



# METEOR: A **M**obile (portable) oc**E**an robo**T**ic Obs**E**rvat**O**Ry

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<https://kanna.rajan.systems>





# METEOR: A Mobile (portable) ocean robotic ObservatOry



Team



SmallSats

Satellite Comms

Fernando Aguado



Adaptive Sampling

Bayesian Assimilation

Machine Learning

Probabilistic Modeling



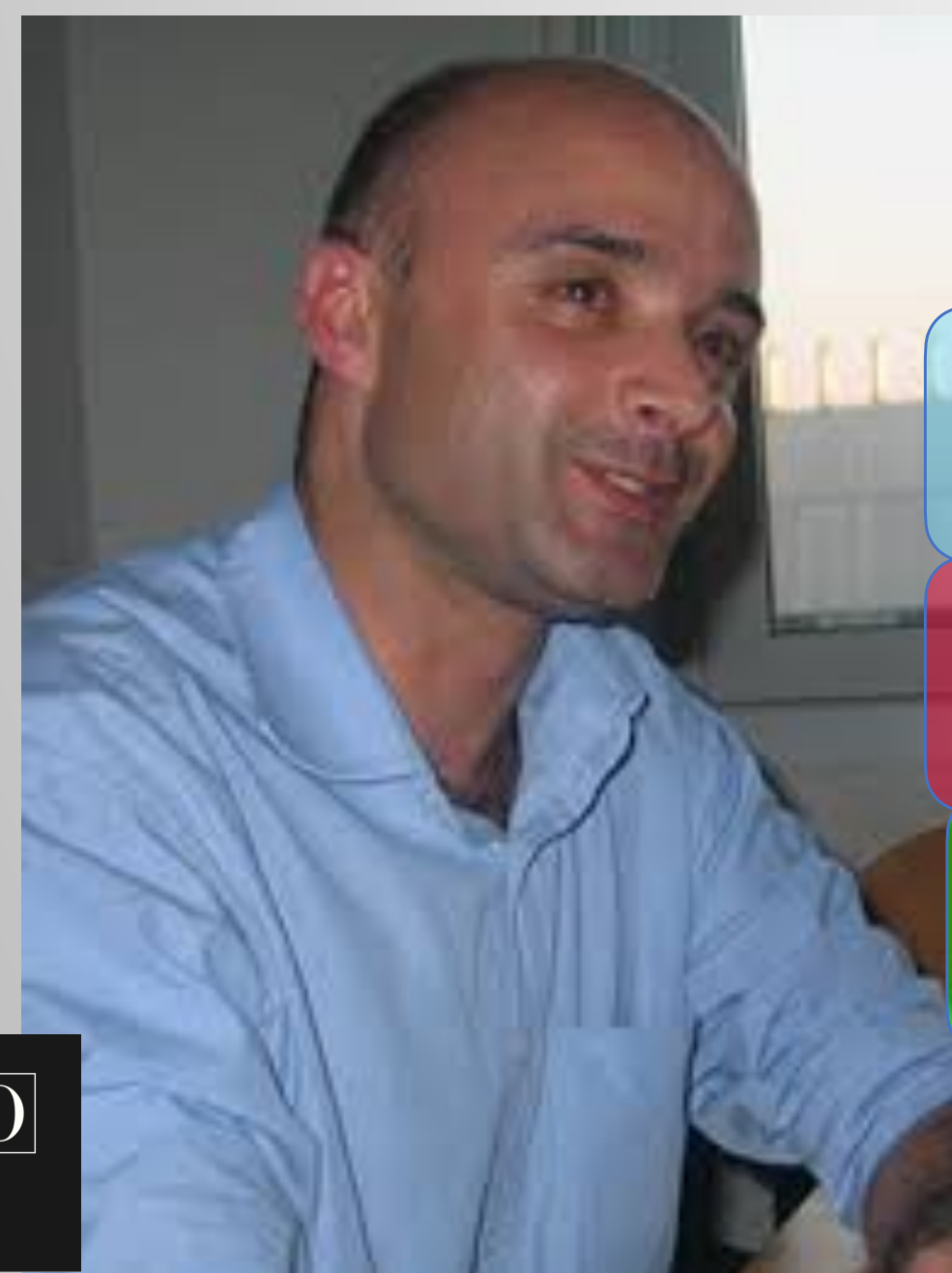
Pierre Lermusiaux

Operational Oceanography

Physical Oceanography



Joaquin Tintore



Networked robotics

Control Theory

Autonomous Systems



Joao Sousa



Artificial Intelligence

Machine Learning

Autonomous Systems

Adaptive Sampling



Kanna Rajan

Biological Oceanography

Ocean optics

Adaptive Sampling



Ajit Subramaniam





Most of the previous century could be called a “century of undersampling.”

Late *Walter Munk*

Secretary of the Navy/Chief of Naval Operations Oceanography Chair

Scripps Inst. of Oceanography

Testimony to The U.S. Commission On Ocean Policy,

18 April 2002

By the end of this decade METEOR envisions a sustained, integrative and inclusive way of observing the ocean through intelligent robotic sampling, AI and intelligent modeling

