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Physical Oceanographic Conditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence during 2021

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Foreword

This series documents the scientific basis for the evaluation of aquatic resources and ecosystems in Canada. As such, it addresses the issues of the day in the time frames required and the documents it contains are not intended as definitive statements on the subjects addressed but rather as progress reports on ongoing investigations.

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ABSTRACT

An overview of physical oceanographic conditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (GSL) in 2021 is presented as part of the Atlantic Zone Monitoring Program (AZMP). AZMP data as well as data from regional monitoring programs are analyzed and presented in relation to long-term means. The annual average freshwater runoffs of the St. Lawrence River measured at Québec City and its combination with rivers flowing into the Estuary (RIVSUM II) were well below normal. The sea ice seasonal maximum volume was just shy of the series low record of 2010 and the January-April average was at a series record low. The winter mixed layer volume was second lowest of the 1996–2021 time series for waters colder than -1 °C and lowest for waters colder than 0 °C. The August cold intermediate layer (CIL) average minimum temperature was the highest of the 1985–2021 time series and the seasonally averaged minimum temperature index was the highest since 1980. On the Magdalen Shallows, the bottom area covered by waters cooler than 1 °C in August-September was at a record low. Sea surface temperatures (SST) averaged monthly over the Gulf were the highest of the satellite record (since 1981) in October and November. The May-November average SST for the Gulf was 3rd highest of the time series after 2006 and 2012. Deep water temperatures have been increasing overall in the Gulf since 2009, with inward advection from Cabot Strait. Gulf-wide average temperature has hit new series record highs (since 1915) of 4.1 °C at 150 m, 6.0 °C at 200 m, 6.7 °C at 250 m and 6.9 °C at 300 m. Bottom area covered by waters warmer than 6 °C was at a record high in all regions along the deep channels, with a notable increase in the Estuary. In the northeast Gulf, there was about the same bottom area between 6 °C and 7 °C as there was > 7 °C.

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the physical oceanographic conditions and related atmospheric forcing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in 2021 (Fig. 1). It complements similar reviews of the environmental conditions on the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelf and the Scotian Shelf and Gulf of Maine as part of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' (DFO) Atlantic Zone Monitoring Program (AZMP; see Therriault et al. 1998 for background information on the program, as well as Cyr et al. 2021 and Hebert et al. 2021 for examples of past reviews in other AZMP regions) in support of the zonal state of the ocean report provided as a Scientific Advisory Report (DFO 2021). The last detailed report of physical oceanographic conditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence was produced for the year 2020 (Galbraith et al. 2021a).

Some of the variables presented are spatially averaged over distinct regions of the Gulf (Fig. 2) into what will be termed "regional averages". These regions were developed for the Ecosystem approach to fisheries management and differ from those used in previous years. The report uses data obtained from the AZMP, other DFO surveys, and other sources. Environmental variables are usually expressed as anomalies, i.e., deviations from their long-term mean. The long-term mean or normal conditions are calculated for the standard 1991–2020 reference period when possible. Furthermore, because these series have different units (°C, m^3, m^2, etc.), each anomaly time series is normalized by dividing by its standard deviation (SD), also calculated for the same reference period. This allows a more direct comparison of the various series. Missing data are represented by grey cells in the tables, values within ±0.5 SD of the average as white cells, and conditions corresponding to warmer than normal (higher temperatures, reduced ice volumes, reduced cold-water volumes or areas) by more than 0.5 SD as red cells, with more intense reds corresponding to increasingly warmer conditions. Similarly, blue represents colder than normal conditions. Higher than normal freshwater inflow is shown as red, but does not necessarily correspond to warmer-than-normal conditions.

The summertime water column in the Gulf of St. Lawrence consists of three distinct layers: the surface layer, the cold intermediate layer (CIL), and the deeper water layer (Fig. 3). Surface temperatures typically reach maximum values in early to mid-August (Galbraith et al. 2012). Gradual cooling occurs thereafter, and wind forced mixing during the fall leads to a progressively deeper and cooler mixed layer, eventually encompassing the CIL. During winter, the surface layer thickens partly because of buoyancy losses (cooling and reduced runoff) and brine rejection associated with sea-ice formation, but mostly from wind-driven mixing prior to ice formation (Galbraith 2006). The surface winter layer extends to an average depth of 75 m, but may reach > 150 m in places such as the Mécatina Trough where near freezing waters (-1.8 to 0 ºC) from the Labrador shelf entering through the Strait of Belle Isle may extend from the surface to the bottom in depths > 200 m (Galbraith 2006). During spring, surface warming, sea-ice melt waters, and continental runoff produce a lower-salinity and higher-temperature surface layer. Underneath this surface layer, cold waters from the previous winter are partly isolated from the atmosphere and form the summer CIL. This layer will persist until the next winter, gradually warming up and deepening during summer (Gilbert and Pettigrew 1997; Cyr et al. 2011) and more rapidly during the fall as vertical mixing intensifies.

This report considers air temperature and freshwater runoff, both significant drivers of the surface layer which is discussed next. Winter sea ice conditions and the winter mixed layer are then presented. The latter is the precursor to the summer CIL, which affects bottom temperatures on the Magdalen Shallows. The deeper waters, mostly isolated from exchanges with the surface, are presented last along with a summary of major oceanographic surveys, modelling results on currents and transports, and details of observations at high frequency sampling stations.

AIR TEMPERATURE

The air temperature data source are the second generation of homogenized surface air temperature data, part of the Adjusted and Homogenized Canadian Climate Data (AHCCD), which accounts for shifts due to the relocation of stations, changes in observing practices and automation (Vincent et al. 2012). Because air temperature data were 2021 were not yet released at the time of this writing, they were completed by Environment Canada's National Climate Data and Information Archive (NCDIA) for 2021. The monthly air temperature anomalies for several stations around the Gulf are shown in Fig. 4 for 2020 and 2021, as well as the average of all station anomalies.

Fig. 5 shows the annual, winter (December-March), and April-November mean air temperature anomalies averaged over all available stations shown in Fig. 4 since 1873. Record-high annual and winter temperatures occurred in 2010 and record-high April-November temperatures in 2012. Galbraith et al. (2012) found the average April-November air temperature over the Gulf from Environment Canada's National Climate Data and Information Archive (NCDIA) to be a good proxy for May-November sea-surface temperature over the Gulf (but excluding the estuary) and found within the former a warming trend of 0.9 °C per century between 1873 and 2011; a slightly higher trend of 1.2 °C per century is found here over the selected AHCCD stations between 1873 and 2021 (Fig. 5). The NCDIA December-March air temperatures in the western Gulf were found to be highly correlated (R^2 = 0.67) with sea-ice properties, as well as with winter mixed layer volumes (Galbraith et al. 2010). Galbraith et al. (2013) found slightly higher correlations (R^2 = 0.72) with sea-ice using December-February AHCCD averages, possibly because March temperatures are of less importance during low sea-ice cover since much of the sea-ice cover decrease has occurred much earlier in February.

There were multiple monthly records set at stations around the Gulf in 2021: Warmest April on record at Natasquan, Chevery, Daniel's Harbour and Port aux Basques; Warmest October in Sept-Îles and Baie Comeau; warmest November in Natasquan, Daniel's Harbour and Port aux Basques. Averaged over all stations, only the month of May was normal and July below normal, with all other months above normal including the warmest November on record and higher still anomalies in January, February and April. The December-March air temperature average was 3rd highest of the time series (+3.1 °C, +2.0 SD). The April-November average was a record high (+1.3 °C, +2.0 SD) and the annual average was second warmest (+1.7 °C, +2.0 SD) after 2010.

PRECIPITATION AND FRESHWATER RUNOFF

A freshwater runoff hindcast for the St. Lawrence River is updated using the model and methods described in Lefaivre et al. (2016). Observations of water levels at the Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive station were used at the downstream boundary of the model. The runoff at the upstream boundary of the model was calculated using the stage-discharge relationships at the outlets of lake Deux-Montagnes and lake Saint-Louis. In addition, a correction was made so that the model minimizes the difference in water level observation at the Varennes station; this station is directly influenced by the outflow from both lakes and allows the validation of the upstream flow of the St. Lawrence River. The runoff at Québec City is extracted from the model at 3-minute intervals, filtered to remove the tidal signal and sub-sampled at noon local time (EST) every day (Fig. 6). To combine it with runoffs downstream and recreate the runoff that feeds the Estuary, the time series is then lagged by 21 days to approximate the time taken to

reach the Estuary at the height of the Saguenay mouth,[1] and new monthly means are computed (Fig. 7, lower curve).

A hydrological watershed model was used to estimate the monthly runoff since 1948 for all other major rivers flowing into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, with discharge locations as shown in Fig. 8. The precipitation data (NCEP reanalysis, six hourly intervals) used as input in the model were obtained from the NOAA-CIRES Climate Diagnostics Center (Boulder, Colorado, USA; Kalnay et al. 1996). The data were interpolated to a ¼° resolution grid and the water routed to river mouths using a simple algorithm described here. When air temperatures were below freezing, the water was accumulated as snow in the watershed and later melted as a function of warming temperatures. Water regulation is modelled for three rivers that flow into the estuary (Saguenay, Manicouagan, Outardes) for which the annual runoff is redistributed following the climatology of the true regulated runoffs for 12 months thereafter. Runoffs were summed for each region shown and the climatology established for the 1991–2020 period. The waters that flow into the Estuary (Fig. 8) were added to the lagged St. Lawrence River runoff (above) to produce the RIVSUM II index (Fig. 7, upper curve). In 2021, the RIVSUM II spring freshet was weak; the average May runoff was second lowest of the time series (21 000 $m^3 s^{-1}$, - 2.0 SD).

Monthly anomalies of the summed runoffs for 2020 and 2021 are shown in Fig. 9. Rivers other than the St. Lawrence contribute about 5 000 $m^3 s^{-1}$ runoff to the Estuary, the equivalent of 40% of the St. Lawrence River, while the other tributaries distributed along the border of the GSL provide an additional 4 000 $m^3 s^{-1}$ in freshwater runoff to the system. River regulation has a strong impact on the relative contributions of sources. For example, in May the higher-than-average river runoff into the Estuary (an effect of the previous heavy precipitation and river regulation) was almost as important as the record low May St. Lawrence runoff. The long-term time series are shown, summed by large basins, in Fig. 10. The second half of 2021 was marked by very low runoffs. The annual average runoff of the St. Lawrence River at Québec City and RIVSUM II both show a general downward trend from the mid-1970s until 2001, an upwards trend between 2001 and 2009 followed by another between 2012 and 2019 (Fig. 10). In 2021, the annual runoff was well below normal at 11 300 $m^3 s^{-1}$ (-1.1 SD) for the St. Lawrence River and 16 100 $m^3 s^{-1}$ (-1.3 SD) for the RIVSUM II index.

SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE AND SALINITY

The seasonal cycle of weekly averaged sea surface temperature over the Gulf of St. Lawrence is illustrated in Fig. 11 using data streams that are described below. Galbraith et al. (2012) have shown that Gulf-averaged monthly air temperature and SST climatologies matchup quite well with SST lagging air temperature by half a month, and this is shown to remain true with climatologies updated to 1991–2020 in Fig. 11. The climatological maximum sea-surface temperatures are reached during the first and second week of August but that can vary by a few weeks from year to year. The maximum surface temperature averages to 16.1ºC over the Gulf during the first and second week of August (1991–2020), but there are spatial differences: temperatures in the Northumberland Strait region are the warmest in the Gulf, averaging 18.8ºC over that area, and the coolest are at the head of the St. Lawrence Estuary (7.0 °C) and in upwelling areas along the lower north shore. The annual observations will be explored below.

[1] Senneville and Lefaivre 2010, unpublished manuscript

SHIPBOARD THERMOLISANOGRAPH

The surface layer temperature and salinity conditions of the Gulf are monitored by various complementary methods. The first is the shipboard thermosalinograph network (Galbraith et al. 2002), which consists of temperature-salinity sensors (SBE-21; Sea-Bird Electronics Inc., Bellevue, WA) that have been installed on various ships starting with the commercial ship Cicero of Oceanex Inc. in 1999 (retired in 2006) and on the Cabot from 2006 to fall 2013. The Oceanex Connaigra, was outfitted with a thermosalinograph in early 2015. Fig. 12 shows a mean annual cycle of water temperature at a depth of 8 m along the Montréal to St. John's shipping route based on thermosalinograph data collected from 2000 to 2021. The data were averaged for each day of the year at intervals of 0.1 degrees of longitude to create a climatological composite along the ship track. The most striking climatological feature is the area at the head of the Laurentian Trough (69.5°W), where strong vertical mixing leads to cold summer water temperatures (around 5 °C to 6 °C and sometimes lower) and winter temperatures that are always above freezing (see also Fig. 11). The climatological cycle shows the progression to winter conditions, first reaching near-freezing temperatures in the Estuary and then progressing eastward with time, usually reaching Cabot Strait by the end of the winter (but no further).

THERMOGRAPH NETWORK

The second data source is the Maurice Lamontagne Institute thermograph network (Pettigrew et al. 2016, 2017), which consists of a number of stations with moored instruments recording water temperature every 5 to 30 minutes (Fig. 13). Most instruments are installed on Coast Guard buoys that are deployed in the ice-free season, but a few stations are monitored year-round. The data are typically only available after the instruments are recovered except for oceanographic buoys that transmit data in real-time. Some station data had not yet arrived for processing at the time of the writing and are missing from this year's report.

Thermograph network observations are examined as anomalies relative to daily average temperatures (or salinities) calculated using all available years of data for each day of the year at each station and depth (Fig. 14 to Fig. 17). The seasonal cycle of near-surface temperature is measured by shallow instruments, while Cold Intermediate Layer warming from spring to fall is captured by instruments moored between 30 m and 120 m depth. Monthly averages are also shown, with the magnitude of their anomaly colour-coded. Monthly shallow-water anomalies were fairly consistent across all stations of each of the regions.

The Saguenay Sill 1 station is located just inside the first sill connecting the Saguenay Fjord to the St. Lawrence Estuary. The salinity of the water (hence its density) determines the type of circulation that renews basin waters. These time series extend those first presented in Belzile et al. (2016) and Galbraith et al. (2018). A second mooring was deployed just inside the inner and deepest basin of the Fjord (Saguenay Sill 3). The sharp decreases in temperature in January, February and March (Fig. 14) as well as the increases in salinity in March (Fig. 17) correspond to deep renewal events.

The Île Shag (10 m) station shows bottom temperatures close to Îles-de-la-Madeleine that are important to the lobster fishery. April and May temperatures were above normal at this station (Fig. 16). The Île Shag panel shows with a red line spanning historical dates when spring temperature last increased over 1.5 °C, a temperature associated with increased lobster mobility, as well as the mean date (April 27th) plus and minus 0.5 SD (4 days). In 2021, this crossing occurred on April 10th, 17 days early and among the earliest on record. It can then take up to two weeks for waters to warm at 30 m starting from the time recorded at 10 m.

AVHRR REMOTE SENSING BLEND

The satellite-based sea surface temperature product used since last year's report blends data from Pathfinder version 5.3 (4 km resolution for 1982–2021; Casey et al. 2010), Maurice Lamontagne Institute (MLI; 1.1 km resolution for 1985–2013) and Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO; 1.5 km resolution for 1997–2021), and monthly temperature composites are calculated from averaged available daily anomalies to which monthly climatological average temperatures are added. See Galbraith et al. (2021b) for full details of the processing.

Monthly mean sea-surface temperatures from AVHRR imagery are presented as maps (Fig. 18), temperature anomaly maps against the 1985–2010 climatology (Fig. 19), spatial averages and anomalies against the 1991–2020 climatology (Fig. 20 and Fig. 21); to convert Fig. 19 to using a 1991–2020 climatology, new pixel-level monthly climatologies will need to be rebuilt that combine two AVHRR products. Sea-surface temperature monthly climatologies and time series were also extracted for more specific regions of the Gulf. The Magdalen Shallows, excluding Northumberland Strait, is divided into western and eastern areas as shown in Fig. 22.

Seasonal trends in relation to air temperature are examined by first displaying weekly averaged AVHRR SST in the GSL for all years between 1982 and 2021 (Fig. 23) with years on the x-axis and weeks of the year on the y-axis (See Galbraith and Larouche 2013 for a full description). Isotherms show the first and last occurrences of temperature averages of 12 °C over the years, chosen to be representative of spring (and fall) transitions to (and from) typical summer temperatures. Although the selected temperature is arbitrary, the results that follow are not particularly sensitive to the exact temperature chosen because the surface mixed layer tends to warm and cool linearly in spring and fall (e.g., Fig. 11). A 10 °C threshold is also used to demonstrate this. The interannual variability in the time of year when the 12 °C threshold is crossed-correlated with June-July average air temperature for the summer onset (0.9 weeks sooner per 1 °C increase; $R^2 = 0.59$) and with September average air temperature for the fall (0.7 weeks later per 1 °C increase; $R^2 = 0.50$). These air temperature averages, shown in Fig. 23, can be used as proxies prior to 1982 and for climate change predictions. The implication is that the duration of the Gulf of St. Lawrence warm season has increased and will increase by about 2 weeks for each 1 °C of seasonal warming (e.g., associated with anthropogenic climate change).

SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE IN 2021

Thermosalinograph data show above average temperatures by mid-December 2020 and near-freezing surface layer conditions first appearing later than normal (Fig. 12), driving late onset of sea ice. Temperatures below -1 °C were rarely observed in winter 2021 along the ship track. Temperature anomalies were generally positive all year except in July and early August and reached values > 4 °C in the fall.

The summer pattern of sea surface temperature observed by the thermosalinograph is in agreement with remote sensing data (Fig. 20), with most regions experiencing above normal temperatures except in July and early August. The seasonal August maximum was just above normal (+0.5 °C, +0.7 SD) but was followed by a sudden drop that left the month of September overall near-normal. When late summer SST drops faster than does air temperature (Fig. 11, right panel), it suggests that wind mixing drew heat deeper into the water column rather than losses to the atmosphere. The seasonal May-November average for the Gulf was well above normal (+0.9 °C, +1.8 SD) and 3rd highest of the time series after 2006 and 2012. Monthly averaged temperatures were highest of the satellite record (since 1981) in October and November. This pattern is consistent with the later than normal warming to summer temperatures (12 °C) by 0.6 weeks (+0.6 SD) and the record late fall cooling by 1.8 weeks to

12 °C (+1.9 SD) and by 2.5 weeks to 10 °C (+3.7 SD) (Fig. 23). Regional monthly average temperature records occurred for the warmest months of September through November in the Estuary, warmest October and November in most regions and warmest November in all regions.

SEA ICE

Ice cover area, duration and volume are estimated from ice cover products obtained from the Canadian Ice Service (CIS), then converted into regular grids that are used in analyses. These are weekly Geographic Information System (GIS) charts covering the period 1969–2021 and daily charts covering the period 2009–2021. All charts were gridded on a 0.01° latitude by 0.015° longitude grid (approximately 1 km resolution). Thickness (and therefore volume) are estimated from stages of ice growth from new ice and nilas (5 cm), grey ice (12.5 cm), grey-white ice (22.5 cm), thin first year ice (50 cm), medium first year ice (95 cm) and thick first year ice (160 cm). Prior to 1983, the CIS reported ice categories into fewer classifications using a single category of first year ice (≥ 30 cm) with a suggested average thickness of 65 cm. We have found this value to lead to underestimates of the seasonal maximum thickness and volume based on high interannual correlations obtained between the estimated volume and area of the weekly seasonal maximums. The comparison pre- and post-1983 provided an estimate of 85 cm in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and of 95 cm on the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelf. To avoid a spatial discontinuity and preferring slightly underestimating ice volume in the northeast Gulf rather than over-estimating it everywhere else, we choose to set it at 85 cm.

Several products were computed to describe the sea-ice cover interannual variability: day of first and last occurrence and duration maps (Fig. 24) and regional extreme values (Fig. 25); distribution of ice thickness during the week of maximum volume (Fig. 26, upper panels) and maximum thickness reached at any week during the season (Fig. 26, lower panels); daily evolution of the estimated sea-ice volume in relation to the climatology and historical extremes (Fig. 27); estimated seasonal maximum ice volumes within the Gulf as well as on the Scotian Shelf (Fig. 28); time series of seasonal maximum ice volume, area (excluding thin new ice) and ice season duration in relation with December-to-March air temperature anomaly (Fig. 29). The durations shown in Fig. 25 and Fig. 29 are different products. The first corresponds to the number of weeks where the volume of ice anywhere within the region exceeded 5% of the climatological maximum, while the second is the average duration at every pixel of Fig. 24, which is much shorter than the first.

There has been a declining trend in ice cover severity since 1990 with rebounds in 2003 and 2014 (Fig. 29). The correlation between annual maximum ice volume (including the cover present on the Scotian Shelf) and the December-February air temperature averaged over five Western Gulf stations (Sept-Îles, Mont-Joli, Gaspé, Charlottetown and Îles-de-la-Madeleine) accounted for 72% of the variance using the 1969–2012 time series (Galbraith et al. 2013). Fig. 29 shows a similar comparison using ice volume and the ACCHD December-to-March air temperature anomaly from Fig. 5 yielding $R^2 = 0.74$. The correlations between air temperature and the ice parameters season duration and area are also very high ($R^2 = 0.80$–0.83). Correlation coefficients are slightly higher when using January to February air temperatures, perhaps because March air temperatures have no effect on ice cover that has almost disappeared by then during very mild winters. Sensitivity of the ice cover to air temperature increase (e.g., through climate change) can be estimated using 1969–2021 co-variations between winter air temperature and sea-ice parameters, which indicate losses of 18 km^3, 31 000 km^2 and 14 days of sea-ice season for each 1 °C increase in winter air temperature.

Ice typically forms first in December on the coast of the St. Lawrence Estuary (in the recent 1991–2020 climatology versus the entire estuary in the previous 1981–2010 climatology) and in

shallow waters along New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the lower north shore, and melts last in the northeast Gulf where the ice season duration tends to be longest apart from shallow bays elsewhere (Fig. 24). Offshore sea ice is typically produced in the northern parts of the Gulf and drifts towards Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Cabot Strait during the ice season.

In 2021, the sea-ice cover formed several weeks later than usual in the Estuary, Magdalen Shallows and Mécatina Trough and did not form at all in most of the other regions of the Gulf (Fig. 24). Last occurrence was one to two weeks earlier than normal on the Magdalen Shallows, and around two months earlier than normal over the Mécatina Trough caused by very weak inflow of Labrador Shelf ice through the Strait of Belle Isle (Fig. 24). Ice volume remained near zero until the 3rd week of January, breaking the record low volume for the day of year between January 14th and February 19th and again between March 28th and April 7th. The seasonal maximum ice volume of 11 km³ (-1.4 SD) occurred the week of March 8th (Fig. 26) and was just shy of the series low record of 2010. The pattern was different than in 2010, however; then, most of the sea ice present in the Gulf had flowed in through the Strait of Belle Isle while in 2021 the coverage there was minimal and some ice formed on the Magdalen Shallows. The area-weighted ice season duration of 14 days (-2.0 SD) was also a near-record, the seasonal maximum area (-1.9 SD) was 3rd lowest of the time series (Fig. 29) and the January-April average volume (reported in the AZMP SAR; DFO 2021) was at a series record low (Fig. 28). These metrics were consistent with the warm winter air temperatures (+3.1 °C, +2.0 SD). Only 5 winters on record have had December-March air temperature anomalies of +2.4 °C or greater: 1958, 1969, 2010, 2011 and 2021. Averaging the normalized anomalies of sea ice duration, seasonal maximum area and volume from Fig. 29, the four years with weakest sea ice conditions since 1969 could be classified as nearly ice-free. They were, in order, 2010, 2021, 2011 and 1969; these are all the winters with air temperature anomalies of +2.4 °C or greater. In the 12-year span since 2010, 8 of the 12 lowest seasonal maximum ice volumes of the time series have occurred (Fig. 29), with 2021 ranking 2nd. Some ice (0.5 km^3, -0.8 SD) made it past Cabot Strait onto the Scotian Shelf, but only offshore (Fig. 26 to Fig. 28).

WINTER WATER MASSES

A wintertime survey of the Gulf of St. Lawrence waters (typically 0–200 m) has been undertaken in early March since 1996, typically using a Canadian Coast Guard helicopter but from Canadian Coast Guard ships in 2016 and 2017. The survey, sampling methods, and results of the cold-water volume analysis in the Gulf and the estimate of the water volume advected into the Gulf via the Strait of Belle Isle over the winter are described in Galbraith (2006) and in Galbraith et al. (2006). Fig. 30 and Fig. 31 show gridded interpolations of near-surface temperature, temperature difference above freezing, salinity, cold layer thickness and bottom contacts, and thickness of the Labrador Shelf water intrusion for 2021 as well as climatological means.

The March surface mixed layer is usually very close (within 0.1 °C) to the freezing point in most regions of the Gulf but thickness of the surface layer varies, leaving variability in the cold-water volume between mild and severe winters rather than in temperature. One exception was 2010 when, for the first time since the inception of the winter survey, the mixed layer was on average 1 °C above freezing. During typical winters, surface waters in the temperature range of ~ 0 °C to -1 °C are only found from the northeast side of Cabot Strait spreading into the Gulf. Some of these warm waters presumably enter the Gulf during winter and flow northward along the west coast of Newfoundland. However it is also possible that local waters could have simply not cooled close to freezing. Conditions in March 2021 were exceptional with near-freezing waters (Fig. 30) and sea ice (Fig. 26) limited to the Estuary, Magdalen Shallows and Mécatina Trough; the rest of the Gulf of St. Lawrence surface waters remained well above freezing. In fact, the

thickness distribution of waters colder than 0 °C resembled that usually observed for waters colder than -1 °C. Even on the Magdalen Shallows, the near-freezing mixing layer did not reach to the bottom everywhere (although bottom waters became colder later, in April, at the Shediac Valley station as will be described later).

Near-freezing waters with salinities of around 32 are responsible for the (local) formation of the CIL since that is roughly the salinity at the temperature minimum during summer. These are coded in green-blue in the salinity panel of Fig. 30 and are typically found to the north and east of Anticosti Island. Surface salinities were lower than the climatology during the winter of 2021.

Near-freezing waters with salinity > 32.35 (colour-coded in violet) are considered to be too saline to have been formed from waters originating within the Gulf (Galbraith 2006) and are presumed to have been advected from the Labrador Shelf through the Strait of Belle Isle. These cold high-salinity waters were not present at the surface in March 2021 in Mécatina Trough (Fig. 30). However, Labrador Shelf waters can have lower salinity than this threshold. A second criterion based on T-S signatures of water (Galbraith 2006) was used to identify intruding Labrador Shelf waters that have exhibited no evidence of mixing with warm and saline deep Gulf water. This identified a layer reaching the surface that had salinity mostly less than 32.35 (top-right panel of Fig. 31). The recent history of Labrador Shelf water intrusions is shown in Fig. 32, where its volume is shown as well as the fraction it represents of all the cold-water volume in the Gulf. This volume was below normal in March 2021 at 620 km³ (-1.0 SD), but still represented 13% (0.0 SD) of the cold water (T < -1 °C) in the Gulf. Most of this layer had lower salinity than usual (not appearing in violet in Fig. 30). The near-bottom thermograph in the Strait of Belle Isle (Fig. 15) showed that water temperature increased above -1 °C on April 26, 2021, earlier than normal by 35 days (-1.3 SD) and indicating inflow of Labrador Shelf Water for less time than normal after the March survey.

Intriguing high salinity surface waters were observed south of Anticosti Island. These are not Labrador Shelf waters as they have high temperatures (> 1.5 °C) and are found on the temperature—salinity mixing line with deep waters. A similar water mass was observed at 94 m depth at the next offshore station, suggesting an upwelling event.

The cold mixed layer depth typically reaches about 75 m in the Gulf and is usually delimited by the -1 °C isotherm because the mixed layer is typically near-freezing and deeper waters are much warmer (Galbraith 2006). In March 2010 and 2011, much of the mixed layer was warmer than -1 °C such that the criterion of T < 0 °C was also introduced (see middle panels of Fig. 31). The cold surface layer is the product of local formation as well as cold waters advected from the Labrador Shelf, and can consist either of a single water mass or of layers of increasing salinity with depth. This layer reaches the bottom in many regions of the Gulf, with interannual variability in whether the deepest parts of the Magdalen Shallows or of Mécatina Trough are reached (see bottom panels of Fig. 31). The thickness of the winter layer is usually greatest north and northeast of Anticosti Island, and the doming of the Anticosti Gyre isopycnals appears in the climatology as a thinner centre part. In 2021, the spatial pattern resembled the climatology only in the Estuary, Magdalen Shallows and Mécatina Trough and conditions were similarly warm to 2010 elsewhere.

Integrating the cold layer (< -1 °C) depth over the area of the Gulf (excluding the Estuary and the Strait of Belle Isle) yields a volume of 4 700 km³ in 2021, the second lowest volume of the time series at -2.6 SD below the 1996–2020 average; the lowest was 2 600 km³ in 2010. The interannual variability of winter volumes of water colder than 0 °C and 1 °C are shown in Fig. 33. The mixed layer volume increases to 11 100 km³ (-4.0 SD) when water temperatures < 0 °C are considered, which is by far the lowest value recorded; the second lowest value of 13 200 km³ (-1.6 SD) was recorded in 2000. The 2021 volume of cold water corresponds to only

33% of the total water volume of the Gulf (33 500 km³, excluding the Estuary), compared to the 1996–2020 average of 44%.

COLD INTERMEDIATE LAYER

FORECAST FROM THE MARCH 2021 SURVEY

The summer CIL minimum temperature index (Gilbert and Pettigrew 1997) has been found to be highly correlated with the Gulf (excluding the estuary) volume of cold water (< -1 °C) measured the previous March when much of the mixed layer is near-freezing (Galbraith 2006). This is expected because the CIL is the remnant of the winter cold surface layer. A measurement of the volume of cold water present in March is therefore a valuable tool for forecasting the coming summer CIL conditions (Fig. 33, right panel). In the outlook for 2021 section of Galbraith et al. (2021a), we noted that since the predictive relation between the winter volume of water colder than -1 °C and the following summer CIL minimum temperature index failed with the warm winter of 2010, the same would likely occur for 2021. Instead, a new relation between the winter volume of water colder than 0 °C and the following summer CIL temperature minimum (not shown) was used to predict a very warm index of 0.93 °C. Because the record low 2021 volume of water colder than 0 °C was well below the prior 26 years of observations from the winter survey, it was noted that this prediction was less reliable. Nevertheless, we noted that there was strong potential for the 2021 CIL to be the warmest since the 1980s. The actual outcome is described next.

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER CIL

The CIL minimum temperature, thickness and volume for T < 0 °C and < 1 °C were estimated using temperature profiles from all sources for August and September. Most data are from the multi-species surveys in September for the Magdalen Shallows and August for the rest of the Gulf. A glider transect made by Memorial University across Esquiman Channel was also included (von Oppeln-Bronikowski et al. 2021). Using all available temperature profiles, spatial temperature interpolations of the Gulf were done for each 1 m depth increment, with the interpolated field bound between the minimum and maximum values observed within each of the different regions of the Gulf (Fig. 2) to avoid spurious extrapolations. The CIL thickness at each grid point is simply the sum of depth bins below the threshold temperature, and the CIL minimum temperature is only defined at grid points where temperature rises by at least 0.5 °C at depths greater than that of the minimum, or if the grid point minimum temperature is below the CIL spatial average of the Gulf.

Fig. 34 shows the gridded interpolation of the CIL thickness < 1 °C and < 0 °C and the CIL minimum temperature for August–September 2021 as well their 1991–2020 climatology (1994–2020 for Mécatina Trough). Similar maps were produced for all years back to 1971 (although some years have no data in some regions), allowing the calculation of volumes for each region for each year as well as the climatologies shown on the left side of Fig. 34. Fig. 35 shows the volume of CIL water (< 0 °C and < 1 °C) and the average CIL minimum core temperature from the yearly August–September interpolated grids (e.g., Fig. 34). The CIL areal minimum temperature average and volume shown in Fig. 35 exclude data from Mécatina Trough which has very different water masses from the rest of the Gulf; it is influenced by inflow through the Strait of Belle Isle and is therefore not indicative of the climate in the rest of the Gulf. The time series of the regional August–September CIL volumes are shown in Fig. 36 (for < 0 °C and < 1 °C) and CIL regional average minimum core temperatures in Fig. 37.

Most regions showed strong decreases in CIL volumes and core temperature increases in 2021, reaching record levels (Fig. 36 and Fig. 37), as forecasted from the March survey. Overall, volumes defined by T < 0 °C and < 1 °C decreased significantly to record levels of the era of modern CTD data, with barely any recorded volume of CIL colder than 0 °C. The 2021 average temperature minimum (excluding Mécatina Trough, the Strait of Belle Isle and the Magdalen Shallows) increased to a record high for the same period (Fig. 35 bottom panel, green line) at 0.98 °C (+2.7 SD), an increase of 0.81 °C from 2020. The average difference between this CIL index and the Gilbert and Pettigrew (1997) index (described below) is 0.26 °C because of the warming between mid-June and the August survey. After adjusting for timing, this 2021 index would correspond to a Gilbert and Pettigrew (1997) index of 0.7 °C after rounding to the nearest decimal.

NOVEMBER CIL CONDITIONS IN THE ST. LAWRENCE ESTUARY

Since 2006, the AZMP November survey usually provides a good number of conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) casts in the St. Lawrence, allowing a good estimation of CIL properties in the Estuary. The data show the temporal warming (Fig. 37) and thinning (Fig. 36) of the CIL since the August survey. Fig. 37 shows that the fairly rapid increase of the CIL minimum temperature occurring between August and November is fairly constant interannually in spite of the differences in August temperature. Results indicate no CIL colder than 1 °C in the fall of 2021.

SEASONAL MEAN CIL INDEX

The Gilbert and Pettigrew (1997) CIL index is defined as the mean of the CIL core temperatures observed between 1 May and 30 September of each year, adjusted to 15 July with a region-dependent warming rate. It was updated using all available temperature profiles measured within the Gulf between May and September inclusively since 1947 (black line of the bottom panel of Fig. 35). As expected, the CIL minimum core temperature interpolated to 15 July is almost always colder than the estimate based on August and September data for which no temporal corrections were made. This is because the CIL is eroded over the summer and therefore its minimum core warms over time.

This CIL index for summer 2021 was +0.63 °C, the highest value since 1980. The 0.83 °C increase from the summer 2020 CIL index is consistent with the increase of 0.81 °C in the areal average of the minimum temperature in August. The warm winter conditions from 2010 to 2012 led to CIL indices that were still far below the record highs observed in the 1960s and 1980s, but this new value comes much closer. The earlier CIL temperature minimums will need to be re-examined to confirm that they were calculated using data with sufficient vertical resolution to correctly resolve the core minimum temperature.

SUMMARY OF CIL CONDITIONS

As a summary, Fig. 38 shows selected time series of winter and summertime CIL conditions (June and September bottom temperatures also related to the CIL are outlined below) and highlights the strong correlations between these various time series. Conditions related to the 2021 CIL were at near-record levels in many time series.

BOTTOM WATER TEMPERATURES ON THE MAGDALEN SHALLOWS

A long-standing assessment survey covering the Magdalen Shallows has taken place in June for mackerel assessments and was since merged with the June AZMP survey. This survey provides good coverage of the temperature conditions that are greatly influenced by the cold

intermediate layer that reaches the bottom at roughly half of the surface area at this time of the year.

Near-surface waters warm quickly in June, midway between the winter minimum and the annual maximum in early August. This can introduce a bias if the survey dates are not the same each year. To account for this, the seasonal warming observed at the Shediac Valley AZMP monitoring station was evaluated by Galbraith and Grégoire (2015). A linear regression was performed of temperature versus time for each meter of the water column for each year with monitoring data at Shediac Valley between May and July. Visual inspection showed that the depth-dependent warming rate was fairly constant for all years and an average was computed for every depth. Warming is maximal at the surface at 18 °C per 100 days and, in spite of some uncertainties between 30 m and 55 m, decreases almost proportionally with depth to reach 2 °C per 100 days at 40 m, followed by a further linear decrease to reach 1 °C per 100 days at 82 m.

All available temperature profiles taken in June from a given year are binned at 1 m depth intervals (or interpolated if the resolution is too coarse) and then adjusted according to the sampling date to offset them to June 15th according to the depth-dependent warming rate extracted from Shediac Valley monitoring data. An interpolation scheme is used to estimate temperature at each 1 m depth layer on a 2 km resolution grid. Fig. 39 shows temperatures and anomaly maps at depths of 20 m, 30 m, 40 m and 50 m. Fig. 40 shows averages over the grids at 10 m, 20 m, 30 m, 50 m and 75 m for all years when interpolation was possible, as well as SST June averages since 1982, for both western and eastern regions of the Magdalen Shallows (Fig. 22). Temperatures were on average above normal at all depths shown, typically by at least 1 °C at 40 m depth or more and reaching record highs at 75 m (Fig. 39 and Fig. 40).

Bottom temperature is then estimated at each point of the grids constructed from the June survey by looking up the interpolated temperature at the depth level corresponding to a bathymetry grid provided by the Canadian Hydrographic Service with some corrections applied (Dutil et al. 2012). The method is fully described in Tamdrari et al. (2012). A climatology was constructed by averaging all available temperature grids between 1991 and 2020, and anomaly grids were then computed for each year based on that climatology. The June bottom temperature climatology as well as the 2021 reconstructed temperature and anomaly fields are shown in Fig. 41.

The same method just described was applied using the available CTD data from August and September, mostly from the multispecies surveys for the northern Gulf in August and for the Magdalen Shallows in September. We also included selected temperature casts from a trawl mounted SBE19plus that yields data at a vertical resolution of 5 m. These data were also used for the August 2019 and 2020 northern Gulf surveys and will be added to past years, back to 2009, in later reports. Bottom temperatures were well above the climatological mean on the Magdalen Shallows everywhere except in very shallow areas, both in June and in August-September 2021 (Fig. 41).

Time series of the bottom area covered by water in various temperature intervals were estimated from the gridded data for the June surveys as well as for the September multispecies survey on the Magdalen Shallows (Fig. 42). The time series of areas of the Magdalen Shallows covered by water colder than 0, 1, 2, and 3 °C in June and September are also shown in Fig. 38 as part of the CIL summary. In June 2021, none of the bottom was covered by water with temperatures < 0 °C for the first time on record for that month, and the area covered by water with temperatures < 1 °C decreased to a near record low (-4.0 SD) at 59% of the climatological mean. By August-September, the bottom area covered by water with temperatures < 1 °C was at a series record low (since 1964) representing only 32% of the climatological mean. At higher threshold temperatures, areas with T < 2 °C and < 3 °C were below normal as well (warmer

conditions) during both periods but interannual variability is lower at these temperature thresholds.

DEEP WATERS (> 150 M)

The deeper water layer (> 150 m) below the CIL originates at the entrance of the Laurentian Channel at the continental shelf break and circulates towards the heads of the Laurentian, Anticosti, and Esquiman channels without much exchange with the upper layers. The layer from 150 m to 540 m is characterized by temperatures between 1 and > 7 °C and salinities between 32.5 and 35 (except for Mécatina Trough where near-freezing waters may fill the basin to 235 m in winter and usually persist throughout the summer). Decadal changes in temperature, salinity, and dissolved oxygen of the deep waters entering the Gulf at the continental shelf are related to the varying proportion of the source cold—fresh and oxygen-rich Labrador Current water and warm—salty and oxygen-poor slope water (McLellan 1957, Lauzier and Trites 1958, Gilbert et al. 2005). The deeper waters travel from the mouth of the Laurentian Channel to the Estuary in roughly three to four years (Gilbert 2004), decreasing in dissolved oxygen from in situ respiration and oxidation of organic material as they progress to the channel heads. The lowest levels of dissolved oxygen (below 15% saturation in recent years) are therefore found in the deep waters at the head of the Laurentian Channel in the Estuary.

