



Consiglio Nazionale delle  
Ricerche - IAMC



Consiglio Nazionale delle  
Ricerche - ISMAR

---

---

# ICHNUSSA13 Cruise Report

15 – 29 October 2013

---

---

Edited by D. Canesso and M. Borghini



Consiglio Nazionale delle  
Ricerche - ISMAR



Consiglio Nazionale delle  
Ricerche - IAMC



Institut Français de  
Recherche pour  
l'Exploitation de la Mer -  
IFREMER



Laboratoire  
d'Océanographie et du  
Climat - LOCEAN



Institut National des  
Sciences et Technologies de  
la Mer - INSTM



Università di Genova



Universitat de Barcelona



Consiglio Nazionale delle  
Ricerche

# Contents

ICHNUSSA13	
Cruise Details	3
Scientific Staff	4
Scientific Objectives	6
Scientific Background	7
Cruise Plan	9
Cruise Maps	10
Cruise Stations	11
Sampling Strategy	14
Onboard Operations	15
Preliminary results	25
Weather conditions	25
Currents from LADCP	26
Currents from VMADCP – WH 300 kHz	40
Currents from VMADCP – OS 75 kHz	43
Hydrology	51
T-S diagrams	71
On board calibration of sensors	80
Mailing list	82

# Cruise Details

<b>NAME</b>	<i>ICHNUSSA13</i>
<b>DATE</b>	<i>15 – 29 October 2013</i>
<b>STUDY AREA</b>	<i>WESTERN IONIAN SEA TYRRHENIAN SEA SARDINIAN SEA/CHANNEL SICILY CHANNEL CORSICA CHANNEL ALGERIAN BASIN</i>
<b>PROJECT RESPONSIBLE</b>	<i>ALBERTO RIBOTTI, CNR-IAMC</i>
<b>HEAD OF MISSION</b>	<i>MIRENO BORGHINI, CNR-ISMAR</i>
<b>CHIEF SCIENTIST</b>	<i>ALBERTO RIBOTTI, CNR-IAMC</i>
<b>PARTICIPANT INSTITUTES</b>	<i>CNR – ISMAR CNR – IAMC IFREMER LOCEAN INSTM UNIVERSITA' DI GENOVA UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA</i>
<b>RESEARCH VESSEL</b>	<i>URANIA</i>
<b>DEPARTURE PORT</b>	<i>MESSINA</i>
<b>ARRIVAL PORT</b>	<i>CAGLIARI</i>

# Scientific Staff

## CNR-ISMAR

Sede di La Spezia  
Forte Santa Tesesa  
19036 Pozzuolo di Lerici  
La Spezia  
tel: +39.0187.978301  
fax: +39.0187.970585

Borghini Mireno      Technician  
Canesso Devis      Researcher  
Suaria Giuseppe      Researcher

Aracri Simona      Researcher

Sede di Venezia  
Arsenale – Tesa 104  
Castello 2737/F  
30122 Venezia

## CNR-IAMC

Sede di Oristano  
Località Sa Mardini  
Torregrande  
09170 Oristano

Ribotti Alberto      Researcher  
Satta Andrea      Technician  
Quattrocchi Giovanni      Researcher  
Pessini Federica      Student  
Riefolo Luigia      Student  
Andreotti Valeria      Student

## IFREMER

Technopolis 40 - 155  
rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau  
92138 Issy-les-Moulineaux  
France  
tel. : +33(0)146482100

Ferron Bruno      Researcher  
Leizour Stéphane      Researcher

## LOCEAN

LOCEAN-UPMC Boîte 100 - 4  
place Jussieu 75252 PARIS Cedex 05  
France

Bouruet-Aubertot Pascale      Researcher

## INSTM

Salammbô : 28  
rue du 2 mars 1934  
Salammbô  
Tunisie  
tel :(+216)71730420  
fax :(+216)71732622

Belgacem Malek      Student

## UNIVERSITA' DI GENOVA

Corso Europa, 26 - 16100 Genova

Misic Cristina      Researcher  
Covazzi Harriague Anabella      Researcher

**UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA**

Pavelló Rosa - Recinte de la Maternitat,  
Travessera de les Corts, 131 - 159,  
08014 Barcelona,  
Espanya

Rumin Caparros Aitor

Researcher

**CNR**

Piazzale Aldo Moro, 7  
00185 Roma

Tognotti Valentina  
Passini Alessandra

Researcher  
Researcher

DRAFT

# Scientific Objectives

This report presents the preliminary results obtained during the ICHNUSSA13 cruise, carried out from 15<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013, on board of the Italian R/V URANIA in the Southern Western Mediterranean Sea and in the Sardinian, Sicily and Corsica Channels.

The sampling plan of the ICHNUSSA2013 proposes the route already covered in previous cruises since 2000 like those MedGOOS, MedCO, MedOC, Bonifacio2011 and ICHNUSSA2012 to acquire data for the activities of Cal / Val of oceanographic forecasting numerical models at different scales. Then the aim is also to study the inter-annual variability of biogeochemical and physical properties of the water masses in crucial areas for understanding the circulation and exchange between basins, in particular the transport of heat and salt in the western Mediterranean. In particular, we want to study the exchange between the western and eastern Mediterranean and the waters recirculating or formed in the Algerian-Provençal basin (like the new deep water in the Gulf of Lions) and along the transect Sardinia-Balearic islands. Then we want to monitor characteristics and distribution of the new western Mediterranean deep water and its possible effects on the general circulation of the Mediterranean.

More in detail, the oceanographic cruise is planned in order to collect an oceanographic dataset in areas of interest (Algerian-Provençal sub-basin, the area between Sardinia-Sicily-Tunisia and along the western Sardinian platform) to:

- i) monitor the physical characteristics of the new deep waters recently formed in the western Mediterranean;
- ii) evaluate the transport of water, salt and heat in the western Mediterranean and analyze whether the inter-annual variability of water mass properties are due to climate change;
- iii) ordinary maintenance of deep water currentmeters chains for the inclusion of the data in a 20 years old CNR dataset;
- iv) initialize, calibrate and validate operational hydrodynamic models at different scales with in situ and satellite data;
- v) quantify turbulence in the western Mediterranean Sea in various environments (flow through straits/constrictions/sills, internal waves, double diffusion, ...) through the VMP-6000 profiler.

# Scientific Background

Oil pollution is a major cause of concern for the health of the marine ecosystem and has a strong impact on the economy. Many scientists and researchers (NRC, 1985; GESAMP, 1990, 1993) agree that the main anthropogenic flows of oil pollution in the marine environment come from land-based sources (refineries, municipal waste, rivers runoff, etc.) and transport activities (tankers). Even if the Mediterranean Sea represents less than 1% of global sea surface, the oil tanker traffic reaches 20% of the total traffic.

Despite a downward trend in the injection of oil spills in the marine environment (GESAMP, 1993) in some regions (including the Mediterranean Sea), some estimates indicate that the annual marine pollution can reach 7.3 million tons (Panov et al., 1988; GESAMP, 1994), without taking into account accidental spills that have already occurred several times in the past. We can remember at least four recent oil tankers incidents such as Exxon Valdez in Alaska in 1989 (40.000 tons), Haven in Liguria in 1991 (10.000 tons), Braer near the Shetland Islands in 1993 (85.000 tons) and Erika in 1999, which contaminated more than 400 km of French Atlantic coast.

The events of the Prestige oil tanker in 2002 and the BP Deepwater Horizon platform in 2010 have largely demonstrated the need of an efficient prediction system for the management of such emergency situations. In the context of European activities on ocean forecasting for oil spill emergency management, the European project **MEDESS - 4MS** (Mediterranean Decision Support System for Marine Safety), is dedicated to the prevention of maritime risks and to the safety enhancement in relation to oil spill pollution in the Mediterranean Sea. This project is financed by ERDF through the MED Programme for the period 2012-2015 and with the participation of the Italian Coast Guard. MEDESS - 4MS will deliver an operational forecast system based on integrated oil spills models for the Mediterranean Sea, connected to the existing monitoring platforms (CSN, AIS). This service will use well-known systems for oil spill modeling, data from the Marine Core Service (MCS) of GMES and oceanographic forecast from national systems. The CNR is participating in this project with two institutions: IAMC of Oristano for the numerical prediction and ISAC Roma for remote sensing.

In the areas affected by ICHNUSSA2013, oceanographic forecasting systems are currently operating at sub - basin and coastal scale for the western Mediterranean Sea and the Strait of Sicily ([www.seaforecast.cnr.it](http://www.seaforecast.cnr.it)). These predictions up to 3-5 days for the state of the sea and the main oceanographic parameters in 3D will be daily used in the different active projects of the section. Therefore one of the goals of ICHNUSSA2013 will be the acquisition of oceanographic data for the activities of calibration/validation (Cal/Val) of numerical prediction systems, as required also in **RITMARE** (SP3-WP4-A6, SP4-WP4-A1, SP5-WP4-A1, SP5-WP4-A2, SP5-WP4-A3, SP5-WP4-A4) as part of the project **PON TESSA** funded by MIUR and the European project FP7 **MyOcean2** (Prototype Operational Continuity for the GMES Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting Service). In particular, this latter project is specifically intended to develop, implement, validate and manage a robust and sustainable component of the Monitoring and Forecasting of the oceans within the GMES MCS.

The data acquired by ICHNUSSA2013 will also be used in combination with those of two experiments with Underwater Deep Glider (up to 1000 m) expected in 2012 and 2013 as an external application of the European project JERICO.

ICHNUSSA2013 will be used for studies on climatology, formation and circulation of new types of deep waters, and it's closely connected with the previous MedGOOS, MedOc, MedCO, MedBio and Ichnussa2012 campaigns in which it was analyzed the zonal trend of hydrodynamic and biogeochemical characteristics of mass of waters in the western and central basin.

This campaign will be conducted in the Algerian-Provencal basin (Sardinia Channel and Sea, Balearic Sea, south-west Tyrrhenian Sea) and in the Strait of Sicily, since previous studies have shown that such areas represent a crucial region for the understanding of exchanges between the various sub-Mediterranean basins (Olita et al., 2011a, 2011b; Menna and Poulain, 2010; Roether et al., 2007; Puillat et al., 2006; Ribotti et al., 2004; Schroeder et al., 2006a, 2006b, 2008). In particular, in the MedGOOS, MedOc, Bonifacio2011 and Ichnussa2012 campaigns, we followed the circulation of new deep waters (Schroeder et al., 2006a, 2006b, 2008) in the western Mediterranean Sea until their appearance into the Tyrrhenian basin during the campaigns Bonifacio2011 and Ichnussa2012.

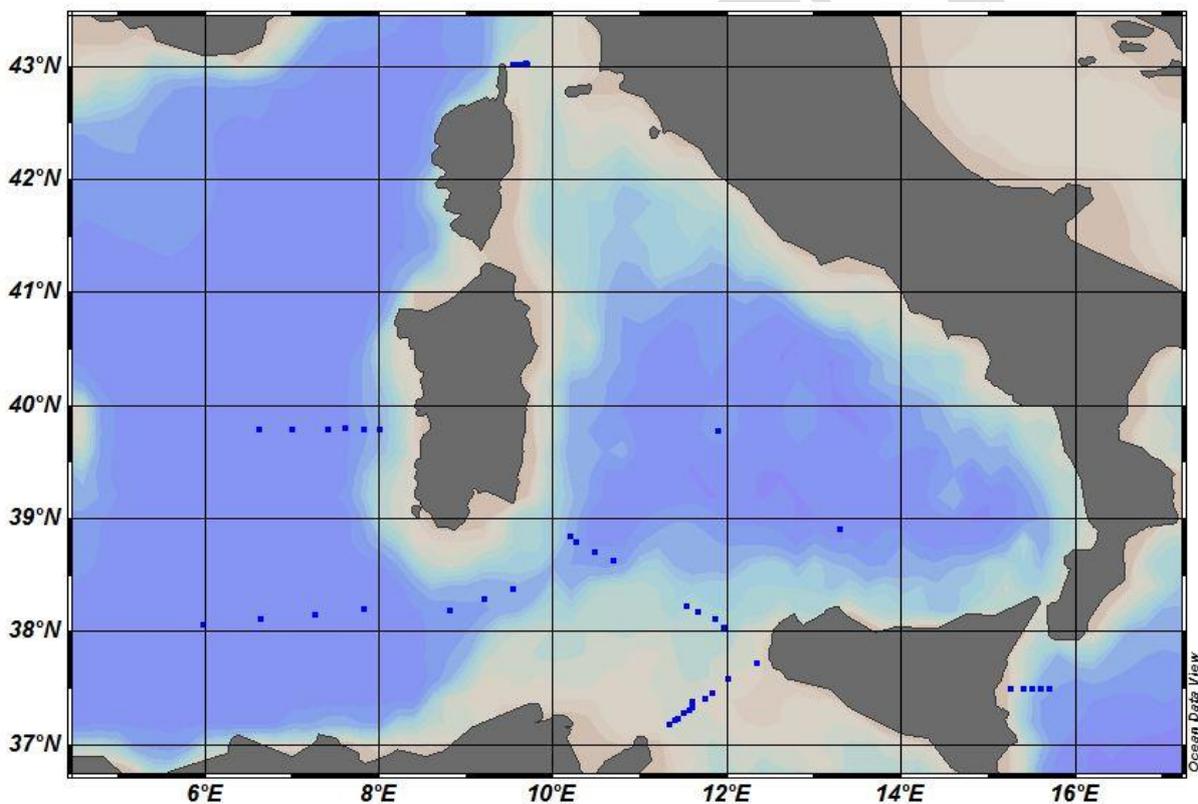


Figure 1. Study area

# Cruise Plan

The following table 1 summarizes the parameters that have been measured and the groups involved in the sampling operations, while table 2 lists the sampling equipment and the methods of analysis.

Parameters	Working Group
CTD/O <sub>2</sub> /Fluorescence/Trasmissometer/Rosette	CNR-ISMAR-IAMC
Salinity	CNR-ISMAR-IAMC
Dissolved Oxygen	CNR-ISMAR-IAMC
Nutrients	CNR-ISMAR-IAMC
Lowered ADCP	CNR-ISMAR
Vessel Mounted ADCP	CNR-ISMAR
Visual surveys of floating object	CNR-ISMAR
Vertical Microprofiler (VMP)	IFREMER and LOCEAN
Autotrophic pigments – POM	Università di Genova
N-Inorganic nutrients	

Table 1. Measured parameters

Instruments	
Small-Volume Sampling	General Oceanics 24-place rosette with 12-liter bottles
CTD System	CTD SBE 911 plus
Salinometer	Portasal Guildline
Dissolved Oxygen	Winkler titration
Nutrients	Samples only, no on board analyses
Fluorimeter	AQU A <sup>traka</sup> MK III
Vessel Mounted ADCP	RDI WH 300 kHz, RDI OS 75 kHz
Lowered ADCP	RDI WH 300 kHz
Autotrophic pigments – POM	Spectrofluorometer Perkin Elmer LS50B, filtration devices, centrifuge
N-Inorganic nutrients	
Microstructure Vertical Profiler	Rockland Scientific VMP-6000

Table 2. Sampling equipment and analysis methods

The cruise was planned to spend 15 days at sea. The geographic boundaries of the survey are 37.0 °N – 43.1 °N latitude and 5.5 °E – 16 °E longitude. The cruise track is shown in figure 4, the station list is shown in table 3.

# Cruise Maps

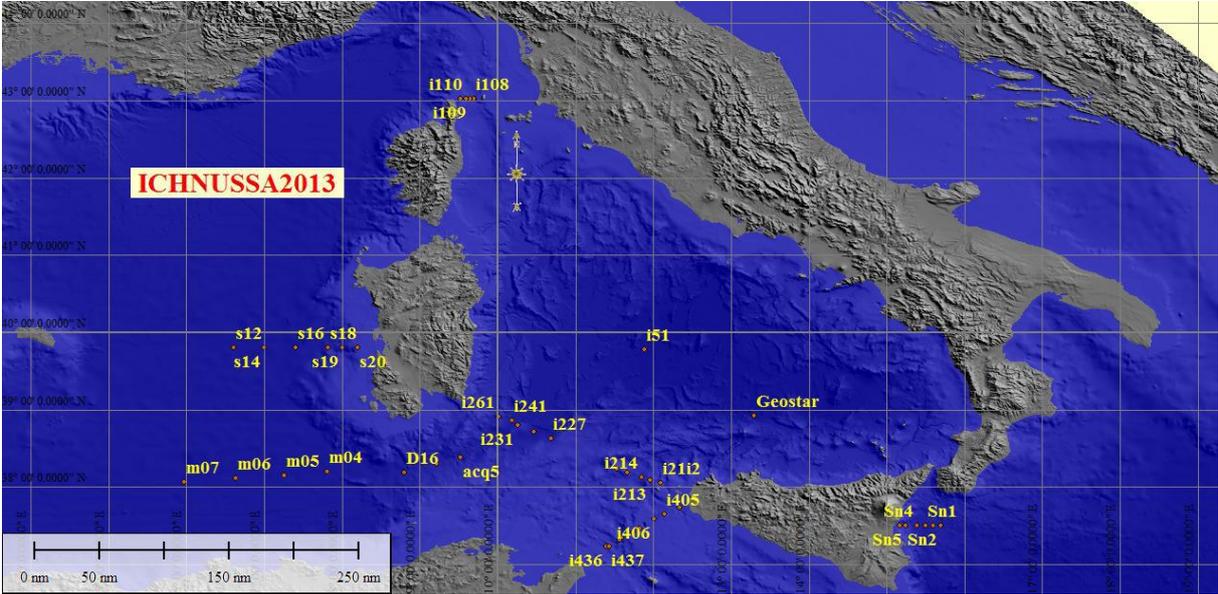


Figure 2. Stations map

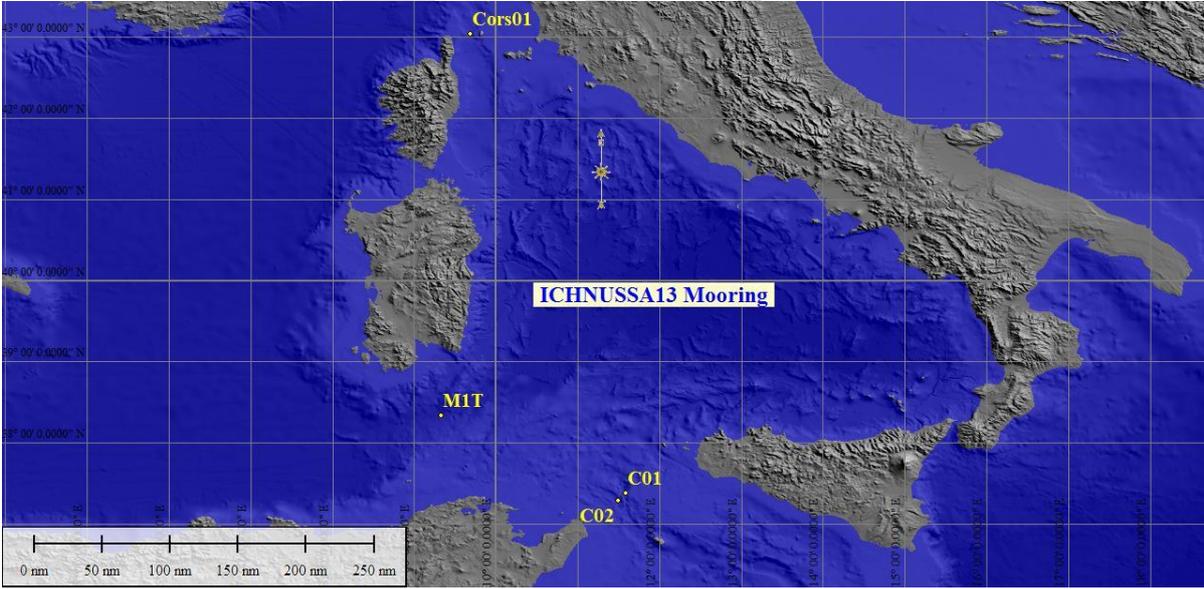


Figure 3. Moorings map

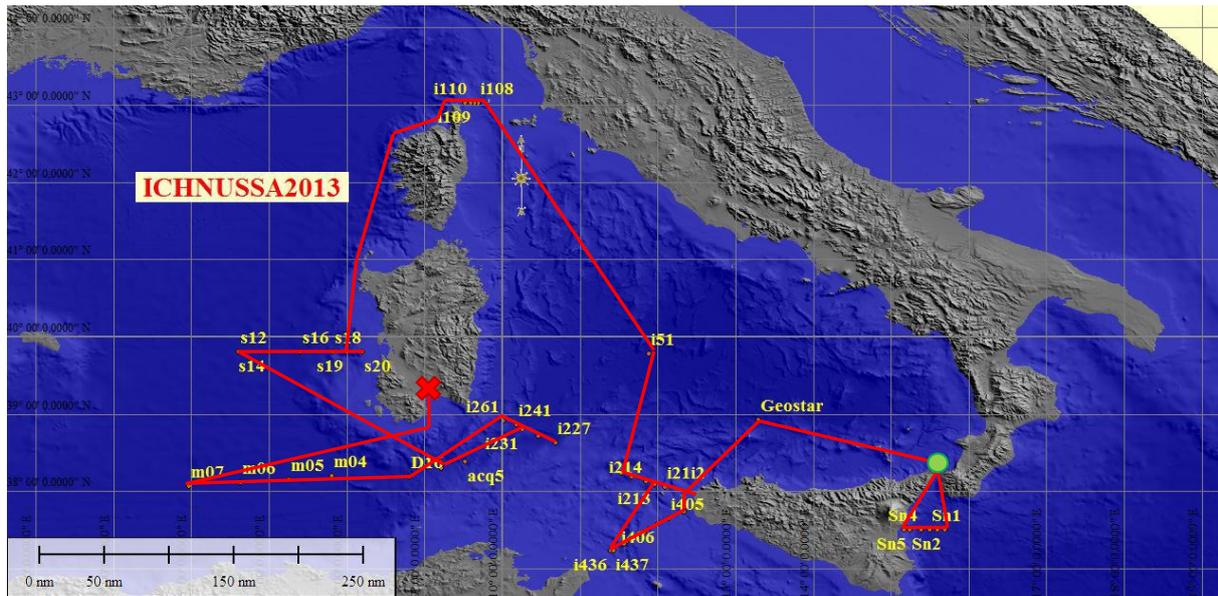


Figure 4. Cruise track

## Cruise Stations

Station	Date	Latitude	Longitude	Bottom Depth	Activity
i108	22/10/2013	43.024167	9.698167	435	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i109	22/10/2013	43.024667	9.643	358	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients VMP
i110	22/10/2013	43.0265	9.598833	221	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i111	22/10/2013	43.026167	9.525167	54	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
cors01	22/10/2013	43.029667	9.6865	440	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients VMP – Mooring recovery and deployment
i212	19/10/2013	38.049167	12.097833	142	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i213	19/10/2013	38.042667	11.962167	465	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients VMP
i214	19/10/2013	38.117167	11.851	1079	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – VMP
i217	19/10/2013	38.181167	11.665833	761	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i218	20/10/2013	38.234667	11.531	222	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i227	25/10/2013	38.632833	10.684167	1563	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – VMP

i231	26/10/2013	38.804833	10.258167	2350	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients VMP
i241	26/10/2013	38.856	10.18417	2541	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Chlo – POM/POC-PN – VMP
i296	26/10/2013	38.7135	10.472167	2493	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – Chlo POM/POC-PN – VMP
i406	19/10/2013	37.587333	12.005833	156	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i410	18/10/2013	37.19	11.330167	296	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i432	19/10/2013	37.729167	12.335667	161	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i434	18/10/2013	37.4155	11.741667	80	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i436	18/10/2013	37.226667	11.396333	408	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i437	18/10/2013	37.234	11.433167	436	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i438	19/10/2013	37.458833	11.829333	64	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i451	18/10/2013	37.34	11.598333	541	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
i462	18/10/2013	37.314	11.563	85	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
c01	18/10/2013	37.384667	11.597333	377	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients VMP – Mooring recovery and deployment
c02	18/10/2013	37.292667	11.495167	520	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients VMP – Mooring recovery and deployment
i51	20/10/2013	39.778333	11.889	3540	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – VMP
m04	27/10/2013	38.201	7.812833	2793	CTD – LADCP Chlo – POM/POC-PN – VMP
m05	27/10/2013	38.15333	7.263	2846	CTD – LADCP – VMP
m06	27/10/2013	38.11617	6.6365	2849	CTD – LADCP Chlo – POM/POC-PN – VMP
m07	27/10/2013	38.06867	5.9685	2845	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – Chlo POM/POC-PN – VMP
s12	24/10/2013	39.799	6.610333	2891	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – Chlo POM/POC-PN – VMP
s14	24/10/2013	39.800667	7	2886	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – Chlo VMP
s16	24/10/2013	39.799833	7.399667	2808	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients Chlo – VMP
s17	24/10/2013	39.803	7.601333	2318	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – Chlo VMP

s18	24/10/2013	39.800667	7.8195	1638	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients Chlo – POM/POC-PN – VMP
s19	24/10/2013	39.799667	8	897	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients VMP
s20	23/10/2013	39.799167	8.200667	103	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
d16	26/10/2013	38.19171	8.8	2247	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – Chlo POM/POC-PN – VMP
acq3	25/10/2013	38.2995	9.211167	2055	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients VMP
acq5	25/10/2013	38.379667	9.527833	2028	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – Chlo POM/POC-PN – VMP
sn1	16/10/2013	37.498333	15.496667	2007	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – VMP
sn2	15/10/2013	37.501167	15.7	2272	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen
sn3	16/10/2013	37.5	15.60033	2068	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
sn4	16/10/2013	37.49917	15.38933	2076	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
sn5	16/10/2013	37.5	15.248	1115	CTD – LADCP – Nutrients
geostar	17/10/2013	38.916167	13.296833	3511	CTD – LADCP – Salinity Nutrients – Oxygen – VMP
m1t	25/10/2013	38.33283	9.33383	1885	Mooring recovery

Table 3. Station list

# Sampling Strategy

The stations have been chosen on historical basis and depending on the needs of the cruise. CTD, LADCP and fluorescence measurements were performed. The hydrological characteristics of the study area have been determined by CTD cast. Sample bottles have been taken in order to determine dissolved oxygen, carbon dioxide, salinity and nutrients, in stations shallower than 500 meters just nutrients were analyzed. In order to achieve information about the spatial variability of this parameters, a high-resolution sampling has been applied at standard depths as we can see in table 4. For a better sampling of the biological and chemical parameters, extra sampling depths were defined in the water column by analyzing the CTD profile during the acquisition.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Standard depths (m)</b>
1	0
2	25
3	50
4	75
5	100
6	200
7	300
8	400
9	500
10	750
11	1000
12	1250
13	1500
14	1750
15	2000
16	2500
17	3000
18	3250
19	3500

Table 4. Standard depths

# Onboard Operations

## CTD Casts



At every station, pressure (P), salinity (S), potential temperature ( $\theta$ ) dissolved oxygen concentration (DO) and fluorescence were measured with a CTD-rosette system consisting of a CTD SBE 911 plus, and a General Oceanics rosette with 24 Niskin Bottles (12 liters each).

Temperature measurements were performed with a SBE-3/F thermometer, with a resolution of 0.00015 °C/bit at -1 °C or 0.00018 °C/bit at 31 °C, and conductivity measurements were performed with a SBE-4C sensor, with a resolution of  $3 \times 10^{-4}$  S/m. Dissolved oxygen was measured with a SBE-43 sensor (resolution 4.3  $\mu$ M). The vertical profiles of all parameters were obtained by sampling the signals at 24 Hz, with the CTD/rosette going down at a speed of 1 m/s. The data were processed on board, and the coarse errors were corrected.

The rosette is equipped with a sonar altimeter which intercept the bottom 100-70 meters before getting to it. The altimeter is

used just for safety, to avoid the rosette to touch the bottom.

*Laboratory: CNR-ISMAR*

## Oxygen and salinity determination

Salinity samples were collected, stored and analyzed with a Guildline Portasal Salinometer. IAPSO standards were measured to standardize the salinometer.

Dissolved oxygen samples were collected and analyzed using a computer controlled potentiometric end-point titration procedure. Samples are first taken from the sampling bottle with the recommended precautions to prevent any biological activity and gas exchange with the atmosphere and “fixed” immediately after collection, adding manganese (II) and alkaline iodide with semi-automatic dispensers. The bottles are shaken vigorously for about 1 minute to bring each oxygen molecule in contact with the reagents. After fixation the precipitate is allowed to settle down. The samples are stored for a few hours in the dark, avoiding any change of temperature. Before titration the precipitated hydroxides are dissolved with sulfuric acid and the titration is carried out with a standardized thiosulfate solution using a Dosimat Methrom.



*Laboratory: CNR-ISMAR*

---

## LADCP

---

Two Lowered Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (LADCP) were used to measure velocity profiles. We used two RDI Workhorse 300 kHz ADCP. For data post-processing we used the LDEO LADCP (version 10.16) software.

*Laboratory: CNR-ISMAR*

---

## Inorganic Nutrients

---

Seawater samples for nutrient measurements were collected at different depths, when the system CTD/rosette was going up, according to the vertical profiles of salinity, potential temperature and dissolved oxygen, recorded in real time. No filtration was employed, nutrient samples were stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  and nitrate, orthosilicate and orthophosphate concentrations will be determined later in the laboratory, using a hybrid Brän-Luebbe AutoAnalyzer following classical methods (Grasshoff et al., 1983) with slight modifications.

*Laboratory: CNR-ISMAR in collaboration with ENEA*

---

## Vessel-mounted ADCPs

---

The hydrographic data set has been integrated with direct current measurements. During the whole campaign two VM-ADCPs (RDI Ocean Surveyor, 75 KHz, and RDI Workhorse, 300 KHz) which operated during the whole campaign, along the whole ship track. The depth range of the two current profilers is about 700 m (OS75) and 150 m (WH300). Data acquisition is carried out using the RDI VMDAS software vers. 1.44. The ADCP data will be submitted to a post-processing with the CODAS3 Software System, which allows to extract data, assign coordinates, edit and correct velocity data. Data will be corrected for errors in the value of sound velocity in water, and misalignment of the instrument with respect to the axis of the ship.

*Laboratory: CNR-ISMAR*

---

## Visual surveys of floating objects

---



Visual surveys of floating objects have been conducted during regular navigation of the ship between stations in order to give an estimate of the abundance and distribution of floating marine litter on the surface of the Mediterranean sea.

An observer standing on the bearing deck of the vessel surveyed the sea surface from the starboard side of the track-line and recorded GPS position, distance, size and type of all floating objects sighted within a 50 m perpendicular distance from the ship. During the cruise 23 hours of visual observation have been conducted, covering an approximate survey length of 435.5 km. In total 132 floating objects have been sighted. Based on

the number of items counted and the area surveyed (transect width multiplied with transect length), counts of litter at sea will be subsequently used to provide estimates of abundance (numbers of floating items per km<sup>2</sup>) following the standardized fixed-width strip transect method.

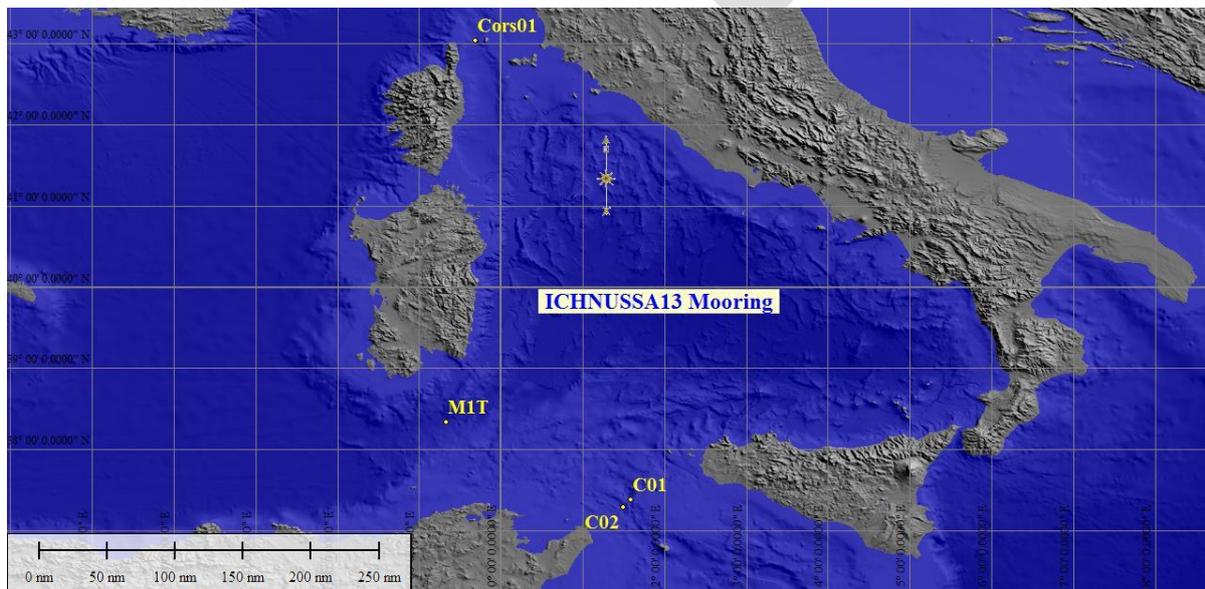
*Laboratory: CNR-ISMAR*

## Recovery and deployment of moorings

During the cruise four moorings were recovered and three of them were deployed again in their original position. The 18<sup>th</sup> October we recovered the two moorings in the Sicily Channel: C01 (37.38282 °N, 11.49912 °E) and C02 (37.28600 °N, 11.49912 °E). After maintenance operations they were replaced on 19<sup>th</sup> October. In the C01 mooring we added a new sediment trap owned by the University of Barcelona.

The 22<sup>th</sup> October we recovered and replaced the Cors01 mooring in the Corsica Channel (43.02978 °N, 9.68525 °E). In this case we removed from the currentmeter chain the NGK WINCH deployed on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

The 25<sup>th</sup> October a Tunisian mooring (M1T, 38.33283 °N, 9.33383 °E) was successfully recovered in the Sardinian Channel after more than two years from deployment.



