

Observing the Earth and Ocean with SMART Subsea Cables: Tsunamis

Science Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications



Bruce M. Howe
Chair, JTF SMART Cables
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
And many others!



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



UNESCO IOC



GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION

ITIC Training Program
on Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation Systems

18 August 2023

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

SCHMIDT MARINE

TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS

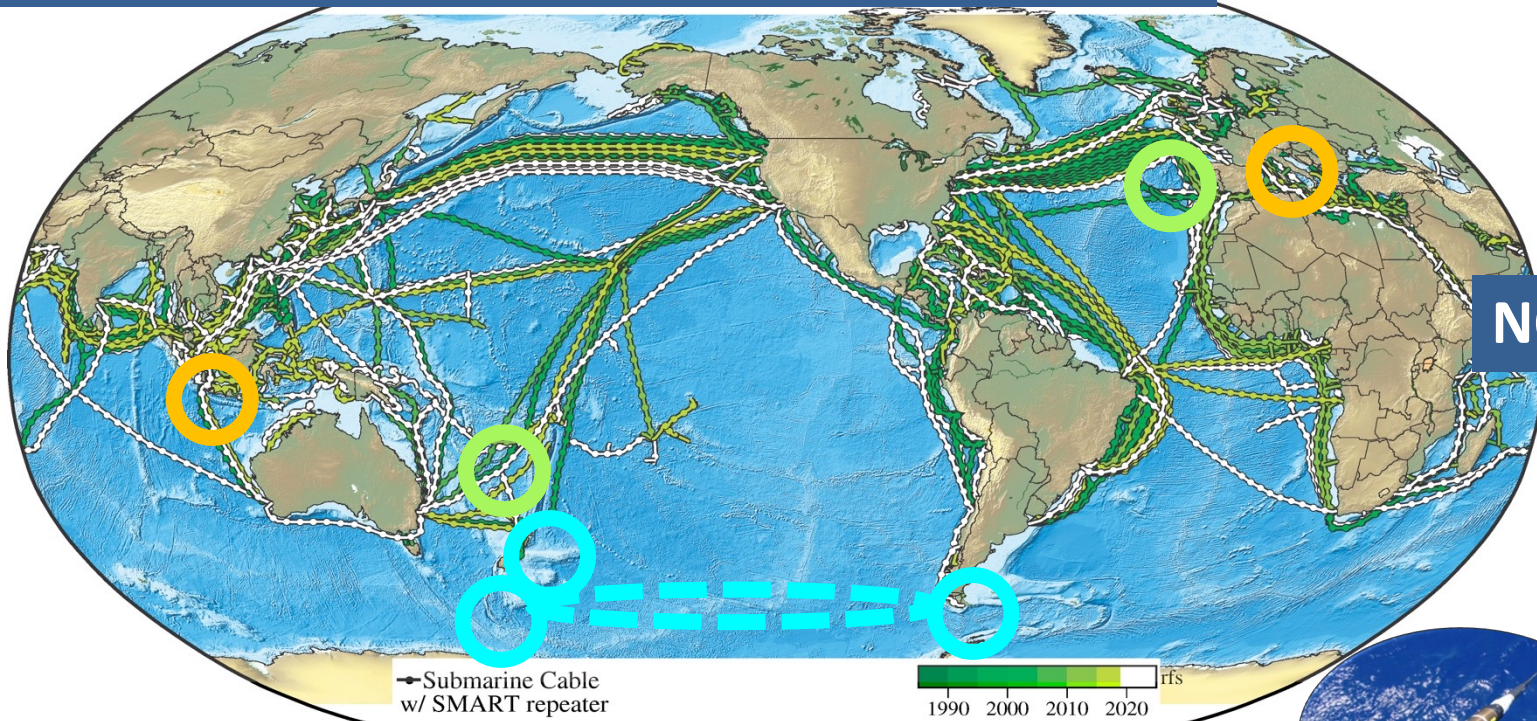


SMART Subsea Cables

Global Array: Climate, Oceans, Sea Level, Earthquakes, Tsunamis

Create a Planetary sensor, power, Internet network

1st order addition to Ocean-Earth observing system



Share submarine cable infrastructure
Telecom + science

NO Interference ↓€\$

1.2+ GM
~20,000 repeaters
20 year refresh



repeaters ~70 km

Know the environment – protect the network

Bottom temperature, pressure, seismic acceleration

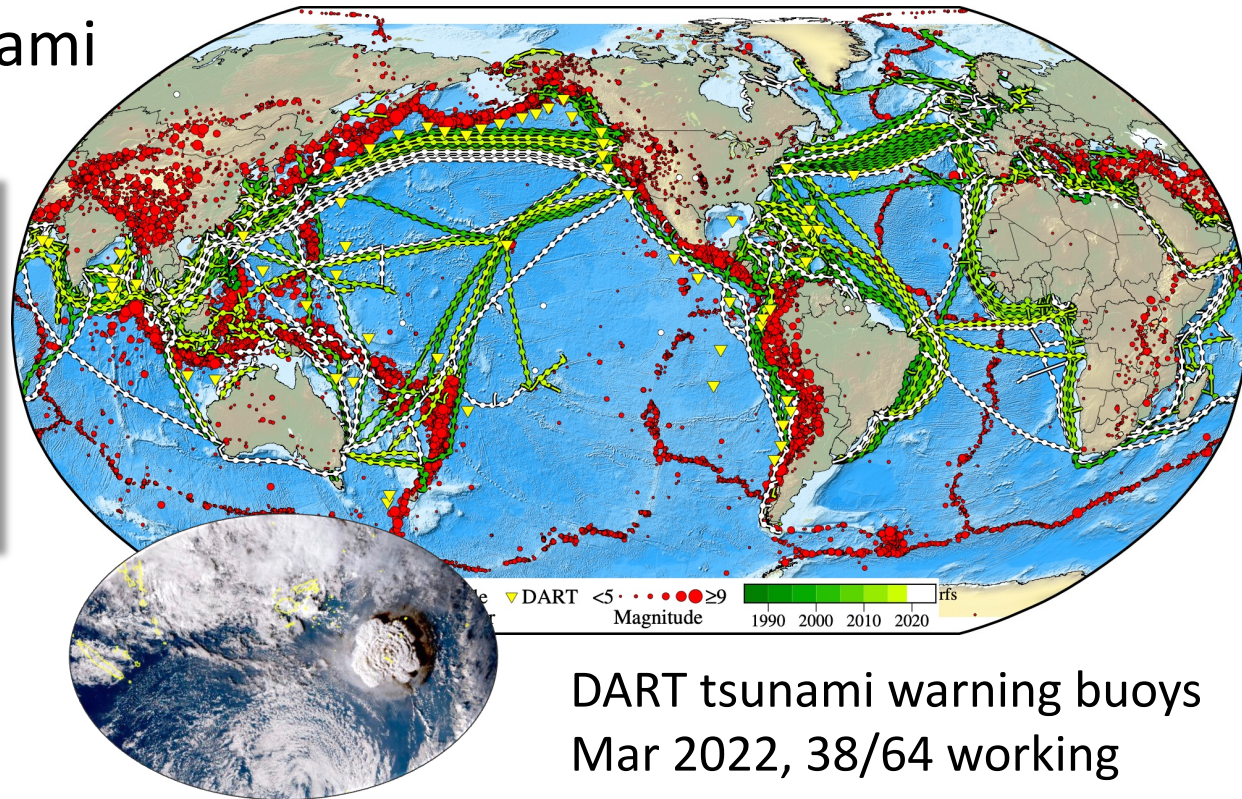
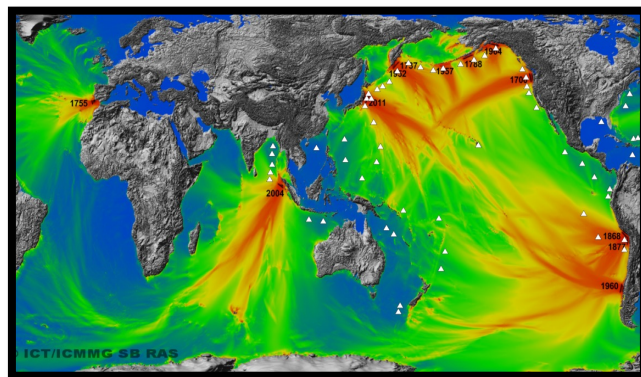


SMART CAM: 3700 km, install 2025, Gov't €154M
Continent/Portugal-Azores-Madeira ring



Earthquakes and Tsunamis

Earthquake warning: time to “Drop, Cover, and Hold On!”
Survive to escape Tsunami



Tonga
2022

DART tsunami warning buoys
Mar 2022, 38/64 working

1755



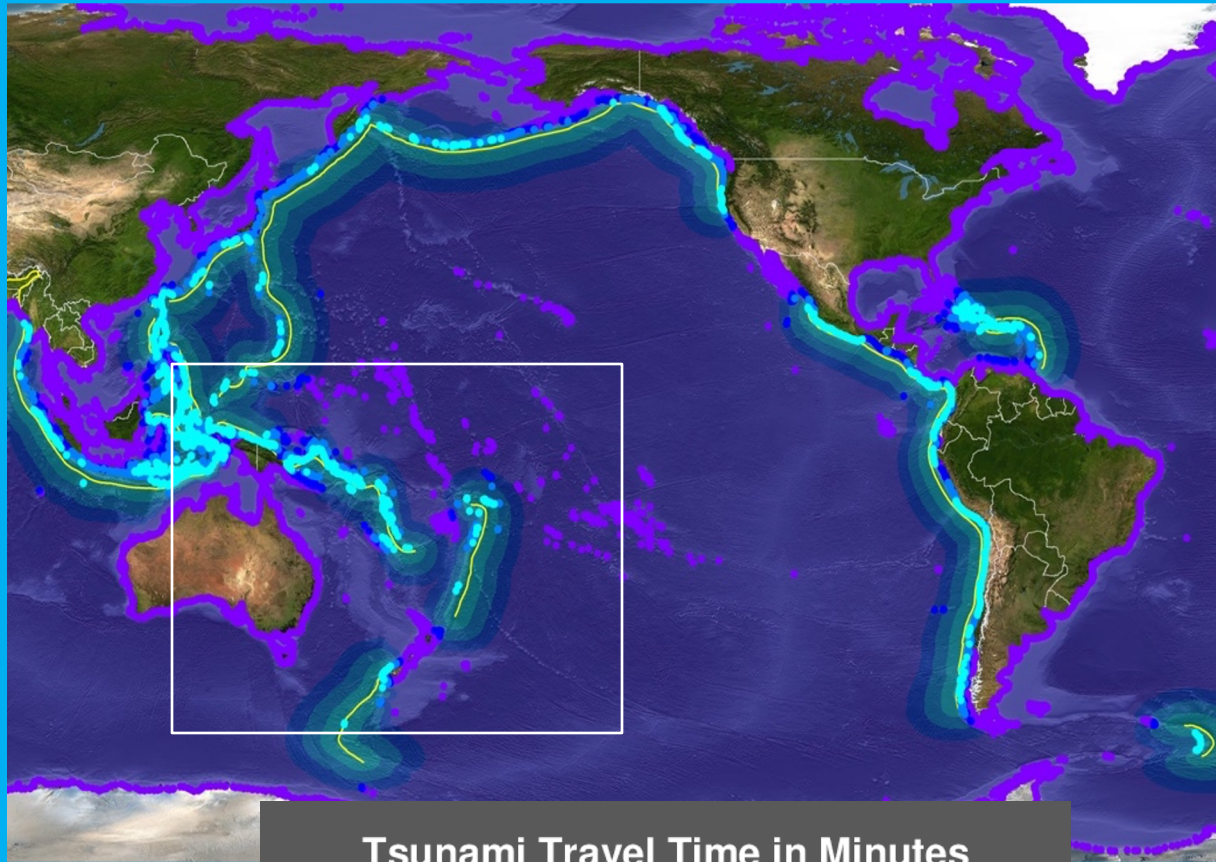
Taiwan

Climate change increasing typhon number and intensity (e.g., Morakot 2009)
+ earthquakes trigger submarine turbidity currents - Cut 42 cables 2006-2013

