

LA-UR-22-29878

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Title: Cascadia Hydrothermal Circulation IN Oceanic Crust

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Intended for: CSES Geophysics Symposium

Issued: 2022-09-23



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Cascadia Hydrothermal Circulation IN Oceanic Crust



Center for Space and Earth Science
Geophysics Symposium, 22 September 2022

Rapid Response IPD Project

Clara Stanbury₁, Glenn Spinelli₂, Robert Harris₃, Anne Trehu₃

1. Los Alamos National Laboratory 2. New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology 3. Oregon State University



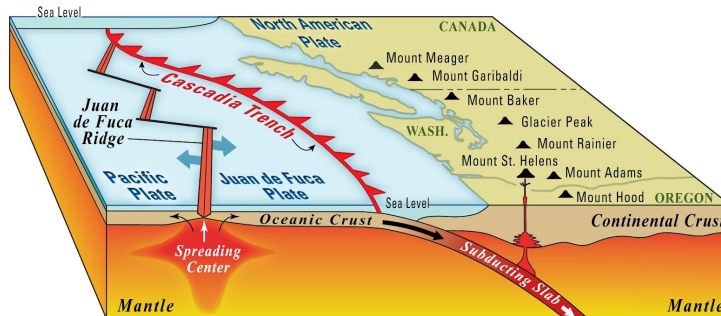
The Setting

Cascadia Subduction Zone

- Mag 9 earthquakes in past
- Temperature plays a role in seismicity
- Young, warm crust with high sedimentation rates
- Basement highs and pseudofaults

Goal:

Assess the thermal state of the Juan de Fuca plate entering the subduction zone, focusing on quantifying the effects of hydrothermal circulation



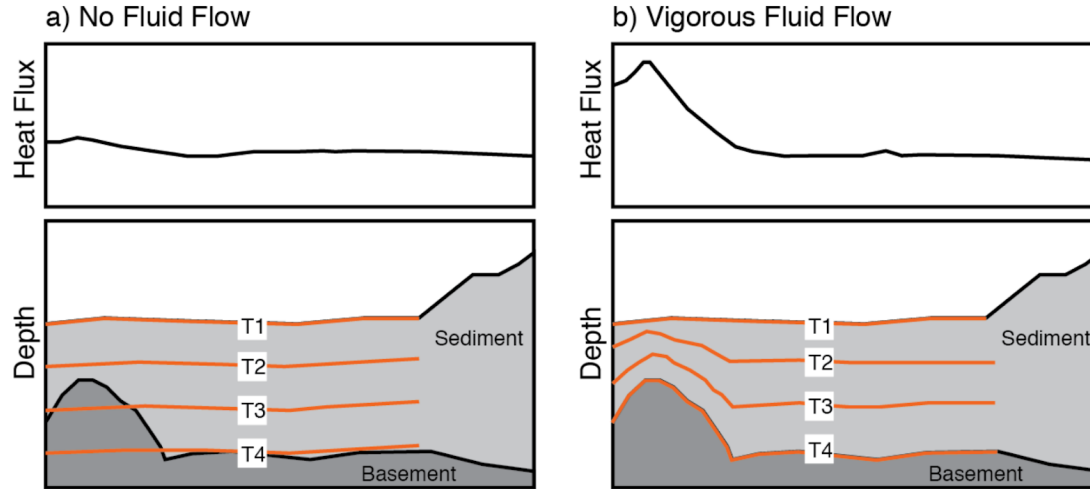
Basement Highs

Marine Heat Flow

$$q = -k \, dT/dz$$

dT/dz = thermal gradient

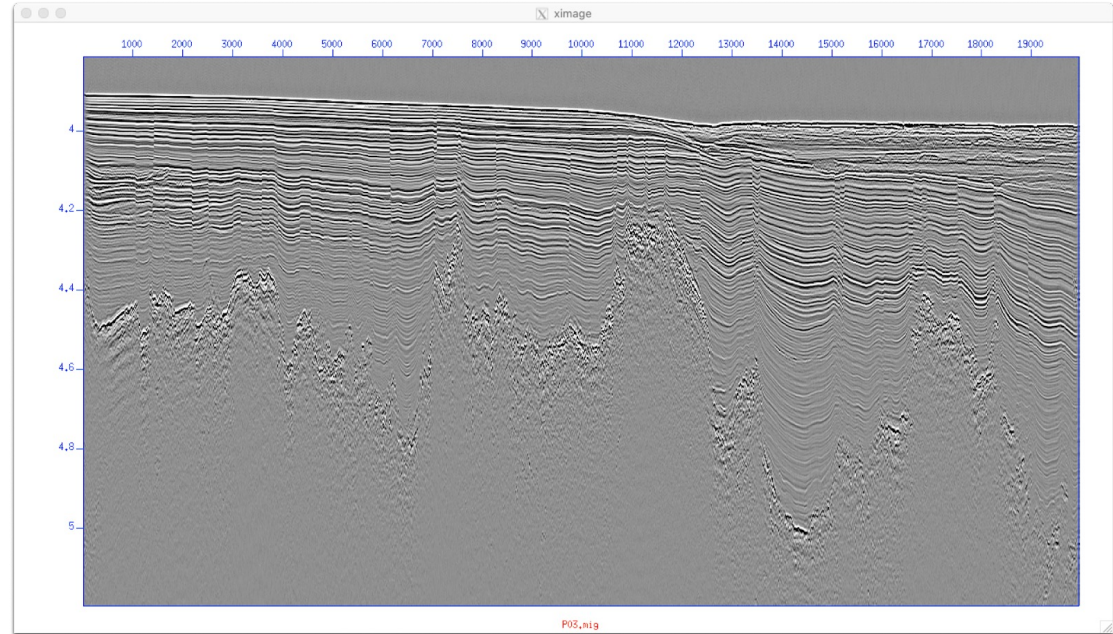
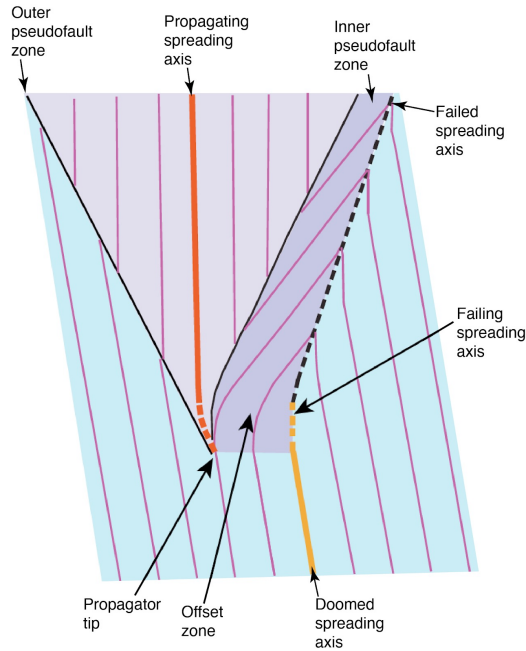
k = thermal conductivity