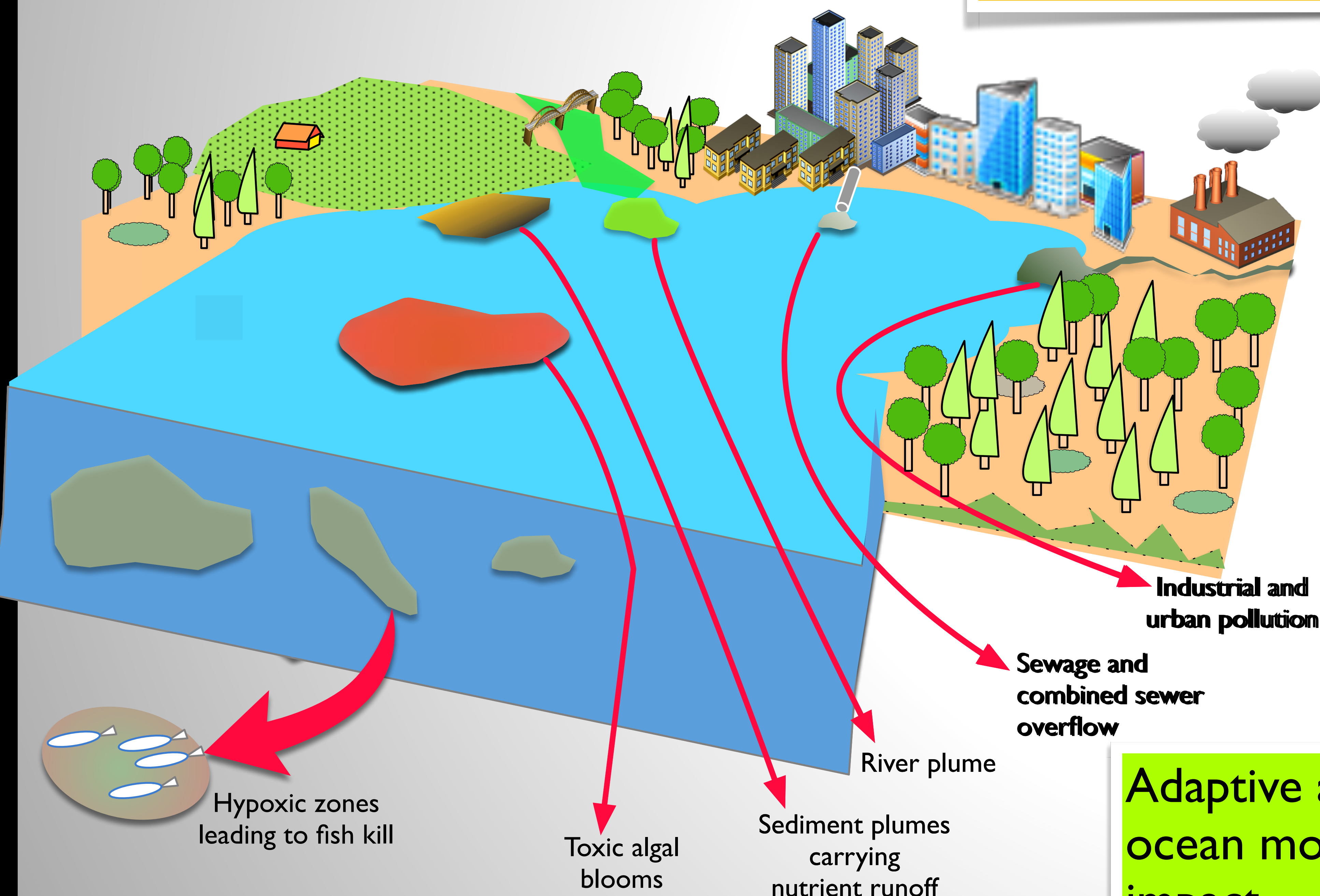


# METEOR: A Mobile (portable) ocean robotic ObservatORY



Why?

- The Coastal Ocean has a range of natural and anthropomorphic stressors
- Insufficient spatial, temporal, and spectral resolution of remote sensing products
- Complex dynamics evolving in fine spatial/temporal scales
- Model skill affected by lack of synoptic insitu measurements
- Lags in spatio-temporal measurements



- Rapid advances in Technology in:
  - Command and control software for intelligent sampling
  - AI and Machine Learning
  - Electronics, power sources and communications
  - Interoperability for heterogeneous systems and coordination frameworks
  - Visualization and data science
  - Small satellites

What is needed

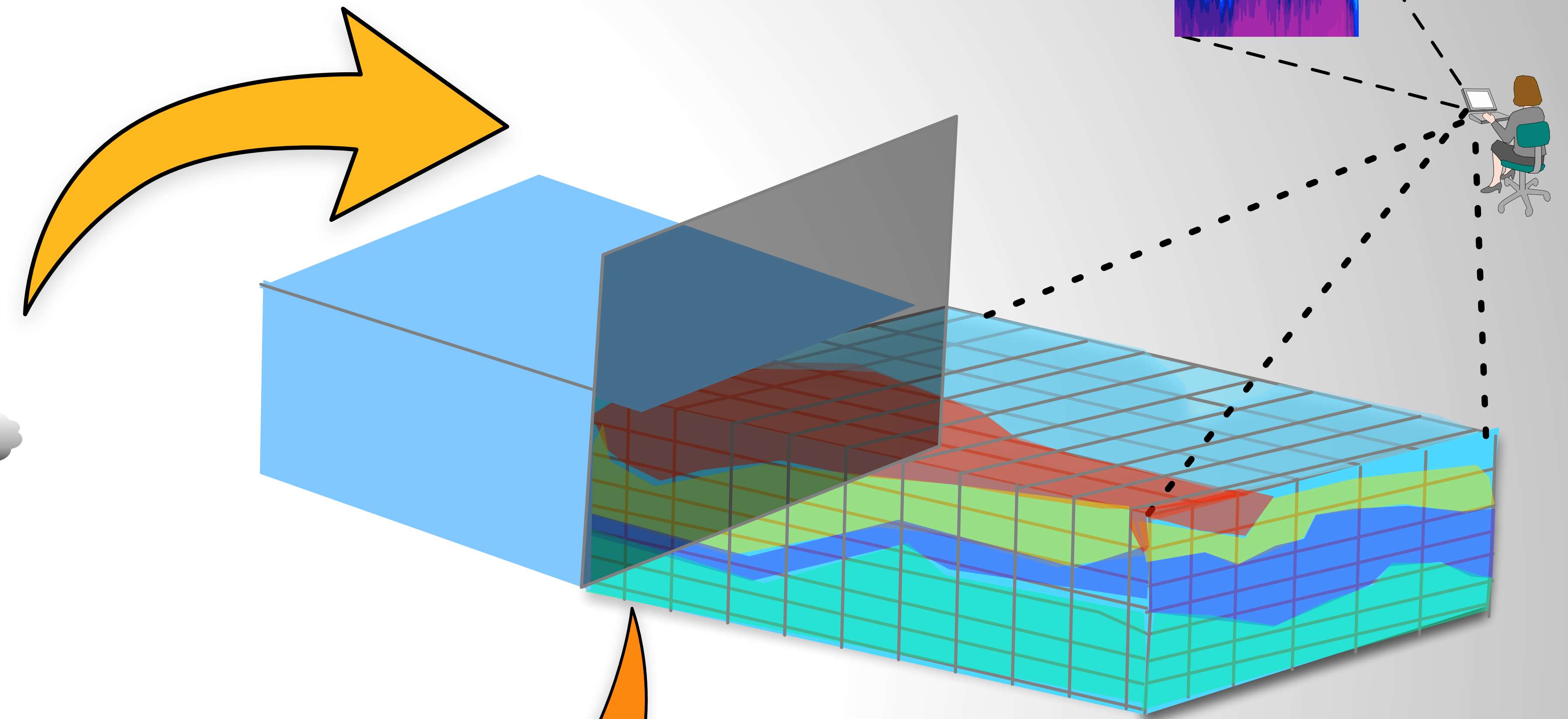
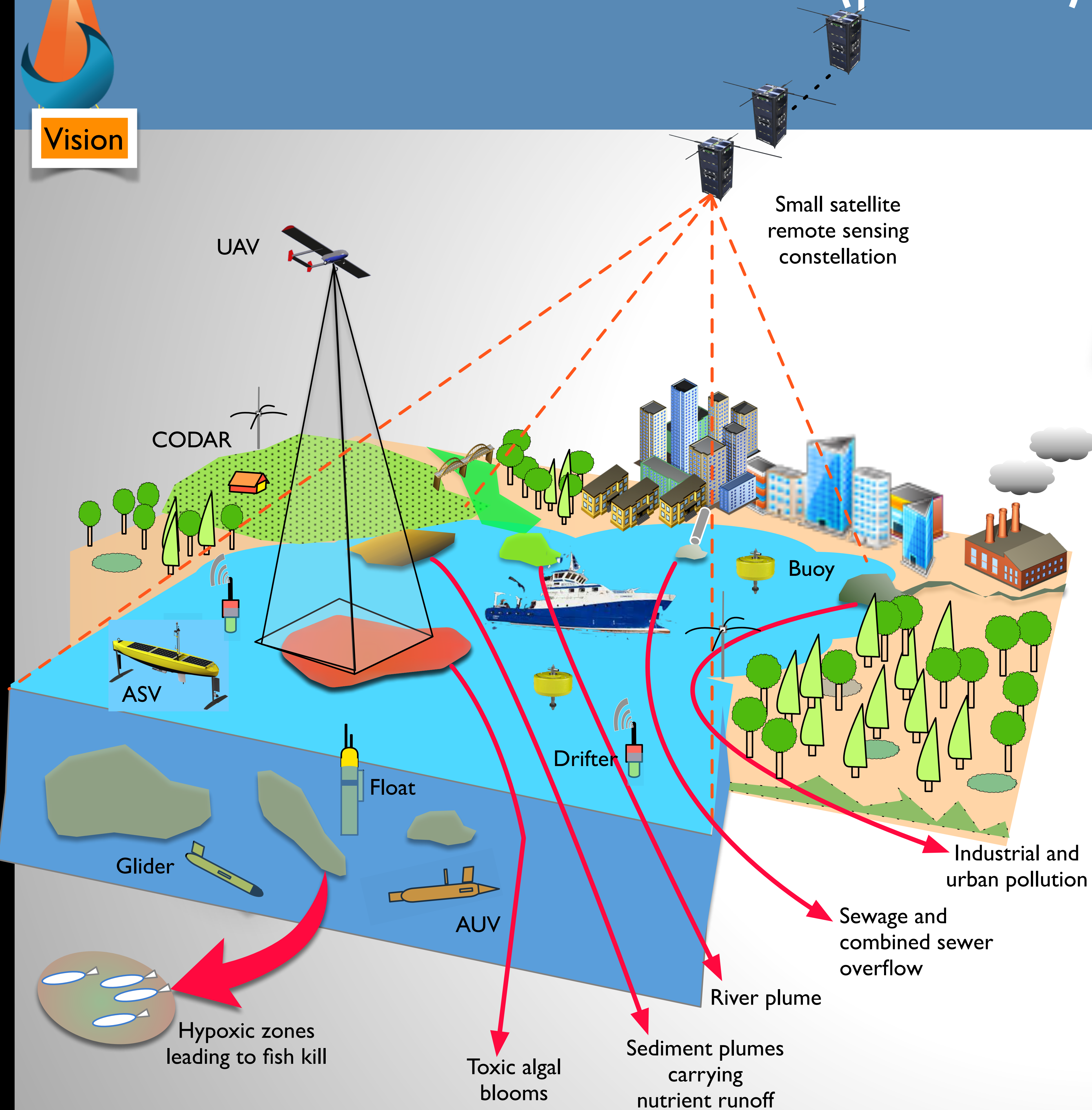
Adaptive and relocatable coastal observation systems integrated with ocean models, for transformative local-to-global science and societal impact.