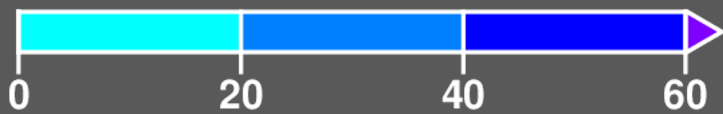
Place	Year	Mag	H (m)	Deaths	Cables cut
Algiers	2003	6.8	3	2,244	All Europe-Mid-East
Tohoku	2011	9.0	10	19,000	~10

EARLY WARNING FOR LOCAL TSUNAMIS

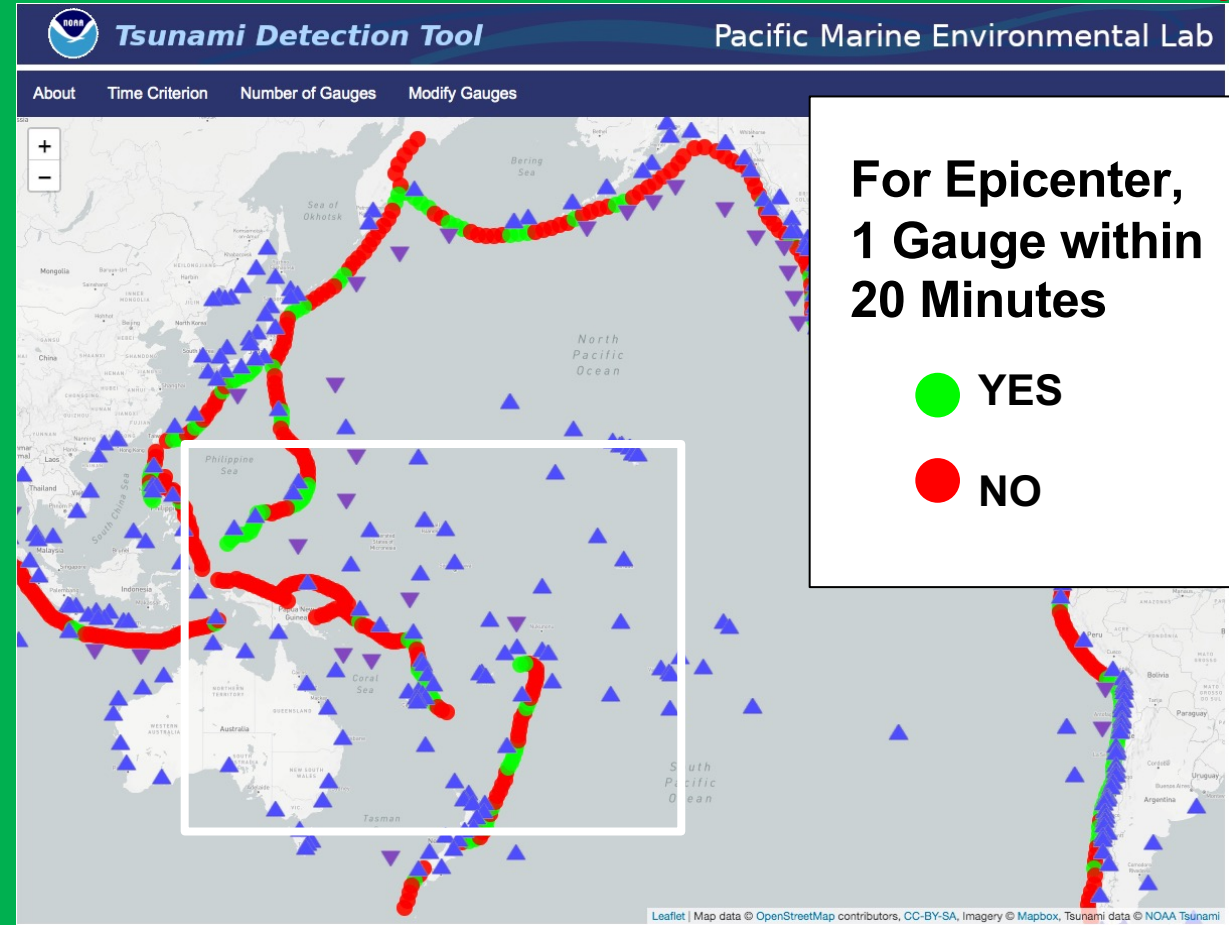
How much time until wave arrives? < 20 min



Tsunami Travel Time in Minutes



Coastal / DART Detection Latency



For Epicenter,
1 Gauge within
20 Minutes

- YES
- NO

How fast you find out if wave is severe? < 20 min

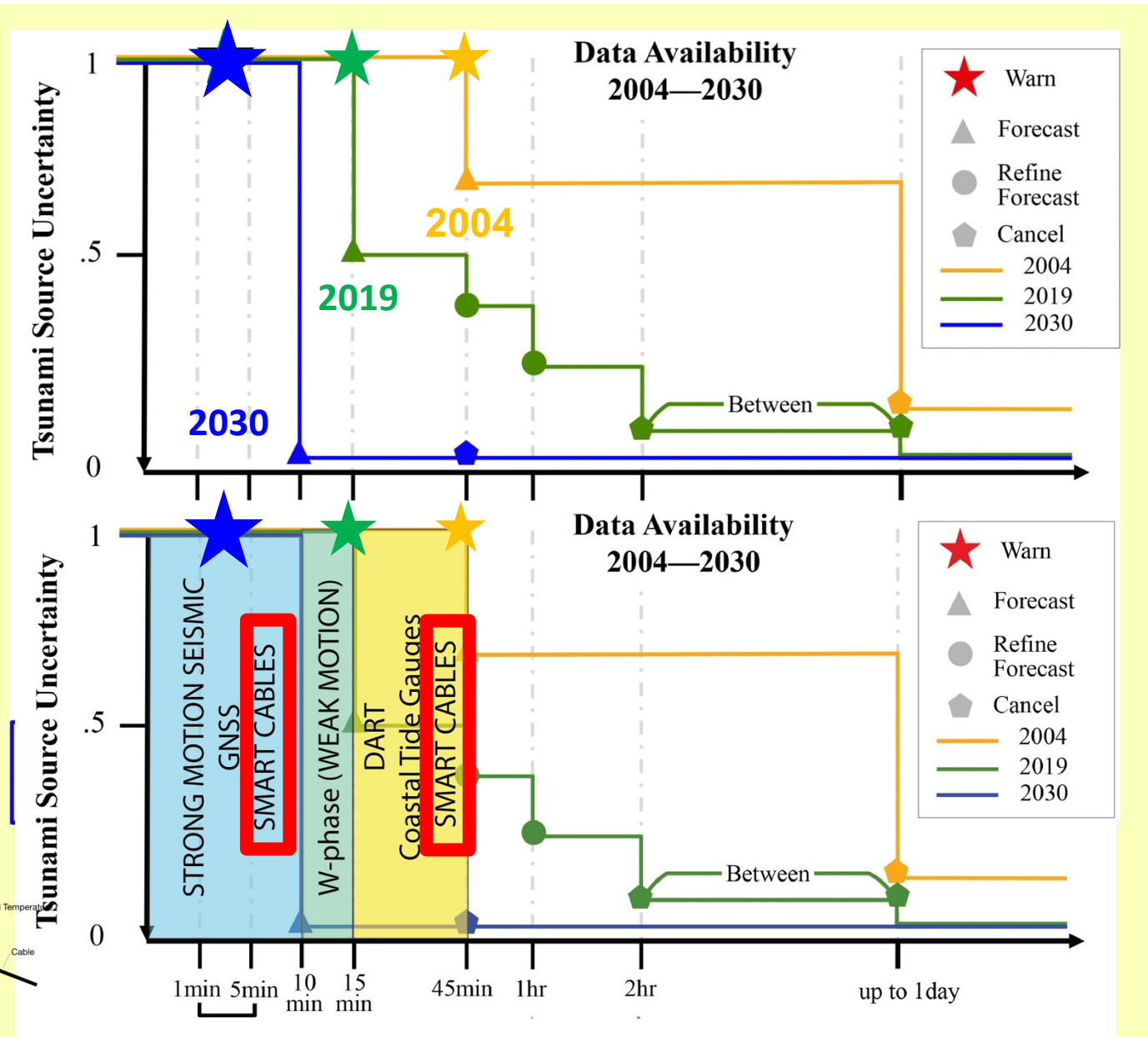
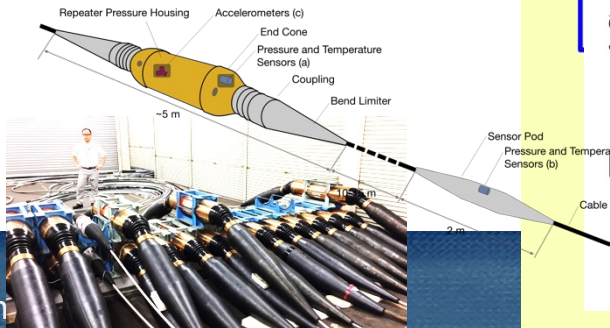


IMPROVEMENT IN EARLY WARNING (SMART, GNSS)

UN Ocean Decade Goal:
 Integrate
SMART Cable
 technology into
 innovative
 early warning
 systems

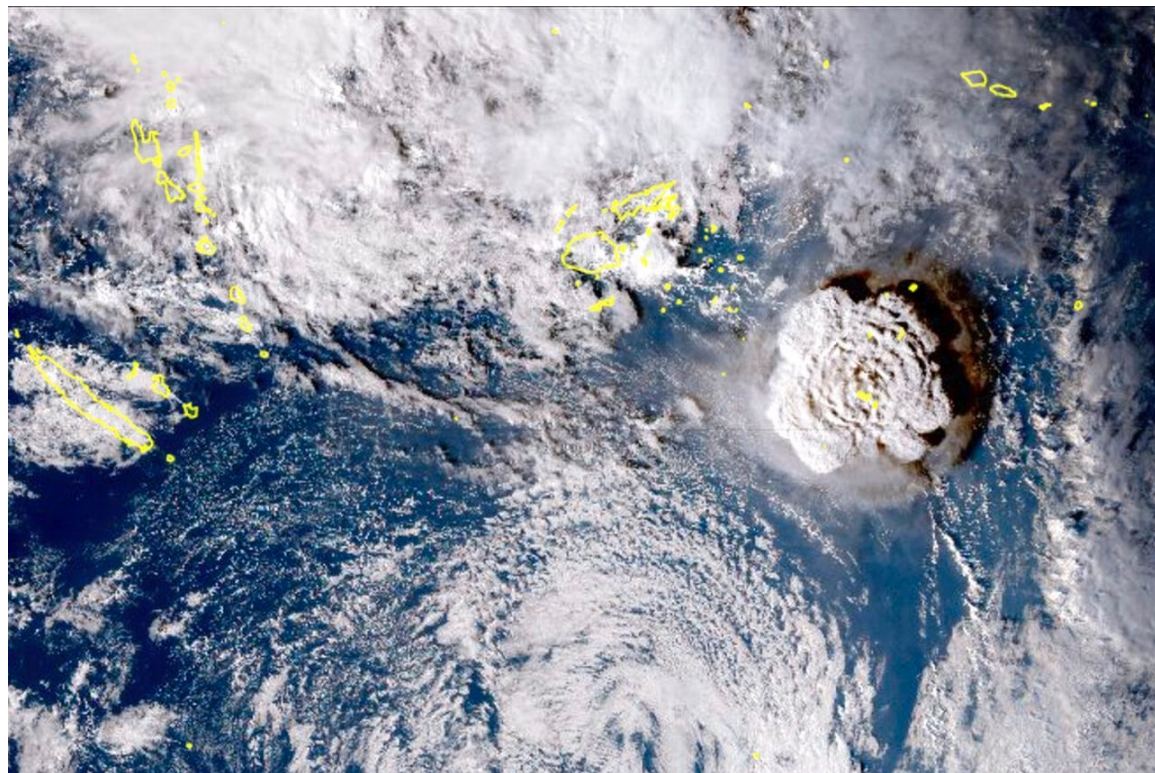


2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
 for Sustainable Development

