

## Spatio-temporal variability of turbidity derived from Sentinel-2 in Reloncaví sound, Northern Patagonia, Chile

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### ABSTRACT

Turbidity is associated with the loss of water transparency due to the presence of particles, sediments, suspended solids, and organic or inorganic compounds in the water, of natural or anthropogenic origin. Our study aimed to evaluate the spatio-temporal variability of turbidity from Sentinel-2 (S2) images in the Reloncaví sound and fjord, in Northern Patagonia, Chile, a coastal ecosystem that is intensively used by finfish and shellfish aquaculture. To this end, we downloaded 123 S2 images and assembled a five-year time series (2016–2020) covering five study sites (R1 to R5) located along the axis of the fjord and seaward into the sound. We used Acolite to perform the atmospheric correction and estimate turbidity with two algorithms proposed by Nechad et al. (2009, 2016 Nv09 and Nv16, respectively). When compared to match-up, and *in situ* measurements, both algorithms had the same performance ( $R^2 = 0.40$ ). The Nv09 algorithm, however, yielded smaller errors than Nv16 (RMSE = 0.66 FNU and RMSE = 0.84 FNU, respectively). Results from true-color imagery and two Nechad algorithms singled an image from the austral autumn of 2019 as the one with the highest turbidity. Similarly, three images from the 2020 austral autumn (May 20, 25, 30) also exhibited high turbidity values. The turbid plumes with the greatest extent occurred in the autumn of 2019 and 2020, coinciding with the most severe storms and runoff events of the year, and the highest turbidity values. Temporal trends in turbidity were not significant at any of the study sites. However, turbidity trends at sites R1 and R2 suggested an increasing trend, while the other sites showed the opposite trend. Site R1 recorded the highest turbidity values, and the lowest values were recorded at R5 in the center of the sound. The month of May was characterized by the highest turbidity values. The application of algorithms from high-resolution satellite images proved to be effective for the estimation and mapping of this water quality parameter in the study area. The use of S2 imagery unraveled a predictable spatial and temporal structure of turbidity patterns in this optically complex aquatic environment. Our results suggest that the availability of *in situ* data and the continued evaluation of the performance of the Nechad algorithms can yield significant insights into the dynamics and impacts of turbid waters in this important coastal ecosystem.

### 1. Introduction

Turbidity stands out as a key parameter to understand the health of

marine and aquatic ecosystems worldwide. An increase in water turbidity is associated with the presence of suspended and/or dissolved material of natural or anthropogenic origin (Abirhire et al., 2020; Bilotta

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and Brazier, 2008; Grobbelaar, 2009; Smith, 2003). Water quality in coastal regions is of special concern; over a third of the global population inhabits the world's coastlines and depends on them to provide multiple ecosystem services, particularly in developing countries (Barragán and de Andrés, 2015). Turbidity in coastal marine and inner water systems can be influenced by algal blooms and suspended sediments. Similarly, overland surface runoff from rainfall events can carry colored dissolved organic matter (CDOM) or excess nutrients from agriculture, sewage, or animal husbandry among other anthropogenic compounds (Abirhire et al., 2020; Babin et al., 2003; Brando et al., 2015; Lee et al., 2015; Mendes et al., 2014; Potes et al., 2012; Saldías et al., 2012). As visible light (400–700 nm) strongly declines with depth, increased turbidity compresses the euphotic depth and curtails the energy available for photosynthesis (Cloern, 1987; Davies-Colley and Smith, 2001; de Castro Medeiros et al., 2015; Kirk, 1985; Pérez-Ruzafa et al., 2019; Zohary et al., 2009). On the other hand, water-clouding components and particulates facilitate the dispersion of contaminants by providing a vector for their transport, that can also precipitate and smother benthic communities (Alma et al., 2023; Anderson et al., 2012; Díaz et al., 2019; Gelda et al., 2013; Goldsmith et al., 2021; Quang et al., 2017; Soria et al., 2021; Vanhellemont and Ruddick, 2014). Thus, the threats to the well-being of coastal societies and ecosystems posed by changes in turbidity can be faced through scientific advances that help to accurately and dynamically estimate turbidity and its causes.

Methods for measuring turbidity *in situ* include indirect metrics, such as the Secchi disk depth (SDD), which directly measures water transparency and is inversely related to turbidity, or direct quantification using turbidimeters or nephelometers. These turbidity measurements are very accurate but they are chiefly manual procedures and require the intensive use of personnel. Hence, *in situ* techniques can be resource-intensive and consequently of limited spatial and temporal resolution (Alvado et al., 2021; Caballero et al., 2020; Delegido et al., 2019; Rodríguez-López et al., 2022; Soria-Perpinyà et al., 2021; Zhan et al., 2022). Turbidity measurements are usually reported in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) and Formazin Nephelometric Units (FNU). Studies by Anderson (2005) and Dogliotti et al. (2015) indicated that there is no difference between the units in which turbidity is expressed (NTU and FNU), and both turbidity units are comparable or equivalent regardless of the instrument's technology used. Ocean color remote sensing currently provide direct estimations of water turbidity and other environmental variables over multiple spatial and temporal scales (Aragónés et al., 2016; Caballero et al., 2019; Caballero and Stumpf, 2020; Dickey et al., 2006; Khan et al., 2021). Multiple satellite missions now provide synoptic measurement of the properties and Optically Active Constituents (OACs) of water such as chlorophyll, CDOM, and suspended solids (SS), among others (Aavaste et al., 2021; Kuhn et al., 2019; Soria-Perpinyà et al., 2022; Vantrepotte et al., 2012; Werdell et al., 2018). In this way, turbidity in water can be estimated through inherent and apparent optical properties (Inherent Optical Properties - IOPs and Apparent Optical Properties - AOPs, respectively), as well as through the OACs that are present in aquatic ecosystems (Budhiman et al., 2012; Dogliotti et al., 2015; Kirk, 1984; Soriano-González et al., 2022).

The waters of coastal zones are optically complex and known as Case 2 waters (Jerlov, 1957; Mélin and Vantrepotte, 2015; Morel and Gentili, 1993; Morel and Prieur, 1977). The turbidity of coastal waters is determined by the independent variation of OACs in the water (Aavaste et al., 2021; Babin et al., 2003; Odermatt et al., 2012; Uudeberg et al., 2019; Uudeberg et al., 2020; Vantrepotte et al., 2012). Generally speaking, the presence and concentration of OACs is determined by factors that influence both, IOPs and AOPs. According to Morel and Prieur (1977) and Mobley (2001, 2022), IOPs are defined as the physical determinants of how light interacts with water and allow us to understand the absorption and scattering of electromagnetic radiation as a function of its various constituents. IOPs are independent of the light field (absorption and scattering coefficients). Their variations are

directly related to changes in the concentration, size distribution, and composition of OACs (Aavaste et al., 2021; Dickey et al., 2006; Werdell et al., 2018). On the other hand, AOPs were defined by Preisendorfer (1976), Morel and Gentili (1993), and Mobley (2001) as the optical properties of water that are influenced by the distribution of the angles of incidence and the amount of light and illumination available in the environment, together with the concentration of substances present in the medium. That is, AOPs vary depending on how the medium is illuminated (i.e., radiance and reflectance) (Jerlov, 1957; Kirk, 1984; Mobley, 2001, 2022).

Empirical and semi-empirical algorithms from satellite imagery can be used to estimate water quality parameters (WQP) such as total suspended solids (SS), CDOM, chlorophyll-a concentration (Chl-a), and turbidity in different waters using the optical properties and OACs of water (e.g., Z. Lee et al., 2002; Nechad et al., 2009, 2010; Phuoc Hoang Son et al., 2013; Dogliotti et al., 2015; Balasubramanian et al., 2020; Magri et al., 2023). In this way, the products derived from remote sensing allow the continuous monitoring of WQP in the ocean and coastal zone over time and the study of their association with different environmental drivers (Werdell et al., 2018). However, understanding the drivers of WQP and how they change under emergent anthropogenic threats requires an accurate assessment of the quality and bias of satellite estimates (Pahlevan et al., 2021; Soria-Perpinyà et al., 2021; Vanhellemont, 2019; Vanhellemont and Ruddick, 2016, 2021).

Recently, the use of high spatial, temporal, and spectral resolution images from multispectral optical sensors such as Landsat and Sentinel-2 (S2) or their combination, has become a valuable tool for studying the dynamics of water transparency (Caballero et al., 2022; Jiang et al., 2024; Khan et al., 2021; Kuhn et al., 2019; Rodríguez-López et al., 2022). For example, Jiang et al. (2024), used SSD data from a long-term program monitoring water clarity dynamics in the Pearl River Estuary to regionalize WQP using the Landsat series and found improved water quality due to decreased anthropogenic perturbations and landscape change. Similarly, Caballero et al. (2022) proposed an innovative method to derive turbidity and Chl-a using S2 in a hypersaline coastal lagoon in the Western Mediterranean Sea and developed an early warning tool to monitor eutrophication processes with a high spatial resolution (10 m). In a more recent study, Zhang et al. (2024) employed S2 images to investigate spatiotemporal fluctuations in turbidity between 2016 and 2022 in an inland lake and examined the drivers of changes. Together, high-resolution S2 images for the visible and near-infrared bands, their frequent updates, and its neural network automated cloud detection system provide a valuable scientific resource for the study and monitoring of WQP (Alvado et al., 2021; Caballero et al., 2018; Caballero et al., 2020; Cíancía et al., 2020; Delegido et al., 2019; Pahlevan et al., 2017; Soomets et al., 2020; Soria-Perpinyà et al., 2021; Soria-Perpinyà et al., 2022; Zhan et al., 2022).

