

SOCAT version 2020: Key in the value chain of surface ocean CO₂ measurements

Dorothee Bakker¹ (d.bakker@uea.ac.uk), Simone Alin², Nicholas Bates^{3,4}, Meike Becker⁵, Rocío Castaño-Primo^{5,6}, Cathy Cosca², Margot Cronin⁷, Koji Kadono⁸, Alex Kozyr⁹, Siv Lauvset¹⁰, Nicolas Metzler¹¹, David Munro^{12,13}, Shin-ichiro Nakaoka¹⁴, Kevin O'Brien^{2,15}, Jon Ólafsson¹⁶, Are Olsen^{5,6}, Benjamin Pfeil^{5,6}, Denis Pierrot^{17,18}, Karl Smith^{2,15}, Adrienne Sutton², Taro Takahashi^{1,19}, Bronte Tilbrook^{20,21}, Rik Wanninkhof¹⁷ and all >100 SOCAT contributors

Abstract - The Surface Ocean CO₂ Atlas (SOCAT, www.socat.info) documents the increase in surface ocean CO₂ (carbon dioxide), a critical measure as the oceans are taking up one quarter of the global CO₂ emissions from human activity^b. Synthesis and gridded, quality-controlled products in SOCAT version 2020 contain 28.2 million *in situ* surface ocean *f*CO₂ (fugacity of CO₂) measurements for the global oceans and coastal seas with an accuracy < 5 μatm, while a further 2.3 million *f*CO₂ values with an accuracy of 5 to 10 μatm are made available separately. The SOCAT community-led synthesis product is a key step in the value chain based on *in situ* inorganic carbon measurements of the oceans, which provides policy makers with essential information on ocean CO₂ uptake in climate negotiations. The global need for accurate knowledge of ocean CO₂ uptake and its variation makes sustained funding for *in situ* surface ocean CO₂ observations imperative.

