

# HyWaves: A hybrid method to downscale swells in small Pacific Islands

Geomatics and Ocean Engineering Group.  
Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain

**Alba Ricondo,**

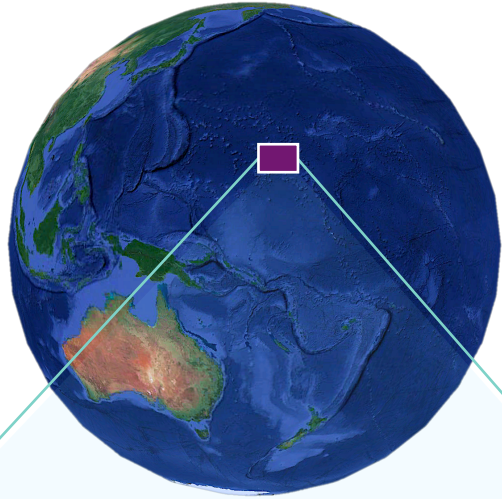
Laura Cagigal, Nicolás Ripoll, Ana Rueda and  
Fernando J. Méndez

[alba.ricondo@unican.es](mailto:alba.ricondo@unican.es)

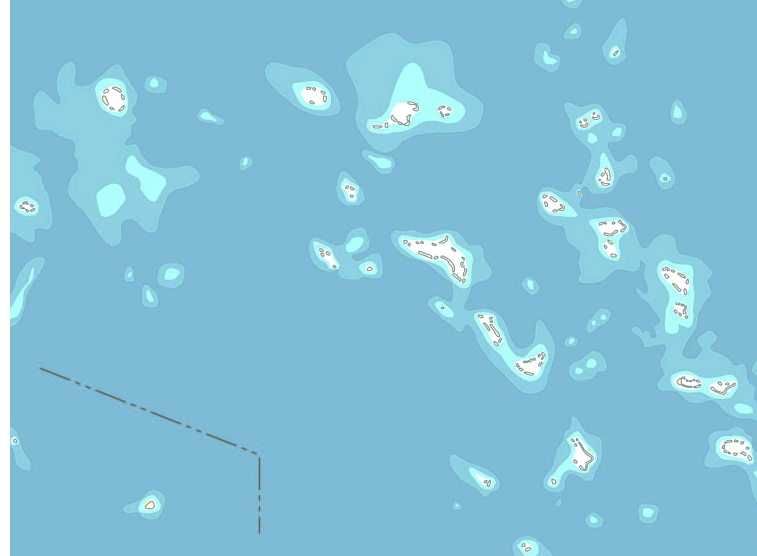




# MOTIVATION



## Marshall Islands



*Hoeke et al., 2013*

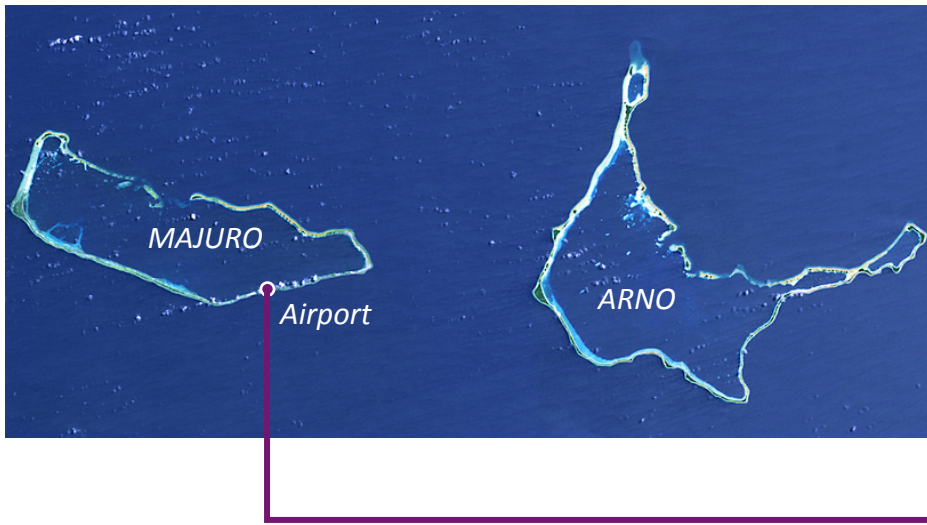
**Vulnerable to a large number of hazards**

DISTANT-SOURCE WIND WAVES  
TROPICAL CYCLONES  
SEA LEVEL RISE



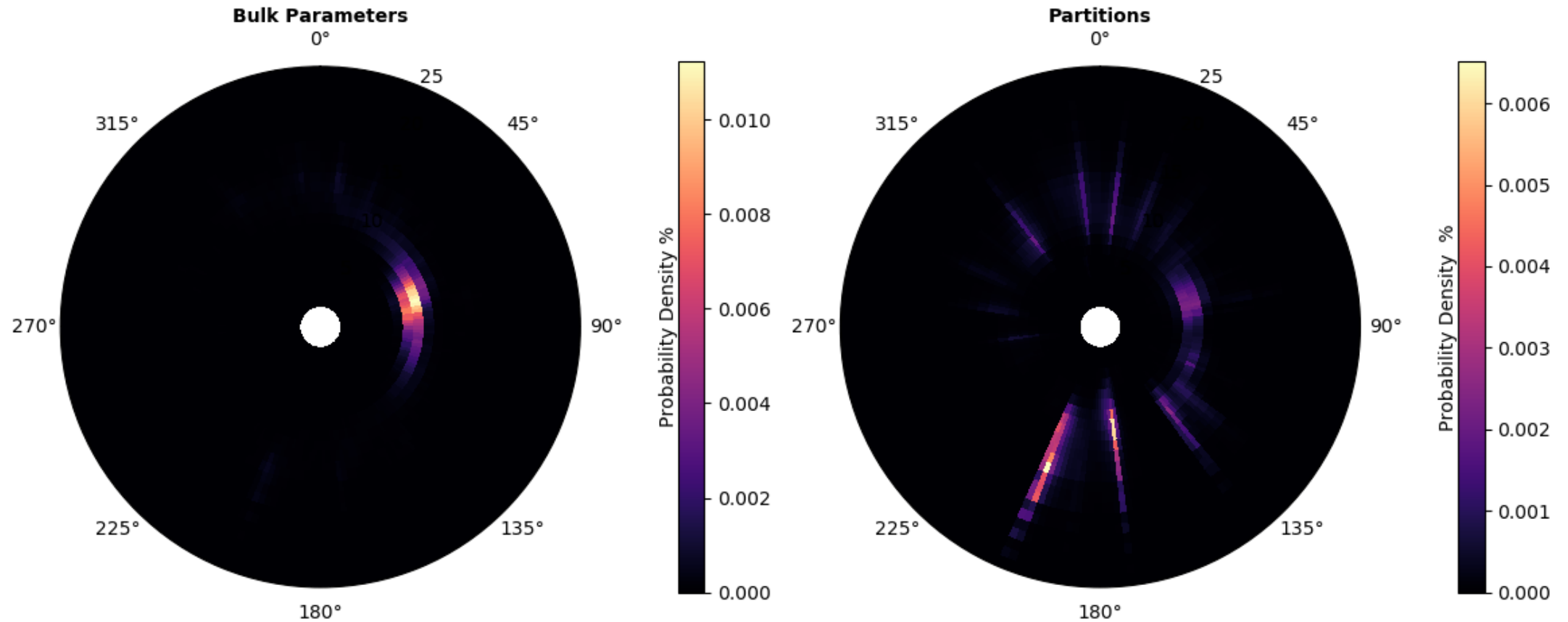
# MOTIVATION

(Source: Dr. Murray Ford, the University of Auckland, New Zealand)



The flood event of 24th June 2013

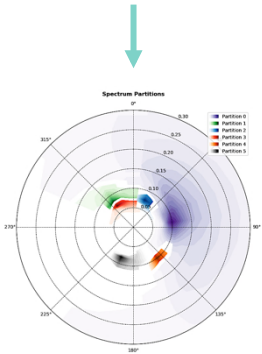
# MOTIVATION: The importance of the directional spectra



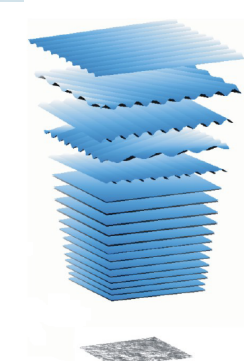
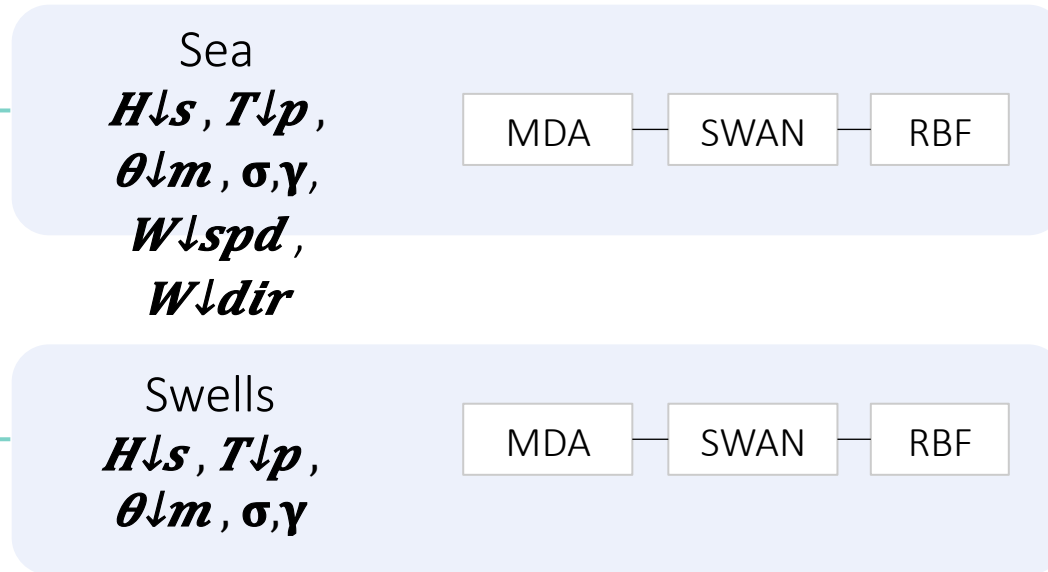


