Harmonizing Glider Data Access with ERDDAP

Kevin O'brien | University of Washington/JISAO, NOAA/PMEL

Abstract (Oral Presentation)

The JCOMM Observations Coordination Group (OCG) is tasked with coordinating activities amongst several disparate ocean observing networks. These networks include OceanSITES, Argo, the Drifting Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP), SOT and GO-SHIP. Recently, the ocean glider network has been included in the OCG networks as an emerging network.

Within OCG, there has been an increased focus on data interoperability between and within the networks. As data consumers grow more interested in data and data products, improved data availability becomes paramount. Working with existing OCG networks, we have been focused on leveraging ERDDAP as the data platform of choice. ERDDAP is well-suited for existing data collections and also provides access to data in many formats, making it much easier for users to access and use the data.

As the glider community moves toward a single NetCDF format to represent the data, ERDDAP is well placed to act as a unifier for user data access, supporting the different NetCDF instantiations that exist. Providing access through ERDDAP will ensure that the subtleties inherent in differing versions of the glider netCDF format will no longer be apparent to the end user. This improved level of data access will benefit users, but will also allow for easier integration and evolution of glider data towards support for Essential Ocean/Climate Variables (EOV/ECV). This is an important factor to consider in order to better serve uses of glider data that are not part of the glider community.

In this presentation, we will discuss the benefits of integrating the ERDDAP data platform for glider data, Oral for the immediate future and when the blessed glider NetCDF format is the official data format. We will also discuss how this will benefit the Glider community within the overall JCOMM OCG coordination.