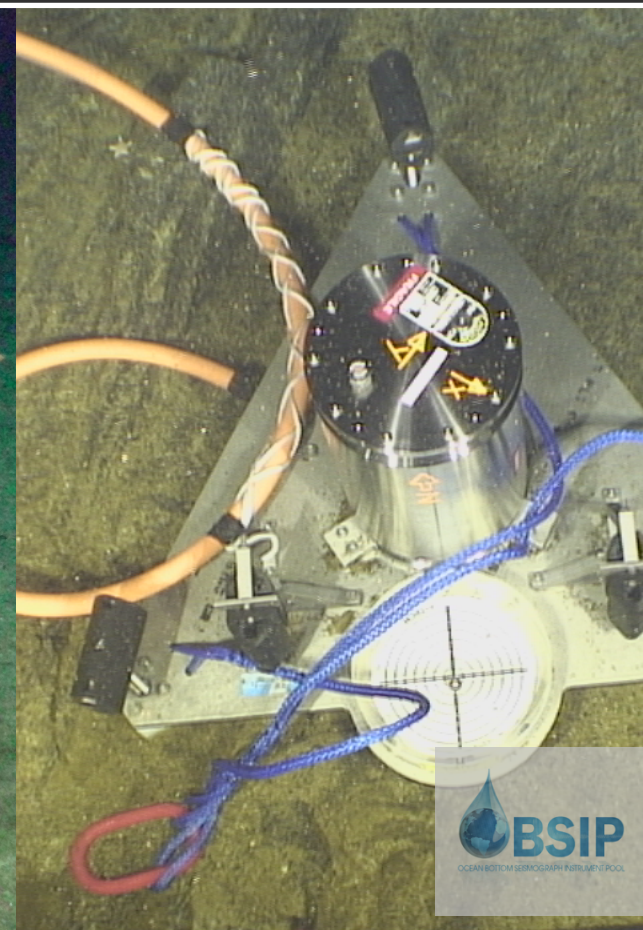


# Optimizing seafloor pressure sensor networks for the detection of slow slip earthquakes in Cascadia and beyond

Richardson<sup>1</sup>, William Wilcock<sup>1</sup>, David Schmidt<sup>1</sup>, Parker MacCready<sup>1</sup>, Emily Roland<sup>1</sup>, Alexander Kurapov<sup>2</sup>, Mark Zumberge<sup>3</sup>, Glenn Sasagawa<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Washington, <sup>2</sup>NOAA Coast Survey Development Laboratory, <sup>3</sup>Scripps Institution of Oceanography



# Outline

What can we learn from seafloor geodesy?

Seafloor pressure geodesy in Cascadia

Involving methods for highly accurate pressure measurements

Other geodetic tools/measurements in the ocean

# What can we learn from seafloor geodesy?

Subduction zones

Interseismic strain

Transient fault slip and creep

Strain partitioning

Divergent/Transform systems

Spreading/Slip rates

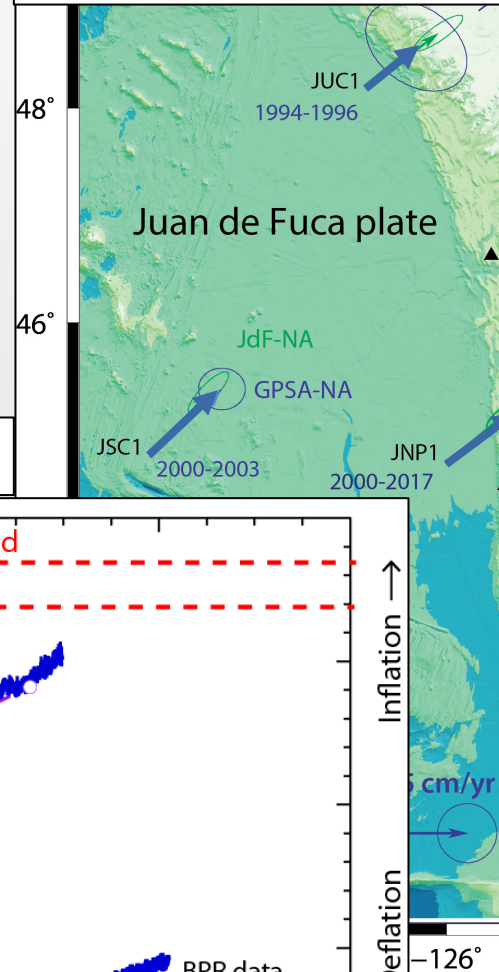
Volcanic deformation

Subsidence

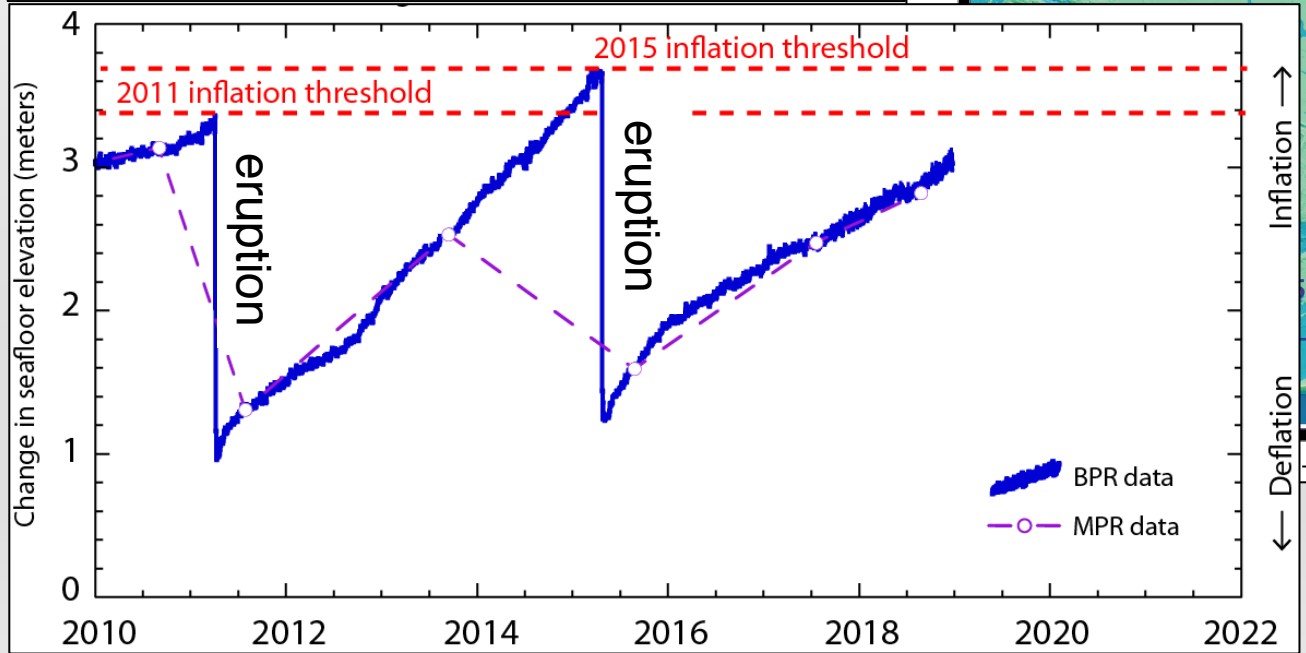
Plate motion

Rigidity and flexure

## Convergence of Juan de Fuca plate

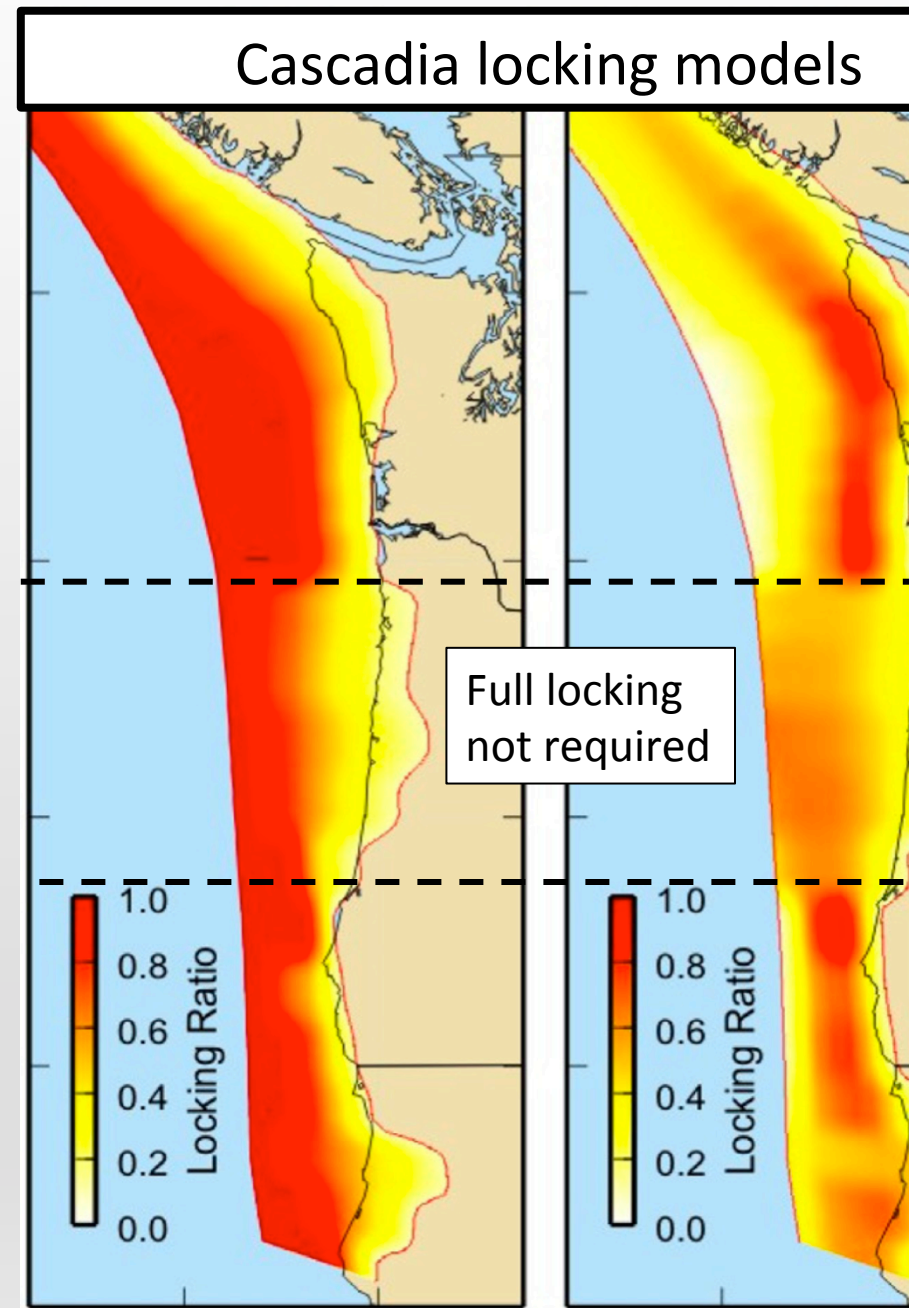


## Inflation at Axial Seamount

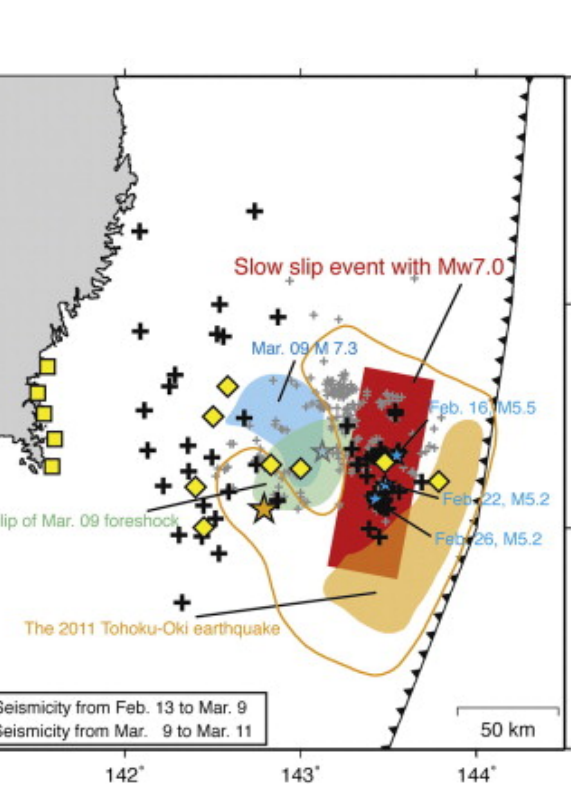


# Surface pressure geodesy Cascadia

Unusually low seismicity near the megathrust  
Large distance from shoreline to trench  
Partial locking inferred off central OR

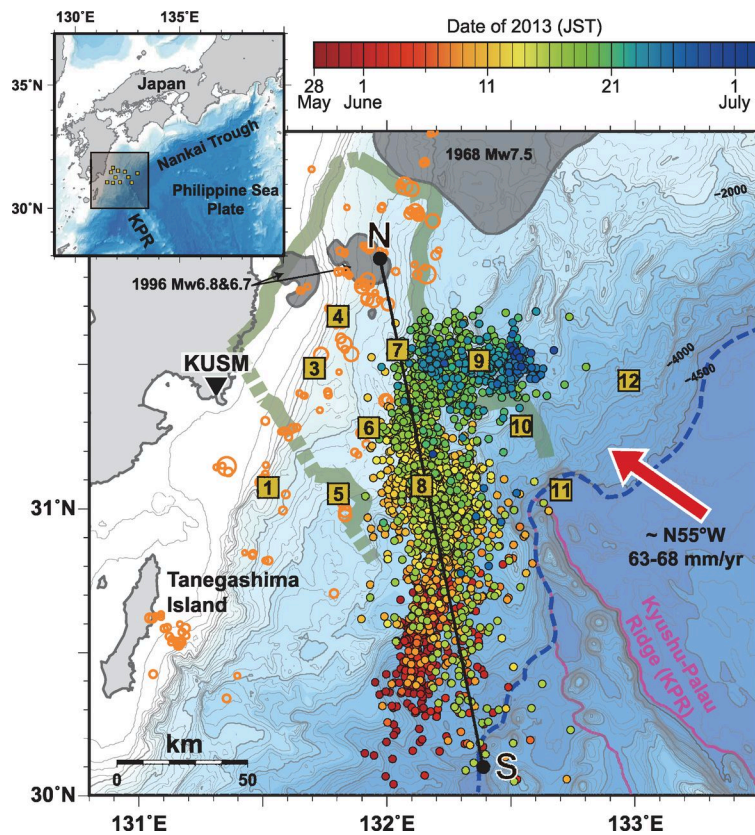


# Far-trench slow slip and tremor observed in many settings. Occurring in Cascadia?



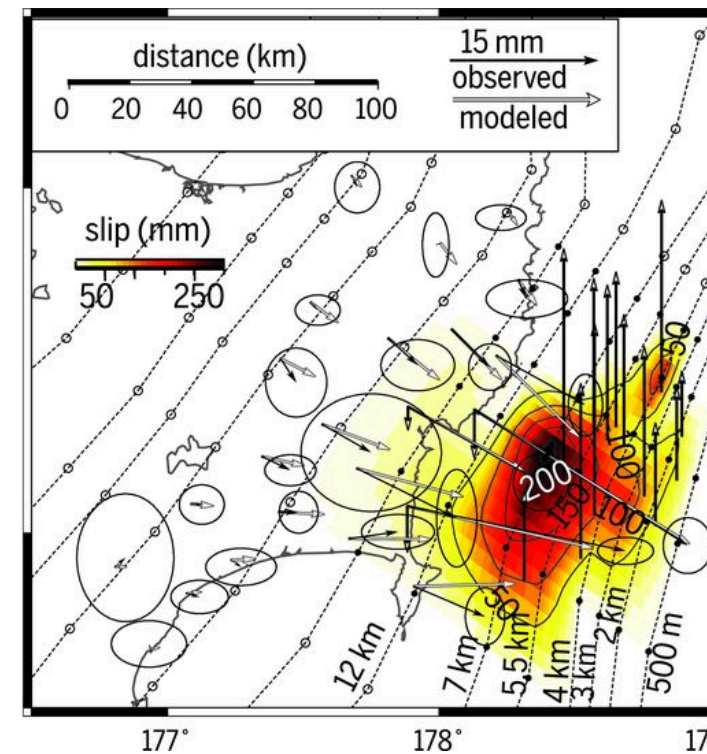
Ito Trench 2008

Ito et al., 2013



Nankai 2013

Yamashita et al., 2015



Hikurangi 2015

Wallace et al., 2016

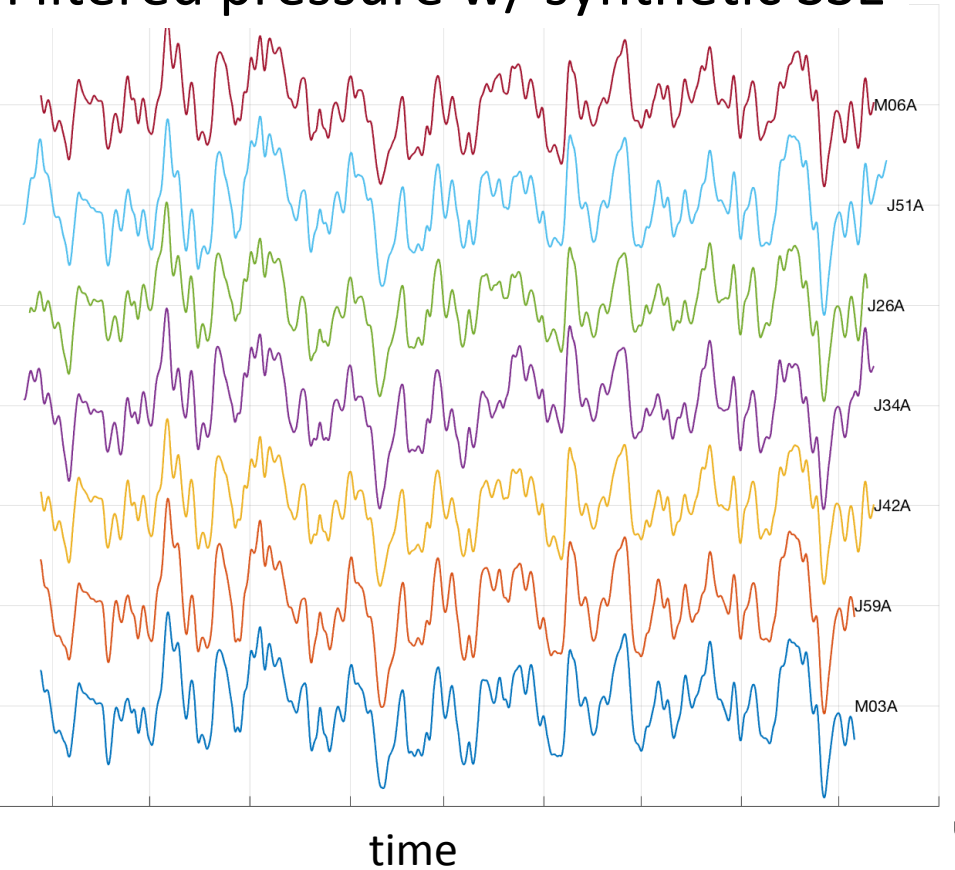
afloor pressure for detecting offshore  
formation

$$P(t) = P_0 + P_{tidal} + P_{drift} + P_{ocean} + P_{geodetic}$$

# seafloor pressure for detecting offshore formation

$$P(t) = \cancel{P_0} + \cancel{P_{tidal}} + \cancel{P_{drift}} + P_{ocean} + P_{geodetic}$$

