

# The Rolling Review of Requirements applied to Marine Heatwaves

**Ronan McAdam**<sup>1</sup>, Alessandra Onida<sup>2</sup>, Dimitra Denaxa<sup>3</sup>, Alexander Hayward<sup>4</sup>, Veera Haapaniemi<sup>5</sup>, Vincent Combes<sup>6</sup>, Sourav Chatterjee<sup>7</sup>, Francesco De Rovere<sup>1</sup>, Giulia Bonino<sup>1</sup>, Fabíola Silva<sup>8</sup>, Ana Oliveira<sup>8</sup>, Beatriz Lopes<sup>8</sup>, João Paixão<sup>8</sup>, Roshin Raj<sup>9</sup>, Simona Masina<sup>1</sup>, Steffen Olsen<sup>4</sup>, Johannes Karstensen<sup>10</sup>, Sabrina Speich<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CMCC, Italy; <sup>2</sup> ENS, France; <sup>3</sup> HCMR, Greece; <sup>4</sup> DMI, Denmark; <sup>5</sup> FMI, Finland; <sup>6</sup> CSIC, Spain; <sup>7</sup> NCPOR, India; <sup>8</sup> +ATLANTIC, Portugal; <sup>9</sup> NERSC, Norway; <sup>10</sup> GEOMAR, Germany



ObsSea4Clim is funded by the European Union, Horizon Europe Funding Programme for research and innovation under Grant Agreement Nr. 101136548

# WMO Rolling Review of Requirements

- Support the high-level **design and evolution** of WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS).
- Compiles information about technology-free **requirements** for observations and observing system **capabilities**.
- Draws on experts and impact studies -> identify **priorities for addressing the gaps between requirements and capabilities**.

