Twenty Years with IMOS
Fishing Fleets as Observing Infrastructure

A future view from Austral Fisheries

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The partnership

Austral Fisheries and IMOS

- Three commercial fleets
- Remote, data-poor oceans
- Nearly 20 years with SOOP
- Data collected during fishing

AUSTRAL

IMOS Integrated **Marine Observing** System

Austral Fisheries

Southern Ocean

- Regular transits from Mauritius to Heard Island
- Seasonal fishery
- Patagonian Toothfish

Southern Ocean

- Expensive and difficult place to operate
- 20 years experience with running Bio Accoustic transects
- Lots of what we know about this region comes from fishing boats

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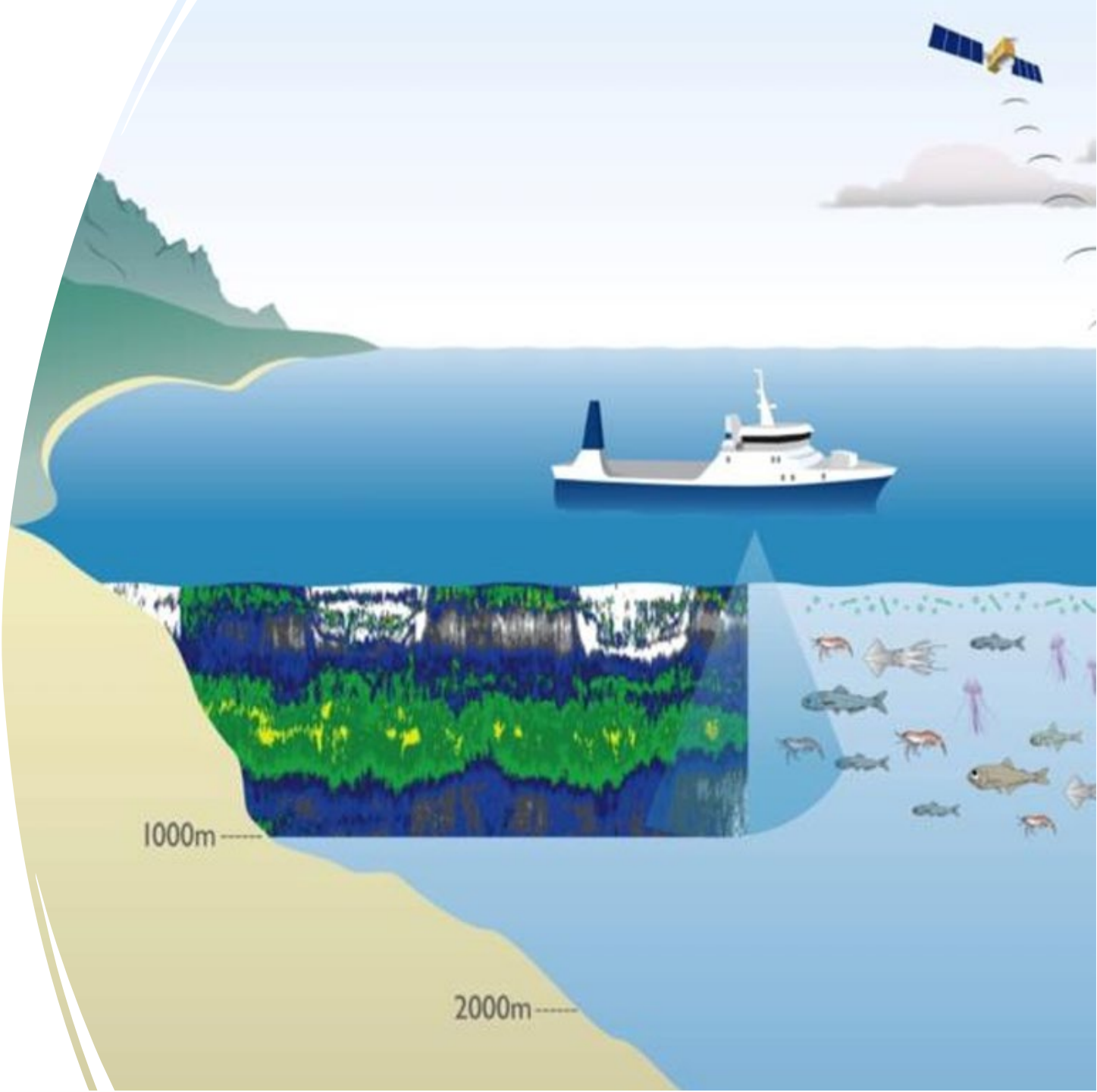
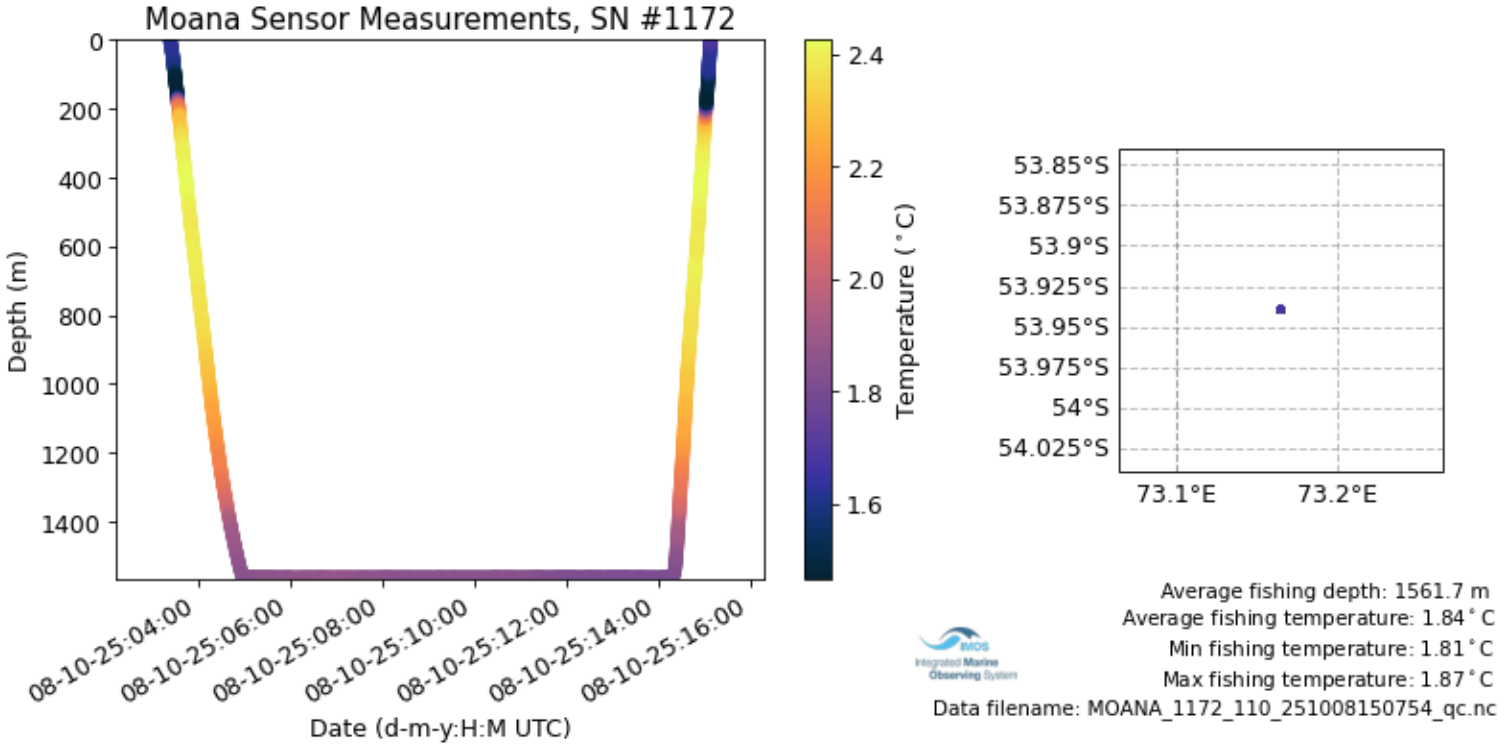


