

# Taking The Pulse Of The Great Lakes: Using Gaussian Neural Processes To Identify Optimal Observing Sites

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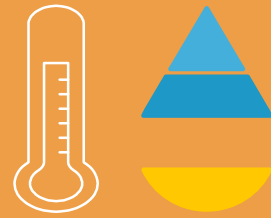


**UC Berkeley, May 2025**

**B.A. Data Science**

**Minor in Conservation & Resource Studies**

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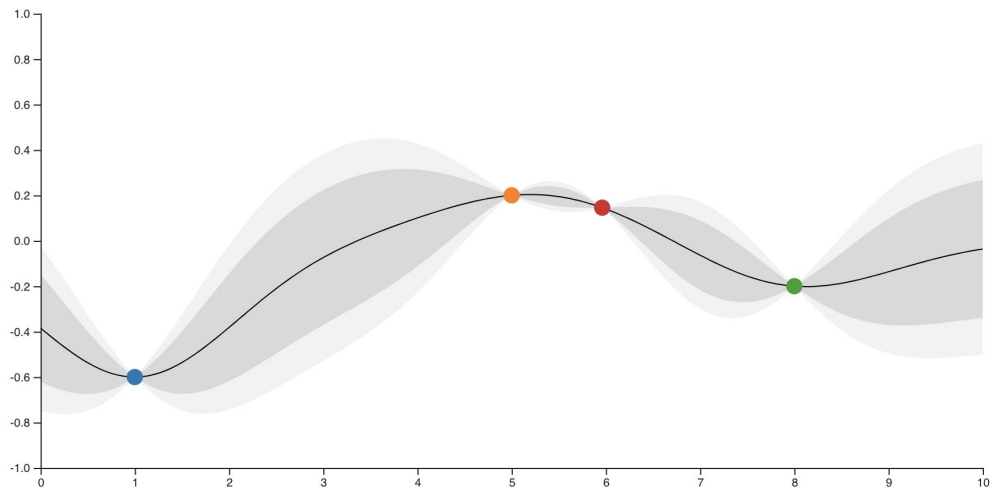
# Research Question

Where should the **next generation of temperature measurement sensors** be placed in order to most efficiently improve our quantitative understanding of Great Lakes **surface temperature variability?**

# ■ What is a Gaussian Neural Process

## Gaussian Processes

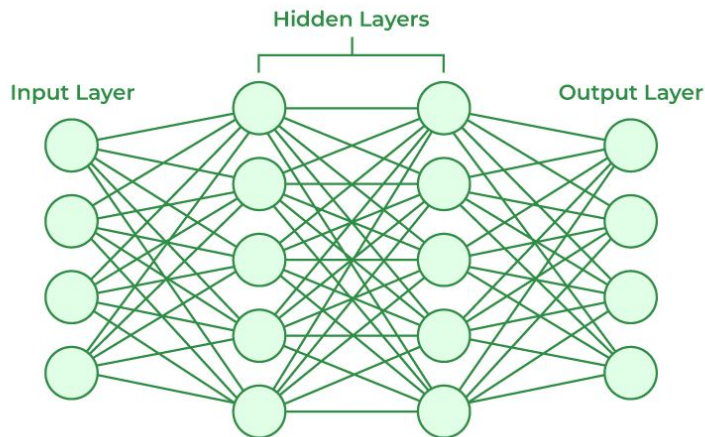
$$\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$$



# ■ What is a Gaussian Neural Process

Gaussian  
Neural  
Processes

$$\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$$

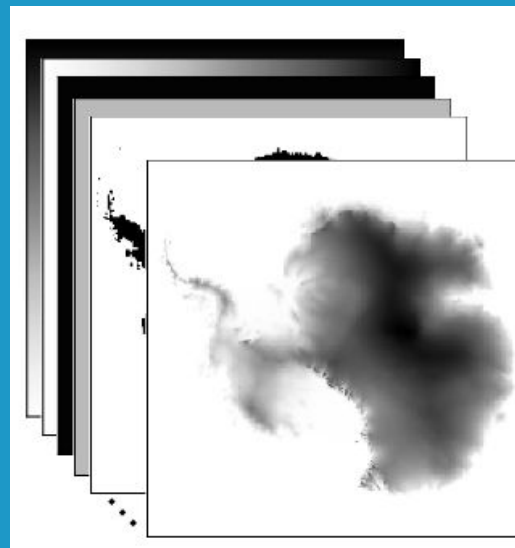




# Previous Research

Tom Andersson et al. **Environmental Sensor Placement with Convolutional Gaussian Neural Processes**. Environmental Data Science (2023)

- Fuse data sets
  - ERA5, Elevation, DOY cycle, etc.
- Convolution Gaussian Neural Process(ConvGNP) Model

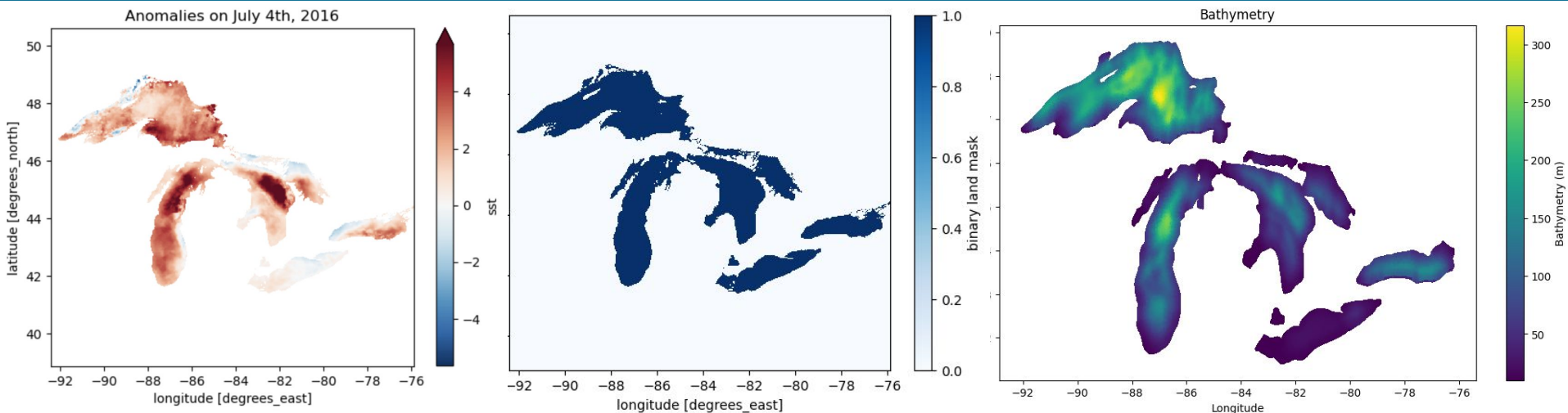


■ How do we find optimal sensor sites?

