



Drifter Operations Center (DOC) / Drifter Data Assembly Center (DAC)

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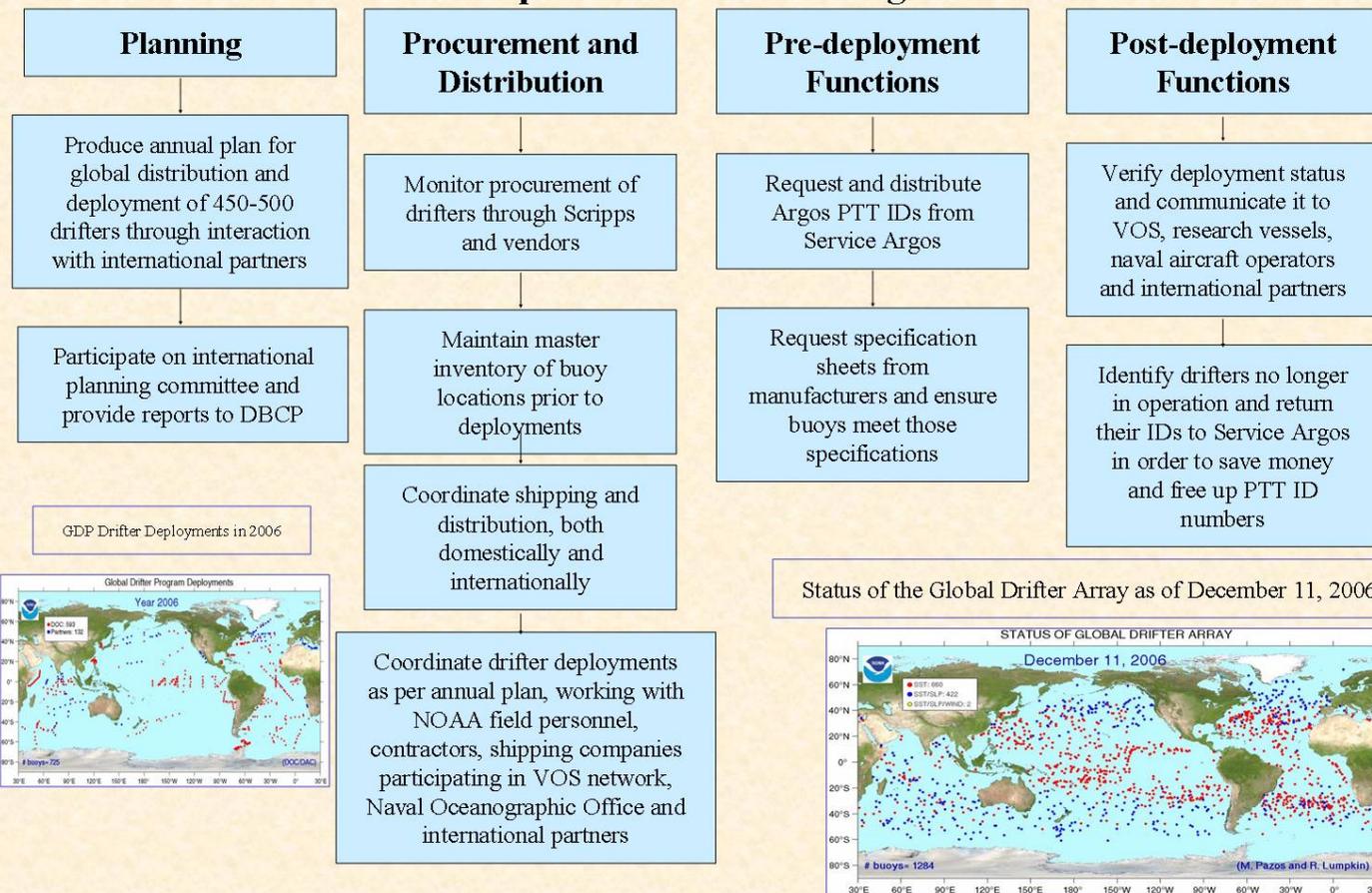


Satellite tracked surface drifters have been deployed by the oceanographic community since the 1970's, for both research and operational purposes. The resulting data have provided important information on the surface currents of the global ocean as well as providing critical sea surface temperature (SST) data for the calibration of satellite SST sensors. This is a joint project between AOML and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and coordinated with international partners through the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)

