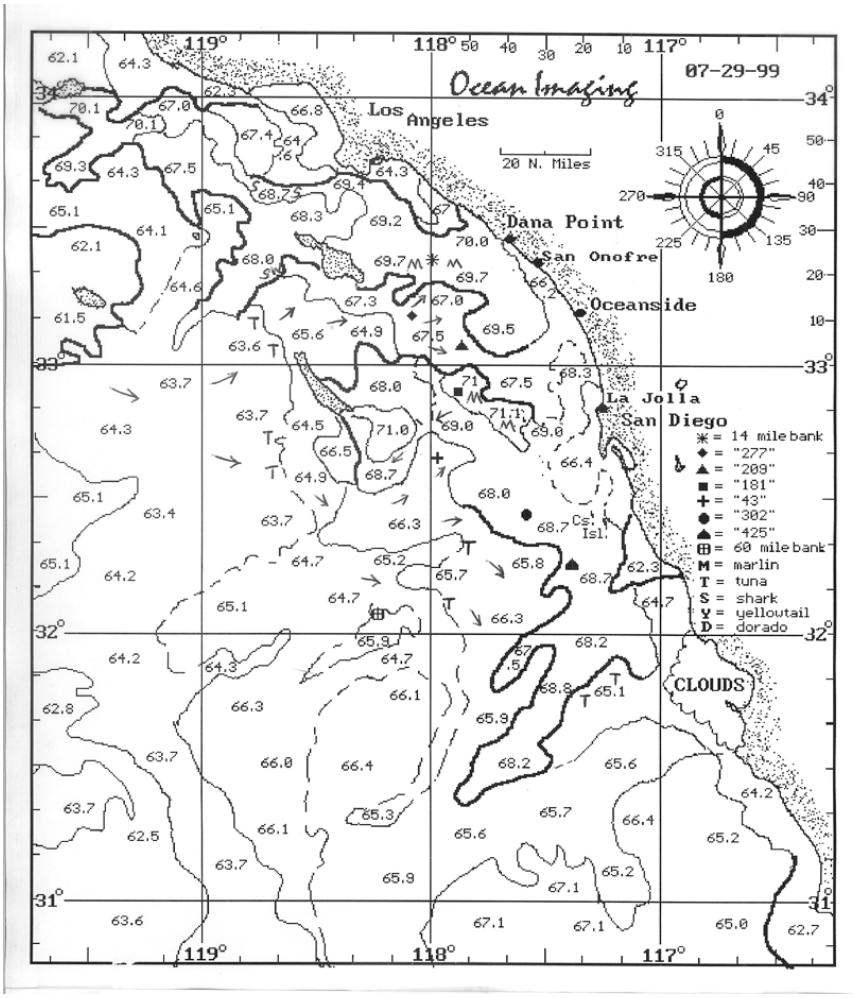
Ocean Imaging

December 2018 - OI celebrates 35 years of “Finding Fish from Space”

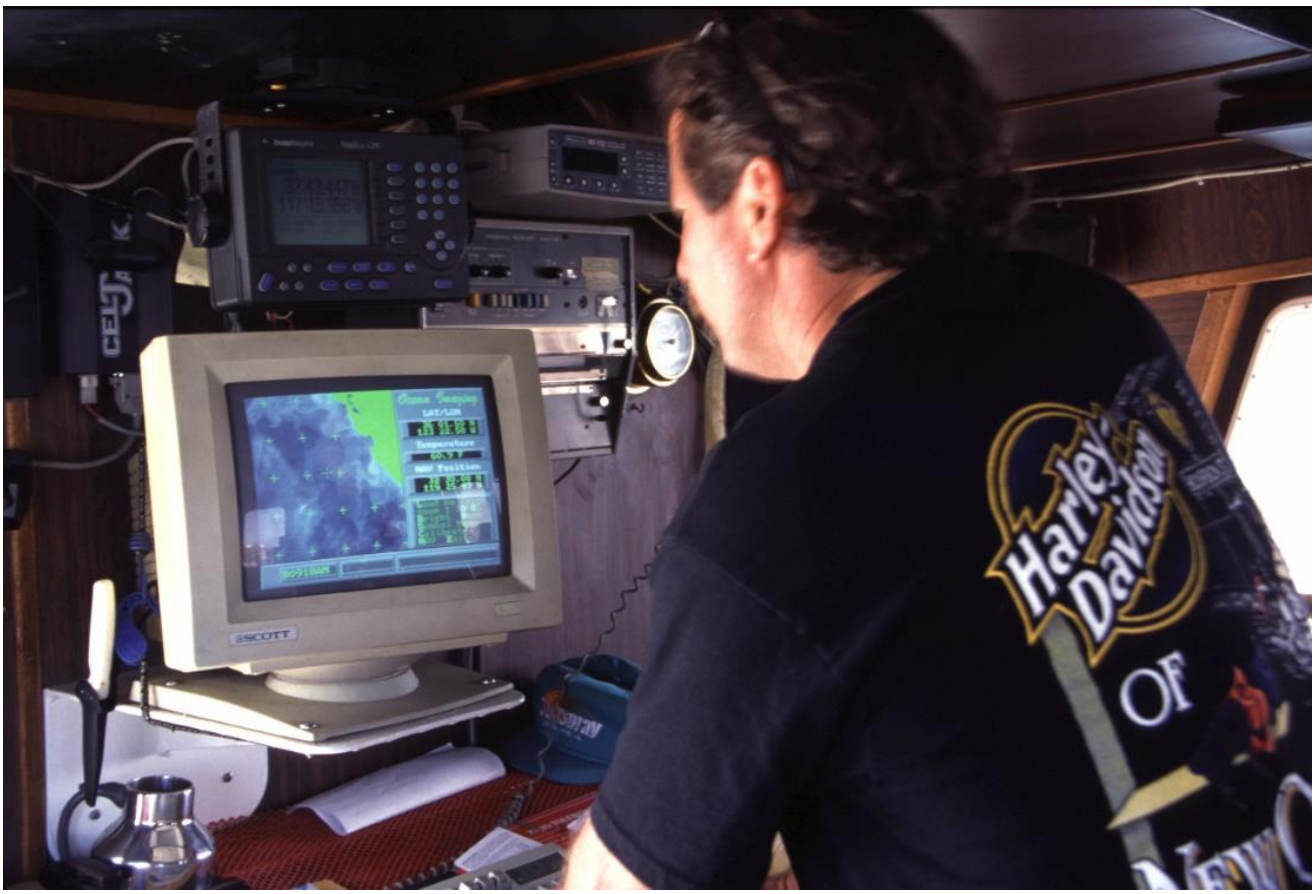
To mark thirty-five years of putting fishing boats on the most productive fishing spots, Ocean Imaging is releasing version 3.5.3 of their SeaView software, for PC, Mac and in Spanish! Here’s the story: 35 years ago in 1983, Dr. Jan Svejkovsky President of Ocean Imaging (OI) was walking the docks with photographs fresh from the dark room handing them out to his new customers. The customers were commercial



