

# Costal sea level changes (2002-2016) from Jason-1 and Jason-2 altimetry along the coasts of West Africa, Mediterranean Sea and Western Europe



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J. Benveniste<sup>3</sup>, J.F. Legeais<sup>4</sup>, L. Fenoglio-Marc<sup>5</sup>

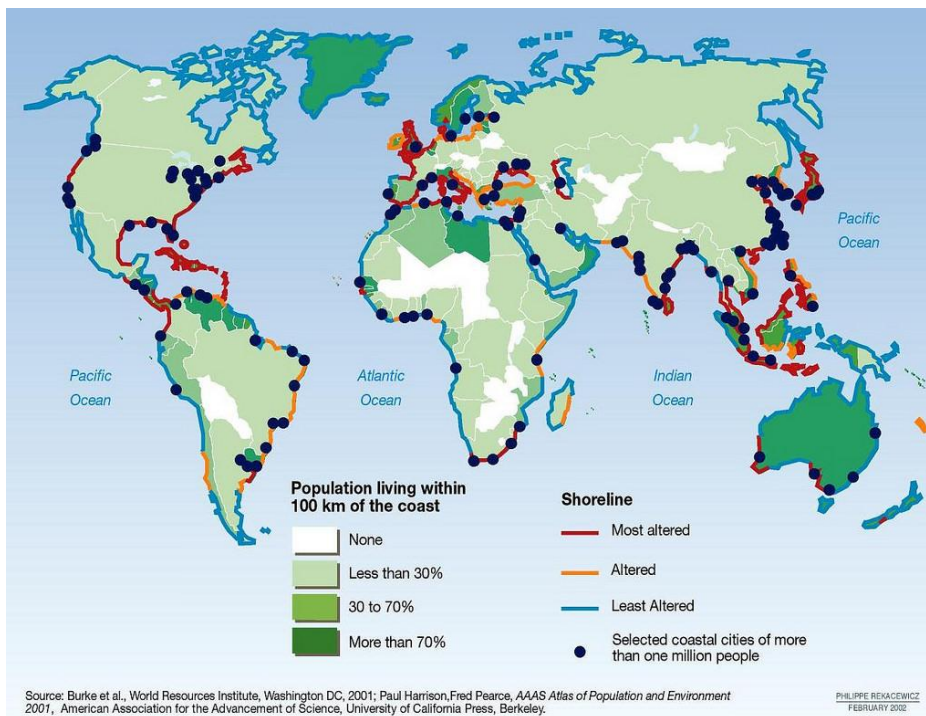
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<sup>4</sup>CLS, Ramonville St-Agne, France, <sup>5</sup>University of Bonn, Germany



sea level  
cci



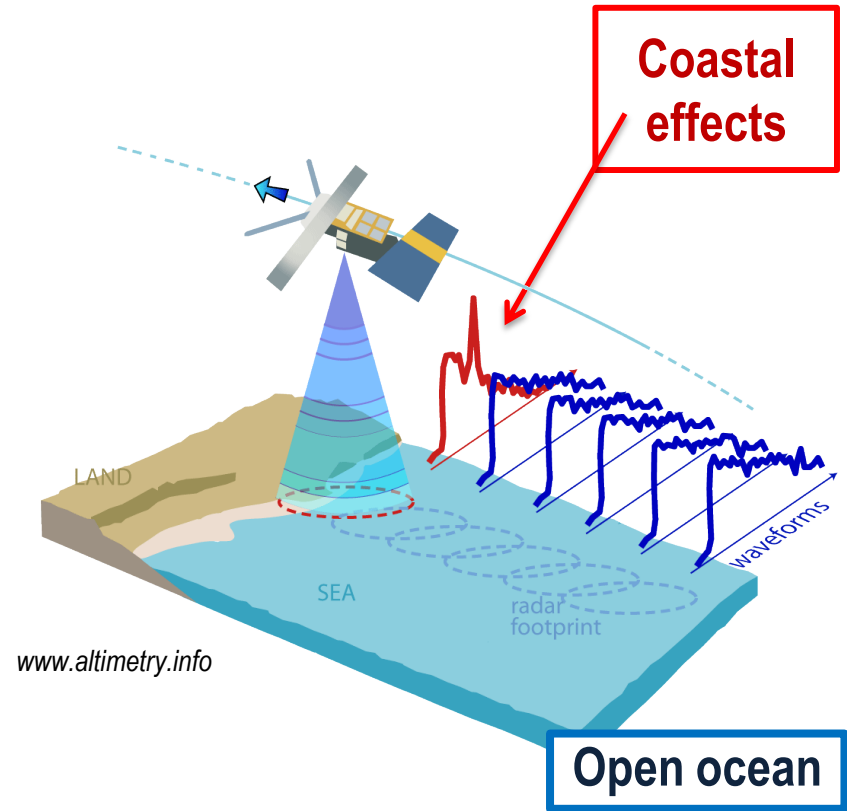
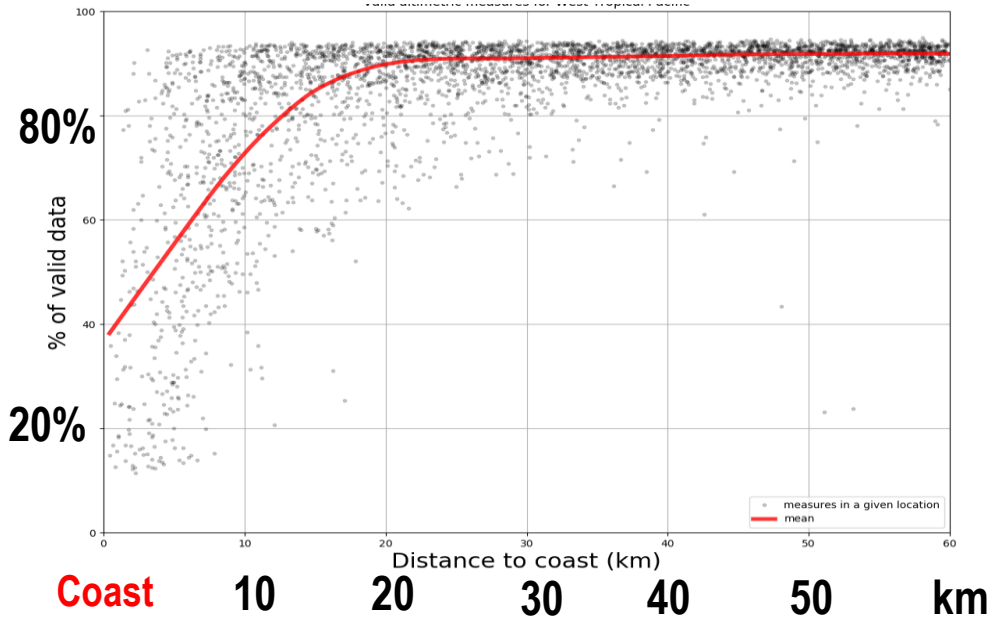
# New challenges for applications of satellite altimetry → Measure sea level changes at the coast