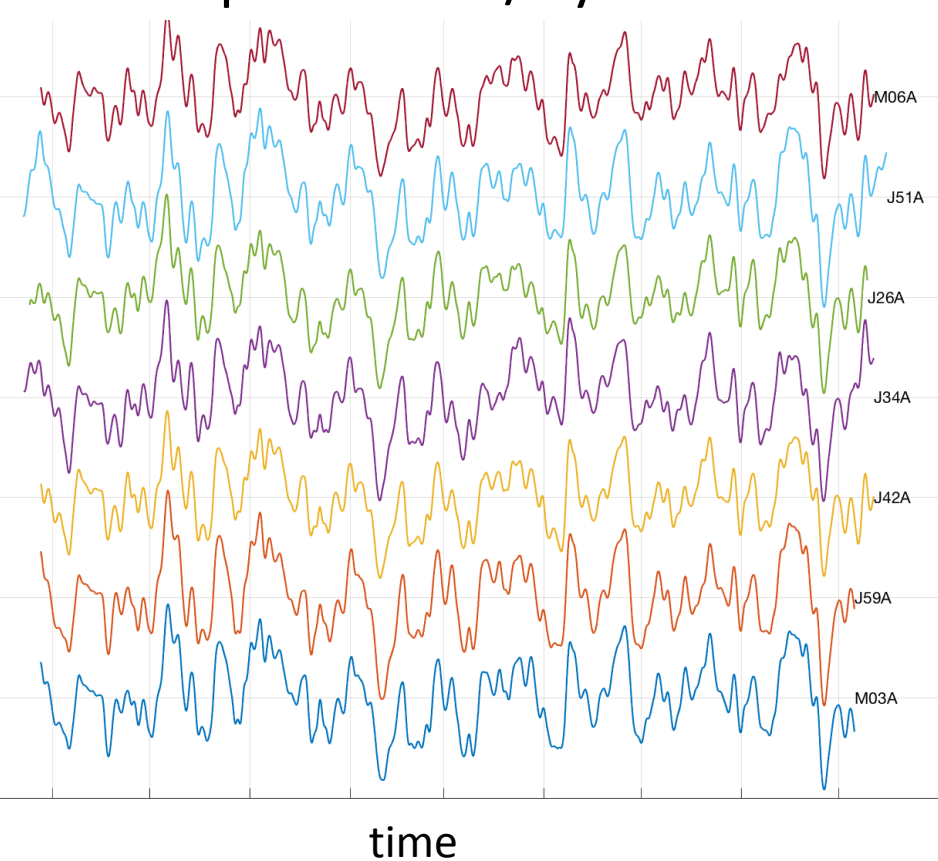
Filtered pressure w/ synthetic SSE



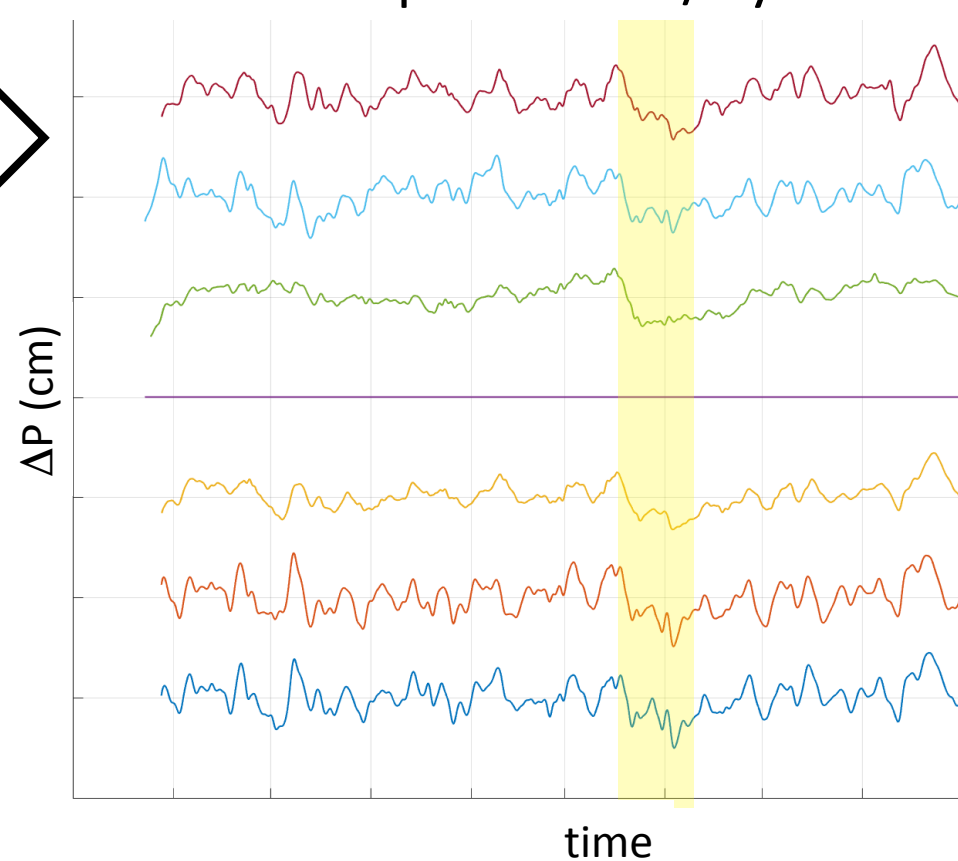
# Seafloor pressure for detecting offshore formation

$$P(t) = \cancel{P_0} + \cancel{P_{tidal}} + \cancel{P_{drift}} + \cancel{P_{ocean}} + P_{geodetic}$$

Filtered pressure w/ synthetic SSE



Differenced pressure w/ synthetic SSE





# Motivating Questions

Can oceanographic signals be effectively removed from seafloor pressure data?

We find that differencing of depth-matched instruments can reduce signals RMS from  $>3$  cm to  $<1$  cm

Oceanographic models don't work as a correction, but can be used to understand regional oceanographic processes

What is the detectability of shallow slow slip earthquakes using seafloor pressure?

A number of  $M_w > 5.7$  SSE scenarios predicted to produce detectable signals

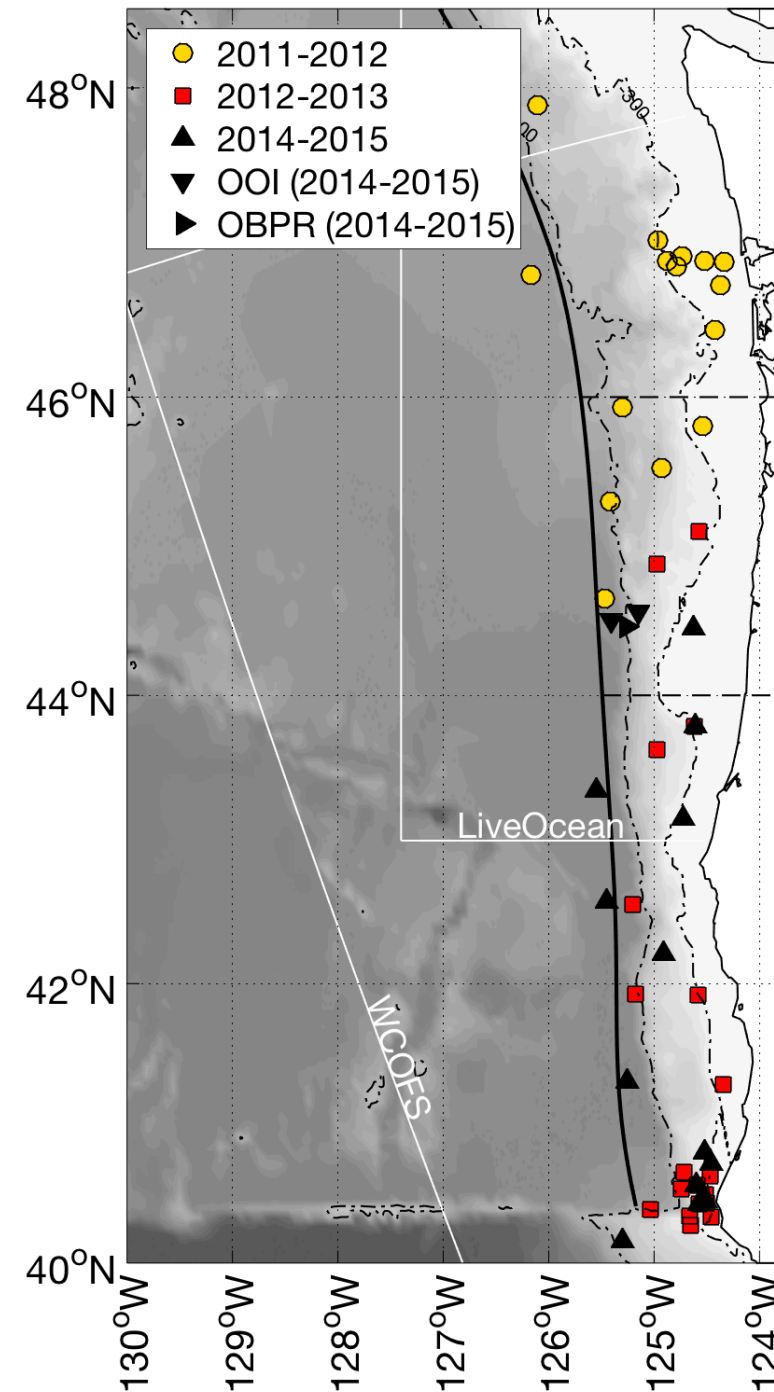
Optimized network geometry utilizes lines of depth-matched sensors

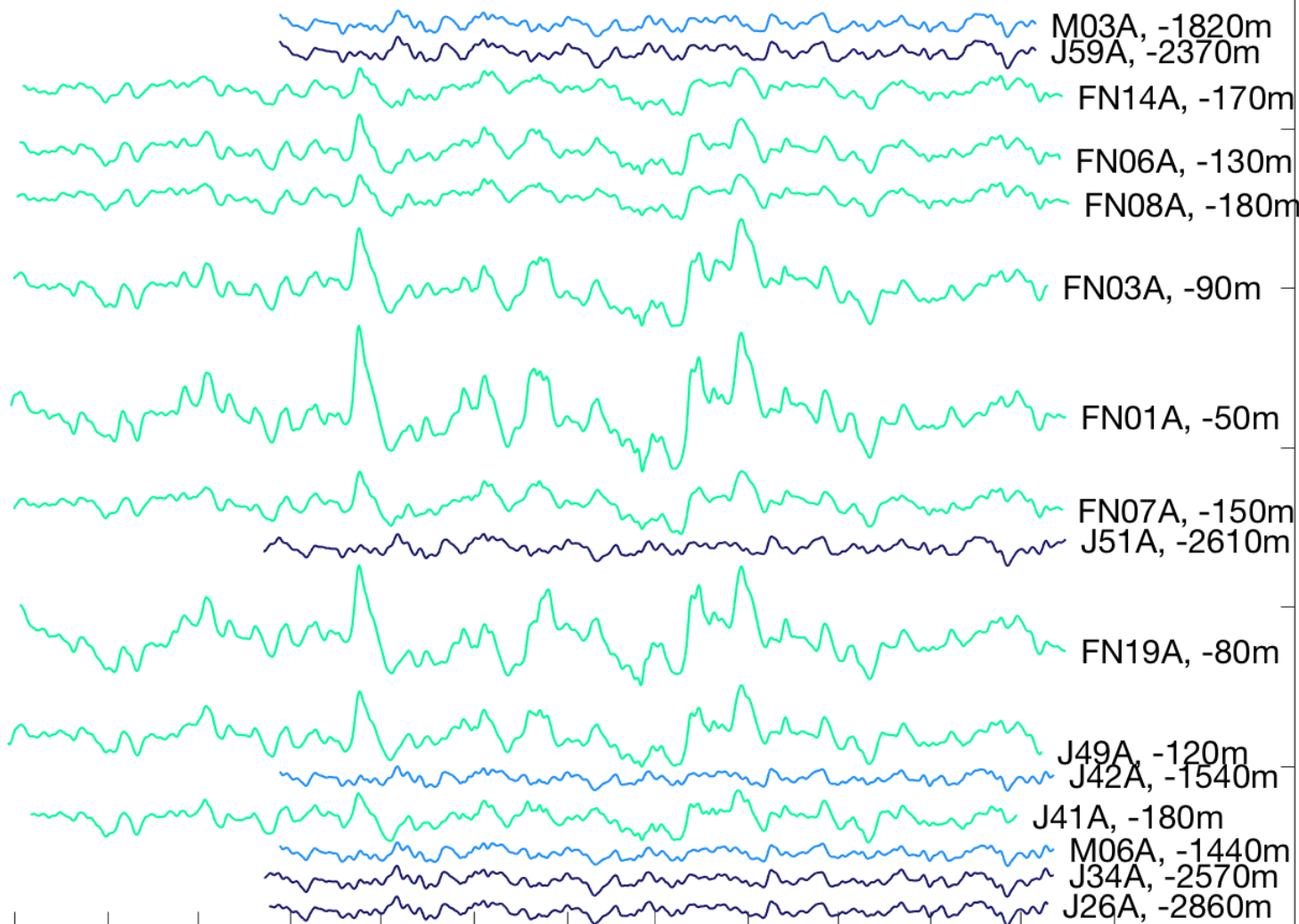
# Pressure data in Cascadia

2011-2015 Cascadia Initiative experiment  
Absolute pressure gauges (APGs) on  
some instruments

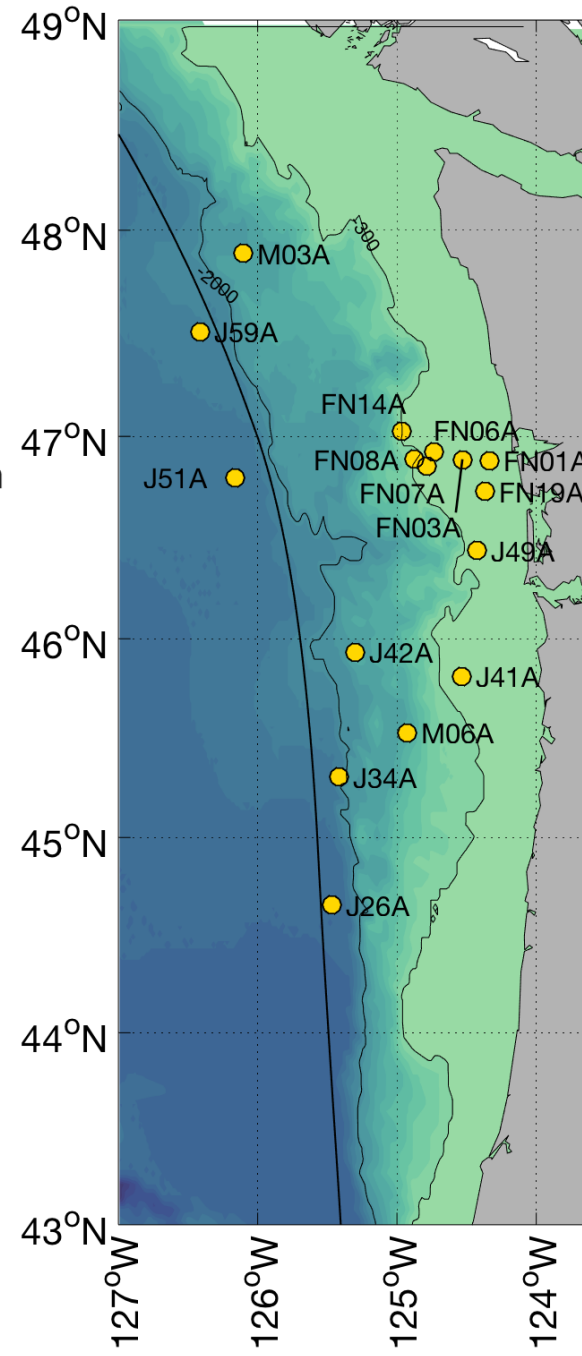
Alternate north and south each year  
Complemented by Cabled Array APGs and  
the benchmark instrument off Oregon  
High quality pressure data counts

