



Latest Developments in...

## Oceanographic Applications of GIS

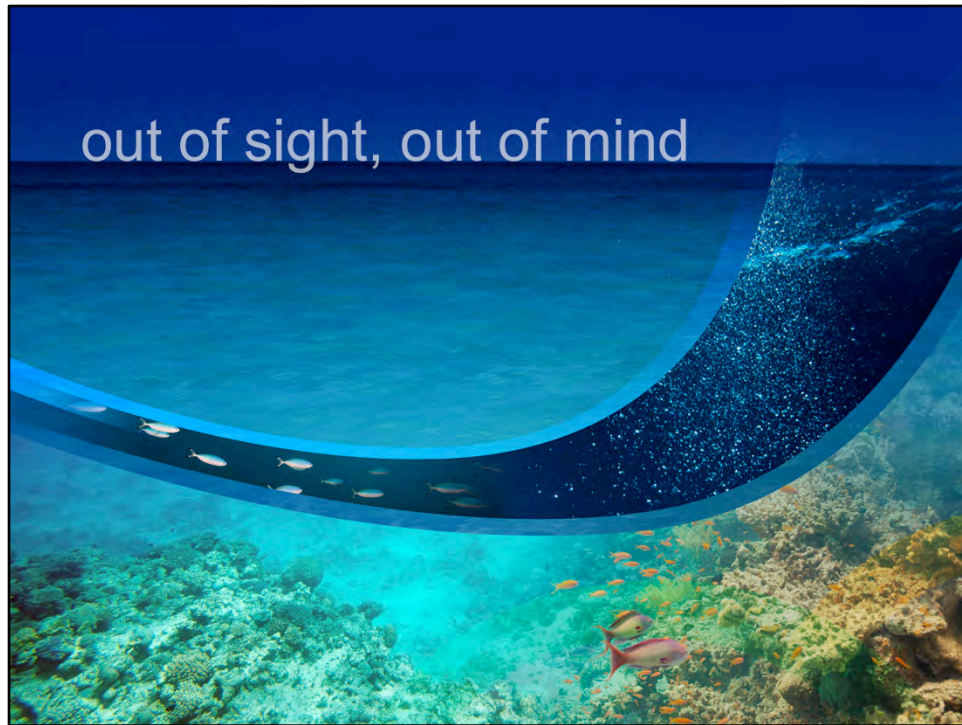
**Dawn Wright**

Esri Chief Scientist

*Affiliate Professor, Oregon State U.*

GeoTech Center Webinar, April 13, 2016

<http://www.geotechcenter.org/webinars.html>



For many of us when we think about the oceans it's a situation of "out of sight, out of mind."

In our limited awareness of the oceans, we see only the surface, think only of vast expanses of lifeless water // not realizing all of the complexities at play.



In fact, the oceans provide over HALF of the oxygen that we breathe // They regulate ALL of our weather patterns - they feed us - and provide for our energy and economy.

So in reality // the oceans are vital to all of us, **no matter WHERE we live.**

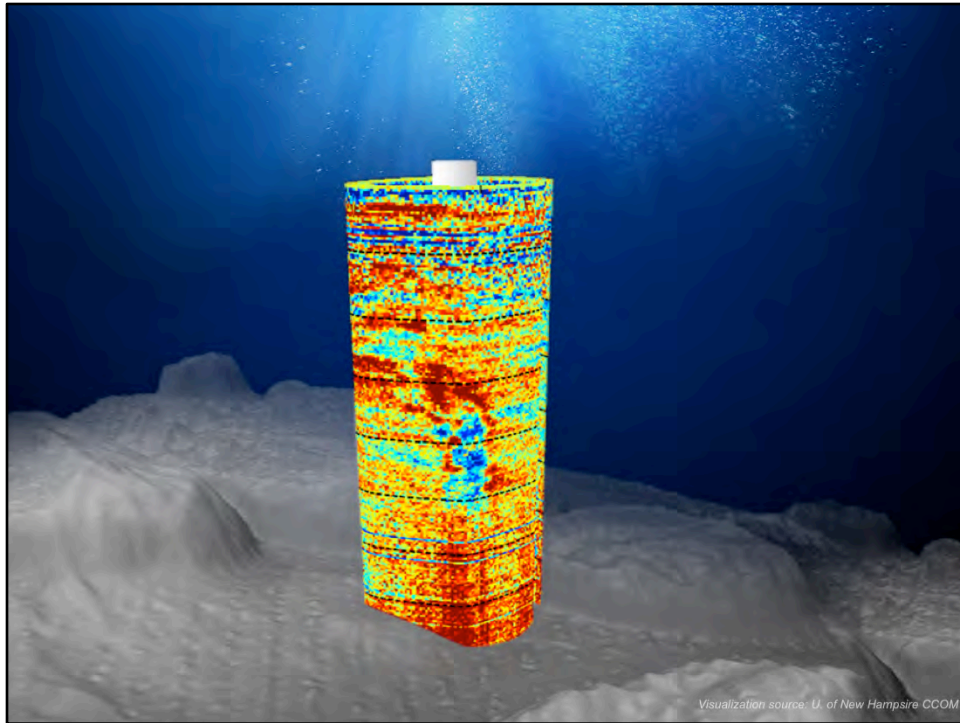


In 2012 there were many stories in the news about the estimated 1.5 million TONS of debris headed to the US and Canadian west coast from the 2011 Japanese tsunami, as you can see from the **simulation** above. The pictures below show some of the debris already washed ashore in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. One of the big surprises here has been the sheer number of living sea creatures attached to these debris, some of which are invasive and could devastate local populations. The debris is still a threat to the entire US west coast. The final picture is from just LAST MONTH on the Oregon Coast, courtesy of Oregon State University



Now the issue of marine debris is one many challenges facing the oceans. GIS technology has long provided effective solutions to similar problems on **land**. But our mission is to take what we've learned on land and apply GIS more effectively to the oceans.





But this is a hard mission. The oceans present to us some very challenging 3- and 4-dimensional problems. They are very hard to access at full depth from sea surface to sea floor. Satellites and LiDAR, for example, can't see all the way through the water in all places and as a result, only 5-10% of the oceans are mapped in the same detail as on land.

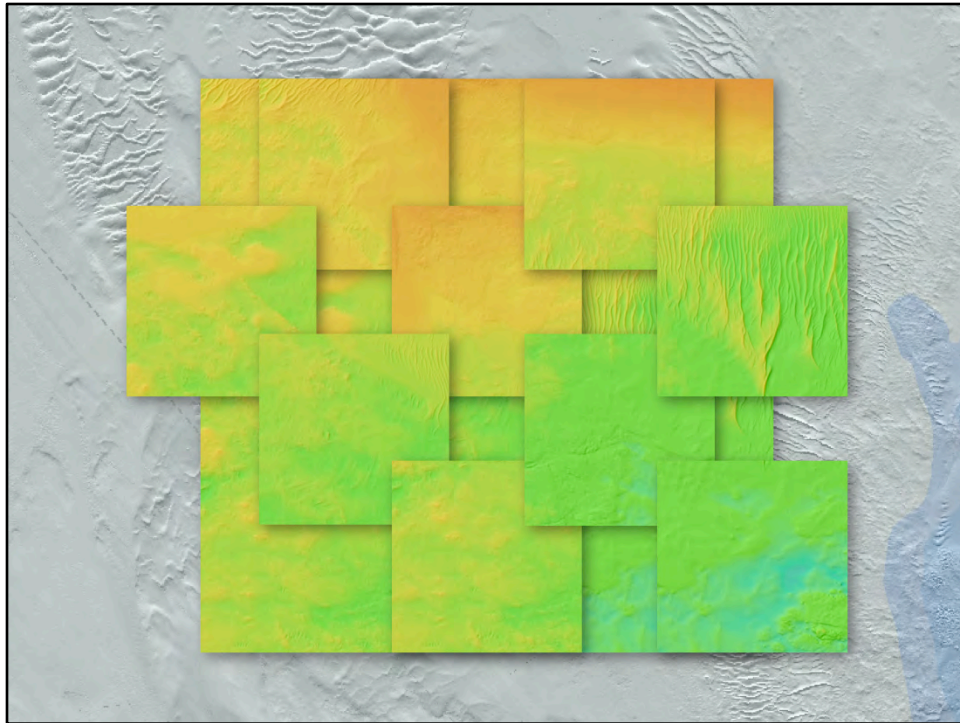


The mission is hard but is totally within our grasp. As we know with GIS on land, we build upon topography and in the oceans it is bathymetry. The Esri ocean basemap project continues to use // the world's most authoritative bathymetry // as contributed by the hydrographic and scientific communities. We're including higher resolution data all the time as you can see from the boxes...

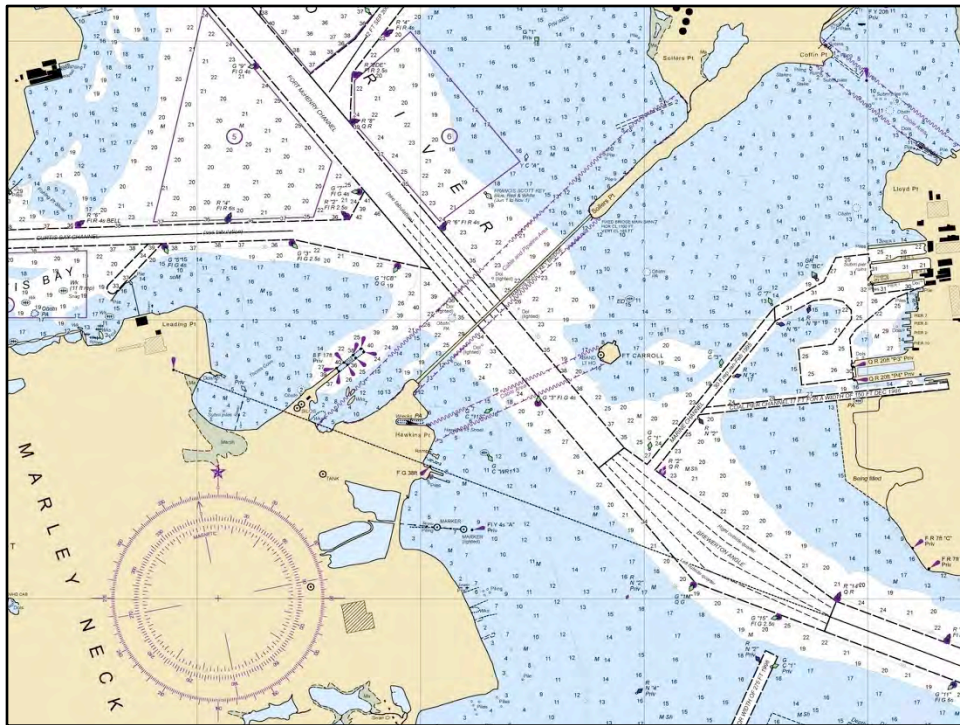


... and very much welcome new contributions, such as these data from NOAA offshore of New York City. This IS, in fact, the undersea equivalent of our community maps program.





