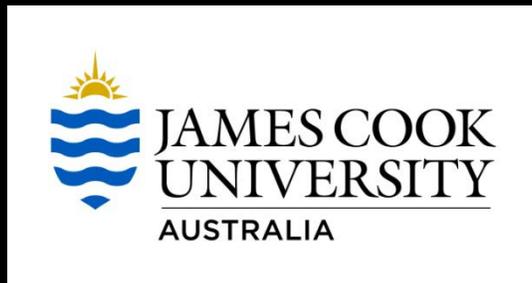


# Crowdsourced bathymetry on the Great Barrier Reef

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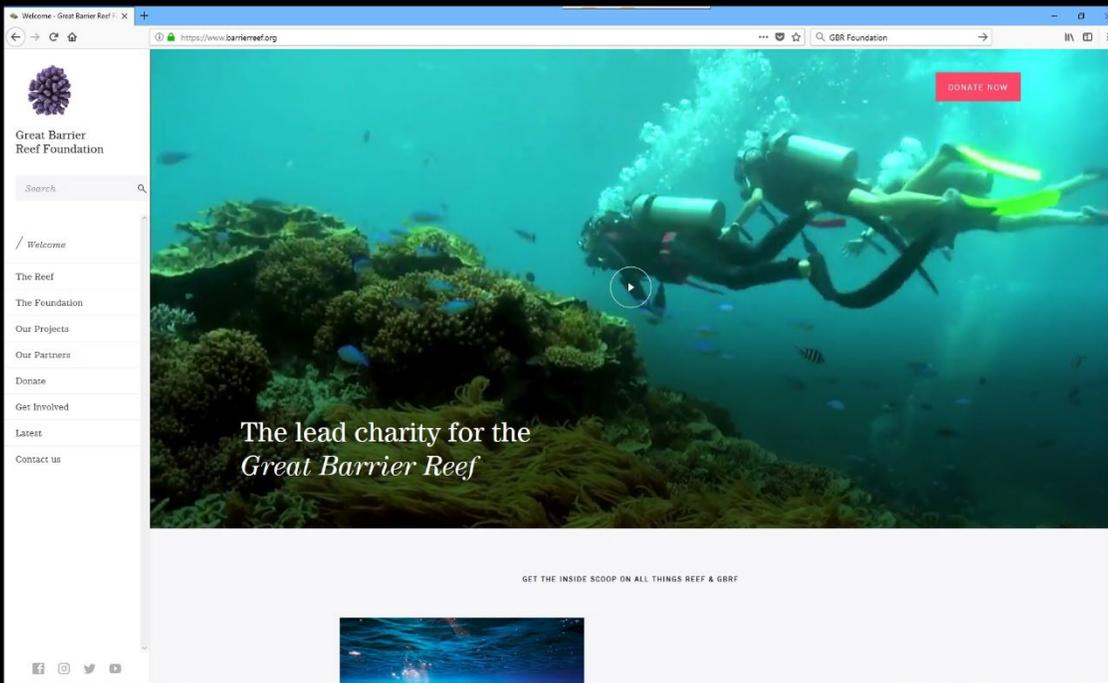
# Aims

- Crowdsourced bathymetry (CSB) is collection of depth measurements from vessels, using standard navigation instruments engaged in routine operations.
- International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) accepts CSB data into the Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) through a network of 'Trusted Nodes'.
- The 'Crowdsourced bathymetry on the GBR' project is a Trusted Node.
- Talk will focus on how CSB data are collected, processed and made public.

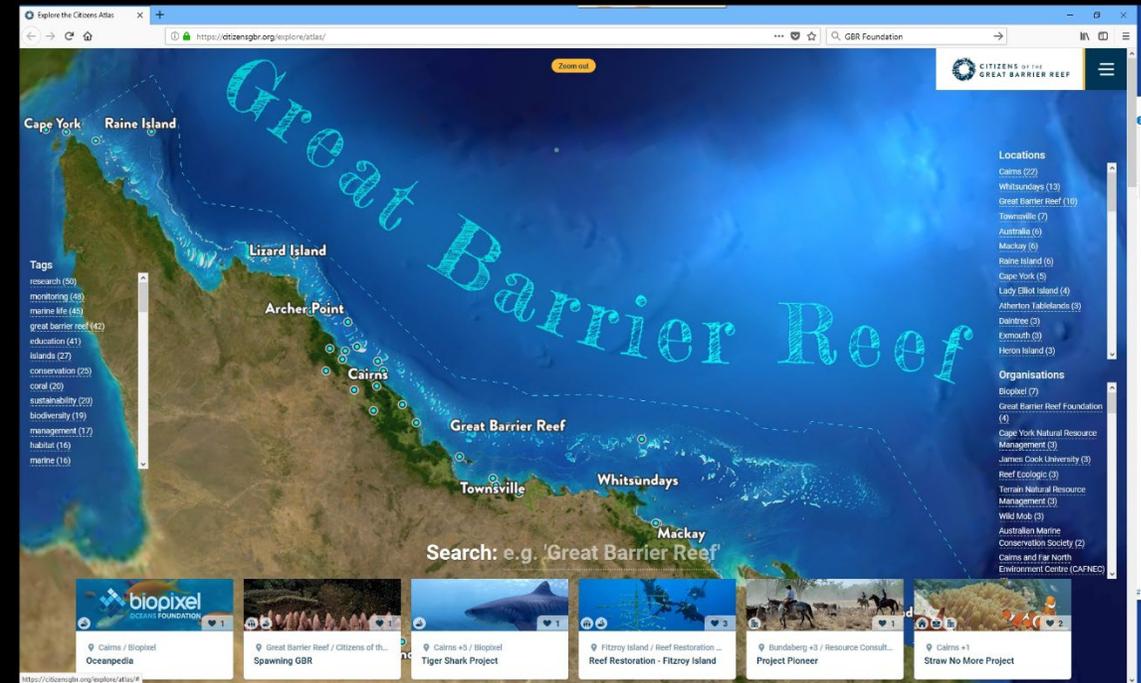
# Funding and support

- Great Barrier Reef Foundation

- Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef



GBR Foundation at: <https://www.barrierreef.org/>



Citizens of the GBR at: <https://citizensgbr.org/>

# Technology

- TeamSurv SmartLog USB logger
- 12/24VDC plus NMEA channel 1
- reliable but sensitive to over-voltage