2011-2012: 16  
2012-2013: 19  
2013-2014: 0  
2014-2015: 17



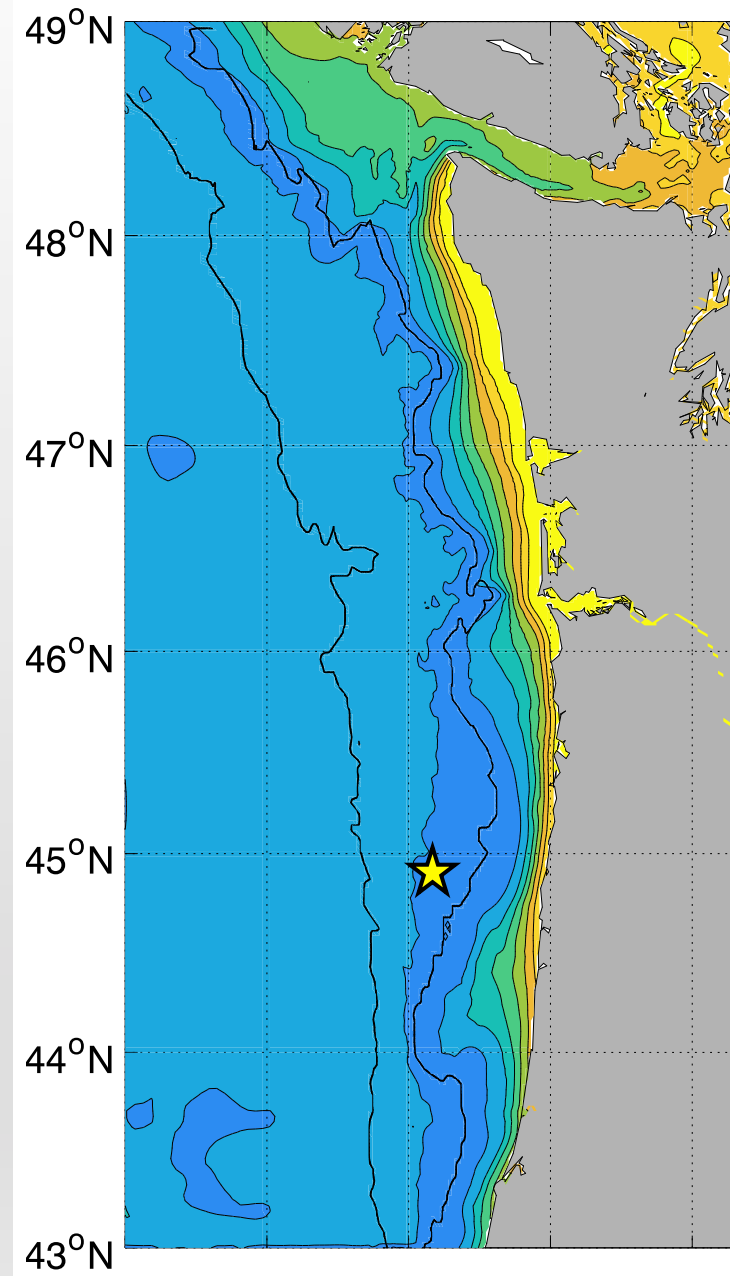
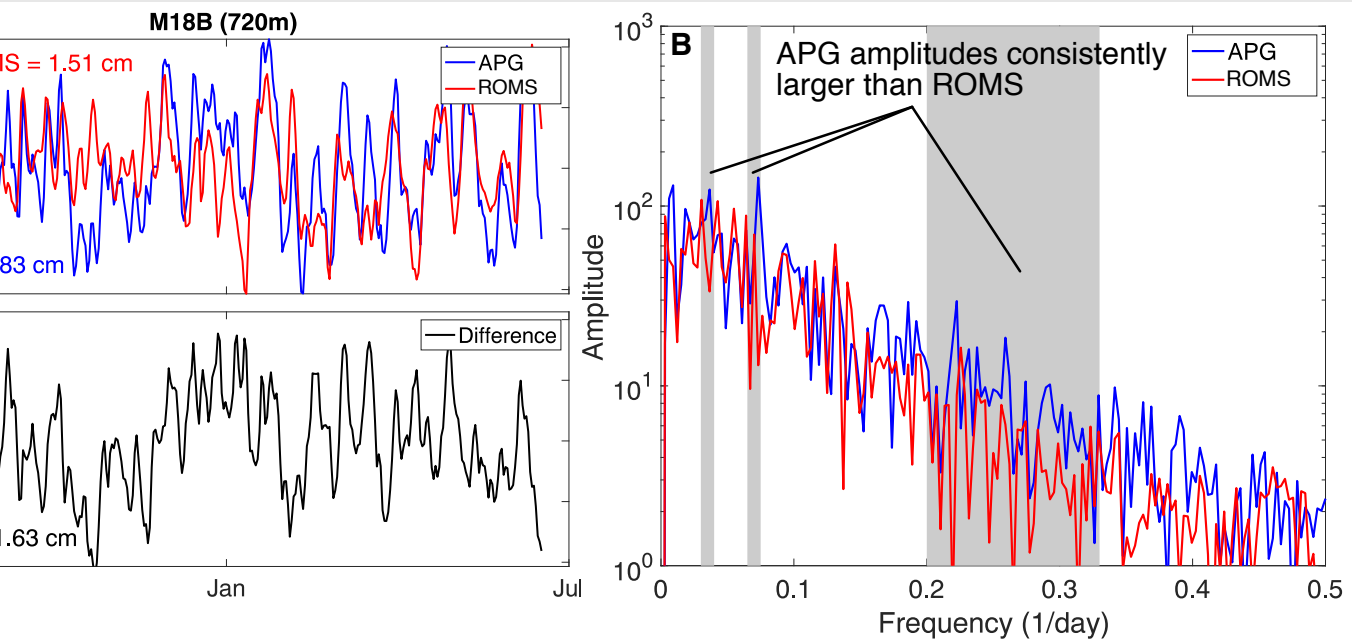


Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug



# Seafloor pressure from ocean circulation models

Predict many signals seen in APG records  
Closer agreement on shelf than at depth  
Not sufficiently accurate to serve as  
Oceanographic correction

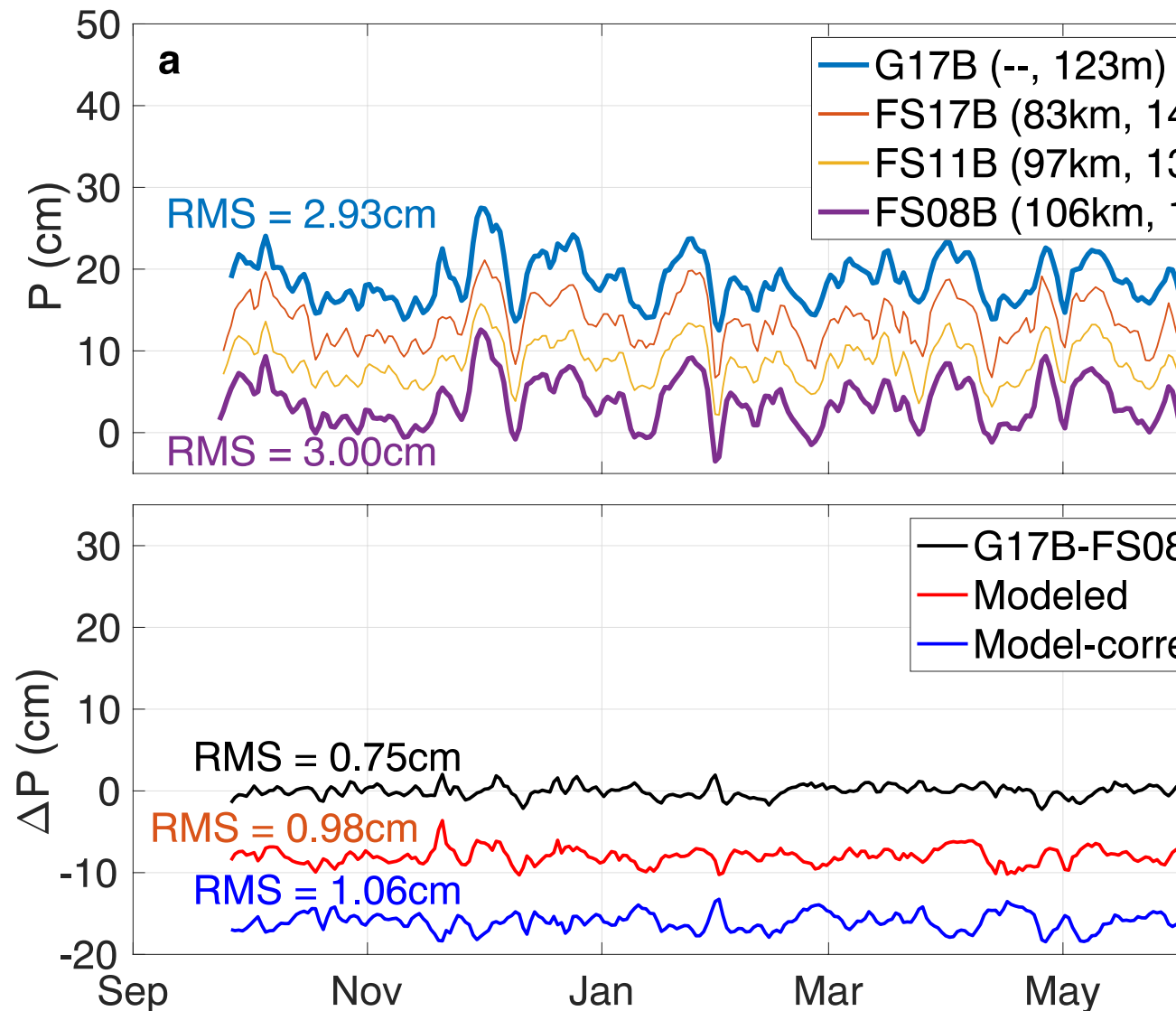


# Differencing applied to Cascadia

sub-centimeter RMS  
amplitudes from depth  
matched differencing

Deeper than 1400 m can  
vary in depth by 100s of  
meters over >100 km

Shallower requires <50  
m depth matching and  
<100 km separation



# Differencing applied to Cascadia

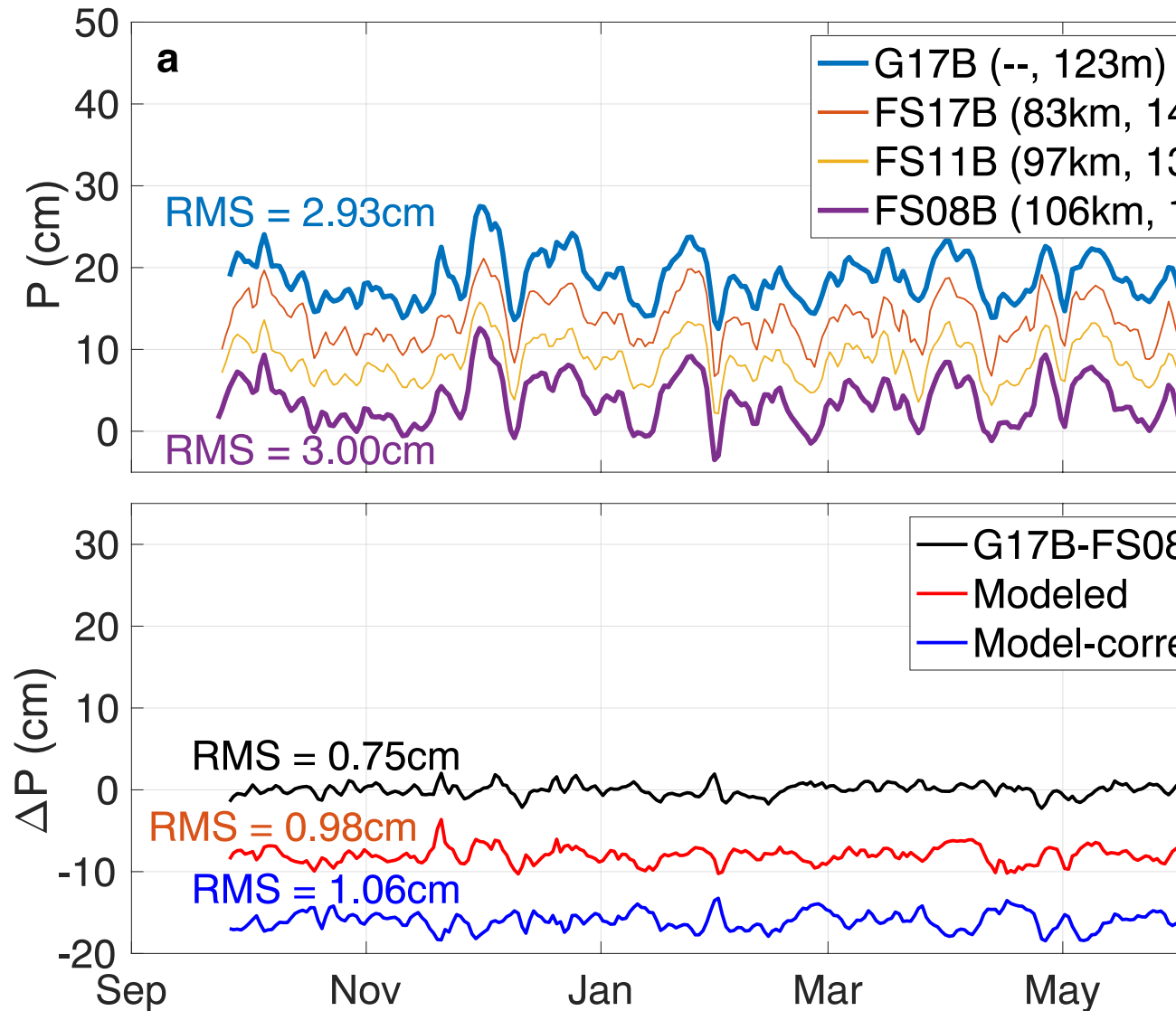
sub-centimeter RMS  
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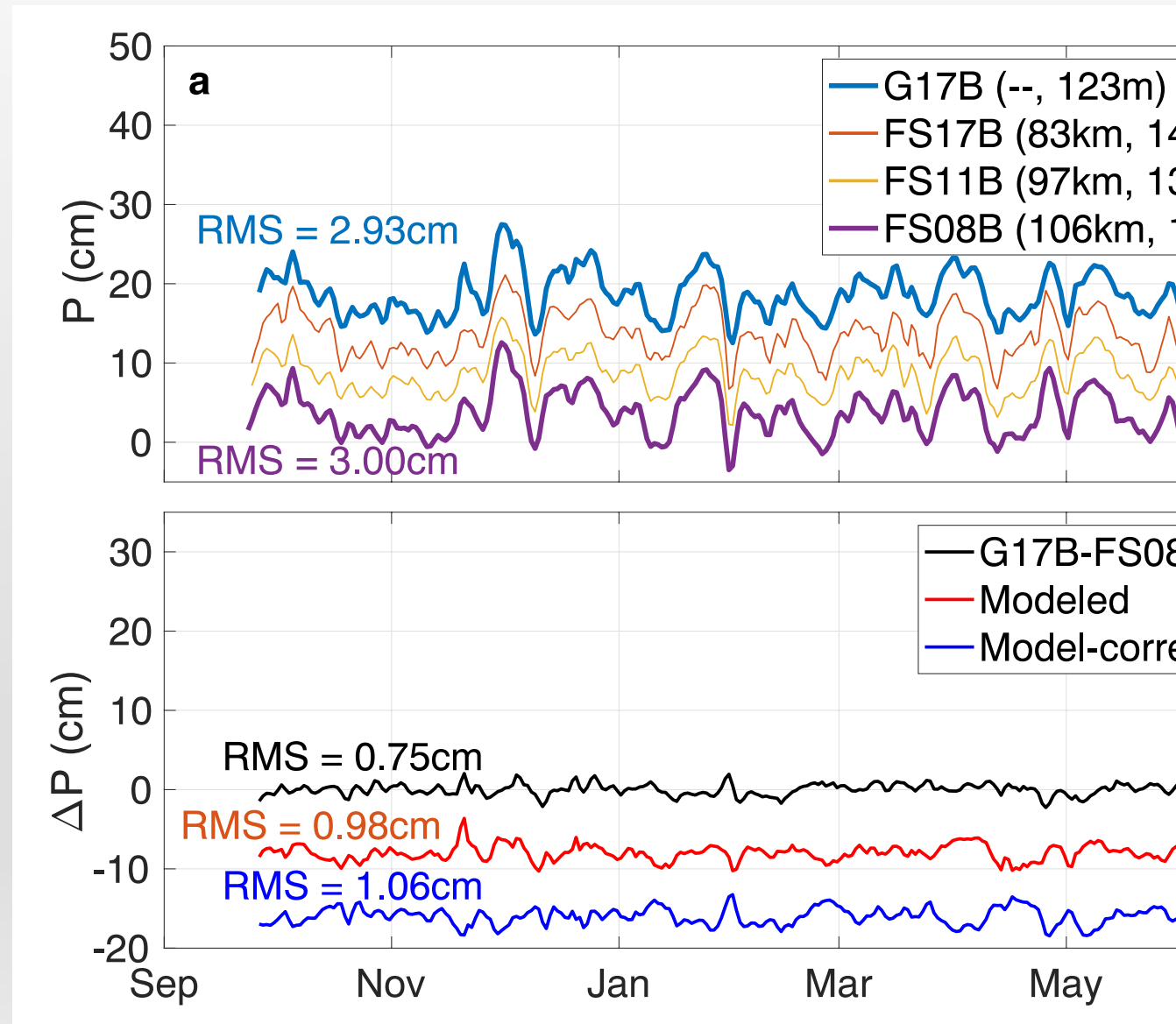
offsets indicative of  
ages found

