

Declassification of naval data: the steps!



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Over the years the Instituto Hidrográfico, Portuguese Navy, has preserved data acquired on military missions.

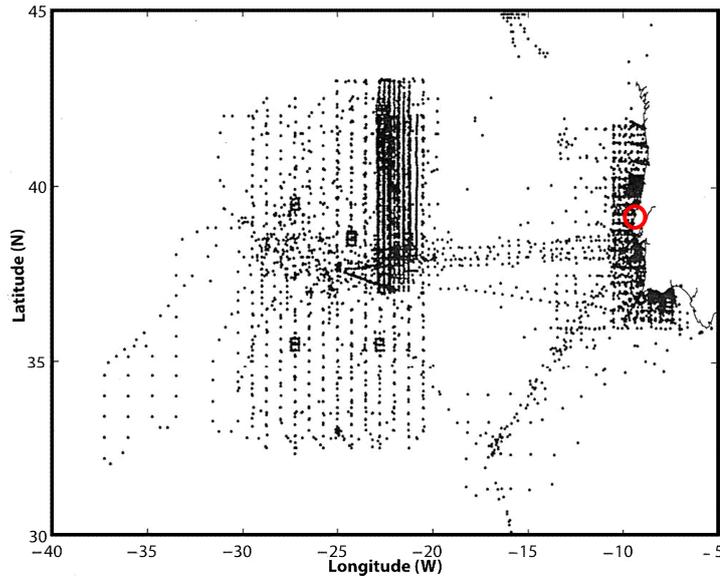
A set of historical data, starting in 1957, covering the Portuguese EEZ, is now being declassified and work began on preparing it for public release.

More than twenty five thousands profiles - temperature vs depth, were obtained from the use of bathythermographs on military missions creating a source of environmental data that may be relevant in future studies.

This declassification of historical oceanographic data, after passing the quality control and standardisation steps, will be made available to the international community following the best practices.

The Steps	
Data identification and selection	✓
Declassification	✓
Quality Control and standardization	
Public release	

Geographic coverage of the bathy profiles



The example in a Lisbon station



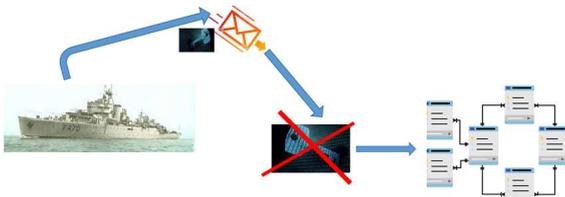
	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
winter	110	70	66	13			
	91	54	30	103	64	89	
spring	79	128	43	116	49	76	49
	147	119	71	104	76	84	84
	147	124	89	124	84	84	84
summer	151	151	134	54	40	66	66
	126	151	107	136	40	93	93
	138	136	94	102	27	30	30
autumn	86	122	65	44	76	40	40
	139	91	81	65	92	24	24
	139	5	89	60	45		
total	779	1327	1131	212	811	579	487

From the total data set we selected data acquired between 1962 and 1968 at the same station, near Lisbon (38° 41'N and 009° 24' W).

The table on the right shows the sampling distribution by month and year for the different seasons.

The 5326 profiles selected were quality controlled and formatted into ODV files ready for public distribution.

Data streams



During the missions acquired data was sent to Hydrographic Services in encoded messages. These were decoded and the data kept in database with restricted access.

Bathythermograph used in the sixties



At that time, the temperature profile was engraved on a glass blade like the ones on the right. Those blades were forward to Hidrográfico after the end of the mission, and the message received was validated with the profile read from the blade with the help of a magnifier.

Below are the results of a preliminary analysis done for this Lisbon station. It was select: the sea surface temperature, up to 1m depth, and; the bottom temperature near the 20m depth, for every month available.

Seasonal values are presented in four classes that correspond to values between 14° C and 17° C.

SST	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
winter							
spring							
summer							
autumn							
20 m	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
winter							
spring							
summer							
autumn							

17°C
16°C
15°C
14°C