- stores raw NMEA 0183 data to USB

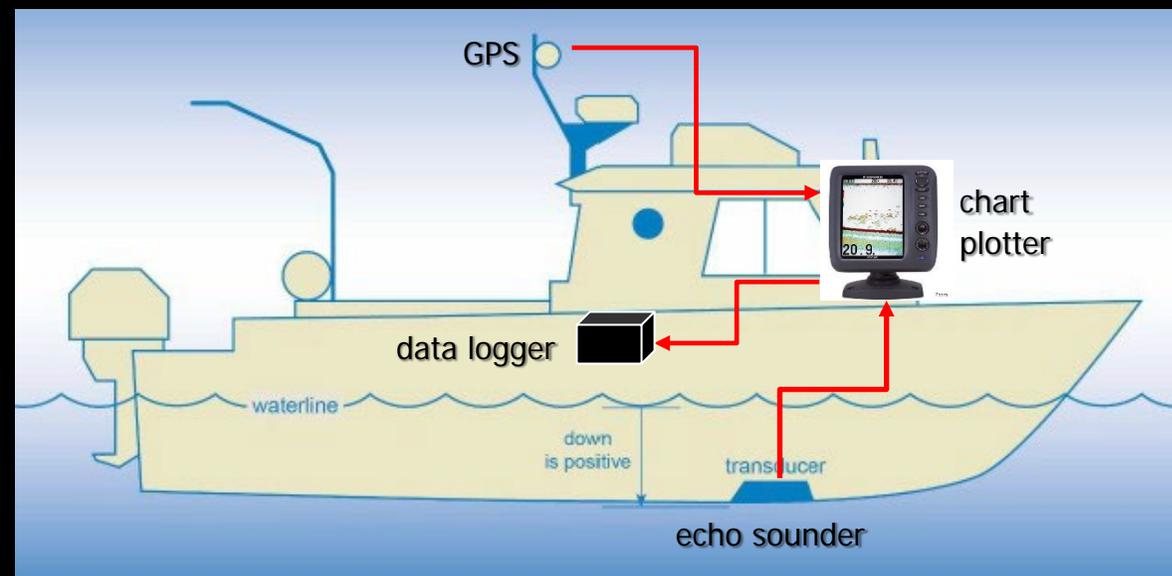
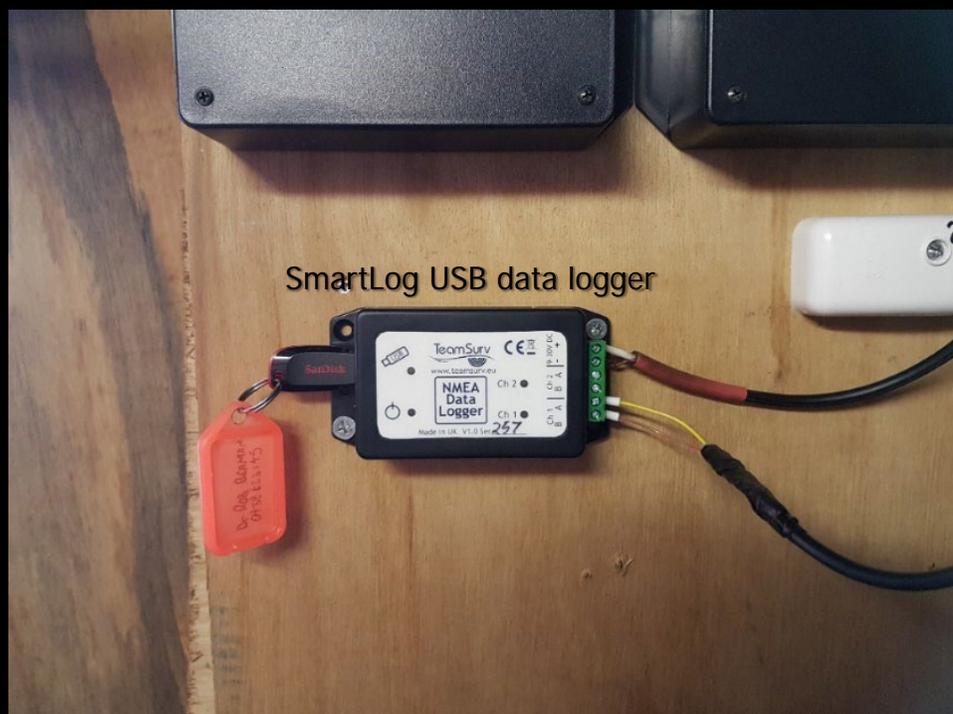
\$GPGGA,022018,1617.7499,S,14541.6567,E,1,11,0.84,-62.51,M,59.91,M,,\*76

\$GPBWC,022020,1617.3701,S,14541.0190,E,301.8,T,295.0,M,0.721,N,End,A\*37

\$SDDBT,3.74,f,1.14,M,0.62,F\*36

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# Vessels



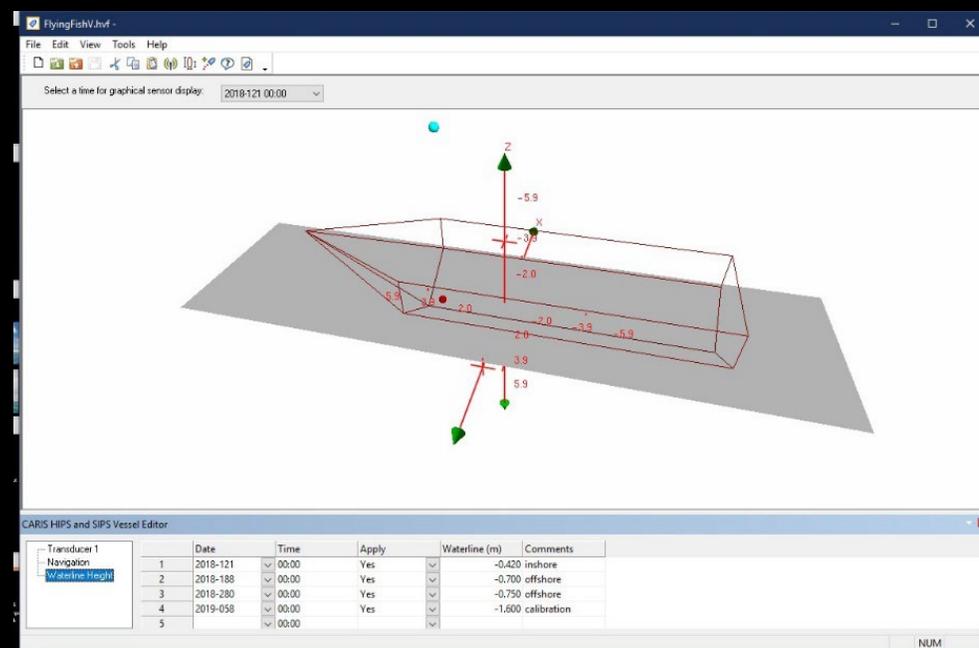
# Chart plotters



# Installation

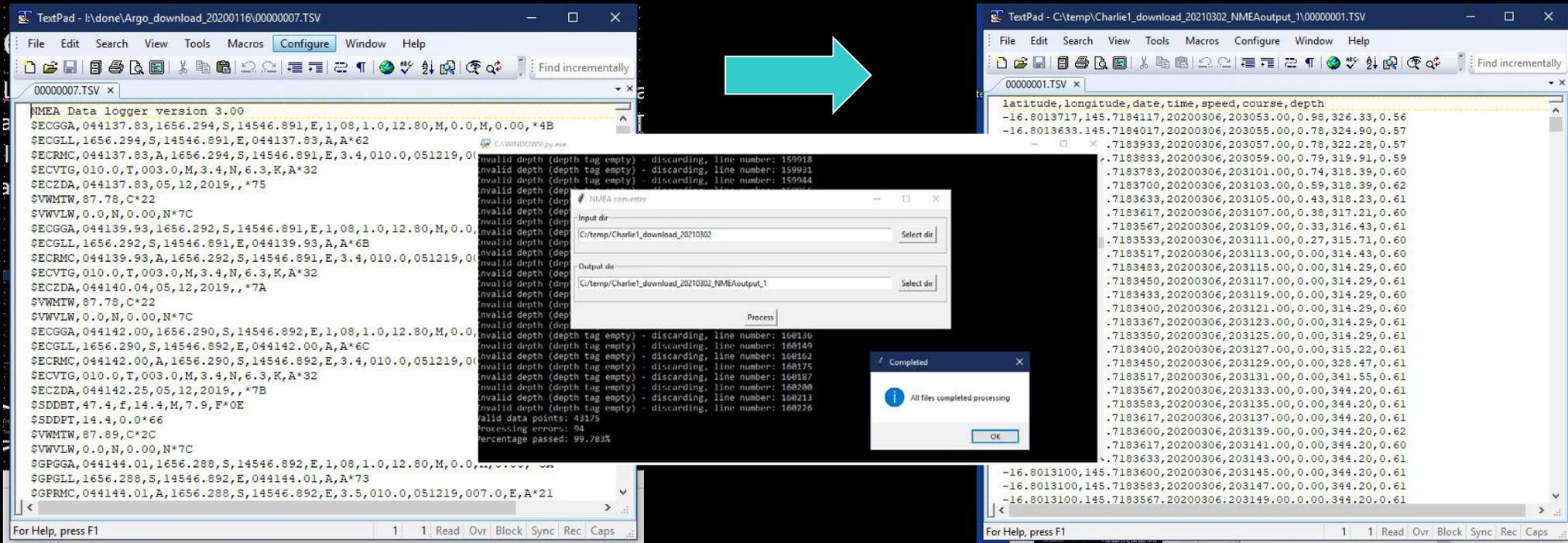
- marine technician to install
- mount in dry sheltered place
- ideally one NMEA channel feed
- switch or fuse helps to kill power

