

**BioSpace25 - Biodiversity insight from Space**  
**10 - 14 February 2025 | ESA-ESRIN | Frascati - Italy**



# Predicting species distributions in the open ocean

Using satellite-derived environmental data and  
convolutional neural networks

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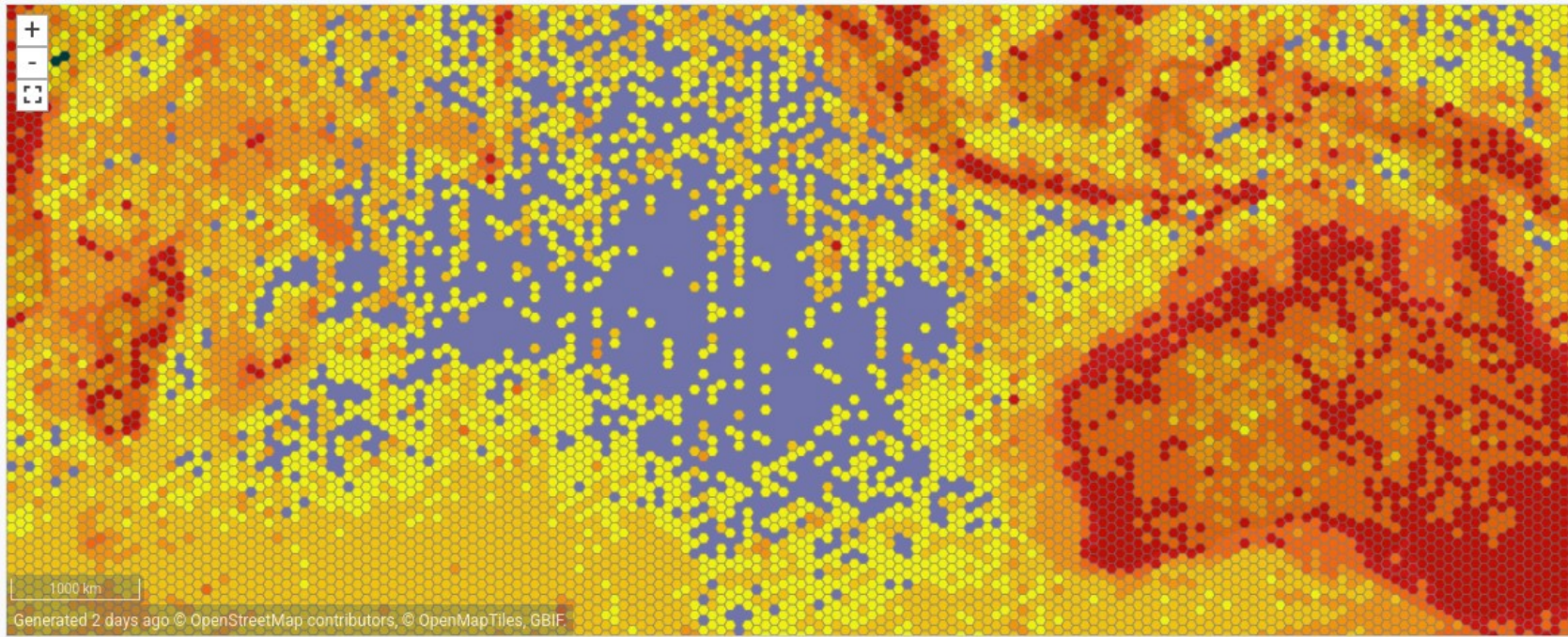
<sup>1</sup>UMR Marbec, IRD, Univ. Montpellier, CNRS, Ifremer - Montpellier, France

<sup>2</sup>INRIA, Montpellier, France

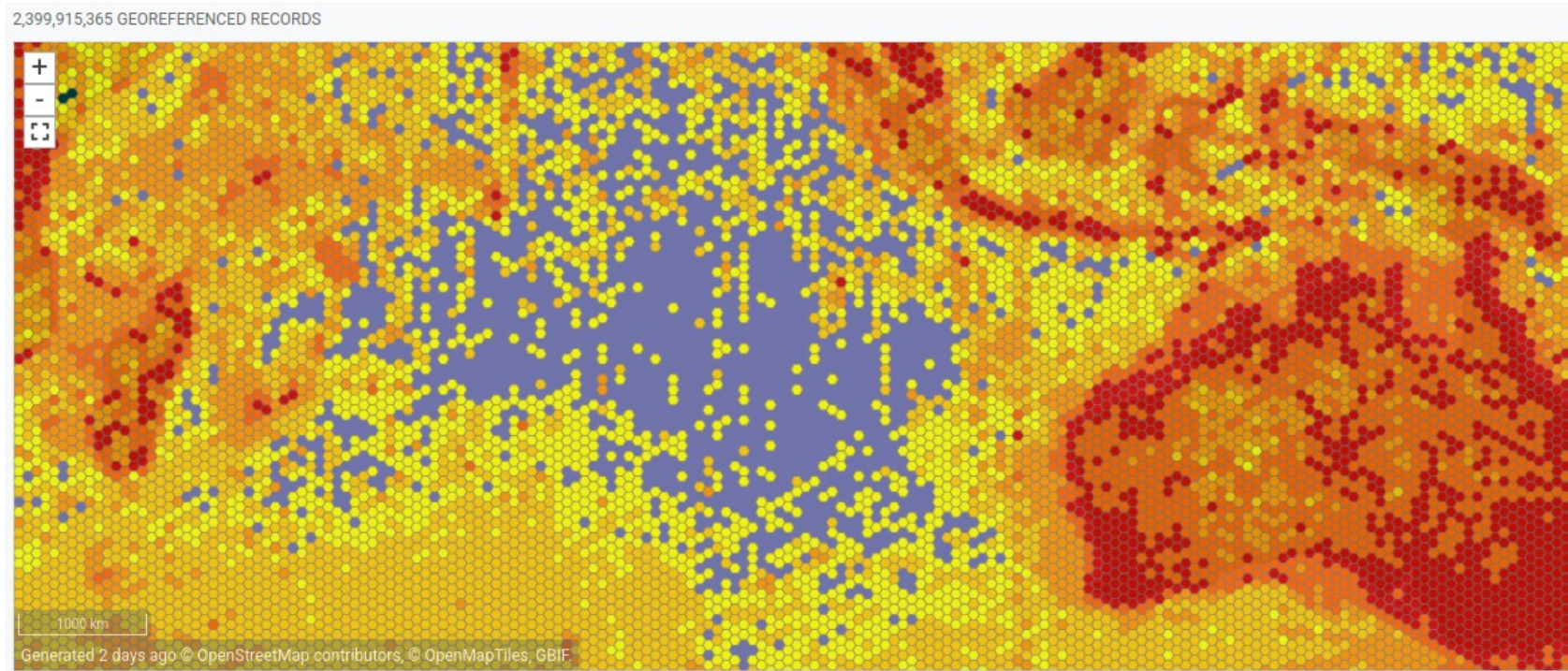
# Introduction: what data?



