# 8.5.2 Argo Information Centre (AIC)

- Argo Technical Coordinator:

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- AIC aims to implement and help maintain a network of 3000, evenly distributed, sub-surface (temperature and salinity) profiling floats.

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# Recent Tasks

- Improvements to Argo network monitoring and planning:
  - upgrade and document the notification mechanism
  - develop new products (maps, statistics, GIS data layers, web pages, text file exports, etc)
- Improvements to Argo Data distribution monitoring:
  - New set of (dynamic) statistics on real-time and delayed-mode profiles
- Upgrades to the JCOMMOPS information System:
  - New server installed and configured
  - Software upgrade (in particular the GIS)
  - Routine scripts and procedures reviewed and rationalized (in particular the GIS data layers update)

# Recent Tasks

- Improvements in monthly data reports to PI's/Programme Managers, float operators and data managers.

- The monthly Coordinator's report continues to be enhanced and improved
( it is emailed monthly to email lists:
argo-st@jcommops.org & argo-dm@jcommops.org  )


- Finalised the new AIC website -
http://argo.jcommops.org

# Information System

- The Argo Co-chairs have agreed that the ToR of the Argo TC should be updated to reflect the involvement in maintenance and operation of the JCOMMOPS information system

- The Argo TC and DBCP TC will therefore be able to work together more on the JCOMMOPS information system.

- Better integration on the web - Many reporting and monitoring tools of the Argo Website, available for Floats only today, will be integrated into the JCOMMOPS website.

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# Planning & Notification

- Notification of all Argo Deployments is compulsory and is performed online by platform operators – either:
  - via the notification screen
  - via tools to upload multiple deployments directly from a text file.

- This core function of the AIC has been reviewed, improved, and documented with the aim to provide a global and regularly updated view of the Argo plans, up to a year in advance.
  - Operators enter draft notifications well ahead of time (not all details need to be finalised)
  - Plans can then be modified, as required, until all details (e.g. WMO ids) are ready for the formal notification.
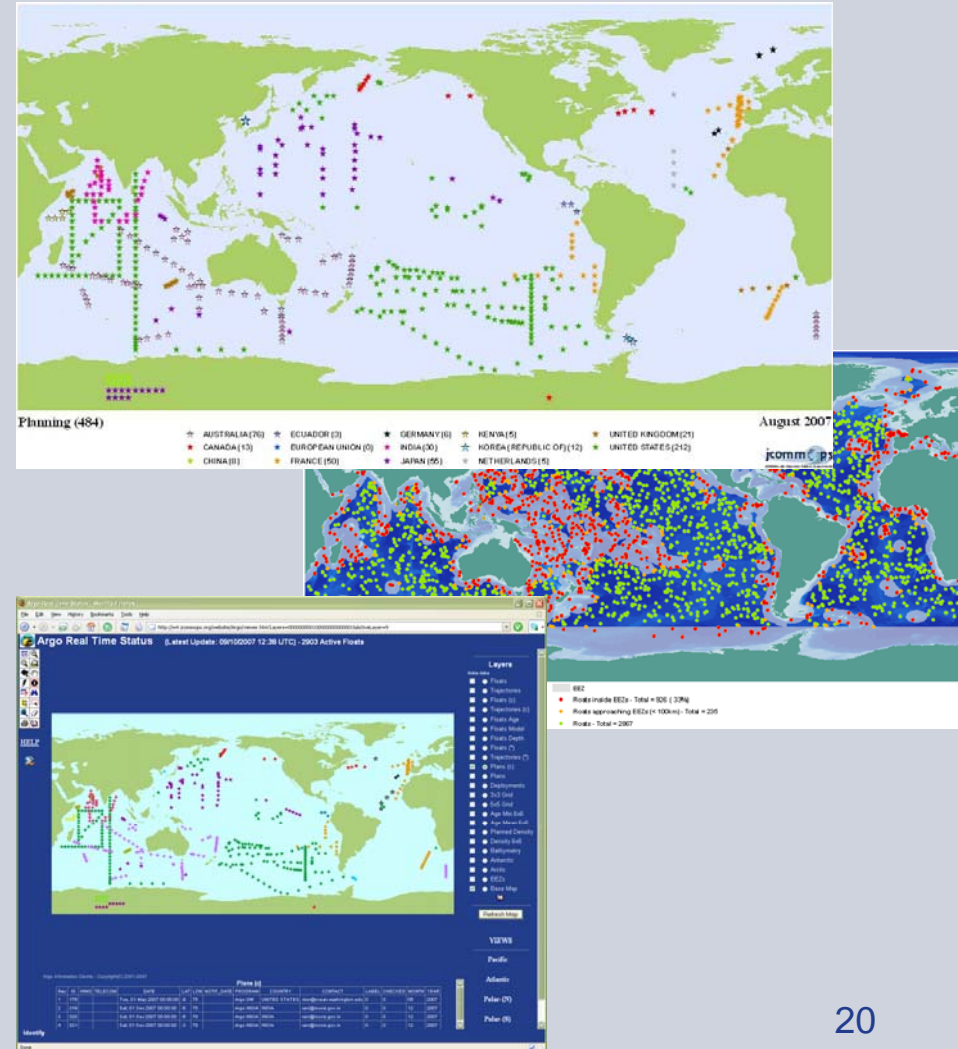
# Planning & Notification (cont.)

