

# Research and applications of ocean colour radiometry in the very turbid waters of the Río de la Plata (Argentina)

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# Aim & outline of the talk

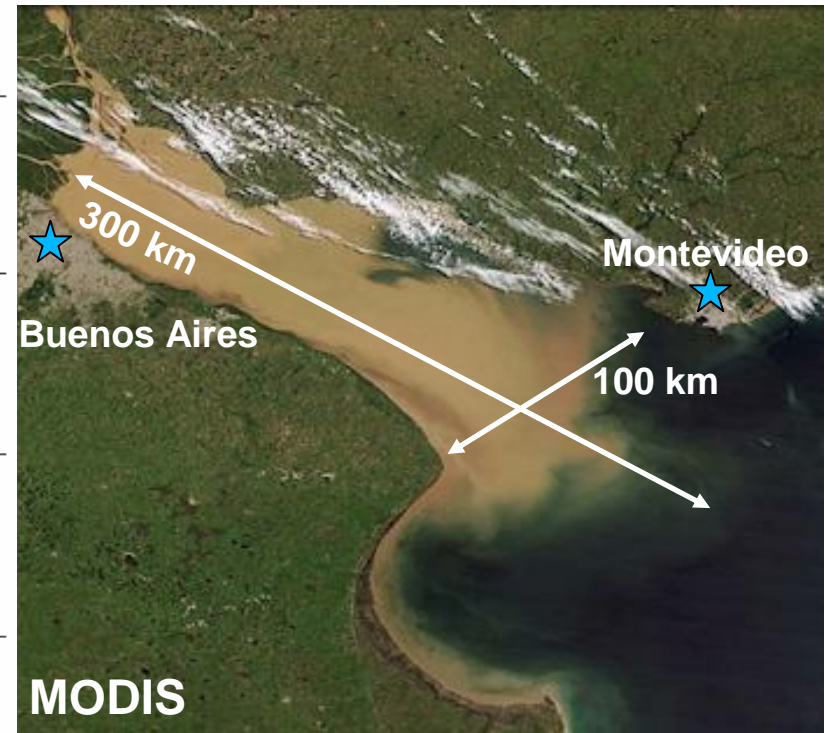
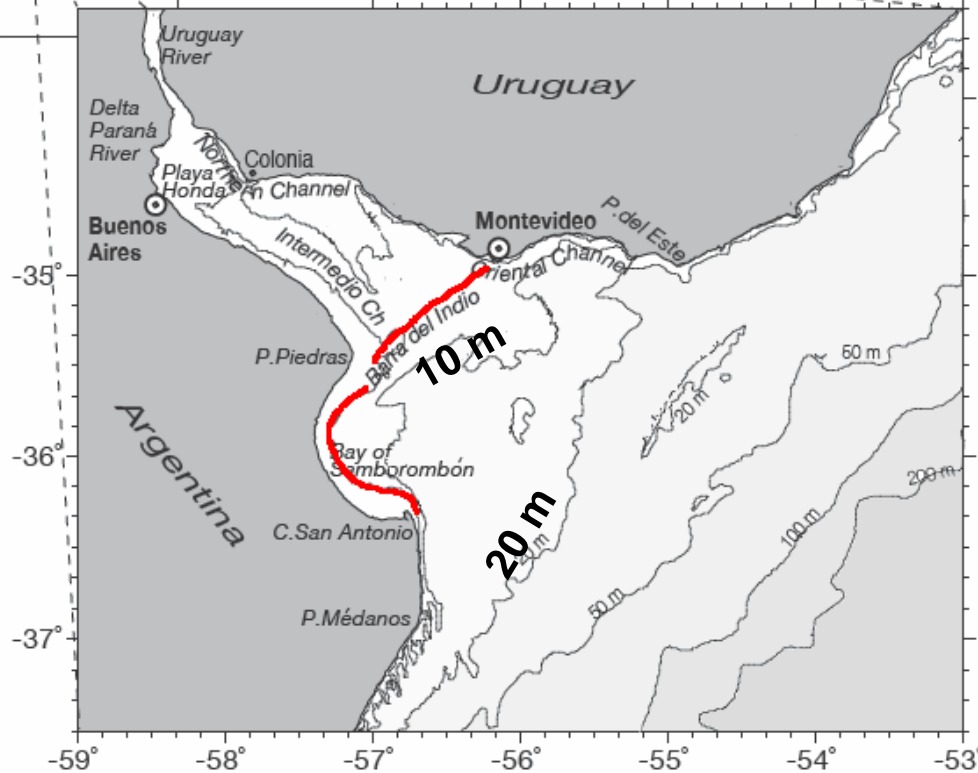
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Present **research** results and **applications** of OC on the highly turbid waters of Río de la Plata (RdP)

- Present the **characteristics** and **importance** of the RdP
- Development and validation of **algorithms** (AC, turbidity)
- **Applications** (time-series analysis of T, FV detection,...)
- **Context** and short **history** of research and activities

# Study Area: Río de La Plata

- Large and **wide** funnel-shape estuary, shallow waters (<10m);
- Drains 2<sup>da</sup> largest basin in SA (22,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s)
- High TSM concentrations (100-300 mg/l) -> **Bermejo river** (~8,000 mg/l)
- Turbidity **front** (topography)

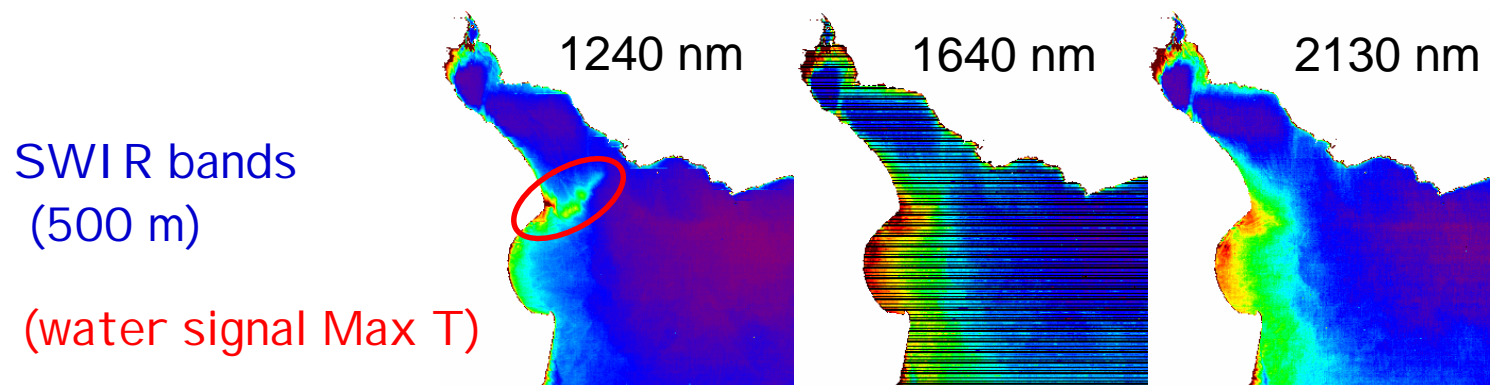
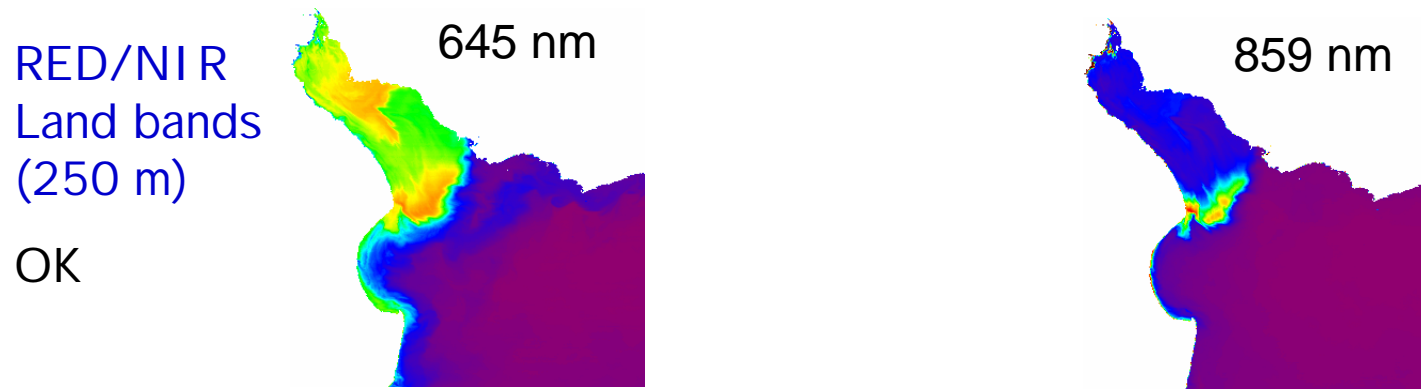
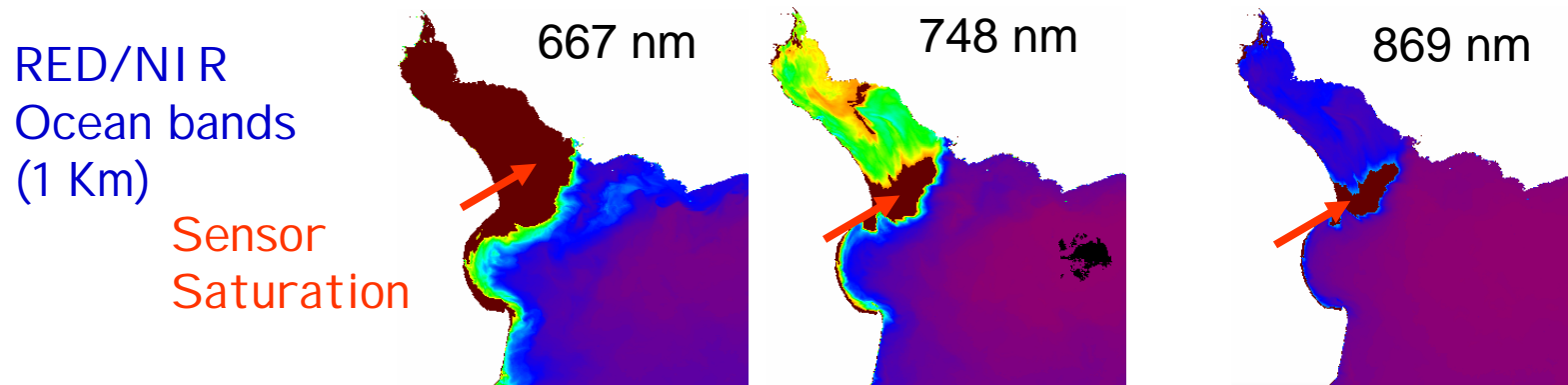


# Environmental & Socio-Economical importance of RdP

- The capital cities (Buenos Aires and Montevideo), harbours, resorts and industrial centers are located on its margins and influence zone.
- Main source of **drinking water** for the millions of inhabitants
- Important **recreational** area
- Intense **dredging** activities
- It acts as an important **spawning** and **nursery area** for estuarine species that are commercially exploited and support coastal fisheries of Argentina and Uruguay