- Testing for hydrothermal circulation (HC) in basement/crust
- This would look like an isotherm along the crust (see b. T4)
- Appearance of HC is seen with higher heat flow above thinner layers of sediment (above basement highs)



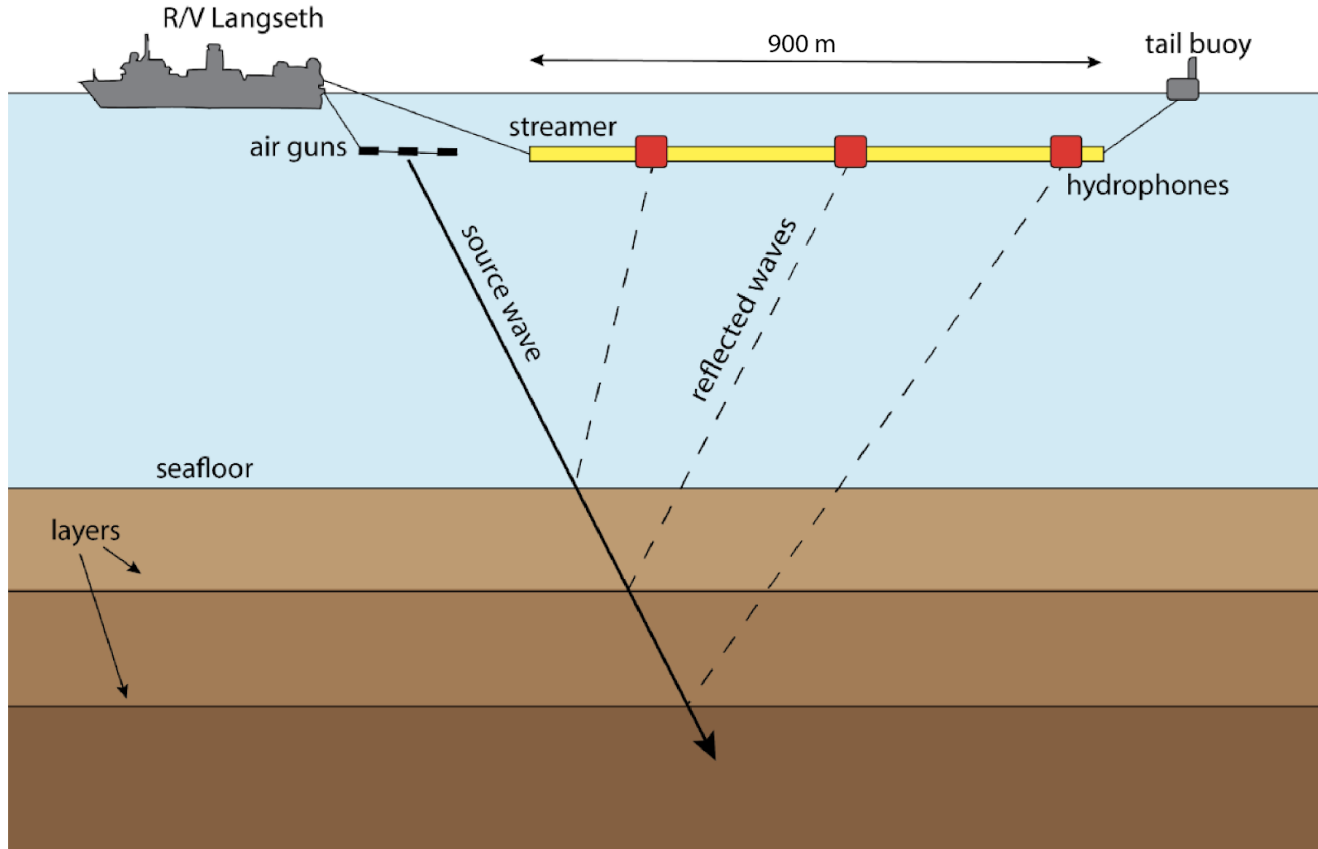
Pseudofaults



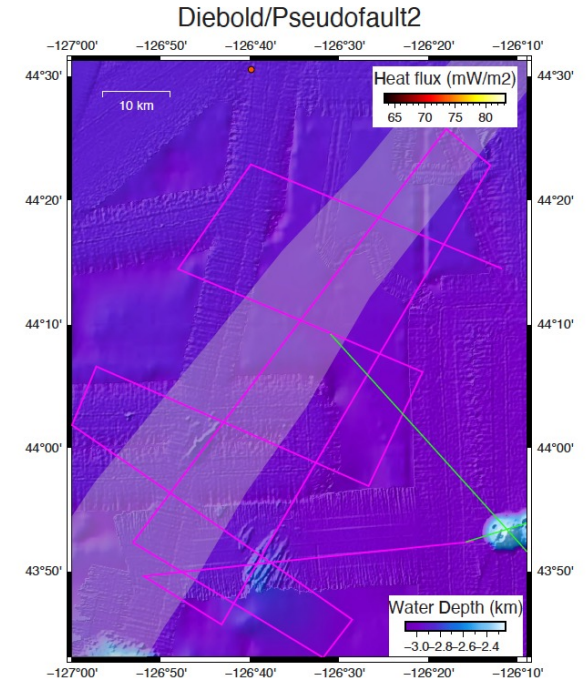
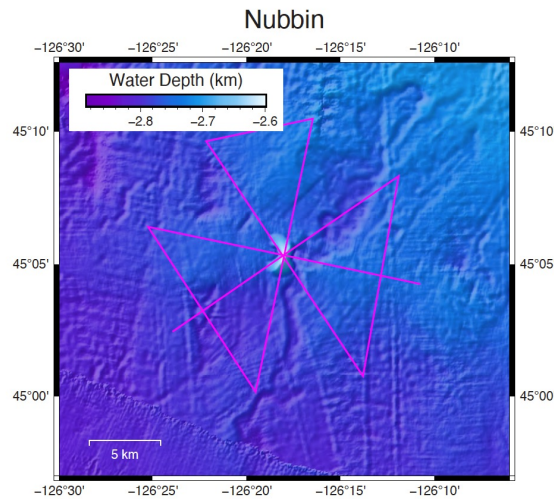
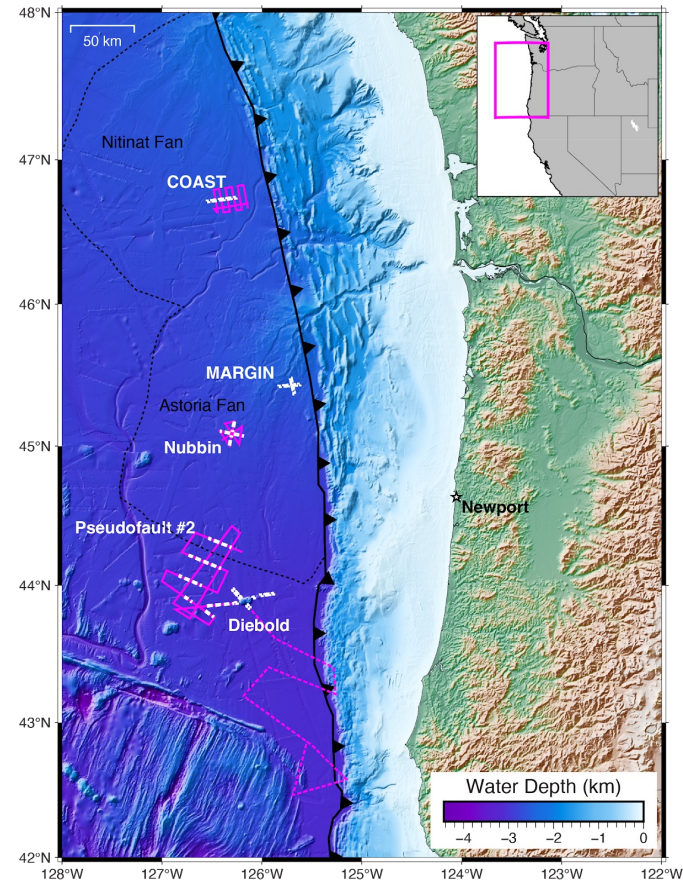
- Connection between crust of different ages
- Heat flow decreases with age
- How does this appear at Pseudofault 2 near the subduction zone?



