

# Characteristics Of Meso- and Submeso-scale Features Used by Highly Migratory Marine Predators

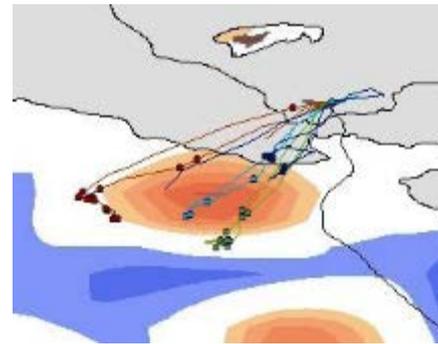
Robert M. Suryan  
Rachael A. Orben

Stephanie A. Loreda  
Jessica M. Porquez

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University



Zamon et al.



Paredes et al.

## Biological enhancement at cyclonic eddies tracked with GOES thermal imagery in Hawaiian waters

Michael P. Seki, Jeffrey J. Polovina, R  
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, SW Fish

Robert R. Bidigare, Carrie L. Leonard  
Department of Oceanography, SOEST, University of

David G. Foley

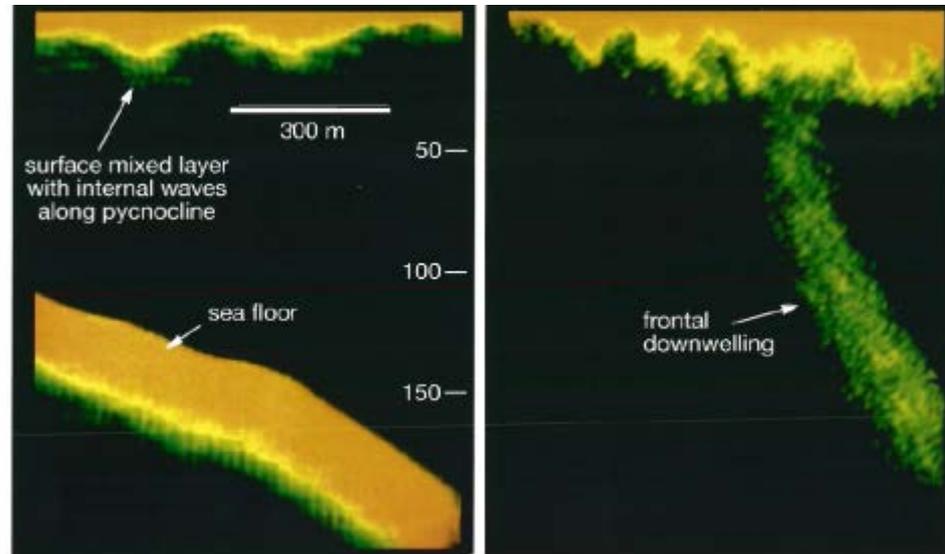
Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research

## Comparative foraging ecology of planktivorous auklets in relation to ocean physics and prey availability

George L. Hunt Jr.<sup>1,\*</sup>, Robert W. Russell<sup>1,\*\*</sup>, Kenneth O. Coyle<sup>2</sup>, Thomas Weingartner<sup>2</sup>

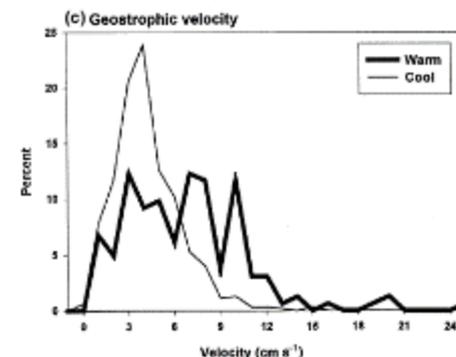
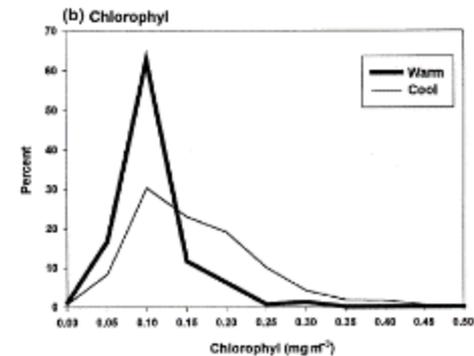
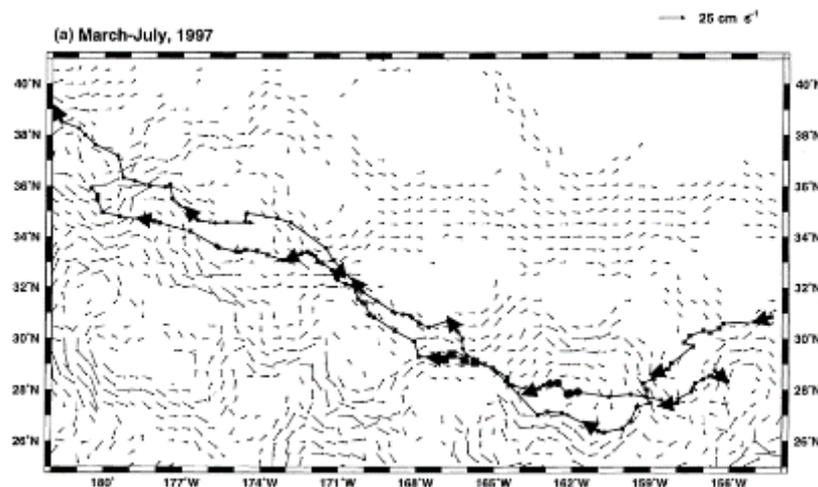
<sup>1</sup>Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine, California 92697, USA

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775, USA

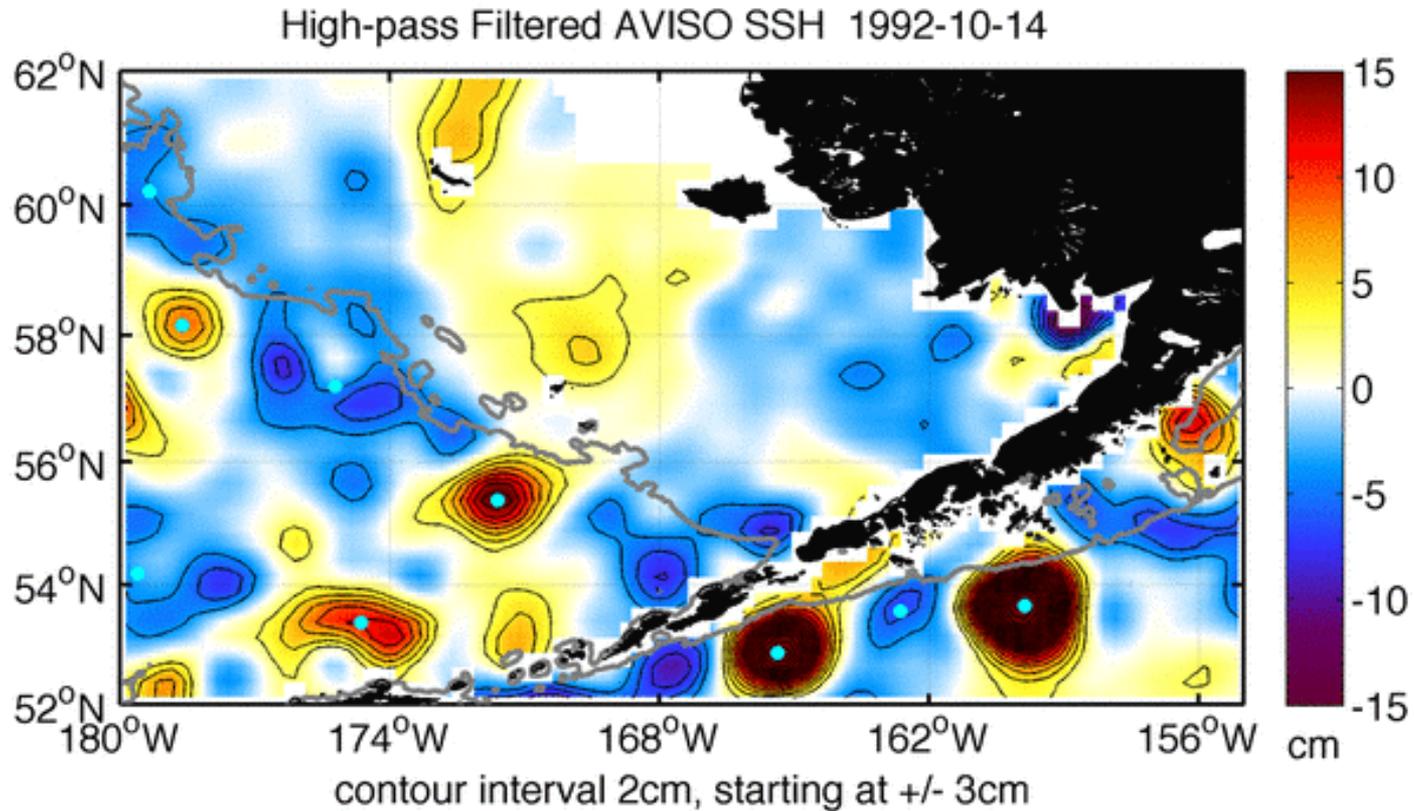


# Turtles on the edge: movement of loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) along oceanic fronts, spanning longline fishing grounds in the central North Pacific, 1997–1998

JEFFREY J. POLOVINA,<sup>1,\*</sup>  
 DONALD R. KOBAYASHI,<sup>1</sup>  
 DENISE M. PARKER,<sup>2</sup>  
 MICHAEL P. SEKI<sup>1</sup> AND GEORGE H. BALAZS<sup>1</sup>



