

# LE DEVENIR DES APPORTS DU RHÔNE EN MÉDITERRANÉE NW: LIEN AVEC LE PPR RIOMAR

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Projets CHIFRE, Granoflux,  
DeltaRhône (EC2CO)

*NWMed workshop 16-18 nov 2022*





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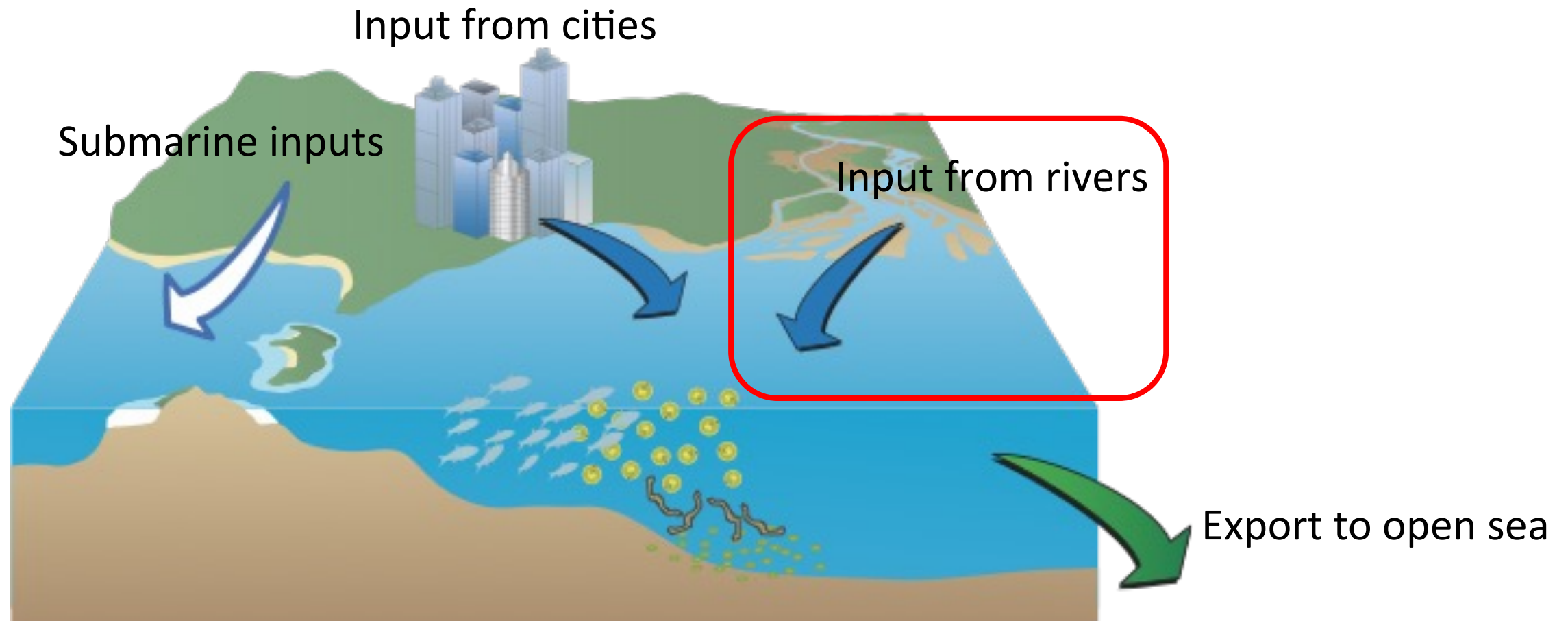
# MERMEX-RIVERS

Influence of extreme events on river delivery of particulate organic carbon, nutrient and contaminants, their fate in the delta and continental shelf and their impact on ecosystems



# RIVERS - Objectives

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## *Objectives:*

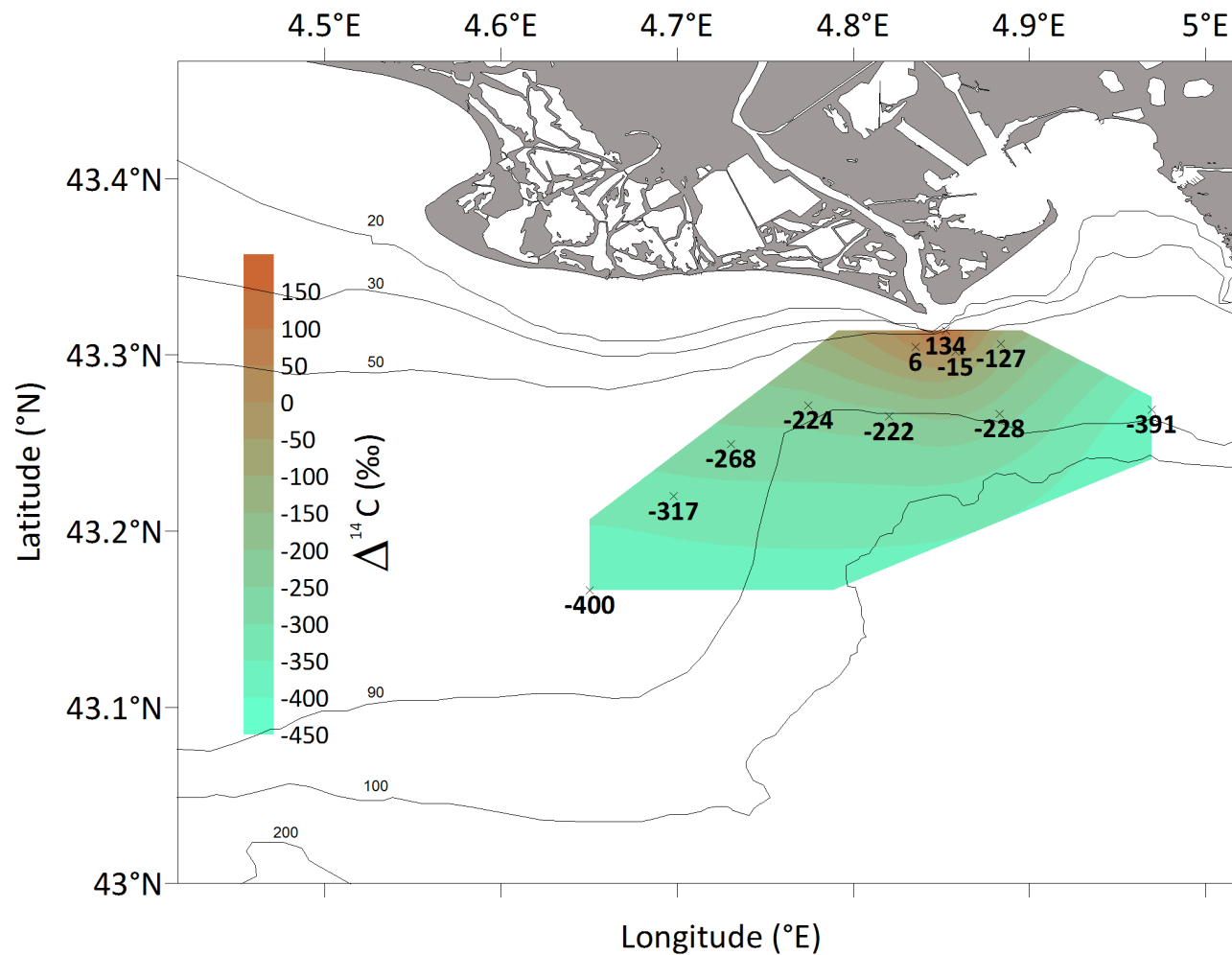
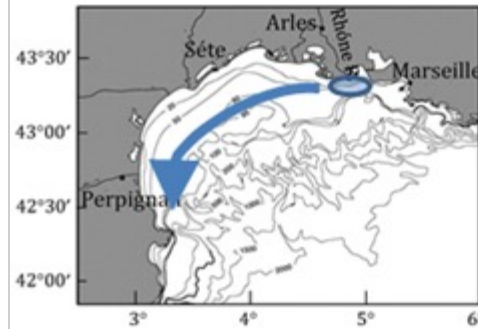
- Establish the mode of transfer and transformation of the river inputs to the shelf
  - Focus on the Rhône River (main particle delivery) and its dispersion on the shelf
  - Focus on particle dynamics (Org-C and contaminant carrier)
  - Fate of organic carbon after deposition in sediments
  - impact on and feedback from distribution of benthic fauna
- Focus on intense events, floods and storms



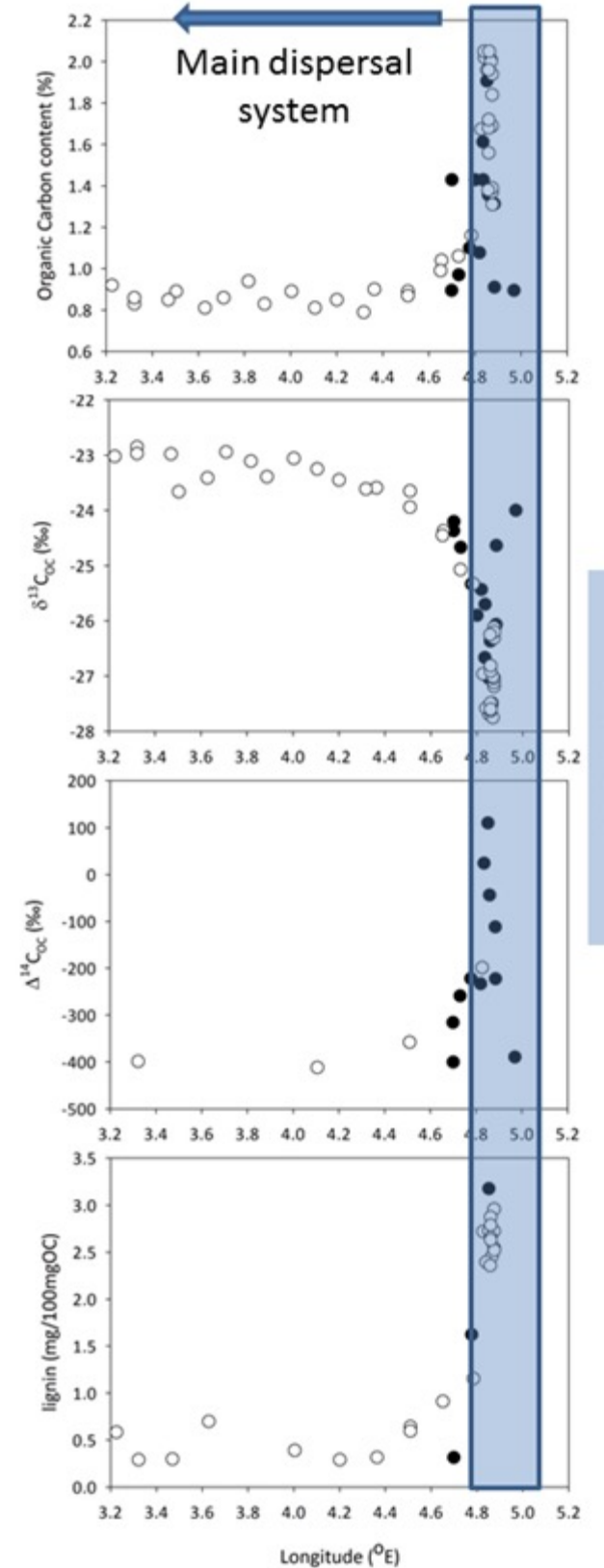
# The Rhône River and the Gulf of Lion

The Rhône River is the main driver of changes in organic carbon composition in the Gulf of Lion