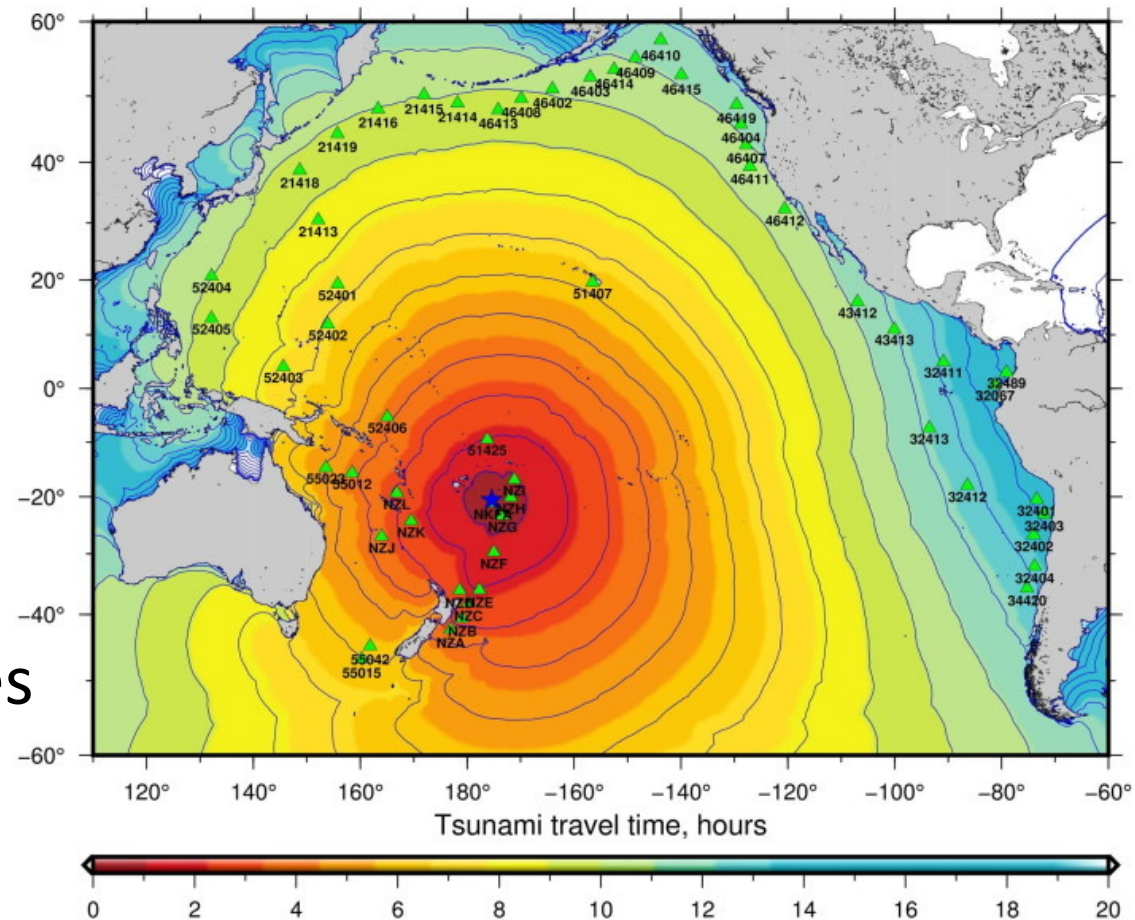


UNESCO/IOC-NOAA
 International Tsunami

Tonga Event



Global Scale

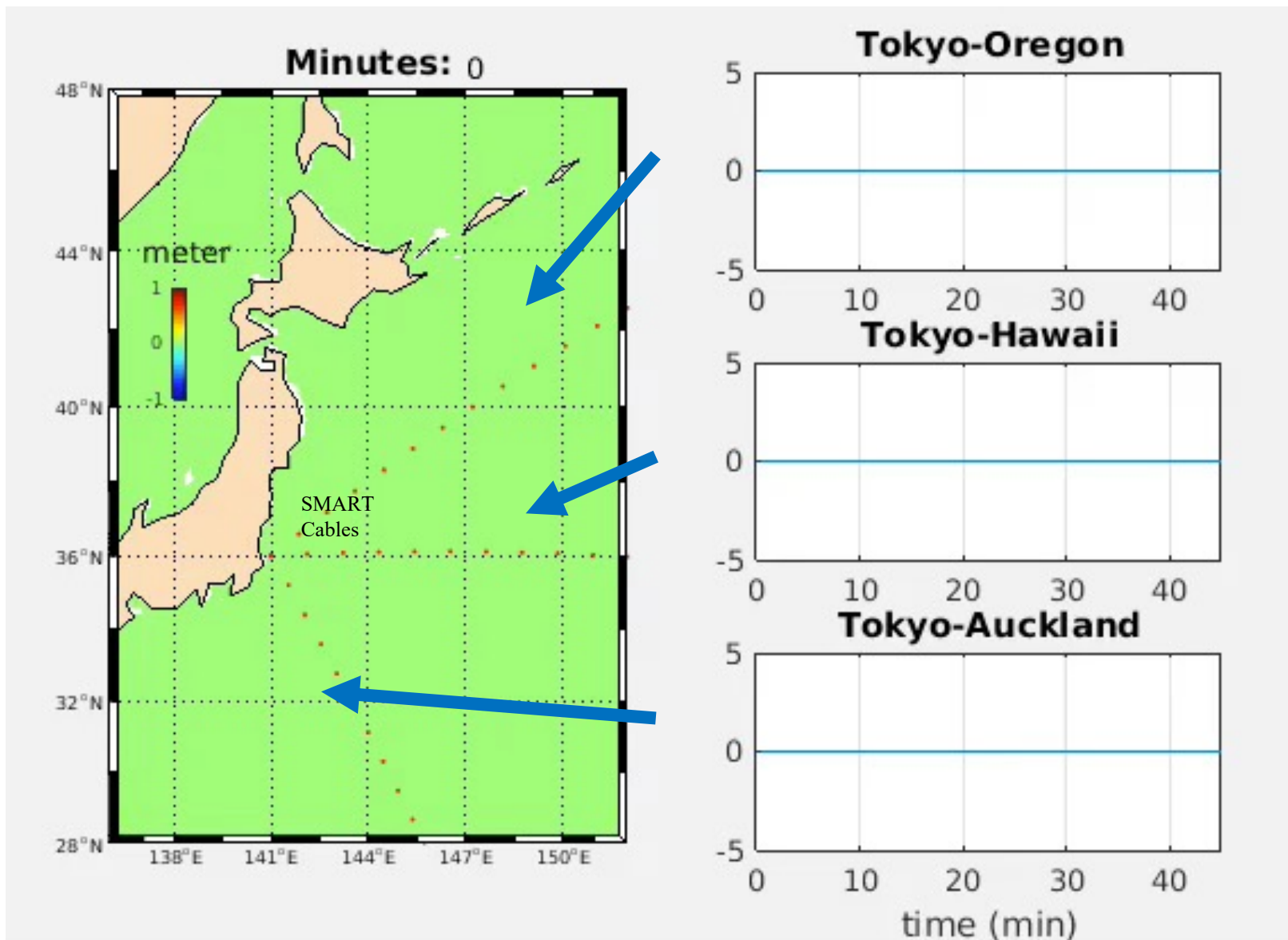


The earth is always presenting new surprises
– the unknown

Truly global network called for



Simulation – Tsunami Detection (bottom pressure)



Each line represents pressure sensor along cable

Realtime!

Reliable!