The  
Alan Turing  
Institute

DeepSensor

# Great Lakes DeepSensor Use Case



GLSEA3 temperature  
anomaly

Lake Mask

Bathymetry

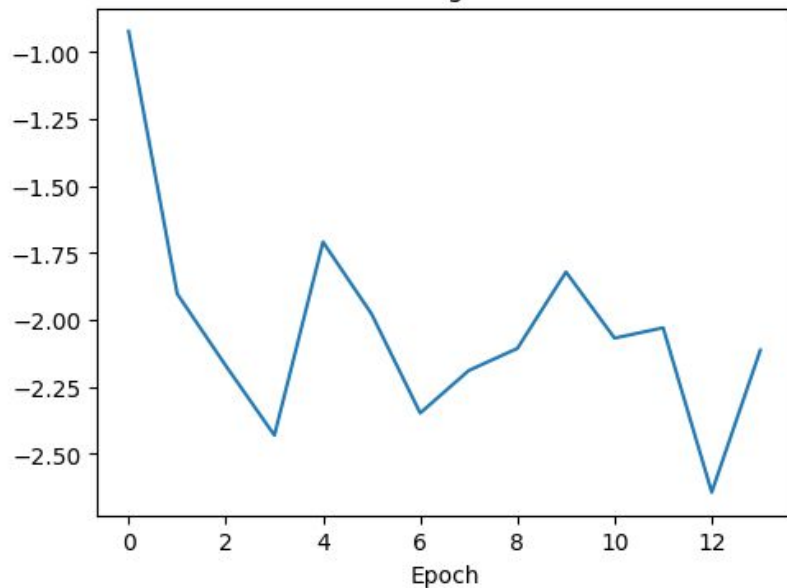
Train: 2007-2014, Validation 2015-2016, Test: 2017-2021