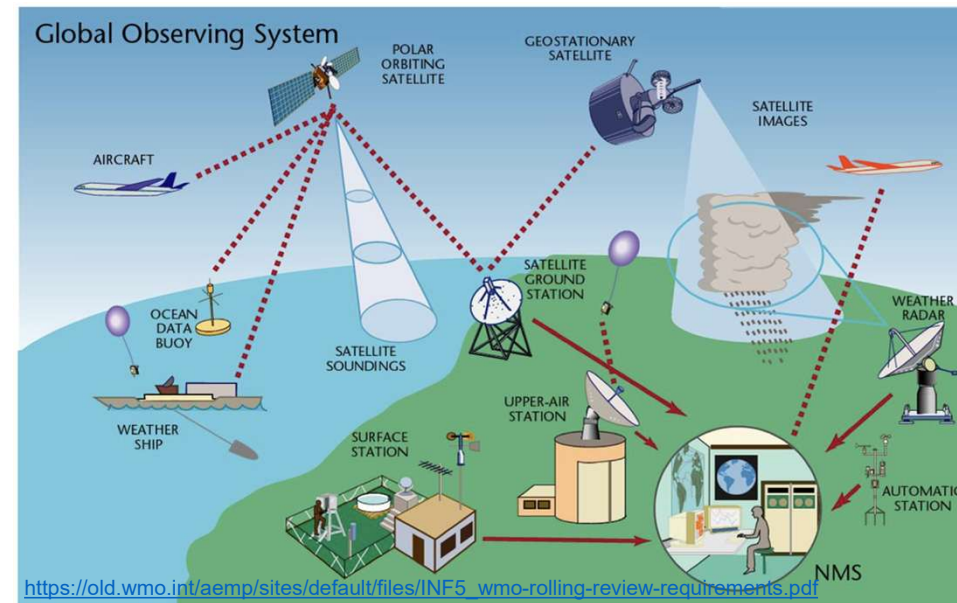


OSCAR

Observing Systems Capability Analysis and Review Tool



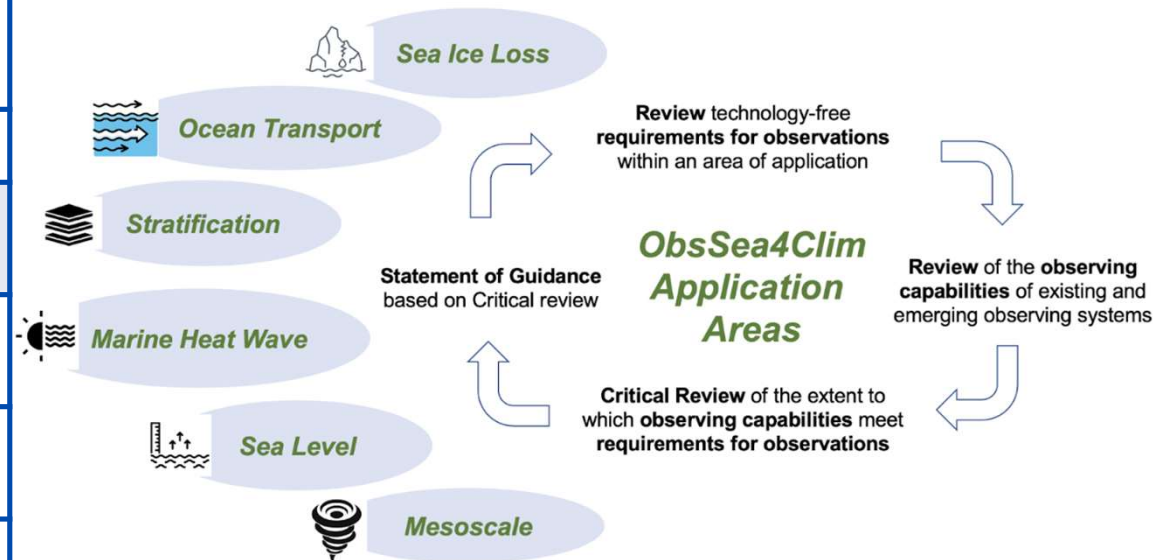
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Our **objective** is to **apply** the **RRR** framework to new climate sub-application areas, including **marine heatwaves**

# RRR: proposed sub-application areas

Earth System Application Category	Application Areas
1. Space Weather	3.1 Ocean Forecasting and Real-Time Monitoring
2. Atmospheric	3.2 Coastal Forecasting
3. <i>Oceanic</i>	3.3 <i>Oceanic Climate Monitoring and Services</i>
4. Hydrological and Terrestrial	3.4 Tsunami Monitoring and Detection
5. Cryospheric	3.5 Marine Environmental Emergency Response
6. Integrated Earth System	3.6 Maritime Safety (ports to open ocean)



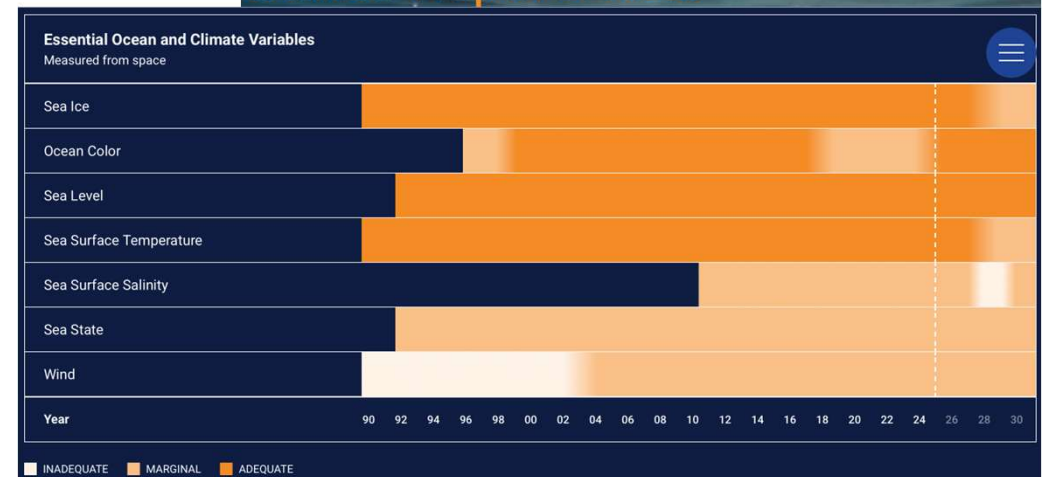
# Role of the RRR

- Perform a gap analysis: recommendations on how to address the gaps, and observations impact studies.
- Provide resource materials useful to WMO Members for dialogue with the agents responsible of implementing observing systems.