The Rhone prodelta and nearby shelf is by far the most active region for these transformations



Cathalot et al., GCA, 2013





# Hydrodynamics, floods and high frequency

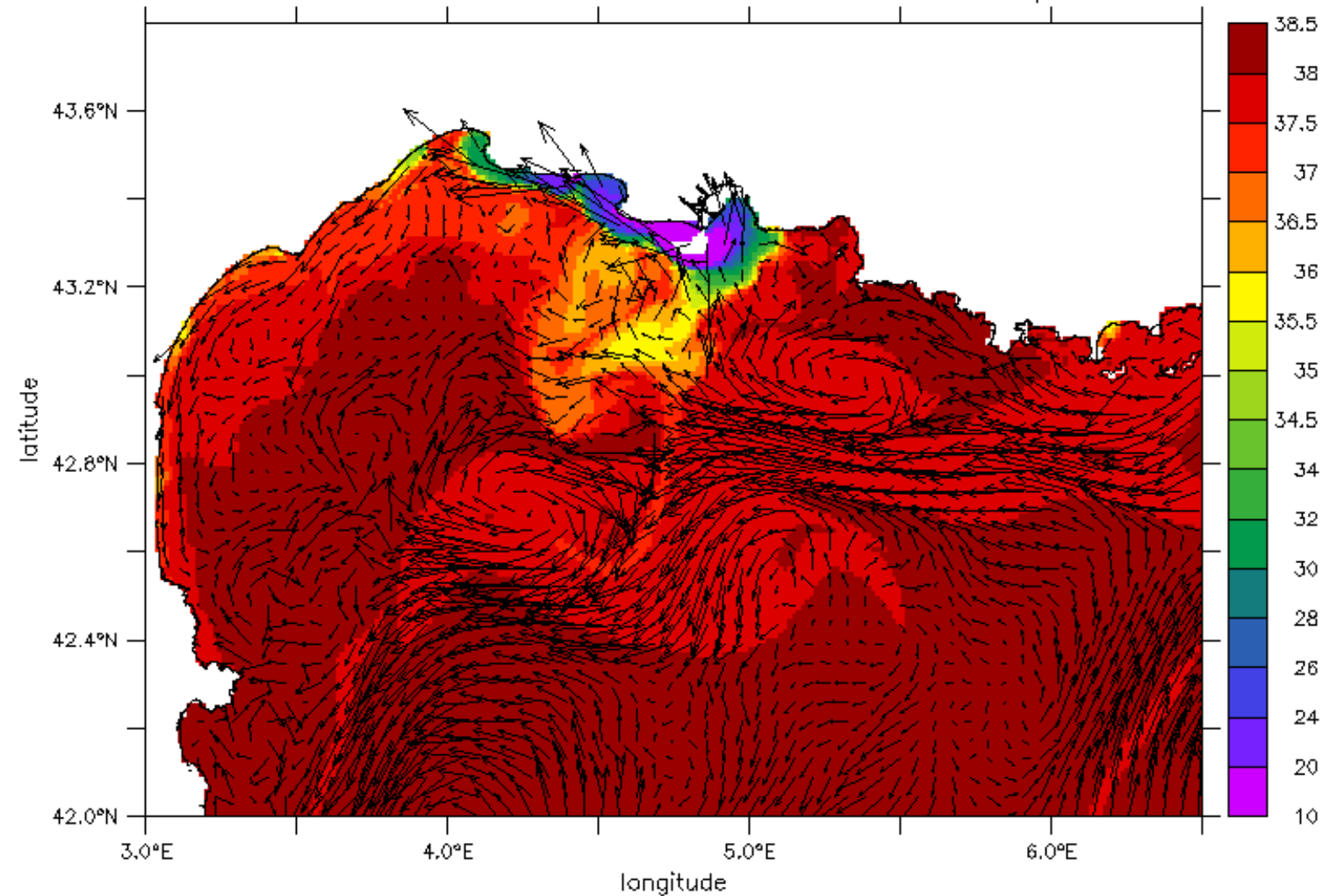
FERRET Ver.8.7  
NOAA/PWEL TMAP  
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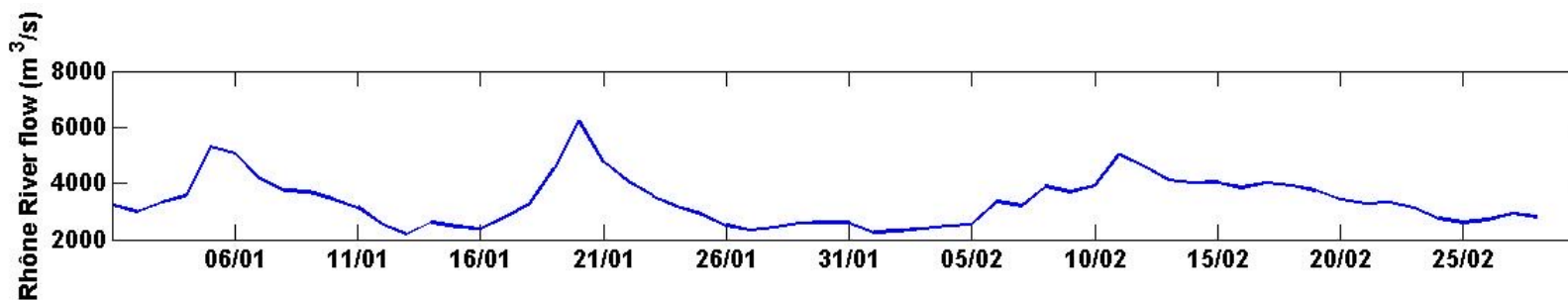
DATA SET: menortot-tot

PREVIMER MENOR 1200 forecast

X and Y components are offset



Winter time dynamics: interaction between floods (Rhône and other rivers) and storms