# Dynamic Eddies of the SE Bering Sea and Alaska Peninsula



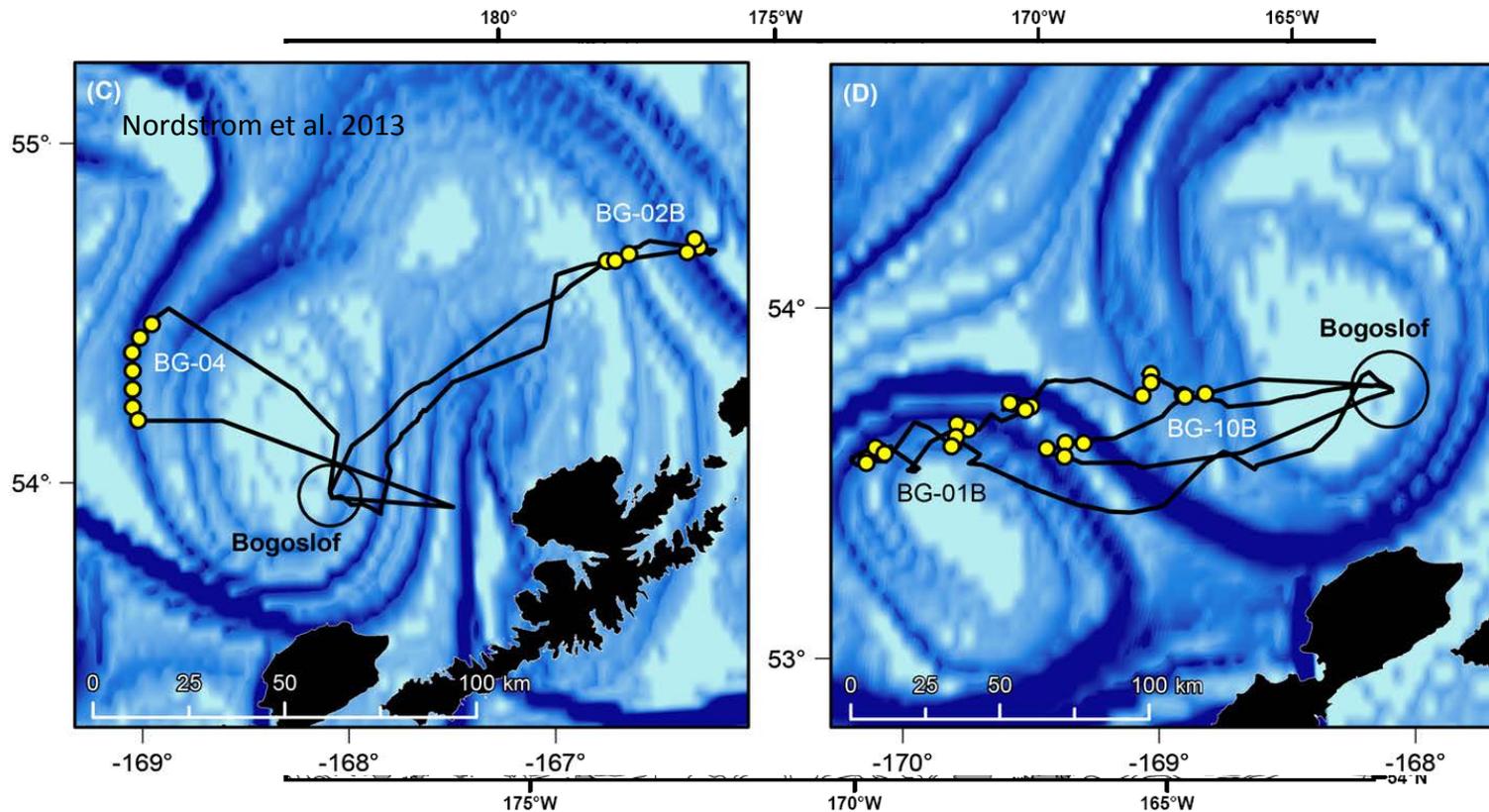
Gaube et al.



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# Northern Fur Seal

- Diving species
- Sensitive to horizontal changes in prey distribution



Sterling et al.

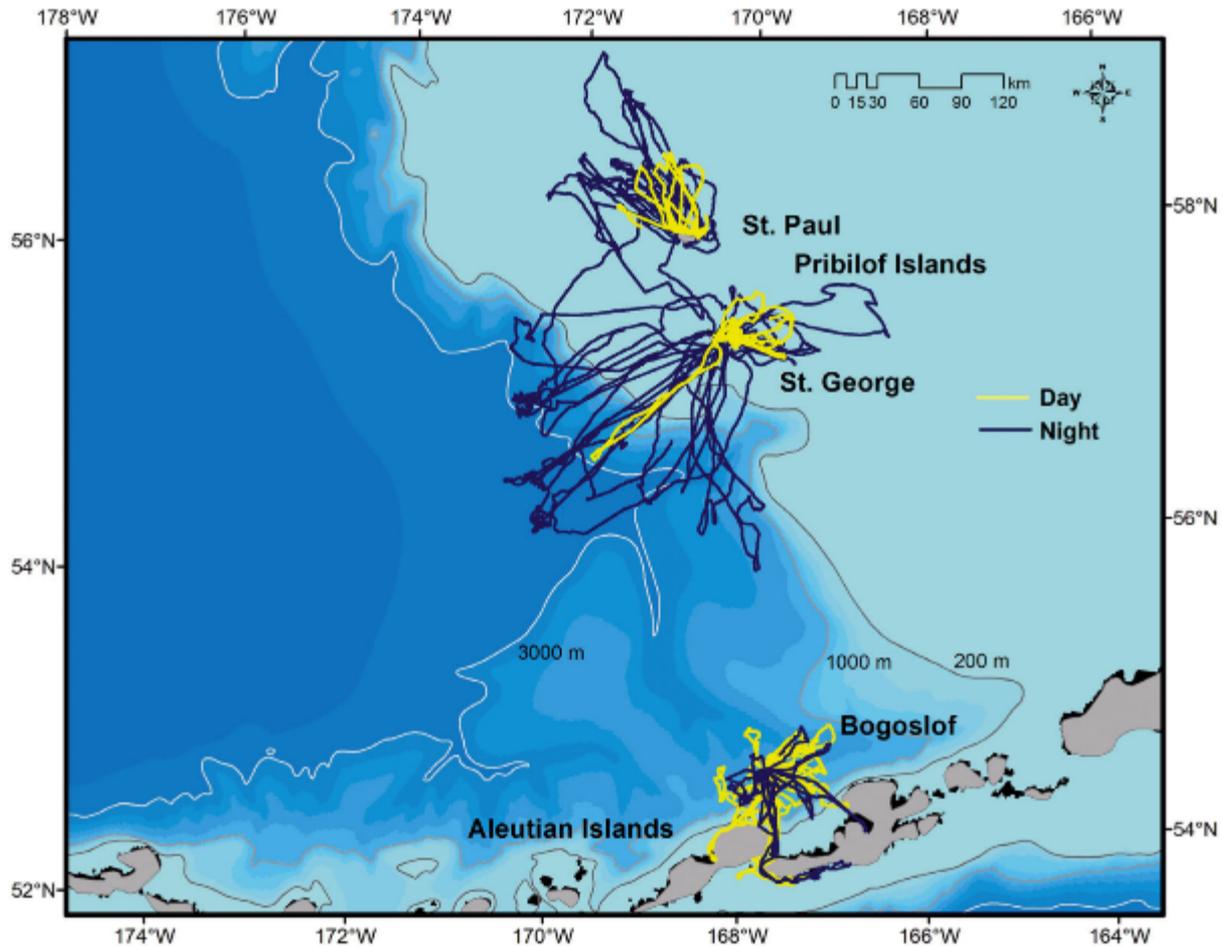
# Black-legged Kittiwake Foraging in the Bering Sea

- Surface-feeding species
- Sensitive to vertical changes in prey distribution

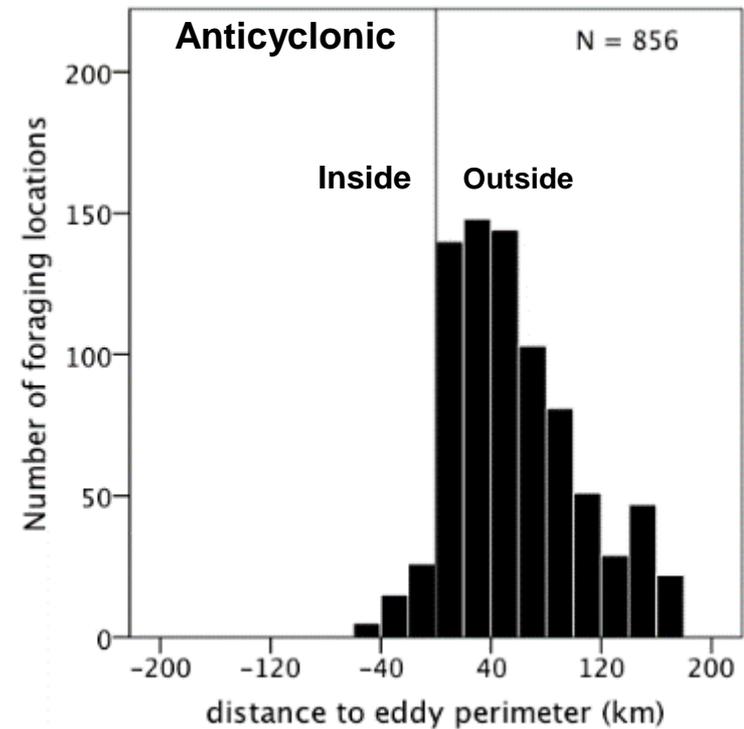
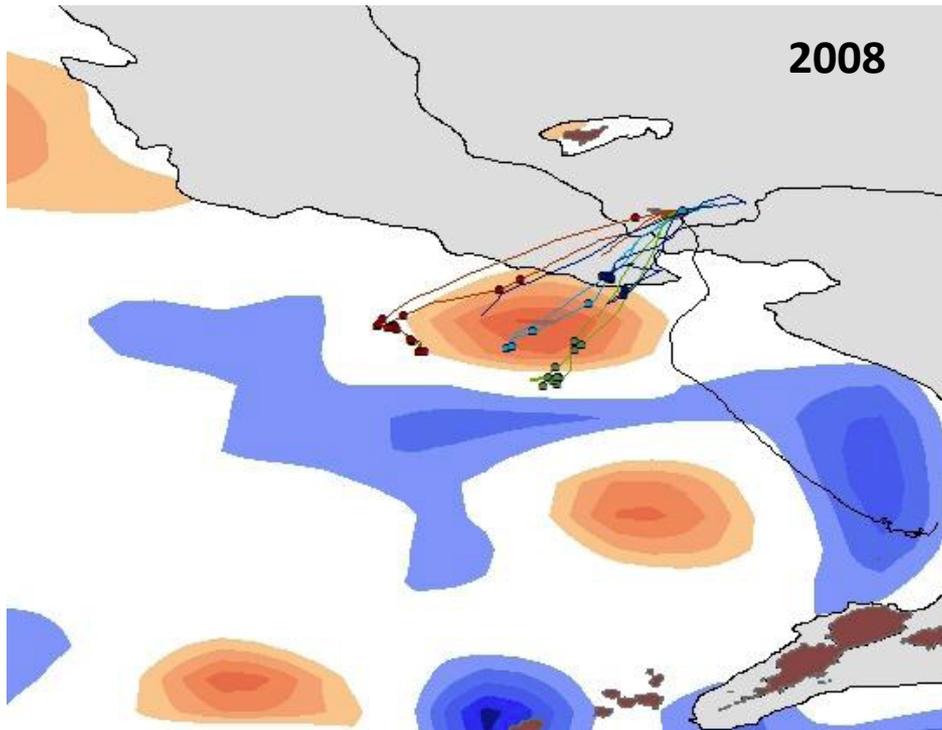