Different algorithms can be used to assess WQP. Lee et al. (2002), Nechad et al. (2009, 2010), Phuoc Hoang Son et al. (2013), Dogliotti et al. (2015), Balasubramanian et al. (2020), and Magri et al. (2023) have contributed with valuable insights for the development of empirical and semi-empirical algorithms derived from satellite imagery. For example, Nechad et al., 2010, proposed an algorithm to estimate the concentration of suspended particulate matter (SPM) in Belgian coastal waters. The algorithm was tested and validated using *in situ* measurements, demonstrating a high degree of agreement between the satellite-derived SPM concentrations and the *in situ* measurements. In addition, the development of algorithms for atmospheric correction (AC) has facilitated the precise retrieval of turbidity in a variety of aquatic ecosystems. The combination of S2 images with new AC algorithms, such as ACOLITE, has enabled the exploration of WQP with high spatial resolution and low error (Caballero et al., 2020, 2022; Chowdhury et al., 2023; Jiang et al., 2024; Vanhellemont and Ruddick, 2016, 2018, 2021; Vijay Prakash et al., 2021).

The Northern Patagonia (NP) coastal region (41–45°S) is characterized by a complex geomorphology and high spatiotemporal variability

in hydrometeorological conditions. A combination of natural and anthropogenic forcings, for example, surface runoff and erosion of active forestry or agricultural areas following extreme precipitation events, are likely to contribute to turbidity in coastal waters (Curra-Sánchez et al., 2022; Iriarte et al., 2017; Lara et al., 2010; Lara et al., 2016; León-Muñoz et al., 2021; Saldías et al., 2019). On the other hand, the aquaculture of mytilids and salmonids, the main anthropic activity in the coastal areas of NP, has experienced enormous growth in recent years. According to FAO (2022), Chile is among the top ten producers of mytilid mussels and salmonids worldwide. In particular, the Reloncaví sound and fjord, at the equatorward edge of NP stand out for the intensive use of its coastal waters by aquaculture facilities, which also has altered WQP in the area (Astorga et al., 2018; Barria et al., 2012; Camelo-Guarín et al., 2021; Molinet et al., 2015, 2021). Earlier research around NP has provided some insights on the estimation and retrieval of WQP using remote sensing (Iriarte et al., 2017; Saldías et al., 2021; Vásquez et al., 2021). For example, Iriarte et al. (2017) used L3 MODIS-Aqua (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) data to characterize spatial and temporal variability in Chl-a. Similarly, Saldías et al. (2021) and Vásquez et al. (2021) reported a peak of Chl-a and normalized Fluorescence Line Height (nFLH) during the austral autumn using MODIS-Aqua data with a resolution of 1 km. The spatial resolution of MODIS, however, is not sufficient to understand dynamic environmental processes, such as fluvial plume dispersion in the coastal ocean or WQP in small coastal and inland ecosystems. The potential of using the Nechad algorithms based on S2 images to understand turbidity, and more generally, the dynamics of WQP in NP remains largely unexplored, despite the importance of marine ecosystem health for human well-being in the region (Camelo-Guarín et al., 2021). To this end, we hypothesized that turbid waters in the Reloncaví area are primarily associated with seasonal processes, such as river discharge patterns. To tackle this hypothesis, we take advantage of S2 imagery, and examine

the performance of the default algorithms, and test the accuracy of turbidity retrievals in time using *in situ* data available from an oceanographic buoy moored in the Reloncaví sound, and relate spatial patterns of turbidity to freshwater inflows using discharge data from a gauge of the main river drainage to the fjord.

## 2. Materials and methods

For a more comprehensive understanding, Fig. 1 illustrates the general methodological workflow diagram of this research. The sections depicted in Fig. 1 will be elucidated in greater detail below.

### 2.1. Study area

The Reloncaví sound located in Inner Sea Chiloé (ISC), Northern Patagonia, is a semi-enclosed basin of about 50 km in length (north-south) and a width of approximately 32 km (east-west), with depths that can reach 450 m. It is connected to the Pacific Ocean through the Chacao channel on the west (Fig. 2, GEBCO Gridded Bathymetry Data (GEBCO, 2024); Pinilla Matamala, 2011; Valle-Levinson et al., 2007). The climate is temperate maritime with annual rainfall between 3000 and 4000 mm per year, and temperatures range between 7 and 10 °C in winter, and 12 and 15 °C in summer (Aguayo et al., 2019; Garreaud, 2018; Garreaud et al., 2013; Lara et al., 2018; Subiabre and Rojas, 1994). Weather can be highly variable, driving quick changes in sea surface temperature (SST) driven by strong southerly winds. Harmful algal blooms (HABs) are common (Díaz and Figueroa, 2023; Saldías et al., 2021; Sandoval et al., 2018; Soto-Mardones et al., 2009). Water circulation in the fjord and sound is influenced by tides, currents, and winds (Pantoja et al., 2011; Pérez-Santos et al., 2019; Pérez-Santos et al., 2021; Vásquez et al., 2021). The sound receives large freshwater discharges from the Reloncaví fjord, the drainage of the Puelo, Petrohué, and Cochamó rivers.

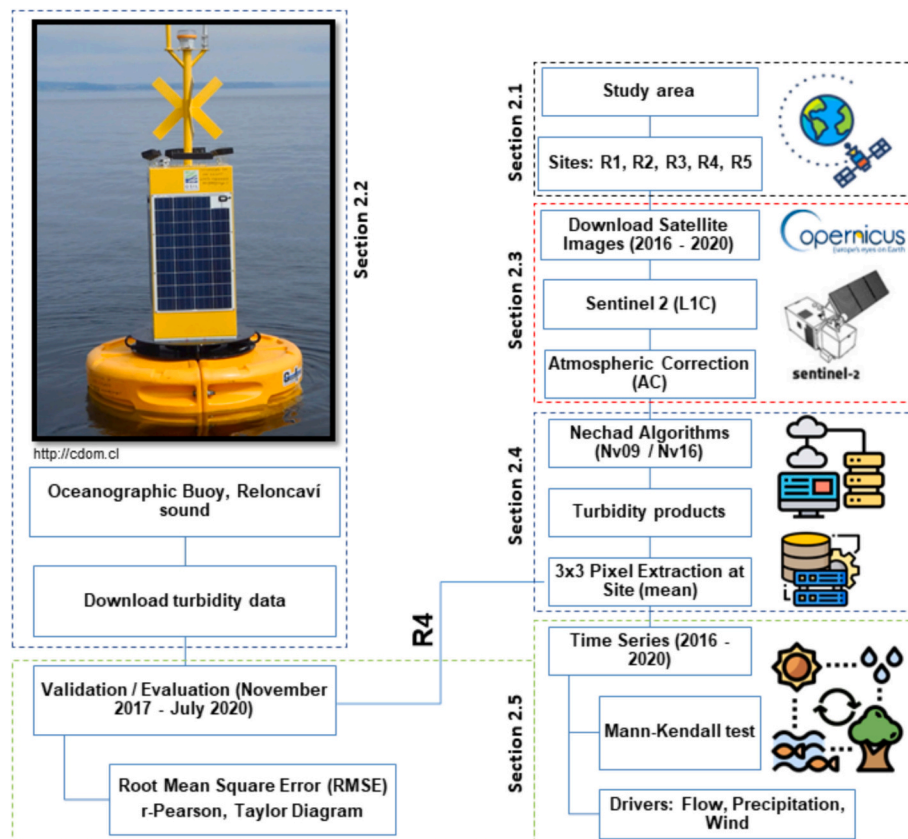
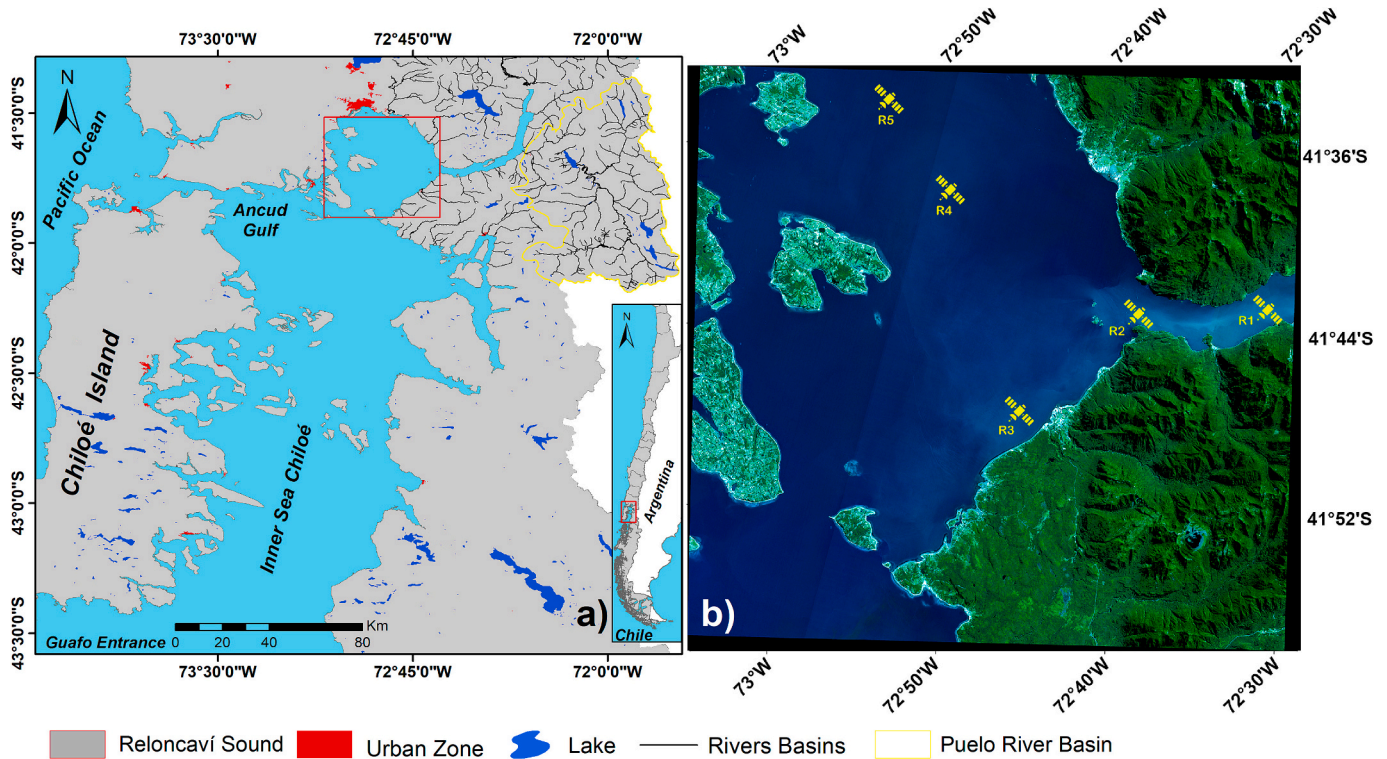


