The DRIFTER buoy has great potential for environmental monitoring; however, it needs a powerful, intuitive interface to enable public use. I demonstrated the initial capabilities of a GUI that enables users to visually interact with DRIFTERs using a familiar interface based on Google Maps. This GUI allows people to locate and view the data collected by individual DRIFTERs.

During my 2015 internship at Stennis Space Center (SSC), I supported the development of a web-based tool to enable user interaction with a low-cost, environmental monitoring buoy called the DRIFTER. DRIFTERs are designed by SSC’s Applied Science & Technology Projects branch and are used to measure parameters such as water temperature and salinity. Data collected by the buoys help verify measurements by NASA satellites, which contributes to NASA’s mission to advance understanding of the Earth by developing technologies to improve the quality of life on our home planet.