

Return-Path: <rick.lumpkin@noaa.gov>  
Received: from islay.aoml.noaa.gov (inferno.aoml.noaa.gov.  
[192.111.123.247])  
by mx.google.com with ESMTPS id  
h46sm16110979yhc.2.2012.10.15.13.22.47  
(version=SSLv3 cipher=OTHER);  
Mon, 15 Oct 2012 13:22:47 -0700 (PDT)  
Message-ID: <507C7096.7000604@noaa.gov>  
Date: Mon, 15 Oct 2012 16:22:46 -0400  
From: "Rick.Lumpkin@noaa.gov" <rick.lumpkin@noaa.gov>  
Organization: NOAA/AOML  
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86\_64; rv:10.0.7) Gecko/20120825  
Thunderbird/10.0.7  
MIME-Version: 1.0  
To: Shaun Dolk <Shaun.Dolk@noaa.gov>  
Subject: Fwd: Re: Fwd: Media request -- NY Times  
References:  
<CACz524MFh9tzCCteAKMiE0mYuSE-fJTxiSQeU55-hqNf03G=qA@mail.gmail.com>  
In-Reply-To:  
<CACz524MFh9tzCCteAKMiE0mYuSE-fJTxiSQeU55-hqNf03G=qA@mail.gmail.com>  
X-Forwarded-Message-Id:  
<CACz524MFh9tzCCteAKMiE0mYuSE-fJTxiSQeU55-hqNf03G=qA@mail.gmail.com>  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

FYI

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Fwd: Media request -- NY Times  
Date: Mon, 15 Oct 2012 16:22:04 -0400  
From: Steve Piotrowicz <steve.piotrowicz@noaa.gov>  
To: Rick.Lumpkin@noaa.gov <rick.lumpkin@noaa.gov>  
CC: Candyce Clark <candyce.clark@noaa.gov>

That is good to know.

Steve

On Mon, Oct 15, 2012 at 4:16 PM, Rick.Lumpkin@noaa.gov  
<mailto:Rick.Lumpkin@noaa.gov> <rick.lumpkin@noaa.gov  
<mailto:rick.lumpkin@noaa.gov>> wrote:

Thanks for update, Steve. The drifters deployed were all barometer  
drifters - we previously had quite a large gap in the North Pacific,  
so this cruise seemed to offer a good chance to reseed the area for  
NWP as well as ocean monitoring efforts.

Rick

On 10/15/2012 04:13 PM, Steve Piotrowicz wrote:

This has now gotten to the NY Times.

I am still working it.

Steve

----- Forwarded message -----

From: \*Steve Piotrowicz\* <steve.piotrowicz@noaa.gov

<mailto:steve.piotrowicz@noaa.gov>

<mailto:steve.piotrowicz@noaa.gov

<mailto:steve.piotrowicz@noaa.gov>>>

Date: Mon, Oct 15, 2012 at 4:05 PM

Subject: Re: Media request -- NY Times

To: Linda Joy <linda.joy@noaa.gov <mailto:linda.joy@noaa.gov>

<mailto:linda.joy@noaa.gov <mailto:linda.joy@noaa.gov>>>

Cc: Diane Stanitski <diane.stanitski@noaa.gov

<mailto:diane.stanitski@noaa.gov>

<mailto:diane.stanitski@noaa.gov

<mailto:diane.stanitski@noaa.gov>>>, David Legler

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Linda, there is confusion between the Argo profiling float program and the ARGOS satellite Data Collection System-geolocation system.

What the article is referring to are ARGOS-equipped surface drifting buoys (drift at the surface transmitting data hourly) not profiling floats. Drifting buoys primarily provide in situ Sea Surface Temperature observations which are used, primarily, to calibrate and validate remotely-sensed SST. The in situ data, and the remotely-sensed data, are combined into a blended, global SST product which is used by operational weather centers for incorporation into their models. Surface velocities (currents) are obtained from displacements of the buoys using the satellite geolocation system on the ARGOS DCS. Some drifters may be equipped with GPS but you do not need it because the satellite position (a doppler technique) is more than adequate for trajectory work. GPS requires a separate antenna so even though a GPS system is relatively inexpensive the extra antenna is an added failure mode. Some drifters are also equipped to measure sea level pressure but not all drifters have this capability - it is expensive to implement and is only really necessary in truly remote oceanic regions like the

southern ocean.

Profiling floats drift at 1,000 meters depth and only come to the surface every ten days to transmit data.

ARGOS is a Joint Program (MOU) between NESDIS and CNES (Centre Nationale d'Etudes Spatiales) of France. I do not know who is the Program Manager at NESDIS for ARGOS today (it used to be Chris O'Connors).

They can provide the details on how the program is operated and how the data is shared. The data from drifting buoys (and many other systems) is free and openly available in real time for operational purposes like weather prediction and ocean state estimation.

Steve

On Mon, Oct 15, 2012 at 3:45 PM, Linda Joy <linda.joy@noaa.gov <mailto:linda.joy@noaa.gov> <mailto:linda.joy@noaa.gov <mailto:linda.joy@noaa.gov>>> wrote:

Diane, David, and Steve,

I'm writing from the OAR public affairs office where work with Jana Goldman. I just took a media request from a New York Times reporter who has some basic Argos questions -- who runs the program, how, and with whom is data shared. The context is that earlier today The UK Guardian newspaper ran a story on "the world's biggest geoengineering experiment." You can see it here:

[http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/oct/15/pacific-iron-fertilisation-geoengineering.](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/oct/15/pacific-iron-fertilisation-geoengineering)

The person who conducted this experiment says, in the article,

... his team of unidentified scientists has been monitoring the results of the biggest ever geoengineering experiment with equipment loaned from US agencies like Nasa and the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration. He told the Guardian that it is the "most substantial ocean restoration project in history," and has collected a "greater density and depth of scientific data than ever

before".

The New York Times reporter is trying to assess whether this could be true. He seemed skeptical about that claim and would like to learn about the program. Could you recommend who might be best at NOAA for him to speak with and let me know? Give me a call if you like --  
301-734-1165 <tel:301-734-1165> <tel:301-734-1165 <tel:301-734-1165>>.

thanks!  
Linda

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Linda Joy  
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