We also have new GIS tools such as ArcGIS for Maritime which helps us to UPDATE our ocean basemap, to MANAGE, MERGE and share our bathymetry, to integrate that bathymetry with new tools and models... Mention Ocean Discovery XPRIZE about to get underway, [oceandiscovery.xprize.org](http://oceandiscovery.xprize.org)

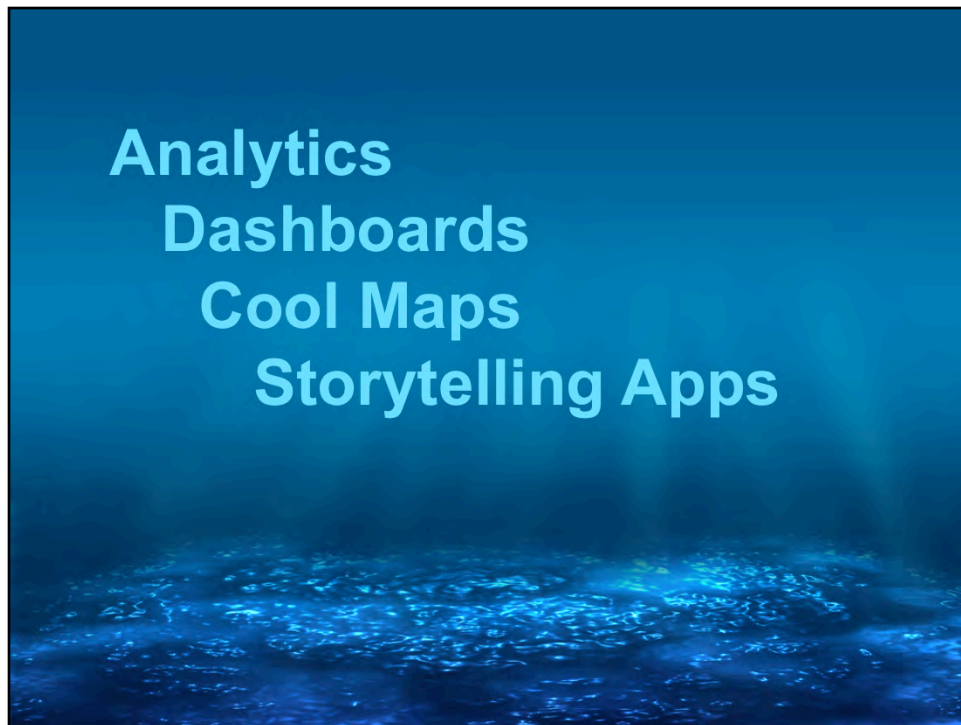


and to produce more accurate nautical charts.



The standard view of GIS. But in the talk I hope to convey that “this is not just about your eyeballs on a map, it’s looking at the invisible rubber bands of mathematical manipulation of these different layers.”

It’s about the coupling of the appropriate data, analysis and manipulation, and compelling design to effectively communicate the results, and when appropriate, the possible models and future scenarios.

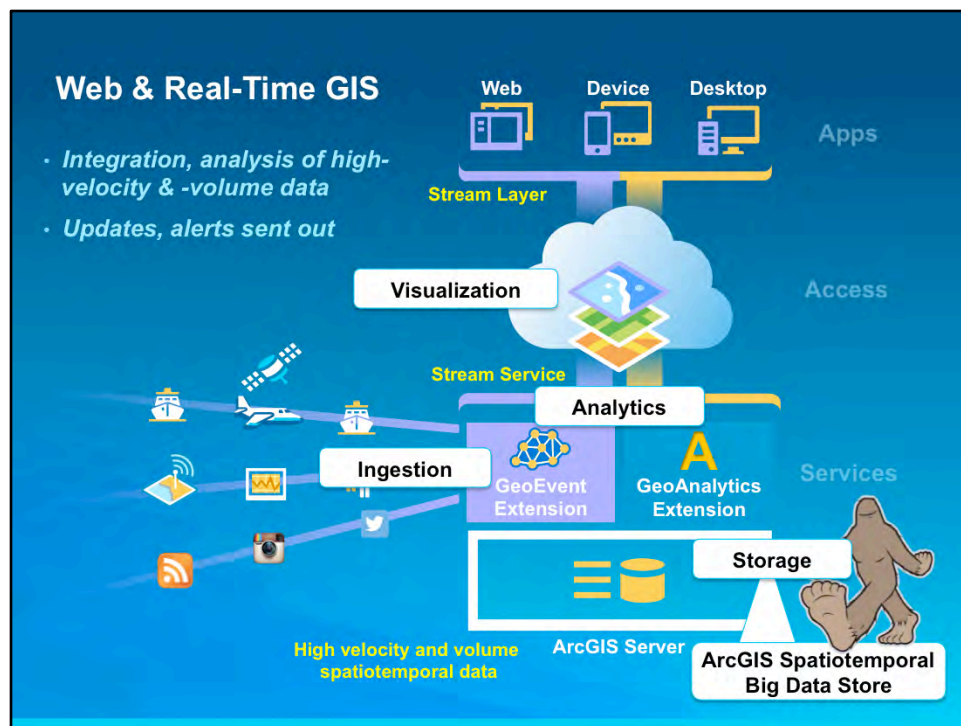


Toward that end I'd like to focus on FOUR MAJOR TRENDS that I see in oceanographic applications of GIS. I'll go through each of these in turn.

# Analytics....







The oceans have ALWAYS been about big data, despite how much remains to be explored.

In addition our environmental sensor count of 2 million+ will likely double every 5 years

The ocean remains a dynamic, always evolving physical and biological system

Here is where Web & Real-Time GIS are becoming critically important for ocean GIS. At Esri we aim to register large data stores / data sets with ArcGIS Server, then distribute analysis across a cluster of machines for parallel processing

**Performance example: buffer 8.2 Million points or thousands of polygons in a little over a minute**, Coming: ~250,000 writes to disk per second across 5 nodes

Many frameworks/technologies exist for distributing computation

E.g., Hadoop, MapReduce, Spark

**Spark:** processes distributed data in memory; Supports MapReduce programming model

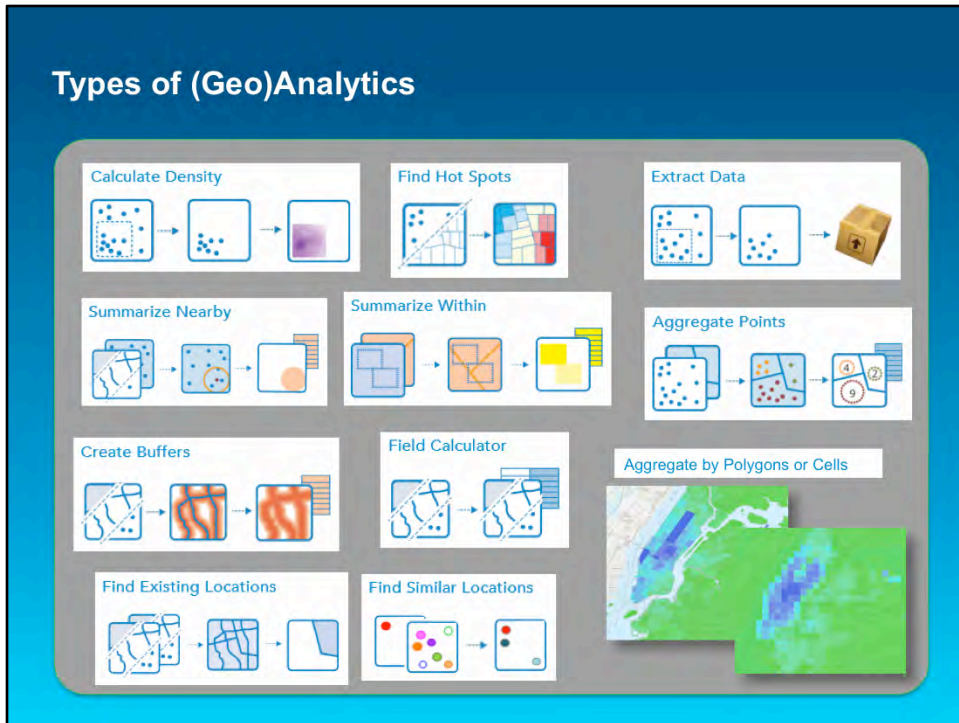
Includes additional framework level distributed algorithms

ArcGIS Server integrates these technologies on a cluster to solve analytic problems

Thanks to Adam Mollenkopf, Esri Real-Time GIS Capability Team Lead and Ricardo Trujillo, GeoEvent Developer, amollenkopf@esri.com, rtrujillo@esri.com

[links.esri.com/geoevent-wiki](https://links.esri.com/geoevent-wiki)

## Types of (Geo)Analytics



Parallelized batch analytics on tabular, vector, raster, and imagery datasets (big and standard data)

### **NetCDF output is supported**

**Calculate Density** – cell-based spatial aggregation by attribute with a weighted neighborhood/distance-based summarization.

**Find Hot Spots** – very similar to Calculate Density but with the Getis-Ord  $G_i^*$  statistic. This can be cell-based (point observations) or polygon-based (polygon source data).

**Extract Data** – a simple region query with a specified output format.

**Summarize Nearby** – spatial join where left dataset and a distance are used to inflate the bounding box. A distance calculation is then employed (no drivetime/distance).

**Summarize Within** – a spatial join that is a generalization of Aggregate Points

**Aggregate Points** – Point in polygon aggregation (spatial join)

**Aggregate by Cell** – simple aggregation

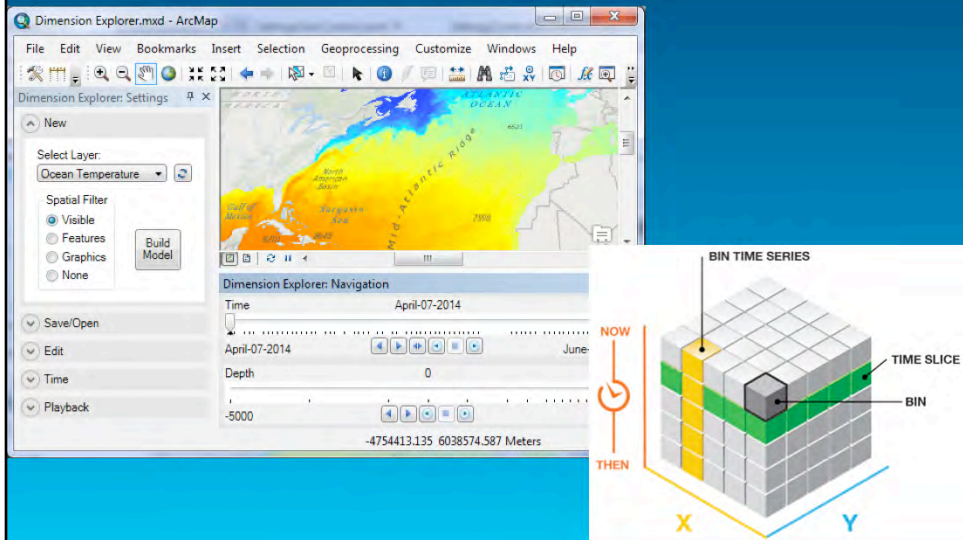
**Create Buffers** – simple spatial buffer generation across the dataset (the Java geometry library supports Euclidean and Geodetic buffer generation). **Performance example:** buffer 8.2 million points or thousands of polygons in a little over a minute,

**Field (RASTER) Calculator** – apply a Scala or SQL expression to each feature, one expression per field.

**Find Existing Locations** – an attribute query followed by/with a spatial query (?); the attribute portion is SparkSQL, the spatial relationship is: intersections, within distance, contains, and within.