Oceanographic models in  
agreement



# Interferencing applied to Cascadia

**1.5 cm threshold** for ambiguous detection of SSE signal ( $2\sigma$  offset)



# lastic half space model

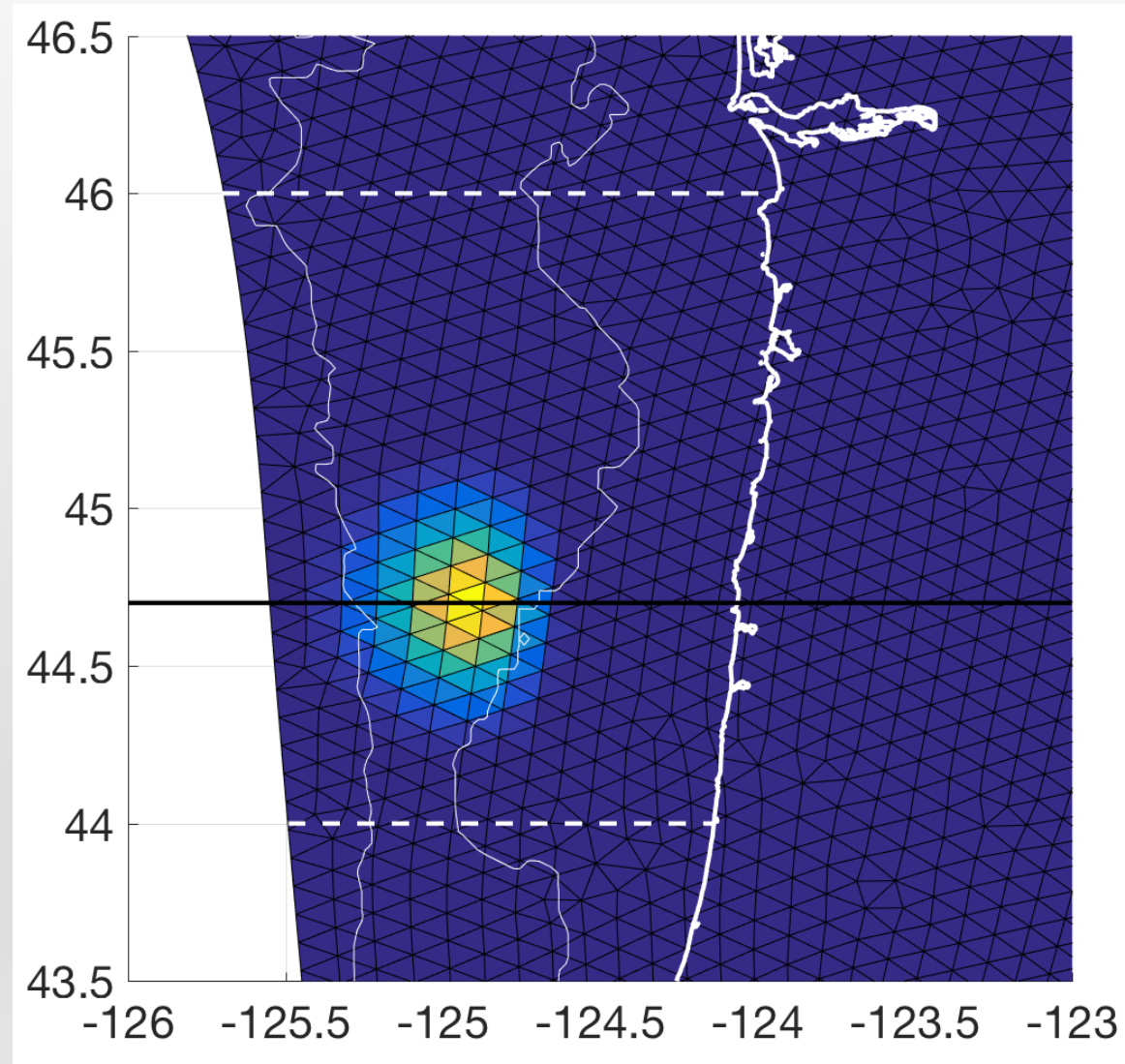
$M_w$  6.3,  $\Delta\sigma = 0.06$  MPa

o centered beneath  
continental slope offshore  
regon

$\mu = 10$  GPa,  $\sigma = 0.38$

Gaussian slip distribution in  $y$  and  
depth

variable magnitude and stress  
op



Fault geometry from McCrory e



# Artificial SSE detection

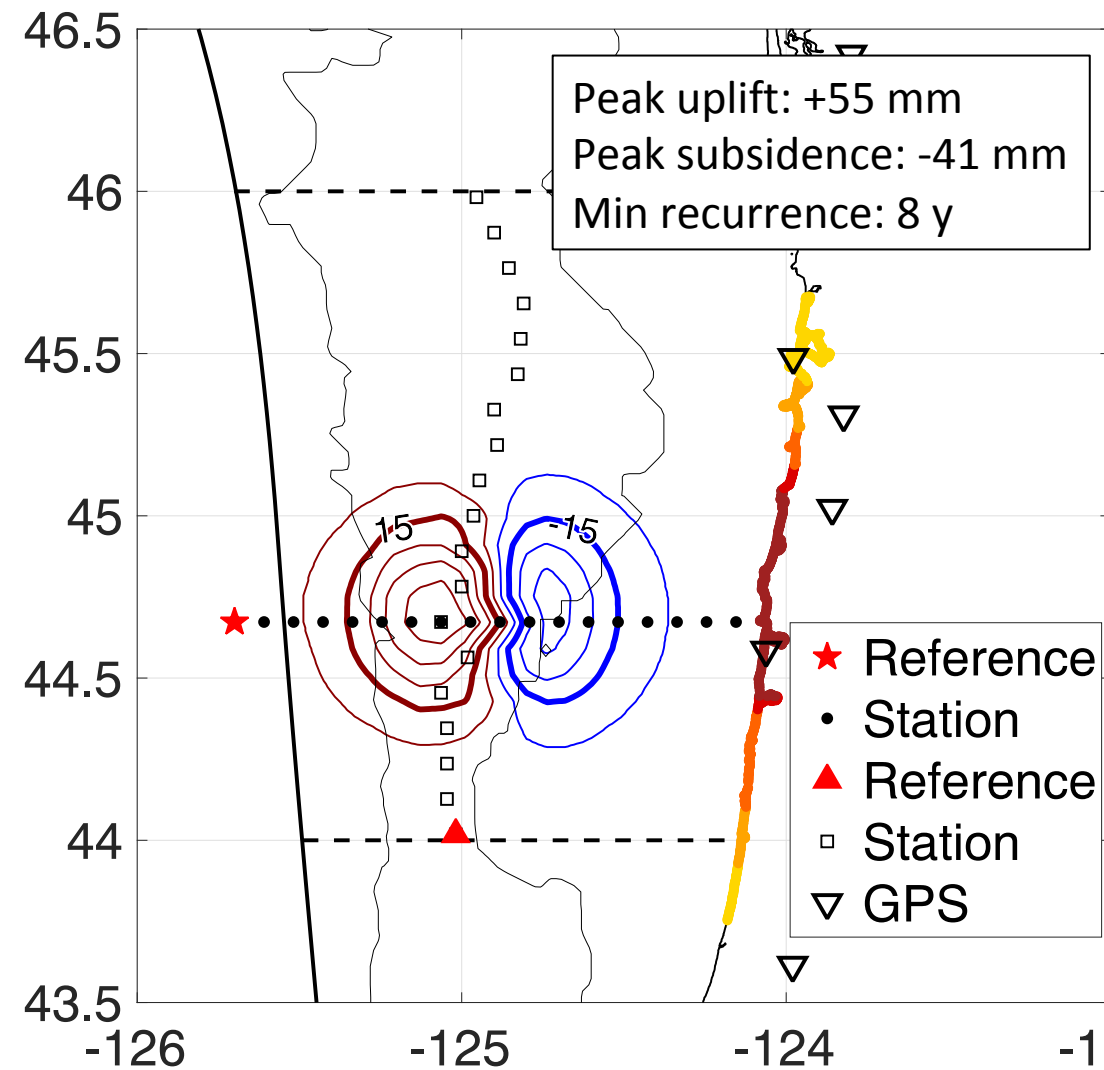
Simplistic station lines at ~10km spacing overlying deformation

Pressure time series from oceanographic models

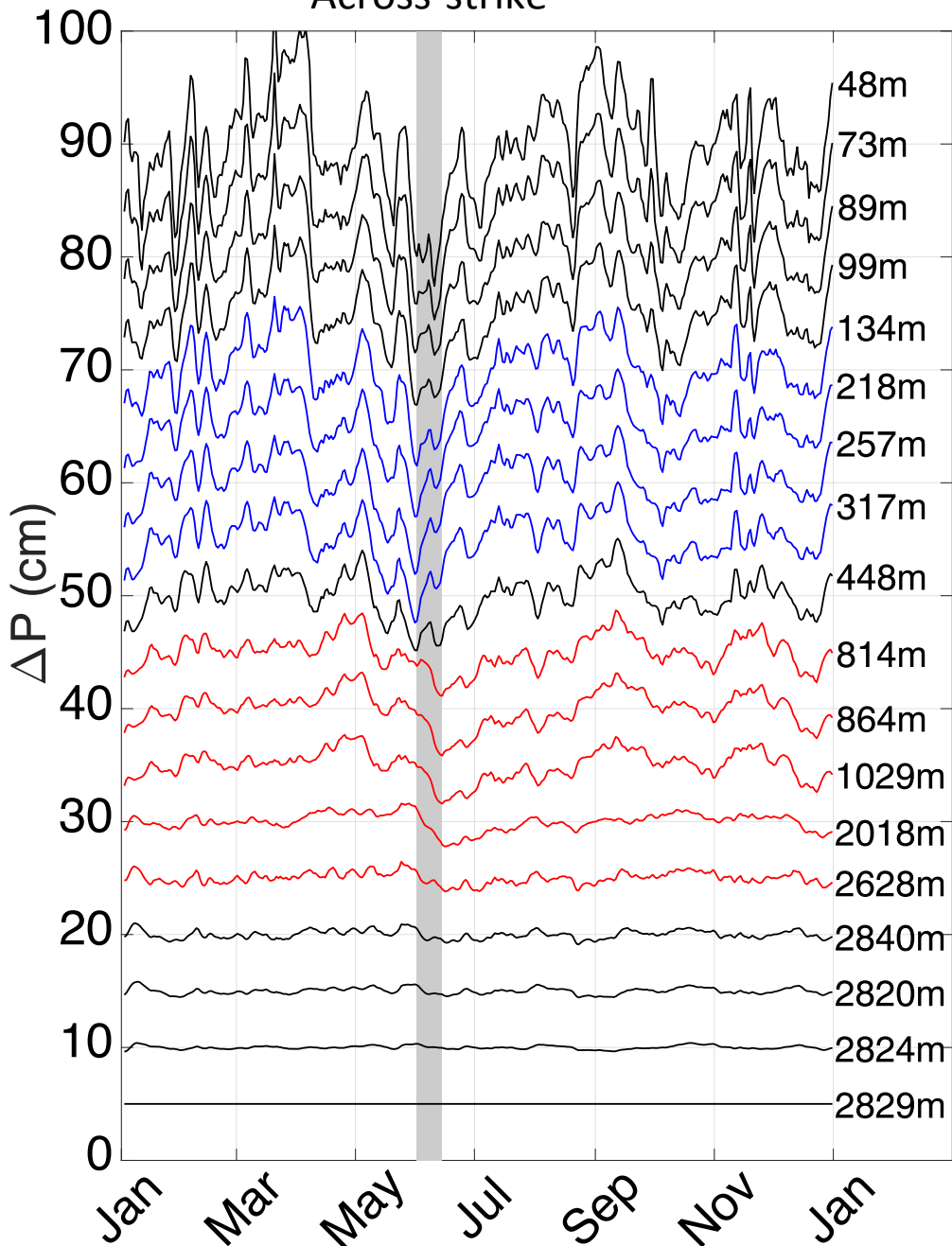
and predicted deformation early over 14 days

