Operated by CSIRO,
Australia's National Science Agency,
on behalf of the nation

RV *Investigator* CTD Data Processing Report

Voyage ID	**IN2024_V03**
Voyage Title	**SEA-MES:** Untangling the causes of change over 25 years in the southeast marine ecosystem - Voyage 2
Depart	Hobart, 30 Apr 2024, 22:00 UTC
Return	Sydney, 30 May 2024, 22:00 UTC
Chief Scientist	Rich Little (CSIRO)
Data Processor	Kieran Sheehan (CSIRO – E&T Data Acquisition & Processing)

Document History

Date	Version	Author	Comments
17 Sept 2024	1.0	Kieran Sheehan	Initial version

Contents

1 Summary

This voyage, also known as the South-East Australian Marine Ecosystem Survey (SEA-MES), was a project of repeat surveys in an area where fishery and ecosystem assessments were last conducted 25 years ago. Surface water is warming at a rate of four times the global average in this area, with apparent change to species distribution.

The primary objectives of SEA-MES were to document changes and inform the following questions for the Australian southeast marine ecosystem:

1. How and why have fish assemblages and species abundances changed in the southeast ecosystem, and can the causes be mitigated?
2. How does this affect the multiple-use management of the region, particularly conservation and biodiversity management of Australian Marine Parks and the hive of activity from fisheries, oil & gas, and renewable energy sectors?
3. What are the implications for marine spatial planning and adaptive management in the sectors that use the marine ecosystem?

It is also testing new monitoring techniques:

- To measure fish presence and abundance using eDNA two sampling approaches, and how they compare to conventional sampling approaches.
- To detect and count seabirds using deck mounted video camera.

IN2024_V03 is the second of four monitoring surveys planned to help answer the above questions.

This report describes the production of quality controlled, calibrated CTD data from RV *Investigator* voyage IN2024_V03.

Data for 83 CTD deployments were acquired using the Sea-Bird SBE911 CTD unit #24 (S/N 1354), fitted with 18 twelve-litre bottles on the rosette sampler. Sea-Bird-supplied calibration factors were used to compute the pressures and preliminary conductivity values. CSIRO-supplied calibrations were applied to the temperature data. The data were subjected to automated QC to remove spikes and out-of-range values.

CTD had minor issues at beginning of voyage. LADCP had a battery failure for the first three casts. A pump was replaced after cast 10 after primary conductivity and DO were different to the secondary values. No sensors were changed throughout the voyage.

The final conductivity calibration was based on a single deployment grouping. The final calibration from the primary sensor had a standard deviation (SD) of 0.0018351PSU, well within our target of

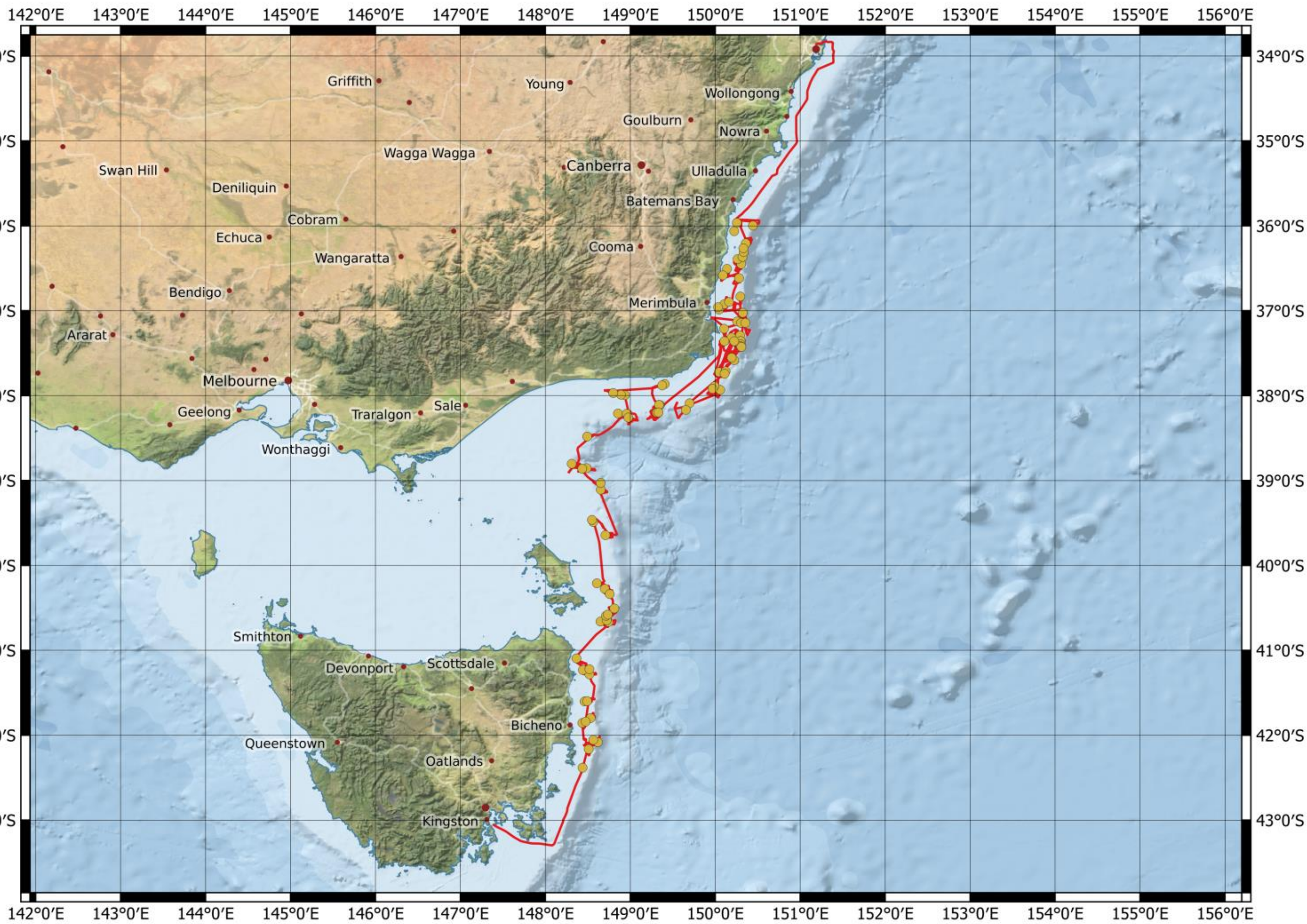
'better than 0.002 PSU'. The standard product of 1-decibar binned averages were produced using data from the primary sensors.

The dissolved oxygen data calibration fit had a SD of 0.83297µM. The agreement between the CTD and bottle data was good.

Altimeter (Tritech PA500), PAR (Biospherical QCP2300HP), CDOM (Wetlabs FLCDRTD), Chlorophyll-a, Scattering (Wetlabs ECO FLBBRTD) were also installed on the auxiliary A/D channels of the CTD.

To access the full voyage plan and other reports and data associated with this voyage, please see the contact information at the end of this report.