Fig. 1. Methodological workflow diagram.





**Fig. 2.** (a) Location of the study area in Northern Patagonia. The red box indicates the Reloncaví sound area. Urbanized areas are indicated in red, freshwater lakes in blue, rivers draining into the study basins are shown in black lines, and the Puelo river basin is in yellow line. (b) RGB (True color) image of the area enclosed in the red box in (a) showing the spatial distribution of the sampling sites (R) in the Reloncaví sound and fjord, which are distributed from inside the fjord (R1), at the fjord mouth (R2), the fjord plume (R3), next to the oceanographic buoy (R4) and away from the influence of riverine discharges (R5). (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

These Andean rivers exhibit a pluvio-nival regime, resulting in large outflows of suspended and dissolved material into the coastal zone (Aguayo et al., 2019; Iriarte et al., 2014; León-Muñoz et al., 2013, 2021; Saldías et al., 2019). The Puelo river exhibits the third largest discharge of the southwestern Andes with an outflow of mean annual flows of approximately 670 m/s (Lara et al., 2008). On the other hand, the Reloncaví fjord is one of the main areas for the capture of wild mussel seed (larvae), which are used locally for mussel aquaculture, in addition to the salmon farms located there (Barria et al., 2012; Buschmann et al., 2009; Buschmann et al., 2021; Camelo-Guarín et al., 2021; Molinet et al., 2021).

## 2.2. In situ turbidity, fluviometric, and meteorological datasets

We used *in situ* turbidity data extracted for the period between November 2017 to July 2020 from a moored oceanographic buoy (OSIL's Fulmar) belonging to the i-mar Center of the Universidad de Los Lagos and Reloncaví Marine Observatory. The buoy is located in the Reloncaví sound at  $-41^{\circ}38'10''$  S and  $-72^{\circ}50'4''$  W, adjacent to R4 (Fig. 2b). Turbidity is measured using a multiparameter probe (AML Metrec XL). To store the turbidity dataset, the instrument has an hourly GSM transmission system and an onboard datalogger. The extracted data were segmented to the mean of the values recorded between 14:00 and 15:00 h (local time), coinciding with the satellite visit time in the study area, with a time difference window of  $\pm 1$  h. Turbidity data can be downloaded from the website <http://www.cdom.cl/> (accessed May 2022). To study the spatial distribution of turbidity in the study area, we selected five sites, where we estimated turbidity over a  $3 \times 3$  pixel window (90 m<sup>2</sup>, see Fig. 2b). The location of sites was selected to span a range of conditions and were located inside the fjord and influenced by the river (R1), at the fjord mouth (R2), in the plume of the river inside the sound (R3), at the location of the oceanographic buoy in the sound

(R4) and finally, on a location inside the sound and an away from the influence of the discharge of any major rivers (R5). To illustrate the role of local meteorological forcing on turbidity, a time series of daily river flow and daily precipitation measured at the Puelo river meteorological station are presented. Precipitation and river flow data were downloaded from the Dirección General de Aguas (DGA, <https://dga.mop.gov.cl/>, accessed November 2023). The wind (speed and direction) values were taken from <https://climatologia.meteochile.gob.cl/> in a three-day window (72 h) before the image acquisitions.

## 2.3. Remote sensing images and processing

Cloud cover (CC) is common in our study area. Hence, we conducted a detailed visual inspection of each of the images in the date range of our study. The image selection process yielded a dataset with a minimum

**Table 1**  
Number of selected Sentinel-2 images for the 2016–2020 period.

Month / Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
January	1	1	3	2	6	13
February	1	1	3	3	2	10
March	0	2	2	5	2	11
April	0	2	3	1	2	8
May	0	1	2	2	4	9
June	1	0	2	3	1	7
July	2	2	2	0	2	8
August	0	1	2	0	3	6
September	1	2	1	3	2	9
October	1	2	2	5	5	15
November	1	1	4	3	2	11
December	3	2	4	3	4	16
Total	11	17	30	30	35	123

0: No images available or No clear.



and maximum CC of 0 % and 57.9 %, respectively for the full scene. We analyzed a total of 123 images from 2016 to 2020 (see Table 1). Further details are provided in Supplementary Material 2 (SM 2).

The S2 mission is based on a constellation of two identical satellites (2A/2B) in the same orbit, 180° out of phase with each other. Each satellite carries one MSI (Multispectral Instrument) sensor, with a revisit frequency of five days at latitudes near the equator, and higher frequencies at higher latitudes due to orbital overlap, (2 to 3 days for the study area) and with a radiometric resolution of 12 bits. Table 2 shows the spectral and spatial resolution of S2 (ESA - European Space Agency, 2015). The S2 images are provided at two processing levels: Level 1C (L1C), which are radiometrically and geometrically corrected to the Top Of Atmosphere (TOA), and Level-2A (L2A) which provides atmospherically corrected surface reflectance images, derived from the associated Level-1C products. The AC of S2 images includes the correction of the scattering by of air molecules (Rayleigh scattering), of the absorbing and scattering effects of atmospheric gasses, in particular ozone, oxygen, and water vapor, and the correction of absorption and scattering due to aerosol particles (ESA - European Space Agency, 2015). For this work, a total of 123 S2-L1C scenes over the study area were free-downloaded from the Sentinel Science Data Center (<https://dataspace.copernicus.eu>, accessed May 2022).

Using ACOLITE (free software, <https://github.com/acolite/>), we applied AC to the S2 images to go from the L1C processing level to the L2A processing level. ACOLITE is a generic algorithm developed at Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) for atmospheric correction and processing of satellite imagery for coastal and inland waters, allowing the correct estimation/validation of the turbidity parameter (Vanhellemont, 2019, 2020; Vanhellemont and Ruddick, 2018), supporting different types of multispectral and hyperspectral sensors, including S2 (Vanhellemont and Ruddick, 2016). We used the default DSF “Dark Spectrum Fitting” method of the software (Vanhellemont, 2019, 2020; Vanhellemont and Ruddick, 2018). All S2 images (L1C level) were atmospherically corrected with ACOLITE (version 20221114); output data correspond to water reflectance at a wavelength ( $\lambda$ )( $\rho_w(\lambda)$ ), resampled to a pixel size of 10 m.  $\rho_w(\lambda)$  is defined in Eq. (1):

$$\rho_w(\lambda) = \pi L_w(\lambda) / E_d^{0+}(\lambda) \quad (1)$$

where  $L_w(\lambda)$  represents the water-leaving radiance (after removal of air-water interface reflection) and  $E_d^{0+}(\lambda)$  is the downwelling irradiance.

In addition, a built-in algorithm in ACOLITE optionally performs sunglint contamination corrections on SWIR band sensors (Harmel et al., 2018; Vanhellemont, 2019). We selected this sunglint correction to obtain the reflectance of the glint-free surface.

**Table 2**  
Spectral and spatial resolution of S2.

Bands	Spectral region	Spatial resolution (m)	$\lambda_{S2A}$ (nm)	$\lambda_{S2B}$ (nm)	Bandwidth S2A - S2B (nm)
B1	Coastal aerosol	60	442.7	442.2	21–21
B2	Blue	10	492.4	492.1	66–66
B3	Green	10	559.8	559	36–36
B4	Red	10	664.6	664.9	31–31
B5	Red-edge1	20	704.1	703.8	15–16
B6	Red-edge2	20	740.5	739.1	15–15
B7	Red-edge3	20	782.8	779.7	20–20
B8	NIR	10	832.8	832.9	106–106
B8A	NIR narrow	20	864.7	864	21–22
B9	Water vapor	60	945.1	943.2	20–21
B10	SWIR / Cirrus	60	1373.5	1376.9	31–30
B11	SWIR1	20	1613.7	1610.4	91–94
B12	SWIR2	20	2202.4	2185.7	175–185

## 2.4. Turbidity algorithms

ACOLITE incorporates two functions to estimate turbidity based on Nechad's algorithms (Nechad et al., 2009, 2016), hence we used both to estimate turbidity for all sites and dates (2009, Nv09, and 2016, Nv16, respectively). The Nv16 algorithm version was recalibrated in 2016 by Bouchra Nechad using the Nv09 algorithm, specifically for S2 and L8 (Nechad et al., 2016). In Nechad's approach, turbidity is derived using a semi-empirical algorithm relating spectral reflectance to IOPs absorption and backscatter:

$$\text{Turbidity} = \frac{A_T \rho_w(\lambda)}{1 - \rho_w(\lambda)/C} + B_T \quad (2)$$

where  $A_T$ ,  $B_T$  and  $C$  are wavelength-dependent calibration coefficients encompassing IOPs characteristics (for more details see Nechad et al., 2009, 2010, 2016). We employ the red band ( $\lambda = 665$  nm), which is related to S2 band 4 (B4) of S2 (see Table 2).