# METHODOLOGY

Global wave hindcast



**Spectral partitioning**



(Holthuijsen, 2007)

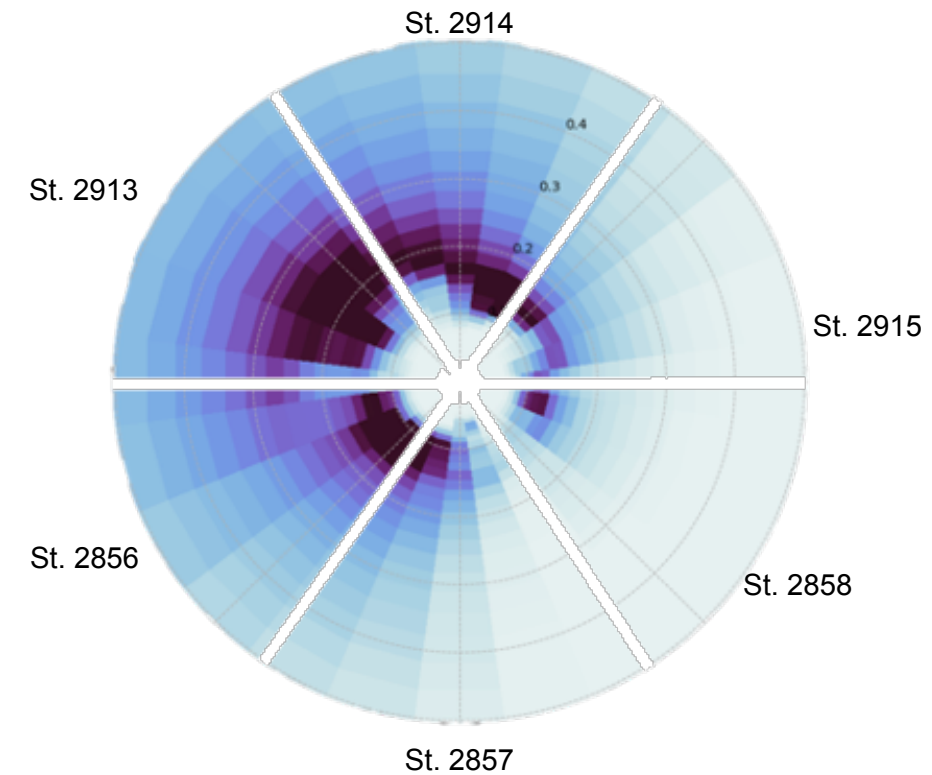
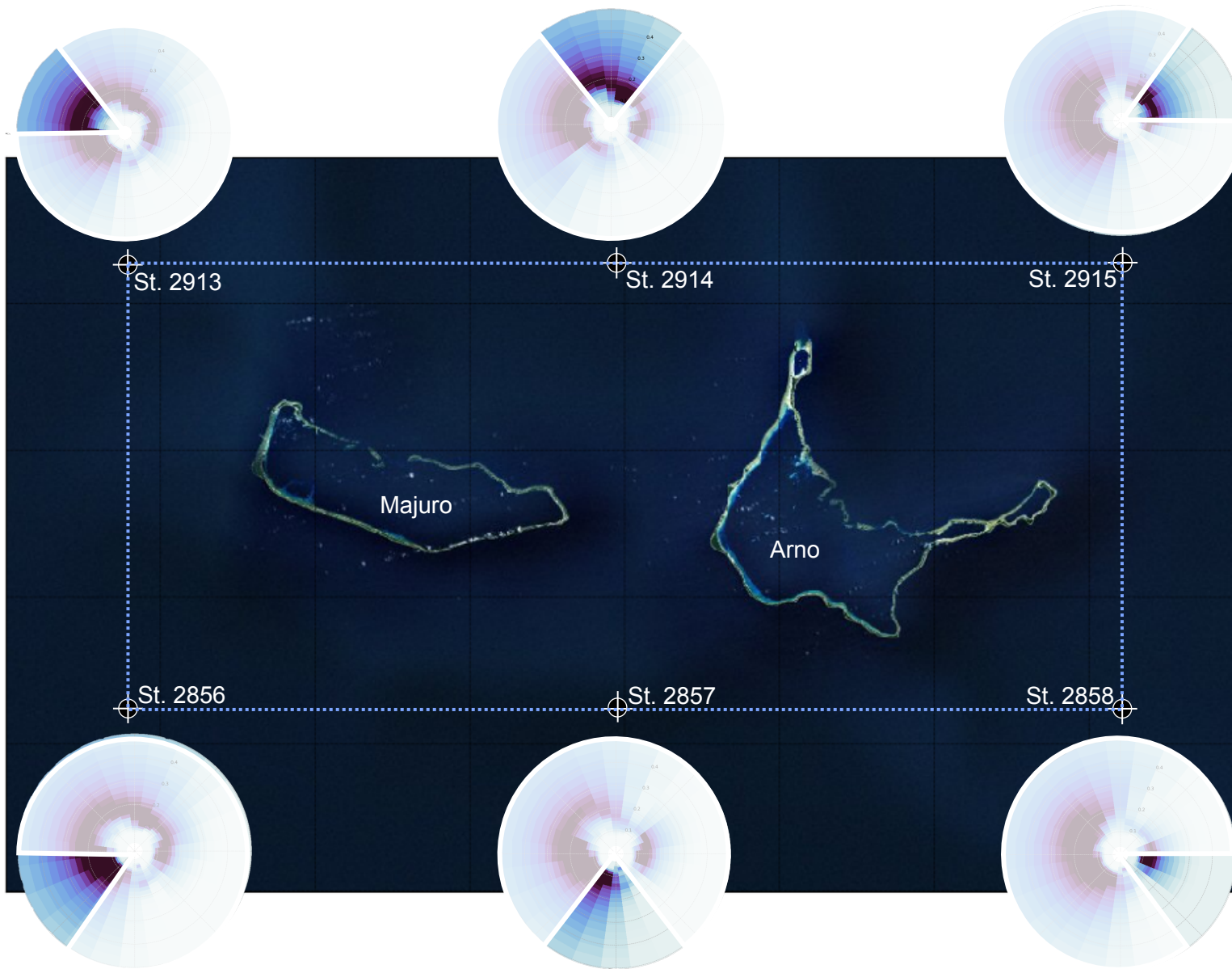
**Reconstructio**