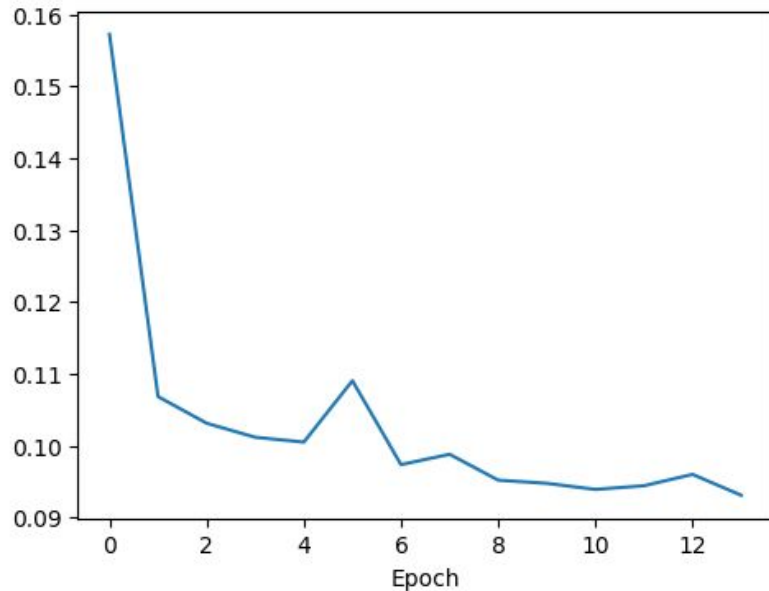


# 1.) Using All Points, Many Days

Training Cost



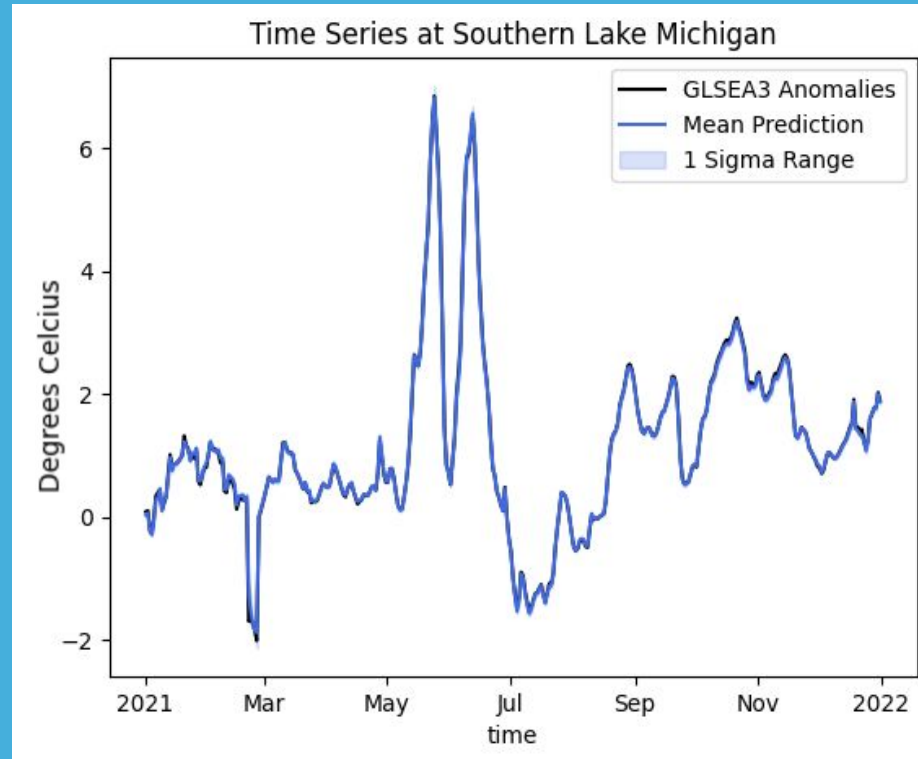
Validation RMSE





# Complete Characterization

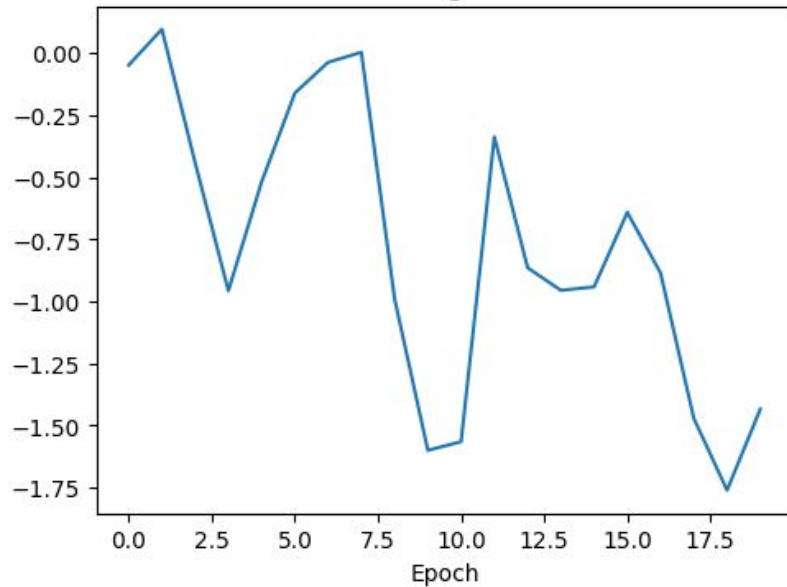
- Very few variables in the Great Lakes can be constrained this well



