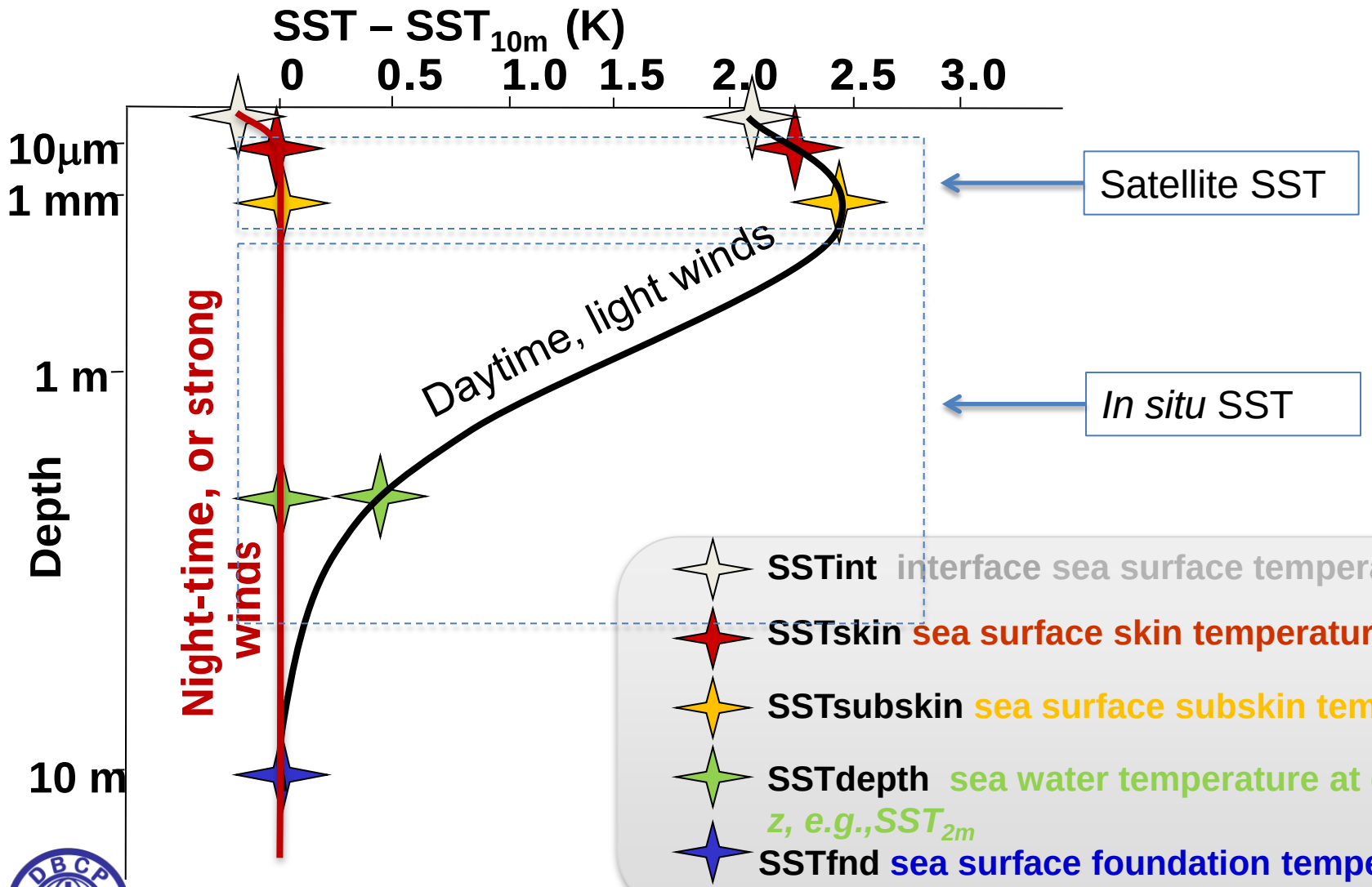
Collaboration between DBCP and GHRSST

- Drifter SST vital for satellite SST validation and algorithm development (GHRSST group)
- Hampered by lack of accuracy, resolution and metadata
- Reasonable set of requirements for HRSST drifters agreed
- Deployments rolled out over last 36 months
- ESA funding being sought (Sentinel-3 campaign)
- Model for collaboration with other specialised observation groups, e.g. for pCO_2, pH