*Tide gauge network with >40 years of data  
(from PSMSL)*

# Altimetry in coastal zones

Percentage of valid altimetry measurements as a function of distance to the coast

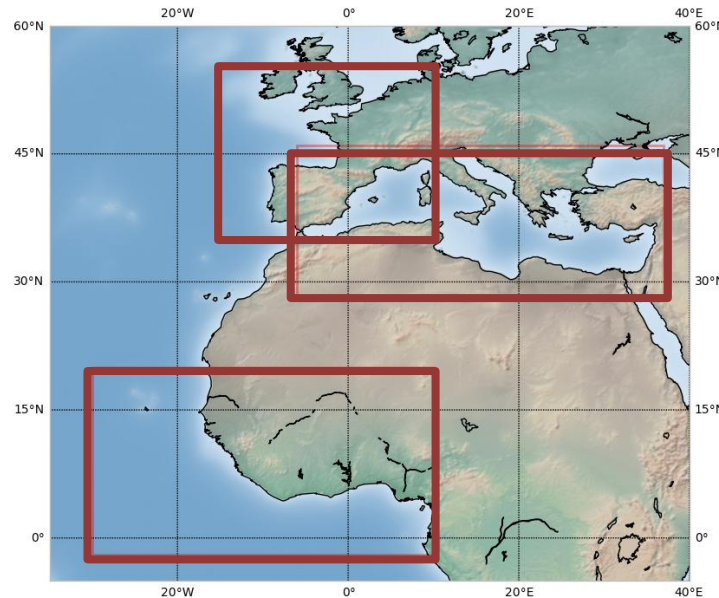


***Need for specific post-processing :  
“retracking” of the radar waveforms  
+  
computation of adapted geophysical corrections***

## ESA Climate Change Initiative “Bridging phase” Sea level project (2018/2019)



- Combination of ALES retracking with X-TRACK 20 Hz sea level data
- Jason-1 and Jason-2 missions (2002-2016)
- 3 pilot regions

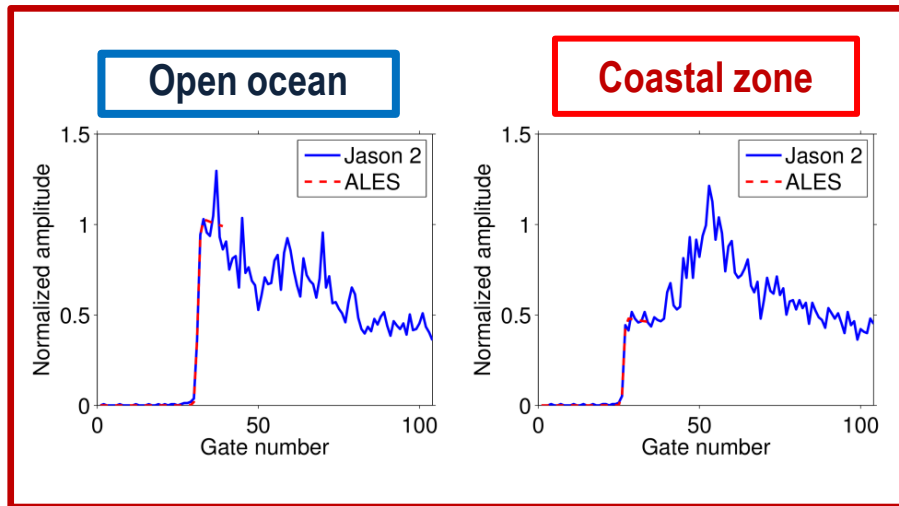


Built upon the CCI Sea Level project (ESA SL\_cci ; 2011-2017)

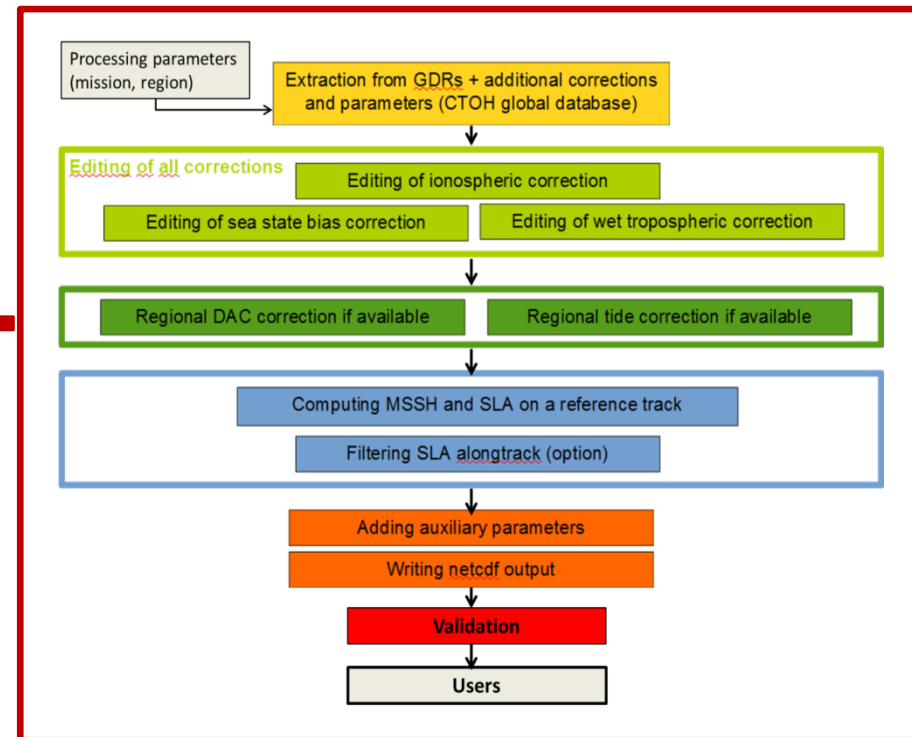
# Approach

- Use of **ALES (Adaptative Leading Edge Subwaveform) retracking** developed by Passaro et al. 2014 (TUM) + associated **Sea State Bias (SSB)** (Passaro et al., 2018)
- Use of **X-TRACK processing system** developed at LEGOS (CTOH; Birol et al., 2017) : Severe data editing taking into account the individual characteristics of each correctives terms, Computation of sea level anomalies on fixed points on along nominal tracks, etc.)

