

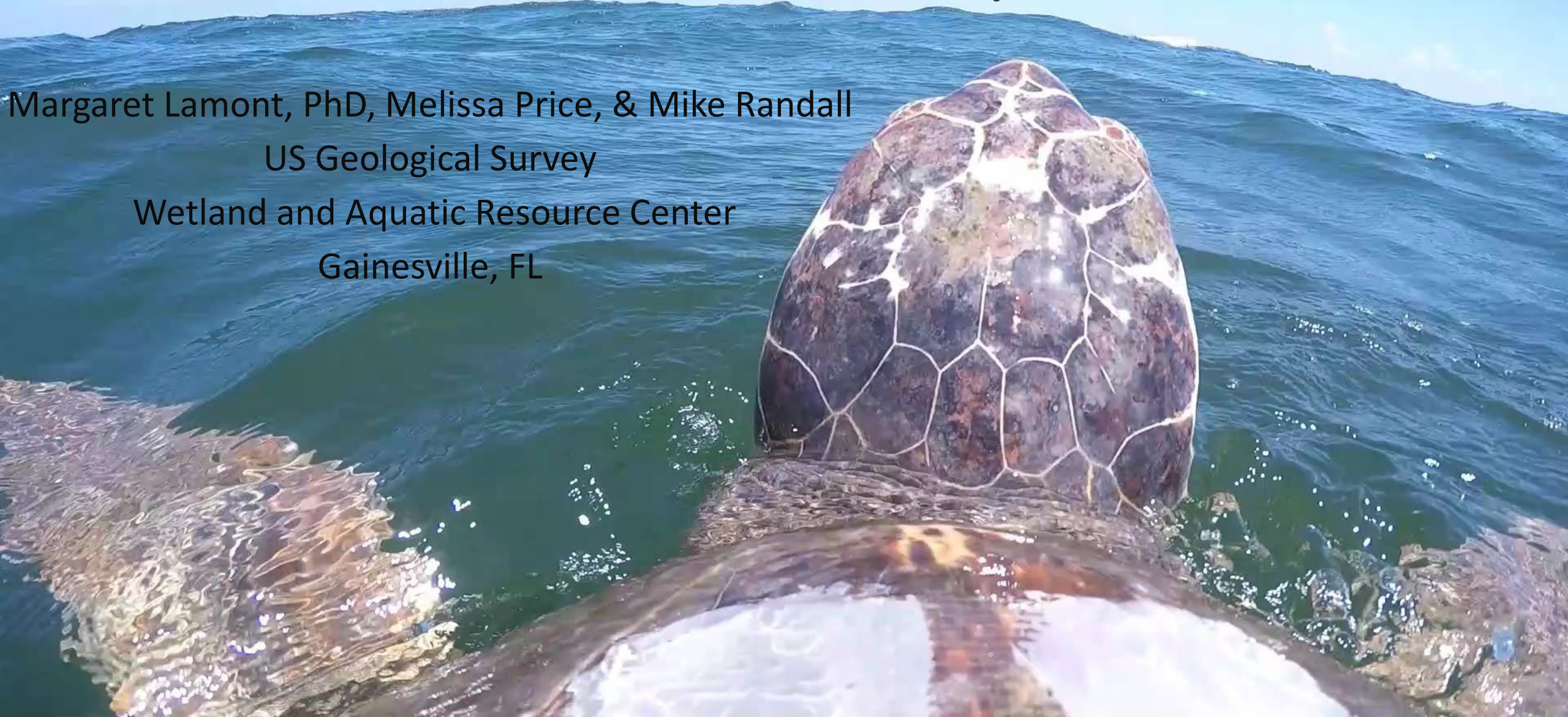
# Advances in marine animal telemetry, sensors and analyses