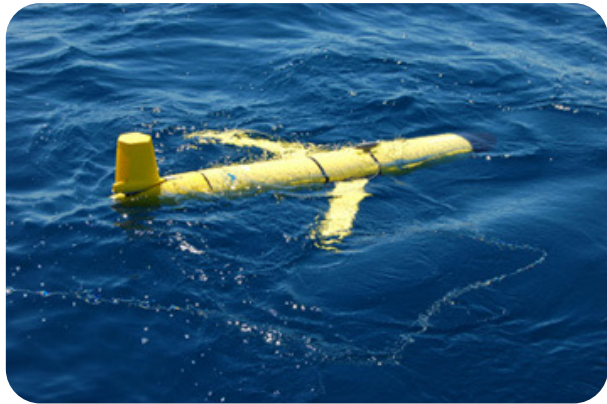


2014

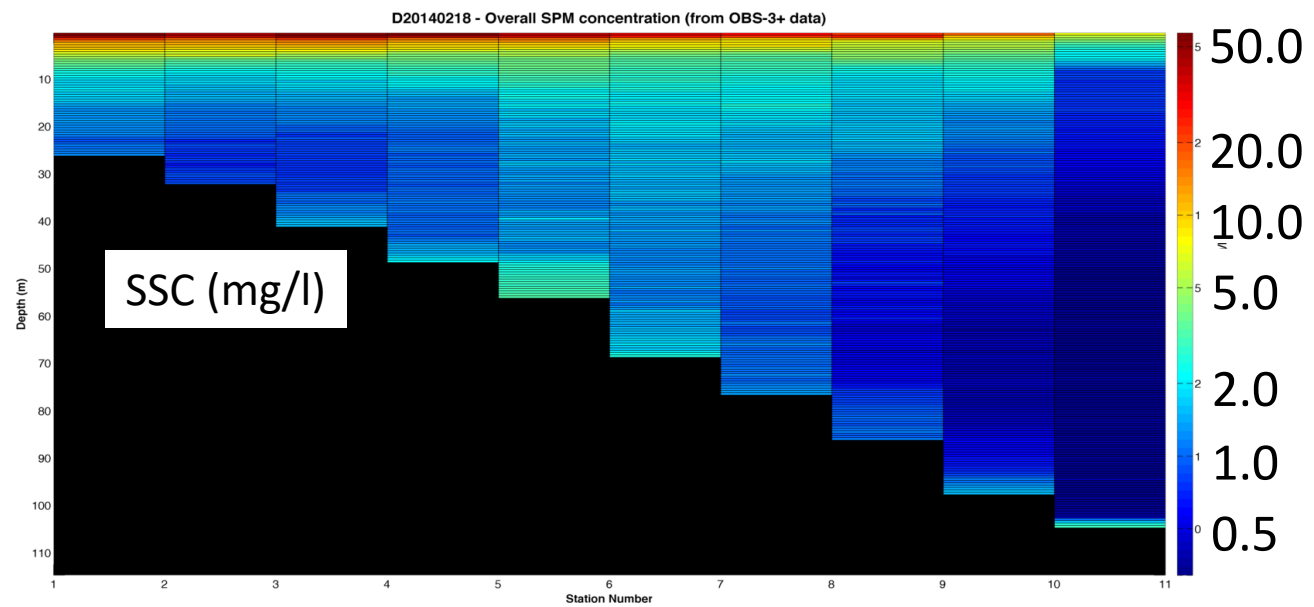
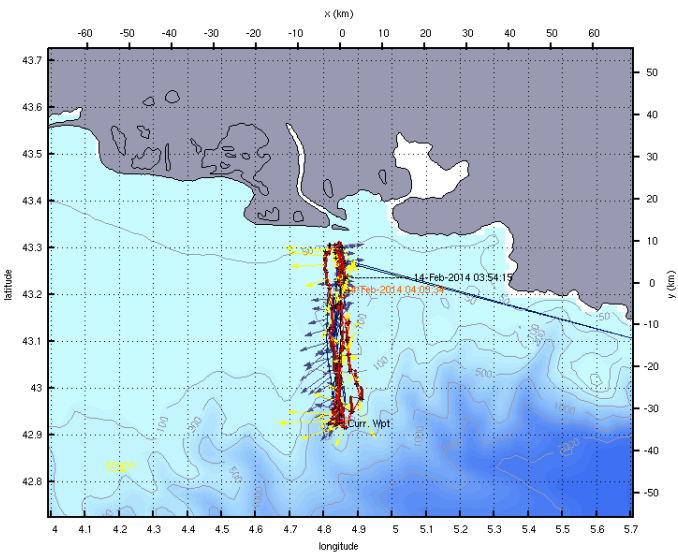
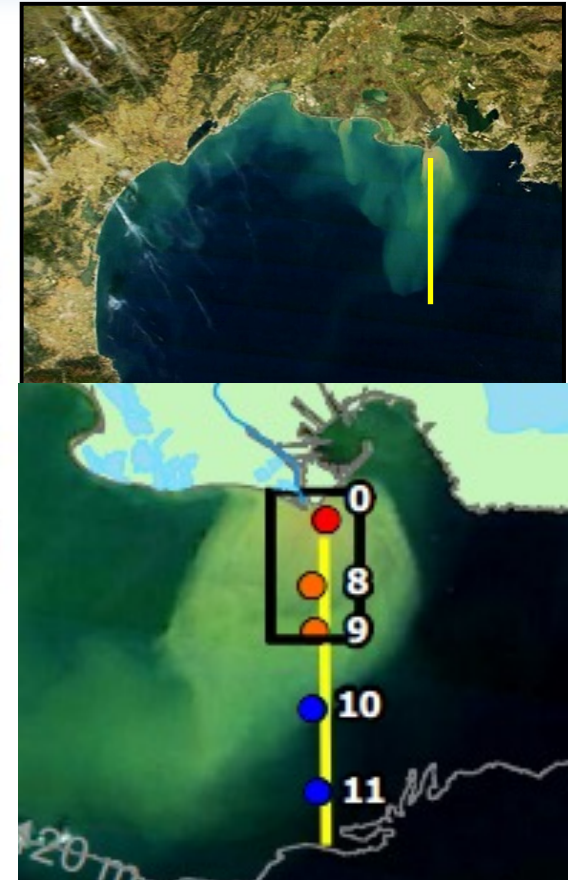
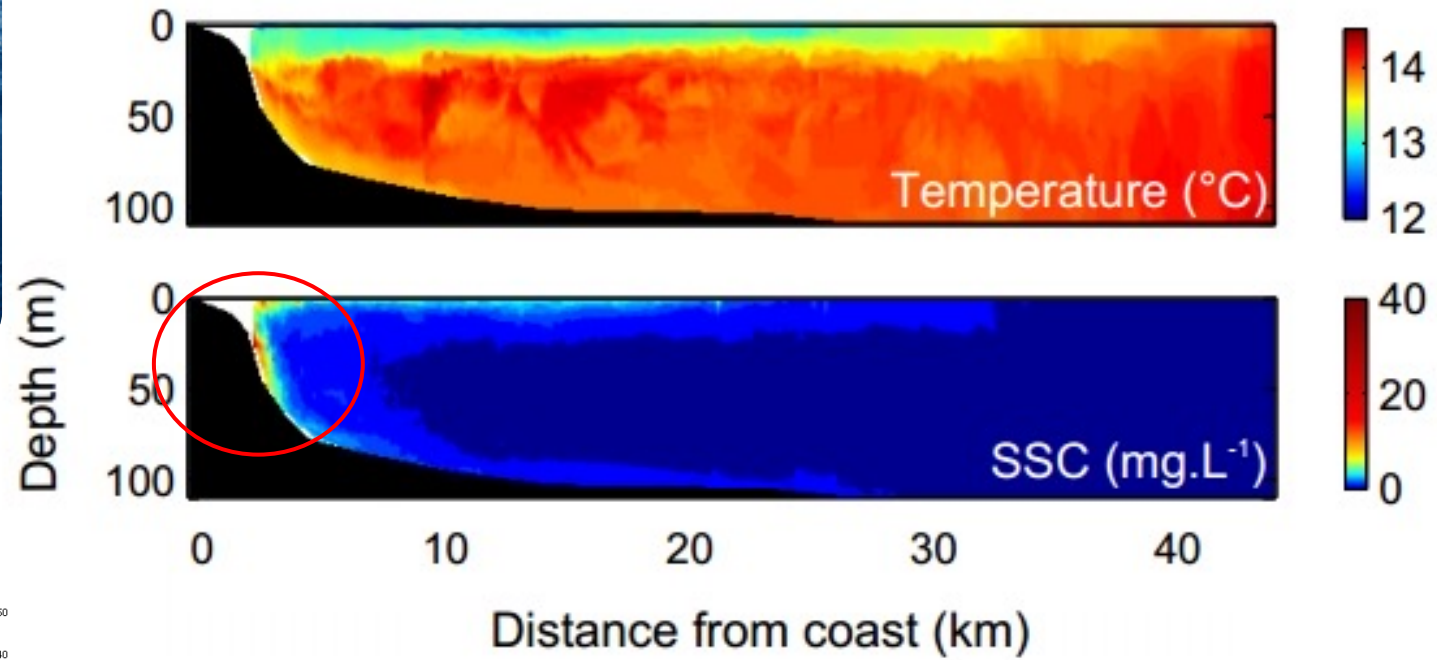
salinity ( $1e-3$ )



# Particle dynamics during floods: export and deposition



Gliders equipped with T, S, Turb, Fluo and O2 sensors

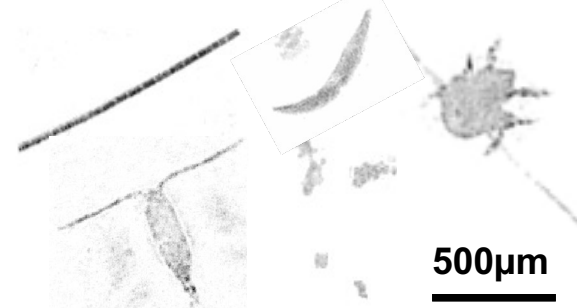
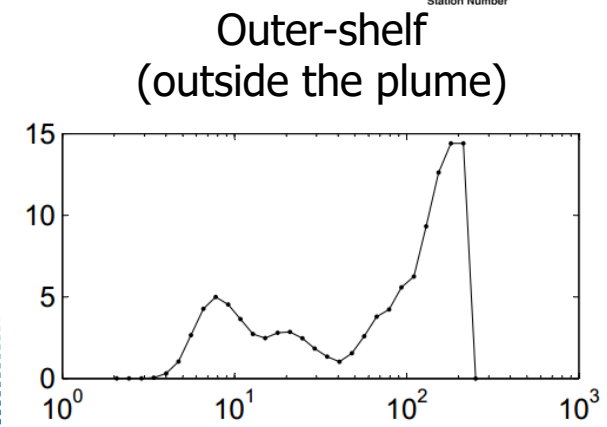
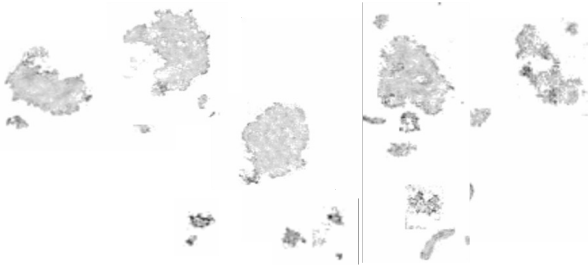
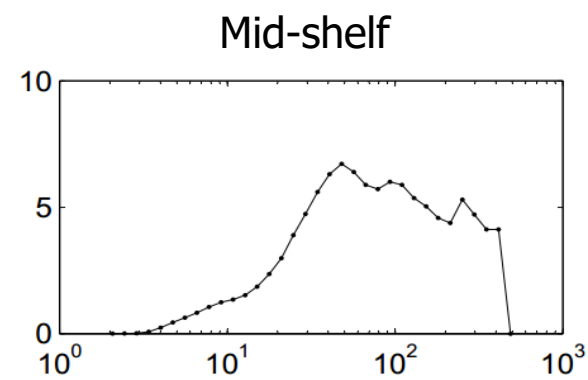
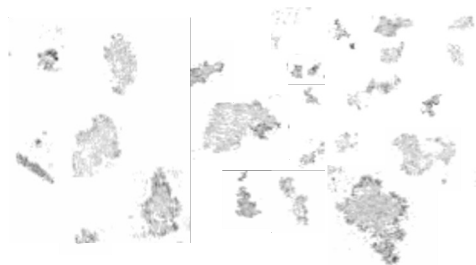
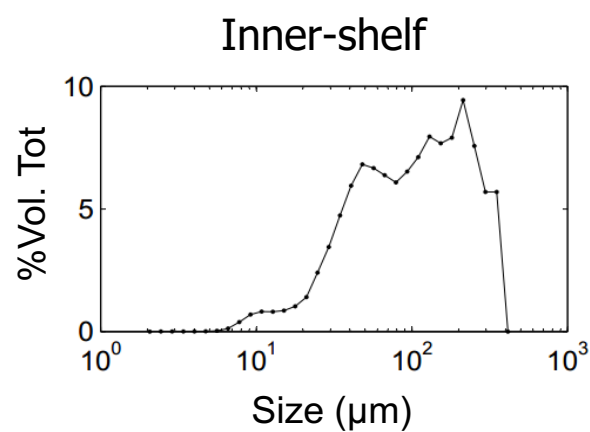
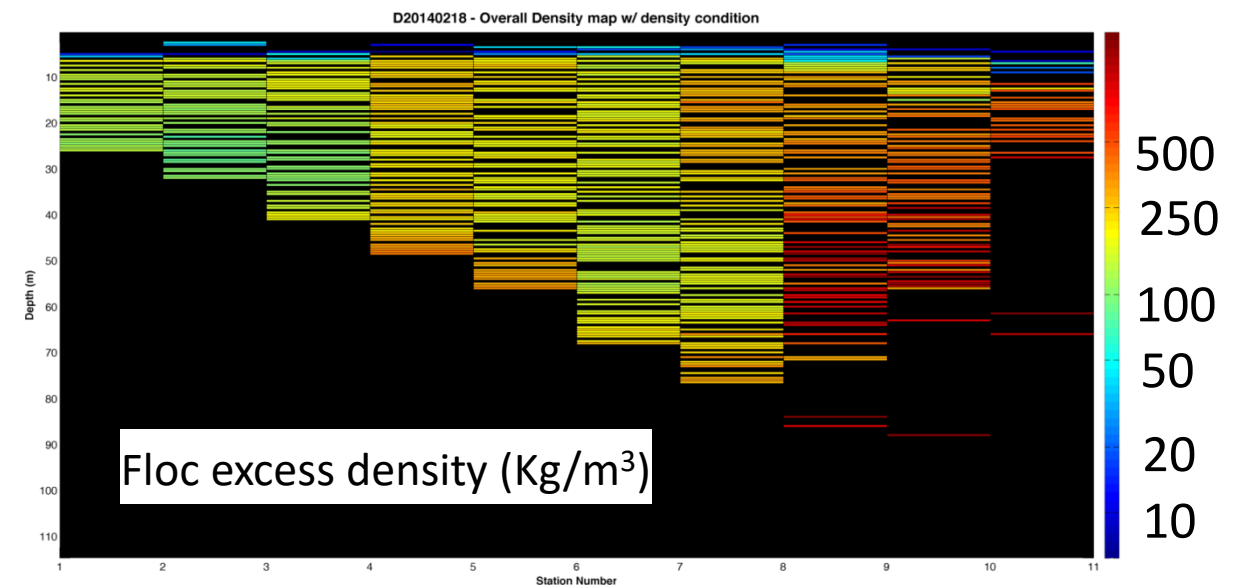
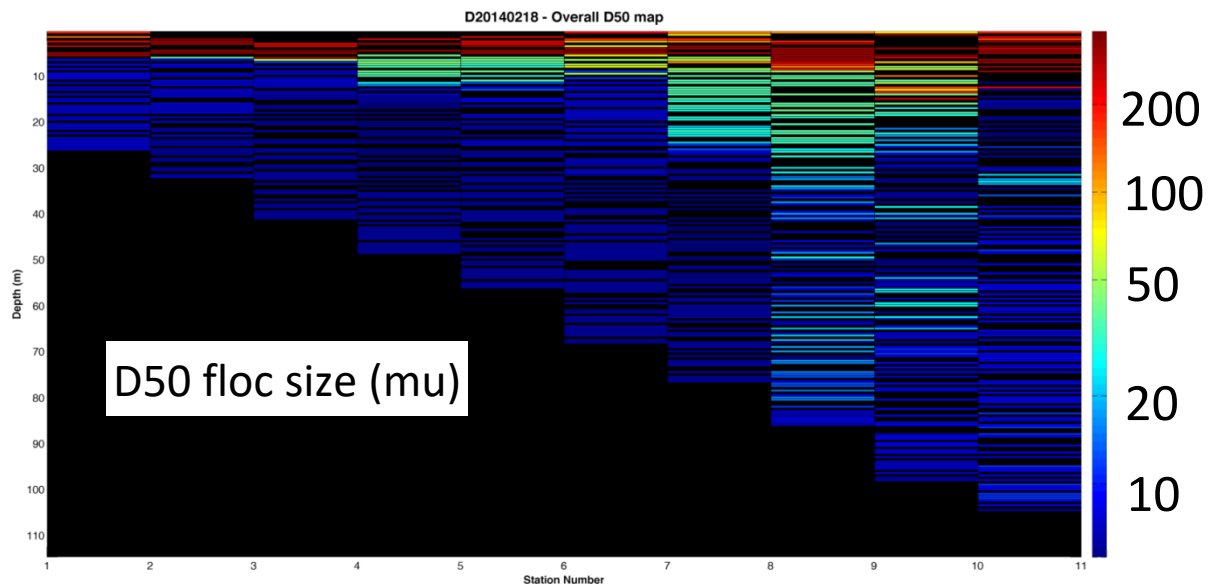