- This information is vital for:
  - The implementation and maintenance of the global array
  - The project transparency and accordance with international rules (IOC Resolution XX-6)
  - The cooperation between Argo and other panels (e.g. DBCP) e.g. for deployment opportunities
- Careful planning should contribute to develop Argo into a truly operational and sustainable programme.

# New web products

- A set of new products has been developed:
  - A new web map interface and new data layers for <u>planning</u> (ArcIMS interactive Map)
  - A new static monthly map for planning
  - A new script developed to produce daily data layers for floats in or around EEZs
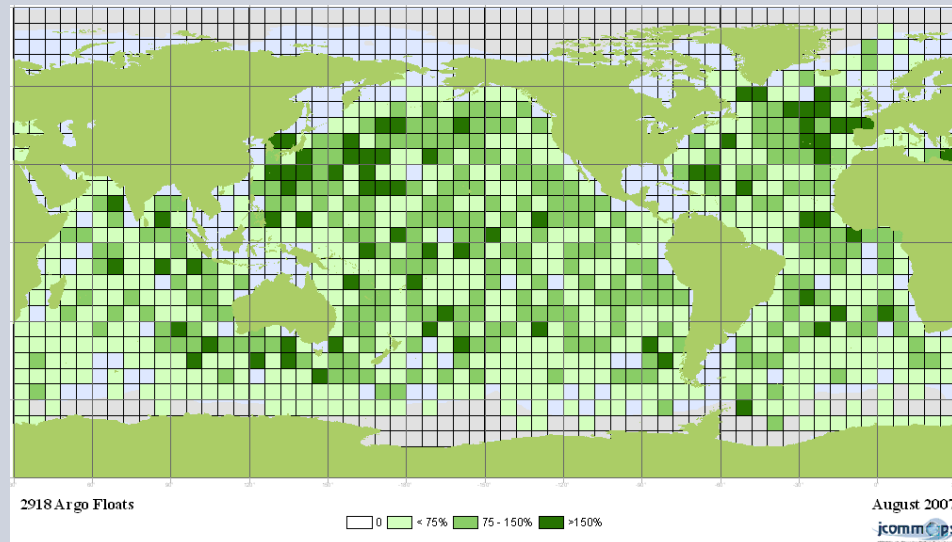  - Daily (text/GIS format) exports of plans and floats in and around EEZs
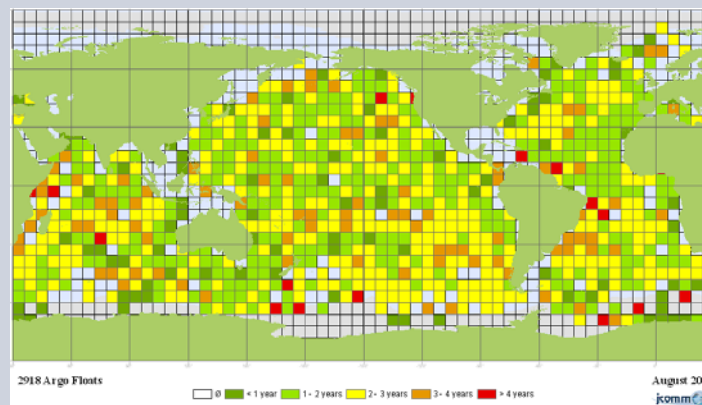
# Network Coverage & Density

- Three (new) data layers are available for analysing network coverage.
  - Network density
  - Network Age
  - Network planned density
- Integrated into the Argo map products.