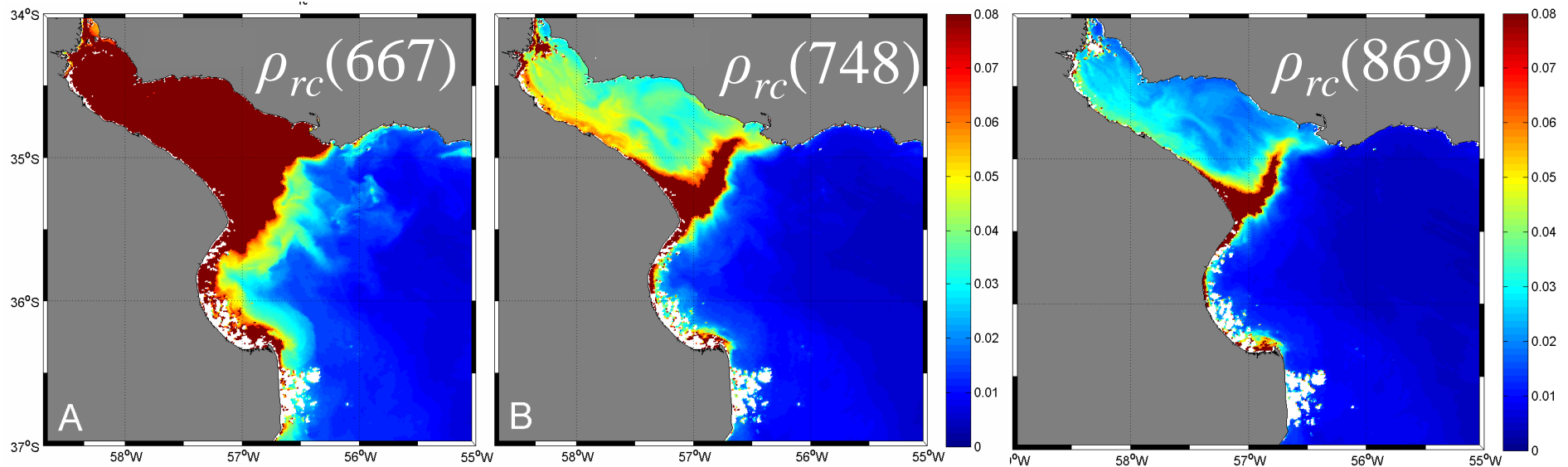
RS is a powerful and useful tool, but retrieving information is challenging and gives the opportunity to improve algorithms:  
**AC** & retrieval of in-water **constituents**

# Some difficulties with OC sensors... **saturation!** (MODIS S)



# Atmospheric Correction algorithms

## 1) Standard NIR approach



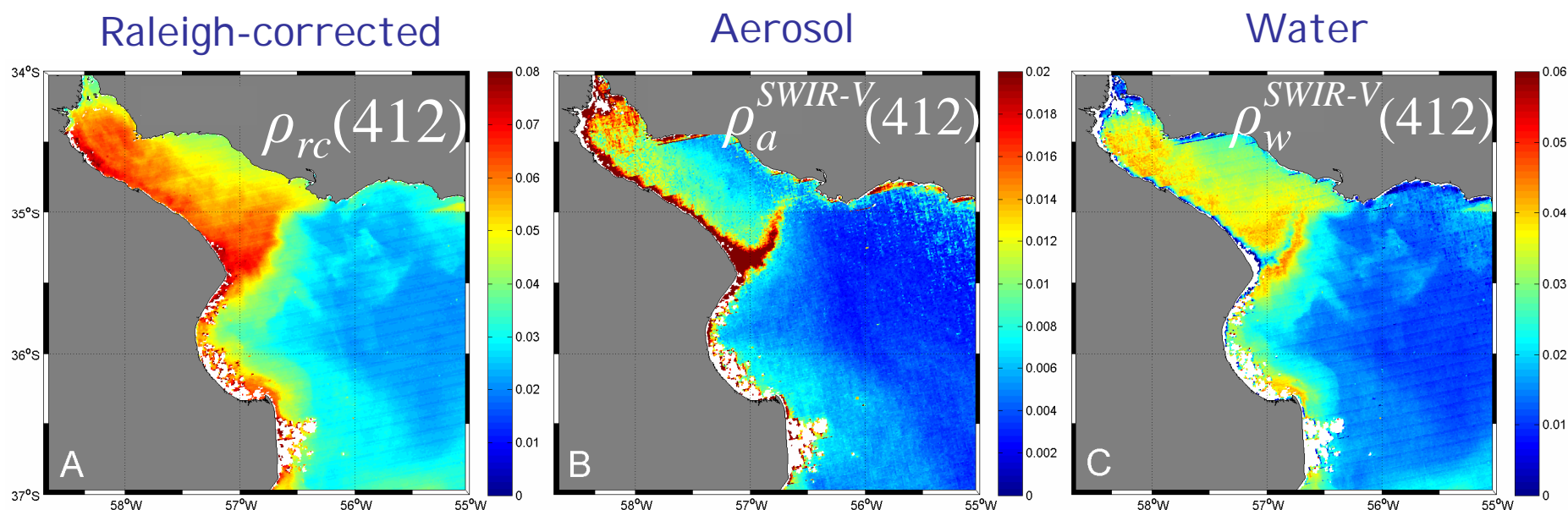
- Complete failure due to sensor saturation in the 667 and 748 nm bands which are used in the AC.

(Dogliotti et al. 2011)



# AC algorithms performance (qualitative)

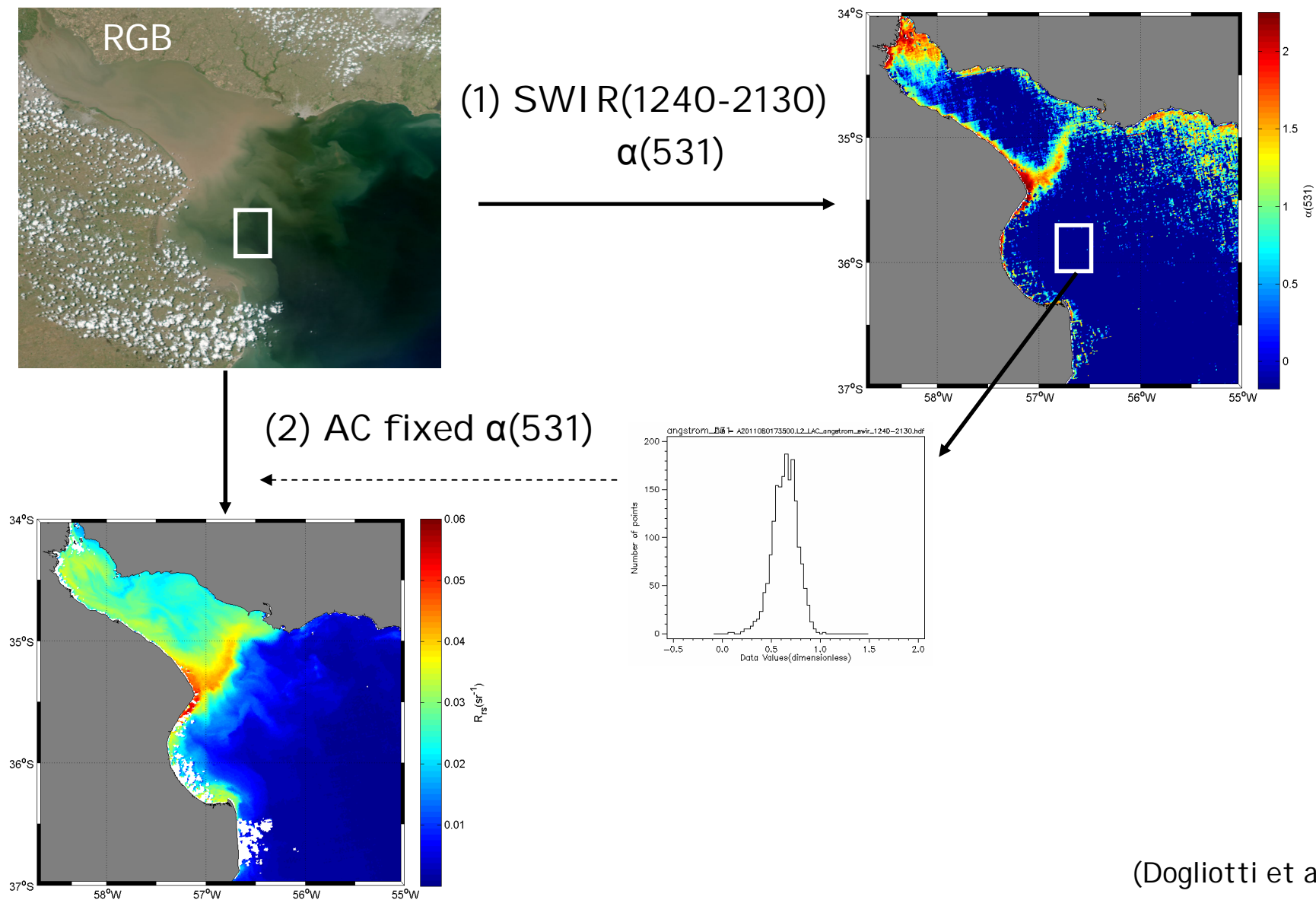
## 2) NIR-SWIR approach (SWIR-V)



- Unphysical correlation between the atmospheric  $\rho_a(412)$  product and a marine feature due to non negligible reflectance in the 1240 nm SWIR band

(Dogliotti et al. 2011)

# NIR/SWIR - F (Fixed aerosol type)

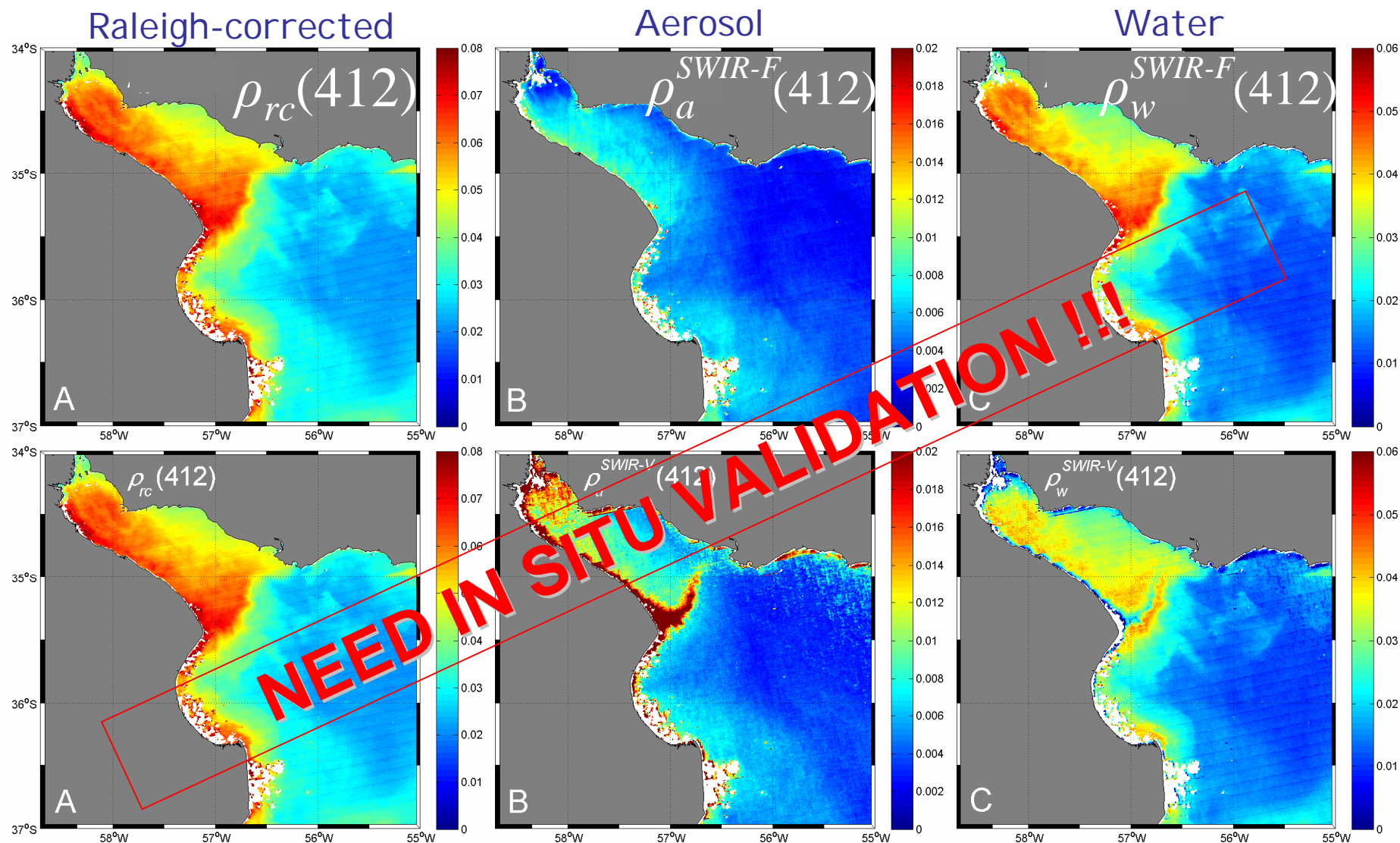


(Dogliotti et al. 2011)