Campagne TUCPA – Février 2014  
*Many et al., 2016*



# SPM composition in the GoL during floods

## Rhone river plume during the 2014 flood

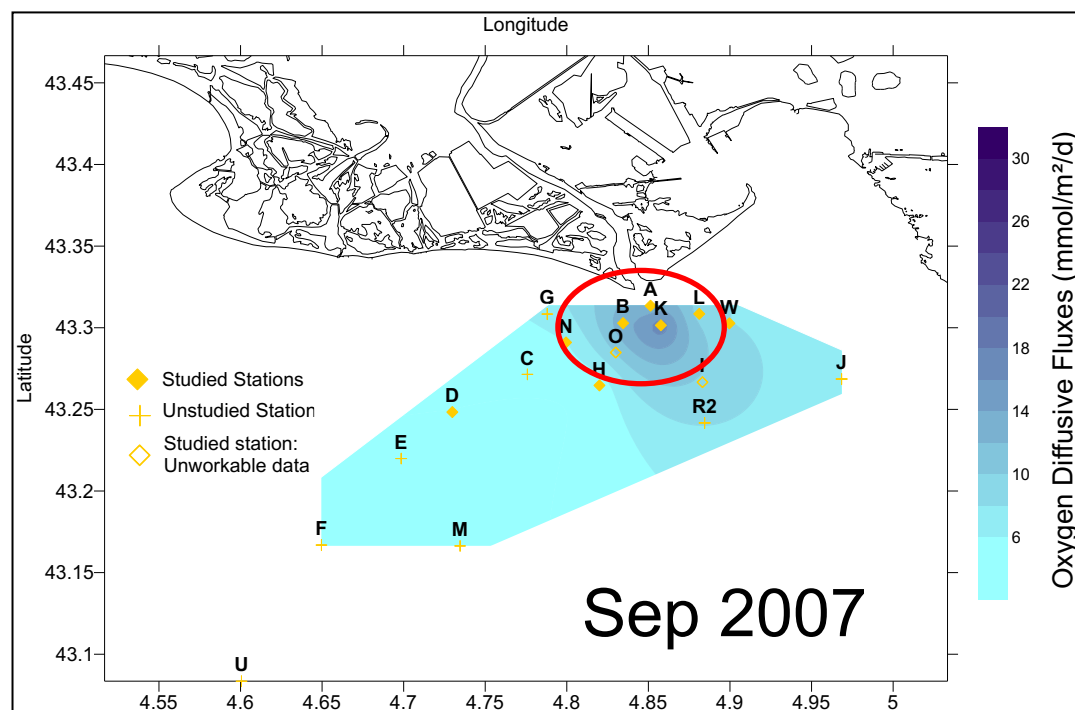
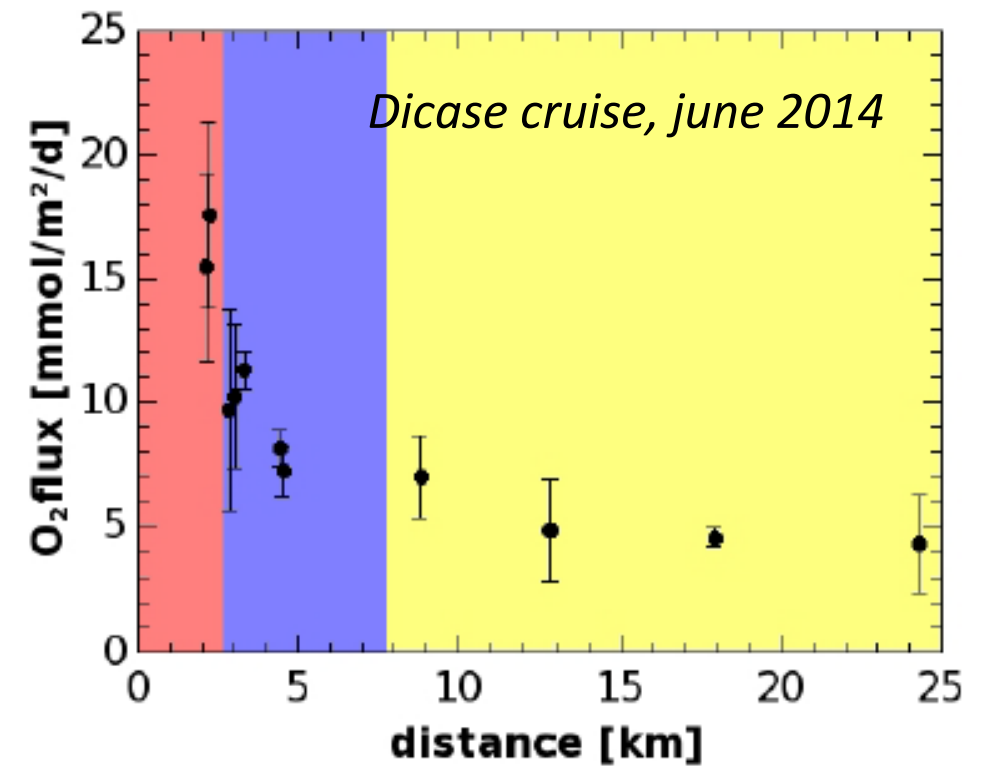
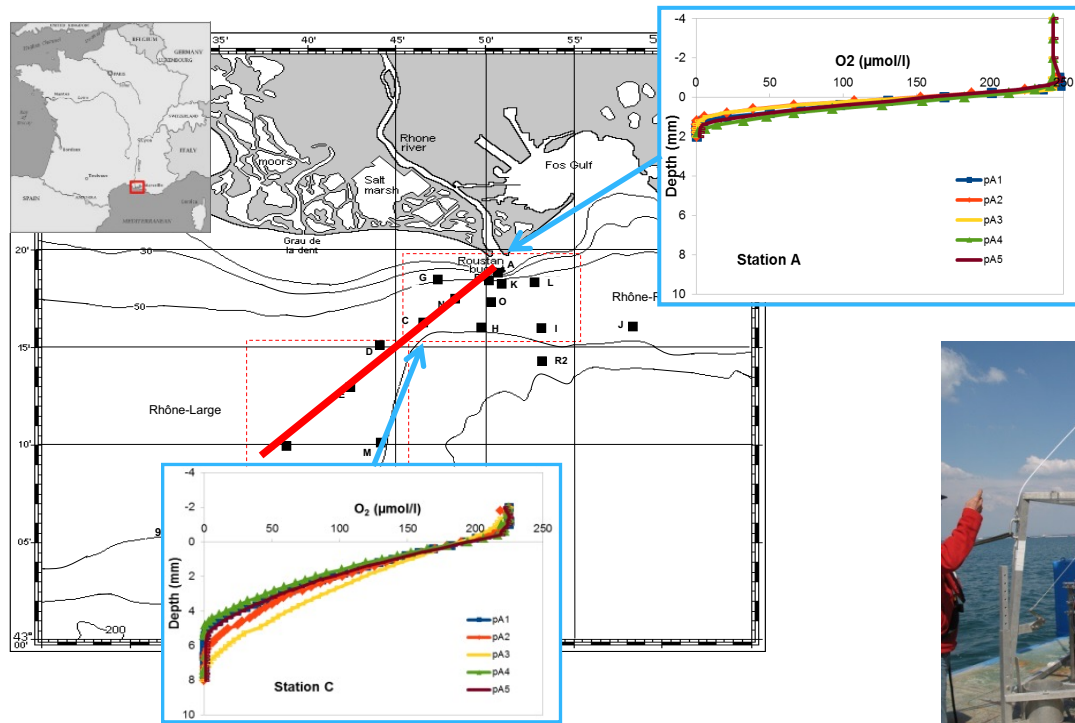


Coupling of LISST-100 (Laser diffraction: 1,25-250 $\mu\text{m}$ ) et LISST-HOLO (Holography: 20 à 2000 $\mu\text{m}$ )