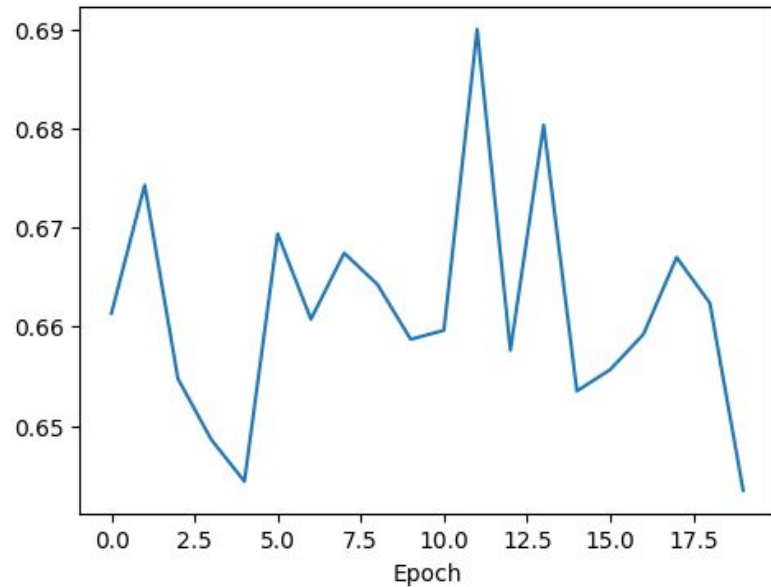
## 2.) Using Random Sampling, Many Days



Training Cost



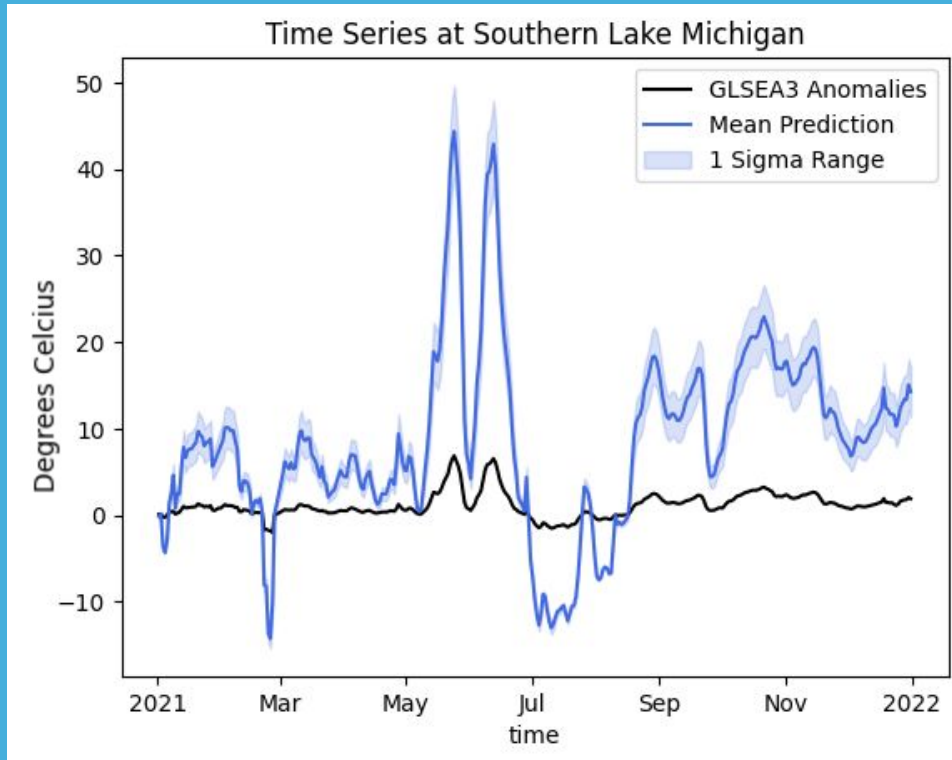
Validation RMSE





# Not Enough Information

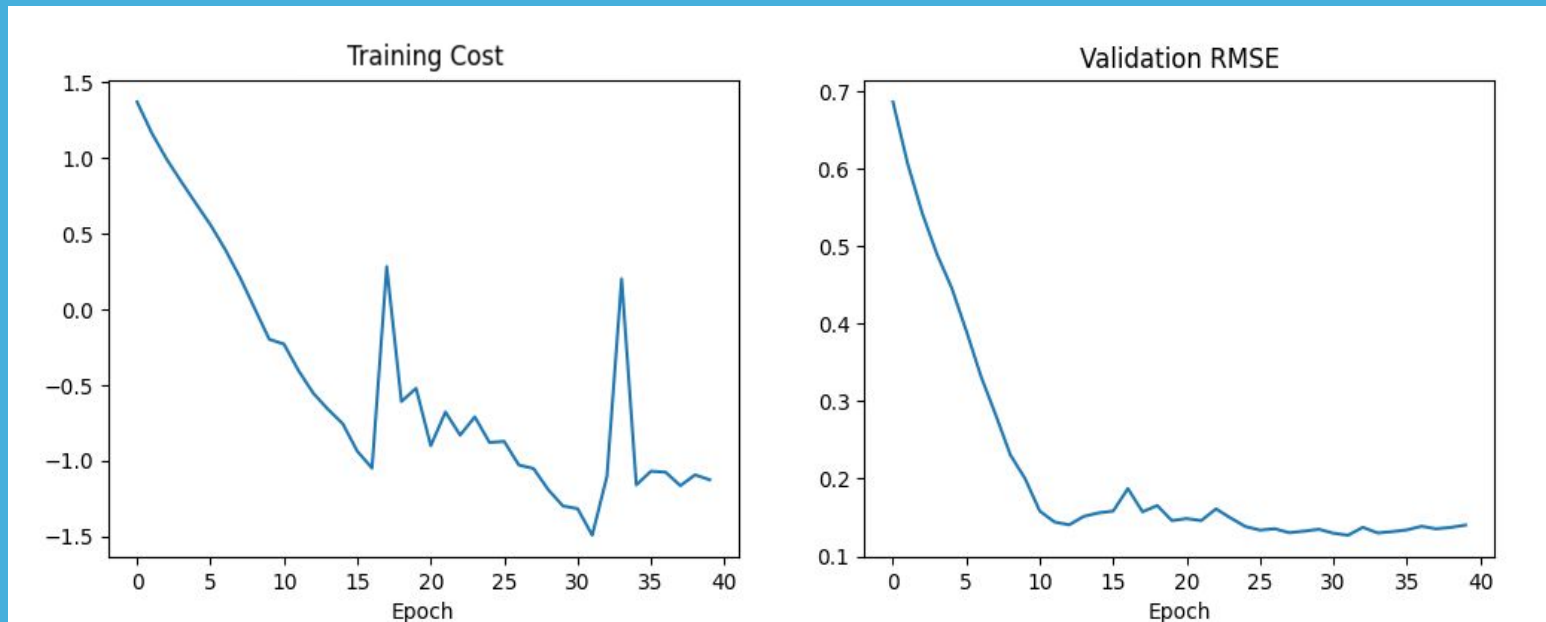
- With insufficient data, the model does not converge



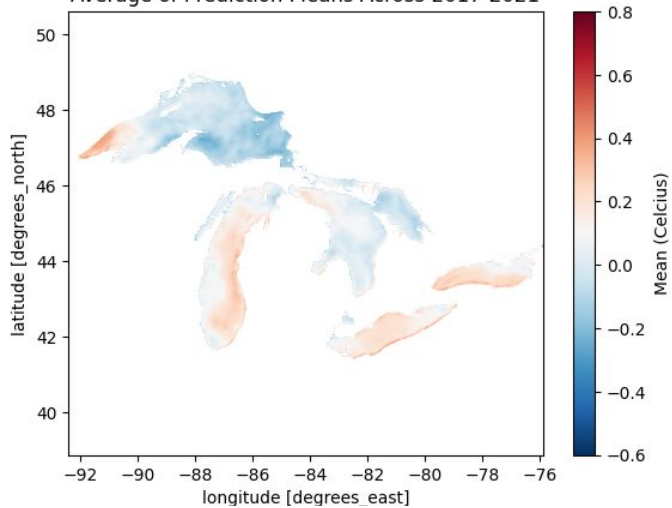
### **3.) Using All Points, One Single Day**



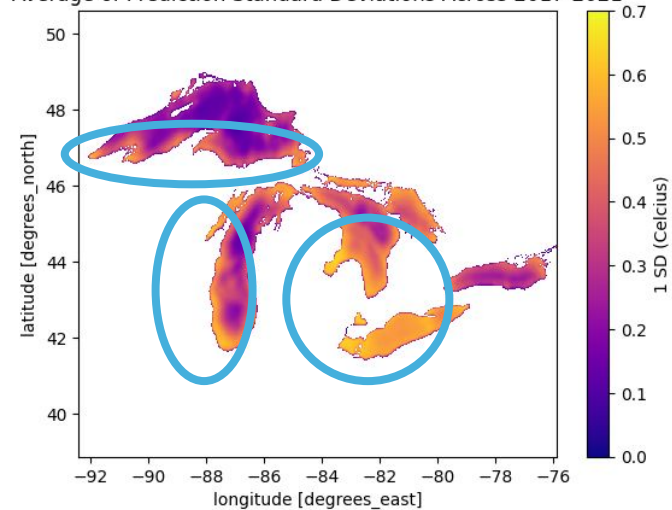
# ■ Training Across all the Great Lakes Converges



