

# Ocean Digital Twins

From Data to Decisions

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# Oceans generate **petabytes** but decisions still **lag**.

**50+** PB/yr

Marine observation data produced globally each year.

**4,000**

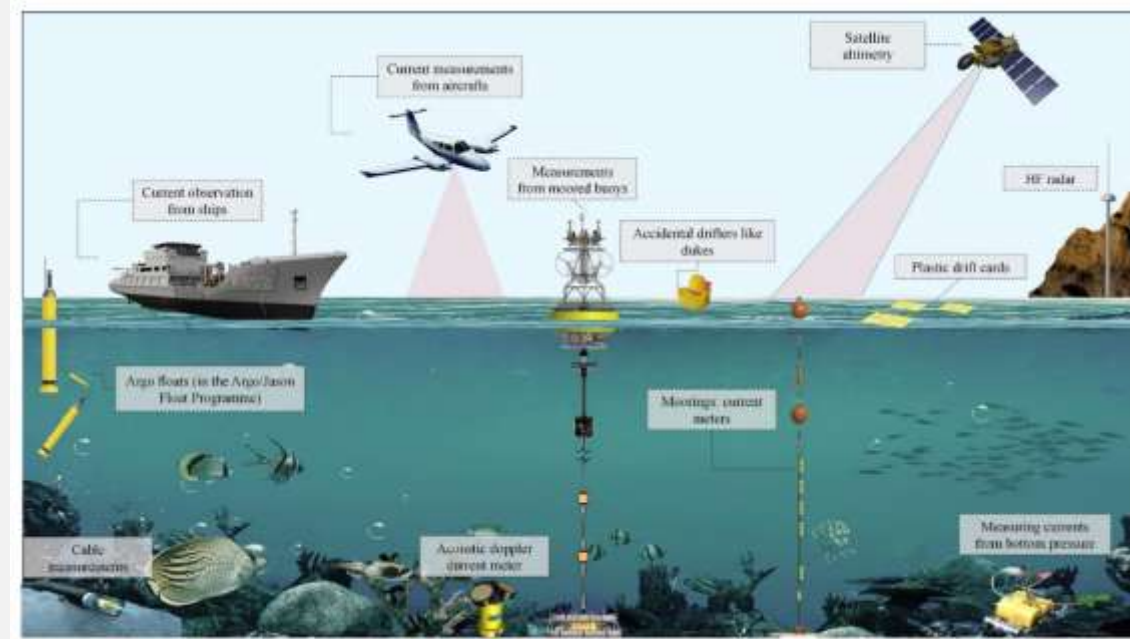
Argo floats profiling the subsurface ocean in near-real-time.

**200k+**

Vessels broadcasting ais tracks at any given moment.

**6** hrs

Typical latency from observation to actionable policy brief.



Credits: Ocean Remote Sensing Techniques and Applications: A Review (Part I) <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4441/14/21/3400>

We have the data. What we lack is the **synthesis layer** that turns it into timely, defensible decisions

# An Ocean Digital Twin is its **living replica**.

## THREE QUESTIONS IT ANSWERS

### WHAT IS

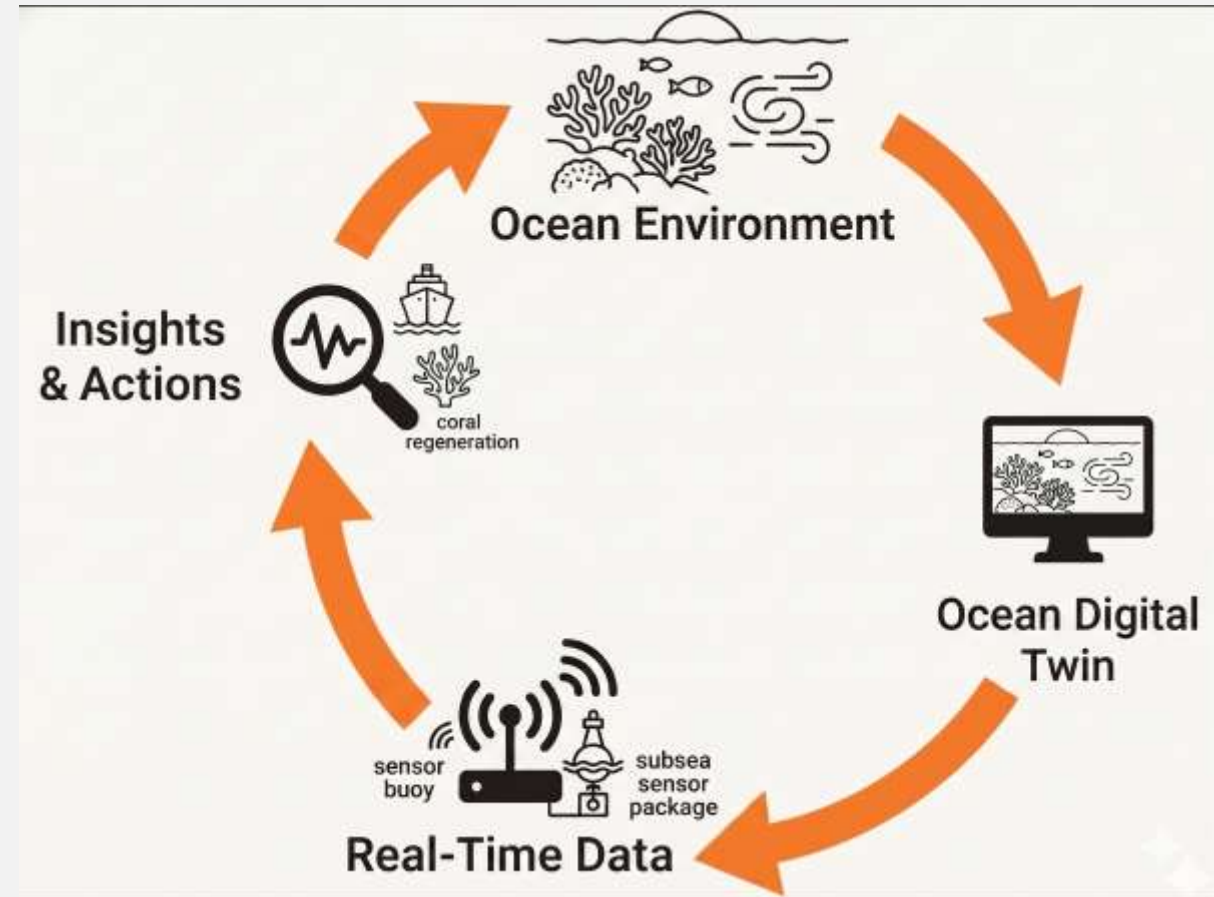
Current state of the ocean, observed and assimilated