Choose reference station at end of each line for differencing

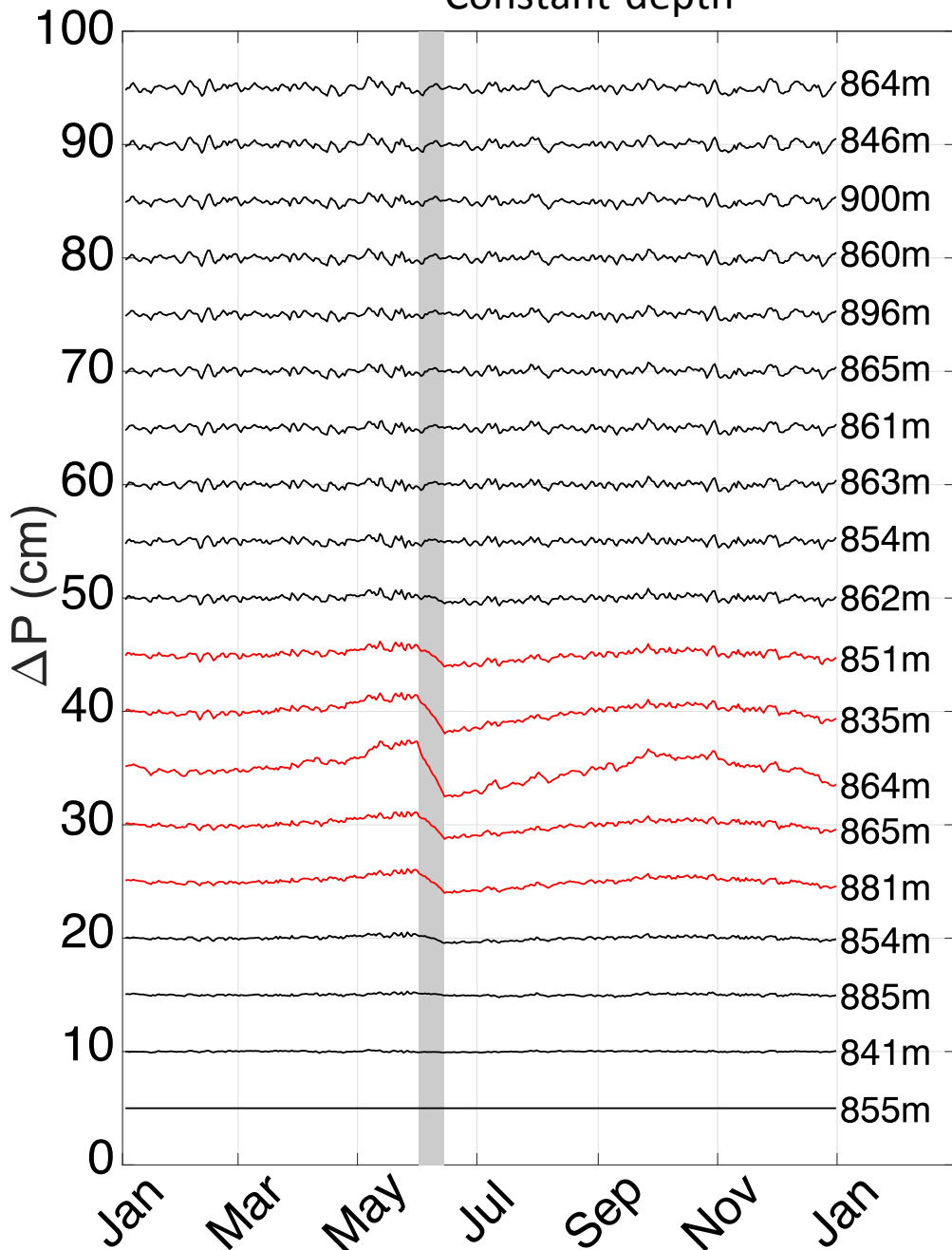
$M_w$  6.3,  $\Delta\sigma = 0.06$  MPa



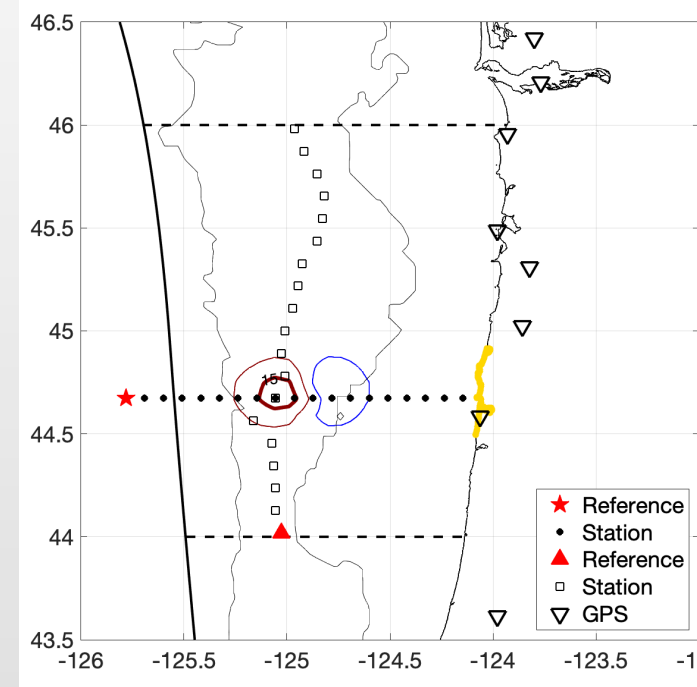
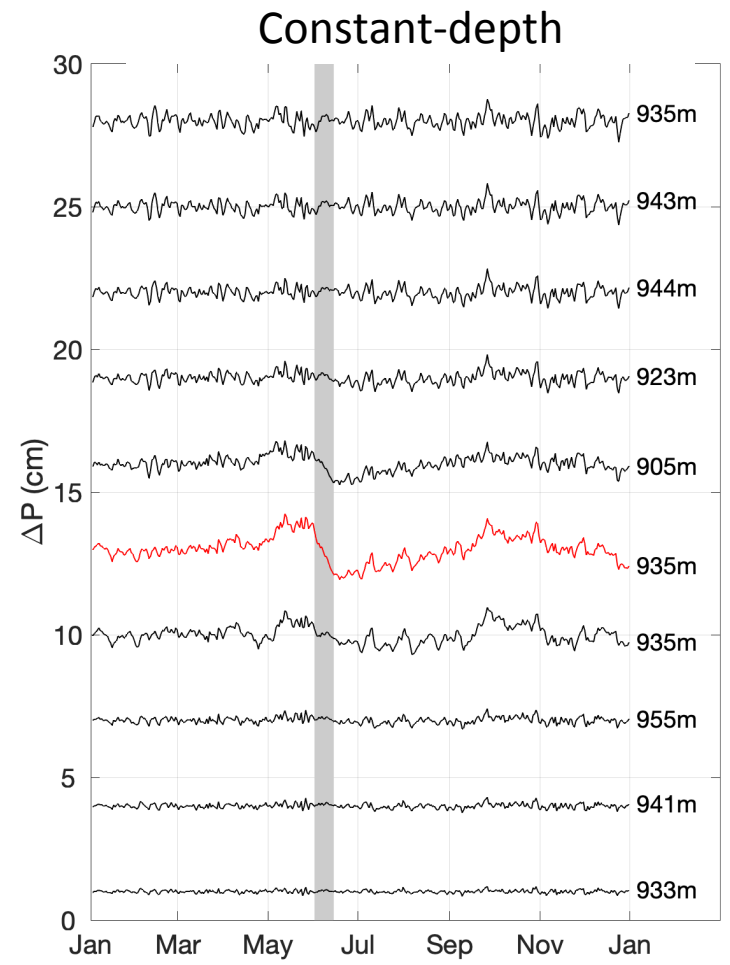
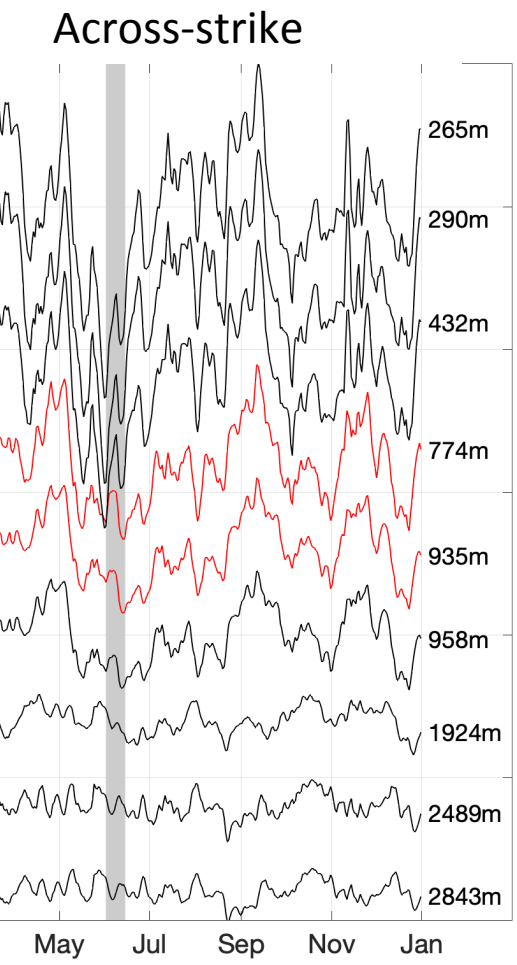
Across-strike



Constant-depth



# Low magnitude model, $M_w 5.7$



Peak uplift: +22 mm  
Peak subsidence: -14 mm  
Min recurrence: 4 y

# Realized network for E detection

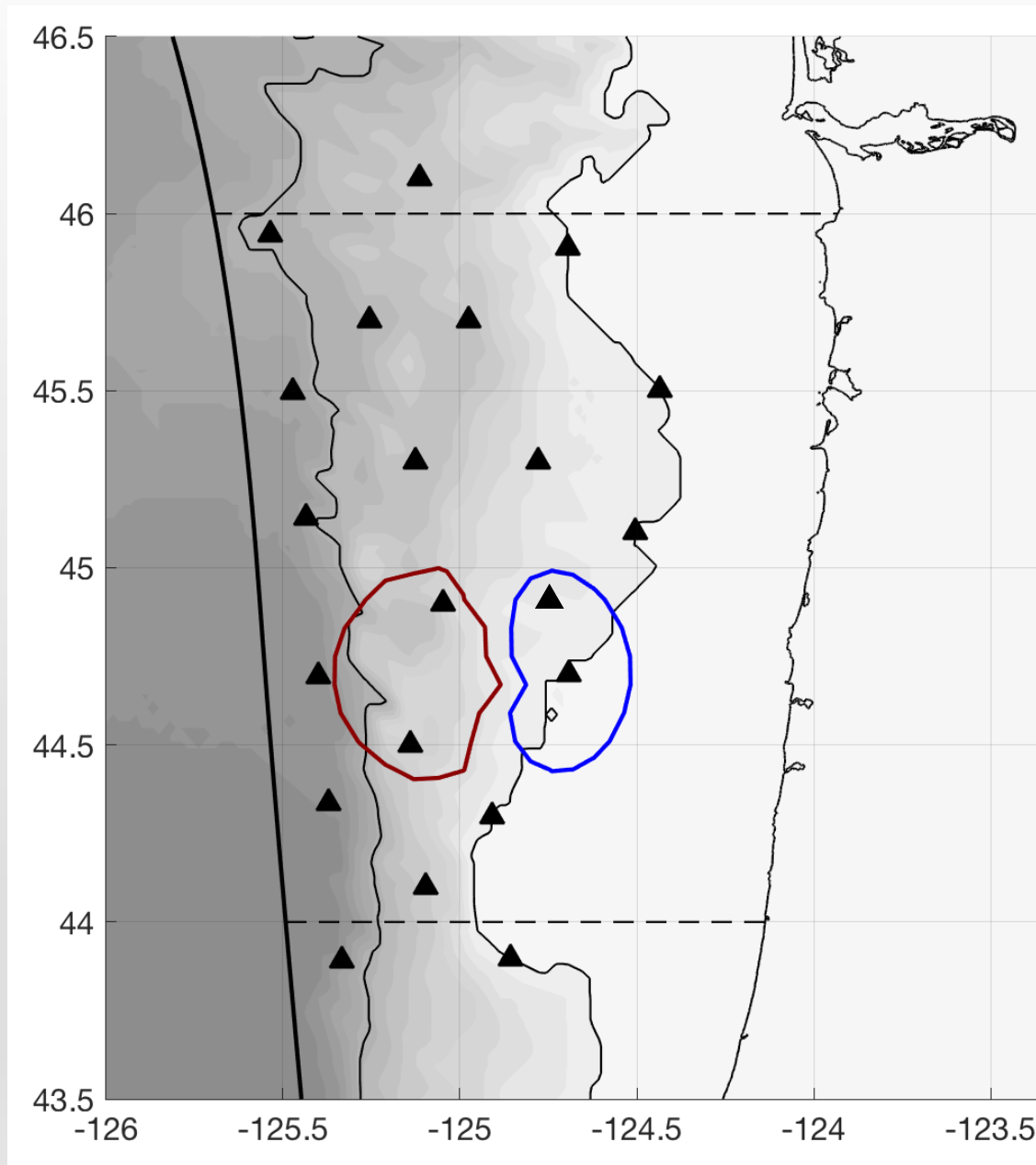
Instruments, grouped along  
baths

km N-S spacing

aimed at detecting a  $M_w$  6.3 with  
moderate  $\Delta\sigma$ , or larger event

decadal-scale observation

decreasing detection threshold to  
cm greatly increases area of  
formation



# Realized network for E detection

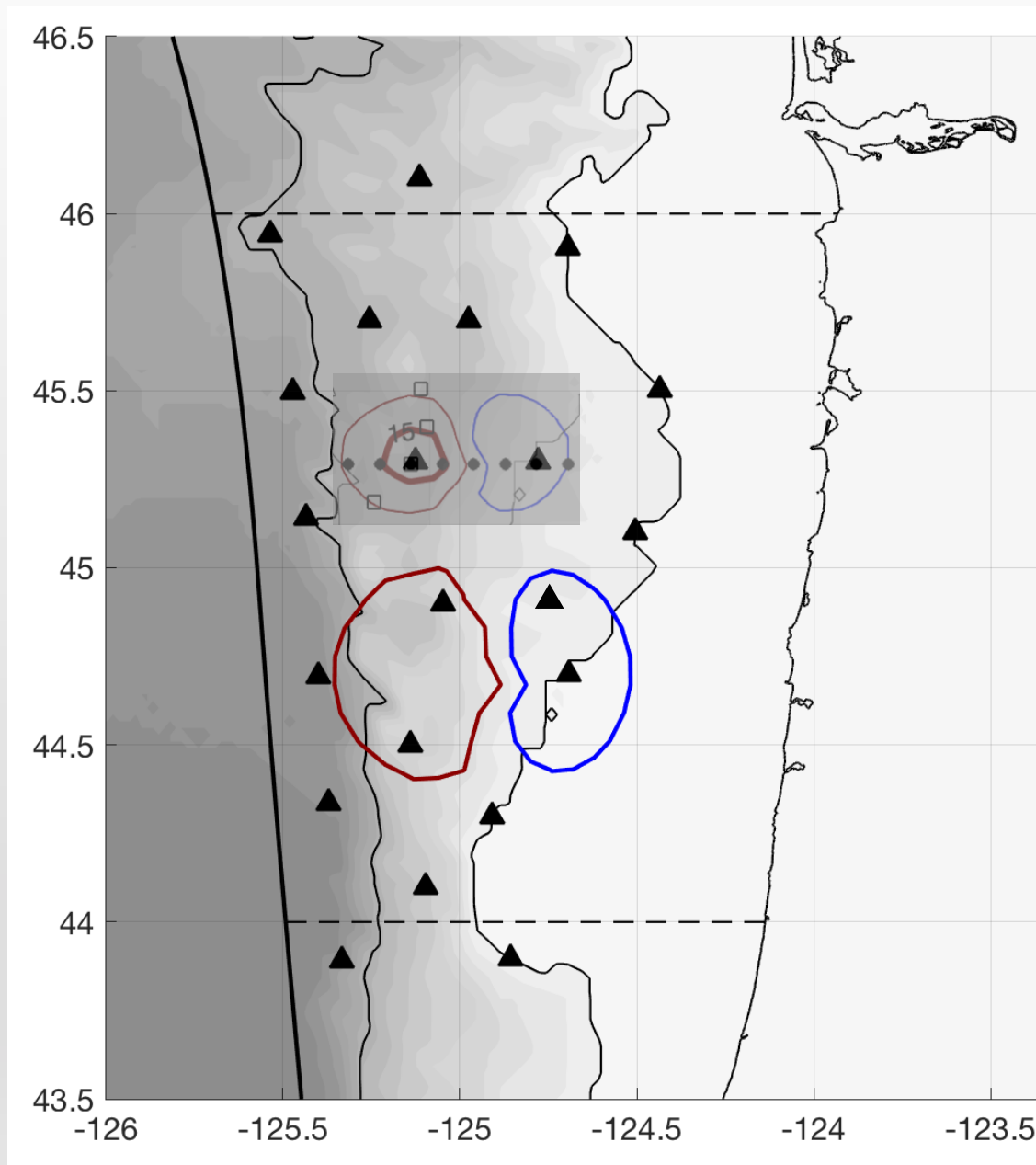
Instruments, grouped along  
baths

km N-S spacing

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moderate  $\Delta\sigma$ , or larger event

decadal-scale observation

decreasing detection threshold to  
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formation



# Outline

What can we learn from seafloor geodesy?

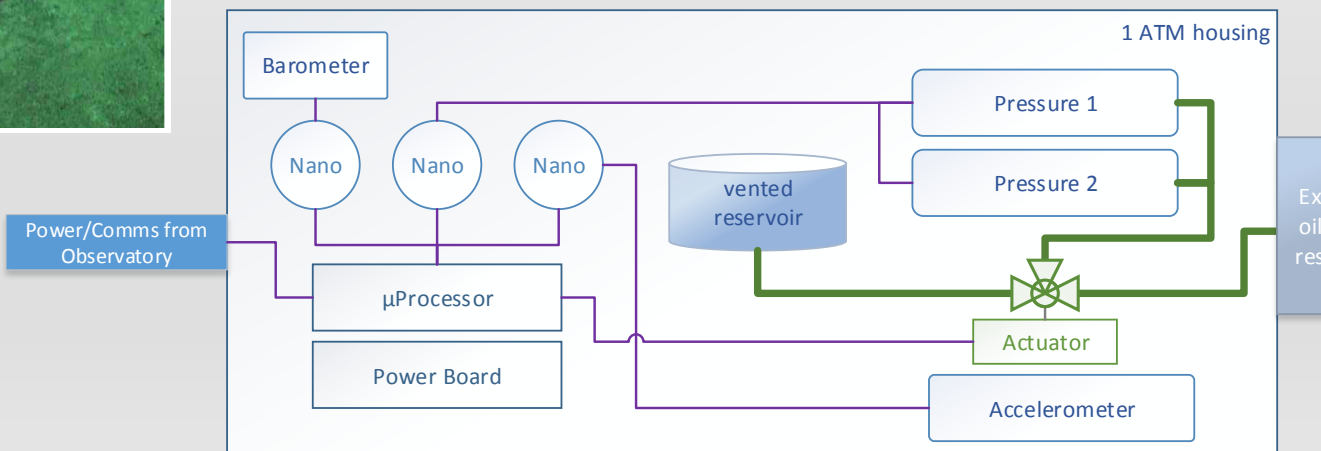
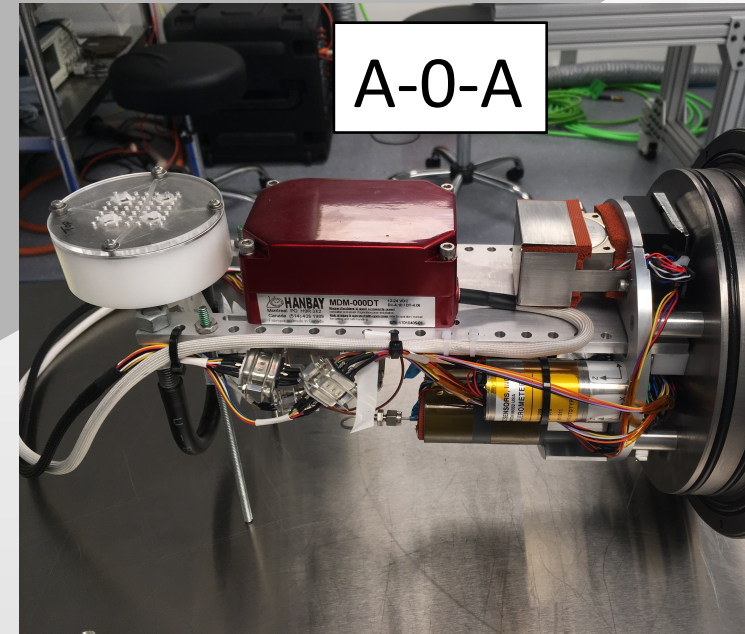
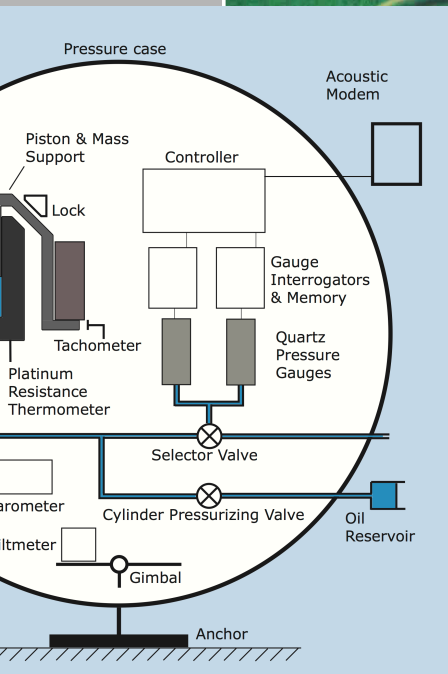
Seafloor pressure geodesy in Cascadia