# Kittiwake Foraging Trips



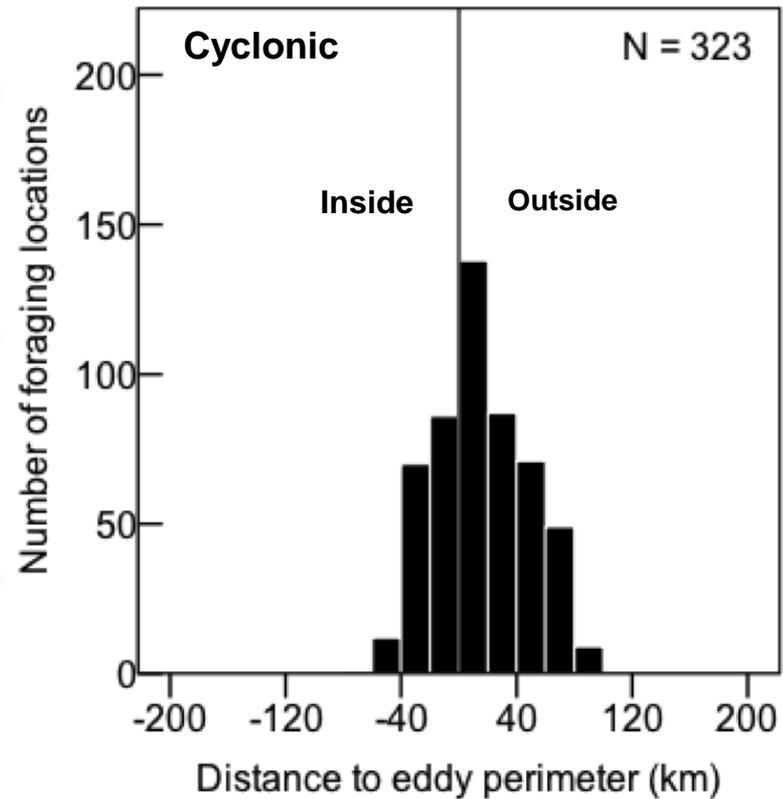
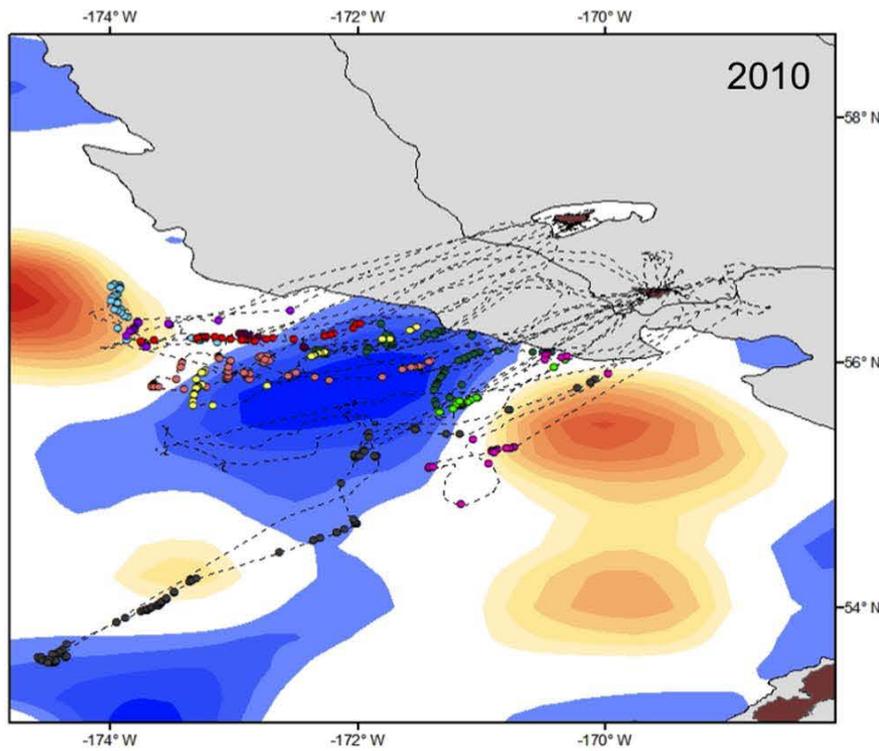
# Foraging in Association With Eddies



Paredes et al. 2014 PLoS ONE

Eddy data from Chelton, Schlax, and Gaube, OSU, CEOAS (Chelton et al. 2011 Prog. Ocn, 2011 Science)

# Foraging in Association With Eddies



Paredes et al. 2014 PLoS ONE

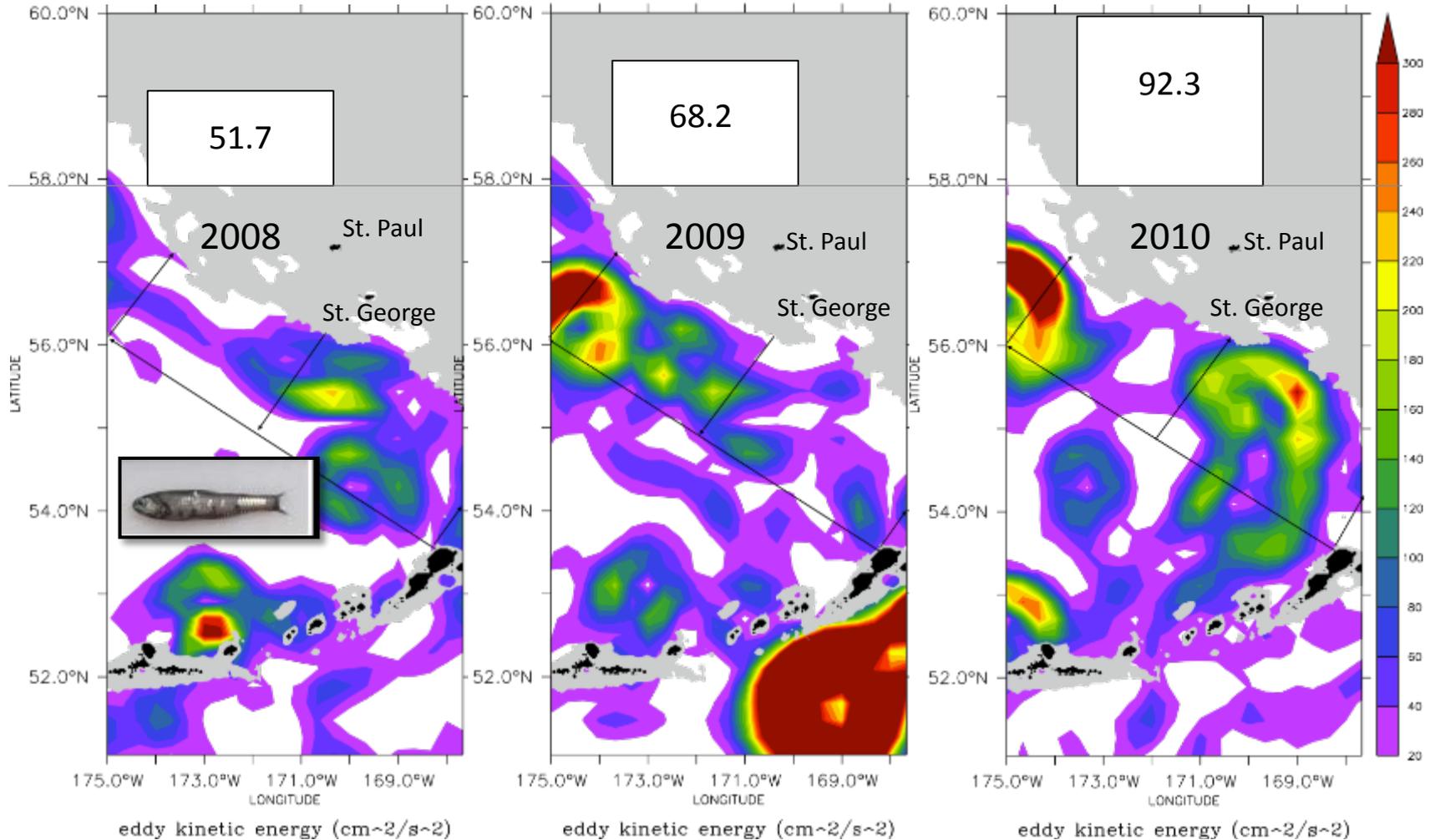
Eddy data from Chelton, Schlax, and Gaube, OSU, CEOAS (Chelton et al. 2011 Prog. Ocn, 2011 Science)



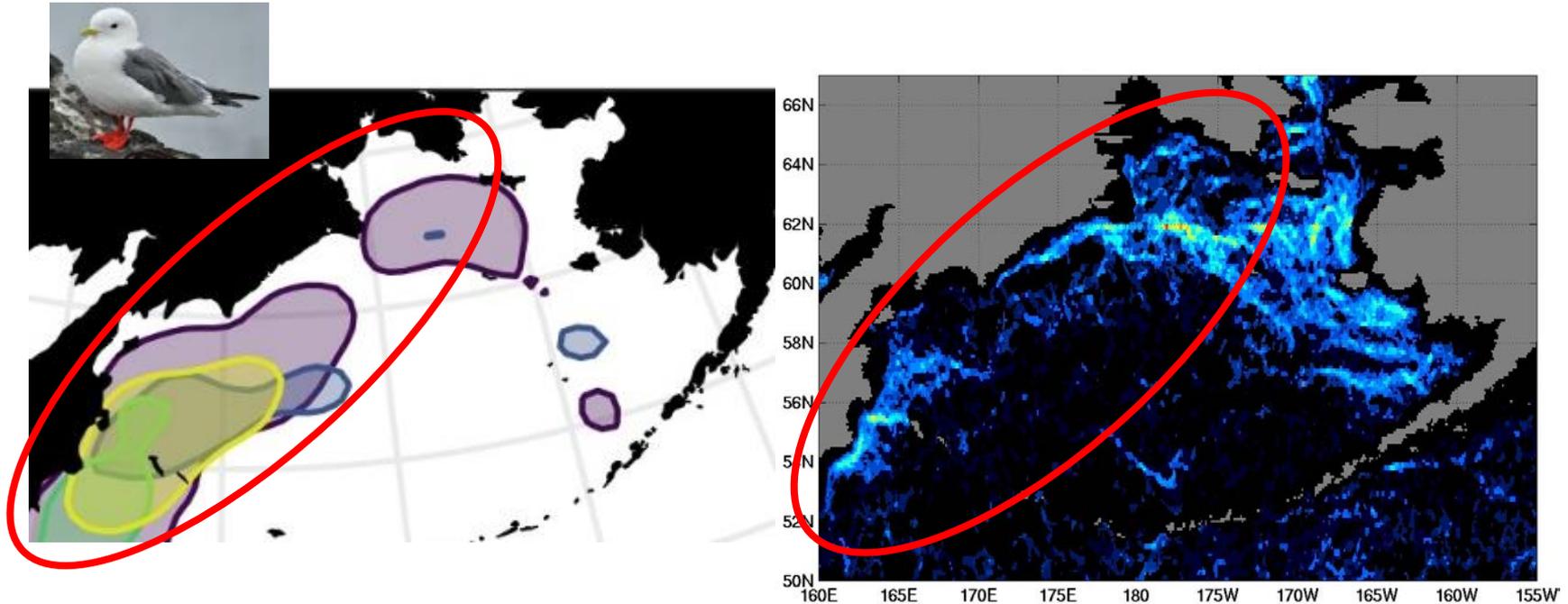
# Eddy Kinetic Energy Varies Among Years



