



**National  
Oceanography Centre**  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

# **International Programmes, including the GLOSS Programme, and International Sea Level Data Banks**

Philip L. Woodworth

National Oceanography Centre, Liverpool

Sea Level Training Course, St Lucia, 17-21 October 2016

## **International Programmes relevant to Sea Level**

**Some of the main acronyms in the alphabet soup of international programmes!**





<http://www.wcrp-climate.org/>

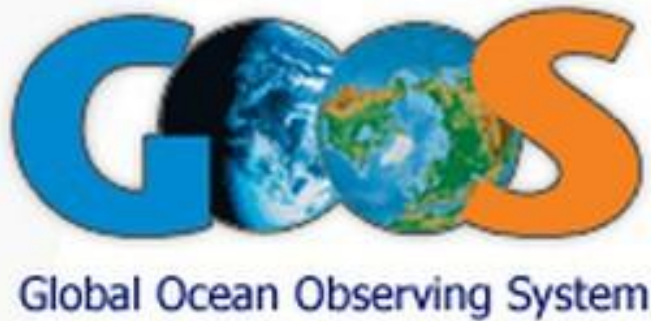
The **World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)** was established in 1980, under the joint sponsorship of the International Council for Science and the World Meteorological Organization, and has also been sponsored by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission** of UNESCO since 1993.

The WCRP has initiated programmes such as the Tropical Oceans Global Atmosphere (**TOGA**) and World Ocean Circulation Experiment (**WOCE**) which have had large sea level measurement campaigns.



<http://www.ipcc.ch/>

Data and insight on sea level from WCRP programmes are major inputs to the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**.



<http://www.ioc-goos.org/>

The **Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)** is a permanent global system for observations, modelling and analysis of marine and ocean variables to support operational ocean services worldwide.

Responsible to the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Assembly**

Sponsored by IOC, WMO and WCRP

The Global Sea Level Observing System (**GLOSS**) was the first operational component of **GOOS**.



[www.wmo.int/gcos/](http://www.wmo.int/gcos/)

The **Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)**, along with the GOOS and the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) form the **G3OS** of global observing programmes.

**GCOS** also has a sea level component which overlaps with **GLOSS**

# The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and Sea Level

- GLOSS – primarily focused on providing sea level data for tides, storm surges and climate change
- Various tsunami activities
- There is now a realisation in IOC that these 2 activities have to work more closely together.



## IOC Tsunami Programme

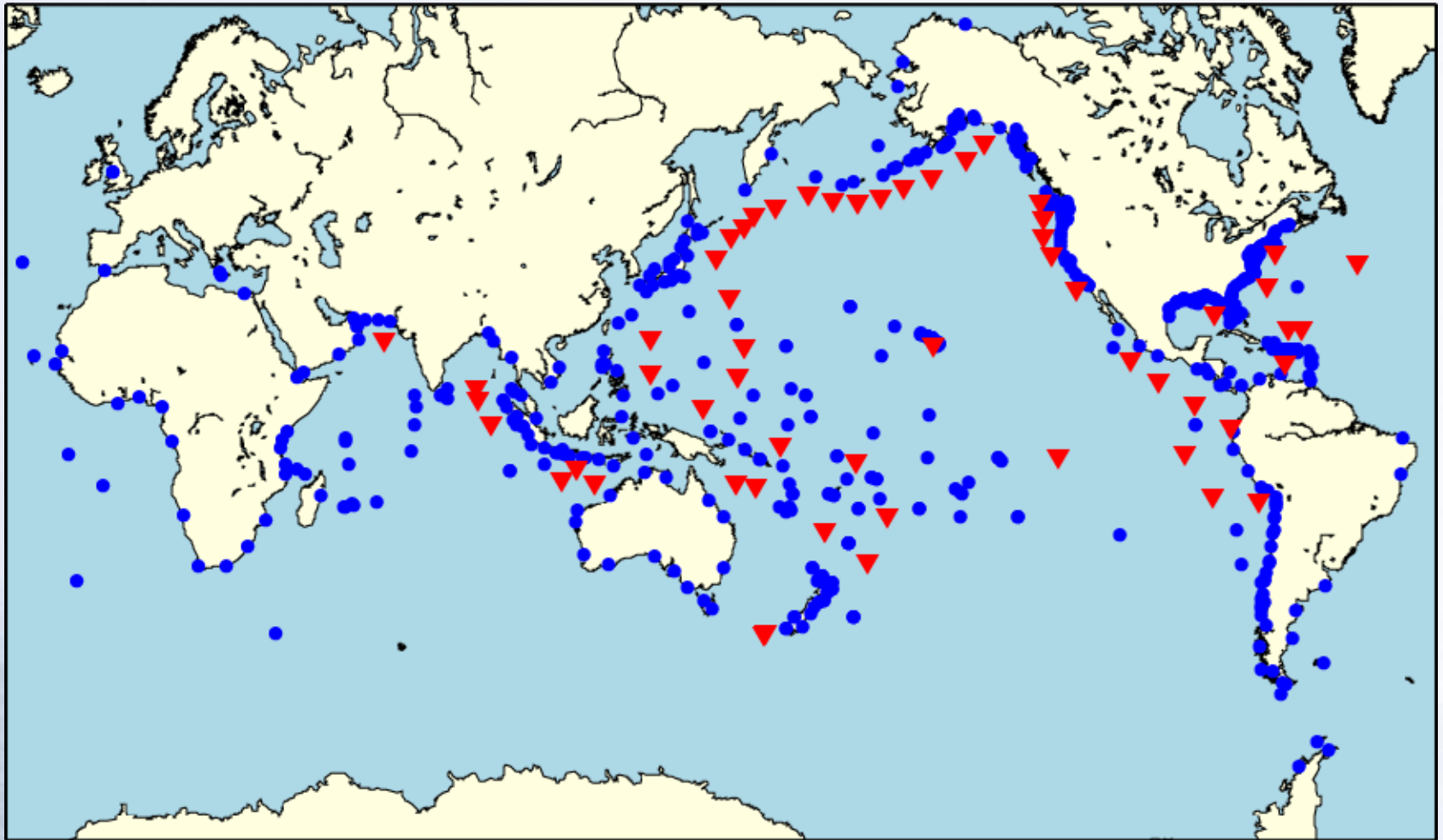
- Pacific Ocean
- Indian Ocean
- Caribbean (IOCARIBE-EWS)
- North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (NEAMTWS)

Web site: [www.ioc-tsunami.org](http://www.ioc-tsunami.org)

**All of these regional tsunami programmes have important sea level components**



# Pacific Tsunami Programme



**Red triangles** = tsunameters. **Blue dots** = tide gauges reporting in real time to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center

# IOCCARIBE-EWS

- See Carolina Hincapie talk
- [ioc-caribe.unesco.org](http://ioc-caribe.unesco.org)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the IOCCARIBE website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the UNESCO logo, the IOC logo, and the IOCCARIBE logo. Below the navigation bar, there are four tabs: UNESCO, IOC, IOC Sites, and News. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- IOCCARIBE Home:** A paragraph describing IOCCARIBE as a regional subsidiary body of UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).
- MAIN MENU:** A vertical list of links including IOC Meetings, Home, About IOCCARIBE, Programmes, Member States, IOCCARIBE Meetings, Documents, News, and Contact Us.
- PROGRAMMES:** A vertical list of links including CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, CMA, CLME, GOOS, HAB-ANCA, IBCCA, and ICAM.
- CURRENT NEWS ITEMS:** A list of news items with links, including "Job Vacancy: Associate Project Officer-IW:LEARN", "Government Officials Discuss SIDS Partnerships for SAMOA Pathway, SDGs", "World's First Illegal Fishing Treaty now in force!!", "Vacancy Announcement - Communications Specialist", "World Oceans Day - 8 June 2016", "2 Scholarships in Marine Management for Caribbean Nationals of Commonwealth", and "Launching of the Ocean Teacher Global Academy YouTube Channel".
- UPCOMING EVENTS:** A list of upcoming events with links, including "I Taller Internacional de Expertos en Ciguatera del Gran Caribe - II Taller Nacional sobre Florecimientos Algales Nocivos (INVEMAR, Santa Marta, 17-19 Agosto, 2016)", "Training Course on Ocean Acidification OA-ICC (Ensenada, Mexico, September 5-10, 2016)", "Curso de Tecnologías de Información SIG (INVEMAR, Santa Marta, 22-26 Agosto, 2016)", "Forty-ninth Session of the IOC Executive Council (Paris, France, June 7-10, 2016)", "Ocean Teacher Global Academy Steering Group Meeting II (Oostende, Belgium, 8-10 March, 2016)", and "Eleventh Session of ICG for Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean (Cartagena, Colombia, April 5-7, 2016)".



## Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Tsunami Programme



You are here: [Está aquí!](#) [Home](#) > [Caribbean](#)

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[Русский](#)

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- ▶ [Newsletter](#)
- ▶ [Home](#)
- ▶ [Quiénes somos](#)
- ▶ [News](#)
- ▶ [Regiones](#)

[Caribbean](#)

[TWFP](#)

[TNC](#)

- ▶ [Océano Indico](#)
- ▶ [Noreste del Océano Atlántico & Mar Mediterráneo](#)
- ▶ [Océano Pacífico](#)
- ▶ [Nuestro equipo](#)
- ▶ [TWFPs & TNCs](#)
- ▶ [Documentos](#)
- ▶ [Calendario](#)
- ▶ [Contacto](#)

### Sea Level Monitoring



## Portal del Caribe

El Grupo Intergubernamental de Coordinación del Sistema de Alerta contra los Tsunamis y otras Amenazas Costeras en el Caribe y Regiones Adyacentes (ICG/CARIBE-EWS) se creó en 2005 en calidad de órgano subsidiario de la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental de la UNESCO (COI) a fin de prestar una asistencia eficaz en la reducción de riesgos de tsunami a los Estados Miembros de la región del Caribe tras la experiencia del tsunami del Océano Índico de 2004. Los lineamientos para las actividades del ICG/CARIBE EWS se encuentran en el [Plan de Implementación CARIBE EWS](#)

### Mesa

#### Presidente

Sra. Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade (NOAA Caribbean Tsunami Center, USA)

#### Vice-chairpersons

Mr Milton Puentes Dirección General Marítima, DIMAR, Colombia)

Mr Paul Martens (Disaster Manager, Sint Maarten Fire Department, Sint Maarten, Kingdom of Netherlands)

Mr Gerard Metayer (Responsable du Dossier Tsunami, Service Maritime et de Navigation d'Haiti, Haiti)

#### Grupos de Trabajo

El Grupo Intergubernamental de Coordinación se reúne periódicamente para elaborar y poner en práctica planes de trabajo en la región del Caribe. A fin de tratar cuestiones técnicas específicas se constituyeron cuatro grupos de trabajo:

*Grupo de Trabajo 1 - Sistemas de vigilancia y detección.* Presidente: Sr. Jean-Marie Saurel

### Quick Links

[ITIC](#)

[IOTIC](#)

[NEAMTIC](#)

### Featured Documents



[Tsunami The Great Waves](#)

[Where the First Wave Arrives in Minutes](#)  
Indonesian Lessons on Surviving Tsunamis near Their Sources





<http://www.gloss-sealevel.org>

**GLOSS**

**The Global Sea Level Observing System**

**Also known as**

**“ Global Level of the Sea Surface ”**

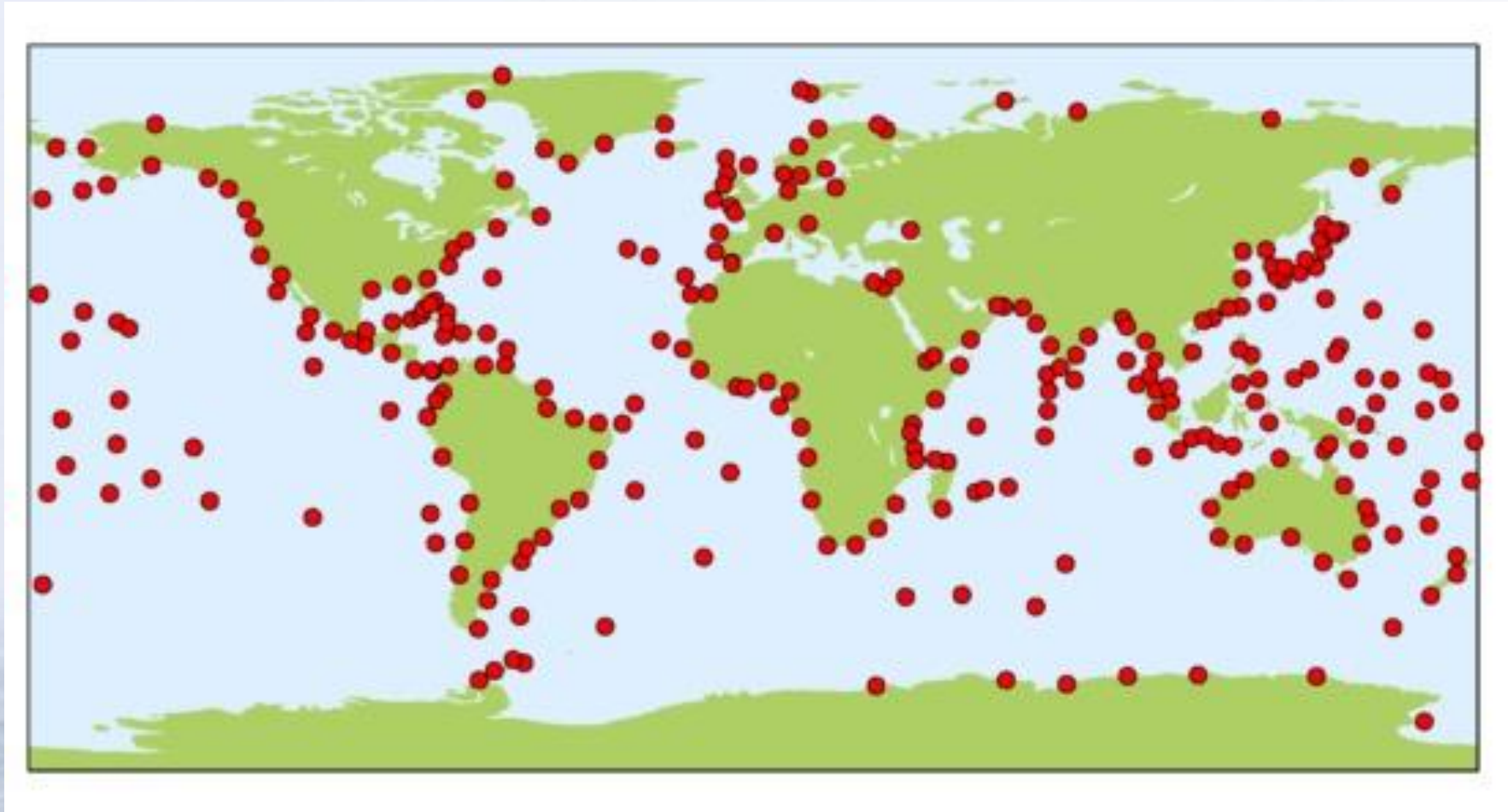


# **GLOSS Objectives**

- **Establishment of high quality global and regional sea level networks for application to climate, oceanographic and coastal sea level research**
- **Sea level stations around the world for long term climate change and oceanographic sea level monitoring**
- **Coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)**
- **Major contributor to GOOS**

# Some History

- GLOSS was initiated in the 1980s with the aim of increasing the quantity and quality of month and annual MSL data to the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (PSMSL)
- A network, now called the **GLOSS Core Network**, was defined to which all countries would contribute
- These ideas formed the basis for the first GLOSS Implementation Plan



**The GLOSS Core Network**

# More History

- By the 1990s there had been many technical developments in sea level measurement:

Satellite Altimetry

GPS for measuring land movements

- The second GLOSS Implementation Plan was written to define:

GLOSS Core Network

A sub-network for Long Term Trends

A sub-network for Altimeter Calibration

A sub-network for Ocean Circulation



# More History

- By the 2000s there had been more developments to do with:
  - The need for real time data from all tide gauge sites and overlap with tsunami networks
  - The need for Continuous GPS receivers at all GLOSS tide gauge sites
- The third GLOSS Implementation Plan was published in 2012 to take these into account