1.1 Voyage Track



2 Data Processing

2.1 Background Information

83 CTD deployments were conducted on this voyage. The data were acquired with the CSIRO CTD unit #24 (S/N 1354), a Sea-Bird SBE911 with dual conductivity and temperature sensors.

The CTD was additionally fitted with SBE43 dissolved oxygen sensors including Altimeter, Transmissometer, CDOM, SUNA Nitrate, chlorophyll-a, and Scattering. These sensors are described in Table 1.

Sensor Description	Model	Serial No.	A/D Channel	Calibration Date	Calibration Source
Pressure	Digiquartz 410K-134	1354	P	25-Jul-2023	Sea Bird
Primary Temperature	Sea-Bird SBE3*plus*	4718	T0	19-Jan-2024	CSIRO
Secondary Temperature	Sea-Bird SBE3*plus*	6180	T1	5-May-2023	CSIRO
Primary Conductivity	Sea-Bird SBE4C	4774	C0	2-Oct-2023	CSIRO
Secondary Conductivity	Sea-Bird SBE4C	4683	C1	2-Oct-2023	CSIRO
Primary Dissolved Oxygen	SBE43	3199	A0	24-May-2023	CSIRO
Secondary Dissolved Oxygen	SBE43	3198	A1	10-Aug-2023	CSIRO
Altimeter	Tritech PA500	316739	A2	26-May-2022	Tritech
PAR	Biospherical QCP2300HP	70562	A3	13-Jan-2023	
CDOM	Wetlabs FLCDRTD	7138	A4	2024-02-01	Wetlabs
Transmissometer	Wetlabs C-Star (DR)	CST-1421DR	A5	09-Aug-2022	
Chlorophyll-a	Wetlabs ECO FLBBRTD	6765	A6	2023-10-04	Wetlabs/Sea-Bird
Scattering	Wetlabs ECO FLBBRTD	6765	A7	2023-10-04	Wetlabs/Sea-bird
Nitrate Sensor	SBE Suna V2	1891	Serial		
Additional Payloads					
LADCP Slave (Up)	Teledyne 300 kHz		Internal		
LADCP Master (Down)	Teledyne 150 kHz		Internal		
LADCP Battery	OceanDeep		N/A		

Table 1: CTD Sensor conf

Water samples were collected using a Sea-Bird SBE32, 36-bottle rosette sampler. Sampling was from 18 out of the 36 twelve-litre bottles which were fitted to the frame.

The raw CTD data were collected in SBE Seasave version 7.26.7.110, converted to scientific units using SBE Data Processing version 7.26.7 and written to NetCDF files with CNV_to_Scan (cnv_to_scan_ui2.py, from the CSIRO MNF Data Acquisition and Processing “marinetech” git repository) for processing using the MATLAB-based CapPro software.

The CapPro software version 2.12 was used to apply automated QC and preliminary processing to the data. This included spike removal, identification of water entry and exit times, conductivity sensor lag corrections, conductivity cell thermal inertia corrections, and the determination of the pressure offsets. It also loaded the hydrology data and computed the matching CTD sample burst data (i.e., averaged sensor data) for water-sample-to-sensor data comparisons. The automatically-determined pressure offsets and in-water points were inspected and verified during data processing.

The bottle sample data were used to compute final conductivity and dissolved oxygen calibrations. These were applied to the data, after which files of binned 1-decibar averaged data were produced.

2.2 Pressure and Temperature Calibration

The pressure offsets for each deployment are plotted in Figure 1. The blue circles refer to initial out-of-water values (beginning of downcast) and the red circles the final out-of-water values (end of upcast).

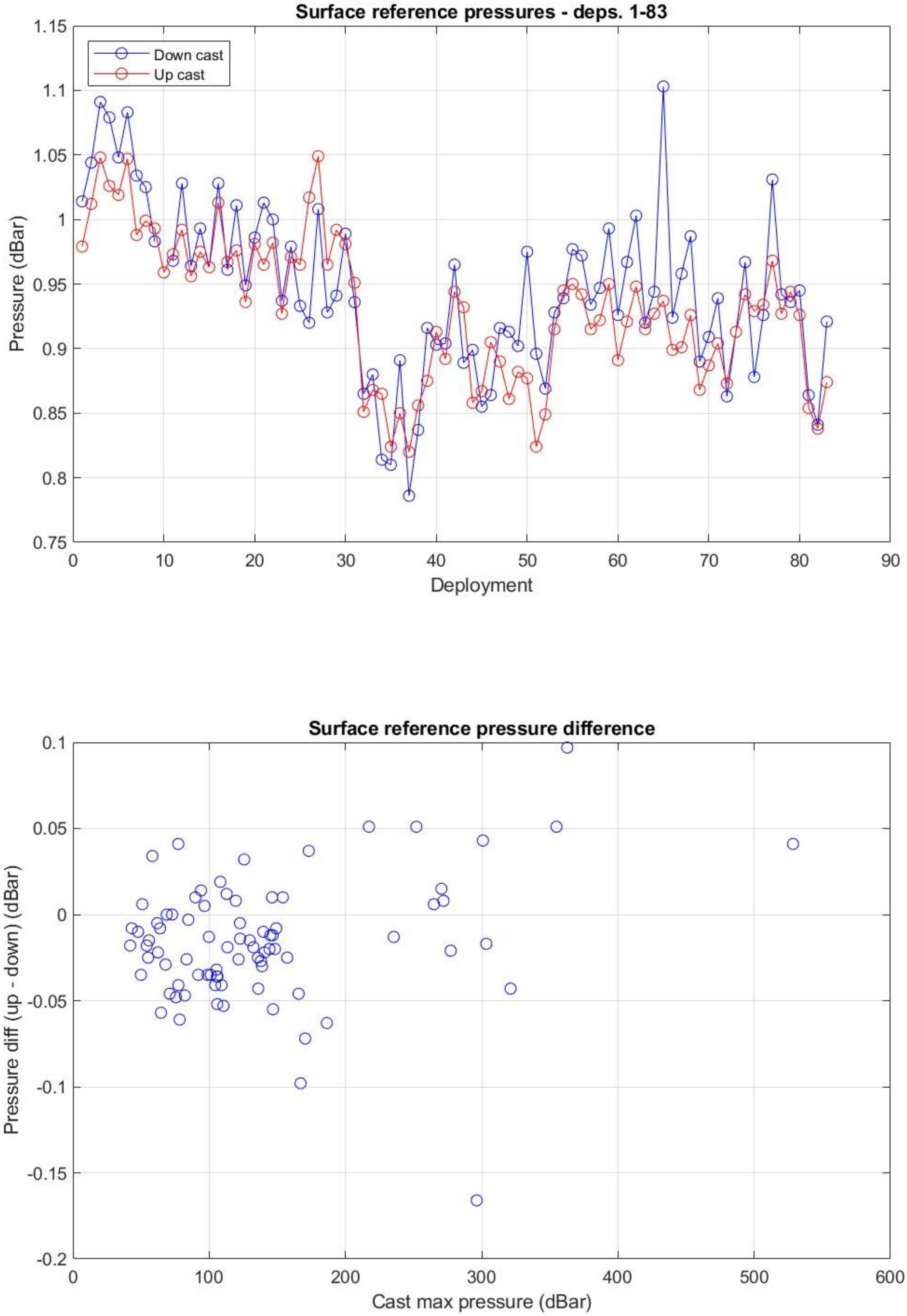
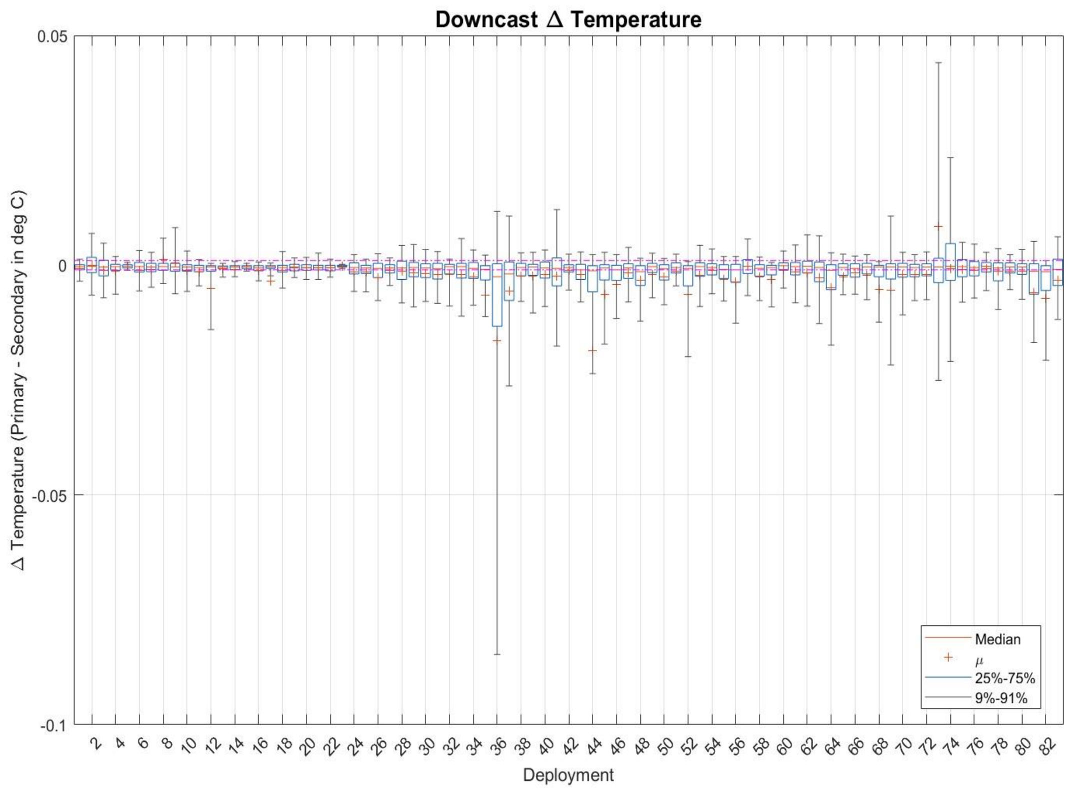