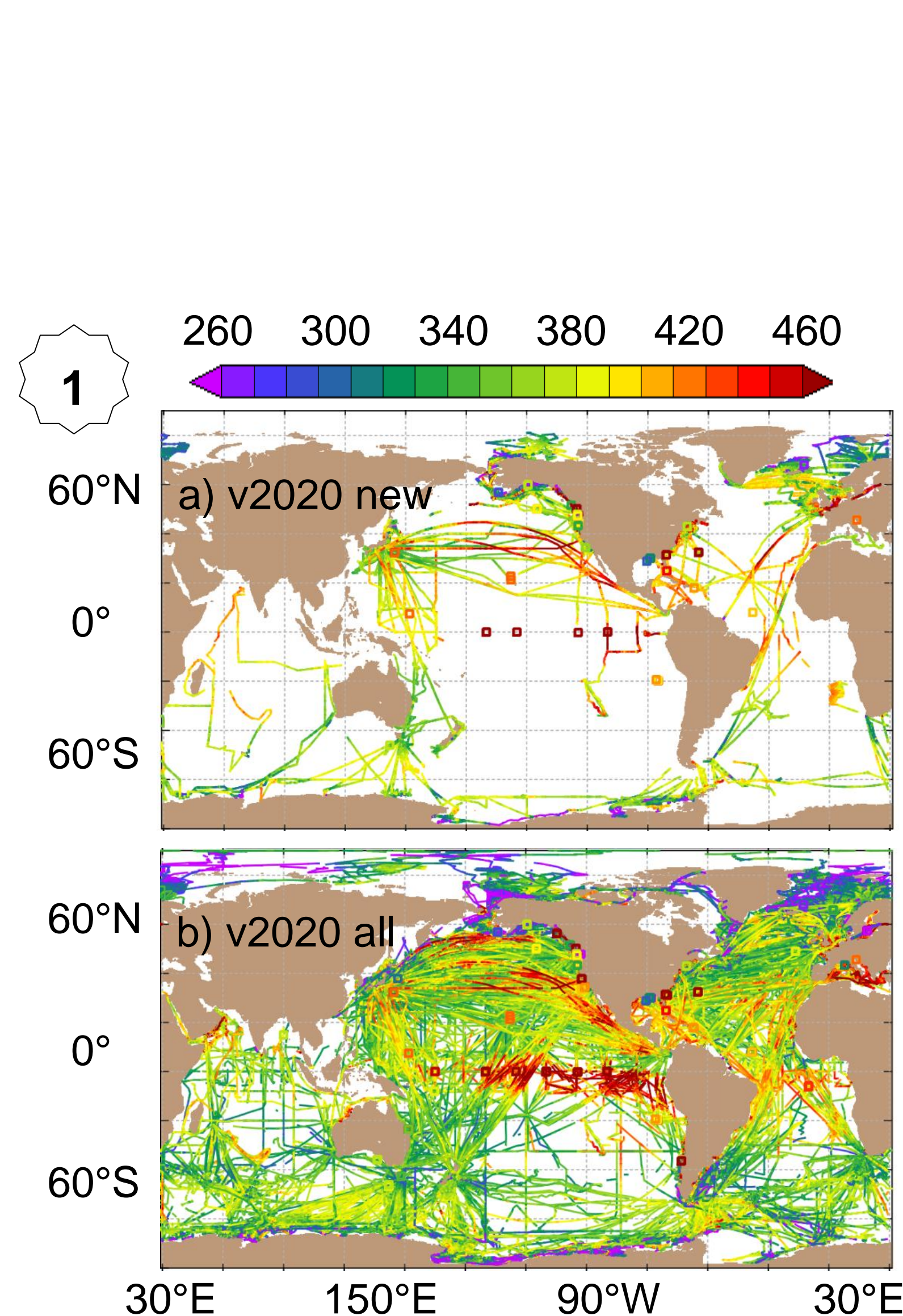


Fig. 1. a) Newly added and b) all *in situ* surface water *f*CO₂ values (colour coded, μatm) with an estimated accuracy of < 10 μatm in version 2020. Squares indicate moorings.