## ALES Retracking (TUM)



## The X-TRACK system (CTOH)



From the radar waveform :  
range (MLE4)

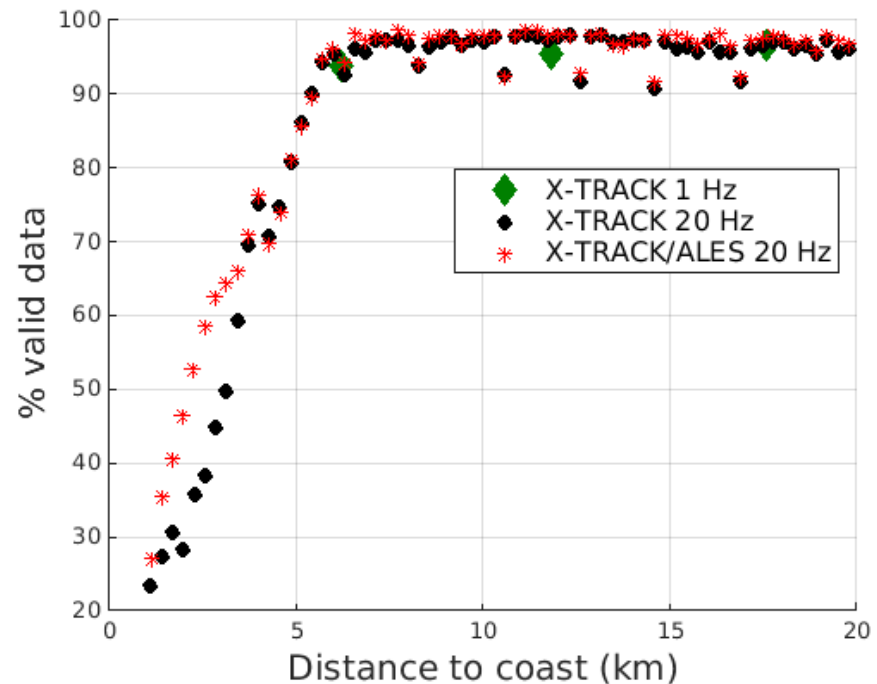
GDR parameters &  
geophysical corrections

**X-TRACK**: processing chain  
adapted for coastal zones

Léger et al, poster  
Area D - Board 428

**X-TRACK 1 Hz**  
(~6-7 km)

**X-TRACK 20 Hz**  
(~350 m)



From the radar waveform :  
range **ALES**

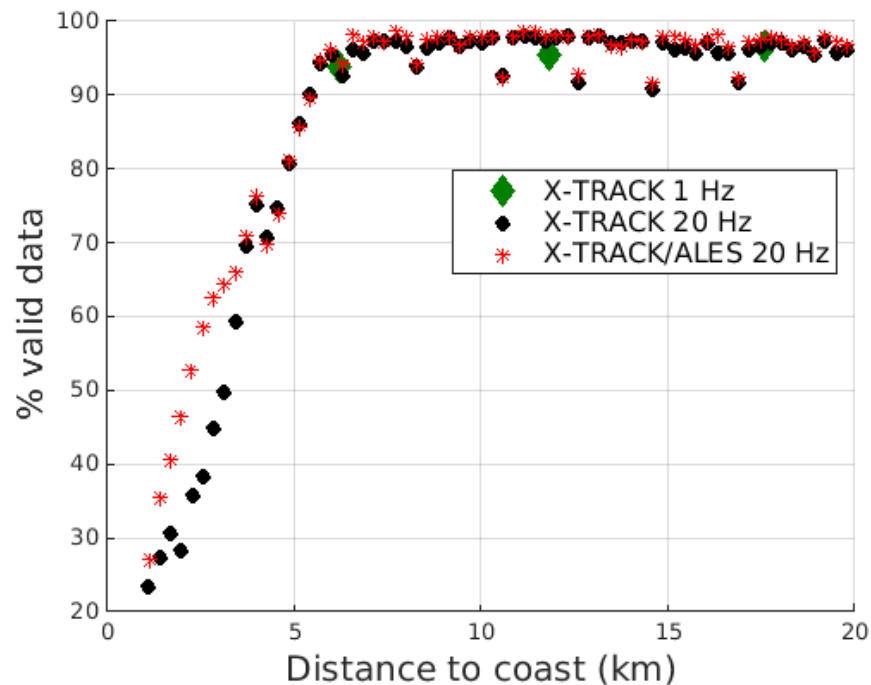
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**X-TRACK**: processing chain  
adapted for coastal zones

**X-TRACK 1 Hz**  
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**X-TRACK 20 Hz**  
(~350 m)

**X-TRACK/ALES 20 Hz**  
(~350 m)



From the radar waveform :  
range **ALES**

GDR parameters &  
geophysical corrections

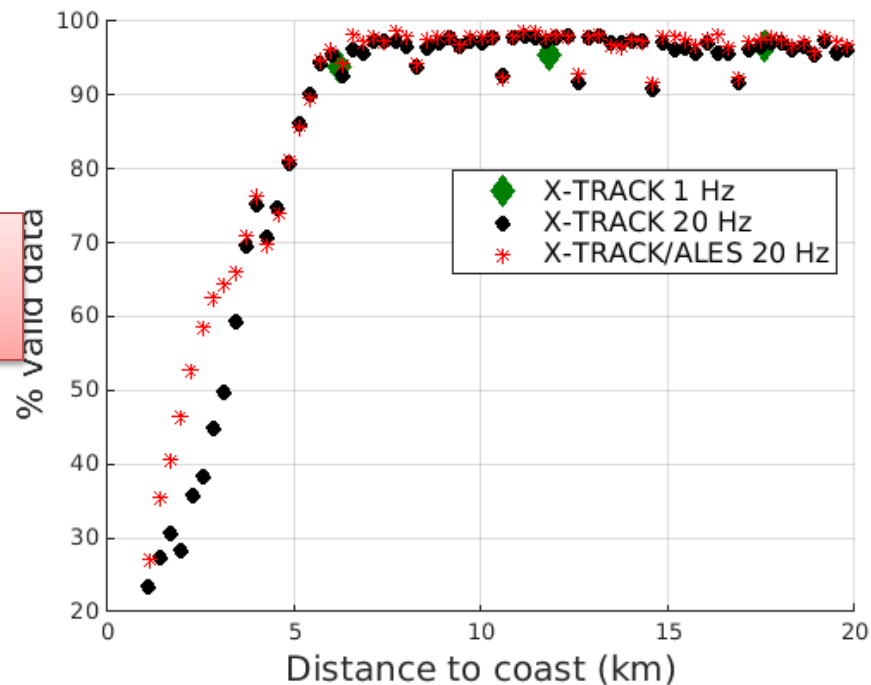
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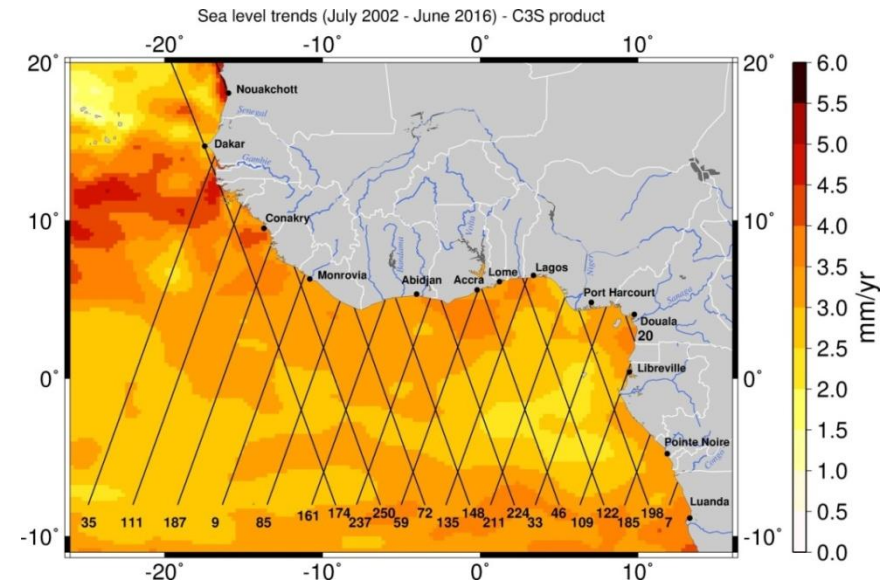
Increase the number of valid  
Sea Level Height  
computation near shores





