

# Coastal Observations in Under-Resourced Countries

Lucie Cocquempot (IFREMER, France) and Jethan d'Hotman (SAEON, South Africa),  
and multiple co-investigators

*“Affordable and standardised practices that can be broadly used for observations  
of physical, biological and biogeochemical parameters of the coastal ocean”*

## COLaB: “Coastal Observation Lab in a Box”

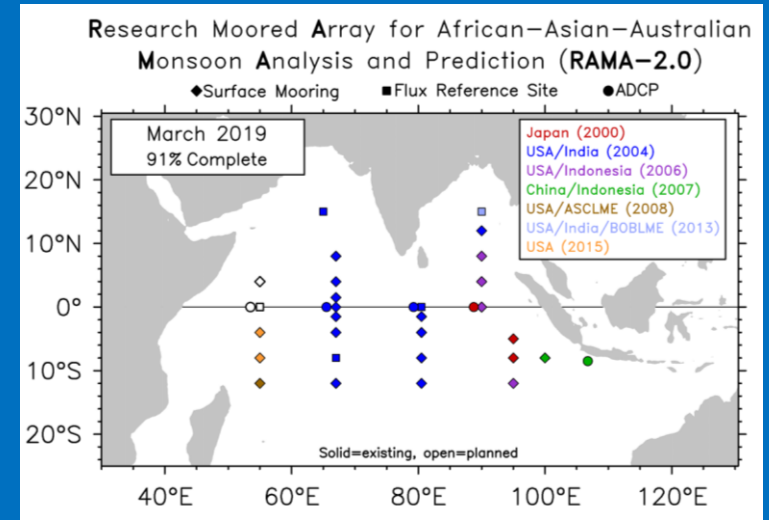
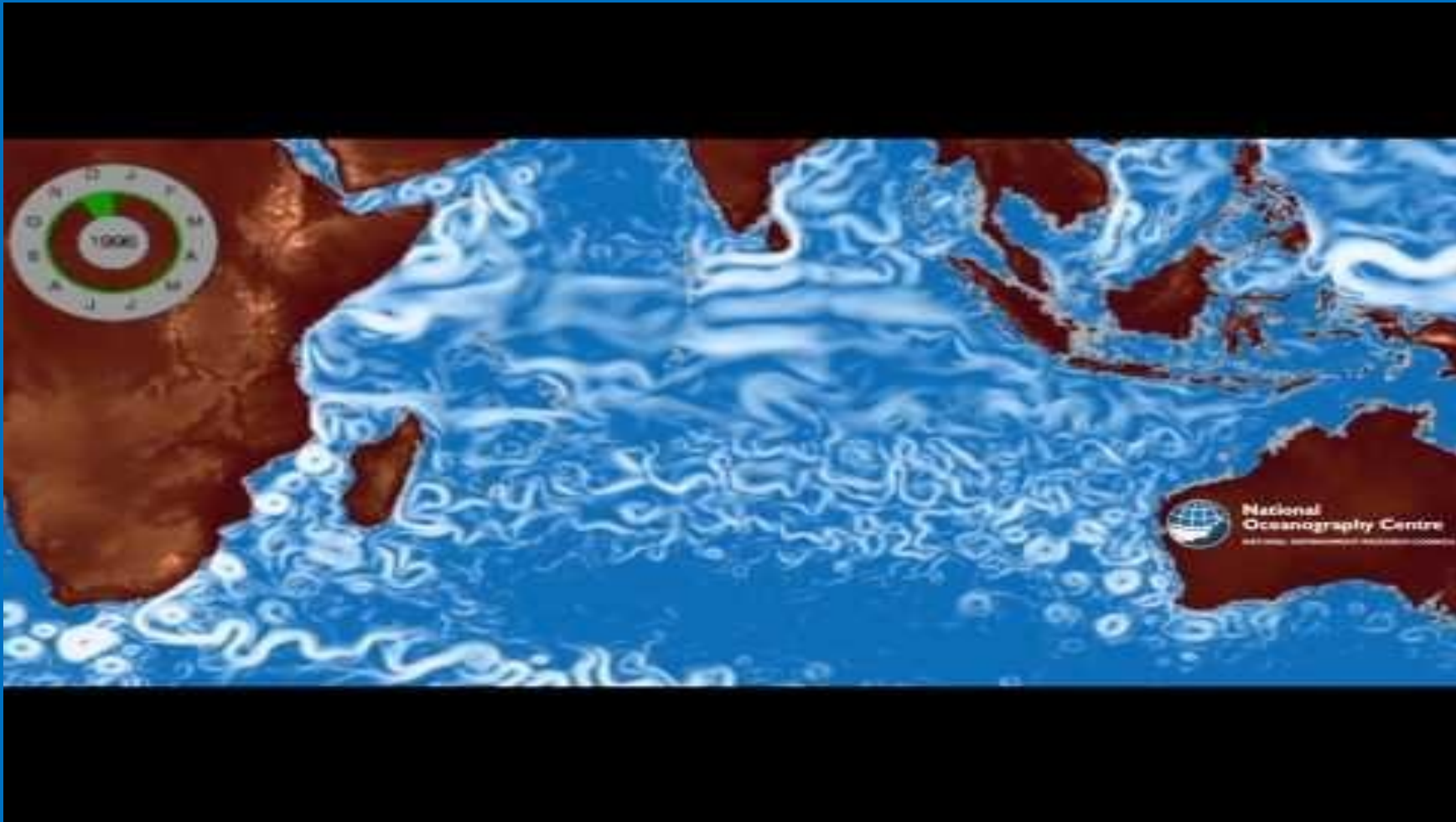
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**Juliet Hermes** (SAEON, South Africa, [jc.hermes@saeon.nrf.ac.za](mailto:jc.hermes@saeon.nrf.ac.za))