Margaret Lamont, PhD, Melissa Price, & Mike Randall

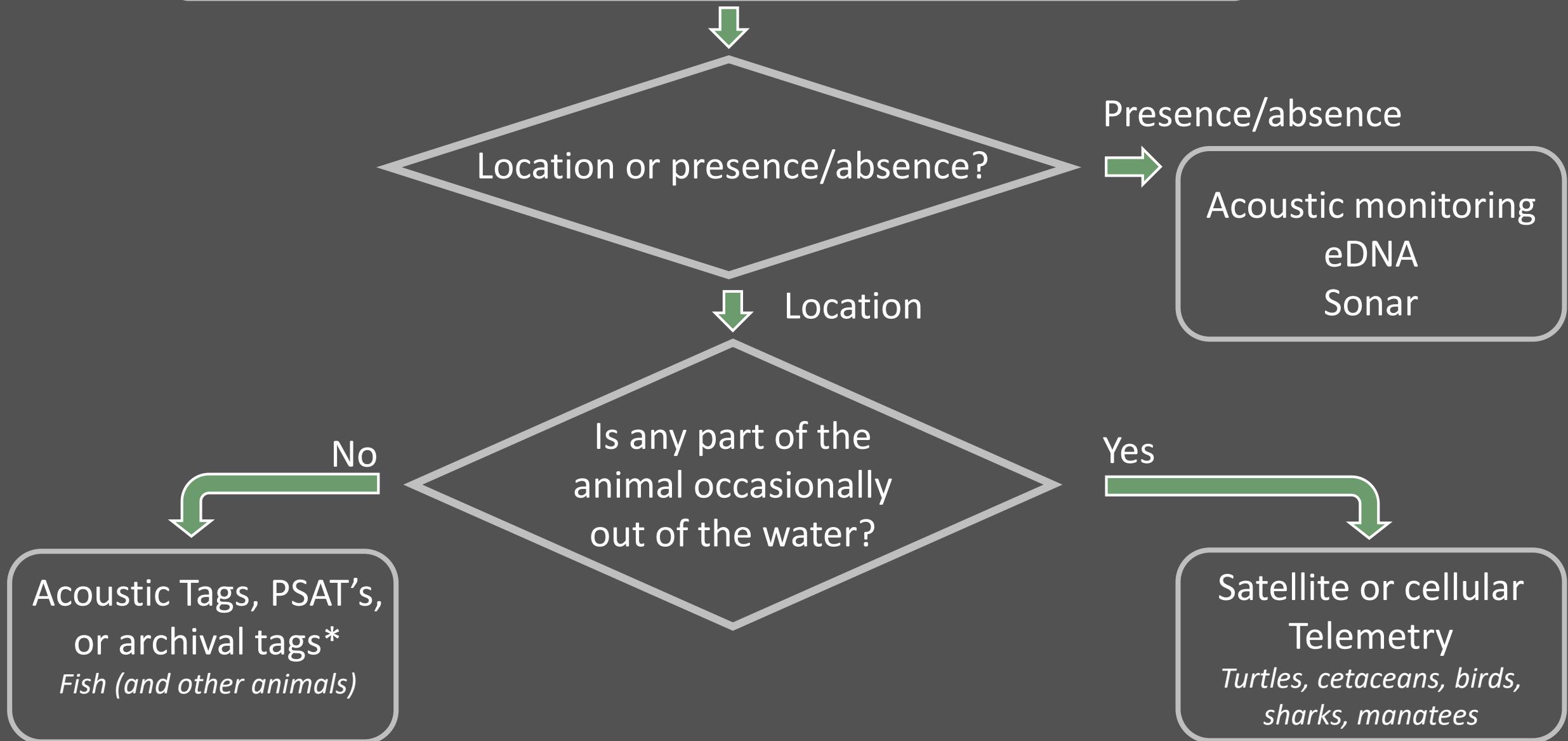
US Geological Survey

Wetland and Aquatic Resource Center

Gainesville, FL



# Animal monitoring in the marine environment



\* Archive tags rely on recaptures & reporting. Very low odds of success unless deployed into an intensive fishery

## In the Past...

- Manual, single-point process
- Limited data collection
- Labor intensive (expensive)
- Daytime, fair-weather biology
- Low data intensity
- Big data gaps



