

Surface Currents for US Coast Guard Search and Rescue (SAR)

MARACOOS 20th Anniversary
Washington, D.C.
May 22, 2024





USCG Search and Rescue
Statistics for 2024

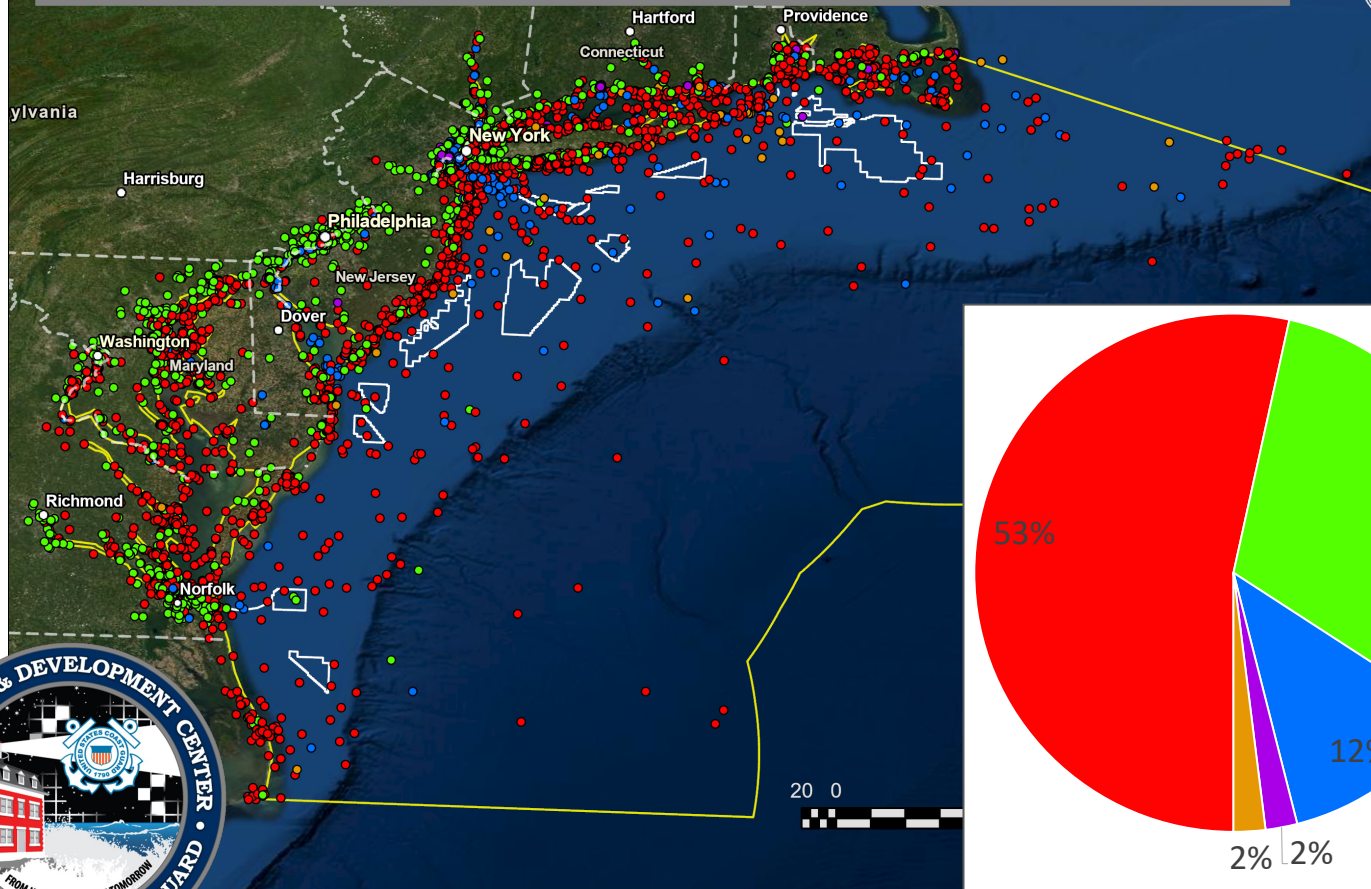
(as of 04/05/2024)

