

# **Relativistic geodesy and ocean challenges what is at stake in ocean sciences?**

By Marie-Françoise Lequentrec-Lalancette , SHOM

IAG Joint Working Group 2.1 Relativistic Geodesy

- Oceans = geologic layer with relief - liquid layer – atmospheric layer
- Relativistic geodesy where ?
  - Coastal areas
  - Deep areas
- What for? What are the challenges ?

For nautical chart and safety of navigation :  
high accuracy in shallow depth and navigation areas

For new uses of coastal areas : marine renewable energy (current, tide, Wind..) , fish farm..

For exploration in deep oceans (the future) mine operations, ..

AND For the sustainable development objectives (SDG 14 UN) :  
**Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources**

## Safety of navigation

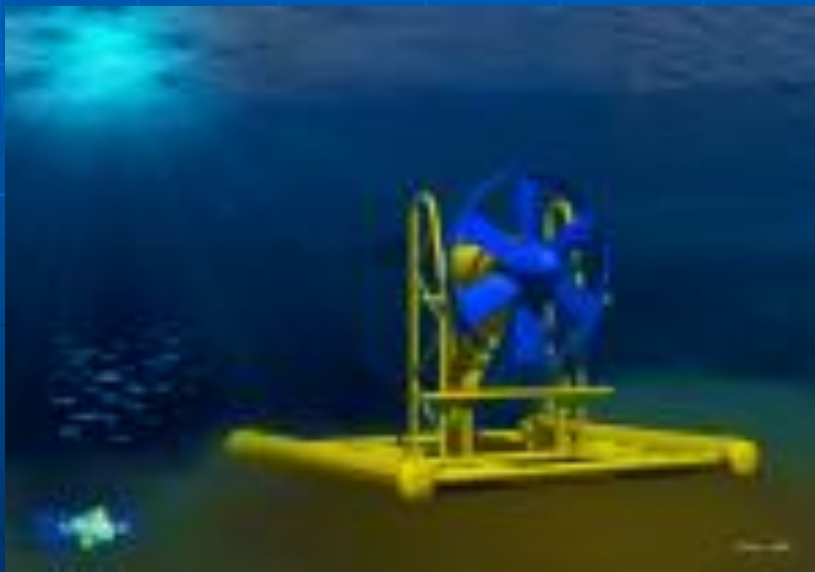
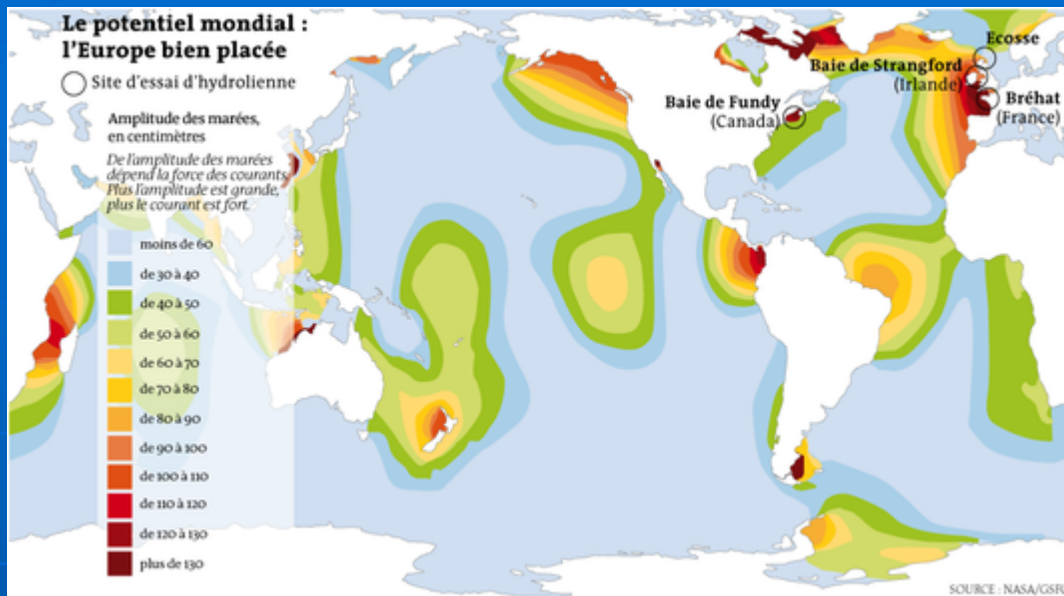
## Depth Z



- Mean sea level par rapport au niveau moyen
- Chart Datum (Low Astronomical Tides) (NPBMA)







Hydrodynamic models → coherent references for civil engineering or for risk prevention Currents, surges,