EKE => use of basin



# Red-Legged Kittiwake Foraging and SST Fronts



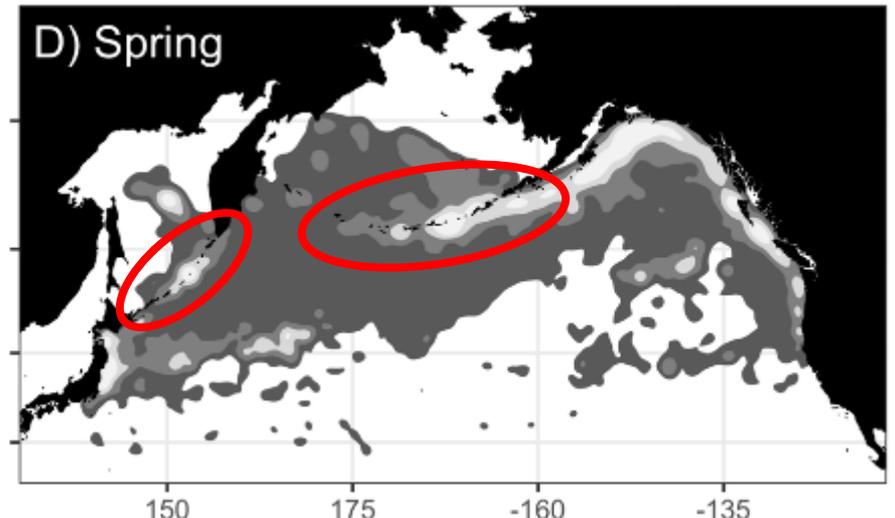
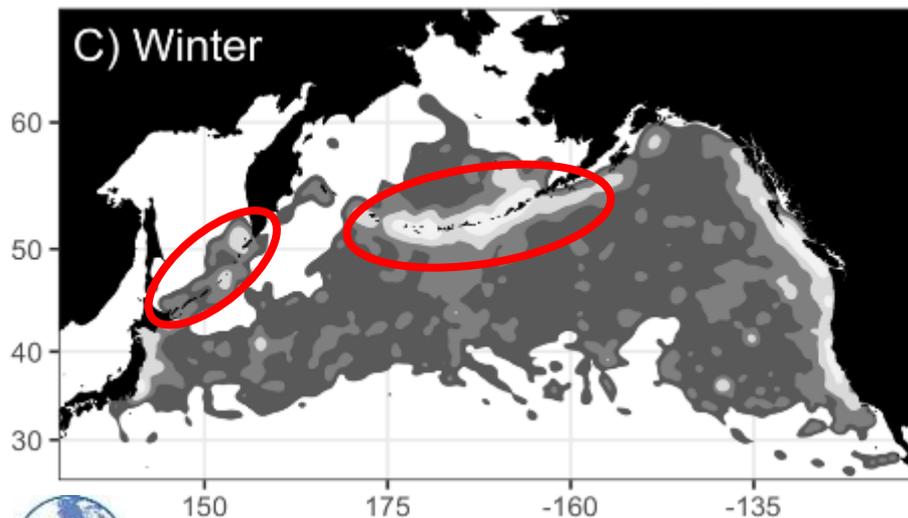
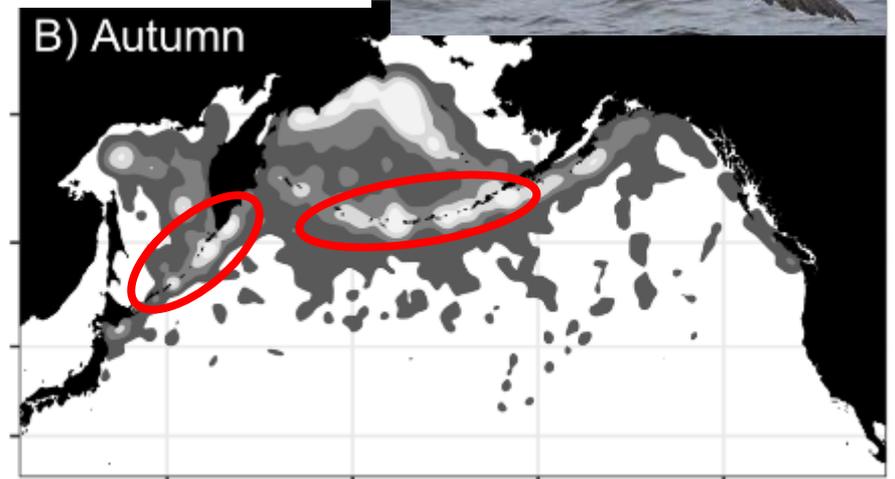
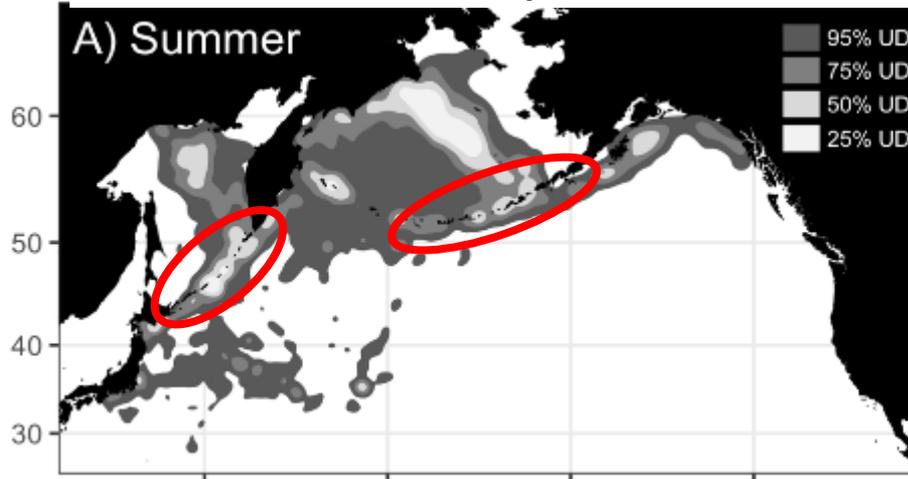
**Core areas for individually-tracked Red-Legged Kittiwakes**

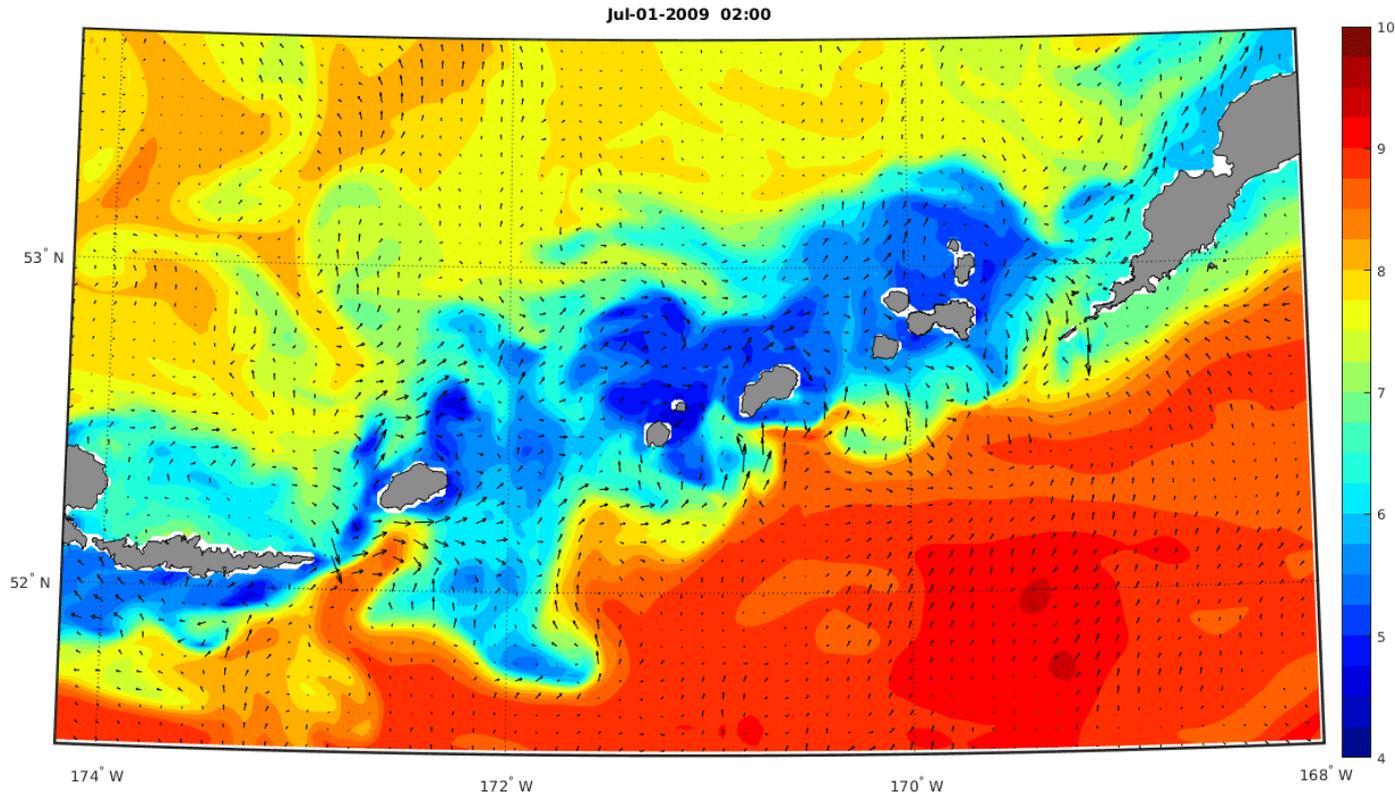
(Orben et al 2015 J. Bio. Geogr., unpubl data)

**SST front frequency in the Bering Sea, November, 1985–1996.**

(Belkin and Cornillon 2005 Pac. Ocn.)

