Extreme coastal events linked with climate variation

Understanding low salinity episodes in the Bay of Brest, north-eastern Atlantic

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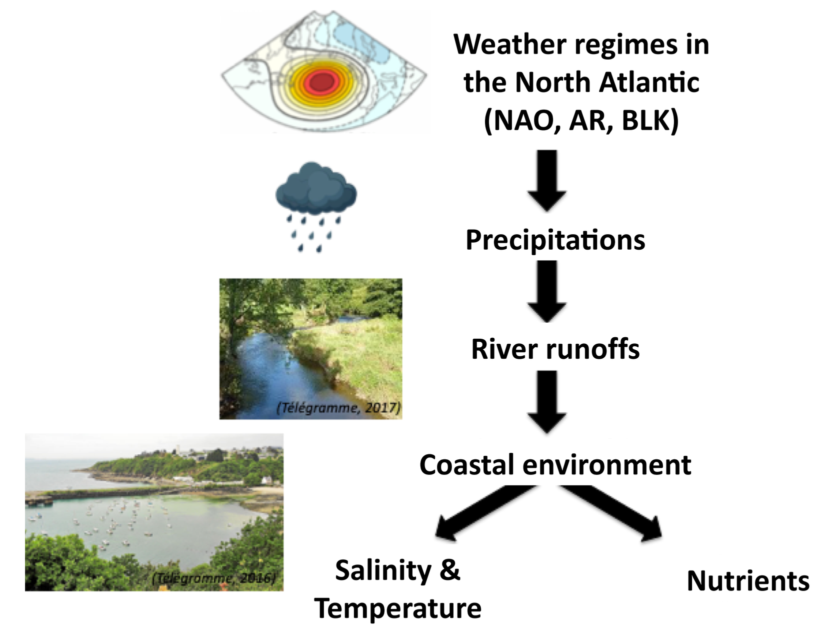
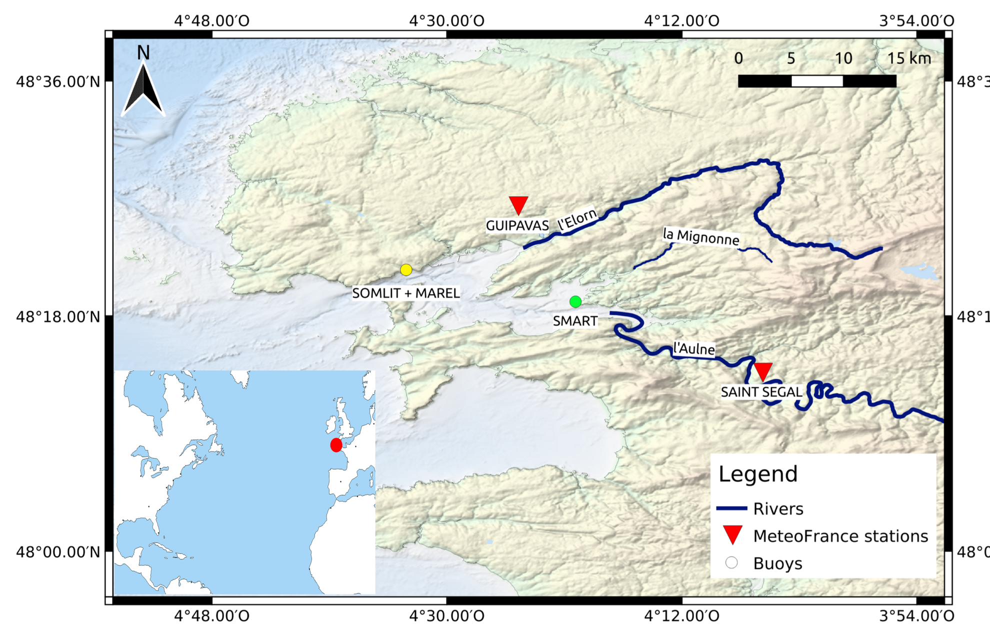
Aims

- ❑ To detect and characterise extreme events in a coastal ecosystem by combining ***in situ* high-frequency observations** and **high-resolution numerical simulations**
- ❑ To describe the **interannual variability** of extreme events in a **context of climate change**
- ❑ To quantify the links between extreme low salinity episodes and both large and local scale processes, using **weather regimes, precipitations and river runoffs as proxies of hydro-climate forcing**



