Towards transparency and reproducibility in environmental covariates for deep-sea species distribution modeling

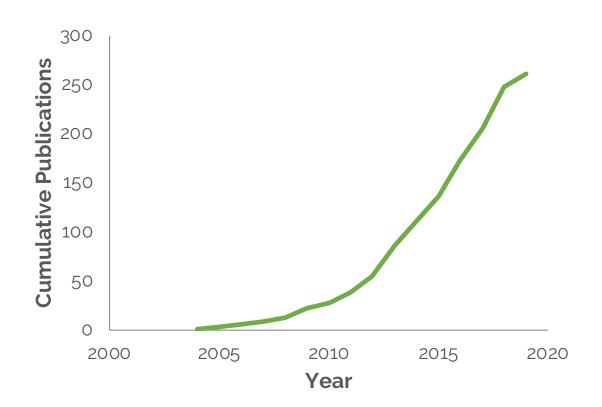
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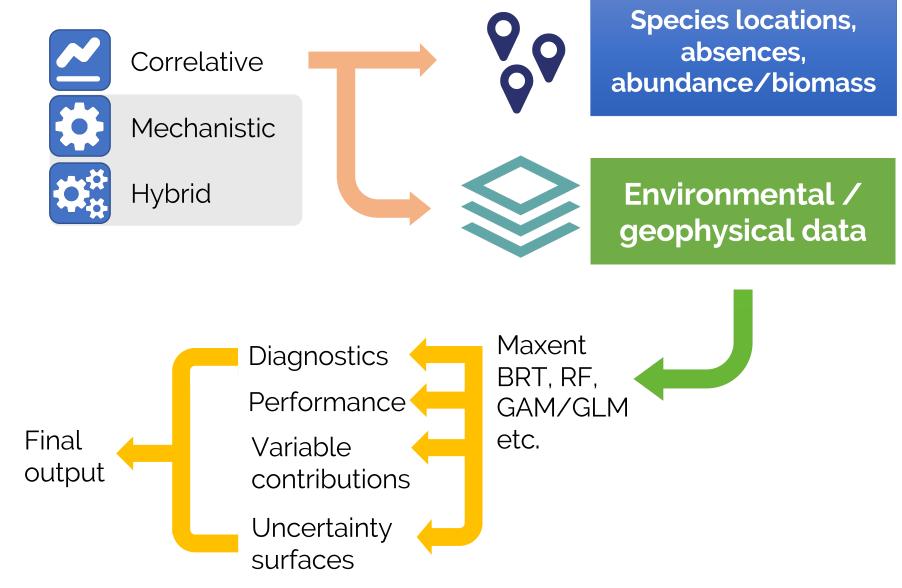
The proliferation of species distribution modeling approaches in marine science