2,399,915,365 GEOREFERENCED RECORDS



# Introduction: what data?



Models cannot use coordinates as predictors  
**Hypothesis: same environmental conditions = same species**



# SDMs: Choosing environmental data

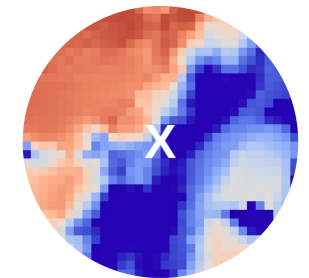
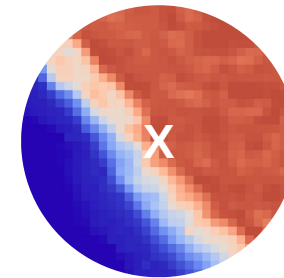
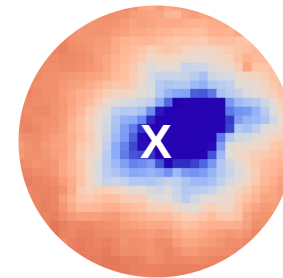
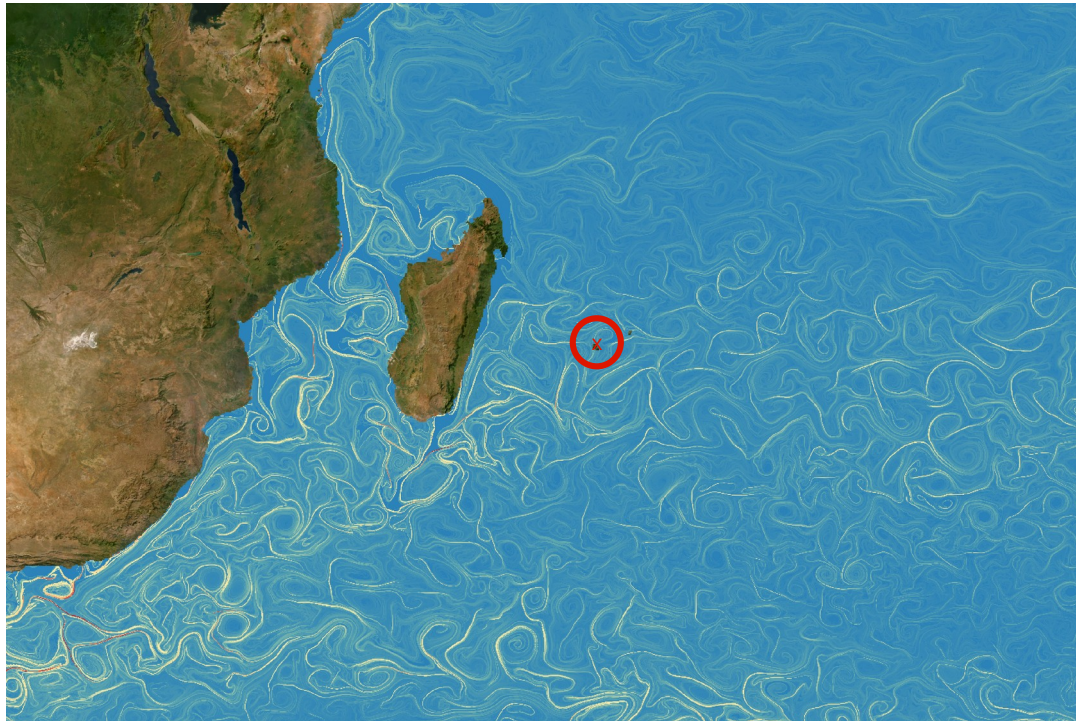


Limitation in usual SDMs: number of predictors

=> Only one value per variable

Point of observation	Buffer around observation
Value	Average (+ STD, min, max)





Spatial structure IS important

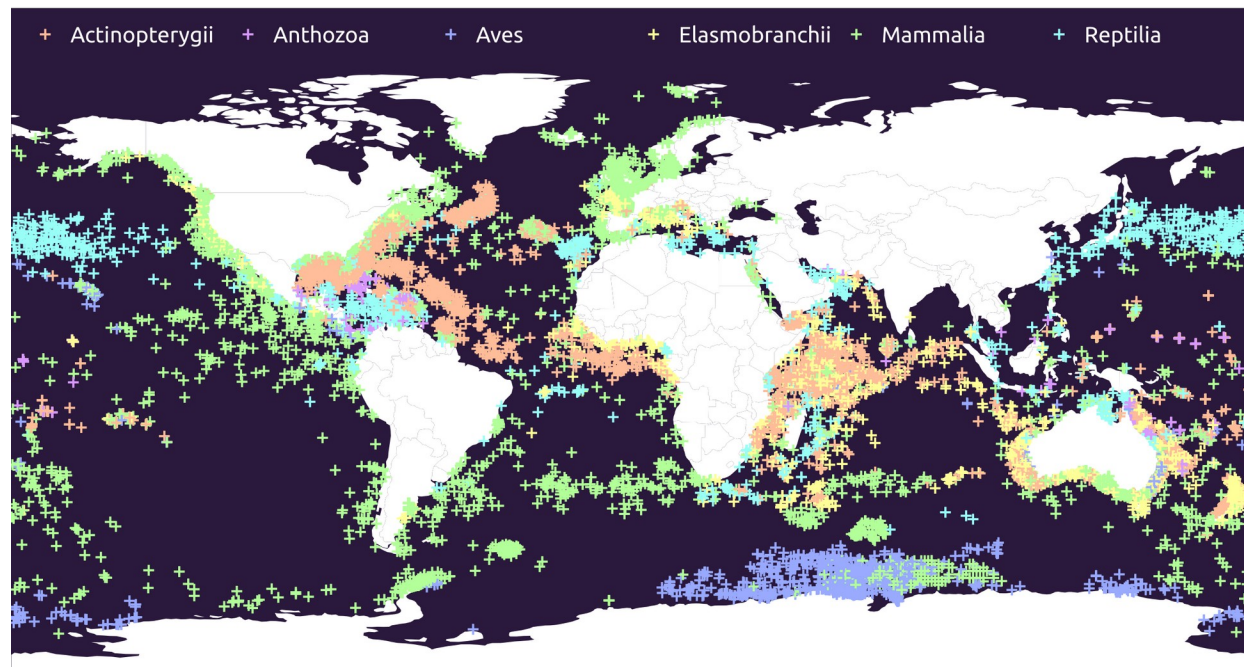
# SDMs: Choosing environmental data



Point of observation	Buffer around observation	<b>Environmental landscape</b>
Value	Average (+ STD, min, max)	<b>Spatially structured data</b>