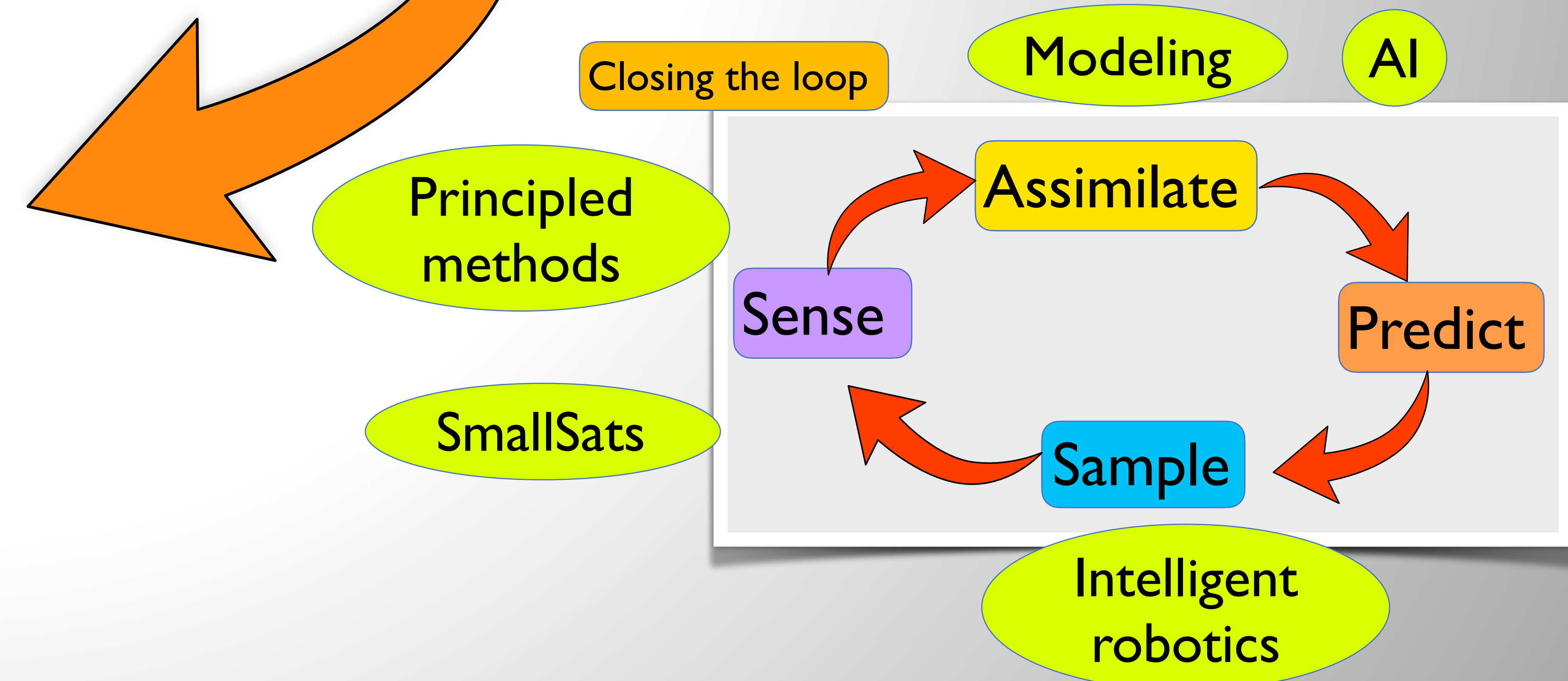
# METEOR: A Mobile (portable) ocean robotic ObservatOry



Vision



Data assimilative Ocean model/digital twin





# METEOR: A Mobile (portable) ocean robotic ObservatORY



Nonproprietary with open connectivity

System-of-Systems Integration  
(software, data sources, hardware)

