

# OCEANOGRAPHIC TURTLES

## OCEAN MONITORING PLATFORMS FOR CONSERVATION AND DYNAMIC OCEAN MANAGEMENT

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Fundación **BBVA**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**EXETER**



**1 INTEGRATION OF SEA TURTLE TRACKING WITH OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEMS**

**2 MONITORING SHIP-BASED ACTIVITIES USING AIS DATA**

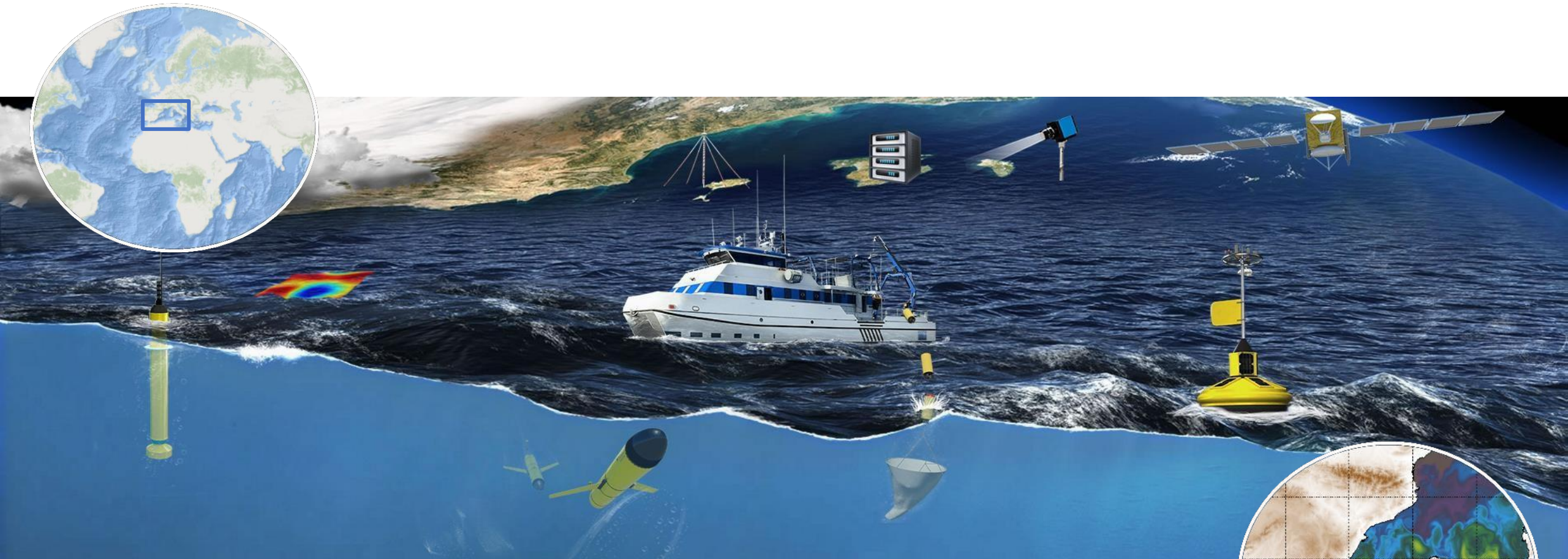
**3 TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF OPERATIONAL TOOLS**

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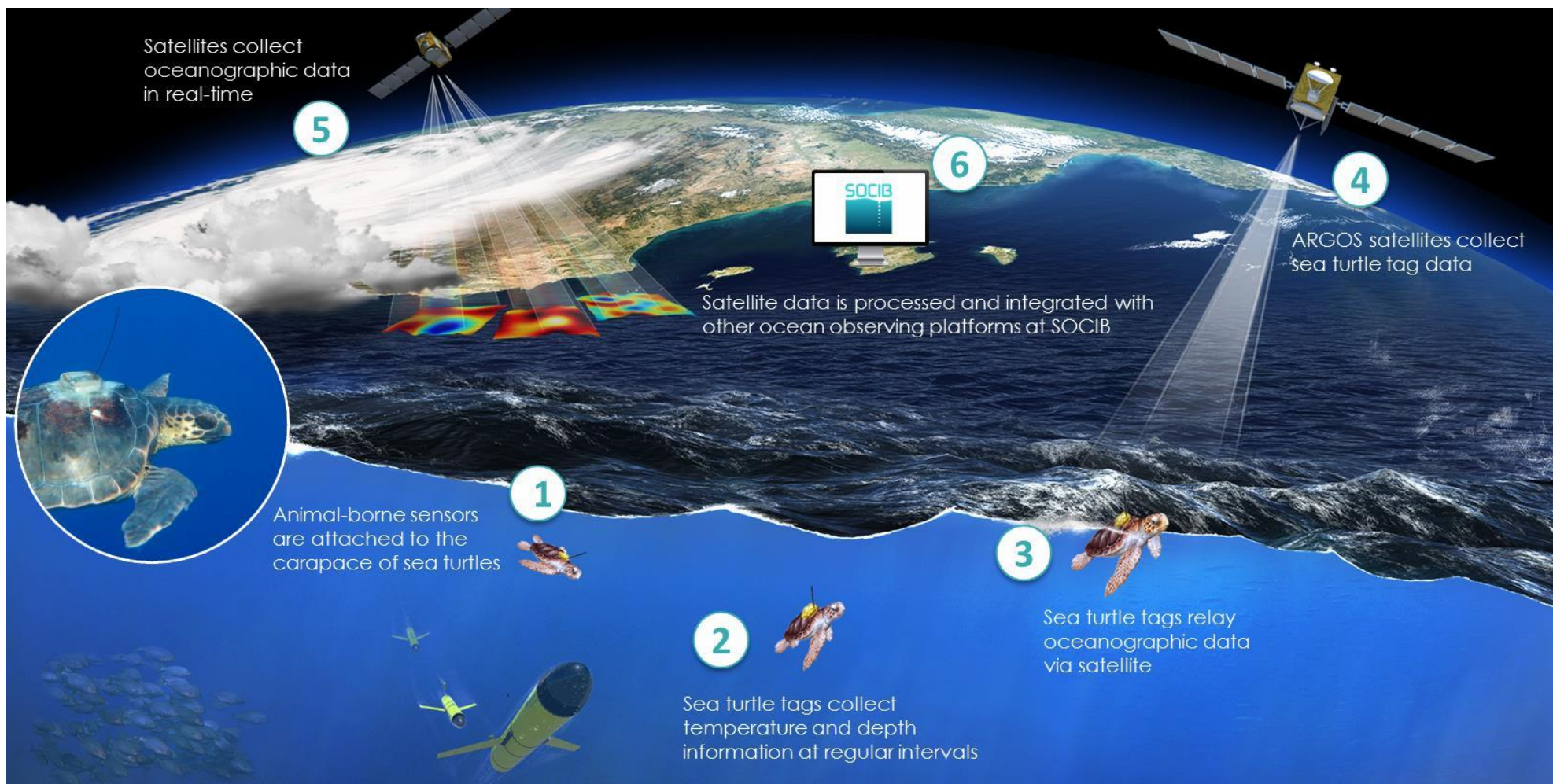
# BALEARIC ISLANDS COASTAL OBSERVING AND FORECASTING SYSTEM (SOCIB)