1. Time series in the Bay of Brest

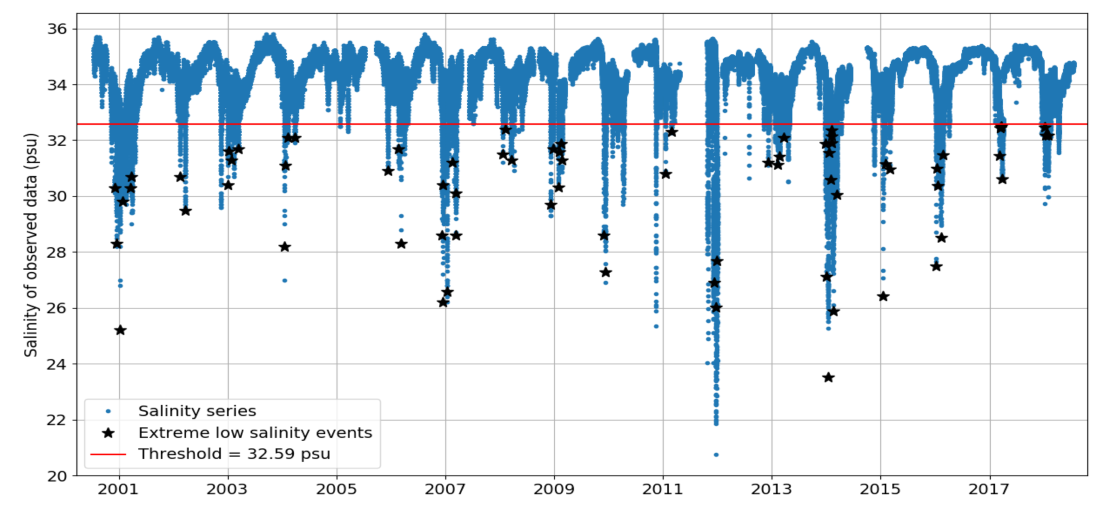


1.1. Locations of the sampling sites considered in our study

- **Ocean *in situ* observations**
  - ➢ **COAST-HF- Iroise and –Smart** : high-frequency measurements (20min sampling of physical and biogeochemical parameters) see http://www.coast-hf.fr
  - ➢ **SOMLIT-Brest** : low-frequency measurements (weekly sampling of physical, biogeochemical and biological parameters) see http://somlit.epoc.u-bordeaux1.fr/fr/
- **Rivers *in situ* observations**
  - ➢ **Average discharge of the Aulne, Elorn and Mignonne rivers**
- **Meteorological *in situ* observations**
  - ➢ **Mean daily precipitation: Guipavas - Météo-France**
- **3D Numerical model simulations (MARS3D)**
  - ➢ **BACH configuration** – 1km-resolution (Charria et al.,2017)
  - ➢ **MARC configuration** – 50m-resolution (Petton et al., 2020)
- **Weather regimes**
  - ➢Positive and negative phases of the North Atlantic Oscillation (**NAOp**, **NAOn**), the Atlantic Ridge (**AR**) and the Scandinavian Blocking Regime (**BLK**), (Tréguer et al., 2014 and Cassou et al., 2011)