# Pilot study

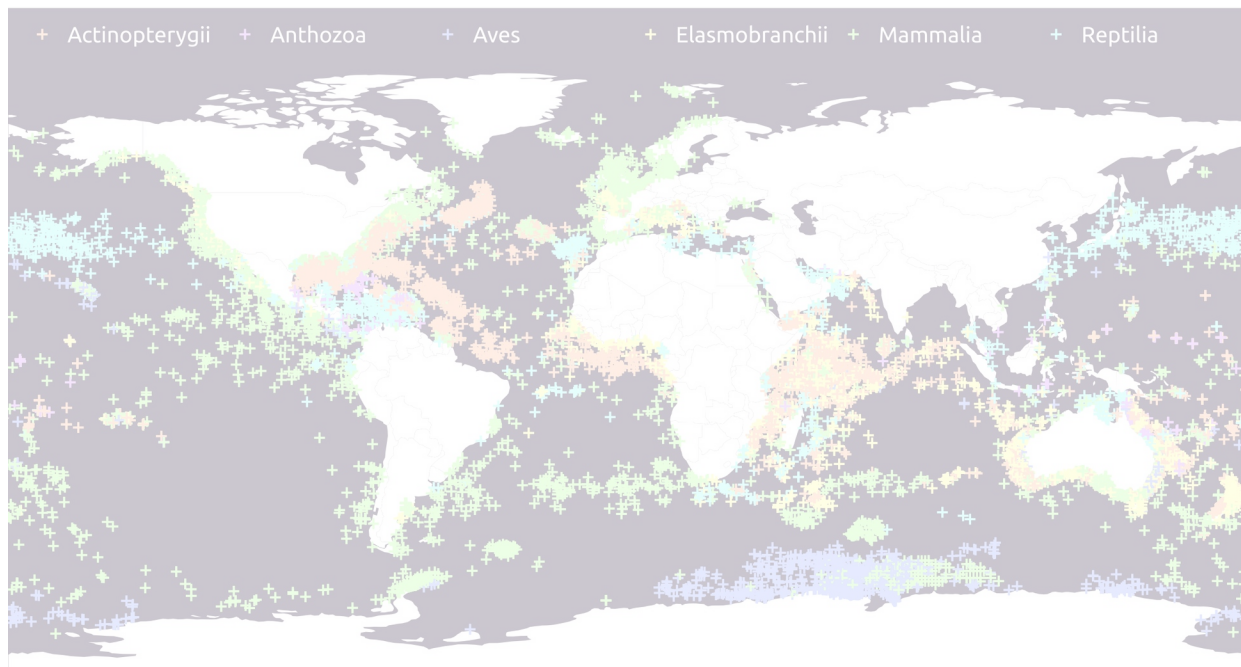


38 genera

300,000 occurrences

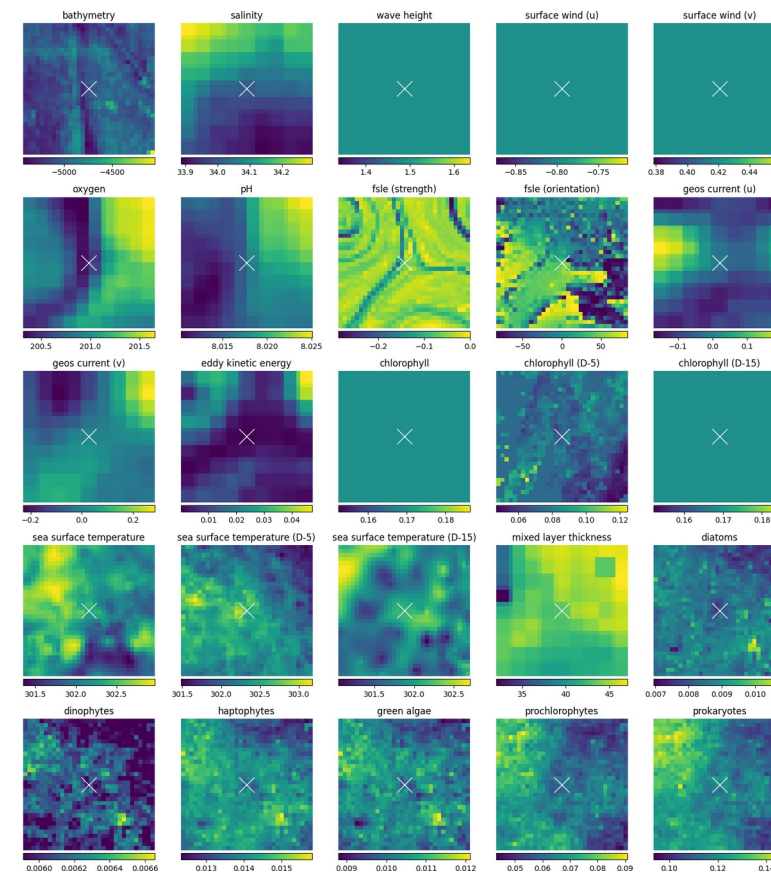


# Pilot study



38 genera

300,000 occurrences



18 variables

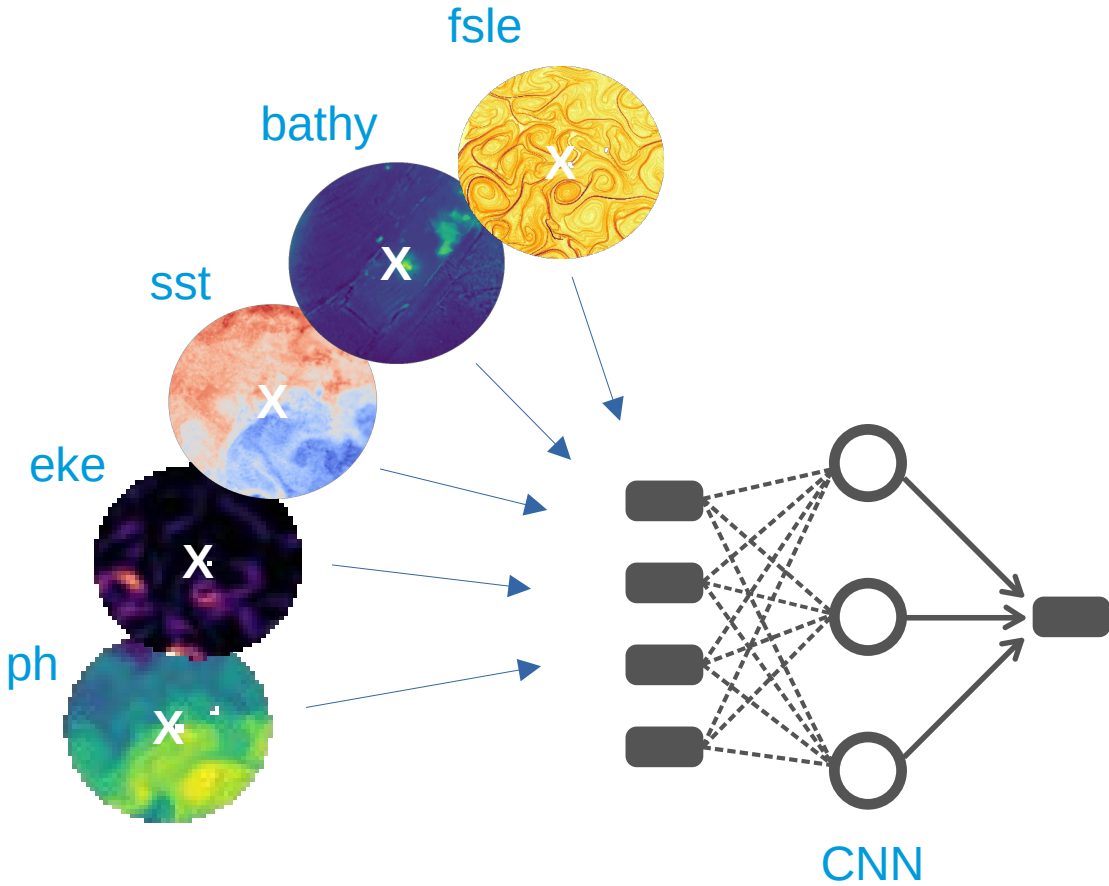