High SmallSat  
revisit time

Rapid deployment of  
novel space-based sensors

Open Source

Democratizes information access

Mobile and portable

Strong educational/outreach  
component

High resolution data

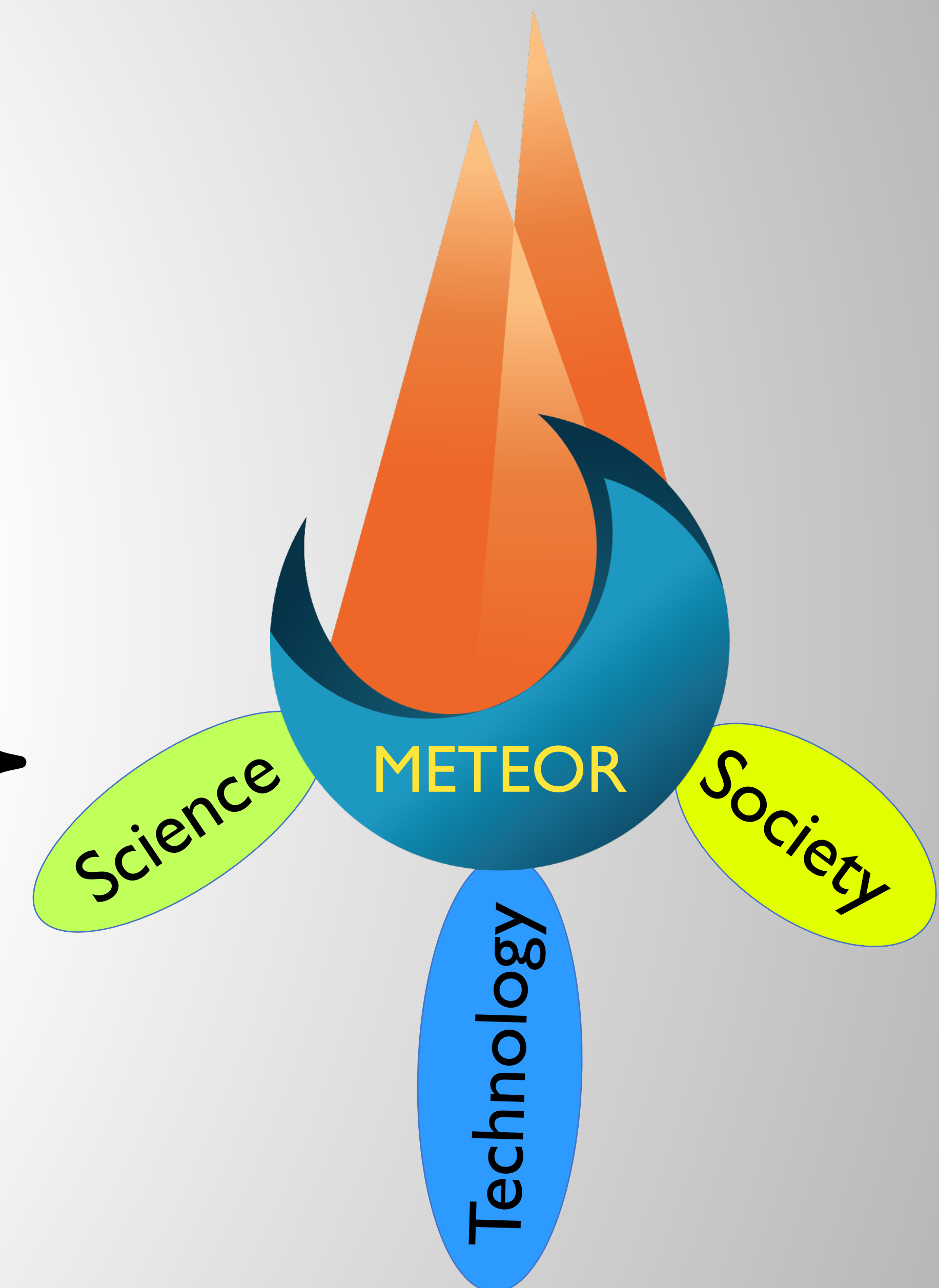
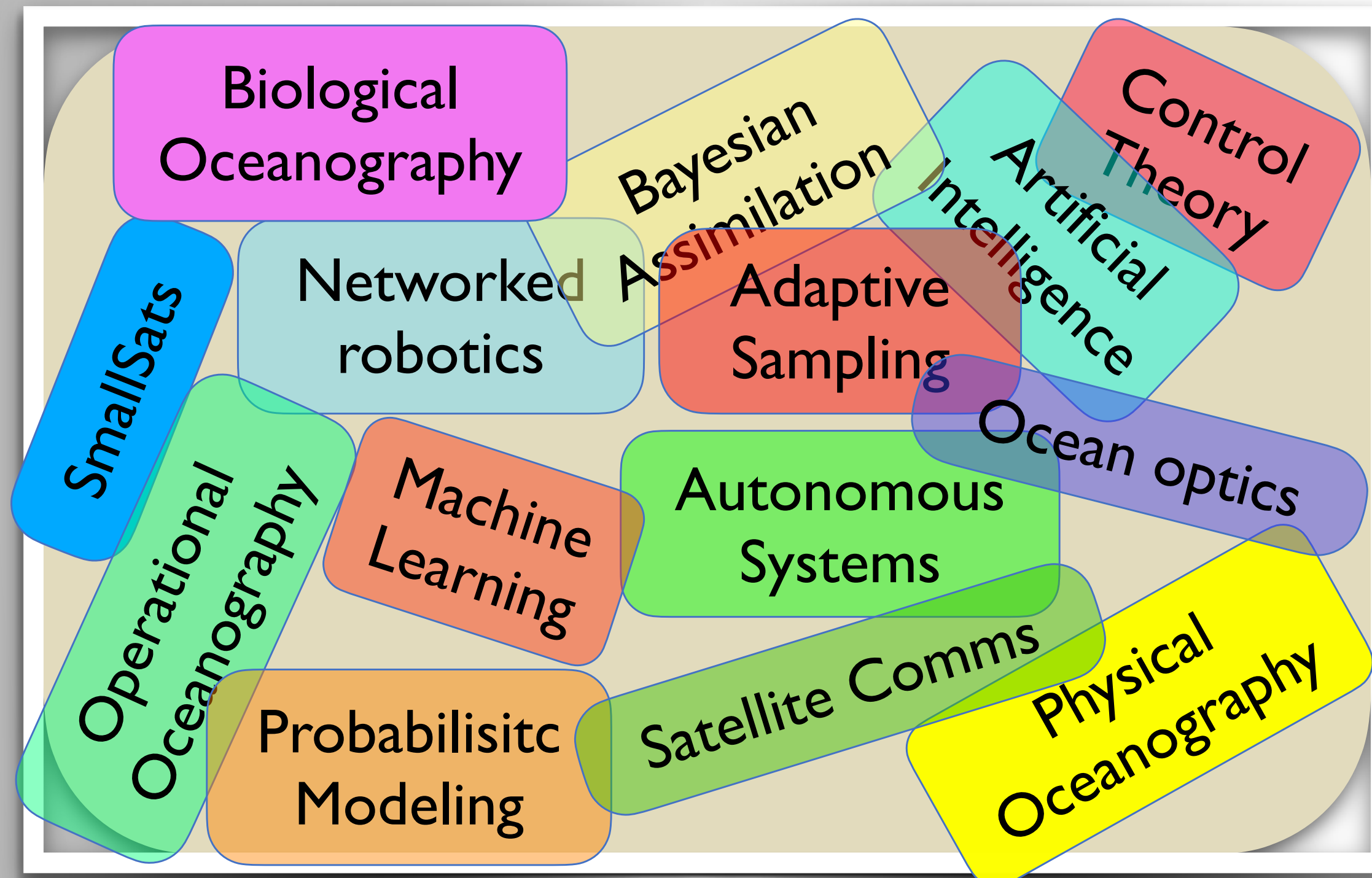
Locally built apps

Agile multi-platform  
system-of-systems

Science, Societal, Security applications

Scalable software

Complementary to existing  
observational methods (incl. satellites)







Vision

Small Satellites (**SmallSats**)  
remote sensing, ocean surface observations  
10,000's km<sup>2</sup>  
15000 knots

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (**UAV**)  
atmospheric measurements, ocean surface  
optical measurements  
1000's km<sup>2</sup>  
40-60 knots