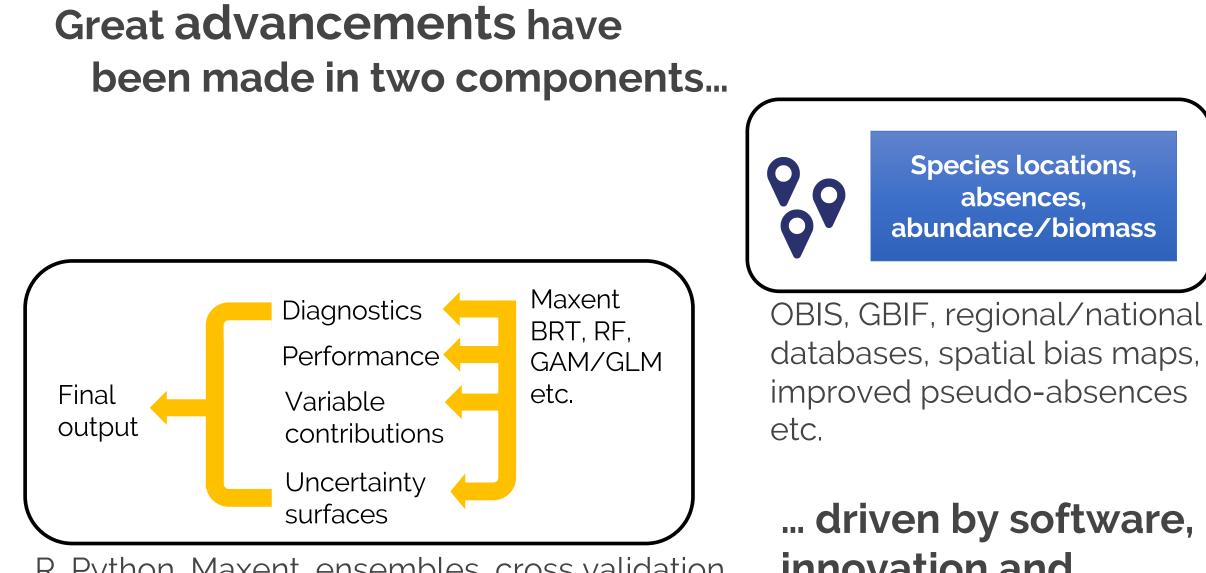
- Species distributions
 - Management
 - Conservation
 - Niche/tolerances
 - Forecasting responses to change



ocean AND ("species distribution model" OR "habitat suitability model") from the Scopus database

Species distribution models have several main components





R, Python, Maxent, ensembles, cross validation, n-1, novel validation approaches etc.

... driven by software, innovation and open data..

Environmental data in contrast has somewhat been overlooked

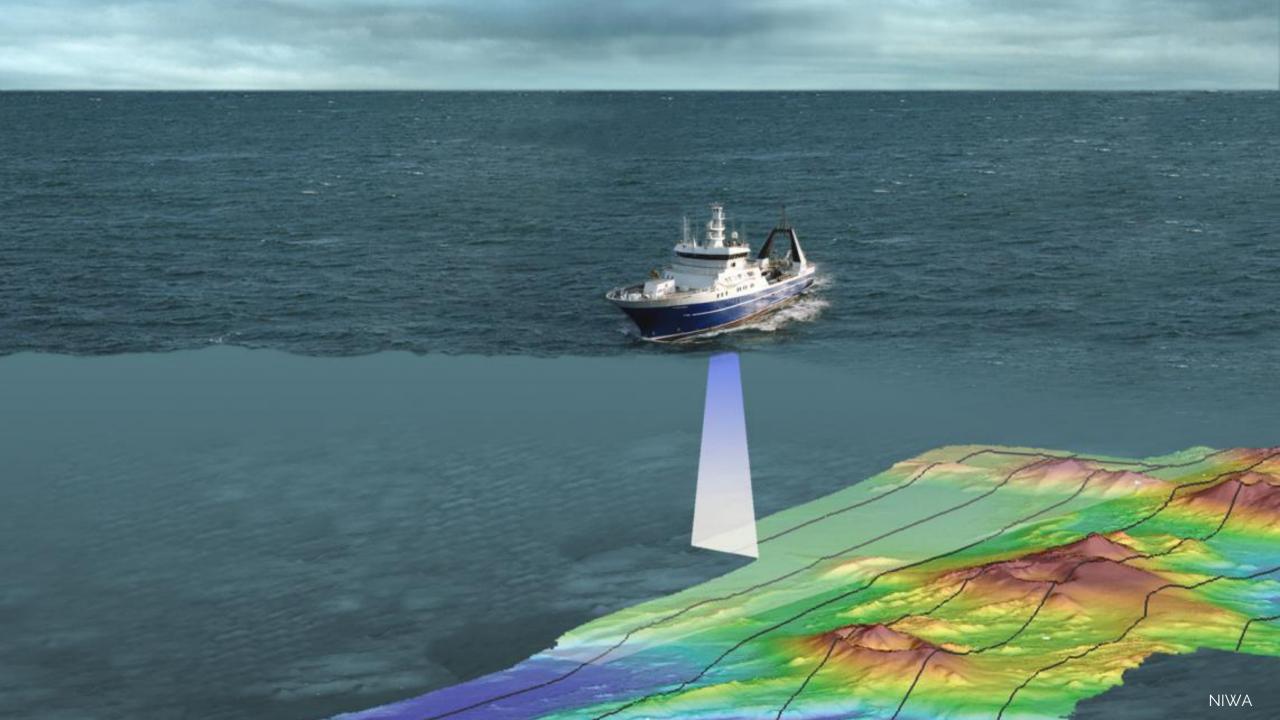
It is essential, a foundational aspect of the modelling process