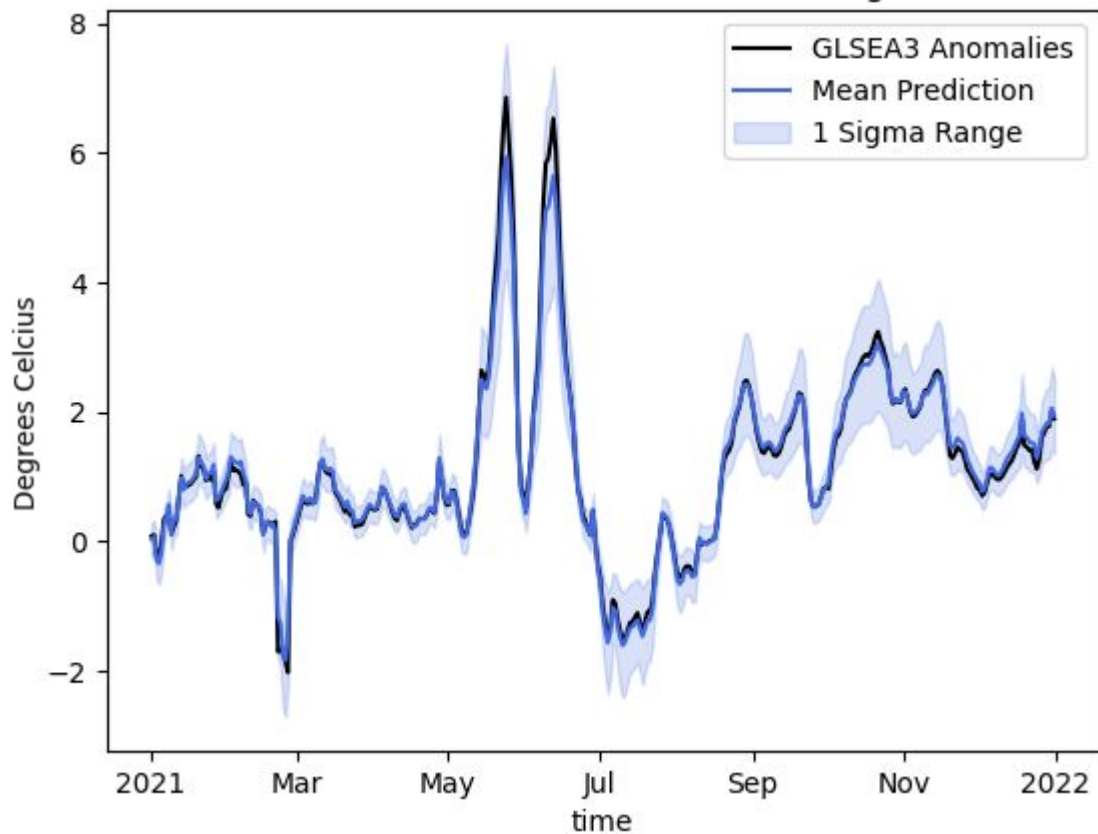
Average of Prediction Means Across 2017-2021