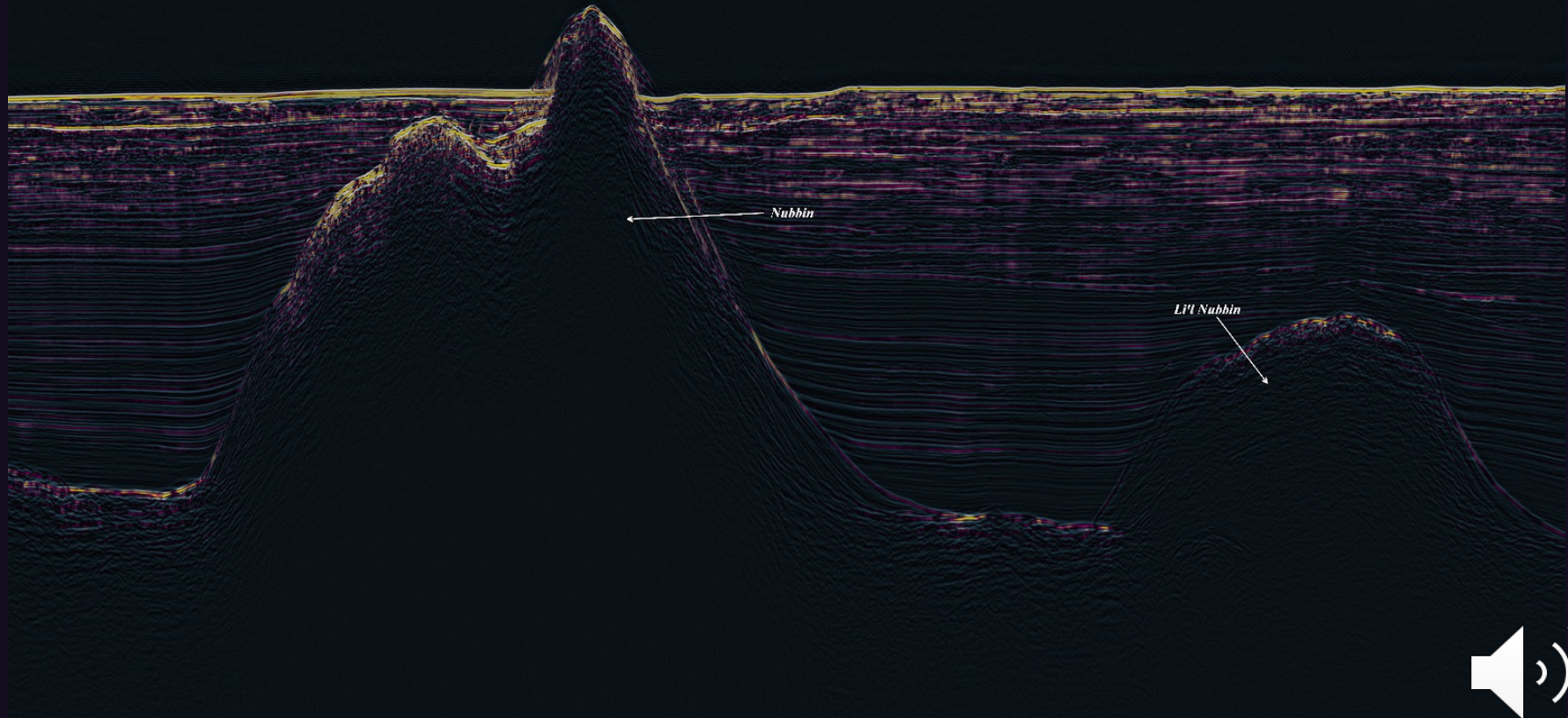
Seismic Data Acquisition



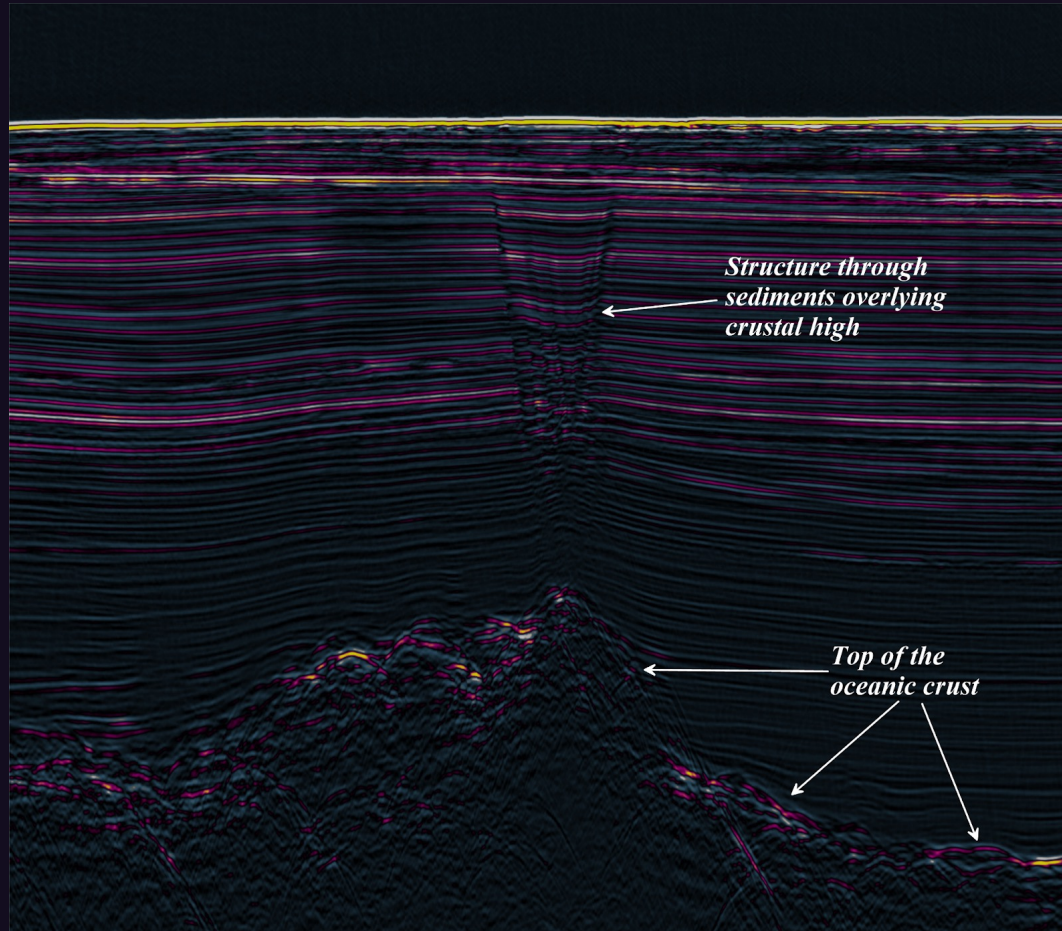