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Plus a growing cast of Co-Is, including ECS

<https://youtu.be/jJ8aARJobXc>



# COLaB: “Coastal Observation Lab in a Box”

*Packages of instruments and methods for physical, biological and biogeochemical observations*

## Objectives

- “Old-school” – affordable, low-maintenance, proven
- Modular: Open-source and commercial  
Sampling gear, field/lab instruments, sensors & moorings
- Minimal infrastructure (vessel, laboratory)
- Portable and easily taught
- Diverse applications (wetlands to shelf edge)
- Complementary to moored systems and remote sensing
- Protocols
- Data management and modelling tools packages
- Regional hubs for instrument/sensor cross calibration
- Training – in-person and online support

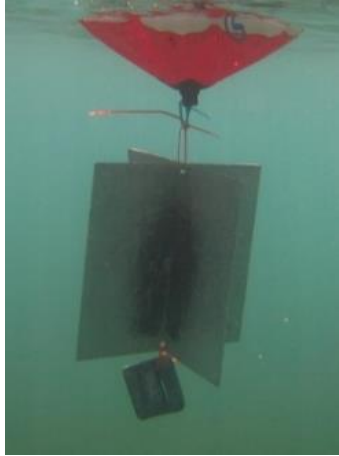


# Basic hydrographic instrumentation

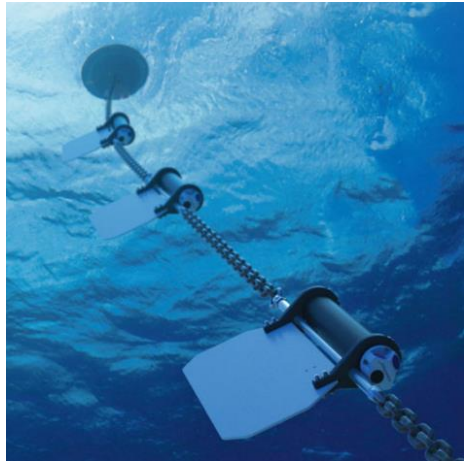
## CTD



## Currents



## CTD + Currents



# Biogeochemical analyses

## Sondes



## Lab-based methods

- Nutrients (full suite)
- Chlorophyll, phycocyanin/erythrin
- Dissolved oxygen
- Alkalinity
- pH
- SPM
- Sulfide
- CDOM and FDOM
- Turbidity