In this case the height ref is the mean sea level at the site



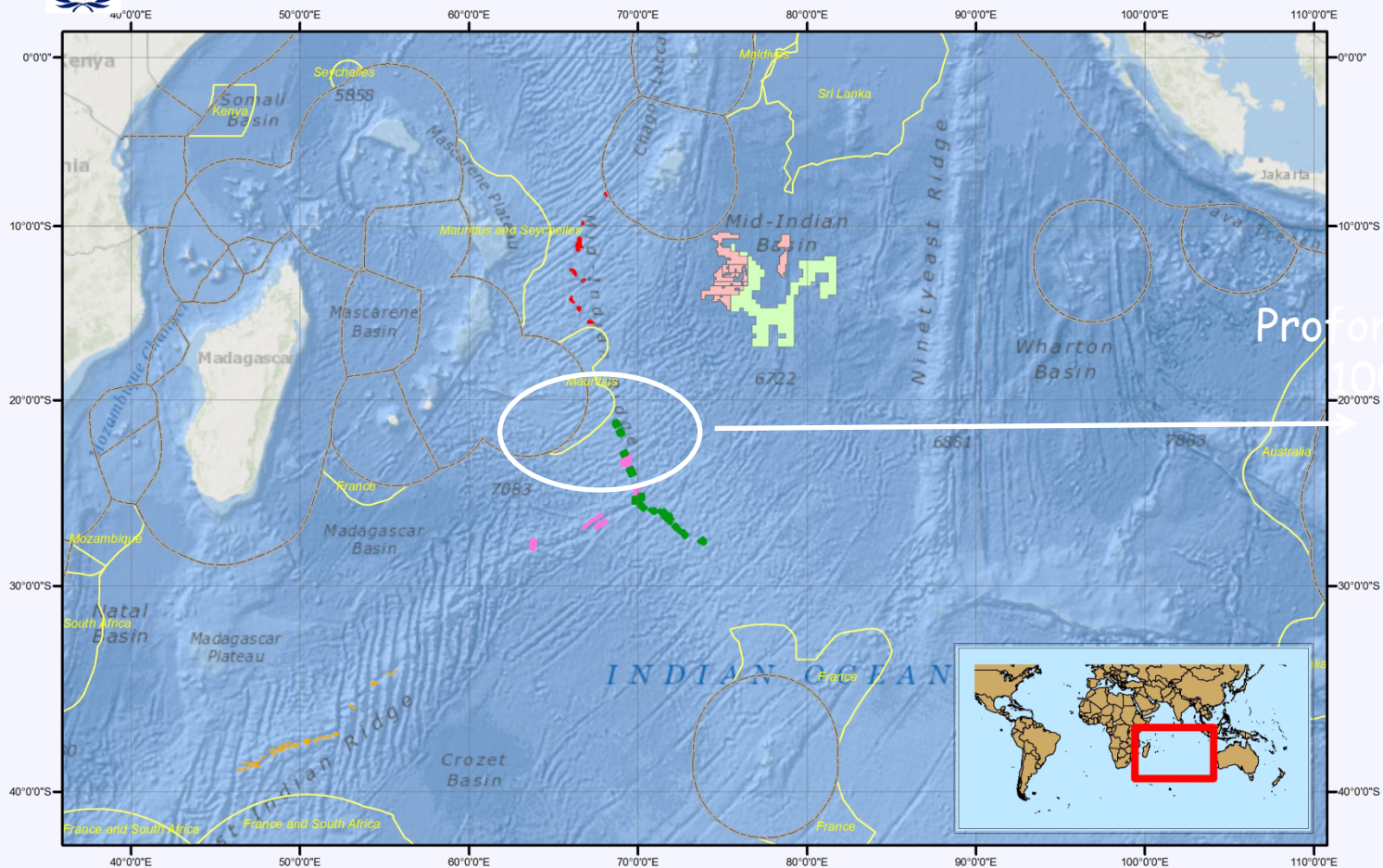


# In deep oceans (mining but also IPCC challenges)



## Polymetallic Nodules and Polymetallic Sulphides Exploration Areas in the Indian Ocean

Approved plans of work and areas reserved for the International Seabed Authority



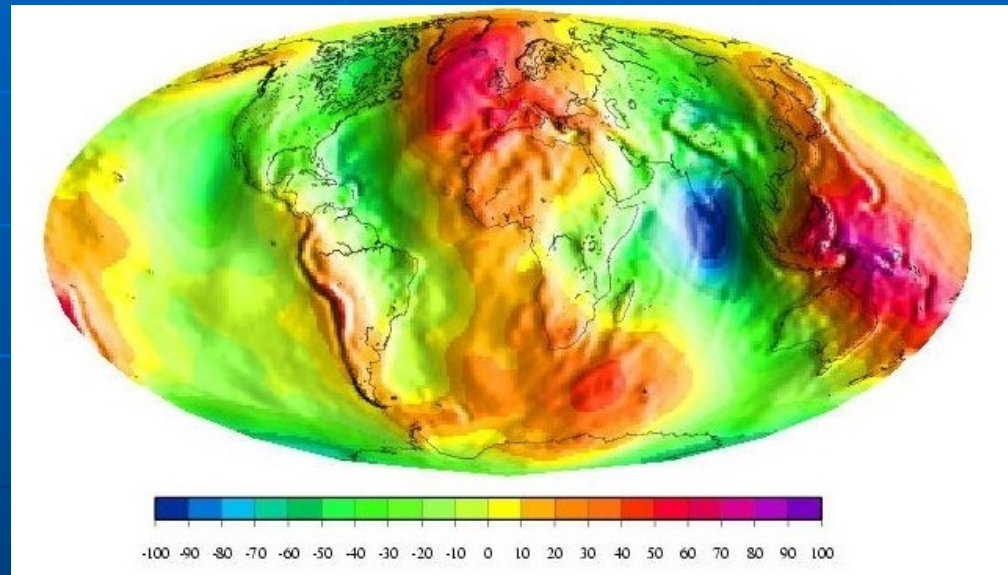
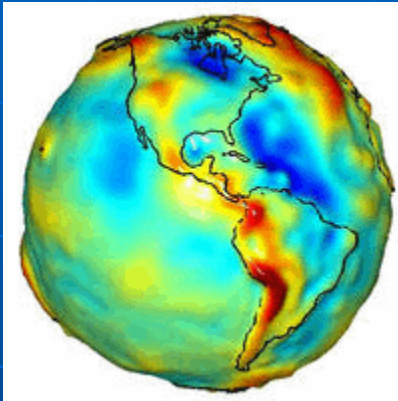
Profondeurs > 1000m

- India - polymetallic sulphides exploration area
- BGR (Germany) - polymetallic sulphides exploration area
- COMRA (China) - polymetallic sulphides exploration area
- Republic of Korea - polymetallic sulphides exploration area
- India - polymetallic nodules exploration area
- Area reserved for the Authority
- ECS Submissions

©International Seabed Authority, 25 July 2014. Background map: ESRI

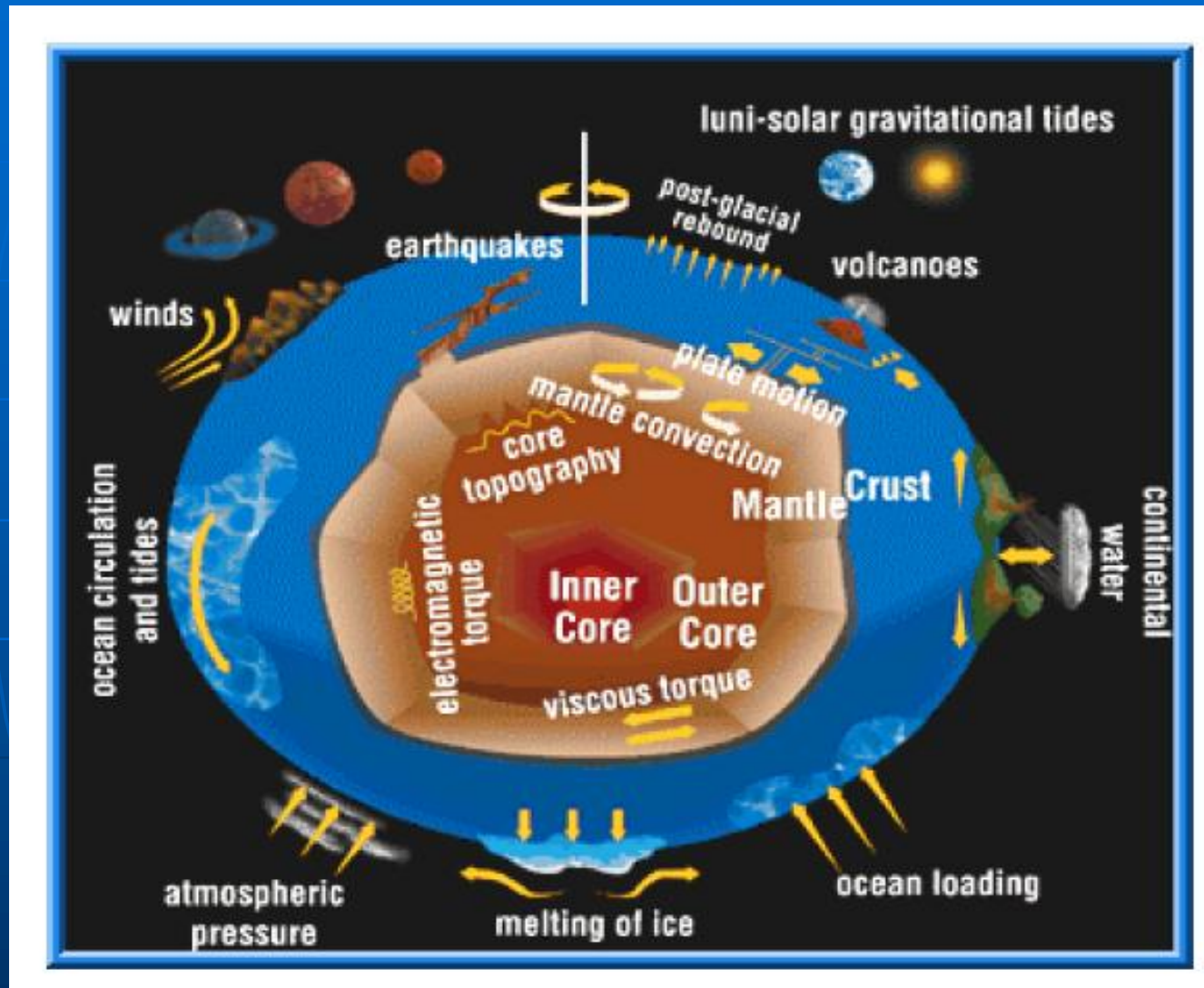
The knowledge of the geoid  
(mean sea level is a proxy for equipotential surface of the gravity field that is  $W_0$ )

- To estimate geoid  $\rightarrow$  gravity field from GOCE Satellite or marine gravity data



Altitude reference frame to describe the shape of the Earth

Forces affecting the shape of the earth: at sea what is not measured (temporal variations and beyond  $10^{-6}\text{m/s}^2$ )

