

# Ice cover and associated water dynamics of Eurasian lakes from satellite and in situ observations

LEGOS, Université de Toulouse, France

Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Moscow

Limnological Institute, Irkutsk

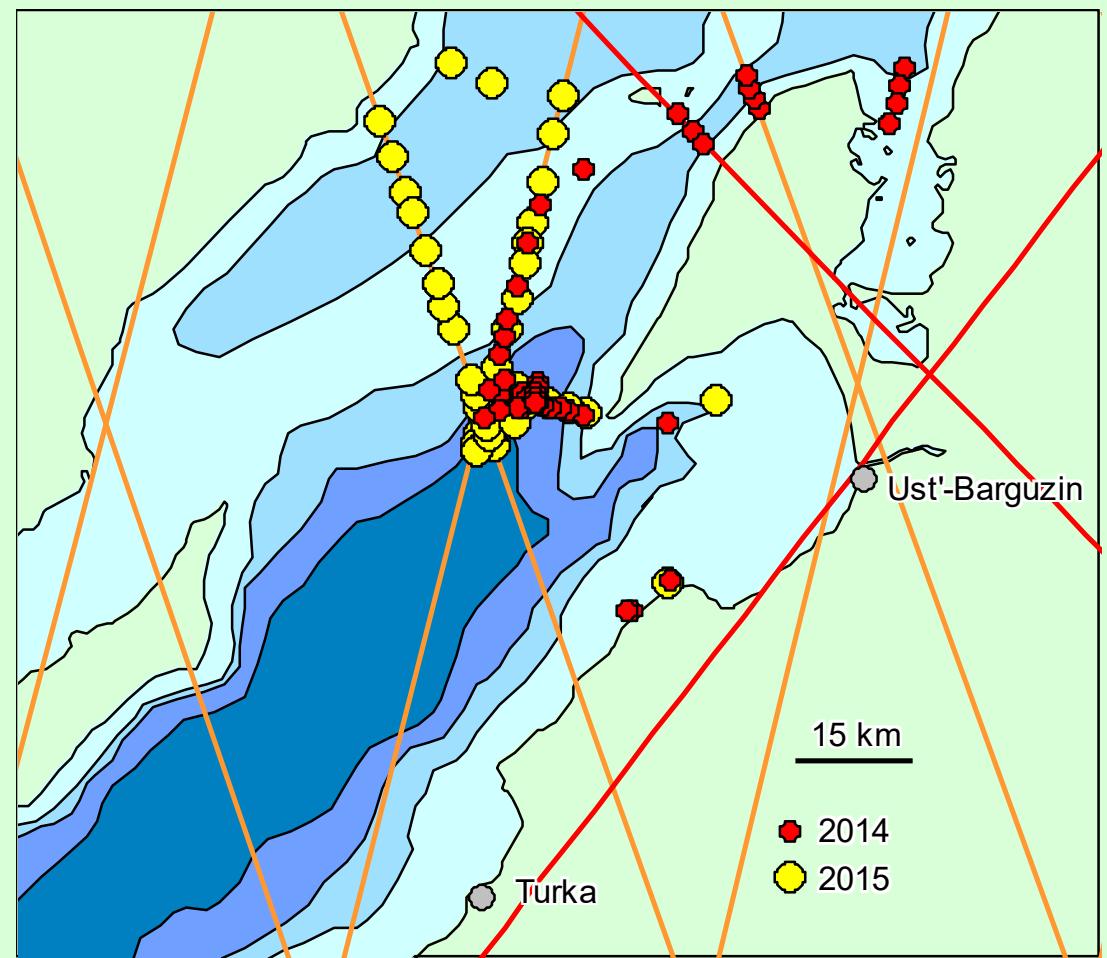
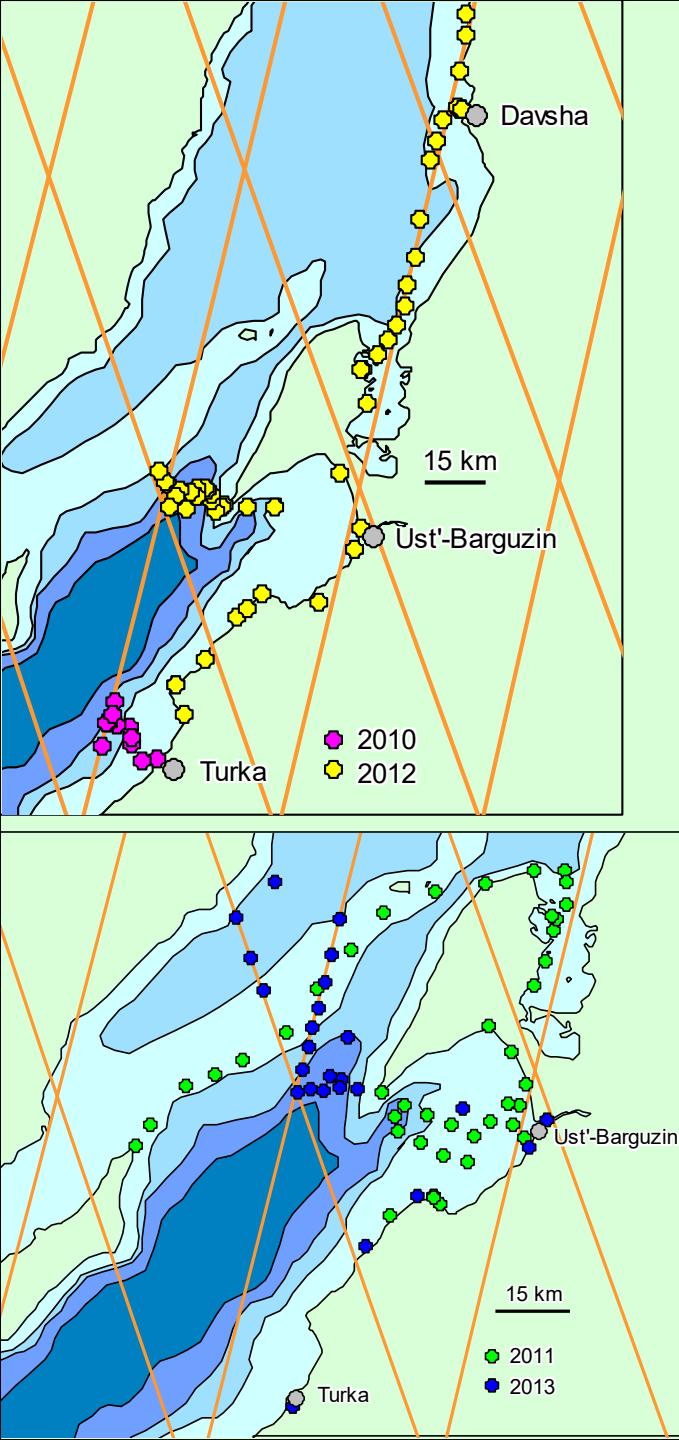
Northern Water Problems Institute, Petrozavodsk,

Institute of Water Problems, Moscow,

Great Baikal Trail (GBT) Buryatiya, Ulan-Ude

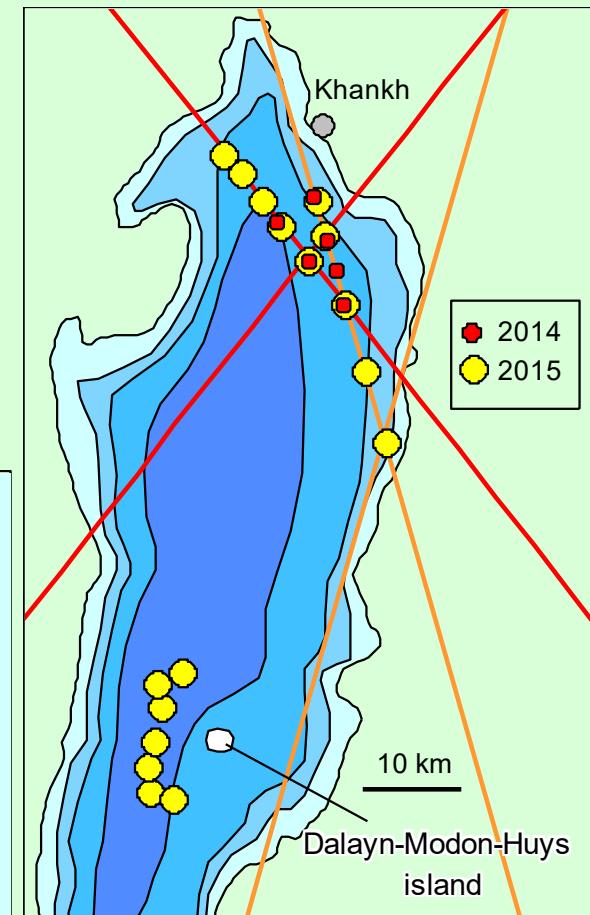
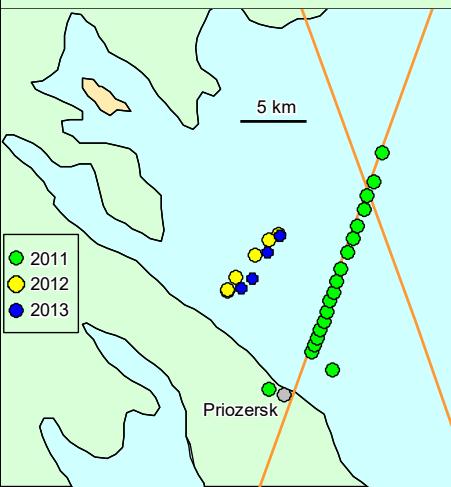
A. Kouraev, E. Zakharova, F.Rémy, A. Kostianoy,  
M. Shimaraev, N.M.J. Hall, R. Zdorovennov, A. Suknev.

# Field work - Baikal

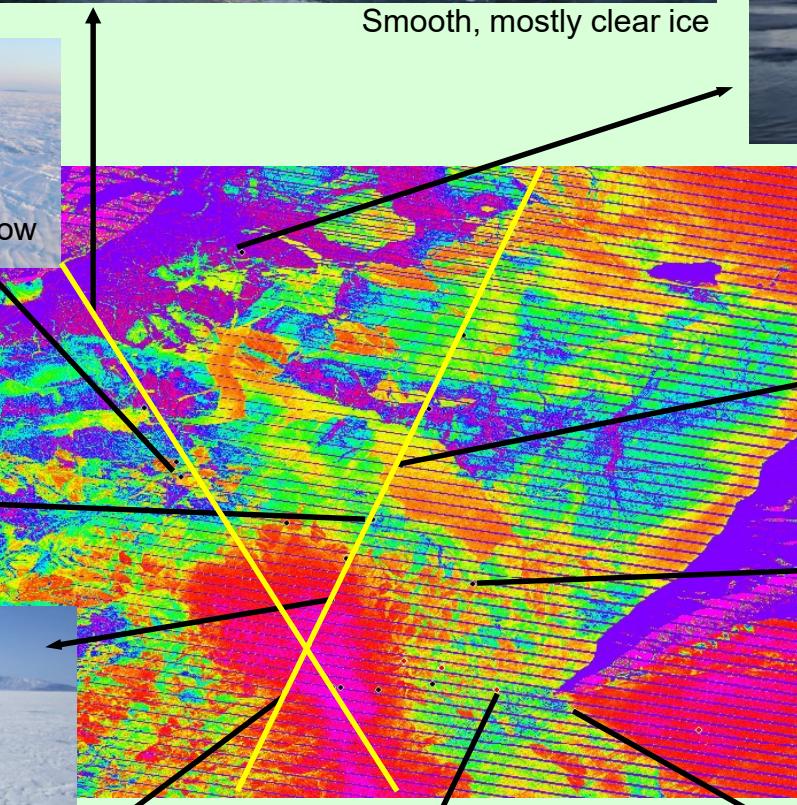
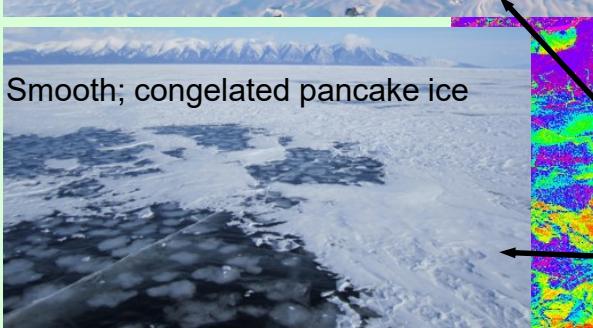


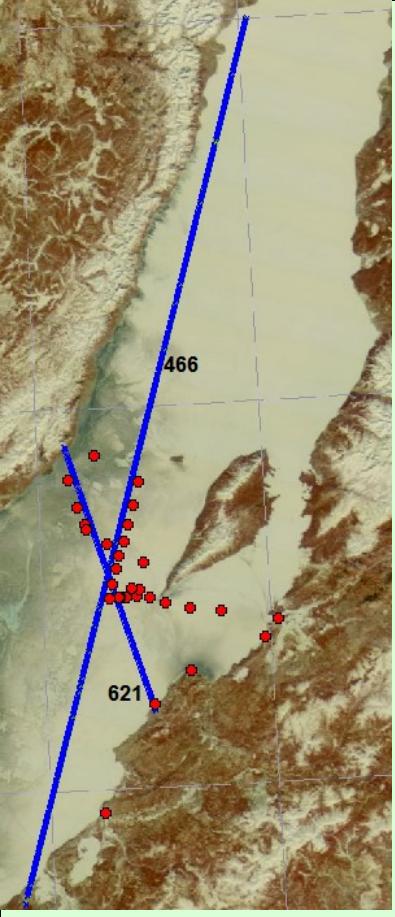
**High spatial sampling along-track  
Ground truth:  
extremely important**