## Simple analytical instrumentation

- UV-vis spectrophotometer
- Fluorimeter



## Water sampling and profiling



### Shallow water

Niskin bottles,  
rope, and  
messenger



### Deep water



12V line hauler or winch

## Portability



2-4 23-kg crates

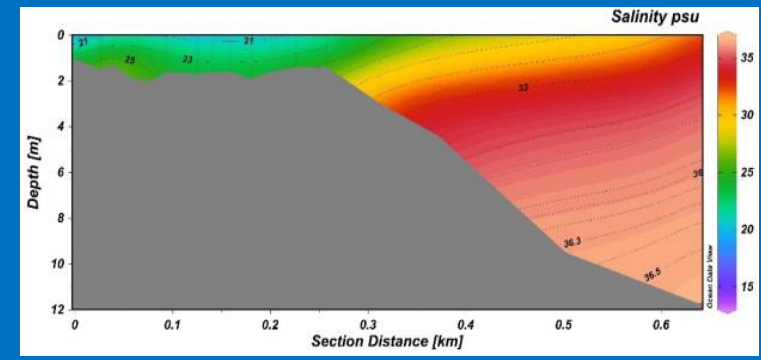
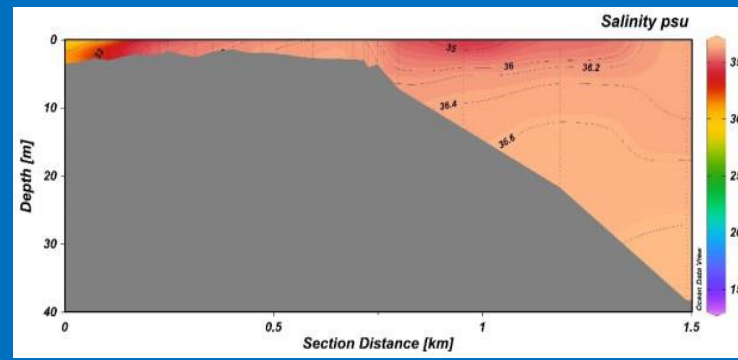
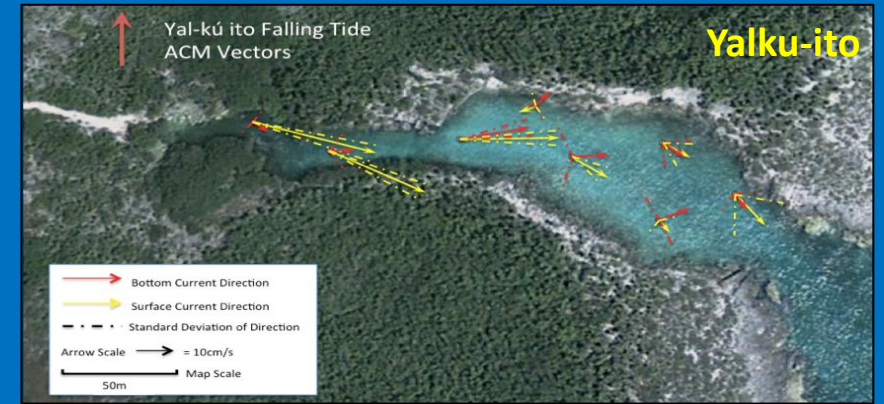
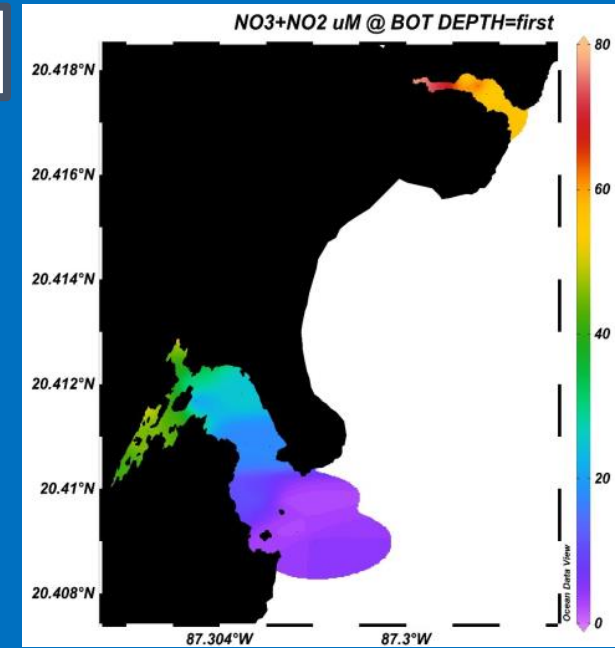
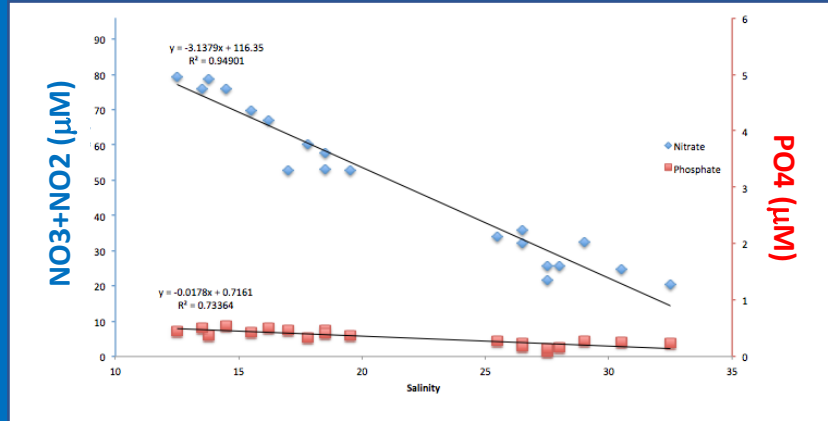
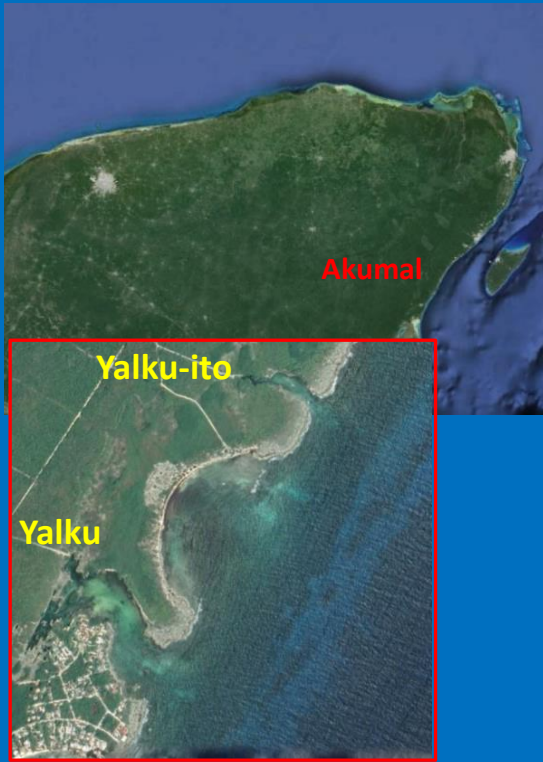
## Throughput

