



# Australia's Integrated Marine Observing System and its role in satellite oceanography

**Edward King, CSIRO/IMOS Facility Leader**  
**Melbourne, 9 November 2015**

# Outline of the talk

1. What is IMOS and how does it work?
2. IMOS role in satellite oceanography
3. Future opportunities

# **1. WHAT IS IMOS AND HOW DOES IT WORK?**



# NCRIS

National Research  
Infrastructure for Australia

An Australian Government Initiative

## What is IMOS?

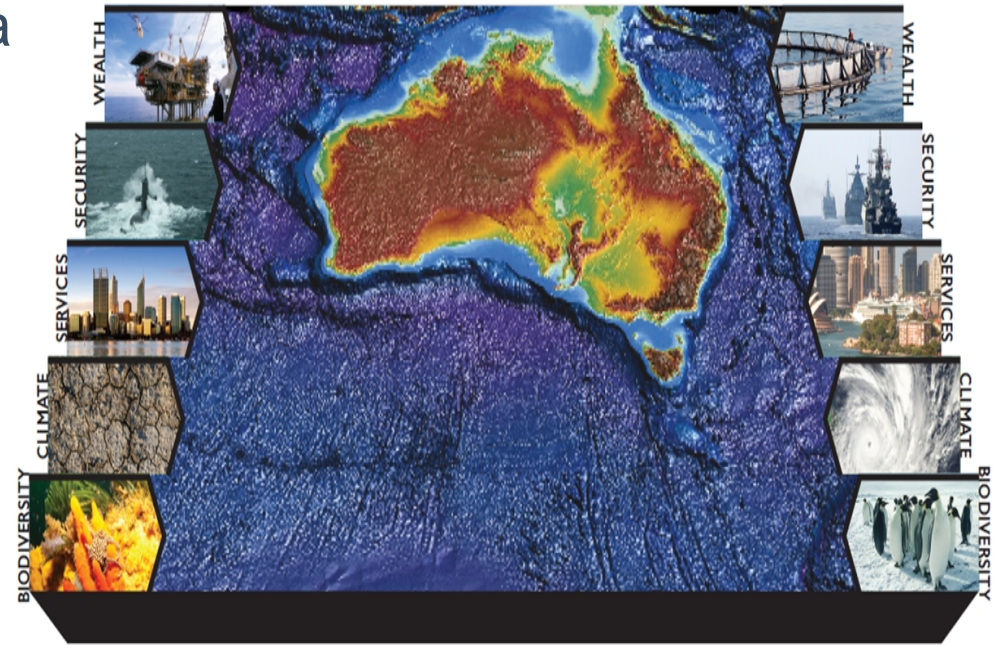
- IMOS is a
  - national
  - collaborative
  - research infrastructure
  - funded by Australian Government
- It provides the means for multiple institutions in Australia to undertake systematic and sustained observing of the marine environment
- Making all of the data openly available for research and other purposes