# Field work - Ladoga, Onega and Hovsgol



Swiss-Russian project “Lake Ladoga”

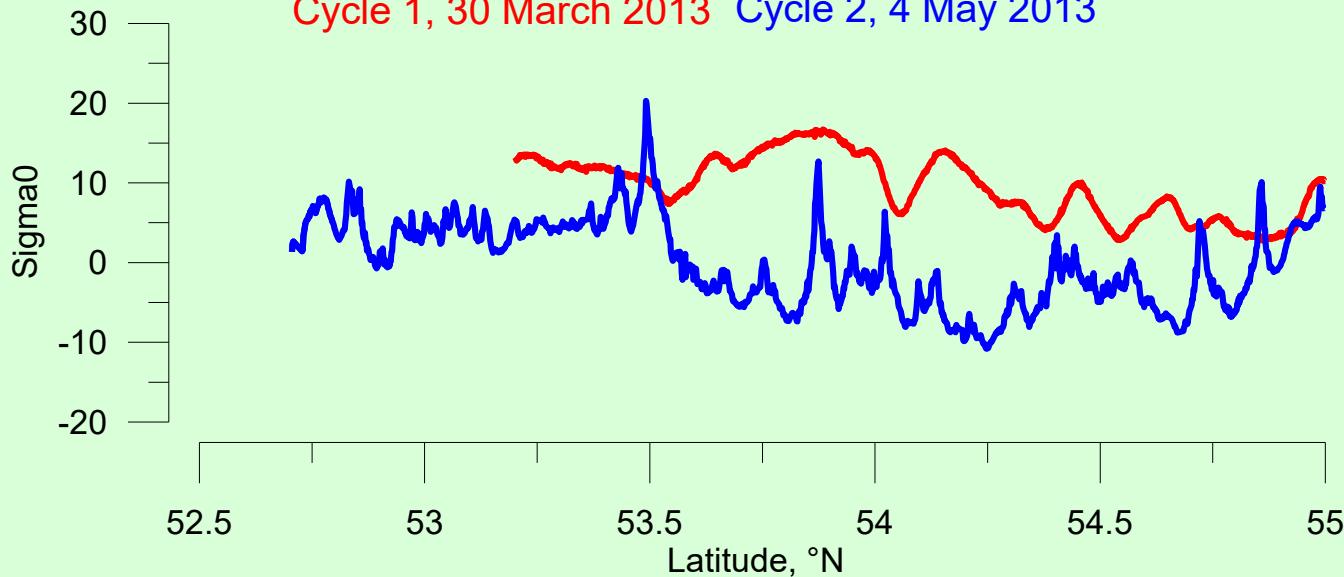




15-20 dB  
decrease,  
different  
patterns

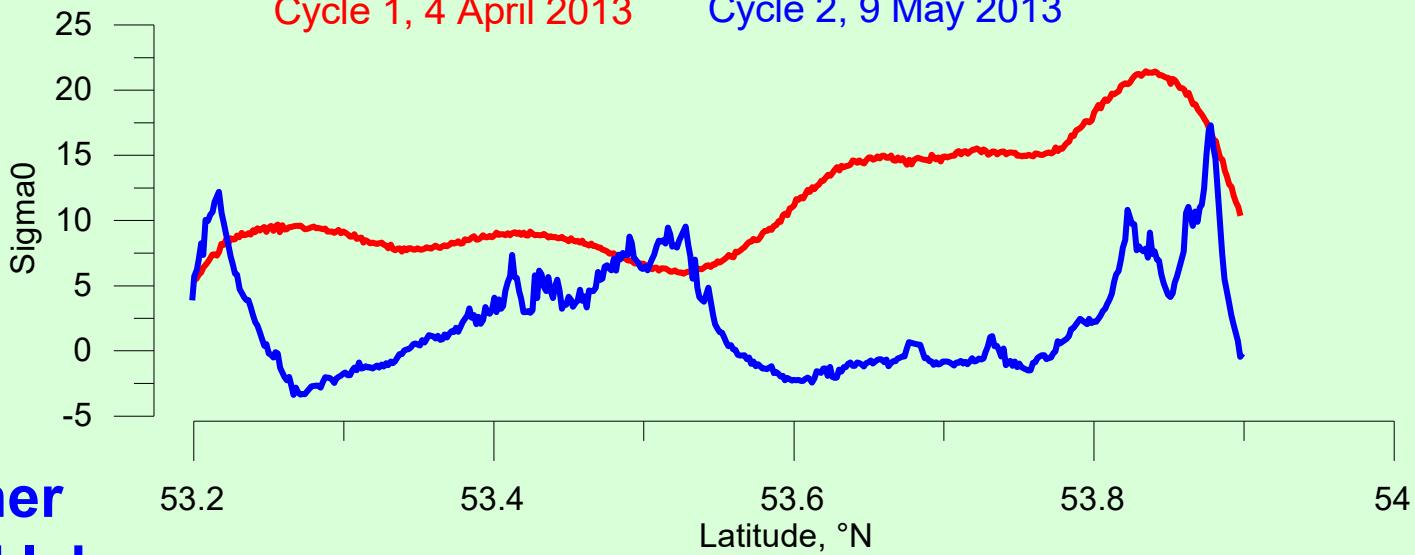
## Track 466

Cycle 1, 30 March 2013   Cycle 2, 4 May 2013



## Track 621

Cycle 1, 4 April 2013   Cycle 2, 9 May 2013

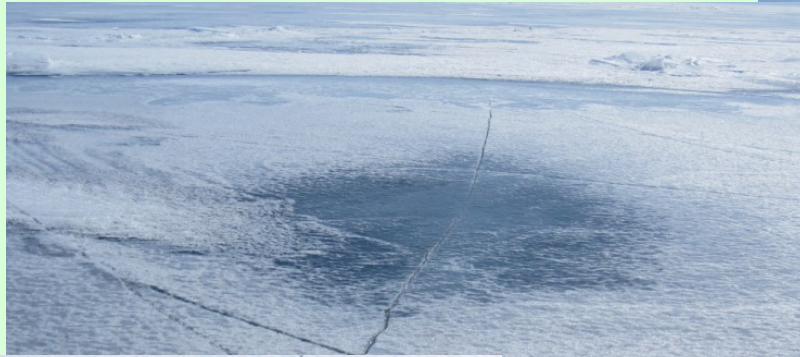


Typical for other  
altimeters and lakes



**Going down to  
micro scale**

# Ice structure



# Air channels



Air channels formation in 9 min  
Influence on albedo and waveform

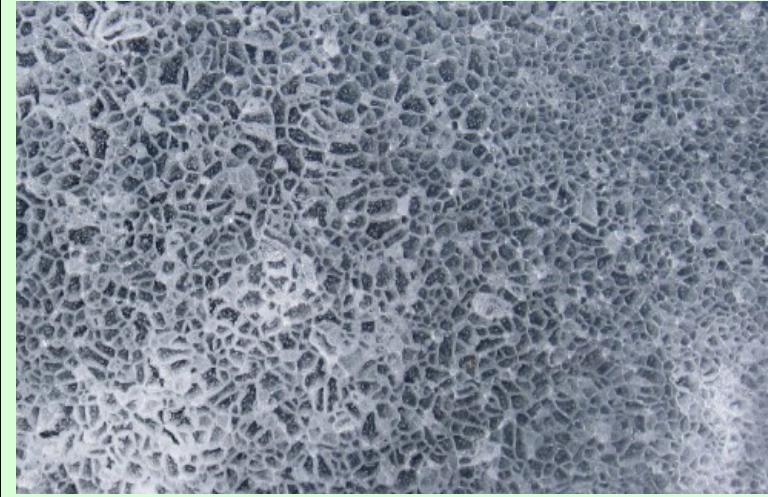




# Needle ice



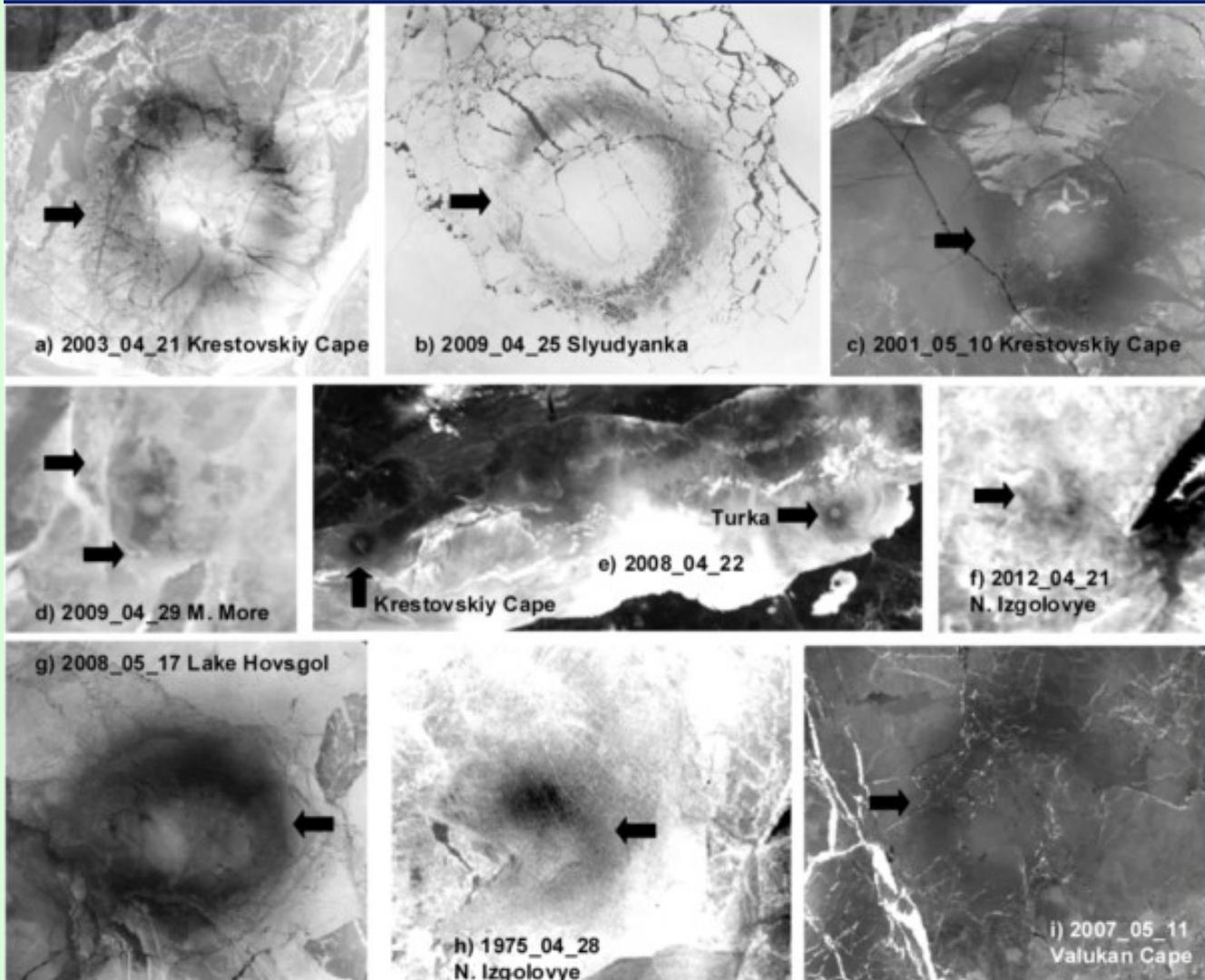
Better understanding  
of altimetric waveform  
is needed

A close-up photograph of a surface with a dense, granular texture. The surface appears to be made of small, irregularly shaped particles, possibly snow or a type of ice. The lighting creates highlights and shadows on the individual particles, giving the surface a three-dimensional appearance.