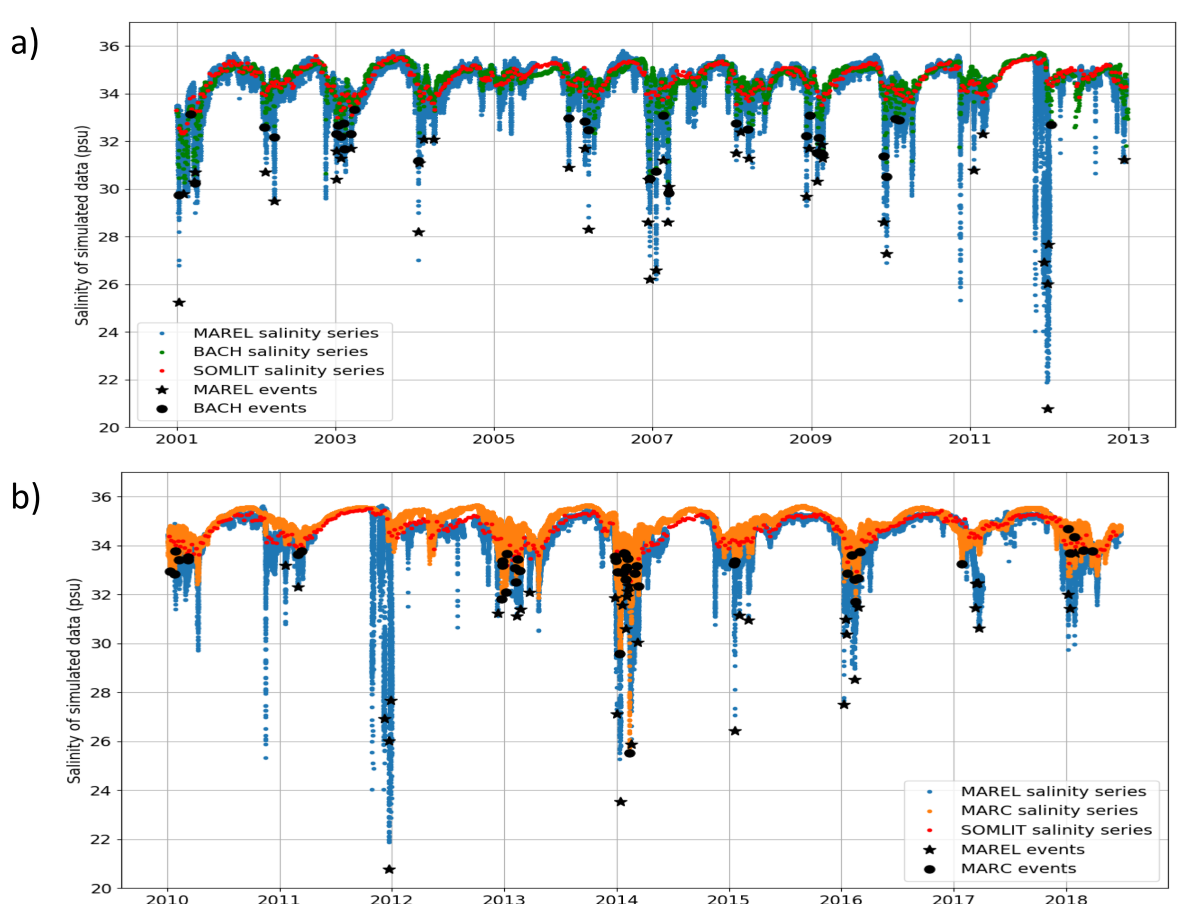
2. Methodology

- A seasonal focus: **winter (DJFM)**
- Tides filtering and identification: **low tides**
- Definition of an extreme low salinity event: **threshold = q85**
- Impact of precipitations and river runoffs: **14 days considered before event (related with water age)**



2.1. Detection of extreme low salinity events on *in situ* data under the threshold of 23,59 psu

3. Identification and characterization of extreme low salinity events



3.1 Detection of low salinity extreme event of the observed and simulated salinity data divided in two time periods corresponding to numerical simulations: (a) BACH simulation and (b) MARC simulation

The detection and characterization of the low salinity events for observed and simulated data present similar results in terms of occurrence, duration and intensity.

	Time series data		
	Observed data COAST-HF	Simulated data MARS3D	
	Iroise	BACH	MARC
Studied period	2000-2018	2000-2012	2010-2018
Mean duration (days)	3	5	2,6
Minimum salinity intensity (psu)	23,5	29,7	25,5
Number of events	72	32	46
% of observed events in simulations	X	78%	100%