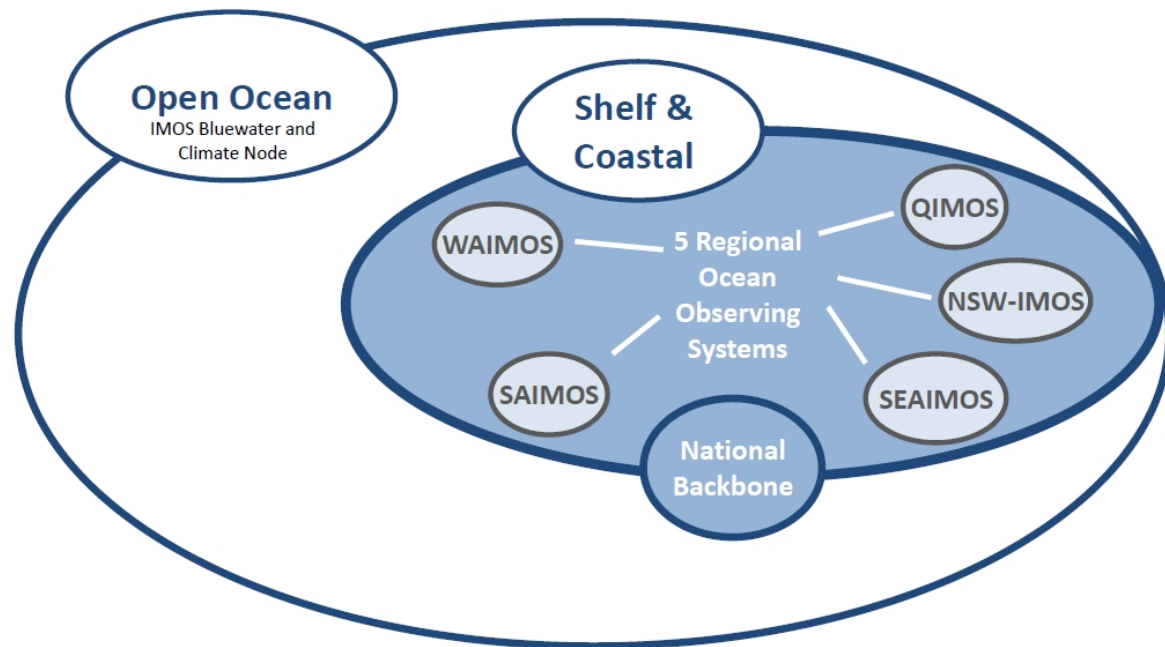
# Why was IMOS established?

- Oceans matter to Australia as a 'marine nation'
  - marine industries
  - national security
  - coastal populations
  - climate & weather
  - marine biodiversity

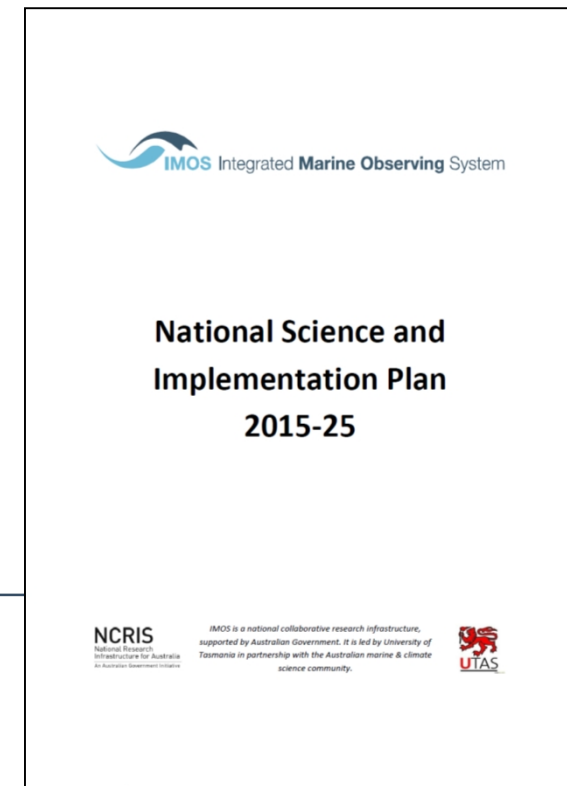


- Historically, our marine observing effort was uncoordinated
  - poor coverage, fragmented, not sustained
- IMOS was established in 2006 to address these problems

# How does IMOS work? – Science Nodes



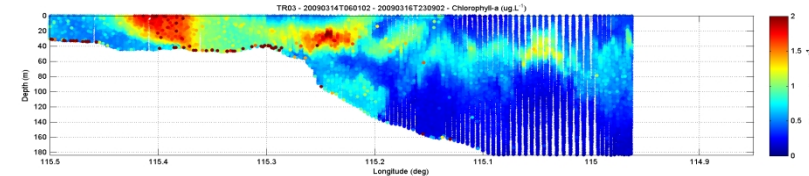
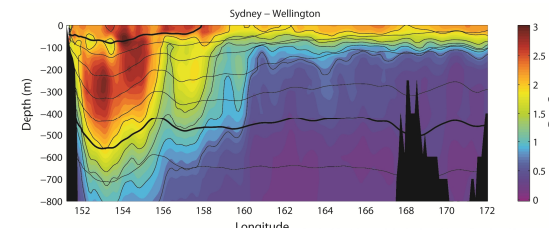
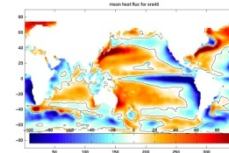
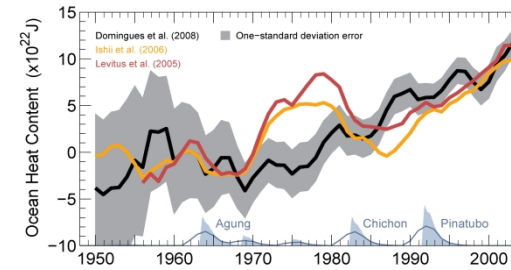
Why are we doing this?  
What do we need to observe,  
where, when and how?