# THE LORD OF THE BAIKAL ICE RINGS

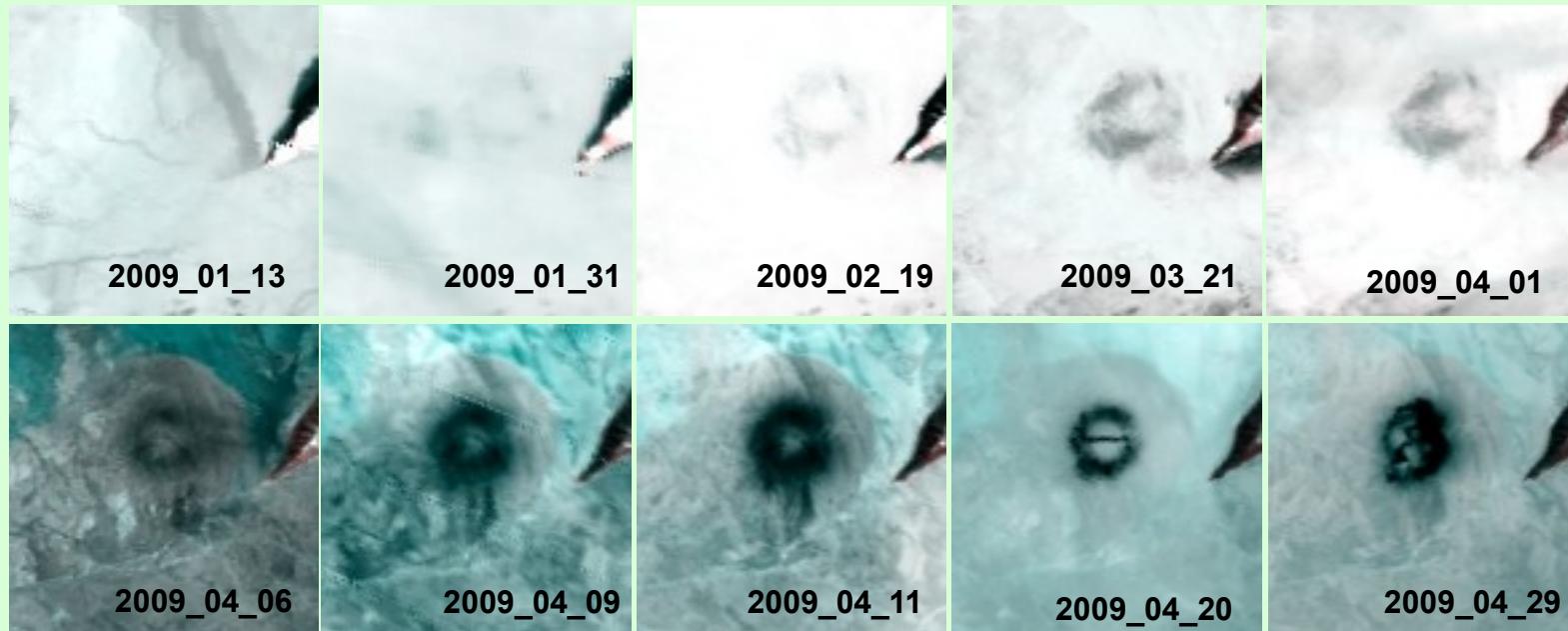
Diameter  
5-7 km.  
Circular shape.  
Ice is thinner  
in the ring

Different  
years,  
different  
places



Rings are usually seen in April.  
But they could be formed earlier

Evolution



Cape Nizhneye Izgolovye (Middle Baikal), January-April 2009

This ring has been formed between 15 Jan and 1 Feb 2009

How much time is needed to form (sustain?) a ring?

Rings - how and why???

# Possible explanations



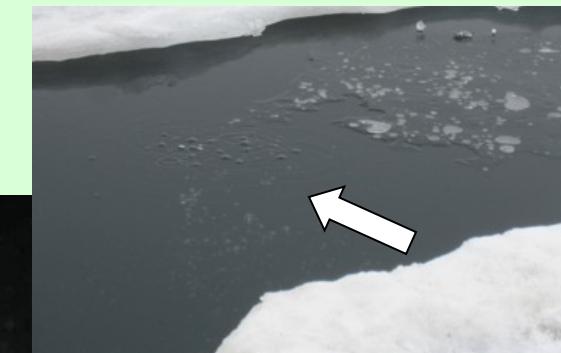
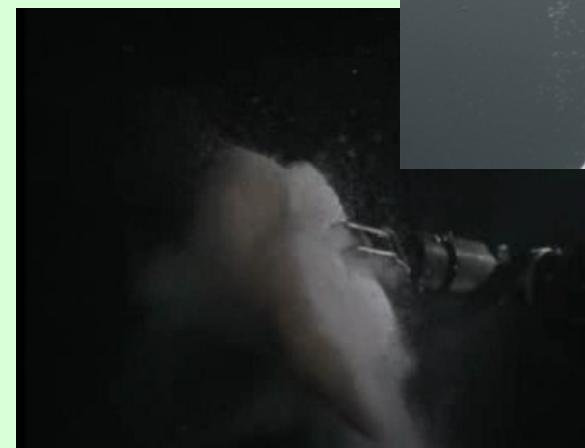
Atmospheric



Biologic



Esoteric



Methane

# Next step: Ringspotting!

To understand: better measurements, parameterisation

Improve spatial resolution

Beyond visible range: thermal infrared, microwave

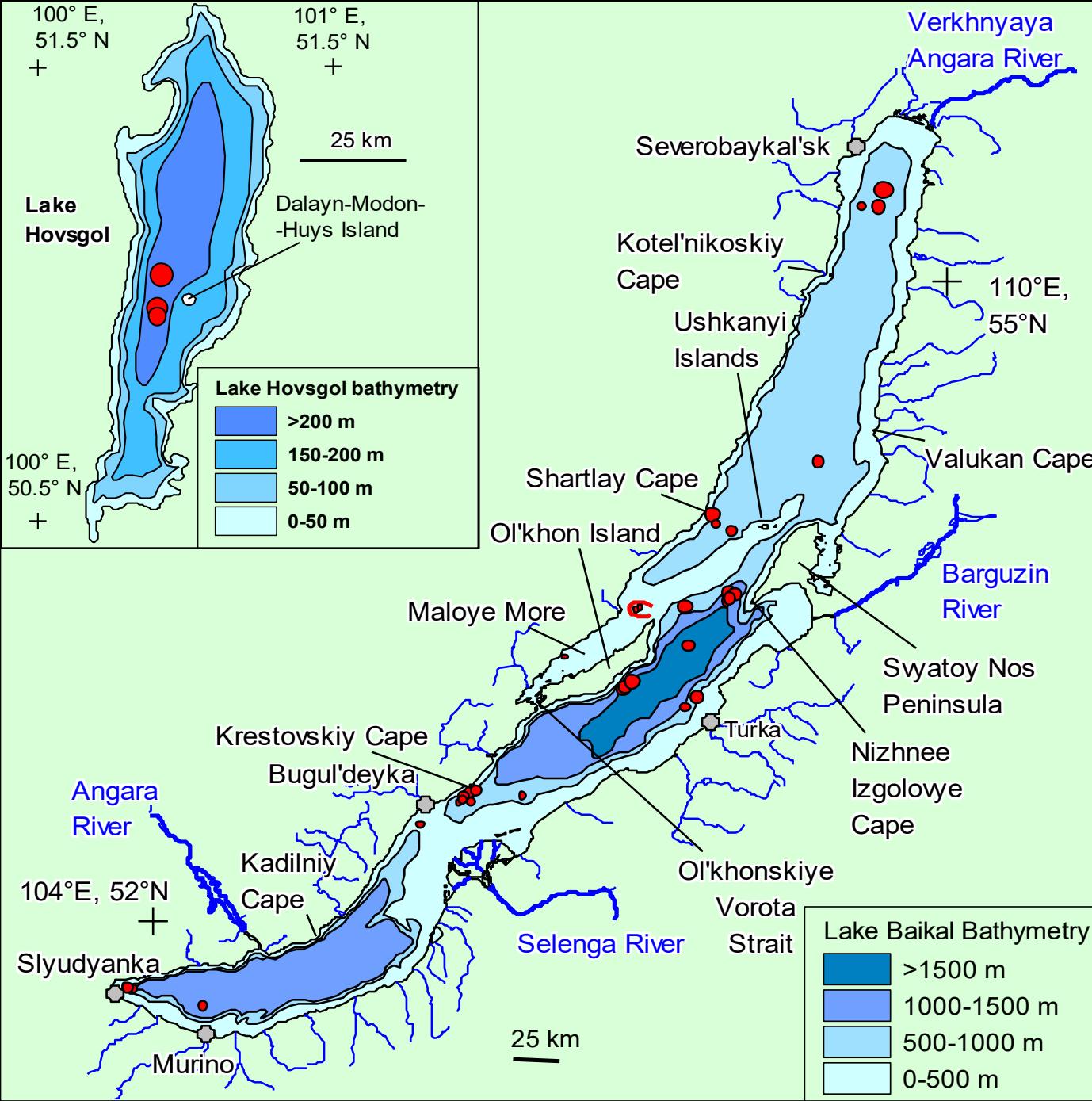
MODIS: after 2002

Landsat MSS, TM, ETM+:  
after 1970ies

SAR (ENVISAT ASAR  
and others)



# Inventory



**Baikal:**  
**45 (13 known)**

**Hovsgol:**  
**4 (0 known)**

# Inventory

Winter	Name	Diameter, km	Lon E	Lat N	First seen <sup>a</sup>	Last seen <sup>a</sup>	Duration, days <sup>b</sup>	Depth, m	Form <sup>c</sup>
1974	Shartlay C.	8.2	108.25	53.90	03/01	03/01	(1)	850	R
1974	Kotel'nikovskiy C.	2.4	109.14	55.02	03/01	03/01	(1)	850	DR
1975	N. Izgolovye C.	5.4	108.36	53.50	04/28	04/28	(1)	1550	DR
1975	Hovsgol	2.5	100.40	50.97	05/19	05/20	(2)	>200	R
1977	Krestovskiy C.	3.6	106.42	52.55	05/06	05/06	(1)	1050	DR
1985	N. Izgolovye C.	7	108.42	53.52	04/29	05/06	(1) <sup>d</sup>	1450	OR
1994	N. Izgolovye C.	6	108.38	53.51	04/10	04/16	(7)	1450	OR
1999	Krestovskiy C.	6.4	106.42	52.60	04/18	04/18	(1)	900	R
2000	Slyudyanka	5.6	103.83	51.68	04/27	04/27	(1)	750	R
2000	Severobayalsk	5.4	109.37	55.35	05/15	05/15	(1)	750	R
2001	Krestovskiy C.	4.4	106.34	52.55	04/21	05/10	(20)	850	DR
2002	M. More North	7.6	107.70	53.46	04/19	04/26	(8)	400	E
2002	M. More South	3.4	107.14	53.24	04/19	04/26	(8)	60	R
2002	Olkhon East	7.6	107.58	53.09	04/26	04/26	(1)	1550	R
2003	Krestovskiy C.	5.2	106.45	52.60	04/03(4)	04/28(4)	26	950	R
2003	Off Krestovskiy C.	4.4	106.81	52.58	04/17(7)	05/08(1)	22	950	R
2003	Hovsgol	2.9	100.42	51.04	06/13	06/13	(1)	>200	R
2004	Krestovskiy C.	6	106.42	52.59	04/21(5)	05/02(3)	12	900	R
2005	Krestovskiy C.	5.6	106.45	52.61	04/15(1)	05/01(3)	17	900	R
2005	M. More North	4.6	107.68	53.46	05/01(3)	05/13(2)	13	370	R,H
2005	Olkhon East	7	108.07	53.29	05/13(5)	05/23(1)	11	1550	OR
2005	Ushkanyi Islands	6.4	108.40	53.83	05/21(4)	05/23(4)	3	650	R
2007	Murino	6	104.40	51.60	04/11(2)	04/24(2)	14	1150	R
2007	Valukan C.	5.4	109.01	54.16	05/11(5)	05/16(1)	6	770	R
2008	Hovsgol	2.2	100.40	50.95	05/17	06/02	17	>200	OR
2008	Turka	4.6	108.04	53.00	04/15(5)	04/22(11)	8	670	R
2008	Krestovskiy C.	5.4	106.39	52.59	04/10(2)	04/23(10)	14	850	R
2008	Slyudyanka	4.4	103.81	51.69	04/16(1)	04/30(3)	15	650	R
2009	N. Izgolovye C.	6.6	108.37	53.53	02/01(5)	05/03(1)	92	1350	R
2009	Slyudyanka	5.2	103.88	51.67	04/04(3)	04/27(2)	24	1050	R
2009	M. More North	3.8	107.70	53.47	04/04(3)	05/04(2)	31	370	R,H
2009	Turka	7.6	108.13	53.05	04/09(2)	04/29(4)	21	500	R,H
2010	Severobayalsk N	7.6	109.55	55.42	01/31(9)	04/27(2)	87	750	R
2010	Severobayalsk S	6	109.50	55.34	01/02(0)	05/07(4)	126	750	R
2010	Krestovskiy	4.6	106.35	52.57	04/21(2)	05/11(6)	21	950	R,H
2010	Bugul'deyka	4.8	106.04	52.45	04/21(2)	05/16(1)	26	450	R,H
2011	N. Izgolovye C.	8	108.38	53.53	04/15(2)	05/02(3)	18	1150	R
2011	Olkhon East	8	107.64	53.12	04/13(3)	04/26(5)	14	1350	R
2011	Krestovskiy C.	6.2	106.36	52.57	03/31(4)	04/27(4)	28	850	R
2012	N. Izgolovye C.	6	108.39	53.52	04/06(3)	04/28(1)	23	1450	R
2012	Olkhon East	7.6	107.59	53.09	04/06(11)	04/21(3)	16	1550	R
2012	Krestovskiy C.	6.8	106.37	52.58	04/06(7)	04/21(3)	16	850	R
2013	Krestovskiy C.	4.8	106.36	52.56	04/18(2)	05/04(2)	17	900	R,H
2013	Sv. Nos - Olkhon	7.6	108.04	53.47	04/29(5)	05/13(2)	15	750	R
2013	Shartlay C.	5.4	108.27	53.85	05/07(3)	05/19(2)	13	850	OR
2014	Krestovskiy C.	6	106.47	52.61	04/17(1)	04/22(4)	9	850	DR
2014	N. Izgolovye C.	7	108.38	53.50	04/01(2)	04/23(3)	23	1450	R
2015	Valukan C.	5.6	109.18	54.13	05/08(1)	05/10(3)	3	650	OR
2015	Hovsgol	6.2	100.45	51.03	05/20	05/29	(10)	>200	OR