Environmental data as a foundation



- Underpins all species distribution models.
- Errors here will introduce uncertainty into outputs
 - Sensor issues
 - Spatial inaccuracies
 - Resampling errors
 - Selection of appropriate scale
 - Can introduce unquantifiable uncertainty if not addressed.

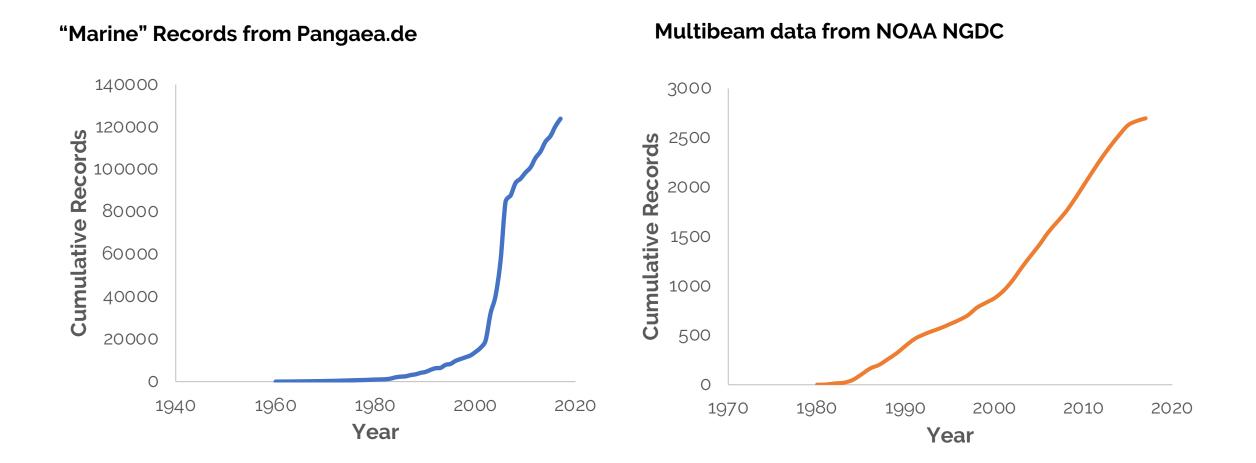
Our access to environmental data is increasingly facilitated by novel technology