$$S\downarrow t(f, \theta) = \sum_{i=1}^N W\downarrow wave\ systems$$

**Validation**

Inundation forecast  
Early Warning Systems

# METHODOLOGY: Super-Point



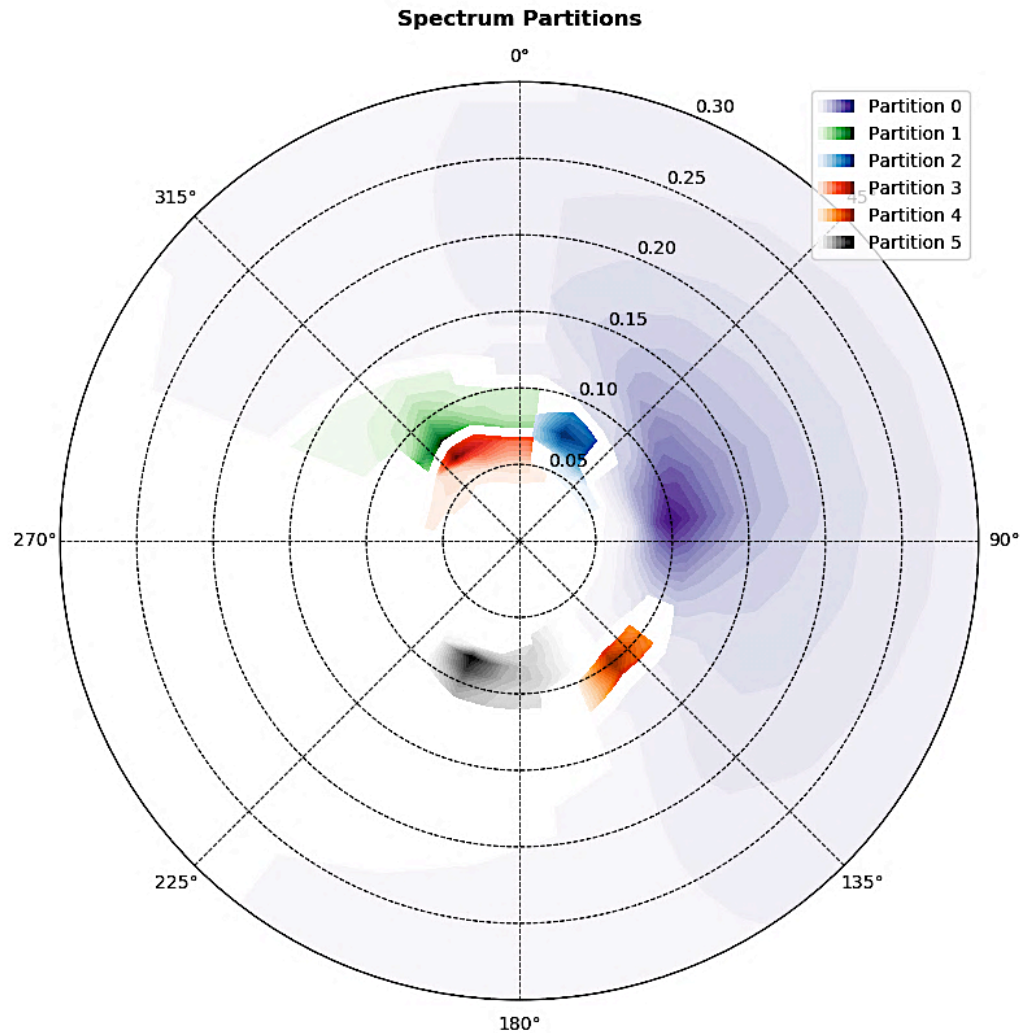
CSIRO stations

CAWCR Wave Hindcast 1979-2019

$S \downarrow \eta (f, \theta)$



# METHODOLOGY: Spectral Partitioning



## Wavespectra Library

Developed by MetOcean Solutions

Physically-based techniques to identify swell trains

Watershed Method  
(*Hanson and Philips, 2001*)

