



Pacific branch («TINRO») of Russian Federal
«Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography»
(«VNIRO»)

Significance of water properties for prediction of the Pacific saury occurrence in Russian catches

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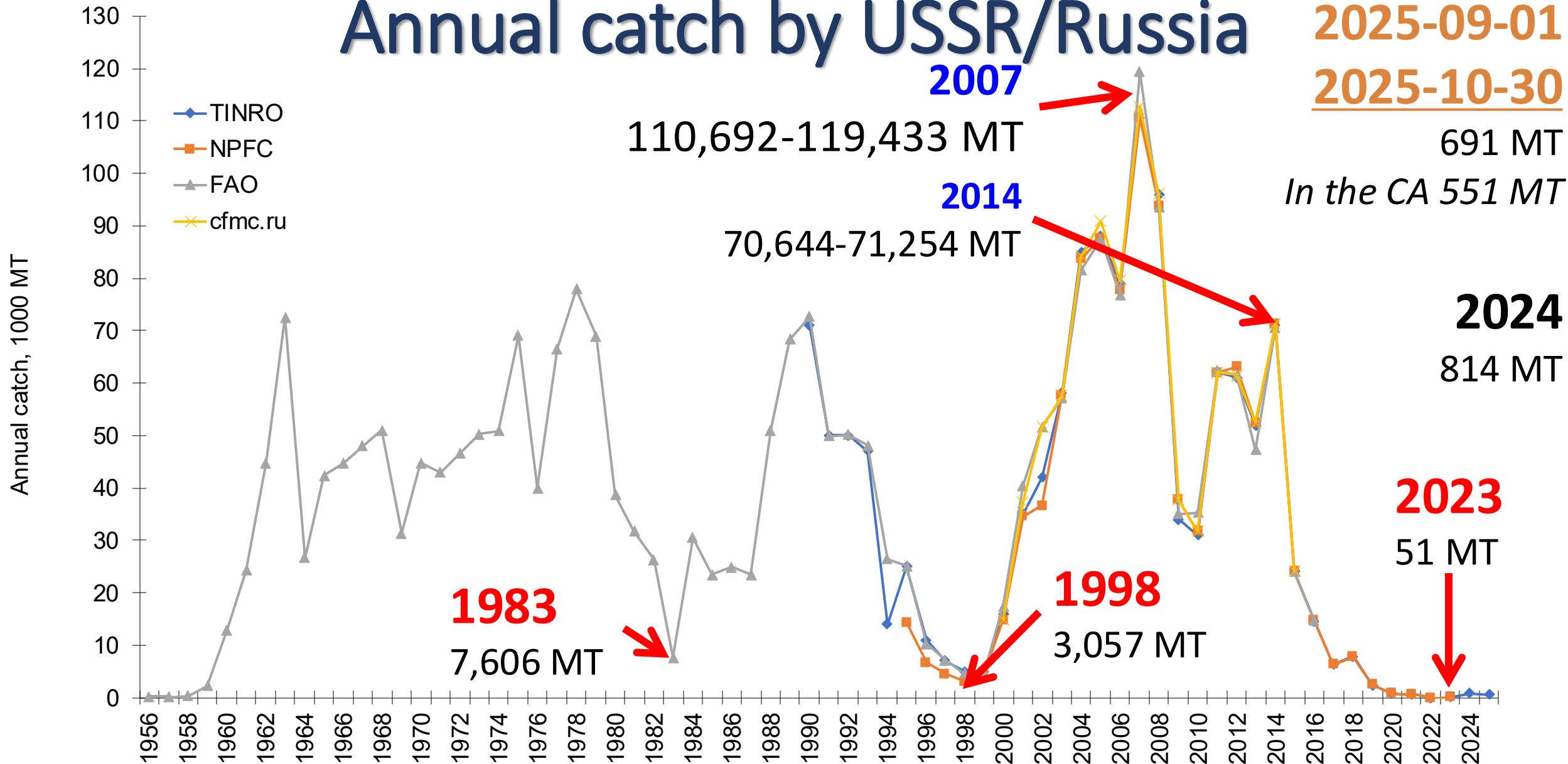
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of the Russian Academy of Sciences “POI FEBRAS”



Annual catch by USSR/Russia

2025-09-01

2025-10-30



■ The annual catch increased from 0 in 2022 to 51 MT (1 fishing vessel) in 2023 and then to 813.93 MT in 2024 (2 fishing vessels): 286.01 MT in the CA



Lagrangian characteristics in the western North Pacific help to explain variability in Pacific saury fishery

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ABSTRACT

A new model for estimation of daily probability for the Pacific saury (*Cololabis saira*) encounter was proposed. The model performance was tested for the period of 2004–2018 (August–November) using the data from the Russian vessel monitoring system. The following physical oceanographic variables were used for encounter probability prediction: the absolute values and gradients (∇) of speed (V) of passive particles, imitating water parcels, and Lagrangian indicators. The positive effects on the encounter probability of saury were found for V , ∇V , and for the gradient of the finite-time Lyapunov exponent ($\nabla \Lambda$), while the effect of particle path length was negative. That means that saury preferred places close to the boundaries of the oceanographic features, where Lagrangian fronts are situated, but not inside the features themselves, because Λ is small in regular flows and large at Lagrangian fronts. The model did not include information about years and volume of saury catches, but its monthly mean of catch probability in September had the highest correlation with Russian annual catches outside the national waters between Russia and Japan ($r = 0.76$, $p = 0.001$) and total annual catches there ($r = 0.73$, $p = 0.002$). Timeseries analysis of principle components (PC) from daily predictions of saury catch probabilities has also shown that the third PC correlated highly with the annual biomass of saury ($r \geq 0.8$, $p < 0.05$). The model seems to be useful to manage Russian fishery and may help to explain the reasons for the saury biomass decline. The latter is very important to take into account for development of the stock assessment models.

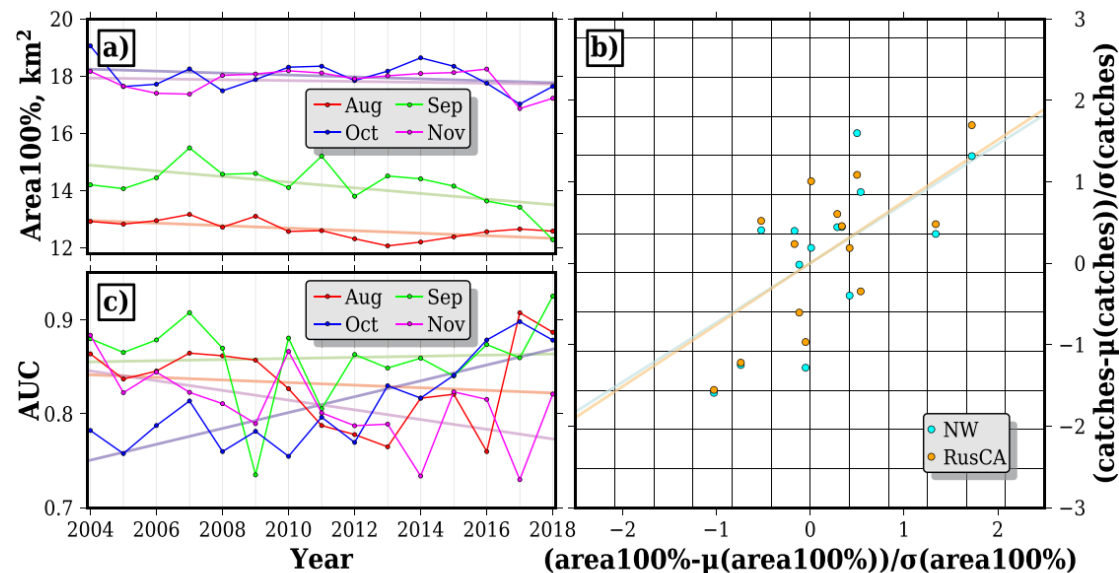


Fig. 3. Monthly averaged area (km^2) with 100% probability of saury catch per day per year with linear trends (a), scaled with the mean and SD catches of saury in the CA by Russia (RusCA) and totally in the national waters between Russia and Japan (NW) versus similarly scaled values of area (km^2) with 100% probability of catch of saury per day per year in September (b) and AUC values calculated for the test set sliced by month and year (c).

The final goal of our study is in improvement of the SDM for saury.

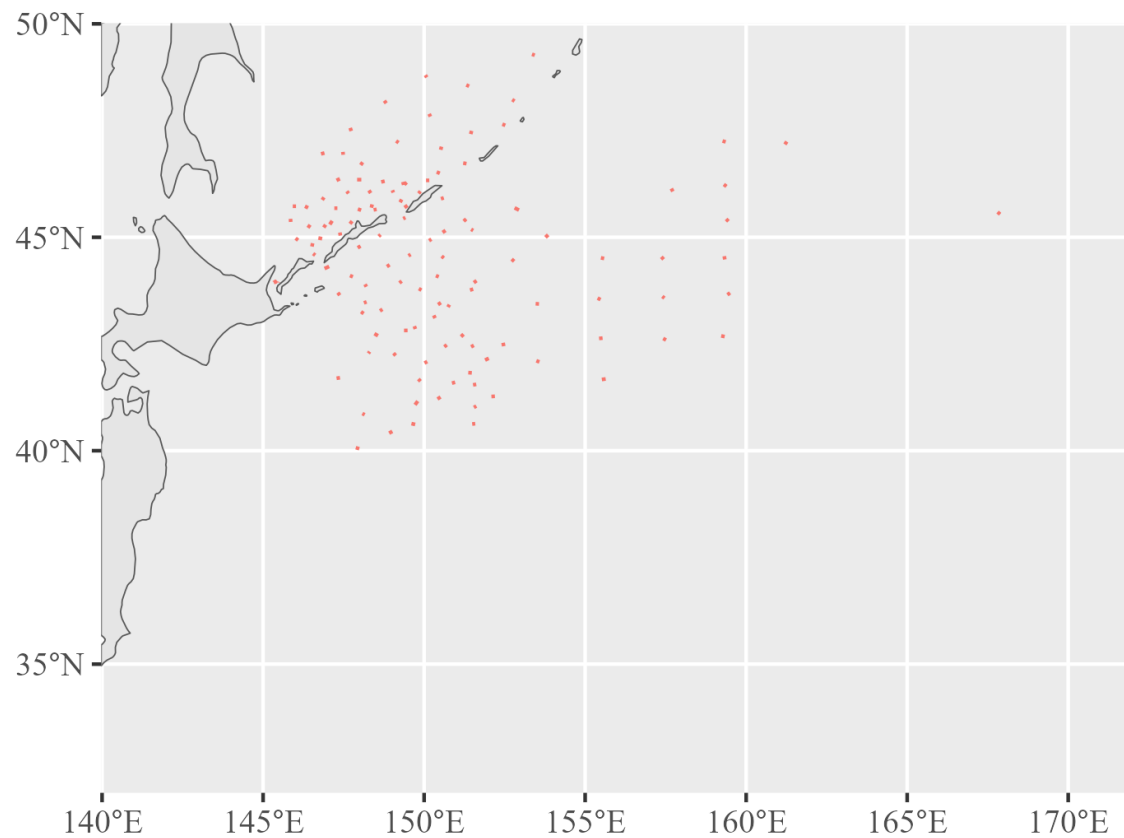
Consequently, we must test

- New data on occurrences
 - Expanded timeframe
 - Added 0 catch of saury from Russian scientific surveys
 - *Hope to cooperate with PICES scientists to extend the range in geographical space more into the High Seas*
- New features for predictors:
 - Added from GLORYS12V1

