



ASL’s Biological Oceanographer, Dr. Julek Chawarski, recently joined the University of British Columbia’s PRODIGY (Pacific Rim Ocean Data Mobilization and Technology) field school in Chilean Patagonia, supporting coastal oceanography and emerging technologies. Held at the San Ignacio del Huinay Foundation field station in Comau Fjord, the program brought together Canadian and Chilean graduate students to explore remote fjord ecosystems.

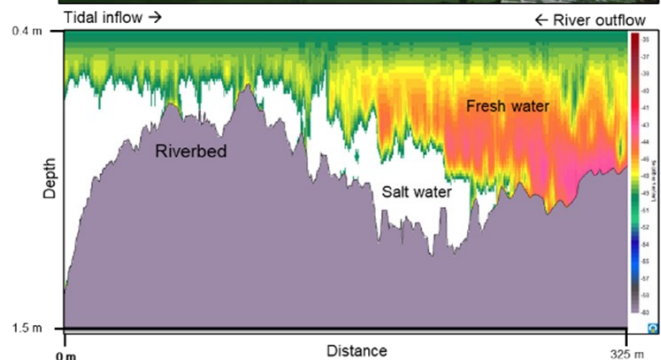
The trip began in Puerto Montt at the University of Los Lagos, where students learned about hyperspectral remote sensing with drones to detect harmful algae blooms. The group then traveled to Comau Fjord region to assemble oceanographic instruments and attend lectures on mooring design. Students gained hands-on experience with ASL’s AZFP-nano, a compact echosounder designed for use with CTD profilers, while Dr. Chawarski guided them in deploying the instrument and processing the data using custom algorithms.

One notable project, led by UVic master’s student Becky Brooks, used a kayak mounted AZFP-nano system to study the estuarine salt wedge in the Rio Lloncochaigua River. Becky’s research showed turbulent freshwater flows creating a strong scattering layer above rising saline tides.

Students also conducted drift transects, collecting plankton samples and visualizing thermohaline layers from glacial runoff.



UBC and UVic students Grace, Becca, Christina, Hayden (right), and ASL’s Biological Oceanographer Dr. Julek Chawarski (left).



UVic master’s student Becky Brooks, shown with her custom AZFP-nano mount (above), alongside a visualization of the freshwater scattering below.

For more information contact Dr. Matthew Asplin, Director, Metocean and Arctic Strategic Partnerships, masplin@aslenv.com or Dr. Julek Chawarski, Biological Oceanographer, jchawarski@aslenv.com

PRODIGY Collaborators