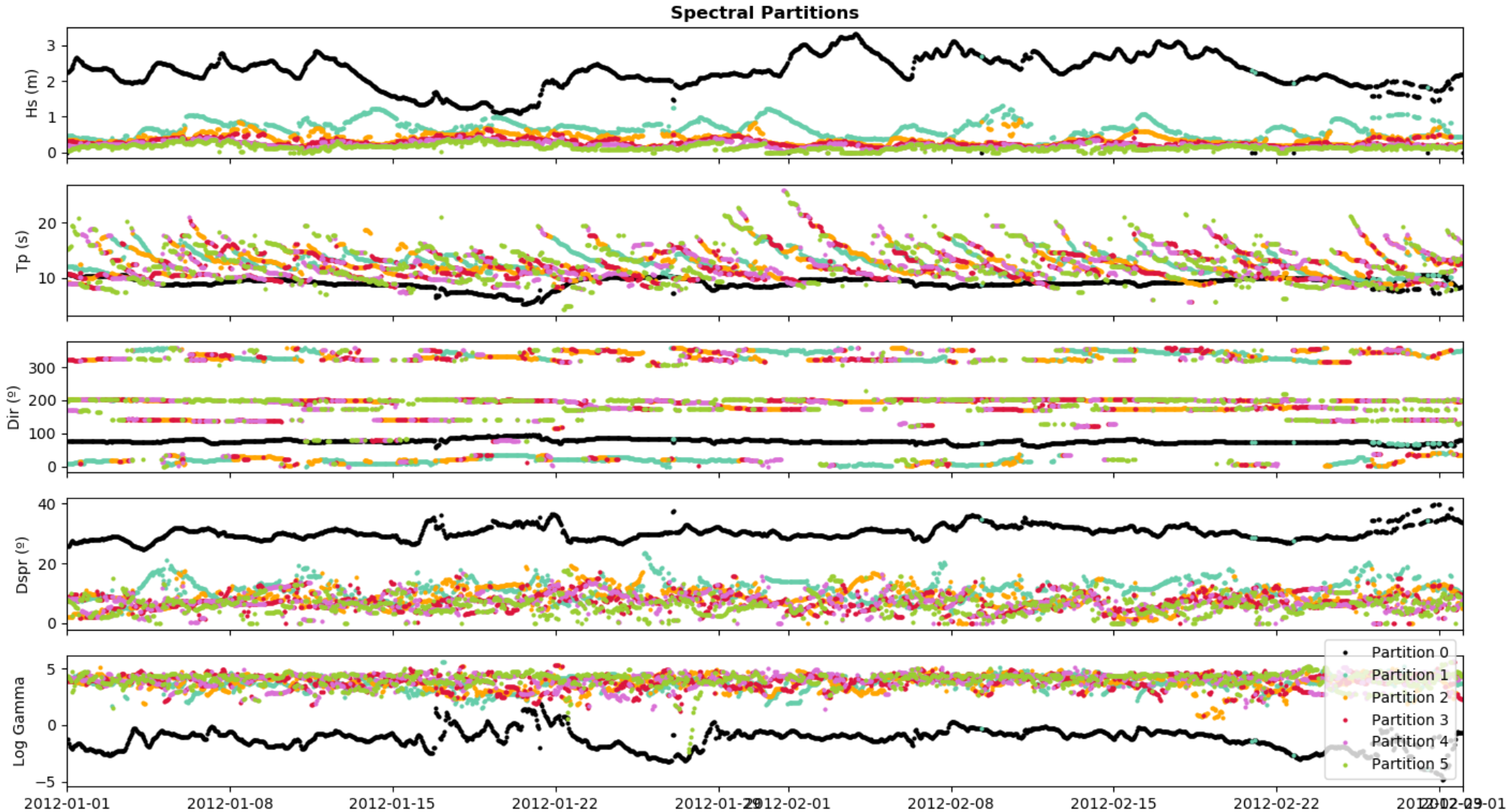
Max number of Swells = 5

Wave age = 1.7

Minimum energy in partitions

Minimum distance between peaks

# METHODOLOGY: Wave System Parameterization





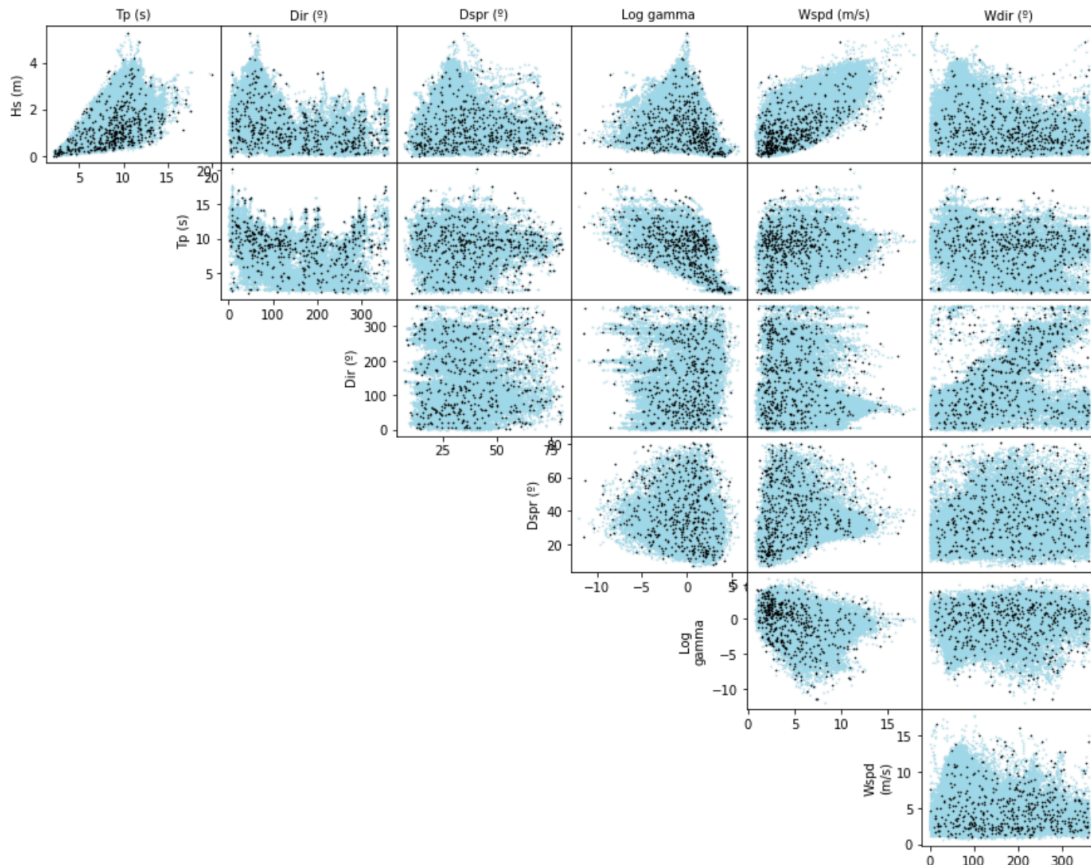
# METHODOLOGY: MDA Selection

## Maximum Dissimilarity Algorithm MDA (*Camus et al., 2011*)

Subset N = 500 cases

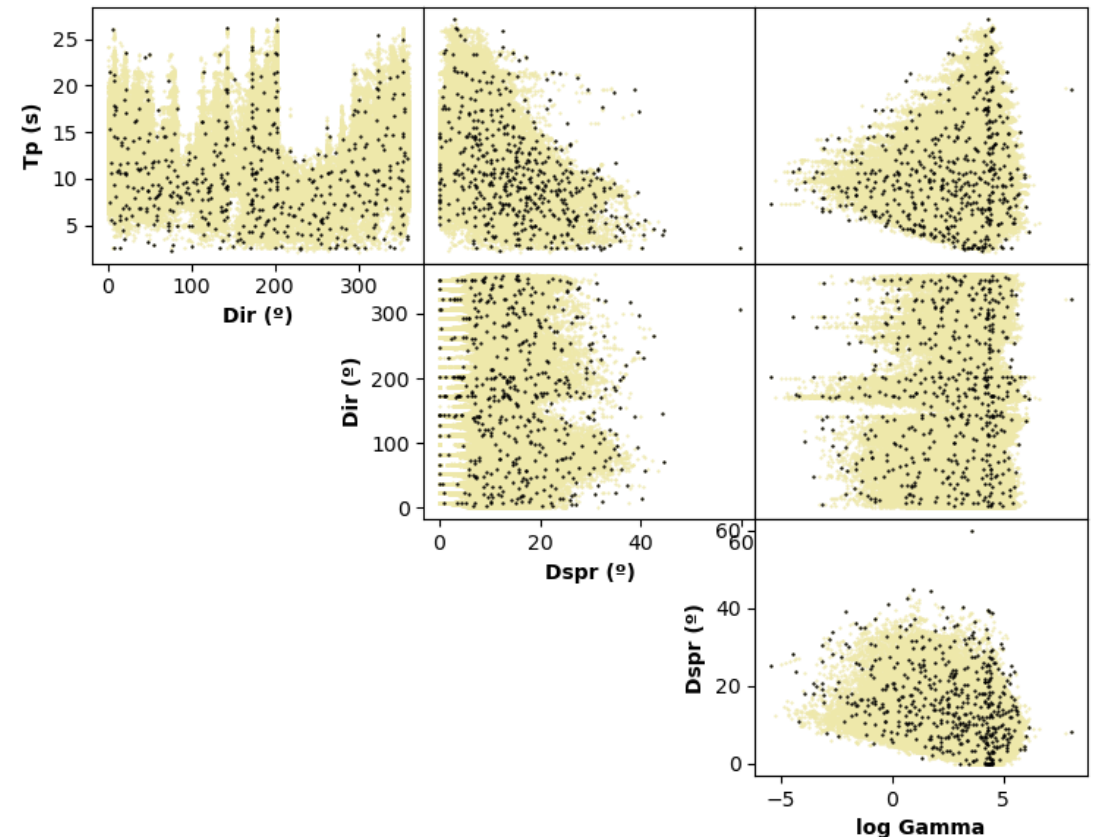
MDA – Sea

$H_s$ ,  $T_p$ ,  $\theta_m$ ,  $\sigma$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $W_{spd}$ ,  $W_{dir}$



MDA – Swells ( $H_s = 1$  m)

$T_p$ ,  $\theta_m$ ,  $\sigma$ ,  $\gamma$



# METHODOLOGY: Dynamical Downscaling

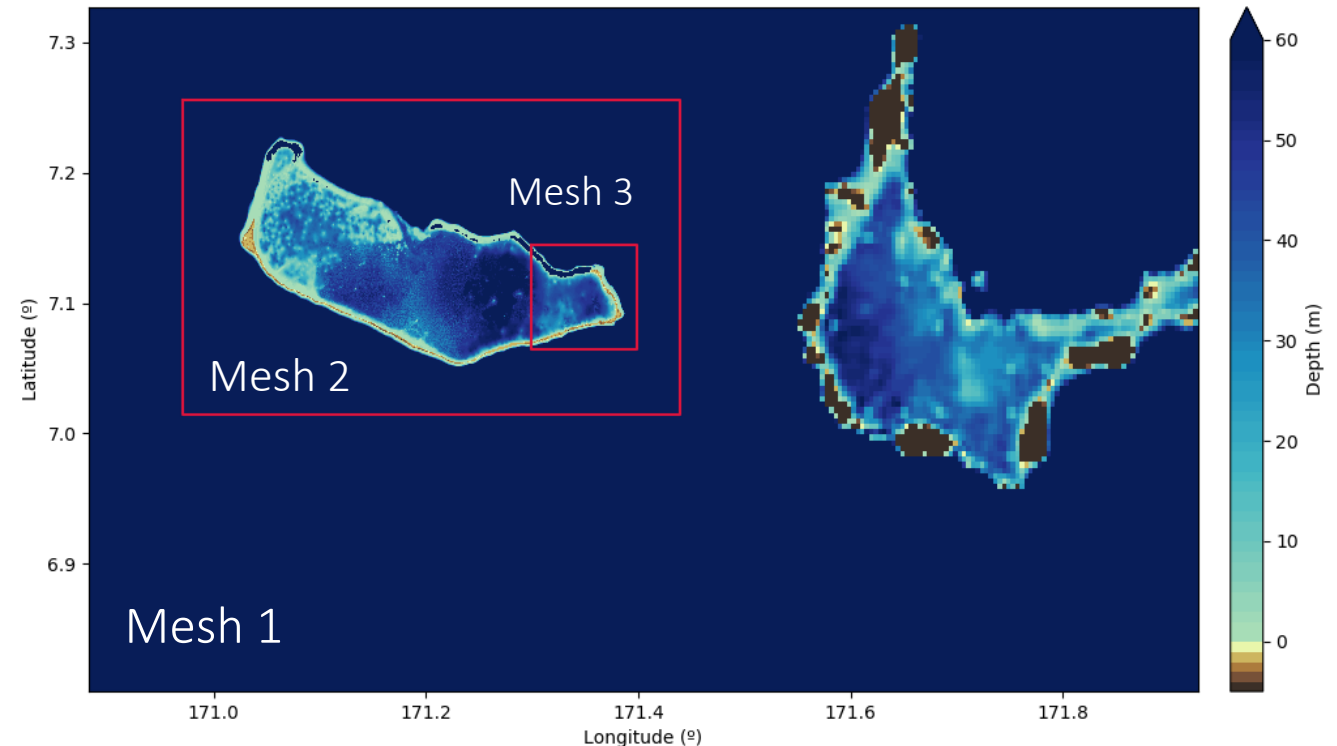
## SWAN

Simulating Waves Nearshore  
(Delft University of Technology)

(Booij et al., 1999)

Mesh 1 (bathymetry GEBCO)	1 km
Mesh 2 (bathymetry USGS)	200 m
Mesh 3 (bathymetry USGS)	50 m

