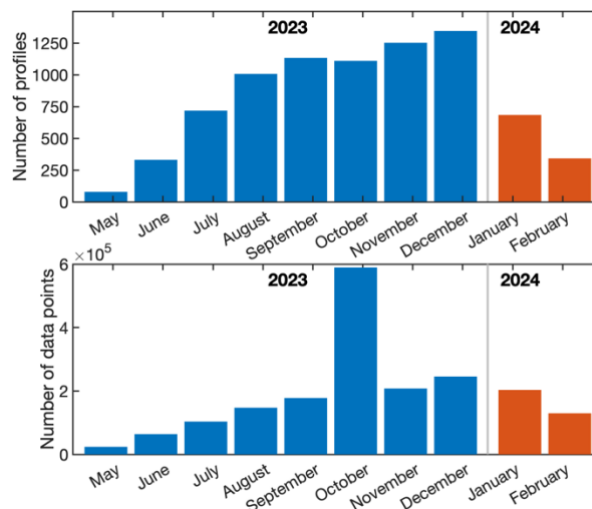


FishSOOP (Fisheries Ships of Opportunity Observing Program)

Newsletter # 8, March 2024

We had 9 vessels active during February, amounting to ~130,000 datapoints and 342 profiles. We received less data than the previous months because many fisheries are off-season for a well-deserved break, and we had a few sensors batteries needing replacing. The deepest cast in February was 888 m. We are looking forward to having several fishing seasons kicking off again this month and having those vessels joining in the program again for another successful season.

This month the FishSOOP project has been highlighted at the AGU Ocean Science Meeting in New Orleans, which brought together nearly 6000 attendees from around the world. Dr Véronique Lago presented the inner workings and successes of our Australian project to this international audience. Following the Ocean Science meeting, Prof. Moninya Roughan (UNSW) and Veronique met with our international collaborators for a Fishing Vessel Observation Network (FVON) workshop. FVON has been officially endorsed by the UNESCO Ocean Decade as an action part of a global effort towards better knowledge of our oceans. Through FVON, we are working collaboratively towards best practices in data collection from fishing vessels, including data and instrument standards.



Thanks for your efforts in the important pilot phase of the project. We appreciate the feedback and the interest. We are actively looking for new recruits to the program as we are wanting to trial a range of gear types on vessels around Australia. Please get in touch with us at FishSOOP@unsw.edu.au or ian@fishwell.com.au if you know of anyone that may be interested.

Part of a global program

In Ghana, fishers are using our Moana sensors to guide them towards better fishing strategies in a changing world. This is part of a project by the Ocean Data Network, based in the United States, through the Environmental Defense Fund; be sure to check it out! [Watch here](#). This project clearly highlights the potential of these fully hands-free sensors with solar-powered deckboxes to provide useful insights in remote areas.