



Fig. 4. Panel (a): Coordinates of hydrographic profiles collected during the period August 12–September 15, 1996 of the Operation Rapid Response 96. This is the data set employed in the initialization for Sept. 15, as provided by Sellschopp et al., SAACLANTCEN. Panels (b–d): Coordinates of temperature vs. depth probes collected by three flights of a NAVOCEANO detachment. Panel (b) shows the probe locations for the flight of Sept. 18, Panel (c) for Sept. 22 and Panel (d) for Sept. 24, 1996. The sampling strategies on Sept. 22 and Sept. 24 were constrained by naval purposes.

profiles: 135 (X)CTDs and 791 (A)XBTs. The initial fields and errors are then evolved until Sept. 24, assimilating the subsequent observations as they become available (Section 3.2). Fig. 4b–d show the surface location of these new hydrographic probes. They consist of AXBT flights designed by Harvard and the SAACLANT Center, using a