Stationary mode  
Same forcing in boundaries  
SL = 0 m

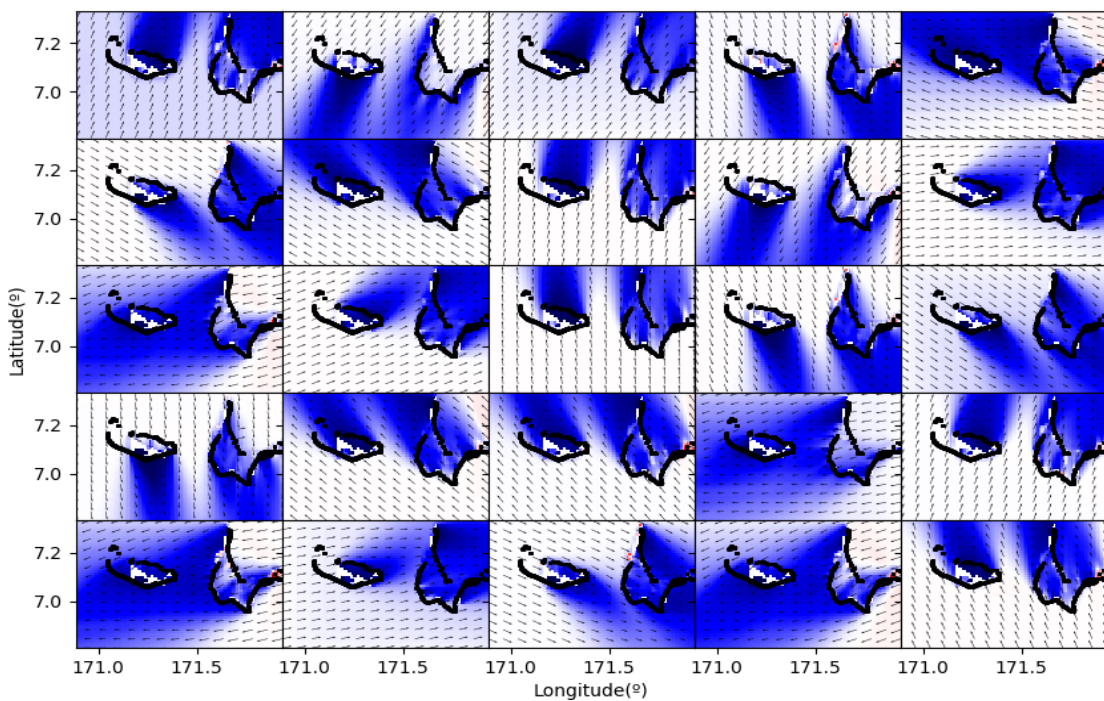




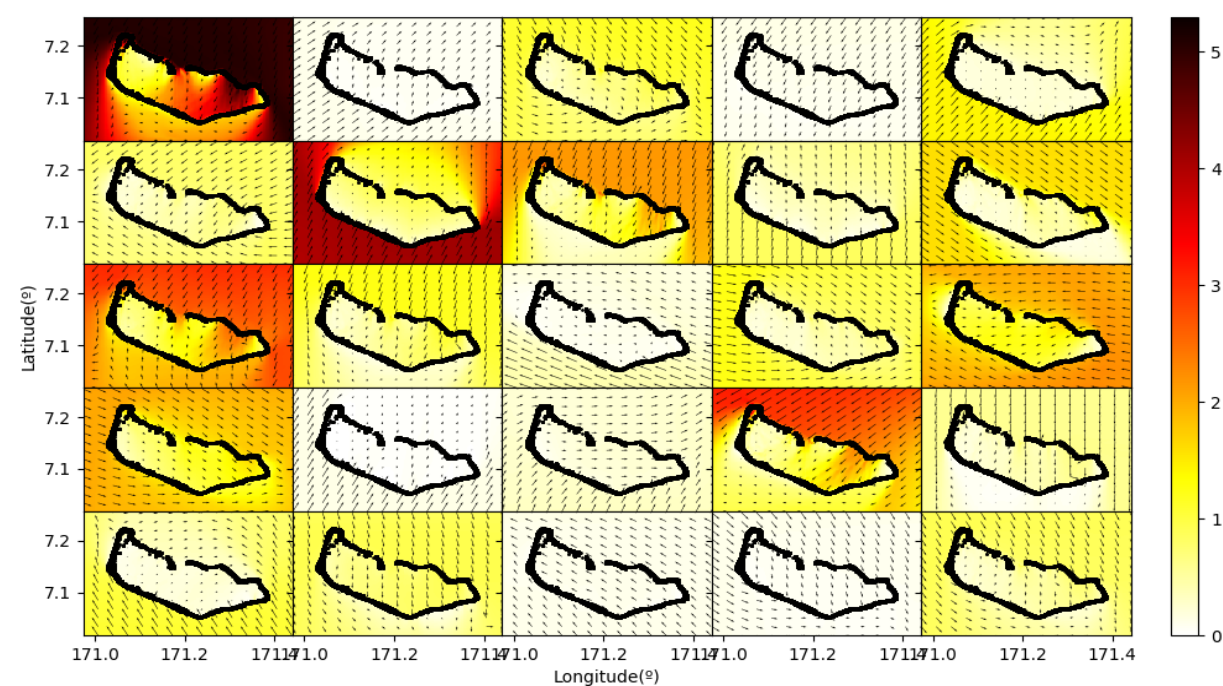
# METHODOLOGY: Dynamical Downscaling

First 25 propagation maps from MDA

**SWELLS**  
(Propagation Coefficient)



**SEAS**



# METHODOLOGY: RBF Reconstruction

## Radial Basis Function RBF

Interpolation Algorithm

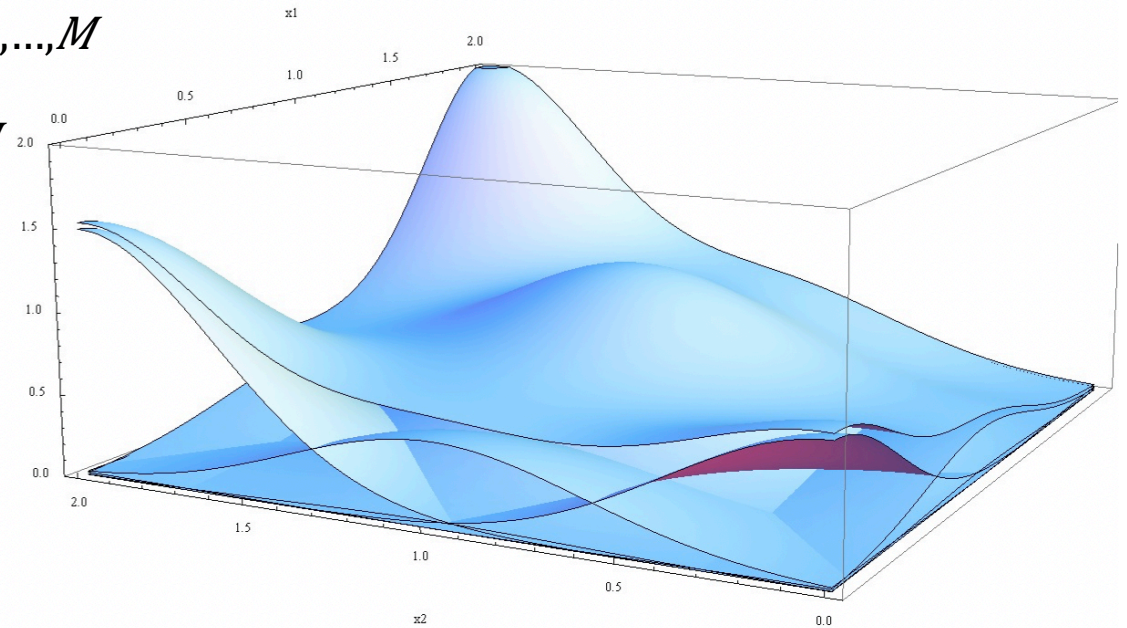
(Rippa 1999)

$$D \downarrow j = \{ H \downarrow j \uparrow D, T \downarrow j \uparrow D, \theta \downarrow j \uparrow D, W \downarrow j \uparrow D, \beta \downarrow j \uparrow D \}; j=1, \dots, M$$

$$D \downarrow p, j \uparrow * = \{ H \downarrow sp \uparrow D, T \downarrow mp \uparrow D, \theta \downarrow mp \uparrow D \}; j=1, \dots, M$$

The historical wave climate can be reconstructed throughout the island

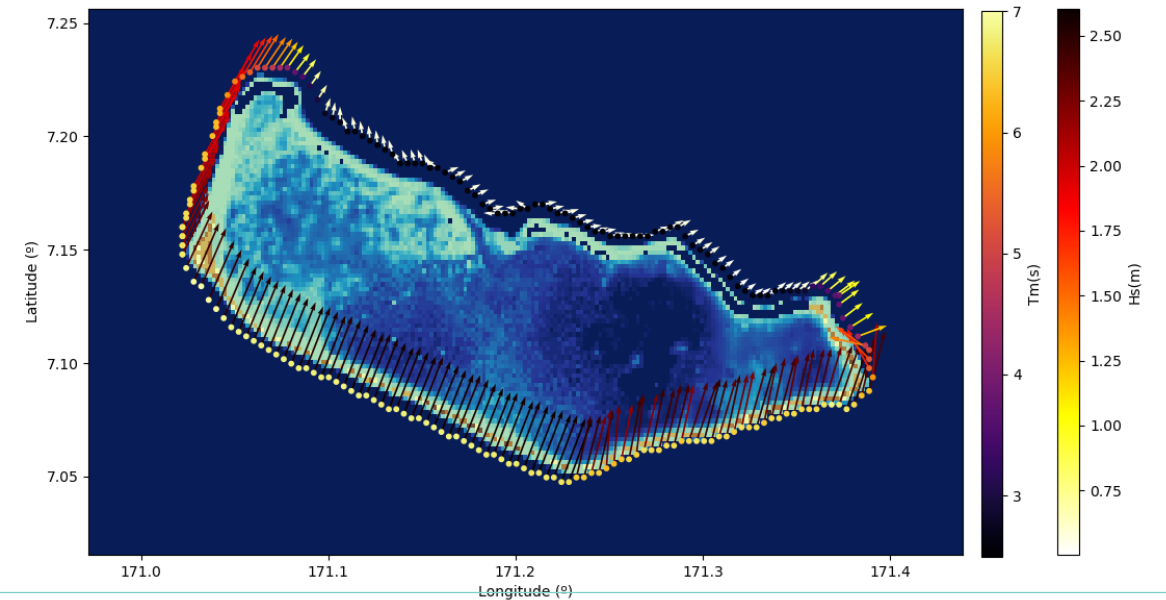
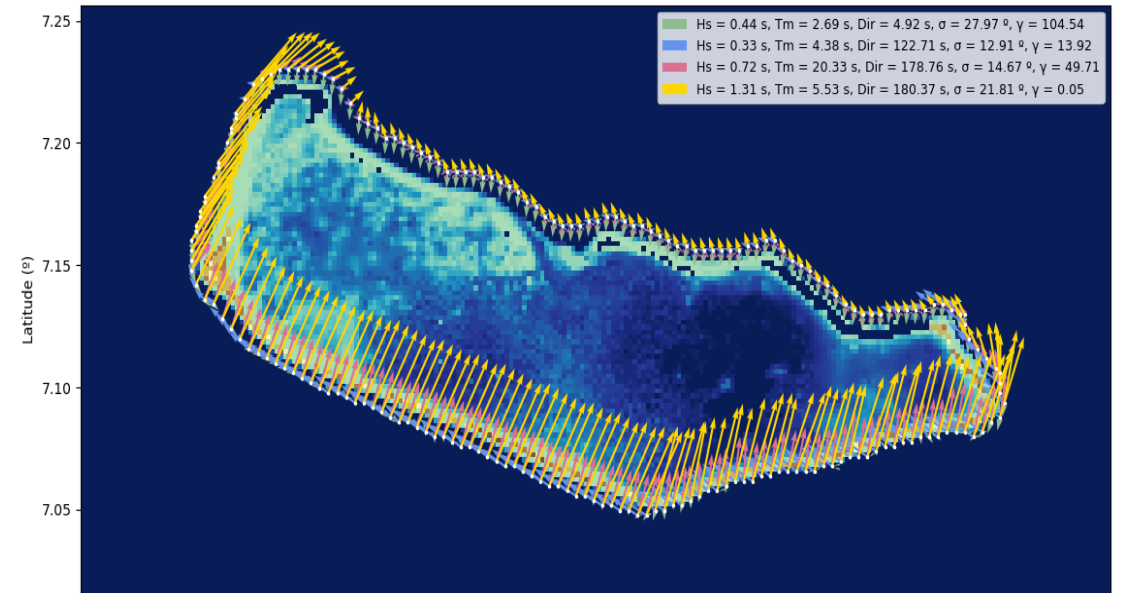
*“a weighted sum of radial basis functions”*