BOTTOM WATER TEMPERATURES IN DEEP WATERS

The same method used to calculate bottom water temperature on the Magdalen Shallows was applied to the entire Gulf by combining into a single map all available CTD data from August and September, mostly from the multispecies surveys for the northern Gulf in August and for the Magdalen Shallows in September (Fig. 43). All of the Gulf deep bottom water temperatures were above normal, with most areas of Central Gulf, Anticosti and Esquiman Channels, and northwest Gulf above 6 °C, and large areas of Anticosti and Esquiman Channels above 7 °C.

As done for the Magdalen Shallows (Fig. 42), time series of the bottom area covered by water in various temperature intervals were also estimated for the other regions of the Gulf based on August-September temperature profile data (Fig. 44). The figures show compression of the bottom habitat area in the temperature range of 5–6°C in 1992, offset by the larger colder 4–5°C habitat. In 2012, a return of > 6 °C temperatures to the sea floor began. By 2015, it had caused a large decrease of the 5–6°C habitat in the Northeast Gulf, this time replaced by a warmer 6–7°C habitat. The 6–7°C area then increased sharply in Central and Northwest Gulf in 2017, and increased sharply again in northwest Gulf in 2018 and again in 2019. Some 7–8°C habitat appeared for the first time in the Northeast Gulf in 2020 and increased in 2021. In 2021, the 6–7°C area increased dramatically in the Estuary. Areas with water temperatures above 6 °C and now 7 °C in places are at record highs in all regions along the deep channels.

DEEP TEMPERATURE MAXIMUM

The warm waters found at the bottom of the Laurentian Channel and elsewhere are associated with the deep temperature maximum evident in the temperature profiles in these areas (e.g., Fig. 3). The recent interannual progression to current conditions of the deep temperature maximum is shown on Fig. 45. Temperatures above 7 °C have been recorded since 2012 in the Gulf near Cabot Strait and occupied a large area in the Northeast Gulf for the first time in 2020, extending further towards the heads of Esquiman and Anticosti channels. The Gulf-wide average and regional areal averages of the deep temperature maximum are shown in Fig. 46. The Gulf-wide average at 300 m was at a series record high in 2021, at 6.9 °C, and record highs were also reached in the Estuary, the Northeast Gulf and Centre Gulf. The only area with a

reduction from the 2020 record value was Cabot Strait, but this value is about the same as in 2019.

TEMPERATURE AND SALINITY ANNUAL MEANS

Monthly temperature and salinity averages were constructed for various depths using a method used by Petrie et al. (1996) but for the geographical regions shown in Fig. 2. In this method, all available data obtained during the same month within a region and close to each depth bin are first averaged together for each year. Monthly averages from all available years from 1991 to 2020 and their standard deviations are then computed for climatologies. This two-fold averaging process reduces the bias that occurs when the numbers of profiles in any given year are different. These monthly averages were further averaged into regional yearly time series that are presented in Fig. 46 (temperature) and Fig. 47 (salinity) for 200 m and 300 m. The 300 m observations suggest that temperature anomalies are advected up-channel from Cabot Strait to the northwestern Gulf in two to three years, consistent with the findings of Gilbert (2004), while variability at 200 m often appears or disappears everywhere at the same time, suggesting vertical changes. The regional averages are weighted into a Gulf-wide average in accordance to the surface area of each region at the specified depth. These Gulf-wide averages are shown for 150 m, 200 m and 300 m in Fig. 46, Fig. 47 and Fig. 48. Numbers are slightly different than in last year's report because weighting of regional averages into a value for the Gulf has now been implemented using the new Ecosystem Approach regions of Fig. 2. Linear trends (calculated over 1915–2021) in temperature and salinity at 300 m of 2.4 °C and 0.3 per century, respectively, are shown in Fig. 48 (see also Galbraith et al. 2013 for other long-term trends), although the temperature increase has been of 1.3 °C per decade since 2009 (5.4 times the long-term rate of change).

In 2021, the Gulf-wide average salinities increased, reaching a series record at 300 m of 34.85 (Fig. 47 and Fig. 48). Gulf-wide average temperatures also hit new series record highs (since 1915) of 4.1 °C at 150 m (+2.3 SD), of 6.0 °C (+2.3 SD) at 200 m, 6.7 °C (+2.7 SD) at 250 m and of 6.9 °C (+2.7 SD) at 300 m. At 200 m, 250 m and 300 m, temperature increased to regional record highs in all deep regions of the Gulf except Cabot Strait. The values at 300 m were: Estuary (6.1 °C, +2.8 SD), Northwest Gulf (6.5 °C, +3.1 SD), Central Gulf (6.9 °C, +2.9 SD). This marks a quick transition above 6 °C in the Estuary for the first time of the time series.

The warm anomalies present since 2010 at Cabot Strait have been progressing up the channel towards the Estuary since then, but waters that have followed into the gulf have also remained very warm and even increased in temperature such that the average overall temperature has continued to increase (Fig. 45). The decrease in deep water temperature at Cabot Strait to values below those of 2020 (yet still above those of 2019) suggests that the deep Gulf may perhaps not warm further in 2022, for the first time since 2009. The potential for still warmer waters entering the Gulf exists, as evidenced by the record high temperatures both at 200 (8.9 °C) and 300 m (7.4 °C) in Laurentian Hermitage in 2021. The only slight cooling signal is from the record high 200 m temperature at the Laurentian Mouth in 2020 of 10.6 °C (Fig. 46) seen to decrease to 8.1 °C in 2021 (although waters along the Newfoundland shelf were at 9.1 °C).

SEASONAL AND REGIONAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE STRUCTURE

In order to show the seasonal progression of the vertical temperature structure, regional averages are shown in Fig. 49 to Fig. 52 based on the profiles collected during the March helicopter survey, the June AZMP and mackerel survey, the August multi-species survey (September survey for the Magdalen Shallows), and the October AZMP survey. All additional

archived CTD data for those months were also used. The temperature scale was adjusted to highlight the CIL and deep-water features; the display of surface temperature variability is best suited to other tools such as remote sensing and thermographs. Average discrete depth layer conditions are summarized for the months of the 2020 and 2021 AZMP surveys in Fig. 53 for temperature and in Fig. 54 for salinity and 0–50 m stratification. For each survey the anomalies were computed relative to monthly temperature and salinity 1991–2020 climatologies calculated for each region, shown in grey as the mean value ± 0.5 SD in Fig. 49 to Fig. 52.

Caution is needed in interpreting mean profiles. Indeed, regional averaging of winter profiles does not work very well in the northeast Gulf because very different water masses are present in the area such as the cold Labrador Shelf intrusion with saltier and warmer deeper waters of Anticosti Channel or Esquiman Channel. Similarly, the deeper portions of the Magdalen Shallows averaging region consists of two widely separated zones to the north and southeast.

The highlights of March water temperatures shown in Fig. 49 include the previously discussed very warm winter mixed. Temperatures in June and August 2021 were characterized by CIL conditions much thinner and warmer than normal, with the minimum core temperature at typical depths but leading to the thermocline higher in the water column and higher temperatures at 150 m. In the fall, the top portion of the water column is very warm and fresh in the Estuary and Northwest Gulf. At 50 m depth in the Estuary, temperature was still above 8 °C. It was on average 6 °C at 70 m, a depth often below the CIL minimum temperature.

CURRENTS AND TRANSPORTS

Currents and transports are derived from a numerical model of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Scotian Shelf, and Gulf of Maine. The model is prognostic, i.e., it allows for evolving temperature and salinity fields. It has a spatial resolution of 1/12° with 46 depth-levels in the vertical. The atmospheric forcing is taken from the Global Environmental Multiscale (GEM) model running at the Canadian Meteorological Center (CMC). Freshwater runoff is obtained from observed data and the hydrological model, as discussed in the freshwater runoff section, but does not use the new daily calculation of runoff at Québec City. The spring freshet may therefore differ from what was described in an earlier section of this document. A simulation was run for 2006–2021 from which transports were calculated. The reader is reminded that the results outlined below are not measurements but simulations and improvements in the model may lead to changes in the transport values.

Fig. 55 to Fig. 57 show seasonal depth-averaged currents for 0–20 m, 20–100 m, and 100 m to the bottom for 2021. Currents are strongest in the surface mixed layer, generally 0–20 m, except in winter months when the 20–100 m averages are almost as high, and the 100 m to bottom averages are still much higher than during other seasons (note the different scale for this depth). Currents are also strongest along the slopes of the deep channels. The Anticosti Gyre (Fig. 1) is usually evident but strongest during winter months, when it even extends strongly into the bottom-average currents (Fig. 55). In 2021, the Gaspé Current occupied a large extent of the Estuary, except beginning in July-September when it was stable along the south shore for the rest of the year, combining with the Anticosti Gyre and then along the Laurentian Channel slope. There was then a strong inflowing current along the north shore of the Estuary.

Monthly averaged transports across seven sections of the Gulf of St. Lawrence are shown in Fig. 58 for sections with estuarine circulation, and in Fig. 59 for sections where only net transports are relevant. In Fig. 58, the net transport integrates both up and downstream circulation and, for example, corresponds to freshwater runoff at the Pointe-des-Monts section. The outflow transport integrates all currents heading towards the ocean, while the estuarine ratio corresponds to the outflow divided by the net transports. Note that the only section where

estuarine circulation is dominant is at Pointe-des-Monts. The net transport at Honguedo is on average 15 times higher than at Pointe-des-Monts, consisting mostly of circulation around Anticosti Island first observed at the Jacques-Cartier section. Similarly, the net transport at Cabot Strait is outflow that is mostly balanced by inflow from the Strait of Belle Isle, such that an estuarine ratio is perhaps a misleading description. Transports through sections under the direct estuarine influence of the St. Lawrence River (e.g., Pointe-des-Monts) have a more direct response to change in freshwater runoff while others (e.g., Cabot Strait, Bradelle Bank) have a different response, presumably due to redistribution of circulation in the GSL under varying runoff. The estuarine circulation ratio is determined by the mixing intensities within the estuary and is greatly influenced by stratification. It is on average greatest during winter months and weakest during the spring freshet. In fact, it is sufficiently reduced in spring that the climatological outward transport at Pointe-des-Monts reaches its minimum value in June even though this month corresponds to the third highest net transport of the year, i.e., the estuary becomes sufficiently stratified that freshwater runoff tends to slip on top of the denser salty waters underneath. This occurred in 2019 when the exceptionally high May-June freshet led to decreased modelled estuarine circulation and decreased outward transport by entrainment at the Pointe-des-Monts section. In contrast, the weak freshet of 2021 coincided not only with increased estuarine circulation but also with increased outward transport. The estuarine circulation ratio was at record highs or near them for many months of 2021 starting in March. This ratio also includes sideways estuarine-like circulation that occurs when waters flow from the Anticosti Gyre and into the Estuary at Pointe-des-Monts. This year was marked by two events that point to large renewal circulation in the Estuary: first the bottom temperature that suddenly increased and then the accumulation of 100 m of warm near-surface waters observed in the October survey.

HIGH FREQUENCY SAMPLING AZMP STATIONS

Sampling by the Maurice Lamontagne Institute began in 1991 at a station offshore of Rimouski (48° 40' N 68° 35' W, 320 m depth; Plourde et al. 2009), typically once a week during summer and less often during spring and fall and almost never in winter (Fig. 60). In 2013, following several analyses that identified good correlations and correspondences between the prior AZMP Anticosti Gyre and Gaspé Current stations with the Rimouski station, it was decided to drop sampling efforts at these logistically difficult stations and officially integrate the Rimouski station in the AZMP program, and begin winter sampling there when opportunities arose. The AZMP station in the Shediac Valley (47° 46.8' N, 64° 01.8' W, 84 m depth) is usually sampled by the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, by DFO Gulf Region and by the Maurice Lamontagne Institute (Fig. 60). This station has been sampled irregularly since 1947, nearly every year since 1957, and more regularly during the summer months since 1999 when the AZMP program began.

Oceanographic moorings have been deployed on rotation since the summer of 2015 at these two AZMP stations, providing data to fill sampling gaps in winter or during other times of the year. In 2021, Viking oceanographic buoys equipped with an automatic temperature and salinity profiler carried out 246 full-depth casts at Shediac Valley station, and 114 casts to 320 m at Rimouski station.

Isotherms and isohalines as well as monthly averages of layer temperature and salinity, stratification, and CIL minimum core temperature and thickness at < 1 °C are shown for 2019–2021 for the Rimouski station in Fig. 61 and for the Shediac Valley station in Fig. 62. The scorecard climatologies are calculated from 1991 to 2020 data, but there are few data prior to 1999 for Shediac Valley. Mooring data are also used to fill winter gaps in the isotherms and

isohalines, and are used throughout the tables of monthly averages when available at the corresponding depths.

At the Rimouski station, the gradual shift of cold-fresh deep anomalies at 200–300 m present in 2010 to warmer-saltier waters advected from Cabot Strait led to a shift to warm anomalies by summer 2014. A slow but persistent warming had been observed at 320 m at the station, but the temperature increased by around a 0.15 °C jump in April 2021, suggesting a rapid change in water masses. An average temperature maximum of 6.22 °C was recorded in June 2021. The CIL was warmer than normal by April, thinner than normal by June, and warmed above the 1 °C threshold by July. As noted earlier, the near-surface layer was extremely warm in the fall with September, October and even November temperatures higher than in August and extended down with very high anomalies to 75 m depth. For those three months, the CIL temperature minimum and the 0–50 m and 0–100 m average temperatures were at series record highs.

Temperatures at Shediac Valley station (Fig. 62) were generally above normal with above-normal near-bottom temperatures from May to October. In March, the surface near-freezing layer penetrated only to 45 m depth, leaving a warm bottom layer that persisted all year. Near-bottom temperature (75 m) was at a series record high for the months of July and August.

Fig. 63 shows the interannual variability of some seasonal layer averages from May to October for the two stations. All temperature metrics were highly above normal at both stations and included many series records: 0–50 m and 0–100 m average temperatures at Rimouski station, near-bottom (290 m) temperature and CIL minimum temperature; At Shediac Valley, the series records were 0–50 m and 0–84 m (full depth) average temperatures and near-bottom (75 m) temperature.

SUMMARY

Fig. 64 summarizes SST, summertime CIL and deep-water average temperatures. While May-November SST and August SST are somewhat well correlated ($R^2 = 0.39$ for the 1982–2021 AVHRR record), the August SST reached very high anomalies in 2014 compared to the May-November average, while in 2006 the reverse was found to be the case. Similarly, the high August SST anomalies observed in recent years contrasts with some below average May-November anomalies. The figure shows average temperature at 150 m, 200 m, 250 m and 300 m at 100+ year series record highs. The temperatures at 200 m and 300 m exceeds their 1991–2020 climatological mean by over 1.1 °C and 1.4 °C respectively.

Another summary of the temperature state of the Gulf of St. Lawrence over a shorter time span (since 1971) allows the inclusion of more datasets, and three sets of four time series are chosen to represent surface, intermediate and deep conditions (Fig. 65). The SST summer and fall timing are from Fig. 22 (12 °C threshold) with air temperature proxies used prior to 1982. Sea-ice is grouped as an intermediate feature since all are associated with winter formation. Fig. 65 shows the sums of these three sets of anomalies representing the state of different parts of the system and is reproduced on Fig. 66 with each time series contribution shown as stacked bars (Petrie et al. 2007). These composite indices measure the overall state of the climate system with positive values representing warm conditions and negative representing cold conditions. The plot also indicates the degree of correlation between the various measures of the environment.

The index of surface anomalies was above normal (+1.2 SD) in 2021, with record late fall cooling and with late spring warming the only cool anomaly. It was fourth highest of the time series. The index of intermediate layer anomalies was at a record high (+2.5 SD), warmer than in 1979 and 1980 when the CIL index reached very high values and supporting the idea that

they might be overestimated. The index of deep temperature anomalies was also at a series record high (+2.7 SD).

KEY FINDINGS

- The annual runoff was well below normal at 11 300 $m^3 s^{-1}$ (-1.1 SD) for the St. Lawrence River and 16 100 $m^3 s^{-1}$ (-1.3 SD) for the RIVSUM II index.
- The seasonal maximum ice volume of 11 km³ (-1.4 SD) was just shy of the series low record of 2010 and the January-April average volume was at a series record low. In the 12-year span since 2010, 8 of the 12 lowest seasonal maximum ice volumes of the time series have occurred.
- The winter surface mixed cold layer (< - 1 °C) volume of 4 700 km³ was the second lowest of the 1996–2021 time series; the lowest was 2 600 km³ in 2010. The mixed layer volume increases to 11 000 km³ (-4.0 SD) when water temperatures < 0 °C are considered, but this was by far the lowest value recorded. The Labrador Shelf water intrusion volume into Mécatina Trough of 620 km³ was below normal.
- The August cold intermediate layer (CIL) average minimum temperature was the highest of the 1985–2021 time series at 0.98 °C (+2.7 SD). The Gilbert & Pettigrew (1997) minimum temperature index, which includes data over a longer season, was the highest since 1980 at 0.63 °C (+2.7 SD).
- The timing of summer onset of the surface layer at 12 °C was a bit later than normal (by 0.6 SD, 0.6 weeks) but the post-season cooling was late by a record time of 1.8 weeks (+1.9 SD) at 12 °C and even more so for 10 °C at +2.5 weeks (+3.7 SD).
- Surface temperatures averaged over the Gulf were highest of the satellite record (since 1981) for the months of October and November. Regional monthly average temperature records occurred for the warmest months of September through November in the Estuary, warmest October and November in most regions and warmest November in all regions.
- The overall seasonal average May-November SST for the Gulf was well above normal (+0.9 °C, +1.8 SD) and 3rd highest of the time series after 2006 and 2012. The seasonal August maximum was just above normal (+0.5 °C, +0.7 SD).
- On the Magdalen Shallows, none of the bottom was covered by water with temperatures < 0 °C in June for the first time on record for that month, and the area covered by water with temperatures < 1 °C decreased to a near record low (-4.0 SD) at 59% of the climatological mean. By August-September, the bottom area covered by water with temperatures < 1 °C was at a series record low representing only 32% of the climatological mean, and the average temperature of bottom waters at depths greater than 30 m was 4th highest of the time series.
- Deep water temperatures have been increasing overall in the Gulf, with inward advection from Cabot Strait. Gulf-wide average temperatures also hit new series record highs (since 1915) of 4.1 °C at 150 m (+2.3 SD) of 6.0 °C (+2.3 SD) at 200 m, 6.7 °C (+2.7 SD) at 250 m and 6.9 °C (+2.7 SD) at 300 m. At 200 m, 250 m and 300 m, temperature increased to regional record highs in all deep regions of the Gulf except Cabot Strait. The values at 300 m were: Estuary (6.1 °C, +2.8 SD), Northwest Gulf (6.5 °C, +3.1 SD), Central Gulf (6.9 °C, +2.9 SD). This marks a quick transition above 6 °C in the Estuary for the first time of the time series.

- Bottom area covered by waters warmer than 6 °C was at a record high in all regions along the deep channels, with a notable increase in the Estuary. In the northeast Gulf, there was about the same bottom area between 6 °C and 7 °C as there was > 7 °C.

OUTLOOK FOR 2022

Air temperatures were +1.1 C above normal over the Gulf in December 2021 and near normal in January and February 2022. This was the setting for the March 2022 survey, which provides an outlook for CIL conditions expected for the remainder of 2022. Fig. 67 shows the March 2022 surface mixed layer temperature, salinity, and thickness (at T < -1 °C and T < 0 °C), as well as the thickness and extent of the cold and saline layer that has intruded into the Gulf from the Labrador shelf.

The often observed pattern of warmer waters off the southern part of Newfoundland's West coast was present, but much of these waters had temperatures above 0 °C, which occurs only rarely. The predictive relation between the winter volume of water colder than -1 °C and the following summer CIL minimum temperature index (Fig. 33) forecasts a slightly above normal CIL index of -0.15 °C (+0.5 SD). A new relation between the winter volume of water colder than 0 °C and the following summer CIL temperature minimum would predict a warmer index of 0.10 °C (+1.2 SD), still considerably cooler than the record conditions of 2021.

The warming of the deep waters of the Gulf continues as a deep temperature maximum of 8.6 °C was observed in one cast in Cabot Strait.

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- Southern GSL scallop survey: Monique Niles.
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- Thermosalinograph: Anthony Ouellet, Nicolas Coulombe et Guillaume Mercier, Peter Galbraith. From Oceanex: Capt. Richard Belley and Yves Morisette, Engineers Steeve Cotton and Patrice Racine.

All figures were made using the free software Gri (Kelley and Galbraith 2000).

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FIGURES

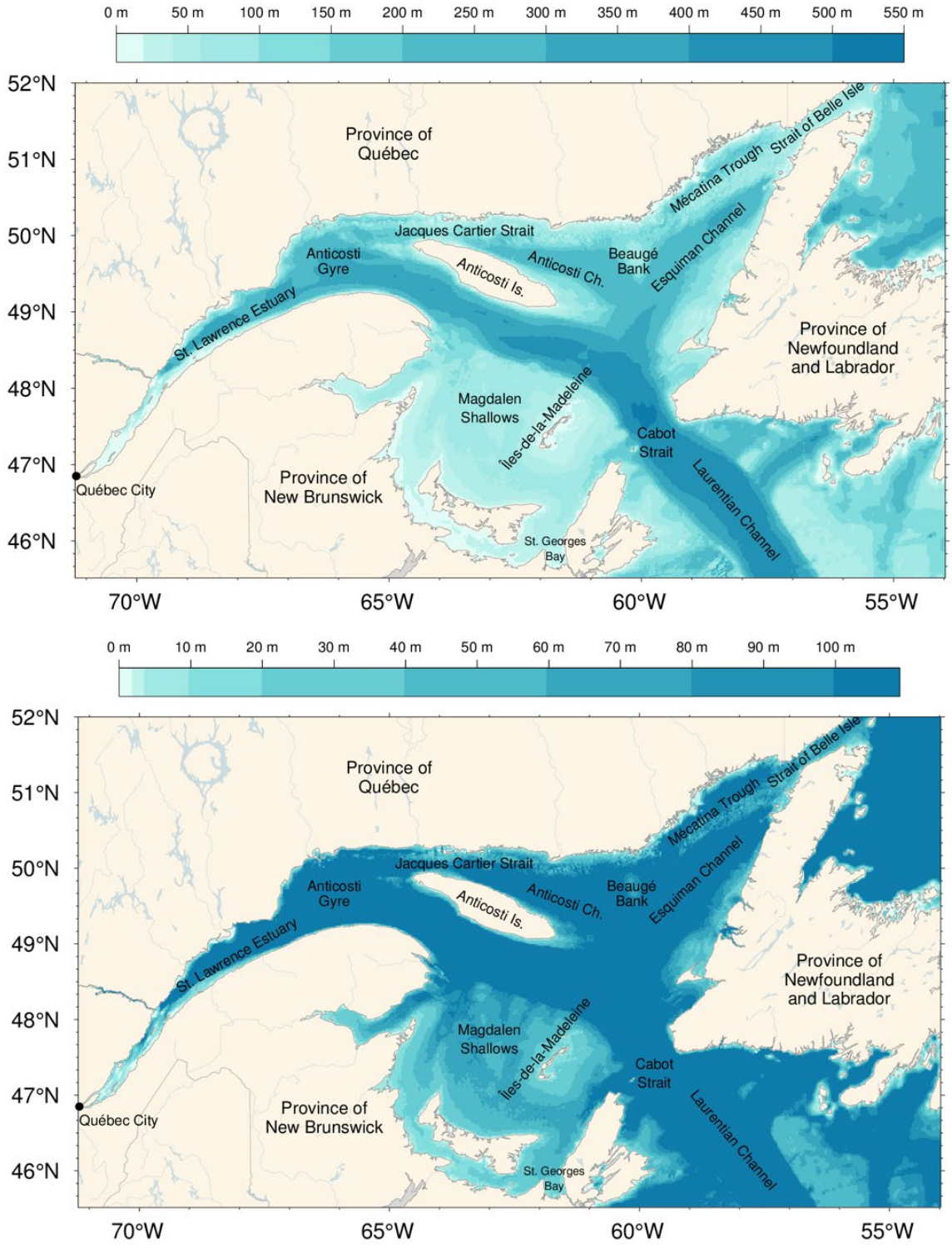

Fig. 1. The Gulf of St. Lawrence. Locations discussed in the text are indicated. Bathymetry datasets used are from the Canadian Hydrographic Service to the west of 56°47' W (with some corrections applied to the Baie des Chaleurs and Magdalen Shallows) and TOPEX data to the east. Bottom panel shows detail for 0–100 m bathymetry.

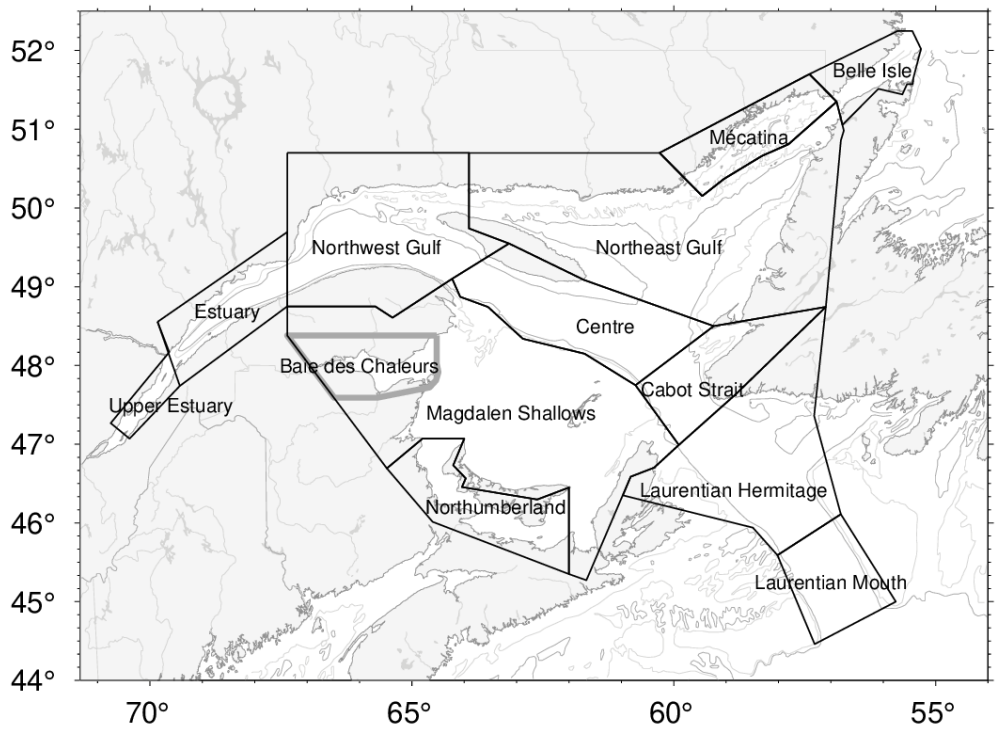

Fig. 2. Gulf of St. Lawrence divided into oceanographic regions used in spatial averaging. Baie des Chaleurs is sometimes reported separately but is always included in the Magdalen Shallows.

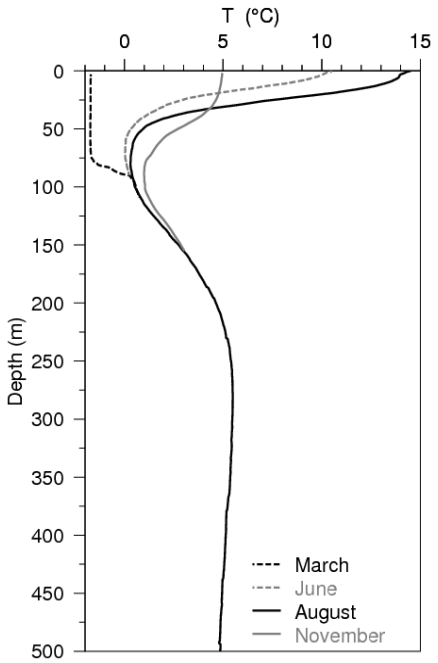

Fig. 3. Typical seasonal progression of the depth profile of temperature observed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Profiles are averages of observations in August, June and November 2007 in the northern Gulf. The dashed line at left shows a single winter temperature profile (March 2008), with near freezing temperatures in the top 75 m. The cold intermediate layer (CIL) is defined as the part of the water column that is colder than 1 °C, although some authors use a different temperature threshold. Figure from Galbraith et al. (2012).

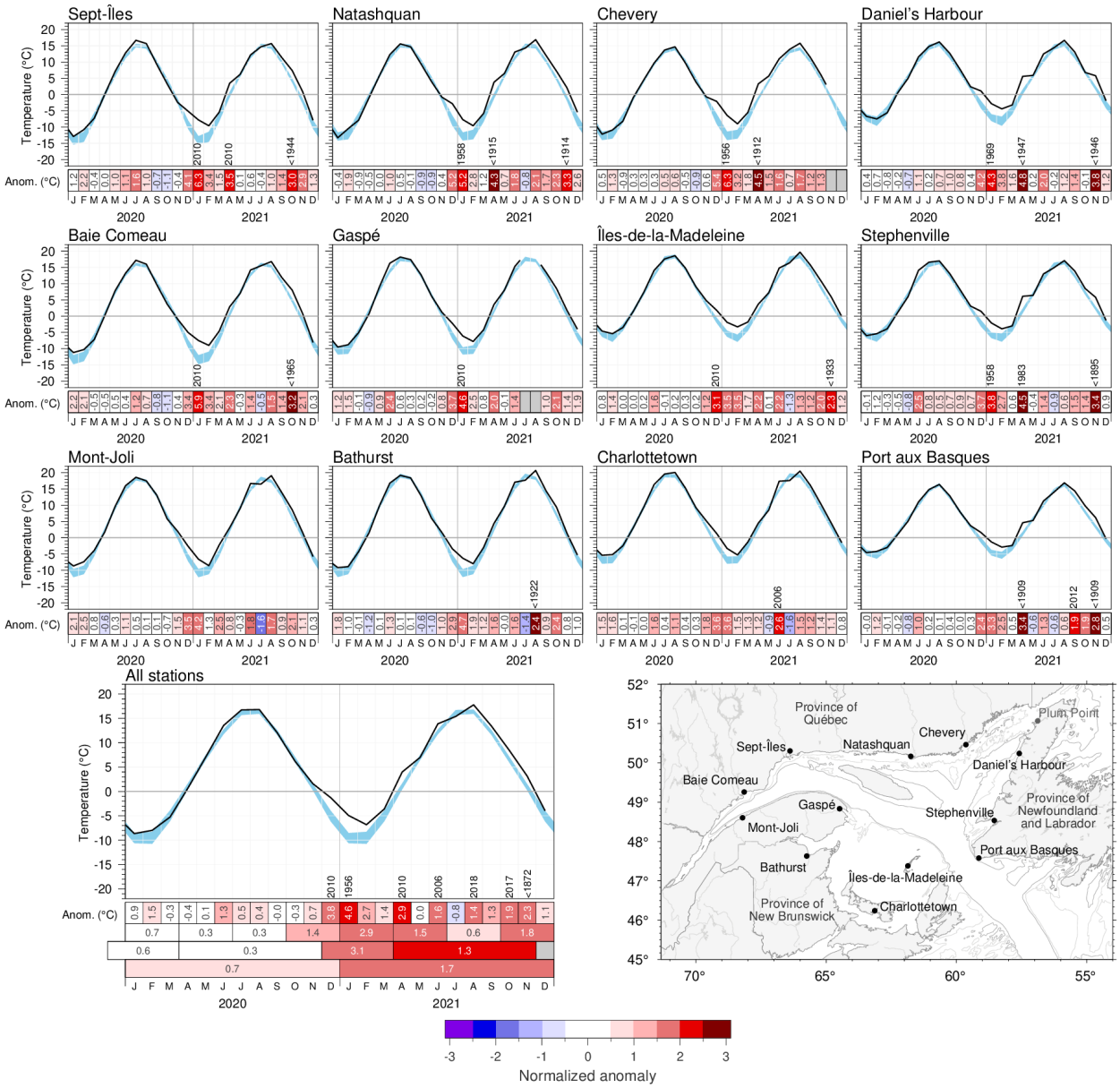

Fig. 4. Monthly air temperatures and anomalies for 2020 and 2021 at selected meteorological stations around the Gulf as well as the average for all stations. The blue area represents the 1991–2020 climatological monthly mean ± 0.5 SD. Months with 4 or more days of missing data are omitted. The bottom scorecards are colour-coded according to the monthly normalized anomalies based on the 1991–2020 climatologies for each month (colour palette at bottom), but the numbers are the monthly anomalies in °C. For anomalies greater than 2 SD from normal, the prior year with a greater anomaly is indicated, with < used to indicate a series record. Seasonal, December-March, April-November and annual anomalies are included for the all-station average. Observations at Plum Point (not shown) had been interrupted between 2016 and 2019 and are included in the all-station average.

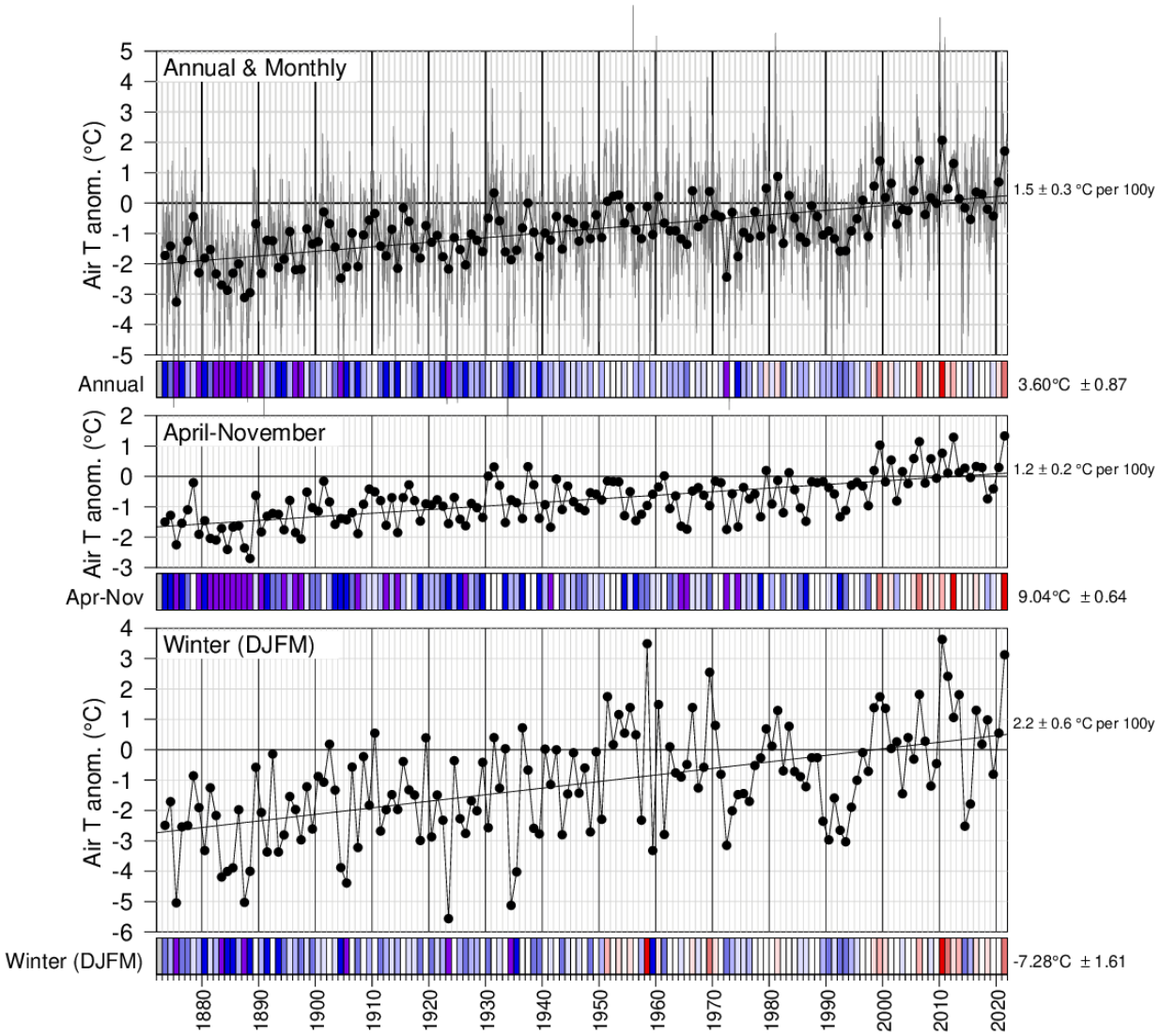

Fig. 5. Annual, April-November December-March mean air temperature anomalies averaged for the selected stations around the Gulf from Fig. 4. The bottom scorecards are colour-coded according to the normalized anomalies based on the 1991–2020 climatology. Trends plus and minus their 95% confidence intervals are shown. April-November air temperature anomalies tend to be highly-correlated with May-November sea-surface temperature anomalies (Galbraith et al. 2012; Galbraith and Larouche 2013; Galbraith et al. 2021) whereas winter air temperature anomalies correlate highly with sea-ice cover parameters and winter mixed-layer volume (Galbraith et al. 2010; Galbraith et al. 2013).

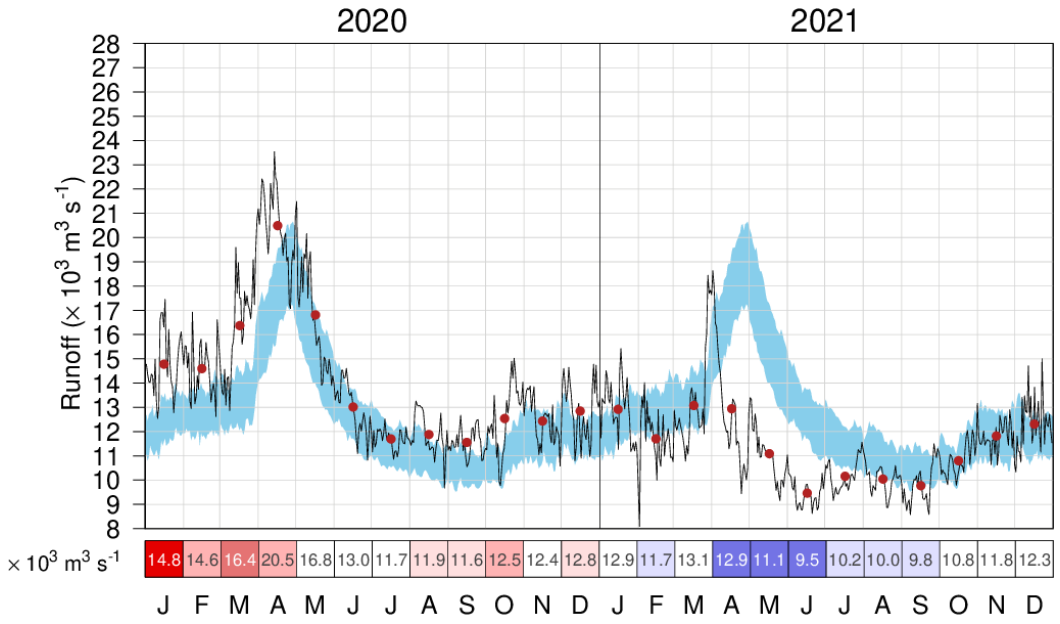

Fig. 6. Daily mean freshwater flow of the St. Lawrence River at Québec City. The 1991–2020 climatological mean (± 0.5 SD) is shown (blue shading). Monthly means are shown by red dots and displayed in the scorecard. It is colour-coded according to the monthly anomalies normalized for each month of the year, but the numbers are the actual monthly anomalies in 10^3 m^3s^{-1}.