# Mineralization of organic matter in prodelta sediments

## In situ microprofiler

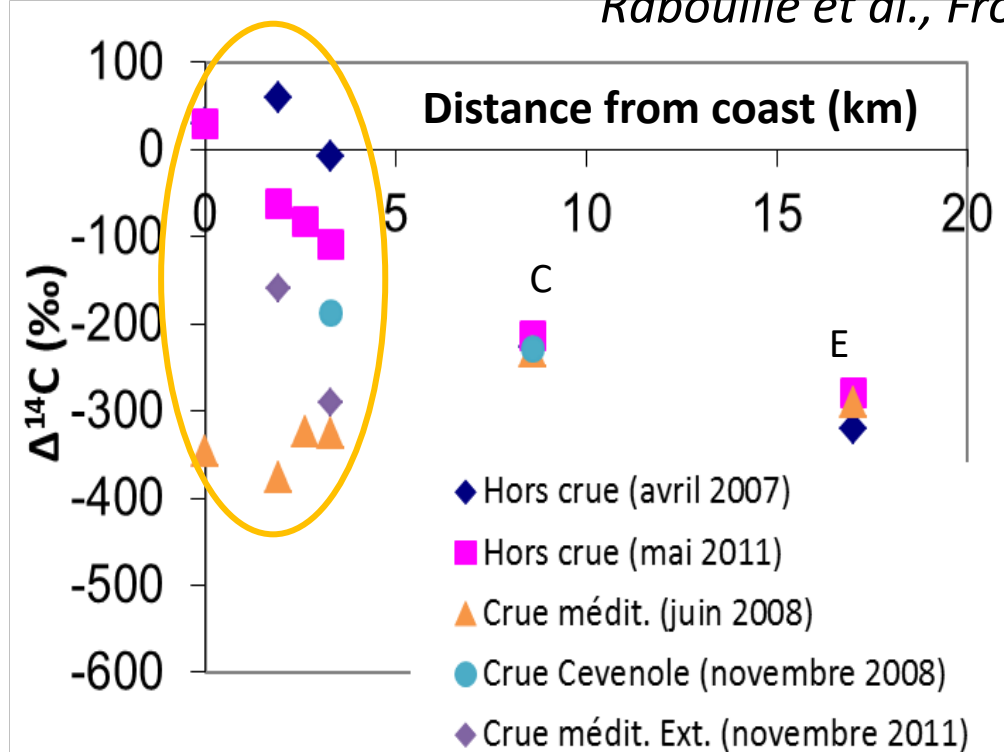
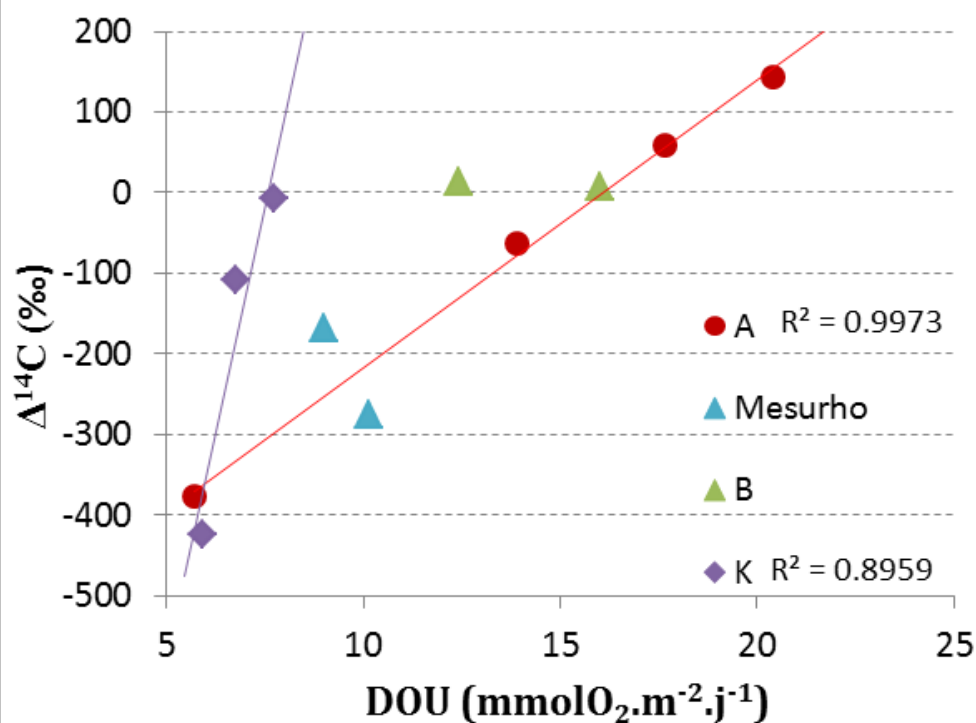
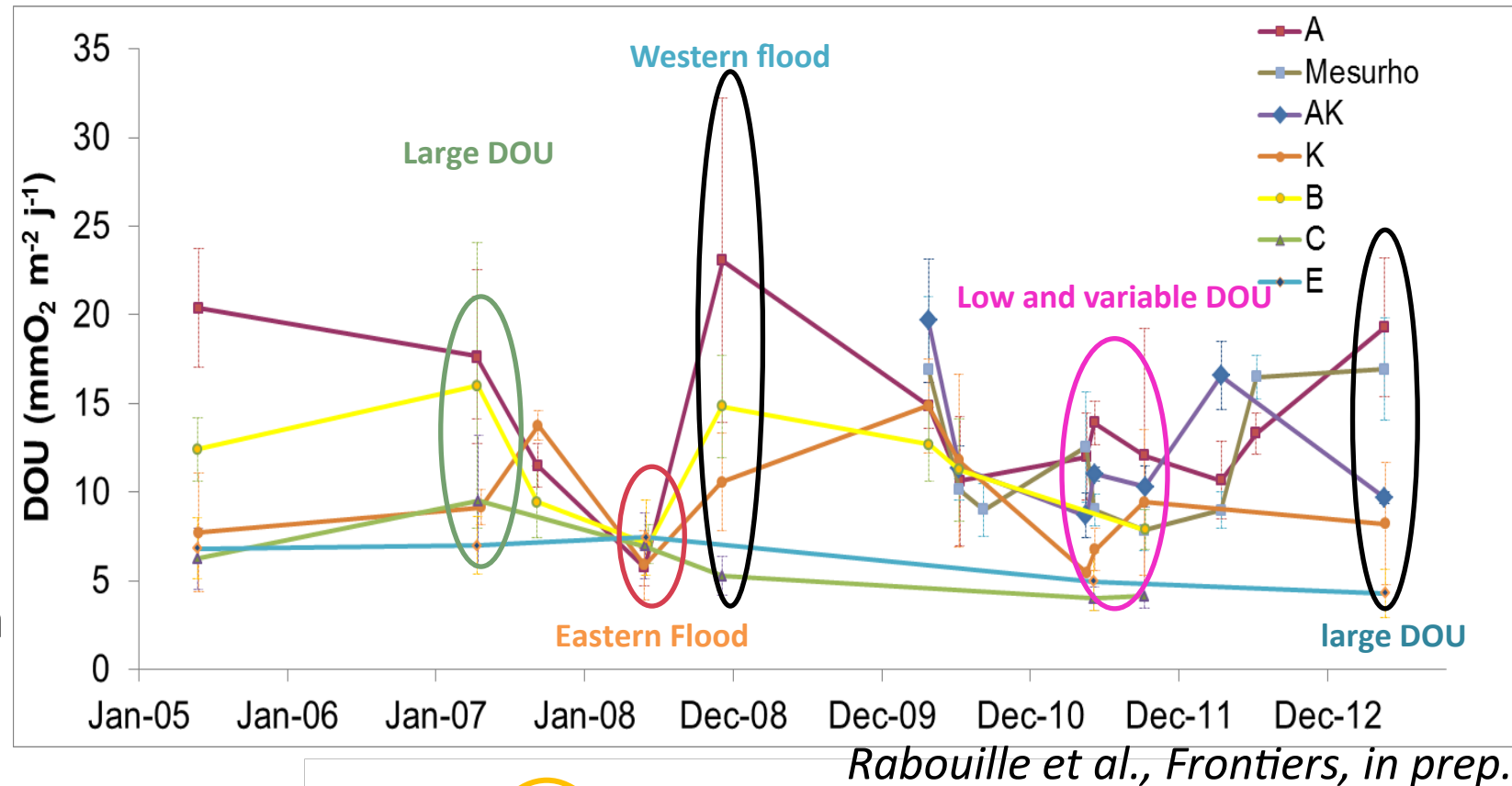


Intense benthic mineralization near the river mouth decreasing offshore



# Recycling of organic matter and its lability

- Large interannual variability of offshore DOU gradient
- Temporal stability of carbon recycling and composition on the shelf (C & E)
- Large variability of  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$  of OM (a proxy of lability) in prodelta, related to flood type together with oxygen demand (mineralization)

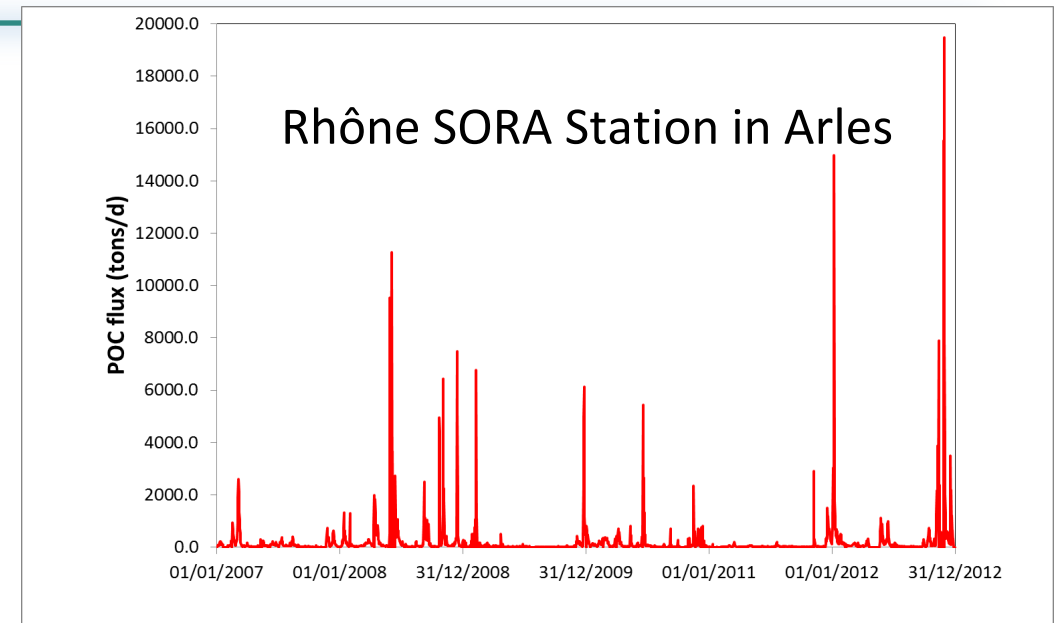


*Toussaint, thesis 2013*

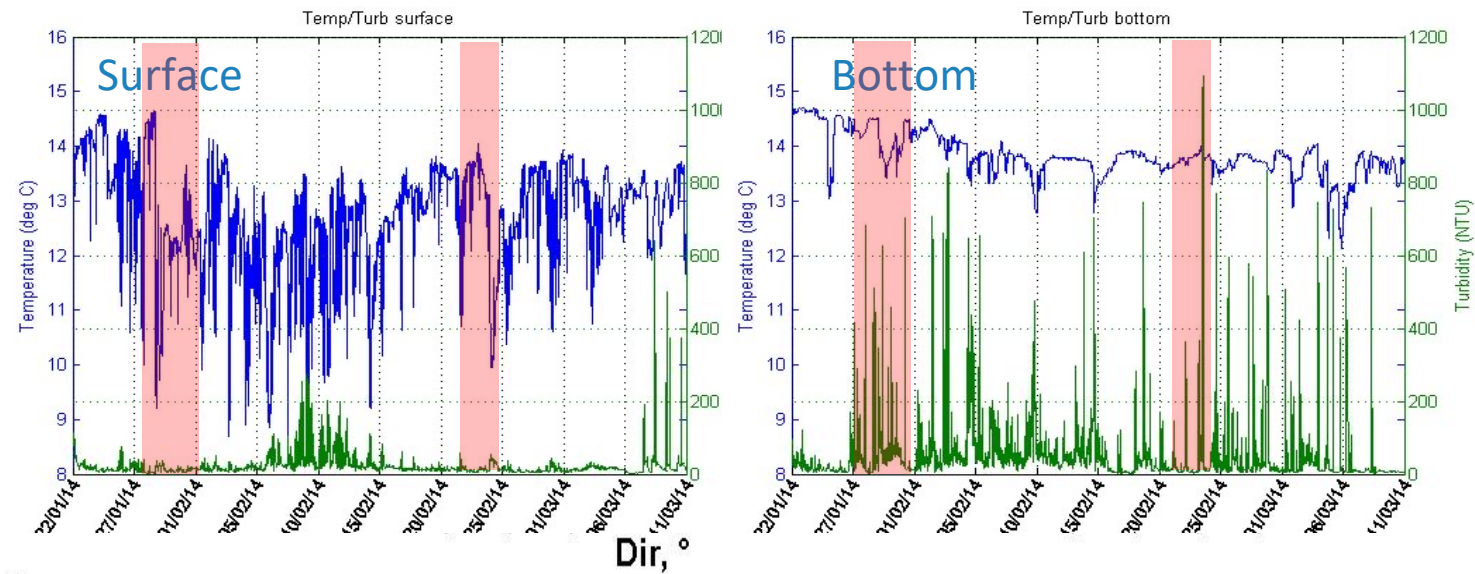
# Station monitoring of inputs and fate of river particles