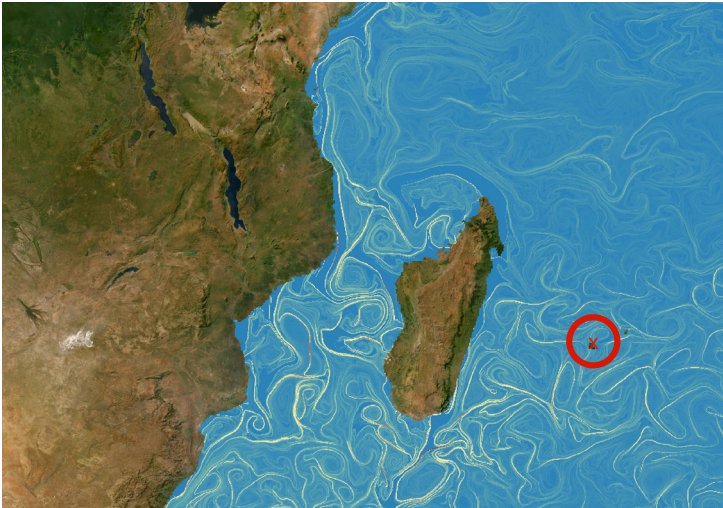
geoenrich 0.6.5

`pip install geoenrich`

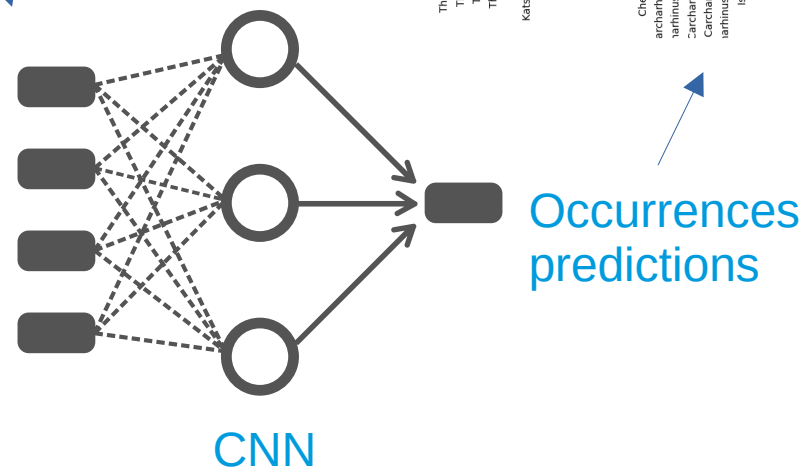
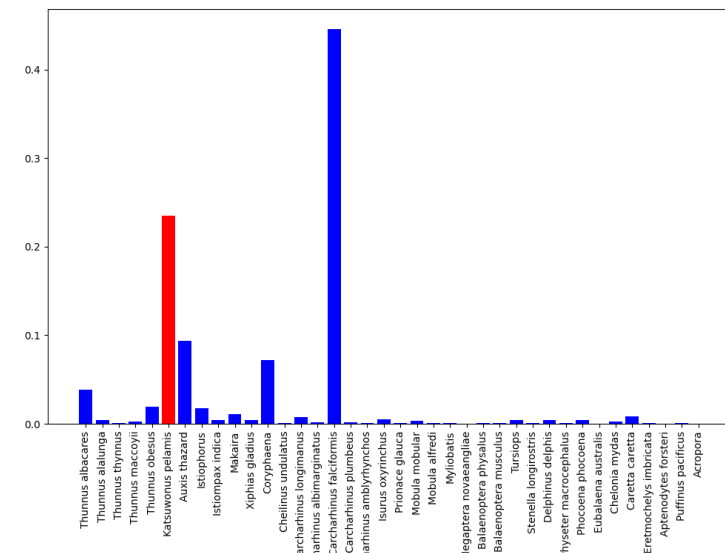
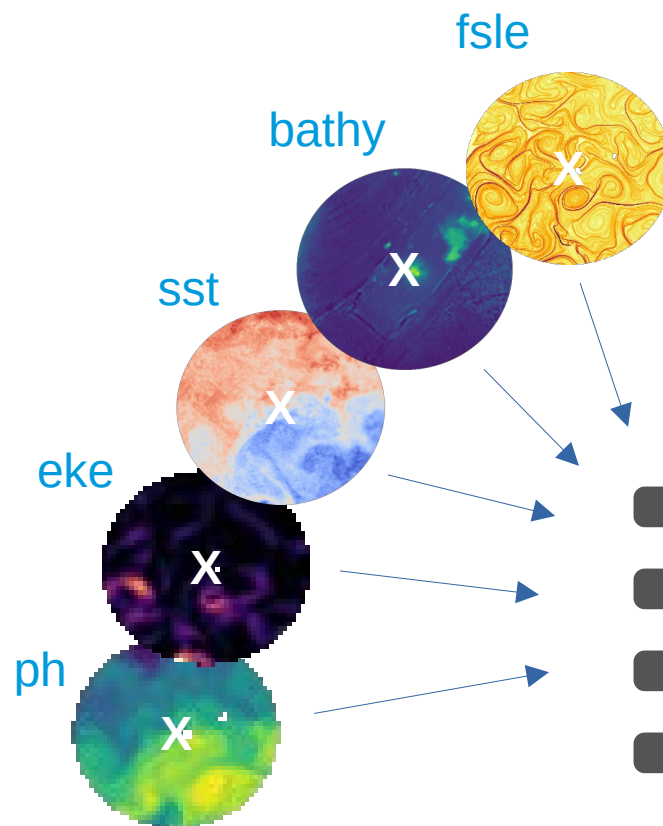
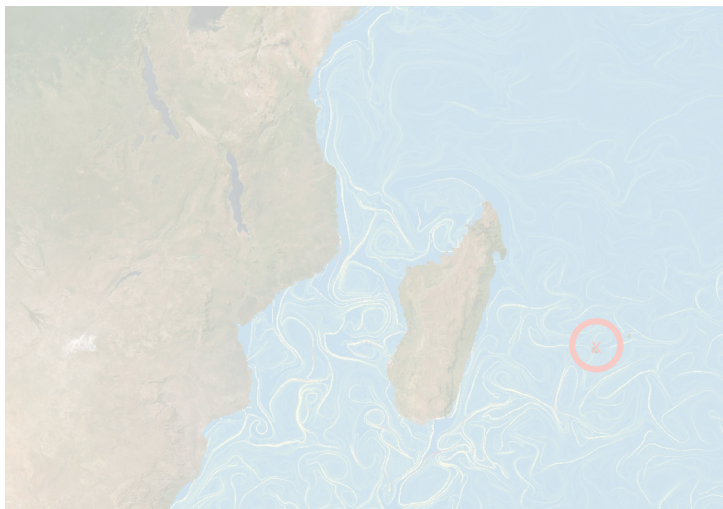




