

The Aquarius Satellite and SPURS Transcription

Let's talk about the Aquarius satellite. The thing about SPURS is that we're looking at salinity at a number of different spatial scales. So there's a lot of instrumentation to measure salinity on a 50-2100 km scale. There's also other instrumentation to measure salinity in meters and tens of meters scales, that we haven't even really talked about. The Aquarius gives us the ability to look at salinity on the basin scale, on a very large scale, thousands of kilometers. So part of the purpose of SPURS is to connect all of these different scales together, to look at different scales as to what's regulating the salinity balance in the ocean.

This is just somebody's picture of Aquarius. It's their interpolated picture of the salinity from the satellite. This is another picture of it, sort of zoomed in a little bit. This is where we were with the mooring. You can see how high the salinity is. If you remember the values, the 37.8 value, was right about here. The satellite really did a pretty good job of giving us the values of close to what we saw. It was really nice to see.

There are three movies here. I'm not going to show you all of them in the interest of time, but I will show you the first one, which is just a cool picture of the surface salinity captured from the Aquarius satellite. I know Eric Lindstrom and his talk talked more about Aquarius, and the Aquarius satellite mission, so I'll leave that to him. This is some of the results of that, so here it goes. You can see salinity evolving over time. This is a kind of picture that we just never saw before. We have measured salinity for years and years, but we have never seen salinity on the kind of scale that we see here through Aquarius. It's simply amazing. Aquarius has been an amazing instrument to see what is going on.