UNESCO



Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission  
Technical Series 100

## The Global Sea Level Observing System

### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

# 2012

UNESCO

# **GLOSS Implementation Plan 2012**

Chapter 1 - Overview of GLOSS

Chapter 2 - Scientific and Practical Applications of Sea Level Information

Chapter 3 - Status of GLOSS in 2011

Chapter 4 - Sea Level Monitoring Requirements from Ocean, Climate, and Geodetic Study Groups and Research Programmes

Chapter 5 - Sea Level Monitoring Requirements for Research and Practical Applications

Chapter 6 - Implementation Plan

Chapter 7 - Administration of the GLOSS Programme

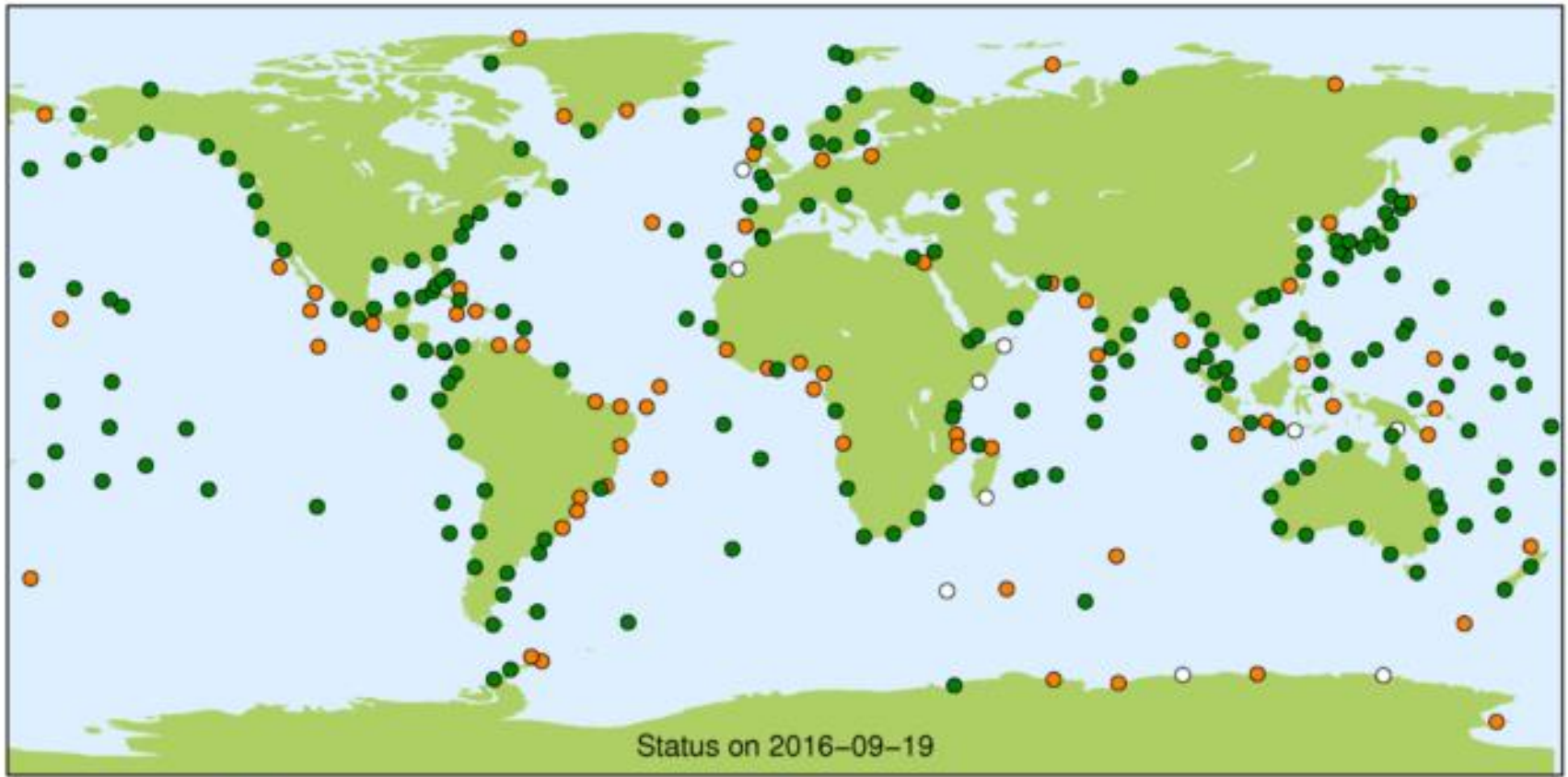
Chapter 8 - Obligations of GLOSS Member States

Chapter 9 - Capacity Development and Implementation Assistance

# GLOSS Status

GLOSS status can be measured by how well the network is providing data to data centres:

- MSL data available at PSMSL
- Real-time data available at Real-Time Centre
- Delayed-mode data available at Delayed-Mode Centre
- Many status maps at [www.psmsl.org/products/gloss/status/](http://www.psmsl.org/products/gloss/status/)

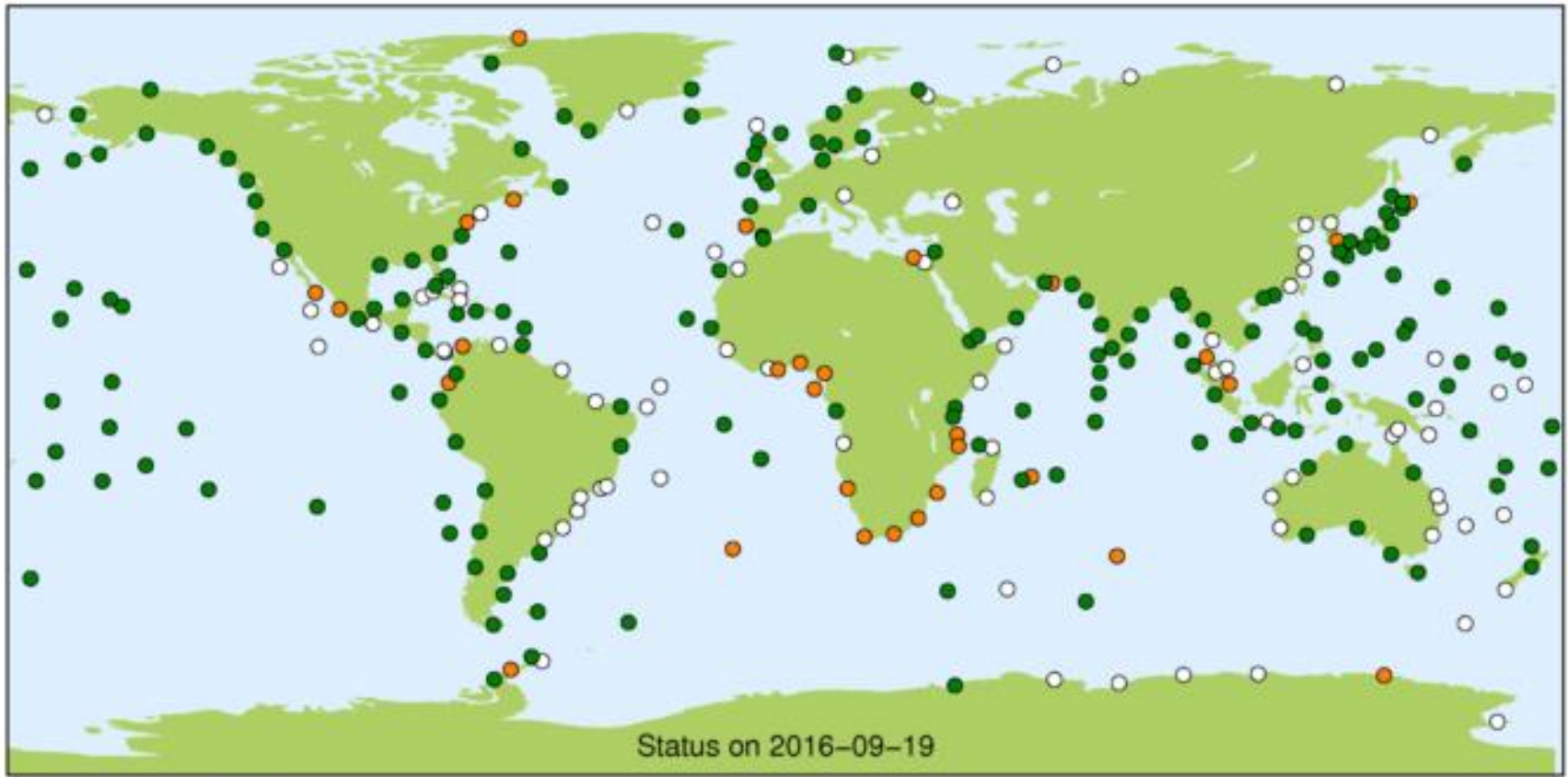


●  
Updated in past 5 years (212)