Average of Prediction Standard Deviations Across 2017-2021

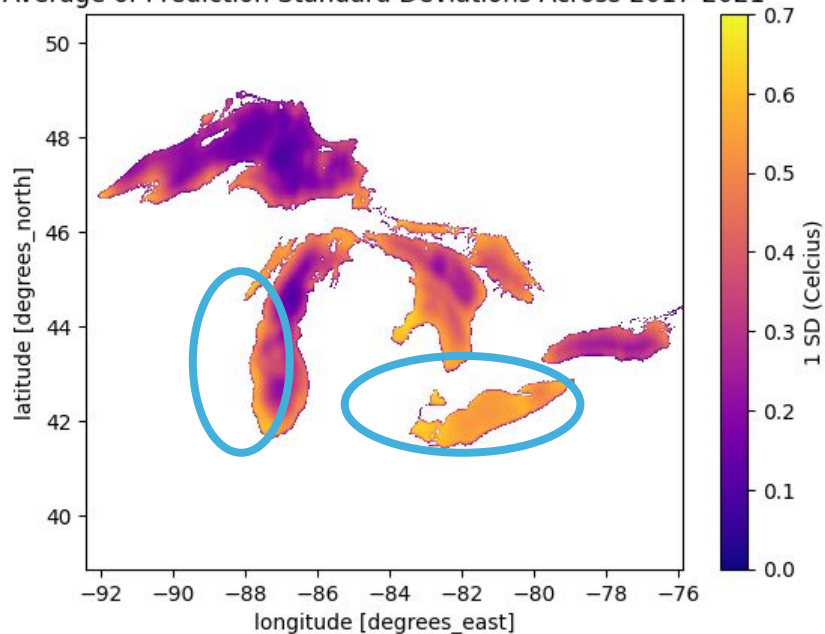


Time Series at Southern Lake Michigan

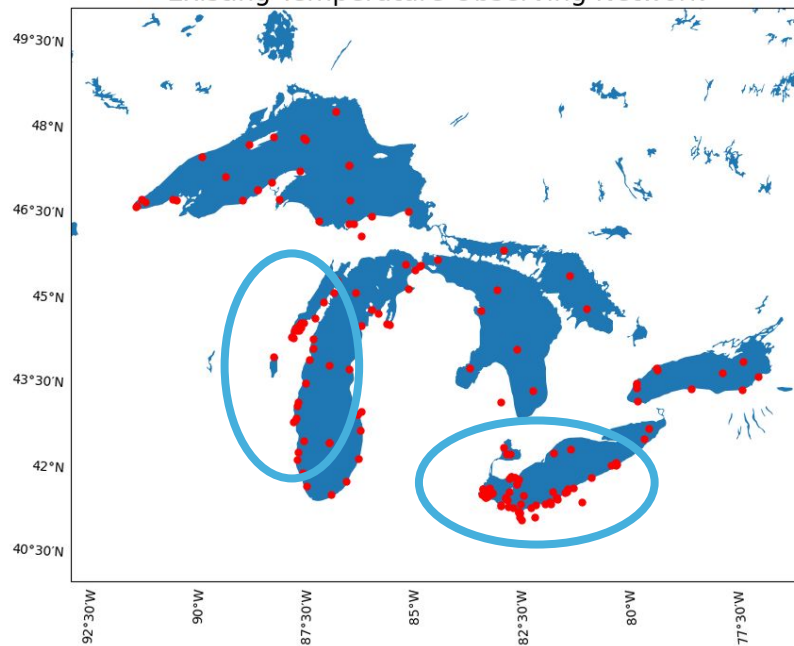


# Areas of Uncertainty vs. Deployed Sensors

Average of Prediction Standard Deviations Across 2017-2021



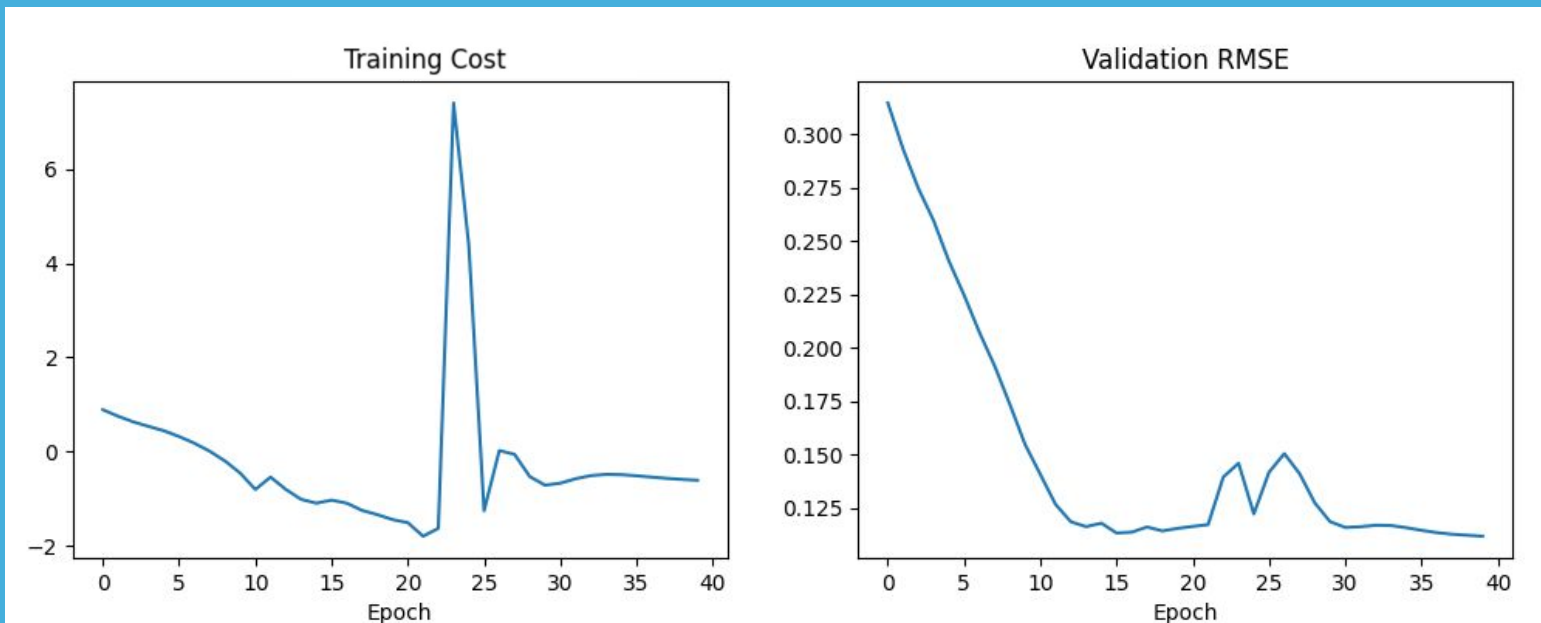
Existing Temperature Observing Network



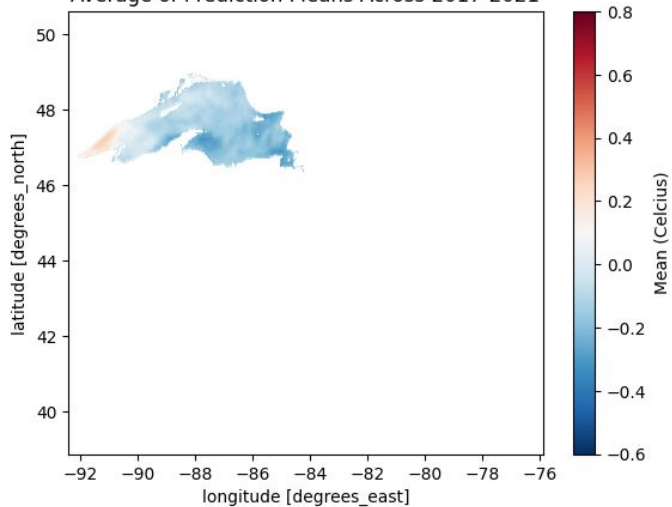




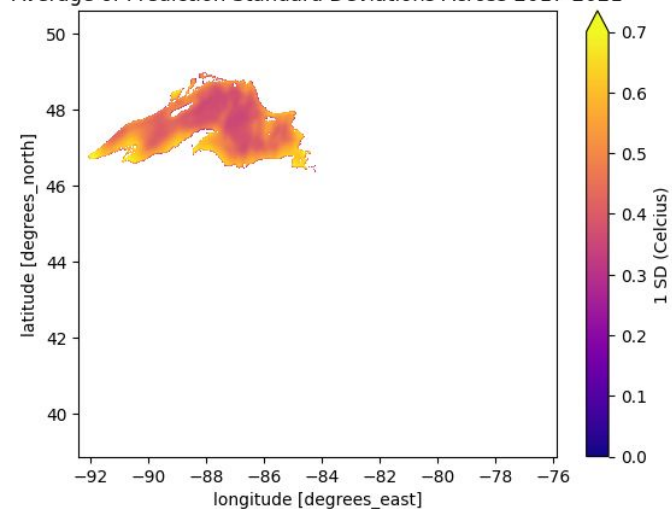
# Training on Lake Superior Alone Converges



