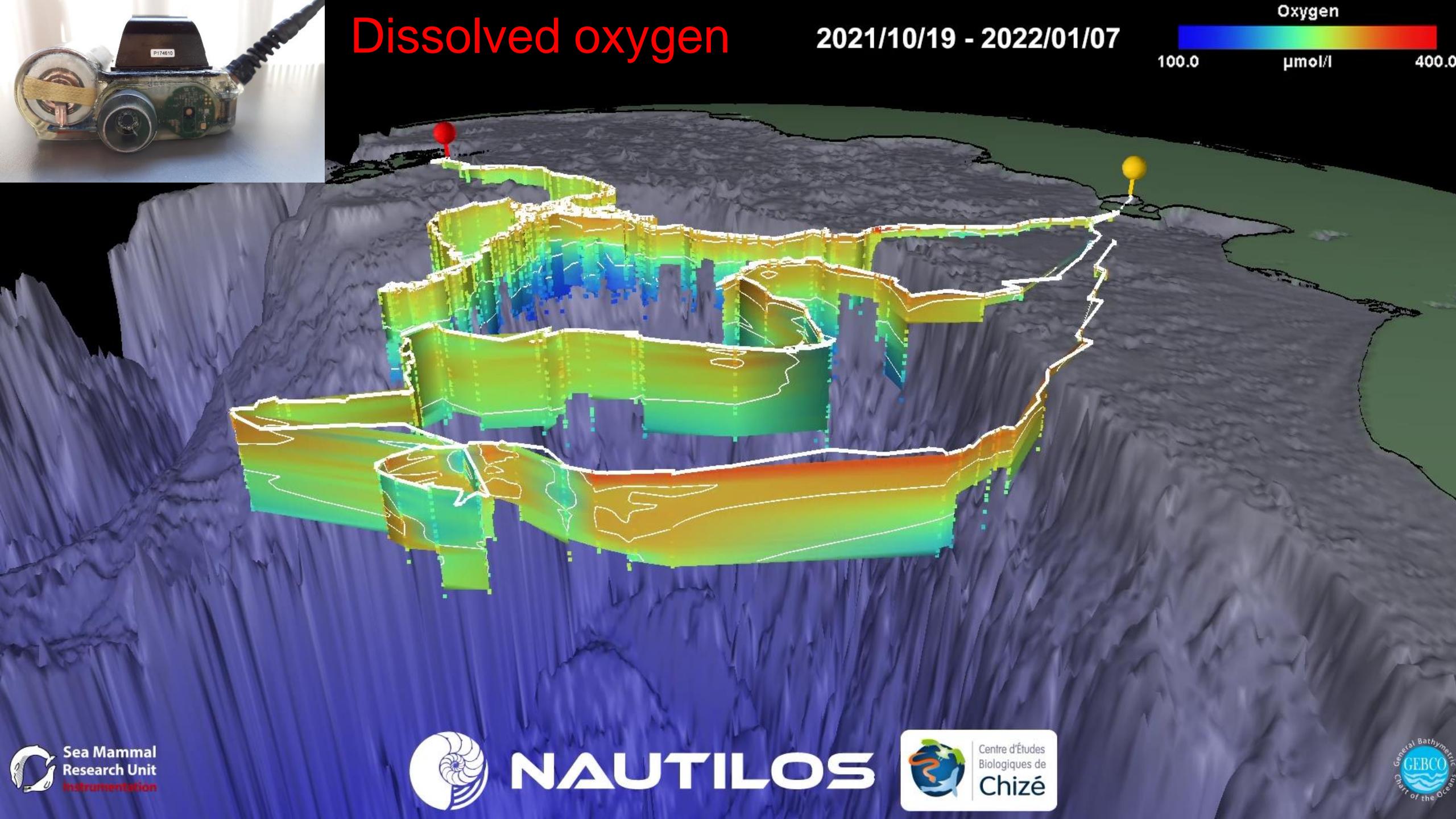


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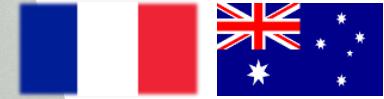


Horizon2020  
European Union Funding  
for Research & Innovation





> 850 Balises déployées depuis 2004 dans le cadre d'une collaboration franco-australienne sur les éléphants de mer et les phoques de Weddell

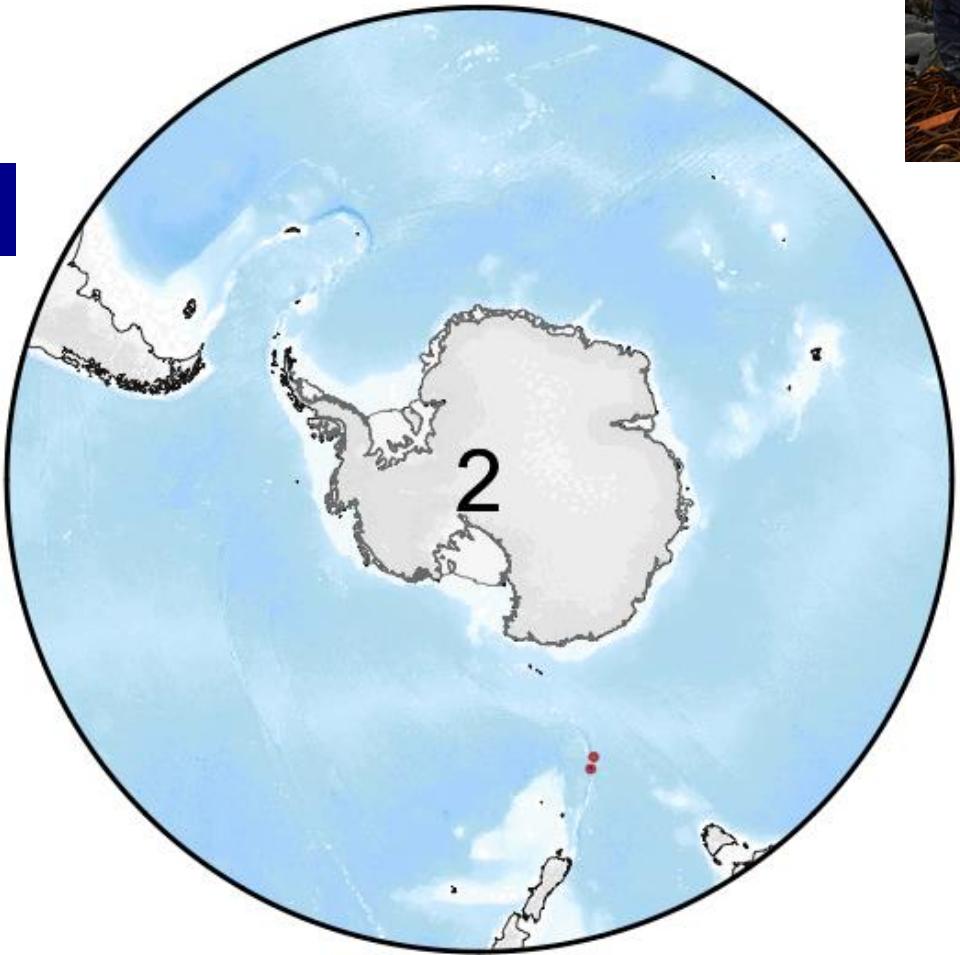


Date: 2004 January



Baptiste Picard

Fabien Roquet

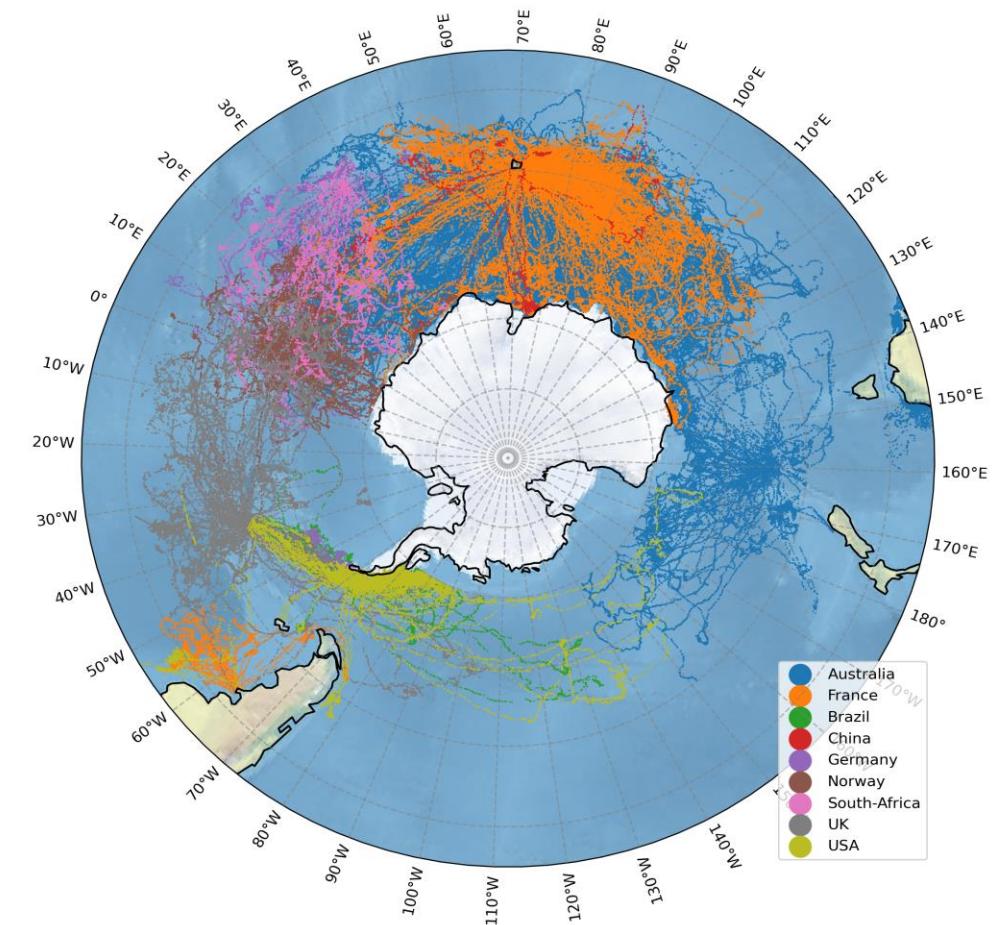
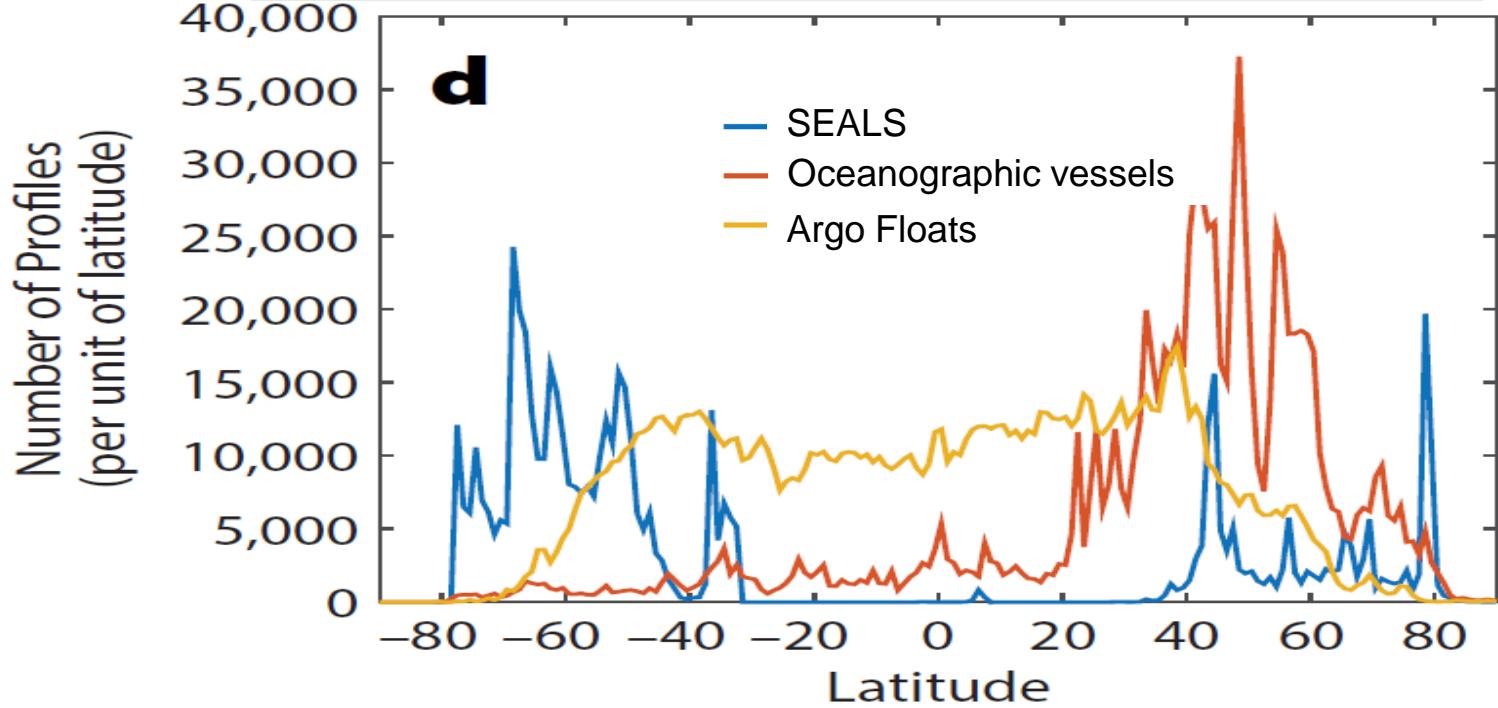
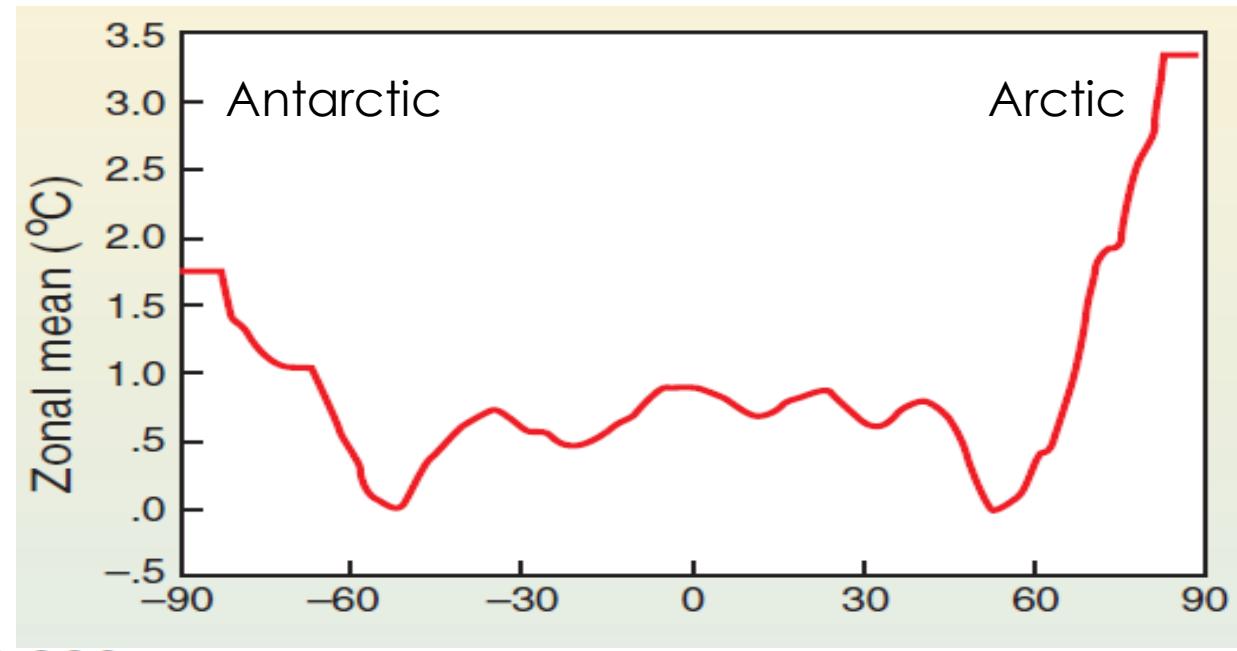


80 % of the T/S profiles au sud de 60°S  
95 % of the T/S profiles associés à la banquise antarctique

species

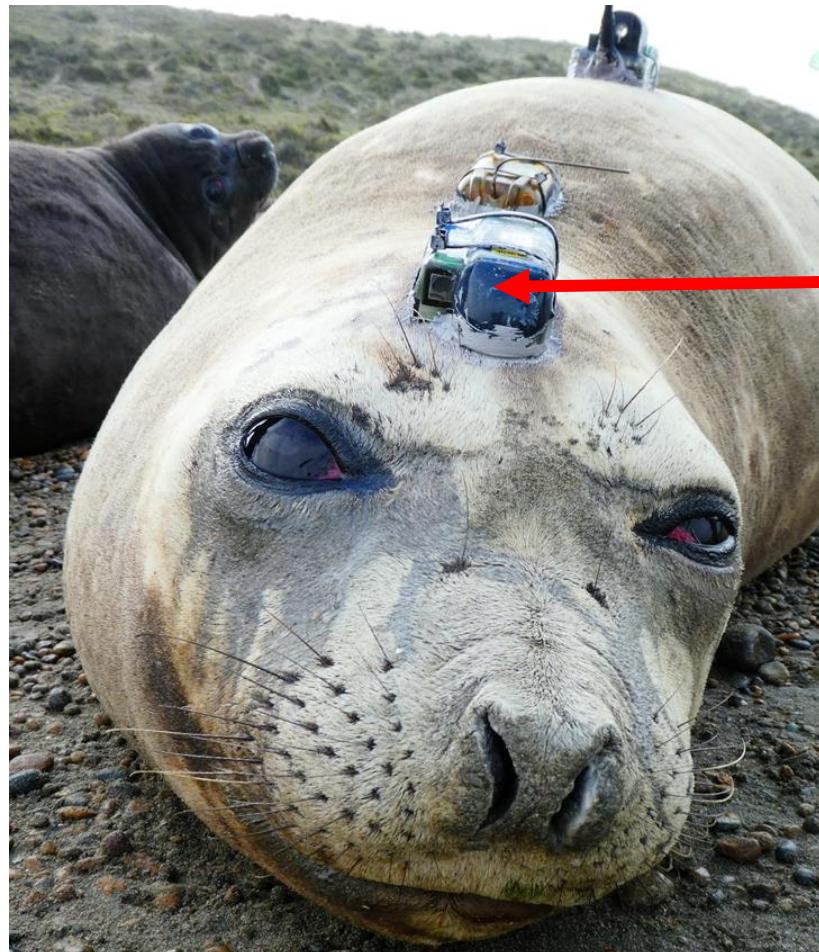
- southern elephant seal
- Weddell seal





meop.net

# Un même capteur permet d'étudier des questions très différentes : cas de l'acoustique passive



**Hydrophone**

**Accelerometer,  
Magnetometer,**

**Pressure sensor,  
GPS,  
Light sensor,  
Temperature sensor**

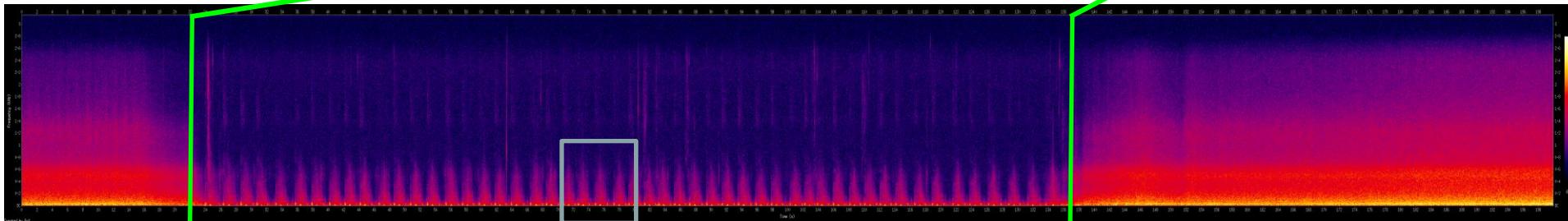
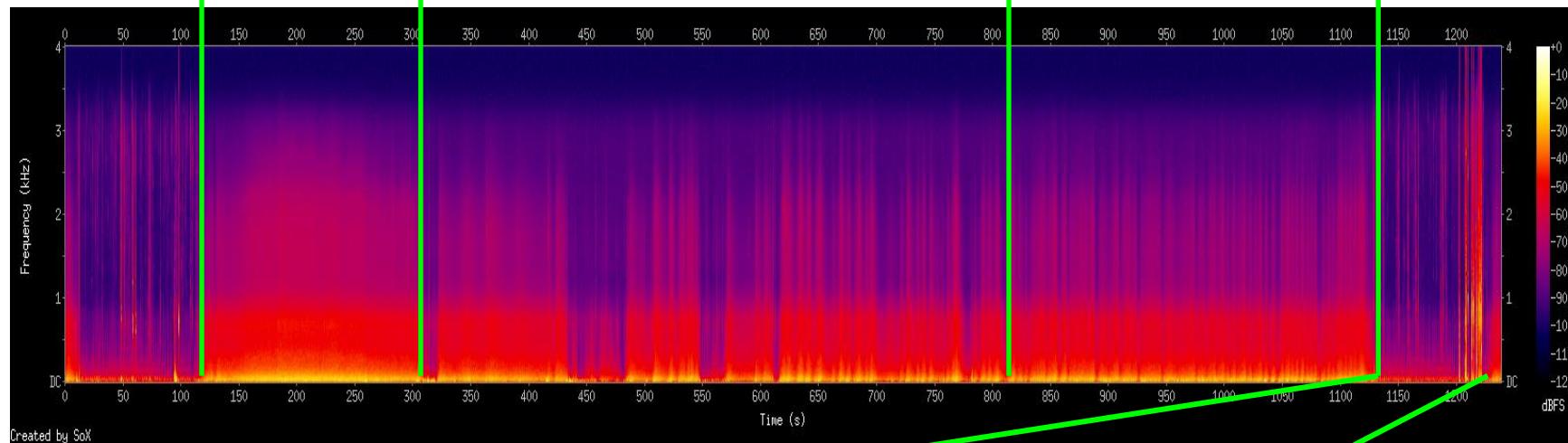
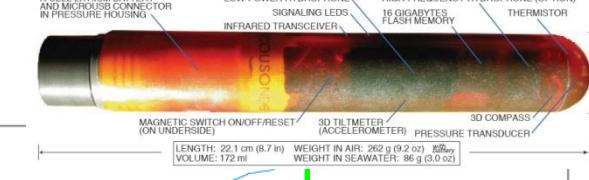
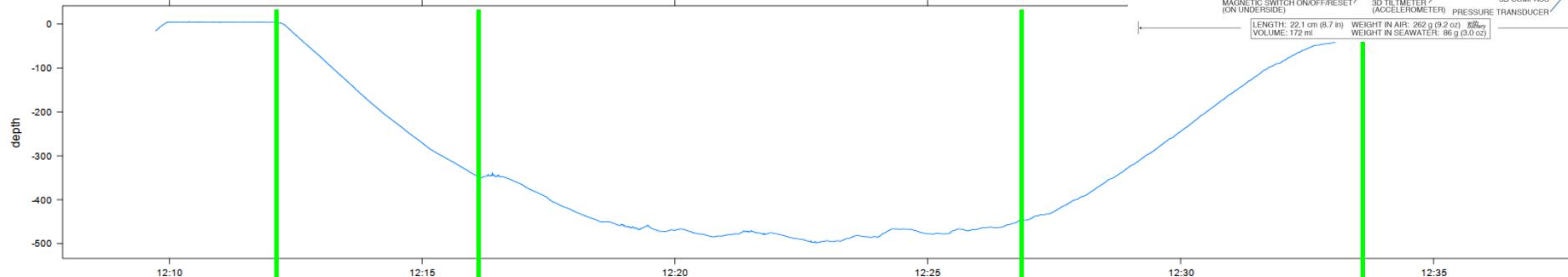
# Wind and sea-state