- use 30 m tape to measure offsets
- reference point (RP) is the sounder
- GPS aerial is measured to sounder
- measure depth with leadline for waterline height to RP



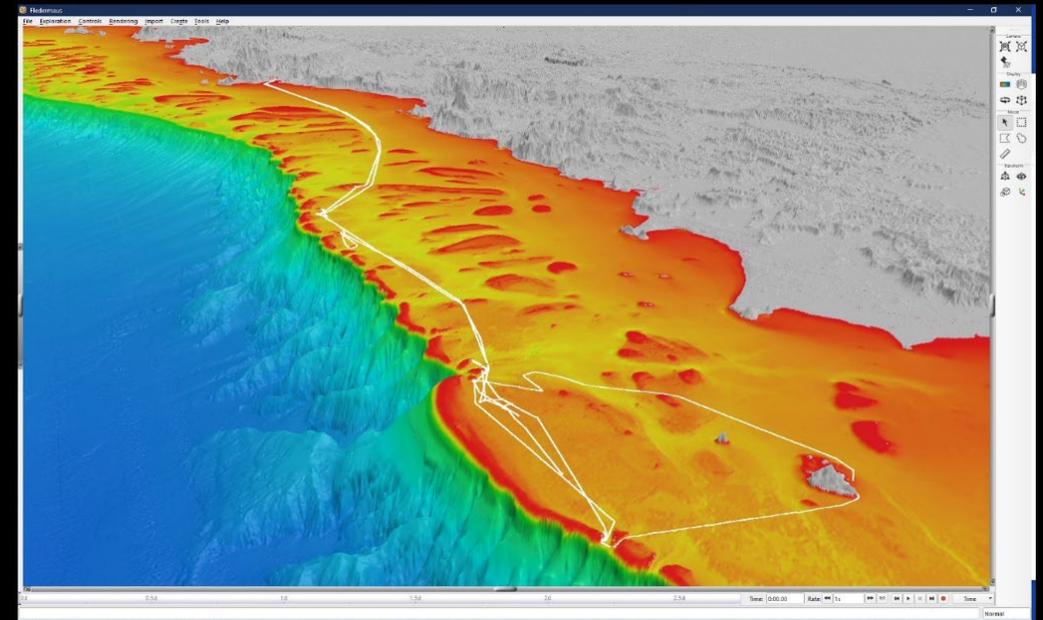
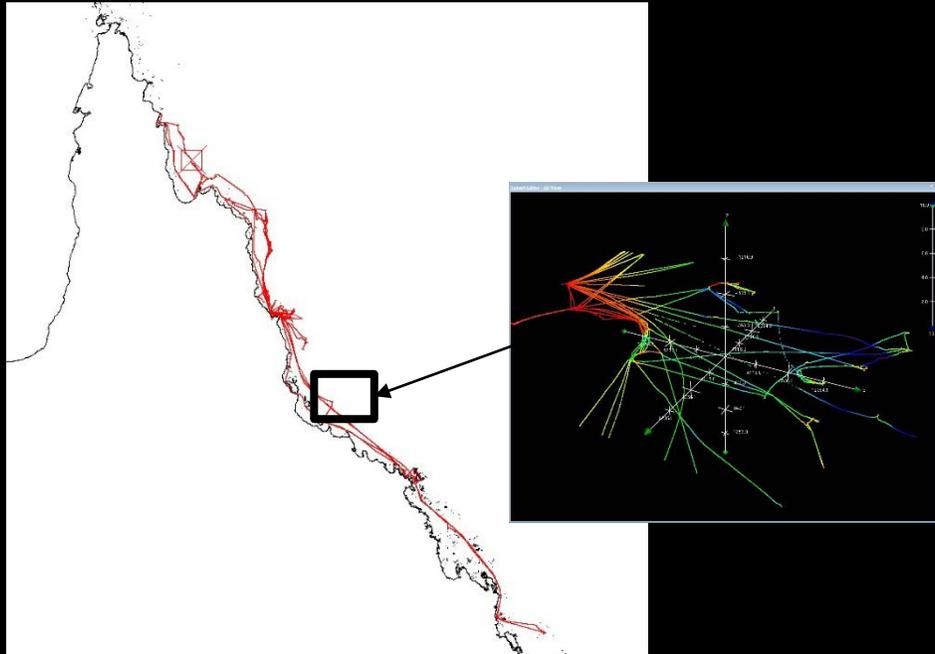
# Python processing

- data logger stores .TSV files
- raw data are NMEA 0183 strings
- can have wrong dates, missing value
- i/p GGA, RMC, ZDA, DBT strings
- o/p lat, long, date, time, course, speed, depth
- report of errors, valid data points, % pass