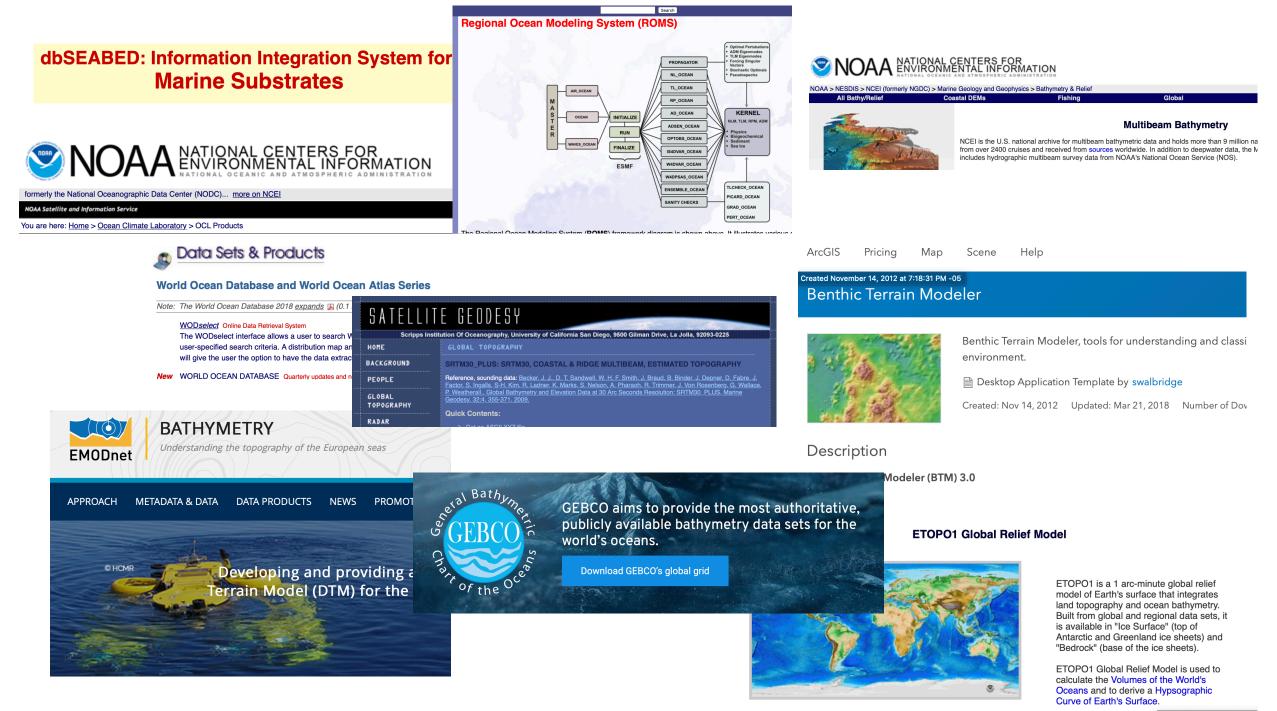






Marine data is becoming available at almost exponential rates..





Sounds amazing, so what is the problem?

Let me ask a question...

Can you tell me how "good" your environmental data is?

How "good" is your environmental data?

- Environmental data often undergoes several processes that are not fully reported in the methods.
 - e.g. resampling, filtering.
- Are often just "accepted as is" with little to no validation.
- Many environmental datasets are derived from more than one source, i.e. World Ocean Atlas or a hydrodynamic model, plus a bathymetric grid, which has the potential to compound errors.

80% used none or inadequate validation for their environmental variables

100% did not report sufficient detail for the data to be replicated without contacting authors

100% did not provide access to the created data layers

Survey of recent SDM papers published for deep-sea corals. Full meta-analysis is ongoing, so these stats are only indicative at present.

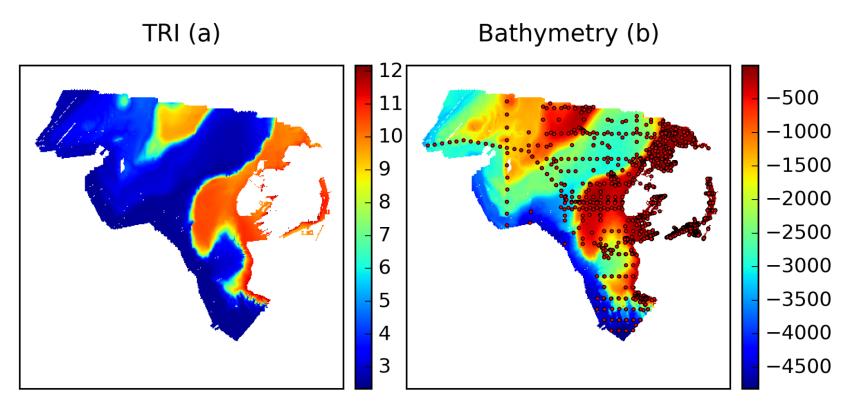
Three steps towards a "gold" standard for environmental data

- 1. Ensure adoption of independent validation metrics that are relevant to the modeling exercise being undertaken.
- 2. Improve transparency in methodologies by providing sufficient detail and/or processing code, in methodologies.
- 3. Increase sharing and open access of environmental data (as well as other components of models).