The oceanographic buoy located at R4 provides *in situ* turbidity data in NTU units, yet for practical purposes we present the data in FNU units for comparison with turbidity from Nechad's algorithms (Anderson, 2005; Dogliotti et al., 2015). The mean turbidity value was extracted in a  $3 \times 3$  pixel kernel centered on the *in situ* measurement location, which we used to construct a time series for the 2016–2020 period. Following guidelines by Huettmann and Arhonditsis (2023), all data is available from the Zenodo repository (<https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.13645864>).

## 2.5. Statistical analysis

Firstly, we carried out an exploratory analysis with all the *in situ* (buoy) turbidity data to detect outliers using descriptive statistics. To remove possible outliers in the *in situ* and satellite data we used a 25 % deviation of the standard deviation (SD) criteria. For the *in situ* data, we examined turbidity measurements during the satellite overpass, and for the satellite data we used the data in each  $3 \times 3$  pixels spatial window. The resulting *in situ* observations were match-up with the data from the images available for the turbidity product. A total of 39 satellite images were used for the match-up exercise of satellite data with the data from the buoy located at the R4 site. Then, we compared *in situ* turbidity and the Nv09 and Nv16 algorithms using linear regression and quantified the agreement using the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ), Pearson's correlation (Pearson's  $r$ ), root-mean-square-error (RMSE), centered root-mean-square-error (CRMSE) difference, and the amplitude of their variations represented by their SD, which were visualized using a Taylor's diagram (Taylor, 2001). To compile the satellite time series for each site we included the 123 valid images (Table 1). However, following the sparse and uneven sampling of turbidity data in time we used simple exponential smoothing from the Simple Time Series Analysis app from OriginPro (Academic version 2023b 10.0.5.157) software to visualize patterns and trends in time. Similarly, we used a Mann-Kendall (MK) test to evaluate turbidity trends at all sites. Finally, we analyzed a time series of records of precipitation and river flow data together with our turbidity values derived from the Nv09 algorithm at R1, the more landward station. The reconstructed time series from R1 to R5 allowed us to discern the presence of seasonal patterns of turbidity in our study area and examine the role of precipitation and river flow on turbidity in the Reloncaví coastal ecosystem. To this end, we wanted to test the hypothesis that using the Nechad algorithms we could (a) detect seasonal patterns in the presence of turbid waters across the fjord-sound waters and that (b) the presence of turbid waters was associated with large riverine outflow events.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. *In situ* turbidity

Table 3 shows the statistics for *in situ* turbidity records during the 2017–2020 period. The turbidity values ranged from 0.18 FNU to 7.57 FNU across the year. The minimum value was recorded during austral spring (0.18 FNU), while the maximum was found in austral autumn. The mean of the 39 match-up values for *in situ* comparisons was 1.94 FNU. The large variation across turbidity match-up values is underlined by the CV (Table 3.)

#### 3.2. Turbidity algorithms

Fig. 3a shows the relation between the two algorithms (Nv09 and Nv16) and the *in situ* turbidity measurements (site R4). The linear relationship with *in situ* data for both algorithms was nearly identical ( $R^2 = 0.40$ , Pearson's  $r = 0.63$ , Fig. 3a). However, the Nv09 algorithm presented a lower RMSE than the Nv16 algorithm (see Fig. 3a). A similar result was observed in the Taylor analysis (Fig. 3b). The Nv09 and Nv16 algorithms reported a Pearson's  $r = 0.63$  (matching with the linear fit), and Nv09 presented lower variability among its data ( $SD = 0.83$  FNU), with CRMSE less than 1.34 FNU. Therefore, it is possible to suggest that both algorithms have a good correlation with *in situ* turbidity. Nevertheless, the Nv09 algorithm appears to be the most reliable option for developing a turbidity predictor model in the study area at wavelengths of 665 nm, which is supported by the lower CRMSE and SD (Fig. 3b).

Fig. 4 shows true color (RGB) images derived from S2 images (top panel) and turbidity maps from the Nv09 algorithm (bottom panel) for austral autumn. The turbidity maps are presented in logarithmic scale following the high turbidity level observed during austral autumn. Using the Nv09 algorithm the highest estimated value was greater than  $\log_{10}$  1.29 FNU for 2019-May-06 and 2020-May-20. It is important to note that the highest turbidity values observed in austral autumn correspond to large freshwater outflows from the Puelo river (see Fig. 4).

#### 3.3. Spatio-temporal analysis

The use of both algorithms in all sites captured the same temporal pattern when estimating high and low turbidity values at all sites (see SM1 Figs. 1, 2, 3) and hereafter we present results only for the Nv09 algorithm. More information on the estimated turbidity values by both algorithms can be obtained from SM1.

During the austral summer, the values ranged from 0.3 FNU to 5 FNU, with R5 and R1 sites recording the lowest and highest values, respectively (see Fig. 5, SM1 Fig. 4). Temporal patterns of turbidity were stable among study sites with CV between 24 % and 37 %. Sites R1 to R4 had a CV of less than 30 % and only site R5 exceeded this figure (see SM1 Table 3 and SM1 Fig. 5a). In space, stations closer to the river showed higher turbidity values; in time the highest values are observed during autumn and the lowest in spring (see Fig. 5).

Fig. 6 shows that the lowest turbidity value was 0.090 FNU at site R5 (see SM1 Table 2). The austral springs were characterized by the lowest turbidity values, minimum values less than 1 FNU were detected at sites

R3 to R5 (see Figs. 5, 6). The highest turbidity values during spring were obtained at sites R1 and R2, both exceeding 7 FNU and 4 FNU, respectively (see SM1 Fig. 5d). Turbidity in sites R1 and R2 showed low variability compared to site R5, where CVs ranged from 31 % to 57 % during this season (see SM1 Table 6). On the contrary, high turbidity values were found in autumn, specifically in May (see Fig. 5, and SM1 Fig. 4). Over the time series, the highest estimated turbidity value was 27.962 FNU in the autumn of 2019 at site R1 (see Figs. 5, 6, and SM1 Table 2). In this same season, one year later, high turbidity values were observed in all sites (see Fig. 5). In the autumn of 2020, sites R2, R3, and R4 reached their maximum turbidity with values of 19.556 FNU, 8.721 FNU, and 5.285 FNU respectively (see Figs. 4, 5, 6, and SM1 Fig. 5b). The largest turbidity variations were observed at sites R1 and R2 in the autumn, and the smallest at site R5 (see SM1 Table 4). Little variation in turbidity among all study sites was recorded in winter with CVs ranging between 24 % and 35 %, similar to the behavior found in the summer, maximum values remained between 3 FNU and 4 FNU for all study sites (see Fig. 6, and SM1 Fig. 5c). The largest variation in turbidity was recorded at site R5 and the lowest at site R2, opposite to what we recorded in autumn (see SM1 Table 5). We observed no significant temporal trends in all the reconstructed time series. Although exponential smoothing and the MK test showed a slight increase in turbidity at sites R1 and R2 during the study period, this was not observed at sites R3, R4, and R5 (see Fig. 6, and SM1 Table 1).

### 4. Discussion

Worldwide, turbidity has been estimated for aquatic ecosystems through remote sensing using spectral band ratios and algorithms. To this end, the Nechad algorithms have been applied to multiple inland and coastal ecosystems around the world due to their accuracy in deriving high and low turbidity values as in Nechad et al. (2009, 2010, 2016), Dogliotti et al. (2015), Novoa et al. (2017) and Tavora et al. (2023a). However, studies related to spatial and temporal turbidity variability in coastal marine ecosystems are still scarce (Caballero et al., 2022; Chowdhury et al., 2023; Jiang et al., 2024). Our study represents the first time that the ACOLITE turbidity algorithms have been used and validated on the NP marine ecosystem, which we extended to the examination of the spatial and temporal dynamics of a turbid river.