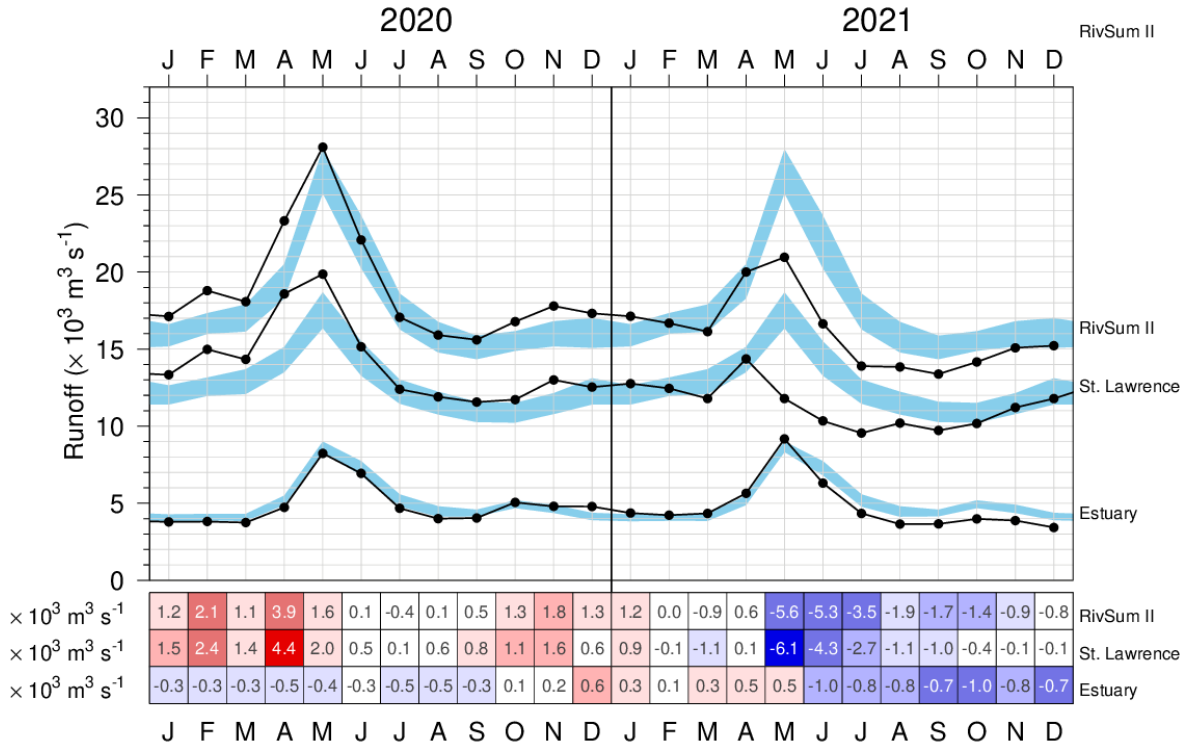

Fig. 7. Monthly mean freshwater flow of RIVSUM II (upper curve), the sum of the St. Lawrence River at Québec City lagged by 21 days (middle curve) and rivers flowing into the St. Lawrence Estuary (lower curve). The 1991–2020 climatological means (± 0.5 SD) are shown (blue shading). The scorecards are colour-coded according to the monthly anomalies normalized for each month of the year, but the numbers are the actual monthly anomalies in 10^3 m^3s^{-1}.

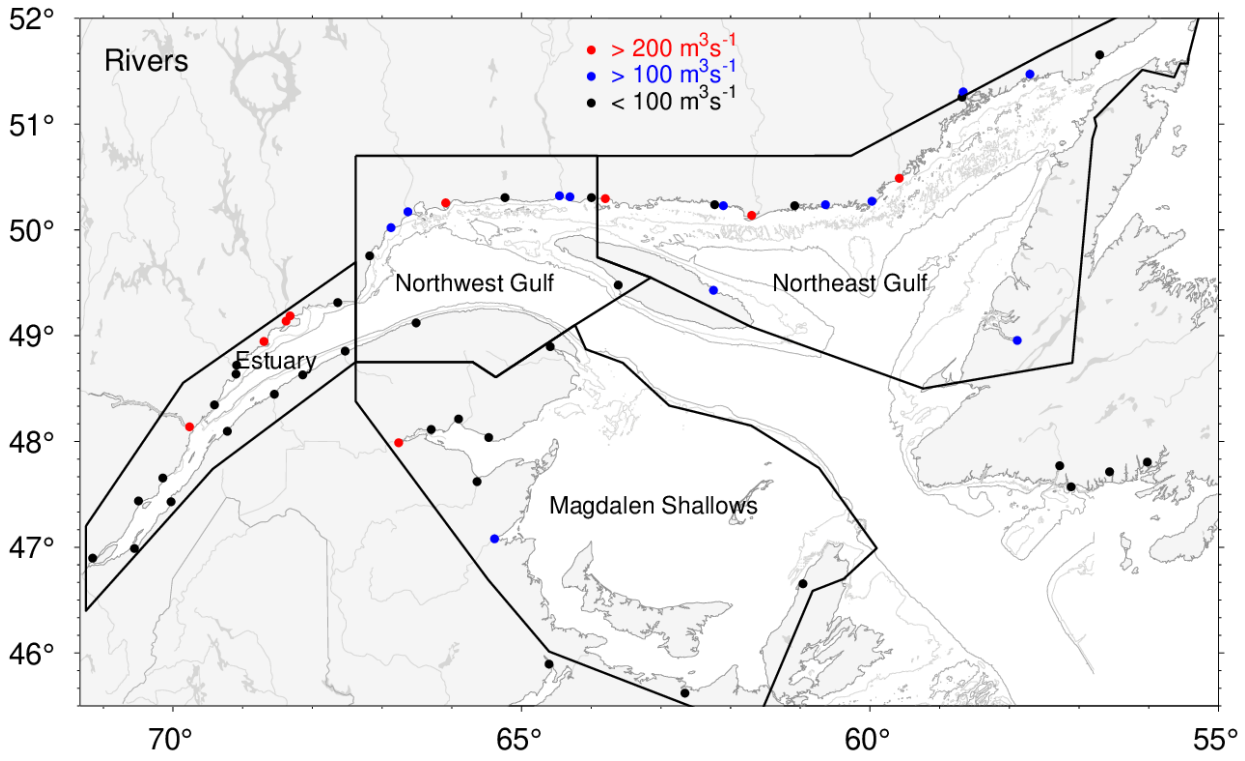

Fig. 8. River discharge locations for the regional sums of runoffs listed in Fig. 9 and Fig. 10. Red and blue dots indicate rivers that have climatological mean runoff greater than 200 m^3s^{-1} and between 100 and 200 m^3s^{-1}, respectively.

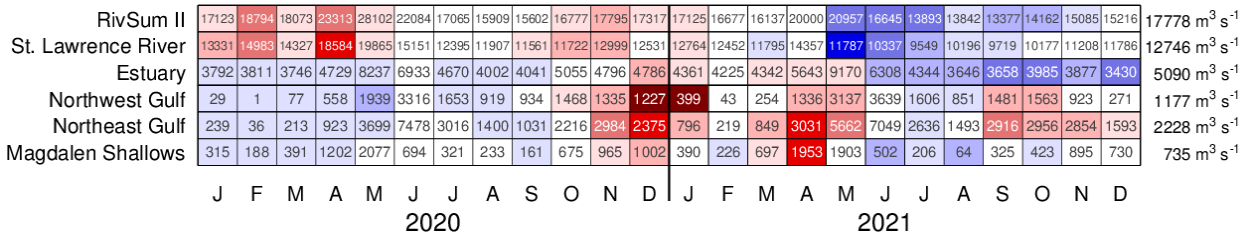

Fig. 9. Monthly anomalies of the RivSum II, the 21-day lagged St. Lawrence River runoff and sums of all other major rivers draining into separate Gulf regions for 2020 and 2021 as delimited in Fig. 8. The scorecards are colour-coded according to the monthly normalized anomalies based on the 1991–2020 climatologies for each month, but the numbers are the monthly average runoffs in $m^3\ s^{-1}$. Numbers on the right side are annual climatological means. Runoff regulation is simulated for three rivers that flow into the Estuary (Saguenay, Manicouagan, Outardes).

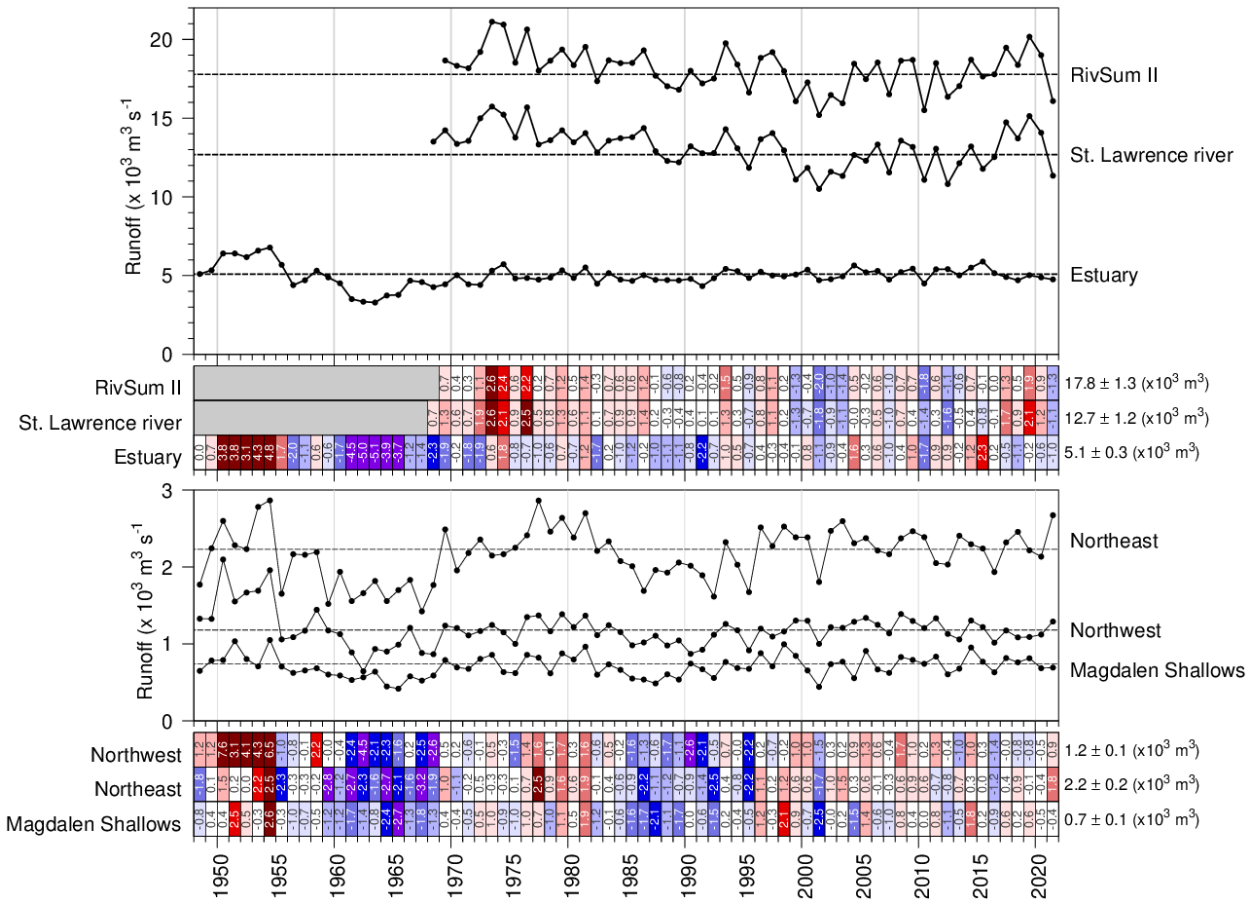

Fig. 10. Annual mean freshwater flow of the St. Lawrence River at Québec City, of the sum of all rivers flowing into regions of the Estuary, the sum of the two: the RivSum II (top panel) and into 3 other oceanographic regions of the Gulf (bottom panel). The 1991–2020 climatological mean is shown as horizontal lines and indicated on the right side of the scorecards. Numbers in scorecards are normalized anomalies.

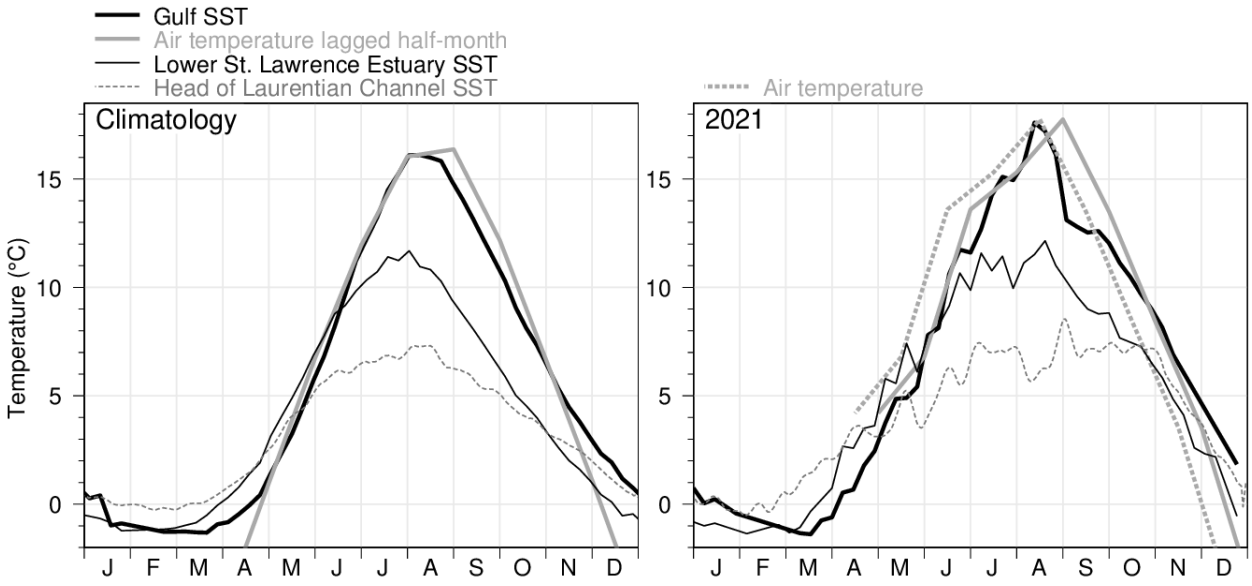

Fig. 11. Sea-surface temperature climatological and 2021 seasonal cycle in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. AVHRR temperature weekly averages are shown for the Gulf (thick black line) and the cooler Lower St. Lawrence Estuary (thin black line). Thermosalinograph data averages are shown for the head of the Laurentian Channel (at 69°30'W, thin grey dashed line). Monthly air temperature averaged over stations in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (excluding the Estuary) are shown offset by 2 weeks into the future (thick grey line; winter months not shown) and also not offset in the annual panel (thick grey dashed line). Figure adapted from Galbraith et al. (2012).

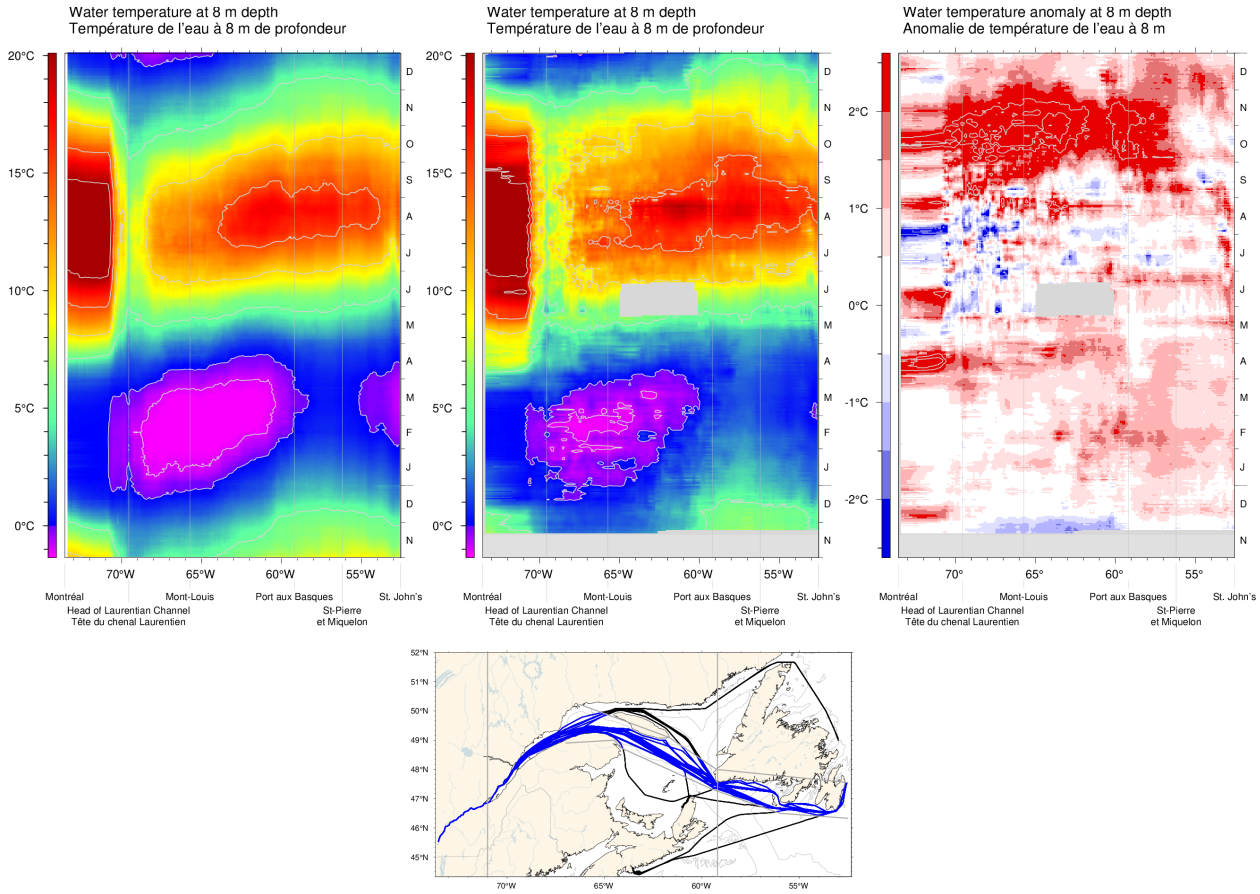

Fig. 12. Hovmöller diagram of thermosalinograph data at 8 m depth along the Montréal to St. John's shipping route: composite mean annual cycle of the water temperature for the 2000–2020 period (top left panel), composite annual cycle of the water temperature for the end of 2020 and 2021 (top middle panel), and water temperature anomaly relative to the 2000–2020 composite (top right panel). The map indicates all ship tracks in 2021, with those in blue used in the analysis.

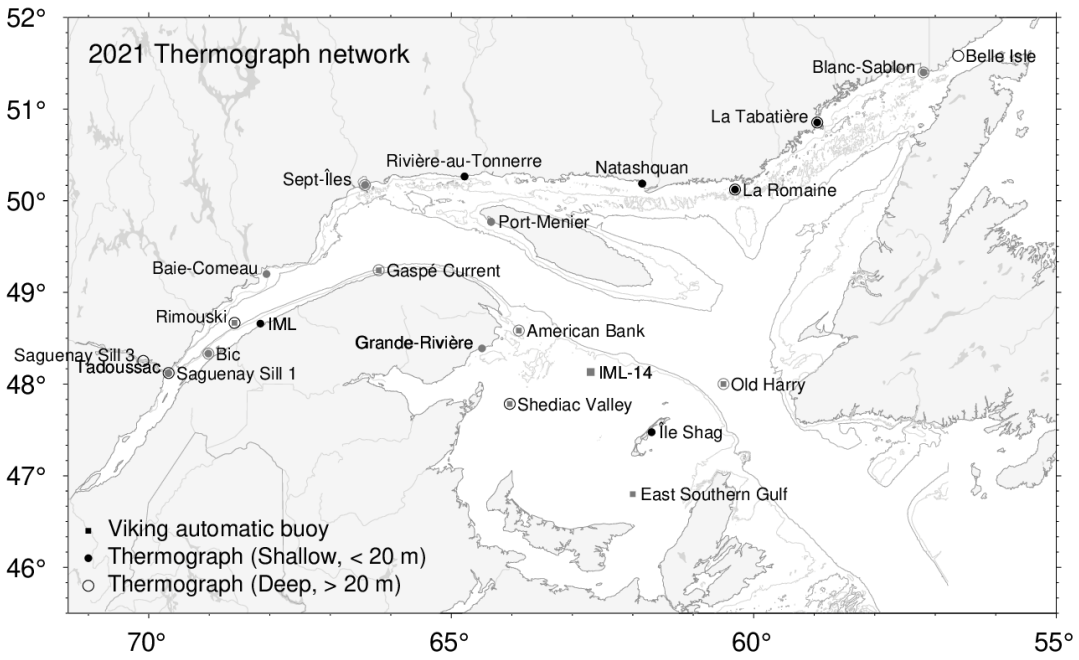

Fig. 13. Maurice Lamontagne Institute thermograph network stations in 2021, including oceanographic buoys that transmit data in real time (squares). Deep and shallow instruments are denoted by open circles and dots, while seasonal and year-round deployments are denoted by grey and black symbols.

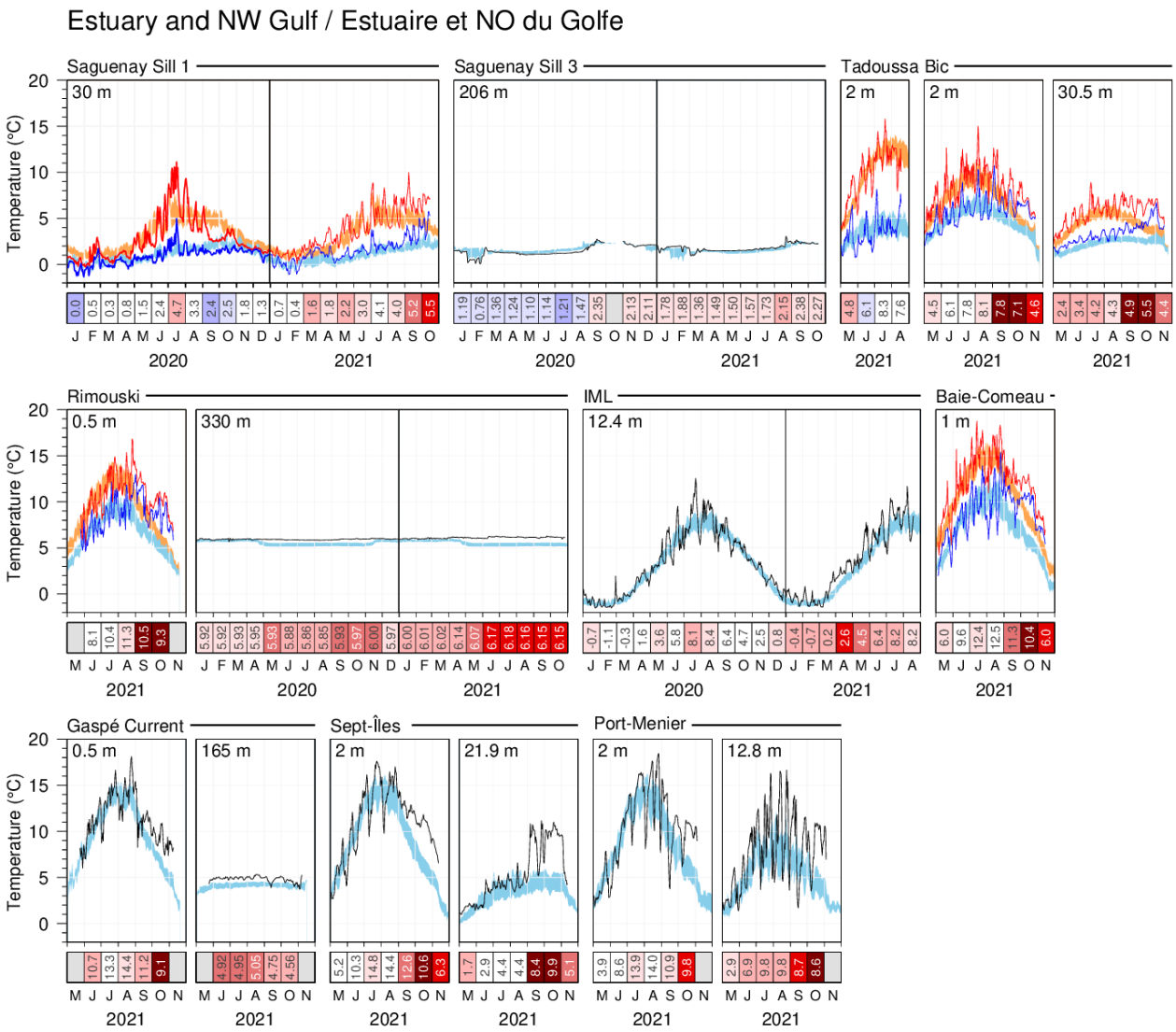

Fig. 14. Thermograph network daily mean temperatures (black line) compared with the daily climatology (blue areas are daily climatological averages ± 0.5 SD) for stations in the Estuary and northwestern Gulf. Stations that exhibit large tidal variations are displayed showing daily minimum (blue) and maximum (red) values, overlying daily climatological averages ± 0.5 SD of the minimum (blue shaded area) and maximum (orange shaded areas) values. Data from 2020 are included for stations collecting data year-round. The scorecards show monthly average temperatures in ºC colour-coded according to the monthly normalized anomalies based on the climatologies for each month.

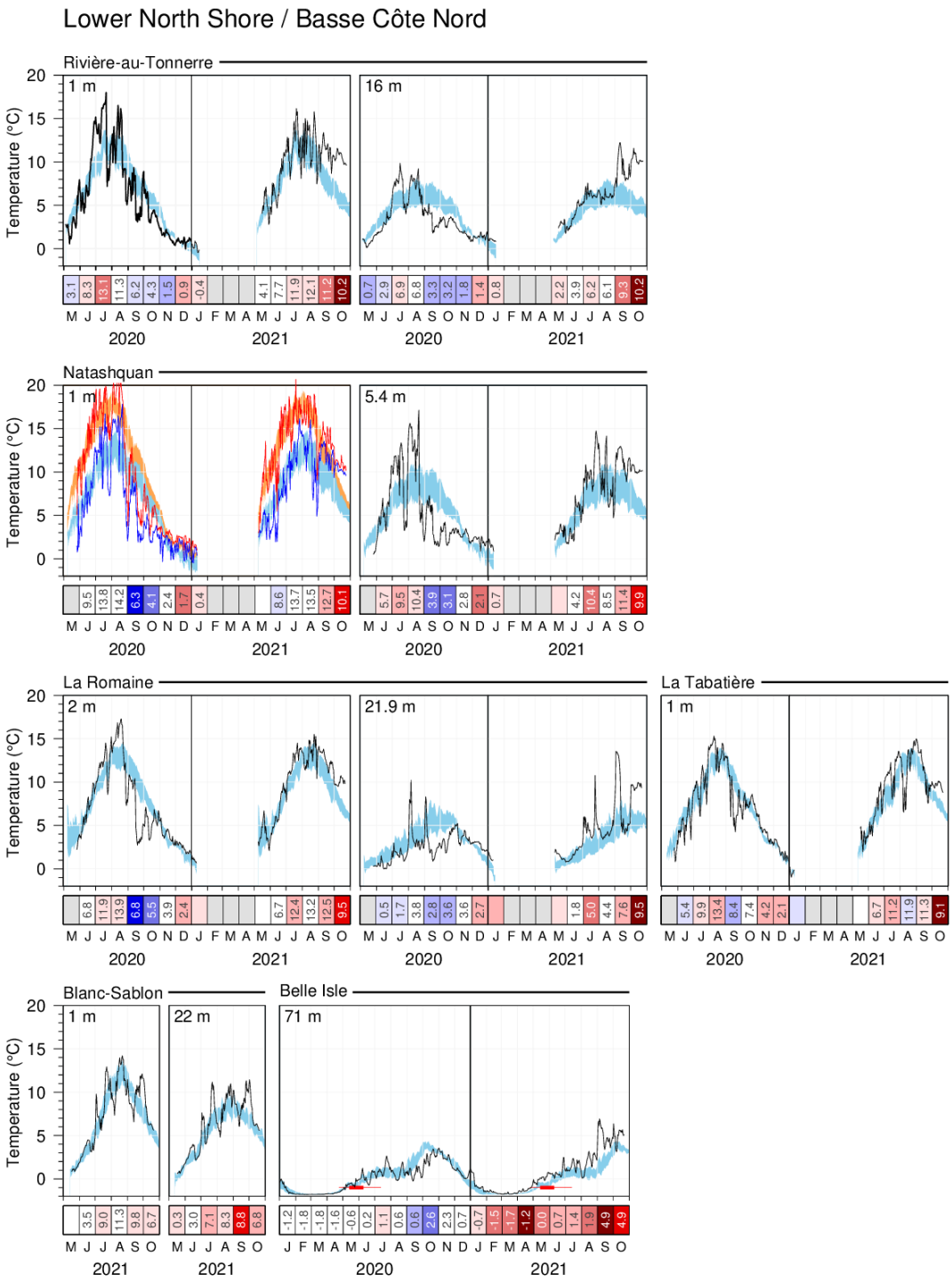

Fig. 15. Thermograph network data. Daily mean 2021 temperatures (black line) compared with the daily climatology (blue areas are daily climatological averages ± 0.5 SD) for stations of the lower north shore. Stations that exhibit large tidal variations are displayed showing daily minimum (blue) and maximum (red) values, overlying daily climatological averages ± 0.5 SD of the minimum (blue shaded area) and maximum (orange shaded areas) values. Data from 2020 are included for stations collecting data year-round. Thin red lines in the Belle Isle panel span the historical dates when spring temperature increased over -1 °C, a temperature associated with inflow of winter Labrador Shelf Water into the Gulf. Thick red line indicates mean date plus and minus 0.5 SD. The scorecards show monthly average temperatures in °C colour-coded according to the normalized anomalies based on the climatologies for each month.

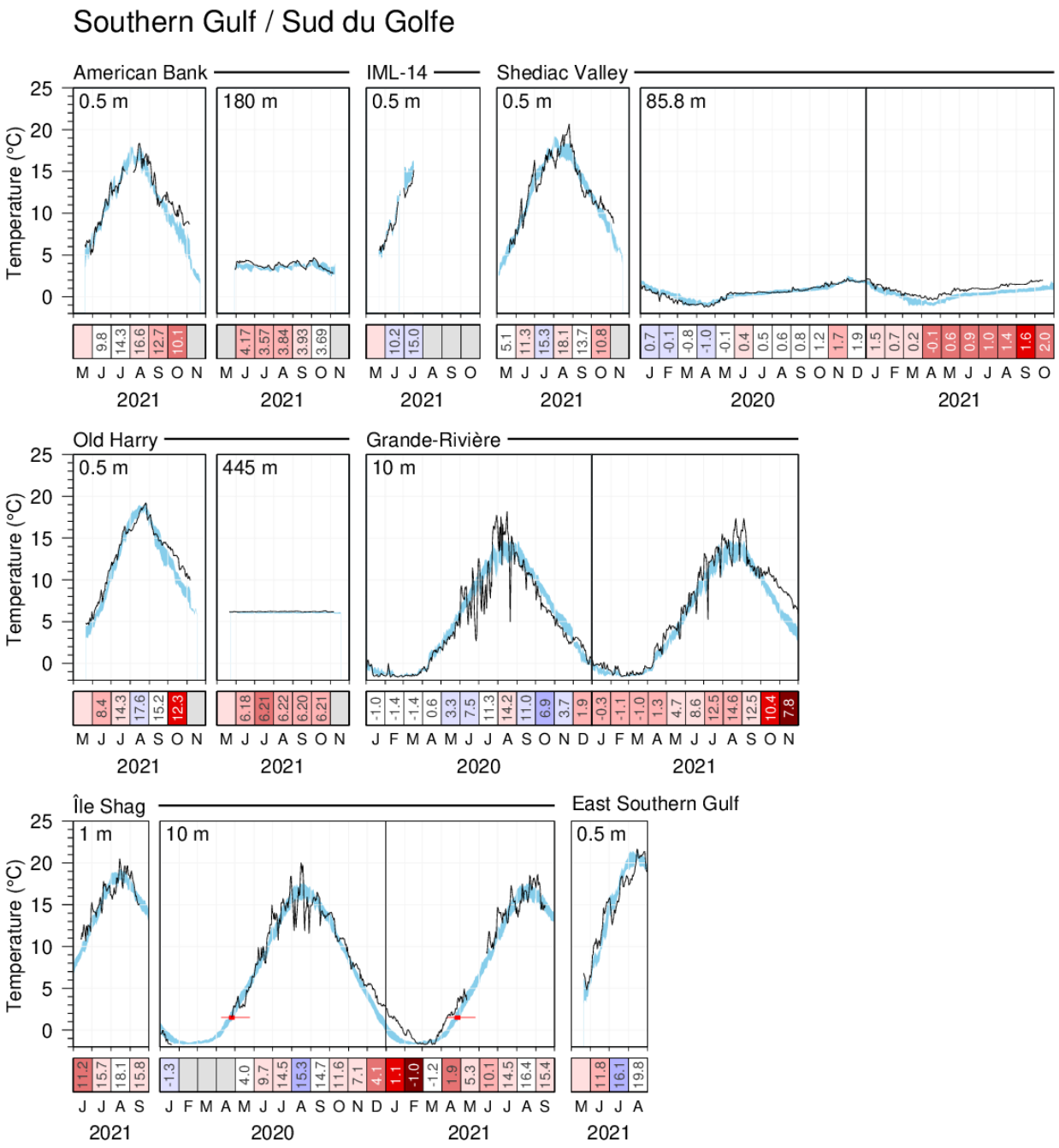

Fig. 16. Thermograph network data. Daily mean 2021 temperatures compared with the daily climatology (daily averages ± 0.5 SD; blue area) for stations of the Southern Gulf. Data from 2020 are included for stations collecting data year-round, and data for the last 3 years for new stations East Southern Gulf and Old Harry. Thin red lines in the Île Shag panel span the historical dates when spring temperature increased over 1.5 °C, a temperature associated with increased lobster mobility. Thick red line indicates mean date plus and minus 0.5 SD.

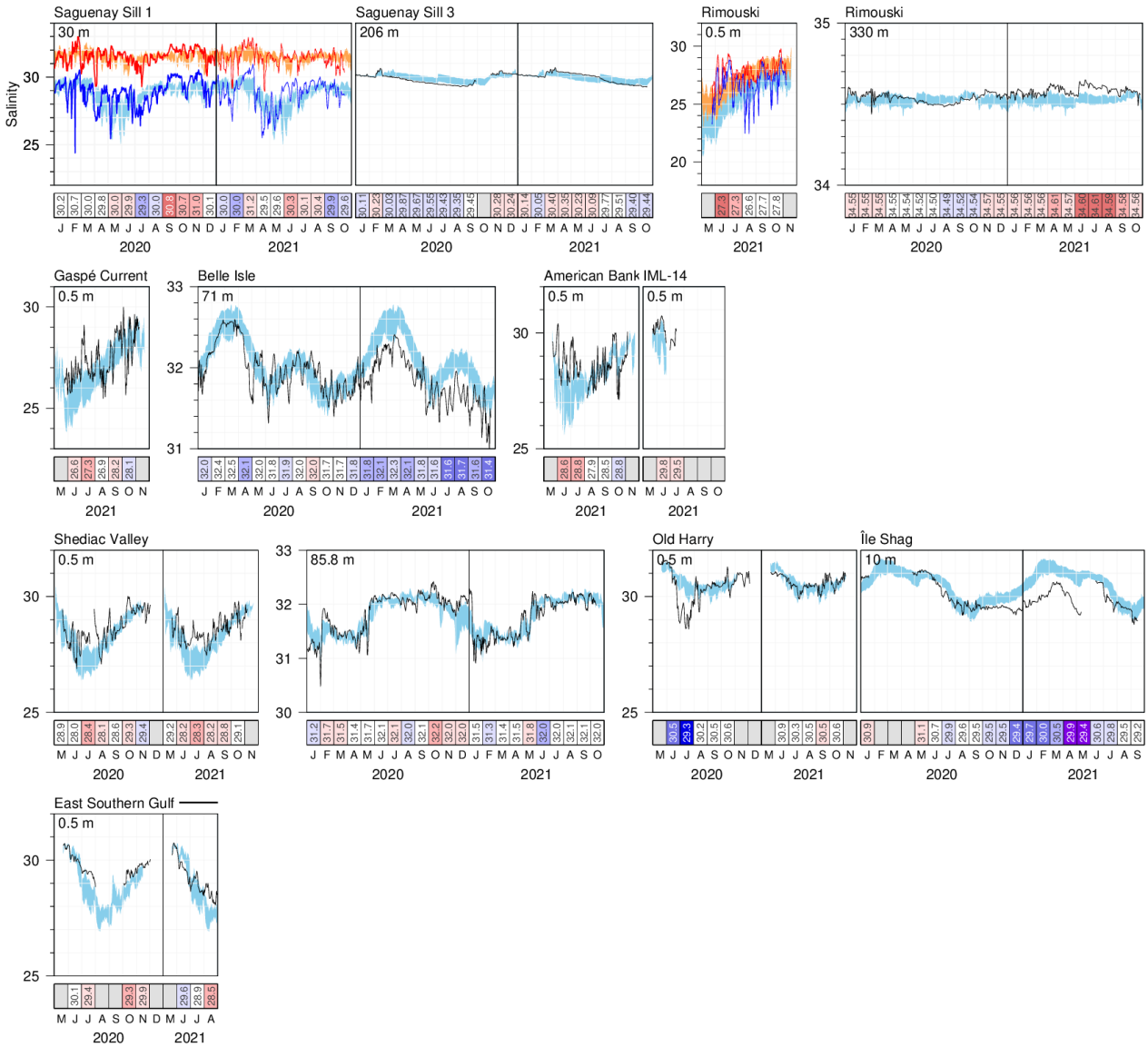

Fig. 17. Thermograph network data. Daily mean 2021 salinities (black lines) compared with the daily climatology (daily averages ± 0.5 SD; blue area) computed from all available stations. Stations that exhibit large tidal variations are displayed showing daily minimum (blue) and maximum (red) values, overlying daily climatological averages ± 0.5 SD of the minimum (blue shaded area) and maximum (orange shaded areas) values. Data from 2020 are included for stations collecting data year-round. The scorecards show monthly average salinities colour-coded according to the normalized anomalies based on the climatologies for each month.