# Tidally & Topographically Driven Meso-Scale Features Used by Short-tailed Albatross

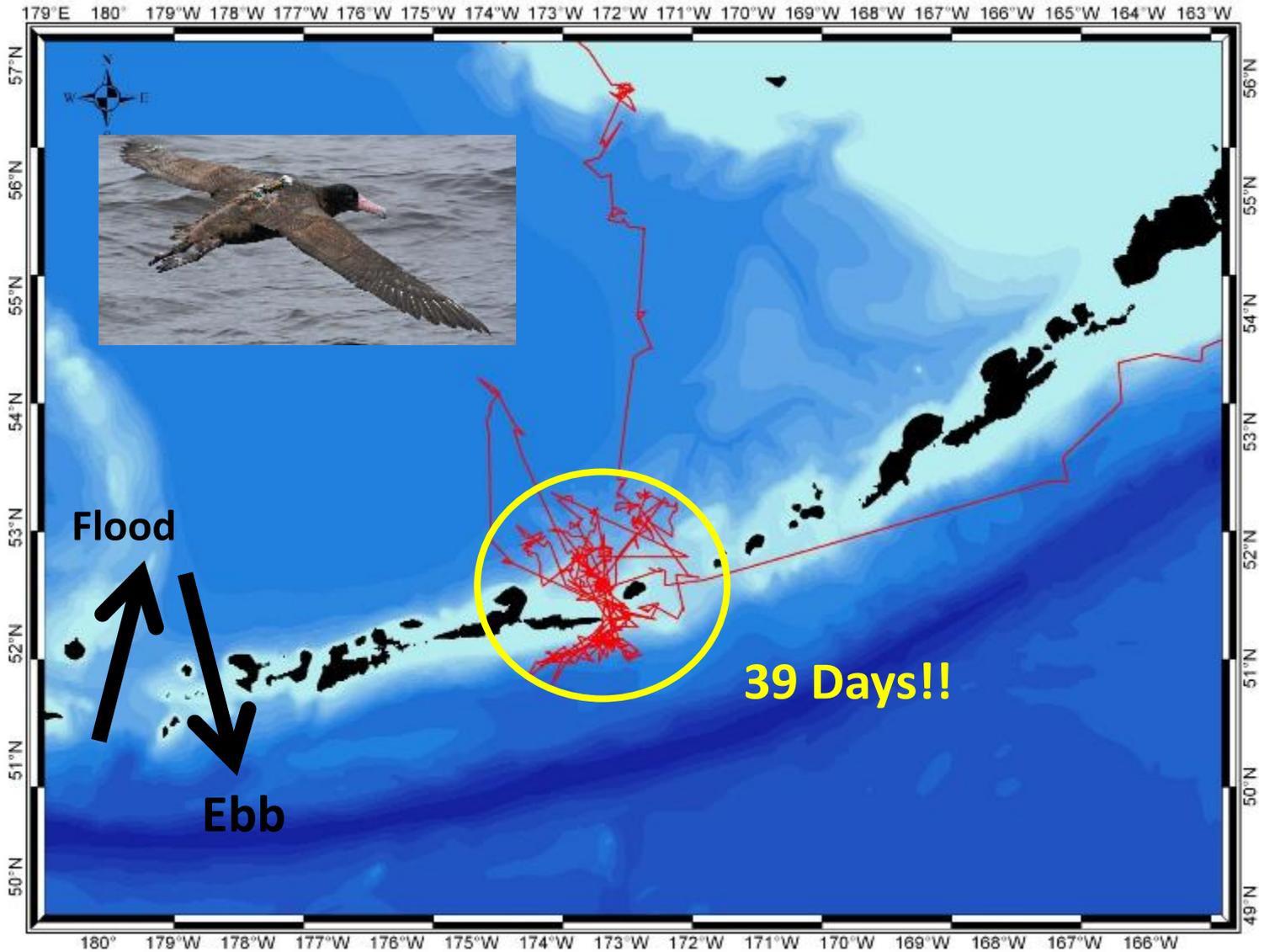




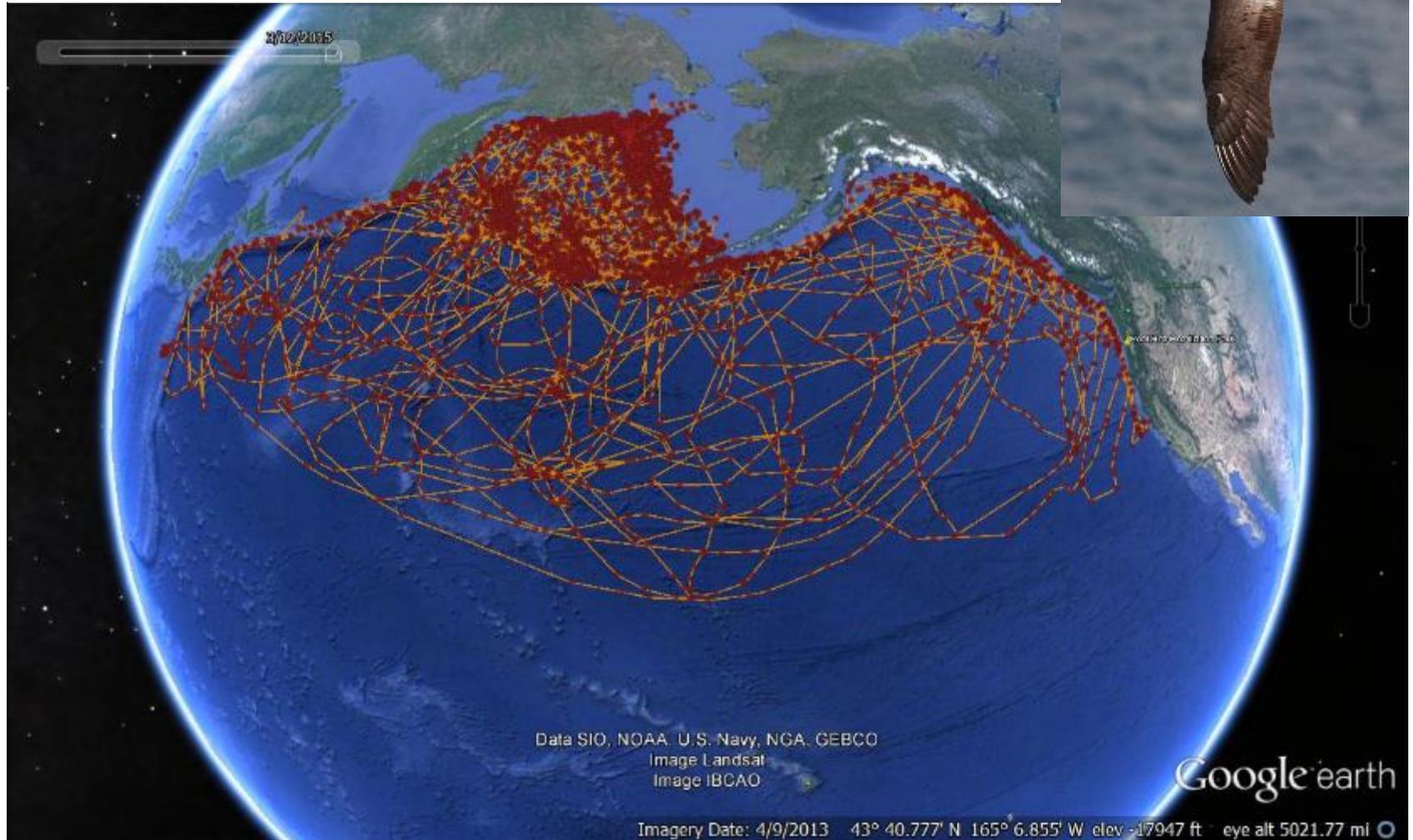
## ROMS Simulation 2km Resolution Temperature & surface currents - tides included

[http://ingria.coas.oregonstate.edu/news/Amukta\\_pass.html](http://ingria.coas.oregonstate.edu/news/Amukta_pass.html)