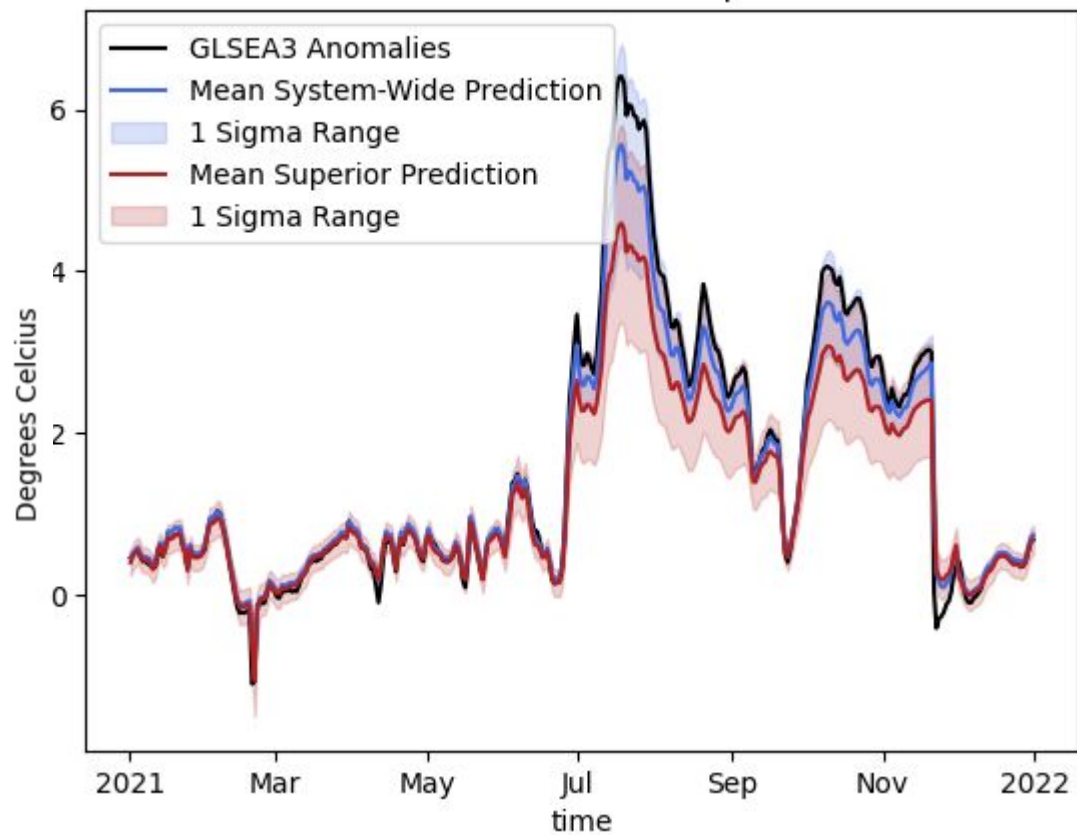
Average of Prediction Means Across 2017-2021



