

Acoustic Characteristics of the Lifesaver Wave Energy Converter

Brian Polagye & Paul Murphy
University of Washington, NNMREC

Luis Vega & Patrick Cross
University of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute



UNIVERSITY OF
ALASKA
FAIRBANKS

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY of
WASHINGTON

Study Motivation

- *Research:* Improve understanding of sound produced by marine energy converters
- *Permitting:* Ensure sound levels do not exceed agreed thresholds

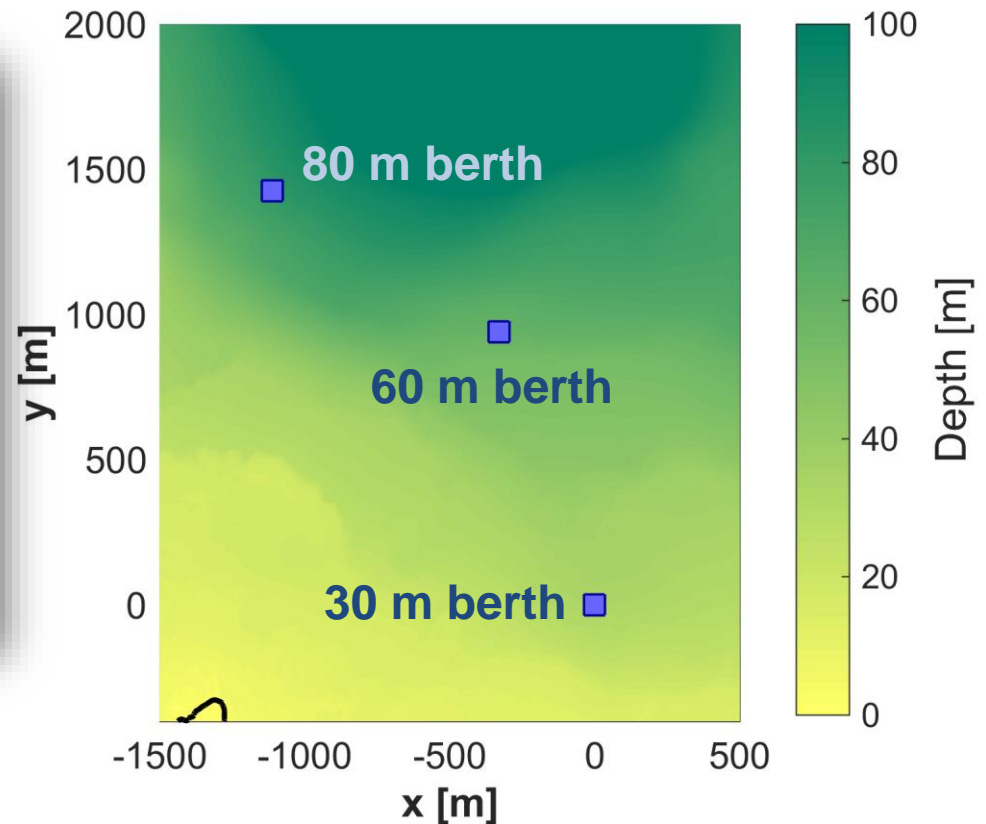


Credit: www.uwphotographyguide.com

US Navy Wave Energy Test Site



Credit: Google Earth



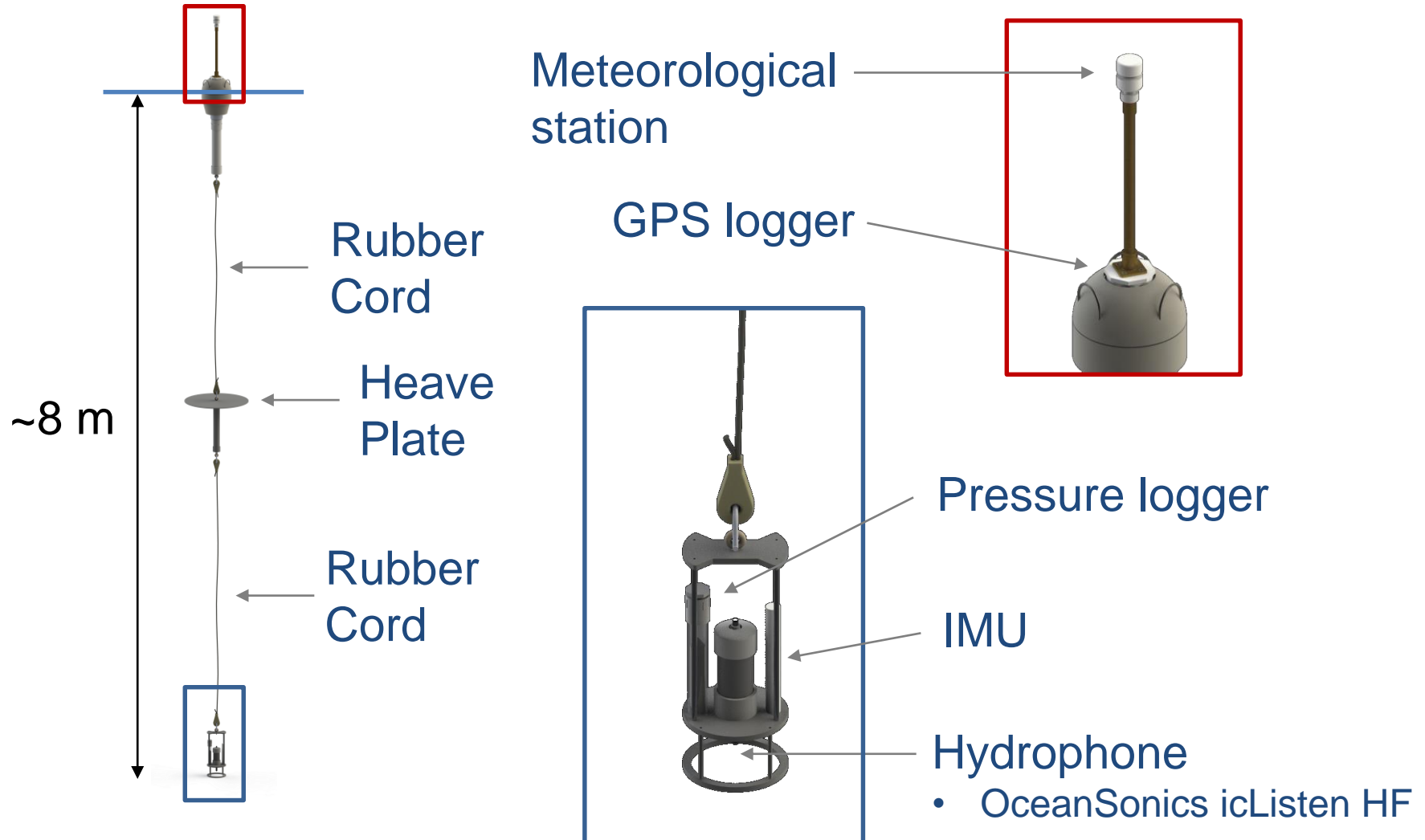
Fred. Olsen BOLT Lifesaver



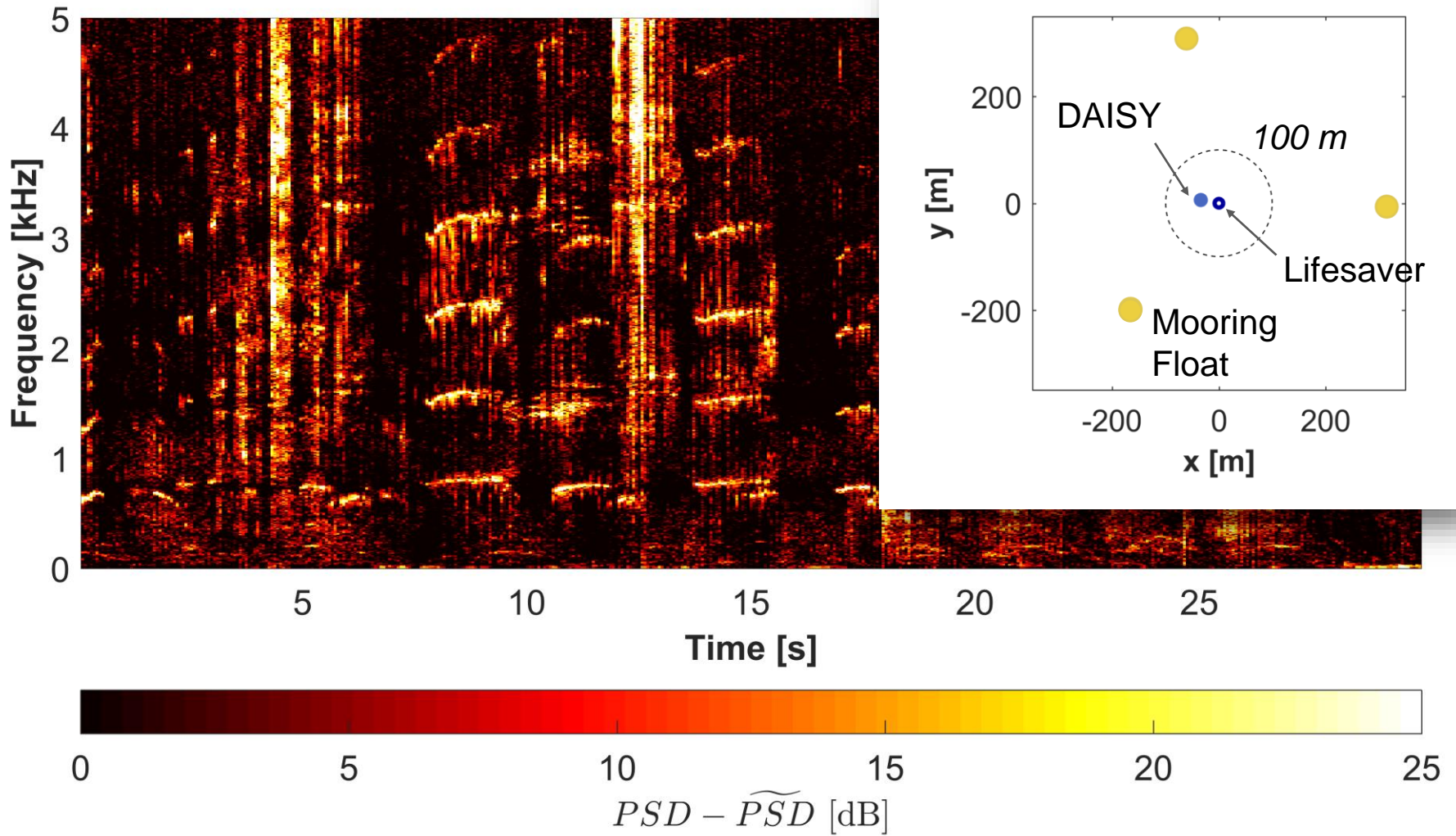
- Point absorber
- Air-side electric power take-off
- Shallow draft (0.5 m)