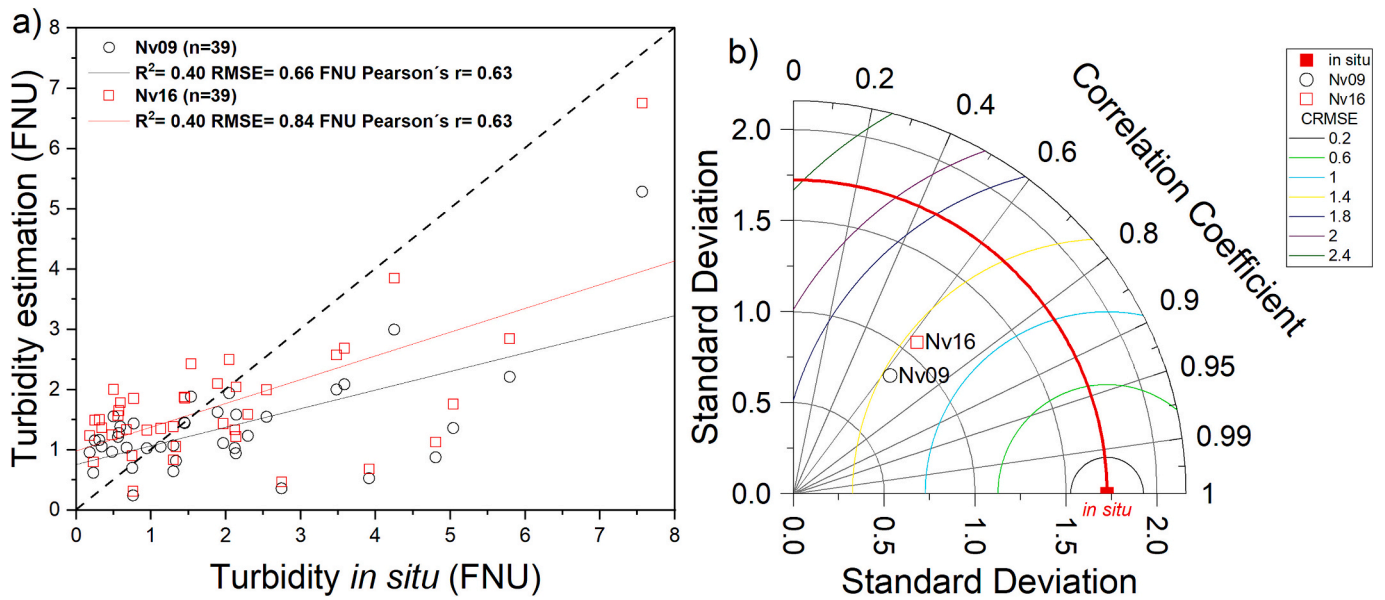
Advances in algorithms for AC have allowed the accurate retrieval of WQP. The studies summarized in Table 4 demonstrate the effectiveness of ACs for the study of turbidity in aquatic ecosystems. Elhag et al. (2019) applied the NDTI index (Normalized Difference Turbidity Index), derived from Sentinel 2 Correction (Sen2Cor), and obtained  $R^2$  values between 0.74 and 0.94. Delegido et al. (2019) combined *in situ* measurements of SDD with band ratios using different ACs, obtaining medium to high  $R^2$  (0.34–0.82) and low RMSE (1.4 NTU and 2.7 NTU). Meanwhile, Zhan et al. (2022) applied similar techniques to estimate turbidity in a hypersaline coastal lagoon, obtaining a similar  $R^2$  and error variation. Nevertheless, it is important to note that the errors observed in our study were among the lowest presented in Table 4.

The versatility of ACOLITE distinguishes it from other AC. ACOLITE enables the processing of images from a variety of satellite missions, which have contributed to the management and monitoring of aquatic ecosystems over time (Caballero et al., 2020, 2022; Jiang et al., 2024; Kuhn et al., 2019; Novoa et al., 2017; Paulista et al., 2023; Rodríguez-Benito et al., 2020; Rodríguez-López et al., 2022; Tavora et al., 2023b; Vijay Prakash et al., 2021). For example, Sun et al. (2021) and Chowdhury et al. (2023) estimated turbidity using ACOLITE with S2 and obtained  $R^2 = 0.67$  and  $r = 0.97$ , respectively. Consistent with the aforementioned studies, our  $R^2$  value was found to be within the ranges reported in Table 4. This can be attributed to the multiple processes that take place across our study area, such as algal blooms, strong winds, precipitation, and discharge from multiple streams and rivers. In addition, the quality and quantity of CDOM and SS associated with river discharge (Curra-Sánchez et al., 2022, 2024; Davies-Colley and Smith,

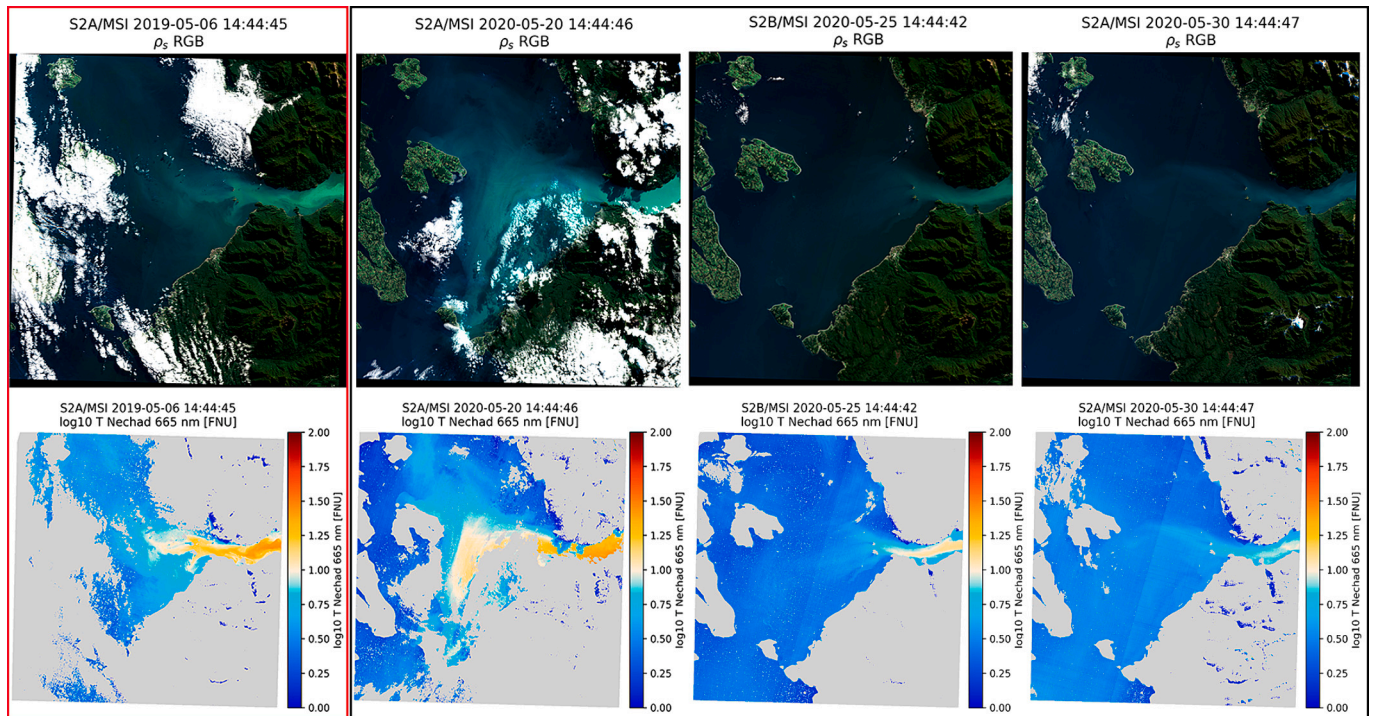
**Table 3**  
Descriptive statistics of *in situ* turbidity measured during the period 2017–2020.

Statistical / Season	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Total
min (FNU)	0.31	2.05	0.5	0.18	0.18
max (FNU)	5.04	7.57	3.48	2.75	7.57
mean (FNU)	1.89	4.3	1.68	1.08	1.94
SD	1.59	2.08	1.09	0.87	1.72
CV (%)	84.04	48.34	64.87	80.87	88.84
n	14	6	5	14	39

min/max— minimum/maximum turbidity values, SD—standard deviation, CV—coefficient of variation, and n—data number.



**Fig. 3.** (a) Scatter plot between measured turbidity and the algorithms under study. The black circle and line represent the values from the Nechad 2009 algorithm (Nv09), while the red square and line are those resulting from the Nechad 2016 algorithm (Nv16), dash line represents a 1:1 line. (b) Taylor diagram displaying a simultaneous statistical comparison of both algorithms and *in situ* turbidity measurement. The colored contours indicate the CRMSE values. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)



**Fig. 4.** The top panels show true color (RGB) images and the bottom panels show results from the Nv09 algorithm for the autumn days where we detected high turbidity. The top and bottom far left panels (red panel) show the image with the highest turbidity on May 6th, 2019. All images show the turbid plume streaming out of the fjord into the sound. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

2001; Vijay Prakash et al., 2021) in the area, are linked to both pluvial or nival regimes (Garreaud et al., 2013; León-Muñoz et al., 2013, 2021), which results in fluctuations in water clarity and quality. The ACOLITE turbidity algorithms proved effective to estimate turbidity in the NP marine ecosystem. Is important to note that the algorithm's performance can vary depending on the characteristics of the study area. In highly turbid waters (case II waters) or during extreme events, some algorithms may produce higher errors, as demonstrated by Chowdhury et al.

(2023), which highlights the need for continual assessment of algorithm performance for the effective monitoring and management of these important environments.