Involving methods for highly accurate pressure measurements

Other geodetic tools/measurements in the ocean

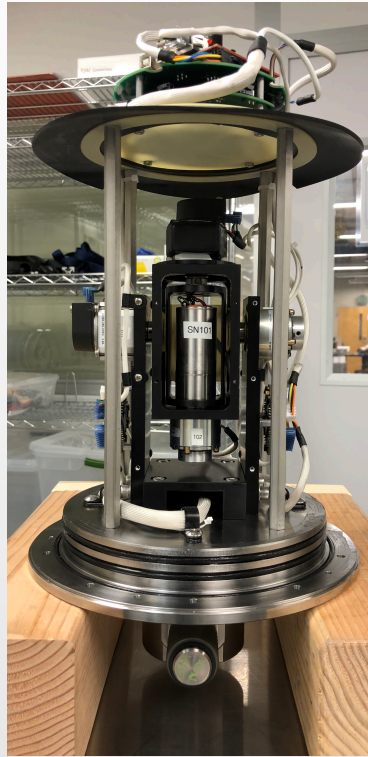
# Instrumental drift correction in seafloor pressure measurements

## Calibrating Pressure Recorder (SCPA)



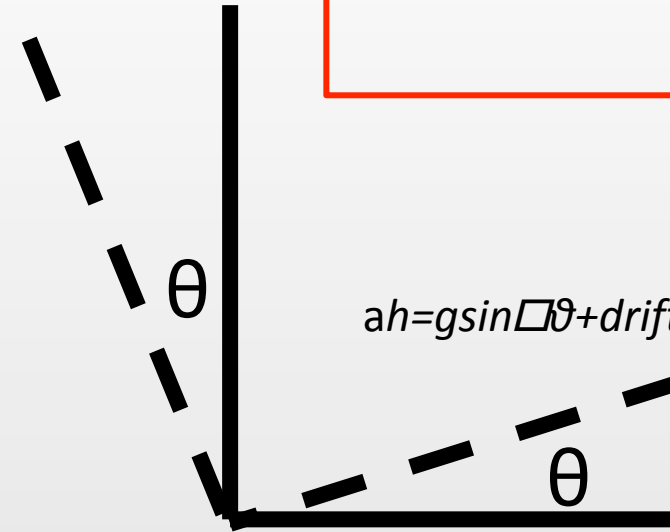
# Self-Calibrating Tilt Accelerometer

Three component accelerometer  
 Horizontal channels measure tilt as  
 vertical channel measures  
 acceleration against combined g vector



$$av = g \cos \theta$$

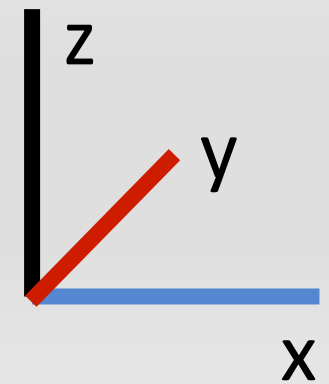
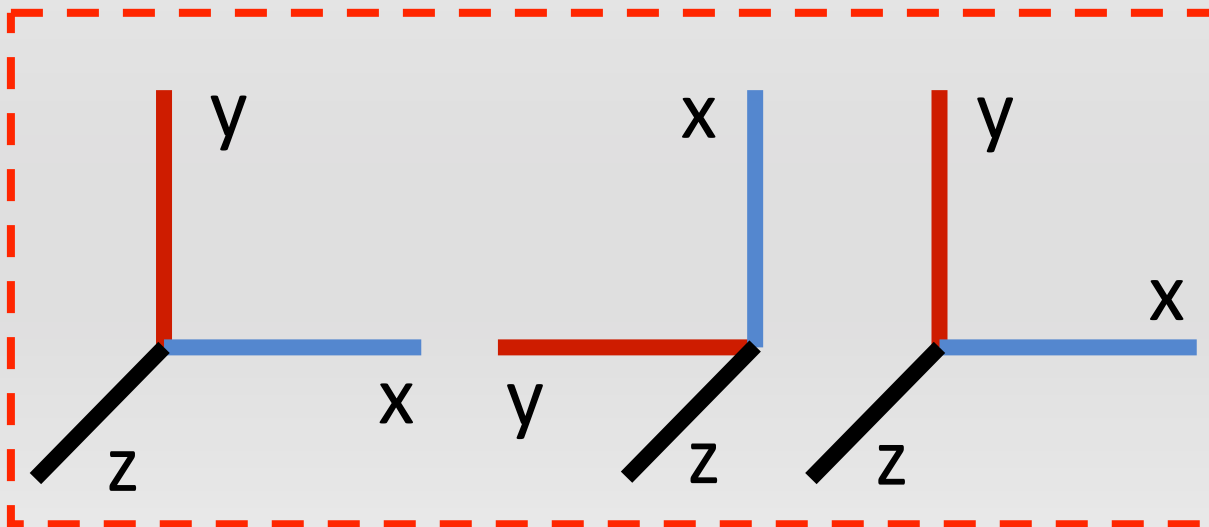
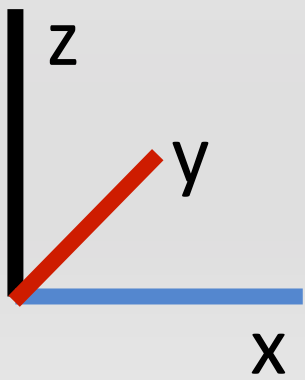
$$\sin \theta = ah - drift$$



Measure

Calibrate

Measure





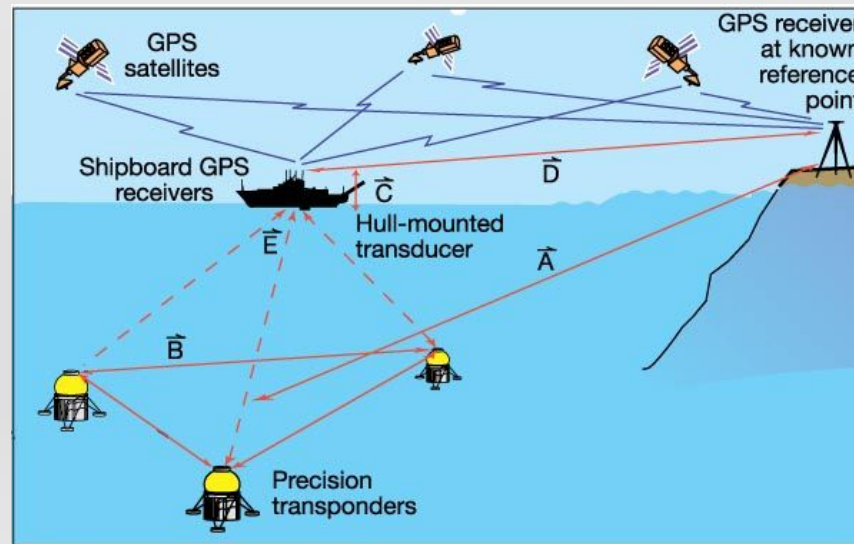
# S-A for seafloor horizontal displacement

seafloor transponders

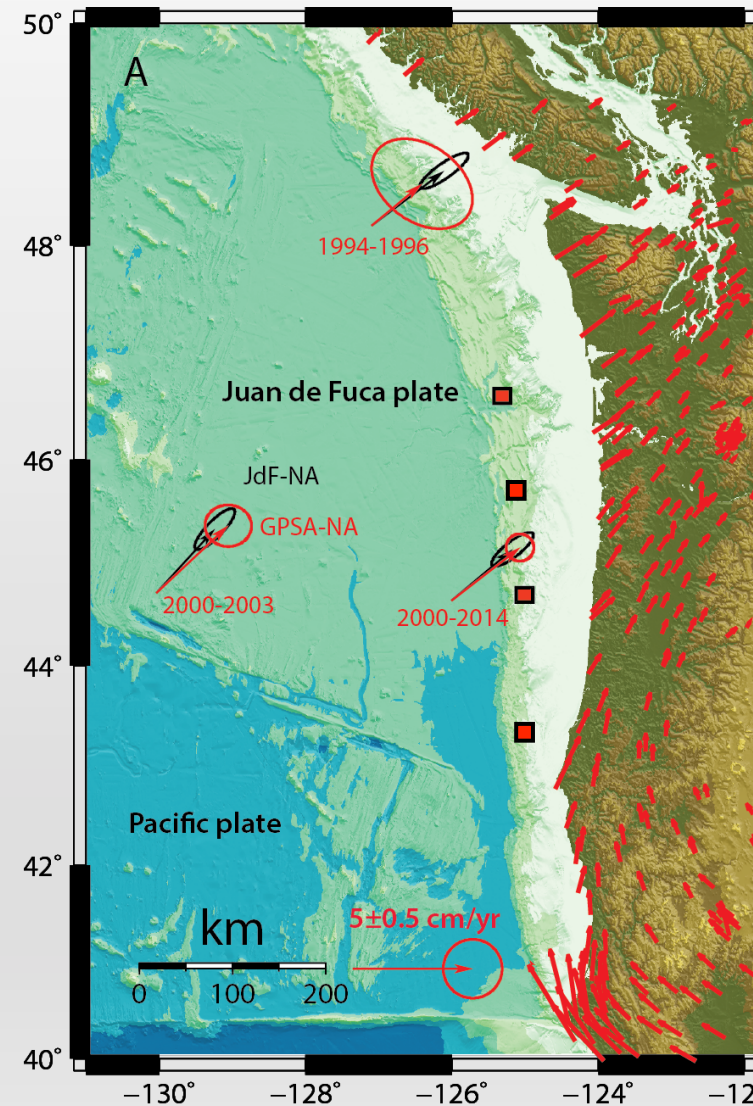
ship or glider to take campaign style

measurements

high precision



Gagnone et al., 2005



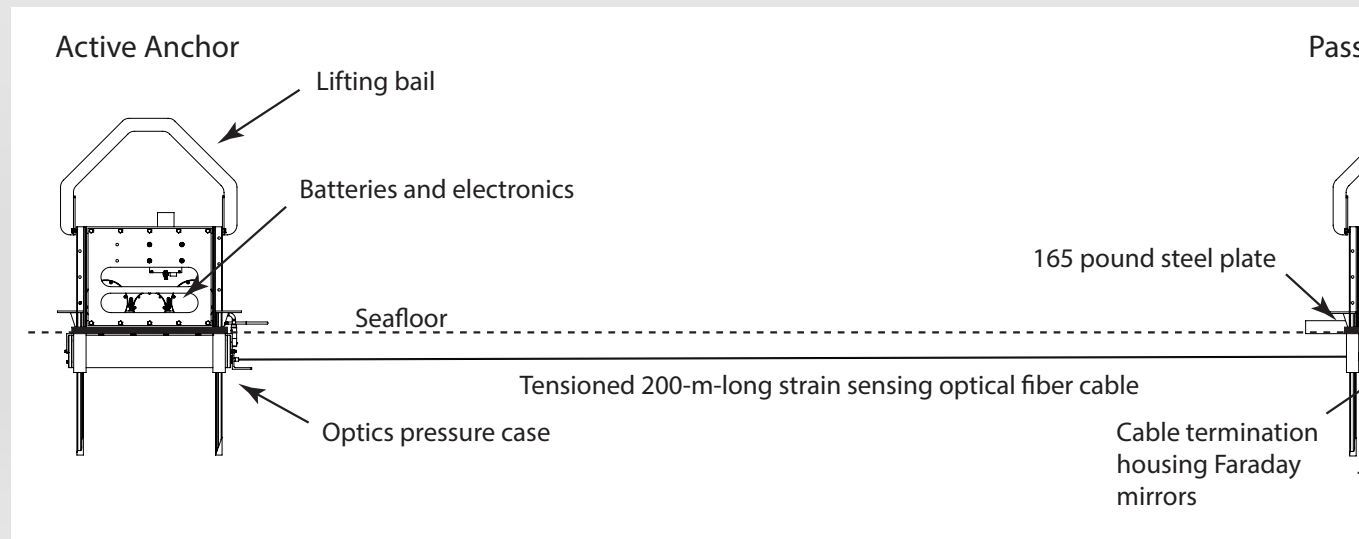
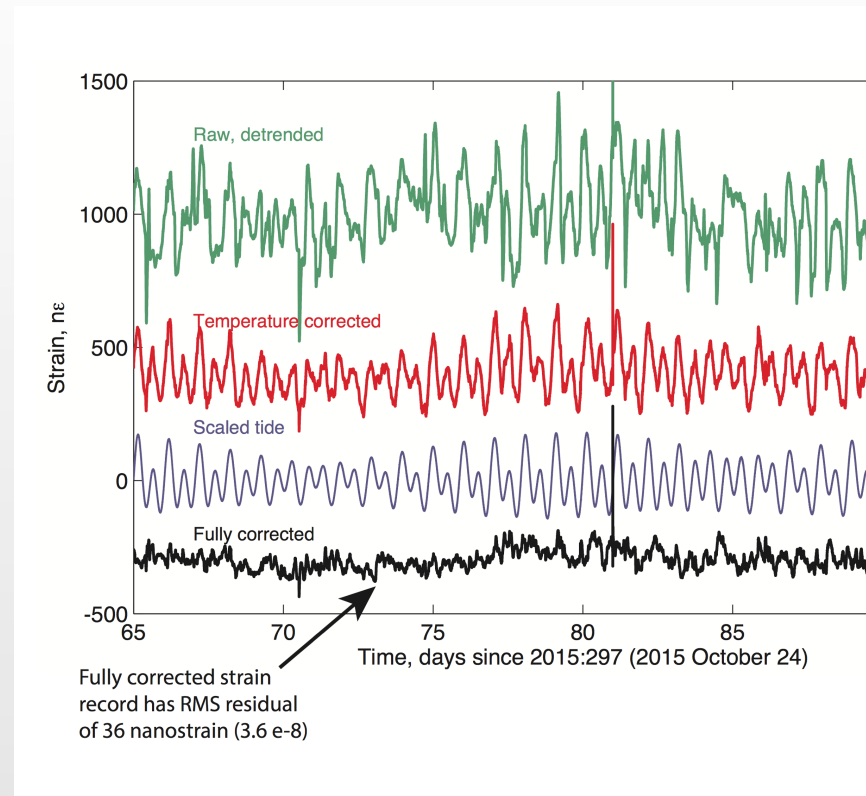
David Schmidt and Dave C

# Optical fiber strainmeters

Interferometry to precisely measure length

Period-dependent sensitivity

Accuracy of 10s of microstrain or better

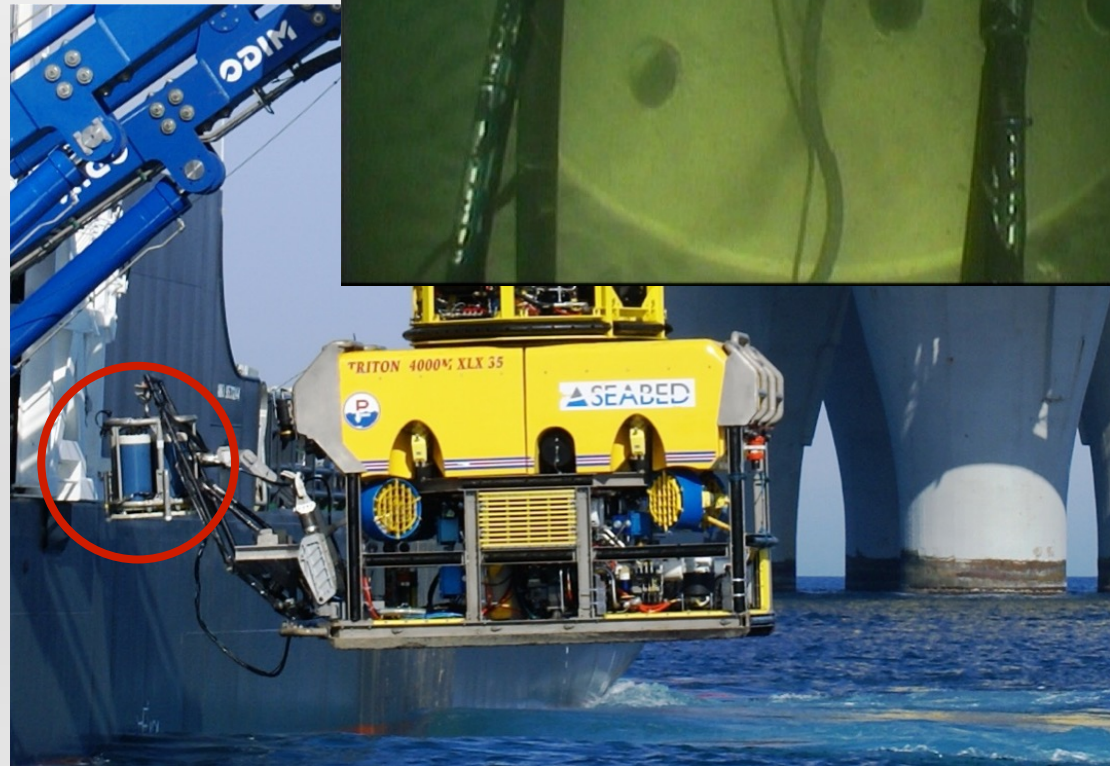


# Seafloor gravimetry

Campaign/Benchmark style  
measurements

0.01 mGal precision

Monitor reservoir changes,  
map intrusive layers, etc.