Inventory of ice rings  
and their characteristics

Kouraev et al., Limnology and Oceanography, 2016

The most complete inventory

Not a new phenomenon (1970ies)

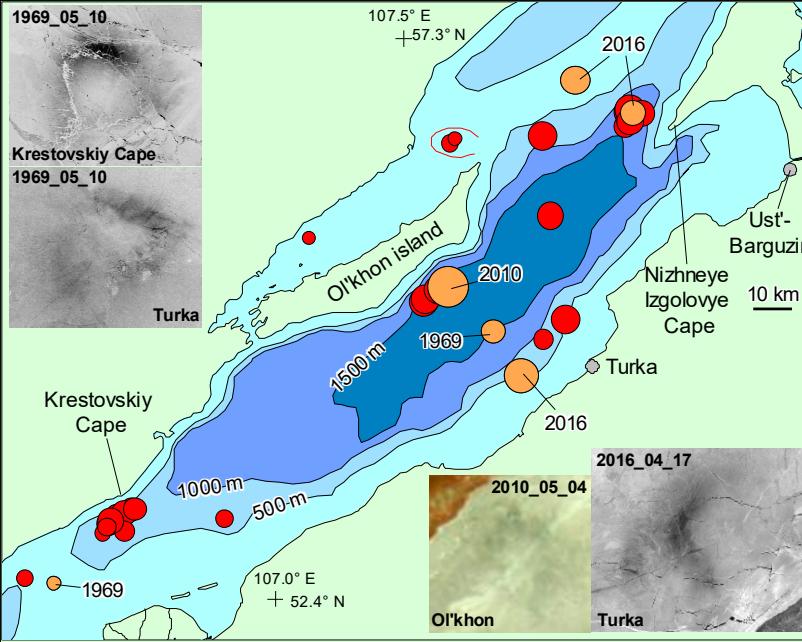
Rings with small depths -  
no gas release origins

Duration 5-10 days (1-126 days)

Most frequently - April (Jan-May)

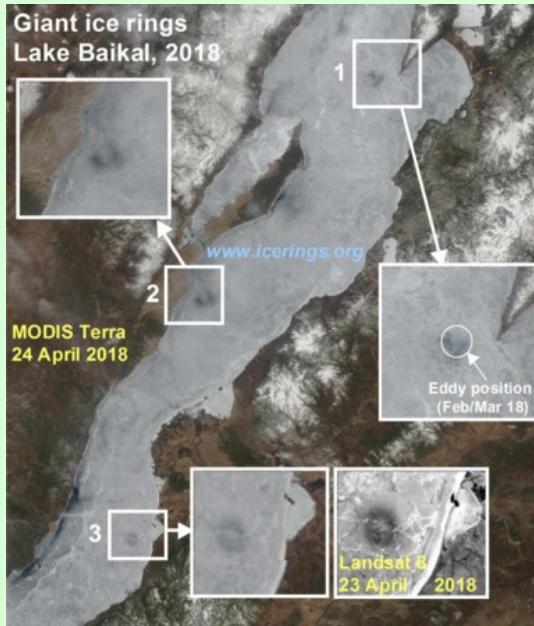
N. Izgolovye and Krestovskiy Capes

# New rings

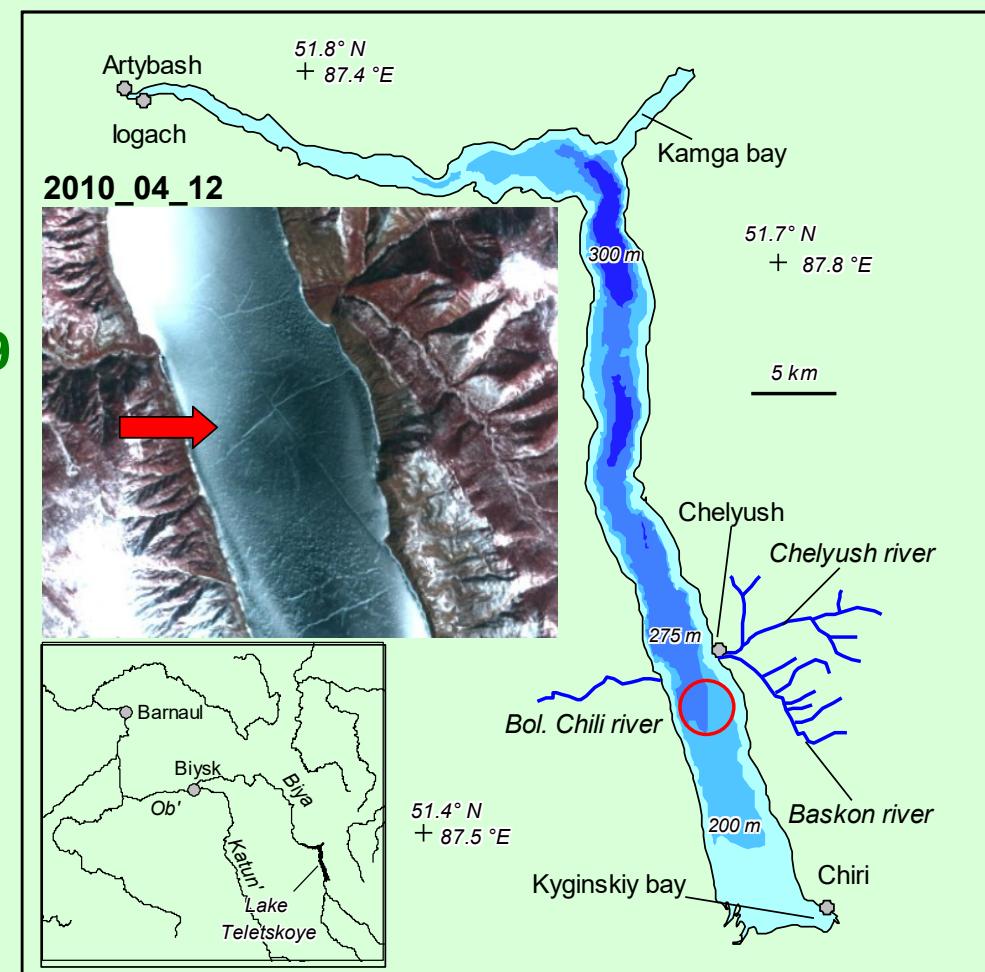


As early as 1969

51 rings for Baikal +5 in 2018-19



Baikal, Hovsgol and now...  
Teletskoye lake!



# From ringspotting to ring hunting: dedicated field campaigns

*"Can't rely on anyone these days,  
you have to do everything yourself..."  
(Joker in "The Dark Knight", 2008)*



## Dedicated projects:

2011- **CNES TOSCA** "Lakelce"

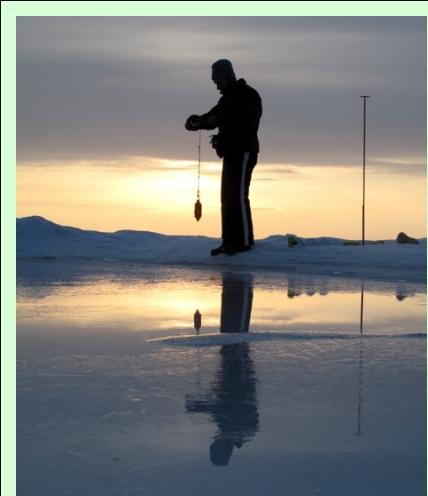
2012-15 **PICS CNRS-Russia** - "BaLaLaICA - BAikal and  
LAdoga LAKes - Integrated Cooperation Activities

2012-15 **RFBR** Project "Studies of Ladoga and Baikal lakes"

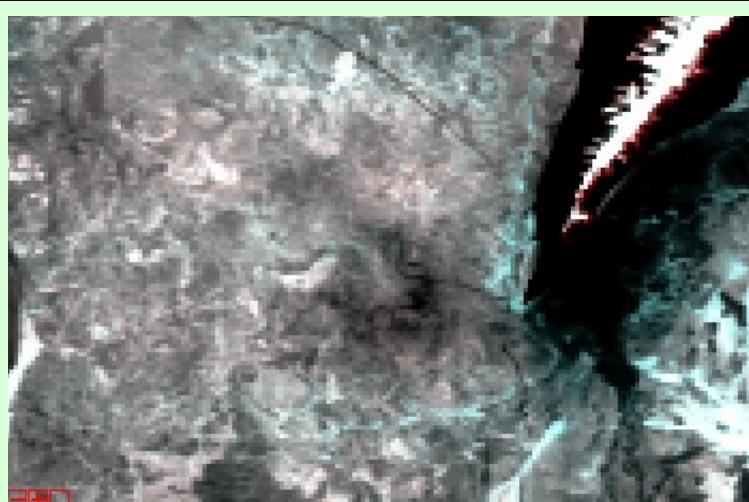
2016-17 **ERA.Net RUS Plus S&T** Project "ERALECC -  
EuRAsian Lakes in Extreme Climate Conditions"

2017-19 **RFFI-RGO** "Water exchange in deep lakes on the  
example of Lakes Issyk-Kul and Baikal"

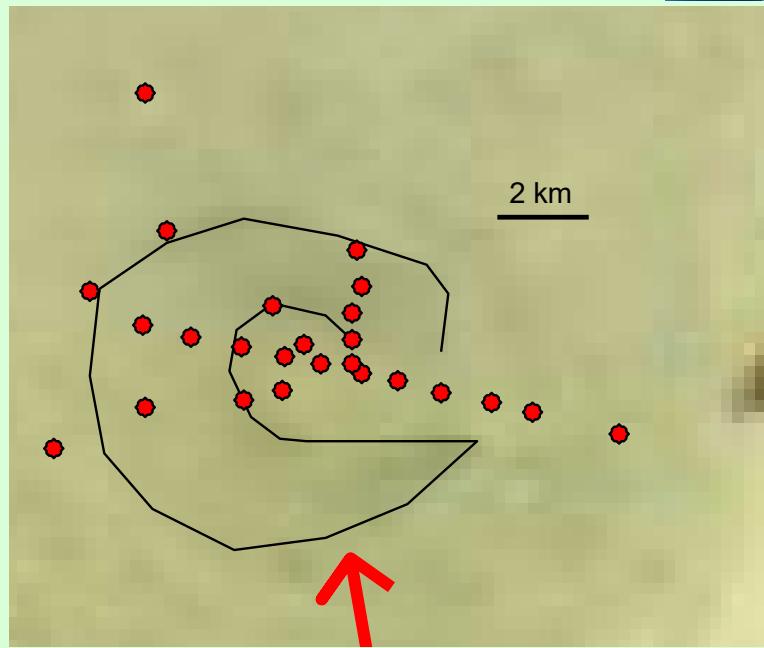
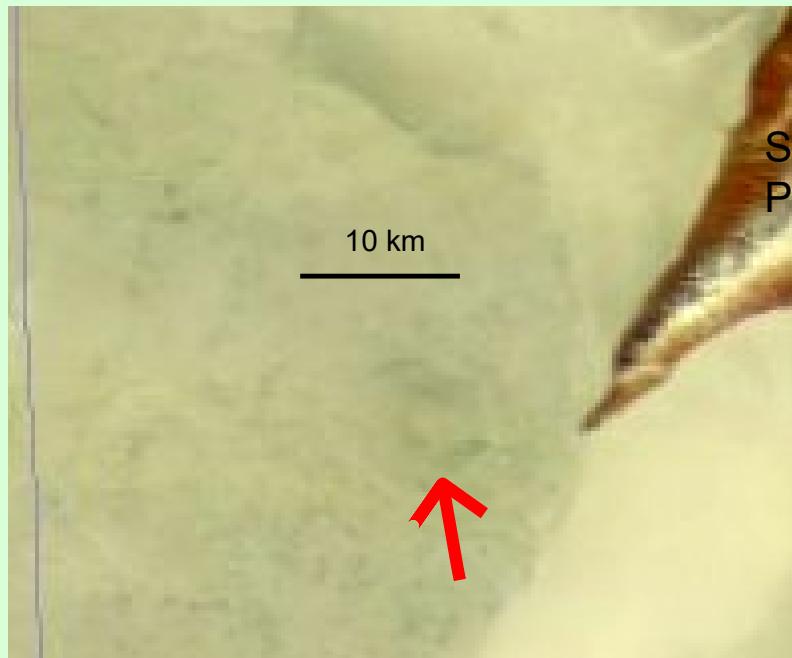
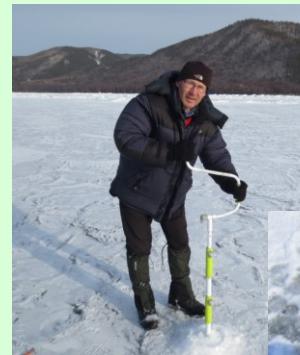
# Ice rings in 2012 and 2014