Cases: 4,879

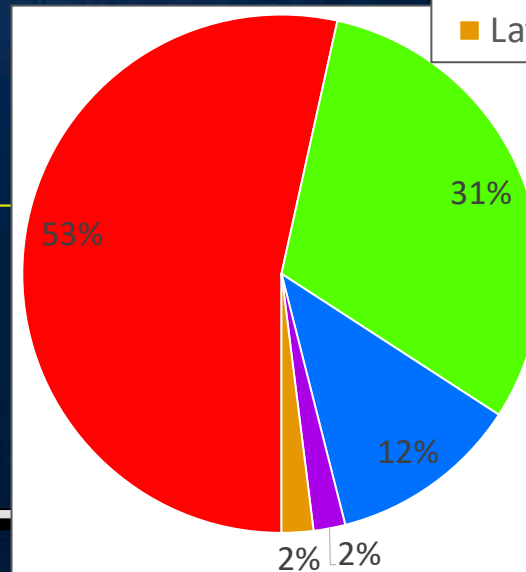
Lives Saved: 1,477

Property Saved: \$31.4M

USCG FY21 MISLE Cases within 10 miles of MARACOOS Area



- SAR
- Marine Env Protection
- Marine Safety
- Security
- Law Enforcement



High Frequency Radar Station

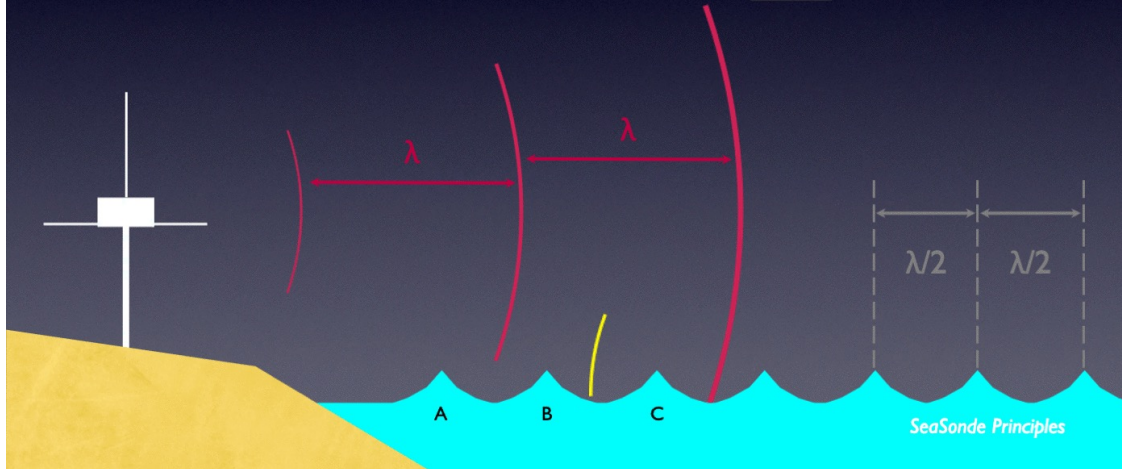