fishermen in search of the best spots to catch swordfish off the coast of Southern California. The 8x10 photos showed sea surface temperature (SST) and Chlorophyll patterns miles offshore in the open ocean as captured by what were then state-of-the-art thermal and optical sensors on satellites orbiting miles above the earth. The oceanographic patterns in these photos provided information on where the ocean was most productive helping the pioneering fishermen save fuel and catch more fish. As both commercial and recreational fishers increasingly recognized the value of this satellite-derived information, driving back and forth from the satellite downlink facility, the photo printing shop and then to the fishing docks became impractical. Being in a time before there were computers on boats, especially ones that were able to display satellite imagery, a ‘new’ form of information dissemination had to be developed in order to deliver this valuable data to OI’s clients. Beginning in the late 1980’s Dr. Svejkovsky developed black and white paper maps derived from the satellite imagery which showed the locations of SST gradients as lines of differing thickness and style. These fishing charts were sent via telefax either to the homes and offices of the clients or by using a nationwide radiofax network (also called weatherfax, WEFAX, HF Fax and radio facsimile) which transmitted the black and white charts out to boats

over single sideband (SSB) High Frequency (HF) radio. Maps were (NWS weather charts still are!) received using a dedicated radiofax receiver or a single sideband (SSB) shortwave receiver connected to an external facsimile recorder or PC equipped with a radiofax interface and application software. The OI fishing support service became so popular that we had to develop a secret coding system so only OI service subscribers could use the charts to locate the best fishing spots. Recreational fishermen in Southern California also subscribed to OI's "Sport" service receiving fax charts like the one shown to the left twice per week.