# AC algorithms performance (qualitative)

## 3) NIR-SWIR approach (SWIR-F)

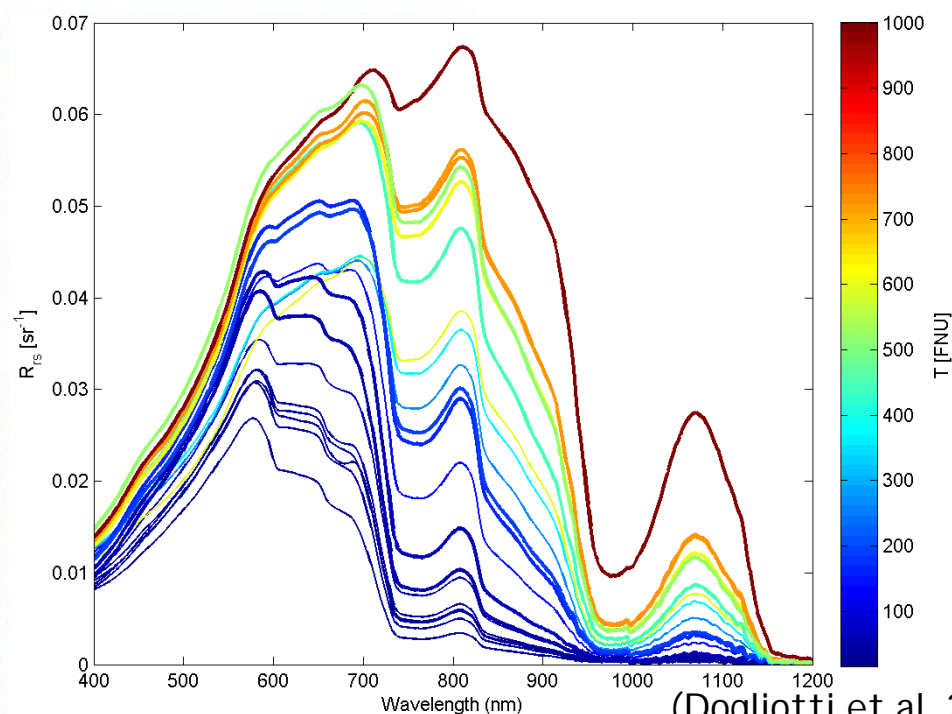
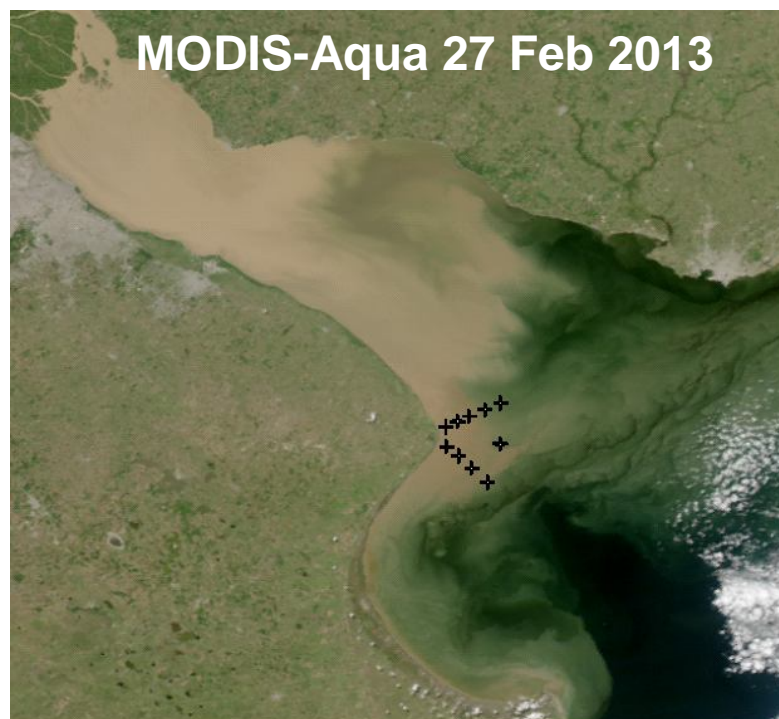


# AC algorithms performance (quantitative)

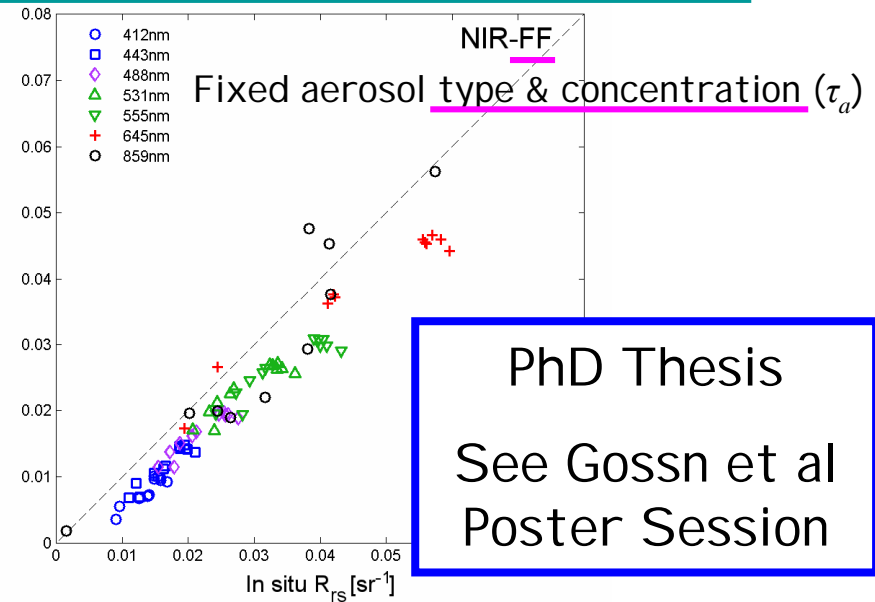
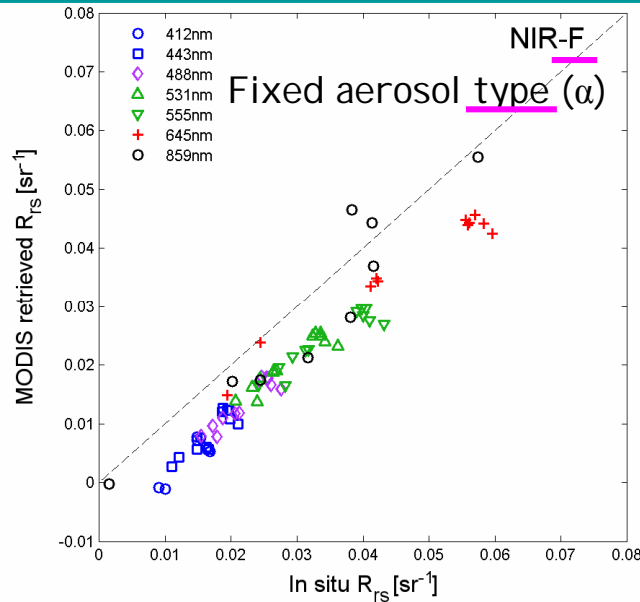
## Field measurements in 2013 (!!!)

- Reflectance: ASD Fieldspec FR spectrometer (350-2500 nm) <- CONAE
- Turbidity ( $T$ ): HACH2100P ISO turbidimeter [FNU] <- IAFE
- Total Suspended Matter ( $TSM$ ): gravimetry [ $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ] <- DCAO/UBA

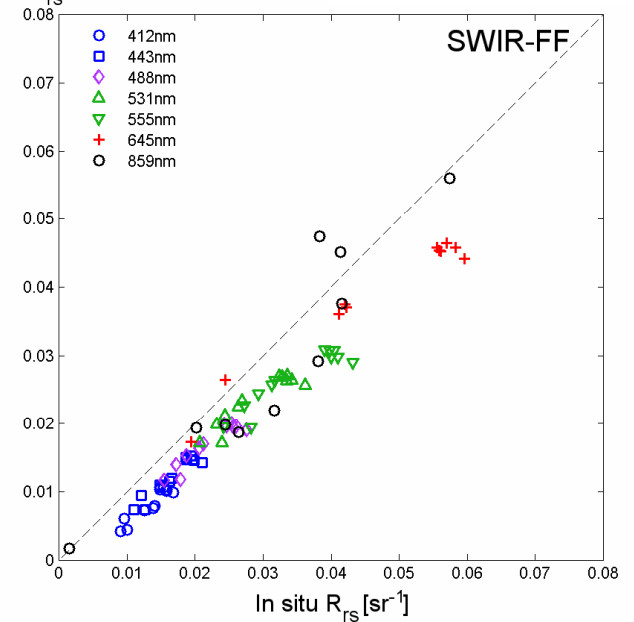
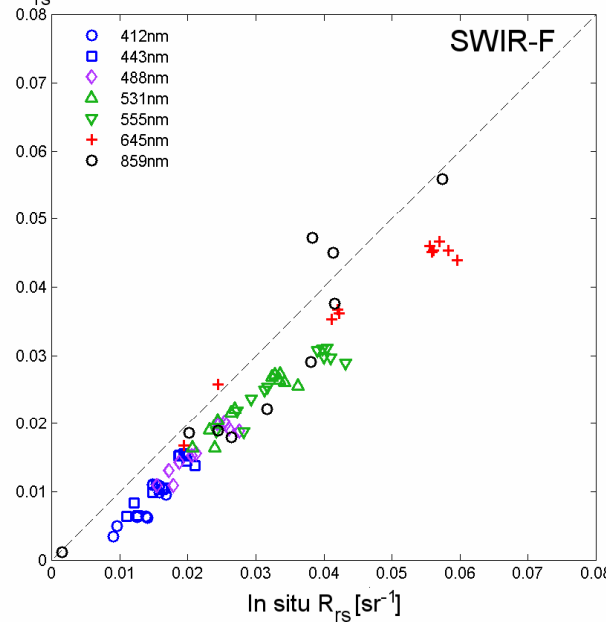
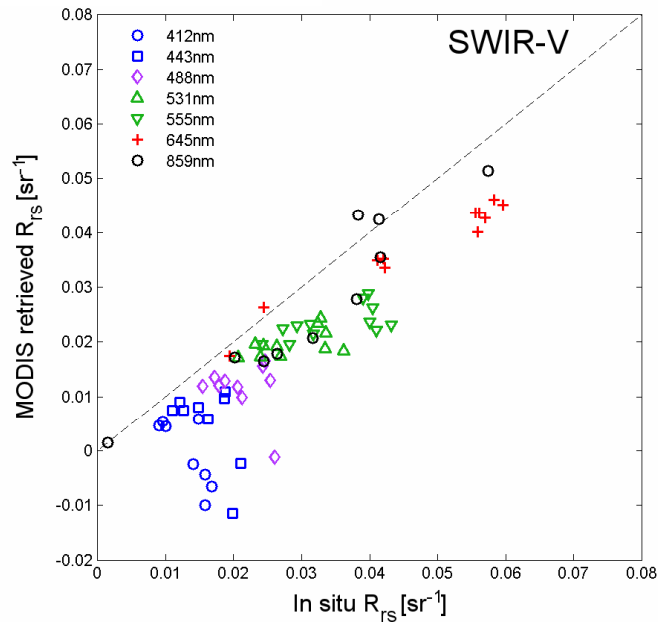
| Date        | $T$ [FNU] | $TSM$ [ $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ] | # St. |
|-------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------|
| 27 Feb 2013 | 16-602    | 16-664                       | 11    |
| 30 Apr 2013 | 41- >1000 | 25-940                       | 12    |