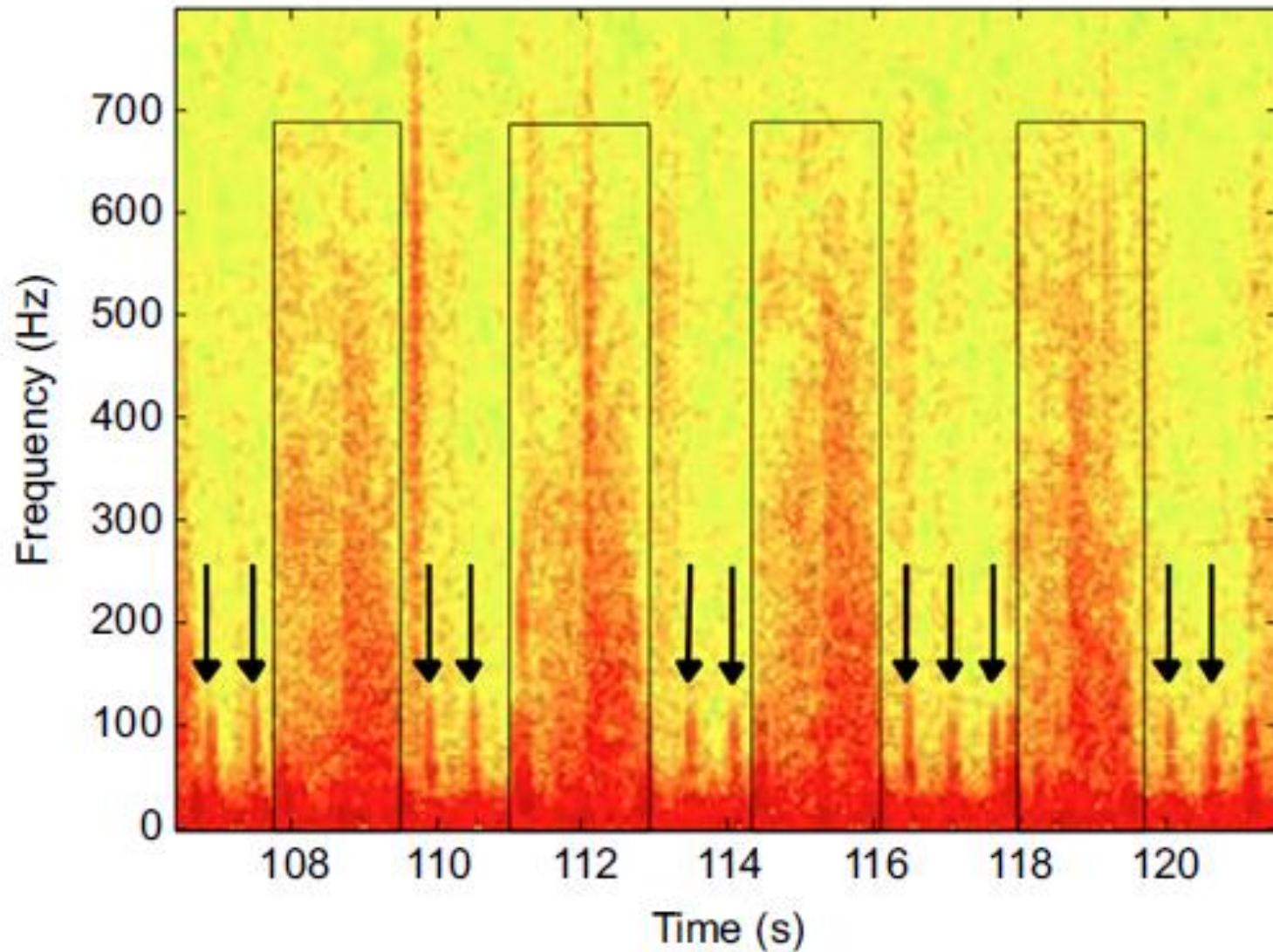


CENTRE NATIONAL D'ÉTUDES SPATIALES

(Chinese-French Ocean SAT-2018)

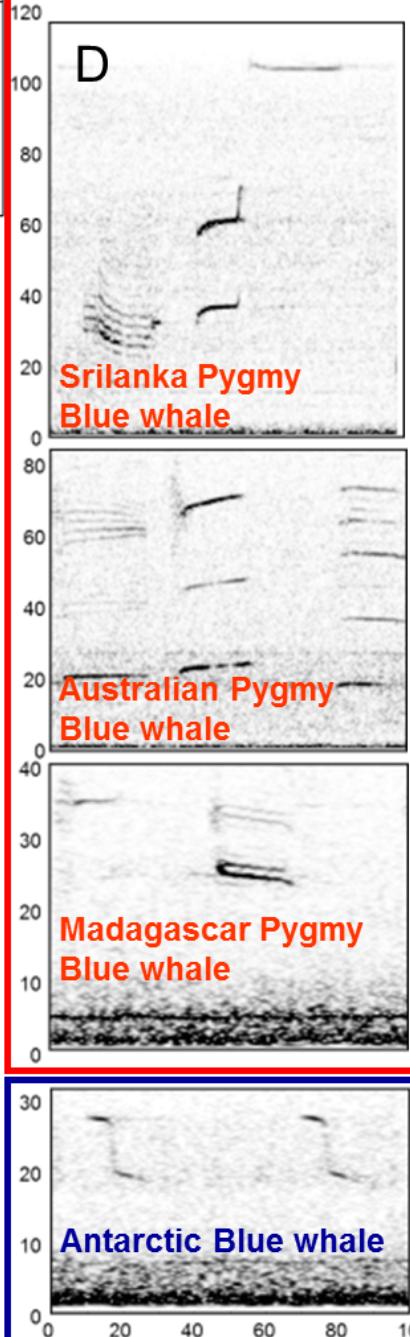
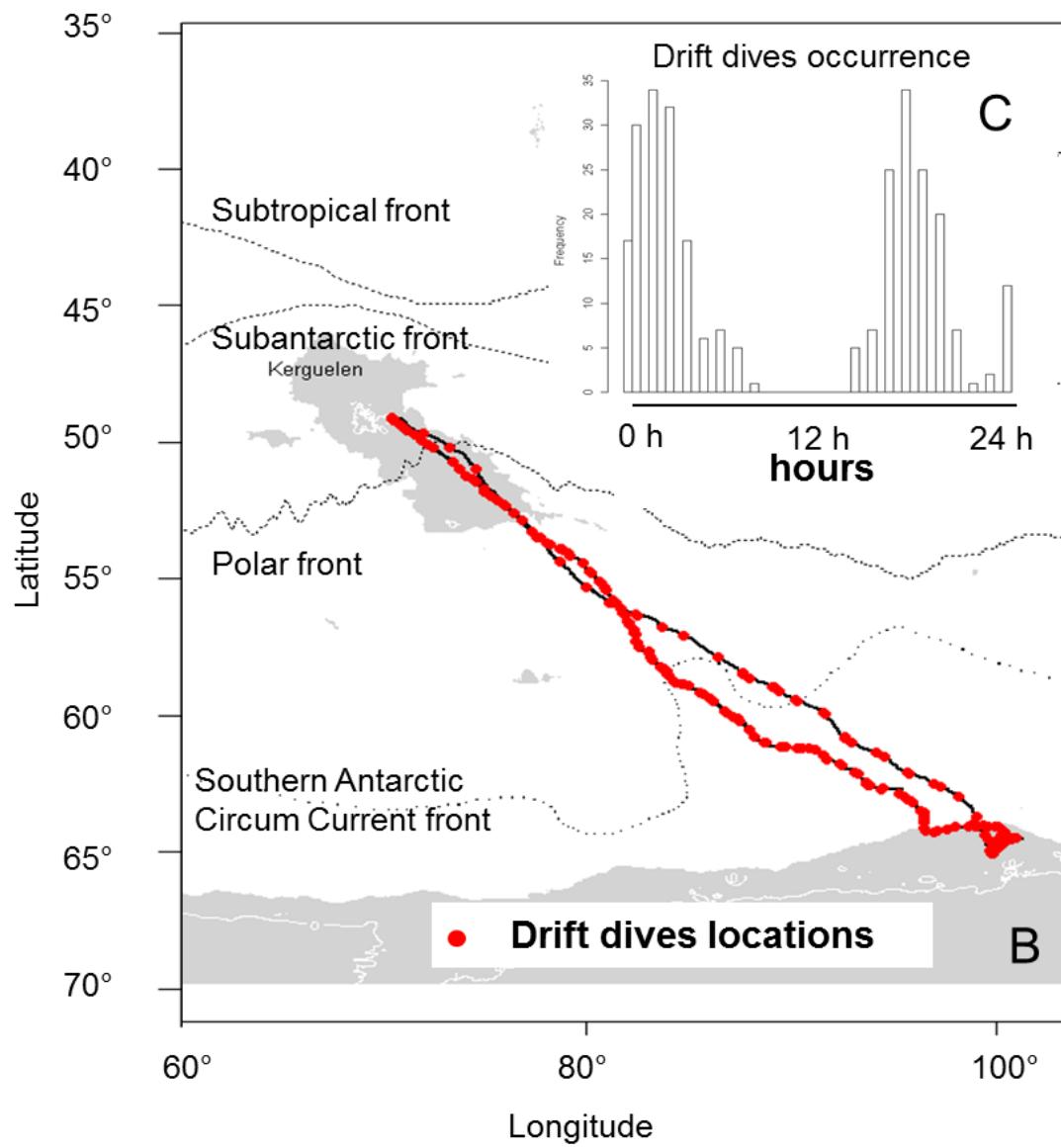
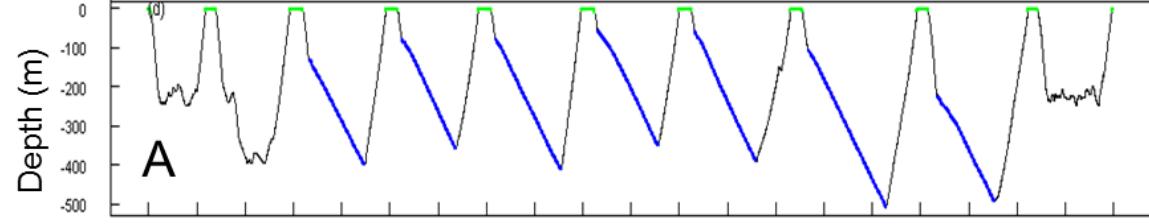
# Evaluating the energy expenditure



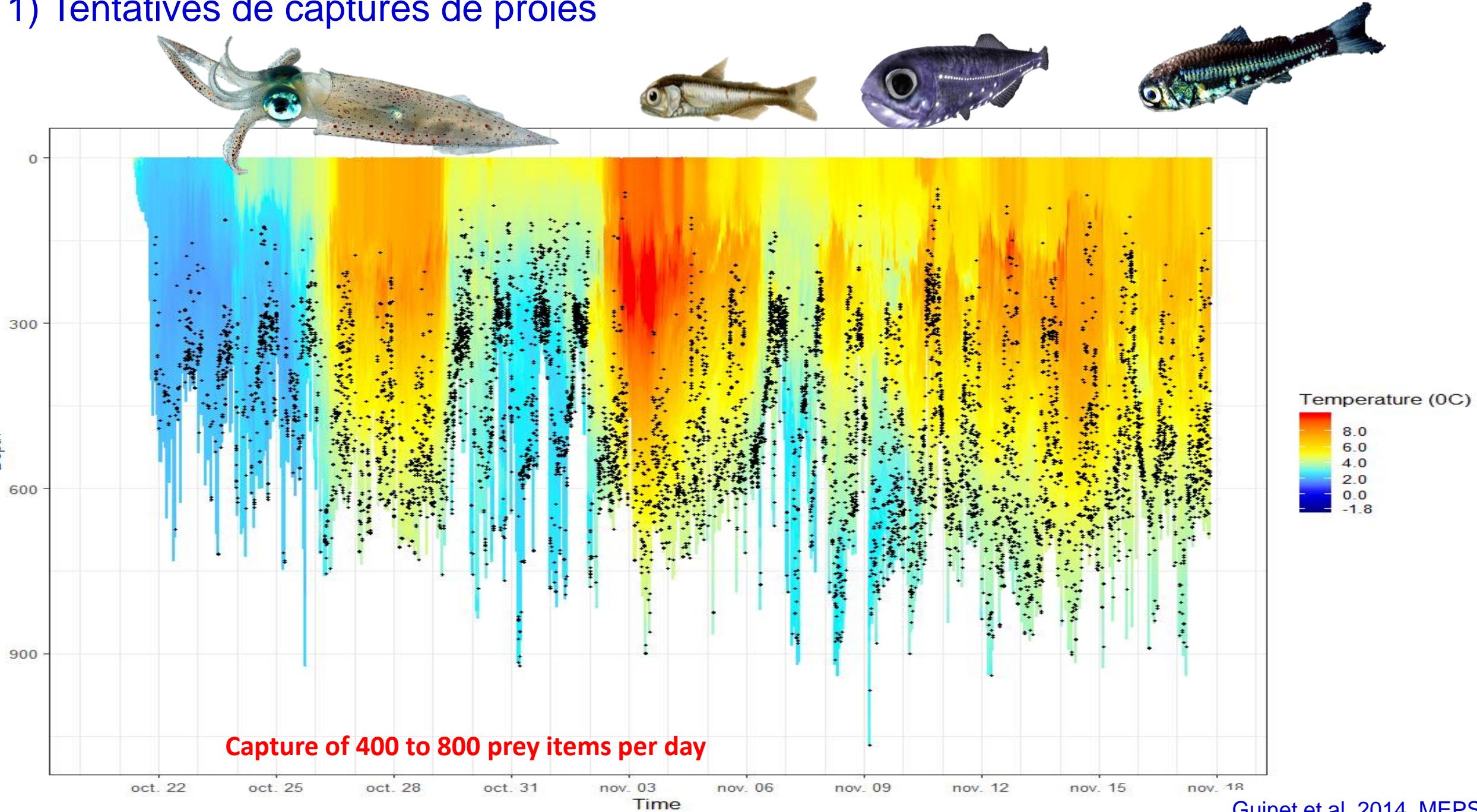


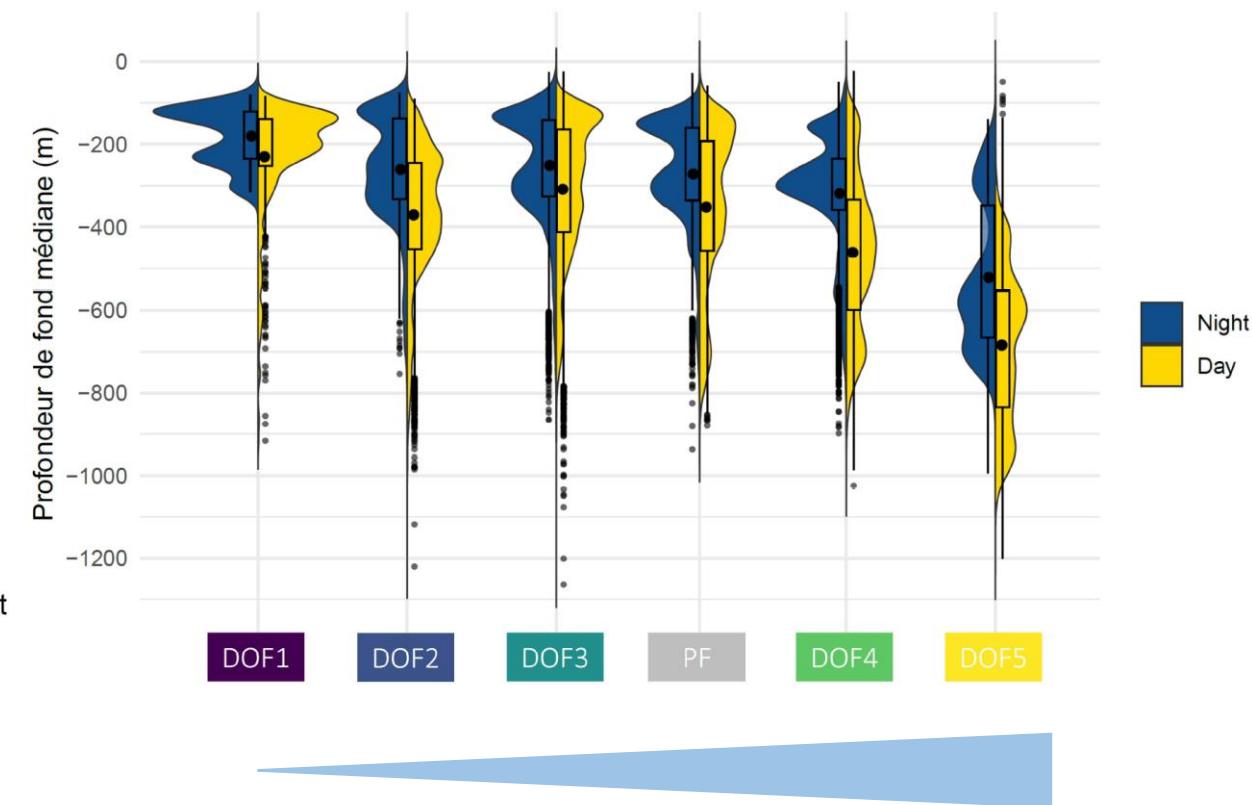
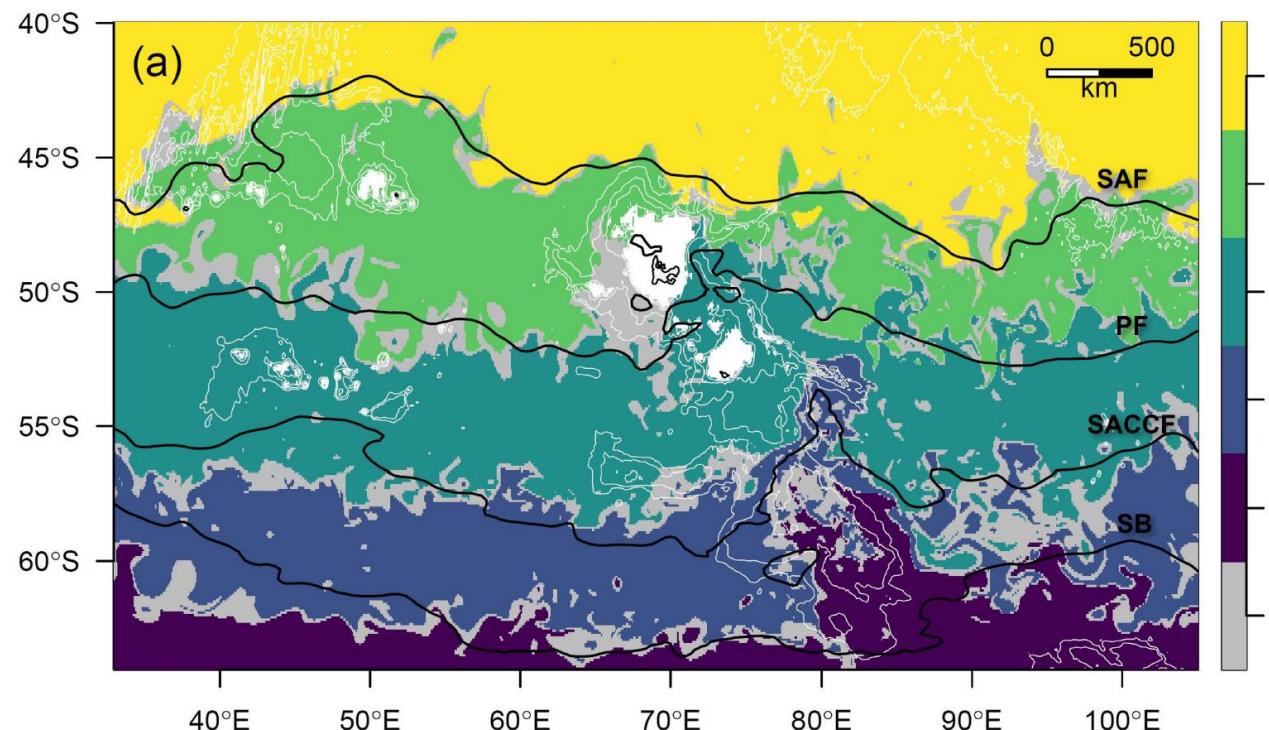
Genin A. Richard, G., Jouma'a J., Picard B., El Ksabi N., Vacquie Garcia J., Guinet, C. (2015). Marine Mammal Science.

Day L., Jouma'a J., Bonnel J., Guinet C. (2017) Journal of Experimental Biology.