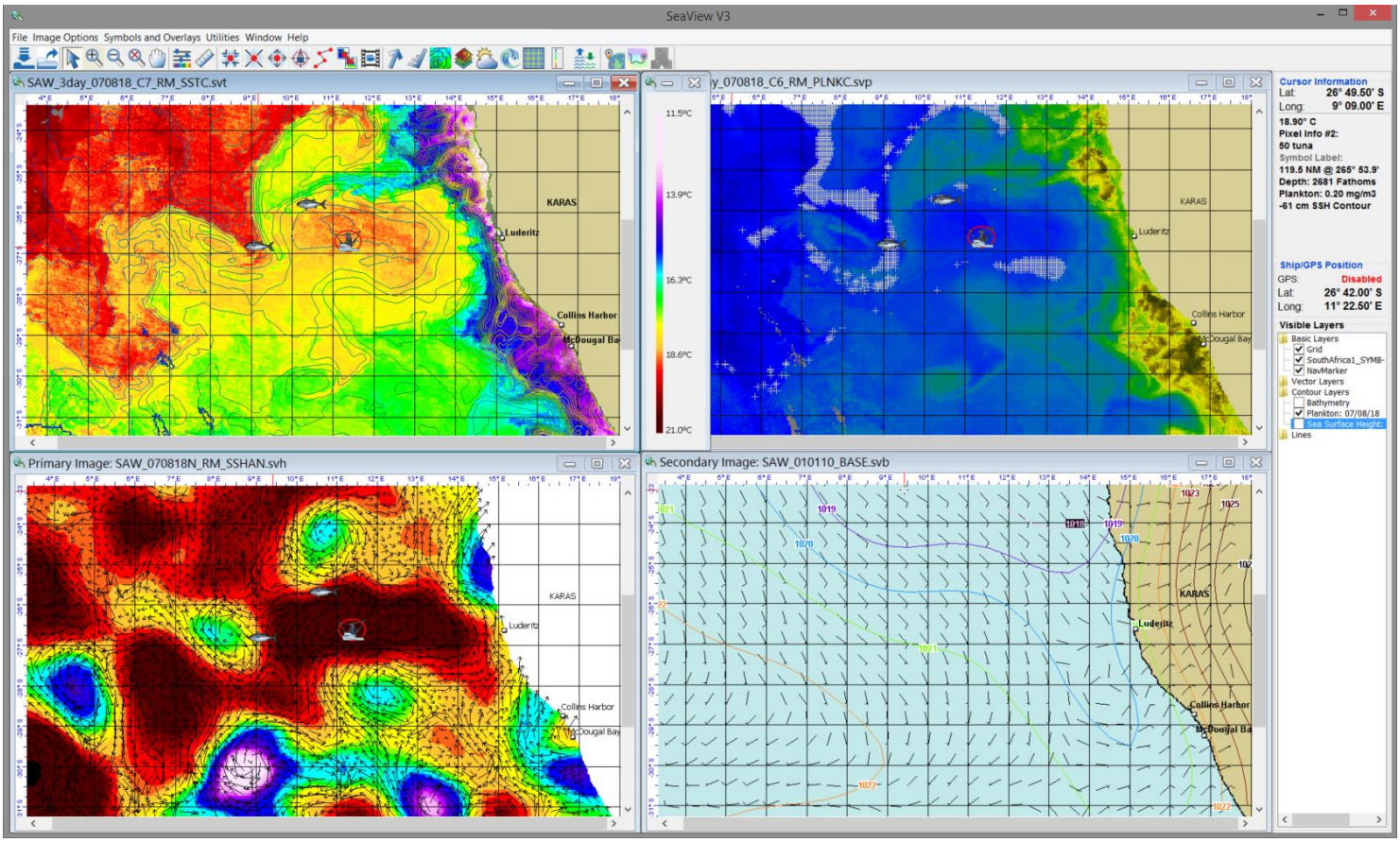
In the 1990s, with the proliferation of the personal computer (PC), OI soon launched its SeaView computerized fishing support service on DOS-based computers. Now the SST imagery could be displayed and analyzed right on the user's computer screen minutes after the satellite passed over their region. SeaView imagery could be downloaded directly to the boats using the old bag-style cellular phones – which was revolutionary for the day.



Captain John Gibbs using one of the first versions of SeaView on a DOS PC circa 1996. Captain Gibbs still uses SeaView on his vessel today.

SeaView has evolved into a sophisticated Geographical Information System (GIS) application designed specifically for the high-tech fishing world of today. SeaView has also grown to support fishing operations

and serious anglers around the globe. The list of SeaView data products and functionality extends far beyond just the SST and Chlorophyll imagery we started with. SeaView now offers fishers a wide variety of digital information products including sea surface height anomaly analyses from three different models, mixed layer depth (closely related to ocean thermocline depth), salinity, Chlorophyll composite imagery, cloud-free-SST, four types of ocean currents, ocean surface winds, a range of weather data products and much more. In addition, SeaView includes functionality to plan trips and log fishing activity using information-rich symbols and symbol templates which allow the user to save sets of symbols to build a database. SeaView's contour line overlay capability and Data Merge tool provide greater ability to analyze the different SeaView types in combination to better home in on that perfect fishing spot. Our latest version of SeaView (V3.5.3) offers worldwide 750-meter SST and Chlorophyll data – the highest resolution and accuracy data available to recreational anglers and commercial fishers. We've also added the ability to track SatLink GPS buoys, improved our waypoint/line drawing tool, improved access to marine data buoy information, added a few more navigation features as well as updated and improved SeaView's user interface. And we are not done yet! Stay tuned for more exciting improvements coming in 2019!



Version 3.5.3 showing oceanographic and weather data off the western cost of South Africa. The top left image window shows an SST image with the plankton (Chlorophyll) contour lines and symbols overlaid. In the top right image window is a plankton

composite image with symbols and Data Merge hash marks showing where specified data ranges from the SST, SSHA and plankton data converge. The bottom left image shows a sea surface height anomaly image with geostrophic currents overlaid and the bottom right window displays atmospheric pressure contour lines along with ocean surface winds on top of a South Africa base map. In all these image windows you'll see a Navigation Marker (boat with read circle around it) tied to the vessel's GPS tracking the location of the boat in all four image windows.