

Subsurface Float DAC Functions and Operations

Overview

The purpose of the float DAC is to create a consolidated float data set usable by scientists for statistical studies and incorporation into ocean models. The intent is that the collected data be the best and cleanest version available. To that end, the DAC carefully checks each data set. Data are transferred to WDC-A as well as being archived and made available by the DAC.

The Float DAC has received most major historical data sets, checked them and transferred them to WDC-A. The DAC plans to continue assembling historical data, at the same time WOCE data sets are coming in. When data is acquired by the DAC, an attempt is made to also acquire background information (data reports, e.g.) and a list of references.

Many WOCE subsurface floats have been launched, some are being tracked, and others have been submitted to the DAC with future release dates. All available WOCE float data is included on this CD-ROM.

WOCE non-acoustic Autonomous Lagrangian Circulation Explorer (ALACE) float data for the Pacific (thru December 1996) and for the Drake Passage are included on this CD-ROM. The DAC receives yearly updates of ALACE data, and releases them as permitted.

The DAC issues summary reports, tables, and figures, which describe the assembled float data at roughly yearly intervals. Some of these are available on the Worldwide Web at <http://wfdac.whoi.edu> or at OCEANIC (<http://www.cms.udel.edu>).

Data Processing

The Float DAC expects to receive "final archive versions" of data already quality-controlled and calibrated by each PI. Some checks will be made to see that the obtained data look reasonable. Extensive quality control checks will not be performed. PI's will be notified of any anomalous data and these will be flagged till corrected.

Data Availability

Float data will be treated like all other WOCE data (proprietary for two years, public thereafter) except that the two years starts when the floats have stopped working. The Float community has adopted a pragmatic approach of immediate release to those making sensible requests, with the publication rights remaining with the PI's during the proprietary period described above. The DAC is honoring the release dates requested by data contributors.

Access to Float Data

The released data files are available as compressed (zip) files in either NetCDF (WOCE) or an ASCII format (historic) from <http://wfdac.whoi.edu>.

Scientists who wish to obtain the newer float data to incorporate with their own data or models should contact the Principal Investigators (see Table of Data above or the inventory in the float section of the WOCE pages under Data Information Sources).

If you use data from this archive, please reference the Principal Investigators.