# AC algorithms performance (quantitative)



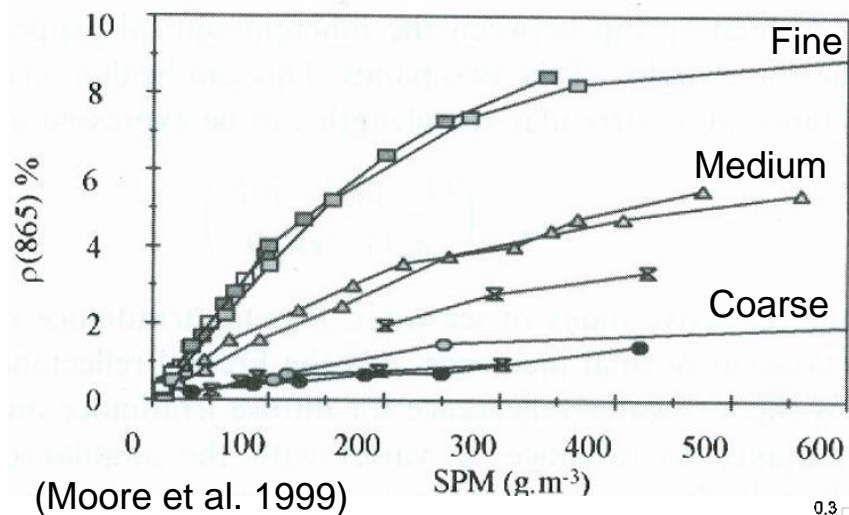
PhD Thesis  
See Gossn et al  
Poster Session



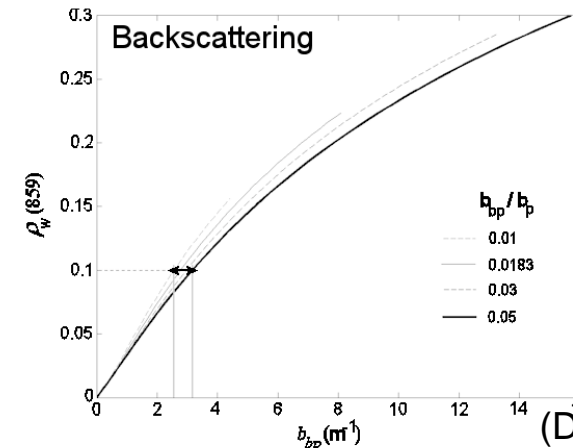
# Sediments... SPM vs Turbidity

- Sediment transport studies
- quantified as mass per unit volume
- $\rho_w$  vs SPM varies with sediment type

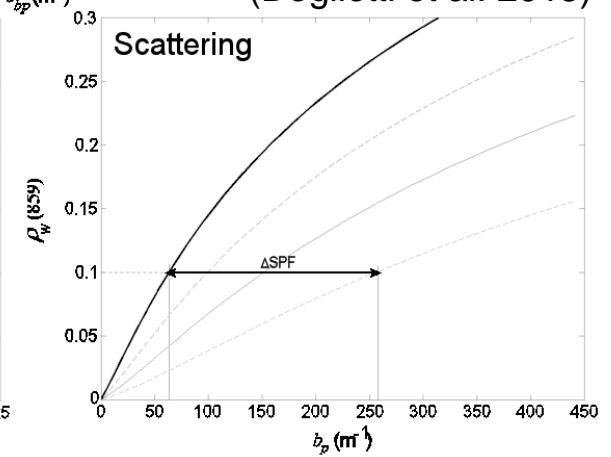
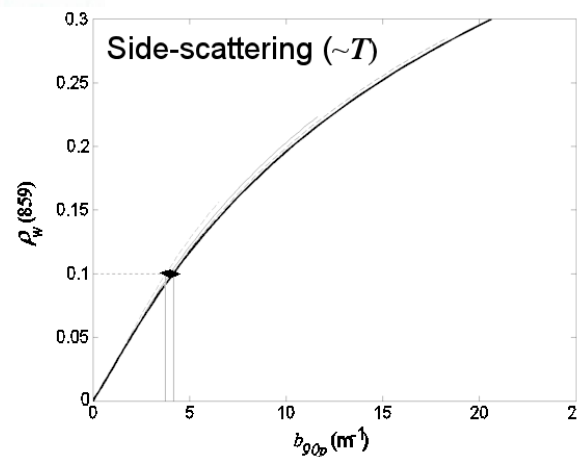
- Assess water quality
- 90° side-scattering of light at 860 nm with respect to Formazin (ISO)
- Optical property more related to  $\rho_w$



Sensitivity to Scattering Phase Function ( $\Delta\text{SPF}$ )

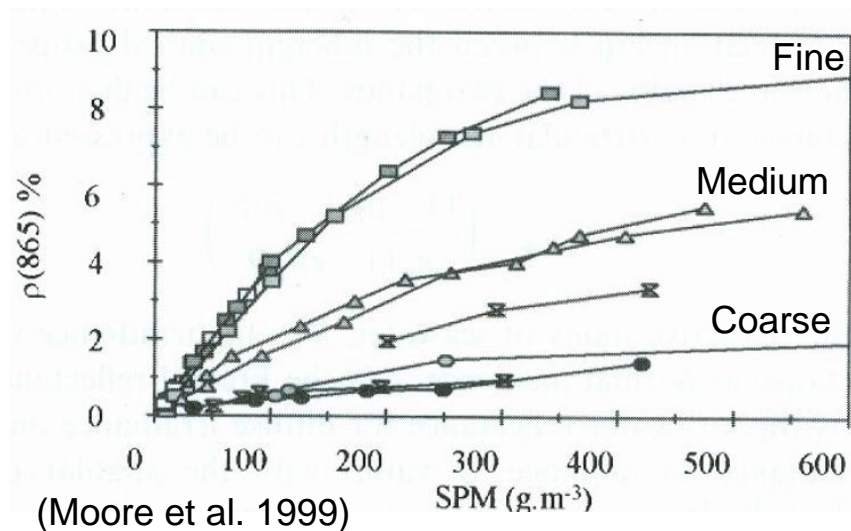


(Dogliotti et al. 2015)



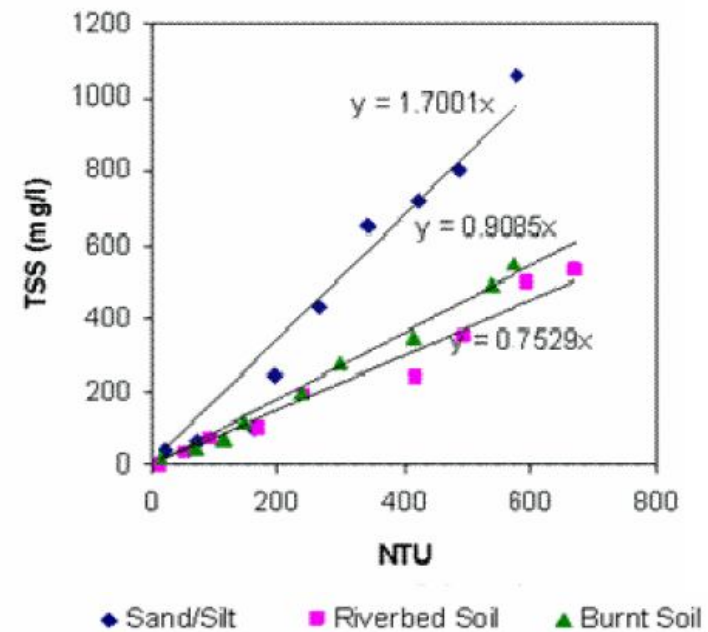
# Sediments... SPM vs Turbidity

- Sediment transport studies
- quantified as mass per unit volume
- $\rho_w$  vs SPM varies with sediment type



- Needs regional calibration ( $\rho_w$  & SPM)

- Assess water quality
- $90^\circ$  side-scattering of light at 860 nm with respect to Formazin (ISO)
- Optical property more related to  $\rho_w$



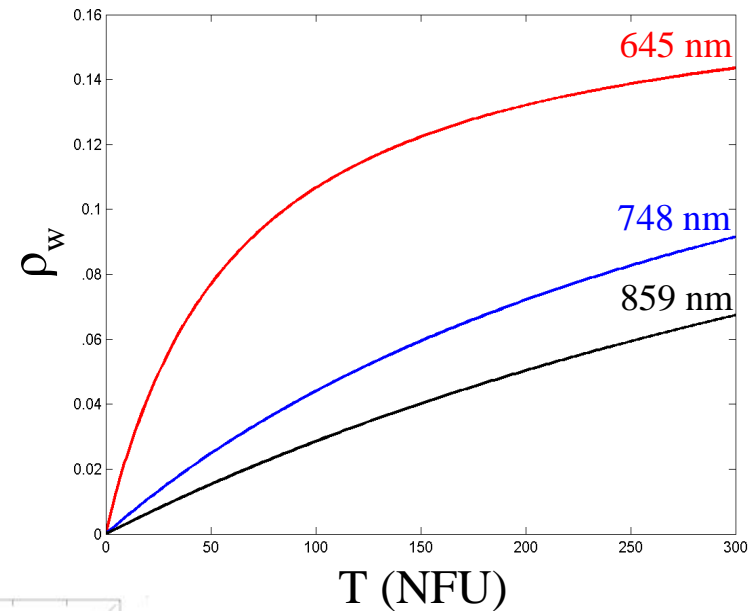
- Highly correlated with SPM, but depends on the sediment type
- Needs regional calibration (T & SPM)



# General Turbidity algorithm

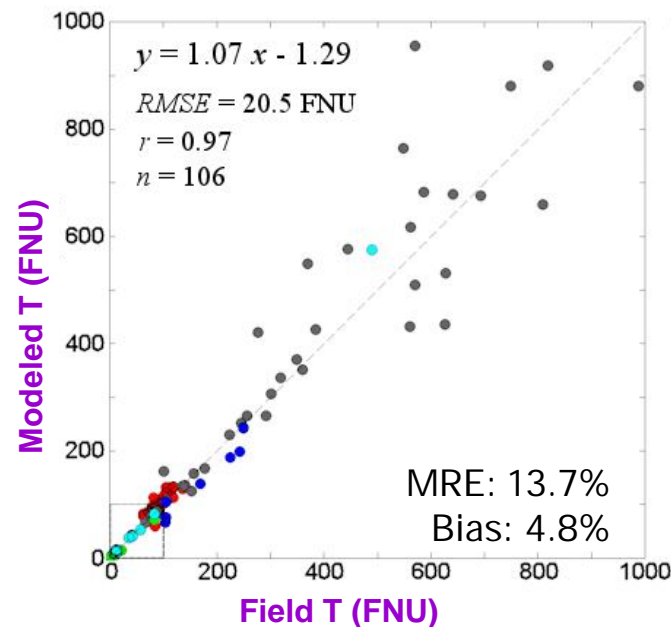
$$T_{\lambda} = \frac{A_T^{\lambda} \rho_w(\lambda)}{(1 - \rho_w(\lambda) / C^{\lambda})} \quad [\text{FNU}]$$

$$A_T^{645} = 228.1 \text{ FNU} \quad C^{645} = 0.1641$$
$$A_T^{859} = 3078.9 \text{ FNU} \quad C^{859} = 0.2112$$



## Validation

Southern North Sea  
Scheldt  
Gironde  
French Guyana  
RdP



(Dogliotti et al. 2015)