## Station Mesurho and MOOSE-SORA

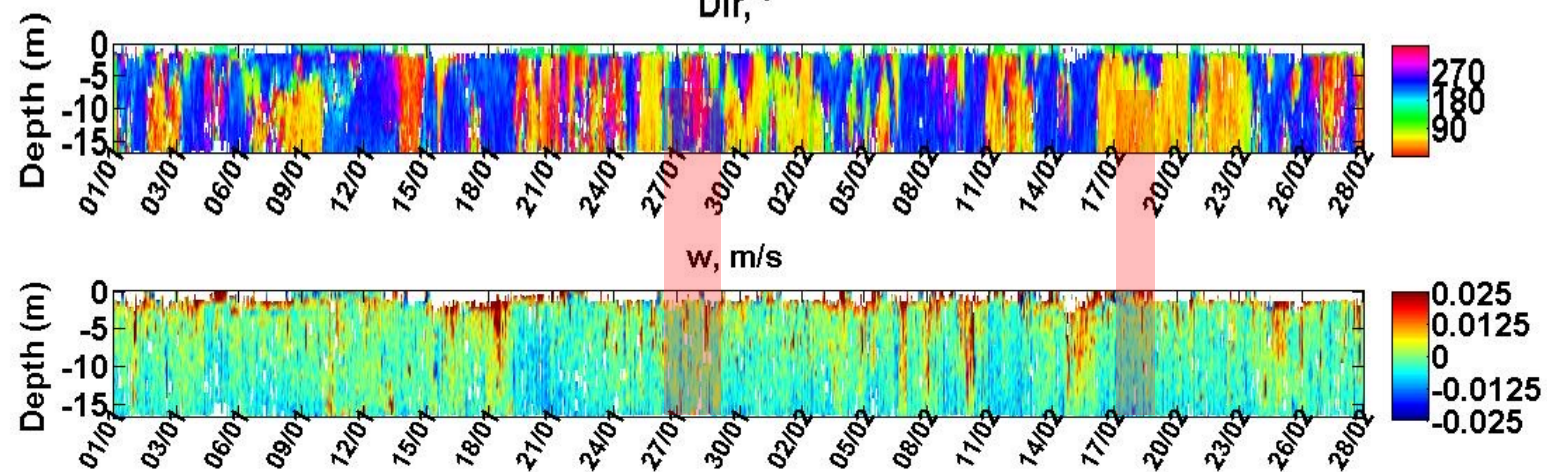
- Fluxes of POC to the Med Sea are dominated by floods
- Mesurho station records the water and particle flux at river mouth and particle dynamics



Buoy sensors during TUCPA



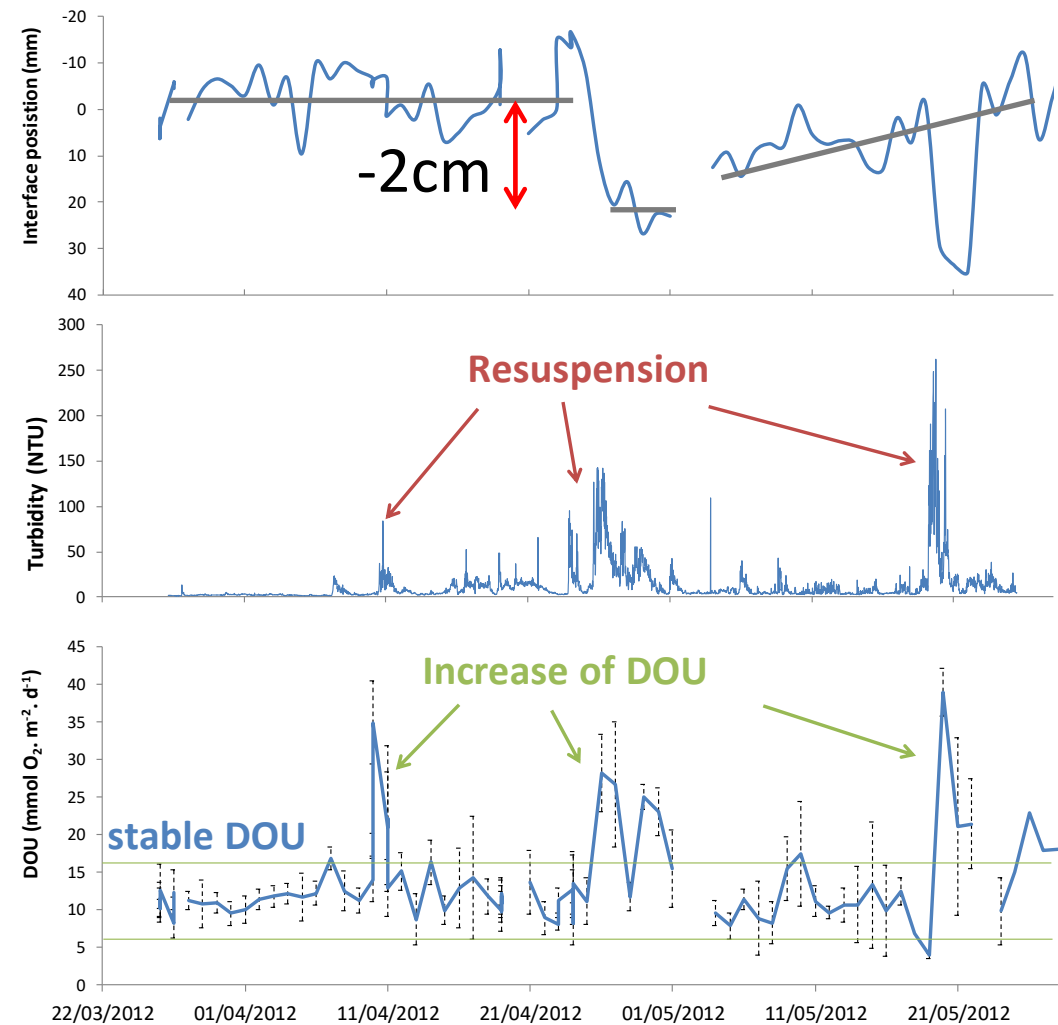
ADCP during TUCPA





# Station monitoring of inputs and fate of river particles

Link with carbon fate by the LSCE benthic station: one example with resuspension events in April 2012