One national plan, six Node 'chapters'  
focused on the open ocean and  
regional marine systems

# IMOS Node science questions

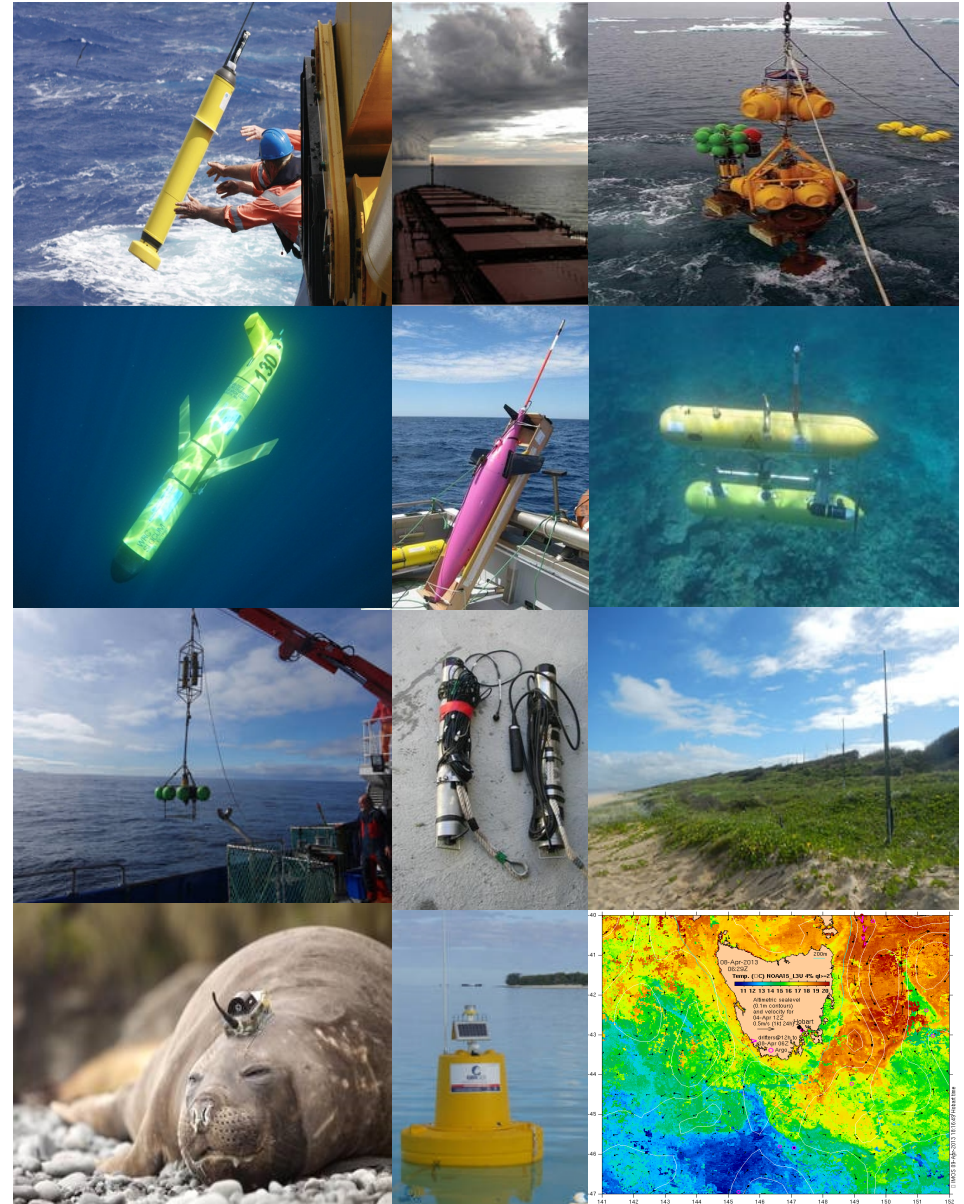
- Multi-decadal Ocean Change
  - Temperature, salinity, carbon
- Climate Variability, Extremes
  - ENSO, IOD, SAM
- Major Boundary Currents
  - EAC, Leeuwin, ITF
- Shelf and Coastal Processes
  - Eddies, currents, upwellings etc
- Ecosystem Responses
  - Productivity, abundance, distribution
  - Pelagic, benthic