30 - 40 samples/day  
(e.g. 1 staff + 3 students)

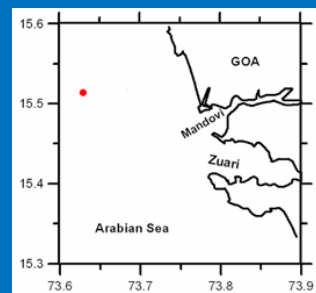
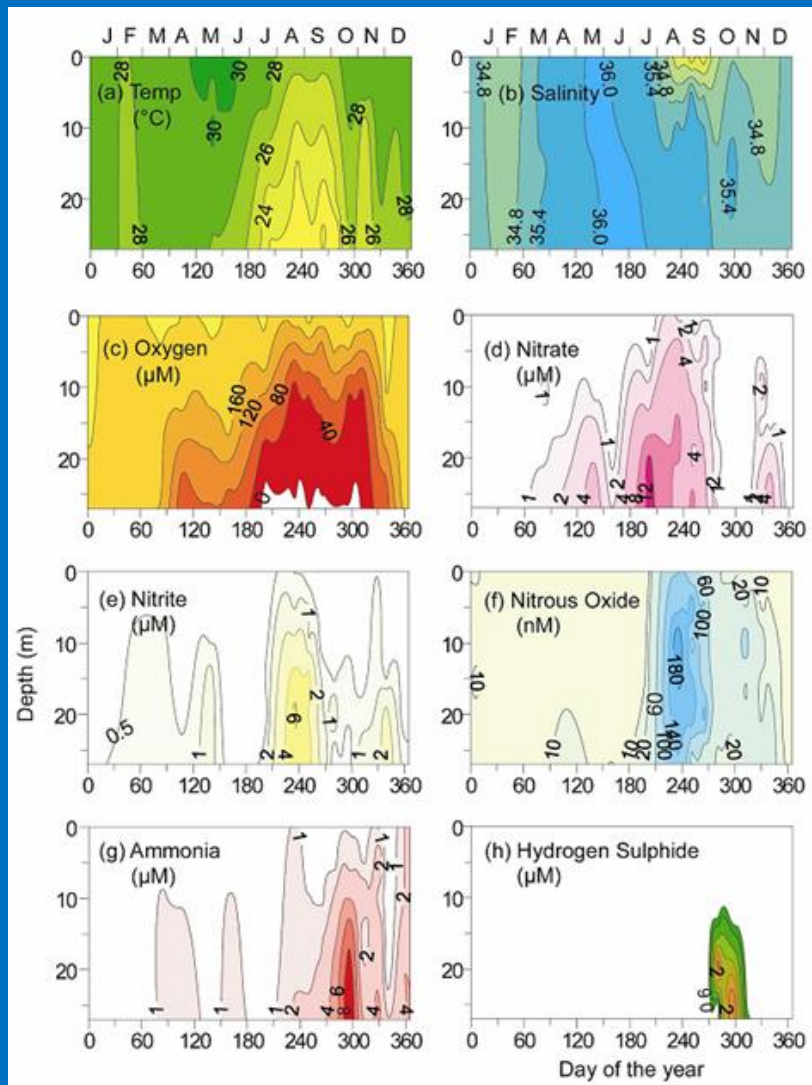
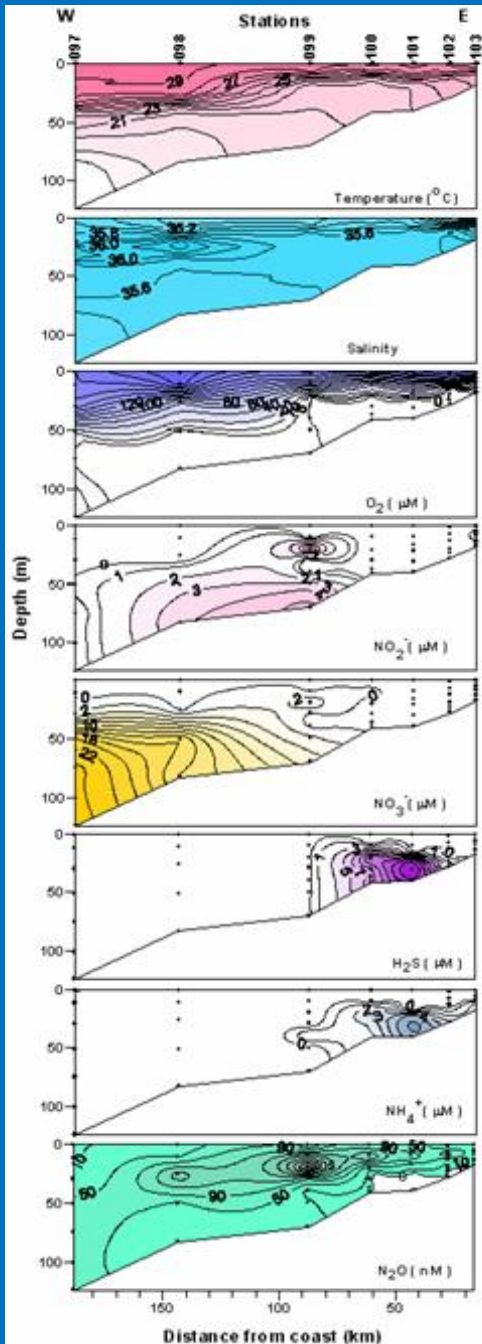
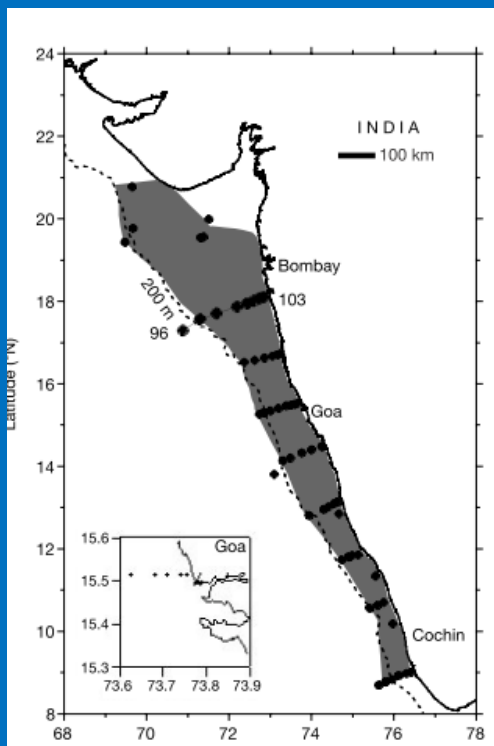
## No formal lab required

