

Argo

OOPC-X

9 - 12 May 2005

- **Present status**
 - **Activities**
 - **Challenges**
- **Looking to the future**



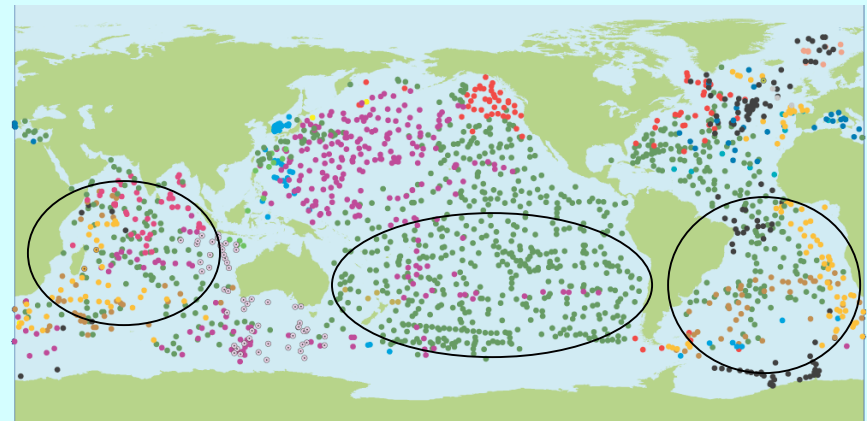
John Gould

Present status

1800+ Floats are operating (60% of target)