# C01 Mooring October 2013

Lat 37°22.789' Long 011°35.508'

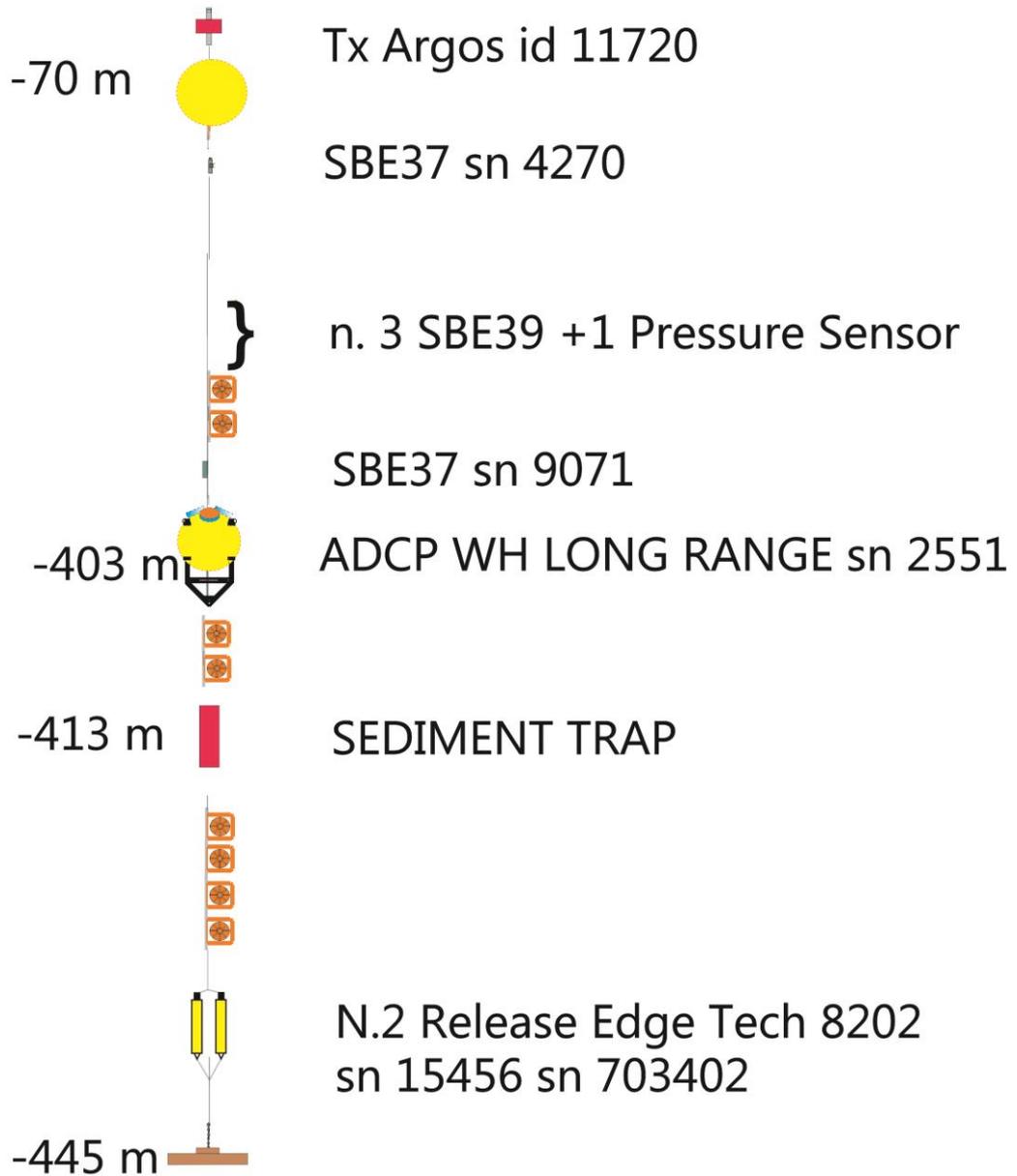


Figure 5. C01 mooring

# C02 Mooring October 2013

Lat 37°17.151' Long 011°29.966'

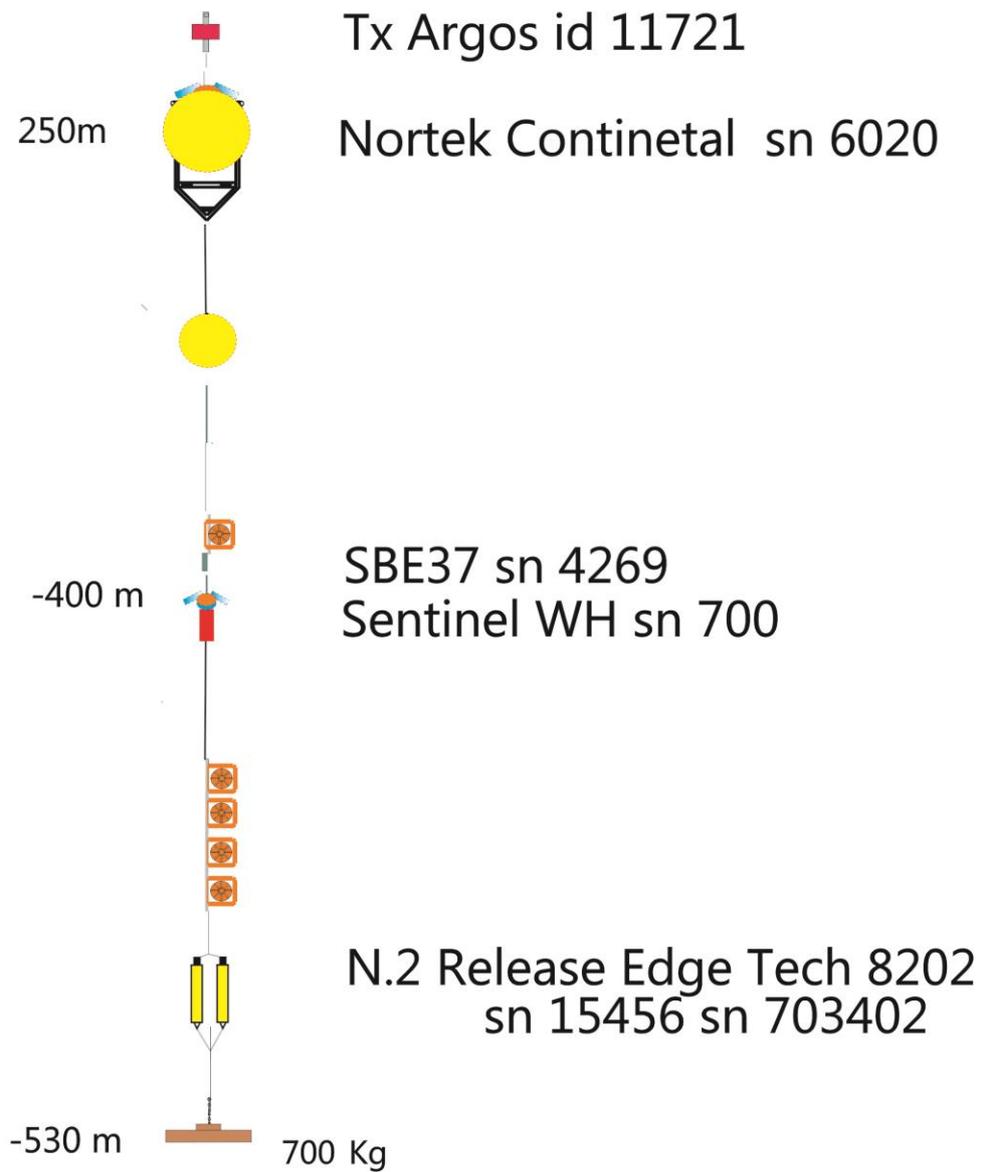


Figure 6. C02 mooring

## Corsica Channel Mooring October 2013

Lat 43°01.775' Long 009°41.138'

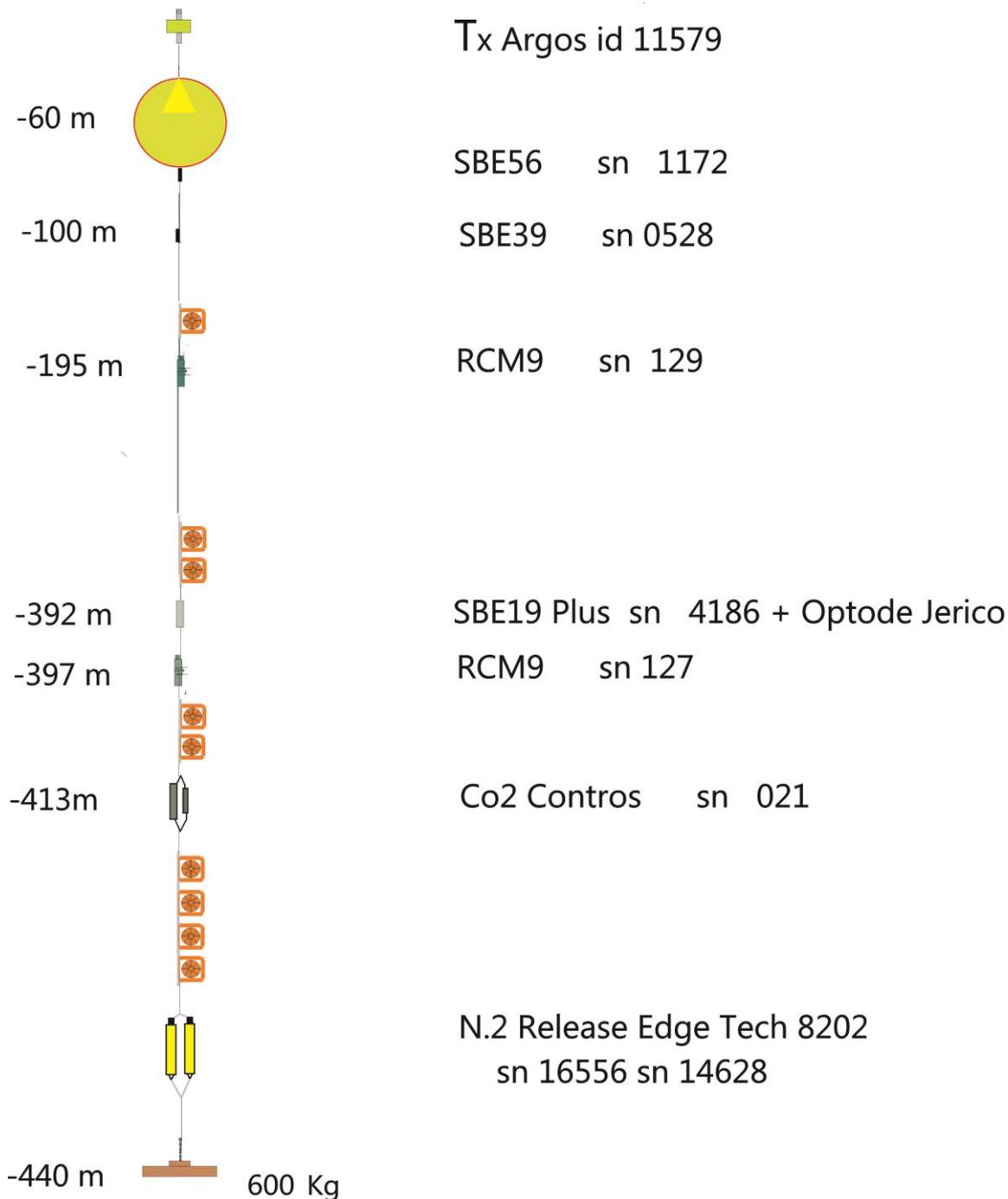


Figure 7. Cors01 mooring

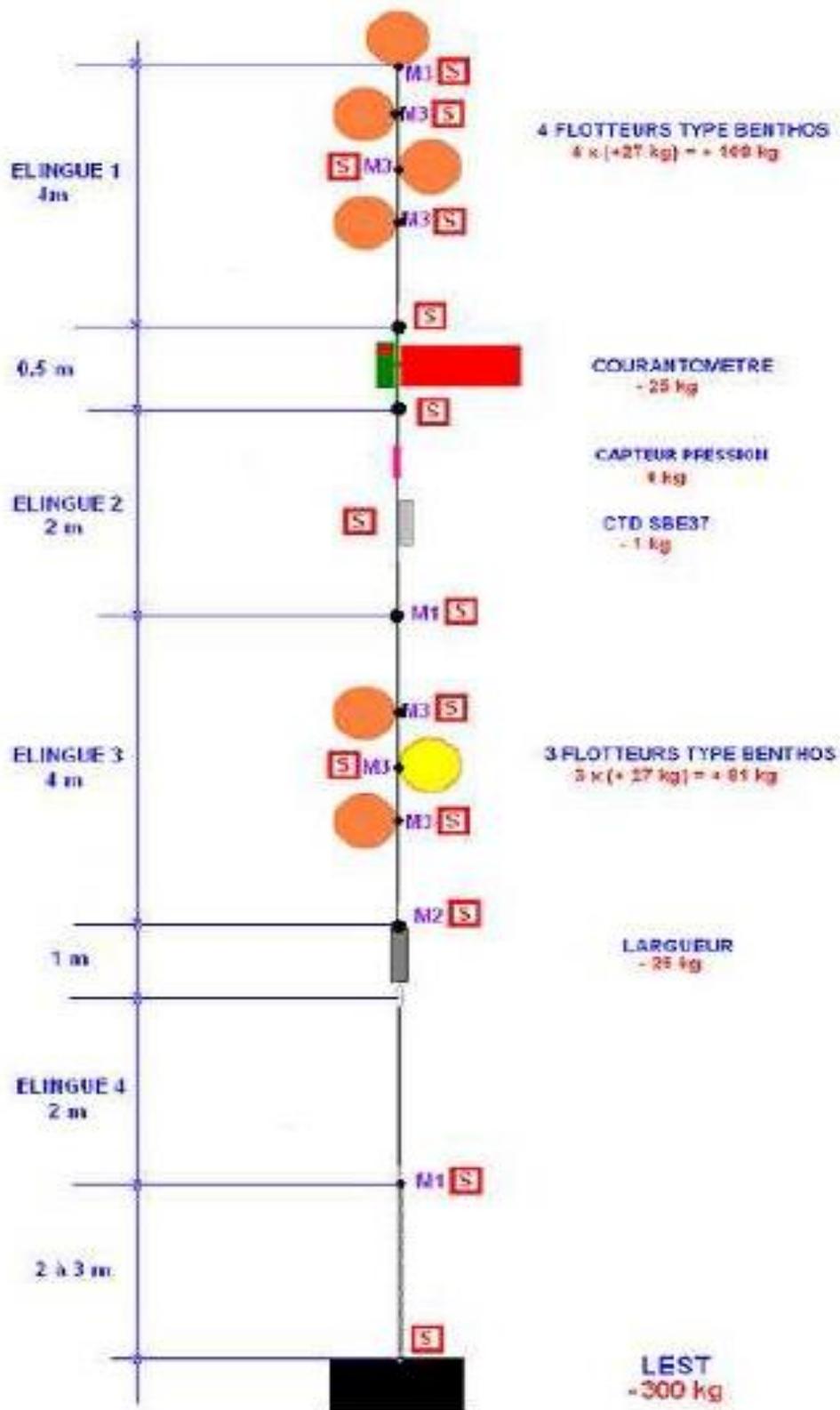


Figure 8. M1T mooring

## Vertical microprofiler measurements (VMP)

The VMP-6000 by Rockland Scientific is a full ocean depth profiling system, for measurements of turbulence. This kind of measures are very important in this moment in the Mediterranean since in the 2004-2006 CTD records showed a stair case trend.



The Vertical Microstructure Profiler is an autonomous profiler that measures some parameters of the small scale turbulence during its downcast profile. It is equipped with two shear sensors (SPM-38), two micro-temperature sensor (FPO7), one micro-conductivity sensor (SBE-7), three accelerometers, one compass, one Seabird CTD (SBE3F, SBE4C without pump). The high frequency sampling at 512 Hz gives access to centimeter scale fluctuations of the horizontal velocity, temperature and conductivity, thereby resolving partially scales at which dissipation is efficient. Two steel weights are added and are dropped at a prescribed pressure during the downcast. Once dropped, the VMP comes back to the surface thanks to its positive buoyancy. At the surface, the VMP is located with a radio beacon, an Argos beacon, and a strobe light at night.

A total of 26 VMP profiles were gathered during the cruise (see table 5 below). During this cruise, the VMP6000 worked nominally except for a failure of the release at station 3 in the Sicilian Strait.

From station 1 to 14, two brushes were used to slow the VMP down to 0.55 m/s (appropriate where staircases are present like in station d51 for instance). They were removed after VMP station 13 for ship time cost; VMP downcast velocity increased then to ~0.85 m/s. (VMP cast costs ~45 minutes more than CTD cast when depth is about 2800 m with two brushes but 0.55 m/s is OK for depth shallower than ~1000 m to be synchronous with the end of a CTD).

VMP 6000 station # position	CTD station #	Depth (m)	Deployment Date Time (TU)	Comments
<b>1</b> 37°30.000'N 15°29.933'E	Sn1	1980	16/10 08:01	In front of Catania Pb w/ sbt: no variation at sea. Cable cleaning.
<b>2</b> 38°54.800'N 13°18.460'E	Geostar	3450	17/10 15:54	Galvanic release broke. Last 800 m missing.
<b>3</b> 37°22.973'N 11°35.521'E	Co1 mooring	456	18/10 08:18	Corsice channel mooring. Unexplained - mechanical failure of the release. Release mechanism changed. VMP grounded for 2.5'.
<b>4</b> 37°17.162'N 11°29.948'E	Co2 mooring	530	18/10 16:32	μT2 noisy at high frequency but correct at low frequency

<b>5</b> 38°02.300'N 11°57.827'E	213	412	19/10 19:21	North of Marretimo
<b>6</b> 38°07.230'N 11°50.840'E	214	1150	19/10 20:40	North of Marretimo
<b>7</b> 39°46.850'N 11°53.010'E	d51	3485	21/10 20:40	Tyrrhenian Sea
<b>8</b> 43°01.804'N 09°41.072'E	Corso1 mooring	440	22/10 07:24	Middle of Corsica Channel 25 knots SE winds rough sea
<b>9</b> 43° 01.630'N 09°38.508'E	i109	364	22/10 09:18	West side of Corsica channel 25 knots SE winds rough sea
<b>10</b> 39°48.193'N 08°00.260'E	s19	850	23/10 23:42	West of Sardegna μT2 changed for this and coming profiles
<b>11</b> 39°48.294'N 07°49.502'E	s18	1570	24/10 02:04	West of Sardegna 12 knots winds
<b>12</b> 39°48.350'N 07°36.460'E	s17	2290	24/10 04:58	West of Sardegna
<b>13</b> 39°48.178'N 07°23.997'E	s16	2758	24/10 08:15	West of Sardegna
<b>14</b> 39°48.347'N 07°00.022'E	s14	2848	24/10 13:17	West of Sardegna No more brushes for this and coming profiles
<b>15</b> 39°48.029'N 06°36.984'E	s12	2851	24/10 17:09	West of Sardegna
<b>16</b> 38°18.104'N 09°12.874'E	acq3	2028	25/10 12:35	Sardegna passage μT1 changed for this and coming profiles
<b>17</b> 38°22.784'N 09°31.283'E	acq5	2010	25/10 16:00	Sardegna passage
<b>18</b> 38°37.984'N 10°40.791'E	227	1600	25/10 23:56	SE Sardegna transect
<b>19</b> 38°43.003'N 10°27.935'E	296	2460	26/10 02:44	SE Sardegna transect
<b>20</b> 38°48.477'N 10°15.805'E	231	2310	26/10 06:11	SE Sardegna transect

<b>21</b> 38°51.624'N 10°10.849'E	241	2522	26/10 08:26	SE Sardegna transect Exit of Sardegna passage
<b>22</b> 38°11.534'N 08°47.521'E	D16	2261	26/10 17:46	Entrance of Sardegna passage
<b>23</b> 38°12.211'N 07°48.455'E	m04	2795	27/10 00:27	Toward Algerian Sea
<b>24</b> 38°09.246'N 07°15.334'E	m05	2845	27/10 5:37 TU	Toward Algerian Sea
<b>25</b> 38°07.096'N 06°38.104'E	m06	2850	27/10 10:33 TU	Toward Algerian Sea
<b>26</b> 38°04.130'N 05°58.160'E	m07	2850	27/10 15:50 TU	Toward Algerian Sea

## Chlorophyll-a, phaeopigments, POC-PN

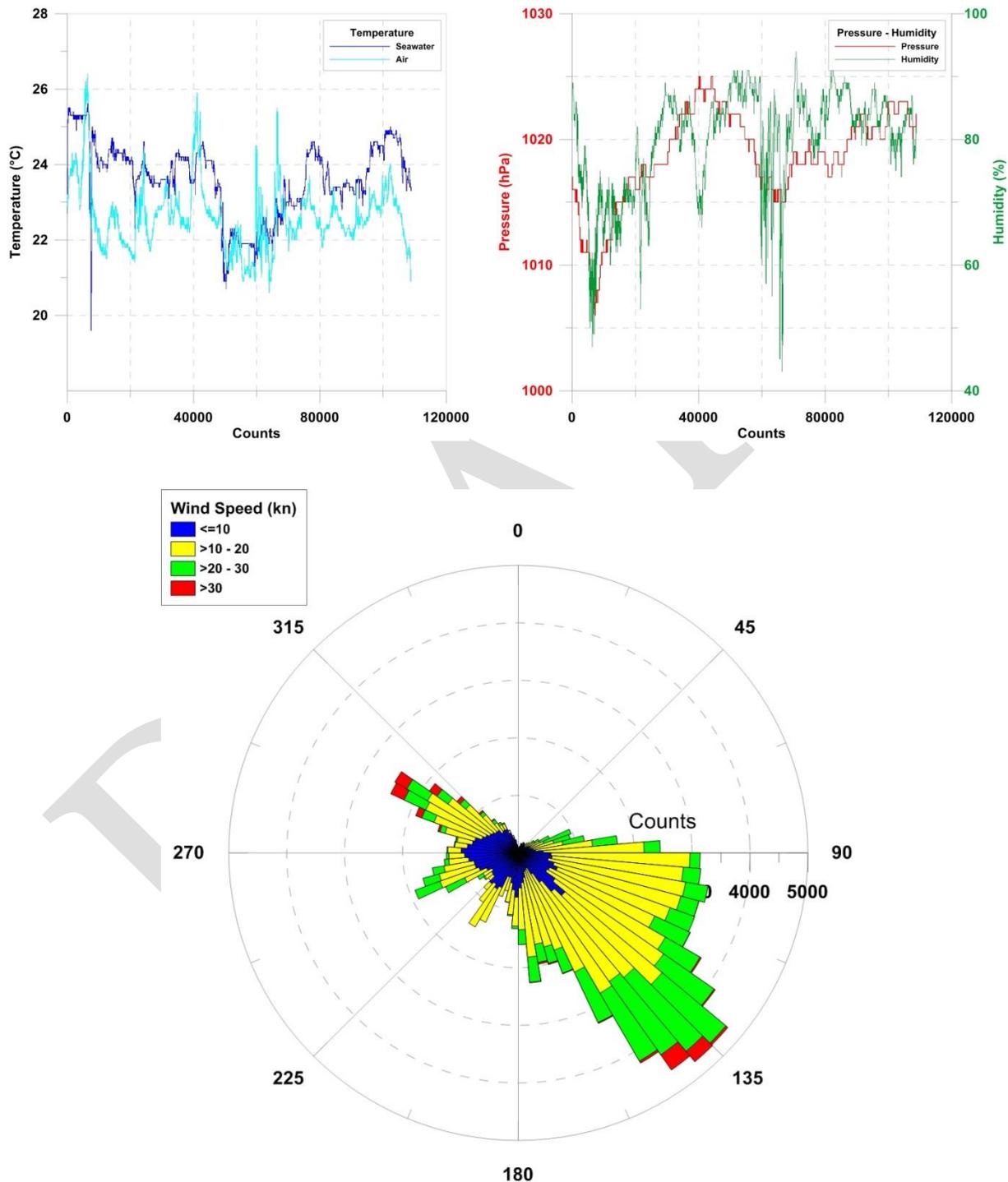
The organic matter recycling processes, their quantitative features as well as the functional aspects, may give clues on the open-sea ecological properties and pathways. In order to investigate some aspects of the western Mediterranean, also related to the presence of new hydrological features, 12 stations were sampled.

- In the stations s18, s12, Acq5, 296, 241, D16, m4 and m6 seawater was collected at 6 to 7 depths: oxygen maximum, deep chlorophyll maximum, the lower limit of the surface water layer (ca. 200 m) where the fluorescence signal disappears, the LIW core (ca. 400 m), the bottom water layer and 1 to 2 intermediate depths, depending on the station depth and on the presence of peculiar hydrological features. These samples were pre-processed for the determination of the autotrophic pigments (chlorophyll-a and phaeopigments, the analysis was carried out entirely on board), for the particulate organic matter (POC) and particulate nitrogen (PN), for the total and hydrolysable protein concentrations. Samples for heterotrophic bacterial counts and, hopefully, for the dissolved chromophoric organic matter and proteolytic activity were also collected. Samples for the measurement of the nitrite+nitrate concentrations were collected at every depth, in order to focus the study on the nitrogen cycle features.
- At station m7 seawater was collected at 14 depths, sampling for the autotrophic pigments and the POC-PN evaluation.
- At stations s17, s16 and s14 only the pigments were considered, in the 0-200 m depth water layer (6 depths), in order to provide a picture of the chlorophyll-a distribution in the whole s-transect.



# Preliminary Results

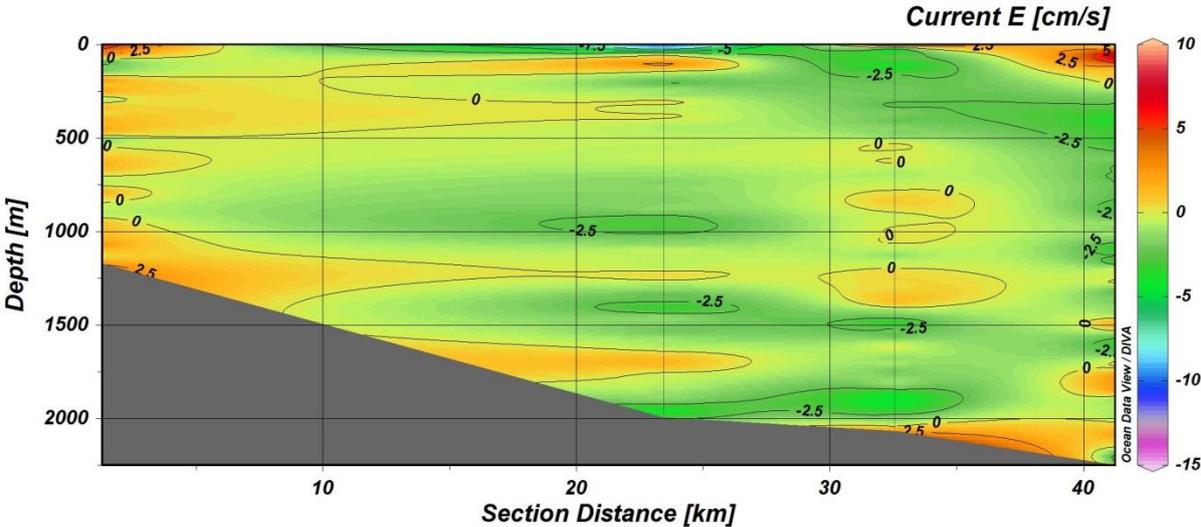
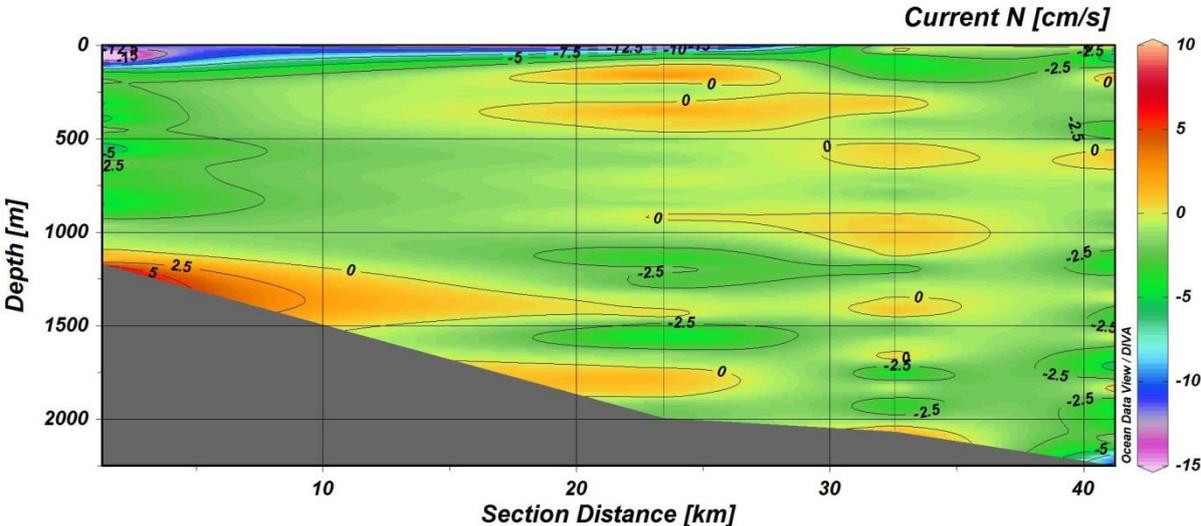
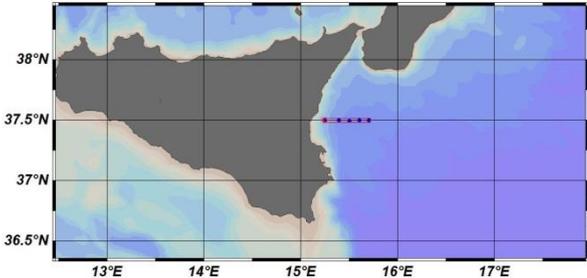
## Weather conditions

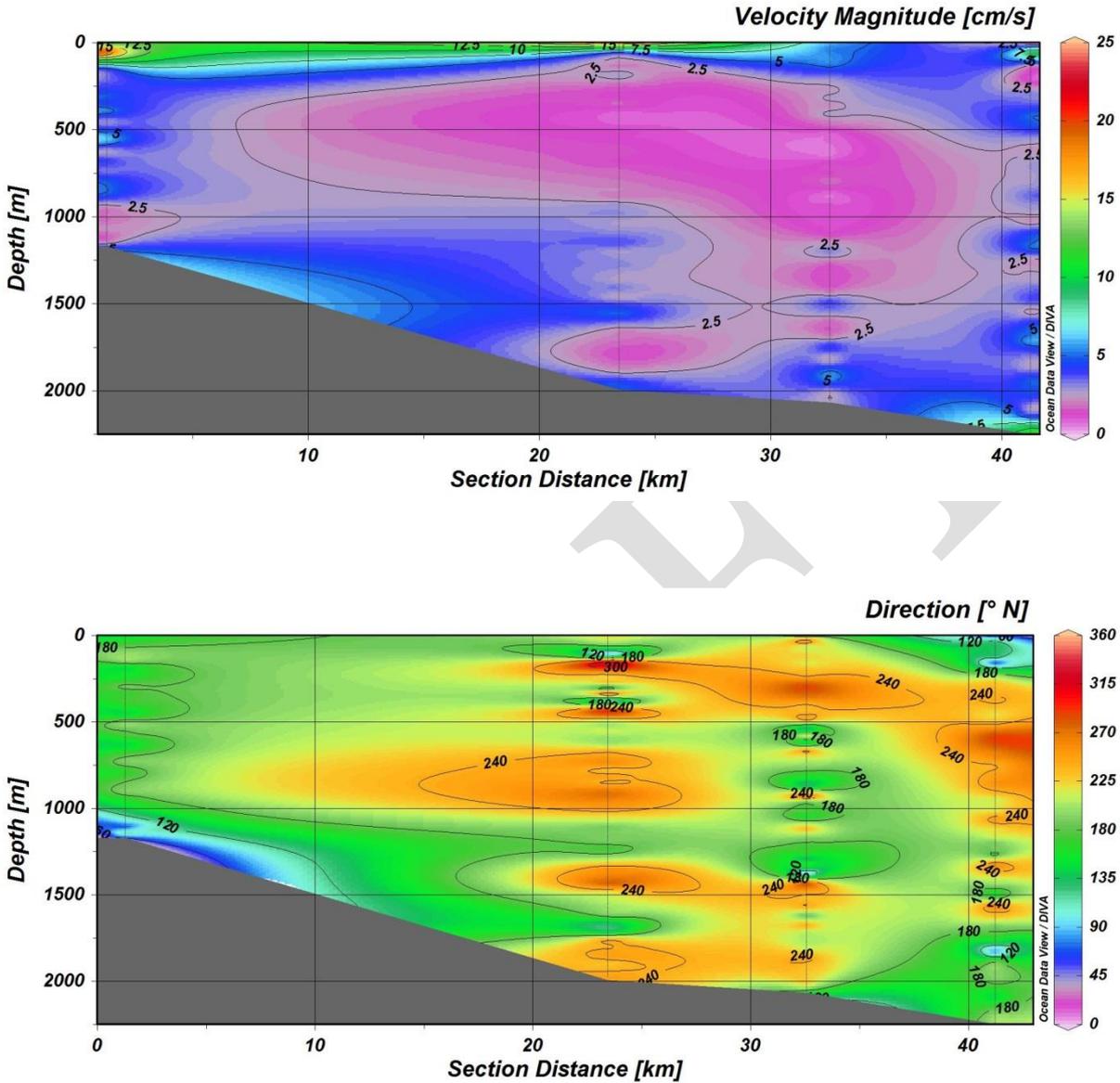


Evolution of the weather conditions between 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013 (air temperature, seawater temperature, relative humidity, air pressure, wind rose)

# Currents from LADCP

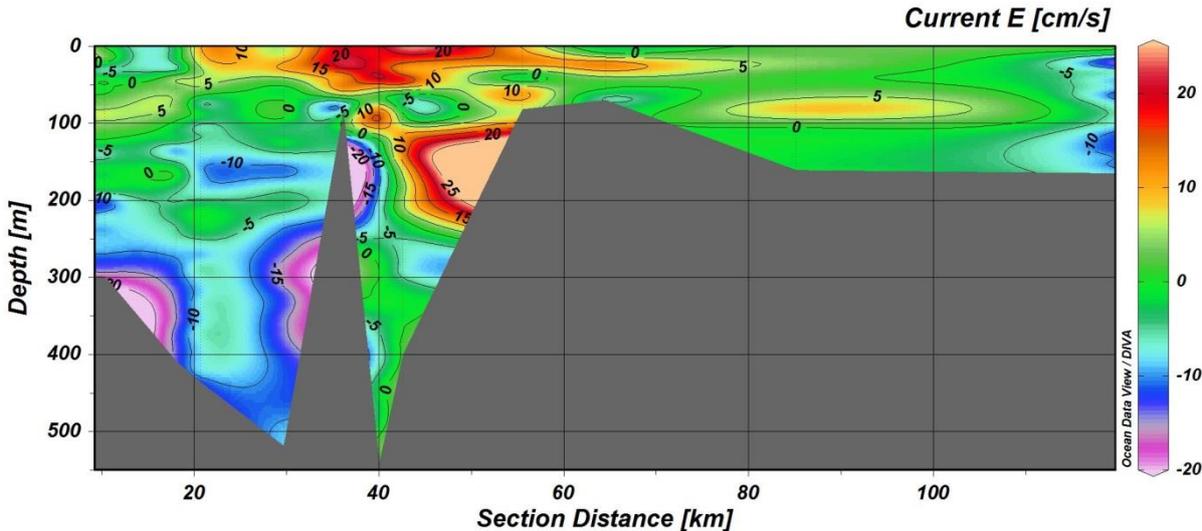
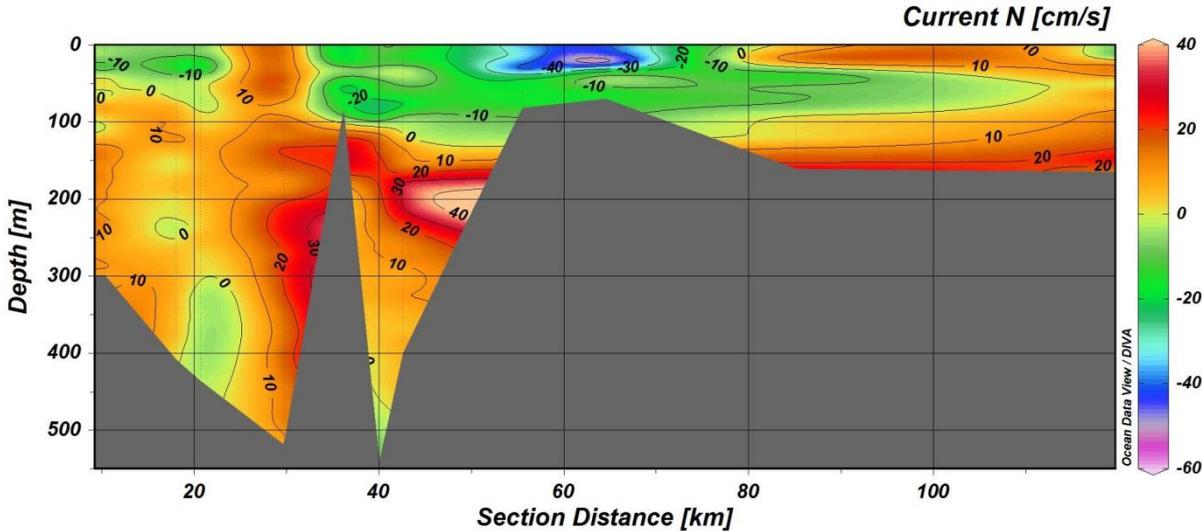
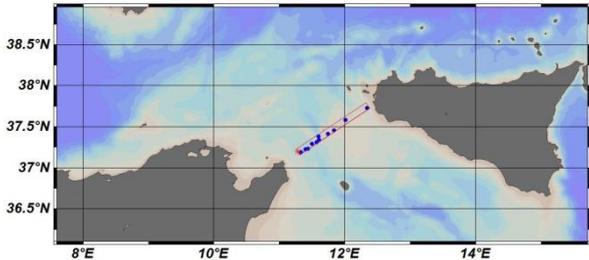
## South-Est Sicily transect

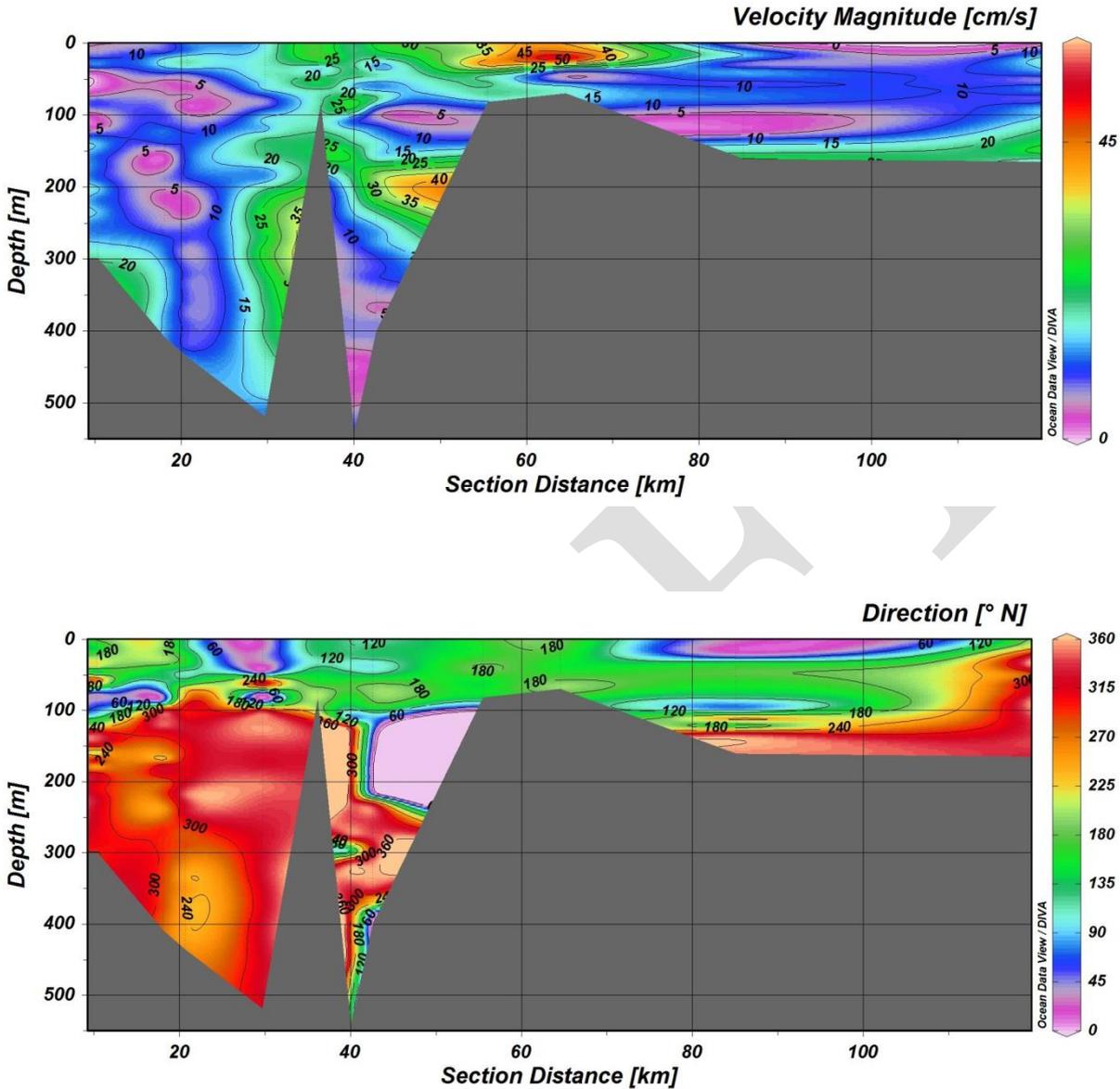




Distribution of the measured velocity in cm/s along the transect: N component (positive values are northward), E component (positive values are eastward), velocity magnitude, direction (clockwise from the north).