**New data on saury absence in the midwater trawl survey of pelagial
in **January** and **February****

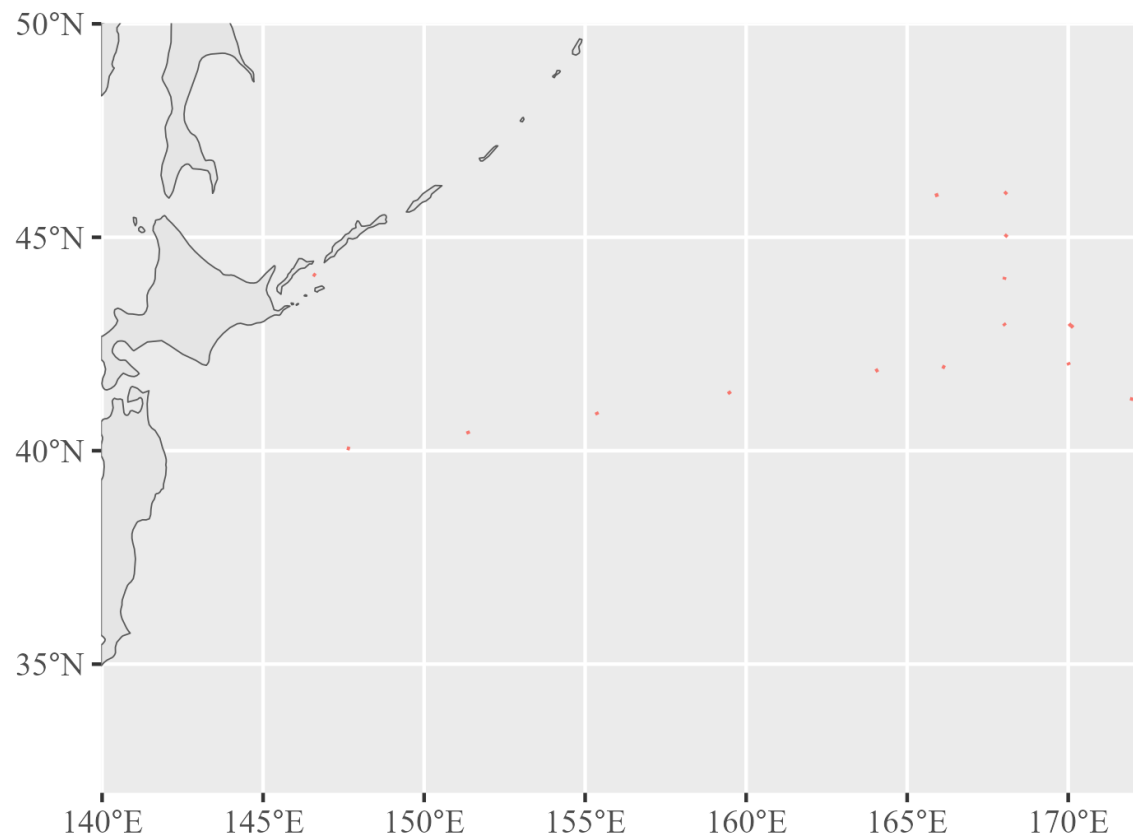
Russian upper pelagial survey

Midwater trawls on 01 month



Russian upper pelagial survey

Midwater trawls on 02 month

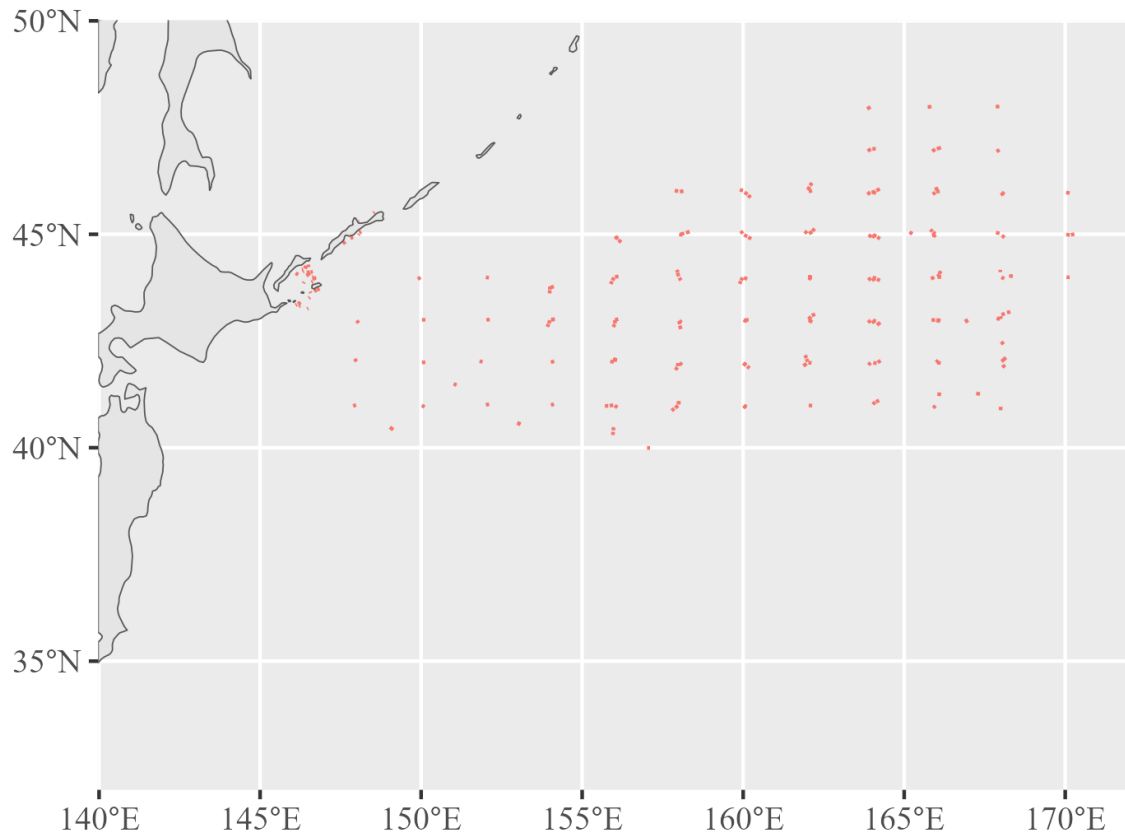


OCC
— 0

**New data on saury absence in the midwater trawl survey of pelagial
in **March** and **April****

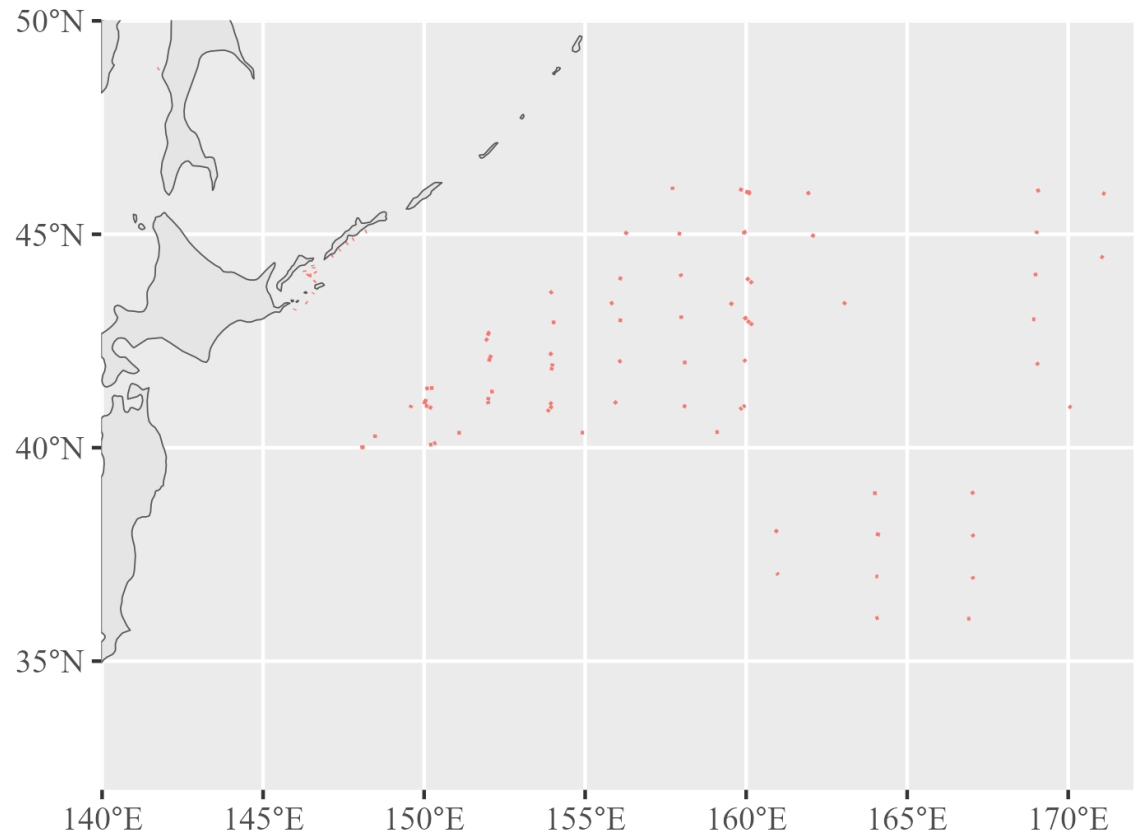
Russian upper pelagial survey

Midwater trawls on 03 month



Russian upper pelagial survey

Midwater trawls on 04 month

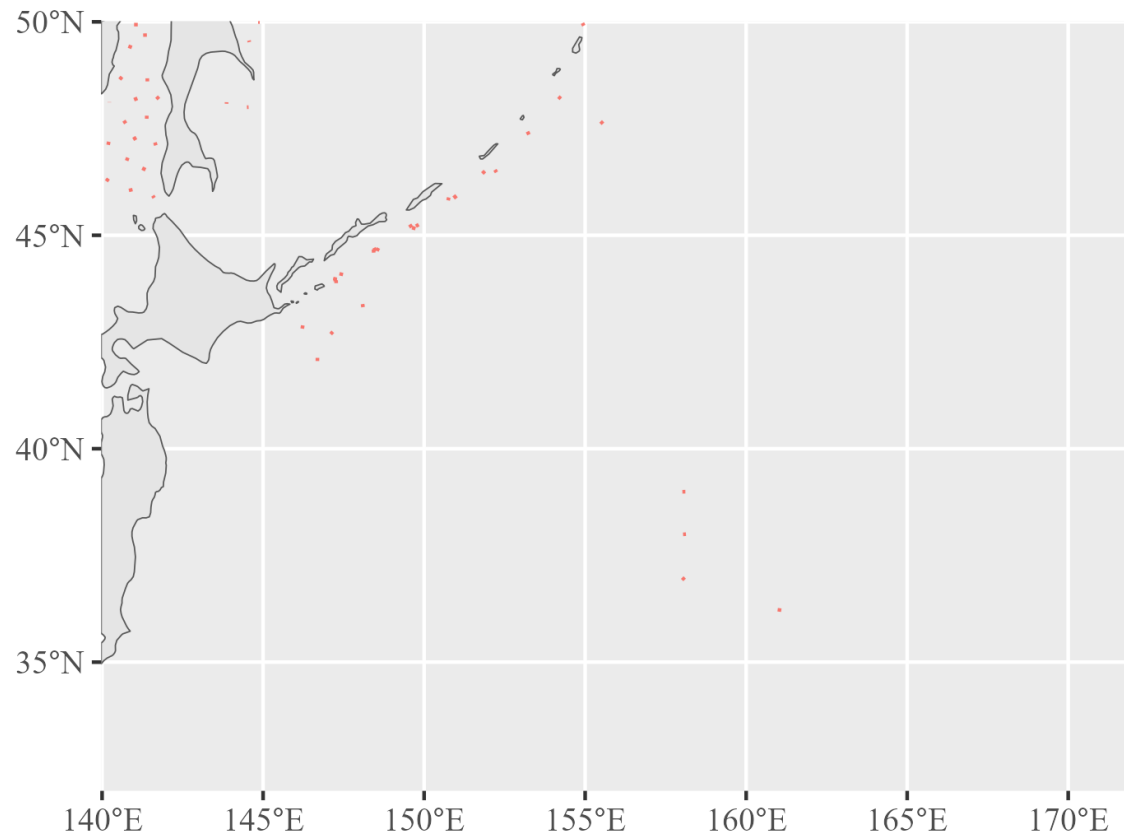


occ
— 0

New data on saury absence (occ=0) and presence (occ=1) in the midwater trawl survey of pelagial
in **May** and **June**

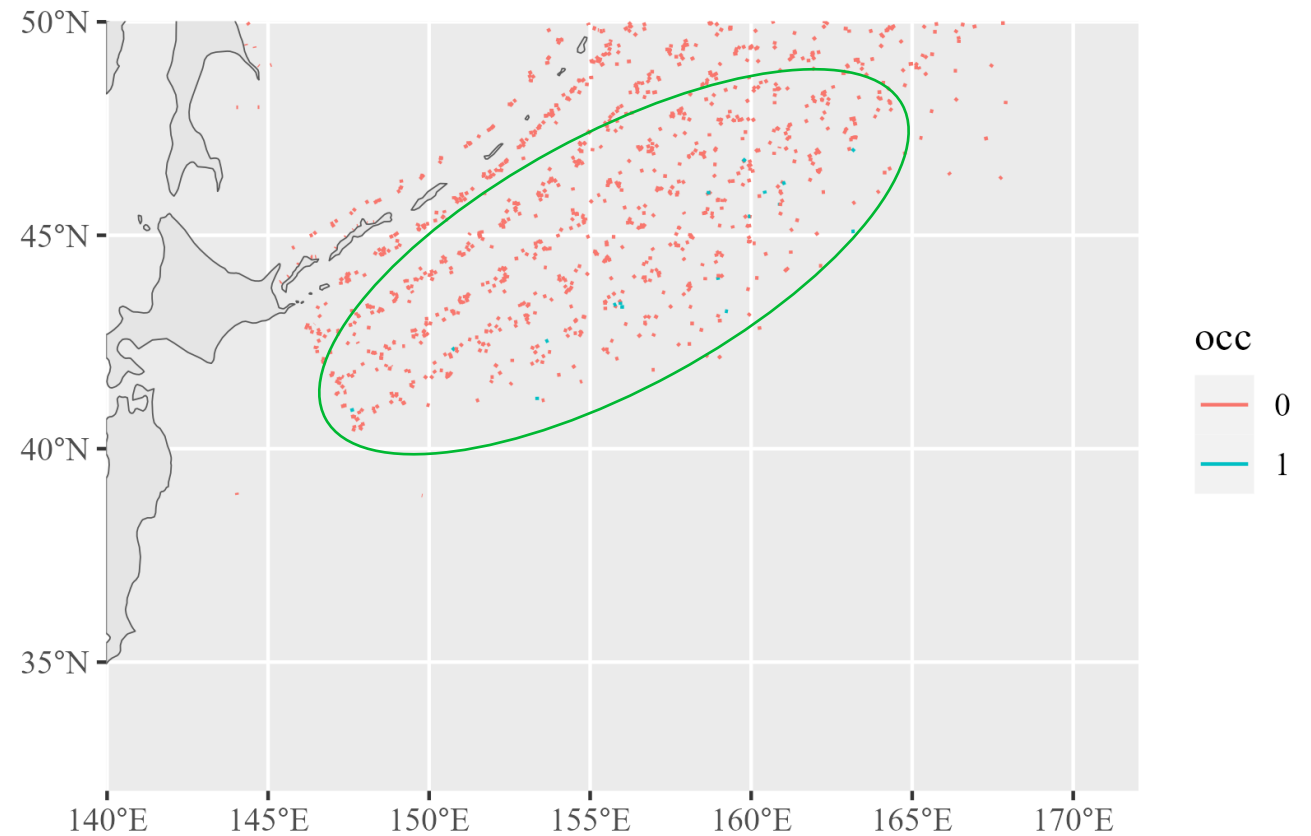
Russian upper pelagial survey

Midwater trawls on 05 month



Russian upper pelagial survey

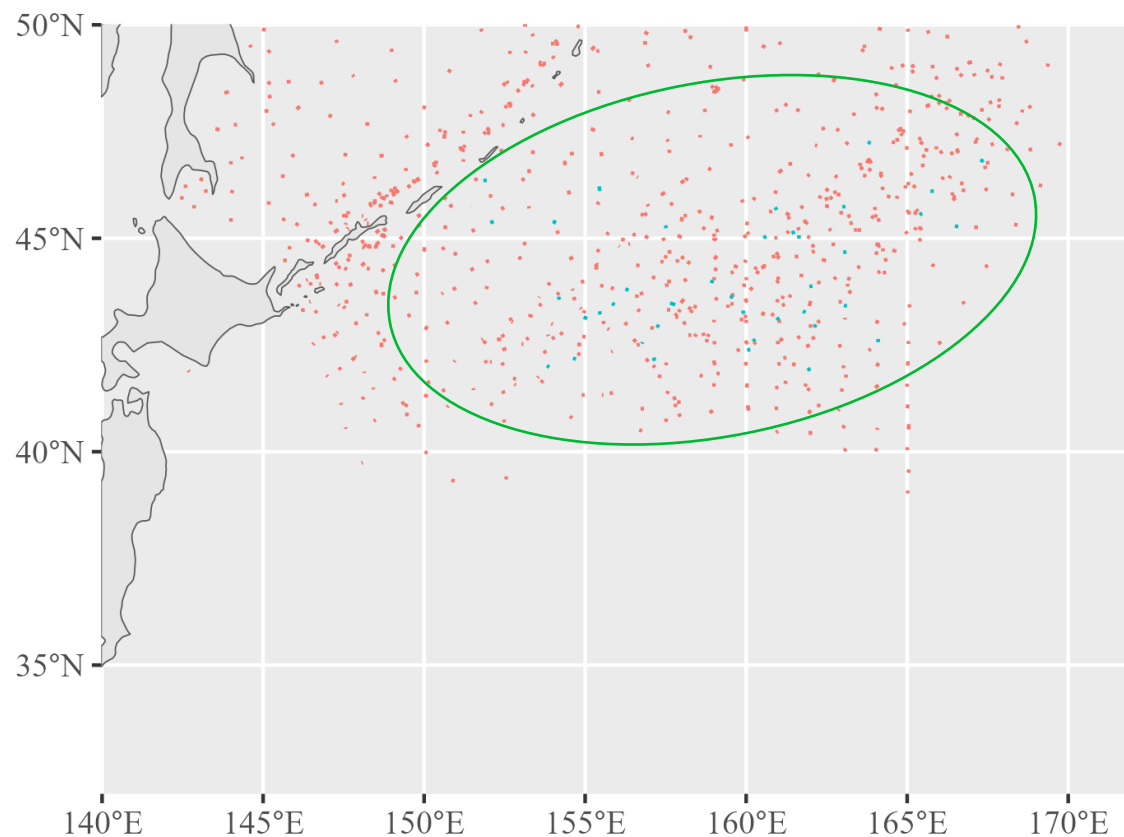
Midwater trawls on 06 month



New data on saury absence (occ=0) and presence (occ=1) in the midwater trawl survey of pelagial in July and August