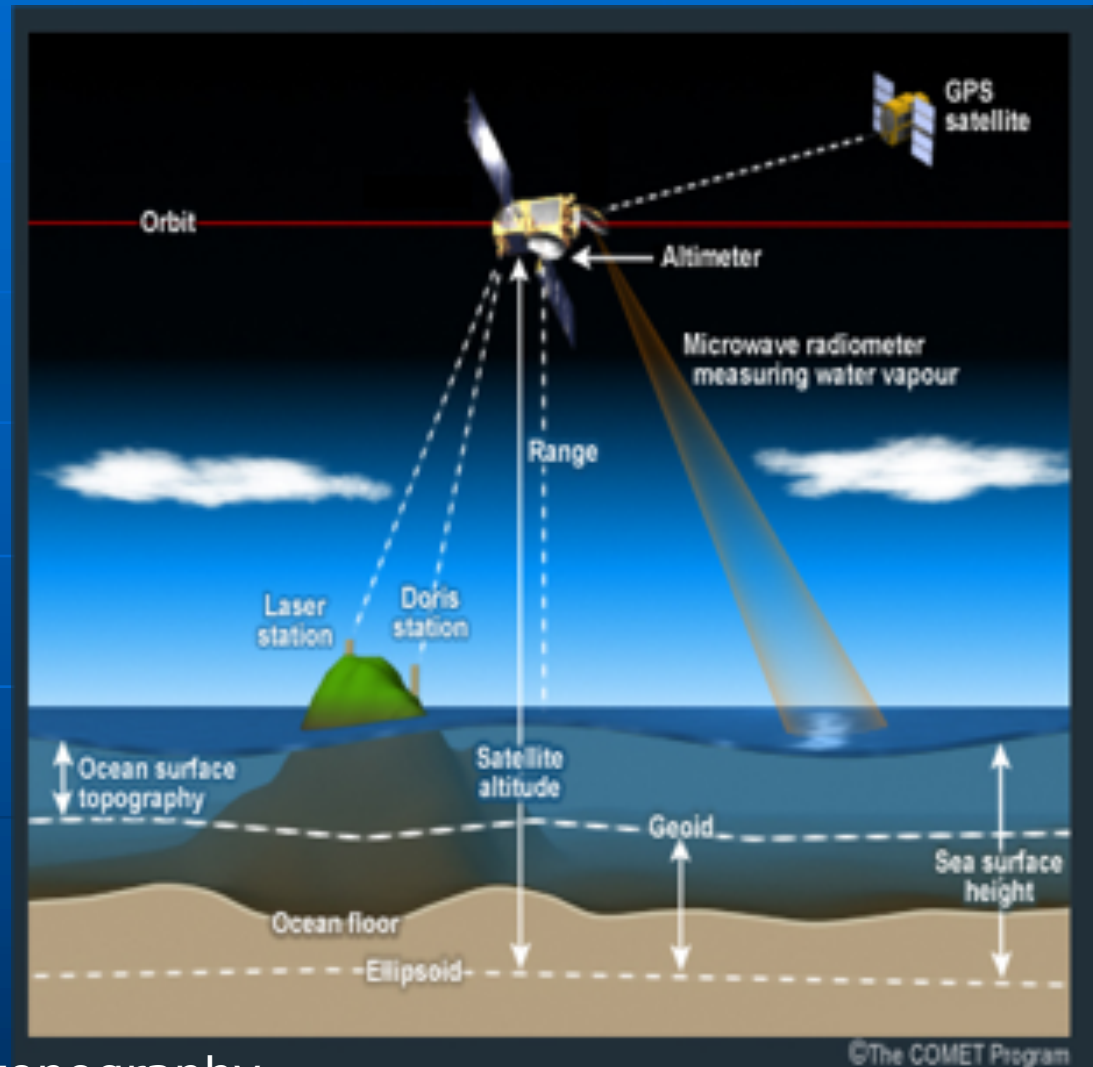


(From Chao (2000), modified by Andres, 2006)



To estimate mean sea level in deep oceans and up to prox 50 km from coasts

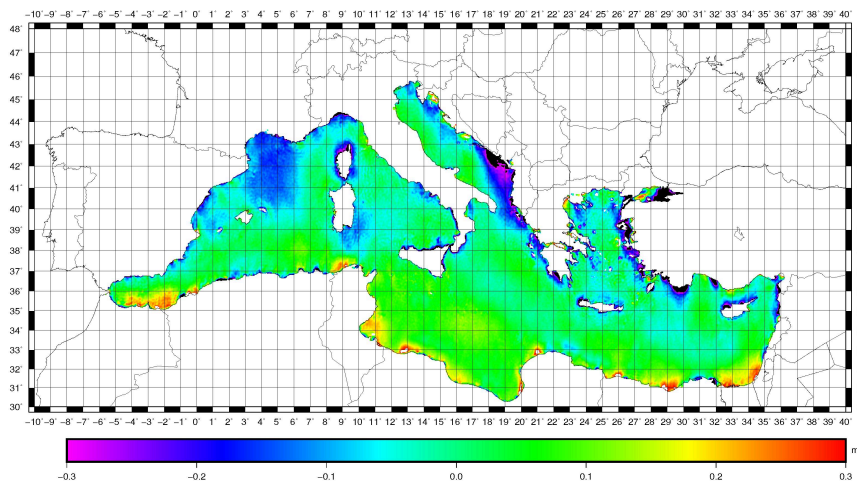
$$\text{MSS} = \text{GeoidH} + \text{MDT}$$



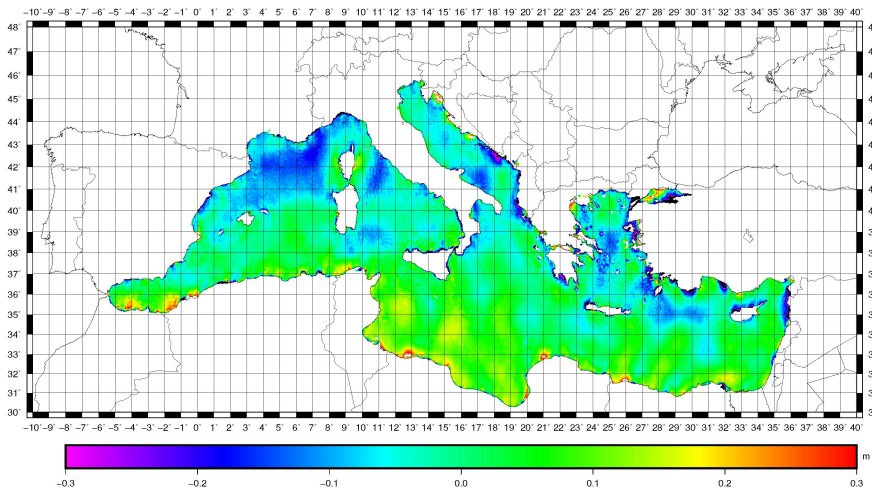
MDT= Mean Dynamic topography  
MSS = Mean Sea level

# The DTU15 MSS in the Mediterranean Sea vs geoid models (from Barzhagi et al., 2015)

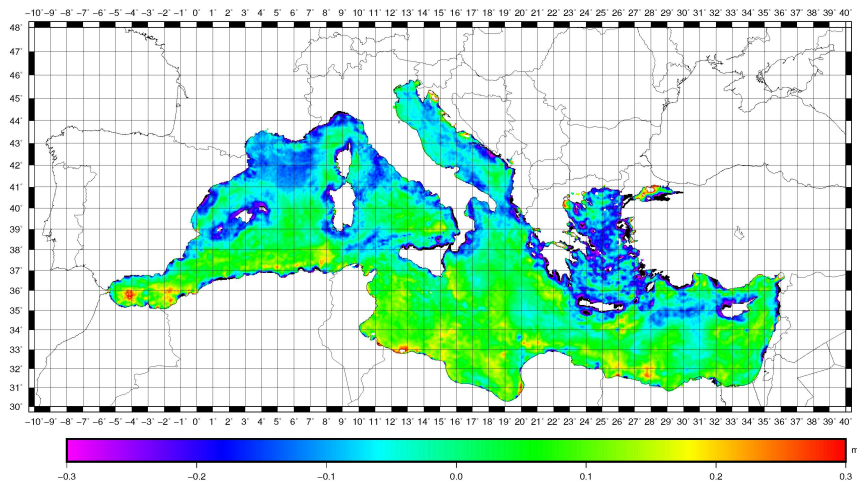
DTU15 – EGM2008



DTU15 – EIGEN\_6C4



DTU15 – FFT\_WG



	$\delta(\text{EGM08})$	$\delta(\text{EIGEN6C4})$	$\delta(\text{FFT-WG})$
n	230682	230682	230682
E(m)	-0.001	0.000	-0.012
$\sigma(\text{m})$	0.095	0.085	0.108
$m(\text{m})$	-1.531	-1.354	-1.551
M(m)	0.835	0.934	1.047

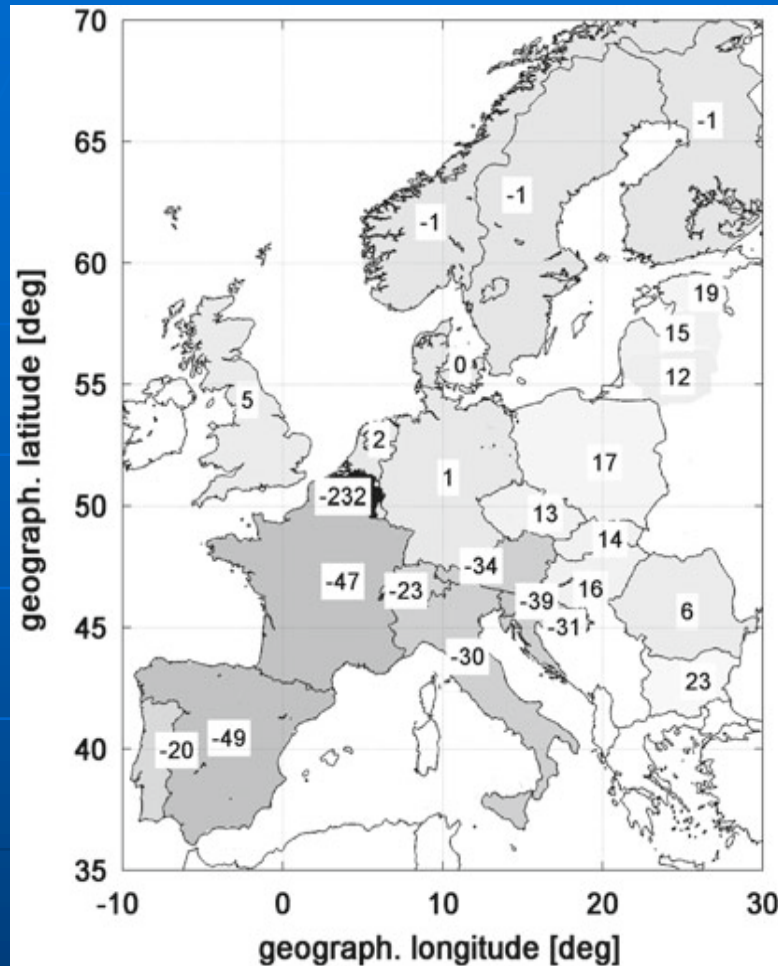


# Height reference disparities

sur les continents.