**Find Similar Locations** – non-spatial similarity search (SparkSQL).

## Dimension Explorer Add-In (Desktop)



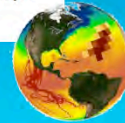
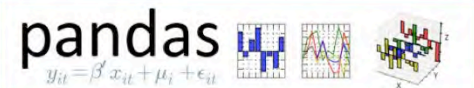
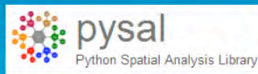
<http://blogs.esri.com/esri/apl/2015/03/11/dimension-explorer/>

## Interoperability / Crosswalking

### Out of the Box



### Simple Integration



Along these lines we certainly want to engender interoperability and crosswalking among approaches, such as the examples here with the **Python Scientific Computing Environment**, or simple integration with a host of scientific tools and libraries.



Many of you may be familiar with R (aka the R Project for Statistical Computing) one of the most popular and widely-used packages for statistical computing in all branches of science. Since R has limited data management and mapping capabilities, many of our users find good synergy in using R and ArcGIS together. So we have created a bridge is a free, open source R package which allows ArcGIS and R to dynamically access data without creating intermediate files on disk. But further this is an R – ArcGIS COMMUNITY INITIATIVE for the sharing of useful tools, tutorials, and tips. The aim is a more extensive free open source library to make it faster and easier to move data between ArcGIS and R, and additional work which makes it possible to run an R script from an ArcGIS geoprocessing tool.

People are still surprised that Esri creates free and open source software but Geoportal Server has been around for over a decade and



## Interoperability / Crosswalking

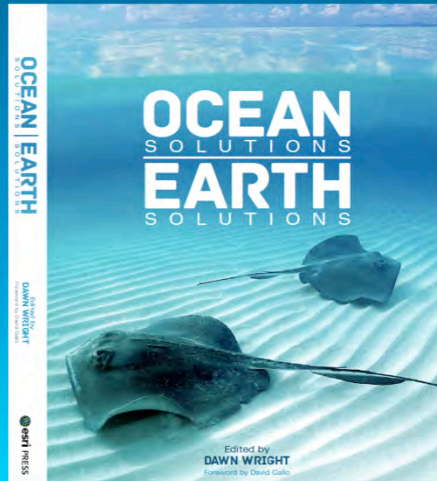
***GEOPORTAL  
IS AWESOME!***



## ***Ocean Solutions, Earth Solutions, Esri Press***

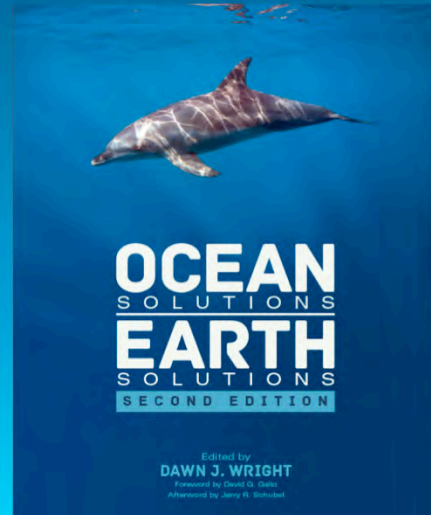
2015, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

"An impressive and seminal work of collaborative scholarship,...very strongly recommended."  
– Midwest Book Review, Sept 2015

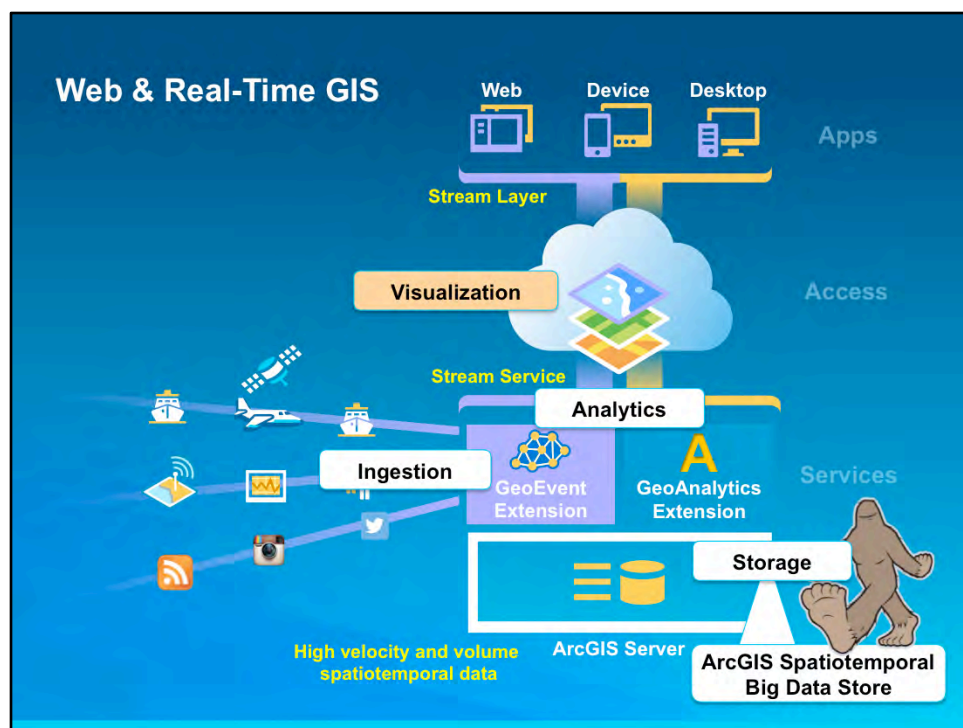


2016, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Due out in June by the UC

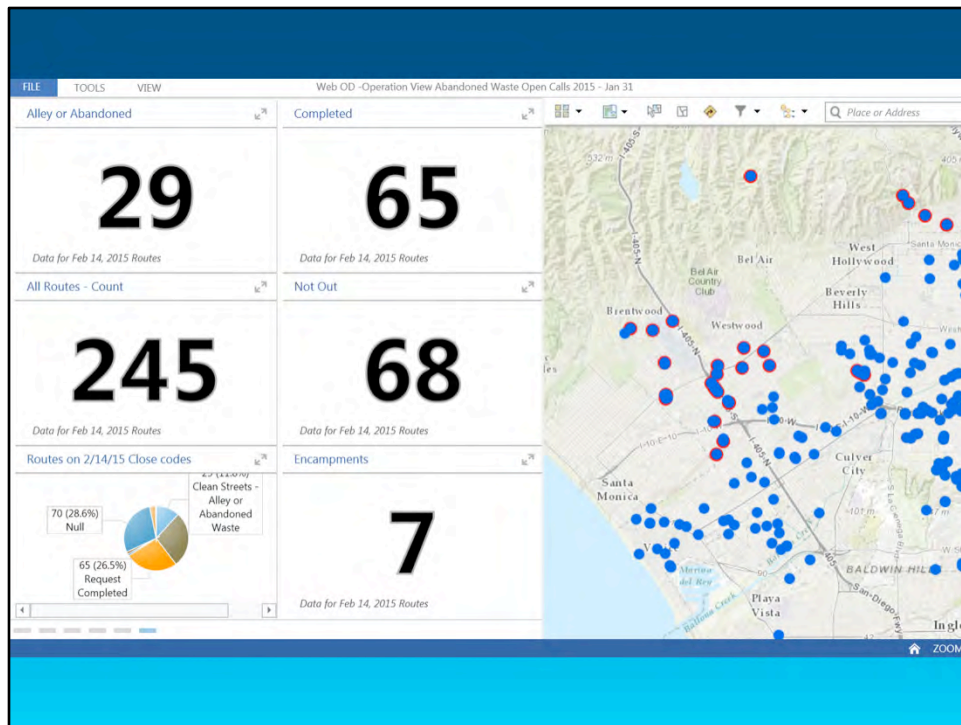


For some practical examples of ocean analytics in action ....



# Dashboards...



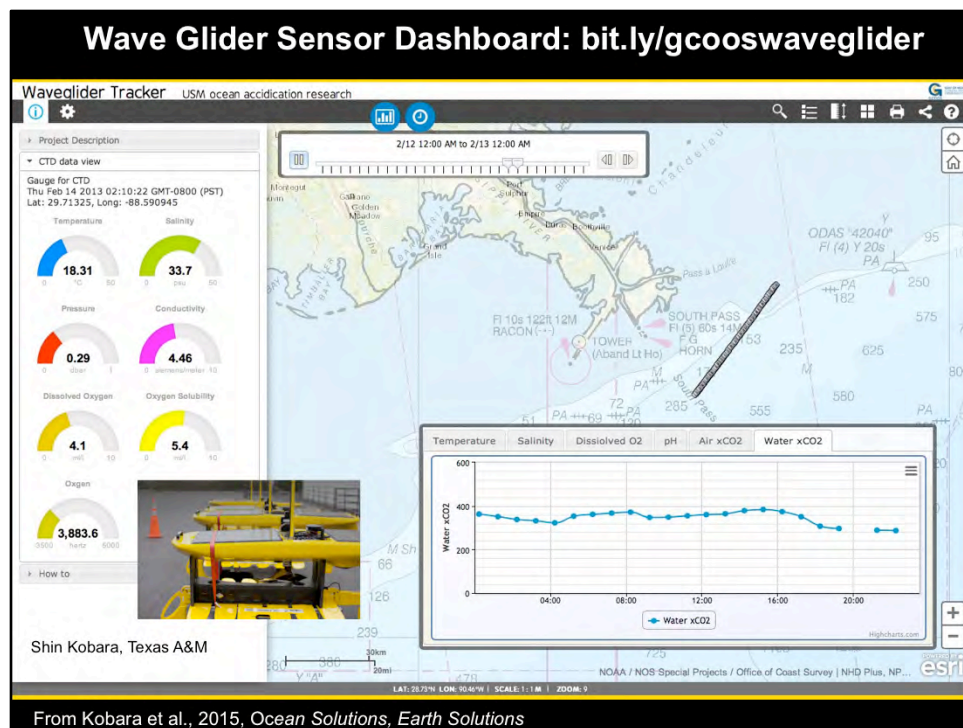


GIS “dashboard” used by Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation. **SITUATIONAL AWARENESS!!!**

