Developing a Profiling Glider pH Sensor for High Resolution Coastal Ocean Acidification Monitoring

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## **Ocean Acidification**

Driven by the ocean's absorption of increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide  $(CO_2)$ 



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# **Ocean Acidification - Projections**



2013 IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5)

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### Links Between People and Coastal Acidification



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# Traditional pH Monitoring Platforms







# Traditional pH Monitoring Platforms





Most gaps can be addressed through advancements in pH sensor technology





## Improvements in Design and Application

#### Depth-profiling deep-sea ISFET pH





Academic and Industry collaboration: Ken Johnson, MBARI Todd Martz, Scripps Honeywell Sea-Bird Scientific

\*Finalists in the Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE



## Advantages of Glider-based pH Monitoring











## **Project Goals and Applications**

- Develop and integrate a Deep-Sea ISFET profiling pH sensor into a glider and conduct laboratory testing and calibration
- Conduct glider deployments to demonstrate high resolution measurements of pH in coastal regions in near real-time
- Determine natural variability that will provide a framework to better study organism response and design more realistic experiments
- Identify and monitor high-risk areas that are more prone to periods of reduced pH and/or high pH variability

Enable better modeling and management of essential habitats in future, more acidic oceans

# Sensor Development and Integration



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# Tank Tests



- Conditioning time: 4-6 days
- Sensor precision:

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- Tank: +/- 0.000-0.007
- Field: +/- 0.000-0.055



# First pH Glider Deployments



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# pH Response Time Lag











Corrected on an individual segment basis



# pH Response Time Lag



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# **Cross Shelf Profiles**

#### May 2018 – NJ cross-shelf



## -200 -200 05/05 05/10 05/15 05/20 31 32 33 34 35



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# **Cross Shelf Profiles**

#### May 2018 – NJ cross-shelf





## -200 -200 05/05 05/10 05/15 05/20 31 32 33 34 35



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# **Cross Shelf Profiles**

#### May 2018 – NJ cross-shelf







# pH-Temperature-Salinity Relationships



A: Near-shore surface water
B: Mid-shelf surface water
C: Shelf break
D: Low pH bottom water (mid-shelf and shelf break)

# Next Steps – Glider-Based OA Networks

## **Regional Level**

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A Regional Slocum Glider Network in the Mid-Atlantic Bight Leverages Broad Community Engagement

Schofield et al. 2010, MTS



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# Next Steps – Glider-Based OA Networks

## National Level



Toward a U.S. IOOS<sup>®</sup> Underwater Glider Network Plan: Part of a comprehensive subsurface observing system Glider tracks along the U.S. coast: 2002-2014



"Glider technology may be able to resolve some of the issues involved in measuring essential ocean variables like sea surface salinity, pCO<sub>2</sub>, pH, nutrients, and phytoplankton biomass, health, and composition."

*"As pH sensors mature, gliders will provide excellent platforms for monitoring ocean acidification."* 

# Next Steps – Glider-Based OA Networks

## **Global Level**

Testor et al., in prep Ocean Obs'19



# Thanks! saba@marine.rutgers.edu



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