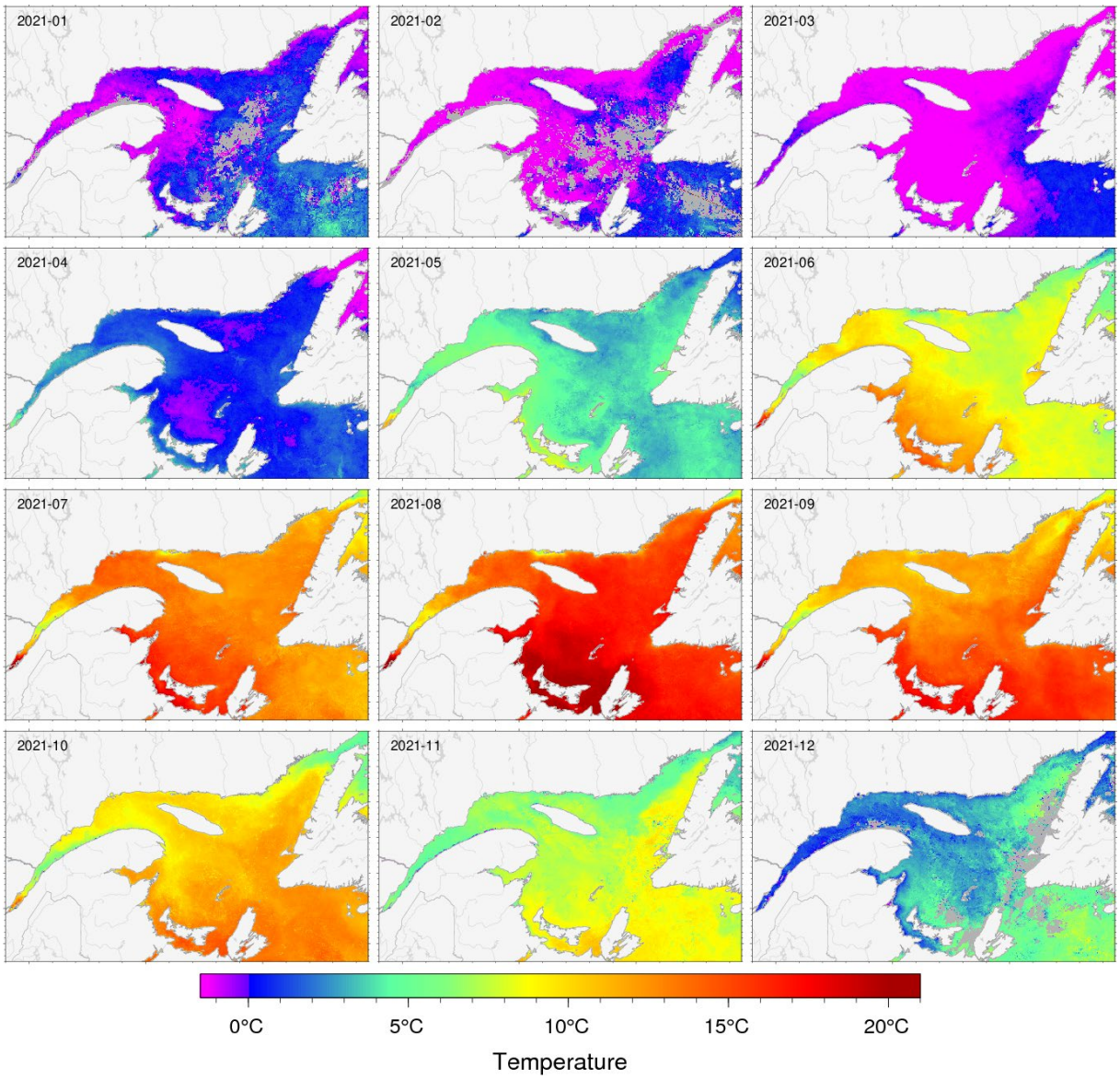

Fig. 18. Sea-surface temperature monthly averages for 2021 as observed with AVHRR remote sensing. Grey areas have no data for the period due to ice cover or clouds.

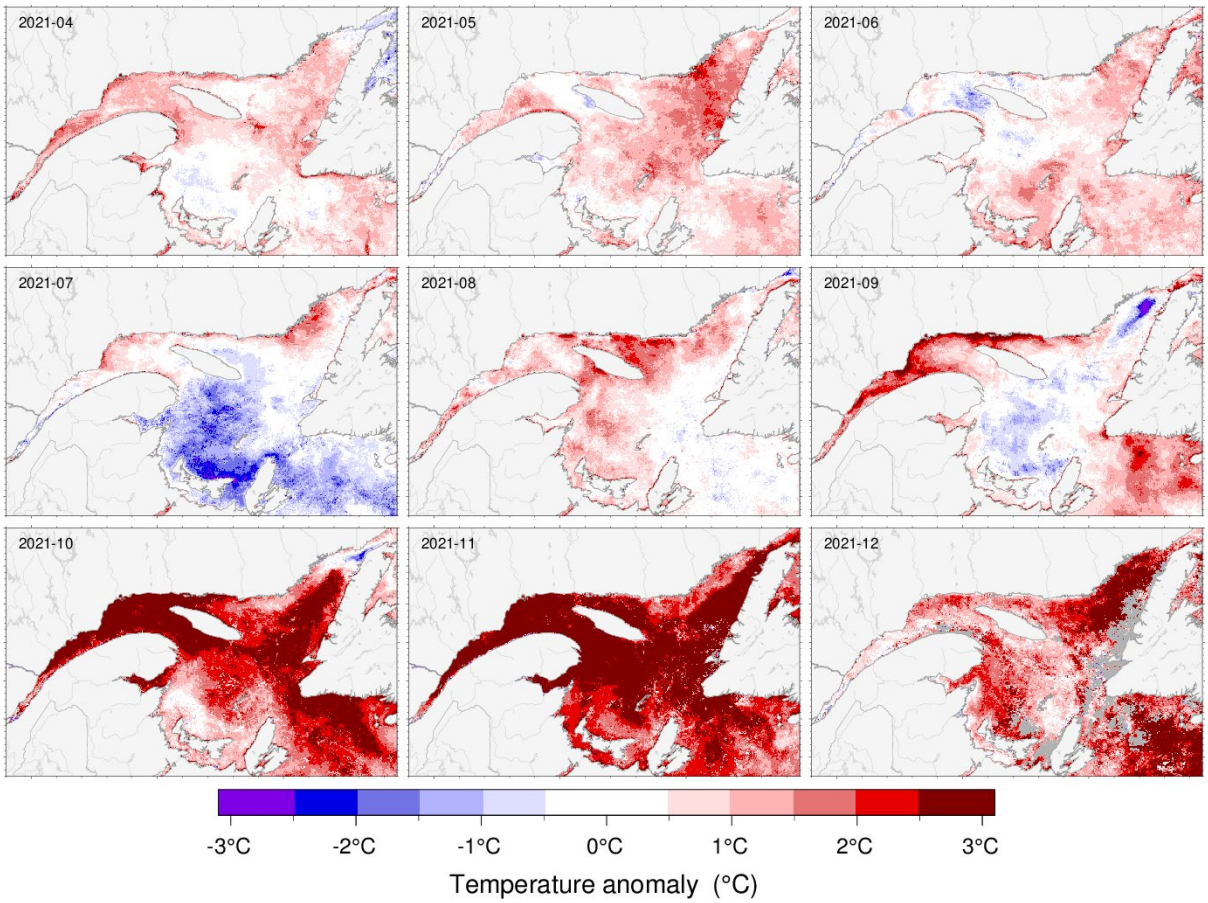

Fig. 19. Sea-surface temperature monthly anomalies for April-December 2021 based on monthly climatologies calculated for the 1985–2010 period observed with AVHRR remote sensing. This is the only product in this report that has not been updated to a 1991–2020 climatology.

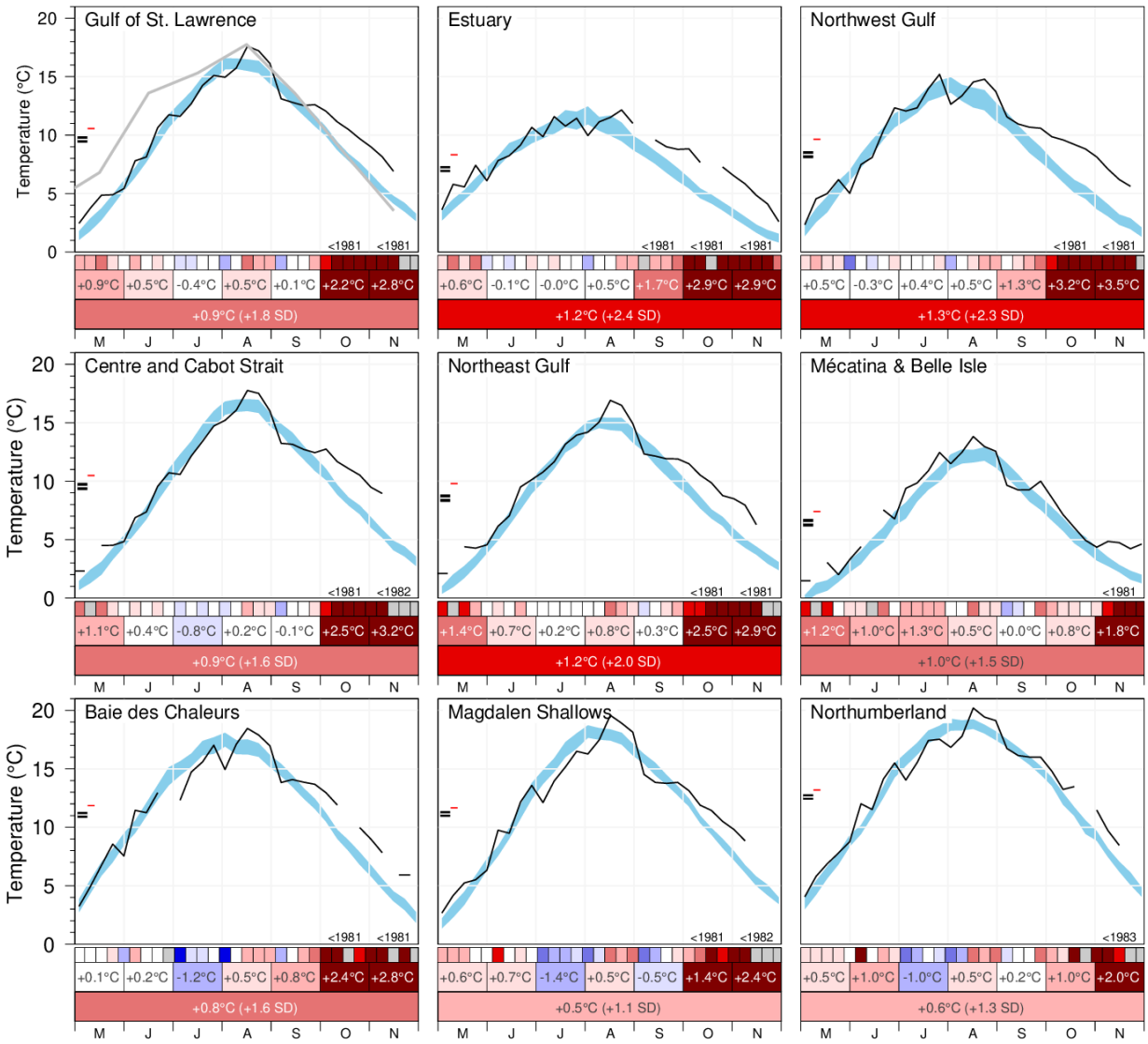

Fig. 20. AVHRR SST May to November 2021 weekly, monthly and seasonal averages over the Gulf and over eight regions of the Gulf. The blue area represents the 1991–2020 climatological weekly mean ± 0.5 SD. The climatological average plus and minus half the standard deviation of the seasonal mean temperature are indicated by the black double bars on the left side of panels, while the year's seasonal mean is indicated by the red line. For anomalies greater than 2 SD from normal, the prior year with a greater anomaly is indicated, with the less-than symbol (<) indicating a series record since that first year of observations. The thick grey line in the Gulf panel is the monthly average air temperature (Fig. 4). The scorecards are colour-coded according to the normalized anomalies based on the 1991–2020 climatologies for each week (top row), month (middle row) or for the May-November period (bottom row), but the monthly numbers are average temperature anomalies.

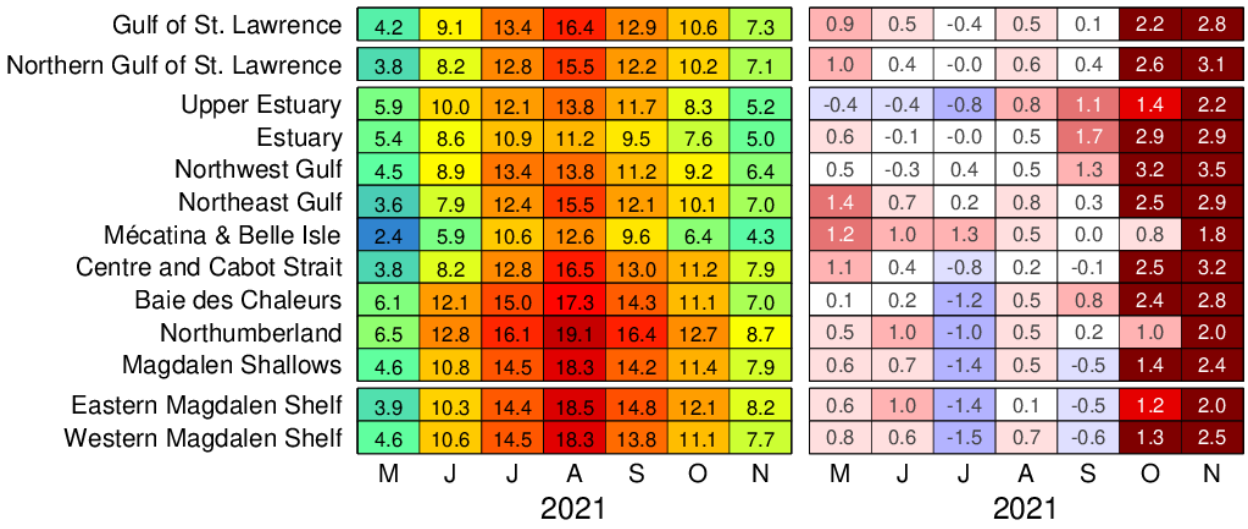

Fig. 21. AVHRR SST May to November monthly temperatures and anomalies, averaged over the Gulf and over regions of the Gulf for 2021. The numbers on the right-hand panel are area average temperatures and are colour-coded accordingly. The right-hand scorecards are colour-coded according to the monthly normalized anomalies based on the 1991–2020 climatologies for each month, but the numbers are the monthly average temperature anomalies expressed in °C. The Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence region corresponds to Northwest Gulf, Northeast Gulf, Centre and Cabot Strait and is reported in the AZMP Science Advisory Report.

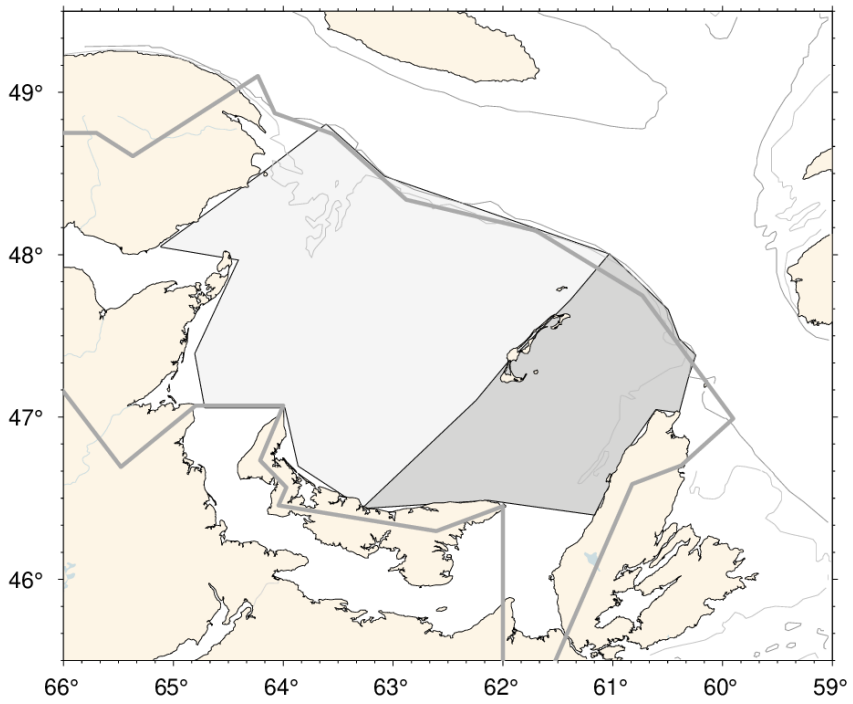

Fig. 22. Areas defined as the western and eastern Magdalen Shelf. The thick grey line shows the outline of the Ecosystem Approach region for the Magdalen Shallows (Fig. 2).

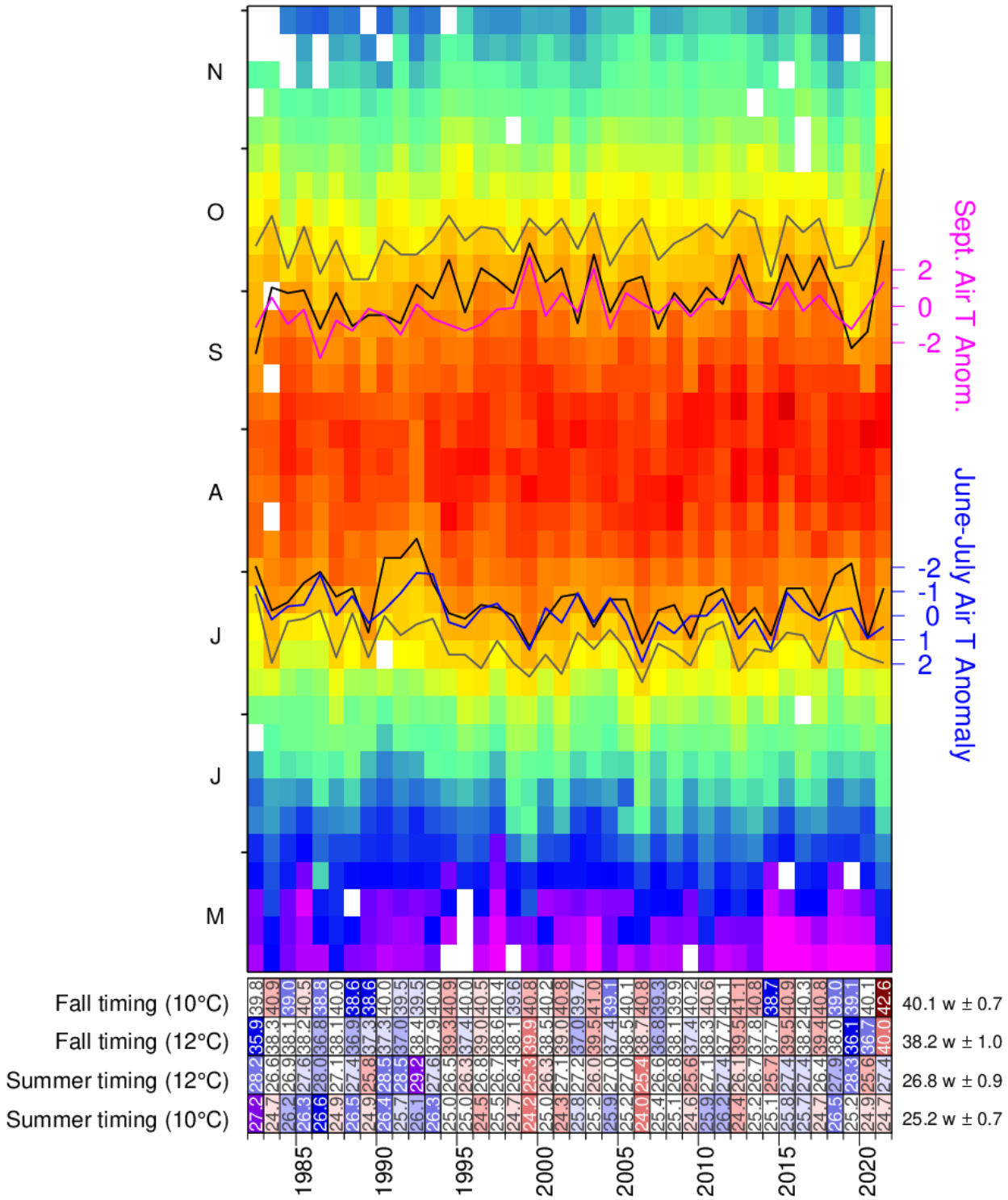

Fig. 23. Weekly average SST (1982–2021) matrix for the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Black lines show first and last occurrence of the 12 °C isotherm and proxies based on June-July (blue line) and September (magenta) average air temperature are also shown (axes on right). Gray lines show first and last occurrence of the 10 °C isotherm. The scorecards are colour-coded according to the normalized anomalies based on the 1991–2020 time series, but the numbers are week numbers when the threshold was crossed. Updated from Galbraith and Larouche 2013.

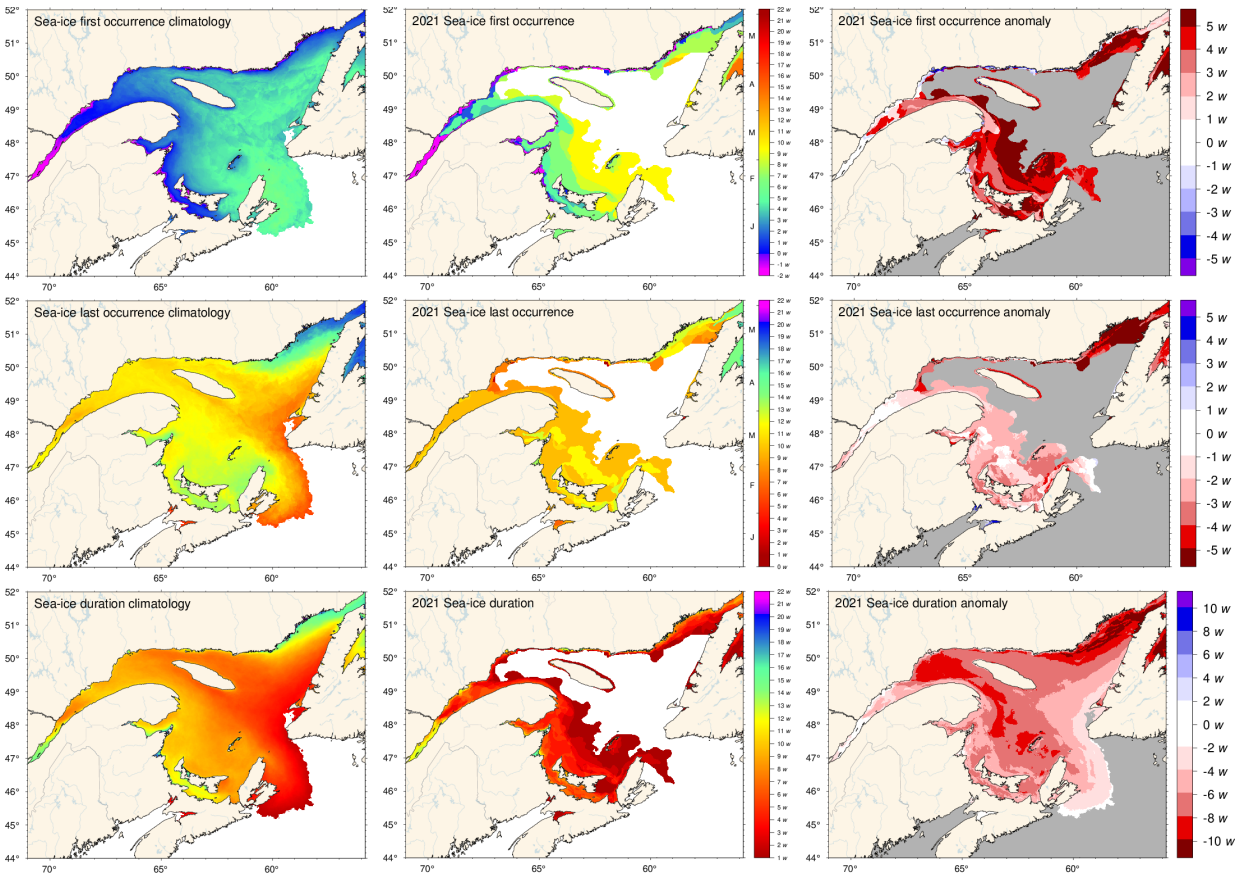

Fig. 24. First and last occurrence of ice and ice season duration based on weekly data. The 1991–2020 climatologies are shown (left) as well as the 2021 values (middle) and anomalies (right). First and last occurrence is defined here as the first and last weekly chart in which any amount of ice is recorded for each pixel and are illustrated as day-of-year. Ice duration sums the number of weeks with ice cover for each pixel. Climatologies are shown for pixels that had at least 15 years out of the 30 with occurrence of sea-ice, and therefore also show the area with 50% likelihood of having some sea-ice at any time during any given year.

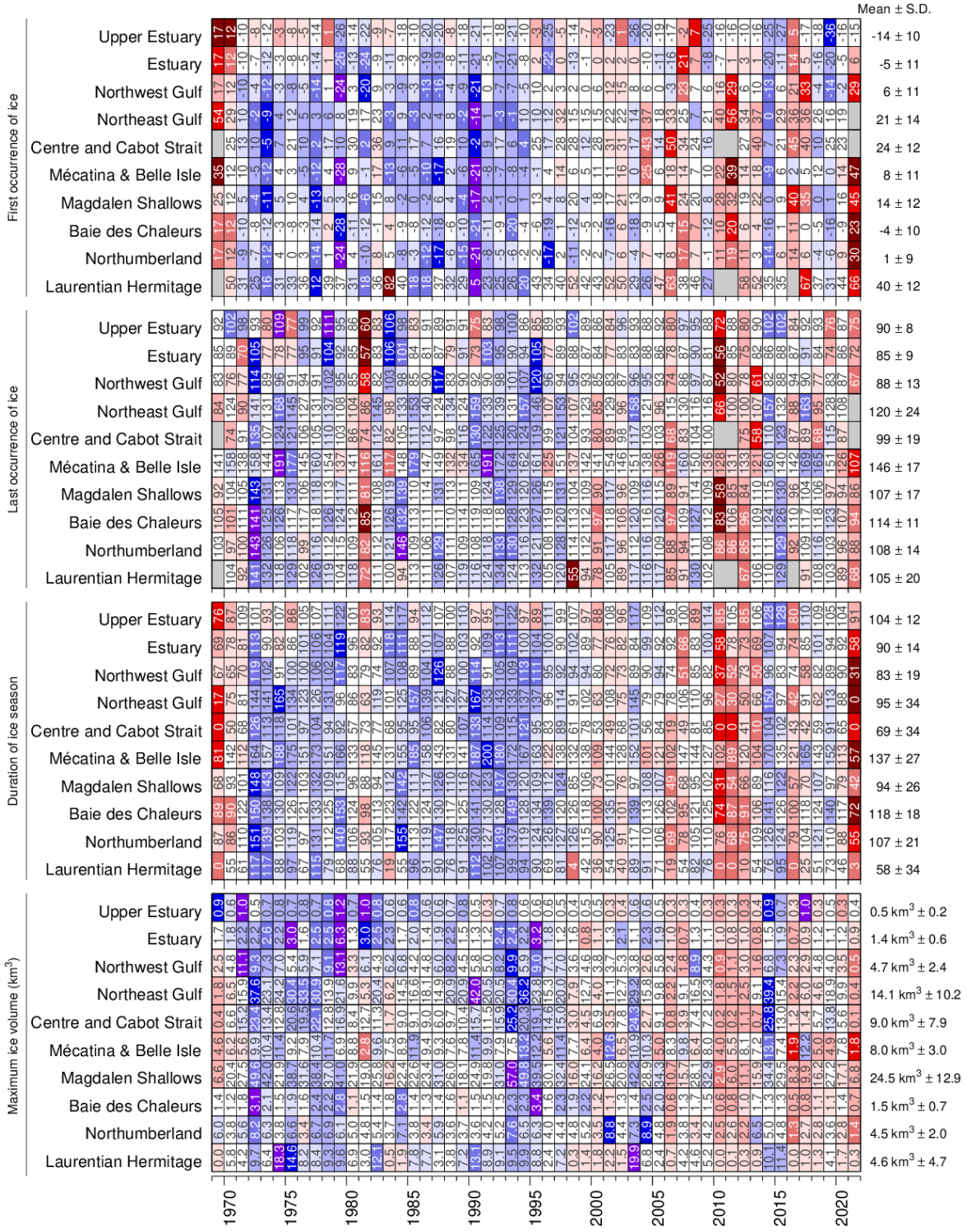

Fig. 25. First and last day of ice occurrence, ice duration and maximum seasonal ice volume by region. The time when ice was first and last seen in days from the beginning of each year is indicated for each region, and the colour code expresses the anomaly based on the 1991–2020 climatology, with blue (cold) representing earlier first occurrence and later last occurrence. The threshold is 5% of the largest ice volume ever recorded in the region. Numbers in the table are the actual day of the year or volume, but the colour coding is according to normalized anomalies based on the climatology of each region. Duration is the numbers of days that the threshold was exceeded. All results based on weekly data.

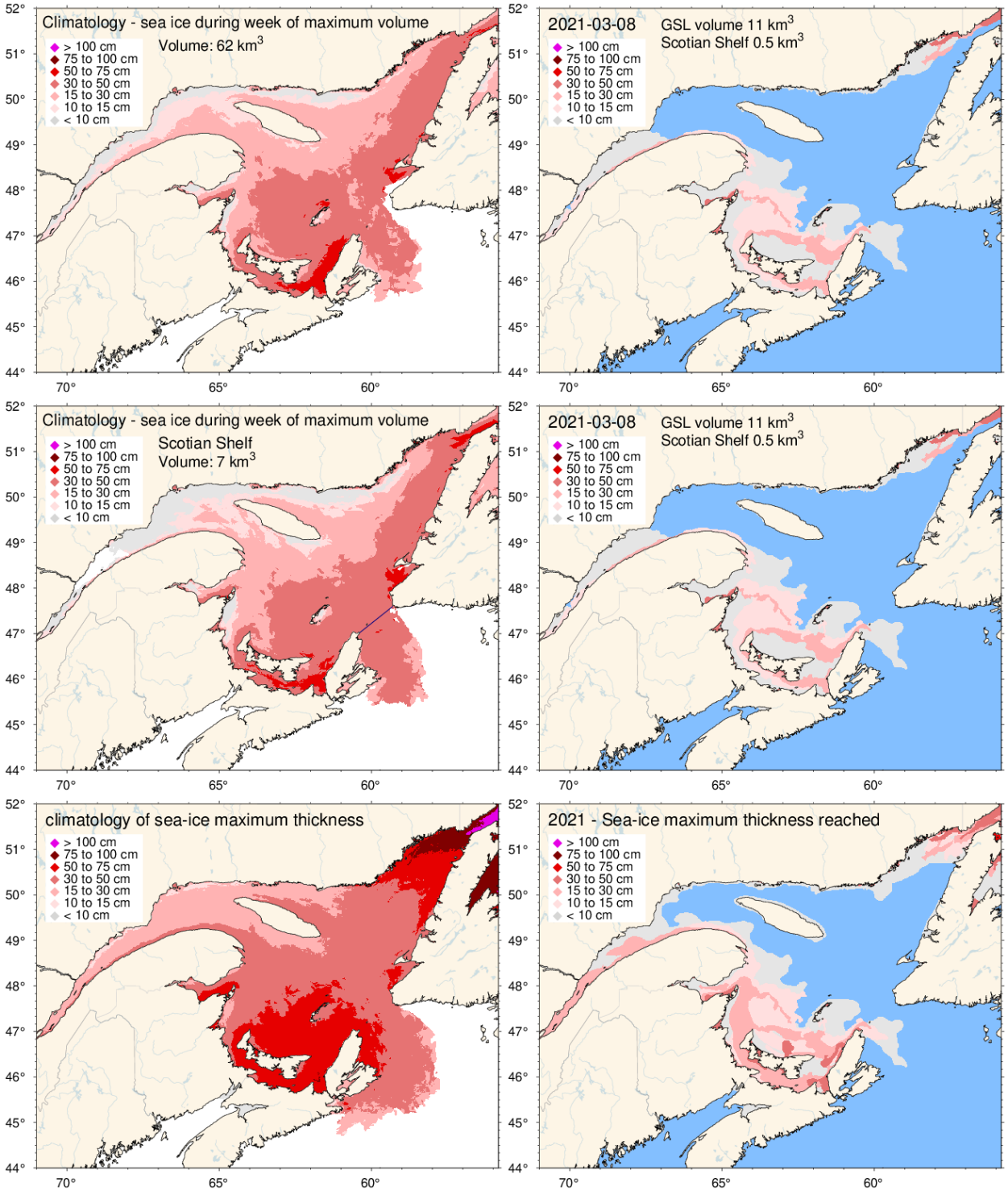

Fig. 26. Ice thickness maps for 2021 for the week of the year with the maximum volume including the portion covering the Scotian Shelf (upper right panel), with the maximum volume on the Scotian Shelf (middle right panel) and similarly for the 1991–2020 climatology of the weekly maximum (upper and middle left panels). Note that these maps reflect the ice thickness distribution on that week, and not the maximum observed at any given location during the year. That information is shown by the lower panels, showing the 1991–2020 climatology and 2021 distribution of the thickest ice recorded during the season at any location.

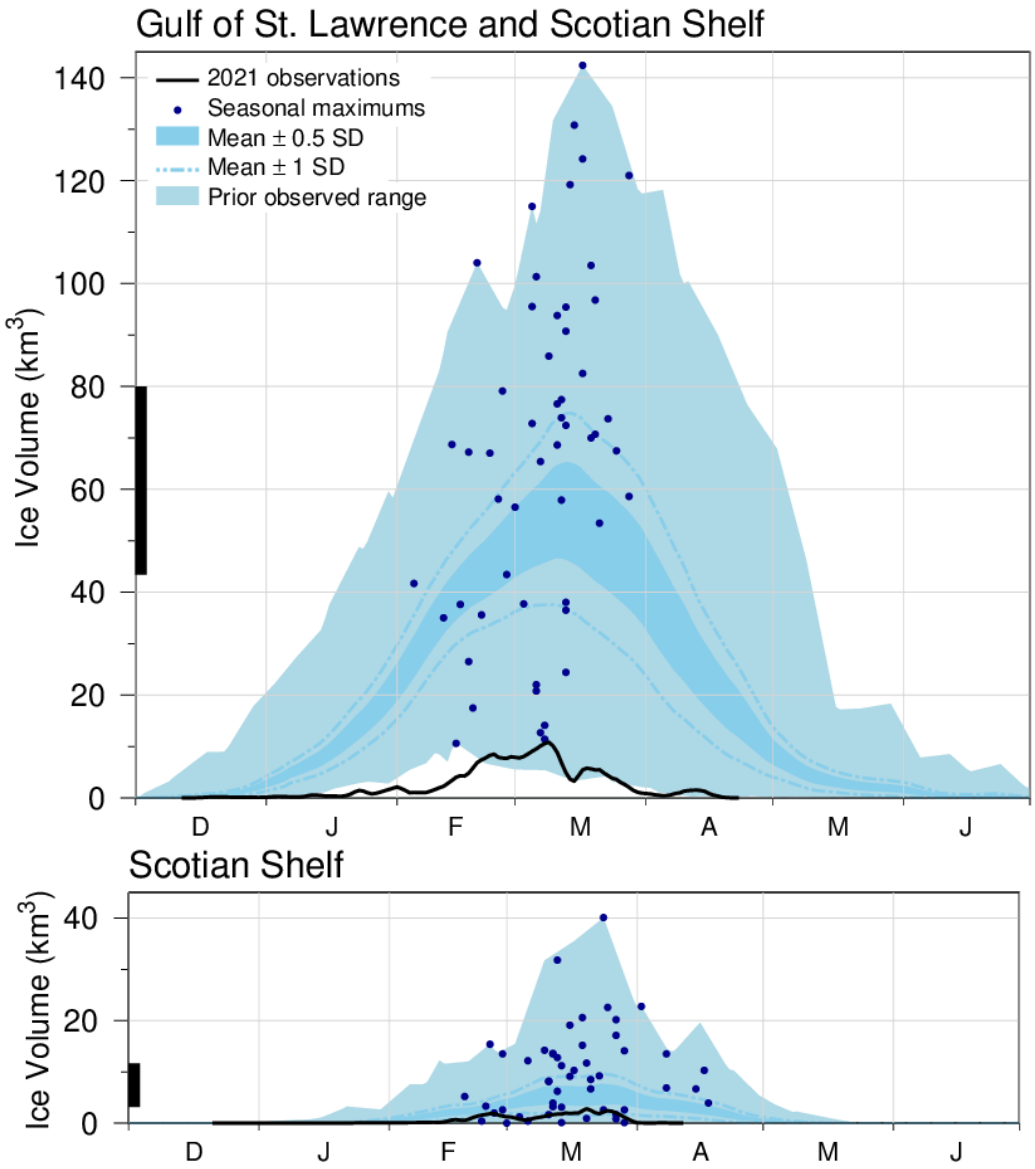

Fig. 27. Time series of the 2020–2021 daily mean ice volume for the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Scotian Shelf (top panel, black line) and for the Scotian Shelf (bottom panel, black line). Also shown are the 1991–2020 climatological mean volume plus and minus 0.5 and 1 SD (dark blue area and dashed line), the minimum and maximum span of 1969–2020 observations (light blue) and the date and volumes of 1969–2020 seasonal maximums (blue dots). The black thick lines on the left indicates the mean volume plus and minus 0.5 SD of the annual maximum ice volume, which is higher than the peak of the mean daily ice volume distribution.