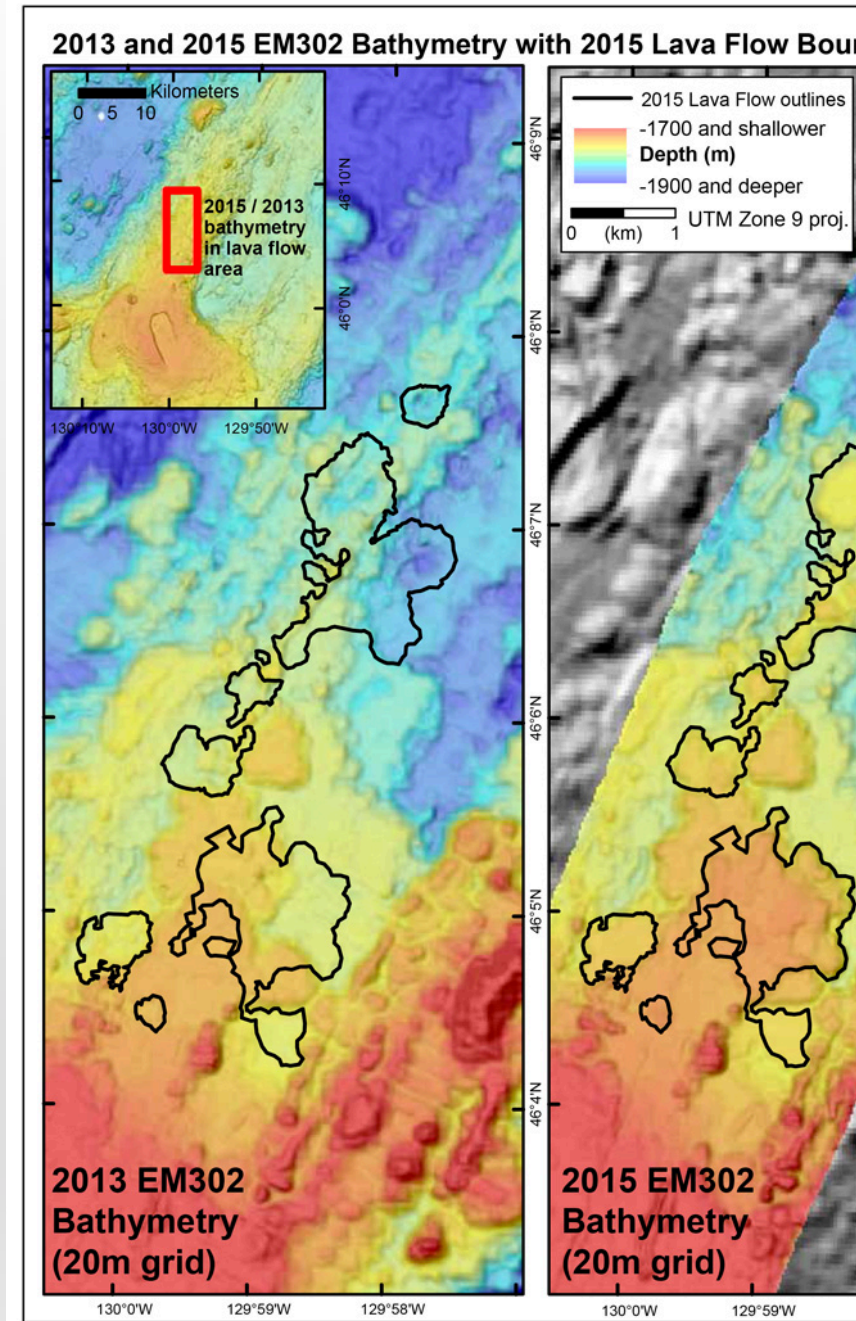


# Differential Bathymetry

side scan sonar, multibeam,  
etc.

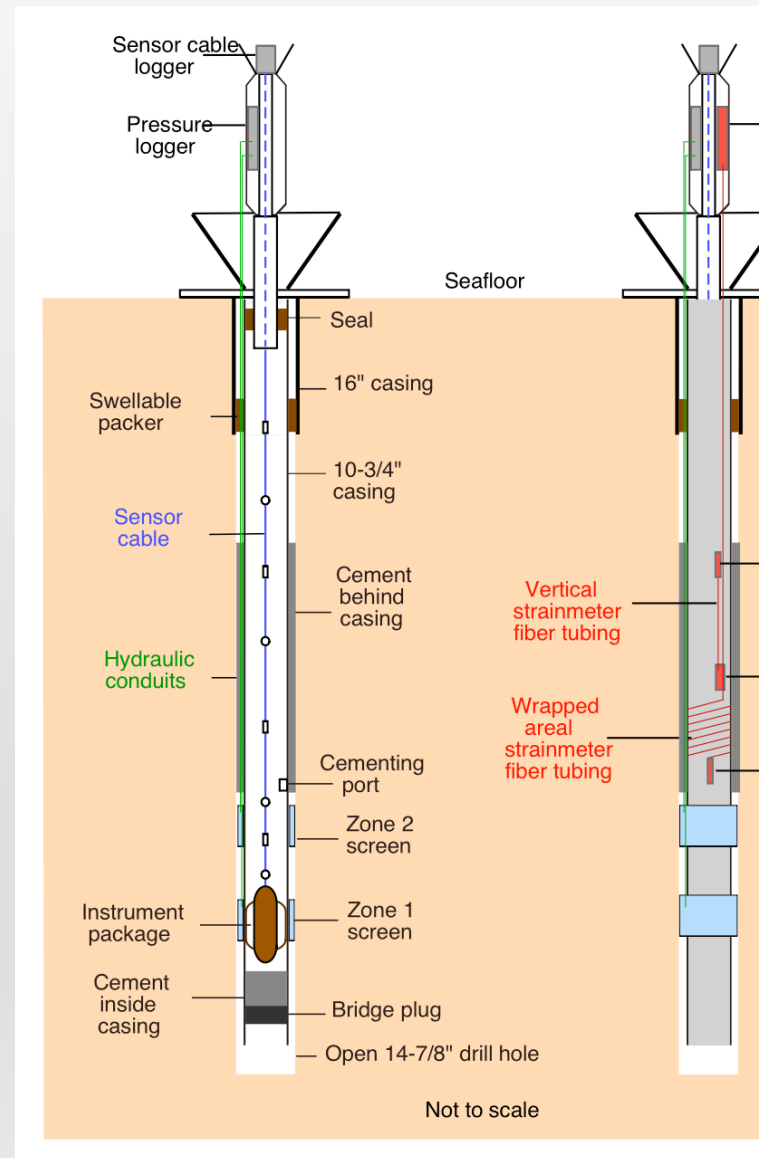
repeat surveys

variable resolution, depending  
on technique



# Corehole Observatories, CORKS

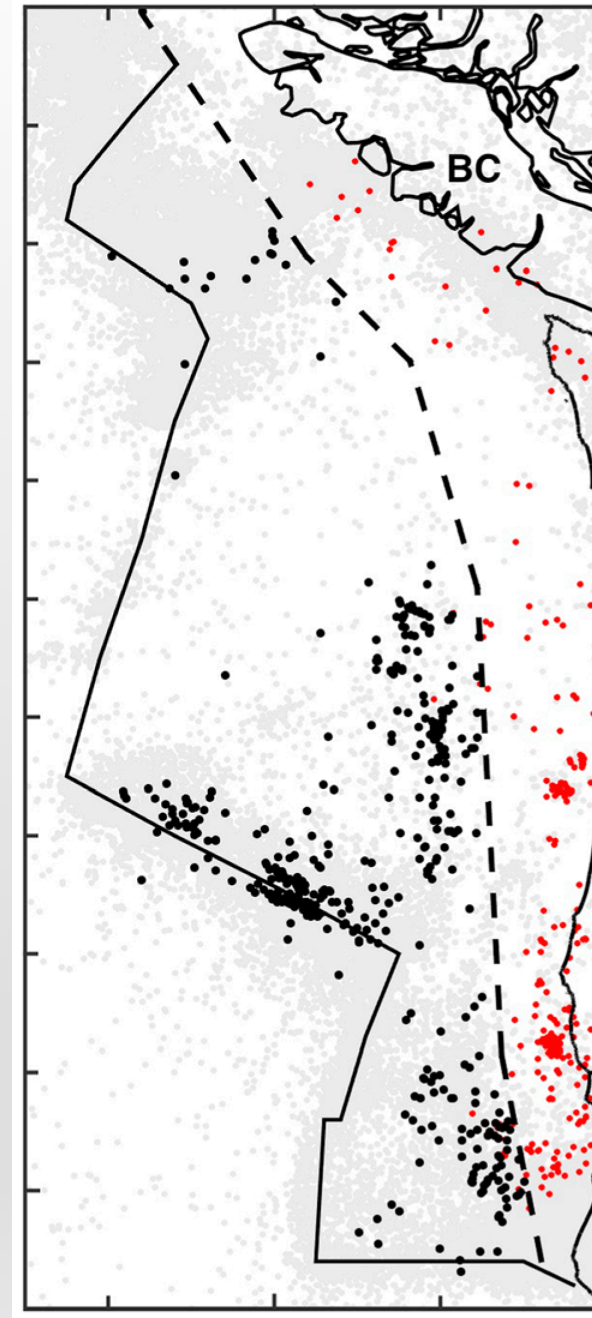
Seismic and geodetic  
instrument packages  
Formation pressure  
fluid sampling



Thank you!

# Seafloor pressure geodesy Cascadia

Unusually low seismicity near the  
megathrust  
Large distance from shoreline to trench



# Motivating Questions

Can oceanographic signals be effectively removed from seafloor pressure data?

Over what scales are oceanographic signals comparable within a sensor network?

Can oceanographic circulation models be used to remove/understand these signals?



# Motivating Questions

Can oceanographic signals be effectively removed from seafloor pressure data?

Explore spatial scale of oceanographic comparability between pressure sensors

Use oceanographic circulation models to understand these signals

What is the detectability of shallow slow slip earthquakes using seafloor pressure?

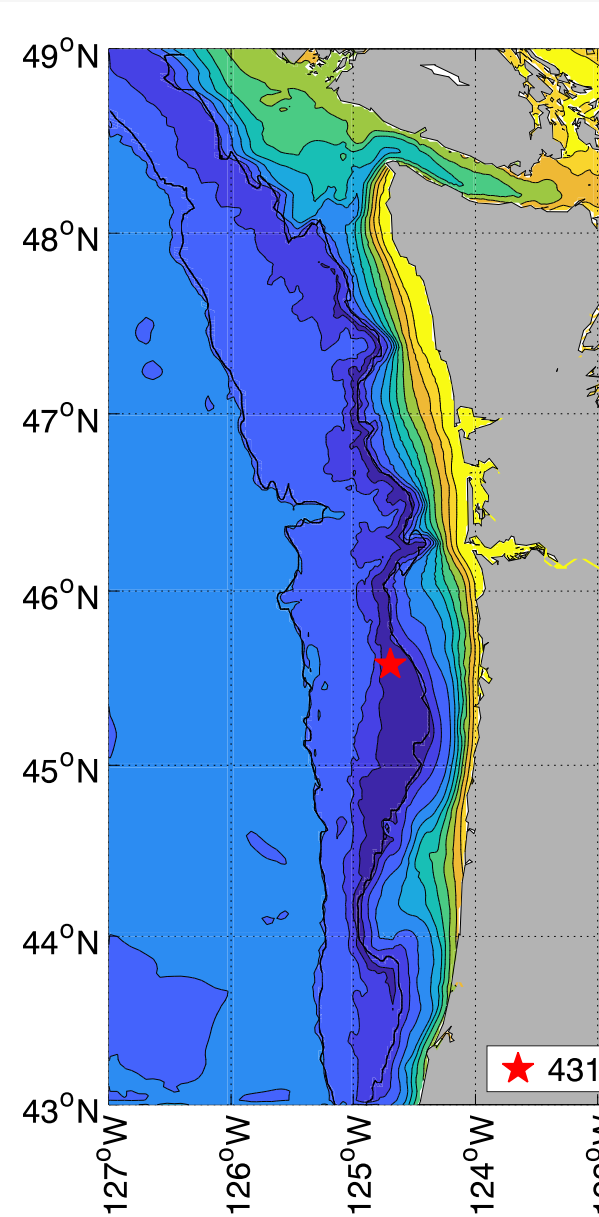
Model expected amplitudes and dimensions of deformation

Present optimal geometry for the detection of SSEs

# Models suggest regional continuity

Oceanographic models in agreement with patterns identified in APG differences

Suggest larger separation, lower RMS may be possible from precisely matched depths



# Models suggest regional continuity

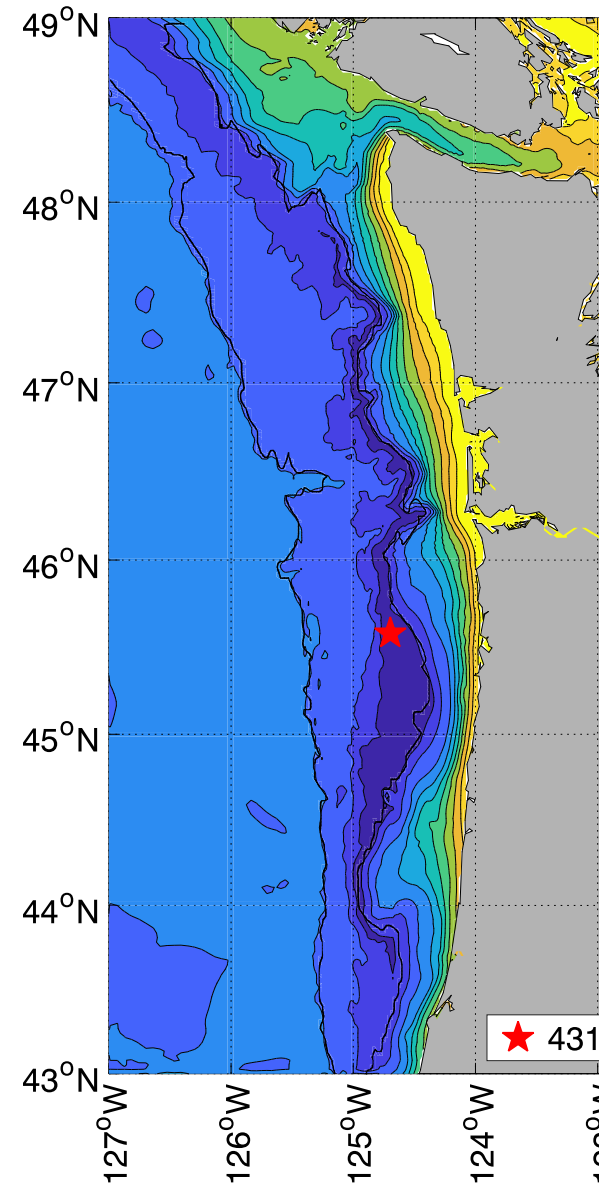
Oceanographic models in agreement with patterns identified in APG differences

Suggest larger separation, lower RMS may be possible from precisely matched depths

In residual noise:

**1.5 cm threshold** for unambiguous detection of SSE signal

( $2\sigma$  offset)