Definitions of SST:



SSTint interface sea surface temperature

SSTskin sea surface skin temperature

SSTsubskin sea surface subskin temperature

SSTdepth sea water temperature at depth *z, e.g.,* SST_{2m}

SSTfnd sea surface foundation temperature

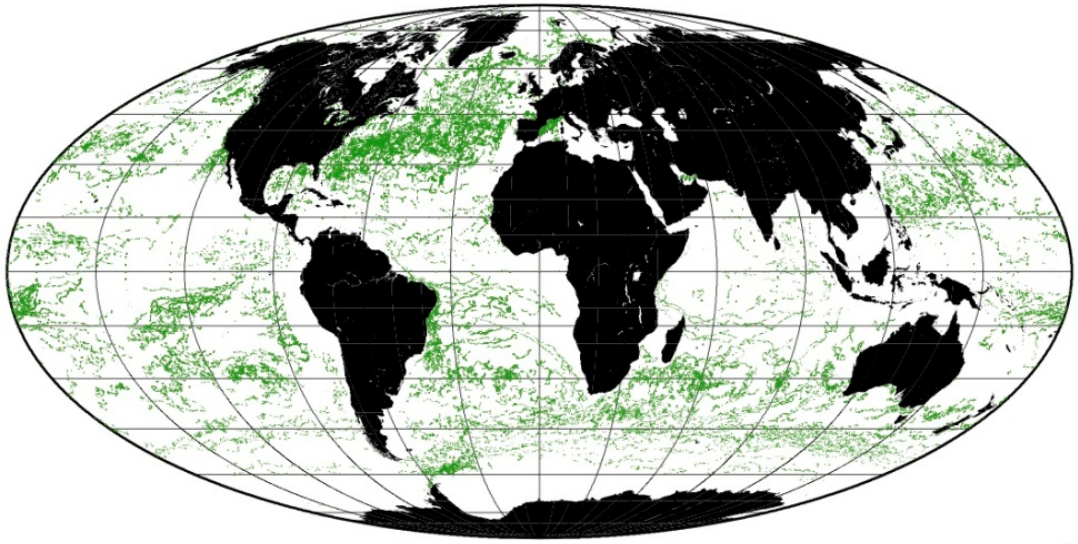
Result of a dialogue: GHRSST requirements for drifters

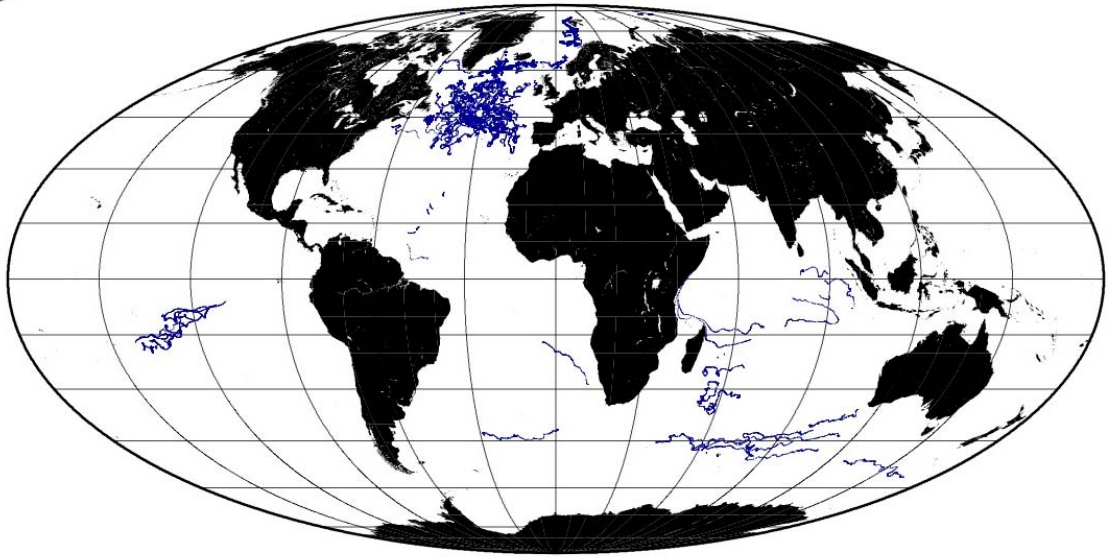
- Hourly measurements
- Report design depth in calm water to ± 5 cm
- Report of geographical location to ± 0.5 km or better
- SST accuracy to ± 0.05K or better, resolve 0.01K
- Report of time of SST measurements to ± 5 minutes

