eMOLT
Spring 2012 Update

Probes from 2011

Most of you already mailed in your 2011 temperature probe and current meters. Thank you. Those who have not please do so as soon as possible so we can process the records before the Maine Fishermen 's Forum in early March. If you would like to immediately swap it out for a new probe, let me know at james.manning@noaa.gov or call 508-495-2211 (office) or 508-566-4080 (cell) otherwise I will send your 2012 probe later this spring. You can mail probes to Jim Manning, NOAA, 166 Water St, Woods Hole, MA. 02543. Please remember to provide documentation of lat/lon and depth deployed.

Status of the eMOLT project in general

As I mentioned at our gathering last spring, the eMOLT project is alive and well. I am committed to this project as long as you continue contributing data each year. While our original funding from the Northeast Consortium has run out, we continue to look for ways that will supply you with low-cost instrumentation. Given the lack of science funding as of late, we can not afford to any fancy equipment but we can at least maintain the existing temperature time series at as many sites as possible. As our stock of probes dwindles, it may be necessary to limit all participants to a single probe but I am confident that the authorities will eventually see the value in this longterm monitoring project so that we will be well-equipped in the future.

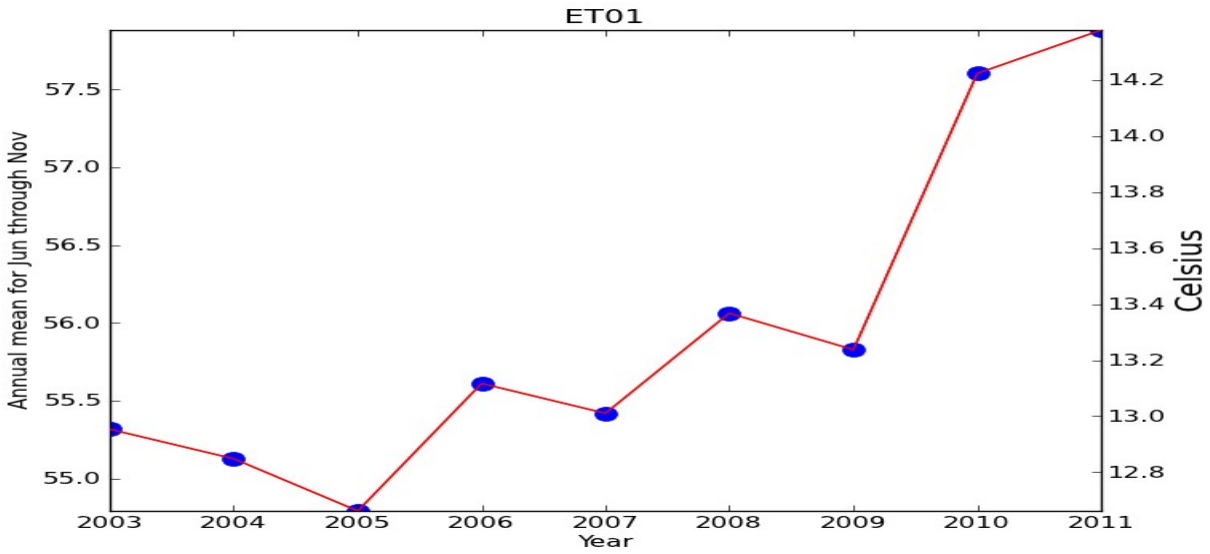

Figure 1. Example of "annual average temperature" as observed by Elliot Thomas in 7 fathoms.

Status of the current meter project

Most of you deployed a current meter probe in 2011. We are happy to report that, so far, all but one unit returned good data! We are analyzing the records this month and will be sending you detailed plots later this spring. We are still waiting to hear on two proposals related to current meters. One will deploy these current meters on local aquaculture farms in 2012 and one will add digital compass to the eMOLT sensor suite n 2013. We do not want to bother you with current meters in 2012 but if you want to deploy one please let us know especially if you can keep them undisturbed for weeks at a time.