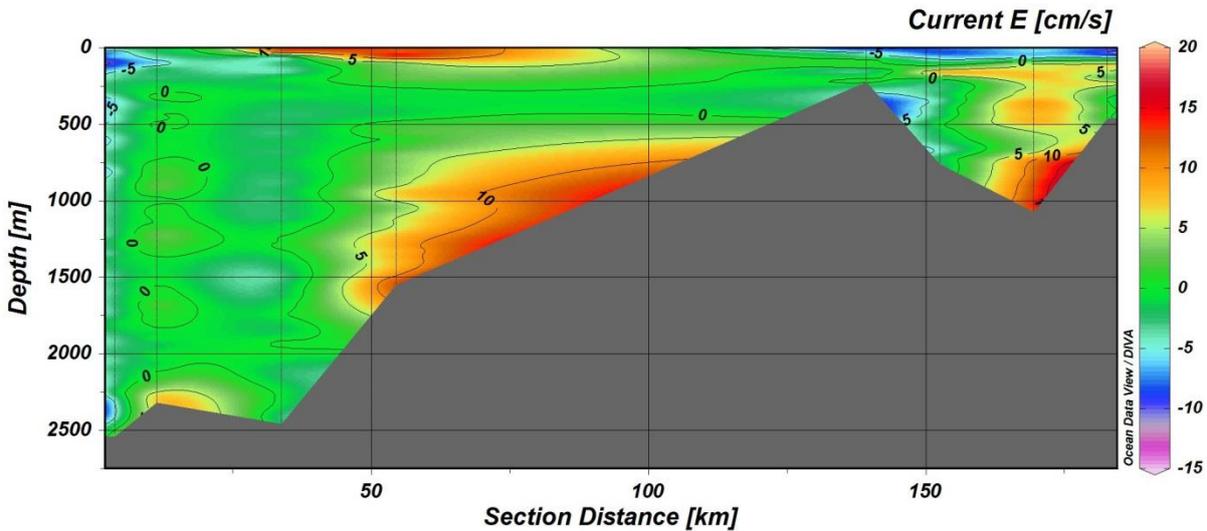
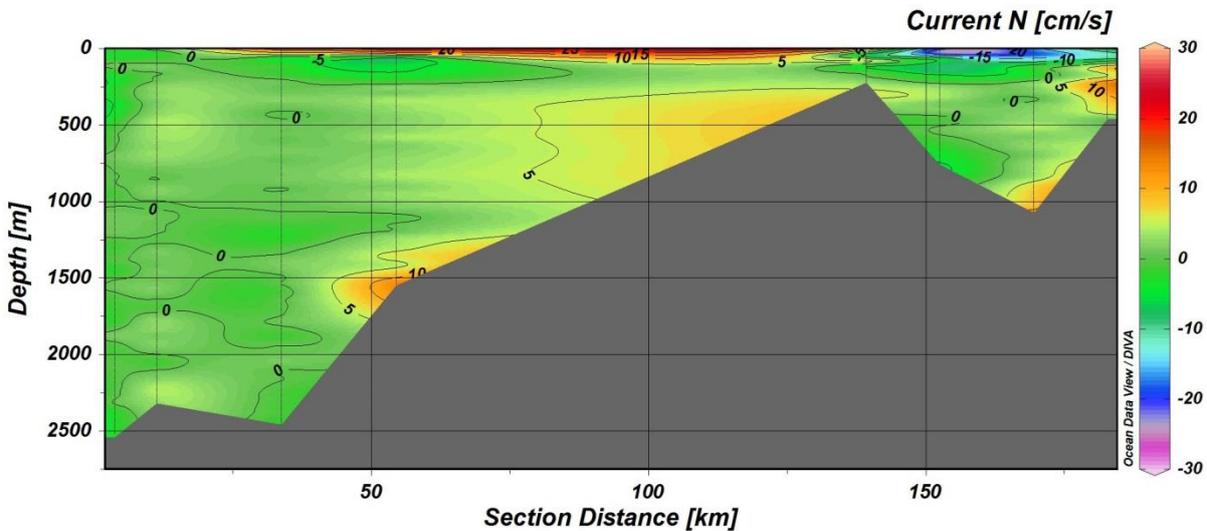
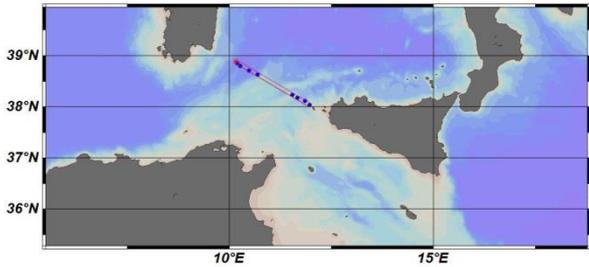
### Sicily Strait transect

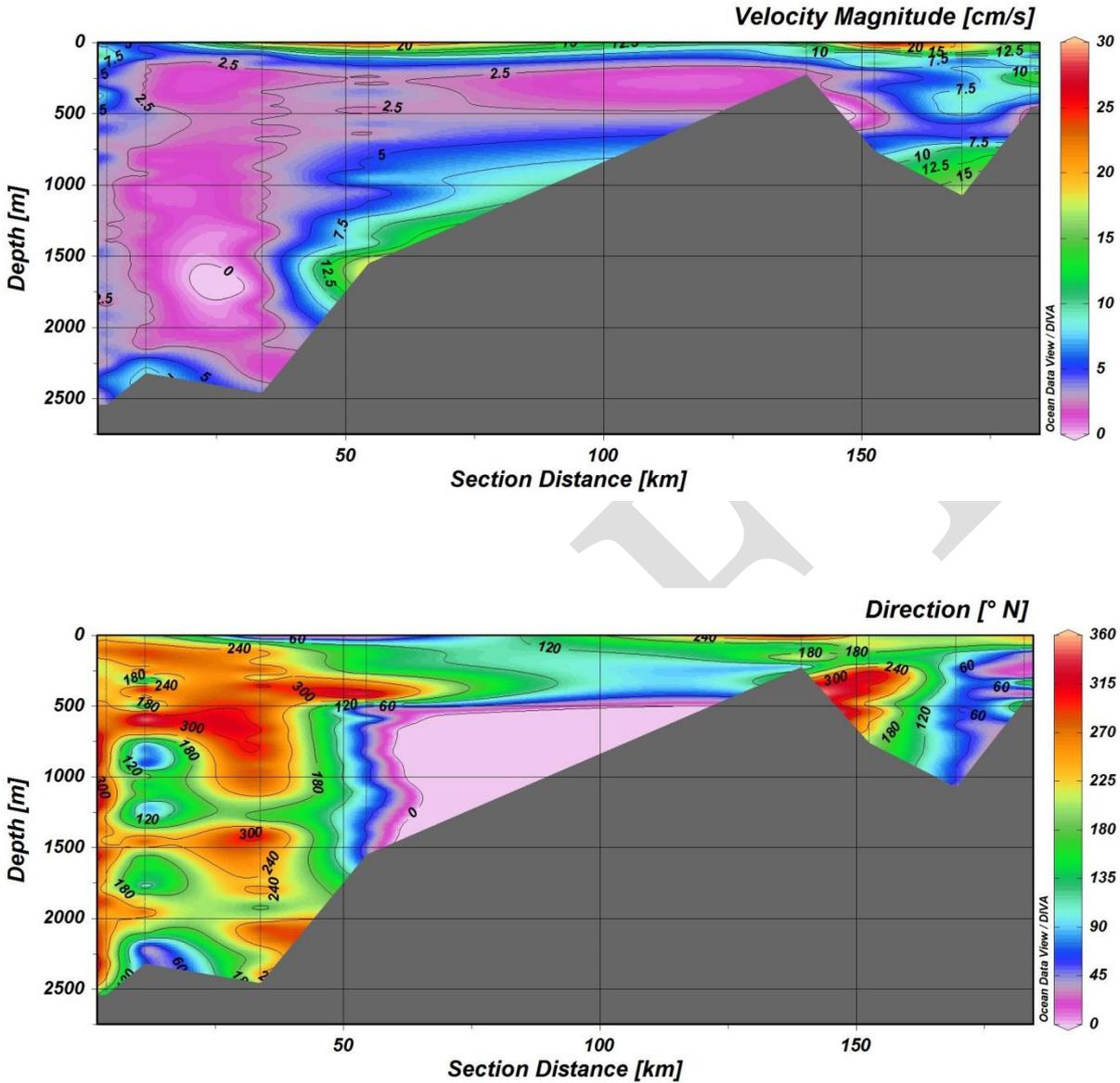




Distribution of the measured velocity in cm/s along the transect: N component (positive values are northward), E component (positive values are eastward), velocity magnitude, direction (clockwise from the north).

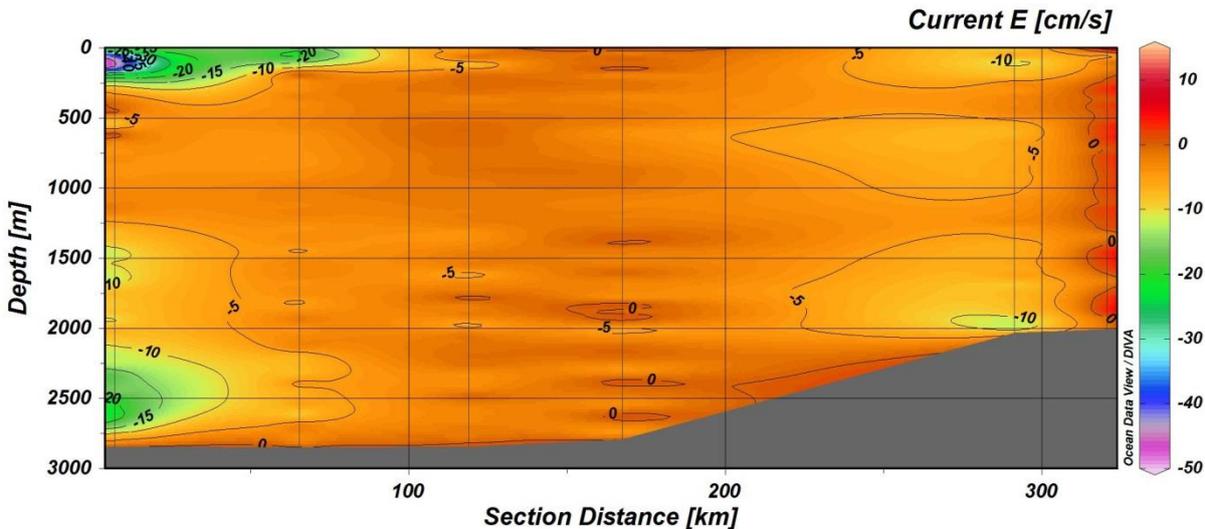
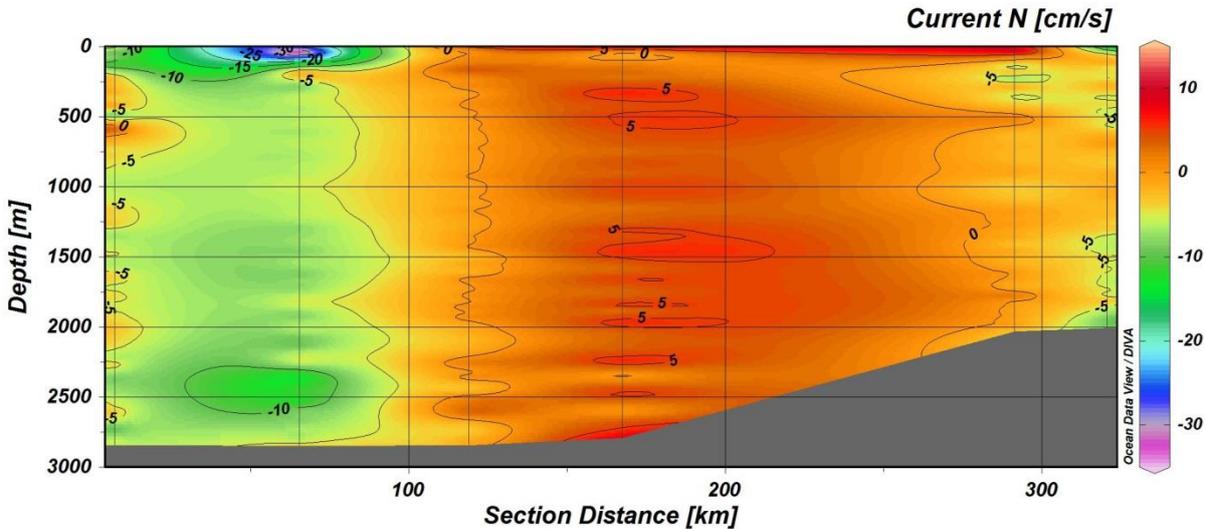
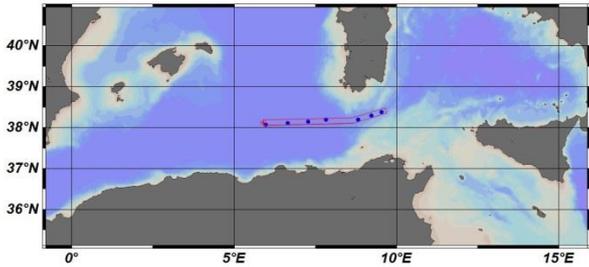
### Sicily-Sardinia transect

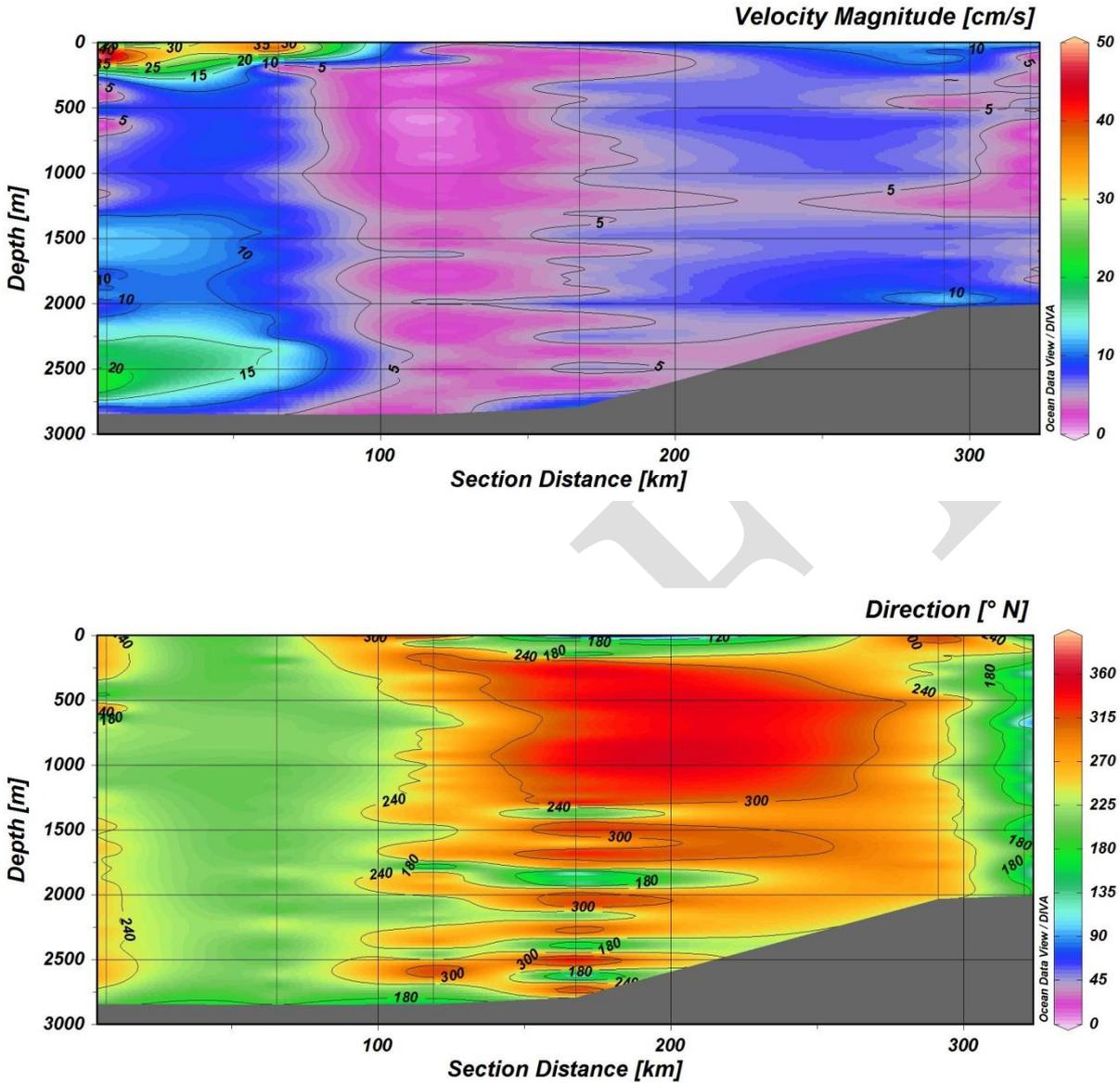




Distribution of the measured velocity in cm/s along the transect: N component (positive values are northward), E component (positive values are eastward), velocity magnitude, direction (clockwise from the north).

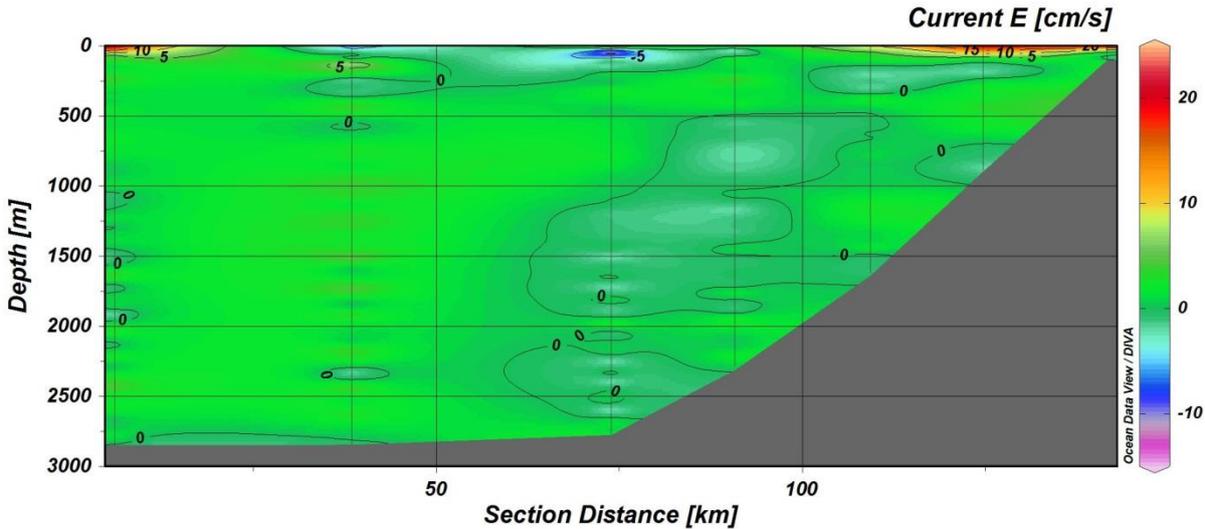
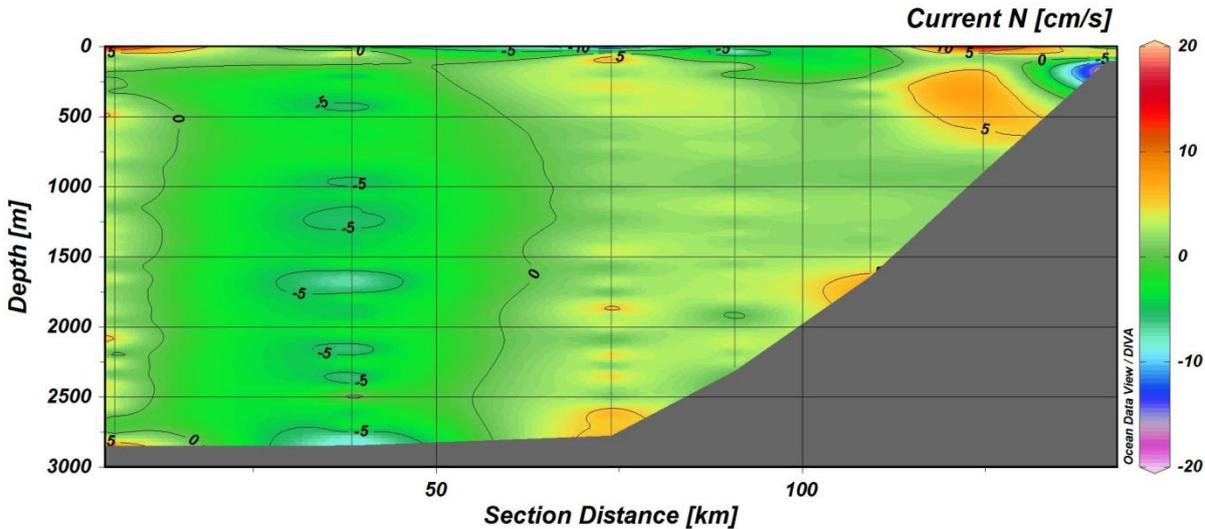
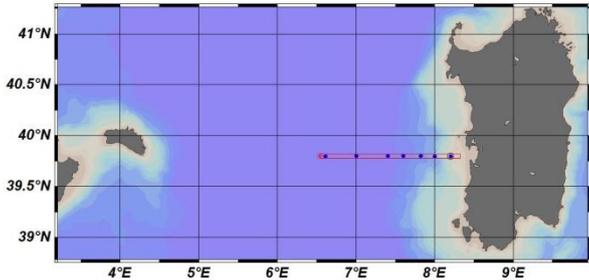
### Sardinian Channel transect

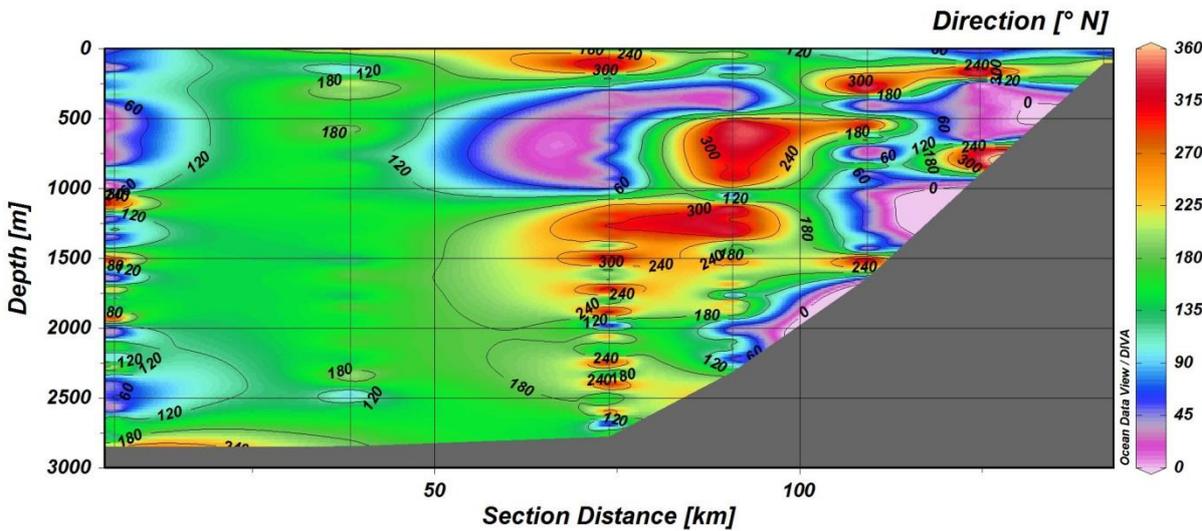
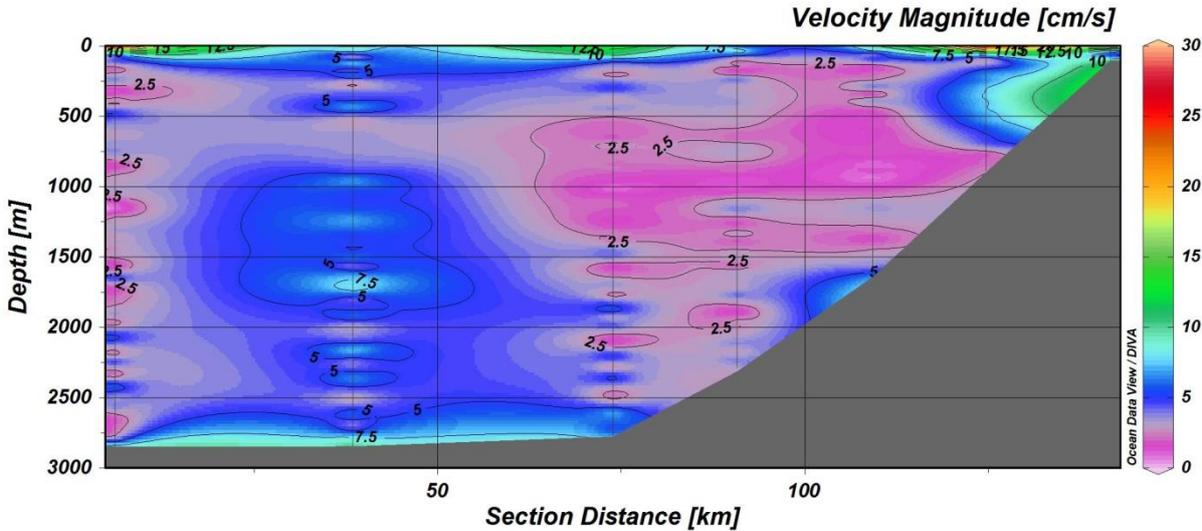




Distribution of the measured velocity in cm/s along the transect: N component (positive values are northward), E component (positive values are eastward), velocity magnitude, direction (clockwise from the north).

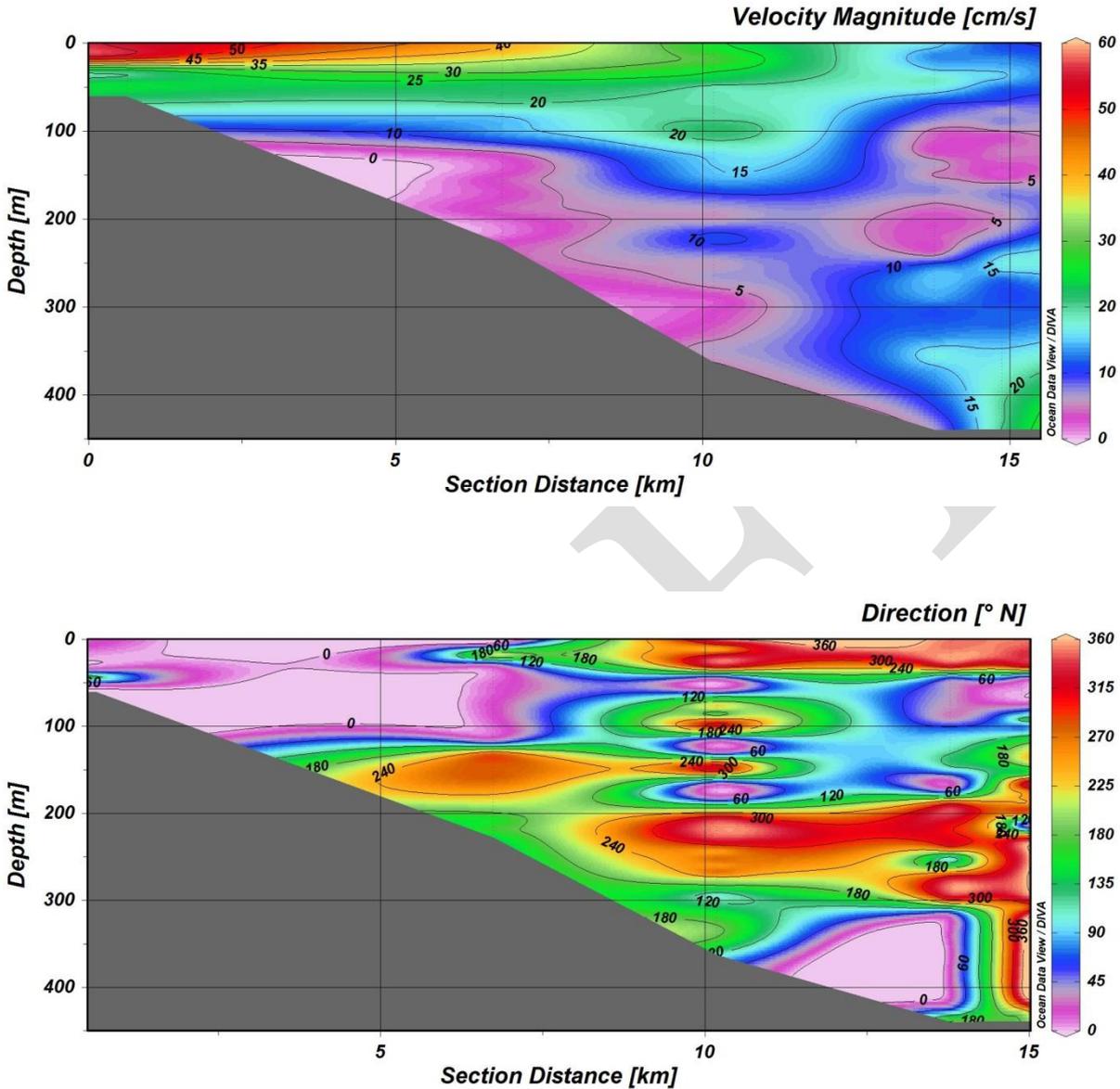
### Sardinian Sea transect





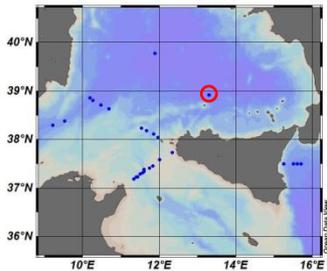
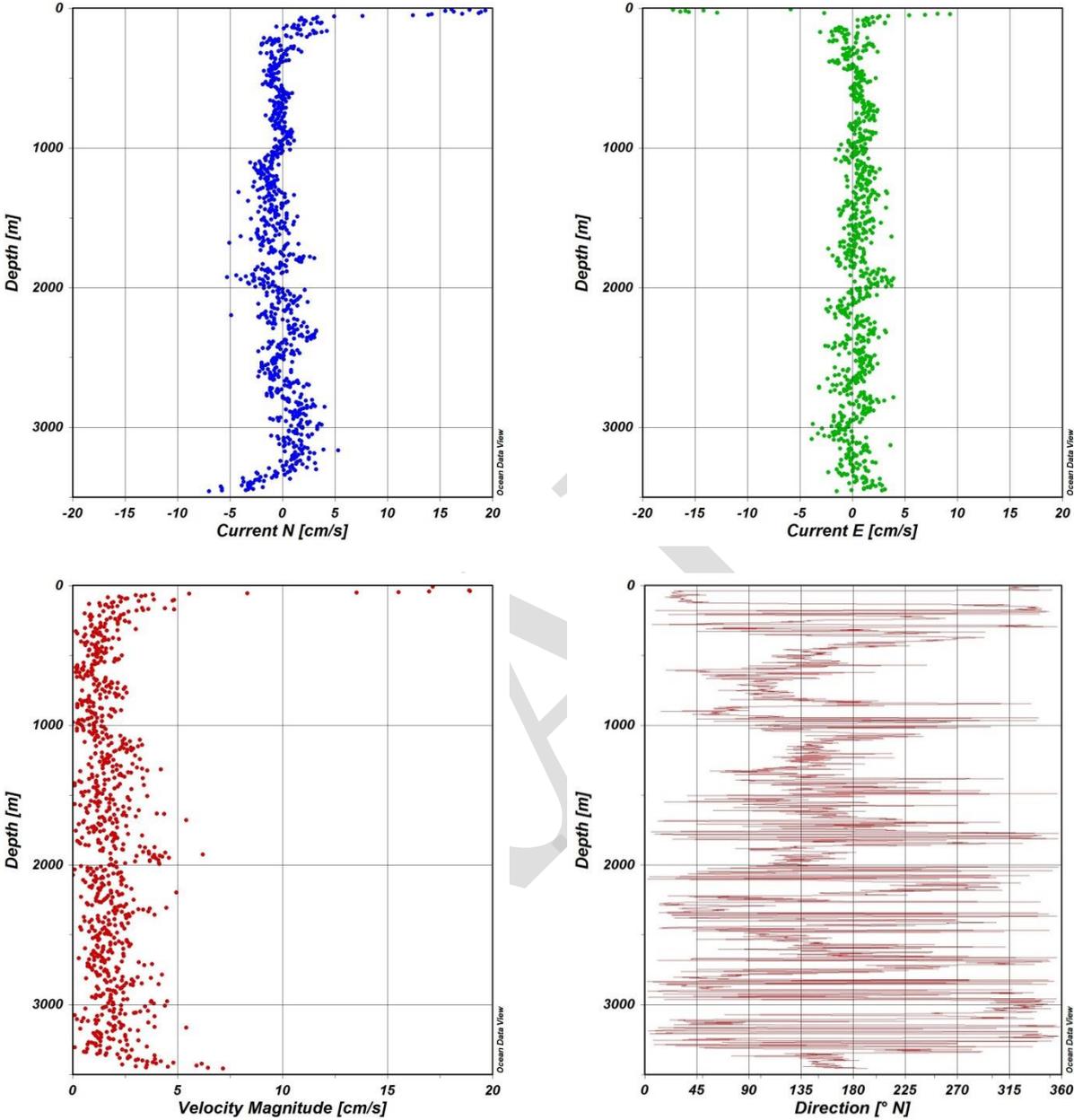
Distribution of the measured velocity in cm/s along the transect: N component (positive values are northward), E component (positive values are eastward), velocity magnitude, direction (clockwise from the north).





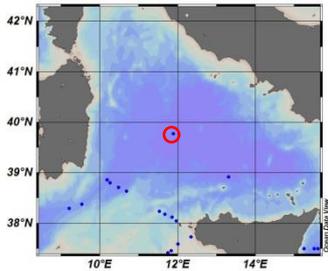
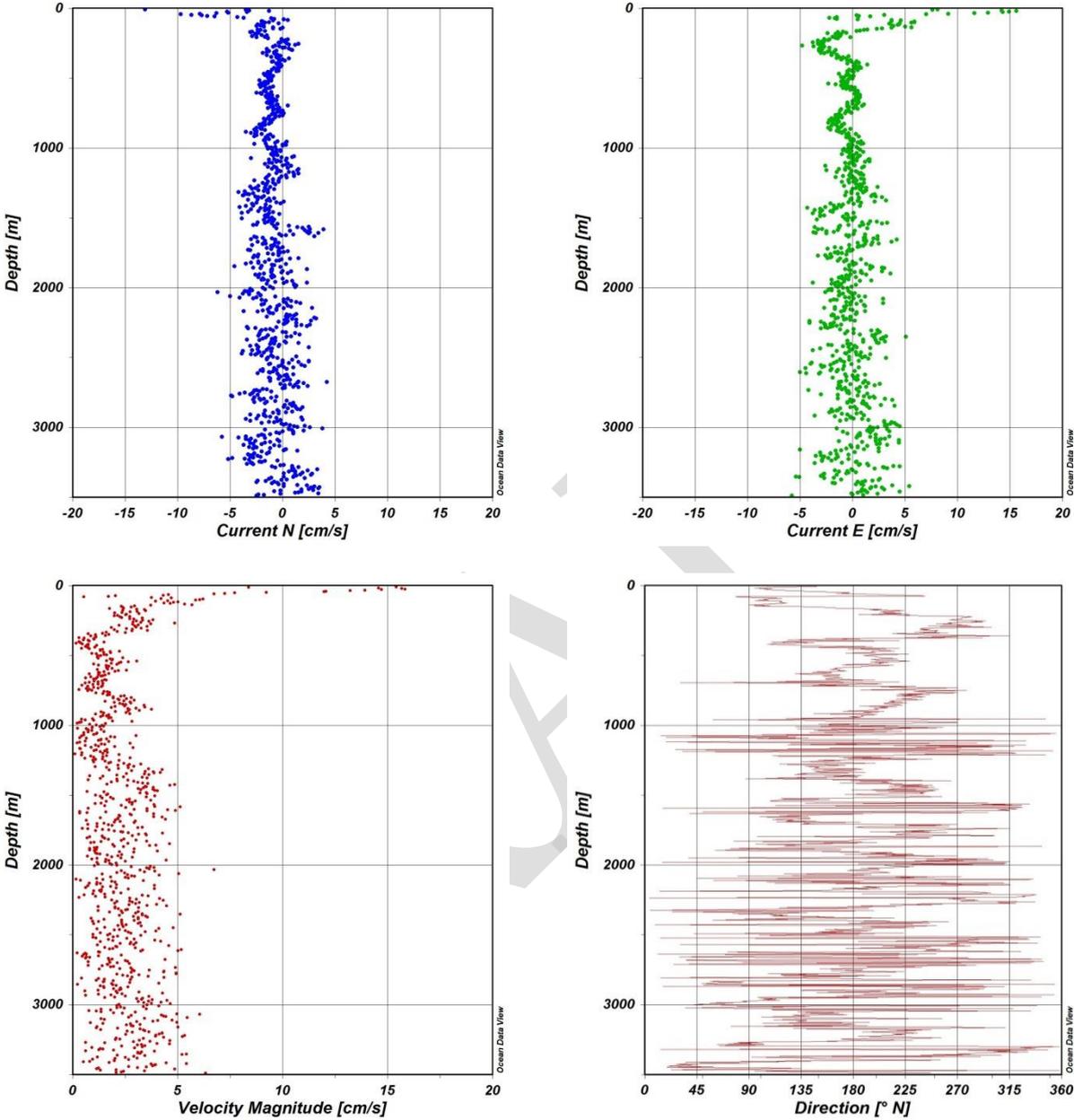
Distribution of the measured velocity in cm/s along the transect: N component (positive values are northward), E component (positive values are eastward), velocity magnitude, direction (clockwise from the north).

### Geostar station



Distribution of the measured velocity in cm/s at Geostar station: N component (positive values are northward), E component (positive values are eastward), velocity magnitude, direction (clockwise from the north).

