

PLATFORMS

Multiplatform Approach

Several major interdisciplinary oceanographic programs have adopted multiplatform approaches as conceptualized in figure 9.2. These include the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE), the Tropical Ocean Global Atmosphere (TOGA) program, the Joint Global Ocean Flux Study (JGOFS), the Global Ocean Ecosystems Dynamics (GLOBEC) program, and the Climate Variability and Prediction (CLIVAR) Study. These programs have utilized mooring arrays, drifters, voluntary observing ships (VOS), and satellite data. The Global Ocean Observing System will also follow this approach, allowing studies of El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and interdecadal phenomena such as the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), and the Arctic Oscillation (AO). Further, numerical modeling

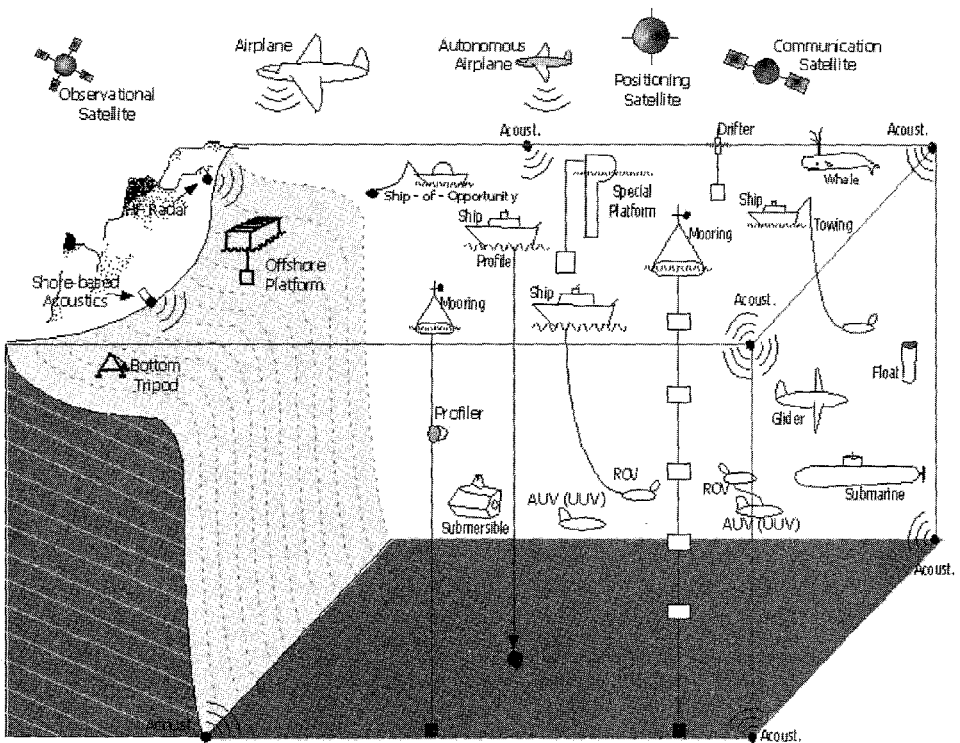


Figure 9.2. Schematic illustrating a variety of sampling platforms for ocean observations. AUV, autonomous underwater vehicle; ROV, remotely operated vehicle; UUV, unmanned underwater vehicle.