### WHAT NEXT

Short-range forecasts for surge, bloom, drift, traffic

### WHAT IF

Counterfactuals for policy, planning, and crisis response



Not a dashboard. Not a GIS layer. A continuously updated simulation that fuses satellite, sensor, and model data and lets anyone ask **what is**, **what next**, and **what if**.

# The Data Backbone | Sensing layers that feed the twin

| SOURCE              | VARIABLES                          | RESOLUTION      | LATENCY       | ACCESS |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| Public satellites   | SST, ocean color, SSH, winds, SAR  | 0.3 km – 10 km  | min – hrs     | Open   |
| Commercial sats     | Optical, SAR, RF                   | < 1 m – 5 m     | ~daily        | Paid   |
| Argo floats         | T / S profiles, BGC                | 0–2000 m · ~3°  | 10-day cycle  | Open   |
| Drifters            | SST, currents, pressure            | ~5° x 5°        | 1-min         | Open   |
| Buoys & tide gauges | Waves, winds, sea level            | Point           | NRT           | Open   |
| Gliders / AUVs      | T, S, O <sub>2</sub> , chlorophyll | Meters vertical | hrs (Iridium) | DAC    |
| HF radar            | Surface currents                   | 1–6 km · hourly | min           | Open   |
| Bathymetry          | Seafloor depth                     | ~500 m (GEBCO)  | static        | Open   |

# Data becomes decisions through a **real-time pipeline.**

## 01 · OBSERVE

Multi-source ingest

Satellites · ARGO · buoys ·  
gliders · AIS · ship reports

## 02 · ASSIMILATE

Federated data layer

Cloud · HPC · common  
standards (OGC)

## 03 · SIMULATE

Physics + AI models

Numerical ocean models  
accelerated by ML emulators

## 04 · SERVE

Decision interface

APIs · dashboards · alerts ·  
scenario tools

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## LATENCY TARGET

Minutes

## ACCELERATOR

AI emulators

## OUTPUT

A single source of truth

# Use Case 01: **Disaster Resilience**

Storm surges can be **forecast** before they hit shore.

- 01** Surge modeling at neighborhood resolution  
Twins couple cyclone tracks with bathymetry, tides, and river discharge to predict flood extent street-by-street.
- 02** Scenario planning for infrastructure  
Sea-level rise x cyclone intensity simulations inform where to harden — and where to retreat.
- 03** Near-real-time early warning  
Continuous twin output feeds SMS alerts, evacuation triggers, and emergency response dashboards.



# Use Case 02: **Ecosystem Management**

Algal blooms can be **predicted** before fisheries collapse.

- 01** Bloom forecasting  
Fuse chlorophyll, SST, and nutrient flux to predict HABs days in advance.
- 02** Sustainable fisheries  
Real-time stock models set quotas that track reality, not last year's data.
- 03** MPA monitoring  
Continuous biodiversity metrics turn conservation from audit to operations.



# Use Case 03: **Cross Border Coordination**

Oceans ignore borders **coordination cannot.**

**01**

Shared situational awareness

A Bay of Bengal twin gives every riparian state the same operational picture.

