

A FRENCH OUTREACH INITIATIVE INCLUDING OCEANOGRAPHIC AUTONOMOUS OBSERVATIONS

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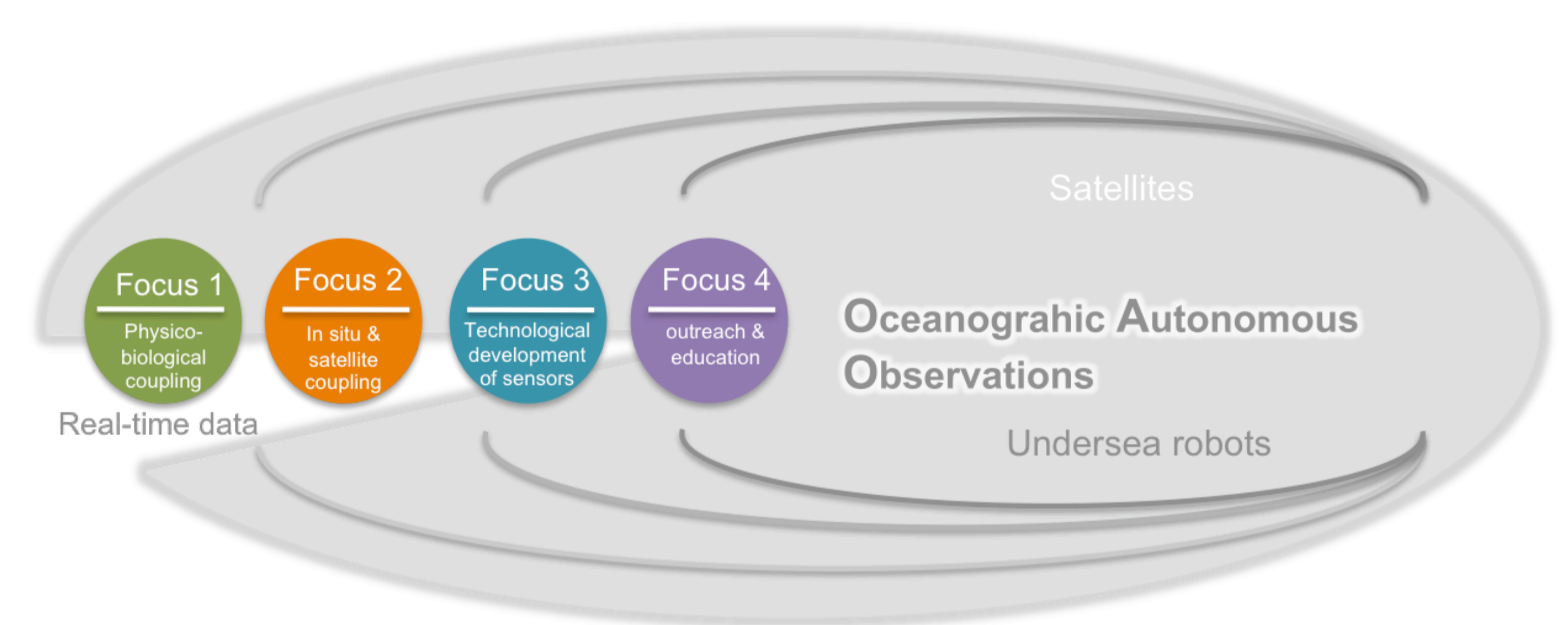
ABSTRACT

The OAO (Oceanographic Autonomous Observations) team operates automatic platforms such as gliders and profiling floats and is also strongly implicated in the technological development of their “new generation” in terms of scientific payloads. The acquired multi-sensor data, particularly focusing on marine biogeochemically-relevant data (e.g. oxygen, nitrate, chlorophyll-a, amount of light penetrating the Ocean) together with temperature and salinity, then serve within the wide fields of fundamental research and operational applications.

Within this framework and making use of the exceptional characteristics of such autonomous platforms (e.g. multidisciplinary real-time data in high resolution, possibility for sub-regional to global perspectives), the OAO team also seeks to contribute the more and more towards educational and outreach activities. On a local/national and international basis, thus several activities are proposed and the development of attractive outreach approaches is undertaken (e.g. facilitator program). Aiming to broadly capture an interest in Ocean Sciences and to initiate or deepen the understanding of the Oceans and their functioning, these initiatives are meant as complementary actions with an integrative and whenever possible collaborative intention to efforts of existing and emerging networks.