Drifting Measurements

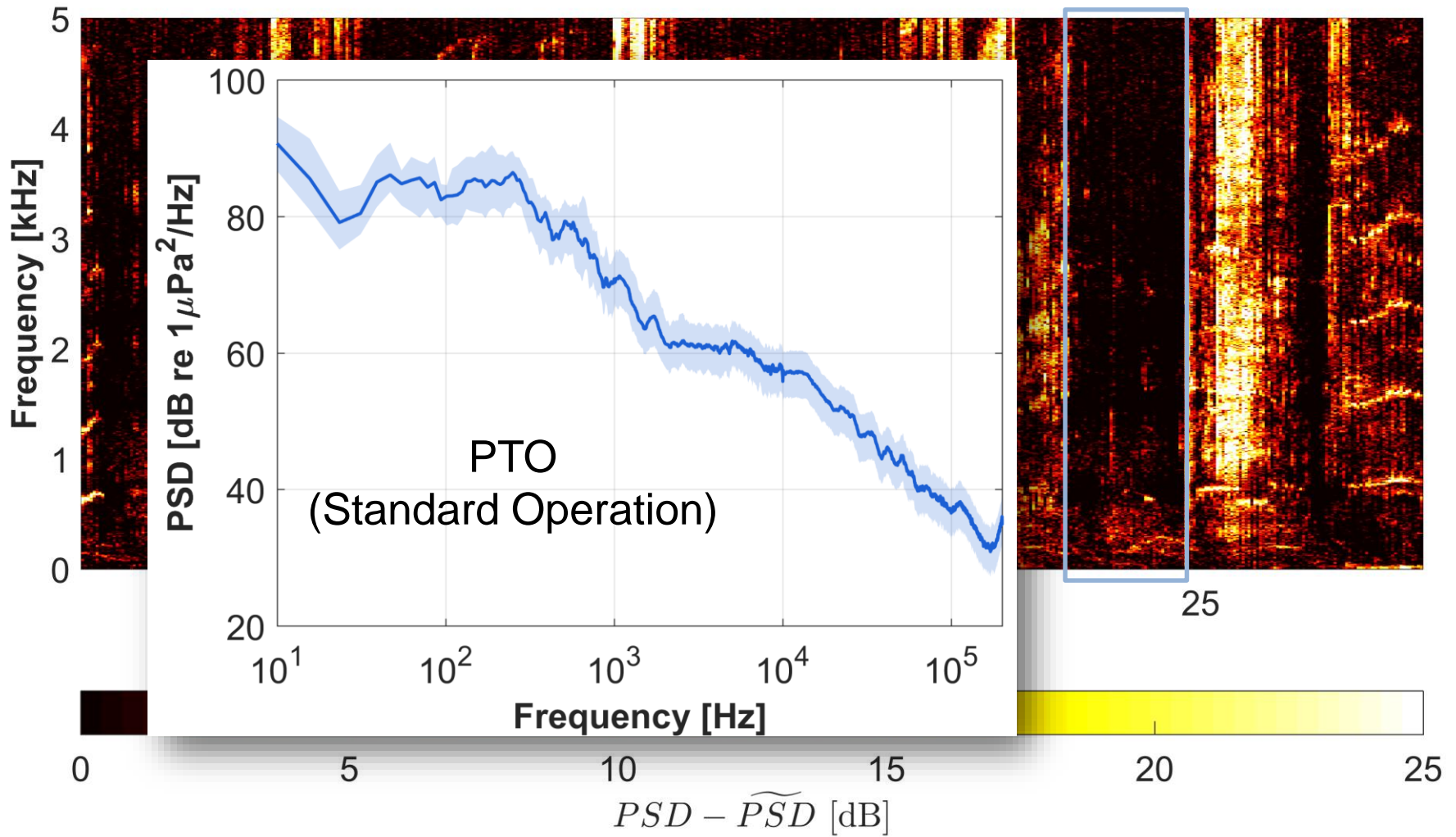
DAISY: Drifting Acoustic Instrumentation System