## Now...

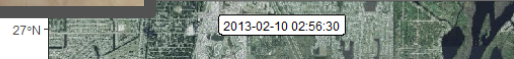
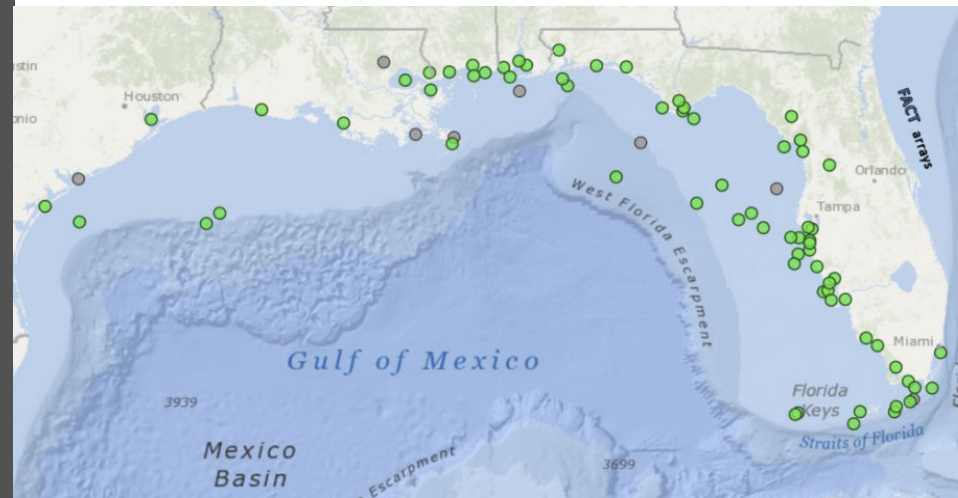
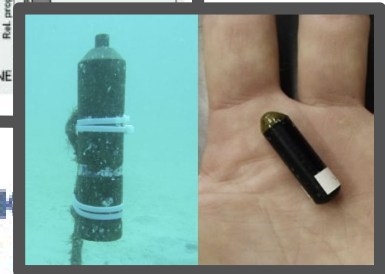
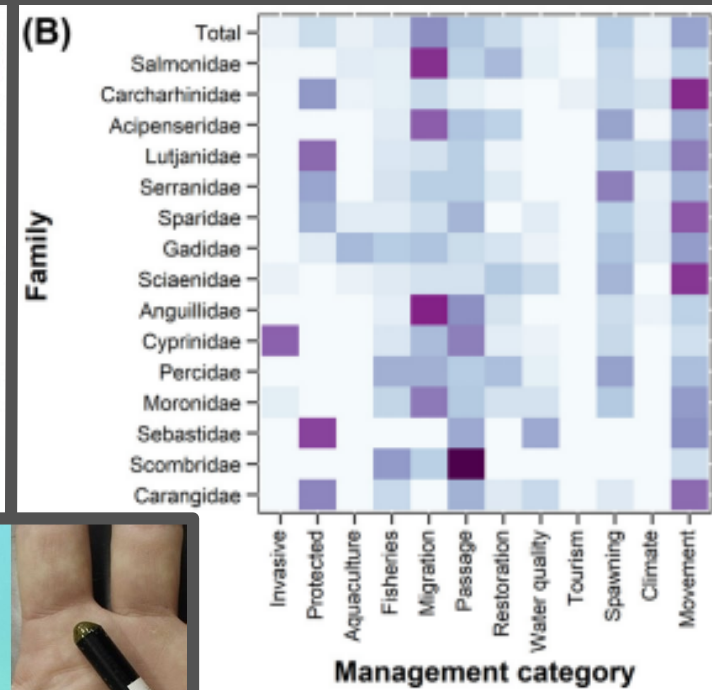
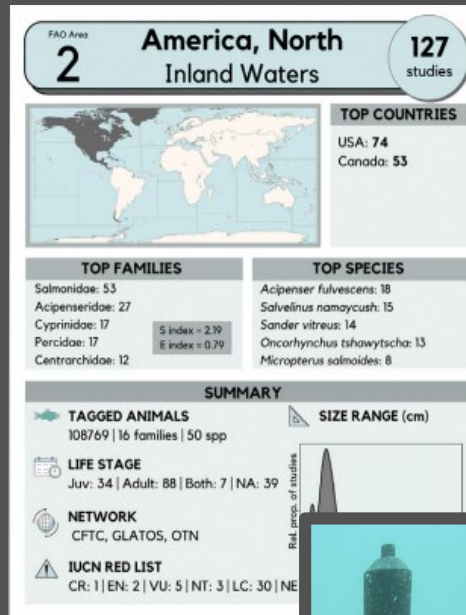
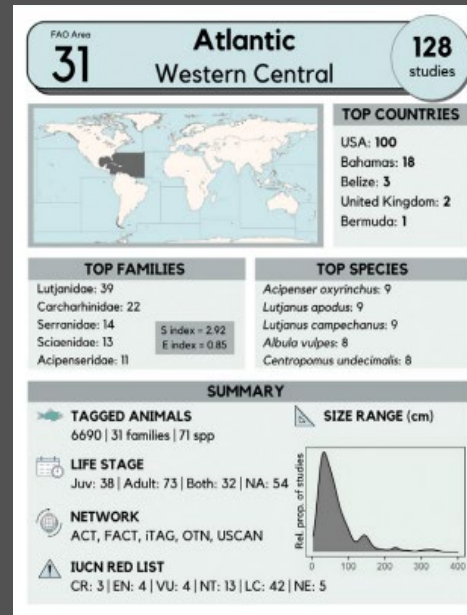
- Automation
- 24/7/365 detections
- Reduced effort
- High data intensity
- Less data gaps
- Smaller, cheaper\*, faster