Scott Durski, Coastal Ocean Modeling, Oregon State University

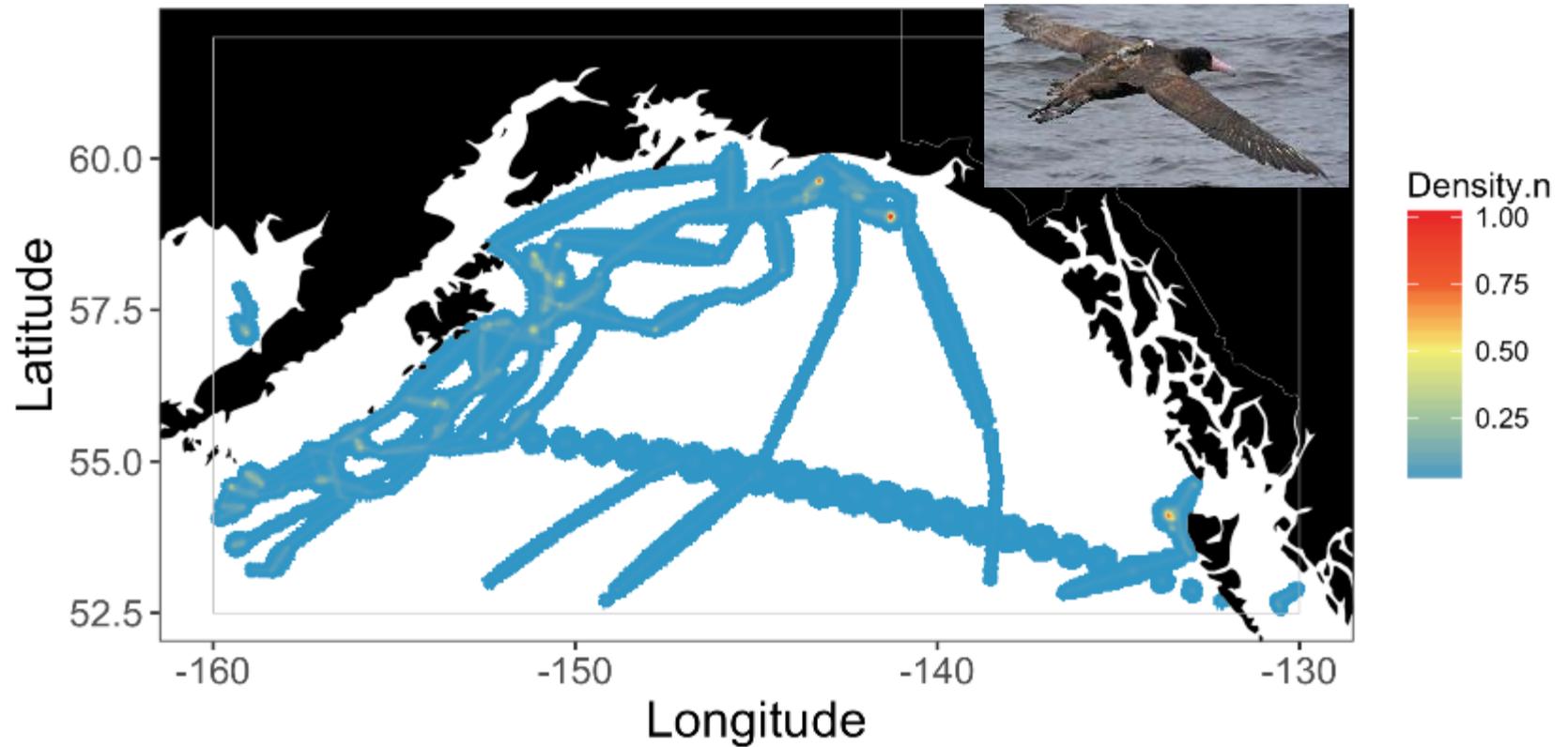


# 1 Individual Short-tailed Albatross tracked for 5 years



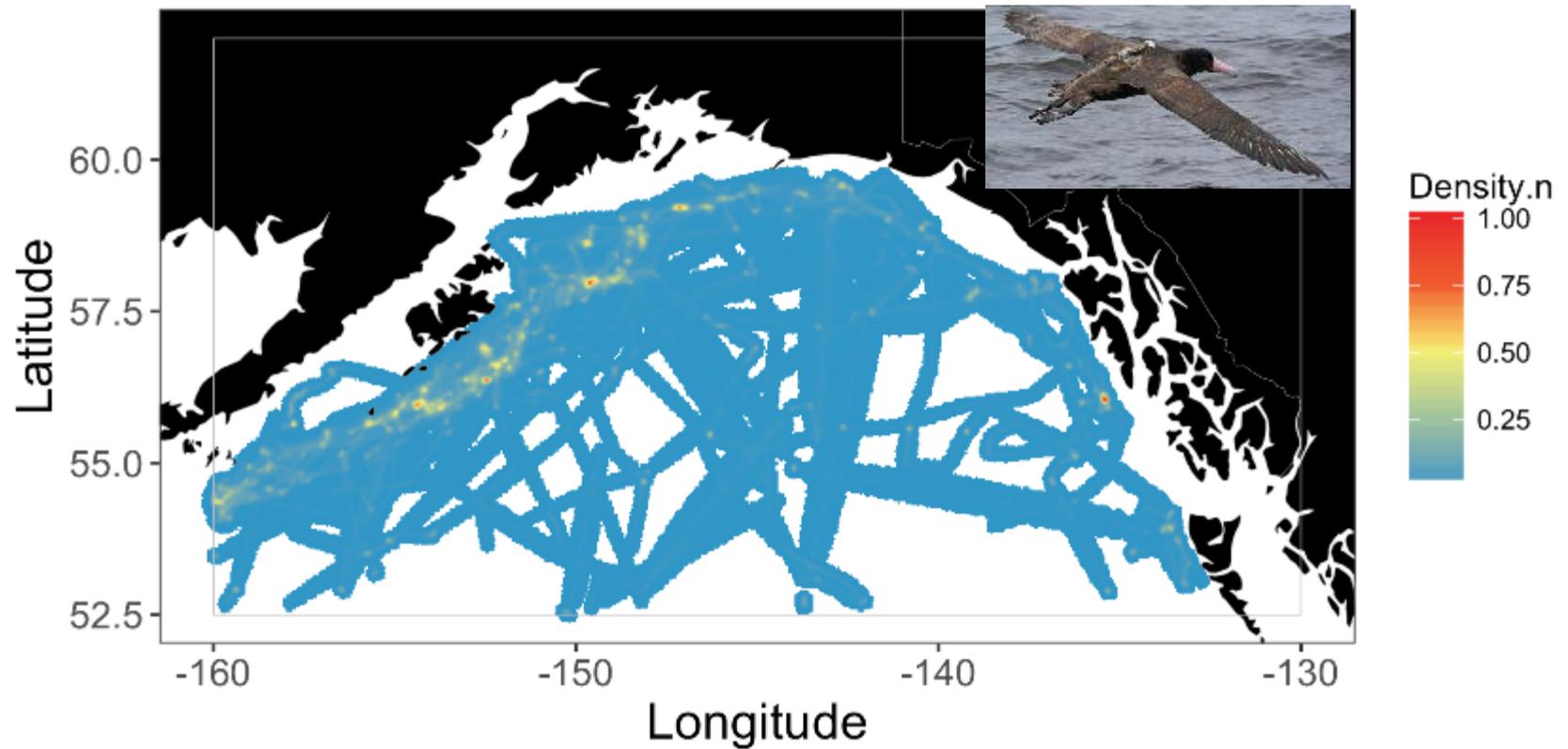
# Brownian Bridge distribution of Short-tailed Albatrosses – Gulf of Alaska

## 2009



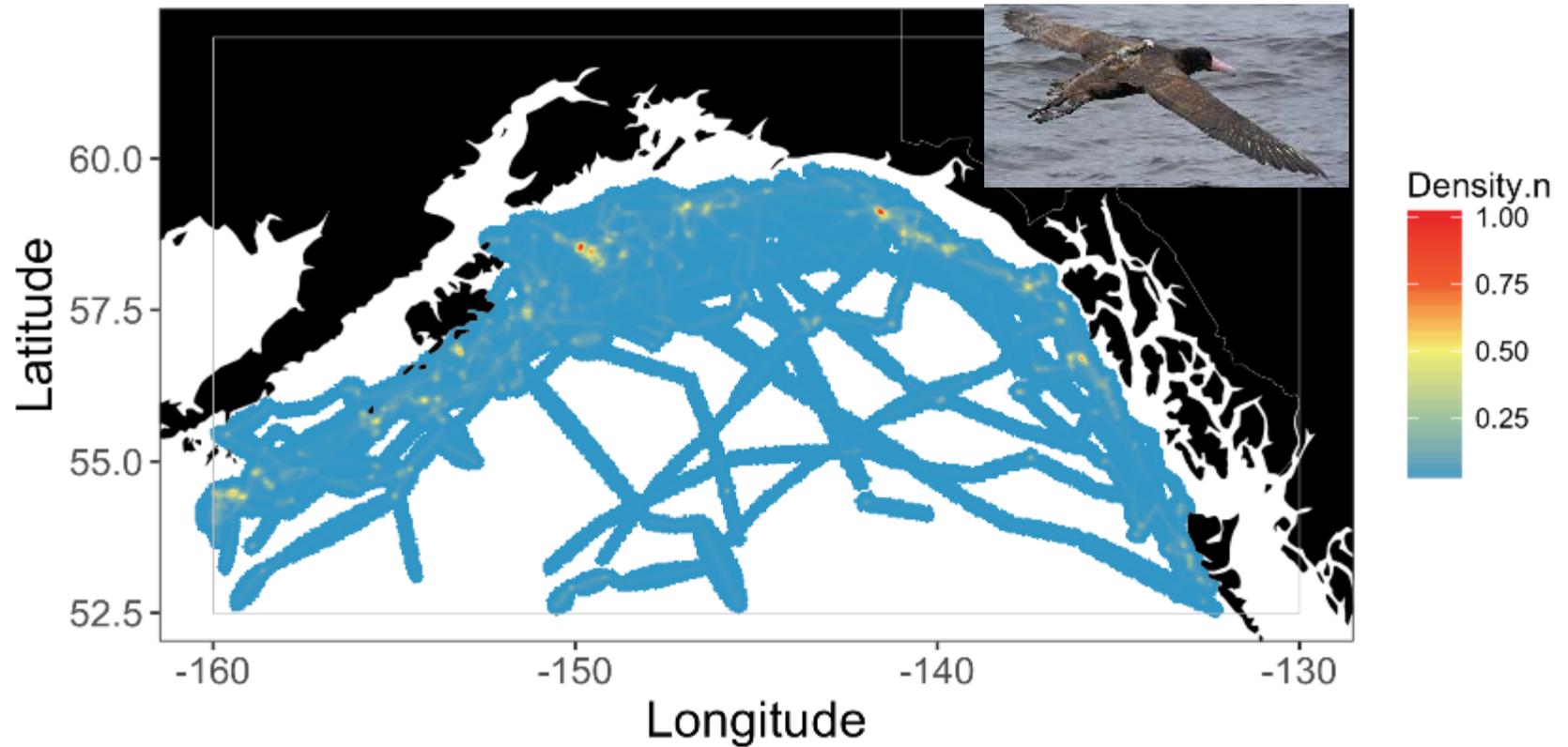
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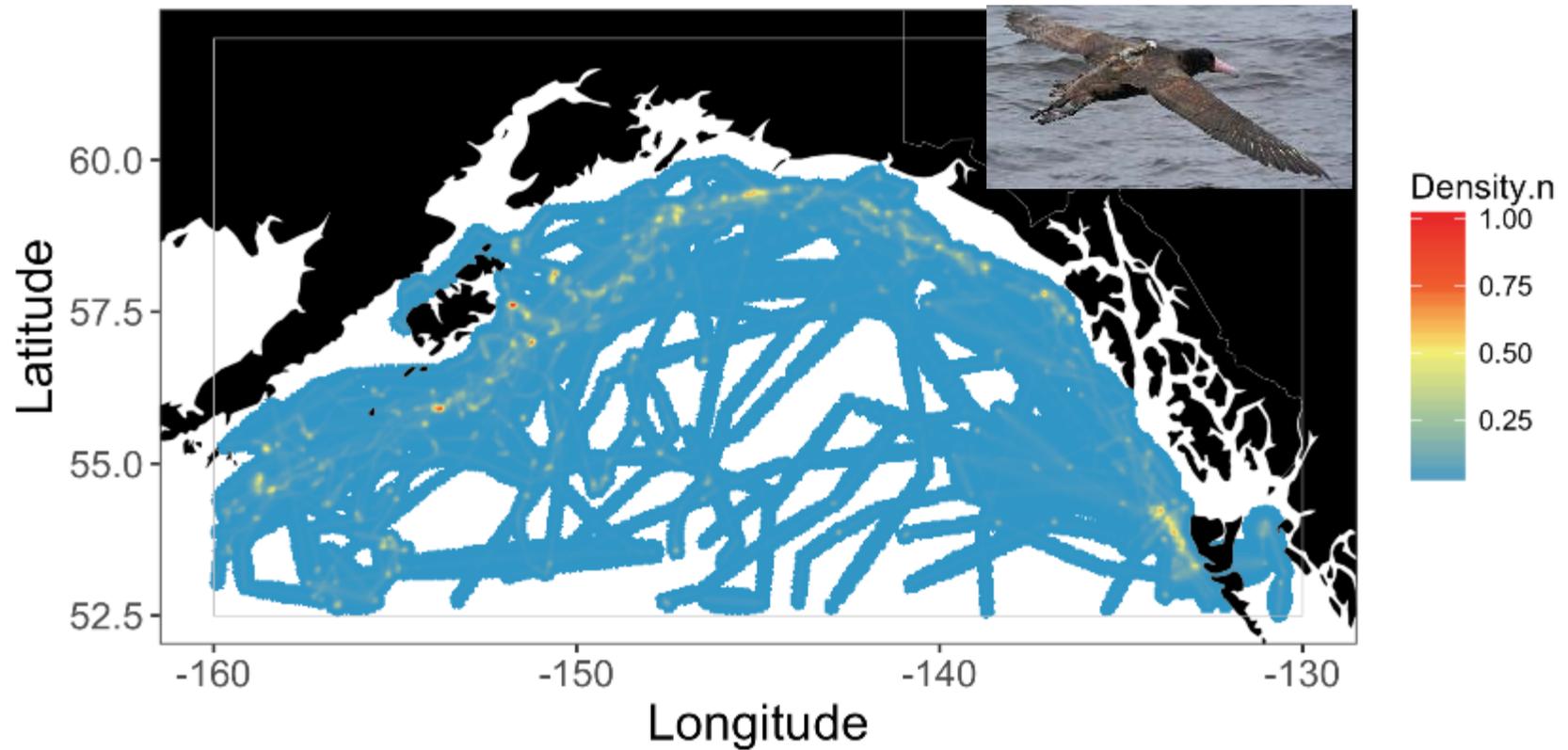
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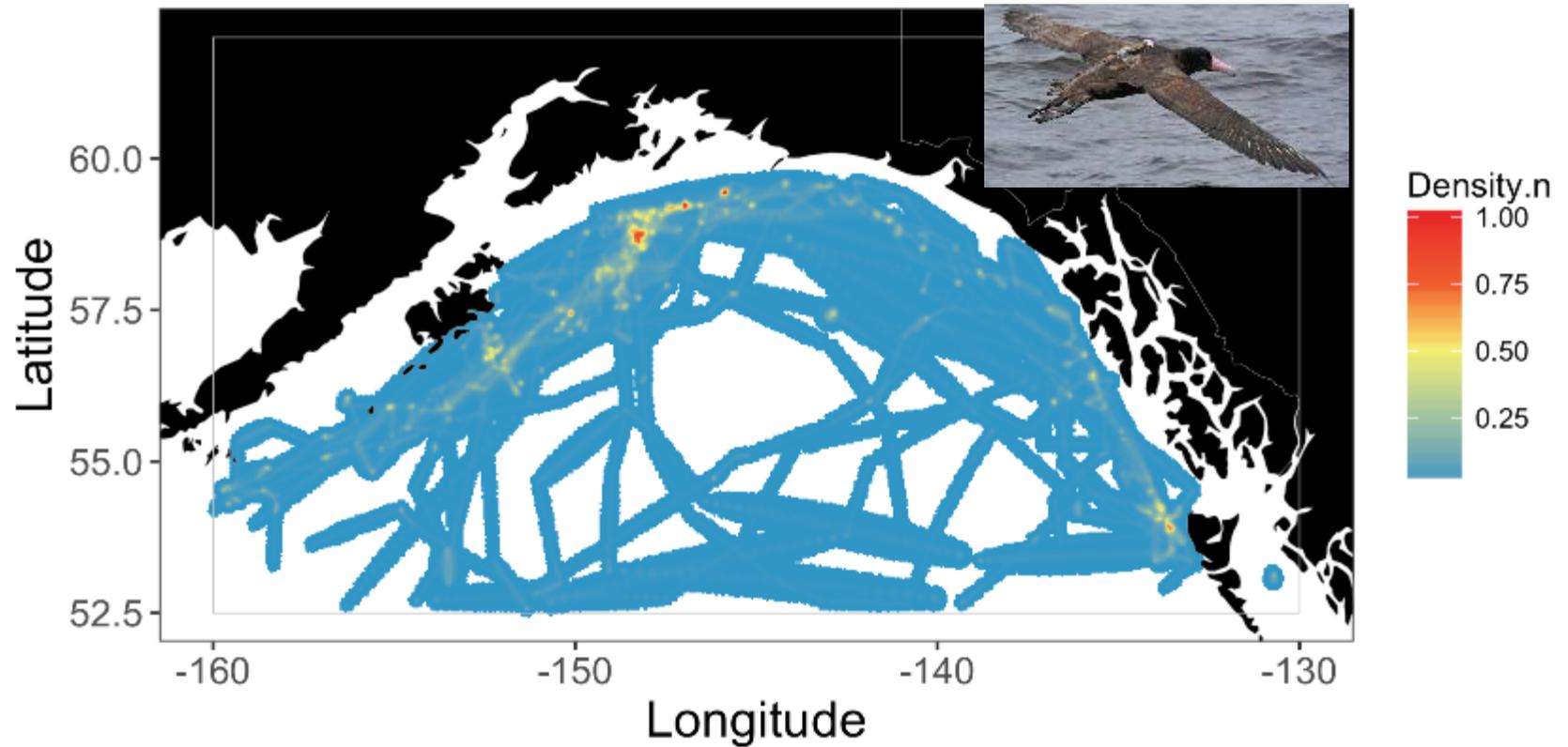
# Brownian Bridge distribution of Short-tailed Albatrosses – Gulf of Alaska