Future studies may wish to implement other ACs or other variants/ techniques beyond ACOLITE for turbidity derivation and integration of time series using satellites such as L8. A method proposed by Zhang et al. (2024) employed machine learning models to estimate turbidity using NDTI and band ratio accurately. However, it is important to consider



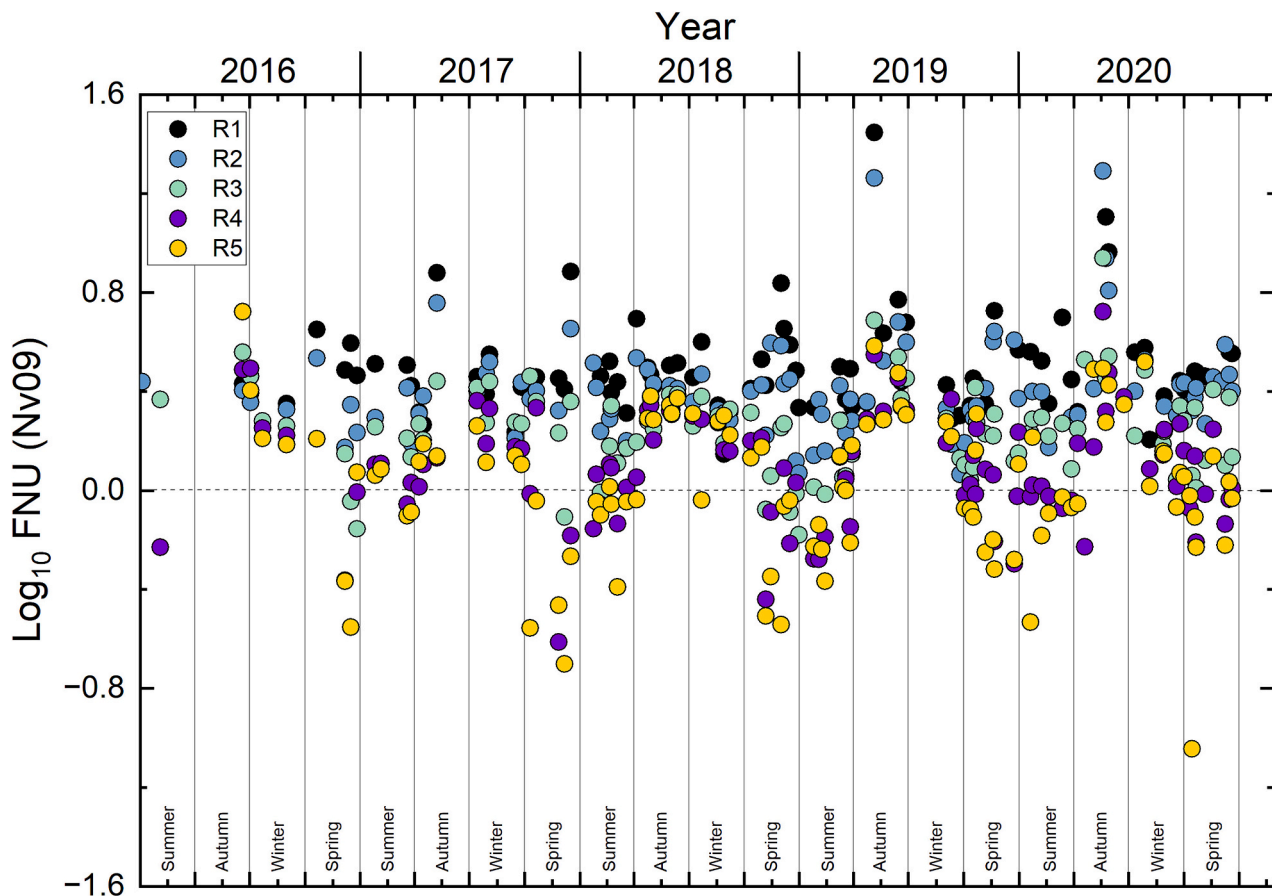


Fig. 5. Spatio-temporal distribution of turbidity derived from the Nv09 algorithm for all sites. The sites are identified by the following color codes: R1 in black, R2 in light blue, R3 in light green, R4 in purple, and R5 in mustard. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

that the results may have been influenced by the type of ecosystem examined, a eutrophic lake, by the presence of aquatic vegetation, and the high Chl-a concentration. On the other hand, Lizcano-Sandoval et al. (2022) applied the same index (NDTI) to S2 imagery in west-central Florida and used turbidity to exclude images before mapping temporal changes in submerged seagrass. The evaluation and comparison of turbidity behavior in the spectral region of the Red-edge and near-infrared (NIR) be considered (see Table 2). Chowdhury et al. (2023) demonstrate that water turbidity is sensitive to different wavelengths within this spectral range. In this sense, in future studies, it would be advisable to test both algorithms (Nv09 and Nv16) at different wavelengths. This is to detect and determine how the turbidity values behave in the Reloncaví sound in different spectral ranges. The Nv16 algorithm may obtain better results when tested at wavelengths longer than 665 nm.

Remote sensing applications for aquaculture are promising tools for managing the challenges of ongoing climatic change (Newell et al., 2021; Snyder et al., 2017). Mussel aquaculture in NP is under challenges that threaten to disrupt current patterns of climatic and environmental variability, including the seasonal dynamics of environmental factors such as Chl-a, SS, CDOM, HABs, salinity, SST, pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), winds, turbidity, among others (Castillo et al., 2016; Curra-Sánchez et al., 2022; Iriarte et al., 2007; Iriarte et al., 2017; Lara et al., 2016; León-Muñoz et al., 2018; Molinet et al., 2015; Pantoja et al., 2011; Soto et al., 2019). Seasonal patterns in turbidity are evident, with maximum values during austral autumn for all years of our study period in association with changes in mean precipitation (e.g., autumn 2017, 2019, and 2020). Precipitation directly influences the outflow of water into the sound from the Puelo river, as reported by Aguayo et al. (2019)

and León-Muñoz et al. (2013, 2021). The linkage between precipitation and large turbid plumes entering the Reloncaví sound was apparent in our study (see Figs. 4, 7), and the results of Flores et al. (2022) support this behavior/pattern. Similar results were reported by Shen et al. (2021) and Mahmoud et al. (2023), in Asia, who showed that turbidity at the confluence of river tributaries or the highest concentrations of SS, Chl-a, and dissolved solids, respectively, were associated with heavy rainfall.

The greatest extent of turbid plumes took place in the autumn of 2019 and 2020, following the most severe storms of the year and the highest turbidity value at site R1 (27.96 FNU derived from the Nv09 algorithm). The highest turbidity values appear coincident with the most pronounced discharge events occurring during 2019-May-02, 2020-May-16, and 2020-May-25 (Fig. 7). Conversely, less rainy seasons and curtailed river discharge are often associated with less conspicuous plumes and low turbidity values (e.g., summer 2018). Therefore, in agreement with our hypotheses, the variation of maximum turbidity values seems to be influenced by the combination of precipitation and fluvial discharge from the river, especially in autumn and thus follows a seasonal pattern. This results in a discernible seasonal pattern.

Iriarte et al. (2017) reported changes in phytoplankton concentrations associated with intra-annual variability in the hydrological regime of the Puelo river during 2003–2011. Higher concentrations of Chl-a and phytoplankton abundance in surface waters were observed when flows were lower than  $350 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , coinciding with dry austral autumns during the El Niño event (e.g. January–June 2007). This resulted in a decoupling between outflows and Chl-a in surface waters. Similar results were found by Saldías et al. (2021) for the study area in the ISC seasonal

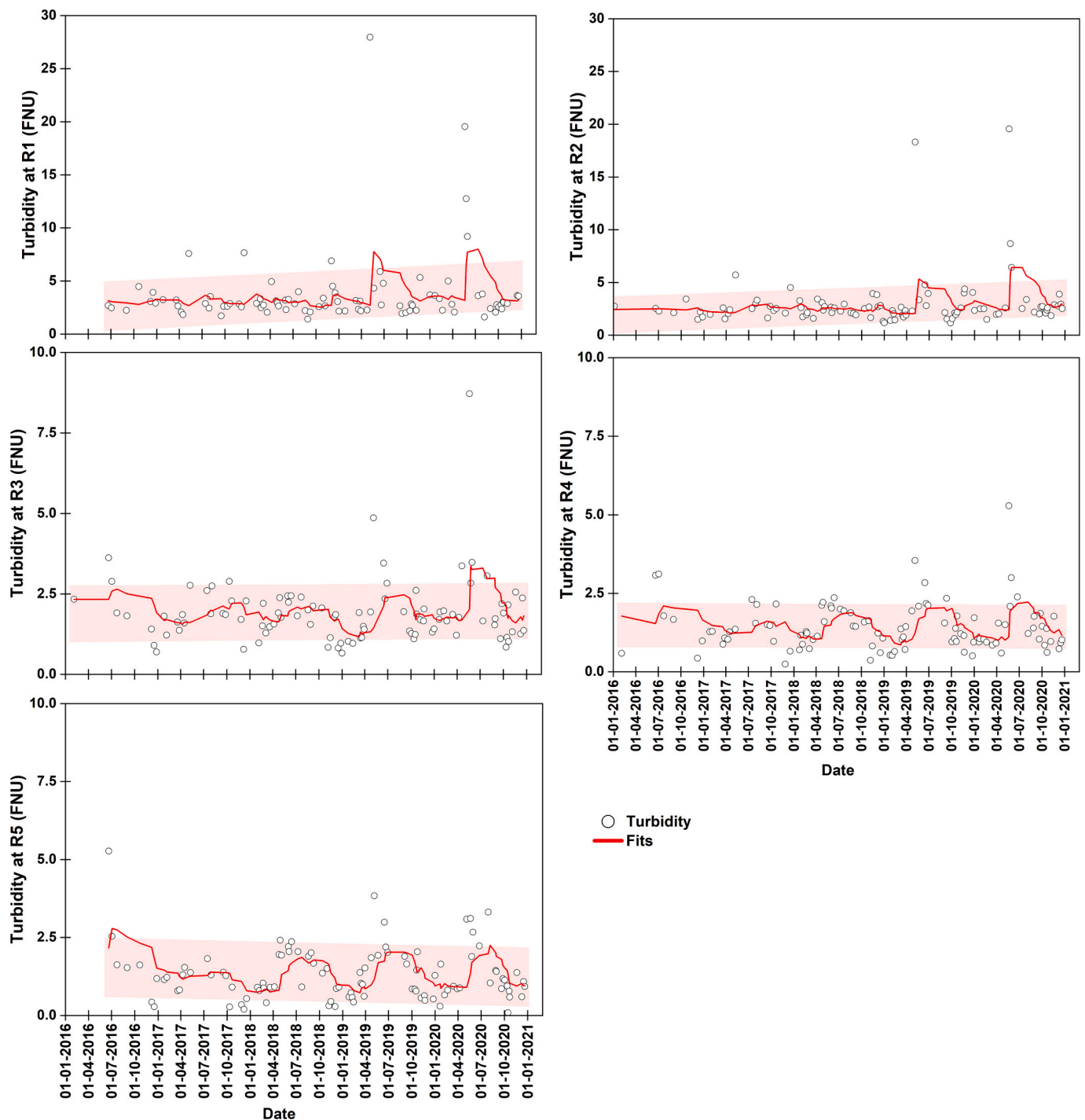


Fig. 6. Turbidity time series constructed for all sites for the period 2016–2020. Black circles show the estimated turbidity time series from the Nv09 algorithm, and the red line represents the smoothing fit with a 95 % prediction band (confidence interval). (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