## Wave Systems Aggregation

Linear Theory

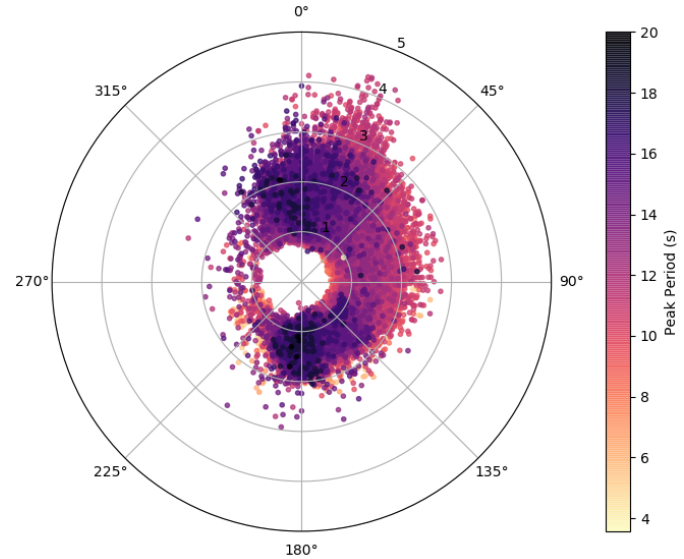
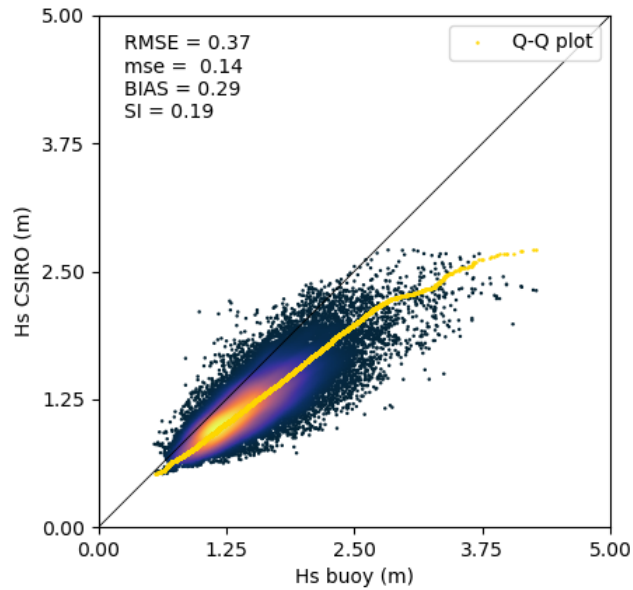
$$S_{lt}(f, \theta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \uparrow \downarrow \text{wave systems} \quad S_{li}(f, \theta)$$



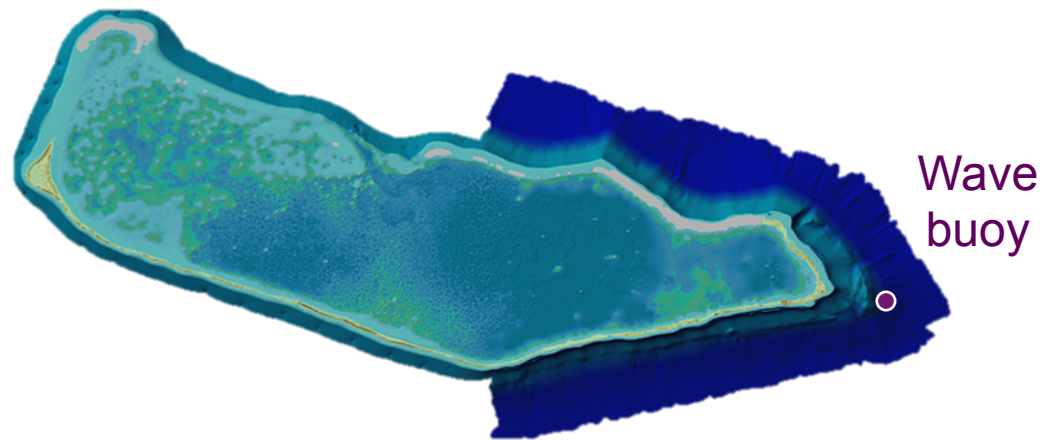
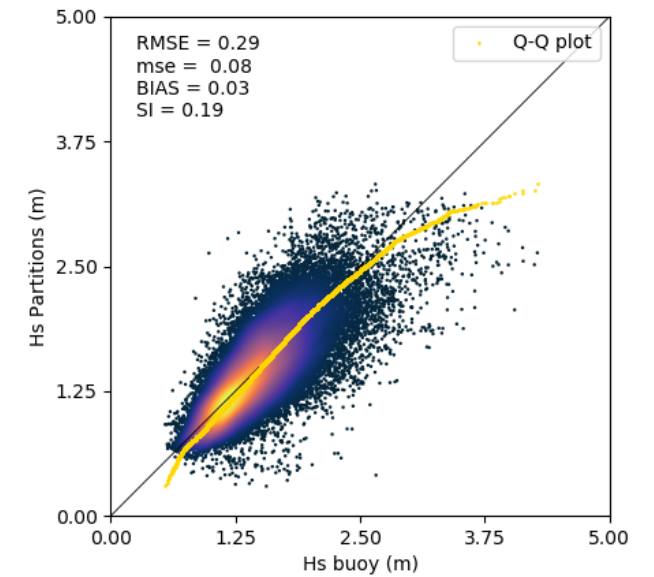


# METHODOLOGY: Validation

CSIRO hindcast



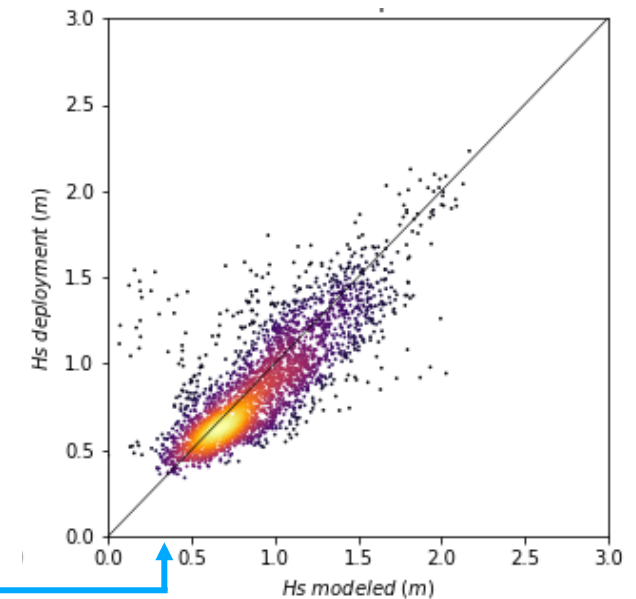
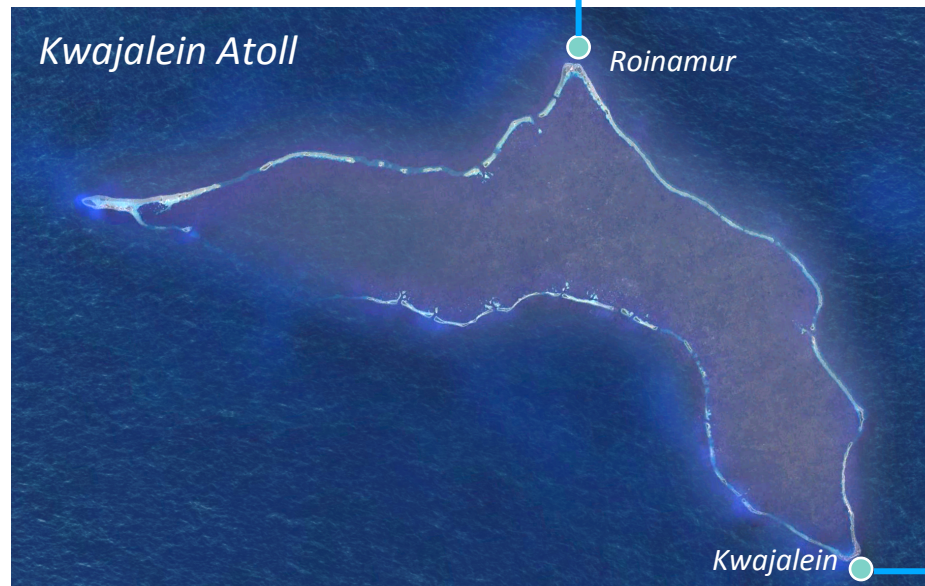
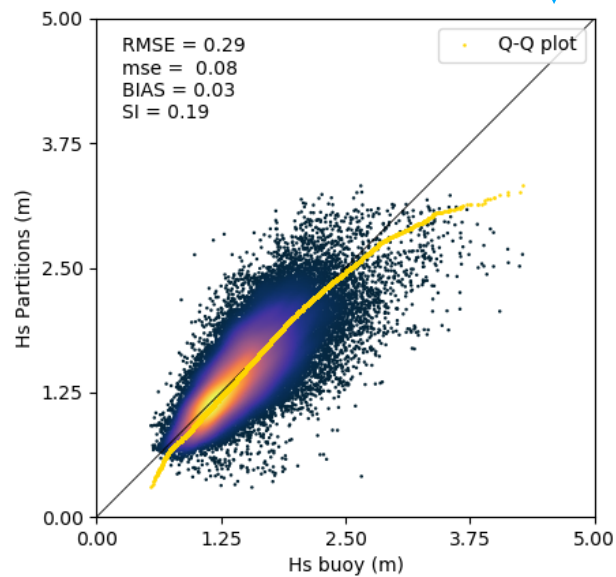
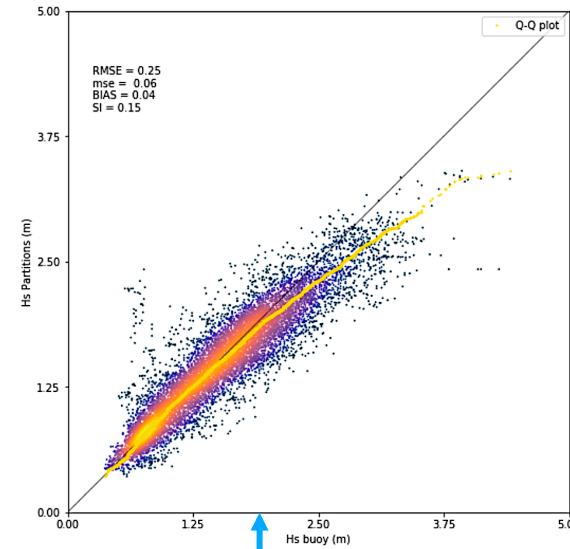
HyWaves