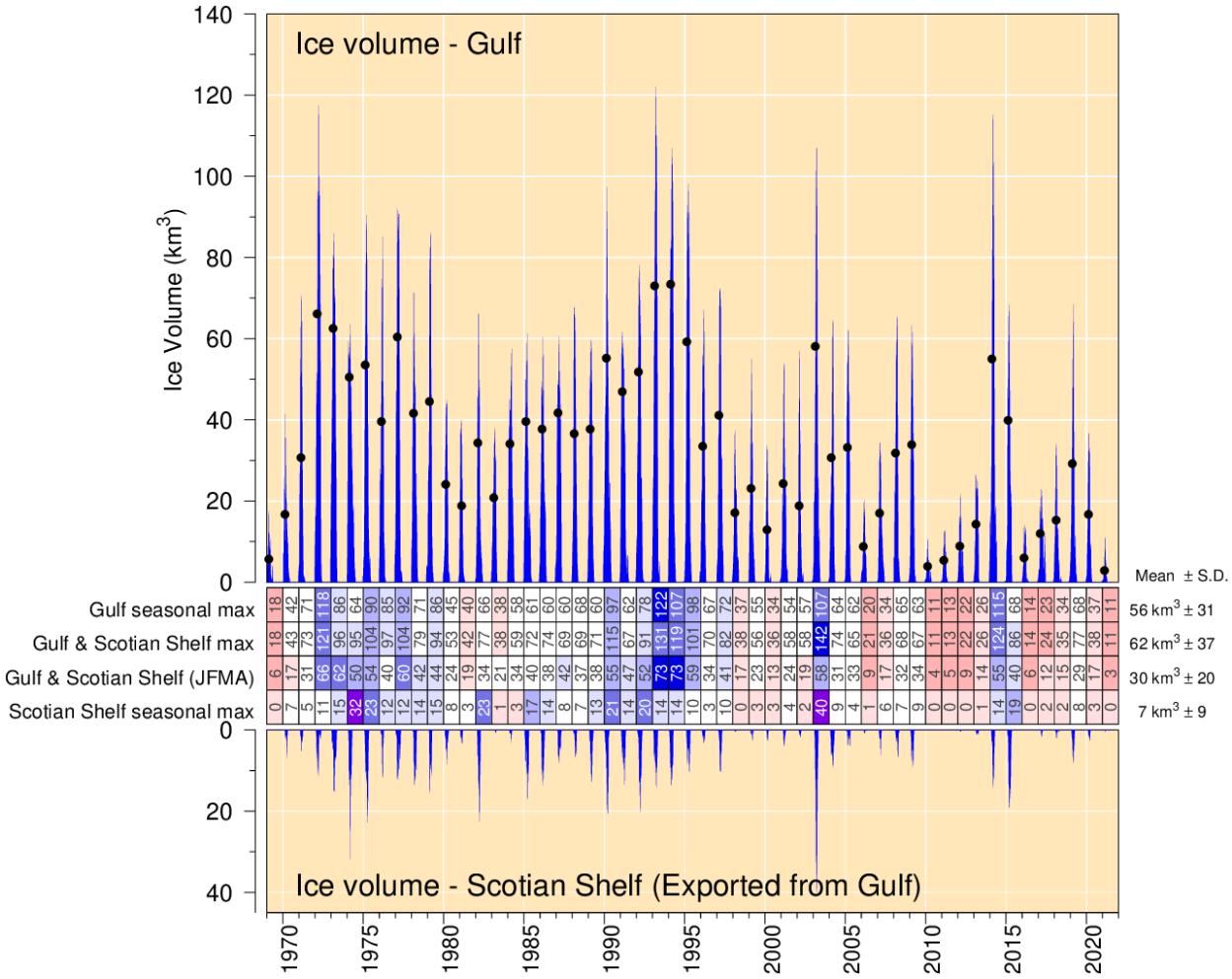

Fig. 28. Estimated weekly maximum ice volume in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (upper panel) and on the Scotian Shelf seaward of Cabot Strait defined by its narrowest crossing (lower panel). Dots show January-April averages of combined Gulf and Scotian Shelf volumes. Scorecards show normalized anomalies for the Gulf, combined Gulf and Shelf, combined Gulf and Shelf January to April average, and Shelf-only annual maximum volumes from weekly ice data. The mean and standard deviation are indicated on the right side using the 1991–2020 climatology.

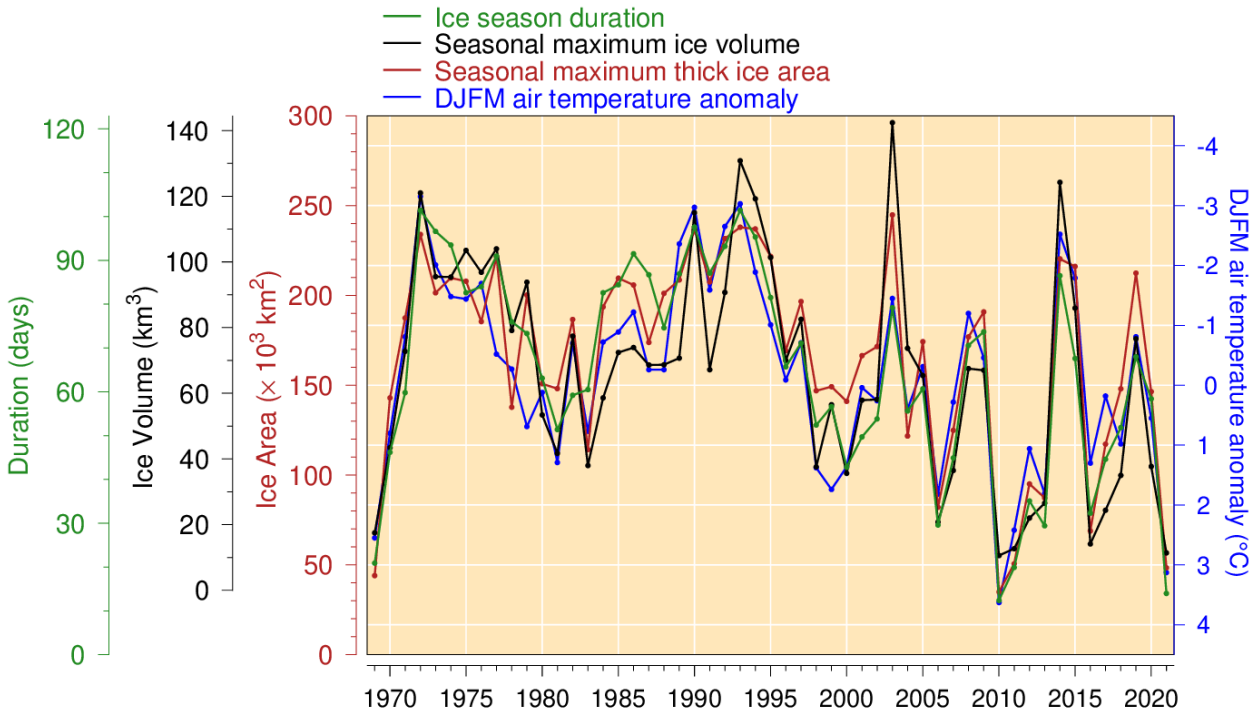

Fig. 29. Seasonal maximum ice volume and area including the portion on the Scotian Shelf (excluding ice less than 15 cm thick), ice season duration and December-to-March air temperature anomaly (Figure adapted from Hammill and Galbraith 2012, but here not excluding small floes and adding February and March data to the air temperature anomalies). All sea-ice products are based on weekly data. Mean duration obtained as spatial average of Fig. 24, excluding the Scotian Shelf, with zeros counted if no ice is present but the climatology has some. Linear relations indicate losses of 18 km^3, 31 000 km^2 and 14 days of sea-ice season for each 1 °C increase in winter air temperature (R^2 of 0.74, 0.80 and 0.83 respectively).

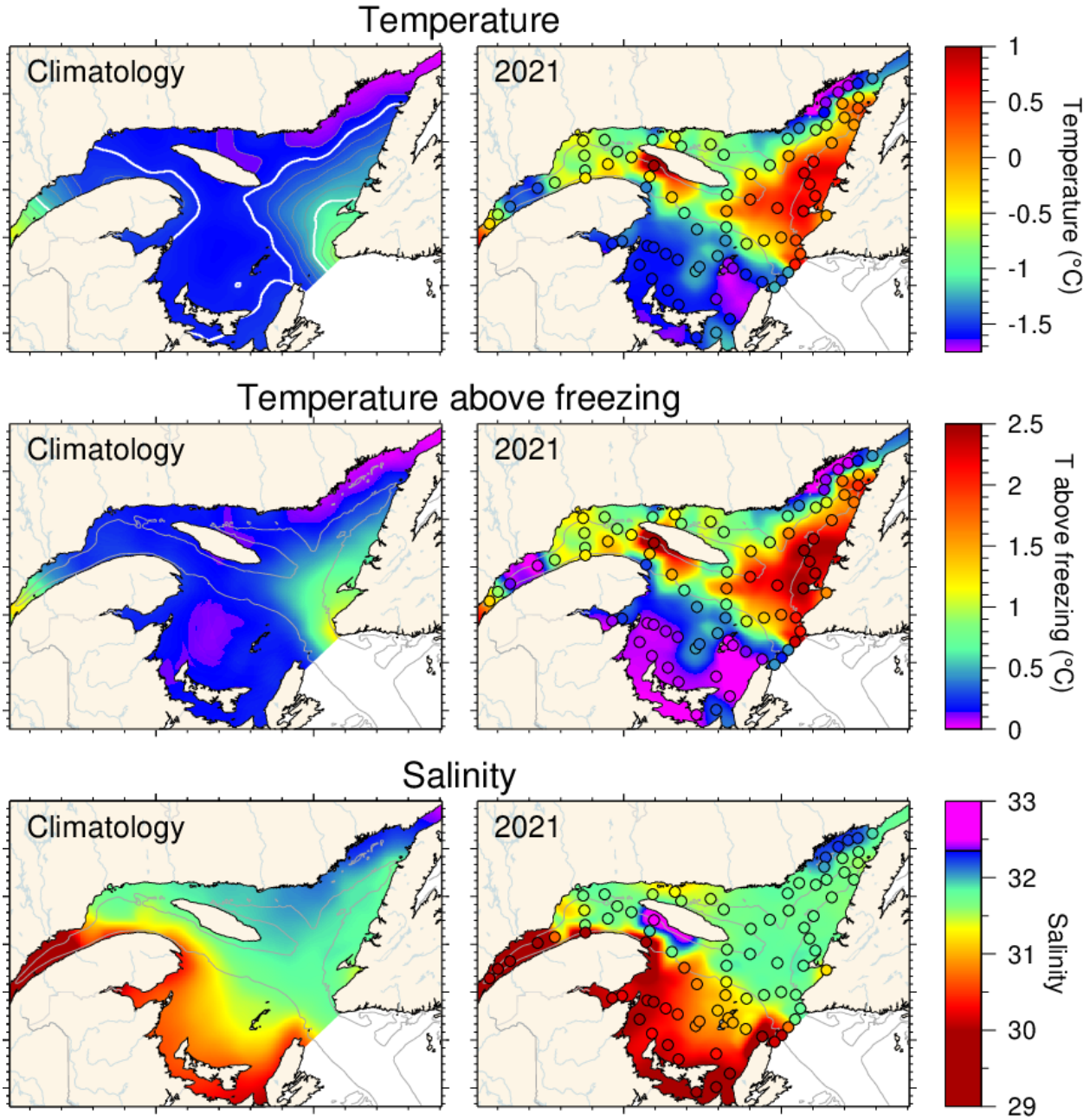

Fig. 30. Winter surface layer characteristics from the March 2021 survey compared with climatological means: surface water temperature (upper panel), temperature difference between surface water temperature and the freezing point (middle panel), and salinity (lower panel). Symbols are coloured according to the value observed at the station, using the same colour palette as the interpolated image. A good match is seen between the interpolation and the station observations where the station colours blend into the background. Black symbols indicate missing or bad data. The climatologies are based on 1996–2020 for salinity but exclude 2010 as an outlier for temperature and temperature above freezing.

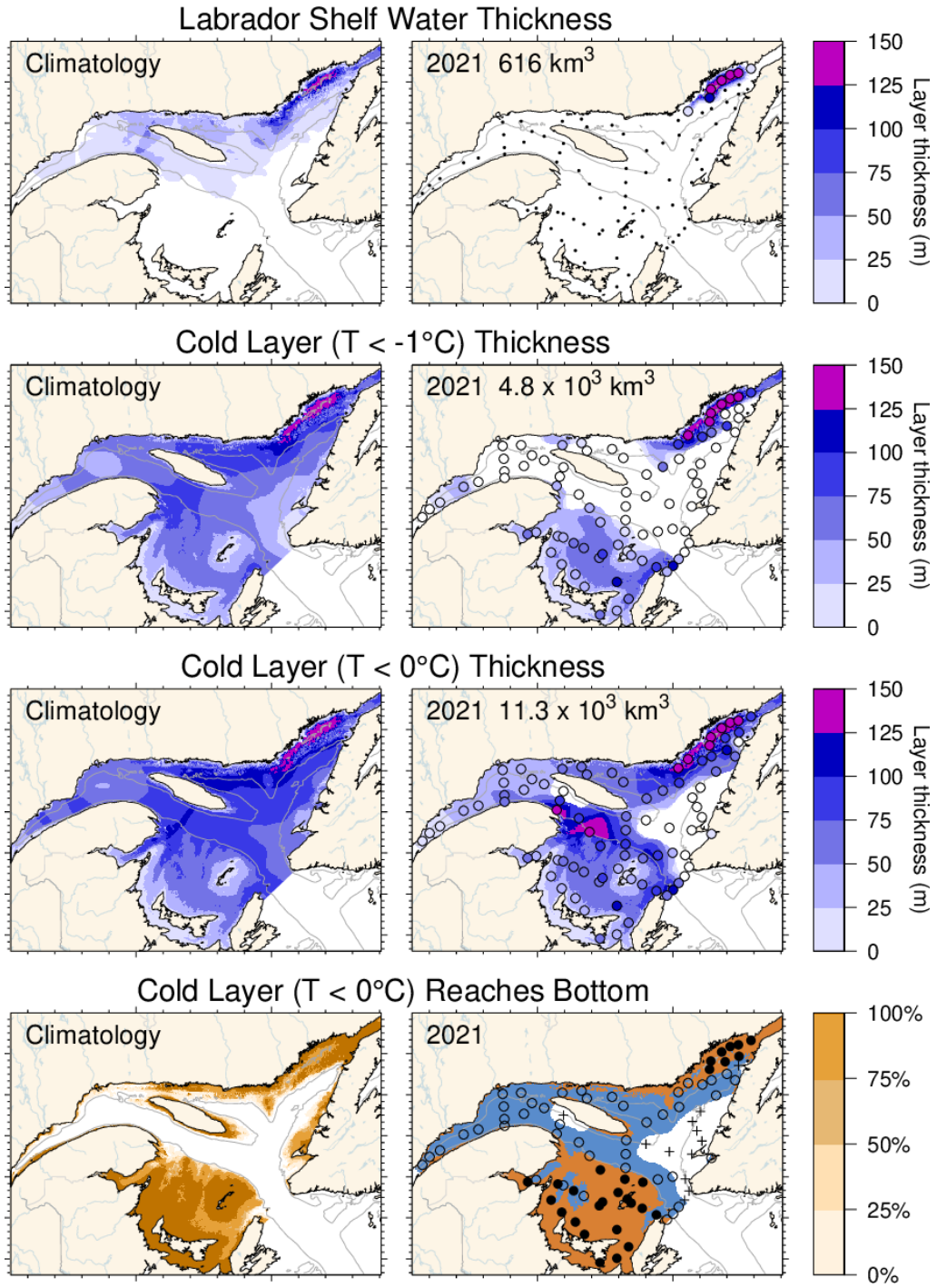

Fig. 31. Winter surface layer characteristics from the March 2021 survey compared with climatological means: estimates of the thickness of the Labrador Shelf water intrusion (upper panels), cold layer (T < -1 °C, T < 0 °C) thickness (middle panels), and maps indicating where the cold layer (T < 0 °C) reaches the bottom (in brown; lower panels). Station symbols are coloured according to the observed values as in Fig. 30. For the lower panels, the stations where the cold layer reached the bottom are indicated with filled circles while open circles represent stations where the layer did not reach the bottom. Integrated volumes are indicated for the first six panels (including an approximation for the Estuary but excluding the Strait of Belle Isle). The climatologies are based on 1997–2020 for the Labrador Shelf water intrusion, 1996–2020 for the cold layer (T < 0 °C) but excludes 2010 for T < -1 °C.

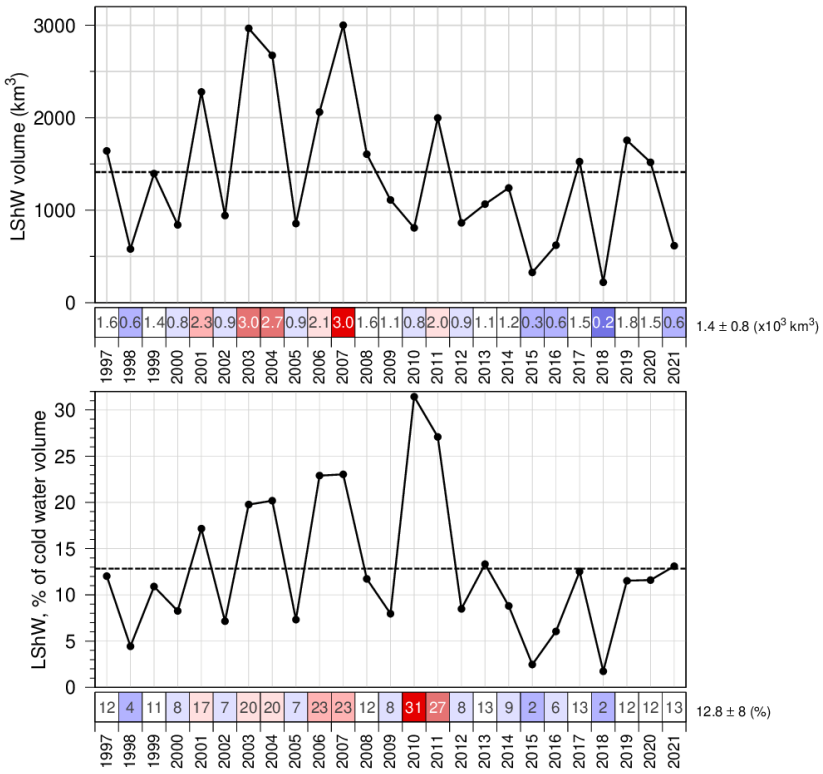

Fig. 32. Estimated volume of cold and saline Labrador Shelf water that flowed into the Gulf over the winter through the Strait of Belle Isle. The bottom panel shows the volume as a percentage of total cold-water volume (< -1°C). The numbers in the boxes are actual values colour-coded according to their 1997–2020 climatology anomaly. Coverage of Mecatina Trough was insufficient in 1996 to provide an estimated volume.

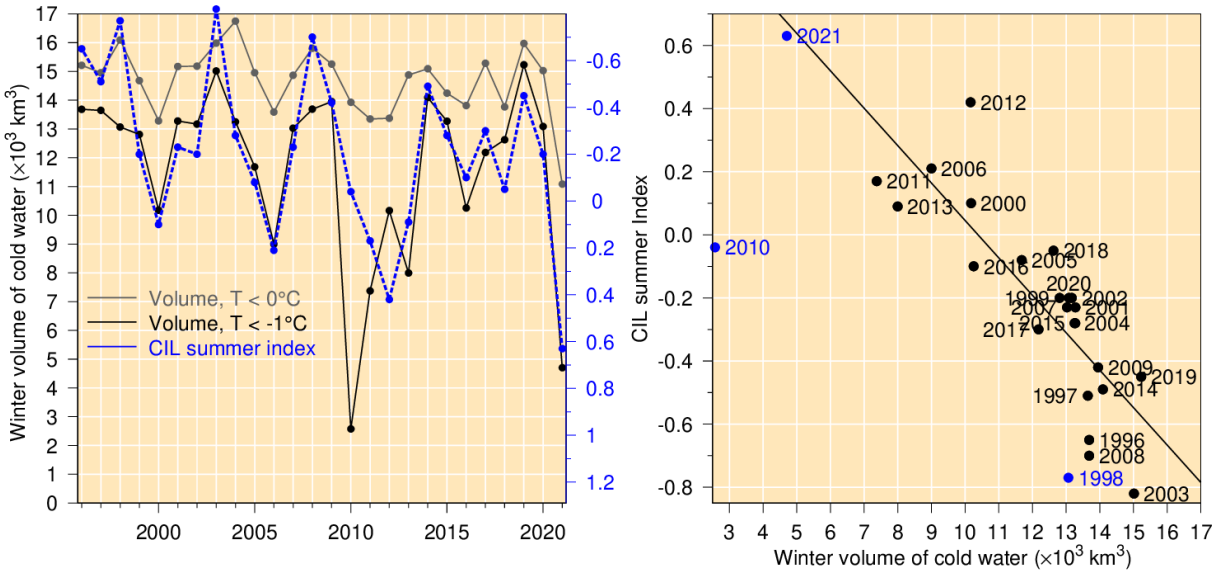

Fig. 33. Left panel: winter surface cold (T < -1 °C and T < 0 °C) layer volume (excluding the Estuary and the Strait of Belle Isle) time series (black and grey lines) and summer CIL index (blue dashed line). Right panel: Relation between summer CIL index and winter cold-water volume with T < -1 °C (regression for 1996–2020 data pairs, excluding 1998 [see Galbraith 2006], the 2010 mild winter and the 2021 value for which the CIL was to be predicted). Note that the CIL scale in the left panel is reversed.

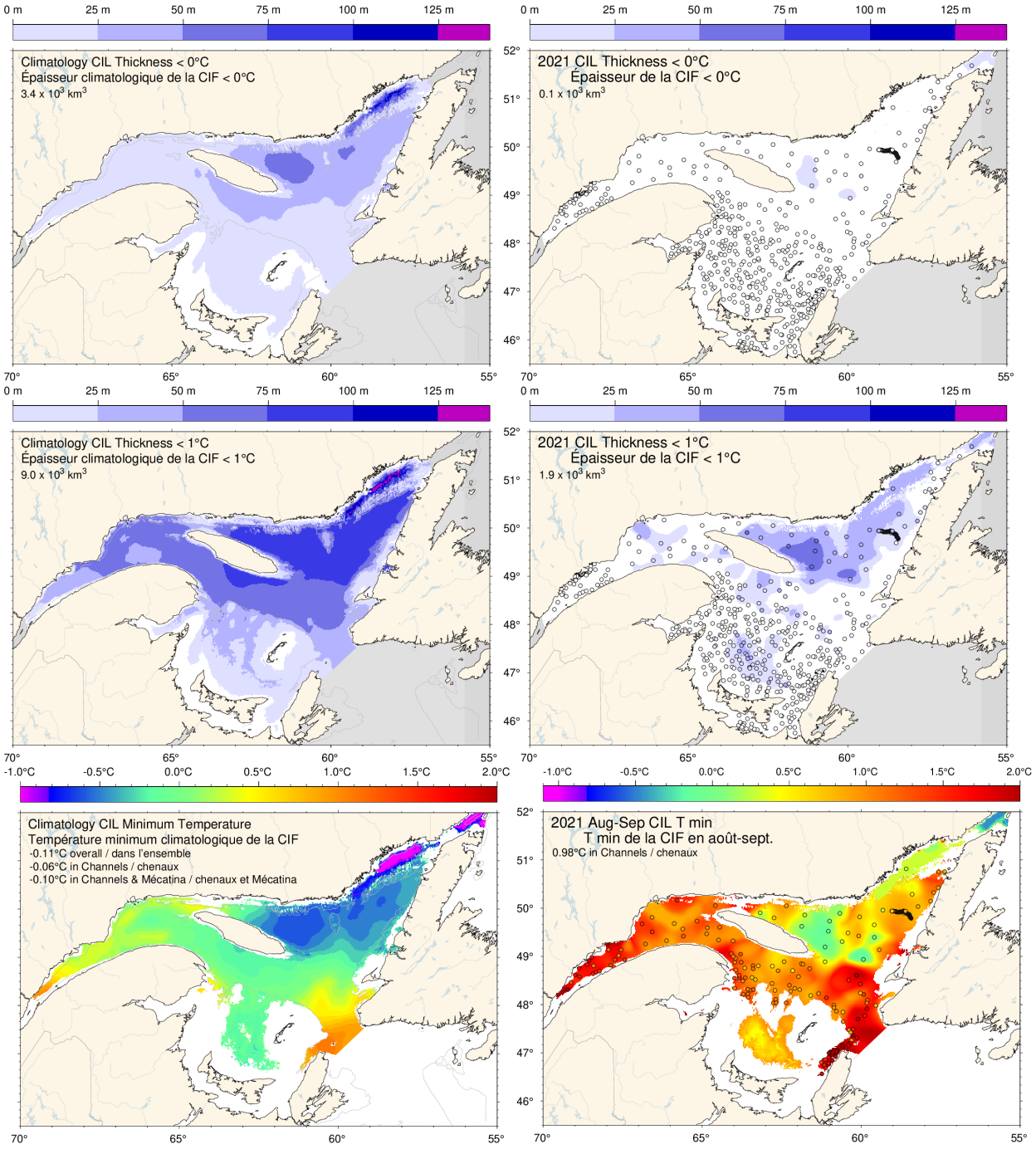

Fig. 34. Cold intermediate layer thickness (T < 0ºC, top panels; T < 1ºC, middle panels) and minimum temperature (bottom panels) in August and September 2021 (right) and 1991–2020 climatology (left). Station symbols are colour-coded according to their CIL thickness and minimum temperature. Numbers in the upper and middle panels are integrated CIL volumes and in the lower panels are monthly average temperatures.

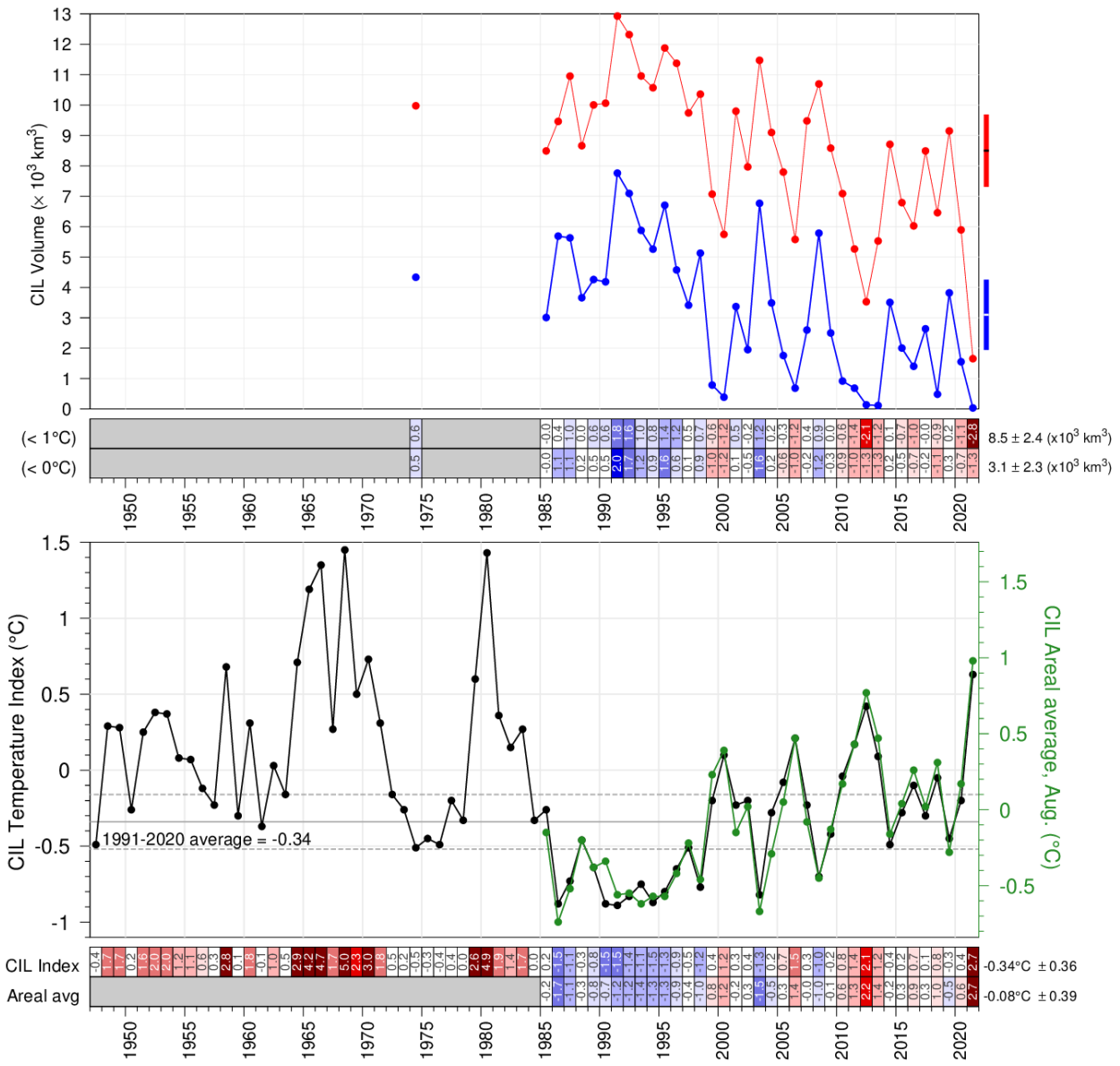

Fig. 35. CIL volume (top panel) delimited by 0ºC (in blue) and 1ºC (in red), and minimum temperature index (bottom panel) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The volumes are integrals of each of the annual interpolated thickness grids such as those shown in the top panels of Fig. 34 *excluding Mécatina Trough and the Strait of Belle Isle. Rectangles on the right side show 1991–2020 mean ± 0.5 SD. In the lower panel, the black line is the updated Gilbert and Pettigrew (1997) index interpolated to 15 July (with dashed lines showing mean ± 0.5 SD) and the green line is the spatial average of each of the annual interpolated grids such as those shown in the two bottom panels of Fig.* 34*, excluding Mécatina Trough, the Strait of Belle Isle and the Magdalen Shallows. The numbers in the boxes are normalized anomalies relative to 1991–2020 climatologies.*

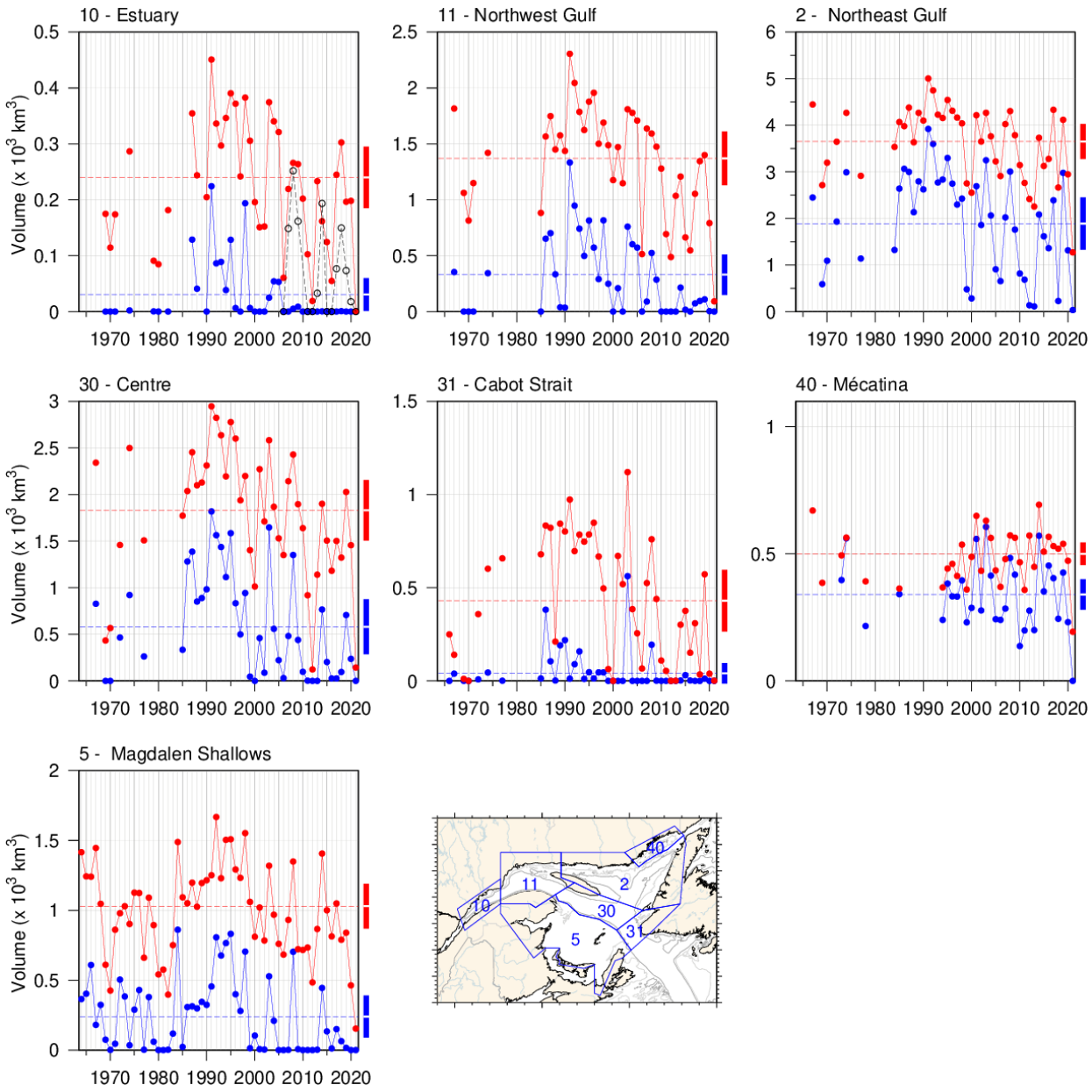

Fig. 36. Volume of the CIL colder than 0ºC (blue) and colder than 1ºC (red) in August and September (Data mostly in September on Magdalen Shallows and August elsewhere). The volume of the CIL colder than 1ºC in November for available years since 2006 is also shown for the St. Lawrence Estuary (black dashed line). Red and blue dashed lines are 1991–2020 averages and rectangles on the right side show the 1991–2020 mean ± 0.5 SD.

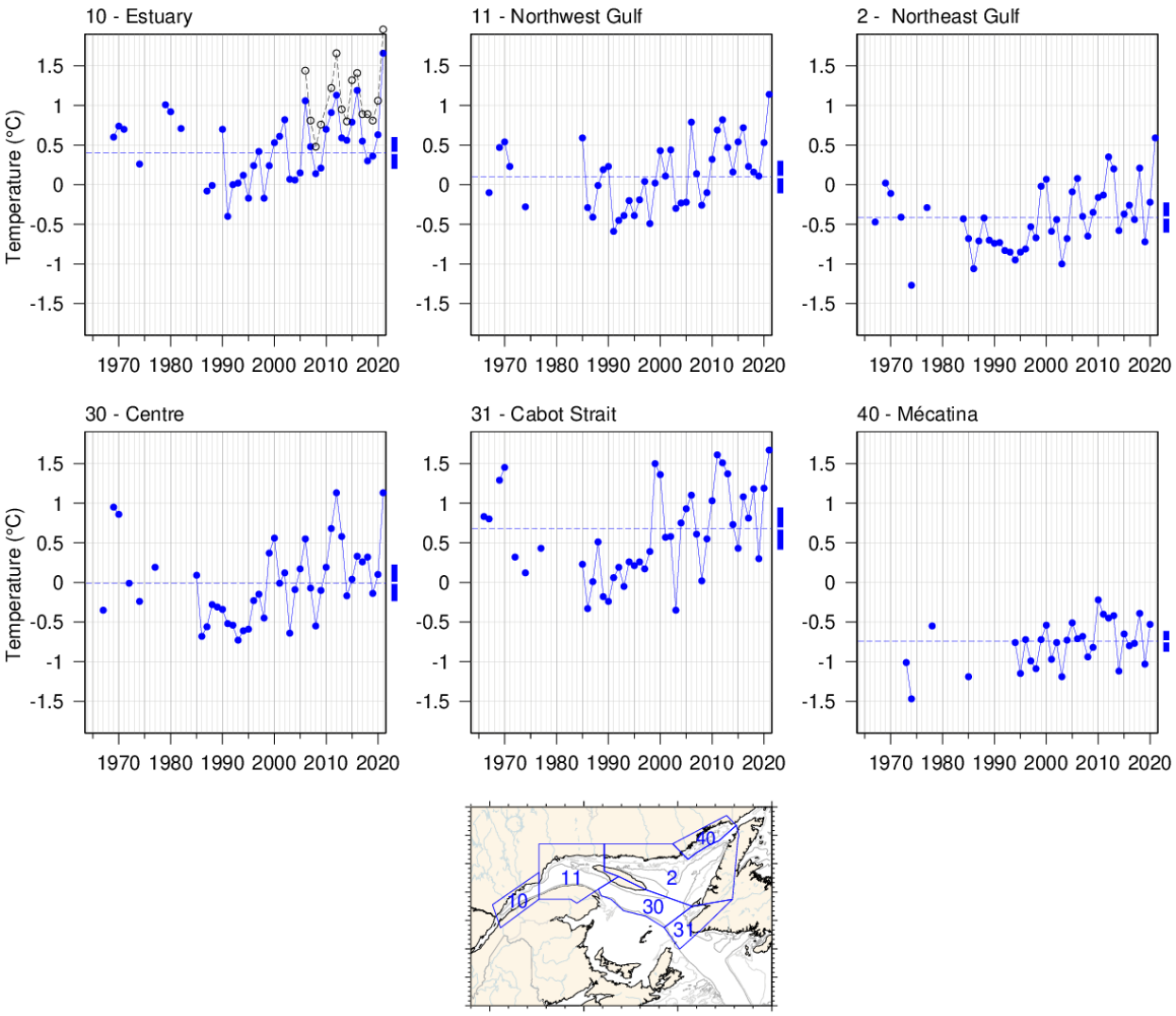

Fig. 37. Temperature minimum of the CIL spatially averaged for selected areas where the CIL minimum temperature can be clearly identified. The spatial average of the November CIL temperature minimum for available years since 2006 is also shown for the St. Lawrence Estuary (black dashed line). Blue dashed lines are 1991–2020 averages and rectangles on the right side of panels show the 1991–2020 mean ± 0.5 SD.

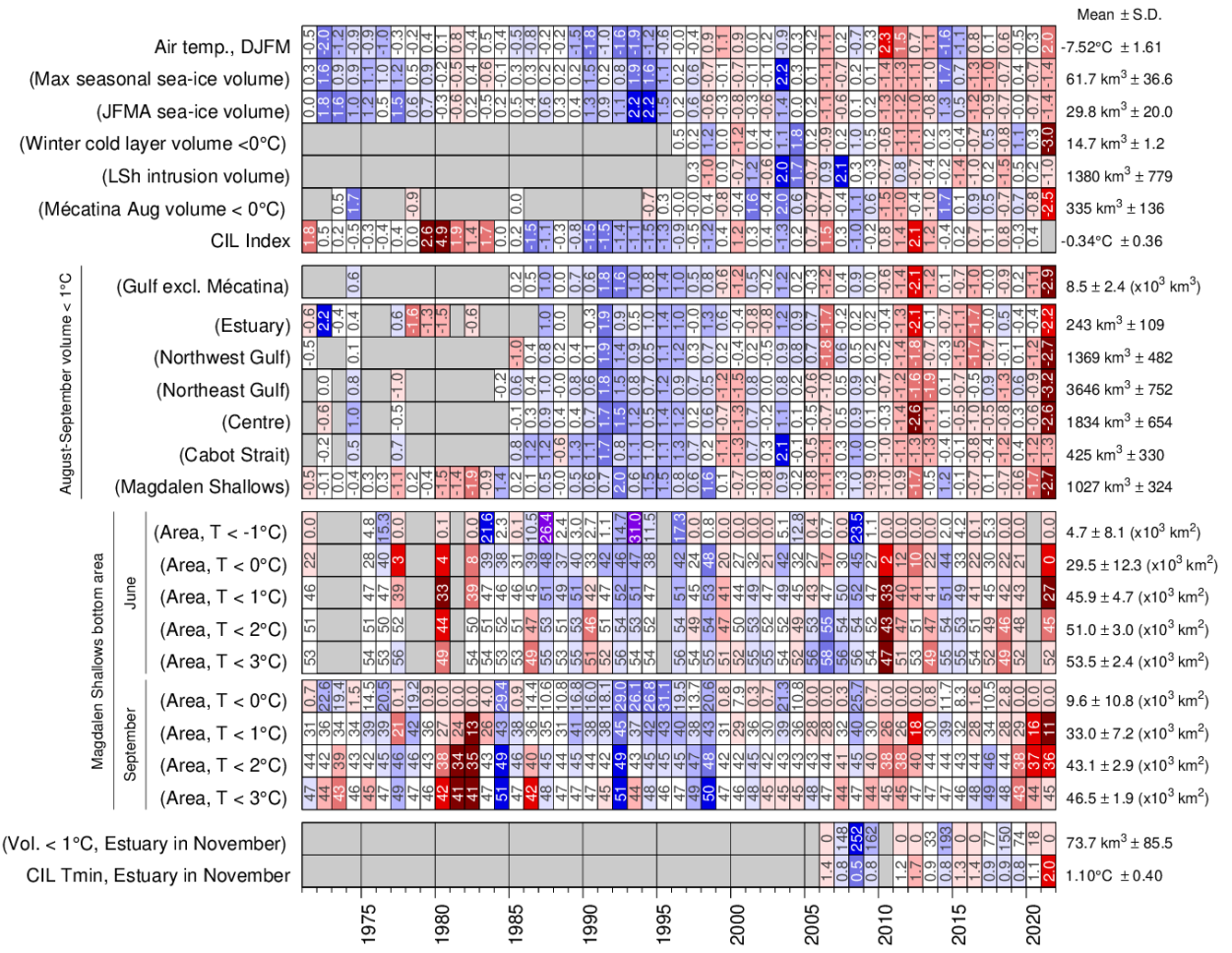

Fig. 38. Winter and summertime CIL related properties. The top block shows the scorecard time series for Dec-Jan-Feb-March air temperature (Fig. 5), yearly maximum sea-ice volume (Gulf + Scotian Shelf), January-April average sea-ice volume, winter (March) cold-layer (< 0 °C) volume, volume of Labrador Shelf Water intrusion into the Gulf observed in March, the August volume of cold water (< 0 °C) observed in the Mécatina Trough and the Gilbert and Pettigrew (1997) CIL index. Labels in parentheses have their colour coding reversed (blue for high values). The second block shows scorecard time series for August–September CIL volumes (< 1 °C) for regions of the Gulf. The third block shows the scorecard time series for the bottom areas of the Magdalen Shallows covered by waters colder than 0, 1, 2, and 3 °C during the June and September survey. The last block shows the November survey CIL volume (< 1 °C) and average CIL minimum temperature in the Estuary. Numbers in cells express anomalies in units of standard deviation, except for bottom areas and Estuary metrics which are expressed in physical units (because of the occurrence of zeros in areas and volumes).

