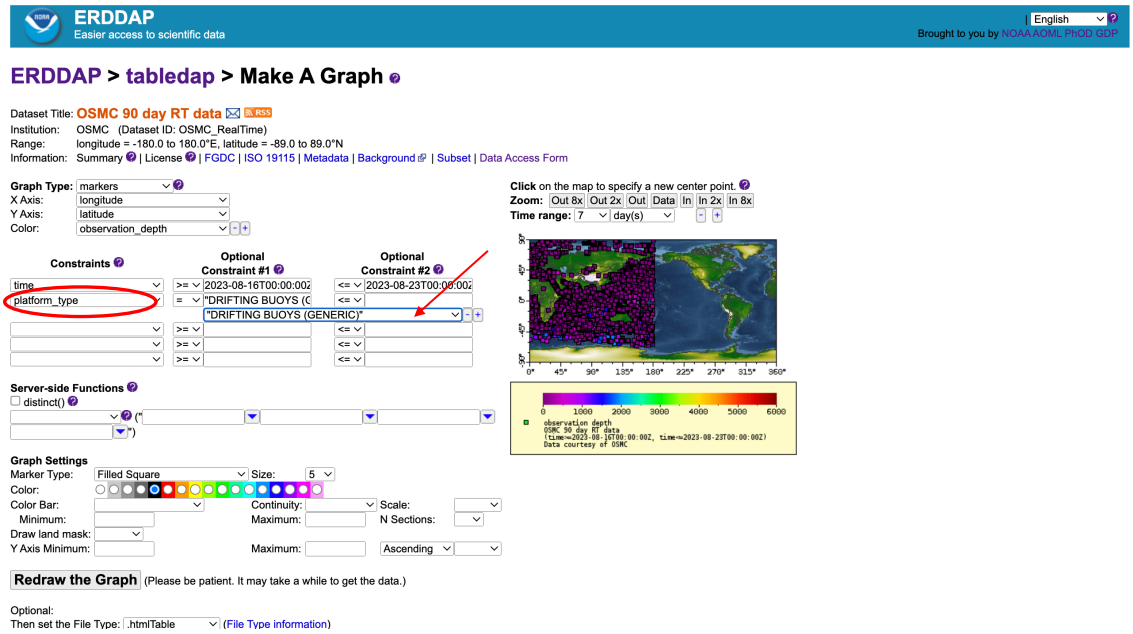
Real-time access for all drifting buoy data in a region

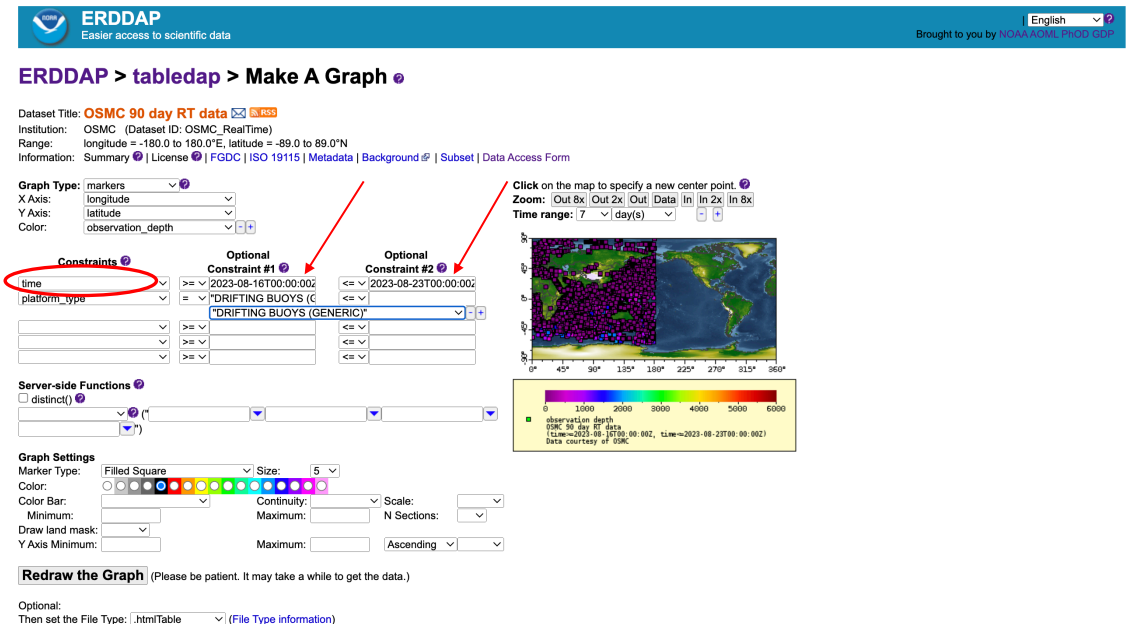
To plot real-time data from drifting buoys, please visit the NOAA GDP ERDDAP webpage at https://erddap.aoml.noaa.gov/gdp/erddap/tabledap/OSMC_RealTime.graph. Here, you will see the list of possible variables. Examples include: date ranges, sst data, slp data, etc.