PacIOOS (The Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System)  
2010/04 – 2018/12

0.9 km E  
540 m depth  
Data every 30'  
 **$H \downarrow s$ ,  $T \downarrow p$ ,  $\theta \downarrow m$**

# METHODOLOGY: Validation sites

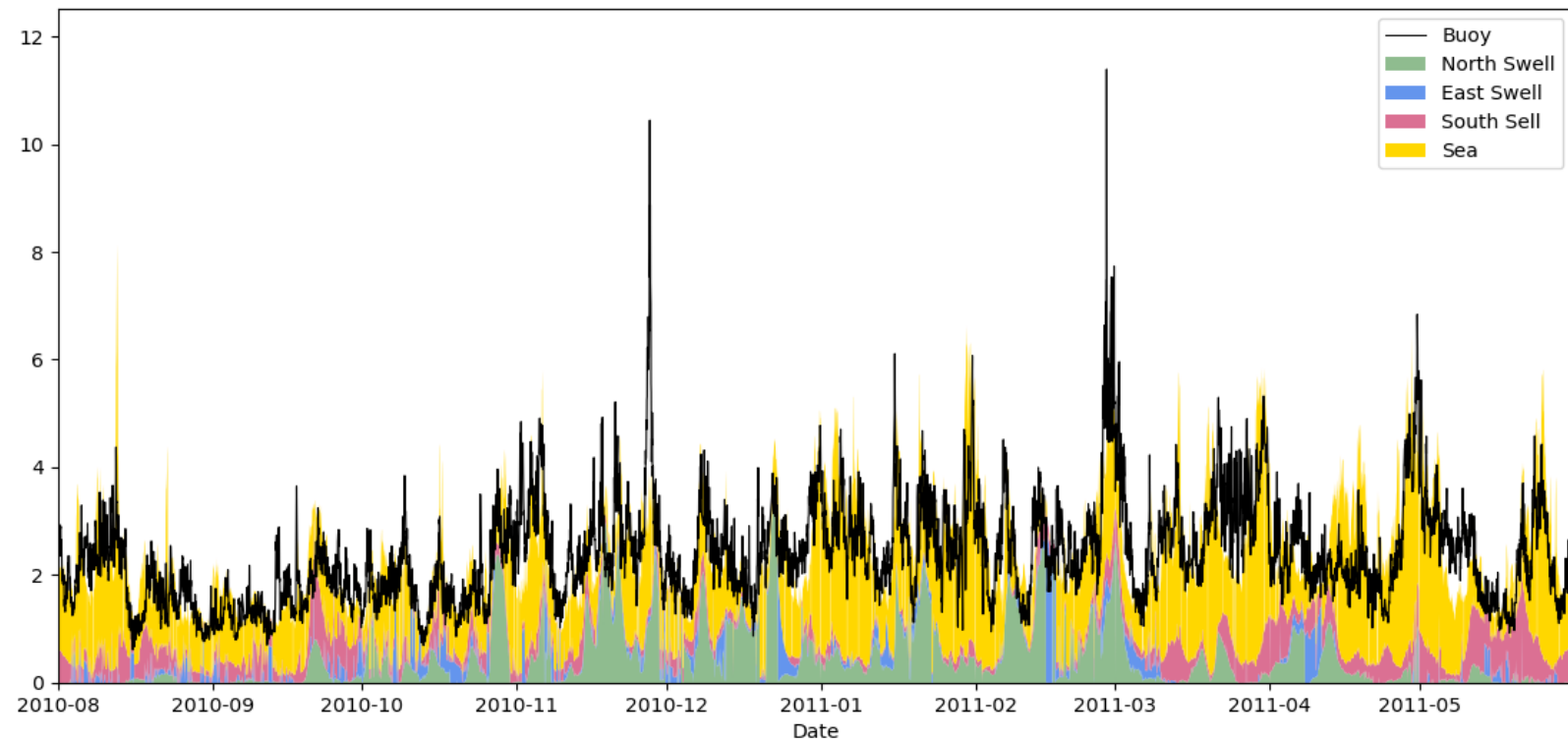
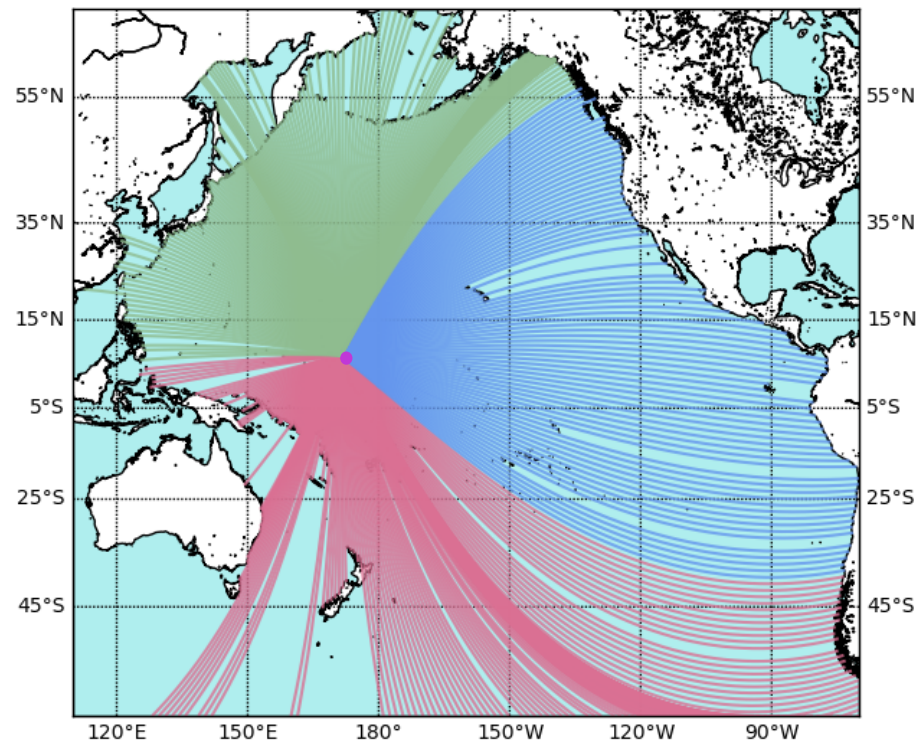


# Spectral Wave Climate

- North Swells (270 – 30°)
- East Swells (30 – 130°)
- South Swells (130 – 270°)