▲ SOCIB provides multi-platform ocean observations *-in situ* and satellite- and ocean forecasting in near real-time in the Western Mediterranean Sea



## ANIMAL-BORNE INSTRUMENTS: A NEW OCEAN OBSERVING PLATFORM



▲ SOCIB is working to integrate satellite tracking of juvenile loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) with Ocean Observing Systems

## TURN YOUR TAG INTO AN ANIMAL-BORNE INSTRUMENT!

### Satellite Antenna

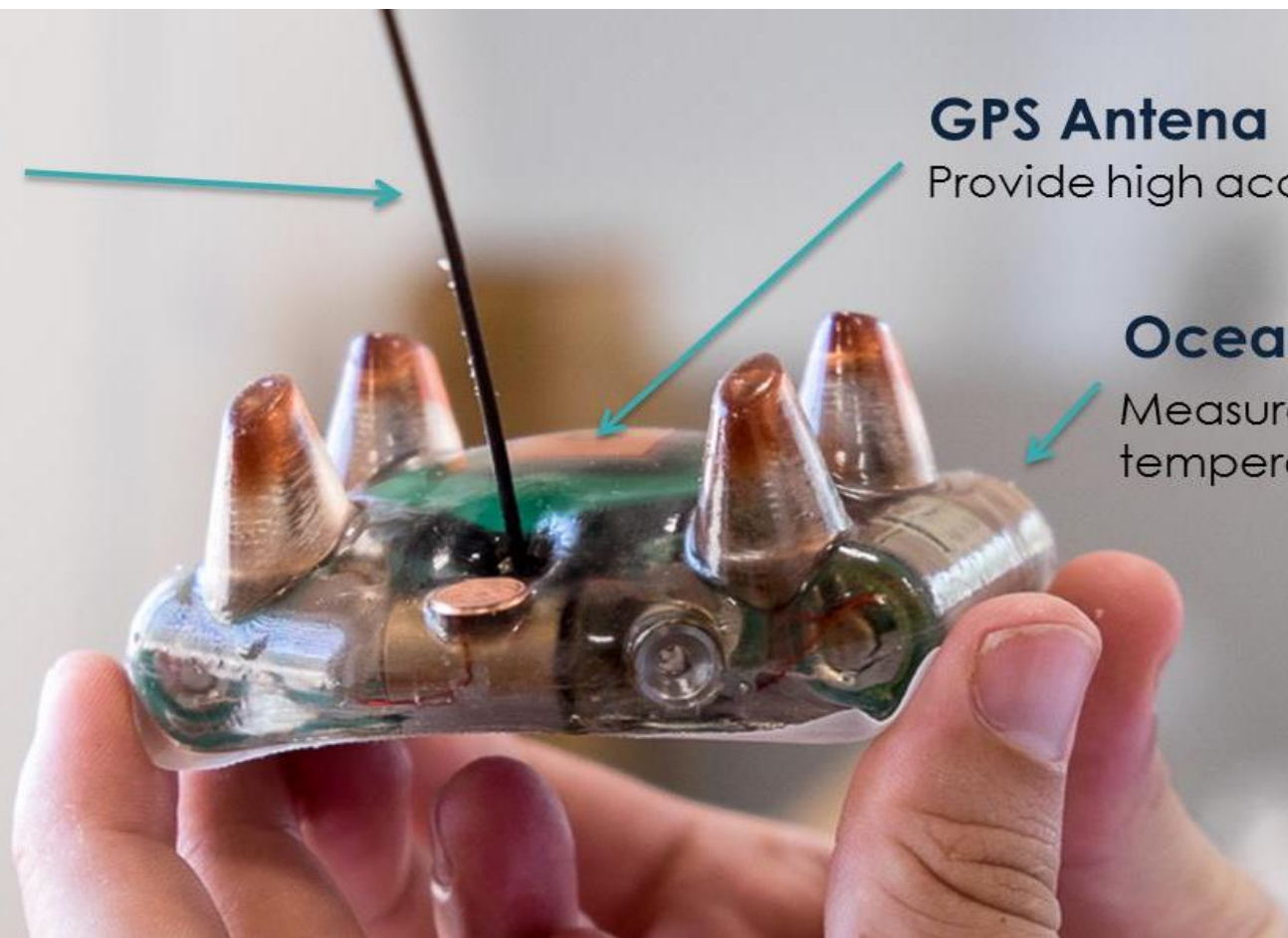
Relay data via Argos System

### GPS Antenna

Provide high accuracy location data

### Oceanographic sensors

Measure depth and temperature at regular intervals

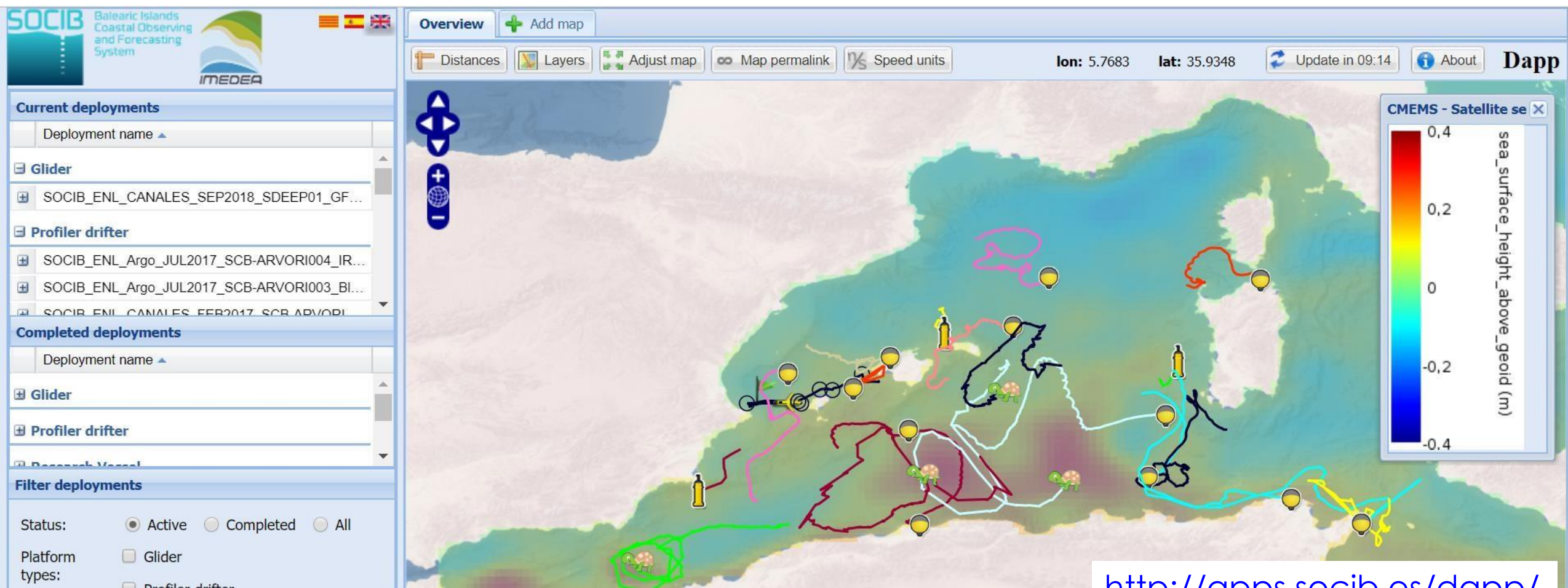


▲ ARGOS platform terminal transmitters (PTT) equipped with pressure and temperature sensors (SPLASH tags, Wildlife Computers) suitable size for juvenile loggerheads (>45 cmCCL)