- Sink
- Power
- Bench space

# Mexico: Contaminated groundwaters and reef health

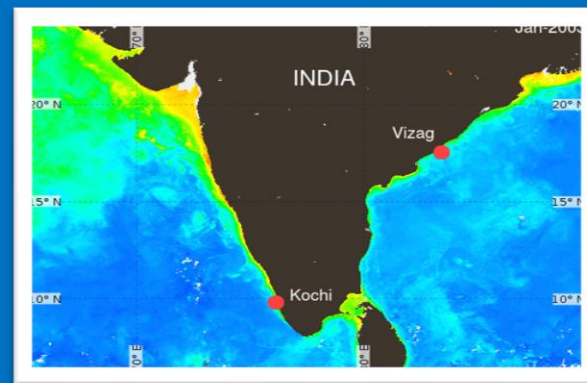


# Western Indian margin: Observing system and cross-shelf transects



Naqvi et al 2006, 2009

MOSAIC programme (INCOIS)



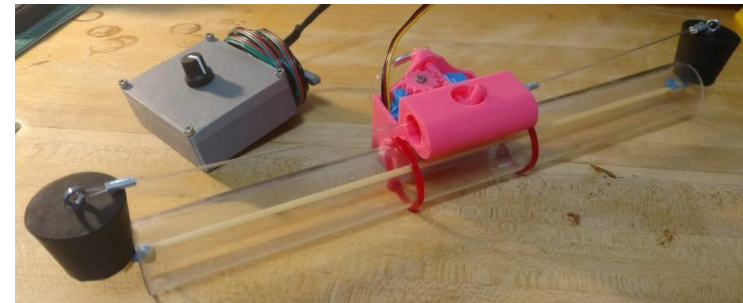
CONTACT: Dr. Aneesh Lotliker  
[aneesh@incois.gov.in](mailto:aneesh@incois.gov.in)