CODAR Tx/Rx ANTENNA
LEWES BEACH, DE USA



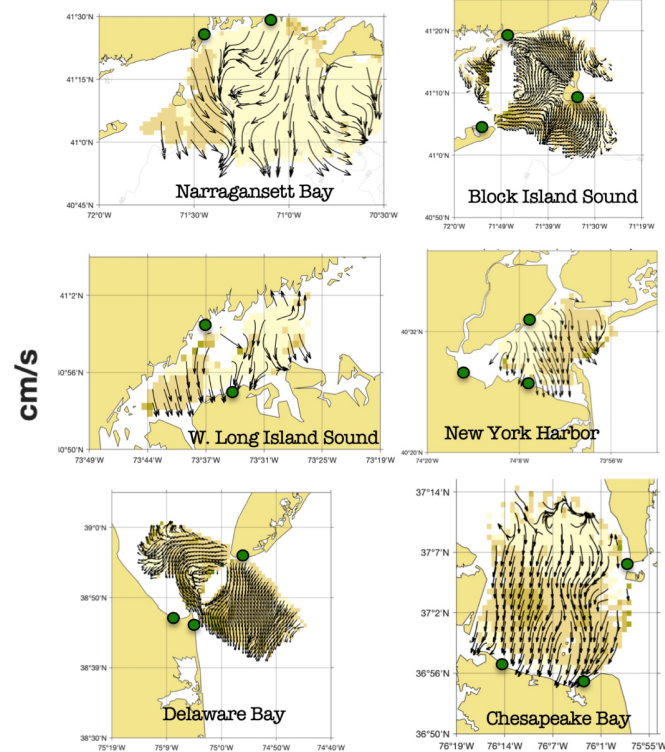
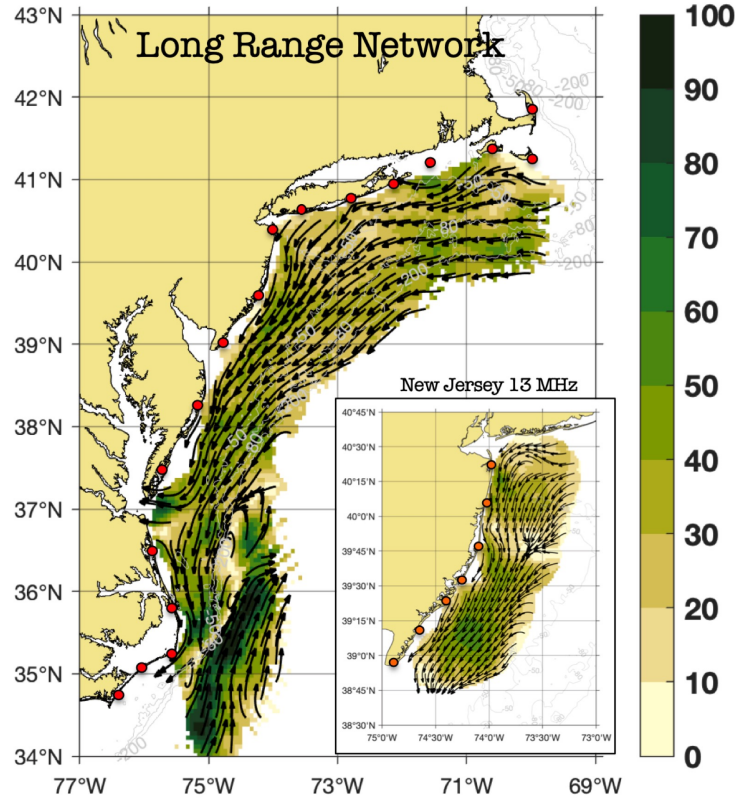
How Radars Work...

Bragg Sea Echo

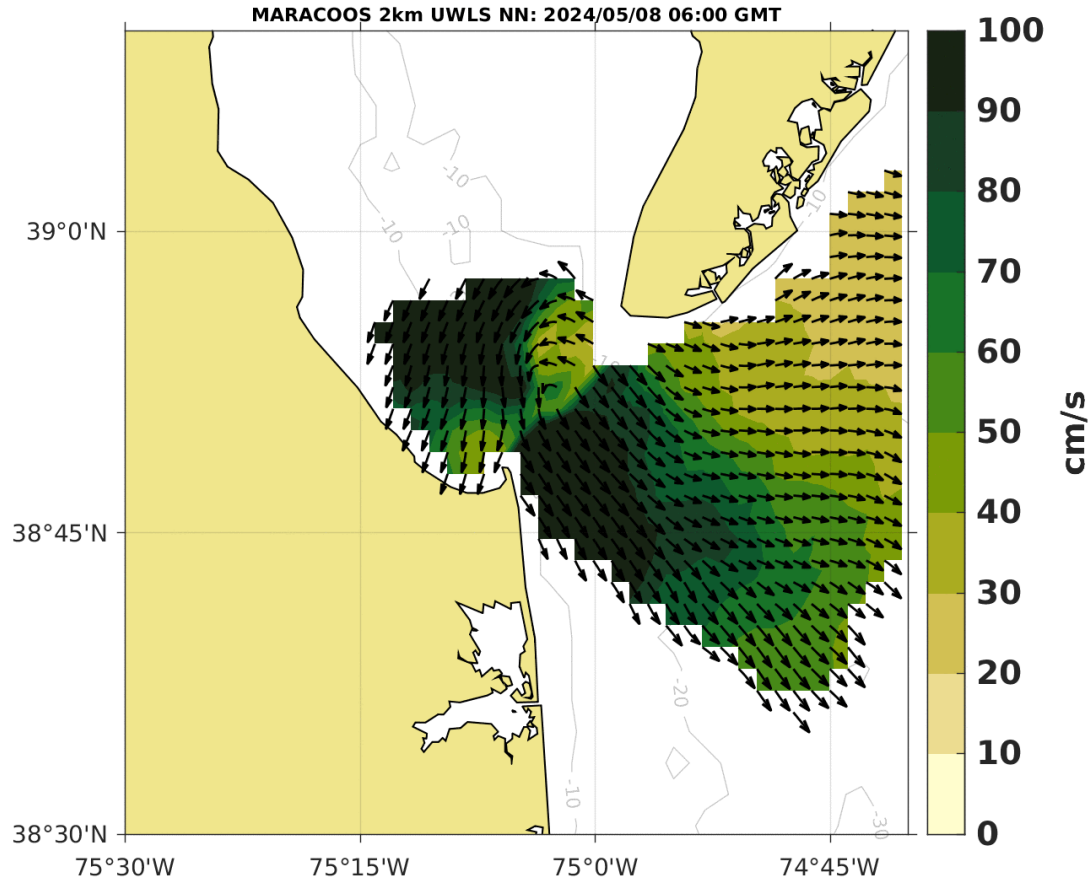
Freq	λ	$\lambda/2$	T
mhz	meters	meters	seconds
5	60	30.0	4.4
13	23	11.5	2.7
25	12	6.0	2.0
42	7	3.6	1.5