**02**

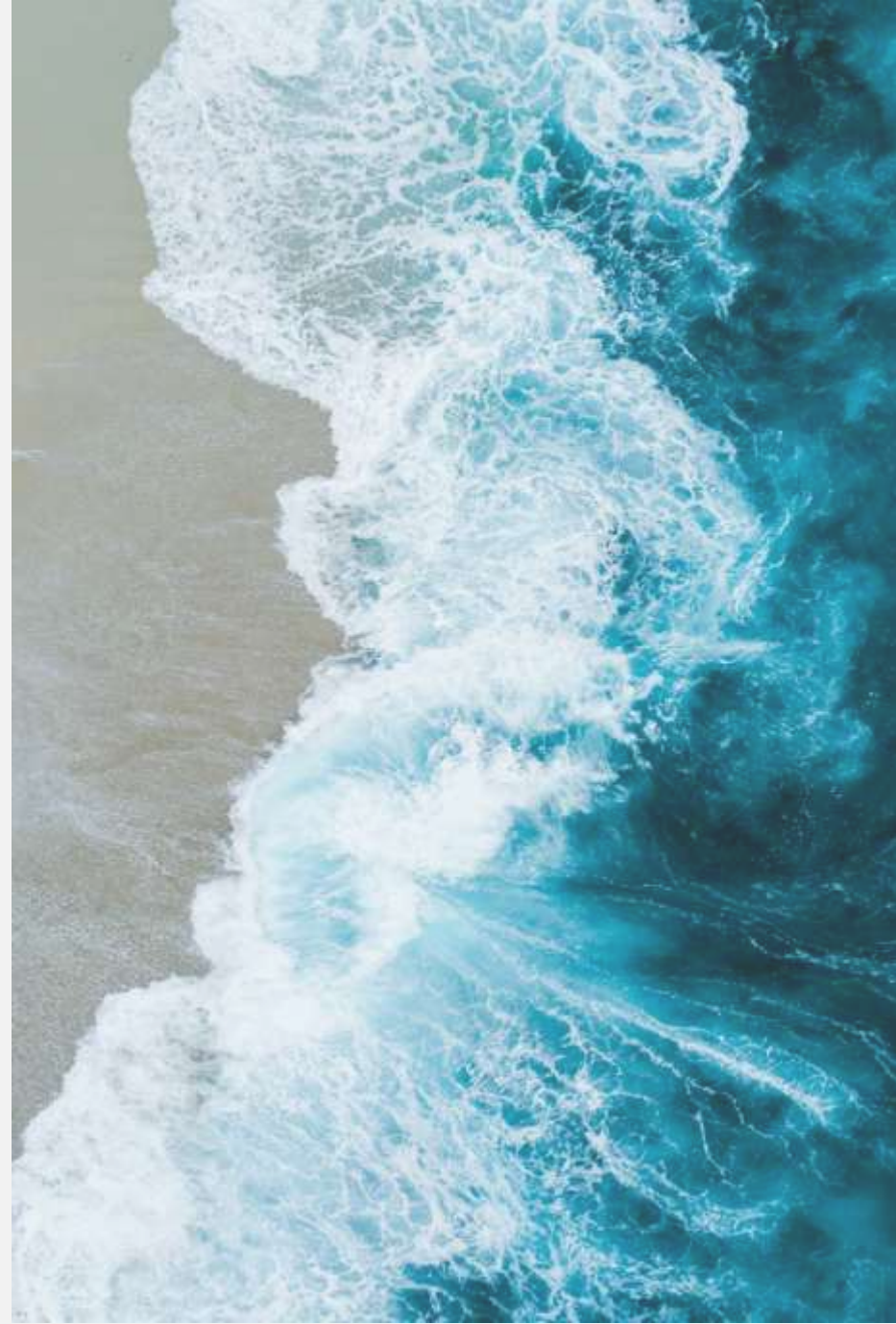
Transboundary spatial planning

Harmonized data for migratory stocks, Federa.

**03**

Joint enforcement & response

Coordinated action on pollution drift, illegal fishing, and emergency SAR.



# Takeaways

## Unified ocean intelligence

Today's ocean datasets are large but siloed across institutions, sensors, and national boundaries — fragmenting decisions. The first step is fusing them into a single interoperable system.

## A two-way living digital twin

Beyond petabytes of data, the future is a Living Digital Twin of the Ocean with bidirectional flow between sensing, modeling, and action.

## Shared predictive action

Unified intelligence enables faster disaster preparedness, stronger ecosystem protection, optimized blue-economy choices, and improved cross-border collaboration.

**The future of ocean governance is predictive.**



# EARTHSENSE

## Accomplishments

Winner of **IndiaAI Climate Impact Award**

Winner of **FITT Incubation Award**

Part of **NVIDIA Inception** Program

Winner of **ANRF-IBM** hackathon

**100 most innovative AI** companies by IndiaAI

**Dr. Nirdesh Kumar Sharma**  
**Co-Founder & CEO**

Ph.D. IIT-Delhi

SERB-OVDF Fellow University of Alberta (2023-2024)

DAAD Fellow TU-DARMSTADT (2019-2020)

Geospatial World Rising Stars 2026

ESTIC top 100 innovators

Highest Novelty in AI Award IGARSS 2024

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