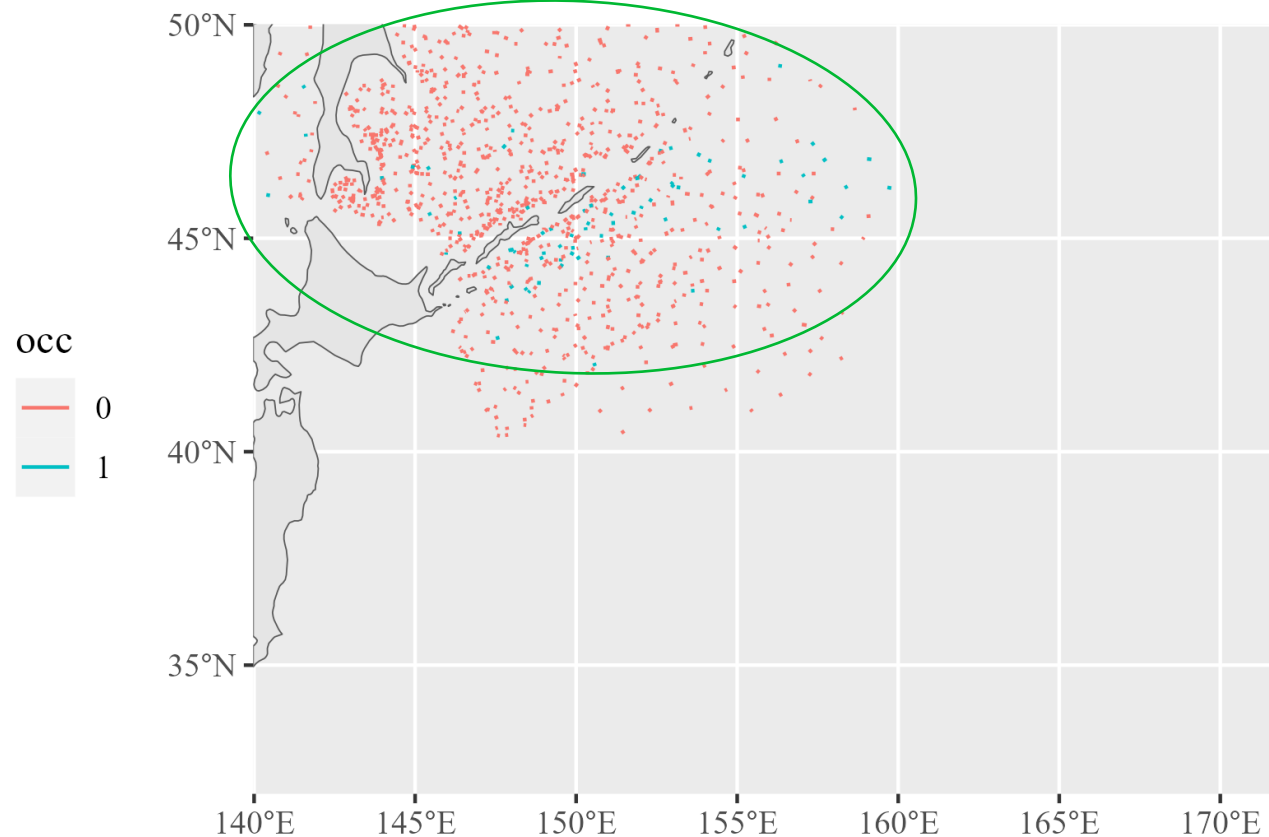
Russian upper pelagial survey

Midwater trawls on 07 month



Russian upper pelagial survey

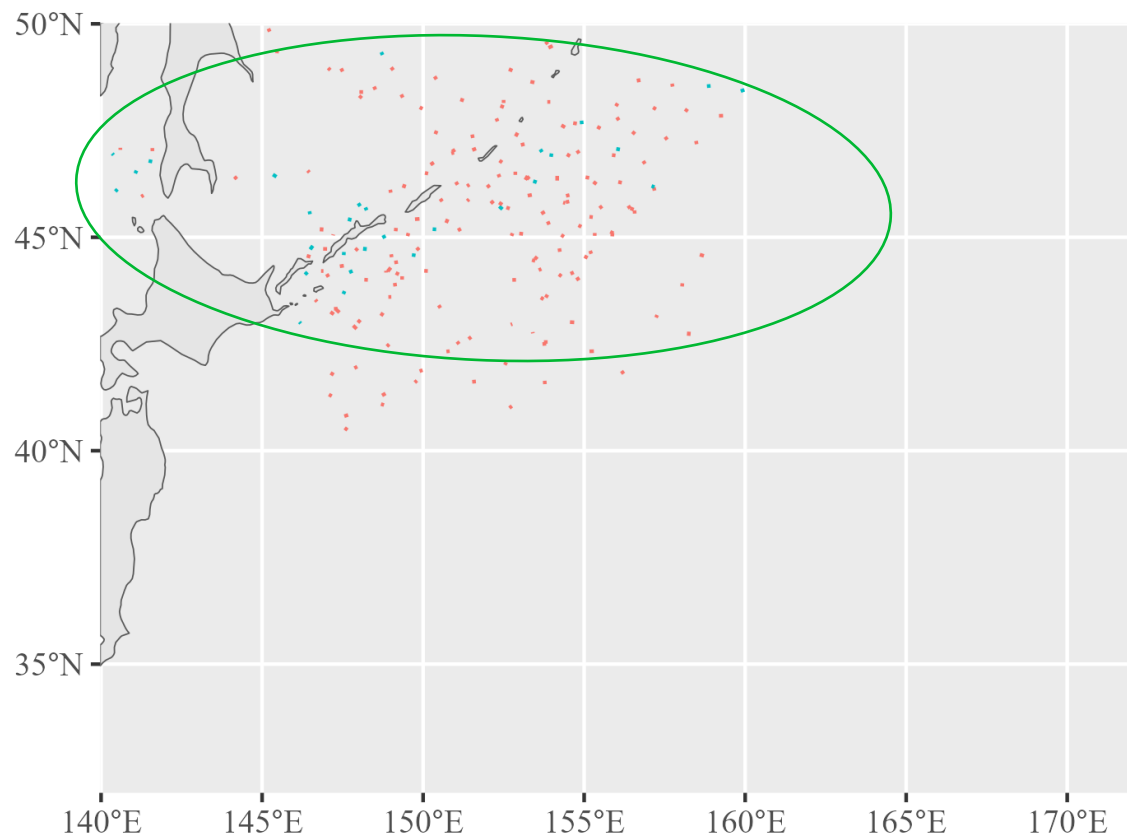
Midwater trawls on 08 month



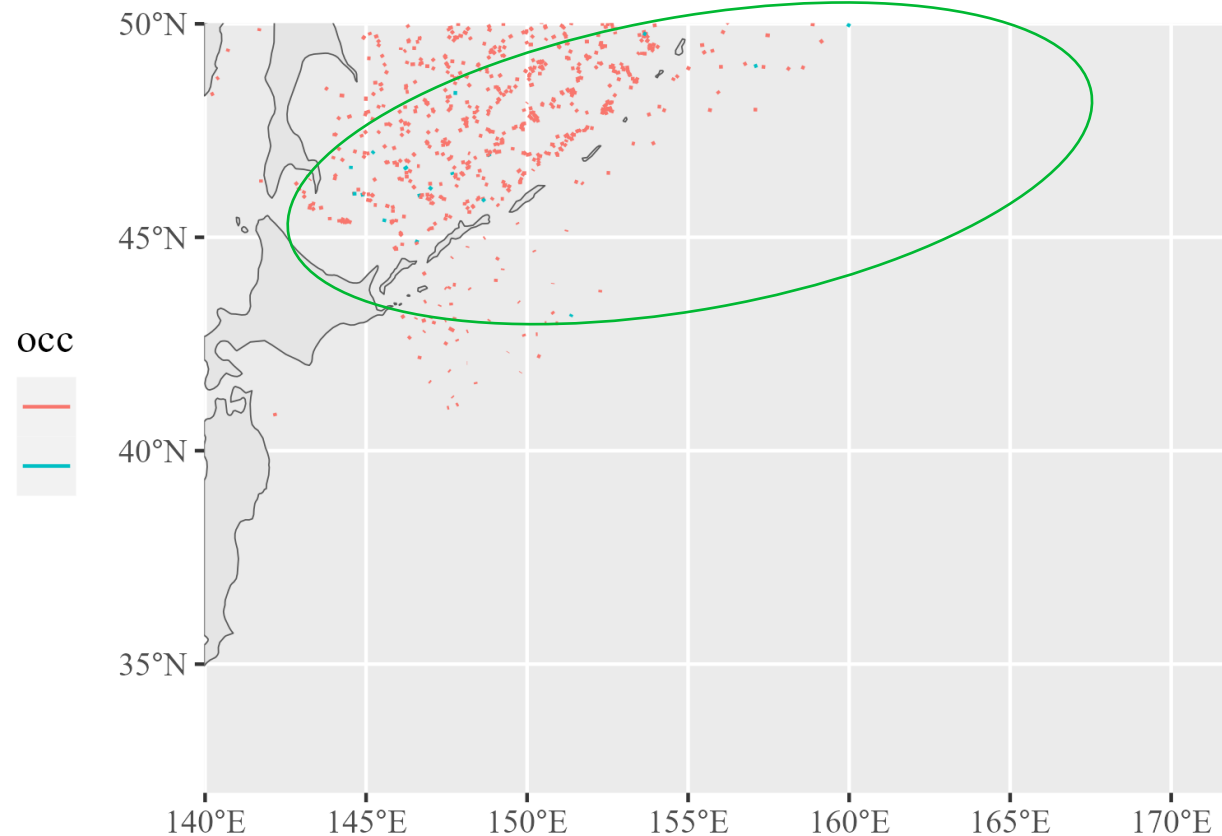
occ
— 0
— 1

New data on saury absence (occ=0) and presence (occ=1) in the midwater trawl survey of pelagial in **September and **October****

Russian upper pelagial survey
Midwater trawls on 09 month



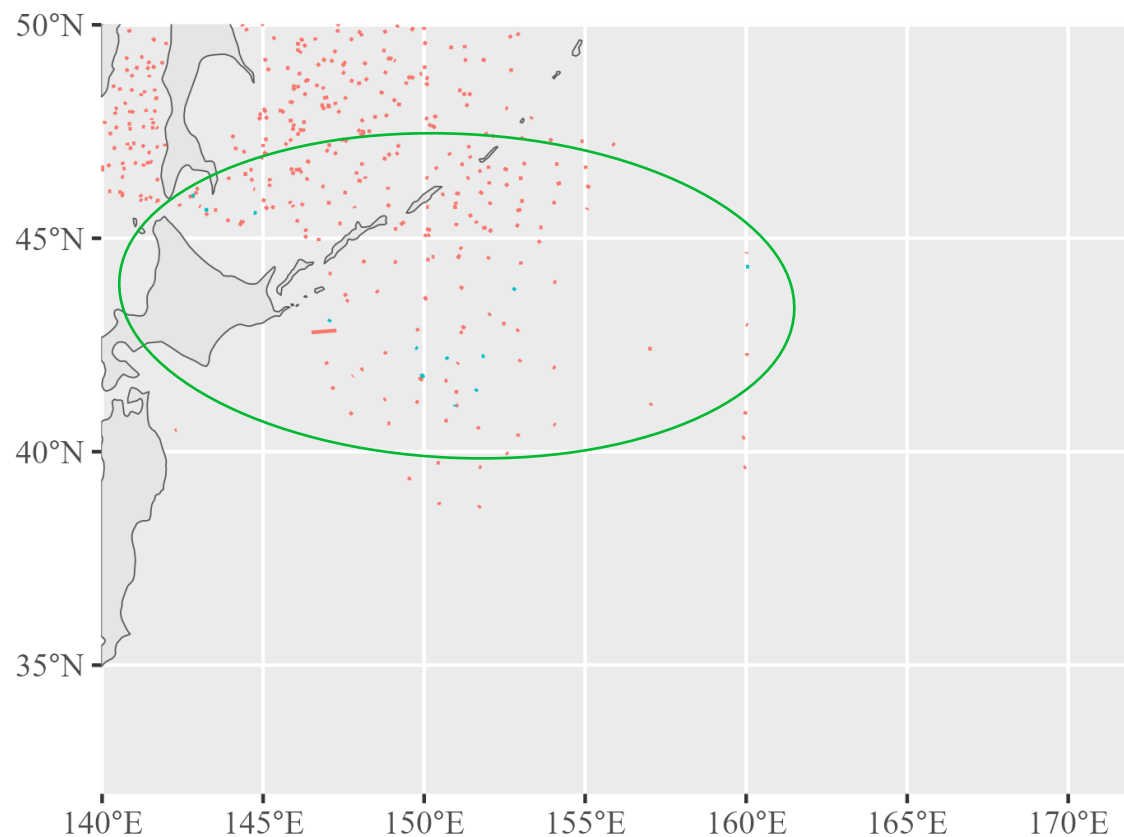
Russian upper pelagial survey
Midwater trawls on 10 month



New data on saury absence (occ=0) and presence (occ=1) in the midwater trawl survey of pelagial in November and December