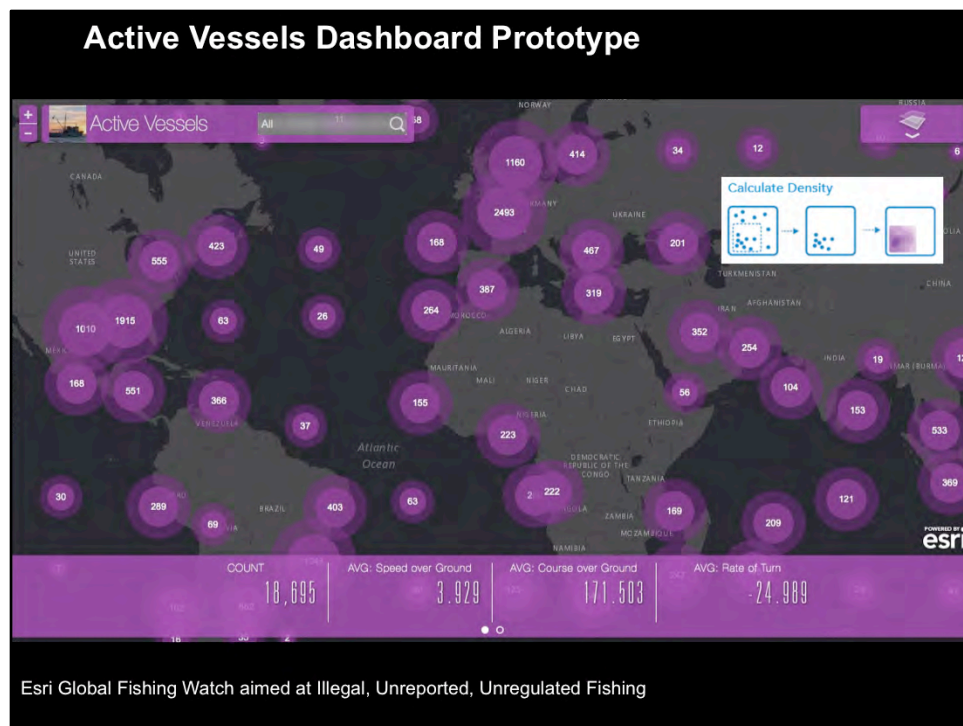
To build a more efficient maintenance tracking and routing mechanism for its sanitation force, the Los Angeles Solid Resources Collection Division (SRCD) thoroughly integrated Esri cloud and mobile technology into its fleet management workflow, increasing routing accuracy, saving time, and conserving fuel. Pickups include trash but also yard trimmings, recyclables, and animal carcasses—as well as derelict large appliances.

Esri complements Zonar fleet data (vehicle parameters, such as GPS location, speed, odometer, and truck fault codes) by displaying fleet location and other data specific to operations in maps fed with Esri GeoEvent-processed data. The integration of inspection data into the bureau’s GIS allows them to automate curb-side route generation and provide real-time ETA for service calls.





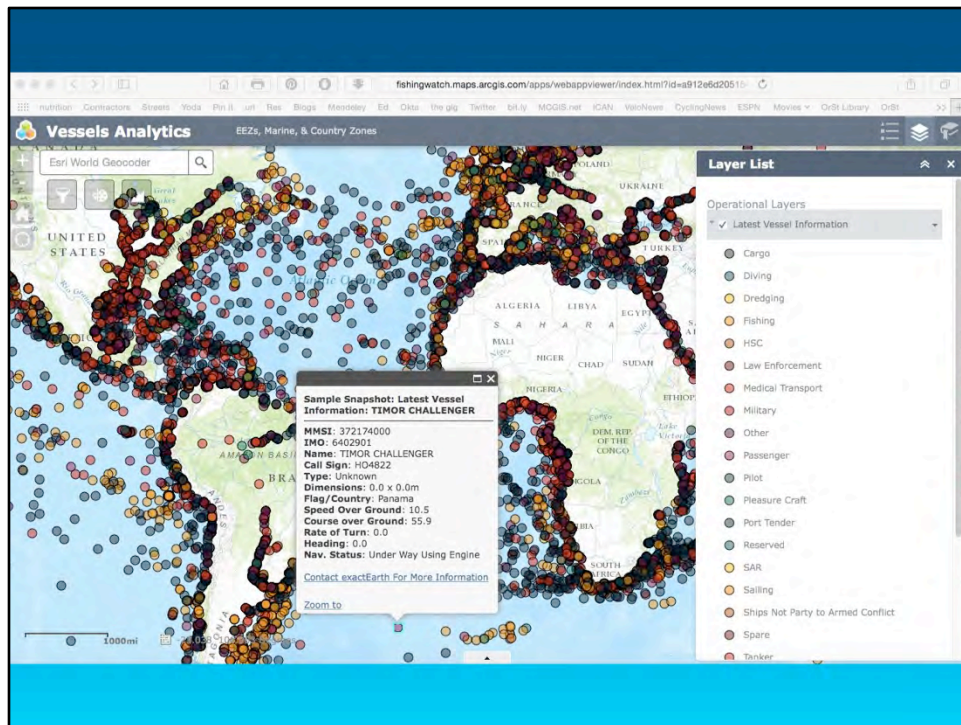
Demonstration of use of Esri Gevent Processor to track Liquid Robotics wave gliders in the Gulf of Mexico, with the Operations Dashboard app displaying the parameters measured by the wave glider in near real time. Courtesy of Shin Kobara of Texas A&M working in concert with the U. of Southern Mississippi and for the Gulf Coast Ocean Observing System. Luca Centurioni's global drifter lab at Scripps has a modified Liquid Robotics Wave Glider.



active vessels dashboard, takes in live feeds of exactEarth AIS data, then calculates and creates a "hot spot" map of vessel activity.

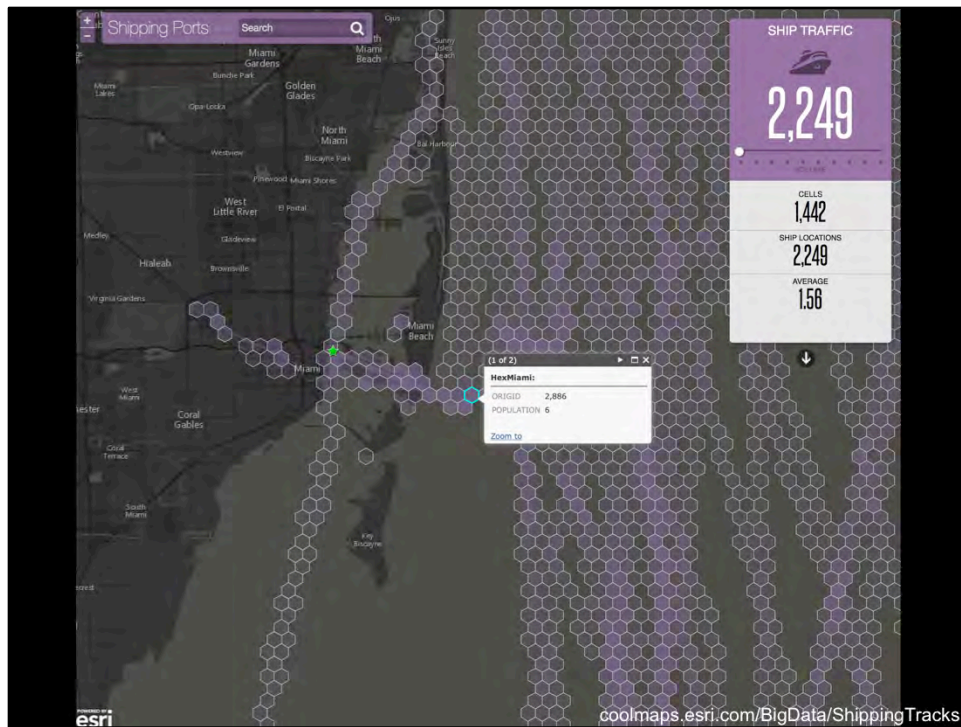
In future: gain more detailed examples of patterns exhibited by the different types of fishing (trawling, long line, etc.) so that our analysis engine would know better what to look for. We'd also want to code in abilities to:

- detect, associate and analyze behavior of groups of vessels over time, so as to use these existing patterns to find similar patterns in new data being added to the system.
- use predicted patterns of behavior to predict fishing areas and periods so as to more efficiently determine where and how to spend spatial analysis time



# Cool Maps....



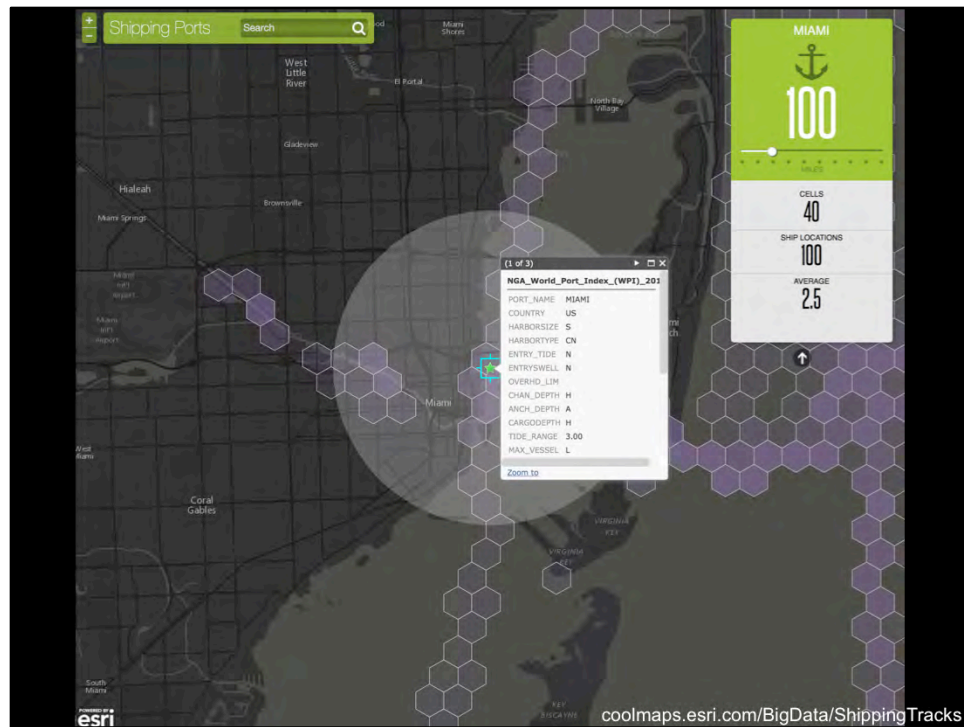


“Hexagons are good for visualization because they nest together perfectly and look good [when zoomed in].” Easy now with computer cartography

“Hexagons and other regularly shaped features allow you to **normalize geography** for thematic mapping rather than be constrained to using irregular shaped polygons created from a political process (for example, county boundaries, census tracts, zip codes, etc.).” See more at: [http://blogs.esri.com/esri/esri-insider/2015/04/08/thematic-mapping-with-hexagons/](http://blogs.esri.com/esri/esri-insider/2015/04/08/thematic-mapping-with-hexagons/#sthash.u6hs0cyc.dpuf)