Progress to date
(data inserted on GTS via Meteo France)

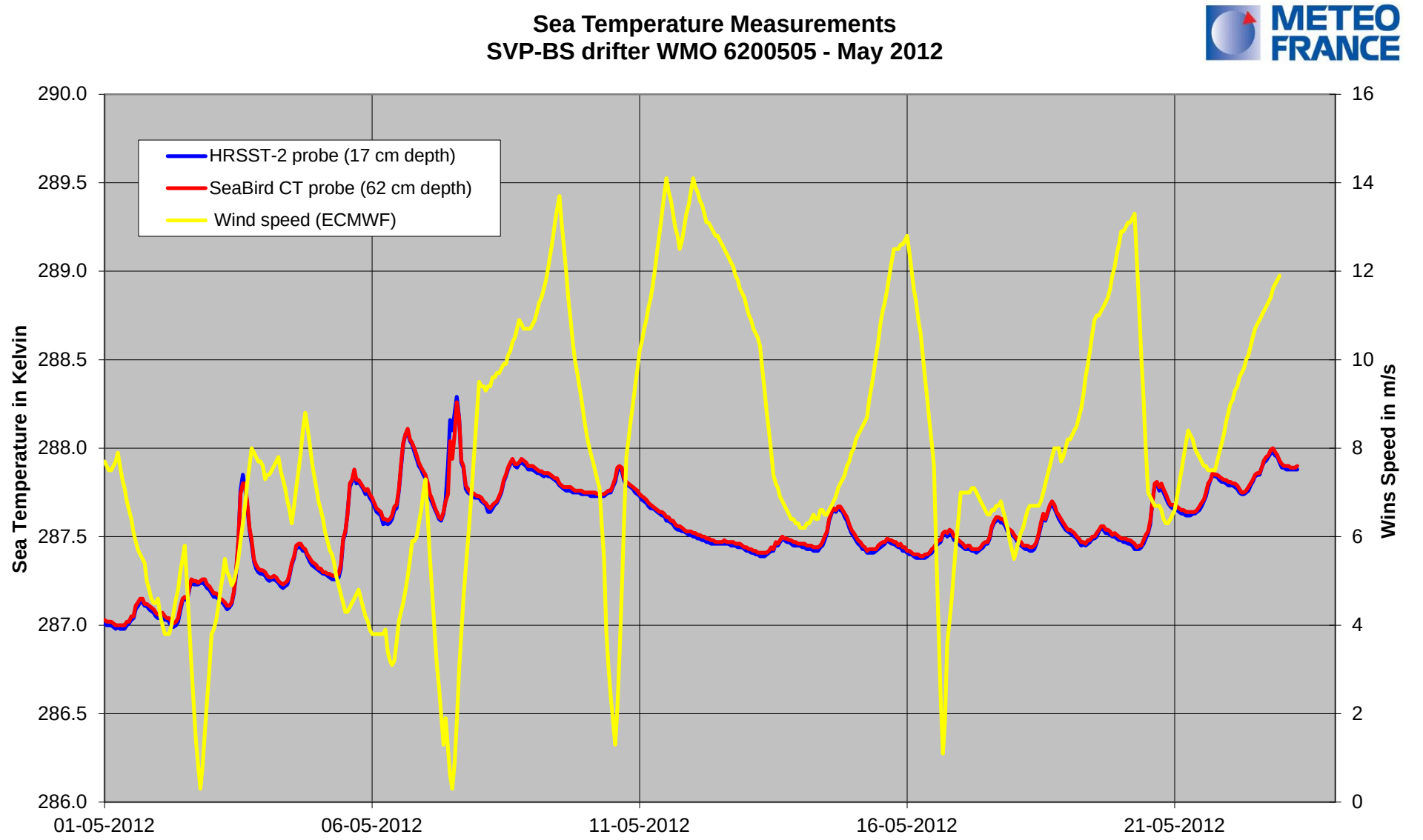
- Over 800 HRSST drifters have been deployed
  - Mainly by ESURFMAR and Meteo France
  - Report SST to 0.01C using BUFR
  - Mainly in N Atlantic
- Mostly HRSST-1s
  - Same SST sensor as before, just report to higher resolution
- 67 HRSST-2s deployed
  - Better digital sensor module: demountable to facilitate traceable pre- (and post-?)calibration
  - USD1k upgrade cost at present
- SPURS drifter fleet recruited

