

“Follow the glider”: A web-based educational tool for glider exploration

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“Follow the Glider” - www.followtheglider.com - is a web-based educational tool aimed at students and teachers. The objective is to help students from a variety of different grade levels, to find out what underwater gliders are and gain awareness of their importance for ocean research.

The tool describes the major elements of a glider and a visualization of real time data measurements, with specific explanations aimed at kids on why we measure these data and why this is important for ocean monitoring. We also present some introductory notions on glider navigation and ocean monitoring, as well as the relation with key issues of general interest for students and society: climate change, the role of the oceans, operational oceanography, etc. We also strive to enable students to monitor the progress and results from different gliders ‘on mission’, that SOCIB is currently deploying in the Western Mediterranean. This element of the tool is based on SOCIB’s near real-time glider monitoring technology, available at www.socib.es.

Actually this project started its second phase (JERICO-NEXT), devoted to develop classroom material for both teachers and students. This educational resource will be available on the website and open to everyone interested in oceanography, but specifically focused on schools and teachers with research programs and/or summer schools with emphasis on marine sciences.

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