# Application: Seasonal-Interannual T variability

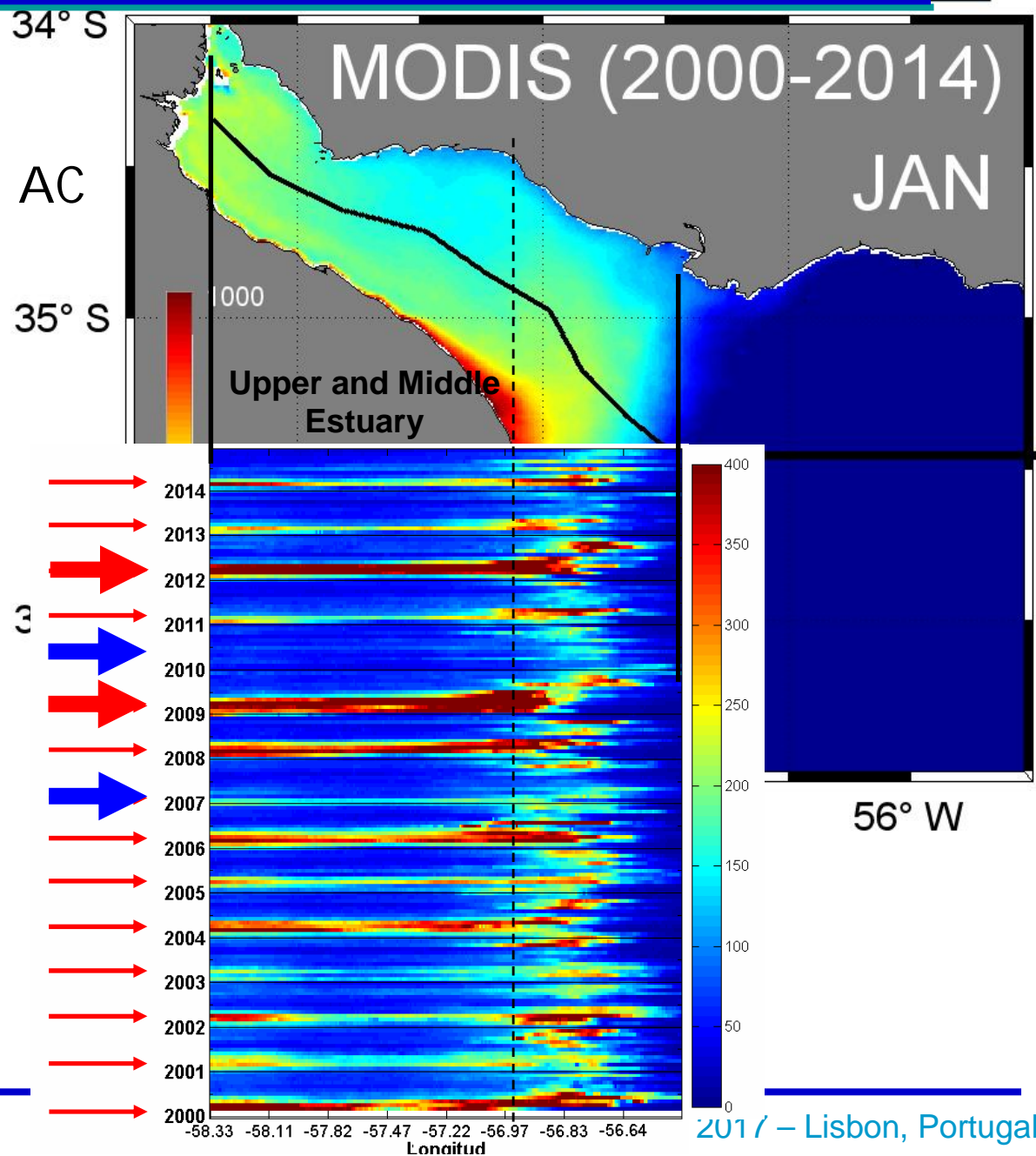
- MODIS (2000-2014)
- NIR/SWIR switching AC
- Turbidity maps

## Seasonality

Max: Mar-Apr

Min: Aug-Sep

## Inter-annual variability



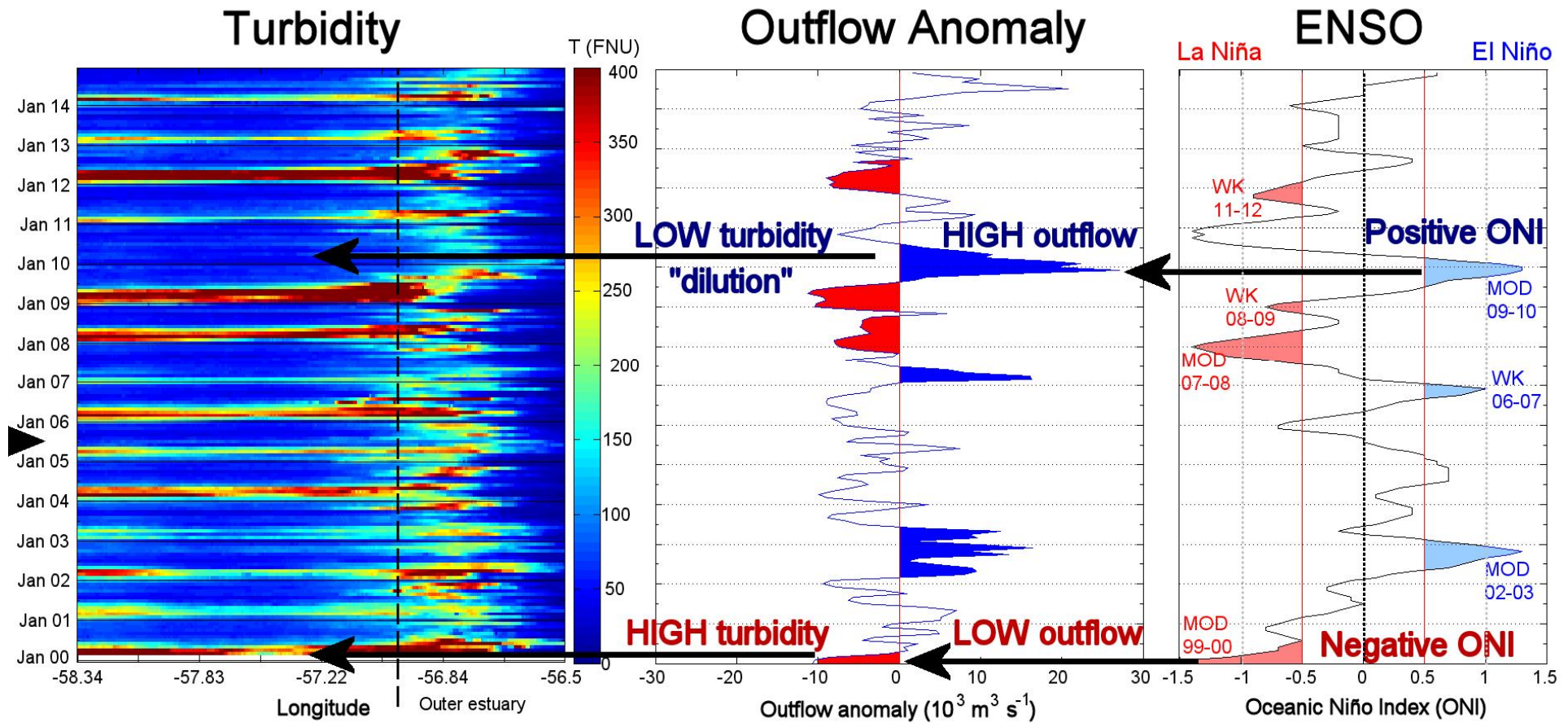
# Seasonal-Interannual Turbidity variability

- **RdP outflow:**

High discharge -> Low turbidity  
Low discharge -> High turbidity

- **ENSO**

Niño -> Increased precipitation  
Niña -> Reduced precipitation



# Not only sediments... not always is brown...

Blooms of **cyanobacteria** have been reported in the RdP (Argentina and Uruguay coasts) and their occurrence have increased in the last years