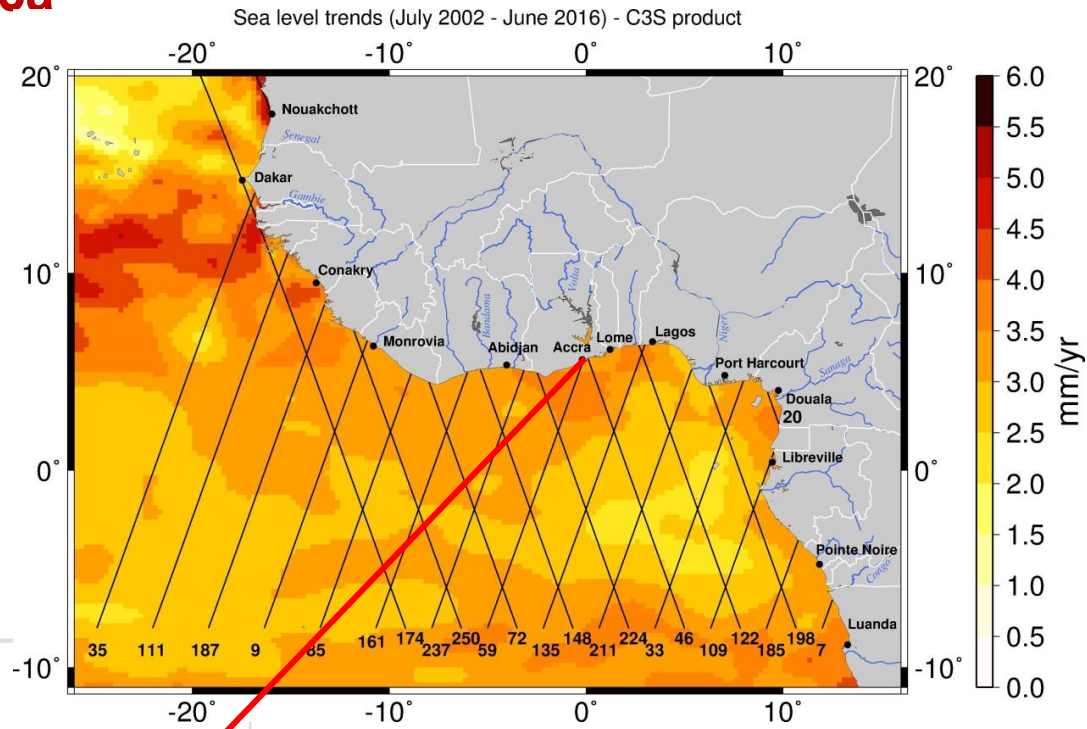
## METHOD

- SLA data : **X-TRACK/ALES 20 Hz**
- Missions: **Jason 1 & Jason 2**
- Period: July 2002 to June 2016 → **14 years**
- **Monthly** averaging
- Annual and semi-annual signals removed
- Sea level trends computed at individual 20 Hz point **along the satellite tracks**, with focus on the the **last 15 km to the coast**
- Each 20 Hz point is characterized by its distance to the nearest coast  
(GSHHS database; Smith & Wessel)



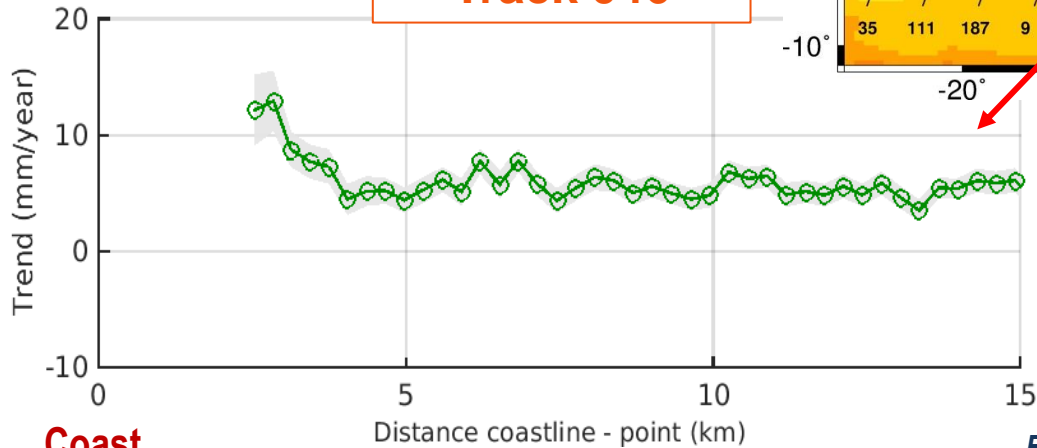
*The Western African region  
C3S gridded product and J-1 & J-2 tracks*