Sur les océans le problème est le même

Recommandations de l'OHI: TWG  
(bathyelli)



*De Gerlach et Rummel, 2013)*

## Cartographie Terre-Mer

Airborne laser  
reference vertical : ITRS

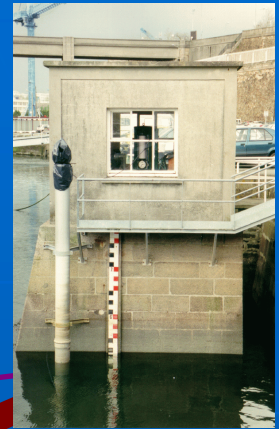
Terrestrial topography  
référence vertical: IGN69



Bathymetry  
reference → Chart datum

*Need to merge all references  
ITRS to IGN69 and ZH to IGN69  
Legal framework*

## In shallow waters : Various levels needs



Mean Sea Surface tide gauges

Mean sea surface satellite altimetry

Height zero level

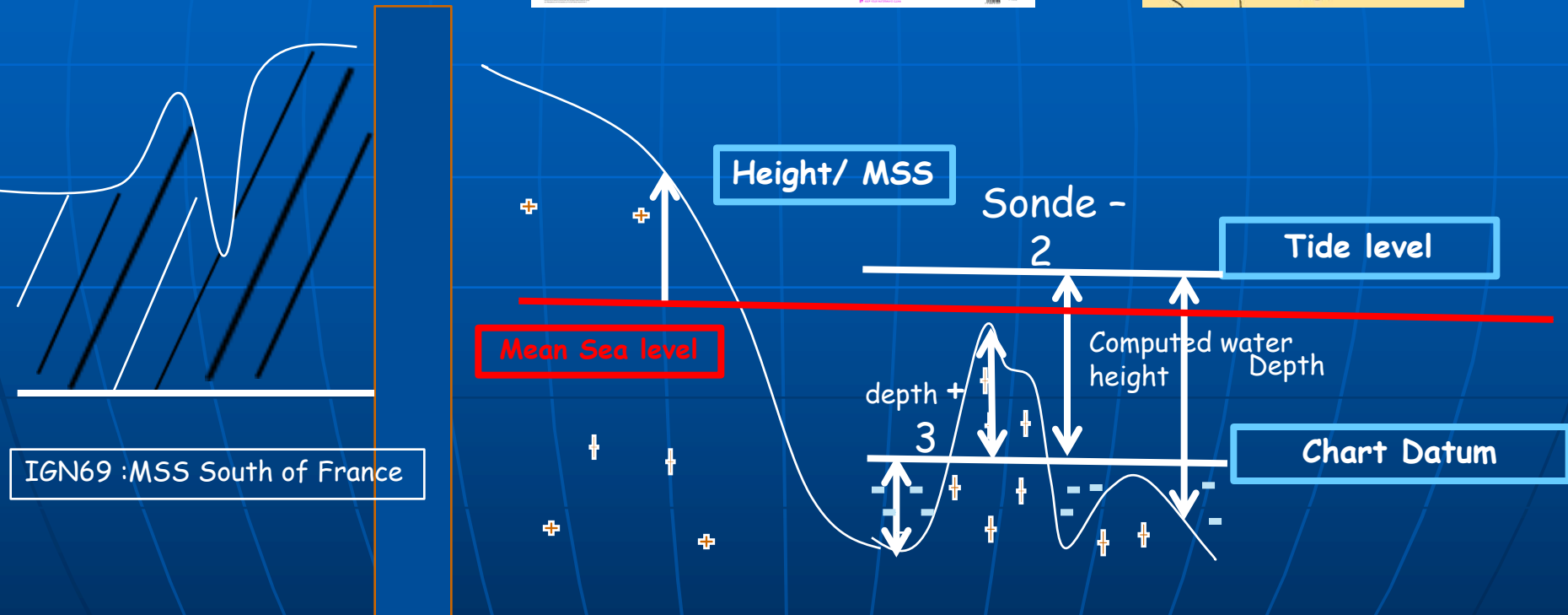
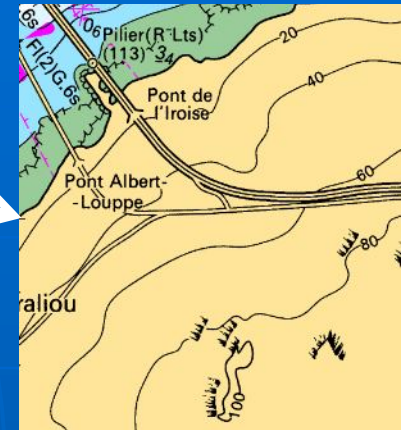
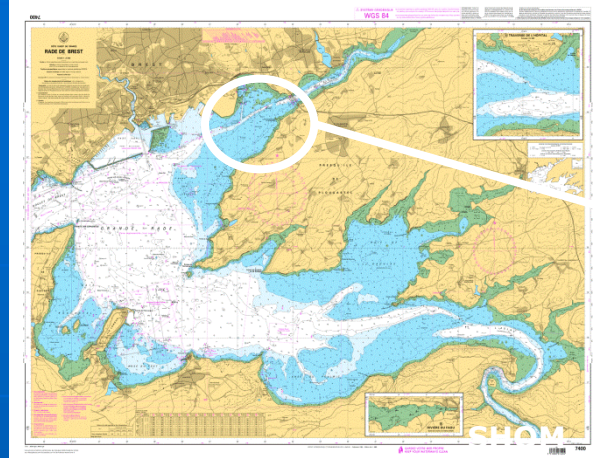
Quasi geoid  
Geoid