Status of the camera project

Several participants tried these cameras. They found that the batteries are limited to about four hours when it is programmed to take a picture every 60 seconds. You can view the images thus far at www.flickr.com/photos/emoltlobcam. If you didn't get a chance to try the cameras and would like to do so in 2012 despite the limitation on batteries, let me know and I will send one along. I currently have four at my desk.

eMOLT-related events at the Maine Fishermen Forum

As of today, there are two eMOLT-related sessions scheduled. The first is Friday afternoon (2 March) at 2:45-4:00pm in the "Fitness Room" and the second is on Sunday morning (4 March) at 7:30-9:00am. While they both are organized and convened by the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) folks, I encourage eMOLT participants to attend as you are an important part of this movement to collectively monitor our ocean environment. I plan to be at both and hangout in the lobby most of the rest of the time. The Sunday morning session which includes a breakfast buffet is a focus group on "how fishermen use ocean observing system information". Email Tom Syhka at tom@neracoos.org if you plan to attend. Call my cell 508-566-4080 at anytime if you need to find me. I look forward to sitting down with each of you if you have time.

eMOLT-related event at the Fishermen Scientist and Research Society Mtg.

Elliott Thomas, a Casco Bay lobsterman, has agreed to make an eMOLT presentation at the FSRS annual meeting in Truro, Nova Scotia. We were invited to tell the eMOLT story to our Canadian partners. While they have been deploying temperature probes as long as we have, they are now interested in expanding their time series to beyond the short seasons and would like to compare notes with us. While I can not make this meeting, I encourage eMOLT participants, especially those up north, to attend this meeting on 24-25 Feb. See http://www.fsrs.ns.ca/events/ac2012.html

Effects of Irene

Our analysis of 2011 data will include a complete investigation of the effects of "Hurricane Irene" on both temperature and current. Preliminary examination of the records thus far show rather minor effects but more work is needed. The example from Elliott's Casco Bay deployment in 7 fa is shown below.

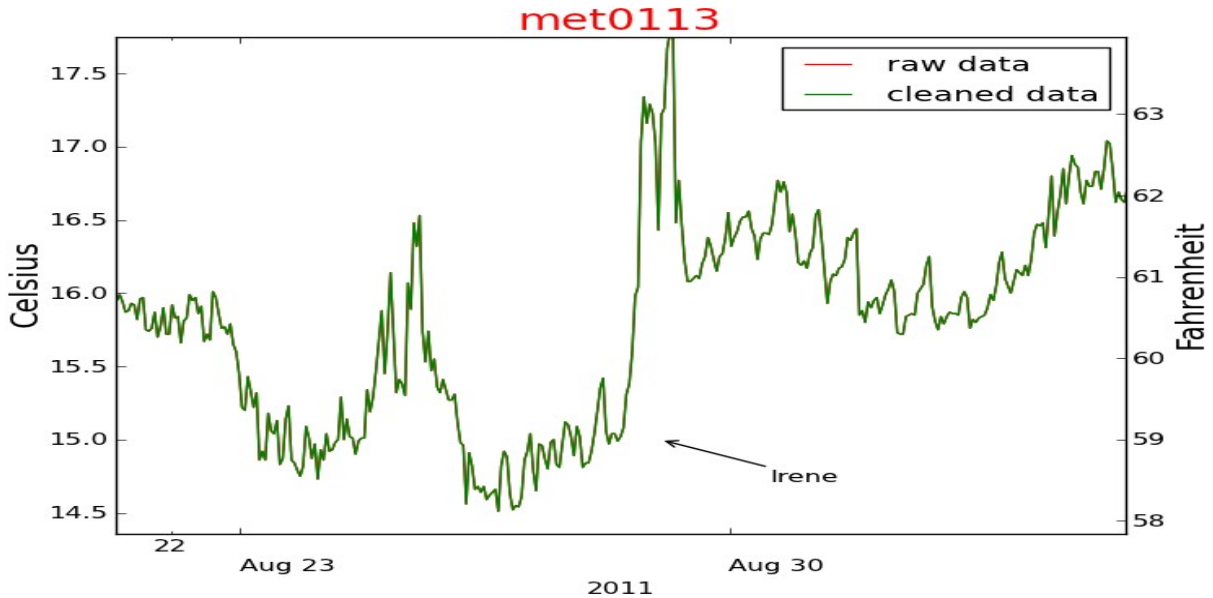

Figure 2. Example of the minor (~2degF) effect of "Hurricane Irene".