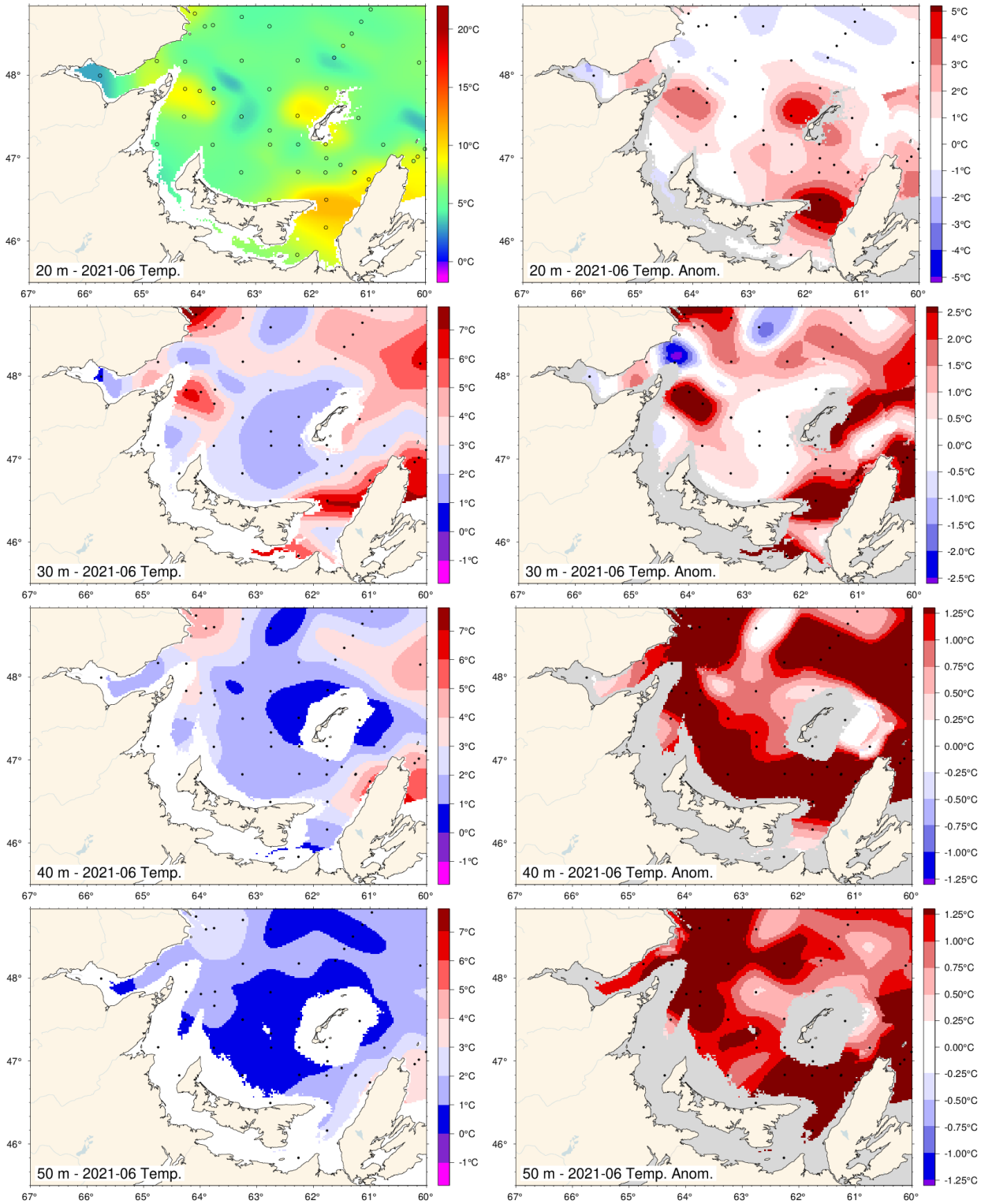

Fig. 39. June depth-layer temperature and anomaly fields on the Magdalen Shallows at 20 m, 30 m, 40 m and 50 m. Anomalies are based on 1991–2020 climatologies for all available years (appearing on Fig. 40). Dots are station occupations.

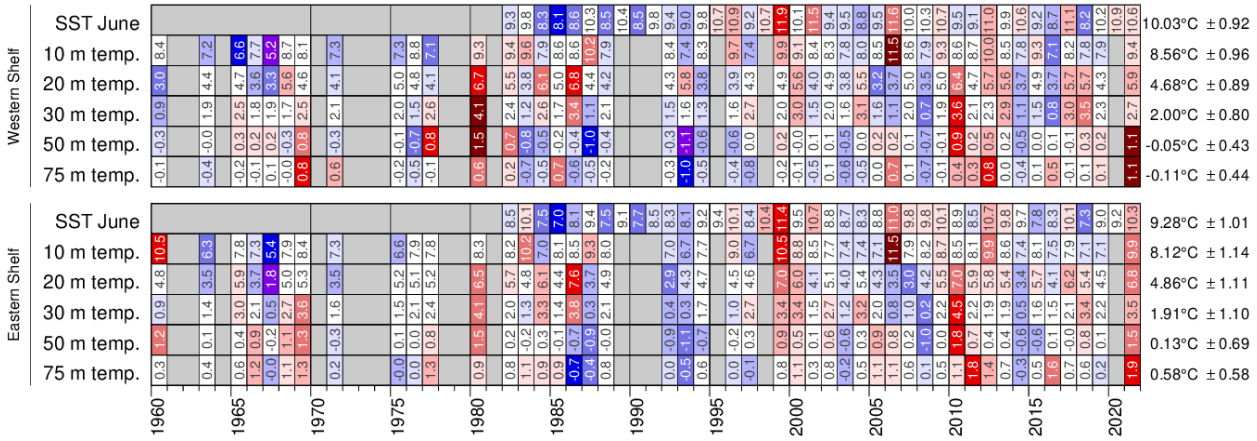

Fig. 40. Depth-layer average temperature anomalies for western and eastern Magdalen Shallows for the June mackerel survey. The SST data are June averages from AVHRR remote sensing. The colour-coding are according to normalized anomalies based on the 1991–2020 climatologies, but the numbers are mean temperatures in ºC.

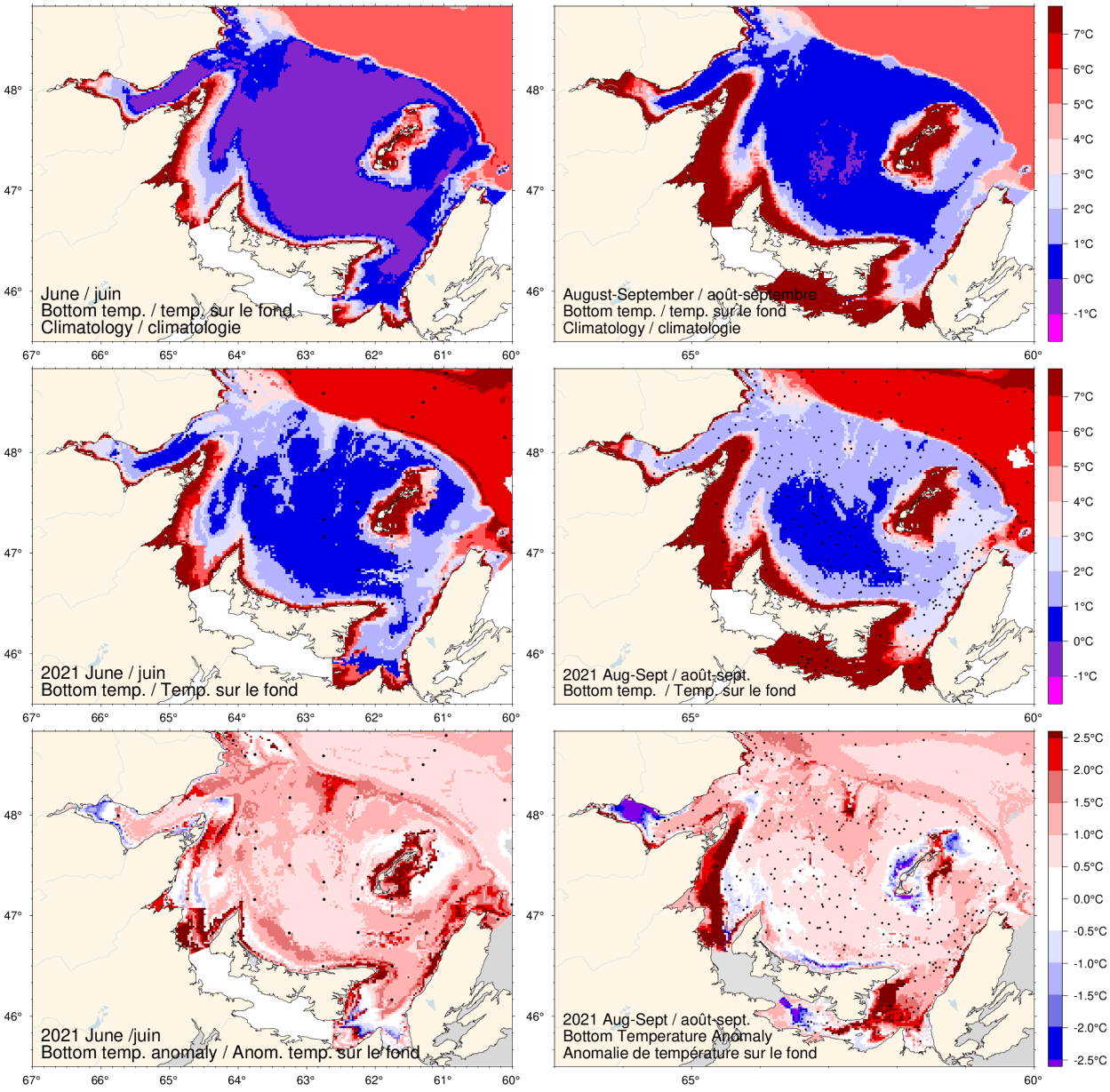

Fig. 41. June (left) and August-September (right) bottom temperature 1991–2020 climatology (top), 2021 observations (middle) and anomaly (bottom) for the Magdalen Shallows.

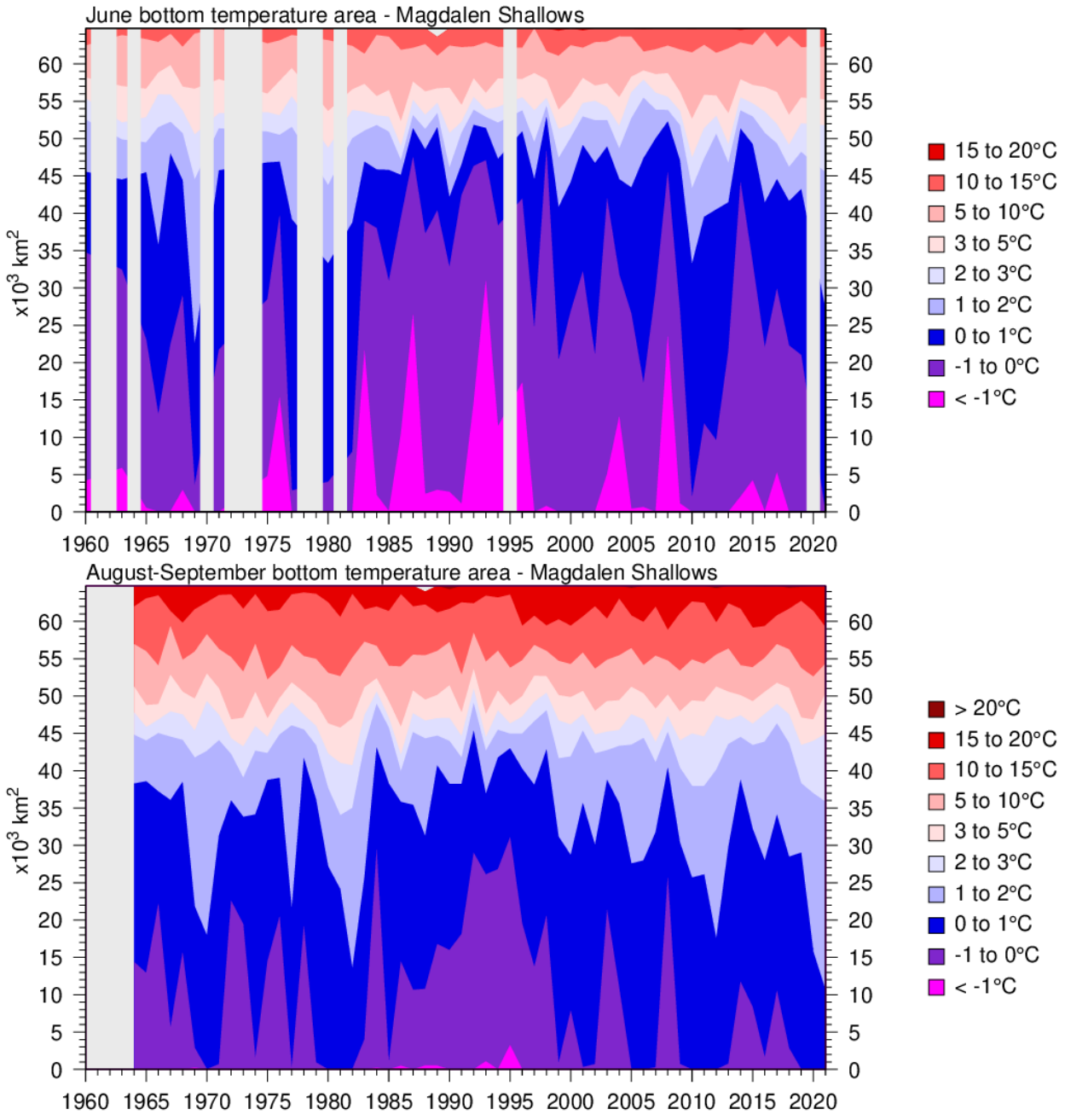

Fig. 42. Time series of the bottom areas covered by different temperature bins in June (top) and August-September (bottom) for the Magdalen Shallows (including Baie des Chaleurs).

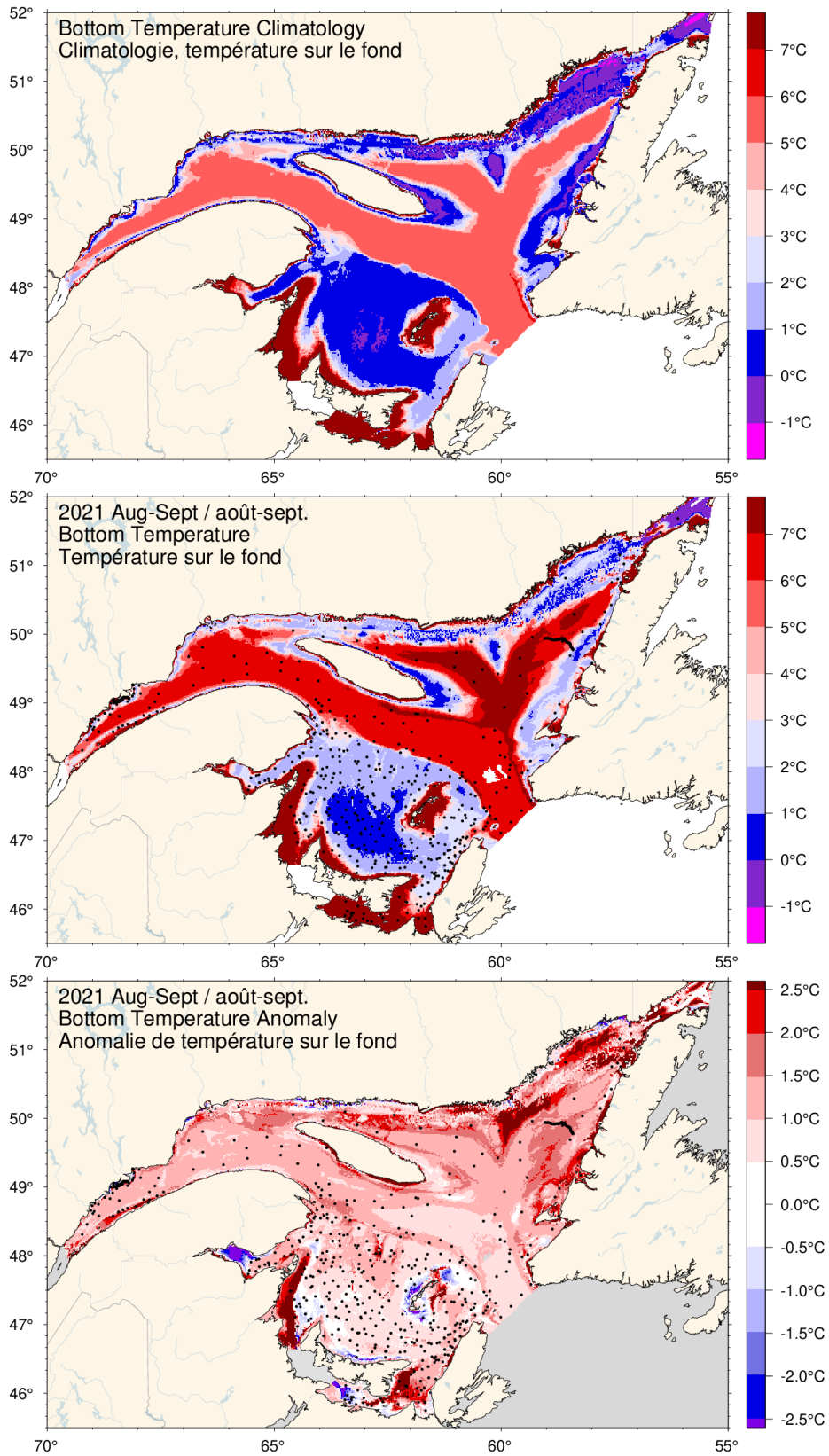

Fig. 43. August-September bottom temperature climatology (top), 2021 observations (middle) and anomaly (bottom).

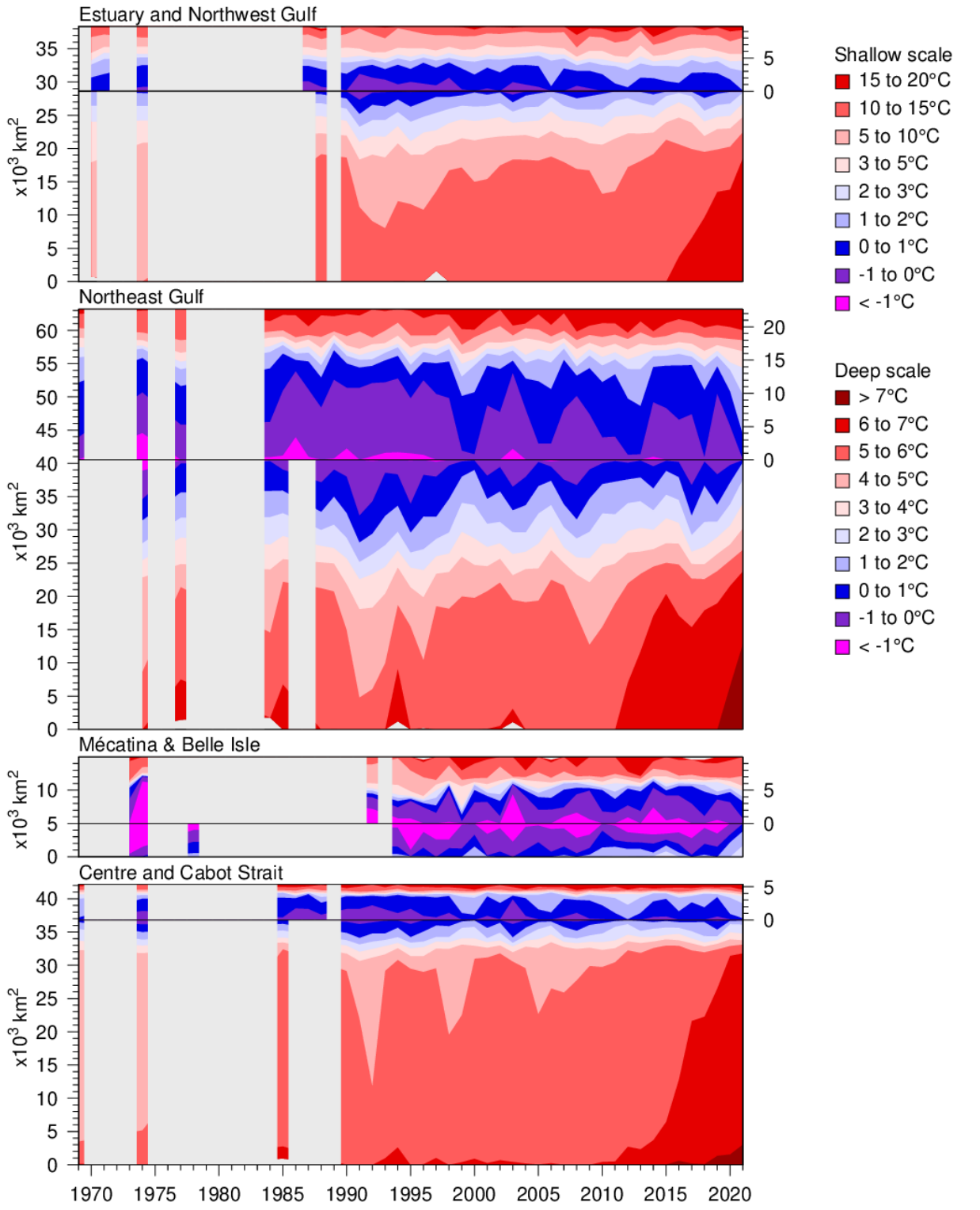

Fig. 44. Time series of the bottom areas covered by different temperature bins in August and September for regions of the northern Gulf. The panels are separated by a black horizontal line into shallow (< 100 m) and deep (> 100 m) areas to distinguish between warmer waters above and below the CIL. The shallow areas are shown on top using the area scale on the right-hand side and have warmer waters shown starting from the top end. The deep areas are shown below the horizontal line and have warmer waters starting at the bottom end. The CIL areas above and below 100 m meet near the horizontal line.

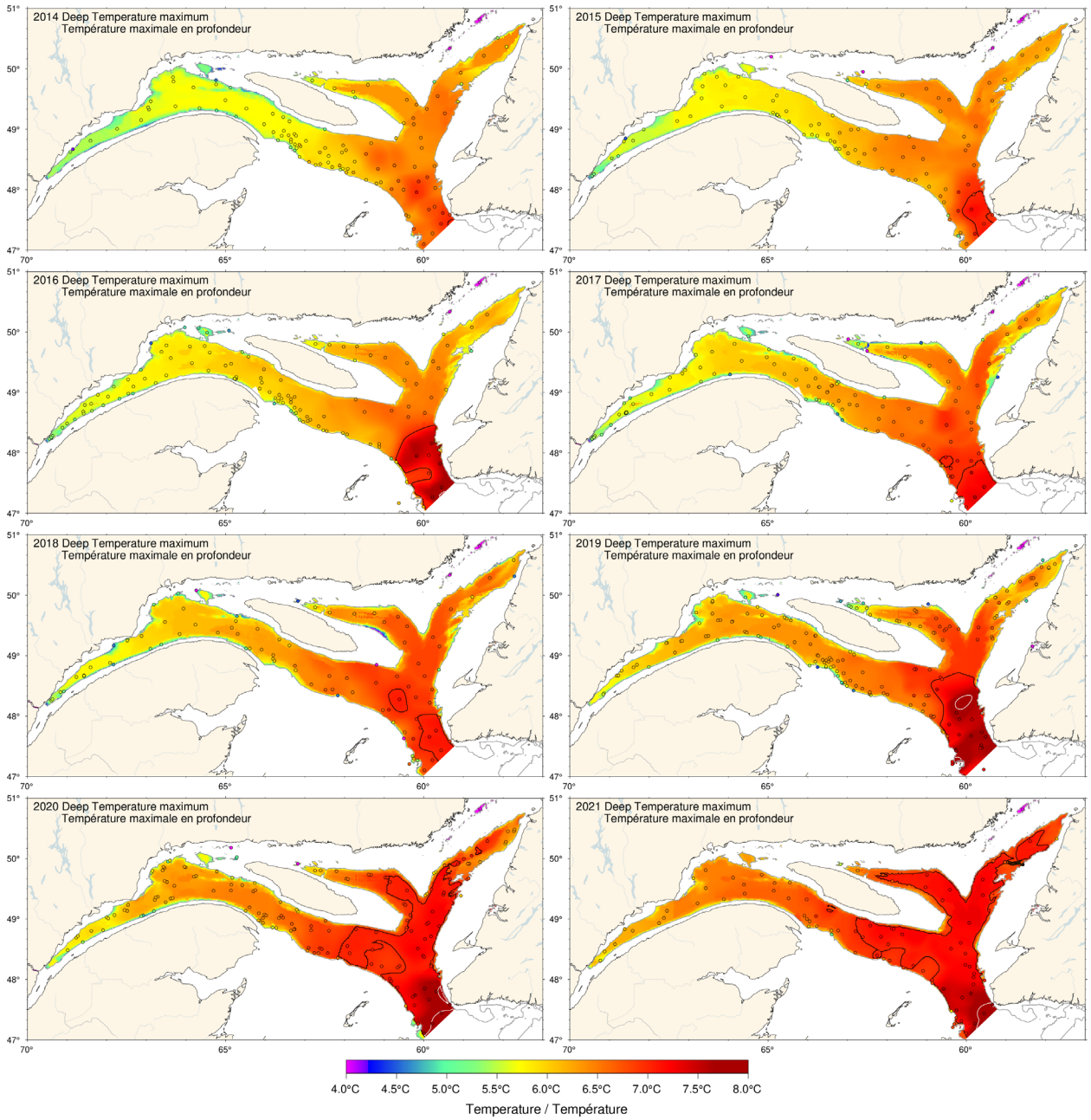

Fig. 45. Map of the deep temperature maximum found typically between 200 m and 300 m, 2014–2021. Maps are interpolated from August-September data available for each year. For 2013, 2017, 2020 and 2021, casts made in Cabot Strait during the fall survey were used to fill August sampling gaps. The black and white contours are for 7 and 8 °C.

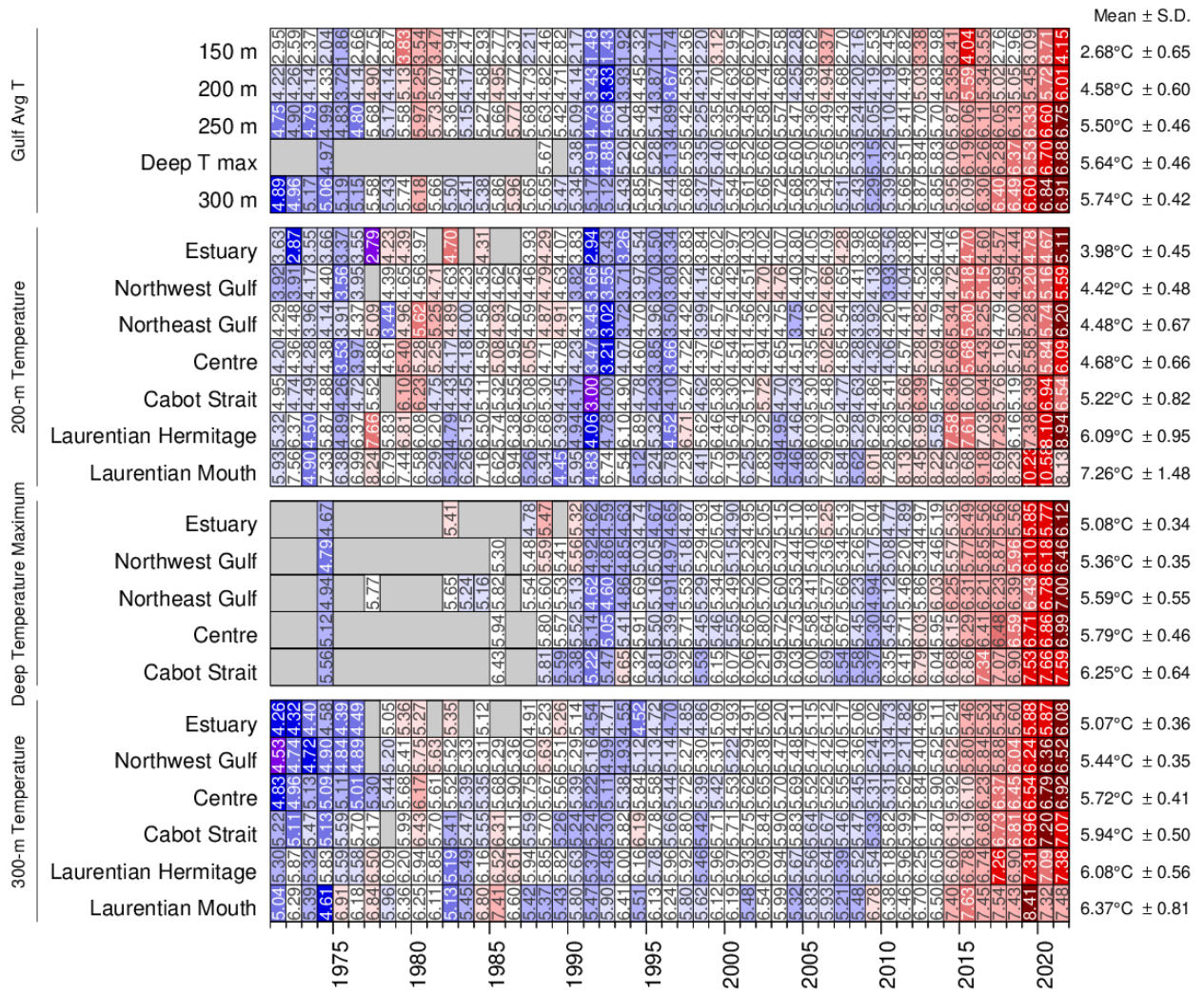

Fig. 46. Deep layer temperature. Gulf averages for temperature are shown for 150, 200, 250, 300 m, as well as for the deep temperature maximum usually found between 200 m and 300 m. Regional averages are shown for 200 m and 300 m, and deep temperature maximum. The numbers on the right are the 1991–2020 climatological means and standard deviations. The numbers in the boxes are average temperatures. The colour-coding is according to the temperature anomaly relative to the 1991–2020 climatology of each region and depth.

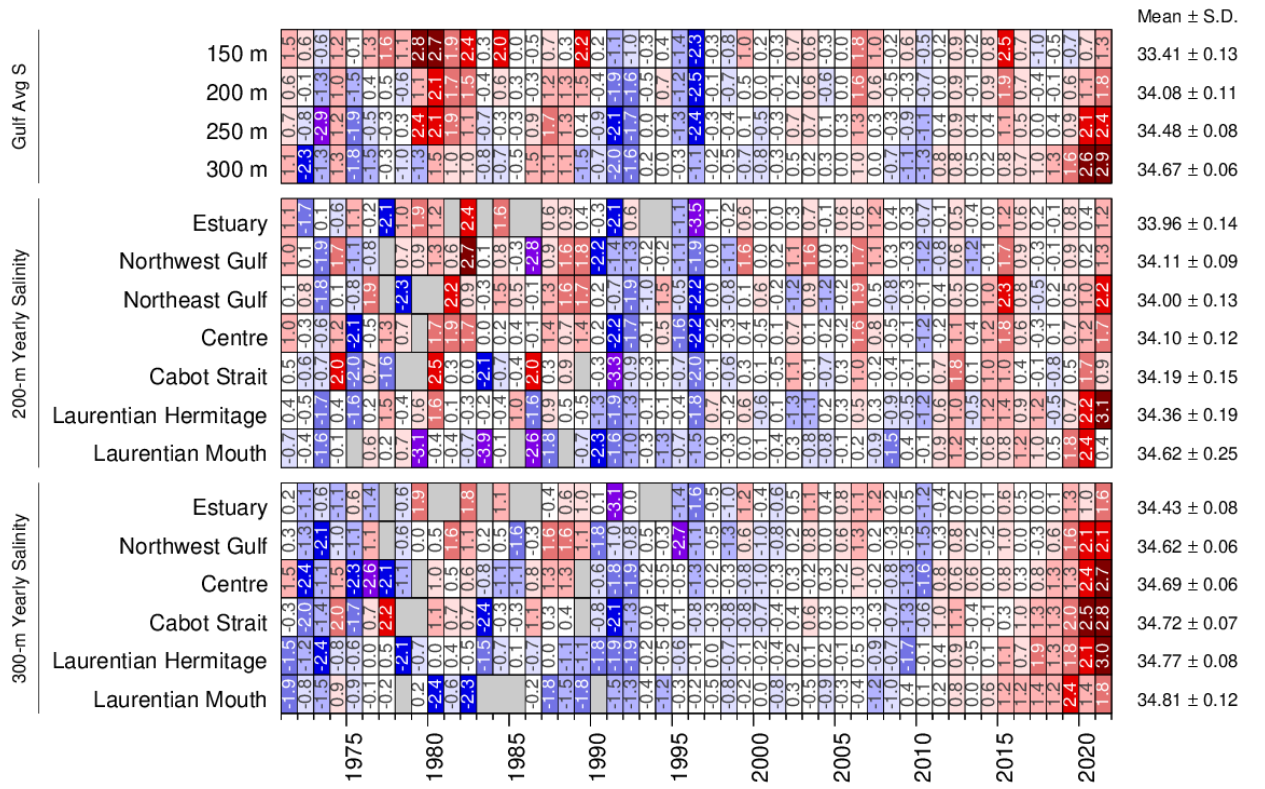

Fig. 47. Deep layer salinity. Gulf averages for salinity are shown for 150, 200, 250, and 300 m. Regional averages are shown for 200 m and 300 m. The numbers on the right are the 1991–2020 climatological means and standard deviations. The numbers in the boxes are normalized anomalies.

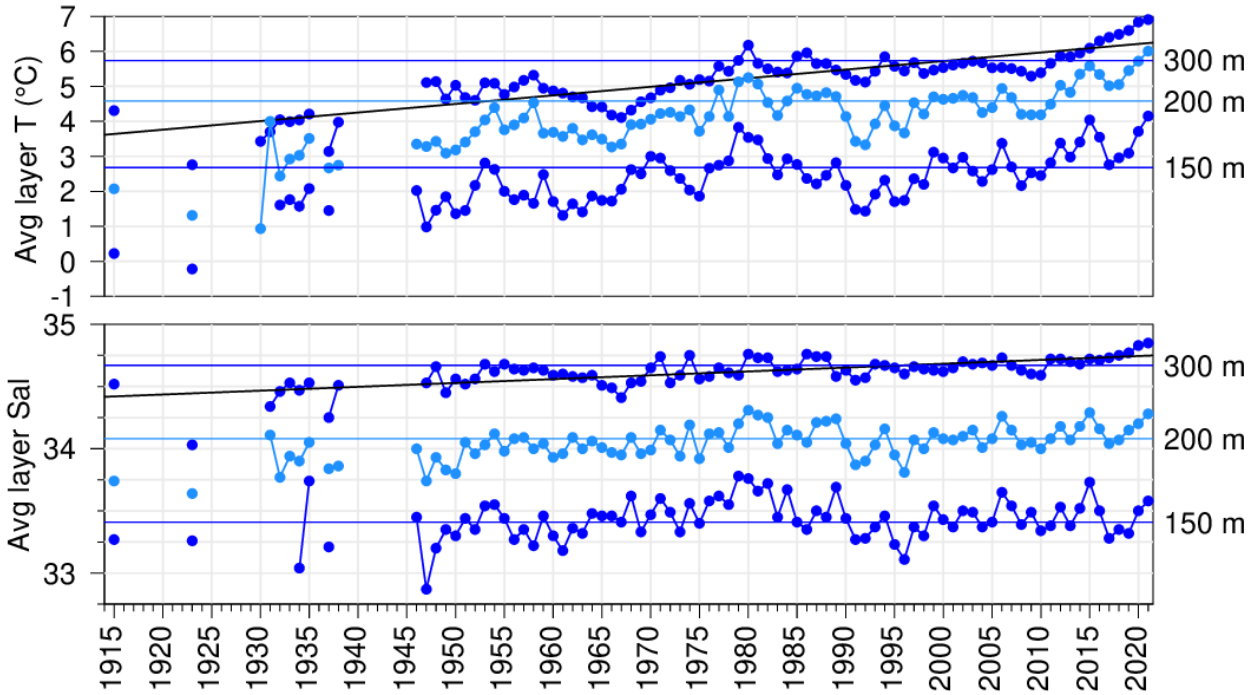

Fig. 48. Layer-averaged temperature and salinity time series for the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The temperature and salinity panels show the 150 m, 200 m, and 300 m annual averages and the horizontal lines are 1991–2020 means. Sloped lines show linear regressions for temperature and salinity at 300 m of respectively 2.4 °C and 0.3 per century.