Marine Species Distribution Modeling In the Global Ocean – SCOR WG Proposal https://bit.ly/32VkSy2. Being discussed at SCOR 2019 Annual Meeting (Sept 2019).

• Example of a validation process:

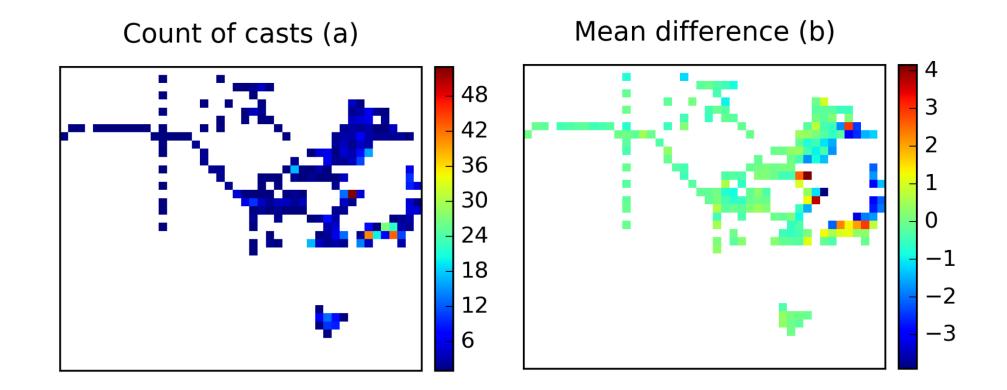
Overall pattern



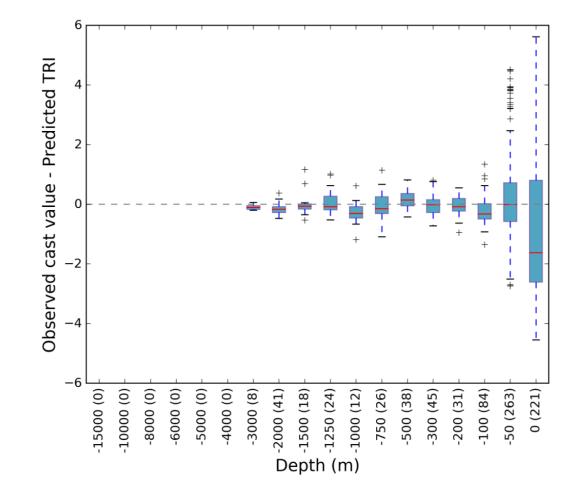
The following map shows: The output TRI variable (a), the depth layer with locations of the CTD points as red points (b). You should look at where these points fall, large clusters, especially in shallower water areas or large expanses of relatively flat bathymetry will generally explain poor model performance.

example for temperature variable from the Irish EEZ

• Test variables throughout modelling extent:



• Throughout your depth profile:



• Finally, develop comparable validation statistics:

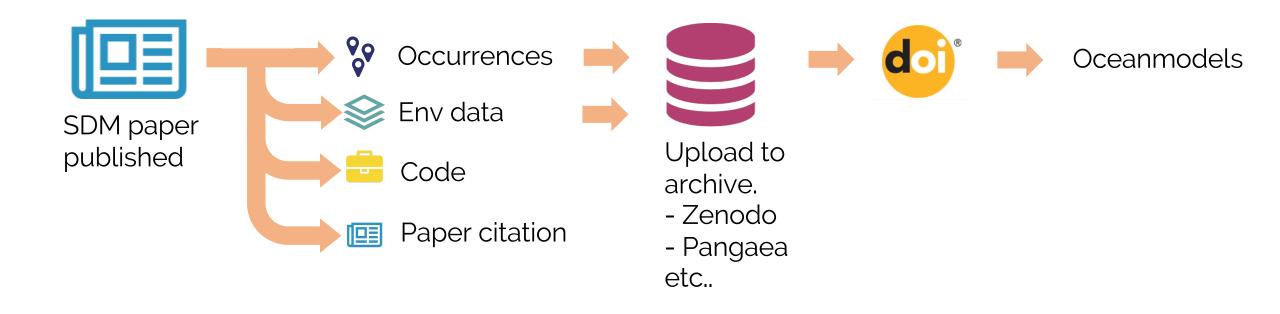
Summary statistics

The statistics provide an insight into the overall performance of the model against validation data that you downloaded from World Ocean database.

Test	Unfiltered	Filtered	Notes
Samples	1297	811	The number of CTD casts used for validation.
RMSE (Depth)	883.012167985	27.7199574441	Root mean square error, this is overall error of the depth layer.
RMSE (TRI)	3.00182317095	1.70534976079	Root mean square error, this is overall error of the tri layer.
Mean difference (Cast - TRI)	0.757856927052	-0.167957865214	Mean overall difference between validation cast and the modelled TRI layer.
Pearson Correlation (Cast vs TRI)	0.44 (p = 0.0)	0.78 (p = 0.0)	Pearson correlation of the validation casts against modelled TRI per location.

Improve transparency and increase sharing and open access of environmental data (as well as other components of models).

• Development of a new online meta-resource: oceanmodels.org*



*not yet released

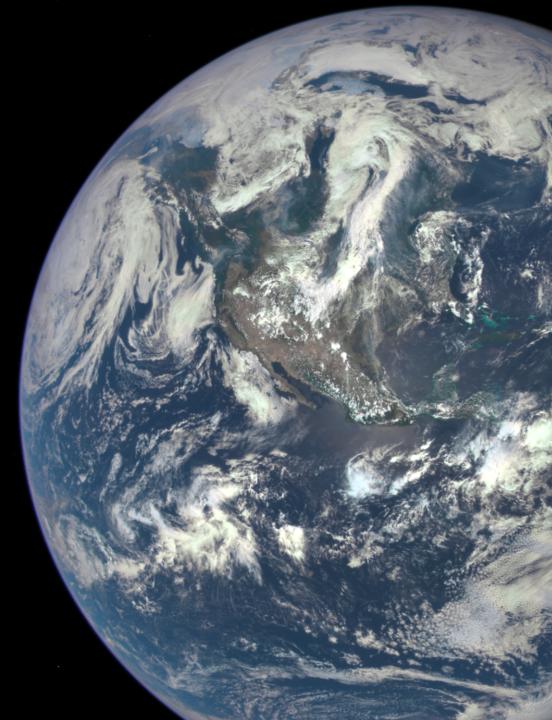


Summary

- To advance species distribution models in the deep ocean:
 - Develop and apply a coherent **validation framework** for produced environmental data, and to establish a minimum standard validation protocol.
 - Follow **Open Access** and **Open Data** standards, with full releases of various programs and data.
- If you are interested in the developing oceanmodels.org framework and/or the M-SDM GO working group, drop me an email or talk to me in the last hours of the meeting.

Finally

- We have a relevant session at the AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting 2020, which will take place on 16-21 February in San Diego, California.
 - Session ID: 85248
 - Session Title: **Biological hotspots in the deep** sea: natural variability and adaptation to changing oceans
 - Topic Area: Ocean Biology and Biogeochemistry
- Abstract submissions are open will close 11 September 2019.
- Session Chairs: Furu Mienis, Hans Tore Rapp, Jasper de Goeij, Andy Davies



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