## 2012



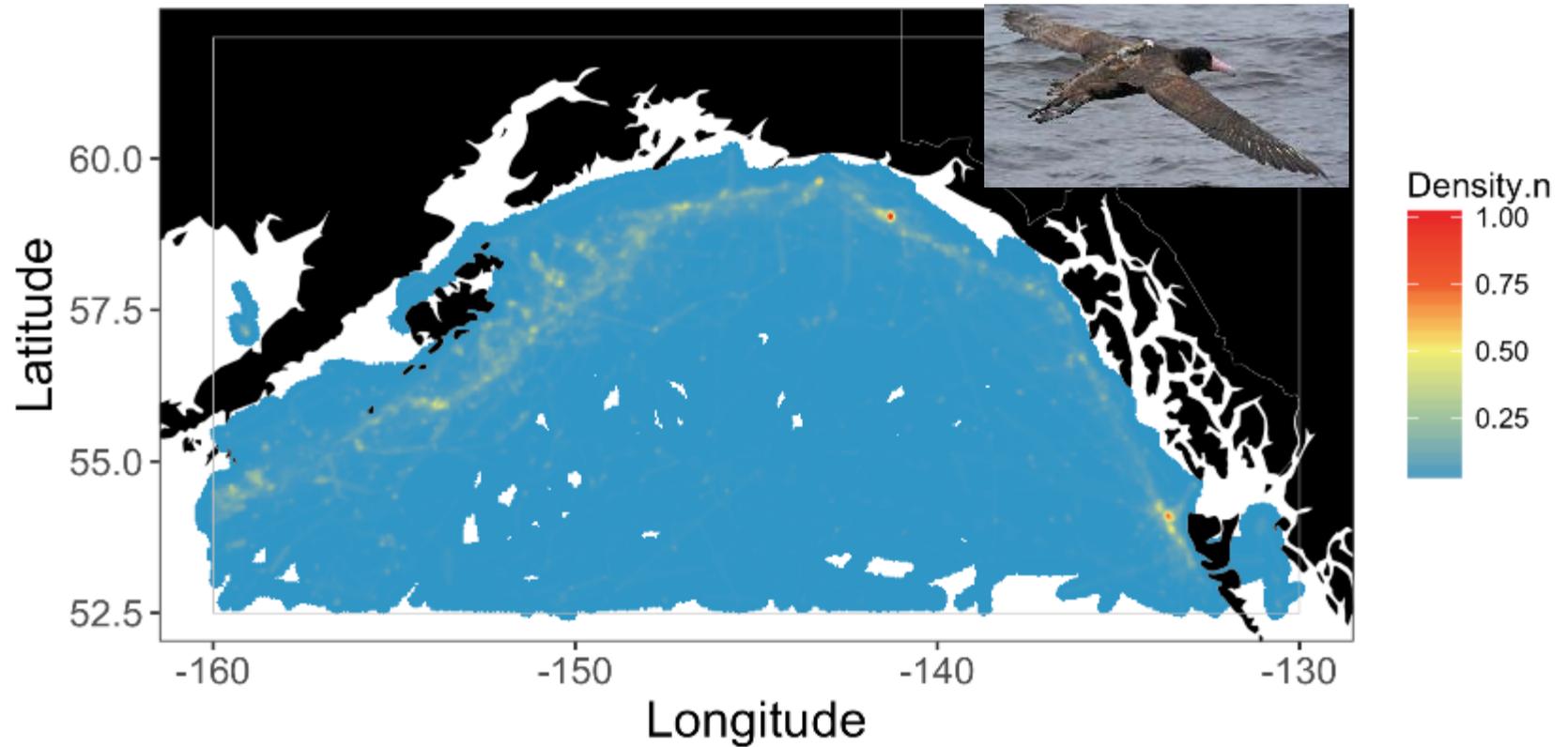
# Brownian Bridge distribution of Short-tailed Albatrosses – Gulf of Alaska

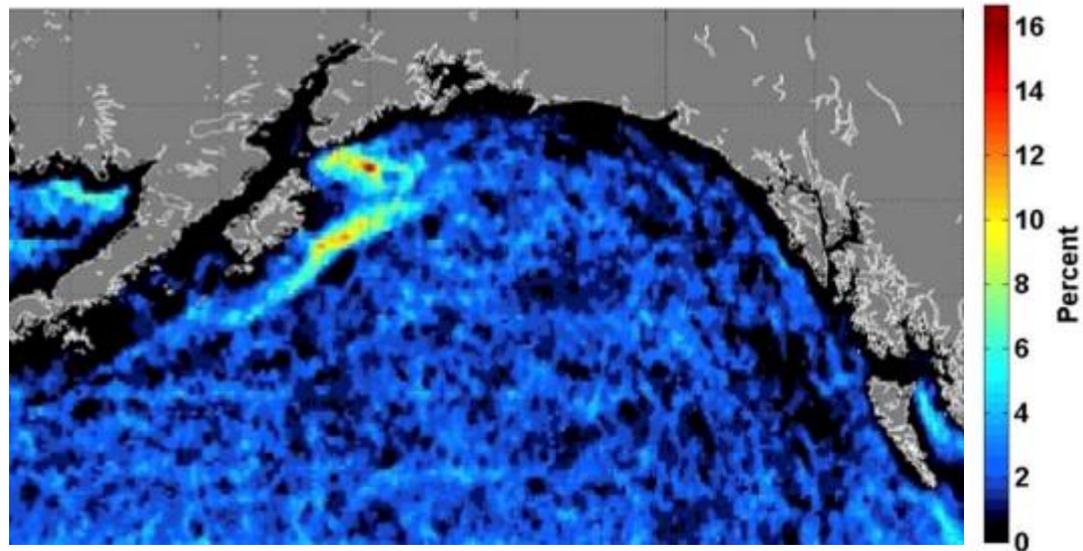
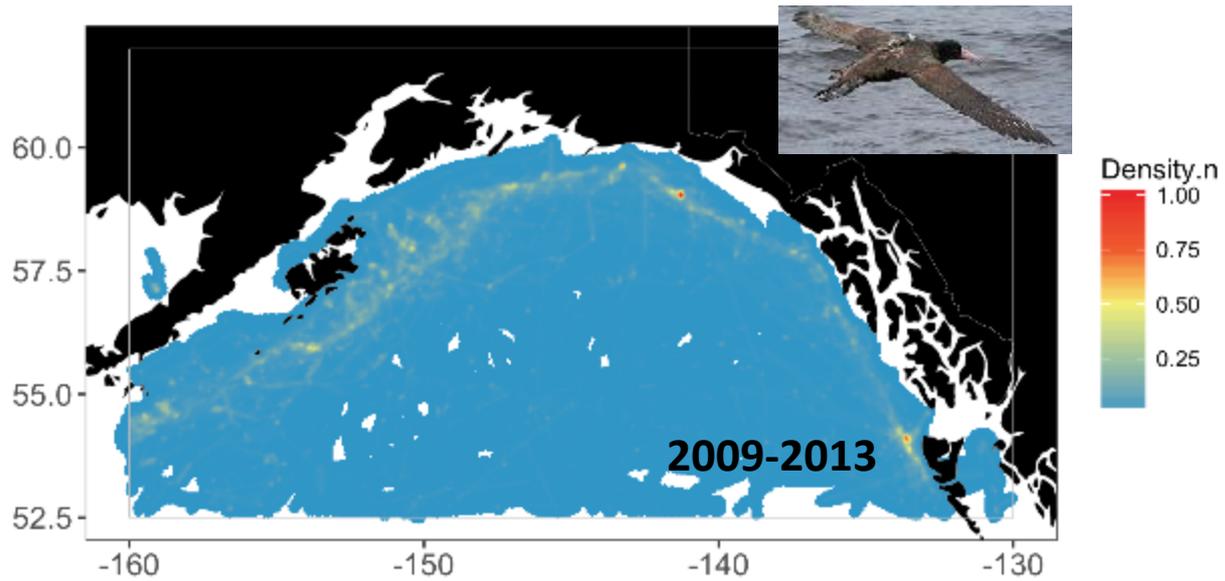
## 2013