5-7 April 2012



MODIS 21 April 2012



Lens-like eddy

Exist before and during ice ring appearance

# Anomalous water structure

Anticyclonic (clockwise) currents

Increased melting at eddy boundary

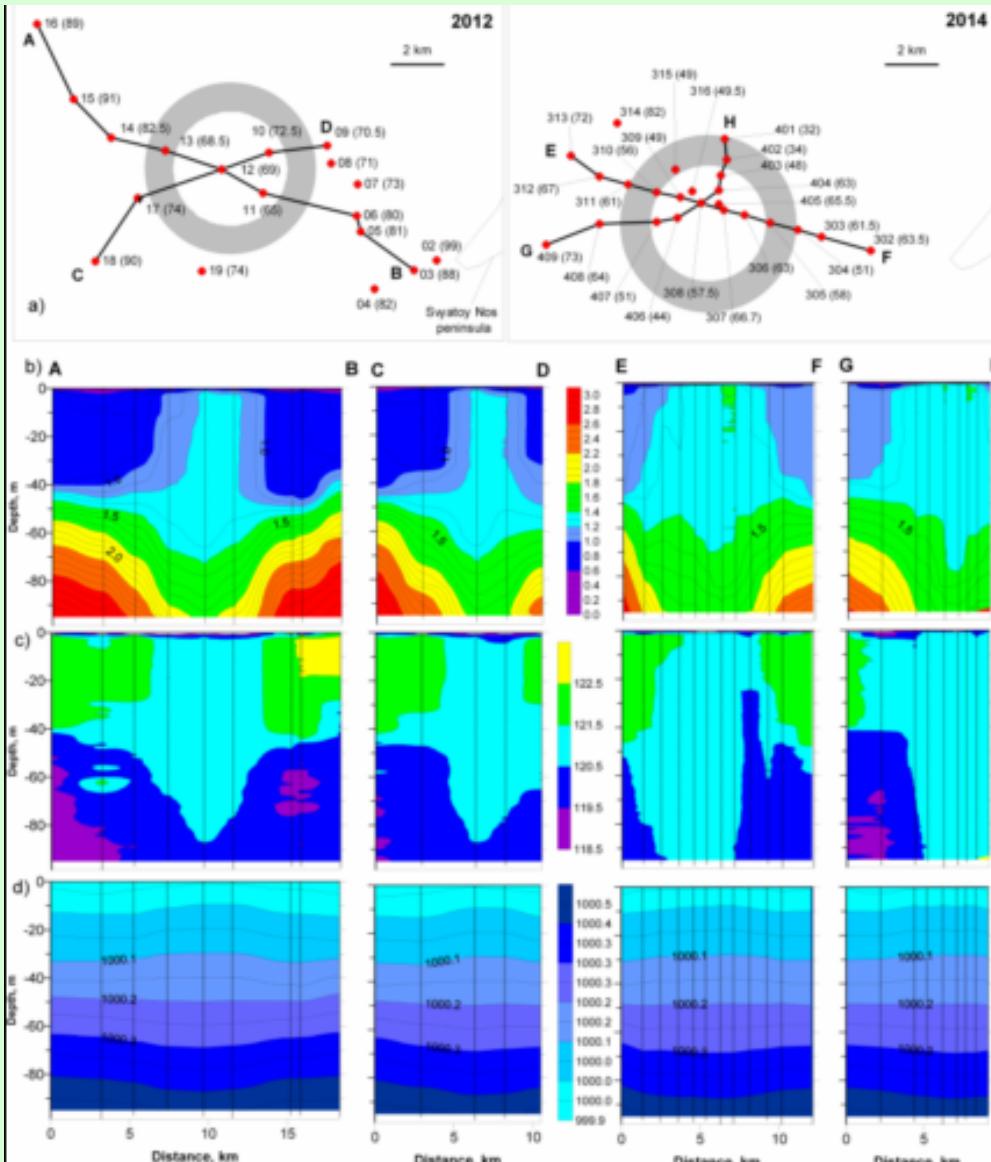
Ice rings - surface manifestation of eddies

Eddy origin - combination of coastal currents, bathymetry, wind forcing, seiches, river input etc

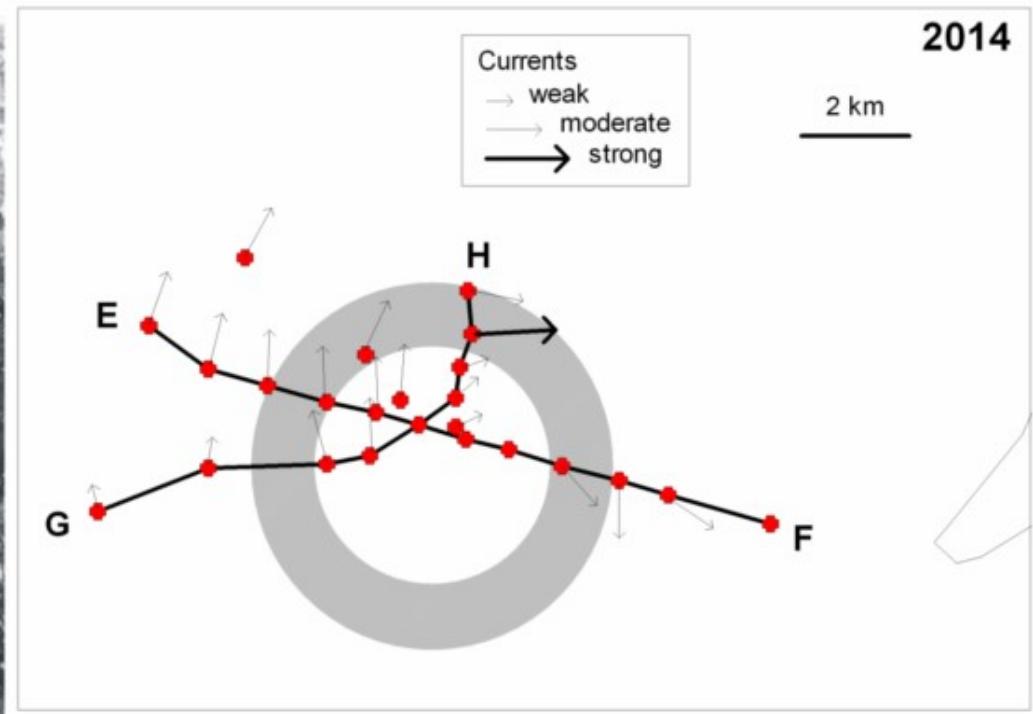
Eddy formation - during ice cover presence or before ice formation?

Need for dedicated studies

Nizhneye Izgolovye



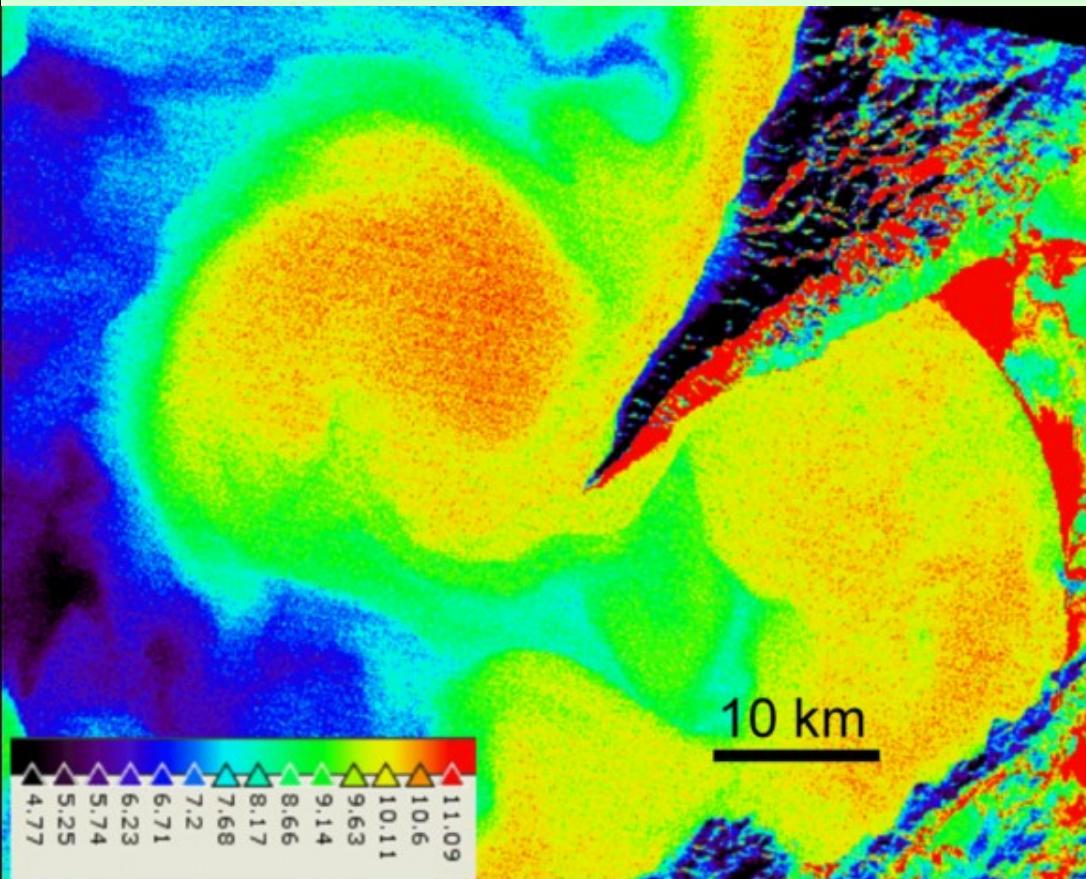
# Ice structure and currents



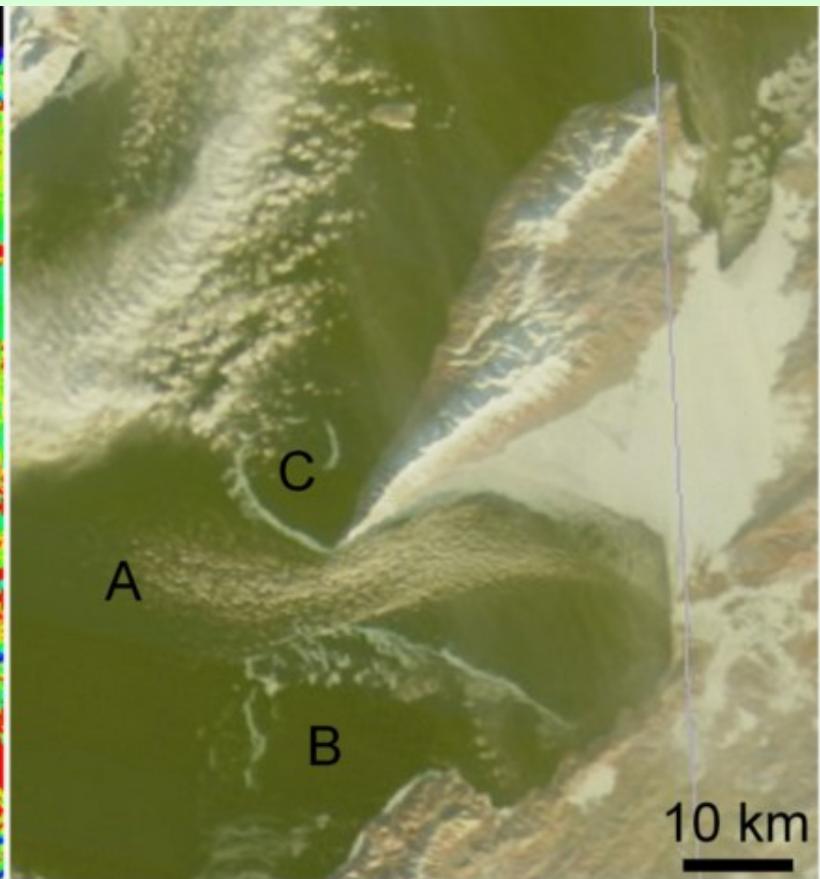
Crystals size - 10-12 cm long,  
2-3 cm thick), 3 April 2014

Currents 3-4 April 2014

# Water dynamics

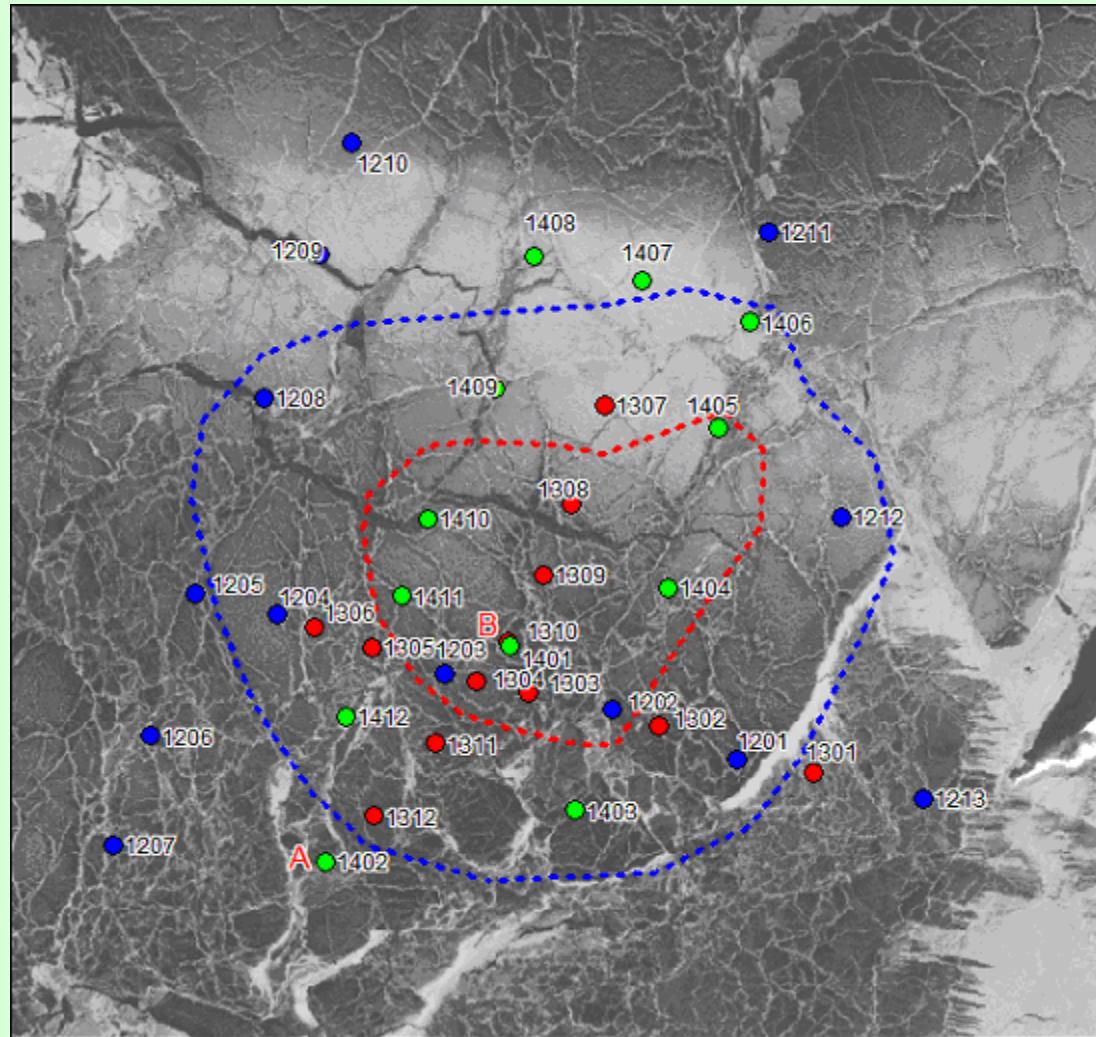


Landsat TIR 26 September 2002  
-anticyclonic warm eddy.