Figure 1: CTD pressure offsets

The difference between the primary and secondary temperature sensors at the bottle sampling depths is plotted in Figure 2. Most deployments plot within ± 0.001 °C of zero – outliers result from sampling in regions of high vertical temperature gradient. The consistent mean difference (red + markers) between the primary and secondary temperature from deployment to deployment indicates neither sensor has drifted significantly from its calibration.



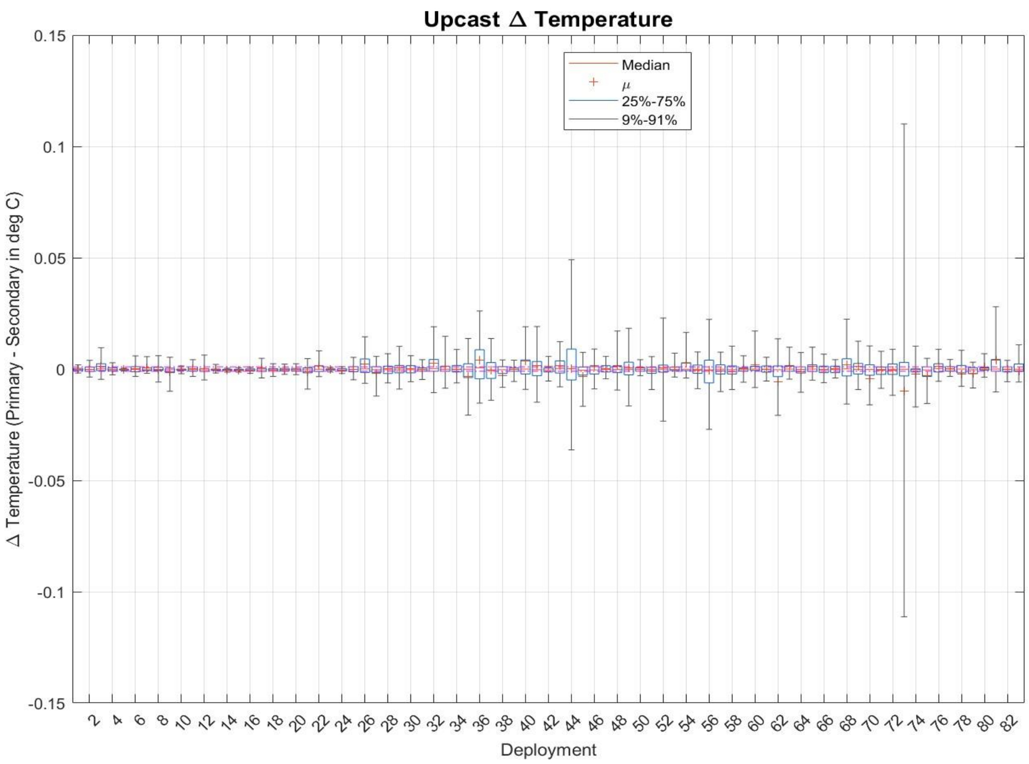


Figure 2: Difference (primary - secondary) between temperature sensor values on downcast (above) and upcast (below)

2.3 Conductivity Calibration

If any discrepancies or sampling problems occurred during bottle salinity sampling or between primary and secondary CTD conductivity measurements, these would show in the conductivity calibration plots in Figure 3. We observed minor discrepancies/sampling problems based on these calibration results. This could be due to the shallow waters that the casts were conducted in. It could also be due to the salinometer having issues - see Hydrochemistry report for more details. The profile plots showing the thermocline and halocline ranges are in Figure 4.

The calibrations were based upon the percent of 'good' sample data (187 good samples from the primary unit and 185 good samples from the secondary unit), out of a total of 344 samples taken during deployments. To perform the calibration with the preferred (default) CapPro calibration settings, a minimum of 70% of the samples need to be in the 'good' range. If there is an insufficient number of good samples for a unit, the conductivity difference 'cutoff' value must be increased to continue with the calibration process in CapPro. For this set of conductivity calibrations, the cutoff values used were 0.0036 (primary) and 0.0035 (secondary).