- ***Microcystis aeruginosa***
- ***Anabaena* spp**

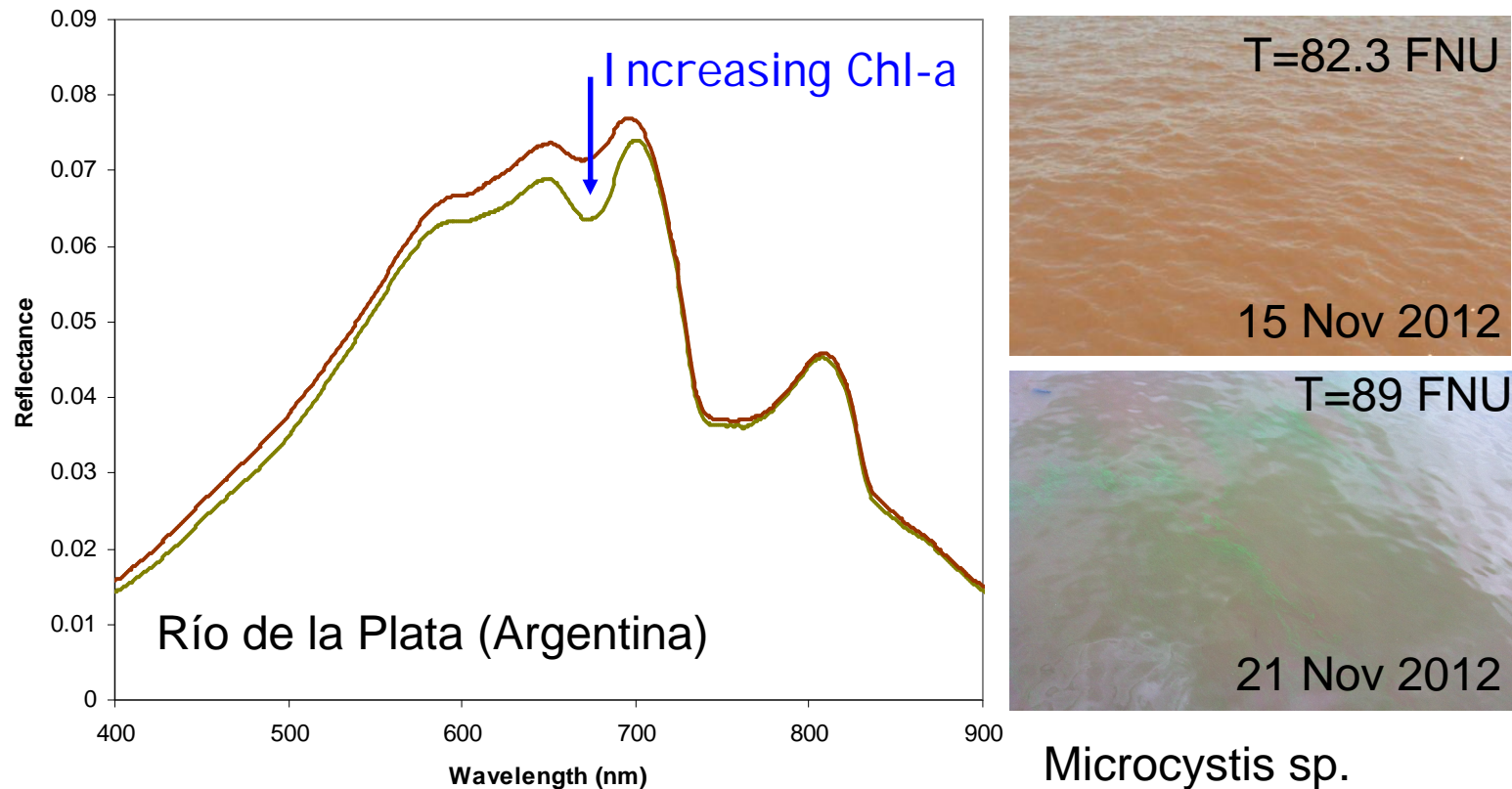
Buenos Aires November 2012





# Retrieving Chl-a in turbid waters... mmm...

Nov 2012 Bloom -> Chl-a reached values  $\sim 22 \text{ mg/m}^3$

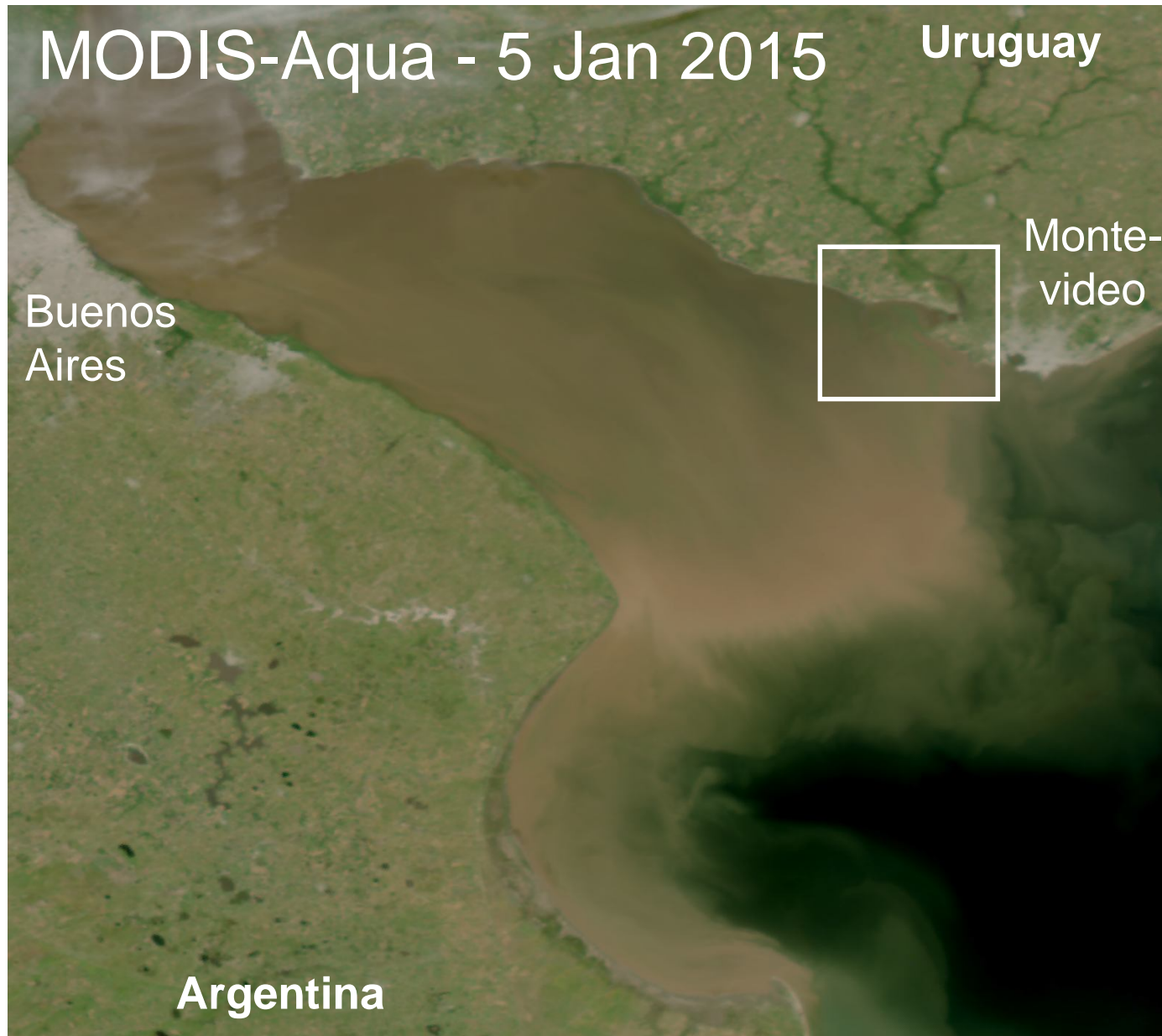


## RED:NIR ratio algo in highly productive turbid waters

- Chl-a absorption peak at 676 nm (less affected by NAP & CDOM)
- Increase in NIR (>700nm) due to scattering

## Other cyanobacterial blooms in the RdP

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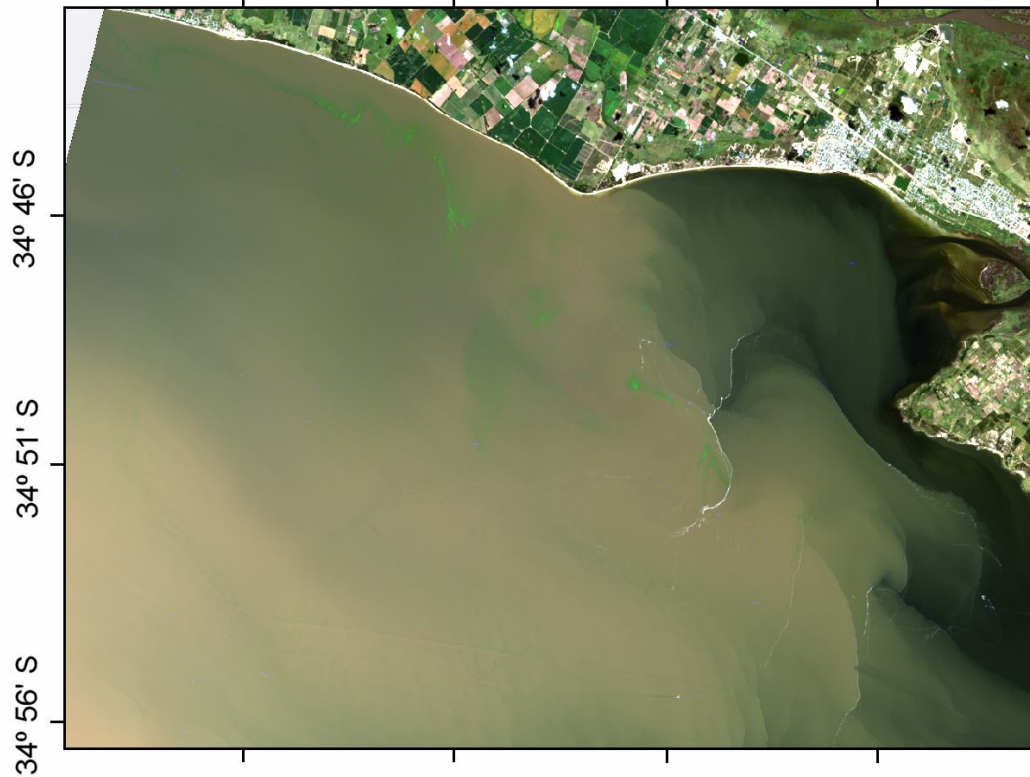


# Other cyanobacterial blooms in the RdP

Landsat-8 RGB (23 Feb 2015)

56° 41' 42" W

56° 31' 30" W



Cyanobacteria bloom (*Microcystis spp*)



# Another green (temporal) inhabitant of the RdP

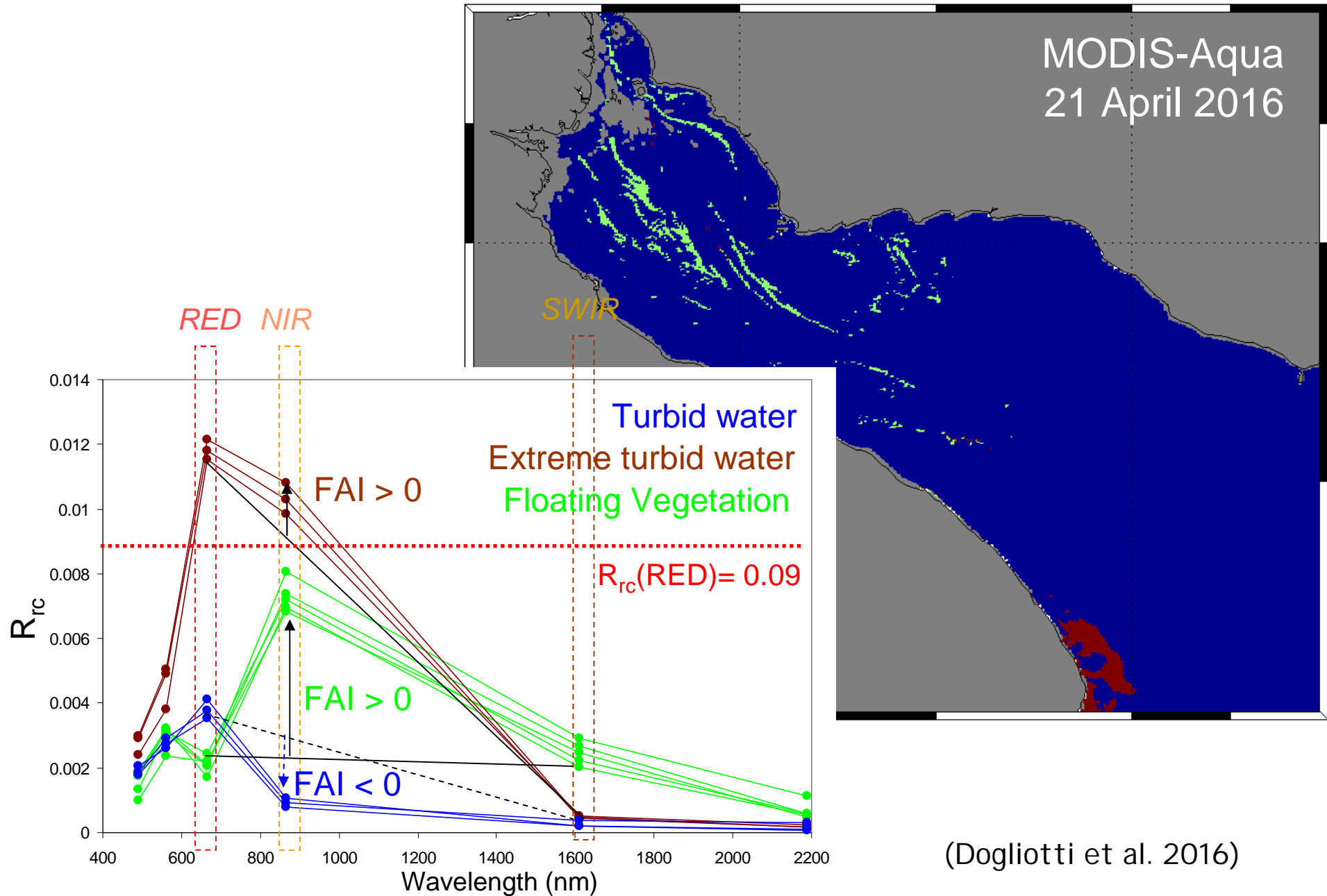
Jan-Apr 2016 -> Large invasion of **Floating Vegetation**



*Aquatic Hyacinth*  
(*Eichhornia crassipes*)