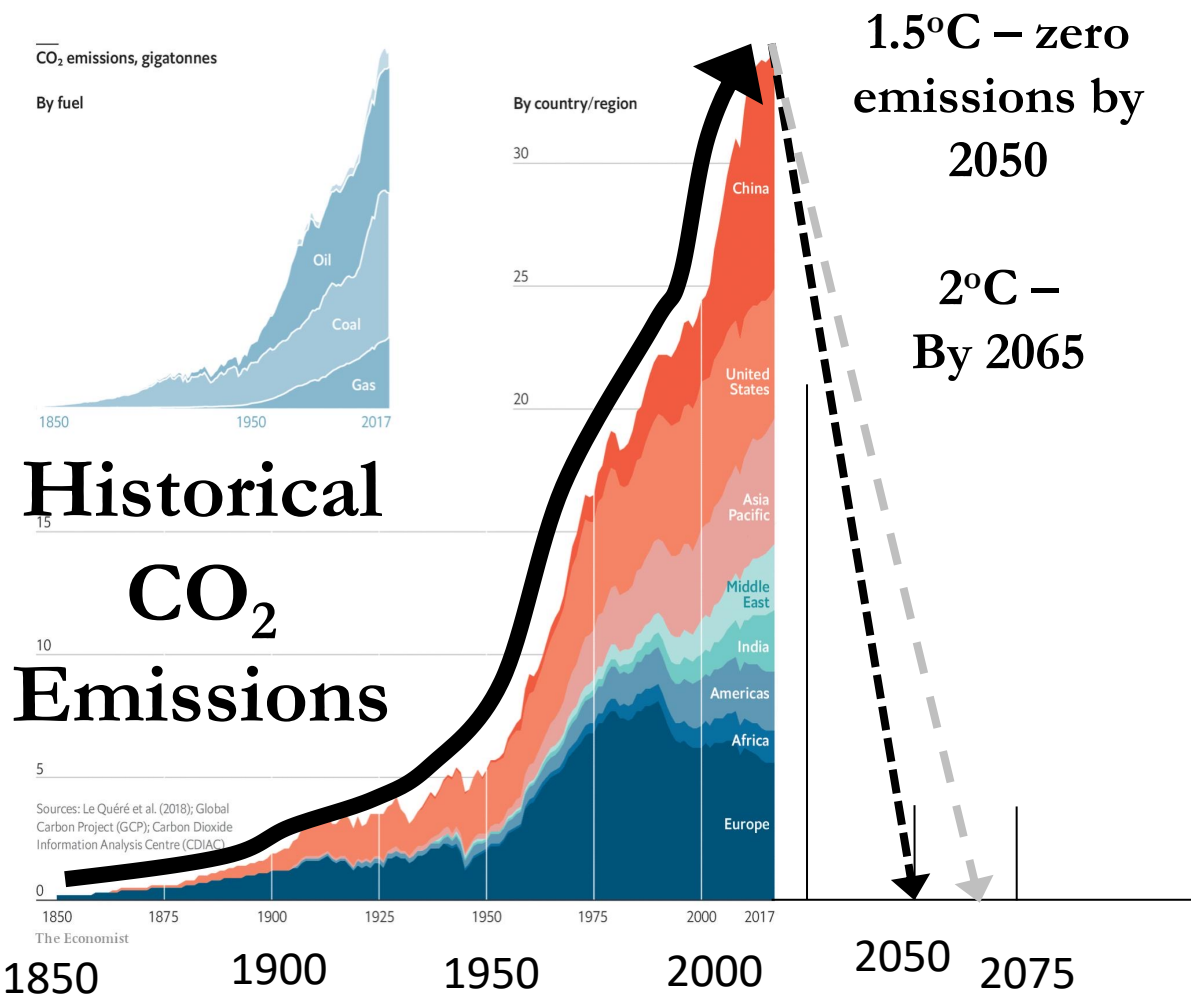
In situ

Tony Song,
JPL/CalTech

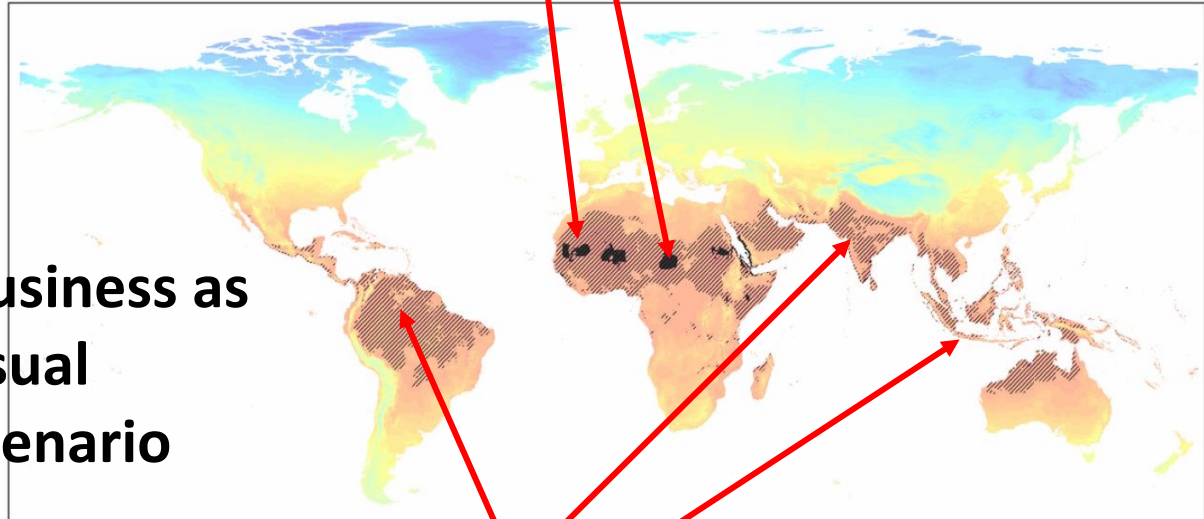


Global Warming

**Why SMART? Ocean = Flywheel of Climate:
Stores 90% Heat, CO2,
Determines future Temperature**



TODAY – 0.8% of land surface, too hot for human existence



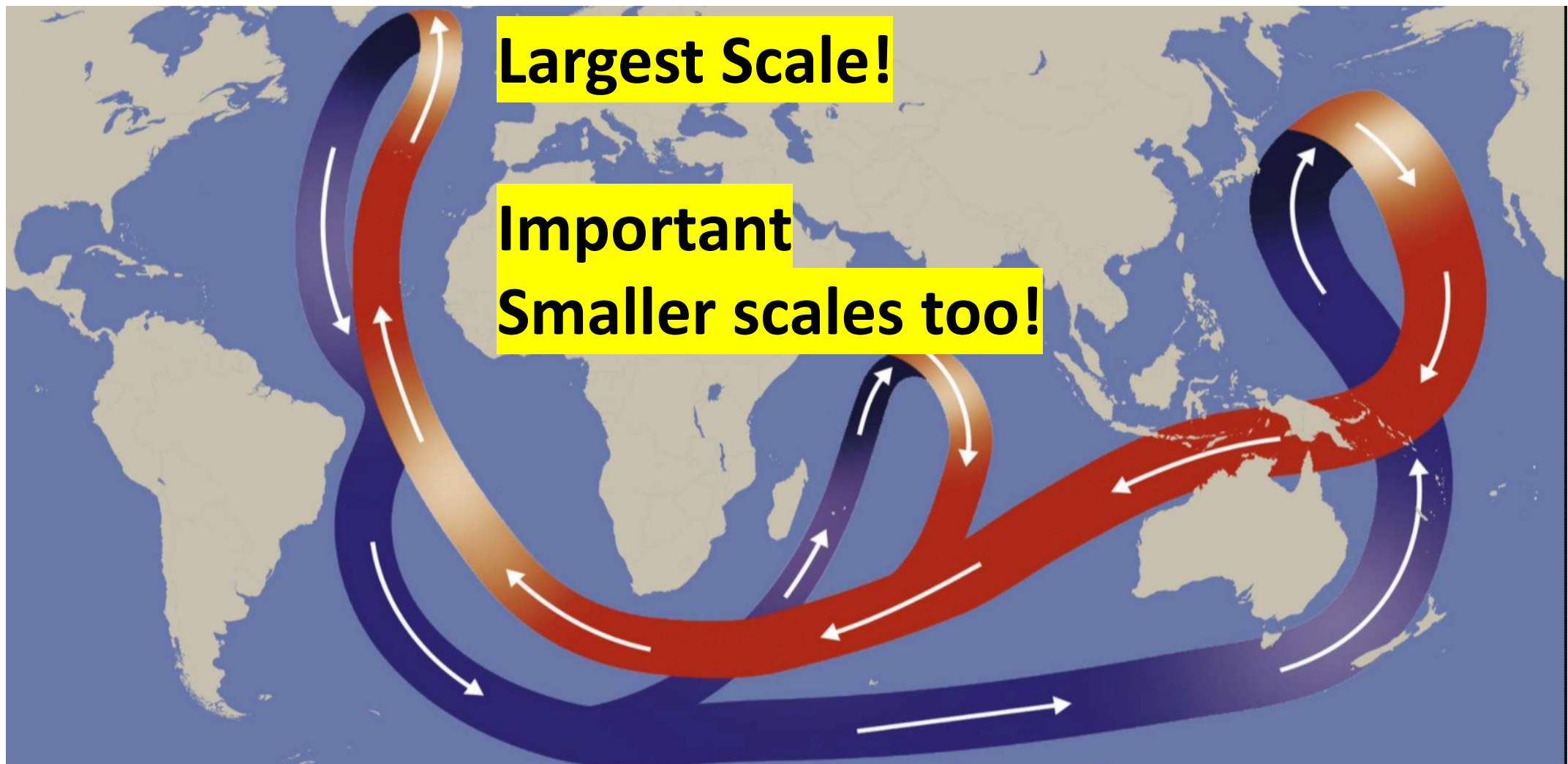
2070 - 19% of land surface, too hot for human existence

Mean Annual Temperature > 29 °C

We must remove CO₂ from the air for the rest of the century.

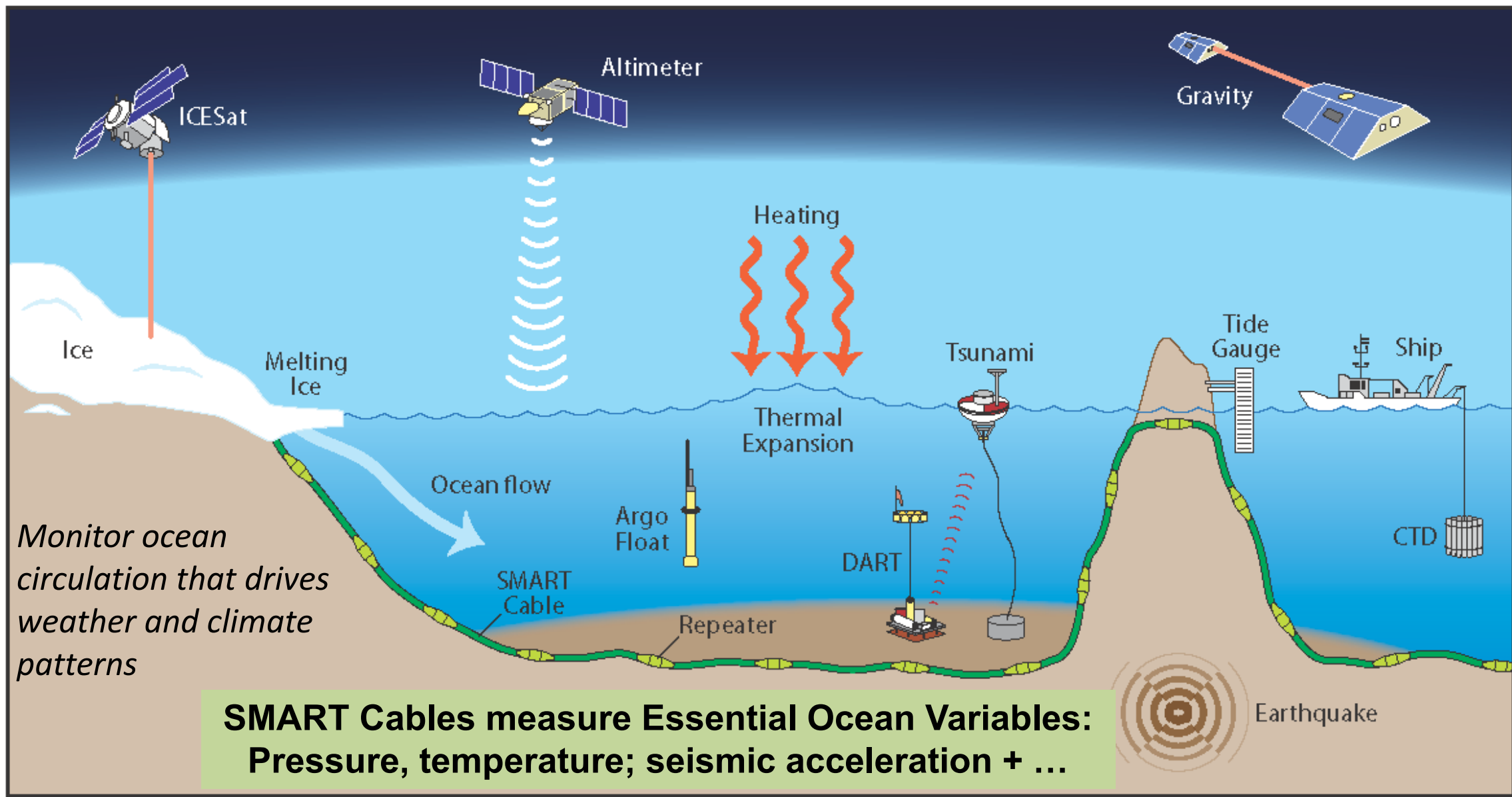
Courtesy C. Fletcher

Ocean Conveyor Belt (a simplification!)



Sinking in polar latitudes - Return in upper ocean

Ocean Observing Tools



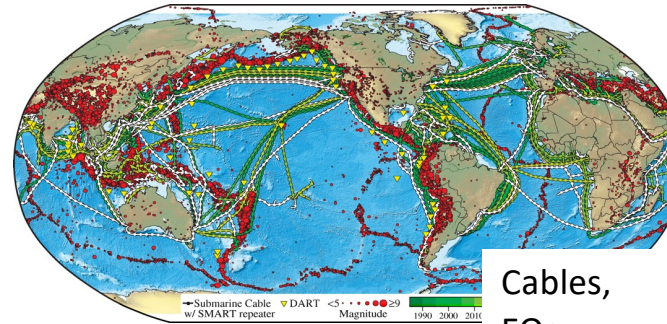
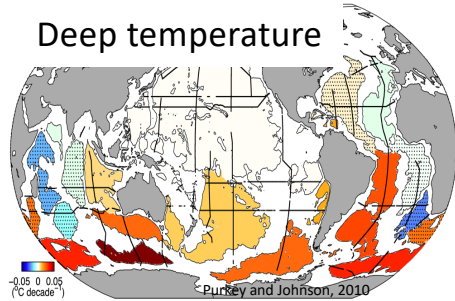
Science and Early Warning - Observables

Climate and Oceans

Hazards

Tsunami, Earthquake Warning

Temperature

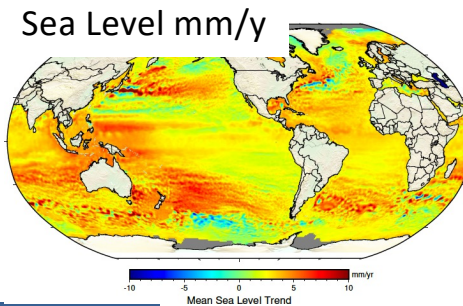


Cables, EQs, DARTs

SMART cables - vastly increase existing ocean **pressure/seismic sensors**

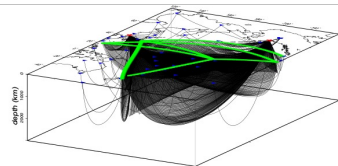
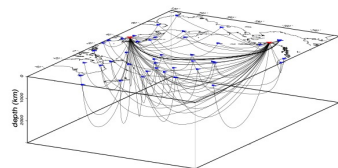
- Improve tsunami warning precision, Reduce unnecessary warnings/evacuations.

- SMART → **Subsurface temperature, EOV**
- Deep ocean warming → sea level rise.
- Δ **deep ocean temperature** → Δ circulation, Δ climate.