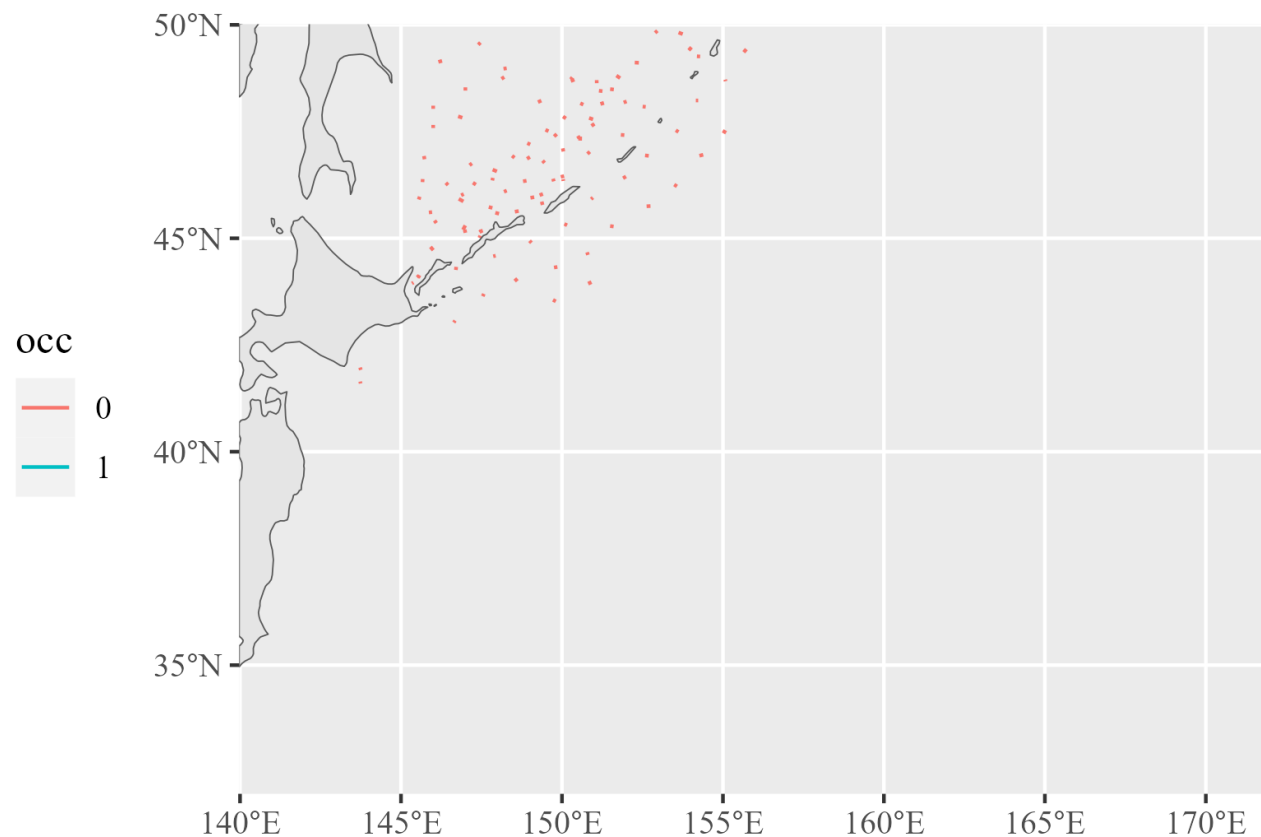
Russian upper pelagial survey

Midwater trawls on 11 month



Russian upper pelagial survey

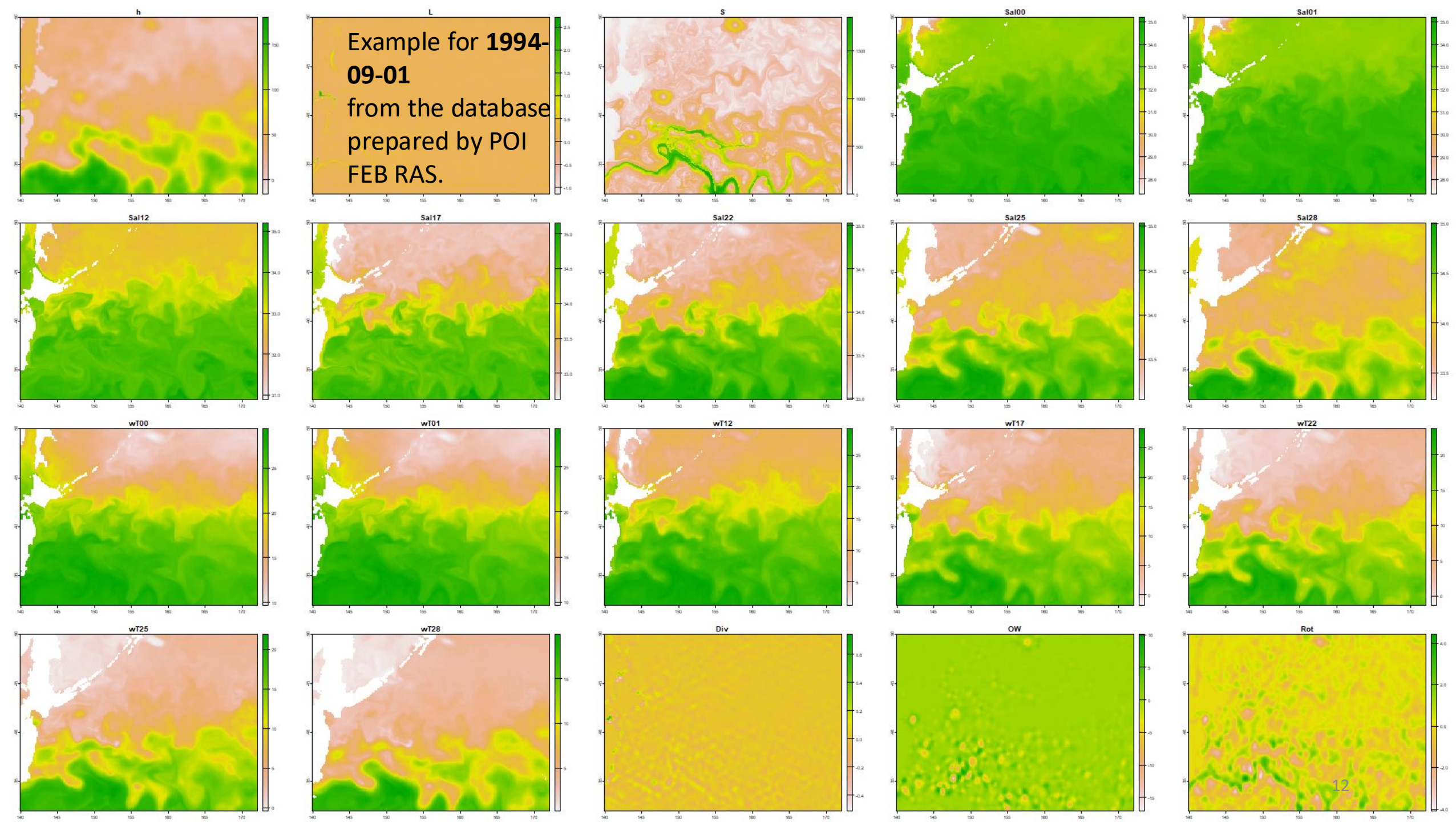
Midwater trawls on 12 month

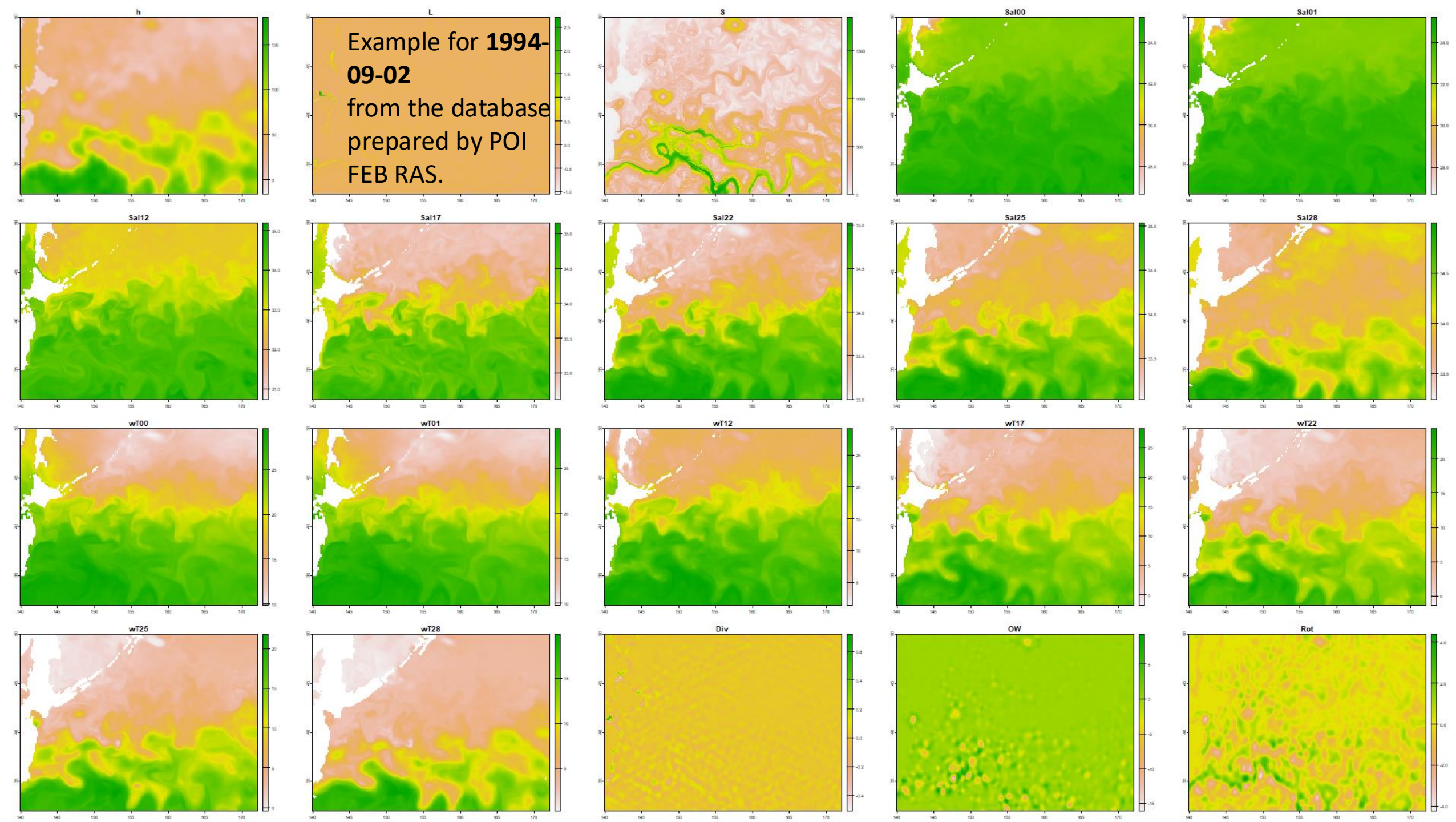


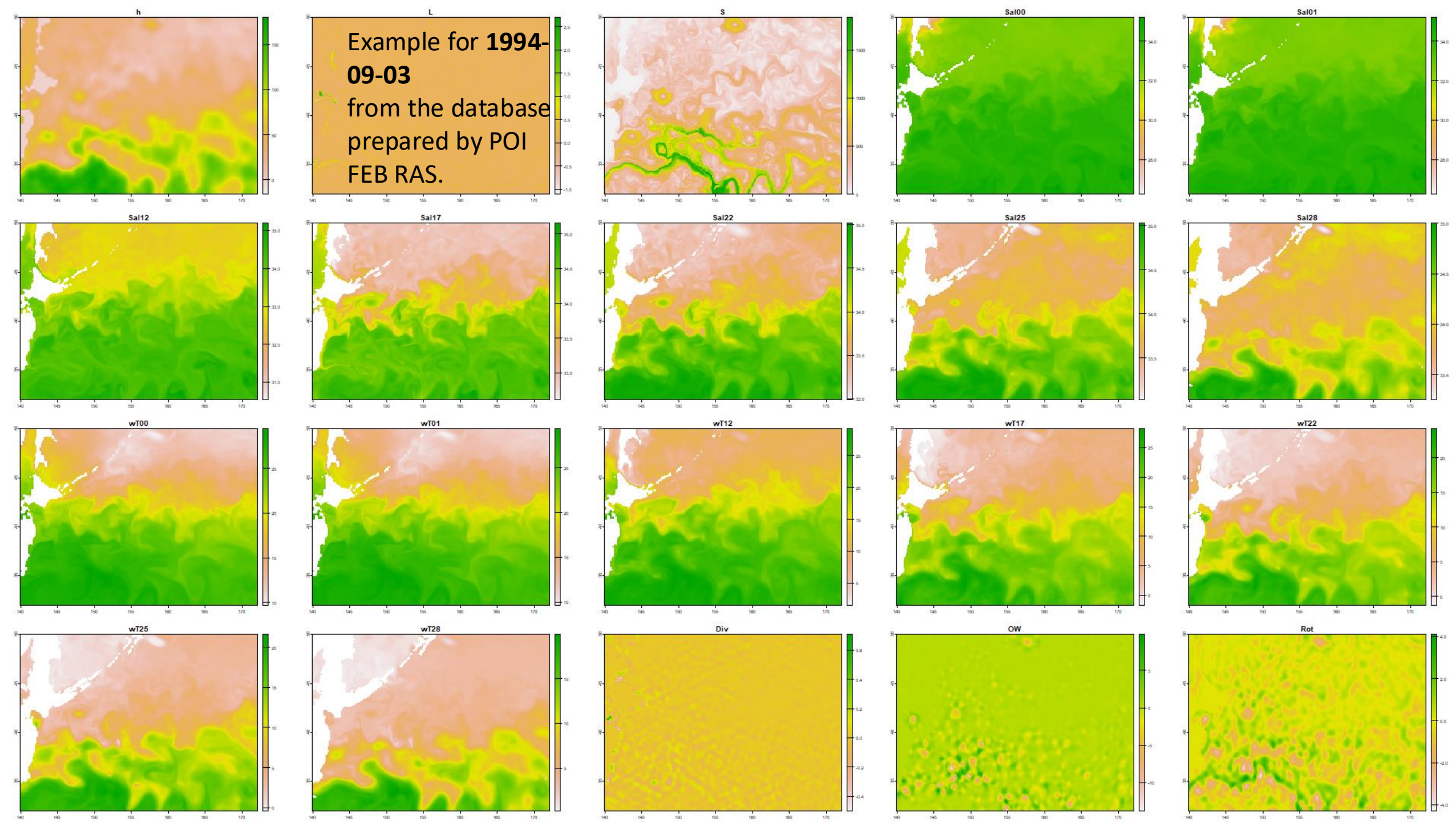
*In addition to used earlier by us for shorter timeframe (2004–2018)
Lagrangian indicators back calculated in time for the period of 1 month :*
L — Lyapunov exponent (day^{-1}) and
S — particle path length, km
and coordinates (**Lon,Lat**) with an ordinal day in a Year (**jDay**) without Year

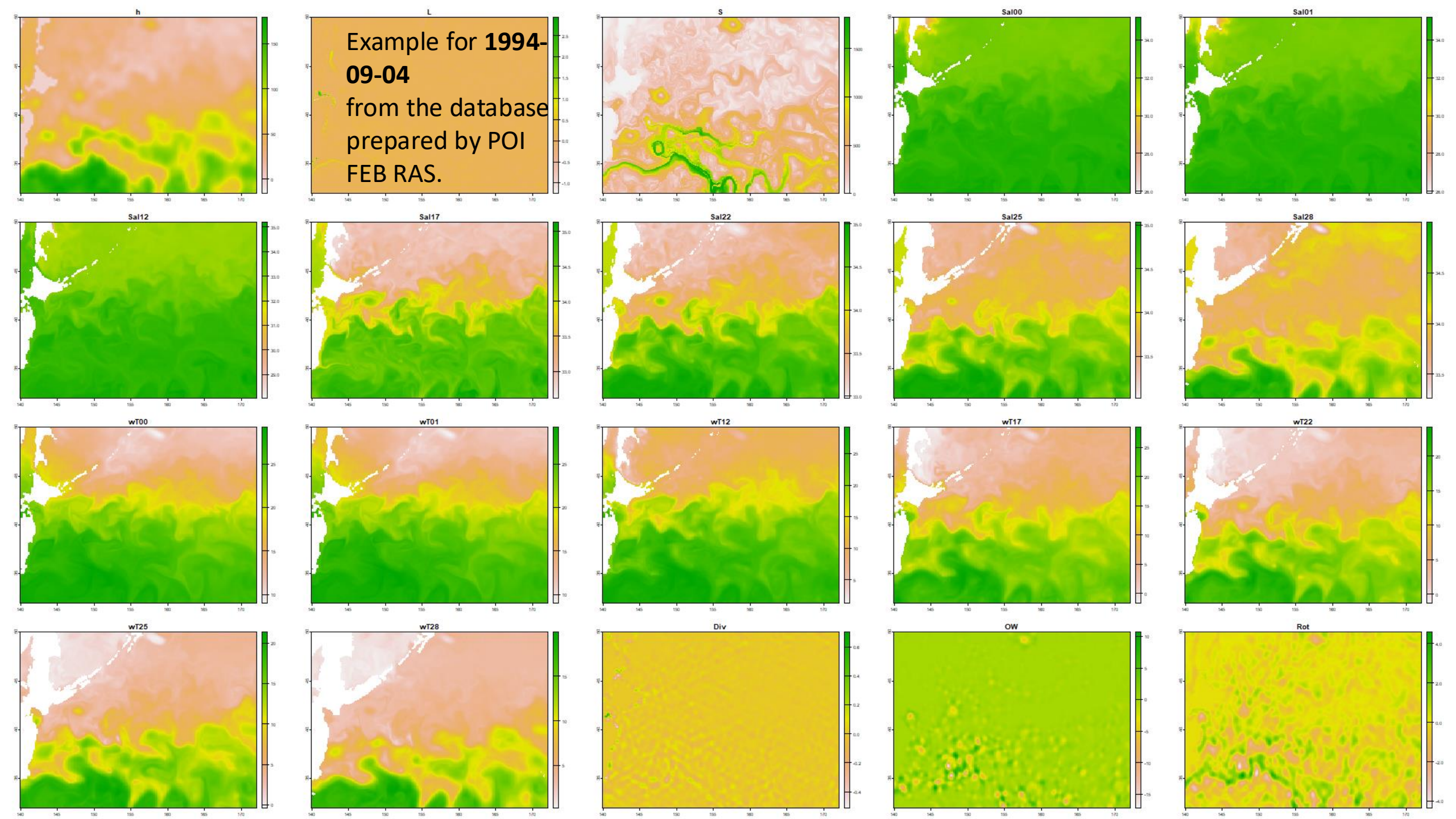
*This time, for a wider period of 1994–2021, we included
new features to predict saury occurrence in RF:*