Figure 3 plots CTD - bottle salinity differences for both upcast (Hydro bottle) and downcast (CTD SBE43) data. The 'bad' outliers (magenta dots, red dots and red + markers) are excluded from the calibration, the 'suspect' outliers (blue dots) are used in the calibration but are weighted based on their distance from the mean. All green dots are considered 'good' data points and are not weighted based on distance from the mean.

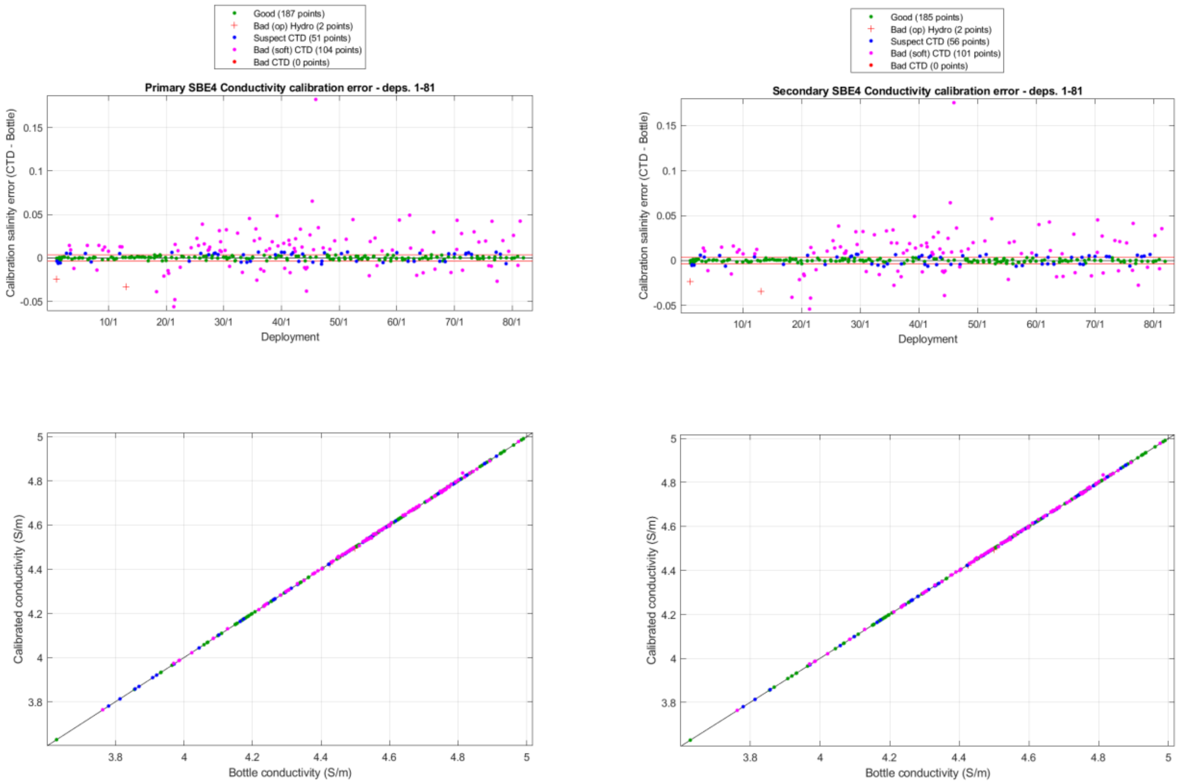


Figure 3: CTD - bottle conductivity difference and salinity calibration error (left: primary, right: secondary)

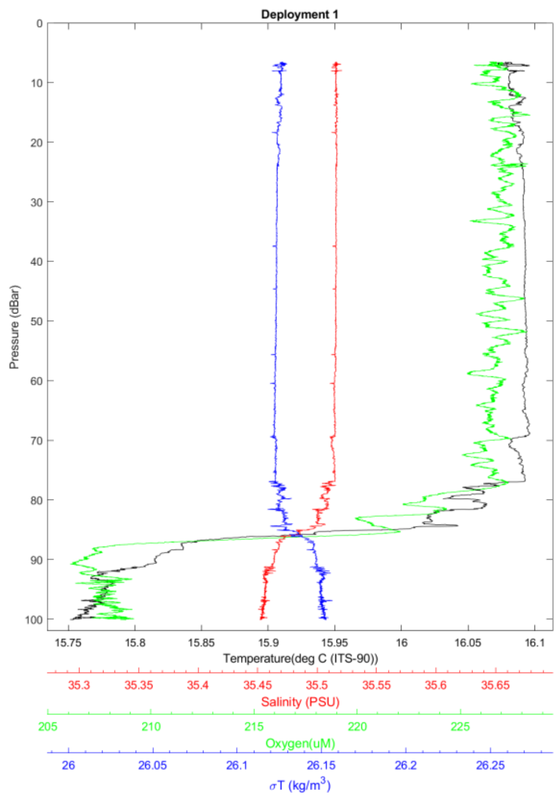


Figure 4: Temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and σT profiles

The box plot (Figure 5) of calibrated downcast conductivities (primary - secondary) at the bottle sampling depths for all deployments shows that the calibrated primary and secondary conductivity cell responses corresponded reasonably well to each other. For casts 33, 42, 71, and 77, its possible these outliers are due to the shallow waters the casts were conducted in or an obstruction sucked into the pump.