MODIS 31 December 2011

# February 2016



14 Mar



3 Apr



7 Apr

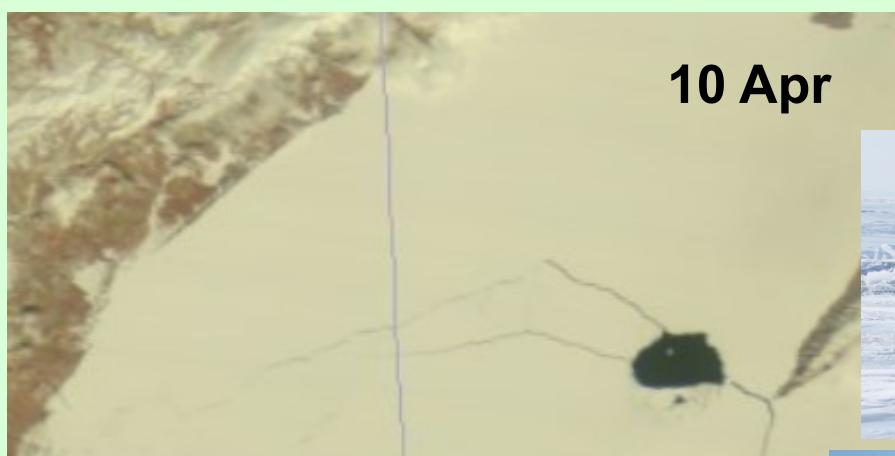


Ice ring  
2016

8 Apr



10 Apr



9 Apr



UAZ trapped in ice and  
rescue activities, March 2016  
(c) A. Beketov

March 2016



# Communication: administration

Ministry of emergency (EMERCOM)  
Barguzinskiy National Park



## Communication: normal people

Booklet on ice rings and the associated danger



[www.icerings.org](http://www.icerings.org):  
communicating  
on ice rings, near real time ice conditions

Collecting information from fishermen, tourist  
operators and local people

# Eddies - new monitoring strategy

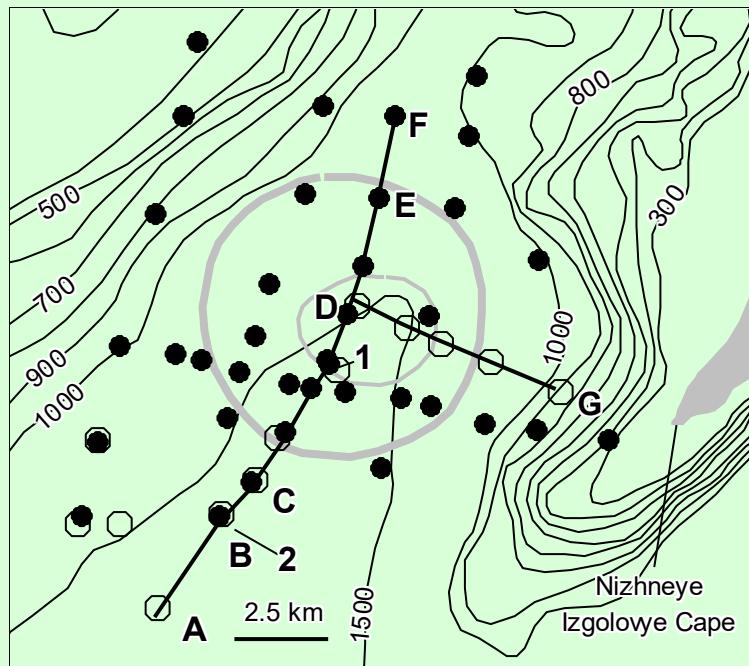
Mid-February and end of March

Current meters (tilt-meters and EM)

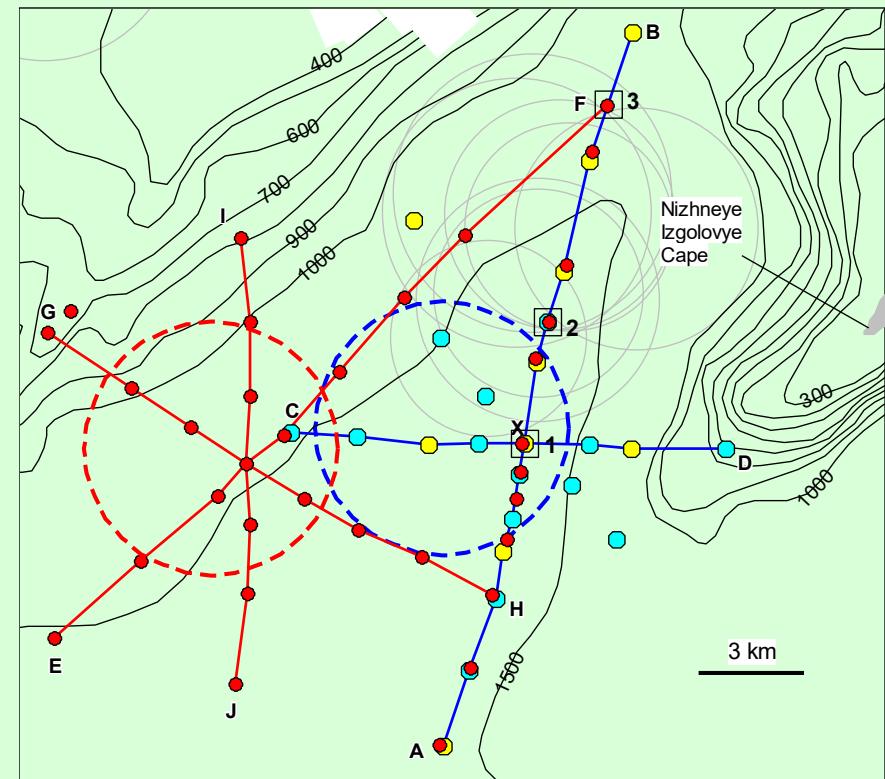
Measures down to 200 m

Ropes with thermistors and current meters (1.5 month)