Austral Fisheries



Southern Ocean

- 20 years gap in Govt research
- 2 full MPA cycles
- Super valuable data, bugger all cost to Govt
- TREV

Northern Prawn Fishery

- 11 boats
- Operating across almost 1 million km2 of northern Australia
- FishSOOP collecting data
- Around three years worth of data
- Again remote and expensive place to operate

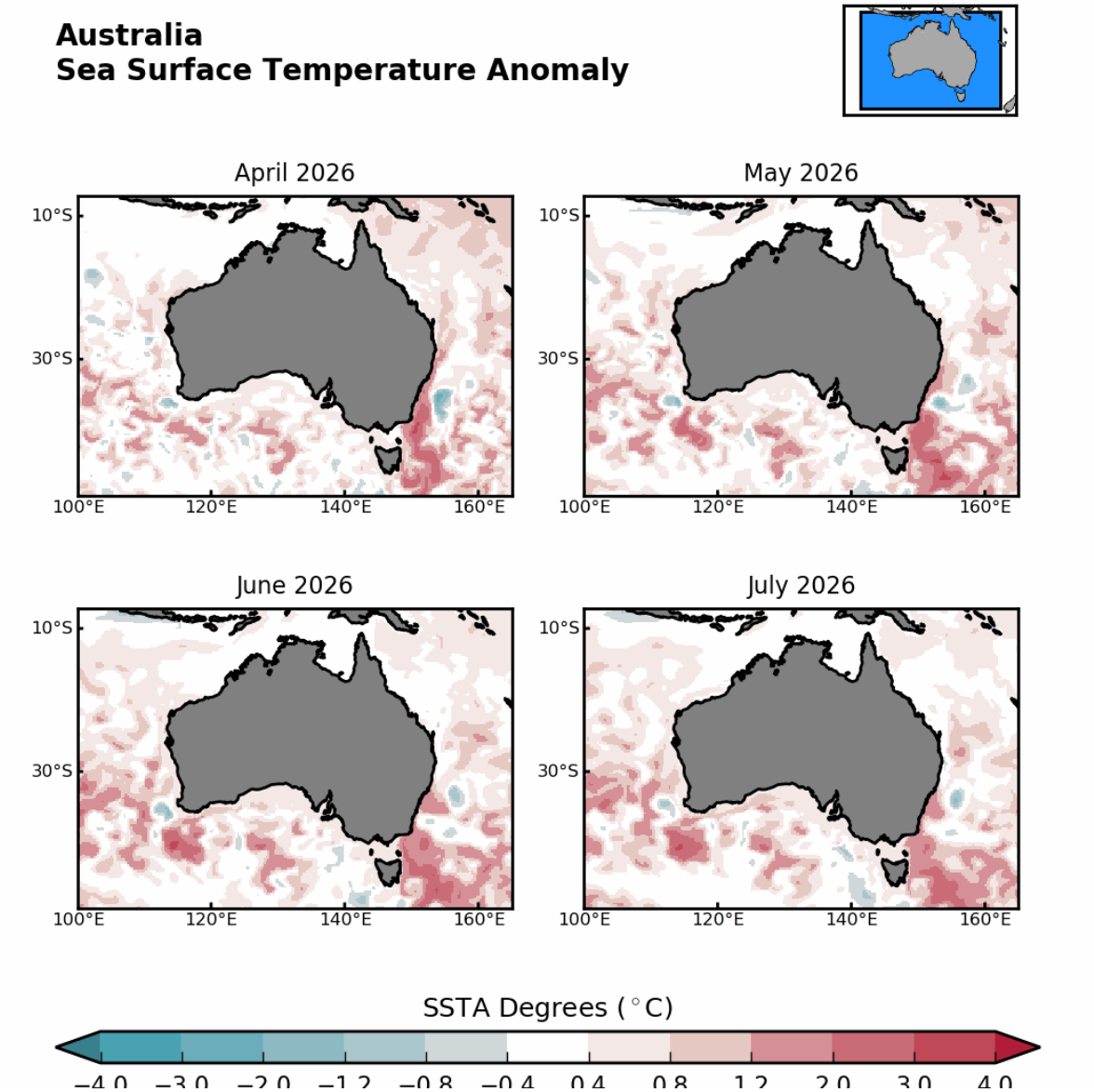
NT Demersal Snapper

- 4 boats
- Trap fishery
- FishSOOP collecting data
- Around three years worth of data

Fisheries sob story

Tuff times for many parts of the sector

- Raptis in Administration
- The ocean is highly contested
- Rising Costs / fuel
- Climate Change
- WA Demersal ban



The Constraint

Doing more with less

- Regulatory burden
- Operating costs are rising
- Risk sits with fishers
- Prices are not risk adjusted

The Challenge

- Our past is likely a poor predictor of our future
- Species are moving
- Ecosystems are wicked complex
- Fish can’t read maps
- Data will be key to planning the future and knowing where to invest

IMOS alignment

Inside the IMOS framework

- Rhys - Bluewater and Climate Node
- Boundary currents
- Open-ocean systems
- Fleets cross them routinely

FishSOOP

A win-win observing practice

- Fishing boats are already at sea
- Data and our ability to analyse it are critical
- This data is valuable and should be priced
- Resourcing is the barrier

Looking ahead

IMOS 2036

- Fleets as core infrastructure
- Data is valued and valuable
- Routine multi disciplinary system approaches to ocean management
- Ships of opportunity are the lower cost per observation