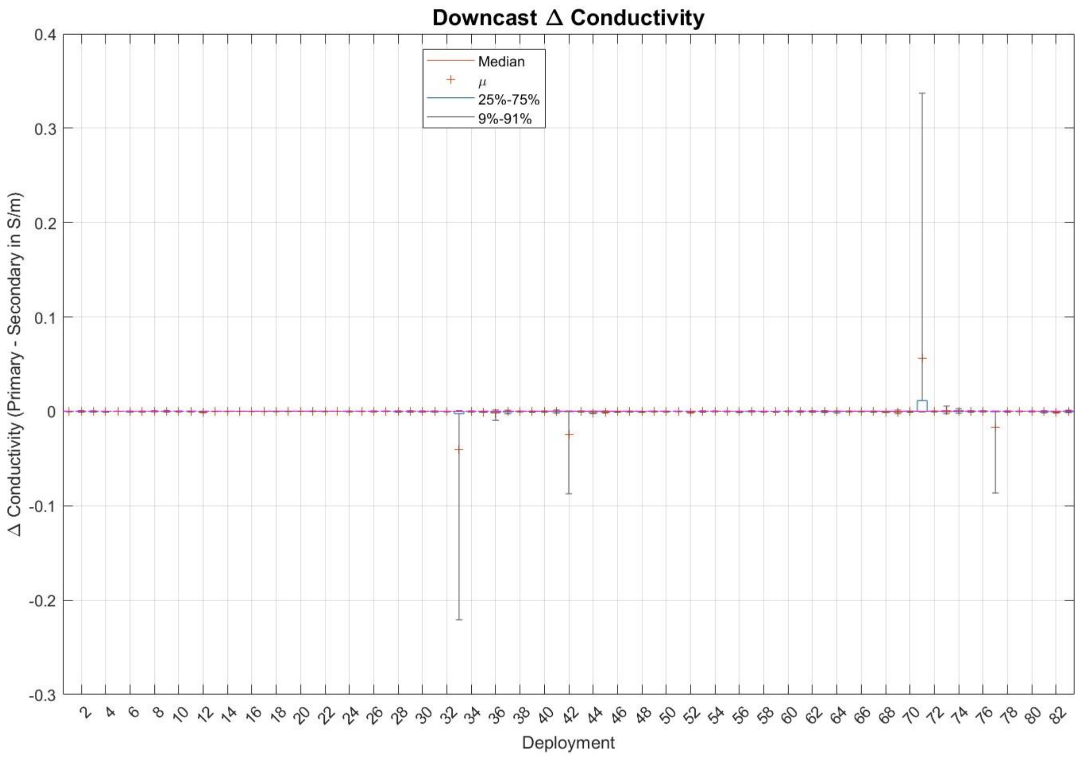


Figure 5: Difference (primary - secondary) between conductivity sensor values on downcast

The final results for the primary and secondary conductivity sensors with respect to their original calibrations are shown in Tabel 2 and Table 3.

Sensor Group	Deployments	Scale Factor		Offset		Salinity (PSU)	
		a1	±	a0	±	Residual SD	M.A.D.
Primary	1-83	0.99991	0.0020749	-0.00018321	0.0098101	0.0018351	0.0013937
Secondary	1-83	1.0002	0.0020223	-0.0012389	0.0095673	0.0018285	0.0013217

Table 2: Conductivity calibration with respect to manufacturer's calibration coefficients and post-calibration results

Conductivity Sensor	Deployments	CPcor	±
Primary	1-83	-3.4565e-07	1.7204e-06
Secondary	1-83	-3.2688e-07	1.6795e-06

Table 3: Calculated CPcor (the correction for pressure effects on the conductivity cell) for primary and secondary conductivity units compared to the manufacturer's nominal value of -9.5700e-08 (for pressure in decibars) (Sea-Bird, 2017)

This is a good calibration. We normally aim for a SD of 0.002 PSU for 'typical' oceanographic voyages. The above calibration factors were applied to the indicated deployments. Full plots of residuals before and after calibration are available in A.1.

Data from the secondary conductivity and temperature sensors were used to produce the averaged salinities (these data variables have no suffix) with primary sensors included with a suffix '_2'.

2.4 Dissolved Oxygen Sensor Calibration

2.4.1 SBE Calibration Procedure

AN64: SBE 43 Dissolved Oxygen Sensor - Background Information, Deployment Recommendations, and Cleaning and Storage (Sea-Bird, 2013) describes the SBE43 dissolved oxygen sensor as "a polarographic membrane oxygen sensor having a single output signal of 0 to +5 volts, which is proportional to the temperature-compensated current flow occurring when oxygen is reacted inside the membrane. A Sea-Bird CTD that is equipped with an SBE43 oxygen sensor records this voltage for later conversion to oxygen concentration, using a modified version of the algorithm by Owens and Millard (1985)."

Calibration involves performing a linear regression, as per (Sea-Bird, 2012) to produce new estimates of the calibration coefficients Soc and $Voffset$. These new coefficients are used, along with the other, manufacturer-supplied coefficients, to derive oxygen concentrations from the sensor voltages.

2.4.2 Results

Deeper casts (>1000m) are known to be affected by pressure-induced hysteresis with this sensor. This is corrected automatically within CapPro using the method discussed in (Sea-Bird, 2014).

There is a small mismatch between downcast and upcast dissolved oxygen due to the response time of the sensor. No correction for the sensor lag effect has been applied.

A single calibration group was used with the associated SBE43 upcast data to compute the new Soc and $Voffset$ coefficients. Casts 5 and 10 Hypro calibrations were ignored due to processing issues. Despite 83 casts, samples were only taken up to cast 81. Figure 6 plots CTD SBE43 - bottle oxygen differences for both upcast (Hydro bottle) and downcast (CTD SBE43) data. The 'bad' outliers (magenta dots, red dots and red + markers) are excluded from the calibration, the 'suspect' outliers (blue dots) are used in the calibration but are weighted based on their distance from the mean. All green dots are considered ‘good’ data points and are not weighted based on distance from the mean.

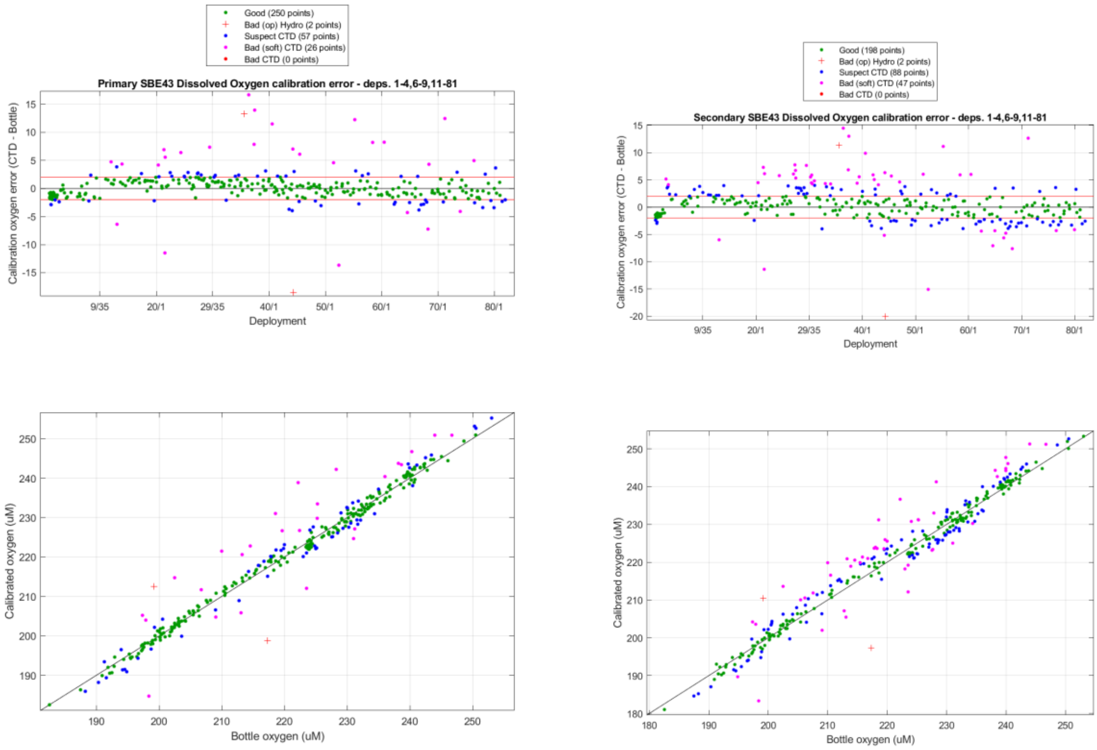


Figure 6: CTD SBE43 - bottle dissolved oxygen difference and calibration error (left: primary, right: secondary)

The box plot (Figure 7) of calibrated downcast dissolved oxygen readings (primary - secondary) at the bottle sampling depths for all deployments shows that the calibrated primary and secondary dissolved oxygen sensor responses corresponded well to each other considering the shallow conditions that they were operating in.