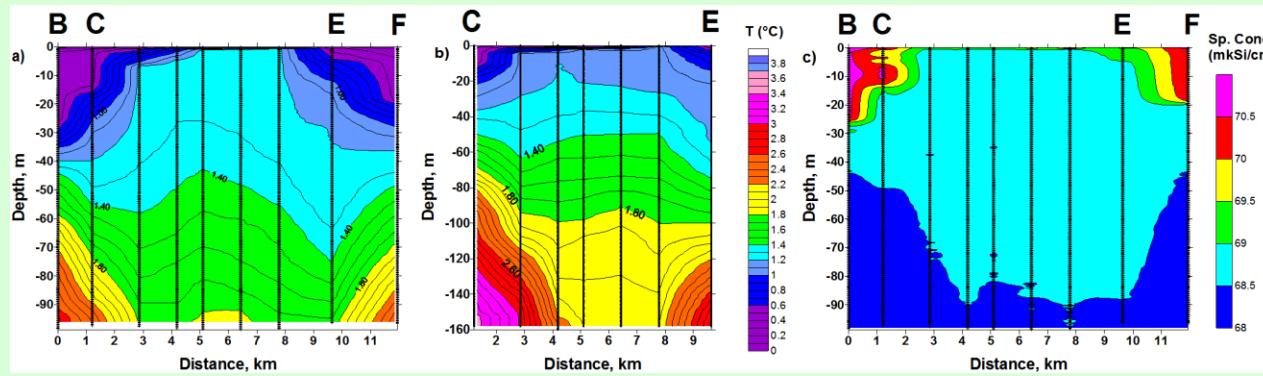
2016 - eddy in February and March



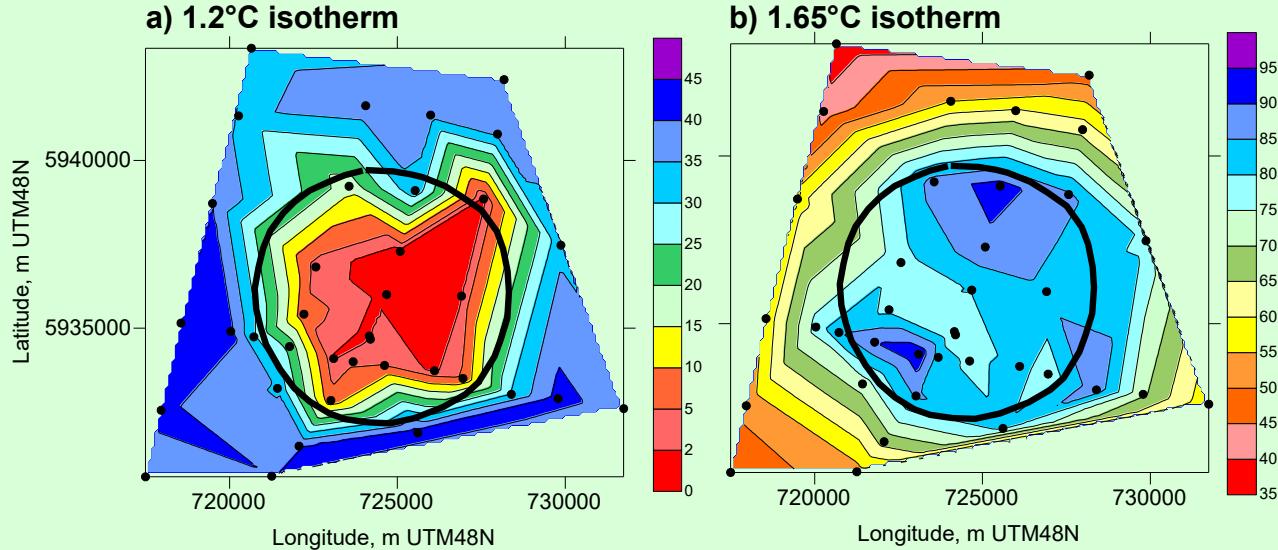
2017 - eddy in February, moved by March



February  
2016

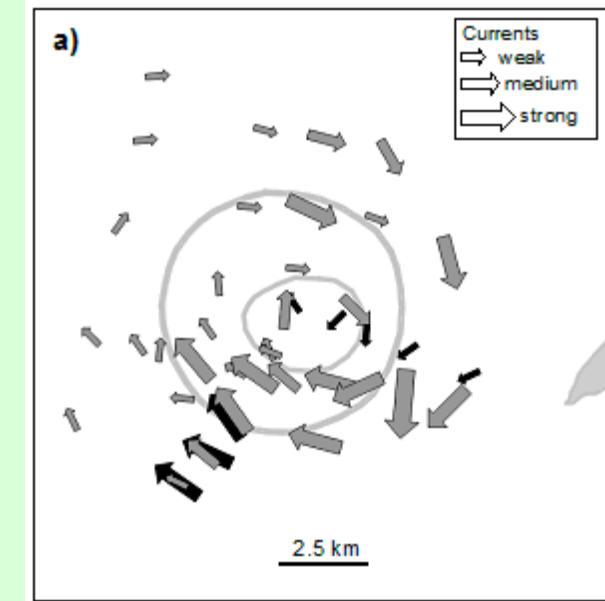


Temperature 100 and 160 m, Sp. Conductivity 100 m



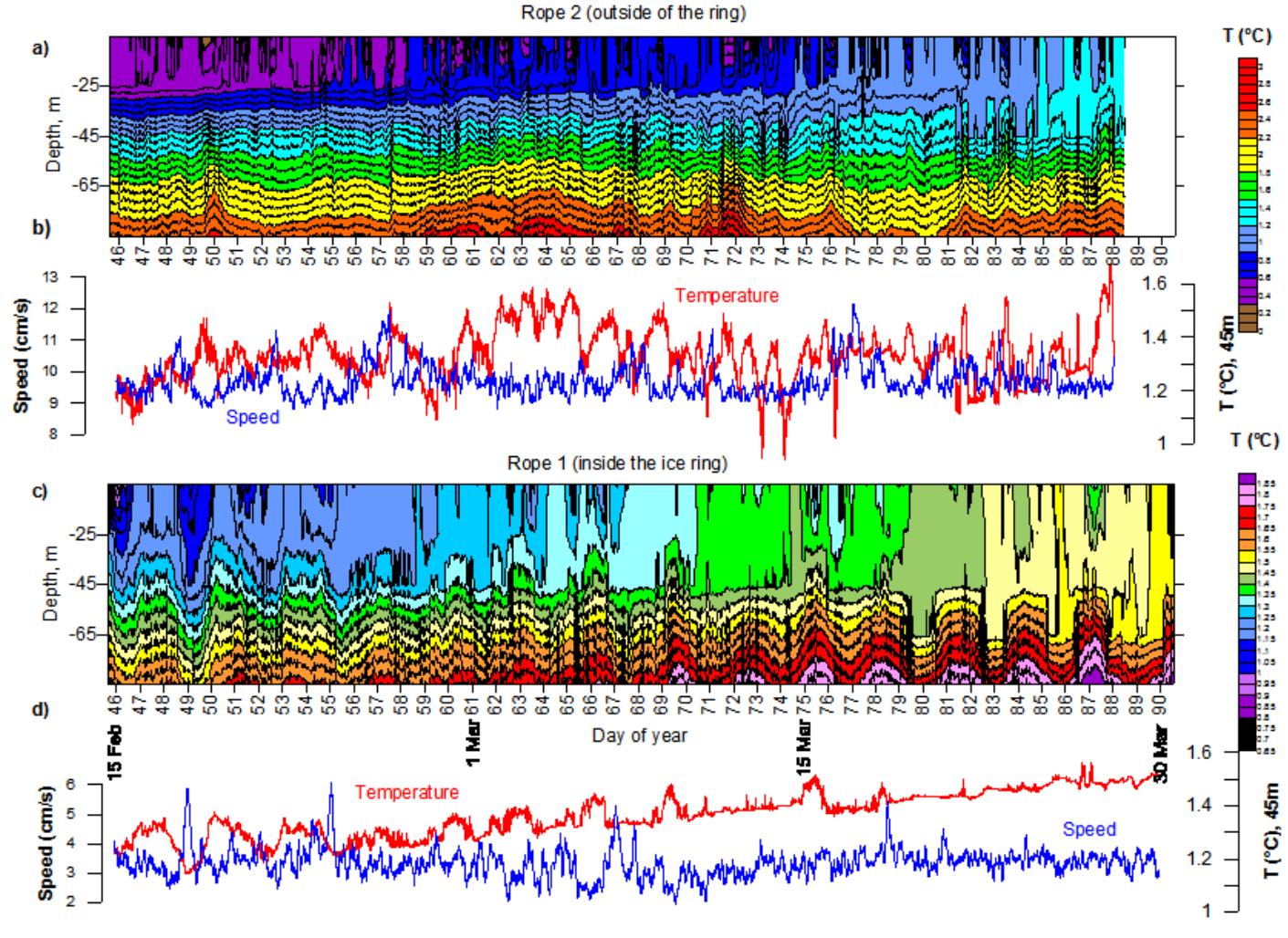
Depth of isotherms

Lower part - isotherms are affected on a larger area  
Neutral layer - 10-12 km (upper part and ice ring - 6 km)



Currents

T °C  
evolution



Eddy: different evolution in upper and lower part

3 days period - 1 km from eddy center - 3.39 cm/s  
(confirmed by current meter - 3.35 cm/s on average)

Rotation of not perfectly symmetrical eddy

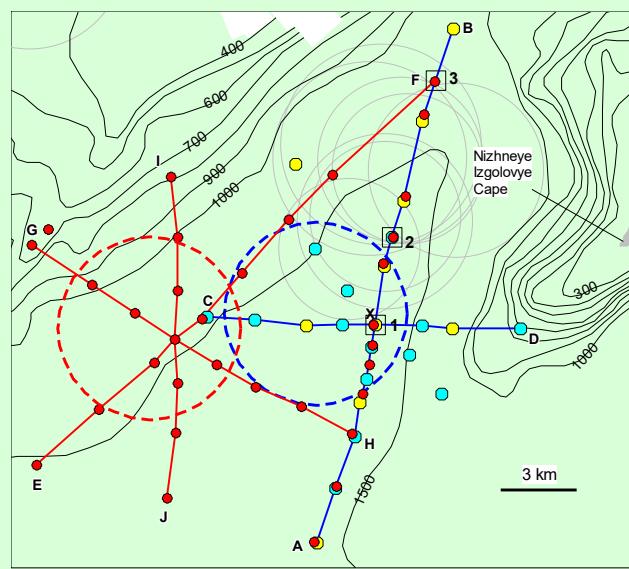
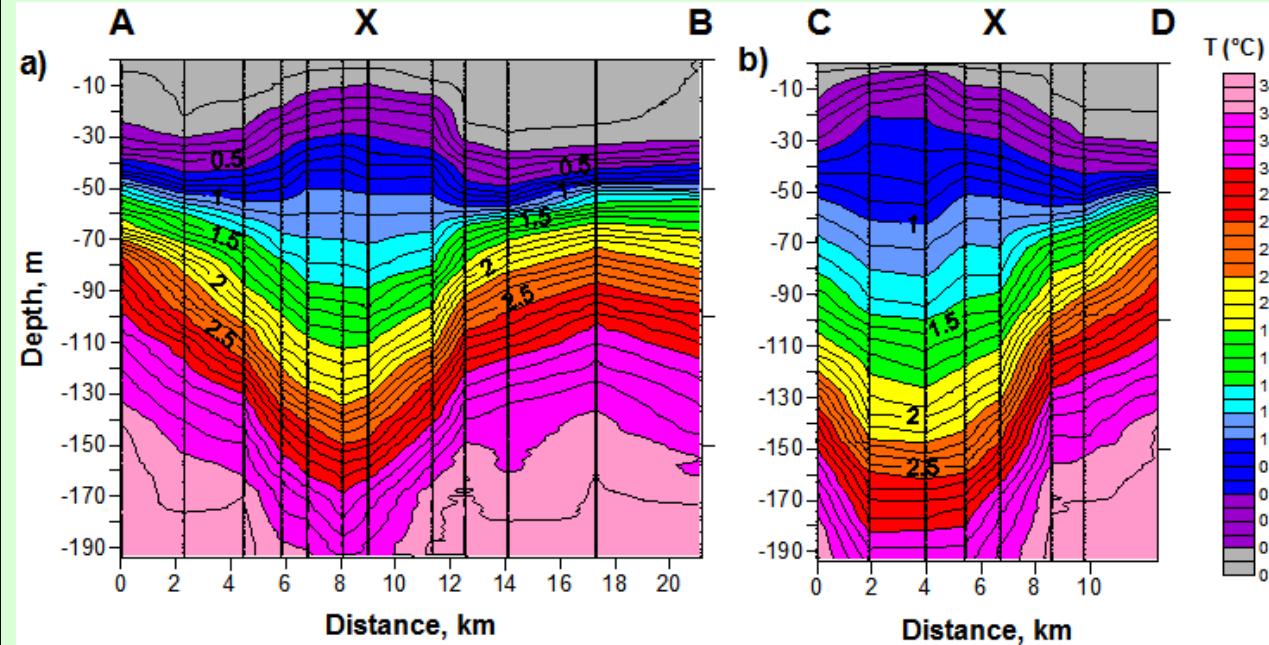
2017