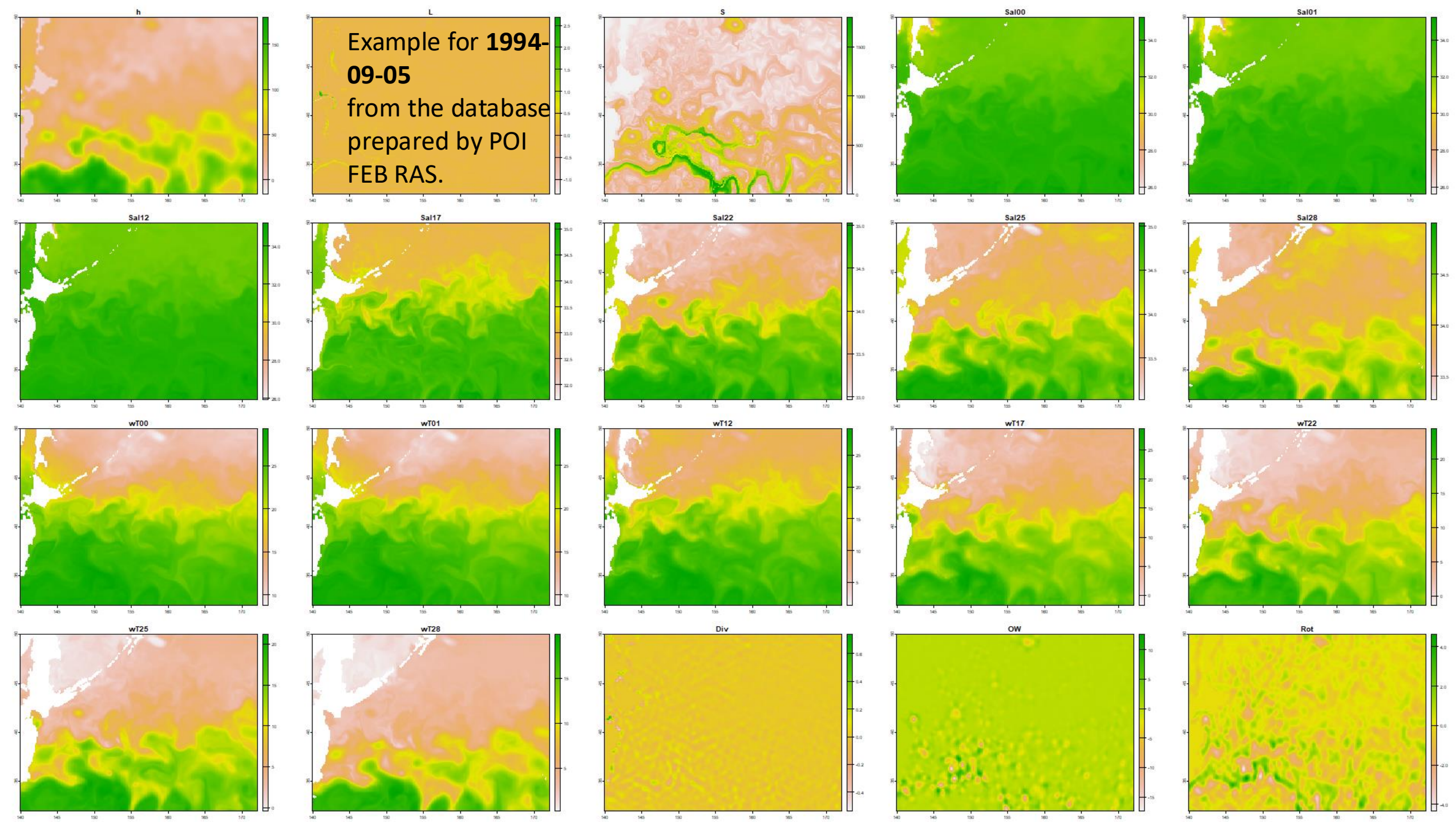
Dshore — Distance to the shore (from GFW),
wT — water temperature and
Sal — salinity
at horizons #0, 1, 12, 17, 22, 25, 28
(or at depth around 0.5, 1.5, 21.6, 47.3, 110, 186 and 318 m)
from the Global Ocean Physics Reanalysis (GLORYS12V1),
Div — Divergence,
OW — Okubo–Weiss parameter,
Rot — Rotor,
SSH — Sea Surface Height





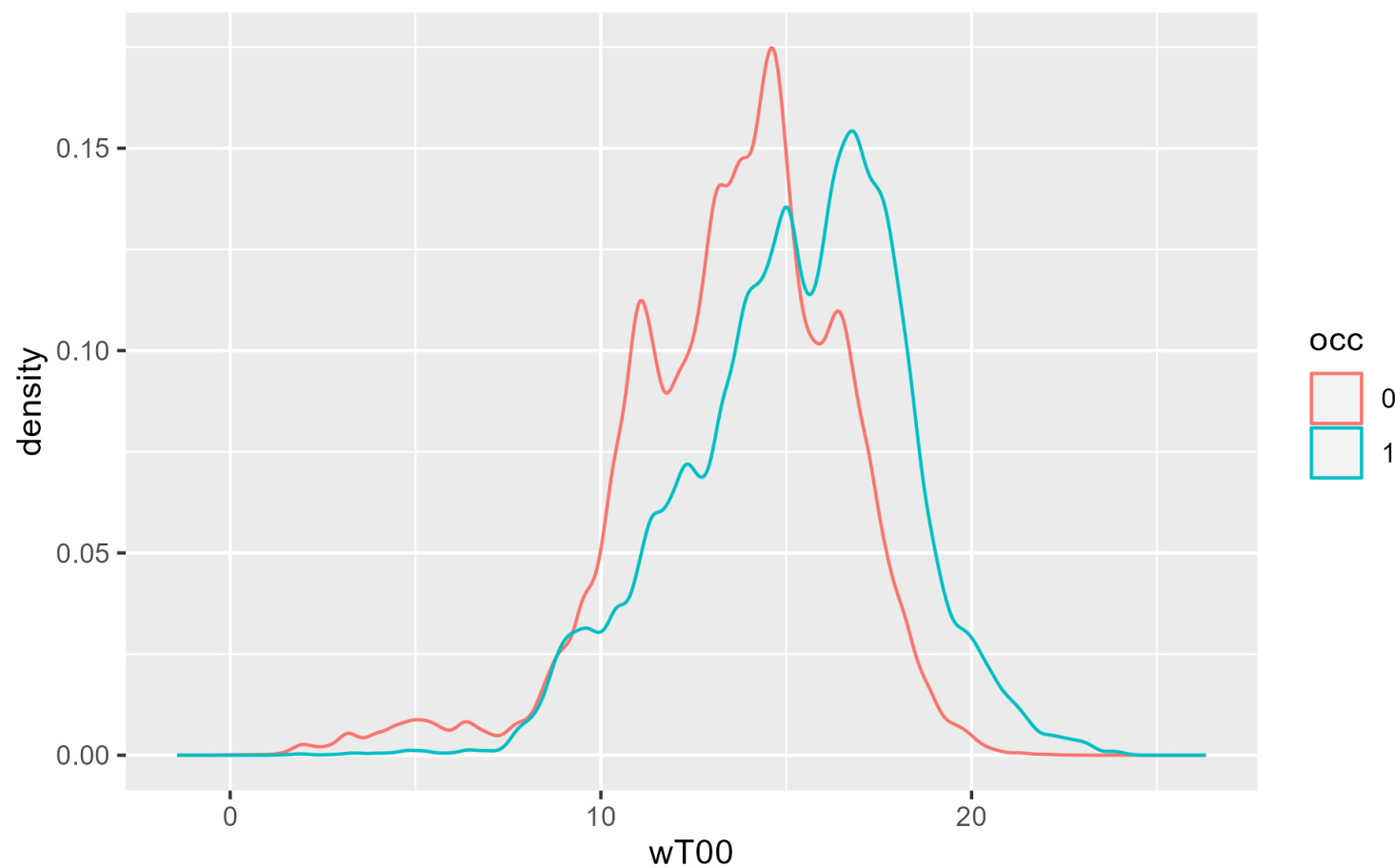






New data full set. Only SST (wT00) is not enough to split the data

Occurrence of saury	0 (No)	1 (Yes)
Number of points	409615	586229



Reproducibility

```
set.seed(1234)
```

Divide data into training and test for hyperparameter tuning:

```
dat_split <- dat %>%
```

```
  initial_split(prop = 0.5, strata=occ)
```

```
dat_train_df <- training(dat_split)
```

```
dat_test_df <- testing(dat_split)
```

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics Training Data

Characteristic	Overall, N = 446,040 ¹	occ		p-value ²
		0, N = 168,718 ¹	1, N = 277,322 ¹	
lon	152.93 (5.63)	150.22 (4.51)	154.59 (5.61)	<0.001
lat	42.99 (1.73)	42.94 (1.62)	43.02 (1.80)	<0.001
Div	0.00 (0.02)	0.00 (0.02)	0.00 (0.02)	<0.001
Dshore	393.41 (285.99)	257.12 (223.05)	476.32 (288.28)	<0.001

¹ Mean (SD)

² Welch Two Sample t-test

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics Training Data Lagrangian

Characteristic	occ			p-value ²
	Overall, N = 446,040 ¹	0, N = 168,718 ¹	1, N = 277,322 ¹	
h	32.76 (11.52)	31.60 (10.12)	33.47 (12.25)	<0.001
L	0.07 (0.04)	0.07 (0.04)	0.07 (0.04)	<0.001
S	255.53 (164.33)	246.84 (147.85)	260.83 (173.38)	<0.001
¹ Mean (SD)				
² Welch Two Sample t-test				

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics Training Data Salinity

Characteristic	Overall, N = 446,040¹	occ		p-value²
		0, N = 168,718¹	1, N = 277,322¹	
Sal00	33.03 (0.56)	32.84 (0.47)	33.14 (0.58)	<0.001
Sal01	33.03 (0.56)	32.84 (0.47)	33.15 (0.58)	<0.001
Sal12	33.11 (0.51)	32.92 (0.42)	33.22 (0.53)	<0.001
Sal17	33.35 (0.44)	33.18 (0.35)	33.46 (0.46)	<0.001
Sal22	33.50 (0.36)	33.39 (0.28)	33.58 (0.39)	<0.001
Sal25	33.62 (0.20)	33.56 (0.17)	33.66 (0.21)	<0.001
Sal28	33.79 (0.12)	33.76 (0.13)	33.81 (0.11)	<0.001

¹ Mean (SD)² Welch Two Sample t-test

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics Training Data Temperature

Characteristic	Overall, N = 446,040 ¹	occ		p-value ²
		0, N = 168,718 ¹	1, N = 277,322 ¹	
wT00	14.52 (3.10)	13.32 (2.97)	15.25 (2.94)	<0.001
wT01	14.49 (3.09)	13.30 (2.96)	15.22 (2.94)	<0.001
wT12	13.08 (3.34)	11.92 (2.91)	13.78 (3.39)	<0.001
wT17	8.10 (4.32)	6.86 (3.62)	8.86 (4.53)	<0.001
wT22	4.78 (3.33)	3.64 (2.61)	5.48 (3.52)	<0.001
wT25	4.15 (2.26)	3.28 (1.71)	4.69 (2.38)	<0.001
wT28	3.75 (1.16)	3.25 (0.91)	4.05 (1.19)	<0.001

¹ Mean (SD)