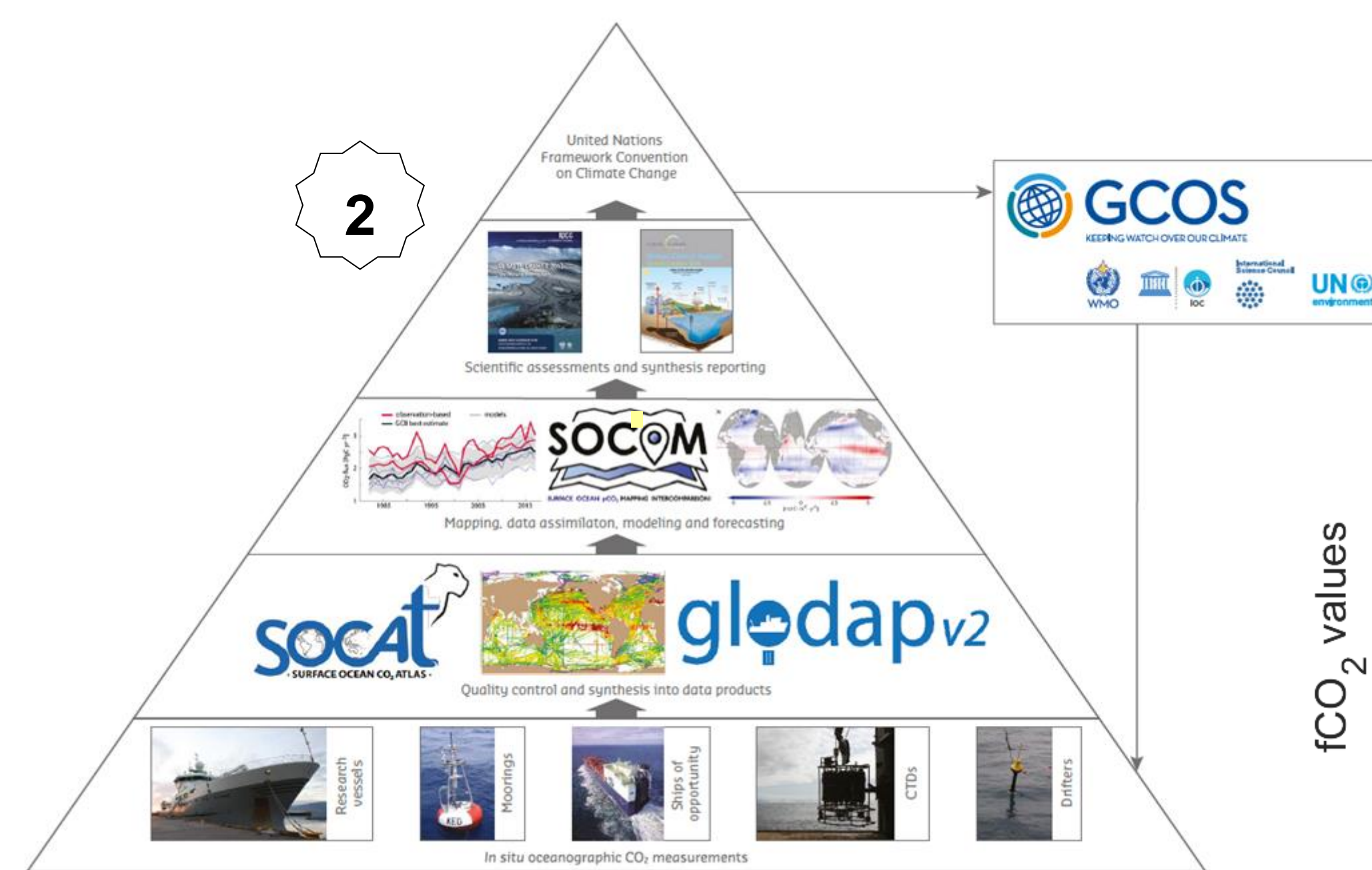


Fig. 2. The value chain based on *in situ* inorganic carbon measurements of the oceans. Measurements of inorganic carbon variables in the ocean are made on research ships, commercial ships, moorings and on drifting and autonomous surface platforms. These data are quality controlled and assembled in the SOCAT and GLODAP synthesis products. Advanced interpolation methods allow quantification of ocean CO₂ uptake. These estimates feed into the Global Carbon Budget^b, IPCC assessments and other high-impact reports that inform international climate negotiations. From^c.