**BAMS**  
Article

## Effects of the Pandemic on Observing the Global Ocean

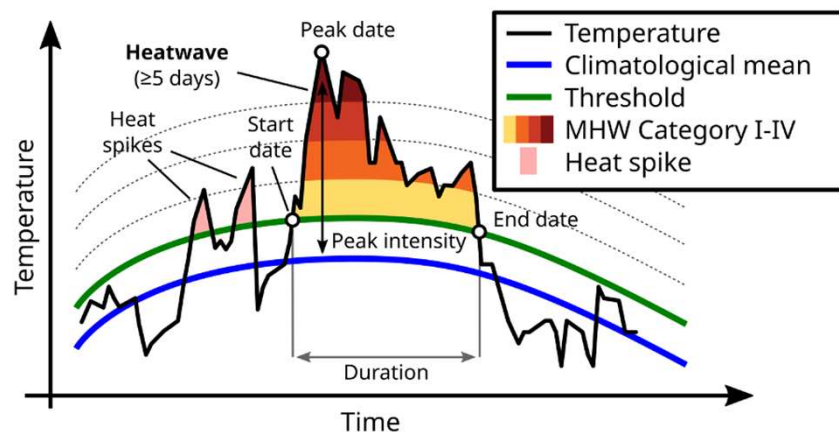
Tim Boyer, Huai-Min Zhang, Kevin O'Brien, James Reagan, Stephen Diggs, Eric Freeman, Hernan Garcia, Emma Heslop, Patrick Hogan, Boyin Huang, Li-Qing Jiang, Alex Kozyr, Chunying Liu, Ricardo Locarnini, Alexey V. Mishonov, Christopher Paver, Zhankun Wang, Melissa Zweng, Simone Alin, Leticia Barbero, John A. Barth, Mathieu Belbeoch, Just Cebrian, Kenneth J. Connell, Rebecca Cowley, Dmitry Dukhovskoy, Nancy R. Galbraith, Gustavo Goni, Fred Katz, Martin Kramp, Arun Kumar, David M. Legler, Rick Lumpkin, Clive R. McMahon, Denis Pierrot, Albert J. Plueddemann, Emily A. Smith, Adrienne Sutton, Victor Turpin, Long Jiang, V. Suneel, Rik Wanninkhof, Robert A. Weller, and Annie P. S. Wong



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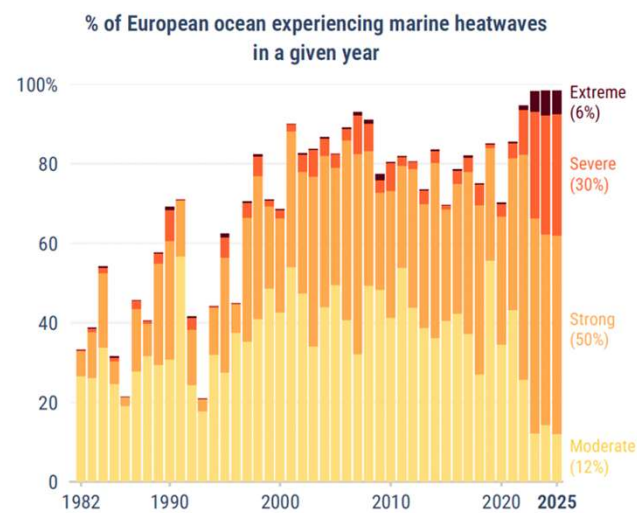


# Marine Heatwaves

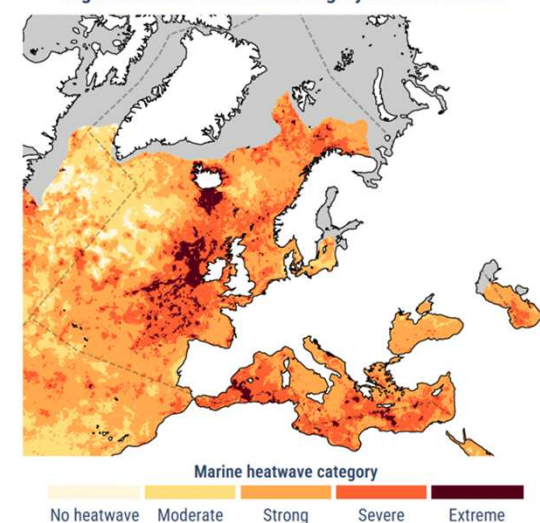


## Persistent and extreme temperature conditions

### Record 86% of European seas saw at least 'strong' marine heatwaves in 2025



### Highest marine heatwave category reached in 2025



Data: C3S Global Sea and Sea Ice Surface Temperature v1.0 • Reference period: 1991–2020 • Credit: DMI/C3S/ECMWF



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THE EUROPEAN UNION



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# Our Framework



1. Ocean Climate Sub-Application Area description and relevance for society
2. Observing Approaches
  - Remote Sensing, In-situ & Reanalysis
3. Nations Interest in observing Marine Heatwaves
  - Case Studies - Observing Capabilities & Requirements
4. Communality and Best Practices