# How does IMOS work? - Facilities

1. Argo Floats
2. Ships of Opportunity
3. Deepwater Moorings
4. Ocean Glider Fleet
5. Autonomous Underwater Vehicles
6. National Mooring Network
7. Ocean Radar Network
8. Animal Tagging and Monitoring Network
9. Wireless Sensor Network
10. Satellite Remote Sensing



# How does IMOS work? – Data

- all data discoverable, accessible, usable and reusable



## Open Access to Ocean Data

1 Select a Data Collection

2 Create a Subset

3 Download

### Step 1: Select a Data Collection

Parameter

Physical-Water (86)  
Biological (32)  
Physical-Atmosphere (12)  
Chemical (11)

Organisation


Platform


Vessel (24)  
Mooring and buoy (21)  
Biological platform (21)  
Satellite (20)  
Radar (10)  
Glider (3)  
Float (2)  
Fixed station (1)  
AUV (1)


Date (UTC)


Geographic Boundary


IMOS - Argo Profiles



 Oxygen, Salinity, Temperature, Water pressure

 Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS), CSIRO Oceans & Atmosphere Flagship - Hobart

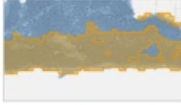
 Float


 1999 - 2015


[more](#)


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IMOS - AATAMS Facility - Satellite Relay Tagging Program - Near real-time CTD profile data



 Salinity, Temperature, Water pressure

 Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS), Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University

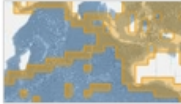
 Biological platform


 2009 - 2015


[more](#)


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IMOS - SOOP-Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Sub-facility - Near real-time data



 Air pressure, Air temperature, Humidity, Salinity, Temperature, Wind

 Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS), Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)


 Vessel


 2008 - 2015


[more](#)


Select >>


IMOS - ACORN - Rottnest Shelf HF ocean radar site (Western Australia, Australia) - Delayed mode sea water velocity



 Current

 Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS)


 Radar


 2010 - 2015


[more](#)


Select >>


IMOS - AusCPR: Zooplankton Abundance



 Ocean Biota

 CSIRO Oceans & Atmosphere Flagship - Hobart


 Vessel


 2008 - 2015


[more](#)


Select >>


IMOS - Australian National Mooring Network (ANMN) Facility - Current velocity time-series












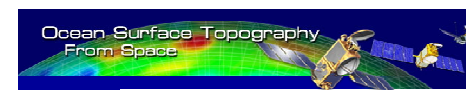
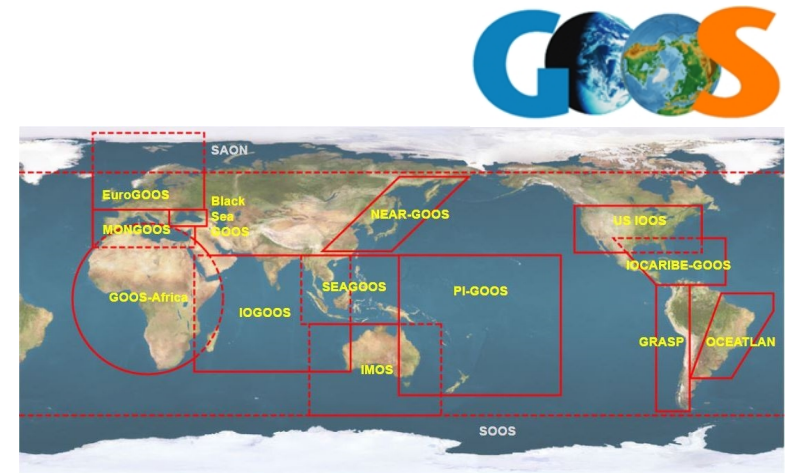
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# IMOS benefits from and contributes to global ocean observing