** Please note, the real-time dataset linked above is hosted on the NOAA GDP ERDDAP as a remote dataset. To plot the source dataset, please visit the NOAA OSMC ERDDAP at http://osmc.noaa.gov/erddap/tabledap/OSMC_30day.graph. **

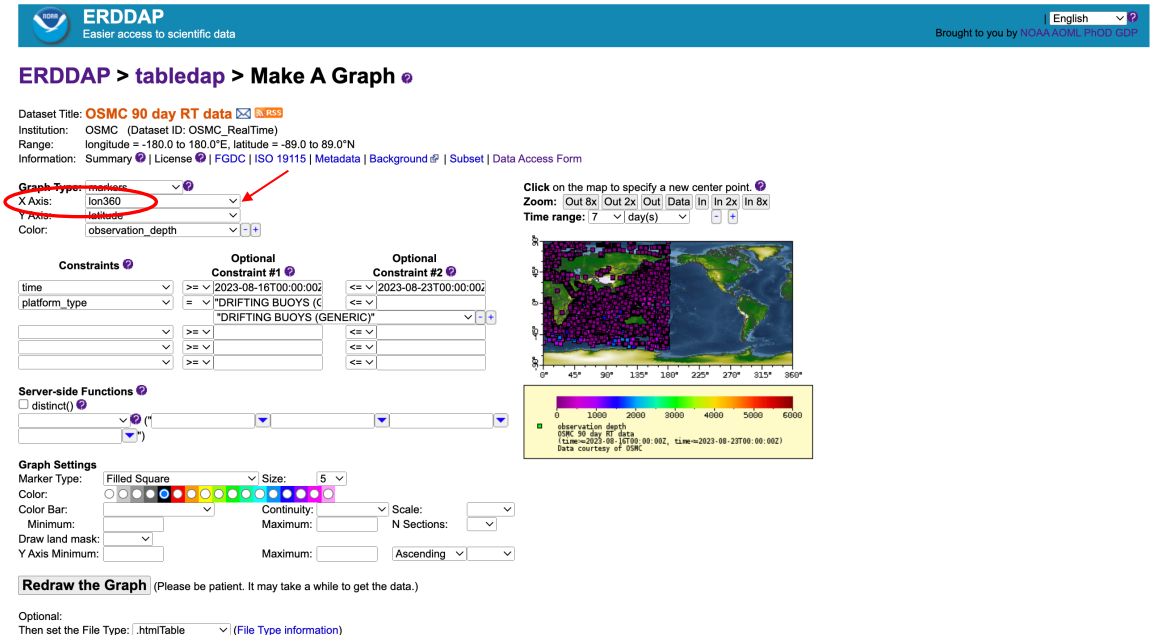
1. To view a specific region, please start by selecting your desired platform (i.e., Drifting Buoys, XBT's, ARGO Floats, etc.). Under "Constraints", select "platform_type" from the drop-down menu. A second drop-down menu will appear below "Optional Constraint #1" and "Optional Constraint #2"; select the platform here.



2. Once you have selected "Drifting Buoys" as your desired platform, you'll then need to select the desired date range from which you'd like to see data. Next to the preselected time constraint, modify the start and end dates below "Optional Constraint #1" and "Optional Constraint #2". Use the date format YYYY-MM-DD, with no quotations.