# 1) Tentatives de captures de proies





Antarctique

Subtropicale



David Nerini



Nadège Fonvielle



Thèse Nadège Fonvielle D. Nerini & C. Guinet

Chaque année 15 femelles éléphants de mer équipés de balises :

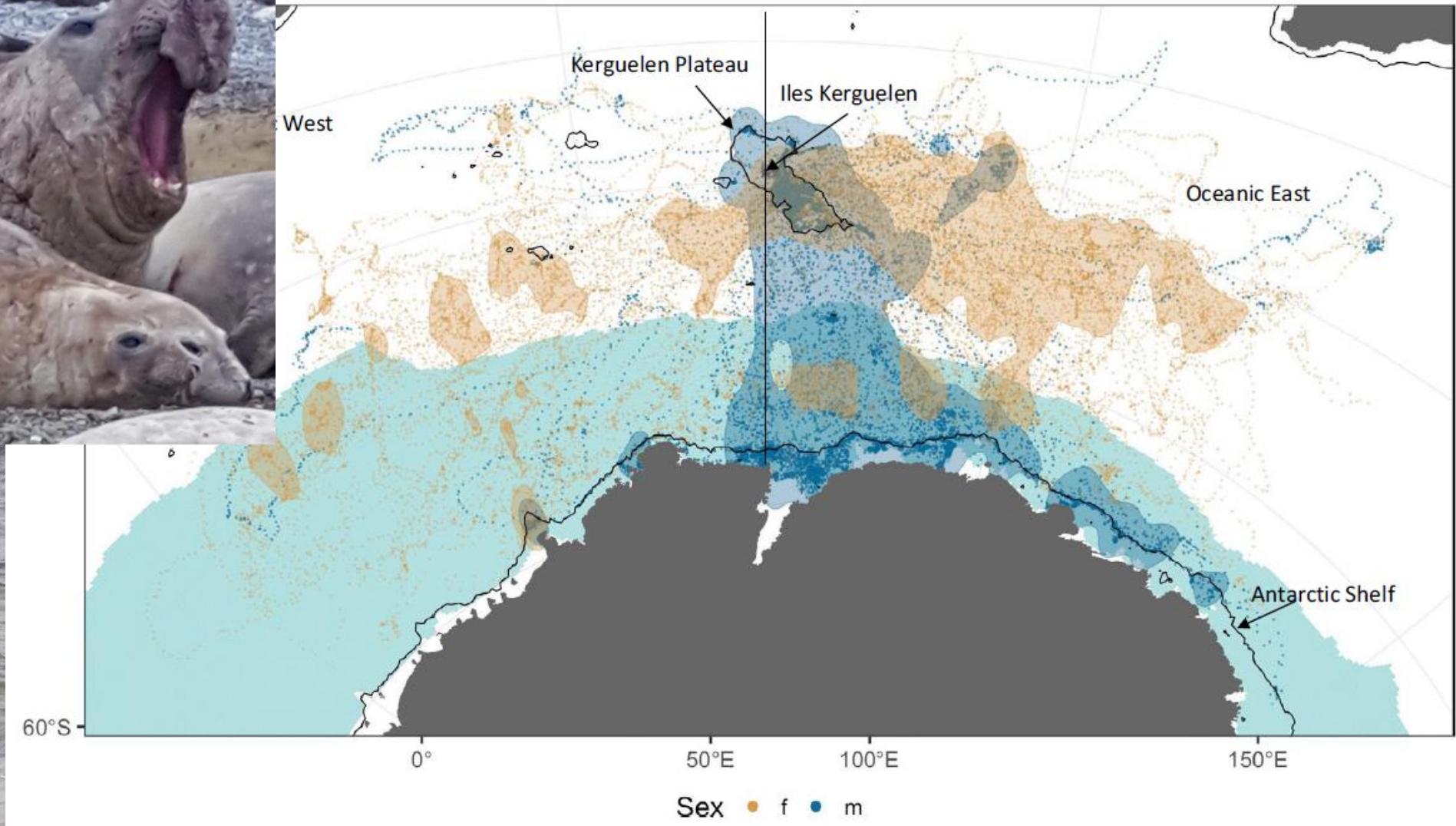
Effectuent  
153 000  
plongées

Couvrent 6.2  
millions km<sup>2</sup> de  
l'océan austral

Échantillonnent  
4.7 million km<sup>3</sup>  
de l'océan  
Austral

Consomment  
3.3 million  
de poissons

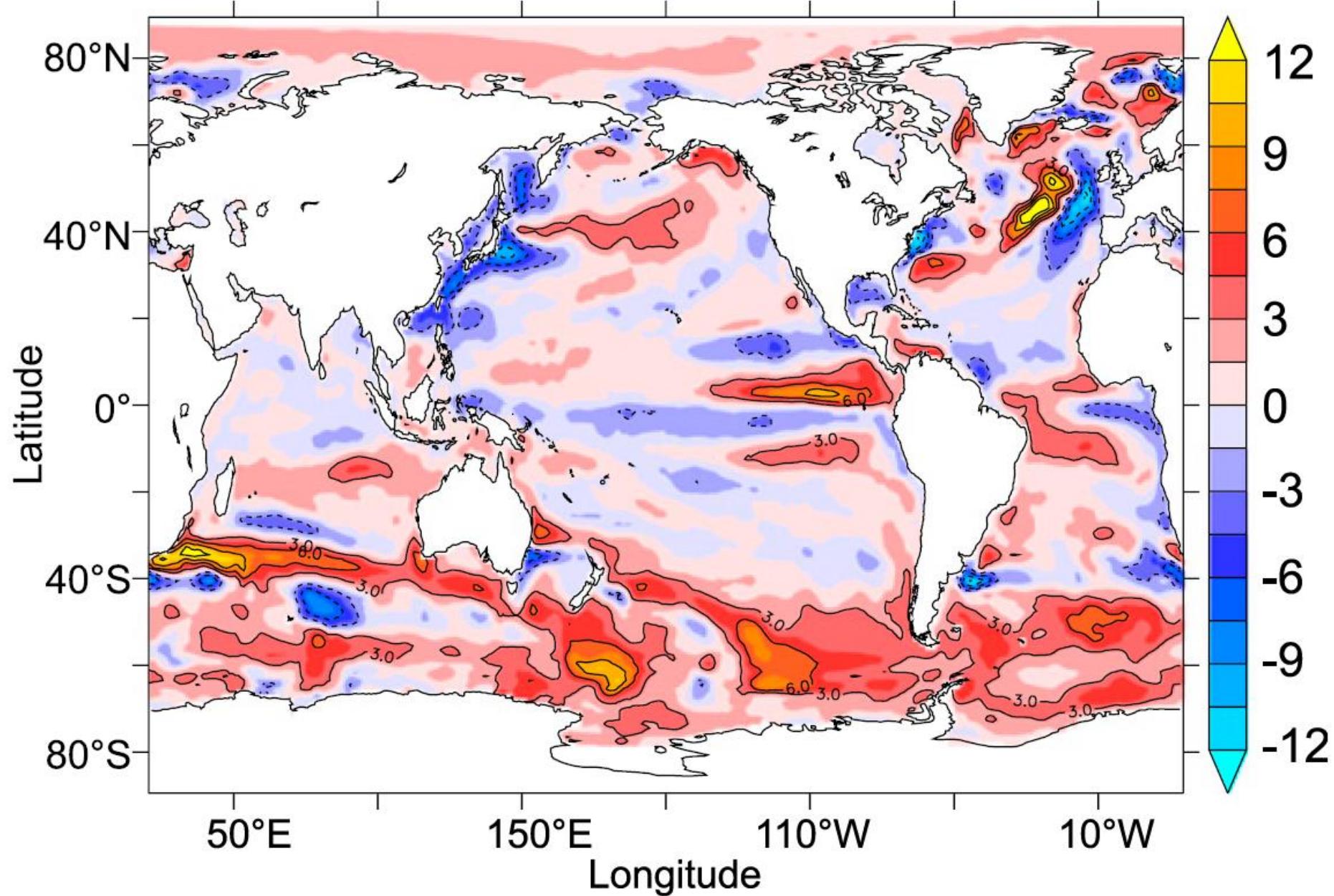
Permettent  
d'identifier les  
habitats  
écologiquement  
importants



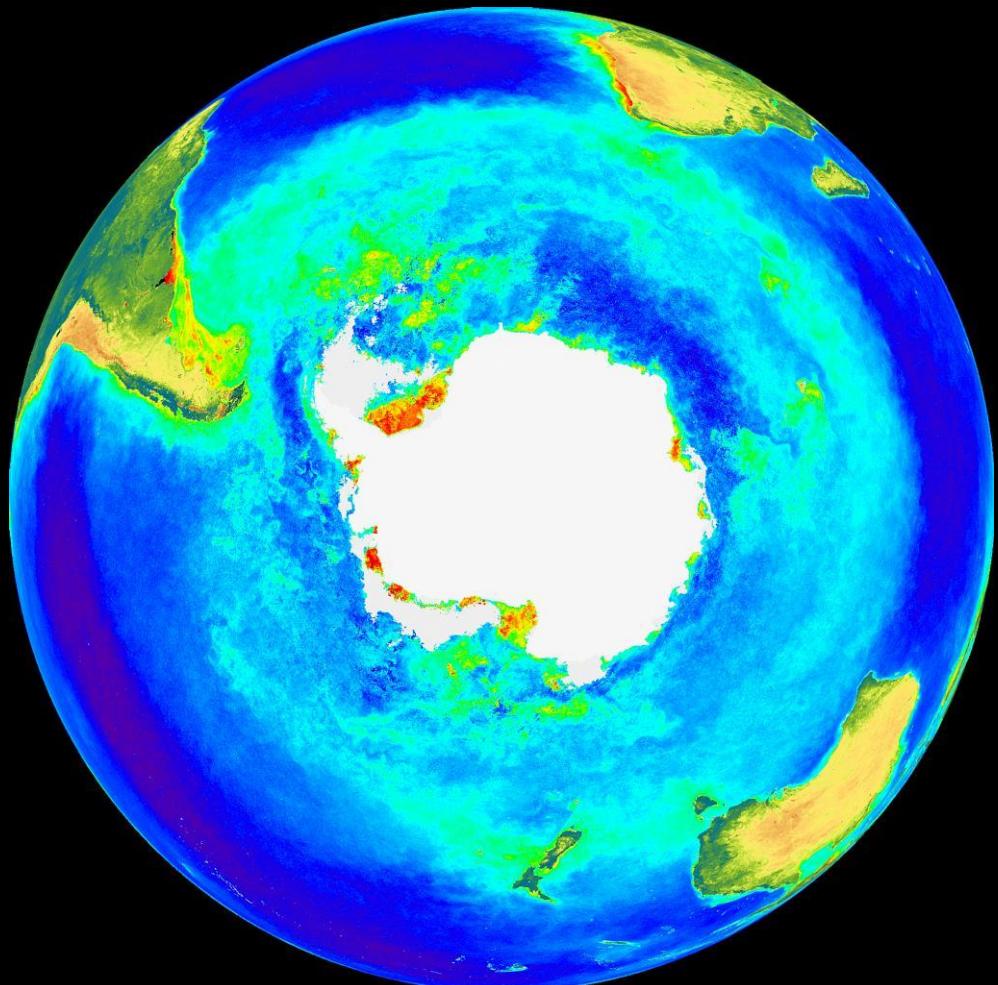
Bailleul, F., et al. (2007). "Southern elephant seals from Kerguelen Islands confronted by Antarctic Sea ice. Changes in movements and in diving behaviour." *Deep-Sea Research Part II-Topical Studies in Oceanography* 54(3-4): 343-355.

Hindell, M. A., et al. (2021). "Inter- and intra sex habitat partitioning in the highly dimorphic southern elephant seal." *Ecology and Evolution*.

f) Cumulative ocean heat uptake ( $10^9\text{J/m}^2$ )



# Comment la composante biologique de l'océan Austral réagit-elle à ce réchauffement

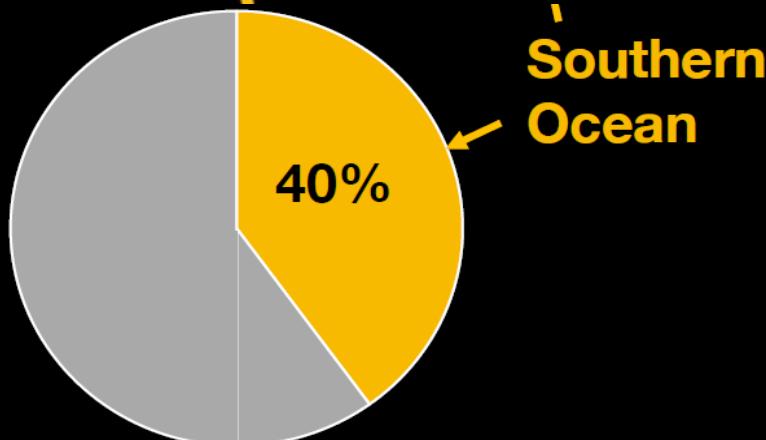
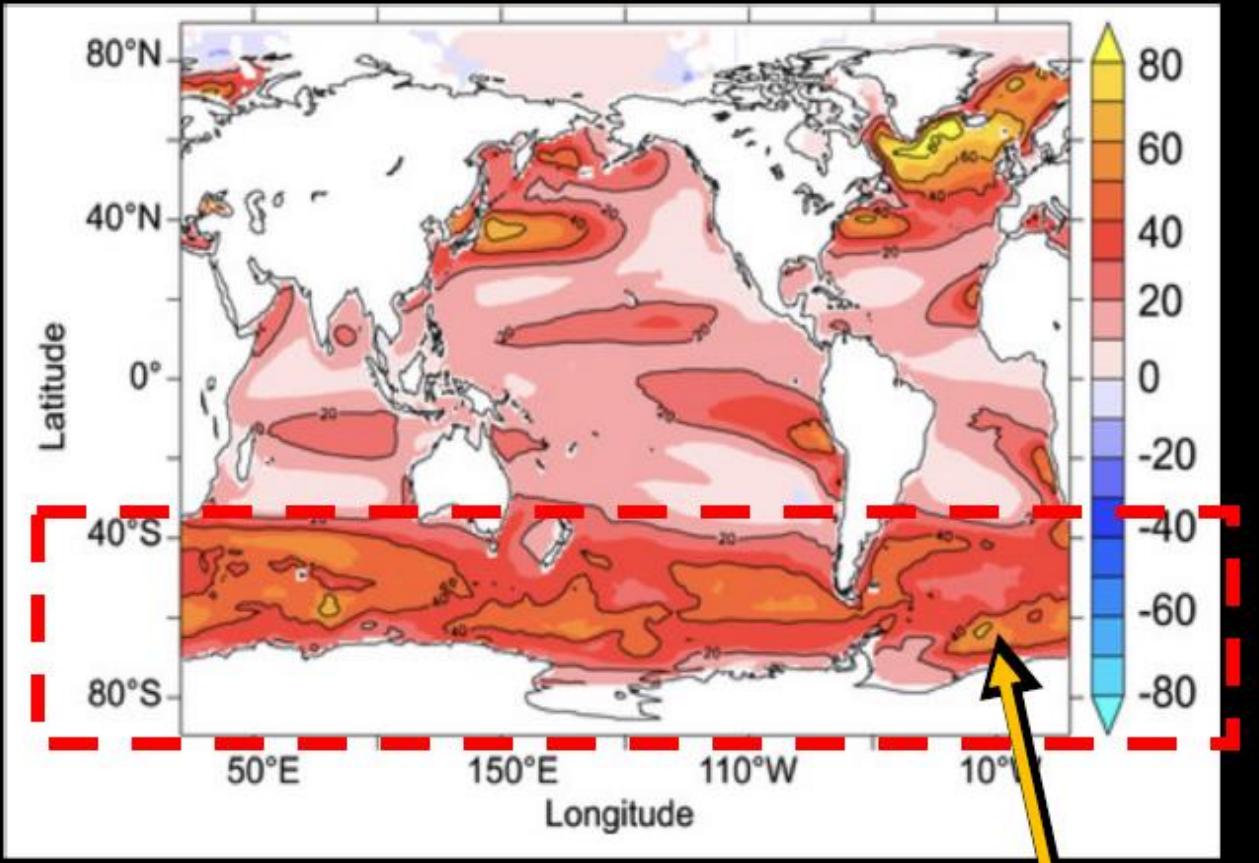


Une augmentation de la biomasse de phytoplancton<sup>1</sup>

Une modification de la composition des communautés de phytoplancton<sup>2</sup>

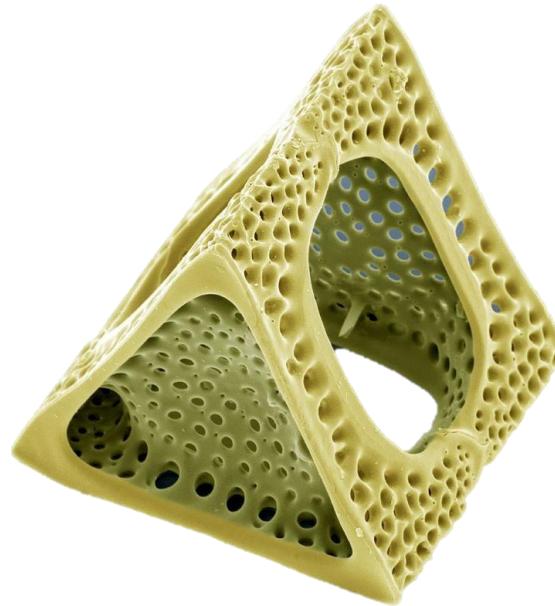
<sup>1</sup>Del Castillo et al. 2019, GRL

<sup>2</sup>Mestre et al. 2020. PRSL



Frölicher et al., 2015

La pompe  
biologique  
représenterait  
jusqu'à 30% de  
ces 40 %



Epipelagique

0

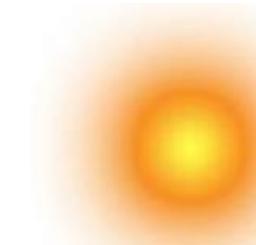
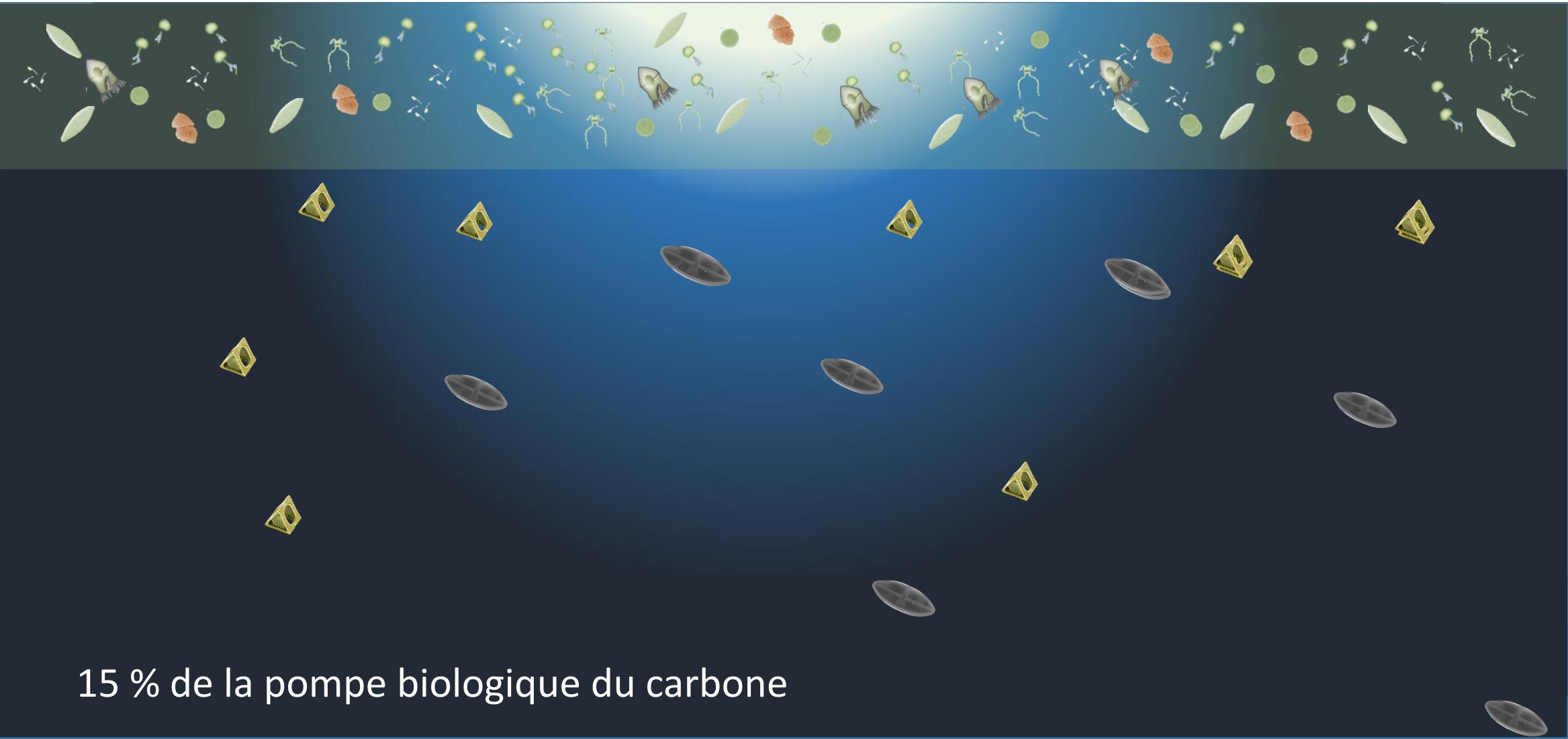
200