LAT: Low Astronomical Tides

Hydrographic zero level

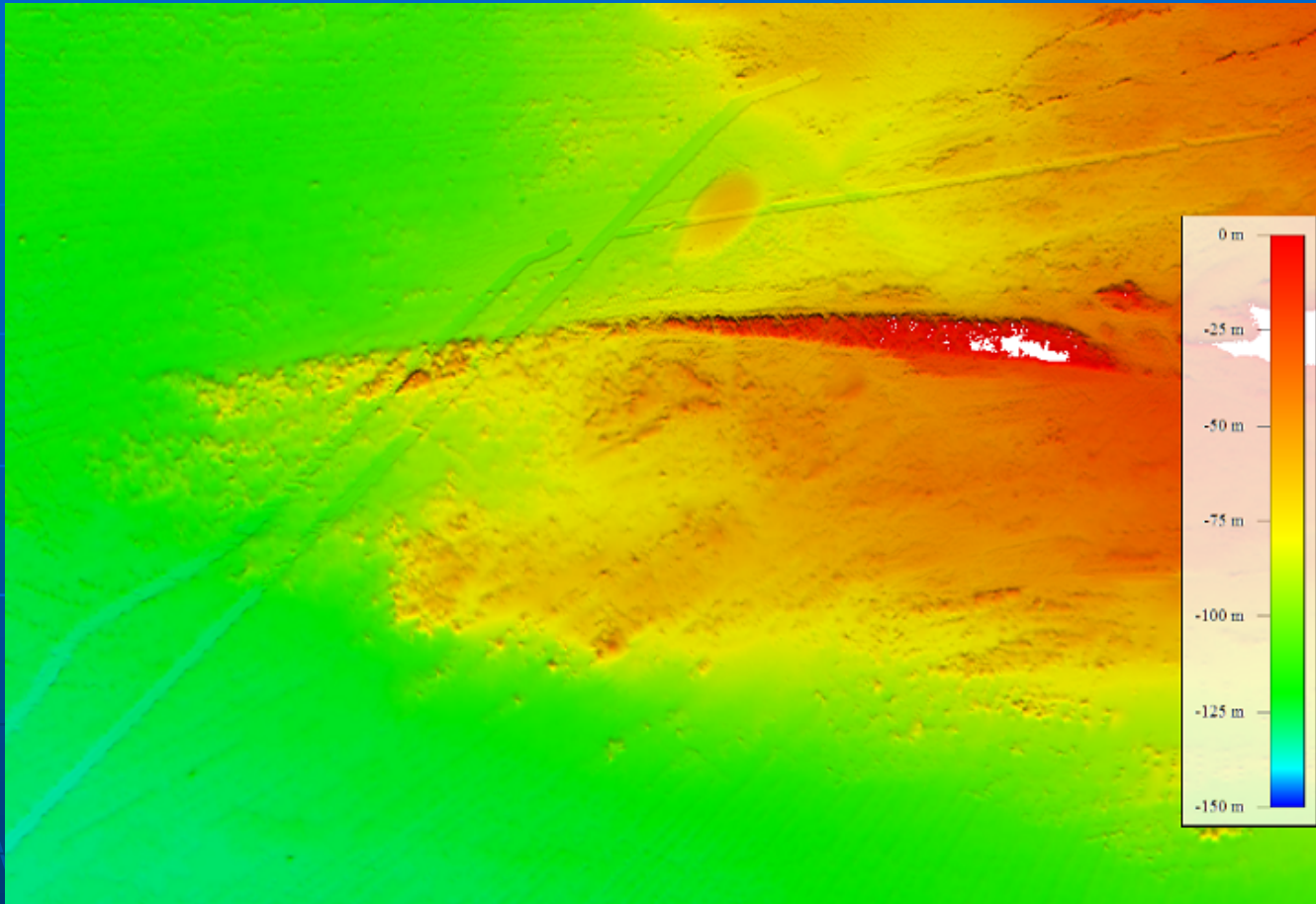
Ellipsoïde ITRS

# Indications des altitudes par rapport au niveau moyen



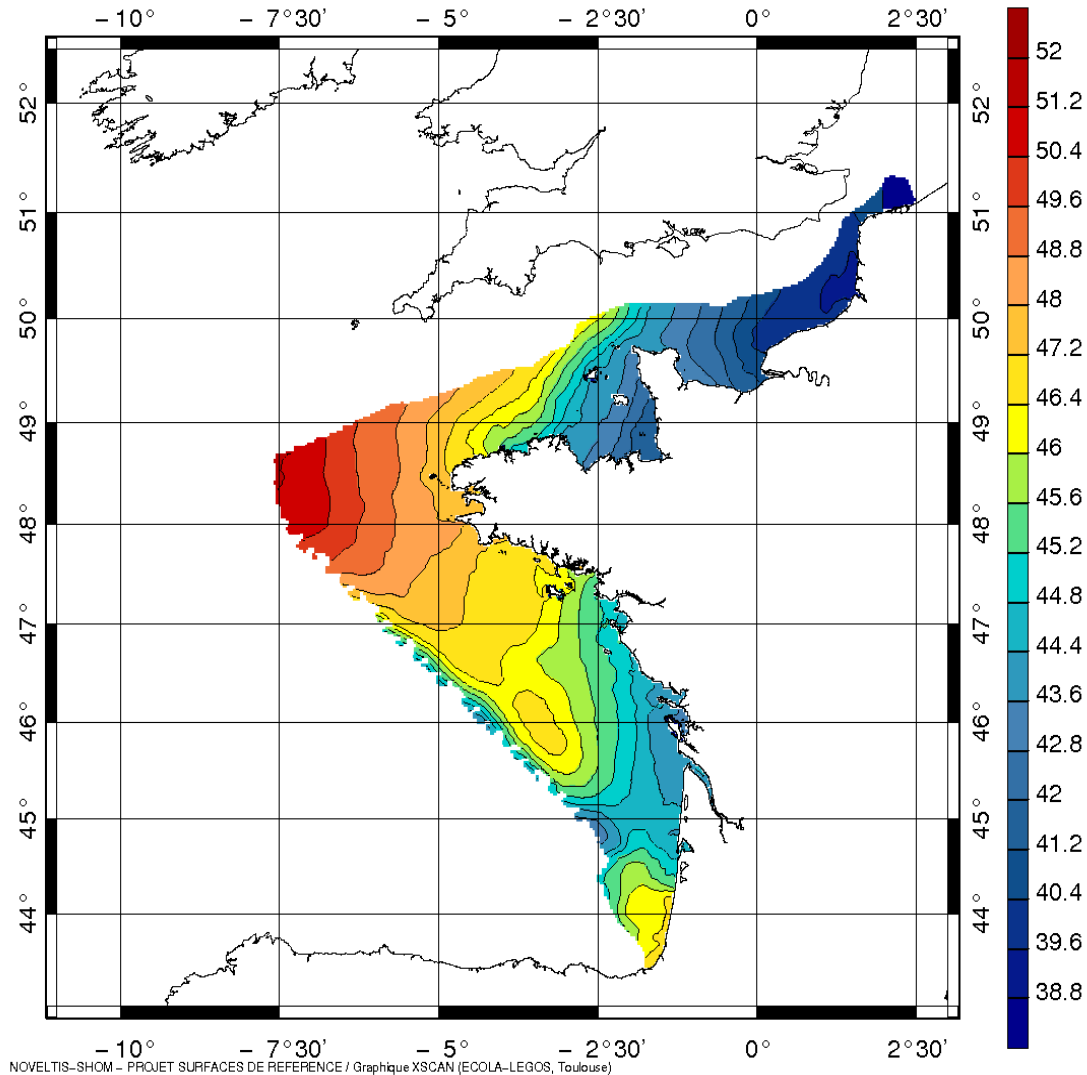


## Map of geologic structure du to reference errors



PBMA ref. GRS80

atlantique

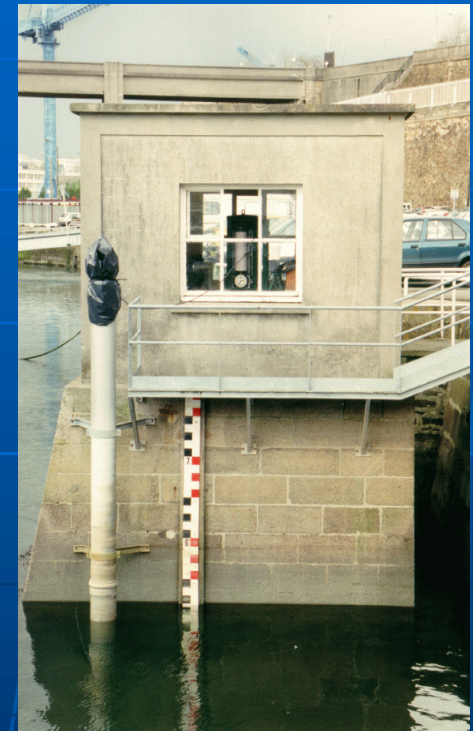
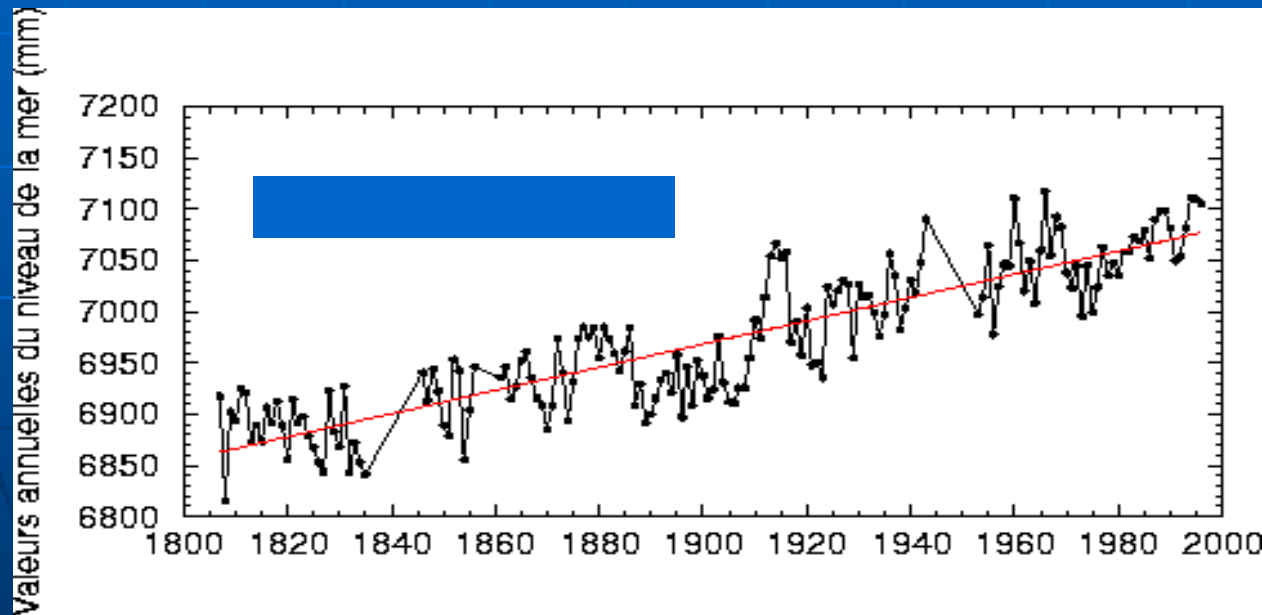