Non-HRSST via HRSST

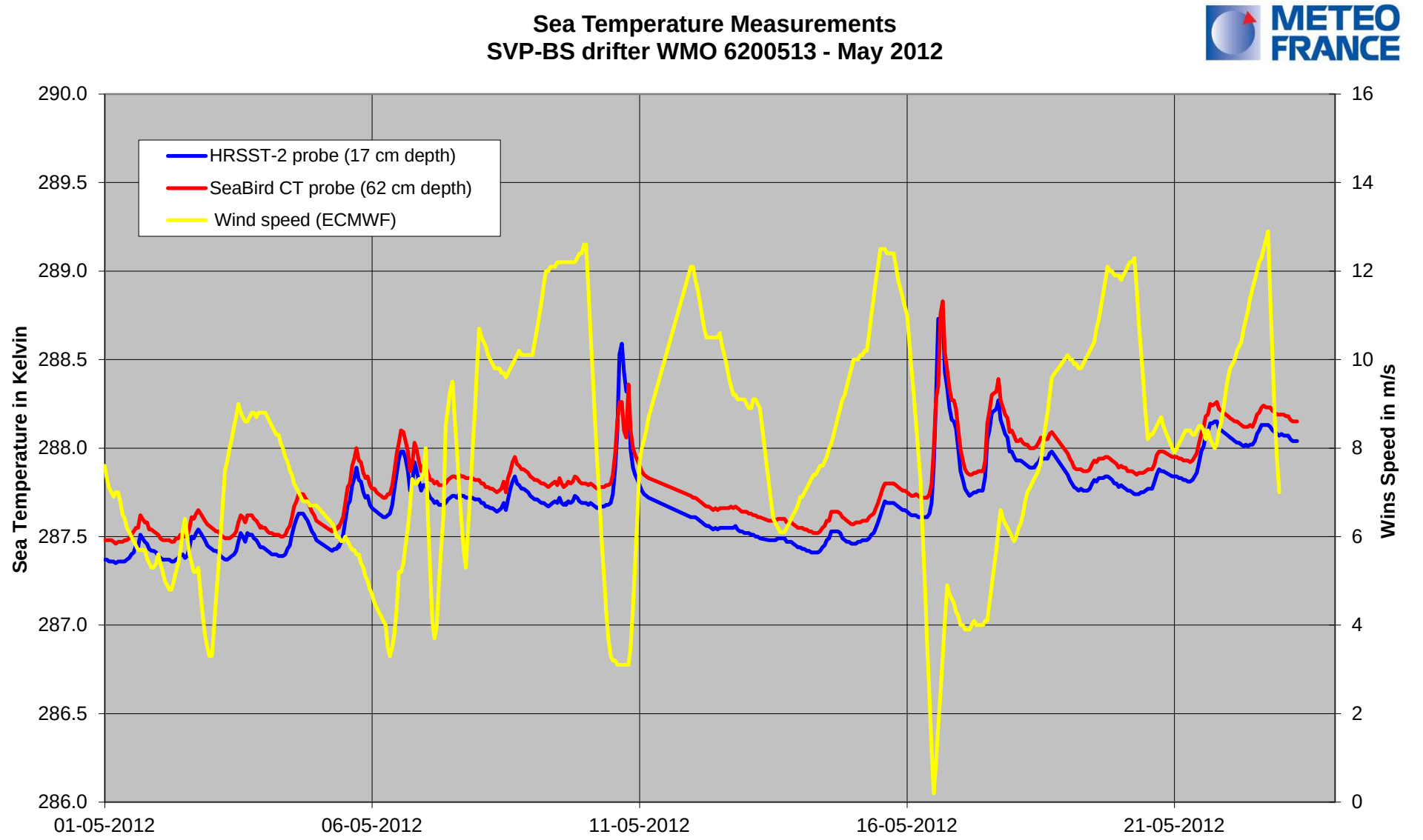




Early HRSST-2 calibration issues



Early HRSST-2 calibration issues



Pierre’s conclusion

- HRSST-2 buoys measure SST with a better accuracy than HRSST-1 buoys
- This is probably due to the fact that digital probes are better calibrated. The standard deviation of differences with CT SST probes is similar with HRSST-1 or HRSST-2 buoys (< 0.015 K)
- HRSST-2 buoys meet the accuracy requirement (0.05K) during calibration tests but some do not meet it at sea
- The most part of the « HRSST-1 to HRSST-2 » upgrade cost is due to the probe calibration
- Data users requiring such accuracy (satellite SST community) should contribute to the extra cost: EUMETNET does not plan to purchase more HRSST-2 buoys at its own expense

GHRSST meeting (Mar 12): DBCP response and next steps

- Agreed to establish joint pilot project (PP-HRSST), ends 2014
- Need to identify areas that will provide large number of matchups in shortest possible time
- These areas to be of interest to existing buoy operators as they will pay most of the cost
- ESURFMAR now routinely deploying HRSST-1 drifters
  - More than 180 deployed to date, mostly in N Atlantic, some in Indian Ocean
  - Report with increased resolution but not accuracy
  - Report in BUFR
- PP-HRSST funds being used to help Met Office to upgrade to high accuracy HRSST-2 drifters
- Need to get feedback from GHRSST asap
- Need to get follow-on funding through joint GHRSST/DBCP proposals

HRSST buoys: Initial GHRSST analysis

Gary Corlett, Sasha Ignatov, Matt Martin, Chris Merchant and Peter Minnett

Activities so far

- Matt Martin (Met Office) : matchups with FOAM/OSTIA
  - Model/analysis foundation SST
- Gary Corlett (University of Leicester): matchups with AATSR v2.1
  - Satellite skin SST
- Sasha Ignatov (NOAA) and Peter Minnett (RSMAS): matchups with VIIRS v5.3
  - Satellite skin SST