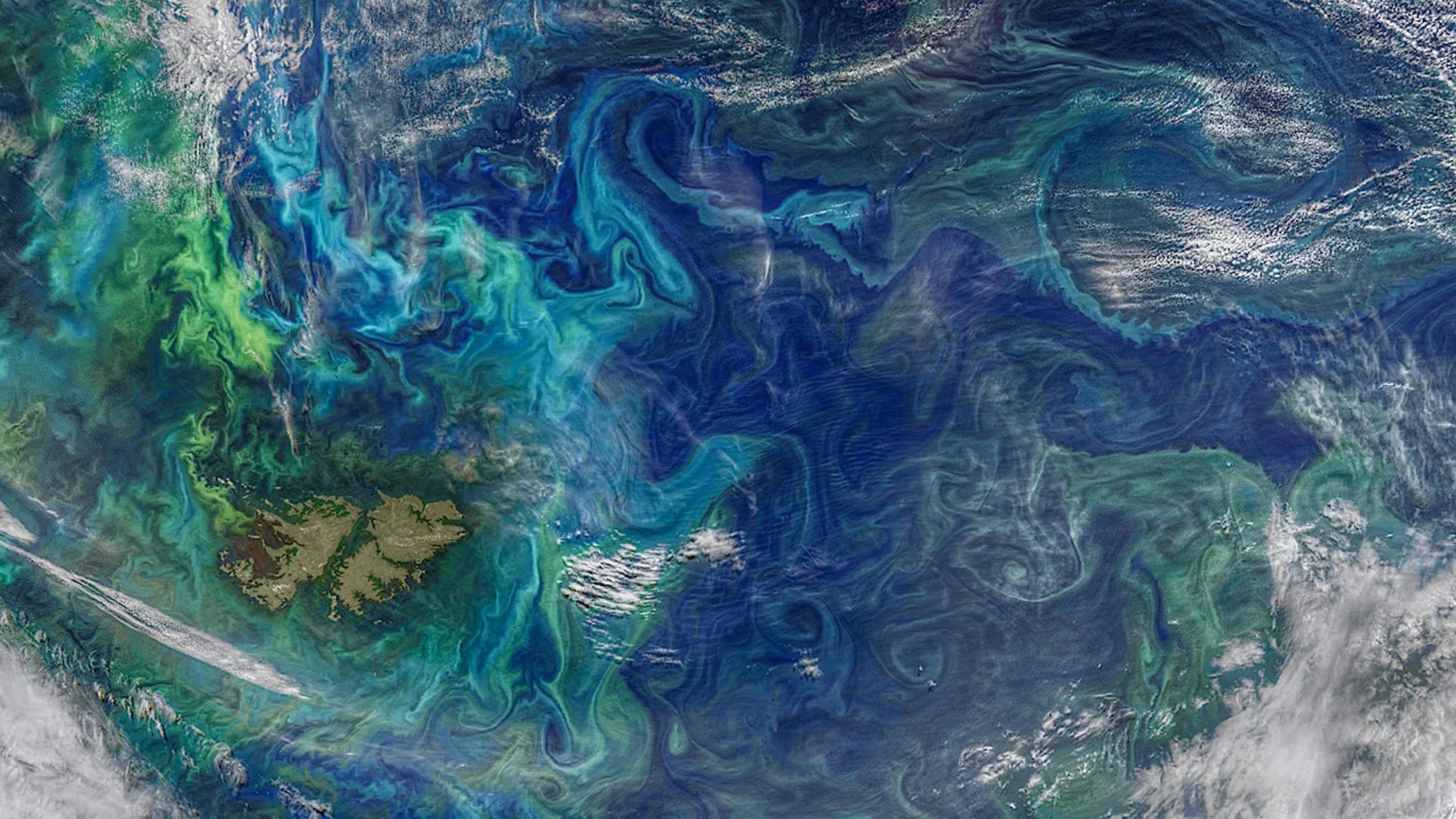
400

600

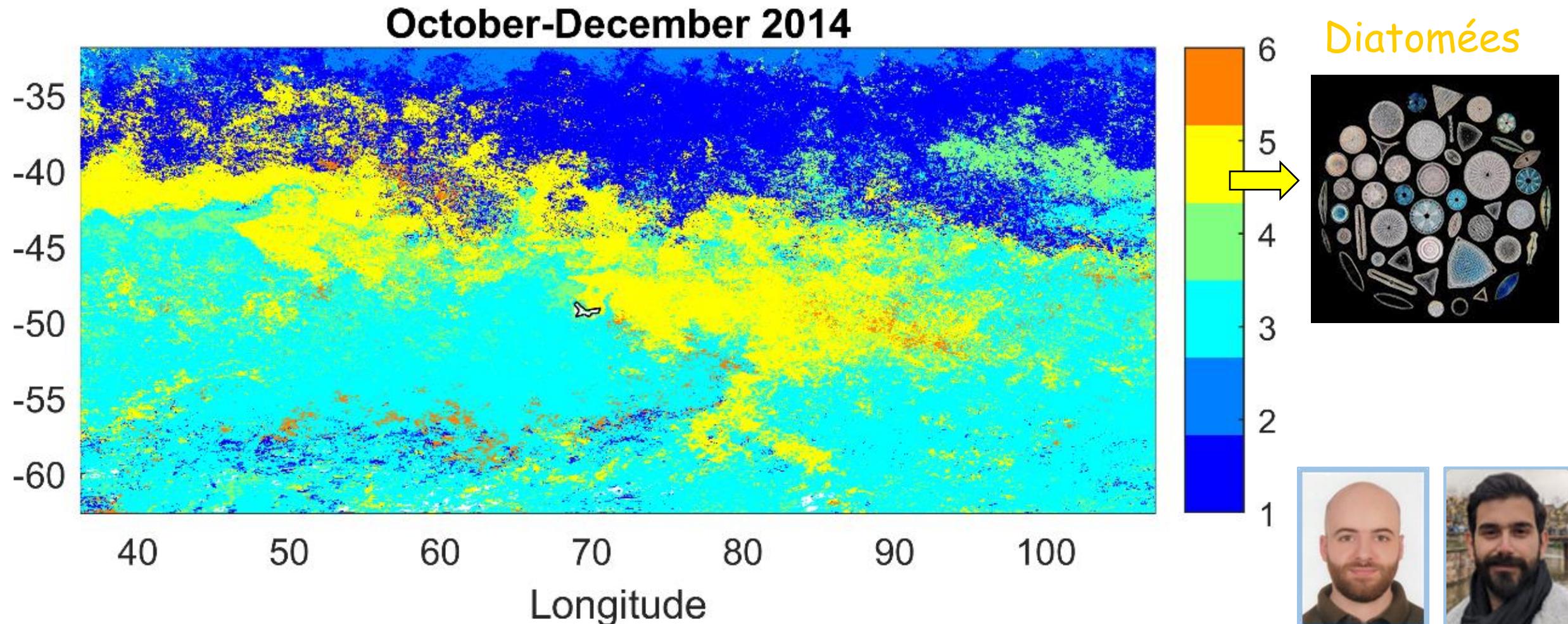
800

15 % de la pompe biologique du carbone



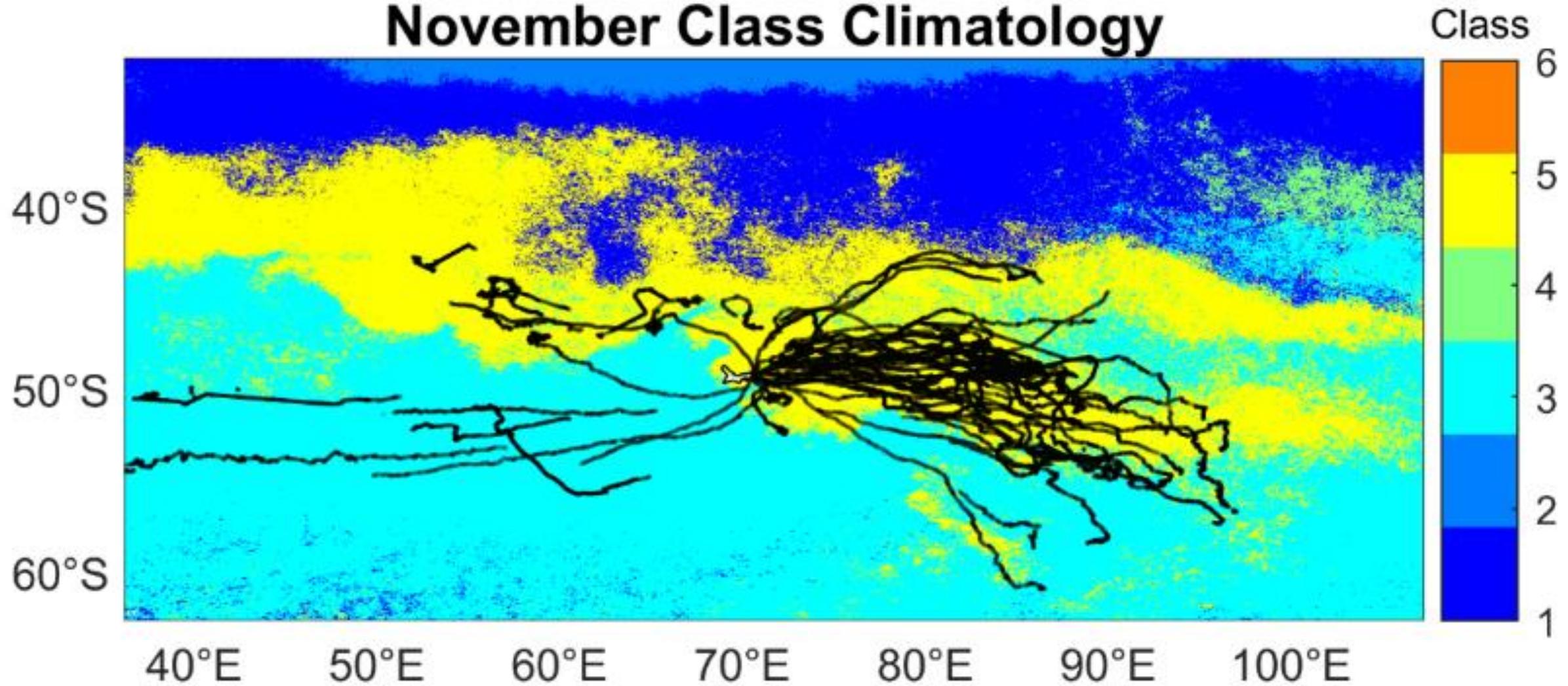


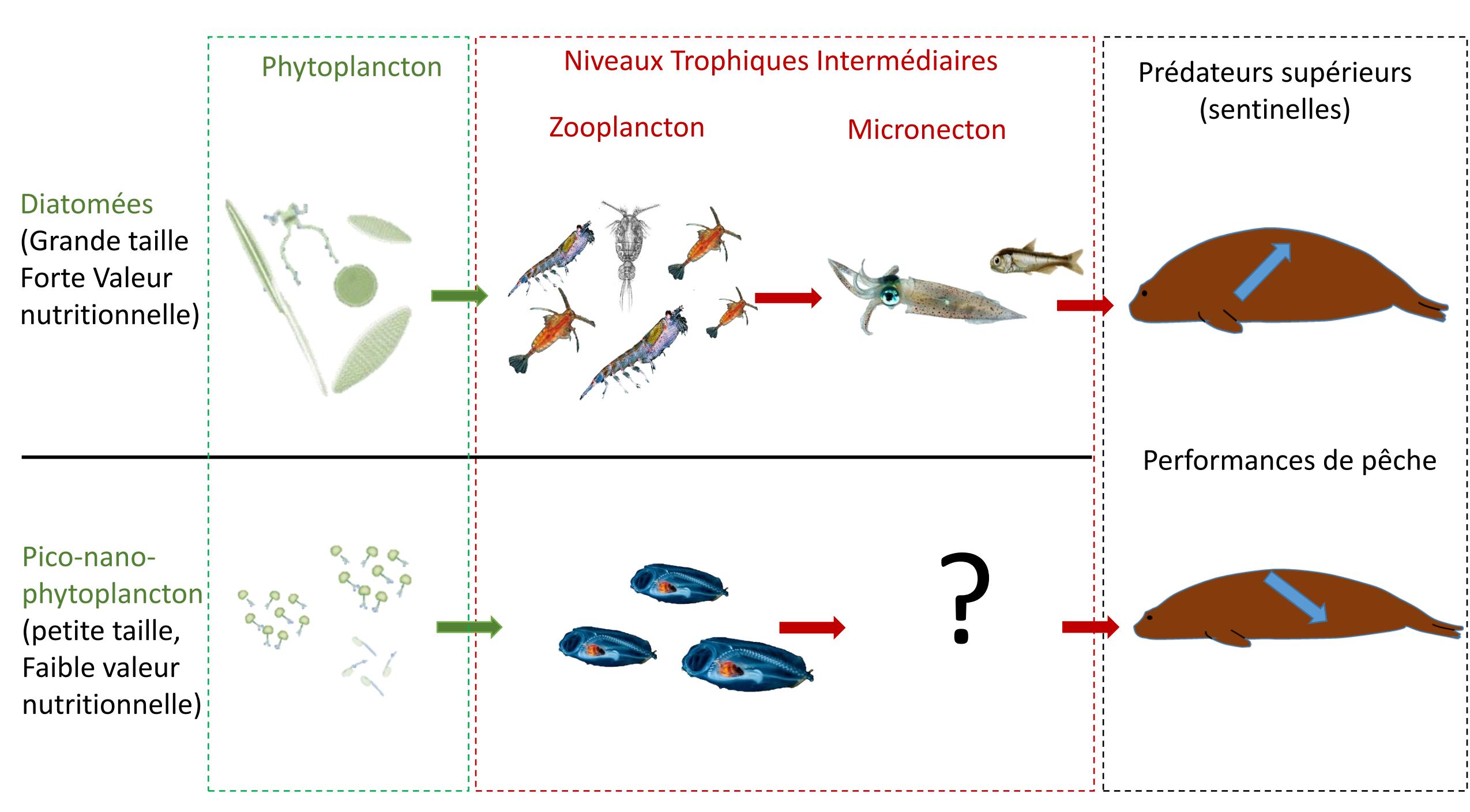
A partir des différences de couleurs 6 grandes communautés de phytoplancton ont été identifiées dans l'Océan Austral.



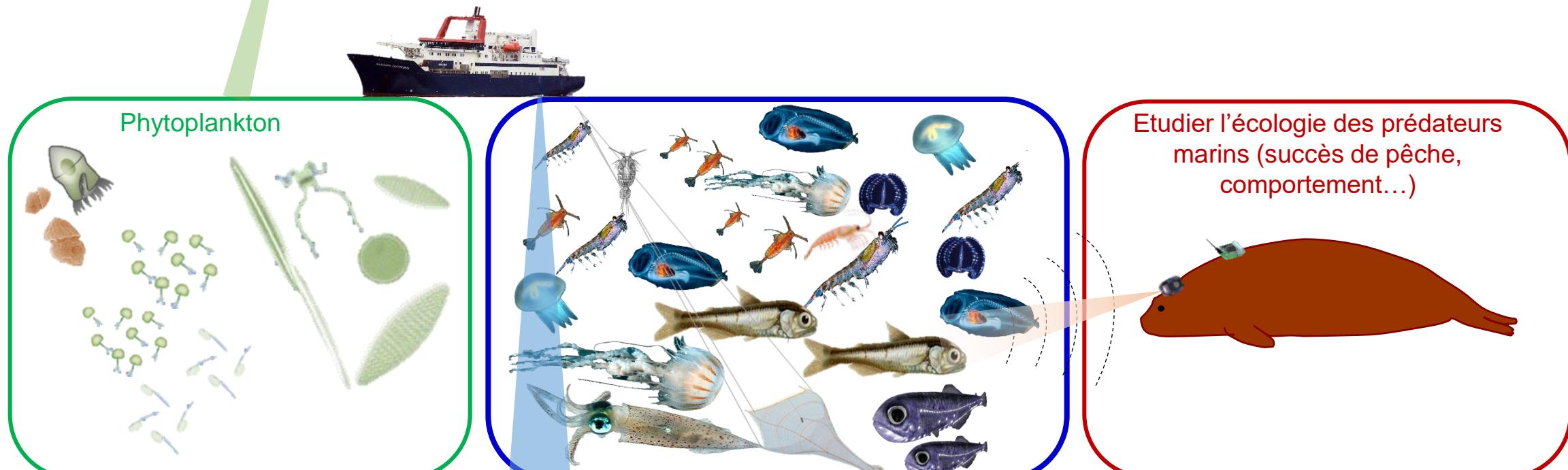
Collaboration: Roy El Hourany & Ziad Sari el Dine,  
Laboratoire d'Océanologie et Géoscience

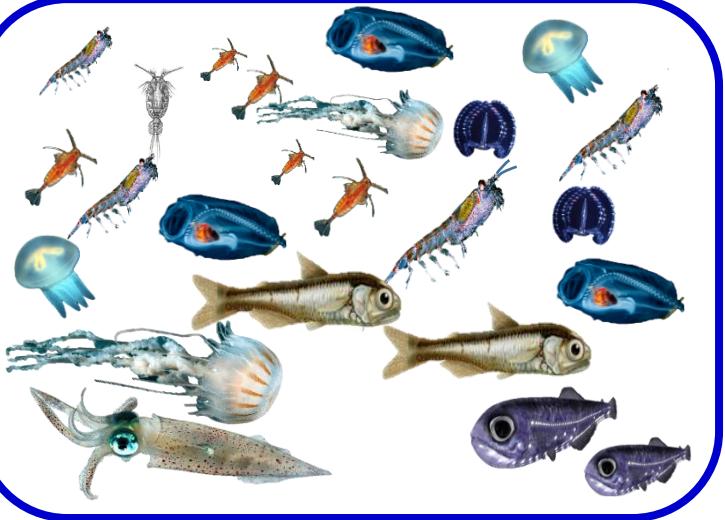
## November Class Climatology





# De nouveaux biologgers afin de mieux comprendre l'écologie des prédateurs marins et la biologie de l'Océan ?



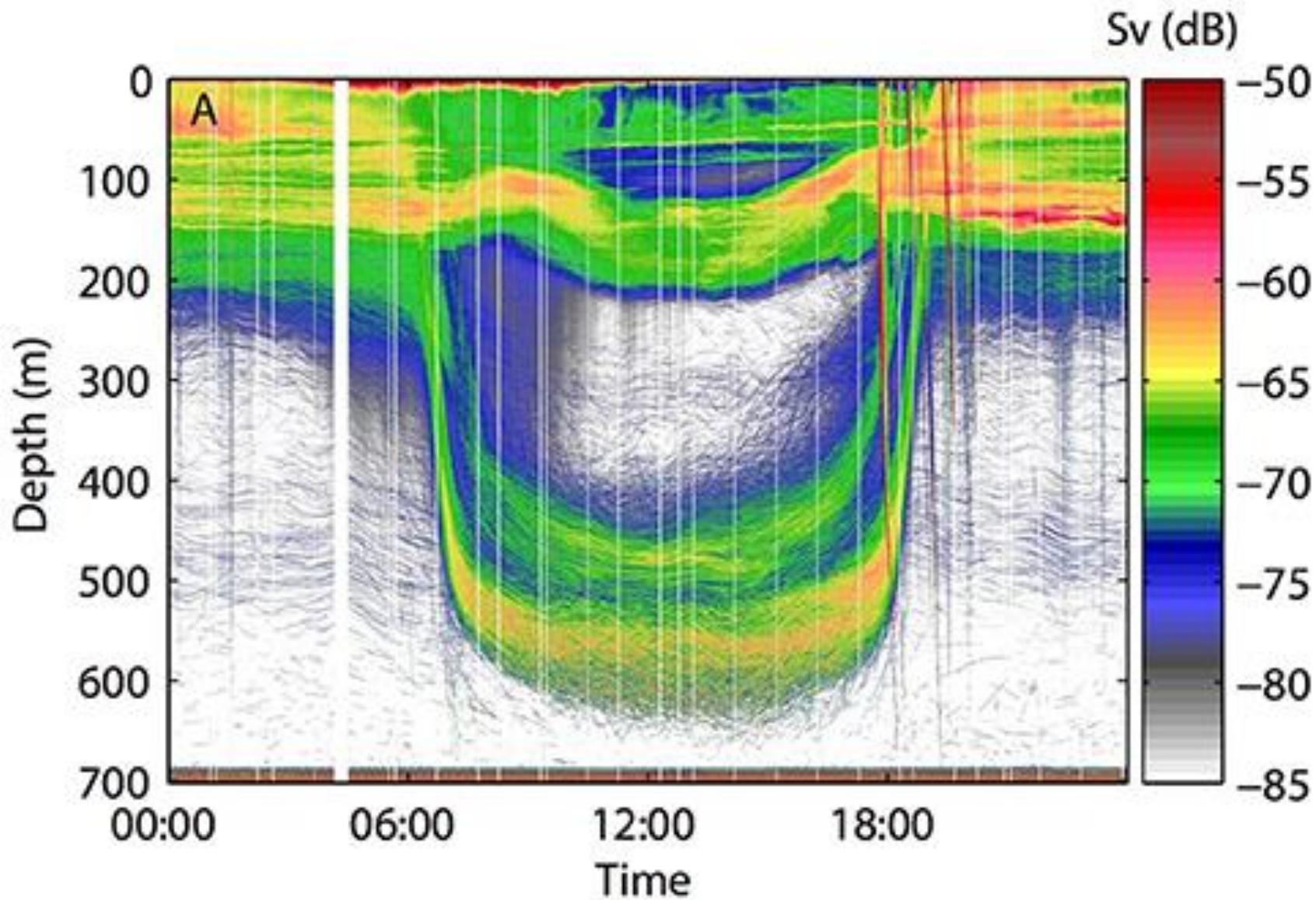


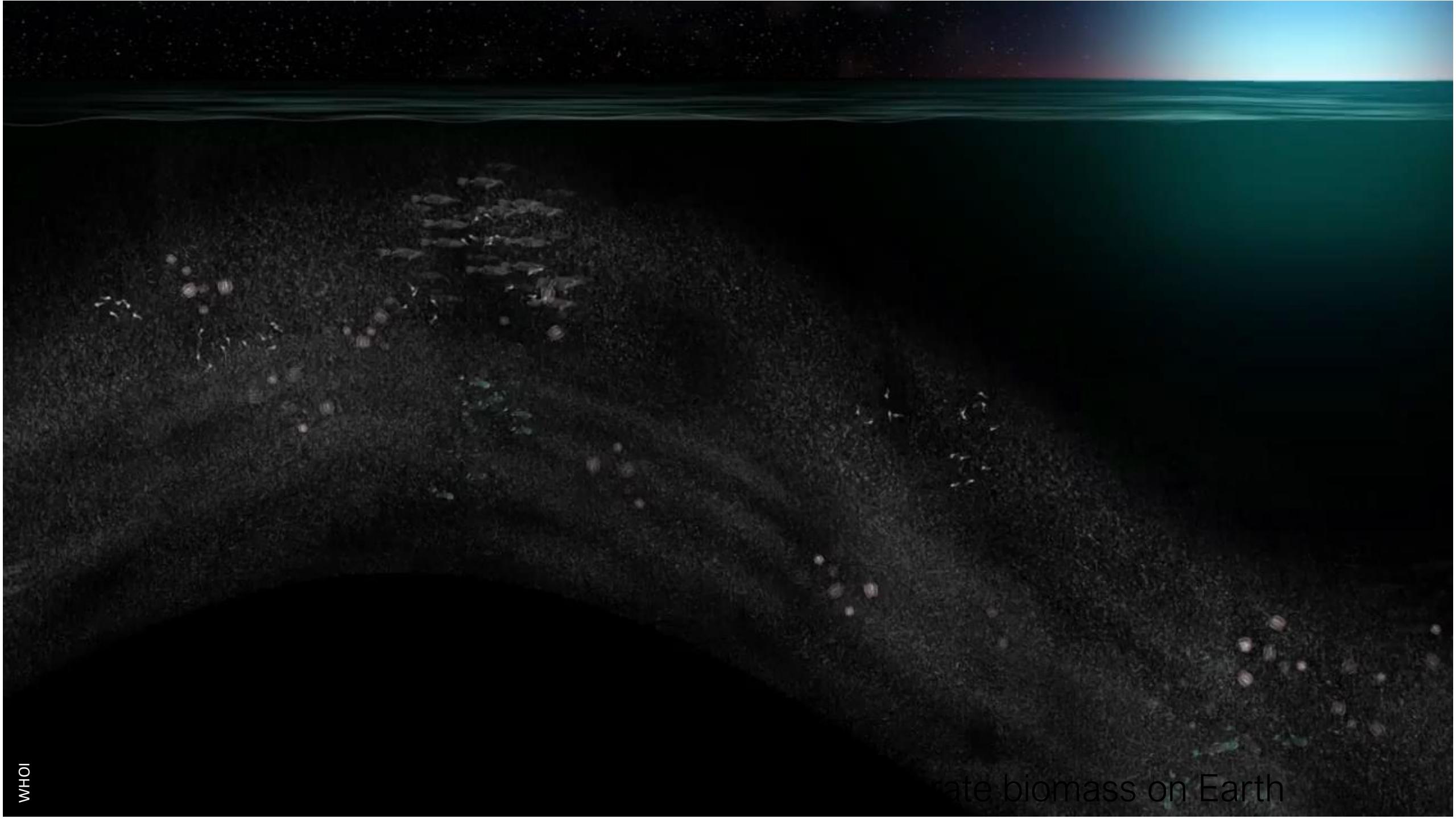
Des niveaux trophiques intermédiaires méconus

La plus forte biomasse animale sur notre planète  
Entre 10 et 16 Milliards de Tonnes

La plus importante migration quotidienne sur terre

Représente une contribution significative à la pompe biologique du CO<sub>2</sub>