## Contribution of each wave system to the total Energy

$$E \sim H \downarrow s \uparrow 2$$





# Spectral Wave Climate

## Flooding Event 24th June 2013

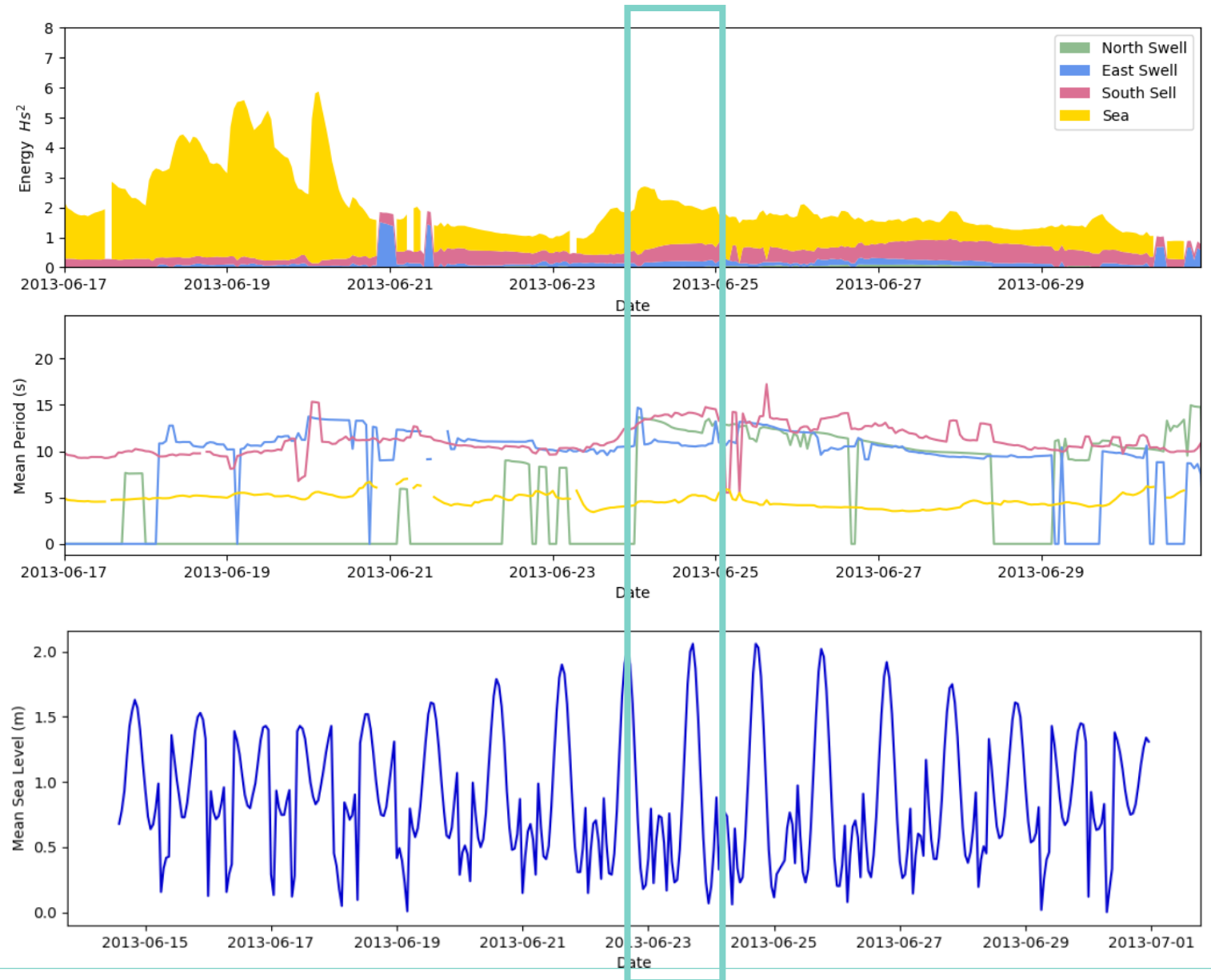
Southern region (Airport)

La Niña ENSO phase

MSL  $\sim$  2 m

Hs = 1 m

Tm = 15 s

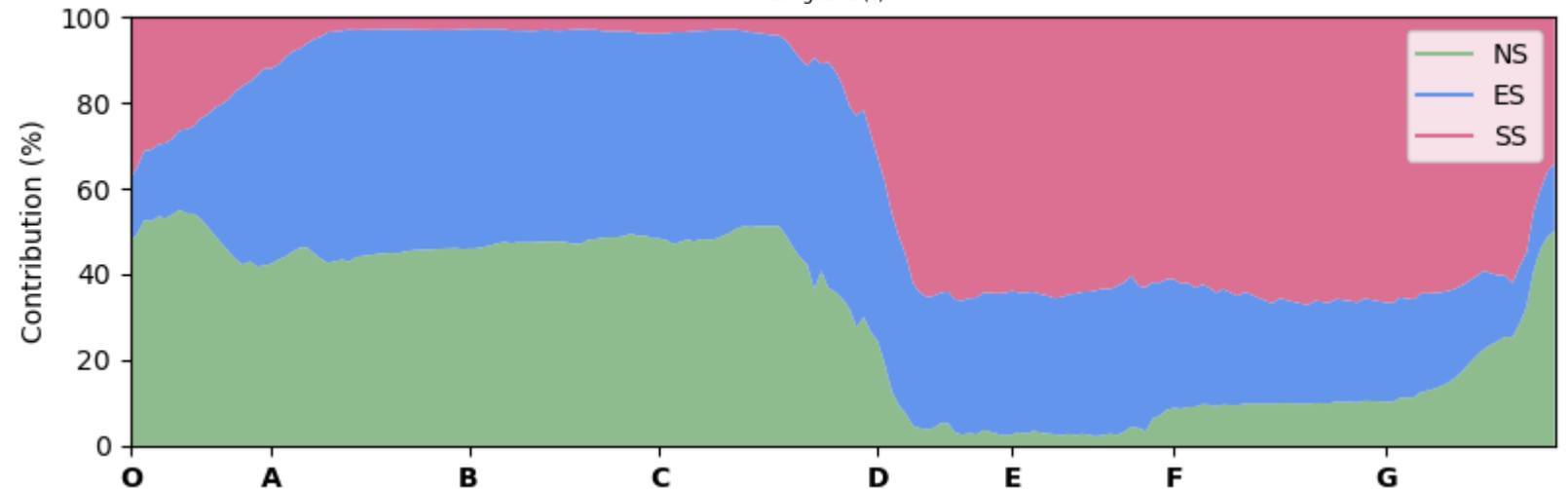
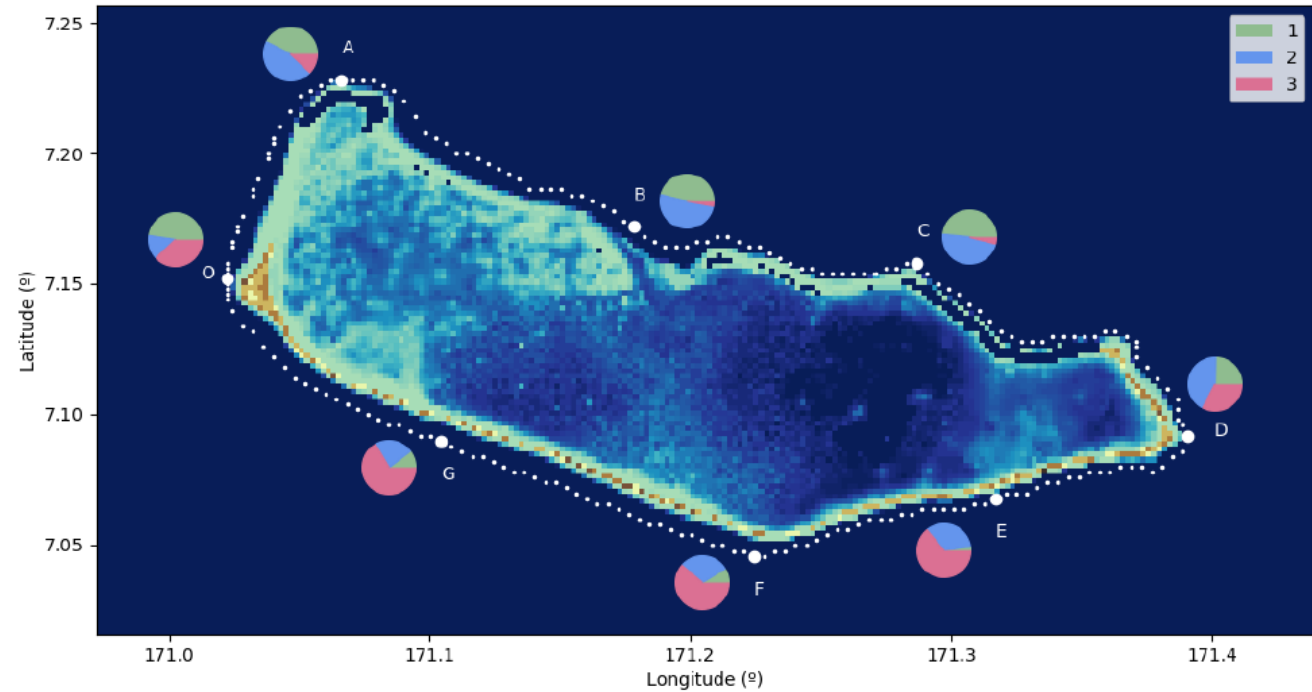


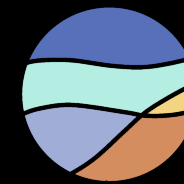
# Spectral Wave Climate

## Energy Flux Contribution

$$FE = H \downarrow s \uparrow 2 \cdot T \downarrow p$$

Seasonality  
Interannual variability  
ENSO events





GeOcean  
UNIVERSIDAD DE CANTABRIA

## HyWaves: A hybrid method to downscale swells in small Pacific Islands

Thank you very much for your attention



Alba Ricondo  
[alba.ricondo@unican.es](mailto:alba.ricondo@unican.es)