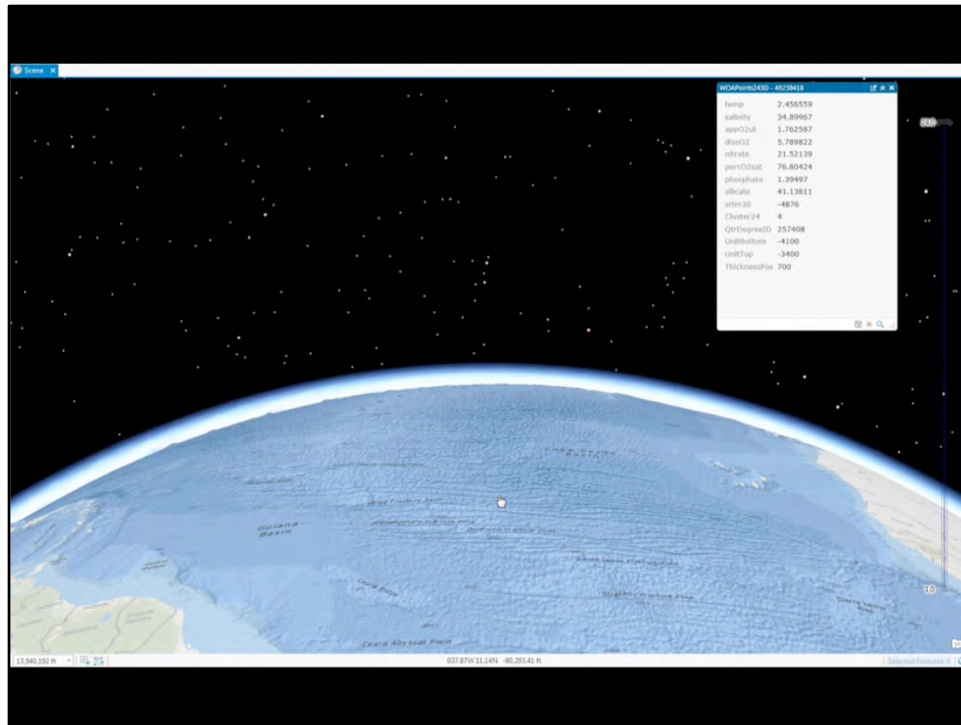
From Mansour Raad and the Esri Big Data Team: <http://coolmaps.esri.com/BigData/ShippingTracks/>





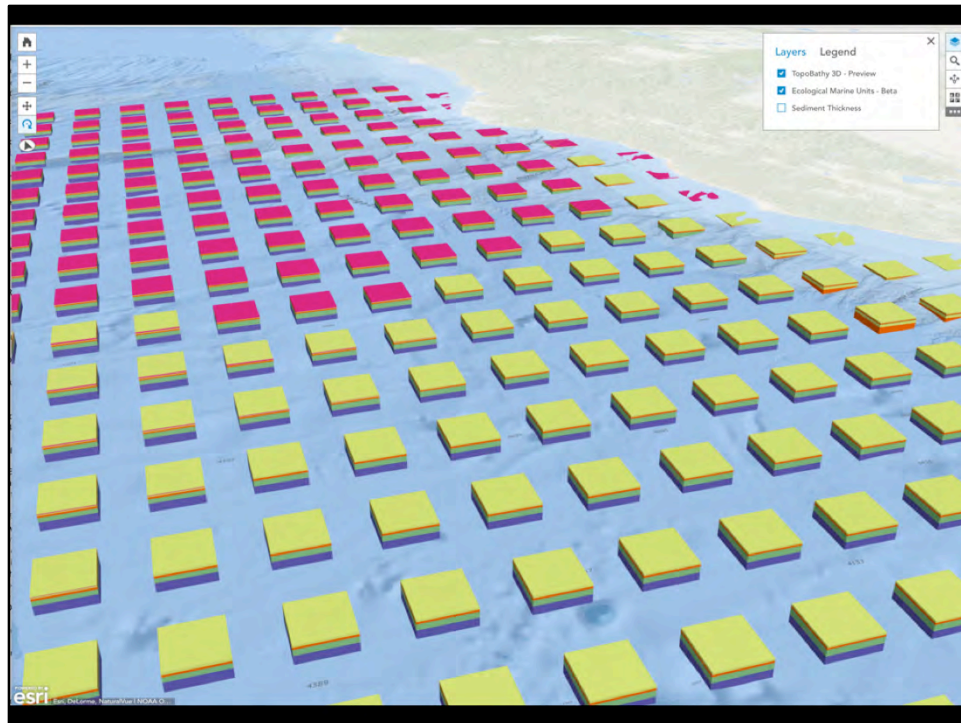
**[coolmaps.esri.com/  
BigData/ShippingGlobe](http://coolmaps.esri.com/BigData/ShippingGlobe)**





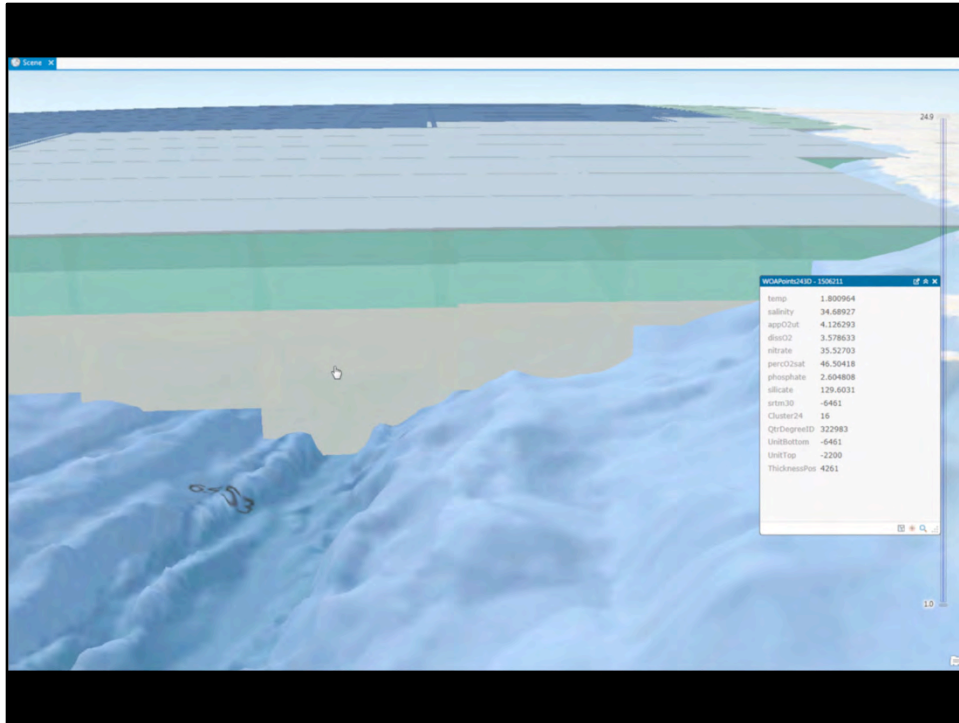
This is a preview from the Esri content team of a web scene featuring a new global elevation layer that combines topography (land elevation) and bathymetry (water depths) for use in 3D. This cloud hosted preview layer is a cached version of the TopoBathy layer to use as an elevation surface in 3D client. The bathymetric data in the layer is a low resolution (1KM) data source from GEBCO. Higher resolution bathymetric data will be added over time to improve the accuracy of the layer. The layer and web scene will be publicly released at the Esri UC.

Ecological Marine Units: Esri is collaborating with over 10 partners including the USGS, NOAA, and NatureServe, in developing a standardized, robust, and practical ecosystems classification and map for all the world's oceans, completely in 3D. Officially commissioned by The Group on Earth Observations (GEO). Parameters modeled in the water column (k-means statistical clustering) are from NOAA's World Ocean Atlas, 2013 v.



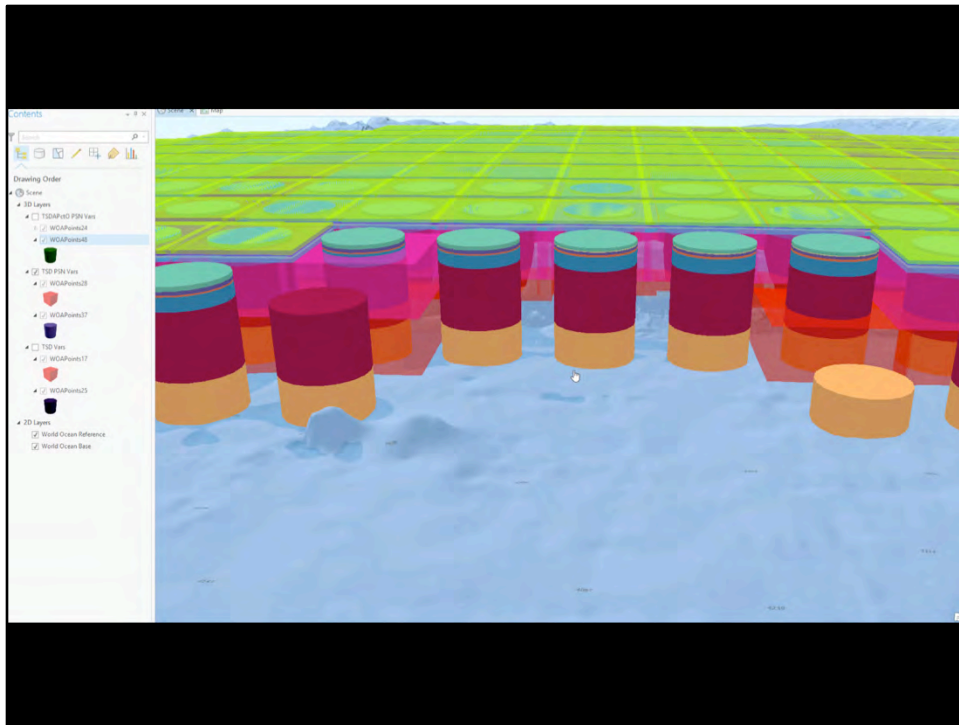
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**And now we come to the fourth and final trend: Storytelling (and storytelling apps)**

**We may get maps, we very often don't get graphs, but we are absolutely hardwired to understand stories. As such, scientists MUST tell their STORY and the *importance* of that story**

**Every single scientific success is perfect fodder for a narrative structure**

“People are moved by emotion. The best way to emotionally connect other people to our agenda begins with “Once upon a time...”

Science backs up the long-held belief that story is the most powerful means of communicating a message. Over the last several decades psychology has begun a serious study of how story affects the human mind. Results repeatedly show that our attitudes, fears, hopes, and values are strongly influenced by story. In fact, fiction seems to be more effective at changing beliefs than writing that is specifically designed to persuade through argument and evidence.”

<http://www.fastcocrete.com/1680581/why-storytelling-is-the-ultimate-weapon>

Scientists are often encouraged not to publish their work until it constitutes a complete story.

Why not combine BOTH, especially to take advantage of the power of maps and geography to educate, inform, and inspire people to action as well?

The story map is about using maps in new and innovative ways to get people excited and involved in the world.

Thanks to continuing changes in the Internet, cloud computing, mobile and tablet platforms, and to constant improvements in the software itself, we can now put the power of GIS into the hands of managers, CEOs, reporters, school kids—even *policy makers*.

**“Stories are data with a soul,  
...persuasive and memorable.”**

– Nancy Baron, Director of Science Outreach, COMPASS Science  
Communication, Inc.