Goal for bathymetry:

LAT/ITRS ellipsoid  
A continuous surface  
(From Pineau et al., 2011)

Absolute reference needed

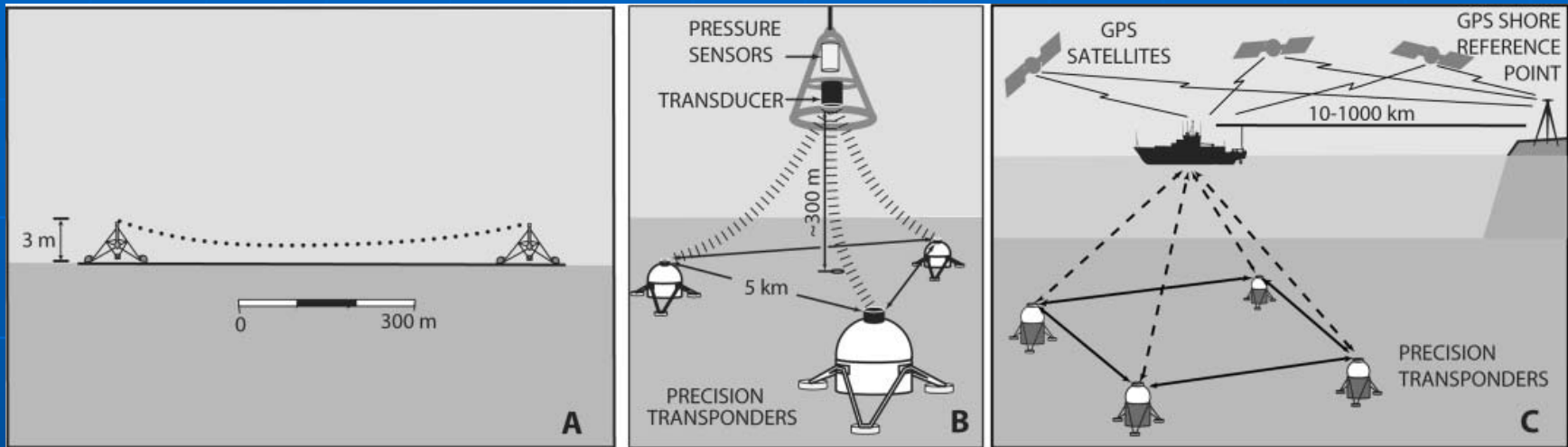
The tide gauges record the elevation of the sea level





# Examples of deep geodesy

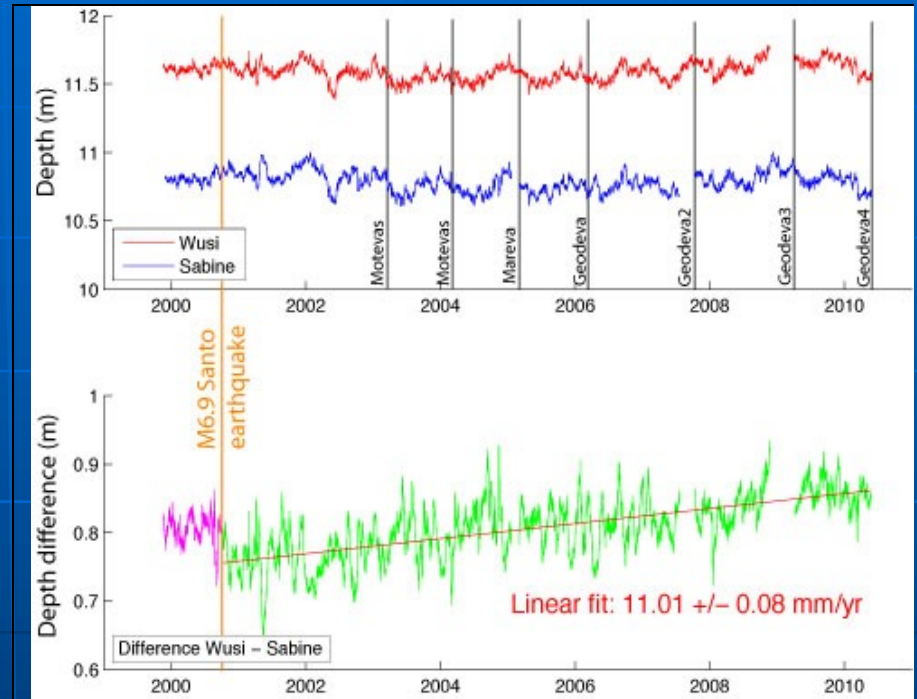
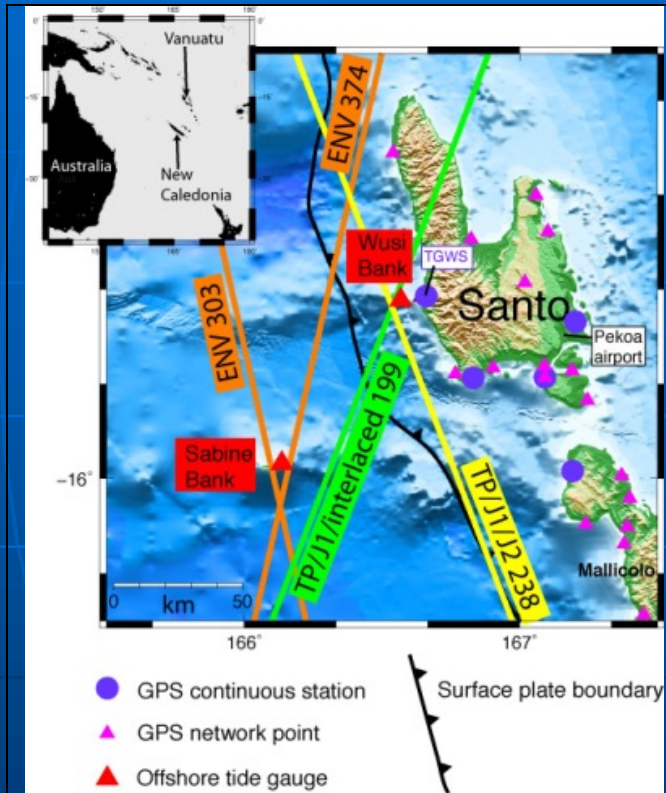
positioning system on the sea bottom: geodynamic objective, tracking of devices (AUV, exploration submarines, etc.).



Principe

(Chadwell and sweeney, 2010)

Ballu et al., 2010)



## Geodesy has to be improve

- Relief of the oceans = bathymetry
- Nautical charts for navigation purposes locally accurate → international reference on going
- Coastal areas → known but references are often locally computed
- Deep areas and offshore → depending of the measurement effort

hydrographic use → 3000m +/- 100m

Is it sufficient to achieve the future goals ??