Seismic Data Acquisition



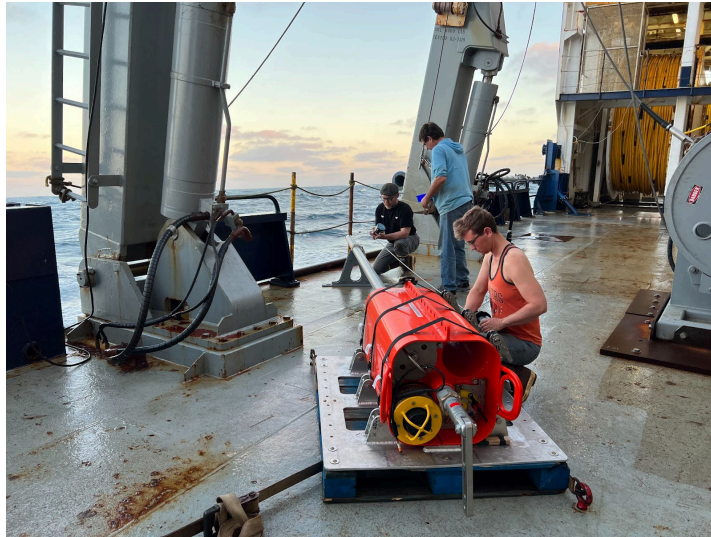
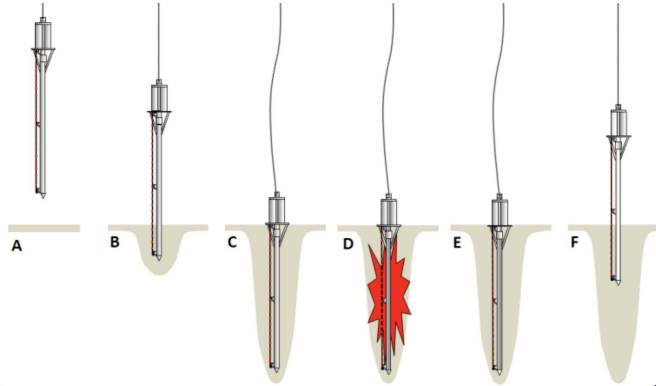
Seismic Data Results