**“STORIES ARE STICKY”**

**“People are moved by emotion. The best way to emotionally connect  
other people to our agenda begins with “Once upon a time...”**



Good storytelling to avoid situations like this!

Cartoon licensed personally to Dawn Wright by The New Yorker Cartoon Bank, TCB-86966, Invoice Number: L12480

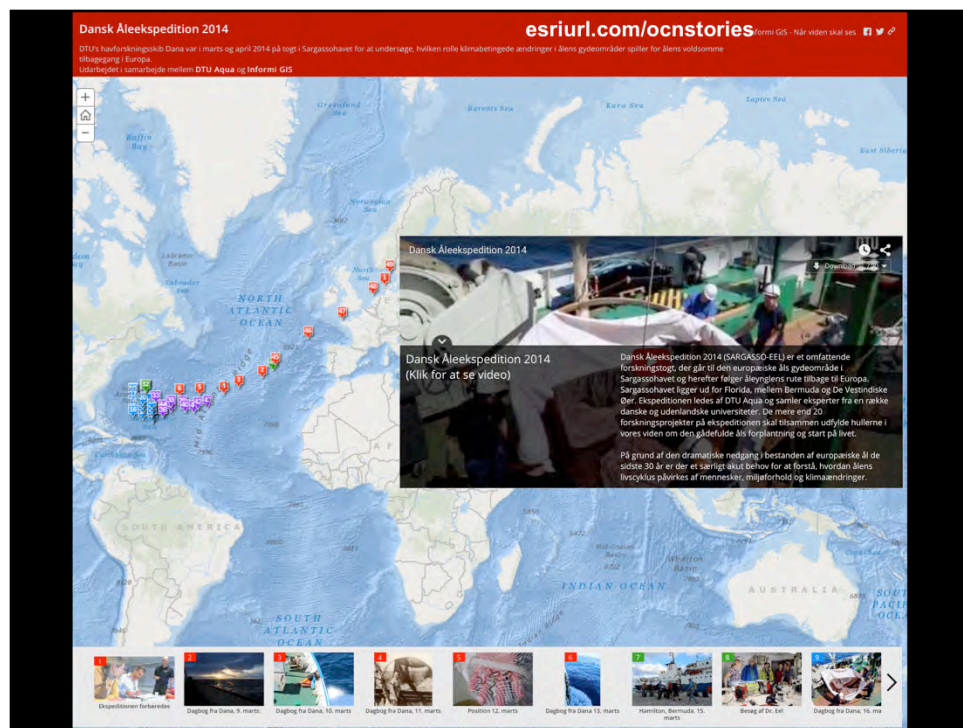
Communicating with ...

# “Story Maps”



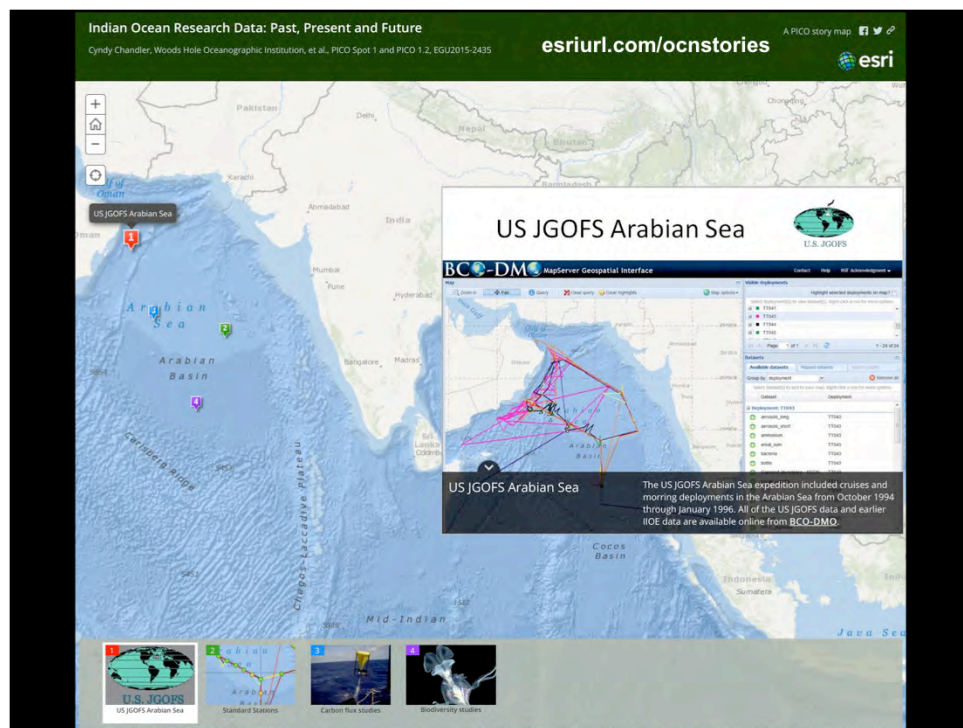
Story map is a new medium for bringing your data alive in interactive map form along with narrative text, images, videos, and other multimedia content to further engage and inspire your audience





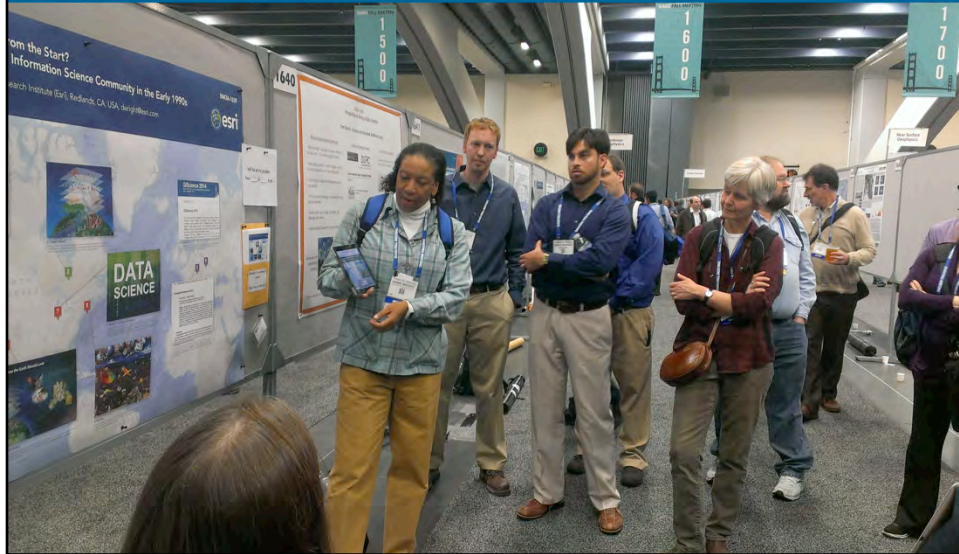
## Danish Sargasso Sea Story Map

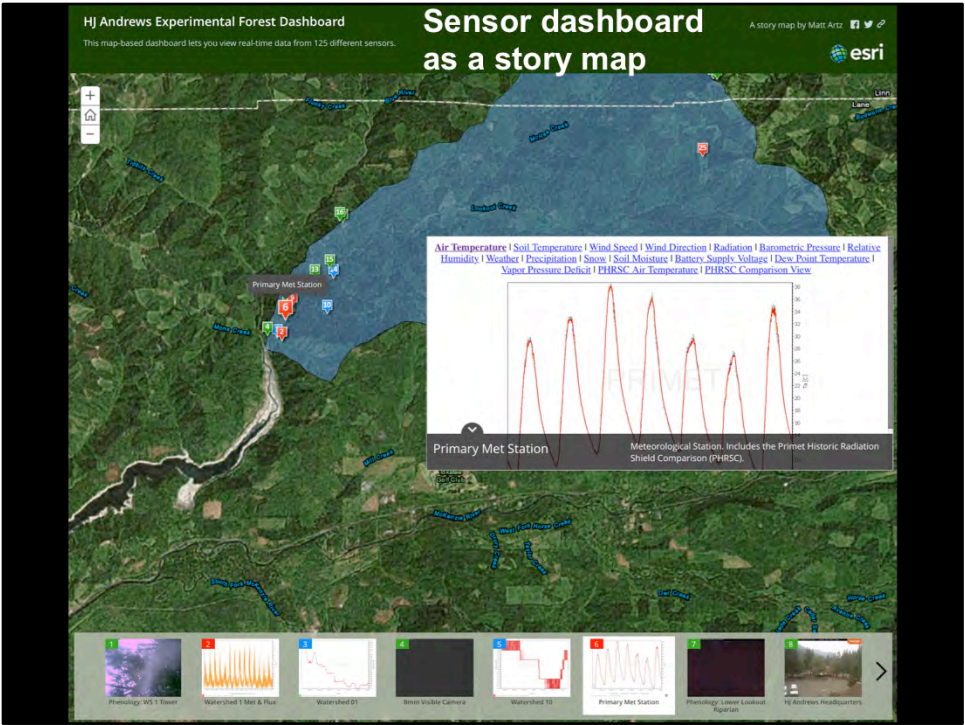
Technical University of Denmark's (DTU) research vessel Dana was on an expedition in the Sargasso Sea in March and April 2014 to examine the role of climate-induced changes in spawning zones in the sole violent decline in Europe.



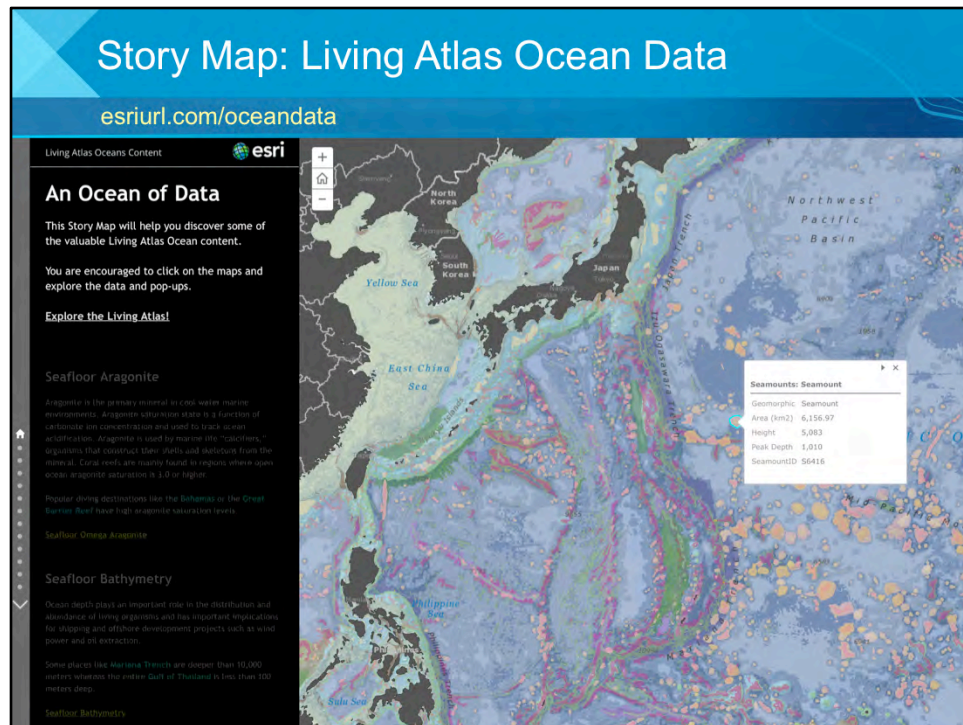
This story map was an interactive talk at the European Geosciences Union – the author used this instead of a PPT file

