

Update on VOS and VOSClm

Peter Taylor and Liz Kent

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GCOS
The Global Climate
Observing System



The Global Ocean
Observing System

WCRP

World Climate
Research Programme



WMO

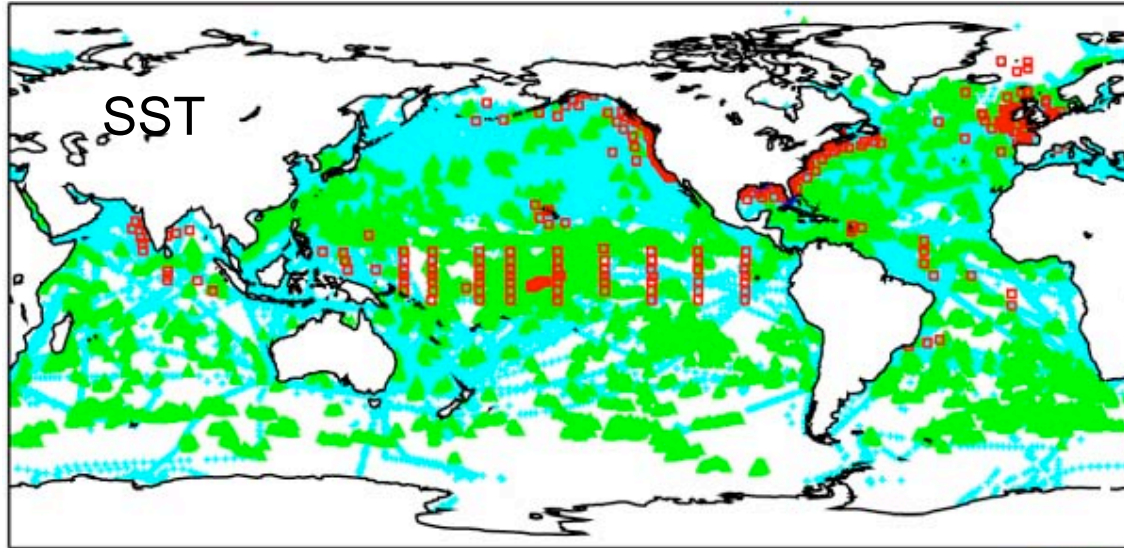


UNEP

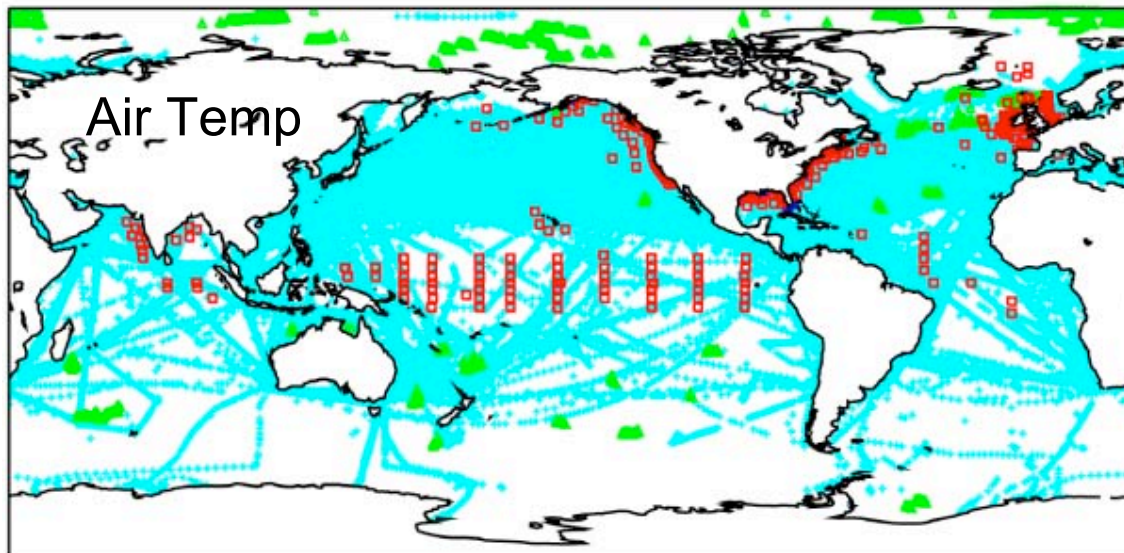


ICSU

Coverage of sea surface obs by VOS

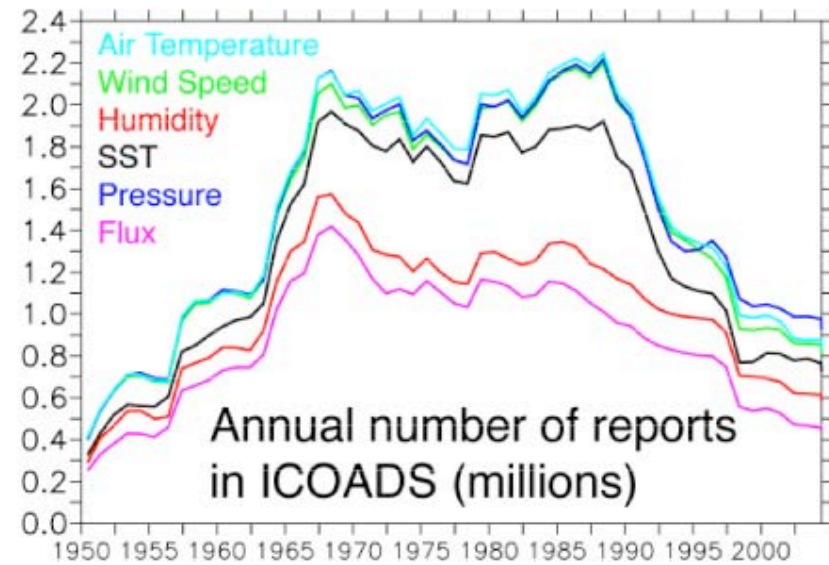
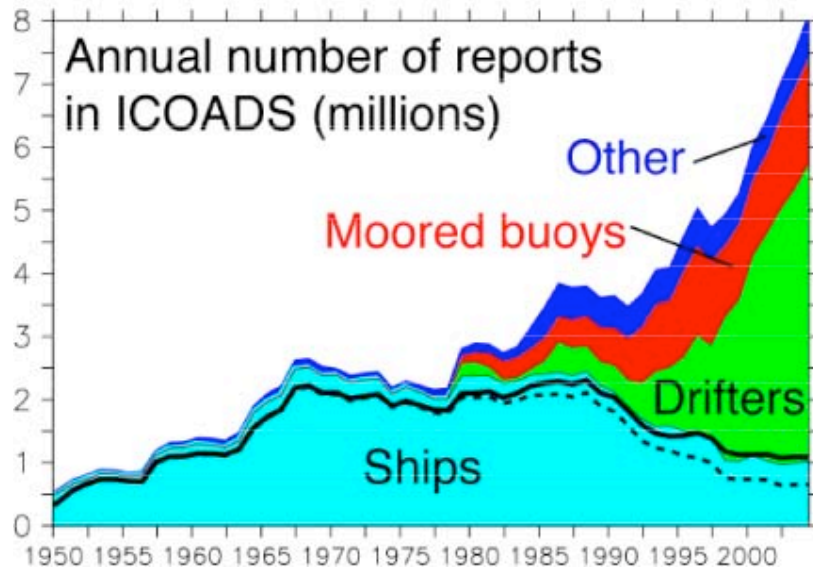