High Frequency Radar Network



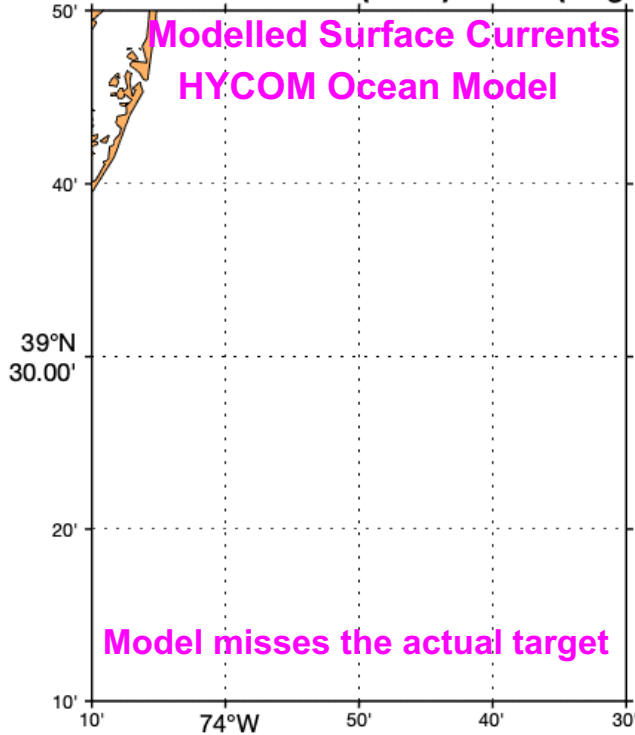
Surface Currents



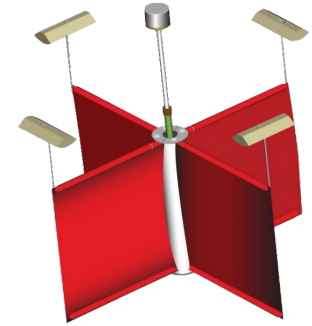
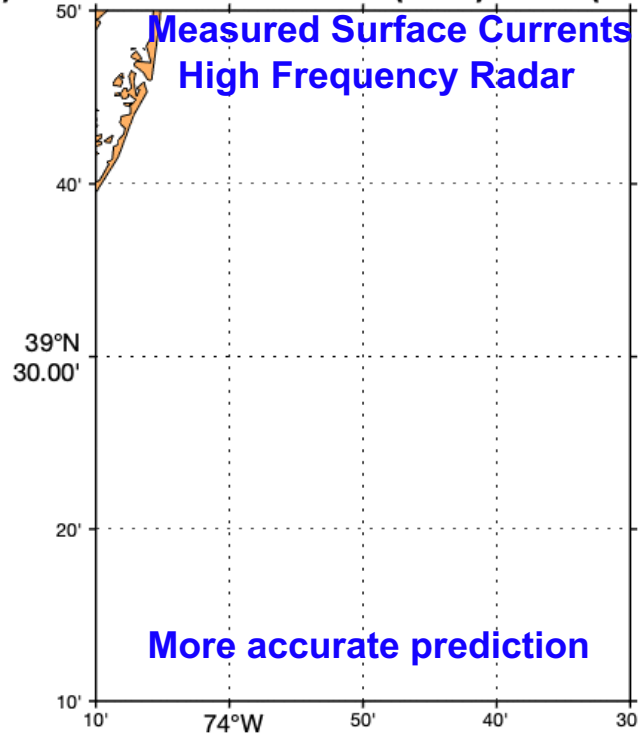
6 hour
animation of
Delaware
Bay
May 8, 2024