**Story map made into a conference poster with  
interactive version on table for discussion & questions,  
e.g., [esriurl.com/agustories](http://esriurl.com/agustories)**









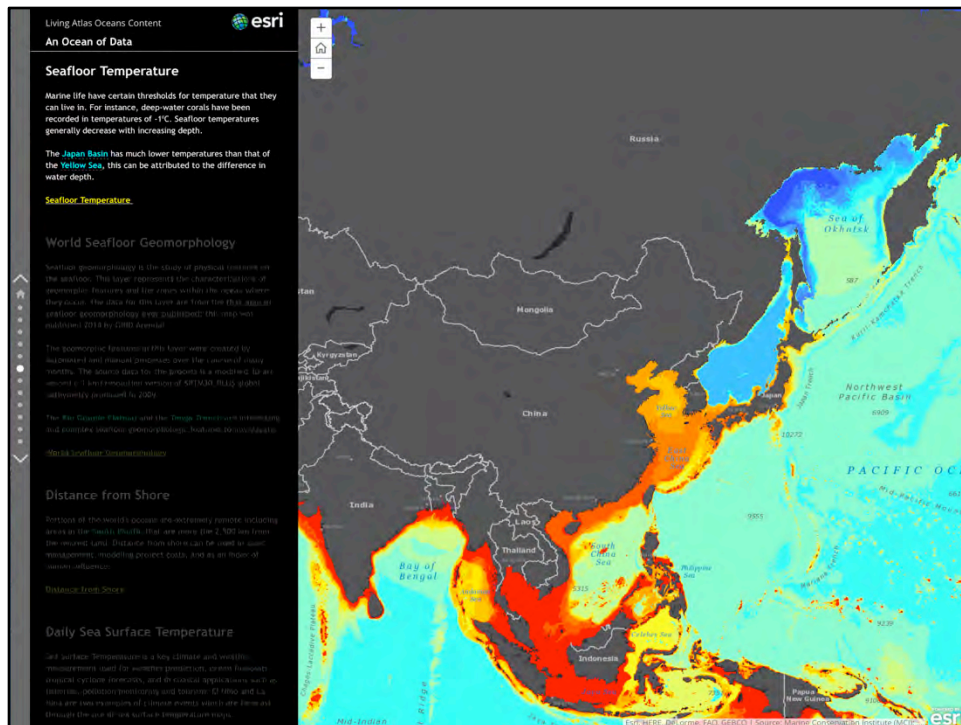
If you are familiar with Esri's massive geospatial content management system known as ArcGIS Online (sort of a Facebook of geography), the Living Atlas of the World features the very best of that content.

The Living Atlas of the World is the foremost collection of authoritative, ready-to-use global geographic information ever assembled. It provides a gateway to access valuable maps, data layers, tools, services, and apps to help users achieve a wide variety of goals, including scientific. Always changing and evolving, like our world, the Living Atlas contains information that impacts science, and ultimately impacts lives

Many Generic Mapping Tools (GMT) users in the marine geology community are familiar with the Haxby colors of Bill Haxby of Lamont. Esri's chief cartographer has developed a new color ramp for the seafloor geomorphology of Harris et al.

Harris, P. T., M. Macmillan-Lawler, J. Rupp, and E. K. Baker. 2014. Geomorphology of the oceans. *Mar. Geol.* **352**:4-24.

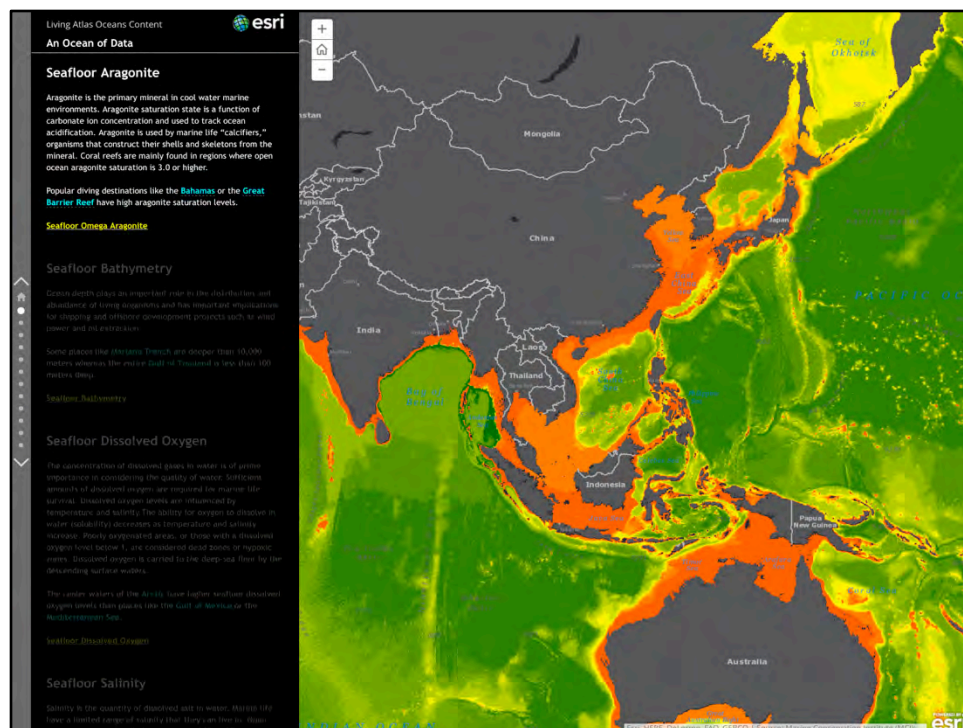




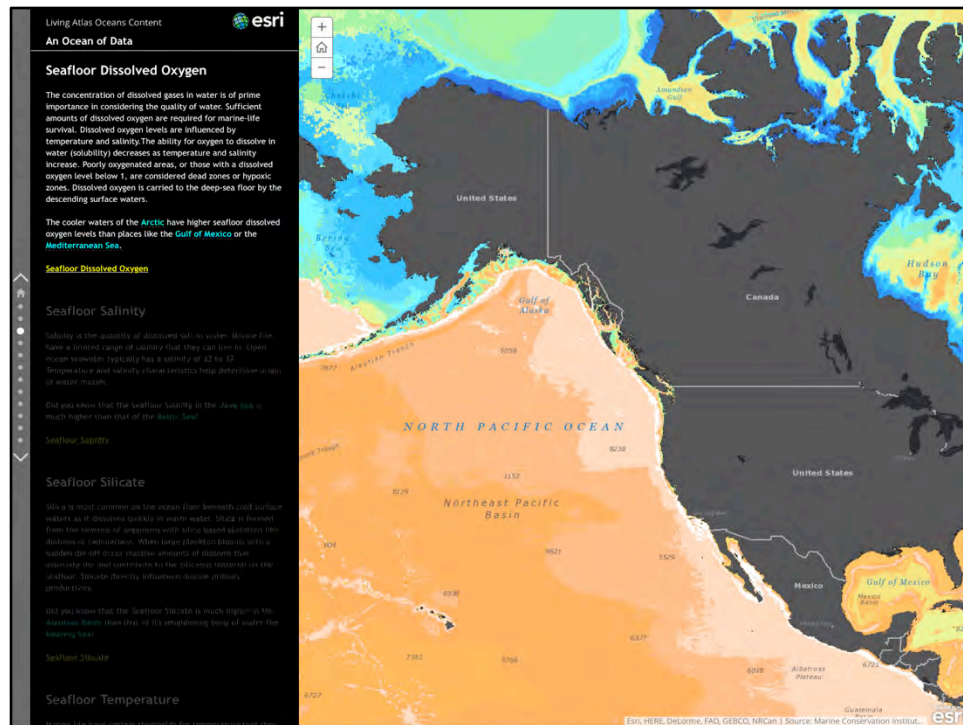
Narrative text with links to further resources as well as to the original data, thoroughly documented with metadata, links to the original journal article where appropriate, etc.

Data from Davies, A. J., and J. M. Guinotte. 2011. Global Habitat Suitability for Framework-Forming Cold-Water Corals. PLoS ONE 6:e18483.