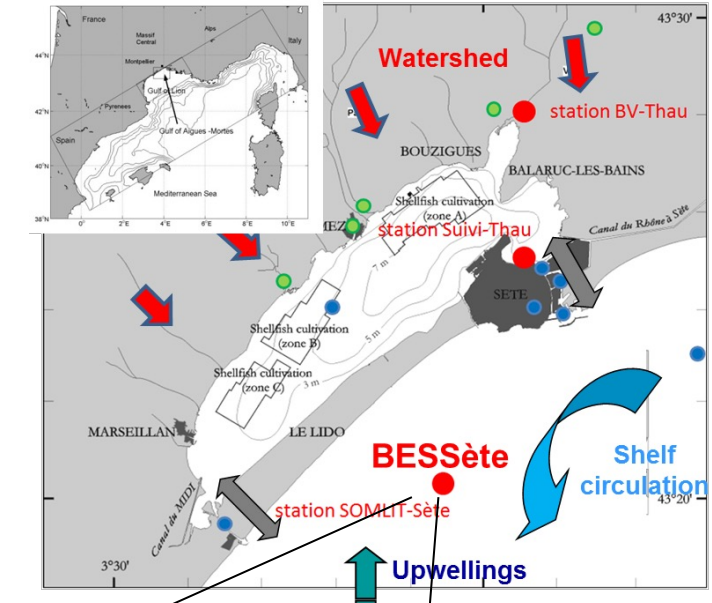
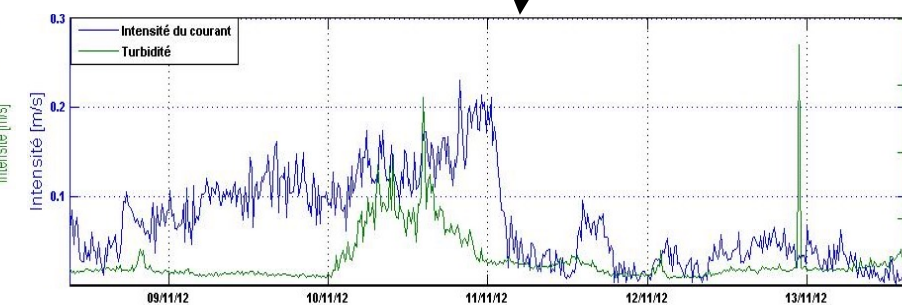
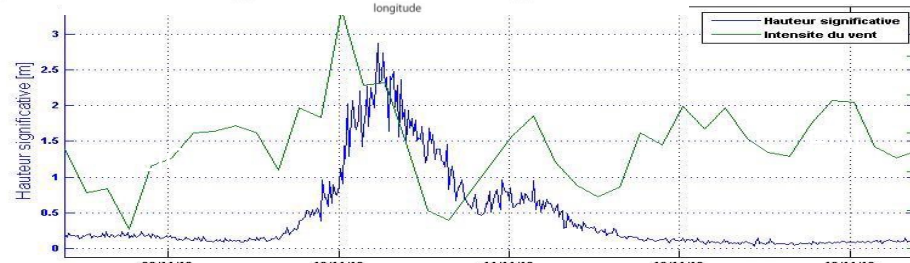
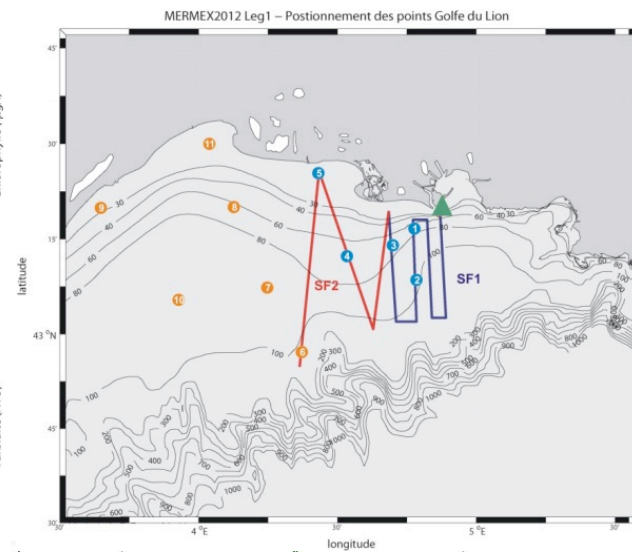
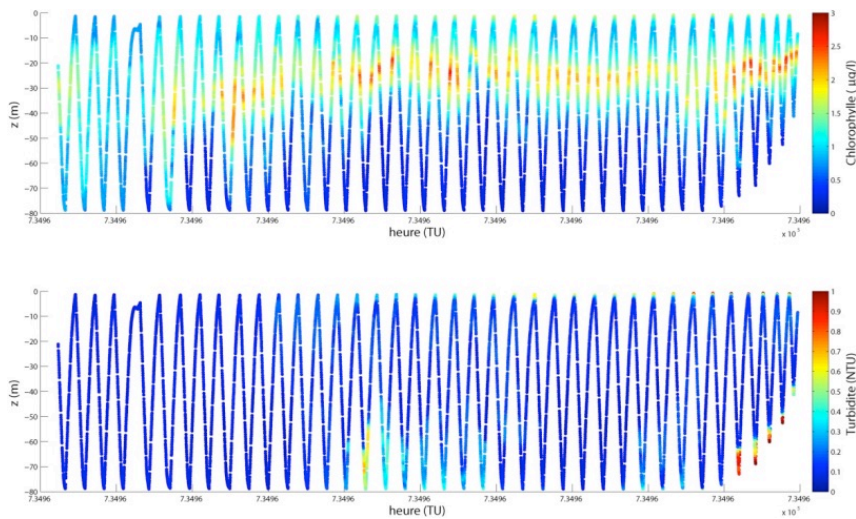
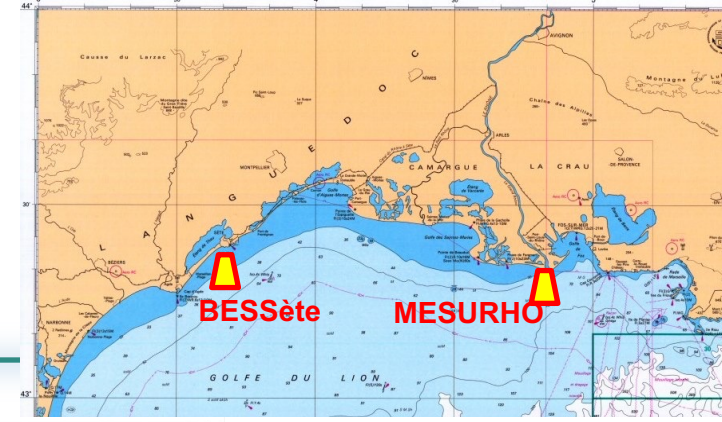


*Toussaint et al., L&O-M, 2014*



# Western extension and smaller rivers

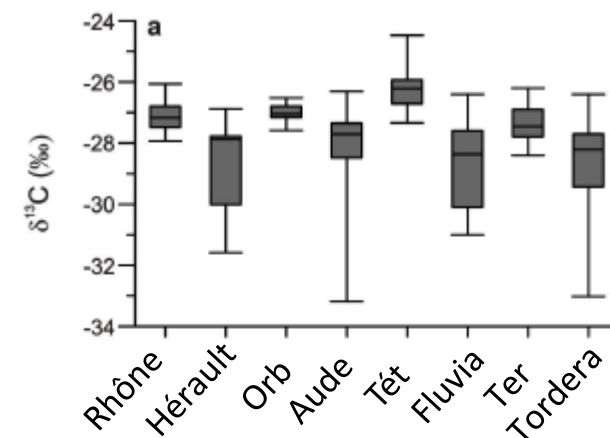
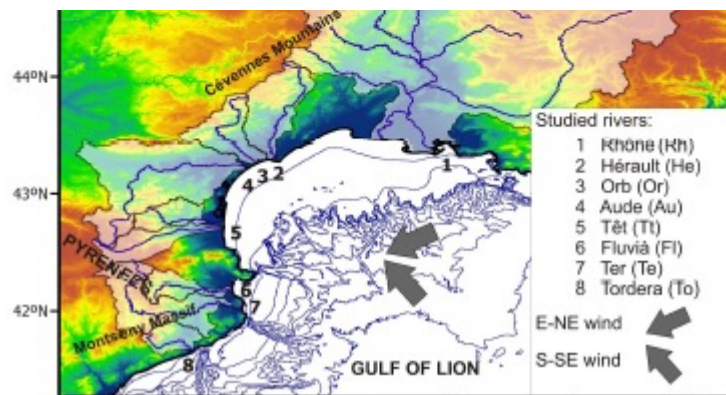
BESSETE station and the Access transect to the West: from the Rhone to Sete, transit zone, extension of Rhone floods, Herault and smaller river floods



Meteo and waves

Coastal sea hydrology and biogeochemistry

Characterization of OM from 8 Mediterranean rivers : assessment of their floods and prodelta deposition during the CASCADE cruise





# PROJET CHIFFRE: Coastal High Frequency Response to Extreme Events, storms and floods

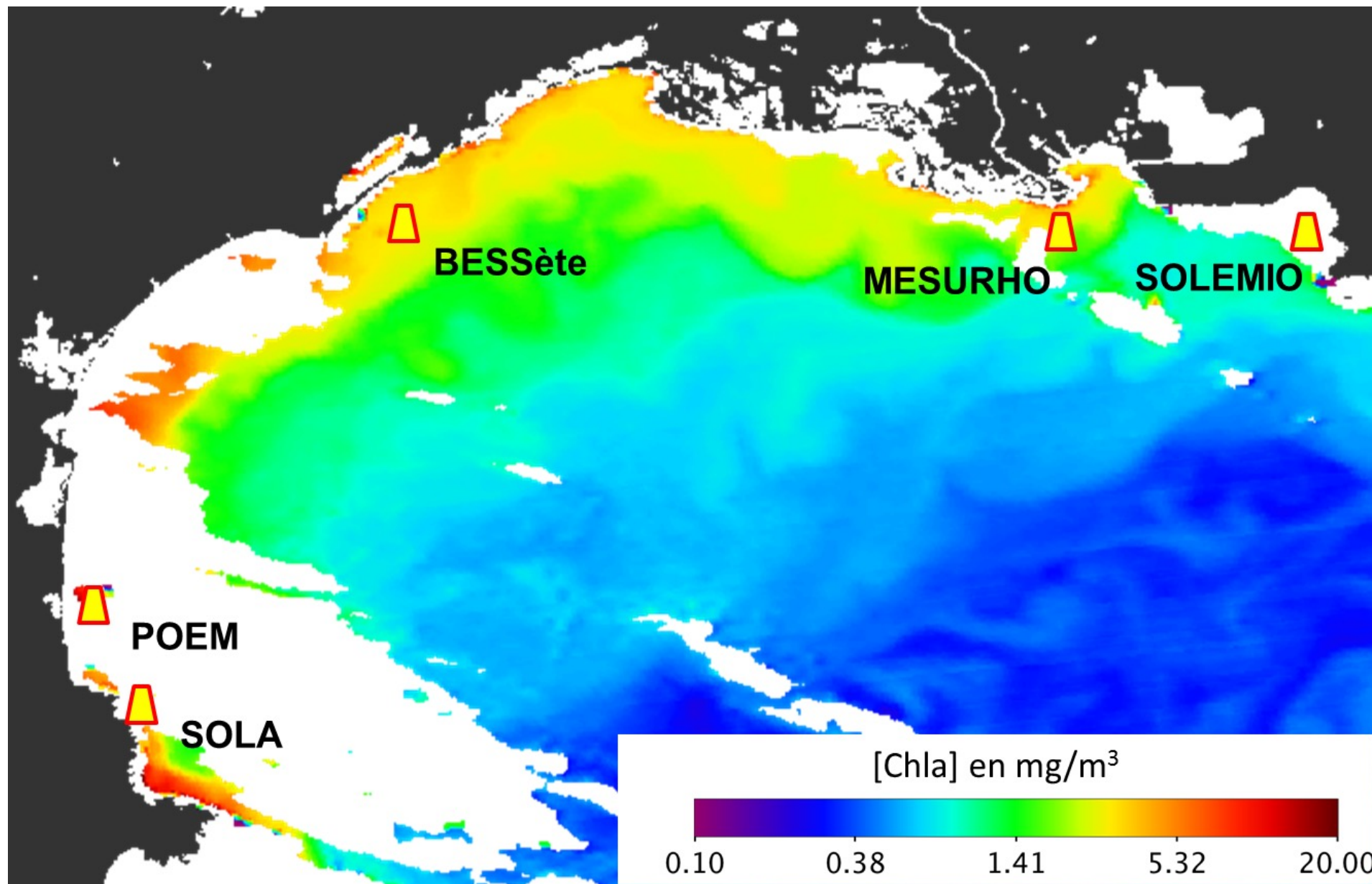
Choix d'un outil principal: les stations côtières HF (Haute Fréquence)

+ apports outils complémentaires

prélèvements BF (Basse Fréquence) SOMLIT-like,

télédétection, modélisation numérique,

(campagnes en mer, gliders, station benthique)



Zone d'étude et position des stations côtières HF. Fond de carte, image MODIS-Aqua du 8 mars 2013.

Crédits : D. Doxaran.