Seismic Data Results



Heat Flow Data Acquisition

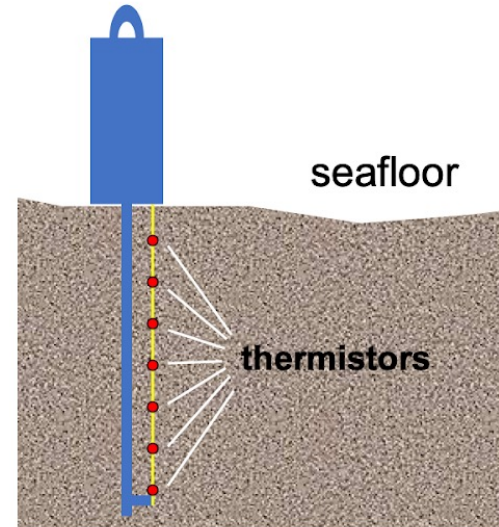


Marine Heat Flow

$$q = -k \frac{dT}{dz}$$

$\frac{dT}{dz}$ = thermal gradient

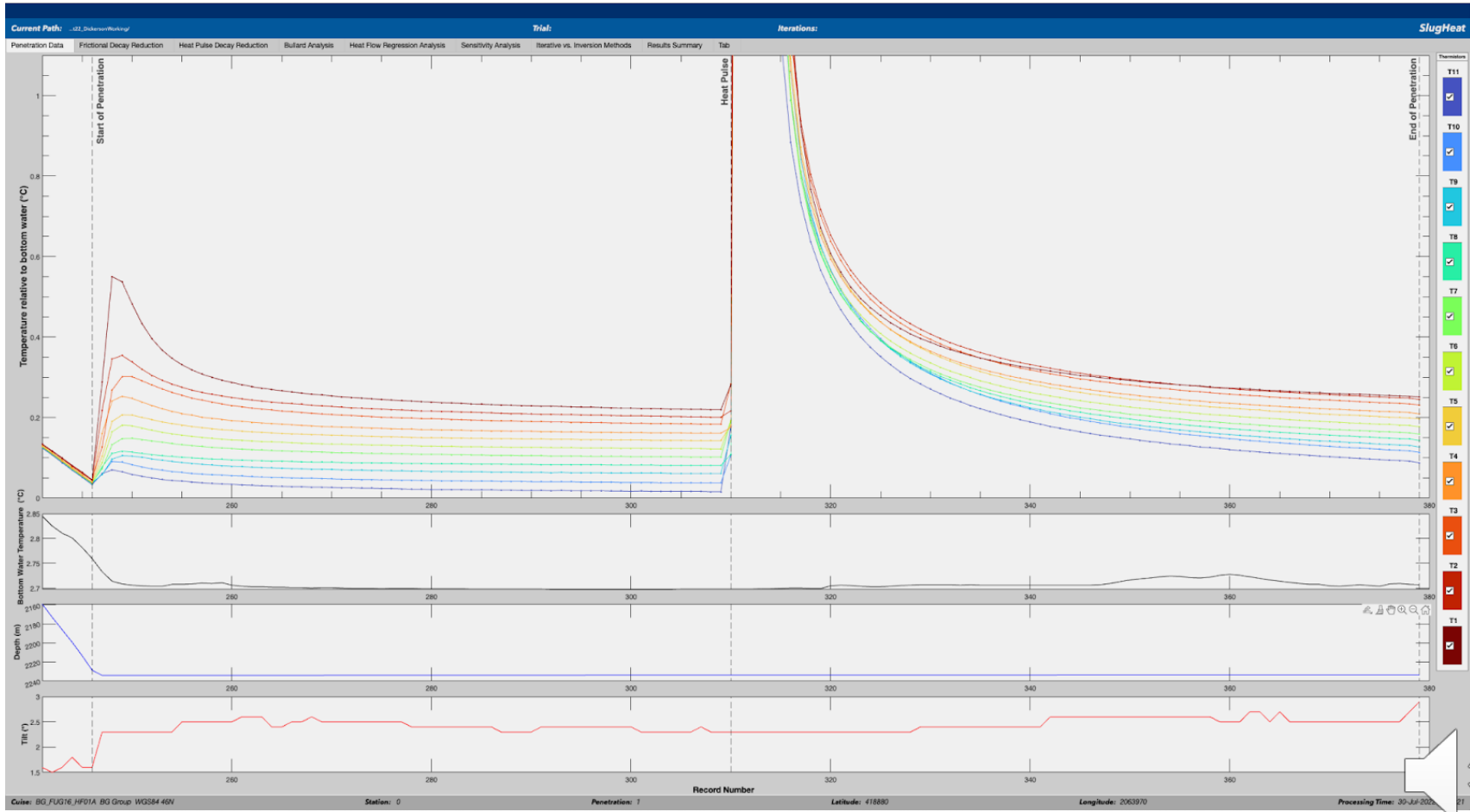