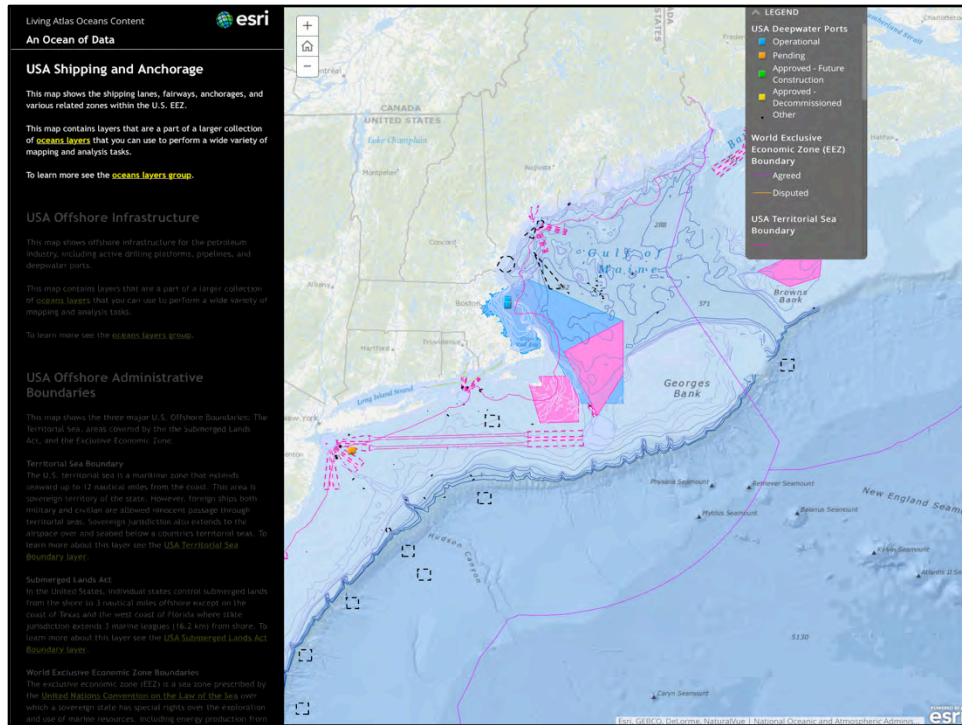




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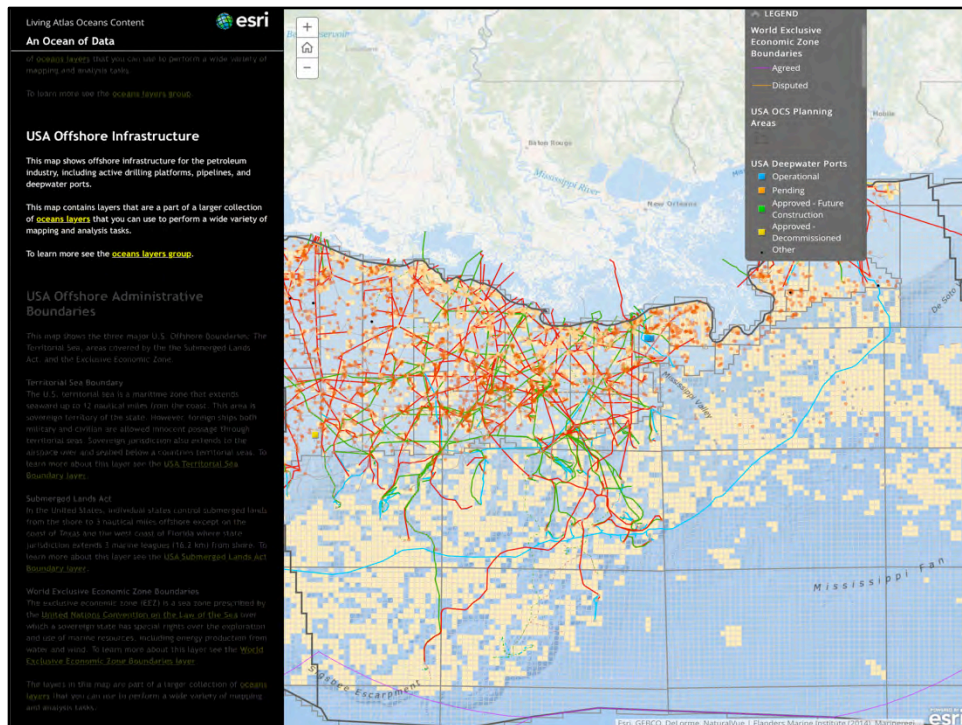



Data from Davies, A. J., and J. M. Guinotte. 2011. Global Habitat Suitability for Framework-Forming Cold-Water Corals. PLoS ONE 6:e18483.





THOROUGH METADATA ASSOCIATED WITH EACH LAYER!







A story map    

## We are Living in The Age of Humans

Earth is changing rapidly, and an increasing number of scientists say that humans have become the dominant force driving these changes. While the term has no formal definition, many agree that we are now living in an age shaped by human activity: the Anthropocene.

Evidence for the Anthropocene ranges from worldwide population booms to the expansive transformation of the landscape. But solutions are cropping up at the local level that could help create a more resilient global community.

Explore the maps below to see an atlas of human influences, as well as the cities that are helping to re-shape the way our species



esriurl.com/ocnstories

esriagram

presents

# SHARK GIS








A story map    

## SharkGIS

Human fascination with sharks dates back ages—long before *Jaws* or *Sharknado*. What is it about these mysterious creatures of the deep that sparks so much interest across time and cultures? In honor of Shark Week, we're taking a closer look at sharks using media and maps to better understand the ocean's fiercest predator.



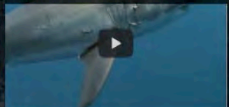


A story map     **SharkGIS**

### Ferocious Man-Eater?

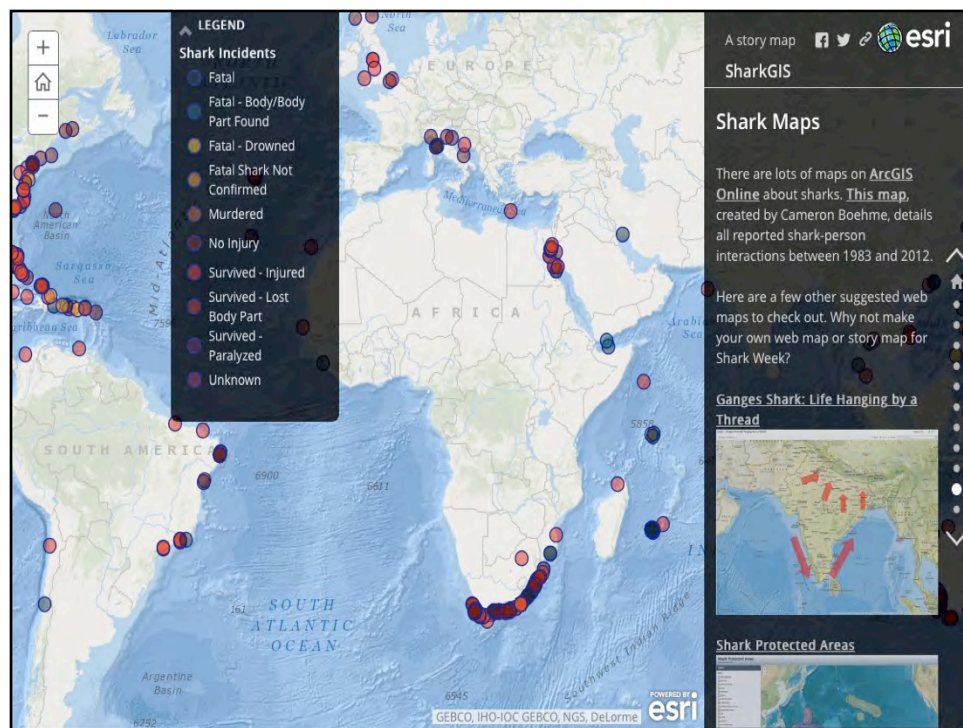
Let's cut to the chase. The great white is probably the world's most notorious shark. While *Jaws* didn't do any favors for the white shark's reputation, nature film-makers and shark advocates are trying to change public perception. In reality, *National Geographic* reports that humans are not the preferred prey of the great whites. Just try not to look like a seal the next time you go to the beach.

One Misunderstood Fish: The Great White



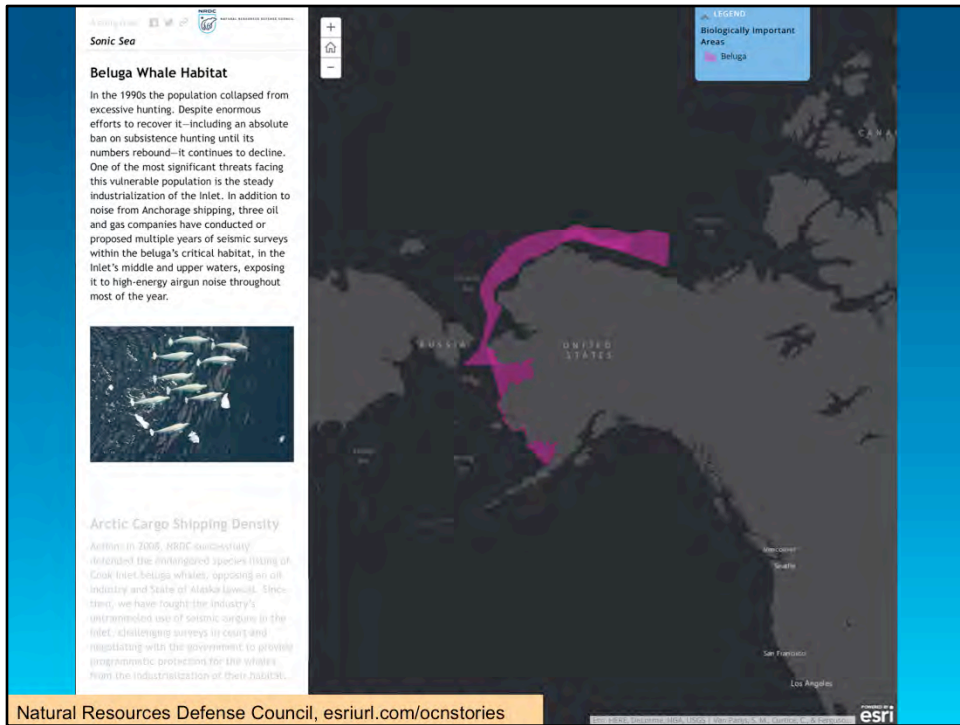
Video: *Endless Ocean*  
Photo: Lutz Kommunicació via Flickr

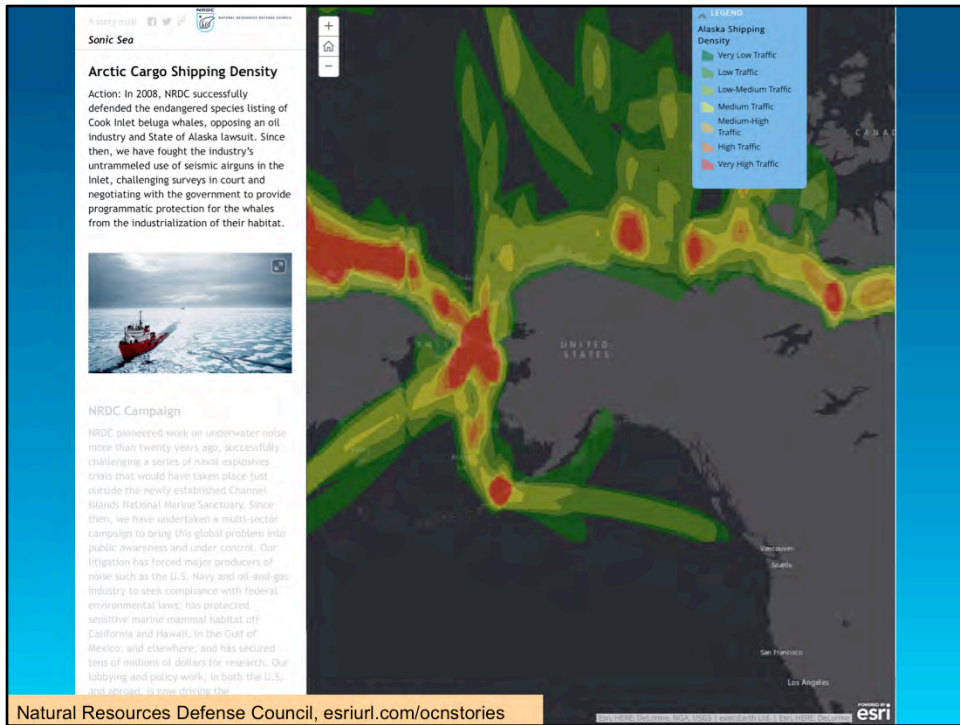












## Final Chapter



Consider potential of stories and scientific storytelling via maps, photos, videos, more



Consider implications for education, training, certification?



Consider implications for ocean science contributions to society

Dawn Wright  
dwright@esri.com  
@deepseadawn

[esriurl.com/scicomm](http://esriurl.com/scicomm), [esriurl.com/ocnstories](http://esriurl.com/ocnstories), [esriurl.com/ocnres](http://esriurl.com/ocnres)

Given the challenges that our planet faces, I hope the oceanographic and geospatial communities will ponder and discuss if science communication should be made a formal part of higher ed curricula and professional GIS certification, and further, whether communicating with policy makers should now be considered an ethical issue. Many of us are moving beyond the ivory tower and have students who seek to do the same, or at least not wanting to be clones of their advisers in academic roles. In a world where success is still measured by publications and grants, there are institutional and cultural barriers to overcome.