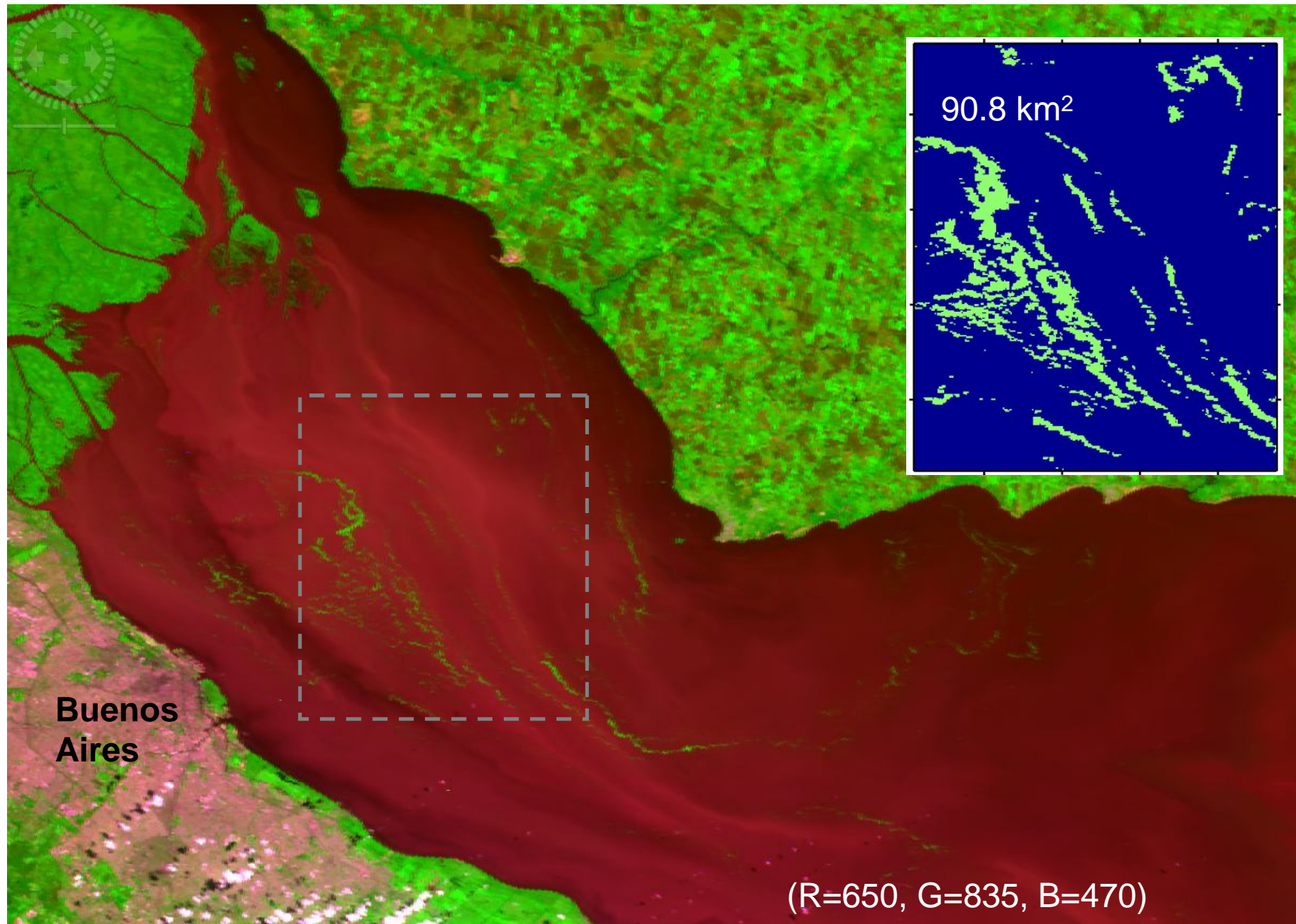
# FAIT : Modified Floating Algal Index for Turbid waters





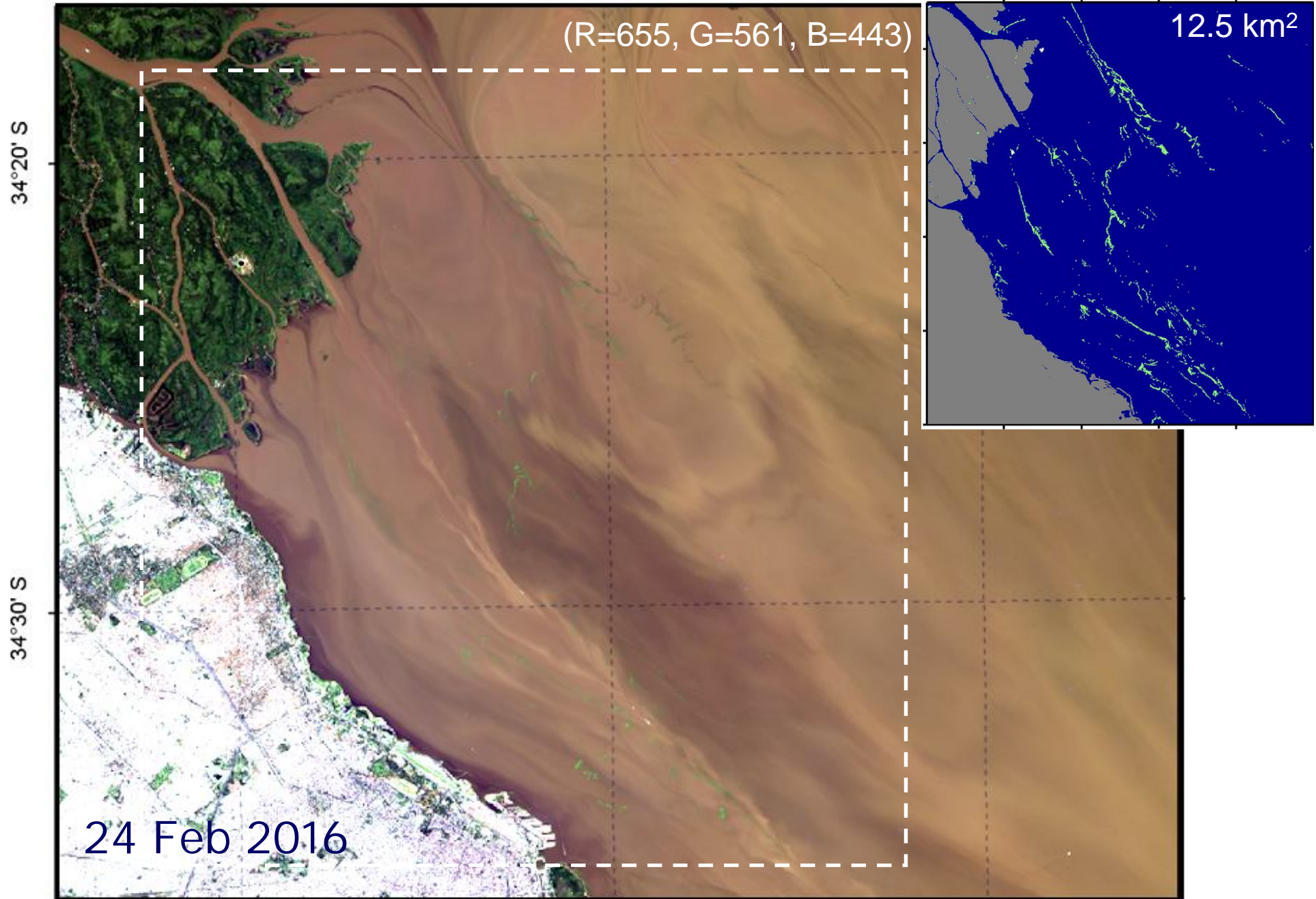
PROBA-V (100 m) 22 Apr 2016

FAIT



# Landsat 8-OLI (30 m)

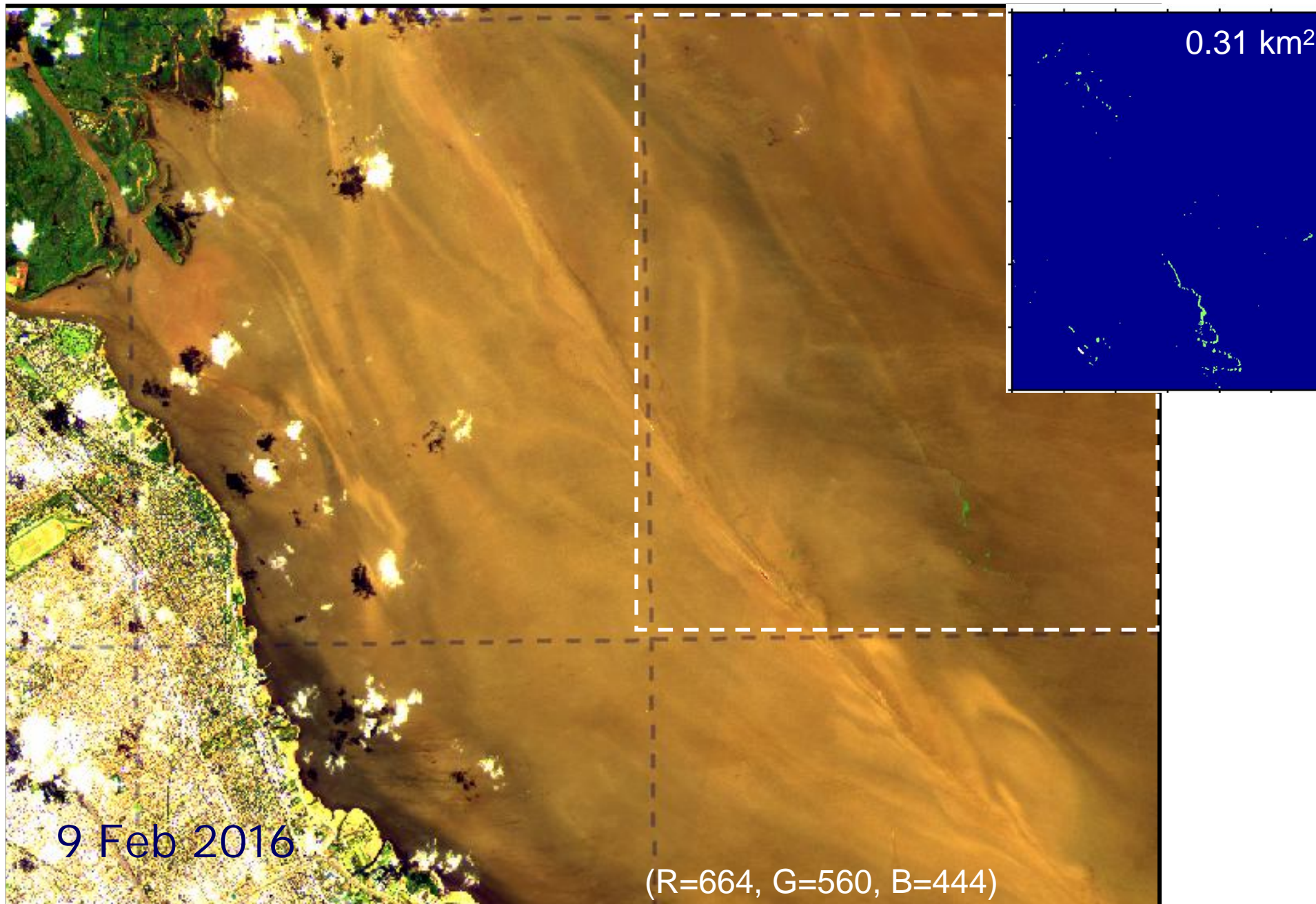
**FAIT**





# Sentinel 2A-MSI (10 m)

FAIT



## RdP: not only a highly turbid river...

It's a very interesting system to study:

- Socio-economical importance
- Challenging optically complex waters

What's next?

- Set-up a site for Cal/Val for existing and future OC missions (Argentine-Brazilian OC mission [SABIA-MAR](#)) [AERONET-OC type or Hyperspectral]

But not everything is easy... so it worths a bit of [context](#) and short [history](#) of research and activities...



## Report of the IOCCG co-ordinated course on Remote Sensing of Ocean Colour: Analysis and applications

December 3 - 13, 2001  
Cape Town, S. Africa

Convenor: Professor Frank Shillington, Department of Oceanography, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, S. Africa



accommodated in the University of Cape Town's All Africa Hotel, provided by the University Staff Club.

The course used the very dynamic Benguela Upwelling System as an example where there is good satellite data, for the "hands on" fundamental SeaWiFS image analysis. Students had access to daily composite ocean colour and SST data, and were introduced to false colour, cloud cover, and digital representation of the images. Typical exercises such as calculating the histogram of pixel values, colour bar enhancement were used by the students to display the images.

The software used was the UNESCO supported [Bilko](#) package. Each student had access to a Pentium III PC attached to the network and internet facilities. A copy of SeaDAS on a SGI ORIGIN 2000 mini supercomputer was available. Students reported that the local internet connection was far superior to what they had "at home". In fact, some students downloaded 300 Mb of data to take back with them. Unfortunately the individual CD ROM's with the Bilko software that were to be distributed to the students, did not arrive before the course ended, but these will be posted to the students shortly.



A ten day training course of ocean colour: analysis and applications held at the University of Cape Town from 3-13th December 2001. Young scientists participated from African countries, and one from Argentina [[view list of participants](#)]. The course was held in the GIS lab shared by the Department of Oceanography and the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at the University's upper campus.