# Coastal sea level trends from satellite altimetry (2002-2016) along the Jason-1&2 satellites tracks → Western Africa



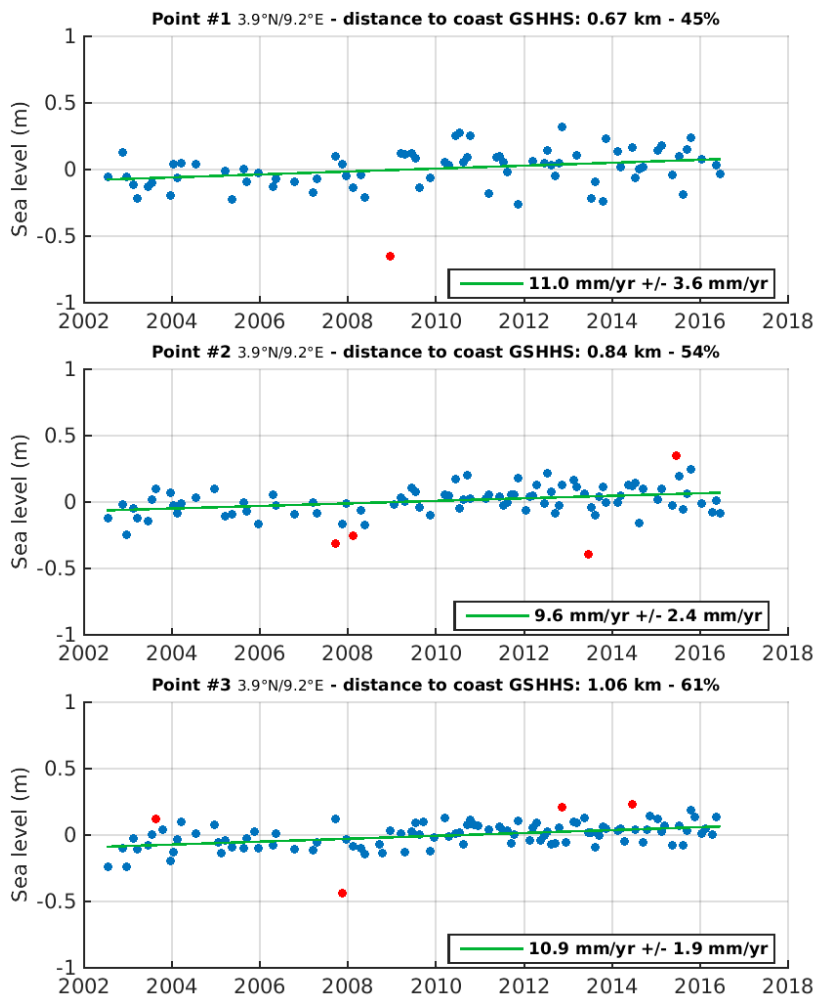
Rate of sea level rise (mm/yr) near the coast

Track 046

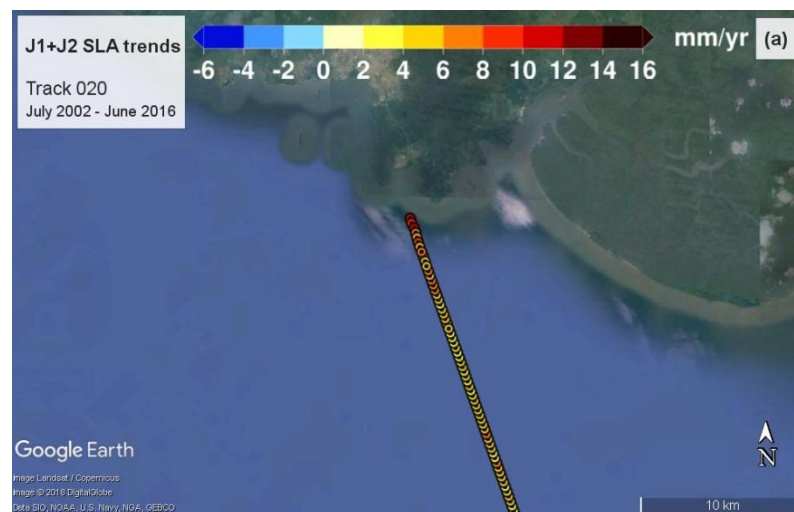
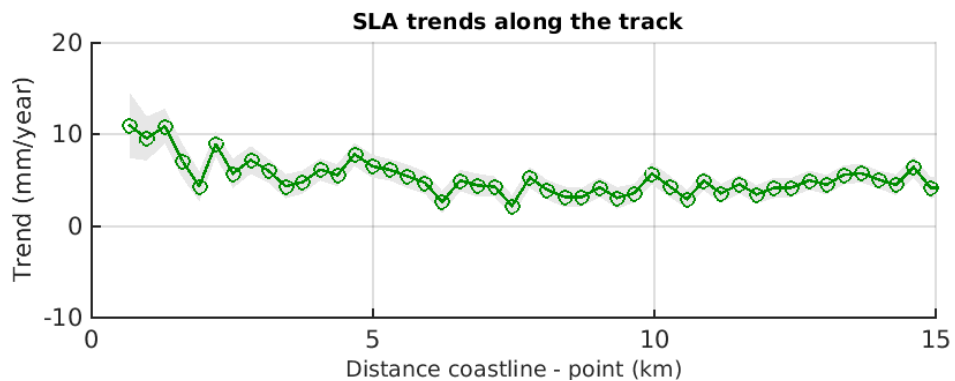


C3S gridded product and J-1 & J-2 tracks

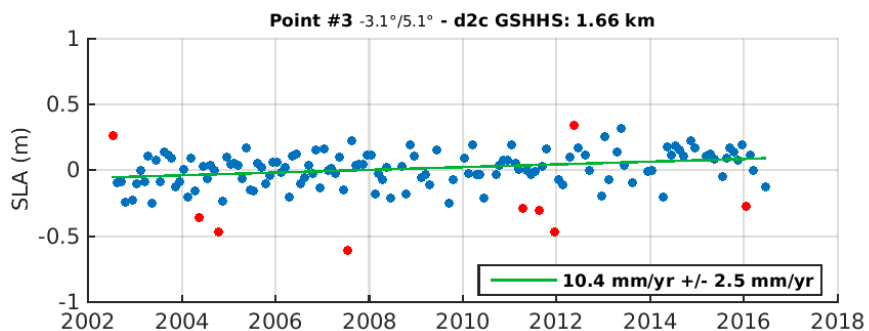
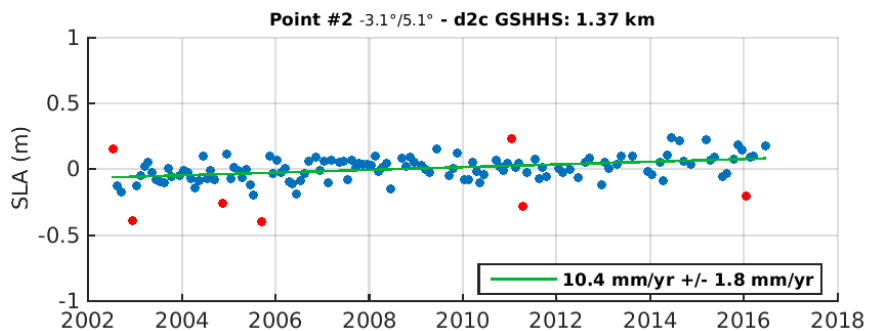
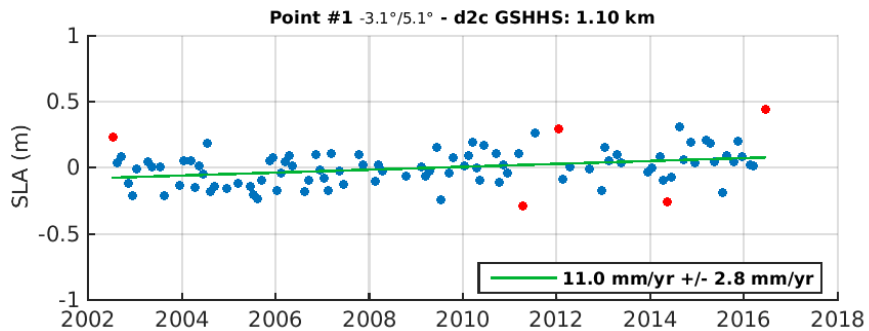
### Sea level time-series of the closest points to coast



