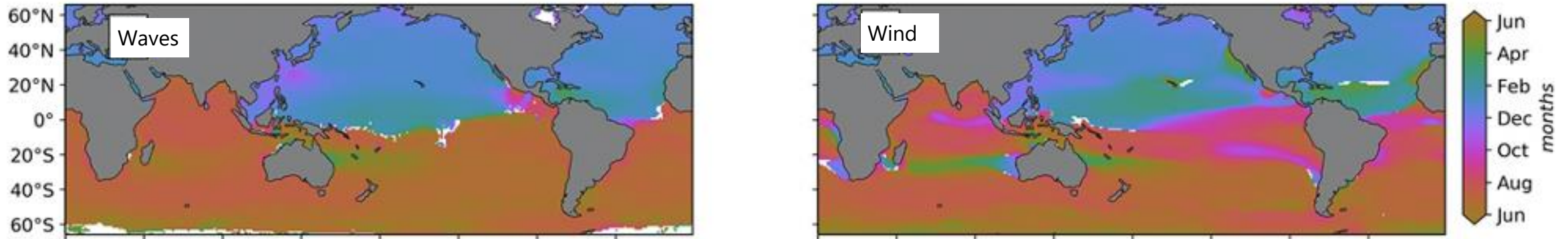
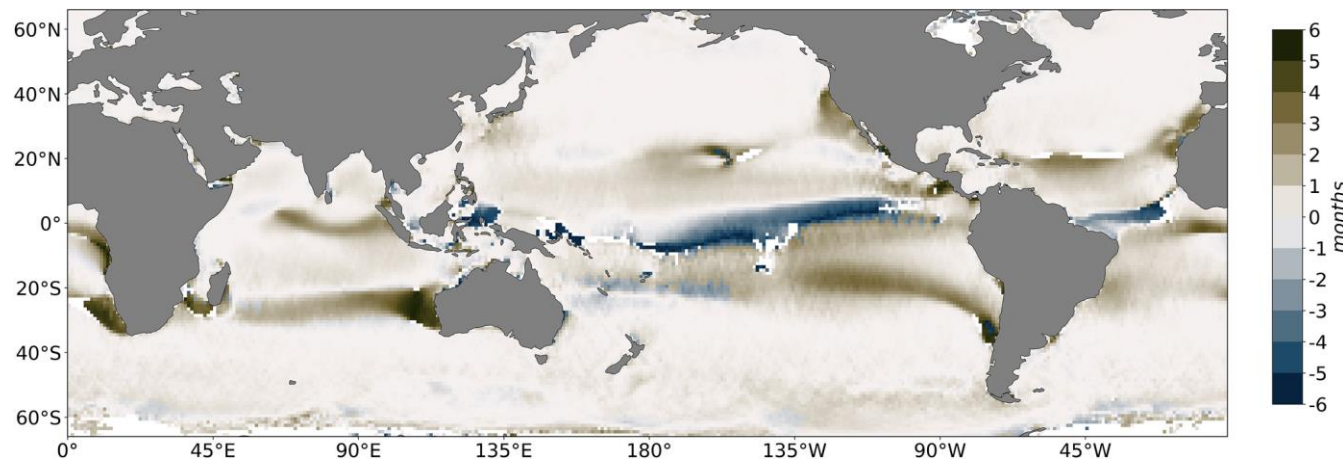


# The Seasonal Cycle of Significant Wave Height in the Ocean: Local Versus Remote Forcing

Winds drive ocean waves, and both are usually strongest in winter.



Months of maximum significant wave height and maximum wind have similar spatial patterns.



Timing differences between wind and waves are a signature of local winds that differ from remotely forced waves (swell), providing a means to distinguish swell from local wind waves.