\* At least in terms of cost per data point



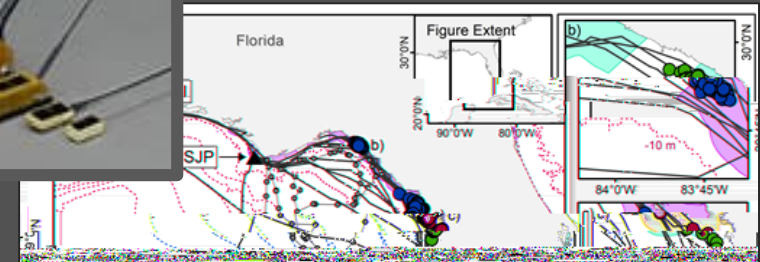
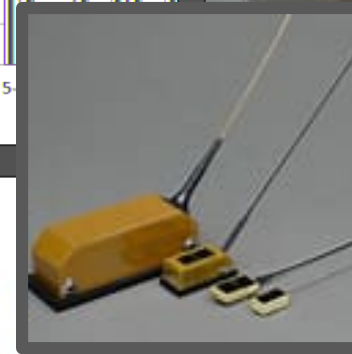
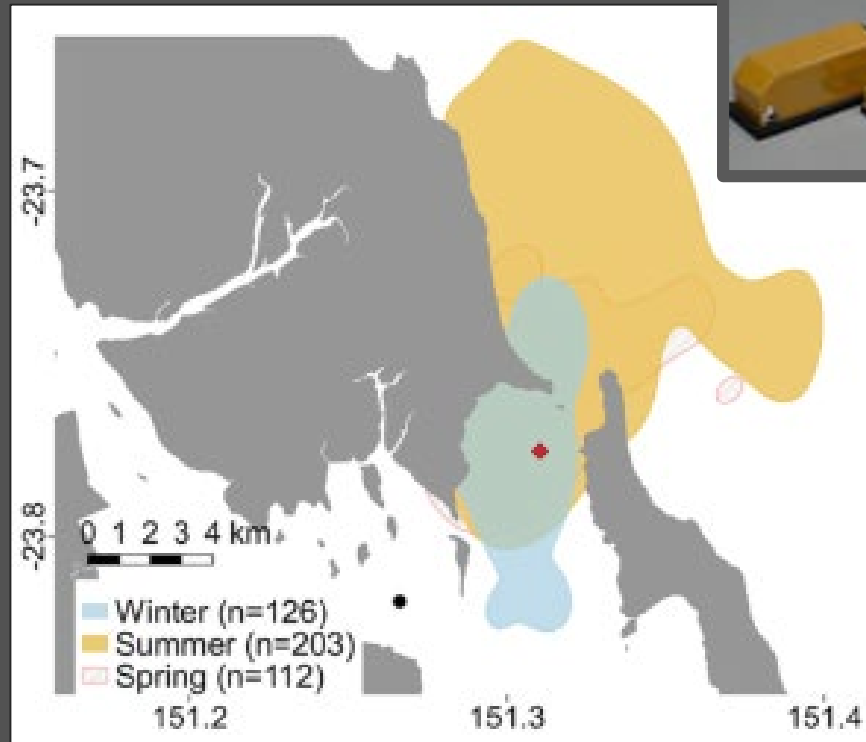
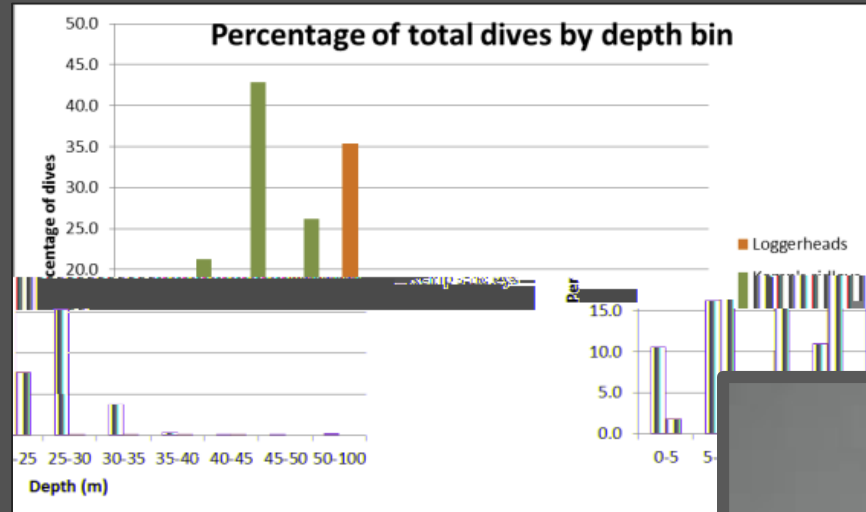
# Acoustic Telemetry

- Passive arrays increase spatial and temporal scale while reducing effort
- Further expansion by integrated networks at different scales
  - GLATOS, IMOS, iTag, OTN
- Fine-scale resolution (VPS)
- Several receiver upload methods
  - Manual
  - Acoustic modem
  - Cell or satellite
- Remote receiver uploads via drone
- Decreasing tag sizes
- Increasing sensor capabilities
- Trade-offs:
  - Spatially restricted
  - Location accuracy
  - Longer battery life