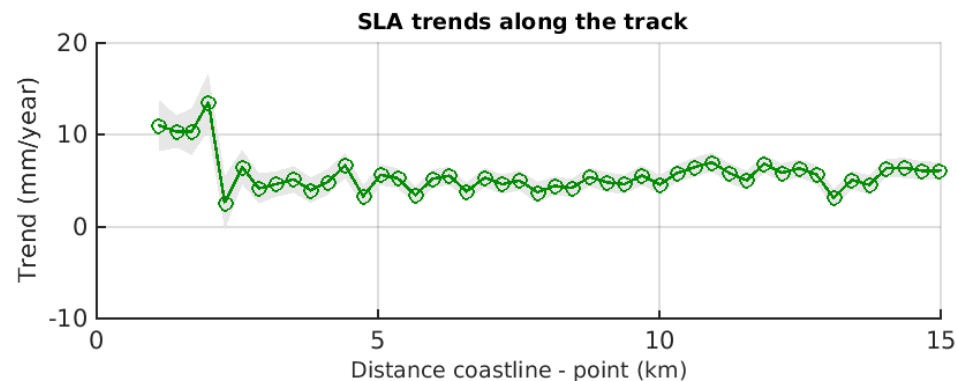
### Sea level trends as a function of distance to coast



### Sea level time-series of the closest points to coast

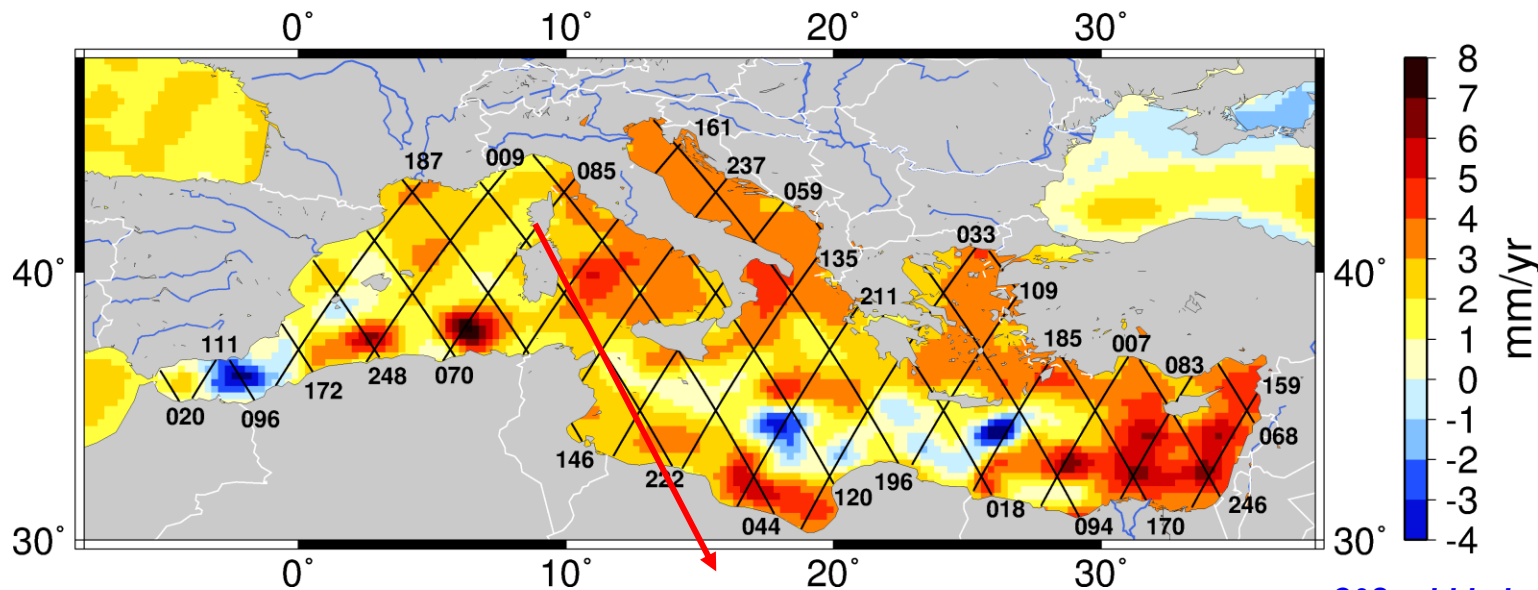


### Sea level trends as a function of distance to coast



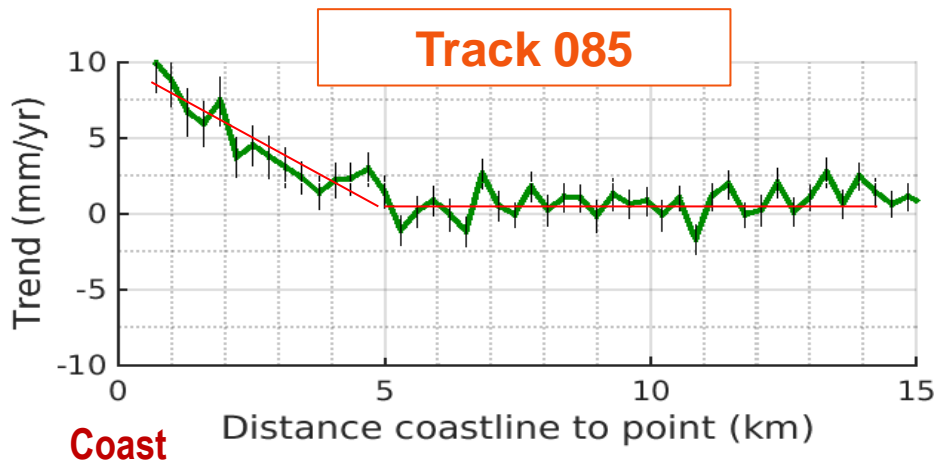
# Coastal sea level trends from satellite altimetry (2002-2016) along the Jason-1&2 satellites tracks → Mediterranean Sea