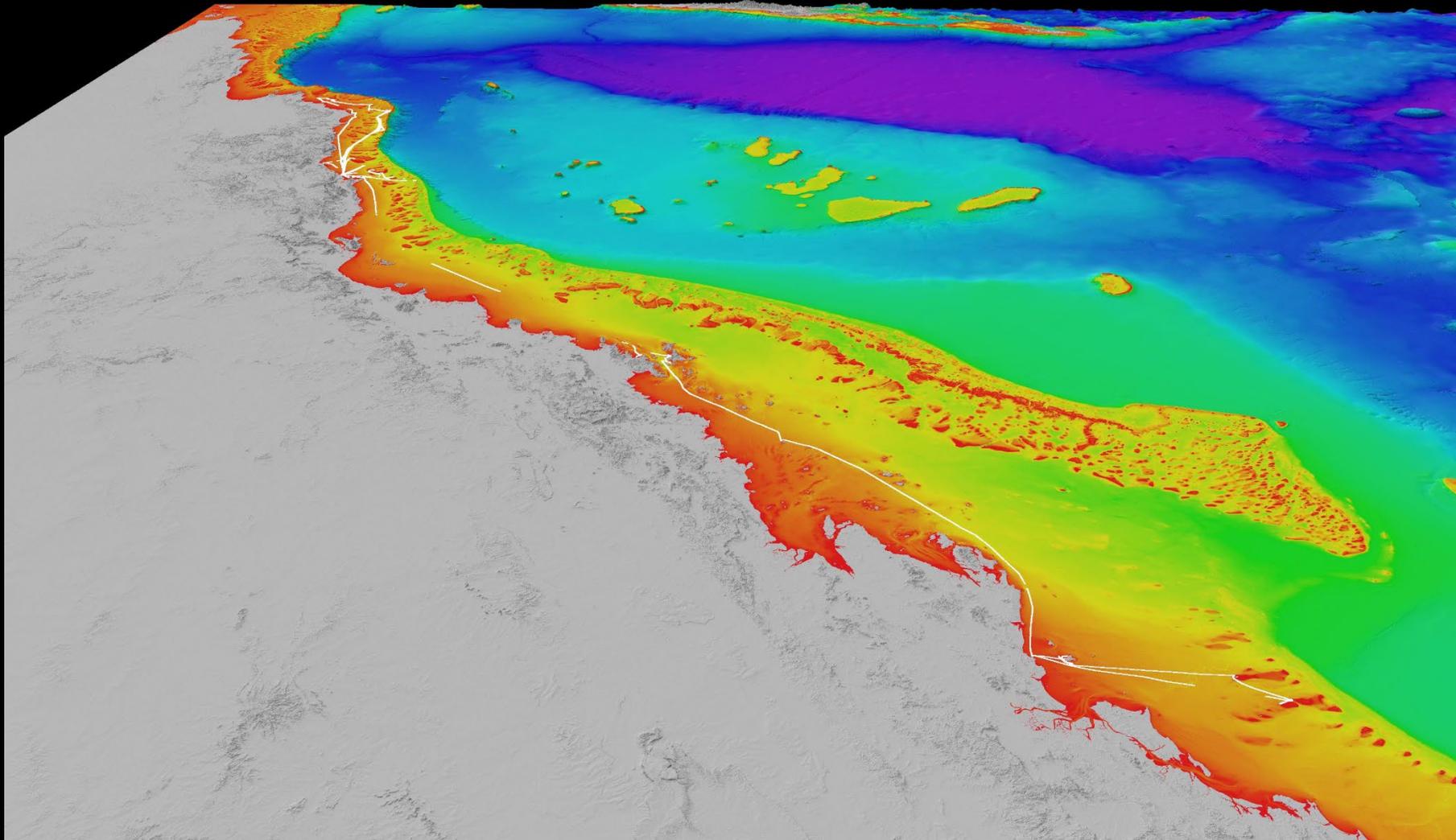


# Spatial filter

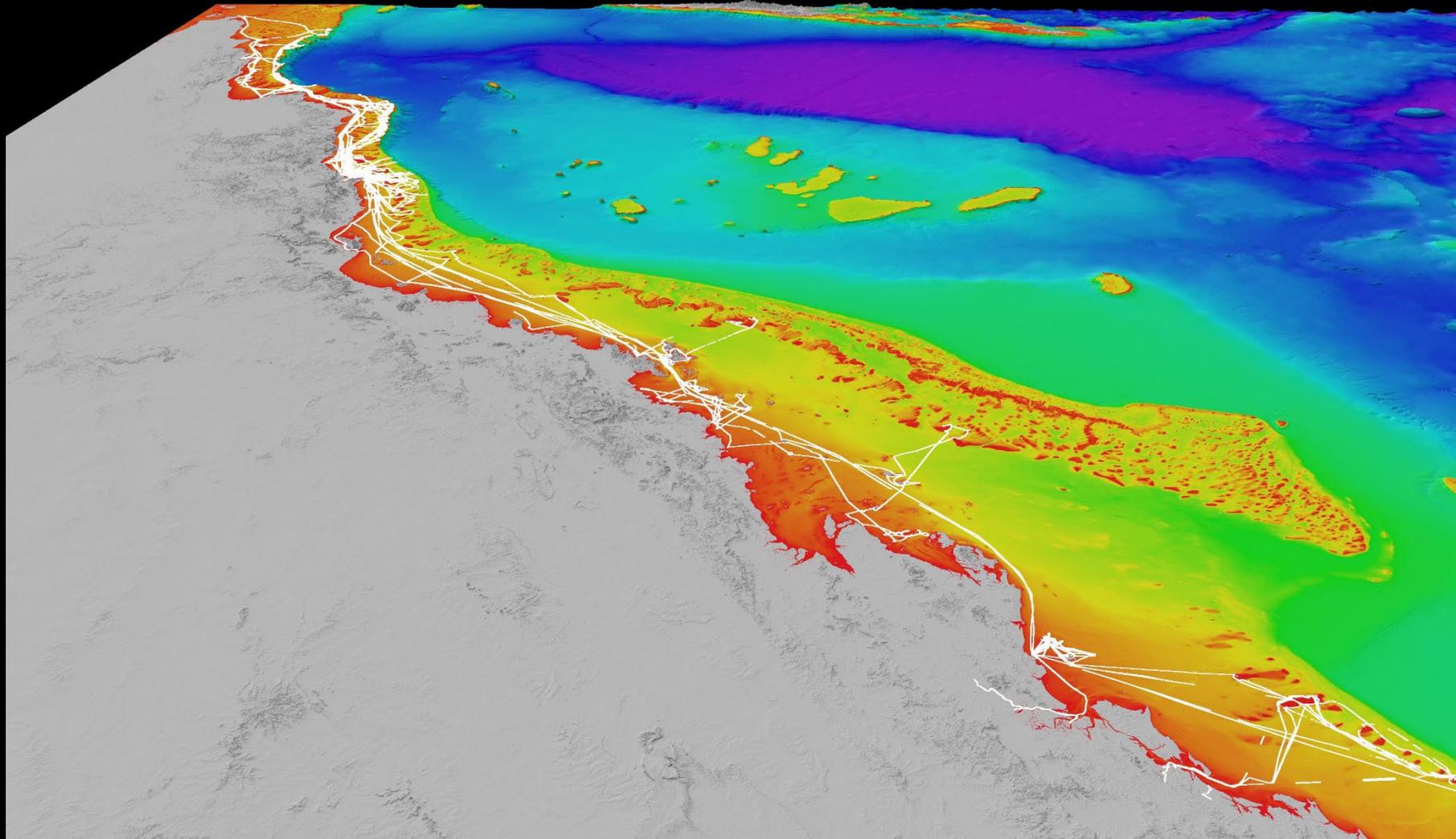
- import data tables into spatial visualisation software
- Fledermaus, HIPS, GIS, Google Earth
- ideally viewed as 3D point cloud
- filter and remove anomalous points
- very little noise, e.g. few 0 m values
- very few nav spikes (using raw GPS)
- sound speed (usually) 1500 m/sec