Seismology

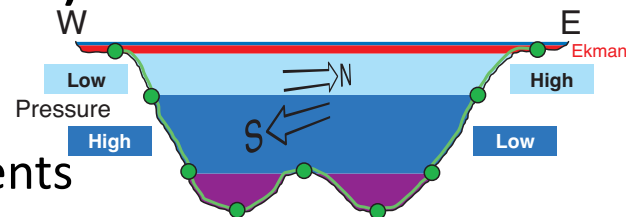
- SMART **Seismic accelerometers** → advance seismology:
- Detect, locate small quakes below ocean floor
- Rupture type and dynamics larger offshore earthquakes
- Image Earth's interior



sampling w/o, w SMART

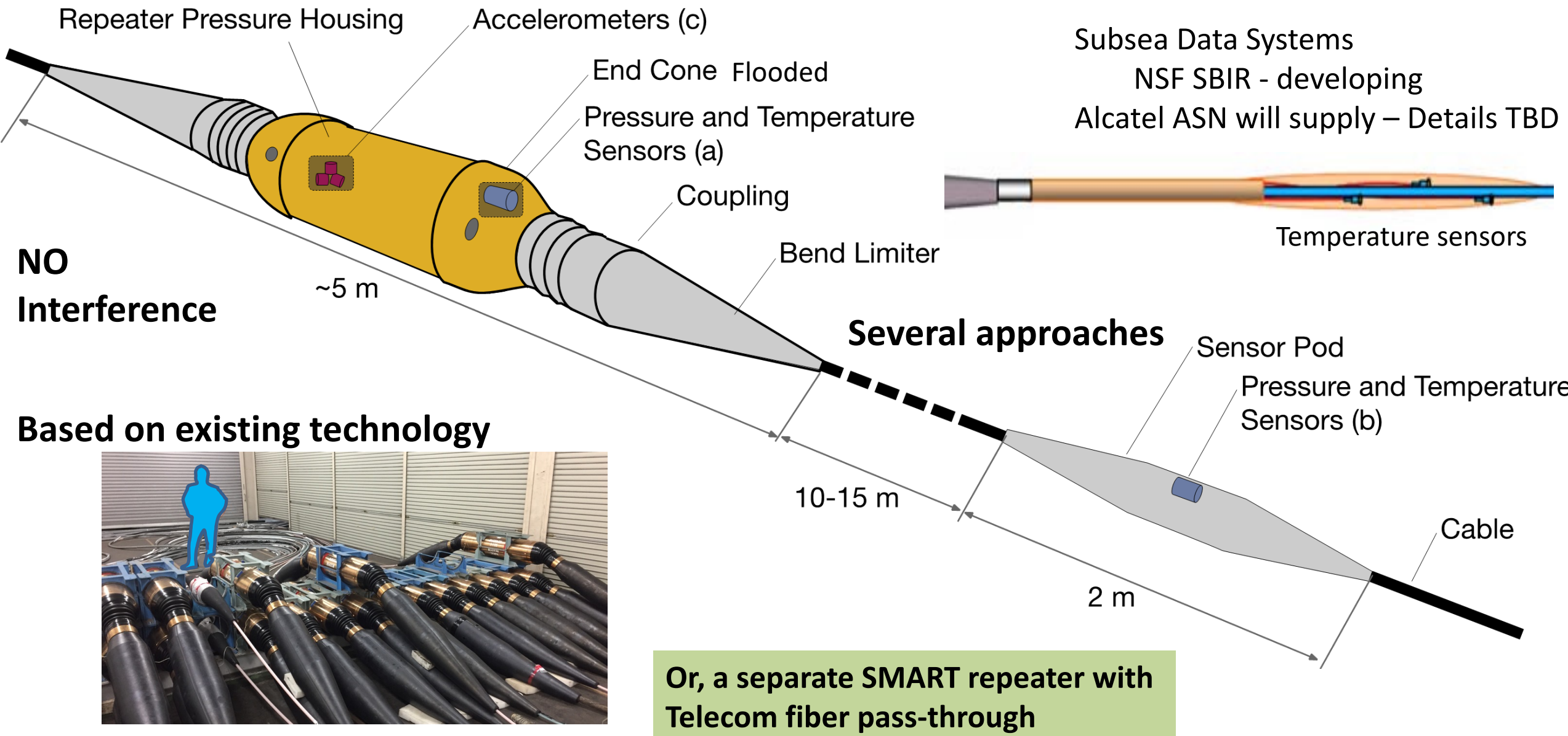
Circulation, sea level rise, mass distribution

- **SMART Ocean bottom pressure (OBP, eEOV)** → expansion, melting ice → sea level change (x,t).
- Δ_x between OBP → depth-averaged currents and ocean circulation.





SMART Repeaters





SMART Cables – Moore Foundation Project

GOAL:

SMART cables become the world standard, ... global network for sustained ocean observation, ... study of earthquakes, and earthquake and tsunami warning in a world with rising sea levels.



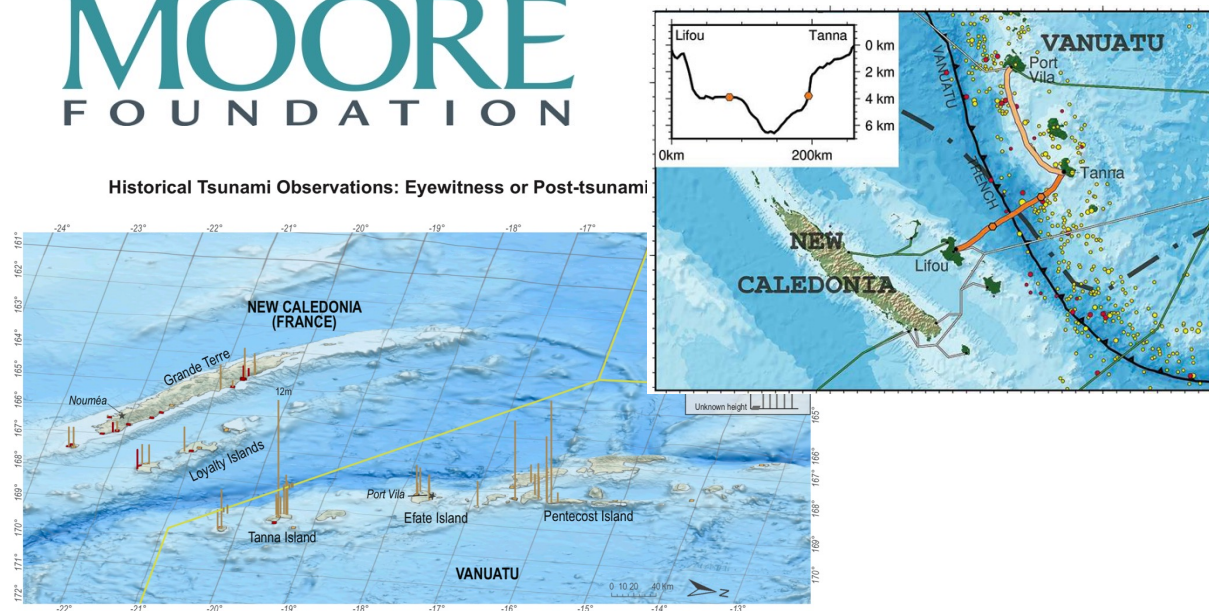
Objectives:

- **Science and early warning simulations of observing systems, data analysis, and sustained scientific operation.**
- **Vanuatu-New Caledonia, active subduction zone, dynamic ocean region, earthquake and tsunami early warning.**
- **International Project Office for Joint Task Force Scientific Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications cables**

Team, 2022-2026

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| University of Hawai'i at Mānoa | National University of Vanuatu (NUV) |
| Univ Texas-Austin | Pacific Community (SPC) |
| Louisiana State University (LSU) | California Institute of Technology |
| University of Otago, NZ | Subsea Data Systems |
| Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) | |
| French Institute for Research and Sustainable Development (IRD) | |
| Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) | |
| GNS New Zealand | |
| International Tsunami information Center (ITIC) | |

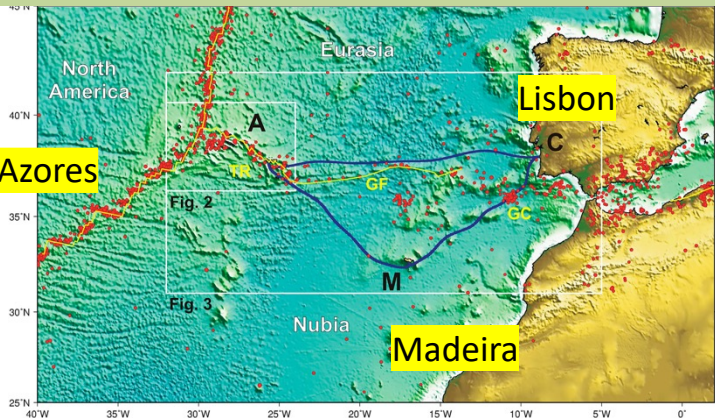
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SMART Cables - Europe

Approved – underway!



SMART CAM

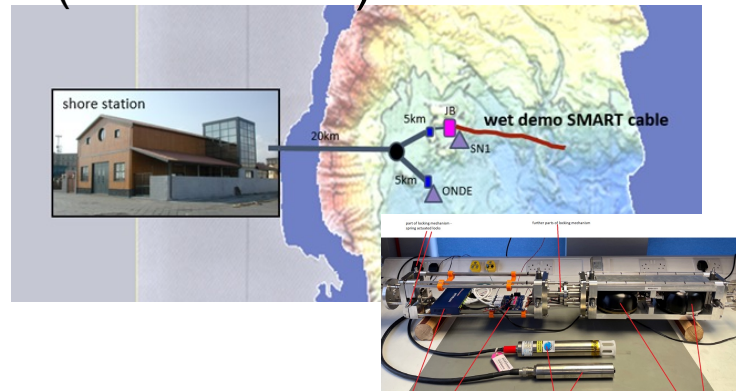
- Domestic, international connections, Digital hub
- 1755 earthquake tsunami
- Seismic, tsunami, ocean, environment
- 3700 km, 50 SMART repeaters, €154M approved
- RFP 2023Q1, Ready For Service 2025
- ANACOM connection to telecom

Risk analysis (V. Silva, pers. comm.)

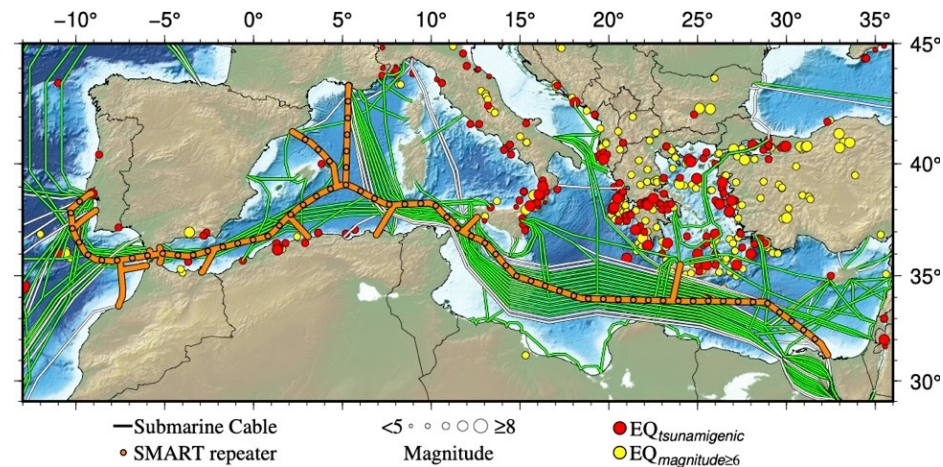
- Improved EEW (~10 s) with less loss of life will more than pay for the system
- Next: include infrastructure and tsunami inundation

Wet Demo

- Install 2023
- Three test SMART repeaters (sans telecom)



NEAMTWS

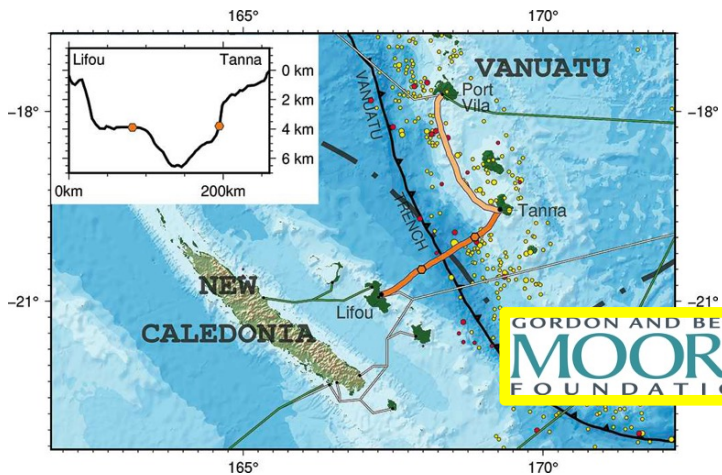


MEDUSA

- Install 2024/25
- Possibly up to ~60 SMART repeaters on main cables
- Improve coverage
- Raising funds for SMART capability now
- for large regional area



SMART Cables - Pacific



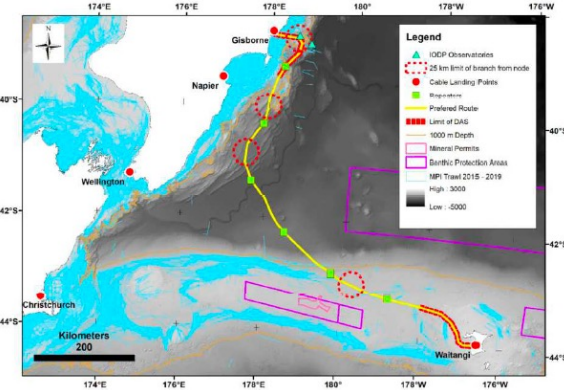
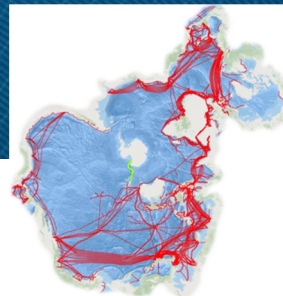
Vanuatu – New Caledonia