climatology (2003–2019), reporting the maximum values of nFLH in the austral autumn. Likewise, [Vásquez et al. \(2021\)](#) reported elevated Chl-a and nFLH peaks during April, May and June. These peaks in Chl-a may have been influenced by periods of high river discharge, together with other factors such as wind, SST fronts, or changes in the physical structure of the water column. The growth of phytoplankton can be facilitated by river discharges in the presence of nutrients and other oceanographic variables ([Paudel et al., 2016](#)). In a recent study, [Mahmoud et al. \(2023\)](#) demonstrated a correlation between water temperature and Chl-a, a relationship that is also influenced by sunlight, which

directly affects phytoplankton growth. On the other hand, [Zhang et al. \(2024\)](#), using a machine learning approach, found a strong and positive correlation between turbidity and Chl-a concentration, indicating that changes in Chl-a can modulate variations in turbidity. These studies indicate that the high Chl-a in the austral autumn could be coincident with the elevated water turbidity found in this study (see [Figs. 5, 7](#), and [SM1 Fig. 4, 5b](#)). Our findings demonstrated a direct relationship between large precipitation events leading to high river streamflow, and increased turbidity (see [Figs. 3, 5, 7](#)). Hence, high Chl-a values in MODIS Chl-a in our study system may follow from the presence of SS and CDOM

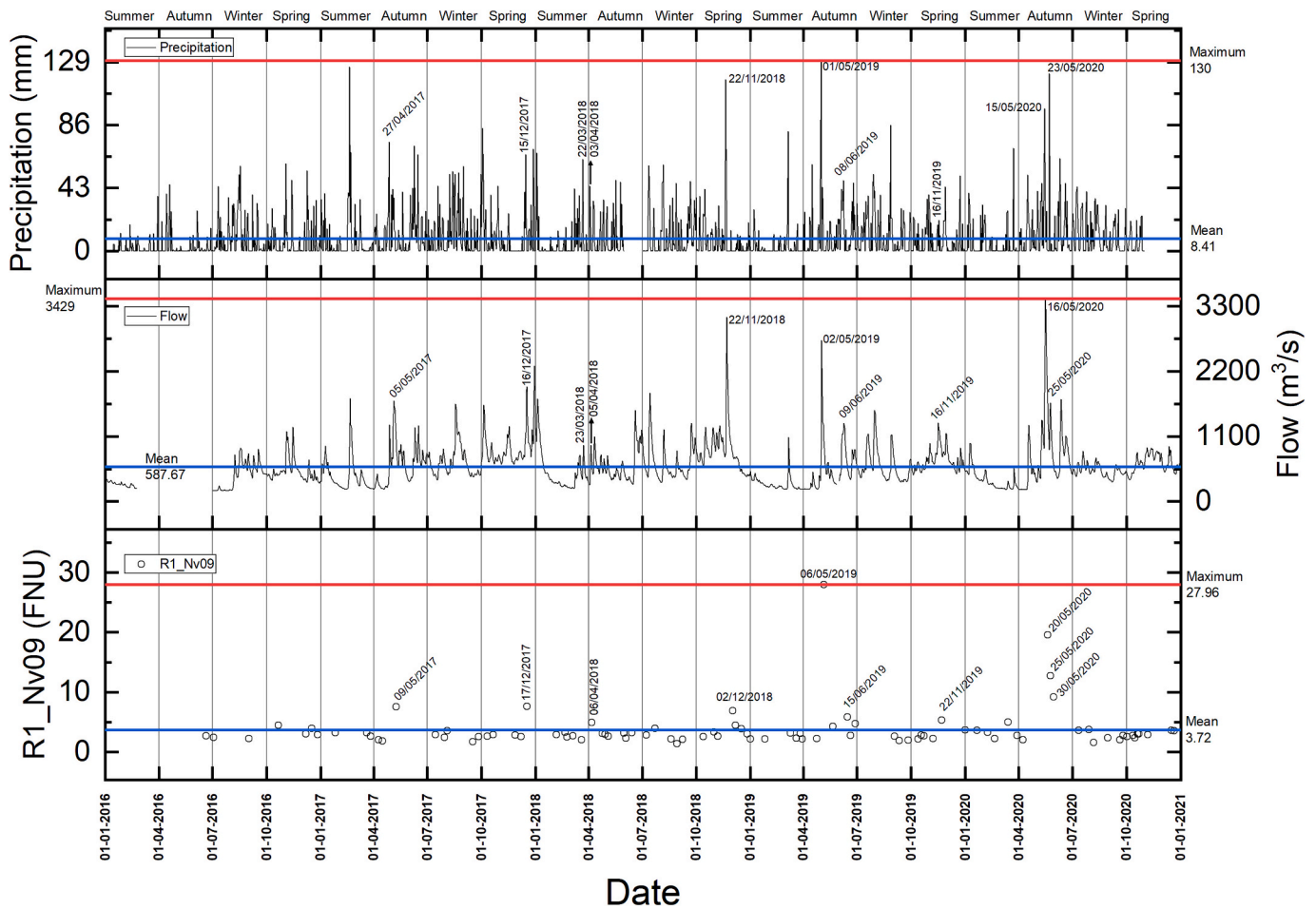
**Table 4**

Comparison between different satellite-based atmospheric correction (AC) algorithms to estimate turbidity in aquatic ecosystems, using several statistical indicators.

Authors	AC	R <sup>2</sup>	RMSE	Aquatic Ecosystem	Location
Delegido et al. (2019)	C2RCC, C2X and Polymer	0.34–0.82	1.4 NTU and 2.7 NTU	Reservoirs	Valencian Community, Spain
Elhag et al. (2019)	Sen2Cor*	0.74–0.94	0.07–1.15 (NDTI)	Baysh Dam	Wadi Baysh, Saudi Arabia
Sun et al. (2021)	ACOLITE	0.62–0.77	3.13 NTU - 5.21 NTU	Lakes	Wuhan, China
Zhan et al. (2022)	C2X	0.64–0.73	1.5 NTU - 1.7 NTU	Hypersaline Coastal Lagoon	Mar Menor, Spain
Chowdhury et al. (2023)	ACOLITE	0.97 (r)	15.93 FNU	Guadalquivir Estuary	Gulf Cadiz, southern Spain
This study	ACOLITE	0.40/0.63 (r)	0.66 FNU	Sound/Coastal Zone	Reloncaví sound, NP, Chile

Atmospheric Correction (AC), determination coefficient (R<sup>2</sup>), Pearson's correlation coefficient (r), Root Mean Square Error (RMSE).

\* Is not indicated, only S2 satellite images are mentioned.

**Fig. 7.** Time series of precipitation and river flow data from DGA, and turbidity data at location R1 derived from the Nechad 2009 algorithm (Nv09).

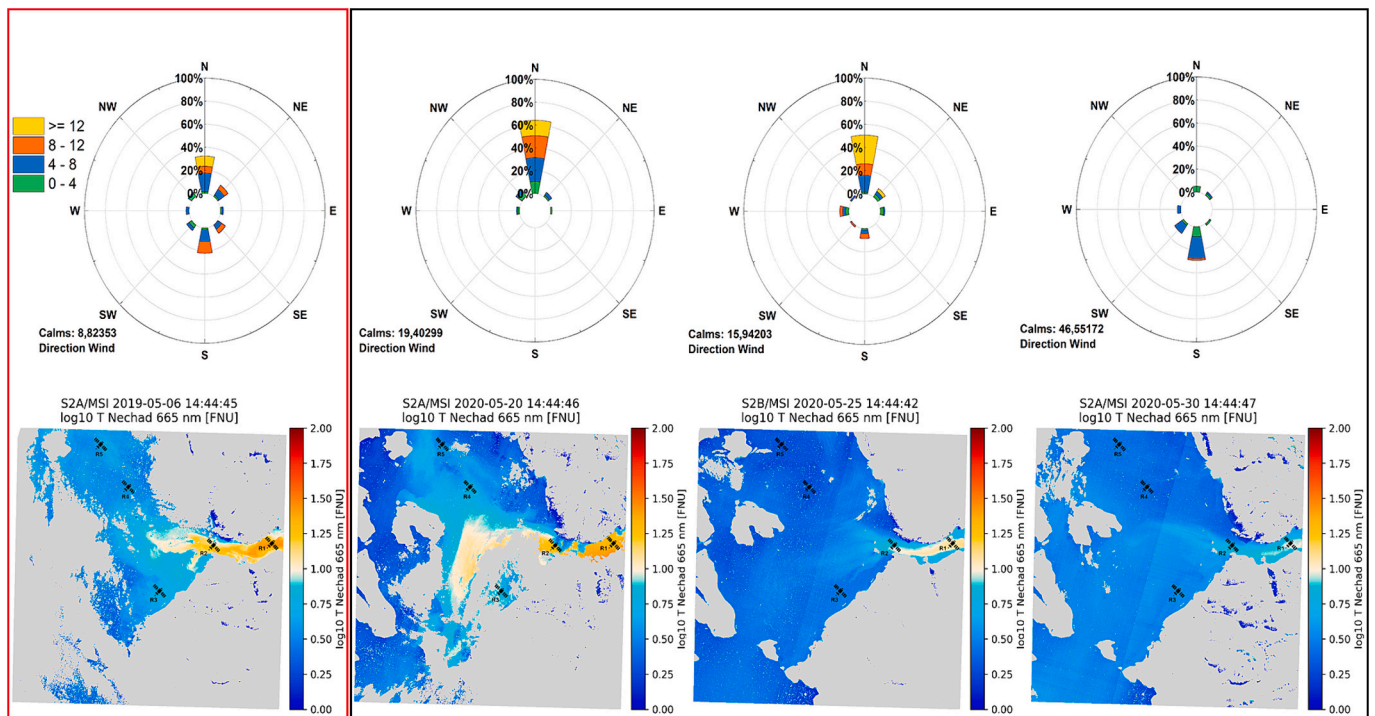
from surface runoff from the adjacent basins during certain periods of the year.