Average of Prediction Standard Deviations Across 2017-2021

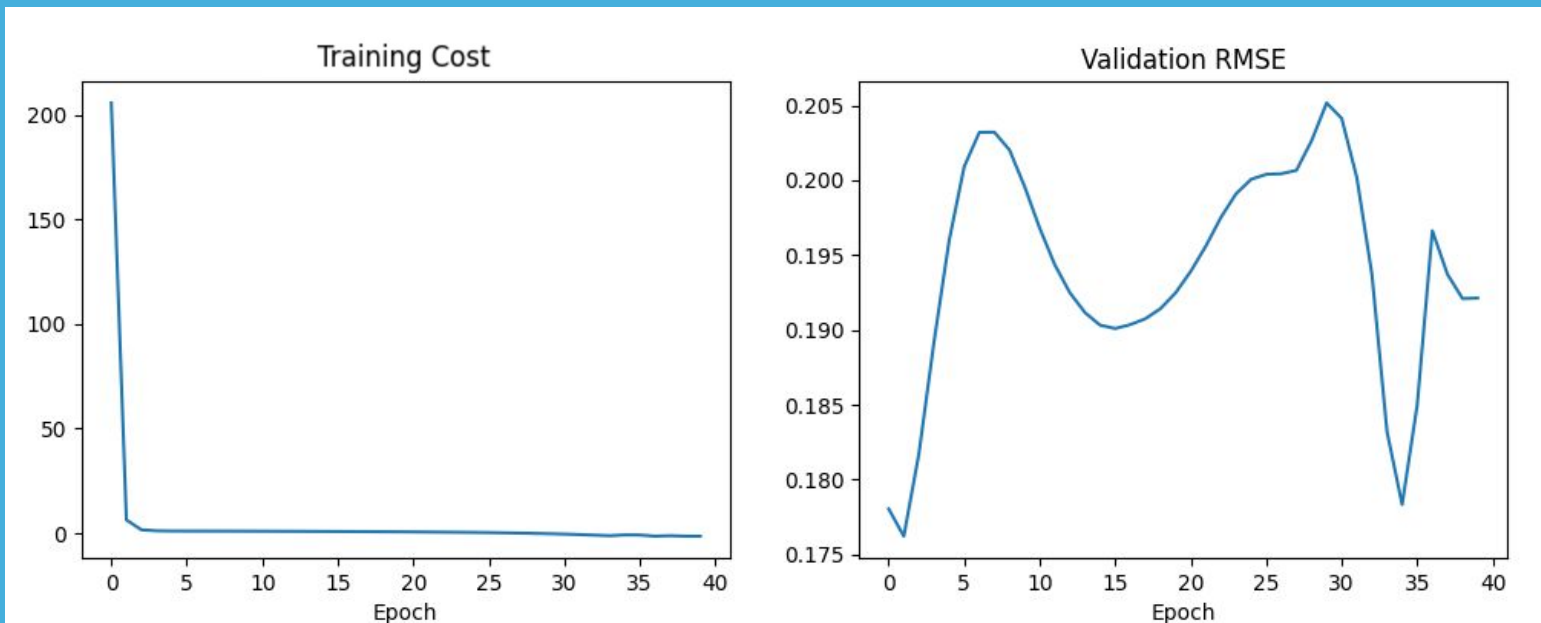


Time Series at Lake Superior

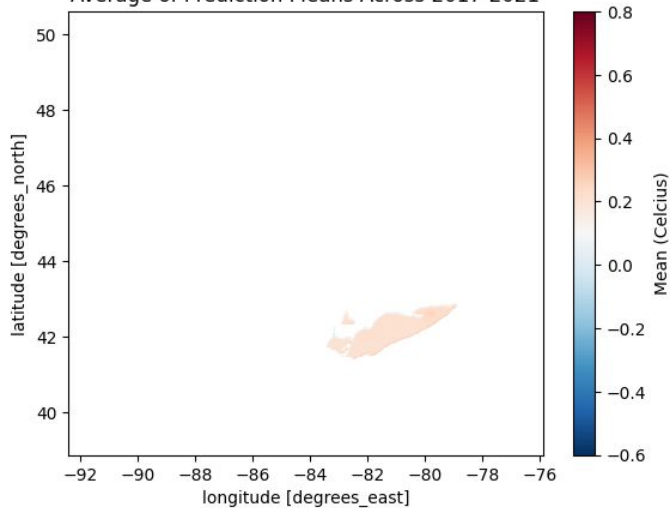




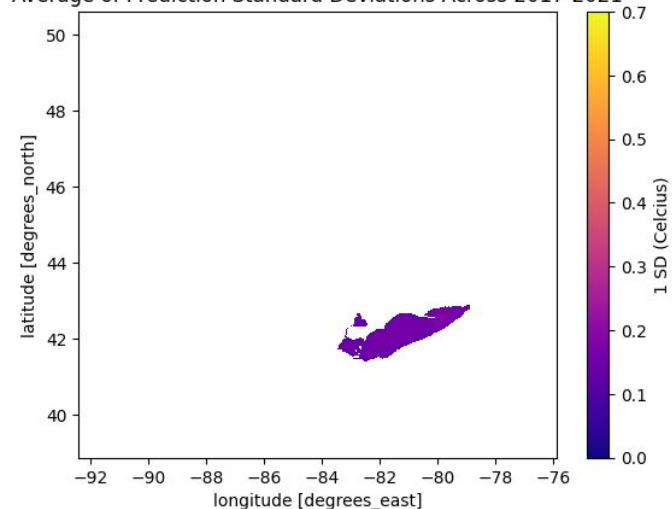
# ■ Training on Lake Erie Alone Overfits



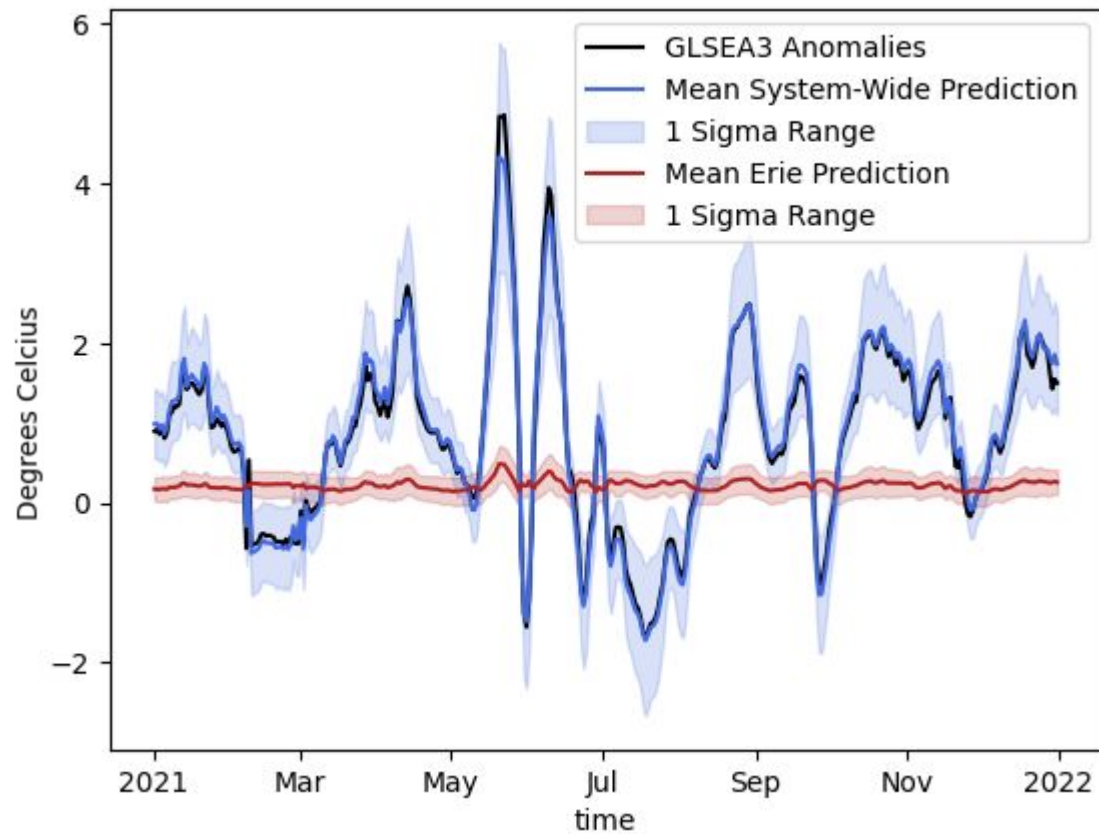
Average of Prediction Means Across 2017-2021



Average of Prediction Standard Deviations Across 2017-2021



Time Series at Western Lake Erie



# Conclusions

- Great Lakes application of DeepSensor
- **Prediction uncertainty highlights shallower, rapidly-changing areas where measurements are needed**
- Explored 3 training regimes
  - 1.) Complete characterisation
  - 2.) More information needed
  - 3.) **Enough** information to constrain the predictions

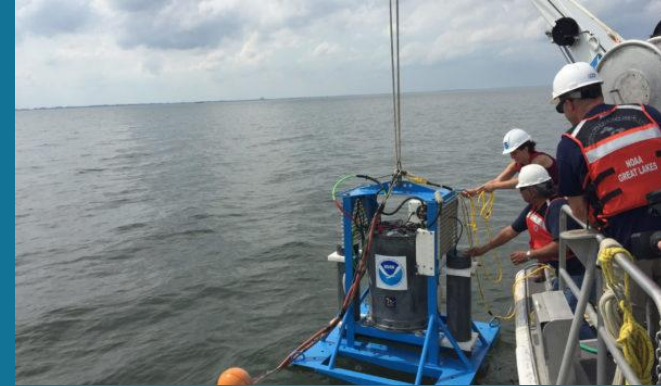
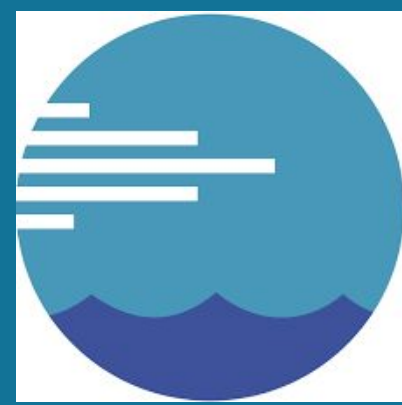
## ■ Further Research



- **Refine training**
  - **Explore different data densities**
- **More data**
  - **Add extra information: atmospheric and water quality, GLOS platforms**
- **Consider other, less well-sampled variables**
- **Explore other DeepSensor features**

# Application

- Inflation Reduction Act
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



# Questions?

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Thank you all for listening