Modelled vs Measured Currents

Particle Trajectories: HYCOM 43340 Day 12
2016/05/21 22:00 Actual (black) Virtual (magenta)



Particle Trajectories: HFR_13 43340 Day 12
2016/05/21 22:00 Actual (black) Virtual (blue)



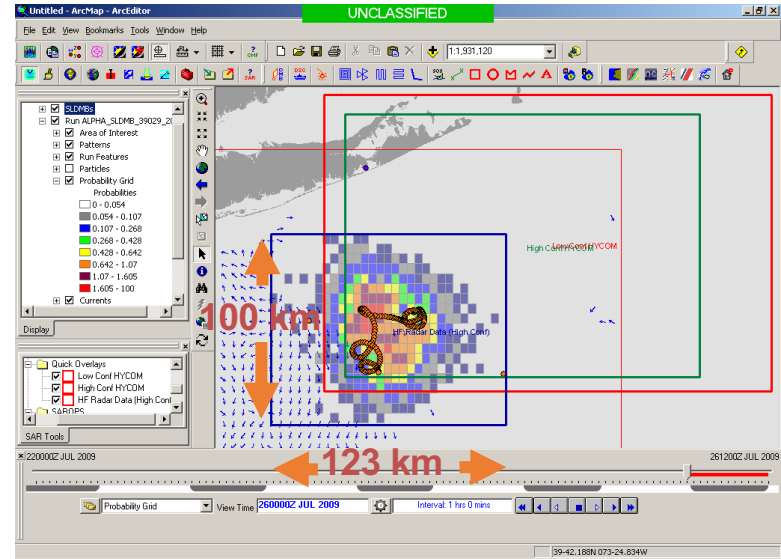
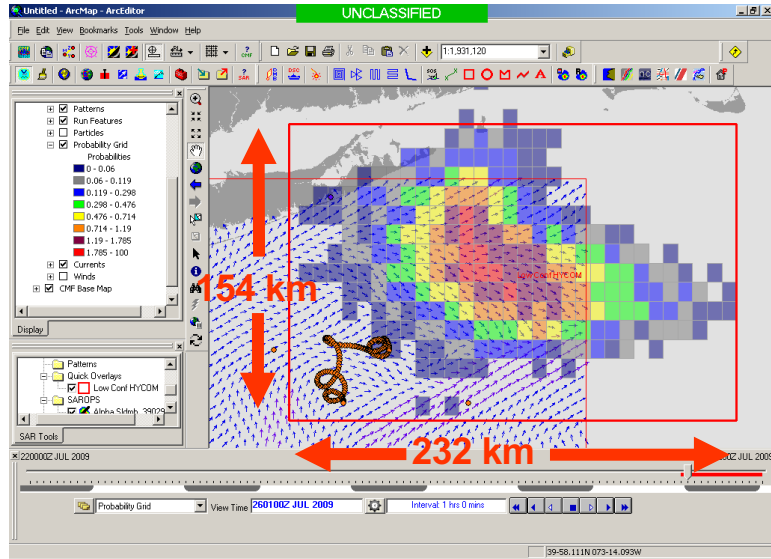
GPS Surface Drifter

Measured surface currents are 6 times more accurate than modelled currents in the coastal ocean¹

¹Roarty, H., Allen, A., Glenn, S., Kohut, J., Nazzaro, L. and Fredj, E., 2018, May. Evaluation of environmental data for search and rescue II. In *2018 OCEANS-MTS/IEEE Kobe Techno-Oceans (OTO)* (pp. 1-3). IEEE.

How much more accurate?

Search area reduced by 2/3 !!!



→ Benefit: Saving more lives and property AND cost savings to taxpayers