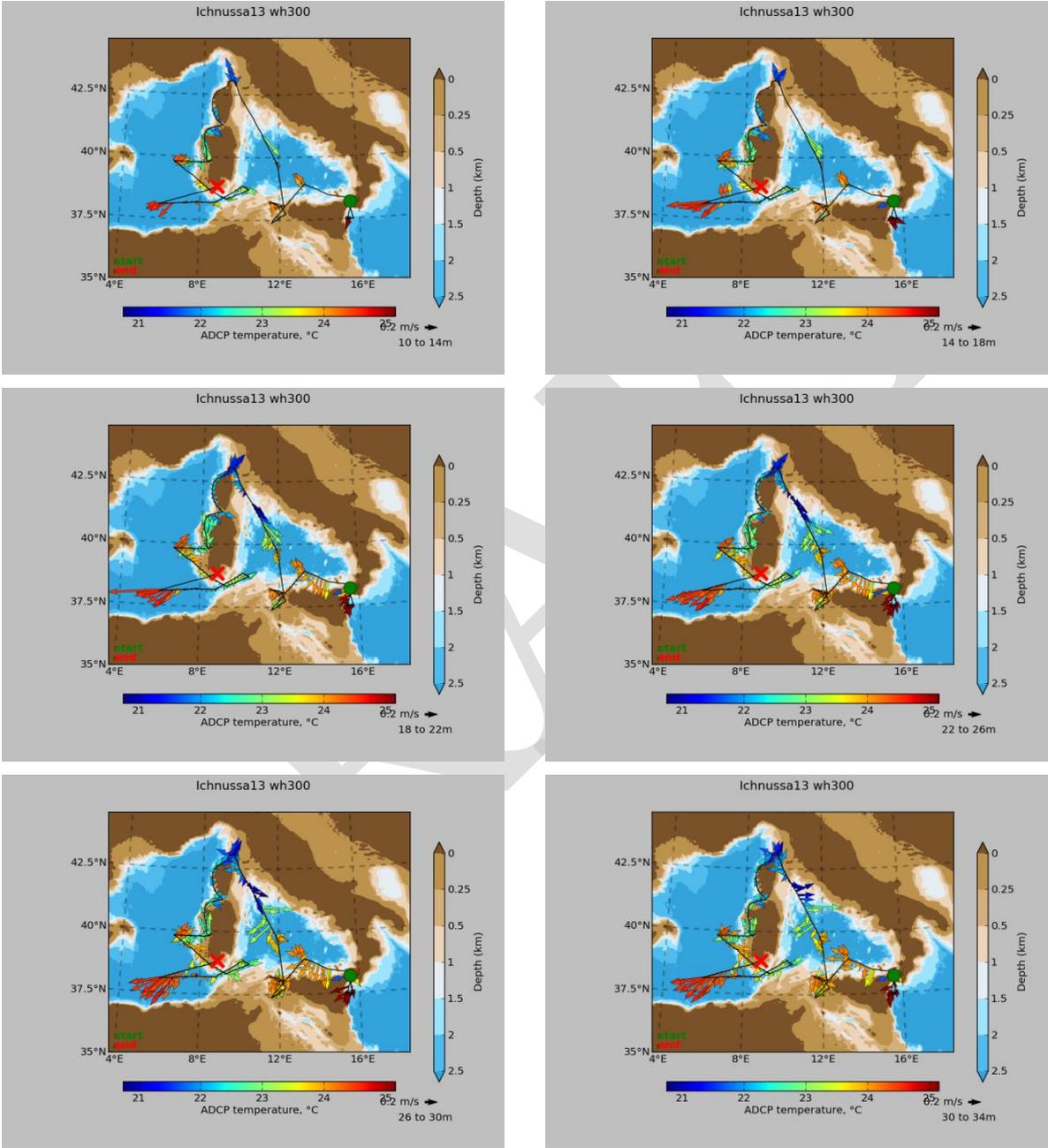
51 station

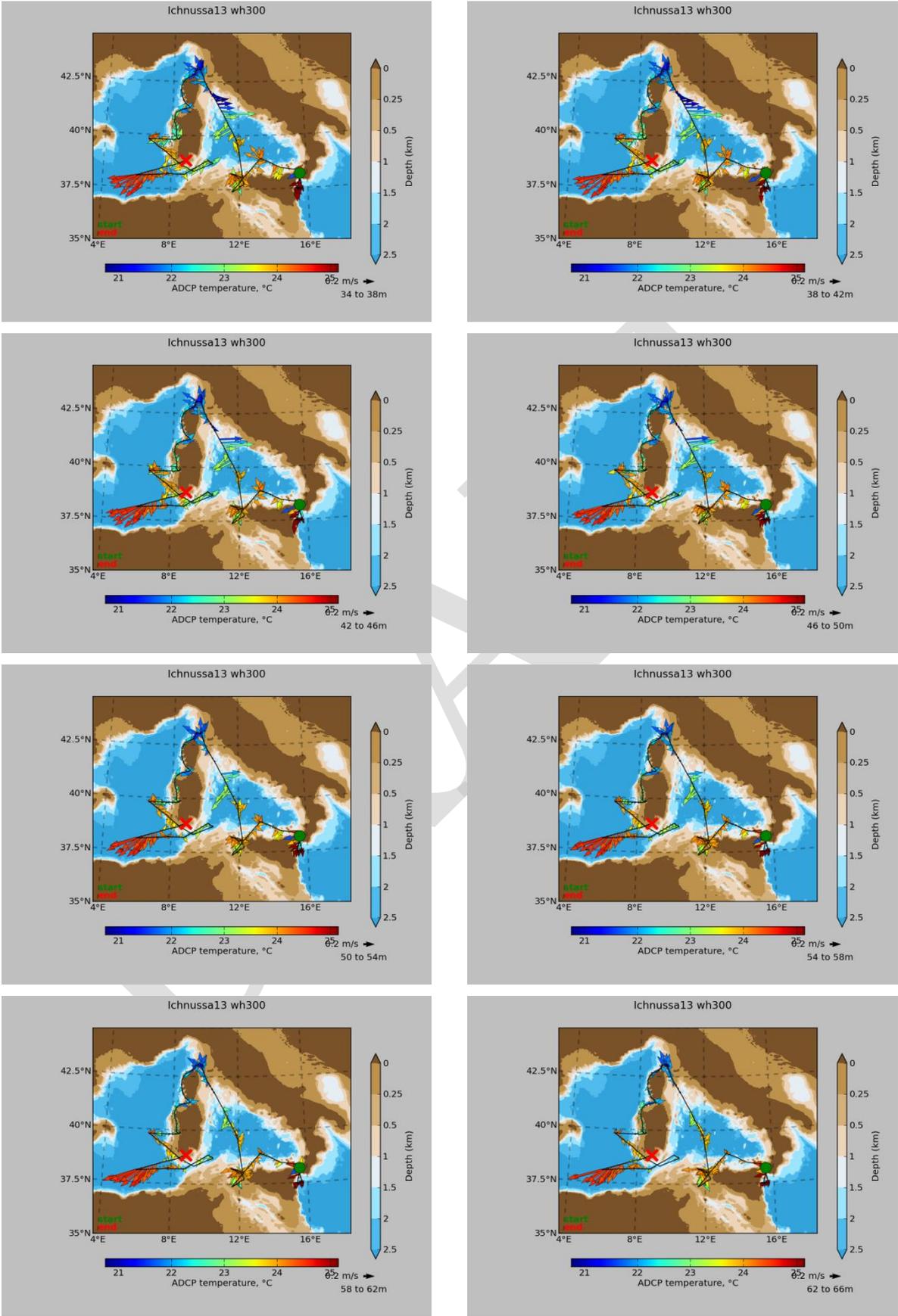


Distribution of the measured velocity in cm/s at 51 station: N component (positive values are northward), E component (positive values are eastward), velocity magnitude, direction (clockwise from the north).

# Currents from VMADCP

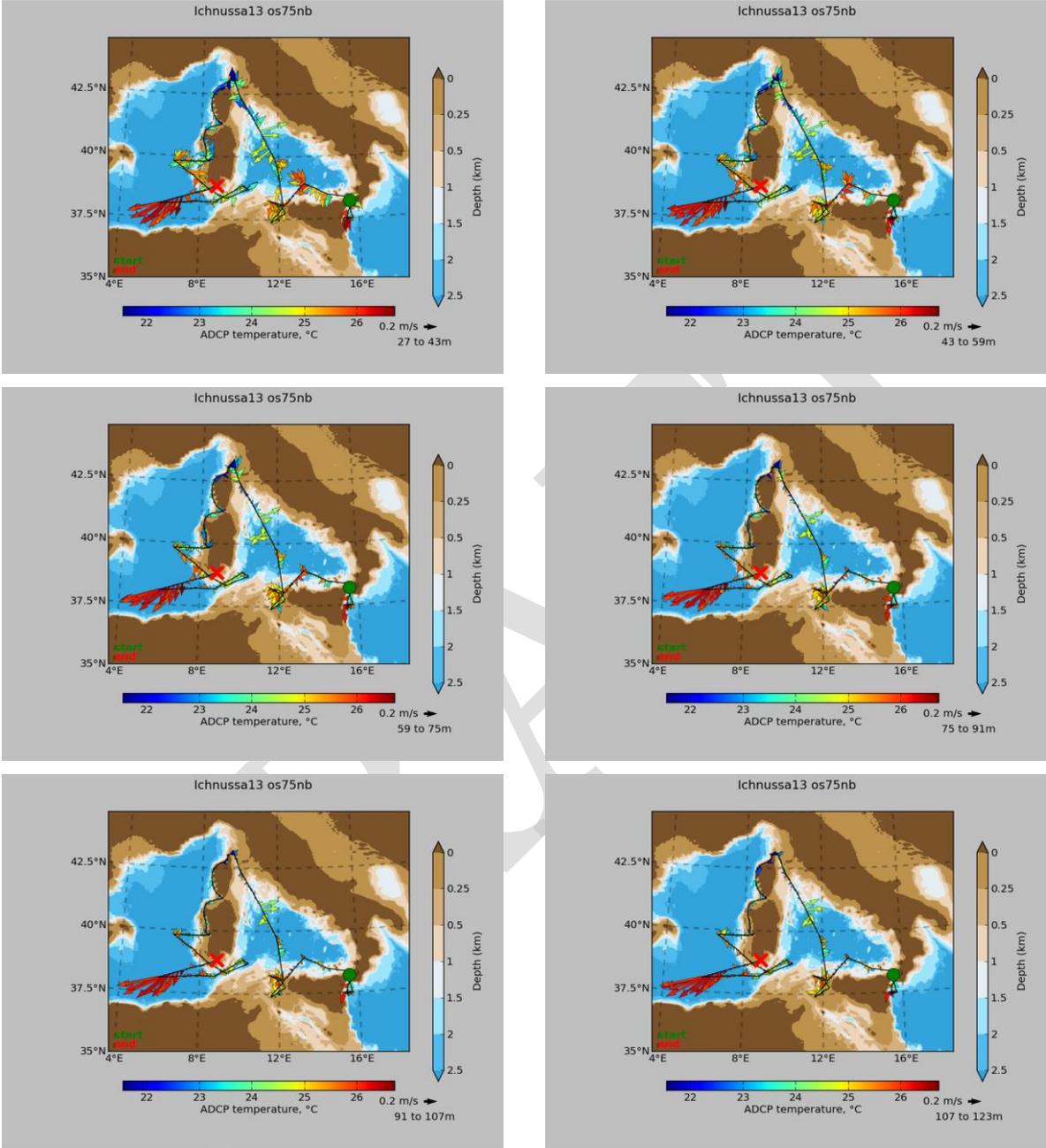
Instrument type: WH 300 kHz

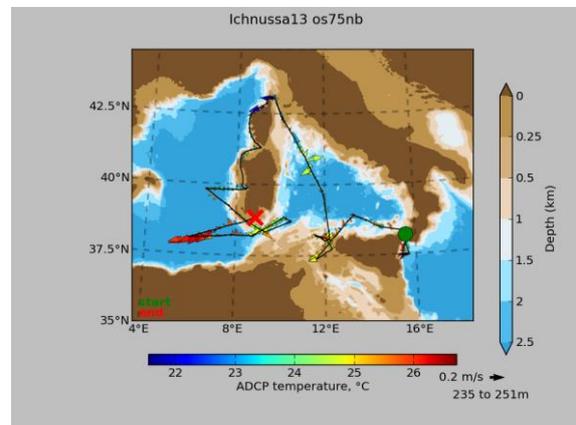
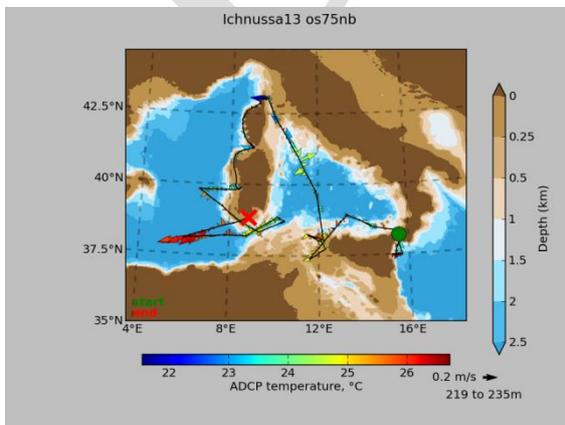
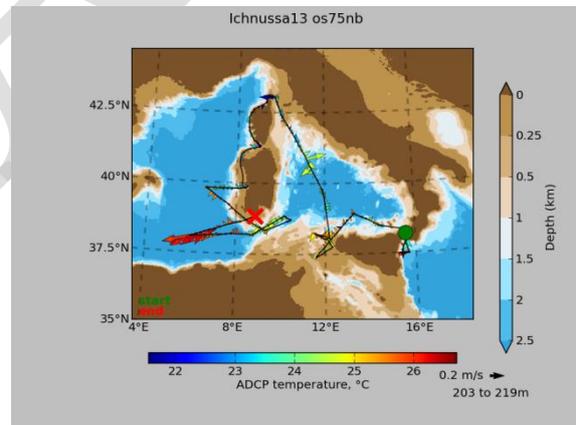
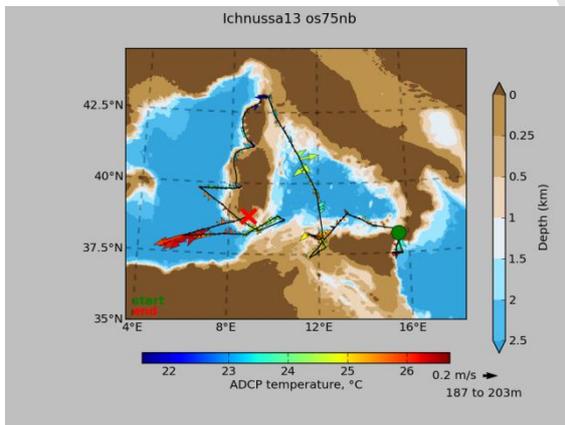
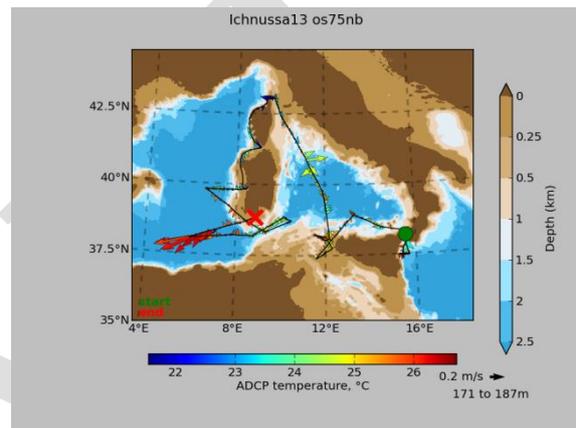
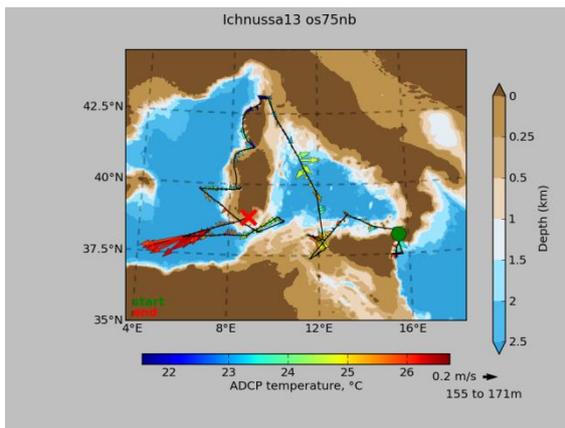
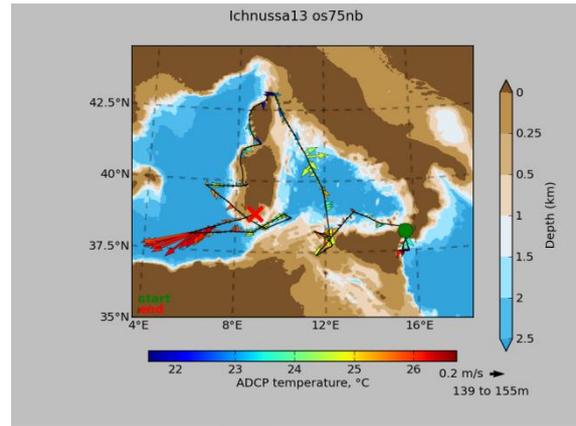
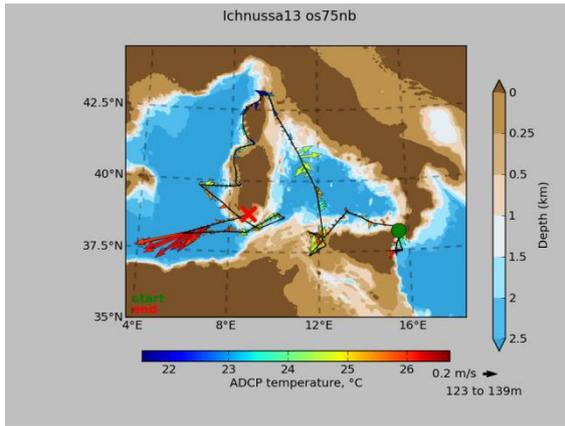


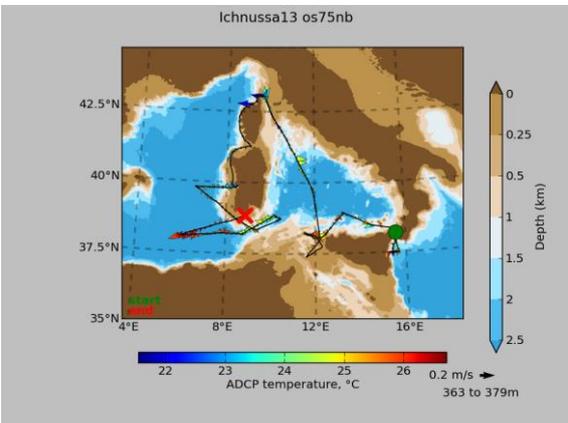
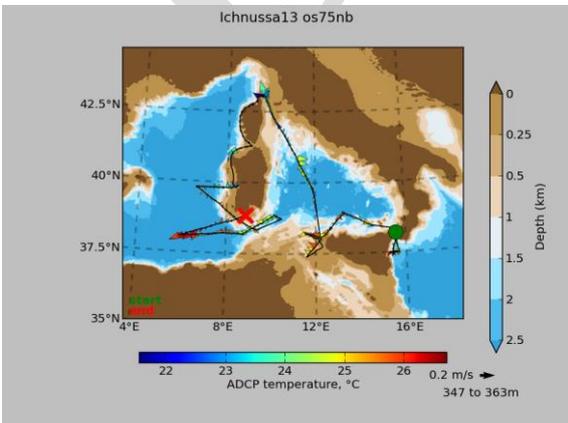
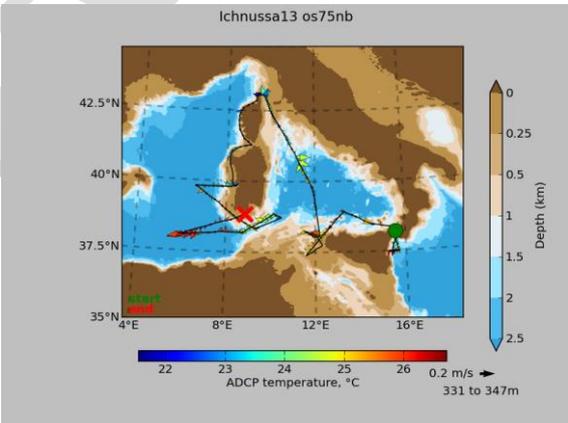
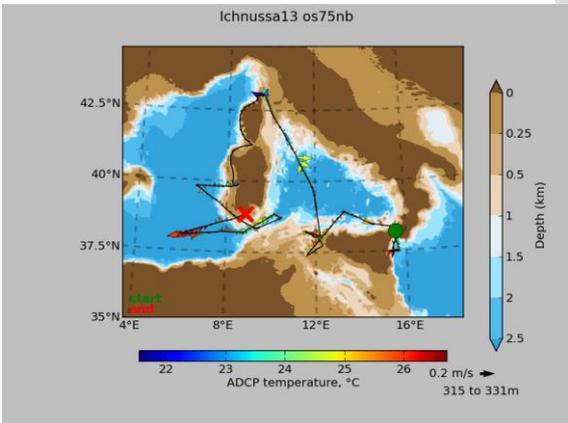
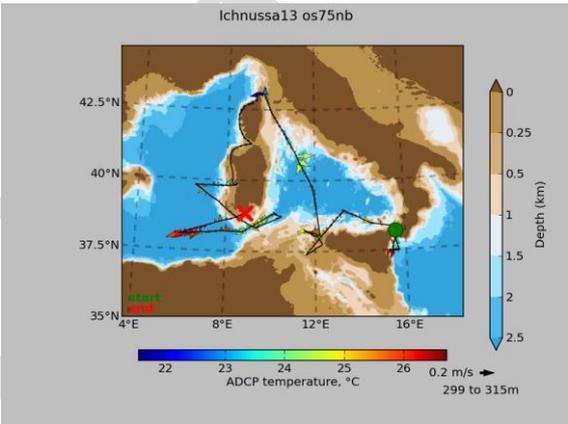
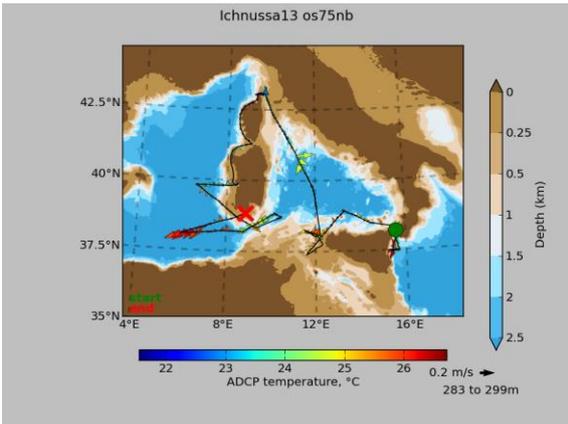
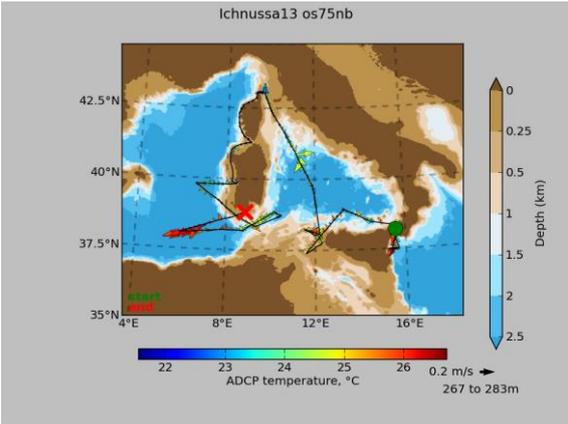
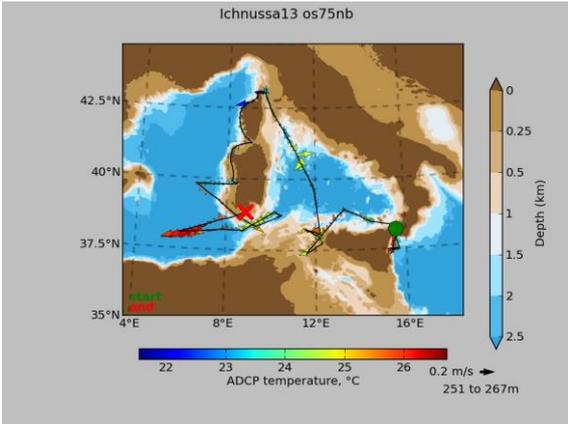


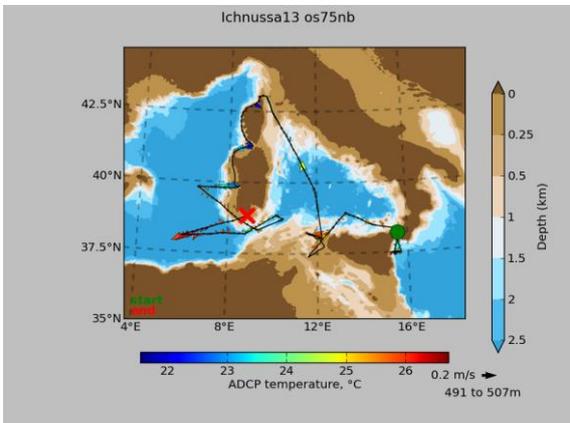
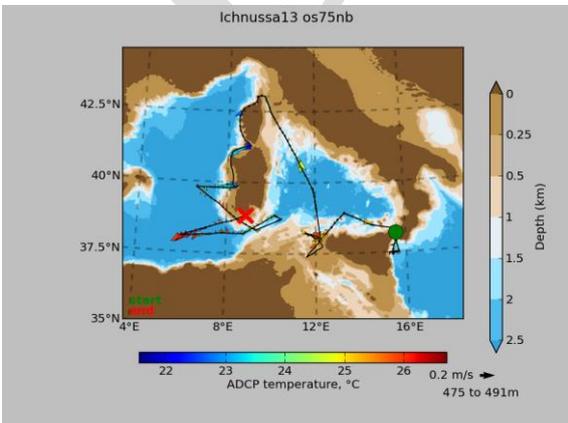
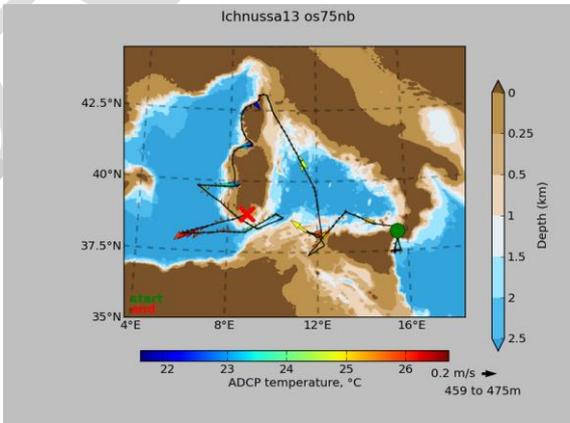
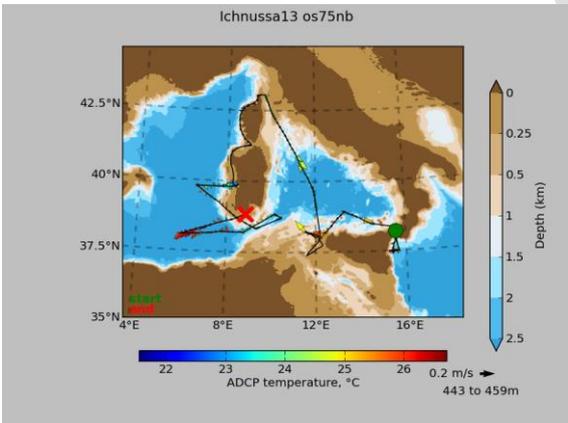
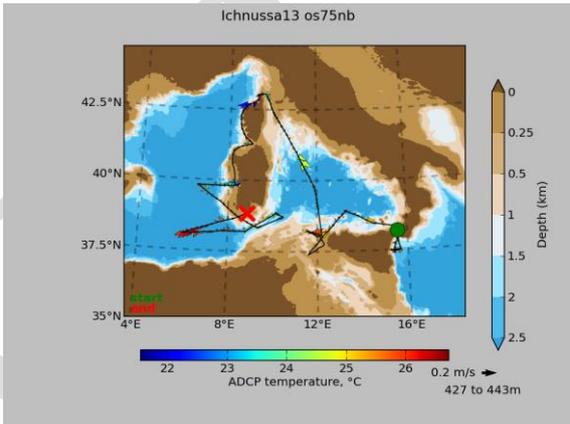
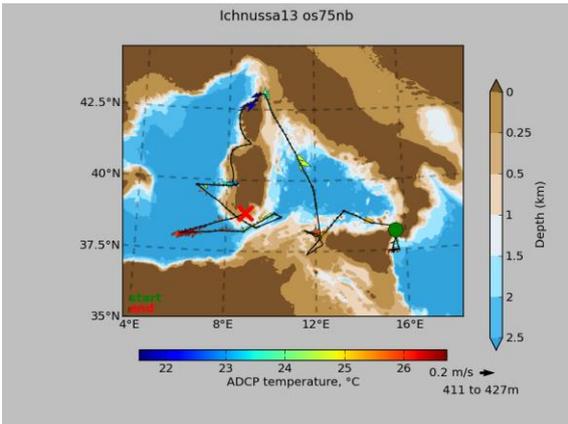
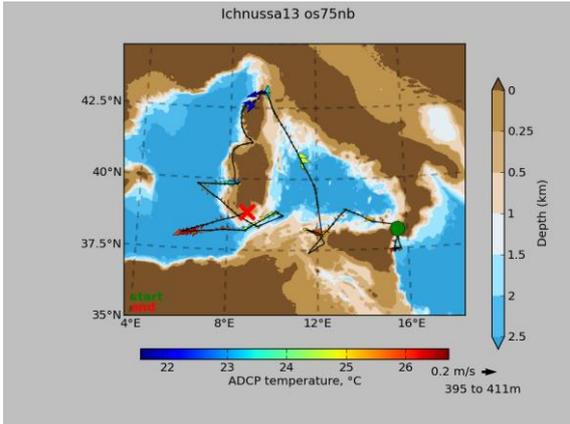
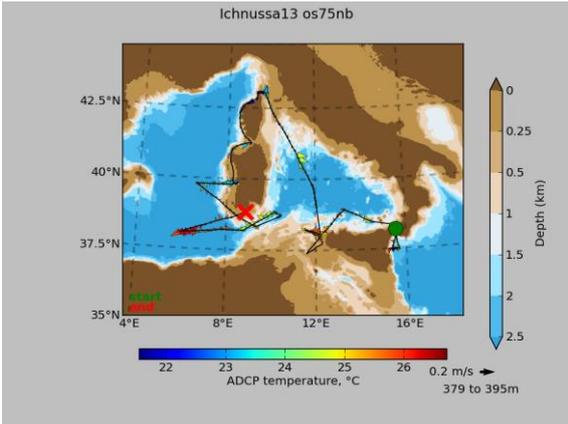


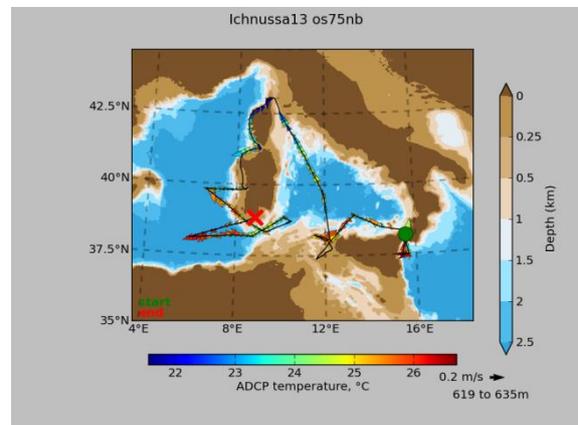
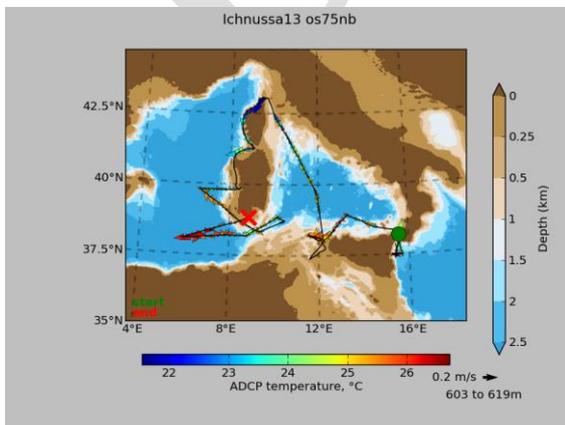
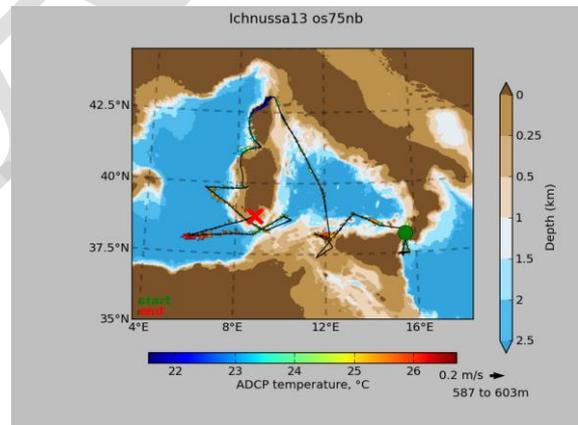
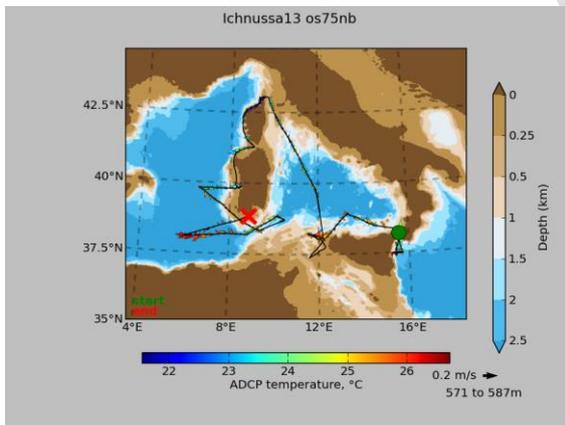
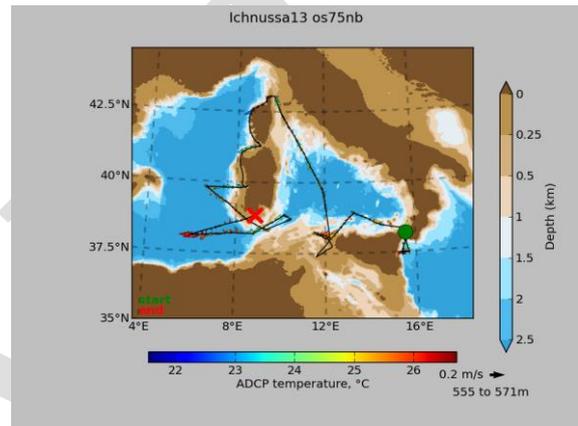
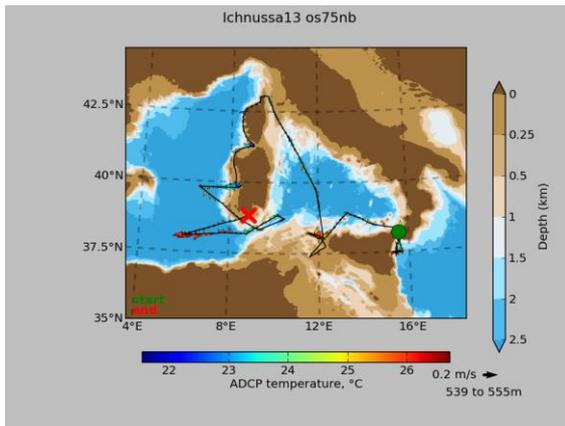
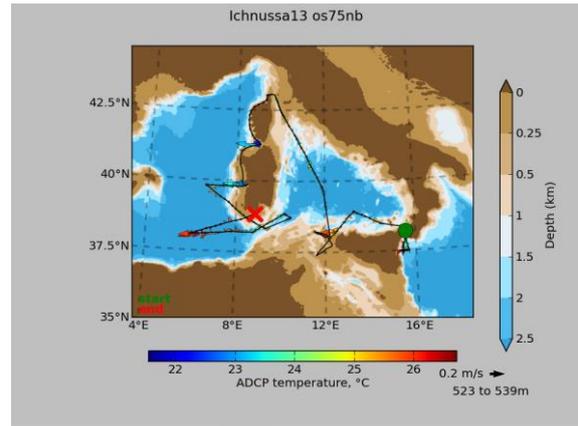
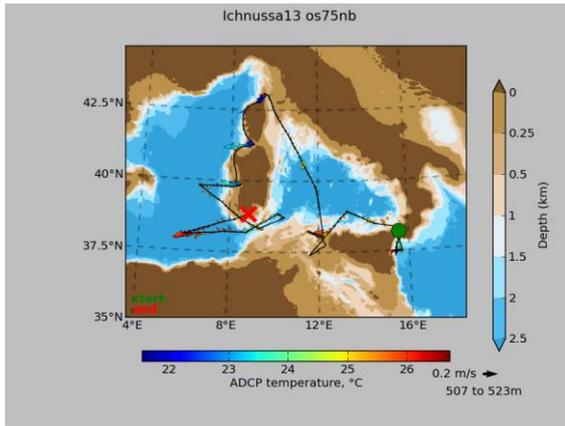
Instrument type: OS 75 kHz

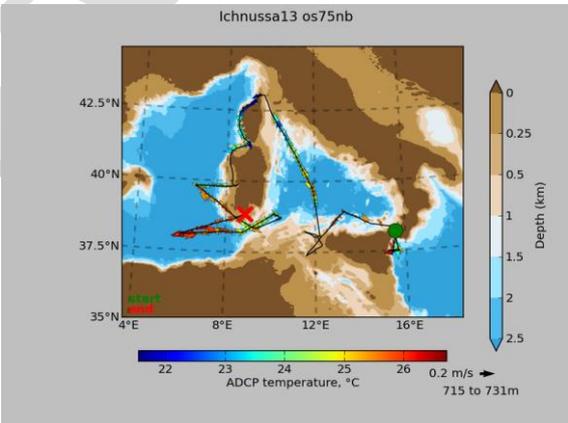
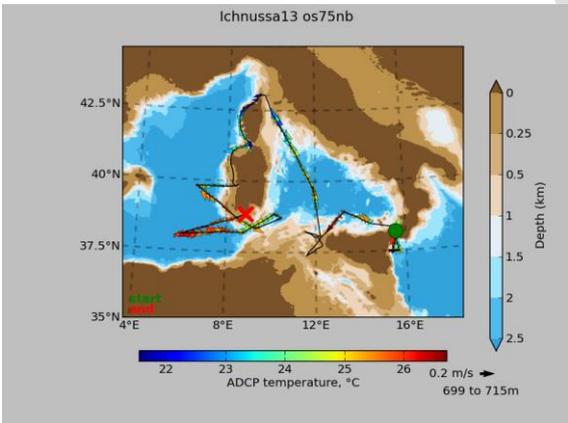
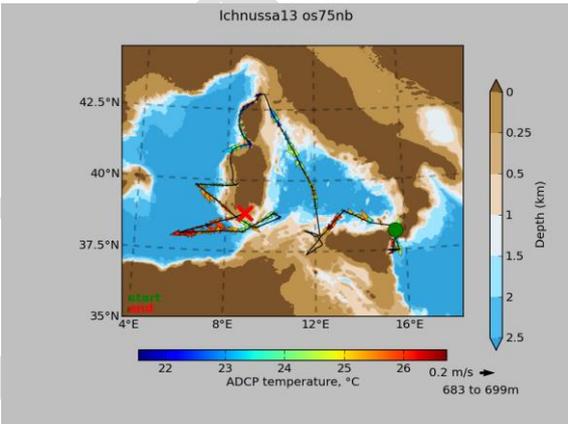
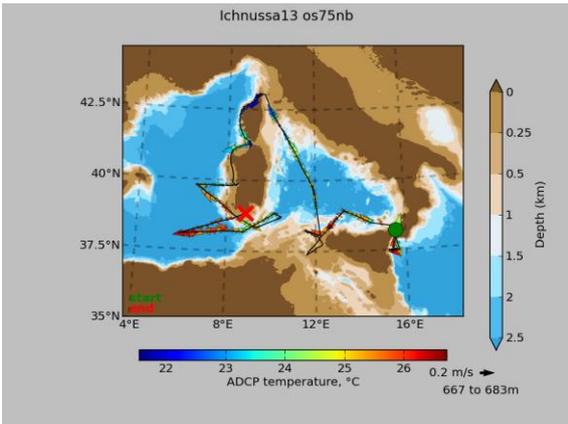
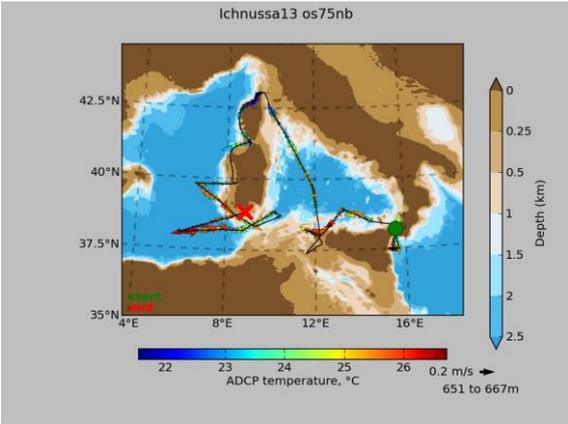
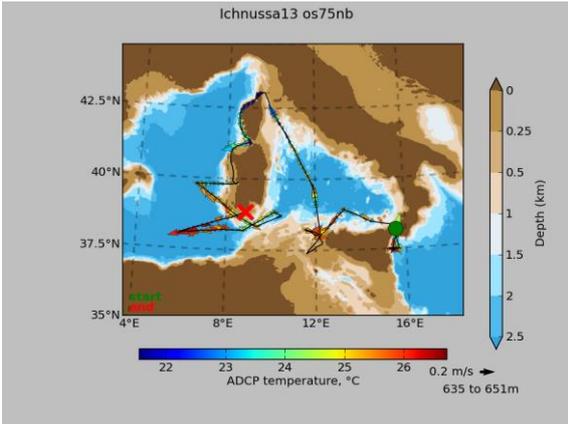