Autonomous Surface Vehicle (**ASV**)  
air/sea flux measurements  
100's km<sup>2</sup>  
2-4 knots

Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (**AUV**)  
in-situ observations, water sampling, imaging  
10's km<sup>2</sup>  
1-4 knots

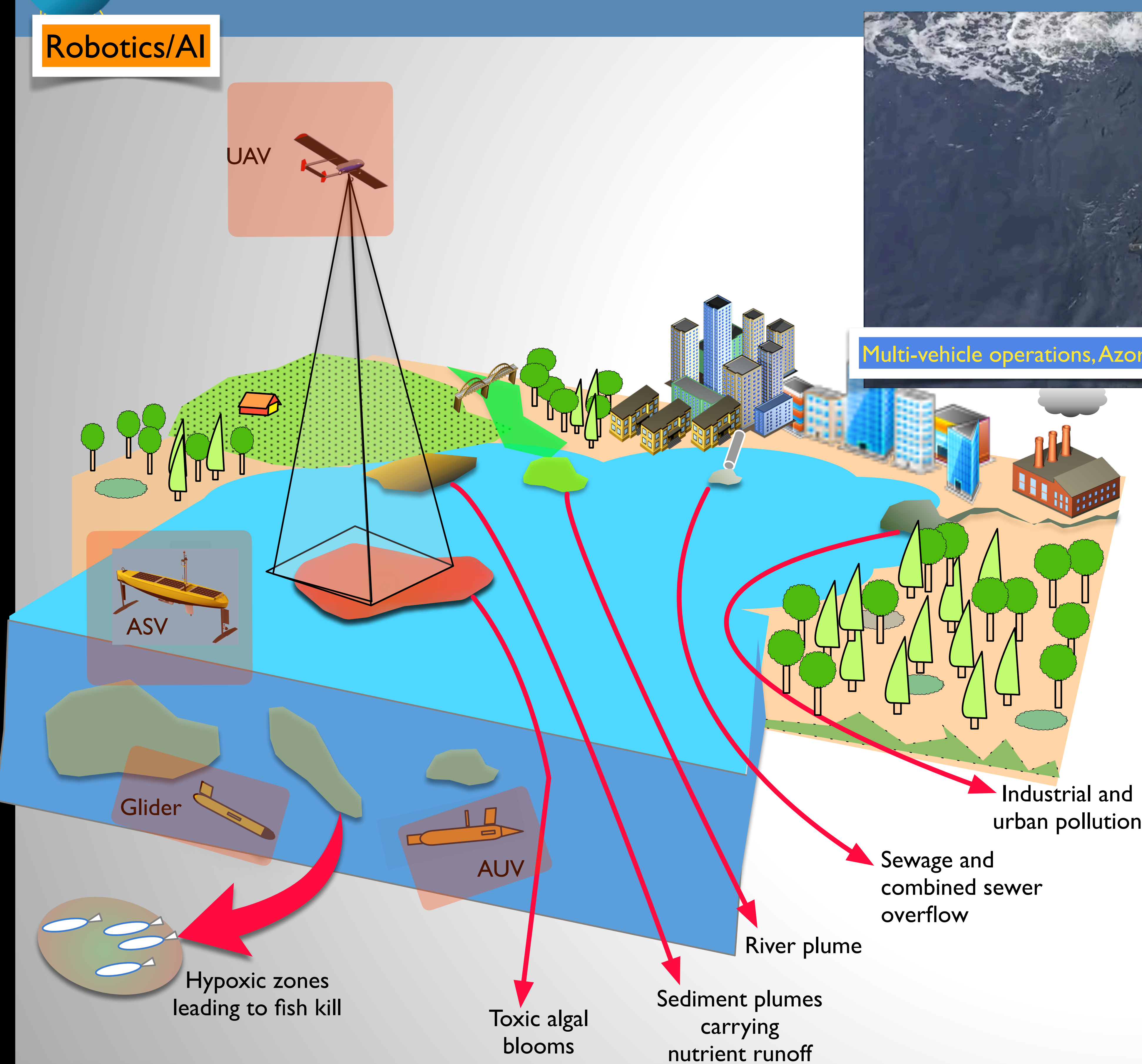




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Robotics/AI



Multi-vehicle operations, Azores, 2015

Tracking Mola-mola Portugal, 2014

Multi-vehicle operations, Azores, 2015

digital twin

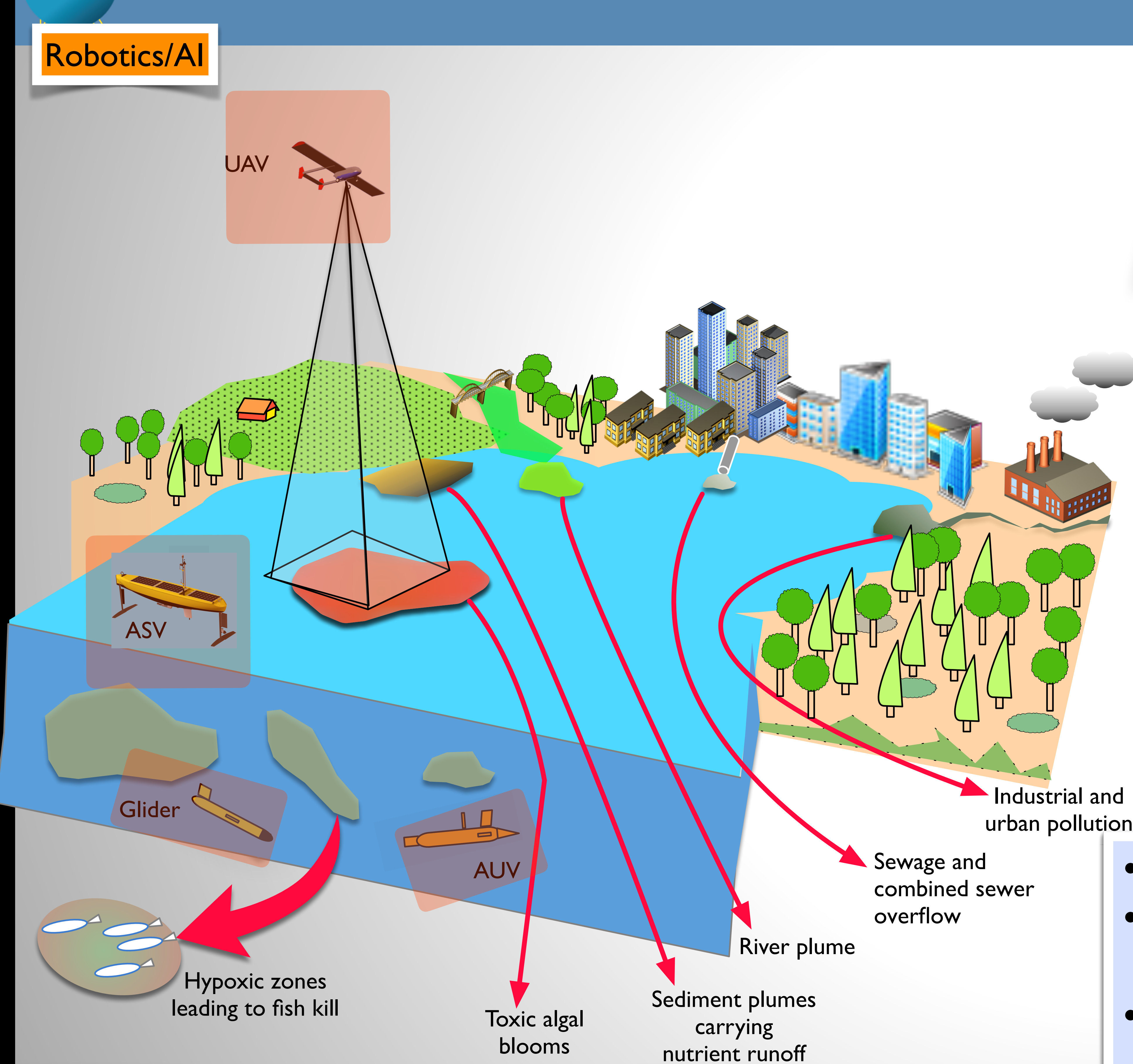
- Robust low-cost hardware
  - designed for endurance and interactions
  - driven by decision-theoretic AI control
  - heterogenous multi-domain robotic swarms extend observational capacity
- Sub-synoptic to super-synoptic observations