*The cooperation of the TC DBCP in developing these new GIS data layers is gratefully acknowledged*

2918 Argo Floats       August 2007

0   < 75%   75 - 150%   >150%

*A simple view of the Argo network density, which helps to identify gaps on a 6°x6° grid . (Normalized on the 3°x3° Argo standard)*



2918 Argo Floats       August 2007

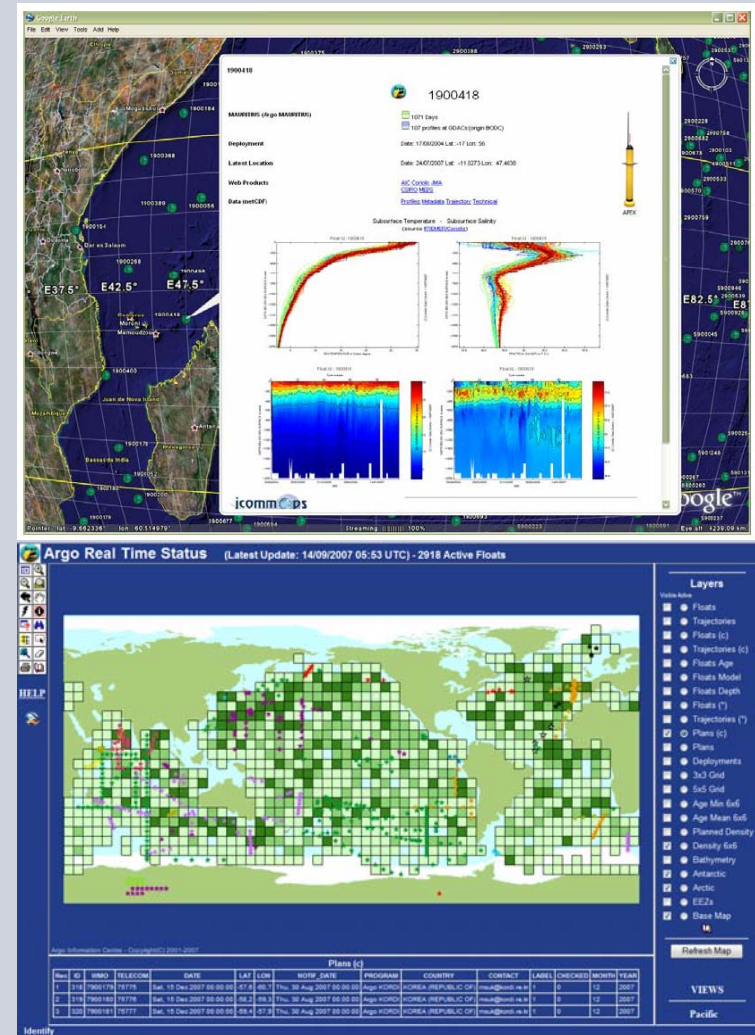0   < 1 year   1 - 2 years   2 - 3 years   3 - 4 years   > 4 years

*Argo network density with age of floats factored in to help identify future gaps in the 3°x3° Argo grid*
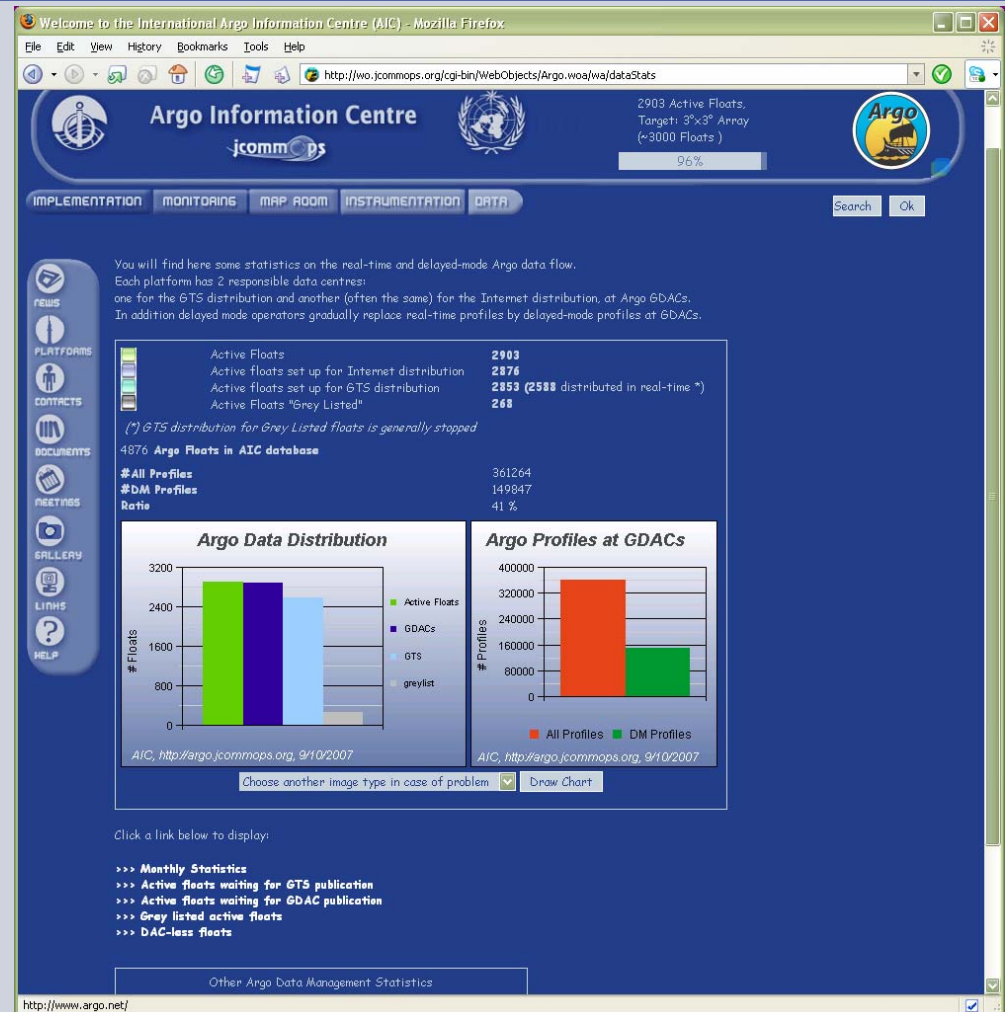
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# Viewing Argo network coverage