# Brownian Bridge distribution of Short-tailed Albatrosses – Gulf of Alaska

## 2009-2013



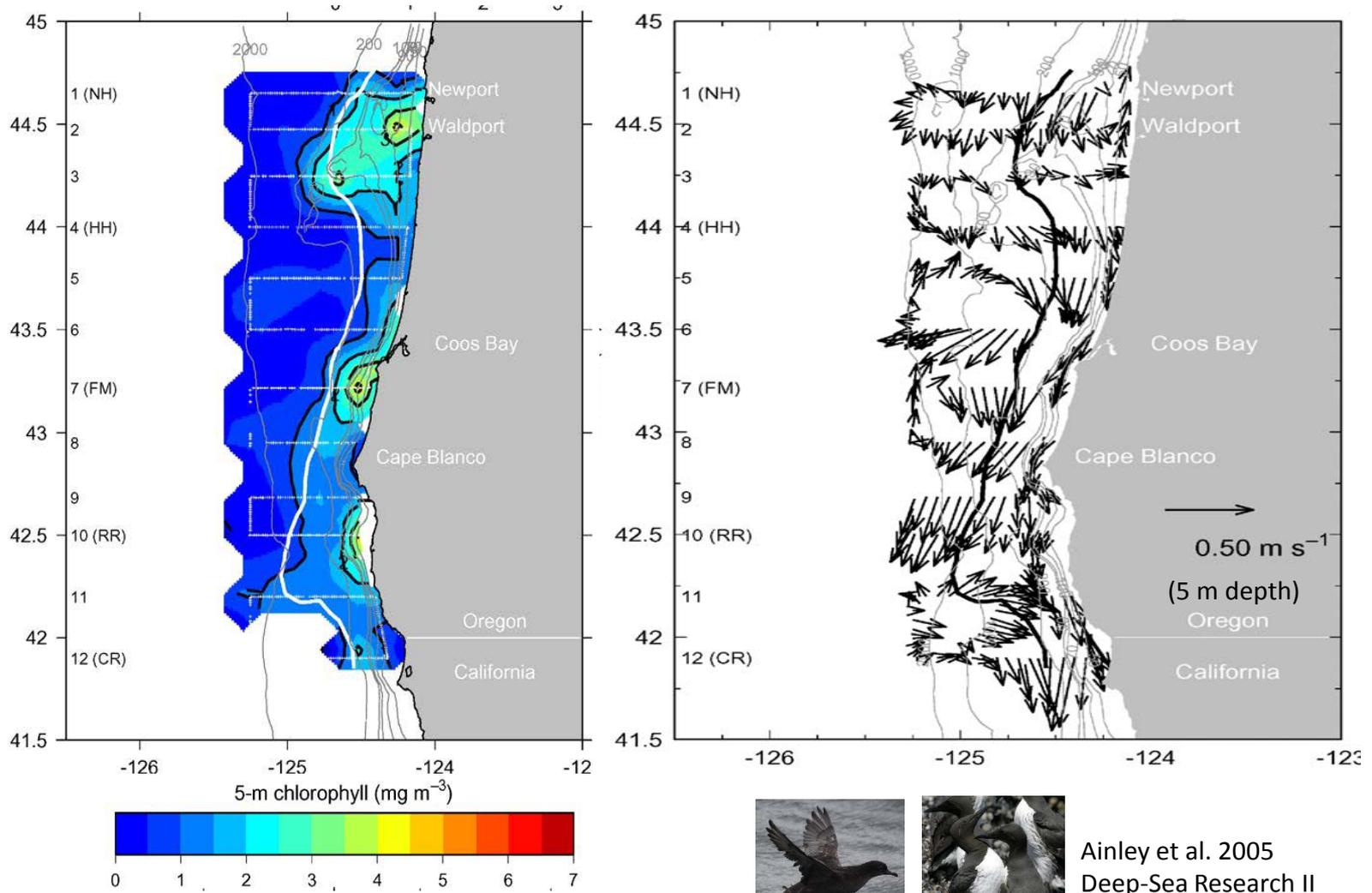


**SST front frequency in the Gulf of Alaska, August, 1985–1996.**  
(Belkin and Cornillon 2003 Phys. Ocn.)

# Vessel-based Observations



# Heceta Bank – Marine Important Bird Area



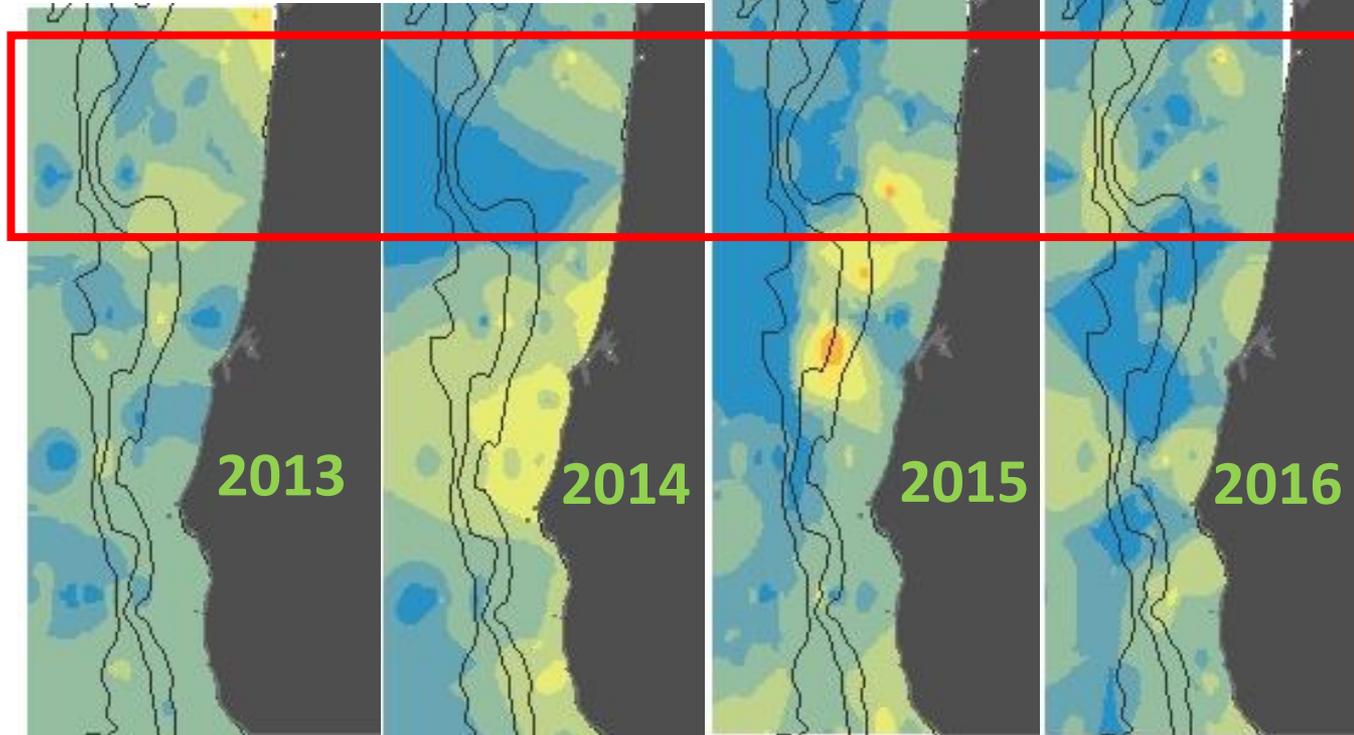
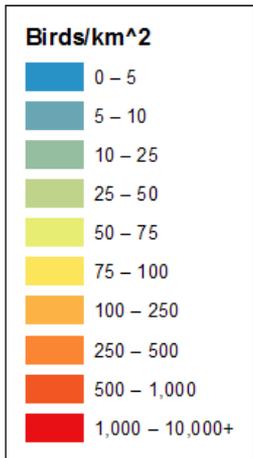
Ainley et al. 2005  
Deep-Sea Research II

# Seabird Abundance and Distribution at Prominent Meso-scale Features Offshore of Oregon



Columbia River Plume

Heceta Bank



# Columbia River Plume Front

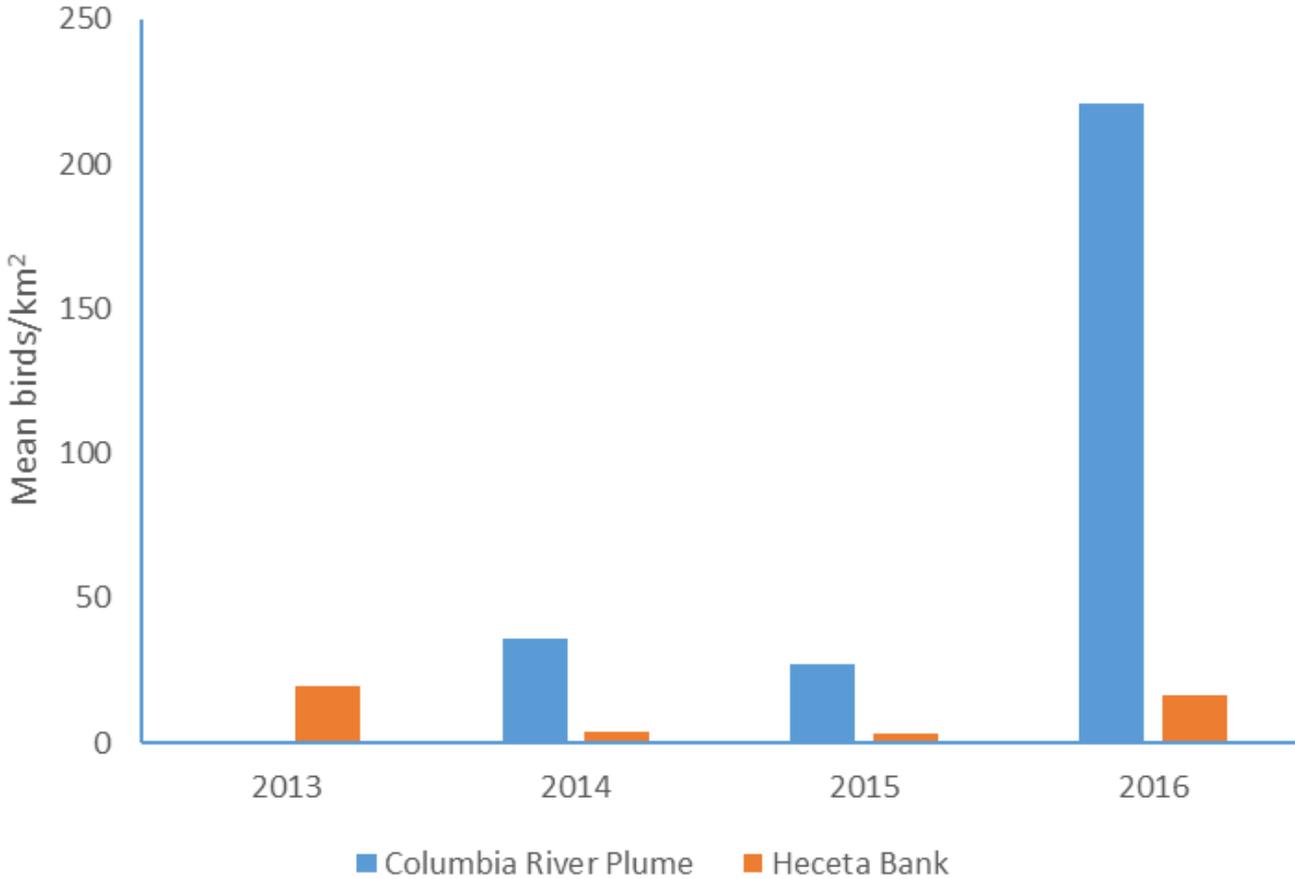


Zamon et al. 2014 Deep-Sea Research II



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# Inter-annual Variability in Abundance at Prominent Features



# Conclusions

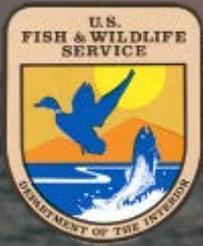
- ❑ Predators extensively use both persistent and ephemeral meso- and sub-meso scale features throughout the Pacific
- ❑ Species we studied primarily targeted features in neritic zones along continental shelf margins, but....
- ❑ Considerable annual variability in use of prominent features. Topographically and tidally influenced = least variable

# Looking Forward

- ❑ Focal studies of specific features to quantify time-varying patterns of use by predators during formation through deterioration
- ❑ Energy transfer with/without features
- ❑ Approaches include:
  - 1) Use of extensive animal tracking datasets
  - 2) *In situ* and remotely sensed observations
  - 3) ROMS models

## Process Studies

# Acknowledgements



*Yamashina Institute for Ornithology*

