### Selection, in-situ calibration, and minimum coverage of a GHRSST product for the monitoring of the Canadian Atlantic Zone.

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# Criteria for State of the Ocean monitoring of SST

- Long-term coverage suitable for 30-year climatology.
  - Can combine different products if inter-calibrated.
- No filtering-out of regional upwelling or mixing that lead to cold spots.
- Real-time availability.
- Need to resolve better than ½ standard deviation (SD) of variability, after seasonal cycle is removed; we report based in standardized anomalies with increments of ½ SD, where anomalies within ½ SD of the mean are considered near normal.



This is not an issue of pixel level accuracy, but in errors in estimating area averages based on sparse surface coverages (e.g. clouds).

## Long-term coverage suitable for 30-year climatology

We have an internal Fisheries & Oceans (but discontinued) national product (MLI)

- Daily composites of 0.015° longitude × 0.01° latitude (e.g. 1 km)
- 1983-04 to 2013-09, which covers cooler period



Larouche, P. and **P. S. Galbraith**. 2016. <u>Canadian coastal seas and</u> <u>Great Lakes sea surface temperature climatology and recent trends</u>. Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing, 42:3, 243-258, DOI: 10.1080/07038992.2016.1166041

## This was combined with another product from another Fisheries & Oceans lab (BIO) covering from 1997

**Galbraith, P.S.**, P. Larouche, C. Caverhill. 2021. <u>A sea-surface</u> temperature homogenization blend for the Northwest Atlantic. Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing, 47(4), 554-568, DOI: 10.1080/07038992.2021.1924645

...which was also discontinued in 2022. We needed a replacement.

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## Selection of real-time available product

GHRSST L3S-LEO-AM "super-collated" product from NOAA

2007 to present; 0.02 degree grid resolution; real-time availability.

*"we remove the retired and degraded quality satellites/sensors, and replace them with newly launched, high quality products" – Alex Ignatov, NOAA.* 

Daytime and one night time files are downloaded and combined into a daily composite by averaging both when they are both available or adding/substracting half the average offset (diurnal cycle) to the one available.

...But a new product introduced last December called L3S-LEO-Daily goes to 2000 and already accounts for the diurnal cycle. We will evaluate migrating to it.

## NOAA-LEO satellite SST calibrated to *in-situ* DFO Viking buoys and off-shore thermographs



SST products are self-consistent, but may have an offset with other data that must be adjusted in order to combine them and obtain 30-year monitoring climatologies and time series.

10165 overlapping daily observations with buoys or thermographs, equivalent to 28 years of daily observations at one station!

The mean SST diurnal range is 1.6°C We removed 34% of the observations with the highest diurnal range, leaving a new mean diurnal range of 0.91°C

These were used for calibration.

### Shipboard thermosalinograph track data



## Comparison of **uncalibrated** NOAA-LEO to Viking buoys and off-shore thermographs



## Comparison of **calibrated** NOAA-LEO to Viking buoys and off-shore thermographs



## Building weekly and monthly composites



Weekly/monthly composites built on average of daily anomalies, added to the climatology for the period. This reduces biases introduced by incomplete data covering a period when SST is changing rapidly (e.g. spring or fall).

#### Average daily anomalies



#### Climatology for that week



20°C

Temperature / Température

# Calculating polygon averages for SST



Average of all pixel-level anomalies within the polygon simply obtained by weighting each weekly pixel anomaly by its pixel count



Mean SST timeseries are calculated for each area, then 1991-2020 anomalies are calculated.

SST Week 19

Averaging anomalies (rather than SST) within a polygon reduces biases introduced by incomplete data covering an area with spatial SST gradients.

## How much data is enough data?

20°N

15°N



**Galbraith, P.S.**, P. Larouche, C. Caverhill. 2021. <u>A sea-surface</u> <u>temperature homogenization blend for the Northwest Atlantic</u>. Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing, 47(4), 554-568, DOI: 10.1080/07038992.2021.1924645 For these areas that we report on, there were 109 months with  $\geq$ 50% pixel coverage (over all days of the month).

To simulate the effect of missing data, the 109 months were resampled by omitting more and more days of data, repeating each number 30 times.

The error in estimating the monthly anomaly was then scaled by half of the standard deviation of the time series



The median is shown (red) as well as the 95th percentile (blue)

At 25% to 40% data coverage, 95% of estimates are within 0.5 SD of the original (blue).

At 7%, half of estimates are still within 0.5 SD of the original (red).

## What do we report



Weekly progression



Coverage percentage



-3 -2 -1 0 1

2 3

Anomaly (SD)













## SST vs air temperature



# Seasonal cycle of SST is identical to that of air temperature lagged by 2 weeks.



Galbraith, P.S., P. Larouche, J. Chassé and B. Petrie, 2012. Sea-surface temperature in relation to air temperature in the Gulf of St. Lawrence: interdecadal variability and long term trends. Deep Sea Res. II, V77–80, 10–20.



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Sea surface temperature (SST) from satelittes





# Sea surface temperature (SST) from satelittes vs air temperature

Interannual variability of May-November average SST is 72% explained by April-November air temperature.





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