k = thermal conductivity



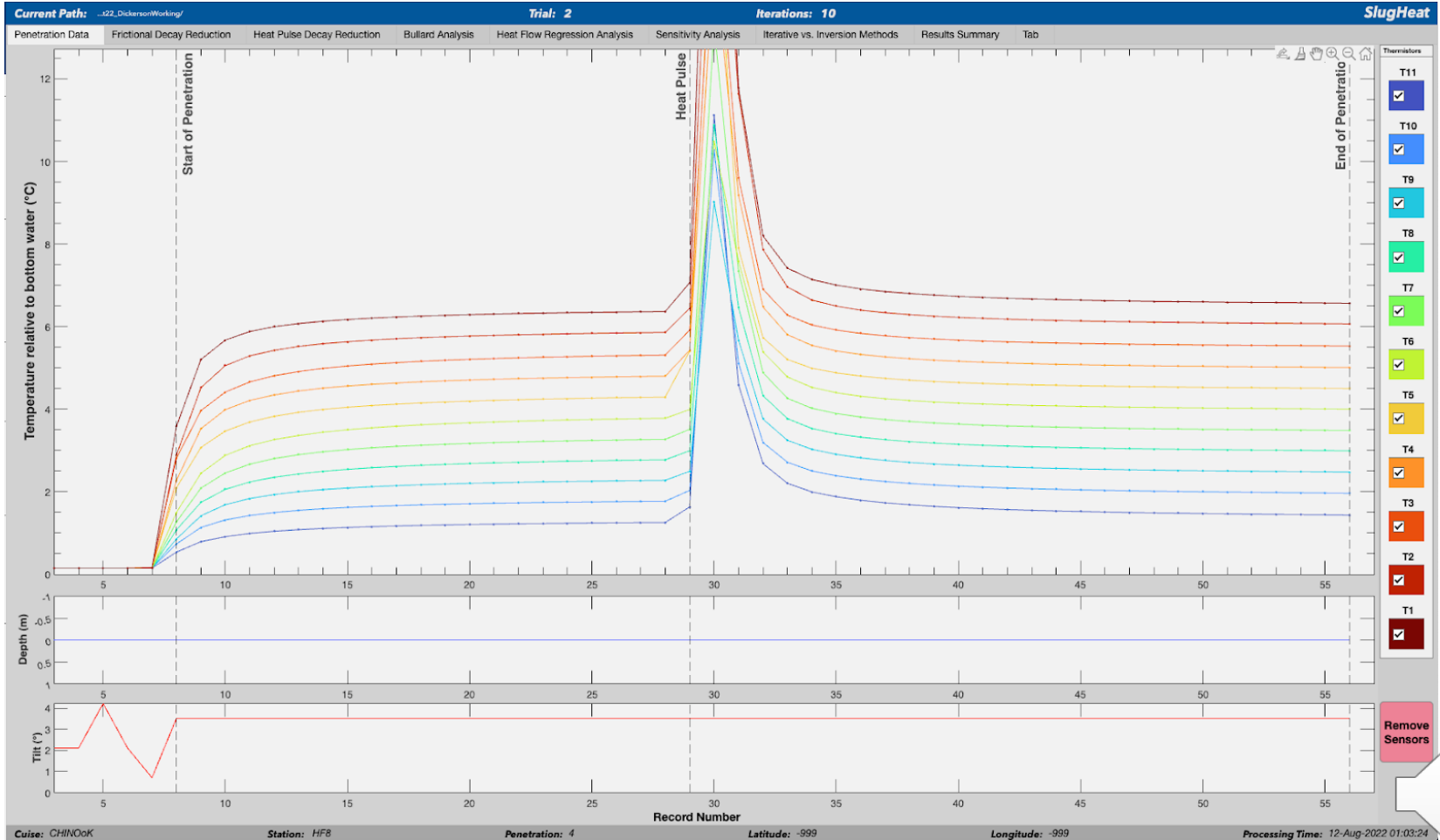
Heat Flow Data Acquisition



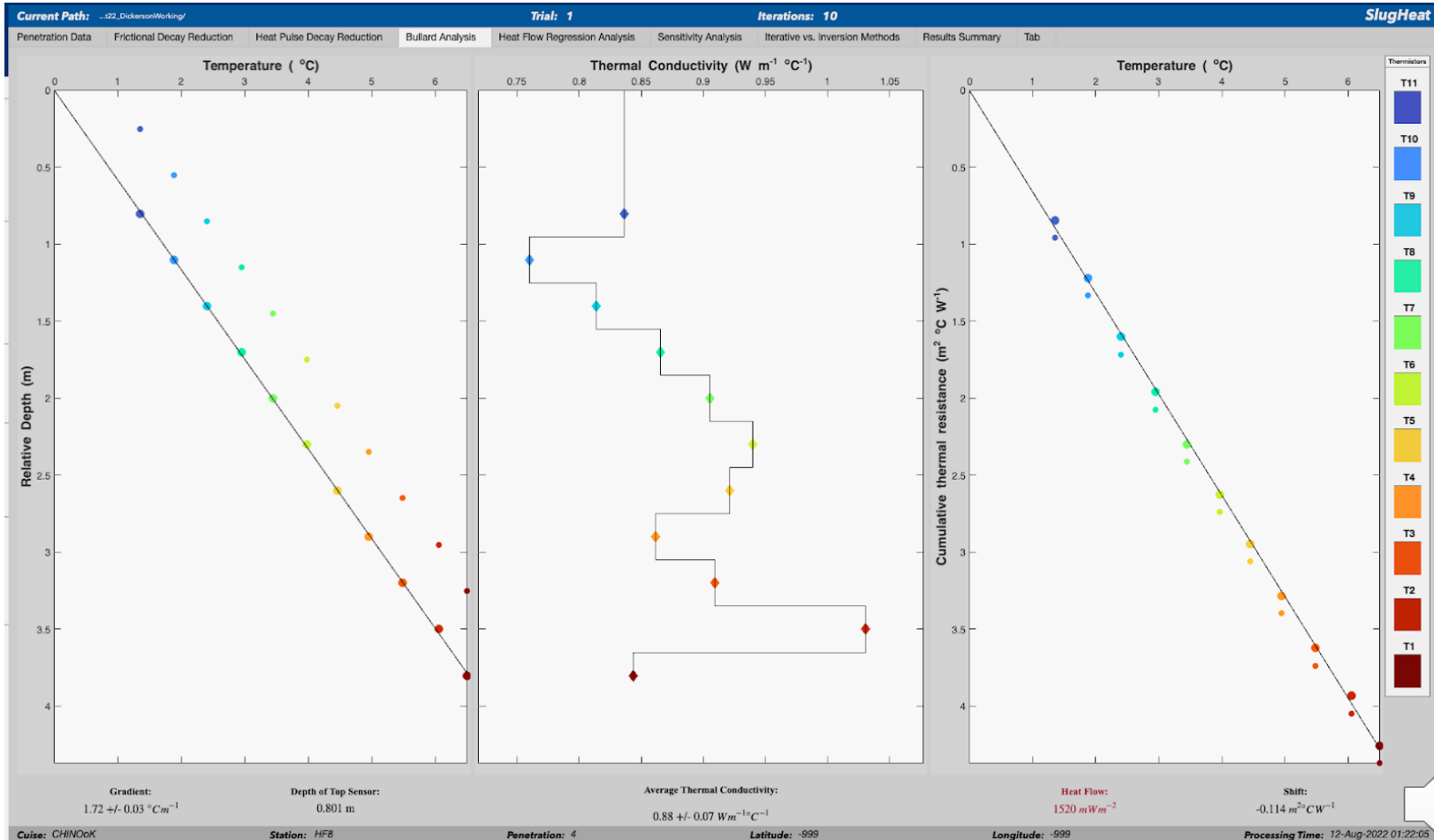
Heat Flow Data Results