*Tools for implementing RRR:  
Requirements Questionnaire  
(see talk by A. Onida, ENS)*



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# Key Applications & Services



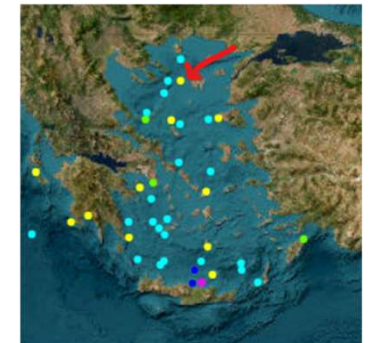
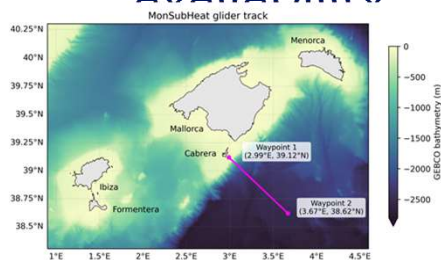
Application Area	Key Applications & Services
3.3 Oceanic Climate Monitoring and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Detection, modelling and assessment of climate change and its impact</li><li>• Supporting adaptation to climate change</li><li>• Monitoring the effectiveness of policies for mitigating climate change</li><li>• Development of climate change information services</li></ul>
Marine Heatwaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aquaculture &amp; Fisheries</li><li>• Marine Ecosystem Management</li><li>• Carbon Uptake</li><li>• Understanding climate variability</li><li>• Tourism</li><li>• Human Health</li></ul>



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# Relevant Observing Approaches

- Remote Sensing: widely-available and widely-used; focus on surface events until recent years; diversity of products (OISST, OSTIA, regional products etc)
- In-situ: Direct role and In-direct role (through reanalysis). Moorings for long-term climatology, fixed location and several depths. Gliders deployed given prior warning of event. ARGO for subsurface but difficult to use directly for short-term extremes.
- Reanalysis: widely relied upon for subsurface and bottom MHWs. Studying drivers (eddies, currents). Essential tool, quality dependent on data availability



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# Observational Requirements

## Requirements for 3.3 Ocean Climate and Monitoring Services

This table shows all related requirements. For more operations/filtering, please consult the full list of [Requirements](#)

Note: In reading the values, goal is marked **blue**, breakthrough **green**, threshold **orange**

Application-dependent Technical Priority (ATP) **Magenta** and Relative priority of the attributes **Red**

Id	Variable	Layer	App Area	ATP	Uncertainty	Layer/s Quality	Coverage Quality	Stability / decade	Hor Res	Ver Res	Obs Cyc	Timeliness	Coverage	Conf Level	Val Date	Source	General Comment
<a href="#">1023</a>	<a href="#">Sea surface temperature</a>	Sea surface Bulk	<a href="#">3.3 Oceanic Climate Monitoring and Services</a>	0.5	0.05 K 0.3 K			0.01 K 0.1 K	5 km 100 km			3 h 24 h	Global	reasonable	2023-08-17	GCOS-245: The 2022 ECVs	Requirements for uncertainty are specified at
<a href="#">1025</a>	<a href="#">Ocean temperature</a>	Upper.oc	<a href="#">3.3 Oceanic Climate Monitoring and Services</a>	0.5	0.01 K 0.1 K				10 km 300 km	1 m 2 m 10 m 0.5	2-3						
<a href="#">1026</a>	<a href="#">Ocean temperature</a>	Deep.oc	<a href="#">3.3 Oceanic Climate Monitoring and Services</a>	0.5	0.001 K 0.01 K				100 km 250 km 500 km 0.5	1 m 2 m 10 m 0.5	2-3						

### How would this differ for Marine Heatwaves?

- Do we need sub-daily data?
- Higher resolution for local impacts compared to climate assessment?

