

Re: NOAA's Global Drifter Program deployments

In mid-July 2012 NOAA's Global Drifter Program (GDP) was approached by the Haida Salmon Restoration Corporation with an offer to deploy 20 satellite-tracked drifting buoys for the GDP in the North Pacific. This provided the opportunity to deploy drifting buoys with barometers to improve weather forecasting efforts in a region where few such observations are presently being made.

The ocean temperature, current measurements, and air pressure measurements from these drifters are necessary to better understand our planet and predict weather and climate. All resulting data are available freely and openly, in concert with NOAA and US government policy. During the period January through September 2012, the GDP coordinated the deployment of 885 drifters worldwide, from dozens of vessels. These voluntary efforts are essential for the global distribution of these essential instruments. All deployments can be viewed at:

<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/dac/deployed.html>

The GDP routinely works with dozens of national and international partners to maintain a global array of satellite-tracked drifters at a resolution of approximately 5°x5°, using merchant and research ship routes that encourage even distribution. A list of some of our partners, as well as more information about the program, can be found at

[http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/dac/gdp\\_objectives.php](http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/dac/gdp_objectives.php)

The GDP does not receive funding to charter ship time for these deployments, but must instead rely on volunteers who offer to deploy the instruments for us. Thus, when we were approached by the Haida Corporation we were pleased to take advantage of this opportunity. No information was provided to the GDP associating this offer with the discharge of material in this region; it was not until 15 October that we learned of the potential association of these deployments with this discharge.