●  
Has some data (68)

○  
No data (10)

## PSMSL – All Data Receipts



Status on 2016-09-19



Updated in past 31 days (179)

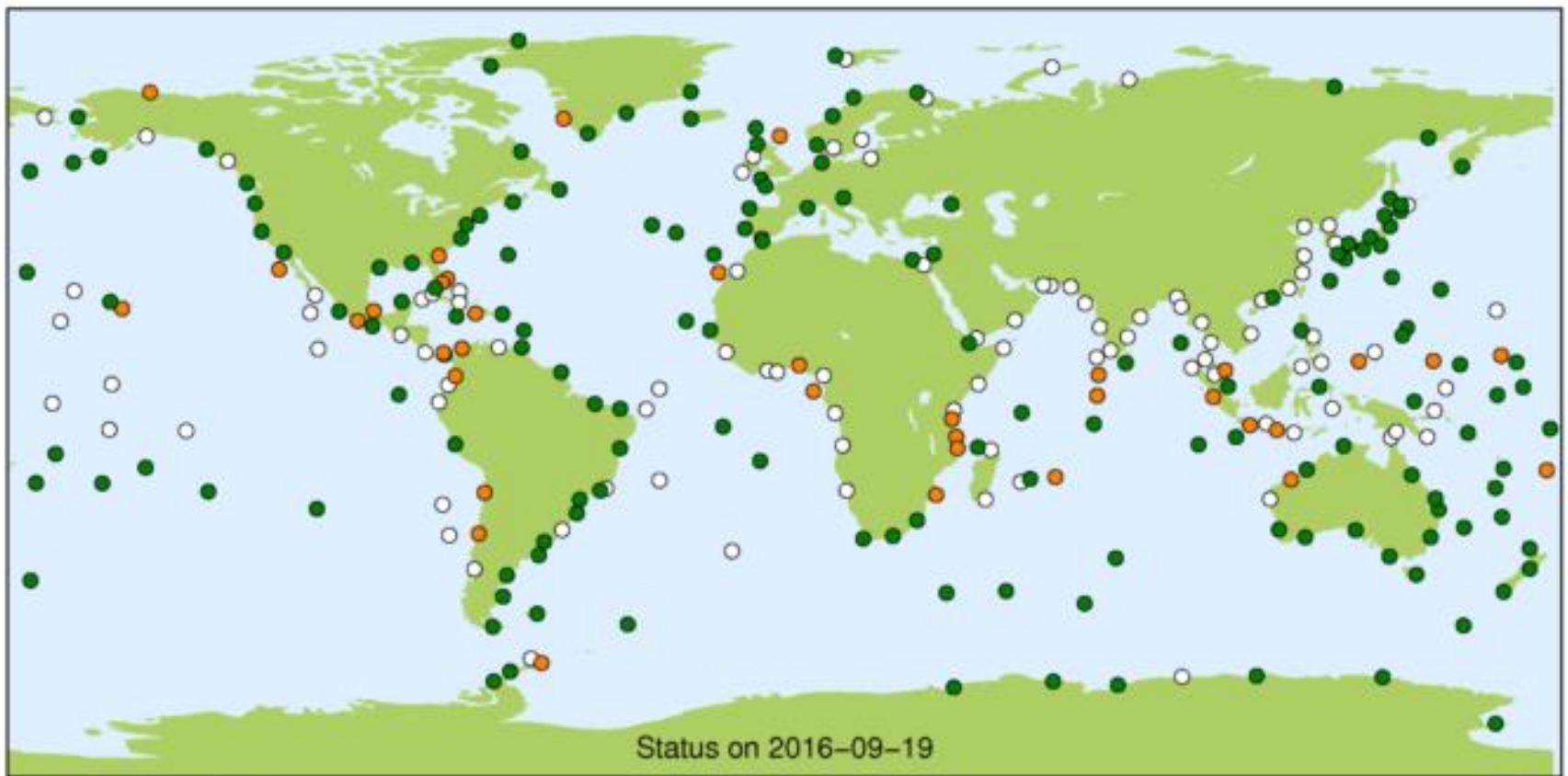


Has some data (30)



No data (81)

Real time data at VLIZ (IOC Monitoring Facility)



Updated in past 6 months (155)

Has some data (37)

No data (98)

Gauges with GPS data at SONEL



# **GLOSS Activities**

## **Regional Developments**

- Regional networks of gauges with greater spatial density, to serve the particular oceanographic interests of those regions

## **National Activities**

- Contribution to the activities of national agencies by improving the standards for sea level recording around the world

## **Training**

- Training courses on the techniques of tide gauge operations, and workshops on special interests e.g. measurements in environmentally hostile areas





## **International Sea Level Data Banks**

**There are, of course, many national sea level data centres (a list is available on the PSMSL web site, [www.psmsl.org](http://www.psmsl.org)). But here we shall focus on international centres, and particularly those associated with the GLOSS programme**

# Types of Sea Level Data (and so Data Banks)

- **Real-time.** Data transmitted to a warning centre which can look out for flooding due to storm surges or tsunamis. Delay (latency) has to be as short as possible so there is no time for detailed inspection of the record
- **Fast.** Data needed within a few weeks for operational oceanographic programmes. Needs to have had a light touch of quality control.
- **Delayed Mode.** Delay is not a major issue. Data are archived by a centre for subsequent detailed analysis and removal of errors. Such highest-quality data, fully quality controlled (including datums) are needed for scientific research, for production of a range of products (e.g. tide tables), for computation of MSL etc.

# PERMANENT SERVICE FOR MEAN SEA LEVEL (PSMSL)



- Established by IUGG in 1933 and member of World Data System of the International Council for Science
- Responsible for
  - collection,
  - analysis (including research as high level quality control),
  - distribution of monthly and annual MSL data,
  - provision of a wider 'Service'
- Web site [www.psmsl.org](http://www.psmsl.org)