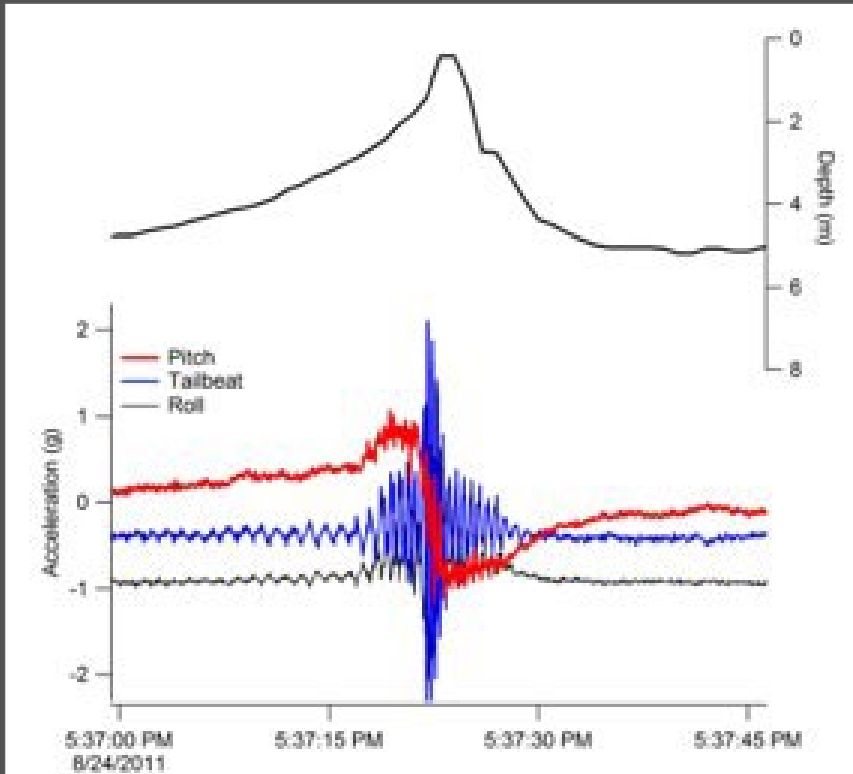
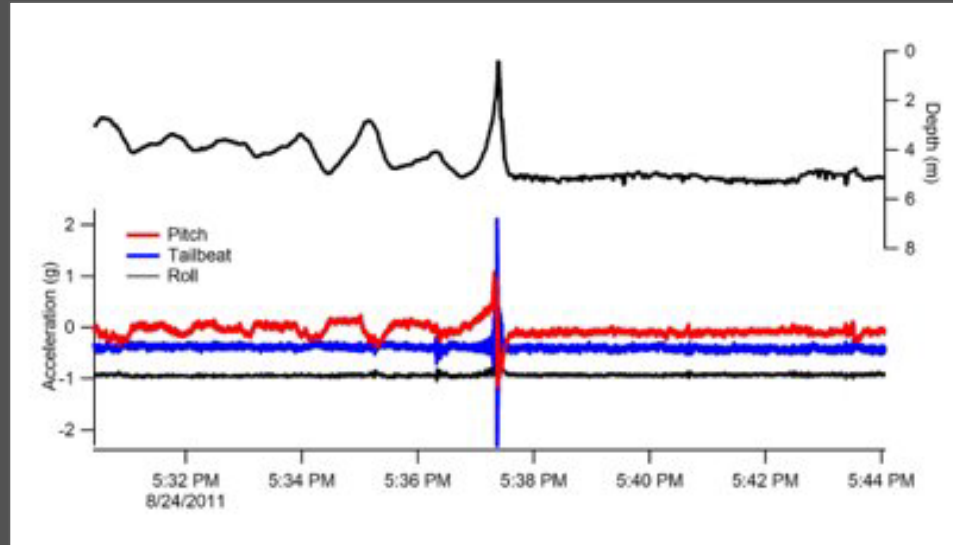


# Satellite Telemetry

- Supplementing radio telemetry
- Smallest tag now 2 grams
- Multiple types with different constellations
  - Argos
  - Iridium
- Additional sensors
  - GPS fixes between satellite passes
  - Temperature
  - Depth
  - Light
- Trade-offs:
  - Requires surfacing
  - Location quality varies
  - Shorter battery life



# Logging Tags

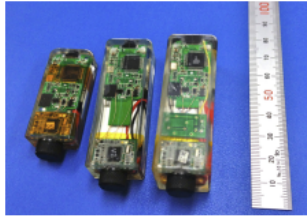


- Environmental
  - Temp
  - Depth
  - Heading
  - Salinity
  - Velocity
- Positional
  - Heading
  - Velocity
  - Accelerometer (ADL)
- Nearby acoustic tags
  - CHAT tags detect other tags



Key features

- An animal borne video camera for behavioral studies
- Reusable (Rechargeable battery)
- Compact size
- Programmable start timer
- Available option video illuminated by red/white LED light