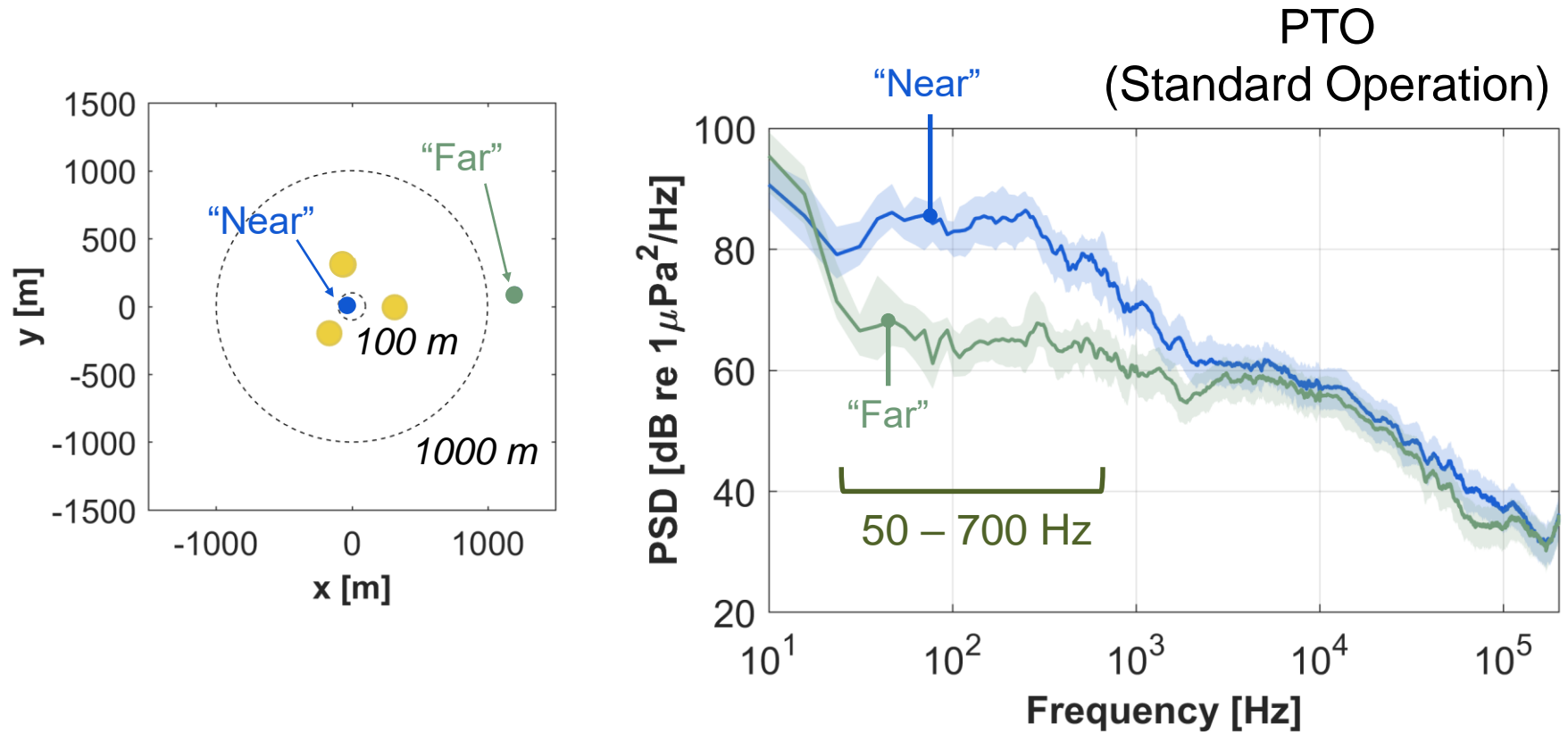
Acoustic Characteristics



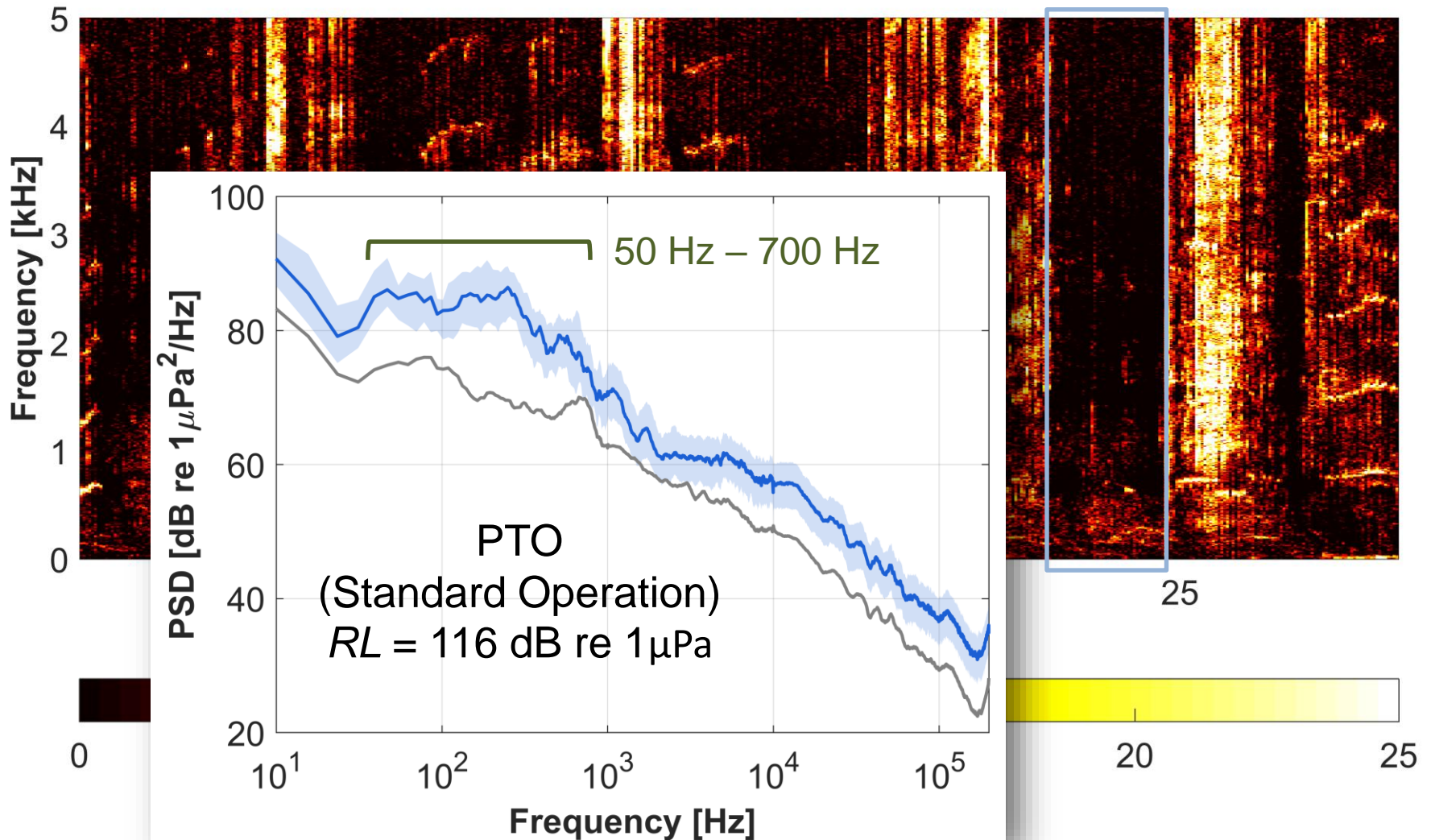
Acoustic Characteristics