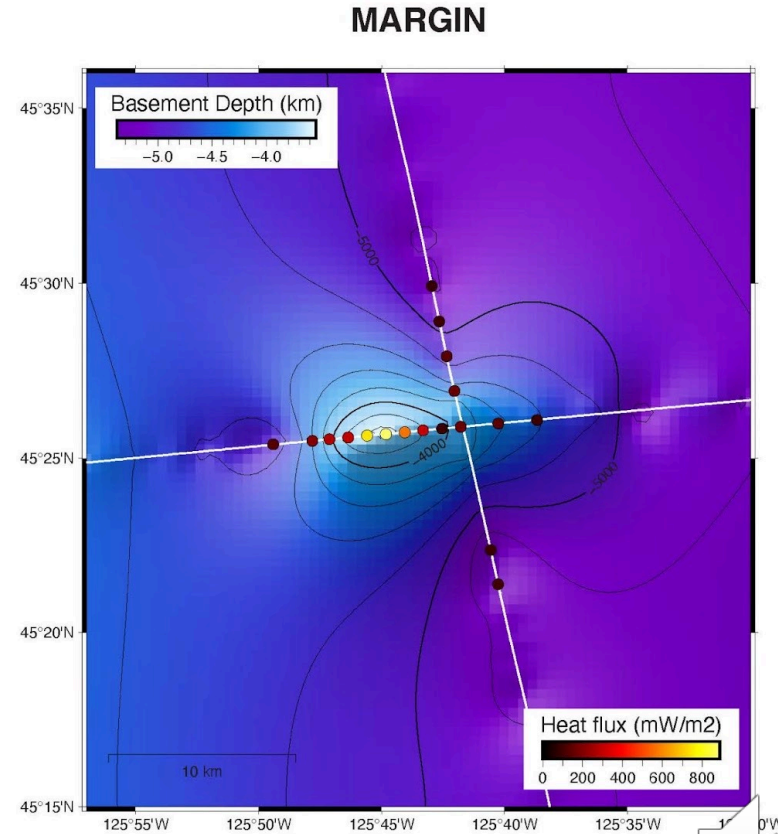
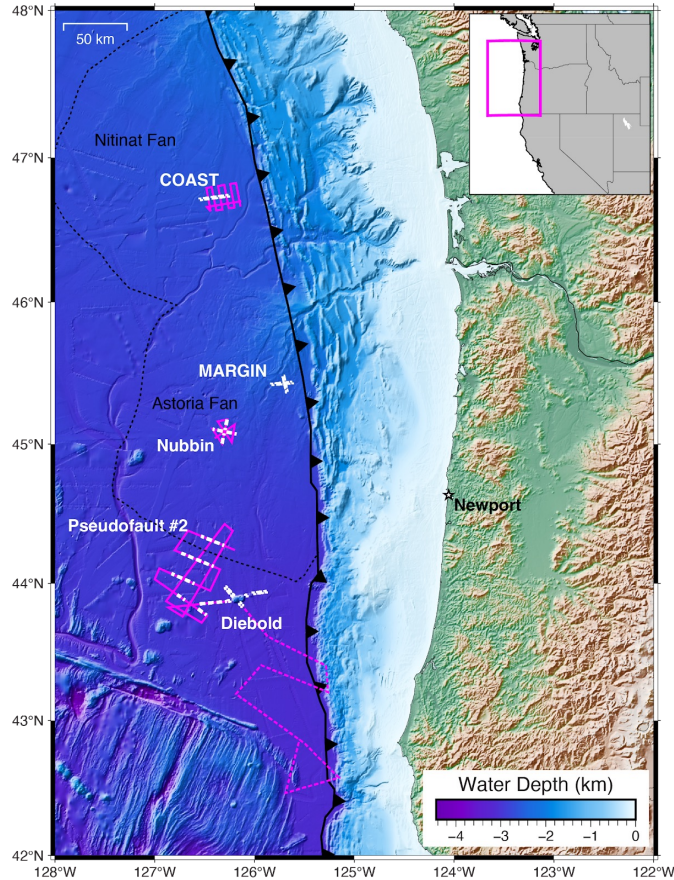
Heat Flow Data Results



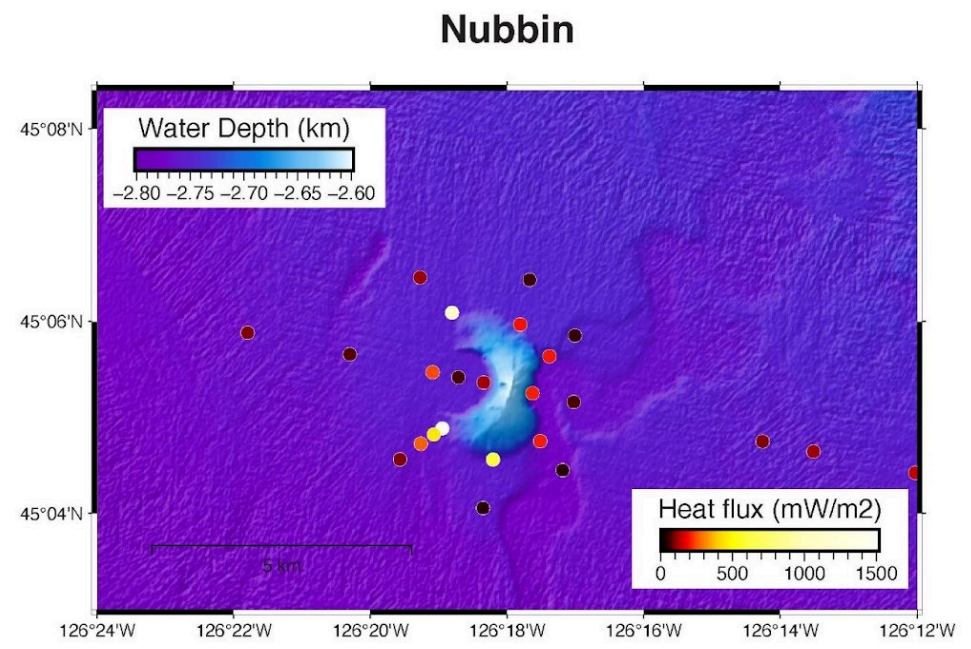
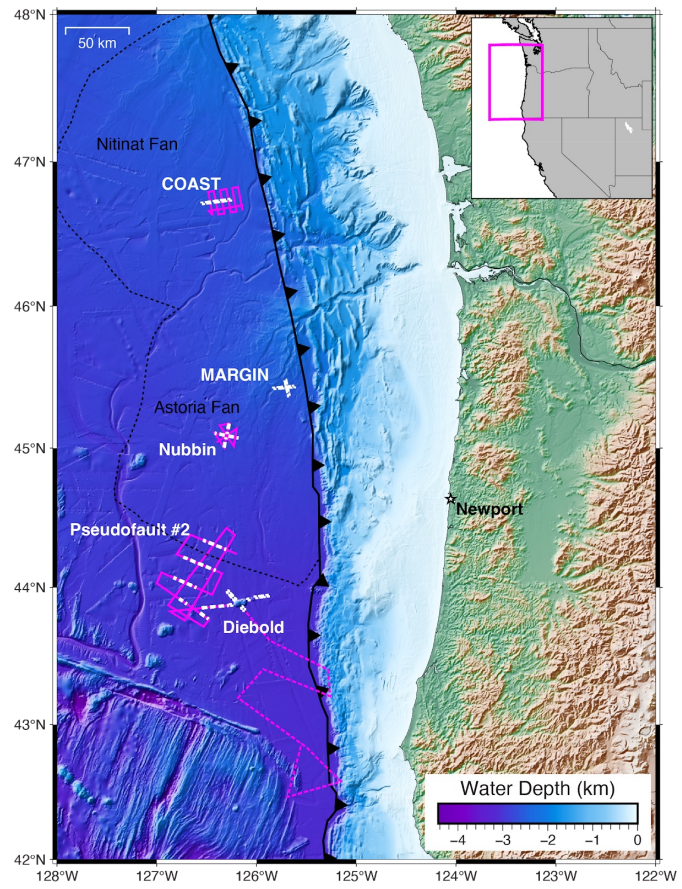
Heat Flow Data Results