ate biomass on Earth

Epipelagique

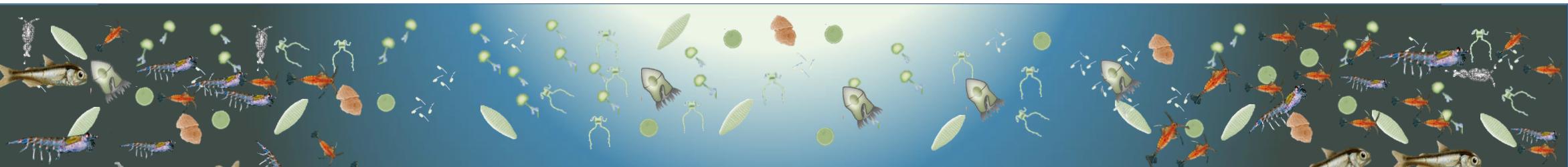
0

200

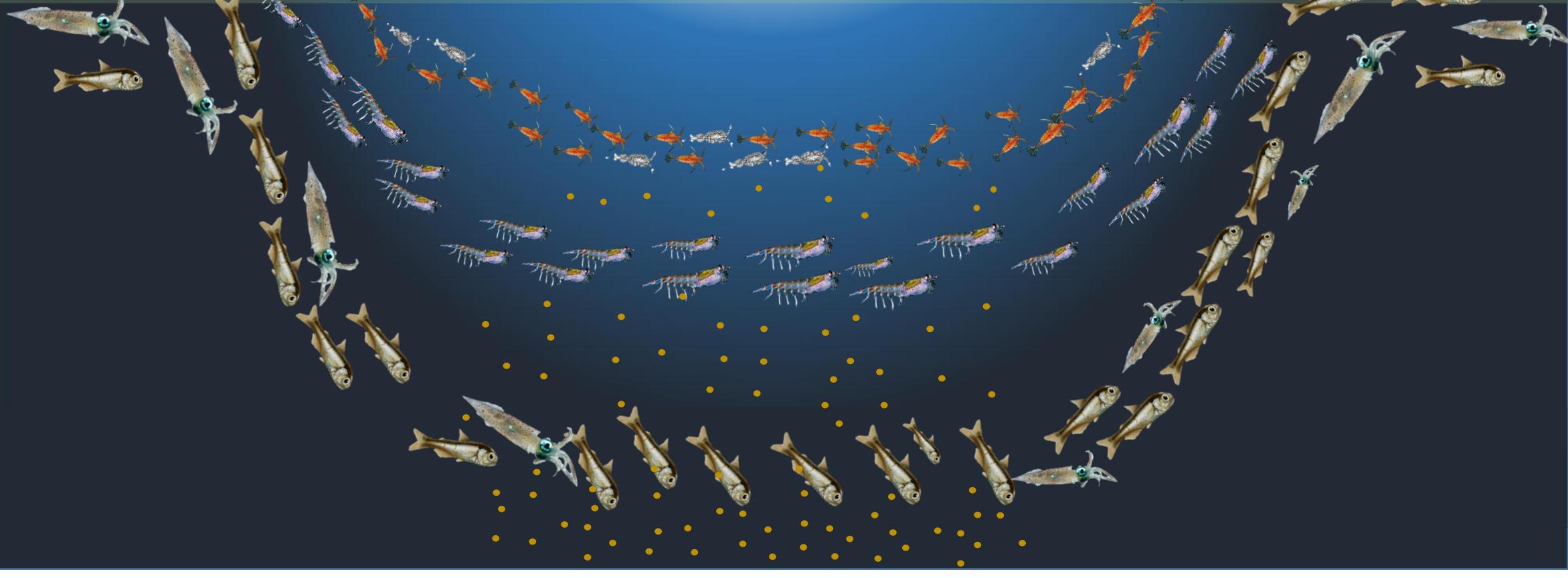
400

600

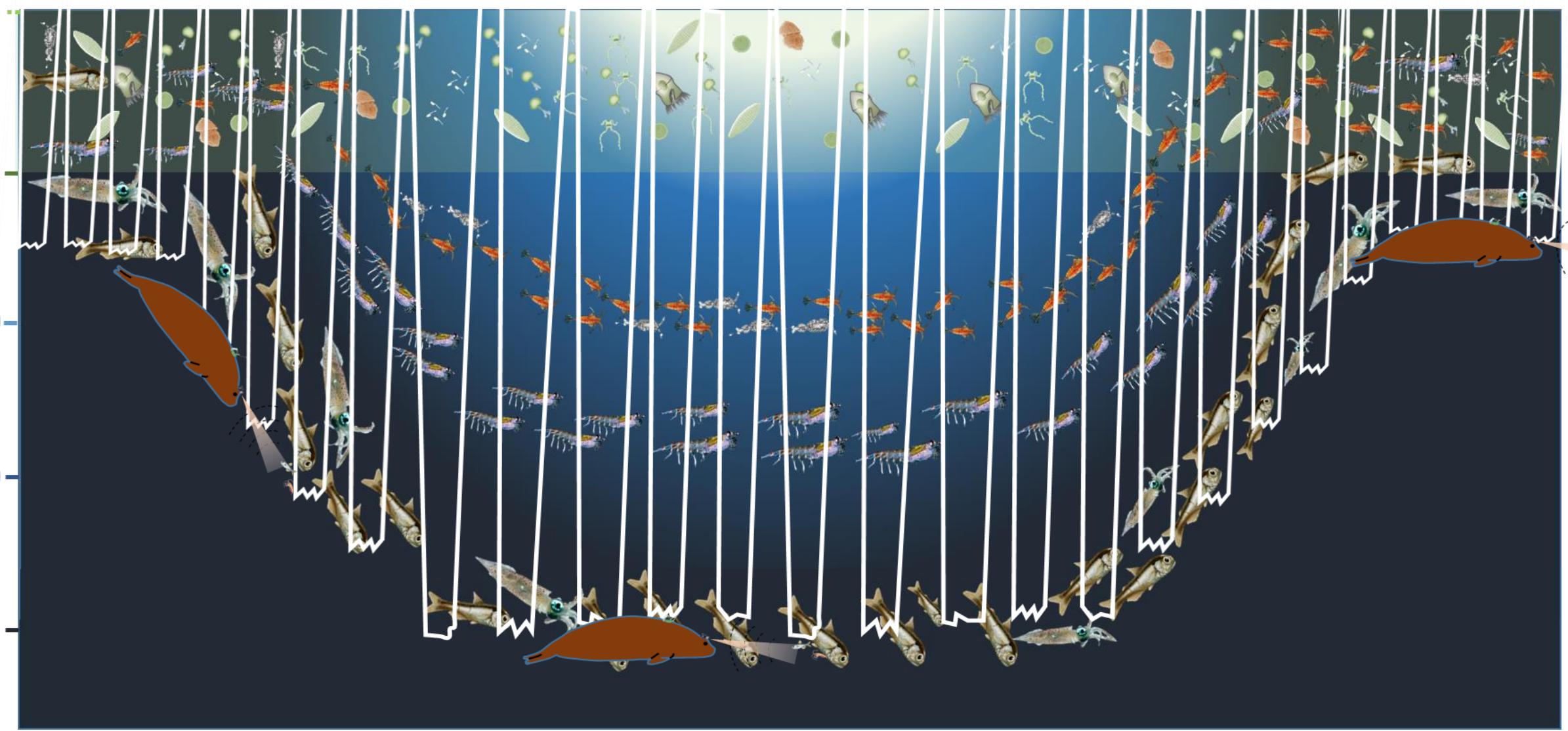
800



Mésopélagique

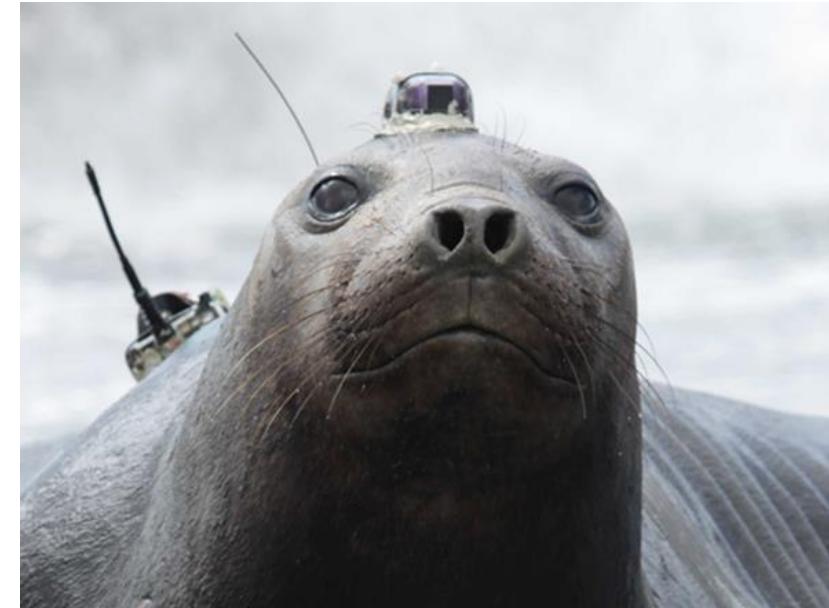
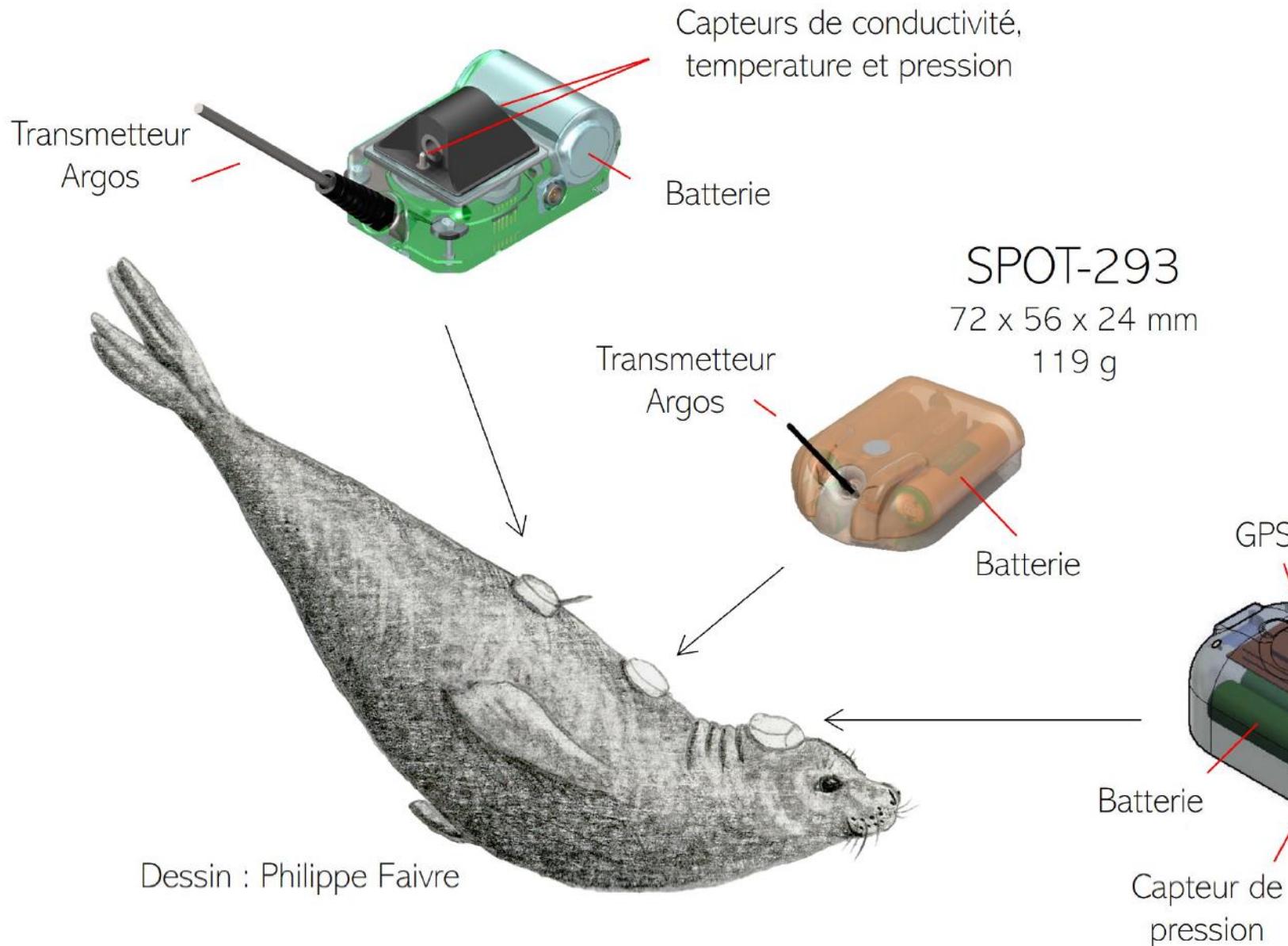


Epipelagique  
Mésopélagique

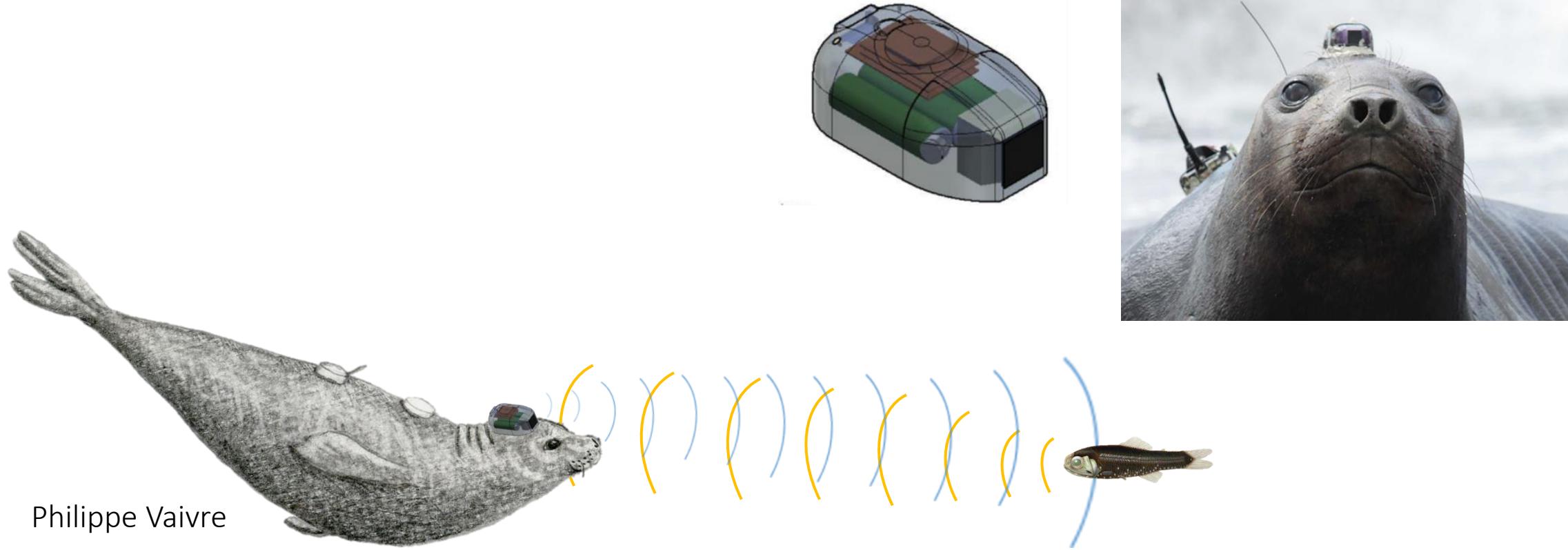


# CTD-SRDL

105 x 70 x 40 mm  
545 g

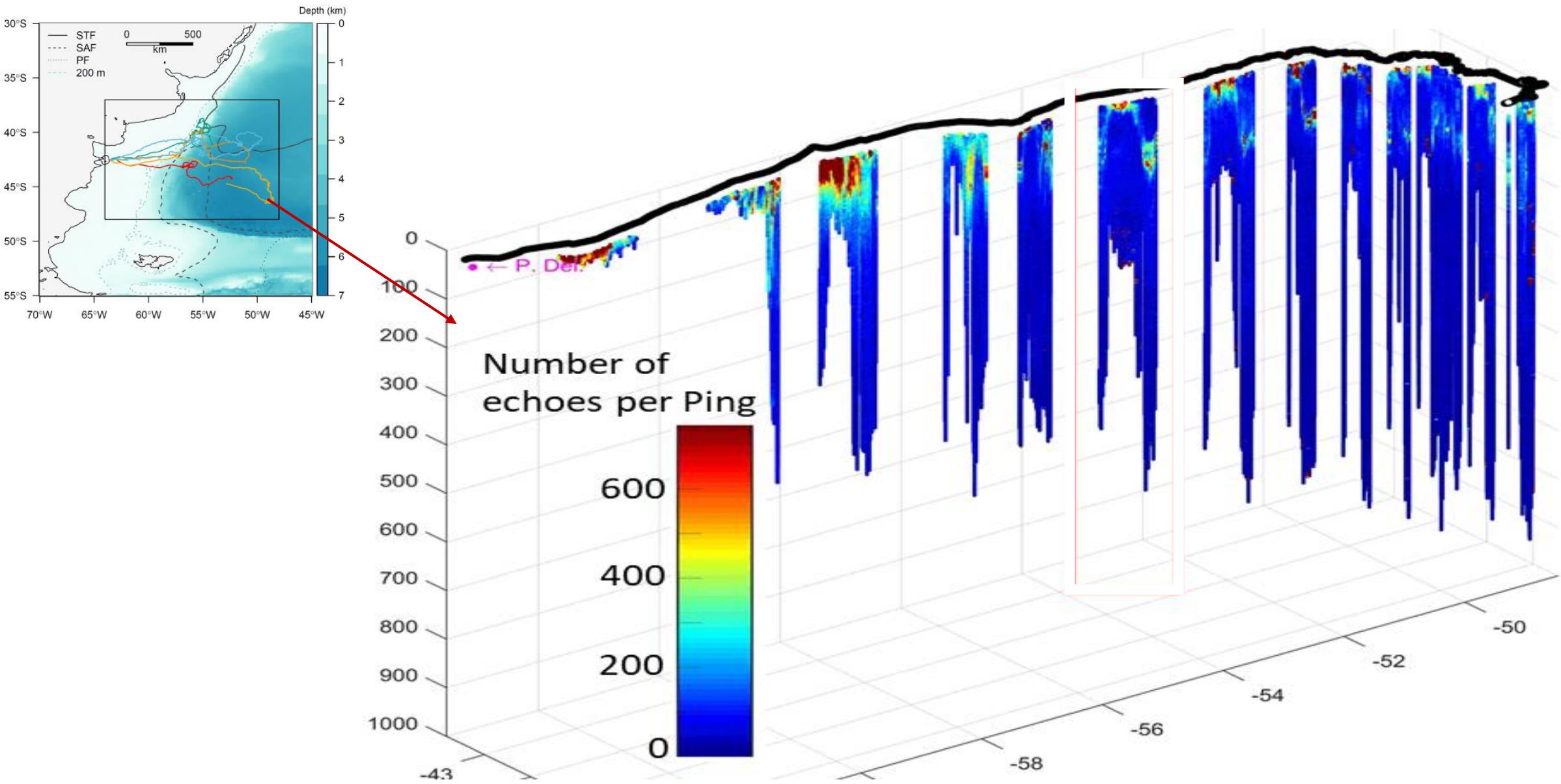


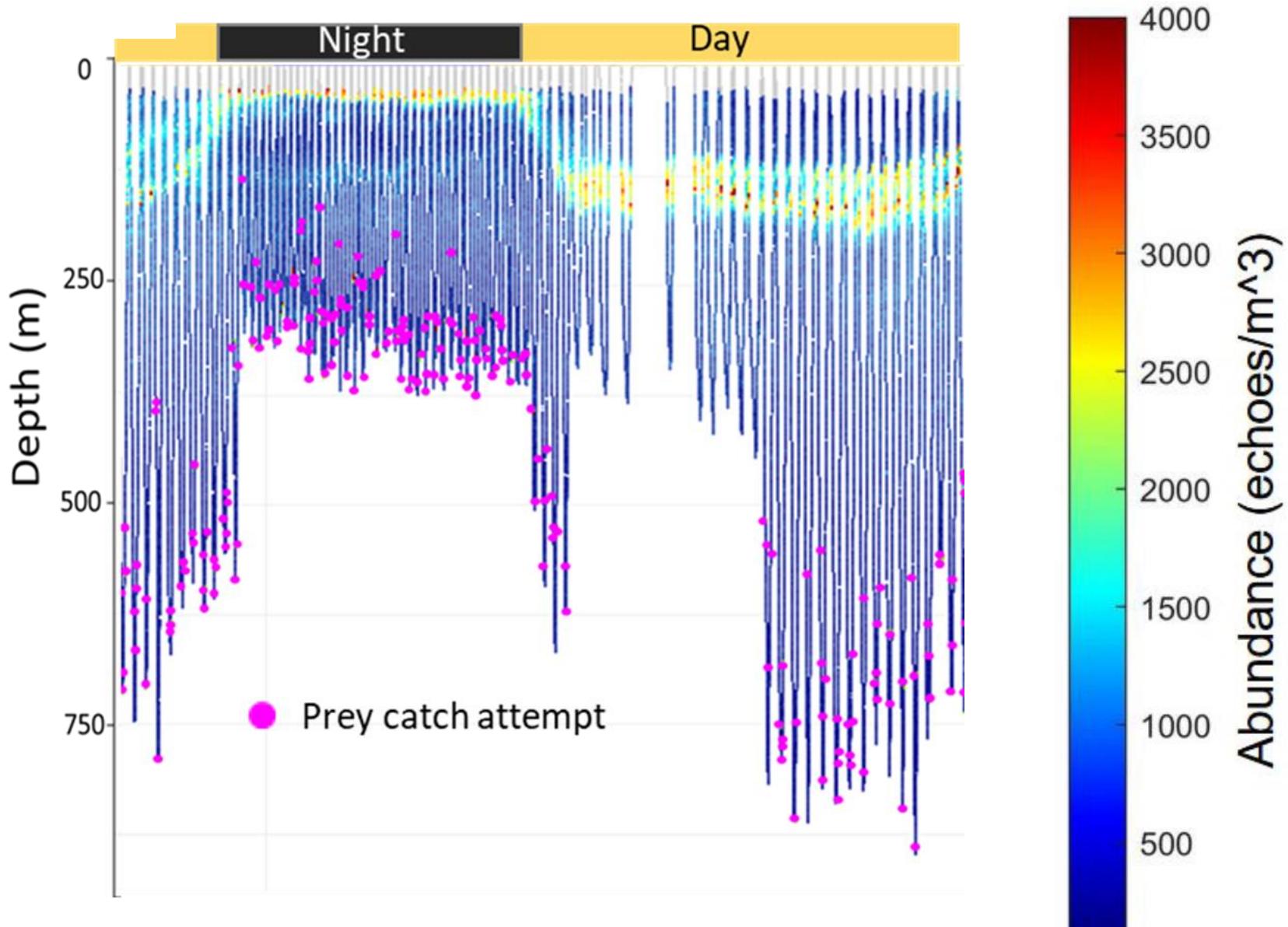
Dessin : Philippe Faivre



## Des informations quantitatives sur les échos générés

- Taille acoustique (>2 mm-quelque dizaine de cm)
- L'intensité acoustique
- Abondance
- Comportement

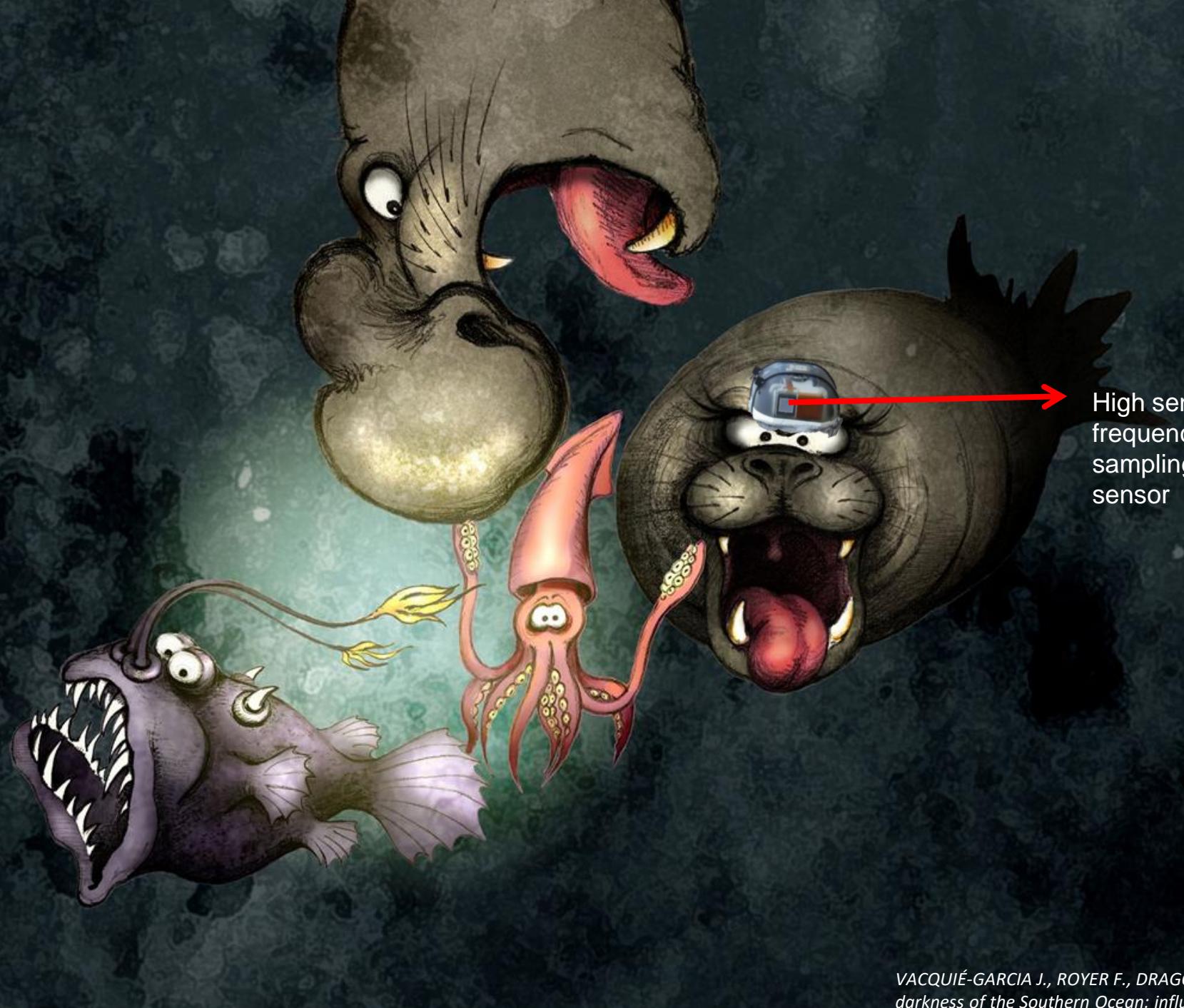




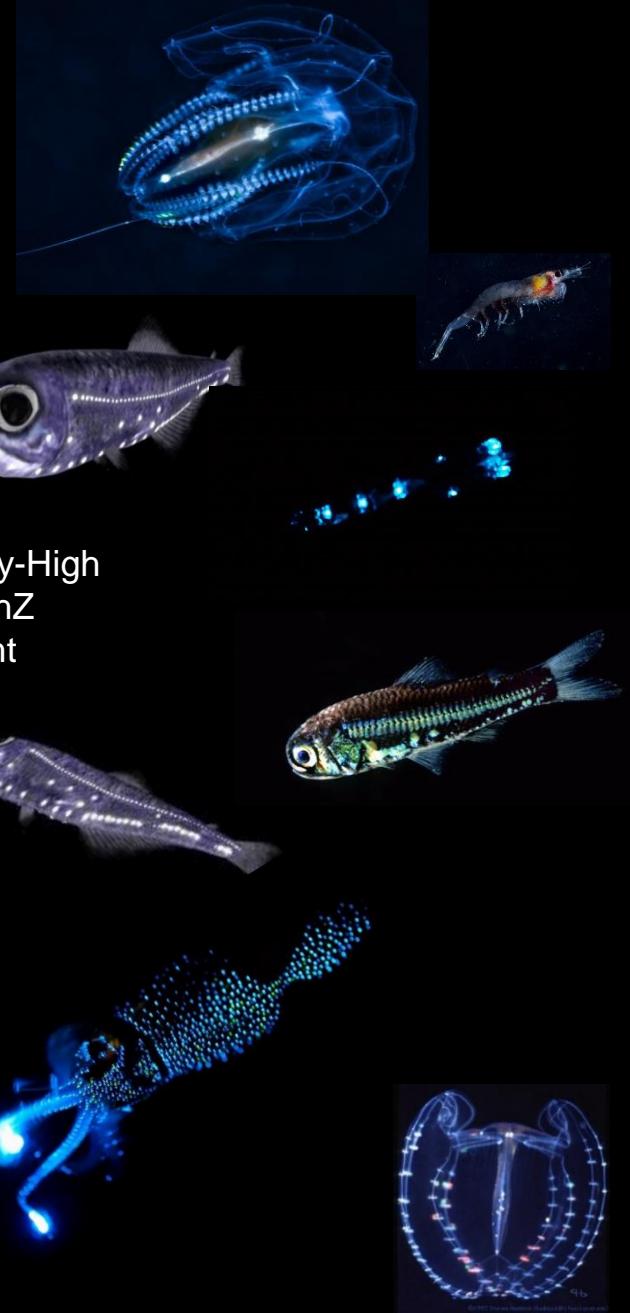
Tournier M, Goulet P, Johnson M, Nerini D, Fonvieille N, Guinet C (2021). A novel animal-borne miniature echosounder to observe the distribution and migration patterns of intermediate trophic levels in the Southern Ocean. *Journal of Marine System*, 223: 103608.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmarsys.2021.103608>