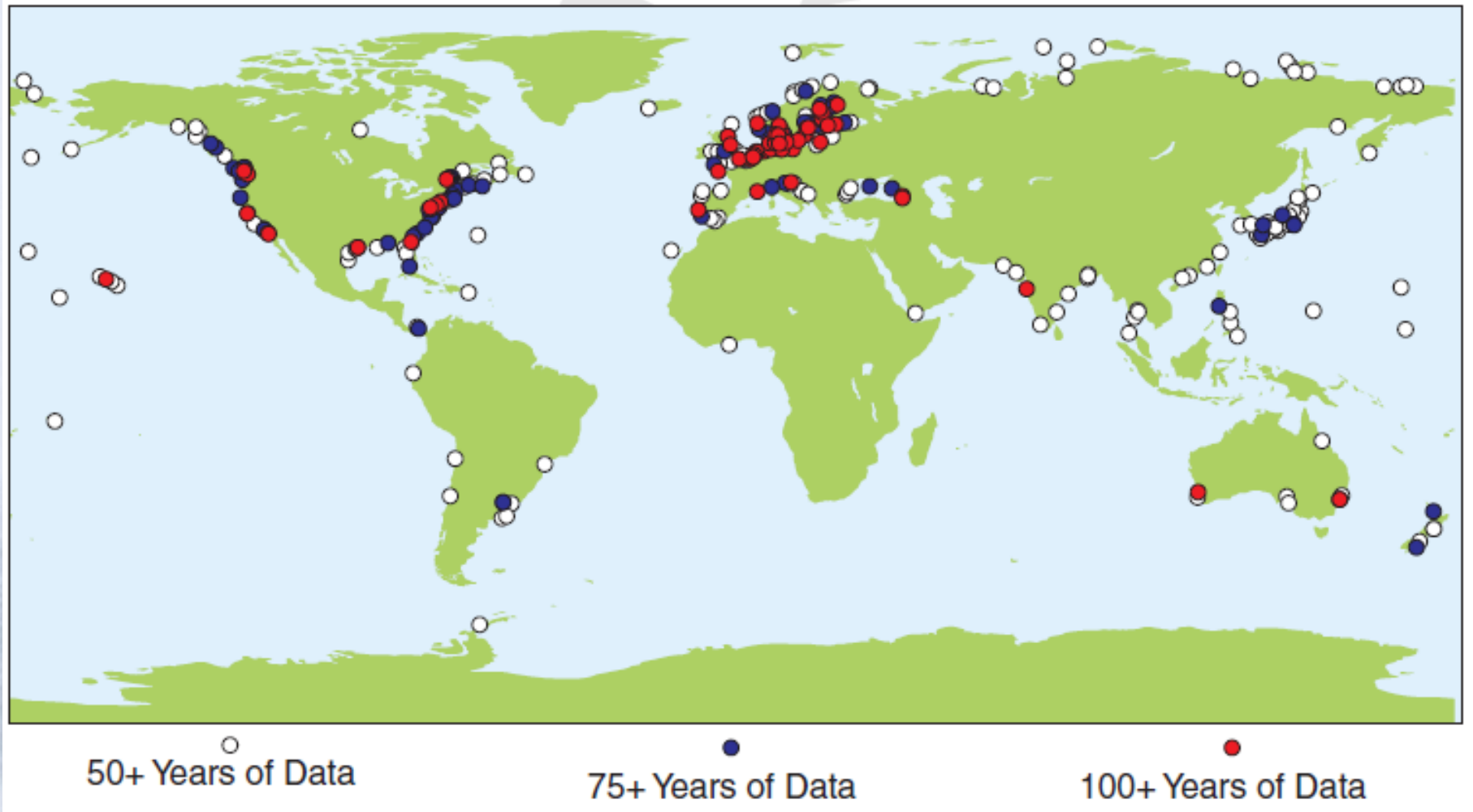
- Data bank contains
  - over **60,000** station-years of information from almost **2,000** stations in **200** 'countries' or coastlines,
  - **1,500** station-years added per year
- If possible, all records converted to a Revised Local Reference (i.e. common station datum)
- Data used throughout oceanography, climate change, geology and geodesy (Most obvious application being 'sea level rise').

# PSMSL Stations (All stations)



From Pugh and Woodworth (2014)

# Long Records in the Revised Local Reference (RLR subset of the PSMSL)



From Pugh and Woodworth (2014)



[home >](#)

### News

- [Changes to the PSMSL Data Files](#)
- [PSMSL Launches New Website](#)
- [PSMSL Updates Backend Database](#)
- [More News ...](#)

### Explore the Dataset



[Browse dataset in Google Earth](#)

## Welcome to the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (PSMSL)

Established in 1933, PSMSL is the global data bank for long term sea level change information from tide gauges and bottom pressure recorders.

### About Us:

Learn about PSMSL, contact us, read news items and annual reports

### Data:

Obtain and submit tide gauge and bottom pressure data

### Products:

Browse the data set via GoogleEarth or obtain derived products, view regional commentaries and author archives

### Training & Information:

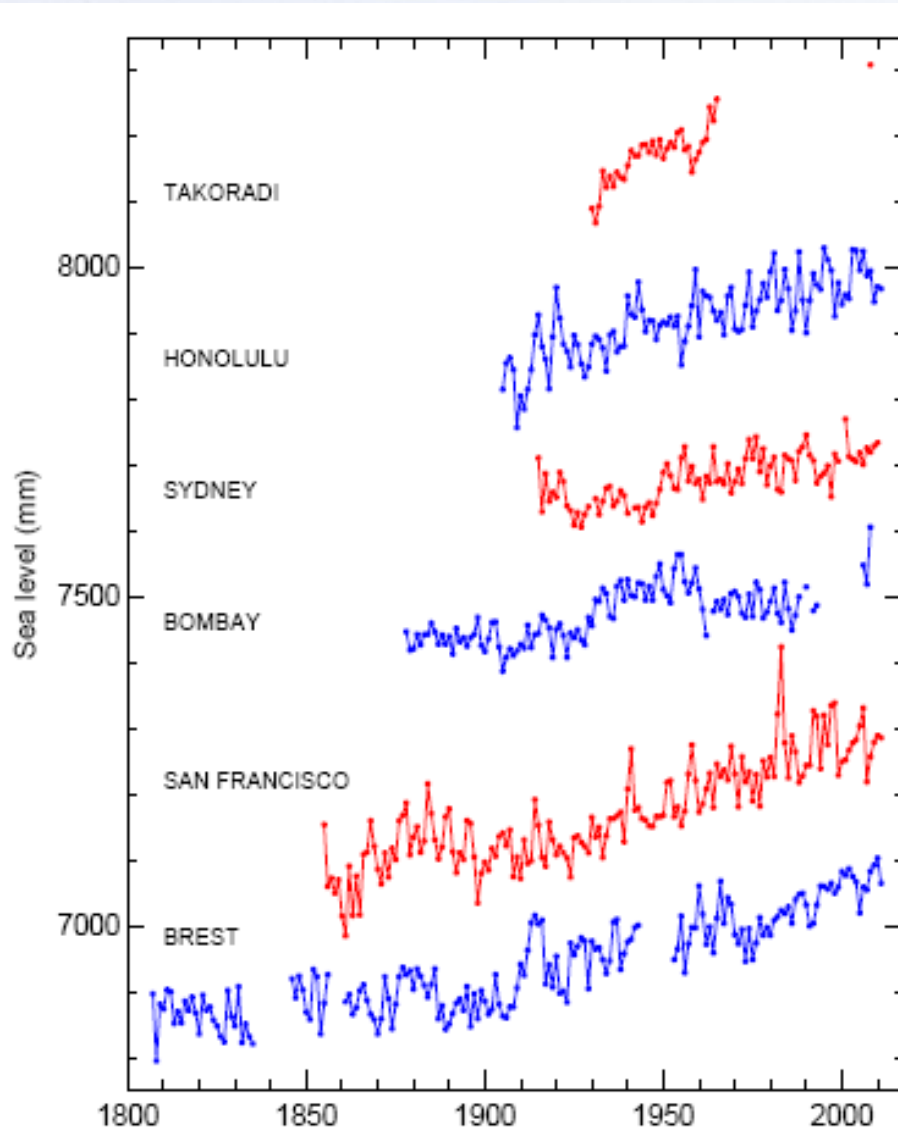
A wide variety of FAQs, training and software documentation, information on non-oceanographic signals in tide gauge records (e.g., glacial isostatic adjustment, atmospheric pressure, etc.)

### Links:

Links to other networks and programs, as well as international sea level contacts

[www.psmsl.org](http://www.psmsl.org)

# Long records from each continent



**Most records show evidence for rising sea levels during the past century**

**IPCC concluded that there has been a global rise of approximately 10-20 cm during the past 100 years**



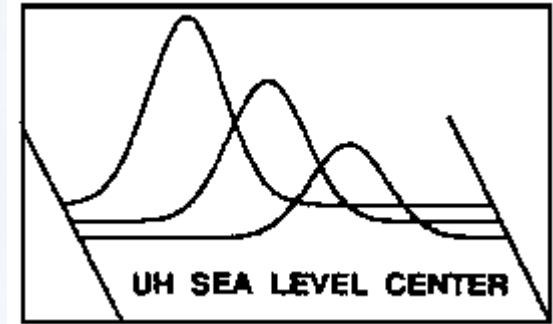
## **PSMSL and GLOSS**

- GLOSS is a programme of the Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) of the IOC and WMO with primary aim to increase quality and quantity of data to PSMSL
- PSMSL has provided a main management function to GLOSS
- Organisation of training courses in a number of locations
- Emphasis on training materials, manuals, sea level software etc.