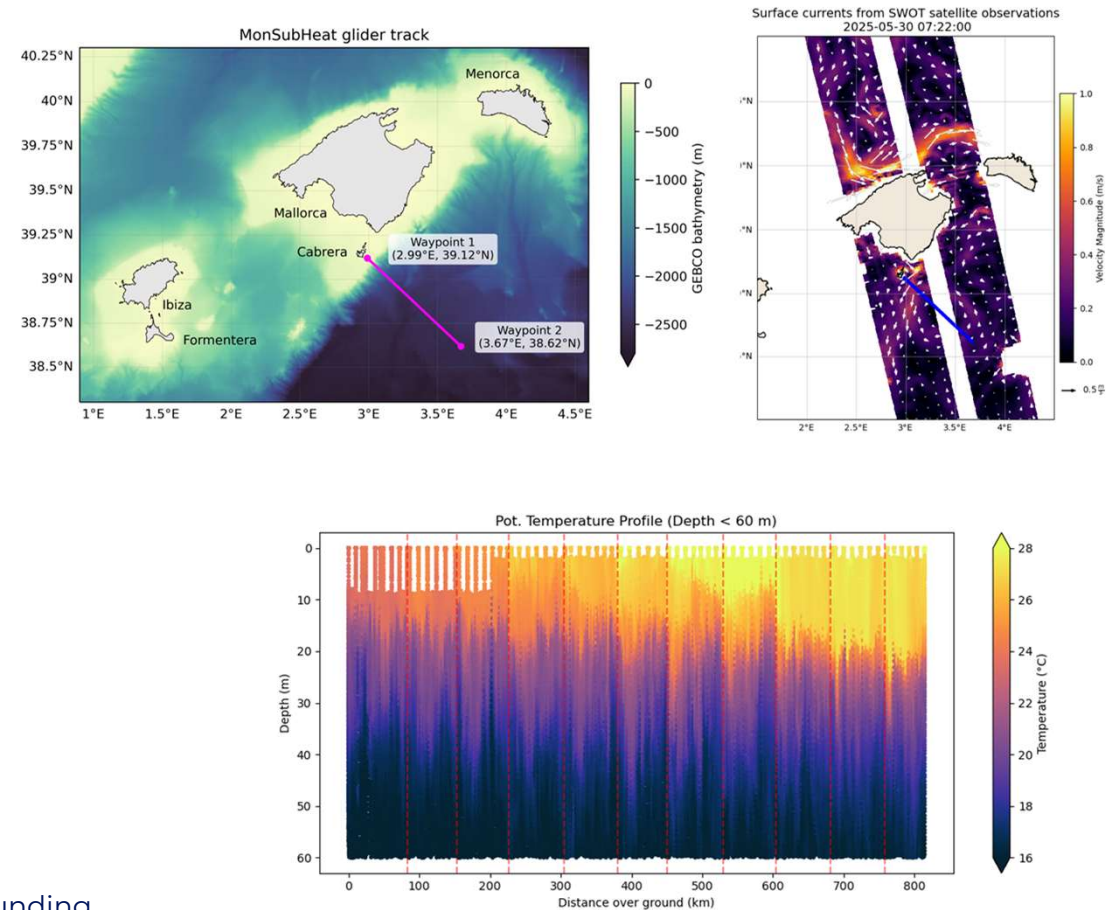


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# Case Studies from the Mediterranean Sea

## Balearic Islands, Spain IMEDEA-UIB CSIC (Combes, V., Fernandez, B. , Barceló-Llull, B.)

- Gliders:
  - + Ideal for cross-shelf measurements, easy to deploy, detailed view of upper-ocean MHW structure
  - Provide only snapshots of events, used with surface monitoring or forecasts
- In this project: studying open-ocean to coastal transition of MHWs