OSTIA/FOAM

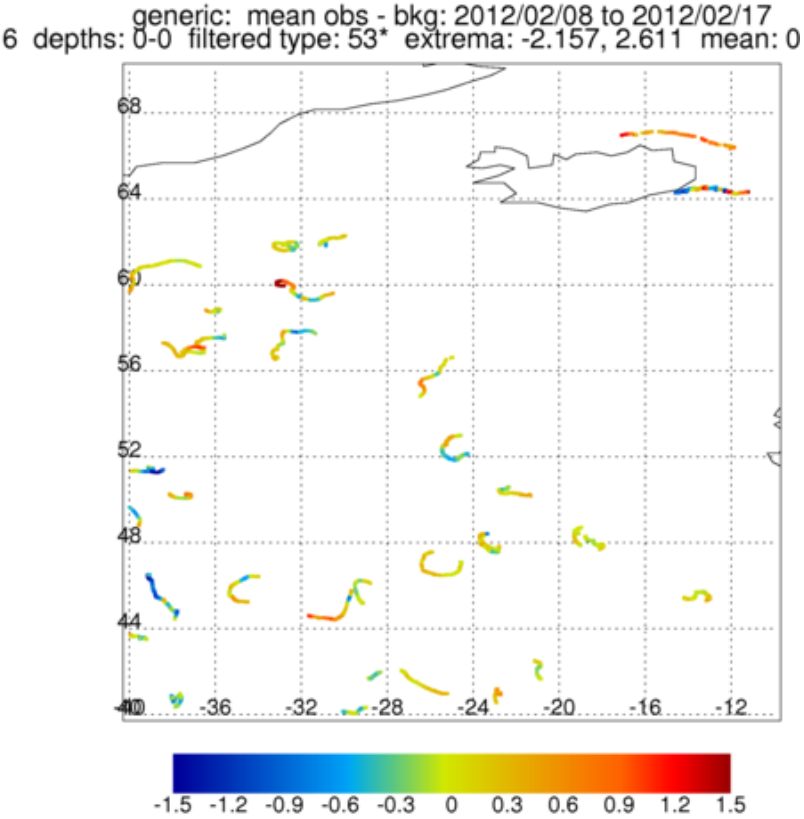
Matt Martin

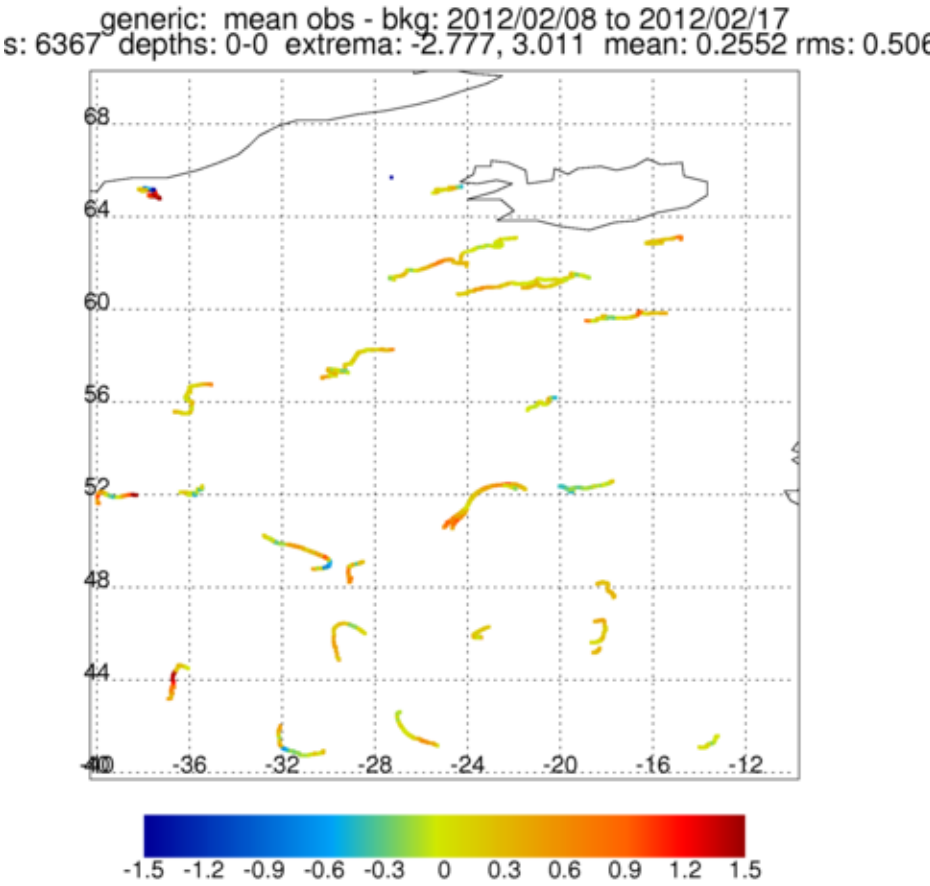
Preliminary comparison of SST from the new and old type of surface drifters with operational FOAM output

- Data used in the comparison:
  - Comparing the operational FOAM model output 1-day SST forecast (before assimilation) with the surface drifters.
  - For a 10 day period (8th – 17th Feb 2012).
  - Selected a region where most of the new type of drifters are:
    - 70W -> 10W, 40N -> 70N.