- IMOS is one of 13 Regional Alliances of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
- All IMOS Facilities connected to relevant global programs



## **2. IMOS ROLE IN SATELLITE OCEANOGRAPHY**

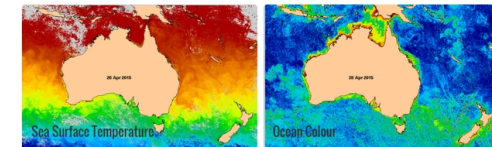
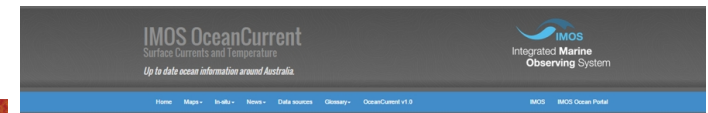
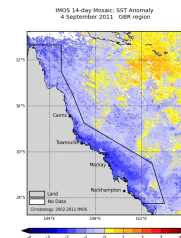
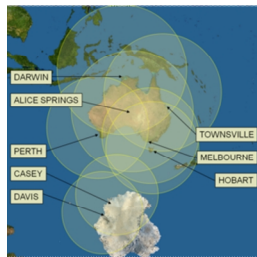
# Reception, cal/val, useful products

- Australia has no domestic research satellite capability
- As a nation we derive massive benefit from access to data and products from other nations' satellites
- The contributions Australia can make in return are:
  1. Being part of the global reception network
  2. Providing high quality, *in situ*, cal/val data
  3. Demonstrating usefulness of sat products in our region
- IMOS has invested in all three areas
  - Initially 1, 2 and 3, but now mainly 2 and 3
- Focused on SST, Altimetry and Ocean Colour
- Looking to play a key role in the Southern Hemisphere

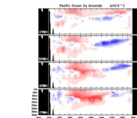


# IMOS - SST, Altimetry, Ocean Colour

	Cal/val	Products (example)
<b>SST</b>	Ship of Opportunity	GHRSSST, ReefTemp
<b>Altimetry</b>	Bass Strait and Storm Bay moorings	BLUElink, GSLA
<b>Ocean Colour</b>	Lucinda Jetty	eReefs WQ
<b>all</b>	-	<i>OceanCurrent</i>

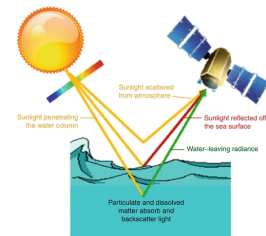
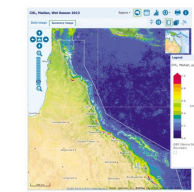
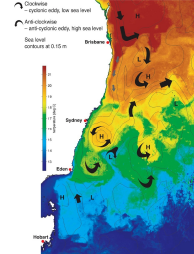
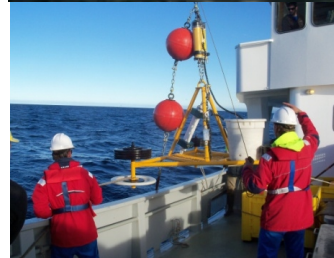


Ocean News  
El Niño Brewing  
24 April 2015



In the March-April-May period it is difficult to reliably predict the upcoming ENSO phase (shown as the Spring Persistence Index) and sometime in June or July. Nevertheless, all the signs are there. [more]