² Welch Two Sample t-test

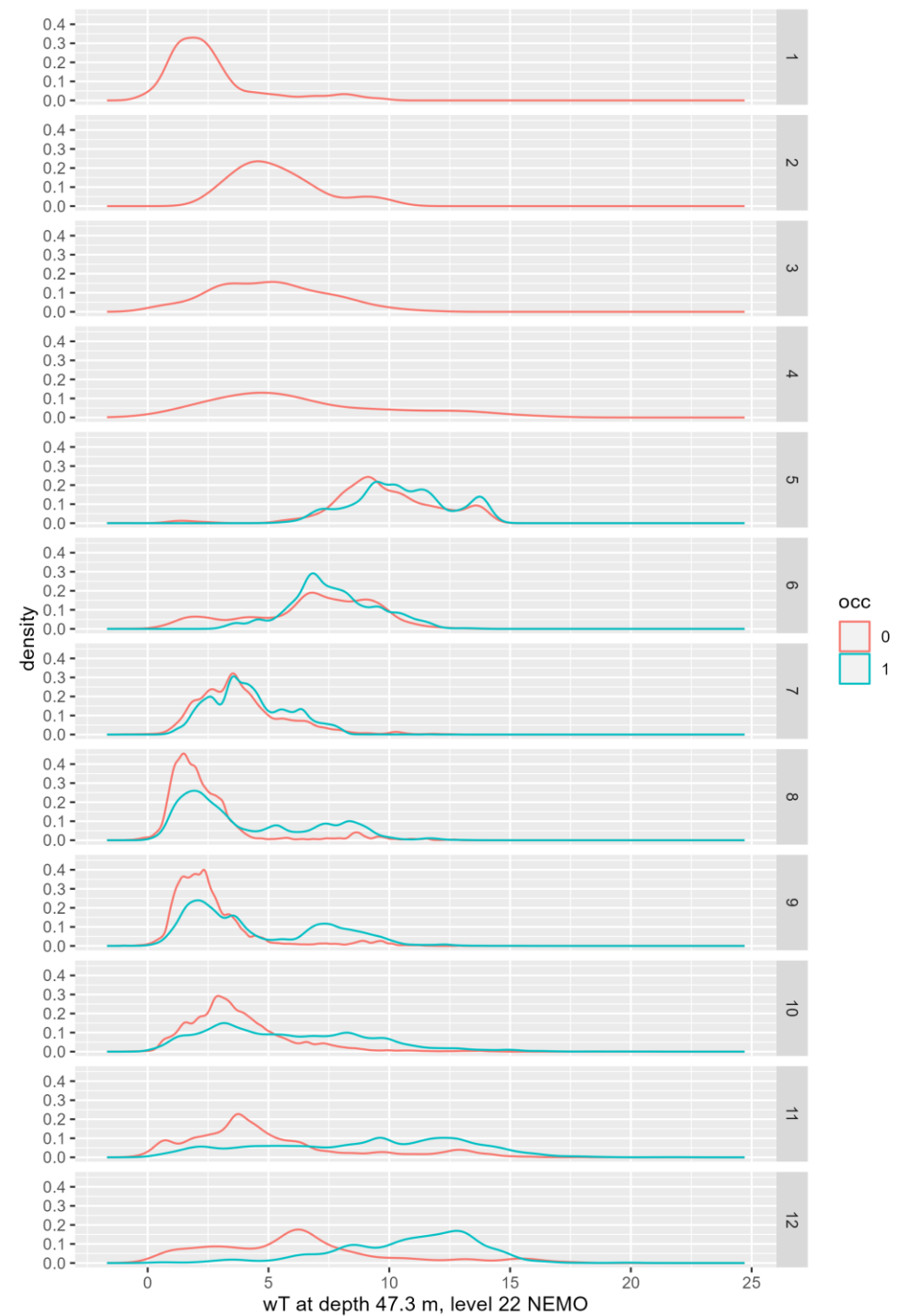
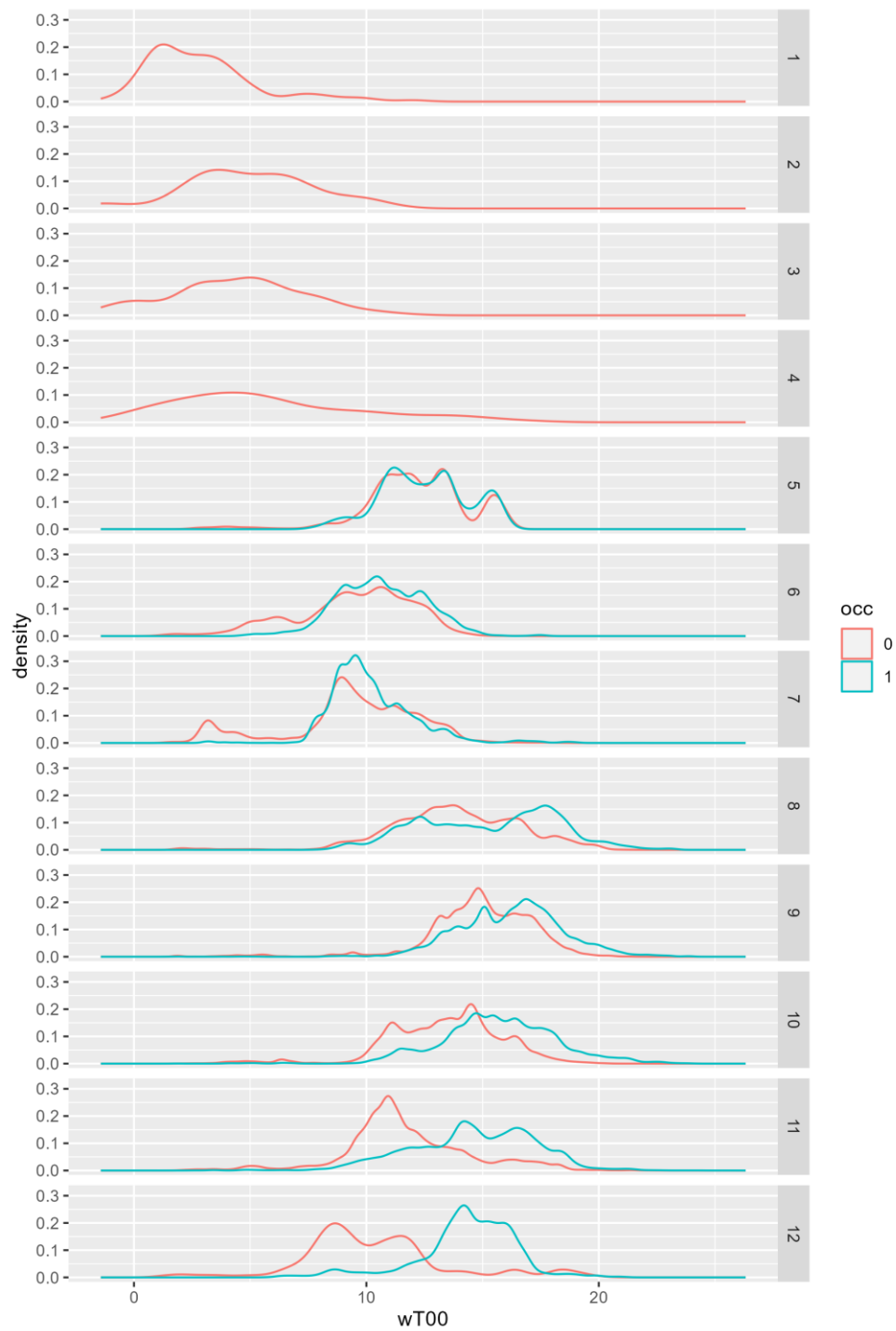
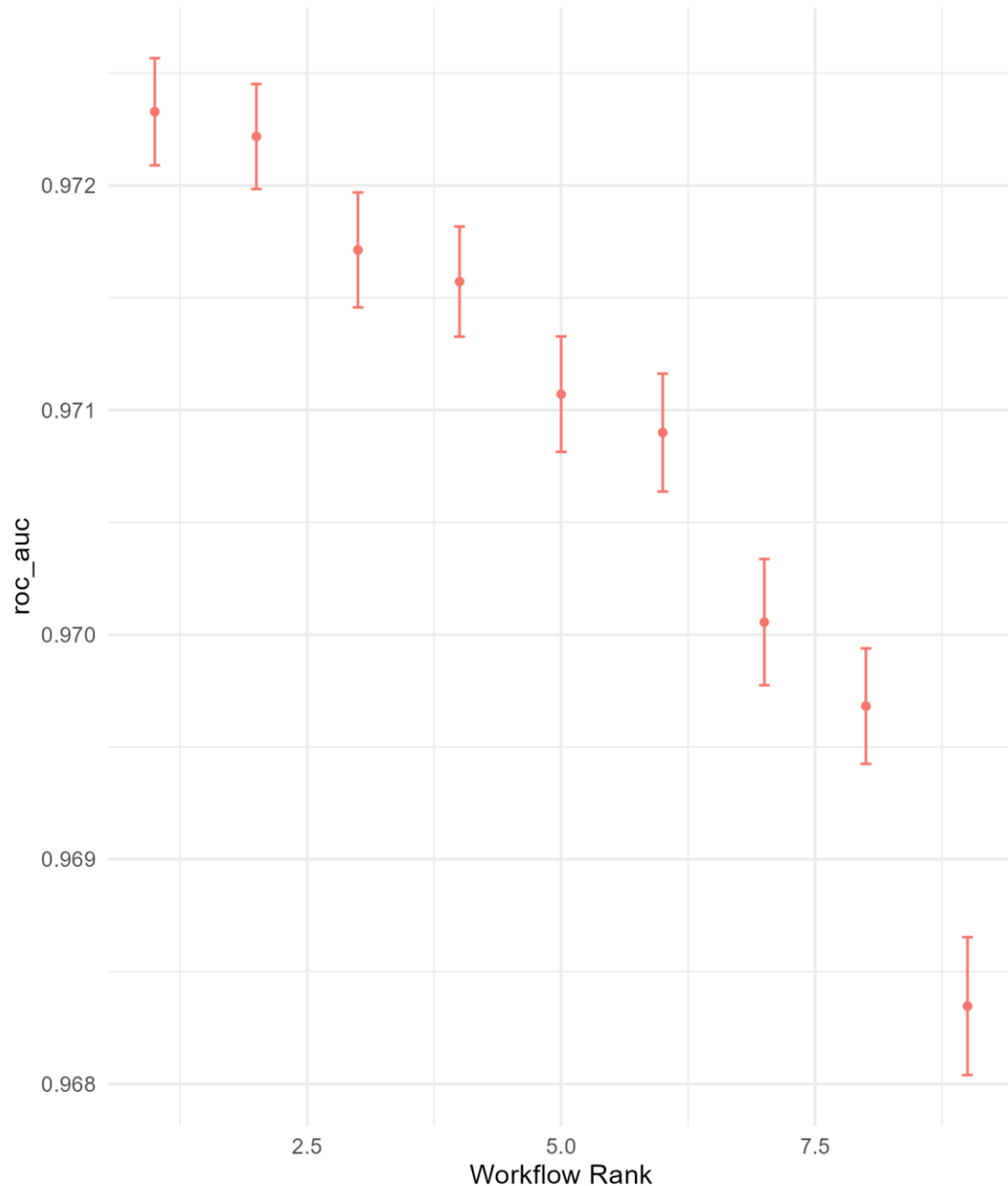


Figure 1: Results Hyperparameter Tuning



```
show_best(RF1_results, metric = "roc_auc")
```

```
# # A tibble: 5 × 8
```

#	mtry	min_n	.metric	.estimator	mean	n	std_err	.config
#	<int>	<int>	<chr>	<chr>	<dbl>	<int>	<dbl>	<chr>
# 1	16	10	roc_auc	binary	0.972	10	0.000145	Preprocessor1_Model14
# 2	8	2	roc_auc	binary	0.972	10	0.000142	Preprocessor1_Model18
# 3	9	15	roc_auc	binary	0.972	10	0.000156	Preprocessor1_Model19
# 4	19	19	roc_auc	binary	0.972	10	0.000149	Preprocessor1_Model13
# 5	17	25	roc_auc	binary	0.971	10	0.000156	Preprocessor1_Model11

model

—•— rand_forest

preprocessor

• recipe

```
set.seed(1001) # FINAL
```

```
dat_recipe <- recipe(occ ~ ., data=dat) %>%
```

```
step_downsample(occ)
```

```
dat_prep <- prep(dat_recipe, dat)
```

```
dat_bake <- bake(dat_prep, new_data = NULL)
```

```
table(dat_bake$occ)
```

```
#      0      1
```

```
# 337436 337436
```

Final method – Random forest

```
set.seed(1001) # FINAL
dat_recipe <- recipe(occ ~ ., data=dat) %>%
step_downsample(occ)
dat_prep <- prep(dat_recipe, dat)
dat_bake <- bake(dat_prep, new_data = NULL)
table(dat_bake$occ)
```

#	0	1	# Type:	Probability estimation
# 337436	337436		*	
			# Number of trees:	500
			# Sample size:	674872
			# Number of independent variables:	24
			# Mtry:	16
			# Target node size:	10
			# Variable importance mode:	none
			# Splitrule:	extratrees
			# Number of random splits:	1
			# OOB prediction error (Brier s.):	0.04903609
			# *Malley, J. D., Kruppa, J., Dasgupta, A., Malley, K. G., & Ziegler, A. (2012). Probability machines: consistent probability estimation using nonparametric learning machines. Methods Inf Med 51:74-81. doi:10.3414/ME00-01- 0052.	

4

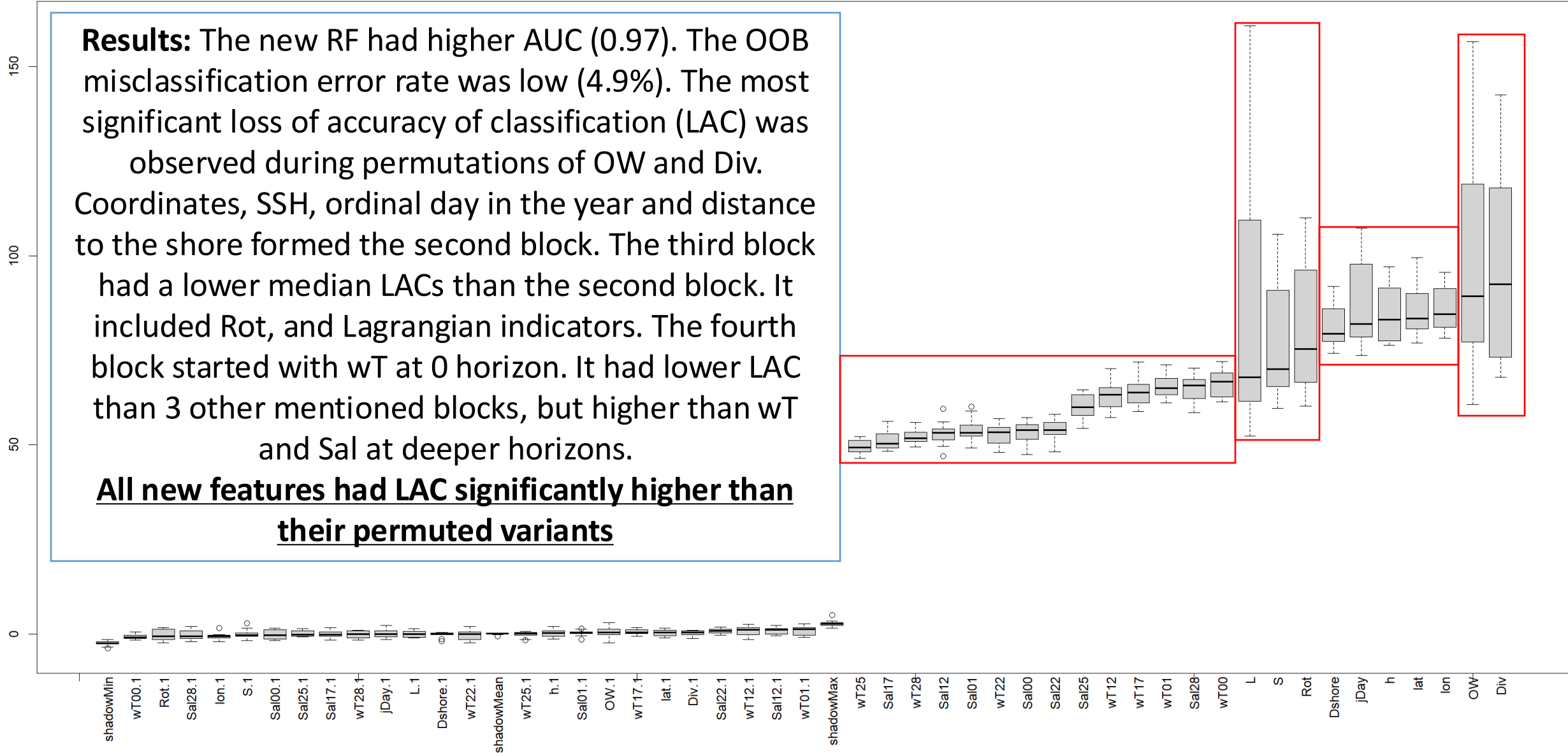
3

2

1

Results: The new RF had higher AUC (0.97). The OOB misclassification error rate was low (4.9%). The most significant loss of accuracy of classification (LAC) was observed during permutations of OW and Div. Coordinates, SSH, ordinal day in the year and distance to the shore formed the second block. The third block had a lower median LACs than the second block. It included Rot, and Lagrangian indicators. The fourth block started with wT at 0 horizon. It had lower LAC than 3 other mentioned blocks, but higher than wT and Sal at deeper horizons.