- Caveats to bear in mind when looking at the results:
  - Despite reasonable numbers of obs (~9300 of the old type, ~6400 of the new type), the number of independent obs is fairly small (only a limited number of actual drifters, each of which reports many times).
  - Difficult to distinguish model errors from observation errors.

- Overall summary:
  - old drifter obs types have a much smaller mean error than the new types (+0.02 vs +0.26).
  - new drifter obs types have a slightly smaller standard deviation than the old type (0.42 vs 0.44).





AATSR Validation

Gary Corlett

AATSR Validation

- Compare AATSR SST-skin to drifter SST-depth
- Nearest pixel within 3 hrs. (correct for time difference using Embury et al., 2012)
- AATSR mission ended on 8th April 2012
  - Loss of communication with Envisat
- Limit analysis to:
  - 70W -> 10W, 40N -> 70N.
  - 1st September 2011 to 1st April 2012

AATSR Results

Best retrieval

	Number	N2	N3	D2	D3
Non-HRSST					
Day	3176	-0.17 (0.29)		-0.14 (0.30)	
Night	3138	-0.28 (0.23)	-0.26 (0.22)	-0.23 (0.29)	**-0.26 (0.26)**
HRSST					
Day	404	-0.44 (0.34)		-0.37 (0.30)	
Night	555	-0.48 (0.35)	-0.43 (0.25)	-0.40 (0.27)	**-0.41 (0.26)**

Skin to depth so expect difference of roughly -0.17 K

HRSST buoys warmer by 0.15 ^{o}C in North Atlantic; 0.2 ^{o}C for all regions

DBCP WMO - IOC

GHRSST Group for High Resolution Sea Surface Temperature

VIIRS Validation

Sasha Ignatov, Peter Minnett

VIIRS – drifter statistics

	v5.3 non-HRSST buoys
IDPS SST2b night	
median	-0.292
sd	0.601
mad	0.414
count	50561
IDPS sst3b night	
median	**-0.156**
sd	0.531
mad	0.282
count	50561

	V5.3 HRSST buoys
IDPS SST2b night	
median	-0.543
sd	0.702
mad	0.346
count	2404
IDPS sst3b night	
median	**-0.363**
sd	0.590
mad	0.234
count	2404

Best retrieval

Skin to depth so expect difference of roughly -0.17 K

Summary

- Very small number of match-ups so far
- Initial results show warm bias of 0.15-0.2 ^{o}C compared to existing drifters
  - Lower noise
- Work ongoing to
  - Expand number of matchups (add MODIS & AVHRR)
  - Compare to ARC SSTs (best satellite SSTs)
  - Compare HRSST and non-HRSST drifters
  - Investigate other features (e.g. drogue)

Where would be the most important deployment areas?

1. Canary Islands: area of the Aquarius surface salinity validation campaigns (SPURS); effects of Saharan Air Layer and aerosols on infrared SSTs
2. SE-Asia: high water vapor and periodic smoke aerosols from forest fires
3. Upwelling areas: anomalous air-sea temperature differences; surface flow divergence tends to reduce buoys drifting into upwelling areas
4. High Latitudes: very low water vapour content; anomalous air-sea temperature differences)

The effects of the higher quality might be best seen in the connection with the SPURS campaign

Events affecting progress over last 2 years

- ENVISAT AATSR died
- Some GHRSST participants have retired
- Draft proposal to ESA rejected
- Many issues with data flow
  - BUFR not universally decoded
  - 7 digit WMO IDs not compatible with databases
- New ESA ITT includes drifter SST traceability study
  - Should start in 2015

Next steps

- Seek additional funding from space community
  - At this stage no additional funding above agreed amount sought from Panel
- Work with manufacturers to consolidate and agree HRSST-2 specification and design
  - Add-on cost will need to fall for HRSST-2 to be widely adopted
- Decide whether to continue with PP-HRSST