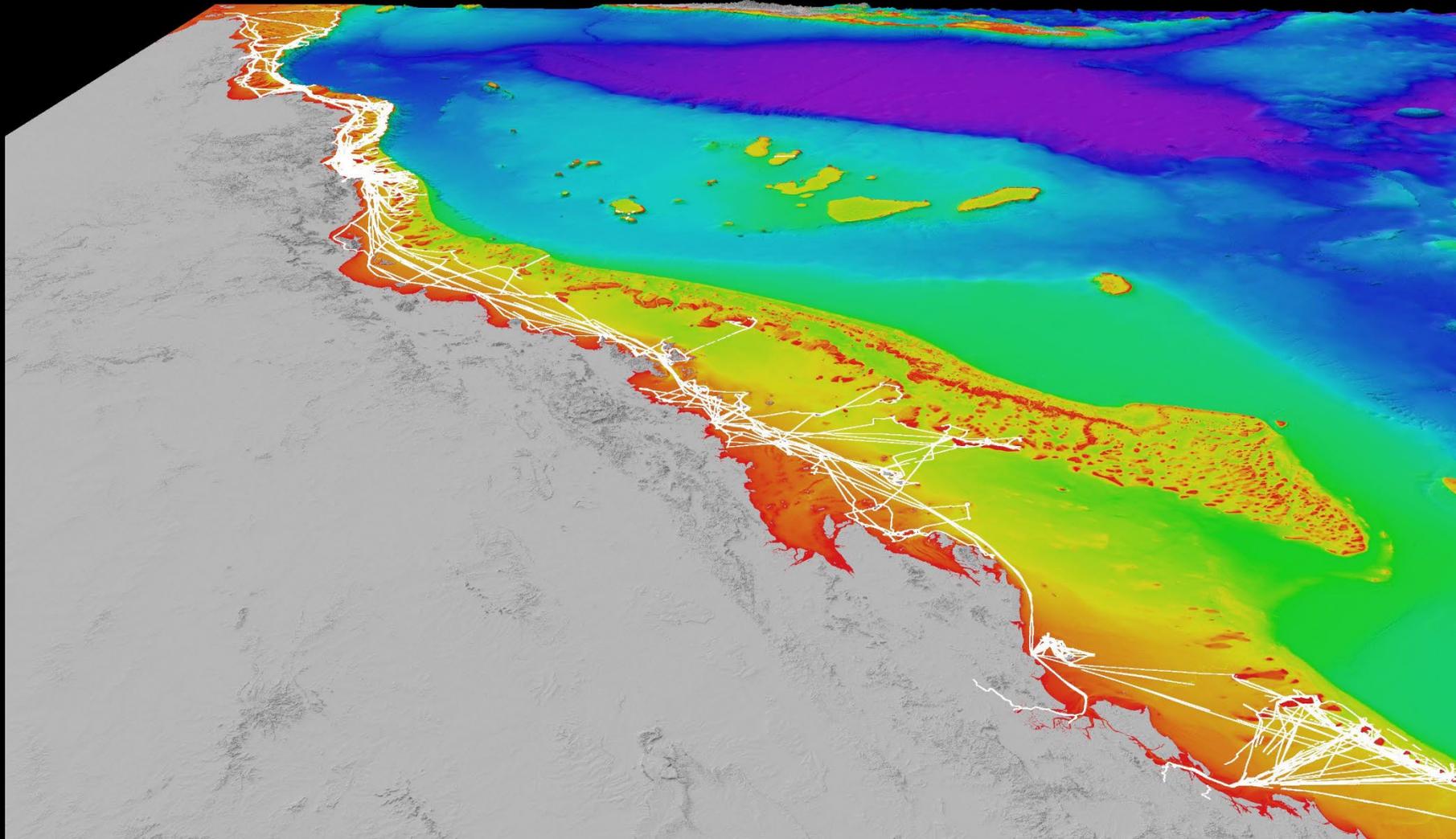
2018



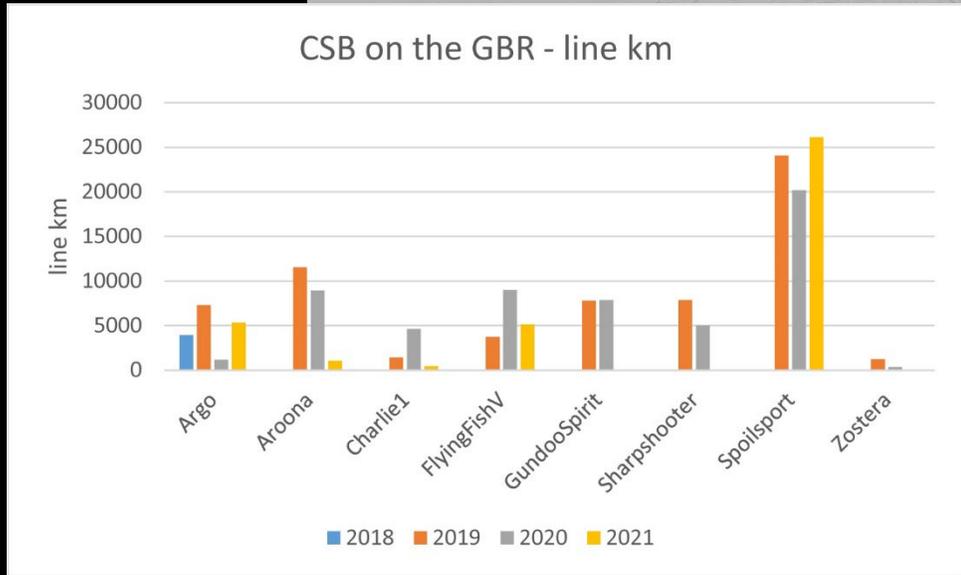
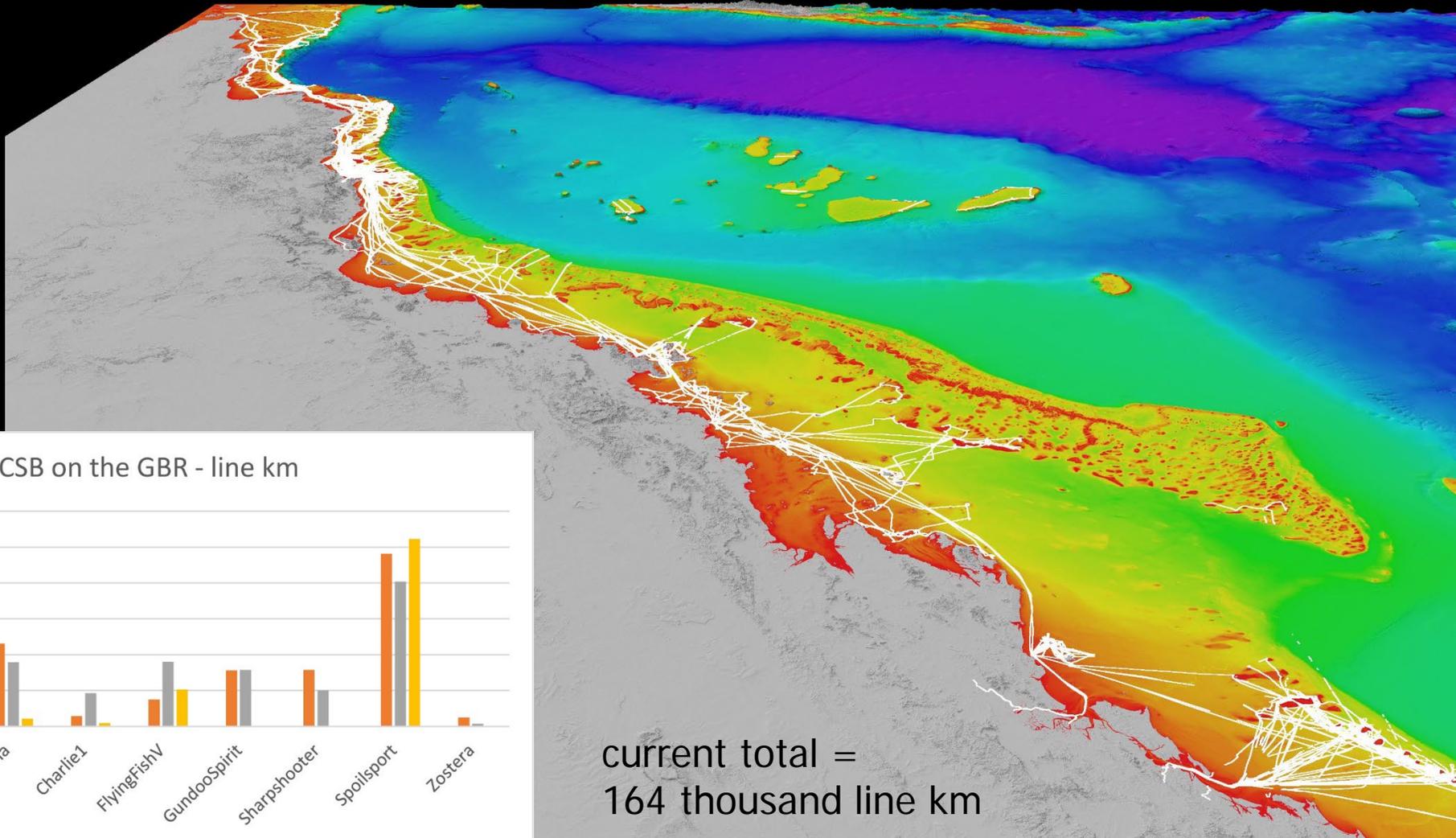
2018-2019