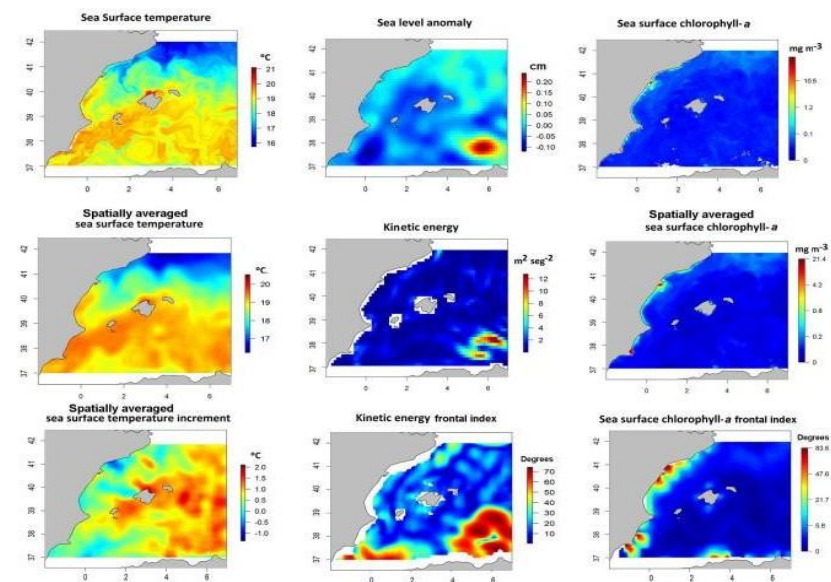
# INTEGRATION IN NEAR-REAL TIME

Location data from all platforms is currently integrated into SOCIB Deployment Application (DAPP)



- ▲ Satellite tracks are integrated into ocean observing systems, providing simultaneous observations of multiple platforms in near real-time throughout a common marine data management system

# INTEGRATION OF DATA-ASSIMILATIVE NUMERICAL MODELS AND REMOTE SENSING OBSERVATIONS



(Alvarez-Berastegui et al 2016)

## SATELLITE TRACKING DATA (Location only)

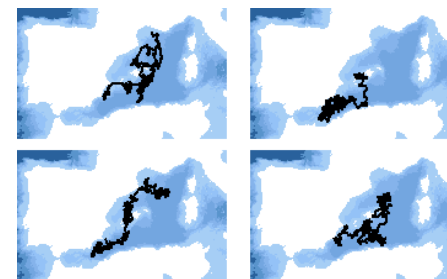
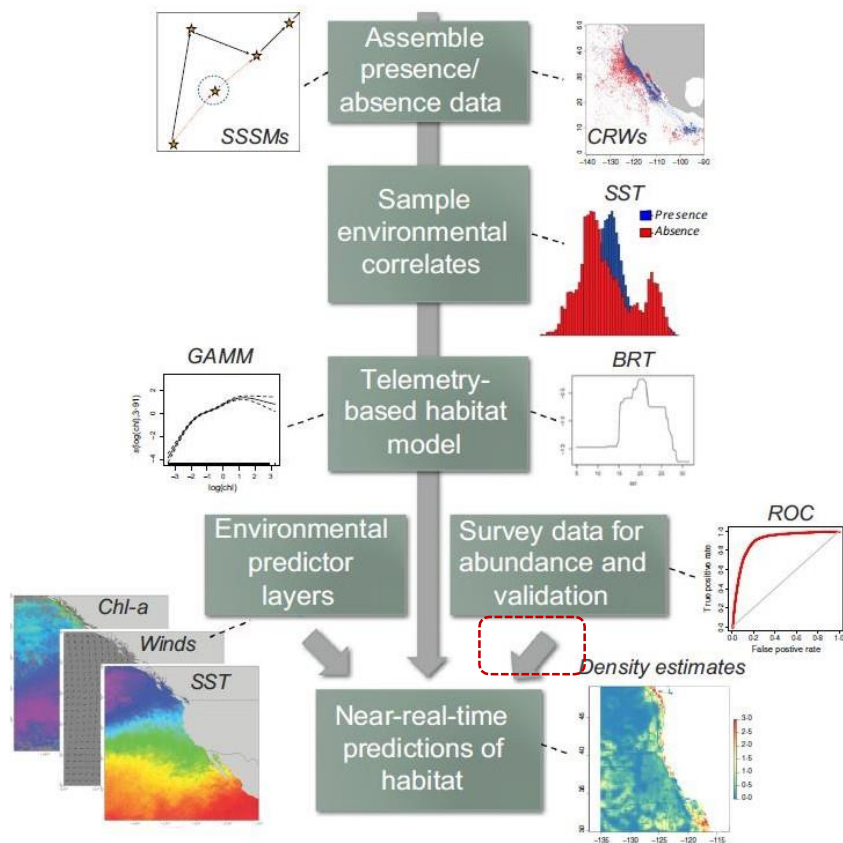
- Loggerheads in oceanic phase (28-83 cm CCL)
- Long-term dataset: 2003-2017 (n=51)
- Source: Alnitak (unpubl.), Eckert et al. 2008, Cardona & Hays (2018).

## ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

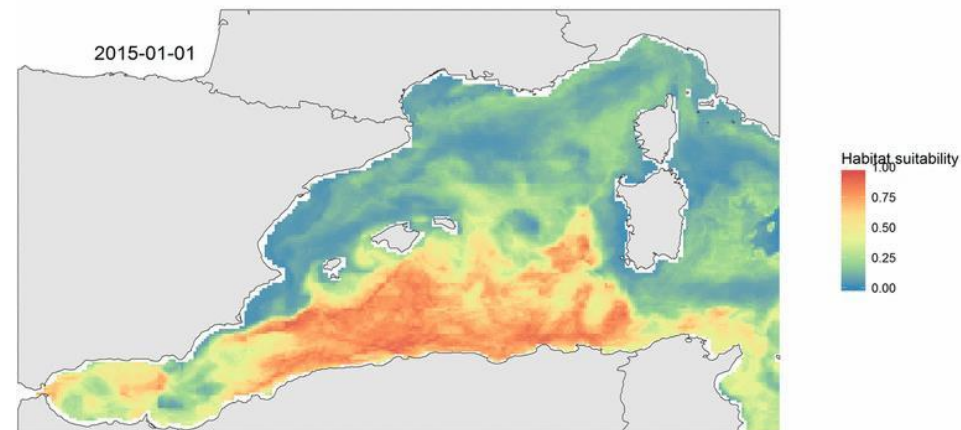
- Numerical models from CMEMS: SST, Salinity, PP, Phytoplankton
- Remote sensing from CMEMS: SLA, EKE, CHL<sub>a</sub>
- Bathymetry from EMODnet
- Derived products from SOCIB (gradients)



# INTEGRATION OF DATA-ASSIMILATIVE NUMERICAL MODELS AND REMOTE SENSING OBSERVATIONS



◀ Pseudo-absences  
100 CRW simulations per turtle



▲ Modelling workflow (adapted from Hazen et al. 2016)

▲ Daily predictions of the species-niche model (MaxEnt). Salinity, Bathymetry, SST and EKE are the 4 main predictors

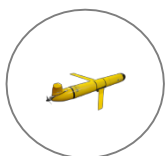
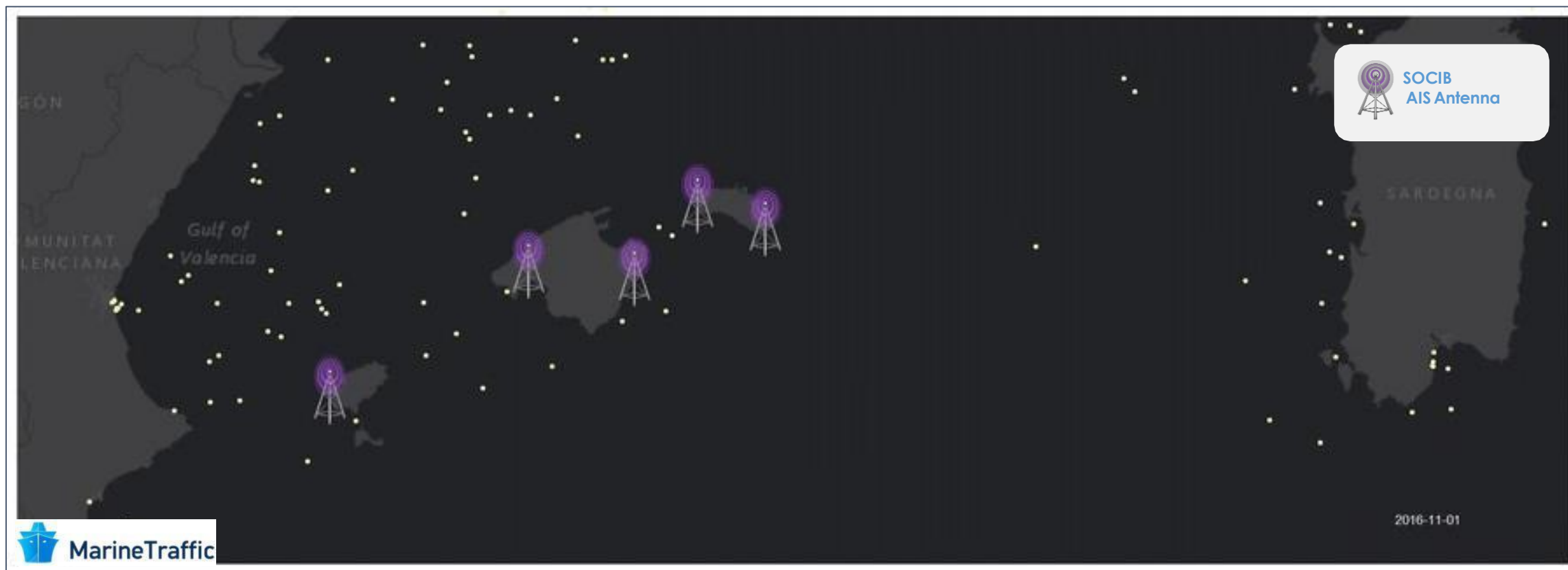
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## SOCIB AIS INFRASTRUCTURE AND APPLICATIONS OF INTEREST



COLLISION RISK WITH AUVs



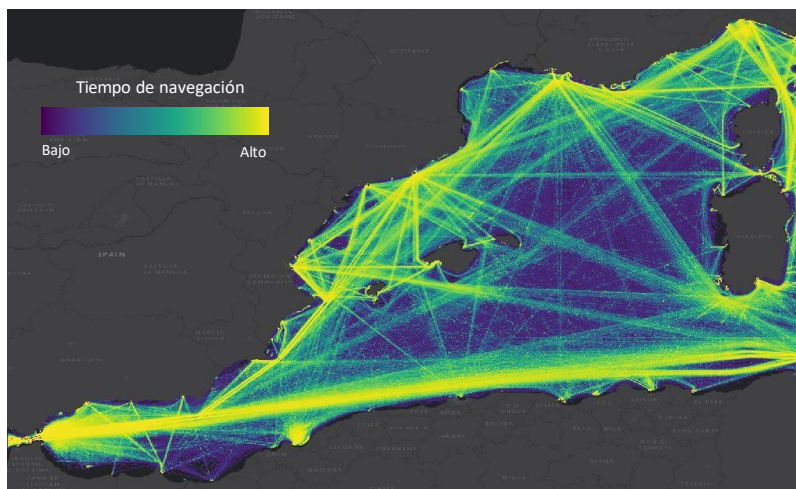
HUMAN IMPACTS



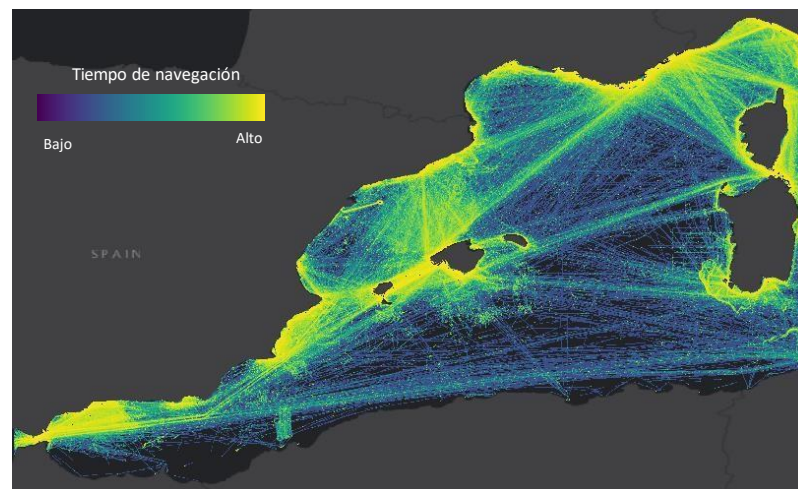
MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