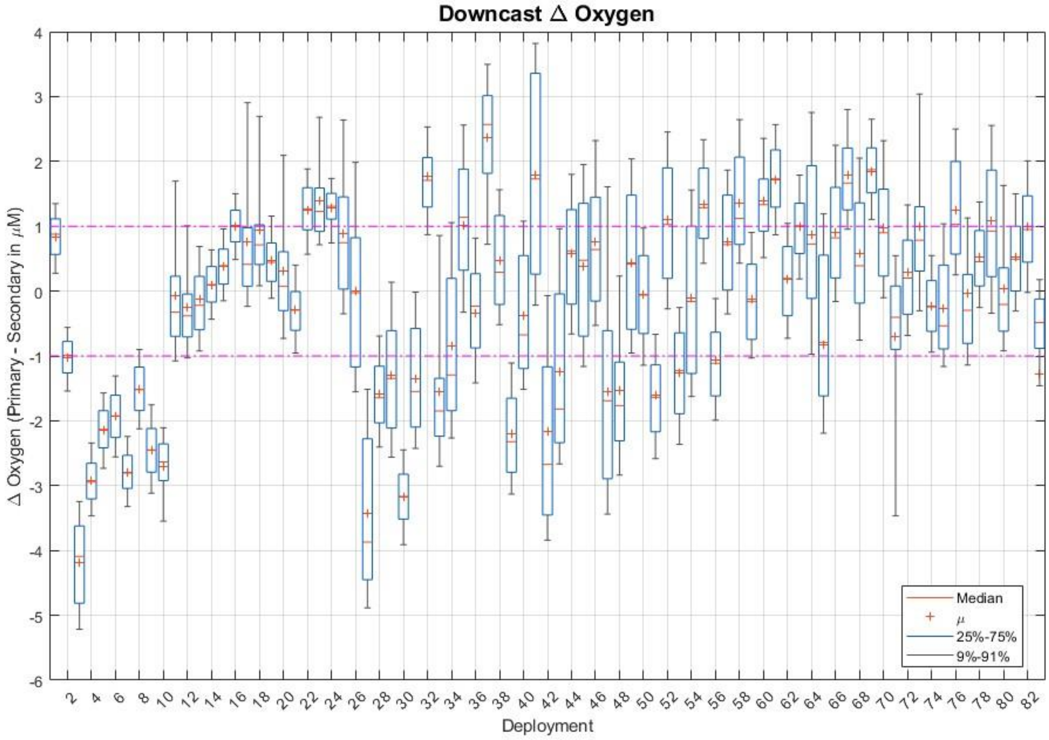


Figure 7: Difference (primary - secondary) between dissolved oxygen sensor values on downcast

The old and new *Soc* and *Voffset* values for DO sensors are listed in Table 4. The *Soc* value is a linear slope scaling coefficient; *Voffset* is the fixed sensor voltage at zero oxygen. As expected, over time, the increasing *Soc* scale factors show the SBE43 sensor is losing sensitivity. Full plots of residuals before and after calibration are available in A.2.

The calibrations were applied for each sensor and the averaged files were created using the result from the primary sensor.

Sensor	Calibration Source	Deployments	Calibration Coefficients				Dissolved Oxygen (µM)	
			Voffset	±	*Soc*	±	Residual SD	M.A.D.
Primary DO	CapPro	1-4,6-9,11-81	-0.49291	0.010029	0.57377	0.0035498	0.83297	1.1673
	Sea-Bird	1-4,6-9,11-81	-0.4591		0.52417			
Secondary DO	CapPro	1-4,6-9,11-81	-0.52755	0.016935	0.47203	0.0040113	1.0192	1.4677
	Sea-Bird	1-4,6-9,11-81	-0.4947		0.41235			

Table 4: Dissolved oxygen calibrations

2.5 Other Sensors

2.5.1 C-Star Transmissometer

The C-Star transmissometer was used on all deployments. It was calibrated by the manufacturer with meter outputs with the beam blocked, in air with a clear beam path and with clean water in the path. These values are used to determine a scale and offset for use in SBE Data Processing software to convert the raw counts to a beam transmittance output of 0 - 100 percent.

This sensor worked as expected during this voyage.

2.5.2 WET Labs ECO CDOM Sensor

The WET Labs ECO CDOM (coloured dissolved organic matter) sensor was used for all deployments. The CDOM has been calibrated with manufacturer supplied coefficients.

This sensor worked as expected during this voyage.

2.5.3 WET Labs ECO Fluorometer-Scattering Sensor

The WET Labs ECO Fluorometer-Scattering sensor was used for all deployments. The fluorometer (Chlorophyll-*a*) has been calibrated with manufacturer supplied coefficients to give outputs in mg/m^3 (= µg/L). The scattering (optical backscatter, OBS) has been calibrated with manufacturer supplied coefficients to give volume scattering outputs in $m^{-1}sr^{-1}$.

This sensor worked as expected during this voyage.

2.5.4 Biospherical PAR Sensor

The Biospherical PAR (photosynthetically active radiation) sensor was used for all deployments. The output is a nominal 0 - 5 volts which is converted to the unit µEinsteins/m^2/second using a manufacturer supplied wet calibration factor and the dark voltage determined at calibration. This data channel has been included in the output files for all deployments. Time of day and environmental factors such as sea state and cloud cover impact these readings. If most or all of the values for a deployment are near zero it indicates a night-time cast. In deployments where the PAR profiles have sub-surface maxima the CTD may have been shaded by the ship.

This sensor worked as expected during this voyage.

2.5.5 Sea-Bird Scientific Deep SUNA V2 nitrate sensor

The Sea-Bird Scientific Deep SUNA V2 nitrate sensor was mounted on the CTD carousel base for all deployments.

This sensor worked as expected during this voyage.

2.6 Bad-Data Detection

The value limits for each sensor are configured in CNV_to_Scan conversion software and are written to the NetCDF scan file. Typical limits used for the sensor range and maximum second difference are in Table 5. The rejection rate is recorded in the CapPro processing log file.