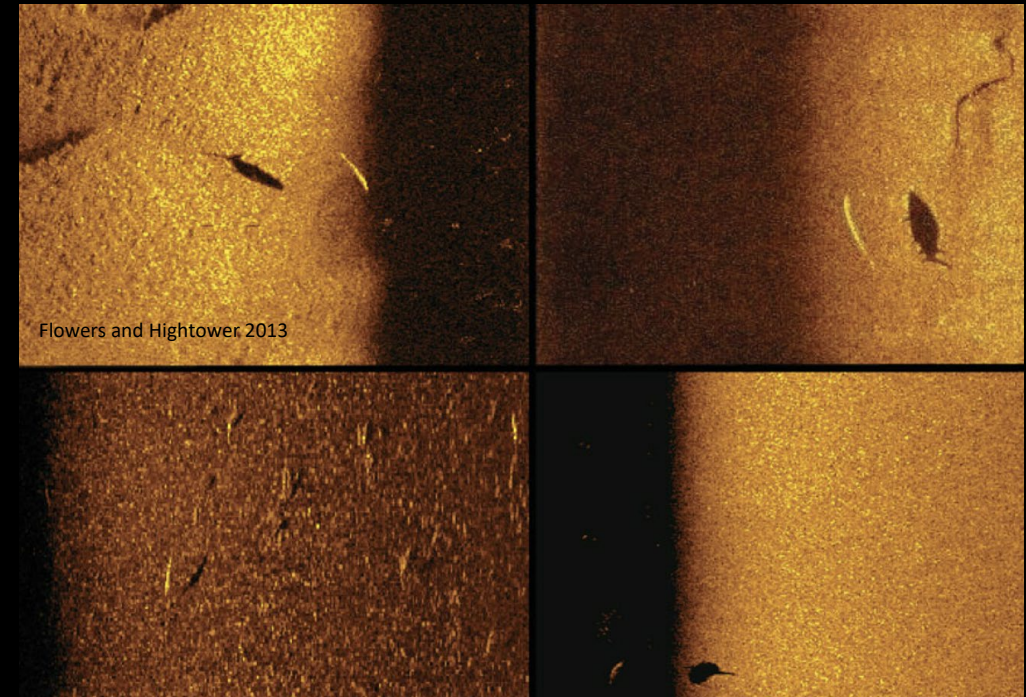
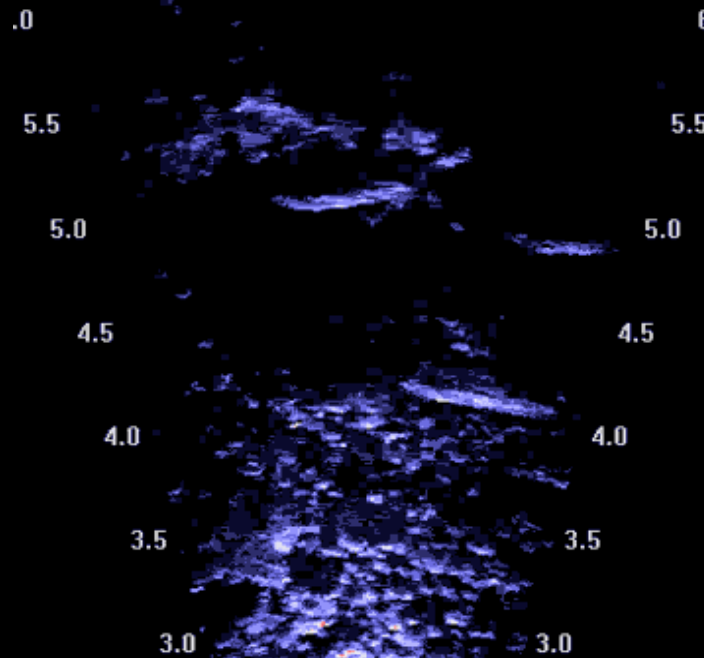
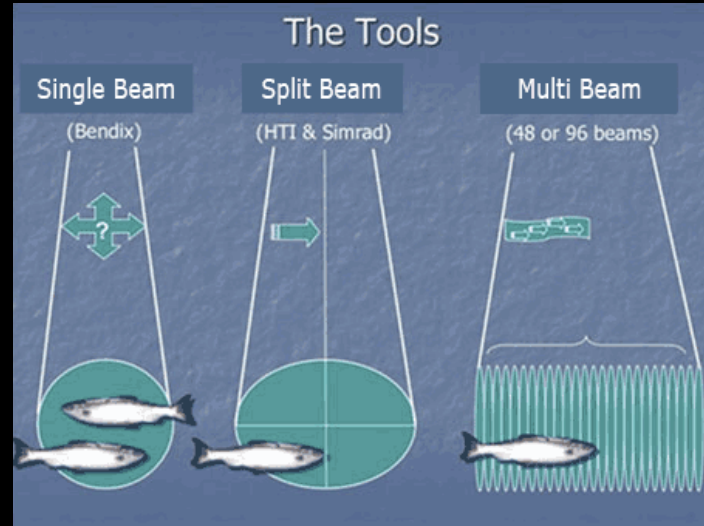
# Cameras

- Set Location (camera traps)
- Animal Mounted (critter cams)
- Short battery life
- Requires recovery



# Sonar

- Single/split beam
- Multi-beam
- Acoustic cameras
  - ARIS
  - DIDSON
- Sidescan
- Used to detect animals
- Works in murky water and at night
- Larger swept area than video





# Aerial Drone Surveys Reveal the Efficacy of a Protected Area Network for Marine Megafauna and the Value of Sea Turtles as Umbrella Species

Liam C. D. Dickson <sup>1</sup>, Stuart R. B. Negus <sup>1</sup>, Christophe Eizaguirre <sup>1</sup>, Kostas A. Katselidis <sup>2</sup> and Gail Schofield <sup>1,\*</sup>

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### Technical Specifications

|                      |                                                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Dimensions [w x h]   | 42 cm x 30 cm (16.4 in x 12.2 in)                     |
| Weight               | 7.45 kg (16 lbs, 7 oz)                                |
| Activity             | William SBID (autofly)                                |
| Primary power source | Solar powered, 5x 2 Watt, 6 Volt solar panels         |
| Battery              | Lithium-ion, capacity 11,200 mAh, 3.7v (rechargeable) |

#### Motion Sensing

|                            |                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Motion data format         | Easting, northing, elevation, latitude, longitude                                                   |
| Wave frequency range       | 0.02-1 Hz (20s to 1s)                                                                               |
| Wave direction resolution  | 0 - 360 degrees (full circle)                                                                       |
| Sampling rate              | 2.5 Hz (Nyquist at 1.25Hz)                                                                          |
| Wave displacement accuracy | Approximately +/- 20cm accuracy depends on field of view, weather conditions, and GPS system status |
| Calibration                | Not needed, ever                                                                                    |