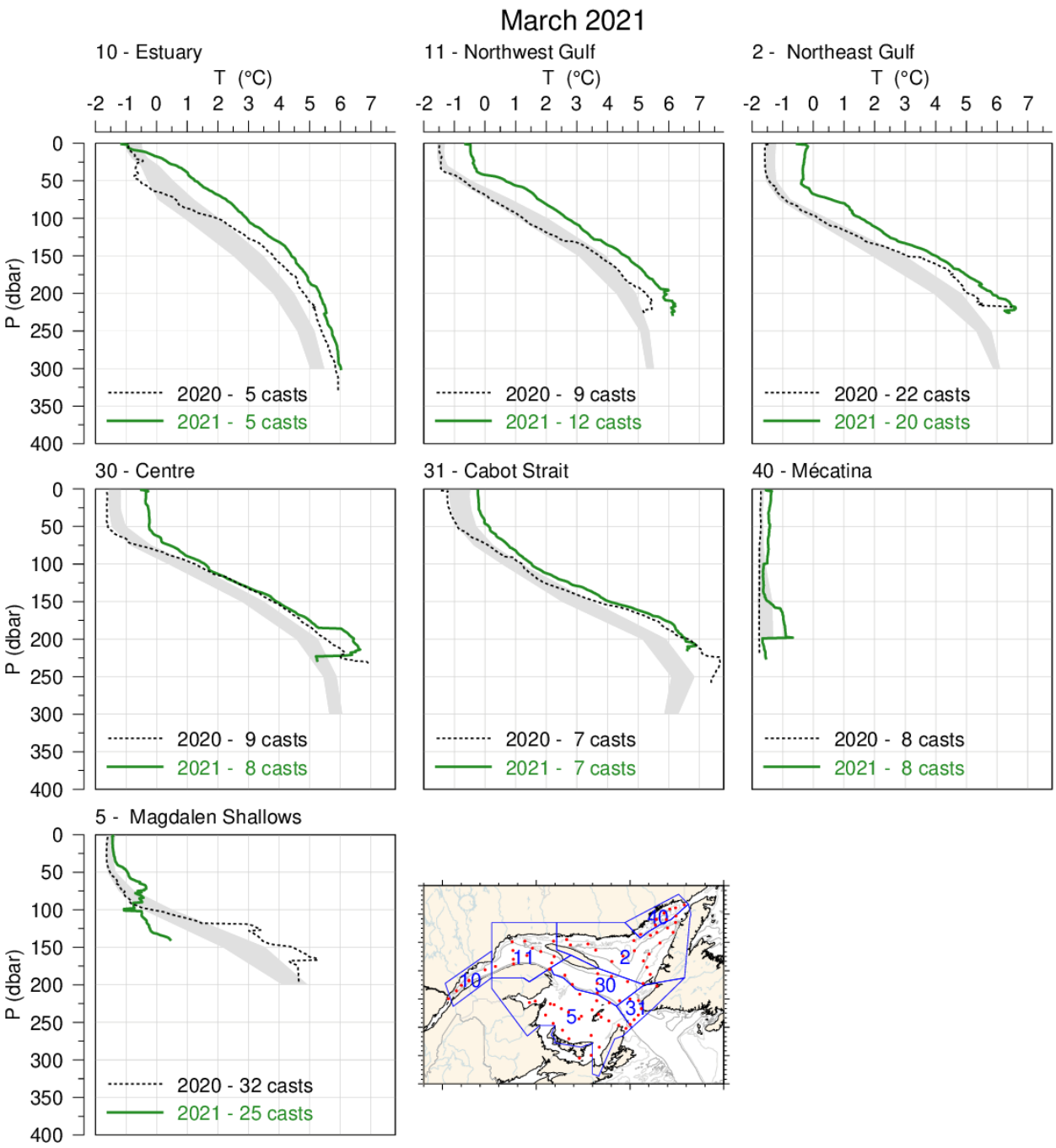

Fig. 49. Mean temperature profiles observed in each region of the Gulf during the March 2021 survey. The shaded area represents the 1991–2020 (but mostly 1996–2020) climatological monthly mean ± 0.5 SD. Mean profiles for 2020 are also shown for comparison.

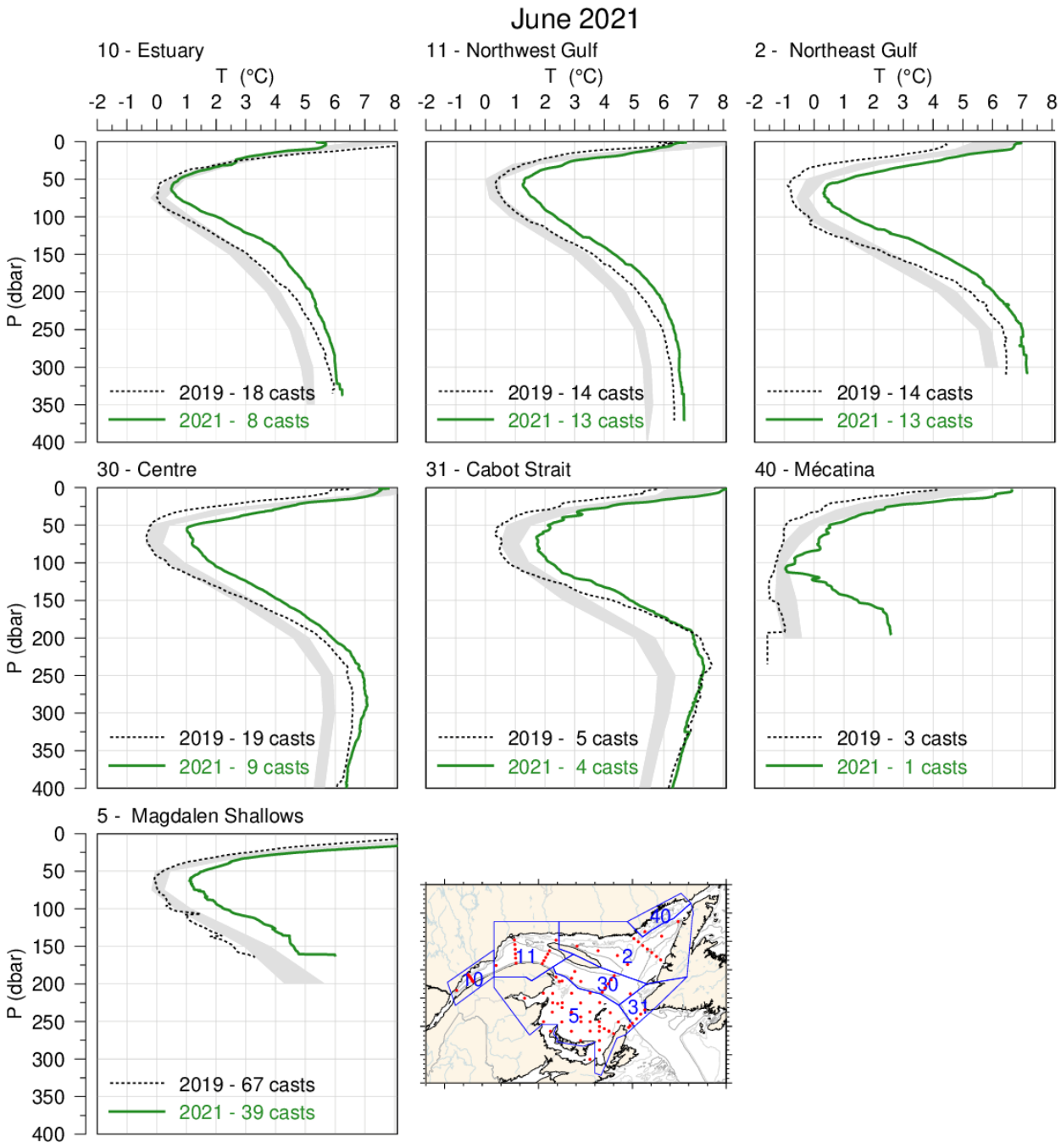

Fig. 50. Mean temperature profiles observed in each region of the Gulf during June 2021. The shaded area represents the 1991–2020 climatological monthly mean ± 0.5 SD. Mean profiles for 2019 are also shown for comparison (no June survey in 2020).

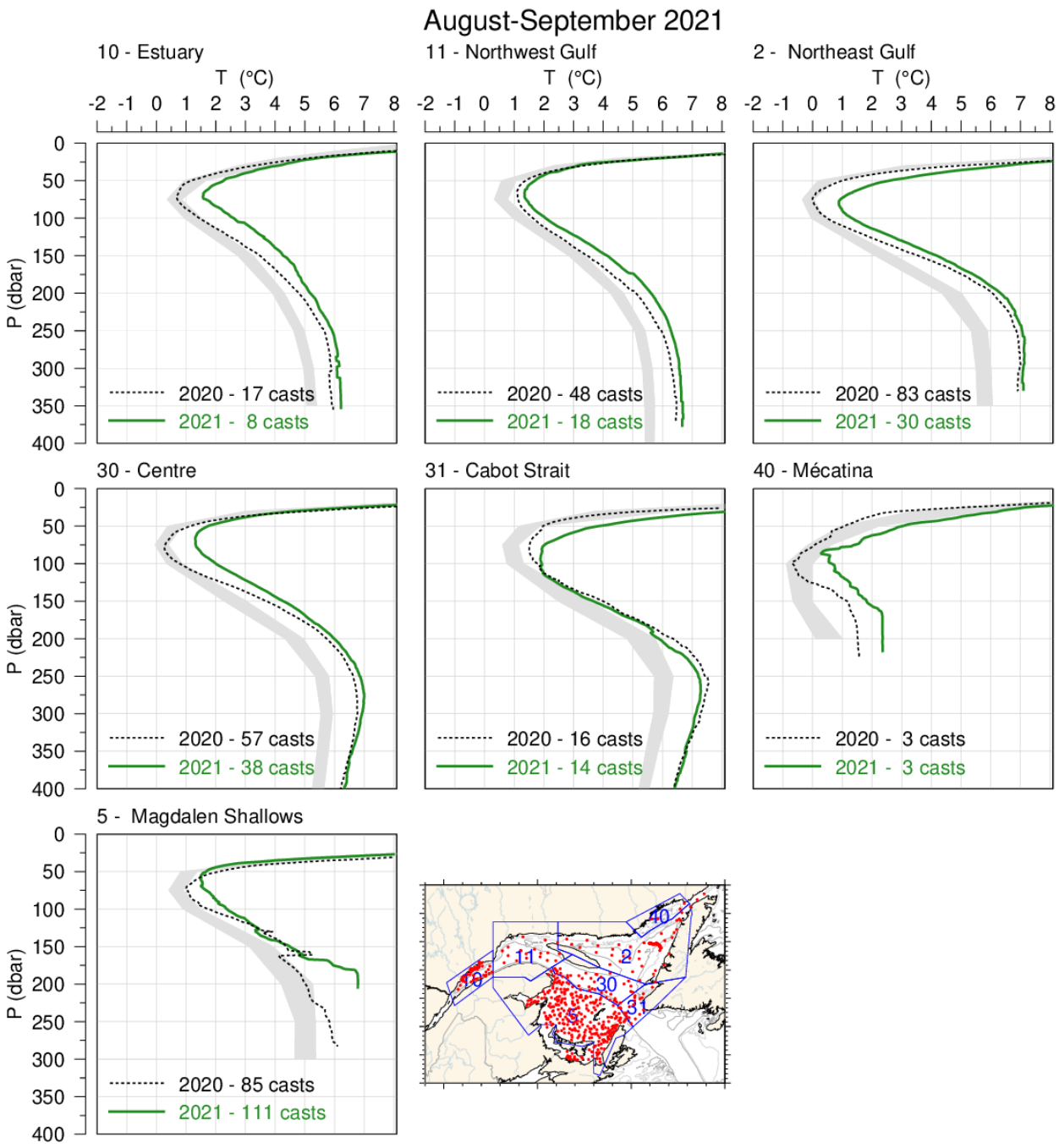

Fig. 51. Mean temperature profiles observed in each region of the Gulf during August and September 2021. The shaded area represents the 1991–2020 climatological monthly mean ± 0.5 SD for August for all regions except the Magdalen Shallows for which September is shown. Mean profiles for 2020 are also shown for comparison.

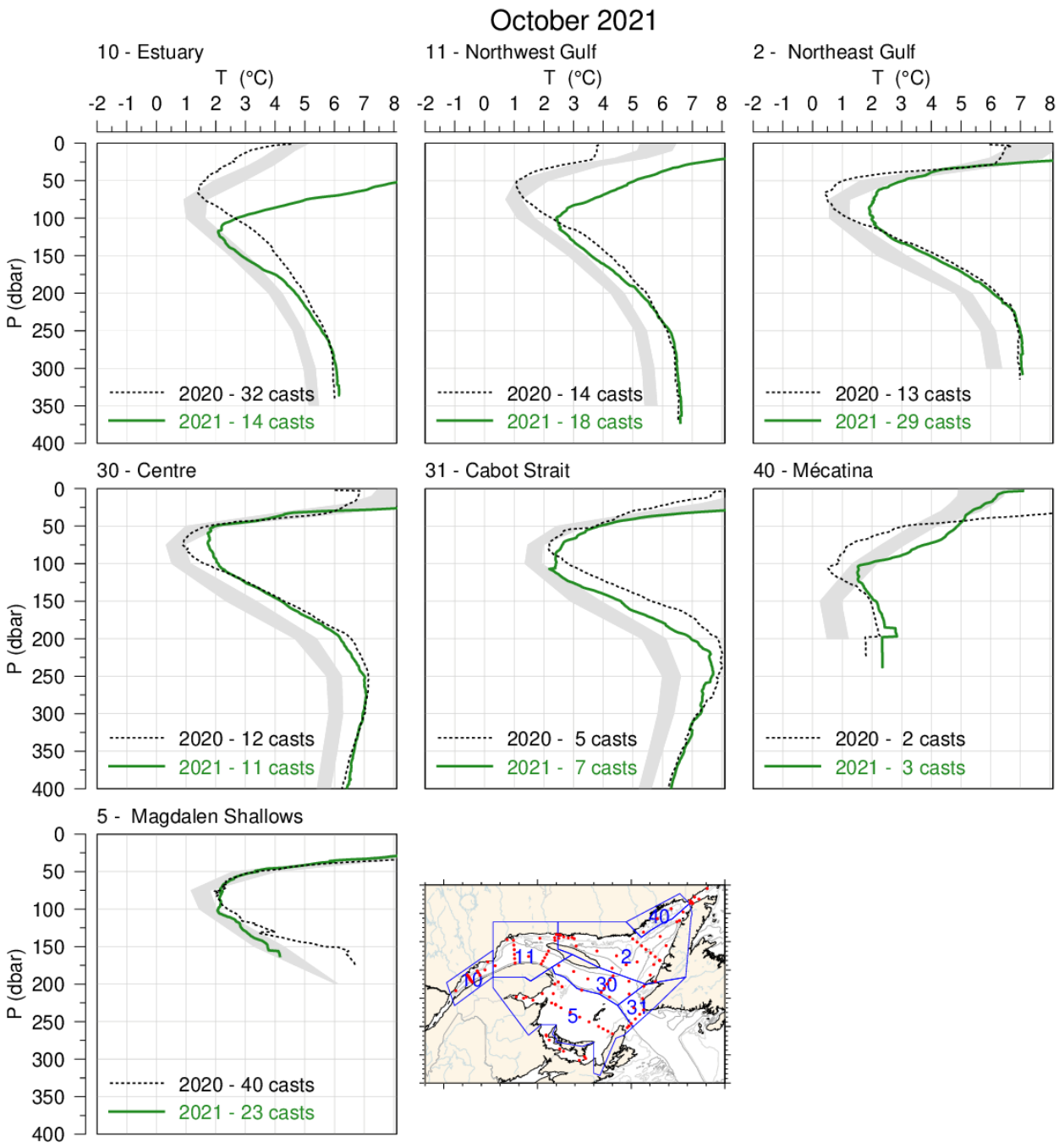

Fig. 52. Mean temperature profiles observed in each region of the Gulf during the October 2021 AZMP survey. The shaded area represents the 1991–2020 climatological monthly mean ± 0.5 SD. Mean profiles for 2010 are also shown for comparison.

Estuary

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Aug	Oct	Mar	June	Aug	Oct
0 m	-0.77	12.6	4.0	-0.95	5.7	10.1	9.1
10 m	-0.71	8.0	3.2	-0.61	5.1	6.0	9.2
20 m	-0.42	5.0	2.8	0.2	3.1	4.4	9.6
30 m	-0.43	3.3	2.4	0.6	2.5	3.9	9.4
50 m	-0.20	1.1	1.7	1.3	0.8	2.3	8.4
75 m	0.9	0.6	1.5	2.3	0.7	1.6	5.0
100 m	2.1	1.4	2.6	2.9	2.0	2.6	2.7
150 m	3.8	3.5	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.3	2.9
200 m	4.81	4.79	5.00	5.33	5.15	5.19	4.69
250 m	5.38	5.60	5.63	5.72	5.68	5.92	5.57
300 m	5.77	5.89	5.96	5.98	6.01	6.14	6.05
350 m	5.93	5.90	5.98		6.24	6.22	6.16

Northwest Gulf

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Aug	Oct	Mar	June	Aug	Oct
0 m	-1.49	15.7	3.8	-0.48	6.5	15.1	9.5
10 m	-1.50	12.5	3.8	-0.47	5.7	10.8	9.5
20 m	-1.43	5.7	3.7	-0.39	4.1	5.8	8.1
30 m	-1.43	3.3	2.5	-0.34	2.7	3.1	6.4
50 m	-0.71	1.4	1.1	0.7	1.3	1.7	5.0
75 m	0.2	1.1	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.4	3.6
100 m	1.2	1.6	2.3	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.5
150 m	3.7	3.4	4.2	4.6	4.3	4.1	3.6
200 m	5.12	5.00	5.38	5.73	5.75	5.61	5.25
250 m		5.91	6.15		6.33	6.29	6.24
300 m		6.27	6.46		6.52	6.53	6.51
350 m		6.42	6.48		6.61	6.63	6.59
400 m						6.66	

Northeast Gulf

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Aug	Oct	Mar	June	Aug	Oct
0 m	-1.58	16.2	7.1	-0.17	6.8	16.6	10.2
10 m	-1.59	15.9	7.0	-0.25	6.6	15.9	10.1
20 m	-1.58	10.4	6.8	-0.29	4.8	10.4	9.3
30 m	-1.58	5.2	6.3	-0.33	3.5	7.1	4.9
50 m	-1.45	1.0	1.9	-0.33	1.1	2.7	2.9
75 m	-0.93	0.0	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.9	2.0
100 m	0.1	0.5	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.4	2.0
150 m	3.1	3.4	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.0
200 m	5.07	5.93	6.22	5.75	6.04	6.31	6.08
250 m		6.82	6.93		6.94	7.03	6.97

Mécatina

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Aug	Oct	Mar	June	Aug	Oct
0 m	-1.71	13.6	9.0	-1.36	6.7	12.9	6.5
10 m	-1.72	13.1	9.0	-1.39	6.1	12.1	6.2
20 m	-1.72	9.2	8.8	-1.41	3.8	8.4	5.8
30 m	-1.73	4.0	8.3	-1.45	2.2	6.0	5.4
50 m	-1.72	1.7	3.1	-1.42	0.5	3.0	4.9
75 m	-1.75	0.3	1.2	-1.48	0.1	1.4	3.7
100 m	-1.76	-0.3	0.8	-1.50	-0.7	0.7	1.8
150 m	-1.76	0.3	2.0	-1.47	1.4	1.8	2.1
200 m	-1.77	1.52	2.27	-0.90	2.58	2.36	2.83

Centre

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Sep	Oct	Mar	June	Aug	Oct
0 m	-1.62	12.9	6.8	-0.34	7.6	17.7	11.7
10 m	-1.61	12.7	6.8	-0.35	7.2	17.2	11.6
20 m	-1.62	10.7	6.5	-0.34	5.1	8.6	11.1
30 m	-1.62	5.7	6.0	-0.26	3.9	4.5	5.5
50 m	-1.59	1.1	1.7	-0.24	1.3	1.6	2.0
75 m	-0.62	0.4	0.9	0.4	1.2	1.2	1.8
100 m	1.2	0.9	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.1
150 m	3.8	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.2
200 m	5.52	5.92	6.56	6.41	5.90	6.06	6.20
250 m		6.74	7.14		6.91	6.84	7.01
300 m		6.84	6.97		6.98	6.97	6.94
350 m		6.56	6.61		6.60	6.67	6.69
400 m		6.27	6.33		6.38	6.45	6.51
450 m		6.17	6.18		6.25		6.21

Cabot Strait

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Sep	Oct	Mar	June	Jul	Oct
0 m	-1.23	14.6	7.9	-0.24	8.2	15.3	12.6
10 m	-1.23	14.4	7.6	-0.22	7.4	15.0	12.5
20 m	-1.21	11.1	6.3	-0.20	5.1	12.1	11.9
30 m	-1.14	5.7	5.3	-0.17	3.3	8.6	7.6
50 m	-0.90	2.0	3.9	0.1	2.1	3.8	3.8
75 m	0.1	1.5	2.3	0.8	1.8	2.1	2.6
100 m	0.9	1.8	2.8	1.5	2.2	1.9	2.4
150 m	3.6	4.0	5.5	4.1	4.9	3.8	4.6
200 m	6.62	6.36	7.83	6.48	6.99	6.03	6.96
250 m	7.45	7.43	7.82		7.29	7.24	7.66
300 m		7.26	7.14		6.87	7.20	7.27
350 m		6.77	6.59		6.63	6.80	6.73
400 m		6.37	6.17		6.28	6.44	6.28
450 m		6.15	6.10		6.17	6.23	6.17

Magdalen Shallows

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Sep	Oct	Mar	June	Sep	Oct
0 m	-1.60	13.1	12.1	-1.44	10.5	15.5	12.6
10 m	-1.62	12.9	11.8	-1.44	9.7	15.2	12.3
20 m	-1.64	11.8	11.2	-1.43	6.6	12.1	11.2
30 m	-1.63	8.3	9.2	-1.38	3.5	6.7	7.8
50 m	-1.53	2.1	3.5	-0.99	1.6	1.9	3.1
75 m	-1.12	0.9	2.2	-0.32	1.2	1.8	2.1
100 m	-0.34	1.4	2.4	-0.43	2.3	2.5	2.1
150 m	4.4	3.9	5.8	0.5	4.6	4.2	3.7

Fig. 53. Depth-layer monthly average temperature summary for months during which the Gulf-wide oceanographic surveys took place in 2020 and 2021; there was no survey in June 2020 due to COVID 19. The colour-coding is according to the temperature anomaly relative to the monthly 1991–2020 climatology of each region.

Estuary

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Aug	Oct	Mar	June	Aug	Oct
Strat.	1.57	9.8	2.9	2.47	2.9	5.1	1.5
0 m	29.1	20.9	28.5	28.8	28.4	26.2	28.8
10 m	29.2	28.7	29.6	29.2	28.9	29.5	29.0
20 m	29.7	30.6	30.5	29.9	29.7	30.2	29.7
30 m	30.4	30.7	31.1	30.4	30.4	30.5	30.0
50 m	31.1	31.7	31.9	31.9	31.6	31.5	30.6
75 m	32.0	32.3	32.6	32.8	32.1	32.3	31.3
100 m	32.9	32.8	33.1	33.2	32.8	33.0	31.9
150 m	33.6	33.6	33.8	33.9	33.7	33.8	33.1
200 m	34.03	34.09	34.14	34.26	34.14	34.14	33.93
250 m	34.27	34.41	34.41	34.44	34.38	34.48	34.32
300 m	34.47	34.52	34.55	34.55	34.53	34.58	34.53
350 m	34.55	34.53	34.56		34.63	34.63	34.58

Northwest Gulf

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Aug	Oct	Mar	June	Aug	Oct
Strat.	0.97	4.8	1.7	0.50	2.6	3.9	1.9
0 m	30.7	28.5	30.3	31.5	29.2	29.3	29.8
10 m	30.8	29.1	30.4	31.5	29.8	29.9	29.9
20 m	31.2	30.7	30.7	31.6	30.4	30.7	30.6
30 m	31.4	31.4	31.4	31.7	31.1	31.3	31.0
50 m	31.9	32.0	32.2	32.2	32.0	31.9	31.4
75 m	32.2	32.5	32.7	32.7	32.5	32.3	31.9
100 m	32.7	32.8	33.0	33.1	32.9	32.8	32.5
150 m	33.6	33.4	33.8	33.8	33.7	33.6	33.4
200 m	34.12	34.05	34.23	34.29	34.31	34.24	34.09
250 m		34.55	34.58		34.60	34.59	34.57
300 m		34.71	34.79		34.75	34.76	34.74
350 m		34.81	34.85		34.84	34.85	34.81
400 m						34.89	

Northeast Gulf

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Aug	Oct	Mar	June	Aug	Oct
Strat.	0.08	3.4	1.2	0.06	1.2	3.4	1.8
0 m	31.8	30.3	31.0	31.7	31.0	30.2	30.7
10 m	31.8	30.4	31.0	31.7	31.1	30.4	30.8
20 m	31.8	30.8	31.1	31.7	31.3	30.8	30.9
30 m	31.8	31.3	31.2	31.7	31.5	31.2	31.5
50 m	31.9	31.8	31.9	31.8	31.9	31.7	31.8
75 m	32.1	32.2	32.2	32.2	32.2	32.1	32.1
100 m	32.4	32.5	32.7	32.6	32.6	32.5	32.5
150 m	33.3	33.4	33.7	33.5	33.6	33.6	33.5
200 m	33.92	34.13	34.35	34.14	34.24	34.33	34.24
250 m		34.68	34.71		34.69	34.71	34.66

Mécatina

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Aug	Oct	Mar	June	Aug	Oct
Strat.	0.24	2.8	1.5	0.14	2.9	2.4	0.5
0 m	31.9	30.3	30.7	32.0	28.9	30.3	31.2
10 m	31.8	30.7	30.7	32.0	31.2	30.4	31.2
20 m	31.9	31.0	30.7	32.1	31.6	30.9	31.3
30 m	31.9	31.4	30.9	32.1	31.6	31.1	31.4
50 m	32.1	31.8	31.7	32.2	31.9	31.6	31.6
75 m	32.4	32.0	32.1	32.2	32.1	31.9	31.8
100 m	32.4	32.1	32.3	32.3	32.2	32.2	32.2
150 m	32.4	32.6	33.0	32.4	32.8	32.8	32.8
200 m	32.48	32.87	33.05	32.48	33.11	32.94	33.05

Centre

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Sep	Oct	Mar	June	Aug	Oct
Strat.	0.17	3.0	1.5	0.11	1.4	4.0	2.3
0 m	31.5	29.9	30.7	31.6	30.8	30.0	30.6
10 m	31.5	29.9	30.7	31.6	31.0	30.0	30.6
20 m	31.6	30.2	30.8	31.6	31.1	30.8	30.7
30 m	31.6	30.7	31.0	31.6	31.3	31.4	31.5
50 m	31.7	31.8	31.9	31.7	31.8	31.9	32.0
75 m	32.1	32.2	32.4	32.0	32.3	32.4	32.4
100 m	32.6	32.5	32.8	32.5	32.7	32.7	32.7
150 m	33.6	33.5	33.6	33.5	33.6	33.6	33.6
200 m	34.15	34.27	34.40	34.40	34.22	34.30	34.30
250 m		34.67	34.77		34.69	34.70	34.71
300 m		34.86	34.89		34.86	34.89	34.86
350 m		34.96	34.96		34.96	34.97	34.95
400 m		34.98	34.97		34.98	34.98	34.96
450 m		34.99	34.98		34.99		34.99

Cabot Strait

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Sep	Oct	Mar	June	Jul	Oct
Strat.	0.16	2.9	1.1	0.11	1.5	2.9	2.0
0 m	31.4	30.7	31.4	31.3	30.6	30.4	31.2
10 m	31.5	30.7	31.4	31.3	30.7	30.5	31.3
20 m	31.5	31.0	31.7	31.3	30.8	30.9	31.3
30 m	31.5	31.6	31.9	31.3	31.1	31.3	31.7
50 m	31.7	32.1	32.1	31.4	31.6	31.8	32.1
75 m	32.0	32.3	32.6	31.8	32.2	32.1	32.4
100 m	32.4	32.6	33.0	32.3	32.7	32.5	32.7
150 m	33.4	33.4	33.8	33.5	33.8	33.3	33.6
200 m	34.42	34.26	34.63	34.37	34.52	34.14	34.41
250 m	34.94	34.79	34.87		34.82	34.67	34.81
300 m		34.88	34.93		34.90	34.91	34.96
350 m		34.95	34.97		34.95	34.99	34.99
400 m		34.98	34.98		34.98	35.01	34.99
450 m		34.99	34.99		34.99	35.00	34.99

Magdalen Shallows

	2020		2021			
	Mar	Sep	Oct	Mar	June	Sep	Oct
Strat.	0.29	3.4	3.0	0.37	2.5	3.8	3.1
0 m	30.6	28.8	29.2	30.4	29.3	29.2	29.0
10 m	30.6	28.9	29.3	30.4	29.5	29.2	29.3
20 m	30.7	29.1	29.5	30.5	30.0	29.7	29.6
30 m	30.8	29.8	29.9	30.6	30.5	30.4	30.3
50 m	31.0	31.3	31.5	30.9	31.2	31.5	31.4
75 m	31.3	32.0	32.1	31.2	32.1	32.2	32.1
100 m	31.9	32.6	32.7	31.4	32.7	32.7	32.5
150 m	33.8	33.7	34.1	32.2	33.7	33.6	33.4

Fig. 54. Depth-layer monthly average stratification and salinity summary for months of the Gulf-wide oceanographic surveys in 2020 and 2021. Stratification is defined as the density difference between 50 m and the surface and its colour-coding is reversed (blue for positive anomaly because usually associated with low surface salinity).

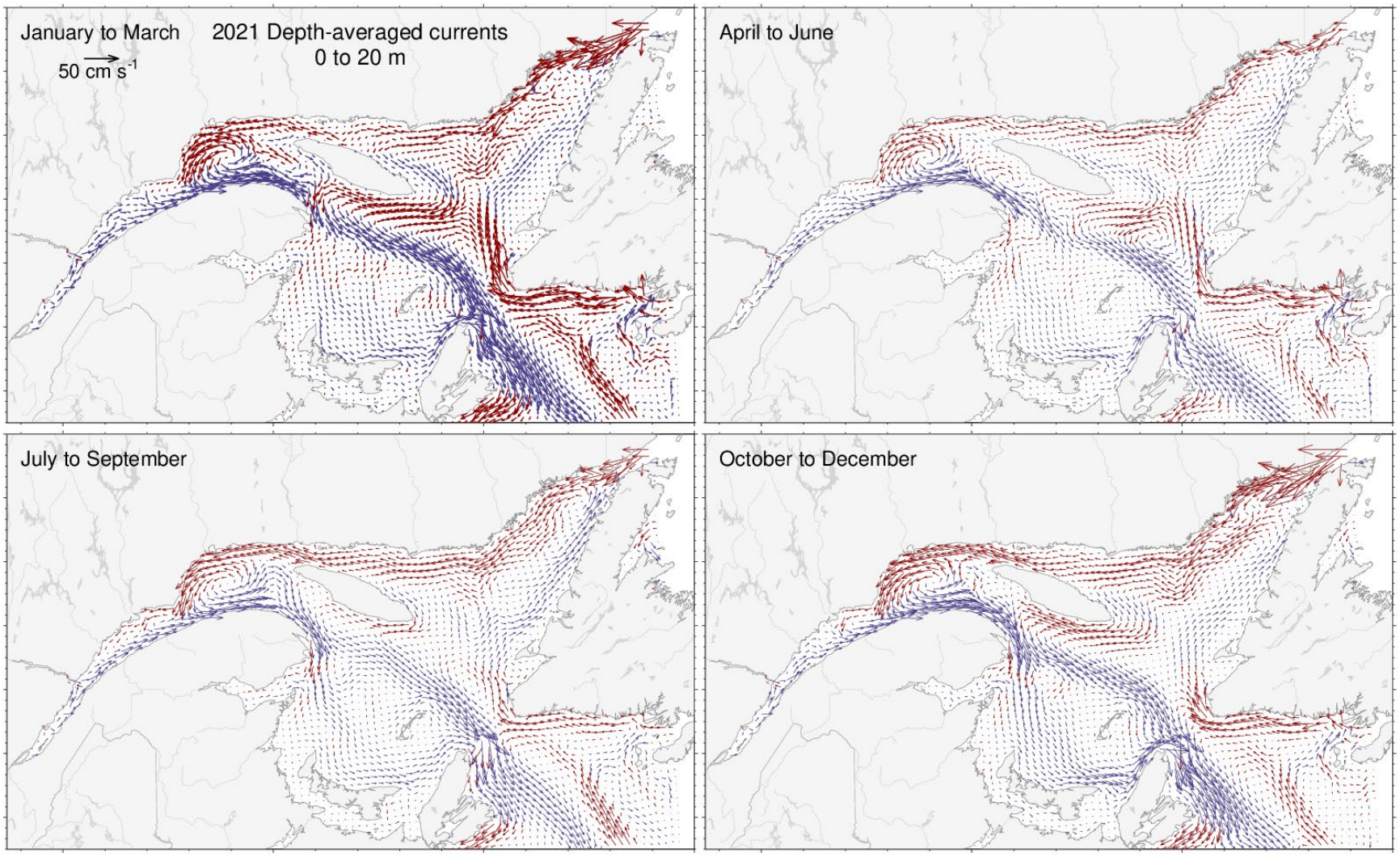

Fig. 55. Depth-averaged currents from 0 m to 20 m for each three-month period of 2021. Vectors drawn in blue are towards the East and those drawn in red are towards the West.

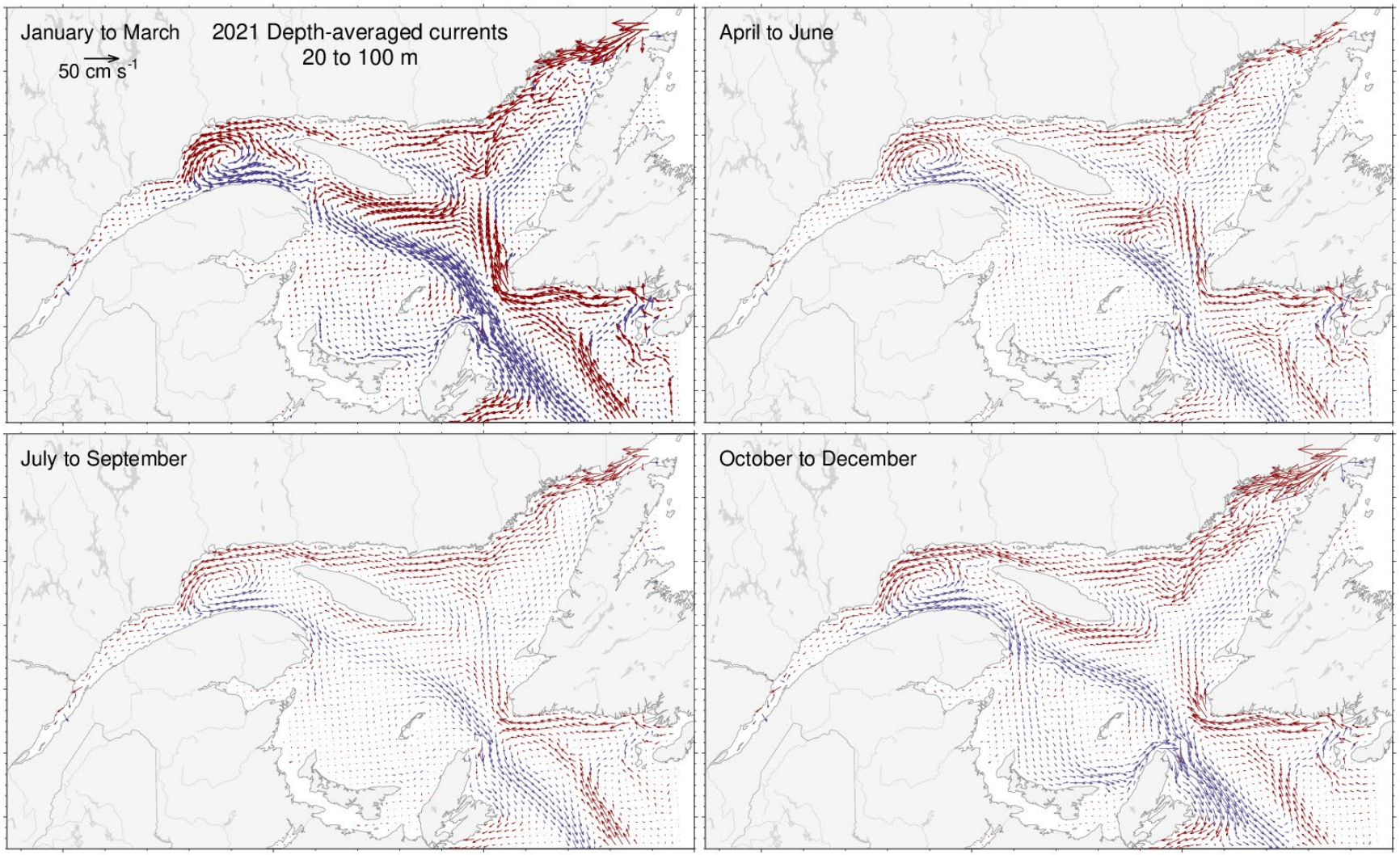

Fig. 56. Depth-averaged currents from 20 m to 100 m for each three-month period of 2021. Vectors drawn in blue are towards the East and those drawn in red are towards the West.

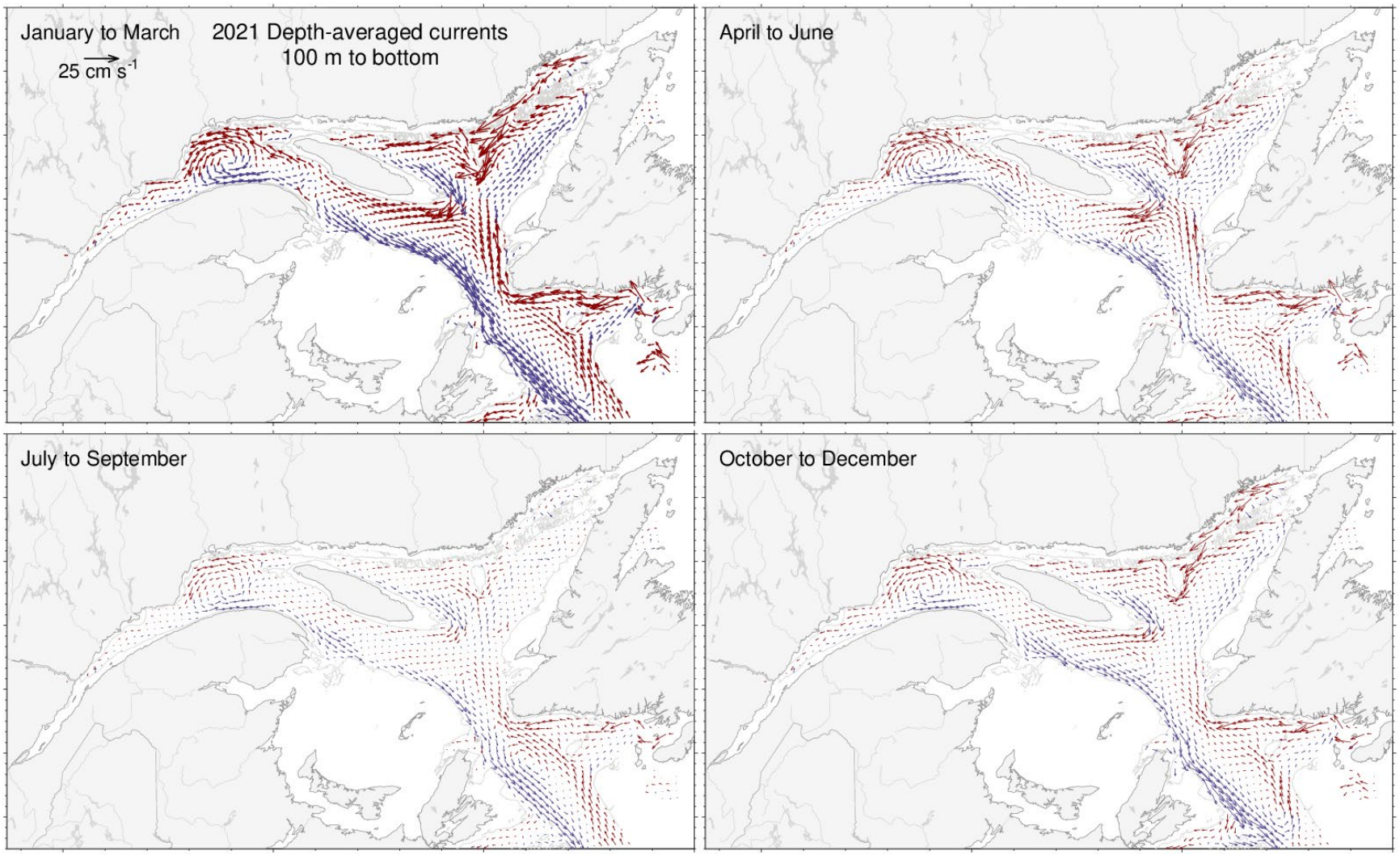

Fig. 57. Depth-averaged currents from 100 m to the bottom for each three-month period of 2021. Vectors drawn in blue are towards the East and those drawn in red are towards the West.