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Robotics/AI



Drifter following, Pacific 2010

Tracking SCM Monterey Bay, 2010

Hyperspectral/IR/visible imaging from a UAV, 2019

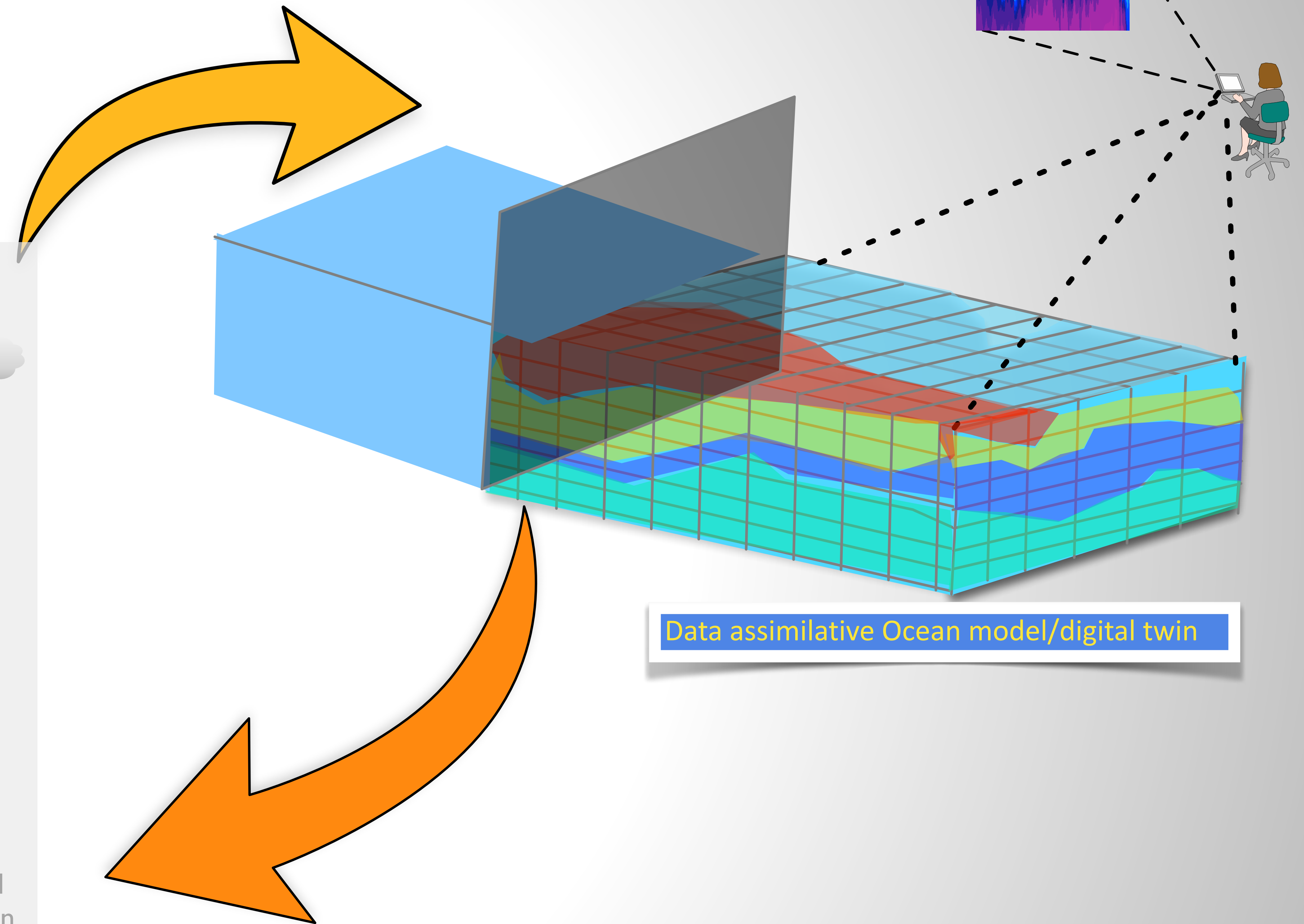
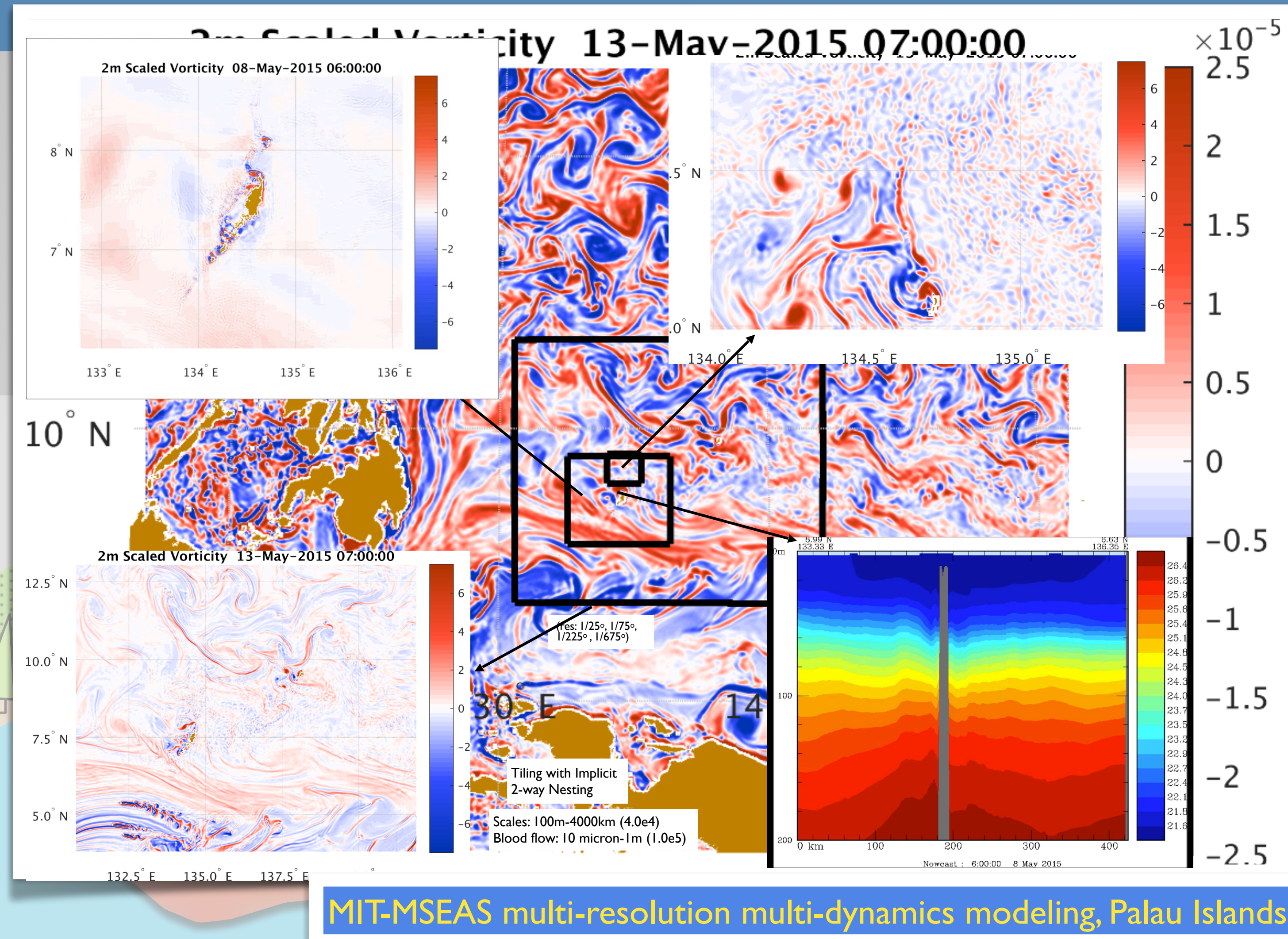
- Decision-theoretic AI adapts robot to track features of interest
- Machine-learned compact models allow environmental prediction for smart sampling
- Automated Planning & Execution coordinates multi-vehicle deployment and operation