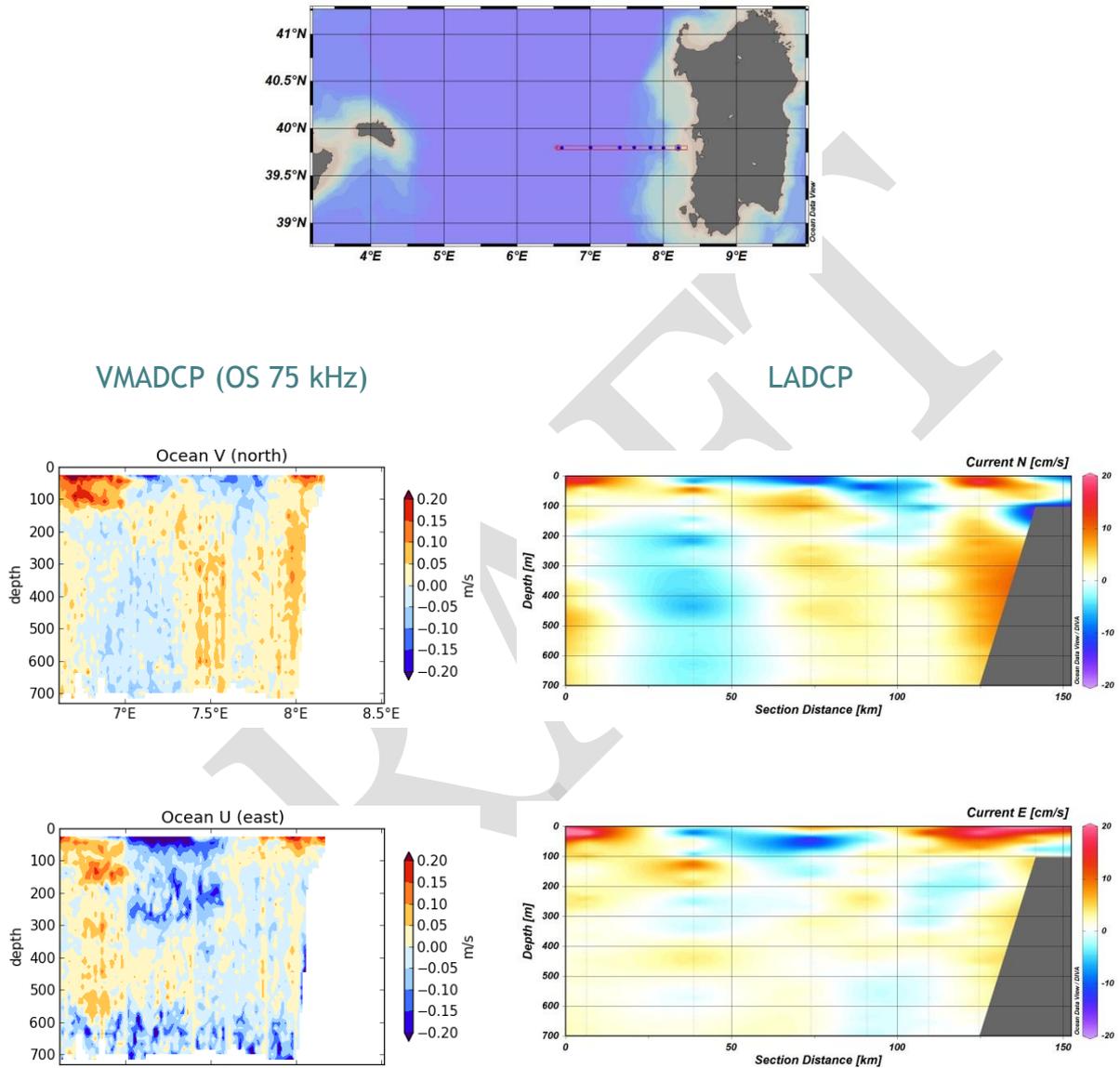






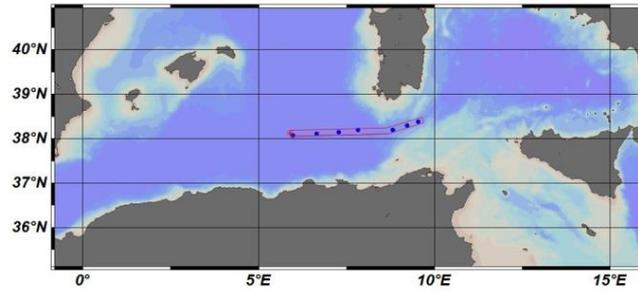
## Comparison between LADCP and VMADCP

### Sardinian Sea transect

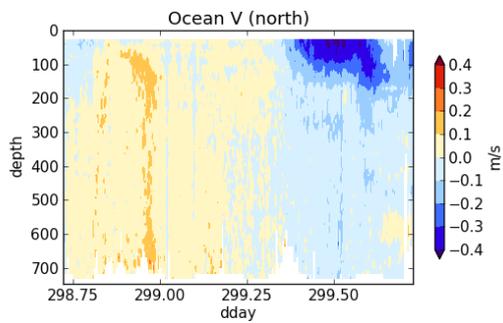


Comparison of the measured velocity through LADCP and VMADCP measurements along the Sardinian Sea transect: N component (positive values are northward) and E component (positive values are eastward).

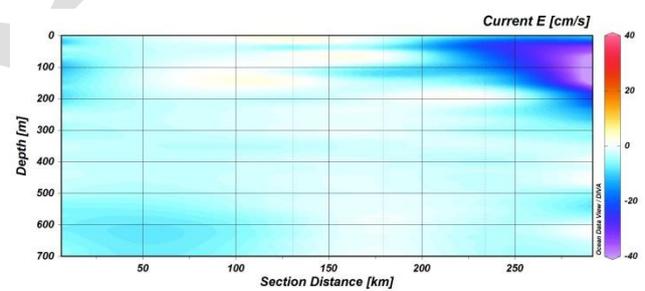
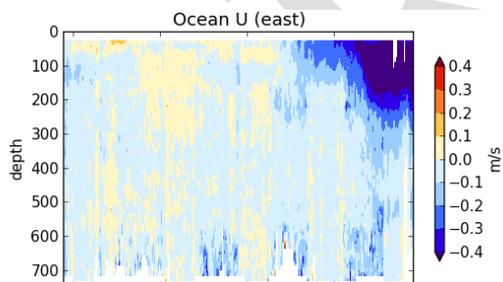
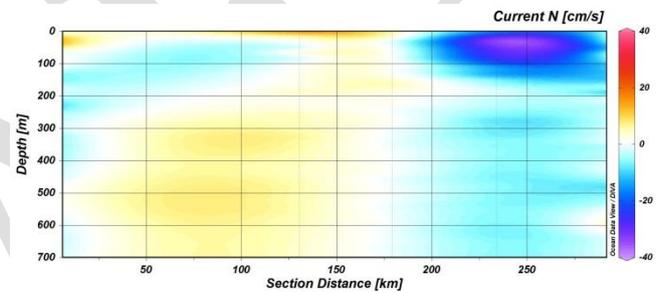
## Sardinian Channel transect



VMADCP (OS 75 kHz)



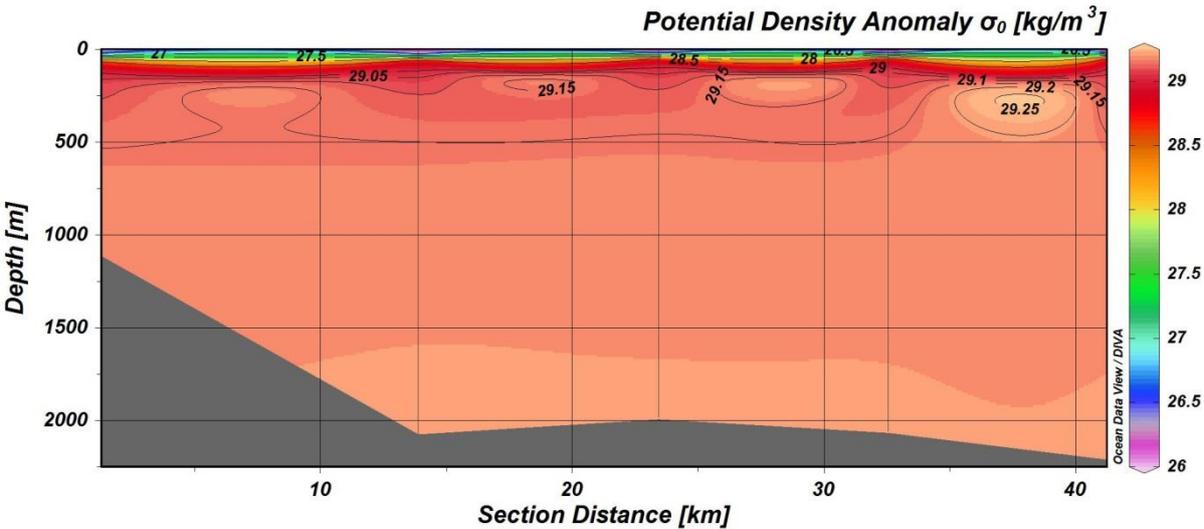
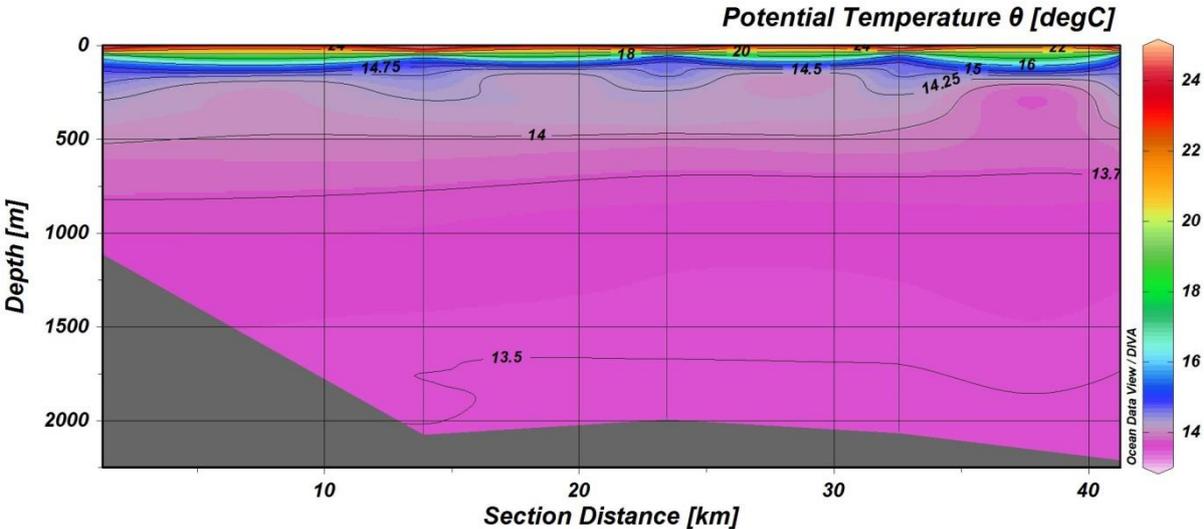
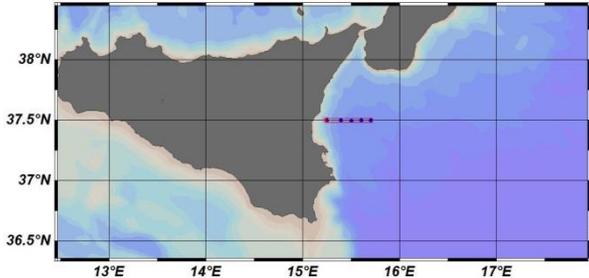
LADCP

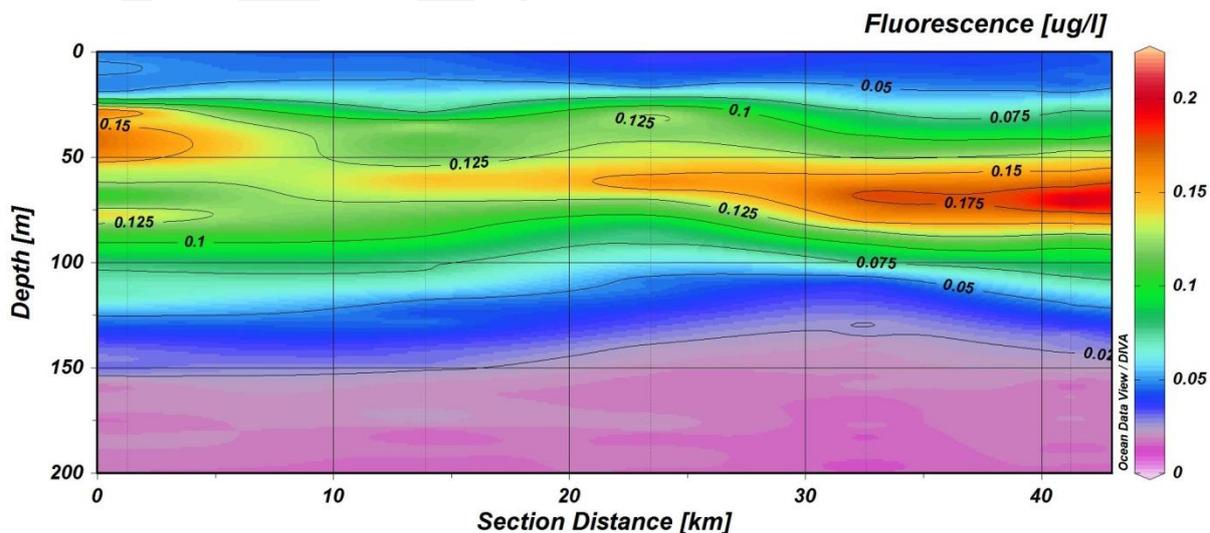
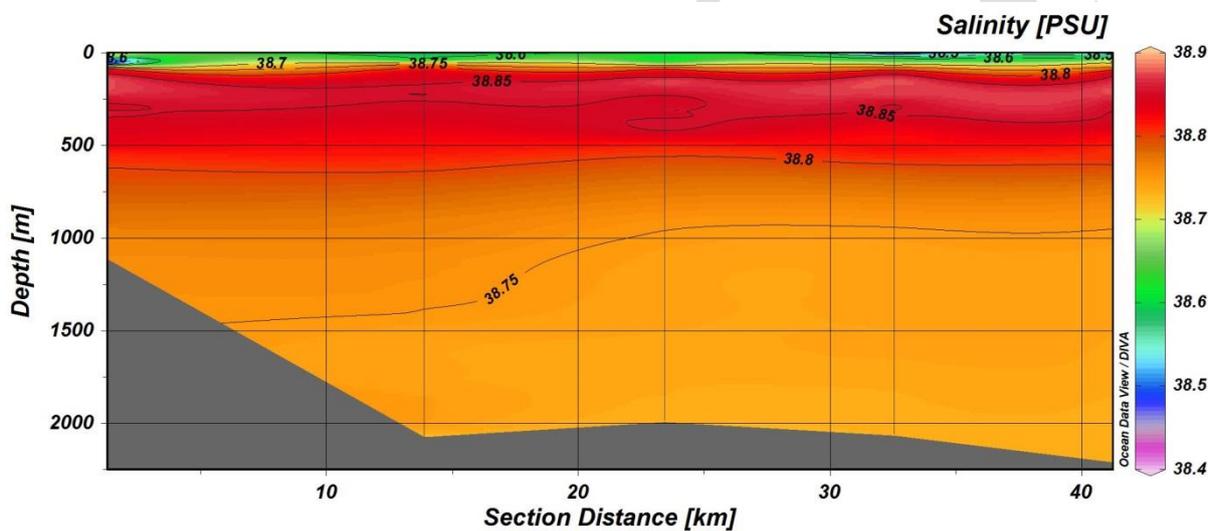
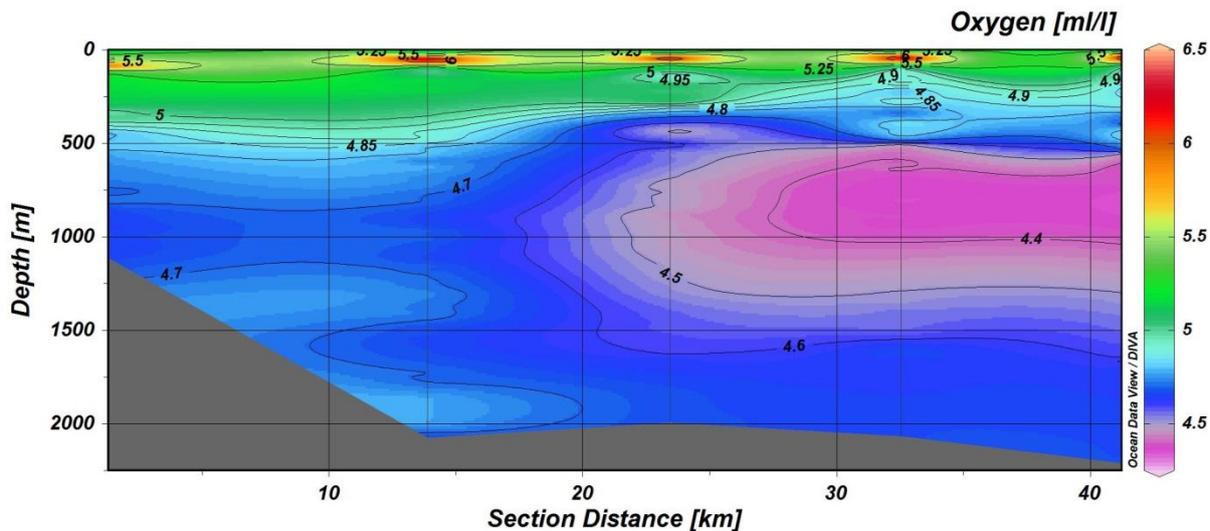


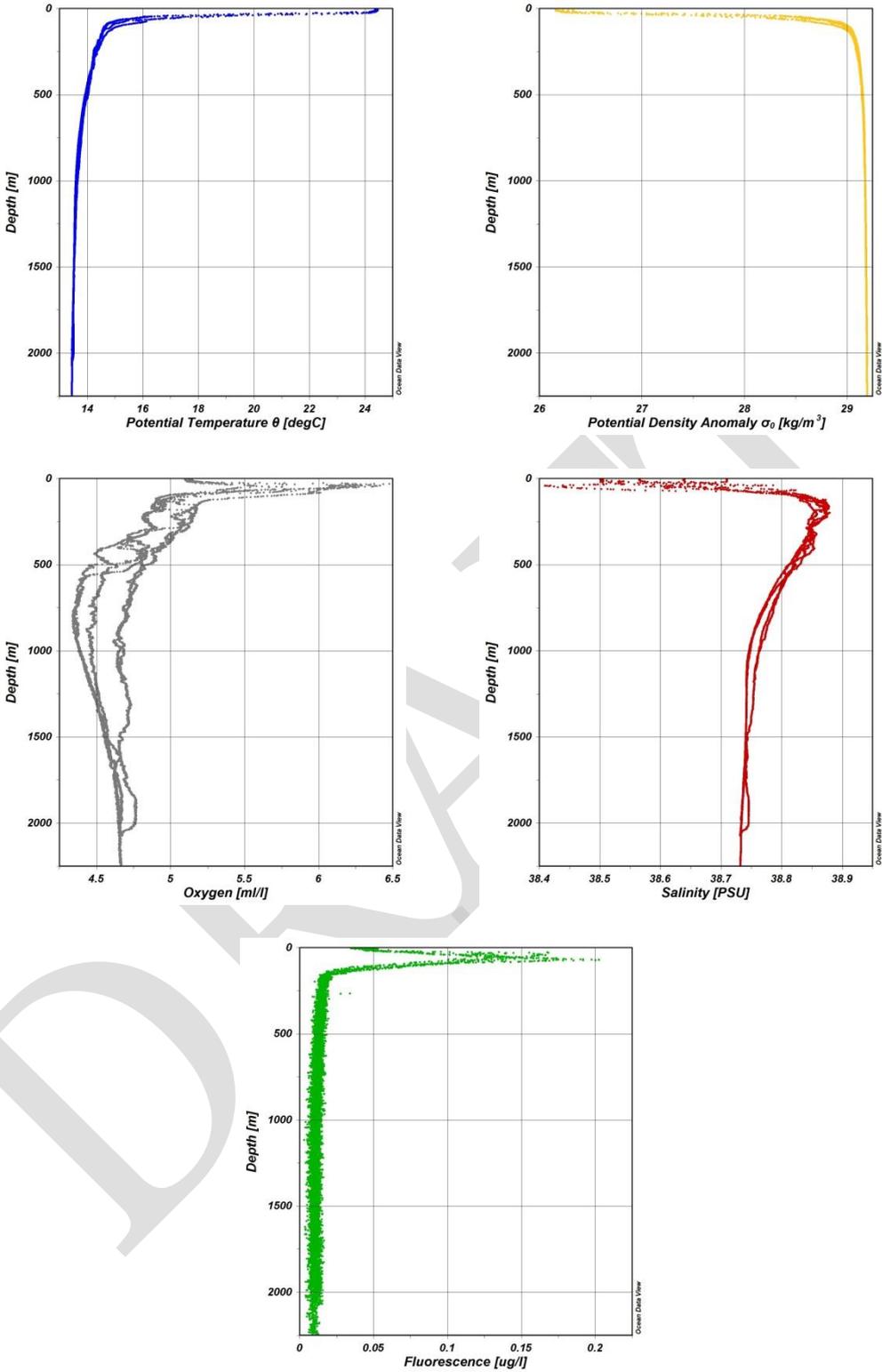
Comparison of the measured velocity through LADCP and VMADCP measurements along the Sardinian Channel transect: N component (positive values are northward) and E component (positive values are eastward).

# Hydrology

## South-Est Sicily transect

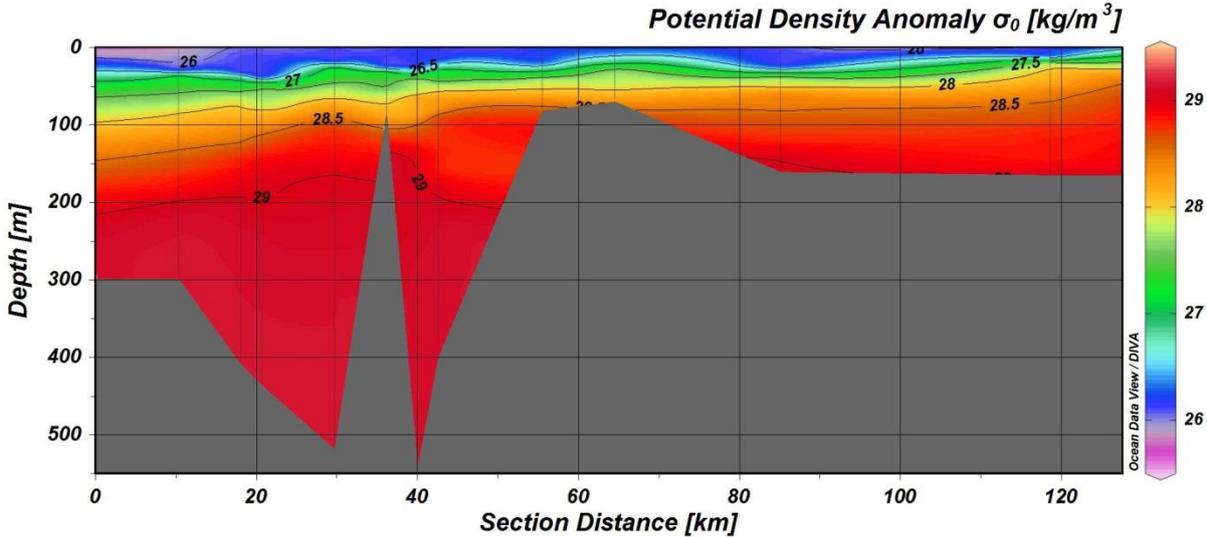
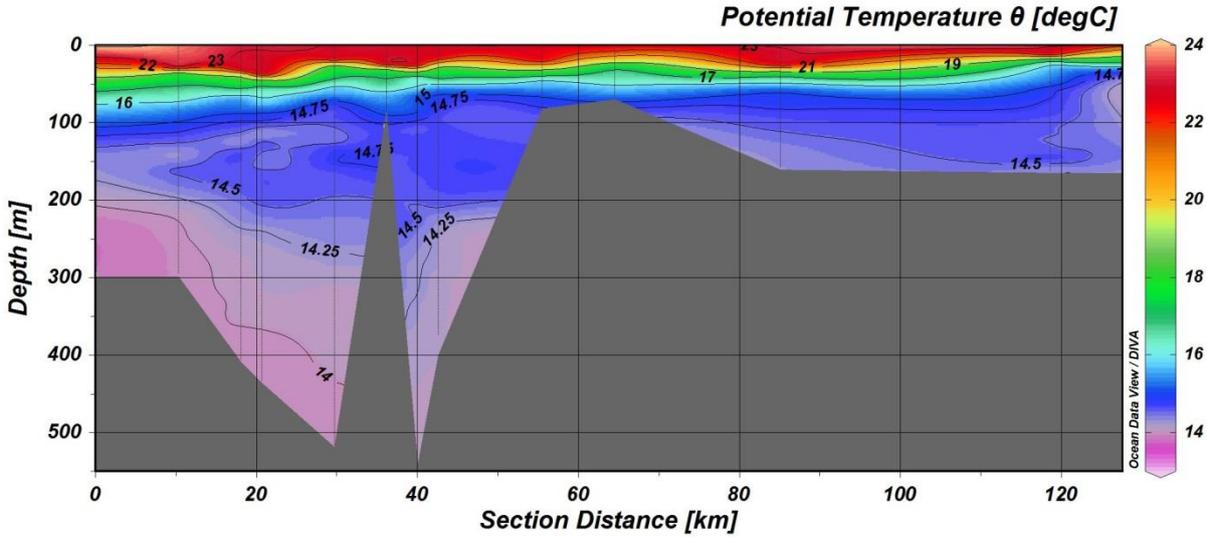
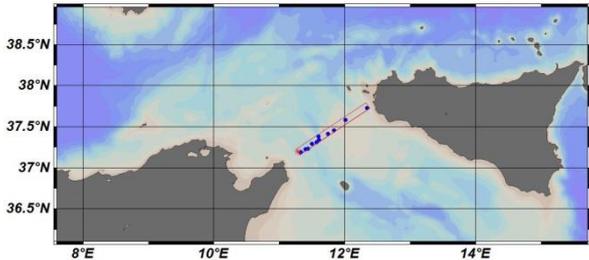


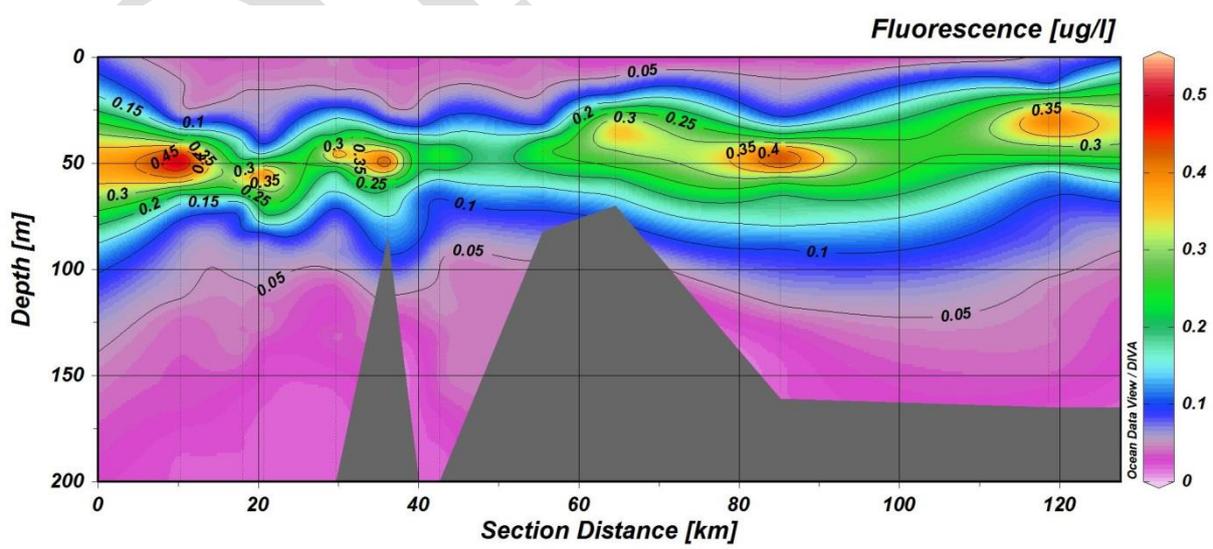
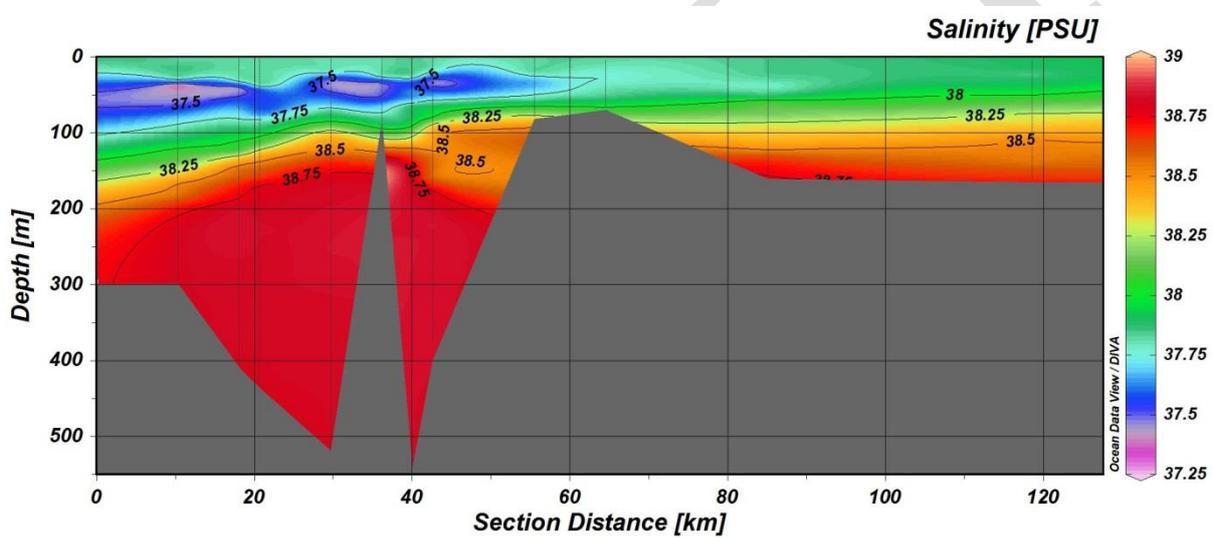
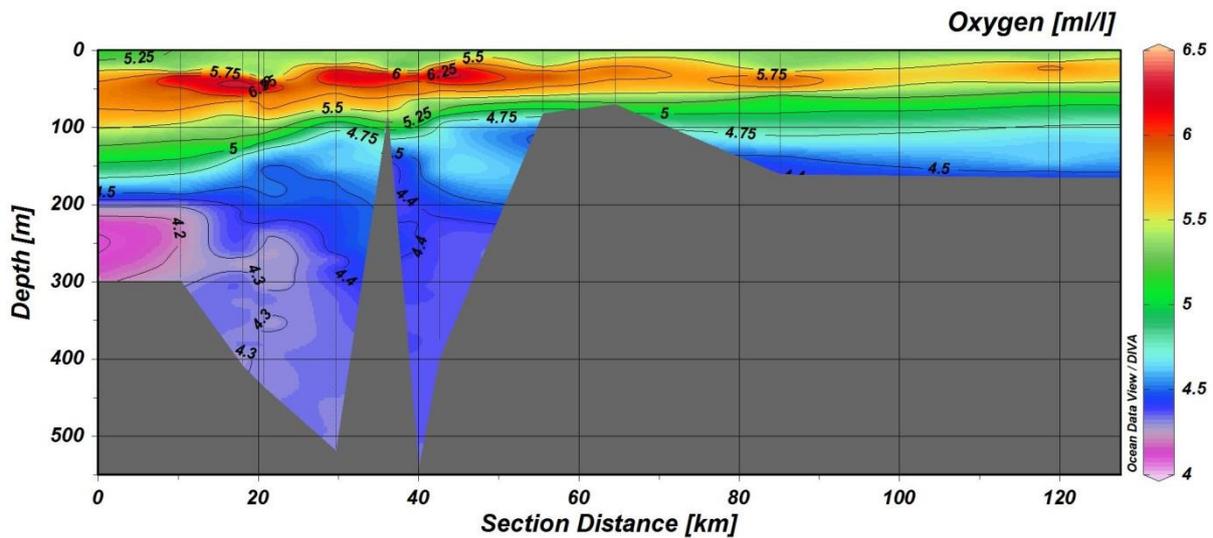


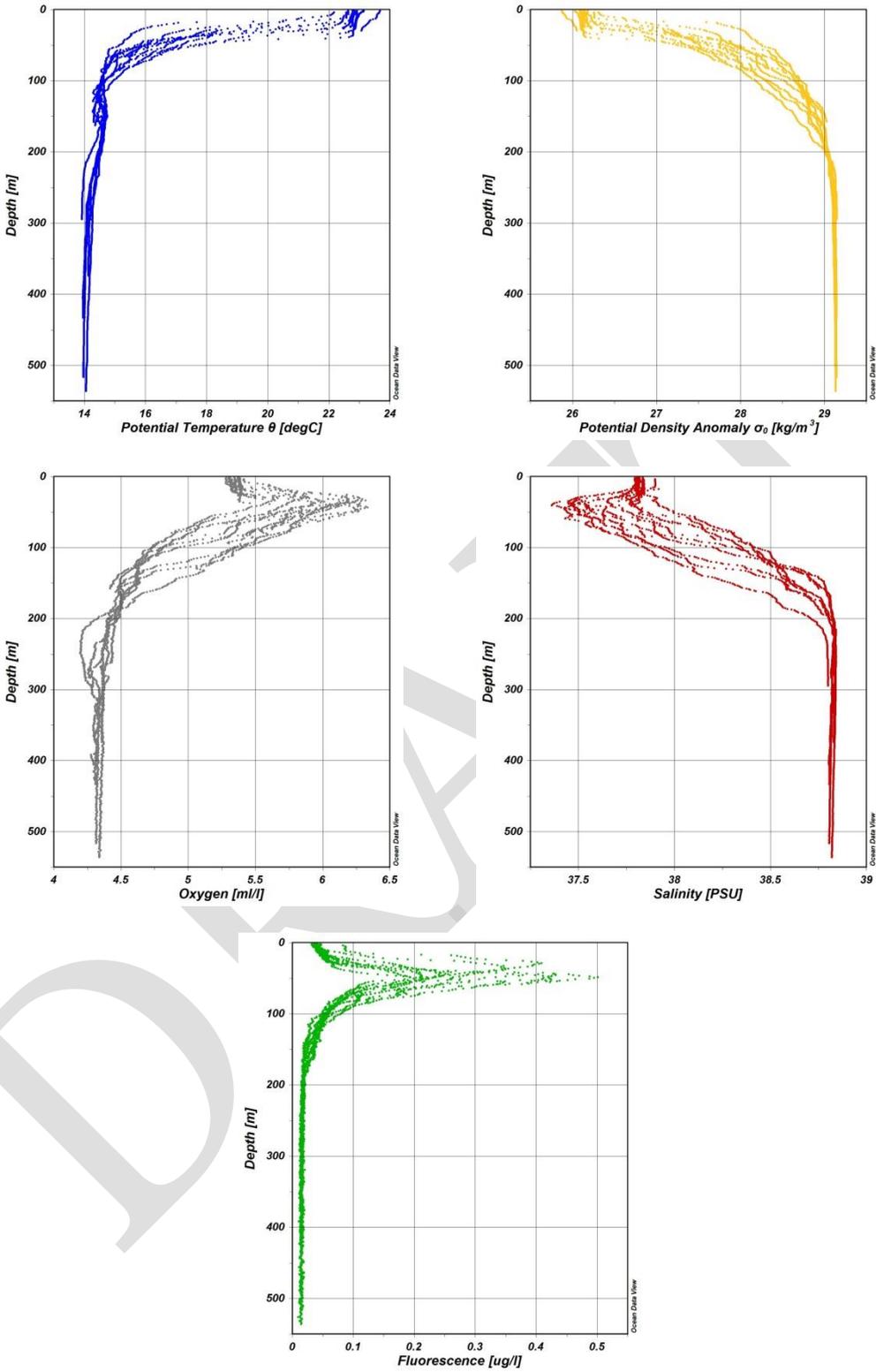


Hydrological parameters measured along the transect. Section and scatter plots: potential temperature  $\theta$ , potential density anomaly  $\sigma_0$ , oxygen, salinity, fluorescence.