# In deep ocean for the geophysical outcomes

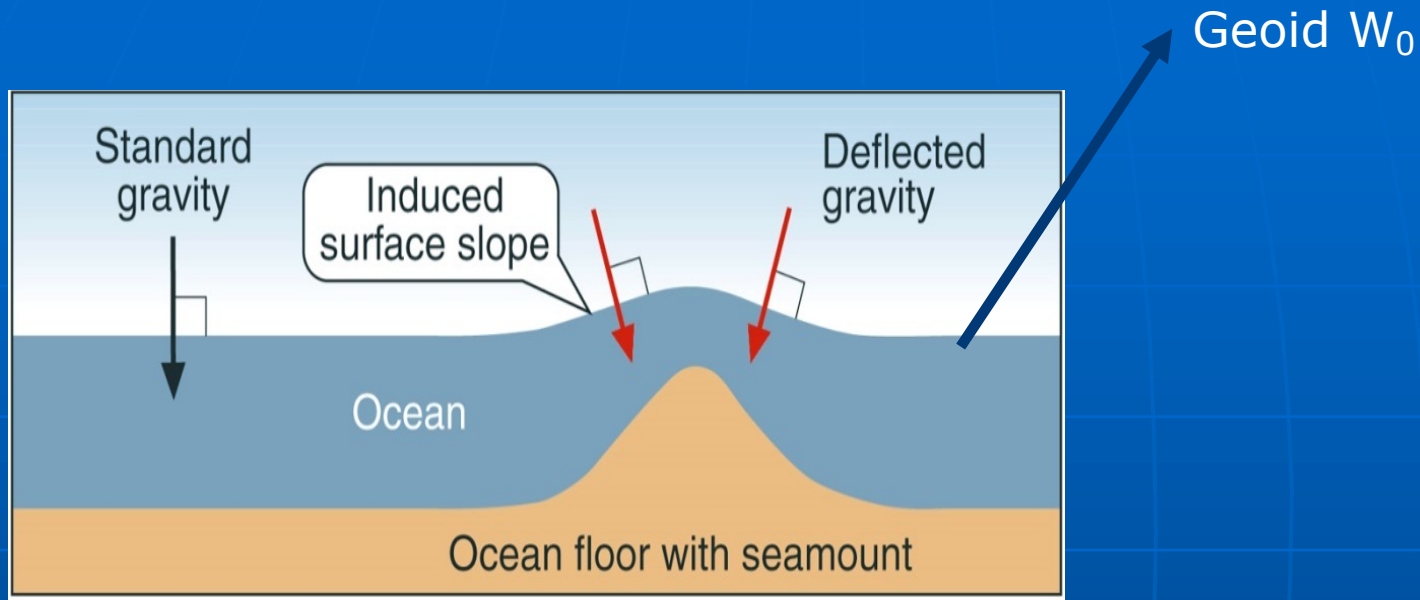
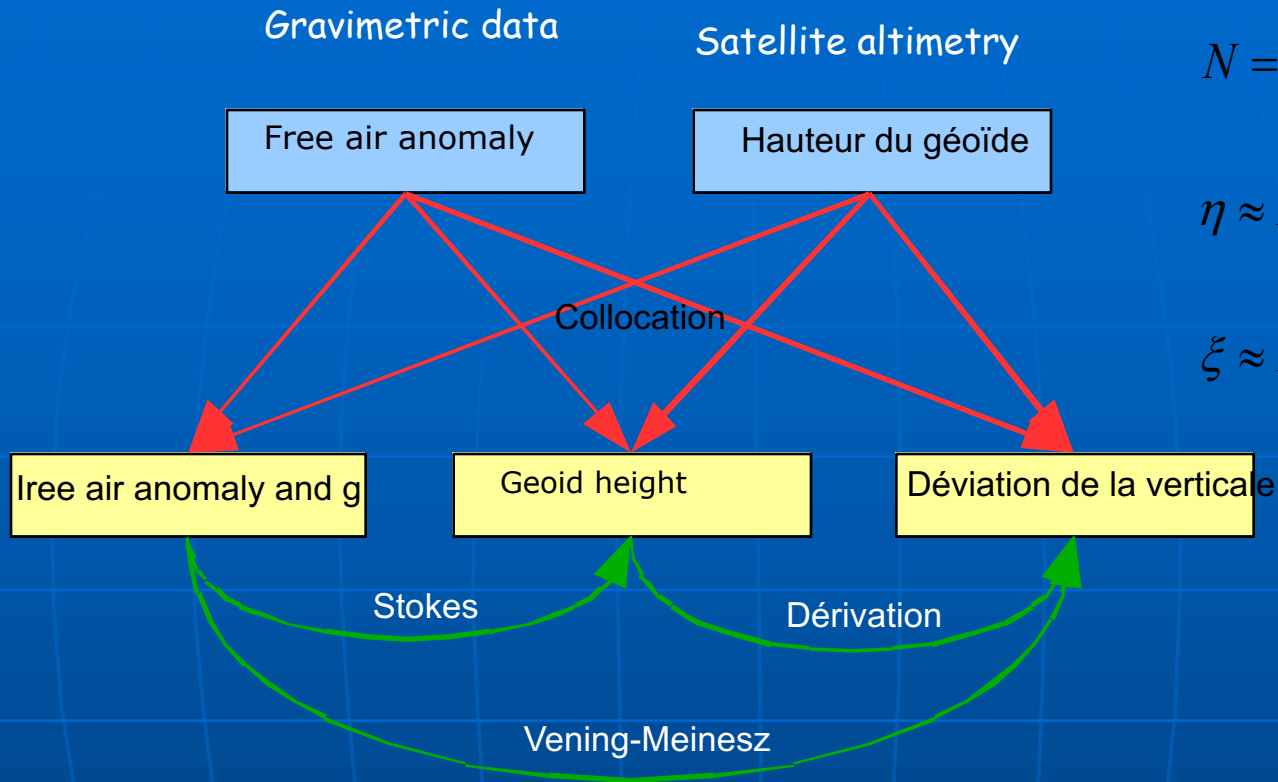


Figure : effects of a gravimetric anomaly

# How to estimate g and geoid



$$\Delta g = L_{\Delta g}(T) = -\frac{\partial T}{\partial z} - 2\frac{T}{z}$$

$$N = L_N(T) = \frac{T}{\gamma}$$

$$\eta \approx L_{\eta}(T) = -\frac{1}{\gamma} \cdot \frac{\partial T}{\partial x}$$

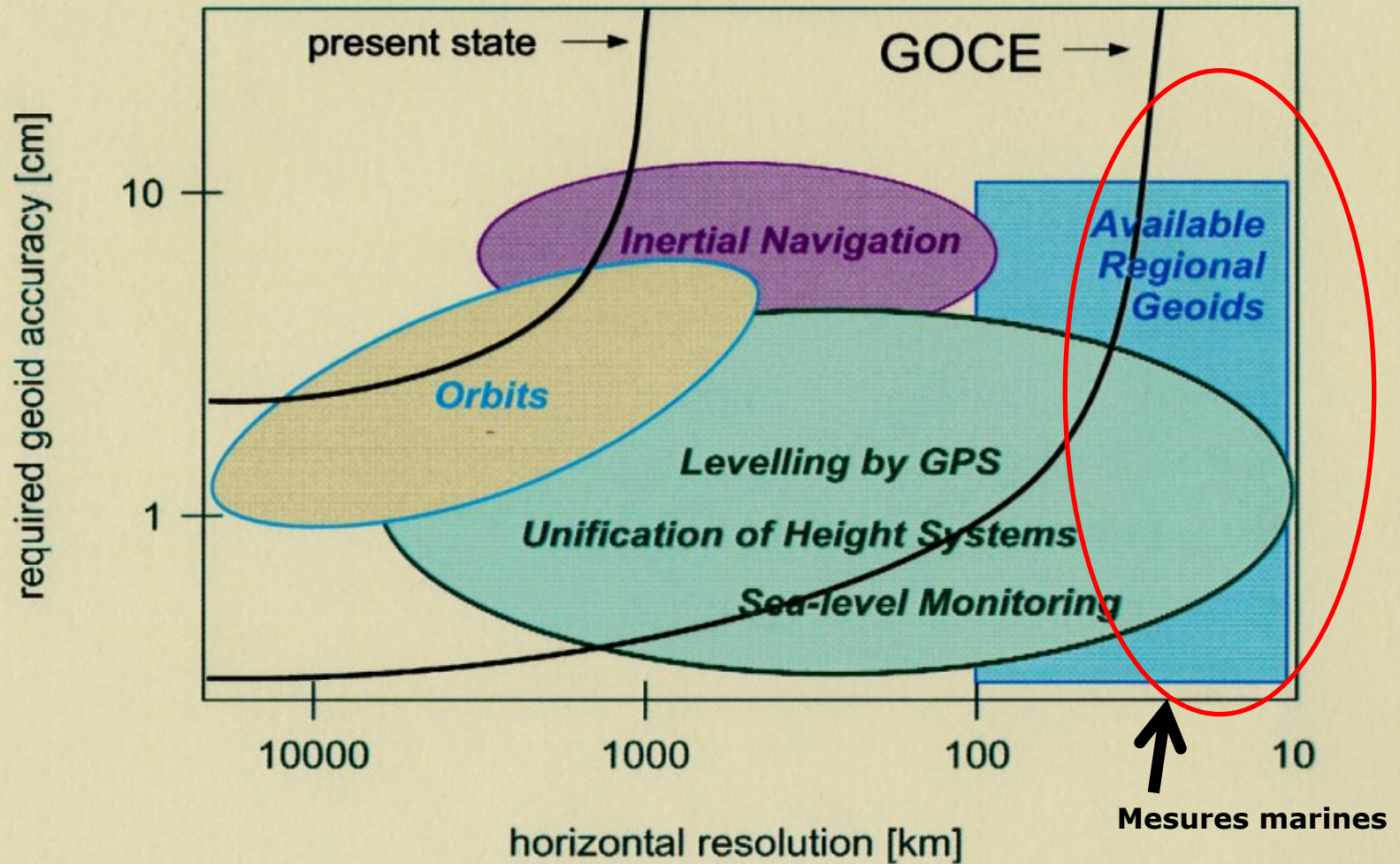
$$\xi \approx L_{\xi}(T) = -\frac{1}{\gamma} \cdot \frac{\partial T}{\partial y}$$