April 2004



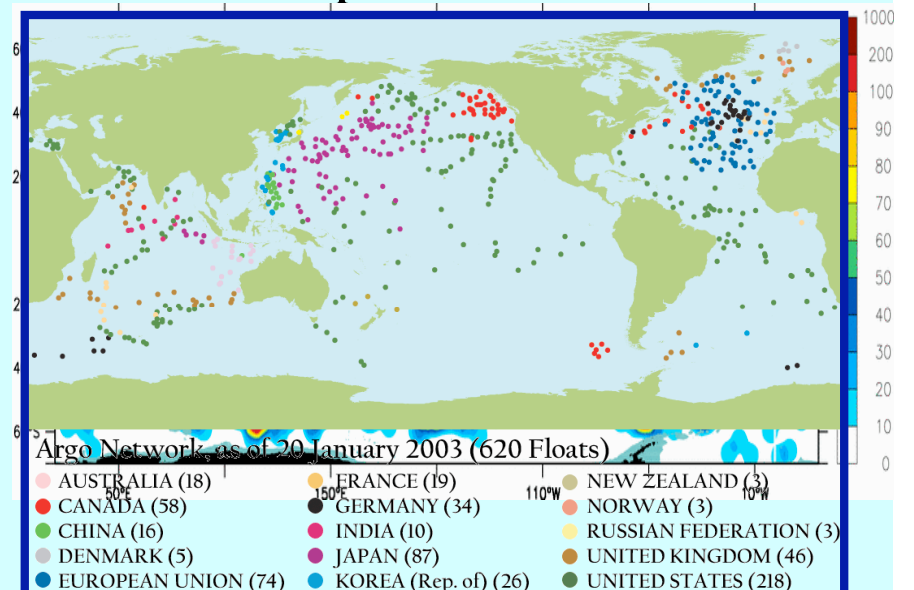
Argo Network, as of April 2005

1806 Active Floats

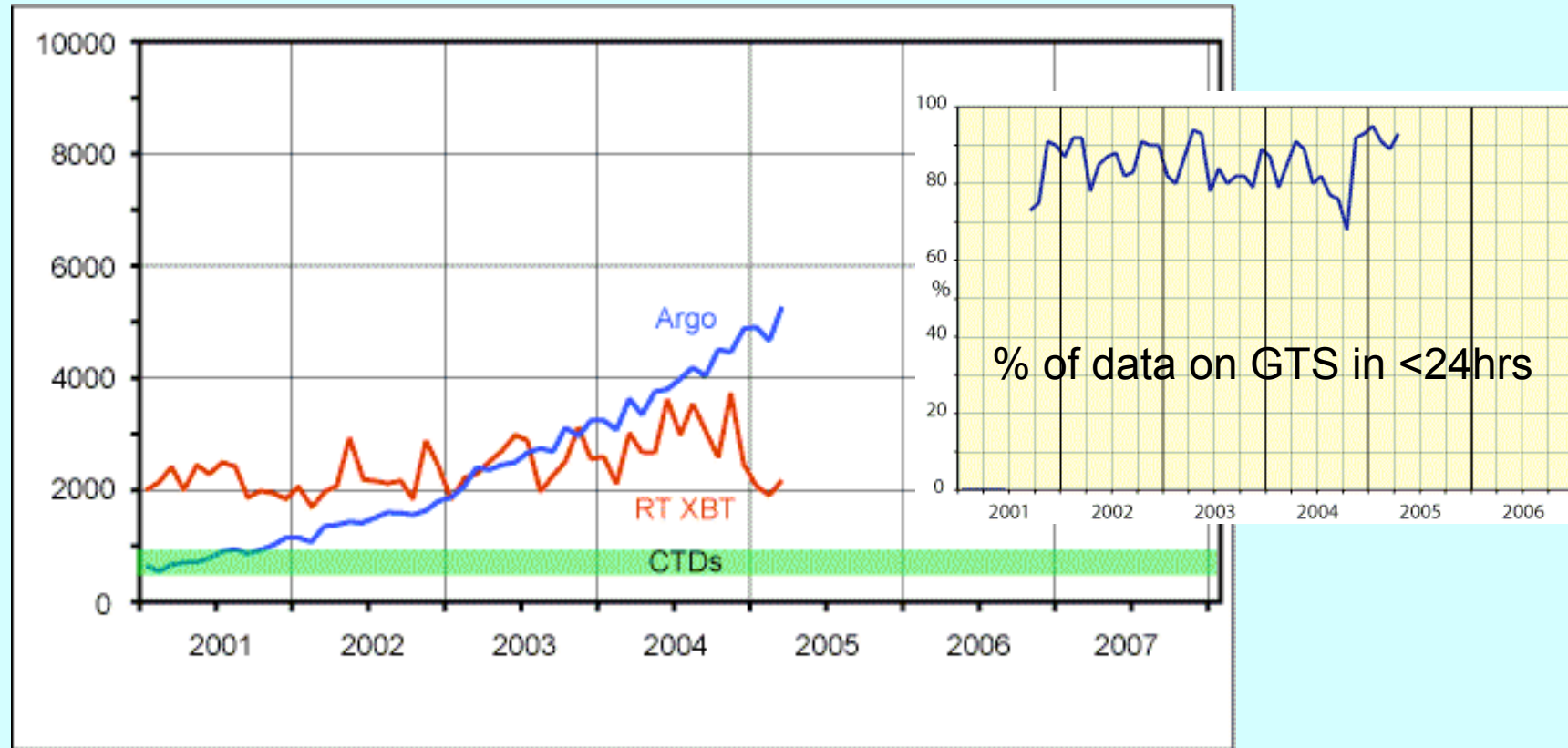
April 2005

Major differences in S Hemisphere
 Filling of South Pacific
 Increased density in Indian
 Increased density S Atlantic

Jan 2003:



The growth in profile numbers



Argo has, since end of 2003 been the dominant source of RT ocean profile data.

Over 90% of these profiles are available in real time from two Argo global data centres (GDACs) and on the GTS

Float reliability

- **Argo data quality and growth of the array depend on improving and maintaining float performance.**
 - **Reduce deployment failures**
 - **Prolong battery life**
 - **Reduce sensor and float manufacturing errors**
- **Progress has been made in all areas**
 - **% of failures in 1st 3months reduced
from as high as 10% (2nd half 2002) to
3% (2nd half 2005)**
 - **mean age of array steadily increasing - not yet
reached equilibrium - now 2.5 years**
 - **100 out of 1800 floats (6%) are older than 3 yrs**

Data quality

- **Data distributed in real time are subjected to basic data integrity checks**
- **Delayed-mode calibration of salinities depends on :-**
 - **Comparisons with recent theta-S climatologies**
 - **Knowledge of generic sensor performance characteristics**
 - **Float-float intercomparisons**
 - **Integration of float data into regional analyses**
- **20% of Argo profiles have undergone DMQC and April 2005 workshop involving DMQC practitioners has identified steps needed to create global consistency.**
- **All profiles with DMQC will be re-examined by end 2005.**

Issues for OOPC

- **Argo is now the core of the ocean profile observing system and should remain so if momentum (funding) can be stabilised**
- **How does the presence of Argo affect the strategy for other observing system elements (particularly ship-based hydrography and the XBT network)?**
(This has hardly been looked at since OceanObs'99 (pre-Argo))
- **Argo still needs regular and rapid availability of ship-based CTD data (feedback to ship-based observing strategy issue).**

How can we ensure the rapid flow of data to CCHDO?