3.2 Global characteristics of detected observed and simulated data

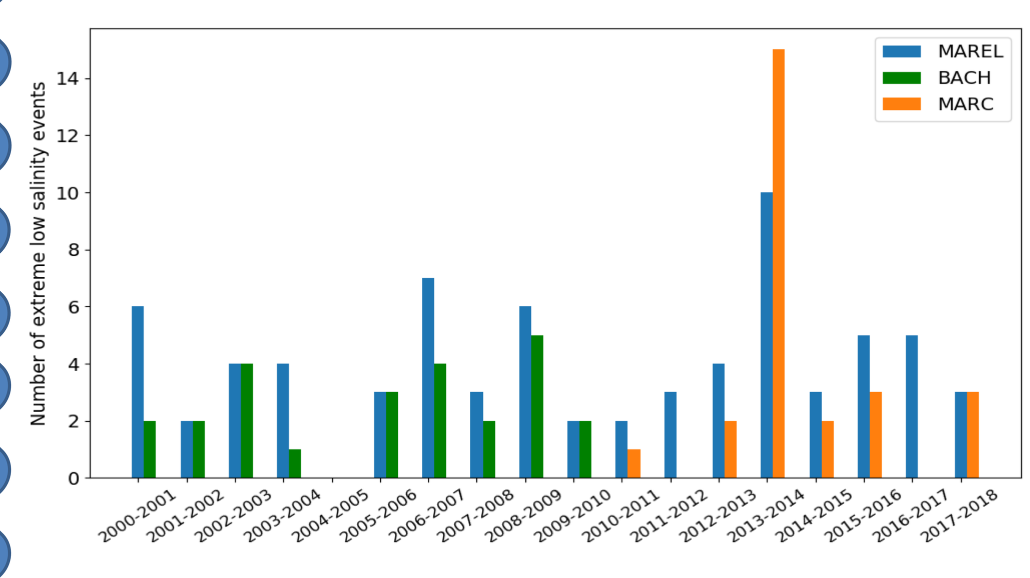
Extreme - observed and modeled - events show a strong interannual variability

No event was detected during winter 2004-2005 but a large number of events was identified during winter 2013-2014

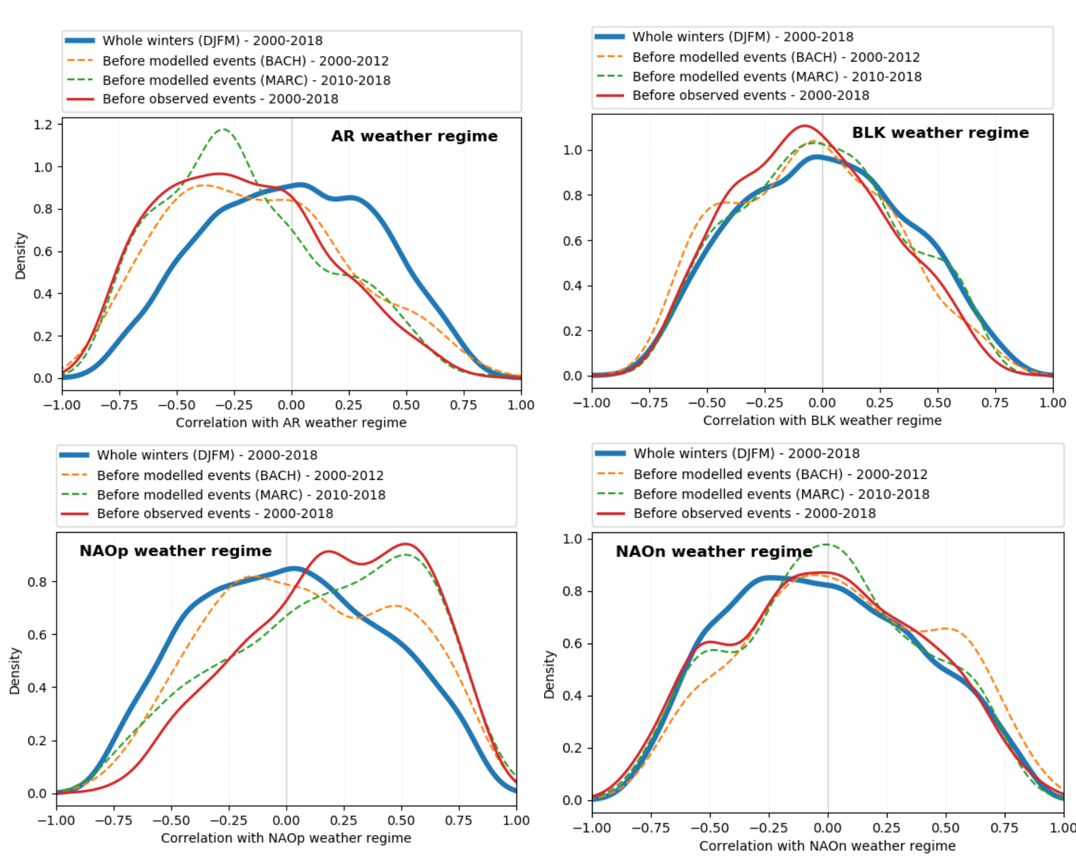
Interannual variability can be explained by extreme weather conditions