# Spatial data processing



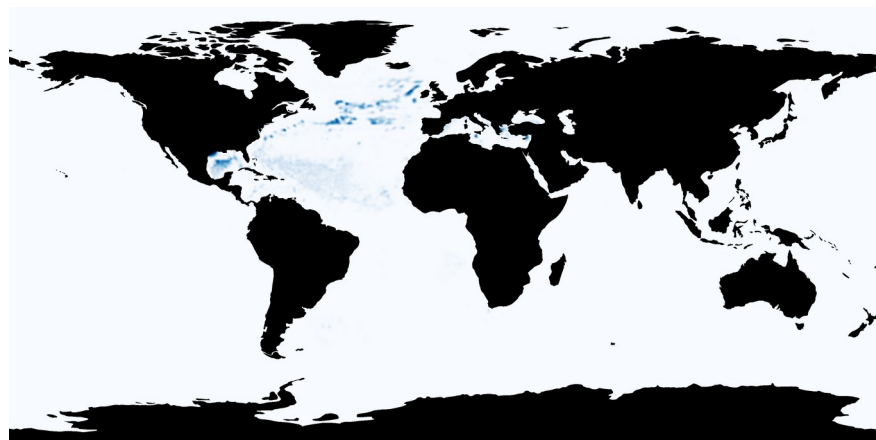
# Spatial data processing



## Variation in space

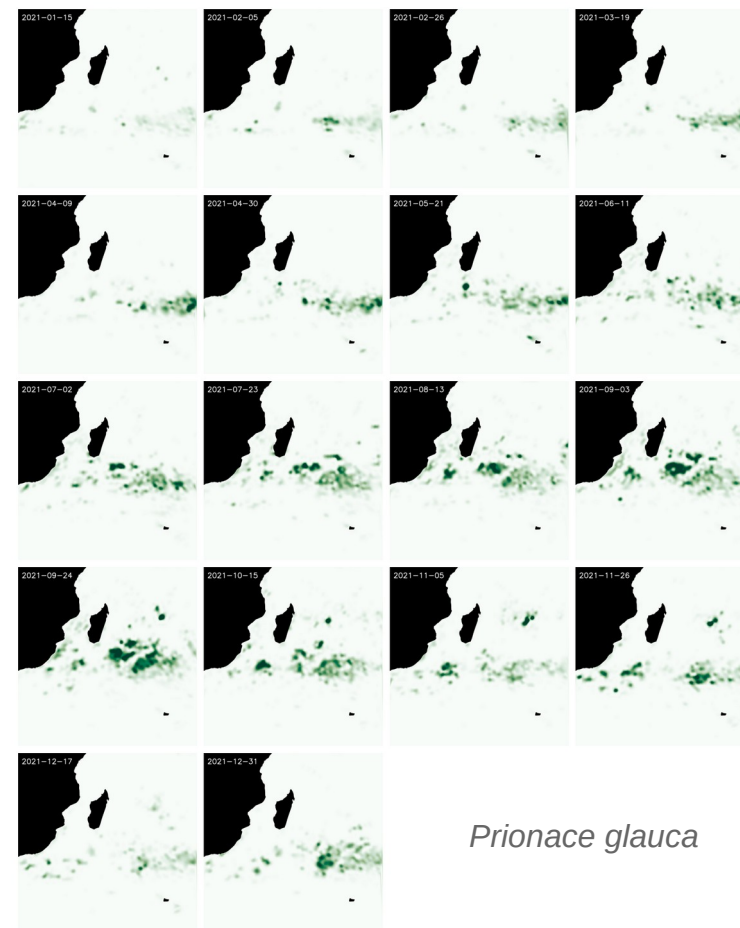


*Puffinus pacificus*



*Thunnus thynnus*