Sensor	Range minimum	Range maximum	Maximum Second Difference
Pressure	-7	6500	0.5
Temperature	-2	40	0.05
Conductivity	-0.01	7	0.01
Dissolved Oxygen	-1	500	0.5
Fluorometer	0	100	0.5
PAR	-5	2000	0.5
Transmissometer	0	100	0.5
CDOM	-5	515	0.5
OBS	0	0.008	0.5
Chlorophyll-a	0	30	0.5

Table 5: Sensor limits for bad-data detection

2.7 Heave Filtering

Sensor data impacted by ship heave impeding the CTD deployment is filtered out in three stages and applied during data binning. The first stage detects negative acceleration of the CTD which can cause trailing mixed water to be pumped through the sensors. The second stage looks at all negative density gradients and flags readings which are above 10 times the standard deviation of all negative gradients, for 2 seconds. The third stage flags any pressure reversals which are greater than the height of the CTD sensor pump inlet above the frame.

2.8 Temperature-Conductivity Lag

To precisely align the temperature and conductivity measurements for a sample of water a temporal offset can be applied. A manufacturer-recommended nominal offset (Δt_{c_SBE9+}) of -0.073 seconds is initially applied at time of acquisition by the SBE9+ deck unit on both primary and secondary conductivity channels. This offset advances the conductivity sensor readings in time to compensate for the amount of time it takes for the measured water sample to move from the temperature sensor through into the conductivity sensor cell.

Post-voyage inspection of the temperature and conductivity data in CapPro can determine fine-tuning adjustments to the conductivity sample time (seconds) offset (Δt_{c_CP}) that will optimally align the data. The final adjustments applied to the conductivity sample time can be found in Table 6 and Table 7. Note that although CapPro can set an offset ('lag', in number of scans, with a scan frequency of 24 Hz) for both temperature and conductivity samples, DAP only sets a lag for the conductivity sample to maintain consistency with the nominal offset applied by the SBE9+ to the conductivity data. The equation governing this conductivity sample time adjustment is given below, where $t_{c\_aligned}$ is the best-estimate of the conductivity measurement time (seconds) to align it with the temperature measurement from the same sample of water on the downcast, and t_{c_meas} is the original, uncorrected conductivity measurement time (seconds).

$$t_{c\_aligned} = t_{c\_meas} + \Delta t_{c\_SBE9+} + \Delta t_{c\_CP}$$

Cast #	Nominal Offset Time Applied by SBE9+, Δt_{c_SBE9+} (sec)	Offset ('Cond lag') Set in CapPro (scans)	Calculated Offset Time from CapPro 'Cond lag', Δt_{c_CP} (sec = scans/24 Hz)
1-83	-0.078	-0.40	-0.0166

Table 6: Primary conductivity sensor offset adjustments

Cast #	Nominal Offset Time Applied by SBE9+, Δt_{c_SBE9+} (sec)	Offset ('Cond lag') Set in CapPro (scans)	Calculated Offset Time from CapPro 'Cond lag', Δt_{c_CP} (sec = scans/24 Hz)
1-83	-0.078	-0.50	-0.0208

Table 7: Secondary conductivity sensor offset adjustments

2.9 Averaging

The calibrated data were 'filtered' to remove pressure reversals and binned into the standard product of 1-decibar averaged NetCDF files. The binned values were calculated by applying a linear, least-squares fit as a function of pressure to the sensor data for each bin, using this to interpolate the value for the bin mid-point. This method is used to avoid possible biases which would result from averaging with respect to time.

Each binned parameter is assigned a quality control (QC) flag (also in the NetCDF files). Our QC flagging scheme is described in (Pender & NCMI Information & Data Centre, 2022).

The QC Flag for each bin is estimated from the values for the bin components. The QC Flag for derived quantities, such as salinity and dissolved oxygen, is taken to be the worst of the estimates for the parameters from which they are derived.

3 References

Rich Little. (2024). *The RV Investigator. Voyage Plan* IN2024_V03. Retrieved from Marine National Facility: Voyage Plans and summaries: https://mnf.csiro.au/en/Voyages/Voyage-Catalogue

Pender, L., & NCMI Information & Data Centre. (2022, September 1). *Data Quality Control Flags.* Retrieved March 28, 2023, from CSIRO NCMI Information and Data Centre - Data Trawler: https://www.marine.csiro.au/data/trawler/download.cfm?file_id=4716

Sea-Bird. (2012, June). *App Note 64.2: SBE 43 Dissolved Oxygen Sensor Calibration and Data Corrections.* Retrieved January 18, 2023, from Sea-Bird Electronics: https://www.seabird.com/asset-get.download.jsa?id=54627861704

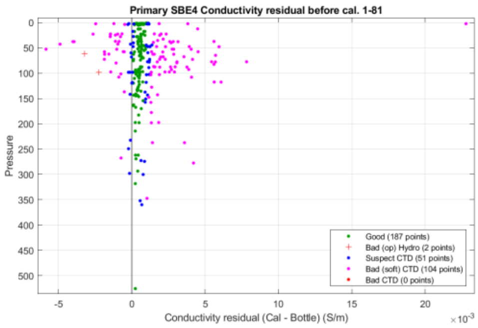
Sea-Bird. (2013, June). *App Note 64: SBE 43 Dissolved Oxygen Sensor - Background Information, Deployment Recommendations, and Cleaning and Storage.* Retrieved January 18, 2023, from Sea-Bird Electronics: https://www.seabird.com/asset-get.download.jsa?id=54627861706

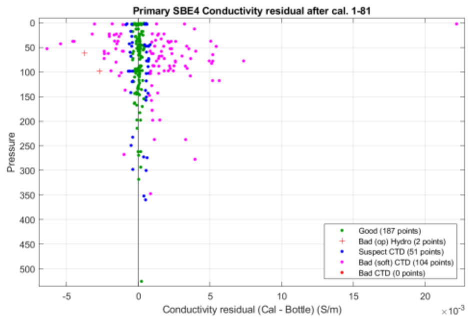
Sea-Bird. (2014, August). *App Note 64.3: SBE 43 Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Sensor - Hysteresis Corrections.* Retrieved January 18, 2023, from Sea-Bird Electronics: https://www.seabird.com/asset-get.download.jsa?id=54627861705

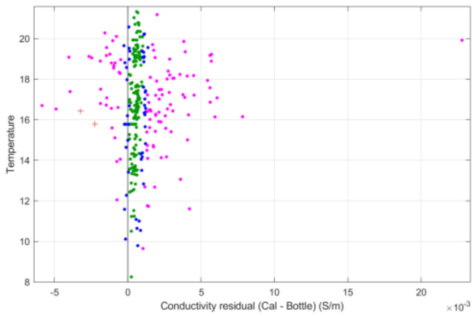
Sea-Bird. (2017, December 8). *Software Manual: Seasoft V2: Seasave V7.* Retrieved March 24, 2023, from Sea-Bird Electronics: https://www.seabird.com/asset-get.download.jsa?id=55174002257