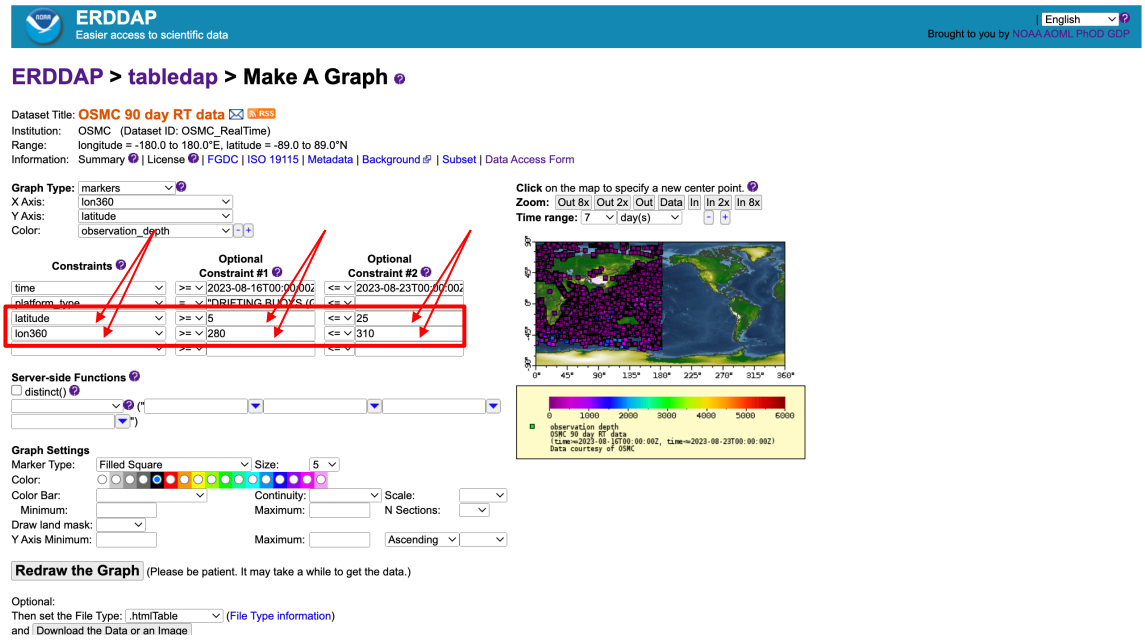


3. Before specifying the coordinates of interest, change the X Axis variable from “longitude” to “lon360”, by selecting “lon360” from the dropdown menu. Instead of plotting data points’ longitudes ranging from 0 to 180 degrees, lon360 converts the values to a range of 0 to 360 degrees.