2018-2019-2020



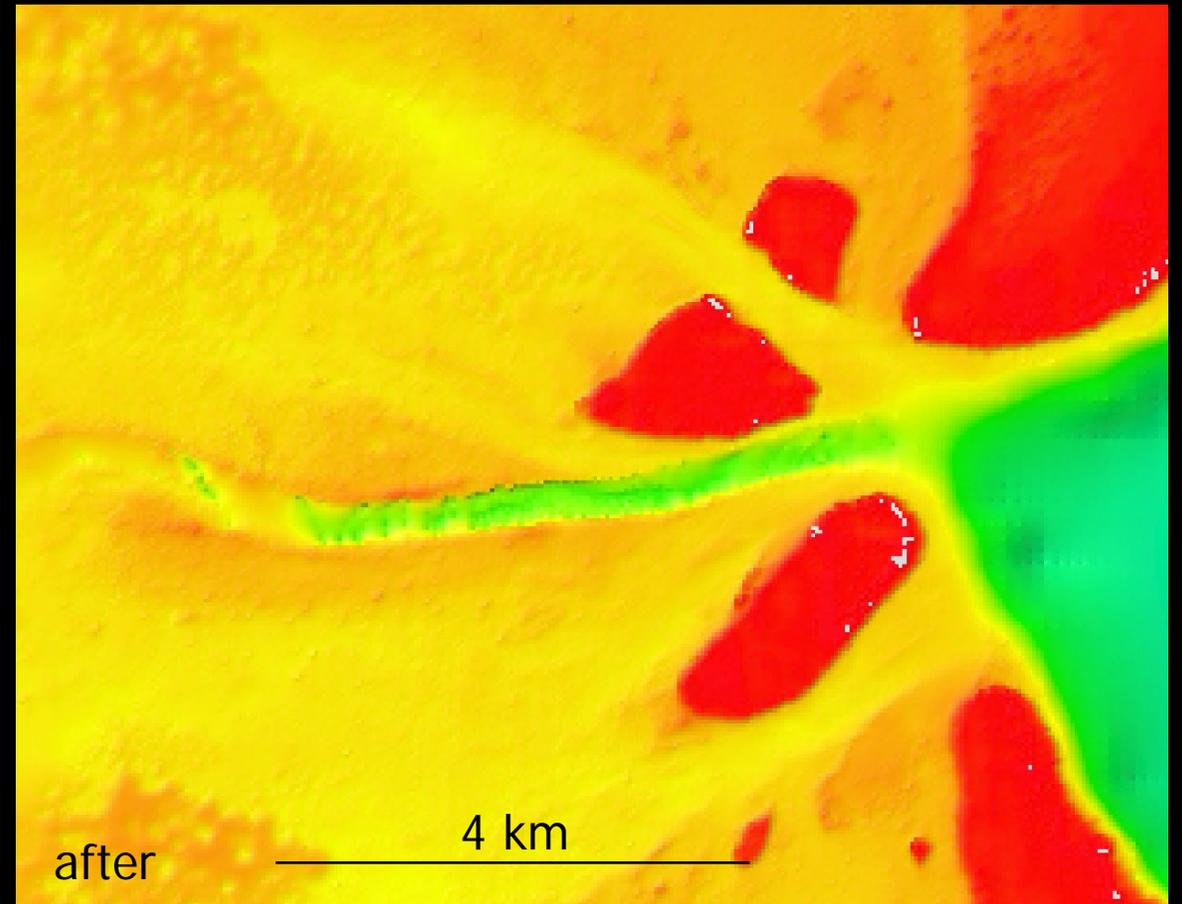
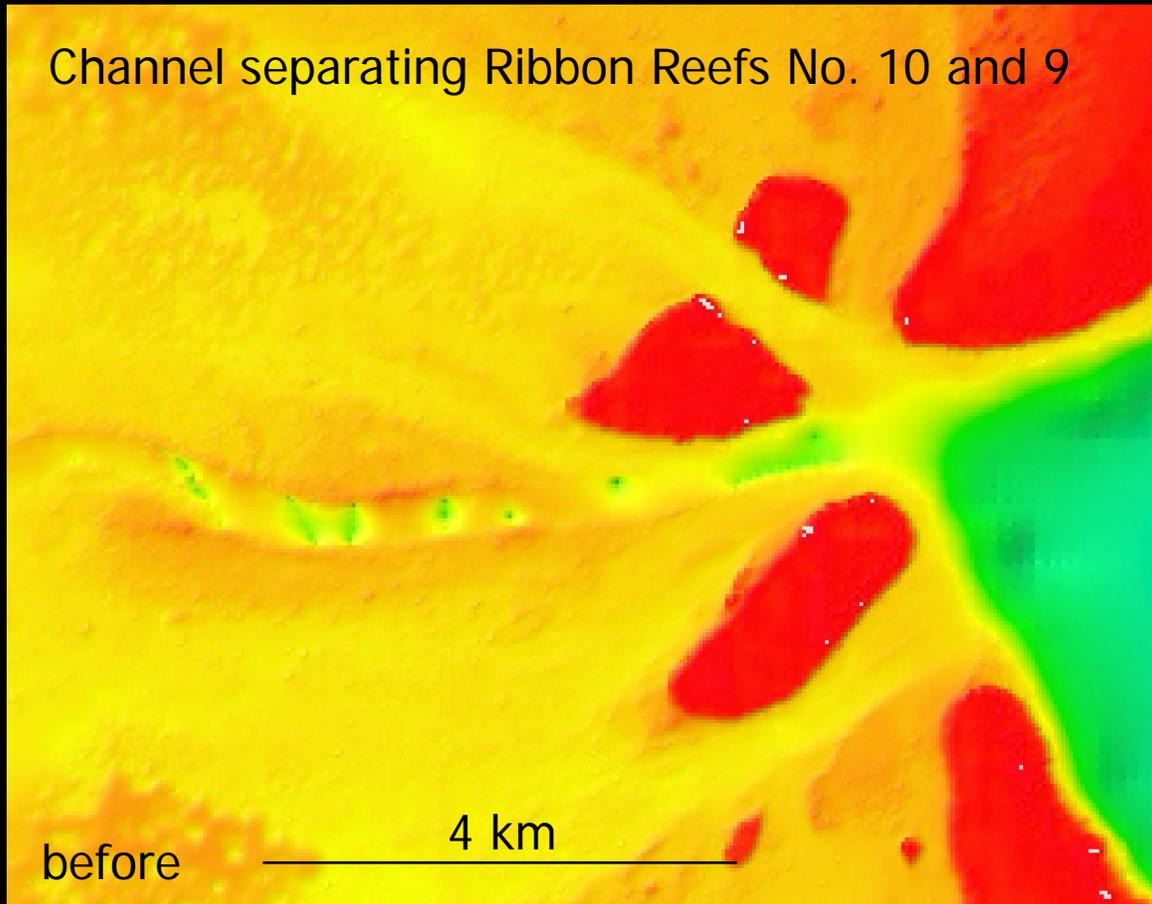
# 2018-2019-2020-2021