- Google Earth - Active/Inactive floats & trajectories:
  - http://w3.jcommops.org/FTPRoot/Argo/Status/status.kmz
  - http://w3.jcommops.org/FTPRoot/Argo/Status/inactive.kmz
- Web maps
  - The ArcIMS Interactive Map permits overlays of all layers and optimize the deployment strategies of platform operators

# Data Distribution

- Float data distribution is verified at the AIC against GTS and at Argo GDACs
- 98.8% is distributed as expected
- Daily update from Argo GDACs improved for delayed-mode files tracking.
- New dynamic charts for real-time and delayed mode Argo data distribution.
- Summary put in AIC Monthly Report



http://wo.jcommops.org/cgi-bin/WebObjects/Argo.woa/wa/dataStats

# Exclusive Economic Zones.
# Law of the Sea (ABE-LOS*)

- The work of the IOC/ABE-LOS group is progressing.The Argo TC participates in the work and provides a concrete example with the implementation of the IOC Resolution XX-6.

- In addition to the web/email based notification procedure, letters (prepared by the AIC and sent by the IOC Executive Secretary) on the status of floats within or entering in the EEZs were sent to some IOC Member States.

- The obligation of notifying all float deployments is seen by the AIC as an excellent opportunity to:
  - Strengthen Programme transparency and international support
  - Improve Programme planning & monitoring
  - Develop international cooperation
  - Ensure that the list of Argo National Focal Points is up-to-date

\* The IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS)

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# Exclusive Economic Zones (continued)

- DBCP should note that **ABE-LOS is drafting some guidelines** for the deployment of float and **drifters.**

- The AIC (and further JCOMMOPS) is being recognized as the ideal tool to inform Member States about deployment planning, platform metadata and data access.

- Hence, the Argo TC encourages DBCP to develop a similar planning/notification system.

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# Highlights and Future Challenges

- Communication and Promotion
  - Float of the month – allows representation of some floats crossing interesting ocean features.
  - 3000$^{th}$ Float
- User support
  - In order to process the queries in a structured and timely mannered, a centralized procedure has been set up. The Argo Project Office (Argo TC + M. Scanderbeg of Scripps) provides an operational "user desk" via **http://support.argo.net** and **support@argo.net**
- Development and Capacity Building programs
  - UNESCO is finalising a contract to allow easy donation of platforms to countries which are new to the programme
  - Training sessions
- Capitalising on deployment opportunities – forward planning
- Retrieval of Beached Floats - an increasingly time consuming task.
- ABE-LOS

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# Future plans 2007-2008

- Continue to encourage float operators to notify of deployment plans
- Continue to address any issues with the new website
- Improve JCOMMOPS Information System operational status
- Improve the AIC Monthly Report
- AIC Support Centre
  - Improve the newly installed "user desk" and extend to JCOMMOPS
  - Develop the "feedback from data users to data producers" tool
- Continue to issue reports on Argo floats in and around EEZs to IOC Member States

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# Future plans (continued)

- Improve the Argo Portal www.argo.net
- Update Argo communication material: presentation, poster.
- Continue to assist in the float retrieval activities
- Continue to foster participation by new countries through donor programmes
- Finalize the Web Map Services (WMS) - prepare a guide and help page for users
- Work on a proposal for OceanSITES coordination within JCOMMOPS
- Improve (modestly) Argo media coverage via direct contacts or educational initiatives
- Assist in the promotion of the 3000th float.

# Discussion

- Questions?

- Comments.


- Thank you for your attention

Home

DBCP 23, October 2007.  Jeju, Korea.