## Dr. Andrew Thaler

(Blackbeard Biologic  
Southern Fried Science)

- Marine scientist
- Blogger, and...
- Open-source instrument developer







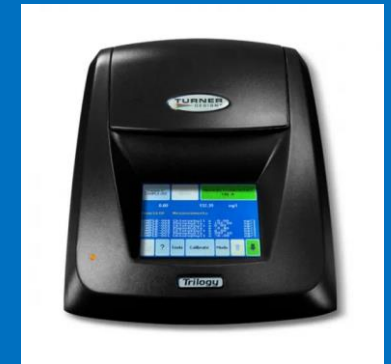
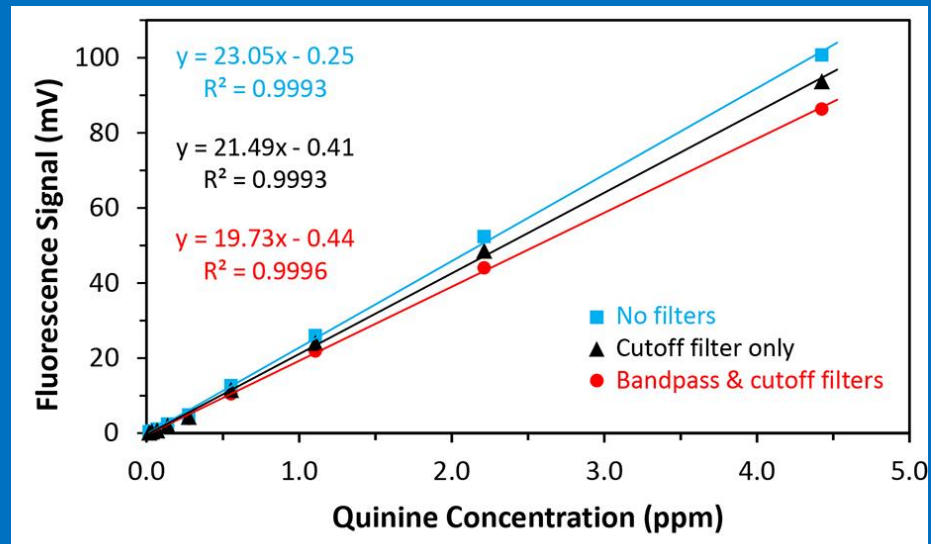
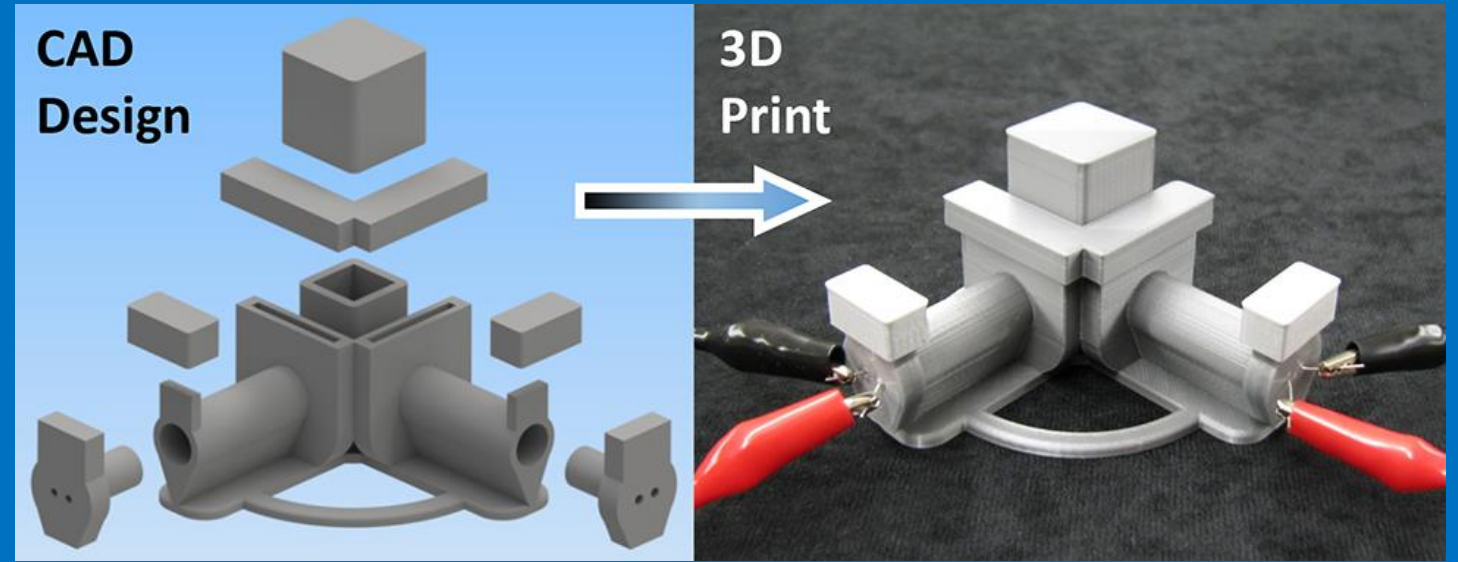
## Professor Lon Porter

