



Complementary Observing Programmes (deployed from ships)

- Meteorological & oceanographic drifting buoys
- Profiling floats



Version History

Version	Released	Updated by
1	2003	Steve Cook, Chair of SOOPIP
2	May 2005	Steve Cook, Chair of SOOPIP
3	June 2008	Graeme Ball, Chair of SOT, for the SOT Task Team on VRPP
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Drifting Buoys & Profiling Floats

- Ships are the main vehicle used to deploy drifting buoys & profiling floats at pre-determined locations along their route.
- Drifting buoys typically measure atmospheric pressure & sea-surface temperature, and also provide an estimate of the *Lagrangian current**. The buoys report via satellite.
- Profiling floats record temperature & salinity profiles every 10 days from a depth of 2000m to the surface. The floats report via satellite.

* Lagrangian current = the surface current calculated by following the movement of the buoy

The 1996 IMO Protocol to the London Convention (1972) addresses the issue of dumping of material at sea.

Dumping does not include matter (e.g., cables, pipelines and marine research devices) placed for a purpose other than the mere disposal thereof.

GUIDANCE ON THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1996 PROTOCOL TO THE LONDON CONVENTION 1972, p 13, para 4.2.3.

www.imo.org/includes/blastData.asp/doc_id=7565/implementation-guidance.PDF

Some newer floats include additional sensors, such as dissolved oxygen.



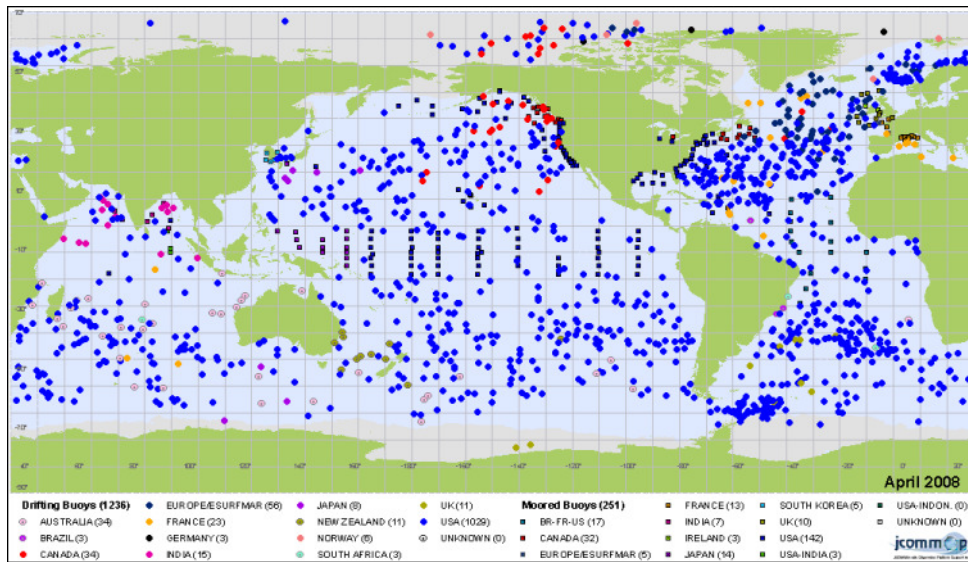
Drifting Buoys & Profiling Floats (cont)

- Whilst the drifting buoy & profiling float networks have reached their target number of platforms (1250 & 3000 respectively), ongoing deployments are required to maintain the networks as platforms fail or beach, and to improve the spatial density of the platforms.

Profiling floats are typically recovered after beaching.



Global Buoy Network



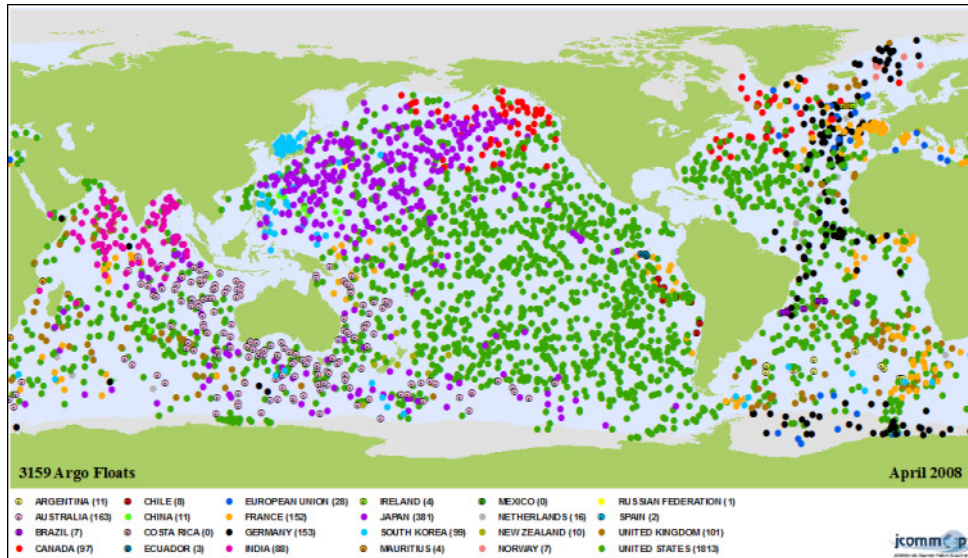


Deploying a Drifting Buoy





Global Profiling Float Network





Deploying a Profiling Float