### Sicily Strait transect

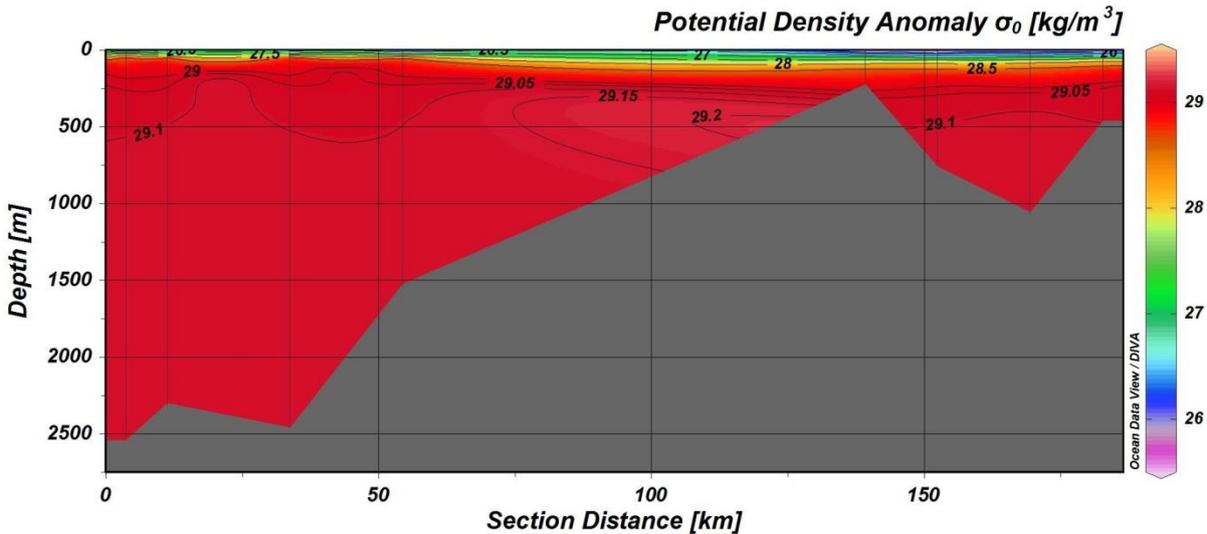
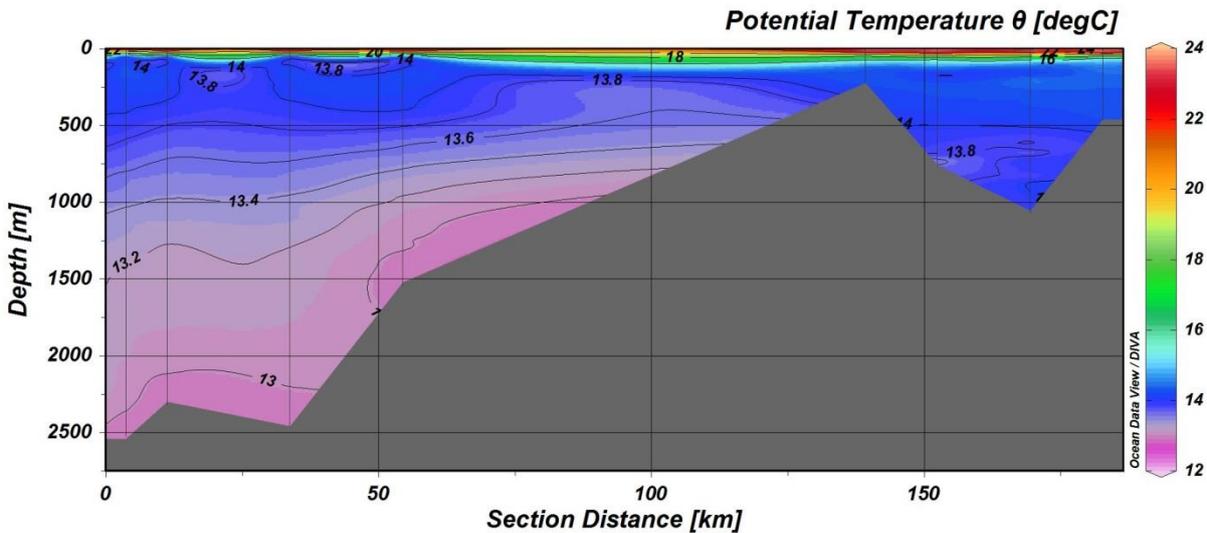
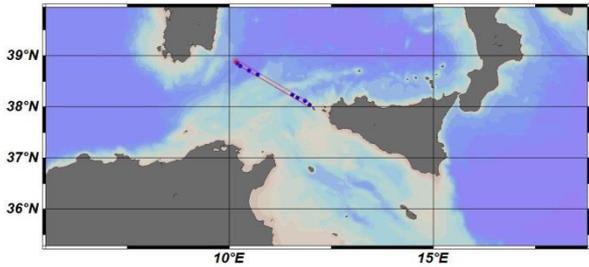


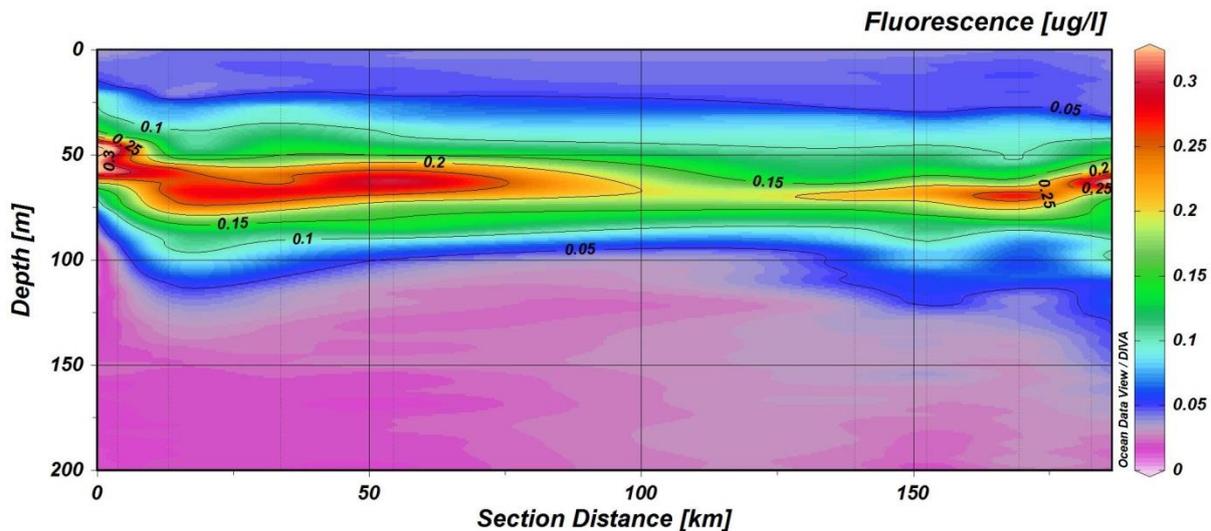
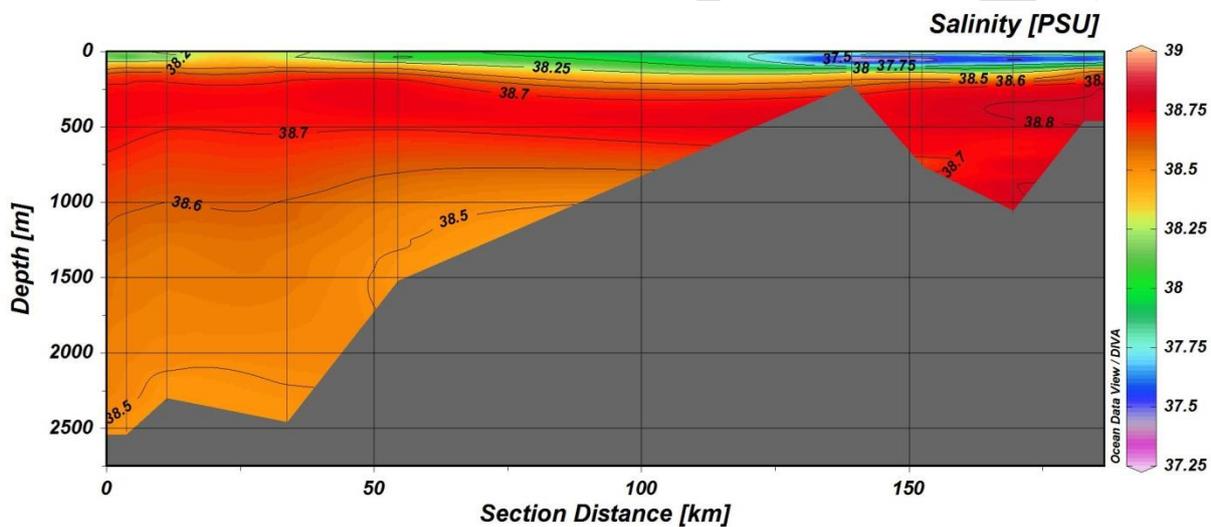
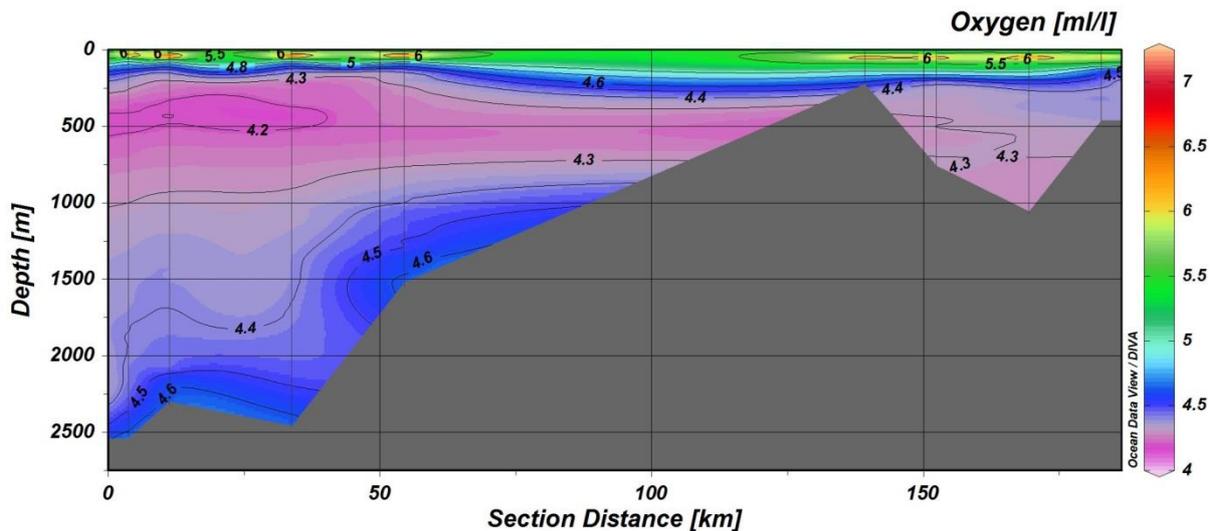


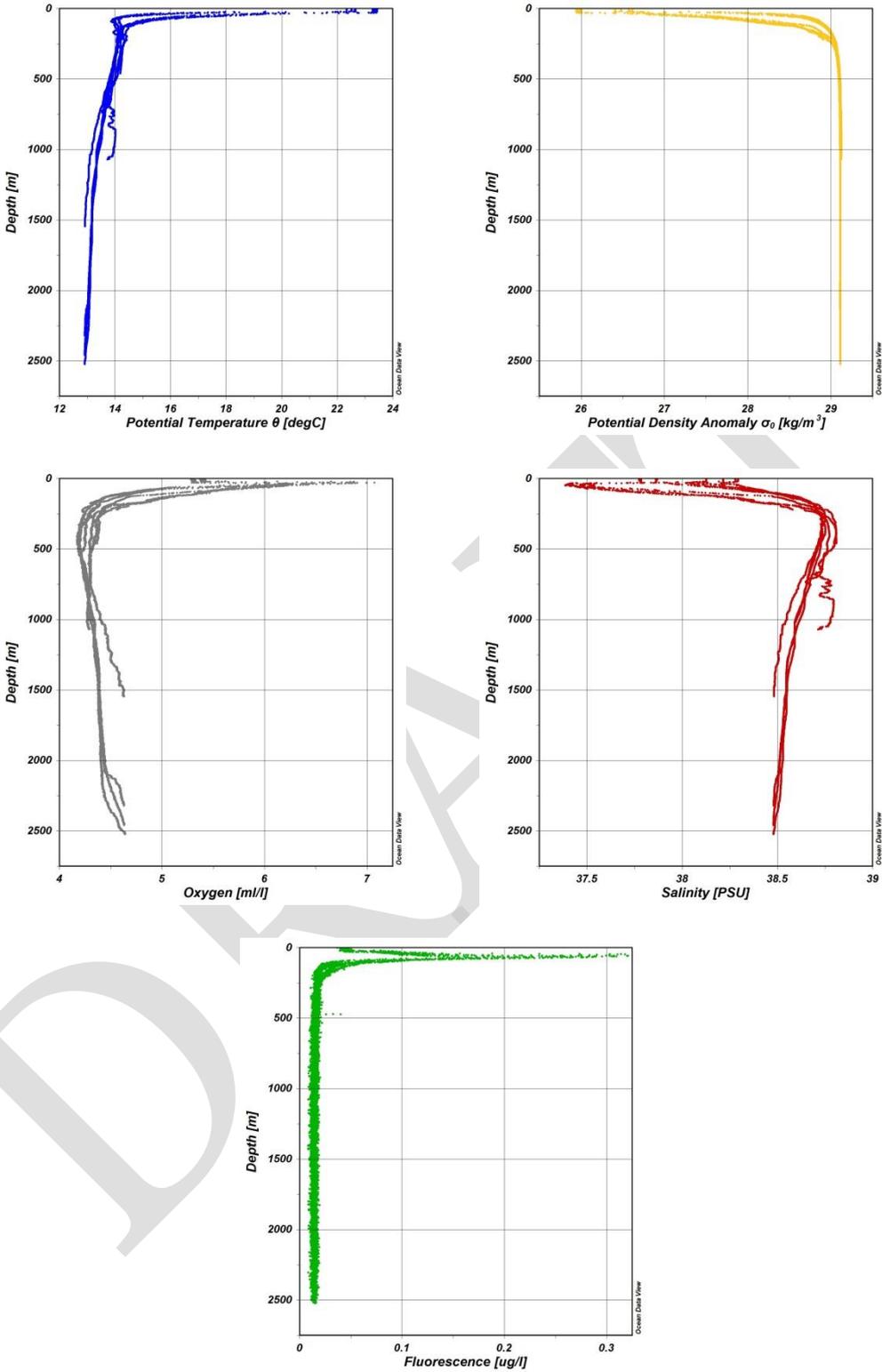


Hydrological parameters measured along the transect. Section and scatter plots: potential temperature  $\theta$ , potential density anomaly  $\sigma_0$ , oxygen, salinity, fluorescence.

### Sicily-Sardinia transect

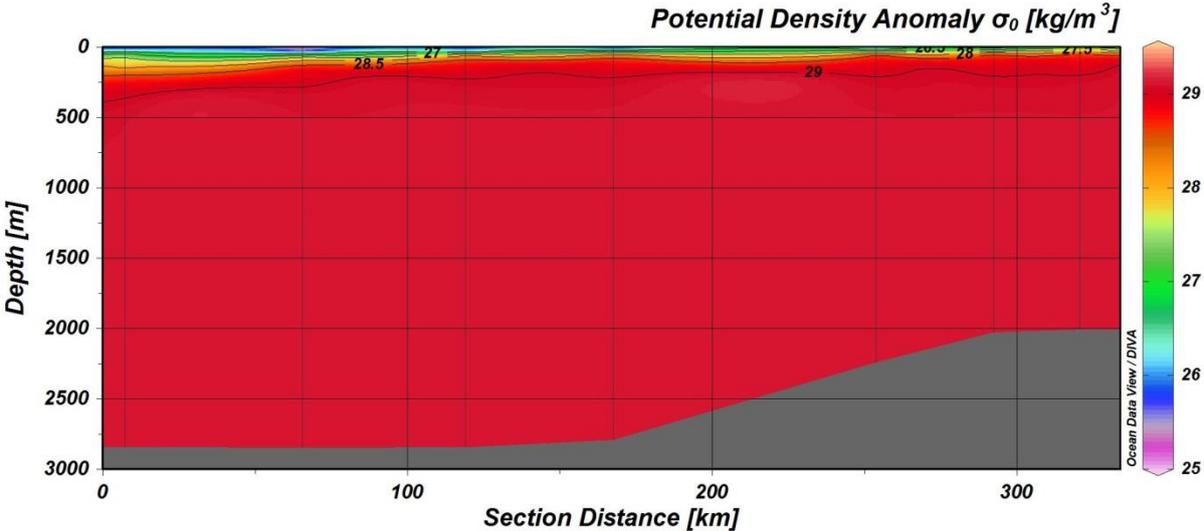
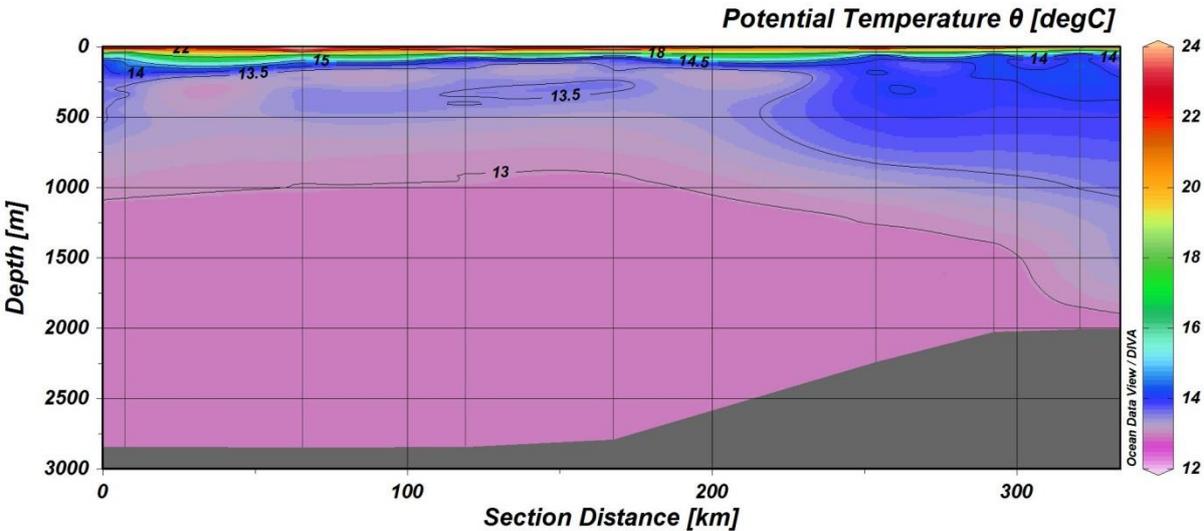
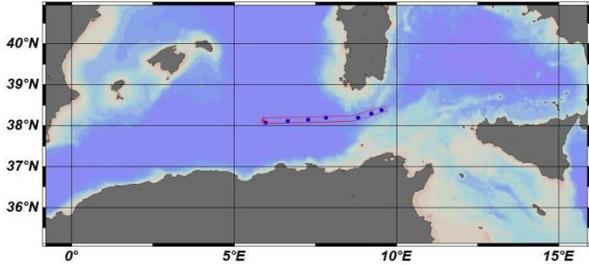


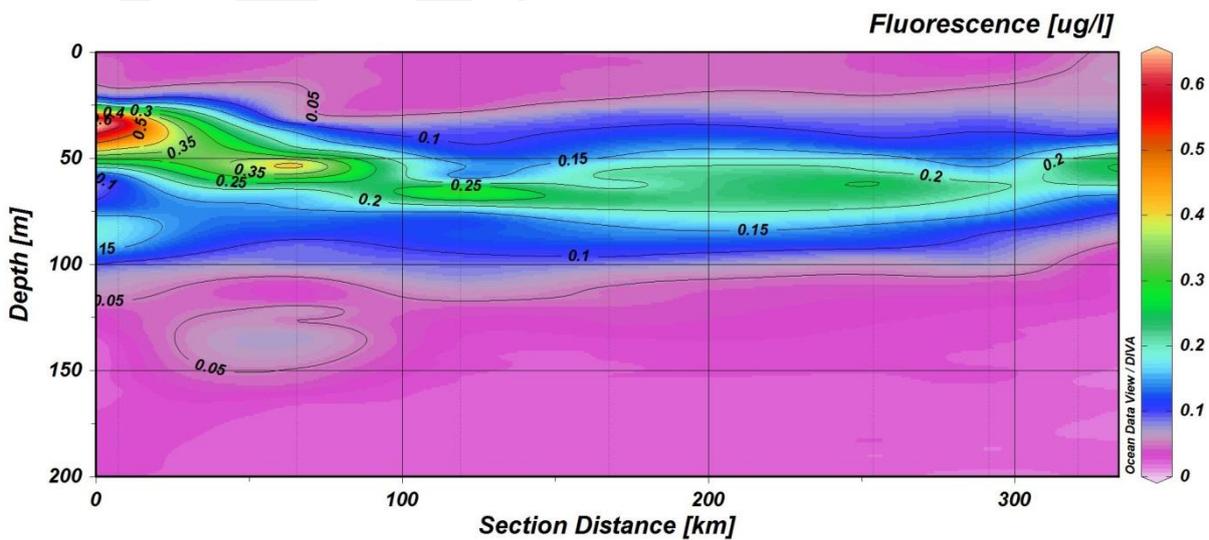
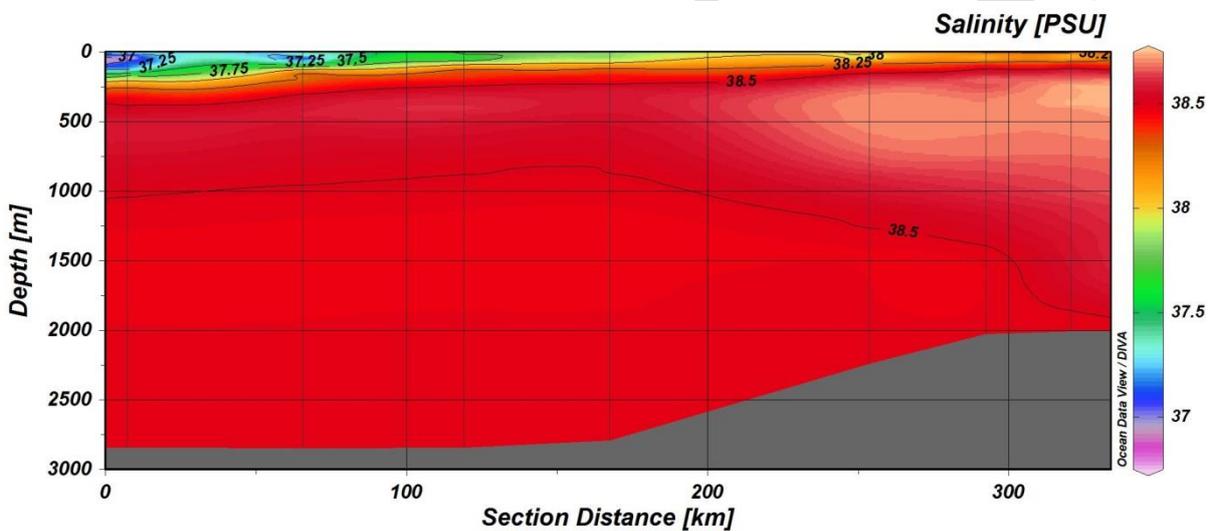
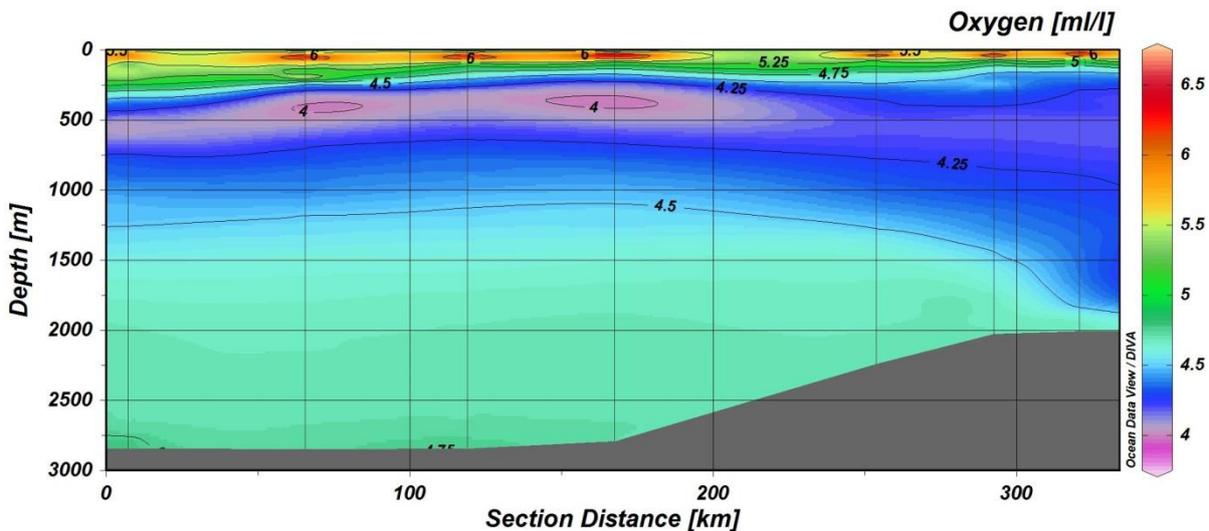


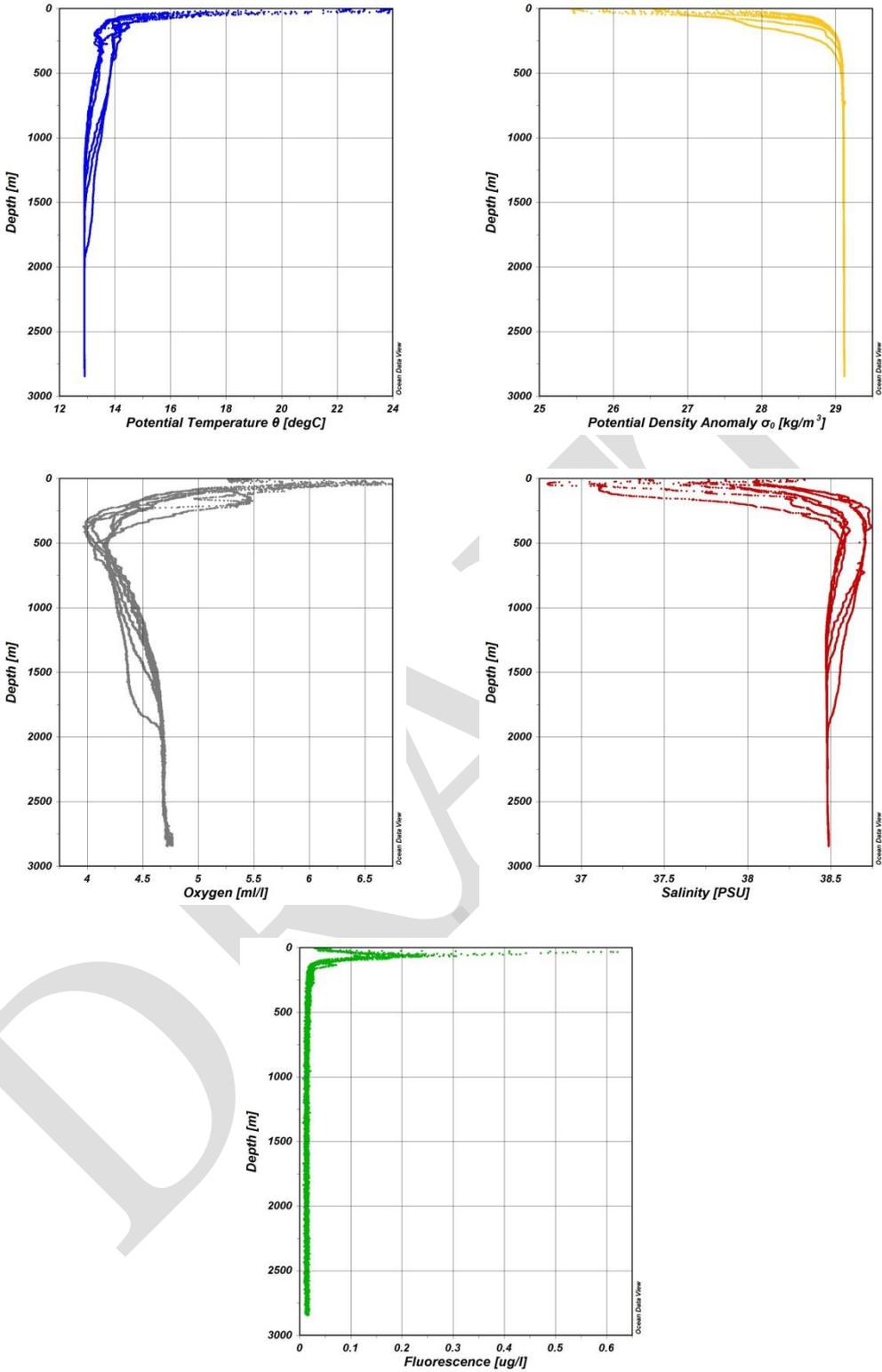


Hydrological parameters measured along the transect. Section and scatter plots: potential temperature  $\theta$ , potential density anomaly  $\sigma_0$ , oxygen, salinity, fluorescence.

### Sardinian Channel transect

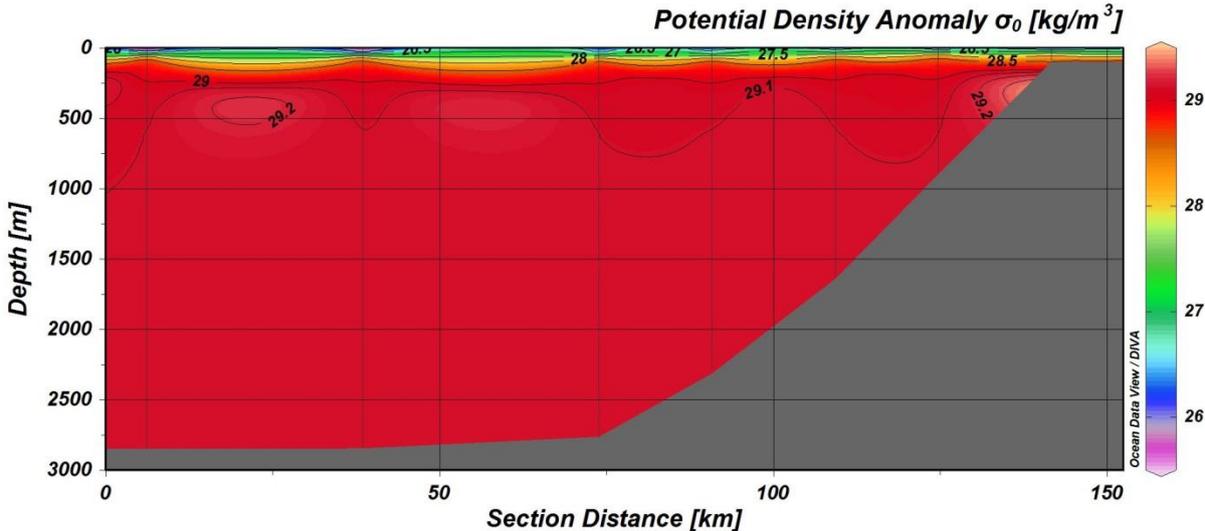
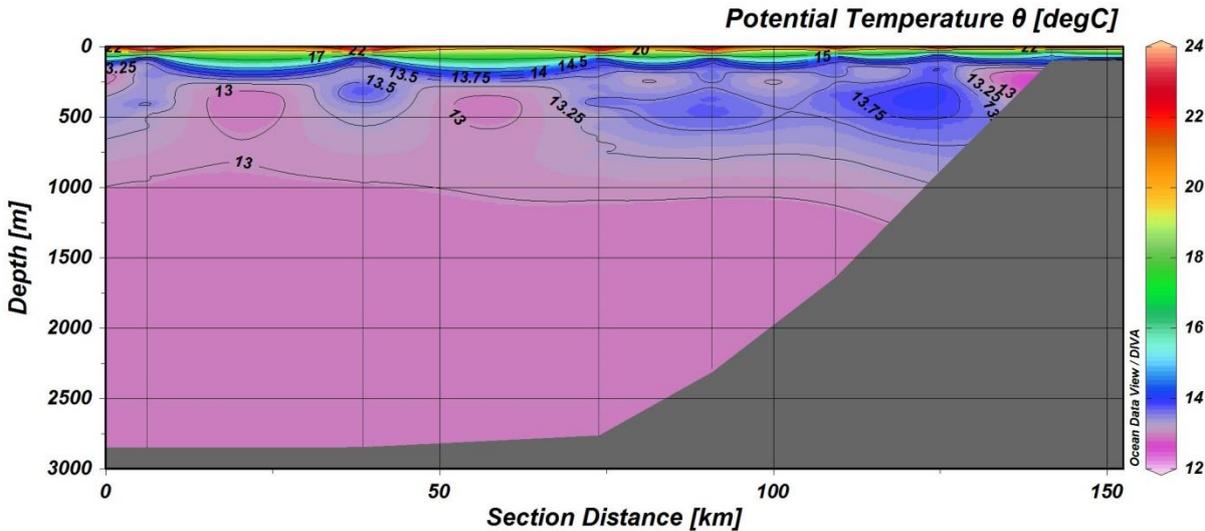
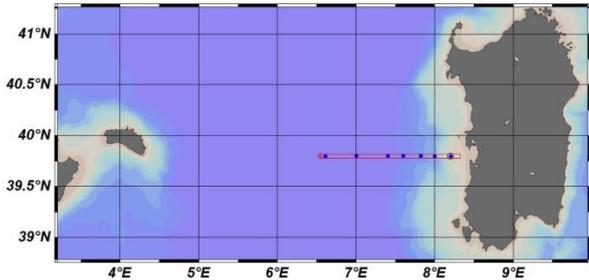


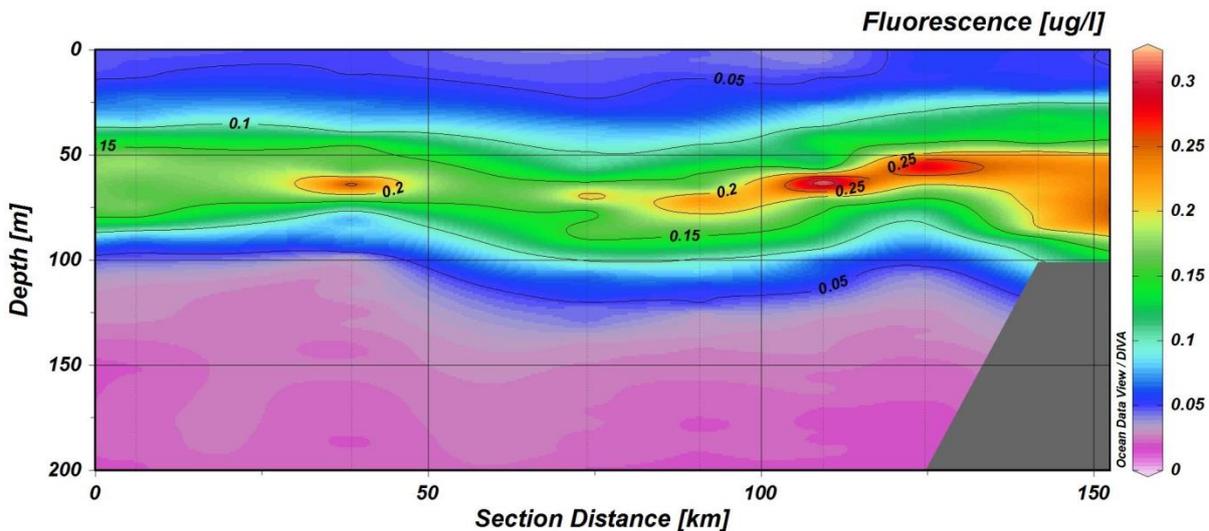
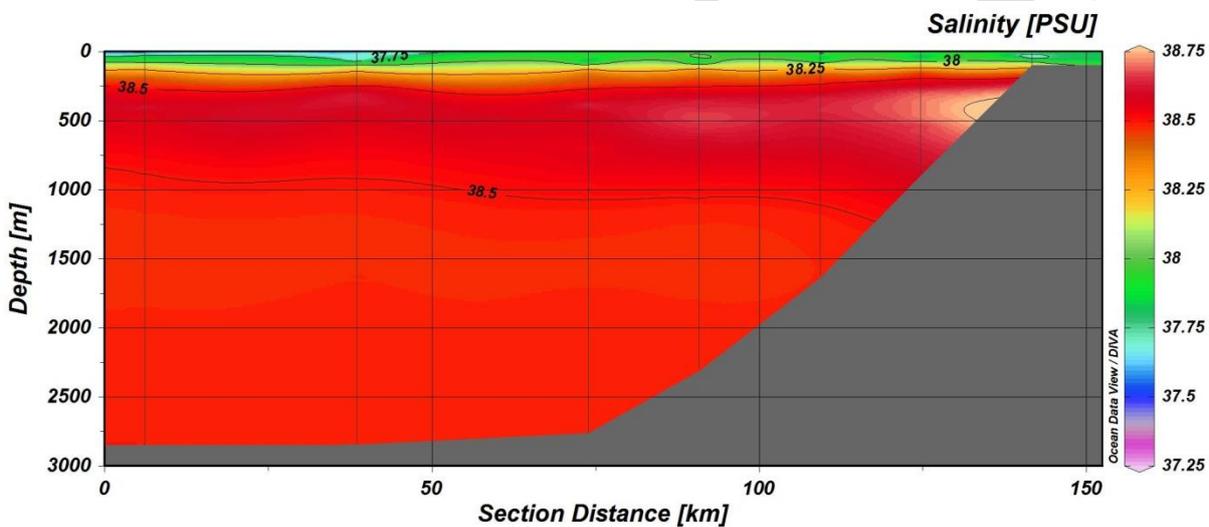
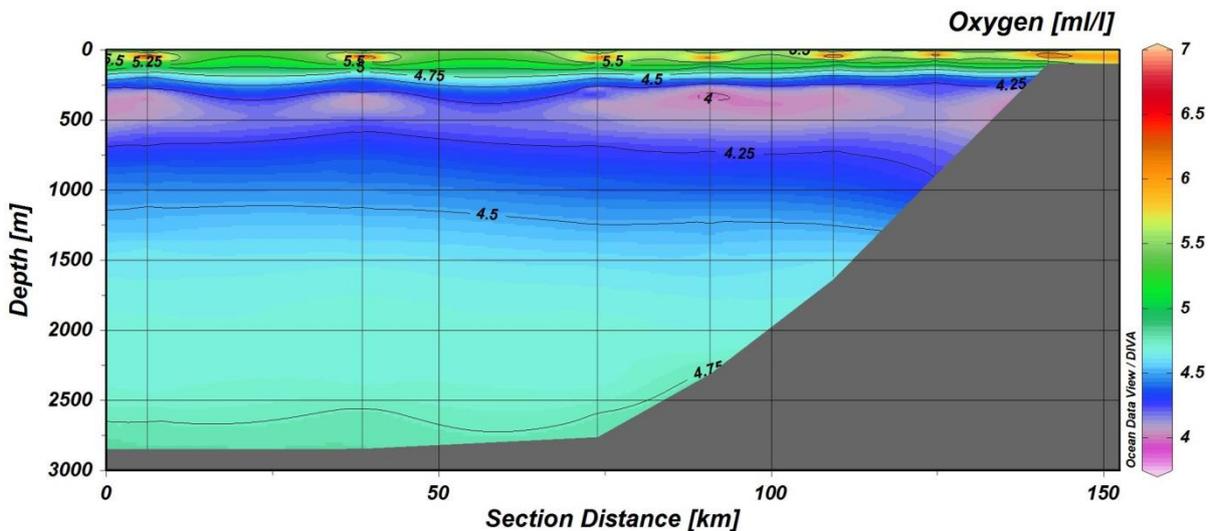