## **PSMSL Service Aspects**

- Technical advice to tide gauge operators
- Data processing advice to network operators and scientists
- Scientific advice to Governments
- General advice to members of the public (many now covered by web Frequently Asked Questions). All letters and emails are replied to
- PSMSL web (data and information pages)

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SEA LEVEL CENTER (UHSLC)



- Originally established as a centre for TOGA programme
- Later became one of the WOCE sea level centres
- Now the major GLOSS Fast and Real-Time Centre
- Research Quality Data Set (RQDS) also produced
- Also responsible to IOC for upgrades to IOTWS
- Web site: <http://uhslc.soest.hawaii.edu/>



NCAR | UCAR | **ClimateDataGuide**

## An introduction to tide gauge data

[Read It Here](#)

For a complete guide, see the IOC/JCOMM Manual on Sea Level Measurement and Interpretation.

[Download](#)



Research

Sea level and climate research spanning



Data

Quality controlled sea level data from



Tide Gauges

We maintain an international network for



GLOSS

The UHSLC is part of the Global Sea Level

# BRITISH OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA CENTRE (BODC) – GLOSS DELAYED MODE CENTRE



British Oceanographic  
Data Centre  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

- Located at NOC in Liverpool alongside PSMSL (also a delayed mode centre)
- GLOSS delayed mode centre collects 'higher frequency' (e.g. hourly or more frequent) data from GLOSS sites
- Responsible for the GLOSS Handbook and GLOSS web pages
- [www.bodc.ac.uk](http://www.bodc.ac.uk)



- Where to find data
- Online delivery>
- Online request>
- Information and inventories>
- Biological data
- Chemical data
- Cruise inventory
- EDMED
- GLOSS Station Handbook**
- NERC MetaData Gateway
- International current meters
- Inventory of Sea Level Obs.
- Summary of BODC holdings
- Code and format definitions>
- Submitting data to BODC
- Portals and links>

# GLOSS Station Handbook

## What is GLOSS?

The Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS) is a programme coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) for the establishment of global and regional sea level networks.

The main component of GLOSS is the 'Global Core Network' of 287 stations around the world for long term climate change and oceanographic sea level monitoring.

## The GLOSS Station Handbook

The GLOSS Station Handbook was constructed to provide further information on each of the tide gauges in GLOSS core network. It was updated during 2005 and these pages form Version 6 of the Handbook.

Connect to the [GLOSS Station Handbook](#).

The Handbook includes references to individual countries and organisations who have made their sea level data (hourly values) available. Plots of annual mean sea level are also available for most sites and site maps are provided for many of the stations.