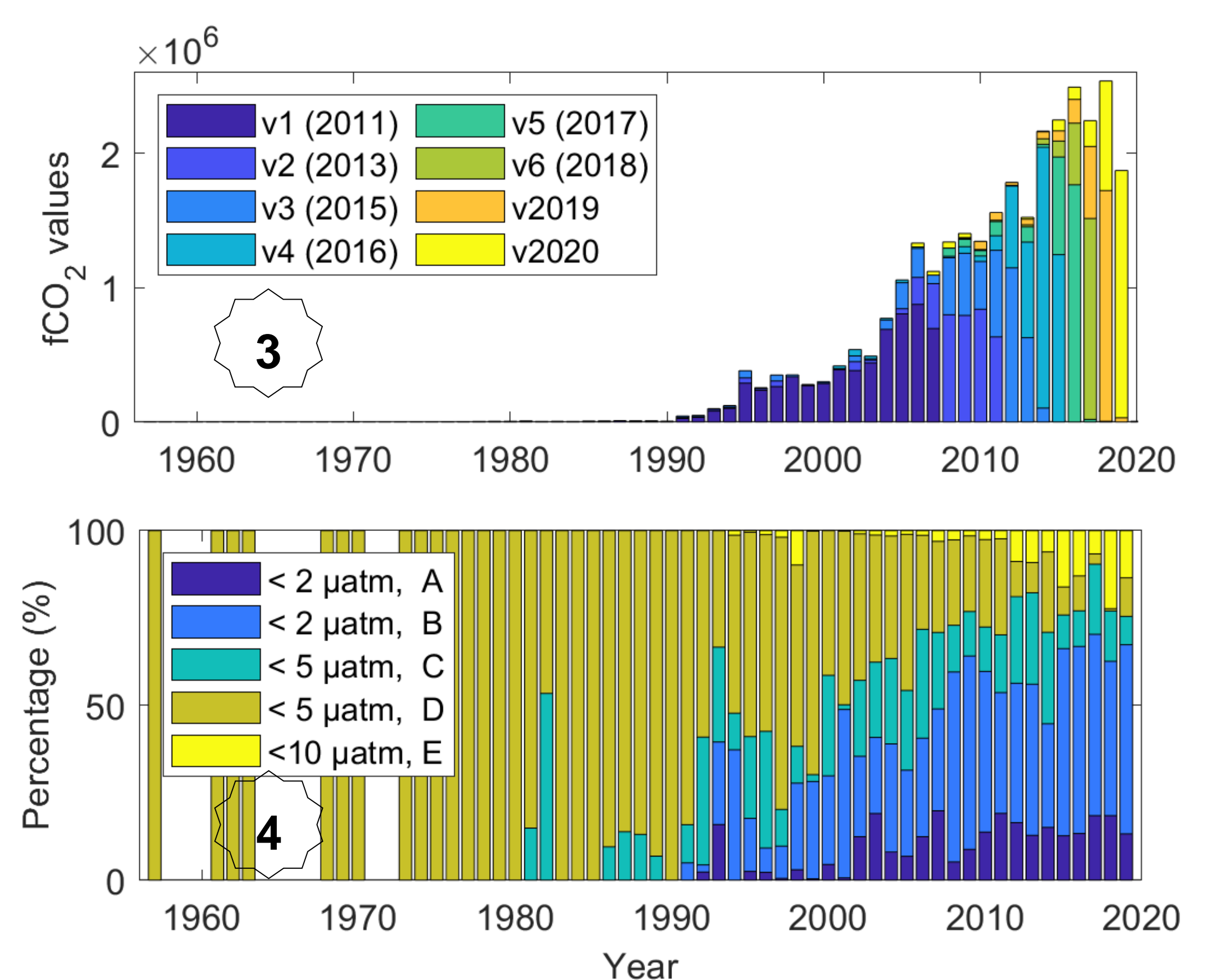


Fig. 3. Number of surface water *f*CO₂ values per year with an estimated accuracy of < 10 μatm in successive SOCAT versions.