#### Additional Onboard Sensors

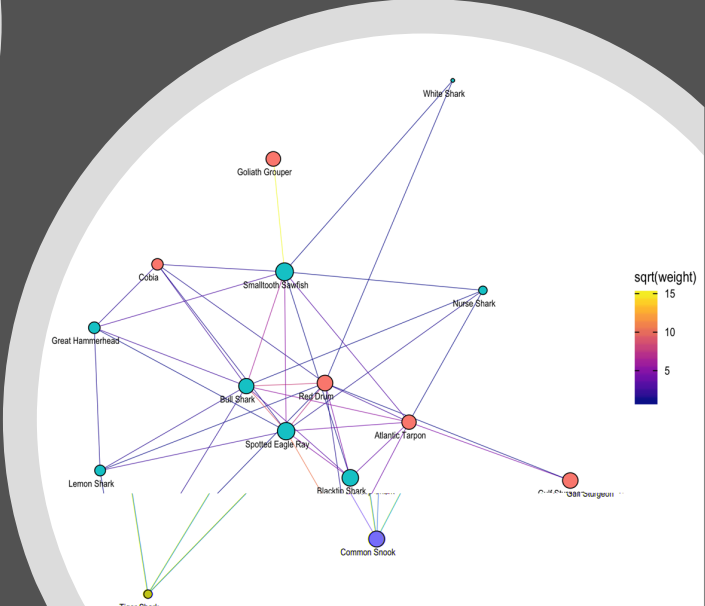
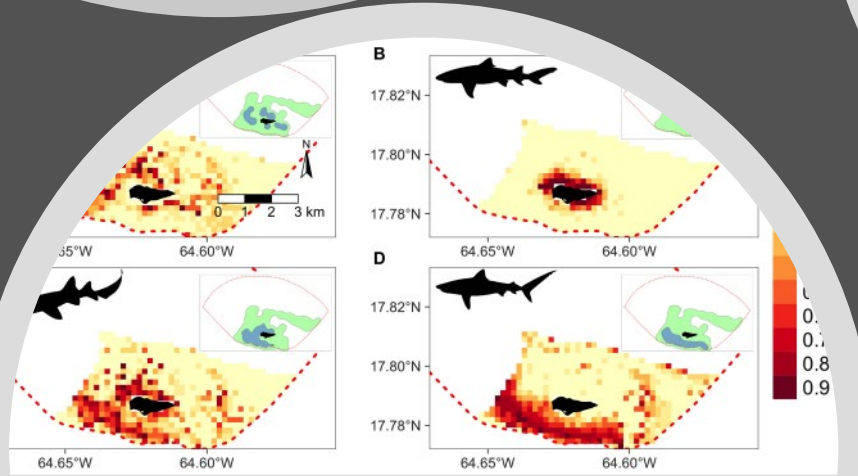
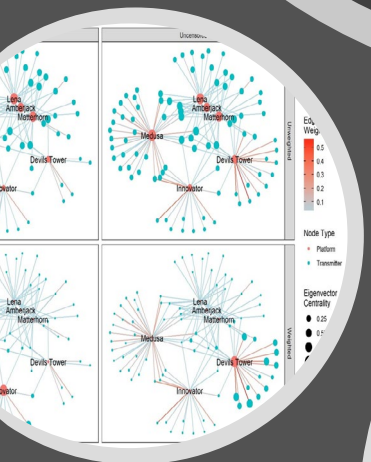
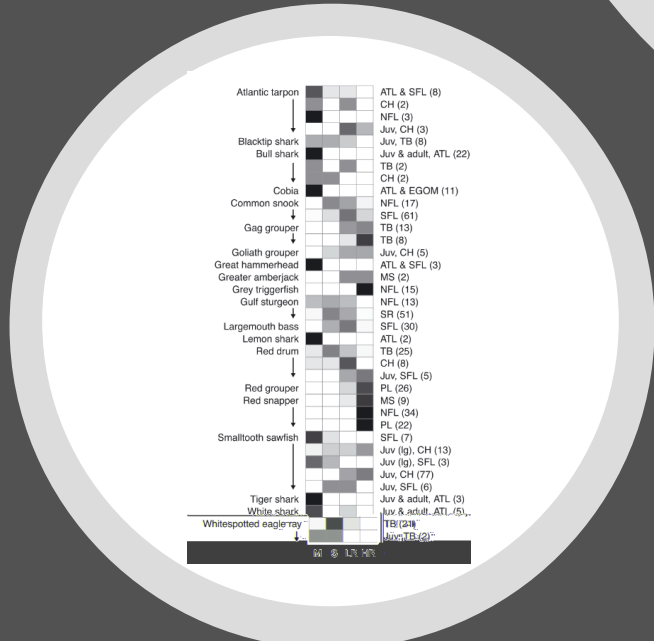
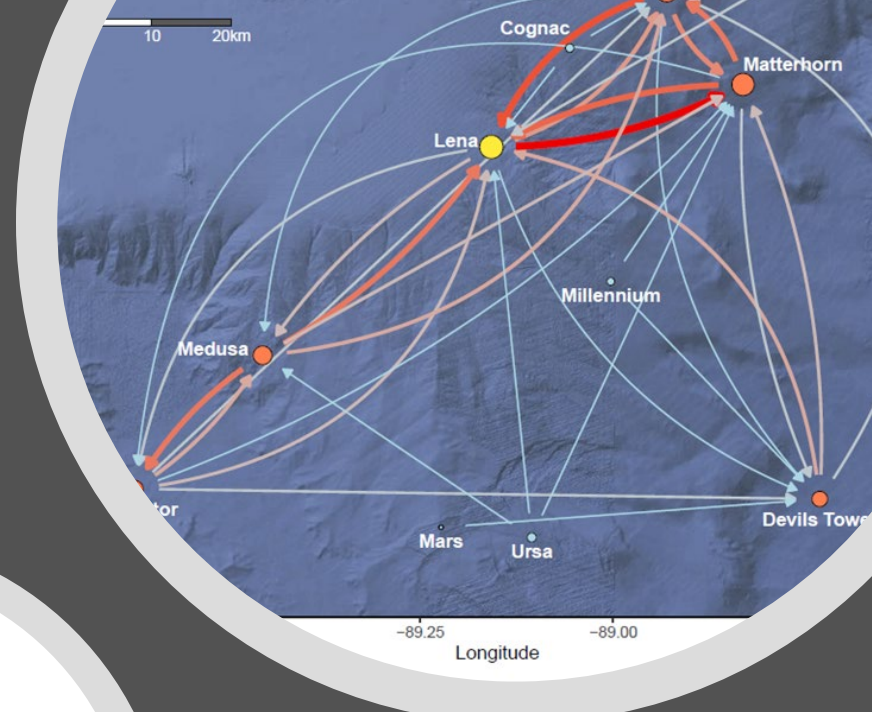
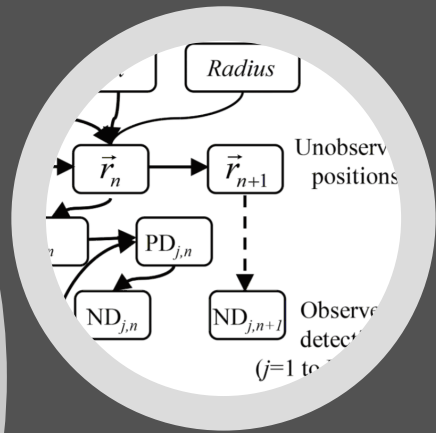
|                               |                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sea surface temperature (SST) | -5°C to 50°C range, ±0.1°C absolute accuracy, ±0.02°C resolution                                                  |
| Water depth                   | Range: 700...1100mbar, Accuracy: +/-0.5 mbar at 25°C                                                              |
| Storage                       | Records time series of 3D displacement data, ships with 16GB (256GB max capacity), FAT32 or FAT32 Format required |
| Online account includes:      | Real-time and historical data outputs, Spotter configuration, alerts, maps and 2-way communication                |