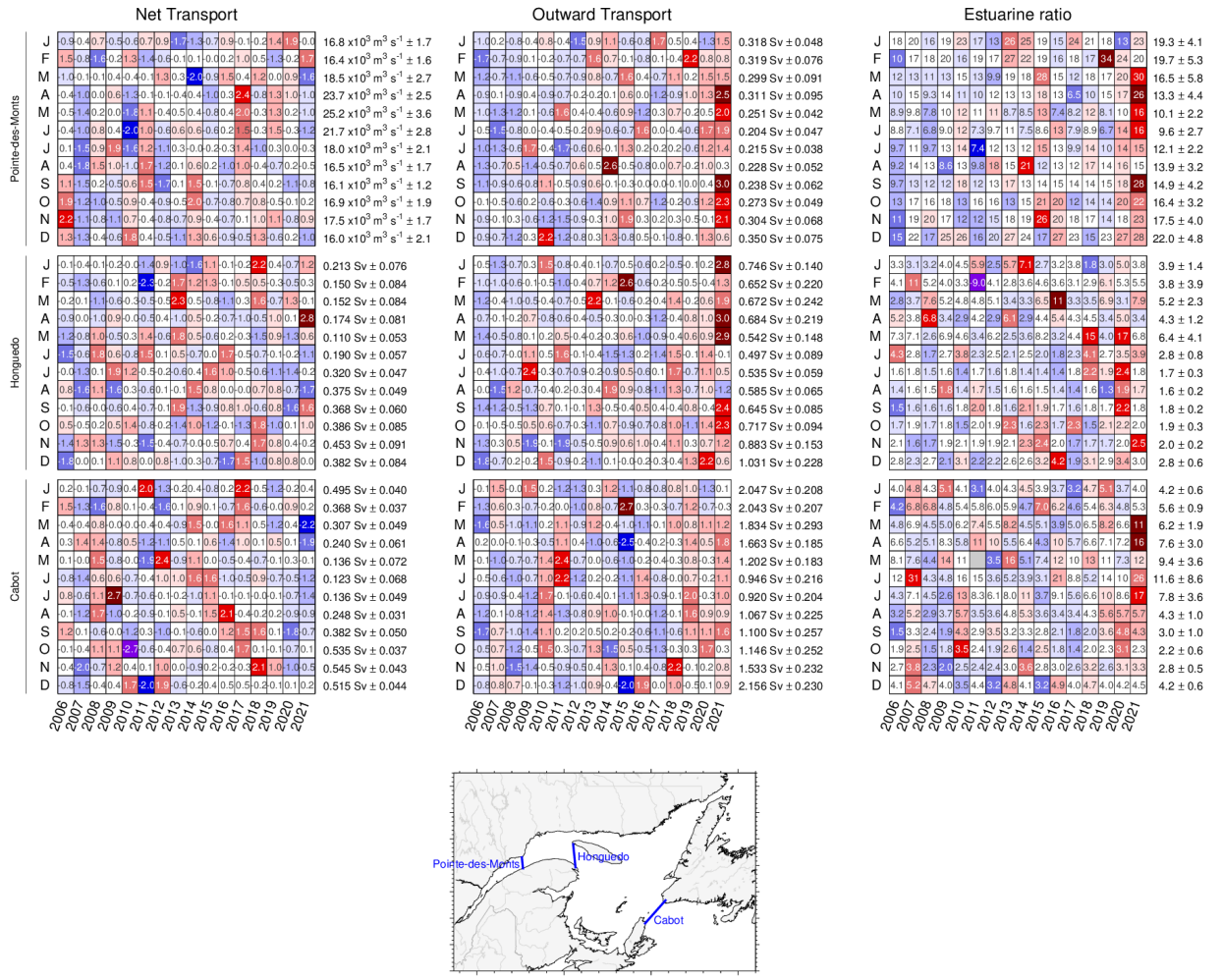

Fig. 58. Monthly averaged modelled transports and estuarine ratio across sections of the Gulf of St. Lawrence since 2006. The numbers on the right are the 2006–2020 means and standard deviations. The numbers in the boxes are normalized anomalies for transport panels, but ratio values are indicated in the right panel. Colours indicate the magnitude of the anomaly. Sv (Sverdrup) are units of transport equal to 10^6 m^3s^{-1}.

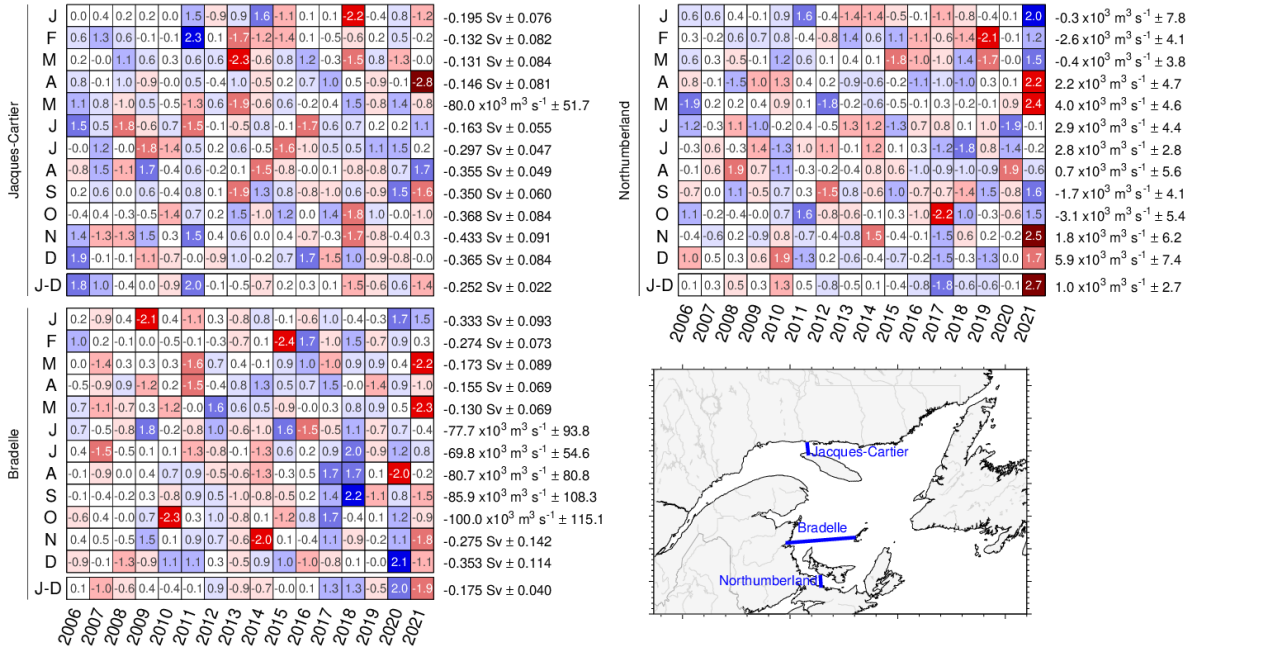

Fig. 59. Monthly and annual averaged modelled transports across sections of the Gulf of St. Lawrence since 2006. The numbers on the right are the 2006–2021 means and standard deviations, with positive values towards east and north. The numbers in the boxes are normalized anomalies. Colours indicate the magnitude of the anomaly (e.g., negative anomalies are still shown in red when the mean transport is negative across the section).

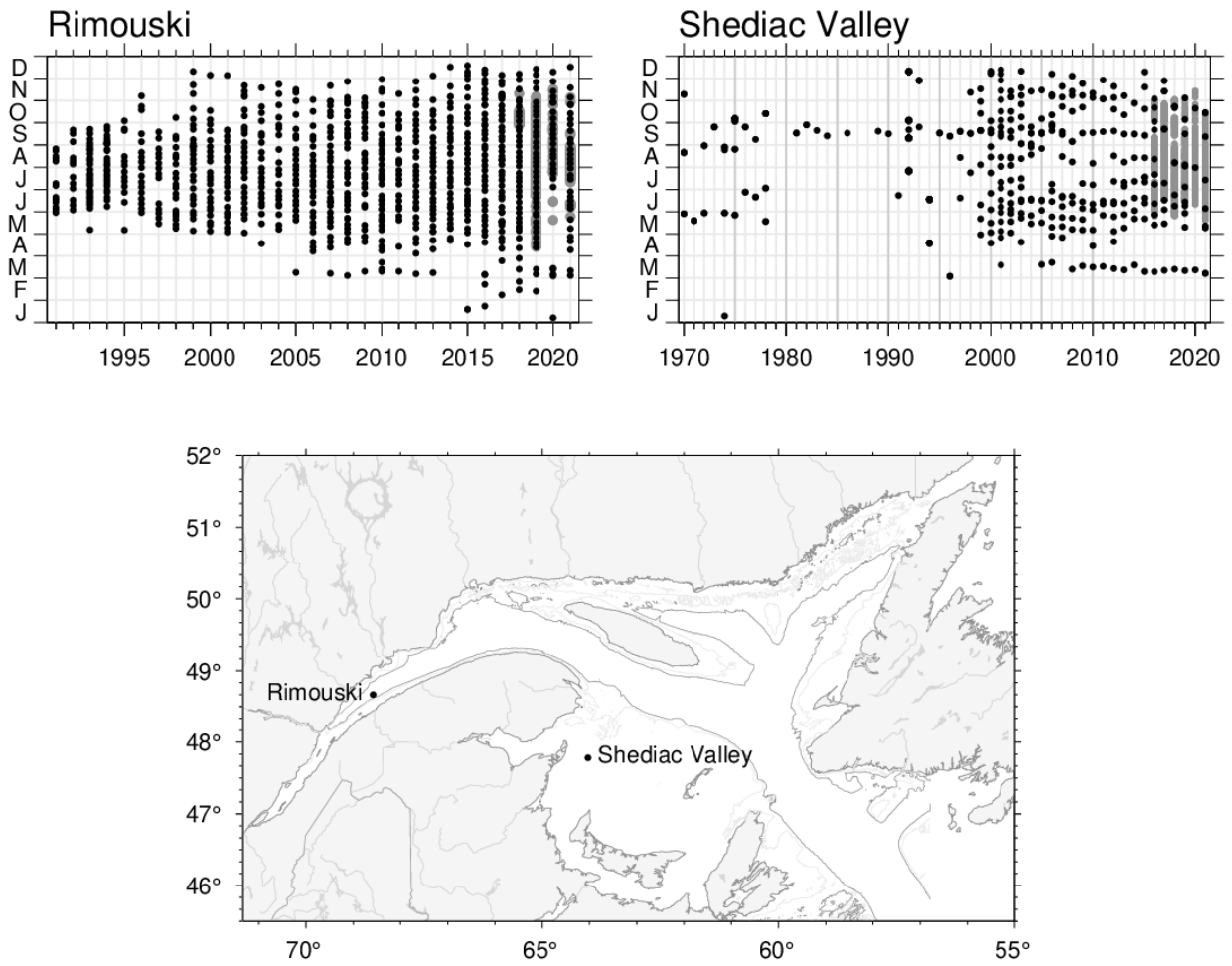

Fig. 60. Sampling frequency and positions of the AZMP stations Rimouski and Shediac Valley. Gray overlay in 2021 at Shediac Valley shows span of 246 temperature and salinity profiles made by the PMZA-VAS automatic oceanographic buoy between 2021-05-20 and 2021-10-12. The grey overlay at Rimouski station shows 114 full depth temperature and salinity profiles made by the PMZA-RIKI automatic oceanographic buoy between 2021-05-25 and 2021-11-04.

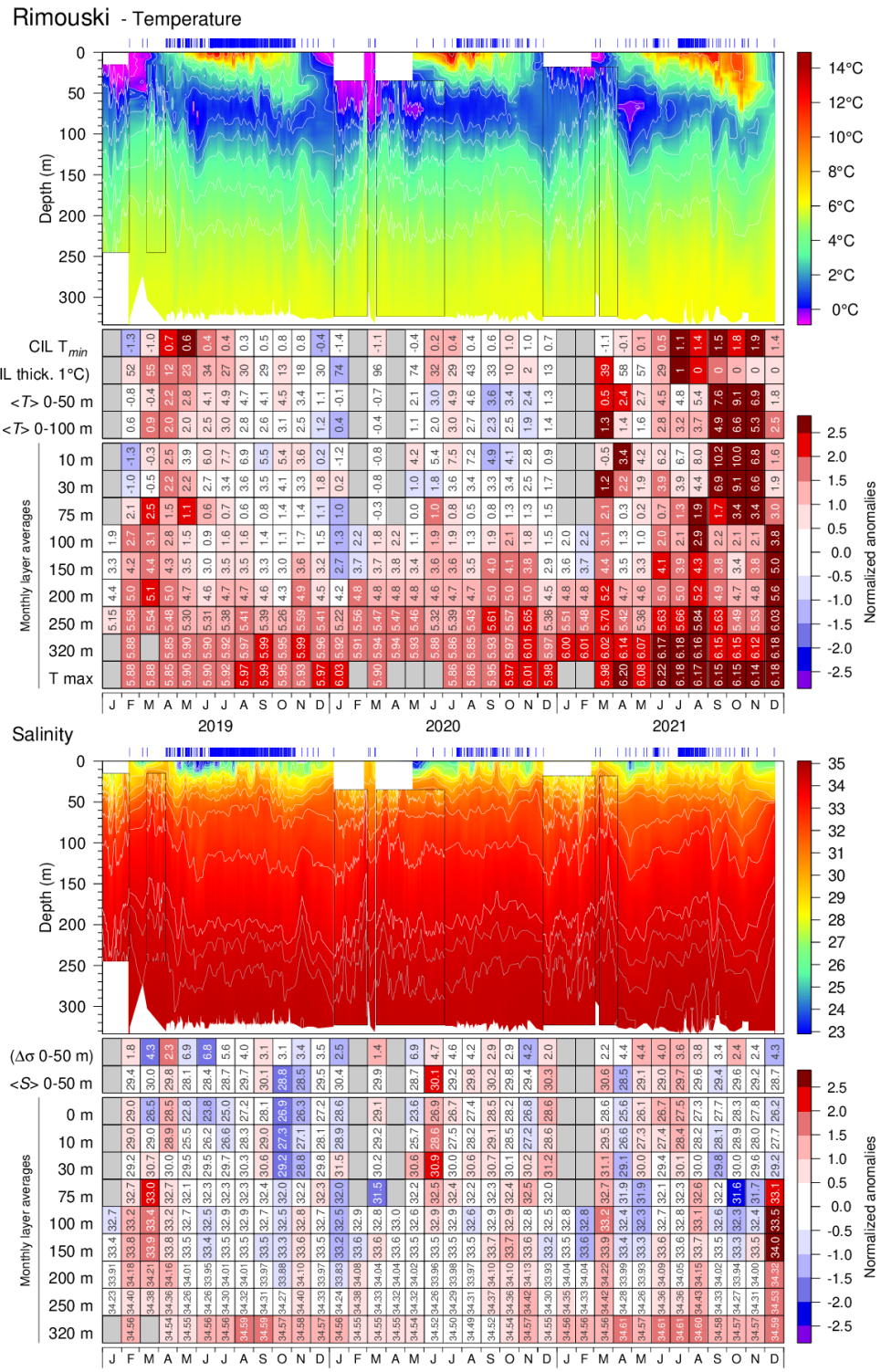

Fig. 61. Isotherm (top) and isohaline (bottom) time series at the Rimouski station; tick marks above indicate full-depth casts (mostly from a Viking buoy). The scorecard tables are monthly layer averages colour-coded according to the anomaly relative to the 1991–2020 monthly climatology for the station (yearly climatology for 200 m and deeper). Thickness of the CIL and stratification have reversed colour codes where blue indicates thicker CIL (associated with colder water) and more stratification (associated with low surface salinity). The box insets and some of the monthly averages are from mooring data.

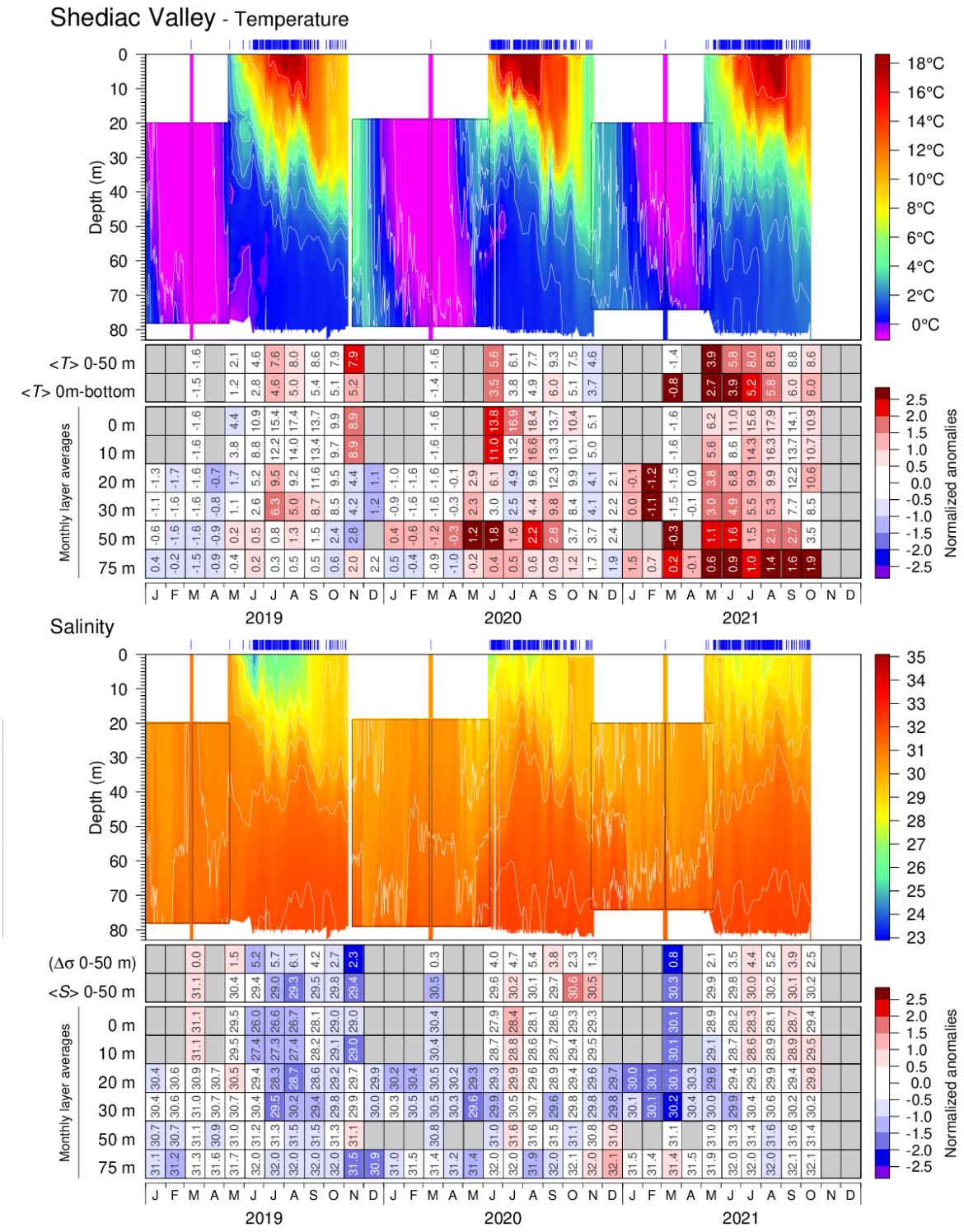

Fig. 62. Isotherm (top) and isohaline (bottom) time series at the Shediac Valley station; tick marks above indicate casts (mostly from automatic buoys). Scorecard tables are monthly layer averages colour-coded according to the anomaly relative to the 1991–2020 monthly climatology for the station (input to climatology is sparse prior to 1999). Higher than normal stratification is coded in blue (associated with low surface salinity). The box insets and 20 m, 30 m, 50 m and 75 m monthly layer averages are mostly from mooring data. Internal tide oscillations are smoothed out.

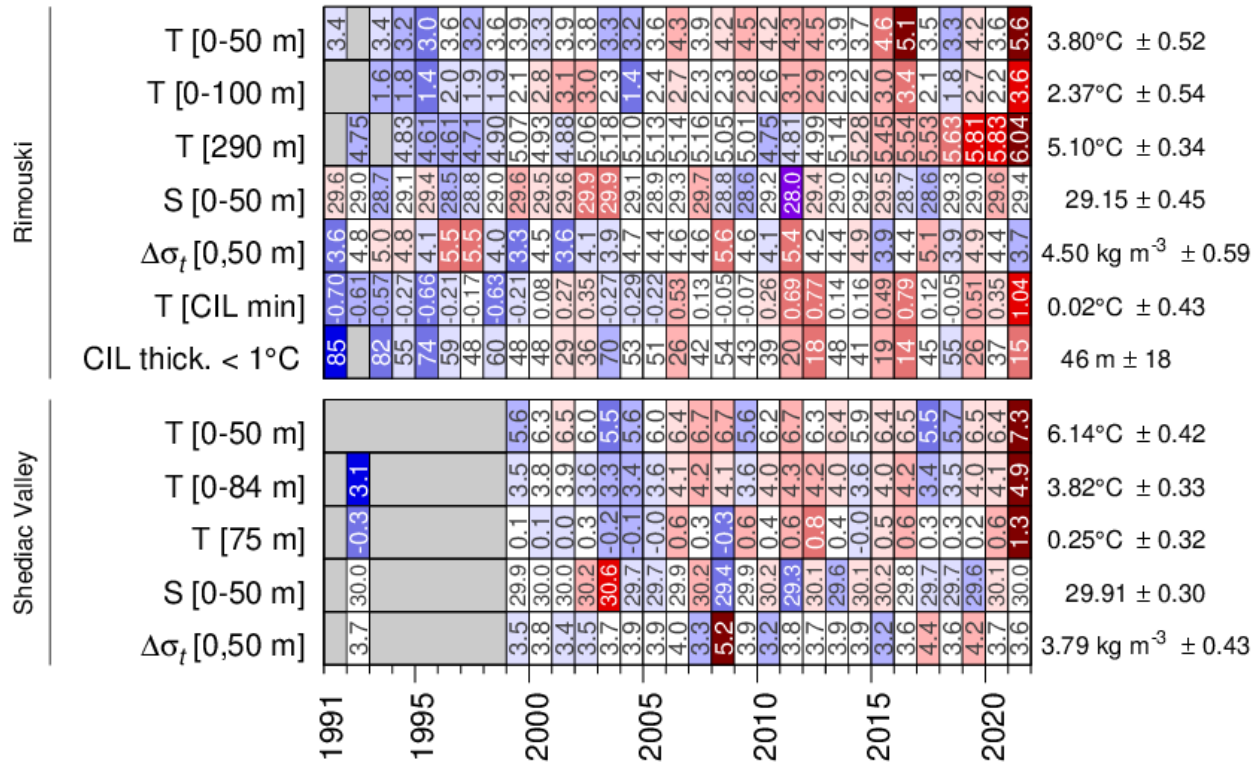

Fig. 63. May to October temperature and salinity layer averages, stratification (expressed as the density difference between 0 m and 50 m), and CIL temperature minimum and thickness (T < 1 °C) for high frequency monitoring stations. Numbers in panels are monthly average values colour-coded according to the anomaly relative to the 1991–2020 climatology. Three months of anomaly data, between May and October, are required to show an average anomaly for any given year, except for deep water temperature at Rimouski station. Temperatures at 290 m and 75 m at Rimouski station and Shediac Valley station are considered to represent near-bottom temperatures.

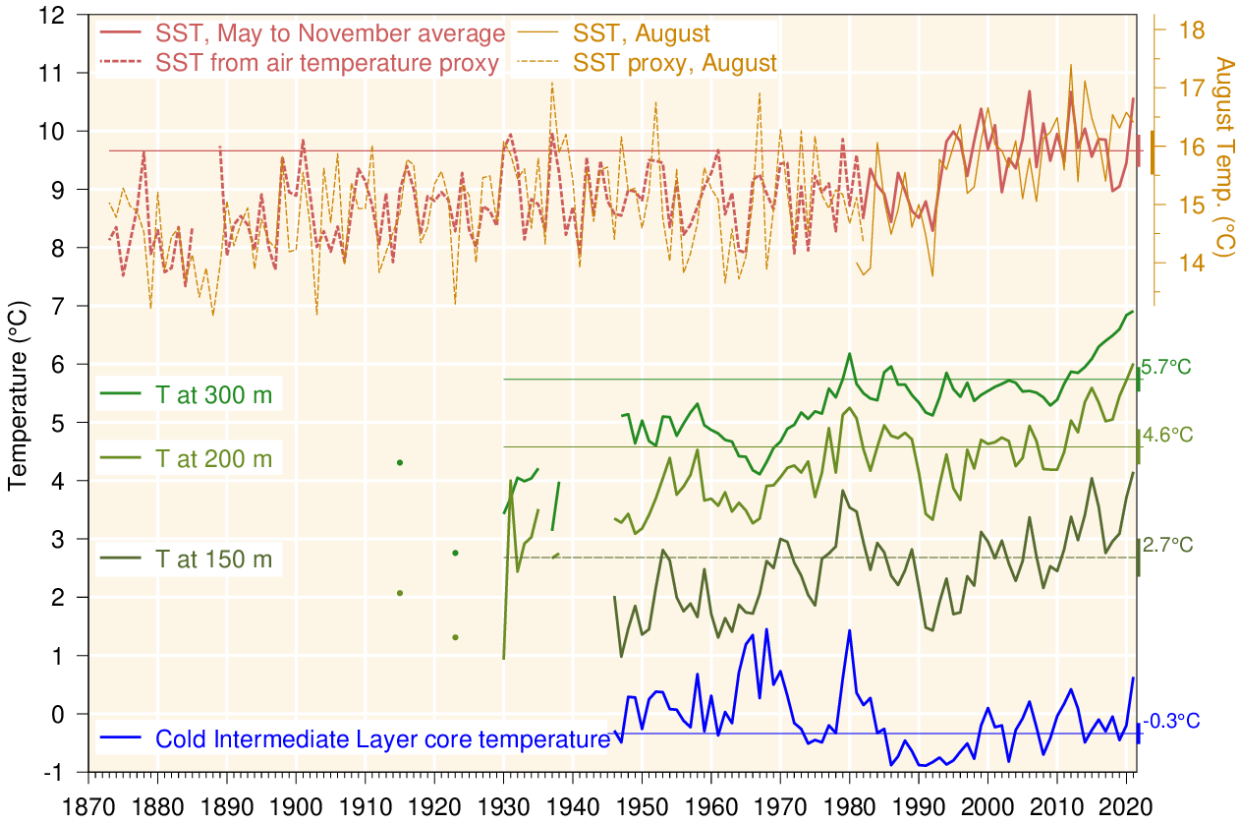

Fig. 64. Water temperatures in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. May–November SST averaged over the Gulf excluding the Estuary (1982–2021, red line), completed by a proxy based on April–November air temperature (1873–1981, red dashed line; average of all Adjusted and Homogenized Canadian Climate Data [AHCCD] stations in Fig. 4 but excluding Estuary stations at Baie Comeau and Mont-Joli). August SST is shown using temperature scale offset by 6.3 °C; its proxy is based on the average air temperature in July and August. Layer-averaged temperature for the Gulf of St. Lawrence at 150 m, 200 m and 300 m (green lines). Cold intermediate layer minimum temperature index in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (blue line). SST air temperature proxy is similar to that of Galbraith et al. (2012). Climatological averages based on the 1991–2020 period are indicated by thin lines labelled on the right side, and half the standard deviation is shown by vertical bars on the right side. Figure adapted from Benoît et al. (2012).

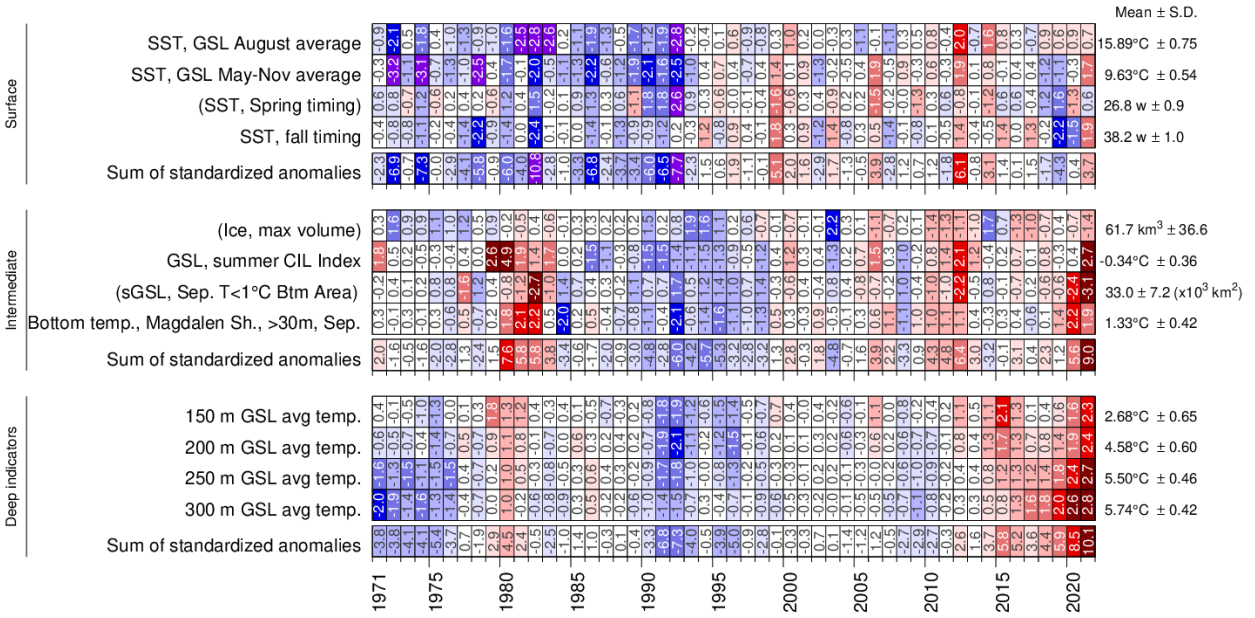

Fig. 65. Surface, intermediate (and sea-ice) and deep indicators used in the composite climate index (Fig. 66). The SST spring and fall timing are for 12 °C.

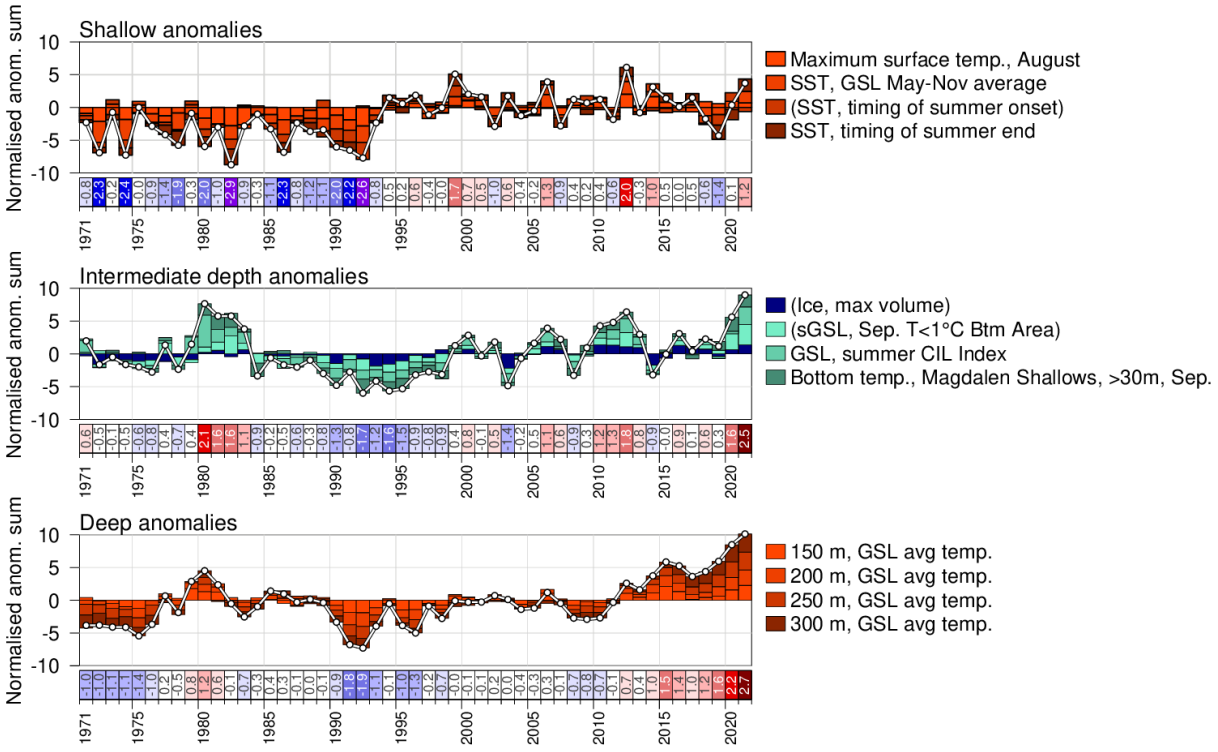

Fig. 66. Composite climate indices (white lines and dots) derived by summing various normalized anomalies from different parts of the environment (coloured boxes stacked above the abscissa are positive anomalies, and below are negative). Top panel sums anomalies representing shallow temperature anomalies, middle panel sums intermediate depth temperature anomalies and sea-ice (all related to winter formation), and bottom panel sums deep temperature anomalies. Each index is a sum of four normalized anomalies, and that time series is shown renormalized again at the bottom of each panel.

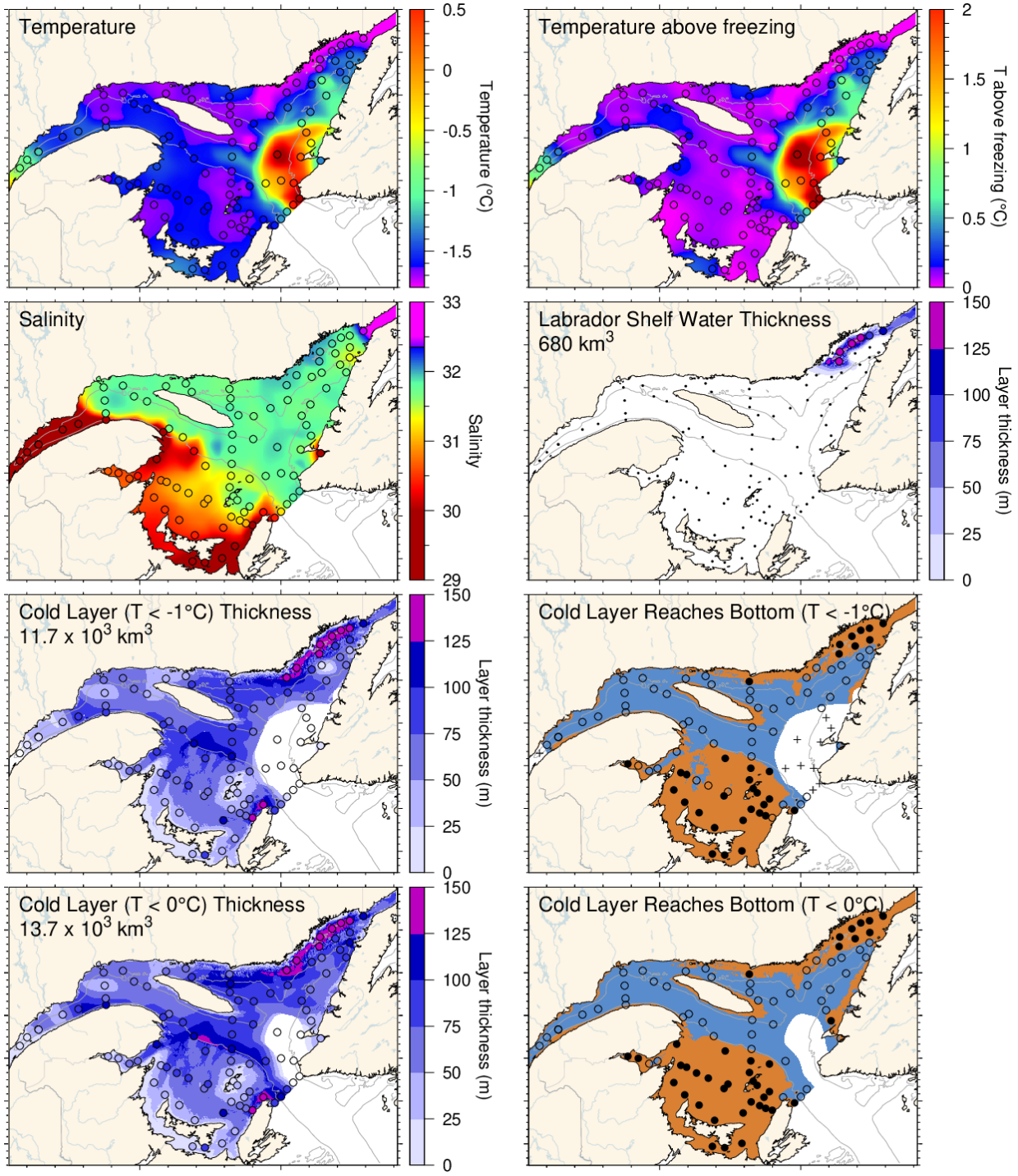

Fig. 67. March 2022 surface cold layer characteristics: surface water temperature (upper left), temperature difference with the freezing point (upper right), salinity (second row left), estimate of the thickness of the Labrador Shelf water intrusion (second row right), and cold layer (T < -1 °C and < 0 °C) thicknesses and where they reach bottom. The symbols are coloured according to the value observed at the station, using the same colour palette as the interpolated image. A good match is seen between the interpolation and the station observations where the station colours blend into the background.