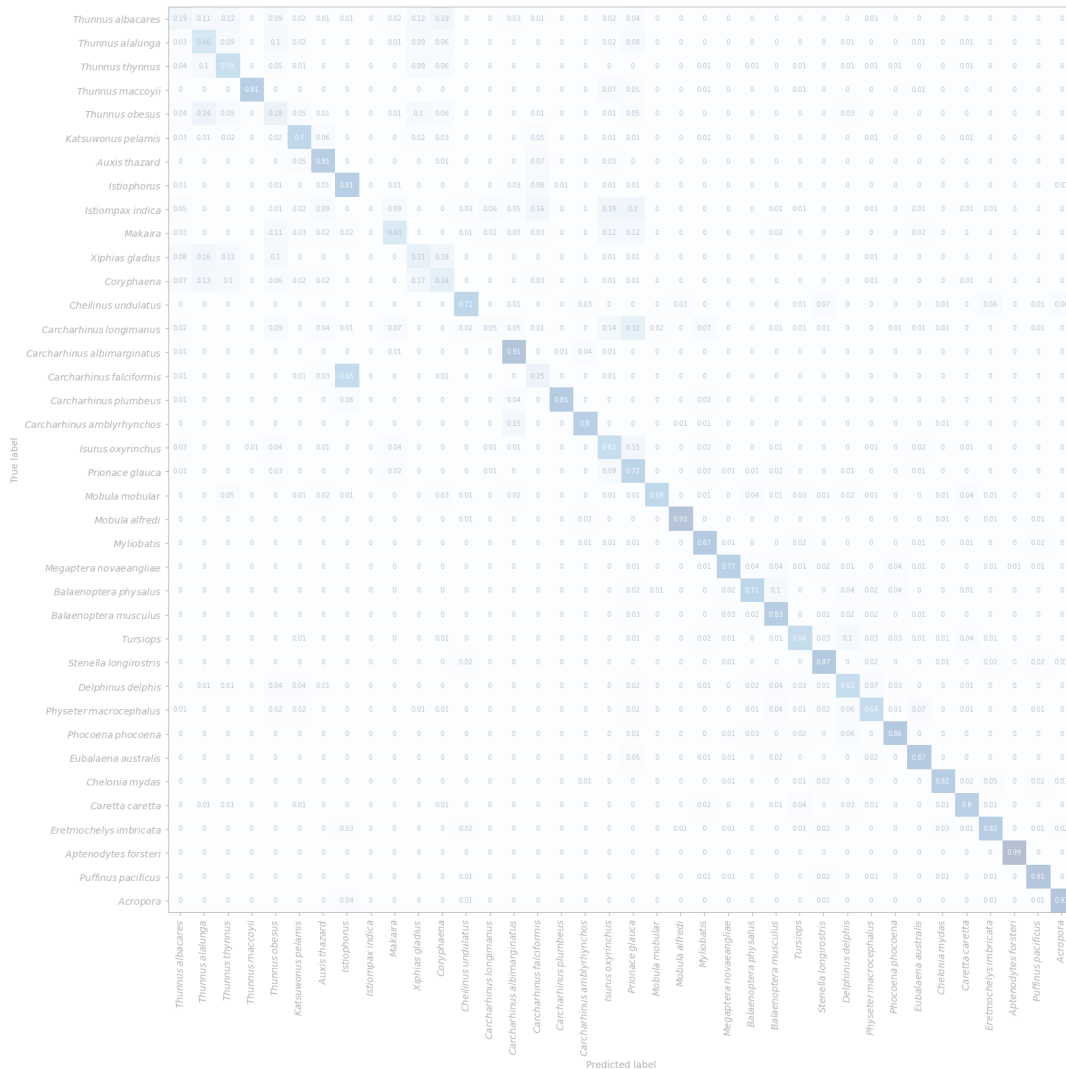
## Variation in time



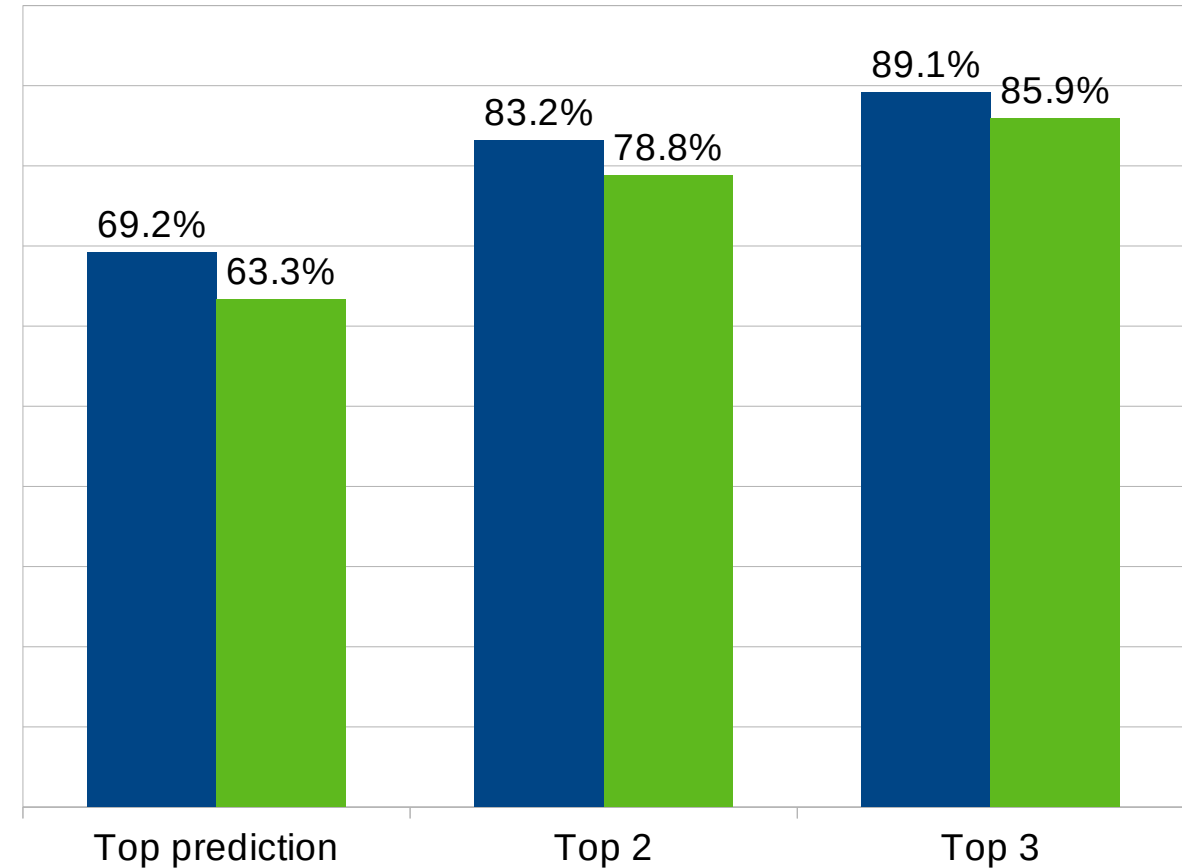
*Prionace glauca*



# Model performance



■ CNN (Spatial input) ■ DNN (Punctual input)