SMART, DAS

Intergovernmental MOU

France supporting

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NZ–Chatham Islands

SMART + DAS + BUs/nodes

Under gov't review (MBIE)

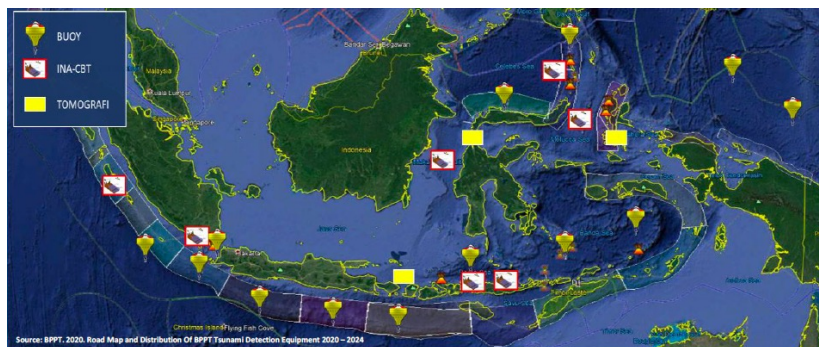


Antarctica – NZ

Improve connectivity

SMART Cable

Workshops, NSF, NAS, Chile

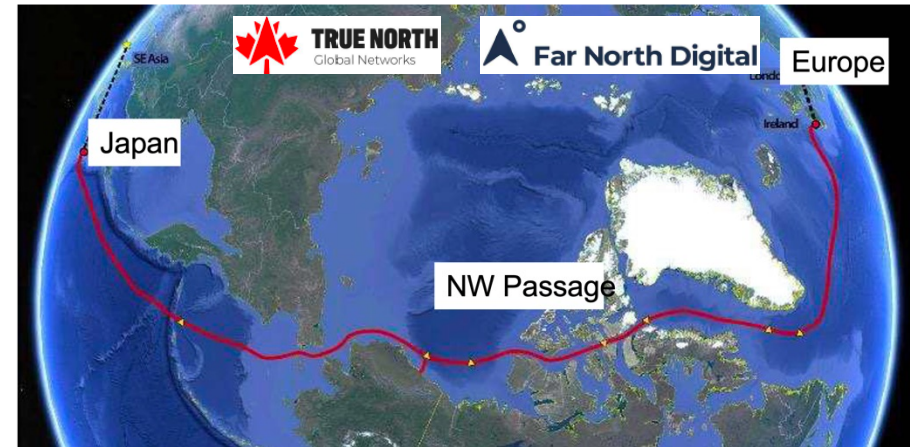


Indonesia

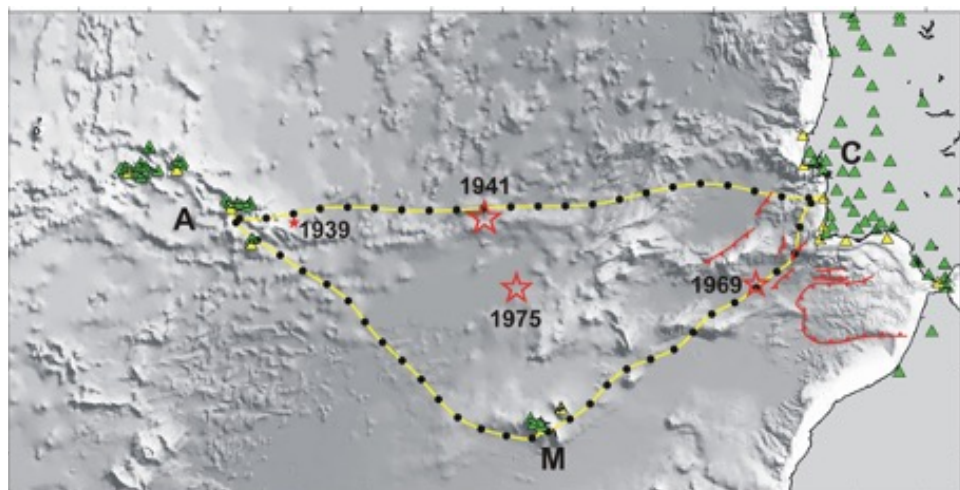
In country development Ina-CBT
Single ended, 50 km, 2 module test system working off Labuan Bajo

Far North Fiber

14,000 km
Low latency
Communities
Contract 2023
RFS 2026
SMART integral



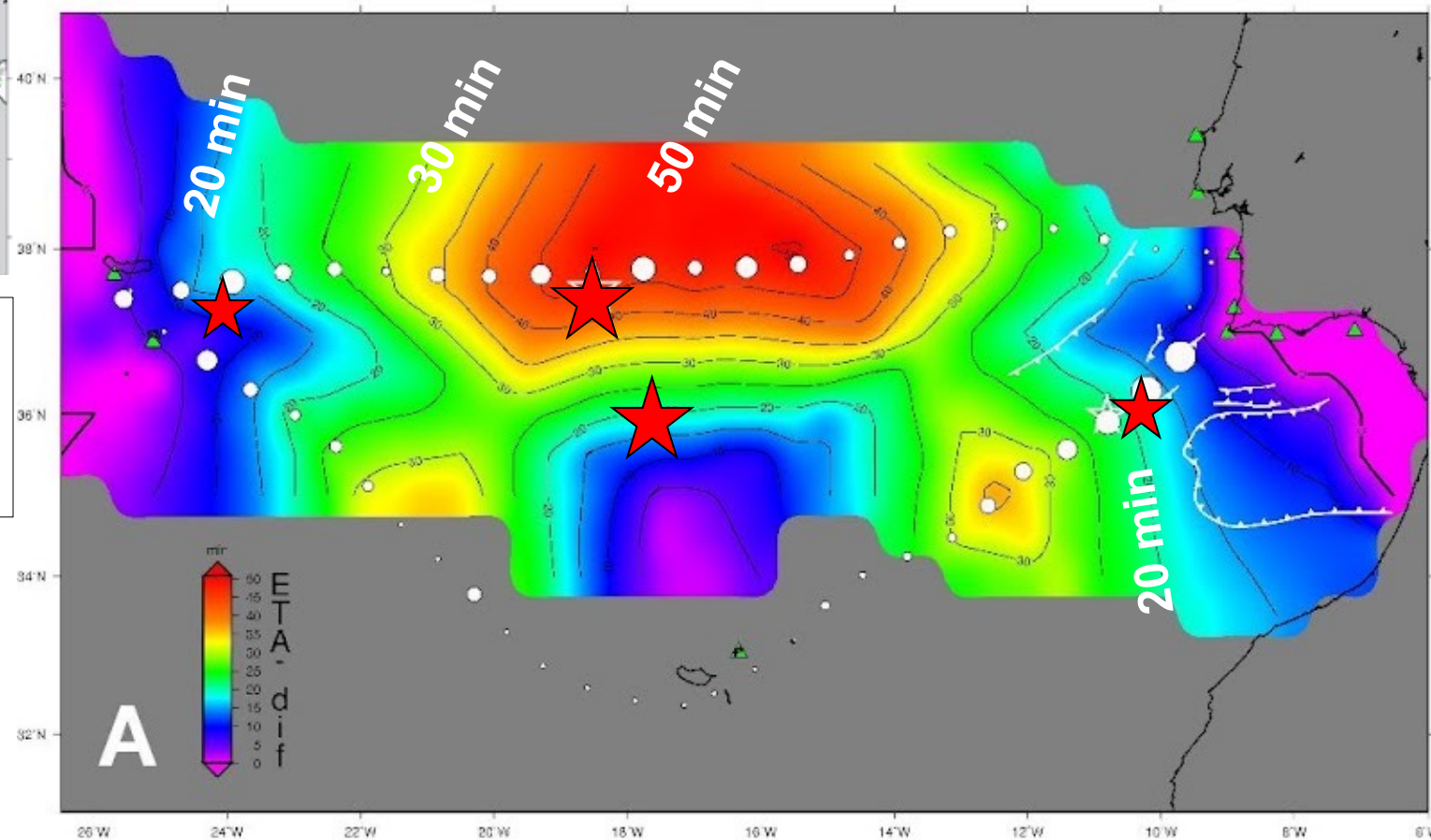
PORTUGAL: Continent/Azores/Madeira (CAM)



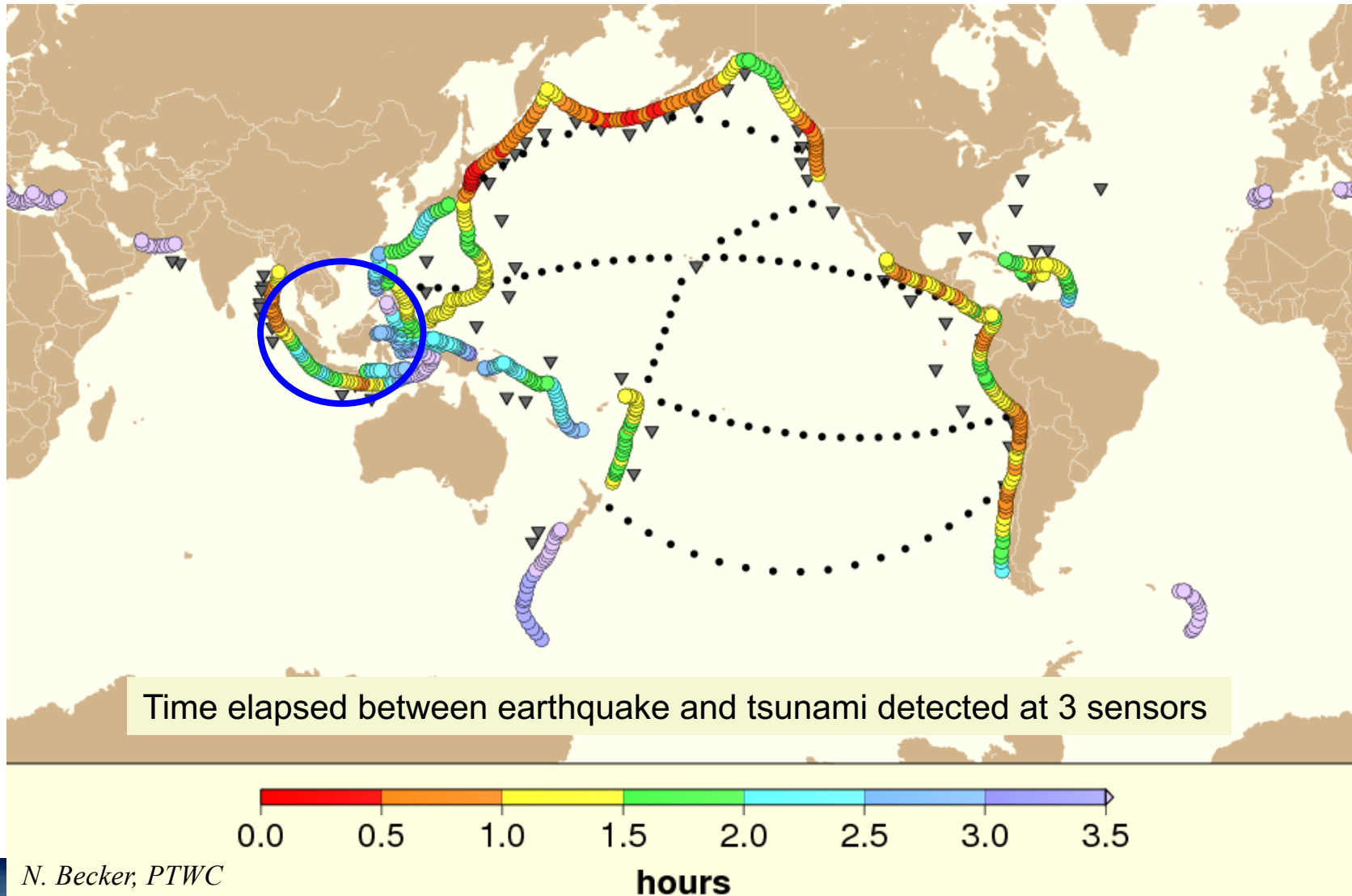
CAM submarine cable (SMART repeaters every ~70 km)
Green triangles - seismic stations (Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA)).
Yellow triangles - coastal tide-gauges monitored (IPMA).
Red stars - M > 7.7 large tsunamigenic earthquakes

LEA; Matias et al., 2021)

Tsunami warning time (min) improvement obtained by CAM-2 sensors (white circles) compared to coastal tide gauge network (**green** triangles).