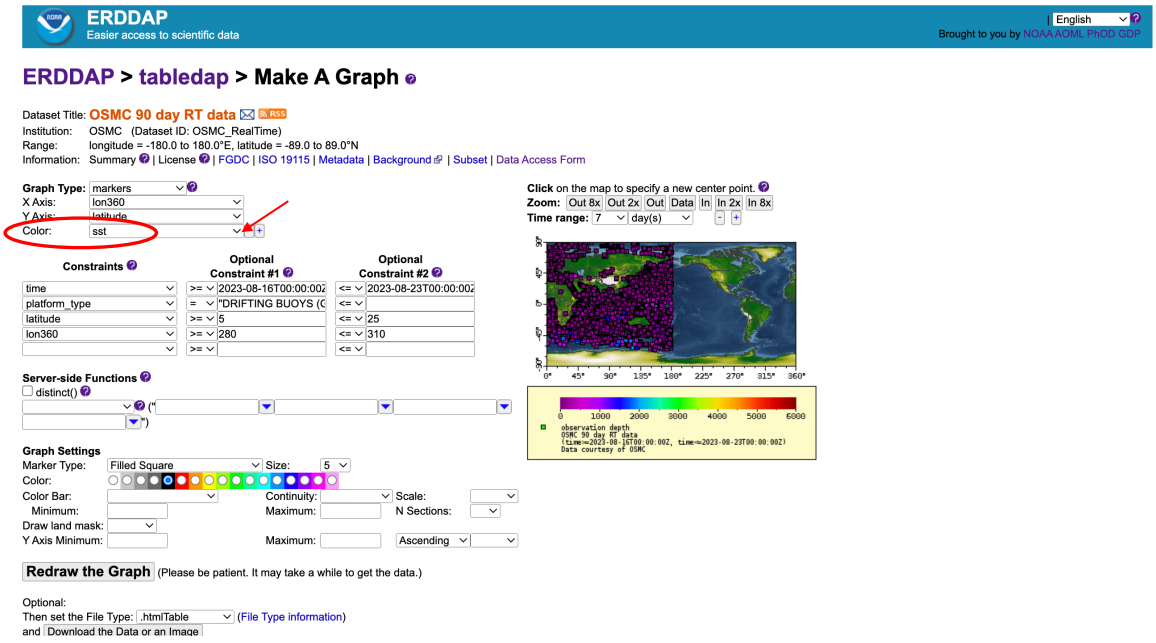


4. Next, you can enter the desired longitude range and latitude range by adding “longitude” and “lon360” as additional constraints. For example, to obtain data for all buoys that entered between 5N and 25N, and between 050W and 080W, you would enter the following: latitude ”>=” 5 “<=” 25 and lon360 “>=” 280 “<=” 310.

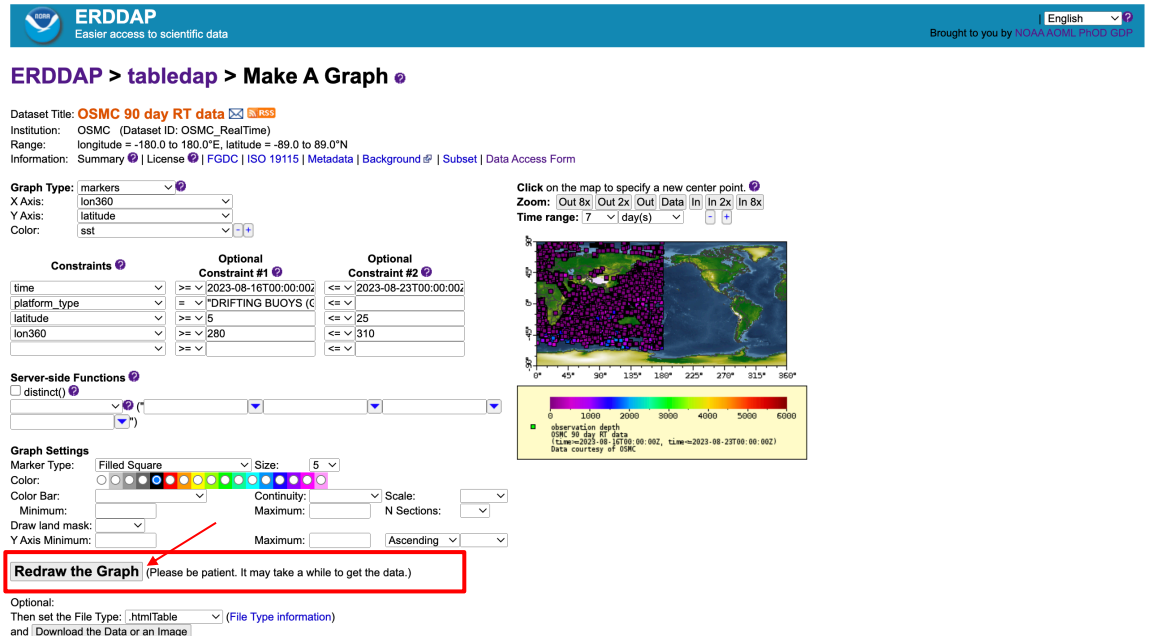
Please Note: “lon360” values range between 0 and 360. Therefore, you must subtract western longitude values from 360 to obtain the correctly formatted value. Latitudinal values range between -90 and 90.



5. Next, select the variable to be graphed. “observation_depth” is preselected but you can change this. For example, if you would like to plot drifters shaded in with sea surface temperature values, select sst.



6. Finally, redraw the graph to generate a new plot of your desired selections.



7. You should now see all drifters within your region of interest, between your specified date range! To download the dataset plotted on the graph, select your desired file format from the dropdown menu and select “Download the Data or an Image” or copy the URL generated.