# Most important insight



~~Predictive power~~

Influence of variables



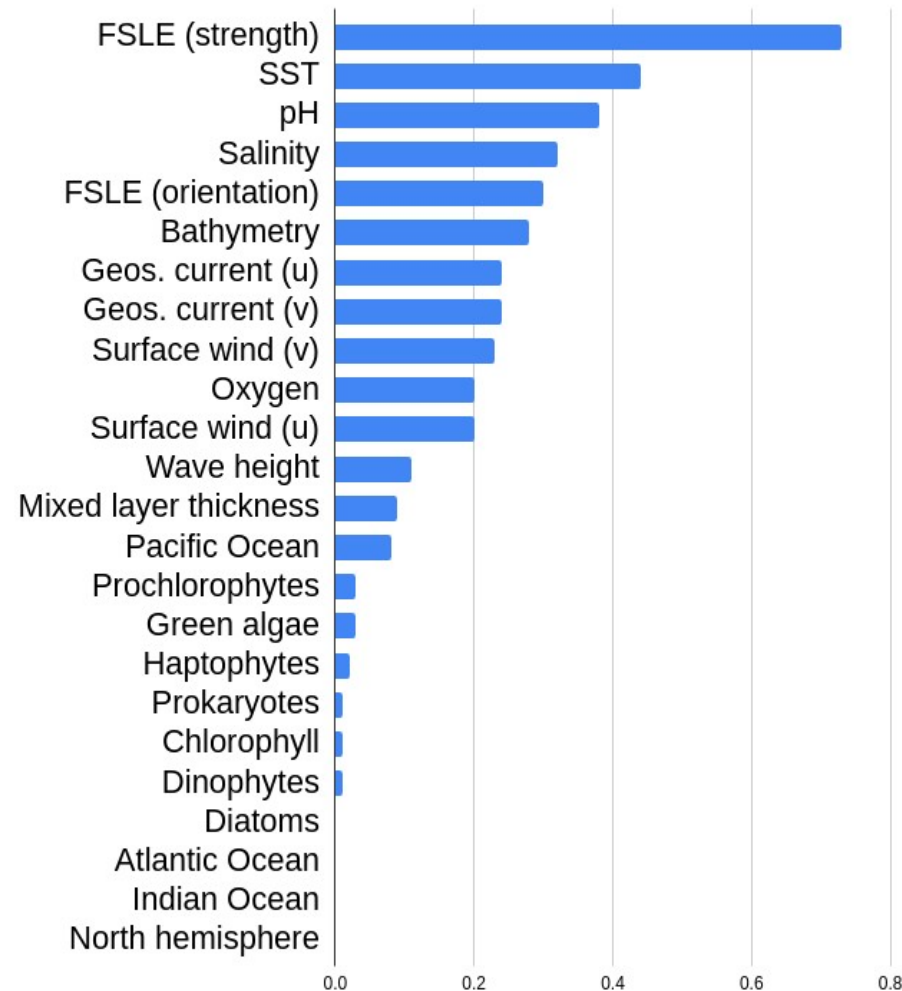
# Most important insight



~~Predictive power~~

Influence of variables

Median integrated gradient



# Thank you



GEOBON

CEOS

esa

# Peer Community Journal

Section: Ecology

## Predicting species distributions in the open ocean with convolutional neural networks

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Contact: [gaetan.morand@umontpellier.fr](mailto:gaetan.morand@umontpellier.fr)

Future work:

**Include multiple modalities in the model: satellite imagery and scalar time series.**

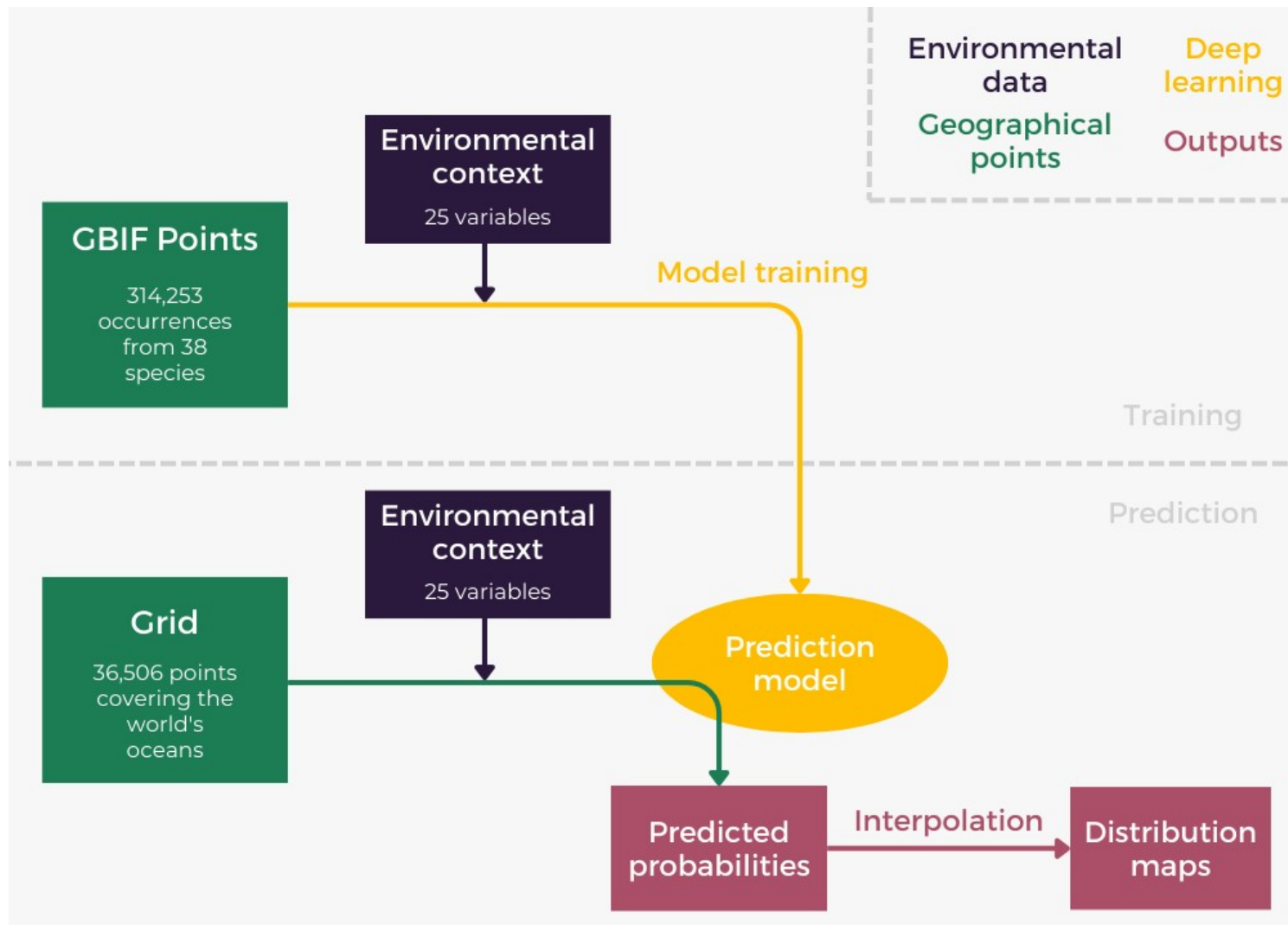
Recommendations for data producers:

- Maintain data access protocols in the long term
- Maximize duration and geographical coverage





# Appendix: Pipeline



# Appendix: Genera



English name	Taxonomic name	N samples	DOI
Yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	9,998	10.15468/dl.gr2wbb
Longfin tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	9,991	10.15468/dl.aqjv3y
Atlantic bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	8,908	10.15468/dl.nnyeyb
Southern bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>	2,022	10.15468/dl.tw97qj
Bigeye tuna	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	9,999	10.15468/dl.c96qpp
Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	9,986	10.15468/dl.6y2zzm
Frigate Tuna	<i>Auxis thazard</i>	4,855	10.15468/dl.kfm6kq
Sailfish	<i>Istiophorus</i>	9,996	10.15468/dl.f48dug
Black marlin	<i>Istiompax indica</i>	705	10.15468/dl.b5acky
Blue marlin	<i>Makaira</i>	2,767	10.15468/dl.sygtaw
Swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	9,996	10.15468/dl.hazqd2
Dolphinfish	<i>Coryphaena</i>	9,992	10.15468/dl.q67bqt
Humphead wrasse	<i>Cheilinus undulatus</i>	2,446	10.15468/dl.9g76hq
Oceanic Whitetip	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	2,160	10.15468/dl.b5ws4q
Whitetip	<i>Carcharhinus albimarginatus</i>	9,991	10.15468/dl.vpc772
Silk shark	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	9,998	10.15468/dl.vg4rwh
Sandbar shark	<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	9,993	10.15468/dl.7fczpa
Grey reef shark	<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>	10,000	10.15468/dl.ccqyws
Mako shark	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	6,240	10.15468/dl.h5akxk
Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	9,973	10.15468/dl.zqkssk
Devil ray	<i>Mobula mobular</i>	1,064	10.15468/dl.p4e2sx
Reef manta	<i>Mobula alfredi</i>	7,928	10.15468/dl.bkjkgu
Eagle ray	<i>Myliobatis</i>	9,974	10.15468/dl.3u3v7k

Humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	9,980	10.15468/dl.yzg4n3
Fin whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	9,996	10.15468/dl.r9kaq8
Blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	9,973	10.15468/dl.28f7xd
Bottlenose	<i>Tursiops</i>	9,952	10.15468/dl.bec9p4
Spinner dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	7,394	10.15468/dl.xz5eds
Common dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	9,974	10.15468/dl.u5be7v
Sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	9,984	10.15468/dl.7pf4ue
Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	9,937	10.15468/dl.afr2fn
Southern right whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	9,963	10.15468/dl.e3hdkj
Green turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	9,835	10.15468/dl.6gs9rp
Loggerhead	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	9,941	10.15468/dl.dmb6ds
Hawksbill turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	9,721	10.15468/dl.e6w44w
Emperor penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>	9,981	10.15468/dl.s5unhs
Wedge-tailed shearwater	<i>Puffinus pacificus</i>	9,964	10.15468/dl.vyztue
Acropora coral	<i>Acropora</i>	8,676	10.15468/dl.vg752f



# Appendix: Variables



Variable	Source	Source type	Res.	Time Res.	Unit
Bathymetry	GEBCO, 2022	Observations	0.0042°		<i>m</i>
Salinity	European Union-CMS, 2020	Observations	0.25°	weekly	<i>P.S.U.</i>
Wave Height	European Union-CMS, 2021b	Observations	2°	daily	<i>m</i>
Surface wind (u)	CCMP (Mears et al., 2022)	Observations	0.25°	6 hours	<i>m.s<sup>-1</sup></i>
Surface wind (v)	CCMP (Mears et al., 2022)	Observations	0.25°	6 hours	<i>m.s<sup>-1</sup></i>
Oxygen	European Union-CMS, 2018, 2019	Models	0.25°	daily	<i>mmol.m<sup>-3</sup></i>
pH	European Union-CMS, 2018, 2019	Models	0.25°	monthly	
FSLEs (strength)	LOCEAN/CLS/CTOH/CNES, 2021	Observations	0.04°	daily	<i>days<sup>-1</sup></i>
FSLEs (orientation)	LOCEAN/CLS/CTOH/CNES, 2021	Observations	0.04°	daily	<i>degrees</i>
Geostrophic Current (u)	European Union-CMS, 2017, 2021a	Observations	0.25°	daily	<i>m.s<sup>-1</sup></i>
Geostrophic Current (v)	European Union-CMS, 2017, 2021a	Observations	0.25°	daily	<i>m.s<sup>-1</sup></i>
Eddy kinetic energy	Calculated		0.25°	daily	<i>m<sup>2</sup>.s<sup>-2</sup></i>
Chlorophyll	OCCI (Sathyendranath et al., 2021)	Observations	0.042°	daily	<i>mg.m<sup>-3</sup></i>
Chlorophyll (D-5)	OCCI (Sathyendranath et al., 2021)	Observations	0.042°	daily	<i>mg.m<sup>-3</sup></i>
Chlorophyll (D-15)	OCCI (Sathyendranath et al., 2021)	Observations	0.042°	daily	<i>mg.m<sup>-3</sup></i>
SST	MUR (NASA/JPL, 2019)	Observations	0.25°	daily	<i>kelvin</i>
SST (D-5)	MUR (NASA/JPL, 2019)	Observations	0.25°	daily	<i>kelvin</i>
SST (D-15)	MUR (NASA/JPL, 2019)	Observations	0.25°	daily	<i>kelvin</i>
Mixed layer thickness	European Union-CMS, 2020	Observations	0.25°	weekly	<i>m</i>
Diatoms	European Union-CMS, 2022	Observations	4km	monthly	<i>mg.m<sup>-3</sup></i>
Dinophytes	European Union-CMS, 2022	Observations	4km	monthly	<i>mg.m<sup>-3</sup></i>
Haptophytes	European Union-CMS, 2022	Observations	4km	monthly	<i>mg.m<sup>-3</sup></i>
Green algae	European Union-CMS, 2022	Observations	4km	monthly	<i>mg.m<sup>-3</sup></i>
Prochlorophytes	European Union-CMS, 2022	Observations	4km	monthly	<i>mg.m<sup>-3</sup></i>
Prokaryotes	European Union-CMS, 2022	Observations	4km	monthly	<i>mg.m<sup>-3</sup></i>
Atlantic Ocean	Calculated				
Indian Ocean	Calculated				
Pacific Ocean	Calculated				
North hemisphere	Calculated				

FSLE (Finite Size Lyapunov Exponents) = rate of separation of particle trajectories