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Modeling



- Probabilistic real-time multi-resolution model predictions
- Bayesian predictions from short to long time-scales, leading to science-informed management
- Rapid multi-platform assimilation
- Near real-time “what-if analysis” with quantitative risk management



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SmallSats

Small satellite  
remote sensing  
constellation

HUMSAT-D packaging for shipping, Vigo, 2013

Assimilated Ocean model/digital twin

- Faster to build and affordable (even for univ. environments)
  - Building constellations is extremely viable
  - Increased revisit time ( $< 3$  hours) with high resolution data
  - Complementary to existing space assets
  - Democratizes space remote sensing
- Latest technology can be rapidly integrated/launched/operated
  - Ocean color, SST, SSH, Altimetry, Wind
- Satellite data can be used the world over including for monitoring inland lakes





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## Applications



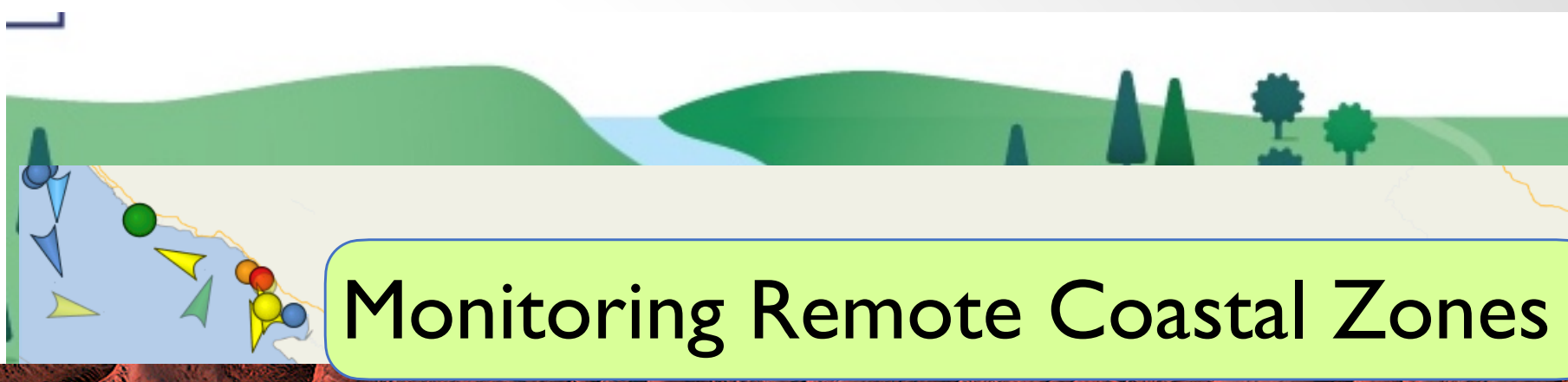
Oil Spills

Algal Blooms

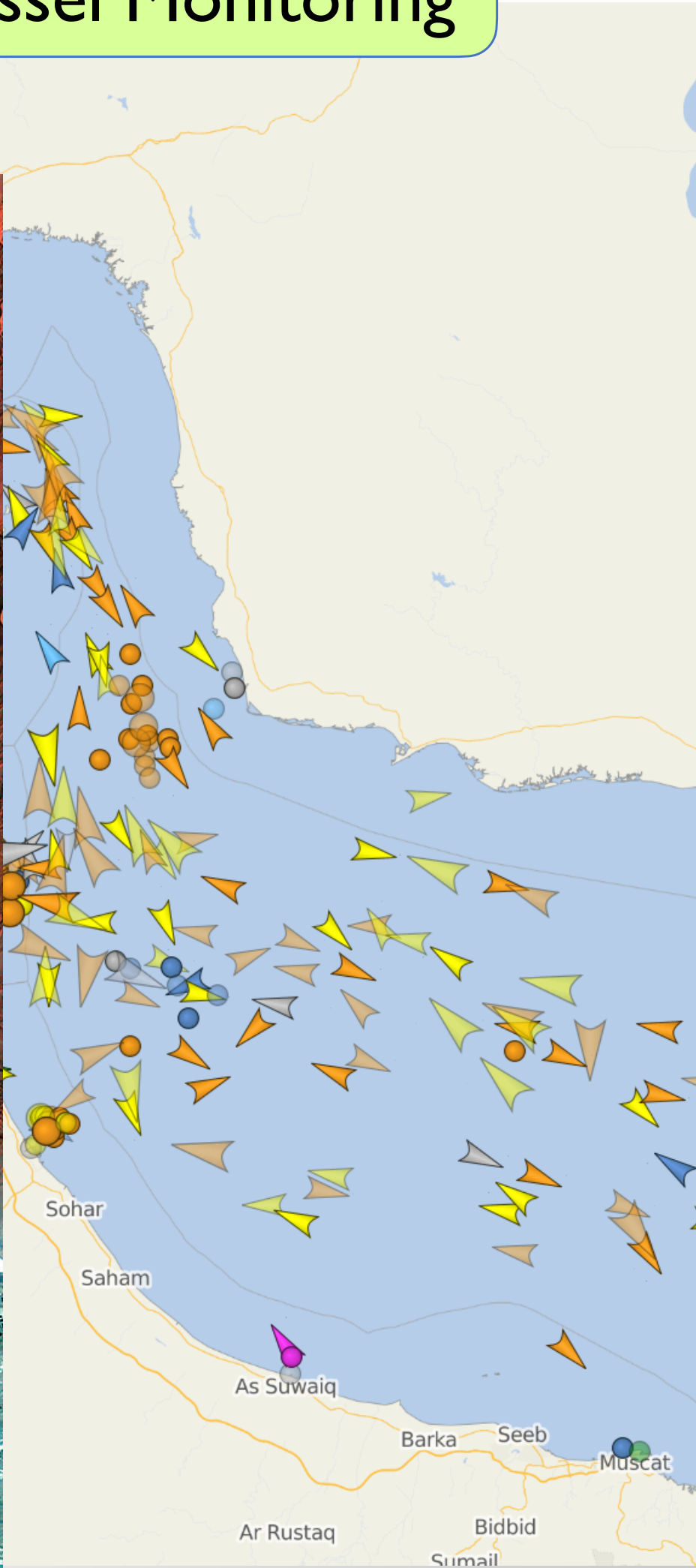
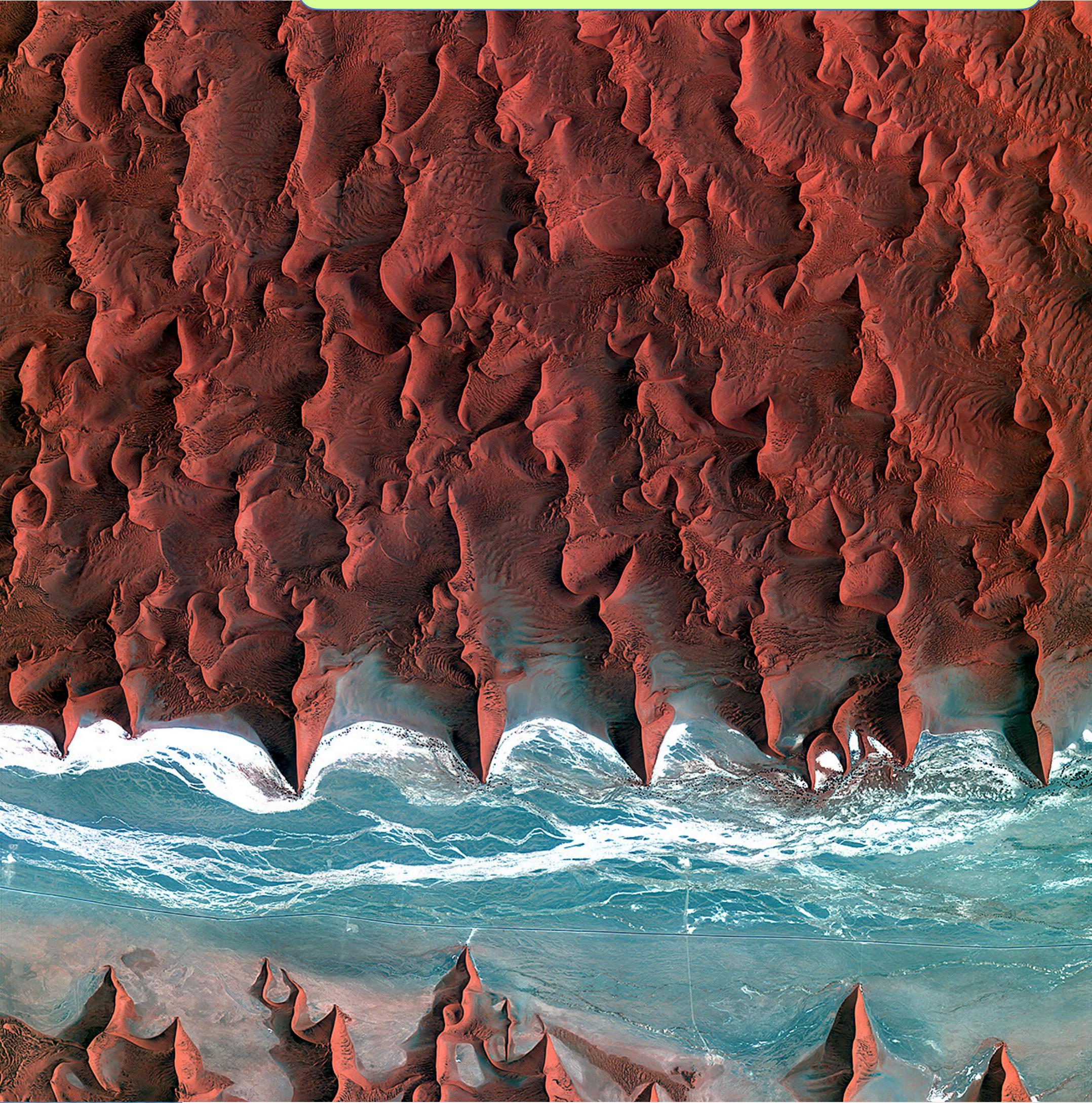
Urban Runoff



Aquaculture

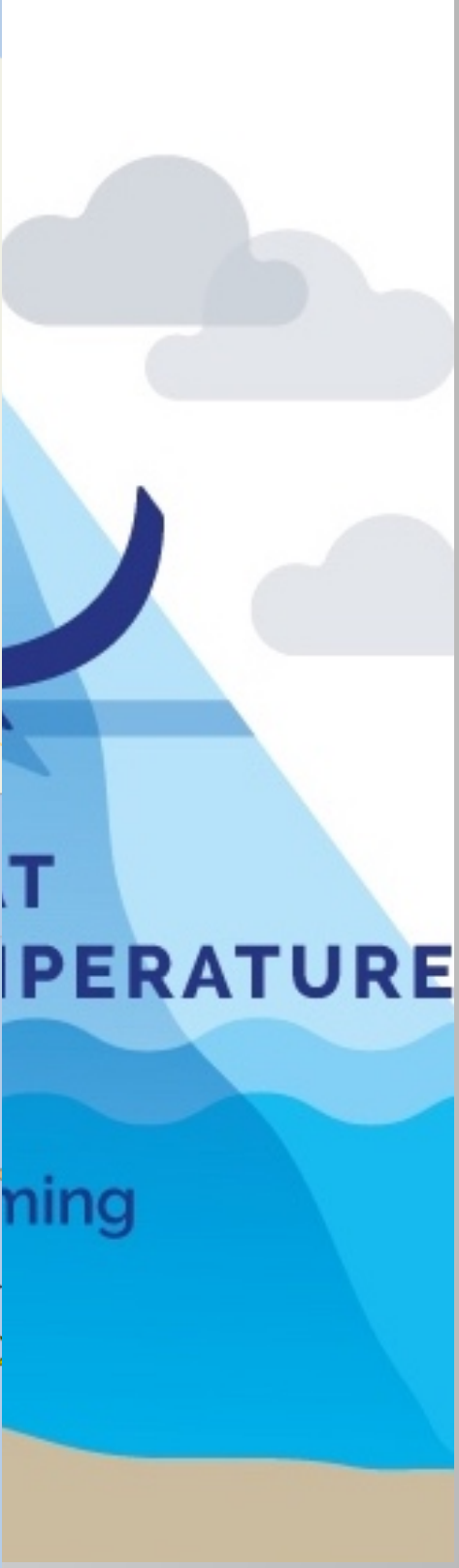


Monitoring Remote Coastal Zones



Coastal Monitoring

Vessel Monitoring







# Vision: Coordinated Observations from fine to meso-scale

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