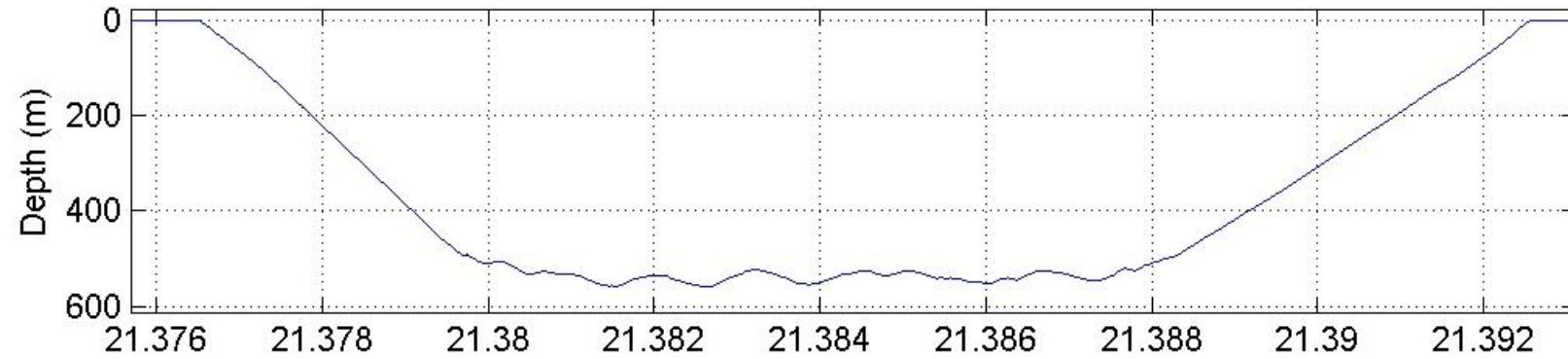
# micro-échosondeur et capteur de bioluminescence couple à une balise océanographique



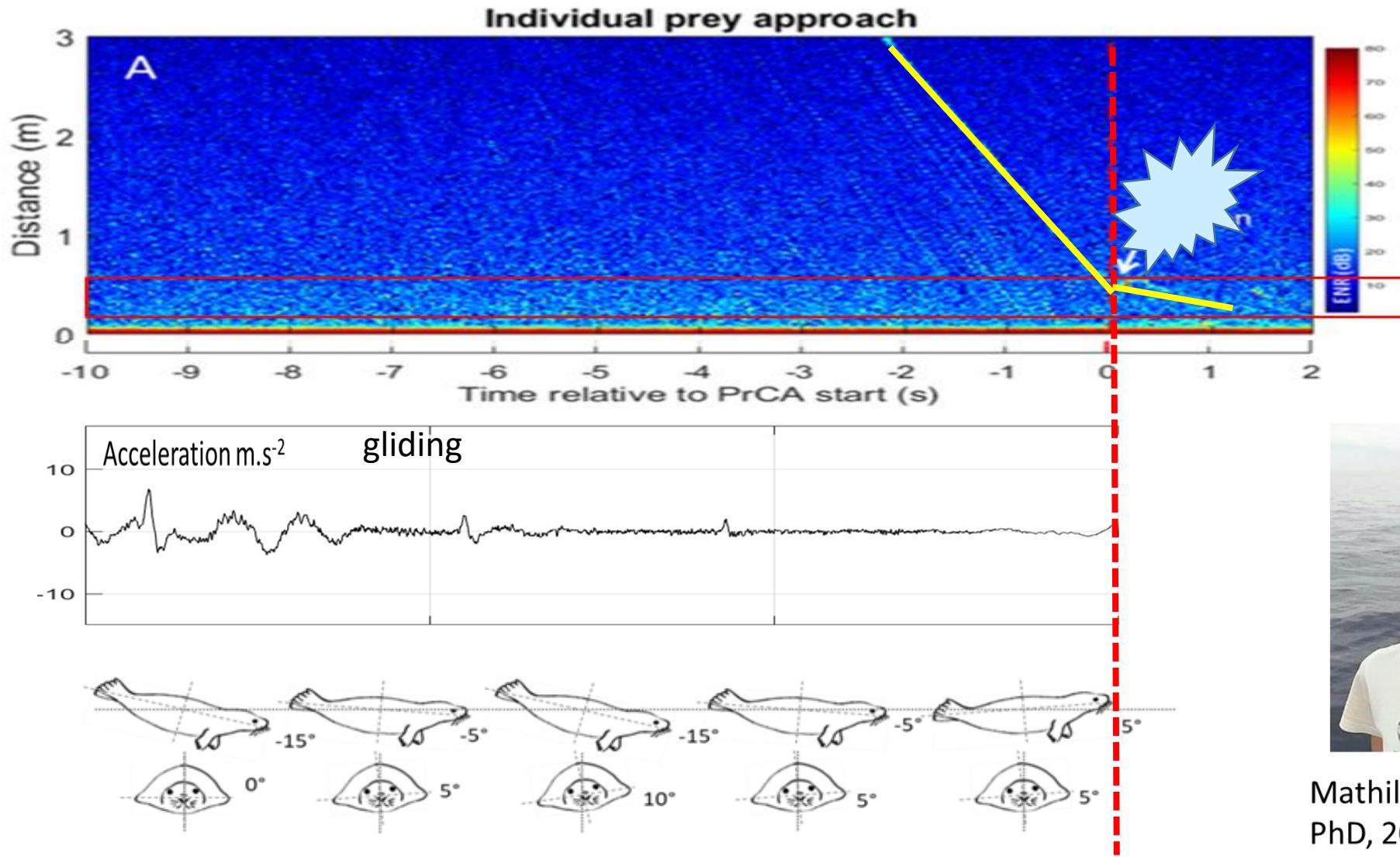


High sensitivity-High frequency 50 hZ sampling Light sensor





# Investigating the foraging behaviour

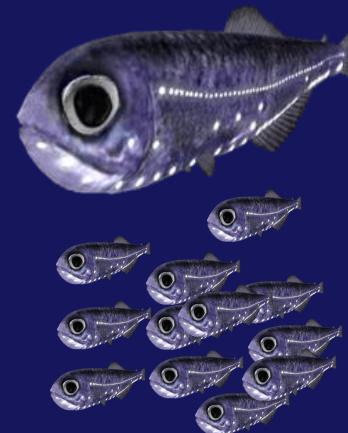
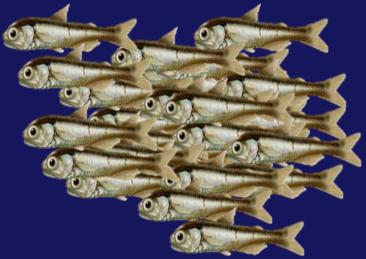


Mathilde Chevallay,  
PhD, 2021, CEBC

Chevallay et al. (2023)

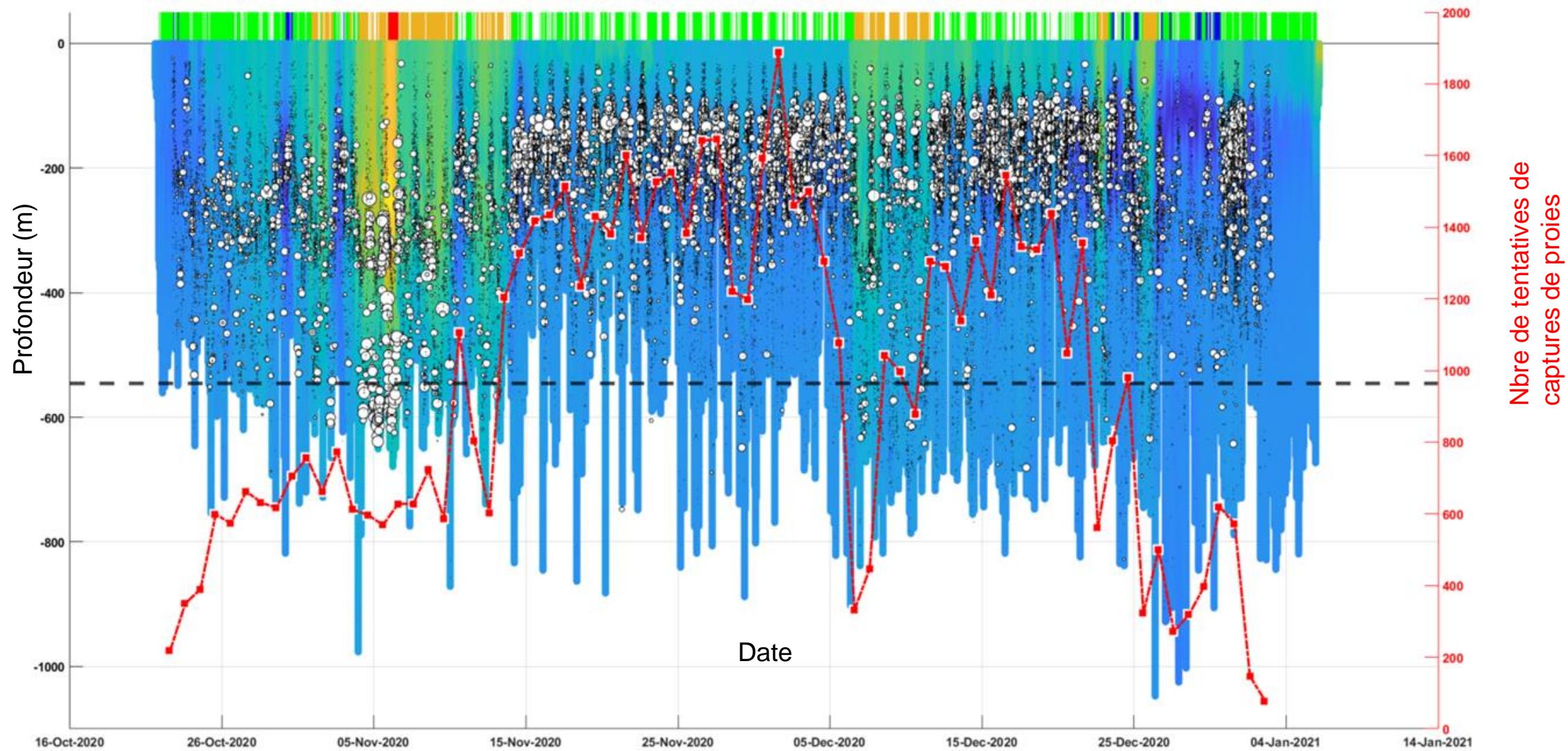


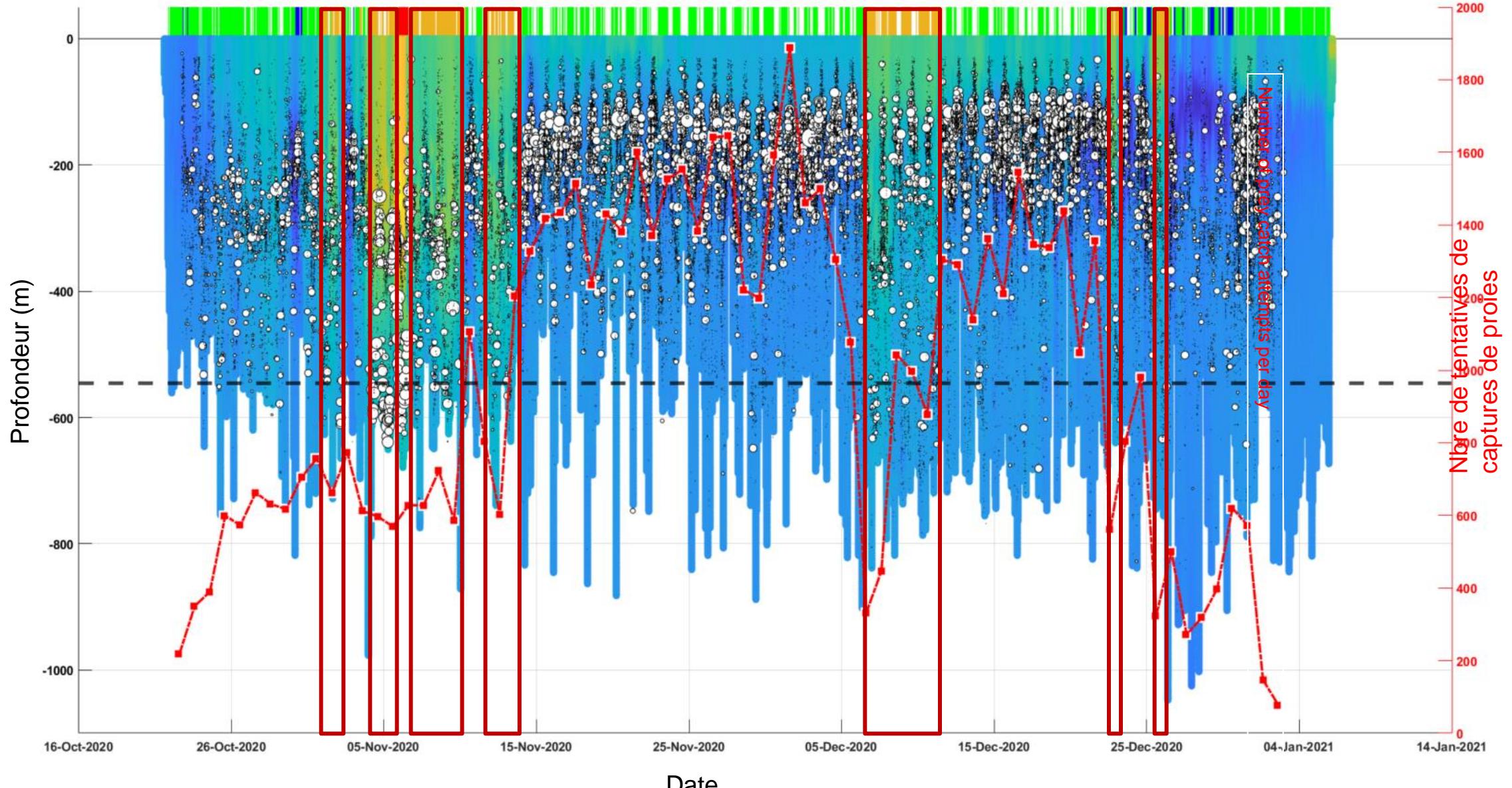






Bioluminescence Flash intensity = flash duration x Max intensity





Date

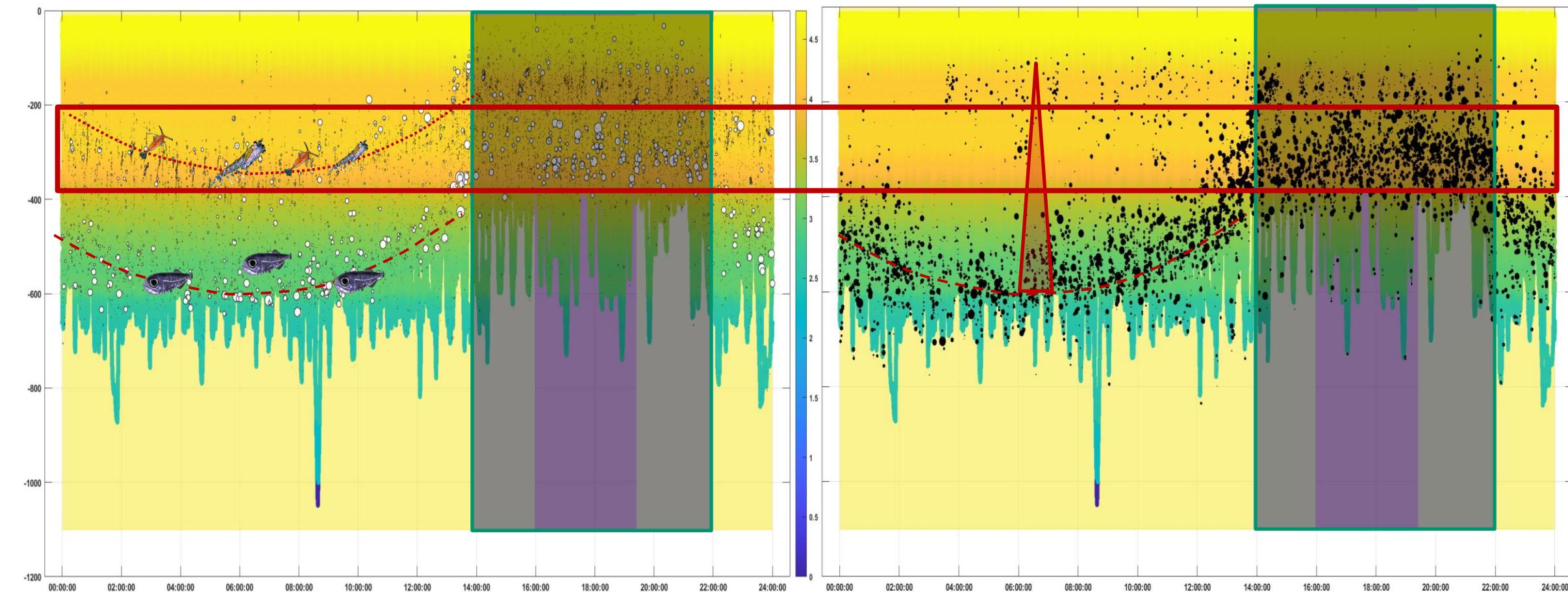
Clabaux et al. (In prep)

## Bioluminescence

## Prey Catch Attempts

Day

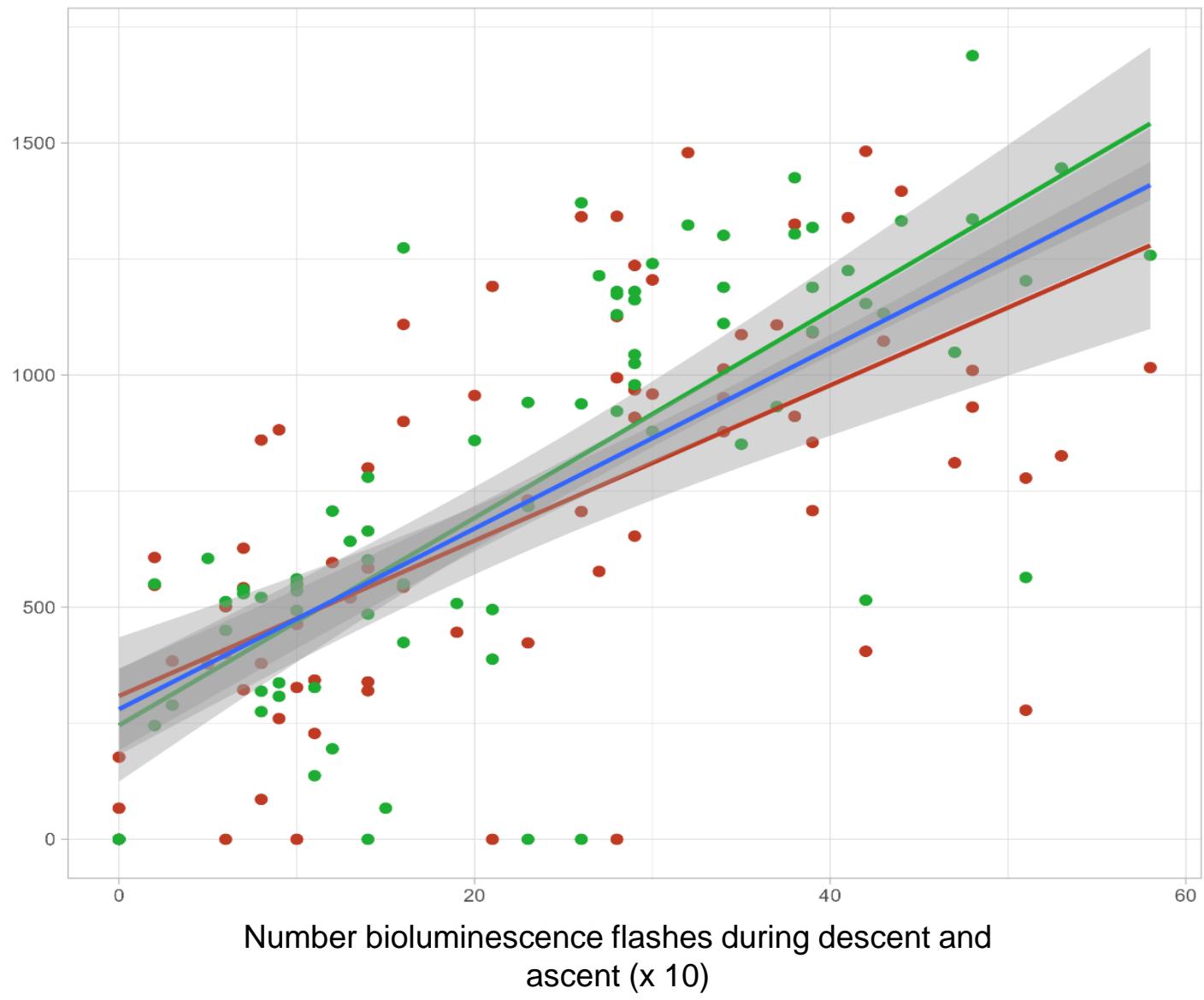
Night

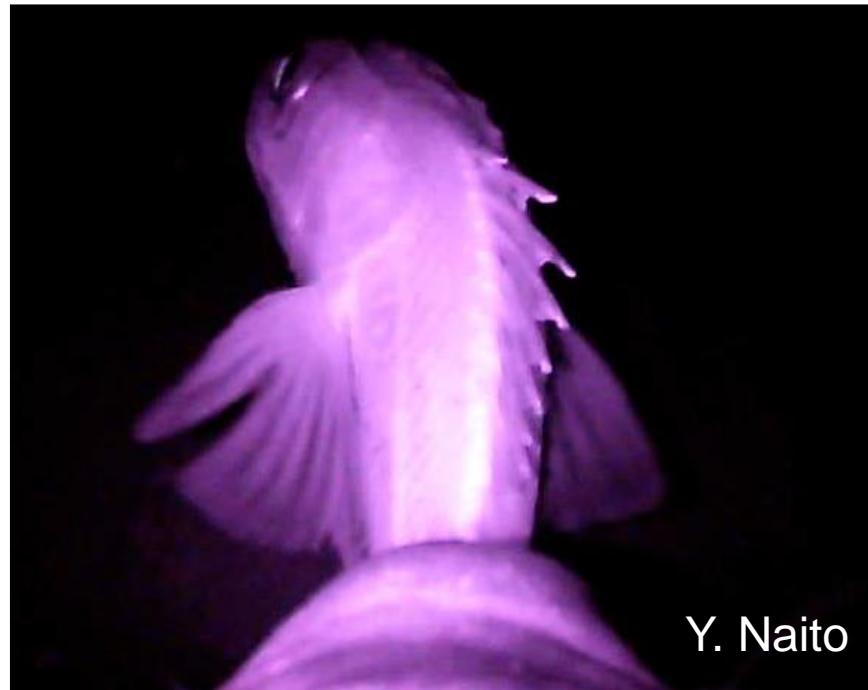


Goulet et al. J. Exp. Biol. (2020); Uzan et al. (to be submitted); Clabaux et al. (In prep)

