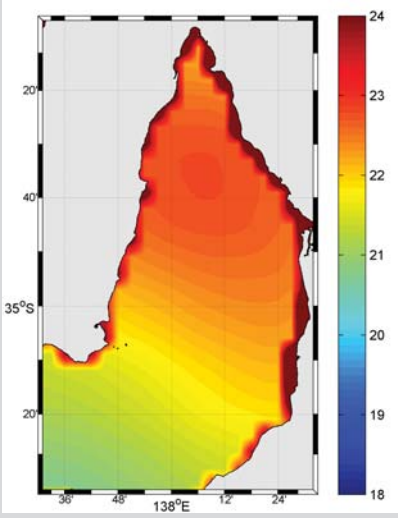
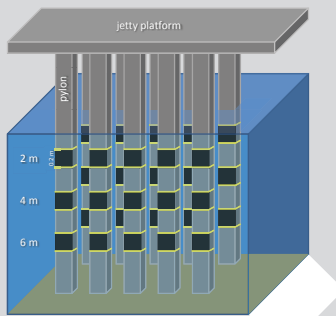


marine ecosystems



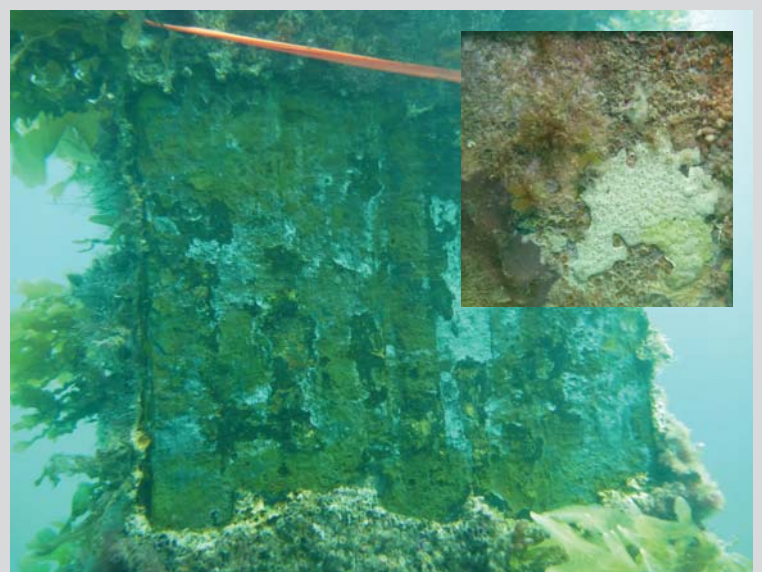
South Australia's seas contain some of the world's most geographically concentrated natural temperature and salinity gradients. By examining changes across these gradients, we are predicting how future environmental changes will alter the distribution and abundance of marine invertebrates, a key component of our marine ecosystems.

We are collecting data from settlement plates and clearance quadrats at five sites across Gulf St Vincent. This involves removing invertebrates from jetty pylons at three depths, monitoring recolonisation (through photographic imaging) and plate recruitment for translocation.



This sea surface temperature map shows the strong temperature gradient in South Australia's Gulf of St Vincent.

We ultimately aim to integrate environmental data with the results of our settlement experiments to predict the potential resilience and long-term fate of invertebrate communities under climate change.



Settlement of bryozoans, hard corals, sponges, tunicates, worms and other species on hard surfaces can take months to years.