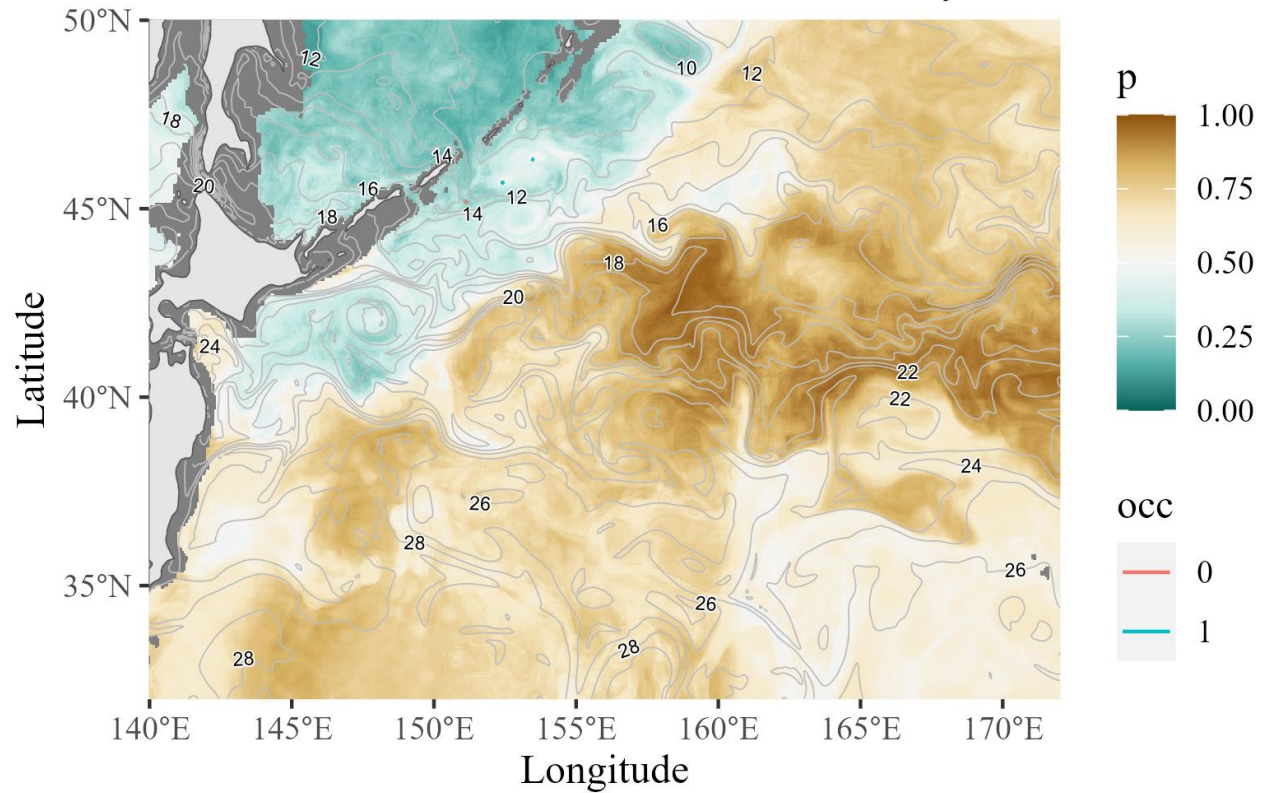
All new features had LAC significantly higher than their permuted variants



Random forest predictions

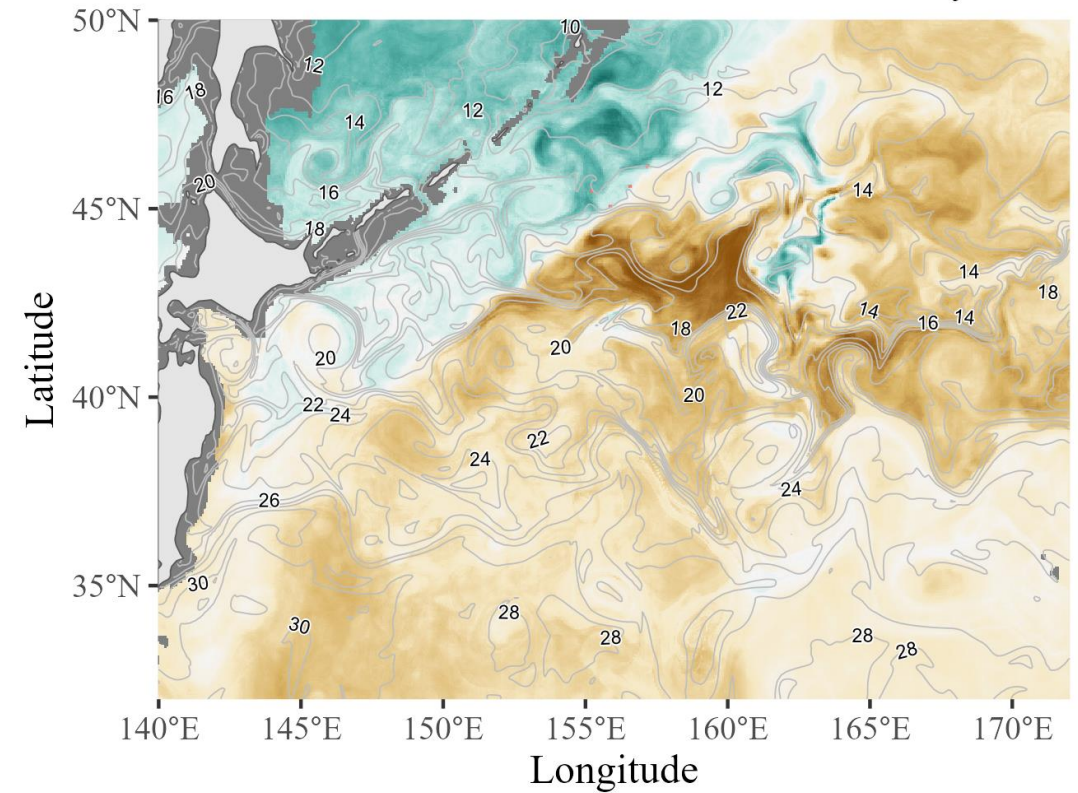
HSI (p) and SST contours on 1994-09-06

Occurrence (occ=1 is TRUE and occ=0 is FALSE) of saury in midwater scientific trawls conducted by Russia



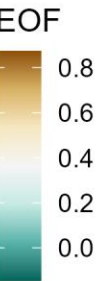
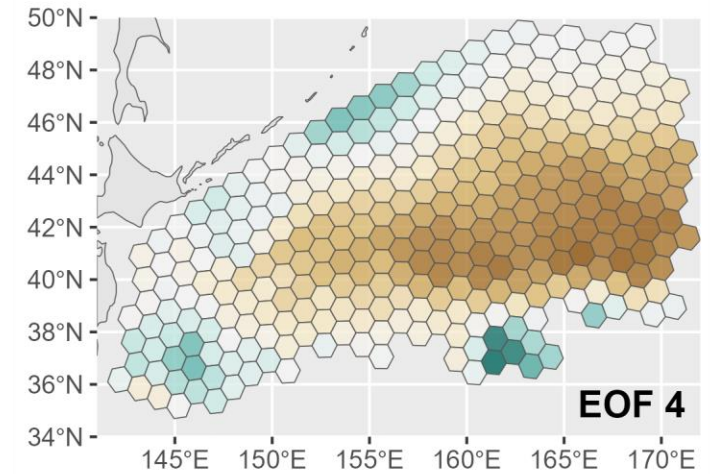
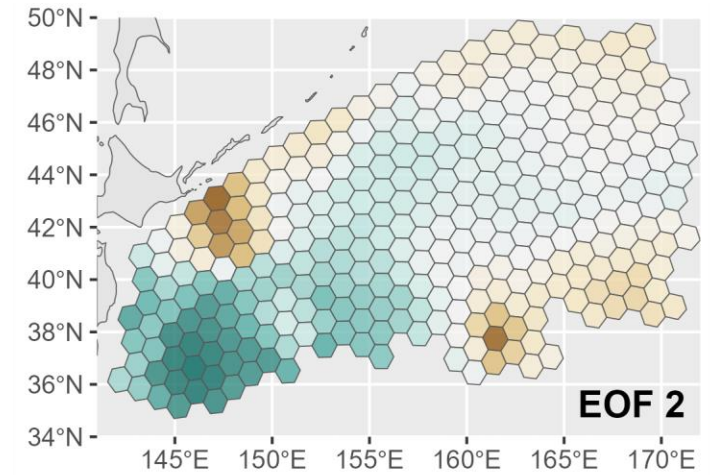
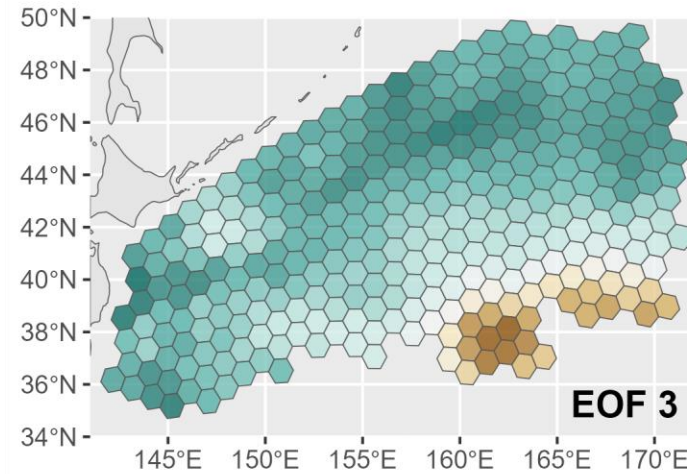
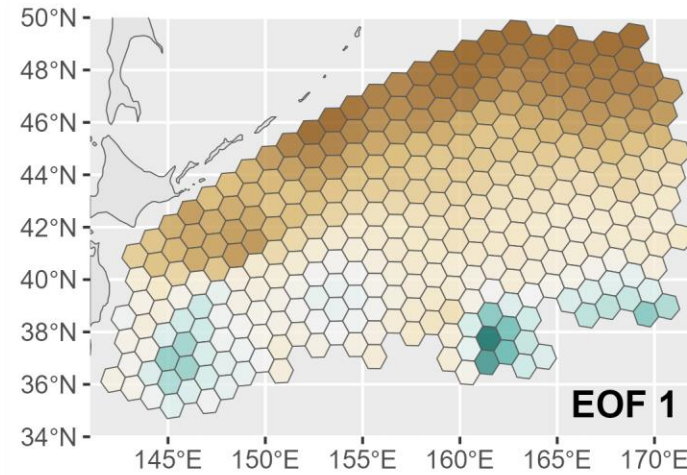
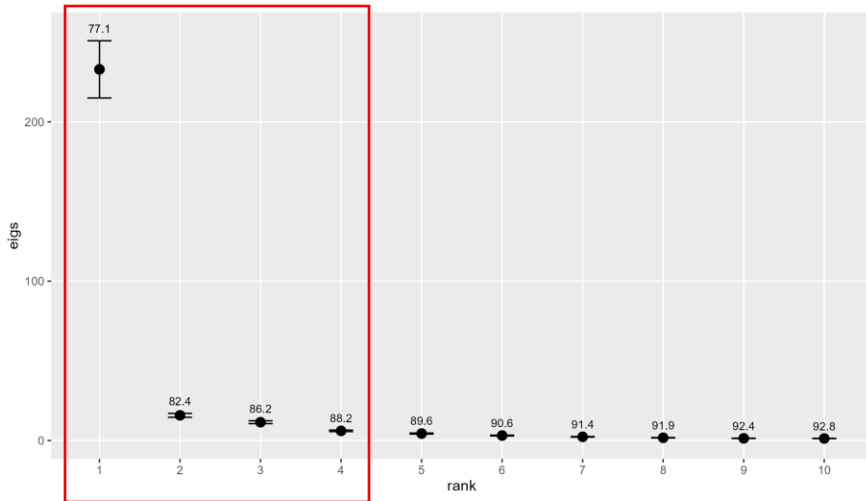
HSI (p) and SST contours on 2020-09-03

Occurrence (occ=1 is TRUE and occ=0 is FALSE) of saury in midwater scientific trawls conducted by Russia