# MAPPING HUMAN PRESSURES USING AIS

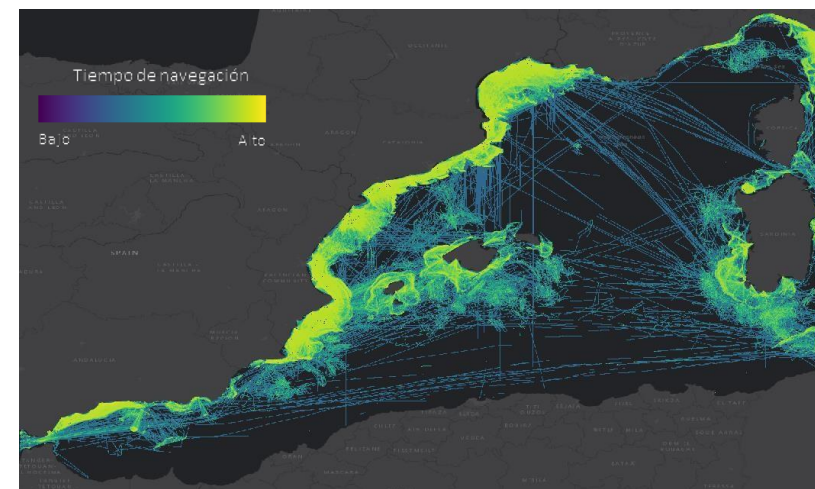
Navigation time per sectors



Domestic  
(cargo, passenger, tanker)