The mornings were devoted to lectures on a variety of topics by active researchers in the South African region. These included a brief report on the IOCCG functions, a review of the Benguela Upwelling System Dynamics, and elementary background to satellite remote sensing, by the convenor (Dr Frank Shillington); detection of hydrogen sulphide in the Benguela System from SeaWiFS, by Scarla Weeks (Ocean Space and UCT); introduction and hands on demonstration of SeaDAS for ocean colour research processing by Herve Demarcq (IRD and IDYLE research Associate); in situ pigments by Dr Ray Barlow (M & CM); apparent and inherent optical properties, and an introduction to primary productivity, by Ph.D student Stewart Bernard; an introduction to the OCM instrument on the Indian satellite IRS-P4 by Himmat Solanki (Indian Space Applications Centre); indices and record anchovy recruitment by Dr Claude Roy (IRD and IDYLE research Associate); neural network techniques analysing satellite and chlorophyll data by Dr Anthony Richardson (ENVIFISH researcher). [[view schedule](#)]

I would like to thank all the guest lecturers that helped to make the course a success: Dr Claude Roy, IRD and UCT; Dr Anthony Richardson, UCT, Dr Ray Barlow, Marine and Coastal Management, Cape Town; Ms Scarla Weeks, Oceanspace and UCT; Mr Herve Demarcq, IRD and M & CM, Mr [Stewart Bernard](#), UCT. Thanks is also due to the Centre for Marine Studies manager, Mr Emlyn Balarin for handling the logistical and financial support. The IOCCG Project Scientist, Dr Venetia Stuart, provided invaluable advice. Mr Jeremy Main provided computer assistance (especially when the power failed!). Naturally the students played the major role by sharing ideas and contributing their own particular expertise in the form of discussion of their projects. I really enjoyed the experience, and trust that the students gained a great deal of knowledge from the course.



### Funding

Financial assistance was from IOCCG, the French South African project IDYLE and from UCT and M & CM in kind.

## Training course - 2001



# Report on Primary Production Training Course

Training course - 2002

University of Concepción, Chile  
21 October - 1 November, 2002

by Dr. Trevor Platt  
*Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia Canada*

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An advanced course on "**Primary Production: Theory, Modelling and Estimation by Remote Sensing**" was held from October 21 to 1 November, 2002 at the University of Concepción (UdeC), Chile. It was held under the auspices of IOC/UNESCO, the Chilean Ministry of Education (MECESUP), Minera Escondida, the DAAD, the UdeC's School of Graduate Studies and the Center for Oceanographic Research (COPAS), with additional funding from the

International Ocean-Colour Coordinating Group (IOCCG) and from the Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO) to facilitate participation by students from outside Chile. In all there were 26 students, of whom 8 were from Chile and 18 from elsewhere (7 other countries). See [list of students](#) attending the training course.

The additional funding from international committees also allowed the participation of more instructors than would otherwise have been the case. The list of instructors was: Dr.

[Trevor Platt](#) (Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Canada); [Dr. Shubha Sathyendranath](#), (Dalhousie University, Canada); [Dr. Vivian Lutz](#) (Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero, Argentina); [Dr. Cesar Fuentes-Yaco](#) (Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Canada); [Dr. Mark Dowell](#) (University of New Hampshire, USA); and [Dr. Osvaldo Ulloa](#) (University of Concepcion, Chile). In addition, Mr. Gabriel Yuras provided assistance in the practical demonstrations.



*Some of the instructors at the training course: Drs. Cesar Fuentes-Yaco, Vivian Lutz, Trevor Platt, Osvaldo Ulloa and Mark Dowell*

## Blue Earth Global Expedition BEAGLE 2003

- Background
- Cruise Details
- Bio-optical Program
- Participants
- Student Reports
- Photo Album
- BEAGLE
- JAMSTEC
- IOCCG
- POGO
- Brochure



### Oceanographic Training on BEAGLE 2003

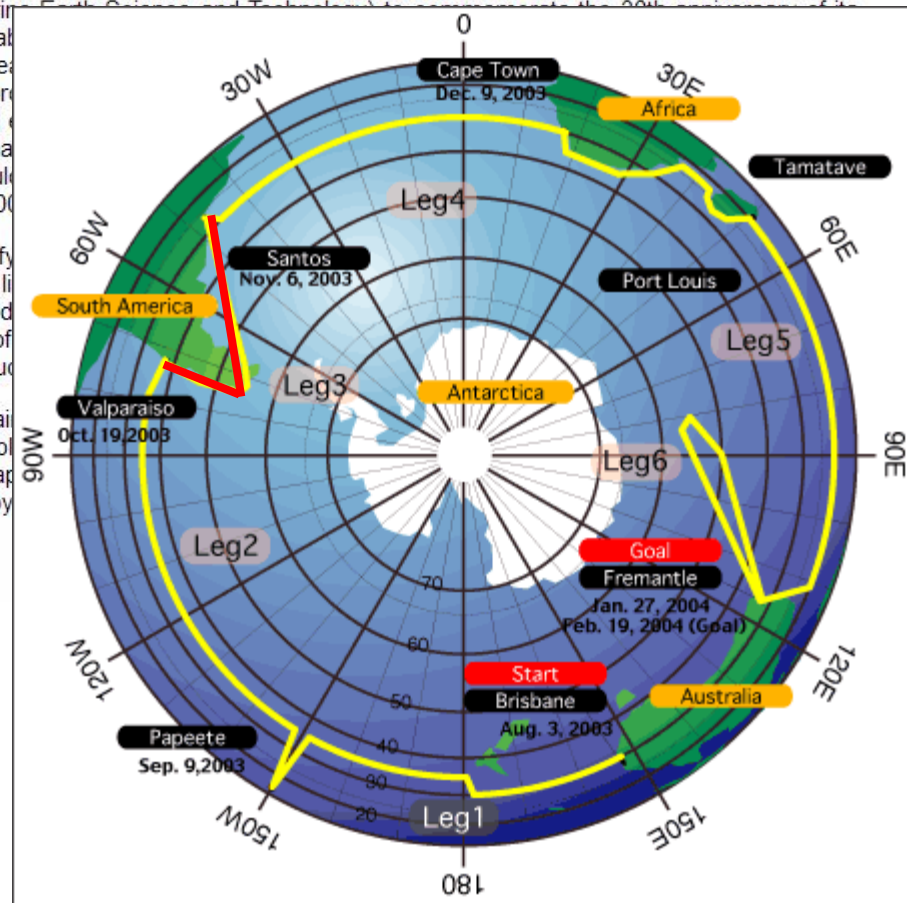
The Blue Earth Global Expedition (BEAGLE), an international circumpolar cruise in the Southern Hemisphere, was organized by JAMSTEC (Japan Agency for Marine Earth-Ocean and Technology) and the 2003 expedition site.

Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO) held in Brazil in 2003

The main objectives of the cruise are to detect and quantify warming, through high-quality observations along the WHP line anthropogenic carbon taken up by the Antarctic Ocean. In addition, the cruise. These measurements can be used to validate of estimates of phytoplankton standing stocks and primary production.

In addition, JAMSTEC offered to accommodate up to three trainees from IOCCG. POGO and IOC awarded a limited number of scholarships for all trainees and bio-optical specialists were covered by JAMSTEC.

Page updated 07/28/2009







## Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans

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## Brazil Visiting Professorship

[Dr. Robert Frouin](#) of Scripps Institution of Oceanography (USA), with the help of experts from the international ocean-colour community (including [Dr. Greg Mitchell](#) from Scripps and [Dr. Vivian Lutz](#) from INIDEP, Argentina, [Prof. Ichio Asanuma](#) from Tokyo University and [Dr. Ewa Kwiatkowska](#) from NASA), provided training to 16 trainees from Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, and various Brazilian institutions, in the use of remotely sensed ocean-colour data as a tool for analysing the marine ecosystem. The training course also endeavoured to further develop the ANTARES project, an integrated network of long-term time series stations in Central and South America whose main goal is to detect and understand the impact of climate change and human activities, and to provide the scientific basis for ecosystem definition and management.

The training included two major group activities, with formal lectures, theoretical work, laboratory measurements, field experiment, and data analysis. All the major aspects of ocean-colour remote sensing were covered, from fundamental principles to modeling, inversion, instrumentation, and measurements. The trainees were divided into three teams composed of biologists and physicists. Each team had to produce reports and make presentations about the work accomplished. The format allowed the trainees to learn and familiarize themselves with various aspects of ocean colour remote sensing, to apply and deal practically with the theoretical concepts introduced in the formal lectures, to interact among themselves, and to develop strategies for their individual research in biological oceanography and remote sensing. During the course, SIO journals, serials, and other materials were accessible electronically via a proxy server, which proved to be a valuable resource for the trainees.

The first activity focused on ocean colour, with lectures on processes affecting marine reflectance, modeling of marine reflectance, measurement of marine reflectance, and inversion of marine reflectance. Other lectures related to optics of particulate and soluble material in water, measurement of ocean optical properties and regional differentiation, and phytoplankton photosynthetic physiology and measurement of photosynthesis. Drs. Greg Mitchell from SIO and Vivian Lutz from INIDEP joined Dr. Robert Frouin in giving the lectures. Hands-on activities included laboratory work at the Oceanographic Institute of the University of São Paulo, and field work at the marine station in Ubatuba. Equipment purchased under the visiting professorship programme included a UV spectrophotometer and a Quantum PAR sensor. The trainees were initiated in the

# A bit of history and context...

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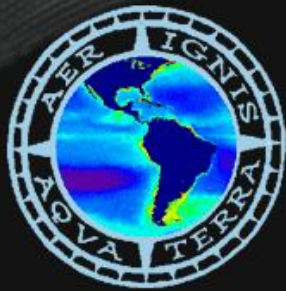
Importance of supporting young students to

- International Training courses
  - Knowledge from highly qualified professors
  - foster regional connections (like networks and collaborations)



- facilitate contacts (alumni and faculty)
- promote joint research
- Latin American Network to study long-term changes in coastal ecosystems (in situ time-series and RS data)
- Key tasks: capacity building, scientific and tech. collaboration





# ANTARES

ChloroGIN - ANTARES

HOME

ABOUT

OBJECTIVES

INSTITUTIONS

CONSTITUTION

LETTER\_OF\_INTENT

WORKSHOPS

PROJECTS

CONTACT

TRAINING

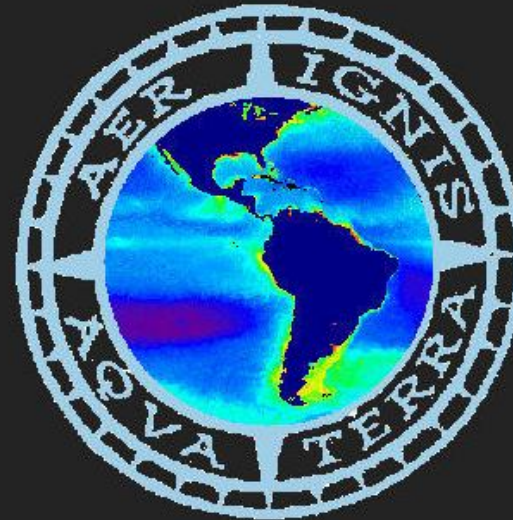
TIME\_SERIES

MEMBERS

STATIONS

LIBRARY/DOCUMENTS

LINKS



## Welcome to Antares Network Home page

The Antares network was created in July 2003 under the auspices of the [IOCCG](#) and [POGO](#) and a seed SGP project from [IAI](#). In (2006) Antares grew from **South American** to **Latin American** (incorporating Mexico). Furthermore, Antares served as a seed for a global network created in September 2006 named **Chlorophyll Globally Integrated Network (ChloroGIN)** of which Antares forms its Latin American Regional branch.

ANTARES main goal is the study of long-term changes in coastal ecosystems in sites around Latin America to distinguish those due to natural variability from those due to external perturbations (anthropogenic effects). To achieve this goal in situ data from coastal stations, and satellite data (temperature and chlorophyll) from the region are shared among members and with the public. Capacity building, scientific and technical collaboration are key in our task. Current participating countries are: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, USA, Venezuela.



# A bit of history and context...

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Importance of supporting young students to

- International Training courses
  - Knowledge from highly qualified professors
  - foster regional connections (like networks and collaborations)



- Hands-on experience (e.g. the MIRAI , AMT, ...)
- Post-doc experiences in renown labs and institutions
- National and International collaborations



**THANKS !!!**