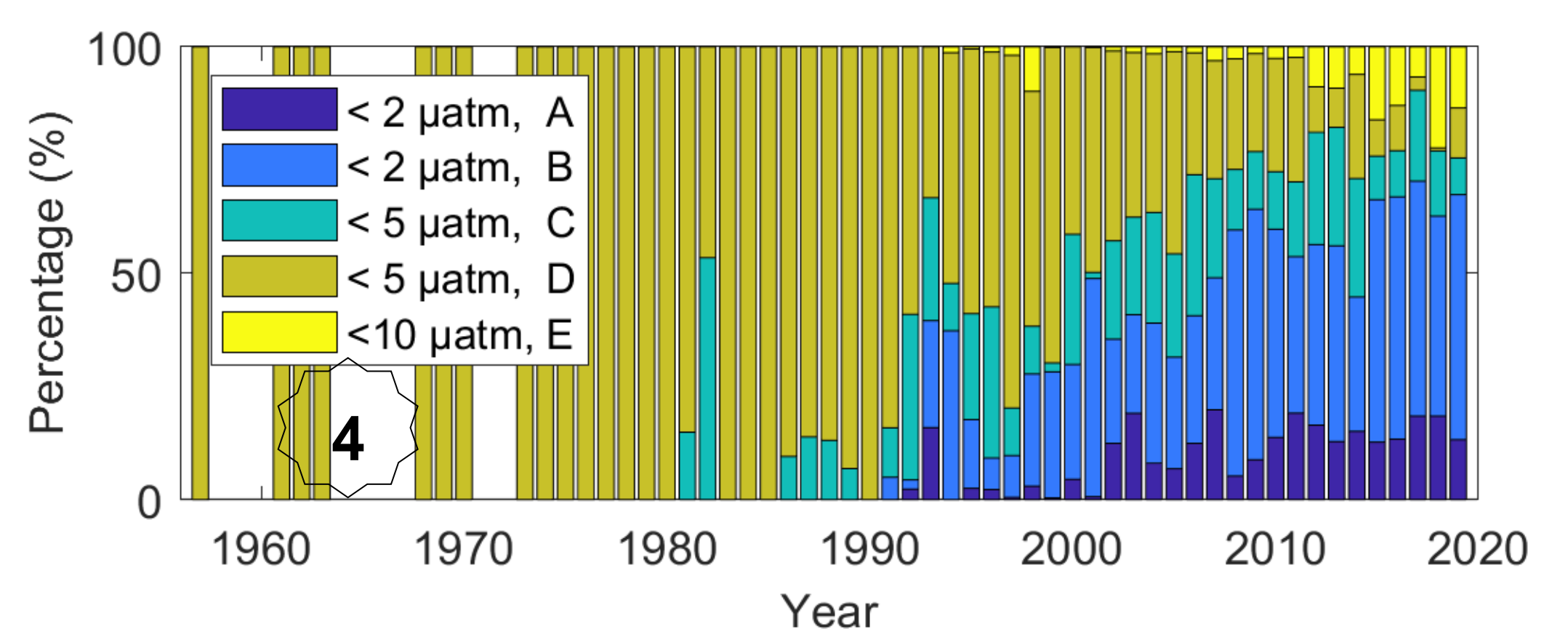


Fig. 4. Percentage of *f*CO₂ values with an estimated accuracy of < 2, 5 and 10 μatm and their data set flags for years in version 2020.

Key features

- Community-based 'volunteer' submission and quality control
- Synthesis and gridded, quality-controlled products of *in situ* surface ocean *f*CO₂ measurements from ships, moorings, drifting and autonomous surface platforms for the global oceans and coastal seas
- With an estimated accuracy of < 5 μatm:
 - v2020 : 28.2 million *f*CO₂, 1957-2020
 - v2019 : 25.7 million *f*CO₂, 1957-2019
 - v1 (2011): 6.3 million *f*CO₂, 1968-2007
- 2.3 million values from alternative sensors with an estimated accuracy of 5 to 10 μatm are made available separately
- Online viewers and data download (www.socat.info)
- Limited quality control for sea surface temperature and salinity
- Data submission for v2021 by 15/01/2021, quality control by 31/03/2021

Scientific findings, applications and impact

- Documents the increase in global surface ocean CO₂^e
- Data gaps in space and time addressed through advanced interpolation schemes^{e,h,i}
- Large year-to-year variation in global ocean CO₂ uptake^h
- Models underestimate variation in ocean CO₂ uptakeⁱ
- Quantification of ocean CO₂ uptake^{b,e,f,h,i}, ocean acidification^{d,g} and priors for the land carbon sink^h
- Informs the Surface Ocean pCO₂ Mapping Intercomparison (SOCOM)^j and the Global Carbon Budget^b
- Evaluation of sensor data (BGC Argo floatsⁱ, gliders) and models, incl. CMIP^a
- Cited by >329 peer-reviewed scientific articles and >80 reports
- Annual public releases as a Voluntary Commitment for SDG 14.3 (#OceanAction20464) and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Data Use: To generously acknowledge the contribution of SOCAT scientists by invitation to co-authorship, especially for key data providers in regional studies, and/or reference to relevant scientific articles. **Acknowledgements:** We thank the numerous contributors, funding agencies, IOCCP, SOLAS and IMBER. **Documentation v3-v2020:** Bakker et al. (2016) ESSD 8: 383-413; **v2:** Bakker et al. (2014) ESSD 6:69-90; **v1:** Pfeil et al. (2013) ESSD 5:125-143; Sabine et al. (2013) ESSD 5:145-153. **References:** Eyring et al., 2016^a; Friedlingstein et al., 2019^b; Guidi et al., 2020, doi:10.5281/zenodo.3755793^c; Jiang et al., 2019^d; Landschützer et al., 2014^e; Laruelle et al., 2018^f; Lauvset et al., 2015^g; Rödenbeck et al., 2014^h, 2015ⁱ; Williams et al., 2017^j. **Affiliations:** ¹UEA, UK (d.bakker@uea.ac.uk); ²NOAA-PMEL & ³BIOS, USA; ⁴UoS, UK; ⁵UiB & ⁶BCCR, Norway; ⁷Marine Institute, Ireland; ⁸JMA, Japan; ⁹NOAA-NCEI, USA; ¹⁰NORCE, Norway; ¹¹LOCEAN, France; ¹²CIRES, UoC & ¹³NOAA-ESRL, USA; ¹⁴NIES, Japan; ¹⁵JISAO, UW, USA; ¹⁶MRI, Iceland; ¹⁷NOAA-AOML, ¹⁸CIMAS & ¹⁹LDEO, USA; ²⁰CSIRO & ²¹AAPP, Australia.