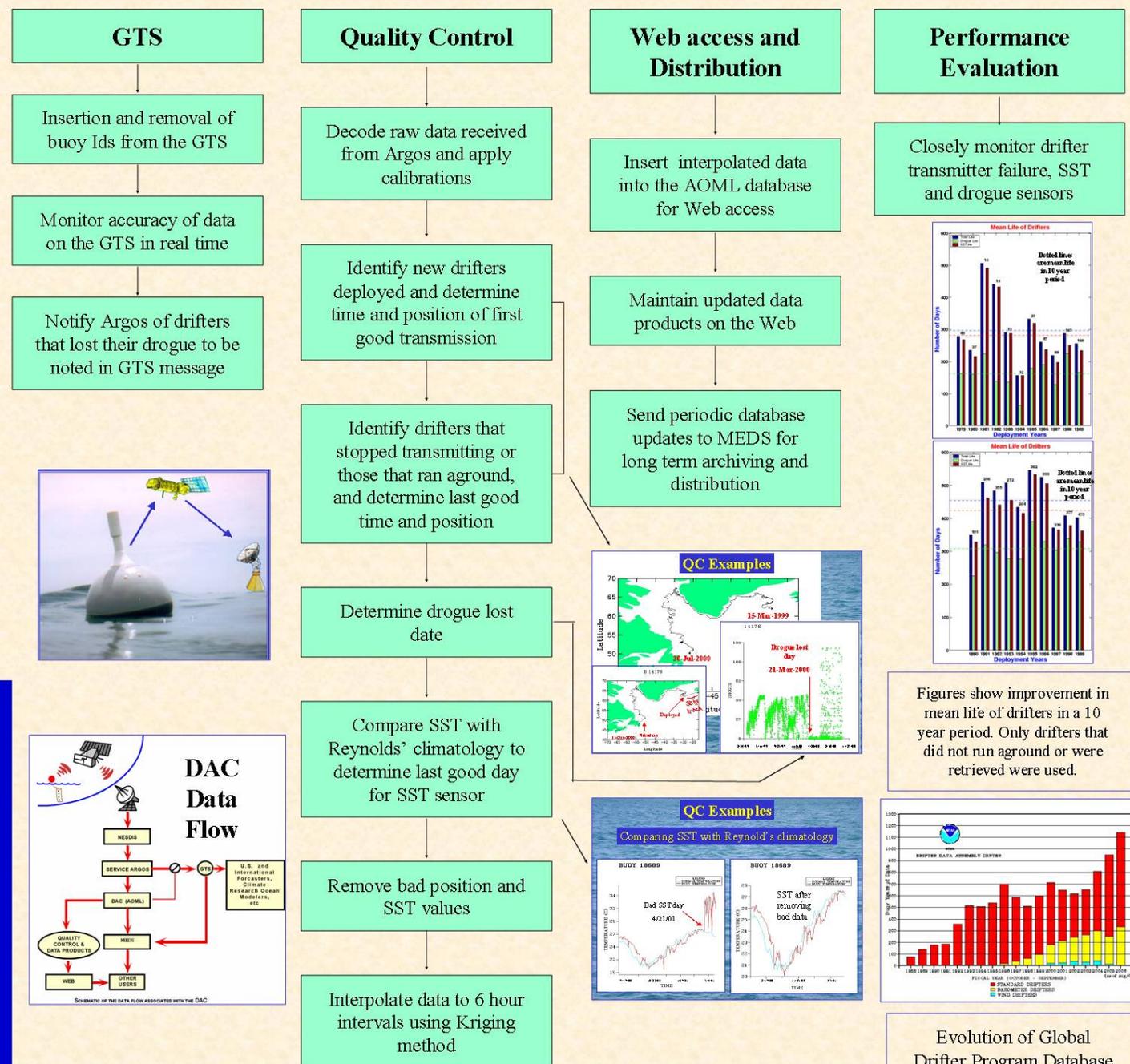
The **DOC** objective is to maintain a global 5° by 5° array of Argos tracked Lagrangian drifters to meet the need for accurate and global in-situ observations of SST and surface circulation. These data support short-term climate predictions satellite calibration and climate research and monitoring.

The **DAC** objective for real time data is to arrange for GTS distribution and removal as soon as sensors fail. The objective for delayed mode data is to provide uniform quality controlled data of research quality for SST and surface velocity measurements. The DAC receives, processes and sends data to MEDS for archiving, and makes data and products available through the Web.

The DOC performs the following activities



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DOC/DAC 2006 goals:

- Maintain an array of 1250 drifters
- Continue comparison study of drifters from different manufacturers
- Concentration on southern oceans and enhancement of North Pacific ocean
- Continue to work with co-operative agencies to upgrade buoys with barometers
- Monitor hurricane array drifters' performance status
- Develop standards for measuring drifter/sensor longevity, monitor their failures in real time

Problem Areas:

- Data voids
- DOC continues to seek deployment opportunities in those traditional data sparse regions (Gulf of Guinea, Indian ocean, South America Bight)