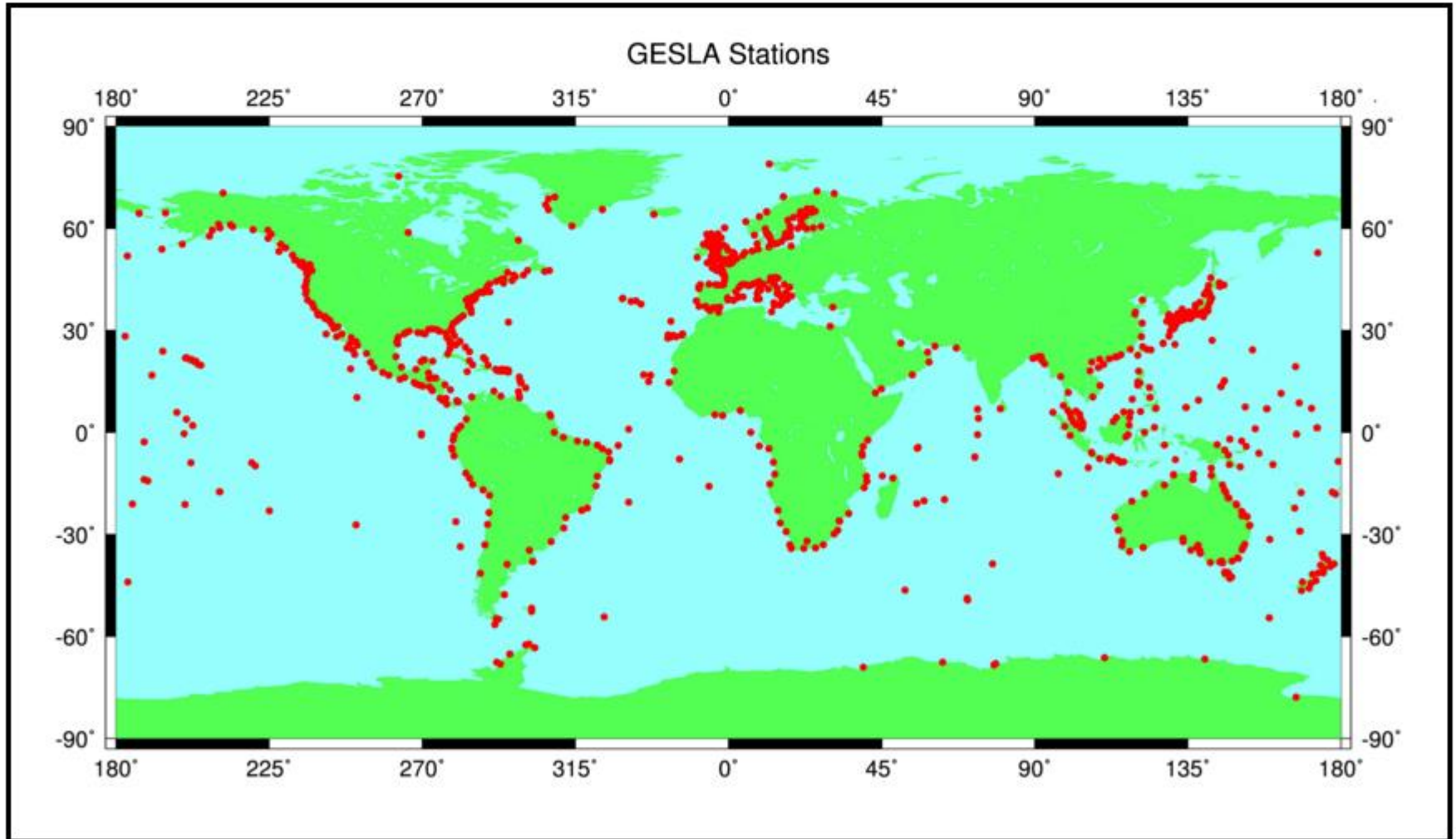


Location of the Newlyn tide gauge, UK ©

# GESLA

## Global Extreme Sea Level Analysis

Version 2

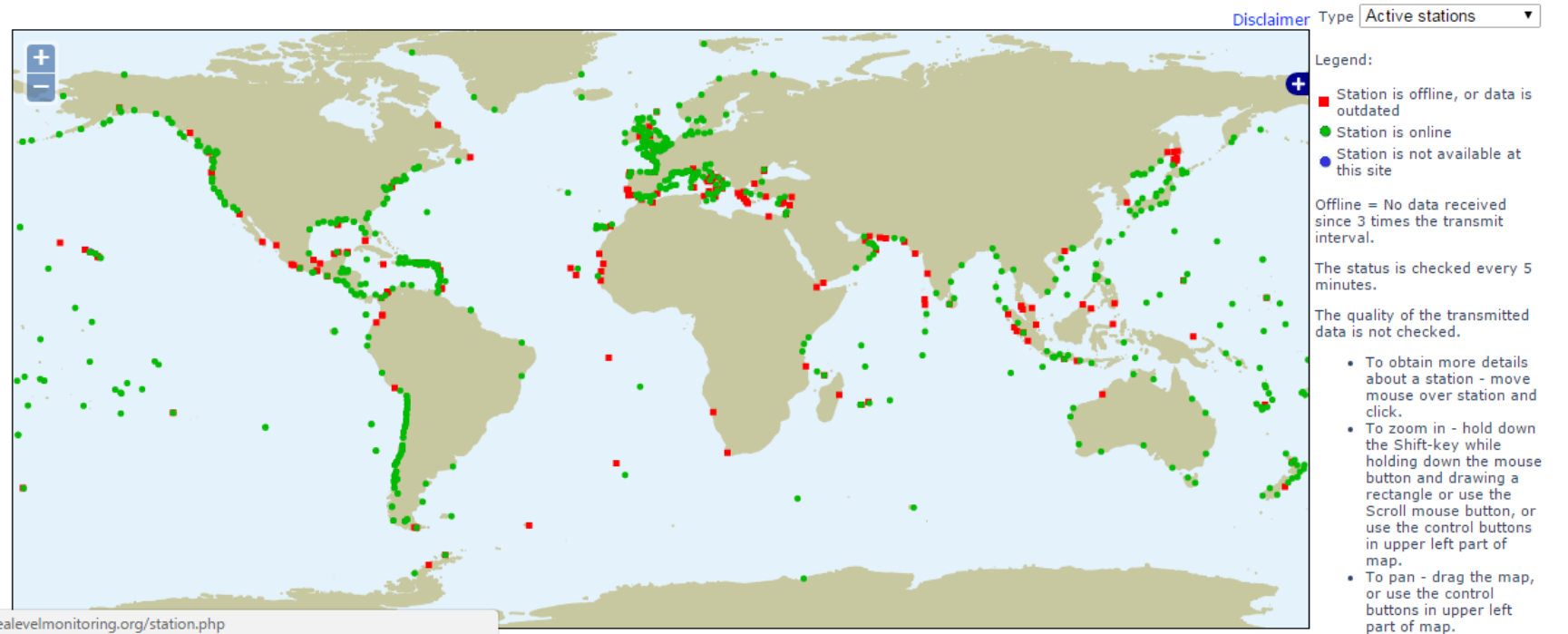




# SEA LEVEL STATION MONITORING FACILITY

Intro **Map** Station lists Station details Services Disclaimer & policy

Sealevel stations  
Status at 2016-09-25 11:26 GMT





[\[previous station\]](#)Station **Auckland\_NZ**

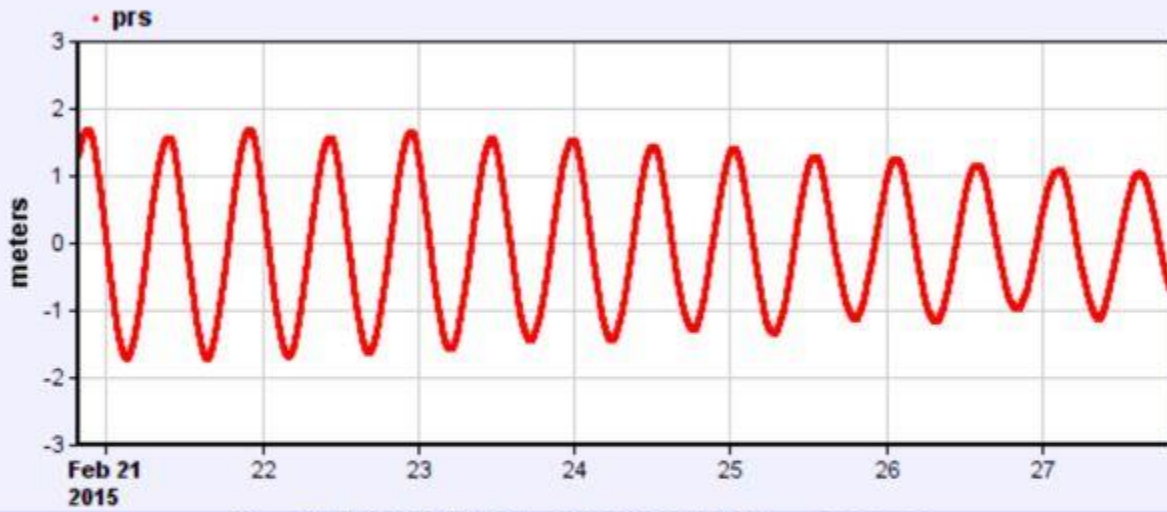
at GMT

[\[next station\]](#)[\[more details\]](#)[\[GTS message\]](#)[\[show data\]](#)[\[show on map\]](#)[\[monitor\]](#)**Station metadata**

Code	auct
Country	New Zealand
Location	Auckland_NZ
Status	Operational
Local Contact	Land Information New Zealand ( New Zealand )
GLOSS ID	127 <a href="#">[goto handbook]</a>
QC data	UHSLC (1984-05-01 1988-12-31)
Latitude	-36.8314
Longitude	174.7865
Connection	GTS message
GTS message type	SZNZ01

**Sensor 1**

Type of sensor	prs
Sampling rate (min)	1

**Sealevel at Auckland\_NZ station - (5.187 m)**

Period	Signals	Data
<input type="checkbox"/> 12h <input type="checkbox"/> day <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7 days <input type="checkbox"/> 30 days	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove outliers <input type="checkbox"/> Remove spikes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Relative levels= signal - average over selected period <input type="radio"/> Absolute levels= as received <input type="radio"/> Offset signals= relative signals + offset

Tip:use left icons to zoom &amp; scroll



# SEA LEVEL MONITORING FACILITY

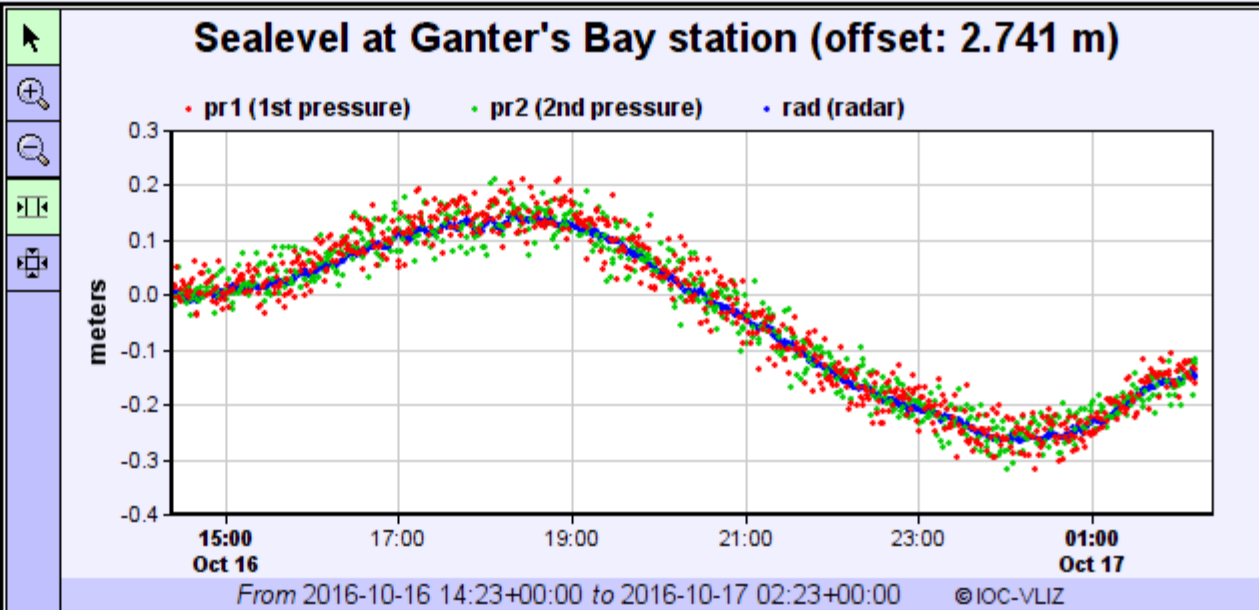
Intro    Map    Station lists    **Station details**    Services    Disclaimer & po

[previous station]    Station  at GMT    [next station]

[more details]    [GTS message]    [show data]    [show on map]    [monitor]

Station metadata	
Code	stlu
Country	Saint Lucia
Location	Ganter's Bay
Status	Operational
Local Contact	Saint Lucia Met Service ( Saint Lucia )
Other Contact	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology ( Barbados )
Other Contact	National Oceanography Centre ( UK )
QC data	n/a
Latitude	14.016428
Longitude	-60.997351
Connection	GTS message
GTS message type	SOLC10

Sensor 1	
Type of sensor	rad (radar)
Sampling rate (min)	1
Sensor 2	
Type of sensor	pr1 (1st pressure)
Sampling rate (min)	1
Sensor 3	
Type of	pr2 (2nd pressure)