1. Who are we and what do we research?

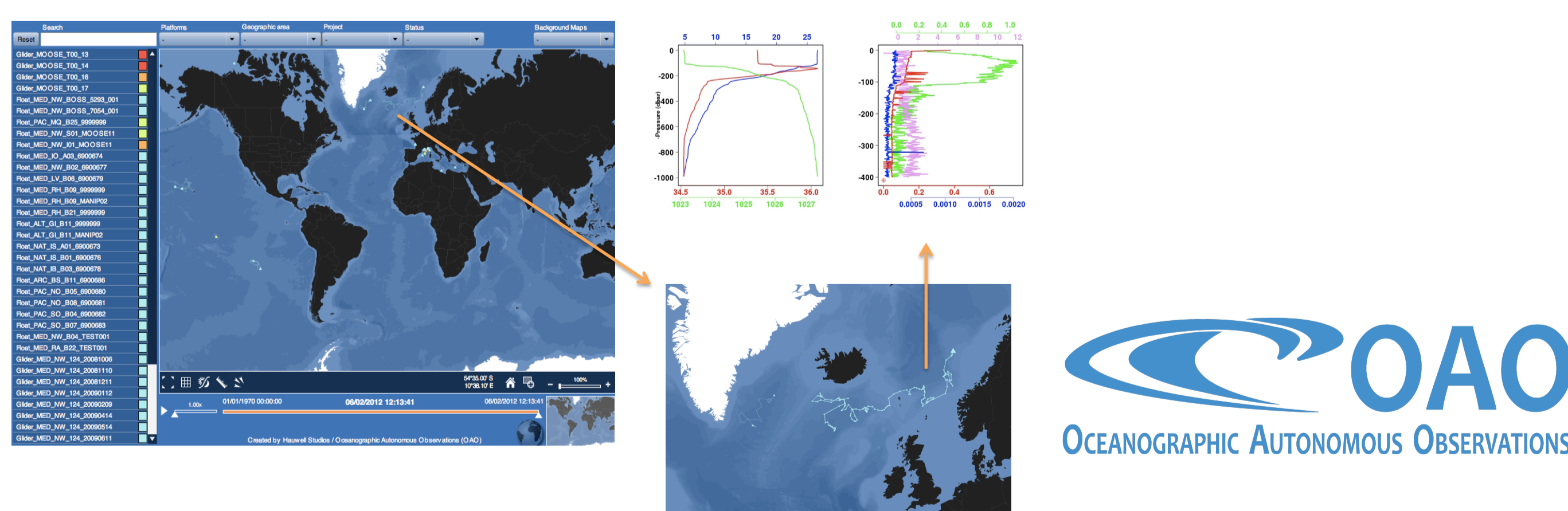
- OAO is a platform where scientists and scientific engineers join with their different professional backgrounds at various stages of their career.
- OAO undertakes research within the context of long-term projects such as remOcean (European Research Council, ERC) and NAOS (French governmental call “Equipements d’Excellence (EQUIPEX) 2010), as well as of several other projects at national, European and international level.



- Biogeochemical properties & processes – focus on planktonic life
- Undersea robots (gliders & profiling floats) equipped with miniature sensors
- Real time data of the Ocean’s interior (undersea robots) & surface (satellite)
- Outreach & education – early career scientists and public

2. How do we (plan to) outreach?

2.1 website: Our instruments can be followed and their data viewed in real-time through our interactive map (cf. OAO contribution to session 138): www.oao.obs-vlfr.fr



2.3 facilitator program:

- initiative addressed to scientific mediators and teachers
- direct interventions & bring « science » into the classrooms via internet
- planned concepts: « adopt a float » & webinar series « Mediterranean Sea » (interaction with COSEE-Ocean Systems)
- start-up period: fall 2011 to fall 2012
- who is involved?: scientists from OAO and colleagues together with college and high school teachers

2.2 OAO visits and is visited:



Résumé and perspectives: Seeking to contribute to Ocean Sciences outreach & educational activities, OAO continues its implications on the development of dissemination activities in the context of various scientific projects and (recently) through totally education-oriented projects. Moreover, OAO intends to contribute to existing and emerging networks (cf. OAO contribution to session 164).