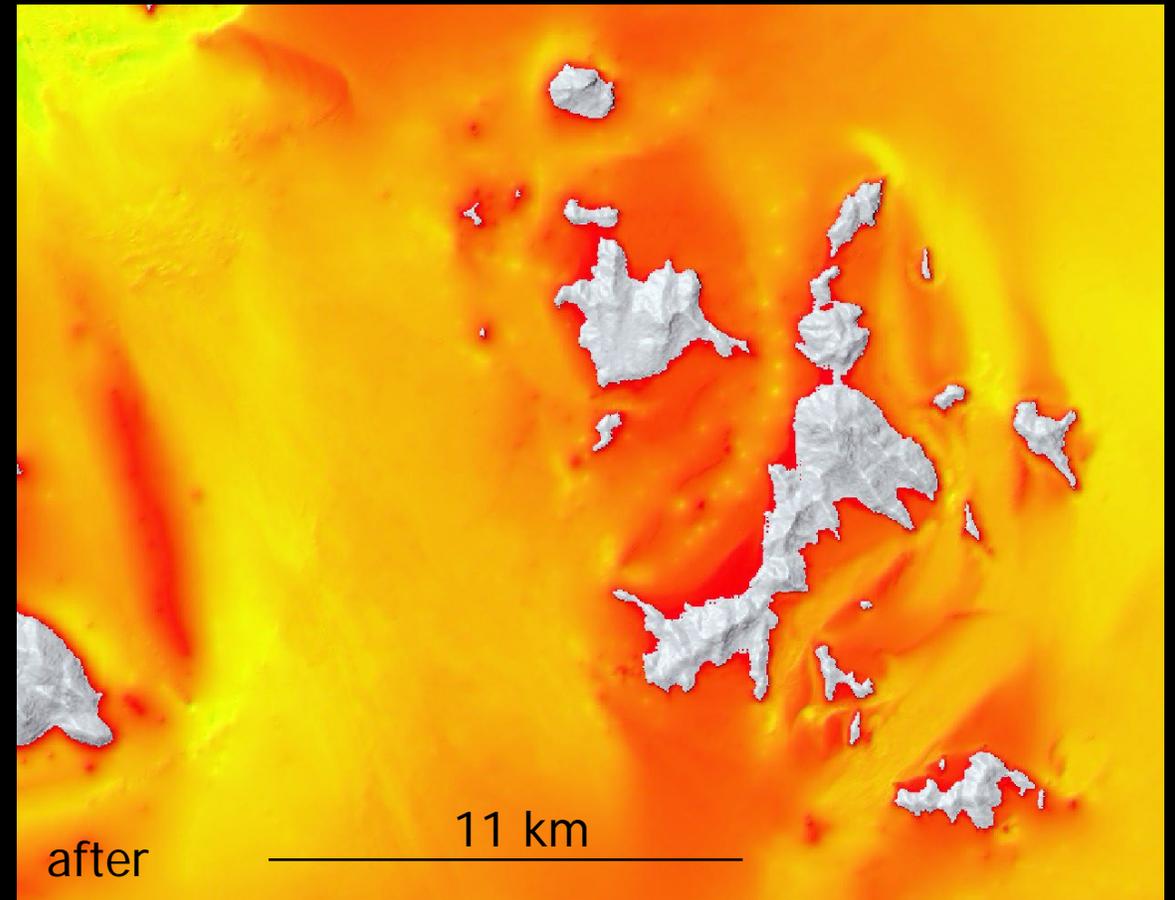
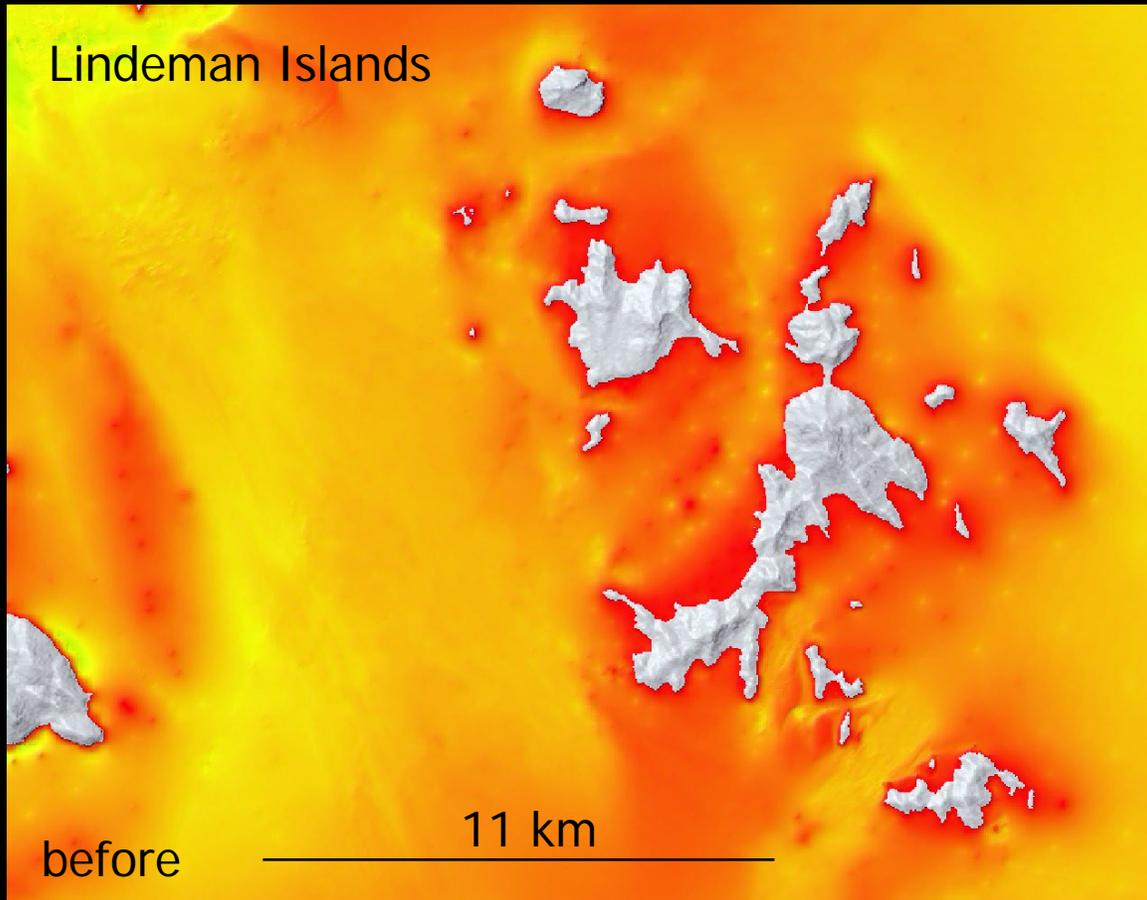
current total =  
164 thousand line km

# Making a difference

Channel separating Ribbon Reefs No. 10 and 9



# Making a difference



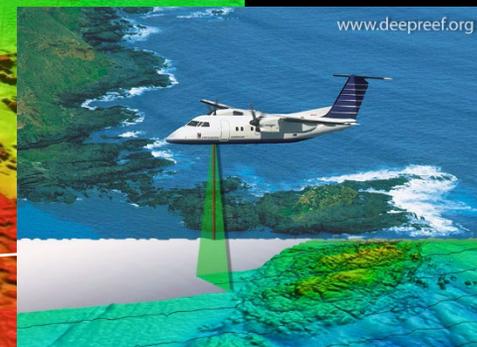
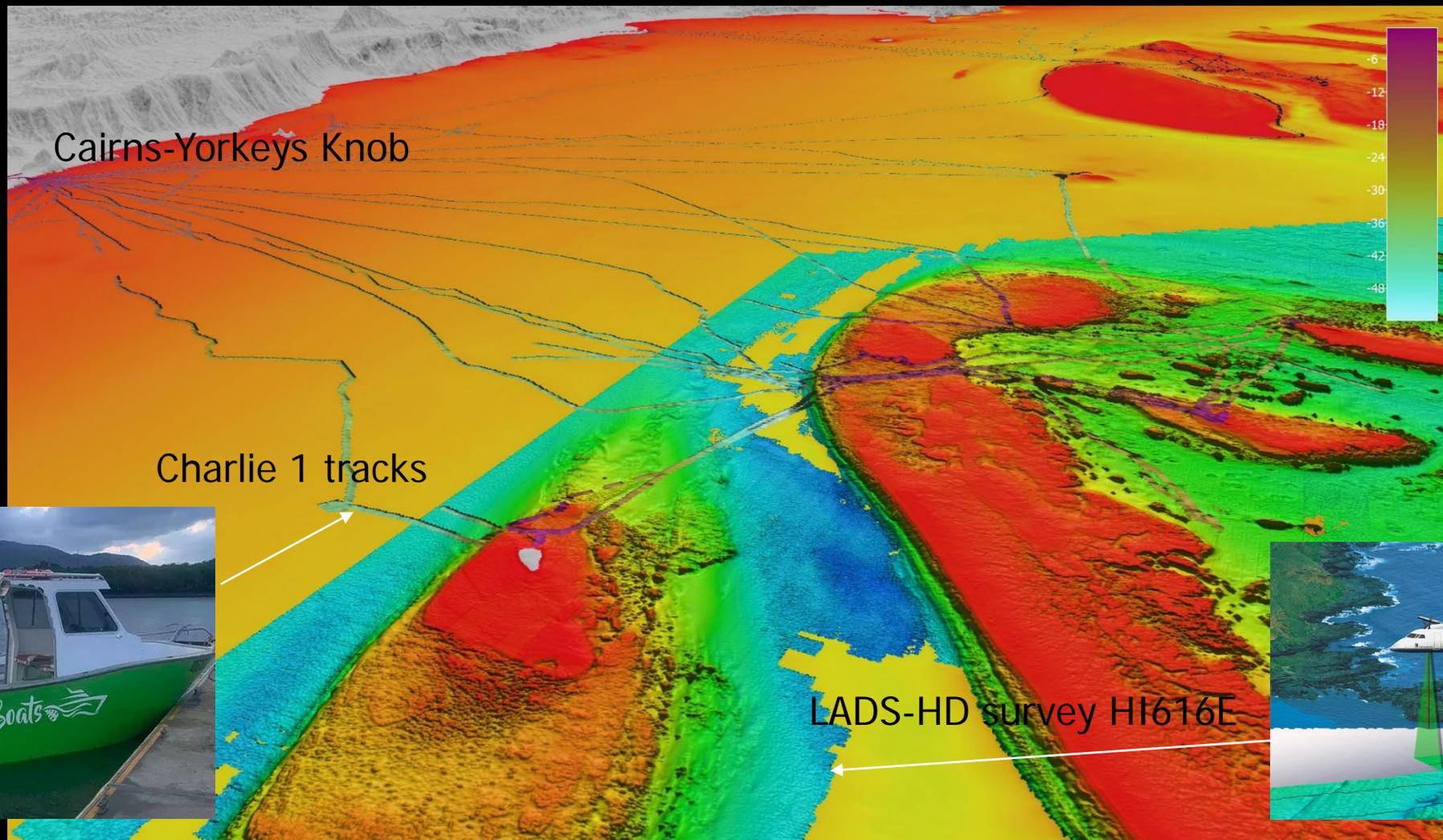
# Keeping track