Wabash College Indiana, USA

Analytical chemist

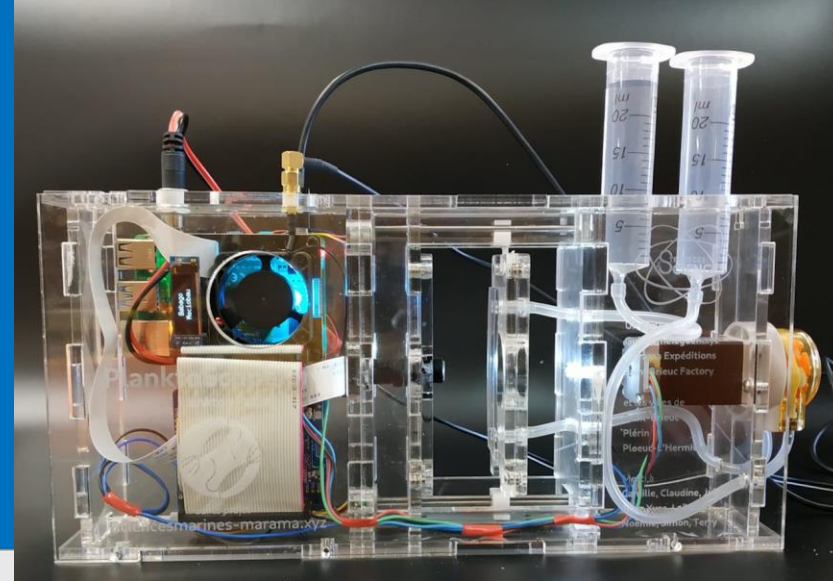
Instrument developer

Director of a 3D printing facility





# Open and affordable modular imaging platform for citizen oceanography



# COLaB: Integration of Ocean Models

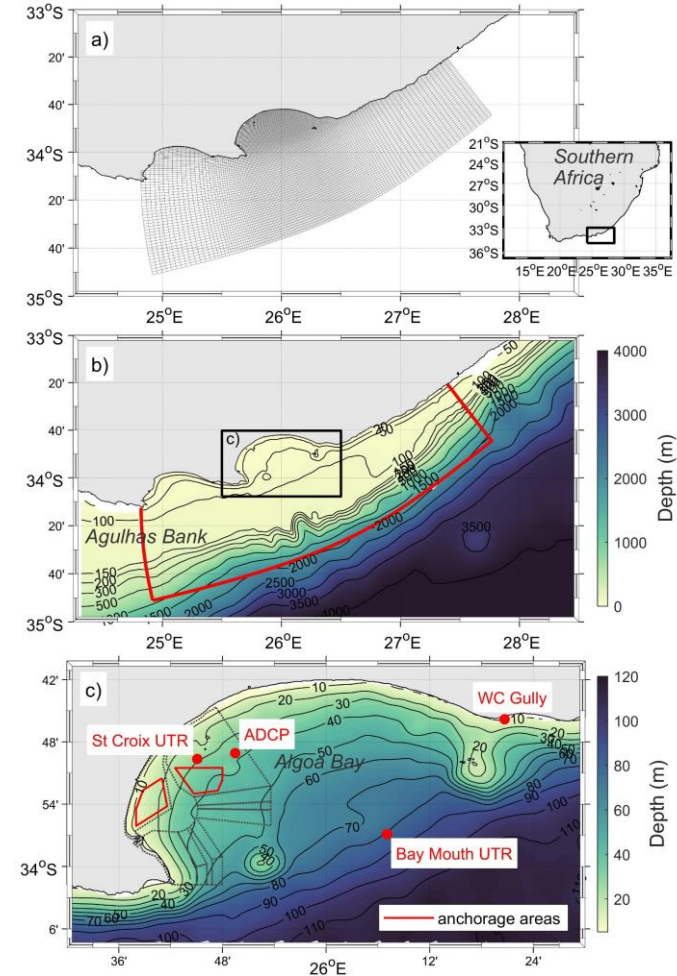
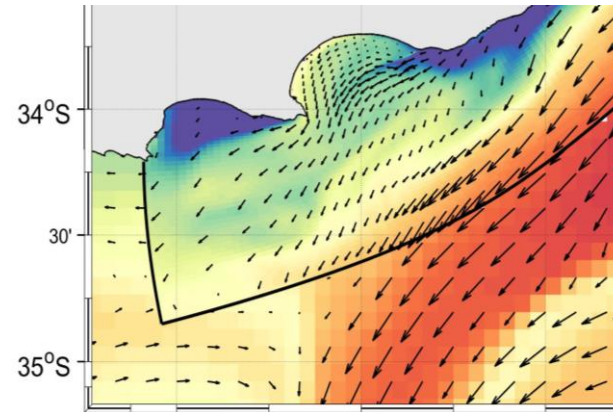
Ocean models optimized for key coastal regions, downscaled from global models