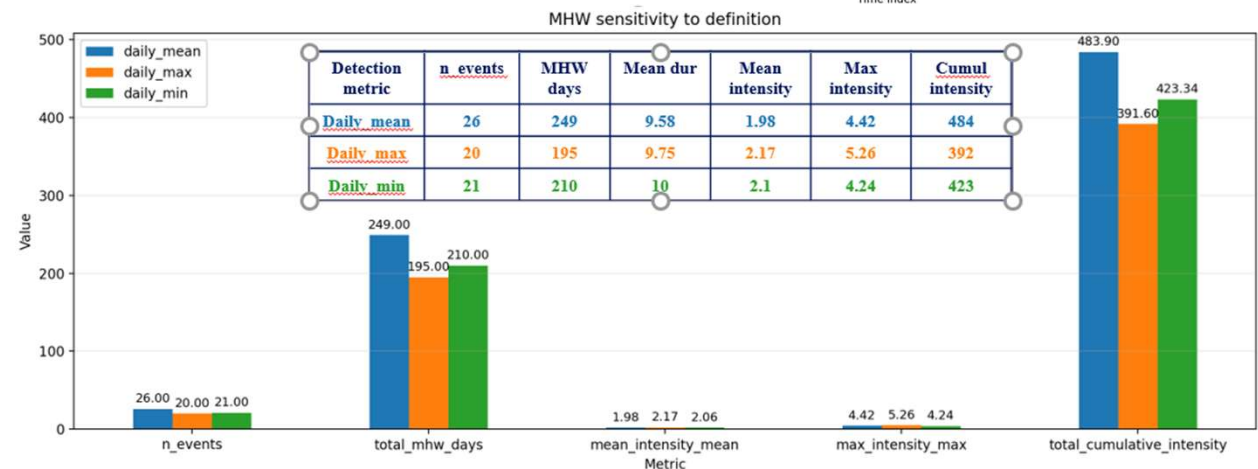
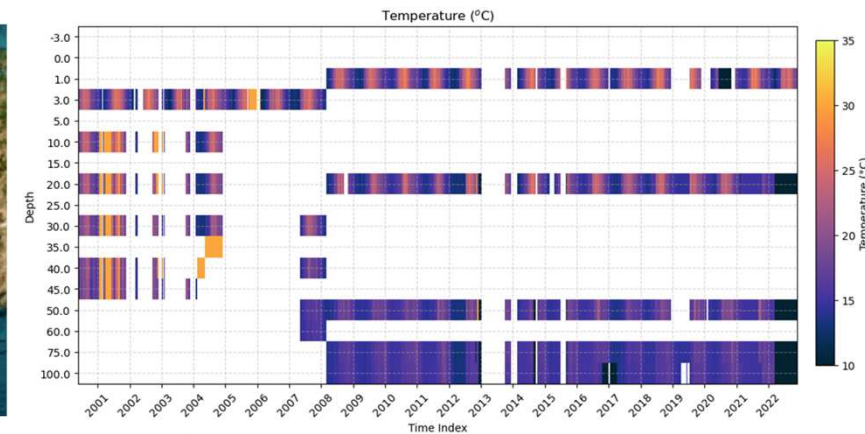
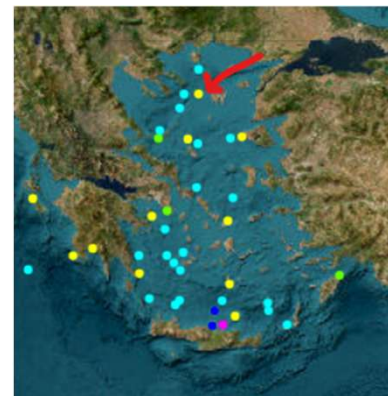
# Case Studies from the Mediterranean Sea

**Aegean Sea, Greece**  
(HCMR, Denaxa, D.;  
CMCC, McAdam, R.)

Moorings:

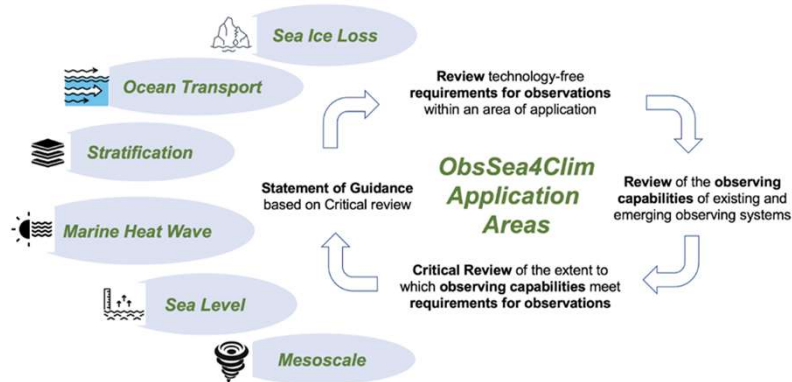
- + Allows definition of baseline and define “extremes”
- Gaps, sparse horizontal coverage

In this project: assess the added-value of diurnal measurements to (1) diagnose daily mean and (2) explore nighttime extremes.



# Summary So Far

- We have begun applying the RRR process to Marine Heatwaves, exploring requirements and current capacity of the observing system.
- The maturity of Ocean Application Area is low compared to other AAs e.g. Weather & Forecasting
- The RRR is an ongoing process - relies on continued feedback, and new applications and services.



**Abundance and diversity** of products for **surface** MHWs is crucial for identifying the role of (atmospheric) drivers of MHWs and for validating forecasting systems.

**Characterisation of subsurface MHWs** depends heavily on reanalysis. Suitable in-situ data (e.g. long-term fixed moorings with several depth levels) are rare.

**Sub-daily temperature observations** are rarely considered but may be relevant; impact studies are necessary.