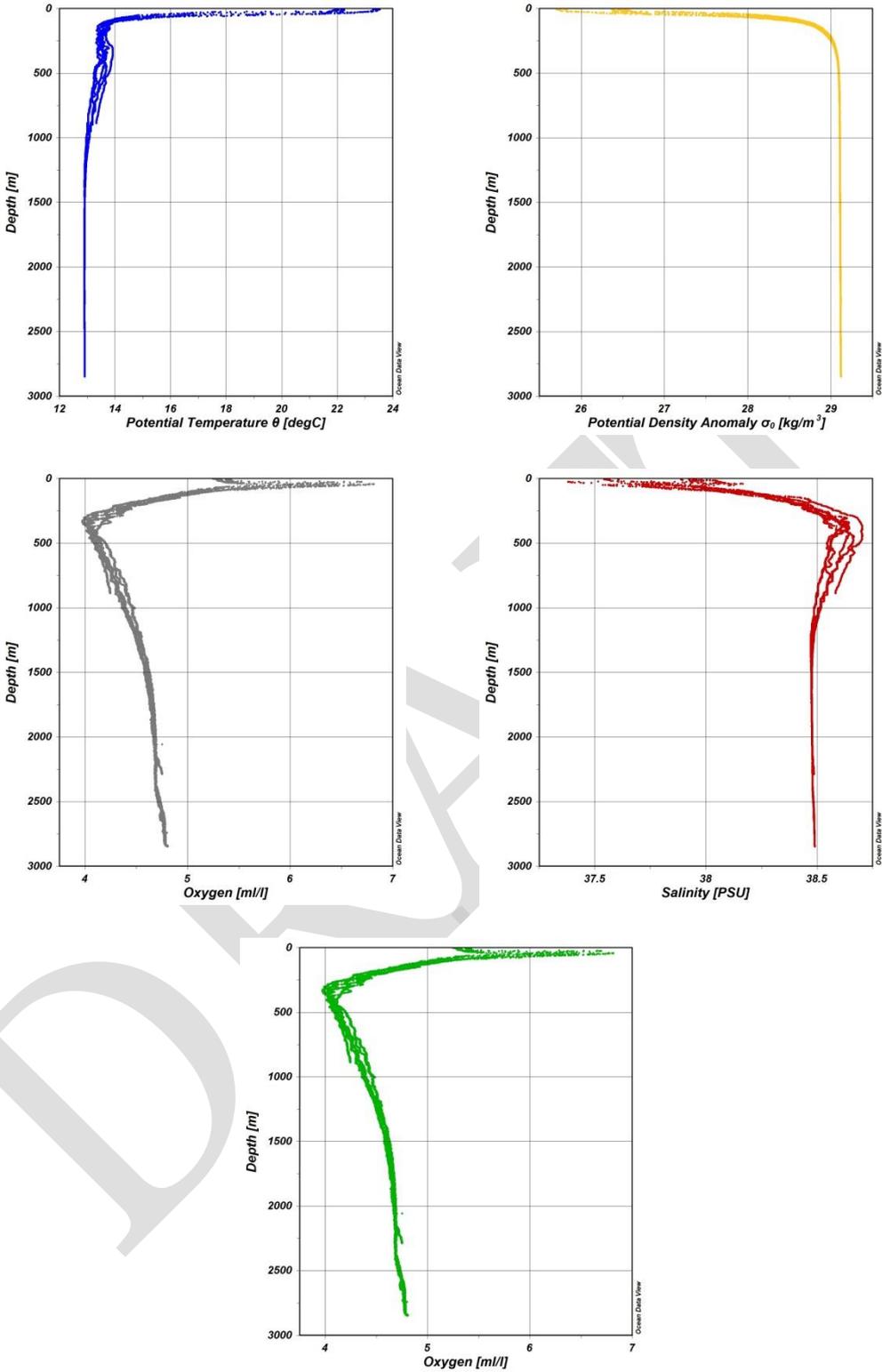


Hydrological parameters measured along the transect. Section and scatter plots: potential temperature  $\theta$ , potential density anomaly  $\sigma_0$ , oxygen, salinity, fluorescence.

### Sardinian Sea transect

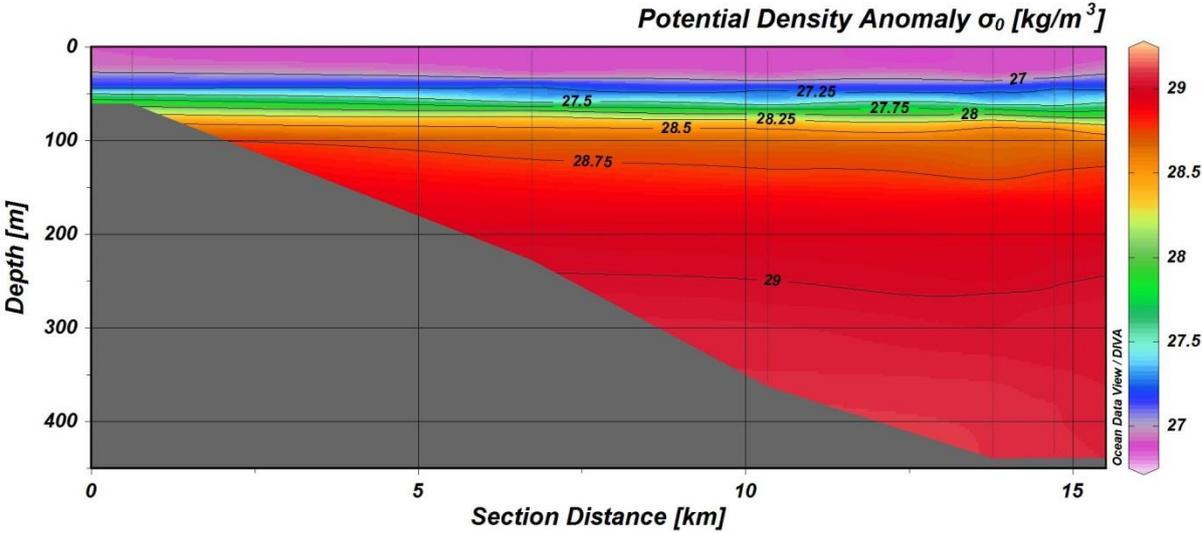
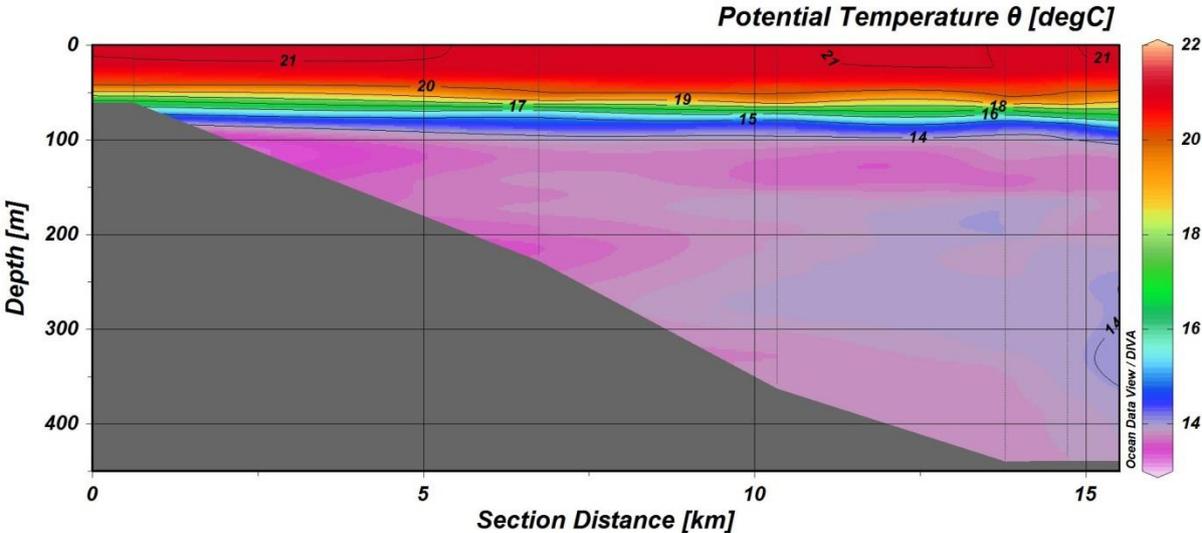
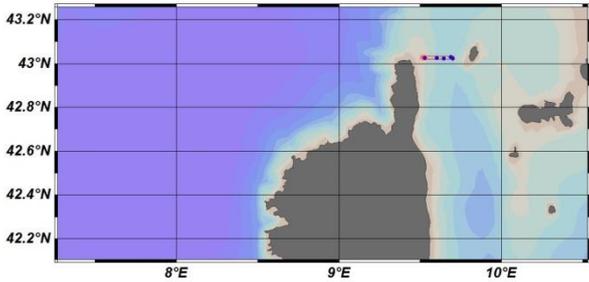


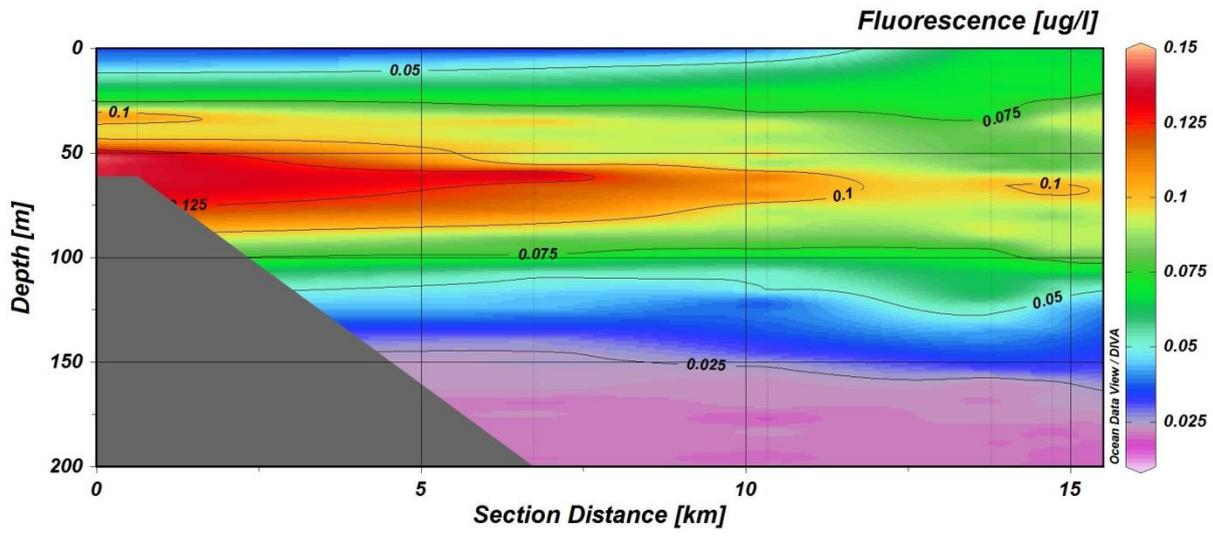
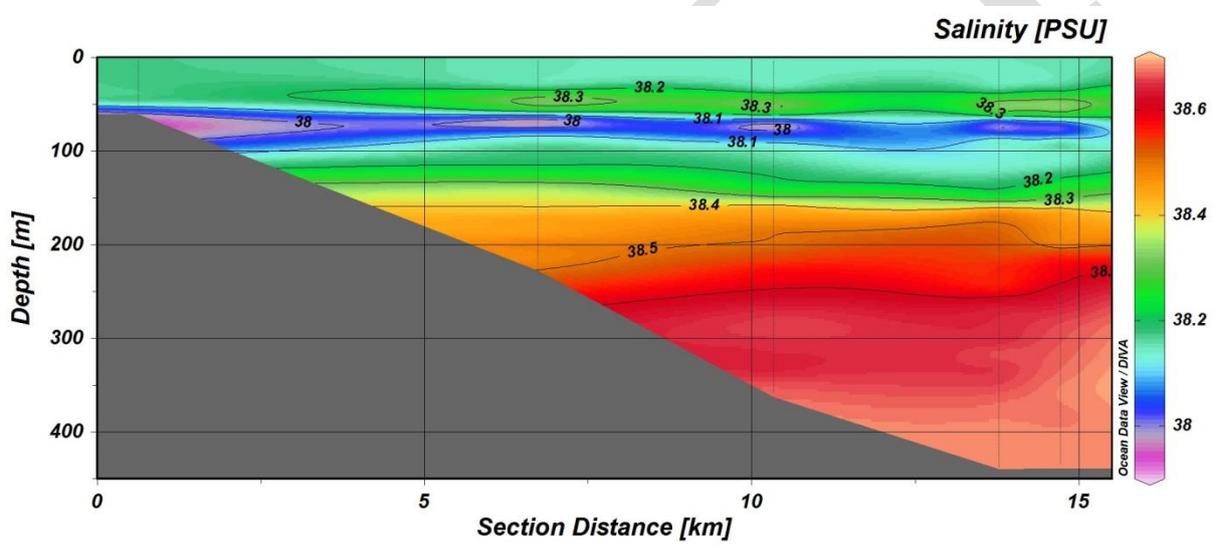
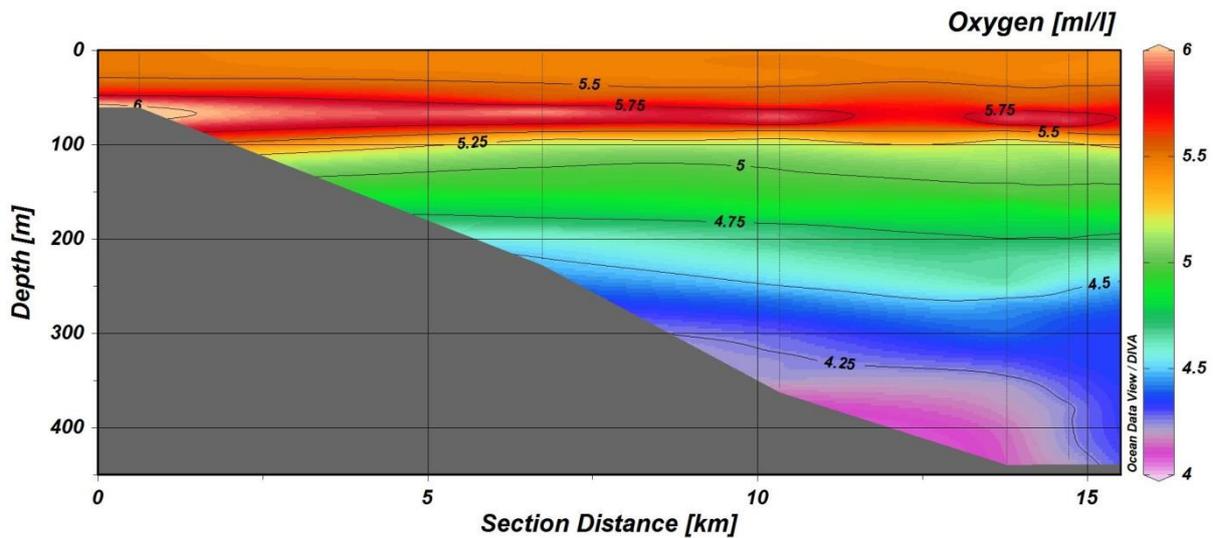


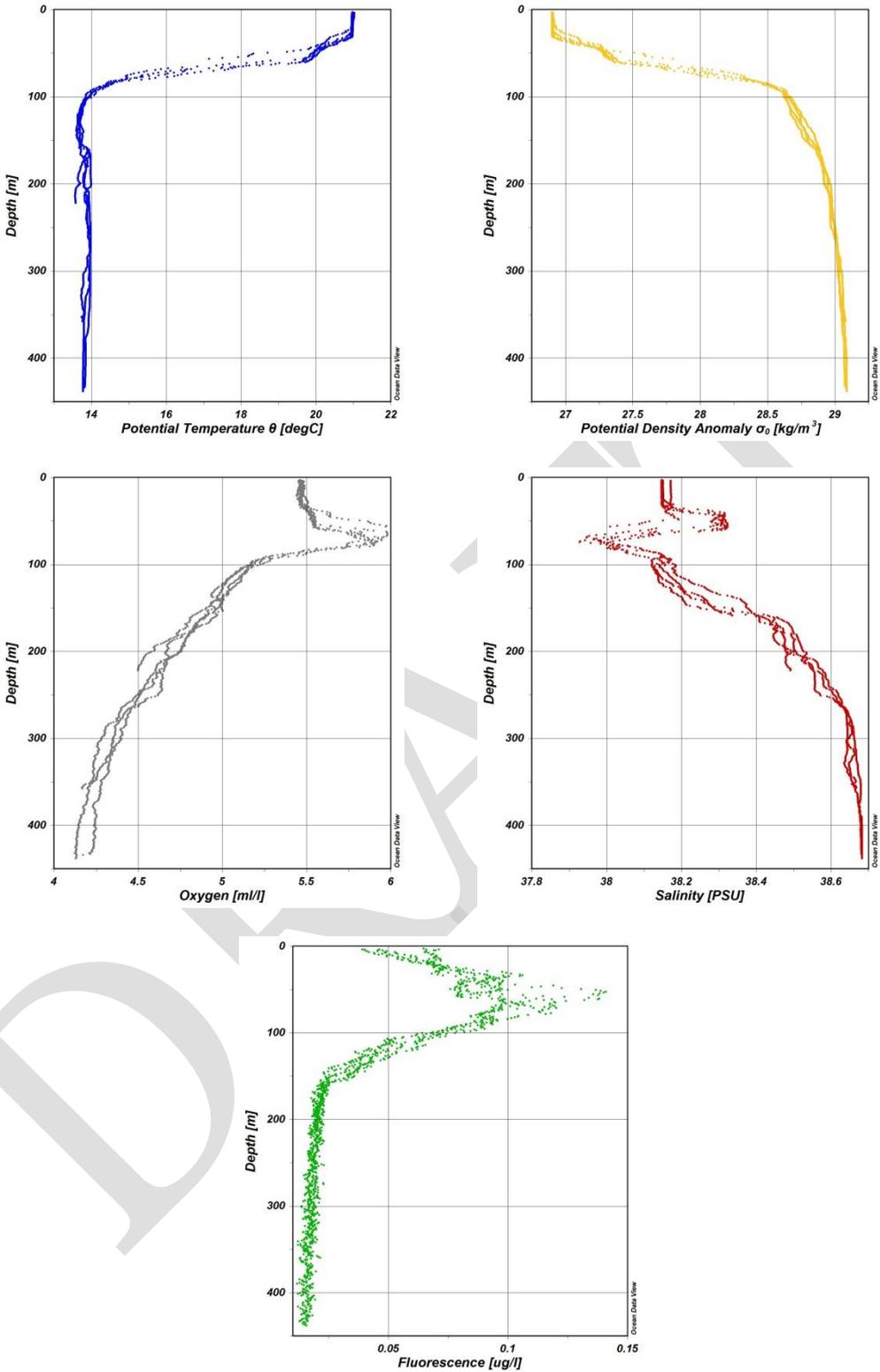


Hydrological parameters measured along the transect. Section and scatter plots: potential temperature  $\theta$ , potential density anomaly  $\sigma_0$ , oxygen, salinity, fluorescence.

### Corsica Channel transect

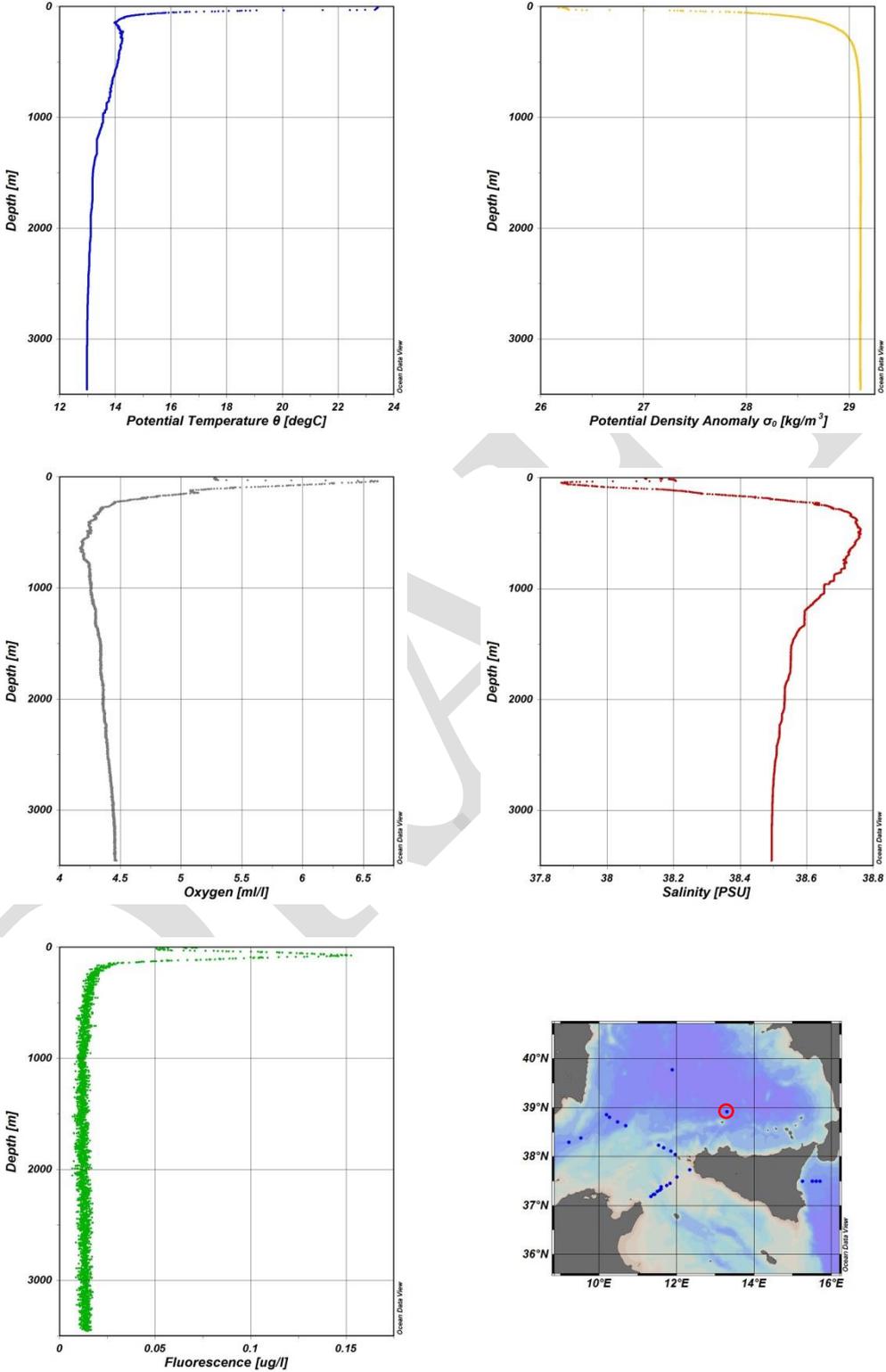






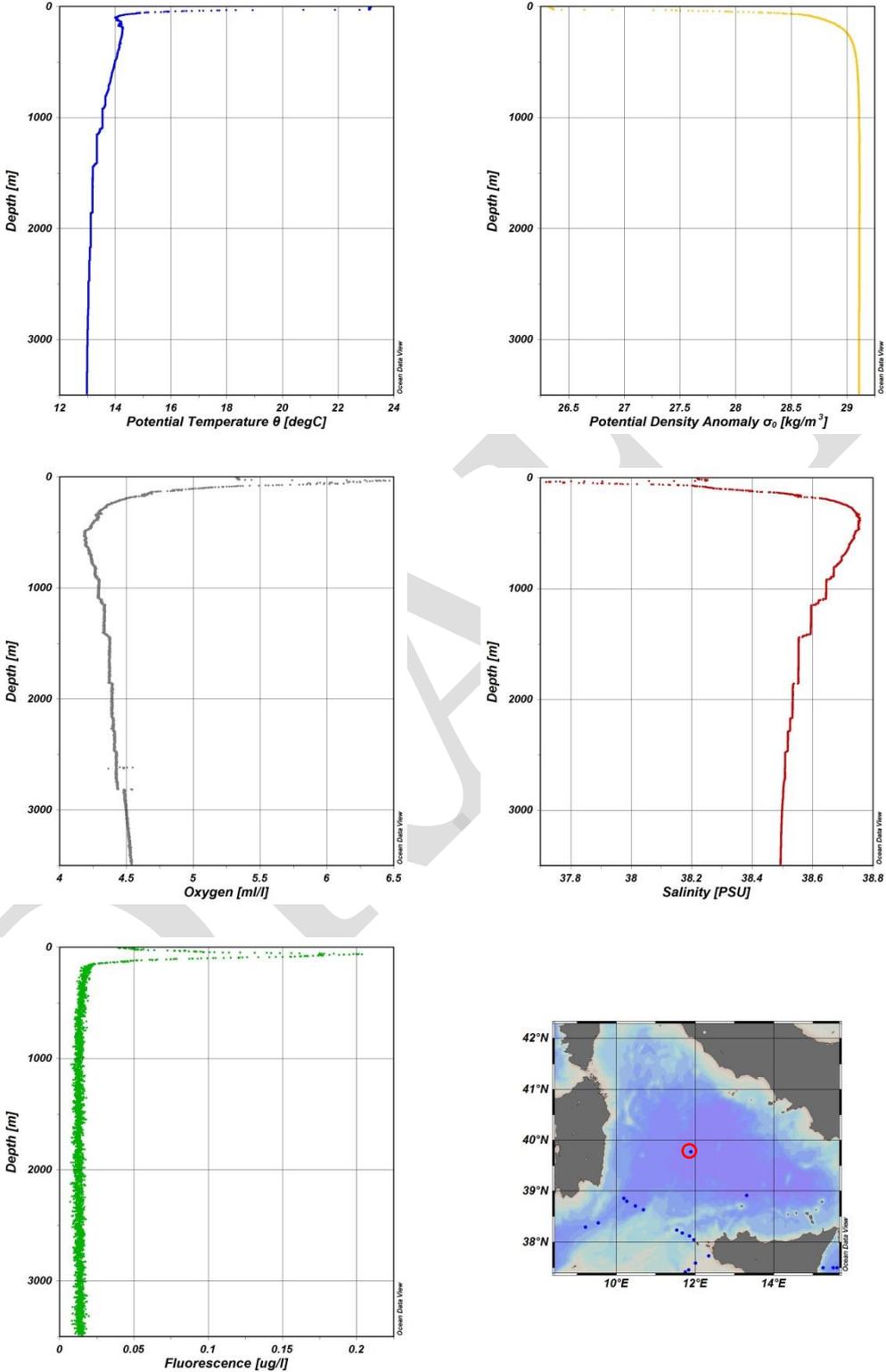
Hydrological parameters measured along the transect. Section and scatter plots: potential temperature  $\theta$ , potential density anomaly  $\sigma_0$ , oxygen, salinity, fluorescence.

### Geostar station



Hydrological parameters measured at Geostar station: potential temperature  $\theta$ , potential density anomaly  $\sigma_0$ , oxygen, salinity, fluorescence.

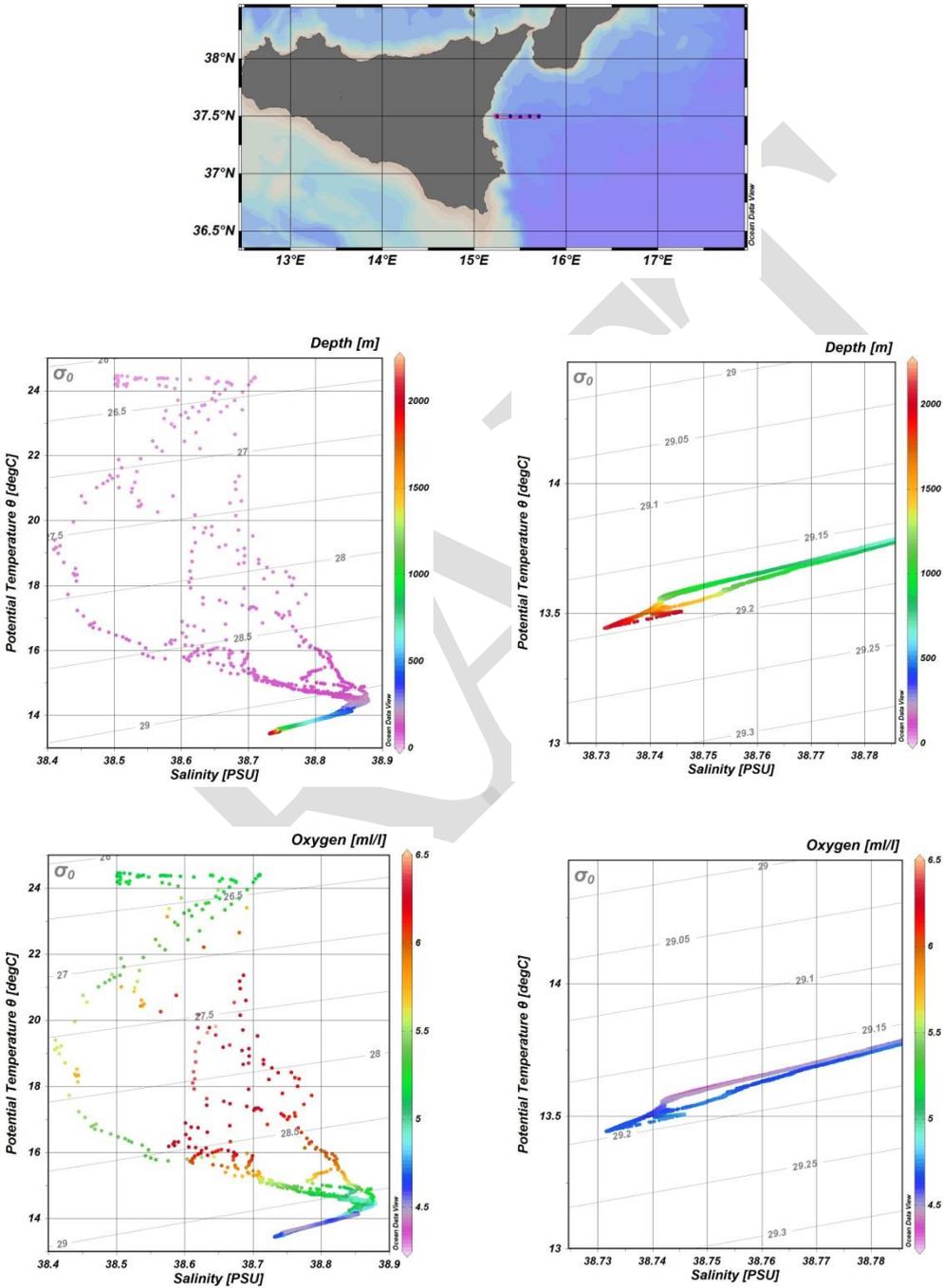
51 station



Hydrological parameters measured at 51 station: potential temperature  $\theta$ , potential density anomaly  $\sigma_0$ , oxygen, salinity, fluorescence.

T-S diagrams

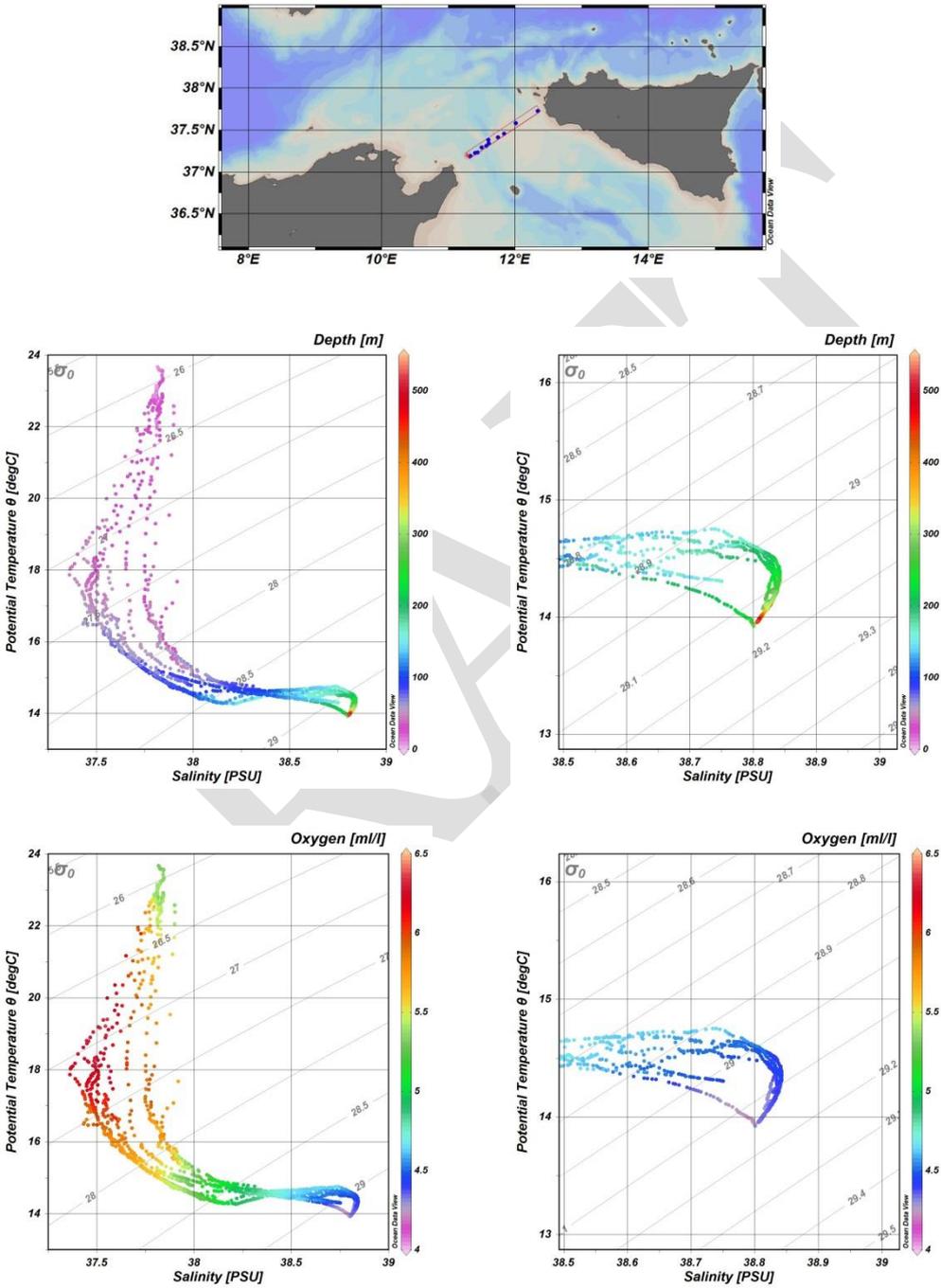
South-Est Sicily transect



T-S diagrams calculated for the stations along the transect. Upper plots: TS vs. Depth. Lower plots: TS vs. Oxygen. On the left: whole profile TS diagrams. On the right: zoom close to the bottom.