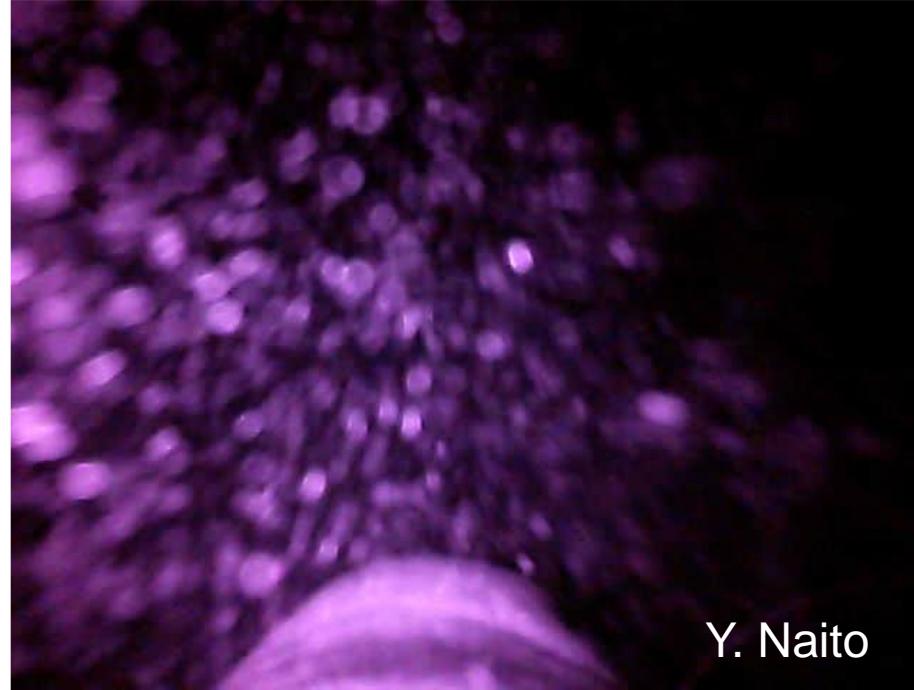


Number of prey Catch attempts





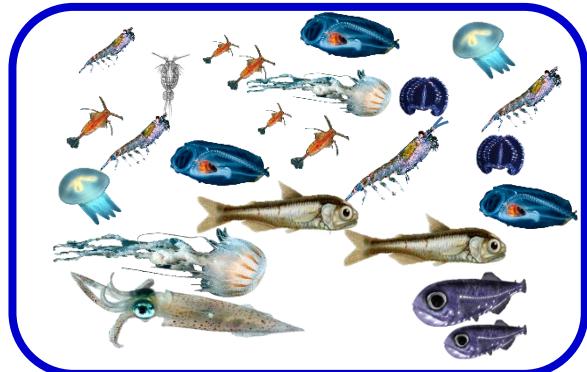
Y. Naito



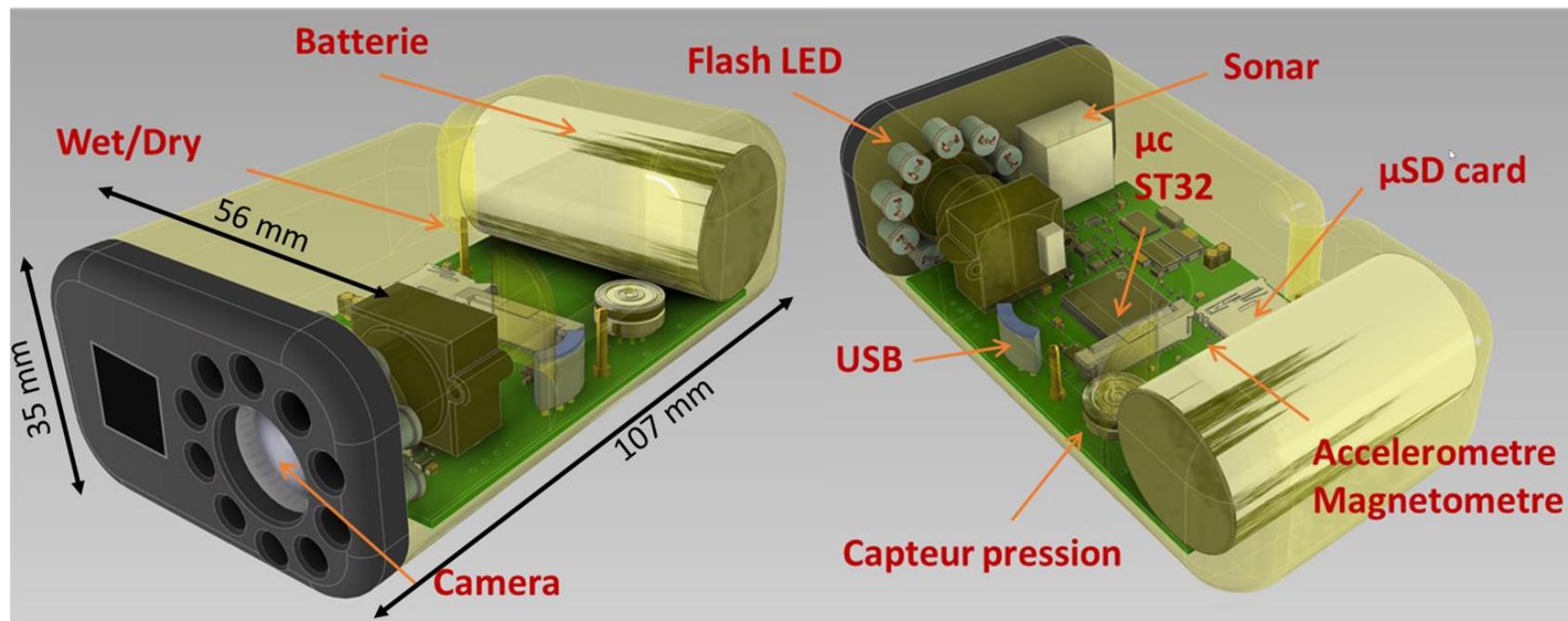
Y. Naito

Des systèmes de caméra vidéo (images pas suffisamment nette pour permettre l'identification des petits organismes (zooplankton)

# L'A2V- $\mu$ Cam : Combining a micro-sonar and a camera



Mieux caractériser les niveaux trophiques intermédiaires

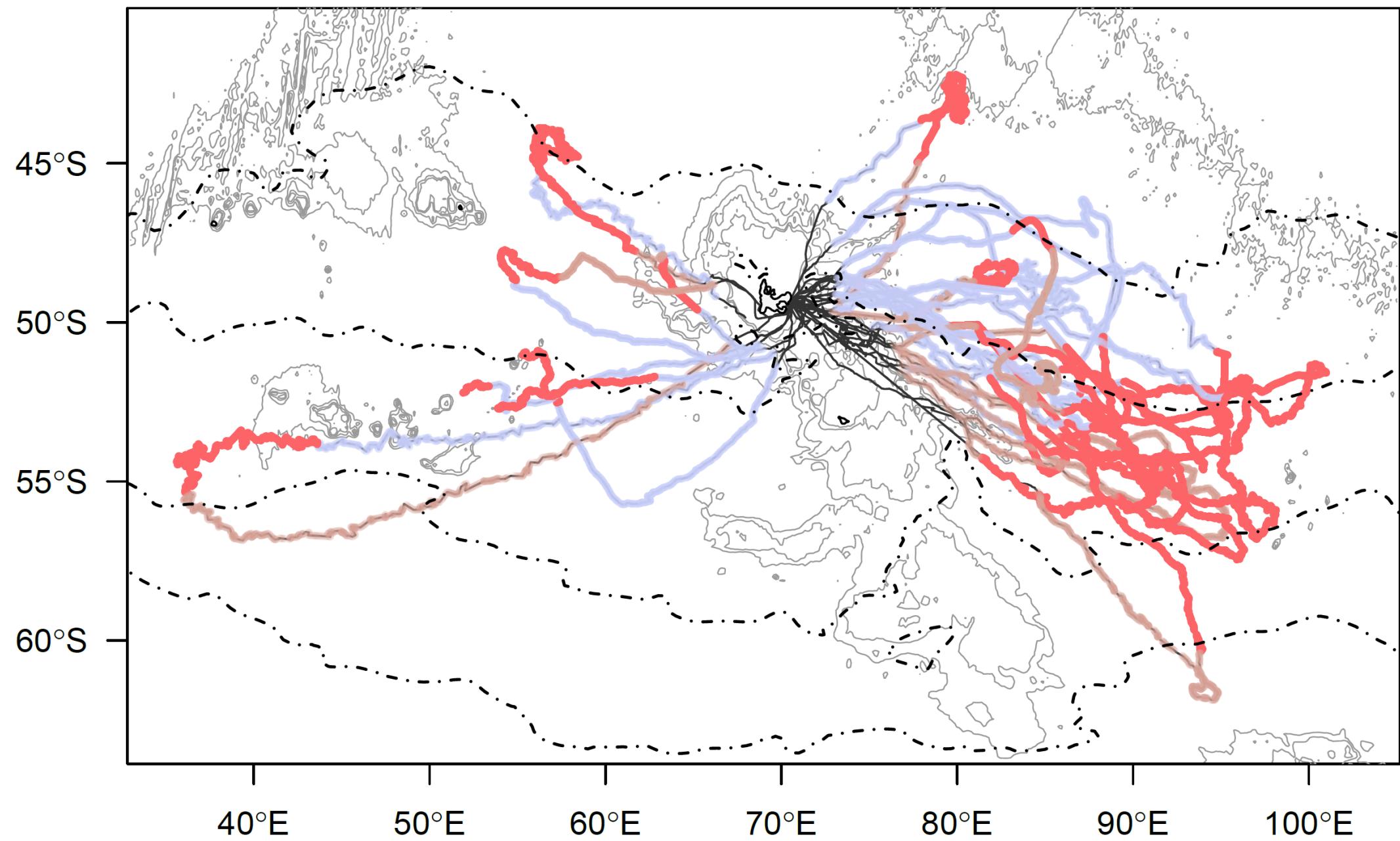


## Conclusion:

- Développer de nouveaux biologger pour mieux évaluer la composante biologique de l'Océan Austral,
- Pour essayer de comprendre comment la composition et l'abondance de la communauté mésopélagique change en fonction des conditions océanographiques
- Tout en étudiant l'incroyable écologie de cette espèce

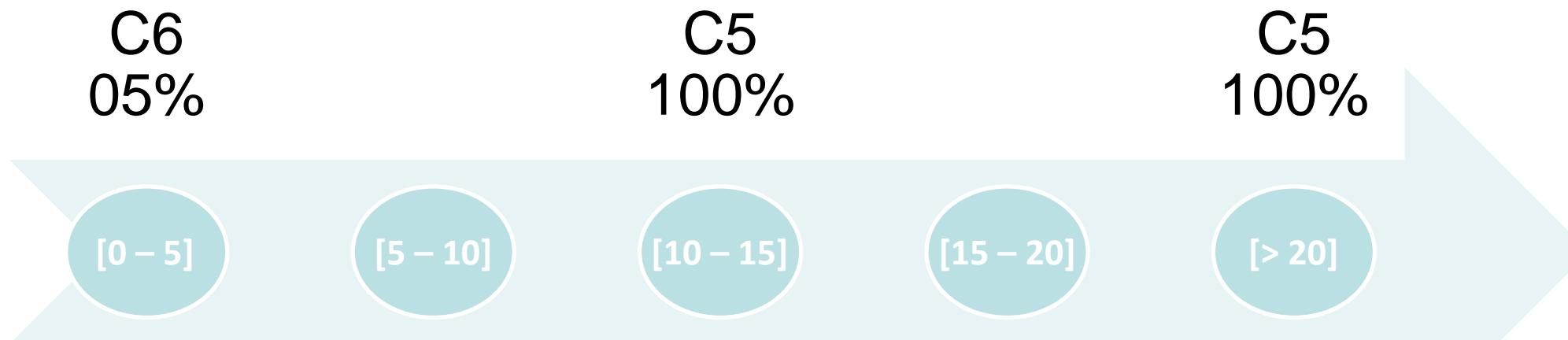


Questions?



Les éléphants de mer plus longtemps demeurent dans des communautés de phytoplancton dominées par la présence de diatomées (Class 5), jusqu'à 45 jours consécutifs

C3  
47%  
C4  
15%  
C5  
33%  
C6  
05%



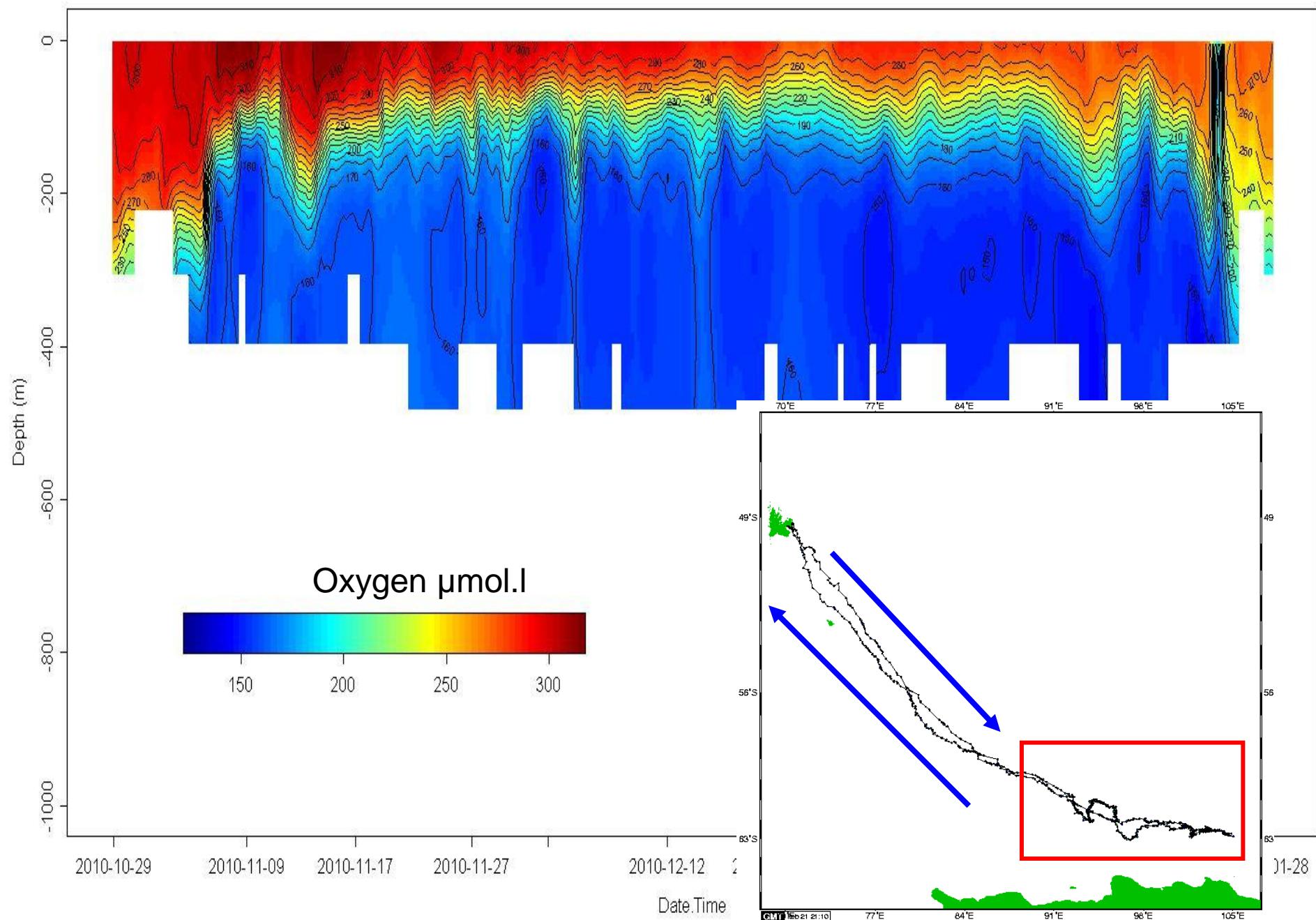
C3  
33%  
C4 11%  
C5  
56%

C5  
100%

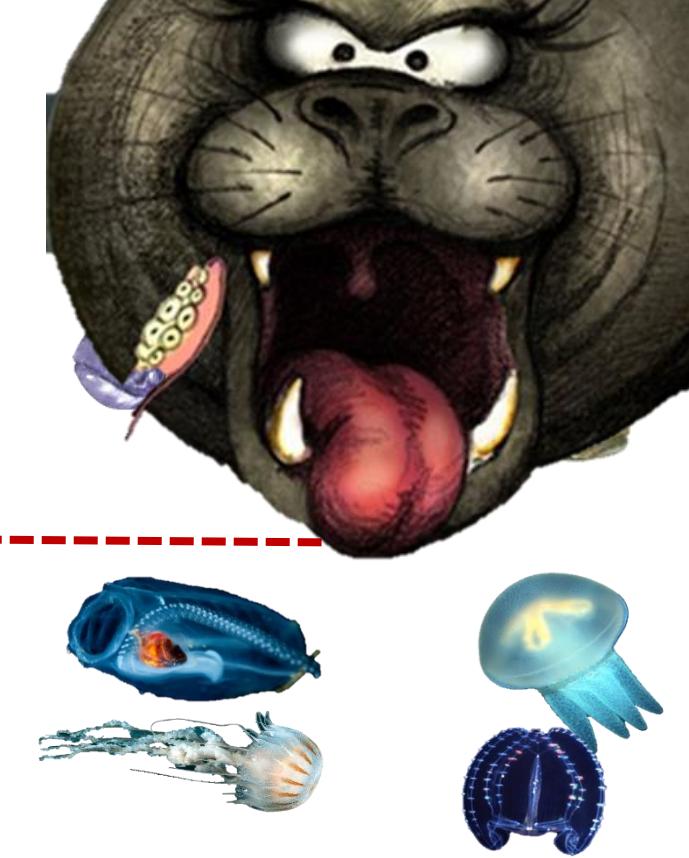
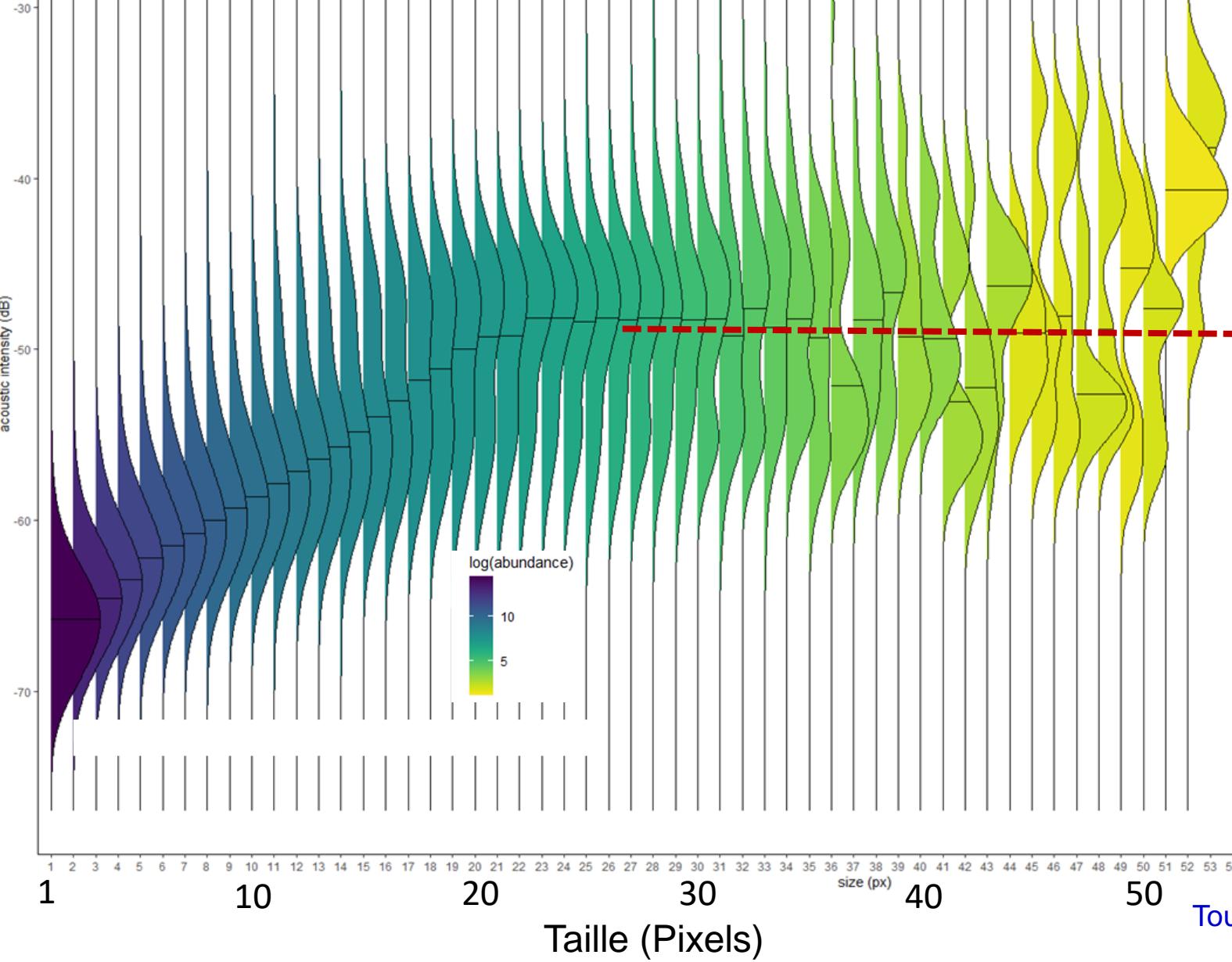
**Nombre de jours consécutifs passés au sein d'une même classe**



Ziad Sari el Dine, PhD  
LOG-CEBC



Intensité Acoustique (dB)