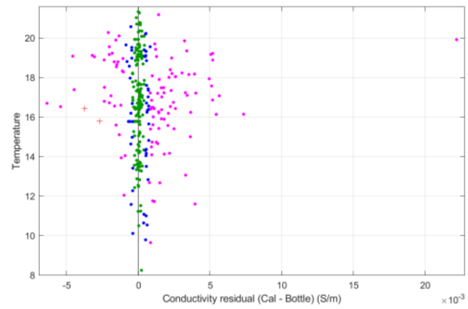
4 Appendices

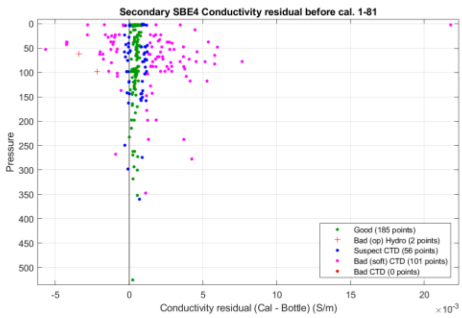
A.1 Conductivity Calibration Residual Plots

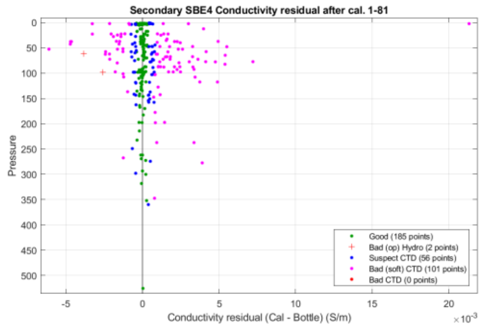


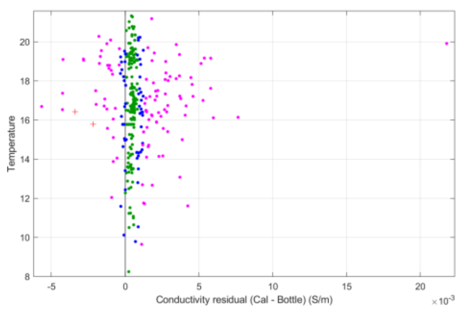


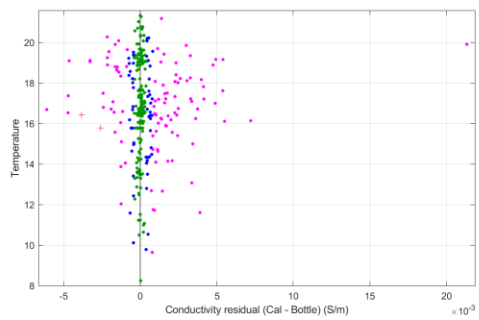




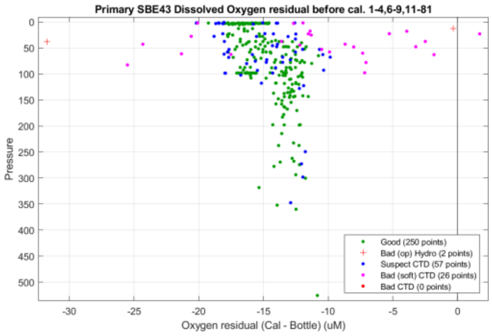


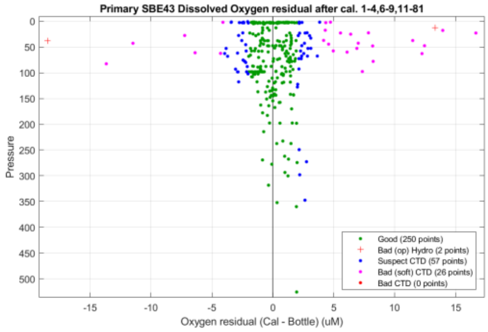


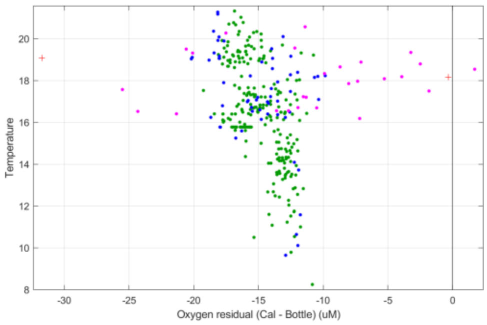


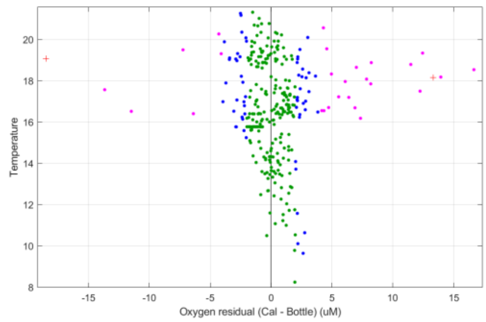


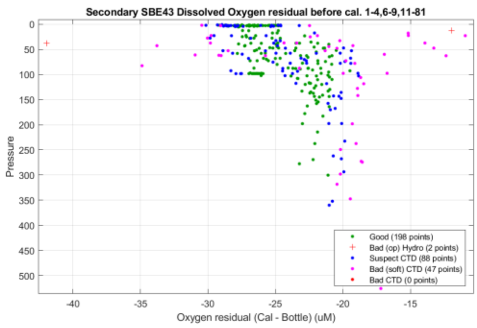
A.2 Dissolved Oxygen Calibration Residual Plots

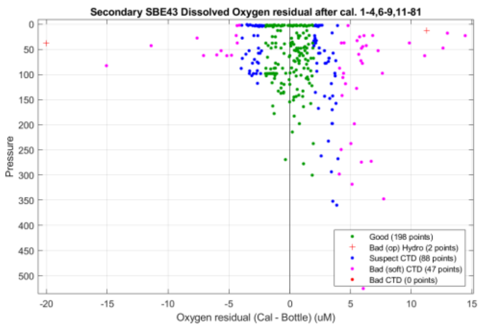


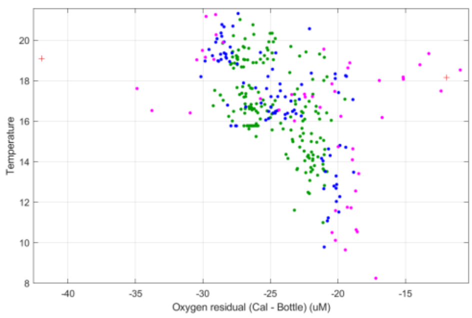


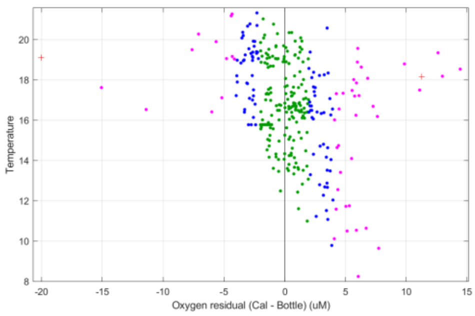












As Australia's national science agency and innovation catalyst, CSIRO is solving the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology.

CSIRO. Unlocking a better future for everyone.

Contact us

1300 363 400
+61 3 9545 2176
www.csiro.au/contact
www.csiro.au

For further information

National Collections and Marine Infrastructure
Information and Data Centre
HF-Data-Requests@csiro.au
research.csiro.au/ncmi-idc
www.csiro.au/en/about/people/business-units/NCMI