

Pacific Argo Regional Center (PARC) Meeting Notes, Thursday November 10, 2005 JAMSTEC

The Pacific Argo Regional Center (PARC) had its third meeting following the 6th Argo Data Management meeting (Tokyo, Nov 05). The meeting was called by Shinya Minato-san in order to coordinate the content for the PARC web top-page. The meeting was open to everyone at the ADM06 meeting, and representatives from Korea, China, Japan, Australia and the US attended (see list).

Since there were many new members, a brief review was made about the establishment of PARC and its intended role within the Argo program. To this point, PARC activities have been limited to two prior meetings and the establishment of a web page (top-page). However, the role of the Regional Data Archive Centers (RDACs) was specified in the Argo documents as:

1. compare all argo data in the region with each other and with nearby CTD/hydrographic data,
2. establish a mechanism for getting feedback to the PI's,
3. develop climatologies, and
4. prepare and distribute Argo data products

Optionally, the RDACs can

5. coordinate future deployments,
6. develop new q/c procedures,
7. compare Argo data with model output, and
8. provide documentation of procedures

It was suggested that given the RDACs will not serve data that perhaps they should be called Regional Information Centers. Along these lines, the PARC will include a table of float activity. This table needs to at least contain the information that is distributed at the GDAC, but also more detail information that might be region-specific.

The purpose of the regional web page will be primarily as a communication link between the Argo PI's in the Pacific region and as link between these PI's and the National Centers (DACs). Shinya-san reported that the JAMSTEC-Argo Group would be involved with the regional center for an additional three years, after which time the regional center activities would be moved to another operation; this may be still in JAMSTEC, or may be done at IPRC or CSIRO).

It was agreed among the participants that they will go along with PARC through PARC's web pages.

The following list includes the near-term activities for the PARC members:

Action 1. Put the following onto the PARC top-page: (1) terms of reference of RC, (2) Country Names and flags involved, (3) functional responsibility of each RDAC, and (4) regions of responsibility (for RC's role 1) on the PARC top page. (*IPRC*)

Action 2. Make two links, one with contact lists for PI's, the other with "regional centers" from the button "regional center partners" on the left of the page. Other button-links to (1) include a page with the other RDACs, and a more general link to Argo people, and (2) a page with "documents/ meeting" which would include copies of the PARC meetings and more general Argo documentation. (*IPRC*)

Action 3. Make (1) a location map and operation status table of the floats in their responsibility. They are sent to or picked up by IPRC. (*CSIRO*)

Action 4. Make a more detailed table (float QC table) as a template (note that this can be modified at a later time) that will show the float q/c status and other important float information. (*JAMSTEC*)

Action 5. Make SeHyD available via the web page and make it available to everyone. (*JAMSTEC*)

Action 6. Gather information concerning (1) deployment plan of Argo floats, (2) volunteer ships of opportunity for deployment and/or recovery, and (3) CTD data, as far as possible, and put them on the web page to make it available to everyone. (*All members of the PARC*)

Information for PI's

The initial top-page, as developed by IPRC and JAMSTEC, was shown to the group and opened for comments. JAMSTEC will be producing daily maps of Argo locations. It was also suggested that we include an identification of floats that are old, with the idea that these floats would soon need replacement. JAMSTEC also produces daily tables of float activity (actual table contents include WMO_ID, last surface date and location, status, latest cycle number, obtained profile number, DAC, PI. future table contents include QC status, etc). Shinya-san suggested that IPRC maintain the web page, and that the participating members send similar tables to IPRC for inclusion on the web pages. The table is created from the profile file, and these are transmitted via ftp. The IPRC would pick up the tables via CSV files. It was suggested to view the Argo Information Center (AIC) pages to see if there is duplication of effort here, particularly with the "status.text" file. This will be investigated, but it was thought that the value of maintaining a separate table would be the flexibility of content.

Information for deployment

The regional center also needs to consider coordination of float deployment. This is not limited to identifying regions of poor coverage, or areas of aging floats, but also should have a list and/or link of ship operations. This would include volunteer ships of opportunity and research vessels and even shipping companies. Somehow the PARC will need to know about potential ship opportunities in the region. Coordination of this may be difficult. It was suggested to seek input from Dean Roemmich and to see <http://www.argo.ucsd.edu/FrDeploy.html> .

Gather CTD data from deployment sites

This will be challenging and it was suggested that all participants make an effort to get these fresh CTD data (especially CTD at deployment. Up to 12 months old not yet sent to NODC) since they will be very useful for q/c checks.

Consistency checks

Another important function of the PARC will be to do consistency checks of the delayed-mode q/c'd data (DMQC). Note that the PARC will not actually do q/c; this will be done by the PI's and the DACs, but the PARC can check to see that floats in the region are getting the same q/c results. Again, it was suggested to check with the AIC to see if there is an overlap here.

Regional Products

Shinya-san showed optimal interpolation maps and a comparison to WOA fields. Kobayashi-san also discussed the SeHyd climatology possibly to be useful in similar comparisons.

Missing items from top page

1. terms of reference, regions of responsibility
2. contact lists for PI's, at present there are two links, one with "contacts", the other with "regional centers". This was found confusing. The suggestion was made to have a button-link to "regional center partners" linking to the groups in PARC, a button-link to a page with the other RDACs, and a more general link to Argo people.
3. It was suggested that instead of, or in addition to, identification of floats by PI that it is also done by country, for public relations reasons. (China suggested that the top-page had better show Countries Name and Flags involved, in a line. It is to express clearly that PARC is made up of joint activities of these countries.
4. There should be a button-link for "documents" which would include copies of the PARC meetings and more general Argo documentation.

Misc

A suggestion was made to hold the next PARC meeting in Korea in May.

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Table 1. Participants