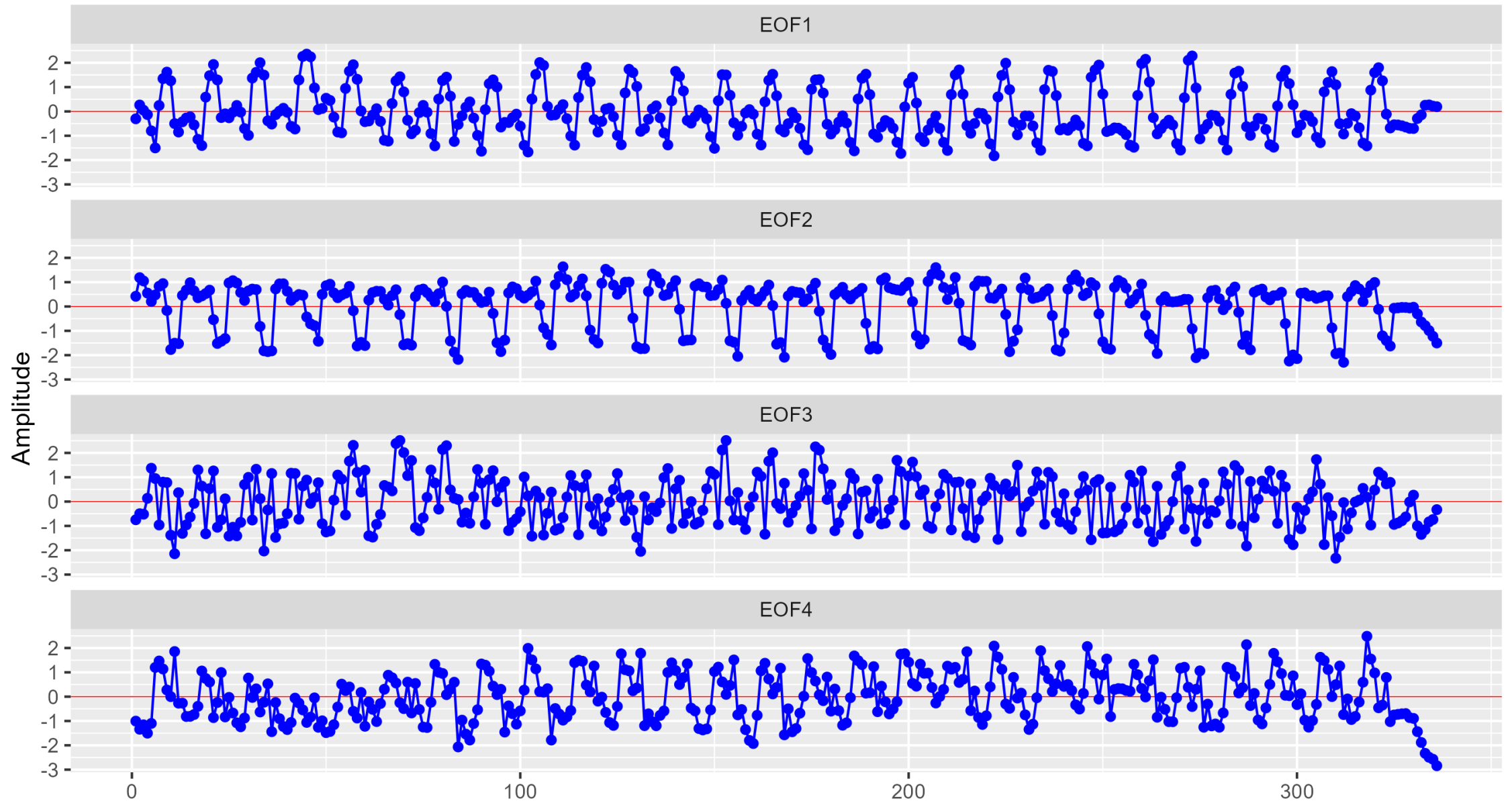


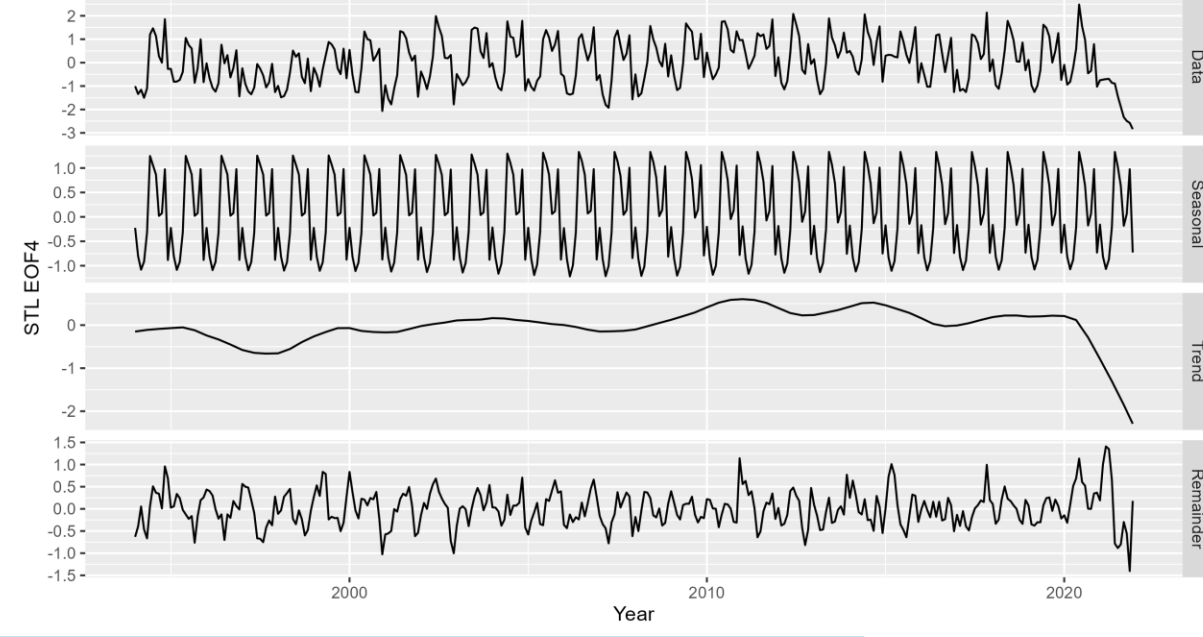
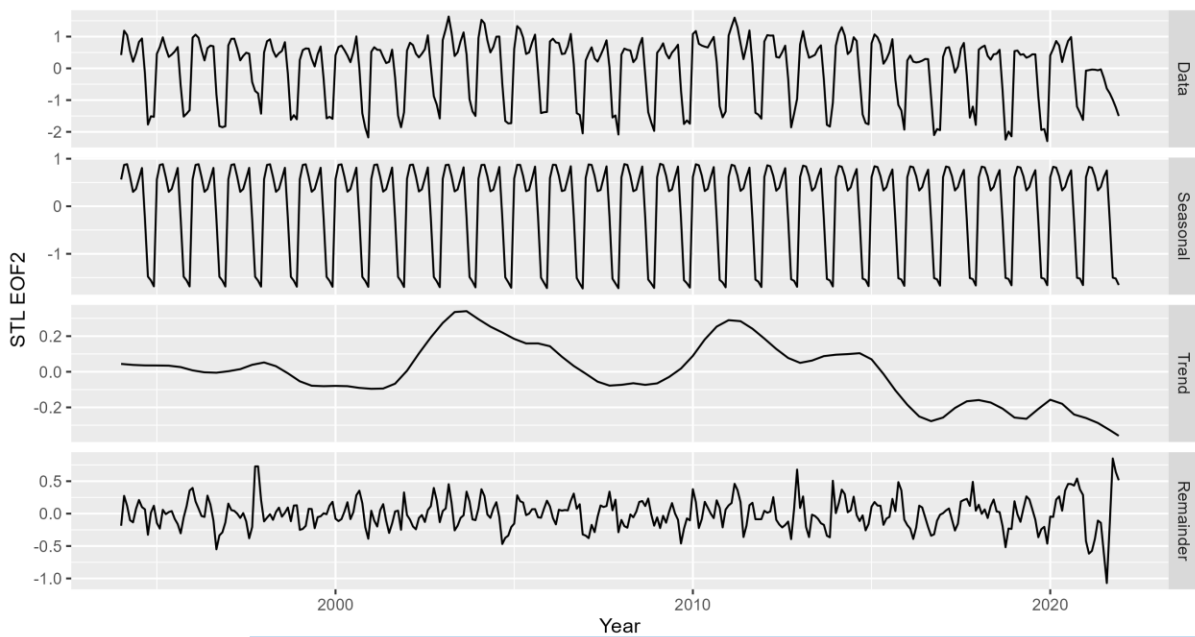
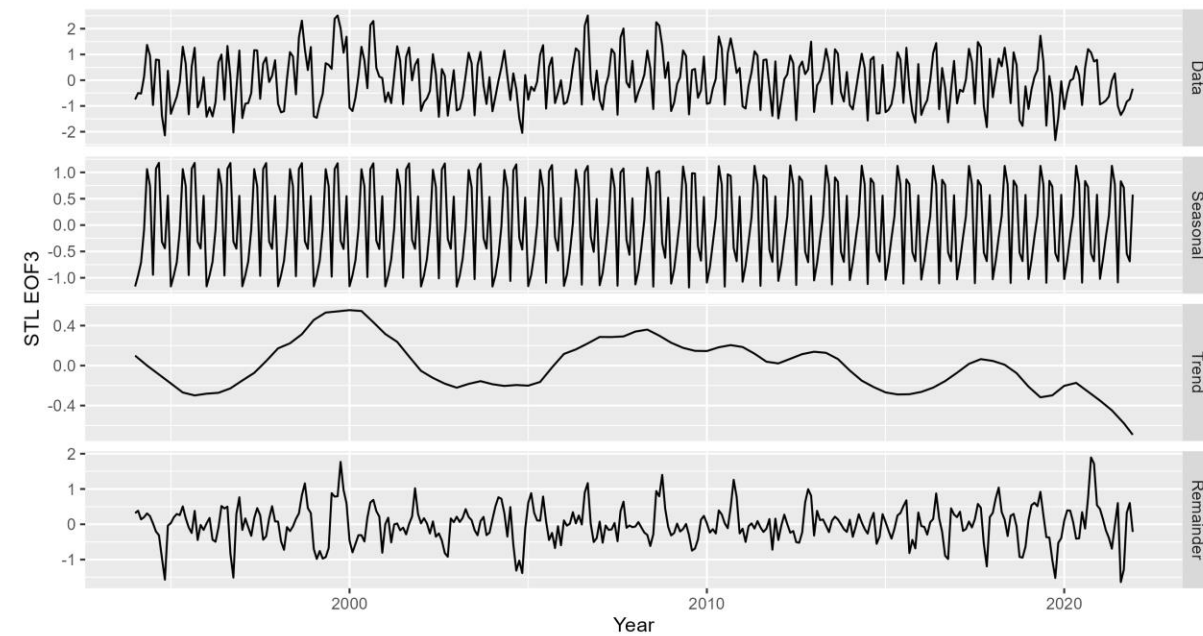
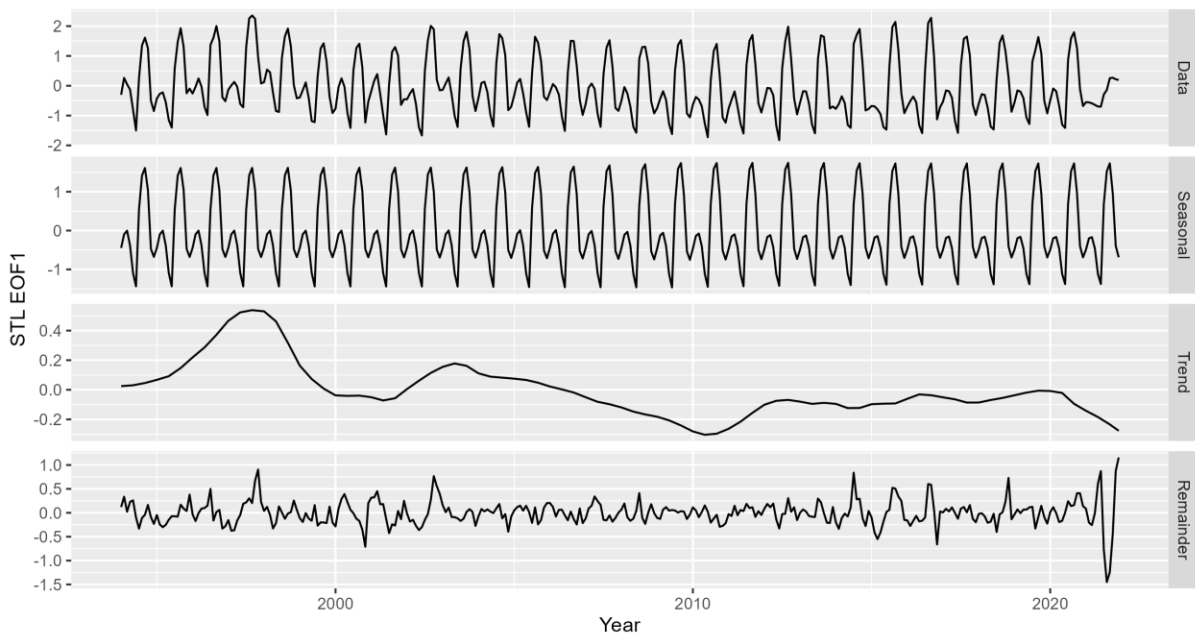
**EOF on Random forest predictions averaged by 302 equal area hexagons
(8660 km² , 100 km height, 115 km width each)
for each year and month**

**4 EOFs captured >
88% of variance**

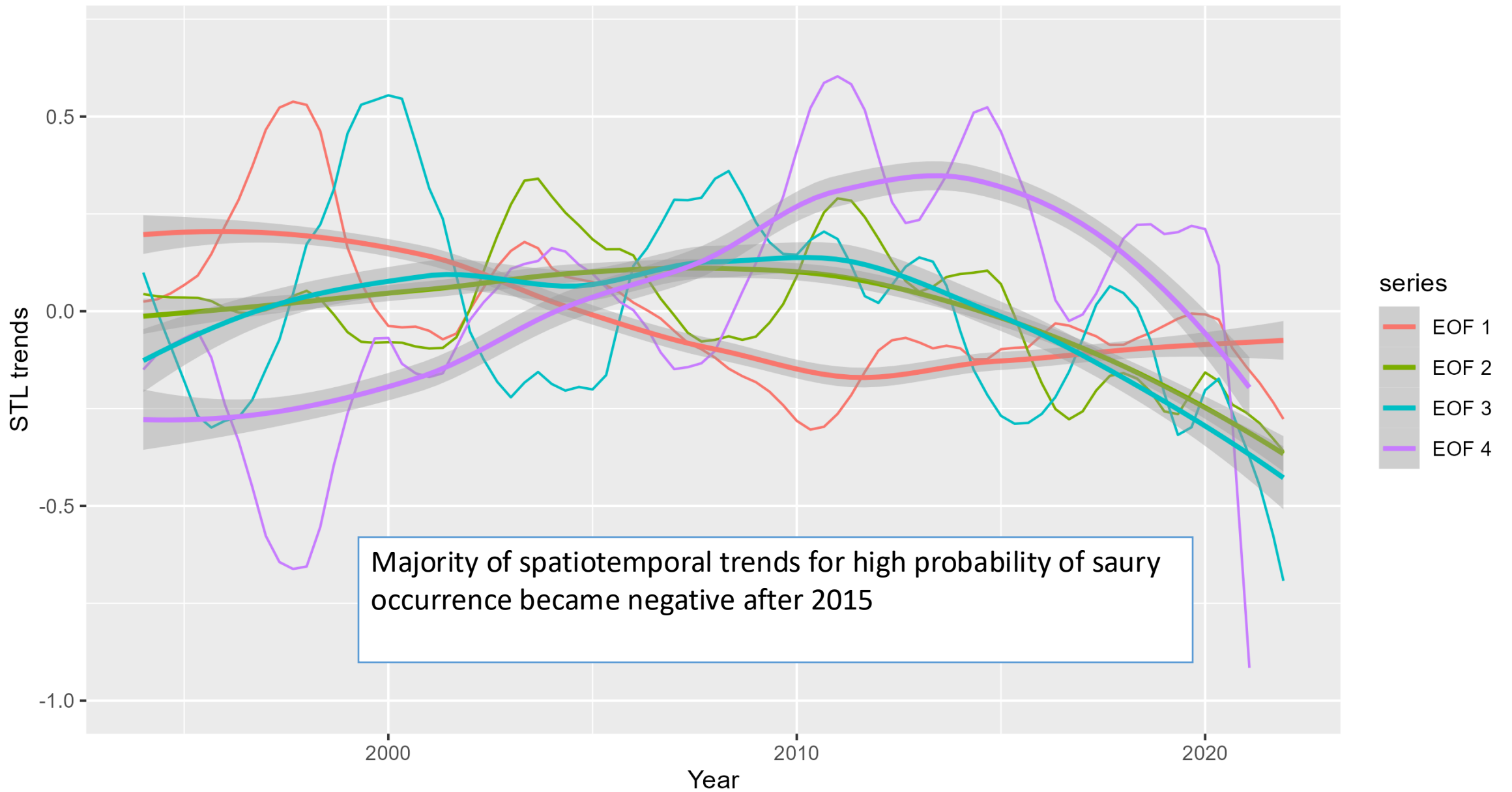


step = 1 month





STL (Cleveland et al., 1990) Swindow=25; Twindow=37; step = 1 month



Conclusion

We reached the goal of our study (improvement of the SDM for saury). Published AUC was 0.85 while new SDM reached AUC=0.97. Misclassification error rate of the new SDM is low (4.9%).

Majority of spatiotemporal trends for high probability of saury occurrence became negative after 2015. But we can not update our SDM and test it against new years after 2021, because GLORYS12V1 became unavailable in Russia.

So, we still hope to cooperate with PICES scientists to extend the range of study in geographical space more into the High Seas. We also would be very glad to test other predictor variables than we did.

Thank you for your attention!