In ICOADS, 2004

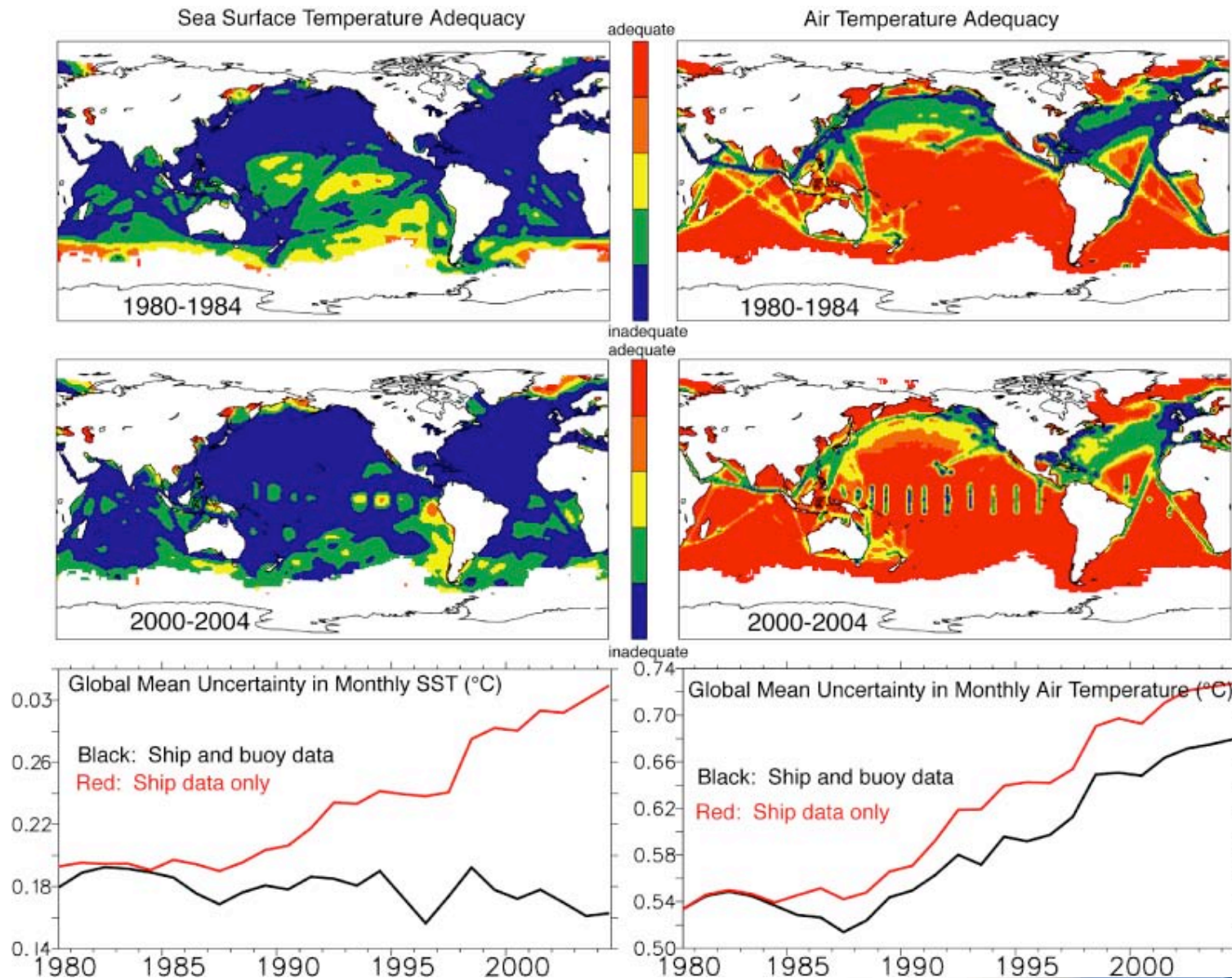


It blue: VOS
green: drifters
red: moored buoys

Volunteer Observing Ships: in decline



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Reasons for decline

- Needs for NWS increasingly met by satellites
 - VOS for weather prediction seen as unreliable and expensive
 - Number of Port Meteorological Officers, critical to quality of VOS, in decline
- Trend towards Automatic Weather Systems
 - smaller number of ships, don't give full range of variables, transition is not being managed with climate quality in mind
- Withdrawal of ship operators due to ship security concerns

Suggestions for halting the decline in quantity

- Provide a definition of the data requirement for surface meteorology (with JCOMM ETMC, CCI/CLIVAR ETCCMDI, next CLIMAR meeting?)
- Start monitoring against the targets (JCOMMOPS?)
- Brochure for educating ship crew
- Ensure membership of VOS is not a security risk
 - reclassify VOS data from WMO “essential data” to restricted exchange - OOPC agrees?
 - some steps already taken: ie NDBC removing call signs from data stream, other sites are being password-protected
- Concern about transition to BUFR reporting codes