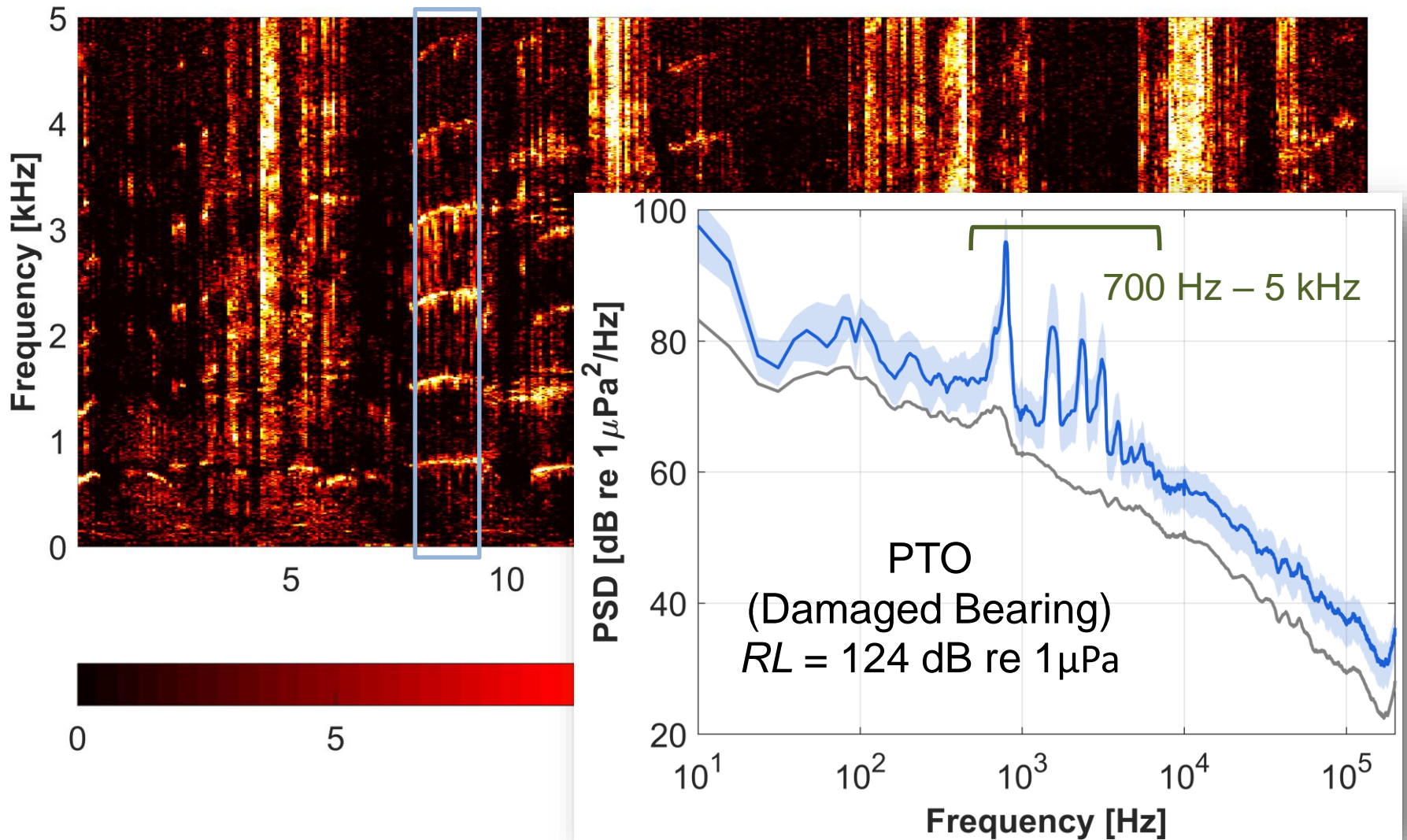
WEC Sound Identification



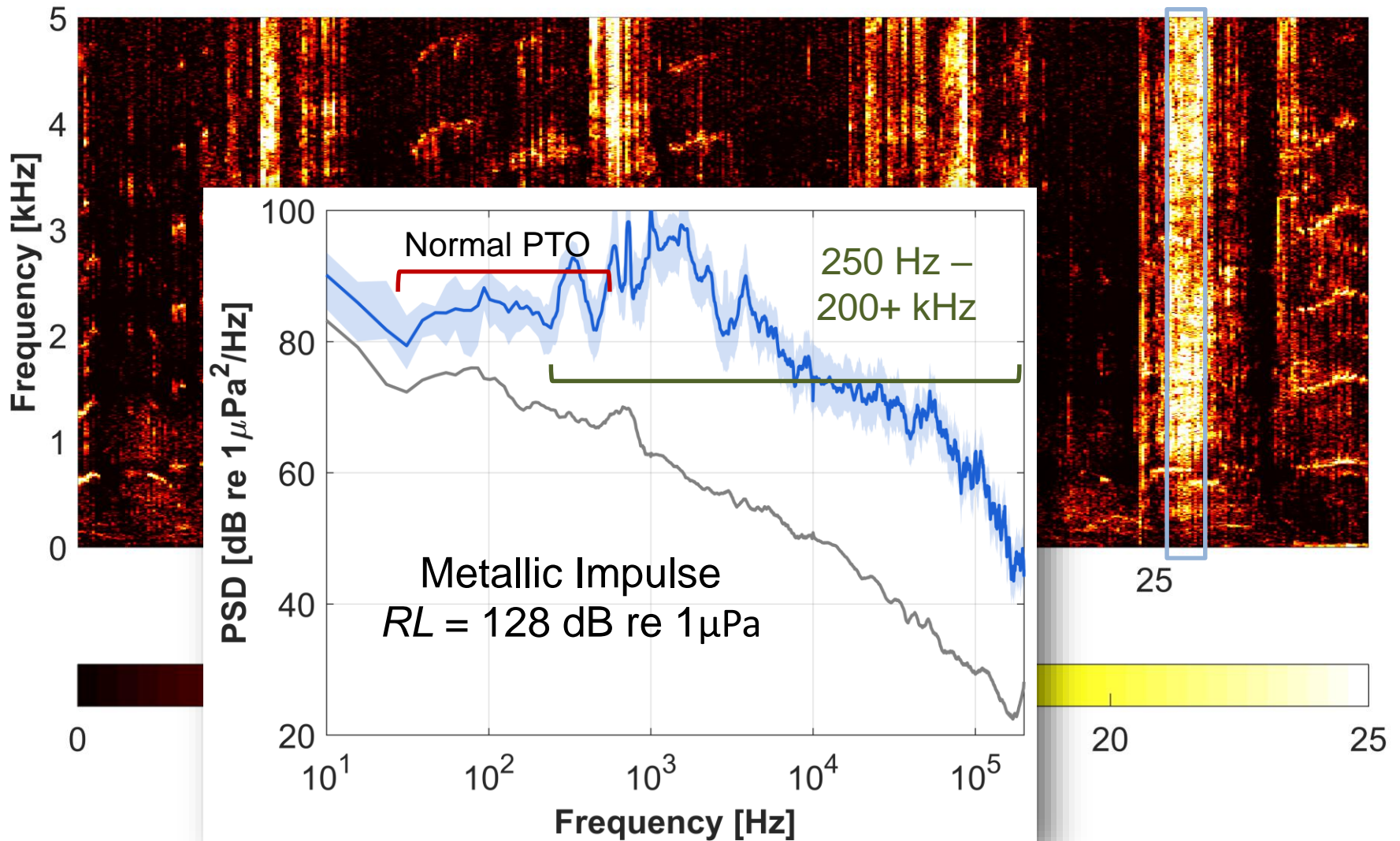
Acoustic Characteristics



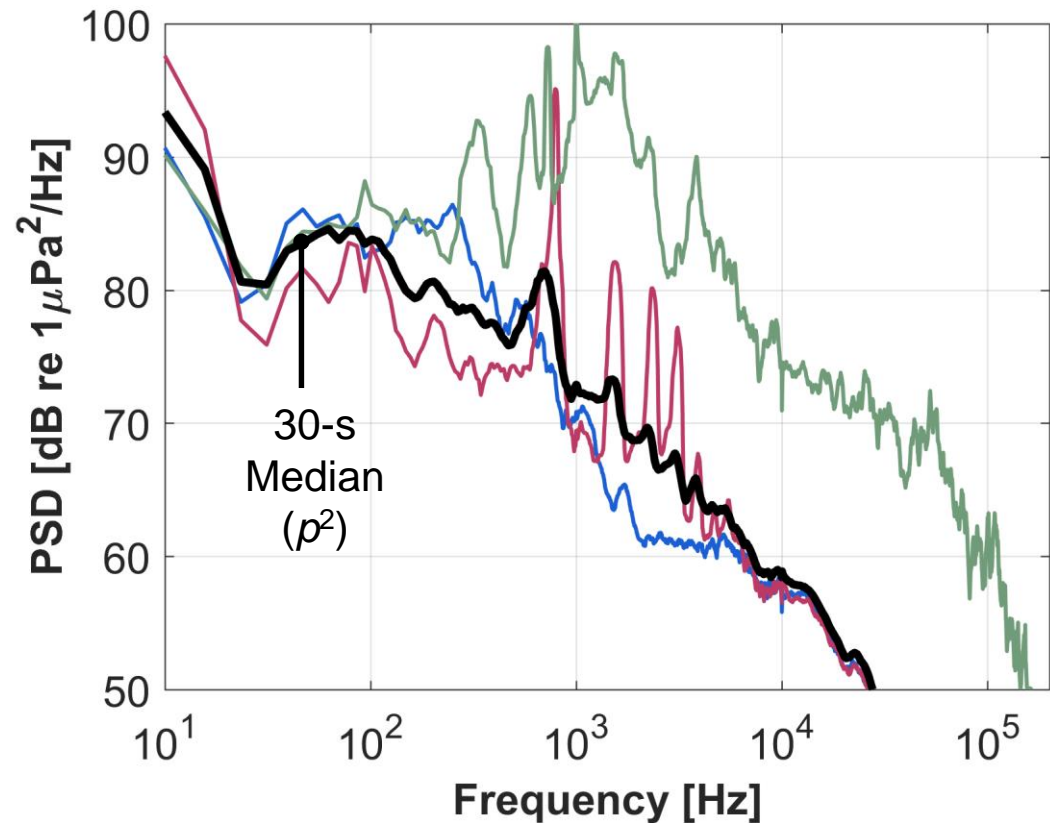
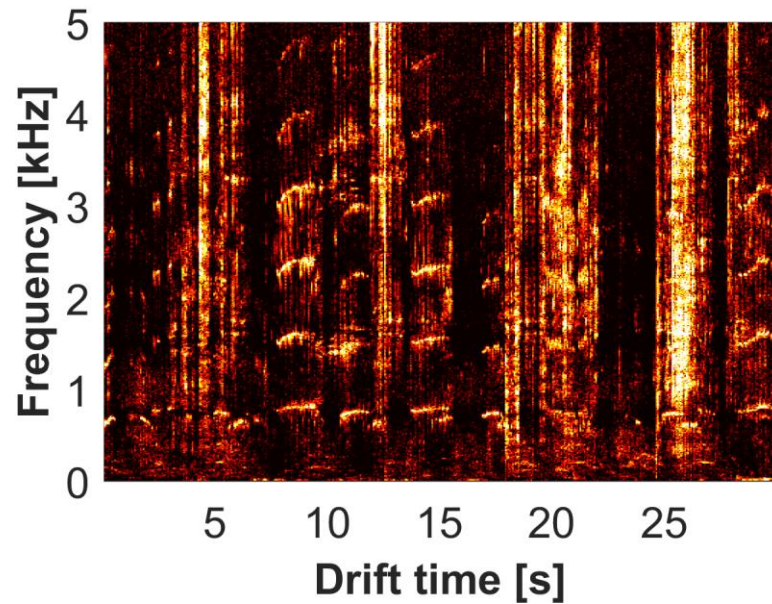
Acoustic Characteristics



Acoustic Characteristics



Statistical Representation

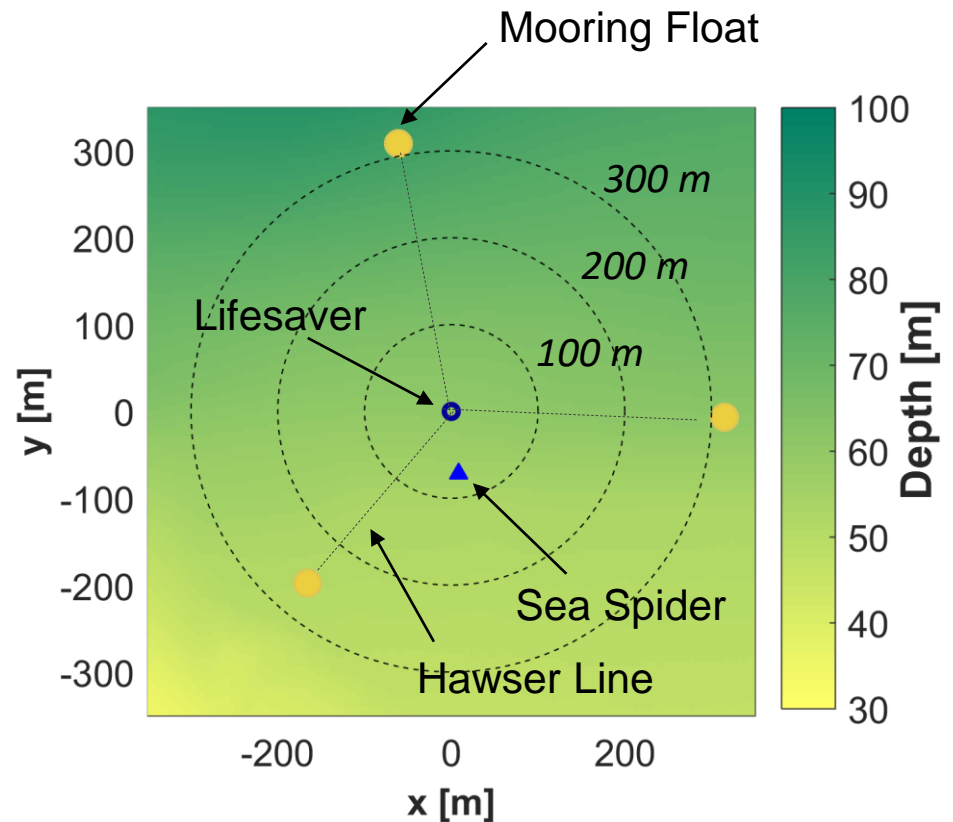


Stationary Measurements

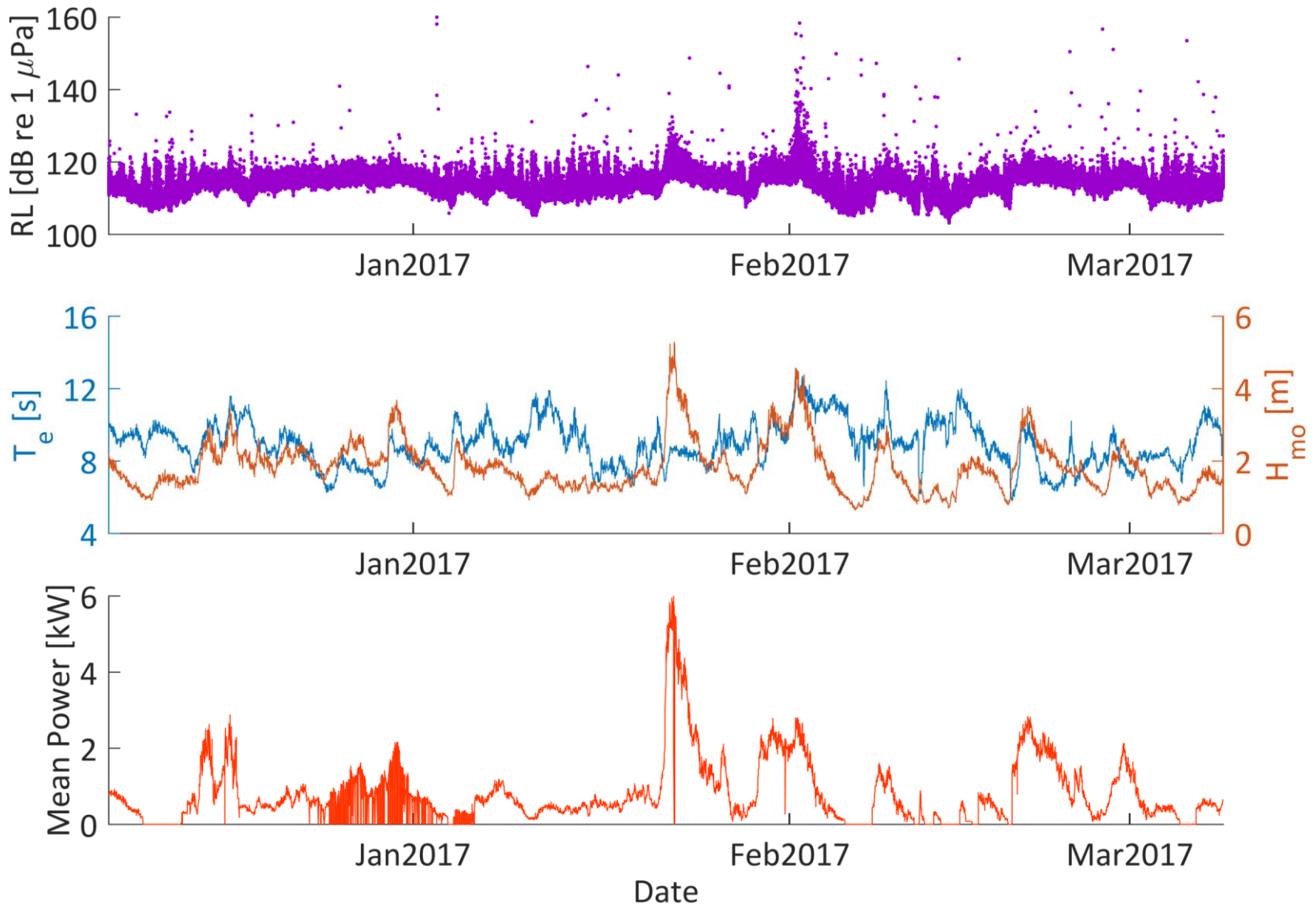
Sea Spider



Loggerhead DSG-ST

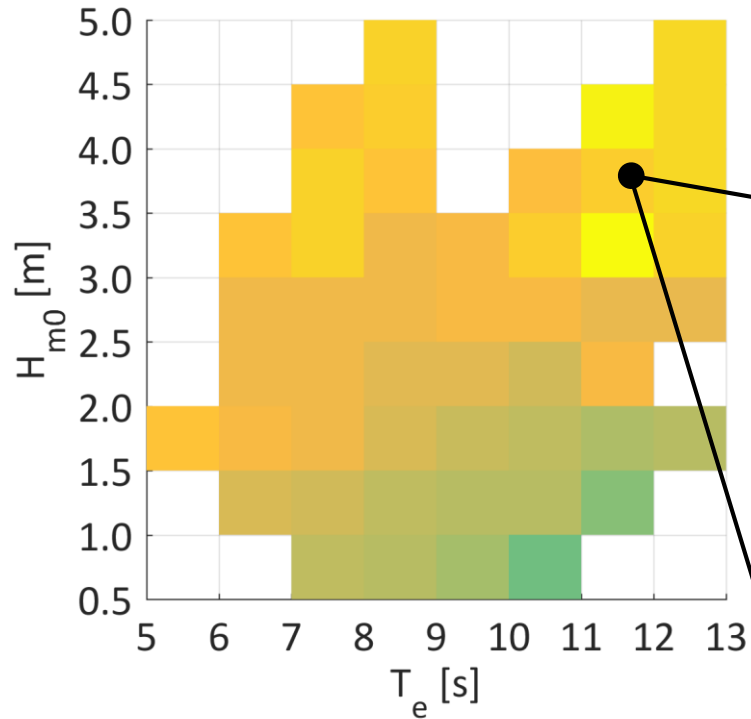


Temporal Variability

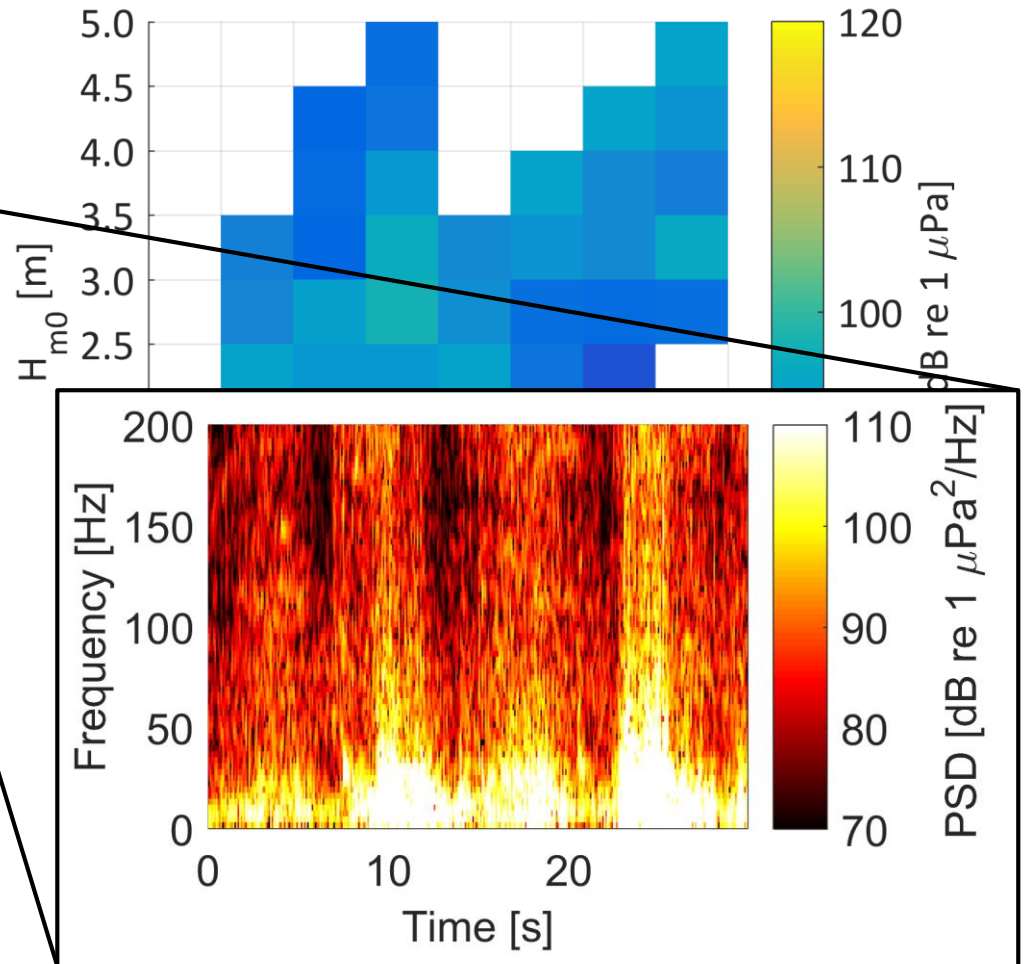


Correlation with WEC Generation?

0 – 10 Hz



770 – 820 Hz: Damaged Bearing



Conclusions

- Sound around WECs likely to come from a variety of sources
- Combinations of drifting and stationary measurements can be helpful
- At this scale, acoustic contributions from WECs can be limited by design
- *Future work:* Source localization and automatic classification



v2 DAISY

Acknowledgements



This project is supported by the
US Department of Energy
Award DE-FG36-08GO18180.



Many thanks to Sea Engineering for operations support, Keith Bethune and Dan Fitzgerald at HNEI, Jessica Noe, Emma Cotter, and Corey Crisp at UW, and Even Hjetland and Jonas Sjolte at Fred. Olsen.



UNIVERSITY OF
ALASKA
FAIRBANKS

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY of
WASHINGTON