TROPICAL AND SOUTH ATLANTIC DATA AND
DATA PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

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The Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) has been funded to host the Argo Regional Data Center (ARDC) for the South Atlantic. For Argo purposes the South Atlantic extends from 20°N to the southern ocean. The northern limit is chosen so that there is an overlap with the ARDC for the North Atlantic, which extends southward to 20°S and is hosted by IFREMER, France. The primary objective of the ARDC's is to perform the final level of quality control on the Argo profiling data. The method, still being developed, will at least entail comparing the float data with neighboring (time and space windows to be determined) float, CTD, XBT and hydrographic data. AOML has begun to work with countries bounding the South Atlantic to obtain complete sets of these data that might not have yet been submitted to the World Data Centers. Upon receipt of these data, AOML will apply automatic quality control tests (already developed for Argo) to identify and flag incorrect profiles. An operator will inspect those profiles that fail the automatic tests. The data will then be put on the AOML website so that they are available to interested users (i.e., a TACE resource). AOML is also a participant in the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA) project, a study of the West African Monsoon and it's offshore manifestations. For AMMA, AOML will extend the data domain to somewhere between 30°N and 40°N. AOML also generates daily global maps of sea surface height from altimetry, sea surface geostrophic currents from the height distributions, surface winds from scatterometer data and sea-surface temperature (SST) from AVHRR observations. A customized product is being developed that will generate these products for only the tropical Atlantic. These products will be available for both Argo and AMMA participants and can also serve as a resource for TACE.