Period	Signals	Data
<input type="checkbox"/> 12h <input checked="" type="radio"/> day <input type="checkbox"/> 7 days <input type="checkbox"/> 30 days	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rad <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pr1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pr2 <input type="checkbox"/> Remove outliers <input type="checkbox"/> Remove spikes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Relative levels= signal - average over selected period <input type="radio"/> Absolute levels= as received <input type="radio"/> Offset signals= relative signals + offset <input type="radio"/> Show battery voltage

Tip:use left icons to zoom & scroll



# **GLOSS Centre for GNSS (GPS) Information**

**SONEL (Système d'Observation du Niveau  
des Eaux Littorales)**

**at the University of La Rochelle, France**

**is the GLOSS Centre for GNSS information  
obtained from tide gauge stations.**



- Accueil
- Présentation
- Données
- Programmes
- CGPS@TG
- Utilisateurs
- Documentation
- Colloque SONEL
- Contacts

Station manager only

Login

••••••••

Connection

Register

# GPS

Accueil du site > Données > GPS

## Quelles stations GPS ?

Les stations GPS pour lesquelles vous trouverez des données dans SONEL sont signalées sur une carte dynamique (cliquable). Il s'agit surtout de stations GPS permanentes co-localisées avec des marégraphes, mais aussi des stations GPS importantes pour la réalisation d'un repère terrestre géocentrique stable et précis.

Number of stations displayed : 495





## **Responsibilities (as far as possible) for participants in GLOSS to send data to international centres**

- 1. Real-time data** to the IOC Monitoring Facility at Ostende
- 2. Monthly and annual MSL data** to PSMSL
- 3. Delayed-mode higher-frequency data** (typically hourly values, quality controlled) to either UHSLC or PSMSL
- 4. Fast H-F data**, not quality controlled to UHSLC (as the designated GLOSS Fast Centre)

**These arrangements can be a bit confusing, but talk to either PSMSL or UHSLC to see how best data can be transferred in your case.**

# Table 8.1

## Sea Level Data Centres

	Location	Role	Data Availability	Web site
Monitoring facility	IOC SLSMF	Plots and downloads of NRT raw data	4-6 weeks	<a href="http://www.ioc-sealevelmonitoring.org">www.ioc-sealevelmonitoring.org</a>
Fast mode	UHSLC	Preliminary QC of data from originators		<a href="http://uhslc.soest.hawaii.edu">uhslc.soest.hawaii.edu</a>
Delayed mode	BODC	Final high frequency data from originators	Annually	<a href="http://www.bodc.ac.uk">www.bodc.ac.uk</a>
Hourly data products	JASL/UHSLC	Final hourly data with corrections	Annually	<a href="http://uhslc.soest.hawaii.edu">uhslc.soest.hawaii.edu</a>
Monthly averages	PSMSL	Final monthly averages from originators	Annually	<a href="http://www.psmsl.org">www.psmsl.org</a>
GNSS data	SONEL	Archive for GNSS data near tide gauges	Daily	<a href="http://www.sonel.org">www.sonel.org</a>

The above web sites contain information from locations around the world. The PSMSL web site also contains a list of many national and regional sources of real-time and delayed-mode sea level data.

**Manuals and Guides 14**  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

**Manual on Sea Level  
Measurement and Interpretation**  
Volume V **Radar Gauges**



# The End



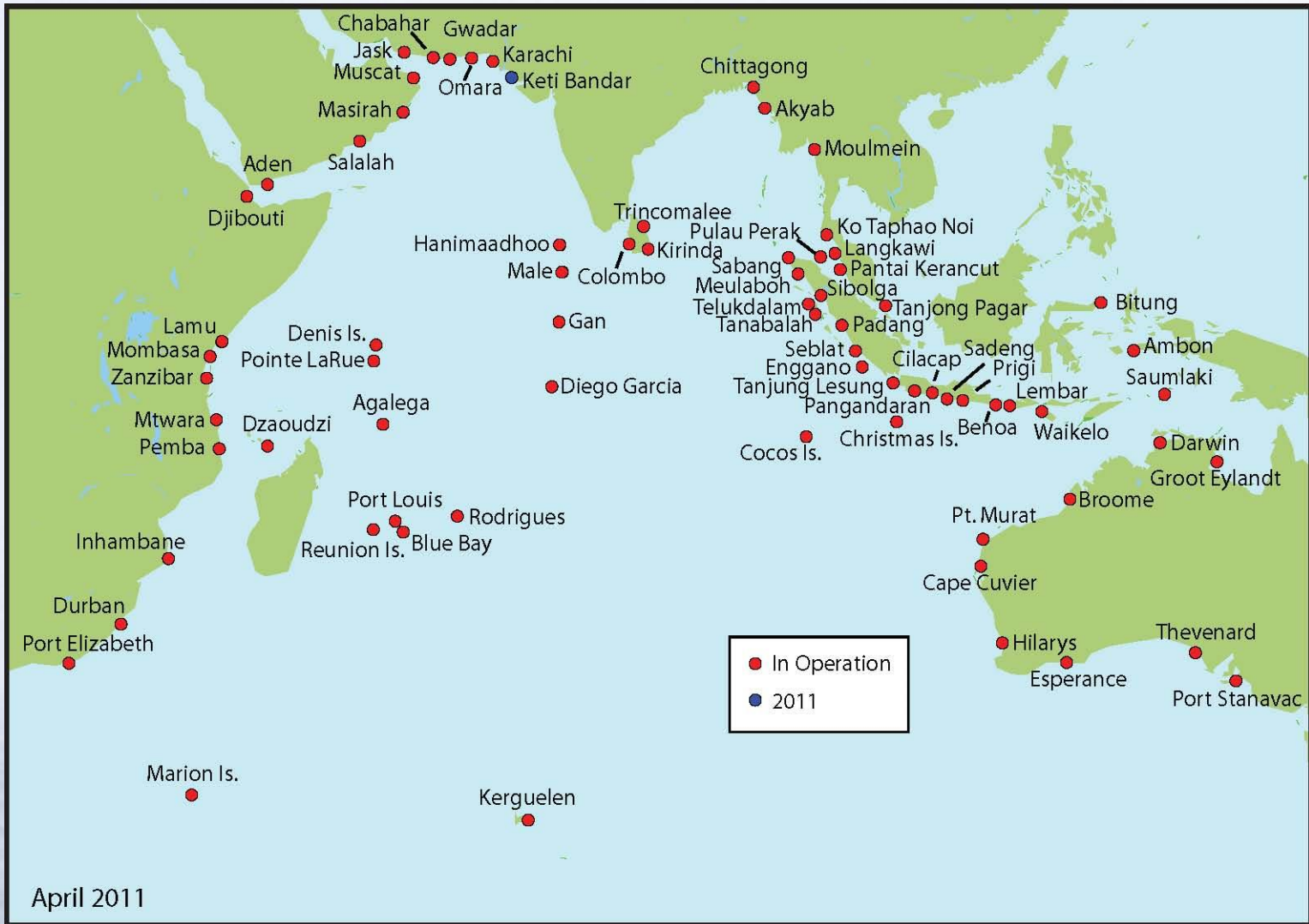






## **Other GOOS–Related Regional Sea Level Activities**

- **There are a number of regional sea level measurement programmes which include data exchange for storm surge warning and other oceanography e.g. EuroGOOS, BOOS, NOOS, MOOS, IBIROOS, NEAR-GOOS**
- **The first of these were developed in Europe and predated GOOS itself**



**Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System tide gauges  
(plus India and Oman stations)**



[www.jcomm.info](http://www.jcomm.info)

Worldwide marine meteorological and oceanographic communities are working in partnership under the umbrella of the WMO-IOC **Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology**, in order to respond to interdisciplinary requirements for met/ocean observations, data management and service products.

**JCOMM** can be thought of as the implementation mechanism for **GOOS** (and **GLOSS**)

## **REGIONAL GLOSS Data Centres**

- **MedGLOSS** <http://medgloss.ocean.org.il/>
- **Southern Ocean (now terminated)**
- **Ostende IOC Facility – monitoring and archiving function for IOC for the various tsunami programmes, GLOSS real-time data, and activities such as ODINAFRICA – see later lecture**  
<http://www.ioc-sealevelmonitoring.org/>