Sea level trends (July 2002 - June 2016) - C3S product



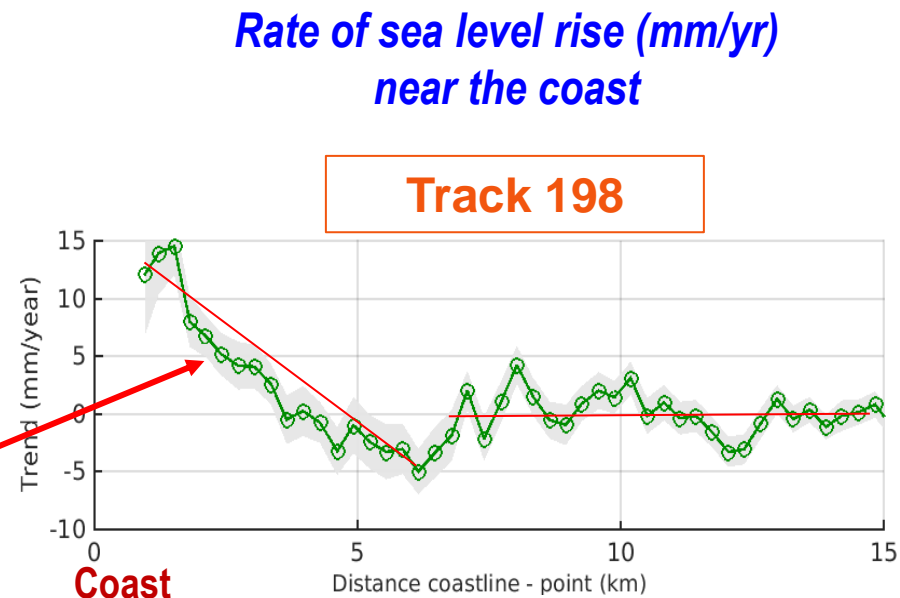
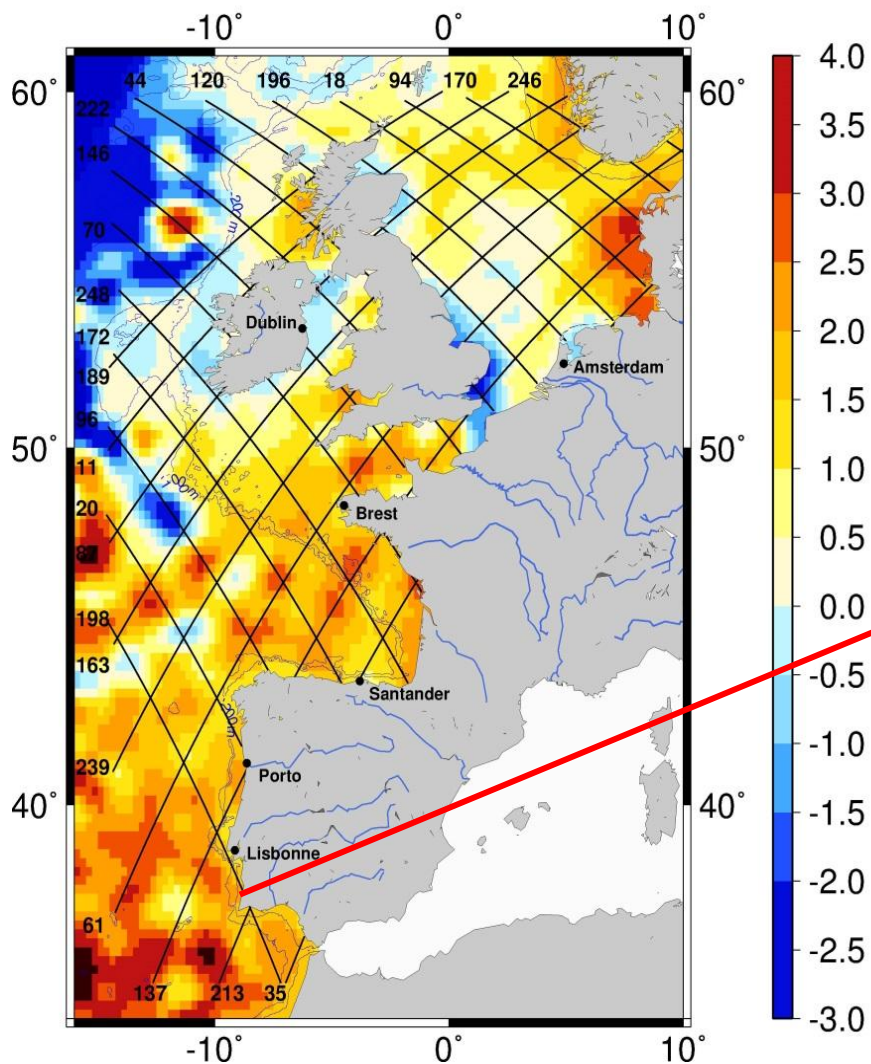
C3S gridded product and J-1 & J-2 tracks