- Feedforward
- Google Earth View
- Apps
- Current Mission
- Others



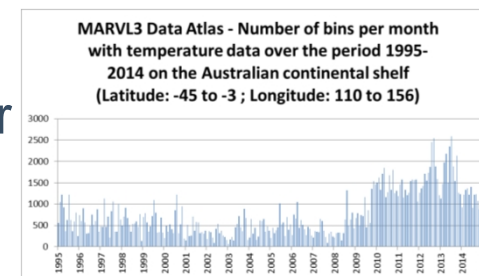
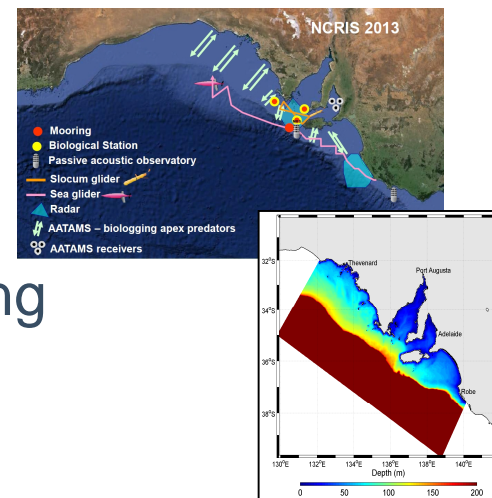
### **3. FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

# New variables, new satellites, new uses

- New variables
  - IMOS starting to look at surface salinity
    - Other opportunities?
- New satellites
  - Is Australia's satellite oceanography community well placed to exploit these?
    - No doubt a major focus for discussion this week...
- New uses
  - Many opportunities
  - Some applications in fisheries, marine spatial planning
  - Suggest we need to 'scale up' nationally...

# IMOS looking to drive collaboration between observations and modelling

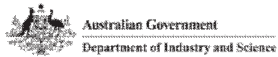
- Regional modelling efforts building on IMOS regional observing systems
- Australian Coastal and Oceans Modelling and Observations (ACOMO) workshop
  - every two years, 2012, 2014...2016
- Marine Virtual Laboratory (MARVL)
  - Online portal that simplifies the process of marine modelling
  - Enabled development of a Data Atlas for coastal and shelf waters (1995-2015)
  - Hoping to undertake an Australian National Shelf Reanalysis (ANSR) project



# IMOS involved in leading the development of Operational Oceanography in Australia



Forum for Operational  
Oceanography



- The inaugural Australian Forum for Operational Oceanography (FOO) was held in July 2015
  - 125 participants, with good representation across the ‘four pillars’
- Went well, with strong support for the Forum to endure - priority areas:
  - surface currents, and waves
  - thermal structure
  - consensus forecasting
  - data products/stewardship

Figure 1: The ‘four pillars’ of FOO

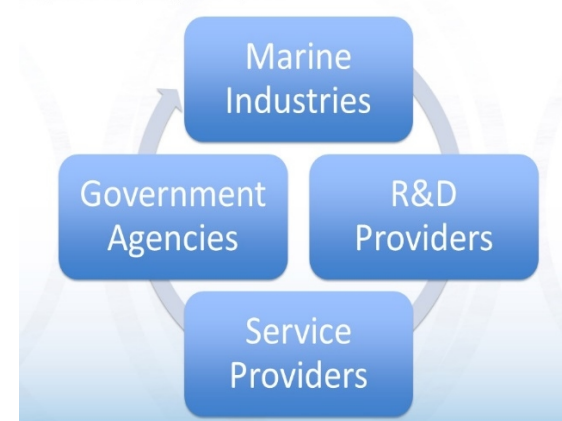
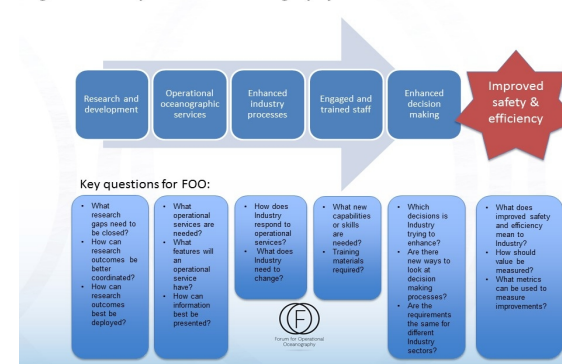


Figure 2: The operational oceanography ‘value chain’



# THANK YOU...

The Operators of the IMOS infrastructure are:

