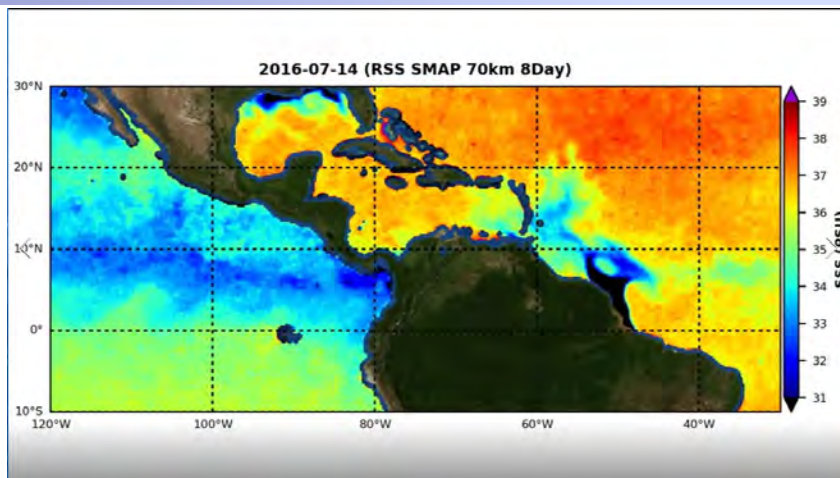


SMAP Measures Ocean Surface Salinity



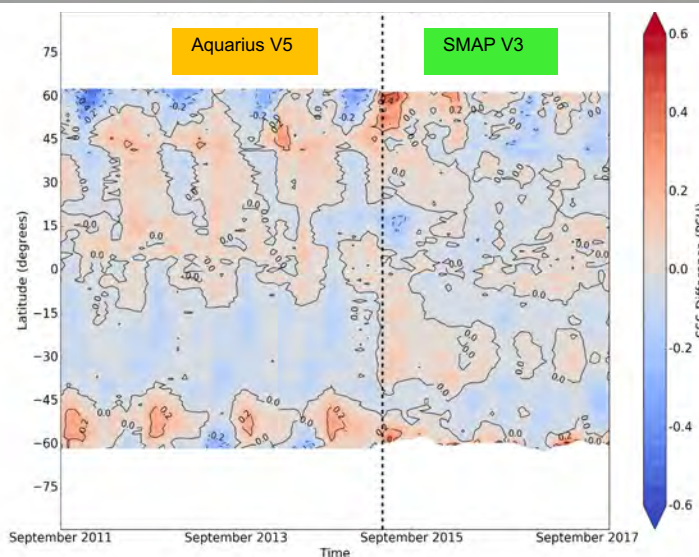
Map of SMAP ocean surface salinity containing the Amazon plume and the Gulf of Mexico.



Problem: The NASA Aquarius Salinity mission ended in June 2015.

Finding: The Aquarius end of mission (Version 5) salinity retrieval processing has been adapted to SMAP (Version 3). SMAP is able to measure ocean salinity with the same accuracy as Aquarius (uncertainty < 0.2 psu) over most of the global ocean.

Ocean salinity from Aquarius and SMAP versus ARGO floats as function of time (x-axis) and latitude (y-axis).



Impact: SMAP can seamlessly continue the Aquarius salinity data record after 2015.