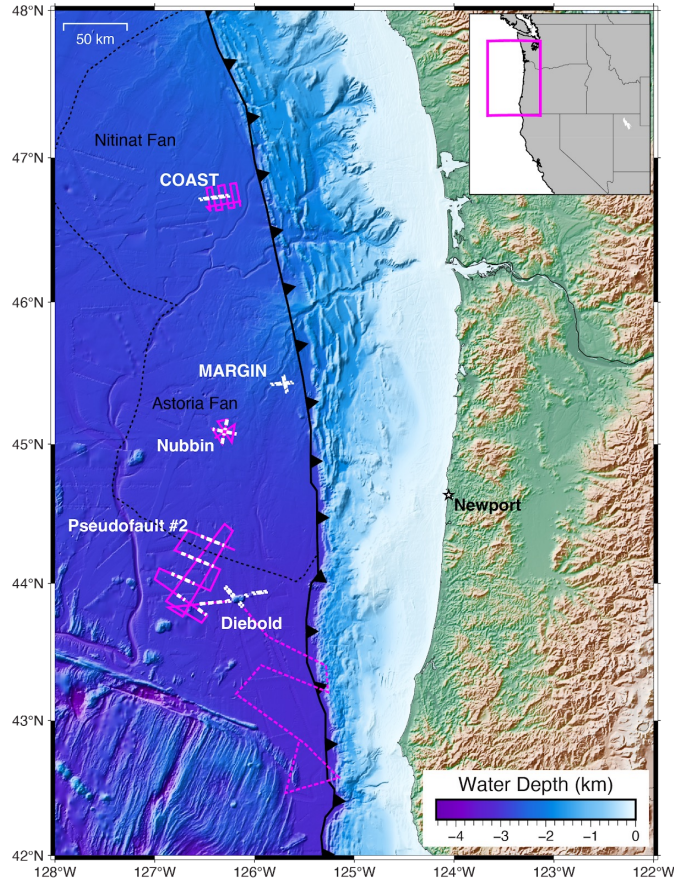
Fluid Flow at Margin



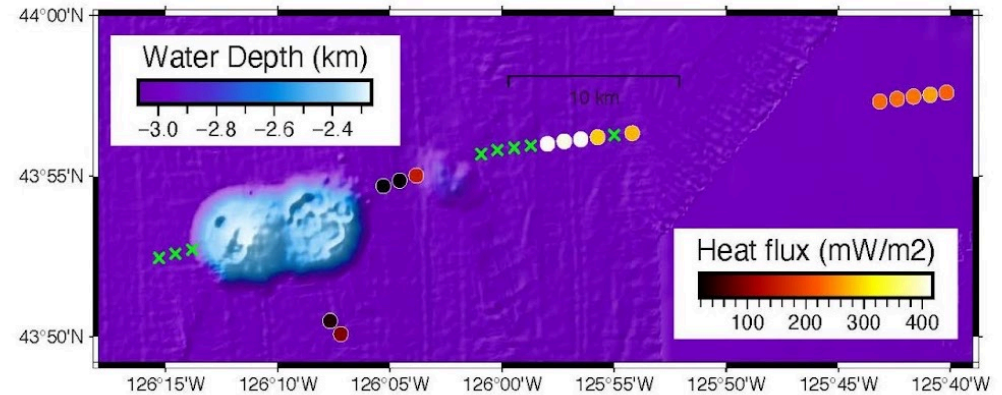
Discharge at Nubbin



Recharge at Diebold



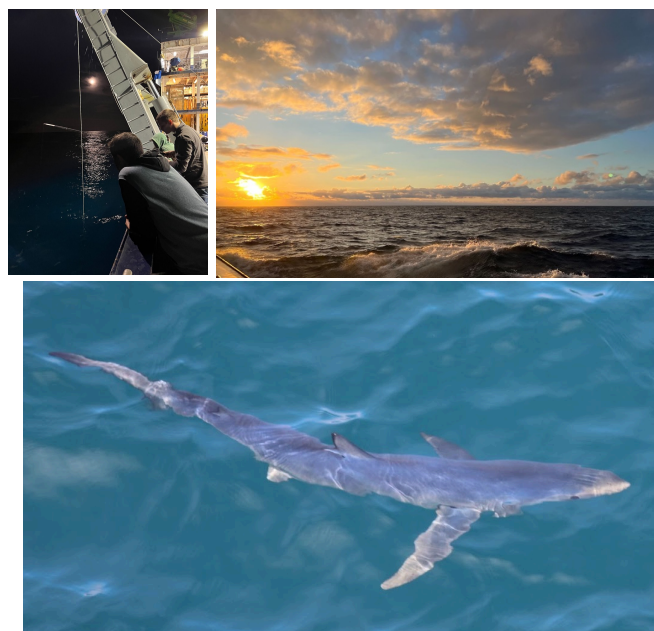
Diebold Knoll



Planned Future Work

Working on paper interpreting the Pseudofault #2 seismic results

Potential follow-up projects include further heat flow expeditions with new probe model in May 2023



End Presentation Slides
Following slides submitted to CSES
for reporting purposes only

Collaborative Activity



- I spent 20 full days on board the RV Langseth
- Collaboration to start paper on Pseudofault 2 results with science party members and PIs from Oregon State University and New Mexico Tech
- I am still at LANL as a Post-Bacc until May of 2023
- Proposal for SSA Abstract planned for 2024
- Impacts due to unforeseen circumstances: the research cruise was cut short by one week due to engine malfunction

Collaborative Activity

1 – 2 Slides

- how much time was spent by students at LANL
- any visits by University PI, how long, how many
- any visits by LANL PI at University, how long, how many
- any other project related visits or meetings
- any other project related new collaborations with outside organizations

Follow-on Activity

1 – 2 Slides

- Did any new collaborations result from student/university interactions?
- Still in contact with student or University PI?
- Where is the student now? (if a student was involved in your Rapid Response Project, would the project/student benefit from follow on as a Student Fellow)?
- Any proposals resulted / submitted / planned?
- Status of proposals submitted
- Any other follow on or new project activity planned
- Any other personnel follow on (student -> postdoc, student to other student project, postdoc -> staff conversions)
- Which program offices might be interested in this project? (note any program office contact and interest)

Project Challenges and Feedback



1 – 2 Slides

- Staffing (Student / PostDoc / Staff availability)
- What would your ideal amount of funds be in an FY to maximize success?
- Project oversight /reporting – too much, too little, something different needed?
- Facility availability (e.g. access to LANCE, labs, etc)
- Impacts due to COVID, other unforeseen circumstances