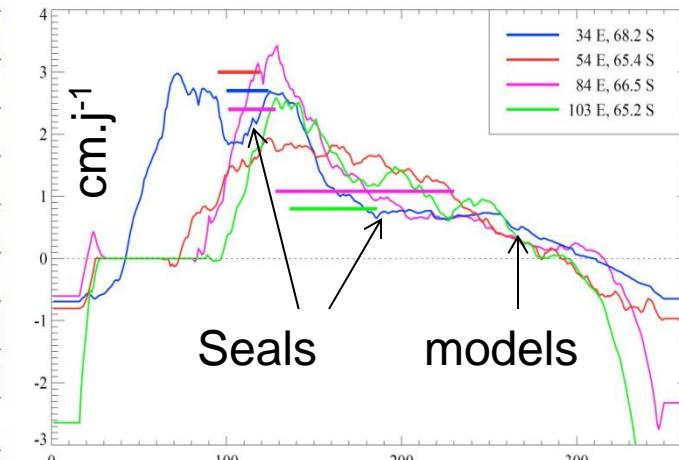
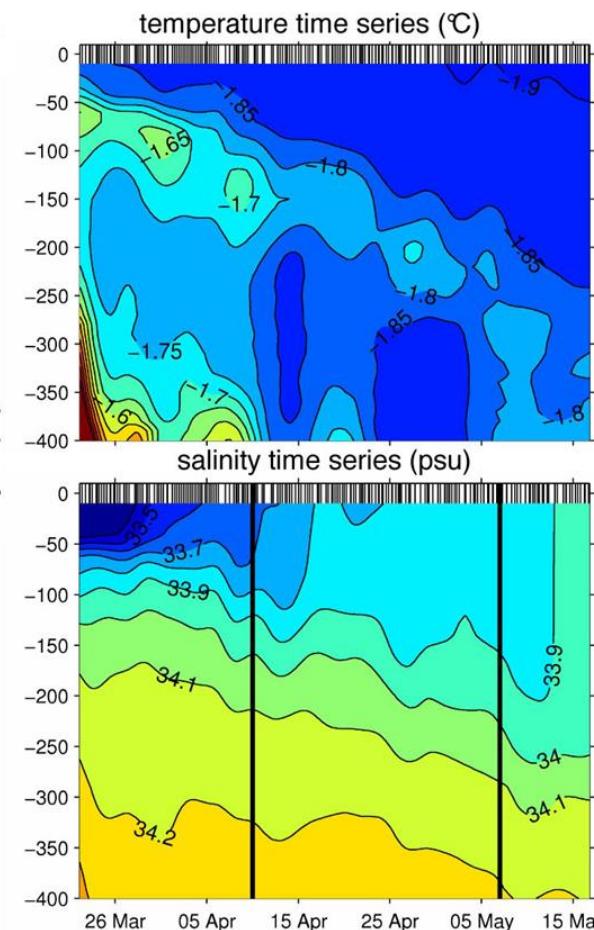
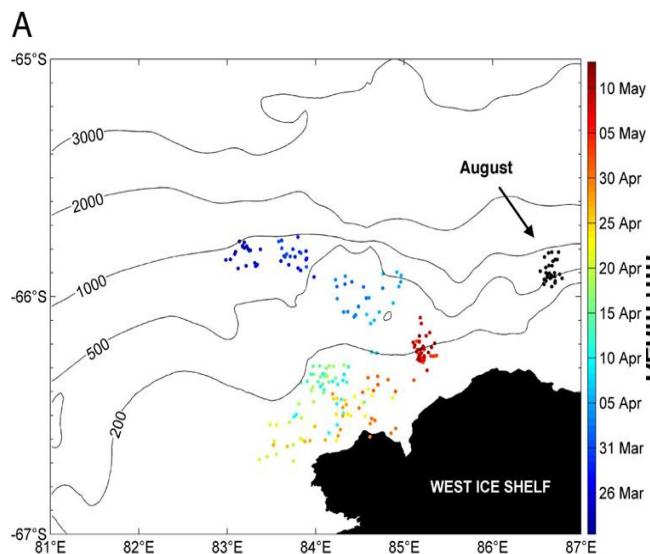
Tournier et al. 2021. Journal of Marine System

Molinet et al. (Soumis). Progress in Oceanography

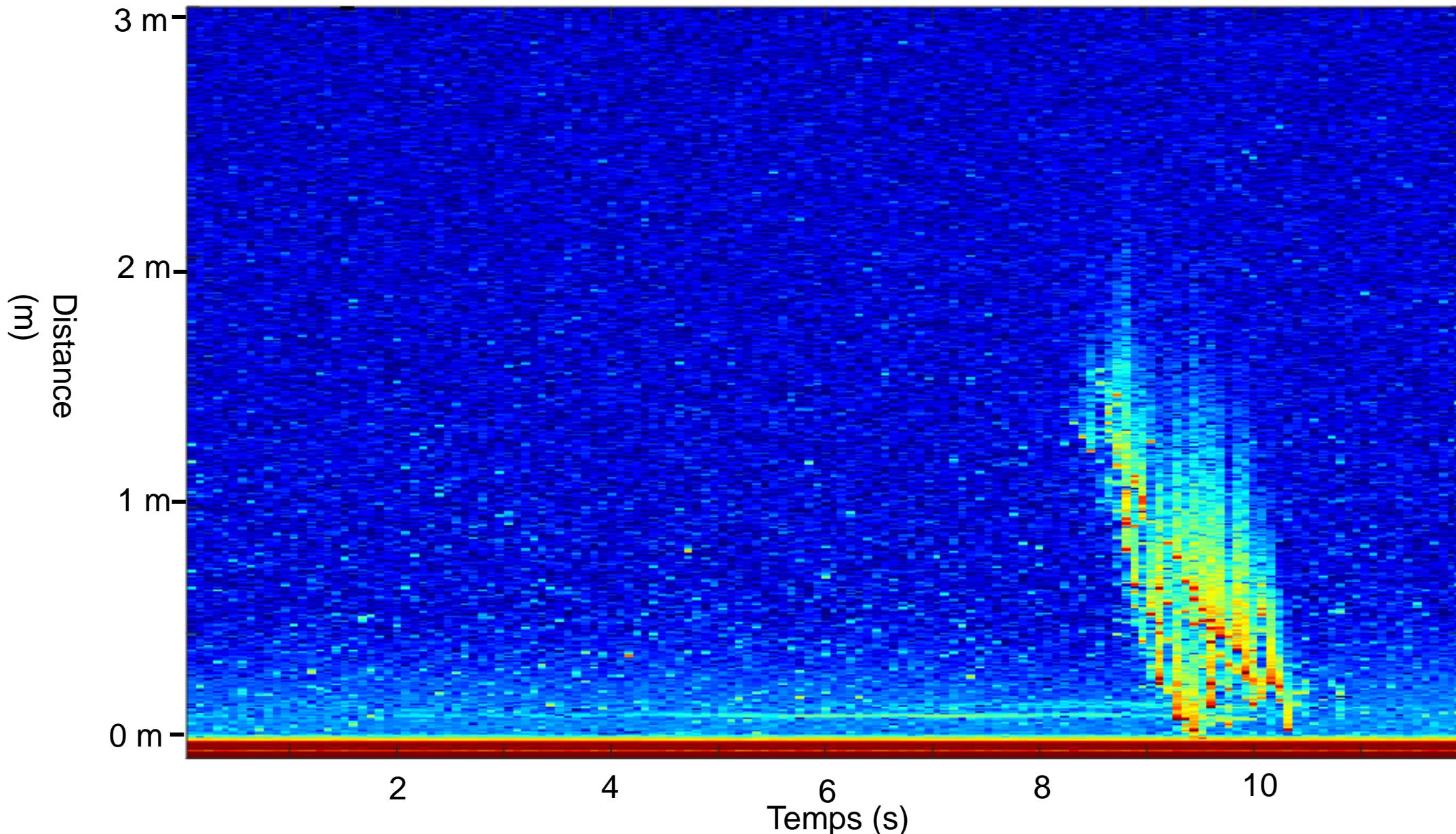
## Sea-Ice extent and thickness (CRYOSAT)



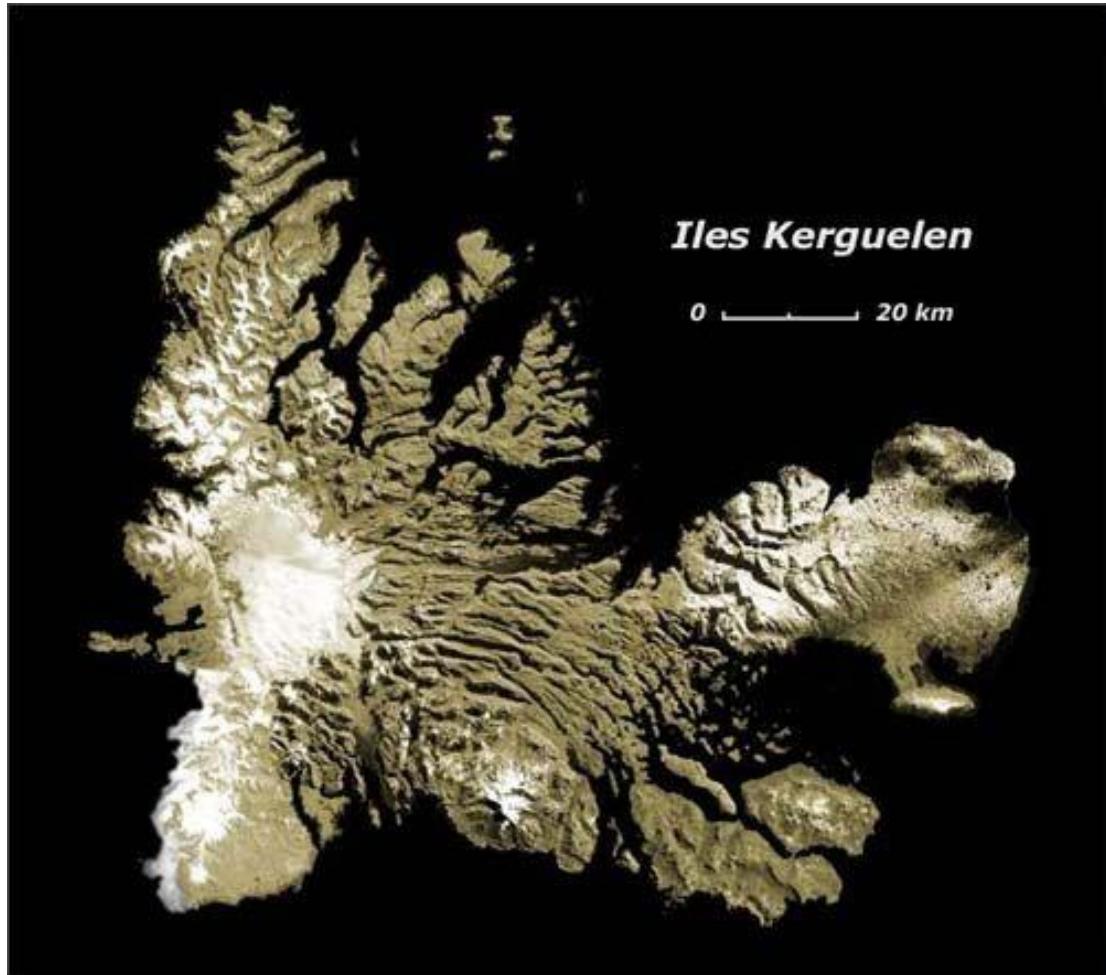
Estimation of the quantity  
of sea-ice produced:



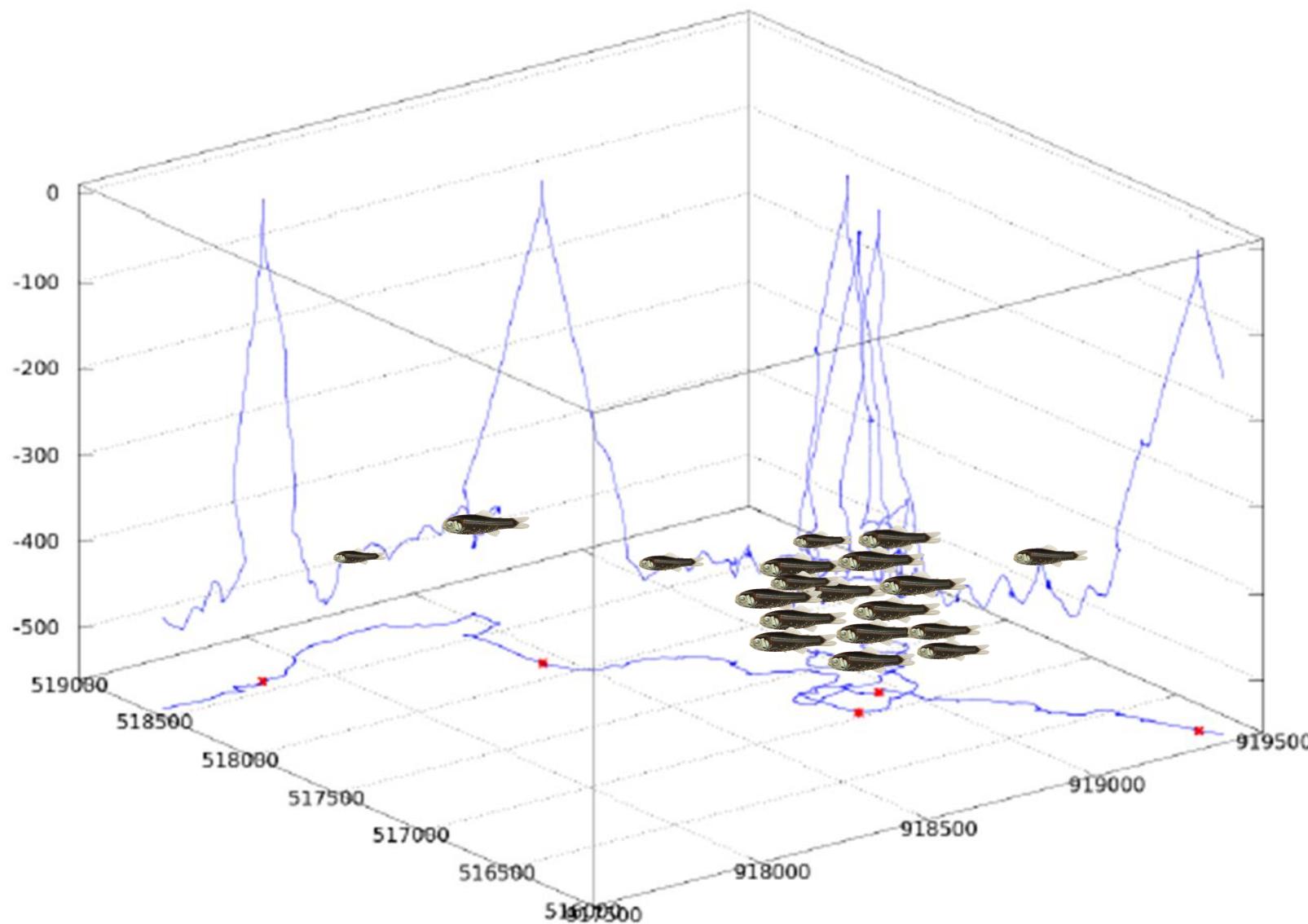
CHARRASSIN J.B., et al. (2008)  
Southern Ocean frontal structure and  
sea ice formation rates revealed by  
elephant seals. *Proceedings of the  
National Academy of Sciences*  
105:11634-11639

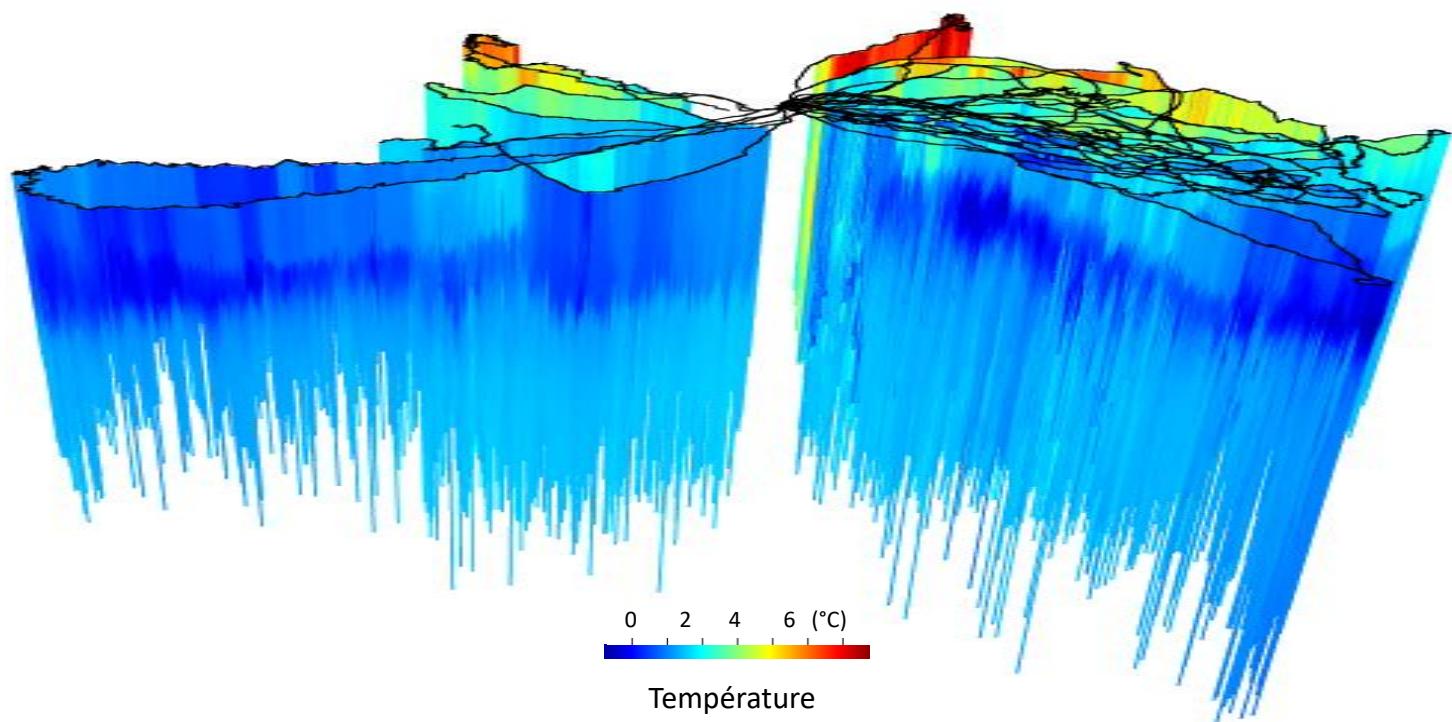
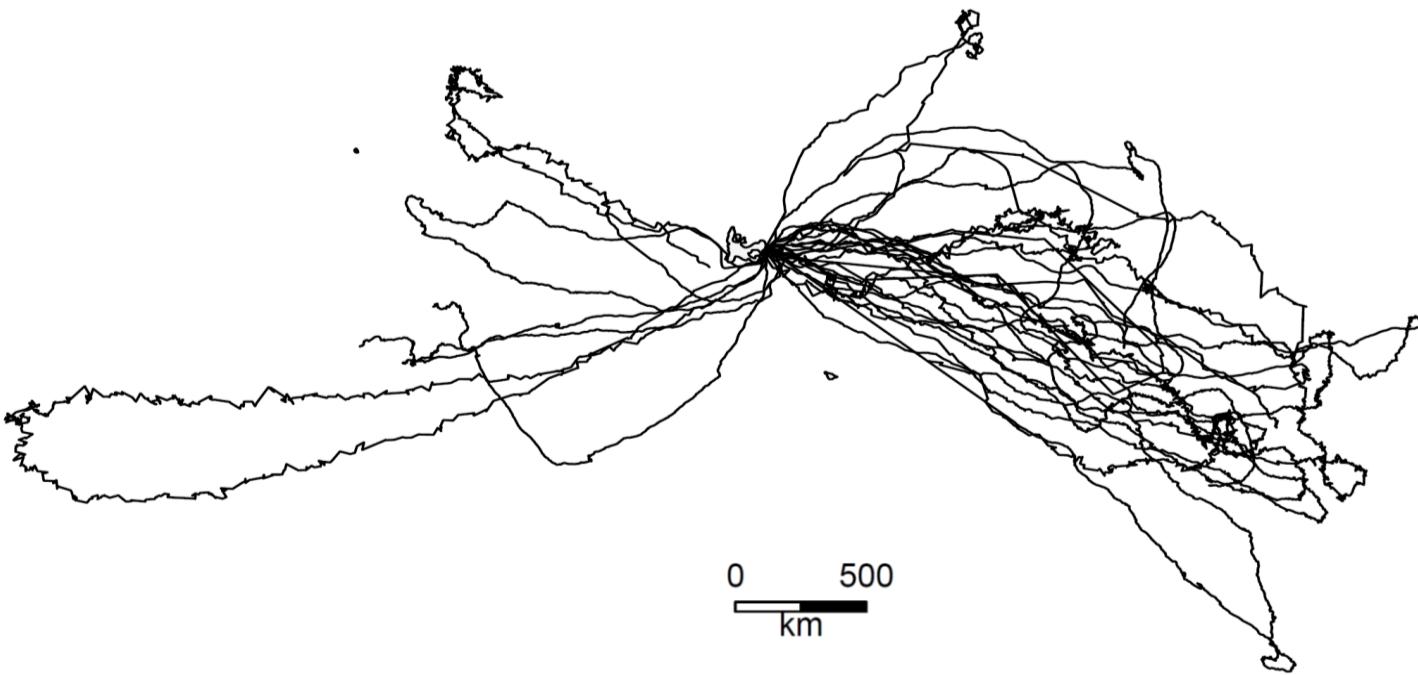


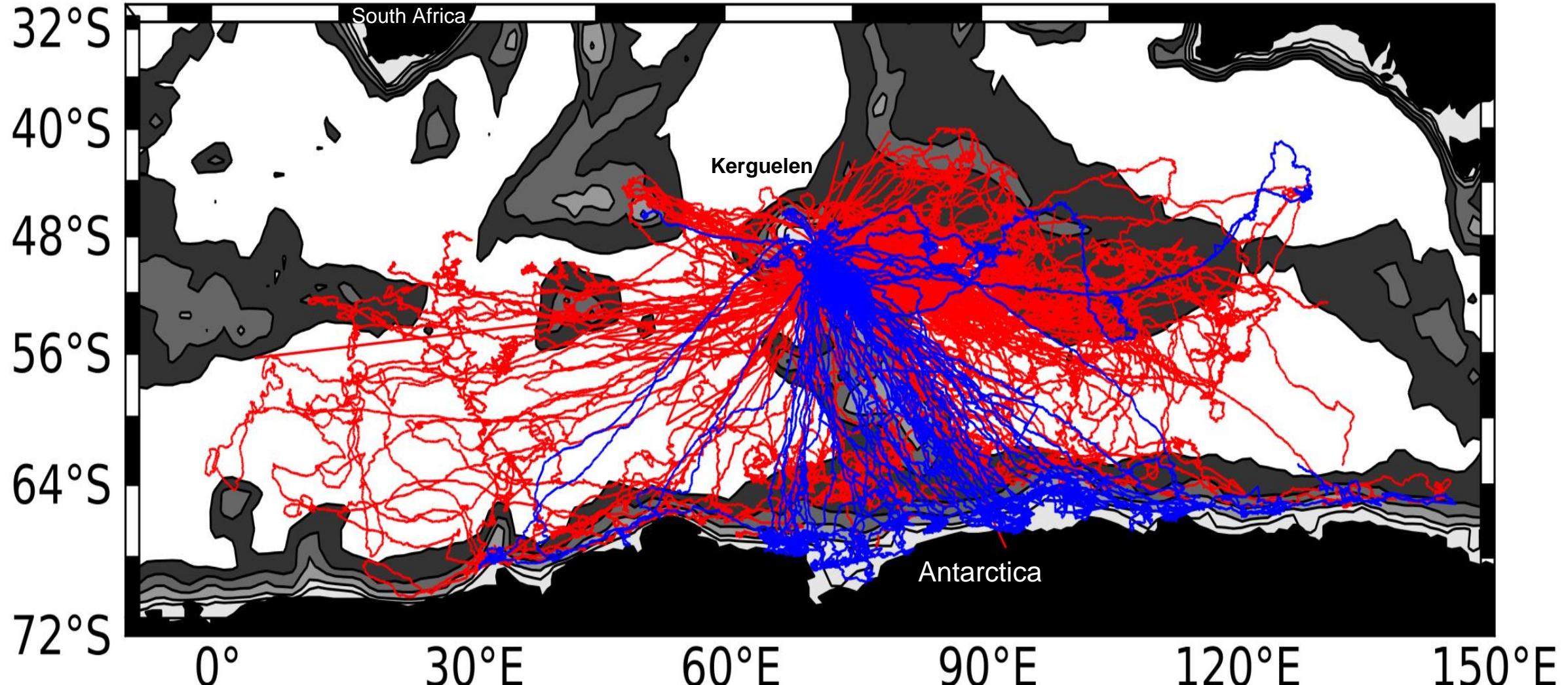
## 6. Elephant seal population change



# Reconstruction en trois dimensions de la trajectoire des plongées







**GOOS**  
The Global Ocean  
Observing System