Eddy found in February  
Affecting depths 200 m  
and more

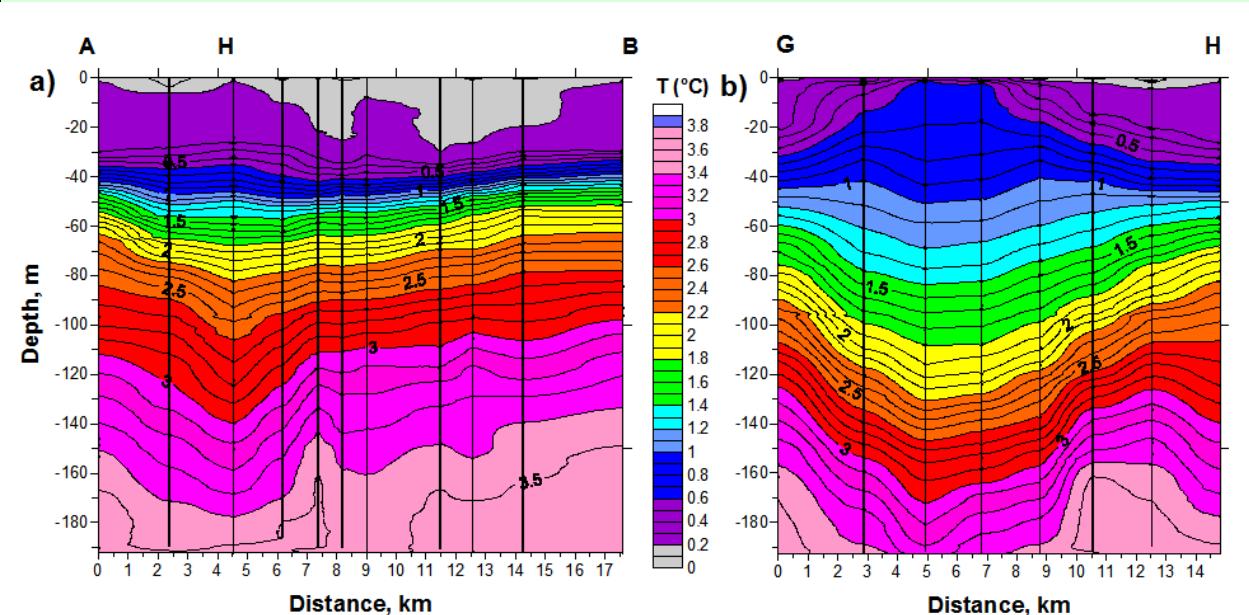
"Disappeared" and  
found 6 km west

No ice ring in 2017

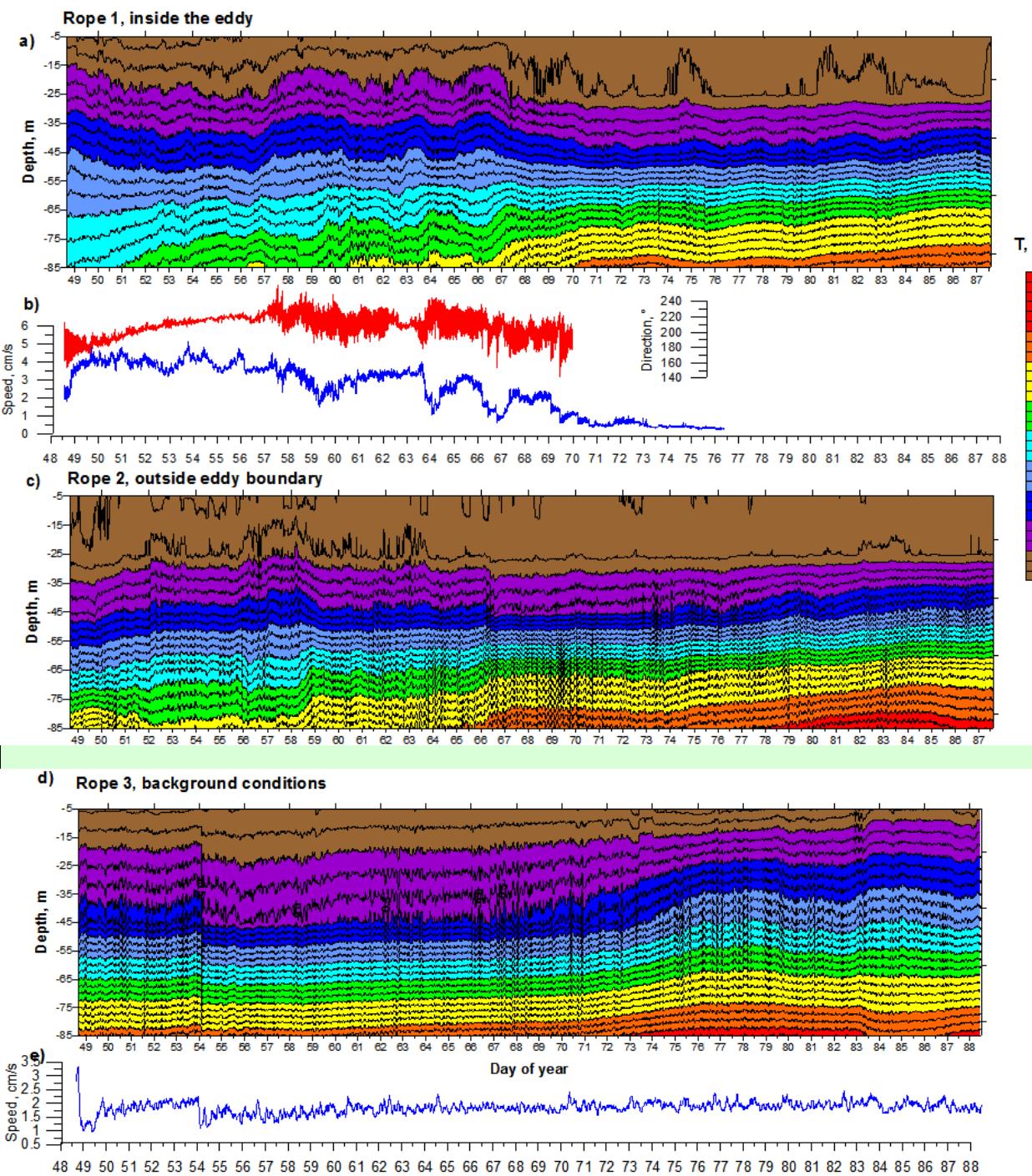
February



March



# Ropes 2017



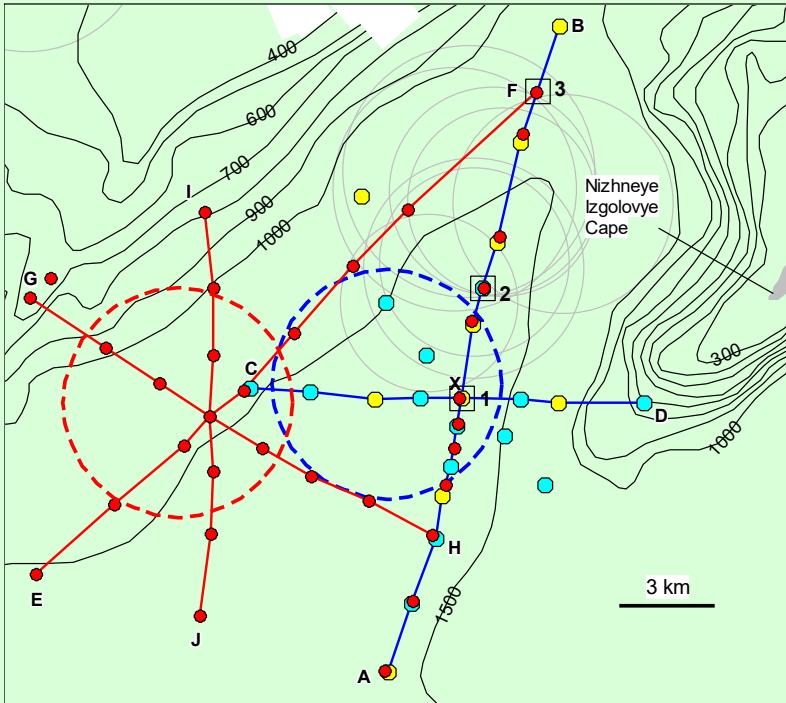
Eddy - back and forth movements, changes in speed

Less affected but still evident

Gradual evolution, ice rafting (4 m)

# Travelling eddy

Depth between 0.3 and 1.2 °C - proxy of distance to eddy center.  
Triangulation.

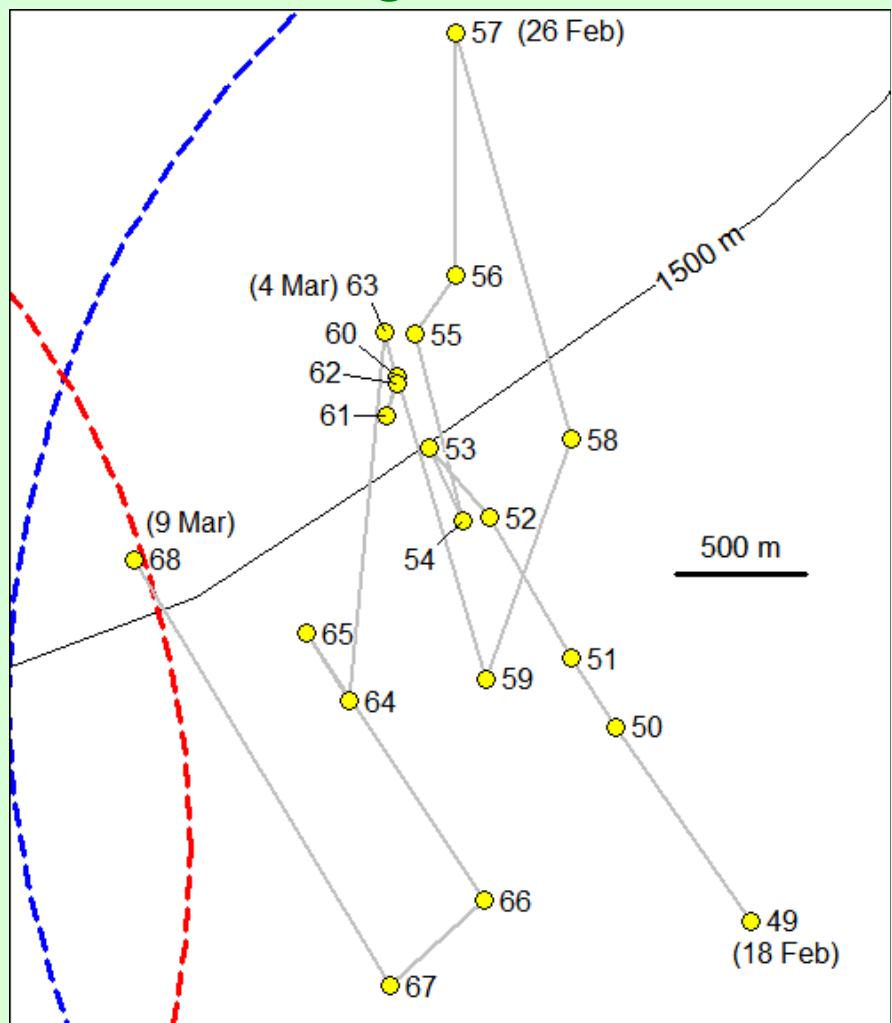


Back and forth movement

Periods of quasi-stable position and rapid movement

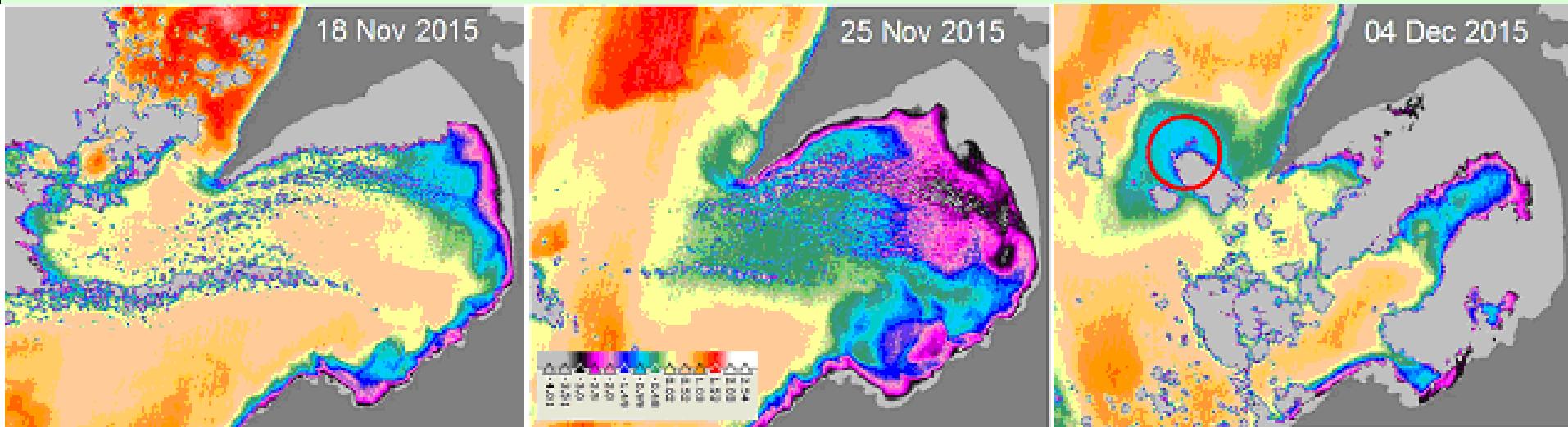
Up to 1400–1600 m/day (1.6–1.8 cm/s - comparable to background speed)

Tangible proof of eddy movement



# Eddy formation?

Nov-Dec 2015: constant 2.5-3 m/s wind from ESE (58%) or SE (11%)



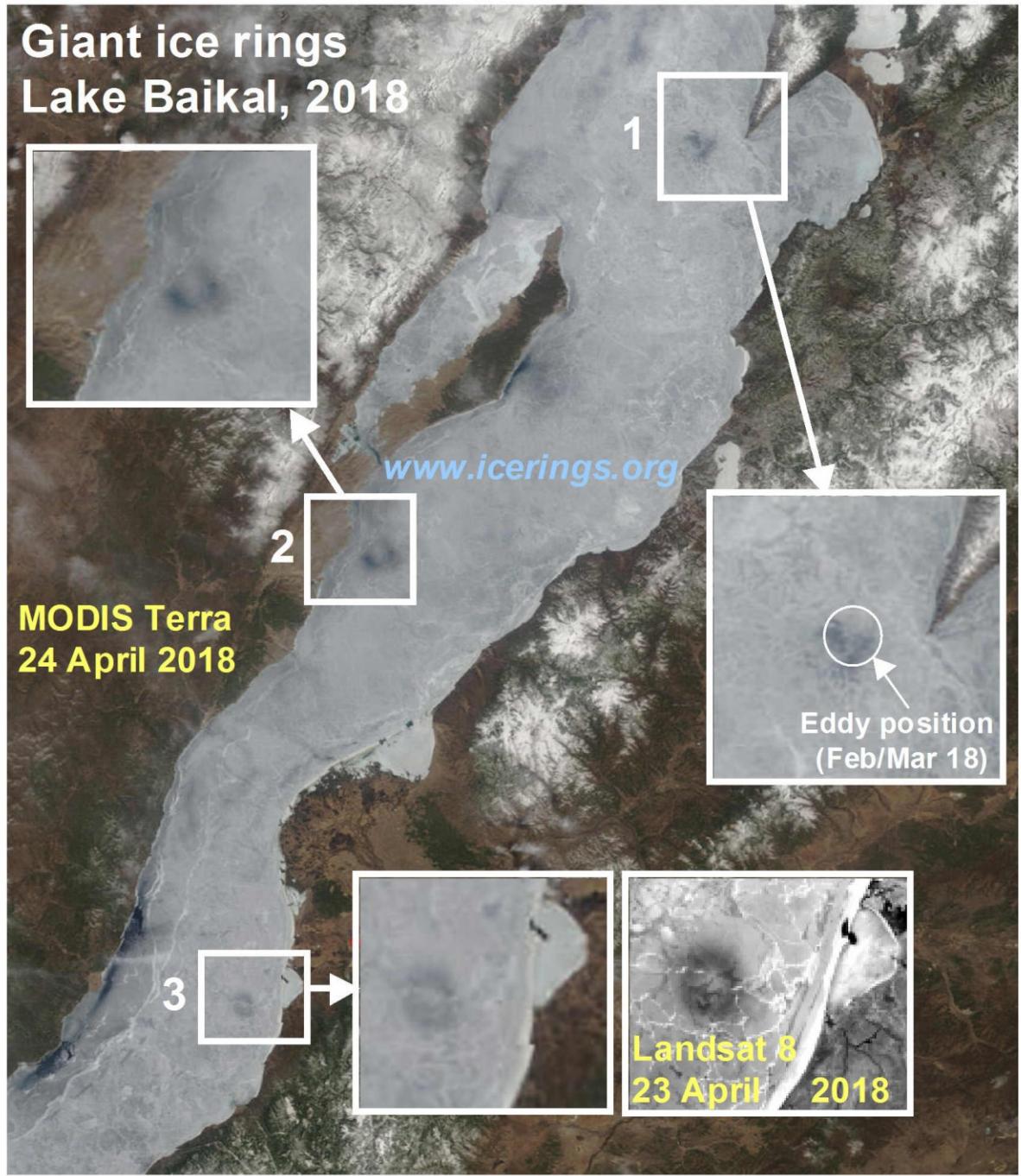
Landsat thermal imagery (light grey - clouds)

Outflow of cold (light) water from the Barguzin bay

Surface eddy with cold water - exactly where we found eddy and ice ring was formed on March 2016.

Further studies of exchange between Barguzin bay and open part of the lake are needed (ropes, surveys)

## Giant ice rings Lake Baikal, 2018



April 2018:  
three giant  
ice rings

One ring is  
exactly in the  
eddy region -  
as predicted!

Two rings are in  
places never  
observed before

2019

мыс Нижнее Изголовье  
Cape Nizhneye Izgolovye

53.5222°N 108.227°E

Giant ice rings  
Lake Baikal  
2019

53.5234°N 108.298°E

53.5055°N 108.285°E

53.484°N 108.3°E

Direct to Khoboy  
Направление на Хобой

[www.icerings.org](http://www.icerings.org)

MODIS Terra  
25 April 2019

MODIS Terra 29 April

Eddy position in February  
(blue) and March (red)



# Results

Unique long-term results of eddies observation

New data on eddy shape, rotation, displacement

Ice cover - perfect opportunity to study lens-like eddies (stationary or moving) as compared to seas or ocean



Better understanding of eddies generation

Wind-driven generation of the eddy

Formation in autumn, between vertical overturning and ice formation

**Baikal, Hovsgol, Teletskoye - what lake(s) will be next?**