+ Techniques en Harmoniques Sphériques incluent les mesures d'orbitographie

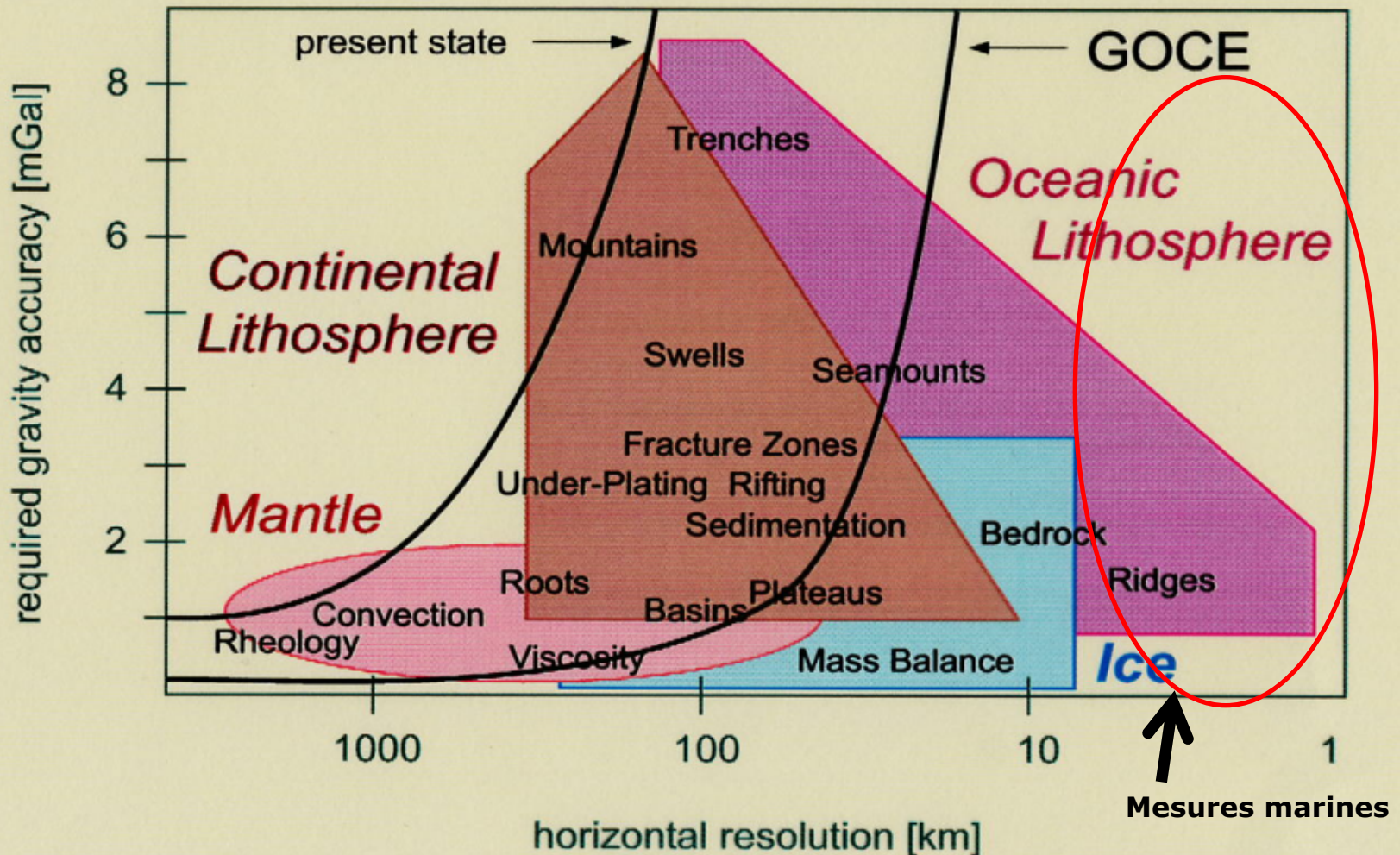
En vert: méthodes intégrales ou dérivation  
En rouge: Estimation statistique par collocation



## Geoid : Performances needed for geodesy

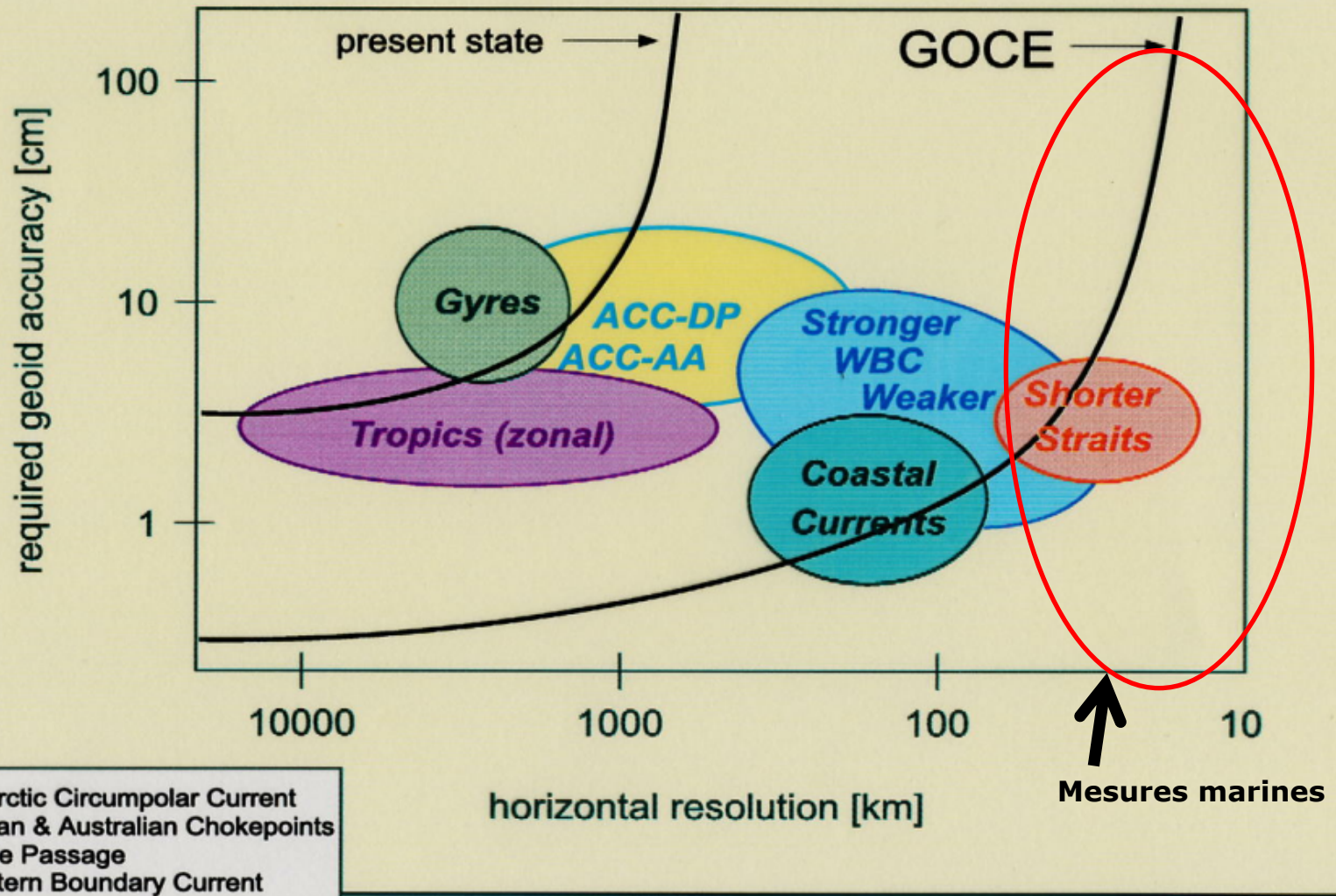


# Gravité : Performances désirées en Géophysique vs. état actuel et vs. GOCE





## Geoid : needed Performances in Oceanography



# the oceans and seas → 70% of the earth Surface

## But no accurate global knowledge

- **knowledge of g** : gravity field by relative measurements or remote
  - We are going to absolute g measurement by cold atom gravimeter  
On ship ==>  $10^{-6}$  m/s<sup>2</sup> (Bidel and al., Nat comm, 2017)
  - On tide gauges → absolute measurement of g  $10^{-8}$  m/S<sup>2</sup>
- **Knowledge of disturbing potential**
  - Limitations of the accuracy by sensor support (ship, submarine, airborne)
  - **Chronometric geodesy** → levelling tide gauges
    - Is it time for submarine clocks, fibre links at under sea observatories (MAR)
    - And why not levelling the depth of the oceans? in economical areas