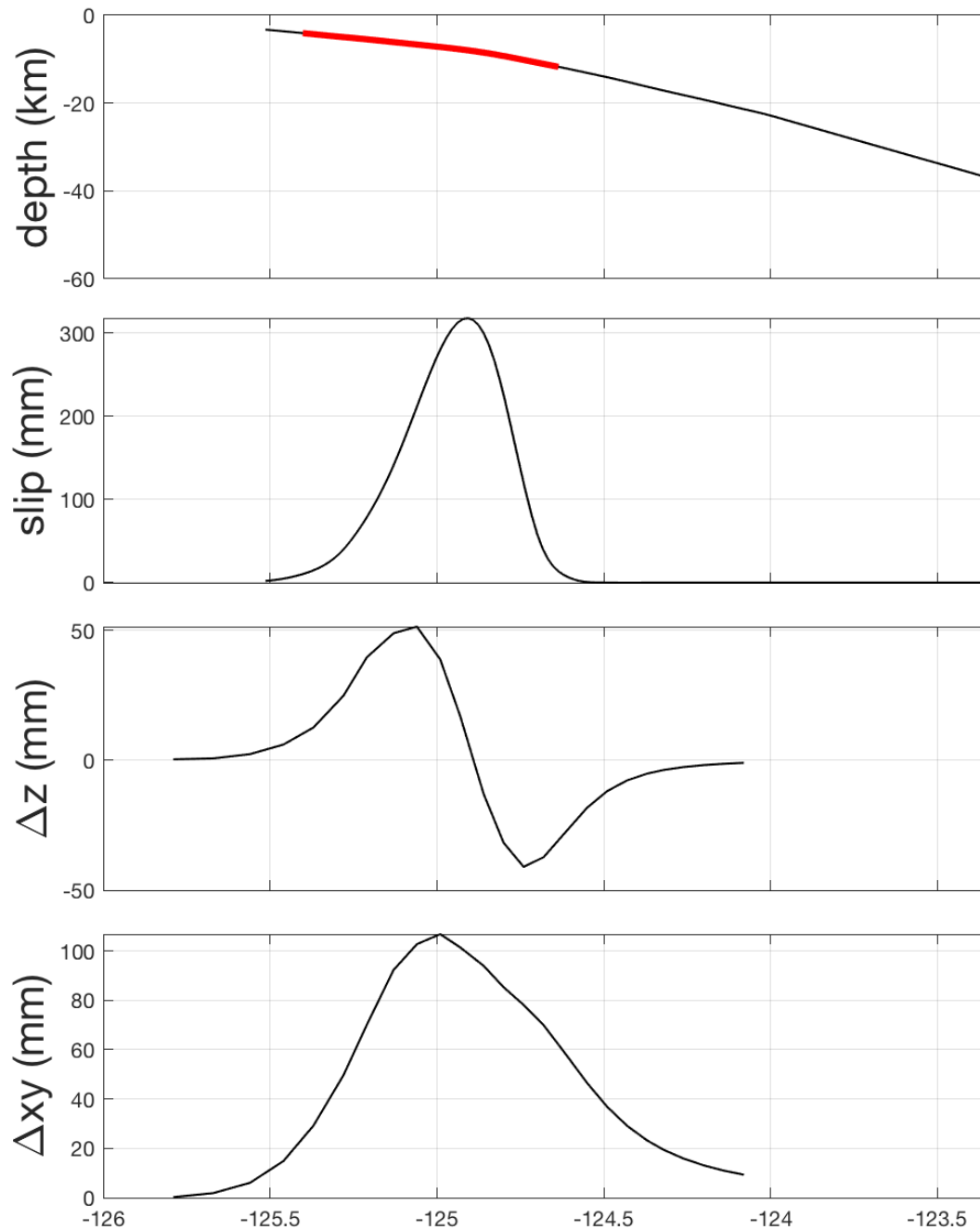
# elastic half space model

o centered beneath  
continental slope offshore  
region

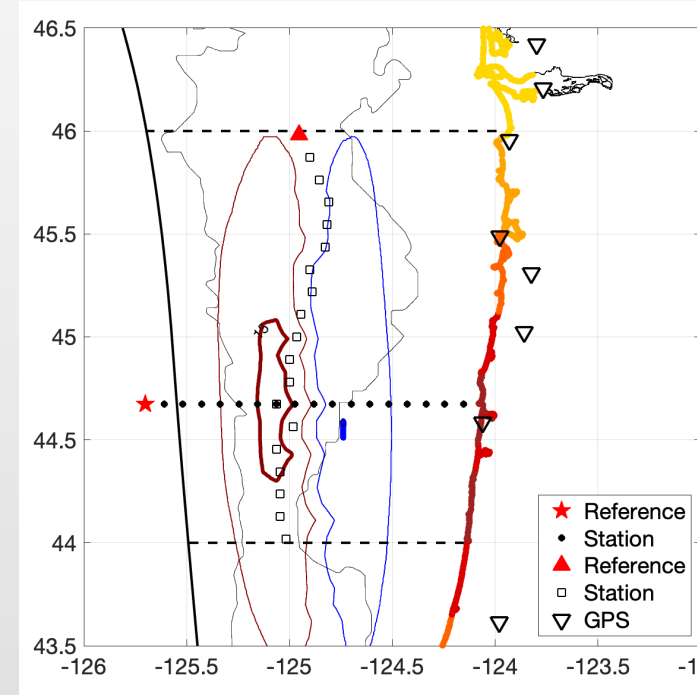
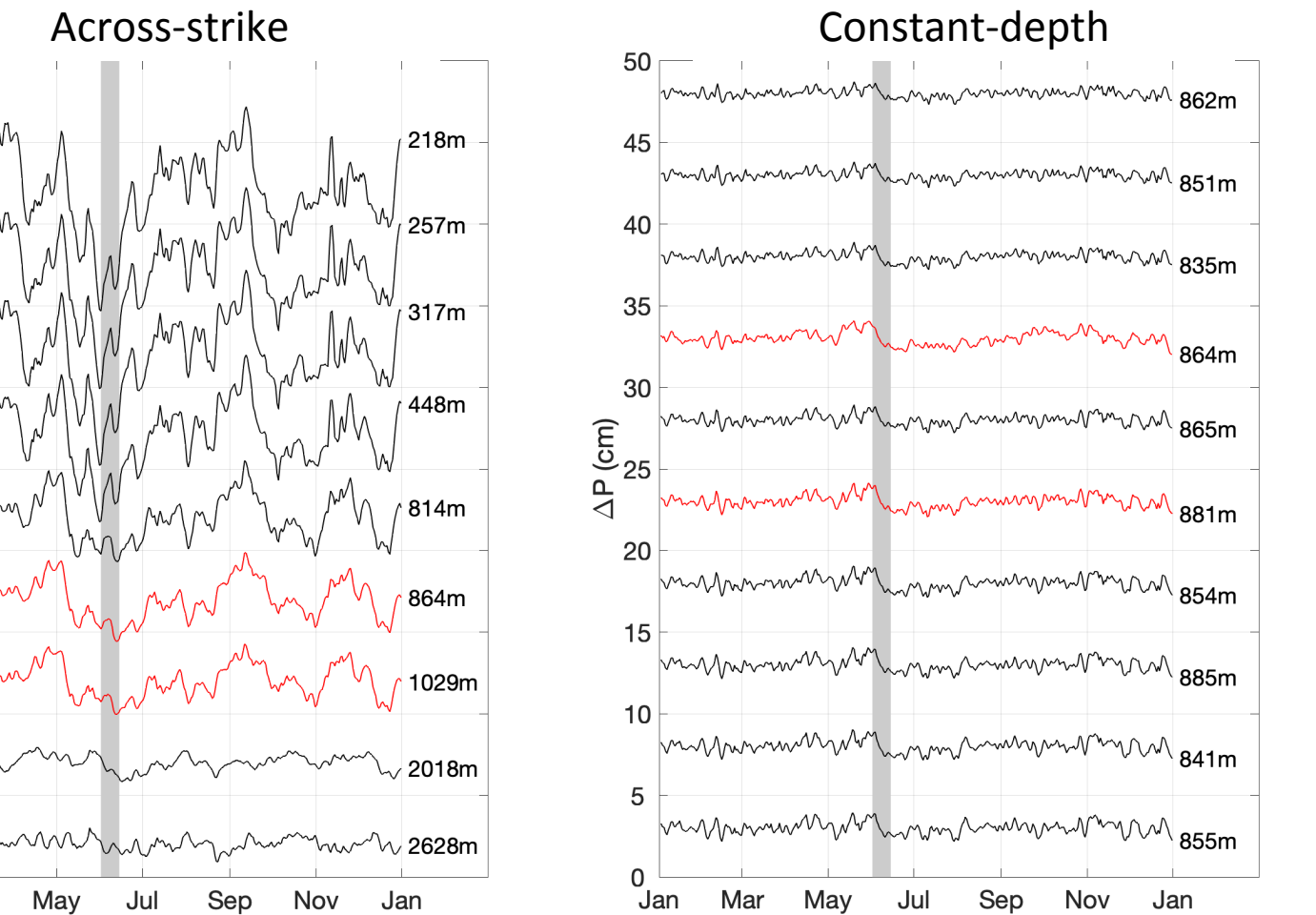
$\mu = 10 \text{ GPa}$ ,  $\sigma = 0.38$

Gaussian slip distribution in  $y$  and  
directions

$\nu = 0.25$ ,  $\Delta\sigma = 0.06 \text{ MPa}$



# Low stress drop model $\Delta\sigma = 0.01$ MPa



Peak uplift: +18 mm  
Peak subsidence: -15 mm  
Min recurrence: 2.5 y

# Evaluating Cascadia APG dataset

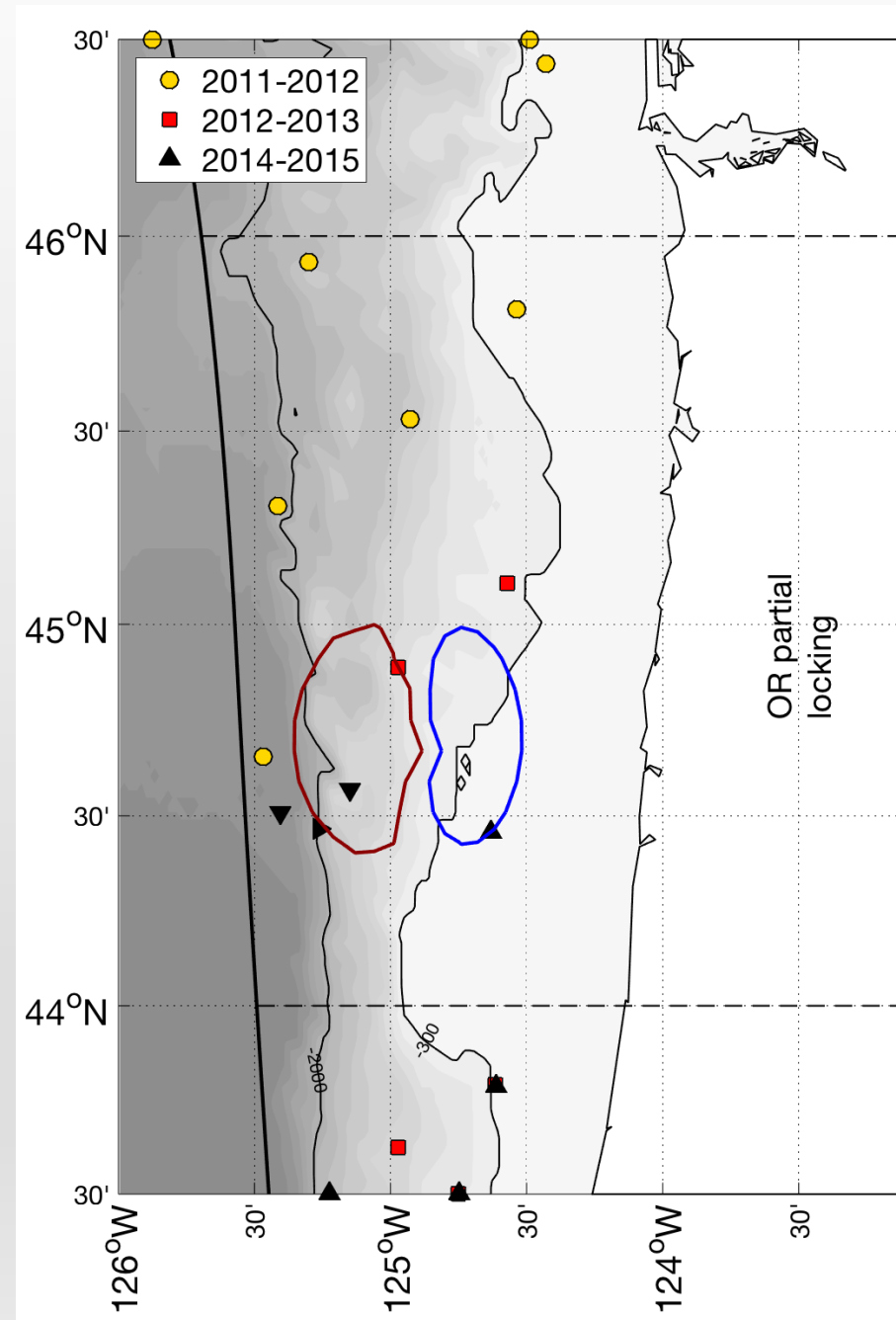
insufficient instrumentation to reliably detect SSE

Instrument migration between years

limited depth-matching

experiment duration too short

<1 year at given location



# Realized network for E detection

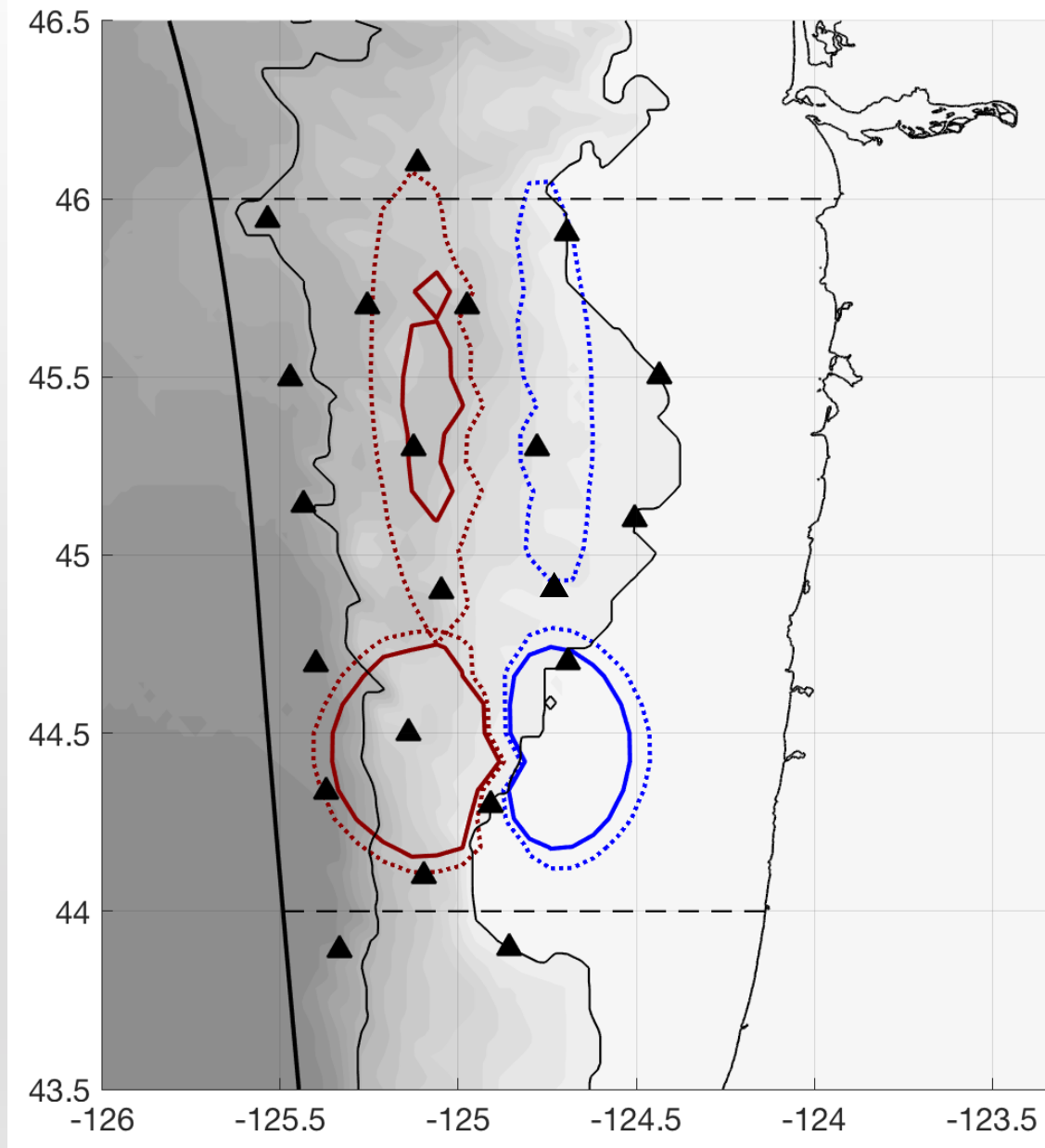
Instruments, grouped along  
baths

km N-S spacing

aimed at detecting a  $M_w$  6.3 with  
moderate  $\Delta\sigma$ , or larger event

decadal-scale observation

decreasing detection threshold to  
cm greatly increases area of  
formation



# Conclusions

Oceanographic signals can be effectively removed with  
depth-matched differencing

<1 cm RMS over ~100 km separation

Detection threshold of 1.5 cm

Oceanographic models suggest further reduction possible

$M_w$  6.3 SSEs detectable with a modest network

Cascadia APG data insufficient for SSE detection

A decadal experiment off central Oregon utilizing depth matched  
geometry may be required

Threshold reduction to 1 cm improves ability to detect smaller SSEs