# Drones and Floats

- Surface
  - Waveglider
  - Saildrone
  - Spotter
- Submerged
  - Argo floats
  - Slocum gliders
  - AUV's
- Can be roaming acoustic receivers or downloaders
- Fixed location, set course, or drifters

# Improved Analyses

- Advances in technology lead to "big data"
- Easily process in new programs with improved computing ability
- Bayesian statistics
- Machine learning techniques
- Network analysis



# Futurecasting

- Integration
  - multiple tag types combined: acoustic tag/sat tag, ADL/PSAT/acoustic tag, sonar/acoustic, etc
- Multi-sensor/modular
  - tags and lab-on-a-chip sensors (environmental DNA)
- Very large scale- lots of receivers/ sensors (small, cheap, fast).
- Swarms of autonomous mobile receivers/sensors in self-creating networks (underwater, surface, aerial). New satellite constellations used (Starlink)
- Reporter tags (animal:animal, animal:receiver)
- Automated with artificial intelligence (as in Birdnet)
- Fiber optic cables as detectors (Passive Acoustic location/ID)

## A framework to estimate the likelihood of species interactions and behavioural responses using animal-borne acoustic telemetry transceivers and accelerometers

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Check for updates

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SPECIALTY SECTION  
This article was submitted to  
Ocean Observation

## More than a whistle: Automated detection of marine sound sources with a convolutional neural network

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## Dropping at the Speed of Light: Distributed Acoustic Monitoring of Baleen Whales in the Arctic

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\*Presented at the 11th International Conference on Acoustic Location, Trondheim, Norway, 10-14 June 2022. Published online 05 July 2022.

## Eavesdropping on Sensing

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# Gulf of Mexico challenges

- No strong central actor (ex: GLATOS – Great Lakes)
- Acoustic telemetry weakly integrated through volunteer network (iTAG) facilitated by FWCC
- No similar structure for satellite tagging – Animal Telemetry Network (ATN)?
- Data storage for environmental data (GCOOS, SECOORA), but no easy linkage between animal data and environmental data – and limitations based on locations





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# Questions?