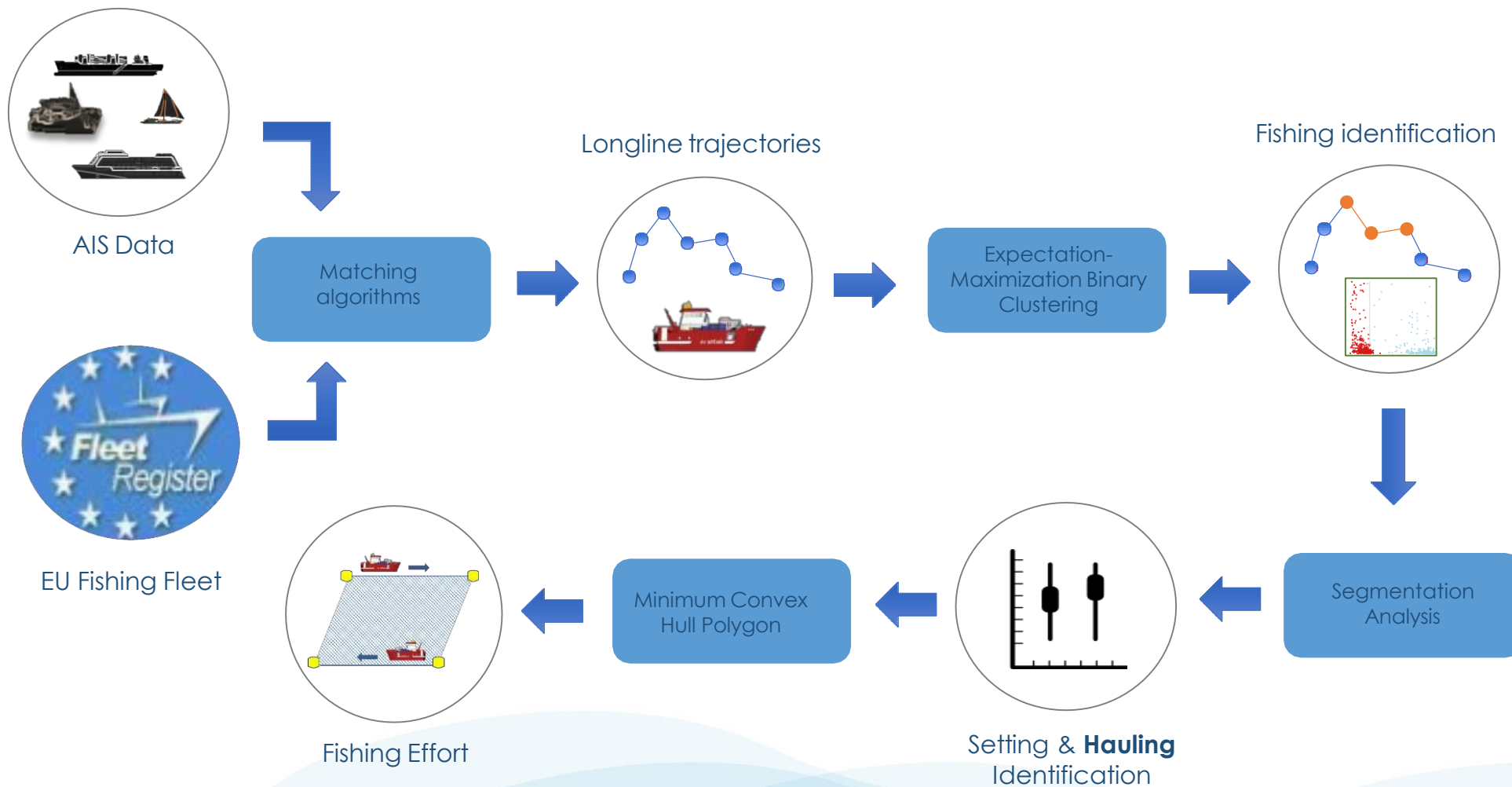
Recreational



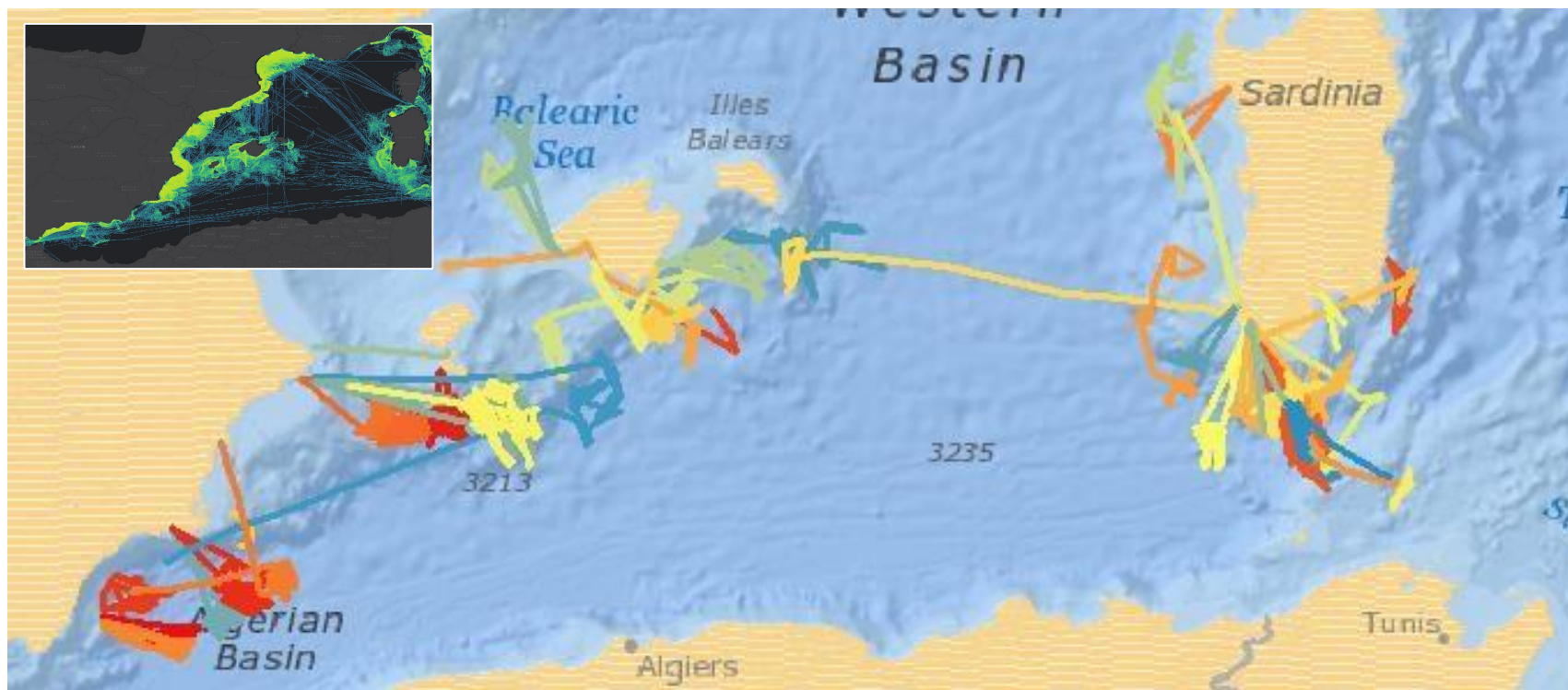
Fisheries



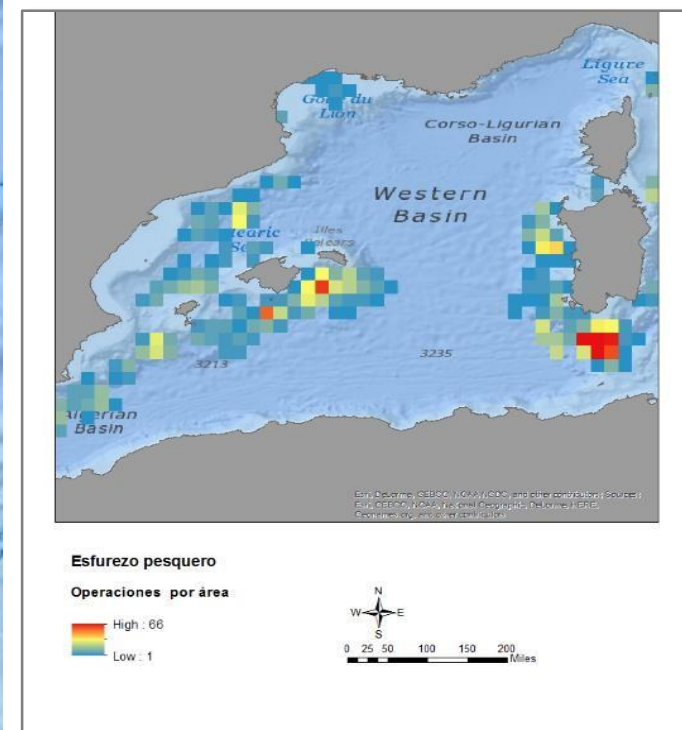
# LONGLINE FISHING ANALYSIS



## LONGLINE FISHING ANALYSIS



Longline trajectories from 22 days of data (2017-06-21 to 2017-07-12), extracted from the overall AIS data (right)