Winter 2004-2005 was characterised as an exceptional cold and dry winter (Somavilla et al., 2016)

Winter 2013-2014 was marked by 12 storm events (Castelle et al., 2015)



3.3. Distribution of the number of concomitant extreme low salinity events between simulated and observed data (COAST-HF-Iroise buoy)



3.4. Kernel density estimation of the correlations of atmospheric sea level pressure with weather regimes (NAOp, NAOn, AR, and BLK) for winter periods and during 14 days before extreme events for *in situ* observations and numerical simulations

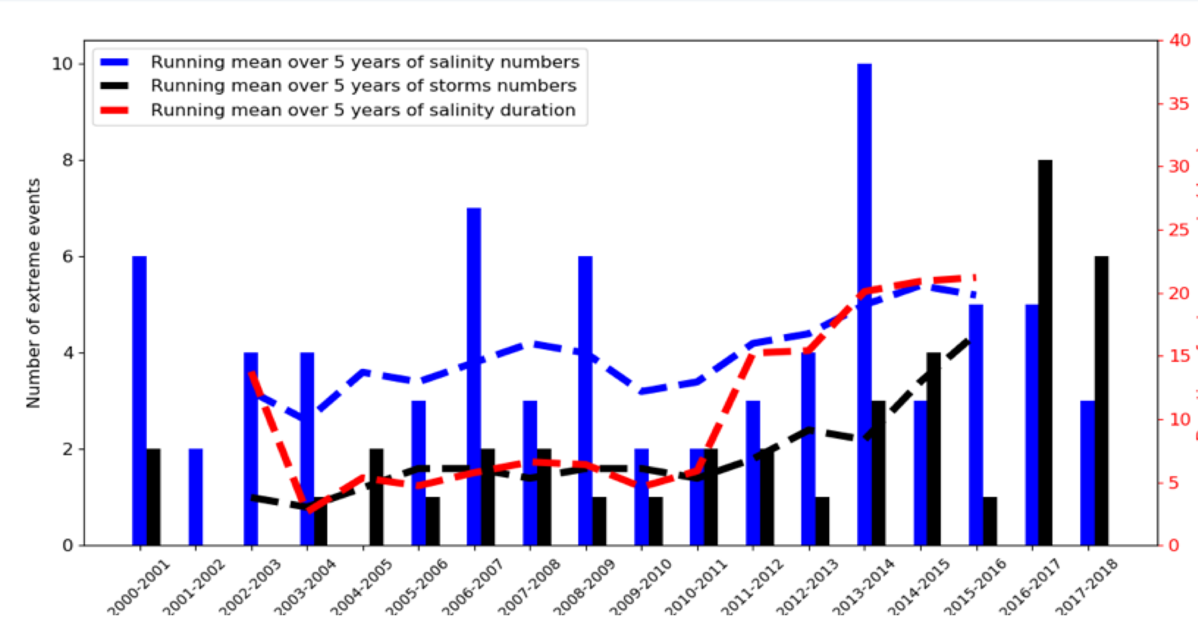
The NAOp and the negative phase of the AR are the most frequent weather regime over the 14-day period before extreme low salinity events. These two winter weather regimes induce more precipitation in the north-eastern Atlantic.

	Weather regimes							
	AR		BLK		NAOp		NAOn	
	r	P	r	P	r	P	r	P
Winter precipitations	-0.296	<0.001	-0.185	<0.001	0.262	<0.001	0.077	<0.001

3.5. Pearson's correlations between winter precipitation and the four weather regimes

4. Conclusion

- ❑ ***In situ* high frequency observation combined with high resolution models have a great potential to investigate the long term effects of extreme events on the coastal marine ecosystems**
- ❑ At a **local scale** this variability is driven by **river unoffs** and **precipitations** (not shown)
- ❑ At a **larger scale** this variability can be related with **the North Atlantic Oscillation** (NAOp) and **the negative phase of the Atlantic Ridge** (AR), i.e. processes that are related to changes in the atmospheric circulation
- ❑ A relation between **extreme weather episodes** and **low salinity events occurrence** in the region is observed and highlight a **slight increase since 2010**



4.1. Temporal evolution of number of extreme weather events (black), observed extreme low salinity events (blue) and duration of low salinity events (red) at COAST-HF-Iroise buoy

Acknowledgments and References:

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