The discharge and influence area of the river plume increases turbidity in the coastal zone. This study confirms that this turbidity behavior is maintained over time (see Figs. 4, 5, 7). The highest turbidity values were found in the fjord and fjord mouth (R1 and R2). In this sense, Curra-Sánchez et al. (2022) found that turbid waters in a river and estuary in the ISC were caused by high concentrations of CDOM from river discharge, mainly of allochthonous origin. Given the strong relationship between turbidity and total suspended matter ( $R^2 = 0.82$ ), Chowdhury et al. (2023) showed that in-stream and estuarine sites had the highest turbidity values consistent with our results. Using hydrological models Aguayo et al. (2019) estimated future discharge scenarios of the Puelo river and found a trend of high discharge during May, June, and July (late austral autumn, and early austral winter), which was driven by abundant precipitation. We foresee that this scenario could

lead to a river plume of high turbidity, as shown in our results. Our results show that as we move away from the river discharge, turbidity decreases, as was the case at sites R4 and R5 (see Fig. 5). However, on some occasions in austral autumn, both sites recorded values close to 5 FNU (see Figs. 5, 6, and SM1 Table 4). The high turbidity levels at these sites may be also driven by wind forcing of river plumes. Flores et al. (2022) used MODIS ( $\lambda = 645$  nm) to detect the river plume in the Reloncaví sound and observed elevated reflectance values of this band. Hence, the B4 band (see Table 2) in the Nechad algorithm appears as an effective means of detecting the river plume and turbid waters.

Fig. 8 shows the wind compass 72 h before the acquisition of the four S2 images where we detected high turbidity. The first three dates provide evidence that the highest wind frequency (>30 %) corresponds to northerly wind with speeds above 4 kt (7.2 km/h), coincident with increasing turbidity in the seaward sites. Similar results have been reported by Banas et al. (2005), Hyun (2007), Abirhire et al. (2020), Soria





**Fig. 8.** The top panel shows wind rose corresponding to 72 h before S2 image acquisition and the bottom panel shows results from the Nv09 algorithm for autumn days. The panel in red shows the image from the date with the highest turbidity in 2019-May-06. The panel in black shows the images from 2020-May-20, 2020-May-25, and 2020-May-30, respectively. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

et al. (2021), Rodríguez-López et al. (2022). This suggests that winds could be transferring SS, CDOM, and particulate matter from the river discharge and coastal zone to R4 and R5, thus increasing turbidity at both seaward sites.

Several studies have shown that anthropogenic activities, such as land use and land use change (LULUC), aquaculture, and marine traffic, can have a significant impact on water quality in NP (Curra-Sánchez et al., 2022, 2024; Lara et al., 2018; León-Muñoz et al., 2021; Pérez et al., 2015). Organic matter, suspended solids, and other compounds may be present in the environment, including silica, phosphate, nitrite, or nitrate (Paudel et al., 2016; Pérez et al., 2015). Earlier studies have demonstrated that basins that are predominantly influenced by agriculture or native forests can affect and/or modify the size of the solids and the amount of CDOM present in the ecosystem (Alvado et al., 2021; Babin et al., 2003; Curra-Sánchez et al., 2022, 2024; Gippel, 1995). Hence, land-use patterns can also affect the turbidity of coastal water. For example, Curra-Sánchez et al. (2022) observed that runoff from a basin dominated by agricultural use had a greater availability and quantity of nutrients, specifically nitrates and phosphates. In contrast, a basin with a larger area of native forest registered high values of CDOM and lower nutrient concentrations. Surface runoff can contribute large amounts of organic matter and nutrients, such as agricultural or forestry wastes, causing water turbidity to increase due to algal blooms and even HABs on the surface and in the water column (Bilotta and Brazier, 2008; Doan et al., 2015; Hudson and Vandergucht, 2015; Pérez-Ruzafa et al., 2019). Further effects of turbid waters include impacts on benthic and pelagic species, including both photosynthesis-dependent and filter-feeding organisms. Seasonal exposure to turbid waters can disrupt and/or alter the status and growth behavior of these organisms over time and particularly in their early life stages (Alma et al., 2023; Goldsmith et al., 2021). Considering that aquaculture is the main economic activity in the Reloncaví area, the hypotheses tested by our study are highly relevant for the future development of continuous monitoring and warning systems that can reliably detect increases in water turbidity in near-real time. The dynamic spatio-temporal variability of turbidity

in the Reloncaví sound underscores the need for comprehensive monitoring strategies to understand and manage WQP in the study area.

#### 4.1. Future directions

More recent studies have estimated turbidity with different Machine Learning (ML) techniques and Ensemble Learning (EL) models, such as Random Forest (RF), feedforward neural network (FNN), Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), multivariate adaptive regression splines (MARS), Classification and Regression Tree (CART), Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost), Gradient Boosting Decision Tree (GBDT), LightGBM (LGBM), and CatBoost. These new ML approaches have been able to incorporate different environmental variables and water quality parameters, such as land use and land use change, turbidity, pH, chlorophyll, conductivity, precipitation, and temperature, among others (Anmala and Turuganti, 2021; Venkateswarlu and Anmala, 2023; Zhang et al., 2024).

In a basin in Kentucky, USA, Venkateswarlu and Anmala (2023) predicted turbidity by applying RF and FNN. The  $R^2$  prediction of RF for training, testing, and overall was the lowest compared to all other variables tested, while a slightly lower prediction was obtained with FNN (Venkateswarlu and Anmala, 2023). However, Venkateswarlu and Anmala (2023) highlight that the main predictor variables for turbidity were precipitation and temperature. Including both variables (precipitation and temperature) provided a good fit and removing them decreased model performance (Anmala and Turuganti, 2021; Venkateswarlu and Anmala, 2023). The latter results support the correspondence between precipitation and turbid water events in our study and highlights the challenges ahead in the implementation of ML learning approaches in a data-poor environment. The impact of LULUC can directly influence WQP (Curra-Sánchez et al., 2022, 2024). Rivers, connecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems, transport material and solids originating from adjacent basins. In this way, beyond precipitation and temperature, land use patterns should also be considered in turbidity prediction when utilizing ML algorithms (Anmala and

Turuganti, 2021; Venkateswarlu and Anmala, 2023).

In this way, the predictive ability of ML algorithms will certainly improve the prediction and estimation of WQP. Their use in combination with *in situ* and remote sensing observations is poised to help the conservation and management of coastal and aquatic ecosystems, and support decision-making. However, as more data becomes available in the future, new challenges will arise through limited processing time and computational power, together with the complex process of hyperparameter calibration in some ML algorithms.

## 5. Conclusion

Our study successfully assessed the spatial and temporal correspondence of the ACOLITE turbidity algorithms in the NP marine ecosystem for the first time. Our findings indicate that the Nv09 algorithm is more reliable than the Nv16 algorithm at a wavelength of 665 nm for the development of a future turbidity predictor model in Reloncaví sound. Precipitation-driven river discharge influenced turbidity with a seasonal signal peaking during austral autumn (May). Site R1 (river) and R5 (away from the influence of river discharges) recorded the highest and lowest turbidity values, respectively. However, there is still uncertainty regarding the influence by chlorophyll, suspended solids, and colored dissolved organic matter. More accurate estimates of these parameters will depend on additional *in situ* sampling, the use of alternative spectral bands, and the application of other algorithms. By validating a time series of high-resolution S2 observations with *in situ* data observations around NP, our study contributes to the development of an early warning system that can anticipate the occurrence of high turbidity events and promote future actions that encourage sustainable management of the coastal zone.

## Author contributions

Conceptualization: W.G-T., C.L., and B.R.B.; methodology: W.G-T., E.C-S., C.L., EP.U., L.G.-R., J.D., B.R.B.; software: W.G-T., E.C-S. and L.G.-R.; validation: W.G-T., E.C-S. and L.G.-R.; formal analysis: W.G-T.; data curation: W.G-T. and L.G.-R.; writing-original draft preparation: W.G-T.; visualization: W.G-T., E.C-S., and L.G.-R.; supervision: C.L., J.D., and B.R.B. All authors participated in the writing-review, editing, and discussion of the manuscript. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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## Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest. The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

## Data availability

The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are additionally accessible in the Zenodo repository (<https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.13645864>).

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## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoinf.2024.102814>.

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