# Principaux résultats attendus du projet CHIFRE

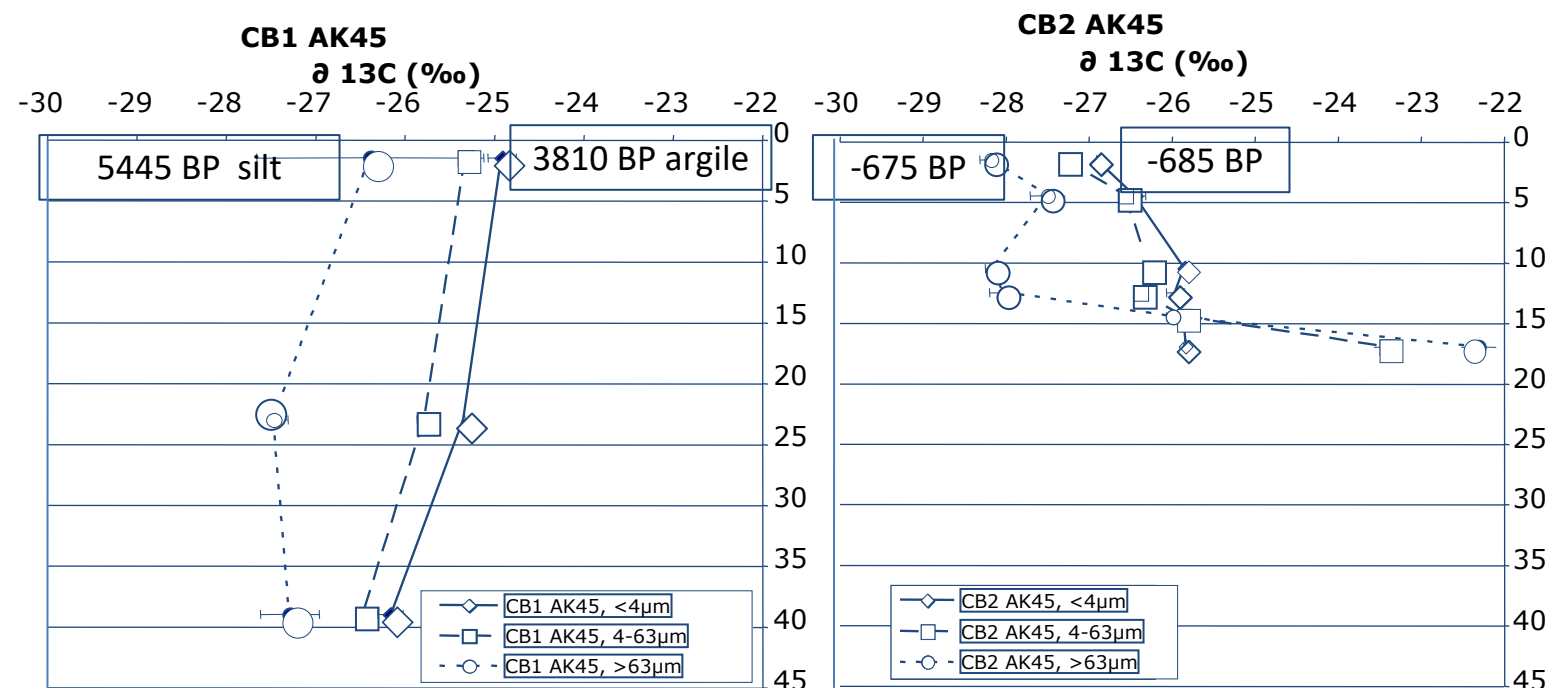
- Opérationnalité des stations côtières HF du Golfe du Lion pendant 2 ans en continu
- Validité des mesures, apports des mesures BF SOMLIT-like
- Etude de la réponse HF à plusieurs événements « extrêmes »
- Variabilité des réponses inter et intra événements
- Soutien et complémentarité aux actions Mermex-Merite et ANR COCCOLITTO



# Projet GranoFlux

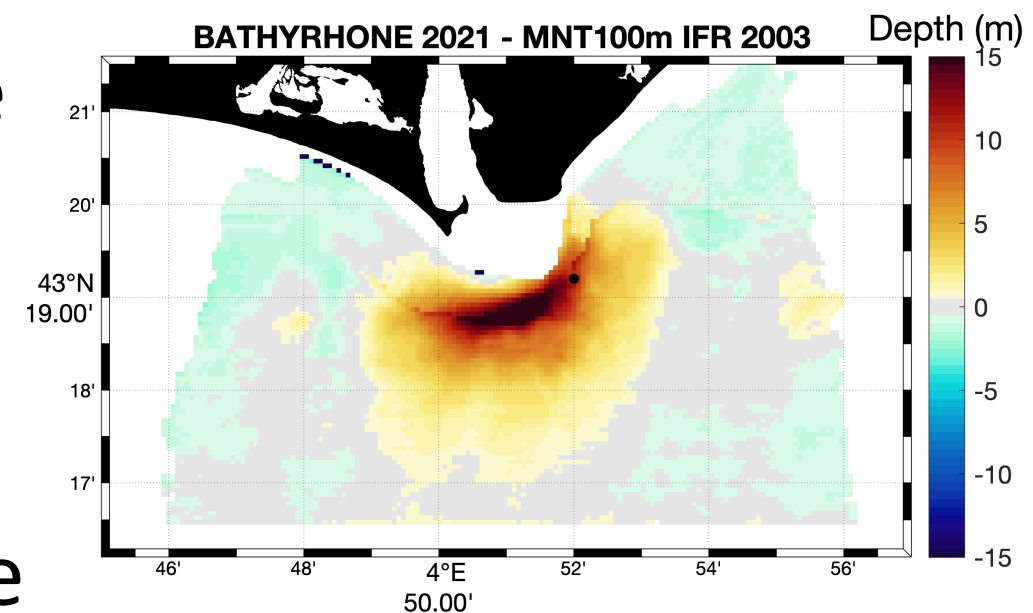
- Evaluer les apports de carbone et leur granulométrie lors des évènements de crue
- Depuis le fleuve jusqu'au dépôt dans les sédiments, suivre origine dans les fractions granulo
- Mesure de la composition isotopique des fractions de MO ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  et  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ )

Carottes Station AK45



# EC2CO-DeltaRhône

- Estimer les bilans de matière (particules, carbone, microplastiques) à l'interface Rhône-Med
- Variabilité, influence des extrêmes sur les apports du fleuve et les exports vers le plateau
- Effectuer des mesures du couplage pélagique benthique particules, carbone, microP
- Estimer l'enfouissement dans le delta (C et microP) par bathymétrie différentielle
- Coupler observation fixe et mobile, satellite et modèles pour estimer les bilans dans la zone du prodelta





# Conclusions

Observations de plateformes multiples:

- Observatoires, gliders, campagnes
- Colonne d'eau et sédiments
- Proches du Rhône avec une extension vers le GoL central

Apports de fleuves sont complexes en quantité et nature:

- Quantité liée aux évènements intenses
- Qualité (i.e. dégradabilité du C) est liée à l'origine des apports

Dynamique dans le prodelta du Rhône et le plateau est très intense:

- Dynamique des particules est essentielle à contraindre pour comprendre le transport et transformation du C, N, P et contaminants
- Reminéralisation du C varie à toutes les fréquences et répond aux évènements intenses

Petits fleuves montrent une grande variabilité et influencent fortement localement



*Besoin d'intégration des observations avec les modèles*  
*Apporter une spatialisation accrue des données et un couplage pélagique-benthique pour le devenir du carbone, nutriments, et contaminants pendant les évènements intenses*

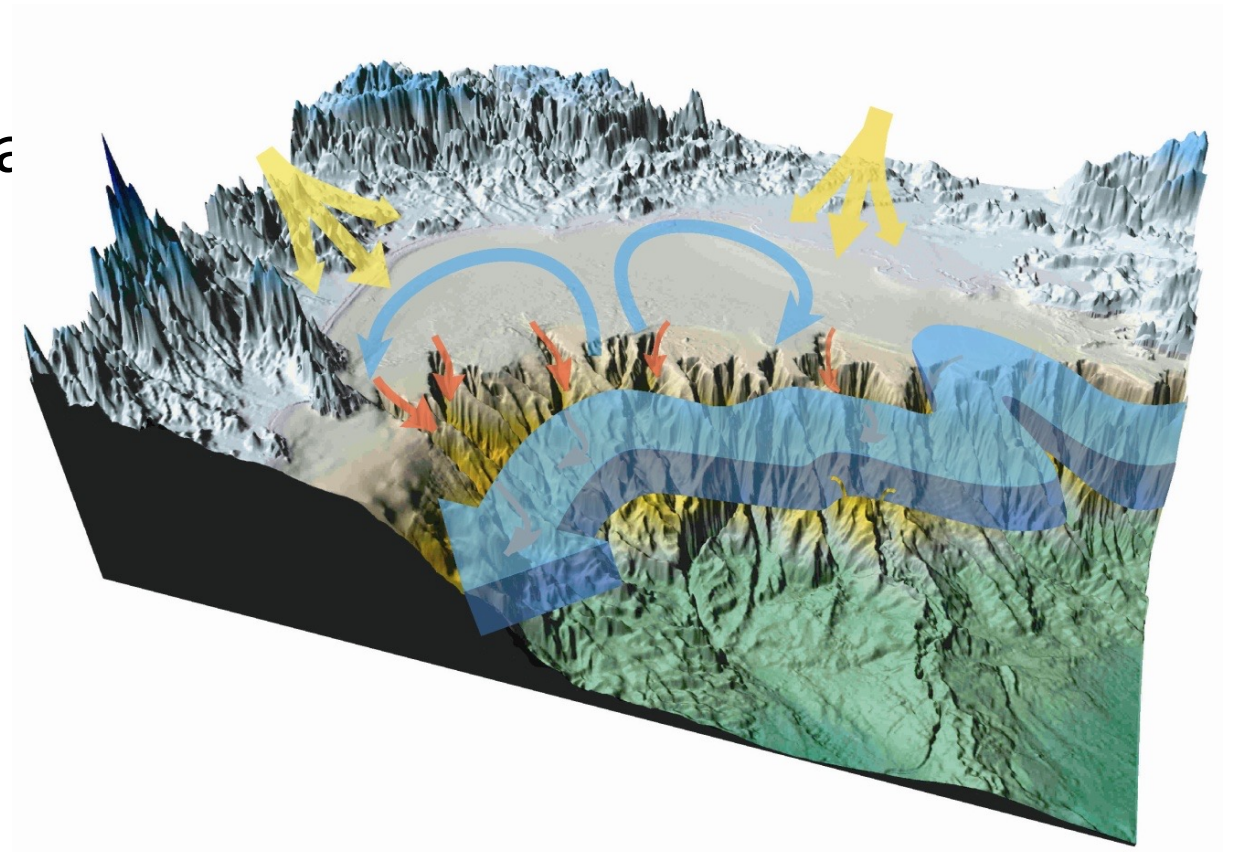
# PPR-RiOMar/WP8: Gulf of Lion – Rhône

WP leaders: François Bourrin , Sabine Charmasson

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## WP8 Objectives

- ▶ increase the **spatial coverage** of in-situ data from existing networks (IR ILICO including COAST-HF, SOMLIT, MOOSE, PHYTOBS, DYNALIT...)
- ▶ impact of **extreme** events (floods, storms, heat waves and dense shelf water cascading) on nutrients, O<sub>2</sub>, pH and in the transfer of **particles** and associated **contaminants** in the land-to-sea continuum
- ▶ document the **benthic-pelagic coupling**



# Task description

- ▶ **Task 8.1: Instrumentation:** mastodon lines/ Glider surveys/ satellite data with focus on 3 areas (off the river mouth, central area)
- ▶ **Task 8.2: Observation of the impact of extreme events** front of the **Rhone River** => benthic station + biweekly short campaigns (water column particle characterization, nutrients and sediment cores)
- ▶ **Task 8.3: a large-scale cruise over the Gulf of Lion** => **Benthic-pelagic coupling + sediment and contaminant accumulation** in the mid-shelf mud belt