Density of "hauling" operations (n = 527) detected

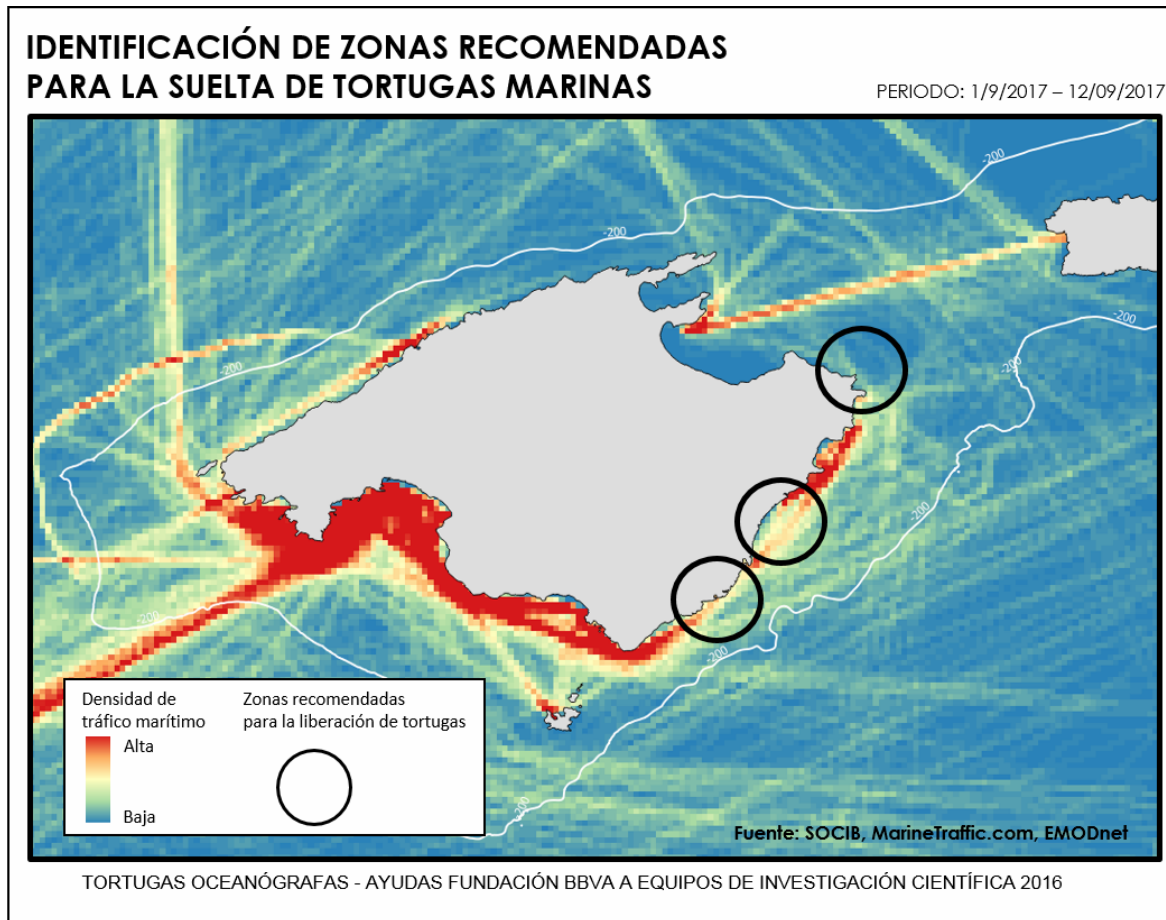


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# IDENTIFICATION OF OPTIMAL RELEASE LOCATIONS



▲ Marine traffic density map was generated using recent AIS data



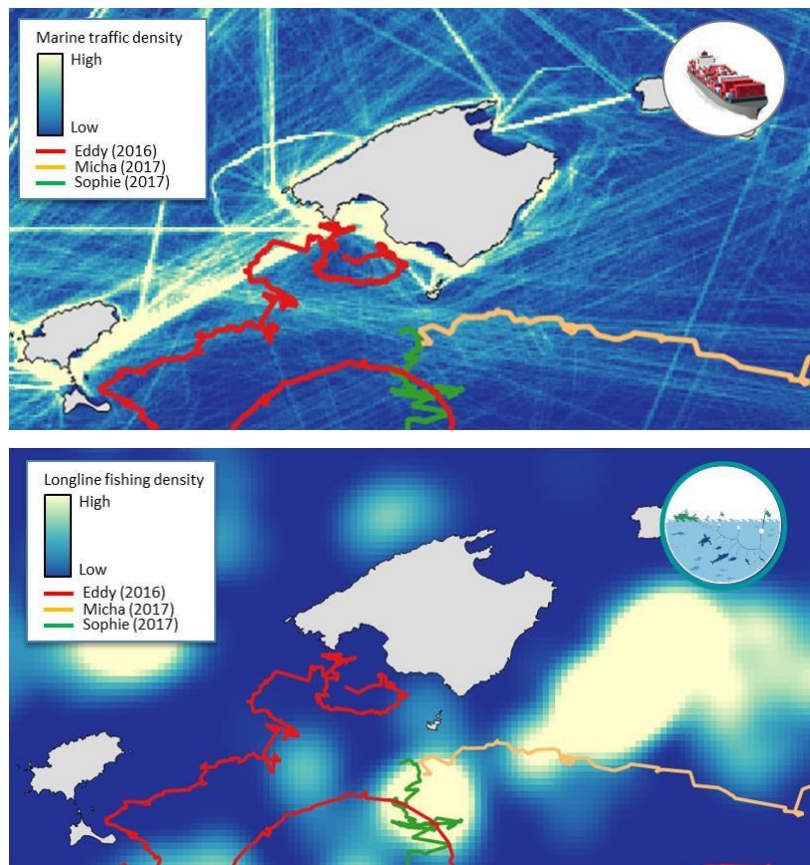
▲ SOCIB Wave Forecast for the date of release



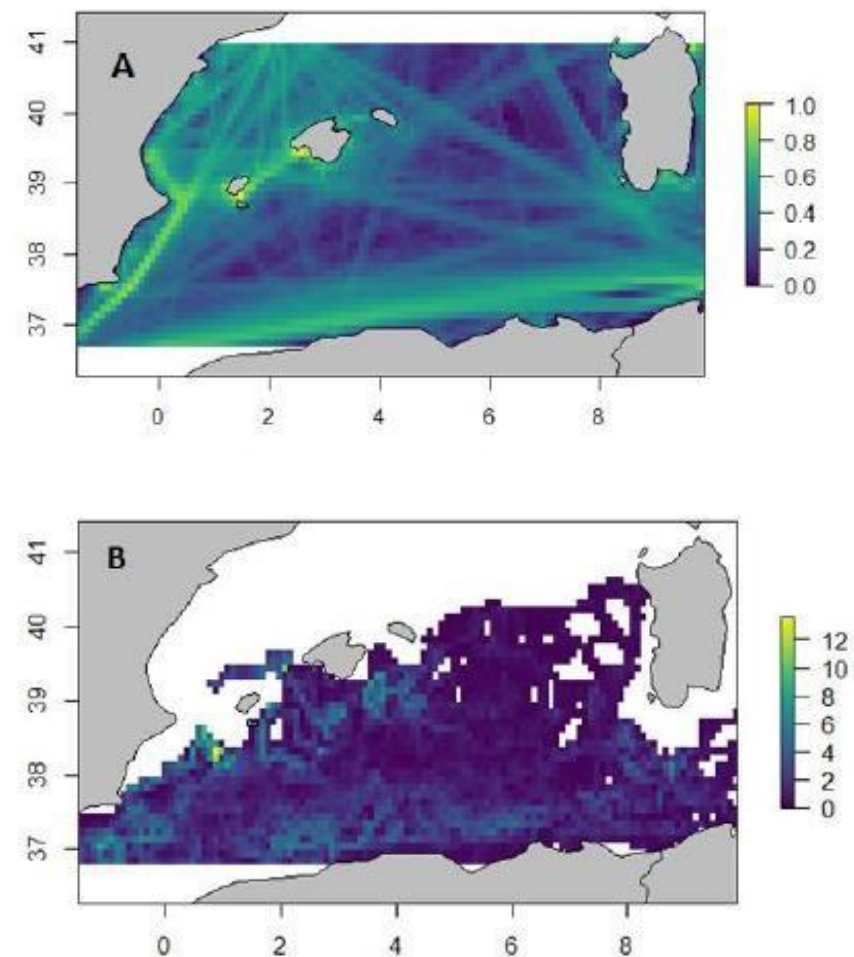
▲ Real-time data using SOCIB viewer connected from [www.fundacionpalmaaquarium.org](http://www.fundacionpalmaaquarium.org)