Tsunami Detection Time – 3 bottom pressure sensors

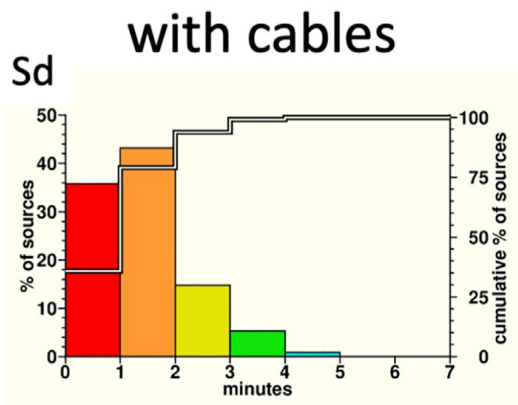
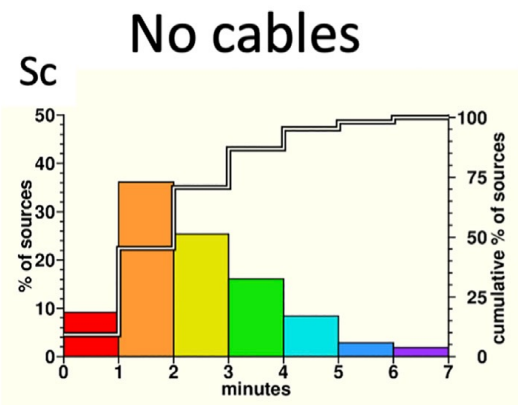
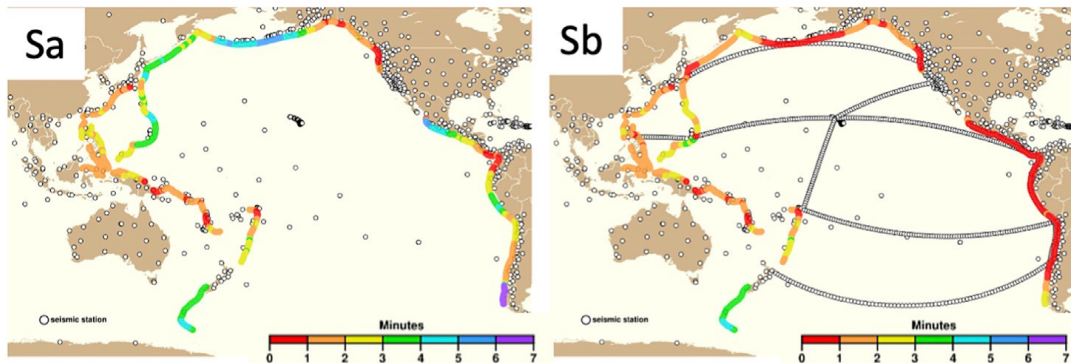


- ▲ SMART sensor (500 km)
- Earthquake epicenter

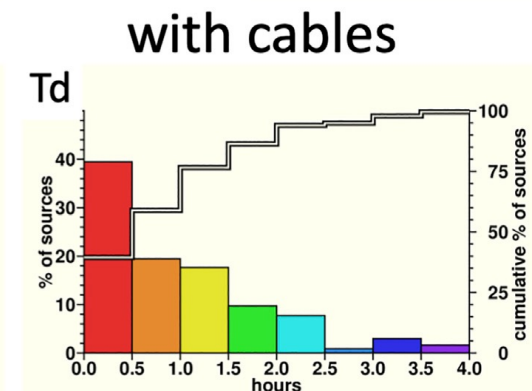
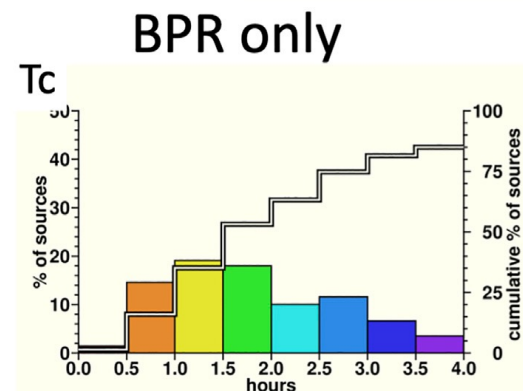
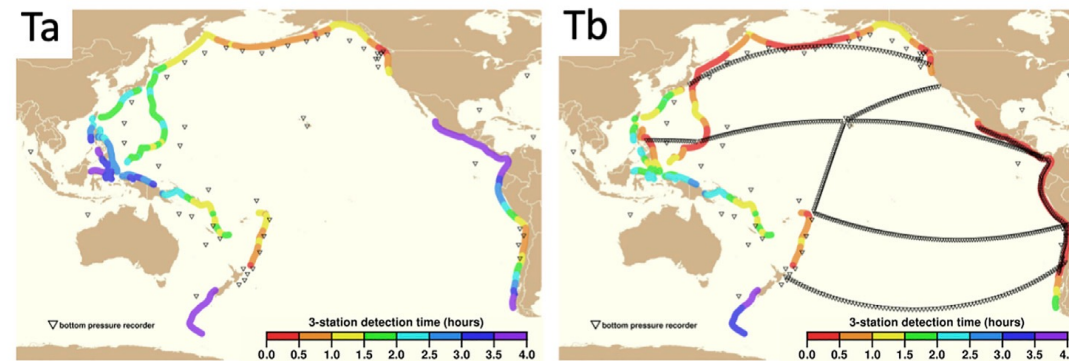
- 25% reduction (2.1 to 1.6 hrs) in time to issue warning
=> 30 min is important for evacuation (walk speed 3 km/h)
- More time if 50 or 100 km sensor spacing

Earthquake and Tsunami Warning

Seismic



Tsunami



Simple simulations. 905 synthetic earthquake sources located every 50 km -Pacific subduction

Seismic detection – 5 P-wave arrivals,
az gap < 180deg.

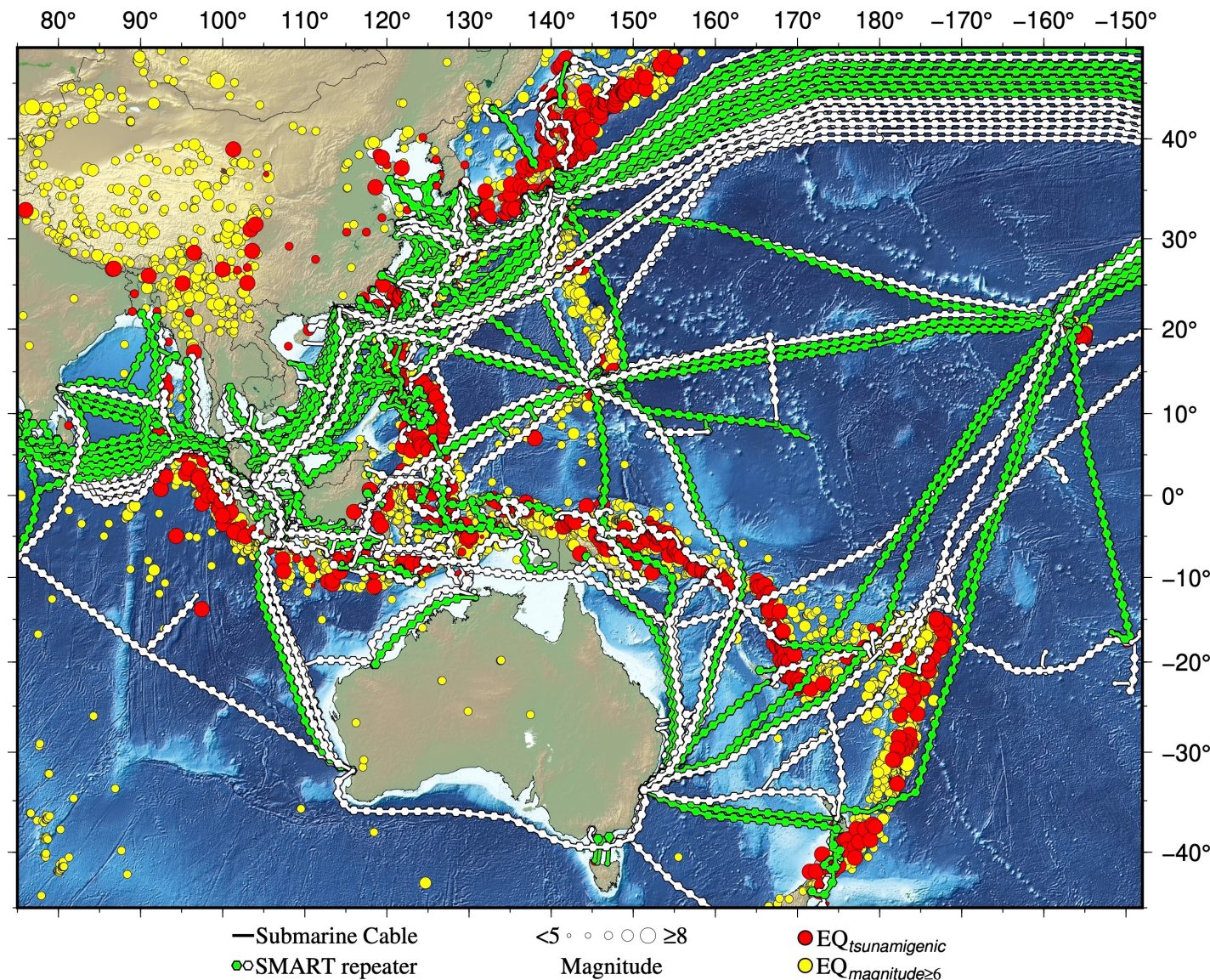
Earthquake detection time reduced
2.44 to 1.42 min, ~42%.

Tsunami – 3 BPR arrivals

Time dropping from
2.4 to 1.0 h, ~ 57%

A-P – Cables and Earthquakes – Risk!

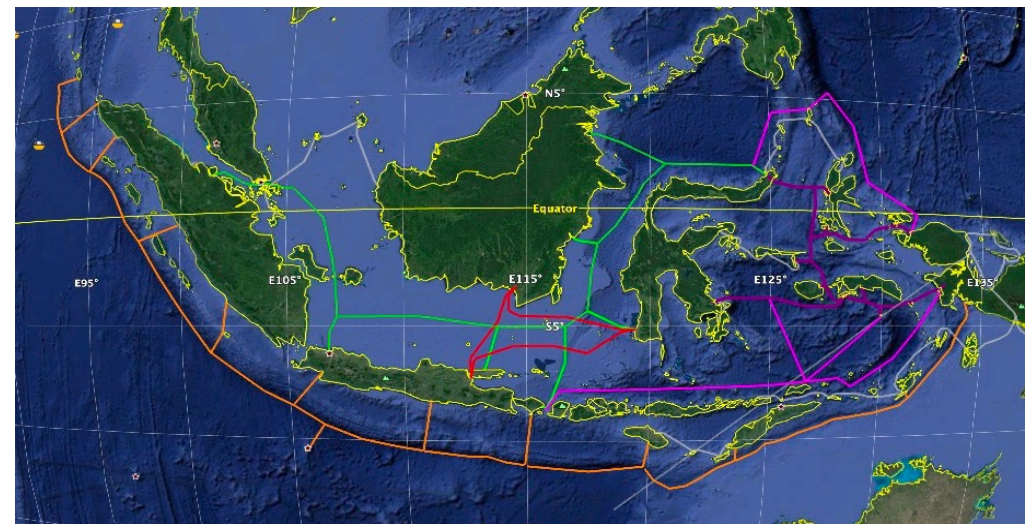
- Cables
 - Green, operational
 - White, in progress
- Yellow
 - earthquakes > M6
- Red
 - tsunamigenic earthquakes
- A disaster in the region is a disaster for all