### T-S diagrams

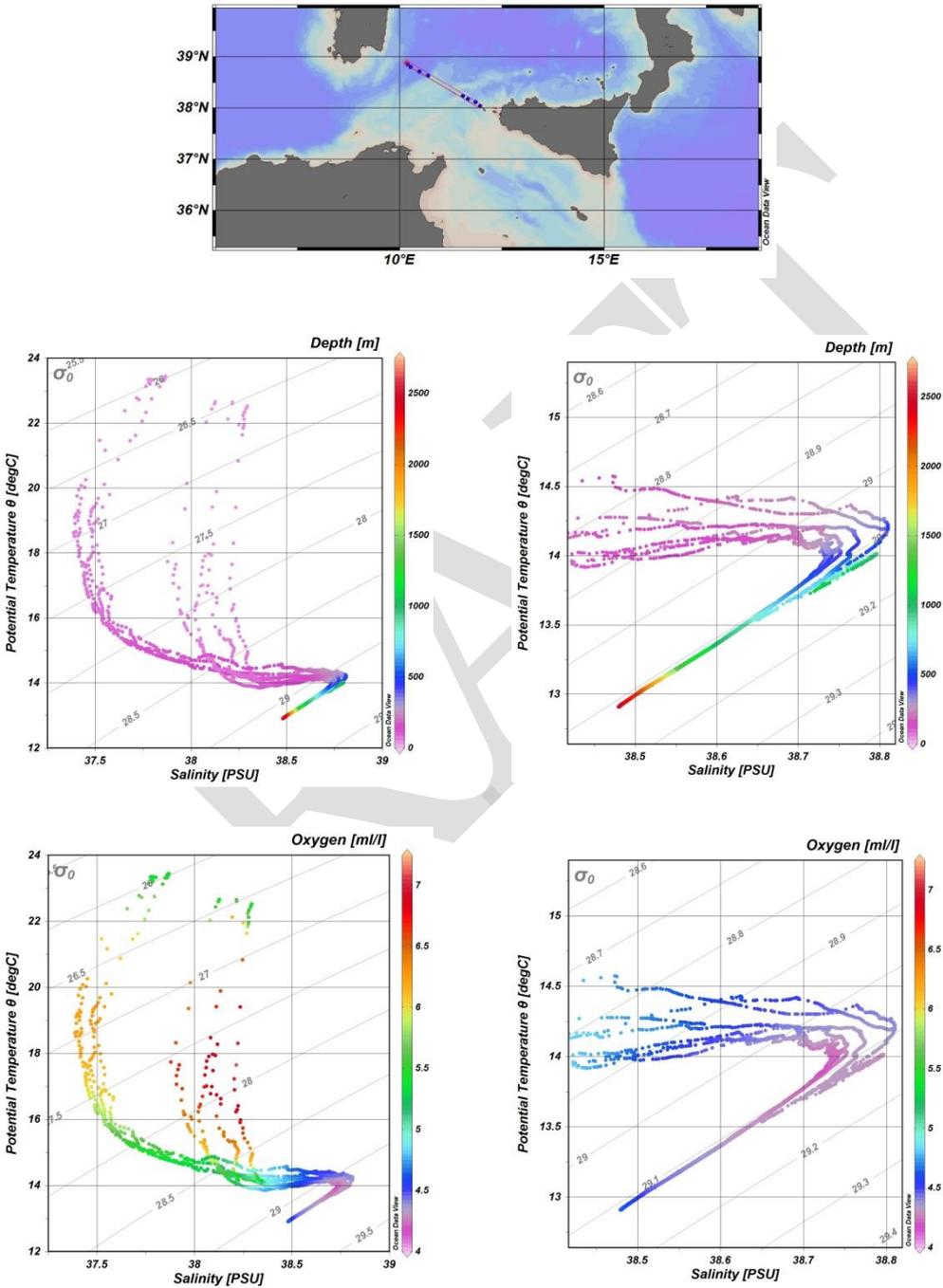
### Sicily Strait transect



T-S diagrams calculated for the stations along the transect. Upper plots: TS vs. Depth. Lower plots: TS vs. Oxygen. On the left: whole profile TS diagrams. On the right: zoom close to the bottom.

T-S diagrams

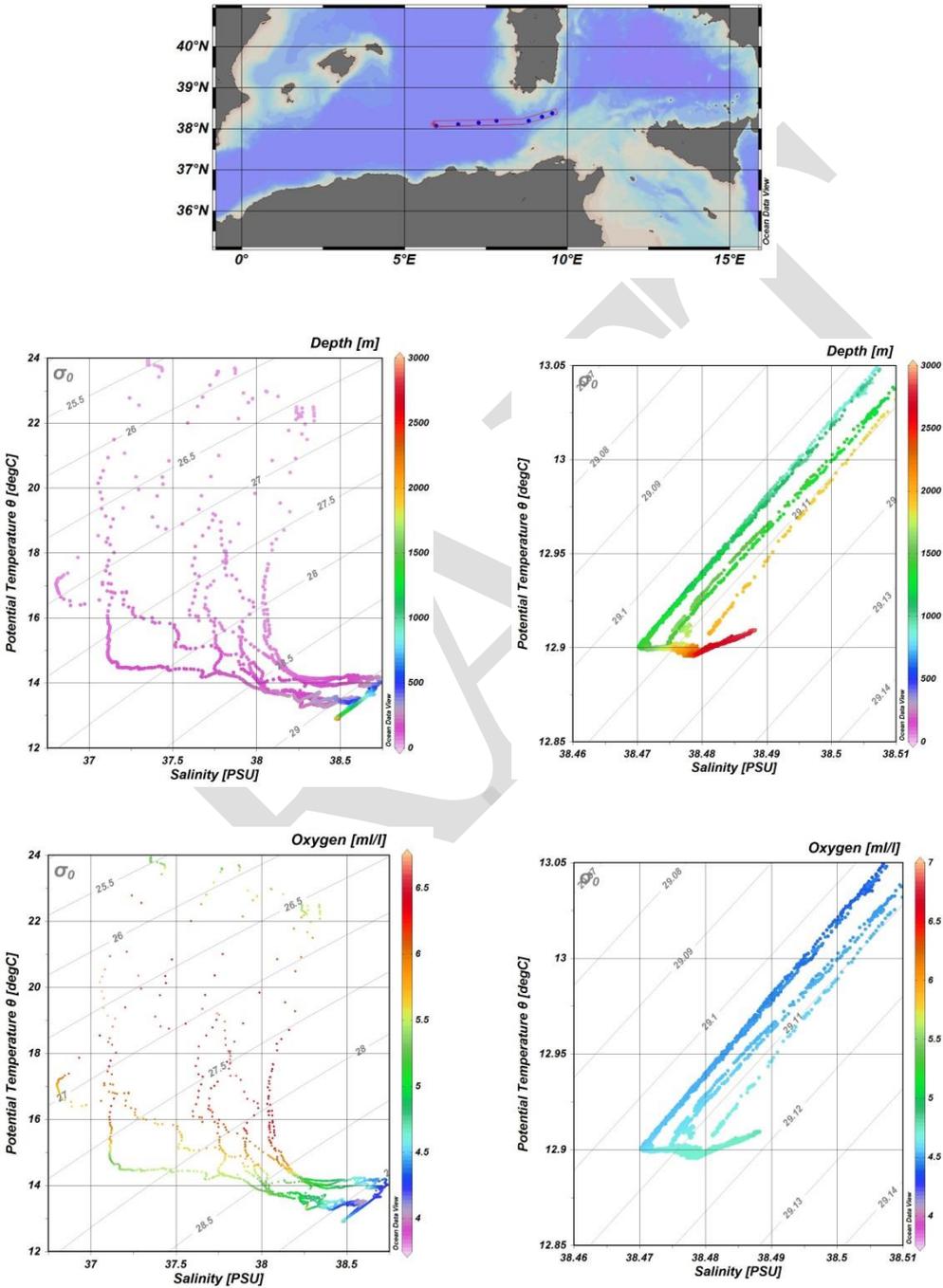
Sicily Sardinia transect



T-S diagrams calculated for the stations along the transect. Upper plots: TS vs. Depth. Lower plots: TS vs. Oxygen. On the left: whole profile TS diagrams. On the right: zoom close to the bottom.

### T-S diagrams

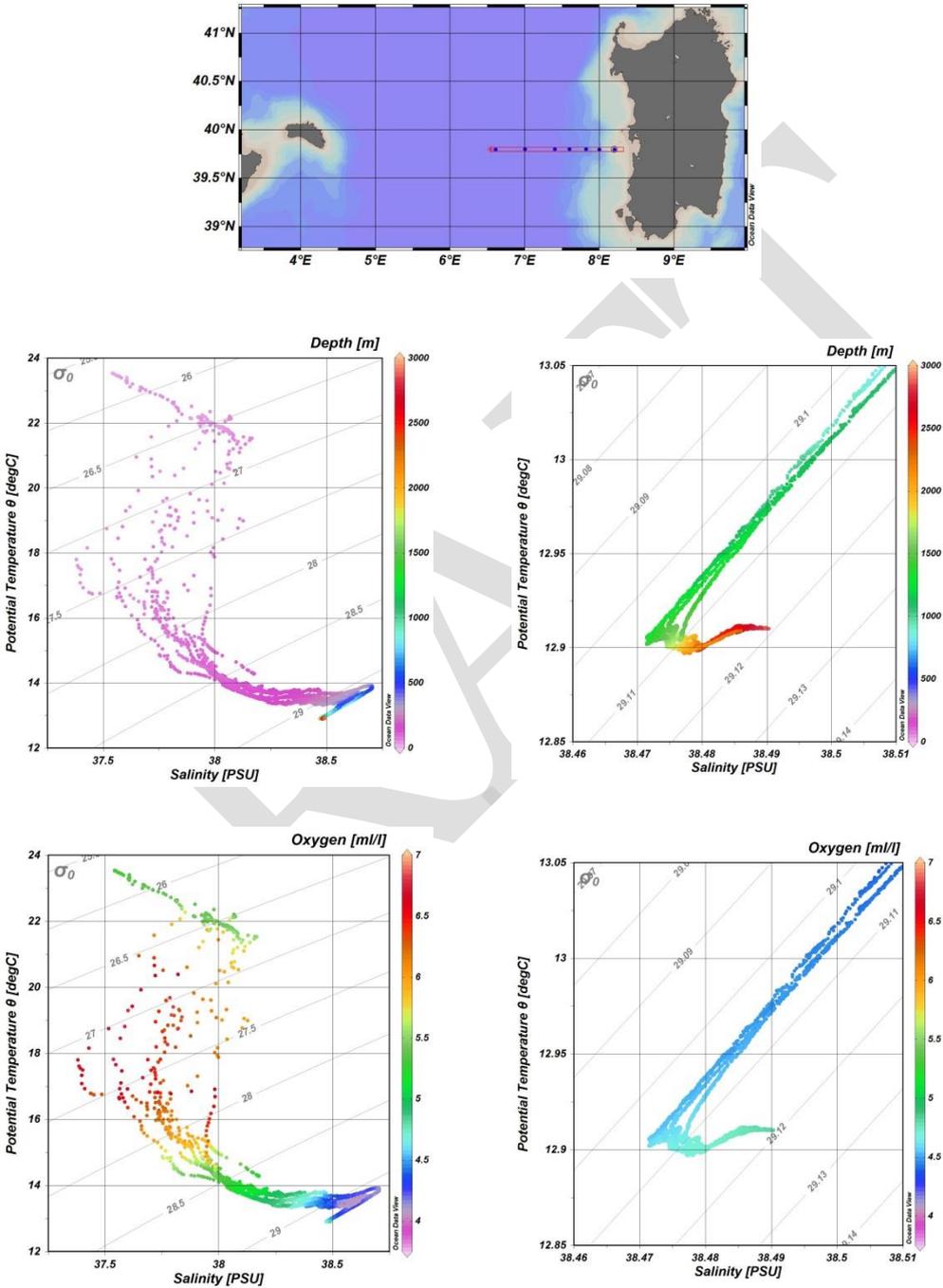
#### Sardinian Channel transect



T-S diagrams calculated for the stations along the transect. Upper plots: TS vs. Depth. Lower plots: TS vs. Oxygen. On the left: whole profile TS diagrams. On the right: zoom close to the bottom.

### T-S diagrams

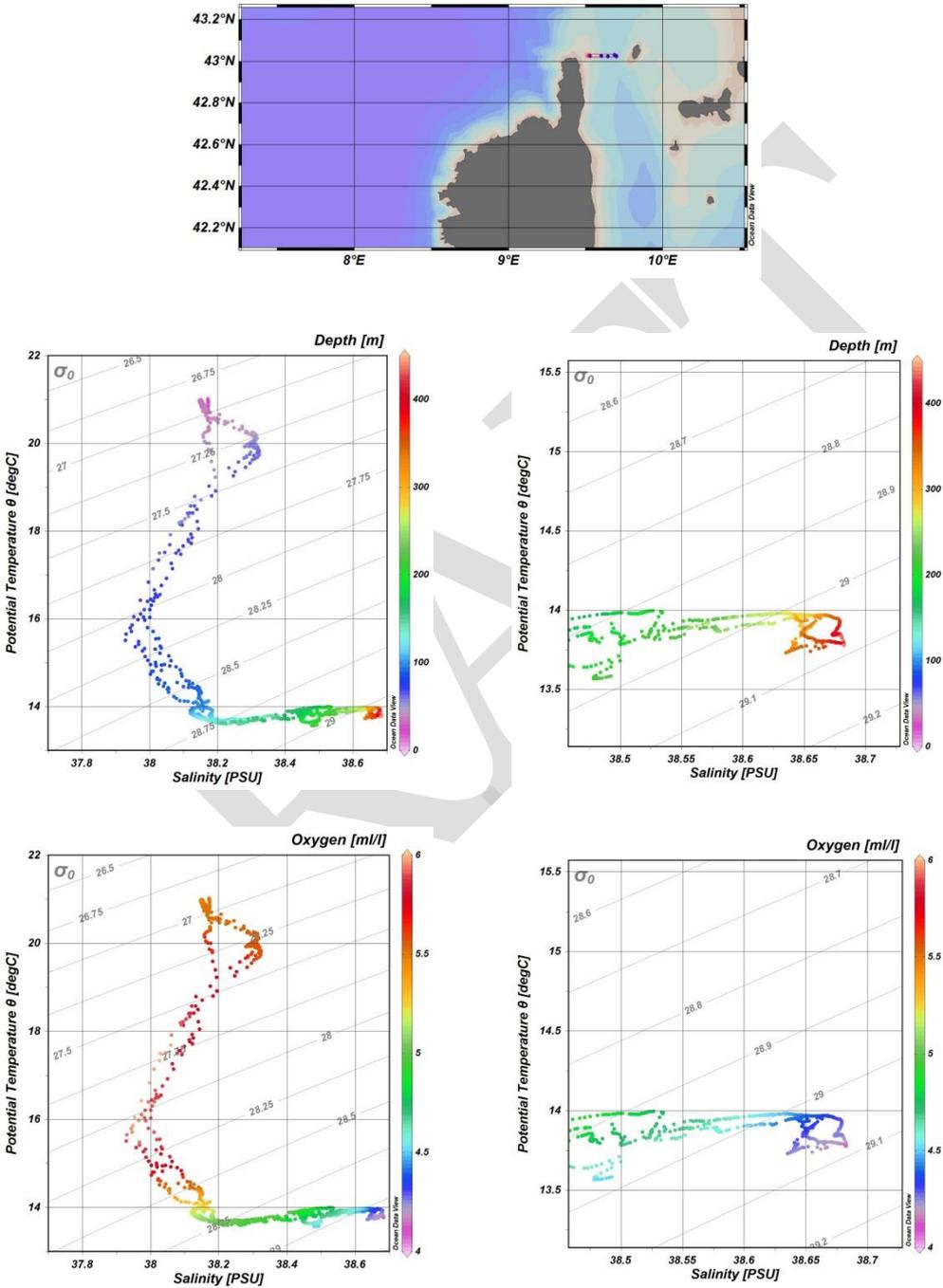
#### Sardinian Sea transect



T-S diagrams calculated for the stations along the transect. Upper plots: TS vs. Depth. Lower plots: TS vs. Oxygen. On the left: whole profile TS diagrams. On the right: zoom close to the bottom.

### T-S diagrams

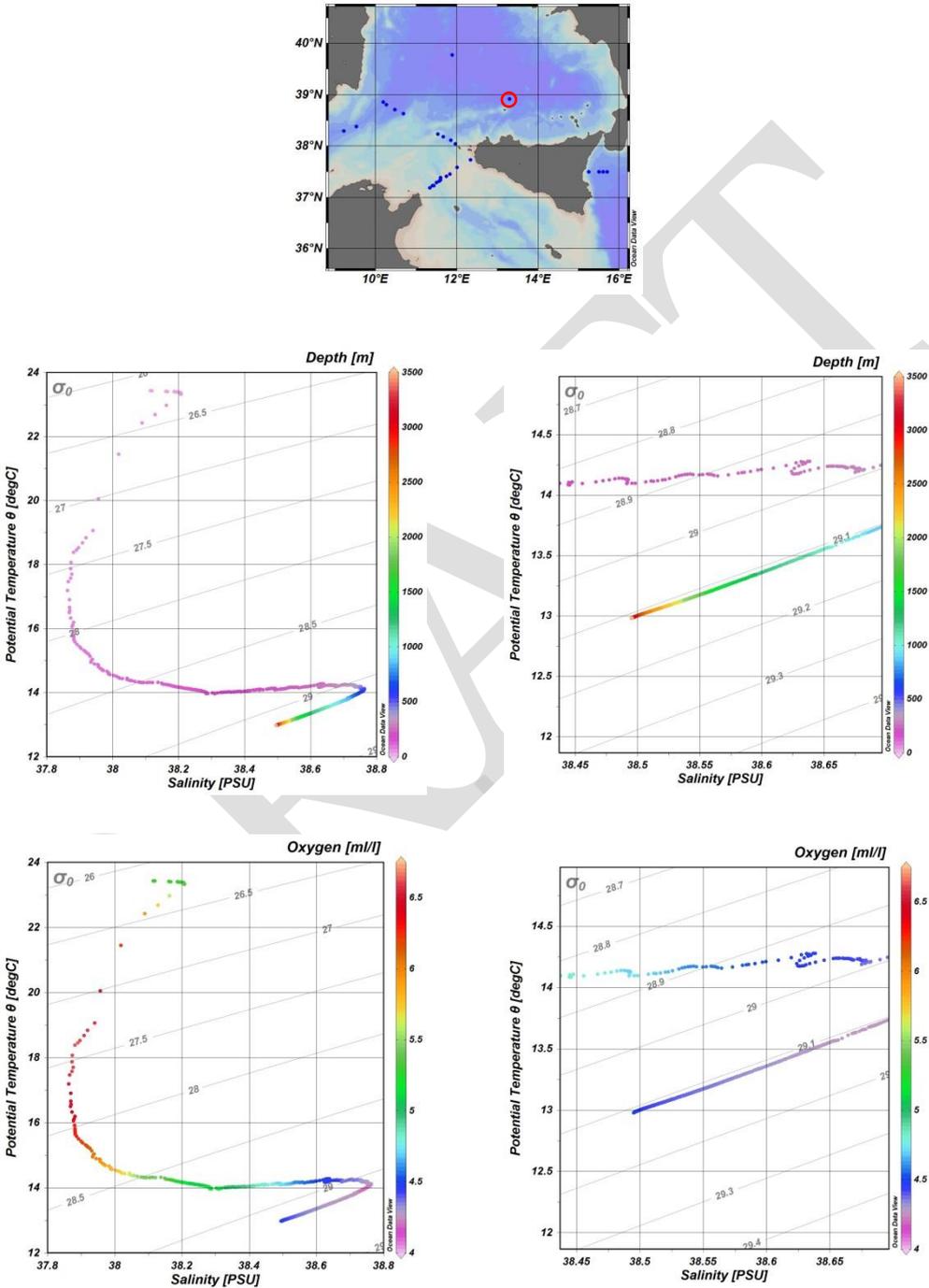
#### Corsica Channel transect



T-S diagrams calculated for the stations along the transect. Upper plots: TS vs. Depth. Lower plots: TS vs. Oxygen. On the left: whole profile TS diagrams. On the right: zoom close to the bottom.

### T-S diagrams

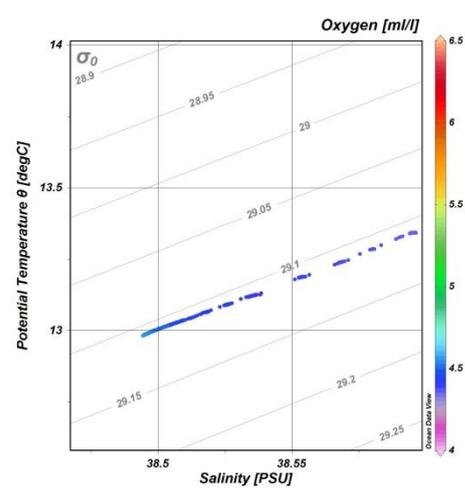
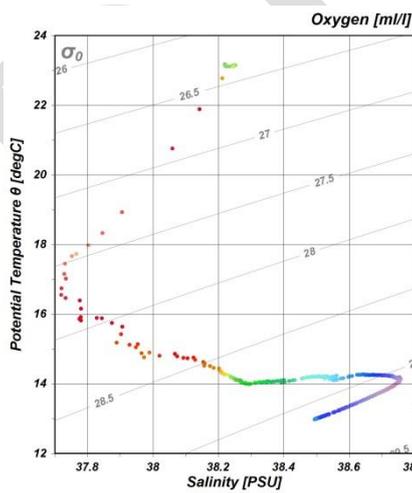
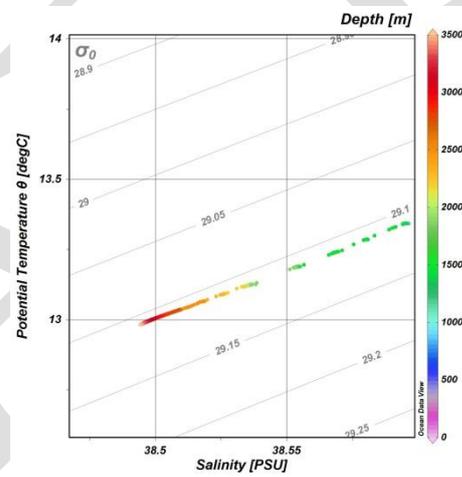
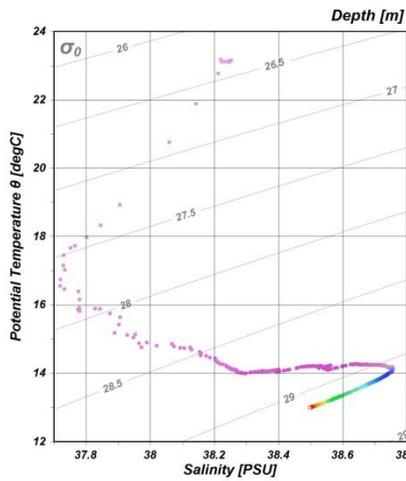
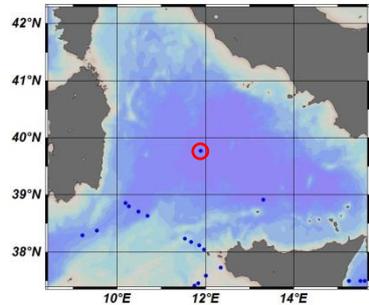
### Geostar station



T-S diagrams calculated for the Geostar station. Upper plots: TS vs. Depth. Lower plots: TS vs. Oxygen. On the left: whole profile TS diagrams. On the right: zoom close to the bottom.

## T-S diagrams

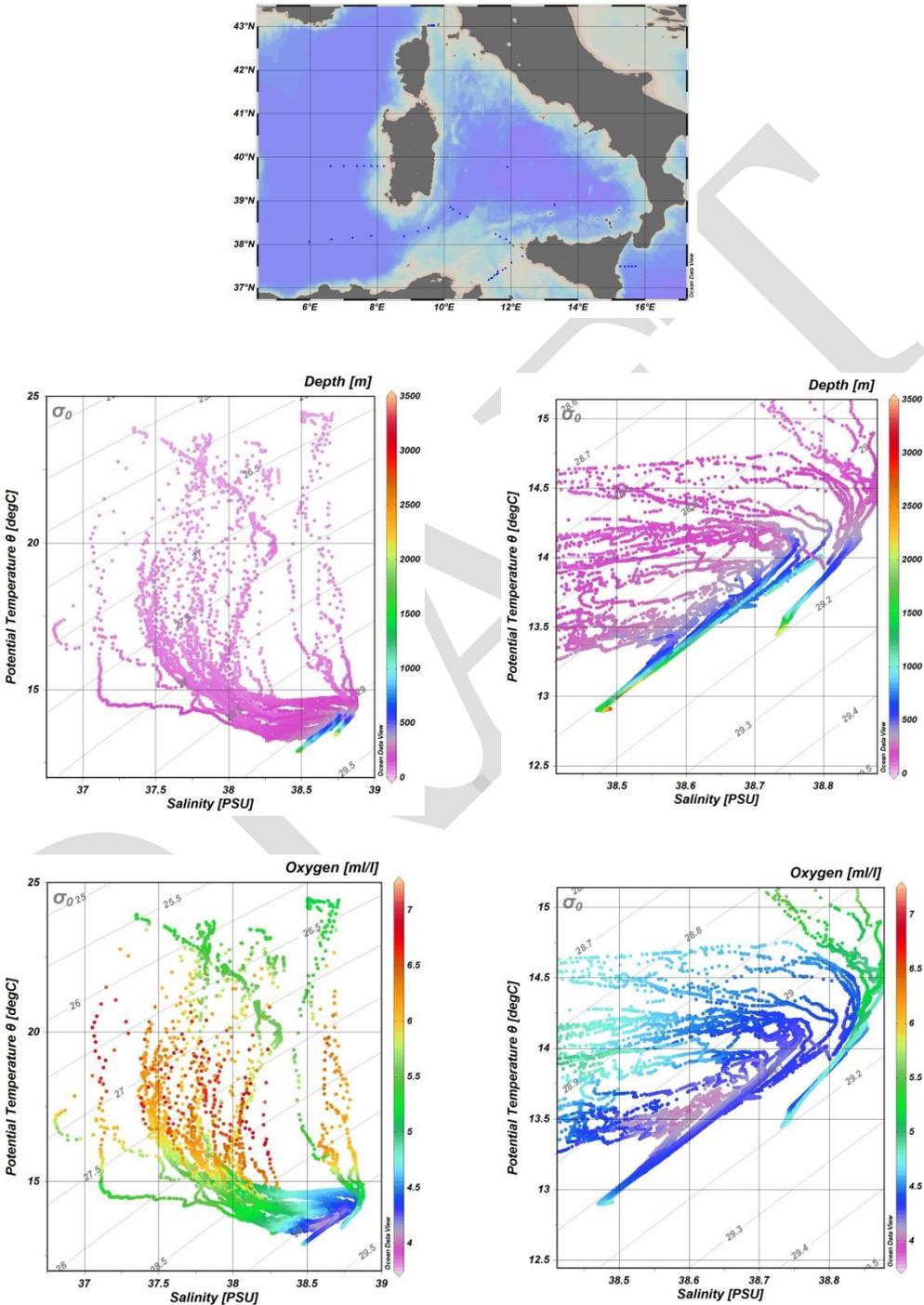
## 51 station



T-S diagrams calculated for the 51 station. Upper plots: TS vs. Depth. Lower plots: TS vs. Oxygen. On the left: whole profile TS diagrams. On the right: zoom close to the bottom.

### T-S diagrams

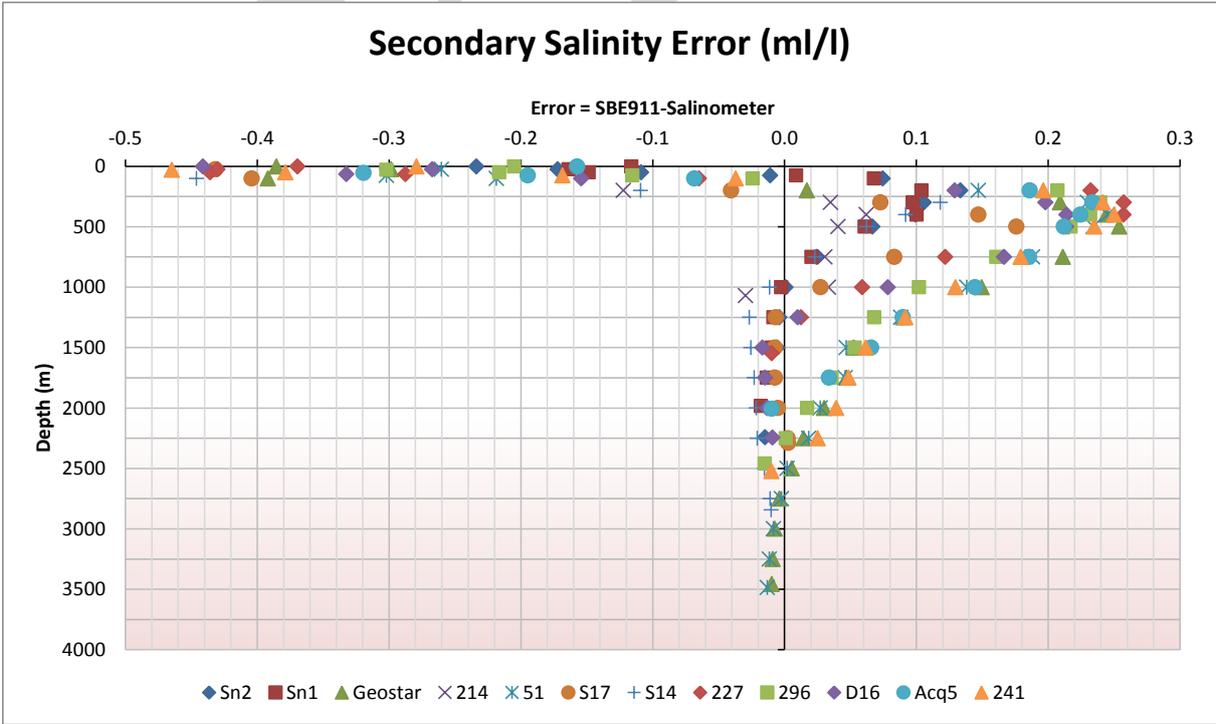
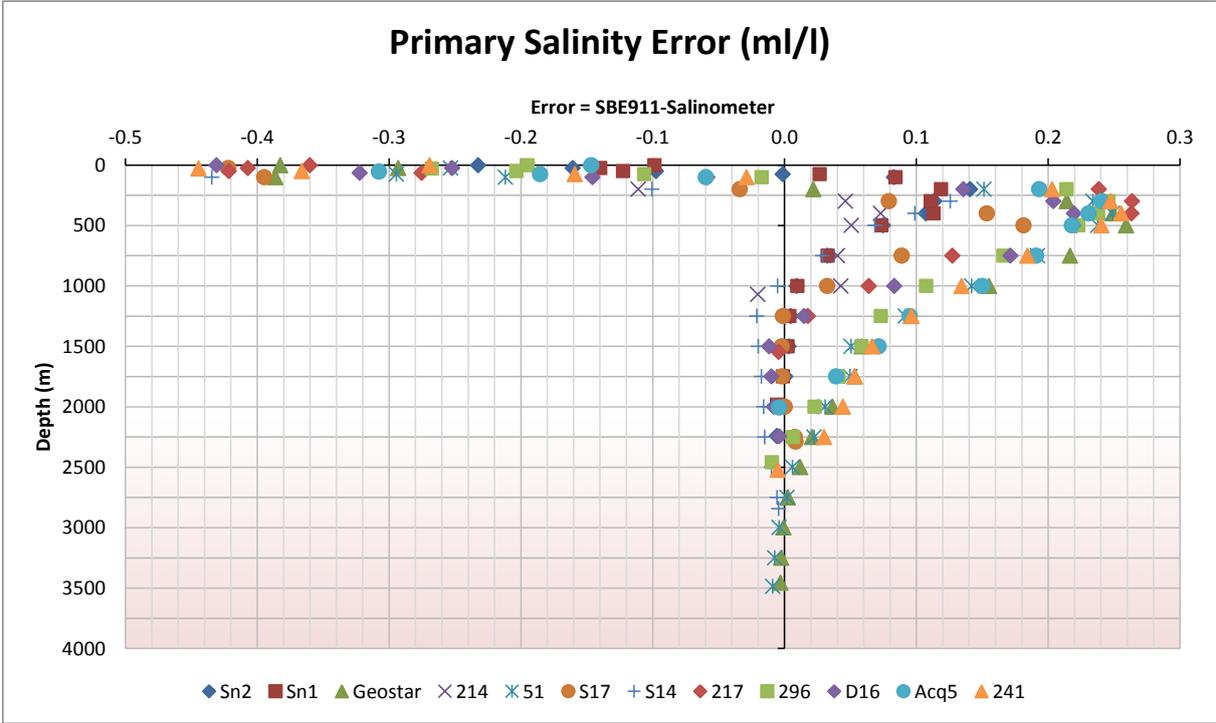
### All CTD stations



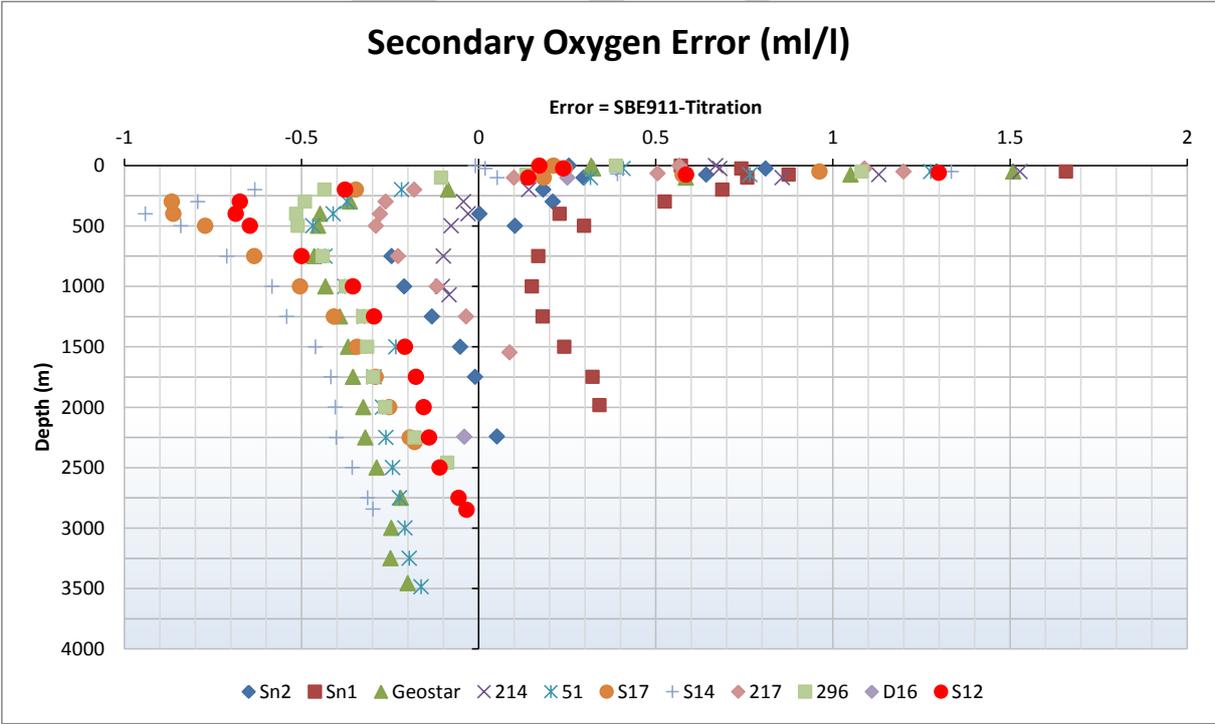
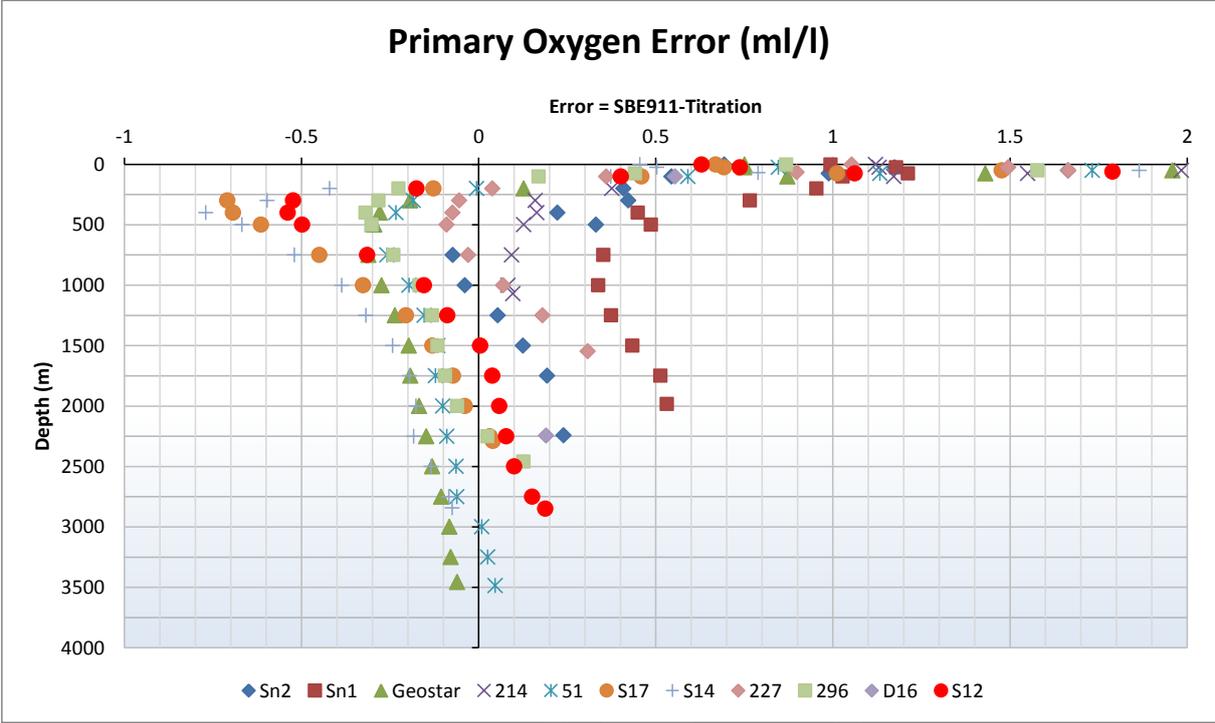
T-S diagrams calculated for all the CTD stations. Upper plots: TS vs. Depth. Lower plots: TS vs. Oxygen. On the left: whole profile TS diagrams. On the right: zoom close to the bottom.

# On board calibration of sensors

## Salinity sensors



Dissolved oxygen sensors



# Mailing list

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mail</b>
Mireno Borghini	mireno.borghini@sp.ismar.cnr.it
Devis Canesso	devis.canesso@sp.ismar.cnr.it
Giuseppe Suaria	giuseppe.suaria@sp.ismar.cnr.it
Simona Aracri	simona.aracri@ve.ismar.cnr.it
Alberto Ribotti	alberto.ribotti@cnr.it
Andrea Satta	andrea.satta@cnr.it
Giovanni Quattrocchi	giovanni.quattrocchi@iamc.cnr.it
Federica Pessini	federica.pessini@gmail.com
Luigia Riefolo	luigia.riefolo@libero.it
Valeria Andreotti	valeriandreotti@tiscali.it
Bruno Ferron	bruno.ferron@ifremer.fr
Stéphane Leizour	stephane.leizour@ifremer.fr
Pascale Bouruet-Aubertot	pba@locean-ipsl.upmc.fr
Malek Belgacem	malek.belgacem@live.fr
Cristina Misic	misic@dipteris.unige.it
Anabella Covazzi Harriague	anabella7@hotmail.com
Aitor Rumin Caparros	arumim@ub.edu
Valentina Tognotti	valentina.tognotti@gmail.com
Alessandra Passini	passini.alessandra@gmail.com

## Acknowledgements

The authors are deeply indebted to the Captain and the crew of the CNR R/V Urania for continuous support during the whole measurement phase, and to the NURC NATO Undersea Research Center of La Spezia for the possibility of periodically testing the CTD probe in the calibration bath.