## ASSESSING ANIMAL-SHIP INTERACTIONS

### SIMULTANEOUS OBSERVATIONS OF AIS AND TELEMETRY DATA

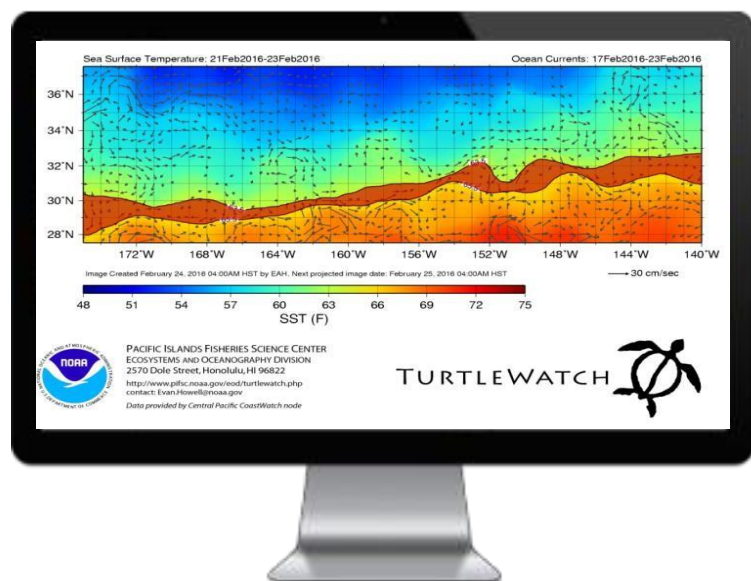


### CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF HUMAN PRESSURES

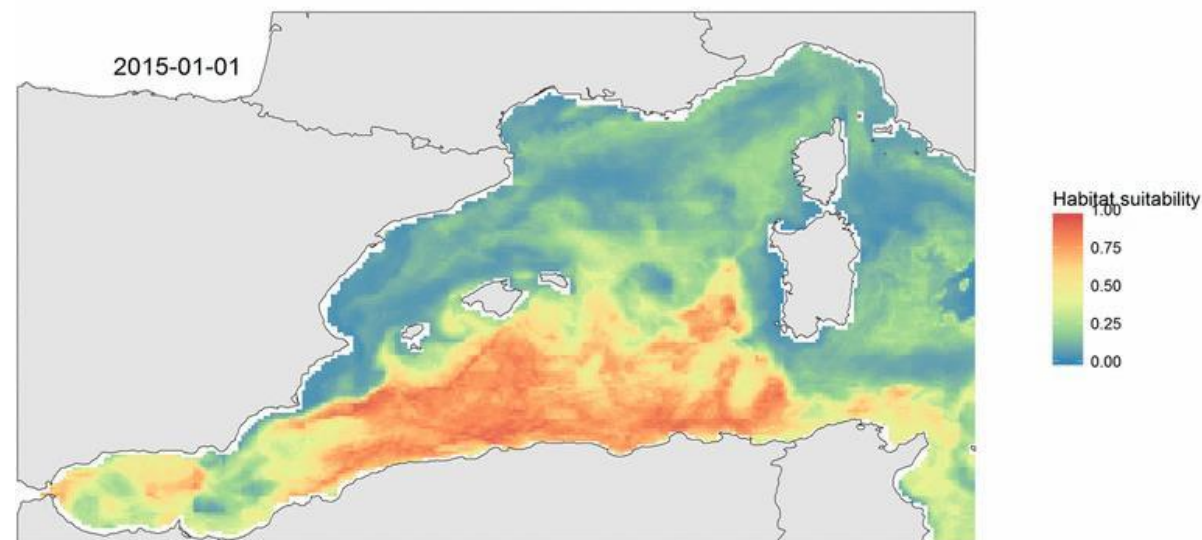




# OPERATIONAL ECOLOGY: MOVING TOWARDS DYNAMIC OCEAN MANAGEMENT



NOAA uses Turtle Watch to **inform** fishermen about by-catch probability

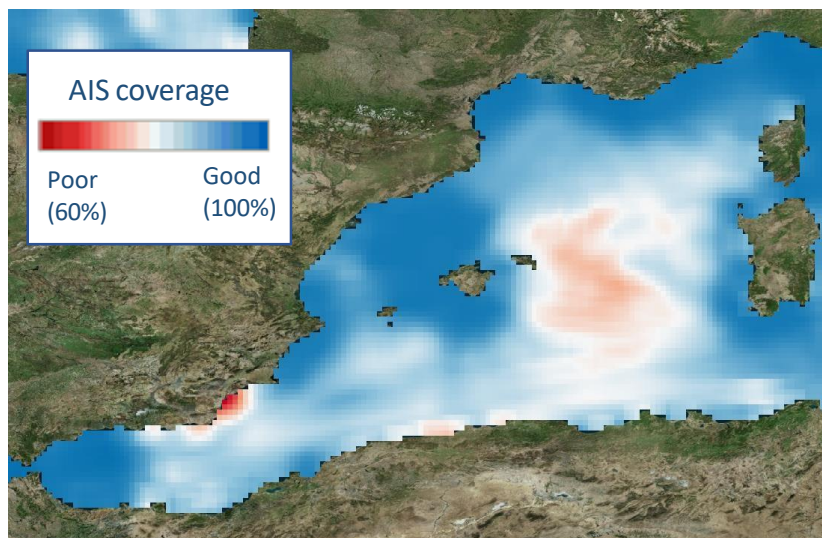


Species distribution models can be linked to with forecasts provided by Ocean Observing Systems

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

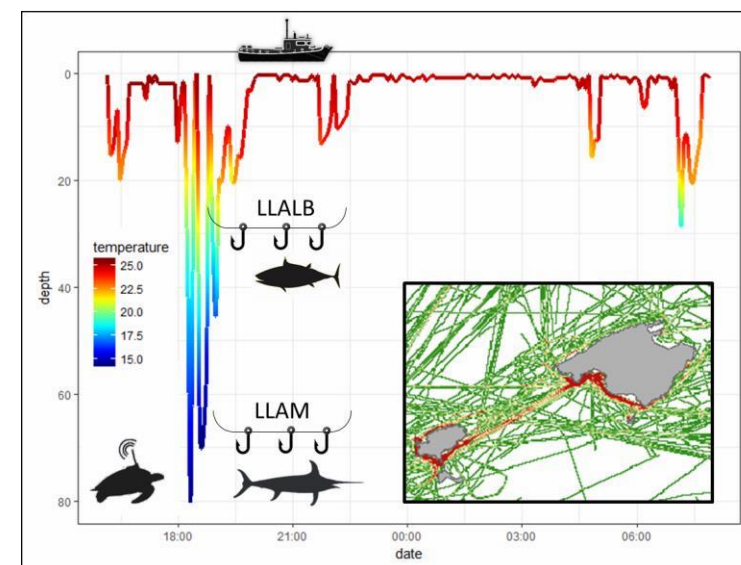
### CHALLENGES

- Bias in AIS coverage
- Hidden fleet: small-scale fisheries, no-EU vessels
- No metier identification



### OPPORTUNITIES

- AI & machine learning for metier identification
- Use animal diving behaviour data to assess vulnerability
- Move towards multispecies approaches
- Ocean observing systems: data-assimilative numerical models



## TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Electronic monitoring system and earth observations allow an unprecedented opportunity to link animal movement, ship-based activities and the marine environment
- Operational ecology can provide a scientific basis for the development of risk mitigation tools to minimize unwanted interactions between fisheries and vulnerable species
- Conservation of large pelagic marine animals in the Mediterranean will require moving towards multi-species, multi-sector and multiple jurisdictional approaches



GRAZIE!

THANK YOU!

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

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Fundación BBVA