The screenshot displays the MarineTraffic website interface. The main map shows Australia with several vessels tracked. A detailed panel for the vessel **SPOILSPORT** is open, showing its status as a **Dive Vessel** and its current location **AU CNS**. The panel includes a timeline for **ATD: 2021-11-18 17:49** and **ETA: -**. A table below provides vessel specifications:

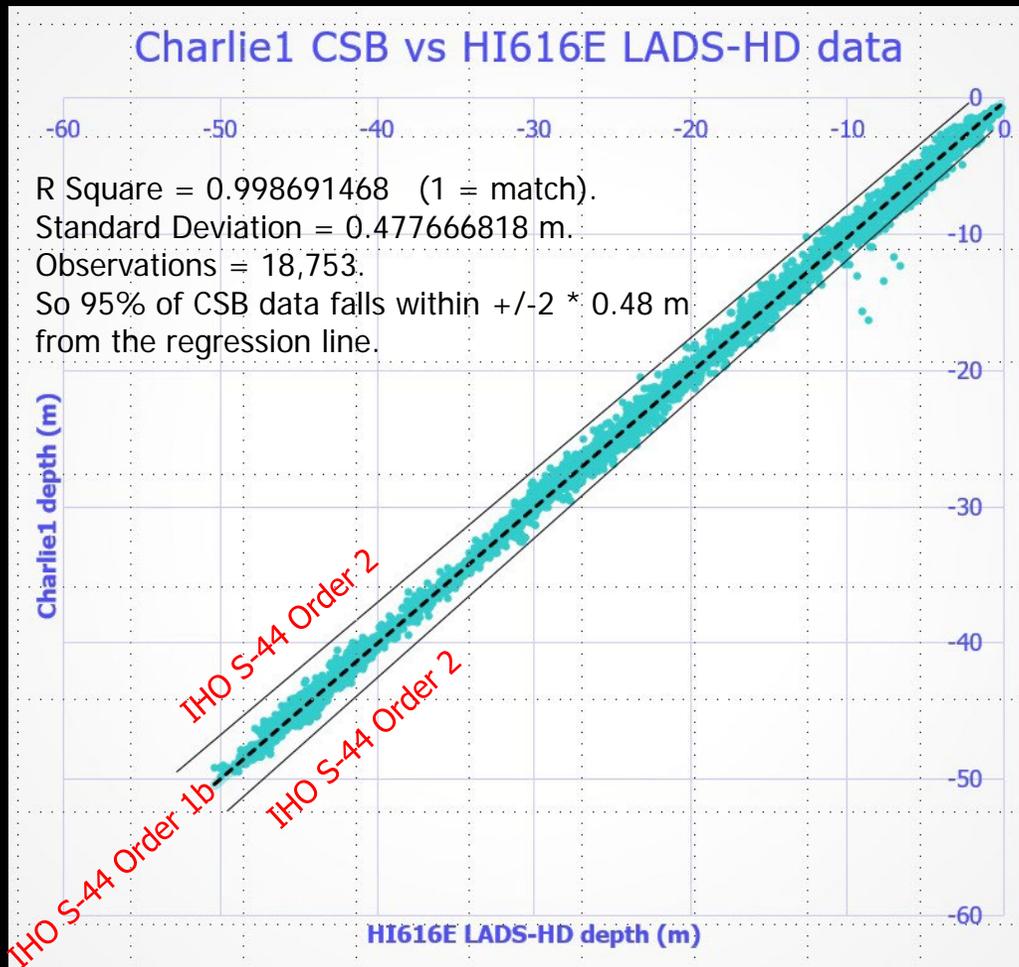
| Status:        | Speed/Course:      | Draught:   |
|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| <b>Class B</b> | <b>8.6kn / 95°</b> | <b>N/A</b> |

Additional information includes: **Received: 19 hours, 16 minutes ago (AIS Source: 2671)**. The interface also features a 'My Fleets' sidebar with filters for 'Show other vessels', 'Filter by colour', and 'Show all fleets'. A 'Support' button is visible in the bottom right corner.

# Compare CSB to LADS-HD



# TPU conclusions



- CSB data comparison with LiDAR  $\pm$  0.80-0.96 m (95% confid level)
- So is reasonable to say that CSB data TVU  $\pm$  ~1 m (95% confid level)
- And CSB data conforms to IHO S-44 Order 1b\* or (minor) Order 2
- Improved TVU if offsets to waterline RP, tide applied, cleaned of noise etc.
- Improved THU if able to use SBAS, modern GNSS receiver etc.

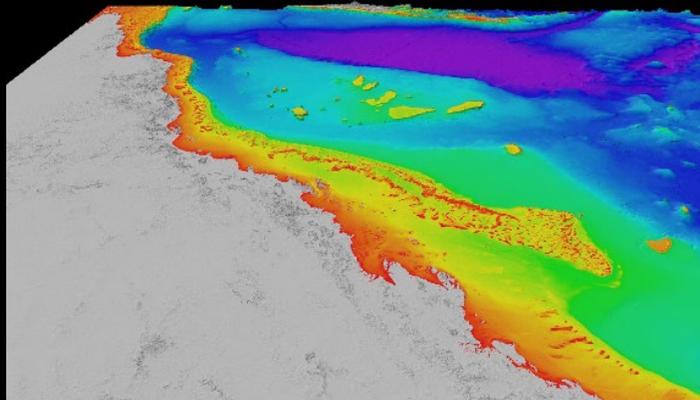
\* Classified according to the S-44 Matrix as: Ba7 (THU=7.37 m), Bc8 (a=0.5 m), Bd6 (b=0.013)

# Data delivery

JCU (Trusted Node)

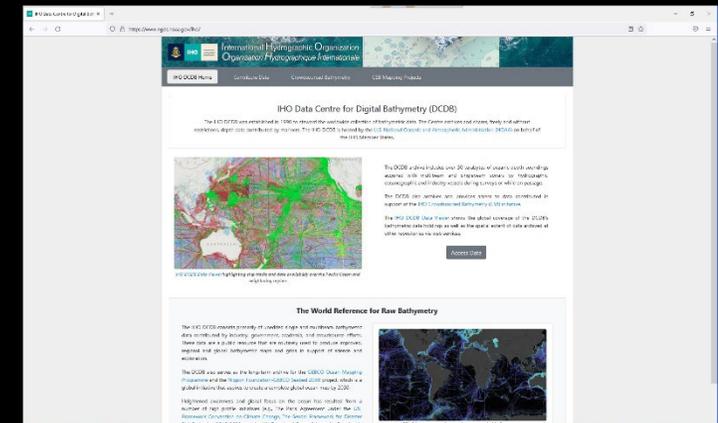
raster grids of  
integrated data

[Deepreef Explorer](#)  
[AusSeabed Marine Data Portal](#)



ftp transfer of xyztime  
points + metadata  
(currently hidden)

[IHO Data Centre for Digital  
Bathymetry \(DCDB\)](#)



# Future work

- Add more volunteer vessels to CSB on GBR project
- Put python script online for tsv-csv file conversion
- Upload more CSB on GBR data to the IHO DCDB
- Get approval by AHO to release CSB on GBR via IHO DCDB
- Continue advising Australian efforts for acquiring CSB data