Earthquakes and Tsunamis – Indonesia

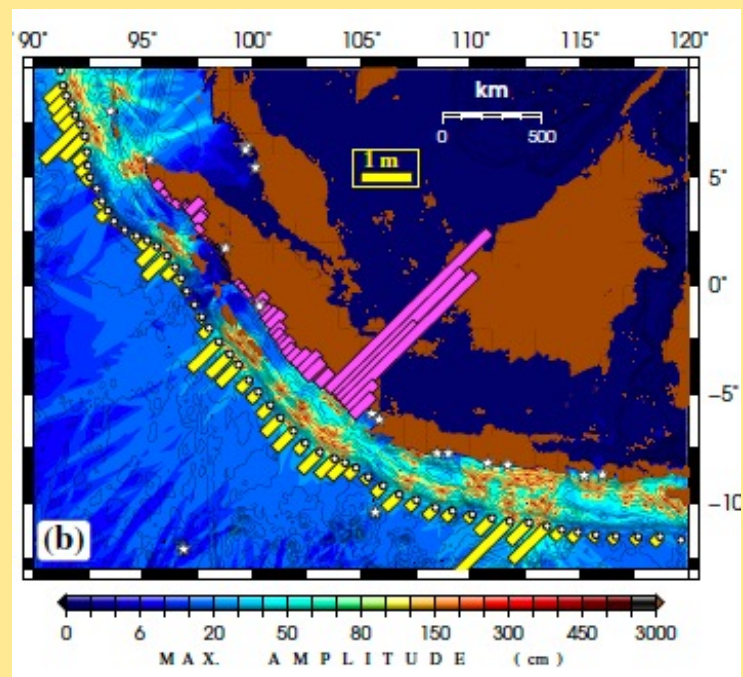
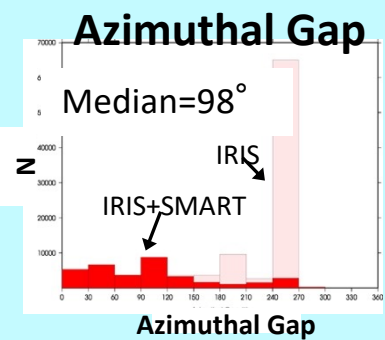
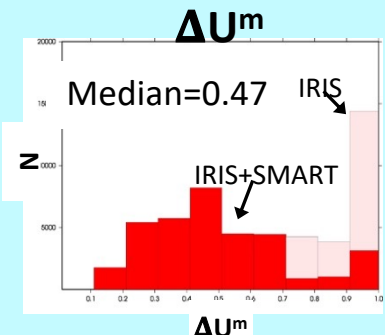
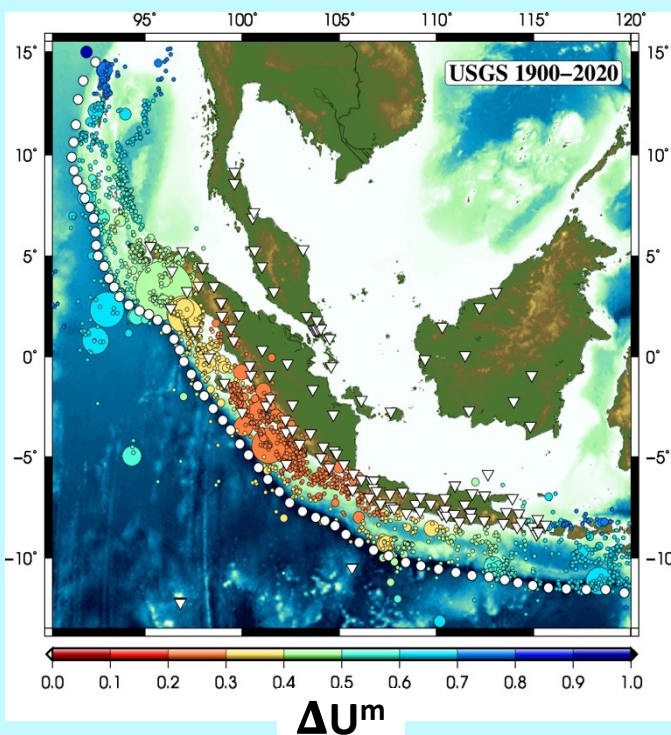
Strawman SMART Cable scenario for Indonesia Example of SMART seismic and tsunami simulations

A. Salaree, et al., A numerical study of SMART Cables potential in marine hazard early warning for the Sumatra and Java regions, Pure and Applied Geophysics, 2022



Improve geometry – Improve epicenter

ΔU^m - geometric parameter Good $0 < \Delta U^m < 1$ Bad

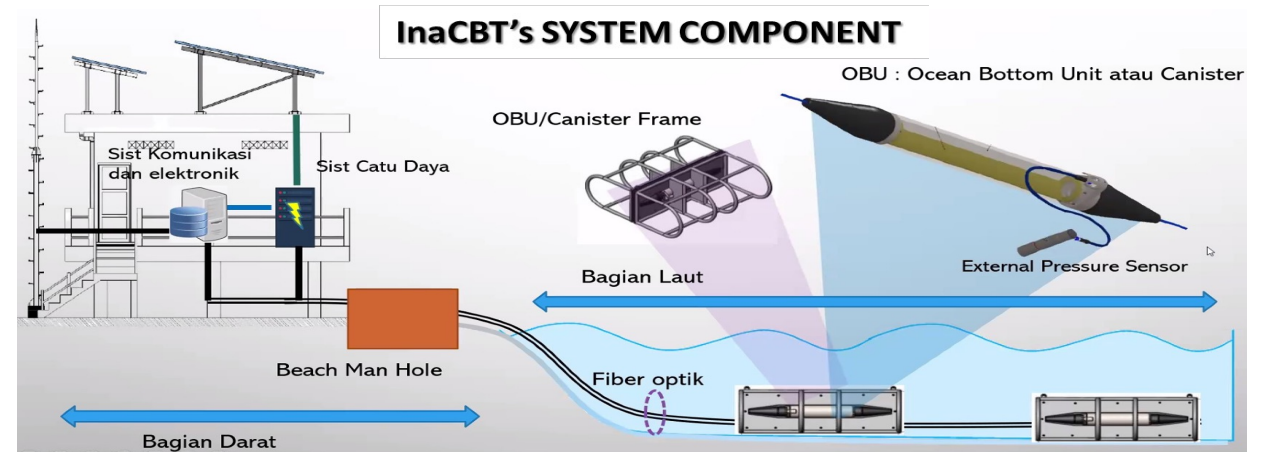


Landslides

- SMART cable (yellow dots),
- 52 landslide scenarios
- Bottom slope
- Acceleration
- Tsunami height at cable
- Tsunami height near shore

Indonesian Cable-based Tsunameter (CBT)

The Indonesian government strengthened the existing InaTEWS, following an a-typical or non-tectonic tsunami (Palu and the Sunda Strait, 2018) by designating pertinent government agencies to provide support, such as the development of **InaCBT (Indonesian Cable-Based Tsunameter)**.



The first InaCBT is situated in East Nusa Tenggara Province, north of **Labuan Bajo (LB)**, with 2 (two) OBUs: OBU-1 is situated at a depth of 2.111 meters, 25-km from the shore, and OBU-2 is situated at a depth of 4.122 meters, 54-km from the beach.

- **Strengths**

- Directly measures EOVs – temperature, pressure (in progress), addresses SDGs and Sendai DRR, part of UN Decade, with GOOS, part of UN structure
- Global scale, sustained, realtime, 25-year life, highly reliable, leverages \$5B/y cable industry with 170 years experience. Ultimately power, internet connections on seafloor, ... relatively low lifetime cost

- **Weaknesses**

- For now, limited to seafloor (future nodes – moorings, auv docking, acoustic nav/comms...), takes time to reach global scale
- **Funding.** Non-traditional funding models needed; upfront cost or sustained loan payoff. Mismatch in time lines.

- **Concerns**

- Still questions about international law (conflict - submarine cable privileges and marine science data) for the general cases – permitting and security
- **Start with countries that want the capability – bypass concerns about legal/permitting/security issues**



Concluding Remarks

CLIMATE, OCEAN SEA LEVEL, EARTHQUAKE, VOLCANO, TSUNAMI

- SMART – essential ocean variables and disaster risk reduction, SDGs
- Benefits to telecom - cable integrity, security and network resilience
- Global scale, power+internet on seafloor, sustained, realtime, 25+ year life, highly reliable, leverage \$5B/y industry, 170 y experience, low lifetime cost
- European Union Funding: Cables, w/ SMART, outlying territories, €153M
- SMART systems: CAM, MEDUSA, V-NC, Antarctica, ... will set precedents
- Work towards global scale, coverage – KISS
- **SMART – a fruitful marriage with telecom – connectivity, climate, DRR – three for the price of one – saves resources on all fronts**

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Science Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications



Thank you!

Questions?



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for Sustainable Development



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*ITIC Training Program
on Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation Systems*

18 August 2023

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

SCHMIDT MARINE

TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS

References

SMART Progress

- [Joint Task Force \(JTF\), ITU/WMO/IOC SMART Cables for Observing the Ocean](#)
Science Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications, Climate Monitoring and Disaster Mitigation
- [SMART Cables for Observing the Global Ocean: Science and Implementation, 2019](#). Frontiers of Marine Science
- [SMART Subsea Cables for Observing the Earth and Ocean, Mitigating Environmental Hazards, and Supporting the Blue Economy, 2022](#), Frontiers of Earth Science
- [SMART Cables Observing the Oceans and Earth](#), Marine Technology Society, 2022.
- Wet Demo off Sicily to be installed 2023, INGV, Funded
- Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN) 2020.09.29 [Press release - climate change](#) an integral part of business strategy, 2023.03.14 [Press Release - developing Climate Change Solution](#); will supply SMART capability 2025.
- Portugal SMART Atlantic CAM system Continent-Azores-Madeira ring, 3700 km, 50 SMART repeaters, ready for service 2025, €154M. [Authorized by Gov't 2022.04.13](#); [2022.10.20](#); RFP issued 2022.12.13; [Description and implementation of the "Observer Part" of a SMART Cable, 2023.01.27](#), [Science paper](#). [Early Warning Paper](#).
- Vanuatu-New Caledonia - [Leaders signed MOU for 2nd international cable 2022.07.29](#), SMART, France will support a SMART Cable between Vanuatu and New Caledonia - President Macron's speech in Vanuatu 27 July 2023 ([video \(minute 11\) and text](#))
- [NZ-Antarctica/McMurdo Base SMART Cable, US National Science Foundation](#) and [workshop report](#) - desk top study just complete (awaiting public report)
- [NZ-Chatham Islands - MBIE report under consideration, w/ SMART](#), and [Science workshop report](#)
- Norway-Japan via Arctic - [Far North Fiber - under consideration, welcome SMART. NORDUNet PolarConnect Video](#).
- [MEDUSA - Lisbon-Egypt - raising funds for SMART portion](#)
- [Indonesia – in-country development – 50 km 2 node single ended system; SMART Cable Potential in Indonesia, Salaree et al, Pure Appl. Geophys, 2022](#)
- [Moore Foundation has awarded Joint Task Force/UHawaii \\$7M to facilitate SMART, globally, regionally, as well as Vanuatu-New Caledonia, proposal](#)
- ITU - [Circ. Letter Member States](#), Assemblies ([WTSA-20](#), [WTDC-22](#), [PP-22](#)); [Study Group 15/Q8 G.SMART](#). Forwards - Submarine Telecom, [2019/20](#), [2021/22](#)
- [SMART endorsed as Project of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030, Supporting Docs, Web page](#), with GOOS, Tsunami
- [Global Ocean Observing System \(GOOS\)](#) accepts Ocean Bottom Pressure as an Essential Ocean Variable; and SMART as a GOOS Project. 2022.11.28.
- [European Union Funding: CEF-2 Digital Global Gateways, Submarine Cables, Call 2](#) 2022.10.12, w/ SMART, outlying territories, €153M, 30-70% of project cost; ([see DG Connect ppt](#)); Call 3 summer 2023
- [JTF SMART Cable Workshop 19-20 January](#) after PTC23 in Honolulu, followed by Moore SMART Cable project meeting 21-23 January.
- Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report, 2023: [Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Seamless and Sustainable Connectivity](#), ESCAP
- Workshop, [SMART Cables, Science and Society](#), University of Aveiro, 22-23 May 2023
- New SMART Cables web site (in addition the ITU site at top), <https://www.smartcables.org/> and [video](#).

Luis Matias, LEA