Rate of sea level rise (mm/yr) near the coast



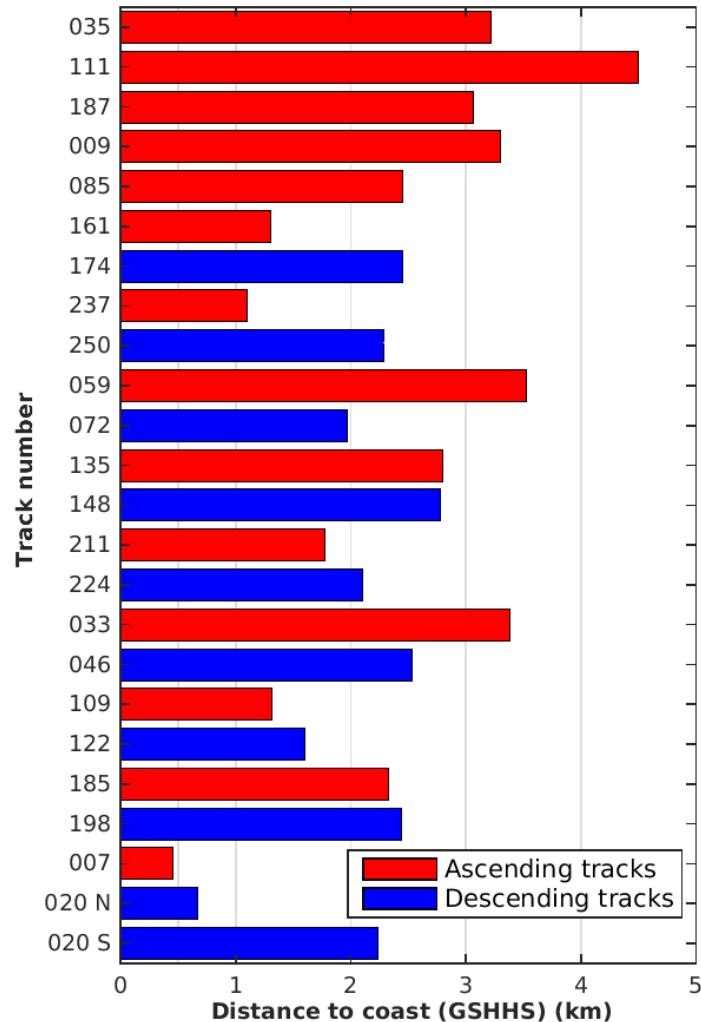
# Coastal sea level trends from satellite altimetry (2002-2016) along the Jason-1&2 satellites tracks → Western Europe

Sea level trends (July 2002 - June 2016) - C3S product



## Western Africa : Distance to coastline of the closest valid point

Closest point to coastline - from X-TRACK/ALES 20 Hz data over July 2002 - June 2016



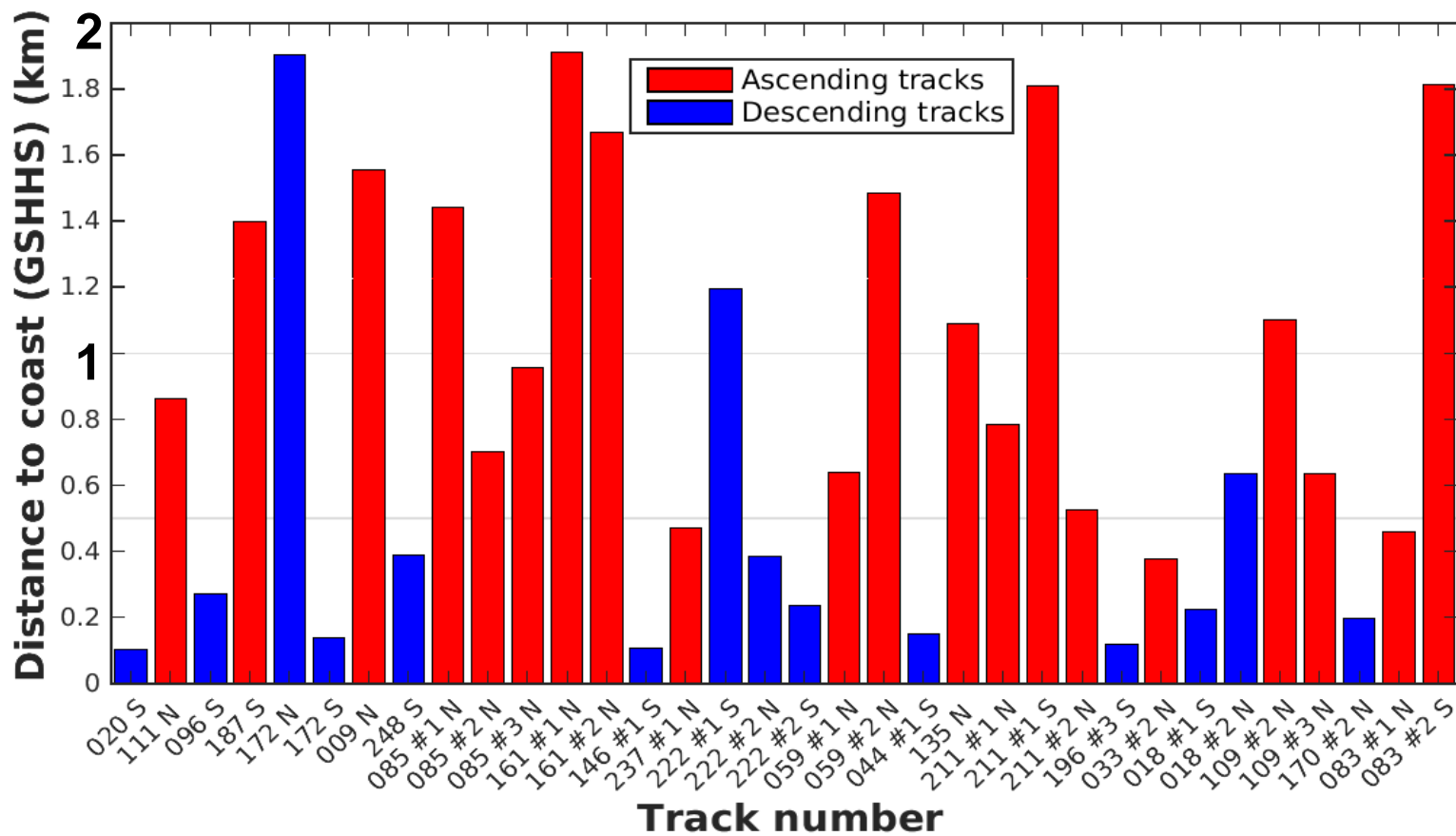
**X-TRACK/ALES 20 Hz**

**Sea level data available at:**

**< 2.5 km from the coast**  
**→ 16 tracks over 24**

**< 1 km from the coast**  
**→ 3 tracks over 24**

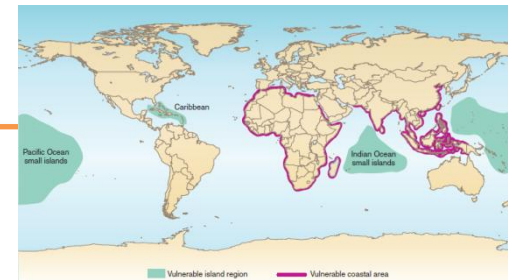
## Mediterranean Sea: Distance to coastline of the closest valid point





# Future work (ESA CCI+ Sea Level Project) →

- (1) extend to the world coastlines
- (2) use of SAR altimetry on Sentinel-3A/B,
- (3) explain the change in sea level trends observed within the last ~5 km to the coast



Nicholls & Cazenave, 2010

~~Geophysical corrections ?~~

Winds ?

Shelf currents ?

Waves ?

River discharges ?



# Thanks for your attention