Limited-domain operational ocean forecast system (OoFS):

Example: Algoa Bay, South Africa

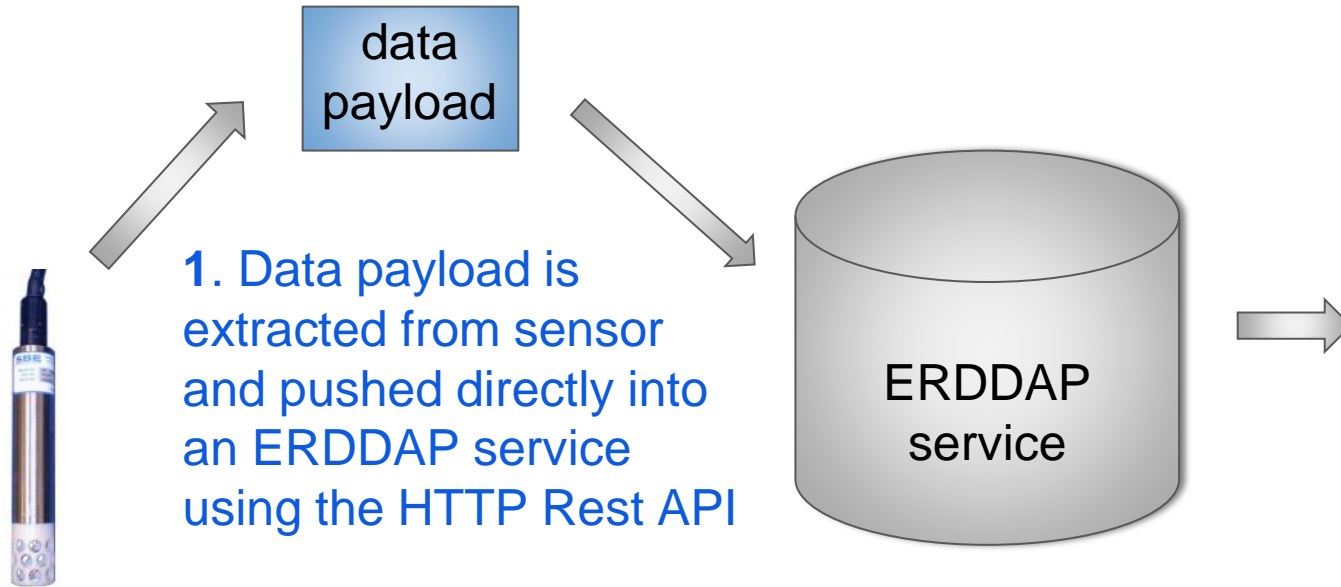
**CONTACT:** Dr. Jennifer Veitch  
[ja.veitch@saeon.nrf.ac.za](mailto:ja.veitch@saeon.nrf.ac.za)

“Easy to implement and relocate ocean models, integrated into the COLaB concept will ‘fill the gaps’ and provide a spatially and temporally cohesive dataset. This will be done by using the in situ observations to constrain (assimilation) and evaluate the models”.



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UTC	Pa
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2022-03-15T18:52:00Z	1021
2022-03-16T03:54:00Z	1019

ERDDAP also provides extensive capabilities for:

- Data access through interoperable and machine-to-machine services
- Improving metadata and documentation of datasets
- Federation of distributed data services
- Integration into cloud environments
- Potential connection to WMO WIS 2.0 data exchange services

2. Data are then available to be accessed immediately and used in one of the many data formats ERDDAP supports

EXAMPLE URL: [http://localhost:8080/erddap/data.insert?date="2022-03-16T03:54:00Z"&airp="1019"](http://localhost:8080/erddap/data.insert?date=)

## Current status

Following multiple 2022 workshops (virtual and in-person) that served to present the COLaB concept and explore potential end-user needs:

- Proposals submitted for in-person COLaB workshop (June 2023?)
  - Finalise: EOVs and instrument packages
    - Data management and modelling tools
    - Training plans and teams
    - Business model
  - Prepare follow-up proposals to fund
    - Training teams and materials
    - Pilot regional training camps (Mozambique, Ghana, Caribbean)
- *Longer-term*: Seek funds for broader roll-out, regional calibration hubs, etc (COLaB concept included in *CoastPredict* Decade of the Ocean project)